

PETWORTH & BOGNOR ANGLING CLUB



E-mailer Issue 22

July 2020

Water Reports June / July 2020

Rivers

With a distinct lack of rain, water levels are generally low on the Rother but it is maintaining some flow and colour.

Coultershaw

A few Barbel have been reported along with the normal early season Bream. Not much Chub activity at the moment. A Barbel of a couple of ounces was recently caught from the weir pool, which shows that they are breeding in the river.

Shopham / Coates

I have heard of at least one Barbel from this section as well as a number of Bream to 6lb and the odd Carp. Trotting tactics with maggot are producing reasonable catches of Dace, Roach and Chublets along with lots of minnows, a few Perch and some Gudgeon. Again the Chub seem quite quiet although we did see one of around 1½lb at our evening match

Fittleworth

Some good early season bags of Dace and Roach to trotting tactics, one angler fished just down from the bridge and reckoned he must have caught every Gudgeon in the river so there are plenty about.

Watersfield

The usual swims at the top of Watersfield have been fished with some reasonable Bream being reported by those fishing static baits, no reports of Barbel so far. At least one angler has ventured further afield and has been down past the reeds and had a good session trotting with a mixed bag of Roach, Dace and one good sized Chub. Unfortunately due to erosion, we have virtually lost the swim immediately below the culvert, the gap between the waters edge and fence has significantly reduced making it very difficult to fish this area.

Still Waters

We have now removed all the restrictions that we put on pegs when we first started back fishing after the lockdown.

Hurston Lane

There was a good weed clearing session of the Tench Pond and there will shortly be one on the Match Pond particularly at the near end. Keith has reported that all ponds have been fishing very well with plenty of fish being caught, apart from the few days of very hot weather when the fish seemed to retreat for a rest.

Petworth Park

We normally expect Petworth Park to be less productive when the wind doesn't blow but it seems at the moment whatever the conditions you can get a decent bag of Bream and we have had at least two reports of 100lb plus hauls. **We have been informed by the estate that they will be carrying out works on the roadside path from 29th July. We have therefore decided that we should close the fishery while these take place. They are scheduled to take 2 - 3 weeks and we will let you know when the fishery is re-opened.**

Stemps & Cart

Highlight from Stemps must be a 16lb Carp caught by new member John Boakes from peg 1. Certainly the best that I have heard of for quite a few years.



Water Reports June 2020 (Cont')

The Granary

There are plenty of Carp being caught from all round the lake with a report (yet to be confirmed) of the first 20lb carp from The Granary. One member reported taking his youngsters to the Granary and they had a thoroughly enjoyable session catching Rudd with a fish every cast and the best being around ½lb.

Chichester Canal

The Canal Trust have done a lot of work over the last week or so dispersing and removing the blanket weed and certain areas are now fishable. We have looked at the Hunston area and Grosvenor Road to the depth marker and from the surface it looks quite fishable. We have also heard that there is a good shoal of bream in the Hunston area. The canal are posting regular updates on [their Facebook](#) page. All this weed does mean that the Carp seem to be more active and spread out through the canal as can be seen in this picture taken from a short film that can be seen on [our Facebook](#) page



The Big News

The grapevine and jungle drums have been rumbling for a few weeks now and I'm sure that a number of you will have heard about our new acquisition. It is now time to announce that the club have acquired the fishing rights on a new water; Holmbush Lake on the outskirts of Midhurst. This water is something quite different from our portfolio of other waters and very exciting.

A little bit of history

The lake is the result of sand extraction in the early to middle 20th century the site then became a 'holiday home' caravan park in the late 1960's early 1970's. This was closed down around 15 years ago. The water was taken on for a time by Chichester Angling Club but they gave it up about 3 - 4 years ago. Since then the site has become the haunt of the local youngsters and opportunist anglers, some responsible, who have actively tried to care for the water and banks but others unfortunately less so.



A couple of views of Holmbush when it was a caravan site

What you can expect

The lake holds a very good head of fish and in particular some big carp. We are reliably informed that there are around 70 fish at 20lb plus along with plenty in the 10 - 20lb bracket and there will obviously be smaller ones as well. Of the other species, there is a massive head of Roach, Rudd and hybrids with certainly plenty around the 1lb mark and undoubtedly there will be bigger ones present, there are also Tench, Bream and Eels but we have yet to get a feel for the numbers. The water is deep with average depth of around 12 feet with some deeper holes. This depth of water and the fact that it is in a residential area means that it is largely untroubled by cormorants which is evidenced by the head of silver fish. Even the margins are deep with generally 5 - 6 feet of water under your toes. There are a few areas where there is evidence of swims having been built by previous occupants but most of these are now under a few inches of water and then the water drops off as above.



A couple of views of the lake as it is now

This makes the water very different from what we are used to so please be extremely careful at the water's edge.



Over the last few weeks members of the committee, bailiffs and a few volunteers have been working extremely hard to get the venue into a state where we are happy to open it up as a club water. There are a couple of derelict buildings on the site that we have either boarded up or fenced off, you must keep well clear of these. We have opened a roadway to the main car park and paths to all the fishable swims. We hope in the future to establish a second car park closer to the far bank swims. The lake is set in a heavily wooded area and we are aware that there could be some open drains from the old caravan site within these woods, we have not been able to fully survey the whole area yet. You must keep to the paths do not venture off the paths into the woods. We have cleared the bulk of the rubbish from the swims and paths, but please if you see any rubbish in these areas take a minute or two to pick it up and get rid of it.



A couple of 20lb plus Holmbush Carp

The Carp in Holmbush are extremely hard fighting and we know that there are some snaggy areas so if you are going to seriously fish for them then a step up to 'proper' carp gear is required. 2.5lb test curve rods, 15lb main line and a 36" landing nets are a minimum start point. One of our senior Carp anglers also recommends:

Use at least 18" of rig tubing on terminal tackle to prevent scale or fin damage.

Always use a suitably large and padded un-hooking mat or carp cradle. Only weigh Carp in proper weigh slings, never use a landing net to weigh large fish.

All rigs should be free running .

All hook holds and minor damage should be treated with an adequate system such as Korda Carp Care before release.

Do not stand up holding Carp for photos and return fish to the water as soon as possible, never sack or retain large Carp.

Never leave rods unattended when lines are in the water.

Most of these you will find in your club handbook, but it is worth mentioning them again

We do have a couple of bailiffs in place for this water, however, we could do with a couple more, particularly if you are local and could visit the water regularly. If you are interested, please contact us [HERE](#)

The water will be opened to members on Saturday 1st August.

Log Books

We have decided that we are not ready yet to re-introduce our log books. We would urge you to keep us informed of your catches and also raise any venue issues by contacting us via [E-MAIL](#) or a message to our [FACEBOOK PAGE](#).

Night Fishing

We have now lifted restrictions on night fishing that were imposed earlier in the season, so you are now able to night fish at Hurston Lane Stillwater fishery, Shopham (north bank) on the Rother and Watersfield on the Arun. There are our standard time restrictions (see your handbook) on all other fisheries.

Guest Tickets

Guest tickets are now available again and you can buy them from our normal outlets, we have also made guest ticket purchase available direct from the [Secretary](#) using BACS payment. If you wish to use this facility we will need to add £1 to the cost of your purchase to post them back to you. We can turn your purchase round immediately we have payment confirmed but please allow a couple of days for the post.

Upcoming Matches - Check your handbook for times

To fish in any match (apart from the Barbel Fish-in) you must contact Keith [HERE](#) to let him know the matches you would like to book in for.

Date	Venue	Comment
Sun 26th July	More House	A joint match with the Sportsman Club, on the venue's Sidewinder match lake.
Sun 2nd August	Chichester Canal (TBA)	Dependent upon whether the weed is cleared from the canal.
Sun 16th August	Stemps Pond	Always a popular venue for the match anglers, hopefully we will have some good weights.
Sun 30th August	Petworth Park	Hopefully the National Trust will have completed their works.
Sun 6th September	Passies Match Lake	Another joint match with the Sportsman Club and we will obviously be using a bit more of the water than our normal bunker straight.
Sun 20th September	Five Oaks	Our annual pairs match, always a lot of banter.
Sun 27th September	Stanbridge View	One of our most popular away day venues.
Sun 27th September	Coultershaw	Chris Humphry Barbel Fish In. Our annual charity match when we try to catch a Barbel. Please book in with PETER FOSTER for this one.
Sun 4th October	Summers Match Lake	A joint match with The Sportsman Club, top weight last time out was in excess of 180lb!
Sun 18th October	Petworth Park	It has fished well through the summer, let's hope this continues into the autumn.
Sun 1st November	Bernies	We always have good matches on this competitive venue.