

PETWORTH & BOGNOR ANGLING CLUB



E-mailer Issue 21

June 2019

Water Reports May / Early June 2020

Rivers

The coarse river fishing season is almost upon us when we will be able to fish our rivers again. We are unable to mark out any social distancing measures on our river venues so please take extra care when visiting. Please also remember that the electric cattle fencing could be in operation at Watersfield so be extra careful to avoid any contact with this.

There has been a distinct lack of rain over the last couple of months and water levels are down in the Rother to higher summer levels but there is still a reasonable flow and some colour in the water. Hopefully the rain that we are having will be enough to freshen the river up and the weather for June 16th looks fair.

Coultershaw

Please note that our original car park has been extended and is now back in operation, you should park here and not at the bottom.

The bridge by the first fence has now been completely re-instated so you can work down through the woods and cross the bridge to access the swims in the field.

Still Waters

Firstly we must reiterate the articles in our previous e-mailers and communications with regard to closed off swims and social distancing. The closed off swims **must not** be fished even if there are no other swims available, unfortunately if that is the case you will not be able to fish the venue. We have already had to ask one young angler to leave because he was in one of the taped off swims. Please be aware that if you are found in one of these areas you are likely to lose your membership with no redress. Also don't forget to maintain distance between yourself and fellow anglers around the waters. On venues such as Petworth Park and the Chichester Canal be especially careful of members of the public. We have had incidents of members of the public approaching anglers at Petworth Park under the misapprehension that as they were outside it would be alright.

Politely ask members of the public to keep their distance.

Although the government are relaxing the lockdown measures it is still important that we abide by these guidelines for the health and safety of all.

Hurston Lane

Keith and a couple of others have managed to keep Hurston looking good and reasonably well trimmed. The weather has encouraged a significant amount of weed growth in the Tench Pond and in the first bay of the Match Pond, however there are plans to tackle this over the next few days. All three ponds have been fishing quite well with good bags of Tench of all sizes up to about 3lb from the Tench Pond with plenty of Rudd and the odd Crucian. The Middle Pond has produced some good carp catches particularly from the far end. There have been some good mixed nets of fish from the Match Pond with Bream and Carp predominant.

Petworth Park

Petworth has fished particularly well for the Bream with some very good catches being reported. There have been a few Tench and Crucian Carp reported as well and plenty of small stuff and even a small Jack Pike caught while Bream fishing.

Stemps & Cart

Many thanks to Steve, Mick and particularly Nelson who have made sure that Stemps & Cart has been well maintained during the lockdown and was ready to fish when the restrictions were eased. Those that follow our Facebook page will perhaps have seen the galleries produced by Clive and others which demonstrate that the Stemps & Cart is as normal producing plenty of fish. Lots of Carp and plenty of Roach and Skimmers, still not many signs of those Tench we put in a year or so ago, we would be really interested to hear of any being caught.

Water Reports May / early June 2020 (Cont')

The Granary

Over the initial lockdown Mike and Les made sure that the water was in good condition and would be ready when the lockdown was eased.

There have been plenty of Carp coming out and members are reporting up to 20 Carp per session. Our stocking work to balance the Rudd population is bearing fruit there are still plenty there but the average size has definitely increased and fish of a pound or more are fairly regularly reported. This was achieved by introducing Perch to the water with the hope that they would grow on and establish a healthy population. We had a number of reports towards the back end of last season of Perch around the 2lb mark and these have showed again over the last few weeks. We have seen some that are much smaller than those originally introduced so they are obviously breeding.

Chichester Canal

I don't have any fishing reports from the Chichester Canal, but I intend to change that myself with a trip to the canal in the very near future. Those that follow Facebook will have seen the picture posted of the shoal of Bream photographed by one of the Trust members. I am also reliably informed that there is a good head of Carp patrolling the Selsey Tram stretch of the canal and we have at least one new member who has joined having seen these fish and deciding that he wanted to target them.

Fishery Management

In order to safely maintain our waters during the lockdown we accredited a small number of bailiffs and committee members to allow them to visit our waters and perform some maintenance work where needed. Some of those that worked on our still waters we have mentioned above. We also had people keeping an eye on our river venues and I would particularly like to give a mention to Steve and Martin who have been active along our river stretches.

So a big thank you from the committee and club members to all those that helped out during this time.

As mentioned, we will be doing some socially distanced weed clearing at Hurston and this is planned for Saturday 13th. June. I know that Keith does not want too many people there, but given that we normally struggle to get enough, if you can help out please contact **KEITH**.

Stemps Path

We are aware that unfortunately we did not get round to our big project for Spring 2020, but it is still our intention to radically improve the path over to Stemps and Cart. We had a project team who were in the process of planning the job and sourcing materials when lockdown started and we were unable to progress further. It is probably not going to be possible to do anything over the summer months - we will almost certainly have to maintain a degree of social distancing and this is not a job that we can do with crops on the fields. There is a faint chance that we might be able to get things sorted for the small window between harvest and winter setting in, but it is more likely that we will have to wait until next spring. We know it can get difficult to get across to the water when it is wet and it is a real shame that we were unable to do this in the spring; but we will get it done.

Nelson Keet

For many years the club have been indebted to Nelson for the work that he has done at all our venues but in particular his baby - Stemps & Cart. Nelson has been the man who has shaped this fishery into what I think you will all agree is a very high quality mixed fishery which can be enjoyed by all: young or old, carp angler, pleasure angler, match angler, whatever you are, Stemps and Cart has something for you, not only in terms of fishing but in very pleasant surroundings.

Nelson has indicated that he has to step away from his day to day involvement with the water, although I'm sure we might see him there occasionally just making sure we are keeping it as it should be!!

I'm sure you will all join us in thanking Nelson for his incredible work for the club over many years.

Match Fishing

Having run a trial match to test out the various measures he has put in place, our Match Secretary - Keith, is confident that he can run matches smoothly whilst maintaining social distancing and the guidelines from the Angling Trust. This will mean some changes to procedure and we would ask that all anglers that attend the matches listen very carefully and follow what is being asked of them.

It is important that Keith knows how many anglers are going to be attending each match so it is vitally important that you book in with Keith at least 48 hours prior to the match - if you don't book in it is very likely that there will not be a peg for you.

To fish in any match please contact Keith [HERE](#) to let him know the matches you would like to book in for.

Non Match Anglers - Please remember to vacate match venues at least three hours prior to the match starting. This is particularly relevant for evening matches.

Upcoming Matches - Check your handbook for times

Date	Venue	Comment
Wed 17th	Bernies	An evening at Bernies will be very interesting, plenty of action expected.
Sun 21st June	Hurston Tench Pond	If pleasure reports are anything to go by and after a bit of a clearout of the weed this will hopefully fish well.
Wed 24th June	Hurston Middle Pond	Please note change of venue. Chollers Farm has been assessed and it was decided that we would not be able to safely hold a match there.
Sun 28th June	Stanbridge View	Our trial match was held here and produced some reasonable weights. We have also had some good match weights here during previous seasons.
Wed 1st July	Shopham	Our first visit to the Rother this season, Shopham normally produces some decent silver fish weights along with the odd chub.
Sun 5th July	Sumners Match Lake	Joint Match with the Sportsman Club on this prolific venue.
Wed 8th July	Coates	Last season was the first time we had match fished Coates for a few years and those that fished were looking forward to the next event on the water.
Sun 12th Jul	TBA	
Wed 15th Jul	Coultershaw	We always enjoy our evening on Coultershaw, which has produced some good evening match weights, but we are yet to see a Barbel in an evening match.