

The Sussex Angler



Autumn 2012

Issue 8

News

Articles

Information

The Petworth and Bognor Angling Club Magazine

www.sussexangling.co.uk

Welcome to The Sussex Angler

We have had an eventful few months since I last wrote to you. Unfortunately we have lost The Granary which is a great shame as we felt that this was a water that we could have developed for the future. But the owners decided to sell up and move on. On the positive side we have our new stretch of The Arun at Stopham bridge. This water is not the easiest for access to the bank but we are doing what we can with the estate. The site is an SSSI so we have to be very careful what we do but we will try to make things a bit easier if we can. Those that have fished the water are returning with absolutely glowing reports of the quality and quantity of roach that can be caught.

All our river stretches have generally been quite difficult to fish so far this year due to the volume of rain that we have had over the last few months and it is strange to recall that over the last few years we have been complaining about the low levels in the Rother. Now of course we are finding it difficult to find a few days when the levels are low enough to allow us to fish the river consistently.

The Arun continues to provide interest to the barbel anglers and I think that Fred Bishop's catch as recounted on page 10 is a brilliant account of just what you can catch from the Arun even if you are new to the water. Put the right bait in the right place and the reward could be yours.

Over the years we have held a number of junior or taster days with varying levels of

success, some of the long serving members on the committee will remember an event we held at Walberton when we had to look after around 40 youngsters, but more recently despite working with the EA the numbers have been poor. However, we recognise the need to get youngsters interested and involved and have decided that we need to be prepared. To help with this we have supported the training of club member Richard Burbage to become a level 2 angling coach and next year we hope that we will be able to utilise the skills that Richard has gained to help some of our youngsters and hopefully bring some new juniors into the club. Richard might even be able to help some of our more mature anglers with tips and ideas. We will keep you posted as Richard puts together his programme for next season.

Our barbel anglers have been raising money over the last couple of years to honour the memory of Chris Humphry one of our great river anglers who is sadly no longer with us. Chris's widow has asked us to put the money towards helping young anglers progress with their angling in a club environment. This is a really great idea and we will be announcing further details shortly.

Finally I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM on 29th November.

Good luck for the rest of the season .



Nigel Chapman
Chairman



Fishery Improvements



Above is the carp pond a couple of weeks after the latest cut.

To the right is just one of the stacks of weed that we removed from the lake

Weed continues to be a big problem at Hurston and we brought the weed boat in again to cut it back. It looks as if this might have to be an annual event for the next few years.



Scheduled Work Parties for 2013

Date	When	Venue	Main Tasks
24/2/2013	Sunday	Hurston	General Maintenance
24/3/2013	Sunday	Hurston	General Maintenance
7/4/2013	Sunday	Coultershaw	General Maintenance
12/5/2013	Sunday	Bethwins	General Maintenance
28/5/2013	Tuesday	Hurston	Weed Clearing
9/6/2013	Sunday	Stemps	General Maintenance
23/7/2013	Tuesday	Hurston	General Maintenance
18/8/2013	Sunday	Hurston	General Maintenance

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

Tuesday 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.



The Leviathan

I'm sure that Edwin will understand the change in title - he originally submitted this as 'A Passion For Angling' but I think someone got there before him with that one!

I froze. Was I seeing things? Could this really be happening to me? I looked again.

No, I wasn't mistaken. It was there. 10 feet away to my left.

The huge shape slowly moved up the gin clear shallow water of the bank side glide. It was hoovering up the sweet corn trail I had laid.

Without moving, I reeled in my line. I slowly turned and dangled my bait towards my quarry. Yes, as luck would have it, my 'expert' dangle in the fast current put my single sweet corn kernel last in this tempting food trail.



Hmm! A shallow inside line - I wonder whether this could be the swim where Edwin lost his biggest ever barbel?



By Edwin Hoskison

Time seemed to stand still. Would anything spook this fish before it gets to my bait?

Just six pieces of sweet corn to go. And now five.

I could see it perfectly. The size of a battleship. Peak condition. Broad bronze back. 3 and half feet long from blunt snout to muscular tail. I estimate 18lbs. A fish of a lifetime.

Four, then three bits to go. But it hesitated. Why? Had it seen me or the hook? Had a cow passed by behind me and unsettled the fish?

I felt the adrenalin surge again. My chest heaved. Patience Edwin. Keep cool. Keep still. In the background, I could hear the River gurgling on it's way through the meadow.

Two, then one to go.....Yes.

Barbel on!

The magnificent beast turned sharply left into the main current. Its' immense girth flashed golden in the evening sunshine. My rod bent double. This leviathan of the deep stripped yards of line from my reel. Old fishermen say a Barbel's first run is faster than a Salmon.

And then it was off. Did it slip the hook or was I incompetent? This beautiful beast returned to the safety of the depths of the River Rother.

I sat down. And burried my head in my hands.

Sweating. Shaking.

Was it a dream? Sadly not. I'd just lost the mother of all fish.

Ten minutes must have passed. I jumped at the unexpected sound of a voice.

It was John, a friendly Petworth & Bognor Angling Club member.

I told him my monster fish tale. He listened quietly.

The wet summer has been good news for the region's rivers and lakes. Record catches of Barbel have been reported in both the Rother and the Arun.

He'd taken a 15lbs 9oz specimen in a nearby swim last week. But politely added, he'd lost more than he caught. And at least I'd seen the monster fish that got away.

I cheered up. At least it's a story I can tell my kids. And anyone else who'll listen.

This is just one of many angling adventures I've enjoyed since joining Petworth and Bognor Angling Club. As a Club member, I've caught posh Tench in Petworth Park whilst surrounded by grazing Fallow Deer. Big Chub at Coates Castle. And chased cunning Carp in olde world village ponds at Stemps Wood.



Match Scene

Half way through his first season as Match Secretary, Mick Greenway reflects on the matches to date and what's to come.

Club Matches

As we move into autumn and winter our matches start to sort the men out from the boys. As the water gets colder the fish are a bit more reluctant and building a weight becomes that more difficult.

Weights this season have perhaps been a bit down on the last couple of seasons but the weather has been against us every step of the way.

We started the season off on the Match lake at Hurston, there was a tight finish with three of our longest serving matchmen taking the places. It was good to see Roy Baker a Petworth stalwart from the past who split John Williams and Ray Huskisson for the honours.

The evening canal series proved to be very tight with Keith Hughes taking the trophy by a single point from Vince Herringshaw.

Mike Kitchener was unbeatable on the Rother for our second evening series, winning all three matches proving his versatility with both float and feeder. We have always thought of Mike as a specimen man who comes to fish the odd match but he has obviously caught the bug as he has been seen at quite a few of our matches so far this season and repeated his Rother success on our away day at Bernies lake.

Unfortunately the walks seem to have got the better of Rab who has been fishing with us for many years but has been finding getting to his swim increasingly difficult. In typical

Rab style he won the last match he fished with us on the top lake at Bethwins. We know Rab loves his match fishing and understand that he has fished a few matches at Back Arun which offers nice short walks on even ground. We hope you are still enjoying your fishing Rab and you are always welcome.

With all the rain we've had I'm surprised that we have not lost any matches so far this season and we have only had to move one.

On the 15th July we found ourselves at Hurston having decided that the Arun was unfishable and Steve Speller recorded one of our best weights ever from the match lake with over 37lb of carp.



'Rab' with a typical Bethwins top pond carp part of his match winning catch



By Match Secretary

Petworth Park has been consistent but has not produced the weights of the last few seasons. It still proves very popular, despite the walk back and we get some of our highest turnouts at Petworth. Nobody has dominated on the park this year with a different winner at each match. The area around the concrete slab is still the most favoured but framing weights have come from all round the lake.



Keith Hughes with his winning weight after a very wet day on the Chichester Canal

Another venue that is always popular is the Chichester Canal. We tried a new section this year, which we are calling the Selsey Tram section (why do anglers revert to pub names so often). We did not catch it at its best as it decided to rain heavily all day and a number of our anglers admitted defeat and packed up early. However enough fish were caught to warrant giving it another go

next season. Our latest match on the canal was a strange affair with all but two anglers really struggling for most of the match. But after the boat had been through a couple of times it suddenly just switched on and we couldn't stop catching. It was only a shame that we had to stop when we did.

At the time of writing we have just fished our pairs match on the excellent Stemps & Cart. This water always provides a good days fishing pretty much wherever you are pegged. You might have to adapt your style to suit but you are nearly always assured a good number of bites if you go for the small stuff or some heart stopping moments if you elect to go for the carp. We fish a couple of inter-club events here and I know of one or two anglers that have fished as away team members and have joined the club on the strength of a single visit.

From now to the end of the season we are mainly on our still waters but we do have an interesting match at Coultershaw coming up. I'm fully expecting to see Mike Kitchener and I wonder whether he can repeat his evening performances!



Rivers Trusts now cover most of the UK and our trust ARRT was formed in October 2010. There is a link on the club's web-site or you can access the trust's web-site on www.arrrt.org.uk and e-mail info@arrrt.org.uk or e-mail me directly roger@rapoole.fsnet.co.uk if you feel there is something you wish to discuss.

There is plenty of activity and a couple of projects will particularly interest Petworth and Bognor club members; We have recently announced a project to install another riffle just below Shopham Bridge and improve spawning grounds especially below the Shopham Loop. There is a major programme to coppice and remove the large number of dead trees along this stretch of the river right through to Fittleworth this will be followed by a replanting programme. The loss of trees and bankside shrubs on the lower Rother is partly to blame for the decline in fish stocks as during the summer months the food chain by way of weeds and water bed plants, home to shrimps and insects is subjected to strong sunlight which destroys some plants whilst accelerating the growth of others, this had led to long stretches of open water devoid of food holding plants. When flood conditions prevail the river bed, mainly sand is swept quickly downstream taking with it valuable spawning areas. The recent success in gaining the £97,000 funding will fund this vital restoration, thanks also to the Wild Trout Trust who are anxious to improve some of the rivers tributaries, vital spawning areas for trout, other partners are the Sussex Wildlife Trust as well as local farmers and of course us as Petworth & Bognor Angling Club we will help in some of the dead tree removal and re-planting programme later on next year when this project gets under way, hopefully most of this is being planned during the close season but in today's world delays are bound to occur but anglers will be kept fully informed as to what, when and where any disruption will happen. In time this will slowly result in more fish spawning and to assist this we will be utilising some of the larger dead trees to help divert some of the river flows and preserve the banks as well as providing resting areas when the river is in flood, it is a mistake to think that all fallen trees and branches have to be removed, the river has always been this way and they need to remain there, a happy balance can be achieved and of course any work undertaken these days is under the direction and approval of the Environment Agency and we are lucky in this area to have officers of this agency who very much support these projects.



By Roger Poole



The sloping rock weir on Costers Brook prior to the work being done

A larger area of concern are man made obstacles , a typical example was brought to our attention on a tributary of the river along the Costers Brook where fish were unable to pass due to a sloping rock weir installed many years ago, funding to restore and build a fish pass was made possible by Defra and this vital work is now completed so although this is not on our fishing stretch of the river it all helps to restore and make it possible for fish to travel and spawn throughout the length of the river and what happens upstream has a major impact downstream

You may well ask who is paying for all this, well ARRT is a registered charity and not a money making business venture, we act as brokers, we are passionate about the future of both the Arun, Rother and their tributaries. The Arun for instance had a major pollution incident a year ago, ARRT quickly got involved together with three angling clubs. Over ten miles of the upper Arun near Horsham lost most of the fish stock together with basin plants and weeds, a year later the river is slowly recovering, it was decided to make this a major restoration project with over eight agencies including the local water company, local government and acting together funding has been secured and once again what happens upstream has an impact downstream, recovery and restoration will take time and one of the lessons to be learned is to make sure everything is being done to minimise the risk of further accidents. Many anglers expect the Environment Agency to whom a licence fee is paid annually to just step in and put everything right, well the honest answer in today's economic climate is they can't, they don't have the man power or funds so all of us need to engage more and get involved hence to recent growth in numerous trusts . Rivers Trusts are important to anglers and in particular ARRT who are keen to get all anglers interested and involved to ensure these two lovely rivers can be cared for and managed in a natural way for the sake of future generations. I will make sure the club is fully aware of what ARRT is doing, but it all takes time and money so please be patient, ARRT is not a fishing trust but fishing and anglers are the largest group of river users and for this reason any knowledge of pollution, man made barriers or anything that effects the rivers then please contact us.



My first Arun barbel

I've been a club member for about five years and this was my first visit to the Arun at Watersfield with my fishing pal Terry Jackson

I have been a club member for about five years and was really interested to read that the club had acquired a new stretch of the Arun at Stopham Bridge. Terry and I went to take a look but when we got there although the river looked a picture, the fields looked very muddy and although we did not venture far we could not find anywhere to pitch a chair and set up. Having spoken to other members we now realise that we needed to walk along a bit further and the bank gets better. However as we had set ourselves up for a session on the Arun we decided to have a look at Watersfield instead.

We arrived at the river at about 11 am and found that the tide was running in. I decided to fish a block end feeder with red maggots. I was soon into a run of small fish but found that they switched off on the slack at the top of the tide. Once the tide turned and started running out the small fish started to come again and I caught steadily for the next couple of hours.

The first take that looked like a barbel bite, a rapid pull around of the rod tip, typical of barbel bites, I lost due to my inattention. The second bite nearly pulled the rod in some half hour later, this was the 14lb fish. It took 3 red maggots ledgered on a size 14 Drennen barbless specialist hook to 8lb main line.

The fish made some very powerful runs tacking 20 - 30 yards of line at a time. I did not get a glimpse of the fish for around the first 10 mins or so, and then it came to the surface, I then knew it was a good double, and it took another 10 mins to get it in the net. Every time it looked like I might net the fish it just bolted off on another terrifyingly strong run. Eventually one of these runs went straight into my landing net, thankfully, I'm not sure who was more surprised me or the fish.

I then let the fish fully recover in the net before getting it out to remove the hook, which had actually fallen out in the net. I shouted for Terry who was fishing further up river and he and another chap fishing nearby, came down, weighed and photographed my prize - A new P.B by 8oz.

The fish was quickly put back into the net and fully rested before it swam off strongly. Wonderful sight to see it go off so well. All the time taken to rest a fish like this is so worthwhile and never wasted when it swims off strongly to fight another day.



By Fred Bishop MBE



My personal best barbel and first Arun barbel

Not being to familiar with the river I opted to use 8lb line as a precaution against snags or bigger fish like the Bream or Carp that I am told are in there, in case I hooked one of those.

I never expected to catch a beautiful barbel like this one especially on my first trip to this venue. Just goes to show you never know what might happen on a river like the Arun.

I was mainly using a free running link with a black cap maggot feeder and occasionally feeding some ground bait and

maggots with a ground bait feeder in place of the maggot feeder.

I fished roughly where there was a crease showing well, when the river was flowing upstream, although this disappeared completely as the river turned. I caught a variety of smallish fish all day long on maggots, ledgered out to the crease area.

Fish caught were, roach, dace, chub, and big gudgeon plus one very nice perch of 2lb. and the barbel. I lost one other good fish, that I am sure was another barbel, it made it into some reeds and got me snagged up it felt like another good size fish from the way it fought.

I certainly intend giving the Arun some more attention and have a crack at the bream and roach I will also have a go for the pike later on in the season. Terry has never had a double figure barbel so he is very keen to get on the Arun again.

Peter's Poser from Issue 7

If five contains four, and six contains nine, but eight and nine each contain only one - how many will you find in seven?

The answer is **five** and it is of course roman numerals.



NOTICE OF AGM

IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

**The club will hold its Annual General Meeting
at
The Black Horse - Climping
on
Thursday 29th November 2012
at
8.00 pm**

**Please submit any motions or matters for consideration in writing
to The Club Secretary (address as per your handbook) by
Thursday 8th November 2012**

DISPLAY OF PARKING PERMITS

May we remind you that a current official Club Parking Permit with your membership number written in MUST be displayed when parking your car at any of our club venues, especially Petworth Park where wheel clamping may occur. Display of parking permits helps our bailiffs identify club members vehicles and more importantly vehicles parked at our venues that do not belong to club members.

Membership Fees for 2012 - 2013 (Half Season)

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