

HOLT SEA ANGLING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

WWW.HOLTSAC.COM

December 2015

“ Holt SAC ... Ready for 2016! ... ”

Hello Club Members ...

I am pleased to inform you that the Club membership over the 2015 Autumn season has significantly increased primarily due to new members in the North Norfolk National Sea League teams. Currently, the membership stands at 65 comprising of 4 Ladies and 8 Juniors a significant increase from last year. An encouraging number of Juniors although their attendance over this period in club matches was rather lacking and the club has to instill some enthusiasm into them to gain their involvement in the coming year. It was a similar tale for our adult membership where attendance at the start the autumn was good whereas although we had a healthy membership this rapidly declined once we got into October. In contrast, the Teams and Open matches bucked the trend with good club turn outs which probably points a direction for club matches to go in future.

The weather during this period not only took us humans by surprise but also the fish. Predominantly offshore winds resulted in just one match being cancelled at Salthouse towards the end of November when the wind switched to serious onshore. Fortunately, the storms ravaging the West & North West towards the end of the year had little impact as the wind was always in the right quota and rain is just rain in North Norfolk. Nature however was confused with temperatures remaining almost at the early Autumn levels throughout leaving water temperatures at least 3° above normal by December. This totally confused the whiting which were late but plenty of feed close in brought them inshore when they did arrive and easy target for everyone. None of this bothered the ever reliable dab which seem to appear in increasing numbers each year. The most surprising thing about all this is being “crabbed” off in December and hauling in edible crabs at this time of year, all due to El Niño they say!

During the Autumn 9 weekend pure club trophy matches were held and for a change provisionally had a mixture of sand and shingle beaches from Cley, Salthouse and Kelling/Weybourne in the west to Bacton, Gt. Yarmouth, Trimmingham and Walcott in the west although Bacton had to be moved west due to sea state. Attendance at the first in early September was good at around 20 at Kelling but unfortunately dwindling to just 6 at Walcott in early December. In contrast, fish numbers were low at the start of this period with best bag of 14 at Kelling and picked up towards the end with best bag of 33 at Walcott. In yet another contrast, the quality fish were at the start of the period with a number of bass in the first couple of matches including two of 2lb 9oz to Christian Bulch and Paul Tovell in those first two matches respectively. To complement the weekend activity the club kicked off fortnightly Wednesday Evening matches in conjunction with Sabre Tackle initially on the sand and moving onto the shingle as the bigger whiting moved west. Attendance was not particularly high but attracted the more serious club match angler and generated some rather intense competition. Many thanks to Christian Bulch, Paul Kendrick & Jake Cooper for this initiative and getting it off the stocks.

During this period the club ran 5 Open matches with a mixture of support and attendance from club and regional match anglers. The first of these was the Sabre Tackle Charity Open in early September at Kelling in support of Mundesley lifeboat where the club and Christian Bulch's Sabre Tackle team raised £575 for this good cause. The event attracted 40 anglers from the region with Steve Adams from Ipswich top man with 11lb 11oz from 14 fish including a nice 5lb 10oz bass. The club's Annual Open was in late October where 27 match anglers battled it out at Kelling with Nathan Elliott taking the honours with 5lb 2oz from 18 fish. The Annual Xmas Fayre and Town Team Challenge Open was held just before Christmas at Kelling attracting 35 match anglers with a healthy contingent from Suffolk. A cracking match where both the dabs and whiting came on strong with over 1400 being recorded and John Smith from Ipswich took the day with 16lb 9oz from 60 fish. The final match of the year was poorly attended primarily due to other Open matches on the day attracting just 12 match anglers for the Rocket House Open at Salthouse. This was the club's only length match of the year with Paul Harrison from Aldeburgh doing the business with 1015cm from 44 fish where in total 383 fish were recorded. The New Year Open at Kelling was the final match of this period where 25 match anglers participated with John Smith yet again doing the job with 16lb 3oz from 59 fish where in total 963 fish were recorded.

The club also runs the North Norfolk National Sea League and this year has attracted a few more teams. After a rather haphazard start teams wise to the league there are now 8 teams that are participating and will fish in the 2016 National Sea League Final which includes the club's youth team and is probably the first youth team to compete in a Final. Three rounds of the six have been completed at Bacton, Kelling and Cley. The first at Bacton was a struggle for numbers of fish but there was bass up to 2lb 9oz for Mark Beresford and Jeff Stannard and a monster flounder of 1lb 5oz to Andy Gallacher along with few more specimen fish. Holt Crack Offs narrowly won the day with Jake Cooper taking the individual honours. The 2nd Round at Kelling was a big improvement on numbers of fish where dabs were by far the predominant species but with no real quality fish. The two Avenue Angling teams of Beccles & Norwich shared the day with Andy Gallacher the individual top spot. The 3rd round at Cley saw the dabs continue as the dominant species with some flounders and a few whiting at last joining them producing a further increase in fish numbers. Team Maver and Avenue Angling Norwich shared the spoils at this one with Mike Watts taking the individual's slot on the day.

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	Christian Bulch	Henry Randell
<i>Secretary:</i>	Mike Watts				
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Peter Morse	<i>Phone Number:</i>	07899032984		

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At the end of November Holt SAC was responsible for running the National Sea League Final at Eastbourne with assistance from Anglers Den of Pevensey Bay and sponsored by TronixPro. A record total of late of 30 teams participated in a highly competitive event where the weather played its part with atrocious but challenging conditions particularly on day 2 when winds up to 50 mph were recorded. Even so there were exceptional numbers of fish, predominantly whiting being recorded with over 6000 on day 1 and just under 3000 on day 2. East Anglian League Team Breakaway convincingly took the title by winning both days with North Norfolk Lads being the top club team in 11th place just out of the monies. The total prize table was well over £10k and the club was commended for its flawless running of the event. TronixPro provided sponsorship for the two days and Holt SAC would like to thank George Cunningham for his support. The 2016 Final will be in North Norfolk in late November or early December and the club will again be responsible for organising the event. The 8 North Norfolk Se League teams will be participating and there is every chance that the 30 teams of 2015 will be exceeded for 2016 which would demonstrate that Holt SAC is doing its bit to keep this event alive.

At the beginning of November the club had its Annual Orford trip to which Paul Fenech from Sea Angler magazine was invited. The target for the day was of course those big or double figure codling which as is the norm did not really materialise. However, Peter Loke found a nice one of 4lb 6oz and Keith Morley, Tom Gibbs and others with slightly smaller ones. Christian Bulch managed a 2lb bass and there was plenty of dogfish. Paul Fenech also managed a small codling himself and his involvement resulted in an excellent 4 page feature in Issue 526 of Sea Angler magazine at the end of 2015 by Paul with great photography from Lloyd Rogers dubbed "Orford Away Day". Many thanks to Paul and Lloyd for putting the club on the map.

On the non-club scene, "young" Henry Randell was selected as travelling reserve for the England Youth team fishing the Worlds in Holland in October. He demonstrated his abilities by winning 5 of the 6 Practice days and coming 2nd in the other but surprisingly was not picked to fish in the actual event. The team took silver, who knows what the result would have been if Henry had participated. His target is now the Homes in North Norfolk in July, good luck Henry!

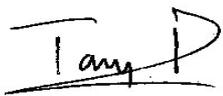
There are a couple of issues over the past few months that have affected our sport and there is a need to mention these and their repercussions, namely "cheating" and "bass ban". On the general match scene "cheating" has raised its ugly head in the form of reducing measuring stick length, submitting pre-caught fish for recording, retaining caught fish for re-recording, picking up washed up fish for recording and adding extra fish to match card. All of these have happened and as we know there has been some very sad consequences as a result of such actions. There is no need for such activity in our sport as it defeats the whole objective of competition and there is no evidence that this is happening in our club. However, we all know it is extremely tempting to pick up a washed up fish in front of ones buddy particularly at night but we all know that this and any of the other actions is cheating. We don't expect this from our club members but any member caught cheating will be immediately dismissed from the club and the Sea Angling match scene made aware of this action.

We are all aware of the one bass ruling per session from the start of 2015 and the total ban of the retaining of rod caught bass from 1st January to 1st July 2016 which is now EU legislation. We are also aware that this does not prevent the netting of this species along our coastline by commercials with boats under a certain size with an increased quota from last year. This is totally unfair and totally wrong but there is nothing we can do about it, it is EU law! This ruling is going to be difficult to police and we request that ALL club members remain within the law and return any caught bass to the sea during this ban period. The reputation of the club is at stake here and any club member caught breaking this law will be dismissed from the club. We have confirmation from DEFRA that we can continue to catch and release bass as actioned in all our matches.

Well that just about sums up our Autumn season, rather lengthy but we have been through 20 matches during this period. The remainder of the season will comprise of the 10 Winter Accumulator matches and final 3 rounds of the North Norfolk National Sea League. A copy of all the fixtures for this period is included with this newsletter which can also be found on the website. The AGM and Presentation Evening will be at Kelling in mid-March preparing ourselves for the coming season. A season that yet again promises to be better than ever with the prestigious North Norfolk Bass Festival in early May which as last year will also encompass the UK Ladies Championships, the North Norfolk Juniors Tournament and a new "teams of 4" event "The Shannock Quads" supported by Sheringham Carnival. There will then be the Summer activity on the beaches and the river estuary at Kings Lynn and maybe Gt. Yarmouth. There will also be the usual raft of Opens and of course the National Sea League Final in November/December so plenty of action for everyone who wants to participate whenever in 2016.

Don't forget to keep in touch with club activity through the club's website at www.holtsac.com or the club's Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/groups/894965543883199/.

Hopefully see you on the beaches soon!



Regards,
Tony Thomas
Club, Chairman

Holt Sea Angling Club

2015-16 Winter Fixtures

Match #	Date	Venue	Match Times	Trophy/Accumulator	Tide Time	Tide Height (Cromer)	
WINTER ACCUMULATOR	35	Sunday 3rd January	Cley	10:00 - 3:00	1st Leg Winter Accumulator & Ken Brown Cup	HW 1:14 p.m.	3.8m
	36	Sunday 10th January	Salthouse	10:00 - 3:00	2nd Leg Winter Accumulator & NN NSL Teams of 5 Round 4	LW 1:14 p.m.	4.7m
	37	Sunday 17th January	Kelling	9:30 - 2:30	3rd Leg Winter Accumulator	HW 12:02 p.m.	4.2m
	38	Sunday 24th January	Cley	10:00 - 3:00	4th Leg Winter Accumulator	LW 1:22 p.m.	4.7m
	39	Sunday 31st January	Trimingham	12:00 - 5:00	5th Leg Winter Accumulator	HW 11:03 a.m.	4.0m
	40	Sunday 7th February	Kelling	9:00 - 2:00	6th Leg Winter Accumulator	LW 12:12 p.m.	4.5m
	41	Sunday 14th February	Salthouse	10:00 - 3:00	7th Leg Winter Accumulator & NN NSL Teams of 5 Round 5	HW 10:32 a.m.	4.5m
	42	Sunday 21st February	Cley	9:30 - 2:30	8th Leg Winter Accumulator	LW 12:28 p.m.	4.5m
	43	Sunday 28th February	Bacton	12:00 - 5:00	9th Leg Winter Accumulator	HW 9:36 a.m.	4.4m
	44	Sunday 6th March	Kelling	10:00 - 3:00	10th Leg Winter Accumulator	LW 10:57 a.m.	4.2m
	45	Sunday 13th March	Bacton	12:00 - 5:00	NN NSL Teams of 5 Round 6	HW 9:21 a.m.	4.9m
	-	Saturday 19th March	Kelling Heath Holiday Park	2:30 onwards	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING		
-	Saturday 19th March	Kelling Heath Holiday Park	7:00 onwards	PRESENTATION DINNER			