



# January 2020 NEWSLETTER

## The Shark Angling Club of Great Britain

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

#### **2020 Shark Festival**

8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – draw takes place on the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup> July – Looe Social Club, Top Bar

#### **2020 AGM**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – Looe Social Club, Bottom Bar

#### **2020 Annual Dinner and Trophy Presentation**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – Portbyhan Hotel

### **CHAIRPERSONS WELCOME**

2020 was not as good for the Sharking Community as 2019. The level of interest, however, continues to grow.

Shark numbers for the previous season were considerably less than the previous year with 1096 Blue Sharks, of which 75 were qualifiers, 25 Porbeagles and 1 Thresher.

Many days were lost due to bad weather so this would partly account for a decrease in the number of sharks caught this year.

The by-catch of Blue Fin Tuna has increased and we hope to have a 'Catch, Tag and Release' policy for them in the future.

Ian King, Ian Harbage and Chris Bett had great success with sharks from around the world, with Ian Harbage catching a Sandbar Shark in USA and Chris Bett catching a Ragged Tooth Shark in South Africa. All of the notable sharks are listed further on in the newsletter, as well as on the website.

The highlights of the season were Alex McKay's Thresher shark of 520lbs estimated weight and Harvey O'Malley's fantastic Blue shark of 173lbs.

The Festival was a great success with 56 anglers taking part. 81 sharks were caught, and a good time was had by all.

So far, we have 49 anglers booked for the 2020 Festival with 3 spaces remaining.

In addition to our 50+ club, we have introduced 10, 25 and 50 year membership badges and pins for purchase via the website.

The Lucky Run Club has 12 members with one lucky member winning £60 each month. The form to join is available on the website, for your chance to win!

From a club point of view, we have continued to make progress with our active membership, now at 320 members.

Dave Clarke, our club archivist is continuing to work with Angling Heritage and Looe Harbour Commissioners. SACGB material can be viewed in the Heritage Centre, which is in the Old Sardine Factory, West Looe.

So, it has been another busy year for the club with increased membership, the introduction of the Best Practise document, Lucky Run Club and rewriting the Club Rules.

I would like to thank the Committee and, in particular, Claire Kelly for all the work and effort she puts in, and Pete Davis for his effort in calculating all the shark catches.

Hopefully the weather will be better this year and more trips can be completed.

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 2020.

As previously, 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 1<sup>st</sup> January, so they are now overdue.

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

### **Lloyds Bank**

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

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

**Account Number: 00692083**

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

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

SACGB,  
c/o Looe Social Club,  
Mayoralty House,  
Quay Road,  
West Looe  
PL13 2BU

Thank you.

## CLOTHING & MERCHANDISE

Catch and Release Hoodies are probably our best seller. We keep stock of as many items as possible, but if we don't have it in stock we will do our best to get it to you as soon as possible.

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.



### Prices:

Hoodies	£25
Sweatshirts	£20
Polo Shirts	£15
Catch & Release T Shirts	£15
standard T Shirts	£10
Baseball caps	£1
Embroidered year patches	£5
Metal Pin badges	£3
(set of badges – one cloth/one metal)	£7
Red Burgees	£25
Blue Pennants	£17.50
120" Measuring Tape	£21

All these items are plus postage.

These and other goods can be ordered online at; [www.sharkanglingclubofgreatbritain.org.uk](http://www.sharkanglingclubofgreatbritain.org.uk).

Alternatively, you can place your order by email to [sacgb1953@gmail.com](mailto:sacgb1953@gmail.com), and transfer the money by BACS, or you can write to us and include cash or a cheque to SACGB, c/o Looe Social Club, Mayoralty House, Quay Road, West Looe PL13 2BU

## 10/25/50 badges

In 2019 we introduced 'Badge of Honour' patches and pin badges to commemorate 10, 25 and 50 years of membership with the club.



Members must meet the membership year criteria to place orders for these.



These are thanks to an idea from Martin Shipp and are proving very popular.

### 2019 Annual Dinner & Trophy Evening

This was the 66th Trophy Presentation for the club and with 58 members and guests in attendance.

Ian King, the President of the SACGB joined us and gave an address to the room before everyone enjoyed a fabulous meal provided by the Portbyhan Hotel.

Ian Harbage, Vice President addressed the room and then the Chairman, Mr Bob Woodman, then gave his speech and welcomed our principal guests, Pat Smith and Alan Dingle.

During the evening we announced the winners of 39 angler trophies (this included three trophies for **visually measured** fish) 8 skipper trophies and a British Measured & Released Line Class Record.

The Mitchell Hedges Trophy for the best shark of the season went to Alex McKay for a Thresher from Murray Colling's Swallow II out of Looe.



The Mickey Wonnall for the runner up to the Mitchell Hedges went to Harvey O'Malley for a Blue from Dan Gummows Borlewen II out of Looe.



The Norman Lorraine for the best Blue of the season went to Harvey O'Malley for his 173lb Blue from Dan Gummows Borlewen II out of Looe.



The Alan Caunter Trophy for the best shark of the season by a lady member went to Stephanie Jones for a Blue from Chris Avery's Excalibur out of Plymouth.





The Marsden Sutcliffe Trophy for the best shark of the season by a junior member went to Harvey O'Malley again this year for his Blue from Dan Gummows Borlewen II out of Looe.



### 2019 Trophy Winners

#### **Anglers Trophies**

Mitchell-Hedges  
Mickey Wonnall  
Norman Lorraine  
Sercombe Oliver Thresher  
Alan Caunter  
Auger  
Venning  
Leslie Andrews  
SACGB Trophy  
T N Foster  
R C Roberts  
Marsden Sutcliffe  
W K Wileman  
Carl Aldridge Trophy  
Ron Gibson  
Derek Denne  
Hampshire Trophy  
Cornish Trophy  
Gloucestershire Trophy  
Pearl Trophy  
Glaisbasel Trophy  
R J Day Trophy  
C C Bett Trophy  
Iris Memorial Trophy  
Sharky Martin shield

#### **Visually Estimated Trophies**

The Mustad Trophy  
SACGB Mustad Trophy  
K J Tapper Trophy

#### **Skippers Trophies**

Cock of the Fleet  
Fisherman's Protection

Alex McKay  
Harvey O'Malley  
Harvey O'Malley  
Alex McKay  
Stephanie Jones  
Richard Day  
Alex McKay  
Steve Chivers  
Dan Vokins  
Chris Bett  
Dan Margetts  
Harvey O'Malley  
Harvey O'Malley  
Harvey O'Malley  
Brian Copeland  
Lewis Hodder  
Mark Hillier  
Alex McKay  
Mike Wallis  
Billy Whistance  
Steve Chivers  
Richard Day  
Kevin Green  
Alex McKay  
Danny Vokins

Dan Margetts  
Alex McKay  
Simon Ward

Murray Collings  
Dan Margetts

Fred & Betty Reid  
Kingerlee Trophy  
T Clark  
Dusty Miller  
Chairman's Trophy  
Mustad Trophy

Pete Davis  
Dan Gummow  
Murray Collings  
Murray Collings  
Dave Bond  
Murray Collings

#### **Fish of the Month**

July	Harvey O'Malley
August	Richard Day
September	Alex McKay

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

6kgs Line Class	Steve Chivers
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**\*Please Note:** Since the Trophy Presentation it has been noted that the Committee wrongly awarded some of this year's Trophies.

The Committee accept full responsibility for this and are working towards reallocating these trophies.

**A full disclosure will be given as soon as possible.**

#### **Festival 2019 Trophy**

The engraved Festival trophy was also presented to Richard Day who won 2019's Festival with a Blue of 108 points from Dan Margett's Sowenna.



NB: If your picture is not in the newsletter, it will be on the website. Alternatively, if you would like a copy please contact the secretary who can forward this to you.

A special presentation was made to John McMaster at the end of the evening of a Leaping Mako Tapestry which had been donated by a Committee member, refurbished and framed for the occasion.

This was to thank John for his time as secretary of the club.

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"***.

***For the current season don't forget - you have to submit a Claim form to be considered for a Trophy. The forms can be downloaded from our website.***

## **2020 SHARK FESTIVAL**

The dates have been set for the 2020 Shark Festival. They are the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of July with the draw evening taking place on the 7<sup>th</sup> July.



At time of going to print the festival has 48 anglers and 13 boats booked. There are three remaining spaces available and these have now been opened to Associate members. If you are interested, please contact the secretary as soon as possible.

Please note that final payment for the festival is due on, or before, end February 2020.

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

As predicted in last January's Newsletter the 2019 Festival did run at a loss, this was only countered by the raffle which was held on the final night.

This meant that, upon consideration by the Committee, the entry fee for the 2020 Festival has had to increase to £450 per person. We hope that you all understand the position of the club in this matter.

## **Angling Trust Newsletter**

Follow the link (ctrl & click to follow link) to the Angling Trust Newsletter and an article on the SACGB by our own Committee member Kevin Tapper:

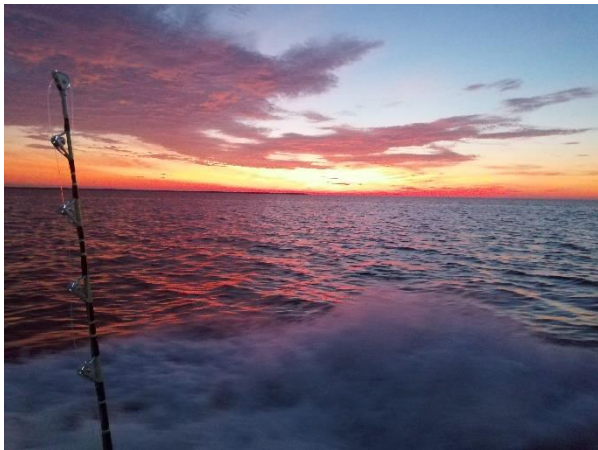
<https://anglingtrust-news.net/3XSU-12VWV-33A1E9-NRLUX-1/c.aspx>

## **Massachusetts Mako's** **By Ian Harbage**

On my 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday I stood staring at the impressive jaws of a Mako shark in the photo in the window of the Shark Club Headquarters on the quay at Looe. It was 1975 and the summer of Jaws. I was obsessed with the film and Mum and Dad had brought me to Looe as a treat to satisfy my obsession with sharks. Hollywood had used the teeth of a Mako on the poster for Jaws because they are so impressive looking so to my young eyes here was Jaws and he was living off the coast of Cornwall! From that

day forward I decided to learn as much as I possibly could about sharks and in particular the Mako. I set myself the target of one day meeting my shark hero.

44 years and hundreds of shark fishing trips later here I was steaming out of the marina at Falmouth Massachusetts on the east coast of the USA, at 5am on a sea as flat as glass, aboard the Machaca skippered by Willy Hatch. This trip had been 18 months in the planning. My wife and I had meticulously planned our trip to America, to give ourselves a realistic chance of seeing the whales that are present of Cape Cod and encountering a Mako. This area is also famous for being the location where Jaws was filmed on the island of Martha's Vineyard, (or Amity Island as it was fictionally called in the film,) so this was my dream trip.



*Steaming out*



*Meeting Jaws*

Captain Willy Hatch is a local legend and I was advised if I wanted a Mako he was the man. His

PB on the boat is a whacking 850 pounder! He is also a designated satellite shark tagger, and his scientific trips have been invaluable in discovering more about the migratory routes of both Mako and Blue sharks. On top of this Willy is good fun, and he and his young deck hand Ben took every opportunity to inform me how they were going to 'knacker me' with the giant sharks we were about to catch. My response of 'bring it on, that's what I'm here for' and the promise 'I would catch anything that swam my way', was welcomed with American glee as they shouted 'we gunna kick some ass on the sharks today Maaaaan!!!!'

Willy loves sharking, but most of his trips are for Bluefin and yellowfin tuna and he specialises in 3 day trips to the deep water canyons, as most American angler's fish for the table. This was his first sharking trip of the year, but he had just caught a 200lb Mako on a trolled lure on a tuna trip the day before. This news was music to my ears, The Mako were here and I was ready! Today we were going to start our drift south east of Martha's Vineyard in just 20 fathoms of water, 30 miles from port. Water temperature was vital and Willy searched for a cooler spot of sea of 68 degrees. The average sea temperature was 70 but he said the slightly cooler water is where the warm bloodied Mako's liked to hunt. He also said this temperature was favourable for a bonus Thresher shark if we were really lucky. The Blues or 'Blue dogs' as he called them would be here but we would catch more of these cold blooded sharks in the 70 degree + sea. The Blues here are mainly huge males and Willy has caught them over 400lb!

A massive amount of Rubby Dubby was used. They were amused at our terminology for chum. Their recipe consisted of frozen minced tuna and butterfish, and we slow trolled our slick for a couple of miles to make up for the lack of any breeze. Two stand up outfits were baited with Bluefish fillets, one 80lb was fished deep and a sporting 50lb outfit was fished 30 feet down. I then set up another 50 as pitcher bait in case a



shark cruised close to the boat. All set up and ready for action I couldn't believe I was finally here and was king for the day on my own charter. I was so full of confidence and had that 'I know I'm going to catch' feeling. The first run came within ten minutes, a real screamer; I jumped into action and was secured to a very fast strong fish that ran off just under the surface. 'Wow man!' Willy shouted 'I think this could be your Mako! Sure is a fast fish!' 5 mins later a brown coloured shark started to appear, Thresher! You got yourself a Thresher on!' Under normal circumstances I would have been ecstatic, but having thought I was tied to a Mako believe it or not I was a bit disappointed. (Crazy I know!) This identification then changed again, as me and Willy said 'sandbar' at the same time. The brown colouration had looked Thresher like as it rose from the depths. The sandbar shark is closely related to the Bull shark and was an impressive looking muscular shark. Willy had only caught half a dozen of these in years of angling, they normally stay close to the coastline as there name suggests, so he was very pleased with our first catch. 'That's a big ol Sandbar, He will go a buck and a half!'. We measured him at 7ft over the side of the boat then carefully released him. A 150 pound shark is a great start to any day.



*150lb Sandbar*



*200lb plus Blue*

Within 5 minutes of rebaiting I was in to the next shark, a nice 8 foot Blue of 130 pounds. 'That's a nice Blue' I claimed, but Willy and Ben said it wasn't that big for these waters and I would catch much bigger than that today. What a place! As we released the so called 'tiddler', the shallow reel shot off. I reeled in like a maniac and secured the hook up, as I did this a big dorsal fin and tail broke the surface and I could hardly believe my eyes, Mako! This was my big chance, concentrate and don't screw up I said to myself. I took in its every detail as it twisted just under the surface and snapped its jaws in the crystal clear water. I was spellbound and loving every second. With just one flick of its tail it would shoot off 50 meters! I wanted to measure and admire this beautiful fish in the boat, so we carefully boated it through the gate. This Male Mako's skin was almost reflective; it was the perfect killer, a torpedo built for pure speed. Measurements were taken to the fork and girth and the weight was estimated at 202lbs. As the fish swam away the three of us jumped around like mad men, we were ecstatic!

With only an hour gone we had caught 3 species of shark and I had caught my dream fish, life was good to say the least. The fishing was just fantastic. Shark number 4 was a 9ft Blue estimated as a 180 pounder by Willy, as I held it on the trace a huge Thresher shark raced 20ft off the Starboard side, thrashing the surface to foam with its huge whip of a tail while chasing a shoal of panicked bait fish! Its speed

was unbelievable! We shook my blue off quick and concentrated on trying for the Thresher but he was gone as fast as he had arrived. We had seen our 4<sup>th</sup> species!

As we excitedly talked about the Thresher, a Mako shot through our slick, its head moving quickly side to side as it hunted the cause of the smell source. I picked up the pitcher rod and shot the bait in its path. Wham! That Mako smashed the bait and ran off at high speed. Here I was into my second Mako! After a great scrap we measured and released a beautiful female that worked out at 151 pounds. More jumping about ensued!



*Mako circling boat*



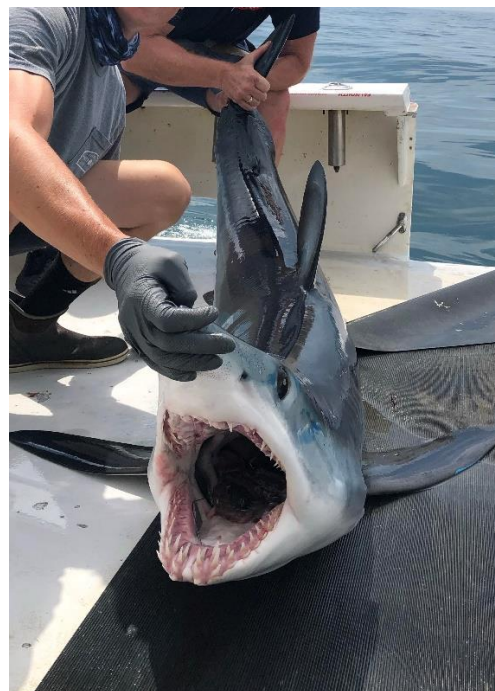
*.....and Smiling for the camera.*

The 50 was next to purr off, as I tightened up a blue missile of a Mako shot out of the sea. We cheered uncontrollably as Willy slapped my

back. Your one lucky son of bitch Maaaaan! Three in a day! I aint never had 3 before! That's a 250-270 pounder! Later measured in the boat its fork-girth measurements worked out at 262lb. I christened him stumpy as the top 4 inches of his tail were missing. The 8ft Mako shot away as we returned him, then he turned and circled the boat eyeing us up before finally gliding out of view.



*Playing stumpy*



*Impressive jaws*



As I sat down to reflect on my red letter day, I saw 4 big fins lazily working towards us in our slick. A couple of minutes later four huge Blues lay beside the boat nudging the dubby container. I leant against the gunnel and just enjoyed the moment, no rushing about, just having fun patting them and hand feeding them. How many more times would I ever get the chance to witness something this wonderful. Willy said we had now left the cooler water and was in 70 degree territory. Did I want to move back or just catch the Blues? I never like to break the trail so I was more than happy to see out the day here. I caught a further 9 Blues all of which were over 200lb! We measured three of them fork and girth at 201lb, 218lb and 268lb! The 268 thought it was a Mako! It ran off at incredible speed whacked the side of the boat with its huge tail repeatedly and jumped clear of the water. I have this image imprinted on my mind of a ten foot blue clearing the sea by 2ft and hanging there before re- entering with a humongous belly flop. Graceful it wasn't, but impressive it certainly was. We fell about laughing after that!

Even American beer tasted great after a day like that. And we celebrated in great style all the way in. Willy has also caught Tigers and Hammerheads from time to time and the Great Whites really do live of Martha's Vineyard these Days, with over 400 of them being tagged in the last few years.



What a way to celebrate my half century. As the saying goes, 'A once in a lifetime holiday' but I'm going again this year! This time though I'm taking my mates. SACGB on tour. Can't wait.

Ian Harbage

## **NOTABLE SHARKS**

In 2019 notable sharks were recorded from the start of the season, as follows;

### **Blue Shark**

Harvey O'Malley	173lb visual est
Ian Harbage	268lb
Ian Harbage	218lb
Ian Harbage	201lb

### **Porbeagle Shark**

Ian King	120 lb visual est
Simon Ward	400lb visual est
Dan Vokins	450lb visual est

### **Thresher Shark**

Alex McKay	520lb visual est
Danny Vokins	240lb visual est

### **Mako Shark**

Ian Harbage	262lb
Ian Harbage	202lb
Ian Harbage	151lb

### **Sandbar Shark**

Ian Harbage	150lb visual est
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### **Ragged Tooth**

Chris Bett	700lb visual est
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## Accounts y/e Dec 2018

As it took so long to gain accountants to present our Annual Accounts, the Accounts for Year Ended December 2018 were not presented at this year's AGM as is usual.

Thank you for bearing with us in this matter.

The Accounts are as follows;

Financial Statements at 25 September 2019 at 13:53:50

### **SHARK ANGLING CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN**

#### **PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018**

	<b>2018</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Turnover</b>		
Subscriptions		5,254
Sales		3,424
Annual Dinner		1,690
Shark Festival		<u>20,167</u>
		30,535
<b>Cost of Sales</b>		
Direct Costs	4,872	
Annual Dinner Costs	1,804	
Shark Festival Costs	<u>15,884</u>	
		<u>(22,560)</u>
<b>Gross (loss)/profit</b>		7,975
<b>Administrative expenses</b>		
Rent re licences and other	831	
Bank Charges	0	
Insurances (not premises)	380	
Printing and Stationery	1,069	
Advertising	0	
Telephone	50	
Sundry Expenses	<u>623</u>	
		<u>(2,953)</u>
<b>Operating (loss)/profit</b>		5,022
<b>Investment revenues</b>		
Bank Interest received	<u>20</u>	20
<b>(Loss)/Profit before taxation</b>		<u>5,042</u>
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible assets		34,995
<b>Current assets</b>		
Stocks	3,421	

Debtors	0
Cash at Bank	<u>57,876</u>
	61,297

**Creditors: amounts falling due within  
One year** (5,500)

**Net current assets** 55,797

**Total assets less current liabilities** 90,792

#### **Capital account**

Opening balance 85,750

Profit 5,042

Closing balance 90,792

### **Other Stuff**

#### **SACGB Lucky Run Club Lottery**

Winners:

August 2019 – Last Leaping Mako Tapestry, won by Ian Harbage

September 2019 – K Horsfield won £55

October 2019 – A McKay won £60

November 2019 – D Smith won £60

December 2019 – A McKay won £60

If you would like to join and have a chance of winning a lump sum each month, download the form on the website and forward it to the secretary.

It's as easy as that!!

All funds received are split in half. The monthly winner receiving one half as a cash sum, the other half goes to the club to help fund equipment, resources and opportunities for members and hopefully, in the future, our own tagging scheme.

#### **Facebook/Social Media**

Previously, we have 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.

We also request that ‘trophy’ photographs are not published on either of the SACGB Facebook pages. These pages are being monitored by Admin staff to try and ensure that any photos posted are suitable for publication.

### **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**

The member area password for the website is:

**psmith369**

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

### **Obituary**

As we mentioned in the last newsletter it was with great sadness that on the 26th June we had to announce the passing of our own committee member Mel Casson, he had been a very much loved part of the 'shark fishing community' here in Looe, after moving down from 'up North' several years ago with his wife Hilary (who for a time was our Chairperson). They both gave a lot to the club and Mel even got involved with the commercial side of fishing and went crewing on a mackerel boat for a while.

Mel and Hilary shared their passion for shark fishing, which they passed on to their grandsons. While living in Yorkshire, Mel was a keen cricketer, and a mean left-handed bowler. Whilst training for the ashes, Geoffrey Boycott used to specifically ask to practice with Mel, as he knew the West Indies had a fast left hand bowler. Mel of course, was happy to oblige.

Mel and Hilary spent many a happy holiday in Gran Canaria, going every year during the winter months. They made lots of friends there, and Mel was always so happy when he was there. It was fitting then, that it was

on the beautiful Island of Gran Canaria, where Mel passed away. Many of our members will have fished with Mel and Hilary over the years and will have their own memories of this lovely man.

RIP Mel Casson.

### **And Finally:**

A Happy New Year to everyone.

Let's hope for better weather this year with a busy season for skippers and anglers alike.

Tight Lines

### **SACGB Contact Details**

Shark Angling Club of Great Britain  
c/o Looe Social Club  
Mayoralty House,  
Quay Road,  
West Looe  
PL13 2BU

Email: [sacgb1953@gmail.com](mailto:sacgb1953@gmail.com)

Tel: 07572 976680