

PETWORTH & BOGNOR ANGLING CLUB



E-mailer Issue 11

September 2017

Fishery Log Books

Although quite a few of you fill in our Log Books we are aware that many are still not bothering. The information about your session is valuable to us and helps us decide on fishery management issues such as stocking and water maintenance. So please whenever you fish, make an entry in the Log Books provided; information about a blank is as useful as a red letter day. You have asked for regular venue reports, but without the information from the Log Books it is impossible for us to let you know how places are fishing. You also ask that our waters and swims are well maintained, so if you see something that you feel needs some attention, please note it in the Log Book. Our Fishery Management team look at these regularly and you might have seen something that they have missed.

A reminder about some of our rules

Based on our bailiff reports from the last couple of months we would just like to remind you of a number of our club rules.

6a Members may fish with no more than two rods, a second rod may only be used if no interference is caused to other anglers.

8a Pike fishing season commences 1st October and ends 14th March.

8j No live baiting for pike.

Upcoming Matches - Check your handbook for times.

Date	Venue	Comment
24th Sept	Chichester Canal Grosvenor Road	We have heard that there are plenty of roach to be caught on the canal at the moment, it will be interesting to see what comes out under match conditions.
24th Sept	Coultershaw	Chris Humphry Charity Barbel match. Our annual charity event. If you would like to fish please contact. PETER FOSTER
1st Oct	Watersfield	Plenty of silver fish and the chance of something much bigger.
15th Oct	Chichester Canal Grosvenor Road	The last in our series of matches on the canal.
22nd Oct	Sumner's Ribbon Lake	A return to this interesting venue that producing a really interesting mix of fish BOOKING IN is essential.
29th Oct	Hurston Match Pond	The first in our winter series on the match pond at Hurston.
5th Nov	Passies Match Pond	Hopefully we will have some fireworks at Passies when we fish this combination match BOOKING IN is essential.
19th Nov	Hurston Match Pond	The second of our winter series on the match pond at Hurston.
26th Nov	Cart Pond	The first leg of our popular pole only series at Walberton.

An interesting new method for Watersfield

Having seen an online video on u-tube of an angler fishing this method on the River Yare. I felt that it would be well worthwhile trying at Watersfield. The technique is a twist on using a pole feeder and although it is currently work in progress as I have not perfected it yet, it is showing promise and I thought I would share it with you. The method is ideally suited for fishing at the bottom of the near side shelf on the Arun where I have found that the silver fish tend to congregate. The method allows you to present a static bait (which I think tends to sort out the better fish) but with a lot more sensitivity and accuracy than a conventional feeder. There are advantages over established static float presentations on the pole such as using a flat float which I find need constant adjustment. You are also feeding the swim every time you put into the water. I guess that the one thing that you have to get over is that the set up has a rather strange and ungainly appearance but trust me it works, you only have to look at the [U TUBE VIDEO](#) to see someone that is a lot more competent than I am catch some stunning roach.

What you need to build the rod / pole

1. A top 5 or possibly 6 sections of a pole.
2. The top section of a quiver tip rod that fits snugly over the top of the pole. My first version (pictured) was a reasonable fit, but I have recently broken a tip rod and have found that the remains of this one fits really nicely. So I will be rebuilding using this
3. Pole Elastic: This first set up uses a No. 8 elastic following guidance from the video, but I think this is a bit too powerful and with the new top I am going to try some No. 6. Ultimately it would be good if you could easily change elastic strength on the bank to suit water conditions and the stamp of fish you are catching.
4. Stonfo or Dacron connector whichever is your preference.
5. Rubber bead (larger than the bottom eye on your rod top section)
6. Push in type leger stop.

Set up by threading the elastic through the eyes on the rod top section and tie a connector on at the top eye as you would normally on a pole. Thread the bead onto the elastic, apply a small amount of tension to the elastic and then fit the push in leger stop behind the bead. In this first version. I have tied off the elastic behind the leger stop. But I wonder whether the stop will sufficiently hold the elastic without the knot. This would then allow me to quickly change elastics, also with the second top I am able to change the weight of the tips as I have a range of tips from the broken rod. So as long as the leger stop will hold the elastic then I should be able to quickly change elastic or tip weight.



The elasticated quiver tip

Insets show a stonfo connector on the top eye and the bead / leger stop arrangement on the bottom eye.

The rig

This is essentially a fishing to hand method so the rig is set to be around 12 - 15" shorter than the number of sections you use minus 1. This sounds a bit complicated but all will become clear.

loop to connect to stonfo

Small tell tale float

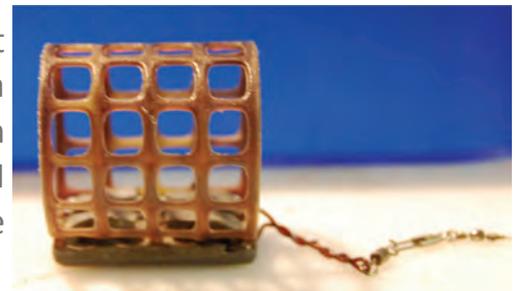
I have used 0.13 rig line through to a 0.11 hook length with a size 18 Drennan fine match hook. I have put a small tell tale float on the line and a small swivel at about half depth. I started initially on the pole feeder but quite quickly went over to a conventional cage feeder (more about this later).



Pole feeder

The Session

I started by essentially plumbing up using the feeder to locate a reasonably flat area at the bottom of the shelf. I mixed a river groundbait up but kept the texture fairly loose as you are not relying on it holding together as it drops through the water and you want it to wash out of the feeder easily. I added a bit of hemp and a few grains of sweet corn to the ground bait. Once I had done this I loaded the feeder and added two or three maggots to each feeder full of groundbait.



Conventional cage feeder

I found that I needed to swing out with 5 sections and as the feeder was dropping into position I needed to add another section to the pole to make sure that you get the pole nicely positioned with the tell tale showing on the surface and a slight bend in the tip. Hence setting the rig length for one section short of the number of sections you use. This is the part of the technique that I found most difficult to master as I needed to get the extra section on quickly, so I had to have it positioned in just the right place. You can look for bites at the tell tale or the quiver tip, I found the quiver tip easiest and in the end dispensed with the tell tale and didn't bother to adjust it as the

water level changed. It is also important to balance the tip and elastic so that the bites register on the tip rather than the elastic. I soon found that the pole feeder was plugging into the mud on the bottom of the river and that you could not lift into the bites properly so I missed a lot of the early bites getting the feeder out of the mud before hitting the fish. I therefore quickly swapped to a cage feeder. I found that the weight on the feeder required to hold bottom was very much reduced from normal. When fishing a feeder conventionally on rod a line I would normally be looking at using 1½ - 2oz but using this method I found that ½oz was more than enough. Having just about got the technique right I caught a steady run of roach of reasonable size, although I was hoping for a better stamp of fish. The session finished when I had a couple of eels, always a problem with a static bait on the Arun, the first was only lip hooked but the second a bigger fish of just under 1lb wrecked my terminal tackle and I felt that was a sign to go back to a conventional running line. It was interesting that although I caught over the same area on the float tackle, but I reckon that the fish were generally smaller and the bites less frequent.

Cage feeder on a loop 0.11 hook length

Small swivel at about half depth

Conclusion

I need to put a bit more work in to improve my technique, but I feel this could be a valuable method on the Arun.

The loss of one of our Precious Barbel

When bailiff Martin Cornish arrived recently one morning (Friday 4 August) to fish at Coultershaw, he was greeted by a sad scene. Lying dead in the mud of the cattle drink was a large barbel. With assistance from another angler, Martin was able to retrieve the fish. On closer inspection, it was found to be in good condition with no visible signs of injury. The fish weighed just over ten pounds and was 72 cm long.

It is of course possible that the fish had died of natural causes, but Martin is concerned that it is more likely that the fish died as a result of poor handling practice. With this in mind the club would like to remind all anglers, but especially those who may be less experienced or new to barbel fishing, of the Barbel Society's handling code which can be found on the BS website [HERE](#)

As well as an article on the correct way to look after and safely return a barbel, there is a very professional and instructive video by Pete Reading, filmed by Hugh Miles of Passion for Angling fame, which is well worth a look even by practised anglers.

It is worth remembering that the barbel in our club rivers are few and far between, as regular barbel anglers will be well aware, so it is vital that we look after them. Whilst we are not blessed with large shoals of barbel, we are very fortunate to have some exceptionally large fish which deserve to be taken proper care of. So, if you are fortunate to catch one, please bear in mind the following key pieces of advice.

Don't be in a rush to get your fish on the bank – once you have netted it, leave it resting in the net in the water for a few minutes if you intend to weigh it or take photographs. Use the time while the fish is resting in the net to prepare equipment for unhooking, weighing and photographing, remembering to wet the weigh sling and unhooking mat. After you have completed these tasks and returned the fish to the net, please remember not to be in a rush to release the fish. It is essential that you wait until you are certain that the barbel has fully recovered, that it is maintaining a steady, stabilised position in the current facing upstream and that the gills are working well. If you've followed the BS handling code and this advice and are satisfied that the fish is ready, that is the time to let it return to its natural habitat.

Barbel Scale Survey

Last September we started a survey on our Barbel population at Coultershaw. The survey entails taking scale samples from any Barbel caught and these are submitted to the Environment Agency and they can determine the age of the fish. We are continuing the survey to sample a good cross section of the Barbel in the river. We would appreciate it if you are fishing for Barbel at Coultershaw if you could read and comply with the scale survey notice on the board at Coultershaw to help us sample as many fish as possible.

Results from the first nine samples taken for the Barbel scale survey

Between November 2016 and March 2017 we were able to take scale samples from nine barbel. Of these nine samples the EA were able to positively determine the age of six of the fish. The oldest fish identified was 17 years old and the youngest 8 years old and the average age of the fish samples was in excess of 12 years old. This is obviously only a small sample But starts to build a picture of the Barbel in the river. As mentioned the survey is ongoing and so far this season we have samples from a further 8 fish and we need a couple more to make up a batch which we will then send off to the EA for analysis.

Fishery Improvements

Coultershaw

Around 16 anglers turned up at Coultershaw recently to help out with some tree and debris removal from a number of swims. We also had the kind services of John Simpson and his machinery. John is very experienced in working on fisheries and was involved in the re-dig of Petworth Park many years ago.



John on his machine getting a fallen tree out from one of the swims in the fenced area

We had a team of two brave souls in our boat whose job was to secure chains to the pieces of tree that were being lifted out. Then a team on the bank were there to cut and stack the wood that was taken from the swims.

A couple of noted swims that have benefitted from this exercise are;
'Chris's Swim' - Here the flow has returned to the inside line.

The third peg in the fenced area - This is now clear of trees down stream and is much more fishable.



Some of the cutting and stacking team and yes, that is 'you know who' with the chainsaw

As you can see from the pictures it was a very hot day and those that helped out appreciated a cold drink and a bit of food from the barbecue after the work had finished.

Coates

The large tree that was obstructing the river towards the bottom end of the Coates stretch has now been removed by the EA.

Fishery Improvements

Watersfield

Following the work that was done last year to level out the path under the railway bridge we found that although much improved we were still getting standing water in areas and there was the potential of people tripping under the bridge particularly when the water level was high (very high tides flood over the path) and in the dark (this is a 24hr water).

Last year we budgeted for a top dressing but decided to see how the path fared over a season. The conclusion was that a top dressing was definitely required. It was decided that the best material for the job would be crushed concrete, even when compacted this would remain porous, allowing any water to drain away, other materials such as MOT tend to be less porous and you can still get standing water.

We had about 4 tonne of crushed concrete delivered to the car park and this had to be transported down to the bridge so we hired a mini-digger and dumper truck to do this. We are lucky that Dan Bolton was able to provide a 'Wacker' plate so the once the material had been laid it could be compressed to form a firm, flat surface.

The work took place over the weekend of 2nd / 3rd September and a great deal of thanks go to all those that helped and in particular to Richard Donnelly and Martin Cornish who were responsible for planning the project, while Dave Chambers demonstrated his skills on the mini-digger.

Our webmaster Les Heath was on hand to help out and also managed to take a few pictures .



Loading material in the car park



Dan Bolton with his 'Wacker' Plate



The path under the bridge 'before'



The path under the bridge 'after'