

RNRMAA Sea Section Newsletter – February 2020

ALL

BLUF – BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT – IF YOU READ NOTHING ELSE PLEASE TAKE THESE POINTS AWAY:

1. A TEAM OF PEOPLE WORK HARD TO GIVE YOU THE BEST SERVICE FOR THE FUNDING AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US. YOU MAKE THIS WORTHWHILE BY ATTENDING THE EVENTS WHEN YOU CAN.
2. MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN RAISED TO £30 WHICH STILL REPRESENTS VFM BUT ALLOWS EXTRA EVENTS TO BE FUNDED. PLEASE RENEW/JOIN PROMPTLY.
3. NEXT YEAR EVENTS WILL BE SPREAD OUT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO GIVE YOU MAXIMUM CHANCE TO ATTEND.
4. AIM FOR 2020 TO BUILD A LARGE BOAT AND SHORE SQUAD – YOUR CHANCE TO BE PART OF IT.
5. WEBSITE BACK IN OPERATION.
6. SPECIMEN AWARD SCHEME AVAILABLE.

Many of you (having been previous members) will have received the new membership stuff and form to renew. It is attached for those that have shown interest lately and for any you may recruit. I hope you all do renew as we continue to build a strong sea section. Behind the scenes an immense amount of work is undertaken on your behalf by the Captains - Jamie(boat) and Jules/Matt(shore), Ollie, Trevor Sutch and Darren Phillips. I know you appreciate their input and I formally thank them for another year of great service to the cause. Well done guys and keep the enthusiasm coming.

The goal for 2020 is simple – to continue to build a competent boat squad of at least 15 anglers and an equally capable shore squad of 20 or more. You all have the chance to be part of this and to give the RNRM the best chance of getting back on top at Inter Services.

Hopefully the calendar(attached) being pushed out in the winter with proposed fishing dates on is helping you organise your work/AT balance. I am striving to keep things in roughly the same place each year so that you can look ahead and get involved. We are also looking to spread things out a bit more. Recently, at short notice we looked at moving the shore champs to April but unfortunately it was just too short notice and therefore it's back to the autumn . Next year we will bring it back to April and that will end up with events spread throughout the year that will give you the best chance to the time to go. Due to a recent JSP change there will be more events each year to go to at either IS or UKAF level. We are working on the details of these events and will promulgate when we know. Jamie has already set up extra coaching sessions in the boat with the England boat squad this year. These are privileged events that the other services would give their eye teeth for so make the most of them and attend if you can when he calls. Last years' boat training camp was enjoyed by all attending and we shall run another this year, currently I have 12 attendees but I'd like to see that double next year. If you are serious about competition boat fishing – you need to attend one. Specialist rods, reels and tackle will be supplied so you can literally just turn up with your enthusiasm and foulies. Plymouth will remain our boat HQ and we continue to build our knowledge and skill with a view to winning the IS comp in 2022. Jamie Howard has the lead on all things boat and is waiting for your call!

On the shore we have looked at where we got to last year and look to develop things going forward. To that end Matt, Darren and Trevor have set up RNRM inclusion in a local league and intend to use those sessions for competition practice. For a small entrance fee there is the opportunity to pitch your skill against some very good anglers. Of course the 2 main targets for RNRM anglers is to beat Trevor or

Darren if they are there!! So regular practice is available at Plymouth and Portsmouth for those that are already familiar with competition fishing. We are also looking to canvas interest in Faslane and set up another node there – if you know anybody willing to help with that give me a shout. If you are new to competitive angling, coaching sessions are available in Portsmouth and Plymouth, last year these were an opportunity to fish together and get to know each other and try techniques. We concentrated on the venue for that years IS. This year the IS comp is in Hythe, this is a long distance, 3 hook clipped type fishing. Therefore this year we will concentrate our efforts on venues around Portsmouth that require a similar effort. Coaching will concentrate more on casting, long distance rig design, bait prep and beach admin. It may be more classroom work than fishing but you will learn more. To that end (and in light of the aim to build a big squad) I make a plea to all anglers – whenever or wherever you are shore fishing we want you to use a distance outfit with a 3 hook clipped rig and chuck it as far as you can. Concentrate on using small baits, streamline your trace and practice good casting. This could be a second or third rod whilst you do your normal fishing but it will give you valuable experience especially if you adopt the coaching pointers given at the sessions. If we do any fishing at these sessions they will be all 3 hook clipped so bring your best streamlined trace and lets check it out together and see if it can be improved. We are intending to bring in casting instructors to help also. By the end of this year I would hope to see the beginnings of a strong squad – let's go to Hythe and give the Army a run for their money!

The fees have got up this year to £30 but if you are ordering tackle on our Veals discount scheme then you'll have that back in no time. I have a pretty good idea of all the funding sources now so rest assured I will continue to make this as cheap as possible and if you get involved you will see great value for that £30. Incidentally if you are in the sports lottery and come to the training camp, I can now get £400 per angler for a personal contribution of £150, of which you see all of the benefit. It's like winning every year!!

Trevor Sutch has been extra busy this year in successfully chasing down the RNRMAA webmaster. As you will know the website has been in a sorry state for the sea section – well no longer – we are updating it again and Trevor will take any articles(sea angling!!) you feel should go on there. Contact him off the WhatsApp group with your ideas. He also champions the specimen award scheme and we have had many awards this year(see website) and I reckon that will continue to grow.

On the UKAF front, we have now set up a tri service working group that is going to review all of the Services sea angling business. A 2 day inaugural meeting took place and all 3 services have agreed several actions to move forward. This will hopefully lead to a standard set of rules, scoring, safety, procedures. This will then be adopted at IS and single service levels to ensure continuity across the discipline. The ultimate aim is to raise the standard and get the UKAF brand to a level that other teams want to fish against – Holland to name one that has shown an interest. In the boat world the ambition is equally high by running more UKAF events with more teams we hope to give anglers the opportunity to pitch their skills against the best.

OK last plea – we continue to look at the way we do things, match it to our funding and resources and give you the best service we can. We won't get it right and haven't got it right all the time but we learn and the general progress is good. Your end of it is to attend where possible and allow us to gain feedback on that progress, we have a core of good anglers but not enough to win consistently at the moment. The goal for 2020 is to change that.

Tight Lines people and see you on the beaches and boats.

Regards

Lt Cdr Jan Creek