



**SHARK ANGLING CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN
MINUTES OF AGM
HELD ON 24th August 2020 at 7pm
AT LOOE SOCIAL CLUB**

Present - Committee

B Woodman - Chairman, C Kelly - Secretary, P Davis, M Collings, K Tapper, D Stone, S Ward, S Thomas (via Skype)

Present – Members

J Crotty, C Aldridge (via Skype)

Apologies

A McKay, P Martin

Meeting

1. 2019 AGM Minutes

Proposed as a true and accurate record by P Davis and seconded by D Stone.

2. Matters Arising

D Stone offered his apologies to P Davis as Pete (Davis) had stated that ‘The Committee could change the rules’ and Dave (Stone) had stated that they couldn’t, but upon checking the rule book he had seen that they could.

No Further matters arising.

3. Chairmans Report –

The Chairman read the following report;

‘Good Evening and welcome to the AGM 2020. Before we begin this evenings proceedings I would like to request a minutes silence for Tom McHale, a long time member of the club and Alan Dingle, a skipper who began sharking when it started back in the 1950’s. Over the years his clients caught many notable fish, the most famous being the British Record Mako and the Record Porbeagle by a lady.’

The Chairman then led a minute of silence.

‘2020 has been a difficult year for everyone, early in the year it was looking like the season was going to be a non-starter. I am pleased to report that more sharks have been caught this year than in the same period last year. 899 sharks have been caught with 40 qualifiers and 5 Porbeagles this year, compared with 735 of which 50 were qualifiers and 5 Porbeagles last year. We now have 346 members, including 20 life members and the level of activity on Facebook and our website has increased.

Our Lucky Run Club has 16 members, the winner of each month receiving £75.

Our Club, in conjunction with other organisations are actively lobbying for a fishery to enable anglers to be able to catch, tag and release Blue Fin Tuna, this is ongoing.



The Committee is constantly seeking ways to take the Club forward with regard to the welfare of the fish we catch and the safety of skippers and crews. It has proved to be a difficult task with regard to Trophy Claims.

One way is to release fish at the side of the boat. Fish can be boarded, at the skippers discretion. If a fish is boarded, the Clubs Best Practise should be adopted, the fish should also be tagged before it is released.

Our Annual Presentation Evening will be held on 24th October at the Portbyhan Hotel.

Good News for next year, the Festival dates have been finalised. They are the 7th, 8th & 9th July 2021. I know it is a long way away, but many members have carried forward their booking for this year, so I advise you to get in quick, as places will be limited.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee and particularly Claire for all the work they have put in during the last year'.

4. **Accounts** – the secretary had, earlier that day, distributed the Accounts for y/e 2019. Which were approved by S Ward and J Crotty.

5. **Propositions** –

- a. Proposition 1 – Committee - *'It is proposed by the Committee, as pro-active, conservation minded skippers and anglers, that the final decision regarding the awarding of all trophies rests with the Committee. With the aim of negating the need for the landing and boarding of all fish (but with enough clear and accurate evidence of the catch to make sound judgement) the Committee will have full powers to consider trophy awards for caught and released or visually estimated sharks'.*

Postal/E Vote was 22 For and 1 Against. Proposition was carried.

- b. Proposition 2 – Dave Stone - *I should like to propose that the rules stay as they are with the addition of a 2 year temporary amendment that if a shark is not brought aboard and an acceptable form of measurement is used which would have to be approved by the committee, then that shark would enable the angler to contest for a trophy. In the event of a close run between visually estimated and boated and measured a decision would be made by the committee.*

The reason for this trial period is to encourage club members and skippers to experiment with various alternative methods of sizing a shark without the need to bring it on board. The committee to make appropriate awards for the best workable ideas.

Any trophy donator who is still alive reserves the right to retain the current awarding criteria during the trial period. They also reserve the right to remove the trophy if they disagree with the decision taken regarding trophy criteria at the end of the trial period. The purpose of this trial period is to create an opportunity for debate and experimentation regarding trophy and record award criteria. We would urge all to devote time to this as in the event you are lucky enough to bring a very large fish to the boat, where in the best interest of the shark it can't be brought aboard, you will want to be prepared to obtain suitable visually estimated data to support any claims you make.



Any shark boarded should be tagged, measured and released in accordance with the best practice, thus providing valuable information on sharks for future conservation programmes and decision making. This would show a positive approach by the members towards the wellbeing of all sharks we encounter and show that our thoughts as an angling club have conservation foremost in our minds.

Criteria for membership of the Club to remain as it is.

The Festival awards to remain for measured sharks but more communication between skippers and anglers on each day to prevent unnecessary boarding of sharks. e.g. 80 inch long Blue Shark already caught it would be pointless boarding any other Blue Sharks that are obviously smaller that day.

Sponsor for tags to be found ASAP or provide our own.

Postal/E Vote was 7 For and 2 Against. Proposition was not carried

- c. Proposition 3 – P Martin - *Currently, if anyone wishes to claim a British record, they have 2 weeks with which to put a claim forward whereas anyone can put a claim in for a club trophy right up until the 30th of September for that season.*

I propose that if we give people a 4-week period from catching the fish to put a claim in, we could discuss any trophy claims at each monthly meeting. A 4-week period would still allow people to get any video or photographic evidence from other anglers/skippers (instantly now via email/Bluetooth/ social media) or still allow the option of snail mail.

This information for best fish could be uploaded to the league table and then would reduce the need to boat a fish which was a qualifier but fell short of the current leader. There would be no need to name the person or port, just the weight or estimated weight of the fish. It would also mean less hassle at the end of the season for the committee when sorting out the winners for the season.

Most club members I know are well aware of which trophies they are able to claim for, so they hopefully should be on board with this. Even if the option of visually estimated claims doesn't go through at the AGM, this could still be a step towards better shark welfare.

Postal/E Vote was 8 For and 1 Against. Proposition was carried.

A discussion took place regarding the allocation of trophies in the future and the implementation of Proposition 1. P Davis stating that the Rule book did not need changing, the proposition just gave the Committee the final say in Trophy allocation.

6. AOB

- a. P Martin had expressed concerns regarding the number of people requesting to join the SACGB Facebook group. It had been uncommonly busy with requests from a huge variety of people. The situation to be monitored.
- b. S Thomas' work – the Committee had received an email from K Tapper regarding S Thomas' work as follows:

As you are all aware Simon Thomas has over the last year or so collected all of our shark data and written a paper and presented to ICCAT for their blue shark stock assessment.

The big step now is to get his work published in a recognised science journal.

This would give him great credibility and also the SACGB.

The cost of this is in the region of £1000.

Would you be prepared to fund half of the amount with the other half being found by the SCBI who also gave him data. Also I have been told his IT equipment is getting old and could do with updating.



I believe Simon is taking the club to a whole new level where his work is something we could have never thought of, and in doing so is putting the club towards being recognised as a formidable force in the shark angling world'.

M Collings proposed and P Davis seconded that the club fund half of the amount required. S Thomas to advise the amount.

S Thomas commented that the SACGB had data going back to the 50's and were probably sitting on the best Shark Data Base in the world (apart from NOAA). He offered his thanks to the club for the use of the data.

- c. The secretary stated that Keith Armishaw from Angling Heritage wanted to make a date to meet the Committee the next time he was in Looe, which was 21st September. The Committee agreed that if a venue could be secured they would meet with Mr Armishaw.
- d. Line Checks – the Secretary stated that the club had now received two claims which needed line checks. K Tapper stated that he had had an offer from Chris Flower, who could use the equipment being donated by Jeff Trump (grandson of Mr G Flores), offering to use it for the club and show one of the Committee members how to use it. K Tapper to obtain C Flowers address for the Secretary to make contact via Mr Trump.
- e. P Davis stated that he did have a video of the 'Line Test Claim catch' which he could use to verify the catch at the Trophy award meeting.
- f. M Collings stated that Ladies Day arranged by the Jolly Sailor pub on 18/08/20 had been good with 33 sharks caught. Each lady had catching at least one shark.
- g. S Ward asked how a Skipper could be registered as a member. P Davis stated that he must make a qualifying catch, but that he would be more than welcome as a Skipper Member when he did.
- h. C Aldridge stated that any encouragement that could be given to Skippers to join the club would obviously 'knock on' to their customers and should be encouraged.
- i. M Collings stated that he had had an interesting chat with D Vokins, who was willing to help with estimation of fish sizes if the Committee don't feel that they are able to estimate or needed any help, along with Jo Fillipe he would be very happy to help out.
- j. S Thomas stated that he had a widget that could be used on the club's website for Shark Length, Girth, Weight. The Committee agreed that this would be good.

7. Lucky Run Club – the winner was K Horsfield, winning £75. The secretary stated that there were now 16 members of the LRC.

8. Elections –

President

The President of the SACGB, Ian King, was happy to continue to serve as President. Ian was elected President of the SACGB

Vice President

The Vice President of the SACGB, Ian Harbage, was happy to continue to serve as Vice President. Ian was elected Vice President of the SACGB



Committee Members

- a. B Woodman – Postal/E Vote 12 For – B Woodman was elected
- b. A McKay – Postal/E Vote 11 For. A McKay was elected
- c. D Stone – Postal/E Vote 11 For. D Stone was elected
- d. K Tapper – Postal/E Vote 12 For. K Tapper was elected
- e. P Martin – Postal/E Vote 11 For. P Martin was elected
- f. C Aldridge – Postal/E Vote 9 For. C Aldridge was elected

The result, when combined with committee members starting their second term, means the number of committee members is now 9.

S Thomas who was coopted on to the Committee last year to continue to attend meetings as the SACGB Honorary Biologist.

C Aldridge stated that he was very happy to be able to support the club and join the Committee in moving the club forward.

Chairman

B Woodman stepped down as Chairman.

P Davis proposed and K Tapper seconded B Woodman for Chairman. The Committee were in agreement.

B Woodman stated that he was happy to continue as Chairman and thanked the Committee for their confidence.

Vice Chairman

M Collings was proposed by S Ward and seconded by P Davis as Vice Chairman. M Collings stated that he was happy to continue as Vice Chairman.

The secretary stated that numbers at the Presentation Evening would be limited to 60 and that everyone would be seated straight away. She was awaiting a price from the hotel. The Chairman stated that he would contact Mr J Kitto to make the presentations on the night.

The Chairman closed the meeting, thanking the Committee and the Secretary for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm