

# ***PETWORTH & BOGNOR ANGLING CLUB***



## **E-mailer Issue 19**

**April 2020**

### **Current Situation**

Unfortunately we are faced with the lockdown continuing for a while yet and therefore we would reiterate that you must follow the government guidelines (supported by both the Angling Trust and the Environment Agency) and not go fishing.

### **Security and Safety of our Waters**

We are aware that we need to check our waters to ensure that we have no issues with our fish stocks etc. To this end we have taken advice from the Angling Trust who in turn have taken advice from the National Policing Lead on Rural and Wildlife Crime's . We have accredited a very limited number of our committee and bailiffs to travel to our waters to check them and carry out remedial work if possible. They will be primarily visiting our venues singularly however there might be some tasks identified that require more than one person to complete. These will be reviewed to ensure that they can be carried out whilst maintaining the required social distancing and we will go ahead. If they cannot be done then we will put them on a list to complete when the restrictions are lifted .

### **Work Parties**

The work parties scheduled for the 19th April and 26th April are now cancelled, you will see that we are monitoring our venues and it is likely that we will have a backlog of work once restrictions are lifted. Once we have some dates we will schedule some work parties to ensure that our waters are up and running properly so you can enjoy your fishing. We would ask that members make a special effort to help out and it will be a great way to reconnect with your fellow club members as we get to go fishing again.

### **Membership**

Those of you that have joined and those that are joining at the moment we thank you for your support and can only apologise that you have not been able to fish. If you haven't joined yet please don't leave it to the last minute as we do need a bit of time to process your memberships and get them back to you. So please join now via the PO Box and you will be ready to go as soon as the restrictions are lifted.

## The question everyone is asking - What can I do while I cannot go Fishing?

I'm sure that you are all beginning to get fed up with staying at home. The first thing to say is please do not get tempted to go out fishing - the message is clear you must stay at home.

If you want to watch some fishing, brush up on your tactics, or see how some of the professional do it; The Angling Trust have launched their [Fishing Buzz](#) website with coarse, carp, match, specimen, sea and game fishing sections, there is even a dedicated kids section. Among the videos on offer are; some delightful old Jack Hargreaves films, a history of Nash Carp baits, John Wilson, Dave Harrell, Des Shipp and others.

On a slightly more commercial side there is [Anglers Direct TV](#) on Youtube with films from the likes of Carl and Alex, instructional rig making films and much more.

Or you can simply search Fishing on [Youtube](#) the content is a bit American orientated but if you look around there is plenty to keep you interested.

Did you know that you can even read [The Compleat Angler](#) on-line there are a number of sites but I think the one highlighted is the best and is similar to a 'kindle' edition.

So that is some armchair fishing and I'm sure that it will while away a few hours. Now lets turn to some more practical things and the contents of your tackle box and rod bag I'm sure will benefit from some attention.

Going back a few years, not only did we have a close season on our rivers, but all waters were subject to the mid March to mid June break. So pretty much what we are experiencing at the moment as was noted by Trevor Horton on our Facebook page when we first made the closure announcement 'Just like the old days of the closed season. So no great hardship. Shame it didn't coincide with the bad weather. Keep safe'. I would in particular echo the 'bad weather' bit as we seem to have had nothing but perfect fishing weather since the lockdown began.

Anyway, back to the tackle box and rod bag.

The first and most obvious thing is to get everything out and give it a good clean. You might even be able to slip your fabric rod and reel bags along with your 'washable' clothing into the washing machine. Take care with clothing as not everything responds well to a session in a machine, check the labels first. I am aware of one angler turning up for his first session of the new season in what looked like a pristine brand new version of his familiar jacket and trousers, when asked if he had splashed out on a new set he said that he'd put it through the washing machine on a hot wash and it certainly did look good, however when we had a bit of rain, he very soon discovered that he had destroyed all the waterproofing in the clothing and it leaked like a sieve. Next time we saw him it was a completely new set, the 'washed' one having been consigned to the bin!

### Reels

It is best to just thoroughly clean the outside of reels with warm soapy water. Remove the spools before cleaning and if your reel has a rear drag tighten this right down before starting (don't forget to re-adjust before fishing again). It is best to steer clear of the insides as they require specialist greases and lubricants, I would not recommend products such as Vaseline, WD40 and 3in1 oil.

## **Line on Reels**

It is amazing how much muck can build up on the surface of your reel line and this can have an adverse effect particularly when float fishing, sinking line will float and floating line will sink. To clean your line the best way is to re-spool it a couple of times through a dilute detergent (washing up liquid is fine) solution. It is difficult to do this unless you have a spare empty spool so it is always worth keeping one back when you first buy a reel. You can spool from one reel onto another and then back again if you have a spare spool for another reel, you just have to make sure it has sufficient capacity. The first thing to do is thoroughly clean your spools, it is amazing how much debris finds its way behind a fixed spool, an old toothbrush is useful for getting into crevices etc. Put some just warm water into a bucket and add a few drops of washing up liquid (you don't need much). Put your reel equipped with an empty spool on the butt section of a rod, put the filled spool into the bucket, bell down so the line can come off the top, take the line through the eyes on the rod and attach to the empty spool. Then find a soft cloth (something like a duster) and slowly wind the line onto the new spool through the cloth. This is best done by folding a small section of the cloth over the line between the reel and first eye, then lightly pinch the line through the cloth as you reel from one spool to the other. Regularly change the section of cloth as dirt builds up. Clean up the spool you have just emptied and repeat the process to put the line back onto the original spool. If you want to be particularly thorough, repeat the process again but with fresh clean water without detergent. When the spool has dried out it is useful to mark the spool on the inside using a permanent marker with details of the line and date etc..

## **Rods**

Your rods will benefit from a good clean with warm soapy water, whilst doing this carefully examine the eyes and whipping for any damage. If you are really going to town a thin coat of polyurethane varnish can be applied to the body of the rod.

## **Floats (or time to raid the cosmetics drawer!)**

Floats get a lot of hard wear and inevitably get small chips and surface damage; but it is your favourite float for a particular venue so you don't want to throw it away. This is where the raid on the cosmetics drawer comes in, what you are looking for is clear nail varnish and purportedly the best is 'Sally Hansen - Hard as Nails' this is great for touching up little chips in the paint work to water proof them, in fact I seem to remember reading an article by Alan Scotthorne from years ago in which he wrote that he gave every new float a coat of 'Hard as Nails' before using them. You can also get fluorescent nail lacquers from companies such as Barry M and Glow UK which are great for revitalising tips.

## **Rigs and Terminal Tackle**

It is amazing just how long some of those rigs etc have been at the back of your tackle box and are only just seeing the light of day. Do you still use that style of rig, are they in good condition, now is the time to have a really good look and sort out those that you use, get rid of the ones that you never use and perhaps make up a few extra favourite rigs so you don't run out during a session.

## **Finally**

Now's the time to repack your box and make a note of anything you need. I would urge you to resist the temptation of buying on-line, take your list to your local tackle shop when they re-open and stock up via them, they are going to need your support once this is over.

**Hopefully this has given you a few ideas to help you pass the time and will mean that you will be absolutely ready to go come the day,**