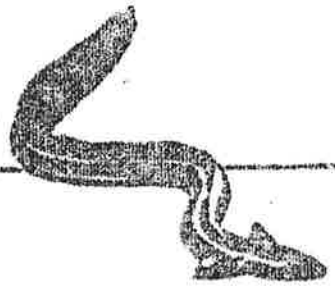


The National Anguilla Club

BULLETIN

VOLUME: 14 NUMBER: 1

NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB BULLETIN.

VOLUME: I4 NUMBER: I

CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL.

by; Terry Jefferson.

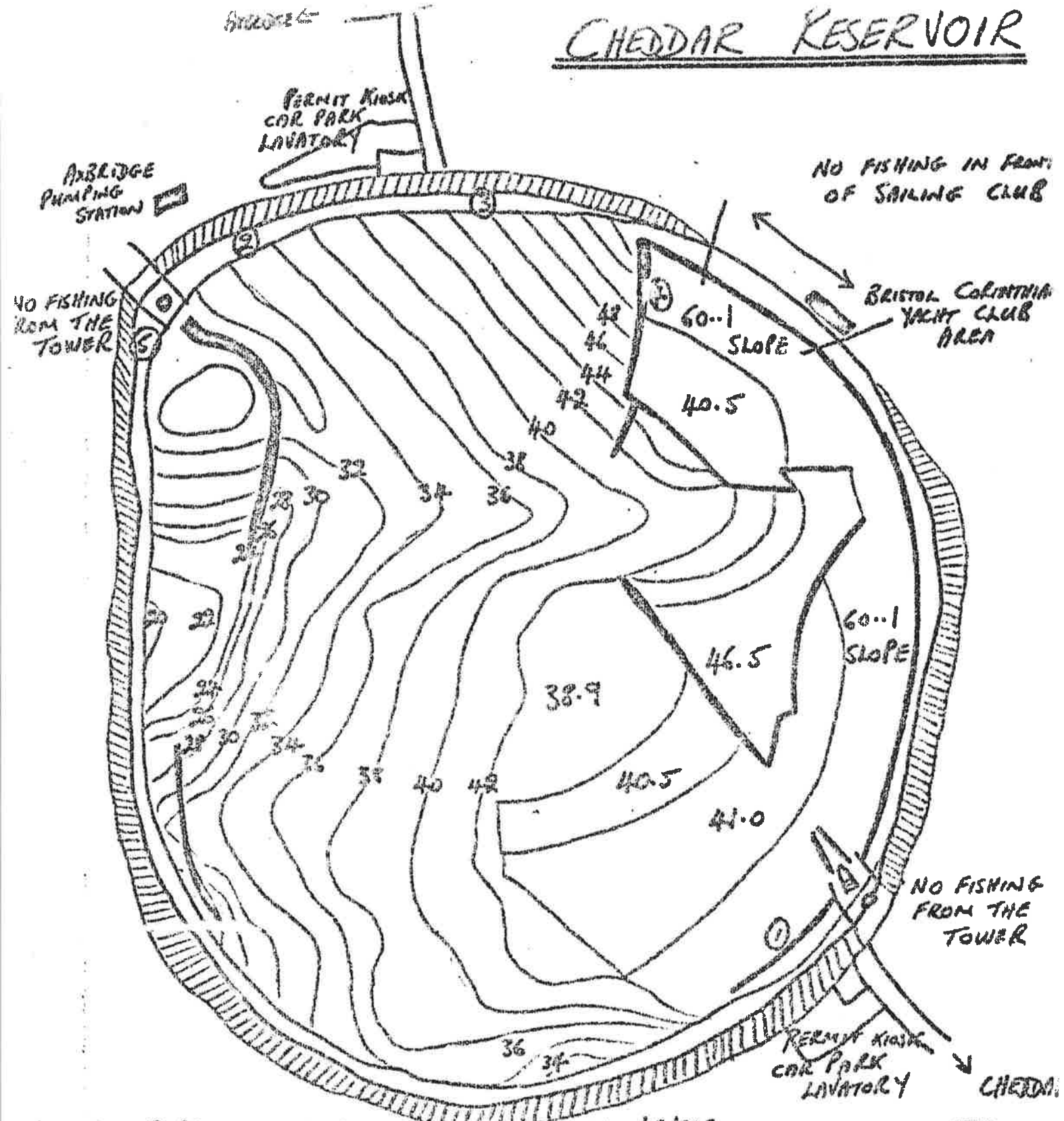
I have taken the liberty of writing this Editorial for the simple reason that I wanted to send out a Bulletin to accompany the January newsletter, and time was too short for the Editor, Arthur Sutton to send me further material for the Bulletin together with his own Editorial.

I shall not make this a protracted affair as I do not feel capable of competing with the type of Editorial that members are accustomed to.

Arthur Sutton informs me that he has to hand about half a dozen shortish articles for publication, so unless the articles are typed with large spaces between letters and words, your not going to get much in the way of reading matter in the next few months. Come on lads, surely it is not beyond anyones capability to write a couple of articles a year. You all managed to fill in your membership application forms without much prompting, so why not keep in practice. After all, it took us all long enough to learn to write and it seems a shame to see all that effort go to waste.

I shall sign off for now by saying that if reading matter is thin on the ground in the near future, you will know that either I've been snowed under with mail, or I've gone off to a health farm to loose some weight after sitting on my base for weeks waiting for something to do....

CHEDDAR RESERVOIR



FIGURES REPRESENT LAKE CONTOURS WITH LEVELS ABOVE SEA LEVEL.

CAPACITY OF LAKE:- 1350 MIL. GALS./6137 $10^3 M^3$.

TOP WATER AREA:- 236 ACRES/95.5 HECTARE.

LENGTH OF WATER PERIMETER:- 2.19 MILES/3.52 KM.

TOP WATER LEVEL:- 60 A.O.D./18.29 M.

MAX. DEPTH OF WATER:- 38 FT./11.58 M.

AVERAGE DEPTH OF WATER:- 21 FT./6.40 M.

SWIM NOS. = (1)

....2:IO.

In March I976 I put in three sessions at the reservoir, this was during the day as night fishing is not permitted. However, with no eels to show for it, I eagerly awaited the start of the new season, determined to land at least one eel during the year, just to prove a point to myself.

On the morning of 29th June I arrived at the reservoir, with a tub full of brandlings, and decided to fish near the Cheddar water towers. At 4A.M. both rods were cast out, one of which was baited with 6 brandlings on a fine wire size 2 hook, and cast some ten yards out between two small weed beds. Just 45 minutes later, the silver paper flew off the rod rest to which it was attached and I was in business. The result was a nice eel of 3:08.

During the year I landed I8 eels from the reservoir, the best day being the I5th July, when, in gale force winds, fishing in front of the Axbridge car park, I caught five eels in I7 R/H.(two rods) The eels weighed; 2:0I, 2:04, 2:08, 3:04 and 3:I2, four of which were taken during daylight hours.

A brief summary of my results from the reservoir is as follows;

ROD HOURS: 306.	EEL WEIGHTS: 3:I2, 3:08, 3:04, 2:I3½, 2:08, 2:04,
EELS (No.): I8.	2:03, 2:0I, 2:0I, 2:00, I:I4, I:09,
R/H/EEL : I7.	I:09, 0:I4, 0:I2, 0:I2, 0:I0, 0:I0.

Nigel Jeyes accompanied me on several occasions to Cheddar, and on IIth July he took 7 eels in one session fishing from an exposed area on the North bank of the reservoir. During the space of three hours he caught eels of; 0:I0, 0:I2, I:I2, 2:00, 2:08, 2:I3, and a personal best for him of 3:02. In later visits he followed this up with eels of; 2:I4, 2:I2 2:09, 2:0I, I:I2, and I:09. During the month of July, I met up with a chap named Reg--Whitehouse from Birmingham, who had come down to Cheddar for a few days eeling. I believe Reg is already known to some of our members in the Midlands area.

During his short stay, Reg caughteels of 0:I0, 0:I3, I:03, 2;00, 2:05, 2:06, 2:07, 2:I0, 2:I4, 3:0I, 3:0I, and 3:03. Not bad for such a short stay. Two other visitors to the water (D.Law and S.Everard.) took eels of 3:08 and 2:0I½, whilst I was there.

I was feeling that somebody(preferebly me) would land a 'four' from Cheddar before the season was over, and in August, Ernie Orme brought his family down to Weston to stay for a week. I remember thinking that if Reg, Nigel and myself couldn't land a four pounder from Cheddar, then perhaps, the illustrious Orme could. Due to the fact that I had just started a new job which involved shift work, Ernie, Nigel and myself were only able to put in a handful of rod hours. Ernie however did manage to bag four eels in this short time; I:II, 2:07½, 2:I2½, and 3:I5½;! So, although the four pound mark wasn't reached(quite) this year the National Anguilla club record for Cheddar reservoir is held by non other than Ernie Orme.

Of the 49 eels that I know were caught at Cheddar this year, all but one fell for worms, the exception being maggot. Due to the lack of rain, I was only able to obtain brandlings, which worked well, when you consider that 60% of the eels caught on worm were actually taken on brandlings and not lobs. With deadbaiting banned until the Ist. September, and no all night fishing allowed the question of anyone using deadbaits did not arise.

The usual method used at Cheddar is a straight forward leger set up. Personally, I use 8lb.b.s. line, Ioz. arlesey bomb, 2ft. nylon trace and(with the exception of my first trip) size 4 Mustad39838 gold plated hook. I kept this rig throughout the season, and I know that Nigel Jeyes uses a very similar set up.

For bite detection, a 'closed bale arm' technique is used. After casting out, the anti reverse on the reel is disengaged, and a yard of line between the reel and butt ring is pulled off to which the actual indicator is attached, be it silver paper or washing up bottle top,(which incidentally I refuse to use any more.)

The eel bites have usually been dramatic, no twitches, just WHAM! On several occasions when the eel has taken up the slack line, we've been left with the reel handle going backwards at IOOr.p.m.! Ask Ernie Orme about his 2:I2½ which did that at quarter to four in the afternoon in blazing sunshine. The eels didn't seem to be too bothered by any drag, even on a couple of occasions when wire traces were used. Nigel Jeyes used to weight his line down with boulders.... and they still moved them!

Dave Smith tells me that the eels at Abberton are very similar.
(Editors comment: we have known occasions at Abberton when the eels were not the least bit deterred by drag. Conversely, there have been occasions when they would barely move the indicator before dropping the bait.)T.C.J.

As for swim selection, this has been difficult. One could go to Cheddar and catch say

half a dozen eels from one spot. However, subsequent trips to the same swim could well prove unproductive. The five swims that I fished this year are noted on the map numbered one to five. Swim number three which produced those five eels in one session for me, I have since discovered has a completely featurless bottom. Swim one is on a shallow slope, swim two has a rocky bottom in places, and swim five is where some of the deepest water is. Now to swim number four, this swim accounted for about 40% of the eels caught and Nigel took all of his thirteen eels from it. When the water level drops a bit, it exposes a bank which stretches out some 70yds. Nigel and Reg found that by fishing off this peninsula, and by literally dropping their baits over the side into the channel on the eastern side, they could contact the eels. Nigel beleives that any dead fish or insect life gets washed up under the ridge along the peninsula and the eels can eat all the 'rubbish' they want..... and I think he's probably right.

About 40% of the eels from Cheddar were caught during daylight, and some of these were taken in extremely hot weather and in shallow water. Quite often we found that we were over-casting, and that short range fishing, even in the conditions mentioned, was required. Nigel and I have seen eels feeding during the heat of the day, nosing their way along the first step which is just under water!

The rules laid down by Bristol Waterworks state that no one should fish earlier than one hour before sunrise, or later than one hour after sunset. On a few occasions we have stayed on a bit longer, usually because sport has been good, but never by a great deal. It is no good going to Cheddar to blatantly fish all night, for one thing,Bristol Waterworks impose very severe penalties; besides which, the National Anguilla club has built up a good relationship with the company, and only harm to the club would come of it.

Here is a breakdown of the weights of the 49 eels taken from Cheddar;

0-I	I-2	2-3	3-4
9	8	23	9

Tagging Experiment.

In May this year (I976) I wrote to Mr. Wright at the Bristol Waterworks on behalf of the Anguilla club, to enquire if he had any objections to eels being tagged in the reservoir. He wrote back promptly to say that the company had no objections to the tagging, and in fact offered any assistance they could give. The company even put up notices in the two permit kiosks informing anglers of the scheme and how to return the tags etc.

You will see that Nigel only tagged his own eels whereas I tagged all the eels caught by other anglers, ensuring that as much information was gained on each eel as possible before they were returned. We tried to ensure that no eels were killed also.

With the exception of tagged eel number NAC 07I 00I, all the eels were tagged through the tail root, the 3:08 eel had the tag attached to its back. At the time of writing, (Oct) no eels with tags, as far as we know have been recaptured, but it's early days yet.

The actual method used by both of us is identical- a small plastic tag stamped with tag and membership number, being attached to the eels tail by means of a small loop of nylon. The nylon is inserted through the tail by means of a small sewing needle. Each eel was weighed measured and tagged as and when it was caught. I preferred to do it this way, as it meant that after the details had been noted, the eels could be returned immediately, rather than retain them in a keepnet or suchlike. I must admit that tagging eels, especially by torchlight is no easy task, but having done 36 in various conditions I seem to have got used to it. What I did find however, was that I could keep eels fairly quiet by wrapping a thick towel around them and laying them on their sides, although of course there were some exceptions.

As mentioned, most of the relevant information of tagged eels is recorded on the lists, but there are a few further details I should like to mention. All the eels caught at Cheddar posess very large eyes and small narrow mouths, the latter being perfectly adapted to feeding on small creatures and the like. Indeed, looking at some of them I have often thought that they would have great difficulty in coping with a dead fish, unless it was small and narrow like a minnow. Due to the fact that we have returned all eels caught at Cheddar this year, it has not been possible to find out the stomach contents. However, in I975 Nigel disected two eels of 2:I0 and 2:I2 and found them to be crammed full of snails, and that is the only information we have on the subject.

The large eyes would normally point to the fact that the eels came from deep or dark water; but whilst there is deep water in places, and deep holes elsewhere, most of the eels have come from relatively shallow water. The water itself is usually clear throughout the year. I would be interested to hear views from other members on this subject. (cont'd

CHEDDAR RESERVOIR (Bon Tolney)

TAG No.	WEIGHT	LENGTH × GIRTH	DATE	TIME	BAIT	SWIM No.	SWIM NAME	CAPTOR
[illegible]	3 8	34" x 7"	29/6/76	01-45	6x Sprats		CHEDDAR ENTRANCE	R.L. Tolney
[illegible]	1 9	29¾" x 4½"	10/7/76	21-30	4x Sprats		4x BRIDGE WATER TOWER	R.L. Tolney
[illegible]	1 14	29½" x 5"	10/7/76	22-40	3x Sprats		2x	R.L. Tolney
[illegible]	0 12	20" x 8½"	11/7/76	03-55	3x Sprats			R.L. Tolney
[illegible]	2 3	31" x 6¼"	11/7/76	07-15	3x Sprats			R.L. Tolney
[illegible]	0 10	21" x 4"	12/7/76	21-10	4x Sprats		4x BRIDGE ENTRANCE	R.L. Tolney
[illegible]	2 0	31" x 6"	12/7/76	21-40	4x Sprats			R.L. Tolney
[illegible]	0 10	22" x 4"	12/7/76	22-30	4x Sprats			R.L. Tolney
[illegible]	3 4	36" x 7"	15/7/76	17-00	3x Sprats			R.L. Tolney
[illegible]	2 4	31" x 6¼"	15/7/76	17-45	3x Sprats			R.L. Tolney
[illegible]	2 8	37" x 6½"	15/7/76	20-05	3x Sprats			R.L. Tolney
[illegible]	2 1	30" x 6"	15/7/76	20-55	3x Sprats			R.L. Tolney
[illegible]	3 12	38" x 7"	15/7/76	22-30	3x Sprats			R.L. Tolney
[illegible]	0 12	21½" x 3¾"	25/7/76	22-40	3x Sprats	4	[illegible]	R.L. Tolney
[illegible]	0 14	22½ x 4¼"	25/7/76	23-30	3x Sprats	4		R.L. Tolney
[illegible]	0 10	20½" x 4¼"	25/7/76	N/K	Luncheon	4		R. Whitehouse
[illegible]	0 13	21" x 4"	25/7/76	N/K	Luncheon	4		R. Whitehouse
[illegible]	1 3	25½" x 4½"	25/7/76	N/K	Luncheon	4		R. Whitehouse
[illegible]	2 0	31" x 5½"	25/7/76	N/K	Luncheon	4		R. Whitehouse
[illegible]	2 6	31½" x 6"	25/7/76	N/K	Luncheon	4		R. Whitehouse
[illegible]	3 1	37" x 6¼"	25/7/76	N/K	Luncheon	4		R. Whitehouse
[illegible]	3 8	35" x 8"	27/7/76	N/K	2x Sprats			D. Law (Senr.)
[illegible]	3 3	37½" x 7¼"	28/7/76	N/K	Maggot		4x BRIDGE ENTRANCE	R. Whitehouse
[illegible]	3 1	36" x 7"	28/7/76	N/K	Sprats		4x BRIDGE WATER TOWER	R. Whitehouse
[illegible]	2 7	29½" x 6½"	28/7/76	N/K	Sprats			R. Whitehouse
[illegible]	2 5	31½" x 6¼"	28/7/76	N/K	Sprats			R. Whitehouse
[illegible]	2 14	31½" x 7"	28/7/76	N/K	Sprats			R. Whitehouse
[illegible]	2 1½	34½" x 6"	28/7/76	16-50	Luncheon		4x BRIDGE ENTRANCE	S. Edwards
[illegible]	2 14	36" x 6½"	28/7/76	22-00	Sprats		4x BRIDGE WATER TOWER	R. Whitehouse
[illegible]	1 9	28" x 5"	28/7/76	22-45	3x Sprats			R.L. Tolney
[illegible]	2 12½	37½" x 6¼"	15/8/76	15-45	Sprats			E.N. Game
[illegible]	3 15½	35" x 7½"	18/8/76	20-10	Sprats			E.N. Game
[illegible]	2 7½	32½" x 6½"	18/8/76	21-25	Sprats			E.N. Game
[illegible]	15 1	50" x 6¼"	18/8/76	21-55	Sprats			R.L. Tolney
[illegible]	1 11	28½" x 6"	18/8/76	22-05	Sprats			E.N. Game
[illegible]	2 15½	37½" x 6½"	21/8/76	22-15	2x Sprats			R.L. Tolney

CHEDDAR RESERVOIR (NIGEL JEYES)

TAG NO.	WEIGHT	LENGTH × GIRTH	DATE	TIME	BAIT	SWIM No.	SWIM LOCATION	CAPTOR
NJC077001	1:12	29½" × 14½"	11/7/76	03-20	WORM	4	FRONT OF YACHT CLUB	N.J.S. JEYES
NJC077003	0:10	24½" × 9½"	11/7/76	03-40	WORM	4	— " —	N.J.S. JEYES
NJC077005	0:12	22½" × 9½"	11/7/76	03-45	WORM	4	— " —	N.J.S. JEYES
NJC077004	2:8	32" × 5¾"	11/7/76	04-25	WORM	4	— " —	N.J.S. JEYES
NJC077005	2:0	30½" × 5½"	11/7/76	05-00	WORM	4	— " —	N.J.S. JEYES
NJC077006	3:2	35¾" × 6¼"	11/7/76	05-55	WORM	4	— " —	N.J.S. JEYES
NJC077007	2:13	36½" × 6¾"	11/7/76	06-25	WORM	4	— " —	N.J.S. JEYES
NJC077008	2:9	34½" × 7½"	17/7/76	03-45	WORM	4	— " —	N.J.S. JEYES
NJC077009	1:9	28½" × 6"	17/7/76	04-35	WORM	4	— " —	N.J.S. JEYES
NJC077010	2:12	36" × 6½"	17/7/76	05-30	WORM	4	— " —	N.J.S. JEYES
NJC077011	1:12	29" × 6½"	17/7/76	06-25	WORM	4	— " —	N.J.S. JEYES
NJC077012	2:14	36½" × 7"	17/7/76	06-30	WORM	4	— " —	N.J.S. JEYES
NJC077013	2:1	30½" × 6½"	15/8/76	05-15	WORM	4	— " —	N.J.S. JEYES

Finally, there are quite a few different colourations of eels caught from Cheddar with no one colour being exclusive to the areas in which the eels were caught. Colours ranged from red, through copper, brown, very dark green, light green, grey to some eels which had jet-black backs and flanks, and snow white bellies. Perhaps the next one will turn out to be blue with pink stripes!

Additional Information.

Naturally, Bristol Waterworks Company have certain regulations relating to Cheddar reservoir, and below I have listed the most relevant:-

SEASON: 16th June to 14th March.
TIMES: One hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.
PERMITS: Available from either of the two kiosks situated near the reservoir, Permits are not transferable.
CHARGES:(1976) Per person per day=£1-00.
Season=£15-00.
LICENCES: No fishing licence is required as the Company is in posession of a General Fishery Licence.
RODS: Only two attended rods per person permitted.
CARS: Car park only to be used. Vehicles are not allowed on the reservoir roadways.
BANK FISHING AND WADING: Bank fishing only; no wading permitted.
BAITS: Only the following are permitted:- Maggots, worms, casters, bread, deadbaits,--
--(from 1st September.) and artificial lures of all kinds.
The use of cereal groundbait is prohibited.
No livebaiting.
FISHING AREA: Fishing is not allowed in front of the Bristol Corinthian Yacht Club's clubhouse, nor in the immediate vicinity of the valve towers.

Although there are often yachts sailing on the reservoir, they too have certain restricted areas in which to operate, and are so far offshore that their presence is never a nuisance. The toilets, besides providing for the usual sanitary needs, also have taps so one can easily obtain water for those extra brew ups. The car parks offer ample parking space, and there have been no objections when Nigel Jeyes and myself have spent the night there in the van.(except maybe from Nigel, Editor.)

If any member would like further information about Cheddar reservoir I shall be happy to supply it. Likewise, if you fancy trying your hand there some time, by contacting me beforehand I would be pleased to accompany you.

Summing up:

I have really enjoyed fishing at Cheddar this year; not only has it been a refreshing change, but I've caught some eels as well. I have been able to go out with the minimum ount of tackle, and not had the bother of setting up Pogs and alarm systems.

The tagging exercise has given me that little bit extra to do, and I am pleased that there are nearly fifty tagged eels in the reservoir. I am extremely grateful to those people who let me tag their eels, thereby maintaining the eel stocks.

In this day and age, to pay £1-00 for a days fishing is not a lot of money, though I've had my moneys worth, but I still think it's good value. Although there is not a great variety of species to fish for, I believe Cheddar could become one of the top Perch waters in the country in the not too distant future. However, I would like to see some tench introduced, and shall be contacting Bristol Waterworks about this in due course.

Finally, no one likes to mention his failures, but I lost two big eels this year at the reservoir, from swim three in fact. The incidents were on seperate days, but both occurred during the day in warm weather. I mentioned previously that I've given up using washing up bottle tops as bite indicators, and this is why; I had an eel on that was putting up a hell of a scrap, and it finally surfaced some ten yards out from the bank. It was a big eel, I estimate at least five pounds. Anyway, the bottle top somehow got tangled up at this very crucial stage and of course the line parted enabling the eel to dive to freedom.

The second incident was different..... I had one hell of a steaming run on brandlings, the rod was even pulled out of the rests. On striking, there was a terrific thumping , followed by the tell tale see-sawing. As far as I could tell, the eel was just swimming backwards as it pleased and I could not gain any line, in fact, I could make no impression whatsoever. This went on for about six minutes before the nylon trace I was using , was as far as I could see, bitten through. Never before have I experienced this, though Nigel had exactly the same thing happen to him in 1975.

(cont'd)

Each year, many eels swim up into the Axbridge valve tower and become trapped. One chap told me an eel of I6lbs. was found in there one year. I'm sure there are big eels in the reservoir, but whether they would ever reach that sort of size, I'd hate to say. The eels that become trapped are I understand, sent up to Billingsgate, and so giving Bristol Waterworks a bit of extra income. I just hope that next time they sort out the ones with tags on them first!

THE WATERS WE FISH,---- OR THOSE WE KNOW ABOUT.

By: Dave Smith.

The water questionaire was introduced to Anguilla club members two years ago (I973). The concept behind it was that we, the club, could try to correlate the general trends obtained from the reporting scheme with the individual fisheries. As a scientific excercise it presents one hell of a challenge. But the Anguilla club member is rather a conservative beast and is slow to respond to change. I think therefore, that it is necassary to state at the outset of this peice that the scheme has, to date, failed in its objectives, but further space will be devoted to this on another occasion.

My aim here is purely and simply to present the information we have recieved without betraying anyones confidence,(older members may recall that information would be treated in confidence and was required for research purposes only.). It would be very easy for me to sit down and try to devise some theory for any data we may have, but, if I may quote (out of context) Dr. Mason of the Freshwater Biological Association,"Too much theory has been built on too few facts." This unfortunately, is true of many biological applications to angling.

Biology, in an effort to gain respectability, and a place amongst the other"sciences" has suffered from the "Pigeon hole" syndrome. Most of the other sciences are basically mathematical and subject to laws. I know of only one "Law" in Biology, and that is"Mendels-Law", yet even that is not a law in the strict sense as applied to the other classical sciences. Being mathematical, things can be neatly grouped together. Biologists, rightly or wrongly, have tried to emulate their classical colleagues and have tried to apply maths to their studies with the result that they often detract from that which they are supposed to be studying. Plants and animals no longer have names, just numbers and statistical data.

One of the areas of Biology to suffer more than most from this quantitive approach is the study of freshwater biology, and it is in this context that Mason made the statement quoted above. In fact it is true to say that many creatures living in our waters are, as yet, unnamed. So little is the attention paid by Biologists to "Nature Study".

The main stumbling block in experimental Zoology(I deliberately exclude plants as they are less liable to run away) is that creatures can not be guaranteed to do that which an experimenter predicts. In a sterile laboratory situation it is possible to discover the effects of a certain stimulus on an animal simply by eliminating the variables. What we do not know and find more difficult to discover is the combined effect of stimuli as found in the natural enviroment. The only succesful approach is that devised by the natural historians at the end of the I9th Century- i.e. Sit and watch. Alas, in 60ft. of water, that is difficult when applied to lakes.

What then, you are asking, has all this to do with the water questionaires? It is very simple. If you are expecting a statistical breakdown, you are going to be dissappointed, because the water questionaires depend upon truly qualitative observations, not the recording of quantative data. This then is the eel fishermans nature study.

I suppose the one question we should all like to be able to answer is, "Is my Eel water a potential record holder?" This alas, is the eel fishermans quandry. Fishers of other species are able to ascertain a lot about their quarry by direct observation. Carp can be seen feeding, bream along with many other species can be seen rolling on the surface. Similarly, location of the quarry is a little easier, if simply because they can be seen, so swim location involves angling skill. As those of us fortunate enough to hear Alan Hawkins deliver his paper at the Angling Conference heard, all of this, for the eel angler is luck. We do not seem to be able to correlate sufficient information to assist in swim or water choice. It is hoped that the observations of us all will, over a period of time, if not allow us to select the best water, will allow us to eliminate the bad water.

This report, therefore, is divided into two parts. Firstly I shall describe the waters we appear to favour and then, at a later date, I shall try to correlate the observations we have made, with actual catches, or lack of them. (cont'd)

The type of water that is fished by most members who have submitted water questionaires is the Clay pit. However, it would be foolish of any of us to say that the water chosen most often is the clay pit. It must be remembered that geographical location is important. What would be true is that many members have predominantly clay pit fishing in their area. In similar vein, not one questionaire has been recieved describing a "Dew pond", which only shows how few of us have dew pond fishing readily available.

The clay pit is a very widespread type of water occuring in most parts of the country. But these apparently ubiquitous waters differ considerably depending on their geography and purpose. The clay pits of the west country are the result of China clay workings and tend to be small but deep pools of water. Many of the Brick pits of the north-east, on the other hand, tend to be a little more shallow, averaging 20ft. max. Again it is very easy to generalise, but it is possible that members fishing in the N.E. deliberately avoid the deeper waters, or have given the depths they have found and fish at.

Gravel pits are another popular type of water. It is noticeable that the gravel pit is most common in the south-east, it certainly reflects the predominance of that type of water in that part of the country. However, their absence of reports of them from certain areas could lead one to believe that the anglers in that area have none to choose from. This may be the case, alternativly, our member may choose clay pits out of preference. As I said, its very easy to generalise and make erroneous deductions.

Again, gravel pits vary depending on their age. It would appear that the older, pre-war gravel pits are shallower than their recent counterparts. This apart from anything else, is a reflection of the advances of modern technology. However, it would be foolish to generalise and say that all shallow gravel pits are 30 years plus in age.

Table I below shows the various types of waters described in the questionaires with their distribution throughout the country. It is, I feel, more of a lesson in geography than an aid to angling. However, if you have an aversion to a particular type of water, it will be a guide as to where not to go. But can nothing else be obtained from knowing the type of water we fish? I think not, or at least at this stage we cannot do so. As I said before, this is qualitative, not quantative.

The essential thing is that people submit water questionaires for every water they fish, even if it is only for one session. Would you believe that some of our famous waters have no questionaires completed for them? So please, let us all, as a matter of course, complete a water questionaire for each water we fish.