

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



**E-mailer Issue 27**

**December 2020**

## **LATEST COVID SITUATION**

Following the lifting of lockdown announced by the government on 31st October, we have been seeking guidance from the Angling Trust with regard to fishing. The first thing to note is that all our fisheries are within tier 2.

### **Travel**

Once again, we expect the travel guidance will be advisory rather than law but the Angling Trust and club will be urging anglers to exercise common sense and act within the spirit of the government's guidance.

The Government is advising against all unnecessary travel into and out of tier 3 areas, this does not affect our fisheries but if you are travelling further afield then you should carefully consider where you are travelling to and whether you will be entering any tier 3 areas.

Bearing in mind the above travelling to go fishing is fine but long journeys should be avoided 'wherever possible'.

**Finally it is still the case that you absolutely cannot leave home to fish if you have Coronavirus symptoms or are self-isolating.**

### **Times**

There are no limits on the time that can be spent on outdoor recreation which means that we are able to continue fishing for the times we would normally. Please note that the only waters that allow night fishing are:

River Rother	Shopham
River Arun	Watersfield
Still Water	Hurston Lane

All other fisheries are subject to time restrictions, for these times refer to the individual water pages in your club handbook.

### **Matches**

We are again allowed to match fish and we will resume our match programme as published in your handbook, the fixtures programme can be found from page 53 onwards and there is also a Match Days table on page 4. There is also a list of upcoming matches at the end of this e-mailer.

We would remind club anglers that venues booked for a match should be vacated a minimum of three hours prior to the match start time published.

### **Guest Tickets**

Currently we have suspended guest tickets and this will continue to at least the beginning of January, when we will review the situation. If we start guest tickets again these will not be available from the tackle shops, you will only be able to purchase them from the Club Secretary so we can carefully monitor the number of tickets that we are issuing.

## **Water Reports November 2020**

We are still relying on our anglers to let us know what they have caught as we have not reintroduced our log books. We really appreciate you contacting us and letting us know of your catches.

### **Rivers**

After a very wet October, the rivers have had a quieter November with levels pretty much back to normal.

### **Coultershaw**

Although Barbel activity is still slow - our Coultershaw bailiff is yet to have one this year, some people seem to be able to locate them and are regularly catching. The secret seems to be to look a little further afield and not to rely on the normally tried and trusted swims. Meat seems to be the go to bait at the moment, although it does also attract activity from Pike.

### **Shopham / Coates**

There have been some reasonable Chub catches from this stretch although my latest bread session yielded nothing but Trout to just under 2lb. One angler reported some reasonable sized Grayling from the top end of the stretch, these fish seem to inhabit the faster and shallower areas of the river, it is well worth trotting the riffles just downstream from Shopham bridge if you are looking for 'The Lady of The Stream'. Note: this area should only be accessed from the south bank. It is amazing what a couple of handfuls of maggots or sweetcorn can produce from this section.

### **Fittleworth**

One angler reported a good session on the centrepin with plenty of Roach, Dace Gudgeon and Minnows, so the small fish are still biting here.

### **Arun**

Shopham has produced some good Roach fishing over the last month. One angler reported on two sessions, in one he had a lot of fish but nothing of any size on a second he managed to find better fish but not as many.

### **Still Waters**

#### **Petworth Park**

We are coming towards the end of the season at Petworth Park, don't forget that the water closes to angling from 31st December until 1st April. The Bream fishing has continued well into the autumn and anglers have reported good catches through November.

#### **Stemps & Cart**

Reasonable Carp catches are coming from both ponds, the silverfish have slowed down a bit but it is still possible to put together a reasonable net of Roach and Skimmers.

### **The Granary**

A number of anglers have taken up the Granary Perch challenge mentioned in the last e-mailer and using a variety of methods a few have been coming out at around the 1lb mark. Some anglers have been using drop shotting or lure fishing techniques while others have float fished a good sized worm.

### **Hurston**

We are currently sourcing new fish stocks for Hurston which we hope to get within the next few weeks.

### **Holmbush**

We seem to have managed to sort the water levels at Holmbush and the runoff is keeping pace with any rain we are getting. This means that all the swims are still available. With the general drop in temperature the fishing is not quite as fast and furious as it was during the summer months but Carp are still coming out and it is possible to put together a reasonable net of silver fish using float techniques, bread or maggots seem to be the best baits. One or two anglers have also been trying drop shot or small lure techniques for the Perch although I'm not sure how successful they have been.

## Works

We have a number of projects to improve access to our fisheries and work is likely to take place over the next two to three months. It is possible that we will have to close waters for a short while as the work takes place.

### Holmbush

The second car park area has been levelled but we need to put a top dressing on and roll it flat.

### Hurston

We are looking to carry out a major overhaul of the entrance and car park area. It is hoped that this together with the extra stock we are planning will make Hurston a better winter venue, something we have been working towards achieving for a few years.

### Stemps & Cart

Back in the spring we were looking to improve the path from the car park to the ponds, to provide a firm and level surface all year round. It tended to get quite heavy going during the winter months which put some anglers off fishing at Stemps and Cart. Unfortunately due to Covid we were unable to carry this through. At the moment we are talking to a contractor and have pencilled in February for this to take place.

### Fittleworth & Coates

Again carried over from earlier in the year, we have finally managed to carry out our tree planting on Fittleworth and Coates. These trees will hopefully serve three purposes;

1. The roots will help bind and stabilise the river bank to reduce erosion.
2. Once established the canopy over the river will provide valuable shade and shelter for our fish.
3. The canopy will also provide habitat for a range of insects etc. which can be a valuable food source for our fish.

#### TIER PLANTING AT COATES

A section of bank at Coates was tier planted with willow, hazel and hawthorn.

This section will be fenced over the winter before the cattle are let onto the field. The willow is planted closest to the river as its roots tolerate water well.

The outer tier of hawthorn will provide protection for the inner trees when the fencing is removed

Outer tier  
Hawthorn

Middle tier  
Hazel

Lower tier  
Willow

Volunteers from the club together with the EA and ARRT carry out Socially distanced tree planting at Coates.

They are planting a mixture of trees in one of the bays previously planted to fill in the spaces where trees did not take previously.

Many thanks to everyone who helped out and a special thank you to Sandra for the much appreciated refreshments.



## Security

We are aware that a number of non-members have been encountered fishing our waters in particular our river sections. Whilst our bailiffs do a fantastic job they cannot be everywhere all the time. If you do come across an angler that you suspect is not a member then you do have the right to challenge them and ask to see their membership. However, we would ask that you consider your safety and approach any suspects with caution. If there is a fellow club member then if possible approach the suspect together (socially distanced of course). If you have any doubts about approaching the person then do not bother.

Please also remember that you must carry your Membership Card with you at all times when on our waters or you could find yourself being asked to leave if you cannot prove you are a member.

## Tidy Anglers

We have had a number of instances where small items of tackle have been left in swims by anglers, as an example our President recently came across a bright yellow wired bait on the bank at Petworth and wired float stops were picked up at Shopham Bridge. When you pack up please make sure you clear all your tackle and rubbish from your swim.

## Healthy Anglers

We are obviously having to cope with Covid and I'm sure you are all fed up with repeated reminders about the guidelines, however we must look after ourselves and those around us.

Remember:

if you are going to touch something (gates, locks etc) that others will touch then you should sanitise your hands first.

If you have touched something (gates, locks etc) that others have touched then you should sanitise your hand (don't rely upon others to have sanitised theirs).

If you take food with you ensure you clean and sanitise your hands before touching your food.

Keep your distance and respect social distancing.

If you display any Covid symptoms or you have been in contact with anyone who is infected **STAY AWAY.**

## Matches

**As noted we are able to fish matches again. It is most important that everyone who wishes to take part in our matches books in if you have not booked in you will not be able to fish. In the first instance you should book in via [our e-mail](#) and you will be put onto our contact list for subsequent matches.**

### Upcoming Matches

Date	Venue	Comment
Sun 6th December	Passies Match Pond	Joint match with the Sportsman Club. A combination match so you need to catch Carp and silver fish.
Sun 3rd January	Passies Match Pond	On our own this time round and an all in match.
Sun 10th January	Stemps	Another in the combination series.
Sun 17th January	River Rother - Stedham	Inter-club match versus Stedham AC. Subject to confirmation.
Sun 31st January	Hurston Match Pond	With any luck we will have got our new stock in to the Match pond.
Sun 7th February	Watersfield	Our only visit to the Arun this season.
Sun 14th February	Bernies	One of our favourite away venues.
Sun 21st February	Stemps	The first leg of our pole only series.
Sun 28th February	Cart	The second leg of our pole only series.
Sun 7th March	Stanbridge View	Always interesting as a winter venue.
Sun 14th March	Chollers Farm	Our last match of the season.