



# **JANUARY 2018**

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **The Shark Angling Club of Great Britain**

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

##### **2018 Shark Festival**

11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> July 2018 – draw takes place on the evening of the 10<sup>th</sup>

##### **2018 AGM**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018 – Looe Social Club

##### **Annual Dinner and Trophy Presentation**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018 – Portbyhan Hotel

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Hi, everyone, 2017 has been a tremendous year for the SACGB and the sharking community in general. In my speech at this year's Annual Dinner and Trophy Presentation it was pleasing once again to be able to announce increased volume and size of sharks at all UK fisheries when compared to recent years. We are not clever enough to fully understand how nature works but undoubtedly the catch and release policy, government pressures around the world to reduce commercial sharking and the efforts to remove the abhorrent practise of finning are delivering results.

The increased level of interest in our sport is also a key factor in the numbers of larger sharks being caught and released as more lines in the water increase the chances of connecting with the bigger sharks.

There were many big sharks caught and released this year but among the most notable of these were John Dines Blue Shark (new record) from Bite Adventures, skippered by Robin Chapman. In August, Chris Bett brought a Thresher, estimated at 400lbs plus, to the side of The Midnight Rambler, skippered by Danny Vokins. The Celtic Deeps continued to deliver with a Blue from Andrew

Alsops White Waters which could have challenged John Dines fish had it not been foul hooked. We also had a number of other exceptional sharks which we sadly couldn't confirm due to lack of quality claim information. All in all, 2017 proved to be a very good year and I am sure you, like me, are very much looking forward to 2018.

Our Annual Dinner and Trophy Presentation in October was well attended with 64 members and guests meeting at the Portbyhan Hotel in Looe. Aside from the SACGB trophies I was also honoured to have the opportunity to formally present Andy Griffith and Chris Bett with their IGFA awards. Andy was recognised for catching a Shortfin Mako, Blue and Porbeagle on the same day and Chris for the catch and release of no fewer than 9 different species of shark. Both were given SACGB Certificates of Recognition to mark their achievements.

Due to holiday commitments and illness the Mitchell-Hedges Special Award Presentation had to be delayed until the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Once again, we had a great turnout with 31 members and guests attending to congratulate John Dines and Robin Chapman with this once in a lifetime, and never to be repeated award.

A report on both these events are given in this newsletter.

The sharking communities interest in promoting conservation continues to grow with increasing numbers of anglers and skippers choosing to flatten barbs and release sharks at the side of the boat. Now we are connecting with larger fish we also need to revisit the welfare of the shark and the safety of the angler, skipper and boat if we are bringing larger sharks aboard. I recently looked at a photograph of Joyce Yallop's record Mako and it immediately becomes clear that a shark of this size could not be brought aboard, measured and

released. The club and the sharking community in general need to have a debate on how to recognise these larger sharks and others where an estimated measurement is all that's available.

The committee continue to work on repositioning the club to its former place as the Shark Angling Club of **Great Britain** and amongst other things are redeveloping our new website to reflect this. We hope to launch the new site early in the year.



The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) come into place in May 2018 which, along with the Rule Book have consumed much of the committee's time this year. Although this work can be time consuming it's appropriate that we manage the club in a professional manner which protects both the club and its members, so this work is important. These two projects are now nearing completion

This year the club were pleased to welcome 39 new members. We also made an offer to all lapsed members to return on a reduced cost basis which resulted in 10 anglers re-joining the club.

Interest in the 2018 Festival has grown and as I write we have confirmed places for 41 anglers. To meet this increased demand, we need to use boats from outside of Looe. This has brought the committee a new but very welcome challenge. In addition to the much sought after winners badge, we have some other exciting additions planned for this year's festival which we will announce in the coming months.

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of three of our members last year.

In October, Dave Snowden, better known to many as Snowy, passed on. Dave was a keen shark angler and could often be seen around the quay in West Looe waiting for the return of the shark boats, so he could catch up on events of the day.

In November, Tony Pimm, our club Vice President for many years also passed on. Tony was a long-standing member of the club and devoted a considerable amount of his time and energies to it. Many of you will recall purchasing shark traces from the club booking office. These were made by Tony. Over the years he built up an exceptional collection of Penn reels which may even be unique. We have certainly never heard of a private collection of Penn equipment like this. In his later years Tony could be seen chatting to the locals and having a smoke, or two, at Tasty Corner.

In December, Peter Maddock, our club President passed away. He and his wife Joyce celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary as well as 50 years of SACGB membership this year. Peter had a wealth of knowledge of the club's history and the sport. He was always willing to help the committee and in his last communication to the committee he was stressing the importance of being organised when measuring and releasing a shark so that it can be returned within two minutes of being boarded. He was also aware and fully supportive of the need for us to look beyond "biggest is best" in order to move our sport to the next level.

Peter, Tony and Snowy will be sadly missed but remembered fondly by all the members who knew them.

I hope you enjoy the January newsletter and I wish each one of you a great season and I look forward to seeing you all again this year and to following events on our website and Facebook pages as the year progresses.

See you at the Festival if not before.

Tight Lines to all  
**Bob Woodman - Chairman**

## Annual Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions are now due. The cost for 2018 is £20.00

You will retain the membership number which you received last year throughout your membership with the club, so you will not receive a new number as has been the case in previous years.

You can significantly reduce the club administration workload by paying your subs on time. To renew your subs online, visit the shop on our website at [www.sharkanglingclubofgreatbritain.org.uk](http://www.sharkanglingclubofgreatbritain.org.uk) or if you wish to pay by bank transfer, you can do so using the account details below.

### **Lloyds Bank**

**Acc Name: Shark Angling Club of Great Britain**

**Sort Code: 30-95-08**

**Account Number: 00692083**

Please remember to enter your FULL name as a reference, so that we can correctly identify and allocate your payment.

Alternatively, you can send a cheque made payable to 'Shark Angling Club of Great Britain'.

Thank you.

## CLOTHING & MERCHANDISE

Last year we extended our clothing range to include Hoodies. This was a suggestion from one of the members and one which has proven to be very popular indeed. In response to a member request the website was amended to include pictures of the various garments and other items we have for sale.



The most recent additions to the range are T Shirts and Baseball Caps with the embroidered SACGB logo. We have continued to use the Uneck brand which is produced from a high-quality poly-cotton mix and has received very favourable member feedback. All clothing is available in Black or Navy.

Hoodies cost £25 plus postage, Sweatshirts are £20 plus postage, Polo Shirts are £15 plus postage, T Shirts are £10 plus postage and Baseball caps are £10 plus postage. We also have Burgees available at a price of £25.00 + Postage.

A large type 120" measuring tape is also now available at £20.99 plus postage. These have been successfully trialled with two of the Looe skippers.



The large type increases the clarity of video and photographic measurement evidence and will be a very useful addition to your tackle box. These and other goods can be ordered online at; [www.sharkanglingclubofgreatbritain.org.uk](http://www.sharkanglingclubofgreatbritain.org.uk).

Alternatively, you can place your order by email at [sharkclublooe@gmail.com](mailto:sharkclublooe@gmail.com), and transfer the money by BACS, or you can write to us and include a cheque to SACGB, c/o The Harbour Office, Buller Quay, East Looe, PL13 1DX

## 2018 UK Fishery Report

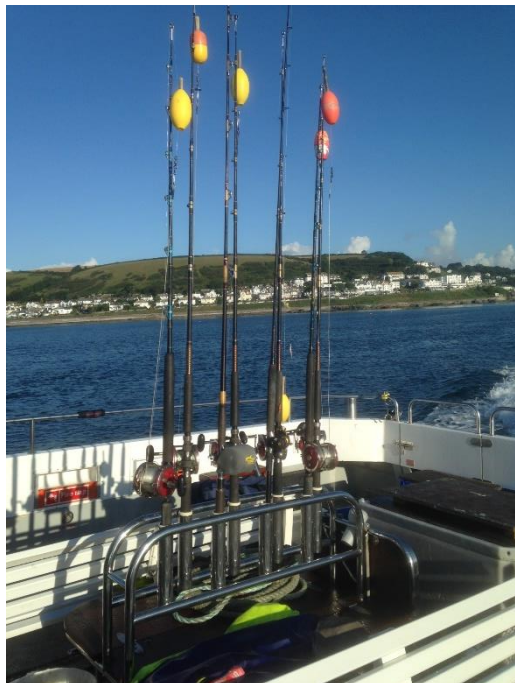
The 2016/7 sharking season has been an exceptional one for anglers and skippers all around the UK.

The Welsh sharking hotspot of Milford Haven has produced over 1000 sharks for Andrew Alsop of



White Water Charters with Blues and Porbeagles of 200lbs plus being caught and released.

Nick O'Sullivan, skipper of Celtic Wildcat reports similar numbers to last year with a good number of fish around the 100lbs mark and one Blue of 214lbs.



Moving a lot further north to Scrabster in Scotland where the sharking season starts around September/October and extends into March, Chris Bennett reported 46 Porbeagles for the previous season. All were male fish with an average weight of around 200lbs. The best being estimated at 330lbs. Once again all were released. With Chris's season starting in October we are looking forward to hearing more from him in the coming months

Robin Chapman of Bite Adventures down in Penzance had a tremendous year with just under 1800 sharks caught and released with many of qualifying size up to 200lbs. Then of course there was John Dines Big Blue which set a new British Measured and Released Record also caught and released aboard Bite Adventures

Further round the coast to St Ives, Sam Narbett of Bluefin Charters brought a Porbeagle to the boat

with an estimated weight of 400lbs. The video is on Facebook and is worth watching. He also caught and released two Threshers last season which we only learned about this year

All skippers are reporting increased sightings of Tuna with many shark anglers losing a lot of line and end tackle to these "oversize mackerel".

We are sure there are many more similar events which the club are unaware of and we congratulate every one of you, be you a skipper or an angler.

Here in Looe, in common with many ports we lost a lot of days to bad weather this year. However, despite that we caught and released 1887 sharks which is an increase of 162 or almost 10% on the previous season. The number of qualifiers also increased to 89 which is a 15% increase on last season.

Finally, a special mention to Dan Margetts, skipper of the Sowenna of Looe who has successfully completed his first year. We also give our best wishes to Kieren Faisey who starts his sharking skipper career alongside his mentor Chippy in Easter this year. It's always a pleasure to welcome new skippers to the sport, so, on behalf of the club, welcome Kieren and Dan.

### **British Measured & Released Line Class Records**

The move to the Measured & Released Record System brought us back to the start point with all records becoming available. This year saw Blue Shark 8lb, 12lb, 16lb, 20lb and 80lb line class records being claimed and confirmed. No claims were received from the ladies which was not due to a lack of sharks being caught by them, so we hope to see that change this year. We had no claims for Porbeagle, Thresher or Mako, although there were certainly Porbeagles and Threshers caught, measured, and released so there were opportunities.



To claim a line class record your shark must be measured, preferably recorded on video (good quality photographs are also suitable) and witnessed. The British Measured and Released Declaration form and details of the other information required can be downloaded from the SACGB website. The completed claim form along with the appropriate sample length of the line, the trace and the hook (full details available on the website) should be sent to the SACGB address for the attention of the secretary.

The claim details are checked and if the measurement/photographic/video evidence is satisfactory the line sample is then sent for testing. The line is subject to three breaking strain tests. To pass the test the line must break either on the limit or underneath each time, eg if its 20lb class line and it breaks at 20lb on test 1, then 20lb on test 2, then 19lb on test 3 it will pass. However, if it breaks above 20lb on any of the three tests the line will fail.

Many light tackle anglers purchase a higher quality line which has a greater chance of passing the test. Standard quality line will often fail at least one of the tests and break above its stated breaking strain.

If you are successful, your name and details of the record are published on the website. At the end of the season, unless the record has not changed since the previous year, the new 2018 line class record winners will receive a SACGB British Measured & Released Certificate and an engraved salver. With 11 vacant records for Blue Shark and 16 vacant

records each, for Thresher, Porbeagle and Mako there are lots of opportunities for you to keep our secretary busy this year.

## **NOTABLE FISH**

Last year we got off to a late start with collating notable shark data. In fact, it was middle of the year before notable shark details began to be collected. We apologise for this and we also need to thank Ian Harbage for reminding us. A notable shark is one with an estimated weight of 100lbs or over.

Due to the late start we felt we were unable to award the SACGB Trophy for the member who catches and releases the most sharks with a minimum estimated weight of 100lbs during the season. Clearly, we would like to rectify this and be able to make the award at the Annual Dinner & Trophy Presentation on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018.



The website is now set up to enable details of these sharks to be published. If you have a photograph we are able to publish that as well. Please make sure the photographs are acceptable to publish with sharks being held correctly and clean.

The various fishery reports we received towards the end of the season all reported good numbers of

bigger sharks, so we are looking forward to this being a long list.

## ANNUAL DINNER AND TROPHY PRESENTATION NIGHT



In spite of the widely forecast bad weather across the country, Looe woke up on the morning of what was our 64<sup>th</sup> SACGB Annual Dinner & Trophy Presentation evening, to bright sunshine although admittedly we had a bit of wind. The event was well attended with 64 members and guests arriving at the Portbyhan Hotel in Looe. Jeff Penhaligon, a retired Looe Harbourmaster, now working with the RNLI, and his wife Maggie were our special guests. Jeff very kindly presented the trophies.

Unfortunately, our President, Peter Maddock and his wife Joyce were unable to attend but Peter passed on his warmest congratulations to all the winners and thanked the committee for their hard work.

I think it would be fair to say that we complied with **“rule 2d”** in the rule book as great time was had by all.

This year’s event had a couple of differences as for the first time we awarded SACGB Certificates of Recognition and formally presented two IGFA awards. Due to holiday commitments and illness the Mitchell-Hedges Special Award presentation was unable to go ahead and was rescheduled to 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

18 trophies were presented, and we had confirmed claims for another 11. This means that excluding the monthly trophies there were a good number we had no claims for.

With the level of activity across the sharking community we are confident that many of those unclaimed, could have been claimed so our aim is to improve on these numbers this year.

## Rule Book Changes



The new rule book has been checked for structure and is now being reviewed for content by the committee. Once this stage is complete it will be released on the website as a draft document for member comment. The planned completion date for all member comments is the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. We will then look to ratify the document at the AGM on the 12<sup>th</sup> July during the festival.

## General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The GDPR comes into effect this year and all companies and organisations like the SACGB are required to conform to this new legislation no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

The SACGB’s Privacy Notice will shortly be available on the website and it will provide the necessary information regarding how we collect and use your personal data in addition to explaining your rights.

The club have reviewed their procedures and are in the process of making the necessary administrative changes. The regulations require us to ensure that any member personal data we hold is accurate so we will be contacting you soon to help us confirm the details we hold for you are current.

Another requirement is that we have positive (Opt-in) confirmation of your contact preferences, eg are you comfortable with the club contacting you by email, post, telephone and text or only some of these.



You should know that we don't hold any member data which could be classified as sensitive.

To enable us to comply in this area we will be shortly be asking each of you to give your consent for us to use your contact details to continue to communicate with you. Please respond to this request as soon as you receive it as becoming compliant by the 25<sup>th</sup> May will draw heavily on the committee's administration time.

Obviously, the success of this exercise is dependent on the club holding correct contact details so if you know any members who have not received a communication by the end February can you/or they contact the secretary please.

If you are unsure of what to do when you receive the Opt-In request, please contact the secretary as soon as possible.

### **2018 Shark Angling Festival**

Since last year's Festival, interest in the event has continued to grow. We currently have more confirmed anglers for this year's Festival than we have had for many years. We have also had two enquiries from skippers and their regular anglers from other ports regarding joining us.

Unfortunately, so far these have not worked out.



This has meant we are topping up the Looe fleet with vessels from other ports and we are pleased to announce that Pegasus, skippered by Lewis Hodder

and the Aquilla, skippered by Chris Gill will be joining us this year.

At this point in time we have a couple of spaces available and an associate member waiting list, so if any full member would like to take part, please contact the secretary before the 31<sup>st</sup> March after which any available spaces will also be made available to associate members.

The Festival format has been the same for many years and in response to a number of discussions which committee members have had with members we are going to change it a little.

We will continue with the current angler and skipper prizes from previous years which are,

First prize: the angler with the largest shark (in points)

Second prize: the angler with the second largest shark (in points)

Third prize: the angler with the third largest shark (in points)

Most sharks: the angler who catches the most sharks over the 3 days

Optional daily pool: The angler who catches the largest shark (in points) each day, and who has contributed to the pool, will take the money

Skipper of the boat with the largest shark

Skipper of the boat catching the most sharks over the 3 days

The additions will be confirmed in the next couple of months so watch your email in box for details.

At this point in time we have a number of entrants who have paid their deposit but not yet completed and returned their application forms. Can we have these by the end of January please.

## What happens if we don't measure?

Shark angling and shark conservation has come a long way since 1993, when Danny Vokins sent a letter to one of my secretarial predecessors, Karan Sayer, asking her to present it to the Shark Angling Club of Great Britain Committee.

The letter was titled *"Kill to Qualify Policy"* and in it Danny expressed his view that bringing sharks ashore to weigh for membership purposes was no longer an acceptable thing to do.

As an alternative he proposed the use of a formula and witness system. At the time, not everyone shared Danny's view but ultimately his, and the views of many other anglers prevailed and today the formula and witness system are accepted by all and is the cornerstone of the conservation programme in our sport.



Within the sharking community the desire for shark conservation continues but so does the drive to improve on personal bests.

Some anglers are totally focussed specimen hunters whilst others, still hoping to catch and release a good shark also take considerable enjoyment from

the social aspect of the sport and from being away from their normal routine. But even the least committed specimen hunter harbours a desire to catch and release a big shark and improve on his or her personal best.

The club and the sport in general have a duty to support the desires of all its members/anglers, be they specimen hunters or otherwise.

My view is we need to learn to get our satisfaction and recognition not just from obtaining a record for the "biggest" shark but from other sources and achievements.

Let's assume the British Measured & Released Record for a particular species of shark is 200lbs and that this was confirmed by it being boarded, and the quality of the measurement evidence is 100% and beyond all dispute. Then one day, you get a shark to the side of the boat which is obviously considerably heavier than this shark. You manage to get some approximate measurements but because of concern for the welfare and safety of the shark, angler or boat, sea conditions etc, it does not allow you to obtain a 100% accurate set of measurements. However, many experienced skippers and anglers agree that the shark was around 300lbs and are on record as having said so. Recognise this situation?

Now put yourself in the position of the committee or organisation considering your claim. They too agree the shark was bigger than the current record and know the anglers and skippers involved to be honest individuals. However, what if the following week they get a similar claim for a shark which has been measured approximately three inches longer with an approximate girth measurement the same as yours. How would you feel if having been given the record you lose it to a set of approximate measurements?

My guess is that most anglers wouldn't feel too good about it.



If, however the angler made no record claim, as the measurements were not 100% verifiable, but took their satisfaction from the recognition and congratulations from those who were with him or her and perhaps also received some recognition from their club for it being a notable shark, in my view there is potential for everyone to be a winner.

Yes, this approach does mean that the record holder may well hold it with a smaller shark than one, or perhaps many which have been brought to the side of the boat and therefore, technically caught.

But let's be practical here, there is a point where it's not in the interest of the shark, the boat, the anglers or crew to push the boundaries just to get a verifiable set of measurements. The welfare of the shark and the safety of the anglers, skipper, crew and the integrity of the boat must always take priority.

Instead of some of our energies being lost through frustration when we cannot get record recognition let's put that energy to good use by working on ways to improve the measurement evidence or, better still, a recognition system that complements the "biggest is best" culture which we currently have.

We will always recognise the angler who is fortunate enough to catch the biggest, but we need to reconsider how we should recognise it. We should also ask ourselves is it only him or her we wish to recognise? Should we not also recognise equally, the skill and commitment of the angler who catches and releases the most specimen sized sharks, or the most different shark species, or the angler who beats their personal best or some other similar measure(s)?

We all know anglers we admire and perhaps even secretly aspire to be like, but they are not all record holders.

The preference of an increasing number of anglers and skippers today is to release sharks at the side of

the boat as it's the next obvious step in shark conservation best practise. It is also the obvious solution when the boat is too small or the shark too big for it to be brought aboard safely.

This behavioural change demands that we complement the "biggest is best" culture with recognition programmes for other successes and achievements.

What we must avoid however, is the situations where there is no, or very poor quality evidence. We must always strive to have the best possible evidence and with access to good photographic and video technology now being within the reach of most of us this is doable. Nobody is going to pat you on the back unless there is some very good quality evidence which they can review and satisfy themselves that the shark was as good as you, and those who were with you say it was.

There is much for the sharking community to think about and the solution will have as significant an impact as the change from weighing to the measurement and formula change did for the sport.

The SACGB are already discussing this at committee level and their decision will ultimately be taken on the majority of members views.

However, the sport belongs to the sharking community and is not owned by any club or group, so we are inviting the views of all from within the sharking community irrespective of whether they are members of the SACGB.

In general, the wider the consultation, the better the decision and level of agreement so we hope you will all contribute. Your views will remain anonymous unless you tell us otherwise.

All views, suggestions and input will be collated and published, anonymously, on the SACGB website, so we can all benefit from the discussion. As more views and suggestions become available this may change your initial thoughts, so let us know if your view changes as the debate develops.

Your views, thoughts, ideas and comments can be sent to us by email to [sharkclublooe@gmail.com](mailto:sharkclublooe@gmail.com) or via the members portal on our website, [www.sharkanglingclubofgreatbritain.org.uk](http://www.sharkanglingclubofgreatbritain.org.uk) or in writing to the SACGB, c/o The Harbour Office, Buller Quay, East Looe, PL13 1DX

As we have noted before, irrespective of different professions and experiences the sharking community all have one thing in common ..... our love for the sport, and our commitment to the policy of catch and release, to support the conservation of the fish we seek and respect, so we hope you will all contribute to the development of this, the next stage in the evolution of the sport which we all love

Please note that this is the personal view of the secretary and not necessarily the view of the committee

## **2017 – an Exceptional Year**

2017 is a year which skippers and anglers will long remember for many lost days at sea due to bad weather. The weather on the 21<sup>st</sup> October, when the Shark Angling Club of Great Britain held its Annual Dinner and Trophy Presentation was no exception with winds exceeding 50mph buffeting the port of Looe.



However, as every shark angler knows if you can't fish for shark the next best option is to talk about fishing for shark and that's exactly what those attending the event did, and lots of it. The evening reflected a tremendously successful Sharking year.



The Mitchell-Hedges trophy for the best shark of the season went to Chris Bett for a Thresher from Danny Vokins Midnight Rambler.



The Mickey Wonnall trophy (runner up to the Mitchell Hedges) and the Norman Lorraine trophy (best Blue Shark of the season) went to Dave Stone for a Blue from Robin Chapmans Bite Adventures.



The Sammy Porbeagle trophy for the best Porbeagle of the season went to John Crotty for a Porbeagle from Andy Trueloves Atlantic Blue.



The Sercombe Oliver Thresher trophy for the best Thresher of the season went to Chris Bett for a Thresher from Danny Vokins Midnight Rambler.



The Alan Caunter trophy for the best shark caught during the season by a lady member went to Angela Spearing for a Blue from Pete Davis's Force Ten

The club also recognised the IGFA achievements of two of its members. A Griffith was formally presented with his IGFA Shark Grand Slam for catching and releasing a



Mako, Blue and a Porbeagle in one day and Chris Bett was presented with his IGFA Shark Royal Slam for the catch and release of nine shark species. Both were presented with SACGB Certificates of Recognition.



The club launched the British Measured and Released Line Class awards this year and five have been awarded so far.

The SACGB have 37 angler's perpetual trophies plus a cup for the best fish of each month. All the trophy winners can be seen on the SACGB website.

After 62 years of waiting, on the 3rd December 2017 the SACGB presented the Mitchell-Hedges Special Award which was a challenge laid down by the clubs first President, Frank Albert Mitchell-Hedges.

Although Mitchell-Hedges is well known within shark angling circles, he is equally well known in other areas for being an adventurer, traveller and writer. One of his most widely known achievements is the crystal skull which he and his daughter allegedly found in a Mayan ruin in the 1920's.

Since his death and the death of his daughter scientists have shown the skull wasn't as old as they claimed so we think he was a bit of an Indiana Jones character who was well versed in the art of self-promotion.



Certainly, a character with whom most shark anglers could have enjoyed a pint, or perhaps two, with.

In 1953 he presented the club with the Mitchell Hedges Trophy which is awarded annually to the member catching and releasing the best shark of the season. The trophy was also used with the bank to secure a loan to start the club in 1953.

He also gave the club the Sammy Porbeagle Trophy which is awarded annually for the best Porbeagle caught and released by a member. The history behind that trophy is on the website.

It would be fair to conclude that from our perspective he was an all-round good guy who certainly had the clubs best interest at heart.

In 1955, 62 years ago, Mitchell-Hedges suggested a one-off challenge for the first Blue Shark of 250lbs or over. At the time the Blue Shark record was 130 lbs and was held by Mr Harry Whiddett so this was quite a challenge.

The winner of the challenge was to receive a personal trophy which Mitchell-Hedges provided, and the boatman concerned was to receive a Mitchell-Hedges cheque for £25.

This proposal was made on his behalf on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 1955 by R Roberts who gave the club the R C Roberts trophy for the heaviest qualifier of the season and seconded by J Holmes who gave the club the JJ Holmes trophy for best shark of the season by a member from Sussex. The proposal was carried.

Although the £25 cheque can be seen in the club accounts for a number of years it has long since gone.

The trophy was held by Pat Case until Mitchell Hedges death in June 1959. At that time there was a disagreement between the club and Anna Mitchell-Hedges and the trophy was never seen again by the club.

The challenge, or the Mitchell-Hedges Special Award as it became known remained and for 62 years anglers have had it in their sights.

Earlier this year, the SACGB were planning to re-promote the Mitchell Hedges Special Award when news came in of John Dines Big Blue which was caught and released aboard Chippy's boat in Penzance. The video evidence received was examined by the committee and the dimensions confirmed. Using the formula Johns shark calculated weight came in at 256.5lbs and therefore became the British Measured and Released Record for Blue Shark. However, as well as achieving the record both John and Chippy had jointly won the Mitchell-Hedges Special Award.

Following in the spirit of Mitchell Hedges, the club have now laid down a new challenge which is for the catch and release of a 350lb or more, Blue Shark. The member who achieves this and the skipper involved will each be awarded a commemorative trophy.

This brings a list of new challenges for the sharking community to overcome. Do we bring sharks of that size aboard, and if not, how do we verify their weight etc.

Lots to think about but we are confident that the sharking community will come up with the correct answers to these questions and that the welfare of the shark will remain the highest priority.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> December, sharking history was made as John Dines and Chippy were presented with the Mitchell-Hedges Special Award.

John received a personal trophy and a framed copy of the original minutes when the challenge was proposed and accepted.



Chippy also received a framed copy of the original minutes and £25 in notes from the period.



John was also presented with his certificate, confirming him as the current holder of the British Measured and Released Record for Blue Shark.



SACGB Chairman, Bob Woodman commented, "it's taken us 62 years to be able to present this award and we believe our President would be proud of John when he says, his proudest moment was watching the fish confidently swim back into the depths of the ocean. The sport has come a long way since Mitchell-Hedges laid down the challenge and is now totally focussed on shark conservation. The British Measured and Released Record system allows anglers to compete but more importantly it positions and confirms shark welfare and conservation as the shark angling community's number one priority".

NB: we have limited the number of annual trophy presentation pictures to make the newsletter easier to download. If your picture is not in the newsletter, please contact the secretary who will forward you a copy.

## 2017 TROPHY WINNERS

Mitchell Hedges	Chris Bett
Mickey Wonnall	Dave Stone
Norman Lorraine	Dave Stone
Sammy Porbeagle	John Crotty
Sercombe Oliver Thresher	Chris Bett
Alan Caunter	Angela Spearing
Phil Heathman	Ben Carter
Auger	John Crotty
Leslie Andrews	Dave Keen
Glaisbasel	Dave Keen
Venning	Alan Mason
Barbican	Des Kendall
T N Foster	Ben Carter
R C Roberts	John Dines
Daphne Case	Jon Read
WK Wileman	Ian Harbage
Derek Denne	Steve Dawe
Hampshire Trophy	Mark Hiller
Cornish Trophy	Jon Read
Brooks Elliot	Billy Evans
Pearl Trophy	Billy Whistance
R Day Trophy	Richard Day
C C Bett Trophy	Ben Carter

## Monthly Trophies

April 2017	Ben Carter
June 2017	John Crotty
July 2017	Des Kendall
August 2017	Chris Bett

## SACGB Certificate of Recognition

Andy Griffith	IGFA Shark Grand Slam
Chris Bett	IGFA Shark Royal Slam

## Skippers Trophies

Cock of the Fleet	Murray Collings
T Clark Trophy	Danny Vokins
Fishermans Protection	Murray Collings & Pete Davis
Dusty Miller	Murray Collings

Fred & Betty Reid	Pete Davis
Kingerlee Trophy	Dan Margetts
Chairmans Trophy	Murray Collings

### **Mitchell-Hedges Special Award**

Angler	John Dines
Skipper	Robin Chapman

### **Notable Fish 2017**

#### **Blue Shark**

John Dines	256.5lbs est
Billy Evans	100lbs est
Billy Evans	120lbs est
Kevin Tapper	100lbs est
Ian Harbage	100lbs est
Dave Stone	100lbs est
Des Kendall	107lbs est
Jon Read	114lbs est
Mark Hillier	152lbs est
Ben Carter	105lbs est
Steve Dawe	100lbs est
Stephanie Jones	128lbs est
Gregory W Johnson OBE	100lbs est
Paul Kibble	104lbs est
Ian Beaufoy	102lbs est
Dave Stone	102lbs est
Dave Stone	171.5lbs est
Ian Harbage	126lbs est
Simon Rastall	128lbs est
Chris Flower	100lbs est
Ian Beaufoy	101lbs est
Steve Dawe	100lbs est

#### **Porbeagle Shark**

Andy Griffith	206lbs est
John Crotty	167lbs est
Ben Carter	158lbs est
Ben Carter	312lbs est

#### **Thresher**

Chris Bett	400lbs est
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### **Trophies**

At the end of the 2017 season the club were able to confirm claims for 28 trophies, many of which were able to be presented personally at the Annual Dinner & Trophy Presentation.

With a trophy available for the best shark caught each month plus the 350lb Blue challenge which replaced the Mitchell-Hedges Special Award and another 37 trophies we have some way to go use our trophy cabinet to its full potential.

This of course doesn't include the British Measured & Released Records and the Line Class Records

This season has got off to a good start as we have already received five trophy declaration forms. One of the clubs objectives this season is to better promote the trophies and hopefully be able to award more this season than last.

A full list of the trophies will soon be published on the website. Trophy declaration forms are also available on the website.

So, put this year's Annual Dinner & Trophy Presentation date (27<sup>th</sup> October) in your diary and start planning this year's sharking trips.

Remember to be prepared to photograph, video and measure the sharks you wish to submit for trophies. Preparation is everything when collecting good quality verifiable evidence.

Your objective is to obtain video, photographs, measurements and return the shark in under 2 minutes.

### **New Trophies**

Towards the end of last year Dave and Maggie Stone offered the club a new trophy which the committee have accepted. This is a memorial trophy in memory of their granddaughter who was with them for a very short time. The trophy is called the Iris Trophy and will be awarded for the biggest shark caught, measured and released from Looe between 22<sup>nd</sup> July and 8<sup>th</sup> October by a member. Boat to leave and return to Looe on the same day.

We will also shortly be announcing a new trophy which has been sponsored by Mustad.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

If you wish to stand for election as a committee member at the next AGM, please forward your



details, along with the name of your proposer and seconder. The AGM is set for the evening of the 12<sup>th</sup> July.

### Other Stuff

**Website** – Many of you will recognise the view looking to shore on the picture on page 4. The moment when the boat leaves port, and the engines are throttled up, is one of excitement and anticipation and we are sure you will all agree is one of the “feel good moments” in angling.

We would like to use pictures like these in our website and are hoping you will help us by sending us your “leaving port” pictures from as many sharking venues as possible. We won’t use any where the name of the boat or sponsors are visible but that still leaves lots of freedom to capture the moment.

We are also looking for some shots of anglers playing a shark as well as other sharking pictures which will help us to present our sport visually on the website.

Refreshing the website pictures makes the site interesting and also helps us maintain a high-ranking position with the search engines.

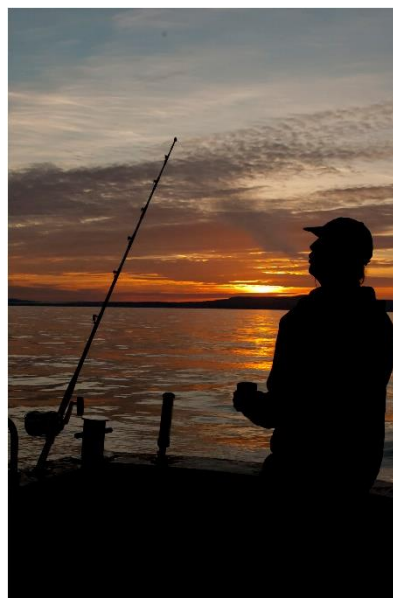
To be used on the website they need to be high quality images. Please send all pictures to the secretary by email to [sharkclublooe@gmail.com](mailto:sharkclublooe@gmail.com)

**Smocks** – we have received a number of requests to add smocks to our clothing range. Holding stock of clothing is expensive for the club and it therefore needs to be managed carefully. The suppliers of the quality smocks don’t generally do the embroidery which increases the cost. There are also minimum order quantities involved so if we decide to add smocks to our range, we would like to order once, perhaps twice per year. To do this we would need a pre-order. If there is sufficient interest in smocks we will investigate the availability and price so if you would like one, dependant of course on us confirming the price which is acceptable to you, please email the secretary with your size. This will not mean you have placed an order and we will contact you with price and colour options for your agreement before we do place an order.

**Shark Rescue** – if you have been following our Facebook pages you will know about the “Plastic Porbeagle” which was caught and released off St Ives recently. The shark was compromised with a banding strap around its girth which was cutting through its skin. The posting has been viewed by over 4800 people with only 9 negative responses.

We are aware that many of you have had and, sadly will continue to have similar experiences, where you have removed plastic, netting, long line hooks and other debris from sharks before releasing them. Increasing awareness of these situations is a good thing so we would be interested to hear from you where you come across situations like this. Details of where the shark was caught, the debris involved and its impact along with a couple of photographs would be good.

Please send the details and photographs to the secretary at [sharkclublooe@gmail.com](mailto:sharkclublooe@gmail.com)



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