

Etang La Sausaie / Lac Baliene

Spring 2009

Sausaie

Welcome to the news page, I suppose the first news is the lads taking up the option of the winter fishing on Sausaie. Whilst only a few lads fished the lake up to Christmas 2008 their results were very good, with Oldham 'Brickie Dave had a brilliant November session catching 11 fish in the week consisting of 43.1 mirror, 34.9 mirror, 47 common, 27.4 mirror, 44.1 mirror, 46.11 common, 43.11 mirror, 37.15 mirror, 42.2 mirror, 44.12 mirror and a 29.3 mirror (Photos on Winter fishing page in promotion section). Oldham Shaun and southern Colin had a result in late December with captures of 43.10, 32.13, 37.8, 37.9, 41.12 and 42.7. As you will see in the photo's these fish were caught in sub zero temperatures and a few of the fish were actual 'snow captures'

The photos of some of these fish can be seen on the promotions page relating to the winter tickets. In my obviously biased view these winter tickets are really good value for money, it being possible to get 3 or 4 trips in before the end of January for a one off cost of £250.00 The only requirement for obtaining a ticket is that you must have fished the lake during that year. Due to the time of year facilities are limited, in that the mains water is switched off but the toilets, lodge etc are still open.

This year we have renewed the kitchen in the lodge providing new worktops cupboards, fridges and freezers. We have also provided a washing machine in the lodge but permission must be obtained prior to using it (so the kak handed amongst us don't press all the wrong buttons and end up with pink fishing clothes). We have also had to provide additional freezers to the bait store this year which can be hired for a minimal fee for one week periods. The private chalet behind peg 10 has also been slightly upgraded with the cooker and hob being installed.

We have also spent the winter clearing the margins of the lake of the snags, it is impossible to stop people fishing correctly up to snags (if there is such a thing), placing a bait on the edge of snags and then walking away from the rods is a recipe for disaster. For those that know the lake we have provided elevated bivvy positions to pegs 1, 2 and 3 since these swims are prone to flooding up to the end of May if we have a very wet spring (we have had 3 on the trot now). Waders are recommended for this time of year since the water on the edge of the swim tends to go over the top of willies. A cautionary note! Be very careful when wading in the edge, the margins drop off very quickly and drowning tends to spoil your trip!!!

We were not as busy as usual as last year which seems to have improved the fishing no end (sadly not my bank balance) with the majority of the anglers doing well. The big common excelled herself again this year appearing on the banks twice this year at 68lb and a glorious 72lb in October. **A truly stunning fish, in prime condition and still gaining weight.** The remaining fish are also putting on weight and certainly appear to have benefited from the reduced fishing pressure last year with some nice fifties and a lot of forties gracing the bank.

Lac Baliene

2008 was a good year for those choosing Baliene to fish this year, the best fish going to regular Sean Mahin at a weight of 47lbs +. Big catches again were the norm for the fishery with 100 fish per person not being unusual. The good news is that the fish's average weight is increasing year on year. This was improved by the removal of 2/3 tonne of silver fish from the lake last year.

The water is high again this year which will result in a number of the swims requiring waders to fish in the spring, the majority can still be fished in wellingtons. As usual this situation will resolve itself as the water drops to normal levels May/June. The lake remains almost weed free.

The facilities on the far bank will be operational this year and will consist of kitchen, shower and toilets. This means that there are 4 toilets, 2 showers and 2 kitchens available for use on the lake. The lake does not have electrical power or mains water so freezers are not available.

It is possible to drive all the way round the lake during reasonably dry conditions. If there has been heavy rain please stick to the main gravel track on the entrance side, if you get stuck we have to get our friend Dominic the farmer with his tractor (which will cost you 50/75 euro) to extract you!

If you have fished Saussaie or Lac Baliene and have photos of the fish please send them in to us and we will do our best to put them on the site.

All that remains is to wish you success in your fishing.

Regards

Phil G