

WEST BAY SEA ANGLING CLUB



1951- Present Day

West Bay Sea Angling Club was founded on 11th April 1951. The club came about because Ray Rickard (of Harbour Garage) placed a letter in the Bridport News on 16th March 1951, asking if there was any interest in starting a sea angling club in West Bay. Due to a good response an inaugural meeting was held at the Greyhound Hotel. It was decided by those present that West Bay Sea Angling Club would be formed.

The founding members of the club were: J.J. Rawlings, T.G. Summers, J. Silvester, C.E. Hillier, W.H.G. Tuck, A.W.R. Riddle, P.R. Symes, J. Greenfield, S. Hooper, J. Gurd, A.B. Aldred, R.V. Rickard, H. Courtney, W. Cresswell, H.R. Palmer, G.H. Roberts, H. Bruce and W. Taylor.

The main objectives of the club in 1951 were to help provide greater facilities for sea anglers, to encourage sea angling in all its forms, promote comradeship and social intercourse amongst members and increase the importance and popularity of West Bay as a resort for sea angling. These objectives hold true today as they did then.

The first officers voted in were:

Chairman— W.W. Taylor

Vice Chairman— R. Rickard

Secretary/Treasurer— H. Courtney

First Committee Members voted in were:

T. Summers, J. Silvester, C. Hillier, A. Aldred and W. Tuck

The annual membership at the time was 5/- (25p) for senior members and 2/6 (12½p) for juniors aged from 10 to 16 years old.

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WINNING CATCH: Successful anglers with their certificates during the early years of West Bay Sea Angling Club. Pictured (left to right): Tom Summers, Ralph Fallows, Archie Riddle, Cyril Hillier, Jack Ellis, Percy Symes

As a club we are very lucky to fish many of our matches on the world famous Chesil Beach that stretches from West Bay to Portland



Photo courtesy and copyright of Doug Chalk

Two fish you need to be aware of when fishing the piers at west Bay are the Shad & Lesser Weever.

The Shad should be handled with care so as to not damage the fish as it is a protected species. If caught you must return it.

The Lesser Weever is a different kettle of fish as it is venomous and if handled without extreme caution will sting you. The stings are in the dorsal fin and behind the gills.



Shad, this was returned alive

Lesser Weever. If stung place affected area in as hot a water as you can stand & seek medical advice



Since 1951 not only has the club evolved but also the tackle that we use to catch the fish. The rods have become lighter and more responsive, allowing anglers to cast further with less effort. The reels are more user friendly.



Circa 1940-1950's



A more modern reel that has magnets to help stop birds nests and no level wind

West Bay Sea Angling Club also has quite a strong junior section. The junior section fish most of their matches on east pier on various Saturdays between April & December. Guest are very welcome to come and fish on payment of the match fee of £1



This is Photo is from the Stokes Family Trophy Match 2018

The club also organizes the Chesil Championship open fishing match each year . We have been running this for over 40 years.



The club has many trophies that can be won through out the year by members



The club also runs the Jurassic Open Boat Festival which is fished over two days. The boats leave West Bay at 9:00am and return at 5:00pm each day.



Like father like son

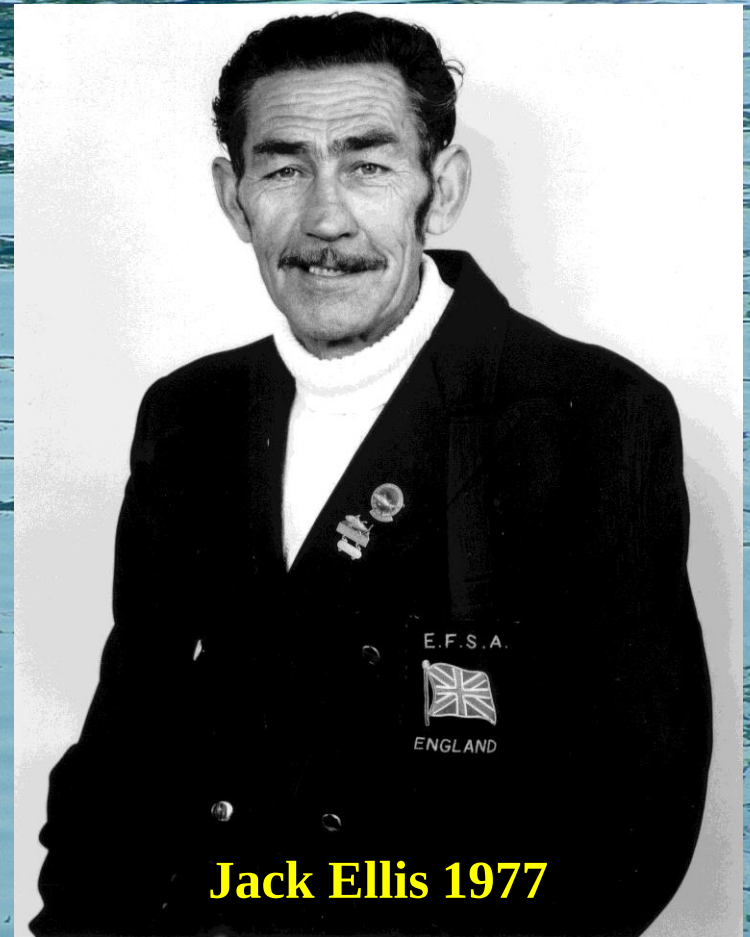
The picture on the left was taken in 1975 of Hugh Rathbone with a conger he caught out of West Bay. The picture on the right was taken in 2005 and is Hugh's son Steven who caught this conger in a junior boat match



Photo courtesy of Mrs Mary Payne



In the 1970's one of our Life Vice-President the late Jack Ellis represented England in the world boat championships as a member of EFSA.



Jack Ellis 1977

Photo courtesy of Mrs Mary Payne



Dave on the left and Steven on the right.



Steven with the Junior Individual World Champion Trophy

- In 2008 Steven Rathbone and Dave Chidzoy were chosen to represent England at the Home internationals at Deal. The junior team which Steven was part of won the Gold and the senior team which Dave was part of won Silver. Later in the year Steven travelled to Barcelona to fish as part of the junior team, in the world shore fishing championship. The junior team won silver but Steven came away as the Junior Individual World Champion.



Steven & Ollie being congratulated by Club President the late Fred Bowditch.

In 2009 once again Steven Rathbone & Dave Chidzoy along with Oliver Mears were asked to represent England at the Home Internationals in Wales. The Juniors and the seniors both won the gold. Steven & Oliver fished in the junior team and Dave fished with the seniors

The following pictures of cup Winners through the years were taken by Mrs Mary Payne.



1971

Cup Winners 1973



Cup Winners 1976



Cup Winners 1981



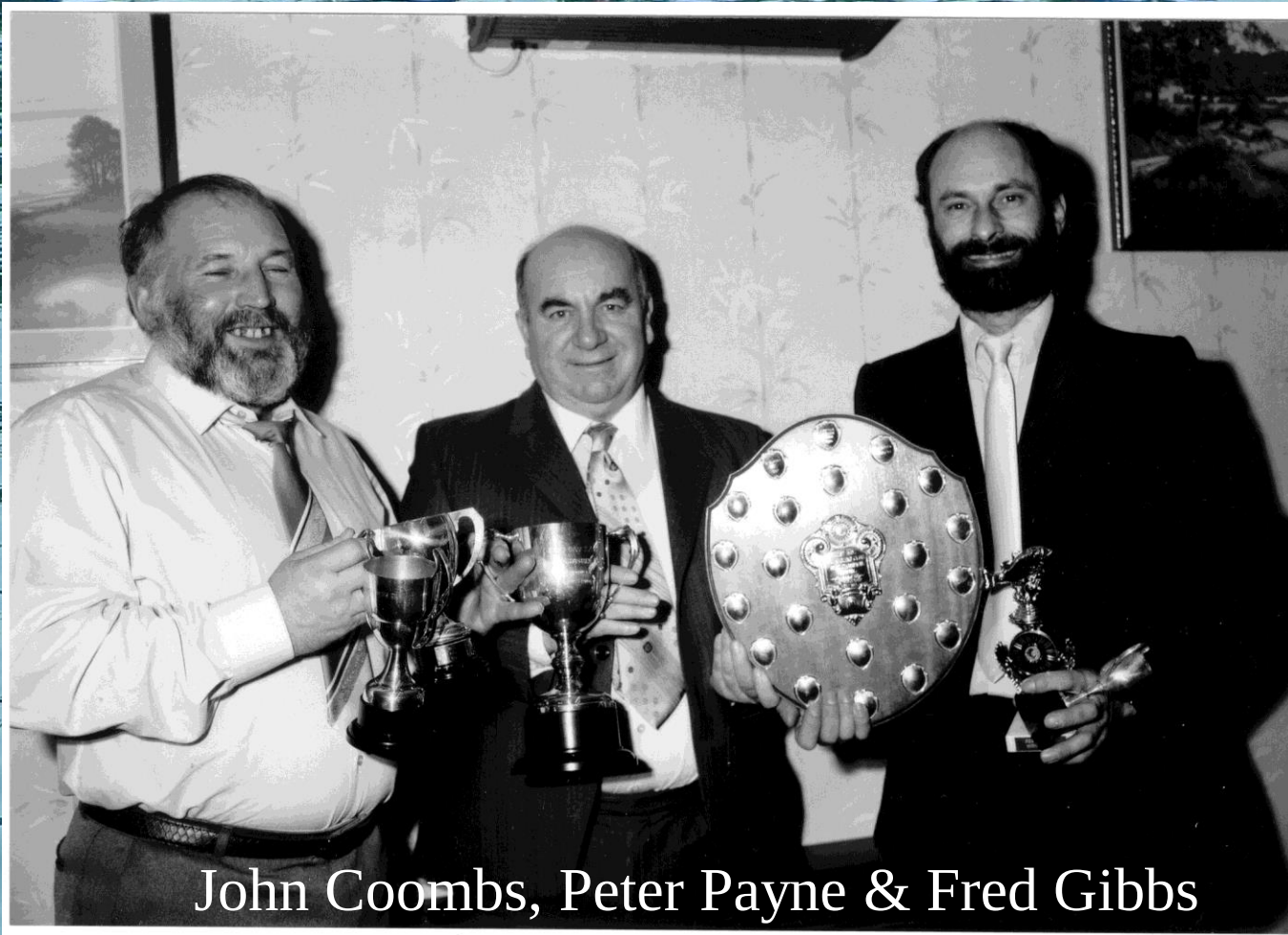
Cup Winners 1986



Cup Winners 1989



Cup Winners 1990



John Coombs, Peter Payne & Fred Gibbs

Cup Winners 2019



The background of the image is a close-up of water with various ripples and reflections. A prominent red reflection is visible in the upper center, while other darker, less distinct reflections are scattered across the surface. The overall color palette is dominated by shades of blue and green.

**If you wish to join the West Bay Sea
Angling Club membership forms are
available on the web site or the
Angling Centre West Bay**



PRESENTATION
DESIGNED AND COMPILED
BY

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Acknowledgements

Mrs Mary Payne

Mr Jack Ellis

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