

Petworth and Bognor Angling Club

Newsletter Issue 4

September 2008

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Chairman's Notes

Welcome to Issue 4 of our newsletter which I hope you enjoy whether you have received a copy in the post or are reading it 'online'.

Just a few things that I would like to draw your attention to in this edition. Our AGM is as detailed on the back page, please come along and let us know how we are doing.

For our specimen and specialist anglers there is a reminder about 'The Specimen Challenge' on Page 3, we were hoping to have a few more entries by now.

By popular demand as promised they are back! Tales From The Rod Room appears on page 10 and Tim's Tackle (but with Greg!) appears on page 12.

Also I have to report that Norman Thomas - our popular President has not been too well recently and I'm sure you will all join me in wishing him a speedy recovery.

Club Match Scene

Club matches

Well you might all be surprised not to see the ubiquitous Steve Jeffery on all the tables. Although we see him occasionally he appears to be taking some time out of fishing for other 'sporting' pursuits at the moment. I'm sure he will be back soon and there will be a collective groan from the rest of the match anglers. In the meantime Keith Hughes seems to have taken up his mantle and is having a great season of matches - despite the odd dropped fish. It's good to see a couple of newcomers feature in the tables and indeed the trophy list. Nick Wren is up there on the weights and the matchman points and Rick Hansen came away from his first match with a trophy. Last years nearly man - Rab Butler (I heard he even had this embroidered on the back of his jacket!) has found the winning ways across the three match Rother series and John Savage continues to feature strongly. As far as the waters we have fished are concerned the star of the show to date has been the Chichester Canal which has consistently produced good match weights on every visit. The weights are not perhaps the greatest, you will never see 100 lb plus weights but at least the matches have been even with no real 'flier' pegs and everyone has been in with a chance. In fact our last match on the canal for the Kirby Bott Cup ended up in a tie between Keith Hughes and Steve Simmonds with Vince Herringshaw acting as an independent scalesman being unable to separate them. We have a good range of matches on various waters coming up, hopefully something for all tastes, so if you fancy a go have a look in the book and come and join us.

WEIGHTS

NAME	lbs	ozs	dms
Vince Herringshaw	68	12	00
Keith Hughes	60	01	08
Rab Butler	42	15	08
John Savage	31	11	08
Nick Wren	26	02	00

CLUB POINTS

NAME	POINTS
Keith Hughes	118
Vince Herringshaw	105
Rab Butler	99
John Savage	56
R Huskisson	42

MATCHMAN POINTS

NAME	POINTS
Vince Herringshaw	321
Keith Hughes	289
Rab Butler	206
Nick Wren	120
Steve Simmonds	113

TROPHY WINNERS

TROPHY	NAME	POINTS	WEIGHT	VENUE
M. Sampson Cup	K. Hughes	28		Chichester Canal
Mixed Pairs	Angela & Steve Simmonds		9 - 6 - 00	Storrington Match
Caine Cup	K. Hughes	17		Petworth Park
W. Sampson	R. Hansen		9 - 2 - 00	Watersfield
Ottaway Cup	K. Hughes		3 - 1 - 00	Fittleworth
Moss Cup	R. Butler	27		River Rother
Ransom Cup	K Hughes		2 - 12 - 00	Thames Goring
BBQ Shield	V Herringshaw		21 - 4 - 8	Stemps
Kirby Bott	K. Hughes S. Simmonds		7 - 00 - 00	Chichester Canal

Nigel Chapman Our Chairman Writes About The Specimen Challenge

This year for the first time the club has set up a new trophy for specialist anglers, 'The Specimen Challenge', will allow our big fish anglers the chance to be recognised for their achievements.

Undoubtedly we have some very good specialist anglers among our membership.

It goes without saying that our waters contain very big fish and with the autumn now approaching this is the certainly the best time of year to get a personal best and maybe even win our challenge trophy!

I genuinely feel that the coming months could produce a first ever sixteen pound barbel from the Rother. Pike anglers will soon be looking to catch a few fish and maybe, just maybe a real giant is out there 25lbs + is a realistic size but who knows how much bigger pike can grow in certain areas?

We have roach, chub, carp, pike or whatever of our fish that you want to target out there to be caught. Eventually we will also build up a list of club record fish, so here is your chance to help in the process of building that list.

I feel that it will take a very good angler will win this years 'Challenge' and become the first to have their name on the prestigious new trophy.

Full details are in your handbook or you can contact me via the website or you can 'phone me on 0239 2413463 for more information.

FISHERY REPORTS

Stemps & Cart

Cart Pond has been fishing really well for skimmers and roach during the summer with good bags being regularly reported. There have also been some good catches of small carp particularly from the end pegs. Various methods have been employed but I know that fishing paste on the pole seems to have been particularly effective.

Stemps seems to have been a case of the fish that got away this year. I know a numbers of anglers have been using a pellet waggler in a few swims round the pond and although it does provide a lot of takes it does also result in a lot of lost fish! It is certainly an exciting way to fish with the takes being very visual but can at times become frustrating!

Petworth Park

A slightly quieter year on the match front this year but we do have reports of great pleasure bags from Petworth Park. I was speaking to a very longstanding member at Fittleworth just the other day who has had a couple of very good sessions on the tench. We also have an article from Kevin Leighfield who fished the park at the end of July with excellent results - many thanks for your report Kevin and I hope others might follow your lead, not only with their angling exploits but also in letting us know how they have got on.

Bethwins

We are continuing our discussions with the landowners at Bethwins with regard to car parking and access and there will be some changes in the future which will hopefully make things slightly easier and safer for anglers - watch this space.

We have had some varied reports of the fishing from this venue in particular some very good catches of perch from the lower lake, although the fish are not enormous there are loads of them. A good session on the tench with a double figure bag being taken from the upper lake. A couple of anglers have also encountered a decent sized carp (around 15lb) and thought to be a grass carp - although it is yet to be netted!

FISHERY REPORTS

Chichester Canal

The canal has produced some very consistent fishing this season to date with good match weights and some brilliant pleasure weights. One of the match regulars - Keith Hughes recently fished a pleasure session and had 37 lb of skimmer bream. The canal society have also done a lot of work cutting back the reeds just down from Hunston bridge and this has opened up this section for fishing again. This is the area where further platforms are planned. Last year as we moved into the winter the fish seemed to move much earlier into the basin and the main canal became very difficult. It will be interesting to see what happens this year!

River Arun

We now have our new car park at Watersfield and members are reminded that they should use this facility. There is plenty of room and it only puts a couple of minutes on to your walk to the water and there is absolutely no chance of cattle getting at your car. We have kept our lock on the gate at the bottom so you don't have to haul your gear over the top.

Both Watersfield and Hardham have been producing good mixed bags of silver fish and as normal there has been the occasional big bream bag reported from both venues. Of particular note has been the number of 'chublets' or small chub that have been caught this season. If these grow on then the chub population in the Arun will definitely improve. Specimen anglers have been seeking out the Arun barbel and carp and I've increasingly heard of barbel coming from the river this season whether this is an increase in population or whether it is purely that anglers are actually fishing for them I'm not sure, but it does give the river an extra dimension!

Hurston

There have been great strides forward at Hurston and it appears that we have the measure of the weed in the carp lake - at least for now! We must not rest on our laurels because there is still plenty of work to do and we hope that you might be able to make at least one of our scheduled winter work parties on the venue - details on page 9.

FISHERY REPORTS

The Rother

In the last Newsletter we were wondering what the new season on the Rother would be like little knowing that we would finally be able to offer you more river to fish. Our new stretch at Coates Castle has proved very popular and some cracking fish have come out. I hope you all have your Coates insert for the handbook if not please contact either the Secretary or Membership Secretary. We are aware of one or two problems with canoeists on the river and although it is entirely possible that they shouldn't be there it is not worth a confrontation - we understand that things might have got a little heated recently. We hope that this has just been a couple of isolated incidents - possibly associated with the summer holidays. However if you do spot canoeists and happen to see vehicles with canoe racks parked near the river. Please jot down the registration number and give the details to one of the bailiffs or let one of the committee know. We can then take appropriate action.

Shopham

We are of course 'double banked' at Shopham down with the Shopham stretch on the north bank and the Coates Castle stretch on the south bank. Strangely - I guess because it is new everyone appears to be favouring the south bank (Coates) side at the moment. Although I guess that Shopham could really come it to its own over the next couple of months as we hit prime barbel evening time. It was always through September and October that I used to do my evening barbellling when I lived close to the Kennet at Burghfield. We were lucky with the stretch as we were allowed on through the night as we are at Shopham. Although we found that the first hour or so after darkness was the prime time, once it had been dark for a couple of hours it was time to pack up and go home to the wife who would hopefully not have fed your dinner to the dog because you have been late again! We are really interested to hear how Shopham fishes this year and particularly during the time running up to when the clocks change, so please let us know how you get on. That's of course if this rain ever stops for long enough for the river to get back into some sort of fishable condition!

Also please be aware that there is a shoot on the opposite bank operating from Coates Castle each Tuesday from 1st October through to 1st February. Although it should not affect you on the Shopham bank we feel that you should be aware.

FISHERY REPORTS

Fittleworth

Although there have been lots of reports of plenty of dace coming from the river I have to report the arrival of carp in the Fittleworth stretch this season. There have always been the odd carp in the river but these have generally been coming from either Coultershaw or Shopham and of course this season quite a number have been reported from Coates. However during a recent match on Fittleworth 2 carp were brought to the scales. The first was a common of about 3½ lb and came from a couple of pegs below Fittleworth Bridge, the second was a mirror of around 6 lb and this came from about halfway down. The other fish that has made a recent comeback in the Rother is perch and I recently weighed one of over a pound from the peg by the outfall. The EA have been surveying Fittleworth and we await their report with interest. We are trying to work more closely with them and in particular on venues such as Fittleworth.

Coultershaw

Firstly a bit of a telling off I'm afraid - Our handbook states very clearly the off times for Coultershaw and our continuing use of the water depends upon us adhering to these times. One or two selfish individuals have been pushing this and certainly cars have been seen in the car park well after the time that it should have been cleared. Please remember that our continued use of this prime venue is at risk if we do not comply and our bailiffs will regrettably have to take action if anglers continue to ignore the times.

Having opened up the Mill stream we have become aware of a small pollution problem at Coultershaw. The EA are investigating on our behalf and will keep us informed. There is no need to worry as there is absolutely no evidence that the fish stocks have been affected, nevertheless it is best to put a check on these things in case they get out of hand.

Those of you that have access to the website will have seen that the Coultershaw has been fishing pretty much to par.

FISHERY REPORTS

Coates Castle

Well our first season on this new stretch is proving very successful with all sorts of anglers catching all sorts of fish - which to me is what it should be about. Again if you have access to the website you will have seen a selection of bream and carp that have come from the venue alongside so good sized barbel and chub as well.

Those of you who like the roach and dace need not fear as I have heard of a couple of great mixed nets taken on the stick float just trotting down a maggot or caster over loose feed.

Don't forget that we share this water with a Sea Trout syndicate and they have the game rights on the stretch, there are only a few of them and I understand that they would like to get on the river a bit more but busy working lives preclude. If you come across them it is well worth having a chat because they know this stretch of river particularly well and you never know they might be able to point you in the direction of a particularly productive swim for our type of fishing. In turn I am sure that if you can stir them in the direction of their quarry they will be grateful!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

During the winter months we also share this piece of land with the local shoot who shoot over this land on every Tuesday through October to the end of January particularly in the Coates area.

Following discussions we have decided that for the safety of all it is best that we close the water whilst the shoot is on.

Therefore from the 1st October to the 1st February the water will be closed on Tuesdays only.

We must also make you aware that we have discovered that the area where we currently park at Coates Castle can get very 'boggy' during the winter months or after periods of heavy sustained rainfall - A local tells us that he is wary about taking his 4 x 4 down the lane! Please take this into account when visiting the venue and take care when you park as the club cannot be held responsible for vehicles that become trapped.

FISHERY MANAGEMENT

Our Fishery Management team have recently carried out a review of our still waters in particular and have formulated their plans for managing the environment in particular.

As reported elsewhere we seem to have finally got on top of the weed situation in the carp lake. There has been an unexpected dividend from this as one or two pleasure anglers have been fishing this lake to see what else might be around and I have heard of some very good catches of perch and rudd coming from the carp lake!

Anyway down to the nitty gritty and it is of course work parties - and we do need you to chip in and help. Although these dates are a long way off write them on your calendar now - I'm sure we will be reminding you again but try to keep at least one day free.

DATE	VENUE	TASKS
Jan 18th	Hurston	Tree Management
Feb 15th	Hurston	Tree Management
March (TBA)	Hurston & Walberton	Rebuild / installation of disabled swims.*
April (TBA)	Hurston & Walberton	Rebuild / installation of disabled swims.*
May 10th	Bethwins	Strimming, grass cutting, trimming back new growth and general maintenance.
May 24th	Hurston	Strimming, grass cutting and trimming back new growth
June 3rd	Hurston	Midweek pond weed clearance
June 7th	Walberton	Strimming, grass cutting, trimming back new growth and general maintenance.
June 14th	Coultershaw	Strimming, grass cutting, trimming back new growth and general maintenance.
July 29th	Hurston	Midweek pond weed clearance
August 16th	Hurston	Strimming, grass cutting and trimming back new growth

* **Note** We need a small specialised team to build the disabled swims and we are looking for people with wood working skills in particular.

Tales From The Rod Room

One of the best anglers that I ever came across was a very likeable character called 'Scruffy' Mike Swift. His nickname came as he would always fish wearing a heavily mud splattered green boilersuit. At this time, the early 1970's, Mike was somewhere in his mid-twenties and had a string of big fish captures to his name; pike, roach, perch and especially some very large carp all featured on the grainy photo's that Mike carried in his fishing rucksack, carefully wrapped in a plastic bag for protection.



One night, in 1972, I was on Petersfield Heath and Mike was a couple of swims away from me when he hooked what was very obviously a very big fish. After some minutes I watched Mike wade out and net the biggest carp that I had ever seen, weighing almost 27 lbs. That carp was a real giant to me, one that even now sits very clearly in my memory, but Mike quickly weighed and we photographed the fish before returning it safely to the lake.

Afterwards we talked about big fish and Mike put great emphasis on first finding your fish, simple common sense but one that had served him well, the carp was his fifteenth twenty pounder - a feat almost unheard of at that time.

Whilst talking he told me of a small pool that held fish that would dwarf the monster he had just caught and from his plastic bag he produced a photo of a carp that appeared so huge that I couldn't begin to estimate its size. It's just over 35lbs". said Mike " But I've seen fish far bigger, real giants, the only trouble is it's on very private land and I only get an invite now and again to fish it".

I met Mike around various waters over the next year or so, it seemed that he nearly always caught good sized fish, we always talked about big fish and he sometimes mentioned the mysterious pool which held the 'giants'. I was still trying desperately to catch my first twenty pounder!

One day, out of the blue Mike said that he might be able to help me catch that elusive first twenty pound carp. On the condition that I would tell nobody where his lake was we could both fish it the following weekend, I instantly gave my him my word!

The next week at work really dragged but on the following Saturday afternoon Mike arrived to pick me up in his tatty Transit van. We headed off towards Winchester in overcast weather and then through Stockbridge after which we followed a series of narrow lanes for a few miles before Mike swung the van carefully onto a woodland path, driving for a short distance then he stopped and turned off the engine and quietly whispered. " This is it."

We were on prime shooting land and the keeper allowed only Mike to fish the water with the very rare opportunity for a guest and when the pheasant shooting started, that was the end of angling for another year. The pond, which nestled in among trees, was surprisingly small possibly 80 yards or so long and about half that in width. The water itself was crystal clear yet quite deep and very weedy. Because of Mike's tales of the place, I felt that it had something of a mysterious aura.

In the stillness of that late summer afternoon as I silently stared into the pond I somehow sensed that there where indeed real monsters living there lives out here, very quietly. Back at the van we tackled up and carefully moved to the only two swims on the lake, both of which had been kept relatively clear of weed by the keeper. Mike gave me a small bait box saying, "Use this, its a special sardine paste." By now the sky had cleared and as we settled down to fish the temperature dropped quite quickly. Darkness fell and we sat twenty yards apart in complete silence.

At about eleven o'clock I had a slow, steady take on my left hand rod which was cast only ten yards out into the clearing in the weed. I picked up the rod, closed the bail arm, and waited for the line to tighten before striking.

Instantly I felt the fish power out into the depths but held on as best as I could. Surprisingly the fish turned towards me and made for the deep water at my feet, Mike was now at my side with the net at the ready. The fish circled slowly and powerfully in the deep margin but gradually tired and I was able to slowly ease it to the surface, then it was over the net which Mike gently lifted around my first ever twenty pound carp. The scales settled on 20 lbs 14 ozs I was delighted and perhaps relieved that the fish had not fought harder. We photographed and carefully returned my carp and as I settled down to fish again I noticed how cold the night had become.

About 3.00 am Mike called out in the darkness, "I'm into a big fish!" I quickly made my way down the bank and could just make out Mikes' rod hooped round in the pale moonlight. The fish was weeded but seemed to be slowly coming towards us, then it was back into the cleared area. Mike bent the rod even harder, and slowly, very slowly, he edged the fish to the bank. "I think this is a very big fish." he said nervously. The fish dived again into the weed but was beginning to tire, Mike kept the pressure on, he had caught so many big fish before and the experience showed. About ten minutes later he slipped the net under a truly enormous really dark, heavily scaled mirror carp that was almost covered in weed.

On the bank, we carried the fish in the net to some soft grass and laid it gently down, it was truly a monster. Mike was almost breathless and shaking with excitement, we weighed the fish and as the needle settled in the torchlight it read, 41lbs 9ozs. I photographed the fish on my camera and then on Mikes'. Then we carefully placed back into the margins and slowly in the light of the torch the fish swam away into the darkness.

We made tea on a camping stove back at the van and talked about the fish for hours. I was almost in a state of shock and the appetite to fish again that night had gone. Mike insisted that his carp wasn't the biggest in the pond but I couldn't quite bring myself to believe him! At that time - 1973, the record carp was still Richard Walkers 44 lb fish which had stood since 1952.

I never got to fish the pond again and Mike married a couple of years later, moved to Norfolk and continued, from what I can gather, to fish. I do however still have a few grainy photos of that carp, a true monster, that has probably influenced my entire angling life.



All The Latest Tackle News With Greg From Arun Angling



Well - firstly Tim has dropped me in this at the last minute but hopefully I can find a few bits and pieces to interest you whatever your style of angling.



With everyone in mind and particularly with winter on the way the first thing I thought I would show you are a couple of pieces of clothing from Nash. These Combat Max Waterproof Trousers are available in a full range of sizes and are excellent value at just £34.99 and combined with the Combat Max Hoodie gives you complete protection from under £85



For the matchmen we have some limited edition Preston X2 boxes available.



These have been put together with local waters in mind and consist of 1 x Shallow Side Drawer, 1 x Deep Side Drawer, 1 x Deep Winder Tray, 1 x Standard Footplate, Non Marking Legs, Telescopic Extending Legs, Pole Seat and Folding Mudfeet. All for £179.99.

Rather than a conventional trolley with your new box, why



don't you go for The Space Station Shuttle trolley which is a specially designed barrow style tackle transporter, that has been developed to carry seat boxes in conjunction with a large luggage area. The Shuttle's handle bar system also incorporates a foam covered cross bar that can be used to support rod holdalls. Once loaded, its design enables the angler to transport a complete set of tackle, whilst enjoying vastly reduced lifting compared to traditional seat box trolleys. This has been achieved by positioning the wheels directly beneath the heaviest part of the loaded shuttle, giving optimum balance. The Preston Space Shuttle can be quickly assembled and dismantled to fit comfortably inside most car boots.



All The Latest Tackle News With Greg From Arun Angling



Back to clothing and although perhaps more familiar to carp anglers Korum produce this excellent light weight bib & brace suit for £129.99. Made from waterproof yet breathable material and features; quick adjust straps, velcro storm cuffs, a detachable wire peak hood and wide opening zipped leg. On its own it will give you the protection you want all year round and combined with a fleece should keep you warm and dry through just about anything that is thrown at you. So it might just be worthwhile you pleasure and match anglers taking a look as well!

Again from Korum and part of their Intelligent Tackle Management system is the RuckBAG. This is designed to take their tackle / rig manager boxes and the extra bonus is the clever system whereby you can integrate your Korum chair and carry the two together. Although it looks a little incongruous once on your back it all works well, indeed it was described in UKCarp as 'a joy to carry'. Features include; top loading, an EVA base, top mounted straps so they don't get muddy, 4 internal pockets, 3 external pockets and of course the chair mounting clips. All this weighs in for the princely sum of £39.99 which for something described by the Angling Times as 'pure genius' is very good value.



For those who regularly visit the shop I'm sure that you are fed up with Tim telling you about Hardy rods but he did ask that I mention them just in case you haven't heard about them. We were selected by Hardy as a dealer at the very back end of last year and since then we have been amazed at the number we have sold. These rods are true quality and whether you are looking for a float, bomb, feeder or even avon style there is a Hardy rod that you are bound to fall in love with. I have to say that the cost does reflect the quality and we are talking of prices starting at £260. However once you have one I'm sure you will be wondering when you can afford another!

A Day at Petworth Park with Kevin Leighfield

Having had a couple of good sessions earlier in the year I returned to Petworth park on Friday 25th July to see if the shoals of bream had returned to the roadside bank. Armed with a very modest menu of ½ pint of casters, ½ pint of red maggots and ½ bag of groundbait I settled into the first peg after the concrete.

Having decided how far out I was going to fish I mixed up my groundbait and put out 2 balls into my target area. I set up a tip rod with a small open end feeder and loaded this with groundbait and cast to the area I was going to fish.

For the first 20 minutes or so I retrieved, reloaded and recast the feeder at fairly regular intervals this was the point at which I had my first bite and brought back a skimmer bream of around 1½ lb, a bit smaller than I was hoping for but a good sign nonetheless. I had obviously managed to draw the fish in as from then on all through the morning the bites came fairly regularly. Bite detection was not the easiest, although I was using a fairly sensitive tip the bites ranged from light twitches to something a little more positive.

Added to this because I had quite a few fish in the swim I was getting some light line bites as well. Under these circumstances you sometimes just have to sit on your hands until you are sure of a positive take. At lunch time I sat back for a few minutes to take stock and the morning session had produced 11 bream with the largest weighing in at 6 lb I also had one tench. I had a quick cup of tea and bite to eat before I fished on for the afternoon session. The next hour was a bit quiet with only 3 bream but things picked up for the last couple of hours of the session. After a total of 5 hours of fishing I decided that was enough for the day and my count up gave me a total of 25 bream and 3 tench with a few bits and pieces. I would like to think I was pretty close to breaking 100 lb but for the record I am confident that I had in excess of 90 lb and I am very happy with that! I did notice that a couple of the bream had some small sores on them but not to the level of earlier in the season. These are almost certainly spawning sores and are often seen on bream during May and early June - this breeding thing can get quite violent with some fish! It was great to see so many bream in good condition and I am really pleased to have put together a catch of this size over a 5 hour period.

Now I can't wait to get back up here for the next match which is at the beginning of September. I will of course be drawn nowhere near where I want to be but such is life, hopefully somebody will be on the bream and get a good match weight. Petworth Park is such a valuable fishery for the club especially as the fish can be brought on to respond to a variety of methods, I have fished with success on the feeder, waggler and pole. The only slight downside is the walk back up the hill when you have finished, however after a session like this it's like flat ground!

Kevin Leighfield



Kevin sent us this picture of him in action on the day. By the way the interested spectator is Maali and belongs to his girlfriends mother! Brings a whole new meaning to someone keeping an eye on you whilst you are out fishing!

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting to be held on
Thursday 20th November 2007 Commencing 8 pm

At

The Lamb Public House Bilsham

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

Note: We have decided to provide a buffet after the main business of the meeting to give you the chance to have a chat with fellow members or your committee over a sandwich or sausage roll or two.



Here's a little teaser for you! Do you recognise this bit of water from the aerial picture. Unfortunately no prizes for guessing but we'll publish the answer in the next newsletter and perhaps do another couple for you to ponder over.

Useful Contact Details

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