

Petworth and Bognor Angling Club

Newsletter Issue 2

September 2007

In This Issue

Article	Page
ACA Membership	12
AGM Notice	13
Angling Pictures	14
Club Match Scene	2
Design A Logo	13
Editors Comment	1
Found	5
Tales from The Rod Room	4
Tim's Tackle Pages	6 - 7
Trophy Winners	3
Useful Contacts	14
Water Reports	8 - 12
Work Parties	5

Water Reports	Page
Arun	11
Bethwins	10
Chichester Canal	11
Petworth Park	10
Rother	12
Stemps & Cart	10
Storrington	8 - 9

Editors Comment

Our first few months as a new club have certainly been most eventful. The end of last season saw a new barbel record on the Rother, matches have had to be moved because of poor weather and a large number of Work Parties have taken place.

Our first priority this year was to organise our affairs so that we could operate as a single club. This initial work is completed and we are now running with a single committee made up of members of the two former clubs. We are running a new management process to keep a tight control of our finances and a new Constitution and set of General Rules have been drawn up for formal ratification at the AGM in November which we would urge you to attend. The formalities will be kept to a minimum, allowing time to meet fellow members and hear what is going on in the club. Please see details of the AGM on page 13

Having got the basic building blocks in place we are now increasingly focussing on our longer term directions and priorities. We often hear second-hand comments about members' likes and dis-likes so here is your chance to help us to plan for the future of the club. Your input is important to us so we would ask that you take a few minutes to complete our Members Survey on pages 15 & 16. Finally may we thank you for joining and supporting the new club which has already reached a healthy membership level.

Club Match Scene

WEIGHTS

NAME	lbs	ozs	dms
Steve Jeffery	134	00	00
Vince Herringshaw	115	07	08
Keith Hughes	59	06	08
Rab Butler	45	14	00
Kevin Leighfield	38	09	00

CLUB POINTS

NAME	POINTS
Steve Jeffery	108
Vince Herringshaw	101
Keith Hughes	90
Rab Butler	86
John Savage	37

MATCHMAN POINTS

NAME	POINTS
Steve Jeffery	600
Vince Herringshaw	511
Keith Hughes	287
Rab Butler	216
Roger Wheatman	171

Club matches

Steve Jeffery is again dominating the tables with Vince and Keith a little way behind. Steve seems to always have the uncanny knack of drawing the hot peg - he would of course contest that it is only his presence that makes it hot.

We really need a few more club members that fancy a bit of a different challenge to come along and join in the matches.

Having spoken to one or two people with regard to joining in they always feel that the matchmen are going to be deadly serious dour characters who only communicate in grunts and would never even acknowledge a new comer. Nothing could be further from the truth. As they are extremely friendly bunch who would welcome newcomers with open arms. Although there is a competitive element it is by no means the be all and end all of the day and they are just out to enjoy a days fishing with a little extra challenge thrown in.

People say to me that they don't know how to fish a particular water or even where to fish it, and therefore what is the point of taking part in a match. The simple answer is that fishing matches is actually an excellent way of really getting to know a water and how the fish will respond. *Cont over*

TROPHY WINNERS

TROPHY	NAME	POINTS	WEIGHT	VENUE
M. Sampson Cup	S. Jeffery	30		Chichester Canal
Mixed Pairs	Samantha Jones & Steve Jeffery		9 - 15 - 00	Storrington Match
Ransome Cup	Vi. Herringshaw		13 - 13 - 00	Watersfield
W. Sampson	S. Jeffery	20		Cart Pond
BBQ	S. Jeffery		13 - 09 - 00	Stemps
Parfremment Cup	K. Hughes		1 - 09 - 08	Watersfiekld
Milliard Cup	V. Herringshaw		32 - 6 - 0	Storrington Match
Daniels Cup	J. Williams		17 - 06 - 00	Shillinglee
Daniels Rose Bowl	S. Jeffery		14 - 00 - 00	Petworth Park
Charles Tankard	K. Hughes		14 - 00 - 00	Storrington Match
Petworth Cup	S. Jeffery	18		Petworth Park

Continued

You will also find that the matchmen are more than happy to share their knowledge of a swim or a piece of water and will tell you the way they would tackle it and the baits they would use. They will even normally help you out with a bit of tackle or bait etc. They might go a little quiet for the duration of the match as they are then trying to get the best out of their swim, but at the end of a match your neighbour is likely to be the first to commiserate or congratulate depending upon how well you have done.

Then for those that are interested it is normally off to the pub for a pint and a post mortem and you can learn a great deal about a water in these discussions believe me!

Anyway why don't you give it a go - all the matches are listed in the back of your handbook. You can just turn up on the day at a lot of them but others you might need to book in if pegs are limited. Hopefully see you on the bank soon.

Tales From The Rod Room

Tales from the rod room is an occasional series written by our Chairman Nigel Chapman.



Several people have spoken to me about the 'Anglers Evening' that we held in Bognor to launch the new club. Everyone who commented enjoyed what was essentially a social evening with two top flight anglers giving fascinating talks and passing on a lifetime's worth of knowledge. As anglers we are all constantly learning not just from our own experiences but also from others. So if things go to plan the Peter Springate and Ray Walton talks will be followed by another sometime in the winter. We have a few names in mind but are always open to suggestions of who you would like to see, please contact myself or anyone on the committee with your ideas.

I was talking to a couple of anglers recently and their comments on the run of big fish they had both lost in recent weeks seemed to strike a chord with me. I also seem to go through maddening spells of losing big fish, sometimes almost inexplicably. Imagine the moment, it's opening day, this summer, June 16th just a few minutes before 6.00 am. I am quietly settled into a swim on the Rother. Without any warning the rod tip hoops around, I lift the rod and strike into a very heavy barbel, certainly a 10 or 12 lb fish, maybe even more. After a couple of powerful surges I manage to steer the fish into open water and ease it steadily towards me and the waiting net, everything is under control, a few more moments and the fish is mine. Then without warning the line goes slack as the hook slips and the fish disappears into the depths. Rother barbel are certainly not the easiest fish to catch. To lose a fish like that on June 16th was not in the plan. The truth is that losing a big fish or two is something that happens to us all at one time or another. I often think when I have lost a big fish, despite all the effort, planning and preparation, it sometimes comes down to just one thing, luck!

The Rother whilst producing some good barbel this season has been said by some to be fishing slowly these past few weeks. The floods of last winter and again this summer have again changed so much of the rivers features and I think some fish may have moved. Last winter's big shock was undoubtedly Martin Eyres' barbel a 15lb 3oz river record, a huge fish which will take some beating this year, if you find and hook a fish this big, remember you still have to land it! It seems that a 16 lb fish could (I sometimes can't believe the size of fish that we are talking about in the Rother!) be on the cards this year although nobody can be certain I have a feeling that if one is caught it may come from the Shopham stretch which is quieter, full of features and only lightly fished. Only time will tell.

Tales From The Rod Room (Cont)

I have been fishing a stretch of the Middle Avon recently between Fordingbridge and Downton which has been a really different and enjoyable challenge. It seems that the potential of the Avon is still enormous and the opportunity to fish for big barbel, chub or roach is one I would recommend, anyone interested should consider trying. In case you have not been aware of it we have four tickets available to you as members to fish the Avon on the Downton Angling Club stretch. Famous for very big roach (3lbs +!) the Downton section will give you an opportunity to fish for all the Avon species and maybe even to catch the fish of a lifetime. Details are in the back of your members handbook.

Autumn is probably the best time to fish the Avon as the dense river weed begins to die back so perhaps late September or October onwards would be a good bet, although the roach fishing in the winter can be excellent. One example of the quality of the fishing available came when I was on the Avon back in July this year. I was fishing a very deep hole at the tail of a weirpool and in just a couple of hours I had three chub, two of which were well over five pounds, and I also missed two or three more bites.

Nigel

Work Parties

As noted elsewhere we have achieved a great deal at Hurston but we need to do more and don't forget that this water actually belongs to you.

We haven't been idle at other venues either, we had a great turnout at Coultershaw but very few at Bethwins.

We would like to thank all those that do give up the odd day to give us a hand but we would really appreciate some more volunteers so if you would like to help out at work parties please contact either the Fishery Manager - Steve Jupp or the Membership Secretary - Mick Harmsworth.

Contact details can be found on page 14

FOUND

A green coloured fleece has been found at Storrington by the match lake. If you think it might be yours, please contact;
Steve on 01243 583179 for more details

All The Latest Tackle News With Tim From Arun Angling



I have one or two interesting new bits of kit for this edition.

Boss who have been known as match box makers have expanded on their activities and are now producing luggage and most recently an innovative range of nets under the brand name of 'Rubba-net' and as suggested by the name these are made from a rubberised material. This material has been found to be very fish friendly and almost eliminates hook ups from carp. They are also very quick drying, with virtually no smell as the material does not absorb water. Pictured are the keepnet which is 3 metres in length with an rectangular 0.5 x 0.4 metre profile. This is supplied with the pictured net bag. The landing net is available in 4 sizes with a span from 0.45 to 0.6 metres.



For those of you that want to keep your car dry and smelling sweet Preston have introduced this new net / stink bag that is claimed to seal in all smells and water from your nets when they are in transit.

Should be particularly useful for our regular matchmen who I know enjoy a pint after a match but always dread going back to the car because of the smell of cooked nets when they have sat in a sunny car park for an hour or so.

The bag is big enough to take two standard rectangular keepnets and a landing net.





All The Latest Tackle News With Tim From Arun Angling



Milo the Italian tackle maker - renowned for producing equipment with a certain amount of style and flair as only the Italians can have introduced a new range of seat box / trolley combinations which are exceedingly good value for money. Below are two views of Marble seat box which is supplied with a comprehensive range of accessories including the wheel kit and pole rests as illustrated for a total price under £300!



We have been selected by Venture Carp as a main stockist and in particular have been selected as exclusive stockists for the Razorback bivvie. This is claimed to one of the easiest to erect and can be put up in 2 minutes. It is ideal for short sessions but can be supplemented with a full overwrap and a fully zipped front panel for longer sessions or particularly inclement weather. The standard model is supplied with a half groundsheet and storm pegs. Made from either Nylon or breathable VT5000 this is one of the best looking and well designed shelters on the market and a must for the carp angler who wants to look and be the part.



WATER REPORTS

Hurston Lane



This picture shows the tench pond after the recent removal of lilies. We have managed to open up all the front swims and some down the sides as well. The only way to achieve this is through getting into the water - chest waders or a dry suit are recommended and lifting out the plants complete with the tubers. We have been lucky that this clearance coincided with someone wanting some lily plants for another water so what was removed was relocated.

There has been a great deal of debate about the removal (or cutting) of the trees along the fishable bank of the carp lake. There was also a great deal of debate about what we should do before anything was done. We had many anglers telling us that a lot of the carp lake was inaccessible, we have a persistent leaf problem in the autumn months and we have some predominant weed species that all but choke the carp lake. It was finally decided that the best course of action was to coppice the trees around the lake. Coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management and was actually regulated by statute in the time of Henry VII. It was a means of providing a constant source of fuel wood particularly for making iron.

The illustration below shows the typical cycle of a coppiced tree, although we are obviously not intending to harvest our trees the principles remain. The photograph shows the massive amount of growth from what was a cut 'stool' at Storrington only a few months previously.



WATER REPORTS

Hurston Lane (cont)

A few of your questions answered

Why have we done this?

The removal of the tree canopy will allow more sunlight to get to the water and ground. This should stimulate a more diverse ecosystem and could help in reducing the predominant weed in the carp lake.

What happens to the tree?

Well you can see for yourself that they very rapidly start growing and in fact we have recorded shoots of 10 feet on the trees that were coppiced. It also makes the trees a lot easier for us to control in future years, although the trees will bush out from the stool the growth is less substantial and therefore easier to cut or train.

What happens on the ground?

More light gets through so your swim should develop a greater variety of plants and grasses rather than bare soil and mud. In turn this bankside vegetation will improve the habitat for many types of insect, larvae, seed and creepy-crawlies etc which contribute towards the natural diet of fish. The key to a healthy fishery is to achieve a balanced ecosystem – the bankside is just as much a part of this environment as the water itself so by promoting the right bankside conditions we will contribute towards good water quality.

Most importantly - How will it affect the fishing?

Once the young growth emerges the coppiced trees provide more than adequate cover for fishing purposes – in fact by careful management the younger and lower growth can be preserved close to the water surface (an attraction for fish and anglers !) whereas this becomes increasingly difficult with older and taller trees. In summary coppicing the trees at Storrington should give us the following benefits;

- A healthier and more biologically diverse ecosystem
- Less likelihood of top heavy trees falling and possibly breaching the bankside
- Prolongs life of trees
- Improved bank stability
- Reduced volume of leaves and dead branches falling into the water
- Easier maintenance by pruning rather than by chainsaws etc .



While Geoff was taking pictures for this article he just happened to spot these two carp and was quick enough to get a picture. Not brilliant in black and white, but if you have the facility have a look at the colour version in the online newsletter which is in full colour. You can even download it if you wish

WATER REPORTS

Stemps & Cart

Cart pond seems to have recovered from a sluggish winter and is producing good mixed bags. Perhaps the fish have finally settled into the new water levels created by the works on the dam on the south bank. Of particular interest recently have been the number of very small carp that have been coming out. These are not stocked fish and have obviously bred in the water and this is the first time we have seen them in any numbers.

Stemps is also producing good mixed bags and plenty of carp are showing, although they are not all being banked. As always pegs 1 and 15 are the most favoured. A technique that seems to be accounting for quite a number of fish at the moment is the pellet waggler. This is a particularly exciting and strenuous way of fishing for the carp, but if you get it right it can be rewarding.

Heard on the grapevine—Nelson our pond warden remarked recently that he had hooked six carp in a session and they had all eluded him. Well if Nelson can't get them in what chance do us mere mortals have!

Petworth Park

Petworth Park produced some excellent late spring early summer sessions, but seemed to be a little fickle. It seems to have settled down through the summer and anglers are reporting good mixed bags of predominately bream with the odd tench in the deeper water down the road side. The lilies are producing mainly tench and crucian carp and the south bank behind the islands is the best area for a truly mixed bag with bream, tench, perch and some good sized roach coming from the deeper channel. I have heard of the odd decent carp coming out as well from virtually anywhere, they do seem to roam around a bit and don't seem to have a favourite holding area. It seems to have kicked back into form with one angler breaking 100 lb with a mixed bag of bream, crucians and tench and surprise surprise a pike has put in an appearance again with a jack of about 2½ lb showing up among them. Oh and this bag was taken on the float, virtually under the rod tip - so away with the poles and the quiver tips and get the float rod out for some 'proper' fishing!

Bethwins

One or two anglers I know have been to have a look at Bethwins although I still haven't heard from anyone that has actually fished it. As reported on the website access to the water has been improved and we are also re-instating the book system which should be in place by the time you get this, so please remember to sign in. Oh and what did the guys who have been to look at the water tell me, they saw lots of carp cruising around and the bailiff reckons a bit of floating bread is the method. Give it a go and let me know how you get on!

WATER REPORTS

Chichester Canal

IMPORTANT NOTE

We have been informed by the canal trust that they intend to make the canal a barbless hook water and I would ask that all club members respect this from receipt of this Newsletter.

The trust have now started work on installing some platforms in the reeds to the west of Hunston bridge which will hopefully make this section a little more accessible.

They have also trimmed the trees back on the stretch running down from the bypass bridge towards Hunston bridge. This will hopefully encourage the bigger fish to roam around a bit more.

I have heard reports of the odd bumper session with one angler taking close to 40 lb of skimmers, bream and roach in a session. The evening match series produced reasonable weights of small fish but the bonus fish such as tench and bream refused to show up. Personally the canal now moves into my favourite period when hemp and tares will sort out the better roach, it does not always work and I am often mocked because I try it too often, but when it does happen it is a really good way to fish. The unfortunate thing is that you have to be really committed to it because as soon as you introduce any other feed it will kill it.

River Arun

Not that many reports from the Arun so far this season.

I am aware that a couple of the specimen boys were going to have a serious go at the carp that are resident in the river, I know that they had sent themselves some targets but I don't know how they have got on. Hopefully more in the next Newsletter.

As I write unfortunately due to the Foot & Mouth incident the farmer at Hardham has had to temporarily close access to the stretch. It is also worth noting that the farmer is our new landlord on this stretch as he has recently bought the land and the fishing rights from the previous owner. We are hopeful that with someone a little closer to the venue who we can talk to about our needs we may be able to improve this stretch of river.

There are moves afoot at Watersfield as well—we are currently just starting talks with the estate managers with regard to changes in the car parking facilities. As soon as we know more we will let you know.

STOP PRESS The Arun at Hardham has re-opened as foot & mouth precautions are scaled down.

WATER REPORTS

River Rother

Barbel still seem to be our angler's prime quarry on the Rother and as ever the Coultershaw stretch is proving very popular among those that chase these fish. I am told that they have not been quite as prolific as last season and some of the hot spots have cooled. I also have a report of a fish in excess of 13 lb coming from the loop section. Together with quite a few sighting of barbel on the Shopham stretch and with the odd fish coming from Fittleworth as well it suggests to me that they are spreading out a bit. Hopefully the barbel anglers will do the same and it will relieve a little of the pressure on the acknowledged hot spots. Now I am not a barbel angler—as mentioned elsewhere I am known to have a particular passion for techniques such as hemp & tares on our roach containing waters. The method also works well on the dace, small chubb and roach that can be found in the Rother. This year however has been a complete disaster on my front as every time I have planned to fish the river we have had yet another downpour of rain that has made it all but unfishable using trotting methods - and I always feel that if you have a moving water you want to move a float through it. Our matchmen have faired no better and all three early season matches scheduled for the Rother were moved. However we did at last manage to get an interclub match on to Fittleworth in less that perfect conditions. The river fished surprisingly well with bream and eels making up the bulk of the catches but a surprising number of quality roach (and I class anything over ½ lb as being a quality roach from the Rother) also putting in an appearance.

Petworth and Bognor Join the ACA

Not only is Petworth and Bognor Angling Club committed to providing the best possible environments for members to enjoy their angling we also appreciate the need to preserve these natural environments and have therefore joined the Anglers Conservation Association.

The ACA are a unique organisation, established in 1948, which fights pollution and other damage to water environments throughout the UK.

As a result of our membership we now have the use of the ACA's legal services if the worst should occur and we do have a pollution on one of our waters.

The ACA have a comprehensive website with lots of useful information. The website also has updates on cases they are currently acting upon. Members might recall an incident in November 2005 when a great deal of foam appeared on the River Rother. This was a result of an alleged illegal release of detergent into the Elstead Stream. The company responsible were prosecuted by the Environment Agency and the ACA are now acting on behalf of our neighbours Rother Angling Club to secure compensation for fish kills that occurred.

Club members who wish to support the ACA as individuals can join for the reduced fee of £12 instead of the normal £20. Just remember to mention you are a member of Petworth and Bognor Angling Club.

Annual General Meeting

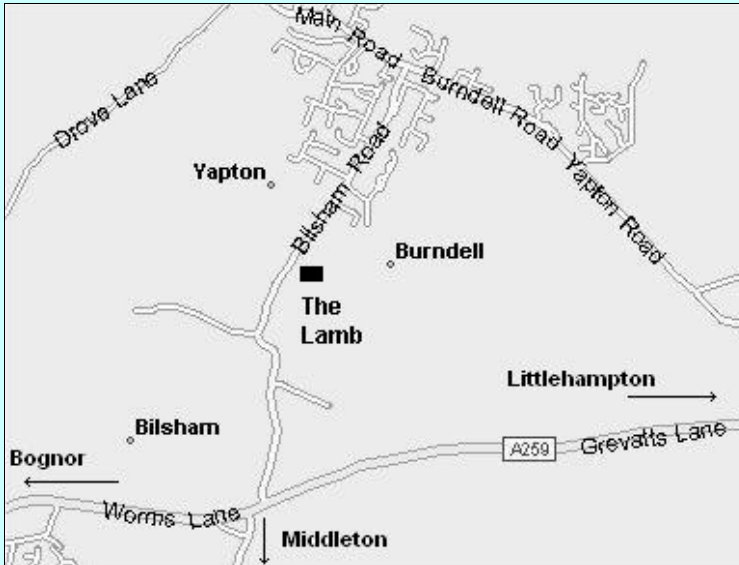
Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting to be held on

Thursday 29th November 2007 Commencing 8 pm

At

The Lamb Public House Bilsham (see map below)

All motions or matters for consideration by the AGM should be notified to the Secretary in writing with its proposer and seconder at least 21 days prior to the meeting.



Design a logo for the club

Do you fancy yourself as a bit of a designer or graphic artist.

You will no doubt have seen our new Members Handbook, Website and other publicity material all in a new style for the new club. To tie this all together we need YOUR help.

We need a new logo for the club and one or two of us committee members have had a go and the results have not been particularly successful.

If you would like to have a go at designing a logo for us, here are a few points that you need to consider;

It needs to look good on the website as well as printed matter.

It needs to look good in black & white as well as in colour.

It needs to be scaleable so that it looks good in both small and large size.

We would like to incorporate the club name and some sort of illustration that sums up the club.

Please send your ideas to Steve Simmonds at Remnants, Elmer Road, Middleton on Sea PO22 6ET.

I do appreciate a good picture when I see one and the one below came over my desk just the other day. I would like to thank Graeme for sending me a picture of his friend John with not only his first ever barbel but a double figure one to boot! If you want to see a colour version take a look at the Newsletter on the website which is full



colour for the first time. Unfortunately we can not send out the Newsletter in colour as the cost would be too high. So getting back to the picture why do I think it is so good! Well for a start the fish is the central subject and there it is in the centre of the picture. Your eyes are drawn to it. Then there is John's stance / pose with the rod over his shoulder (by the way I understand that the rod is a split cane Mkiv) with the 'pin' just showing under the fish and finally the landing net in the foreground. All these elements add up to a well composed and executed angling picture. You can also be sure that this would

all have been done very quickly to allow the fish to be returned to the water in good order. Well done to you both.

Useful Contact Details

Chairman	Nigel Chapman	02392 412463	
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