

The Sussex Angler



Spring 2016

Issue 12

News

Articles

Information

The Petworth & Bognor Angling Club Magazine

www.sussexangling.co.uk

Welcome to The Sussex Angler

A mild winter so far, it's December as I write with Christmas round the corner and doubtless by the time you receive our popular Sussex Angler nature will have balanced things up. But with global warming constantly getting our attention who knows what lies in the future let's hope we have more than a few years ahead to enjoy our fishing. Although it's been forecast by the Environment Agency that salt water in the Arun will prevail as far up as Pulborough within the next fifty years, but we've heard these warnings before, the truth is: no-one really knows.

Once again the Sussex Angler contains some interesting features and news about the club all of which I hope you enjoy reading. We would really like to hear of any stories or anything of interest that you think we would all like to read. I don't know of any angler who hasn't got a tale or two to tell, so share them with us for all to enjoy.

As a club we continue our efforts to provide good value for your hard earned money, money unfortunately is always a topic that lies at the bottom of most things, and I'm afraid we are no different. We balance our books carefully to cover not only our overheads but unforeseen costs such as KHV and recently the need to fence the far end at Hurston due to horses nearby finding their way into our fishery where it's our responsibility to keep them out. I want to say a

few words about Hurston which most of you know we own. This popular three pond complex has always been a high maintenance venue and over the years the trees and surrounding shrubs have reduced the amount of light and air to such a degree that it has been necessary to take some fairly drastic action. It has been identified that these conditions were contributing to the heavy weed growth particularly in the middle pond. Acting on good sound advice we have undertaken work that included tree removal and coppicing that we hope will address most of the problems. Needless to say it will still be necessary to continue the maintenance at Hurston otherwise we will be back to square one in a few years time. Yes! I'm afraid this work costs money, but money well spent, including the cost to pump oxygen into the water during the summer months, this investment will continue to make Hurston one of our top waters, as I hope you will find out when you fish there.

We have made a few changes in the way we run our fisheries, our bailiffs know more than anyone about the venues so it's only sensible to utilise that knowledge when making management decisions rather than rely on having one person responsible for all our venues. Many decisions are taken following what you our members tell us you are actually catching, good or bad this feedback from the catch books is really important.



The hard work undertaken by those who turn out for work parties is really appreciated and we need more of you please, this plea will be repeated so again I ask all of you to try to do your bit and not just rely on the few. Without volunteers we will have little option than to employ and pay for professionals all of which would have a dramatic impact on our fee's.

I wish we had a few more youngsters joining the club, it's becoming an annual event that we hold a fishing "taster day" whereby families with young children bring them along to Cart pond where they get good tuition and catch lots of fish.



Our coach Richard Burbidge with some juniors

This is popular and a lot of fun, sadly the question we get asked is do we have these events throughout the year? If so, they would be happy to leave the children with us, in other words are we a fishing play group? and no we are not, the sad thing is one lad turned to me and said "this beats a computer screen every day". We have to face the fact that angling is



having to compete with so many other pastimes and interests and as an ageing population we cannot avoid this reality.

Well at least the fishing is keeping our members happy, the rivers continue to amaze me especially the Rother, who could imagine this fairly narrow winding river holding such large barbel and pike both species being now caught throughout it's length, likewise the Arun holds probably a wider variety of fish and it's good to see more roach and bream coming from our Watersfield stretch. If you prefer still waters then again they are fishing well and some perch have been added to The Granary which now remains open throughout the year.

Enjoy your fishing with us, if you do please spread the word and as always remember to respect the fish, your fellow anglers, the countryside but most of all have fun and catch plenty of fish.

Good fishing.



Roger Poole - Chairman

Fishery Improvements

Hurston Lane

It has taken us a bit of time as we had some setbacks in particular with our attempts to get electricity on to the Hurston site. What we had been led to believe would be reasonably simple and inexpensive turned out to be very complicated and prohibitively expensive. However via a different route we now have full aeration equipment available at Storrington with an added bonus that if needed we can use this at our other waters.



Aerator in action



'New member'

We introduced two 'new members' to Hurston Lane - our mannequins who will hopefully help in deterring cormorants from the water. During the winter months when the water is not as popular we know that we get visited by cormorants, but hopefully a visual presence will help deter them. We are also looking at stringing the entire tench pond for the winter months as we know that this is rarely fished. Stringing the water will stop cormorants landing on it. We have re-fenced behind the Match Pond to prevent horse intrusions

We have also carried out a massive removal of trees and shrubs from around Hurston. A lot of this we have managed ourselves but we had to call in experts to remove the bigger trees. It is also possible that we will need another visit from the tree cutters which will require the temporary closure of the water. Keep an eye on the website for any updates .



Looking up the tench pond following our major tree cutting



The Fisheries Team

Other Waters

Although Hurston Lane is an obvious priority, as we own the water, there has been plenty going on at our other venues as well.

The Granary

There have been two big pieces of work at The Granary. A rebuild of the bridge on the path down to the water. This has been built using railway sleepers, which are very substantial - it took four men to move each sleeper. So hopefully the new bridge will be good for quite a few years to come. Whilst we had one team working on the bridge, we had another team creating a new swim at the head of the pond together with trimming up the existing swims. We were also aware of the imbalance of stock at The Granary which was highlighted in the Questionnaire that went out at this time last year. As a result of your



The new bridge



One of our new perch

comments, some discussions with fishery experts and following some negotiation with the riparian owner, we took the decision to introduce some perch to The Granary, we have introduced a mix of age classes with fish from the last three years. The biggest fish are currently around 8 inches long and our supplier feels that given the conditions at The Granary these fish should be weighing in at around the pound mark this summer. At this size they should start to thin out the over population of rudd at The Granary and also provide some good sport.

Coultershaw

We were very pleased that the estate listened to our pleas and refurbished the car park and entrance. Five new swims have been added to this stretch of water. We continue to battle with Himalayan balsam and last years campaign appeared to be successful but no doubt we will have the same task again this year.

Shopham / Coates

We have planted quite a number of willow whips in this area over the last couple of years and at last it seems that we have got some well established and flourishing and we are planting more this spring. These will go towards providing much needed tree cover on this stretch of the Rother. Tree cover is important as it helps encourage insect life that provides a natural food source for our fish. It can also help in creating slightly cooler areas of water which can encourage fish to spawn. There is further extensive tree planting in the pipeline in association with ARRT and the Woodland Trust.



Fishery Improvements

Stemps and Cart

Nelson has continued with his platform building, however some people still do not seem satisfied with what we are providing and are determined to modify the platforms. If you are so intent on doing this then let us know what you want and we will see if it is possible. Otherwise please do not alter the structures that have been built.

Chichester Canal

Although not directly due to us, we have been lobbying the canal trust and the EA for more stock in the water. In November last year approximately 3000 tench and skimmers were introduced to the canal by the EA. We know that we have lost a lot of the bigger fish from the water over recent years and hope that this stock introduction will grow on to provide a more varied and interesting fishing venue.

Fittleworth

We have a new tenant farmer at Fittleworth and we have managed to negotiate fishing later into the evening particularly during the winter months. However we must be strict with ourselves and stick to these times

All the work that is done on our waters does not magically happen and as well as the work parties listed below our bailiff and fishery management group will often be found doing small and not so small jobs around our waters. Whether you are a match angler, a specimen hunter or just a pleasure angler we are sure that you will have benefitted from the work that is done to maintain our waters, and we would like to think that you would be prepared to put just a little bit back. If you could just turn out for one of our

scheduled work parties then we would be able to achieve so much more which is ultimately for the good of all our anglers.

Our work parties are concentrated efforts to get particular jobs done on our waters and this is when we need maximum help. We can find jobs for everyone to suit their ability and the amount of physical work they can do. A work party is also a great way to find out more about our waters as you will normally find those with the greatest interest in the water present and there are always a few minutes during which you can pick their brains with regard to the best way to

fish a venue. Listed on the next page are the scheduled work parties that we intend to hold in the coming year. We have been very bullish and put more in this year and hope that you will at least make the effort to turn out at least once.



There's normally time for a chat after a work party



The Fisheries Team

Work Party Dates for 2016

Sundays	Where	Wednesdays	Where
3 rd April	Hurston	16 th March	Hurston
10 th April	The Granary	30 th March	Hurston
17 th April	Hurston	13 th April	Hurston
24 th April	Coultershaw	27 th April	Hurston
15 th May	Hurston	3 rd August	Hurston
12 th June	Stemps & Cart	17 th August	Hurston
4 th September	The Granary	31 st August	Hurston
		14 th September	Hurston
		28 th September	Hurston

Sunday work parties start at 08.30 and run to around midday - we normally try to provide a sausage sandwich or similar.

Weekday work parties start at 17.30 and normally run to 21.00.

If you have any general questions or queries with regard to our work parties please do not hesitate to contact; Mick Greenway on **07932 694876**, Steve Simmonds on **07794 699539** or by e-mailing fisheryofficer@sussexangling.co.uk

If you require information about a specific work party, please contact the bailiff for the particular water who will be able to give you more details. Bailiff details are on the water pages in the 2016 Handbook. We have occasional extra work parties, so please keep an eye on the website and look out for notices in the local tackle shops.

Finally a really important part of our Fishery Management scheme is our bailiff team. We have some bailiffs that look after particular waters and others that have a more roving brief and are likely to pop up at any of our waters. We would ask that you cooperate fully with them at all times.

We are always looking to strengthen our bailiff team, the more we have the better we can cover our water to make sure they are in good condition and are not being poached. If you are interested in becoming a bailiff, please contact Mick Greenway on

07932 694876 or fisheryofficer@sussexangling.co.uk for more information.



Life Membership

At our AGM in November 2013 we were asked to consider whether the club could offer a Life Membership.

We are pleased to announce that the club are now able to offer a Life Membership programme.

Unfortunately for tax reasons we need to limit the number of Life Memberships to 20 per year and these will be offered on a strictly first come first serve basis.

The cost of a Life Membership has been set at **£1470** for this season and this will be reviewed alongside all other membership categories for next season.

Applications for Life Membership may be made on your standard membership form **but must be made directly to the Membership Secretary.** This can be done either by post to

Membership Secretary
The Old Blacksmiths Yard
Water Lane
Angmering
West Sussex
BN16 4EP

or by taking your form to the **Arun Angling shop in Angmering.**

Unfortunately we will not be able to offer our normal instant membership service if you apply directly at Arun Angling so please allow 5 working days for us to process your application.

As a Member what's in it for me?

Life Membership would not give any extra rights nor any extra entitlements apart from the member not having to pay for membership again for as long as the member shall live and the club exists.

Life Memberships are not transferable

If you require further information you can e-mail the Membership Secretary with your questions at membership@sussexangling.co.uk Or telephone the Secretary on **01243 583179**



Keep in touch

Our website is well established and considered to be one of the best Angling Club websites in the country and our facebook page is beginning to take off.

In these days of multiple means of communication we are trying to keep pace with the way that you would like us to keep you up to date with what is happening in the club. It would also be great if you could keep us up to date with what you are doing, where you are fishing, what you are catching, what you are seeing etc.

If you are at a venue and see things that are seriously wrong then your first port of call should be the water bailiff or if you cannot get hold of the bailiff one of the club officers, they can then decide how the incident should be escalated. Hopefully this will be the exception rather than the rule

For a session that is more normal, at most of our venues we have our Log Books and it is really useful to us if you fill these in, let us know what you have caught (or not), what you might have seen be it canoeists or cormorants or even a rare bird species. All this data is useful for the ongoing management of our fisheries.

Once you get home if you have further comments or would like to share some pictures with us then you can contact via the website or via the facebook page. The teams that run these are both keen for new pictures and stories to increase interest in their respective sites and ultimately to increase interest in and hopefully membership of the club.



Our website can be found at
www.sussexangling.co.uk



Our facebook page can be found at
<https://www.facebook.com/petworthandbognor?fref=nf>

You can e-mail us directly via the website, just follow **CONTACT US** from the left hand side bar and click on who you would like to e-mail. We normally respond back to you within 48 hours.

You can submit posts to our facebook page - these will be moderated and if accepted will normally be uploaded within 48 hours.



The Pellet Cone

I discovered this method about a year ago and have had quite a bit of success with it during the winter months

I am not a carp angler and I don't think this method is ever going to produce record breaking carp but during the winter months when all else fails this seems to work quite well. I have also used it during the summer but I feel that for catching big numbers of carp the method is probably better.



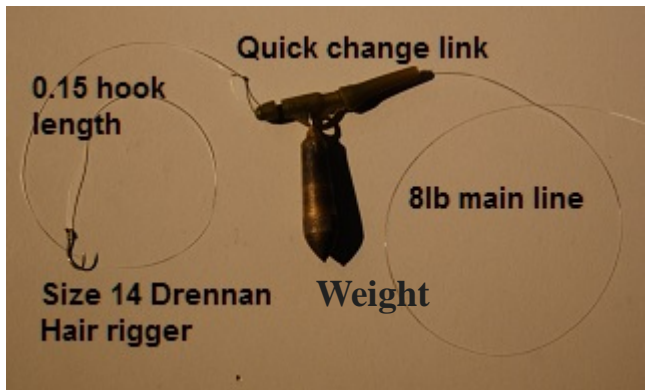
Guru Cone Kit

I started out by buying the Guru Pellet Cone kit which consists of three different size cones and a pellet cone needle. There are other kits available from the likes of Preston and Garbolino, but I found this the simplest and easiest to use. I have since supplemented the three original cones with some homemade ones in slightly larger sizes than the Guru cones. The rig I use is pictured below. I tend to use the Drennan hair rigger hooks

whether I am hair rigging or not. I would normally set up two identical hook lengths so that I can load one while fishing the other. This reduces the time out of the water, but be careful as you inevitably get a bite just as you are threading the cone onto the hook length.

I use 2mm pellets for the cones and soaking is quite a

critical process to get them to stick together to the right degree. I just cover the pellets with water, leave for one minute and then pour off the excess water. I leave these for 30mins while I am tackling up, once the pellets have stood, I check them for bind, if they seem a little damp I sieve a small amount of Ovaltine over them and mix gently, if they seem a bit dry then I will spray a small amount of water on them whilst gently mixing and leave for 5mins.

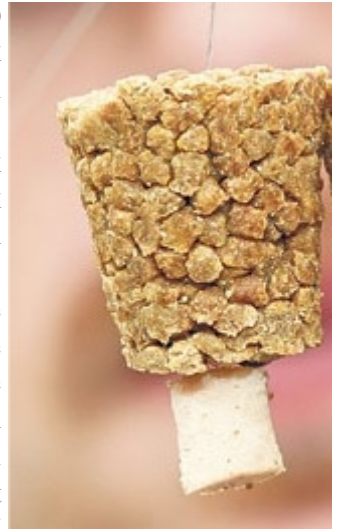


My pellet cone rig



By Steve Simmonds

Once the pellets are correctly wetted its time to set up the first cast. Release the hook length from the quick change link, load the cone with pellets and press in firmly, push the pellet needle through from the wide end, pick up the loop on the hook length and pull back through the cone, reattach the hook length to the quick change link and snap home. Remove the cone mould from the pellets and attach your preferred hook bait, carefully slide the cone of pellets down to sit on the hook bait and you are ready to cast. Hook bait can be anything from corn through pellet to worm and can be either directly hooked or hair rigged. The weight used should always be heavier than the cone of pellets as you want to be casting the weight rather than the pellets. Cast to you chosen area and sit back and wait for a bite. I have found that the bites are normally very positive, similar to those you get when fishing the method. As with the method don't expect to catch only carp, I have caught roach, bream and tench as well as carp using this technique.



Loaded cone rig ready to cast, here I'm using punched meat as the bait on a hair rig.

I have tried a number of variations with varying degrees of success. I have made a stiff method mix and used this instead of pellets and I have combined a method mix and pellets. Both of these have proved successful. During the Autumn I fished a couple of experimental sessions on the Arun with a slight variation of the method. This involved using a slightly larger cone and binding the pellets quite hard using a combination of Sticki pellet and Sensas PV1. I tested how well the mix was holding on the line by lowering into the margin and leaving for a minute, if the mix was still on the line it was good to go. I have fished this with a variety of baits and have had some interesting responses although only one real wrap round bite and I missed that so no fish to date. My experiments were somewhat curtailed by a broken rib but I hope to pick them up again soon and I'm sure that I can catch fish using this method on the river it will be interesting to see what I do get exactly.



Drop shooting

This method has recently taken off, particularly for perch fishing so I thought I would give you the lowdown on what you need and how to do it

Introduction

Drop shot fishing or drop shooting, originated in Japan as a method of fishing for lake bass on extremely pressurised waters. The method was picked up by the Americans who coined the term 'finesse fishing' in both Japan and the US the technique is most often employed from a boat.

In the UK a very similar technique is used by sea boat anglers where a weight is fixed to the end of the line and a baited hook tied further up the line. The idea behind the method is for the angler to lower the weight to the sea bed and then by raising and lowering the rod tip the rig is moved in the water to attract fish and tempt them to take the bait.

The technique has been picked up by coarse anglers over the last few years as a method for catching perch and other predators such as pike and zander. It is best employed on still or slow flowing water and can be fished from the bank. It is claimed that a drop shot rig will often produce bites from predators when other baits and methods are unproductive.

Tackle

For coarse fishing the ideal set up is a small light very flexible rod of 6 - 7 ft with a short handle suitable rods are available from a variety of manufacturers. and cost from £30 upward. This should be combined with a small fixed spool reel and there are many around that fit the bill.



A Fox Warrior drop shot rod

With regard to line some anglers use pre-stretched High Tech monofilament as their reel line and tie their rigs direct to this, some say the best line to use is braid while others say fluorocarbon. Then there are those that prefer braid with fluorocarbon for the rig. Fluorocarbon and braid are both good lines for drop shot fishing because they have less or no give and therefore indicate bites better than monofilament lines.

There are braided lines specifically designed for drop shooting look out for lines such as Korum Drop Shot and Jig Braid, this is very different from conventional braided line. Strength of line is another debate and will depend on the size of fish you will be targeting but as a starter I would suggest 6 - 8lb.



By Richard Burbidge

The rig itself is very simple with only three components making up the rig. The weight, the hook and the lure or bait.

The Hook

Ordinary hooks can be used effectively for drop shotting but there are special drop shot hooks for sale made specifically for fishing this method. Some of these have a swivel through the eye, the thinking with these is that when the rig is cast and retrieved this will help to avoid line twist.

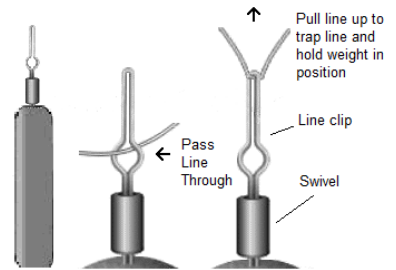
The size of hook to use will depend on the fish you are targeting and lure or bait you will be using.

The Weight.

Any weight can be used for drop shotting but there is a special weight, which is usually long and cylindrical with a swivel and a line clip built in to the end. This makes altering the depth you are fishing a lot easier than tying the line direct to the weight.

The weight of the weight will depend on the depth of the water you are fishing, how far you will be casting and the breaking strain of the fishing line you are using.

Drop Shot Weight



Lures and Bait

Favoured lures for drop shotting for perch seem to be the floppy rubber imitation fish that average in size from 1 inch to 3½ inches. Lures are a personal choice - some anglers prefer dark or dull coloured lures while others prefer brightly coloured ones. It is best to carry a few of each and if one doesn't work you can try the other. To attach a lure, lightly hook it through the head end.

In theory lures are the popular choice for the hook but any bait can be used. One great bait, especially attractive to perch, is the humble worm. In my opinion the worm is not only attractive to perch by sight but also entices fish with its smell. This can be the difference between catching and blanking especially in the winter.

The worm can be threaded onto the hook or hooked through the centre but a good tip, especially for winter fishing when bites are hard to come by is to hook the worm through the head and nip off the tail. This gets the worm wriggling more and as well as a good visual attractor it adds more smell to the swim.

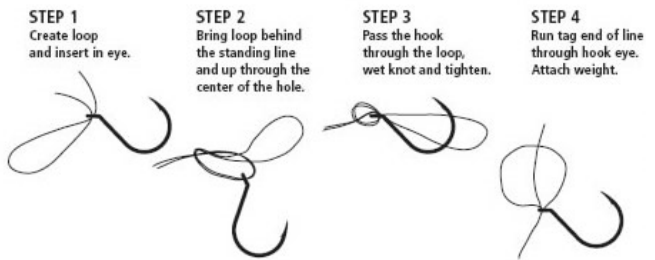


Drop shotting

The Rig

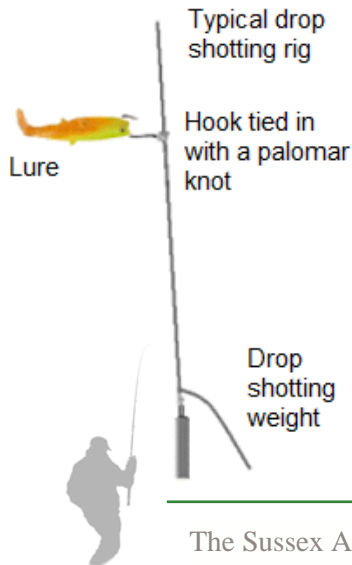
After you have set up the rod and reel, pull either pull about 4 to 5 foot of main line through the rod for the rig or attach a trace of your preferred hook length material again about 4 to 5 feet. The hook now needs to be tied, preferably at a right angle to the line and pointing upwards. If you have a knot you prefer to use that's fine. A lot of anglers like to use the easy to tie Palomar knot as it helps ensure the hook will point upwards and at an angle. Taking the main line double it over. Push the doubled over end through the eye of your chosen hook. Tie a loose overhand knot using this line and pass the end through the loop this makes and slide the loop up above the eye of the hook. Moisten the line to lessen the friction and pull on both lengths of the line to tighten the knot. When tightened, pass the tag end line back through the eye of the hook from the top to keep it all in line.

Tying a Palomar knot for drop shotting



Next we attach the weight. As I have said, any fishing weight can be used but for drop shotting for perch and other fish the special drop shot weight with the built in swivel and line clip is the perfect choice and makes altering the depth you want to fish hassle free and a lot easier.

The actual weight of the weight will depend on the depth of the water you are fishing, how far you will be casting and the breaking strain of the line you are using. The tackle used in drop shot fishing is light and therefore try to use the lightest weight you can get away with. Weights vary in size from mere grams to an ounce. A good starting point is a half ounce.



To attach the weight pass the tag line through the line clip at the end of the weight, Move the weight up the line to the depth you will be fishing. (2 or 3 feet below the hook is a good starting point), double the line back on itself and taking hold of both parts pull tightly into the end of the clip to trap it. see diagram pg 11. No need to trim off the excess line as this may be needed to alter the depth at a later stage.

By Richard Burbidge

The Method

Cast your rig to a likely fish holding spot - this could be under an overhanging tree, next to reeds, along the side of a boat or the walls near canal lock gates. Let the weight fall through the water so that it comes to rest on the bottom. Now slowly reel in while lifting or jiggling the tip of the rod up and down approximately 6 inches. Keep doing this, while trying to keep the weight on the lake or river bed. When you have completely reeled in your rig, if you had no takes, try again, this time varying the speed of the rod jiggling and turning of the reel. Try reeling in your rig dragging the weight across the bottom without the jiggling. What you are trying to do is make the bait dance off the bottom enticingly while the weight stays on the bottom.

Keep casting to different areas and covering all the water while trying different lures or baits should hopefully result in catching fish.



Carry a selection of different sizes and colours of lures with you when drop shotting

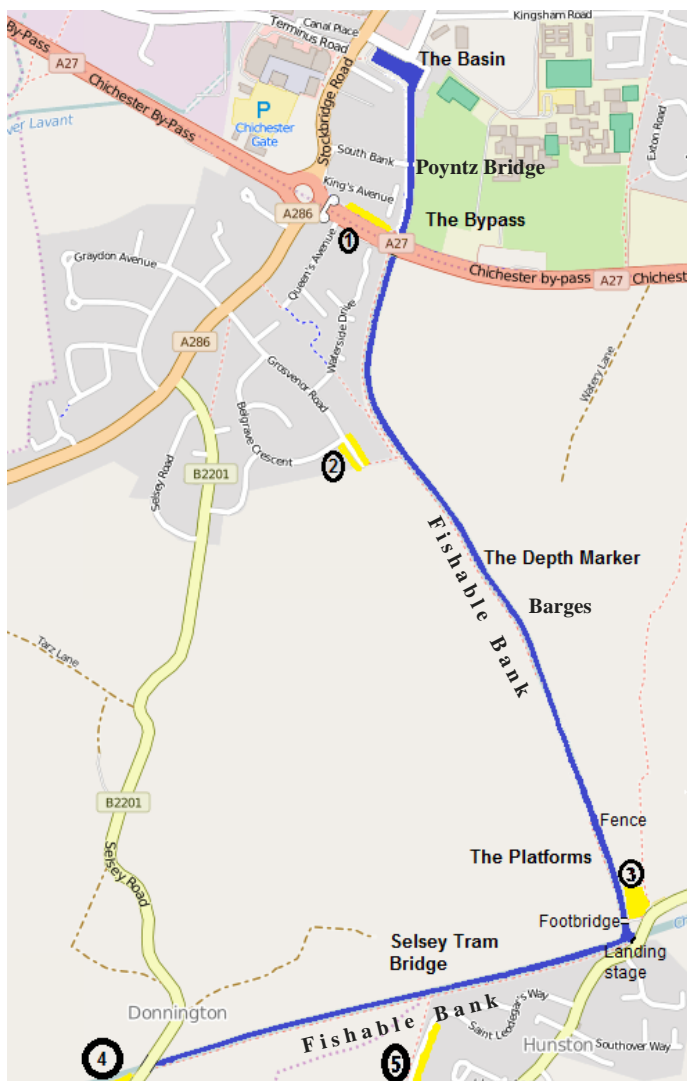


Hopefully you will end up with one like this beauty - if you do don't forget to send us some pictures



The Chichester Canal

The Chichester Canal is perhaps overlooked as a fishery as it does not have the head of big fish that we have in other waters, however it can still provide a rewarding days fishing if you approach it the right way



In this first article we will look at parking and access to the various sections of the canal and some of the landmarks. We will also consider tackle and bait requirements.

Parking and Access

The five main parking areas for the canal are marked on the map in yellow. There is some limited parking in the area of the basin but this is time restricted and probably does not allow enough time for a proper session. The basin area can be conveniently reached from the parking area 1 on the bypass. Parking area 2 is at the end of Grosvenor Road, this is a residential area so much sure you don't block any residents access if you park here. Area 3 is the Hunston car park and from here you can either cross the footbridge to get to the platforms or a short walk along the road south will take you to the landing stage and the lower section.

There are two other places to access the lower section. There is some parking on the verge on the opposite side of the road from the fishable section of the canal at point 4. Finally you can park in Orchardside at point 5, again this is residential so ensure you do not block access.



By 'In Depth'

Landmarks & Overview

Starting at the basin in the north, this is the deepest part of the canal complex and fish tend to congregate here in the winter. The stretch between the basin and bypass has



Poyntz Bridge

steep banks and it is quite difficult to get down close to the water to fish from a box or chair, however from Poyntz bridge to the bypass it is possible to sit in the water as it is shallow. This stretch from the bypass up to the basin may only be fished during the winter months from October through to March. After you pass under the bypass bridge you start coming into a long left handed bend. Along this stretch there is a far amount of far bank cover but the water there is very shallow, however I have seen carp moving in this area, even within the last year. The next point of note are the Grosvenor Road steps, coming down from parking area **2** and then slightly further down there is an area with a lot of overhead tree cover which makes fishing anything but a pole quite difficult. After the trees we come to the depth marker and shortly after that the barges. From the barges there is a straight

stretch from the bypass up to the basin may only be fished during the winter months from October through to March. After you pass under the bypass bridge you start coming into a long left handed bend. Along this stretch there is a far amount of far bank cover but the water there is very shallow,

however I



The Depth Marker



The Barges

with reeds on the far bank and then you pass under power lines to a small stretch with far bank trees on the water for about a third of the canal,

the first of a series of

four platforms is here and the swim known as 'The Fence', there are three more platforms and you pass under another set of power cables just before the foot bridge over the canal.



The Fence



The Chichester Canal

The next section of the canal starts at the Hunston landing stage - please note that there is no fishing from the actual landing stage. The first part of the length has a substantial weed bed on the inside and it is quite difficult to get to the water although it is possible to cut a swim through the reeds. Further down there are quite a few posts in the water, that again makes areas quite difficult to fish.



The straight after the landing stage, note this picture was taken in the winter so the reeds have died back.



The lone platform with the remains of the Selsey Tramway bridge in the background

Towards the end of the stretch is a lone platform just before the remains of the Selsey Tramway bridge. The other side of the Tramway bridge is much easier to fish although there are some reed beds on the inside. There are significantly fewer walkers and cyclists and the towpath is a bit wider so it is easier to keep out of their way. Towards the end of this stretch is

the turning bay where the trip boats turn round, this is characterised by generally deeper water right across the canal. There are a few fishable areas beyond this and the very end just before Donnington Road is very weedy and quite shallow.



The Turning Bay above and to the left just about the last fishable area before Donnington Road



By 'In Depth'

Tackle and Bait

Because there is a fairly high volume of walkers and cyclists along the canal together with high hedges it is quite difficult to comfortably fish a pole. If I am using a pole I try to set up to ship sideways parallel with the water and normally ship in two lengths of 3 - 4 sections. You only really need to use a pole if you are looking to fish the far shelf / bank areas, for fishing down the middle a 5 metre whip is fine and a shorter set up for fishing an inside line. I normally take two whips with me and fish one at 5 metres and set the other at 3.5 metres for the inside. If the conditions are right then you can also fish the far shelf quite successfully with a waggler on a running line, with adjustments this can also be fished down the middle or even on the inside.

Most of the time the fish you catch are not going to be that big so I find that a mainline on my whip and pole rigs of 0.11 is perfectly adequate with hook lengths of between 0.08 and 0.10. I tend to use an antenna waggler (see right) that carries about 6 x no.8 on my whip rigs and a slim body down float (see left) with a 1.5mm tip and carbon stem for my pole rigs, this float takes about 0.3g. If I am fishing a waggler on a running line I will use a slightly larger version of the float that I use on the whip and normally 3lb main line, with hooks tied to 0.11 or 0.10. Hooks are obviously dependent upon the size of bait, I would normally have a selection from size 16 to 22.

As far as bait is concerned my staples are

½pt Fluoro pinkies

½pt Red maggot

4 slices of bread, rolled for punching

1pt Hemp

Some Tares

½kilo Red Lake groundbait

½loaf Liquidised bread

On top of these I might take a bit of corn and a few worms and I know that some have had success on the bream using 4 or 6mm pellet over micros.

I'm out to catch silver fish on the canal, and hopefully build a decent net of fish through getting the feed and tactics right.



Pole / whip floats

I'm not going carp fishing and I expect those that target the carp have a totally different tackle set up and bait menu

In my next article we will look at a typical session and some of the areas in greater detail.



Diary entries from 1968

Sunday 28th July 1968 - River Arun Pulborough

Bill suggested we try the old river at Parham, so we did and I was agreeably surprised to find the rushes beginning to grow again here and there and some bank side plants. We started opposite the copse (or where it used to be), Bill by the ditch, and I above. Third cast I had a small bream ½lb on bread flake, I then had a long blank period before a few dace came. I then went upstream and found a patch of weed and fishing over that in 2 feet of water had some more small dace and roach and a couple of gudgeon. Moving up to nearer the next bend, I found a deeper spot and the fish began rising to chrysalis. I then got a ½lb perch and a 7½in rudd, some more dace and one or two roach. The tide started to rise, but they kept feeding spasmodically, mostly dace, until it was nearly high. After the turn, about 5.30 it went rather quiet, but changing to maggot I got a few more small dace and the occasional roach. Then last cast at 7.30, with a single maggot on a 16 hook, I had a bite closer in to the bank and was into a good fish, which I landed and turned out to be a nice chub 2½ - 3lb. With an eel earlier that made 8 different species of fish totalling 30. Bill had 22 roach, dace a perch and a gudgeon so we had a fair day. It was quite warm and sunny, but a northeast wind turned cool in the evening. Tried wheat all day without a touch. The weed is beginning to appear again, so perhaps it will recover in time from the dredging, which now seemed finished this end although they are still destroying the river upstream of Pulborough, Clements bridge is gone and the shallows and withy bed will follow.



Clements bridge Pulborough



Reginald Addison

Saturday 24th August 1968 Fittleworth with Ted and Geoffrey

We did not begin fishing until 1 o'clock on a warm sunny day with the river very clear. We went downstream on the left hand bank to the end of the first field and I fished where I used to get some nice dace. They were not feeding and I only got a few dace and gudgeon until about 5, when I moved to the deep corner and got a chub about 1¼lb. Fish were rising lower down to chrysalis in the evening, but there were anglers on the opposite bank and I saw them take a few before we packed up. Geoffrey got a flounder, but Ted had nothing, though getting some bites on cheese paste.

Sunday 22nd September 1968

Heavy rain last weekend brought widespread flooding and Godalming has been under water. Fred thought it would be a waste of time fishing.

Saturday 28th September 1968 Petworth

An afternoon with Ted and Geoffrey, who got tickets at The Racehorse, whose proprietor told us they had 4 feet of water in the bar during the flood. We found the river still very high and coloured and in spite of finding several fairly quiet eddies, could find few fish. I got a gudgeon, Ted a 6" perch and Geoffrey a small eel. I had several other bites probably from gudgeon, but they were very shy. It was a sunny day and very pleasant along this piece of the river which I had not fished for several years.

Saturday 26th October 1968 Petworth with Ted and Geoffrey

The river is still rather coloured and fast, but down to normal level. We went down to the junction of the cut and the old river. I fished the cut about 100yds from the bridge and got a few dace on chrysalis, but Geoffrey below me did not get any and when Ted lost a good fish from old river on cheese paste we moved there.. I made my way up to a deep area where I got a bite or two, then an 11½" trout followed by a few more dace and a couple of gudgeon finishing with 8 dace, 2 gudgeon and 1 trout. Geoffrey hooked a couple of good fish, but was not sure if they were trout or chub. Mine were all on chrysalis. It came over very dark and we had a short shower about 4 and towards dusk a thick mist rose.



Notes on Diary Entries from 1968

These diary entries raised some interesting points that were worth researching

Clements Bridge

This was built in the 1790's allegedly as a stock bridge to take cattle and sheep onto the water meadows, however it was also thought to have served another purpose which was to discourage freight barges from using the main river - the arches of the bridge were so low that fully laden barges were unable to pass under it. Barges were thus encouraged to use the Coldwaltham cut, a canalised section that was subject to a toll. However enterprising barge owners adjusted their loads in order to continue to use the free river passage. Reginald mentions that the bridge had gone in July 1968, although records indicate that the bridge was finally destroyed in the September 1968 floods, it is possible that it had been partially dismantled and the elements finished the job.

Dredging the Arun

The extensive dredging of the Arun was carried out to alleviate regular flooding and the levees that are still present can be seen at Watersfield are a result of this dredging. Anglers who fished these areas of the Arun prior to the dredging describe it as having more the look of the Rother with extensive bank side rushes, lily beds and much shallower margins.

Racehorse (or 'Race Horse') pub

This was originally known as the Railway Inn and served the old Petworth railway station, It was renamed The Race Horse and was a stopping off point for charabancs on their way to Goodwood races. It is now known as Badgers and offers a wide range of beers and wines together with a menu heavily reliant on local produce



The Badgers Pub

Petworth Station

Petworth station itself closed to passengers in 1955 and to freight in 1966. It is now a very highly regarded bed and breakfast with old Pullman coaches converted into accommodation.



Old Petworth Station B&B - Note the Pullman carriages on the left





Looking downstream from Station Road Bridge

Rother at Petworth

This is obviously the Coultershaw stretch of the river. I assume that the bit referred to as the cut is what we refer to now as the side stream and the bridge is in fact the double bridge where the main road and the road to the old station cross the river. They then presumably moved down into the main river rather than the section from the weir pool.

Flounders in the Rother

Reginald mentioned that Geoffrey caught a flounder at Fittleworth and we had one recorded this year as well. Flounders were fairly regularly caught on this section of the Rother during the 1960's and 70's but the one caught this year is the first that we have heard about for a long time. Flounders are known to travel long distances up rivers and I wonder whether the new fish pass at Hardham has encouraged them to enter the Rother once again. It will be interesting to see whether we get further reports of flounders being caught on the Rother in years to come.



Eric Whissom's 11oz flounder taken on a worm at Fittleworth in August 2015



Tackle News

Tim reviews what's new in the tackle and bait world

MAP have come in with a really good new roller system. Supplied with two sets of completely interchangeable legs, a short set as per the lower picture and a long set these give a much greater range of heights. The main roller carriage is divided into 4 separate sections. The central upright roller can be completely detached or moved to one of three positions so extra sections of pole can be stored safely on the roller whilst rolling the length in use. The system comes complete with a heavy duty carry bag and retails at £89.99



MAP Dual Pole Roller



Daiwa Ninja reel

The new Daiwa Ninja reels are just incredible value for money and have the features, feel and looks of a reel costing easily twice as much.

Available in 5 sizes from the Smallest NJ1500A with a line capacity of 140m of 0.20mm to the

Largest NJ4000A with a line capacity of 270m of 0.30mm

They feature

Light but extremely durable graphite bodies

The innovative air rotor system

'Twistbuster' line roller which reduces line twist and friction between the line and roller

Front drag

A spare alloy spool

All this retails at just £49.99



By Tim Nudds



Fox Impact Spod

The new Fox Impact Spod is sold under License from Spomb and boasts a number of unique features that set it apart from other bait delivery systems.

The scoop body shape allows for rapid one handed filling and also ensures a full spod every time.

The spring mechanism is protected from bait ingress which can affect operation.

Aerodynamics have been tuned for optimum casting distance and accuracy.

The unit is intrinsically buoyant so it floats in the event of a crack off

Pole Socks have been around for a few years now but some are quite cumbersome. Preston have introduced this mini version specially for smaller sections. They have also found that it works really well as a butt rest when feeder fishing so perhaps you should consider buying two!



Do you regularly fish punch bread? Do you find that it dries out on warm days and gets too wet and sticky on damp days. Then Guru have the answer with their neat new Punch Box. The unit consists a 4 stainless steel punches (6, 8, 10 and 12mm) with ejector plungers. These punches are razor sharp so will deal with hard baits as well as bread. The front section of the box is sized to hold a slice of bread and the punch in use. The sliding lid protects your bread from the elements so that it doesn't dry out in the sun or get wet in the rain. A nice piece of kit for the regular punch angler.



Match Scene

Our Match Secretary gives an update on what is happening at the matches

As at the turn of the year the club points are as per the table

Current Points Table	Mike Kitchener	Keith Hughes
Clubman (points)	155	140
Matchman (points)	1425	867
Weight (pounds)	319 - 10 - 12	186 - 0 - 0



Kitch with a good net of carp from the Match pond at Hurston

At the time of writing we are just at the start of the new year, however I think that the destination of the major club trophies is assured. Mike Kitchener has had a truly magnificent season and has pretty much swept all before him whatever the venue. The sign of a really good angler is one that can adapt to any conditions.

Stemps & Cart is probably our most reliable fishery and some excellent match weights have come from these waters this year with the stand out weight of 41 - 0 - 0 being caught by

Brian Foster in just 3½hrs in an evening last June. Hurston Match pond is not far behind and the best weight this season is 30lb so far but we have a few more matches on this water before the end of the season.

Yet again Watersfield has given us some great match fishing with plenty of silver fish being weighed in. The Rother fished quite well for our evening series of matches and again Coultershaw produced a good chub bag and plenty of silverfish as well

The best way to describe Petworth Park would be patchy with a definite lack of the bream showing in the matches. We are thinking that as an experiment we might try moving further round to the other side of the lake for at least one match next season. The Chichester Canal continues to be a very fair venue with normally only ounces separating the anglers, its a shame that a few more don't come along but we know that people become frustrated by the cyclists who do seem to think they own the towpath.



By Mick Greenway

We have found some good away venues when we want a change from club waters. Bernies lake at Ashington has given us some good days fishing, with some good weights of predominantly carp.

We have also fished Passies between Shoreham and Lancing a few times, it produces good carp weights and good silver fish weights as well, we combined these in a match right at the beginning of the year.



Unfortunately the weather conditions where the worst we have encountered for a long time and took its toll being responsible for one lost umbrella, one broken umbrella arm and a variety of lost or broken pole and rod sections. Those that did sit it out were all able to bring carp and silver fish to the scales, there were three double figure silver fish weights and two 20lb plus carp weights.

Passies match lake on a much calmer day

We are trying another new venue at the end of this season and will probably be fishing it at around the time that you get your magazine. Look out for the match result on the website to see how we got on.

If you are interested in how we get on in the matches our reports are normally on the website within a couple of weeks of the match being fished. Any club member can join in at our matches and the more regular match anglers are always happy to lend a hand or give some advice to new comers. Fishing a few matches is also a great way to get to know our waters as on any given day you will not only have your own experiences of the water but you will know how other anglers fared and the set ups and baits that they used this can often help with your next pleasure session on the water, and if that is successful that will probably help with your next match on the water and before you know it other anglers are asking you for advice.

All the matches are listed in the back of your handbook, you will also find them on the fixtures page of the website and the Club Diary box on the front page of the website.



Our Rivers

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, more recently anglers have been reporting bags of good chub from this stretch. There are also big barbel, carp and pike here.



River Arun - Stopham



This stretch of the Arun above Stopham bridge is approximately one mile long and although still tidal the conditions are quite different from Watersfield. We have had reports of excellent roach fishing with plenty of fish in the ½ to 1 lb bracket with specimens approaching 2lb, there are good numbers of bream and chub as well. There are some good sized carp with fish to certainly 15lbs and quite possibly

better, we have not heard of any barbel on this stretch but there is nothing to suggest that they are not around. Of particular interest during the winter months is the size of pike with fish approaching 20lb.

Fly Fishing is permitted on both these sections of the river.



Our Rivers

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.



River Rother - Shopham

Immediately below Coultershaw and offering similar opportunities. There are fewer barbel on this stretch but more chub and this is probably our best water for grayling. The section is on the north bank both above and below Shopham bridge..



River Rother - Coates Castle

This is our longest section of the river running for approximately 2 miles on the south bank from Shopham bridge to just above Fittleworth bridge. The variety of fish on Coates 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.. There are plenty of chub, roach and dace to be caught with pockets of good bream all the way through the section.. This stretch also produced the club record barbel in November 2014.



Fly Fishing is permitted on Shopham, Coates and Fittleworth



Our Still Waters

We have 8 individual waters on 5 venues ranging from the beautiful estate lake at Petworth Park to tranquil farm ponds at Stemps & Cart.

Hurston Lane Our Hurston Lane fishery consists of three well stocked ponds with something for everyone. This fishery is currently subject to Cefas controls please observe all notices.

Tench pond A further stocking of tench was made at the end of 2012. These added to the crucian carp rudd and perch should ensure plenty of bites most of the year.



Carp Pond This was reopened at the back end of 2011 having been extensively restocked with a fine range of carp to 20lb. There is also a good head of rudd and big perch in this pond. We may need to close the lake for a couple of days in the late spring for weed removal. Look out for notices.

Match Pond The match pond has been extensively restocked over the last three years with carp and silver fish. If all goes to plan this should become our flagship mixed fishery. Catch reports would be appreciated so we gauge how the new stock has settled in.



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. 3000 skimmers and tench were stocked into the canal at the end of 2015 to provide additional sport.



Our Still Waters

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 and skimmer bream. Both ponds provide 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 A lovely secluded lake set on farmland with a stock of mainly carp and rudd. The carp run from a few ounces to 20lb and rudd up to a pound have been caught. We have recently supplemented the stock with some perch which we hope will grow on to control the rudd and also provide more varied sport.



NOTICE OF AGM

The club will hold its Annual General Meeting
at
The White Swan, Chichester Road (A27) Arundel BN18 0AD
on
Thursday 24th November 2016
at
7.30 pm

Please submit any motions or matters for consideration in writing to The Club Secretary (address as per your handbook) by Thursday 3rd November 2016

Interested in Joining the Club

Fill out a membership form and send it with the appropriate fees and photos to;
Arun Angling, The Old Blacksmiths Yard, Water Lane Angmering BN16 4EP

Or join on the spot at the following tackle shops;

Arun Angling, Angmering	01903 770099
Prime Angling, Worthing	01903 821594
SAS Chichester	01243 531669
Tropikoi Angling, Bognor	01243 842660

Membership Fees for 2016 - 2017

Membership Type	Full Year	Half Year
Full Adult	£98	£60
Family (2 adults & 2 children)	£170	£105
Senior Citizen	£56	£35
Student	£56	£35
Registered Disabled	£56	£35
Junior (aged 13 - 17 inclusive)	£22	£11
Juvenile (aged below 13)	Free	Free
Associate (non fishing)	£2	£2
Life Membership (see page 8)	£1470	