

## SHEFFORD & DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION LTD

Membership of SDAA provides you with access to quality coarse fishing across a range of stillwater and river venues in and around Bedfordshire. Whether you are a specimen hunter or pleasure angler, SDAA waters can cater for virtually all your needs with access to all major species.



*2lb 5oz 12dr 'local river' roach - December 2017*

Annual membership for the 2018/19 season is available from May 2018 remaining valid right through until 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (i.e. up to 58 weeks fishing). This gives you exclusive access to several excellent lakes and premier stretches of the rivers Great Ouse, Ivel and its tributaries in and around Bedfordshire. Members wishing to night fish our premier stillwater fisheries will need to purchase the optional Night Permits.

SDAA's own fisheries have produced an enviable list of specimen fish (catfish 60lb+, carp 30lb+, pike 25lb+, barbel 14lb+, bream and tench 10lb+, chub 7lb+, perch 4lb+ and roach 3lb+). SDAA membership also gains access to all Ivel Protection Association waters noted for producing specimen barbel, chub, perch and roach.

Our active maintenance programme aims to improve both fishery habitat (e.g. application of

Siltex, marginal plants) and access (e.g. tracks, swim rebuilding). Top quality carp are regularly introduced into our major stillwater fisheries.

### STILLWATER VENUES

All SDAA's stillwaters remain open all year round.

#### Broom Lake

A beautiful 6 acre gravel pit that offers the feeling of seclusion thanks to its tree-lined banks and five islands. The lake has a fairly even depth of 7-9 feet and contains specimen carp to 30lb, plus tench and bream into double figures. There are plentiful shoals of silver fish and pike to good sizes, making Broom Lake a real pleasure to fish whatever you want from your days out.

Weather permitting, the track around the lake is open for much of the year allowing anglers to drive cars and small vans around the lake and park directly behind their pegs.



*21lb 8oz Broom common - November 2017*

The plentiful carp stocks of predominantly commons have been boosted by stocking 75 mirrors (averaging ~7lb) in recent years, along with stockings of tench, bream and roach.

#### The Airman

Originally dug as a clay pit and now owned by SDAA, The Airman is around 4 acres with depths to 30 feet. Stocks include a thriving population

of Wels catfish with specimens to over 60lb, which are usually active from late March through to late October. Stunning carp to 30lb and pike to over 25lb add further interest for the dedicated specimen angler and both species feature all year round. For the pleasure angler quality roach feature in catches with fish over 2lb regularly reported. The lake also holds a good head of bream, tench, rudd and perch to target.



*11lb 9oz Airman tench - May 2017*

Major improvements have been undertaken at The Airman, which is our flagship venue. The entrance and car park have been resurfaced and a footpath laid around the lake that ensures easy access to the swims throughout the whole year.

#### Willington Lake

At 12 acres this makes Willington Lake our largest fishery. This is a classic gravel pit with gin clear water and a range of depths. The amount of weed growth varies from year to year, but provides an abundance of natural food that ensures this lake is capable of producing impressive specimens of several species.

The lake has produced carp to well over 40lb in the past and there are still specimens well over 30 lb to target. The resident carp population has been boosted in recent years by a significant

investment in new top quality English carp from both VS Fisheries (61 C4 carp averaging 9.5lb) and AJS Fisheries (57 C3 carp averaging 7.5lb). The new carp have shown excellent growth rates with several VS Fisheries carp reaching 20lb within less than 3 years and some now over 30lb.

Willington Lake has a large tench population and multiple bags are possible throughout the summer. Bream into double figures regularly feature in catches. Good bags of roach, rudd, perch and skimmer bream can be taken on float tactics, often featuring roach and rudd over the pound mark. These fish ensure a good head of pike making it a popular venue for pike anglers.

In addition, SDAA has **Stanford Pit**, a shallow 1 acre gravel pit, which was an ideal water for beginners. Unfortunately this lake almost completely dried out in 2017 after a prolonged period of low rainfall. The club is currently taking action to reduce silt levels and make the lake more resilient to droughts, prior to restocking.

### RIVER VENUES

All our river venues are closed from 15<sup>th</sup> March to 15<sup>th</sup> June, inclusive. Our major river fisheries are mentioned overleaf. SDAA also has a number of narrow sections of the **Hit** and **Flit** in and around **Shefford** and **Clifton** to explore. The existing chub, dace, roach, perch, pike and trout have been supplemented with 2,600 barbel stocked by the EA, and surveys show the barbel are thriving.



6lb 4oz Flit chub - December 2017

### Ivel and Ivel Navigation

The **Broom River** and **Stanford Canal** sections are renowned for consistently producing perch over the 4lb mark, with the club perch record now standing at a very creditable 4lb 11oz. Good nets of roach and dace can be taken throughout the season once the shoals have been located. Pike to over 20lb have been reported in recent seasons. Specimen chub to over 6lb, bream, carp and tench also regularly feature in catches.

### Great Ouse

Upstream of Bedford, SDAA controls a mile of bank at **Pavenham** most noted for its specimen barbel, chub and perch. Each swim is seemingly different with large deep pools and shallow fast glides. Double figure barbel are still caught but rarely publicised with a number of smaller barbel also now showing. Specimen chub to over 6lb regularly feature in catches, with some exceeding 7lb. An upgraded footbridge and new kissing gates have been installed to improve access for anglers wishing to fully explore this stretch.

We have a 400 yard stretch behind the lake at **Willington** where chub to over 6lb are reliable feeders through the winter. Occasional barbel are also caught along with usual river species of roach, perch, pike, dace and bream. This stretch also contains plenty of hard fighting river carp.

The 400m stretch behind **Little Barford** power station is noted for producing river carp over 30lb, as well as chub over 6lb, tench over 7lb, plus pike, zander, perch, bream, roach and dace.



13lb 5oz Little Paxton barbel - July 2017

Moving further downstream the club controls over 2 miles of bank at **Little Paxton**. The weir pool pegs produce a wide range of species including barbel (14lb+), carp (20lb+), chub (6lb+), bream, perch, roach, pike (20lb+), zander, eels and even the occasional catfish. Upstream of the weir pool, Lammas Meadow is noted for 100lb+ bags of bream to over 7lb, but many less accessible sections remain largely unexplored despite its reputation for specimen fish.

### 2018/19 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Club books are available from local tackle shops or postal application to the Registrar, SDAA Ltd, PO Box 59, Shefford, SG17 5UZ from May 2018.

<b>FULL</b> (aged 17 - 64 inclusive)	<b>£75</b>
<b>CONCESSIONARY</b>	<b>£55</b>
<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>£45</b>
<b>JUNIOR*</b> (aged under 17)	<b>£20</b>
<b>KEY</b> (same A10 key as last year)	<b>£5</b>

\* **FREE Associate Junior** membership is also available from the Registrar for under 17s, but can only fish with a single rod when supervised by a member aged 18 or over in the same swim, and cannot fish IPA waters.

*Night Permits are required to night fish The Airman, Broom Lake and Willington Lake, and are only available from the Registrar. Separate Night Permits for The Airman and Broom Lake are available (cost £53), both allow members to night fish Willington Lake. Members wanting to night fish all three venues can buy their second night permit for £26.50. A Junior Night Permit covering all three venues costs £26.50.*

For further details on all the above and to download application forms please visit:

[www.SheffordDAA.org.uk](http://www.SheffordDAA.org.uk)

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