

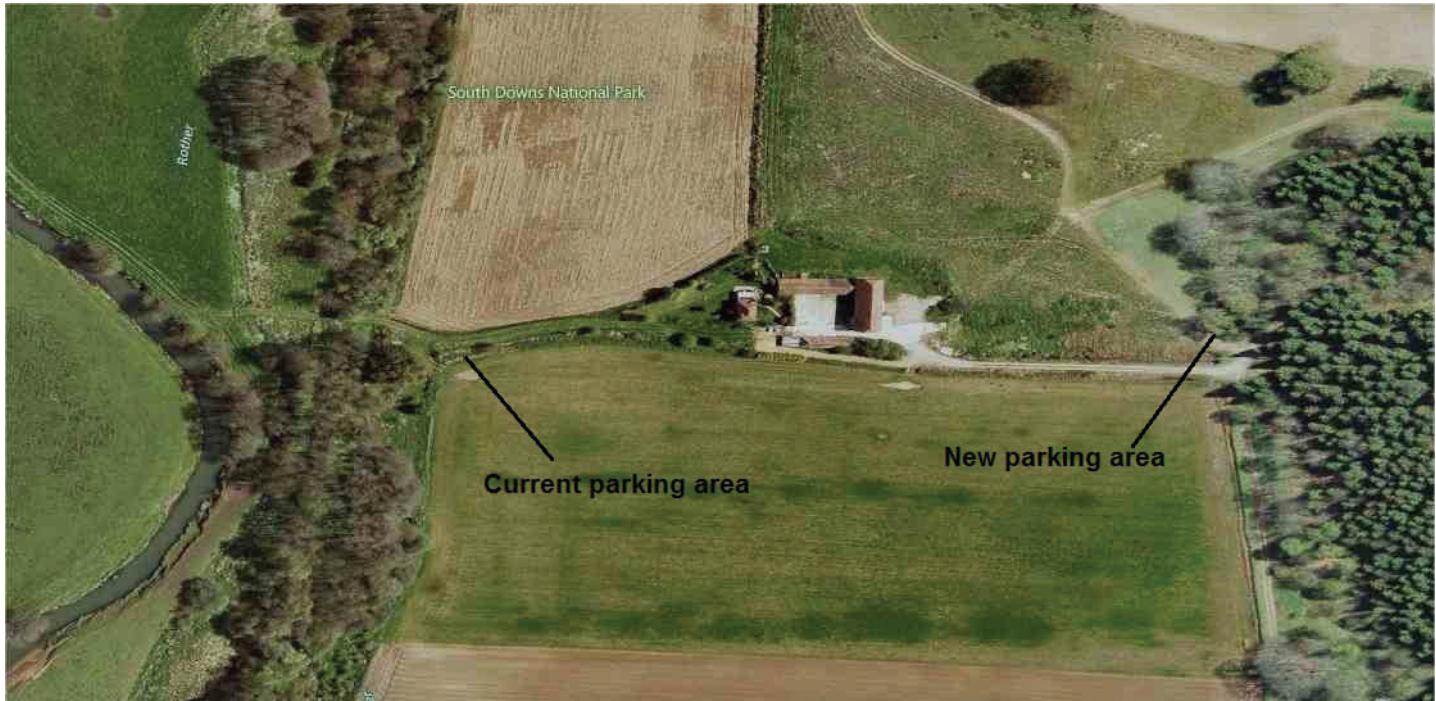
PETWORTH & BOGNOR ANGLING CLUB

E-mailer Issue 4

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Access to Coates Castle Fishery

We have managed to negotiate a new parking area for the Coates Castle fishery. This will only be for use during times of inclement weather when the track down the field to the current parking area is unusable. The new area can be seen in the aerial view below.



Some work will be required to clear the area of brambles etc and the fishery management team are looking to organise a work party to carry this out in the next few weeks. If you are a regular at Coates and could help with this work party please contact us via fisherymanagement@sussexangling.co.uk

Hurston Lane Aerator

We reported in the latest issue of The Sussex Angler that we are installing aeration equipment at the Hurston Lane Fishery. We are running a bit behind with the project as we have had issues with getting electrical power onto the site. What on the face of it appeared quite a simple task has become a lot more complicated, however we are still working on it and should have temporary aerators up and running before the height of summer. This will give us some more time to get electricity onto site.

There is likely to be some site work over the next month or so and we would ask that you cooperate with the fishery management team whilst this goes on. It is possible that certain swims will be closed for a day or so but we should be able to keep the venue open.

Fly Fishing

This year we have been able to open up some further stretches of the Rother to fly fishing and there are certainly a number of you who have taken advantage of this. We have had reports of some good catches brown and the occasional rainbow trout from all our river stretches. Although the coarse season starts soon you can of course continue to fly fish for trout through to the end of October.

Rod Usage rules

A number of members have asked us to clarify our rod usage rules.

These are quite simple; you can use up to two rods on all venues except Watersfield where there is no restriction. However please respect other club members when considering the use of multiple rods and also ensure you have adequate EA licences to cover the rods in use.

Content

If you have any suggestions for the content of these updates please let us know. We always welcome stories and pictures of your catches which you can always send via the website.

Work Parties

Hurston Lane

We have had a number of very successful work parties at Hurston with new paths being laid, new platforms built and a lot of weed clearing. We are just about done on the paths and swims for now but we will still have to continue with the weed clearing. Further work parties are set for Tuesday 21st July in the afternoon / evening and Tuesday 18th August in the afternoon / evening. We are also likely to be working on the installation of our aeration system over the next few weeks (see previous page for further details).

As part of our programme to deter cormorants from the site we have installed our '*new members*', I'm sure those that have been to Hurston will have met them. Please look after them as we hope that they will help in the battle to keep cormorants away from our fish.



One of our '*new members*' in position by the tench pond and many hands make light work when it comes to work parties

Coultershaw

So far we have had one very successful work party at Coultershaw where a lot of debris was cleared from the swims, we have also subsequently been cutting back the Himalayan balsam that is quite rife along this particular section of the river.

Walberton - Stamps and Cart

We will be at Stamps and Cart on Sunday 7th June, after all the work that Nelson does to keep this fishery in tip top condition there is not normally that much to do but if you come along I'm sure we can find something to keep you occupied.

Riverfly monitoring

This is a project that we are trying to get involved with and is designed to monitor invertebrate life in our rivers and streams. Samples are taken from the river on a regular basis and assessed, the results of these assessments are passed onto the Riverfly Partnership who collate and analyse the results. These provide valuable information with regard to the overall health of the river and can help the EA when it comes to decisions with regard to restocking waterways.

We are looking for volunteers who can take on monitoring sites in particular on the Rother. This will need some commitment as the sites have to be assessed and the results passed on regularly. If you are interested in the for instance please contact the Club Chairman chairman@sussexangling.co.uk and he will be able to give you further details. There is a full training course which teaches you how to carry out the tests and report the results, full test equipment will be provided to enable you to carry out the tests. We are trying to get other organisations that control stretches of the Rother involved as well so this should help in building a picture of the health of the whole river and not just our stretches.



Using a Riverfly test kit



The River Season

As we move into June our coarse river season is only a couple of weeks away, so now is the time to make sure your river gear is in tip top condition. First of all your rods, take a good look at the rod rings, in particular the line contact surfaces. Look for any chips or cracks in the inserts and if you find any then it is time to replace them. You can either attempt this yourself or take the rod into a good tackle shop where they should be able to do the job for you at a reasonable cost. If you are going to do it yourself you need a very sharp blade such as a Stanley knife, cut carefully into the varnish until you get down to the whipping, the best place to do this is over the metal leg of the ring so that you don't cut into the blank. Remove the old varnish and whipping and very gently sand the area smooth before you whip on the new ring, finally re-varnish. Give the rod a thorough wash down with warm soapy water, pay particular attention to the rings and also the reel seat. Duplon grips benefit from a good scrub with a nail brush and if you have a cork grip this can be cleaned up nicely using fine Scotch brite pads, the type that are used for paint or lacquer finishing in car spray shops are best. Use these with plenty of water with a bit of washing up liquid added. If you expose any holes in the cork these can be filled using cork dust mixed with waterproof woodworking glue and then sand down to a smooth finish.

When you have done your rods it's time to take a look at your reels.

Give the outside surfaces a good scrub using rubbing alcohol and a toothbrush, clean round the rollers and inside spools and the spool housing with alcohol on cotton buds. Lightly oil moving parts such as the bail arm assembly with Three in One or sewing machine oil. While you are at it, how long has the line been on your spools, how is it lying on the spool? It might be worth considering putting new line on if it is a few years old, it is also worth running the line onto a spare spool to get a nice even lay.

Once your rods and reels are done it's time to look at the business end of your tackle, check your floats for chips in the paint work which can let in water and upset buoyancy, you can either touch them up with a bit of enamel paint or buy some new ones.

If you are a pole angler then your pole will appreciate a good wash down inside and out with warm soapy water, rinse very thoroughly and allow to dry. Check over your rigs and if they have been sitting around for sometime consider retying them

Match Scene

With a late flurry of good results at the back end of the season, Vince Herringshaw has once again become club Champion. He managed to find a few fish at Hurston on days when most other anglers struggled and also had a couple of very good weights, one at Hurston and one at Stamps.



Final Tables

Angler	Points	Weight	Matchman
Vince H	148	293 - 5 - 8	1320
Keith H	139	262 - 5 - 12	1209
Mike K	133	204 - 9 - 12	944

Our final match of last season was an away day at Nyewood formerly an Alliance water but now run by Petersfield. We went there with high hopes as we had an excellent last match of the season there last year. Unfortunately the weather conditions were against us this time round. The water temperature was well down and a biting wind coming from the north made fishing hard and not at all pleasant for those sat on the south bank facing into the wind. The top three weights all came from the north bank where the anglers had the wind behind them and the conditions were a bit more tolerable. Mike Kitchener certainly had the fish of the day a carp of over 13lb and this made up two thirds of his winning weight.

We have just started the new season and as usual we start off with some midweek evening matches whilst it is light enough and some still water Sunday matches.

Our first evening match at Hurston produced a fairly decent mixed bag for Mike K who weighed in 19lb. The first match on Petworth Park was a bit slow as the tench and bream still seemed to be spawning but Keith H had a winning bag of just under 18lb. Surprise of the day was a 6lb bag of rudd taken by Kevin L on the whip, Kevin is normally a dedicated feeder man at Petworth Park

Details of all the matches are in your club handbook and all are welcome, don't worry if you have not fished matches before as our match regulars are always ready to help out with tactics etc.



Members Survey

Those of you who were members last year and received a membership form through the post will have seen that we included a survey to determine which waters you fish and your general likes and would like as far as the club and its waters are concerned. We have so far had forms back from 322 of you and 236 have responded to the water survey and/or questionnaire.

Firstly a big thanks to all those that took the time and effort to respond, we have now processed the results to date which make quite interesting reading.

On average you go fishing 22 times per year and you will visit at least half our venues

Without a doubt our most popular water is Stamps and Cart and the results indicate that this water receives an average of around six angler visits per day. We also estimate that around 50% of the total club membership fish Stamps and Cart at least once per season. Hurston Lane is the second most popular still water with an average of around four angler visits per day.

Coultershaw is the most popular river venue and taking into account the close season has on average four angler visits per day. Fittleworth and Shopham are not far behind.

Although not as many anglers fish Coates as our other Rother venues, those that do fish it are more regular than on the other Rother venues.

We asked you what you liked about the club and its venues.

The most popular responses were;

1. We have a good variety of waters
2. Our fisheries are peaceful and quiet
3. Our fisheries are well maintained

You also felt that our members and bailiffs were generally friendly and helpful and our waters were not overcrowded.

We asked what you would like for our fisheries

Unsurprisingly the most responses we had were about stock and of these there were two main themes

1. More fish in the Rother - This comes up regularly not only in this survey but at our AGM and through various communications from our membership. Stocking in the river is unfortunately not only down to us. We have to have approval from the EA and they have said that when the environmental conditions in the river are right they would consider supporting the introduction of more fish.

Over the last three years some significant amounts of money have been spent on environmental projects on the Rother however these need time to take effect but the early signs are encouraging. We will continue to make requests to the EA and are also investigating further measures to improve the conditions in the river.

2. Introduction of a greater variety of fish to some of our venues and in particular stocking perch into Hurston, The Granary and Stamps & Cart. We know that there are perch in Hurston and Stamps & Cart; not a massive head of fish but certainly some good sized perch have been caught on both venues as well as smaller examples. We are investigating the possibility of putting some perch in the Granary but this is subject to agreement with the EA and landowner and being able to source some suitable fish.

Other things that you have asked for that we have done or are working on at the moment;

Better access to Coates - You will see from page 1 that we have at least been able to offer an alternative parking solution to allow access to the fishery when the ground is wet.

Better access to Stopham - We have ongoing discussions with the land agent to see whether this can be achieved.

Improvements to the path to Stamps & Cart - We have formulated a plan that will be put into action this year, we are limited with what we can do here as it has to be agreed with the farmer, but hopefully the measures that we have agreed will keep the path in a more usable condition.

Bird and Bat boxes - We have installed a number of bird and bat boxes at Hurston Lane.

Regular water reports from all venues - To a certain extent this is down to you, our members, filling in the Log Books that are situated at our venues. If there is information in these books then we will endeavour to summarise it and publish it on the website.

Join the Club

If you have not joined yet, you can do so by sending your form, pictures and remittance to the Membership Secretary whose address appears on the form. Or drop in to Arun Angling at Angmering, SAS in Chichester, Prime Angling in Worthing or Tropikoi in Bognor and they will be happy to complete your membership there and then.

Final Word - Protect Our Fisheries

Can we ask that all members keep a look out for potential poachers or anyone that is behaving suspiciously. If you have your suspicions there are notices up at each site with a police phone number to ring. It is also worth noting the number plate of any vehicle not displaying a club parking permit and please remember to display your own parking permit!