**SHARK ANGLING CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN**

**COMMITTEE MEETING**

**HELD ON 29th April 2019 AT 7pm**

**AT THE LOOE SOCIAL CLUB**

Present**:** B Woodman - Chairman, C Kelly - Secretary, K Tapper, S Ward, P Davis, M Casson, M Collings, A Mckay and S Thomas

Apologies: P Curtis

Minutes of last meeting: Approval proposed by S Ward and seconded by P Davis

**Matters Arising**

1. Accounts – The secretary summarised an update from Mr S Reed (Accountant). Mr Reed had quoted £300 for completion of the Annual Accounts and £100 for completion of the Corporation Tax Return. He has also suggested that the club register as a Community Amateur Sports Club to gain tax relief on Corporation Tax and be able to claim Gift Aid on donations. The quotes were accepted by the Committee and information on becoming a CASC to be gained by the secretary.
2. Festival – 55 anglers and 14 boats currently booked. All balances paid. A discussion took place regarding the remaining space available.

The Chairman, Mr B Woodman, declared an interest. It was agreed by the Committee that one boat (Mr P Woodman’s boat, as it was smaller) would have only three anglers for the festival.

1. Festival Sponsorship
   1. The secretary provided the Committee with updated membership forms and rules regarding the ‘Lucky Run Club’, which were approved. It was agreed that the first draw would take place at the Monthly meeting on August 26th, 2019 and that the December draw (as there was no meeting that month) would be held by at least three of the Committee members at a prearranged date, time and place.
   2. Mr A McKay stated that he would approach all the businesses in Looe regarding sponsorship in the Programme and would meet with the secretary in the next couple of weeks to do this. A couple of suggestions were also passed on to Mr McKay to follow up for sponsorship. It was agreed that the Best Practise document would be included in the programme and photographs would only be of boats, not of sharks being caught. It was agreed that it would be stated that every shark caught (over 60lbs) was being tagged for scientific data purposes.
2. Heritage Centre Display Boards – The Boards were due to be displayed at the Shark Legends Event being held in the Heritage Centre on 18th June 2019 and during the Shark Festival Week.
3. Bluefin Tuna Roadshow – An email had been received from Mr S Murphy detailed the planned talks to be given during the Festival. These consist of three 15-30-minute talks, with Q&A’s, on the following subjects:
   * 1. Looe Blue Shark Fishing – Then and now, a short history.
     2. Lifestyle and Biology of Blue Sharks – including their demise and recovery, tagging etc
     3. Bluefin Tuna – by Steve Murphy. Biology, lifestyle and management.

The Secretary suggested that the Heritage Centre would be a good venue as they had the technology required available. It was agreed that the Centre should be booked for Wednesday 3rd July 2019 @ 7pm.

**Correspondence**

There was none.

**Any Other Business**

* M Collings stated that Mr R Bushrod had returned a tag, but that it had been in Mr Bushrod’s possession since last summer. It was from a 70-80lb Blue Shark, which swam away after the tag had been pulled out. Mr S Thomas offered to take the tag to check the details.
* K Tapper suggested that SACGB join the Angling Trust and use their Fish Legal System, as he felt that S.A.C.G.B needed allies with the current situation with the Shark Trust. Mr Tapper being the Devon representative. The Committee agreed that this should be done. The secretary to action.
* Mr S Murphy (via telephone) stated that the Shark Trust were looking to toughen their position on a number of issues around recreational Shark angling. The targeting of Porbeagles being a major part of that. The Shark Trust having issued an advisory recommendation a few years ago, to not target Porbeagles between April and August because of the risk to pregnant females. After a recent story in the National press regarding a heavily pregnant Porbeagle, the Shark Trust stated that the voluntary agreement hadn’t worked and they were moving to demand full protection for Porbeagles, from the Government, within UK waters.

Mr Murphy went on to say that he had been at a DEFRA meeting recently where the CE from the Shark Trust had also been attending, he had spoken to her to ascertain what she was looking for and she had lead Mr Murphy to believe that they wanted a ban on targeting Porbeagles in and around UK waters.

Mr Murphy stated that if the Government decided to do this it could go ahead very quickly as it doesn’t require primary legislation.

The second issue was that there was an agenda for a meeting in Plymouth, which included a study into the survivorship of recreational Shark fishing. Exeter University along with Shark Trust want to run a satellite tagging programme on Blue Sharks later this summer, with a view to gaining mortality rates.

That study could end up with some nice results for anglers. But if the sharks are not handled well it could show some high mortality rates.

The Committee agreed that they all felt that they couldn’t sit back and do nothing, they had to be pro-active and find common ground to move forward.

It was also felt that ‘Trophy pictures’ should be discouraged.

Mr Murphy stated that he would keep the club informed of the outcome of the upcoming meeting with DEFRA.

A discussion took place during which Mr S Thomas explained that the SACGB were in a strong position with the data that they were in possession of due to the tagging system.

Mr P Davis offered the ‘Catch Book’ to Mr Thomas for information, which shows that catch rates have gone up.

Mr Thomas stated that if SACGB could show that they were working with conservation methods it could only help with research into Sharks.

He went on to say that the current Best Practise document could be adapted to move forward with the times.

Mr McKay suggested a small talk from Mr Thomas could be given at the AGM regarding best handling practise.

Mr Thomas also suggested joining the Sports Fishing Club of the British Isles would be a good move as they have a lot of members in powerful positions.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

**Date of Next Meeting –** 27thMay 2019 at 7pm, at Looe Social Club.