



January 2019 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

2019 Annual Dinner and Trophy Presentation

Saturday 26th October 2019 – Portbyhan Hotel

CHAIRPERSONS WELCOME

2018 was another great year for the sharking community and the level of interest in our sport and the club continued to grow.

Shark numbers have in general been consistent. A couple of fisheries reported slightly lower numbers, but most are around the same as last year. Nobody has reported a significant increase and several are describing the year as “hit or miss” with variable consistency throughout the season. In Looe we caught and released 1857 which is 30 down on last year.

However, although numbers remained broadly the same, many anglers and skippers reported that sharks were in better condition this year with many fighting well above their weight. So, it looks like the sharks are getting their fair share of the feed despite the rapidly growing numbers of Tuna.

In Looe we had 126 qualifiers which is a 40% increase on last season when we had 89, so the local quality has certainly increased. There were several good blues last year, including one of 176lbs for Rob Rennie, a 185lbs one for Dan Margetts of the Sowenna and one of 170lbs caught & released off Weymouth. The largest we are aware of was caught & released, out of Looe by one of Dan Gummows anglers who had one of 225lbs.

Another noticeable, and consistent change across most fisheries is the increased number of Porbeagles. Dan Hawkins reported that the larger Porbeagles were later this season, but that the numbers of smaller ones had shown a significant increase. Chippy had 76 which compared to just over 50 for the previous year and here in Looe we had 29 this year compared to 9 last year.

A North coast skipper reported a Thresher sighting and one of Chippys anglers had a Thresher to the boat but lost it. It would be nice to start seeing more of these, west of the Isle of Wight, so let's see what 2019 brings.

In summary, although numbers generally remained consistent, the quality and mix of the fish improved.

Our two new skippers had a tremendous first season with Kieran Faisey having just over 900 sharks, which included one day when he caught and released 97, only 15 short of the record for Penzance which is held by Chippy.

Dan Margett's Sowenna had 34 sharks in one day and also caught and released the most sharks during the festival. The boat also had the second largest shark out of Looe this year with a fish of 185lbs and three qualifiers on one day.

Well done Dan and Kieran, you have both got off to a great start in your career as sharking skippers.

From a club perspective we have continued to make progress with our current active membership now at 273. With so many new anglers joining the sport the club will shortly be publishing a shark handling best practise document.

Earlier in the year we launched the 50+ club and to date have recognised 11 members who have 50 years or more continuous membership. The longest continuous member we have been able to find so far, is Sheila Lyle, formerly Shelia McNeil. Sheila joined the club on the 4th

August 1960 with a Blue of 75lbs caught aboard Skitten, which was skippered by Irwin Soady. Sheila has been a member for 58 years and our former secretary is very proud that she is in fact a Scot who hails from Glasgow.

Another 50+club member is Peter Bartlett who has been a member for 54 years and I am delighted to say he will be joining us at next years festival as a competitor.

The 2018 festival was another success and the 2019 festival sold out very quickly. The 2019 festival will have 14 boats and 56 anglers.

Last September the Falmouth skippers had the first Falmouth Shark Festival for many years. Falmouth has a long history of sharking so it's great to see a shark festival in that part of the country. Johnmac and I were guests at the presentation evening and presented the Falmouth club with two perpetual trophies from the SACGB.

Dave Clarke, our club archivist has agreed a partnership with Angling Heritage who are supporting us to protect the history of the SACGB and make it available for generations to come. Dave is also working with the Looe Harbour Commission to introduce SACGB material to the recently opened Heritage Centre on West Looe quay which was the old Sardine Factory. If you haven't been in the Heritage Centre yet, it is well worth a visit.

Claire Kelly joined the club as secretary towards the end of last year and has been working alongside Johnmac for the last 3 months. She has gelled very well with the team and has already shown a great grasp of the role and the club's procedures. Claire has lived in Looe for 19 years. She is the Office Manager for the Looe Harbour Commission, a position she has held for over 10 years. I am sure you will join me in welcoming Claire to the SACGB.

I would also like, on behalf of us all, to thank Johnmac for his hard work and contribution to the club over the last 18 months and wish him all the best for the future.

We are pleased to welcome Simon Thomas to the club as our Honorary Biologist. Over the last 30 years Simon has worked with several Shark tagging programmes, including satellite tagging of Blue Sharks in the South West of England.

Simon is a fully committed angler who started fishing at the age of four and by his own admission has been, *"pretty much obsessed with it ever since"*. He says *"from the day I saw my first Blue Shark, over twenty years ago, I have been captivated by Sharks and have been heavily involved in the evolution of shark catch and release methods"*.

As the sharking community continue to increase their efforts toward improving conservation and the adoption of best practise in shark angling and shark handling, having access to professional advice from Simon is invaluable for the club.

So, it has been another good year for sharking and another busy one for the club and I am sure you will join me in thanking the committee and the secretaries for all their hard work.

With the numbers of sharks looking like they might stabilise and the quality and mix changing I think this year could be another notable one. Judging by the number of Facebook postings confirming bookings for this year my advice would be not to leave it too late to organise your trips though, as you may be disappointed.

Tight Lines

Bob Woodman – Chairman SACGB

Annual Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions are now due and the committee have agreed to leave the annual subscription at £20.00 for 2019.

As previous, you will retain the membership number which you received last year. This number will remain with you throughout your membership with the club and it will never be reassigned to another member. This enables your record to be unique and improves the quality of our record keeping.

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.

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

Last year we added Catch & Release T Shirts to our range of clothing which have sold well. We are still able to obtain most items in 5XL/6XL sizes although these need to be ordered specially so they take a little longer. Our new Catch and Release T Shirts are shown below.



Although we have managed to maintain the clothing pricing for several years, our supplier has indicated the cost may increase this year, so our advice is to buy early. Hoodies are £25, Sweatshirts at £20, Polo Shirts at £15, Catch & Release T Shirts at £15 and standard T Shirts at £10 and Baseball caps at £10.

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

All these items are plus postage in the UK which is normally £3.50.

The large type 120" measuring tapes featured in many trophy declaration pictures last year and are available at £21 plus postage. The increasing use of this tape measure

has reduced the number of failed claims as smaller and less clear measuring tapes were in many cases impossible to read accurately.



These and other goods can be ordered online at; www.sharkanglingclubofgreatbritain.org.uk.

Alternatively, you can place your order by email to 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

The 50+ Club

In 2018 we introduced the **50+ Club** and have now managed to reconnect with several of our long-standing members. To become a member of the **50+ Club** you need a minimum of 50 years continuous membership.

Our former secretary, Johnmac, said "*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. Introducing the 50+Club was an inspiring experience*"

We are therefore very pleased to be able to welcome four more **50+ Club** members in this newsletter.

As always, each member of the **50+ Club** will receive a SACGB Certificate of Recognition and a copy of their original application form which they won't have seen for over 50 years.

We should also point out that with over 50 years continuous membership some members will hold Life Memberships which means we don't have the regular contact each year through the subscription process, so it

is easy to overlook some. This is not intentional and if you know of a member with 50 years and more continuous membership who has not been invited to join the **50+Club**, please let the secretary know and she will follow it up.

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

Dave & Mike Smith – Both Qualified 18th July 1967 with Blue Sharks of 80lbs aboard the Lady Betty

Dave and Mike are the sons of Pat Smith, who has held the Ladies British All Tackle and 60kgs Line Class Porbeagle Records since 1970.

Both enjoyed sea fishing from an early age and had many family holidays in Cornwall, many of those being in Looe. As boys got older their attention began to focus on shark angling which at that time was becoming increasingly popular.

During one week in 1967 the Smith family, Dave, Mike, mother Pat and father Don, all qualified whilst fishing aboard Lady Betty skippered of course by Alan Dingle. The picture below shows the boys with their qualifiers. Dave is the one on the right and Mike is on the left in the blue jacket.



During the Smith family visits to Looe they stayed at the Portbyhan Hotel which at the time was managed by Louis and Sheila Portman. This was a popular hotel with anglers. When their mother caught her British Record

Porbeagle (and World Record at the time), Dave remembers Louis and Sheila Portman putting a bottle of champagne on ice, so everyone could celebrate her success.

Dave married Janet in 1979 and took his children, Robert and Amy, to Looe on holiday when they stayed with Nancy Pope at the Follies.



Dave playing a shark aboard Alan Dingles boat

The constant for the Smiths was that they always fished with Alan Dingle until Alan retired from the sea.



Mike and mother Pat with two sharks at once

The Smiths, including mother Pat still holiday in Looe but rock pooling and crabbing with grandchildren is a more appropriate activity these days.

Sandra George – *Qualified 26th August 1968 with an 83lbs Blue aboard the Claire.*

Back then Sandra was Miss Sandra Ewins and although she caught her qualifier in 1968, she didn't get around to joining the club until the 26th July 1969, almost a year later. She can't recall why it took so long to join the club, but she does recall many fond memories of Looe. Her Looe holiday was typically two weeks in the summer during which around 5 shark trips plus some evening conger trips would be arranged. Sandra recalls a small sandwich shop situated behind the fish market where, the night before you went fishing you could order your sandwiches. If you left your thermos flask it was filled with tea or coffee and both would be available to be collected the following morning before you went to sea. She also recalls wrapping her pasty in tin foil and warming it up on the boat engine cover. She fished with many skippers including Ivan Chaston and Bonzo. Another was John Kitto who she says often sang to her on the way out and let her steer the boat. Listening to Sandra, as she recalls her many fond memories of sharking in Looe, it's easy to understand why so many shark anglers refer to Looe as the spiritual home of sharking. She attended a couple of the Hannafore Dinners and remembers seeing Pat Smith and marvelling at how such a small woman managed to boat a 369lbs Porbeagle. Sandra's ambition was to catch a 100lb Blue so she could get a gold pin but the closest she got was one of 91.5lbs which took half an hour to get to the boat. It was wrapped up in the trace so it came in broadside giving the impression it was much bigger than it was. Would she go sharking again, absolutely she would. Sandra, we hope to see you one day soon in Looe.

Vic Aldous – *Qualified on the 14th August 1966 with a 96.5lbs Blue aboard Lady Betty*

Vic held the position of Chairman of the SACGB on two separate occasions and is currently a Life Vice President of the club.

He has many memories of sharking in Looe and although he can't recall much about the day, he caught his qualifier he has many happy memories of the club, the people and the sport. He says, "Alan Dingle, taught me how to prepare a mackerel. You gutted it, topped and tailed it then using your thumbs spread it open like a book and removed the backbone. Absolutely delicious

when caught, prepared and cooked on the boat". Once when Vic and his wife were fishing with Alan, she asked Alan how he knew the boat was on the mark. Alan explained by pointing to two hills, and went on to say, "when these come in line and the two trees to the left come in line, I look down west and wait for the little man in the yellow pyjamas to put his thumbs up". Vic laughs as he recalls his wife's response to the explanation and says, "Alan was a tremendous skipper who took care of his customers and was always willing to help them learn more about fishing".



Vic signing the Jack Daniels agreement

We talk some more about sharking, the club, its history and Saturday afternoons in the Caunter Room. As the chat draws to a close, he proudly shows me a glass ornament he had made with a Blue, Mako, Thresher, Porbeagle and the club burgee engraved on it. He also has a Colibri lighter which has the SACGB burgee on it which he says he must get repaired.

Like all our **50+ Club** Members, his passion for the sport is unmistakable and inspiring. Thanks for talking to us Vic.

Falmouth Focus

Falmouth Shark Club History

In the last newsletter we reported that the Falmouth club started in the mid 60's and that their meeting place was the Chain Locker. We believe that there was a club

then and that its headquarters was the Chain Locker as the information was given to us by the late Dave Turner. However, since then we have found a Falmouth Shark Club newsletter filed away with some other documents in our storage room, which pre-dates David's club knowledge.

The newsletter states that the Falmouth Shark Club was formed in 1955 by a very keen Falmouth angler, the late Rev. T. H. Elkington, as the Falmouth Shark and Big Game Angling Club and its headquarters was at the Norway Inn, Perranarworthal.

Its Chairman was Gerald Hicks Esq., the Honorary Treasurer was R. Fiddick Esq., and the Honorary Secretary was H.P. Harding Esq.



The newsletter which is a single page document notes that there have been some very notable sharks landed at Falmouth since 1955, including Mr Buckland's 384lbs Mako, and in 1965, Mr Rodgers 476lbs Mako, both of which set British Records at the time. The newsletter goes on to say that the club has confidently set its target at the "magic figure of 500lbs, which is obviously not impossible to achieve in these waters". A correct prediction in all but the location.

Reassuringly it notes that although the sharks are around in large numbers, they never come close enough to shore so bathers are "quite safe".

The newsletter says that there are many suitable Shark Fishing Boats operating out of Falmouth. It confirms they are all up to the standard required of them by the Board of Trade and that they are licenced by the Harbour Master. Bookings were to be made at any recognised tackle shop and gear was available to hire if needed. On your return from sea you would be met by the Clubs Weighmasters at the Prince of Wales Pier or the Custom House Quay. If you were a club member your catch

would be photographed by the Weighmaster at no extra cost.

The qualifying weight was 75lbs and Associate Membership was available for 10 shillings and sixpence.

2018 Falmouth Shark Festival



Falmouth Shark Festival Trophy Table

Last year several Falmouth skippers, which originally included Dave Turner, decided to resurrect the Falmouth Shark Festival. The event took place over three days in September.



To support the event the SACGB committee decided to donate two perpetual trophies and our Chairman, Bob Woodman and former secretary Johnmac joined the anglers at the presentation evening.



Johnmac commented, *"the return of this festival is another indication that the level of interest in our sport is continuing to grow. Falmouth has a great history of sharking and this year it sadly lost two of its sharking legends, Dave Turner and Robin Vinnicombe. It would be great to see this club regenerate and I wish the Falmouth team all the very best in the coming years as they rebuild the original club"*.

The 2019 Falmouth Festival will be held on the 16th, 17th and 18th September 2019. Contact Andy Howell (07779 728 966) or Nigel Hodge (07976 974 616) for further details.

A catch up with Looe Skipper - John Kitto

Like many skippers I have met, John didn't start in the fishing industry. This, I believe, is a reflection on how hard life at sea is and fishing family parents wanting "better" for their sons and daughters than to follow them into what is not just a hard job but also a very dangerous one.

John started working life in the boatyard which he quickly realised wasn't for him. Along with his friend Ken Pengelley, he moved to the fish factory which meant him spending a short time at the Metal Box facility in London learning how to work the canning machines.

Although he was now working with fish, albeit they were in tin cans, John still wasn't settled so when his uncle gave him the opportunity to buy a share in the Skitten he jumped at the chance. What followed was several years trawling and long lining. John has many stories to tell about that part of his life but that would fill another article.

Some of them have you laughing uncontrollably. John begins to tell me about a lad he fished with who could perfectly imitate a cockerel. His eyes light up and the laughter lines on his face begin to crease as he says, *"he was so good that when he did it in Looe harbour in the darkness at 3am in the morning the cockerels on the farms up on the Barbican woke up, and with it of course, every light sleeper in Looe"*.

Other stories of difficult situations and hard times make you realise how these men of the sea are put together. They are tough with an insatiable desire to win and find a way forward no matter the challenge they face but

always underpinned by a great love and respect for nature and the sea.

John has skippered many boats including the Astra, Polaris and the Nimrod, but perhaps the one the sharking community will associate with him the most is the May Queen.

He produces a photograph from 1961 which shows Ken Wilson with his Porbeagle shark. John is wearing the skippers cap and is to the left of Ken.



John and Ken with the 311lb Porbeagle

He quickly points out that although the chalk board says it's a Mako, it was a Porbeagle. John says that Ken and his wife were on the May Queen that day on a bottom fishing trip when Kens wife spotted a fin cutting the water. Quickly rigging up a set of shark gear and using the one decent mackerel aboard for bait they lowered the rig into the water. Johns next task was to get the anchor up, as he says, "couldn't lose gear like that, it was too expensive".

With the anchor barely aboard the fish took the bait and after a long fight, during which the shark circled the boat several times, the shark was tied alongside the boat. Once ashore it tipped the scales at 311lbs. When it was cut open, there was a small porbeagle inside. Nothing unusual in that but John recalls that this small shark was then sent to a laboratory in the USA, but he never knew why.

I ask him does he have any stand out memories of the many people he took sharking. He laughs and begins to paint a picture of a large, obviously strong and visually intimidating lad with many tattoos including one on his head, who joined the boat for a day, sharking. John describes the weather as "good sharking weather", but

not too rough. The day went well with several sharks being caught but the big lad was a bit seasick.



John and Ken with a Blue and a Porbeagle

Immediately the boat tied up in the harbour he got off, kneeled on the quay and kissed the ground. He then turned to John and said, *"let me shake the hand of the man who took me to hell and back"*. John laughs and says, *"I was glad he saw it that way"*.

We talk about gear and prices and he says it was £11 per day to charter the boat. The cost of hiring gear was £3 which left £8 to cover boat expenses and a wage. The rods were heavy by today's standards and the Fortuna was the reel of choice. John preferred the offset hooks rather than the flat ones as he found they hooked better. He says you could buy traces back then but most skippers, including himself made their own.

I then ask him the question I have been desperate to ask, *"what was your biggest shark?"*.

His response is immediate and with an immense sense of pride he says, *"a 435lb Mako taken aboard the May Queen"*. He continues, *"Dusty Miller and his wife were*

regular customers of Dick Butters of the Claire, but on that day, Dick had double booked himself. Dick asked me if I would take them aboard the May Queen and I agreed. We kept to the inside of the fleet and to say it was a quiet day would be an understatement, by 2pm we hadn't had a touch. Shortly after that we saw the float dip and the fish took the bait. Immediately the hook was set it began its first run which was very powerful and left us very short of line on the reel. Eventually Dusty got it close to the stern of the boat and then it began to circle the boat with he and I following it. The first time I was able to grasp the trace and get a look at it, I realised it was very big. I remember Dusty's wife Peggy being afraid to look. It was also still very fresh, so I let the trace go so it could run again. Two hours from when it was hooked Dusty got it to the boat again and this time as it came up it opened its mouth which gave me the opportunity to get a gaff in place. This done, my next challenge was to isolate the tail to remove its source of power. After a bit of a struggle I got a rope around its tail and tied it to the mizzen. It was only then when we had time to properly look at the shark, we realised how big it was. Both Dusty and I were exhausted but also elated. It was a shark of a lifetime for us both and I can remember it like it was yesterday. When it was weighed it tipped the scales at 435lb"



Dusty and John with the Mako

Although John has saw and dealt with many big sharks in his time it's clear that this one left a deep impression on him and I witnessed a mix of pride in the achievement

and absolute respect for the shark as he re-lived the experience by sharing the story with me.

He laughs and says, “we held the record but only for a short time as it was broken twice after Dusty’s shark”. He couldn’t remember precisely the details of the sharks which beat Dusty’s, but the extract from the 1964 Annual Report below gives the details.

Perhaps the most notable feature of the year were three Mako sharks, each of which exceeded in weight the previous British Record (428 ½ lb). Mr S. G. Miller (Dusty Miller) started the ball rolling with his 435lbs Mako, to be followed by a 476lb Mako caught by Mr. W. J. Rodgers, a new British Record. Even after all that excitement Mr F. H. Cook caught the runner up to the new British Record with a 449lb Mako.

Date	Name	Weight	Species
27 June	V.J. Portis	B 73	Nautilus
"	R.A. Winton	B 115	Green
"	G.I. Donnellan	B 94	Westland
"	H.L. Brogden	P 60	Grande He
"	J. Van der Velde	B 69	Silken
"	Mr. Plumiers	B 60	"
"	J.H. Taylor	B 71	Daddy
"	G.W. Green	B 76	Lady Betty
"	S.G. Miller	M 435	May Queen
Loose to Mr = 435 lbs			
28 June	L. Winton	B 105	Silver Spiny
"	M.P. Hall	B 58	Eileen
"	Ms. Bell	B 67	Cotra
"	R.G. Rule (F.H. Cook)	B 85	Cobra
"	J.R. Owen	B 86	May Queen

Dusty's Mako shark weigh entry

We continue talking about bygone boats and skippers for a while before reluctantly drawing the interview to a close. I thank John and his wife Linda for their hospitality and for taking the time to share some of his treasured memories with me. Thanks again John and Linda

94 years old and still thinking shark!

Now I have retired, leaving home at 5am in the wind and rain is not something I do often but on the 27th November 2018 that's exactly what I did. 260 miles later as I ring the doorbell, hoping I am at the right place, I glance to the right and see a SACGB Sticker on the window I smile, reassured.

The door opens, and I am welcomed by Dave who guides me through the hallway where brother Mike greets me warmly. With both the boys being SACGB 50+ Members, I have communicated with them before but never met them. They beckon me into the living room to meet their Mother who greets me with a wide grin and an outstretched hand. I stand back and look at her and blurt out, “you don’t look big enough to have caught that 369lbs Porbeagle”.

Yes, you have guessed correctly, I was shaking the hand of none other than Pat Smith, who has held the Ladies All Tackle British Porbeagle Shark Record, since 1970.

Dave says, “welcome to Mums shrine” and points to the walls. I see a shark, then a picture of Alan Dingles beloved Lady Betty, then I turn and see a painting of the Looe quayside with the Lady Betty in the foreground and other SACGB memorabilia filling the gaps between numerous family photographs. In front of me on the footstool is a large pile of scrapbooks with pencil drawings of sharks on the front covers, which I find out later was the work of a younger Dave.



November 2018 – Pat is still proud to wear her SACGB smock

As I sip my coffee and munch on a mince pie Pat tells me of her love for Looe. Her parents often holidayed in Looe and she recalls being told by her mother that she took her first steps in Looe. It was during a visit to Looe that she met a young man called Don, who later became her husband. Dave and Mike then recall some of their Looe childhood memories. it's clear that Looe is a very special place for the Smith family. Pat adds, “my childhood holidays in Looe were wonderful, Martin Bray and I played together as children you know”.

We move on to fishing and Pat tells me her father was a keen angler who introduced her to fishing at a young age. When her own family came along, naturally she took them fishing too. A typical Smith family Looe holiday would be two weeks with every other day being a fishing day with their favourite skipper, Alan Dingle.



Alan Dingles Lady Betty

Pat says, "it was during an unusually quiet reefing trip in 1966 that Alan suggested we try for shark. We agreed and were immediately smitten. All four members of the family qualified during one week with Alan Dingle, in 1967".



Pat and Alan enjoying a brew aboard the Lady Betty

There was a very active sharking social circle in Looe at that time with weekly SACGB members meeting in the Shark Bar at the Hannaford Point Hotel. Pat was great friends with Dr. N S Lorraines wife Joan and enjoyed the company of many others whose names you will know; Briggy, Rex Barnes, John Duxbury and Hamish Rogerson to name a few.

I point to what I consider one of the most iconic shark pictures ever, the one with her, Alan and the record shark. Tell me about this one I say. Pat continues, "until Monday the 20th July 1970, my largest shark was an 82lb

Blue. On that day we were fishing with Alan aboard the Lady Betty, and left Looe at 9am. Don had taken the wheel and when we reached Alans chosen mark, two lines with mackerel baits and a rubby dubby bag were



put out and we started to drift. It was a slow day and a bit grey. As always, Alan was working hard trying different depths and freshening baits. Then around 1pm we got a run. I took the rod and quickly brought a small blue, somewhere close to 20lbs to the boat which we unhooked and immediately returned. The day progressed uneventfully then I saw Alan check his watch before announcing that it was 2.45pm. I knew this meant we would soon be heading back. Alan had barely finished speaking and a ratchet started to sound. Don, who had been feathering most of the day for bait, said to me, "you take that one Pat". As the line began to leave the reel at an increasing speed, I settled into the fighting chair, put the rod in the butt socket and got ready to strike. It all happened so quickly I did not have time to put a harness on.

Immediately I struck I knew it was heavier than any shark I had hooked previously. The first run had taken 200 yards of line which I began to recover slowly then suddenly the line went slack, and I felt that sickening feeling which comes with a potential fish loss. I kept on reeling and very soon reconnected with the fish. The shark sensed the line tighten which made it run again and this time it went deep.

Alan who until now had not spoken much, said quietly, "it's a big fish". I remember thinking the pain in my arms agree with you! The fish started to swim round the boat, so Alan started the engine and Don took the helm. It dived several times and each time I recovered line it

would sound again. Throughout the fight Alan encouraged me, telling me how well I was doing and saying, "take it easy, there's plenty of time". It was a very hot day and both men were constantly mopping my brow as the sweat poured from me. Don told me later that he had watched a piece of rubby dubby on the line and although I thought I was recovering line, it never moved for 15 minutes.

After what seemed an age and several more dives to the sea bed, Alan announced that the trace was in sight and a few minutes later I managed to bring it to the gaff. I was exhausted.

The fish was too big to bring aboard so Alan made it fast to the gunwale and when I looked over the side, I could hardly believe my eyes, it was enormous.



Pats shark lashed to the boat on its way in to Looe

At this point Dave takes up the story and says, "I had just returned from holiday with my friends and had decided to catch up with Mum and Dad in Looe. When I arrived, you could feel the excitement on the quay. I made an enquiry and when I was told that there was a big shark on its way in, aboard the Lady Betty, I knew that it had to be either Mum or Dad"

Pat continues, "when we approached the Banjo Pier, we could see that it was lined three deep along its length. The entire quayside was full of people who wanted to see this fish. It was only when it was hoisted over the quay and on to the scales that I could fully appreciate its size. It dwarfed me and although I was very tired, I felt energised at the same time" Hamish Rogerson was the weighmaster and soon announced to the crowd it was 369lbs. The shark measured 8' 6" and had a girth of 4'. It was also found not to be pregnant, so she really was a big girl. When you consider Pat stands 4' 11" tall or as she would say, 4' 11" and a "little bit", you begin to

understand what she meant when she says she felt, "very tired but energised".



Being resident at the Portbyhan Hotel they made their way back there and were pleasantly surprised to find that Louis and Shelia Portman had put a bottle of champagne on ice so they could have a celebratory drink. Pat says, "I don't remember much more about that evening, but I am sure I got off to bed early. Back in those days SACGB Members would meet in the Shark Bar at the Hannafore Point Hotel once a week so on that occasion I celebrated my success more thoroughly."

I turn to Mike for comment who says sadly, "I missed it all as I was at work".

The shark which beat Hetty Eathornes record Porbeagle by almost 100 lbs was quickly recognised as the British Womens All Tackle Record and the British Womens 130lbs Line Test Class Record. Over 48 years later, both these records remain unbeaten.



After the appropriate verification procedures had been completed, Pat was also confirmed as the Womens All Tackle World Record Holder plus the Mens & Womens 130lbs Line Test Lady World Record holder



The SACGB awarded Pat the Mitchell Hedges, Sammy Porbeagle, Midland (including a replica) and the Alan Caunter trophies. She was also awarded a special trophy by the SACGB to recognise her World Record Achievement which is shown in the picture below.



SACGB Special Trophy to mark Pats World Record

In addition, Hamish Rogerson commissioned a unique hand-crafted gold brooch in recognition of Pat's monumental achievement.

The honours didn't stop there though. A shark of this calibre merited a Dutfield Tapestry which was awarded to Pat, although Pat had to prompt the company to send Alan Dingle his tapestry which she says he truly earned for all his hard work.



The hand-crafted brooch

In 1970 the Bacardi Rum competition was still in place but Pat missed out on the winning spot to Phil Taylor's 370lbs Mako ... short by 1-lb! However she was recognised and travelled to the Hotel Europa in London to be presented with a cheque for £92.50 (and no doubt a Bacardi or two) from Mr Daniel Bacardi.



Pat being congratulated by Mr Daniel Bacardi

Pat was also invited by the House of Hardy and became a member of the prestigious Hardy Hall of Fame which was another tremendous honour.

From the moment the shark was weighed Pat was stopped in the street in Looe by people wanting her

autograph. The Cornish press, radio and TV also sought her out, such was the scale of her achievement. When she returned home the level of interest in her achievement continued with the local Leicestershire and Midland press, radio and TV all wanting to meet the lady who had caught such a large shark. Someone once said that everyone has their 15 minutes of fame and in Pats case this was very true, indeed within the sharking community she continues to be respected by many who have never met her but appreciate the scale of her achievement.

By now I have finished my second cup of coffee, and another slice of cake, and although I could sit all day and listen to the Smiths sharking adventures, I take my last pictures and leave.

As I drive home, I remember the headline on one of the local newspaper cuttings which reported on her Porbeagle, which said, "***small but brimming with vitality***". I couldn't agree more with that reporter, even at 94 years of age she is still brimming with vitality and her passion for sharking and the SACGB is as strong as ever.

Thanks Pat, Mike and Dave for talking to me and sharing some of your most treasured memories with us.

So who is responsible for introducing more young people to our sport?

As I listened to the well-deserved, and extended, round of applause given to Harvey O'Malley as he collected the Marsden Sutcliffe Trophy last year, I found myself mulling over that often-asked question, "how do we get more young people into our sport?".

Having reached the Grumpy Old Man stage in life I find myself regularly, usually as I watch the news, telling my wife, "***they*** should do something about that". Perhaps you do too, but who are "***they***" and do they realise their responsibilities?

A short time later as Angela Spearing collected her second trophy of the evening the answer became clear.

I caught up with Angela some weeks later and asked her how she got into fishing.



Angela with her parents at the 2018 Trophy Awards

She told me that her father Tom has fished with Pete Davis for over 30 years and initially took Samantha, Angela's elder sister out sharking. Samantha caught and released on her first trip, but sea sickness meant she didn't do it again. It's a similar story with Angela's son, who also caught sharks, but the dreaded sea sickness has kept him away also.

It was a quite different story when Tom introduced Angela to the sport. Ten years later and her "sharking bug" is as strong as ever. Unlike her son and sister, it took Angela around five trips before she caught her first shark and six years before her qualifier came along. She can't remember how many she has caught in total but since her qualifier, bigger sharks are more regular with her tally of qualifiers and above, now at five.



One of Angela's 2018 trophy winning sharks

Angela's angling career has been entirely sharking focussed so until this year, apart from sharks she had only caught mackerel and whiting. This year she added sand eels and gurnard to her list (not good sharking bait Angela). The A Team as they call themselves is made up of Angela her partner Craig, Tom and friends Steve and Neil but Angela is hoping that her daughter Codie will give it a go this year.

Unlike Angela, my own daughter, Charlotte started at a very young age, feathering for mackerel with her cousins using hand lines in St Ives bay. I often refer to these as the most expensive mackerel we ever caught but at Charlottes request this was a regular holiday activity. In fact, anywhere we went on holiday, Charlotte would be on the lookout for a charter boat, and I remember her removing fish and baiting hooks for some squeamish adults when we fished off the Florida coast. The St Ives mackerel may have cost a lot per fish, which we then burnt to a cinder on a barbeque, but I prefer to see it as an investment as Charlotte still enjoys fishing.

Her first sharking trip was out of Looe around 15 years ago, but we drew a blank. It wasn't a good experience and that put her off sharking for several years but last year she caught her qualifier and achieved her objective of becoming a full member of the SACGB. Her objective now is to get her name on a SACGB trophy.



Charlotte with one of her 2018 sharks

By now you will have worked out the reason for my philosophical ramble at the start. The common theme is that Tom, Danny and I saw it as our responsibility, indeed our pleasure, to get our children and

grandchildren into the sport. The word, ***“they”***, didn't enter our minds. We saw it as something we should do, or shall I say ***“I”***.

So, what can, or should, the SACGB do to support those parents and grandparents who make the effort to get their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews into the sport.

The typical response to this question is “put a trophy up”. In my view we already have the trophy and that is the Marsden Sutcliffe which is the “Mitchell-Hedges” for our junior members.

However, something to consider, and I must point out this is a personal view which I have not discussed with the committee, is to have a junior winner and a runner up. Both would get a take home and keep trophy. The winner would also get the Marsden Sutcliffe which he/she would retain for a year. Our sport is not a cheap one so let's also consider giving the winners a £100 voucher which can be redeemed against a day's sharking on the boat of their choice or perhaps one of the member skippers would offer a free trip for the winner?

This I believe would be the start of a journey to future proof the sport we all love, so I hope the members give it their support and lobby the committee for its introduction.

It's true, - the formula has not always been totally accurate!

How often have you heard, *“that shark looks bigger than X lbs”* or, *“there is no way that shark is Y lbs”*. My guess is that its more than once.

There are, however, very good reasons for this which are important to understand.

The first is that photographs can make sharks look both smaller and larger than they actually are. Look at the two pictures below. Both sharks measured 34” on the girth but one certainly looks girthier than the other



Both sharks had a 34" girth

Some anglers hold their shark across their chest so the person taking the photograph of the shark will very probably be stood up, and the lens will be square on to the shark.

Where a shark is held lower down the angler's body it is unlikely the person taking the photograph will be kneeling. He/she is more likely to be stood up and have the lens at an angle facing downwards which can give the impression of a slimmer fish.

So, photographs can be deceiving, and that's without even trying to be "creative".

The other reason, assuming the measurements are correct, is that formulas do not always give the correct answer.

Yes, you heard right, they can, and often don't give a weight which is close enough to the actual weight to avoid debate.

Perhaps the best way of understanding this is to ask yourself when was the last time you weighed exactly what it says you should on one of those human height/weight charts? The usual response when these charts say we are too heavy, is something like, "well I have big bones" or something similar!!!

That may be true, but the real reason is because there are so many variations in humans. If you compare a group of humans who are the same height, some will have very little body fat, some will have lots of it, some will have lots of muscle and others will have very little,

and some may well have heavier bones than others. All these features influence the individual's weight.

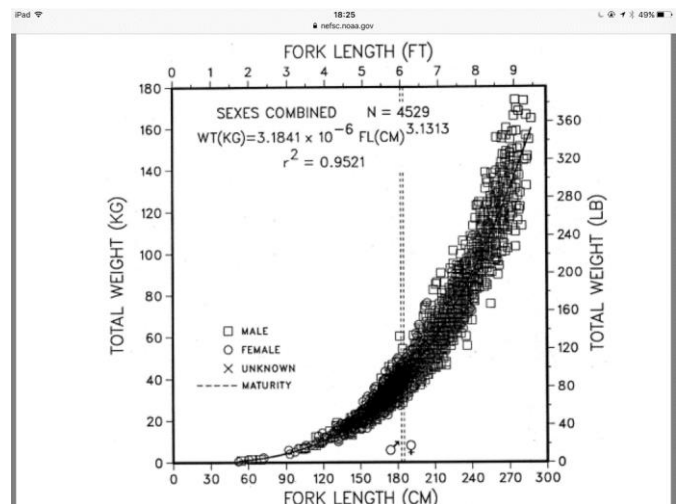
Sharks have the same issues, some of them have more body fat than others, some have more muscle than others, some have larger livers than others etc etc

Although we have different human height weight tables for men and women, the formula which the SACGB have used for a long time is the same whether it's used for a male or a female shark.

"So", I hear you say, "why did the SACGB use the formula if they knew it was wrong?"

To understand this let's look at the NOAA Blue shark weight/length graph. To produce this graph NOAA have used 4529 pieces of physically measured and weighed shark data, all collected by marine scientists.

When these data are plotted you get the graph below. The best fit line is the solid line which runs up the middle of the data. Once the profile of this line is identified a formula can be derived.



The formula for the best fit line in this graph is Weight (kgs) = $3.1841 \times 10^{-6} \times \text{fork length}(cm)^{3.1313}$. The r^2 value of 0.9521 is the estimate of how close the best fit line represents the data. A perfect fit would be 1.000.

The 0.9521 value indicates that the formula is a decent fit for most of the sharks which is why most of the time we are comfortable with the estimated weight of our sharks when we enter the nose to fork length into the NOAA calculation tool on their website

If, however the length of your shark puts it well above or below that line then the formula will either over or under estimate the weight. The accuracy of the weight reduces as you move further away from the best fit line.

So, if your shark is represented by one of the small squares and circles scattered along the outer edge of the dark cluster of data, it is likely you will think your shark is heavier, or lighter, than the weight being given.

The formula we use in the SACGB, $(\text{girth} \times \text{girth} \times \text{length}) / 800$, was developed for fish with a shape closer to Tuna so it doesn't have a great fit with Blues due to their shape. It's also believed that this formula, unlike the NOAA Blue formula above, is not species specific, so it's hardly surprising we have issues with the weight estimations it gives from time to time.

In summary formulas, and there are many different ones, will never provide an accurate weight across the full range of length and girth combinations within the species, on every occasion.

So, if it's not always correct why use it at all? Most of the time we don't bother about, or even notice an inaccurate weight estimate as most of the sharks are within the "dark cluster area" of the graph of whatever formula we are using and therefore the estimated weight given is close. However, when a shark is one of the outliers that's when the variance between actual weight and estimated weight increases to the point where it is obvious there is an issue.

Last season we had a shark which was shorter than the 70" nose to fork of tail length required to make it a qualifier. However, its girth was unusually large and when the shark's dimensions were entered in the formula, the estimated weight was well above what would be considered the qualifying weight. Later in the season we had the reverse position where an angler had a shark longer than 70" nose to fork of tail but it was so thin that when its weight was estimated by using the formula it was well below what would be considered the qualifying weight.

These two examples confirm that the formula approach can cause issues with small sharks just as easily as with the larger ones.

With most members still supportive of the requirement to catch and release a shark of qualifying size to gain full membership of the club, it's necessary to have a qualifying rule.

Since the formula/estimated weight approach has so much variance within it, the committee have decided to remain with the nose to fork of tail measurement for full membership qualification, which for a Blue is 70".

The criteria for trophies, records etc will be Points Score. The points score is determined by adding the nose to fork of tail dimension to the girth dimension, measured to the front of, but not including the dorsal fin. The measurements are to be in inches. Unlike estimated weight, a measured length is a fully determinable number.

So, a shark of 70" long and 27" girth will be recorded as a shark of 97 points and not 63.75lbs estimated weight.

The rule book and other documentation have been amended to reflect this change but if you spot any areas which need a "tweak" please make the secretary aware.

(My thanks to Simon Thomas, our Honorary Biologist for editing this article)

Pushing Boundaries

One week before Xmas I was given an opportunity to meet another skipper who some of you will undoubtedly (or at least have wanted to), have fished with. At very least his name will be familiar to most of you. His earliest memory of fishing was when a neighbour took him out in his rowing boat and they towed spinners from a handline. He recalls catching a bass that day which appeared huge to him then although he reckons it was around 1 ½ lbs. Little did he know then how important bass would be to him in his later life.

Seeing the young lad's enthusiasm, his mentor presented him a homemade greenheart rod and a fixed spool reel which he proudly used as often as he was able. Although a keen rugby player who, in years to come became an accomplished rugby player, his interest in angling continued to grow at a pace. As a teenager he began to crew for several of the Plymouth charter boats. One of these was Bill Brooms 3B's. He laughs when he recalls that the name stood for "*Bills Beautiful Boat*" on the good days and when they were not so good it changed to "*Bills B.....d Boat*". I will leave you to fill in the blanks!

The benefits of crewing were twofold. Firstly, they gave him the opportunity to gain experience in boat handling and secondly it provided him with additional funds to go fishing.

At the time Rank Bush Murphy was a TV manufacturer based in Plymouth. Like many quality companies back then it recognised its social responsibility and had a

thriving social club which included an angling section. Membership of the angling section was open to all, whether they were employees or not. Recognising another opportunity to get more fishing time and perhaps win a couple of trophies he promptly he joined the social clubs angling section.

The company social club angling section had a boat and it was on this boat on a conger trip to the Eddystone that he saw his first shark. It was a blue of around 40 to 50lbs. Not a big shark but it made an impression on him which lasts till this day, and although he has caught many other large species around the globe, the thrill of sharking is with him still. He had to wait for a few more years before he caught his first shark which he eventually did aboard Terry Freys, Sweet Home.

By now he was able to afford more charter trips and recalls many adventures on the Anjonica, Sunlit Water and Our Unity amongst others. The first time he saw a Porbeagle was when he was aboard the legendary Huntress with Frank and Robin Vinnicombe both of whom he remembers fondly. We talk a little about the skippers of these boats and he recalls his best day, "on the Porbeagle" was aboard Graham Edwards Selachian, with four Porbeagles giving a combined weight of 1200lbs!

He is also an accomplished boat builder and at the age of 18 he built his first boat. She was a fibreglass 27-footer called the Selachii which was nicknamed by the locals as the "Tupperware Boat". By now he also had his skippers ticket so was now able to charter on a part time basis and did so for 14 years from this boat.



Realising that the commercial fishing pressure on stocks meant travelling further to get the best fishing he accepted an offer for the Selachii and used this money to help fund his next boat, the Kaimalino. The name means Calm Waters in Hawaiian and she was built on an offshore 32-foot hull.

Around this time, he became aware that Trilene line were offering \$1000 to any angler who broke a world record. Along with his girlfriend (now his wife) and a couple of friends, they decided to have a go and were very successful. This money helped him upgrade to the next boat and if you haven't guessed who I am talking to by now, you will when I tell you the new boats name.

It was the Tiburon (pronounced Tea-burr-on) which in Portuguese means shark, and I am of course talking to Graham Hannaford.



Graham receiving his Trilene World Record Prize money



Grahams wife Jane receiving her Trilene World Record Prize money
(twice as much as Grahams... well done Jane)


In 1990 Graham took the decision to become a full-time charter skipper and very quickly became one of the widest reported skippers in the angling press. In 2000 he decided to push the boundaries once more and began to scour the globe for a hull which would meet his exacting specifications and very importantly, improve customer experience. Eventually he found a suitable hull in Canada and built his boat. She became, and continues to be, one of the most recognisable and successful charter boats in the UK. She is, Size Matters.

As I listen to Graham its clear his philosophy has always been to be ahead of the pack. Each boat was designed by him with the objective to bring something new to the sport and his customers. Traveling further and quicker to fish new wrecks, reefs and marks, improved angler comfort, using the best navigation and fish finding equipment and constantly looking for the best of everything is what underpinned his success.

fish in style and comfort aboard!

Tiburón

Extensively fitted
Offshore 105
Sports Fisherman.



TIBURON is powered by a massive 360 h.p. Volvo diesel driving a new design four-blade Hyperform propeller. Added safety feature of rope cutter fitted to shaft. Electronics: Two navigators, Radar with guard alarm, Dual frequency 10" Colour sounder. Graph Sounder. VHF Radios, (ship to shore). Auto pilot. Trim tabs. Full galley facilities. Toilet. Three berths. Five water-tight compartments each with auto bilge pump. Automatic fire fighting system.

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Daily Charter Rates

Offshore Wreck	£.....
Reef	£.....
Shark Fishing	£.....
Guernsey	£.....

I can arrange that 'SPECIAL' charter to suit your individual requirements. Perhaps you have a favourite species. Time of departure and return is in your hands so why not telephone me and discuss the possibilities.

SKIPPER PROFILE. Marine engineer and boat builder. Trained in H.M. Dockyard. Over seventeen years charter fishing experience. Dedicated angler with fine personal record of specimen fish. Set I.G.F.A. Line Class World Record (conger 41 lbs 10 ozs / 12 lb. test).



CONTACT: Skipper/Owner:
Graham Hannaford,
1, Clevedon Park Avenue
Milehouse,
Plymouth, Devon. PL2 3HB
Telephone: 0752 500531
Mobile/Boat: 0860 364022
Member: Plymouth Angling
Boatman's
Association,
National Federation of
Charter Skippers.

Design and photography by Mike Milne/Photo Services

He laughs as he tells me he was described as Plymouths first Yuppy Skipper when he purchased one of the first mobile telephones and began to use a Filofax. He shows me the marketing material he used when he had the Tiburon. The front and back pages are shown, and when these are read along with the inside pages, I begin to see it as a webpage or Facebook page of its day. I smile inwardly as its clear to me that his use of a mobile phone, Filofax and marketing material, was him simply following his instinct to push boundaries and avoid being a "me too" skipper which, in my opinion he certainly achieved.

Anyway, I say, enough about boats, what about the sharks? I ask the obvious question, what is the biggest you have caught? He responds immediately, *"a Great White in South Africa which was estimated at 3000lbs. It took around an hour to get it to the boat, and that was from a fighting chair"*.

His biggest UK shark is a Porbeagle of 340lbs caught off North Cornwall which he recalls being a pregnant female. He says, *"back then people like Harrods would pay £1 per 1lb for a 70 – 80 lbs Porbeagle as they would be used on the fish stall as a display to attract customers. Later, they would be cut into steaks and sold"*. Although anglers would never sell a Porbeagle today, he like many others do question the practise of catching large pregnant females as the stress can cause them to abort their pups once they are released.

The hardest fighting Porbeagle he has experienced was during one of his charter trips to Guernsey. He recalls that the fishing was good with cod and ling being plentiful. Suddenly the fish began to be smashed on the way up which indicated the presence of a shark. He quickly baited up one of the shark rods he had aboard and just as he was about to put the bait in the water, they got sight of the shark. Realising it was a fish of a lifetime size, Graham offered the rod to his customers, none of which wanted to take on the challenge. Not one to miss an opportunity he took the rod himself and soon the fish took the bait. It turned out to be a 286lb male fish which he recalls fought hard and in the deep water it sounded several times and took around 40 minutes to get to the boat.

He goes on to talk about Mako sharks and says, *"I have never caught one but in the early 70's I did hook one which stripped the line from my 6/0 with lightning speed"*

then I lost it. I have also seen one of my customers hook one but that was lost too. I have not seen one since, other than some splashes in the distance which may have been Mako, so I have yet to be successful with this elusive shark. In South Africa there are lots of them, not big, around 100lbs. They are not easy to catch though as when they find the chum trail, they are quickly followed by great whites which mean the Mako very sensibly make themselves scarce."

His Thresher experience is the same as his Mako one as he has hooked and lost one. He recalls an experience when fishing with SACGB member Gary Avery in the late 70's. He says, "Gary hooked into what was obviously a very big shark as it effortlessly stripped the line and I had the boat flat out to keep up with it. At one point the fish came close to the boat and we could see it was a Thresher. It wasn't close to the boat because of anything Gary had done though. It had chosen to come and have a look at us! After 3 hours the gear parted, and I recall an exhausted Gary being disappointed but possibly relieved as even after all that time it was showing no sign of tiring".

Graham has retired from chartering now and Size Matters has moved on, but he is still a committed angler. Before he leaves, he tells me with more than a little excitement in his voice of his fishing plans for the coming years which include trips to Australia, Canada and South Africa.

Thanks for talking to us Graham and we hope the South African Mako get to your bait before the pesky Great Whites do!!

British Measured & Released Records

Last year I made a prediction which was,

"Possibly the safest prediction of this season is that before the 30th September 2018 the All Tackle British Measured and Released Record for Porbeagle Shark will be taken"

How wrong I was. Despite there being many good fish caught and released by male and female anglers we received no British Measured & Released Record Claims other than one for a Blue Shark from Dave Keen who broke his own line class record.



The lack of claims could be due to a reducing interest in record and trophy recognition which I am aware is a view held by some. Those anglers generally don't take the fish out the water and get enough personal satisfaction from the catch and release of the shark, and the recognition of those with them at the time.

However, there are still many members who enjoy the feeling of collecting a trophy with their name inscribed on it, who I hasten to add, are also fully committed to catch and release.

This being the case it could be that the claim process is not well understood and/or anglers don't like asking the skipper for the 28 metres of line, trace sample and hook required to make the claim, or if it's their own gear they consider it to be a costly donation.

Dedicated light line anglers normally use more expensive line as they are often chasing a specific line class.

However, if you are using 50lbs test line and when we test it, we find it breaks above 50lbs, you are automatically entered into the next line class, in this case 80lbs, so you don't need expensive line to claim a line class record.

Sharking gear is not cheap, so I understand the cost argument but if that's not the issue then it can only be a lack of understanding so let's remind you what's needed.

- (a) A clear photograph/video of the shark, in profile, along with a measuring tape or another easily visible measuring device showing the length (tip of nose to fork of tail) measurement.
- (b) A clear photograph/video of the shark, in profile, along with a measuring tape or another easily visible measuring device showing the girth (taken to the front of the dorsal fin but not including the dorsal fin) measurement.
- (c) 28 metres of line and 1 metre of trace and the hook used in the catch. Where double line is used, 5 metres from the double line must be included. If less than 5 meters was doubled, the entire double line

must be included for catches in classes of less than 24kg (50lb test). Double this amount for catches in line classes 24kg (50lb) test or more. The sample must be in one piece.

(d) Particulars of gear, including make and size of rod and reel and quoted breaking strain of line used.

Without doubt, the best way to record the measurement process is to video it.

Claim forms are available on the website and those skippers with SACGB information packs aboard have them in their packs

With 7 All Tackle Records vacant and 64 Line Class Records available there is a lot to go at so let's make 2019 the year of the British Measured & Released Record

2018 Annual Dinner & Trophy Evening

This was the 65th Trophy Presentation for the club and with 70 members and guests in attendance the popularity of the event is continuing to grow.

For many years due to illness we have not had a President join us, but this year, Ian King, the current President of the SACGB joined us. In his opening remarks Ian noted that we were awarding more trophies this year than last. He went on to welcome our principal guest, Tina Hicks, who is the Looe Harbour Master. Tina gives the club tremendous support and keeps us all up to date with the sharking news during her weekly spot on Radio Cornwall.



During the evening we announced the winners of 37 angler trophies, 8 skipper trophies, a British Measured & Released Line Class Record and a Special Award.

The club also presented for the first time in its history, three trophies for **visually measured** fish. More on this in the new trophies article later in the newsletter.



The Mitchell Hedges Trophy for the best shark of the season went to Kevin Tapper for a Blue from Robin Chapmans Bite Adventures



The Mickey Wonnall for the runner up to the Mitchell Hedges went to Danny O'Malley for a Blue from Dan Gummows Borlewen II



The Norman Lorraine for the best Blue of the season went to Kevin Tapper for a Blue from Robin Chapmans Bite Adventures.



The Sammy Porbeagle had joint winners with sharks of equal points. Billy Evans with his Porbeagle from Robin Chapmans Bite Adventures and Pete Overton with his Porbeagle from Rob Rennies Lady Jue 5



For the second year running the Alan Caunter Trophy for the best shark of the season by a lady member went to Angela Spearing for a Blue from Pete Davis Force Ten



A trophy we don't see won often, the Marsden Sutcliffe Trophy for the best shark of the season by a junior member went to Harvey O'Malley, along with the biggest round of applause of the evening, for a Blue from Andre Theorets Top Cat.

In 2018 the committee set The Leaping Mako Tapestry Challenge, which was to be awarded to the first member to catch a Blue, Porbeagle, Mako and a Thresher.

The Leaping Mako Tapestries are also known as Dutfield Axminster Tapestries, named after Harry Dutfield who purchased and recovered the Axminster carpet brand. He was a member of the SACGB and was one of the four-man SACGB team who fished the New Zealand International Big Game contest in 1968.

He was a keen angler and had a sign on his desk which said, ***"work is for people who don't know how to fish"*** certainly, someone we could all get along with.

When the challenge was set there were several SACGB members short of just one species.

One of those was Andy Griffith who needed a Thresher. You may recall Andy received IGFA and SACGB recognition for the catch and release of a Blue, a Porbeagle and a Mako in one day, aboard Andrew Alsops White Water in July 2013

Andy arranged a three-day trip to target Threshers. The rest as the saying goes, is history as during this trip he caught and released not one but five Threshers meaning he became the winner of the Leaping Mako Tapestry.



Andys IGFA Outstanding Achievement Certificate

Andy also received recognition from the IGFA, who recognised the achievement by awarding him a Certificate of Outstanding Achievement



Andy and Kyra with his SACGB trophies, the Leaping Mako Tapestry and the IGFA award

What makes Andys achievement extra special is that all four sharks were released.

Aside from the recognition from “across the pond”, the Dutch magazine, Zeehengelsport has featured an article on Andys many “firsts” which is tremendous for Andy, but it also raises the profile of the SACGB across the Channel where the club once had many members.

Once again Andy, congratulations on your Leaping Mako Tapestry Challenge achievement.

2018 Trophy Winners

Anglers Trophies

Mitchell-Hedges
Mickey Wonnall
Norman Lorraine
Sammy Porbeagle

Alan Caunter
Phil Heathman
Auger
Venning
Leslie Andrews
European Trophy
R C Roberts
Marsden Sutcliffe
Daphne Case
W K Wileman
Carl Aldridge Trophy
Ron Gibson
Derek Denne

Kevin Tapper
Danny O’Malley
Kevin Tapper
Billy Evans &
Pete Overton
Angela Spearing
Alex McKay
Billy Whistance
Andy Griffith
Dave Keen
Paul Whistance
David Young
Harvey O’Malley
Ian Beaufoy
Danny O’Malley
Martin Shipp
Rick Horsfield
Kevin Tapper

K Bones Trophy
Hampshire Trophy
Surrey Trophy
Cornish Trophy
Brooks Elliot Trophy
Gloucestershire Trophy
Pearl Trophy
Glaisbasel Trophy
R J Day Trophy
C C Bett Trophy
Iris Memorial Trophy

Nick Chapman
Mark Hillier
Angela Spearing
Ian Beaufoy
Billy Evans
Mike Wallis
Billy Whistance
Dave Keen
Richard Day
Chris Reeks
Danny O’Malley

Skippers Trophies

Cock of the Fleet
Fishermans Protection
Fred & Betty Reid
Kingerlee Trophy
T Clark
Dusty Miller
Chairmans Trophy
Mustad Trophy

Murray Collings
Murray Collings
Murray Collings
Dan Gummow
Robin Chapman
Murray Collings
Murray Collings
Dan Gummow

Fish of the Month

May
June
July
August
September
October

Alex McKay
Dave Keen
Richard Young
Kevin Tapper
Edward Dugdale
Billy Whistance

British Measured & Released Line Class

10kgs Line Class

Dave Keen

Visually Estimated Trophies

The Mustad Trophy
SACGB Mustad Trophy
K J Tapper Trophy

Steve Kingdon-Saxby
Andy Griffith
Danny Vokins

Special Award

Leaping Mako Tapestry

Andy Griffith

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.

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.



At time of going to print the festival has 56 anglers and 14 boats. It's possible that this may increase but even if not, this will be the largest festival in recent years.

Please note that final payment for the festival is due on, or before, end February 2019.

The Festival format will be the same as this last year with winners being decided on points score except for the most sharks prize.

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

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

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

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

Most cumulative points: the angler with the most cumulative points over the three days

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

Skipper of the boat with the largest shark (points score)

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



The trophy shown above is the new perpetual skippers' trophy which is awarded annually to the skipper with the most sharks cumulatively over the event. Dan Margetts of the Sowenna took the trophy in the 2018 Festival with 14 sharks over the three days.

Dedication or Obsession?

What follows is a true sequence of events

Porbeagle trip booked from Clovelly for Sunday 5th May, notified on the Thursday before that boat is out of the water with engine problems.

Frantic phone calls. Result - get booked on boat out of Padstow.

Phone call Saturday morning, trip cancelled due to gearbox oil leak.

Major Frantic phone calls now. Result, booked on boat out of Newquay, aptly named "Che Sara Sara".

Next challenge; no rubby dubby as no mackerel being caught.

Frantic phone calls to fellow anglers.

Kev brings some mackerel and oil. Ian brings some pilchards. I bring Tesco, Sainsbury, Waitrose, Morrison, and Asda local stores entire stock of mackerel, herring and pilchards.

Jim brings bran, oil and numerous packs of smoked kippers!

Ian and Jim set off from Northampton at 21.00 hours Saturday night, arrive at my place at midnight and sleep in the car. I stir around 3.15am Sunday and we leave at 4.00am.

We arrive at Exeter services looking forward to a fry up. Its been refurbished, breakfast no longer available until 6.00am .. Progress!!

Decide to head on to Cornwall services but talking so much about the sharks we are going to catch we pass the services!

Arrive at the quay in Newquay and park up at 6.30am. Phone Kev who is just leaving home. Boat doesn't leave until 9.00am so stroll through town taking care to avoid the sick, broken bottles and blood – should have come down last night!

Subway opens as Kev arrives. Ian treats us to foot long breakfast rolls and coffee. Back down the quay and pay for parking and trip before we leave - now that's a new experience.

Skipper is an ex lifeboatman, "Big Dave" who soon has us heading out to sea. Turns out Che Sara Sara used to be the Morning Glory out of Looe. Many stories exchanged with "Big Dave" of our angling exploits on board with "Small Dave".

Anyway, lots of pollack and two mackerel ... no sharks (could have been the kippers – processed food not good for anyone, but without a doubt the best smelling dubby we have ever used)

Didn't see the sun all day, plenty of sea mist. Back in the harbour at 19.15 hours and home in under two hours. Quick trip to The Millers (sharkin is thirsty work) for a drink to celebrate my birthday the following day. Swap gear over and Jim and Ian head off to Northampton.

Discouraged? Hell no, roll on the next trip.

The Blankers

The SACGB Archive

Dave Clarke, the club archivist, has now concluded his negotiations with the Angling Heritage and both parties

have begun the process of cataloguing and digitising our records to preserve them for future generations.

Since the last newsletter we have had several successes. Spurred on by Andy Griffith's Leaping Mako Tapestry Challenge achievement, Danny Vokins kindly sent us copies of his Tapestry Letters. Danny was awarded one for a 160lbs Thresher which he caught and another for skippering the boat when Mr Pakes caught his 223lbs Thresher.

Pat Smith let us have copies of the Tapestry Letter she received when she caught her 369lbs Porbeagle. She also gave us a copy of a letter she received after bringing to the attention of Harry Dutfield (the donator of all the tapestries) that Alan Dingle had not received his.

We know there were many more Leaping Mako Tapestries presented so if you were one of the winners, we would like a copy of your letter or if you know a winner please make them aware of this part of the archive work.

In response to a Facebook request for SACGB information we were contacted by Lorraine Cartwright whose dad was Eddie (Jock) Stewart, skipper of the Gay Dolphin. In the early 80's Eddie caught this magnificent Porbeagle which was sold for £1000 in London.



Eddie (Jock) Stewart (on the right) with his £1000 Porbeagle

Following another Facebook lead we managed to contact Judi Berry who is the daughter of Daphne Case. Judi very kindly agreed to meet us and as we walked into

her kitchen, we could see two scrap books in the middle of the table and four trophies at the far end.

One of these was the Pat Case Porbeagle Trophy which is the original SACGB Best Porbeagle Trophy and precedes the Sammy Porbeagle Trophy. The list of winners inscribed on it are, C Miles – 1954, Mrs H Eathorne – 1955, Mrs D Case – 1956 and Mrs H Eathorne – 1957.



The Original Best Porbeagle Trophy

Judi's father, Pat Case withdrew this trophy in 1958 which has always intrigued me, so to finally see it was very special indeed.

The minutes record the reason why Pat withdrew the trophy was that, "it had found no winner". This is strange as the trophy itself clearly shows its winners from 1954 to 1957.

Closer inspection of the trophy reveals that Mrs H Eathorne's 1955 fish is described as a Mako when in fact it was a Porbeagle. As if one mistake wasn't enough, the following year Daphne Case's winning shark is given as having a weight of 9lbs 8oz, when in fact it was 91lbs.

I am not sure we will ever know the real reason for its withdrawal but if a club incorrectly engraved my trophy twice, I wouldn't be best pleased. Especially one which is so obviously expensive.

It's been said before that the SACGB have an exceptionally rich history and a pedigree that makes it the premier shark angling club, certainly in Europe if not beyond. Finds like these confirm this and justify the archive work. If you can help Dave with any information

or objects which you have, or let him know who has them, he would very much appreciate it.

Dave can be contacted on thesaarchive@gmail.com

So who was Mrs Daphne Case?

Probably, like many of you, I believed I knew a lot about Daphne Case. We are all aware that the Daphne Case Trophy is awarded for the best shark of the season caught from Looe by a local resident and time spent studying the trophy winners on our website will quickly confirm she was a very accomplished shark angler.

All that is true of course but when I met her daughter Judi, I quickly learned there was so much more her.

We met Judi in her kitchen and next to the Pat Case Porbeagle Trophy on the kitchen table was a magnificent bowl-shaped trophy. Looking at the inscription I am very surprised that it reads, The Daphne Case Trophy? How could this be?

I had polished the Daphne Case Trophy for the last two years, I know who won it last year, yet here was another one!



The Original Daphne Case Trophy

Seeing the confusion on my face, Judi comes to the rescue and explains it was her understanding that in the early days of the club if you won a trophy on three

consecutive years you could retain it forever. (the Missing Trophies story below supports this)

Further inspection of the trophy confirmed that her mother had in fact won the trophy in 1954 with a 106lbs Blue, in 1955 with a 119lbs Blue and in 1956 with a Blue of 134lbs.

Judi begins to flick through her mother's scrap book and we find a picture of Daphne being awarded this actual trophy by Mitchell Hedges.



Daphne receiving the original Daphne Case Trophy from Mitchell-Hedges. Brig Caunter and husband Pat are in the background. Miss Le Guillon (Sammy) is on the left.

With our attention having now moved to one of the scrapbooks we quickly come across another one of Daphne's achievements. A newspaper cutting headed **Woman Catches 20 Sharks** and it reads,

"Two men thought they had smashed all records catching sharks at Looe, Cornwall, yesterday, till a woman came along. The men, Mr Pat Black of Birmingham and his son Tommy, caught 19 together. But Mrs Case of Looe, mother of three children, caught 20 single-handed."

Mrs Case is the wife of the secretary of the Shark Angling Club of Great Britain. She caught 100 sharks last year and is a pioneer in the sport for women.

The heaviest shark caught by the Blacks weighed 95lbs. The heaviest in Mrs Case's bag was 95lbs. Each catch weighed almost half a ton"

The page opposite has a handwritten note which says, **WHY STOP AT 20!** In true Daphne Case style she did exactly that and didn't stop, she went on to catch 30!



The newspaper cutting reads, *"Fishing out of Looe yesterday, Mrs Daphne Case of Hannafore, Looe caught 30 Blue Sharks. It was the biggest single-handed catch since the sport began at Looe. The heaviest shark weighed 90lbs and the total weight of the catch was 1500lbs. Mrs Case who is a former British Record Holder, was out in the Silver Spray, skippered by Edgar Williams. Owing to the rough weather it was the only shark boat out yesterday"*

What can I say other than, "fortune favours the brave"

Judi now directs my attention to the second trophy which is inscribed,

**Special Presentation by FA Mitchell-Hedges Esq to
Mrs Daphne Case
To commemorate her capture of 30 sharks in one day
October 1956**



The Special Presentation Trophy from F A Mitchell-Hedges

She continues, "This is a one-off trophy given to Mum by Mitchell Hedges". It is a magnificent piece of silverware and coming from Mitchell-Hedges, the clubs first President, makes it even more special.



Receiving the 30 sharks trophy from Mitchell-Hedges and Sammy

Slowly the scale of this achievement sinks in. Anyone who has caught and released a double figure number of sharks in one day will testify that it takes a good deal of stamina. It also occurs to me that with the boats being slower in 1956 the length of the fishing day may very well have been less than today.

Seeing my attention switching to the last trophy Judi says, *"this is Mums World Record Trophy"*.

In 1956 Daphne's caught a 134lb Blue which gave her a world record. She was also awarded the Ladies British 60kgs Line Class Record which she still holds to this day.



Daphnes World Record Trophy

Like a child in a sweetshop I eagerly return to the scrapbook and find a picture of Daphne, with the 134lbs shark and skipper Edgar Williams.

A Sunday Express newspaper cutting is pasted alongside the picture which says, *"A 33 year old mother of three children, Mrs Daphne Case, of Looe Cornwall, was the*

most successful shark angler in Britain last year. She received from the Shark Angling Club of Great Britain yesterday, five silver cups, six tankards and three plaques. On one expedition Mrs Case caught 30 Blue Sharks weighing 1500lbs. She also landed a single Blue Shark of 134lbs, for which the club is claiming a World Record for women".



Daphne with Edgar Williams and her World Record Shark

I forget what I said at that point, but it must have been something like "wow" as it prompted Judi to say, *"sharking was Mums one and only hobby, she loved it and went out as often as she was able, it was her passion"*.



Daphne playing a shark

We return to the scrapbook and I come across a receipt from the BBC confirming mileage and overnight allowance. The activity on the document is given as, "to be interviewed on shark fishing".

I look at Judi who says, "yes, as well as being quite a regular in the local and national newspapers she also did an interview with the BBC". The scrap book confirms the interview was with Tom Salmon in the Bristol BBC studios. The interview also had the benefit of a film of Daphne catching a shark out of Looe

The scrap book delivers again as we find a picture of Daphne with the News Chronicle Team on their way out to report on Shark Fishing. That day eight sharks were caught.



Daphne with Arthur Brittenden – Reporter, John Silverside – Photographer and Ron Roberts

Amongst the numerous newspaper cuttings we come across a letter from Mitchell Hedges and Sammy congratulating Daphne on her imminent appearance on TV.

He also refers to Paramount Film Corporation wanting to make a film of her sharking the following season.

The last paragraph of his letter is as true today as it was then, "Next season we expect great deeds from you. As I said in my speech the men will certainly have to pull their trousers up for both you and Mrs Hetty Eathorne have shown them what women can do."

We continue to flick through the scrap books which have page after page of Daphne receiving trophies.

She truly was an exceptional shark angler and one of the notes she made underneath a picture of her with a 113 ½ lbs Blue makes me smile,

"STRATEGY"

Send Husband to the Test Match and the Fish is yours

Daphne was without question one of the champions of the sport. I believe she would be very proud if she were to know she has been followed by many women who have also had exceptional success in the sport which, I am pleased to say continues to this day.



Daphne in reflective mood with a cup of tea before heading back in

We are very grateful to Judi for allowing us access to her mother's scrapbooks which have been constructed with great care and are testament to the passion she had for the sport so, thanks very much Judi.

Members Past & Present

This section has now been created within the members area. As always when entering this amount of data, in addition to trying to decipher some of the scribbles on the application forms, there will be errors. If you spot any, please make the secretary aware.

NOTABLE SHARKS

Unlike the 2017/2018 season, last year we started to record notable sharks from the start of the season. As you can see from the list below, the year did not disappoint.

However, once again we were unable to award the S.A.C.G.B Trophy to the angler for the most sharks over 100lbs as nobody reported more than one. Kevin Tapper came close but his 100lbs Blue was visually estimated so can't be counted.

During the season we get a feel for the numbers of large sharks and we believe that if all had been reported there would have been a winner so let's hope the 2018/2019 season provides us with an opportunity to present this magnificent trophy. Congratulations to all who made it on the list.



Notable Sharks 2018

Blue Shark

Gurnam Roath	185lbs est
John McMaster	131 lbs est
Richard Young	130lbs est
Martin Shipp	112lbs est
James Donovan	108lbs est
Danny O'Malley	132lbs est
Rick Horsfield	113lbs est
Mark Jeffries	107lbs est
Mark Hillier	113lbs est
Paul Stokes	225lbs est
Kevin Tapper	138lbs est
Kevin Tapper	100lbs Visual est

Porbeagle Shark

Steve Kingdon Saxby	376 lbs visual est
John Kruppa	300lbs visual est
Billy Evans	140lbs est

Thresher Shark

Jo Filipe	180lbs visual est
Danny Vokins	105lbs visual est
Darren Vokins	115lbs visual est
Andy Griffith	200lbs visual est
Andy Griffith	160lbs visual est
Andy Griffith	150lbs visual est

White Shark

Danny Vokins

1600 lbs visual est

Rule Book

At 2018 AGM the latest rule book was approved by the members, however just over 5 months later it is having its first revision.

Did we get it wrong at the AGM then? I don't think so.

One of the measures of a committed and active club is that rules, processes and all other documentation are continuously reviewed to ensure they are fit for purpose.

These changes should be taken as confirmation that the committee and members are active and constantly reviewing the rules and how they meet the needs of the club, the sport and our members and not that we got it wrong.

The driver for the changes is the committee decision to cease to use estimated weight as a qualification or winner criteria. The reasons for this are explained in the Formula article in this newsletter

The "Missing" Trophies

Anyone who knows me will know, I am fascinated by the club's trophies. Our trophy cabinet is without equal in the sharking world and the history behind each of them has always intrigued me.

There are however several known missing trophies and possibly others which we have now forgotten about.

Two of these are the original Sercombe Oliver Thresher Trophy and the original Welsh Trophy. Until meeting Pat and Daphne Cases daughter late last year, the Pat Case Porbeagle trophy was also included in this list.

I came across another one when I read the 16th July 1959 committee meeting minutes and learned that a valuable "gold & silver centrepiece" had been offered to the club by Miss Le Guillon (F A Mitchell-Hedges adopted daughter) and then later withdrawn. As you can imagine my levels of curiosity escalated rapidly.

Thinking that perhaps we would never know much more about this trophy you can imagine my surprise and excitement when I came across two letters which explain all when sorting out some of the old documents in our store room.

The first was written by R K Browning, the clubs Honorary Solicitor, on the instruction of the committee,

and was addressed to Miss A Le Guillon who was more often referred to as Sammy and indeed signed off letters as Sammy. The story behind the name Sammy can be found on the SACGB website.

The letter begins by expressing sympathy for the recent loss of Mitchell-Hedges and goes on to list the club's concerns over the intended trophy which was being held by John Eathorne.

The first concern was relatively minor as they were seeking clarification on the intended use of the trophy and whether it was to be an absolute gift to the club.

The second concern was whether the trophy, which was acknowledged as being of "considerable value" would attract Estate Duty for which the club would be liable. It goes on to say that the club, "*may not feel that they can properly accept the gift, unless they can be assured that the amount of duty would be nominal*", which as they point out, "*would seem unlikely unless some form of indemnity against duty the can be given to them*".

Miss Le Guillon's response came within 3 weeks and it is clear that the SACGB approach had not been well received.

She referred to the SACGB Annual Dinner of the 8th May 1959 which had been held in London. This was when her father had expressed a desire to present an outstanding trophy to the club, but he wasn't sure what its purpose should be.

He had asked Sammy to take the trophy to the club but with her father being so ill at the time she took the decision to remain with him and instead passed it to John Eathorne to hold until its purpose could be decided.

The trophy was delivered to the club by John on the 10th July, but she received no acknowledgement of its receipt. On the 24th July she wrote to the club to confirm its purpose.

The club's response came on the 26th July in the letter from R K Browning, the clubs Honorary Solicitor.

She was clearly very upset and indeed felt insulted by the club's approach. She confirmed that her father's trophy donations were always absolute gifts to the recipients. When she and her father had first discussed the trophy, he had suggested a cup which she had felt was too ordinary and instead offered a trophy from her own personal collection. Being a donation from her meant there were no death duty implications and as she

says, "*had it been my father's property I think I would have had enough intelligence to have asked Mr Eathorne to hold it or return it to me until my affairs were straightened out*"

She goes on to say, "*had the Chairman or Secretary had the courtesy to write to me personally with any queries they had, this could have been explained and settled in a gentlemanly way, but having had a letter from a solicitor I have decided to withdraw this trophy completely because it made me feel I was utterly in the wrong by presenting the trophy to the club*"

She continued, "*it was suggested to me that this trophy should sit in the centre of the table during the annual dinner to remind members of my father, but he would not wish to be remembered at all if he could not be remembered other than that way.*"

She then confirms what the intended purpose of the trophy had been, "*this trophy was definitely given for the member who won the Mitchell-Hedges Trophy for three years running and to be held by that member until such time as it was won again, not to sit in the centre of a table*"

She then goes on to talk about the Mitchell-Hedges Special Prize which was for the first Blue Shark of 250lbs or more. He had already given the club £25 which was to be presented to the skipper of the boat catching the shark. He had also given the club a trophy which was to be presented to the angler who caught it. The trophy, a cup, had been acknowledged by Mr Pat Case when he was secretary but when she had called into the office during a recent visit to Looe, she had found to her dismay that, "*they knew nothing at all about it, but on checking the reports of 1955/56 it was found*"

She continued, "*this cup was in perfect condition and had been kept clean personally by Mr Case, nevertheless I feel there is a lack of organisation within the club who should have known about this cup and I have written to Mr. Browning telling him that I am holding this cup until it has been won outright*"

The committee's approach to this intended trophy donation conflicted with the glowing obituary written for Mitchell-Hedges by Brigadier Caunter, in the Club's 1959 Summer Report, which is given below.

Mr. F. A. Mitchell-Hedges, F.L.S., F.R.A.I., F.R.G.S.

Many of the members of the Club will have seen in the papers the sad announcement of the recent death of our President but this news may come as a surprise to

others. Mr Mitchell-Hedges underwent a severe operation in January but appeared to be getting over it well.

His association with our Club dates from its formation, in fact one might say slightly before that because when I took the first steps towards its launching, I asked him whether he thought it would be a success and whether he would be prepared to be the Club's President. He immediately accepted the Presidency and stated without qualification that he was certain that success would crown this venture.

His encouragement and conviction that the Club would flourish were very valuable to me, and the fact that it has gone forward from strength to strength is largely due to his support and interest.

It is not for me to write about his adventurous life, as others have already done so, but I feel I must say as a soldier, that he was one of those natural leaders who radiate confidence and who possess the personality and strength of character which are only found in men of that calibre.

The Club has lost a great and enthusiastic friend and I am sure members would wish me to express on their behalf our sincere sympathy to Miss Le Gullion in her loss.

J.A.L. Caunter

Miss Le Guillon was very clearly, and in my opinion justifiably, upset with the club. The committee approach to one of its biggest promoters was wholly insensitive and frankly they couldn't have got it more wrong.

So, we now know the fate of the Mitchell-Hedges Special Prize Trophy for the first Blue of 250lbs and above. The club never saw the cup again and Miss Le Guillon has passed on now.

If things had been different John Dines would have received that cup in 2017 as he was the first angler to catch, and release, a shark of 250lbs plus since Mitchell-Hedges issued the challenge.

We also know the story behind, what is probably always going to be the most expensive, and I dare say the most prestigious trophy, that the club will ever have the opportunity of receiving

Winning the Mitchell Hedges for three consecutive years would be an exceptional achievement and it's clear that Mitchell-Hedges recognised that.

The only member to come close to this is Danny Vokins who won it in 2006 and then again in 2007.

It is unlikely that the club could ever afford to purchase a trophy like the one offered by Miss Le Guillon but perhaps the committee will consider re-instating the challenge in the future. It would to my mind, begin to "right the wrong" which was done back then and honour the request of one of the Clubs most influential figures.

New Trophies

The Carl Aldridge Trophy – this was donated by Carl Aldridge and found its first winner at the 2018 Trophy Presentation Evening. The Trophy is awarded to the runner up to the W. K. Wileman Trophy.

The Sharky Martin Shield – this was donated by Martin Shipp. The trophy challenge is for the best Shark of the season, caught and released in British Waters by a member of age 65 or over.

Visually Estimated Trophy Category - this year is the first one where we have made a clear distinction between trophies for measured and released sharks, and for those which have been released at the side of the boat and visually estimated instead of being brought aboard and physically measured. There are two reasons for this:

The first is to recognise the increasing number of anglers and skippers who prefer to release their sharks at the side of the boat

The second is to provide a means of recognising those sharks which are too large to safely bring aboard and return.

This is a difficult category to judge and basically, it's down to the quality of evidence provided with the claim. Its encouraging to see several anglers and skipper are already working on how best to obtain and present this evidence.



These trophies were awarded for the first time at the 2018 Trophy Presentation Evening. There were no first, second or third prizes with these trophies on this occasion and indeed this format may continue going forward.

All three of these trophies were produced by Kevin Tapper. The Mustad Trophy (to the right of the picture) and the S.A.C.G.B. Mustad Trophy (at the front of the picture) both feature Mustad "Big Hooks" which were very generously donated by Mustad. The other one is the K. J. Tapper Trophy.

It will be interesting to see how the challenges associated with this new trophy category develop. There is even the possibility that some of the trophies currently dedicated to measure and release move across to this category over time.

Other Stuff

Festival 2020 - Over the past two years the popularity of the annual festival has increased. To meet this increase in demand the club have had to charter additional boats from other ports. Visiting boats incur extra fuel cost as they need to travel to Looe which naturally means the club must pay more for these boats.

Shortly after the 2018 Festival several of the Looe boats also increased their charges for the festival.

These additional costs have meant that the 2019 festival will at best breakeven but more likely it will run at a small loss.

The club can absorb any 2019 Festival losses but are unable to do so going forward. This being the case the entry fee for the 2020 Festival will increase. At this point in time the committee have not set the new entry fee, but it will be announced shortly after the 2019 event.

SACGB Lottery

The committee have been very successful in keeping costs low and the price of membership or clothing have not increased for several years now. However, costs continue to rise so the committee have decided to re-introduce the SACGB Lottery. Further details will be announced soon.

Thank you ...

In our last newsletter we suggested that you add, "***the shark was safely returned to the water and swam away strongly***" to Facebook posts or any other communications relating to the catch and release of a shark, or sharks. Many of you have now adopted this practise and accordingly the number of times we have been asked, "*was it released, or did you kill it*" have reduced.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - One of the requirements of GDPR is to ensure that all contact 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, that you make the secretary aware. We also need to know if you decide to leave the club, so we can delete your record.

Password Reminder - Besides, "are there any places in the festival?", the next most asked question is, "what is the password to the members section of the website?"

Here it is **psmith369**

It celebrates Pat Smiths British Record 369lb Porbeagle caught aboard Alan Dingles Lady Betty.

Line Recycling Scheme

Fishing line is something we all dispose of on a regular basis. Until now the only disposal option I was aware of was to put it in our black bag waste collections. That does not however guarantee that it is disposed of correctly and that it won't find its way back into the ocean.

Although nylon line can chemically breakdown in sunlight, it cannot biodegrade. Instead it becomes brittle and breaks into smaller pieces which contribute to the rising amount of micro-plastics in the environment so correct recycling is a must.

The Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme estimate that the amount of line which UK anglers send to landfill or incineration each year would reach to the moon (384,400km) so it's a considerable amount.



This scheme arranges to have line (nylon and braid) sent to an appropriate recycling processor who converts it back into useable material. Their web site gives details of collection points, or if you prefer to post it, that's possible also. To find out more and how you can recycle your line responsibly, visit their website at: www.anglers-nlrs.co.uk

Bluefin Tuna Campaign

Following a briefing by Steve Murphy, one of the founder members of the Bluefin Tuna Campaign, the committee have decided to give the campaign the backing of the SACGB.

During the last couple of seasons the sharking community have witnessed the stocks of these magnificent fish increase dramatically and indeed many of us have watched helplessly as one of them has stripped line from a reel with amazing speed.

In 1953 the founder members of the SACGB had the foresight to identify the sporting and the commercial potential of our sharks. The situation with the Bluefin Tuna is similar in many ways.

The SACGB reinvigorated many coastal communities, increasing the income of charter boats, hotels, guest houses, and tackle shops. With many

anglers arranging some, or all, of their sharking as part of the family holiday, the benefit to the community increased further as partners and children increased the general tourist revenue. With the SACGB moving to a policy of Catch & Release our coastal communities continue to benefit from the sporting and tourist revenues arising from the sport to this day.

The objective of the Bluefin Tuna Campaign is to obtain UK Government approval and support for the introduction of a **Live Release Recreational Bluefin Tuna Fishery** in our waters.

This has already been introduced very successfully in Canada where a study by the Ecology Action Centre (EAC) entitled, "Reelin in Revenue", has shown that Live Release Tuna Fisheries have the potential to generate **up to 6 times more revenue** on a per tonne basis than commercially caught Bluefin fishery.

The study estimated that charter revenues alone generated 100,000 Canadian Dollars per tonne versus a value of 17,000 Canadian Dollars per tonne for commercially landed Bluefin.

A Live Release Recreational Bluefin Tuna Fishery is a winner for anglers, tourism and many businesses and would provide a much need injection of income to our coastal communities so we are recommending that our members support the campaign.

There is much more information available in the Campaign Website which can be found by following this link. <https://bluefintuna.co.uk/>

To support the campaign, you should write/email your MP and the Fisheries Minister. Details of how to do this can be found in the news section of the SACGB website and we urge you to give the campaign your support.

<http://www.sharkanglingclubofgreatbritain.org.uk/sacgb-support-bluefin-tuna-campaign/>

Tagging – The committee have taken the decision to continue their tagging partnership with NOAA in the coming year. Last year a shark which was initially caught by Pete Rout aboard Pete Davis's Force Ten on the 9th September 2017 was captured by a Longline crew. Its fork length had increased by 3 inches and 229 days after

being tagged and released by Pete and Pete, it had travelled 1555 nautical miles west of Looe.

One of Chippy's anglers caught and released a tagged shark during the summer off Penzance and Amie Williams, from the Scottish Shark Tagging Programme was able to confirm it had originally been tagged off the Isle of Scilly in 2015/2016.

Pete Overton reported a tagged shark caught and released from Rob Rennie's Lady Jue5 out of Milford Haven in the summer. Amie was able to confirm that it was most likely tagged off the Isle of Scilly in the summer of 2015

Later in the year Blanca Garcia of the Spanish Institute of Oceanography contacted the club with several SACGB tags. Sadly, between the amount of detail on the original tags and the data provided by the Longline crew we are unable to confirm as much as we would like. What we can say is that they travelled between 475 and 2468 nautical miles from Looe before being recaptured.

Apologies - In the last newsletter we reported that the Smith family qualified in 1970 this was an error. Pat, her husband Don and sons David and Mike all qualified during the same week in 1967 aboard Lady Betty, skippered by Alan Dingle. Please accept our apologies for this error.

Scottish Porbeagles – I caught up with Chris Bennett in mid-December 2018, skipper of the Hebridean Warrior which charts out of Scrabster. At that point he was four weeks into his sharking season and he told me it was the best start he has had for many years. In the first four weeks they caught and released 23 Porbeagles with an average weight of 225lbs. Chris, who is the All Tackle British Record holder with a 507lbs Porbeagle which was caught off the Pentland Firth in 1993, says they also connected with what he describes as, **"a very big fish"**, which effortlessly spooled them several times. As one of a small number of active anglers who have caught 400lbs+ Porbeagles he is well qualified to make that statement. However with sea conditions worsening the gear parted so they never saw this fish.

What a little star

In late December Sarah Hardingham contacted the SACGB. Her late father, David John Evans, was a keen shark angler and during a trip out of Looe he caught a very nice Blue. Catches during that particular month had been slow and his shark easily put him in the running for that month's Bacardi prize. Sadly for David this was not to be, as it was beaten by a better fish the following day. However, his daughter Sarah, pictured below, being very proud of her father, had her photograph taken with it.



Being so cute, the assembled crowd immediately took her into their hearts. Just as they were saying, *"aaw isn't she lovely"*, Sarah spotted the blood trickling down its body and wondered what it would taste like. Being unable to control her curiosity, she moved closer to the shark and licked it. The *"aaw's"* immediately changed to gasps with hands rushing to cover mouths and mothers issuing instructions to their offspring like, *"I don't ever want to see you doing that"*. Sarah can't recall much about the event, but she says, *"my father dined out on it for many years, never letting me forget it"*.

Sarah proudly wore her late father's SACGB badge on her coat, but it fell off and she lost it so she

contacted us to see if we could help. We were pleased to be able to, so she can proudly wear the badge once again.

Thanks very much for sharing your story with us Sarah, we think you are awesome.

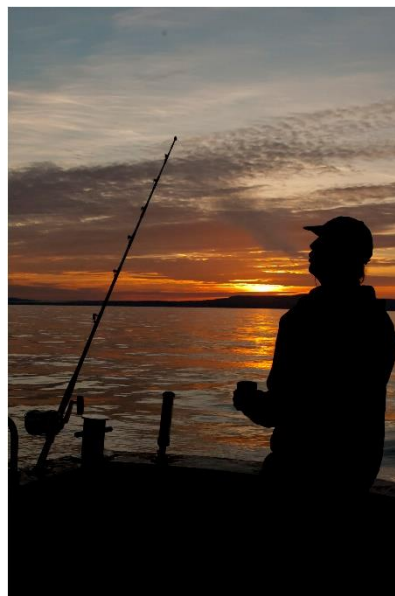
Obituary

Sadly, on the 24th September last year we learned that Dave Turner had lost his battle with cancer and passed away. Dave was often referred to as the “Mako Man” due to his passion for that species. Before his death he had been working closely with the secretary who was assisting him to complete his list of Mako caught in UK waters. Anyone who has read his book will have felt his passion and commitment as an angler and skipper and he is a great loss to the sharking community.

And Finally,

A big thank you, to the Members and the Committee of the SACGB for giving me the opportunity to be secretary to the one of the oldest angling clubs in Great Britain. Being allowed access to the records of a club with such an exceptionally rich history and an unquestionable pedigree has been both an honour and a privilege. I am grateful to everyone, from inside and outside the club, for their kind words and support during my 18 months in the role and I wish all, every success for the future.

Tight Lines, Johnmac (Scottish John)



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