

Newsletter of the Southdown Angling Association

April 2020

Dear Member (and prospective members),

We hope this finds you well and that you are managing to keep safe and sane in these difficult times. We are currently amidst general lockdown as a result of the corona virus and we have had to close all of our waters for the foreseeable future as we are only allowed to venture out for health and well being essential purposes. Hopefully, we will be back fishing before too long.

Our last newsletter was this time last year, so quite a lot has happened in the meantime. This newsletter is a look back over that period and includes information about the new membership year that is nearly upon us.

As always, we have news of some great catches, general information & safety advice and a few lighter fake newsy type things that might just make you giggle.

All newsletters need loads of photos to break up the words. Thank you to all that contributed to this newsletter and those that we already have up on our website. Please send any new photos with your story by email to adminforsaa@btinternet.com and we will be pleased to share them with fellow members.

Right then, onwards and upwards and time for a smiley face!

HUGE Match Weight

One hesitates to put this photo on the front page of the newsletter, but let's face it, the person involved rarely looks so pleased that we felt obliged really. Pat Newman, has hit the heights yet again!

Our website proclaims "A day when history was made!" and "possibly the best ever weight on the Pevensey marshes in a match". These statements may all be true; certainly there are no records of a higher silver-fish match weight on SAA waters since our



inception in 1997 & it was a great catch full stop.

Pat was fishing on the Pevensey Haven towards the end of the first field at Sheepwash Piece and, using a feeder with worm on the hook (what else? Ed), landed 24 bream to around four pounds, a tench, a perch and a rudd for a total match winning weight of 80lbs14oz. Top angling Pat.

Postscript: Pat's mate Gabby was so pleased with this fine angling feat that he drunk all Pat's winnings in the Smugglers afterwards. What a great mate 😊

GREAT Fish

Despite the extremes of weather we have experienced over the last year there have been some amazing fish caught. Below are some fabulous examples that we know about. There are of course many "Secret Sids" out there that have also likely caught bigger fish but have chosen to keep it to themselves. It takes all sorts of course; but sharing news of your catches is a great way of promoting our waters. Here are some great photos of catches. These are in no particular order:

Suave, debonair, cultured, slightly shy, and that's just this Mirror Carp!



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Quite a few big carp, more to follow. But what about those elusive Tench that Chris Yates tried to catch at Ironbridge recently? See <https://fallonsangler.net/new-film-mr-greens-rod/>



Well, he chose a bad day to try and catch one, but on a better day.....

Matt's peekaboo skills need honing His Tench looks like it's been in a few battles and has a massive paddle at the back for use in emergencies.



This is near perfection in a fish 😊



Hers's an old bruiser. The fish has been in a few battles too



Scott's gone all "G-star raw" but shows his softer side by cuddling this lovely 6 pounder like a baby.

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Enough of those Tench, what about those big dog carp?



Last, but not least, this whopper! A few clues in the background to where this was caught.



Nathan's carp looks like it swam into a brick wall at speed. Are those wires a clue where this lump was caught?



Matt again, this time with a huge Mirror that looks like it could and would bite your hand off given a chance.

Of course, what the Wallers Haven is most renowned for is its bream fishing. They may not appear as bountiful as of old but, given the right conditions, they are still in there in numbers. This example below caught after dark.



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Information on the impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

There is an important separate communication about the impact of the virus on our website and this should also be coming to you by post shortly. Please read it carefully and follow the guidance therein. Further updates will be on the website and in email circulars.

AGM 2020 and Social Evening

You should already be aware that we had planned to hold our AGM and Social Evening on 1st May 2020. This is now cancelled. We may hold a suitable replacement event in the future once restrictions are relaxed/lifted and suitable premises are available or we might just wait until 2021.

We will not be awarding any cups and trophies this year either, but those that have won them will be recorded in our records. Sorry if this disappoints you, but its just not practicable to do anything else this at this time.

Grey van man



Unbelievably, this is our entrance to Ironbridge upstream on the Wallers Haven. Behind this vehicle is:

- The farmer's access gate;
- A stile that we and others use for access; and

- A public footpath.

The van belongs to one of our water share partners who thought he was entitled to park where he was and wasn't inclined to move it in a hurry.

We have had other similar issues last summer that involved our members that unfortunately strained the relationship with one of our landowners. Please be considerate where you park your vehicle at all times. Please do not park in front of access gates even if there is space to do so; it's common sense really.

Fishing Rights at River Cuckmere at Arlington/Churchlands/Sessingham

There has been some recent uncertainty about the extent of the fishing rights on this piece of the upper Cuckmere following a change in land ownership. This is now resolved and unfortunately we have to concede and advise that we no longer have any fishing rights here. As disappointing as it is to lose any waters, this section wasn't overly used although it did hold some very good fish for those that knew it well.

Please don't visit this stretch anymore; you have no authority to do so.

Entrance to Marle Green - Important Notice to Members

We have had a complaint about the alleged actions of our members driving irresponsibly along the access to our water. The perception is members are driving too fast and, in one case a family pet was killed as a result. If true, this is just unnecessary and stupid behaviour.

The following warning now appears in our Year Book for this water:

"Our access is along an unmade track in front of residential properties and adjacent to fields containing livestock. It is likely that you will encounter pets and stray livestock. Please drive slowly (maximum 10mph) and carefully. Any non-compliance with these requirements will result in immediate expulsion."

Club Match update from Chris Copeland

Chris wrote this piece about 6 months ago. The update for the subsequent period when it rained so much wouldn't be so cheery!

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With the Autumn and Winter months rapidly approaching it's the perfect time to report on how good the club competition season has been so far, a brilliant summer with several notable catches.

The Wallers Haven at Boreham Street has been the top venue so far for the match guys. On the first day of the season Rod Brown tanked the opposition by plonking 34lbs 4oz of bream on the scales and won the Southdown Challenge trophy. Not content with that, he then produced another stunning display a couple of weeks later from the same swim and won a round of the Marsh Shield with 45lbs 5oz. (Was he using a secret bait? Ed)

Also, in July and also at Boreham Street Pat Newman won a round of the Evening cup with 20lbs 13oz of bream in just two and a half hours. The following month Pat gave the performance of the season so far by landing 80lbs 14oz of mainly bream from the Pevensey Haven, see front page.

At Ironbridge upstream Steve Izzard secured the Bill Walder trophy with 14lbs 10oz of bream and skimmers, and at the same venue Chris Copeland won an evening match with 5 bream for 15lbs 4oz.

The still waters have also produced good sport, Peter Gabbitas winning the Roy Andrews Memorial trophy at Marle Green with 10 Carp for 38lbs.

We can't wait to get stuck into the matches during the coming months. With the recent heavy rain in September (*October, November and December, January, February, Ed*) the rivers should have plenty of depth and colour (oh yes!) and the fishing we hope should therefore be excellent (may be not!).

If you'd like to join in the fun you'll find the competition dates, times and venues in the club book and also on the website.

A word of warning

Whilst our stretch of the river Cuckmere is both beautiful and full of fish some of which grow very large, everyone needs to take great care when settling down to enjoy a day's sport.

The river although narrow in most places is deceptively very deep, up to 10ft at the waters edge.

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2020

Over the years a number of members have fallen in and have struggled to get out! In fact, already this season (last Summer, Ed) a very experienced member suffered from an undercut bank which collapsed resulting in him ending up in the water chest high and he's over six feet tall.

Please be very cautious and careful when deciding where to fish, if possible go with a fishing mate so at least there's someone on hand if an accident happens.

Always have a really good prod and poke around with a bank stick to check the bank and find out where the waters edge is.

Most banks along the Cuckmere are very overgrown.

Years ago the banks were of mud and flat but as the years have ticked by the vegetation has grown which actually now means we are sitting on banks where the middle of the river used to be, consequently that's why the water is very deep right at your feet.

Enjoy the river and all the surrounding countryside has to offer but please tread cautiously and be very very careful.

Membermojo

We use this platform to manage contact details for members. It is updated from time to time by SAA with new members and changes to contact details that we have noticed from membership forms; this isn't the best use of the system and our time.

Please can you check your details and update as necessary; that way you will receive email communications and not miss out on important information.

One of the helpful things that the site does is check the validity of email addresses you have given us (or we have tried to decipher from membership forms). If the email for you is not valid, you can't be included in our database and will miss out.

Details of the Membermojo site are in the Year Book and there are some instructions on how to update your details on our website.

Thank you for all of you that have already updated your details, this is a great help.

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We are still working out the optimum way to use this website and it does seemingly issue some messages automatically when we make updates to membership renewal dates for example. Please bear with us.

Wordsearch

We've not done one of these before. This special contribution is inspired by a recent unfortunate incident involving 2 long standing SAA members leading a convoy on its way to the Crown Inn at Newick following a collectively unsuccessful inter-club match at Valebridge. Enjoy!

Locate the given words in the grid.

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I I U D L N A S T Y V
I N P E H E E Y P E R
C D T Y D V B E E H U
L A S E E N U V R D S
R T P R N G P R U T Q
H O L G E T N A E C U
I E A O T P I H O Y I
E N T D T A P O S B R
R S N R A I H I N B R
C H A I L E Y E R A E
H M R P F H D N O G L
    
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Chailey	Harveys	Road
Dead	Intentional	Splat
Flattened	Nasty	Squirrel
Gabby	Peugeot	Tree
Grey	Pub	
Gripper	Rat	

SOS, save our squirrels; the RSPCA have been informed.

Swim clearance

Our collective thanks to Stephen Izzard and Michael Wood who have done some sterling work clearing swims at Ironbridge and on the Pevensey Haven last year. Without their work, many swims would be unfishable. Thanks guys!

More Monkey business

Monkey has been a bit quiet of late, on both the fishing and social (drinking) front; we all have unfortunately. Before the covid lockdown we caught up with him for his thoughts on contemporary issues.

Ed: Daniel Craig is filming another Bond film ("No Time To Die"). What are your past Bond favourites?

Monkey: Well, I like all of them, but my favourites are Squirrel Nutkin Never Dies and You Only Drink Twice. I was actually a stunt double for Richard Kiel in one of those films.

Hang on a minute whilst I get topped up, "Michael another 4 pints of best please".....Burrp!

Ed: Now that Boris has got a big majority, Brexit will soon be done and dusted. Does that make you happy?

Monkey: Gulp, gulp, gulp, gulp, buurrrrrppp

Well, the only thing that makes me happy is when the Gripper is miserable that is most of the time luckily. Yeah, Brexit bring it on, basically we are stuffed now. Michael same again please with some chilli salted monkey nuts. Got to keep my strength up. Burrp!



Ed: I've heard you absolutely love fishing at Middle Bridge with a keen easterly in the winter, the "waggler only" competitions being an annual favourite. Is that right?

Monkey: Crunch crunch, slurppp, burp, crunch, burrrrrp, slurrp! "Michael I'm going home via the offey, this bloke is getting on my wick. Bye". Burp.

Keep safe and bye for now, SAA