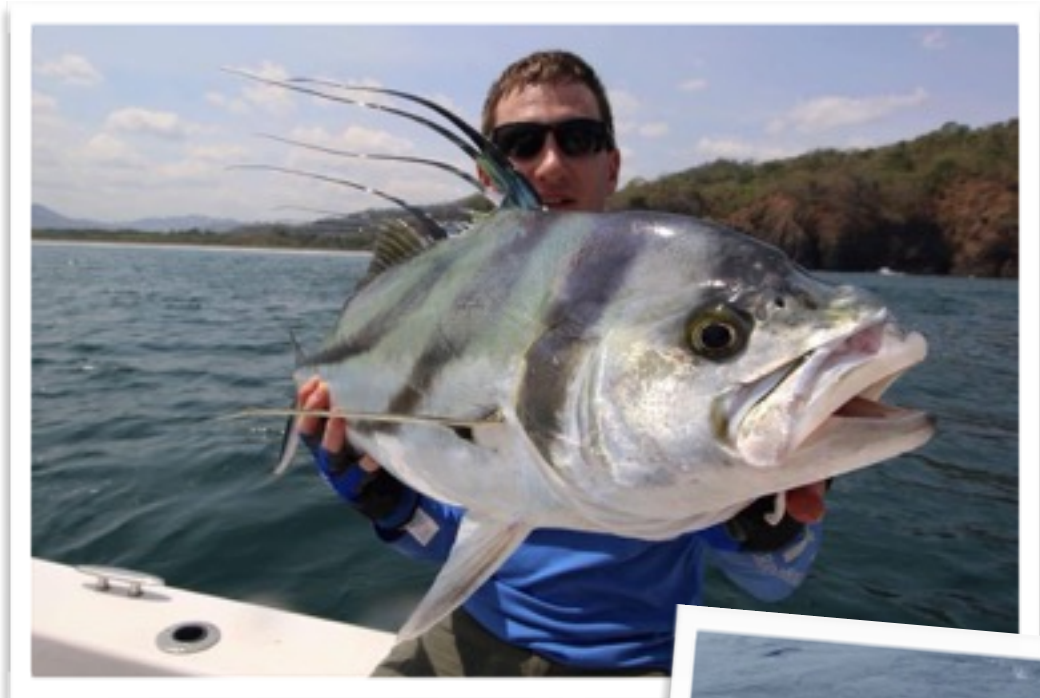
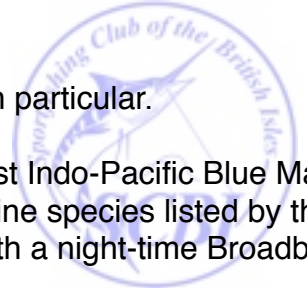




Sportfishing Club of the British Isles

Newsletter - June 2018





Milestones, and Congratulations are definitely in order for two members in particular.

Firstly fishing out of Watamu in Kenya during March Marc Towers caught his first Indo-Pacific Blue Marlin - there's an image on the front page - to complete his Billfish 'Royal Slam'; all nine species listed by the IGFA. And for good measure he went on to release a further three, together with a night-time Broadbill.

So for Marc 'mission accomplished', and he joins other Club members - Neil Cunningham, John Gill, Terry Smith and, sadly deceased, Denis Froud - in achieving that Royal Slam. Well done Marc! Interestingly Marc has caught eight out of nine species from African venues. Therefore a further challenge and in the years to come I suspect he just might endeavour to get that Atlantic Sailfish from somewhere like Senegal to achieve a completely African Royal Slam.

And also on Marc's itinerary was what could best be described as a low key 'elopement' type of wedding after Tina - his partner - had, in a very modern way, asked him to marry her. Yup about time Marc, and congratulations to you both! Additionally Marc noted that Tina is pregnant, a little brother - this is me guessing of course, no clues whatsoever in the picture - for his two year old daughter?



I'm sure all of us who've caught Marlin will remember the thrill of their first; in my own case in 1979 aboard that 'grand old lady', Wight Striker from Puerto Rico in Gran Canaria but despite the passage of 'a lot of years' still a vivid memory.

In April Shawn Trinder with an eye on his forthcoming birthday - a BIG one, his 40th - decided to celebrate and attempt to 'break his duck' on a trip to Cape Verde fishing with Zak Conde. But would the Marlin co-operate? The fishing was to prove slow for all crews but as usual Zak would 'work his socks off' to get that first for Shawn. They started with a day and a half in Sao Nicholau before trolling back, re-locating to Santo Antao. After a night's rest in that amazing eco-hotel - fantastic food - they, refreshed, trolled out to the fabled NorWest Bank and it was here Shawn opened his account with a released, lure caught 300lb Blue. Then, on the way back to Mindelo, up came another that he successfully released on a pitch bait; to my mind the most exciting way to target billfish, very visual! That was what proved to be a really tough fight with a 400 pounder.

Well done Shawn! And he's already toying with where next to target billfish with both he and his wife considering the Dominican Republic for White Marlin, but his sons favouring Kenya or Cabo. Um I wonder who's going to win? Shawn of course will be well in the running for the Pete Higgins Memorial Trophy this year having racked up that important first Marlin.

Encounters with Bluefin Tuna, and starting with a comprehensive report by Steve Murphy. It contains some interesting observations on both tackle and techniques.

Mallorca. My fishing buddy JJ and I returned to Mallorca in May 2018 to fish again for Bluefin Tuna with Captain Toni Riera of 'Fishing in Mallorca' - <http://fishinginmallorca.com>.

In June 2017 our two day visit coincided with the spawning event in that area North of Mallorca. With the fish preoccupied with other matters, fishing wasn't easy but we still managed three fish of circa 120, 160 and 480lbs, and lost several others.

Toni and his brother Vince run two boats out of Port D'Alcudia in the North East of the island - a Rodman 34 and Sunseeker 37. Both are equipped with chairs, Shimano Tiagra 80W's and 50W's. Despite the excellent Bluefin fishing off the North side of Mallorca, Toni and Vince are the only professional operation in the area. There are several other 'Tourist traps' charters in the area. If you're heading to Mallorca for Bluefin, these are the ONLY guys you should consider.

This trip JJ and I had chosen dates when the 'giants' have usually moved a bit further offshore, and we wanted to target 100-250lb fish on our own 50W stand-up gear rather than the 500lb+ 'muthas' from the chair on an 80.



Cheap flights to Palma (45 minutes by car/taxi) are available from several airlines and departure points around the UK, and Toni can arrange very reasonably priced accommodation. The Rodman 34 at that time of year charters for Eur 1045 for the boat for a day.

JJ and I left the UK Monday late afternoon and by 7.30am Tuesday we were on the water. The fishing grounds are typically only around 30 minutes or so from port.

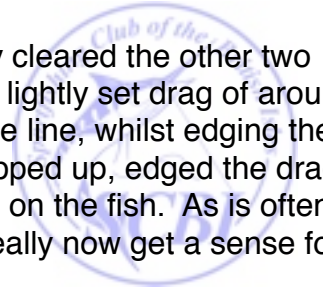
Toni was very concerned about our 50lb class gear, 130lb Fluoro leaders, and "tineee Eeeeenglish hooks" - 10/0 Owner Tournament circles. We relented slightly and ran

just one 80W as the furthest, deepest rod given the biggest fish were typically running deepest. The second & third closer, shallower rods were a mix of Shimano and Alutecnos 50/80 bent butt stand up rods and Toni's 50lb Trolling rod, all fitted out with a mix of 50w 2 speed reels - Alutecnos, Tiagra and the new Penn International six series. The water temperature was still a few degrees on the low side for the time of year, keeping the Bluefin deep. Unlike June 2017, we saw no surface action from Bluefin during our three days.

The technique was to either anchor or drift - depending upon wind/current conditions - whilst chunking with an oily member of the mackerel family from Toni's automatic chunking machine. Typically in 100-130 metres water depth we fished three rods with live baits. The deepest and furthest was at about 80 metres. One just below the thermocline at around 50 metres, and one just in or above it at around 40 metres.

Our first run, around 9am came on the middle bait, on JJ's new Penn 50VISW and it was only right that he took this first run to christen his reel.

As he struggled into his Alutecnos bucket harness and pad Toni and I frantically cleared the other two lines as the fish continued to scream off, taking well over 150 yards against our lightly set drag of around 10-12lbs. As soon as it stopped, I wound like crazy to remove the big bow in the line, whilst edging the drag up a touch, towards 15-17lbs or so. I quickly passed the rod to JJ who clipped up, edged the drag further up to our fighting position - 25lb - and set to work putting some pressure on the fish. As is often the case, this sparked a second run, shorter this time, but at 25lb of drag you really now get a sense for the power of these 'beasties'.



This was JJ's first Bluefin on standup gear and it took him a short while to get into the rhythm, bend the knees (which lifts the rod tip) and wind down as you straighten up. These short pumps on a good stand up rod are the best way to bring Bluefin to heel. This was a pretty typical Bluefin fight, a few runs towards the boat, entailing frantic reeling, several more runs, although slower and shorter, before the fish went deep and began the classic 'pinwheel'. Short pumps as the fish circles back around towards you, low gear if required, will slowly bring it spiralling up. 45 minutes after hook up we had the fish at the stern, where Toni tail roped it, and he and I hoisted it across the water level swim-deck into the cockpit.

Quick high fives all around but then quickly back to work. It measured out at 167cm (65"), but was a fat fish, which Toni put at 85-90kg (190/200lbs), a bit above the average length to weight charts would indicate. Whilst I oxygenated the fish with a deck hose, Toni tagged the fish, and JJ was given the honour of sliding her back over the swim deck to freedom.

A great achievement, but alas the only run we had that day. We saw plenty of fish on the sounders, but with so much feed these fish were quite choosy. Day 2 would call for some changes.

We fished the same spread Wednesday, but lengthened our 130lb fluoro traces to about 12-15 feet, and moved the weights further up from our baits. Our frustration built as we saw fish on the sounder, checking out and leaving our baits.

One fish appeared higher in the water, 20 metres down. JJ and I frantically hurled handfuls of chunks to try and hold it whilst Toni rigged a chunk and free-spoiled it back in the trail. The spool went into overdrive as a Bluefin hit the bait and Toni just managed to get the ratchet on before a backlash. As before, lines were cleared, I harnessed up and after that first run set to work.

The problem I had was that this take had come on the captain's own 50W rig. The rod's 50lb trolling tip was fitted to a straight chair butt, longer than a standard stand-up butt. The mechanics of such a set up on my standup harness were, to say the least, not helpful. Pushing the pad up off my thighs into my groin, I was in agony within 15 minutes. JJ's encouragement, between tears of laughter, did the job and after 55 minutes we had another fat torpedo in the cockpit. 162" but another very fat fish around 185/190lbs.

We had no further runs on Wednesday but Toni's brother, Vince, with a crew of Swedish anglers, hooked and boated a 190cm, (75") fish that went around 110kg, (240lbs).

Our last day was accompanied by friendlier wind and current, allowing us to set up some really good drifts. It seemed to help. We had four runs for three fish boated. JJ lost one as he freaked out a bit as an initial run seemed to never end. (In reality it was about 150 yards.) Pushing the drag up to strike to slow it, all it did was take the bow out of the line and bring it suddenly very tight to the still motoring fish. The knot to the trace popped under the sudden pressure. The best lessons are learnt the hard way. Don't touch that drag until the run stops, or if you have lost 75% of your line on that first run.

Nonetheless, we took three other fish that day, between 130 and 160lbs. Six runs and five fish in three days met our expectations, but as is often the case we left feeling we could have done even better had we been a bit more flexible in our approach from day one.

The day we departed, the big 'muthas' unexpectedly returned to the area. In the week after we left, the two boats took several fish between 350 and 460lbs, and then a run that saw five fish over 600lb taken within a few days! The latter would have been at the limits of our 50W stand up gear, but definitely beyond our individual physical limits.

So remember - book your trip, check your gear, get to the gym....

There is a video of Steve's trip on this link - <https://www.facebook.com/100008874336484/videos/1821254754846985/>.

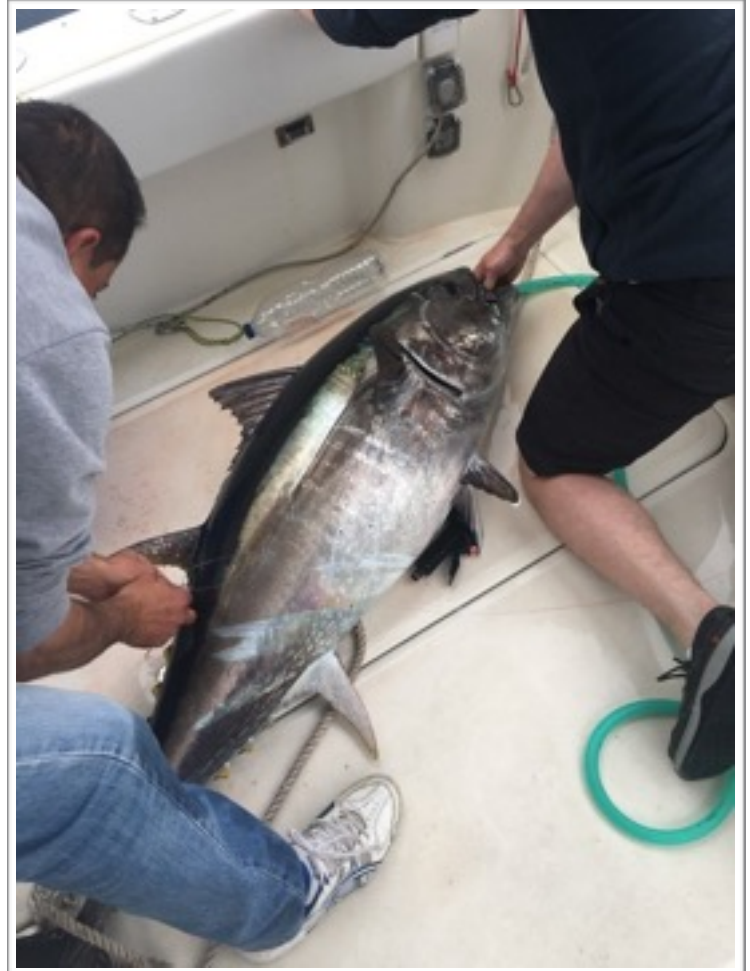
Tenerife, Canary Islands. And they get BIGGER!

Perhaps in part motivated over the past several years by those regular sightings of Bluefin during our Plymouth sharking tournament Chris Flower was tempted to sample the heavy tackle fishery for the Spring run through in Canaries. This is Chris' report.

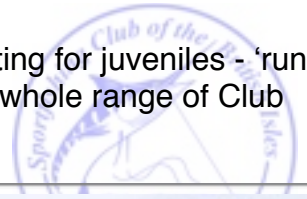
"I have just returned (April) from Tenerife where I hoped to see one of our party hook up to a Bluefin. By prior agreement I was first in the chair and hooked up mid-afternoon. Forty minutes later, after applying enough strain to snap a 1" strap on a brand new Aftco harness and having to cobble together a replacement, I released a 400 pounder. About an hour later I hooked a second and even though the harness arrangement was far from perfect released a 550lb giant after about 35 minutes of the most unrelenting pressure I've ever applied to a fish. Strike setting was set to 25Kg (55lbs) and I never dropped below that, even with several hundred yards of line out, straight down. We were in 1600 metres of water - a mile deep - and the fish tended to dive rather than run. It certainly gave my vertebrae a realignment and my hamstrings a stress test! Time to go home.

We had two more on Tuesday, slightly smaller fish in the 350-400lb range and one on Thursday. The latter was a really tough customer that took my mate's brother over an hour with a new harness, and he really knows heavy tackle angling. It was only 300-350lbs!

A great trip - can't wait to go back."



Ancona, Adriatic coast of Italy. Now to a completely different style, sight casting for juveniles - 'run and gun' - with heavy spin gear with that very personable skipper, Diego Bedetti. A whole range of Club members have registered their first Bluefin with Diego, and for Nik Teal and Bob McKee this was their third such trip. (Apart from the Tuna I can certainly recommend the town's excellent sea food coupled with the local Verdichio wine. Ancona's well worth a visit if the weather co-operates.)



Yes, the weather could have been better - definitely not helping spotting at range, and it was mainly singletons they were targeting rather than pods engaged in a feeding frenzy - but still Nik and Bob racked up three fish in the 80 to 90lb range. They lost a further two.

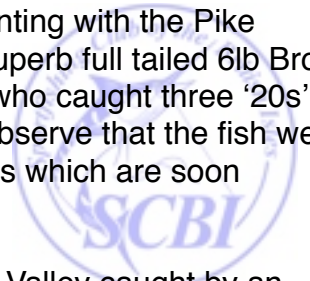
UK Bluefin Tuna update. Just to reiterate CEFAS, the Fisheries part of DEFRA, announced a Research Program in collaboration with Exeter University into the 'Cornish' Bluefin that will entail recording sightings and fitting up to 40 Pop-up Satellite Tags, to those fish over the next 2 years. They are very focused on the 'Cornish' BFT for this program due to their age - younger than those encountered off Donegal and in the Celtic Deeps - coupled with the fact that of the hundreds of satellite tag tracks recorded, not ONE has ever shown a BFT in these areas.

Separately Charles Reaves will have sent you recent updates regarding the Thunnus UK tagging element of their research program. You can find information on their webpage <https://www.thunnusuk.org/aim-2-electronic-tracking>. Appended to this newsletter I have attached an earlier article from the Times newspaper where it was reported, and a schematic showing a track of one 'Donegal' BFT's 'meandering' over the course of a year - into the Med and ranging well West of the Azores.

Freshwater Fly Fishing. An element of our sport in which many of us participate but something that rarely gets a mention in newsletters. So, whilst not much, here's just a flavour of some of our members' activities.

One of the more specialist aspects of the sport is targeting Pike, and the 'Mecca for the Monsters' is undoubtedly the Bristol Water reservoirs - Chew Valley and more recently Blagdon. And it must be a marketing man's 'dream'! Given the significant levels of interest boats are auctioned at Chew and - last year, in only its second restricted season - subject to a lottery at Blagdon. Even then at Blagdon boats were hired at £400 a day!

Vince Webb was fortunate - his name was drawn - but the day proved disappointing with the Pike seemingly having developed 'lock jaw'. He did however make up for it with a superb full tailed 6lb Brown Trout. Perhaps small consolation as I've just read an article of two gentlemen who caught three '20s' - the best a 27 pounder - and an 'upper double' in their day. But the author did observe that the fish were - as is usually also the case at Chew - coming from what are small, isolated areas which are soon identified and, of course, pressurised.

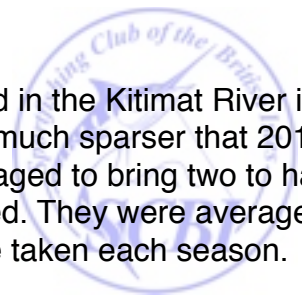


Still here's an image of Vince's brownie and a superb 41lb 8oz Pike from Chew Valley caught by an Italian angler.



And how about this magnificent Winter 3lb Grayling taken by Toby Coe from a Wessex river; and what a superb image!





Somewhat further afield Phil Cobham was targeting the Spring run of Steelhead in the Kitimat River in Northern British Columbia (Canada). Phil commented that this year's run was much sparser than 2017 and he only got three proper takes - swinging the fly - during his week but managed to bring two to hand. Both were in local parlance 'bucks' - males, one fresh run and the other coloured. They were average-sized fish for the area at around 12/13lbs, but numbers of 20 plus pounders are taken each season.



Freshwater Fishing. It's again an aspect of our sport that many of us target, but little gets reported. But here're just some, starting with Mike Wheeler's report from Germany.

"Fellow SCBI member Stephan Kreupl invited me to spend a day fishing at his private 'Jurassic' lake. The weather was perfect and we had five rods set up to target Sterlets (fringe-barbel Sturgeon), Beluga Sturgeon, Pike, Wels Catfish and some heavyweight Carp.

Early afternoon saw the first bite of the day on one of Stephan's hair-rigged Halibut pellets flavoured with pineapple extract. It wouldn't appeal to me but the first Sturgeon of the day was on the bank and photographed after a tough fight. It weighed about 30lbs and was followed by three more in the 30 to 40lb range, all of which were unhooked in the water and released.

The same bait took a bigger fish later in the afternoon and it took off like a proverbial steam-train. Stephan coached me during the fight as he was sure it was one of his bigger Beluga Sturgeon. It tried all sorts of tricks to get free but eventually we got it on the carp mat for a quick photograph - a Beluga estimated at about 70lbs. To be honest I was so tired after the first four fish I didn't have the energy to hold it up for a photo!

Then another run on the same rod, this time probably a big carp but the hook straightened and that was that.

As things quietened down before sunset Stephan barbecued some delicious German sausages which went down very well with a couple of bottles of chilled beer.

At about 9 pm the alarm went off on one of the carp rods with a hair-rigged boilie. Exhausting work but it turned out to be a Common Carp in prime condition which tipped the scales at exactly 48lbs. Stephan recognised it as a fish he caught four years previous weighing 44 lbs. Yet there was another surprise in store - 28 lb. Mirror Carp. What a day! Again Many Thanks to Stephan - you are a real Gentleman!"

And what do they say about buses? Literally within days of Mike's report being posted on Facebook I got a note from Marc Towers who had just returned from Romania targeting wait for it Beluga Sturgeon from a stocked fishery. Marc commented that the fishing was difficult but he did manage to release one but his boat partner managed an even more impressive specimen - one in the 70kg range (150lbs) - on a light lure outfit whilst targeting the lake's Zander population.





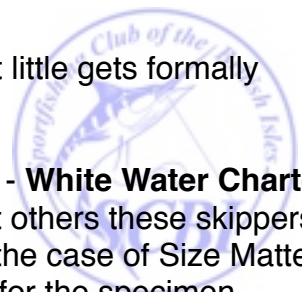
And in early May Phil Riley targeted Oxfordshire's Linear Fishery for Tench and he achieved - something that's still 'work in progress' for me - a 'double', 10lb 1oz. Well done Phil, I'm envious. As well as back-up species he had a Roach of 2lb 1oz, a 10lb 2oz Bream and a 2lb 11oz Perch.

Finally on this topic, and following on from Marc's trip to Romania, I enquired how far into his self-set challenge he was to catch ten 100lb plus freshwater species from non-commercial fisheries; and the count to-date is NINE! So, running through them chronologically:

- In 2013 Alligator Gar from Texas - the two best estimated at 180 and 206lb - and, later that year on the Parana River in Argentina Short-tailed River Rays, the largest in the 230-240lb class.
- Then in 2014 trips in Uganda Nile Perch to 160lbs and from Guyana Piraiba Catfish to 150lbs & Arapaima to 220lbs plus. Up to five!
- 2015 saw Marc in Thailand where he released a number of Giant Freshwater Stingray the largest estimated at in excess of 300lbs based on measurements, but still little more than a fairly modest fish for the species! This was followed by a trip to India where he managed the thus far most difficult captures to-date, a 140lb Goonch Catfish from the Ramganga River. Marc then racked up a number of White Sturgeon in the Columbia River in Oregon, USA - fish only up to 140-150lbs, so definitely one that needs a return trip to improve upon that size class!
- 'Number nine' came in 2017, a Wels Catfish from the Petite Rhone in France, a 2.10 metre fish around the 130lb class - again, not a monster by any means for the species, but job done and another one for the 'must improve upon' list.
- So where will 'number 10' come from? Well Marc has a planned trip to Argentina's Corrientes Province in late July where his goal will be a big Surubi Catfish, and whilst a 100lb plus specimen will be possible it will certainly be tough. Also 'on the cards' will be a trip to target a good Jau Catfish, again a somewhat difficult, but not impossible 100lb plus target.

There's much more detail of Marc's trips illustrated by literally hundreds of images linked to albums within the PHOTOS section of his Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/marc.towers.3>. Well worth a look!

UK Saltwater Fishing. Again something actively pursued by many of us, but little gets formally reported.



Initially though I wanted to briefly comment on two particular charter operations - **White Water Charters** run by Andrew Alsop and **Size Matters** skippered by Kevin McKie. Unlike most others these skippers do move their bases of operation based on what species they're targeting, with in the case of Size Matters it ranging from Liverpool targeting Cod during the Winter months, up to Scotland for the specimen Common Skate before moving down in late Spring to its base in Plymouth. There, as well as sharking and the reef & wreck fishing, it runs multi-day trips to the Channel Islands.

This you'll come to understand is all a convoluted way of introducing Mr Patten activities to our newsletter; amazing that's it's already page 11 and he hasn't previously been mentioned!

Any rate Jon and Phil Riley fished on **Size Matters** whilst it was in Scotland and, together with a couple of friends, released 13 Skate in two days - fish that averaged over 180lbs each. Both Jon and Phil had 200 pounders with Phil the largest taped out at 208lbs. And, as you'll see from the image, at least Phil knows which way up to wear his Black Magic harness. (Apologies Jon I wasn't really trying to embarrass you after that 'incriminating' photograph taken last year in Ireland. Honestly!)



Then Phil crewed on Size Matters as it cruised down to its Summer mooring in Plymouth and, on the way, released his first ever Porbeagle, a 300lb plus fish. Not a bad way to open your account!

Certainly the Porbeagles - including some even BIGGER fish - are showing up off North Cornwall and in the Channel out from Poole Bay. And great to see what is now a gradual recovery in their numbers after what had been their dramatic decline since the '60s when commercials on both sides of the 'Pond' started actively targeting them. Certainly last Winter juveniles were reported as being present on many wrecks, all the way from Mounts Bay to Start Point

The Blue Sharks have also arrived off the Pembrokeshire coast. And below is an image of new members Lee Goodman and Tim Westcott with one Lee took aboard Andrew Alsop's **White Water** on fly gear - albeit the fly 'sweetened' with bait - from the Celtic Deeps.



There is much more to add, particularly overseas trips to Central America - Panama, Costa Rica and Mexico - and those to Southern Oman and the Seychelles. (You will have seen on that facing page an image of new member Karl Bird with that superb Roosterfish, but there was a much larger one reported - an estimated 70 pounder.) But I am very conscious as to how large this electronic newsletter is already and have decided to split it into two; part two will follow in a couple of weeks time.

Still, in concluding, just a couple of bits of news but firstly a short video clip that you might find of interest of a Striped Marlin 'cruising' around the marina in Cabo san Lucas - <https://www.facebook.com/Flyzonefishing/videos/2114536128575971/?>

[hc_ref=ARTFpKgtDrgAgSmHozZ_CFB_DRT1W9Uu034pwipQo_r8NlipMqrKaUfIU-uedCaahww&fref=gs&dti=306897184017&hc_location=group](https://www.facebook.com/Flyzonefishing/videos/2114536128575971/?hc_ref=ARTFpKgtDrgAgSmHozZ_CFB_DRT1W9Uu034pwipQo_r8NlipMqrKaUfIU-uedCaahww&fref=gs&dti=306897184017&hc_location=group). Um I wonder why we're chartering boats for the Club trip!

Then, something you may not have picked up from the angling press that it appears given declining sales the owner of Pure Fishing - an aggregation of many famous and some iconic brands, like Penn, Stren, Shakespeare, Hardy, Mitchell, Abu Garcia, Berkley and Sebile - has put it up for sale. There's reference to it here - <http://www.angling-international.com/newell-brands-prepared-sell-pure-fishing/>. What impact this will have on availability of tackle or spares in the future, or whether it will be sold as a whole or broken up is unclear but the parent company - Newell Brands Inc - has identified that its intention is to complete the sale by the end of next year.

And linked to that, having earlier been released by Pure Fishing as a brand consultant, Patrick Sebile is 'back in business' developing and marketing lures in a new company - A Band of Anglers - <http://www.angling-international.com/world-exclusive-patrick-sebile-back-business/>. (At time of writing I can't find a web site, but updates will I'm sure be posted on his Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/patrick.sebile.1/>.)

Not all of you may be 'fluff chuckers' - proponents of the 'long rod' - but even so could I recommend you have a glance at this free on-line magazine - <http://www.fin-chasers.com/#1>. It's well written and illustrated by some excellent images. The contents are identified here - <http://www.fin-chasers.com/#4> - and include such venues as Alphonse Island in the Seychelles, one on South African Yellowfish and that iconic Icelandic fishery - Lake Thingvallavatn.

Finally to remind you the Times Bluefin article and the schematic identifying the movements of a Bluefin Tuna initially tagged off the West coast of Ireland - Donegal - are appended.

All the Very Best

Dave West

One that got away: giant bluefin tuna makes return to British seas

Ben Webster Oceans Correspondent

The huge bluefin tuna was once so prevalent in UK waters that aristocrats, millionaires and film stars — including John Wayne, Errol Flynn and David Niven — flocked to Scarborough in the 1930s and 1940s to catch the tunny, as it was known.

In 1933 Lorenzo Mitchell-Henry, son of a wealthy financier, hooked an 851lb specimen 50 miles off the Yorkshire coast, which remains the British record. The fish disappeared from British coastlines in the 1990s partly because of overfishing of the herring and mackerel on which they fed.

Now they are back, with more than 500 sightings around the British Isles in the past five years, including off Devon, Cornwall and Pembrokeshire, though not yet off Yorkshire. Fishermen have reported seeing schools of more than 100 feasting on pilchards and mackerel off Cornwall last year. The water turned into a seething, writhing mass as the powerful predators, which can shoot through the water at 45mph, rounded up and charged at their prey.

The return of the bluefin has raised the tantalising prospect of a return to big game fishing that would attract wealthy anglers willing to pay £5,000 a day to charter a boat, bringing welcome out-of-season income to Cornish fishing villages. Bluefin arrive in greatest numbers in October and November, when most tourists have departed.

The fish is still classed as an endangered species and it is illegal to target it in British waters because no fishing quota has been allocated to the UK. However, at least 50 have been hooked by shark anglers in the past two years. Yet scientists say much more needs to be known about the fish and its movements before even a small scale catch-and-release fishery could be permitted.

The Angling Trust is working with the University of Exeter and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science to attach satellite tags to 40 bluefin and track their movements. Tagging elsewhere in Europe has shown that they migrate over huge distances, crossing the Atlantic Ocean to North America and back in a single year.

Very little is known about the UK bluefin, which can weigh up to 500lb. They are thought to be less than ten years old, relatively young for fish that can live 40 years and



Fishing for the "tunny" was popular in Scarborough in the 1930s and 1940s

Predator with a taste for salmon

Atlantic bluefin is the largest tuna species. Some grow to 10ft and weigh 1,500lb.

They can moderate their internal temperature, allowing them to travel to cold waters in search of prey and return to breed in the warm waters of the Mediterranean and Gulf of Mexico.

A 7ft, 500lb bluefin tuna was caught 20 miles off the Welsh coast last summer. It took two hours to reel it in and six people to lift it aboard the boat, where it was photographed and then put back alive.

A 600lb bluefin got into a salmon farm's pen off Colonsay in October and had to be lifted out by crane after gorging itself on the fish.

A sushi restaurant chain in Japan paid a record £1.05 million for a 490lb bluefin in 2013 in a publicity stunt.

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas has eased restrictions on the total allowable catch of East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin from 13,000 tonnes in 2010 to 36,000 by 2020.



grow to 1,500lbs. Establishing their movements could help the UK to make the case for a share of the quota allocated by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

David Mitchell, Angling Trust's head of marine, said: "The return of bluefin tuna to UK waters has generated huge excitement amongst UK sea anglers. Looking into the future, the Angling Trust can see the potential opportunity

for a legitimate recreational bluefin tuna fishery to work alongside further scientific research."

Charles Clover, who drew attention to the decline of the bluefin with his book *The End of the Line*, said it was too early to consider targeting them. He expressed doubt about anglers' claims that more than 95 per cent of those hooked would be released unharmed.

"Given the former mismanagement of this stock I am wary of the assumption currently being made that a few tuna sightings make a stock recovery," he said.

