

The Sussex Angler



Autumn 2011

Issue 6

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The Petworth and Bognor Angling Club Magazine

www.sussexangling.co.uk

Welcome to The Sussex Angler

The first part of this year has been a very eventful period for the club.

- Our new water has come on stream.
- There has been a massive amount of work at Hurston Lane and we are just awaiting the introduction of new stock.
- On a slightly more political front The Arun and Rother Rivers Trust was formed.
- Finally I regret to say that it seems as though we have unfortunately lost Hardham.

The Granary

Reports have been mixed with some anglers having sessions with up to 17 carp, others having a load of rudd but some anglers are reporting blanks; this is probably just a case of getting used to the water . We have managed to catch up with a couple of anglers that have caught well and they have given us a bit of information on the tactics they have used, see page 7.

Hurston Lane

A lot of work has been done on the carp pond and the river bank at Hurston and we are awaiting our new stock with eager anticipation. The should be going in either at the end of October or beginning of November depending on the temperature. There is a report on all the Hurston work on page 8.

Arun and Rother River Trust

This is a very important organisation for the future of our rivers. We are in on the ground floor and are able to make our voice heard when it comes to making improvements to our rivers and improvements are needed. There is further information on the trust on page 3.

Hardham

We were all looking forward to being able to fish Hardham again. However, the owner of the land has told us that he really does not want anglers on his land. There have been a number of incidents over the last few years that he has decided were due to anglers being on his land, we do not believe this is justified and have appealed to him but at the moment (and frankly I'm not hopeful for the future) our appeals are falling on deaf ears. We will of course keep you posted should the situation change but please consider that Hardham is no longer one of our waters

Good luck for the rest of the season .

Nigel Chapman Chairman



The Arun and Rother Rivers Trust

A bit of a mouthful but known as ARRT for short the trust was formed on 23rd June 2011 when interest groups such as landowners and land users i.e. farmers, anglers, environmental groups and a number of others agreed to join together to form ARRT. The trust will be responsible for bidding for and distributing funding for projects on the River Rother and River Arun. The projects will be wide ranging but will be broadly associated with improving the environment and facilities of the rivers and bankside.

At the most recent meeting of the club's committee the delegate to the Rivers Trust reported that some funding will be available for improvements to the angling environment of the River Rother, which has major problems in terms of its water quality not meeting minimum EU standards. Some action is to be taken regarding

- (a) land drainage and siltation;
- (b) pollution and risk assessment;
- (c) excessive water extraction.

Also, some work is to commence shortly at two sites in the Petworth area to improve fish movements, and this is being undertaken by the Wild Trout Trust.

At the moment we are conducting a fact-finding mission, which will provide valuable information in order that the Trust is aware of what and where improvements could be made. This was discussed at the most recent club's bailiffs' meeting and I am asking regular Rother fishers for their views. If you do have ideas which you would like to be represented, please get in touch with me via my contact details below and I will collate these and pass them on to our delegate so that he can compile a wish list to take to the next meeting of the Trust which will be in October.

It is sensible that both coarse and game fishing interests on the Rother are co-ordinated to ensure angling interests are strongly represented. so other local clubs are being asked the same questions. In particular we are being asked to consider all measures that could be taken to improve local angling, and in particular to consider if there are any barriers or man-made obstructions which restrict fish movements, lack of spawning areas, and if, for example we need more riffles. I look forward to hearing from you



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In Depth

An extended version of an article that appeared in the first edition of *The Sussex Angler*

As you arrive the first bit of water you see is the renowned peg 1, always popular this swim offers a variety of options for carp or a more relaxing silver fish session. For the carp the bushes to the right and immediately in front of you, tight to the island or tight in to your left are all good options. In the summer pellet or corn over loose fed pellet and a



Plenty of options on Peg 1

bit of *Swim Stim* ground bait works well. In the winter worms are often a winning bait. For the roach and skimmers fish the open water immediately in front of you, but beware a rogue carp will often put in an appearance.

If you want to test the strength of your pole then peg 2 is the place to be. Fish as close to the island as you dare and hang on when the bites come. If you get 1 in 3 out you're doing well. In the winter the odds are slightly better as they don't run quite as hard. Bait and ground baits are similar to peg 1.

Pegs 3 & 4 have a tree in the water between them and when it first came down we left it there as we felt it would hold fish. Unfortunately this has never really proved to be the case. A feeder to the island for carp or in the open water for roach and skimmers are your best bets.

Pegs 5 & 6 form a double swim popular with dads and lads or husbands and wives. Both pegs have an interesting inside carp line, on peg 5 to the right and on peg 6 to the left. A feeder to the island is also a good option for the carp and with a little but often feeding approach you can pull the roach and skimmers in to a comfortable pole or waggler line at 8 - 10 metres. You will sort out the better fish on corn, small pellet or casters as you can get plagued with the smaller ones on maggots



Stemps Pond



Try close in on Peg 7

We then come to a peg that is a particular favourite of mine and others - peg 7. Although you can fish the island (aim for the tree) or the open water, the place to try is tight in, 2 or 3 metres from the bank for the quality roach. During the summer feed hemp and fish caster, corn or my old favourites tares. In the winter a bit of ground bait with chopped worm and a piece of worm on the hook.

Pegs 8, 9 & 10 are pretty much the same with options to go to the island or fish midway for roach and skimmers. Peg 10 has the added bonus of an inside feature to you left which holds the roach, particularly in the winter. Also when it does get cold this is one of the last areas of the lake to ice over.

Peg 11 is one of the deepest areas of the lake and the skimmers seem to sit at 8 - 10 metres, try sweet corn or small pellets over *Swim Stim*.

From Pegs 13 & 14 you can just reach the island with a long pole but don't ignore the inside features. All areas will produce carp.

This brings us to peg 15, and you can catch carp from almost anywhere, but I think the most exciting summer method is a pellet waggler straight into the bay in front of you. The closer you can get to the island the better. Fish shallow and spray pellets and if you get it right then be prepared for some serious action.

Hopefully these tips might help, let us know how you get on.



Give a pellet waggler a go on peg 15



Cover Pictures

If you've ever wondered where our cover pictures have been taken now's the time to find out.

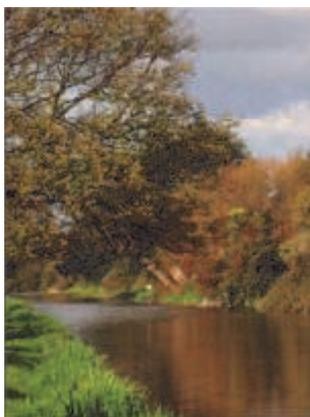
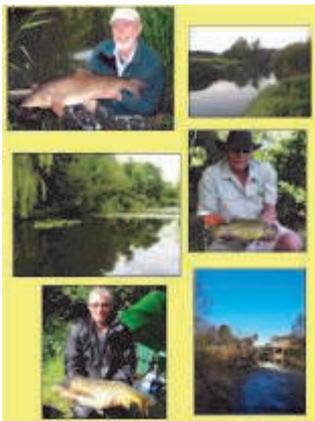


Issue 1 - Spring 2009
Featured our Coates stretch of the Rother which was then our newest water

Issue 6 - Autumn 2011
This issue is of course Stemps Pond at Walberton which I'm sure a lot of you will recognise.

Issue 7 - Spring 2012
If you have a picture that you would like to see on our front cover, please contact us.

Issue 2 - Autumn 2009
A montage of waters, including Fittleworth, Coultershaw and Hurston. Not my best effort!



Issue 5 - Spring 2011
The Chichester Canal about half-way between Hunston and the by-pass



Issue 3 - Spring 2010
Watersfield, was the subject of this issue, this picture was taken just downstream of the sluice

Issue 4 - Autumn 2010
The Rother at Fittleworth with low water levels



Hints & Tips for The Granary

Having only fished The Granary once I am by no means an expert, but while there I did catch up with one or two anglers who have fished it a few times with a fair amount of success. I picked up a few ideas from them that I thought you might like to try.



Steve Speller with a nice 8lb Granary Carp

On the day I fished I found Phil fishing the first peg to the island and he confessed that he was not doing that well, however across two sessions earlier in the year he had 25 carp ranging from just a pound to close to double figures. Phil fished all three sessions on the pole with a hair rigged pellet fished over potted pellet. His earlier sessions had been in the deeper water further down the lake, today however this tactic wasn't working in the shallower water.

Just along from Phil was Tim, he was trying various things but of particular interest was his method for picking up the better rudd. Put a maggot on and all you can get are the finger length rudd, but Tim was using corn or casters on the hook and fishing on the drop. The method was sorting out the better rudd, nothing spectacular but with the occasional one around the ½lb mark that can add up to being an enjoyable session. I did have quite a long chat with Tim and we got to wondering why - with a pretty decent head of fish in the lake some anglers have struggled. Tim does have a theory that is worth bearing in mind. The bottom of the lake is quite soft and it is possible that heavier feeders with short tails are sinking and are not available for the fish, it is worth trying with lighter feeders and longer tails.

Dennis tells me that he has found that worms work really well and has had good sessions on the carp with this very simple bait.

We are still getting to know this fishery and if you have any hints or tips to pass on please contact us .

....and how did I get on I expect you're asking - well I had plenty of rudd, nothing big, but a few of the better ones and I did have a couple of small carp as well. All in all a pleasant day out on our newest water.



Hurston Project

An update on the work that has been taking place at Hurston together with what's to come.

This is probably a bit of a misnomer now as we have a number of projects running at Hurston.

The Carp Pond

Having drained this down and removed the fish to the match lake it is now naturally refilling. This has been a bit stop and start as despite a pretty poor summer we have not had a great deal of rainfall, however it should be ready for when we plan to restock the pond. We have placed orders



An almost empty carp pond



A floating island

fish that will be close to 20 lb. These will be introduced in late autumn. We have also ordered some floating islands which act as refuges for the fish and as soon as the water levels are right we will be installing these. The work on the carp pond has not been easy and thank you for bearing with us and we hope that by the turn of the year we will have a revitalised fishery with a good head of carp.

The River Bank



We have had serious problems with erosion of the river bank particularly adjacent to the match lake. We have had a number of consultations with the EA and finally decided upon a series of woven willow revetments. We had earlier considered using metal piling but discarded this idea because they would not look in keeping with the surrounding. This work is not easy and

we have been using contractors to carry it out. This project is ongoing but should mean that we can keep the River Stor at bay although it will not stop the occasional flooding that we have experienced in the past as we have not been allowed to raise the height of the bank.



Once the revetments have been installed they will have to be back filled which is a job that we can do ourselves. It is possible that we will need to call a work party to do this so keep an eye on the website or for notices in the Arun Angling Shop.



Stock Introduction



Some of the crucian carp and tench

As well as the stocking that we will be making to the carp pond we have already introduced some more crucian carp and tench to the tench pond and also some silver fish including skimmer bream to the match pond. These fish certainly seemed to have paid dividends as we have had very good reports from anglers fishing both ponds.

Match Pond

There is always routine work around the match pond but we also have a couple of special projects.

We plan to give the boundaries of the island a good trim as there are a lot of snags at the moment. This will probably be done during the winter months and we have enlisted the assistance of some of the regular match fishing fraternity to help out.

There is very little room behind the swims along the back of the match lake and we are looking at the feasibility of cutting back into the bank, at least behind each swim to give a bit more room to manoeuvre. To be able to do this we are going to have to hire some machinery as it is not going to be possible to manually dig out. If we do this it is likely to be next spring before we can get at it but it should make the swims along the back much more angler friendly.



Fishery Improvements

While a lot of our time is being spent at Hurston at the moment, there is still work being done elsewhere.



Mystery Object!

First of all a bit of a gripe. You might be asking what the battered looking object in this picture is... Well it's all that remains of one of our strimmer heads after it connected with line that had been discarded in the undergrowth at Walberton. This is just not acceptable and is costing the club and ultimately you our members money as we have to replace or repair our equipment. If you do have a tangle or break off please don't just leave the line lying around - **take it home.**

At Walberton, we have been gradually putting in platforms, particularly in areas where the bank has worn away. We have also had to deal with a couple of fairly large trees that have come down, in particular one on the island of Stemps.



Tree work at Walberton

We have made temporary repairs to the steps on the downstream side of Shopham bridge and we will replace these completely in the near future. This is surprisingly going to be quite a big task.

There was a recent near miss when part of one of the dead trees at Fittleworth came down next to one of our anglers. We have contacted the estate and they have agreed that work needs to be done. We have since carried out our own survey and identified a good number of dead trees that we believe need to be removed. The results of this survey have been sent to the estate for their consideration.

Although we had a slight problem with our new boat we were able to put it to good use at Coultershaw earlier this year and get rid of a fair number of obstructions and snags.



These are just a few examples of the work that we do and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members that have helped out and would like to think that we might get a few more of you along in the future. We have put together our the dates for our work parties in 2012, I know its early but it should give you plenty of time to get them in your diaries. We would be only too pleased to see you if you can make and or all of these dates. Oh and those that filled in the Hurston Project forms - we haven't forgotten you and we will be in touch very shortly to let you know how and when you can help.

Scheduled Work Parties for 2012

Date	When	Venue	Main Tasks
Sun 18th Marh	Morning	Hurston	General Maintenance
Sun 8th April	Morning	Coultershaw	General Maintenance
Sun 6th May	Morning	Bethwins	General Maintenance
Wed 6th June	Afternoon	Hurston	Weed Clearing
Sun 10th June	Morning	Stemps & Cart	General Maintenance
Wed 27th Jul	Afternoon	Hurston	Weed Clearing
Sun 19th Aug	Morning	Hurston	General Maintenance

All work parties are on Sunday unless otherwise stated.

Sunday work parties start at 08.30 and run to around midday - we normally try to provide a sausage sandwich or similar.

Wednesday work parties start at 17.30 and normally run to 21.00.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact Nelson on **07944 539077** or Mick on **01243 603783**.

We also have occasional extra work parties, so please keep an eye on the website and look out for notices in the **Arun Angling** shop.

Some Reflections on Barbel Fishing

Coming to terms with the Arun

It took me a long time to come to terms with the Arun. Having written that first sentence, I wonder how true it is or indeed will ever be. Getting to know the River Rother's big sister is no easy task and a time-consuming business.

Perhaps, like many other club members keen to catch barbel locally, it was the Rother that drew me to join the club. So it was to Coultershaw that I headed first of all, and there, apart from a few flirtations with Shopham and Fittleworth, I stayed for several years.

However, I must confess that I had flirted with the Arun before, although it was some time before joining the club. Many years ago, as an adventurous twelve year-old I made the train journey alone from London to Pulborough. I don't remember much about that first experience other than the fact that for the next few days my shoulders were aching from the straps of the RAF rucksack I carried my tackle in. It can't have been much of a session either, for I have no memory of catching anything.

Many years later and by that time with a twelve year-old son of my own, I returned to the Arun on a Chichester and District stretch at the Burpham Backwater. I do remember catching a mixed bag from there, which included roach and dace, an eel, and (a first for me), a flatfish, which I'm pretty certain must have been a flounder. Son Tom's abiding memory of that session was of an encounter with some over-friendly cows which has left him with a rather uncharacteristic, but nonetheless healthy, fear of cattle. There were a couple of other visits to the free stretch at Bury, before I sampled our own club's stretches of Hardham and Watersfield. I liked Bury, but the couple of sessions there highlighted for me the importance of consulting the tide timetables. That's when I first discovered the famous Arun mud.

I won't say much about Hardham. I made just the one visit and must confess didn't take to it much, and now, unfortunately, we no longer have access to it.

And so to Watersfield. A few years back, I would have said I had a love/hate relationship with the place. What kept drawing me back there was these stories I kept hearing about Arun barbel, and for quite a while stories was all that they were. At that time I had never seen an Arun barbel, let alone a photograph of one. I'd heard about the one caught in a match, and I'd



By Peter Foster

heard tales of them coming from another stretch, and there were rumours of very big fish. I also met other barbel anglers who, like me, had plugged away unsuccessfully at Watersfield for years - yes years.



So the love/hate relationship continued. I liked the seclusion of Watersfield, the peace and solitude, the variety of the wildlife there. I still struggled with the water flowing first one way and then the other, forcing you to move up and down the bank. I complained about the lack of cover and exposure to the elements. And then, of course, there was

While waiting for barbel, there's always something to see the mud. I once nearly lost a boot on its banks, barely managing to pull it out, and worse still, got my car stuck in the car park in the days when we needed to park in the field. Returning to my car in the dark after some heavy rain, all alone, I just couldn't shift it. Thank god for mobile phones; a quick call to home, and half an hour later, the cavalry arrived in the shape of my wife and Tom (now a fully grown six-footer who, luckily for me, was actually at home for a change on a Friday night). Of course, there's no longer any risk of getting stuck now that we have a proper car park; it may be a little further to walk to the river, but well worth it. (Others have, I believe, stories to tell about the days when we used to park in the field, about wing mirrors found hanging off and paintwork licked clean by curious cattle.)

Well, more than halfway through this article, and still no mention of any barbel caught. I suppose what I'm trying to do, is to give you a taste of how it feels to fish a river for years without catching one. I'm not going to say what tactics I use, except to say that they are very different to what I employ on the Rother, and as a serial blanker, my advice probably wouldn't be much use to you; nor am I going to describe any specific swims or suggest particular stretches as Steve Simmonds has already given an informative overview of Watersfield in a previous newsletter



Some Reflections on Barbel Fishing

article. What I will share with you, however, is the news that I did eventually catch an Arun barbel, and it was a good one, although it was not my first double from the river; that came in the bulky shape of an 18 pound carp caught on an excursion to Bury .



My 18 pound carp from Bury on the Arun

My first Arun barbel weighed just over eleven pounds, and it came on 21 July 2009. It was a wet and windy afternoon, and the fish took a big bait (two large halibut pellets glued to a hair). Once I'd hooked into it, there was no

doubt that this one was a barbel, and so I played it very carefully, not wishing after waiting for so long to run the risk of losing it, although playing an Arun barbel with so much expanse of water and hardly any visible snags to worry about is so different to fighting a Rother fish.



My first arun barbel - just over 11 pounds

Needless to say, after so many fruitless sessions spread over years, I didn't rush to get my bait back in the water, but sat under my umbrella with a contented smile that lasted for many days. There was no-one there physically to share my joy



by Peter Foster

with, but my mobile phone took a bit of a bashing as I fired off text messages to various mates. Eventually, without recasting, I packed up and set off for home, content in the knowledge of a mission accomplished. As so often happens, when you break your duck, another one soon followed, but by soon I don't mean in the next session or two, but rather some six weeks later when a splendid 7-14 from a different swim graced my net.



Obviously my lucky hat - the second Arun barbel

Postscript Tally for this season: 12 so far... blanks that is. Oh and on reflection I **am** still coming to terms with the Arun,

Barbel Fish-In

The barbel only fishing match for the Chris Humphry Memorial Trophy will resume on Sunday 2nd October – meet at 12 noon in the Coultershaw car park for a draw at 12.30. Finish at 7 pm. Other details which are the same as before are:

- Single Rod
- BARBEL only weighed therefore no keepnets required
- Numbers drawn from hat, 30 second walk off
- Trophy awarded by Chris's widow to best weight.
- Any monies collected will be given to Chris's family who will donate to a charity of their choice.

If you would like to attend this special event then please contact:

Mick Mills **07743980956**
Mike Kitchener **07921672760**
Peter Foster **07711230128**



Bird Life

Club member and keen local ornithologist Terry Scragg gives his regular update

For this edition I want to focus on the Barn Owl which is a beautiful and much loved bird, characteristic of farmland, and one you are likely to see if fishing along the Arun or Rother, or near stillwaters where they are surrounded by rough grazing or where there are adjacent woodland edges.

From a distance the owl appears to be a uniform white bird, although close up they have golden-buff upperparts, with yellowish white below with blue-grey flecks, and with a heart shaped face. They hunt primarily in open farmland feeding on small mammals, such as voles, mice, shrews and small rats mainly at dawn and dusk.

The Barn Owl has also been described as 'whispering death' as it is designed to stalk its prey in

complete silence due to its feathers having a downy surface that dampens the sound as they swoop on their prey. This makes the owl a virtually silent flyer. If you see a Barn Owl quartering fields searching for prey you will notice that it tends to fly slowly about 3 metres above the ground. At this height it is low enough to spot small mammals and high enough to scan a wide area of a field.

Most birds of prey and owls have exceptionally good eyesight, but the Barn Owl is different in that it relies on its hearing which is acute and is said to be the most accurate directional hearing of any animal in the world. This means that it locates its prey primarily by sound and also means it can hunt effectively in complete darkness.

As autumn and winter progress the owls' prey becomes harder to find with small mammals

becoming less active as temperatures drop. Where there is snow fall and this freezes owls can have particular difficulty finding their prey. Freezing temperatures mean that field voles are more active during the day and this is why you may see the owl flying during the day in mid-winter. Alongside freezing temperatures another threat is the flooding of river valleys following heavy rain resulting in the drowning of many small mammals. Where owls have difficulty finding their main food source they can take small birds and they have even been known to visit urban locations suggesting that they are unable to find enough food elsewhere. A combination of severe winters and difficulty finding prey food can result in starvation which is the main cause of death.

Up to very recently the Barn Owl was a threatened species that had declined dramatically throughout



Bird Life

the 20th century. This decline was mainly due to changes in farming practices, with loss of rough grazing and a consequent reduction in the number of small mammals. Other changes included a loss of nest sites in old trees, barns and farm buildings, more tidy farmyards which were once infested with mice and rats. An ongoing threat is the risk of collision with vehicles where they cross roads in search of prey.

The good news is that the rapid decline has been halted in recent years by the very successful introduction of nest boxes and the restoration of some grassland habitats following changes in agri-environment schemes and encouraging farmers to leave strips of rough grass alongside cultivated fields.

So next time you are fishing early in the morning or towards dusk in the autumn or winter,

and even during the day when there are freezing temperatures, there's a good chance you will see this beautiful ghostly white owl sitting motionless on a fence post or flying moth-like over farmland and occasionally silently swooping down to take a small mammal.



Barn Owl
Tyto Alba

Our illustrations again come from the excellent RSPB website. If you want to see or learn more visit www.rspb.org.uk



Gone Fishing

Roger Poole reflects upon trying something different on his days out

I bet most of us have one of these signs hanging up somewhere, a thoughtful gift from a loved one, perhaps one of those loved one's would often prefer "I wish he would go fishing" on those days when clearly you are better out of the way and not under your nearest and dearest's feet.

So off to the river or ponds we go, out of the way and at that moment our world of good intent and worries just fade away.... Our concentration and expectation turns to the next few hours spent in what has often been described as a mixture of frustration, anticipation and enjoyment, well not always in that order but what have we learned at the end of the day as we head home. If we had a red letter then what more can be said, we have cracked that swim, know what bait to use, got it right on the day. All can be revealed to a wife who for some reason or other often fails to appreciate she is faced with a genius of a husband or partner skilled in the art of angling.

But hold on a minute how many red letter days come our way? Well for me I can normally count them on the fingers of one hand over a season, I say season because having fished for most of my life I would like to think I've had more than a handful. But what of those disappointing days where blame is laid on just about everything but ourselves. The weather, it was too bright or too dull, the pressure was wrong. The water, too high, too low, too hot, too cold, the colour was not right. I haven't got the right bait or its not quite as it should be etc. Come on now we all do it, be honest that's part and parcel of fishing. Where are the fish, why did I blank or catch below expectation?

There's been many a time when I wonder why I bother but bother I do and next time (there's always a next time) ...there I am tackling up for another go and in the rush to get started it's that defining moment when just a pause to stop and get the brain into action can turn disaster to success. What worked or failed last time doesn't necessarily need repeating, conditions change, nature has a habit of telling us before our very eyes that perhaps a change of tactic, bait and method needs thinking about before we plunge into our routine once again. Now this may all seem a bit obvious but it's surprising how often we fail to change the way we fish. Well we should, it pays dividends. So rather than just sit there



by Roger Poole

all day, eyes fixed on the rod tip (Convinced that in the next few minutes it will suddenly swing into action when the barbel, chub or whatever you're after has finally decided they should accept that the lump of meat or pellet generously left dangling there for the last few hours is the best on offer.) ring the changes, try a different bait or a different spot.

OK who am I to criticise? Hours of patient waiting so often brings it's just rewards but I am not one of those who wait and watch anymore. I'm now a fidget in my old age and have taken to roaming, trying different swims using a float, trotting different lines and whilst I might miss the chance of larger fish at least I don't need to lug heavy piles of tackle about. But if I'm honest a few hours of this wandering up and down does have it's drawbacks, the sun is out, it's warm, where's my comfortable chair? Its in the car no doubt, oh well next time perhaps a few hours watching and waiting isn't such a bad thing after all.

Gone mad - no! Just
"Gone Fishing"



Here's a typical example of a 'what shall I do here' swim. That tree on the far side looks just right for a large lump of meat, but equally there's a nice inside line trot. Perhaps today I'll try the trot for an hour or so and put a bit of feed under the tree and I'll be back in a couple of days time with my chair for a sit down session.



Tales From The Rod Room

Nigel muses on the coming months with thoughts on venues, baits and keeping warm.

Generally speaking this summer's unsettled weather has made fishing conditions difficult and I have had too many blank days or days with little to show for my efforts. I've not been alone though, as plenty of other anglers have told me a similar story. Already the evenings are drawing in quickly and Autumn is upon us, longer nights and shorter days mean that some of the very best fishing is available from now through to the end of the season. Many species are now feeding heavily in preparation for the colder months ahead and will very soon be at their heaviest weight and best condition of the year.

I shall hopefully be fishing the Arun at Watersfield over the next few weeks, the chance of a really big barbel or some decent chub is very good during the Autumn months, try using pellets or fishmeal boilies over a baited area for the barbel and if you can, fish on into the early evening. The fish become more active and bites will come more often as the light starts to fade from the water.

The Arun can now be considered a water that definitely holds massive barbel. There is talk and rumours of some very big fish captured from the river. I have no doubt whatsoever that 18lbs+ fish are regularly present on our stretch at Watersfield as proven by Ashley Kent last year. You could do far worse than head for the Arun this Autumn, my advice would be to time your fishing to a couple of hours before high tide and a couple of hours after, if this coincides with the evening hours so much the better. You just might find your fish of a lifetime but it won't be easy.

Moving over to the Rother the Autumn and Winter periods should see some very nice chub showing and again a few big barbel, the river often fishes best after very heavy rain but please be very very mindful of the dangerous slippery banks. Try fishmeal boilies, luncheon meat and pellets for the barbel, for the chub breadflake or cheese paste. The biggest ever barbel from the Rother was weighed at 15lbs 8ozs and caught between Christmas and New Year 2009. That fish could now possibly be a 17lb+ giant if caught in the months ahead.

Roach, sizeable fish at least are these days the rarest of creatures in the Rother despite this club member John Wilson's persistence produced a superb 2lbs 6oz winter fish and a



Colin Bridger with the 15 - 8 perhaps a 17lb plus giant now!



By Nigel Chapman

week or two after John's fish I had a roach approaching 1lb 8ozs. However I cannot recommend that you spend very much time in search of the sadly rare larger roach of the Rother, life is too short. Again try the Arun and although you may be troubled by smaller fish a 2lb roach is a very real possibility, a great fish for any angler to catch. Moving onto stillwaters Stemps Pond can produce really lovely roach that now reach well over 2lbs. Our Fishery Manager, Nelson Keet who catches a lot of fish at Stemps, advises using maggots flavoured with either curry or garlic powder in the colder weather to attract the better fish. This is a great tip from Nelson and well worth trying anywhere.

A winter bait that is often overlooked but is superbly effective is cheese paste. I make mine with equal quantities of strong blue cheese and mature cheddar grated together and rolled into shortcrust pastry add a little garlic powder and continue rolling until a smooth but firm paste is formed. I then cut it into pieces big enough for a days fishing and freeze it down wrapped in clingfilm. The chub simply love it.

One very cold day last winter I stupidly left home without any food, after spending several hours on the River I began to feel decidedly cold and shaky, packing up and walking back to the car I felt really awful almost as if flu' was setting in, I felt really ill. Fortunately the nearby garage had some hot food and drinks which very quickly brought me back to feeling normal. I am sure that I was experiencing the early stages of hypothermia, being out in very cold weather without food and a hot drink is dangerous and I certainly learned a very harsh unpleasant lesson.

Moving onto my thoughts on clothing for the coming months I think a fleece jacket is essential and one with a hood is probably even better, I have an ESP model which is superb and available from most tackle shops. On top of this you will need a waterproof jacket but ideally one that is long enough to keep out those hideous draughts we all experience when sitting which chill you to the bone. Mine is a Musto Countryman which was expensive but will hopefully give me years of valuable service. Woolly jumpers, socks and thick corduroy trousers also insulate me from the weather along with some neoprene lined boots. Your local tackle shop can advise you on how to keep the cold at bay and enjoy your fishing during the months ahead. The last thing that you need is a good umbrella to fend off the elements, obviously rain but also the wind. You will be amazed just how much more comfortable you can be behind a broolly without the rain slowly soaking through or the wind cutting you in half, don't leave home without one!

So there you have my ramblings and thoughts of a few places to try in the coming months and a few ideas on catching some nice fish. (hopefully) One thing is for certain getting out fishing during Autumn and Winter with a good friend or two can provide some really great days.



Notices

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will take place
at
8:00 pm on 24th November 2011

The Black Horse Public House Climping BN17 5RL

Please bring your Photocard as proof of membership

After the meeting the club trophies for 2010 will be presented and
the evening will conclude with a buffet

**Please submit any motions or matters for consideration in
writing to the Club Secretary at least 21 days prior to the
meeting.**

Publicity and Submissions to The Media

We would like to remind members of General Rule 1g in your handbook which
states

‘Reports of any catches on club waters may only be submitted to the media via
the club Press Officer’

Roger Poole our Press Officer is always hungry for your catch reports,
particularly if you are able to supply a picture with them.

Roger can be contacted

via our website - pressofficer@sussexangling.co.uk

or by telephone 01243 512521



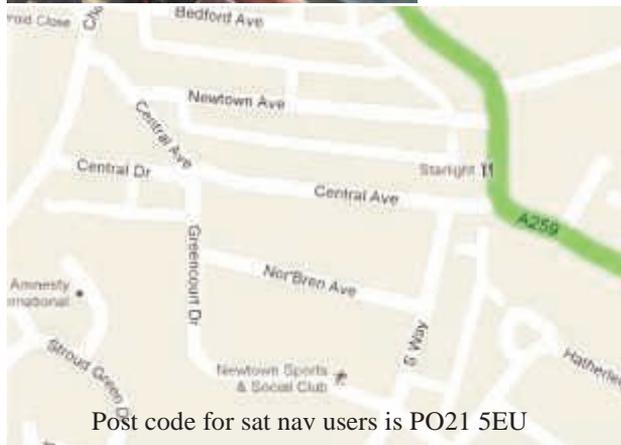
Anglers Evening

Make a date in your diary for Friday 14th October when we will be holding the latest in our series of Anglers Evening with guest speaker Huw James

Huw James (right) is an active member and ex records officer of the Barbel Catchers Club. Originally from West Wales, Huw has fished for all species since a young lad but has mainly concentrated on barbel since his move to Dorset in the late 80's. Huw has fished for barbel all over the UK, catching from over 30 different rivers with fish over 14lbs from 4 of them and a personal best of 18-6 from the Loddon. Huw



was lucky enough to be part of a trip to the fabled River Cauvery in Southern India in Feb 2011. When he is not barbel fishing he spends his time stalking deer in Dorset and Scotland. Huw will be joined by fellow club member Richard Donnelly (left). Richard lives in Storrington and fishes for all sorts of coarse species, he even enjoys a bit of 'fluff chucking'!



The venue is Newtown Sports and Social Club, Bognor Regis (see map) and doors will open at 7.00 pm. The evening is open to all, you do not have to be a club member.

So that we can gauge numbers we would be grateful if you could let us know that you are coming. Please contact us as below

Phone: **Nigel Chapman 02392 412463**

Or

E-mail : **secretary@sussexangling.co.uk**



Interested In Joining The Club?

You can join the club or renew your membership on the spot at the following Tackle Shops

Aldwick Angling, Bognor 01243 829054

Arun Angling, Angmering 01903 770099

Havant Angling, Havant 02392 450700

Tidal Angling, Pulborough 01798 873790

Tropikoi Angling, Bognor 01243 842660

A Membership Application Form and further details will be found with this magazine. You can also apply by post to our Membership Secretary (see form). Membership packs are sent by return of post. Give Tim a ring on 01903 770099 if you have any questions or need assistance.

Don't forget your photo's

Membership Fees for 2011 - 2012

Membership Type	Full Season	Half Season
Full Adult	£84	£52
Family (2 adults & 2 children)	£130	£80
Senior Citizen	£42	£26
Student	£42	£26
Registered Disabled	£42	£26
Junior (aged 12 - 16 inclusive)	£20	£10
Juvenile (aged below 12)	Free	Free
Associate (non fishing)	£2	£2

Half Season Fees

From 1st October half season membership will be available at all outlets. This allows you to fish all our waters that are open up to 31st March 2012