

PETWORTH & BOGNOR ANGLING CLUB



E-mailer Issue 17

October 2019

AGM - Advance Notice

Our AGM will take place on Thursday 28th November 2019 in the Arundel Suite at The White Swan on the A27 just outside Arundel.

Please submit any motions for consideration in writing to the Club Secretary at least 21 days prior to the meeting. You can do this. [HERE](#)

Work Parties

Work continues on Cart Pond to finish off the hurdling around the island and the pond is likely to be closed for one or two days, look out for announcements on the web site and facebook and check the venue notice board.

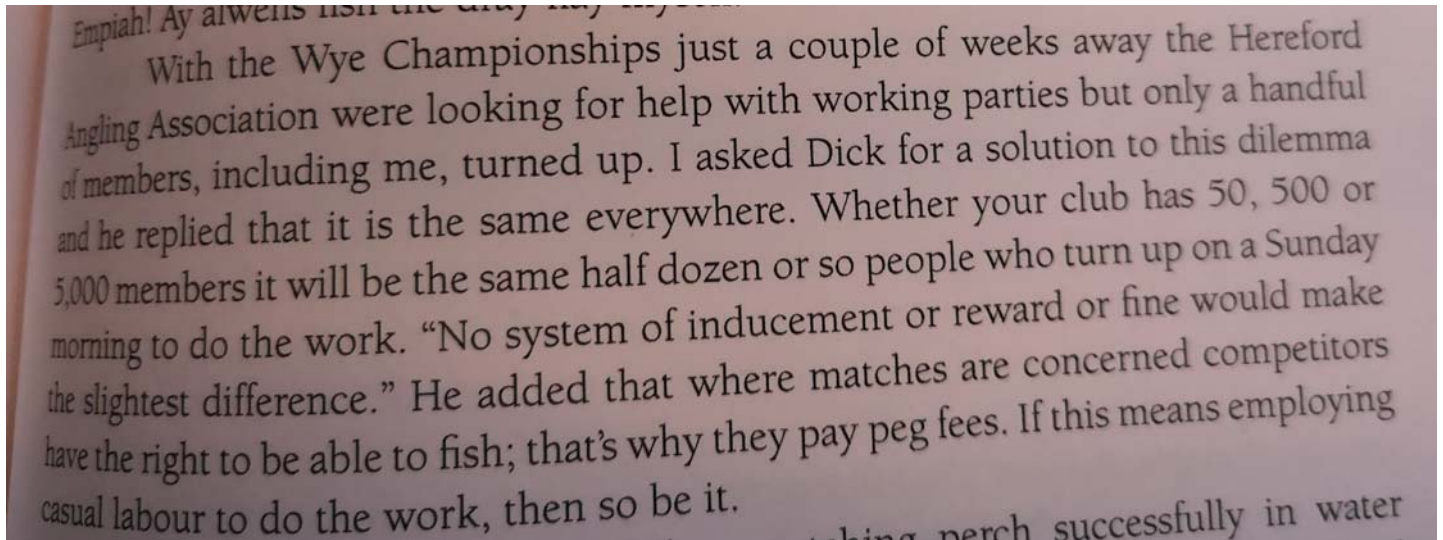
Upcoming Matches - Check your handbook for times

| Date | Venue | Comment |
|---------------|--------------------|---|
| Sun 29th Sept | The Granary | Plenty of Carp and Rudd are expected to come from our prolific Granary fishery. |
| Sun 29th Sept | Coultershaw | The annual charity fish-in to celebrate the memory of Chris Humphry and raise some money for charity. If you would like to join in please contact. PETER FOSTER |
| Sun 6th Oct | Passies Match Lake | A joint match with The Sportsman. We have had to move from Sumners to Passies as there has been a mix up on the booking. BOOK IN ESSENTIAL |
| Sun 20th Oct | Coultershaw | It will be good to see how the matchmen fair on the Coultershaw stretch where pleasure anglers have been reporting plenty of Roach, Dace and Gudgeon with the odd Chub. |
| Sun 27th Oct | Hurston Match Pond | One of our regular visits to our Hurston match venue, which has proved to be a bit fickle recently. |
| Sun 10th Nov | Stemps & Cart | We are hosting a Three Counties League match, our visitors always enjoy a day here. |
| Sun 17th Nov | Stanbridge View | A very popular away day. BOOK IN ESSENTIAL |
| Sun 24th Nov | Watersfield | Due to poor tides only our second Arun visit this season, the last match was excellent with plenty of silver fish. BOOK IN ESSENTIAL |
| Sun 1st Dec | Passies Match Lake | No Carp allowed in this match, silverfish only. BOOK IN ESSENTIAL |
| Sun 15th Dec | Bernies | Our last match before the Christmas and New Year's break. BOOK IN ESSENTIAL |

A BIT ABOUT LOOKING AFTER OUR WATERS

We have a very dedicated team of bailiffs and they in turn have a small band of hard working volunteers, together they keep our waters in good condition, making sure that when you turn up to fish there are swims available and you can get to them with a relative degree of ease. There is only a small band that help and despite various appeals via these e-mailers, the website and our facebook page; we rarely see anyone other than the familiar faces who are prepared to put some time in for the good of our club. This is not a new problem and is not restricted to our club or even our sport, many other sports also rely upon the dedication of a small number of volunteers who are willing to put a little back.

Our Chairman recently came across this telling paragraph, the Dick in question is Dick Walker and this refers to 1980, so almost 40 years ago!



We would like to think that as a club we could buck this trend so if you can help, contact us. [HERE](#)

On most of our waters we have our log books and we request that you record your catches and observations in these, again we have a relatively small band of regular contributors, but many of you do not. We assure you we do read them and the information that is recorded is really helpful in our decisions with regard to stock and bankside work etc. We would again appeal to you to let us know what is happening on our waters via these log books or, if you see something that requires immediate attention, please contact the bailiff for the water or one of the club officers. This is particularly important for the more remote areas of waters which are not heavily fished such as Coates, Stopham or Watersfield.

Recently we have had a totally unacceptable incident where pages have been removed from one of these log books, we cannot understand the mentality of a member that would do this and if we find out who or it was, or it happens again, we will make every effort to discipline the person(s) responsible in a fitting manner - possibly loss of membership!

There is a quote from David Bellamy that used to appear on the back cover of our Handbook '*Anglers are the eyes and ears of waterside wild life*'. This is very appropriate at this moment as I have just been contacted by the estate manager at Petworth Park who said that he has had a couple of reports of some of the wild fowl on the lake showing signs of distress. We would ask that if you see anything untoward, please contact us so we can pass any information on.

Venue Reports September 2019

River Rother

The little rain we have had has not done much to our rivers, our Coultershaw bailiff reported a rise and fall of a whole inch after some recent heavy rain.

Coultershaw

It appears that when we have extremely high winds these are the times to go out after the big Barbel. Our Coultershaw bailiff has had his two personal bests in 50mph plus gales - I think he is very brave to even contemplate fishing in these conditions. For those that like slightly less extreme conditions there are plenty of Dace and Roach to be had on maggot and caster, although it is sometimes difficult to get through the minnows which seem to be particularly prolific this year. We are soon moving into the Pike fishing season and those after a big one should take note that the EA saw what they estimated to be a 20lb plus fish at Coultershaw earlier in the season.

Shopham & Coates

Shopham continues to provide good Dace and Roach to trotting tactics with the odd Chub coming out. The normal hot spots; Burton Mill swim and just below the bridge on Shopham and opposite the farm yard, the cattle drink and towards the bottom end of the first field on Coates are all worth a visit for this type of fishing. Those interested in big Perch might like to give Coates a go as I have seen at least one 2lb plus fish come out this season. Coates produced some stunning Barbel last season particularly from November onwards so it is worth the walk for potentially a fish of a life time.

Fittleworth

I recently walked the whole Fittleworth stretch and rediscovered some of the classic old swims. I decided to fish the old peg 15, which is just above the second (unfenced) refuge and was rewarded with around 50 Dace some of them sizeable. I also had some frustration with the fish trying to take my shot, I was feeding hemp but could not find any decent hookable grains and hadn't bothered with taking tares. I finished the session with my biggest Eel ever which gave me a real run around on light tackle. Those that have not ventured as far are reporting plenty of silver fish and in particular Gudgeon, from the first straight down from the bridge.

River Arun

Watersfield

Unfortunately the cattle fencing is not going to go away, We are in discussion with the estate with regard better signage and indicators to show that the fence is live and hope to have these in place very soon. The farm only electrifies the portion of fence that currently contains their cattle. Please be careful when negotiating Watersfield particularly at night as it is not the easiest to see and can catch you out. As for the fishing here there have been some big Bream (7lb plus), Chub (5lb plus) and Perch (2lb plus) to static bait tactics. Float fishing with a long rod using maggot is producing good catches of Roach and Dace with corn sorting out some bigger specimens.

Stopham

The weed will soon be dying back on the Stopham stretch making it a bit more accessible to trotting tactics. I have not actually tried it, but I think that this stretch could lend itself to a hemp and tare approach which might avoid the Bleak. Pike fishing commences on October 1st. and there are plenty of them for the predator angler to target.

Hurston Lane

We had some comment with regard to cutting back the willows on the Tench Pond, be assured these are already growing vigorously again. We need to keep these trees in check because they drop a lot of leaves into the pond which increases the biomass and encourages weed growth, which as we all know, has been a persistent problem at Hurston. They seriously obstruct the swims round the back of the pond and with its current popularity we want to make sure there are swims available for all. The complex is still fishing well with plenty of Tench with the odd Crucian coming to big baits such as corn and pellet on the Tench Pond. Young Cody Hughes has been doing very well fishing paste on the inside for Carp in the Middle Pond. The Match pond has been a little fickle recently, particularly when there are a lot of anglers round it, however, if there are just a handful of people fishing they are all getting good mixed bags using the normal tactics and baits.

Petworth Park

Petworth has continued to fish well with plenty of Bream, Tench and Crucian Carp coming out mainly from the road swims and around the area of the far islands. A couple of 3lb plus Crucians have been recorded recently and it is good to see our junior members getting in on the act.

Chichester Canal

Having fished the canal a few times I can tell you that it is absolutely full of fish. There are loads of Rudd up in the water and these can prove a nuisance if you are fishing with small baits such as maggot and pinkie. I have found that changing to corn on the hook over a bit of groundbait is the best approach for the Roach and Skimmers.



**Chichester Canal just below Hunston bridge.
There are platforms along this stretch so you can
tuck yourself in off the towpath.**



**A typical net of canal Skimmers and Roach from
the depth marker area**

The easiest place to fish is just at the bottom of the inside shelf so only 4 - 5 metres out from the bank. You can reach this area easily with a short pole, whip or with a float rod fishing a small waggler. If there are lilies as in the pictures above, fish just beyond the outside line of the pads. It is always worth starting on a maggot or pinkie but my experience has shown that the Rudd very quickly move in and intercept your bait well before it gets down to the better Roach and Skimmers. There is the odd decent sized (4 - 6oz) Rudd but most are fairly small. A switch to sweet corn tends to deter all but the better Rudd and you have a much better chance of the Skimmers and Roach that sit just off the bottom. The trip boat goes through about twice an hour but has little effect on the fishing with the fish coming back after five or so minutes. In fact it gives you a chance to have a cup of coffee because once you get the fish going it is virtually non-stop. The boat runs until about 4.30 / 5.00 and you can expect some paddle boarders after that, but they normally ask where you want them to go and are quite amenable. Cyclists can be a problem if you are on the tow path so it is best to get on one of the platforms or restrict yourself to the bank between the canal and towpath. If you use a pole try shipping sideways along the bank rather than straight back, with a whip or waggler rod this is less of a problem. The section from the bypass up to and including the basin becomes available from 1st. October and some big Bream and Pike have been spotted here over the last month or so. Finally, there are a few good sized carp and the most exotic has to be the Koi spotted and photographed by Clive Fennel - you can find the picture on our Facebook page [HERE](#) scroll down to his 9th September post.

The Granary

Still plenty of Carp coming out with regulars reporting 10 - 12 fish per session, soft pellet over micros seems to be accounting for most of these fish, pole anglers have had some success using paste close in. Smaller baits can give frantic sessions of Rudd with the odd Perch, which are reported to be upward of 2lb., but you often find that a carp will muscle in and then the fun begins!!

Stemps & Cart

Both Stemps & Cart have been fishing excellently for all species with good catches of Carp, Bream and Roach possible for almost any peg. The Cart Pond Tench have shown a bit more with regular reports of Tench being caught. As mentioned work is continuing on the hurdling around the Island and we would like to especially thanks Nelson, Mick and Steve who have all put in a lot of hours to get this done under less than ideal circumstances.

Caption Competition

You might recall that in the last edition we asked for captions for these two pictures of regular matchmen Glen Riley - standing and Phil Tubb - sitting.



The majority of the replies gave voice to Glen (understandable) and referred to the fact that Phil has his back to the pond and I think my favourite of these was from Ron Good:

'If you're serious about catching fish, I can tell you that they live in water and the water is actually behind you.'

We did have one that actually gave voice to Phil:

Picture 1 'What just down there to the right?'

Picture 2 'Phew - it was that big!'

News From ARRT

The Arun and Rother Rivers Trust (ARRT) have just started work on two new projects. Although these are not directly on our waters they look to improve the head waters of both the Arun and Rother.

On The Upper Arun

ARRT has funding available to enhance water quality and habitat for fish and other species. Measures will include:

Planting of riverbank trees - Rivers need shade to keep temperatures low for fish and other species so where trees have been lost to disease or erosion then native trees can be planted with appropriate guards and stakes, similar to the planting on Coates.

River enhancements - Some areas lack habitat such as vegetation and a range of flow types, funding is available to restore river habitats using natural materials.

Farmers Group - A farmers group is being set up to help farmers understand and implement best practise for the river environment including ways of preventing sediment, herbicides and pesticides entry into the water course.

Similar work is being planned on the Upper Rother as well as extending the Riverfly monitoring programme and the restoration of two flood plain meadows which assist in the control of peak flows on the Rother.



Sediment we know is a massive issue and a recent report commissioned by ARRT has traced the major sources of sedimentation in the river. Sediment traps have been trialled with some success but the key to this issue is stopping sediment entering the river in the first place. A range of measures to reduce land run off are being explored with local farmers through the Rother Valley Farmers Group.

[smile.amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk/smile)

Not only can we help ARRT by providing volunteer labour which a number of members have done and ARRT are very grateful, you can also help from your armchair!!

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Sediment build up at Fittleworth Bridge