



# Sussex Branch Newsletter



APRIL / MAY 2002

## ANNUAL DINNER

Our Annual Dinner was held at the Dyke Golf Club who once again did us proud with excellent food and absolutely first class service. Numbers attending were down this year mainly because of clashing dates for some of our members, but those present were entertained by a witty talk by Tom English on his early childhood in very rural India during the war years, prior to independence.

Presentation of trophies followed and then the big event – raffles! Jim White organised a splendid array of prizes for the evening's raffle, with a TV heading the list. Then the Rod Raffle – Gavin Hunter, our England Junior Fly Fisher, absent with his family at the team coaching at Eyebrook, won the rod, as well as two other prizes!! General opinion was that it could not have gone to a better home – however, Gavin has generously donated one of the prizes back for next year's raffle.

Thanks are due to John Burt who again masterfully organised the event, and we look forward to a huge turn-out next year at the same venue, especially those who unfortunately dipped out this year!

## PISCATORIANA

The last speakers' evening in March saw a hugely entertaining talk, demonstration, "feel-in" or call it what you will from Phil Waller. His knowledge of old fishing tackle, particularly reels, is quite amazing and everyone present was invited to participate by handling many of the rare, historic and indeed valuable items he brought along. His admirable view is that he is a custodian of the historic tackle for future generations to enjoy and understand their place in the history of angling. However, his presentation was far from the dry, academic talk expected by some – just how deep were his "poachers' pockets" from which he produced a variety of nefarious fish-catching implements? We will invite him back for a further talk on other aspects in the not too distant future.

Incidentally, Phil generously donated his speaker's fee to the NSPCC.

## Match v. Ouse Valley F F

This has now been arranged for Sunday, 16th June, at Spring Wood. Anyone interested in fishing for the Branch please contact **Lee Redman** as soon as possible.

## FLY-TYING COMPETITION

The trophies for this year's competition were announced and awarded at the dinner, but for those who were unable to attend they were as follows:

**Novice:** Andrew Snudden  
**Intermediate:** John Cooper  
**Open:** Ian May

Congratulations to the winners, who received permanent reminders in the form of the Orvis Fly-tying Manual for the novice class (donated by a member who wishes to remain anonymous), a travellers tying kit for the intermediate class and a voucher for £25 for the open – surely incentive enough to persuade more of you to enter next year!

## South of England Show

A reminder that this is our big showcase and volunteers to man the stand are required. The dates are **6th, 7th and 8th June** at Ardingly, and the four daily volunteers needed will have free entry. The Salmon & Trout Association let us share their stand and it is a great day out. The Queen is expected to visit on 7th June and will almost certainly "drop in", bearing in mind her own interest in fishing. Contact Roy Gurney or Paul Bond if you would like to help man the stand, doing a bit of demonstrating but mainly P R.

## Gamefair Trip – 27th July 2002

There are still some places available so hurry and contact Paul Bond as soon as possible. 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.

## Albert Horne

As you may know, Albert celebrates his 80th birthday later this year. As a mark of appreciation of his contribution to the Branch a collection from members enabled us to present him with a smart Orvis fishing waistcoat at the Dinner. We are all looking forward to seeing him on the bank during the season, and hope he didn't mind us "jumping the gun" on the date in order to let him have full use of it this season.

## Flies Wanted - and volunteers!

Now that you have selected your flies for the season, let us have all your unwanted flies for sale at the South of England Show at Ardingly 6/7/8th June. This is one of our best money spinners for branch funds so let Paul Bond or Roy Gurney have your unwanted flies as soon as possible but in any case before the Show!

I haven't been inundated with volunteers to man the stand – we need three, preferably four, each day to cover comfortably. Free entry for each volunteer, and plenty of time to get round the show IF we get the numbers!

## BEWL PAIRS COMPETITION

A blustery day at Bewl for the Frank Darrah Trophy meant that fishing was difficult to say the least. Chris Croucher and Lee Redman retained their hold on the trophy, despite having only four fish – Chris is determined that he proves “it's size that counts”! Runners up were Ray Love and Dave Painter with 7 fish and third Peter Buss and Ian May with 4. A full report is promised by Tim for the next issue.

John Plowman recently visited the Eden Project and suggests that we may have to get a bigger club-house if we are to match the hatch! How about some captions for this fine picture? I will provide a bottle of eau de something for the best entry received by June 1st.



## Brian Hendry

We are sorry to report that Brian suffered a mild heart attack very recently, and is now taking it easy, well on the road to recovery. We all wish him a speedy return to the waterside, rod in hand. In the meantime it is reliably reported that his fly-tying gear will be working overtime!

## EDITOR'S FOOTNOTE

Many thanks for your kind wishes on my recent sojourn in dock. I am now well on the way to fitness and hope to see you at one of the outings soon.

## ARLINGTON EVENING

Just to remind you that the annual get-together is on **Thursday 16th May**. We gather from 4 pm onwards (but some like to come earlier if they are able). Cost of ticket depends on which you choose, but after (at about 8-8.30pm) some beer and sandwiches will be available to members at the lodge. Peter Winder is holding a “teach-in” on nymph fishing for those who want to attend (let him or Roy Gurney know beforehand if you do) - otherwise it is just a good opportunity to meet up and fish together. Boats are available on a first come, first served basis. See you there!!

## BARCOMBE EVENING

Similarly, the evening at Barcombe Reservoir is on **Thursday 13th June** and Peter will have a “teach-in” on dry fly fishing for those interested. Again tickets are depending on choice, but no boats, and regrettably no beer and sandwiches!! Still this is usually a great evening, with demonstrations freely given on how to lose fish or miss strikes!!!

## CAPTION COMPETITION

## For Sale

Mike Betts of Bewl FF has had to give up fly-fishing, and as a consequence has a complete fly-tying bench for sale. Any interested party should contact Paul Bond on 01273 420410 who will put you in touch.

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