

PETWORTH & BOGNOR ANGLING CLUB



E-mailer Issue 24

September 2020

Water Reports August 2020

As we have not yet re-introduced our log books it is quite difficult to pull together catch reports for our waters, so please let us know how you are getting on during these strange times.

Rivers

The little rain we have had has had little effect on the level of the Rother, with it going up a few inches for a day or so but soon dropping back down

Coultershaw

The Barbel activity has been slow, during the times that the river has been up a few have been caught and I have heard of one angler who managed to find a couple, both around the 8lb mark in one session. Coming up we have our annual Barbel Fish-In. Read more about this on page 4

Shopham / Coates

We normally expect to hear about good Chub coming from this section, but they seem very few and far between this season, however there have been plenty of shoal Chublets in the 2 - 4oz area along with good Dace numbers.

Fittleworth

The highlight of Fittleworth (and some anglers are disdainful) is the incredible numbers of Gudgeon that are being caught on trotting tactics. The beauty of these little fish is that they continue to bite all through the day, whereas the Dace, Roach and Chublets seem to go to sleep through the middle of the day. If you are targeting these, mid afternoon through to the evening is the best time..

Watersfield

I know that a few anglers have had a number of sessions at Watersfield and if the Chub are not coming out of the Rother at least they seem to be coming from the Arun. We have had some issues with the lock on the gate into the car park which are now hopefully resolved. The lock has been replaced with a Masterlock pattern so remember that you set the code on the top line and not in the middle. Please be aware that the wildfowls have started shooting at Watersfield and will be displaying a red warning sign on the gate when they are active

Still Waters

Petworth Park

Works at Petworth Park have taken quite a bit longer than expected and I know that some anglers are itching to get back there. We have finally been given clearance to open the lake for fish on **Saturday 12th September**. Please resist the temptation to go any earlier as although the lake has been closed we have had regular bailiff patrols and have already had to discipline one angler for ignoring the closure.

Stemps & Cart

Despite the recent rain the water level at Stemps and Cart remains very low. We have therefore decided to keep Cart closed and continue with the no keepnet ruling on Stemps. **Please also note that pegs 13,14 & 15 on Stemps will be closed on Monday 7th September for maintenance work.**

The Granary

The highlight for me as far as The Granary is concerned is the Perch which have grown on very nicely since we stocked them a few years ago. I have heard of plenty over the 1lb mark and some around 2lb, also there are much smaller ones that indicate that they are breeding well in the lake. The Perch have also had the desired effect on the Rudd, there are still plenty of them but the average size is definitely increasing

Hurston

Water levels here are low but the Match pond and Middle Pond are slowly filling up, however the level in the Middle pond is not yet high enough to top up the Tench Pond. Plenty of Carp moving on the top in the Middle Pond.

Water Reports August 2020 (Cont')

Chichester Canal

The canal is pretty much clear of weed now. It is very difficult to locate the silver fish at the moment. I have had a number of disappointing sessions fishing light for the Roach and Skimmers. The water is very much clearer than normal for this time of year, looking more like it does in the winter, this is despite the boats running again. There is however more Carp activity in the Canal, It is probably eight years since I have seen as many carp in the water. I am also reliably informed that there is a very good shoal of Bream that tend to move around the Hunston area.

Holmbush

We are a month in to fishing at Holmbush and the fishery is living up to our expectations. There have been some very good Carp caught with the best being weighed in at 25lb 3oz, with quite a few other 20lb plus fish being reported.



Steve Hack with the new club record Carp weighed at 25lb 3oz

To back these up we also have reports of Carp from 8lb upwards. Most of the carp seem to be coming from the margins, although they can be seen cruising on the top in the middle of the lake they seem to prefer to feed round the edges.

For those not interested in these leviathans there is also an excellent array of other species to be had, we have heard of some good Tench, Bream and Perch being caught and the Roach and Rudd fishing can be quite frenetic at times with plenty of these together with good Skimmers and hybrids around the 1lb mark. It seems that the Roach and Skimmers prefer to feed up in the water with the Rudd rather than on the bottom and one of our anglers even had a 4lb bream from the top on bread.

We must remind anglers that they have to make sure that they are displaying their car park permit on their vehicle, our bailiffs have come across a lot of cars without these showing and it has got to the stage where they are asking anglers to go back to their vehicle to put the permit in place. If you are unable to display your permit you will be asked to leave the fishery. If you have lost your permit then you must obtain a new one. You can go into our outlets and upon showing your membership card they will issue you with a replacement. Please also note that this venue is strictly dawn to dusk, this is on the site not in your swim, so please pack up leaving enough time to vacate the site by dusk.

Those that have fished Holmbush recently will have noted quite a rise in the water level. We have been talking to contractors about clearing the outlets so the level can be regulated and it is highly likely that for Health & Safety considerations we will have to close the water for a few days while this work is being done as we are likely to have heavy plant and machinery on site. While this is happening we will change the lock code so please do not attempt to enter the fishery. Look out for further information on the [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page.

Big Fish

We are very lucky to have some serious big fish in our waters, in particular Barbel in the Rother & Arun and the Carp at Holmbush.

These are possibly bigger than those experienced by some of our members and it is worth reiterating some of the minimum requirements for tackling these fish.

Barbel on the Rother

These are extremely hard fighting fish and in a small snaggy river it is important that your gear is up to handling them.

We would ask that you use rods with a minimum test curve of 1¼lb and a minimum line strength of 10lb but consider stepping up to 12 or even 15lb, particularly when fishing close to snags or in flood conditions.

You must have a minimum 30inch landing net with a depth of at least 25inches and we would recommend that you combine this with a heavy duty handle of at least 9 foot and preferably longer. The banks on the Rother can be quite high and you not only need to land your fish safely, you also need to return it safely.

You must have an unhooking mat of at least 18 x 30 inches and make sure that your mat is wet before putting a fish on it.

If you are lucky enough to catch one of our Barbel, you are almost certainly going to want a photo of your catch and if there is no one around to do the honours then we recommend that you get a bank stick / camera adapter . Never stand up holding your fish, kneel down and always hold it over your mat when photographing. Do this as quickly as possible so you can return your fish to the water with the minimum delay. When returning your fish you should return it to your landing net and then gently lower it into the water and hold it in the net until it is moving strongly, then you can lower your net and let it swim off. You have to be patient as this can take quite a time, Never just release your fish straight back into the water.

Many Barbel anglers like to fish with two rods and the club rules allow this, but please consider your situation and if you are not confident that you can handle takes on both rods then it is probably best to concentrate on just the one rod.

Barbel on the Arun

All the above is relevant to the Arun, although it is not as snaggy the Arun is a powerful fast flowing river, more akin to the Rother in flood conditions. You may also be even further from the waters edge than on the Rother so if you are fishing the Arun you should make sure that you can actually reach the water with your landing net. A handle of 12 foot is a wise investment when fishing the Arun.

Carp

Obviously Holmbush is our primary big Carp water but if you are targeting the Carp at any of our venues you should ensure that your gear is up to the task. The Carp at The Granary get close to 20lb, at Hurston around 15lb and the best from Stemps & Cart this year was over 16lb.

At Holmbush we would recommend that rods are at least 2½lb test curve and you use a minimum line strength of 15lb , you must have a large unhooking mat or even a carp cradle. We published these recommendation in our last e-mailer but it is worth repeating them.

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.

These rules and recommendations are designed to protect our extremely precious fish stocks and you should read your handbook which sets these out in a bit more detail. it might appear a bit nanny-state to keep repeating these but we are aware that not all anglers are adhering to them.

A Socially Distanced Barbel Fish-In

Sunday 27th September is the day that we have booked for the Chris Humphry Memorial Fish-In. Unless there are any major changes in our area due to Covid, then we look forward to seeing our Barbel Anglers assemble at Coultershaw (lower car-park) for the draw at 12.00 with fishing from 12.30 to 19.30.

This will be our fourteenth Barbel Fish-In in memory of Chris Humphry, a passionate angler who loved his Barbel fishing, particularly on the Rother at Coultershaw. Lynnette, Chris's widow, comes along to meet with the anglers and to hand over the trophy to the winner, if indeed we have one! We don't always manage to catch a Barbel at these events, but last year despite atrocious conditions Pete (Boggy) Marsh had one of exactly 7lb. With the river rising and a strong wind blowing a lot of debris into the river, fishing was very difficult. However, we are a hardy lot and stuck it out to the end, but unfortunately there were no more Barbel caught, so the trophy went to Pete.

We have regular attendees, but if you are coming along for the first time or are a novice barbel fisher, please bear in mind the advice contained elsewhere in this emailer and in our handbook regarding choice of tackle. The fishing is only one part of the event, as we are doing this for charity; each year the money we raise on the day goes to Lynnette's selected charity. Last year we managed to raise £320 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

If you would like to join us for this year's fish-in, you can book in with or get more information from Peter Foster on 07711 230128 or by email [HERE](#)

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 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	Sumners Match Lake	A joint match with The Sportsman Club, top weight last time out was in excess of 180lb!
Sun 18th October	Petworth Park	We didn't manage to fish Petworth in August due to the works on the dam so I'm sure that our Petworth specialists will be looking forward to this one.
Sun 1st November	Bernies	We always have good matches on this competitive venue.
Sun 8th November	Stemps & Cart	We are hosting a friendly match for the Three Counties League. Our guests always have an enjoyable day.
Sun 15th November	Hurston Lane	This time we are hosting anglers from Stedham at Hurston Lane.
Sun 22nd November	Bernies	We are spoiling ourselves, two trips to Bernies in a month.