



# **JULY 2023**

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **The Shark Angling Club of Great Britain**

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

##### **2023 Annual Dinner and Trophy Presentation**

Saturday 28th October 2023 – Hannaford Point Hotel. Price tbc

##### **2024 Shark Festival**

10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12th July 2024 – draw takes place on the evening of 9th June 2024 - Looe Social Club

##### **2024 AGM**

Tuesday 9th July 2024 - Looe Social Club (prior to draw)

#### **CHAIRPERSONS WELCOME**

Welcome to the second newsletter of the year.

2022 was not the greatest year for sharks caught, 531 blue sharks were caught with 83 being qualifiers and two thresher shark was caught. This is a long way down from last year. In 2021 1321 blue sharks were caught with 144 of these being qualifiers. Two porbeagles and two threshers were also caught.

Possibly more would have caught had it not been for the algae bloom in July and August. The fishing, however, improved towards the end of the season in September and October.

Notable fish this season was a new British Record Blue Shark of estimated weight 90lbs. caught by Steve Chivers on 16lb. line. The club is in a very healthy position both financially and membership with 416 members.

I suspect that many of you will know already that Pat Smith sadly passed away. Pat still

holds the record for a porbeagle by a lady and was involved with the club for many years.

It just remains for me to thank the committee, and in particular Claire Kelly with her husband Alan in the background for all the time and effort they have given in the last year also thanks to Pete Davis for his recording of sharks caught.

#### **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 your membership number throughout your membership with the club.

To renew your subs online visit the shop on our website at [www.sharkanglingclubofgreatbritain.org.uk](http://www.sharkanglingclubofgreatbritain.org.uk) or by Paypal to [sacgbsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:sacgbsecretary@gmail.com) 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 the membership form and Standing Order mandate on the website, or contact Claire, 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 £85). 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](mailto:sacgb1953@gmail.com)

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

## **2023 Shark Festival**

The 2023 SACGB Annual Shark Festival was held on 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> July this year.

### **The Winner of the Festival 2023**

**Chris Bett with 131 points Chris also won Thursday's Daily Draw**



**Runner Up: Andy Fawcett with 122 points. Andy won Wednesday's Daily Draw**



**Third Place: Steve Costick with 120 points**



**John Lock and Roger Eley jointly won Thursday's Daily Draw with 107 points each**



**Skipper with the most Sharks:**  
**Chris Gill (collected by Tarah McHale)**



**Skipper with the largest shark was Owen Mallia**



The Chairman's wife Jean presented Claire Kelly with a bottle of JD, a card and gift to thank her for all her work for the club!

All the photo's from the Festival can be found on the website in the Gallery, which is in the members area.

[GALLERY | Shark Angling Club Of Great Britain](#)

We hope that you have a good season and stay safe. 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/>



## **2023 Annual Dinner & Trophy Evening**

The ticket price for the Annual Dinner & Trophy Presentation, held at the Hannafore Point Hotel in Looe on the 28th October is to 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 23rd September 2023.

## **2024 SHARK FESTIVAL**

The dates have been set for the 2024 Shark Festival, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> July with the draw evening taking place on the 9<sup>th</sup> June. The fee to remain at £500.

To secure your space in the 2024 Festival you have two options:

1. Pay £100 deposit now with the balance payable before the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024
2. Pay a £100 deposit before 31<sup>st</sup> August followed by £80 each month starting in October 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 or the sumup page: [Shark Angling Club of Great Britain \(sumupstore.com\)](https://www.sharkanglingclubofgreatbritain.com/sumupstore.com)

The Festival format will be the same as this year with the points system of length + girth = points

First prize: the angler with the largest shark (in points)

Second prize: the angler with the second largest shark (in points)

Third prize: the angler with the third largest shark (in points)

Team Trophy: the team with the most cumulative points

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

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

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

Skipper of the boat with the largest shark (in points)

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 from the website.

New for this year, the Beanie at £15!



Prices have increased, unfortunately this year with Hoodies at £45 plus postage, Sweatshirts at £20 plus postage, Polo Shirts at £20 plus postage, T Shirts at £15 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](http://www.sharkanglingclubofgreatbritain.org.uk)

### **Nigel Henry**

#### **Memories of the 'Big Catch'**

Back in November last year I promised to send you a copy of the burgee framed and hanging on my wall. I have now managed to have a photo taken with an original photo taken back in 1985 of me with the shark. I remember it was 177lb and caught on Ted Legs boat called 'Charmain'. As a result, I was awarded the SACGB 'Leaping Mako' tapestry and the Angling Times 'Big catch'

bronze statue by David Hughes, both of which I still proudly have.



### **Cecil 'Dick' Whittington – A Tribute from Ian Harbage**

My great friend Cecil Whittington (known affectionately to us all as "Dick"), sadly passed away on July 12th aged 82. Dick qualified for our club in 1986 with an 88lb blue that he caught while fishing with Ivan on the "Tethra", he then went on to win the Redknapp Oxford trophy in 1990 and 93 with fish of 104 and 105lbs. I first met Dick in 1990 at the first SACGB festival and we hit it off immediately, mainly due to the fact that his endless stories had me in stitches. From that day on we fished together and I would pick him up from Oxford on the way down to Looe. Dick had a pair of Yorky terriers that he adored and he would shower them with hugs and kisses and words of eternal love before patting his wife on the head as we departed on our sharking adventures! If Dick was infamous then his sharking gear was equally as famous. He proudly owned a Penn International 80 matched with a hand built conoflex 80lb rod that he used for blues! When fellow anglers asked him why he fished so heavy and wouldn't he be better off with lighter gear? His reply was always the same, "I'm gunna catch a fifty five million, seventy five thousand, five hundred and two and a half pounder! Then he would

go on to say "And by the way, this is my light gear! My other set is a 16/0 Penn Senator and a Penn 130lb class bent butt trolling rod! Let's just say that Dick did things his own way! While armed with this leviathan taming gear, he developed his own unique style of hooking a shark.

Step 1: Attempt to pick the rod up (this would always take some time to achieve).

Step 2: Get into the striking position (at this point everyone ran for the safety of the wheelhouse). Step 3: Strike with all his might without putting the reel in gear!

How he never sunk us, as he inevitably came crashing down onto the decks, I shall never know. It became a regular sight for the rest of us to watch Dick fighting a shark flat on his back on the deck, whilst moaning in pain as all around him were dying in fits of laughter!

On one memorable trip out with Bondy on the Mystique, Dick decided to use his 16/0 despite us all telling him he wouldn't be able to fight his own gear and a shark, but as usual Dick wouldn't be swayed. Soon the 16/0 began to purr and we ordered Dick to pick up his beast of a rod, but he flat refused to go near it. Instead he began to run around the boat proclaiming in protest "that gear is ridiculously too heavy for that fish, Ian you take it!" I was too busy laughing to run to his aid so I replied, if he was man enough to put out this tackle in the first place, he must now be Man enough to fight his tackle and the fish. Bondy struggled with Dick to pick up the 1/2 tonne rod, before adding "I've got just the thing you need to make this easier for you Dick", and with that he ran to get a canvas pop up chair from the wheelhouse. Soon Dick was sat in this makeshift big game chair with the bent butt of the 130 barely fitting between his legs, and for a while things were going quite well, but then to Bondy's horror he noticed the chair was giving way under the considerable weight of

Dick and the gear. "Stand up for a second Dick," Bondy ordered, "I need to do a quick repair to the chair else you will be on your ass again." Dick just about managed to get up and Bondy swiftly got on all fours to attempt a running repair. After 30 seconds of trying to handle his shark standing up, Dick obviously thought another spell in the chair was needed so just plonked himself back down without thinking. The chair collapsed and now Dick was sat squarely upon Bondy's back with a "that's better" look on his face. As the air left Daves lungs the words F\*\*kinghell Dick! We're just about audible! Dick was so knackered that he had no idea he was now using Bondy as a makeshift chair and just replied "Yes, that's much better Dave, thanks mate! For the next ten minutes Bondy manfully went through the pain barrier with an oversized angler using oversized gear sat on him! Finally the shark was beaten, and Dick was still totally oblivious that he was breaking his skippers back. My wife Loraine was beside herself with laughter and to this day she still claims it's the funniest thing she has ever witnessed in her life! I'm not sure if Bondy would agree! The shark by the way won Dick the Oxford trophy again, but maybe it's Dave who deserved the trophy.

I went to see Dick for one last time at the care home a week before he passed, and although he was extremely weak, he was still the man we all knew and loved. He wished to be remembered to everyone at the club he had had the pleasure of knowing, especially his great fishing mates, my sons Andrew and Billy and Stona, Kev, Andy, Jim, Kinger, and Bondy. At the end of his bed the trophy he won for finishing 3rd in the 2007 festival was proudly displayed, it meant so much to him. When Dick retired from sharking, he gave me his favourite rod, the so called "light tackle" 80lb conoflex. I was so glad I got the chance to tell him that I have had it restored



to it's former glory, and that we will put it out for him when we go sharking, paired with the biggest reel I have of course. This made him very happy.

There are just too many stories and not enough space to do Dick justice, but those involved will never forget him.

Sharking is more about the friendships you make than the fishing. Thank you Dick for being a great friend and for the great memories you have given all of us that had the privilege of knowing you or fishing with you. The biggest compliment I can pay you is that my family regarded you as part of our family.

God bless you mate.

Ian



### ***And Finally...***

We heard from the daughter of keen Shark Angler T Featherstone, who caught a 228lb Porbeagle at St Catherines, IOW on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1973. This plaque was his reminder of that great catch. Mr. Featherstone has, sadly, recently passed away.



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

***Please subscribe to the new You Tube channel:***

***Shark Angling Club of Great Britain***

***and let us have any videos you would like uploading.***

***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 **Outlaw006**

This honours our dearly missed Committee member Paul Martin, whose membership number was 006.

## **SACGB Contact Details**

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\(sumupstore.com\)](https://sumupstore.com)