

# July 2018 Newsletter of the Southdown Angling Association

## IMPORTANT

Sorry to have to start with some unexpected bad news:

### River Cuckmere at Arlington/Churchlands Farm (east bank)

Unfortunately we have been unable to secure the fishing rights on this section of the Cuckmere that initially Hailsham AA and afterwards SAA have held for many many years. We know that this section is not fished that much, is well loved by a few, but nevertheless this is very disappointing. To be clear, this is the part of the Cuckmere on the east bank that we previously accessed down the lane past the Yew Tree Inn, see page 12 of your Year Book. The extent comprises the first field, the next short field upstream and then the long field further upstream.

This has occurred because the new landowner has exercised his wishes not to allow fishing anymore and there was nothing we could do to persuade him otherwise. Accordingly, our signage has now been removed.

***We now have no legal right to fish here, so members should desist from visiting this location.***

We are currently trying to renegotiate the fishing rights for the west bank further upstream that includes Sessingham Weir. See our website for further information on this.

### Water Maintenance

Some of you will have already noticed that swims have been given a makeover at Curl's Farm, Marle Green, Pevensey Haven and the Wallers Haven. More work is planned at Marle Green and a re-visit of the above venues will be carried out. A big THANK YOU from the Water Maintenance Team to the volunteers who have assisted us and in particular Steve Izzard, Tim Crowdy, Alan Woods, Alan Law and Terry Smith. To anyone else not mentioned who has stepped up and done something to improve our waters, thanks to you to.

The work has been made much easier this season following the **very generous donation of a new strimmer by two of our esteemed Life Members**

**Alan Dean and Fred Clews, our President.** Thanks guys, it really does mean a lot to SAA.

With the recent developments on the River Cuckmere it is our intention to clear some swims on the opposite bank (west) near to Arlington church. We do appreciate this was a happy hunting ground for our Cuckmere specialists and whilst a longer walk is now involved at least the same areas of water can still



hopefully be accessed (look for further updates on our website). In fact walking down the west bank is a lot easier than it was to navigate up the east bank.

If you feel any of our waters need additional maintenance please contact either of our two Water Maintenance Managers, Pete Gabbitas and Michael Wood (contact details are in your club

books). Please do not undertake work yourself without seeking permission as this can cause serious issues with our insurers and our landowners.

A big thank you from all members to **Michael Wood** and **Peter Gabbitas** who are doing lots of clearance work on our behalf.

### Ironbridge Downstream

Three important notices regarding this water:

- The landowners are having a family party on their land on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2018. This water is closed to members on this day;
- On this water particularly, and all our waters on the marsh, you should confine your activity to within 15 metres maximum of the waters edge. Our access is for exercising the fishing rights only. There is no right of access to the rest of the landholding for bird watching or anything else unconnected with fishing; and

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- There is strictly no access to the “jetty” used by the landowner for accessing the water for swimming and boating, see next item.

## Lost and Found



If anyone has “lost” these 2 fixings “found” at Ironbridge downstream towards the end of our water, please contact the club on 07710 245861 and we will try and reunite you. They were “found” on the jetty, also pictured, that all members should know is out of bounds to club members. Should you encounter any fishermen on the jetty, please educate them.

## Great start to fishing season writes Chris Copeland

With the new river season now in full swing it's pleasing to report that all are waters are fishing well, quite surprising really with river levels low due to the recent hot weather, and very little rain forecast for the coming weeks.

From the Wallers Haven we're hearing of Carp landed to over 26lbs, Tench of over 6lbs and Bream to 5lbs. Decent bags of Bream and Tench being caught in night fishing sessions at both Middle and Ironbridge. Best baits would seem to be various flavoured boilies along with the ever popular sweetcorn.

Further bags of Carp Tench and Bream have also been reported from Pevensy Haven along with a number of Chub from all stretches of the Cuckmere (please check earlier article Ed).

A reminder by the way that night fishing is not permitted

downstream of Ironbridge, but members can night fish at Boreham Street, Ironbridge upstream and also at Pevensy Haven and the River Cuckmere. You can find all relevant information in the club card.

If you like catching fish in the wee small hours please remember to make sure you choose a safe and comfortable swim, especially at the Cuckmere where bank side conditions can be deceptive and the water deep very close in.

For those members that prefer our still waters, plenty of silver fish are showing at Marle Green along with the odd big Carp. The Carp are still in the mood to feed at Curls Farm with recent match weights being very good indeed.

## Swimming, boats, canoes, kayaks, boards and the like

We are increasingly being affected by people making recreational use of waters on the Pevensy Marshes, particularly on the Wallers Haven. It is most likely that



these people do not have permission from relevant landowners and therefore have no legal right to do so. SAA is asking all our landowners not to allow swimming or boating and to not enter into any “voluntary access agreements” with British Canoeing or any local affiliation/club. Some

landowners do make occasional recreational use of their waters and clearly we just have to accept that.

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Regrettably, there is nothing that we can do to prevent people making unauthorised illegal recreational (non-fishing) use of club waters; only landowners can do that. You can verbally challenge people if you wish, but don't put yourself at risk in doing so.

For your information, The Cuckmere Valley Canoe Club are organising a paddling event on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018 starting at Boreham Bridge and paddling down to Norman's Bay. There is a paddle sports website named "paddling.com" that is highlighting kayaking opportunities on the Wallers Haven and a website called "Wild Swimming" is also encouraging swimming in the water too. It is clearly a growing problem.

Note that SAA only allows fishing from the bank. Fishing in boats and the like launched from the bank is not allowed and there are no exceptions.

## Change of Venue – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2018

With apologies for the short notice, the inter-club match originally scheduled for Boreham Street in the Year Book will now be held at Middle Bridge. The water levels are currently too low to sensibly host 2 other clubs at the original venue. Hopefully this will not affect any plans you have made.

## Register your e-mail

You probably are getting fed-up of retailers asking you for an e-mail address. Well, we are doing just the same, not to annoy you, but because it is the easiest and cheapest way to contact you with important information. We can't afford the cost of sending you information by post.

So, please register an e-mail address with us by sending an e-mail to [saa.subs2018@btinternet.com](mailto:saa.subs2018@btinternet.com) with "SAA Newsletter" as the subject and you will be included for the future. If you change your e-mail address, please don't forget to let us know.

Please do this even if you have written an e-mail address on your membership form as, with some exceptions, they are not that easy to read.

## Mugs Gallery

We are very grateful for anyone that provides

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photographs for our website and newsletters. Below are a few recent contributions. Where provided the captions do not represent official policy of SAA and are meant to offend as much as possible 😊.

This little friend from Ironbridge was caught (who caught who? Ed) sometime during the evening match on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. A triumphant Steve Izzard said afterwards



"when I had this micro-monster and an even smaller perch, I thought I was going to do the double". Steve had won the interclub match on the Hydneye the previous day. Regrettably for Steve he came nearly last. Tommy Ruffe later said "it was just like Xmas all over again, I ate all his worms, pulled his float under and then kept my mouth firmly

shut – that will learn him". Sorry Steve, its not "coming home" this year, may be next year.

In other news there have been a number of tench caught on the Wallers Haven. "Bonio", one of our long standing "rockstar" like members, had one just the other evening, see picture left. Unfortunately, he can't go anywhere without being photo bombed.



Yet another superstar put in an appearance the same evening. Would you believe that this much underrated superstar has beaten 4x World Champion Blob Nodd at level terms off the next peg several times (very hard to believe I know, but its true Ed). If you see him about, driving a taxi may

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be, don't ask him for any fishing advice, he will give it to you anyway! "ey".

This is a more traditional pose from Gary Flinstone. Gary is currently sponsored by Presten Itwillbreakinnotime on Mondays, Senseless on Tuesdays and NG Sinks on Sundays. Identity crisis, what identity crisis? Nice

tench though!



## Ask Monkey

This is a brand new feature where members can ask Monkey to help with angling advice and issues of a personal nature. Think Dame Edna Everage in waders, holding a whip in one hand and a pint of Harvey's in the other and you've got our new adviser. We have had to raid the coffers to bring you Monkey, so please make the most of this new facility by sending in your ask Monkey questions to [saa.subs2018@btinternet.com](mailto:saa.subs2018@btinternet.com), and we promise not to include the best ones in our forthcoming newsletters. First up this time around is Peter (not his real name)

from Tenterden:

**Peter asks:** Hi Monkey, I was high up on the leader board at the recent 2-day Medway Masters competition after day one, drew and absolute flier end peg on day two, only to blow it as all my worms died overnight. Please help me with some guidance.

**Monkey replies:** Gripper I know it's you, you useless wormseye! I would have won from the pegs you drew. To keep your worms happy, try to keep them out the sun. Keep them moist and happy by including a few sodden strips of cardboard in the sack they are in. Store them in the fridge (the one in the garage not containing food items) or on a cool garage floor somewhere.

Next, Roger from Eastbourne:

**Roger asks:** Monkey, I have heard you are a very good match angler. How important is the draw?

**Monkey replies:** Hi Rog, the draw is not important at all. I get peg 1, and all the other monkeys choose from what's left and have to make the most of it. I win, collect the beer tokens and cash them in for Peroni's. Job done. Next.

More next time from Monkey - if we can fit it in.

## Fish Welfare and Your Safety

We shouldn't complain, but it's been really hot for quite a long time already. Water levels are generally down, particularly on the Pevensy Marshes including the Waller's Haven where water is pumped out for supply.

Please only use keepnets when necessary ensuring that your net is as deeply immersed as possible.

If you go fishing on the marshes, please take extra care if you sit on top of the bank or if you get down on the mudline as there is a big level difference between the two levels.

## Newsletter Items

If you have some newsworthy items, photos, funny stories etc. please send them to [saa.subs2018@btinternet.com](mailto:saa.subs2018@btinternet.com) and we will consider them for the next issue.