

The Sussex Angler



Spring 2018

Issue 14

News

Articles

Information

The Petworth & Bognor Angling Club Magazine

www.sussexangling.co.uk

Welcome to The Sussex Angler

As Chairman may I extend a warm welcome to both new and regular members.

Last year we marked the 10th anniversary of the merger of the Bognor Regis & District Freshwater Angling Club and Petworth Angling Club to form our current club Petworth & Bognor Angling Club. We had a social evening and BBQ at Coultershaw at the beginning of June. The evening was a great success although it would have been nice to see a few more members at the event. We have decided to do it again this year so please put Friday June 8th into your diary. A little closer to the date we will be sending out invitations and would ask that you reply if you intend coming. It is important that we have a good idea of numbers to ensure that we have enough food and drinks available without over catering.



Our 10th Anniversary celebration at Coultershaw last year. We hope you can come along this year.

Existing members with online access will hopefully know how our waters have fished over the last season by following our water reports and various e-mails updates. For those that don't have these facilities we try to post copies on the notice boards at venues where we have these facilities. We do rely upon our members to help us compile these reports and would greatly appreciate you taking the time to fill in our log books when you have fished a session. The highlight of these reports over the last year and probably the standout water has been Petworth Park. There had been some concern among a few anglers that the bream had for whatever reason been lost from Petworth Park. But last season proved that they were completely wrong. Pleasure and match anglers alike had some fantastic bags of bream with some pretty good catches of tench and crucians as well. It was also significant that far more smaller fish were caught as well showing that the next generations of bream are coming on nicely. While thinking of bream, I am reminded that the Arun at Watersfield has consistently produced skimmer bream around the 11lb mark this season, again indicating that our fish stocks for future generations are shaping up nicely.

In this edition of The Sussex Angler we have our normal updates on our fishery management projects. If you have the time please join in at our work parties, they help in keeping in our waters in shape. This year in particular there are



plans to work on the island in Cart Pond. There are some highlights from our match season. Our match anglers are a friendly bunch and if you fancy a bit of competitive fishing without it being too serious then they will be pleased to see you. Our friends at Arun Angling have filled us in on the latest bits of 'must have' tackle. Martin Cornish, our bailiff at Coultershaw has put together a really informative article about fishing this iconic stretch of the river. We have delved in to amazing diaries of Reg Addison again for a view of fishing in years gone by. There is plenty more to read and I thank all those who have contributed to making this what I consider to be the best club magazine around.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to two great clubmen who have sadly passed away this year. Both were long serving members of our committee and were instrumental in making our club what it is today.

Ray Newnham



Ray always had a smile on his face, which hid a very sharp mind, he was often able to sum up a discussion with a few well chosen words that put the situation into context for all those involved. He was particularly enthusiastic about young anglers and was always willing to help out with our junior events.

Ray Huskisson



For many years as Club Secretary, Ray was the driving force of the club and was instrumental in the club obtaining and developing Stemps and Cart. He also played an important role in the acquisition of Hurston Lane. He was a strong voice on the committee and well respected by not only our club members but by anglers from many other clubs across the region.

We will miss them both.

Roger Poole - Chairman



Fishery Improvements

Hurston Lane

We made a further addition of roach and skimmers to Hurston in December, this is part of us slowly building stock in the ponds to give us year round fishing.

Following three years of being under a statutory requirement from Defra due to a KHV outbreak in 2014 we are pleased to announce that they have now lifted this requirement. We have however decided that we will maintain dipping requirements through certain periods of the year. When you enter Hurston please ensure that you read the notice board and follow the instructions that are in place at any given time.

At the start of this year we decided that the island on the match pond needed a really severe trim back, it is interesting to compare the island now with what it was like when the pond was first dug. We recently acquired some pictures taken when this was being done and you can see that the island looks very different, it is amazing just how much vegetation and even mature trees can spring up from a strip of bare earth. We haven't taken it back quite this far but a good trim was needed and it is important that we do this before birds start nesting.

There is always plenty to do at Hurston, unfortunately we have to accept that it is a high maintenance water, we have one or two volunteers who put in a lot of hours here but we are always on the lookout for more.



The Match Pond Hurston March 1996

Stemps & Cart

It's interesting that islands seem to be a bit of a recurring theme in our fishery management plans for this year. Cart Pond at Walberton was completed in 1992 and this of course has an island running through the middle and probably provided the inspiration for the design of the match pond at Hurston. Again an old photograph shows what it was like when the dig was completed, and you can see that it is not so different from Hurston match pond above. Our issues here are a bit different, over the 25 years since the pond was dug the island has suffered from erosion and now is the time when we really need to do something about it.



The Fisheries Team



Cart Pond Walberton 1992

At the time of writing dates have been put aside in April (see the table of work party dates over) to carry out this work and we will definitely be looking for some help with what is going to be quite a big project. Please keep an eye on the notice boards and website for more information.

Coultershaw

As well as carrying out our normal spring clean at Coultershaw, we were also able to get a machine onto the venue and spent a day in late summer removing some of the larger obstructions in the river. As expected the far bank has gone a long way to being re-naturalised where there had been tree removal on there.

Coates

We are extremely lucky with the skills of some of our members. David Cocovini, a long standing member whose passion is fishing the Rother, also happens to be an expert arboriculturist. He offered to look after the trees that were planted at Coates a couple of years ago. We of course jumped at the chance and David is making great progress.

Watersfield

We continued on the work under the railway bridge by laying a top dressing on the path, so far this has withstood a couple of bouts of flooding. The car park has had a good clear up which has given us sufficient space for at least another parking space. The small stand of trees upstream of the culvert have been trimmed to widen the swim in the trees and also improve the swim above the trees

The Granary

This venue continues to increase in popularity and we have opened up another couple of swims. There is more work to be done, hopefully we can get a good turnout for the work party on the 6th May.



Fishery Improvements

Fittleworth

There has always been a dip 50 or so metres below the footbridge on the north bank at Fittleworth. Until recently this remained dry pretty much throughout the season, however over the last couple of years it seems to have been used for land drainage and hence has been becoming impassable particularly during wetter periods. We have been pushing the estate / tenant farmer for quite some time. We are pleased to say that we finally have a bridge over this dip. This will allow easy access right along the north bank.



It may not look much but the new bridge at Fittleworth will allow easy year round access to the lower reaches of the north bank

Those that attend work parties will tell you that it is not all hard work and we always look to find tasks for all abilities. Work parties also function as a great informal forum on how a water is fishing, where to fish and how to fish it; you will normally find the venue experts on hand. As always we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members who have helped out at work parties over the last year and look forward to seeing you in the future.

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 e-mail **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 2018 Handbook. We have occasional extra work parties, so please keep an eye on the website or facebook page and look out for notices at the venues and in the local tackle shops.



The Fisheries Team

Work Party Dates for 2018	
Sunday	Where
25th March	Hurston
8th April	Stemps & Cart
15th April	Coultershaw
22nd April	Stemps & Cart
29th April	Hurston
6th May	The Granary
13th May	Coultershaw
20th May	Stemps & Cart

Finally a really important part of our Fishery Management scheme is our bailiff team. We have bailiffs that look after particular waters and you can find details of these in the club handbook. Others bailiffs have a more roving brief and are likely to pop up at any of our waters.

Although our bailiffs are the eyes and ears of our waters they cannot be everywhere all the time so if you see or hear anything amiss then in the first instance you should contact the specific water bailiff and let them know. It is also useful to put a note in the Fishery Log Book.

We would ask that you cooperate fully with our bailiffs at all times.



Book Reviews

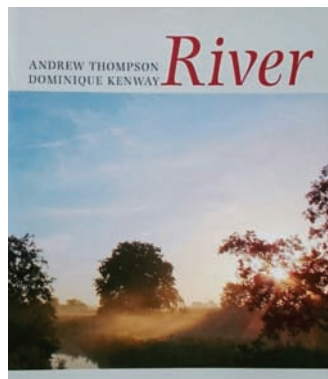
River by Andrew Thompson and Dominique Kenway

Many of you may well have met Andrew as he is the gamekeeper that looks after the Leconfield Estate and hence can be often seen at Coultershaw.

As well as being a gamekeeper Andrew is a highly accomplished photographer of nature and wildlife.



Dominique Kenway studied art and literature and is now a practising artist.



The book brings together a collection of Andrew's stunning photographs of the land, flora and fauna that surround the Rother as it passes through the Leconfield estate.

Alongside these stunning pictures, Dominique has carefully selected various pieces of prose and verse which compliment the pictures perfectly. Expect to find AA Milne with a fox, Rudyard Kipling and of course Sussex cattle and Phillip Larkin with snow scenes.

The photographs show the diversity of the landscape and wildlife across the seasons, through long shots of trees and skies through to a close up of the chrysalis of a silver washed fritillary and the actual butterfly just after it has hatched - stunning!



It is difficult to pick out a favourite picture as they are so diverse which is the joy of this book. I will however admit to my love of 'The Three Foxes' by AA Milne - takes me back to my mother reading 'When We Were Very Young'.

Published by Rotherbridge Publishing in 2016 ISBN 978-0-9956175-0-6

Available locally from The Petworth Bookshop in Petworth



Fishing The Arun Valley by Michael J Kernan

I'm fairly sure that I was given my copy of this book by the late Ray Huskisson.

Michael is very much an old school angler who prefers the company of his Jack Russel and pipe to other anglers. His baits, tackle and methods are very traditional.

Michael starts the book by looking at various species and relates his experiences in catching them (or not) as is sometimes the case.

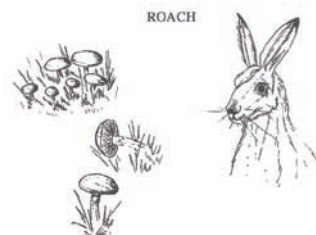
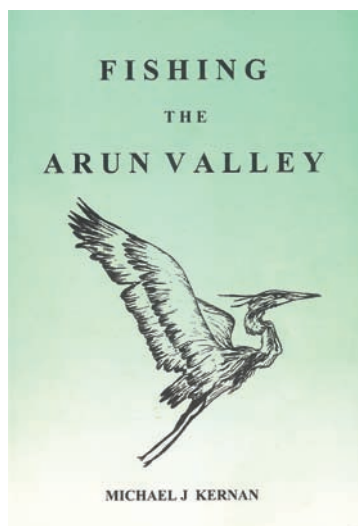
He covers most of the normal species that we would expect such as pike, perch, bream and roach but also the little more esoteric species including mullet and sea trout.

The book concentrates on the Arun from Pulborough downstream. Towards the back of the book there is a short section on the Rother and an interesting mention of barbel at Coultershaw. Michael makes the observation that *'Prospects with barbel improve between the mill pool and Shopham Bridge, these fish were introduced some years ago, they are not numerous but have grown on well with fish up to 8lbs. Most Rother anglers use a bunch of maggots dyed red when barbel fishing. Baits such as luncheon meat, sweet corn, and caster do not seem to bring the results enjoyed on other more established barbel fisheries'*.

How things have changed in the last 20 years, an 8lb barbel is now considered to be one of the babies and no self respecting Rother barbel angler would go out without his pellets and boilies.

The book is gently illustrated with line drawing by Susan J Lewis.

I'm not sure whether it is still available, there is an address on the back but this is of course from 20 years ago. If anyone would like to try to get a copy, contact me via the club website and I will pass on what details I have.



Coultershaw

Martin Cornish our Coultershaw bailiff has kindly agreed to join the 'In Depth' team and give us the low down of some of the swims at Coultershaw and how to fish them.

I have now fished Coultershaw for approximately 20 years starting out on a day ticket. I met Les Heath our webmaster on a Sunday afternoon and he persuaded me to join the club. I have been the bailiff at Coultershaw for four years now and over my time fishing and bailiffing I have got to know the river quite well, however, it is an ever changing environment being a spate river so don't take this as gospel but it will hopefully give you a decent insight into what is possible at Coultershaw

River Level

From the car park you can get an idea of the condition of the river level by viewing the mill pool, if the mill pool is very high the river will be up and flowing hard. The river level varies by up to 8 feet depending upon conditions, in extreme wet weather the river can flood into the fields. On leaving the car park, walk down past the house and barns on the right and carry on down through the woods at this point the side stream will give you a even better idea of the level and flow these will determine your tactics and bait for the session

Tackle and Bait

Your target species and the conditions will determine your tackle and bait requirements. If you are going to leger for the barbel then I would recommend a rod of at least 1¾lb test curve and at least 12lb line. In a lot of places wind your clutch right back because you will be fishing close to snags and it is very much a case of hit and hold. As far as bait is concerned when the water is low then pellets or boilies are a good bet or even a maggot feeder with a big bunch of maggots on the hook can score. But when the water is higher and pushing through then luncheon meat. Lob worms can be effective anytime. If you fancy a float approach for the smaller fish then a 13' float rod with 3 - 4lb mainline is a good start select your float according to the depth and flow and finish with a hook around size 18. Maggots, caster and corn are all good baits. You can also light leger with a tip rod and similar baits but also consider bread in the winter if you are targeting the chub.

Fish (and in particular Barbel) Care

I mentioned 12lb line earlier, this may sound extreme but our barbel range in size from 4 to 17lb and I would assimilate a barbel of 7 - 10lb to have the fight and power of a prime middle weight whereas the bigger fish can be likened to a heavy weight with less speed but more stamina. Here I would point out the importance of having netted your fish allow it to rest in the water before unhooking and once you have completed any weighing and photos please allow plenty of time for the fish to regain its mobility in the net before you finally release it,



By Martin Cornish

The Swims (just a few of them)

At the bottom of the wood where the stream joins the main river is the first swim. This is usually float or even pole fished, for dace roach and chublets and occasionally you can find bream here as well. Moving downstream and over the stile we come to the cattle drink, at low water this can be fished for the chub as well as roach and dace on a stick float. If you keep feeding a few maggots every trot they will normally come to you. If the river is high you may even find a barbel in the shelter of the slack water on the inside.



The swim at the confluence of the main river and side stream



The willows

As you walk down the field you will notice the willows on the far bank under here is where the barbel tend to hide during the daylight hours, therefore you need to fish close to these snags to entice them out. This is very much one of the hit and hold areas as mentioned earlier.

The next swim of note is what we call 'Chris's Swim' at the start of the fenced area which encloses the riffles. Named after Chris Humphry who was a past bailiff at Coultershaw, a great all round angler and river man. Sadly Chris passed away and since July 2011 we have held a

memorial 'barbel fish in' at Coultershaw (see page 24) and have raised a significant amount of money for various charities nominated each year by Lynette Humphry, Chris's widow. The next fish in is on September 30th 2018 and all members are more than welcome. Last year we carried out some heavy clearance work in this swim to reinstate the flow back to the original inside line. Previously the flow had been redirected to the far bank by fallen trees, which had lodged here following floods.

The next four swims are within the fenced area known as the riffles and I would remind you that only two anglers are permitted to fish in here at any one time to preserve this valuable spawning area and sanctuary. This restriction also takes the pressure off the fish in these popular swims. As well as the work on Chris's swim we also removed trees from the third of these four swims.



Coultershaw

All four produce barbel to a static approach and the fourth swim in particular also lends itself to float fishing, go straight down the middle for mainly dace and chub, loose feed little and often.

Below the fencing the pace of the water picks up and this area can produce the odd barbel. You will also find a very convenient spot to trot from. You have a bit of a bay in front of you and the water runs quite quickly down the far bank but is slow on the inside to a large tree about 30yds down that hangs over half the river. Trot down the crease with your float just passing the overhanging tree. This can produce, roach, dace, chub and there are quite a few minnows around. Immediately below this is the next swim which is known as 'The Stumps' this is very deep and there is almost complete tree cover just down stream, not really a barbel swim but I know that it is an area where the chub hang out. Be careful if you get a big fish here as the stumps on the inside (hence the name) can be a last resort dash and result in a lost fish.

Immediately beyond the downstream trees is another good swim for both barbel and chub on the leger.

We then go into the second field, strangely this does not seem to get fished much although there are a few interesting looking swims, I really should give them a go sometime, I might get a surprise or two

Across the stile at the bottom of the second field takes you the field that contains the renowned 'barbel bends'. Years ago this was the go to area for the barbel and anglers could be seen running from the car park to ensure they got a swim here! However, in recent years the barbel have decided to move home and both barbel and barbel anglers seem to be

concentrated in the first field. I'm sure that there are fish to catch down here but frankly if you have to walk ¼mile to an area where barbel are coming out fairly consistently or ½ mile to what is now a bit of an unknown where would you go?

Below barbel bends the banks are high and steep and it is difficult to access the water when the level is down. However it is possible to fish from the top bank when the water levels are up. There is a small stream that comes in from the far bank and just above that is a place where you can get down to just above water level. The swim (pictured left) provides options for either trotting down the

middle for the usual mix of roach and dace although I warn you that there can be a lot of minnows in this area, but keep at it because you will eventually see



This swim provides a nice trot or try for the chub hard against the far bank



By Martin Cornish

them off when the better fish move in. A tip or light feeder is also worth a go here with chub and bream coming from the far bank.

The final stretch is what is known as The Loop this is the original course of the river before it was canalised in 1795. The Loop was reinstated in 2004 as part of the EA's river restoration programme and we can fish round to where the Haslingbourne stream joins the river. The area is not heavily fished and the undergrowth does tend to grow quite high in the summer but there are a number of interesting looking swims ideally suited to a trotting approach.



'The Loop' in early spring

A Final Thought (for the barbel angler)

The one thing you will find is that the barbel are not plentiful on the Rother and it is certainly not guaranteed that you will catch every time you visit. Quite a number of our regular anglers blank on more than one occasion, but it is always the thought and anticipation that keeps them coming back for that 90°'twitch' that means they have connected with what is possibly the fish of a lifetime; so don't forget to have your rods close to hand, you could lose them if you don't, you wouldn't want to end up snagging one of our valuable fish.

You would be duty bound to go in and try and rescue everything and that is not really recommended in the summer and certainly not when the river is up. The plus side is that whilst patiently waiting there is a lot of wildlife to keep you occupied, other anglers will stop for a chat and if you are my great friend Peter Foster then there is always Radio 4 to listen to, quietly of course through ear plugs.



It is unusual to see two robins together and sitting on my rod makes it even more so!



Notable Fish

A quick look at some of the notable fish featured on our website over the last season. Take a look at our gallery pages on the website for more.



Not the biggest fish and certainly not our biggest angler, but one of the best photos we've had submitted this season is this superb shot of young Max Winslade with a beautifully marked trout from the Rother.

For a change I've had some pretty notable fish myself this season, including some very good roach from the Arun at Watersfield with many over the pound mark in some sessions.

The one pictured on the right was my best this season which at 2lb 3oz is just shy of my Arun PB.



By Webmaster



Petworth Park has been on top form again this year with some notable catches of bream. But apart from the bream some good crucian carp and tench have been landed too. The Club records for both species have been broken this season. Pictured above is Tim Nudds 3lb 4oz crucian carp and Mike Kitchener with his 5lb 9oz tench.



Brian Hooper had the two specimen barbel above from different stretches of the Rother. Both fish weighed over 15lb with the bigger fish tipping the scales at 15lb 14oz.

We are always pleased to see and publish your pictures on the website and don't forget that a year's membership is available for the best barbel and best other species submitted over the year.

You can send pictures to me (webmaster@sussexangling.co.uk) or if you don't have internet access give one of the officers a phone call to discuss how we can transfer your pictures.

Please also remember to record your sessions in our log books, this really helps with our fishery management programme.



The Addison Diaries

This year I have gone back to the very earliest diary entries. The diaries start in 1924 but the entries for the first few years consist only of the venue fished and the species and number of fish caught. Very interestingly the diaries start on April 4th 1924 with a catch of three roach at a venue named as Whitefoot Lane. This is almost certainly Whitefoot Lane in Bromley, but the only sign of a fishery that I can find now is a small pond in the middle of some playing fields. Interestingly Henry Williamson (the author of Tarka the Otter) makes reference to a pond here in his work of 1954 'How Dear is Life' in which he writes '*It was no good going anymore to the round pond in Whitefoot Lane woods, or the dew ponds in Seven Fields Shroffton, where once they had caught roach*'. The other interesting point here is the date April 4th would (I think) have been the close season so was he poaching?? Entries for 1925 start on April 18th and there is a footnote at the end of the year '*Whitefoot Lane Closed*'.

From 1926 - 1931 fishing started after June 16th.

The first written rather than table entries are from the start of the 1932 season although not an auspicious start we will take it from there.

June 19th 1932 Chertsey

Nil.

July 10th 1932 Staines - 16 roach, 3 dace

A great day. Temp about 85°. Not a breath of wind and hardly a cloud. Contrary to all the rules the fish bit all day. Started by dropping the only sizeable fish in the edge. Rest about 6 - 7 ins. Bill caught 8 or 9; Ted nil.

July 17th Shepperton - 5 roach, 1 perch

Unlike last week it was rather cold, with grey sky and strong north wind. But as before I started off by losing the only sizeable fish. Bill commenced legering and got a 7" perch straight away but only had two roach, but nothing over 7½". They went off after two hours and only had further bites later in the evening. One of the days features was chasing a broken line with float and bleak at each end. It finally sank some 50 yds below where it broke.

July 24th Teddington - 3 roach, 3 dace, 3 gudgeon

A very dull and windy day, rain threatening, but only an occasional 'spot o' drizzle' until 8.30, when it started properly. Tide had just gone down when we arrived. Roach were about 6 - 7" (one on gentles); 3 dace (2 on gentles) only about 4"; gudgeon (on gentles) a good size. Ted had 2, 1 roach and 1 gudgeon and we had another go on the leger. A fair number of boats (why must punts come along the edge? - afraid of getting their poles wet?).



Selected by Editor

August 10th 1932 Christchurch Quay River Avon— nil

Just below the millstream. Season ticket 2/6 from Mr Keynes (last house on left approaching the Quay). Gentles obtained from Newell's Gladstone Road, Boscombe. Large number of big fish swimming around in the shallow water - looked like barbel but told they were mullet. Practically 'tame' but wouldn't take worms gentles or paste. All that would bite were minnows. Fished all afternoon, tide coming up, about high when we left at 6.30.

August 12th Ditto - 6 dace, 1 eel

Tide out when we arrived, and stream flowing well, but water only about 18" deep in central channel. After about 5 minutes caught 3 dace on gentles about 7" or 8" and another shortly after. Missed several - couldn't drive the hook home and they got off. Tide soon turned and stopped the stream flowing and the fish biting. Nothing being caught until about 7 - nearly high tide when they suddenly came on again. I caught an eel of about 6oz on gentle—couldn't pull it out and thought it was a whopper. Caught 2 more dace and gave rod to Ted who straightaway caught a 'bootlace' eel and 2 dace, 1 of 9½" a good one. I missed a good one - saw it roll over but didn't hook it properly. This scared them off and we got nothing else.

Sea fished once off Boscombe but no good.

August 14th Teddington - 9 gudgeon, 1 dace, 1 bream

What a contrast from last week! The towing path looked like Peckham Rye after a Bank Holiday - paper everywhere, picnic parties and bather's clothes all along the bank and bathers and boats all over the river. We found a spot inbetween them to put a line in and I caught a small dace on gentles (about 4"). Arrived about 12 and tide started coming up at about 1. At high tide started catching gudgeon and got quite a number as it went down. Two on leger and one or two later on. But bathers and boats were too much for the roach and dace. A very close and cloudy day, no wind. Ted nil.

Caught on fish about 5" on gentles which must have been a bream - very shiny and too deep for a dace and not red enough for a roach.

August 21st Shepperton - 5 roach

One 9", others about 6" or 7". Ted had 6 (2 at 7½ and Bill 9 - about 6"). I caught most in the evening, when they bit from 5 till dark. Missed another large one - got off in the edge. All mine on elderberries - they would only bite on the small ones. Ted had most on hemp. A rather cloudy day, windy, blowing straight down from the other side of the island. Had dozens of bleak fishing about 6ft deep, almost on bottom, very few boats.

A. NEWELL

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Addison Diaries

August 28th River Lea Waltham Cross - 2 roach

At last! The presence of 300 anglers at pegged down pitches along both sides of the 'straight' forced us to go below the bridge, which proved a blessing as the 300 caught 6 and we alone had 3, whilst several others were caught. (Bill 1, Ted 0). Slight stream and water much more coloured than when we've been before. Weather warm and bright at first, but clouded over. No wind. All caught on hemp, when they bit we got the fish - except my first one which down a yard and left me too flabbergasted to strike. Had a few touches - just flicked the float, otherwise no bites except as mentioned. Ted and Bill had some bleak and we were told there are gudgeon also. Well, well!. Apparently the fish are there, but must fish fine and have an awful lot of patience. Even the bleak are difficult to catch!



The 'straight' on the River Lea at Waltham Cross. Can you imagine 300 anglers on both banks for a match!

September 11th River Wey Weybridge - 1perch, 1 roach, 6 gudgeon

After many conflicting reports as to the fishableness of the Wey and The Basingstoke Canal we had to go to the Wey, as a gale blew right down the canal. We found an absolutely quiet spot (the devil evidently heard of it, as the wind changed after an hour or so and spoilt things properly) I caught a little gudgeon straight away, which was put on a paternoster and soon caught perch above mentioned. Weather was very cloudy and with a strong wind, but cleared up in the afternoon and wind dropped in the evening. Some campers above us were throwing in hemp and getting a few small roach and Ted went up and got one 7½". Nobody else had anything but small gudgeon and one or two perch (except two in a boat who had some good roach). Gentles only invited millions of bleak to commit suicide, which they did with the greatest of pleasure. The bottom of the river was paved with pope, which gorged every hook with a worm on it - damned nuisance. Other peculiarities of the place were that I caught a little roach on a worm and Ted a gudgeon on hemp! Bill caught a good eel (it must have been quick to get the bait before the pope), the fame of which was spread up and down the river by a very precious kid of about 10, mouthy little blighter who wouldn't take any hints. Bill and I both had a few small touches on paste (a large piece covering the hook) just before dark, but hardly enough to strike at. At Waltham Cross we were told that It was the first dud day they'd had for weeks. We do pick them 'em out.



Selected by Editor



Bell weir and lock from Reg's photo album dated 1934 a couple of years after this diary entry

Fishing is still free from the island into the weir stream as long as you have an EA Lock and Weir Permit as well as your normal rod licence.

September 18th Runnymede - 5 roach 2 perch

Rechristened Runny - meads by the time we left it - the rain came trickling down our backs and it didn't do nothing but rain for the last hour and all the way home anyway. Fished in the backwater nearly up to the weir, most swims taken by earlier arrivals; there are only a few opening in a mass of willow trees and shoots, but we found an open stretch with a belt of long grass like weed growing about 12' out and fished over this. Bill started getting bites on elderberries almost immediately and caught some small dace and roach, but Ted and I couldn't get a touch. Weather was very dull and windless, but apart from a few slight showers there was no rain until about 6.30 when it started in earnest. As evening came on and I fished 'properly' (mucked about more or less throughout the day getting bites on paste and suchlike - minnows and bleak) just over the weed. I started getting bites on hemp (very slow as if the wind was dragging the float under), which as time went and rain came. Ted and I caught several roach, but this time Bill couldn't get bite! All very small though - 5 - 6". Had one perch on paternoster about 6" and 1 9". From what we saw others do the roach etc run small and the main stream above the weir seems best. The backwater, however looks good - green depths of clear water, waving weeds etc; but appearances are often deceptive. Saw a kingfisher for the first time.



The Addison Diaries

September 24th Kingston - 4 roach 2 gudgeon

Following on Ted's 2 holiday visits and being broken up 4 times by barbel it was with keen anticipation that I commenced fishing this Saturday morning opposite the TSC island - and which was enhanced by several slow 'drag unders' before very long - possibly barbel; probably the bottom - and an occasional sharp, deep bite. Nothing



Looking towards the Thames Sailing Club Island from slightly upstream

however materialised and after an hour or so, nothing happening. I tried paste and immediately started getting very quick bites - yards under, but only managed to hook one or two small roach, 5 or 6". They bit just as well on paste, hemp and elderberries, also on gentles contrary to all the rules and experience. These, too, finally spent themselves and the rest of the afternoon yielded only a few dozen bleak, which I

passed on to 3 available urchins, who remained to be alternately a pleasure and a nuisance till the finish. Some groundbait, "with a dash of hemp seed" as recommended by W G Clifford, drew forth the Question "is that stuff to grow your hemp in mister?" NB Ted and Bill went to Kingston Sunday, but had to go higher up and caught only some small roach and gudgeon also - and paste the taking bait again. Are they getting tired of hemp or is it that their youthful appetites don't yet trouble as long as it is food? Weather dull at first, hence bites; cleared up later - sun and everything and they went off. Not much wind.

October 2nd Teddington - 4 roach, 2 gudgeon, 1 dace

After a poor start, during which I had to fall down the stairs and into the train at Crofton Park, run to the bait shop at Vauxhall with a suspender flapping round my ankle and arrived at the station with ½ a minute to get a ticket and train - to rush up the stairs and find Bill at the carriage furthest away. The day didn't fare so badly after all. The fish, however, were small - roach about 5 or 6", 1 7" (2 on paste, 1 gentles and 1 (largest) hemp); dace 4" (!) on hemp. Bill had two ditto roach and some 6 gudgeon, mostly on leger, and a good dace on leger (gentles) after dark (8½). They bit best before the tide came up about a yard deep, but afterwards near the bottom. A heavy downpour at high tide stopped us fishing for half an hour, just as we were getting bites of course, but they came on again although we couldn't



Teddington 1932 possibly August



Selected by Editor

hook them. Saw several caught but mostly small. Stopped 2 hours after dark I had one or two knocks but only the one dace , gudgeon were very large. Weather bright at first, then dull or an hour or two; clouds broke up and was fairly sunny apart from the rain storm. Wind supposed to be north -but felt quite warm—strong overhead but missed us.

Some thoughts and notes

I have maintained all the original spelling and punctuation from the original handwritten diaries, The spelling of Runnymede (Runnymead) jumped out at me.

It is interesting that some fish do not seem to count as far as Reg's fish count is concerned. There are a number of times when he mentions catching bleak or pope but the numbers are not recorded.

I think that virtually all travel was by public transport, they progressed to motor bikes and later a car through the 1930's

Certainly (I'm not sure about Bill and Ted) Reg was a very keen tennis player and his trip to Christchurch was part of a holiday in Bournemouth during which tennis features quite prominently.

W G Clifford was an author of at least two angling books and possibly wrote for one of the angling papers. The books I tracked down were '*Holiday Angling (mainly for roach)*' and '*Angling jaunts and Jottings*'. Both were originally published in the late 1920's.

What we now refer to almost exclusively as maggots, Reg refers to in this diary as gentles, in his later writing he refers to maggots. In his book '*The Experienced Angler*' published in 1662 Colonel Robert Venables writes "Keep gentles or maggots with dead flesh, beast's livers or suet" so both names have been in use for a very long time.

The paste referred to would be bread or flour paste and not the fish meal type pastes that are used for modern carp fishing.

It is interesting to speculate what the 'urchins' did with the bleak - surely they wouldn't have taken them home for the pot. possibly the cat, but who knows, they were very different times.

I'm not sure when to go next, these diaries runs from the 1930's to the 1990's, if anyone is interested in a particular period please let me know.



Tackle News

Greg, Simon and Tim review what's new in the tackle and bait world

Each year we find that one tackle manufacturer seems just that bit ahead of the game and Guru seem to be that manufacturer this year.

Starting with their quick release pole pots featured to the right. Gone are the days when you are waving a potting kit around, these simply clip on and off the specially designed adapter, they are vented so if you do happen to dip them in the water when shipping they will drain and this is also useful for wetting hard pellets prior to potting in. The flat front makes them easier to fill, all in all a leap forward in pole pot design.



With the Guru Competition Pro Sunglasses you will look the part on the bank. These glasses have polarising lenses, which provide 100% UV protection and a super-light, durable frame. They are supplied in a protective case with a handy cleaning cloth. Ideally combined with a Guru lanyard so you don't lose them.



These new X-change Bait Up Feeders are ideal for getting bait out into your swim before fishing. Put 10 or so of these out with feed before you revert to your normal feeder and hook bait. Ideally suited to venues like Petworth Park where you need to get a good carpet of feed down for those hungry bream.



From Arun Angling



The Preston Mega Brolley Arms have been out for a couple of years now and many anglers have found them an absolute must as a stable brolley mount. But the fitting available were limited and they just wouldn't fit on some box systems.

Preston have now addressed this and the latest version available as an extended adapter kit meaning that the number of box systems they will fit is greatly extended. We're not guaranteeing it, but we would be surprised if there is now not an adapter for your box system.

This new Duralite Chair from Fox is likely to be a real winner. The frame is made from Duralite Magnesium alloy which gives a great strength to weight ratio. The seat and padding are a 3D mesh and polyester construction so comfort is not compromised. Fully adjustable legs all round with large mud feet mean that you should get a stable and comfortable seat in pretty much any swim. Although weighing in at only 3.2kg the chair is rated to take 180kg - that over 28 stone in old money! We also understand that our Chairman is looking at one of these, following the recent collapse of his old chair.



We have stocks of all the items featured and plenty more beside so please call in and we are sure that we will be able to sort out your tackle, clothing and bait needs.



Chris Humphry Barbel Fish-Ins

Since 2011 we have assembled at least annually at Coultershaw allegedly to catch barbel, but also to remember Chris and to raise some money for charity

2011 Round 1

Our first fish-in took place on 17th July 2011 a day of unseasonal torrential rain. However this did not dampen the spirits of the 17 anglers who turned out. Conditions slightly improved during the event. However, despite the variety of baits and tactics and given that there was an angler in almost every likely swim, no barbel were caught. By unanimous agreement we decided that we would just have to come back and do it again, hopefully when conditions were a bit more favourable.

Group picture of most of the Round 1 attendees together with Lynnette (Chris's widow) and Jessica (his daughter). Below is the memento which Lynnette presented to all participating anglers.



2011 Round 2

Goodbye torrential rain and hello October heat wave! On this occasion we had a result. Not just one but three barbel were caught. To rub salt into the wounds of the rest of us, all were caught by the same man. Not only did Dave Chambers walk off with the trophy, he also had the satisfaction of landing one of the Rother big ones weighing 15lb 12oz.

Dave Chambers with his winning barbel - a fitting tribute to Chris, who I'm sure would have been just a little jealous but also magnanimous. Well done Dave!



Peter Foster

It's probably best to gloss over the 2012 / 13 and the 2013 / 14 seasons, when despite five attempts there wasn't a barbel netted, although during this period Nelson Keet did manage to miss a couple.

So we will fast forward to 27th July 2014 and the man of the moment proved to be Chris Exall. He managed to land two barbel (one has to think of London buses as far as this event is concerned). Chris's first fish was a personal best of 15lb 15oz, and in the excitement he completely forgot to photograph it. However, Nelson witnessed and weighed it. Later in the day Chris had a smaller fish of 10lb 4oz.



Low and behold the trophy was again presented in 2015 when Dan Bolton stepped up to the plate. His barbel was not as big as those from previous winners, but at 7lb 7oz, a barbel is a barbel.



Drew with one of his bream

31st July 2016 saw the tenth gathering of the club's barbel enthusiasts at Coultershaw, including the three past winners who all felt that they had a good chance of a second win. This was not to be, and unfortunately as far as barbel were concerned it was a great big blank. This year was, however, notable for some of the other fish caught, topped by young Drew Allan who had three good bream, the best being 4lb.

Our most recent fish-in took place on the 24th September 2017, when once again only one barbel was caught. This time the successful angler was Mark Adams, who had to wait until the last hour to catch the winning fish of 6lb 9oz.

Despite all the blanks, regulars are all eager for the 30th September 2018, when you are more than welcome to join us for the next leg of our continuing barbel saga.

A few facts and figures

No of events	11
No of barbel caught	7 (but who's counting)
No of attendances	130 +
Amount of money raised	£1600 +

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those anglers who have taken part, Martin Cornish and Mick Mills for their help in the organisation and especially Lynnette for her continuing support.



Match Scene

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

Having written these for a few years I have suddenly realised that there is a bit of a hole in these summaries as we miss any highlights from the end of the previous season, that is of course if there are any highlights as the fishing between January when I normally write these summaries and March when our match season finishes can be a bit hit and miss. The start of 2017 was definitely a case in point with us all blanking at Watersfield, (although temperatures were sub zero) and having a very enjoyable day at Sumners for our end of season away day.

The season ended up as a clean sweep of the main trophies for Keith Hughes, with Vince Herringshaw and Mick Greenway not far behind.

The 2017 / 2018 season to date has been the normal mixture of home water matches, taking in all but one of our club waters and a few away days. On venues such as Bernies and Sumners

The highlight of this match season has to be Petworth Park. After a couple of mediocre years this venue came back with a great big bang, with top match weights of over 80lb and 72 lb recorded. Honours go to Gary Collins whose weight of 80lb 9oz is a new club record match weight. The big weights were mainly bream catches and although the bream do tend to concentrate in specific areas there have also been some excellent backing weights and some very good tench and crucians caught.

Early season saw us on the still waters with matches at Hurston, Stemps and Cart and away at Sumners which proved a highlight for one of our younger anglers, Ollie Kitchener took the honours with a bag of 20lb 12oz which included four carp and silver fish.

Our evening series on the Rother was fished over four legs this season and ended up being a tight affair, although I won the last leg with this lovely bag of silver fish, Steve Simmonds with a third place just beat me by a point. We had three good matches on the Arun

and one that was not so good, this was in the winter and we all struggled. The Watersfield sideshow was quite amusing, I turned up with the wrong rod bag for one match and had to meet my wife halfway with the right one. Colin left his keepnet behind for one match and



Gary with part of his record breaking haul from Petworth Park



By Mick Greenway

Vince got fed up with waiting for a bite and decided to have an impromptu work party! He had however amassed sufficient points from the other three matches to win the series.

The Granary has proved to be an interesting match venue and particularly suited to our combination match format (also known as Glen scoring) where your weights of carp and silver fish are taken separately and assigned points and the highest points winner prevails.

We have had our ups and down at Hurston with some good match weights but have struggled in other matches. It is nice to see that we are getting some winter silver fish catches from the match lake again and hopefully with our continuous stocking programme we will be able to build the head of fish up to give us year round mixed fishing.

I mentioned Ollie Kitchener earlier, we also have another junior who is beginning to trouble the senior anglers, young Cody Hughes has put together some good weights and although he currently shares a swim with his grandfather just in case he needs a bit of assistance it is not going to be long before he will be fishing his own swim.



Two happy junior anglers, Ollie Kitchener on the left with his winning weight from Summers Pond and on the right is Cody Hughes with his second place catch from The Granary.



With a couple of months to go it looks as if Mick Greenway has got at least two of the main match trophies sewn up. In the Matchman Trophy he leads Keith Hughes by 1265 points to 888 and in the Weight Trophy he leads Gary Collins by 294lb to 210lb. The Clubman Trophy however is very close with Mick on 144 points and Keith Hughes on 143.

If you fancy a bit of friendly competition, please come along and join us. Details of all the matches are in the Club Handbook and if you want more information you can contact either the Match Secretary or Club Secretary, details of both are also in your handbook.

We look forward to varied season next year, as well as our normal mix of club waters we are trying out a couple of new away day venues and look forward to perhaps seeing one or two new faces at our matches.



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 ponds with something for everyone. We are continuously building the stock at Hurston Lane and introduced further skimmers and roach at the end of 2017. Weed is partially controlled using a blue dyestuff here so don't be put off by the water colour.



Tench Pond Stocked with mainly tench, crucian carp and rudd this pond fishes best during the summer months, however recent introductions should improve winter sport



Middle Pond Although considered to be mainly a carp venue with fish to 20lb. There is also a good head of rudd, together with some big perch and bream in this pond.

Match Pond We are continually topping up the stock in the match pond to make this an all year round fishery. Last year we saw some winter silver fish nets alongside nets of good sized bream and carp.



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 One of our most popular fisheries which provides excellent all year sport.

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 have recently had an introduction of perch to provide some control of the massive head of small silver fish. It is hoped that these will grow on to provide some specimen perch fishing in the next few years.

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. The perch that were introduced a couple of years are now showing regularly and there is evidence that they had bred in the water, so we should soon have a good head of perch alongside the more familiar carp and rudd.



NOTICE OF AGM

The club will hold its Annual General Meeting
at
The White Swan, Chichester Road (A27) Arundel BN18 0AD
on
Thursday 22nd November 2018
at
7.30 pm

Please submit any motions or matters for consideration in writing to The Club Secretary (postal address or e-mail address as per your handbook) by Thursday 2nd November 2018

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
The Covert, Petworth	01798 343118
Tropikoi Angling, Bognor	01243 842660

Membership Fees for 2018 - 2019

Membership Type	Full Year	Winter
Full Adult	£104	£66
Family (2 adults & 2 children under 18)	£179	£113
Senior Citizen	£61	£38
Intermediate (aged 18 - 24 inclusive)	£61	£38
Registered Disabled	£61	£38
Junior (aged 13 - 17 inclusive)	£24	£12
Juvenile (aged below 13)	Free	Free
Associate (non fishing)	£2	£2