

# The Sussex Angler



Spring 2012

Issue 7

News

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Join

The Petworth and Bognor Angling Club Magazine

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# Welcome to The Sussex Angler

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It's always great to meet other anglers and I was especially pleased to see many of you at the AGM last November. We were lucky to have an impromptu talk from one of the legends of angling - Peter Springate at the AGM in November. Peter is a very quiet angler normally who goes about his fishing without the fanfare and publicity that some demand. He spoke to us about handling big fish particularly on tidal rivers such as the Arun. We felt that this was so important that with Peter we have put together an article in this issue based on his talk.

I have also been meeting with anglers from other clubs over the last few months as I have attended a number of meetings arranged by the newly formed Arun and Rother Rivers Trust. In our last issue we reported that the trust had been set up and that they were beginning to look at our waters and what can be done. Since then things have moved on quite quickly with specific surveys on our stretches of river and work commencing on some areas of the Rother.

Nelson and his team have continued to work hard to keep our waters in the best possible condition and we have spent a considerable amount of money on restocking our Hurston Lane fishery. At the time of writing we are also about to start a long standing project to completely rebuild the steps at Shopham. The new steps should make access to the downstream side of Shopham

much better. This stretch of the Rother is particularly noted for its chub but the steps have proved a bit of a turn off for those that are a bit less sprightly. I know a good number of our anglers have had a great deal of enjoyment on this section with many quality chub between them, in particular, Rother legend Ray Newnham who should find it a bit easier to get to his favourite swim.

We are always trying to improve things or make them easier, you will see that your membership form is that bit easier to fill in this time round. Tim and his team will be offering the same great service in turning round memberships, whether you are an existing member renewing your membership or a new member joining us for the first time.

So welcome to Issue No. 7 of The Sussex Angler, I hope you enjoy the read and look forward to seeing you on the bank somewhere

Good luck for the coming season .

**Nigel Chapman**  
**Chairman**



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# Fishery Improvements

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These are some of the new platforms installed at Stemps over the last year. They take a lot of time and materials and are to a standard that makes them usable by disabled anglers.



We plan to do more in the next year but please help us by looking after these platforms. We would rather make more new ones than have to repair those that have been damaged.

## Scheduled Work Parties for 2012

Date	When	Venue	Main Tasks
Sun 18th March	Morning	Hurston	General Maintenance
Sun 8th April	Morning	Coultershaw	General Maintenance
Sun 6th May	Morning	Bethwins	General Maintenance
Wed 6th June	Afternoon	Hurston	Weed Clearing
Sun 10th June	Morning	Stemps & Cart	General Maintenance
Wed 27th Jul	Afternoon	Hurston	Weed Clearing
Sun 19th Aug	Morning	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.

Wednesday 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.



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# Three reasons why I will be re-joining

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**It's always good to hear from you, particularly when you have good things to say. We met new member Edwin Hoskison at the AGM and he offered just three of the many reasons why he will be rejoining the club.**

## **Value for money**

Times are tough for many of us. The cost of living goes up month by month. But my wages stay the same. I sometimes wonder how I can continue to make ends meet. Can I still afford life's little luxuries like fishing?

Therefore I was really pleased to hear that Club membership fees for next season have not been increased. An annual adult membership still costs £84, the same as last season.

I know for some, £84 is still a large sum. But this is equivalent to just £1.62 per week. When I think of it like this it really shows just what good value for money my club membership is.

## **Lots of choice**

Club membership gives me the choice of wide variety of waters and species of fish to catch.

Each venue provides a different challenge from peaceful to explosive. There are 9 still water lakes including the recently improved and restocked Hurston complex. 3.5 miles of the tranquil Chichester canal. 4 miles of the fast flowing River Rother. And 1 mile of the turbulent tidal River Arun.

Club waters contain a huge variety of fish to catch. Species include; Roach, Rudd, Bream, Crucian Carp, Common Carp, Barbel, Dace, Chub, Gudgeon, Tench, Perch, Pike, Mullet, Sea Trout, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout and Grayling.

For the coming season I have set myself a number of targets. I want to catch Mullet on the Arun, Grayling on the Rother and as an added challenge I want to have a go at the specimen barbel to be found on both the Arun and the Rother. Those in the know tell me they reckon the next record barbel could come from the Arun.

It's not many clubs that offer you the chance of a place in the record books. But with Petworth and Bognor Angling Club I believe it is a genuine possibility and I for one am not going to let that opportunity go by.

And even with all these choices on the club waters there is still more. The club also offers members a wide variety of exchange books with other clubs if I find myself wanting to explore some waters a little further away. Have a look at back issues of The Sussex Angler on the website for details of some of the exchange waters and check out the list in the handbook.





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# By Edwin Hoskison

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## Exclusive rights to fish Petworth Park

When I first joined I was amazed that my membership gave me the exclusive rights to fish the Lower Pond at Petworth Park. Nobody except club members can fish this special water.



The pond is set in the stunning 700 acre parkland of the Petworth House estate. This parkland is one of the finest examples of an English landscape park designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. It is a fantastic setting for a fishing trip. There are not many waters in the country let alone the south of England where you see deer roaming freely and even coming to drink

from the same water you are fishing.

This 7 acre pond is fed by the estates natural spring. The water contains a large stock of good quality fish. Crucian Carp to 3lbs, Tench to 4lbs, Roach, Rudd, and Perch go to 2lbs. The plentiful Bream go to double figures.

The lake provides pleasure and match anglers with good mixed bags. Big catches to 90lbs for pleasure anglers and total match weights in excess 200lb with top weights of 50lb plus have been reported. Just get the fish feeding and you catch one quality fish after another. The pictures taken at Petworth by club members show the sort of fish that you can catch.

In my opinion the experience of fishing Petworth Park is worth the membership fee by itself. If you have not fished it, don't miss out. Petworth lake opens again for fishing on April 1st so like I will be doing, renew your membership as soon as you can. Also don't forget as an added bonus as a club member your parking is free at Petworth Park .



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# Match Scene

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**We've neglected the match anglers for the last couple of issues, but will hopefully redress this with an update on recent match activities.**

## Club Matches

At the time of writing we have a bit of a lull in the match calendar before the sprint to the end of the season. It's looking as if we are seeing the end of Vince Herringshaw's reign as Club Champion as the major honours look to be going to Steve Speller and Mick Greenway. Steve has very good matchman points and top weight at the moment while Mick is looking well placed to take the Club Champion slot.



**Mick is looking good for Club Champion**



**Steve will be hard to beat for total weight this season**



**Is Vince going to get knocked off top spot?**

There are probably a couple of contenders for match of the season and Steve has featured in both. It was Steve that finally broke the match anglers carp jinx on the lower pond at Bethwins. This was his first visit to the water and he was determined to put a carp in his net, whether it was the day or the anglers, both Steve and Vince caught carp that day but on the next match the pond returned to normal and those that fished it having to be content with perch.

Steve has also taken the best weight of the year (I can't say season as we have a couple of matches left). The venue was Petworth Park, the swim was along the roadside and the weight was just under 45 lb or bream.



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# By Match Secretary

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## Inter Club Matches

We have had mixed fortunes in the Three Counties League this season. Both our teams were in the B league which ended up being very tight at the top with just a few point separating the teams. The result was a lot clearer at the bottom with two teams one of which was our A team being well down on points from quite an early stage. It is ironic because the fate of the A team was probably sealed in the first three matches two of which were on our own venues. Consequently our A team are going to be relegated to the C league. Meanwhile our B team where one of those challenging at the top and just missed out on winning the league but came second to secure promotion to the A league for next season.



**'Rab' an A team stalwart**



**We even managed to get Phil out for the RVS this year!**

The RVS always provides a challenge, we hosted our leg on Fittleworth which produced the odd good weight, top was almost 10lb but others really struggled. For the second leg Rother tried somewhere new for us and I think we all rather enjoyed fishing Woolbeeding. This stretch of the Rother between Rother's North Mill and Stedham's Stedham Bridge section proved how variable the Rother can be. It is shallow, quite fast and there are plenty of fish. The final leg on Stedham was as predicted a hard affair we had top angler on the day with Keith Hughes but Rother had a well deserved win on the day and in the series.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped me over the years and hand you over to Mick Greenway who I'm sure will do a great job with the matches in the future.



**John will always fish as long as there is a pub nearby**



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# Hurston Project

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## **Nelson and Ray give us an update on work to date, stock introductions and work to come**

This project commissioned by the Committee to improve fishing at our Hurston Lane site is well on the way to completion.



**Some of the carp from the first stock introduction November 2011**



**Although they are quite small at the moment these perch will soon grow on**



**The second batch of fish arrive these were introduced in December 2011**

The Carp lake has been stocked with a good head of carp of varying sizes and we have also stocked some perch on the advice of our consultants. It is expected that the carp will spawn this year and it was considered good practice to have some predation (other than cormorants!). The Committee has approved the purchase of two fish refuges (floating islands) to protect the stock and these will be introduced a little later. It is hoped that the Environment Agency will be

undertaking a silt removal exercise, by pump, in the next few months. Whilst this may affect the fishing for a few days the long term benefits will be tremendous and it will save the club a lot of money. Details of works will be posted on the web site and at the lakeside.





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# Hurston Project

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The Match lake has had introductions of roach and bream and the Tench lake has received more crucians and tench with a handful of bream. The Committee has authorised another introduction of bream for the Match lake. It is hoped that the bream will root about in the mud and colour the water to help keep the weed growth at bay. There are signs that the carp are already doing this in the Carp lake.

**Nelson with one of the carp from the second batch. In the background you can see Mick and Fred who are always on hand to help**

The Committee were concerned that the River Stor was eroding the banks in places and getting dangerously near the lakes. Part of the project was to address this situation with revetment work and this has now been completed. What an excellent job our contractors have done as you can see from these pictures.



**Two views of the completed revetment work, we might have to do a bit of back filling but this should stop the erosion problems.**

The project has taken longer than expected (don't they always) and all club members are thanked for their understanding and patience. A special thank you to all who turned up to help at work parties. Your help is much appreciated



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# In Depth - Chichester Basin

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Open from 1st of October to the 31st March the section of the canal north of the A27 ends in the canal basin, one of the most reliable winter venues in the area.



In my mind there are two distinct methods of fishing the basin. You either fish for the silver fish (roach and bream) or you fish for the pike that are attracted by the high levels of food fish that are present. I don't really know that much about pike fishing, I think that the last time I seriously fished for them was getting on for thirty years ago, but I have seen a few pike anglers at the basin so I can at least tell you what I have seen them doing.

So I'll start with something that I know a bit about - roach and bream!

## The canal looking down from the basin towards the A 27

The first things that you need to know about the basin are that it is considerably deeper than the rest of the canal at around 5 - 6 feet and there is a fair amount of weed but it tends to occur in quite small distinct patches. If it gets really cold the weed dies back, but this winter (to date at least) it has been relatively mild and there is still a lot of weed around. This is a popular venue and the canal society sell day tickets so although it is quiet most week days, during the weekend and school holidays be prepared for a good number of other anglers. I tend to fish the south bank of the basin close to the point where it turns into the canal. I use two main tactics for the silver fish, a short line which I can do comfortably with a 5 metre whip and a longer line with rod and line using a waggler. On the short line it is worth plumbing around to make sure you are reasonably clear of the weed as it can be annoying if you keep getting caught up,.



## The basin looking north towards the city



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# With Steve Simmonds

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Luckily the weed is quite soft so if you do get hooked up you can normally pull free quite easily without ruining your rig. Once I have found a clear spot I will introduce a couple of small balls of groundbait, I normally use *Supercup* but if they are running the boat I will mix in some *Secret* as this makes the mix a bit heavier a less likely to be washed away. I will mix a few pinkies in with the groundbait and fish a red maggot on the hook. I would normally use a size 20 hook and set the rig so that it just trips the bottom. I would expect to get roach almost straight away using these tactics, if they slow up there are two options; firstly I would scale down to a pinkie on a 22 hook and if that doesn't work I would introduce another couple of balls of groundbait. Often you can pull the skimmers and better bream in on this line or you might try the waggler.

For the basin I use still water blues with loading of 2 - 3 AAA's you can cast these comfortably to the middle of the basin. I use the same sort of groundbait mix but rather than pinkies I will lace it with some chopped worm. To get the groundbait out I often use a catapult. The weed seems to be less of an issue here because the boat keeps it down. I will start with one or two red maggots on an 18 hook but then move up to a piece of worm if the better skimmers or bream are showing. Now for the pike! From what I have seen there are three options; Spinning - I've seen plenty try it but have never seen a pike come out on a spinner. I would also add that if there are other anglers around it is not that sociable. Floating dead baits - most tend to fish these at about half depth (around 3 feet) and the weeded area toward the wall seems favoured. Finally legered deadbaits - I think these can be effective virtually anywhere.

Please don't ask me what the favoured deadbaits are as I really don't know. Perhaps it's best to talk to your friendly local tackle dealer for that information.



**Yours truly with a typical net of mixed silver fish from the Chichester basin.**



**Graeme Winter with a 13lb pike from the Chichester basin**



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# Some Reflections on Barbel Fishing

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**I had intended after my previous article to take a break from reflecting on barbel fishing, but after having enjoyed a better than average season, I thought I'd provide an update.**

Regular readers will be familiar with my run of blanks on the Rother and Arun. To remedy that situation, I decided to spend some time on a few other rivers to get me back into catching!

I had some enjoyable sessions on the Mole, where I hadn't fished since I was a youngster. On my second visit I hooked but lost a good fish after a short struggle which left me snagged. On the following session I got off the mark with a six pounder and back into barbel-catching.



**A view from one of the swims that I fished on the Wye**

A trip to the Wye with a mate proved, as expected, more fruitful. Fishing a lovely Wye and Usk Foundation stretch we enjoyed some excellent sport catching above average size barbel for this river. He caught more (well done Rich), but I had the biggest! In one session I landed three sevens, one nine and a double. Fishing another stretch I had a further three to 9-10 in two sessions. Another visit to the Mole provided me with an increase in my river best to 8-2.

Confidence fully restored, I was ready to do battle again with the Arun. I finished my previous article with the postscript that I had had 12 Arun blanks so far this season. Well, I soon got back into the old routine, but another four blanks certainly wasn't going to lower my renewed confidence level.





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## By Peter Foster

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### **My Wye double recovering in the net before being safely returned**

chair and fling my half-eaten sandwich into the mud. (Listening to an ipod while eating as well as fishing is probably pushing the multi-tasking a bit too far for me, which is why the sandwich went flying when the bite came.)

Arun fishers will know that barbel bites don't come often. There was no warning with this one; no preliminary taps, no indication at all apart from a sudden, dramatic wrenching round of the rod top, accompanied by line being stripped from the spool. I still had to be quick, though. Baitrunner engaged, I had to stop the fish from taking off downstream, away from the crease of the bay I was fishing and burying itself in the near bank rushes. For a moment I thought this may have happened, as everything came to a stop; the fish didn't move, and I couldn't move it. A few seconds passed without anything happening, as I began to realise that it was steadfastly hugging the bottom as though it were equipped with giant suction pads. Then there was movement – no longer downstream, but with my persuasion, out towards midstream, and then gradually upstream. But still resolutely keeping to the bottom.

By now I was convinced that this was a big fish. All sorts of thoughts raced through my mind – could this be the eighteen that was caught by a guest angler last year – could it even be the rumoured monster said to have been caught from this same stretch earlier this season but so far unverified?



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# Some Reflections on Barbel Fishing

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I had to forget about any speculation, because I had a fight on my hands and a new challenge to face as the fish was moving upstream, and there was the imminent probability that it would cross my other line. I managed to lower the other rod so that the tip was low to the water, but of course this wasn't going to make any



**A picture that Steve Simmonds took of me a couple of years ago , when I was on one of my previous Arun barbel quests**

difference while the fish was hugging the bottom. I decided that this was not a problem that I could easily solve but would have to sort out later if and when the fish was near to landing . However, I soon became aware of another difficulty, as I'd begun to notice a strange sound which

alerted me to the fact that the inside of the butt ring had somehow become dislodged and was rattling around. I was now concerned that the line was rubbing against the bare metal of the ring, and of course my worry now was that this would wear the line. To counter this I now ran the line over my hand between the reel and the butt ring to keep it away from the ring. Having gained some control of the situation, I now tried to concentrate on playing the fish. Given that it was now in open water where I knew there were no snags, there was no need to rush this – just keep cool, don't worry about the other line or the loose ring, just focus on not losing the fish and making sure that it ends up in the net. Well that was easier thought than done. Several times I gained line and brought the fish closer and higher up in the water, but each time it made a strong determined run into the depths of the middle of the river. I still hadn't seen the fish, but surely



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## by Peter Foster

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the time must be fast approaching to attempt to land it. I began to ready the net, at the same time wondering which side of the second rod I should attempt to sink it. Eventually I decided on downstream of the other rod. Twice more I got the fish closer, and on the third occasion I succeeded in raising it high enough in the water to see it, and now there was no doubt that this was going to be not only my best from the Arun but my all-time PB. Again it plunged into the depths, but each attempt at netting came nearer to success and on the third go it slipped in nicely as I let it drift downstream over the net. I'd done it. This would have been my 16<sup>th</sup> Arun blank of the season. Checking my records later, I saw that it had been two years and two months since my previous barbel from this stretch.

I rested the fish in the net while I sorted out the tangle between the two lines. Now all I needed to do was ready the scales and camera. Then I remembered that I needed to put new batteries into my digital scales (I hadn't bothered to fit them earlier because it had been so long since I'd last used them, and the conventional scales I use as an alternative would be no use as they only weigh up to twelve pounds). I broke open the pack containing the two batteries and then went to open the battery compartment – would you believe it, fool that I was, I didn't have a screwdriver – *idiot*, I cried. But no, all was not lost – I had one of those multi-purpose tools in my bag – and yes, there was a cross-headed screwdriver in there – saved! Or so I thought. Blow me down, I couldn't fit the batteries. Why?! I'd done it loads of times before. I think I began to panic. God, I've got a giant fish in the net and no way to weigh it! What a pillock. But wait, I knew that Steve 'the Biker' Warner had been fishing quite a bit upstream of me when I'd arrived; surely he'd have scales – that's if he was still there, of course.

After making sure that the net was properly and securely fixed, and that the fish was quite safe, I started walking upstream. Thankfully I could see that Steve was still fishing, so I waved my arms at him to attract his attention. Fortunately the wind was behind me, so he could hear my call of 'Got a big fish in the net – do you have your scales?' To my relief he indicated that he had and after a few moments we were both back in my swim with Steve's Fox digitals (thank goodness).

After wetting the weigh-sling and zeroing the scales, I was at last able to get a proper look at the fish, and what a fish! There was no doubt that this was by far my biggest Arun barbel and would also improve my PB considerably. We performed the weighing with Steve supporting the fish. After touching 17-9, the scales finally settled at 17-8, a massive increase of just over three pounds on my Rother best. After giving the fish another rest in the net, Steve obliged by getting behind my camera and dashing off some photos.



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# Some Reflections on Barbel Fishing

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My personal best barbel on the weighing mat and I had to get  
in on the act as well  
Many thanks to Steve Warner for weighing and photographic  
duties.





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# by Peter Foster

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## **In the net recovering prior to being safely returned**

Now it was time to make sure the fish was fully recovered before returning it to the river. None the worse for its experience, it kicked away strongly and all too soon disappeared from view, leaving Steve and I to reflect on what had happened.

By the way, the sandwich was cheese and ham on oatmeal bread, and yes, after the fish had gone back safely, in a moment of quiet reflection and extreme satisfaction, I did finish it, Arun mud and all. Delicious.

For those of you who like to be intellectually challenged, here is a devilish question from the Round Britain Quiz I was listening to.

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

Answer in the next edition – can you wait that long?

Finally, very many thanks again to Steve Warner for being there when it really mattered.

Peter Foster

(Adapted from an article which previously appeared in the Barbel Catchers' Barbus magazine.)



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# Handling big fish on tidal rivers

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**‘Sir’ Pete offers some advice when handling big fish, particularly on tidal rivers such as our Watersfield stretch of the Arun**

I first started fishing the Arun shortly after moving down to this area in 1999. I very quickly fell in love with the river and soon learnt that it held big fish of many species but landing, handling and most importantly safely returning big fish requires just a bit more thought and equipment than on ‘normal’ rivers.

Let me take you back to my first carp on the Arun; It was a lovely sunny morning and the tide was down. The first thing I realised was that my landing net handle really wasn’t long enough to comfortably net the fish. Having overcome that obstacle I then realised that my unhooking mat was red hot from having sat in the sun and finally it was virtually impossible to get at the water to wet my weighing sling and the unhooking mat.

Since then I have made sure that I always carry a landing net handle that is long enough to cope with the low water levels and a spare bucket with a cord attached so I can always get water, whatever the state of the tide. The first thing I do when I set up is to make sure that I have a bucket full of water this can then be used to wet my weigh sling and mat and can even be used to cool the mat down if it does get hot.

Recent pictures and articles in the angling press got me thinking and I was invited to

say a few words at the club AGM last November. Since then I have devised these eight golden rules that will help ensure that we can safely handle and return the magnificent fish that can be caught from the River Arun.

## **RULE 1**

**Before you start fishing think about where you are going to land your fish. More importantly think about where you are going to be able to put your fish back safely. As we all know we should always make sure that our fish have recovered before releasing them, this is particularly the case with barbel. So if you not going to be able to do this, it’s very simple, stop fishing or move to somewhere where you will be able to release your fish properly.**

## **RULE 2**

**Always carry an unhooking mat when you are fishing for big fish (incidentally it is also a club rule). It’s also a good idea to leave your mat face down until you use it, particularly in sunny conditions.**



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# By Peter Springate

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## RULE 3

Always have water available with you on top of the bank, either do what I do and fill a bucket up before you start or the very least you should do is to carry a small plastic bottle of water this will at least give you enough to wet your mat and weigh sling.

## RULE 4

Carry some sort of antiseptic solution such as a Carp Care Kit. These can be used if you come across any sores on your fish. They are readily available from most good tackle shops.

## RULE 5

Make sure that you carry a landing net with a long enough handle for the venue you are fishing. Remember that you might need to hold a fish in the net for a while to allow it to recover.

## RULE 6

Never stand up holding barbel, carp, pike or any specimen fish. If you are going to take pictures make sure that your fish is close to the ground. Some of the pictures in the angling press make me cringe, never I repeat never hold any specimen fish out in one hand while standing up.

## RULE 7

If possible prepare your camera and weight equipment etc. before lifting your fish from the water. This will minimise the

amount of time that your fish is out of the water.

## RULE 8

**Personal Safety** - Be very careful as the tide runs out the banks can become very dangerous. You can encounter thick mud which you can easily get stuck in and the banks are also significantly undercut in places. It's always best to fish with a friend if one of you happens to get stuck.

Thinking about these rules, most of them can be adapted to wherever you are fishing be it a river or a still water, so just take a minute to think about my golden rules wherever you are. Unfortunately I can't guarantee that they are going to help you catch fish but when you do you will be able to return them safely and get home safely yourself.



I thought I better finish with a picture of a fish - not one from the Arun, but this is how you should photograph them!



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# Our Rivers

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## River Arun - Watersfield

The river shows many facets along the one mile stretch at Watersfield. Depth and flow can vary greatly from swim to swim. In general terms the top section starts relatively shallow gets deeper and then shallows up again. The mid section is very difficult to fish due to a combination of reeds and low lying ground, although there are a few really interesting swims to be found. The lower section tends to dry out on the inside in places as the tide falls but find the deeper glides and you will be in to some serious fish. Virtually at the end of our stretch there is a gem of an inside line gravel run. Roach, dace and perch can be caught all through with bream liable to show virtually anywhere. We have always seen the odd chub and plenty of chublets but more recently anglers have been reporting bags of good chub from this stretch.



## River Rother - Coultershaw



Probably the most well known stretch of the Rother. This stretch of approximately one mile offers a rich variety of fishing. As well as the barbel for which it has become famous there are quality chub and bream on this stretch together with all the other species that you would expect with some fish at specimen or close to specimen size there are even a few double figure carp which give as good an account of themselves as the barbel.

There is currently a project underway to install a water turbine at the head of the mill pool so there could be some disruption to

fishing in the area although we are hopeful that the work will have completed before the start of the 2012 river season.





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# Our Rivers

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## River Rother - Shopham

Immediately below the Coultershaw stretch and offering similar opportunities. There are fewer barbel on this stretch but more chub and this is probably our best stretch for grayling. The section is on the north bank both above and below Shopham bridge.. This stretch of the Rother can be fly fished but remember that we operate a strict catch and return policy.

## River Rother - Coates Castle

This is our longest stretch of the river running for approximately 2 miles on the south bank from Shopham bridge to just above Fittleworth bridge. It offers a variety of swims and is best approached using a roving technique. The variety of fish on this stretch is unusual with double figure carp, chub to 6 lb and bream to 8 lb being supported by a good head of roach, dace, grayling and gudgeon with the odd barbel as well.



## River Rother - Fittleworth

The lowest of our stretches and offering the north bank for just over a mile and approximately half a mile of the south bank. Fittleworth has changed character considerably over the last few years as we see generally lower water levels, particularly during the summer months however there are still plenty of chub, roach and dace to be caught when you find the right swims.



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# Our Still Waters

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We have 10 individual waters on 6 venues ranging from the beautiful estate lake at Petworth Park to tranquil farm ponds at Bethwins and Stemps & Cart.

**Hurston Lane** Our Hurston Lane fishery has undergone a massive redevelopment and restocking programme over the last year.

**Tench pond** This holds a good stock of tench to 6 lb and crucian carp in excess of 2 lb with plenty of roach and rudd and a few perch. You can be sure of bites pretty much all day every day.



**Carp Pond** This was reopened at the back end of 2011 having been extensively restocked with a fine range of carp to 20lb. We are looking at further desilting work during the spring of 2012 so there could be some minor disruptions to fishing this venue.



**Match Pond** The stock in the match pond has been revitalised with the introduction of further carp, silver fish and some bream during 2011. We hope to make further stock introductions during 2012.



**Chichester Canal** We enjoy several miles of fishing on the Chichester Canal. During the warmer months good mixed bags of roach, rudd, perch, tench and skimmers supplemented by the occasional large bream or carp can be taken from almost anywhere. In winter the fish tend to move up towards the canal basin and this becomes one of the prime spots as it remains ice free for all but the hardest winters. The basin is also particularly noted for its pike during the winter months.



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# Our Still Waters

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**Bethwins Farm** Situated near Chiddingfold, Bethwins Farm offers two attractive ponds in a tranquil setting surrounded by woods and farmland. The Lower Pond contains good sized carp to 15 lbs, together with a lot of perch. The Upper Pond has a good stock of tench and some decent sized carp to 10 lb. This is a great spot for a day “away from it all” in beautiful un-spilt surroundings.

## Stemps and Cart



Stemps Pond (left) is stocked with common carp, crucians, tench, roach, rudd and bream. Cart Pond (right) is stocked with carp, roach, skimmer bream and provides good year-round sport!



**Petworth Park** This glorious 7 acre lake set in the picturesque grounds of the Petworth Park Estate holds a good stock of tench, bream, and crucian carp. Pole, waggler or feeder tactics all prove productive and with light but regular feeding mixed bags



exceeding 70 lbs are not uncommon. Bream are generally in the 3 lbs to 6 lbs bracket with some fish approaching double figures, the tench go to 5lbs and crucians to 3lbs!

**The Granary** The latest addition to our portfolio of waters. The stock consists of mainly carp of varying size to 20lb with a lot of fish in the 7 - 12lb bracket. There is also an enormous head of rudd with the best around the 1lb mark. We are still getting to know this water and suspect that it might still hold one or two surprises.



# Interested In Joining The Club?

A Membership Application Renewal Form and further details will be found with this magazine.

You can also download a membership form from our website

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

Join the club or renew your membership on the spot at the following Tackle Shops

**Aldwick Angling, Bognor      01243 829054**

**Arun Angling, Angmering      01903 770099**

**Havant Angling, Havant      02392 450700**

**Tidal Angling, Pulborough      01798 873790**

**Tropikoi Angling, Bognor      01243 842660**

You can also apply by post to our Membership Secretary (see form). Membership packs are sent by return of post. Give Tim a ring on 01903 770099 if you have any questions or need assistance.

**Don't forget your photo's**

## Membership Fees for 2012 - 2013

Membership Type	Full Season	Half Season
Full Adult	£84	£52
Family (2 adults & 2 children)	£130	£80
Senior Citizen	£42	£26
Student	£42	£26
Registered Disabled	£42	£26
Junior (aged 12 - 16 inclusive)	£20	£10
Juvenile (aged below 12)	Free	Free
Associate (non fishing)	£2	£2