



**SHARK ANGLING CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN
COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 28th June 2021 AT 7pm
At Looe Social Club and Via Zoom**

Present: B Woodman - Chairman, Ian Harbage – Vice President, C Kelly - Secretary, P Davis, M Collings, K Tapper, D Stone

Via Zoom: S Ward, S Thomas,

Apologies: A McKay, P Martin

Minutes of Last Meeting – Proposed as an accurate record by Kevin Tapper, seconded by Pete Davis.

Matters Arising

1. Festival Update – The secretary advised that Kevin Tapper had looked at the Risk Assessment for the Festival and an updated copy had been distributed to everyone, which was approved.
2. Keith Armishaw – The secretary suggested a Hoody as an appreciation gift for Keith. This was approved.
3. Angling Heritage – Touch Screen. The Secretary advised that the screen was being installed that day. The Committee approved the photos received from Keith and the wording which had been adjusted by the secretary.
4. Mitchell Hedges Base Design – Kevin Tapper advised that a new base was well under way now, for the Mitchell Hedges trophy.
5. Bill Whistance – Phil Heathman Trophy Claim – the secretary had advised Mr Whistance that he did not qualify for the Phil Heathman trophy. Mr Whistance had agreed.
6. Skippers refusing to board fish for photos – A discussion took place. It was agreed that this would not affect this year's Festival, but that further discussion was needed to move forward with the non-boarding of fish. The Chairman stated that *'Over the years we have tried to instigate 'catch and release at the side of the boat' but at the end of the day if the skipper thinks that it is too dangerous to do so, it is their prerogative to bring the fish aboard to remove the hook'*. Pete Davis stated that it was very hard to estimate a shark's weight in the water for membership and trophy qualification. He went on to suggest that a 'T Stick' could be used to measure a fish in the water. Dave Stone stated *'The more that the club can show that a fish can be handled correctly the better. This will show the skippers who are not doing it correctly the way forward. We should be leading by example'*. Simon Thomas added *'The thing to get across is that the fish shouldn't be dragged across the gunwales'*. Dave Stone *'At the end of the day, we are the Shark Angling Club, with conservation in mind. We are not a shark conservation club and we know a lot more about sharks than a lot of those clubs'*.

Lucky Run Club

- The Winner of the May draw was Paul Martin winning £75.00

New Business

1. Claim for Derek Denne Trophy from Gary Avery – the Committee agreed that the shark caught was under the qualifying measurements/points.



2. AGM – No propositions received. The Secretary advised that no propositions had been received for the upcoming AGM.

Any Other Business

- Simon Thomas – had a phone call with Ali Hood of the Shark Trust, who has told him that she is pushing for a total ban on the fishing of Porbeagle and Tope.
- Dave Stone – suggested that the Tagging programme be expanded. It was agreed that extra tags would be given to Dave Bond and Dan Margetts and all of the skippers at the Festival to try and encourage tagging. Simon Thomas stated that NOAA (the tagging system currently used by the SACGB) was the best and would recommend continuing with them. The issue with offering tagging to more people to do, is gaining completed tags back from skippers, as the tags need to be returned to NOAA - otherwise they will not supply further tags.
- Dave Stone – suggested that as crowds no longer gather to see the fish being brought along the quayside, would it be possible to film the sport with a GoPro on a boat and show the footage at a specific time and place so that interested people could watch it in Looe. The footage would have to be edited but could be very informative for the general public. It was also suggested that it could be put on the Screen in the Heritage Centre. The Secretary also suggested a YouTube channel for the footage.
- Kevin Tapper – has the bottle which the Committee agreed to buy for Steve Murphy. A presentation to be made on 24th July by some members of the Committee. The secretary to reimburse.
- Murray Collings – fears that skippers are coming under scrutiny with the new ‘no boating policy’ as he doesn’t feel comfortable or safe trying to disgorge fish either at the rail or through the doorway. It was agreed that a statement would be issued to the effect of ‘*We stand by our Best Practise Code and are happy that people boat Sharks as long as this code is followed. We are an Angling Club, with conservation in mind. We have now been angling with scientists aboard who have seen how we engage with the sharks and are more than happy with what the club is doing. For those scientists to carry out their work we need to board these sharks.*’
- A general discussion took place regarding the degrading of hooks.
- The secretary was asked to take anyone, who was not a member of the club, off the Facebook group page.

There were no further matters to discuss.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Date of Next Meeting – 26th July 2021 at 7pm Lower Bar, Social Club, West Looe and via Zoom with guest – Dr Georgia Jones