

# The Sussex Angler



Autumn  
2009  
Edition 2



News



Articles

Information

The Petworth and Bognor Angling Club Magazine

[www.sussexangling.co.uk](http://www.sussexangling.co.uk)

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# Welcome to The Sussex Angler

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## Welcome to the second edition of our club magazine.

You will probably notice a few changes from the first edition. We have not gone for colour all the way through this edition, but we promise that we will be back to full colour for the spring edition next year. If you have the facility then a full colour version can be viewed on our website.

As a club member we hope that you have got to know most of our waters so we have tried to concentrate on articles of more general interest.

Terry Scragg gives us an autumn update on the birds we are likely to see over the coming months—so if that tip refuses to quiver or your float is staying above the surface this will perhaps help you appreciate your surrounding even more.

Ray Stewart who has written a number of articles for us in both the magazine and on the website returns with a tale or two of winter fishing during the 70's—just to put you in the mood for the months to come.

Steve Simmonds, our Secretary, writes about his favourite method of fishing and I've managed to get an interview with our very own John Wilson!

We have had a busy time as a club and have been really surprised at the level of membership. As mentioned previously we are trying hard to find new waters for our members and in particular we would love to be able to add a further still water to our books. Finding suitable waters is very difficult and although we have looked at one or two venues we are yet to find something that gives us what we want. Please! If you do hear of any still waters becoming available contact one of your committee (you will find the details in your handbook) and we promise to take a good look at it.

It is a little way off yet but please don't forget our AGM. This is your chance to tell us what has gone well and what not so well and we look forward to seeing you. The meeting will follow a similar format to last year with a buffet after we have completed the business of the evening. Please see over for further details.

I am looking forward to some decent autumn weather, so that I can get out and fish the rivers.

Good Luck for the rest of the season



Nigel Chapman  
Chairman



# Notices

## **Notice of Annual General Meeting**

Our AGM will take place  
at  
**8:00 pm on 26th November 2009**

**The Lamb Public House Bilsham Nr Yapton**

Please bring your members handbook as proof of membership

After the meeting the club trophies for 2008 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.**

## **Work parties**

We continue to work hard to improve the quality of our fisheries under the guidance of Nelson Keet our Fishery Manager, We had to admit that we were caught out a bit by the re-appearance (with a vengeance) of the weed at Hurston Lane, we really thought that our efforts last year would have put paid to it. However we are now back on top of it with some concentrated weed clearing work parties on both the tench and carp ponds.

This work however does not magically happen and although we have a dedicated team it is small and needs more hands. If you are a regular angler at Storrington in particular or you have some time on your hands and are prepared to pitch in Nelson would very much like to hear from you. We have probably just about finished until the New Year now, but if you would like to be contacted for future work parties give Nelson a call on **07944 593077** and he will put you on the list.

Lastly, an enormous thank you to those that have worked so hard at Storrington through August - well done guys, your help has been really appreciated.





## All The Latest Tackle News

Somewhat bait orientated this time around, but I predict that the Pole repair service will be a real godsend to some of my regular customers!

So lets kick off with bait; Terry Hearn and his team at Dynamite have come up with pellets and ground bait made using the same ingredients as the hugely successful 'The Source' boilies. Both feed pellets and soft hookers are stocked in 4, 6 and 8 mm sizes. Feed pellets are available in 900g bags, whilst the



hookers, which are durable enough to withstand long range casting are in handy flip lid tubs. The ground bait is available in 900 g packs and can even be supplemented with 'The Source' Liquid Attractant. All are bound to go down well with both match and pleasure anglers.

Having seen the price of pole sections and having many an angler crying on my shoulder when I have told them - that's if they are even available I am very excited about **Advanced Pole Repairs**. These guys will be doing regular runs around the south to selected tackle shops. You can drop your broken sections into me, they collect, take them away, repair them and then deliver them back to me. So you don't have to worry about couriers or postage which can prove problematic with long sections and difficult for the working man.

The picture to the right demonstrates the quality of repair that they can achieve and they reckon that your pole will still pack away as normal in 95% of cases. I do have a sample in the shop if you would like to pop in and have a look. They don't only offer a repair service they also carry out joint strengthening or will refurbish your whole pole.





# With Tim From Arun Angling

**Korda** have introduced the **Krusha**, an ingenious little tool for quickly and easily grinding up hard bait particles on the bank. It is suitable for use with pellets, boilies, even hemp seed and tiger nuts. Simply fill to the line put the two halves



together and twist. Two turns gives you a coarse crumb and then the more you turn the finer the particles. Ideal for feeding particles via a PVA bag for the dedicated big fish man or to produce particles for potting in if you are a pole angler - clever!



Now one for the long range carp anglers among you. Designed and built by one of my customers and exclusively available in the south from me The **SB3pro - G4** bait boat is one of the most advanced I have seen for the size and price. Packed with the latest radio technology and with a very impressive pay load for its size this boat is usable in both the UK and France (be careful with other models as they can be illegal in France). The **SB3pro - G4** is fast, reliable and extremely stable and manoeuvrable, even on large choppy waters with strong cross winds.

Get one while you can; these are the last of the **Shimano Black Bait Runners** and are being offered as a special edition. These legendary reels are considered to be the ultimate for barbel and tench angling but also have a broad appeal to the more general angler. I have limited stocks at a really good price of £59.99



**I think that's it for this time round, but you are always welcome to visit the shop and I am sure that Gregg and the staff will be able to help, whatever your angling needs. Oh and don't worry about our newest member of staff, Alfie, he's a pussycat - well no actually he's a dog but you know what I mean!**

*Tim*

# A Winter's Tale

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**Where I live I have an excellent indicator of the state of the rivers. I can see water cascading over a weir and into the mill pool below. The velocity of this water, not the depth, acts as the indicator and I can now gauge whether a visit to the river about 1/2 hours drive away will be worth it or whether I am likely to find a brown torrent.**

Many years ago when I used to fish the Rother it would always be a bit of a lottery; would it be fishable or would we be turning round to go back home. I particularly remember one such trip to the Rother at Shopham bridge. We arrived to be greeted by a river that had fined down from the recent deluge, but the high waters had left lots of tree branches and other debris strewn high up along the banks and in the river making long stretches unfishable. The water also had a great deal of colour resembling stewed tea. Three of us duly made our way up to the top bend of the cut where there was a solitary alder, which was normally a safe haven for a fish or two. The raft of debris that normally congregated amongst its branches was double the size; almost reaching right across the river. Pop and I elected to fish this bend, as the flow was a good deal more sedate than anywhere else we had seen. Tony had decided to try the brisker water through reed alley just downstream. Pop and I settled into our chosen swims and wondered who would be first to make contact with the chub that usually obliged at overhanging alder.

After an hour or so with not so much as a touch between us, I decided to take a look at the rest of the loop. I met the local farmer who was no doubt

surveying the flood damage in the field and he said "We have just pulled a dead sheep out of the cut". He also mentioned that he had seen a big fish he told me "You can't miss it. It's on the next bend by the stream". I said cheerio and was off to see for myself. On reaching the bend I spent several minutes exploring the water around the bend, it was quite murky. I then realised and looking across to the stream I saw the beast. It was almost certainly a victim of the recent events, and was beached on the bed of the Haslingbourne stream, which although swollen in recent days had now subsided to a mere trickle.

It was truly a beast and I set off back to the others so they could also take a look. Tony was all questions as we walked back; how big was it, what was it etc. When I told him its size he immediately thought it was a pike, but I told him it was no pike as it was very dark in colour with a large square tail. Unfortunately the crows or similar had had a good meal off it so it was not immediately apparent to me what it was – all I knew was that it was big! When he saw it Tony explained that it was a sea trout at least ten pounds judging by the carcass and it was definitely male, "Look at that kype," he said explaining that it was probably one of the pair that had been spotted in the Haslingbourne stream. I knew that sea



# or Two!

trout swam the Rother but nothing this size - what a shame it had to perish in the storms.

Of course when the river is in flood our hand is often forced leaving us to try swims or parts of them we would never fish normally. One such visit to Fittleworth springs to mind, we had taken a publican friend along for a morning, but he wanted to get back for 12 o'clock to supervise opening up. We set off early only to be greeted by the sight of a river so swollen it was across the fields. What to do that was the question. We had a load of bait and we had traveled this far, but as we had to pack up late morning anyway we decided to have a couple of hours. We chose to fish right next to the bridge, but the runs we normally fished would be impossible given the conditions. We settled down by a bit of slack water that was protected from the main flow by the bridge itself. An eddy that was in fact in the field and not the river at all! Bob elected

to fish with casters and I decided to go up a couple of hook sizes and try bread flake. We put a scant few free offerings in, not wanting to over feed any fish that may be sheltering from the raging torrent.

After a while, I noticed that my float stopped in its slow path round the eddy. Believing it had caught a piece of grass on the

bottom, I merely tightened up trying to free it. This was no blade of grass, and Bob exclaimed "Blimey your into something". "Yes not a bad size too". After a few minutes I slipped the net under a beautiful roach. "I'll try a piece of bread flake if it's ok" said Bob, "Be my guest," I replied and offered him my swim being more than pleased with my morning's catch. It was on his second trot round that his float stopped and he tightened into a fish as well, another nice roach.

Feeling rather pleased with our prowess but noticing how the passing time had

caught up with us, we decided to duly weigh our specimens before letting them back into their sanctuary where they would surely be undisturbed. The verdict under the spring balance was 1 ¼ lb and 1 lb exactly, respectively. Two fine specimens in three casts, and we had run out of time!

How big was that shoal of roach? Were they all the same size? What would we

have caught had we stayed all day?

The answers to these questions we will never know, but what we do know is that even in the most adverse conditions you never can tell what will turn up, that is the pleasure of angling.

One thing is a certainty - a dry line will catch nothing!

Ray Stewart



Bob Jr. son of Publican Bob at Fittleworth on a slightly better day



# Hemp and Tares

Firstly I'm sure my fellow match anglers will already be groaning - he's on about hemp and tares again! But believe me in the right conditions with the fish in the right mood it really is an excellent method for finding better roach on our still waters and roach and dace on our rivers.

**Bait Preparation** There is the easy way - take a trip to the local tackle shop and pick up a tin of hemp and a tin of tares from the Frenzied range produced by Dynamite. A tin of hemp will last one or two sessions and a tin of tares five or six. Both freeze well although it is best not to successively refreeze tares as they tend to



soften. Then there is the understanding wife way, which is to cook your own! I tend to use tinned tares as I have yet to find a reliable source of raw in the area. I do cook my own hemp but often have a tin of pre-cooked in stock just in case things are a bit iffy on the home front. To cook hemp you need as mentioned, an understanding wife (because it can get a bit smelly), some Sodium Bicarbonate and I use a pressure cooker. If I remember I firstly soak the hemp overnight in clean water, pour this away and then bring plenty of fresh water to the boil, add two teaspoons of bicarb and the hemp. Put the top on the pressure cooker bring to pressure and cook for about 40 mins. When cooked the hemp should be dark skinned just split with white shoots showing. By the way, it is well worth saving the cooking

liquor and using it to mix ground bait. However, if I am hemp and tare fishing I never feed anything other than hemp.

**Tackle** This will depend upon where you are going to fish, but in all cases this is a float bait I would not bother with static methods. Lets look at three of our waters.

**Chichester Canal** Here I will fish either a pole or whip down the middle with a thin long stemmed float fixed top and bottom, something along the lines of a Preston Perfect. I shot with no.8s in pairs at about one foot intervals to about nine inches above the hook any further shot required to set the float I put immediately under the stem. Line is Preston Powerline 0.11mm to 0.10mm for the hooklength.

**Cart Pond** Here I will fish a whip with a small, canal blue, long antenna float fixed bottom only, with a no1 either side of the float and pairs of no8s spaced at one foot intervals as above. Again, I tend to use Preston Powerline but I might step up a notch with 0.13mm main to 0.11mm hooklength.

**Fittleworth** This is time to get the running line out. Firstly I look for four - six feet of water and I almost always revert to my very favourite floats of all time for the river - John Allerton alloy stemmed sticks. In this depth of water I will generally use a 7 x no.4 which the great man will tell you is too heavy but



# With Steve Simmonds

I'm nowhere near the angler he is and I need a bit more weight to improve my control. Shotting in this instance is with pairs of no.6s at about nine inch intervals but I will sometimes bulk shot at about half depth depending upon where the fish are. Line in this case will be 3lb Maxima on my trusty Abu closed face reel run to a no.10 swivel with a nine inch hook length of 2lb Drennan hook tie.

**Hooks** In all cases I would use a Preston PR24 in either 16 or if they are really going 14. On still waters I set the hook at about an inch from the bottom on the river three to four inches, but it is always worth coming up occasionally as you should hopefully be able to bring the fish up in the water and catch on the drop from mid depth down.

**Feeding and Fishing Tactics** This is the real art, get it wrong and you can kill the swim stone dead, get it right and you will come away a happy angler.

**Still water** To start with I introduce 2 handfuls of hemp and start with a couple of maggots or casters on the hook just to see what is around. I never feed anything other than hemp, no ground bait no maggot or caster. Once you get a run of fish in fairly quick succession then is the time to switch over to the tare and start regular feeding. I will put in 8 - 10 grains of hemp every couple of minutes and if I am on the whip recast. On the pole I would lift to bring the bait up to mid water. Bites are generally fast and if you manage

to hit one in three you are doing well. Slowly you should bring the fish up in the water and the bites become more positive and easy to hit.

**Running water** Here I will first put a couple of bait droppers of hemp into the swim two to three yards down stream and a couple of handfuls straight out in front of me. Again I start with either maggot or caster on the hook. On the river, regardless of whether I have started catching, I will add another bait dropper every 15 minutes and feed 15 - 20 grains every trot down. Feed before you cast each time. I often start with half my shot bulked at half depth, but will spread it out once the fish start coming. Trot down and hold back hard over the bait dropped area. Again the bites are quick and hard to hit, but once you have got them going then you will find yourself striking almost before the bite!

**Give it a go and let me know how you get on**



An 11 lb bag of hemp and tare roach - July 2009



# Trotting For Autumn Chub

Within the club we have our very own John Wilson, not I may add the legendary angler with his own television series, but John is an angler that catches plenty of chub, barbel and roach on the Rother. John agreed to give an interview for the magazine on his autumn chub fishing which we hope you will find interesting and helpful for the coming months ahead



**This 6lb 4oz specimen shows that Nigel, not only has interviewing skills, he does manage to catch the odd chub himself - however you would have thought he might have looked a bit happier about it!**

The Autumn months, September, October and November provide anglers with a great opportunity to get out and catch chub that will be heavy and in perfect condition feeding up for the cold winter months to come.

The countryside will be rich in the vibrant colours of Autumn and at this time of year I love to spend days on the Rother trotting for chub.

*What tackle do you take with you when you go trotting on the Rother?*

Remember that Rother chub are of a good average size and fish of five or even six pounds are there to be caught. An ideal rod for the Rother is at least thirteen feet long and strong enough to handle a main line of up to 5lbs breaking strain. I use a Normark but there are dozens of good rods that are up to the job available today.

I have a Daiwa fixed spool which is beautifully smooth and with very nice line lay, but again anglers are spoilt for choice these days.

Line, now this is very important, remember when trotting we need

*When do you think is the best time to target the chub in the River Rother?*



## Our John Wilson was interviewed by Chairman Nigel

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good line control with a line that floats on the surface and picks up off the surface well on the strike. I use a brand called Clarkes. This is very fine yet strong and reliable and seems quite difficult to source these days. Tim at Arun Angling normally stocks it but try your regular tackle shop and see if they have it. I also grease my line lightly with mucilin and it handles superbly. Use 4-5 lb breaking strain line and you will be OK.

A heavy stick float that takes around 5bb shot and sharp Drennan hooks in sizes 10 to 14 will be enough to get you fishing.

*Do you have a favourite bait?*

Bread, casters and the much underused cooked tares are my favourite hookbaits for chub fishing, along with well cooked hempseed for feed. Chub will readily take them all and hempseed as a ground bait or feed attracts chub steadily into your swim. There are times when you will need to change baits just to get bites, so don't rely on just one.

Our club controls several miles of fishing on three sections of the Rother all of which hold plenty of chub.

*Are there any conditions that we should look out for?*

A dull overcast day is ideal for chub and wherever possible choose this weather. Bright sunlight usually makes fishing hard so short evening trips often provide the very best and most reliable conditions.

Chub, undoubtedly, like to live near features, overhanging trees or bushes, gaps in reeds etc. Apply a bit of watercraft and find a feature to fish to and the chances are that you may have already have found some fish.

Don't get too close to the swim, chub spook very easily and frightened chub are almost impossible to catch.

Trot down to the feature and you won't frighten the fish.

*How do you go about fishing your swim once you have found it?*

Set your float to fish just a few inches off the bottom, say four to six.

Also a good idea is to have one or two shot set around eight inches from the hook, this helps get the bait down quickly.

*Do you have a favourite place for chub fishing?*



# Trotting For Autumn Chub Cont.

These also help with bite indication and normally bites are very positive.

When you start to trot the float through the swim, loose feed a few grains of hempseed at least every other cast on the line that you are fishing. This little and often approach gets the chub to feed more confidently as they look for the bait.

I would normally start fishing with either bread or caster as a hookbait, perhaps even combining the two as a 'cocktail' on the hook.

I will normally persevere in a swim even if bites do not come quickly, the hempseed that is trickling in will normally help me catch chub in the end by drawing fish from downstream towards where I am fishing. Fish quietly and you should be rewarded with chub in the end, provided you have chosen the right swim.

If you get things right five or even more chub in a day are a very realistic proposition for an angler trotting on the Rother during the Autumn. That is enough to put a big smile on any anglers' face!



*Is there anything else you would like to say?*

Well, only that the editor and our Chairman cooked up the idea for this article late one Saturday morning whilst drinking coffee at the aforementioned emporium.

Then a couple of evenings ago Nigel phones me up to say "Have you got your chub pictures for the magazine yet, because we want to get the article in" So no pressure!

Anyway just to show that sometimes it all goes to plan here I am two days later with my personal best from the Rother at 5lb 6oz!



Oh and afterwards, I went for a pint - I deserved it!

# Notices

## **KHV**

### **Be warned!**

**This could devastate our fish stocks and is affecting waters close to us.**

**After every session please ensure you thoroughly dry everything that comes into contact with fish and the water such as landing nets, keepnets, unhooking mats and anything else you might use.**

**This is the best and surest way of making sure we do not get this in our waters.**

### **Local Tackle Shops**

**Don't forget to support your local tackle shops they have all helped us over the last year or so.**

Aldwick Angling	Nyewood Lane, Aldwick	01243 829054
Arun Angling	Water Lane, Angmering	01903 770099
Havant Angling	Park Lane South, Havant	02393 450700
Tidal Angling	Lower Street, Pulborough	01798 873790
Tropikoi Angling	Chalcroft Lane, Bognor Regis	01243 842660
Waterlooville Camping & Angling	London Road, Waterlooville	02392 250699

### **Watersfield Wildfowlers**

Those of you that fish Watersfield, particularly in the evening should take special care as the wildfowlers are out regularly from the 1st September until 31st January, particularly at dusk. They regularly shoot the splashes between the reeds and the railway line often shooting across the track.

They always look out for anglers and ask that we keep an eye out for them as well. They have also requested that when walking back with a torch to keep it discreet as it can ruin their sport.

We have been sharing this stretch for many years with them without any incidents, please maintain your vigilance to keep it that way.



# In Depth - Watersfield

In each edition we will focus on one of our waters 'In Depth'. Here our Match Secretary takes a close look at the River Arun at Waterfield.

This time I have set myself quite a task, Watersfield is probably the most varied stretch of river I know. The first thing to say about our stretches of the Arun is that they are tidal so always take care that you know whether the water is coming in or going out. Hopefully you will be able to find these swims from the descriptions.

So as you enter the fishery turn left and walk up to the fence, although rather muddy this swim produces very good mixed bags of fish at 1/3 to 1/2 way across the swim can be trotted or fished with a feeder. Walking back downstream

to just before the first near bank trees there is a deep run at about 10 metres out. This can produce good bags of roach using a lollipop on the pole. The upstream point of the



**The swim just above the trees. Try a float on a line about 10 metres out.**

culvert is a good swim for inside line long rod trotting, it's deep and you won't catch any monsters but you should get a steady run of roach to 1/2lb with skimmers to 1lb, a few dace, gudgeon and chublets.

Moving to the



**Just upstream of the culvert, trot the main river at 8 - 10 metres or try a pole feeder in the slack in the mouth of the culvert.**

downstream side of the culvert, you follow your nose to the next swim - The Mint Swim, this is an inside line trot for mainly roach. It is comfortable to fish and it's very pleasant to be surrounded with the aroma of water mint for a session.



**The swim on the top fence worth a look but it is a bit muddy**

**Here we are at the Mint Swim and Peter Foster is touch legering. Just before I arrived he'd had a 1 1/2lb roach - I was just too late to get a picture!**



# With The Match Secretary

The next swim I am going to take you to is quite difficult to find - you need to get back out onto the main track and follow it to the end of the very tall reeds.



**Well having got this picture home I realise it's probably as much use as an ashtray on a pushbike! You might just be able to see the end of the tall reeds on the left - I said it wasn't the easiest of pegs to find!**

Look carefully and you should find a little path leading towards the river, this leads to The Point. At the top of big tides this will be under six or so inches of water, but the water drops away rapidly. During this time either fish a feeder (you will need plenty of lead!) to the far

bank reeds or trot down the inside. You will be amazed how quickly the water drops here. After an hour or so a gravel bar is revealed. Now is the time to think about moving. You want to get out onto the bar and start trotting off the end of it. You could end up with anything. 20lb of roach, 20lb of bream, a barbel, a carp or the lot!

Go downstream and look for a small stream, often dried up in summer. You should find a path that runs parallel with it to the river and a tiny little island. Be careful but try to get onto the island. You will have a quiet bay to your left and a big far bank slack with the river running quite powerfully directly in front of you. Les Heath is the real expert on this swim



**Les's swim - the island is in the foreground and the bay to the left.**

and he's taken all sorts from here. I've only fished it a couple of times and have to confess that I have not done very well. If you want a bit of further advice you could contact Les via the webmaster tab on the website.

Actually the next swim was also discovered by Les who along with Kev Holcombe came across an enormous shoal of end of season bream. About 50 yards downstream from the stream there is a cut back in the far bank reeds. This is where the bream were found. It is pretty boggy underfoot and I'm not sure whether they get there every year (the winter bream shoal always turns up at Hardham, so why not here). Anyway if you do decide to give it a go remember that you need plenty of groundbait to keep them coming. Les & Kev ran out after 300lb of fish and packed up! These are big bream in the 6 - 10lb bracket and when they get side on in the current you know you've got a fish on!



# In Depth - Watersfield Cont



## ***Here be bream!***

**Look for the two channels in the reeds on the far bank. This marks the cut back and fish reasonably tight to the reeds between them. Be a bit careful as the ground is very boggy here - I would recommend waders. I think it is best to look for the bream towards the end of the season, mid Jan - mid March**

The levee rejoins the river just downstream of here and all along this straight you can pick up the odd bream with silver fish. I recently fished about 100 or so yards along just before the first little left handed bend and had a good session on the long rod fishing bolognese fashion. I had just over 6lb of roach with a few dace, gudgeon, chublets and perch thrown in. From here look for the apex of the next bend - a right hander. There used to be a scraggy little tree on the bend, but I think it was washed away a couple of years ago. This is a great swim for trotting down the middle of the river. I don't know why but this is one of the few

places where bream really seem to respond to a moving bait.

My last swim is right down towards the bottom of our section. Firstly you will come to about 30 - 40 yds of reeds then a gap of about 15 yds and another stand of reeds which runs down to our bottom boundary. In the past swims have been cut through the first stand of reeds but in the gap is a fairly shallow inside line gravel run. This is always good for a bag of roach on the stick float. You don't have to fish to far out and the water is only about 6 ft deep.



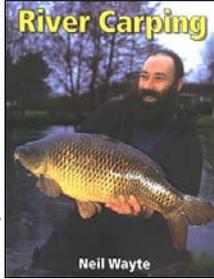
**I went back through my archives and found this picture of a net of Arun bream. However this picture also demonstrates how not to take a picture of your fish. My only excuse is that it was quite a few years ago!**

These are my highlight swims on the Watersfield stretch I'm sure there are others, if you come across a particularly good swim and would like to share it with us please contact us via the website - details below.



# Anglers Evening

Our spring Anglers Evening has very much become a fixture within the club calendar. Our main guest speaker this year was the well known big fish angler Neil Wayte.



Neil, who also works in the tackle trade as a consultant, is an angler with that uncanny ability of being able to locate and catch huge fish from a wide variety of waters. His talk featured waters throughout Southern England, not private and exclusive waters but waters that are available to almost anyone.

With the aid of sixty slides to illustrate the talk Neil took the audience on fascinating journeys that included the Thames, the Loddon, the Kennet and even a Chichester gravel pit. The audience revelled at the sight of giant barbel, carp and eels.

Everywhere Neil travels to fish the end result seems to be huge fish.

His modest, yet enthusiastic and entertaining style belies a man who is a very talented and dedicated angler. Following in the footsteps of some of our previous speakers which have included angling legends Peter Springate and Ray Walton is never an easy task but those of us that went found Neil's talk to be a great insight into the



world of a top 'Big Fish' angler that can easily hold his own with anyone.

Our own members Martin Eyres and John Atter provided their 'warm up' presentation for the second year running, this time focused mainly on the successes or failures, of the last year.

Both Martin and John are very busy guys and family men, I think most people would be surprised at the level of sheer effort and dedication that they put into their own fishing. As we were to see these don't always get rewarded, a piking trip to Scotland was a low moment in the year. Bad weather, unco-operative fish and a broken windscreen all played a part. Things don't always go badly and I think that a string of absolutely giant Spanish catfish will stick forever in the minds of all those that again enjoyed their talk. Always entertaining I feel that Martin and John very clearly illustrated the enthusiasm so many of us have for angling.



Another successful evening enjoyed, I am certain, by all who attended. Make sure you leave a space in your diary for our next Anglers' Evening.

**Nigel**



# Match Scene

**We have had an interesting start to the season with a few new faces and some new names on our trophies.**

We started our match season with a couple of matches at Petworth Park. The fishing was a variable with some anglers really struggling to catch.

Our two Wednesday evening series gave us two amazing weights. Keith Hughes really got in among them on the Chichester Canal and recorded 31 - 11 - 0 in just

three hours. Rab Butler had a sensational evening on the Rother at Coultershaw and weighed in 21 - 10 - 0 with not a barbel to be seen. This just goes to show that the Rother isn't all about barbel.

We used all three lakes at Hurston Lane for our BBQ match and it was interesting to see quite how many silver fish are in the carp lake. There are also some very good quality perch as well. Bethwins still proves to be a bit of an enigma to us match men. I certainly don't think we have sorted it out yet - there's always next year however.



**A smiling matchman brings his net to the weigh in**

If you are interested in joining in a few matches we always welcome new faces and are always ready to give a bit of advice to the newcomer. Although competitive our matches are not 'heavy duty' affairs, there is always a bit of banter and we are there to enjoy a day's fishing with the lads.

We try to fish a variety of venues so you will see matches on most of our waters over the season. We also have a couple of away days, normally reasonably local but sometimes go a little further away.

As well as the club matches we have some friendly and competitive inter-club matches, with a team in the Three Counties League, the Rother Valley Shield and matches against clubs such as Portsmouth, Rother and Haslemere.

Check out the match calendar in your handbook or on the website and come along sometime.

**Match Secretary**



**That's me on the scales with Vince on the board!**

# Trophy Winners 2008 - 2009

TROPHY	WINNER	VENUE	POINTS	WEIGHT
<b>Club Champion</b>	<b>V Herringshaw</b>		<b>154</b>	
Match Man Trophy	V Herringshaw		892	
Total Weight Trophy	V Herringshaw			195-0-4
M Sampson Cup	K Hughes	Chichester Canal	28	
Daniels Cup	R Butler	Cart Pond	17	
W. Sampson Cup	R Hansen	River Arun Watersfield		9-2-0
Ransome Cup	K Hughes	River Thames Goring		2-12-0
Ottaway Cup	K Hughes	River Rother Fittleworth		3-1-0
Richard & Blumson	R Butler	Stemps Pond	20	
BBQ Shield	V Herringshaw	Stemps Pond		21-4-8
Parfremment Cup	R Butler	Storrington Match Lake		17-15-0
Committee Cup	S. Simmonds	Hammer Pond Mill Farm		7-0-8
LEC Cup	S. Simmonds	Chichester Canal	35	
Daniels Rose Bowl	R Weetman	Petworth Park		53-3-0
Presidents Cup	R Butler	River Arun Watersfield		3-0-0
Charles Tankard	R Butler	Various	17	
Pairs Tankard	V Herringshaw & S Simmonds	Storrington Match Lake		20-11-4
Kirby Bott Cup	K Hughes & S Simmonds	Chichester Canal		7-0-0
Mixed Pairs Shield	Angela & Steve	Storrington Match Lake		9-6-0
Milliard Cup	V Herringshaw	Bethwins Ponds	20	26-10-0
Kingsbury Tankard	P Ward	Sumners Pond		65-12-0
Jubilee Cup	S. Simmonds	Wey Navigation Tannery		0-8-8
Specimen Trophy	P Foster			

We published issue 1 of our magazine a little before the end of our last match season and although we published this list on the website not all our members have access and we know our match anglers like to see their names in print!



# Bird Life

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We are fortunate to have a range of beautiful and quiet fisheries and we often see the more recognisable bird species such as Heron, Kingfisher, Wagtail or Buzzard but it is only when you are sharing the bank with an expert that you realise just how much you are actually missing.

We asked keen local ornithologist Terry Scragg to give us some pointers for the coming months.

## Autumn Movements

Autumn by our rivers and lakes brings some significant changes in the birds you are likely to see. The Warblers, Swallows and Martins that arrived in spring are now off for the warmer climes of Africa.

The departure of one group of birds heralds the arrival of others, who migrate to the south of England from colder less hospitable climates as part of a great southward movement of birds in the autumn. If you fish the Arun Valley the location of the Amberley Wildbooks and RSPB reserve at Pulborough is important as both attract large number of wintering wildfowl that use wetlands around the river as a major winter feeding resource. Large flocks of ducks such as Wigeon

and Teal can be seen. This is also an important site for Bewick's Swans which migrate to the Arun valley and other wetlands in Sussex from Siberia each winter.

You may also see



Lapwings (above) which form large flocks feeding in the damp fields alongside rivers in the winter.

The Little Egrets that I mentioned in my last report can be seen inland at this time of the year after spending time breeding and raising chicks on the coast. Similarly, Cormorants are

increasingly seen at inland lakes and river sites, much to the consternation of fishermen, who fear for fish stocks when large numbers of birds congregate at waterside roosts.

Look out for numerous Buzzards soaring overhead, large groups of up to a dozen or so birds are not uncommon at this time of the year. Some will be resident birds and their young, whilst others will be passage migrants. These flocks disperse as spring arrives with young birds establishing their own territories and migrants returning north.



# Bird Life

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As the winter weather takes a grip in northern migrants returning north. Europe you may see two thrushes the Redwings (below) and Fieldfares, migrants from Scandinavia



Like all thrushes they prefer to forage for worms. If the ground is frozen they turn to haws, hips and ivy berries. But when the weather turns dramatically colder these birds may leave farmland and move into gardens, particularly if you have berry laden shrubs such as cotoneaster or berberis. A more colourful winter visitor from Scandinavia is the Waxwing (below), driven south by cold weather and



again attracted by berry laden trees and shrubs such as Rowan.

Although these birds are noticeable visitors it is common for a much wider range of birds to winter in the south of England or pass through on their way to southern Europe. A lot of birds that we commonly see also move here from northern Europe, again dictated by weather and feeding opportunities in our damp mild climate. These include, robins, starlings, blackbirds and finches.

The height of winter is a quiet period for the birdwatcher. The summer visitors have all gone and many birds move into gardens to feed. As winter recedes and with spring just around the corner the winter visitors return to northern latitudes and the first trickle of migrants arrives again as the year turns full circle.

Unfortunately only black and white in this edition although you can see them in full colour on the website. These pictures are from the RSPB - their excellent website

[www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

is well worth a visit to learn about all British birds including help in identifying different species. You can even listen to sound clips if you have only heard a bird and wish to identify it from its song.

**Terry Scragg**



# Bailiffs

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No, not the kind that knock on people's doors and take away Granny and the television but a much friendlier bunch of members who carry a Bailiffs card and tap you on the shoulder to see proof of membership.

The club has thirteen bailiffs who do their very best to visit all our ponds, lakes and rivers just to keep a watchful eye open for non-members and opportunists fishing at the expense of the club. We have to pay for our fishing and have a duty of care towards the landowners and farmers whose land we use so its important we maintain a good relationship with all concerned. However if a farmer incurs expense as a result of a careless angler leaving litter or discarded tackle about or gates left open then we can expect to lose the fishing rights on his land.

Earlier this year we had reports of people fishing out of season on the Rother at Fittleworth and then leaving a pile of rubbish behind them, obviously not members, so for this reason alone we ask all our members to keep their eyes open and report back to any members of the committee and in particular Nelson Keet, our Fishery Manager, if they see anyone acting in a suspicious manner or feel they are not members.

Having been a bailiff for many years I can say I have rarely

found any member to be either rude or disruptive. By and large anglers are a friendly bunch of people, who only want to get on with their fishing and to be left alone to enjoy the countryside and await that magic moment when a fish takes the bait.

Our bailiffs are there to help, not hinder, but please remember to take your membership book with you and don't always expect to be recognised, we know lots of members, but don't know you all.

Nearly everyone welcomes seeing a bailiff, but we can't be everywhere all the time, so unless you see your Granny or possessions being carted off you can bet it's one of us...good fishing.

Oh and by the way so you can put a name to the faces our bailiffs are;

Nigel Chapman. Mick Harmsworth. Steve Jupp. Ross Denby. Michael Kitchener. Nelson Keet. Ray Newnham. Norman Thomas. Colin Horn. Fred Horn. Chris Hewes. John Wilson and of course me;



**Roger Poole**



# Pictures

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## Front Cover

### From top left clockwise

June 2009 - Peter Foster is back to his end of last season form with a cracking 13lb 5oz barbel from the River Rother.

The River Rother at Fittleworth looking upstream to the cattle drink on the south bank from one of the photographers favourite swims.

Mick *Dundee* Pinchbeck shows that he is obviously a natural with a nice Petworth Park tench taken on his first ever coarse session after many years sea angling.

Looking upstream to the pool and weir at Coultershaw on the River Rother.

Keith Palmer with a nice double from our Hurston Lane fishery back in May.

The Tench Pond at Hurston Lane. There are also plenty of crucian carp and rudd here as well and recent weed clearing should make it much more accessible.

## Back Cover

### From top left, left to right

Mike Kitchener with his personal best perch from the River Arun at Hardham.

A typical hard fighting Bethwins carp caught by Keith Hughes who reckoned that fish twice the size give him less of a run around.

Chris Hewes with a lovely 4lb+ chub from the River Rother at Shopham Bridge.

Pole fishing the top section of the River Arun at Watersfield.

Cart Pond Walberton looking towards the island from peg No. 17.

Looking downstream to Shopham Bridge on the River Rother.

It's those Bethwins carp again, this time Kevin Leighfield shows of a nice bag of four fish.

Gently does it as a fish is landed from the well known Peg 1 on Stemps Pond at Walberton.

A River Rother grayling taken from just below the bridge at Fittleworth is returned to the water.

The Chichester Canal between the basin and the bypass bridge. This stretch re-opens on October 1st.

John Williams with a net of silver fish from the River Arun at Watersfield.



