



JULY 2020

NEWSLETTER

The Shark Angling Club of Great Britain

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2020 AGM

24th August 2020. Bottom Bar - Looe Social Club.

Due to social distancing and restricted space, please let us know if you wish to attend.

2020 Annual Dinner and Trophy Presentation

Saturday 24th October 2020 - Portbyhan Hotel

2021 Shark Festival

7th, 8th & 9th July 2021 – draw takes place on the evening of 6th July 2021 - Looe Social Club

CHAIRPERSONS WELCOME

Welcome to the second newsletter of the year. So far this year our lives have been dominated by the Coronavirus, but as I write this some of the restrictions have been lifted and with social distancing it is possible to return to some form of normality and go fishing.

As many of you will know this year's Festival had to be cancelled, but we can look forward to next year's Festival and Claire is taking names for this.

Dates for the Festival are the 7th, 8th and 9th of July, 2021.

It only remains for me to say 'stay safe'!

Tight Lines
Bob Woodman
Chairperson SACGB

Annual Subscriptions

Thank you to everyone who has paid their subscription this year, we are very glad that you remain loyal members of our club.

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

You will retain the membership number which you received last year, throughout your membership with the club.

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.

Thank you.

Lucky Run Club

The SACGB continue to host the Lucky Run Club – a great way for you to support us whilst having a bit of a flutter!

To join the fun simply complete and sign the attached membership form and Standing Order mandate for £10 a month (or £120 annually).

This buys you one membership number (which we will allocate), that enters you into the monthly draw. All participants must be over 16.

The draw takes place on the last Monday of each month, at the Monthly Committee Meeting.

If your number is drawn, payment will be made directly into your bank account and your name published in the newsletter, on Facebook and the S.A.C.G.B website.

The prize money is 50% of the membership fees taken that month (currently £65). The remaining 50% goes to the club to help fund essential tagging equipment, resources, and opportunities for members.

Any queries, please contact Claire Kelly (Secretary) on 07572 976680 or email sacgb1953@gmail.com

JOIN OUR LUCKY RUN CLUB TODAY AND YOU COULD BE OUR NEXT WINNER!

2020 Shark Festival

The 2020 SACGB Annual Shark Festival was, unfortunately, cancelled this year due to the Covid-19 Virus.

As you all return to angling we hope that you stay safe and we look forward to receiving your Trophy Claim forms and hope to catch up with you all throughout the season!

[Download your trophy claim form here!](http://www.sharkanglingclubofgreatbritain.org.uk/trophies/trophy-declaration-form/)

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2020 Annual Dinner & Trophy Evening

The ticket price for the Annual Dinner & Trophy Presentation, held at the Portbyhan Hotel in Looe on the 24th October will be confirmed as soon as possible.



This event is open to all, members, associate members, and guests whether they be anglers or not. We are taking bookings now and already have a good number so do not leave it too late to book your place at the event as it will be filled on a first come first served basis. Contact the secretary to reserve your place. Full payment is required no later than the 25th September 2019

2021 SHARK FESTIVAL

The dates have been set for the 2021 Shark Festival, 7th, 8th & 9th of July with the draw evening taking place on the 6th July. The fee remains at £450.

To secure your space in the 2021 Festival you have two options:

1. Pay £100 deposit with the balance before the 28th February 2021
2. Pay a £75 deposit before 31st August followed by £62.50 each month starting in September and ending in February

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

NB: If you have already paid a deposit or in full, you still need to fill in a booking form

and return it to the secretary as soon as possible please!

The Festival format will be the same as this year with the calculated estimated weight using the formula (girth * girth * length nose to fork of tail taken along lateral line)/800.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Please book early to avoid disappointment.](#)

CLOTHING & MERCHANDISE

Don't forget you can order your Mugs, Badges, T Shirts, Hoodies and Sweatshirts and Tote Bags from the website.



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

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

Postage in the UK is normally £3.50.



Stocks of the large type 120" measuring tape, are available at £21 plus postage.

Each year we are unable to process a good number of claims as the measuring tape used is difficult and, in some cases, impossible to read.



The large type on these tapes increases the clarity of video and photographic measurement evidence and they have already been used to good effect by many of our members. They are

a very worthwhile addition to your tackle box. These and other goods can be ordered online at; www.sharkanglingclubofgreatbritain.org.uk

A note from our Biologist, Simon Thomas:
'Could members record the measurements from the tip of the nose to the front of the dorsal fin, also the girth, sex and estimated weight of any Shark that is caught and released to enable the club to evolve 'release at the side of the boat' techniques. There is a valid scientific use for length data to access stock status'

Many Thanks!

AGM 2020

This year's AGM has been delayed until 24th August 2020, due to Covid-19. The meeting will be held in the bottom bar of the Social Club, West Looe. Social distancing measures will be in place and spaces will be limited.

If you would like to attend could you please let the secretary know as soon as possible, to avoid disappointment.

Obituary

The SACGB sadly lost two members in the first half of 2020.

Alan Dingle died peacefully at his home on 21st April.

Probably most famous for skippering the Lady Betty, Alan had many boats and was a well loved face in the community. Among his customers were the renowned anglers Pat Smith and Joyce Yallop.



Tom McHale also passed away in May, this year.

I had the pleasure of meeting him for the first time at last year's Festival.



Our condolences go to both families.

Achievements

Harvey O'Malley



At 13 years old at the time of his catch, Harvey O'Malley should be very proud of his achievement in winning the Mitchell Hedges Trophy in the 2019 Season.

It was an honour to present the trophy, along with the Iris Trophy, to him recently.

Harvey says *'I feel so proud of myself and honoured to be one of if not **the** youngest member of the SACGB to have received these 7 trophies and to win the Mitchell Hedges trophy at 13 years old feels absolutely amazing.'*



Harvey's Well Earned Catch!

'Even though I have only been doing this sport for around two years it is something I feel passionate about and am always looking forward to the next trip out. If I do catch anything near the 173lb blue from last year I would be over the moon, but the feeling of being out at sea and hearing a reel start singing for any size shark is one of the best feelings I could describe. I would like to say a special thank you to Dan Gummow skipper of Borlewen 2 for putting us right on top of the sharks that weekend and thanks to him and my dad for all the encouragement they gave during the long fight, when the shark finally came aboard is a moment I'll never forget'



Jim Martin

Well done to Jim Martin who hooked a bluefin tuna, with Dave Bond and Dave Stone, on 30th September 2019, estimated at 500lb. It took an hour to land it on 30-50lb gear and was followed for an hour and a half. Thanks to all for the joint effort, especially Dave Bond who expertly positioned his boat.



This is how Jim's hook looked after they had finished, compared to the top, original, hook!

Unfortunately, Dave Stone was taking photographs and his phonecam was on standby at the time and didn't record the shots he was taking!

WENDYS FIRST SHARK!

The build up to a new sharking season is always full of expectation and excitement, this year however was definitely different.

The normal dreams of, is this the season I beat my PB shark, will I win one of the many fine trophy's the SACGB has to offer and maybe this is the year I win the festival, turned into worrying if anyone would get out sharking this year at all.

As restrictions were slowly lifted and the sad news that this year's festival was cancelled, both myself and Wendy were left wondering if our time in Looe was on or off.

Then finally the news came that we were allowed to visit the home of UK sharking, Looe.

Of course the old saying you snooze, you lose rang true, as Looe's famous sharking fleet was fully booked up.

However through the kindness of fellow SACGB members, Peter Overton and Dave Gorring I was offered a space on their boat.



Over the past two years the club's retired secretary John McMaster has been giving Wendy advice and

encouragement on braving her first trip and overcoming sea sickness.

Pete and Dave were both happy to have Wendy on board, and a final conversation between Wendy and Pete, finally decided that she was to embark on her maiden shark trip.

We were booked with Dan Gummow a great Skipper and a little eye candy for Wendy.

The guys had decided that whatever rod went off first, it would be Wendy's shark.



So an assortment of shark gear was baited and sent away from the boat as we started the drift. I'd opted to use my light spinning gear, never really thinking that if a shark was to take, she was first on the rods.

And so it happened, as I was photographing her first ever whiting, the spool on my spinning reel suddenly came into life.



Wendy picked up the rod as I tightened the clutch down to set the circle hook.

Wendy was now shaking with excitement and Peter Overton stood behind Wendy so she could lean into him and steady her (I think Pete enjoyed the fight more than Wendy)

The Blue shark made several long powerful runs, and she was shouting no to the shark as it took all the line she had worked so hard to get on the reel. Finally after 15 minutes the trace was visible and Dan professionally and safely boated her shark for it's photo shoot.

Wendy at this stage was full of relief and she later described the whole event, as like childbirth. A long time in pain with people running around shouting instructions, and the joy of seeing your baby for the first time.



With the pictures done her shark estimated at 45lb was released none the worse for meeting Wendy. Her legs didn't stop shaking for the remainder of our trip, and another two shark were caught, one falling to Peters rod and one to mine.

A wonderful experience shared with members of a wonderful club.

We later met up with Claire (Club Secretary) to pick up the paperwork for Wendy's application to sign up as an associate member, and was privileged to witness the photo shoot of young Harvey lift the Mitchell Hedges Trophy.

A glass of wine that evening in the Jolly sailor ended a perfect day for the club's latest recruit.



FOOTNOTE

She never wants to see a silly spinning rod again. She wants 'proper shark tackle' Looks like I have just doubled my annual shark fishing budget.

Carl Aldridge.

SKIPPER'S SLAM

It's every British shark anglers dream to one day catch the big four shark species, the Blue, Porbeagle, Thresher and Mako, in our home waters. To date only one angler has achieved this, club member Andy Griffith. What a magnificent achievement this was and we all hope one day we can add some more names to this list. But what about the first skipper to captain a boat to catch all four, has this ever been done before? The answer is yes and it was completed many seasons ago.

Skipper Frank Prynne was working boats from Looe in the 1950's, 60's and 70's, and was well known for putting his anglers in the right place for the sharks. Over the years he accounted for thousands of Blues and a number of Porbeagles as did many skippers from this period, but his experience and skill ensured he took his chance when the rare species took the bait.



During August 1959 several Looe boats had seen a Thresher rounding up bait fish over the inshore reefs.

Legendary shark skipper Alan Dingle had taken his anglers to these areas for four days in a row to try for this great fish, and although they had seen the Thresher on each day, and even had it circling the boat on one occasion, it refused any baited hook. Our founder member Brigadier Caunter took up the challenge in his own boat, the Swordfish, and requested that Frank Prynne should skipper it for him to give him the best chance of success. Frank decided that anchoring over the Threshers haunt and offering rubby dubby from a static boat was the best tactic, and this proved to be inspired when Briggy hooked and landed his famous 268lb Thresher. This was a very rare catch at the time as hardly any fish of this species had ever been caught on rod and line in Cornish waters. Frank's idea to try something different had paid off.

Frank now desired the Mighty Mako to complete the skippers slam. This was achieved in great style when Mr D. Hartas caught a 342 pounder from Frank's vessel, Golden Spray.

This male Mako was caught on July 26th 1961. History had now been made.

Just to put the icing on the cake Frank caught another Mako from his boat, Polaris, on August 23rd 1967. This time the lucky angler was Mr W.Eeles. What made this capture even more special was the fact this 263lb fish was a female. This is one of only four female Makos that I can trace in British waters.





Frank Vinnicombe, the older brother of the greatest Mako skipper of them all Robin Vinnicombe, came very close to completing the slam. Frank fished out of Falmouth and skippered several boats, the most famous ones being Monkswood and Fathomer. His anglers caught big Blues, Porbeagle up to 300lb and a 280lb Thresher. One day one of these anglers hooked into a huge Mako and the slam was on. This acrobatic shark was played for several hours until it was finally held on the trace. Before Frank and his crew could secure the fish the hook pulled out and it made its escape. These days the Mako would have stood as a capture as the trace was held, but back then a shark didn't count unless it was boated. It must have been heart breaking after the long fight.

Today there are other skippers close to completing the slam. Dave Bond of the *Mystique II*, Murray Collins, *Swallow II* and Danny Vokins, *Midnight Rambler*, have Blues, Porbeagle and fantastic Threshers to their credit and Andrew Alsop on *Whitewater 3* needs a Thresher to achieve the slam after becoming the first skipper to catch a Mako in British waters for four decades in 2013.

Remarkably both Andy and Danny have had three different species on the same day!

There are other boats around the UK just waiting for that one more species. Let's hope that one day these modern day greats can replicate the achievements of Captain Frank Prynn. I'm sure he is looking down on them all and wishing them tight lines with fantastic illusive fish.

Good luck.

Ian Harbage.

STONA'S HUGE BLUE

Every now and then we all get that red letter day when the sun is out, the sea is kind and the sharks are biting. Three seasons ago Dave Stone "Stona" and I had that perfect day. We had booked Bite Adventures skippered by Robin "Chippy" Chapman from the port of Penzance. Kev Tapper was hoping to be with us as per usual but unfortunately a family wedding got in the way and he couldn't make it. Since that day we have never let him forget the trip he couldn't make. (Wish you had been there mate).

With four rods out between the two of us we decided to take it in turns on any shark runs we would get. Chippy and young Kieran the deck hand (now the skipper of the famous *Lo kie adventures*) promised to take us to the hurt locker and said they would take great delight in seeing us suffer as the blues ran us ragged. "Bring it on", we were ready.

Within ten minutes a good blue arrived in our slick and Stona soon had it on. As it was being released a singing ratchet signalled it was my turn and this one was, also soon, swimming away in a flat calm sea after a good release. A shark each in the first few minutes, what a start.

Before we could reflect on those fish in any detail reels started singing constantly and we all laughed aloud amongst the mayhem. We were transferring every run into a fish, and it was just amazing to have 4 rods going off as scores of other sharks swirled around the boat.

After a couple of hours of mad activity a huge blue glided past us. I looked at Stona, He looked at me, and we both mouthed several expletives in our rush to verbally describe this leviathan of a blue. Its pectorals were so long it made the great fish look like an underwater aeroplane. It was accompanied by a pair of black and white striped pilot fish who loyally copied the sharks every move.

Up until this point we had both managed to stick to our effective take it in turns routine, but now we both wanted this shark so bad.

For the next hour that shark teased us into thinking it had taken a bait, only for us both to find that we had hooked in to a different fish every time. It continued to swim next to us as we both fought our respective sharks. I yelled out "I really hope you get that beauty Stona" trying to sound as sincere as I could," Yeh, you too E, I would love you to get it mate," was his equally unconvincingly sincere reply. In truth we both sped up or slowed down on our sharks while we tried to estimate who would get the next chance at Big Blue. Finally after an hour of messing with us he took a baited hook and Stona was the victor. As soon as I knew Dave had it on I wanted him to catch it more than any shark I had ever been involved with.

This was a special shark, we had both fished together and shared brilliant days for years and we both knew this would be a memory we could share forever. Stona was so focussed that he never murmured a single word for the next 45 minutes of the fight, (unheard off). 10 Long runs later Stona got the trace up within our grasp, as he strained every last bit of lifting power out of the light rod. We then pulled all 9 and half feet of fighting machine through the gunnel door. It

was a massive male blue, one of the biggest if not the biggest male ever caught in our waters.

Measurements taken now came the chance to hold it up for that magical picture. Stona had the privilege of holding up the head end with me in the middle and Kieran on the huge tail. We carefully positioned ourselves then lifted. It was up and secured safely in our arms." What a fish" said Chippy as we posed for the picture. Before it could be taken Stona turned to me with pleading eyes and said "E, Quick, you will have to take the head end I'm knackered and cant hold it!" This sounded so strained that I completely lost it and could hardly function due to laughing.

We carefully changed places and then I had the best arm workout of my life, cradling the head of the momentous beast whilst controlling hysterical laughter was no mean feat. That massive Blue was a fish of a lifetime and we still hadn't really taken it in as we watched it swim away.



We continued to catch for the rest of the day and I managed my own PB British waters blue, with the last bait we had. More than satisfied, we packed up an hour early as we had no bait left! We had caught 70 sharks. 35 sharks each. 20 were qualifiers, with four going over the hundred pound mark, including Mr Big.

It was a brilliant day involving great teamwork, and it was a privilege to witness my mate Stona catch the fish that we had both wanted each

other to catch, Ha! Kevin has never sent a wedding anniversary card to the couple who got married on that day, I can't imagine why.

A year later Kevin more than made up for missing that day. He caught his own massive Blue the next time we went out on Bite Adventures. This Shark won him the Mitchell Hedges trophy. What a great way to make up for missed fishing. Unfortunately it was Stona who missed out this time after breaking his back on another one of our trips (a legendary story for another day). Think we might have to let him off with that excuse.



Ian Harbage.

Thank you to all of the contributors for the above articles, please keep them coming for future newsletters.

I wish you all Tight Lines for the coming months and hope to see you at the Presentation in October!

Members Section Password Reminder

The password for the member section of the website is currently **psmith369**

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

SACGB Contact Details

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