



Sussex Branch Newsletter



JANUARY 2002

IMPORTANT—31st January

Due to the Albion re-arranging a fixture for Thursday 31st January, we are compelled to cancel our meeting that evening. Consideration has been given to finding an alternative venue, but logistics make it impractical.

17th January—Steve Thornton

We welcome Steve Thornton, a regular contributor to *Fly Fishing and Fly Tying* and one of the leading exponents of the art in the U.K. Steve will demonstrate various patterns and styles, and will no doubt give a few new wrinkles on how to improve your own skills! Just in time to get that inspiration for the Branch competition!

Tightlines 2001



More old news, but for those who missed the show at Ardingly last September here is Paul Bond demonstrating his prowess.

The show was a great success and we understand it will be repeated and we are likely to be asked to man a stand again. This time there was not a lot in the way of fly-fishing, but we understand there is likely to be more in the future.

South East Fly Fishing Show 2002

Further to the previous article, it does seem that there will be a Flyfishing only show at Ardingly on 10th March—the details are in an Ad in the *Fly-fishin and Fly-tying* for January/February 2002

Bob Barden

We were entertained by a first class talk by Bob who explained the intricacies of the geographical structure of Bewl Water and therefore its “hot spots” and seasonal variations. This created a lively question and answer session which largely concentrated on “where do we catch most fish?”

He then demonstrated how to tie his most successful patterns (or at least some of them!) and delighted everyone with his “minimalist” buzzer patterns—it was noticeable at the following week’s tying session that the message that big is not necessarily best had struck home. We shall see next season how well the lessons have been learnt. Many thanks, Bob, for a memorable evening.

Pity about the attendance at the last meeting before Christmas. Those who missed it also missed the Chairman’s beer and mince pies! There may have been some confusion about start-up after the break, as we were thin on the ground on the 3rd January too—sorry if you were misled.

FLY-TYING COMPETITION

The patterns for this year’s Branch Competition are:

Novice

Black Pennel and Montana (one of each)

Intermediate

Adams – matched pair

Open

Grey Wulff – matched pair

Entries to be given to Paul Bond or Roy Gurney by the last meeting in March – Thursday 28th March. Trophies will be presented to the winners at the Annual Dinner.

Just to remind you, the Novice class is open to those with no more than one year’s tying experience, the Intermediate for those with no more than three years’ experience and the Open for any member. There is no restriction on entering for more than one category for which you are qualified.

Illustrations are on page 2.

DJ Hackles - HELP!!!!

Many of you will know by now that the above business has been sold, but the good news is that Martin Fitzgerald has been retained as a consultant. Consequently we can look forward to a great evening from “chicken Man” himself as advertised! Meantime, he has asked if anyone can loan a 21” television which can be tuned to a camcorder for the evening—offers to Paul Bond or Roy Gurney ASAP please.

Bewl Charity Pairs

Tim Albright organised this very successful day on 30th September. On the day, Gavin Hunter and his boat partner won but as his partner was a last minute substitute and not a member of the Branch, the trophy went to Peter Buss and Ian May, who finished a very creditable second, with Peter getting his eight fish limit. The event raised £50 for this year's chosen charity, which is the Rockinghorse Appeal at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children. Thanks to all who entered, and especially to Tim for his organisation.

Yet another Auction Reminder

Let Roy Gurney have your entries by 11th January so that we can get the catalogue printed in good time. More copies of the forms can be obtained from him, or continue on a plain sheet with the top copy fully completed.

Exotic Fishing

From time to time via the website we receive tempting offers for fishing in various parts of the world for even greater variations of fish. The editor holds these on record, so if you are feeling flush and wanting to have that fishing holiday of a lifetime give him a call.

Some of the recent offerings are:

The Hebrides - Salmon, sea-trout and brown trout www.obbefishings.com
Caithness & Sutherland - Wild brown trout www.fishing-highland.co.uk
Timeshare for sale on the Dee - Salmon www.fishingscotland@hotmail.com

Bonefishing (family run lodge) - www.islandexplorations.com

Also offered is evening wear waistcoats with fly-fishing

Borde Hill

Borde Hill Gardens are having a Childrens' Day on 12th May 2002. The Salmon & Trout Association have been asked to provide casting and fishing instruction, and they in turn have invited us to give a fly-tying demonstration. Any volunteers to man the stand contact Roy Gurney - this is a good opportunity "to catch them young".

Weather forecasting

Julian Jakubowski has come across a free 30 day forecasting site claiming to use an accurate model and covers the whole of the UK. Eventually(!) it will be added to the website, but in the meantime for DIY the site is:

[Http://www.metcheck.com/](http://www.metcheck.com/)

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Flies for Ardingly

Please note that last year we made over £80 on sale of flies at various shows - and this was excluding our biggest event, the South of England show at Ardingly in June (cancelled because of foot and mouth disease).

Our stock of flies is now low, so please raid your fly boxes and weed out those you can spare; also those tied on Thursday nights, and not wanted for your immediate use, can be donated. This is a prime source of funding for the Branch, so let your class instructor or Roy Gurney have what you can spare.

Fly-tying Cabinets

We have been approached by an American maker of fly-tying desks and cabinets to see if there is any interest. If you feel like indulging yourself in a fine piece of furniture which is practical, Roy Gurney has brochures available. The prices indicated can probably be shaded, as a discount is offered to the Branch on any sales.

Competition Flies



Black Pennel

Hook Wet fly 10
Thread Black
Tail Golden Pheasant tippets
Rib Fine oval silver tinsel
Body Black floss
Wing case None
Thorax None
Hackle Black cock or hen



Montana

Long Shank 10
Black
Two black hackle tips
None
Black chenille
Black chenille
Fluorescent green chenille
Black cock wound through thorax

Adams



Hook Dry fly 12
Thread Grey
Tail Grizzle hackle fibres
Body Blue/grey dubbed wool or fur
Wing Two grizzle hackle points tied upright
Hackle Red game and grizzle wound together

Grey Wulff



Dry fly 14
Brown
Deer hair
Rabbit/seal fur
Deer hair
Blue dun

Newsletter Distribution

Don't forget that if you want to receive future copies of the Newsletter by E-mail, let me have your E-mail address at roygurney@enterprise.net. So far I have only a couple, so for the time being it will not be practicable. Rest assured, anyone without E-mail will still receive it by post (or collection on tying nights when published, as in the past).

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