



**SHARK ANGLING CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN
COMMITTEE MEETING**

HELD ON 28th July 2025 AT 7.00pm

At Looe Social Club and via Zoom

Present: - K Tapper – Chair, C Kelly - Secretary, P Davis, J Martin, D Gorrington

Via Zoom: S Ward, D Stone

Apologies: None

Absent: S Dabney, C Aldridge

Minutes of Last Meeting –

30th June 2025 - Proposed as an accurate record by P Davis, seconded by J Martin

Matters Arising

1. Polo and T Shirt prices had been obtained for S Chivers and C Aldridge as follows:
White polo shirts £20, White T Shirts £15. Catch and Release Polo shirts £32. As neither members were present, the secretary to pass on the prices.
2. Festival follow up:
 - i. Our Joe – the crew of the Our Joe had been seen running Dubby around the back of the boat, prior to the start time. It was agreed to add to the rules that if a member sees a skipper (or their crew) breaking the rules and they report them, the boat will be disqualified. This to be added to the rules.
 - ii. Cancellation policy needs updating. The secretary suggested: Full refund if the space is taken up by someone else. 60-30 days prior to the Festival – 50% refund. 30 days prior to the Festival – no refund. The secretary stated that anglers are already advised that they must insure their full trip for any circumstances.
 - iii. Yellowfin – unauthorized use of logo. The crew of the Yellowfin boat all had hoodies and t shirts printed with the club logo. The secretary reminded the Committee of Rule 21: **Club Insignia and Pennants 21.1 The protection of the copyright of the Club insignia is the responsibility of the Chairman and the Committee. 21.2 The Club insignia cannot be reproduced on any document, notice, item of clothing or any other item without the prior permission of the Club.** The Committee agreed that the Skipper should be reminded of this and, as they weren't members, that they were not allowed to use the logo.
 - iv. The secretary stated that the Festival made a loss of £10 with extra charges and only the sale of T Shirts and the raffle had helped to keep the festival in the black. The Committee agreed to a 5% rise to cover any eventualities. The 2026 festival to be £630. Even though there is money in the bank account, the Committee still feel that the members who do not attend the festival should not be paying for the event to continue.



Trophy Claims – D Keen – Glaibasel – Line confirmed. Trophy approved.
S Wright – 350lb Thresher - Mitchell Hedges, Hampshire and others – All approved
A Fawcett – 116 pt thresher – any trophies – approved
R Day – 106 pt Blue – any trophies - approved

Lucky Run Club

- The Winner of the July draw was I Harbage winning £80.00

New Business

- The following email was received from Dr C Flower - *I was chatting with Johnmac, Simon Thomas and Dave Uren last Saturday. As you know, they are all keen supporters of the Pat Smith database and I've known Dave and Simon for decades now, catching and releasing many a shark between us.*

It seems that although there had been a few blue shark caught in June, the numbers dropped off quite suddenly about a week or so ago. However, they said that although one at least had a tag, several of those that had been caught also had hooks and leaders in them that they are sure came from longlines. I understand that a number of people are trying to raise the problem of longlining for sharks and the damage that will do to their numbers, with a view to getting some form of prohibition enacted. Has my support...

I have always had a fascination with hook choice and I'd be very interested in discovering the size and model of hooks being found in these sharks. If there was any way of asking skippers and/or anglers to keep hold of any gear removed from captured sharks before their release, I'd be very keen to investigate this aspect further. Maybe you could hold on to any such gear for me and I could collect it when I come to Plymouth mid-August when I have four days' sharking booked. Alternatively, post it to me and I'll happily recompense the SACGB for the postage costs.

I know it is a bit of a bother, but it might demonstrate a pattern (suggesting restricted vessels involved) or a random gear choice (suggesting a less co-ordinated approach to the gear choice by the liners). We won't know unless we capture the information. I'd happily also write a short report of any findings to be shared with the SACGB members.

P Davis stated that most skippers already kept any hooks and leaders that were found and that they could be asked if they were willing to gather them and pass them on to the club, to forward to Dr Flower. The secretary to arrange.

- The following email was received from Simon Thomas (Honorary Biologist) - 17/07/2025
To the committee of the Shark Angling Club of Great Britain.

Dear friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I must announce my resignation as the honorary scientist for the SACGB. I have been hugely honoured to of held this position but have always been aware that I need to balance the needs of the club with my scientific credibility in order to ensure that anglers can continue to fish for sharks and to contribute to conservation.

It has become increasingly obvious to me that this balancing act has no longer become viable and that my presence within the SACGB serves neither the club, nor the wider aims of protecting shark populations from commercial exploitation.

As a club, your priorities are quite rightly your membership, not the wider shark fishing community and your decisions on handling and boarding of large sharks are



based on those criteria. However, I need to be able to back these decisions to a highly sceptical scientific audience, who are often highly critical of any angling for endangered species. My arguments need to reflect the science not the needs of the club membership.

It is therefore with a heavy heart that I announce my resignation with immediate effect. I do this with no malice and will never slight the club in anyway as I consider you a massive force for good within shark angling. I have many good friends within the club and I hope my decision won't affect these friendships.

I reflect on the good things that the club have achieved, such as the prevention of a ban on porbeagle fishing and the hugely effective expansion of the NOAA tagging program. As the founder of the Pat Smith Database, I am very happy to continue collecting the club data as part of the shark data set, which has influenced commercial TACs for blue shark in the North Atlantic, but understand completely if you wish not to do so.

Thank you for all your friendship and kindness and I reflect with huge fondness on the honour of serving the SACGB.

Kind regards

Dr. Simon Thomas

The Committee reminded the secretary that they had paid towards a computer recently and that a reimbursement should be requested.

- The following email was received from Alex McKay, Committee member - *My apologies to all. I have excepted a job in the isle of Scillys and relocating August 15th. Unfortunately I will have to step down from the committee for obvious reason but I will happy to promote the club when I am over their and I am looking forward to sampling the shark fishing. It has been both an honour and privilege to have been involved with such a well organised and forward thinking committee and club. Please express my thanks to all. I have had the privilege of meeting some great Anglers and fantastic skippers who have helped me catch some amazing sharks. If you are ever over please look me up.*

The Committee wished Alex all the best. Chris Avery, who had been up for election at the recent AGM to be asked if he would like to join the Committee.

- Complaint from Kelly's of Looe. The secretary stated that she had received a call from Sam, from Kelly's who was very upset. A man had entered Kelly's and verbally abused a number of staff. From the CCTV they could see that he was wearing a SACGB top and had phoned the secretary to say that they had reported it to the police who may be in touch with us. The secretary had told Sam that this man may not be a member of the club anymore but hopefully would be recognisable from the images as this was not acceptable. Any update to be reported to the Committee.

Any Other Business

1. P Davis stated that the measuring tapes purchased for the Festival had not been long enough and needed to be 120" next year.
2. The Chairperson asked if the Festival results could be shown in estimated weights. P Davis stated that this had been done previously, and it didn't work with the anglers, and could cause confusion.



3. J Martin stated that he had been sourcing Dubby for the skippers and wanted to make this available next year. It was agreed that this was something that the skippers should be arranging themselves.
4. The Chairperson stated that they had received an email from John McMaster. He was in contact with the winner of the R C Roberts trophy and was seeing him, in Scotland, shortly. John had requested to take the trophy with him, let the winner (Phil Dempsey) have a photo with it and bring it back. This was agreed, as long as the trophy was insured for the journey.

The meeting closed at 7.39pm.

Date of Next Meeting - 18th August 2025 – at 7.00pm Lower Bar, Social Club, West Looe and via Zoom.