



JULY 2018 NEWSLETTER

The Shark Angling Club of Great Britain

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2019 Shark Festival

3rd, 4th and 5th July 2019 – draw takes place on the evening of the 2nd July – Looe Social Club

2019 AGM

Thursday 4th July 2019 – Looe Social Club

2018 Annual Dinner and Trophy Presentation

Saturday 27th October 2018 – Portbyhan Hotel

CHAIRPERSONS WELCOME

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year. As the weather improves and the memories of one of the wettest winters have all but faded away our focus now turns to sharking and the level of activity is ramping up quickly. The Porbeagle Hunters have had a good season so far with the media once again taking a slice of the action. First, they caught up with Steve Kingdon-Saxby's estimated 350-400lbs Porbeagle, which was caught and released aboard Dan Hawkins Reel Deal. A couple of weeks later a trio of Yorkshire Porbeagle Chasers fishing out of Whitby provided the media with another reporting opportunity. They of course exaggerated by describing Steve Watson's Porbeagle as over 9-foot long. Our secretary caught up with Steve's son who confirmed the fish wasn't 9 feet long but still a decent one of around 250lbs. It would be rude of me to tell you the age of these gentlemen but with both being over 65 I am sure you will join me in congratulating them. There have been many more, but we don't have sufficient details to publish them, but we do know of John Kruppa's 300lbs Porbeagle

out of Ilfracombe so congratulations to all of you who have had a successful season so far.

The size of these Porbeagles make it very difficult for them to be brought aboard and its good to see that most skippers and anglers are releasing them at the side of the boat. With many of the Porbeagles being above qualifying weight we usually manage to confirm membership claims using photographic and video evidence so it's a win-win situation for the angler and the fish.

Unlike Blue sharks, the Porbeagles don't come in big numbers but all the well-known Porbeagle skippers are reporting consistent numbers with one reporting 16 over the last seven months so let's hope Porbeagle stocks, like the Blues are recovering.

So far this season the Blue tourists have shown up in good numbers. There is a more detail in the UK Fishery Report later in the newsletter, so I won't talk any further on this.

As you know the GDPR regulations came into force on the 25th May. The SACGB were ahead of the game here and we started our compliance work earlier than many other organisations. We combined this work with a member data audit which we have not done for many years so the accuracy of our database is much improved. We issued a new style plastic membership card this year so if you haven't yet received one please contact the secretary.

Since our last newsletter we have continued the work to improve our website and material is constantly being added. It has developed rapidly

since January and if you haven't visited it recently, I don't think you will be disappointed when you do.

The drive toward ever-increasing conservation of sharks continues at a pace and increasingly anglers and skippers are choosing not to bring the sharks aboard. Our secretary has contributed to the debate by writing several articles on the subject, three of which have been published in Saltwater Boat Angling magazine. This change in conservation behaviour is leading us to a similar crossroads to when Danny Vokins and the Bembridge club proposed that a system of measure and release replace the kill and weigh policy to gain membership.

When Danny made the measure and release proposal it was resisted by many. Today measure and release is universally accepted so it's important we all have an open mind when we consider how to recognise the estimated weight of a shark not brought aboard, with the more accurate calculated weight of one that is. This year we are planning to introduce a trophy for the best estimated weight shark but we accept that deciding on a winner will not be easy. We need the help of the sharking community to come up with new ways of scaling a shark while it is still in the water as the quality of evidence submitted will be a key driver when we select a winner in this category.

Our AGM was held during the Festival on the 12th July and it was encouraging to see it so well attended. The increased level of member engagement with the club was demonstrated by there being seven propositions and this year all committee member nominees submitted personal statements.

Clubs may be run by committees but ultimately, they belong to the members. The strength of any club depends on the committee fully understanding the wishes of their members and a two-way communication process must always be encouraged and supported. Remember you don't have to wait until the AGM to submit your thoughts and ideas.

You can use the members questions facility on the website, or simply email the secretary who presents all these on your behalf to the committee.

Over the winter months the secretary has been reminding us of the contents of our trophy cabinet. We believe our trophy cabinet is the best in the UK and since its entirely devoted to sharking, it's probably the best well beyond our shores. The history associated with many of them is fascinating. Check out our website to see the previous winners of each trophy and where its available there are also details of the trophy history. Our first trophy declaration was received on the 4th October 2017 but with the season still young we hope to receive many more and I look forward to hopefully meeting you at our Annual Dinner and Trophy Presentation on the 27th October at the Portbyhan Hotel in Looe when you come to collect your trophy or perhaps trophies....

Tight Lines

Bob Woodman

Chairperson SACGB

Annual Subscriptions

With over 95% of our members having paid their subscriptions this year, the first thing we need to say is a big..... **Thank You**.

Chasing subscriptions takes up a considerable amount of administration time so we greatly appreciate you helping us by paying your subscriptions on time.

For those of you that have yet to pay, your membership subscriptions were due on 1st January, so they are now overdue. 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.

To renew your subs online, visit the shop on our website at 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

We haven't added any items to our clothing range so far this year. The current selection continues to be popular and we are now able to obtain most items in 5XL/6XL sizes although these need to be ordered specially so may take a little longer. Our T Shirts (shown below) are increasingly popular.



We have managed to maintain the clothing pricing this year with Hoodies at £25 plus postage, Sweatshirts at £20 plus postage, Polo Shirts at £15 plus postage, T Shirts at £10 plus postage and Baseball caps at £10 plus postage.

We also have Burgees available at a price of £25.00 + Postage and Blue Pennants at 17.50 plus postage.

Postage in the UK is normally £3.50.

Stocks of the large type 120" measuring tape, are available at £21 plus postage have sold out twice but we have more stock now. Each year we are unable to process a good number of claims as the measuring tape used is difficult and, in some cases, impossible to read.



The large type on these tapes increases the clarity of video and photographic measurement evidence and they have already been used to good effect by many of our members. They are a very worthwhile addition to your tackle box. These and other goods can be ordered online at;

www.sharkanglingclubofgreatbritain.org.uk.

Alternatively, you can place your order by email at sacgb1953@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 winter weather impacted the Porbeagle numbers in the north of Scotland with large swells and coloured water causing them to seek better conditions. As a result, there were fewer than normal caught and released but those which were, are reported to have been a good size with all being males with an estimated weight range of between 250 and 300lbs.

North Cornwall reported consistent Porbeagle results from the latter part of last year into late spring this year with several good sized fish, which included Steve Kingdon-Saxby and John Kruppas substantial Porbeagles.

The Celtic Deeps are currently reporting trips with increasing numbers of good sized Porbeagles and Blues being caught and released.

The Blues started early in the year with the first being caught and released in mid-May at that well known "Shark Roundabout" at Lands End. Daily catch and release numbers of 15 - 20 plus are now regularly being reported.

The Blues have already made it as far as Looe but not yet shown up at Lyme Regis although the Lyme Tope are helping the Lyme anglers warm up.

The early run of blues has included an excellent proportion of larger and well-conditioned sharks. Of the 85 caught and released out of Looe in May and June 26 (30%) were or qualifying length or better which is a significantly higher qualifier proportion than normal

In summary the season has got off to a good start so let's hope it continues and that the Notable Fish Listing is well populated this year. Remember there is a trophy for the most notable sharks in the season.



The 50+ Club

The SACGB is one of the longest established angling clubs in the UK. We are almost certainly the longest established angling club with a sole focus on sharking in the UK and probably well beyond our shores. Whilst conducting the GDPR exercise earlier this year we realised we had several members whose length of continuous membership was 50 years or more. This level of commitment to the club is exceptional and when you consider that the SACGB has been through good, and not so good times, it is even more special.

We decided that we should recognise this, so the **50+ Club** is being introduced this year. Each member of the **50+ Club** will receive a SACGB Certificate of Recognition and a copy of their original application form which they have probably not seen for over 50 years.

Our secretary began to contact these members to check they were comfortable with their names being listed in the newsletter. Some have yet to respond but those he was able to make contact with were happy to do so. Our secretary says that this was one of the most rewarding tasks he has undertaken. He says, "just listening to these members experiences was a privilege and even though many of them are unable to go sharking any more, if they could, they absolutely would. It was an inspiring experience and I would like to pass on my personal thanks to each of them for taking the time to talk to me".

Some of the members with over 50 years continuous membership hold Life Memberships which means we don't have the regular contact each year through the subscription process. This means we may well have overlooked some. This is not intentional and If you know of a member with 50 years and more continuous membership, please let the secretary know and he will follow it up. We are currently waiting on some of these members responding to our initial request, so we hope to have more to report on in the next newsletter.

So, on behalf of all members of the SACGB,
“Congratulations to all our **50+ Club** Members”

Those we have managed to contact so far are:

Alan Johnston – *Qualified 15th September 1963 with a 103lb Blue aboard the Silver Spray*

I caught up with Alan in April this year. He told me that he had caught the “sharking bug” during his National Service when he was based in the Pacific.

Sharking in the Pacific could be done from the beach and he recalls catching sharks which were light coloured with black fins. Alan couldn't remember the name of the species, but we believe they might have been Blacktip Reef Sharks. Compared to the Tuna which picked up the bait and raced off, these sharks would mouth it gently and only really got active when the hook was struck home.

Alan recalls, “when a Tuna took your bait it stripped yards of line off you reel. Sometimes it was so fast that the only option was to cut the line”. He did catch Tuna and he has a treasured photograph of one of his captures hanging from a branch of a tree. He says he can still remember the taste of fresh tuna steak, “it was delicious”, he recalls.

The young lady who witnessed his qualifier on his membership application form on the 17th September 1963 was Miss Mary Walsh, who later became Alans wife.

Edward Booth – *Qualified 23rd July 1964 with a 100lb Blue aboard the Iris*

Roy Lamb – *Qualified 4th August 1965 with an 82lbs Blue aboard the Eileen*

Following an extensive period of “phone tag” I eventually caught up with Roy on the 30th April. Roy now lives in the West Coast of Scotland, a part of the country I know and can confirm its idyllic with a pace of life not unlike Cornwall not quick!

Roy recalled holidaying in Looe which is where he was introduced to Shark Angling. In the years that followed he became the proud owner of his own boat which he often took to Mousehole in Cornwall to fish for sharks. The Wallis Brothers were bemused at first but soon realised that Roy and his friend Peter knew a thing or two when they started to regularly catch sharks. Roy and Peters policy was to return the fish, only keeping those that were unfortunately badly hooked, which were then passed to the local crab fishermen for pot bait. It was nice to hear that catch and release was being practised by members of the SACGB as far back as this.

He also remembers fishing off the Nab Tower where he caught three Porbeagles. On one Nab Tower trip his colleague hooked a Thresher but unfortunately it was lost.

Roy's profession required him to travel extensively and he vividly remembers catching sharks and other native fish species in Nigeria and Kenya. When asked what his most spectacular capture was, without hesitation he says, “a 168lb Nile Perch caught in Lake Turkana, Kenya”.

During another period in his life Roy had a holiday home in Jamaica where he continued sharking but was able to catch barracuda which he also enjoyed.

When he caught his qualifier, he remembers it was a blistering hot day. When he returned to port and was at the weighing site, he recalls realising he was very sunburned. The tackle he used would be worth a “shilling or two” today as it was a Hardy Lusitania rod, which he had bought second hand and a large wooden centre pin with a clutch. The rod had felt grips in place of the normal cork grip.

Sadly, he sent the photograph of his qualifier to Kodak to be developed and the company lost it, so he only has a black and white picture of his qualifier. Roy continues to fish today but mainly for salmon and sea trout. Although he has never caught a shark in Scotland, during our conversation

he spoke of a local diving boat which he considered a suitable platform for sharking so watch this space, he may yet appear in the Notable Fish listing with a Scottish Porbeagle.....

Peter Grosvenor – *Qualified on the 26th August 1967 with an 89lbs Blue aboard Sharkie*

Whilst talking to Roy Lamb I mentioned that Peter Grosvenor had witnessed his SACGB membership application and he arranged for Peter to call me.

They have been great friends for many years and when they decided to go sharking Roy bought the boat (Sharkie) and Peter bought the Landrover which they used to tow the boat to Mousehole for sharking trips. Peter recalls one day the Wallis brothers (Phil and Frank) returned to port with no sharks having been caught while he and Roy had caught eight. With a couple of “tourists” beating the brothers so decisively, the Wallis brothers received a ribbing that evening in the Ship in Mousehole.

Pat Smith – *Qualified 10th July 1967 with an 82 lb Blue aboard Lady Betty*

The photograph of Pat Smith and her 369lbs Porbeagle is probably one of the most memorable and recognisable in UK sharking archives. The picture shows Pat who is 4’ 11”, standing beside her record Porbeagle which was 8’ 10” ... almost twice as long as she is high. At the time this earned Pat a British and a World Record. Today, 48 years later she still holds the British Ladies All Tackle Record.

I caught up with Pat in June and had a chat. She still returns to Looe on holiday and visits Alan Dingle who was the skipper of the Lady Betty which is the boat Pat caught the fish from. She is full of praise for Alan and says, “I wouldn’t go sharking with any other skipper. He is the best”. She goes on to say that 1970 marked another milestone for her family as her husband and her two sons qualified that year. A World record, a British record and the whole family qualifying in one year. An exceptional result and one that has probably never been equalled.

Peter Bartlett – *Qualified on the 30th July 1964 with a 76lbs Blue aboard Rainbow*

When I called Peter he kindly agreed to jot down some of his memories of sharking so here they are.

You asked me to put down a few words concerning my days as a shark angler, as it now appears that I have been a member of the SACGB for over 50 years, in fact 54 years.

I had always had a great love of the sea and, although my home town was Bristol, my parents had a flat in Brixham, S Devon, and I spent all my school holidays in Brixham.

My father had acquired a fairly ancient timber hulled ketch of about 30 ft. that was built in 1920, so in 1964 she was quite an old lady. She had been re-engined with a Morris Vedette one and a half litre petrol engine in the early 1960's.

However, my real interest was not so much pleasure boating but fishing, so I found myself going to sea on a Brixham trawler in the Christmas holidays. I found this a fascinating experience although sometimes very scary!!

The trawler I went to sea on was called Commander II, a 40 ft. day trawler owned by a father and son team: George Dyer senior and George Dyer junior. They decided that in the early sixties during the summer months they would take people sharking. At the time there was only one other boat doing this, the Koh-i-Noor owned by Dudley Stone who was a highly regarded trawlerman, angler and also the second coxswain of the Torbay lifeboat.

Having spent several summers on the Commander II watching sharks being caught I thought I would try myself! I persuaded my father to allow me to use his boat for a week's shark fishing on the understanding that I would return it back to him in good condition.



The Rainbow – the boat Peter caught his qualifier from

I borrowed a rod and hired a couple of others, I got a marine engineer to make me a gaff, and with an old school friend set about catching my first shark with me as skipper. I only ever did this for one week of my life, but it was truly memorable. I organised Cornish pilchards for my rubby dubby bag and we set sail. Usually we motored south of Berry Head for about two and a half hours and we lay to wind with the mizzen sail up, approximately twenty miles out in the Channel. During my week we caught five Blue sharks, the biggest being 120 lbs. We usually brought the fish back to Brixham and they were used as bait by crab fishermen. I was aware that in the tobacconist shop on the quay in Brixham there was a gentleman who had the weighing scales and he had been appointed by the SACGB to adjudicate the weighing of fish. So, it was him I turned to on that sunny July day in 1964, aged 18, to weigh my fish and apply for membership.



Peter with a shark

Looking back now I must admit that in those days boats had very little equipment. We had life jackets, a compass and some flares (probably out of date). No radio, no GPS, no life raft, no EPIRB, so much for health and safety.

My career then took me to London where I was a stockbroker for 50 years but for twenty of those years I had a share in a 11.5 metre yacht on the Hamble and I became a yacht master.

Knowing what I know now I am not sure I would have allowed my 18 year old son to go to sea looking for sharks, but hey that was 1964.



Peter today

I look forward to coming to Looe next year and competing in your annual competition and would hope to get a Porbeagle alongside. I have probably seen in my lifetime over 60 sharks landed but you always knew when you had a Porbeagle on the line, a magnificent fighting fish.

Sheila Lyle – Qualified 4th August 1960 (she was Sheila NcNeil then) with a 75lbs Blue aboard Skitten

Whenever Sheila writes to the club her passion for the sport is immediately apparent as she always refers to her very happy memories of sharking.

Ian King – Qualified 11th August 1968 with a 124lbs Blue aboard the Astra

Ian initially joined the club as a Junior member on 14th August 1966 with a 77lbs Blue aboard John Kitto's May Queen. Two years later he had his qualifier aboard John Kitto's Astra out of Looe, a Blue of 124lbs. It was Ian's Uncle Reg who introduced him to sharking and he often brought Ian along with him to Looe to go sharking for the day.



Ian with his Junior qualifier shark and his Uncle Reg

It was on one of these trips that Ian saw Ken Burgess's 498.5lbs Mako being weighed at Looe. He decided at a young age that chartering was the career he wanted and soon obtained his 20-mile licence which enabled him to use his own boat, The Aquila, to go porbeagle hunting out of Lyme. Not one to stand still he went on to achieve his 60-mile ticket and skippered the Marie-F for its owner before moving on to skipper the Predator. The owner of the Predator then decided to sell it and replace it with two boats, Pegasus and the Alice Rose. Ian skippered both boats. The Alice Rose with its twin 350 Cats he recalls being a particularly fast boat. One of his most memorable memories is a Porbeagle, caught and released by Kevin Tapper in 1992. They brought the fish to the side of the boat and managed to get approximate measurements before releasing it. The formula estimated its weight to be 424lbs. Ian recalls Kevin played the fish for 3 ¾ hours and all that time without a butt pad. Sharking has been a huge part of Ian's life and he continues to put in as many trips as time allows. His

old boat the Pegasus has been taken over by Lewis Hodder who is now the owner/skipper. Lewis started as a young lad crewing with Ian and learned his trade from him. Lewis is now one of the top charter skippers which is testament to Ian's love for the sport and his desire to pass on his knowledge.

Falmouth Shark Festival

As many of you will already be aware, the lads in Falmouth have arranged a Shark Angling Festival this year. We recently caught up with Dave Turner who said, "although I can remember an Annual Falmouth Sea Angling Festival, this was for all species, so this year's Shark Angling Festival may well be the first". As usual if you know different we would like to hear from you.

The Falmouth Shark Club was formed in the mid 60's by several local anglers. It met in the Chain Locker where Bobby Drennan who was a FSAC member and an official SACGB weighmaster, was landlord. The picture shows the Chain Locker today which has retained much of its original character and charm.



The President of the Falmouth Shark Angling Club was the 5th Earl of Kimberley and each year they awarded around nine trophies. These were for the Most Sharks caught during the season, Best Mako, First Shark over 100lbs, Best Blue Shark etc. Dave Turner won every trophy in 1971 & 1972 and is the only person to achieve this.

The club continued until around 1973 when shark numbers began falling. This led to a declining interest in the sport and the club wound up shortly

after. The lads are considering resurrecting the Falmouth Shark Angling Club after their Festival so watch this space.

In support of the Festival and the potential reforming of the club the SACGB have donated a trophy for the best shark caught by a competitor and one for the skipper of the boat with the best shark.



If you are interested in taking part in the Festival which, may be the first ever one in Falmouth, contact Dave Turner on 07849 099 175 or by email at thesharkfisherman@gmail.com. It will be fished over three days on the 10th, 11th and 12th September 2018.

An Interview with Alan Dingle

As secretary to the Shark Angling Club of Great Britain I get the opportunity to meet many people which is one of the great things about the role, but the 30th May was a little bit more special as I was fortunate to be able to meet Alan Dingle who is one of the Looe Sharking Skipper legends. Not many skippers have had two customers, both of which still hold British Records from as far back as 1970 and 1971.

Alan is a man of the sea and as you talk to him you realise that although he is now 90 years of age he still has a clear picture of all the marks around Looe and further into the Channel. His memory is exceptional and its immediately obvious he still

retains a strong passion for the sea, sharking and the Shark Angling Club of Great Britain.

I ask him how did it all start. Like many fishermen of his age whose parents remembered very hard times, he was encouraged to get a trade, “to fall back on”, if the fishing went poor again. Reluctantly he chose to be a carpenter which thankfully for us he gave up and went to sea.



Alan Dingle – Skipper of Lady Betty

He says that one day he was working on a roof which gave him a view out across Looe bay. The sight of the fishing fleet heading out to sea became too much for him and gathering up his tools he said to his boss that he wouldn't be back the following day. The rest as they say, is history. Alan went to sea and became one of the Looe Skipper Legends.

Back then the Looe fishing fleet took recreational anglers out during the summer months then went commercial fishing during the winter. Sharks were always a challenge for the fishermen who regularly had their nets torn to pieces as the sharks feasted on the trapped fish and with sharks having little commercial value they were considered a nuisance to put it politely. In the early 50's Brigadier Caunter

who had the Swordfish began fishing for sharks using rod and line. Alan remembers him being considered an eccentric by some locals when he regularly returned to port with two or three blue sharks hung by their tails on the boat. He goes on to say, "it wasn't long however until the locals worked out that the Brigadiers antics were creating shoals of customers willing to pay to catch a shark. Looking after people and helping them catch a shark or, if they were lucky, a qualifier for the SACGB was easier than shooting and hauling pilchard nets".

Alan stopped working for his father and began to skipper the Talisman which was owned by Miss Bennett who he believes lived near Leicester. Miss Bennet also owned 3 miles of game fishing rights on the river Wye. His wage was £10 week plus he had his stamp paid which Alan and his wife recall as a good wage at the time, well above that of a tradesman. What was there not to like about this sharking business?



At the time to charter a boat for three anglers cost around £8 per day. Rods and reels were rented from Jack Brays who still have a tackle shop in Looe today. The cost of rod hire for three anglers was

£1.50 which left £6.50 to cover the boats expenses, wages for the skipper and some return for the boat owner. With 27 boats available for shark charter this was a commercially successful venture for skippers, boat owners, local tackle suppliers and many other local businesses.

I ask him about Joyce Yallops Mako ... how did that happen? On the day the Mako was caught, Joyce and her husband had chartered Alan to do some bottom fishing and were have good success with pollack. Suddenly a big fish broke the surface about 20 yards away which Joyce immediately identified as a basking shark. Alan says he wasn't sure as the tail didn't look right. About 15 minutes later it broke the surface again and this time Alan was sure. It wasn't a basking shark, it was a Mako. Since the boat had been chartered for bottom fishing Alan had only one sharking rod aboard which was one of his older and well used ones. In addition, they had only one jumbo mackerel which could be used as bait.

Undeterred, Alan marked the anchor with a buoy, started the engine and set a course parallel to the shark. As he got closer he coiled up around 15 fathoms of line and threw the hook, baited with the only mackerel they had, in the path of the Mako. It took it immediately.

Once hooked the fish jumped and set off on its first run. Alan recalls it launched itself around 30 feet clear of the water and he could clearly see the trace hanging loosely from its mouth. He says, "at that point in time I thought it was lost, and when the line went slack after the fish hit the water we thought that was the last we would see of it". However, they quickly realised that the Mako was heading directly for the boat, so Alan quickly went astern just in time to see it pass across the front of the bow.

Joyce was both an experienced and a strong angler says Alan. She could tame 40lb congers as well as any man, but this was a challenge on a different scale. He rigged her up with a Hardy harness and

clipped the rod to it. The rig used a Fortuna reel which Alan says was a great benefit as she could lean into the fish through the harness and take her hands off the rod to give her arms a rest. The centre pin design allowed that to happen as it sat underneath the rod.

It was an old set of gear and the line, which was 120lbs breaking strain Dacron had two knots in it! Alan recalls seeing the knots go out through the rod eyes and back on each of the four occasions that the fish ran long. This he says, was a nail biting experience. Each time it went on a long run it jumped 20 to 30 feet. Around 2 ¾ hours later it came to the boat and Alan managed to gaff it.

When the shark was first hooked it launched itself into the air and this was seen by another boat which was close. Not knowing the shark was hooked they came close and began to put baits in the water. They quickly realised it was already hooked and gave Joyce space, so the shark could be played. Apart from the use of the harness, Joyce received no further assistance. Her husband had a bad heart, so he was unable to help Alan. Alan is aware that the fight was filmed from one of the boats who came along side who hadn't realised the shark was already hooked. He doesn't know the whereabouts of that film but if anyone does we would love to hear from you.



The Omega watch which Joyce Yallop gave Alan to commemorate the record Mako



Joyce and Alan with her 500lbs Mako

The Mako gave Joyce the British Ladies All Tackle Record which still stands today and at the time it was also the European Ladies Record.

He goes on to talk about Pat Smith's 369lbs Porbeagle which was not only almost twice as long as Pat was high, but at the time earned Pat a World record and a British Record. Pat still holds the British Ladies All Tackle Porbeagle Record and the British 130lbs Line Class Record with that shark today. Alan says they were sharking that day and at one point during the drift he tipped an 8 stone box of particularly "ripe" mackerel heads and tails over the side. It was 10 minutes after that the Porbeagle took Pat's bait. During the 2-hour fight that followed it never showed itself, choosing to lie deep. Pat recovered line 8 times only to watch the shark dive to the bottom once again. Alan says, "this was a very different challenge to the Mako and in some respects the fight was a harder one".



Pat and Alan with her 369lbs Porbeagle

Alan says that both ladies were exceptional and very determined anglers, but he praises the centre pin set up as the reel hangs underneath the rod. When this is used in conjunction with a harness it is possible to give your arms a rest, whereas with a multiplier you always have one hand on the rod.

On days when there were lots of sharks around, they would often catch the same shark more than once. On one such day they had around 40 sharks around the boat. The customer soon came tired of catching them and since most were small to medium fish he decided to have a rest. Alan thought this would be a good opportunity to try sharking on light gear, so he set up his pollack rod rigged with a conger trace and put a bait in the water. He quickly hooked into a blue which turned out to be a 122.5lbs fish. He caught this on 30lbs breaking strain line and held the British 30lbs Line Class Record for Blue Sharks from 1971 until 1988.

Just when I thought we had reached the end of the big shark stories Alan remembers taking a group from the London Illustrated out sharking. One of them hooked into what Alan knew was a big shark which took over an hour to break the surface. On three occasions they managed to get the shark to the boat and on each occasion, Alan managed to get his arm around its tail, but the fish was so strong it broke away each time. He says, "that was a big powerful shark". I ask what it was, he replies "a Mako", followed by, "and it was a lot bigger than Mrs Yallops".

On another day a customer hooked into a big shark which set off on an unstoppable run. Realising they were down to their last 40 yards of line Alan looked around for a knife to cut the line but before he could do so the rod and reel were pulled over the side. "We never saw that fish", he says.

He also recalls seeing a pod of killer whales when fishing out of Looe. The look on his face confirms he was impressed by the power of this top of the food chain predator. He says one came up alongside the boat and rolled, showing its gleaming white underbelly. His next move was to start up the engine and move away. A pod of killer whales, some of which he estimated to be around 1500lbs were beyond even Alans capabilities.

Although he briefed every angler on the dangers of sharking and being close to sharks, he says, "there is always someone who knows better or just doesn't listen". He reinforces his point by telling me about a customer who believed his shark had no teeth. He couldn't see the teeth as sharks have a flap of skin which cover them. To prove it this customer ran his hand along the edge of its mouth. As he stood up and moved away he didn't notice the blood running from his hand. The shark did have teeth and they were so sharp he hadn't even felt them cutting his fingers.

Alans preferred bait was pilchards in brine. His father knew the owner of the Looe Pilchard Factory very well, so he wasn't short of briney oil and lots of

pilchard heads and innards which he used for rubby dubby. He didn't use a rubby dubby bag, preferring to use a plastic carton with holes drilled in it which he kept above the water line so the rubby dubby dripped out, falling into the water to create the slick. His father almost never used fresh bait, preferring always to use salted pilchard. With Alans father, Abb Dingle, being skipper of the Lady Betty when Nigel Sutcliffe caught the British Record Blue Shark of 218lbs, which remains the record today, I begin to think I should find some salted pilchard for my next sharking trip.

They were good times he says. We had some laughs.

His eyes light up as he recalls one customer whose preferred seat was on the wheelhouse roof. One day he hooked into a shark which caught him unawares and took him, rod and all into the water. Alan laughs, "he must have managed to release the harness as we got him back aboard, very wet and a bit shocked but otherwise unharmed".

On another occasion, Alan Hardaker, the former Football League Secretary arranged a pollacking trip with Alan and after catching four boxes of pollack Alan suggested trying for sharks. They quickly caught 12 and Mr Hardaker was of course delighted. Alan laughs and says I should have asked for some match tickets. His wife looks at him and says, "you wouldn't have had any time to go to the football, you were always at sea".

Following a successful couple of hours pollocking with another group, Alan suggested that they try for sharks. One of the group sat in the fighting chair and soon fell sound asleep. The other members of the group attached this gentleman's line to a large galvanised bin which Alan kept aboard. The bin was allowed to fill with water and gently lowered to the bottom. A quick tug on the ratchet and the sleeping angler woke up and struck into the "fish". Feeling its weight, he immediately declared this to be a good shark. Eventually he managed to get this "new specie's" alongside the

boat. Alan laughs and says, "he wasn't too pleased".

He shows me one of his photo albums which is impressive for a man who never owned a camera. He says, "people just kept sending photographs to me which was very generous of them". He leaves the room and returns with a red box which he hands to me. I open it and find a gold Omega watch inside. On the back of the watch is inscribed, "*Skipper A Dingle in appreciation from Mrs Joyce Yallop in boating a 500lb Mako 12/5/71*".

By this point in the discussion Alan has impressed me deeply. His knowledge of the sea, sharking and fishing in general is exceptional so it comes as no surprise that many of his customers wanted to thank him for days spent with him, many of which would be remembered forever.

Roy Mason, who was the Northern Ireland Secretary at the time, booked a trip with Alan. Since this was during the Troubles in Northern Ireland, his security was extremely tight and the Lady Betty II was thoroughly searched by Mr Masons minders. Alan recalls that he did quite well and when he got back ashore he gave Alan a large box of cigarettes which had the House of Commons logo on the top.

During Alans time as a sharking skipper there were many sharks killed and weighed for club membership. Towards the end of Alans career the movement toward "catch and release" was starting to gain pace and Alan was a strong supporter of this. The foresight of Alan and others is what led the sharking community to where they are today where catch and release is now a universally accepted practise within the UK. I tell Alan last year we had greater numbers of sharks than the previous year and that the SACGB has more active members now than for many years which I can see pleases him greatly. The interview is drawn to a close but as I leave I am confident that if Alan went to sea today, still using his clock, compass and landmarks he could locate the marks, and the fish, as accurately

as any of our skippers with today's sophisticated navigation equipment.



Alan today

Thanks very much for talking to us Alan, it was a pleasure and a privilege

2018 Shark Festival

The 2018 SACGB Annual Shark Festival started officially at 8pm on Tuesday the 11th July but for some the social side of the event, and pre-festival warm up fishing trips commenced many days earlier, so by the weekend the flow of SACGB members crossing the Tamar on their way to Looe was growing rapidly.

By Tuesday they were to be found frequenting their coffee shops and pubs of choice and by late afternoon what had started as a trickle of competitors rapidly converted to a swarm as they finally met up face to face after many months of having only Facebook contact since the last event.

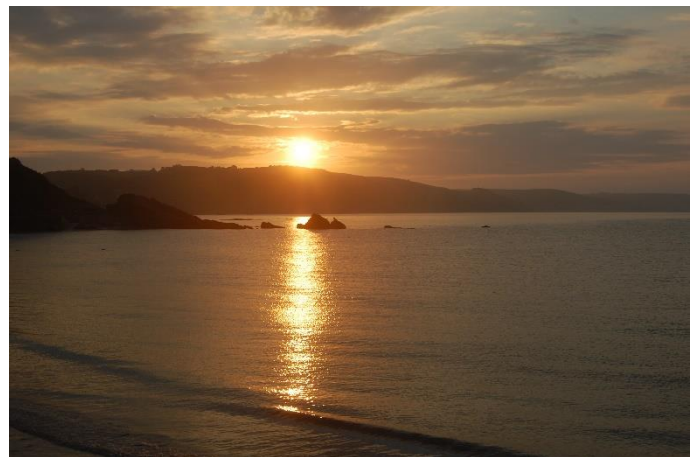


Draw evening

I caught up with some of them studying the updated SACGB information board located in the Looe Social Club window, which serves as our headquarters for the event and throughout the year. They were studying it with the critical eye of those who have a passion for their sport and are keen to check what is being said is correct and appropriate. They give me nods of approval for the board content and I mention another member has suggested we have a similar board visible all year round so members of the public can understand the emphasis on shark conservation within our sport now. Tremendous idea they say, we should do that.

Watching the increasing engagement of members within the SACGB and within the sport in general is indeed a privilege and is payback in full for all the time to plan and manage the SACGB's Festival and its other events.

All too quickly it is Day 1 and as I walk down to the quay I witness a red sky sitting low over the East Looe cliffs.



As I enjoy the peacefulness of the morning I meet some of the early riser anglers but in contrast to yesterday their greeting confirms they too are enjoying the stillness and the gentle movement of the boats which are about to transport 45 competitors out into the blue yonder in search of the fish they have a deep respect for ... *The Shark*.

The quay starts to come to life slowly at first then the pace suddenly quickens, and the quay is awash

with anglers and skippers as we approach zero hour which is 7.30am this year.

Just as suddenly as they appear they have gone as one by one the boats head round the Banjo Pier and the sounds of their engines begin to fade into the distance.



As the day progresses I get news from one or two skippers and anglers but being bound to secrecy until they all return, and the results are made visible to all via the SACGB flag system I deny any knowledge when asked by those of us not lucky enough to be out there, how many have been caught so far ... although it's a struggle not to share.

With lots to do the day passes quickly for me and as the boats return I try to meet them as quickly as possible to get their signed catch sheets so the anglers and skippers can have a well-earned shower and a rest.

The warm weather being experienced across the country coupled with virtually no wind has been a strong influencing factor but team SACGB have caught and released 18 sharks today. John Shaw has the largest shark of the day with one of 106.5 points. Nicholas Chapman takes second place with the runner up position being shared by Bob Woodman and Terry Field but its too early to call, especially with the other categories.

Day 2 dawns and the conditions remain the same although there is a coolness in the air that wasn't there yesterday, so we hope for some wind. My

Facebook posting says the "A Team" are back at sea and I think how true this will need to be if they are to improve on yesterday.

It is not unusual for SACGB Festival conditions to be challenging so no easy wins here, however the second days tally is 37 sharks caught and released which is just over double the day before. The leader board has changed, with Richard Young taking the lead with a shark of 116 points, a good Blue with a calculated estimated weight of 130lbs. The runner up place is now occupied by Martin Shipp with a shark of 108 points followed very closely by Steve Costick with one of 107.5 points. The other notable result of the day comes from the Sowenna, with skipper Dan Margetts and his anglers managing to catch and release 8 sharks.

Day 3 comes all too soon for us all and once again I watch the boats leave the river. The conditions continue to be poor, very warm and no wind but the levels of excitement and determination among the 45 competitors, and skippers has if anything, increased. The conditions dictate more "rubby pools and rubby columns", than trails but 16 sharks are caught and released bringing the total to 71 for the event.



Richard Young – Festival Winner 2018

The day two biggest fish winners have held on to their placings and now become event winners.



Steve Costick – Third Place

Bob Woodman takes the most sharks category with a total of 7 and the most points category with 603.5 points.



Bob receiving the Jolly Sailor Trophy for the most points from Gary & Zoe, landlord & landlady of the Jolly Sailor

The top team with 491 points are Nigel Birch and Richard Day.



Phil Curtis – skipper with biggest shark

Phil Curtis of the Typhoon takes the prize for the boat with the biggest shark,



Dan Margetts – skipper with most sharks

and Dan Margetts of the Sowenna takes the prize for the boat with the most sharks with 14.

All that remains now is the prize giving, and a chance to win some of the fantastic raffle prizes provided by our sponsors who make the final evening such a special event. We would like to thank Mustad, Rok Max, Fishing Mayhem, Ammo Baits, Cox & Rawle, Martin Bray, Portbyhan Hotel, Saltwater Boat Angling, Sea Angler, Cornish Orchards, St Austell Brewery, The Cornish Bakery, The Albion and Paul Martin for their generosity and continued support for our Festival.



The evening proves to be a great success with most promising to make the pilgrimage again and meet up at the 2019 event. I for one have no doubt that they will.

The 2018 SACGB Festival, the largest and longest running Shark Angling Competition in the UK and possibly well beyond our shores has concluded for this year and the most important statistic of all has

once again been met, and that is that all 71 sharks were released and swam away strongly.

2018 Annual Dinner & Trophy Evening

The ticket price for the Annual Dinner & Trophy Presentation, held at the Portbyhan Hotel in Looe on the 27th October is the same as last year and is £25 per head.



This event is open to all, members, associate members and guest whether they be anglers or not. We are taking bookings now and already have a good number so don't leave it too late to book your place at the event as it will be filled on a first come first served basis.

Contact the secretary to reserve your place. Full payment is required no later than the 29th September 2018

2019 SHARK FESTIVAL

The dates have been set for the 2019 Shark Festival. They are the 3rd, 4th and 5th of July with the draw evening taking place on the 2nd July.



This years Festival had 45 competitors which was the largest for many years. This number of competitors means we need to use additional boats from outside of Looe. As you are all aware, getting a

place with a good sharking skipper is becoming increasingly difficult, and the club face the same challenge when booking boats for the festival.

The level of interest in the festival has grown in the last 12 months and we anticipate that the 2019 festival numbers could be more than this year. This would mean we would need more boats than we had in the 2018 Festival. To do this we need early commitment from the anglers.

We have managed to hold the cost at £375 per competitor for the 2019 event. To secure you space in the 2019 Festival you have two options:

1. Pay £100 deposit with the balance before the 28th February 2019
2. Pay a £75 deposit before 31st August followed by £50 each month starting in September to February

The Booking form is available on the website. You can also now pay your deposit at the SACGB shop on the website

The Festival format will be the same as this year although calculated estimated weight using the formula (girth * girth * length nose to fork of tail taken along lateral line)/800 will replace the points used in previous years:

First prize: the angler with the largest shark (calculated estimated weight)

Second prize: the angler with the second largest shark (calculated estimated weight)

Third prize: the angler with the third largest shark (calculated estimated weight)

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

Most estimated weight: the angler with the most cumulative calculated estimated weight over the three days

Optional daily pool: The angler who catches the largest shark (in calculated estimated weight) each

day, and who has contributed to the pool, will take the money

Skipper of the boat with the largest shark (calculated estimated weight)

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

Last year we had some anglers attempting to book late which we were unable to accommodate so please book early to avoid disappointment. At time of writing we already have 31 confirmed places

AGM 2018

This years AGM was very well supported with 39 members attending. As usual it was held in the evening of the middle day of the Festival. The meeting commenced with the Chairperson's report, presented by the current chairperson, Bob Woodman.

Chairpersons Report

Last season was the best we have had for many years

- *We had 1887 sharks being caught and released out of Looe which was an increase of 10% from the previous year. This pattern was repeated all around the coast, with skippers all reporting increased numbers.*
- *We launched the British Measured & Released Records and soon after confirmed a new Blue Shark record with John Dines 256.5lb shark. We also confirmed five new line class records.*
- *We welcomed two new skippers. Dan Margetts from Looe and Liam Faisey from Penzance. This year we have another new skipper joining us, Paul Woodman of the Bee Cool from Looe*
- *Our annual trophy presentation was very well attended and after 62 years we were able to present the Mitchell Hedges Special Award to John Dines and Chippy. I was also*

honoured to formally present IGFA awards to Andy Griffith and Chris Bett.

We now have 239 fully paid up members which has almost quadrupled since the AGM last year and the level of activity on our Facebook and from website feedback has grown significantly.

From an administrative perspective I would like to thank everyone for the support given to the secretary to complete the GDPR exercise. This has enabled us to complete a member data audit which has not been done for many years and we have now issued new style membership cards.

The committee have also worked hard on a new rule book which we will discuss further today.

Financially the club is healthy and the level of engagement across the sharking community continues to increase with more and more people getting involved.

Finally, I would like you to join me in a vote of thanks to the committee and the secretary who continue to work hard on our behalf.

Bob Woodman – Chairperson SACGB

Minutes

The 2017 minutes were proposed by Murray Collings and seconded by Kelvin May

Matters Arising – Rule Book

Those present voted unanimously to accept the rule book with the proviso that propositions 1 & 7 may amend its content further.

Accounts

Those present voted unanimously to accept the accounts

Propositions

Proposition 1 proposed by Bob Woodman, seconded by Kevin Tapper.

It is proposed that due to the kill and weigh requirement associated with the claim process for British and World Records that the SACGB,

- 1. Cease to award British Records (these are to be replaced with British Measured & Released Records)***
- 2. Cease to be official UK Weighmasters for IGFA (World Record awarding body)***

Postal/E vote was 9 For, 0 Against

The majority of members present voted For – proposition was carried.

Proposition 2 proposed by Ian Harbage, seconded by Ian King.

It is proposed that all current trophies (as at 12th July 2018) are to be available only for sharks brought aboard, measured and released where a calculated estimated weight is possible.

Postal/E vote was 9 For, 0 Against

The majority of members present voted For – proposition was carried.

Proposition 3 proposed by Ian Harbage, seconded by Ian King.

It is proposed that a new category of trophies be made available for sharks which are unable to be measured and a calculated weight estimate is therefore not possible. These claims are to be supported by clear photographic and video evidence with some means of scaling the shark.

Postal/E vote was 8 For, 1 Against

The majority of members present voted For – proposition was carried.

Proposition 4 proposed by Ian Harbage, seconded by Ian King.

It is proposed that all Trophy and Record awarding decisions take account of the welfare and respect given to the shark. A failure in this area has the potential to disqualify the claim.

Postal/E vote was 9 For, 0 Against

The majority of members present voted For – proposition was carried.

Proposition 5 proposed by Jon Read, seconded by Kelvin May.

It is proposed that, as members are eligible to attend any committee meeting the minutes of the committee meetings should be available on line for the members to read. Otherwise you end up with the farcical situation where a member can attend a meeting but not see the minutes of that meeting.

Postal/E vote was 8 For, 1 Abstain

This item generated some discussion and it was agreed to amend the proposition by adding two amendments.

Proposition 5a – Same as proposition 5 – The majority of the members assembled voted Against

Proposition 5b amendment 1 – no minutes should be published as the committee are voted in and should be allowed to manage the club without the need to publish minutes – The majority of the members assembled voted Against

Proposition 5c amendment 2 – minutes should be published but all sensitive topics should be “blacked out” and therefore unavailable to members other than the committee – The majority of the members assembled voted For – Proposition 5C was carried

Proposition 6 proposed by Carl Aldridge, seconded by Steve Dawe.

It is proposed that as many members wouldn't recognise committee members and officers of the club, including the president, and also know very little about them, that a picture and a personal statement of each should be available on the website.

Postal/E vote was 9 For, 0 Against

The majority of members present voted For – proposition was carried.

Proposition 7 proposed by Clive Read, seconded by Jon Read.

It is proposed that the revised Club Rules properly recognise the rights of members to have a voice at AGM and other members' meetings by the inclusion of proxy processes that entitle members to appoint another Club member (or the Chair in default) as their proxy

Postal/E vote was 7 For, 2 Against

The majority of members present voted For – proposition was carried.

President

The committee recommended that Ian King be elected the next President of the SACGB. The postal/E Vote was 13 For. The members present voted unanimously for Ian and he was duly elected President

AOB

Committee Elections

There were 6 vacancies and 5 full member nominees plus one Associate member who made himself available to be co-opted if required.

This year each nominee had to submit a personal statement which was emailed to the membership. This enabled members to assess each nominee's skills, experience and their views on the direction of the club.

The members placed their votes by Post/E Vote and in person at the AGM. The members listed below will now join Murray Collings, Pete Davis and Mel Casson as committee members for the SACGB.

Alex McKay

Dave Stone,

Bob Woodman

Kevin Tapper

At the post AGM Committee meeting it was decided that a decision regarding co-opting members to the committee would be discussed at the next committee meeting. The Committee is quorate with four members, so it can operate with fewer than the maximum 9 committee members allowed. At this meeting Bob Woodman was proposed as Chairperson by Murray Collings and seconded by Kevin Tapper. The committee voted unanimously for Bob.

Murray Collings was proposed as Vice Chairperson by Pete Davis and seconded by Dave Stone. The committee voted unanimously for Murray

I am sure you will join me in welcoming our new President, Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and the new committee members. ***Congratulations to all***

Members Section Password Change

It is good practise to change our password from time to time as this helps deter unwanted visitors to our website. With the current password having been in place for many years now, we have decided to change it.

After much thought we decided it would be good to have a meaningful password.

The password is now **psmith369**

This commemorates Pat Smiths British Record Porbeagle caught aboard Alan Dingles Lady Betty.

SACGB Archivist

The committee have accepted a proposal from Dave Clarke, a SACGB member, to take on the role of Club Archivist. The Club has a long history and with many of the founder members no longer with us it's important that sharking stories and knowledge is preserved and made available for generations to come.

The volume of information and knowledge within the club, the sharking community and those who have been associated with sharking is enormous and the correct way to preserve this information is to digitise it. In support of this, Dave is currently exploring the potential for a Heads of Agreement between the SACGB and the Angling Heritage.

The Angling Heritage was founded in 2009 to preserve angling history and is a not-for-profit charitable trust run by volunteers. Keith Armishaw is its Archivist and is responsible for the growing amount of angling history which can be viewed on the Angling Heritage website, www.anglingheritage.org

The Angling Heritage have the facilities and expertise to digitise data and make it available via their cloud-based platform. They have a worldwide audience and it is not unusual for them to receive a request from someone in say, New Zealand or America when researching a certain aspect of angling history.

The SACGB often get contacted by family members looking to trace records of their relatives sharking activities so collaboration between both organisations would appear to be to our mutual benefit.

So that historical information can be passed directly to Dave and avoid clogging up the secretary inbox, the club has set up a new email address which will be monitored and managed by Dave. He would be very pleased to hear from you if you have any information or stories to tell about the clubs sharking history. The direct email address for archive material is thesaarchive@gmail.com

The “Originals”

We hope you enjoyed the interview with Alan Dingle. Those of you on our Facebook page will have seen the video of Bonzo, which is a tremendous piece of video.

Material like this is of great interest to the sharking community so we would very much like to hear any stories you may have about the other original Looe skippers and the early members of our club as it was they who set the foundations for our great sport and club.

The secretary is creating a new section in the members area of the website to publish this material so if you have anything you would like to share please contact him.

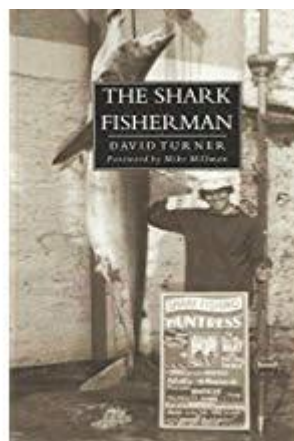
Photographs, newspaper articles, letters and anything else would be scanned and returned to you.

SACGB Member offer on Dave Turners Book

Many of you have already taken advantage of Dave Turners special offer for his book, *The Shark Fisherman*.

I have read it and can recommend it as a good informative read that takes you travelling through the UK's recent Mako history, the Falmouth Shark Club and more. It's well worth a read.

Dave has told us he still has some available at the special offer price but don't delay as they are selling quickly. The price is £10 per copy which includes postage anywhere in mainland UK.



To order is simple. Contact Dave via his Facebook page (The Shark Fisherman) and give him your SACGB membership number (if you have forgot it, contact the secretary). If you don't do Facebook, contact him via email at thesharkfisherman@gmail.com

NOTABLE SHARKS

Last year we didn't start to collate Notable Shark data until later in the season. This meant we were unable to award the Trophy for the most notable sharks. We have started early this year but so far, we still have a small number on the list. We have however, heard of many more 100lbs plus sharks being caught and released this season. If you have caught and released a shark of 100lbs or more this season (remember the season started on the 1st October last year) the secretary would like to hear from you as the website is now set up to enable details of these to be published

Notable Sharks 2018

Blue Shark

Gurnam Roath	185lbs est
John McMaster	131 lbs est
Richard Young	130lbs est
Martin Shipp	112lbs est

Porbeagle Shark

Steve Kingdon Saxby	350-400 lbs est
John Kruppa	300lbs est

White Shark

Danny Vokins	1600 lbs est
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If you have a photograph we can publish that as well. Please make sure the photographs are

acceptable to publish with sharks being held correctly and clean.

Rule Book

The updated rule book structure and content has been approved at the AGM and so it can be released. At the 2017 AGM it was proposed that the rule book be held as a soft copy on the website. This means that updates are easy, and the most recent version is always available to you. It is planned to have this available on the website by early August at the latest.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The GDPR came into effect on the 25th May 2018. The SACGB commenced work on this project early in the year and we were fully compliant before the launch date. Thanks to everyone for providing their information. Without your support we could never have achieved this.

One of the requirements of GDPR is to ensure that the data held is always current, so we would ask, if your details do change, ie you move to a new house, change your mobile etc, or if you decide to change your contact preferences, and for example no longer wish to be contacted by phone, make the secretary aware. We also need to know if you decide to leave the club, so we can delete your record.

New Trophies

The Iris Memorial Trophy – this was donated by Dave and Maggie Stone and is in memory of their granddaughter who was with them for a very short time. The trophy will be known as the Iris Trophy, and will be awarded for the biggest shark caught, measured and released from Looe between 22nd July and 8th October by a member. Boat to leave and return to Looe on the same day.

The Mustad Trophy – the big hook for this trophy was donated by Mustad who continue to be a great

supporter of the SACGB. It will be awarded to the Skipper of the boat from which the largest shark is caught, measured and released in the season

The Jolly Sailor Trophy – this was donated by the Jolly Sailor Pub in Looe. The SACGB headquarters was based in the Jolly Sailor Pub many years ago, in what is now room 5. This trophy will be awarded to the Festival angler with the highest total calculated estimated weight over the festival

Mustad have provided the club with more big hooks which we are sure you agree, make magnificent trophies. The committee are currently discussing what challenges should be attached to the new Mustad trophies so watch this space

Trophy for unmeasured sharks – Kevin Tapper has kindly offered to make a trophy for the unmeasured shark category. This is a new category and recognises the growing trend within the sport for release at the side of the boat. Applications for this trophy will need to be accompanied by photographic/video evidence the quality of which will significantly enhance the applicants chance of winning

Surrey Trophy – The Surrey Trophy challenge has been changed to a Ladies trophy and will now to be awarded to the runner up to the Alan Caunter Trophy

We are also in discussions with a SACGB member who is considering donating a trophy for shark caught on a fly. The detail of this is not yet finalised but we hope to do that soon and let you have details of the challenge.

Other Stuff

Although catch & release is firmly installed as sharking best practise we still get asked the question, especially when a picture of a shark is published or posted on Facebook, “*was it released, or did you kill it*”.

Several members have suggested that every time you post or publish a picture of a shark that there should be a comment attached to it confirming that it was released. Our suggestion for this text is,

“the shark was safely returned to the water and swam away strongly”

If this was published or posted on all shark pictures, it would continuously reinforce in the minds of the non-sharking community that we are 100% shark conservation focussed.

Obituary

Sadly, in March this year the club were informed of the passing of Des Kendall who joined the club in 2014. He was particularly drawn to the Barbican Trophy and won it in 2015, 2016 and 2017. He will always be remembered by those who knew him as a gentleman, and skilful angler who was always willing to share his experience.



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