

Where To Fish

BURY HILL FISHERIES Dorking, Surrey

IT'S been a long-held belief that angling still lags behind many other, not-so-well-attended, sports... but not so if Bury Hill Fisheries is anything to go by!

It has taken the commercial-fishery concept and created a complex par excellence, not only with the stock and facilities but with a user-friendly and immaculate information website normally associated with more modern and sophisticated business arenas.

Owner David de Vere took over the 80-acre Bury Hill complex in 1989 and has ploughed money and innovation into his fishery, making it an outstanding site both in terms of fishing and wildlife.

In 1997 a state-of-the-art aeration system was installed in Old Lake to create a healthy environment for all species, especially during times of hot weather when oxygen levels can drop dangerously low.

A massive top-up of stock took place in March last year, when a ton of tench to 7lb and 100 pike were added to Old Lake's already large head of fish. Milton Lake also saw a heavy influx of large rudd and crucians and some carp to mid-40s were introduced into Temple Lake.

MOUTH-WATERING PROPOSITION

The fishery could also be classed as one of the best-run complexes in the south, if not the country, with five permanent staff and a backup of temps providing the visiting angler with help and information throughout the year.

Time and effort has been spent to provide the visitor with the best possible facilities and fishing, bad weather notwithstanding! Seclusion is synonymous with this fishery, as it's located in a valley of outstanding beauty and the drive down to the lakes sets



Match weights and pleasure bags regularly exceed the 100lb mark.

the scene for what's to come. The complex consists of four lakes, headed by the oldest and largest, Old Bury Hill, which covers 12½ acres and houses 75 pegs. Depths vary from two feet to 11 feet, but tend to average out at around seven feet.



"It's a great all-round fishery. All the lakes provide some terrific summer sport."

Ed Mason from Gomshall, Surrey.

Surrounded by trees, shrubs and reeds the lake has a profusion of water lilies and irises which create a tranquil and mouth-watering proposition for the visitor during late spring and the summer months.

Stocked with carp to 35lb, there is an abundance of quality bream and tench which run to over double figures. Crucians, roach, rudd and chub make up an extremely large head of silver fish.

Bury Hill is one of the few

fisheries, anywhere, to offer the use of boats and these stable platforms are a 'must' for those anglers wishing to get right on top of the action! Another noted feature of the lake's stock is its predators. Pike to 30lb,

perch over 4lb and zander pushing past 16lb are most sought-after, especially during the winter period when anglers travel from all over the region to sample this special sport.

'KILLING' METHODS

At the beginning of the 1990s two new lakes were created in the lower valley, Milton and Bonds, which cover three acres and two acres respectively.

Labelled as one of the best tench and crucian venues in the country by TV's Mr Angling, John Wilson, Milton is a 'carp-free zone' with massive stocks of roach, golden rudd and perch making up the numbers.

On this 30-peg water, depths are an average of three to four feet. Pleasure nets can run to 250lb, while match weights consistently return an impressive 100lb; not bad considering that no carp are involved.

Bonds Lake is slightly deeper at four to five feet and contains 20 pegs... and a lot of carp! A few of these push into double figures, while most average 3lb to 4lb.

Tench, roach, rudd and bream supply plenty of added spice. The lake is very popular with clubs, so it's advisable to check that it's available to fish before you arrive.

The fishery has traditionally been waggler and feeder dominated, especially on Old Lake and these are still the main 'killing' methods, but short-pole tactics fished

Fact File

Bury Hill Fisheries, The Boathouse, Old Bury Hill, Westcott, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 3JU

Contact: Call the estate office on 01306 877540, e-mail: info@buryhillfisheries.com or visit the impressive website at www.buryhillfisheries.com

Day tickets: Adult permits cost £11 for one rod. Juniors aged 15 or under, OAPs and disabled anglers pay £8 for one rod for permits available Monday to Saturday only, excluding Sundays and bank holidays. A second rod costs £5.50 and an evening ticket, available for the last four hours of daylight, costs £5.50 per rod. Boats are available for hire at £5.50 per person for a single booking. The fishery reserves the right to charge £11 on Sundays and bank holidays. For club, season and tuition prices check brochure or website

Restrictions: All nets must be dipped when entering the fishery. No keepnets or sacks are allowed, except in matches. Use barbless hooks only. Method feeders and fixed-lead rigs are banned. All anglers are to use large unhooking mats and landing nets. No particle baits are permitted, except sweetcorn, hemp and carp pellets

Facilities: The fishery has a lakeside café, full toilet facilities, boat hire and a tackle shop with tackle for hire. There is excellent disabled access and facilities. The fishery also offers professional tuition from qualified angling instructors

How to get there: Leaving the M25 at Junction 9, head south on the A24 London Road until you meet the junction with the A25. Turn right into High Street and go straight over the next roundabout into Westcott Road. The entrance to the fishery is the next turning on the left

in the margins can account for huge bags off both of the smaller lakes in summer.

A wide variety of baits all prove successful, with worm and casters or maggots on the crumb feeder racking up big nets of bream and tench from Old Lake. Casters and hemp will take bulging nets of crucians and rudd from the two smaller lakes.

A more recent addition to the complex is the four-acre Temple Lake, designed to become a 'big-fish Mecca'. It has been stocked with more than 100 pedigree English mirror, common, ghost and linear carp between 20lb and 45lb.

This lake is run on an exclusive basis, limited to

vetted adult members of the BHF Carp Club only, details of which can be obtained from the fishery.

One particular, and unique, approach to stock management sees all fish microchipped, similar to our family pets. This helps to deter theft and enables a history to be built and fish growth to be monitored for the benefit of all. Very hi-tech!

Bury Hill has always had a top-class reputation, even in the early days, but under its present management the fishery is a model of perfection and shows perhaps the future way for other commercial ventures.

● Dave Johnson



The lakes at Bury Hill have loads of interesting features to fish to all year round.