# The Sussex Angler



Spring 2019

Issue 15

News

Articles

Information

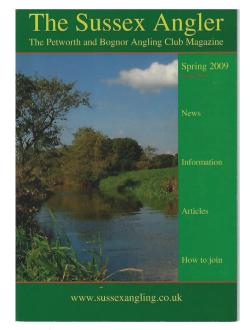
The Petworth & Bognor Angling Club Magazine

www.sussexangling.co.uk

### Welcome to The Sussex Angler

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

Our social evening / barbecue at Coultershaw has now become a firm fixture on our annual calendar. Please put Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June in your diary and we hope to see you. 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.





A couple of years ago we marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the merger of the Bognor Regis & District Freshwater Angling Club and Petworth Angling Club to form our current Petworth & Bognor Angling Club. This year is another milestone but this time in terms of our magazine. We published The Sussex Angler for the first time in the Spring of 2009. We have reviewed 10 years of our magazine on pages 7 - 11. Also in this edition of The Sussex Angler we have the normal undates 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. We have an interesting article on the basics of paste fishing. Paste can prove to be really effective at venues such as Stemps and The Granary. Shopham Up is the subject of our 'In Depth' article this time round and we have gone back exactly 50 years for our regular Addison Diary article. Plenty to keep you interested and encourage you to join or re-join the club.

For members with internet access we continue to send out or publish our water reports and various e-mail updates. For those that don't have these facilities we try to post copies on the notice boards at venues where we have these available. However, we do rely upon you to help us compile these reports either through you phoning or e-mailing me to tell me what you have caught, some of you do, and I'm really grateful and try to make sure that your catches will appear through one



of our channels. The other means is via our log books which are available at most venues and we greatly appreciate you taking the time to fill in these when you have fished a session. New for the coming season will be a log book at Petworth Park and we have been asked by the National Trust who control the estate to encourage our members to fill this in. Last season we had some fantastic catches from our waters. As well as producing record breaking Barbel and despite generally low water levels the Rother has fished well all through for all the normal species such as Roach, Dace, Chub and Perch. We have also seen large numbers of Gudgeon coming from the River. Gudgeon are considered to be a bit of a barometer of water quality and the numbers of Gudgeon we are seeing suggests that all the work we have been doing with ARRT and the EA over the last five years is now beginning to result in improved natural stocks in the river.

The Tench Pond at Hurston along with The Granary seemed to be the most up and coming of our still waters, with many anglers fishing these venues and reporting 'bumper days' particularly during the summer months. Sessions of 20 plus Tench are not uncommon at Hurston and The Granary continues to provide some excellent mid size carp fishing with a significant number of double figure fish being reported.

On the fishery management front our main emphasis will be to finish off the Cart Pond Island project but there is plenty of work to be done elsewhere and we really could do with your help. If you have the time please join in at our work parties, they help us to keep our waters and their surrounding in tip top shape



The humble Gudgeon an indication that water quality in the Rother continues to improve





### **Fishery Improvements**

#### **Hurston Lane**

Following a lot of hard work we hope that we have made significant inroads into the weed situation. Last year we had much less weed coverage in the middle pond and it remained fishable for most of the season. We also carried out a lot of work on the platforms, particularly round the Tench Pond and Match Pond. This year we have started with some trimming of the willows which will help us out in providing material for weaving at Cart Pond.

#### **Stemps & Cart**

We finally got the work underway on the island in Cart Pond towards the end of the autumn and got most of the posts in and started the weaving process. We needed more material for weaving and we are getting this from Hurston (see above). Once we have completed the posts and weaving we will then put a liner in and can back fill to reestablish the island. As well as the work on Cart Pond we fenced around the back of Stemps, established a new gate at the entrance to the fishery and cleared some of the overhanging trees from the island on Stemps.



Cart Island - January 2019

#### Coultershaw

Early in 2018 we carried out our normal maintenance and also re-established some of the steps down to the swims in the first field. Later in the year in association with the EA



flow deflectors were installed at the top end of the Coultershaw stretch. While we had plenty of people on site we also took the opportunity to get the boat out and trim back quite a few swims. This year we will have our normal general work parties on the fishery, dates are at the end of this article.

#### The Fisheries Team

#### Coates

The trees that we planted here will serve two valuable functions, the roots bind the bank and the tops will provide shade and protection over the river. We have got to the stage where we can cut the protective tubes and stakes away from some as they have grown really well. Others still need some protection, particularly from rabbits which like to strip the fresh bark which can be fatal. We will be moving a few of the trees around over the next couple of months and might even put some more willow whips in to supplement what is there.

#### **Fittleworth**

Having established a new bridge over the ditch at the end of the first field and rebuilt the stile between the first and second field earlier in the year. We had some further help from well known angler Martin James MBE, although he lives in Lancashire Martin decided to join our club and on one of his trips down he came armed with chicken wire, staples and cutters etc. and wired over both the new bridge and stile. Wiring provides a non-slip surface which is really beneficial during the winter months when flat wooden structures can very easily become ice rinks when there is a bit of moisture around.





Martin at work on the bridge and stile at Fittleworth.

After finishing the work Martin caught six Chub on bread from the Fittleworth stretch

At the time of writing we are very hopeful that we have secured some funding from the EA to go towards work on the two fish refuges at Fittleworth. These were installed getting on for 5 years ago and now require some maintenance. There is also the thought that if labour, time and money allow then it would be worthwhile installing a deflector at the mouth of the refuges which could help keep them more silt free.



### **Fishery Improvements**

#### The Granary

A couple of new swims were opened up at The Granary during last year. It was noted that we seem to have increasing weed on the venue. To date this has not interfered with angling but we might need to consider some weed clearing at our work parties this year.

Work Parties 2019						
Date	Venue		Date	Venue		
17th March	Stemps & Cart		5th May	Stemps & Cart		
24th March	Hurston Lane		12th May	Shopham		
7th April	Coates		12th May	Stemps & Cart		
14th April	Hurston Lane		26th May	The Granary		
14th April	Coultershaw		2nd June	Coultershaw		
28th April	Hurston Lane		18th August	Stemps & Cart		

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. 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.

Work parties start at 08.30 and run to around midday - we normally try to provide a sausage sandwich or similar. 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 2019 Handbook. We have occasional extra work parties, so please keep an eye on the website or facebook page

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** 

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. Other bailiffs have a more roving brief and are likely to pop up at any of our waters.

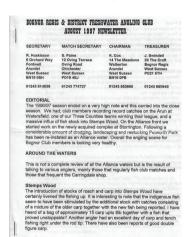


Although our bailiffs are the eyes and ears of our waters they cannot be everywhere all the time so if you see or hear anything amiss then in the first instance you should contact the specific water bailiff and let them know. It is also useful to put a note in the Fishery Log Book.

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

### 10 years of The Sussex Angler

Before The Sussex Angler The Bognor club mailed out a newsletter a couple of times a year . This started very simply as 2 sides of A4 black and white. The earliest edition I could find was from August 1997. Petworth Angling Club had something similar and I found an edition from 2002 which marked the 50th anniversary of the club. By 2007 the two clubs had of course amalgamated  $\,$  and we had reduced the format to A5 and were now at 16 pages .







# Evolution of the Newsletter from August 1997 Bognor edition on the left through the Petworth 2002 offering in the middle to the September 2007 Issue from Petworth & Bognor

Early in 2009 we sat down and decided to take the plunge and produce our first full-colour offering. This was new ground for us and we had a strict deadline that we had to meet as we decided to include the membership form as a tear off back page. Consequently it was not without quite a bit of midnight oil being burnt but we got there. The cover from the first edition is on page 2 and features a picture of the Coates stretch which we had just acquired.

In this first edition we also established a number of what would become our regular articles. 'In Depth' (a detailed look at one of our fisheries) kicked off with an article on Stemps Pond. Our 'In Depth' articles are still in the magazine and this time round we

feature Shopham Up, however we have almost been round all our waters, but things change over ten years so it's always worth looking again. Terry Scragg a noted local Ornithologist wrote for our first five issues covering from what he referred to as LBJ's (little brown jobs) through to the Osprey which although not seen specifically on our water was sighted on a large West Sussex still water in 2011.



### Ten Years of The Sussex Angler

Peter Foster one of our Coultershaw stalwarts gave us an epic 6 parter "Some Reflections on Barbel Fishing" which traces him starting off as a child fishing the Thames in the London area to his first trips to the Kennet at Burghfield where he had his first Barbel.





The swim above the Cunning Man that I fished on my return to the Kennet and the 'plodding' 11 pounder. Apologies for the quality of these pictures but they have been scanned from prints. Oh! the days before digital cameras when you had to wait until you got that envelope from the chemist before you knew how your pictures would turn out. I think that if I had known I would have tried to look less serious!

We follow Peter through to the capture of his 17lb 8oz fish - at that time a club record and his musing on wildlife and Radio 4 which keeps him company when fishing



Peter Foster with an 11lb Barbel from the Cunning Man at Burghfield on the Kennet and with his 17lb 8oz River Arun fish from Watersfield.

Not in every issue but always entertaining were Nigel Chapman's 'Tales From The Rod Room' - Ray Huskisson always reckoned that Nigel's Rod Room was a cupboard on the landing. These first started appearing in the Bognor Club's newsletters but once we got into the magazine we were able to use colour illustrations, however Nigel's pictures were quite often the source of some amusement. For instance I'm not sure we ever got a picture with Nigel

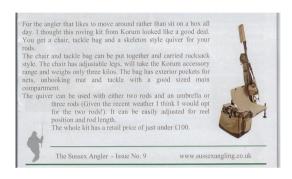
smiling. This one was about the closest and I reckon that is more of a grimace as he is just about to lose grip of the Pike.



Nigel with a pike featured in an article published in Issue 4



Arun Angling have always helped out, giving us information on the latest tackle and bait. For the first few years Tim was the main contributor but as he has stepped a little away from the shop Greg and Simon have come to the fore. There are certainly one or two pieces of kit that were first seen in the 'Tackle News' section that I have subsequently seen on the bank and even a couple I bought myself. They have always made sure that they find something new for all types of angler from cooking equipment for the serious carp angler through beautifully crafted one-off floats to a pole sock!!



al www.sussexangling.co.

I have seen a number of our members sporting the Korum roving kit (above) first shown in our Spring 2013 issue.

Richard Fox's floats are always a joy to look at, these featured in Issue 10.

We even got a recipe when we did an article on the Ridge Monkey Sandwich Toaster. It is probably a little difficult to read in the original so here is a précised version

Bacon, Cheese and Pickle Toastie Firstly grill four rashers of bacon with the toaster open.

Butter two thick slices of bread and load one with

The Deep Fill Sandwich Toaster, shown here with the optional utensil kit is a must for those planning long sessions. It is not only great for preparing toasted sandwiches but can be used for cooking a wide variety of foods up to a full English breakfast! The toaster is so good for sandwiches that Tim even has one at home for use in the kitchen! It is made from die cast aluminium with a high quality non stick coating so cleaning is easy, in most instances just a wipe round is all you need.

You can toast a proper man sized sandwich in the toaster with thick sliced bread and plenty of filling. A particular favourite is the bacon, cheese and pickle;

Firstly grill four rashers of back bacon (smoked or un smoked—your preference) for a few minutes with the togster open

While doing this butter two thick slices of bread and load the cheese (good old cheddar) and finally a layer of Branston pickle onto one slice, then put the bacon on and finally the second slice of bread on top. Return to the toaster, close up, cook and enjoy.

You might find that you need to double up as any angler who is close is likely to be very interested!!

The tool set is specially designed not to damage the non stick surface and conveniently, fits inside the toaster for transport. Don't forget to let the toaster cool down before putting the utensil set away.







### Ten Years of The Sussex Angler

We always enjoy looking back in time and have been lucky to have articles from a number of people relating to their angling exploits from years ago. There was of course the 'Rod Room' series which we have already mentioned. In our early issues Ray Stewart wrote about natural baits and trips from the 60s and 70s and recalled the drought of 1976.



From the Spring 2011 Issue

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Dennis Howell who was appointed as 'Minister of Drought' in August 1976 only to be named 'Minister of Flood' a few days into September when the rains finally came.

More recently we have been very lucky to have access to the diaries of Reginald Addison. These are handwritten and document all his fishing trips from the 1920s through to the early 1990s. Reginald lived in South London but fished all over the country and virtually every week. Tucked into the diaries are press cutting, club cards, hotel bills (from fishing holidays), photos and all sorts of other memorabilia. We have reproduced these writings word for word with all the original punctuation etc. It is also very enjoyable when selecting these to find suitable pictures to complement the diary entries. We started with using these articles on the website and particularly featured fishing during the 2nd World War but more recently we have carried these as a regular feature in The Sussex Angler. There is more than enough material to keep us going for quite a few years. You will find his diary entries from 50 years ago on pages 20 - 25 in this issue.



We are lucky to occasionally have our pages graced by well known published anglers and I can remember in particular an article by Peter Springate ('Sir' Pete) detailing how we should handle big fish, looking in particular at fishing the Arun but his eight rules are adaptable to any venue or situation. I feel that these are well worth setting out again.

- RULE 1: Before you start fishing think about where you are going to land your fish. More importantly think about where you are going to be able to put your fish back safely. As we all know we should always make sure that our fish have recovered before releasing them, this is particularly the case with barbel. So if you not going to be able to do this, it's very simple, stop fishing or move to somewhere where you will be able to release your fish properly.
- RULE 2: Always carry an unhooking mat when you are fishing for big fish (incidentally it is also a club rule). It's also a good idea to leave your mat face down until you use it, particularly in sunny conditions.
- RULE 3: Always have water available with you on top of the bank, either do what I do and fill a bucket up before you start or the very least you should do is to carry a small plastic bottle of water this will at least give you enough to wet your mat and weigh sling.
- RULE 4: Carry some sort of antiseptic solution such as a Carp Care Kit. These can be used if you come across any sores on your fish. They are readily available from most good tackle shops.
- RULE 5: Make sure that you carry a landing net with a long enough handle for the venue you are fishing. Remember that you might need to hold a fish in the net for a while to allow it to recover.
- RULE 6: Never stand up holding barbel, carp, pike or any specimen fish. If you are going to take pictures make sure that your fish is close to the ground. Some of the pictures in the angling press make me cringe, never I repeat never hold any specimen fish out in one hand while standing up.
- RULE 7: If possible prepare your camera and weight equipment etc. before lifting your fish from the water. This will minimise the amount of time that your fish is out of the water.
- RULE 8: Personal Safety Be very careful as the tide runs out the banks can become very dangerous. You can encounter thick mud which you can easily get stuck in and the banks are also significantly undercut in places. It's always best to fish with a friend if one of you happens to get stuck.

'Thinking about these rules, most of them can be adapted to wherever you are fishing be it a river or a still water, so just take a minute to think about my golden rules wherever you are. Unfortunately I can't guarantee that they are going to help you catch fish but when you do you will be able to return them safely and get home safely yourself.'

Pete Springate

That's a brief flick through the first 10 years of this magazine. All issues can be found on our website if you are interested in reading a bit more. If you would like to write an article for us we would be very happy to publish it. In the meantime we hope you enjoy this current issue.



### In Depth - Shopham Up

I was first introduced to Shopham Up as a new match angler in the club. We always fish Shopham as part of the evening series on the river although as the match is a walk off we have the option of going up or down from the match. At that time some of our match anglers were quite cagey and as a newcomer it was difficult to glean much information on where the fancied swims were. I drew towards the end of the walk off (something like no.6 of 8) and by that time at least four anglers had declared that they were going up and it was fairly obvious that they all knew where they were going. In the event I decided to go down and ended up on the first big bend, just past where the riffles are now. I managed a chub and a few bits for around 2½1b but didn't come anywhere, those that went up had good nets of mixed silver fish or a couple of Chub and were weighing in 4 -6lb. After the match people were a bit more forthcoming about where they had fished and swims like 'Burton Mill stream', the lilies, the shallows and the big bend were mentioned and I was determined to have a look at and fish some of these places. The water has changed quite a bit since those days, They opened up the far bank in front of the house and we can no longer fish there, it was a good trotting area. The very top end has changed radically when 'The Loop' was restored, previously the main flow was through the canal section and of course we created the fish refuge at the top end of the first straight. So here we will look at Shopham Up as it is now.



Firstly we have the upstream bridge swim, now I have tried all sorts here with very little success. Positioning yourself just about where this picture has been taken from you have a nice insidemid water trot on the stick float, I've never had much success but Roger our Chairman tells me that it is one of his go to swims and he always manages a reasonable mixed bag of fish. I've often wondered

whether you could pull the Chub from below the bridge with a small block end feeder to the third arch but it is very shallow here as you can see from the picture.



Going upstream we first have to go past the open space in front of the house as we have agreed we will not fish here. Then we come to a small area where there is extensive cover over virtually the whole width of the river and then a decent sized open hole. This hole provides a short trot or you can fish a

## By Steve Simmonds



About the middle of the hole fish from here with the tip or go just a bit further upstream to trot down the middle

Perch. During the winter months bread is king and I would tend to leave the trotting rod at home and concentrate on mashed bread and flake. You can either put mashed bread in by hand and fish a big lump of flake or I quite like using a cage feeder for the mash with a lump of flake on a size 10 or 12 hook. Fish from the centre of the gap to the downstream cover. It is always worth trying a large worm or cheese paste here as well.

small bomb to the downstream cover. Next is the first big bend with the fish refuge on the far bank. There are a few options here. You can either fish a small feeder or bomb rig to the cover in the centre of the river. It is a bit of a hit and hold option as the fish know where to go but during the summer they respond well to a bunch of maggots on a size 14 or 16 hook with a small block end feeder. Along with the normal Roach and Dace there is a good chance of a Chub or good sized



Downstream cover just below the refuge bend

Just upstream we come to Refuge Bend.

The bend is now dominated by the fish refuge on the far bank and the water comes off the bend quite quickly but there is a crease between the refuge and main flow which always seems to hold a few fish, you can't really fish it with a float as the flow is a bit fast but a small maggot feeder and 2 or 3 maggots on a 14 or 16 hook seems to be the best summer tactic.

Once round the bend you are faced with a section of high banks and some fairly impressive features (snags) in the river. Not a section that I would tend to fish but I understand that the odd Barbel can occasionally be found along this section. There is

one quite well established swim just below where the trees start but be careful there are a lot of snags!!



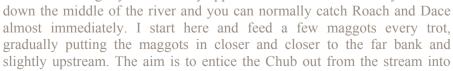
### Shopham Up

We then come to what is probably the most well known swim on this section of the river and that is the 'Burton Mill' swim. This is a very popular swim and although the bank is quite high here you can get down to just above water level (when the river is not in flood) and stand or sit quite comfortably. The tree immediately upstream of the swim is the one on the right in the foreground of the picture, although close this does not normally impinge.

You will immediately notice the stream coming in just about opposite you on the far bank. This comes from Burton Mill Pond hence the name of the swim. You will very



often see two or three Chub sitting just at the end of the stream - the most I have seen there is eight (unfortunately I was just out for a walk and had no gear with me.). Very occasionally you might also see a Carp sat with the chub. The temptation is to immediately target these and normally in doing so you will ruin any chances of catching them. I find a slightly more sneaky approach is best. There is a very nice trot





## **By Steve Simmonds**

the main river. If they see the odd free offering going past eventually they cannot resist any longer and one or maybe more will move into the river. This is the time to look to run your float down a bit closer to the far bank. Just past the mouth of the stream is a summer reed bed and if you can get a few trots reasonably close to that you will almost certainly get a Chub. It is then a case of repeating the process to draw another out. It's exciting fishing because you can actually see your quarry move into the target area.

Another option is to drop a small bomb rig with a bunch of maggots or a worm just in front of the mouth of the stream and loose feeding as above you will often find that the response is almost instantaneous once you get a fish to move into the main river as they will hopefully find your maggots or worm right in front of them.

The next spot worth mentioning is just past the trees. Here you will find an area where there is a bit of a shelf in the bank from which you can trot down a middle / outside line comfortably. Although there are normally a fair number of Roach and Dace here you might also find that you are connecting with Trout which seem to like this particular area. A little further up-stream and we come to a patch of summer lilies on the far bank. This area was renowned for Carp and fishing in and around the lilies with a big bait could often tempt them out. I've not heard of Carp coming from here recently but there is also a nice mid line trot which produces Roach and Dace.



The beach swim at the top of Shopham Up with the tree that you need to get under

Finally just below where the loop joins the canal section is a challenging swim but is well worth a look. You will find a bit of a beach here with very shallow water at least halfway across the river and then a slightly deeper fast glide tight down the far bank. If you can get a float going through this fast water keeping close to the far bank and under the tree just downstream then you can expect all sorts. This is one of the best swims for Grayling but you are also likely to get Trout and a range of silver fish.



If you fancy a winter roving session on bread then all but the last swim mentioned are worth a go. In this case I would put some mashed bread into each swim on a walk up and then return and give each about 20 minutes or so with the cage feeder.

## **Paste Fishing**

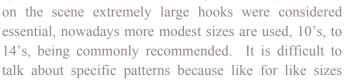
Paste fishing either gets good or bad press depending on whom you talk to: some saying that it involves a lot of "faffing" about, others swearing by it. Using paste under the right conditions at the right time of the year will out fish other methods and as an added bonus "paste fish" tend to be the larger fish in your swim.

Its best to fish paste in the warmer months, that is not to say it does not work when it is colder, and it is always well worth a try as it can produce a response out of the blue when all else is failing. Paste can be used on any of the lines you would normally use when fishing the pole, however, it really comes into its own when fishing silty areas of a peg where solely feeding and using particle baits can create a 'fizzing swim', resulting in no bites, foul hooked fish and a very frustrated angler!

#### Floats and Rigs.

The floats used for paste fishing have longer bristles than the norm, be aware that hollow

very buoyant bristles can actually pull your hook out of a soft paste bait, in this respect solid bristles are probably better than hollow. There are many paste float patterns on the market, some need to be shotted others don't and float selection will depend on weather conditions and depth to be fished. Floats that do not require shotting are best suited to shallower water (less than 4ft.), typically margins and against islands, they have alloy or fibre glass stems and usually cock to the base of the bristle without shot, they also have an eye on the bristle tip which prevents annoying "wrap-overs" when shipping out with no shot on the line. Shotted floats can be used for all depths and areas of the peg, but when conditions deteriorate they really come into play, the size decided by depth, strength of wind and tow. In rougher conditions a couple of no.8 back shot between the float and pole tip help to stabilize things. The shot is bulked about 9" above the 6" hook length and should sink the float to the base of the bristle. If lift bites are causing problems, the hook length can be reduced to 4" and a portion of the bulk slid down to just above it, this will result in a more pronounced lift of the float at the surface, making these bites easier to hit. When paste fishing first came





Typical paste floats



### With 'Rodney Butt'

differ so much from manufacturer to manufacturer. There is even a school of thought that promotes 16's and 18's on the basis that they pull through the bait easier, they could be right! Line and elastic strength depend on your peg and size of fish, however a typical rig would have .19mm. mainline and .17mm. hook length. These of course can be scaled down in open water or when other species such as Bream are the quarry.

#### **Hook Baits.**

There are literally hundreds of options for your paste, mainly fishmeal based; other ingredients occasionally used are meat and corn. All the main bait manufacturers produce ready-to-use paste in tubs with a wide range of flavours and colours, these tend to be at the stiffer end of the paste consistency spectrum. There are also packets of paste powder produced in a myriad of flavours and colours, which rely on the angler to mix. Another self-mix option is groundbait simply straight out of the bag; this again offers a wide choice, Green or Original Swim Stim are popular for this but every angler seems to have his own favourite. Mixing your own bait is simple, all you do is add water (and your preferred additives) to an equal volume of groundbait and stir, this will initially be like porridge but will quickly tighten up, producing a medium level of consistency. You can then just leave it in the bait box, flatten the surface and it is ready for use, having avoided all the messy kneading process. A point to bear in mind is that mixing the paste yourself allows you to adjust the consistency as a session unfolds. Another important aspect is the breakdown time for paste, too long and it is possible that you may have problems with the hook pulling through to hook the fish. A break down time of 3-4 minutes seems to produce about the right consistency, this can easily be tested at home. There is a train of thought that states that paste must be practically dripping off the hook to achieve the best results, yet others use paste that that can be comfortably swung out without using a pole pot, the right answer is probably a choice the angler has to make himself as he gains experience and finds his own comfort level as having bait falling off can be very frustrating! Shipping out ultra-soft paste is achieved by using a "toss" pot set back from the pole tip to avoid tangles, taking care that the bait is dropped on the groundbaited area and then pulling the float back over the bait. This



ensures that the bait doesn't pull out because of increased tension on the rig as it sinks. The simplest way to bait the hook is probably to just flatten your chosen size of bait, place your hook in the centre, then fold the outer flaps back over the hook and mould into the required shape. Round, oval, pyramid, all are easy to

### **Paste Fishing**

make, a pyramid would seem to be better suited to sitting on the bottom. An alternative way to bait the hook is to roll the paste into a ball, place it on a flat surface (knee?), then cheese cut the bait with the hook length making sure it lies in the centre and pull the hook carefully into the bait. You then know for certain that your hook is lying through the centre and not been inadvertently pushed to the surface where it could easily pull out.

#### Plumbing up and bites.

When plumbing up, great care has to be taken so that what is happening to the bait is accurately transmitted to the angler via the float. To achieve this plumb up as follows: firstly check that the float has been shotted so that all the bristle is clear of the water. secondly when at the peg plumb up so that half the bristle is visible. The other half bristle is the amount shown when the heavy hook bait has settled on the bottom. Another point to bear in mind is that if the peg has a silty bottom, the depth of the peg may increase through the activity of the fish over the groundbaited area. As a result of this the float will sit lower and need adjustment, this could happen several times over a session. Following these steps achieves a tight rig with which the angler stands a good chance of finding out when a fish enters his peg and also whether there is bait still on the hook! This seems an opportune moment to cover the small matter of the actual bites you can expect fishing paste. There will be a lot of activity on the bristle as fish enter and leave the peg through the vortices created by tail movement from what can be fairly large fish, there will also be the movement caused by any small fish that pass by. All this can cause the float to dip, tilt, slowly submerge, all of which must be ignored. What you are waiting for is what can only be described as a violent thump on the float, causing it to flash under. A lift bite is another type of bite you may experience, but is more difficult to recognise, which may result in a few misses.

#### Feeding.

When feeding the peg, lines where silt might be present need to be treated differently to those where it is not. The reason for this being, that in silty areas, fish gill feed quite a lot due to silt containing lots of their food items. To get this food the fish filters the almost liquid silt through the gills, separates the edible, digesting it immediately, then expelling the rest out through the mouth. This suggests that a "grazing" area might be the best way to go. A combination of easily digested food such as softened pellets



and possibly even a little groundbait plus your paste, which is after all just a little pile of groundbait, provides a medium well suited for the fish to gill feed. Feeding these items of course ensures that your hook bait will become the standout item amongst all the other feed, no bad thing. Not

### With 'Rodney Butt'

wishing to overdo things, an initial introduction of about 150 ml. of well softened micros plus a couple of balls of your paste hook bait is enough. Although we are trying to achieve a grazing scenario, we do not want too many fish in the peg at any one time, which would be counterproductive in the way of foul hookers and liners etc. If by chance, things get a little overheated in this way or even bites tailing off, moving a small distance away can be effective, as little as a yard or even less can solve the problem. This initial feed is left for about 20 min., time for the fish to feel settled. Where there is a hard bottom and no silt, particle baits can of course be used as you would normally without fear of the dreaded "fizzing". Here, the more normal strategy of feeding enough to attract one fish at a time can be adopted; pellets, hemp and corn all work well for this, again a smallish initial introduction of your preferred feed can be put in in the same way as on the silty lines. However, when feeding the margins with the aim to fish paste, it is probably best to avoid the popular potting in of industrial quantities of loose groundbait and dead maggots; this could easily attract too many fish into the shallow water and will cause all sorts of problems with bait being knocked off the hook and foul hooking fish. Gradually priming your margins as normal and then going over the top would be the better option. Topping up on all lines is dictated as usual by the fish, either bites slowing up or the fizzing stopping, making sure not to overdo re-feeding. Remember, you are effectively re-feeding every time you 'put in' and don't hook a fish. Alternatively, you can feed as you go through a "toss" pot with the odd knob of paste included, again it very easy to overdo things, you do not have to re-feed every time you re-bait.

So there you have it! Is paste fishing difficult? Not really if you take what are a few simple steps. Is it worth all the "faffing" about? Yes definitely, because it can work

when all else fails.



Hopefully you will end up with a net like this!



### The Addison Diaries

I decided to look at the diary entries from 50years ago, the end of the 1968/69 season and the start of the 69/70 season. These include a trips to Fittleworth, the River Kird at Orfold Farm near Wisborough Green and the River Nadder near Salisbury in March and then the River Wey at Eashing and Witley Park Lake in June.

#### March 8th 1969 - Fittleworth

A Saturday to finish the season with Ted and Geoffrey. It was a beautiful sunny day, but unfortunately preceded by a hard white frost, as has happened all this week. We did not get there until mid-day by which time it was a pleasure to take off coats and sit in the sun. Ted wanted to try upstream, so we went above Fittleworth Mill and found a nice stretch of water, with low banks, much different from below the mill. The water was deep, clear and sluggish, but the three of us could not get a touch, so about 3 0'clock we moved down to the river where we fished previously. Here again I tried several swims without a touch, but at 50'clock Geoffrey got a chub 1¾lb and at 5.5 I got one of 1¼lbs, and Ted missed a bite. We got no more—the feeding spell was short and sweet.

#### March 9th 1969 - Orfold Farm (with Bill)

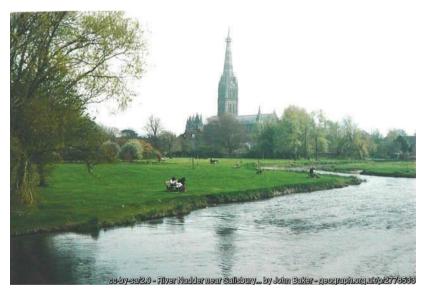
Collected a car on Friday, and we decided to visit Wisborough Green for the last outing. It was again a frosty, sunny morning - thick rime on the windscreen and rather hard to get the engine started, but we got to Guildford High St, and then found mist below us, into which we descended and found it continued all the way, with visibility down to 50 or 100 yds, and the trees covered with frost. However, we went down to the Kird and it seemed remarkably warm in spite of the whiteness around us. Bill soon got a 7" roach but it was sometime before I got anything, and then small perch came on the feed. I got 6 and then a pike grabbed one. I had him on for several minutes, but he was not hooked, and eventually let go, the perch being none the worse - not a mark on it. I put out a pikie line, but he did not come again. Bill got a huge minnow, and I had the smallest perch I've ever had, about 1½ inches, but they went off after the affair with the pike. Then Bill said 'try over here' where a shallow run ran under a tree and I went over and began to get bites at once and took half a dozen fat dace, but only about 6" long. The last one dashed about on the surface and then they were gone except for a small 5" chub and then some gudgeon. I had 17 fish, 7 perch, 6 dace, 2 gudgeon and 1 chub, so I had some minor sport! Bill did not get much more except gudgeon and packed up about 3 o'clock after loosing several hooks. The water was well down lower than we have seen it, and only a very slight stream.



### 50 years Ago

#### March 14th - River Nadder

Had the day off and went to Salisbury on the Nadder. But three days rainin the week caused floods in Surrey and Sussex (road closed at Stopham Bridge)) and the nadder was high and fast. It was a dull day and very warm, but the high water made things difficult. I began at the mouth of the trout stream where there was slack water, but did not get a touch, so went downstream where the river is divided into 2 channels and consequently less fast. I found a couple of feet of water running fairly steadily beside the reeds, just above where the path meets the road and after frequent baiting with breadcrumb and maggots took a nice grayling on maggots about half an hour later. There was some weed and I must have had bites as well, on bread, as eventually I got two more grayling, the largest 14" (1lb 1oz) and a 10" trout. Then they went off and I could not even get knocks from the weed!. The water dropped 2" and the trout stream had cleared completely when I crossed it on the way home. I had fished it briefly before moving downstream, when it had some colour, but it was only 18" deep and I thought i had one bite which nipped the maggot. A local angler he fishes the Nadder by fly and spinners and had many good trout, grayling and chub and last week a 21b perch. But roach are said to be few here.





### **Addison Diaries**

#### June 22nd River Wey - Eashing

First outing of the season and only 11 turned out. The water was rather coloured following rain on Thursday, but it was a beautiful day - some white clouds about in a blue sky, warm but not too hot and a breeze which kept me cool, but was a handicap to Billlower downstream. I drew No.1, and had all the first field, Ken drew No.2 on the first corner and Bill No.3 from the next corner to the gate - the latter never much good, he only got 2 fish.. Peter Stephens came top with 5lb 14oz from the pump swim. Fred was 2nd with 5lb 4oz and I was 3rd with 41/2lb. I began legering in case there was a chub laying under the bank or in the pool, but got nothing and then changed to float but could only get minnows. Eventually I went deeper and at once caught a large gudgeon, to be followed by more until I must have had 20 large ones; the best 2oz. About 12 I moved down the field to what is sometimes No.2 swim, and missed a couple of fish at the end of the reedbank - a long trot in shallow water. However, I eventually got 4 or 5 dace at intervals before minnows again became a nuisance and then moved a bit lower down to where the big tree overhangs the water - "Hatchetts Swim'. Here I got a nice ½lb roach, a big dace and a 11/4lb chub and missed one or two more. So fish came all day and made a pleasant start to the season. Herb Goddard also had some nice dace - best 9oz, my best was 7oz. The gudgeon were on maggots, but most of the others took bread. Chrysalis were not touched except by the minnows







A couple of views of the Eashing stretch of the River Wey. This water is controlled by Godalming Angling Society

### 50 years ago

#### June 29th Witley Park Lake

Looking forward to this after missing last year, but a 6 0'clock start was too early for us, so we got there at 8. It was to be a tench competition up till 12, then an hours break for lunch, followed by all species until 6. Juniors had the top pond and we were in the big one. Bill drew No.22 and was in the reedy bay where the water flows down from the upper lake. I was on the island through the tunnel - peg 34. Fred at the end of the wall, - peg 37. Mac and John Evett were on the island with me and were getting crucian carp, but it was quite a while before I got anything. It was 14 - 15 feet deep, but I managed to cast a porcupine guill with 3 shots and a 14 hook, which I thought would not be too heavy, but apart from an occasional slight knock—½" movement up and down, could get nothing. At last I moved the shot which I had placed 4" from the hook to keep the bread from rising and immediately caught a crucian about 11/4lb, followed by another both on red worm. No more for a while, then on maggots I had another bite and felt something different and apparently heavier. But it came up sideways and turned out to be a 11/4 common carp hooked in the pectoral fin.. Lots of bubbles were coming up, evidently fish were rooting about but we got no tench and they may have come from the carp. At the weigh in Fred Sherlock from Dorking had 5 tench weighing 9lb 15oz, best 3lband the chap next to him had 3. They both had overhanging bushes by their swim, which was next to our Fred's. He lost a good fish, probably a tench, Bill got 2 weighing 4½lb.

In the afternoon the heat and a strong south west wind combined to put the fish off. I did not get a bite, but John Evett was on the shady and sheltered side of the island and fish were sheltering there, he took fish all afternoon to weigh 16lb. But few took the float under and he struck and hooked at the slightest touch. Bill got 18lb, also in a sheltered corner but many others had nothing. However the Juniors had a field day, their lake was sheltered and all had loads of fish - 61lb the best bag. Two golden crucian carp were caught and one lad had 6¼of small rudd up to 5" -some hard work was put in! The winner had about 20lb of tench during the morning. It was a pity the

day turned out so hot and sunny, as when it was high the fish were right off, except where there was some shelter. The sky was cloudless and the breeze, slight from the west at first changed to a stronger south westerly at midday.





Witley Park Lake was renowned for its' submarine ballroom This picture shows the lake with the ballroom skylight in the foreground

### The Addison Diaries

#### July 6th - Milton Woods v Hartley Witney

After a hot sunny week the weather forecast was for a similar day, in spite of a depression off NW Scotland, so I left my umbrella at home, though taking rainwear. It began to spot with rain as we arrived, but did not worsen until about 11.30, after which it rained steadily all day, with a sharp drop in temperature. Some few fish were caught during the morning,



Map showing the areas that Reginald fished on the River Wey

but after the rain started they went off completely. Only one decent catch was made 5lb from the lily patch above the overflow, all dace. Fred was 2nd with 1½lbs from the corner at Salgasson. I had a dace, a perch and a gudgeon for about 9oz but put them back. The water was very low, due to work going on at the B&H factory and above the cut through the bed of the river was dry.. I was further up among the trees - not a very prolific spot as a rule. Several small perch were caught beside mine, but no chub or roach. The dace were very nice ones up to 7oz.

#### July 12th - Eashing - Afternoon match

Another fine day and I drew No.1, which was pegged on the first corner down thye field in view of bathers at the top end. Frde was here for a good catch three weeks ago. I began with bread flake where the water runs over a ledge and soon got 2 chub of about  $1\frac{1}{4}$ lbs each as well as a roach and a dace by long trotting. Moving down round the corner fished a shorter swim more frequently and began to pick up a couple of fish every now and then, after which there would be no more for a while, then a change of bait or depth brought another two. This kept on for the rest of the day and I finished with 6lb 11oz, though only came third. 2nd was 6lb 13oz and 1st 9lb 15oz (latter included 4 chub). These two were taken below the gate where the weigh in is made and were attributed to bathers there

stirring the water, as we three were the only significant catches. Mine were taken on bread, maggots, chrysalis and wheat, but I could not get the fish to feed on any one in particular.



### **Selected by Editor**

#### Some thoughts and notes

Again I thought it worthwhile mentioning the background research that I did when compiling these latest extracts.

The River Wey waters mentioned were all Godalming club waters as they still are and the map that goes with this article was a modification of a map on their website. The mention of bathers intrigues me. We do see the odd one at Fittleworth at the height of summer but the way they were described in Reginald's writing I felt that they were probably a regular feature of the water.

We obviously know the Rother however I am not sure exactly where above Fittleworth Mill they fished and how they gained access. The section immediately around and above the mill is not available to us but we do have the Coates stretch on the south bank that runs to about 200yds above the mill area.

Witley Park was a very interesting water, as mentioned there was a ballroom under the lake and I have seen photos of fish looking in through the windows. Although they fished a Tench match I have spoken to one of our club anglers who recalls fishing the water in the 1970's and he reckoned it was then particularly well known for Crucian Carp and I am led to believe that some of the famous Marsh Farm Crucian Carp started from Witley Park stock.

The River Nadder runs through Salisbury and the bit that Reginald described is controlled by Salisbury & District Angling Club. I did contact them to see if I could glean a bit more information but unfortunately they did not reply to me.

I looked at the weather figures for the periods in question and the hard frost that Reginald refers to was preceded by overnight temperatures dropping to -8°C in some areas of southern England. June was described as rather dry but dull and although there was a bit of rain at the start of the month, there was then very little through to the 2nd week in August.



### **Match Scene**

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

The back end of last season was pretty barren with a number of matches failing to produce 3 places as we were experiencing quite a few blanks. I unusually managed to maintain my early form and caught at most matches which meant that I ended up with the three top trophies!!

The 2018 season started on a Tuesday evening in May at Hurston Match Pond and

then we were quickly off to a new away venue - Stanbridge View on the Sunday at which Phil Tubb showed his mettle and we had a new comer in the shape of Steve Penticost. Steve would go on to have success in a number of matches mostly those where Carp were involved, he would also have a bit of a disaster on a return trip to Stanbridge View. Later in the season Steve has become our unofficial official match photographer and also the facebook match reporter.

In a season when the summer was dominated by the sun and a noticeable lack of wind we did not have the best of things at Petworth Park which responds well to a good breeze and some cloud cover, however there were still some good match weights with venue experts Jon Ritter and Gary Collins pretty much sharing the honours between them.



Steve Penticost with a winning net from the Granary





Gary and Jon the Petworth Park Maestros

We have had a couple of good matches early season on the canal with at the time of writing one further match in the series. It will be interesting to see how the main canal responds in March, we know that the basin can fish well but will the fish have moved out??

The rivers have been fairly consistent and produced some good match weights. The mint swim still being the most favoured

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draw at Watersfield, On the Rother it is slightly different as we tend to walk off but there are favoured swims on each of the venues. The Crate swim at Coultershaw, Burton Mill swim at Shopham and the first peg in the second field at Fittleworth are all go to places and were fished with a fair degree of success. Another new matchman - Graham White first came to notice with

### By Mick Greenway

a third place at Shopham. We asked Graham if he would like to fish with us in the Three Counties matches, he agreed and finished with much the best points tally from a Petworth & Bognor angler. Graham had three sections wins and a couple of seconds but was beaten to the league top spot by a very experienced Rother angler, nonetheless a great first season for Graham - well done!

We are all having to start to look over our shoulders at young Cody Hughes - Granddad Keith started bringing Cody along a year or so ago and they would share a swim and Cody would have the odd net of fish. Over the last season Cody has decided that he can look after his own swim now and although Keith will take the peg next door and help Cody setting up, he is pretty independent and has had some great catches and results over the last season.





Whether it is Carp from The Granary or Bream from Coultershaw Cody has shown that he can 'mix it' with the adults

Well, we are coming to the end of my tenure as Match Secretary, I took over in 2011 and I think started as my predecessor had finished by falling in. It seems to be a given with our club that if you are Match Secretary you will spend a fair proportion of your time actually in the water. I think I have improved over the years and this last season has been a dry one although there are a few matches left and I could still find myself going out in style! I only hope that Steve Penticost will be having a day off because if he's there no doubt he will get a picture!

Keith Hughes is taking over from me and will be organising the matches for next season and I might even be able to take the odd Sunday off when Brighton are playing at home and utilise my season ticket!



### **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, small Chub and Perch can be caught all through with Skimmer Bream liable to show virtually anywhere with the odd big Bream as well. 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 and 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..



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 and increasing number of Bream, Perch and Gudgeon. This stretch also produces the odd very big Barbel.



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 Roach at the start of 2019. 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** The Carp feed all year round and the Roach, Bream and Tench are prolific during the warmer months and seem to be a bit more active over the winter compared to previous years.





Chichester Canal We enjoy several miles of fishing on the Chichester Canal. During the warmer months good mixed bags of Roach, Rudd, Perch, and Skimmer Bream supplemented by the occasional larger Bream or maybe even a 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. The Skimmer Bream stocked in 2015 seem to be showing more regularly now. Although there is not much evidence of the Tench.



### **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, Roach, Rudd, Bream and Perch. Cart Pond (right) is stocked with Carp, Tench, Roach, Rudd and Skimmer Bream. Over the last year or so we have worked hard to re-instate the island in Cart Pond. And earlier this year we stocked around 200 Tench into Cart Pond

#### **Petworth Park Lower Pond**

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 few 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 28th November 2019** 

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 7th November 2019

### **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 2019 - 2020**

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	<b>Membership Type</b>	Full Year	Winter
I	Full Adult	£105	£70
I	Family (2 adults & 2 children under 18)	£184	£117
S	Senior Citizen	£63	£42
I	ntermediate (aged 18 - 24 inclusive)	£63	£42
ŀ	Registered Disabled	£63	£42
J	Junior (aged 13 - 17 inclusive)	£25	£12
J	Juvenile (aged below 13)	Free	Free
A	Associate (non fishing)	£2	£2