



Sussex Branch Newsletter



DECEMBER 2002



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

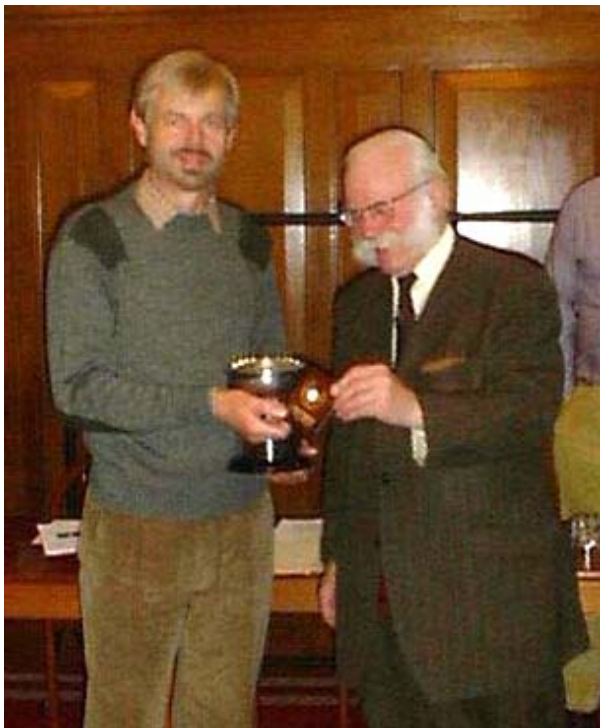
AUCTION 2003 – 10th February

With this newsletter you will find entry forms for your lots to sell in the above auction – our annual event which considerably helps our funds. For new members, this is a chance to get those bargains in both tackle and fly-tying materials and equipment, and for getting rid of that surplus gear cluttering up your tackle room (or even front lounge!!).

The auction is open to all – members, friends, non-members *et al* –so do spread the word and come along. More copies of the entry sheets are available from Roy Gurney on 01273 506184 .(but use your own continuation sheets if necessary).

Entries for the auction must be with Roy by January 17th at the latest, in order that the catalogue can be compiled and distributed.

JIM HARRIS



Jim Harris receives the London Trophy for best dressed salmon fly, novice class, from the Guild President, Donald Downs, at the AGM of the Guild on November 16th.

January 16th- Malcolm Greenhalgh

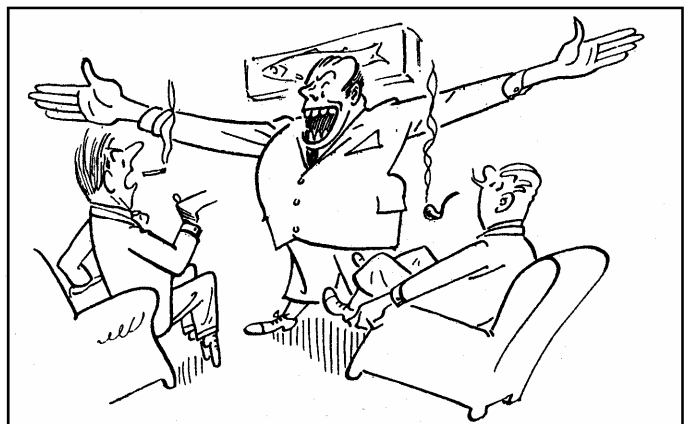
In the fond hope that you will not forget over the days of merry-making and over indulgence, we remind you that our January speaker is none other than Malcolm Greenhalgh, to whom we bid a welcome return. Malcolm's expertise in river fishing is well-known, and he will give us an evening of tying demonstrations of fish-catching patterns and will share his experiences of fishing round the world.

DAVE COOMBER

It was a great pleasure to welcome Dave "back in the fold" recently, when there was great interest in viewing his fly-boxes. Dave has prepared an article on some of his favourite flies which will appear in future issues – see page 2 for a foretaste of things to come! This photo of him shows his birthday gift to the editor some six years ago of "Flies which catch at Dunton". They were so beautifully tied and presented, that I never actually used them, except to put on display at shows, etc!!



Don't forget your entries for the big fish trophies!!!



Topsites

this week: fishing

FROM: 'CONNECTED'

DAILY TELEGRAPH

16/04/02

www.fishnation.com

"How hot are these lures," says the website, enticing fishing fans to its collection of pictures and recipes and "fish chat". Its main role is as a directory of other fish-related websites, with rankings as well.

www.anglersnet.co.uk

All kinds of fishing advice, including the all new Carp Clinic, run by the NHS (Nautical Help Service). Fishy jokes aside, the website has an enormous amount of information provided by enthusiasts, covering product reviews, types of fish and places to buy your equipment.

www.adventureangling.com

If sitting by a riverside doesn't excite you, then this US website may have something more challenging - from winter fishing in the snow to chasing trout in the Rockies.

There are even some bikini-clad women catching fish, if that's what you like.

www.fishing-uk-scotland.com

A little closer to home, this website breaks Scotland into nine regions, providing details of where to stay, fish and eat your catch throughout the country.

The site also features some very inspiring trout pictures too.



Picture: JAMES FRASER

Reel thing: Fishers can become surfers, and take advantage of the web

www.less-stress.com/flyes

If your tackle isn't up to the job, this website might have what you need. It provides an index of different types of fly, with precise instructions on how to put them together and the best locations and conditions in which to use them.

www.fisheries.co.uk

A very well-presented guide to coarse fishing in the UK, with dozens of fisheries listed and the latest fishing news and events.

www.flyshop.no

Norway is a very popular fishing destination and this excellent multi-language website, The Norwegian Flyshop, has a complete guide to where to go, what to take and, importantly, which environmental considerations fishers need to take into account.

www.fishing Cairns.com.au

The beaches and weather alone would tempt someone to go fishing in North Australia, and this

website has everything you need to know, from species to reefs, as well as some entertaining yarns about the ones that did not get away.

www.fishing.co.uk

An advert-heavy website that nevertheless offers an entertaining online magazine for a range of fishing interests. It claims to have a database of more than 1.5m articles, including product reviews, advice guides and record catches.

For all you internet buffs, the above article appeared recently in the *Daily Telegraph* and may be of interest to you.

How many of us can boast that we take boxes like these to go fishing? These are Dave Coomber's masterpieces, and he will describe his favourites next month. One point he has to make: tie three of each at a time for consistency (and to avoid disappointment when you lose that successful fly!)



Bob James

Well over forty members and guests attended to hear our guest speaker for November, Bob James, who treated us to a fascinating tale of his lifelong passion for angling and the preservation (or should it be conservation) of the environment to ensure future generations can continue to enjoy it. His slide presentation was masterful, and the variety of his fishing was well demonstrated, and the magnificent barbel specimen was quite breathtaking. It was interesting to hear that, as time progresses, size is no longer the prime target of his fishing – it is the skill in catching a difficult, if smaller, target that is more satisfying. The quality of his talk, and the conclusions he drew from his experiences, must have struck a chord with the audience, as questions were few and far between – was it because we were all in awe, or just that it was difficult to find any argument against his views? Suffice to say that the ACA gained six new members to add to those who are already in the association – great support for the valuable work that the ACA does for our sport.

It was a great pleasure also to welcome Bob's good lady, Jane, who works so hard for the ACA – Bob recalled that the last time they visited the Branch was some years ago, when they cut their honeymoon short by a day to honour his promise to speak, so her dedication to angling can be gauged by the fact she has forgiven us!!

Arlington and Barcombe

It was announced at the recent meeting for members that South East Water will keep prices for 2003 at the same level as this year – good news in these hard times! They have undertaken various measures to improve the fishing at both venues and remain fully committed to our sport.

Fishing Light

Who doesn't carry too much tackle and accoutrements with him when going fishing? This was amply shown when your very forgetful editor, having yet another of his senior moments, managed to leave behind his fly-vest, loaded with bits and pieces of absolutely essential equipment, fly-boxes, leader and tippet material, snips, scissors and all those things which you must have (or else the tackle dealers would be out of business!). Three of us had decided to go in one car to fish Albourne, transferred all kit to his car except the offending item. Armed now with only a spool of 6lb fluorocarbon, a priest, a spare box of flies (all fortunately loose in the boot) and a mini Swiss Army knife, fishing was so uncomplicated and several pounds lighter. The irony was he even lent a fly to one of the others. Lesson learnt – get rid of the superfluous junk and travel light – you just don't need all of it!

As for the fishing and venue – despite the rather discouraging forecast, the day was fine, dry and for much of the time windless; beautiful fully-finned fish in excellent condition, gave good accounts of themselves when eventually hooked – not easy fishing, though, and we had to settle for a brace apiece. Ashbourne is a lovely, spring fed, two-lake fishery near Penhurst and Ashburnham (between Hurstmonceux and Battle), set in woodlands. Hopefully in February we will be able to give full details for the new season, which re-opens in March.

Chalk Springs – Record Blue

Just to put the record straight, as usual the Editor did not check his facts – the actual record for a blue at Chalk Springs is a huge 17lb6oz, and not “some 13lb plus” as reported. I'd like to catch one weighing the difference!!!

Chairman's Chat Lines

It seems I have been here before. One off guarded comment, a lapse of concentration at the AGM, I am back as chairman of the branch. My first committee meeting confirmed my suspicions – the success of the Sussex branch is not a stroke of luck. Perspiration, not inspiration is the key to the branch being what it is today.

For the past few years I have been involved with the Flydressers' guild on national affairs. In this period I have visited a number of branches and met with most of the branch officers up and down the country. I can honestly say that there are few branches, if any, which can match the vigour of this branch.

We now have a new committee with a blend of youth and experience. New ideas are already coming forward -- ways to make the branch even better than it is today. We cannot rest on our laurels – to stand still is to deteriorate. In the coming months your opinions will be requested on changes which we hope to make in the running of the branch. We need your feedback otherwise we will not know if we are carrying out your wishes.

The branch is yours - to be what you want it to be – the committee is only here to carry out the policies and achieve the objectives of the membership. Your input is vital and any suggestions will be fully considered. Please feel free to approach any committee member on matters concerning the running of the branch.

Already plans are being made for the fishing outings next summer. Once again suggestions for venues are important. If you have visited a day ticket fishery you think we should use then please mention it to Peter Winder so that the possibility of using it can be fully explored.

Paul Bond has finalised the speakers' programme some twelve months in advance. We shall be playing host to some of the finest exponents of the art of fly fishing in the coming months. The bulk of your branch subscription is spent on these speakers and we need your support on these evenings to make them a success. The raffles held on each of these occasions can make the difference to the viability of the evening so please buy plenty of tickets. We can only attract these celebrities if we have the finances to fund them.

Our last tying evening of the year will be on the 19th December. We hope to make this a more festive meeting than usual so please make very effort to attend. All of the instructors rely upon your support at these evenings. Nothing is more disheartening than to prepare tying session and then to find only two or three member turn up.

It only remains for me to wish you and your loved ones a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



The unequal struggle.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Despite all threats, promises, cajoling etc, etc, a few have still not paid their subs!! **You** know who you are, so please make the treasurer a happy man and cough up. This newsletter has been sent only to those who are paid up **OR** who are known to be loyal members who have either a poor memory or have mislaid their cheque-books! We would also like to see you at the meetings too!!

Branch Clothing, etc

With Christmas looming, get your own presents here! Just to remind you that 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.

Also available are Guild car stickers, buttonhole badges etc and, subject to prior sale, Wheatley fly-boxes @ £7.50 each – more can ordered if required – and Griffiths dubbing boxes at £8.50 each – great value!

VIDEO LIBRARY

Jack advises that he has two new titles available for loan to members – no. 29 – *BELIZE – the flyfishers' fantasy* (salt water flyfishing), and no. 30 – *Angling Experience – Irish mayfly fishing and salmon fishing*.

American Flyfishing and tying magazines

Phillip Ellis has kindly donated some back copies, so if you are interested (and some of the patterns are *very* interesting indeed) ask Roy Gurney or Jack Jupp for a loan. We also have back copies of many magazines, including the Salmon & Trout Association journal, Wild Trout Trust (*Salmo Trutta*), Grayling Society, etc. Ask, and ye shall receive!!

COMMITTEE

Another “senior moment” for your Editor! In last month’s report on the AGM, I omitted the name of Ian Dunk who was elected a committee member as well as those mentioned.

Sorry Ian – you can’t get away that easily!!!



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Chairman: Alan Middleton 01273 493473
 Secretary: Paul Bond 01273 420410
 Treasurer: Phillip Ellis 01903 504317

Editor: Roy Gurney, 7 Eldred Avenue, Brighton BN1 5EB
 Phone: 01273 506184
 Fax: 01273 881209
 E-mail: roygurney@enterprise.net

Visit our web site
sussexflydressers.org.uk