



Sussex Branch Newsletter



OCTOBER 2002

A.G.M. - MONDAY 4th NOVEMBER

A note from the Chairman, Roy Gurney

A reminder that this is **your** opportunity to have your say on the running of your Branch. Any ideas you may have for the improvement of our programme, etc, should be aired then, and the new committee will then have guidelines to go by.

A number of this year's committee will be standing down, and new blood is needed to maintain the progress of this Branch.

I wish to relinquish the office of Chairman, though I am prepared to serve on the committee if required. Those standing down are Alan Chamberlain (a former treasurer) and Eric Hunt. Both have served the Branch well, and I would like to express my many thanks to them for all the efforts they have put in.

I have been privileged to have a grand bunch of people on the committee over my period of office, and it is thanks to them that the Branch is in such fine fettle. Make sure you do your bit to elect and back the new team!

CHARLES JARDINE

On 24th October we welcome back Charles Jardine to give us a talk on a year in his (to most of us) envious life. It is difficult to introduce such a well-known personality, save to say we are in for a treat!!

PLAICE ON A FLY!

Jim White and his nephew Mike Hillman made the most of a lazy August Sunday afternoon and went fly-fishing off Shoreham Beach. Mike caught a fine plaice of 1lb8oz, using a black Cat's Whisker, which provided dinner with a plate of chips! Mike has since taken small bass (all returned) and mackerel all on fly. Jim adds he blanked on the day!!



Mike and his fine plaice

Let's hope Mike will come and join us some time and especially take part in Ron Nicholson's salt water fly classes!

Certainly fly fishing in the sea is catching on in Sussex, and even your chairman has filled his waders when misjudging the height of waves!

Maybe we should have a trophy for best catch and perhaps best fly?

SUBSCRIPTIONS REMINDER

Some have not yet renewed their subs. Please note we rely on these to run your Branch, so if guilty **-PAY UP NOW!!!** Any unpaid in November will be deleted from the mailing list for both Branch and the *Flydresser*. Also remember only paid-up members may vote at the A.G.M.

FLYDRESSING COMPETITION

The patterns for this year's Branch Competition are:

Novice

Black Pennel and Damsel Nymph (one of each)

Intermediate

Daddy Longlegs – matched pair

Open

Invicta – matched pair

Entries to be given to Paul Bond or Roy Gurney by the last meeting in March – Thursday 27th 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 and recipes are on page 3.

“Tightlines 2002” and South of England Autumn Show

Once again we manned stands at both shows, eliciting a great deal of interest, as a result of which it was possible to enlist several new members. *Tightlines 2002* came first, and I am grateful to Brian Hendry, Jim Harris and Alan Chamberlain for their support in manning the stand and especially Alan for providing the star cabaret turn.

On arrival, he purchased his breakfast of one large bap containing bacon and fried egg. On biting into the bap, a stream of egg yolk shot out onto his lap! “Not to worry, I’ve a bottle of water to wash it off” says Alan cheerfully. He grabbed the bottle rather forcefully, shook it, and unscrewed the cap.....Unfortunately, he had picked up bottle of sparkling water by mistake and the ensuing shower drenched his lap, forcing him to remain huddled under the bench till it dried out, for fear of being accused of incontinence!

Two weeks later we joined the Salmon & Trout Association on their stand, giving the first airing to our new “mini-marquee” - a gazebo with four walls – which gave us a roomy area accommodating four tying positions plus a table for displaying brochures, framed flies, etc. Once again Brian and Jim were in attendance both days, though it was yours truly who provided the cabaret on this occasion, demonstrating a novel dieting method! You take a bowl of sausage and chips, lean back on your chair, pushing the back legs off the platform, and watch all those fattening chips rain down so that you can’t eat them!

As usual we sold some flies, tied some to order, and answered numerous questions on our hobby (art?). However, it is the great P.R. which is so valuable – plus the opportunity to meet old friends in angling and wider countryside pursuits.

Many thanks to SATA for sharing their facilities with us.

BRANCH CLOTHING etc

Jim White, our Equipment Officer, has available new stock of clothing with the Branch logo. The following are available from stock (all size XL) but other sizes and patterns can be ordered. More caps (one size fits all) are on order at £10 – very popular, so place your order now!!

Red T-shirts	£ 9
Black Fleece	£23
Bottle green Polo Shirts	£12
Navy blue Polo Shirts	£12
Sweatshirts (Red, Navy, Green)	£18

If you require a different size, or perhaps a different design with our logo, let Jim know with payment and he will place orders with the supplier. Delivery is about 3-4 weeks, so place orders for Christmas NOW!!

There are a couple of Wheatley fly-boxes left @ £7.50 each – more can ordered if required. Also available are the Grif-fiths dubbing boxes at £8.50 each – great value!

BULLOCKS!! By Phillip Ellis

I make an annual trip to a little place called Upperdale on the upper river Wye just north of Bakewell in Derbyshire. It is a beautiful area and extremely peaceful idyllic location. We stay in a cottage immediately next to the river and it is the only sound you can hear at night. The river is wild in places but not too narrow with many low branches making a 6-foot rod very useful for reaching difficult areas. Grazing in the meadows alongside the river is small herd of young bullocks who have a habit of turning up behind you to see if you have caught anything. I was fishing a pool for some time and just as I decided to move down stream this herd of bullocks came down to drink.

Started to fish again with my nine-foot rod, turned round and there to my disbelief was the herd of bullocks again! One of them must have thought the green line on my little rod was grass and took a bite giving me a three-piece top section before I had chance to chase them off!

Not sure if the moral of this story is to not use green line or only take one rod!

On my return from holiday I got in touch with Graham Dadswell who built the rod from a Carbotech blank and he obtained a new top section and I am now ready for the Derbyshire Wye again. Thanks Graham.

Incidentally this was the most successful trip so far, a Double Badger being the most successful pattern. Most of the fish were browns but a few wild rainbows as well between 10 – 14” long. Pleased to give information on fishing here and details of accommodation as there is also B&B as well as cottages to rent

DUNCTON – Club Competition

The weather was mild early with a light breeze, getting hot later with a gusty wind. The fish were deep and tended to be in certain areas, making fishing difficult. Defending champion, Andy Dunk, was very unlucky losing a double figure fish early on, and then another of about 6lb – either of which would have been heaviest on the day, and together enough to win by a mile! Only six stations produced fish throughout the morning; on the top lake they were shoaled in the middle, out of reach to all but two pegs (Albert would not have had the trouble the rest of us had casting to them!) It was a similar story on the middle lake, whilst the bottom lake was very dark, making fish difficult to spot. A good number of browns and tigers had apparently been stocked, but once again no browns were taken, and the only two tigers were taken “off station”. Whilst not counting in the bag weights, the best does take the John Plowman trophy.

<u>Best bag</u>	Chris Croucher	11lb
<u>Second best bag</u>	Jan Suppel	8lb14oz
<u>Biggest fish</u>	Chris Croucher	3lb11oz
<u>Best brown/tiger</u>	Lee Redman	4lb4oz

Many thanks to Diana for a super lunch – and a special thanks to Chris for helping with the clearing up by eating 5 puddings!

Several members complained about the size and quantity of fish (compared to previous years). Matt said that any fish under 1¾lb would not count towards ones limit. Maybe it would be better to stock bigger fish for a three fish limit at the same price for closed events such as ours? Let Roy Gurney have your comments, and it may be possible to discuss with the management of Duncton Mill.

BRANCH COMPETITION PATTERNS

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AND YOU THINK YOU'RE HAVING A BAD DAY AT WORK !!

Although this looks like a picture taken from a Hollywood movie, it is in fact a real photo, taken near the South African coast during a military exercise by the British Navy. It has been nominated by Geo as "THE photo of the year".



BEGINNERS

1. **Black Pennel**

Hook: Size 10 wet fly
Silk: Black
Tail: 6 strands Golden Pheasant tippet
Rib: Silver wire
Body: Black Floss
Hackle: Black cock



2. **Damsel Nymph**

Hook: Size 12 long-shank
Thread: Olive
Tail: Olive Marabou
Rib: Silver wire
Body: Olive dyed rabbit
Thorax cover: Olive dyed patridge
Thorax: Olive dyed rabbit
Eyes: Chain-link



INTERMEDIATE

Daddy Longlegs

Hook: Long-shank 12
Thread: Brown
Body: Brown feather fibre or synthetic
Legs: 6 knotted pheasant tail fibres
Hackle: Cree cock
Wing: Plymouth cock hackle points.



OPEN

Invicta

Hook: Wet fly 12
Thread: Brown or yellow
Tail: Golden pheasant crest
Body: Yellow/amber seal's fur or substitute
Rib: Gold wire
Hackle: Ginger cock, palmered
Wing: Hen pheasant
Beard hackle: Blue jay.



AUCTION 2003

It may seem early days to mention now (the date is 10th February) but start sorting out your surplus tackle, tools and other gear now so that we don't have a last minute rush to catalogue it! Forms for listing your items for sale will be sent out in December, but there is no time like the present to start the sorting!

For newcomers, this is a great opportunity to acquire kit and materials as some good bargains are to be had.

RECORD BLUE at CHALK SPRINGS

New member Paul Thompson has captured a record 8lb13oz blue trout from Chalk Springs – and this in his first season of fishing! Look out for possibly another surprise in our own big fish competition!

BEWL CHARITY PAIRS

Possibly due to the changed date (the original clashed with the Countryside March) only six pairs ventured out for this event, won by Chris Nunn(5) and Andy Gibb(3) with 8 fish. Ray Love and Dave Painter were runners up with 5 fish, all to Ray's rod, and Ian May and Peter Buss had a brace each for third place.

As can be gathered when a good fisherman like Dave blanks, conditions were hard – bright sunshine and a cold easterly wind, with the fish in small pods, probably still feeding deep on daphnia when they should be fry-bashing or chasing daddies on the top. Many thanks to Tim Albright for his organisation of both this event and the spring one for the Frank Darrah Trophy – we look forward to his full reports on both events when home pressures permit! (See "Retribution" on this page!!)

PROGRAMME FOR 2002/3

The tying programme is now under way and looking forward to our first speaker's evening. Should any one want another copy of the programme, let Roy Gurney know and he will supply one.

The first nights were very encouraging with more than a dozen new faces, and we hope they will all become members in due course, once they have sampled the delights of Ian's and Peter's unique teaching skills! Welcome all – and to those who couldn't make the first night but come later, do not worry about missing anything – there will be many willing hands to catch you up with anything you have missed.

RETRIBUTION!

A little bird tells me that a certain doctor who was "dropped in it" by one of our members has got his own back by declaring that under no circumstances is the whistle blower's wife to anything about the house, ostensibly because of her condition! Poor Tim!!!! Seriously though, we wish his good lady quick recovery and await the new arrival eagerly!

THE McNAB CHALLENGE

A report by Brian Hendry

Early in June this year Roy took an interesting phone call from a chap called Dave Champness asking for guidance to learn the art of salmon fly tying in one afternoon, completely from scratch. Apparently an American client of his had heard of "The McNab", a Scottish sporting challenge consisting of bagging a stag, a brace of grouse and a salmon, all in one day. He thought that recreating the event, with appropriate modern variations, would be fun and, with the aid of some alcoholic lubrication, a challenge was issued.

The changes to the original McNab consisted of photographing the stag, and attempting the tying of a recognised salmon fly, plus a variation, on the day and on the water before fishing began – and that's where I came in. Roy suggested that I might be up to the task of an afternoon's concentrated instruction and this was duly arranged, the Green Highlander being the chosen fly.

Dave proved to be a willing and adept pupil and produced a very acceptable fly in the short time available. He left my house in the early evening with the promise of a detailed account of the event, planned for mid-August, and the following is a brief summary.

The American challengers, father and son, flew over from the States (first class), having previously arranged transport in Range Rovers to the North West of Scotland, accommodation, ghillies, stalkers and a referee, plus an after-event supper for all involved. A \$1000 side bet was placed to spice things up a bit!

Dave spent the evening before "McNab-Day" inspiring his chosen ghillie by suggesting comparisons with the Americas Cup in sailing and the Open in golf – he also suggested sharing the \$1000 winnings with the ghillie and that may have helped a lot!

At 4 a.m. on 13th August a start was made and two thirds of the challenge completed by 7 a.m., with a stag photographed using the rifle camera provided and a brace of grouse bagged with just two shots – a good omen for the rest of the day.

The Americans came down to breakfast to find Dave planning the final part of the challenge over a second cup of coffee and they set off with some urgency, but subsequently with little success.

With the best part of the day left to capture the salmon, Dave spent some time tying his fly - it had to be tied on the water ready for scrutiny by the referee. He put it to good use, catching four sea-trout early in the day. The two visitors moved on to the water later in the day, struggled somewhat with the fly (it fell apart!) and didn't manage a fish.

Unfortunately the salmon remained elusive, the outcome being that the full McNab was incomplete, but Dave certainly felt that he had achieved moral victory.

Continued from previous column

The supper was enjoyed by everyone (despite a midnight-start!), the ghillies all tipped £100 each, and the visitors

Continued in next column

declared the event a great success and plan to make it an annual event, but next year on the Spey – how the other half live!!!!

Dave so enjoyed the fly-tying that he has acquired vast amounts of kit from the internet auctions, and plans to join us at Withdean in the near future. You will easily recognise him when he comes down to the Branch – a tall fella with a broad grin and a Green Highlander in his hat!

GREEN HIGHLANDER

The Green Highlander was the set fly for the main Guild Novice Salmon Fly last year, won by our own Jim Harris. The tying is given here, and demonstrates the enormity of the task to ask Dave to tie as his first fly!



Tag: Silver tinsel
Tail: A topping and barred summer duck
Butt: Black ostrich herl
Body: First quarter, golden yellow floss, remainder bright green seal's fur (or floss silk)
Ribs: Oval silver tinsel
Hackle: A grass-green cock's hackle
Throat: A lemon cock's hackle
Wings: Mixed golden pheasant tippet in strands, married sections of yellow, orange, and green swan, florican, peacock wing and golden pheasant tail; outside of this, married sections of teal and barred summer duck; narrow sections of brown mallard over and a topping
Sides: Jungle cock
Cheeks: Indian crow
Horns: Blue and yellow macaw
Head: Black

**DON'T FORGET TO LET PAUL OR ROY
HAVE YOUR "BIG FISH" ENTRIES**

ARLINGTON RESERVOIR

Good news is that a big re-stocking has been made with over 2000 fish put in over past couple of weeks, and a further 500 going in next week. With lower temperatures fishing should be great till the end of season (now 17th November). Members who have fished there recently report that the bank is favourite. Dave also tells me that **BARCOMBE** is being stocked again this week.

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