



Sussex Branch Newsletter



NOVEMBER 2002

SUBSCRIPTIONS FINAL REMINDER

Any member who has not paid his or her subscription by the end of this month will be deleted from our mailing list, and that of the main guild, thus receiving no further copies of either this newsletter or the *Flydresser*. Those who pay the main guild subscription direct should let our treasurer, Phillip Ellis, have the branch subscription only.

SEASON'S BEST BLUE

As reported in last month's newsletter, our new member Paul Thompson landed the best blue of the season at Chalk Springs. Whilst not the overall record, which is in the region of 13lb plus, at 8lb13oz it's the best this year by far – well done Paul. It is also well in the running for best rainbow in our own competition – unless you know better!! (in which case see page 2).



*Paul with his fine catch.
(Photo. by Darren Smith of Chalk Springs)*

BOB JAMES

Anglers' Conservation Association

Our speaker on **November 14th** is Bob James of the ACA, of which our branch is a "club" member. The ACA does a tremendous job in prosecuting polluters on members' behalf, and Bob will outline the activities and aims of the ACA – and maybe some other anecdotes as well! (See page 3)

A.G.M. 2002

This year's AGM was held at the Withdean Sports Stadium where, as usual, the playgroup was still in occupation of the room. Consequently, the staff kindly set us up in the hospitality suite of the Albion – more comfortable and solubrious but difficult to find unless you'd been there before! Hope no-one missed it because of this – if so, apologies all round. Alan Middleton was elected as the new Chairman, and we all wish him well. Alan is about to retire as Secretary of the Main Guild, and was Chairman of the Branch prior to Roy Gurney, so the job is in the safest of hands!

The full Committee is:

Chairman:	Alan Middleton
Secretary:	Paul Bond
Treasurer:	Phillip Ellis
Equipment officer:	Jim White
Competitions Secretary:	Peter Winder
Other members:	John Cooper Chris Croucher Jim Harris Jack Jupp
Editor:	Roy Gurney

It was a disappointing turnout, without the excuse of last year's bad weather, but many thanks to those who travelled some distance to attend. This is the most important meeting of the year in many ways, especially as this year there were several changes on the Committee. This led to the suggestion that perhaps we should return to the old form of having it on a Thursday, probably in December – what do you think? Let your new Committee know your views.

Another suggestion was that the Annual Auction should be brought forward, perhaps to a Monday in mid-November (earlier than this would be impracticable to get the lots in and catalogued). This earlier date would enable new members to take advantage of competitively priced tying gear and materials to help set them up. Your views please.

The Annual Dinner will be held early in April at The Dyke Golf Club, and John Burt will fix the date early in the New Year.

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JOHN GLYNN

It is with great regret that we have to advise of the recent death, following a long illness, of our former Secretary and well-known fishing reporter John Glynn. We extend to all his relatives and friends our sincere condolences.

Big Fish Competitions

Entries are flooding(???) in now – but I am sure there are some big ones still out there unclaimed!

One new unexpected turn of events – the original Brown Trout Cup presented by John Leitch was handed to the chairman by John Capello, the last winner (in 1975!). John is now with Eastbourne F.F., who are keen to have a match with us, probably at Arlington – maybe some of them might even join us to enjoy and perhaps expand our summer programme!

As we are now blessed with two Brown Trout Cups, one will be presented to the best from any Sussex water, and the original John Leitch cup for **the best brown from a Sussex reservoir or river, for which we now need entries.**

Just to remind you, the other categories are:

Best fish from Sussex water (Peter West Trophy)

Best fish from Sussex reservoir, including Bewl Water (Members' Plate)

Best brown trout from any Sussex water (Brown Trout Trophy).

Entries with details of weight, venues, date caught and witness to Paul Bond or Roy Gurney. Although the season is over for brown trout, you may well have one from within the season (March 1st to October 31st) not yet declared. The rainbow season ends December 31st, so there is still time to land that leviathan!!

Match v. Dorking Flyfishers Club

The Autumn Challenge 2002 took place at Bewl Water on Sunday 20th October, with dire warning of horrendous gales and storms emanating from the Meteorological Office. As might be expected, these did not materialise, but it was enough to frighten off six of our team of twelve. The weather was calm to begin with, but a gentle breeze came up later.

Dorking agreed to reduce the teams accordingly, their "spare" men doubling up, but not counting. In fact, even if they had counted, the result would have been unaffected. Top rods for Sussex were Chris Croucher (8 fish for 14lb2oz) and Alex Rainbow (8 for 13lb14oz). The rest of the team fared well – Gavin Hunter had 7, Chris Nunn 3, Peter Buss 2 and Ian May 1, with a total bag for the team of 62lb6oz, against 52lb2oz for Dorking.

Well done the hardy spirits – glad to have the trophy back for another year!

Match v. Ouse Valley

Sadly we have not had an alternative date or venue suggested yet, but we are still hoping!! Maybe it will have to be next year before we can get the Gemma Winder Trophy back to us.

Caged Tiger

Those who were present at the meeting last week were privileged to see the newly mounted record tiger, caught by Chris Croucher at Duncton last year. This was a truly magnificent fish, and Chris Elliott's artistry in mounting this specimen is quite spectacular.

We hope our Chris will bring it along again when Chris Elliott visits us in March.

CHARLES JARDINE

Some 50 members and guests were treated to a fascinating talk and slide show by Charles on a year in his life. It is clear that his passion for flyfishing remains as strong now as ever and over the years concern for the environment and its preservation for future generations of anglers has become of major importance. One aspect he particularly mentioned was his conversion from huge stockies to full-finned wild fish, and the necessity of catch and release for the latter. Interestingly, he favours micro-barbed hooks over barbless, as it is his belief that they potentially do less damage on penetration without substantially making release more difficult.

His presentation and especially the clarity of his photography were superb (despite the wayward bulb in the projector!) and demonstrated the wide range of his talents – artist, photographer, entomologist and of course fly fisherman.

His skills at fly-tying we hope to have demonstrated in the not too distant future, as he has asked for a return invitation to include that with a talk on fly fishing for specific conditions. Whilst our secretary has filled our calendar of speakers till the end of 2003, it would be nice if space can be found!

ROD RAFFLE

This is open only to members of the Branch and has justifiably proved the most popular of our raffles. The top prize this year is an Orvis rod with a r.r.p. of some £450. Other valuable prizes will be added as funds roll in, but a few members are reluctant to part with their pound coins on the grounds that they don't want the rod!! To put their minds at rest, Peter Winder of Lagoon Bait & Tackle will be pleased to exchange the rod in such case, but it should be stressed that the exchange value will have to be that of the trade price for that particular rod, and not the retail. Last year the total prize value (at retail prices) was well in excess of £1000, so come on you meanies – dig deep!!!

BARCOMBE 2002

A picture of concentration!!



Framed Flies

Just to remind you, with Christmas coming and presents in mind, of Alan Middleton's superb framed flies, tied by himself, and professionally framed in a variety of woods by a local framer, with prices in the region of £30-£35 depending on type of frame selected. All sales include a donation for the Branch – ask Alan for a viewing.

FREE VIDEO LIBRARY

Some news for new members and a reminder for our older members that the Branch has a number of videos featuring flyfishing and fly tying, which members may take home to view AT NO COST! The videos are available during fly-tying evenings from Jack Jupp (he is the one who is without too much hair and also circulates with the Rod Raffle collection box). The full list is shown below, so if any catch your eye, contact him on tying nights – they're much more interesting than *Eas-tenders!*

We are always looking for more videos to add to the number we have, so if by chance you have any which are not in the list which you are prepared to donate or loan we would be most grateful.

TIGHTLINES 2002

Brian Hendry holding the fort at Tightlines 2002 at Ardingly in October.



LIST OF TITLES IN VIDEO LIBRARY

1. New Season Tactics (Horsey/Owen/Winram)
2. Modern Flyfishing Tactics Vol.1
3. Tackle and Tactics (Horsey/Winram/Pawson)
4. Spring River Tactics with Malcolm Greenhalgh
5. LIVE and Flyfishing (Wilson/Jardine/Dawn/James)
6. Catch Your First Trout (James/Evans/Waters)
7. Formula for Success : Trout (Swisher/Borger/Hafele) *
8. Guide to Trout Fly Hooks (Airflo) *
9. Dry Fly Reservoir Techniques (Horsey) *
10. How to Succeed on Reservoirs – BOAT (Horsey) *
11. Stillwater Flyfishing Vol II (Ogbourne) *
12. Stillwater Flyfishing Vol I (Ogbourne) *
13. Catch and Release (Paul Young) *
14. Tips on Fly Patterns, Tactics, etc. (Horsey/Owen/Evans) *
15. Modern Flyfishing Tactics Vol IV (Wothers/Gwilym) *
16. The Flyfishers' Guide (Wothers/Gwilym/Evans) *
17. Stillwater Flyfishing from a Boat (Church/Heaps) *
18. Fly Fishing Vol.I (Arthur Oglesby) *
19. Small Stillwater Stalking Patterns/Techniques (Winram) *
20. How to Succeed on Reservoirs – BANK (Horsey) *
21. Innovative Fly Tying Techniques Part 1 (S & G Jones) *
22. Innovative Fly Tying Techniques Part 2 (S & G Jones) *
23. Atlantic Salmon Fishing in Russia *
24. Fly Fishing Paradises – Costa Rica, New Zealand etc. *
25. The Galway Experience, Lough Corrib and Small Loughs *
26. The Big Loch (Lomond) (Bill McEwan) *
27. Fly Tying (Mackenzie-Philps) *
28. While Stocks Last (Paul Young) *

* Loaned by FDG member

BOB JAMES — Our November speaker,
with a Lady of the Stream

BULLOCKS II

Just to let Phillip know he at least chose the other end of the bullock!!!



Watch where you're putting it!



A.G.M. (continued)

The Treasurer presented a report without audited accounts, due to change of auditor and pressure of other commitments. This should not happen in future years, but the state of the finances is sound, although care must be taken to rebuild reserves after some drawing on them for new equipment etc. It was gratifying that several members, when renewing, opted to add a donation to the funds, for which many thanks are due.

The need for getting sponsors for the Newsletter was stressed by the editor, in view of the greater expense of production in colour, which those present did not wish to see stopped. Let the editor know of anyone willing to cough up £25 per issue – circulation about 110!

The outgoing Chairman's report is printed in full in the next column.

(Ed. Note: Just to fill space – more articles needed from YOU!!!)

ARLINGTON 2002

A couple of shots taken at the Branch evening this year:



Looking somewhat dejected !

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Chairman's Report 2002

Once again the time has come to review the activities of the past year - it seems to come sooner and sooner as the years roll on! As this is my last annual report, I will try to keep it brief.

The health of the Branch is robust - a dozen or so new members this year, who are keeping the estimable Peter Buss and Ian May on their toes; I must add at this point it is most gratifying to see the number of supernumerary helpers wandering round to assist.

Our programme of speakers has again been well managed by Paul Bond, who is now running out of available dates! The quality of his choice of speakers is unquestioned, but if you have further suggestions, then let him know. It is unfortunate that he will be unable to arrange a repeat of the highly successful trip to the Game Fair in 2003 - it is in Yorkshire, and therefore impractical for a day-trip - but many thanks for all his efforts this year and last.

Congratulations are due to Jim Harris, who has been awarded the trophy for best dressed salmon fly in the national Guild competition, thus continuing Paul's lead in keeping the Sussex flag flying high!

All of your Committee have supported me wonderfully over this year, as in past years, and it due to them that the Branch is prospering, aided by a number of hard-working members outside the committee who put in a lot of time and effort as instructors, events organisers and manning stands at shows, etc. Thanks to you all for your support!

Our new Treasurer, Phillip Ellis, has taken to the task of juggling the accounts with great success, hampered by heavy commitments from work and study, which I trust will be a little easier now.

A number of the Committee members are stepping down this year, all of whom have worked hard and well on your behalf. Please make sure that you support their replacements, whom you will choose later on - it is fresh blood and ideas which maintain the momentum of progress.

Once again our outings throughout the summer have been well organised and it is good to see some of the trophies returning to our safe keeping! If you have some ideas as to how we can expand or improve the fishing programme, let your committee know - ideas are always welcome!

Due to some unfortunate clashes of dates, the Annual Dinner was a little down on numbers this year, but I am assured by all to whom I have spoken that the quality of service and the venue was of the highest order. Thanks are again due to John Burt for organising it and the Dyke Golf Club for their hospitality.

I conclude with a heartfelt thanks to all who have helped make my tenure so rewarding - not only the Committee members but all who have rallied round when required to dig me out of another mess I got myself in! I am sure my successor will have your continued support and I look forward to doing my bit as editor (if you still want me!).

The Angler's Prayer

Lord, grant that I may catch a fish
So large that even I,
When telling of it afterwards,
May have no need to lie