

# *Petworth and Bognor Angling Club*

## Newsletter Issue 3

March 2008

### In This Issue

Article	Page
Anglers Evening	15 - 16
Car Parking Permits	4
Club Match Scene	2
Editorial	1
Exchange Books - Downton	5 - 7
Fishery Reports	8 - 13
Quality of our Fisheries	4
Specimen Trophy Competition	14
Trophy Winners	3
Useful Contacts	14
Work Party Dates	4

Water Reports	Page
Arun	11
Bethwins	10
Chichester Canal	11
Coultershaw	13
Fittleworth	12
Hurston Lane	8 - 9
Petworth Park	10
Shopham	12
Stemps & Cart	10

As we come to the end of our first year as a new angling club it is time to look back at some of our successes and at things that we could have done a little better.

We have taken massive strides at Storrington thanks to the efforts of many people but I would like to single out a few;

Steve Jupp our Fishery Manager together with Nelson Keet have worked on a two pronged approach to try to open up the carp lake.

Ross Denby has as evidenced on the web site removed vast quantities of weed. But there is still much more to do. Please try to attend our work parties details of which are on page 4

Our membership has stabilised at well over 450 - thank you again for joining and we hope to welcome you back next season. Your renewal forms are included with this newsletter.

We have stabilised our finances and are now in the position to go out and look for new water. We are working hard on this but finding suitable venues at the right price is proving a challenge. We hope to give you more news very soon.

We have launched our online newsletter which has proved very popular.

Last year we held our first Anglers Evening and we have another lined up for May, details are on pages 15 & 16.

*Editor*

Regular Readers might notice that two of our most popular sections are missing from this newsletter.

Tales from the Rod Room and Tim's Tackle will return!

# Club Match Scene

## WEIGHTS

NAME	lbs	ozs	dms
Steve Jeffery	217	06	00
Vince Herringshaw	149	11	00
Keith Hughes	111	00	08
Kevin Leighfield	104	10	00
Roger Wheatman	101	14	08

## CLUB POINTS

NAME	POINTS
Steve Jeffery	154
Vince Herringshaw	146
Keith Hughes	131
Rab Butler	126
Steve Simmonds	107

## MATCHMAN POINTS

NAME	POINTS
Steve Jeffery	983
Vince Herringshaw	719
Keith Hughes	520
Kevin Leighfield	451
Roger Wheatman	438

### Club matches

Steve Jeffery has again dominated the match scene but he has not quite had it all his own way. Strong performances from Vince Herringshaw and Keith Hughes have been rewarded with a few trophies. Unluckiest man over the season has probably been Rab Butler. One of the most consistent match attendees Rab can probably be best described as 'The Almost Man' as he has consistently just failed to pick up any trophies this season. If there was a points tie for a trophy, you can bet Rab was there but just missed out by a few ounces when we came to calculate the weights.

On the inter-club scene we ended up third in our Three Counties League but the aforementioned Keith Hughes was top angler in the league over the season so takes the Individual trophy for the league.

We had a couple of strong performances in the RVS and in particular had a red letter day at Stedham where it would be fair to say we caned everyone! Well done and thanks to all those that took part.

We have a small but active match group who have fished over the season and we really would like to see a few new faces. For the coming season we have an interesting and varied programme organised with a mixture of home, away and interclub matches on a variety of waters. If you want more details have a look at the match programme in the back of the new handbook and please come along. We really would like to see someone help to knock Steve Jeffery off the top!

## TROPHY WINNERS

TROPHY	NAME	POINTS	WEIGHT	VENUE
M. Sampson Cup	S. Jeffery	30		Chichester Canal
Mixed Pairs	Samantha Jones & Steve Jeffery		9 - 15 - 00	Storrington Match
Ransome Cup	Vi. Herringshaw		13 - 13 - 00	Watersfield
W. Sampson	S. Jeffery	20		Cart Pond
BBQ	S. Jeffery		13 - 09 - 00	Stemps
Parfremment Cup	K. Hughes		1 - 09 - 08	Watersfield
Milliard Cup	V. Herringshaw	19		Storrington Match
Daniels Cup	J. Williams		17 - 06 - 00	Shillinglee
Daniels Rose Bowl	S. Jeffery		14 - 00 - 00	Petworth Park
Charles Tankard	K. Hughes		14 - 00 - 00	Storrington Match
Caine Cup	S. Jeffery	18		Petworth Park
Pairs Tankard	J Williams & S Jeffery		19 - 2 - 0	Storrington Match
LEC Cup	Steve Jeffery	37	28 - 13 - 0	Chichester Canal
Jubilee Cup	K Hughes	18	12 - 9 - 0	Stemps & Cart
Ottaway Cup	V Herringshaw		13 - 6 - 0	Lakeside
Kirby Bott	K Leighfield	19		Petworth Park
Richards & Blumson	V Herringshaw	19	5 - 0 - 8	Stemps & Cart
Presidents Cup	Steve Jeffery		14 - 13 - 0	Storrington Match

## Quality of our Fisheries

It is our aim to make our fisheries as good as we possibly can. This cannot be achieved without some hard work which, in recent years, has been contributed by a small number of volunteers to whom we are most grateful.

However, we continue to have a problem in getting sufficient help at our Work Parties. We fully appreciate that many of you are very busy people, often with family commitments whilst others are getting a bit “long in the tooth” or have picked up various infirmities over the years but we will not succeed in improving our fisheries unless more help is forthcoming.

This year we have scheduled the Work Parties well in advance - details are shown below.

Date	Venue
6th April	Hurston Lane
13th April	Hurston Lane
27th April	Hurston Lane
11th May	Bethwins Farm
25th May	Stemps Wood
8th June	Coultershaw

All Work Parties start at 09.00 am and finish around 12.30 pm.

We may also arrange additional Work Parties. They will be publicised on our website and members who have indicated (on their Membership Renewal Forms) a readiness to help will be contacted by phone or e-mail.

The work involved is not always particularly heavy. For example, it could involve pruning and cutting back of branches, grass cutting or keeping a bonfire going. What we really need is more pairs of hands, particularly at Hurston Lane where we are really trying very hard to improve the fishery by a sustained programme of work and re-stocking.

Whilst we occasionally use professional resources for some specialist or heavy duty work we are reluctant to extend this approach because the costs will inevitably lead to higher membership fees which is something we really want to try to avoid.

May we ask you to set aside at least one of these mornings to help. It would be most helpful if you could indicate on your Membership Renewal if you would be willing to join one or more Work Party.

Many thanks in advance. - **Steve Jupp – Fishery Management Officer**

### CAR PARKING PERMITS

**We have decided to re-introduce car park stickers and these have to be displayed whenever you are using one of the club's car park. These should also be displayed when using the public car park at Petworth Park to avoid paying parking fees.**

# Exchange Waters

An occasional series where we look at some of the exchange waters available to club members . In this edition Alec Newton looks at the Downton waters on the Hampshire Avon.

In his 'Tales From the Rod Room' article in the last Newsletter our Chairman - Nigel mentioned some of his exploits on The Hale Syndicate . Unfortunately we can not all gain access to this sort of water but we do have the next best thing available to us in our exchange books from Downton AC. Downton have three stretches of the Hampshire Avon a water that I'm sure all of you will have heard of - renowned for the quality of its roach, chub and of course barbel fishing and stretch 3 is immediately above the Hale Syndicate. We have 4 exchange books and these allow us to fish the 3 river stretches as detailed below;

Firstly a little more about Downton, in river terms it is partway between Salisbury to the north and upstream and Fordingbridge to the south. To get there by road take the M27 just on to the A31 and then the B3079 north onto B3078 and onto B3080 into Downton.



## Stretch 1

This is a short stretch of fairly static water, that backs up behind a weir to the Moot stream. Locally it is known as 'Tannery Stretch' because it is opposite the old tannery building (now converted into "des res").



Downton Stetch 1

When the main river is in spate this slack can produce fantastic catches with roach to 3 lbs mainly during the winter and Spring.

As you drive into Downton from A3080, go over the first river bridge (currently being renewed)

immediately on your right hand side is a layby with some parking. The stretch we can fish is behind the fence adjacent to you, through the gate. The code for the lock is printed on exchange book.

## Stretch 2

This stretch comprises, a section of Moot stream below the weir, the confluence of Moot stream and the main river and a stretch of the main river below the confluence. The Moot stream is fairly small and shallow, but still produces roach, dace and chub, particularly if the main river is pushing. The confluence is known for holding pike and some big perch. The main river is fairly fast on this stretch and trotting is the preferred method. You will find good quality roach and dace with the occasional chub. The stretch runs downstream to the first gate. Turn left into Moot Lane at the top of Downton High Street, and turn right into Castle Meadow follow down to the T junction turn right and follow round to the left, car parking is on the right. The river is behind the car park down the grass bank, behind the bushes.



## Times & Tactics

As with most of the Hampshire Avon these stretches can be fairly weedy during the summer and it can be difficult to find a clear trot through, however locating the deeper holes with a static bait can prove fruitful. The waters really come into their own from late autumn when we have the first frosts and the weed starts to die back, through to the end of the season. This is when it is time to get out the trotting gear, fairly heavy (3 - 7 BB) Avon type (this is of course where the name comes from) with a good 50% of your shot at half depth and the rest spaced evenly below.

Another classic method when it is particularly cold is big bits of bread flake and feed mashed bread. This method accounts for some of the biggest roach on these waters.

### Stretch 3

This stretch is entirely main river it is quite fast flowing but there are odd deep holes with slacks. Preferred methods are trotting maggot or caster over loose fed hemp or fishing a bigger bait on either a static or rolling lead . The stretch runs from the old railway pilings upstream and then downstream to where the river forks. (The Hale Syndicate starts here). Predominant species are dace and roach, but there are chub to 5lb. This tends to be a neglected stretch you will almost definitely have it to yourself and the scenery is fantastic.

Go through Downton, over both river bridges until you reach the traffic lights, turn left towards Fordingbridge. About 1 mile down the road there is an obvious "s" bend turn left down the gravel track on this bend there are 2 tracks and either will do because they join up. Follow the track round to the right you should see some farm buildings, park next the big barn on your left hand side. You should see a sign on the side of the barn saying "Downton AA". Park close to the barn so as not to impede farm machinery. Walk back, away from the barn and you should see a metal farm gate on your right, go through the 2 gates and carry on down the footpath-over a small feeder stream, then another gate, soon the footpath turns sharp left, with a meadow in front of you. Climb over/under the barbwire fence (sometimes the farmer has the fence opened up) and walk straight across the meadow to the river. Please close all gates behind you. You can go upstream to the old railway pilings, or downstream to where the river forks.



**Downton Stretch 3**

#### Exchange Book Availability

Exchange books are available as detailed on the inside back cover of your handbook. Give these waters a go - you might just find something you like. Even better let us know how you get on!

# FISHERY REPORTS

## **Hurston Lane - All lakes open apart from during work parties**

You might have heard a little on the grapevine, but we have purposely been trying to keep it low key to allow the fish to acclimatise to their new environment. On 19th December last year as part of the ongoing improvements to this club owned fishery an increase to the stocking levels was made.

Further fish were put into both the tench and carp ponds

### Tench pond

We have stocked 105 small tench (3 - 5 inches) into the tench pond. The tench should grow and spawn over the next few years and will provide the next generation to the original stocking that took place at the time we purchased the complex in 1998. Some of the original stock came from Petworth Park when the lake was drained for munitions removal and dredging at that time and it is planned that we may be able to move some of the next generation from Hurston Lane to stock the lake in Petworth Park in the future.

### Carp Pond

125 common and mirror carp up to 3lb, have been stocked into the carp pond. It is planned that the carp will help to redress the weed problems we have experienced in that pond and not being hybrid fish as in the previous stocking should recruit successfully and supply us with fish for the future that could be moved to other Petworth and Bognor club waters.

These fish came from a DEEFRA registered fish farm in the midlands. The fish were health checked to be free from disease such as SVC and Koi Herpes Virus which could be spread to the resident stock and moved across our waters.

Fish like all species have a finite life span and if we can produce our own fish through good management practices it will save a great expense of buying future stock and also reduce the problems of disease introduction to our fisheries.





**A bucketful of tench**



**Tench going into Storrington**



**Some of the smaller carp**



**Two nice looking fish which will grow on to grace someone's net!**

# FISHERY REPORTS

## Stemps & Cart

### Cart open, Stemps closed until 16th June

We have had quite a quiet winter at Walberton this year. The last few matches fished on the complex have proved quite hard with only the occasional carp showing on Stemps and the silver fish showing only sporadically. If its any consolation back in December one of the match anglers who was sat on Peg 13 in Stemps reported thousands of fry sat under the platform. He was even able to tempt a couple with half a squatt! Don't forget that Stemps is now closed until June 16th but you can still fish Cart.

## Petworth Park

### Opens April 1st

Petworth Park produced some very good mixed bags throughout the season last year. It appears that the fish can be brought close in and caught on the waggler or pole if you prefer or further out on the feeder. This lake always fishes well during May and June and there are quite a few early season anglers who will be looking forward to the first prolonged warm spell in spring which will get the fish moving. Don't forget that you must display your club car park sticker at this venue as this is a pay and display car park for the general public.

## Bethwins

### Open

We have managed to get some slightly easier access to the ponds at Bethwins, check your handbook for details. Once the weather warms up I am told that floating bread crust sorts the better carp out although they do respond to other tactics as well. Although the fish are not specimens by any stretch of the imagination, the tench in the upper pond give a good account of themselves and are particularly handsome fish.

# FISHERY REPORTS

## **Chichester Canal**

### **Open from bypass bridge down**

This year the canal society have removed a large amount of the far bank vegetation, this has been done for the purposes of keeping the navigation open. Unfortunately it has not done winter anglers on the canal any favours as the winter fish; roach, skimmers and gudgeon all moved into the basin much earlier than we would have expected. By the middle of December even with the boat running to Hunston there were very few fish around. If you could get onto the basin which proved very popular with both club and day ticket anglers there were plenty of fish to be caught. It will be interesting to see what happens next summer as we might find that the bigger carp and tench might move around a bit more as they longer have the far bank cover to lurk under. The first of the new platforms have been put into the reeds upstream of Hunston bridge and we know that more are planned. It will be interesting to fish this section again as it was always known for producing good particularly roach, I look forward to giving it a go next season.

## **River Arun**

### **Closed until June 16th**

The Arun has been a little up and down over the last season with access problems at both Watersfield and Hardham. Hopefully these are now behind us. We are in the process of arranging a new car park at Watersfield, unfortunately it will not be sorted before the publication of the new handbook so please look out for any new signs and also keep an eye on the website or in the tackle shops for up to date information. We have recently been made aware of a clay shoot that uses the land adjacent to Hardham once a month. If you do happen to be there when they are please make yourself and location known to them.

As for the fishing - I've not heard of anything spectacular however I know that those that did go on to the Arun last season generally had a good day.

# FISHERY REPORTS

## **The Rother - closed until 16th June except Shopham for fly fishing**

I wonder what early summer will bring on the Rother next season. For the last couple of years the river has either been the colour and texture of Mushroom soup and tanking through or it has been low, clear and barely moving. Neither set of circumstances are really any good for fishing. Hopefully we might get some weather conditions that are a little kinder to the river angler next season.

### **Shopham**

We often hear phrases like 'black is the new grey' particularly when associated with the fashion world. Well they never made much sense to me. However 'Shopham is the new Coultershaw' certainly does, and why is Shopham the new Coultershaw - well more and more people are reporting significant barbel catches from the Shopham stretch of the river. Actually you only have to look at this stretch to realise it is ideal barbel territory, almost more so than Coultershaw in some ways. The other significant point which was announced at the AGM in November is that Shopham can be night fished. We do have to be a little careful and respect local residents, particularly when parking and leaving or coming back to our cars. I know a few of our particularly hardy river anglers were going to give it a go during the winter months. But I haven't caught up with them to find out how they did. I do think Autumn evening and nights could be particularly productive on this stretch and look forward to hearing how it fishes. Hopefully even a picture or two!

For those that are interested fly fishing is available on the Shopham stretch as part of your membership of the Rother. We know we have one or two members who like to 'chuck fluff'.

Just a reminder that no fish should be taken - strictly catch and return

### **Fittleworth**

Quite a few anglers have been fishing the first section of Fittleworth this winter and I have heard more stories of trout responding to coarse baits this year than ever before. Indeed the couple of occasions I got to fish it (one of which is a story for another time) I caught trout to around 1 lb. and I am fairly certain I caught the same fish at least twice on one occasion. Which only goes to show how daft supposedly noble game fish are! Anyway interspersed among these spotty aliens I did manage a few chub and a couple of decent winter nets of roach and dace with the odd gudgeon. My catches seem pretty much par for the time of year with other anglers reporting similar days. Again I am particularly looking forward to the early season on Fittleworth.

## Coultershaw

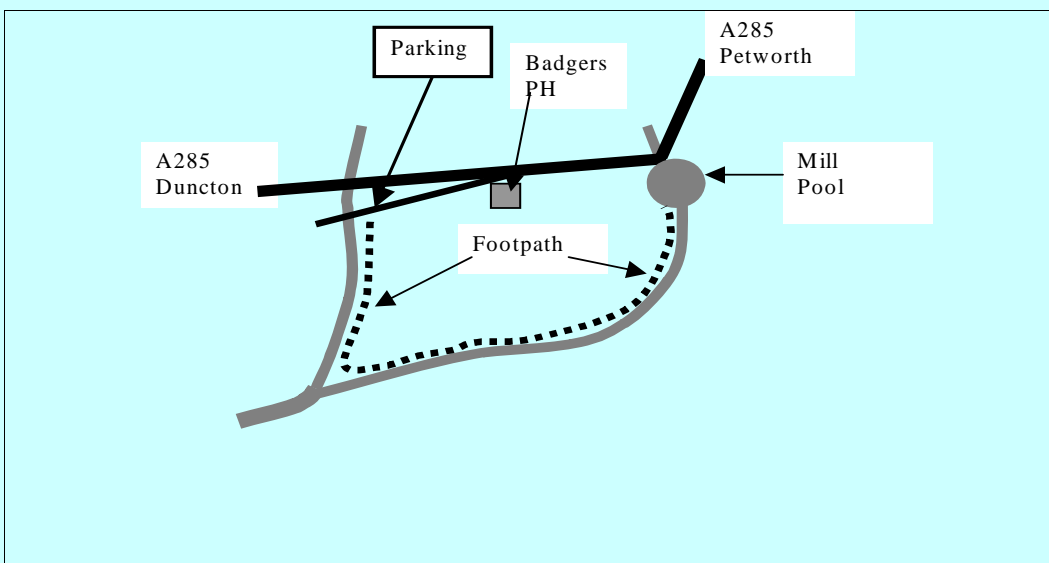
Over the last couple of years we have seen the quality fish on the popular Coultershaw stretch spreading through the fishery. We are therefore trying to make some of the less-fished areas more accessible.

If you have ever taken the slip road by the Badger public house you will probably have seen that there is a side stream that joins the main river a couple of hundred yards downstream from the Mill Pool. In fact this stream is also a part of the Rother which divides into two channels above Coultershaw Bridge. In recent years the dry summers and low water flows (and possibly a pre-occupation with the “Barbel Bends”) have deterred anglers from using this stretch and consequently many of the swims have become heavily overgrown. In fact in the past this stretch was reputed to be a productive area for chub and barbel so we think it is worth trying to make some improvements.

This year we will clear several swims of both bankside vegetation and as many snags as possible. We will also open up a couple of new swims on the Mill Stream itself.

The steps that lead down to the south side of the Mill Pool have finally succumbed to the ravages of the floods. We have decided not to re-build them since we believe that there is a better alternative solution by parking in the slip road close to Badgers public house and accessing the Mill Pool by following the path through the field. This also has the benefit of removing the danger from walking over the bridge on the main road and reduces the load on our main car park.

*Editor's note: I used to fish the point where the side stream joins back onto the main river and this was always a favoured spot for a few chub together with some good roach and dace sport.*



## A new Specimen Trophy Competition

This season we are pleased to announce a new challenge to all of our specialist anglers - those of you that set out to catch our very biggest fish.

The competition will run for 12 months until 31st March, 2009. Each angler's entry may comprise fish of **several** species but only the best specimen of each species will count. Obviously you may replace an earlier entry if you subsequently catch a better fish of the same species. Credit will be given for an entry containing several different species.

Our team of judges will take all factors into account including variety and number of species caught and the general level of skill and commitment required - the decision will not be based upon weight alone.

Ideally we would like all fish to be witnessed and photographed - entries cannot be accepted unless one of these forms of proof is supplied. Please register your catch within 2 weeks of the capture.

Throughout our club waters we have genuine "specimen" fish of many species including barbel, pike, chub, roach, perch and bream so why not set yourself the challenge this season of raising your angling skills even higher and catching fish of the size we see each week in the Angling press ?

Further details and details of how to enter appear in the 2008 / 2009 season handbook and we will have regular updates on the website and in our newsletters

Good Luck and maybe you could become our 'Specialist Angler of the Year' !

### Useful Contact Details

Chairman	Nigel Chapman	02392 412463	
Membership Secretary	Mick Harmsworth	01243 603783	mj.harmsworth@ntlworld.com
Fishery Officer	Steve Jupp	07713 176212	fisheryofficer@sussexangling.co.uk
Secretary / Match Secretary	Steve Simmonds	01243 583179	secretary@sussexangling.co.uk
Press Officer	Roger Poole	01243 512521	pressofficer@sussexangling.co.uk
Editor	Steve Simmonds	01243 583179	secretary@sussexangling.co.uk

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

# *Invitation*

*Anglers evening featuring:*

*John Berry*

*And*

*Martin Eyres with Jon Atter*

To celebrate our first year as a club

*Petworth & Bognor Angling Club*

Invite you to join us for an evening of angling chat.

See over for further details

Venue	Newtown Social Club, Bognor Regis (see map below)
Date	23rd May 2007
Time	19.15

Places are limited so

If you would like to come please contact Nigel Chapman on  
02392 412463 or at [nigelchapman53@hotmail.com](mailto:nigelchapman53@hotmail.com)



# Anglers Evening speakers

## Guest Speaker - John Berry

John's first fish 33 years ago was a trout and pretty much since then he has spent all of his spare and some of his not so spare time fishing. Barbel chub and pike have been his main quarry but he did have a period when he rekindled his quest for trout but now concentrates on coarse fish.

A keen amateur musician and occasional school teacher John has written for publications such as *Waterlog* and *Carp Catcher* and is currently editor of *Barbel Fisher* magazine. He has recently had his first book *A Can of Worms* published by Medlar Press.



**Martin Eyres** is Vice Chairman of our club. He has been fishing for 35 years. An all round specialist angler. He spent many years fishing for big fish only, with special interest in predator fishing. Captor of pike to nearly 35lb, perch to 4lb +, English catfish to 40lb and overseas to 137lb. Also fishes for barbel, chub and big gravel pit tench.

Dabbles in Trout fishing on the chalk streams Test, Itchen and Kennet.

Particularly enjoys winter fishing, especially for Pike and Perch.

Ambition - to catch a trout water 30lb pike and also maybe one day a 5lb perch



**Jon Attar** can often be found on the bank with Martin and has similar interests. Captor of Hampshire Avon pike to 30lb+, Perch to 4lb + and overseas catfish to 139lb, together with 30lb + carp. Jon also enjoys springtime crucian carp fishing (many 3lb+ fish) and big bream fishing. A member of the PAC and Scottish Pike Alliance Jon has caught big pike the length and breadth of the country from Scotland to the west country. An avid tackle collector especially original ABU Rods, Reels & Lures.