



Sussex Branch Newsletter



MARCH 2002

ANNUAL DINNER

As announced in the last newsletter, the Annual Dinner will be held at the Dyke Golf Club on **Saturday 13th April 2002**. The application form for tickets at £18 per head has now been distributed to many of you, otherwise it is enclosed now, and should be returned to John Burt with cheque **as soon as possible**. It is a great evening – good food, good company, the draw for the Rod Raffle as well as a raffle on the night for goodies of quality organised by Jim White. The speaker is Tom English, an old friend of the Chairman with a fine sense of humour who has led a very interesting (perhaps even colourful) life!

FLY-TYING COMPETITION

Last call to get your entries in to Paul Bond or Roy Gurney by the last meeting in March – Thursday 28th March. There are prizes as well as trophies for the winners and runners-up, so get tying!!

PISCATORIANA – 7th March

Once again the gremlins struck – our speaker is **Phil** Waller and not Ray - put it down to a senior moment last month! It does not alter the fact that you will be highly entertained by this expert, so don't forget to bring along any historical tackle for identification or just plain interest.

D J Hackles

John Saunders, one of the new proprietors of DJ Hackles, was a last minute replacement for Martin Fitzgerald, who is busy **lambing** – I thought feathers came from birds, or is this genetic engineering to the extreme?! John gave us an insight into the intricacies of raising hackles for the flydresser and brought with him a range of capes and saddles to lighten our wallets. Some of the new colours planned look promising for the lurid – sorry, lure – patterns and for salmon and salt-water patterns.

John Watt Trophy – Date correction

Once again your editor has got it all wrong – the date for the John Watt at Grafham is **Saturday 31st August 2002** and not the 24th as shown on our programme. At least it does not clash with the Bank Holiday weekend now. Whilst on the subject, the latest *Flydresser* has the detailed results of last year's contest – Sussex A & B 5th and 6th!!

Viva! - the late Vic Furze

I doubt that there is a member of the Branch who has not tied, let alone fished the famous Viva lure. The originator, Vic Furze, sadly died a couple of years ago, but I did have the privilege of discussing with him the tying of this and other flies. You might be interested in the letter he wrote on this subject, as well as the photo of the great man at his tying bench.



“Dear Roy

11/7/95

I am enclosing some Vivas for you. Also one that I have started, you will see how I put the tail in. I get a piece of DRF floss about 10 inches long – you double it 4 times to give you a length of about 1 – 1¼ inches. Tie this in on the bend of the hook a little more to the front than the back, secure it, then fold the front strands over to the back and secure. You then have what is on the unfinished dressing (*enclosed with the letter*). I then nip the ends with thumb & forefinger as near to the end as possible and with a sharp scissors cut the ends off. You now have 32 pieces of floss each piece having many many micro filaments. It is the light that penetrates through the sides of the filaments an enhanced colour (*sic*) that of course will not apply to the inside section. If you turn the completed tail around at different light densities you will see what I mean. You will only get this with a translucent material. I have also done a variation of the dressing you sent me (*a Prime Dandy*). It has taken a little more time to do as the bend is first covered by silver Lurex. I have a full range of Glo-brite some are very good under an UV lamp. One does not work at all – No.6 Hot Orange – it just looks dirty brown. I tried it together with DRF 503 Arc Chrome (orange). There are many makes of fluorescent materials, but I find nothing better or even as good as DRF.

The ribbing I use is Mylar size 12. I start it off making sure the silver is on the outside then I tie in some fine or medium chenille. Bring it to the thorax and tie off. Then rib the silver with even turns giving a 50-50 split of silver and black. I then take a pinch of black squirrel tail, lay it on the work top, then cut a section of black marabou and lay it over the top. Then pinch the whole section between thumb and forefinger and present over the body and secure. I then cut the front top at an angle in order to build up a nice head and well

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varnish.

The other photo in the *Flydresser* is the Blush Viva, this is weighted. After I have fixed the tail I wind fine lead wire up the shank. I do secure the ribbing first then the lead wire, then the chenille. With the wing I leave out the marabou, I put two strands of Neon magenta floss No. 501 DRF. I once again lay my squirrel tail on the work top, cut a piece of floss about 4 times the length of the squirrel tail and fold the floss in two, cut the loop to have 4 top ends equal. Place the bottom bend over the thick front end of the squirrel and pinch it all together and arrange to have two strands either side. Some people prefer this to the Viva maybe because it's weighted.

With reference to the Viva saga, you obviously saw the withdrawal and apology from the editor after the threat he received. I don't know why he did it. Are those three right and I am wrong? What about the stress it has caused me over the year when people come up with their own idea of what is best. All I have done is to follow the advice of Thomas Clegg. He specifically stated that DRF floss was the best for tails and wings and that is why I chose it.

In the dressing that was published in the *Flydresser* the editor made several errors. One was a size 8 hook. That is wrong – I nearly always use size 10 3X long or I sometimes use a size 12 3X long. Then I use fine chenille and size 14 Mylar. I still get a 50-50 split. One thing I forgot when I cut some squirrel tail I hold the ends opposite to which I cut and tease out with fingers all the soft under hair. It removes a lot of bulk when you are tying the head.

I am getting the three books, one each of J Goddard, Bob Church & Taff Price – there is a member who is in the branch wants to make certain that they are identical. – I am sure they are. You will notice that the tail is wrong, the ribbing wrong, the sizes are wrong, the throat hackle is wrong – in fact the only thing correct is the black chenille & there is a good resemblance in the hook!! Some people are so big? They are above criticism. I think this matter will roll on.

Two weeks ago Donald Downs came along to inaugurate our new branch. He stayed with me & my wife for the week-end. When I showed him the apology and withdrawal I noticed he was speechless. I did not pursue the subject with him. I shall be at the Game Fair at Harewood House on the 28 – I do know quite a few of the

From this you will see he was rather obsessive about his pattern! However it does not detract from its success.

Gamefair Trip – 27th July 2002

Paul Bond still has a few seats left for the outing so hurry along and book yours. For any one who has not been to one of these, it is a marvellous day out (for 'her indoors' too) with plenty of countryside pursuits besides game fishing.

Arlington

The editor has been receiving good reports of the early season fishing from several sources. Eric Hunter reports a 5lb+ rainbow, only to be pipped by a 6lb8oz fish by Ian Dunk – a great start to this year's Reservoir Plate! Peter Winder logged a 6 fish bag, four on small black buzzers and two on G&H Sedge dry. Must be global warming, what with members catching on the dry in mid-December (see report last month on the Committee day) and now mid-February!

Ashbourne Fishery

This lovely syndicate fishery (situated between Hurstmonceux and Battle) re-opens on 1st March and has vacancies for new members. If you are interested, please contact Roy Gurney who will arrange for details to be sent.

EDITOR'S FOOTNOTE

This will be the last edition for at least a couple of months, unless a temporary editor can be found. I have to go into hospital for an operation on my back but I hope to be able to attend the dinner, and be fishing again in June/July – Ed.

Fishing the Test

Further to last month's article by Brain Hendry, Lee Redman has now provided some photographs of the occasion:



Jim's brownie
grayling

Lee's
Lee's first!!



Just to prove that some can catch! Also the tranquil sight of Chris NOT stalking!! However, it does give an idea of the lovely setting.

Gavin Hunter

Congratulations to Gavin who has been selected as team captain of the England Youth F F team fishing at Hanningfield in April. Tight lines, Gavin!

Big Fish Competitions 2001

The winners of the trophies for 2001 are:

Peter West Trophy – Biggest fish from a Sussex water

Lee Redman (14 lb 1 oz rainbow – Chalk Springs)

Brown Trout Cup – Biggest brown from a Sussex water

Lee Redman (4 lb 9 oz - Chalk Springs)

Members' Reservoir Plate – Best fish from Sussex reservoir

Eric Hunter (5 lb 12 oz rainbow – Arlington)

Jimmy James Memorial Trophy – Best bag Duncton outing

Andy Dunk (14 lb 8 oz)

Plowman Trophy - Best fish Duncton outing

Andy Dunk – (6 lb 9 oz)

Frank Darrah Trophy – Bewl pairs competition

Lee Redman and Chris Croucher

Charity Pairs Bowl - Bewl

Ian May and Peter Buss

No brown, tiger or brook trout were caught at the Duncton outing, so trophy not awarded.

The above trophies will be presented at the Annual Dinner.



Lee Redman at Chalk Springs with his 14lb 1oz winning fish. Seems we cannot keep him out of the limelight this edition!

Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

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