

HOLT SEA ANGLING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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August 2016

“ Holt SAC ... A Club for all abilities! ... ”

Hello Club Members ...

It has been a quiet summer for Club membership with just 29 paid up members which is well down on the previous year, with 2 Juniors, 3 Ladies and 2 new members who I welcome aboard. In addition, there are still 15 previous members who indicated their intention to re-join the Club this season but have not yet done so which would give the club a healthy membership.

As seems to be the norm these days it has been a strange Summer weather-wise unlike any of previous years with cold temperatures although not exceptionally cold lingering well into April. It really has been a start of year like no other with peelers really not peeling seriously and even the lug have yet to spawn in early August. Such an odd start to the year has certainly influenced the availability of fish with serious numbers of dabs still being taken well into June when they should have been dwindling. However, nature has a way of adjusting things as early July saw the water shear, the mackerel appear and the number of fish on the sand and shingle drop dramatically.

Altogether 9 beach club matches were fished during the summer with the first at Kelling in early April with a turn-out of 12 for the start of the season but they were rewarded with 284 fish being recorded. The end of April match at Cley saw a drop in both turn-out to 7 and numbers of fish to 24 but all of this was compensated for by the end of May match at Bacton when the smooth hounds appeared. A turn-out of 10 managed to find 17 hounds taken by Mike Watts, Kevin Green, Keith Morley, Tony Thomas and a bonus 10lb 11oz specimen to Jeff Stannard. Mike Watts took this match with the best weight of the summer of 24lb 4oz from 19 fish including 4 hounds. The final bank holiday weekend in May saw the best turn-out of 13 record the highest number of fish of 445 mainly comprising of small dabs, odd flounders with a few whiting still hanging around. Mike Watts again took this match with 59 fish for just 12lb 5oz.

The only Club match at Salthouse in early June saw a turn-out of 10 where 118 fish were recorded including 29 bass majority of which were schoolies with a 1lb 13oz version to Ivan Allison and 2nd heaviest summer bass caught in a club match. The mid-June match at Bacton saw the lowest turn-out of the summer find 23 fish one of which was the heaviest bass of the summer of 4lb taken by John Carter. The final June match at Kelling saw a good turn-out of 12 find just 46 fish comprising of small dabs and a few flounders with the whiting now gone but did see the first mackerel on a club match card under the new rule to Keith Morley. However, the next match at Kelling saw mackerel dominate 3 cards which instigated debate that this rule should be reviewed at the next AGM, a situation that over-shadowed a nice 29cm plaice taken by John Carter. The final match on the sand at Bacton in mid-July saw a good turn-out of 10 find just 52 fish comprising of dabs, a few good flounders, some schoolie bass with 6 to Tom Gibbs and a nice 30cm sole to Ivan Allison.

An interesting summer club match season with some good bags of fish and probably the star clubman in the making being young Luke Brierley who keeps showing the old hands a thing or two with Mike Watts showing his competitive edge by winning a few good matches. In the Summer Accumulator with just one leg left the current leader is Tony Thomas on 409 points, Mike Watts 389 points, John Carter 382 points and Peter Loke 380 points so although the champion may have been determined the other podium places are still up for grabs. The top Junior is Luke Brierley who is currently 5th on 264 points. Leading Lady is Adele Smith who is currently 13th on 143 points but has only fished 3 matches.

The Club's 4th North Norfolk Bass Festival was run in early May at Cley & Kelling and was again a great success. This year it also included the UK Ladies Championships, the North Norfolk Juniors Tournament and a new "teams of 4" event called the Shannock Quads which in total attracted 106 match anglers from around the country. Altogether 63 bass and 4098 fish were

Club Committee

<i>Chairman:</i>	Tony Thomas	<i>Committee</i>	Ivan Allison	Bill Beeton	Shane Brown
<i>Vice Chairman:</i>	John Neave	<i>Members:</i>	Tom Gibbs	Paul Kendrick	Henry Randell
<i>Secretary:</i>	Mike Watts				
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Peter Morse	<i>Phone Number:</i>	07899032984		

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recorded over the two days. Overall Festival Champion was Andy Collier from Suffolk and local lass Kimberley Lawn was Ladies Champion. Junior Champion was local lad Adam Molloy and Suffolk team Breakaway took the Shannock Quads. Our own clubman "Kipper" Coleman took the top short break holiday bass prize with his 6lb 6oz bass on Day 1 and club member Ade Parrott had the 4th overall heaviest bass of 3lb 7oz on Day 2. Many thanks to main sponsors Kelling Heath as well as Sea Angler magazine, TronixPro, Maver and Sheringham Carnival for their support and of course all the competitors for participating and club members for their assistance. The 2017 and 5th Festival will be on the weekend of 13th/14th May.

During May, June and July the club ran its Annual West Norfolk Challenge Series on the Ouse Estuary at Kings Lynn and support for the Series was poor as in previous years. The availability of crab again did not help the situation although we started earlier to avoid this and the quantity and quality of eels & flounders was worse than 2015 which did not help. Simon Drayton from Gainsborough became West Norfolk Challenge Champion, Simon Drayton & George Smith took the Free Pairs title and Simon Drayton & Peter Loke the Mystery Pairs title.

The Club also embarked on its first summer Orford trip in mid-May with a low turn-out of just 8 supporting the event. Plenty of dogs and a few bass were caught but the highlight of the day were the 5 rays. Biggest ray went to Tom Gibbs and his first real shore caught ray ever and Kevin Green caught his first shore ray for 30 odd years. The Club's Annual Mackerel Bash was held at Cley in late July and although turn-out was low it became a very competitive match towards the end. The mackerel did for once oblige with Mike Watts finding 12 in the last hour to take the honours.

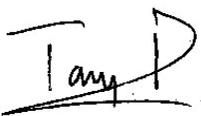
On the non-club scene two of our members were involved in the Home International that was fished in North Norfolk and at Sutton Bridge in early July. The event was beset with problems throughout but at least local Norfolk Angling Club did a good job with the pegging and stewarding. Club member Henry Randell was a member of the gold winning England Youths and Tony Thomas Assistant Manager for the gold winning Wales Mens team and well done to them in most trying conditions.

The final match of the summer season is the Charity Open at Kelling on Sunday 4th September fishing 10:30-3:30 HW 8:54a.m. 5.0m with Muckleburgh Collection Café for the draw and presentation. This is as last year in aid of Mundesley Lifeboat and all proceeds from the raffle will be donated to the Lifeboat so please bring a prize. With the summer campaign almost complete our attention now moves onto our busiest time of the year where we have a full schedule of 16 club and Open matches up to and including New Year's day. The club is here to enable you to enjoy your sport so participate whenever you can particularly in the Open matches where a healthy attendance helps to raise the profile of the club. There will also be an Orford Trip on Wednesday 26th October sponsored by the club so if interested book as soon as it is announced as numbers could be limited.

The club is also responsible for organising and running the TronixPro National Sea League Final which this year is on our own patch here in North Norfolk over the weekend of 26th/27th November. This year we are expecting in excess of 30 teams so it is another high profile event for the club. To compliment this, the club is also responsible for the North Norfolk NSL Teams of 5 Sea league which provisionally starts at Bacton on Saturday 15th October. In the past it has been difficult to ensure all club members participate in teams so Tom Gibbs (07747779826) has offered to coordinate the placing of club members in teams. So if you are interested in fishing in a team please contact Tom.

Well that's all for now with plenty of action to look forward to over the coming months so let's hope the fish again oblige!

Regards,



Tony Thomas
Club Chairman