

A Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year
To All Anglers



From
Petworth and Bognor Angling Club

A Christmas Message from Petworth and Bognor Angling Club

Seasonal greetings and here's looking forward to some excellent fishing on our clubs numerous waters. First of all a big "thank you" to those who attended our AGM, there was a good turnout and an opportunity to meet fellow anglers and to mildly boast on our years catches! Yes I was listening.

We bid farewell to Nigel Chapman as Chairman, he was instrumental in bringing about the amalgamation of the Petworth and Bognor clubs following the breakup of the Hants & Sussex Alliance. Membership has risen from the 300 we started with some seven years ago to our current levels, Nigel will remain a member and a farewell gift of a framed barbel print presented by our President Norman Thomas is already hanging in Nigel's lounge. Martin Eyres, our vice-chairman has also had to stand down due to business pressures but thankfully Martin has kindly agreed to continue to look after our insurance policies as well as the clubs exchange books. We owe both Nigel and Martin a debt of gratitude and look forward to meeting up with them when fishing.

Having listened to some of the discussions that took place at the AGM I am mindful that some of you express concern that our fee's have had to rise, as a club all our decisions are taken after careful consideration and with our members best interests at heart. We are fortunate to have Phil Tubb as Treasurer and Steve Simmonds as Secretary to assess and tell it as it really is, not necessarily as we would like it to be. We have to take a reality check and wider view in order to continue to grow, like a business, standing still eventually means going backwards, and for this reason we have to remember that rents increase and costs rarely go down, where savings can be made we never hesitate to make them if it's in the clubs best interest.

So looking ahead, I'm the new boy in this job and fortunate to have a committee that will continue to work hard for the club, I have a few thoughts of my own but first I need to listen to the views of others especially with regard to the facilities and qualities we need to make our club one where anglers are happy to remain members. We also need to encourage others to join, all of you can play a part and spread the word, with a drop in overall fishing licences throughout the country we need everyone's support.....talking of support that dear old hot potato "work parties" is again on the agenda. We are talking seriously about this as we are about Bailiffs, keeping a watchful eye on our waters is becoming even more important with fish stocks being targeted by poachers and non members thinking our rivers and ponds are free to fish, we need to take a closer look on how best to tackle these issues so a big "thank you" to those who attend our work parties and to Bailiffs who need our continued support.

Just a brief mention about the Arun & Rother Rivers Trust (ARRT), I was a founding member and mainly concerned with angling, the trust is a charity and listening post for everyone concerned with the welfare not only of the Rother and Arun but their tributaries within an area from Horsham across to Petersfield and then south to the sea. The trust is not a lobby group for any particular pastime including angling, but as anglers represent the largest number of people using the river and as fish are important to its welfare it's fair to say we have really benefited. As many of you know the Riffle at Shopham together with other projects in the pipeline should, in time provide more fish to catch. The EA are the overriding authority and sadly their budget has been cut, but they still do a lot for us anglers, and I am pleased to say early next year they are providing fish passes where the Arun and Rother meet at Hardham, this is very good news indeed.

Where have all the youngsters gone? Is the spirit of Mr Crabtree still alive? Come on Dads and dare I say Grandads. Get the kids away from their computer games and take them out for a fishing trip an excellent way to get a bit of fresh air over the Christmas holidays. It doesn't need to be expensive, go and see Tim at Arun Angling or go into any of the local tackle dealers and they will be able to put together a very reasonable starter kit. Club membership for up to 12 years old is free as long as they are accompanied by an adult member. I'm keen to encourage more youngsters, perhaps you have some idea's if so let me know, in fact I'm open to any ideas and suggestions (not the obvious rude ones) that you feel need to be said.

Finally a word about communication, I'm a bit old fashioned but still manage emails and use the internet to the best of my ability. We are more and more having to communicate this way, this is the first of what we hope will be regular e-mail communications to our members. If you wish to continue receiving e-mails from us please put us in your approved list. If you do not wish to receive these e-mails in the future please drop a line to secretary@sussexangling.co.uk with 'No News Updates' in the subject line.

Whilst writing about electronic communication I must mention our professional web-site www.sussexangling.co.uk which thanks to our webmaster Les Heath is the quickest and best way to know what's going on in your club.

Thank you all and my best wishes for a Happy Fishing New Year.



Roger Poole

Chairman