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Longford has bloomed into a fantastic venue

BACK in 2001, farmer Frank Goodhall decided it would be a good idea to convert his 13-foot deep irrigation pool, built in 1987, into a fishery.



That idea proved the foundation for one of the area's most popular day fisheries — one that has so far expanded to five pools, with another two on the way.

At present, the five pools at Longford Fishery cover some eight acres that not only offer some of the best pleasure fishing, but are also some of the most competitive of match waters available.

Last week, anglers could get a full range of drinks and sandwiches as the new cafe opened for the first time. New toilets were also added to complete the job.

The pools vary in size and depth, with several being quite small with islands and reed beds to offer cover for the fish and the masses of wildlife which has found its way into this little corner of the countryside.

But where is Longford? It's easy to find.

Just go to the Salt Box Cafe in Hatton, turn right and, after around 200 yards, turn left. Once you get into Longford, turn left at the T junction and the fishery is on the left.

There is plenty of car parking available, much of it directly behind the pegs.

The pole is the obvious tool to use, especially as the opposite bank or an island is within reach. Otherwise, the feeder is the main option. Specimen anglers go for the Head Pool — the original pool — mainly because of the head of bigger carp that are known to be in there.

The other pools also hold a good head of bigger carp, many in double figures, but while the carp may be the main target of most anglers, all of the pools hold plenty of roach and perch that respond readily to maggots or worms.

Tench are also a feature in some of the pools. Some of them run to a good size, but in some pools they are in the six to eight ounce range and are like bars of soap when you try to handle them! The cost is £6 a day, or two rods will cost £10. There are reductions for concessions.

Match bookings can be made on 01335 330454.

THE signs are there. The fish are showing well on the surface of all of our fisheries but, as yet, they are not so keen to take anglers' flies.

Both Foremark and Thornton reservoirs have returned similar rod averages at 2.1 fish per rod.

All have shown inconsistency over this past week, alongside the weather, but when conditions have been right, the fishing has been excellent.

Fry-bashers at Thornton have supplied most of the sport there, especially in Green Bay at the far end of the dam wall.

Generally though, the fish have been caught at around four feet down on cats whiskers, hares ears and muddlers.

The water levels at Foremark are some six or seven feet down and the aerators have also been switched on at last.

The fish have not yet found them to any extent, so the dam wall in general, the picnic area and the number eight buoy have been this week's hot-spots.

Having said that, C Rowland caught 23 fish and a damsel from off the pontoon.

Rob Elson also netted a superb brownie of 6lb 8oz and a match held last Sunday produced a rod average of 4.75, so things are certainly looking up.

All of the boats are booked out this Sunday for the Inter-Counties Championship, in which Foremark Fly-Fishers will be representing Derbyshire.

Due to the closure of Draycote Water, the match has been reduced to eight-aside, with the home club being represented by Rob Wheeldon, Jason Locock, Derek Spiisbury, Malc Whiteland, Merv Amos, Ian Pymm, Dave Coates and Lew Whitehead.

Blithfield Reservoir has also fished with the weather and on some days the fishing to dry flies has been excellent.

A 6lb 8oz brown was also the feature fish, taken on a size 14 shipmans buzzer.

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