

Petworth and Bognor Angling Club

Newsletter Issue 1

March 2007

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Welcome to the newly formed Petworth and Bognor Angling Club and the first issue of our Newsletter. Former Bognor members will be familiar with this format but it is a bit of a change for members who were previously with Petworth. We want to make this Newsletter as useful as possible to you so please let us know what you would like to read about or see. The editors details are on page 10 - so if you have any comments let me know.

Are you a landing net handle short of a full rod bag?

Do you fish Shopham?

We might just be able to help - a landing net handle was found by the road at Shopham. If you think it might be yours please contact Geoff Sumner on

01243 573605

An Open letter to all members

Fellow Anglers;

As you are probably now aware, in October 2006 we decided to dissolve the HSAA . This was not an easy decision to take as the HSAA has served the anglers of Hampshire and West Sussex well for the years of it's existence. However we have noted a distinct polarisation between the needs of these two different sets of anglers. Both the Bognor Club and the Petworth club were becoming increasingly concerned that the Alliance was not making the most of the facilities they most often used. A significant amount of time and effort was being spent at Committee level trying support West Sussex projects versus Hampshire projects. A straw poll of both clubs membership showed that the majority of Petworth and Bognor anglers tended to concentrate their fishing in the West Sussex area with fairly infrequent trips to the Hampshire waters. We decided that West Sussex anglers needed to be able to control and shape their angling future and the only way to do this was to dissolve the HSAA.

Having made this decision the committees of Petworth & Bognor then considered how to best serve their membership. It was important that we were able to offer you all the waters that you like to fish and to make things as simple as possible. A number of options were tested including the two clubs remaining as separate entities but with various 'agreements' to allow anglers from each to fish the others water. We were concerned that administratively this type of arrangement could be seen as a new 'Alliance' with all the pitfalls we have encountered over recent years.

The committee's of both clubs got together and examined all the options. We felt that the only sensible alternative was for the Petworth Club and the Bognor Club to merge into one. Bognor then presented this to approximately 50 club members at an EGM in November and when the committee asked for a mandate to continue the meeting unanimously agreed. Petworth sent a Newsletter to all their members in November explaining the situation and asking for comments. Only two members objected to the proposed merger and the Petworth committee took this as a mandate to continue.

So what does this mean to you the members;

The numbers of waters available will initially reduce however we believe that these are the waters that you fish on a regular basis - you can find a full list of the waters on the next page.

We hope that we will soon be able to offer you more waters.

We will be able to spend more money on improving our fisheries - there are signs of this already with the work being carried out at Storrington.

You should find it as easy or easier to join the new club as it was to join either Petworth or Bognor.

We will be able to keep in closer touch with you the members via a new updated website for those with internet access and also via regular Newsletters for all.

Our watchword will be quality;

Quality in the waters we have to offer not only via the fish stocks but also via the surrounding environment.

We aim to improve the quality of access and parking facilities where we can.

We aim to have the best quality communications via our updated website and Newsletters

We want you to feel that you are a member of a quality organisation and we certainly hope to hear from you if you have ideas on how we can improve.

2007 is going to be an exciting year for us all and we hope that you will support the new club with your membership.

Details of the membership fees for the 2007 / 2008 season are on the rejoin form as enclosed.

Work Parties

Venue	Date	Times
Hurston Lane	4th March	09.00 - 13.00
Hurston Lane	25th March	09.00 - 13.00
Hurston Lane	15th April	09.00 - 13.00
Coultershaw	29th April	09.00 - 13.00
Bethwins	10th June	09.00 - 13.00

THE WATERS

RIVER ARUN - Hardham

About 1.5 miles of fishable bank with excellent stocks of roach with chub, dace, gudgeon,, pike and of course the big bream shoals.

RIVER ARUN - Watersfield

About 1 mile of fishable bank with easy access, stocks are similar to Hardham

RIVER ROTHER - Coultershaw

This stretch which is renowned for its barbel has recently been re-developed by the EA to return the river to its natural condition.

RIVER ROTHER - Shopham

Immediately below the Coultershaw section and probably the best stretch for big chub.

RIVER ROTHER - Fittleworth

This section has a good head of roach and dace with some good chub and some surprisingly big bream.

STEMPS & CART - Nr. Fontwell

These 2 ponds offer excellent mixed sport, Stemps contains a good head of medium sized carp and skimmer bream, whilst Cart is primarily silver fish with the odd carp.

BETHWINS FARM PONDS - Nr. Chiddingfold

2 Farm ponds the larger stocked with perch and carp to 15 lb, the smaller is stocked with tench to 3 lb.

PETWORTH PARK - Petworth

A 7 acre estate lake set within the grounds of the picturesque Petworth Park with good stocks of crucian carp, tench, bream, roach, rudd and perch.

HURSTON LANE - Storrington

This 3 pond fishery comprises tench pond , carp pond and a rapidly developing match pond.

CHICHESTER CANAL - Basin to Donnington

Approximately 3 miles of the best canal fishing in West Sussex. Stocked with carp, tench, roach, bream and pike.

Tales From The Rod Room

Catching big fish and the future.

One of the largest fish that I have ever caught came from a wreck thirty odd miles off the South Devon coast in three hundred odd foot of water. The fish, a conger eel, had picked up my mackerel bait and was then played to the surface on monstrously powerful tackle, in truth there was very little skill in catching the fish. Fortunately the boats skipper, very bravely, unhooked the eel whilst it was still in the water and I watched it turn and swim strongly back into the depths. How big? Maybe fifty or sixty pounds who knows?



The fact of the matter is that however big that eel was it had taken very little skill to catch and, despite its' size does not rate very highly in my fishing memories of the last forty years or so.

Although I enjoy the thrill of catching big fish it is not always the very biggest but often the hardest won that give me the greatest satisfaction. One example is of my first Rother double figure barbel.

For too long my biggest Rother barbel sat at 9 lbs 15 ozs and I desperately wanted to catch a 'double' from the river. It finally happened as the light was slowly fading on a misty autumn evening a few years ago. I had lightly baited the swim earlier and moved back in to fish for the last hour of the day. The hookbait was cast directly over the baited area and I sat expectantly just a few yards away. After twenty minutes or so a gentle tap of the rod tip was followed a ferocious take that dragged the tip right around. The barbel surged downstream in a powerful run and the rod bent right over as I applied strain in a bid to keep the fish from the snags at the bottom of the swim. Eventually I turned the fish with inches to spare and a few minutes later I was able to slip an 11 lb + barbel into the landing net. Big fish, that are hard won give a real sense of achievement and although that barbel was big it was not one of the giants that we read about in the angling press, to me though it was perfect and left a smile on my face for days!

The challenge of catching big fish is an almost addictive compulsion for many of us and the inevitable failures are all forgotten when everything comes together.

We are now at the start of a new era for angling in this area. Two angling clubs have now totally amalgamated to form the new 'Petworth and Bognor Angling Club'. The way we have formed and the plans for the future convince me that the new club will very quickly become recognised as the very best angling club in West Sussex. I see the new club as being able to provide any number of really exciting challenges for the big fish angler. And variety as well. I am certain that any angler in our club that enjoys the challenge of catching big fish will be surprised at what is available, will the Rother produce a 15 lb+ barbel next season ? I think that it almost certainly will. Big pike are in the Arun maybe a 30 lb giant is on the cards it wouldn't surprise me to see one or two caught, although any such fish will undoubtedly be very hard won. These pike are known to roam for miles, feeding on bream and the roach some of which are huge and another challenge in themselves. The list goes on, the carp lake at Storrington has one or two larger fish into the mid-twenties yet remains very lightly fished. And there are also some very large carp in both the Rother and the Arun. The list of big fish in our waters also extends to bream, tench, chub, crucians and beyond.

I hope to see you on the bank next season, taking up the challenge, and hopefully successfully catching one of those 'fish of a lifetime'.

WATER REPORTS

Stemps & Cart

A great deal of work was carried out on Cart Pond to renew the dam and outlet during the Autumn and many thanks should go to Nelson and Mac' who masterminded the project. We have also lost a couple of trees around the venue and will soon be having the tree between pegs 10 & 11 on Stemps removed. Unfortunately due to the angle of this tree we will not be able to remove it ourselves and will have to get the professionals in. As I write the wind is whistling around the area with some ferocity and I hope we don't lose any more trees. Stemps has fished particularly well this year with plenty of carp being caught from all round the lake and good nets of fish being taken well into the winter months - although it has not been that cold. Cart has been a bit more fickle with good summer fishing but it has been a bit slower than usual during the winter months. Although I understand if you go and fish the lake on your own or when only one or two others are present you can still have a good day. Perhaps the deeper water due to alterations to the dam has had some effect.

Storrington

Well what a difference a few well attended work parties can make. Storrington has been transformed beyond all recognition. Some would say for the worst but I know our fishery experts believe that you have to be cruel to be kind and getting rid of the trees is essential in the development of the fishery. Although it looks quite stark at the moment we will soon see low growth again to give controllable bank side cover. Not only have we cleared the fishable bank of the carp lake but a large amount of vegetation has been cleared from the water on the opposite bank. This will hopefully reduce the number of 'snag ups' that we know occur. We are not quite there yet and a further work parties has been arranged (see elsewhere for dates). We are looking at removing some of the lilies from the tench pond, but this will probably been done in the spring. We also have some ideas to help reduce the blanket weed in the carp pond. If all goes to plan and it's looking good so far we will have a much revived fishery by next summer.

Petworth Park

Petworth Park is now closed until April 1st getting a well deserved rest. I'm sure 'park' enthusiasts are already working out ways to beat that double figure bream target, we are confident that the fish are there to do it. It just needs the right angler, on the right day, in the right swim etc. etc. There were plenty of big bags recorded last year and I also had two separate reports of pike being caught! I personally had never heard of pike in the park before, have you?

WATER REPORTS

Bethwins

Despite a previous plea to Bognor members for information on catches etc. from Bethwins no information has been forthcoming, So come on you Petworth members let us in on the secrets of Bethwins. Perhaps we might even be able to raise enough to do a feature article on our most northerly water. Pictures are good as well! .

The Rother

We know that a lot of you are keen to target the barbel that are found in the Rother but next season why don't you give Coultershaw a rest and try Shopham instead. We have had a number of reports of barbel being caught on Fittleworth including double figure fish so they must also be present on the Shopham stretch. This often overlooked stretch of the Rother offers a wide variety of conditions from shallow and fast runs to slower deeper pools as the river meanders through farmland. Give it a go if only to get away from the hordes on Coultershaw.

The new arrangements are working well on Coultershaw and thanks to all those who are fishing Coultershaw and conforming to these new arrangements. There continues to be a steady number of barbel above the double figure mark coming out along with some quality chub in the 4 - 5 lb region. We are not hearing much about the smaller fish at Coultershaw, probably because not many target them, however you can have a good day on dace, roach and grayling with the ubiquitous gudgeon and minnows showing up as well.

Fittleworth has been a bit fickle towards the end of the season although the river has generally looked in very good condition with just the right amount of colour and flow. I had a couple of sessions trotting which yielded nothing and I know of another angler whose tally was a couple of trout on a small feeder.

The river will hopefully now hold level for the start of the season when it will be back with the stick float, maggots and casters to get among the increasing head of roach and dace that can be found in Fittleworth during the summer months.

WATER REPORTS

The Arun

Pike anglers tend to be those that are most prominent on the Arun at the back end of the season and although January can be quite slow, during February and into early March sport can be quite frantic with plenty of fish in the 10 - 15 lb bracket to be had. Although you are never going to catch record pike in the Arun, it is unlikely that you will break the 25 lb mark (unless of course you can tell me otherwise) and a 20 lb fish from the Arun should be counted as a specimen. What the fish lack in weight they make up for in muscle and I think that Arun pike are among some of the hardest fighting that you are ever going to come across. If you think of the conditions in which they live it's hardly surprising really. Most methods work on the Arun and although it is generally accepted that the average size of fish caught on lures is lower than other methods on the Arun this does not seem to hold true. It might be that local still waters get much more attention from pike anglers and therefore the fish get used to lumps of painted wood and plastic going past their noses and will ignore them whereas these still look fair game to the less intensively fished Arun pike. During the winter months a two rod or even three rod approach is often favoured with a dead bait cast to a likely looking slack or feature on one or two rods whilst working the rest of the water with a lure of some sort. If you work out the water with the lure with no success shoulder rods and move on to the next likely looking spot.

From the middle of February onwards the bream will start to shoal up and there are one or two swims where you are almost certainly guaranteed a good days fishing. They are a bit of a walk from the car parks and they tend to be rather muddy so you need to take these factors into account. So saying you can easily have your best days catch from the river right towards the end of the season in the cold and the wind and rain.

When fishing the Arun never forget that it is tidal and in the winter when the river is often carrying extra water it can come up and flood surrounding land if your not careful. Always be aware of the state of the tide where you are fishing. If you carry a Littlehampton tide table then high tide at Watersfield is about 2½ hours later and Hardham a further 15 - 20 mins later.

We have found that Watersfield has become a much more popular venue since we were able to secure car parking in the field by the railway and although we can not promise anything we are looking at ways of potentially improving access at Hardham. This will not happen overnight and we are not sure yet what we might be able to do but watch this space and we will keep you posted.

WATER REPORTS

Chichester Canal

The canal as usual continues to fish through the winter and Since Christmas the as usual the fish have moved into the deeper and slightly warmer water of the city and basin area. Consequently in the winter the basin is a very popular venue for all types of angler. A couple of members have had recent sessions in the basin and have caught plenty of roach together with skimmers and proper bream, they estimated that they had about 20 - 25 lb each. The stretch from the bypass bridge up towards the town has also been producing plenty of fish albeit smaller roach and gudgeon on the near or far side shelves with better roach and skimmers down the middle. Most of these fish have been falling to a maggot, pinkie and squat regime. If we get a period of colder weather then it is time for the punched and liquidised bread to be tried down the middle with perhaps a bit of chopped worm and castor on the far shelf. In any event as long as you bait and fish according to the conditions on the canal you will be unlucky to come away with at least a few fish in the net from this section. On the overhand over the last month or so the water from the bypass bridge down has been crystal clear with not a fish to be seen. The boat has not been running there has been quite an influx of cold rain water and all the colour has dropped out of the water. It will take a good warm spell for the water to warm and colour up again, once this happens the fish will move back down again.

Water Wardens / Bailiffs wanted

Do you fish Bethwins regularly, we are looking for someone to be our eyes and ears on the water.

Do you fish Storrington regularly, we are looking for someone to be our eyes and ears on the water.

If you feel you can fill either of these posts or would like more information please contact Steve Jupp on 01243 821950

Club Officers and Useful Contact Details

With the amalgamation of the two clubs we have a whole new set of contacts for you

President	Norman Thomas	01798 342076	
Chairman	Nigel Chapman	02392 412463	
Vice Chairman	Martin Eyres	01798 812279	
Secretary / Match Secretary	Steve Simmonds	01243 583179 07788 560975 sasimmonds@tiscali.co.uk	Remnants Elmer Road Middleton on Sea PO22 6ET
Treasurer	John Swindell	01243 860948	
Membership Secretary	Mick Harmsworth	01243 603783 mj.harmsworth@ntlworld.com	5 East Beach Road Selsey Chichester PO20 0ER
Fishery Management Officer	Steve Jupp	01243 821950 07713 176212 steve@sjupp.fsnet.co.uk	
Assistant Fishery Management Officer	Nelson Keet	07944 539077	
Administration Officer	Geoff Sumner	01243 573605	
Press Officer	Roger Poole	01243 512521 roger@rapoole.fsnet.co.uk	
Editor	Steve Simmonds	01243 583179 sasimmonds@tiscali.co.uk	

We also have a new website that will hopefully be up and running shortly, you will be able to find all the latest club information at
www.sussexangling.co.uk

Invitation

Anglers evening featuring:

Ray Walton

And

Pete Springate

To celebrate the launch of the new

Petworth & Bognor Angling Club

we have organised an evening packed with all the latest news from the barbel and specimen world.

Venue Newtown Social Club, Bognor Regis (see map over)
Date 23rd March 2007
Time 19.15

Places are limited so

If you would like to come please contact Steve Simmonds on
01243 583179

or

sasimmonds@tiscali.co.uk



Ray Walton one of the countries top barbel anglers and the man behind the 'Rolling Pin' the unique side casting centre pin reel.



Tackle Mart

Licensed Bar

Pete Springate popular local angler and specimen man. Pete is equally at home on big carp waters and on the Rother catching chub.

