

Newsletter of the Southdown Angling Association

April 2019

Dear Member,

Welcome to your Spring 2019 newsletter. This is always our most important communication of the year as it marks the end of one membership year and heralds the beginning of the next. It's great Easter weather at the moment and we hope you have had a restful and enjoyable time, perhaps with a bit of fishing thrown in.

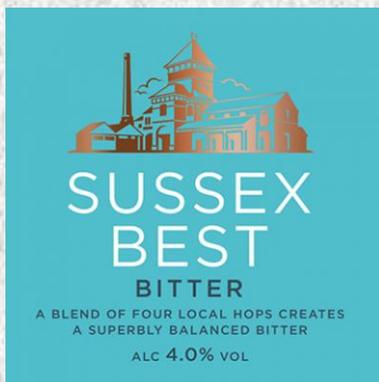
In this newsletter there is:

- Information about our Social Evening and Prize Winners – please support this important evening;
- Arrangements and costs for membership renewal;
- “All our yesterdays”, a new feature;
- Summary feedback on the AGM held on 7th February 2019;
- Some “Important notices” about exchange permits, water closures etc.;
- Club Match Corner – Winter Review by Chris Copeland;
- Big Fish Angling, photos of some fantastic fish caught from our waters; and
- Important information about maintaining your contact details.

Please read on and I hope you find it interesting and informative.

Social Evening and Prize Winners

This year's event will be held on Saturday 11th May 2019 at the Bull's Head, Boreham Street, Hailsham BN27 4SG commencing at 7pm. There is plenty of on-site parking. There will be a buffet provided, a raffle and we will be doing the annual prize giving.



Please support us by attending.

It's a Harveys Pub serving traditional Sussex Ales. Other beverages are obviously available.

Committee member Peter Gabbitas will also be providing some entertainment! Our trophy winners this year are:

Specimen Fish

Best fish / specimen	Matthew Kingdom	Common Carp 22-12-0 (new Club Record)
Most Specimens	Clive Copeland	Pike +Tench
Best Pike	Clive Copeland	17-2-0
Best Tench	Clive Copeland	6-8-0
Best Bream	Laura Angell	5-4-0
Best Carp	Matthew Kingdom	22-12-0
Best Rudd	Neil Angell	0-14-0

Competition Winners

Peter Gabbitas	Evening Cup	252pts
Chris Copeland	KO Cup	
Rod Brown	Southdown Challenge	4-1-0
Michael Wood	Pole Shield	5-6-0
Steve Izzard	Roy Andrews Memorial	21-1-0
Chris Copeland	Roger Weston Memorial	20-3-0
Grenville Weston	Christmas Cup	149pts
Rod Brown	Cuckmere Cup	11-15-0
Chris Copeland	Percy Baron	150pts
Peter Gabbitas	Bill Walder	14-8-0
Chris Copeland	Marsh Shield	245pts
Peter Gabbitas	Aggregate Weight Cup	94-1-0
Chris Copeland	Waggler Only	152pts
Chris Copeland	New Years' Challenge	5-15-0

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Alan Law	Ron Allchin Memorial	63-12-0
Grenville Weston	Roger Izzard Memorial	15-7-0

Membership Renewal

We have made a minor change to the membership categories this year removing the "Spouse" membership category that wasn't always being taken up in the way intended when introduced.

Further, we have reintroduced an entrance fee of £10 for new members in older membership categories. We have done this as we continue to have a high "churn" of membership each year and whereas we would prefer anglers to maintain their membership, we have been missing out on some much needed revenue. Most of, if not all of, our neighbouring clubs have a joining fee.

We have also raised subscription levels for some of the membership categories.

Membership fee levels for the 2019 – 2020 membership year, ending on 31st April 2020, are as follows:

Membership Category	Qualifying Details	Annual Fee
Entrance Fee	Entrance fee for new members (does not apply to Young, Non-Fishing and Junior Members). You are a new member if you were not a member for the 2018 – 2019 membership year	£10
Full Member	A person who is aged 18 or over on 1 st May	£70
Senior Citizen Member	A person who is aged 65 or over on 1 st May (date of birth required)	£50
Disabled Member	A registered disabled person in possession of a current Concessionary Licence issued by the Environment Agency, Rod Licence Number required	£50

Membership Category	Qualifying Details	Annual Fee
Young Member (14 & over)	A person who is aged 14 but under 18 on 1 st May	£25
Parent/Guardian Non-Fishing Member	A non-fishing parent or guardian of a Junior member, accompanying and responsible for that junior when fishing on Association waters	£10
Junior Member (under 14)	A person who is aged under 14 on 1 st May (date of birth required)	£2

You can join/renew your membership in any of the following ways:

- In person at the Social Evening on 11th May 2019;
- In person via our agents at the Polegate Angling Centre in Eastbourne or Anglers Den in Pevensey Bay; and
- By post. Complete your membership form (or forms) and send with your remittance to:

**Southdown Angling Association
Membership Renewals
c/o 19A Rise Park Gardens
Eastbourne
BN23 7EY**

One form for each member please.

Please include a C5 sized self-addressed envelope with Royal Mail "Letter" sized postage for the return of your new membership book(s).

Please only send cheques made payable to "Southdown Angling Association". Do not send cash.

In all cases, you will need to complete a membership form with your details. Forms can be downloaded from our website www.southdownaa.co.uk and are available at the Anglers Den and Polegate Angling Centre.

Our membership year books are already available, so we would be delighted for you to join/renew now ☺.

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All our yesterdays

Here is an interesting photo of a couple of legendary fishing reels that we thought may be of interest. There have been many imitations of these classics, but none as good. The Abu 506M was predated by the Abu 506 and 505 (with the strange clutch disk in red) of course, so not the original original. The Mitchell Match finger-dab bail arm could be a bit troublesome for ham fisted fat fingered anglers, but they were good!



If you still have these, they may be worth a few quid nowadays. If you are still using them today, you have definitely had your money's worth!

If you have any photos of similarly legendary tackle, please send to adminforsaa@btinternet.com with some background information and we will include in subsequent newsletters.

Feedback from 22nd Annual General Meeting

We had a largely straightforward and uneventful AGM at the Fishermen's Club recently. Attendance was disappointingly low, with just a few members beyond the committee and officers. So, we are going to combine the AGM and Social Evening to a single night next year in late April to encourage attendance. It creates a few extra problems but we believe it can be made to work. We might even have left the EU by this time next year



Of note, the AGM unanimously elected Mike Richardson to be a Vice President. This is in recognition of his service to SAA as Secretary for many years and his role

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in forming the Association over 20 years ago. Mike still helps out behind the scenes and this is very well deserved.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Exchange Permits - Hassocks and District Angling Society

We have been notified by Hassocks that they no longer want to participate in the exchange permit scheme. No reason has been given by them, but from the way the letter was drafted we expect they have withdrawn from all such arrangements. Sorry if you enjoyed this arrangement previously with them, but it is no longer available from 1st April 2019.

Temporary Water Closure

We have agreed with the landowner that Ironbridge Downstream can be closed to members over the full weekend of July 20th and 21st 2019. This is for a family celebration, so please respect this closure.

Water Sharing – River Cuckmere at Shermans Bridge

A reminder that, from the start of the new river fishing season in June 2019, we will be sharing this water with both the Seaford Angling Club and PACES. We have shared this water previously with Seaford. You may therefore see some unfamiliar faces on the water next year. Please make our water share partners welcome.

Working Party dates

Planned dates and venues for 2019 are as follows:

April 14th Curls Farm;

April 28th Marle Green;

May 12th Wallers Iron Bridge; and

May 26th Pevensey Haven.

If you can spare some time to help out, you would be made very welcome. Please contact our Water Maintenance Manager, Peter Gabbitas, on 01323 440734 for more information.

Club Match Corner – Winter Review by Chris Copeland

Although we didn't have what would be described as a harsh winter, the conditions on the bank have not been

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ideal and consequently this resulted in some rough days for the match fishing guys.

Highlights since December would be Peter Gabbitas winning the Bill Walder trophy at Ironbridge in the last match of the river season with a fine display using the feeder. Peter's winning weight of 14lbs 9oz including several bream and large eels.

The previous week Patrick Newman romped to victory in the 3rd round of the Wagglers only trophy with a winning weight of 11lbs 14oz also at Ironbridge, Pat tempted several bream and skimmers with worm on the hook.

Two weeks before Chris Copeland had won the second round with 5lbs 13oz, his catch including a plump Tench of 4lbs 15oz.

Apart from those decent weights the majority of matches since Christmas had been won with under 5lbs; still a fair weight in Winter.

With high winds, heavy rain and frosty nights the rivers have suffered and in general it's been hard to get the fish feeding as they normally would this time of year.

We now look forward to some warmer spring weather and a number of matches on our still waters. If you'd like to take part all the relevant information is available on our website and in your year book. You will be made very welcome.

Big Fish Angling

There have been many good fish caught by members in the last year headed by a new record common carp. This immaculate fish was caught by Matthew Kingdon from Middle Bridge and usurs a similarly large carp (22-0-0) caught by Alan Bates at Boreham Street in 2002/2003.



There have also been some nice fish caught from other waters, see below. Generally though, you lot are pretty secretive about what you catch and where from!. Wouldn't it be nice to see a few more photos on these pages? Please send your photos and a few details, as much as you can share, about your catch to adminforsaa@btinternet.com and we will publish them in our next newsletter.



Here is Laura Angell with the 5-4-0 bream that secured the best bream cup this year. Nice fish that it is, we all know there are bigger fish in our waters on the Pevensy Levels. Let's hope we see some of them later this year. Not to be outdone, Laura's father Neil Angell caught a carp in the same session, pictured below.

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A reminder about communications

We obviously need to contact you from time to time, sometimes quite urgently should we need to close waters for example. Going forwards, we are not going to be sending out letters or newsletters etc. by post (except by exception) as it is too time consuming and costly. Instead we are going to make greater use of our website and hopefully other media as follows:

1. Our newsletters and other notices will be posted on our website. Please make an effort to check-in from time to time at our website www.southdownaa.co.uk;
2. We are going to sign-up to an on-line membership website that will manage member contact details and automatically issue newsletters and other communications. This may also be developed to collect membership subscriptions in the same way as on-line purchases are made. You will be asked to register and check/update your details in due course; and

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3. We are going to use social media to alert you to important messages on our website. Details to follow. You will need to subscribe in the usual way.

These are quite a few important changes that need to happen to minimise the effort and cost of administering club matters. Please support these initiatives when asked.

Finally, deciphering your email address from the membership forms is quite tricky. Sometimes we think you don't really know what your email address is anyway, so we have got no chance. It would help immensely if you would send us an email to adminforsaa@btinternet.com. That way we will get you details and be able to contact you without any guesswork.

Monkey strikes again

Monkey has had a torrid time of late being poorly, breaking his whip (was Mrs Monkey involved?) and being roundly battered on the bank by Sneaky (Stiffy??)



Tim and his best mate the Gripper. Nevertheless, following several sessions recuperating with the Reverend James, he is back in fighting form. Here he runs his eye

over the sports' current superstars in his own words. Brutally honest and terse, you will be in no doubt what he thinks. For those of you with a sentimental disposition, don't read on:

- Bob Nodd, many times individual World Freshwater Angling Champion. Monkey says he is "clueless";
- Steve Ringa, celebrity lookalike, angling consultant and regular winner of big money finals. Monkey says he is a ringer by name and ringer by nature and is totally "clueless"; and
- Martine Bowlar, star of a number of hugely successful angling films and angling journalist. He wants to get a proper job as he is more "clueless" than "clueless" ouch!

More next time, may be! Bye for now, SAA