

PETWORTH & BOGNOR ANGLING CLUB



E-mailer Issue 20

May 2020

Current Situation

I am sure that you are all relieved to be able to go fishing from Wednesday May 13th, however, we are not out of this yet and we must be very careful in the way we approach our angling. Social distancing is still a requirement and we would ask that you follow these common sense precautions. Please see page 3 for a summary of what waters are open and any restrictions.

- 1. Firstly if you or anyone in your immediate household is showing any of the symptoms of the virus you should not go fishing and continue to follow the government advice on isolation. If you have been advised to self isolate for 12 weeks then you should not be contemplating angling for another 4 weeks or so.**
2. Only travel with members of your immediate household to your selected venue.
3. If you intend to fish with others maintain at least two metres space between you and fellow anglers in areas such as car parks and while walking from car parks to the water and back again, set off in 10 second intervals.
4. We recommend that you use a hand sanitiser before and after operating locks, gates and any items that are handled by other anglers eg dip tank lids.
5. Social distances needs to be increased when staying in an area for an extended period of time so we have closed some swims on our venues. You must respect these swim closures and anyone found ignoring these will be **banned from the club with no redress.**
6. When walking round our waters if anglers are present there are potentially one or two pinch points where it will be difficult to maintain the social distancing required. When fishing please keep as far away from the paths as possible, when walking, please keep as far away from the swims as possible.
7. Our dips are in operation so you must dip your nets and equipment as normal when entering and leaving the venues.
8. If you arrive at a venue and find a lot of cars in the car park be prepared to go home again. You can walk round the water and if you find a vacant (non-closed) swim you can fish. If there are no vacant swims you must leave the venue. We apologise in advance if you are not able to fish, but we all have to be responsible for our own and others' safety.
9. Follow the guidelines with regard to; coughs (use a tissue and get rid of them when you get home), avoid touching your face and keep your hands clean.

As soon as we can relax these measures we will do so.

Our Fisheries

While you have been away we have had a very small number of club officers and bailiffs keeping an eye on our waters. Making sure that they are ready when restrictions are lifted; and we really thank them for this work. We are sure you will appreciate their efforts and enjoy getting back out on our waters, albeit in a slightly different way. However, the fish probably don't know that you have been away and we are sure that they will be keen to respond to some bait going into the water.

For the time being there will be no log books on the venues, however, we would still like to hear about your catches. You can contact us via the e-mail from the contact tab on the website or if you would prefer, give one of the officers a phone call, their numbers are on the inside back cover of your handbook.

Don't forget that the rivers are still closed to coarse fishing, the normal close season regulations still apply, so only fly fishing is allowed on the venues listed in the handbook and page 3.

Membership and Joining the Club

Now that the restrictions have been relaxed we are aware that a number of you will decide that now is the time to join. At the time of writing we do not know what the situation is with tackle shops, so the best way to join is via the postal option.

We know that some of you might find this difficult as you no longer use cheques or cannot get the required photographs. We can help with these as below:

Photographs

If you are an existing member we could well have your picture in our database, in which case we can use this to generate a membership card for you. If we don't have your picture then you can e-mail us a suitable picture, a selfie from your phone or even a holiday snap and we will be able to crop out a suitable image for your membership card. Contact [The Secretary](#) to sort out any issues with photographs.

No Cheque Book

We can offer the facility for you to pay by BACS. If you would like to use this, we have a slightly different procedure to follow so in the first instance please contact [The Membership Secretary](#) who will give you details of what to do.

Tackle Maintenance

You might recall that in our last e-mailer we gave some suggestions for maintaining your tackle whilst under lockdown. Robin West pointed out a couple of things:

'Whilst it is indeed a good idea to tighten the drag of a reel whilst washing it, please don't wait until you next go fishing to 'remember to reset it' as suggested in the article. Storing the reel with the drag tightened right up will damage it and reduce its range. Reel drags should always be backed right off when not in use. Also not worth faffing around washing reel line and probably adding twist in the process. Always best to strip old line off and replace it.'

Many thanks Robin; I still think it is worth considering giving your line a wash in particular if you are float fishing, modern lines are good for two or three seasons but a lot can build up on them over a single season, for those that use close face reels this does also reduce 'bedding in'.

Summary of Fisheries

River Arun - Watersfield

Open for fly fishing only, strictly no coarse fishing until further notice.

River Arun - Stopham

Open for fly fishing only, strictly no coarse fishing until further notice.

River Rother - Coultershaw

Closed until further notice.

River Rother - Shopham

Open for fly fishing only, strictly no coarse fishing until further notice.

River Rother - Coates

Open for fly fishing only, strictly no coarse fishing until further notice.

River Rother - Fittleworth

Open for fly fishing only, strictly no coarse fishing until further notice.

We are not marking off any swims or areas on our river venues, please be careful to observe social distancing with fellow anglers. You could also come across members of the public, politely discourage them from getting too close to you.

Chichester Canal

Closed until further notice, we await the go ahead from the Canal Trust.

Petworth Park

Closed until further notice, we await the go ahead from the park authorities.

Hurston Lane

Open but subject to some restrictions, please do not fish in the taped off areas, please observe any additional rules posted on the notice board or around the fishery.

Stemps & Cart

Open but subject to some restrictions, please do not fish in the taped off areas, please observe any additional rules posted on the notice board or around the fishery.

The Granary

Open but subject to some restrictions, please do not fish in the taped off areas, please observe any additional rules posted on the notice board or around the fishery.

June Social Event - Coultershaw

Unfortunately we are going to have to cancel the social event planned for Coultershaw on June 12th. Although we don't know what the situation will be then, we are not going to be able to plan and prepare and have therefore decided that we will have to cancel. We will look to see whether there is an opportunity to do something later in the year and keep you updated.