



**SHARK ANGLING CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN
COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 1st October 2025 AT 7.00pm
At Looe Social Club and via Zoom**

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

Via Zoom: S Ward, S Dabney

Apologies: A McKay

Absent: D Stone

**Minutes of Last Meeting –
24th November 2025** - Proposed as an accurate record by P Davis, seconded by D Gorrington

Accounts – Monthly Breakdown

Jan-26	
Opening Balance	<u>£5,639.72</u>
Payments in	
Subs	£2,293.50
Extra	£35.00
Festival	£930.00
Trophy Night	
Merchandise	
	<u>£3,258.50</u>
Payments Out	
Website	£48.00
Secretary	£50.00
Stationery	£19.44
Telephone	£7.98
Postage	£34.75
Bank Charges	£1.51
LHC Barrier Fob	£30.00
Merchandise	
Festival costs	
	<u>£191.68</u>
Closing Balance	<u>£8,706.54</u>

The Committee had no questions regarding the accounts.

Matters Arising

1. Alex McKay has rejoined the Committee, although due to current work commitments he will



not be able to attend meetings for a while.

2. Presentation Evening ideas. 6th November. The secretary stated that the Social Club would be happy to host the Evening, either in the bottom bar (up to 50 people) or the top bar for more attendees. This to be confirmed nearer the date. A raffle to be held, with merchandise being sold and trophies presented. Also, regarding the Insurance of the Trophies, it has been decided to keep a book which the winners will have to sign to accept liability for the trophy in their possession. The trophies are not currently insured in transit and this must be covered by the winning members insurance at collection, until the trophy is returned. The secretary to inform any trophy claimants at the time of acceptance of the claim.

3. 2026 Dates – (update)
 - 23 February
 - 30th March
 - 27th April
 - 18th May
 - ~~29th June~~ 22 June
 - 27th July
 - 17th August
 - 1st October
 - 23rd November
 - AGM 30th June
 - Festival 1/2/3 July
 - Presentation 6th November Looe Social Club (Top/Bottom dependant on numbers)

4. Key and Fob collection and Registration number for Harbour Office, to access store. Carl Aldridge agreed to collect the fob for the barrier to access the part of the Harbour to access the store easier and provided his registration number for the pass.

Trophy Claims - None

Lucky Run Club

- The Winner of the January draw was Danny O'Malley winning £85.00
- The winner of the February draw was Billy Whistance winning £85.00

New Business

- The Festival 36 anglers – 9 boats. P Davis will be attending this year with Poseidon but did not want to continue as Commodore. He suggested D Margetts to take this on. The secretary to contact him. The other boats and anglers are all confirmed.
- 2 Gold SACGB pins old member Fred Birch. The Committee had been offered the purchase of two 9ct gold pin badges by an old members relative. The Committee decided that they would not purchase them but would let the members know, as there would be interest there.
- S Wright Letter re Threshers: The secretary had circulated the following letter from S Wright:

Time for change – Thresher Shark.

In the 90's local angler and shark specialist Danny Vokins campaigned for the Shark Club to become catch and release, realising that if people didn't change their ways then their wouldn't be the sharks to catch in the future.



Thankfully and eventually the Shark Club realised this was the best practice for the future and the club changed its philosophy and future.

Today, I feel we are at another one of those moments.

Please let me explain more.

Seeing another Thresher Shark picture hosted tonight on the Shark Club Facebook has fuelled me to write this and take action, if necessary.

What skippers and anglers need to realise that Thresher Sharks are Ram-Ventilators; That means they need water running over their gills to survive. They aren't Blue Sharks which are more hardy creatures.

No Bembridge angler has boated a Thresher Shark for many decades, because they realised how susceptible to capture they are and fragile they are to and that boating, causes them damage (including crushing their organs) and in pictures you can normally see the colour draining from the fish.

The angler lets them go, and says they are fine, but people with a lifetime of experience with them know that certain death is a distinct probability.

Threshers shouldn't be boated. In the last year, I have been involved with Threshers that have been hooked in the pectoral fin, Dorsal and even tail. NONE were boated!

They have all stayed in the water at all times and a boga grip used to revive them behind a moving boat until they are swimming freely, before the grip is released and they swim off unharmed.

The Isle of Wight has always been the Thresher hotspot for the past 5 decades.

Now, with the arrival of Blue Fin Tuna in UK waters, the species has become much more widespread, with Threshers being prevalent and caught in more areas that ever before, especially in the South West.

Best practice guides all point to Sharks being left in the water at all times, where they can get the correct water flow through their gills and their body weight and organs are fully supported.

I am proposing to the Shark club committee for a ruling that Threshers are not boated and no photo showing one being boated is ever hosted again on any of their social media platforms or website.

I hope that anglers and members can see the sense in this.

Not only is this bad for the Shark and the species, which has a very low population mass, but these images WILL also will be used against us by the anti-angling fraternity, as Threshers are on the 'ICUN Red List of Endangered Species'.

I feel this is a watershed moment.

I want things to change. If the club isn't willing to take another step forward in conservation for the good of the species, then I will collate my trophies which I have won (including the Mitchell Hedges) and rescind my membership going forward, as I don't feel that the club represents myself and how other like-minded shark anglers feel.

That's how I am feeling right now. Am I overreacting? Probably, but it sickens me to see a boated Thresher.

It shouldn't happen in this day and age and someone needs to stand up and say enough is enough, so here I am.

This isn't about me, it's about a special species of Shark which needs more care and attention given to it, and I feel I need to make a stand; now before it becomes even more commonplace. More are being caught by people who haven't had the experience which we have been fortunate to gather from many years of fishing for the species.

Let's see if the club is open to move with the times once again, like it did when it took the leap of faith when Danny Vokins and Joe Filipe spoke to them all that time ago.



*Many thanks
Spence
Spencer Wright*

It was agreed that a letter would be written to Mr Wright, confirming that action had already been taken regarding this matter and that they thank Spencer, in particular, and appreciate any members who raise conservation concerns and offer to help with education and guidance.

This is what the Committee discussed at a couple of meetings ago. They have already agreed that in future festivals anglers would not be boating Threshers, Porbeagle and Mako sharks for measuring and can assure Spencer we agree entirely.

Any Other Business

1. P Davis asked if members of the Lucky Run Club could be offered free subs. The cost of this would be covered by the payments made to the LRC and would encourage new players. This to be actioned. The only rule would be that members must continue to play the LRC until at least January 2027.
2. P Davis asked J Martin to refrain from posting pictures of boarded sharks (alive or dead) on the Club's Facebook page as this was very controversial.
3. J Martin asked if, at the Festival, clarification could be made with the skippers regarding the draw for position on the boat. After a discussion it was decided that this was up to the skipper to decide.
4. S Dabney stated that Dan Hawkins had sold the Reel Deal boat, just to keep the Committee updated.

The meeting closed at 7.27pm.

Date of Next Meeting – 30th March 2026 – at 7.00pm Lower Bar, Social Club, West Looe and via Zoom.