

PETWORTH & BOGNOR ANGLING CLUB



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Latest News

River Fishing

The rivers re-open in a couple of weeks and we know that many will be looking forward to the chance of getting a barbel at Watersfield or Coultershaw, a net of roach and dace at Fittleworth or a couple of chub at Shopham. Please let us know how you get on over the first few weeks of the season.

YouTube Channel

It's very early days but the club now has its own YouTube channel, we only have a couple of videos up at the moment and it can be found [HERE](#). We have some good video and sound recording equipment available and a semi professional editing and post production suite and we hope that we can continue to utilise these and post more videos soon

Work Parties

Date	Venue	Times
12th June	Stemps & Cart	08.30 - 12.30
3rd August	Hurston	17.30 - 21.00

Depending upon the weed situation at Hurston we might need to organise some interim weed clearing work parties, please keep an eye on the website for updates.

Upcoming Matches - Check your handbook for times.

Date	Venue	Comment
1st June	The Granary	We held a match here a few years ago when we first had the water. It will be interesting to see what the matchmen can get out of this water
5th June	Chichester Canal	Our first match after last years stock introduction
8th June	Cart Pond	Always a popular venue, will the carp or the silver fish be the best option
12th June	Bernies Lake	A popular away day venue which normally produces some good weights <u>Please book in with the Match Secretary</u>
15th June	Stemps Pond	This is the second leg of a double header with the Cart Pond match on the 8th June
19th June	Stemps & Cart	BBQ match - by invitation only for those that have helped out at our work parties
22nd June	Fittleworth	First river match of the season
26th June	Petworth Park	Last of the early season series at the park. Hopefully the bream will show.
29th June	Shopham	Second Rother evening match
3rd July	Watersfield	A relaxed later start for this one, we have had some good nets of silver fish from here

Members Survey

Those of you who were members last year and received a membership form through the post will have seen that we included a survey to determine which waters you fish and your general likes and would likes as far as the club and its waters are concerned. Around three quarters of you have responded and a big thanks to those that have taken the time to respond, the information is really helpful in helping us to ensure that we continue to give you the fishing and venues that you want.

The results indicate that our waters receive around 12,000 member visits per annum

As last season our most popular still water is Stemps and Cart and the results indicate that this water receives an average of around six angler visits per day and around 45% of the total club membership fish Stemps and Cart at least once per season. Hurston Lane is the second most popular still water with an average of around four angler visits per day.

Coultershaw is the most popular river venue and taking into account the close season has on average seven angler visits per day. This is a slight increase on the previous season. Fittleworth and Shopham are not far behind. More anglers fished Coates last season compared to the season before, so hopefully the work that we have done to improve parking and access is paying off.

We asked you what you liked about the club and its venues.

The most popular responses were:

1. Our fisheries are peaceful and quiet
2. We have a good variety of waters
3. Our fisheries are well maintained

You also felt that our the general quality of our fish stocks was good. Members and bailiffs were felt to be generally friendly and helpful and our waters were not overcrowded.

We asked what you would like for our fisheries

Stock

Unsurprisingly the most responses we had were about stock and by far the biggest request is for more fish in the Rother - this comes up regularly not only in this survey but at our AGM and through various communications from our membership. As mentioned previously our hands are tied as far as this is concerned and we have to go with what the EA say. A lot of work has been done to improve the environment in the Rother over the last few years and there is more to come. This seems to be bearing fruit (or fish) as there are certainly more reports of good mixed bags of dace, roach and chublets from the Rother over the last year. Let's hope this continues.

Better access to Watersfield and Stopham

Watersfield

There are two requests:

1. Improve the path under the bridge, we are actually working on this as I write, we have agreement from the estate and tenant farmer in principle and our Watersfield bailiffs will be meeting with the farmer to put together a plan of works. This should hopefully be completed in the next couple of months.
2. Improved access to the far end, unfortunately there is no closer road access to the lower end of Watersfield so there is no option but to go in from River Lane. We know that the grass on the meadows tends to be quite high early in the season until it is either cut or the farmer moves his cattle on and unfortunately there is not a lot we can do in that area.

Stopham

We looked at this last year and put a proposal to the land agents however they would not agree our proposals..

Fishery Reports

Last year you asked for regular fishery reports, however we can't do this without your help because we need to know where you are fishing and what you are catching so that we can put these reports together. Please remember to fill in the catch books which you should find at each of our venues and if you have a particularly good day please let us know, you can send us an e-mail (see website for contact details) or give us a phone call (see contact details in the back of the handbook). Pictures are always good as well!

Riverfly Monitoring

Following our appeal for volunteers last year we now have Riverfly monitoring up and running on the Rother. If you happen to see people standing in the river and kicking the bottom around and scooping up the results then they are probably one of the trained monitors. Riverfly gives us an indication of the overall water quality and can lead to the detection of the sources of pollution incidents, should these occur.

Competition to win a complimentary membership for next season

Do you fancy fishing our club waters free next season?

Do you take your camera with you when you go fishing? Most of us at least carry a phone that is capable of taking reasonable pictures.

We have presented a specimen trophy at the AGM for quite a few years and then last year because the specimen trophy had been dominated by barbel we launched a second specimen trophy for other species.

Currently the barbel trophy is held by Ian Duffy for his magnificent fish of 18 - 9 - 0 from Fittleworth and the other species trophy is held by Ben Sharman for his chub of 5 - 7 - 0 from Watersfield

We have decided that alongside the trophies we will now offer a one year complimentary membership for the following season to each winner.

To enter your catch is easy, just drop us an e-mail with details of your catch listing the species, weight, venue (you do not have to be too specific) and date. We would of course like to see pictures and if you have any witnesses please also let us have their details.

There are some tips with regard to photographing your fish in the Members Handbook and it is also useful to photograph the fish with a reference point in the picture so that the size of the fish can be gauged. The ideal is a ruler but something like a reel or bait box can also be used.

We have had an early entry for the other species cup from Bob Bridle who caught the 5lb 8oz tench featured from Petworth Park in the middle of May.



Are you a qualified chain saw user, could you help out at work parties?

Whilst working on our waters we sometimes need to remove trees. There are dead trees that have to be removed to ensure the safety of our anglers, we have trees that have fallen that need to cut up and we also take trees down in order to open up swims. Most of this tree work is carried out on our still waters. At the moment for most of these jobs we have to call in contractors, which of course costs us money. We are hoping that we might find one or two chain saw users from among our membership who would be prepared to help out at work parties. If you fit the bill please contact us [HERE](#).

Fishery management and bailiffs

Unfortunately over the last month or so we have lost some of our bailiffs. In particular we are looking for people who would be prepared to take on a roving brief. If you regularly fish a variety of our waters and are prepared to walk the water to check that all is in order and make sure that those fishing are bona fide members then please contact us [HERE](#).

I'm sure many of you will know Nelson Keet who has looked after Stemps & Cart for fifteen or so years now. Nelson has done a fantastic job in making Stemps and Cart the fishery that it is. Whenever we have visitors to the water they always complement us on the fishery, not only the way that it fishes but also its appearance which is always pristine. Nelson has decided that he can no longer carry out all the work that is required in maintaining the high standards at this fishery so we are looking for someone who can take over from him. They are big shoes to fill but Nelson has promised to work with his successor for a while to pass on all his techniques. If you regularly fish Stemps and Cart and think that you would like to take the fishery on, please contact us [HERE](#).

Fishery Log Books

Whenever you fish, please remember to fill in the log book. Without regular entries we cannot produce the monthly fishery reports that you have requested. It also helps us if you record any thing out of the ordinary, for instance if you see a tree down that is obstructing a swim it will help us with our fishery management to know where we need to direct our efforts.

Improvement Projects - Rother

There are a number of projects ongoing and starting over the next few months which are all designed to improve the river environment for fish in the Rother.

Tree Planting at Coates Castle

Those of you who are regulars at Coates Castle will probably have noticed (if you are fly fishers) or will notice (if you are a coarse angler) that there are a number of areas of tree planting. This was carried out back in April with volunteers from the South Down National Park, Arun and Rother Connections and the club taking part. We have also made a short film of the planting and this can be seen on our YouTube channel - see page one for a link. This is hopefully the first of a number of these projects that will take place along the Rother. These trees will replace the large number of Alders that have been lost along the banks of the Rother over recent years. The trees will provide valuable habitat and shelter for our fish. We carefully selected the planting sites with co-operation of the tenant farmer to provide maximum habitat benefit whilst having a minimal impact on opportunities to fish the water.

Willow Planting - Shopham

We have planted further willow whips at Shopham in the vicinity of the riffles. We did a planting last year but felt that we needed to plant some more. The full story with pictures should appear on the website in the next few weeks.

Fittleworth Mill Fish Pass

After a long time this will finally be going ahead this summer. It has taken a long time for a number of reasons.

It has been quite a task obtaining the funding and the project has had to be adapted to match the funding that is available.

There are quite a number of stakeholders: landowners, the EA, The Arun and Rother Rivers Trust etc., all of whom have to be happy with the project.

This is now agreed and the work should take place during July. There should be no disruption to our fishing but it is possible that we will see some evidence of the works on the Fittleworth stretch whilst the construction work is going on.

When completed the pass will allow fish to move up and down stream at Fittleworth.

This together with the passage that was installed at Hardham a couple of years ago will mean that fish will be able to move upstream from the Arun as far as Coultershaw.

Tree Cutting - Coultershaw

We have been in discussion with the owner of the south bank at Coultershaw with a view to having some of the fallen and falling trees removed. We have reached agreement on what needs to be done and have the blessing of the Leconfield Estate. Although most of this work will take place on the far bank, we will need to help out with some of the trees that have fallen over to our bank. We are not sure when the work will be carried out but it will be fairly soon. We will have to close the water for this period so keep an eye on the website for further information.

Fittleworth Footbridge

The footbridge at Fittleworth has unfortunately collapsed again and although you can cross the ditch a bit further up we would like to see if we can reinstate the bridge. We are currently looking at options and will undoubtedly need some help when we come to do the work. Keep an eye on the website for updates

Granary Perch

You might recall that we stocked some perch into The Granary at the back end of last year. To date we have had no reports of any of these being caught. If you do catch any of these we would be grateful if you could let us know via e-mail [HERE](#) and of course don't forget to fill in the fishery log book.

Social Media

Most of you are familiar with our website but don't forget that we also have a facebook page which can be found [HERE](#). Both these rely upon new content to keep them fresh and interesting. We in turn rely to a certain extent on you to give us your stories and pictures. So if you have a story to tell or some pictures of your catches and you are willing to share them please send them along and we will make sure that they are posted. We also now have our YouTube channel so if you have any short films or videos that you would like to submit for inclusion to our channel please let us know. You can contact us with regard to any of these [HERE](#).