



# Sussex Branch Newsletter



**JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2003**

## **AUCTION Monday 10th February**

The BIG event – if you want to get rid of all that surplus gear or want to obtain the bargain of the year. A copy of the catalogue for this auction is enclosed, so open your wallets and let those moths out!

If you have not yet entered your lots, they can be accepted on the night, but will attract a sellers' premium of 15% (as opposed to the 10% for catalogue entries).

You will see from the catalogue there are many high quality lots, many are without reserve – so go for that bargain! Once again, Mike Humphreys has volunteered his services as auctioneer, so the evening should go like clockwork.

However, to achieve this, we ask that vendors bring their lots in as soon after 7 pm as possible, but viewing does not start till 7.30, otherwise chaos reigns! Please assist by not crowding in whilst the helpers are setting up. Bidder cards will be issued on entry, to be returned after the auction.

## **Ian Thomson – 13th February**

Our speaker for February is a welcome return for an old friend whose banter at Ardingly Shows and other events matches only his penchant for monstrous patterns requested for us to tie for his corporate days! We look forward to his revelations of his recent fishing trips to Alaska and other venues this past year, and we are assured of an entertaining evening.

## **ANNUAL DINNER**

The Annual Dinner will be held at the Dyke Golf Club on **Saturday 12th April 2003.** Application form for tickets and menu choice will be enclosed with the next newsletter when it should be completed and returned to John Burt with cheque as quickly as possible. Meantime, **make a note in your diary NOW!!**

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. Also presentation of trophies, including the Flydressing competition, will be made.

The guest speaker will be announced in the next newsletter, but in case you have a prime candidate yourself, contact Alan Middleton urgently!

## **ANNUAL DINNER – RAFFLE**

As mentioned above, Jim White will be organising a raffle to be held on the night, and the star prize this year is a brand new DVD player! We always have a good selection of runners-up prizes, and therefore it would be greatly appreciated if any members can donate prizes – let Jim have them either beforehand or on the night.

This raffle is, of course, quite separate from the Rod raffle, which will be drawn on the night – get your tickets from Jack Jupp on Thursday nights – time is running out!

This edition of the Newsletter is sponsored by

# ***Ashbourne Trout Lakes***

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e-mail: [DougChalmers@aol.com](mailto:DougChalmers@aol.com)

*(Roy Gurney, your Editor is a member, so have a word with him!)*



## Line speed for boffins

We are indebted to **John Plowman** for the following erudite explanation of why many of us cannot match the best!

Towards the end of the 2002 season at Bewl I fished from a boat for two days with a friend, Ian, from the west of England. During that time I caught ten fish to his one. He is a competent angler and on our many trips together we usually come out even. We fished on the drift from the front of the boat using floating lines with either dry flies such as hoppers or daddies, or small white lures. It has puzzled me as to why our catches were so different. Since the "Fishing" side of my brain could not suggest a reason perhaps the "Physics" side can. I use a WF7 line while Ian is a big lad and uses a WF9.

When a fish pulls on the fly there is a small but finite time for this force to be transmitted along the fly line. It travels as a small tension disturbance which physicists recognise a longitudinal wave. The speed of this wave depends both on the initial tension in the line and the weight of the line. The stronger the force the angler uses to retrieve the line the greater the wave speed; the heavier the line the slower the wave speed. The formula is:

$$\text{Wave speed } C = \sqrt{T/M}$$

where T is the initial tension force in newtons and M is the mass of one metre of the line in kg per metre.

A tension force of one newton is close to a pull on your spring balance of 4 oz. So all you need now is to estimate how strongly you pull when you are retrieving and to look up your line mass from your AFTM number. This will give you the speed at which the pull of the fish travels along your line.

Unfortunately this is not the finish: we now need to calculate the time that you feel the take after it actually happens (Time = distance / speed) and then add on your reaction time (the Highway Code uses about 0.7s if you are booze free and concentrating). You now strike and another pulse travels back down the line and sets the hook **if the fish is still there!**

For those of you that don't fancy the mathematics I have done it for you below.

The clear conclusions are:

- (a) Use as light a line as conditions permit
- (b) Leave the hip flask at home.

AFTM	Total times(s) including reaction times	For a line length of 15 m						Pulling force in newtons
		0.1	0.2	0.5	1.0	2.0	5.0	
3	6.48	2.31	2.41	1.78	1.46	1.24	1.04	
4	7.78	2.46	2.57	1.88	1.54	1.29	1.07	
5	9.07	2.60	2.72	1.98	1.60	1.34	1.10	
6	10.42	2.74	2.87	2.07	1.67	1.38	1.13	
7	11.99	2.89	3.02	2.17	1.74	1.43	1.16	
8	13.61	3.03	3.17	2.27	1.81	1.48	1.19	
9	15.55	3.19	3.35	2.37	1.88	1.54	1.23	
10	18.14	3.39	3.56	2.51	1.98	1.60	1.27	

### Editor's Note

Due to constraints on timing the January and February editions have been combined. The March edition will be published at the end of February as usual.

## Dave Coomber

In the last Newsletter we introduced (or rather re-introduced) our old friend David Coomber. As a follow-up, some of his individual flies are being highlighted.

### Dave's Shrimp

The fly I am going to discuss is the Shrimp. This is really a "confidence fly". In all honesty I have not seen many anglers use these patterns; I have met two fishermen, one at Damerham and the other at White Sheet Farm, Dorset, who only use shrimps, and they had great success with these. I only use a shrimp when the going gets tough, i.e. hot, middle of the day, no breeze and the fish off the boil.

I fish it on a long leader - let it settle, give it three quick jerks, a pause, and then a long pull, and then start again. I have done well at Duncton Mill and Chalk Springs. I have tied several types of shrimp, some of my own design. These were illustrated in the *Flydresser* and Trout magazines. **D.C.**



Dave's Shrimp



Orange Tag Shrimp

[The Editor's choice is another shrimp variation, the Red Spot Shrimp (see below left). The red spot represents the coloration caused by a parasite, which conveniently becomes an attractor to fish. (I recall Dave at a branch outing to Duncton, having taken his four fish, demonstrating his method of fishing this fly to a fishless colleague - "you just give it 3 tugs and then pull - oops, there it is!" - and this on the first pull of the first cast!! Dave had on a previous visit witnessed Ned Kelly pulling out masses of weed after cutting, and noticed the weed was swarming with shrimps.)]



Red-spot Shrimp

Yellowhead Green Nymph

### Dave's Preferred Flies

#### Yellowhead Nymph (see above right)

Now, about some of the flies I prefer. I try to use nymphs where possible, including buzzers, shrimps and various other forms of nymphs. Some of these are standard recognised patterns, and some of my own design. The yellow-head is a particular favourite of mine; first used at Damerham some years ago, I have had a great deal of success with this fly. I tie it quite small, 14 - 12 size hook, with a narrow body of olive green marabou, gold rib, thin tail and a small yellow head made of narrow lead wire, painted yellow, with a black dot on either side for eyes. To fish it, use a fairly long leader of 15-17 feet long.

(continued on next page)



## Dave's Preferred Flies (continued)

### Pheasant-tailed Nymphs

We must not forget the pheasant tail nymph, an all time great, first used in rivers but now used in stillwaters everywhere. There are so many variants these days, but they all catch fish. Some of the most famous names attached to this fly are Frank Sawyer (the originator), Arthur Cove (arguably the finest exponent of nymph and buzzer fishing), Jim Tweeny from USA, Al Troth, D Mason, Bob Church and so-on. You only have to look at Arthur Cove's Cove Nymph and sedge pupa to see how deadly they are.



Cove's Nymph



Sawyer's Pheasant Tail Nymph



Pheasant Tail Variants

### Bloodworm

Another great fly I use is the red buzzer, or bloodworm. Of course it is also known as the "Datsun" when it is just a painted hook. The first time I saw this fly tied was at the Guild, by Terry Griffith (now editor of the *Flydresser*). A red stretchy material (such as Flexibody, Flexifloss, etc) is tightly wound round a nickel or gold grub hook, finishing with a larger head, and then super-glued. You can tie a dozen in 15 minutes - so quick and easy. This is a really deadly fly fished on the drift and inched slowly back.



Bloodworm

## **DANGER!!!!**

Following the tying night on 9th January, despite careful sweeping up after the session, the following morning a hook was found by the playgroup. It goes without saying that with small children using the premises, the greatest care must be taken to ensure NO hooks are dropped, or if they are, they are retrieved. We face the prospect of losing the venue if this happens again – possibly litigation.

## ALASKA

Roy Gurney has a number of copies of the Fish Game Adventures brochures on their all-in packages for fishing (and shooting) in Alaska. Give him a ring on 01273 506184 if you are interested, or ask on a Thursday evening.

## COMPETITIONS & OUTINGS 2003

We now have some provisional dates (those in bold are firm dates) for the season's competitions and outings. Where possible the organiser for each event is shown, but a few are still requiring volunteers, e.g. team managers for the Anglian Water (which replaces the Hardy's) and the TFEO competitions. Anyone interested in these, contact a committee member ASAP. The full programme will be issued with the next newsletter (March) which will be published towards the end of February.

- 16 March Casting Clinic & trade day – Hove Lagoon (Peter Winder)
- 23 March** v. Eastbourne FF – Arlington (Peter Winder)
- 13 April** Bawl Pairs Competition (John Cooper)
- 22 May** Branch evening at Arlington (Roy Gurney)
- 13 or 15 May or 21 June Anglian Water (heat) – Bawl
- 22 June** v. Surrey – Avon Springs (Chris Croucher)
- 26 June** Branch evening at Barcombe (Roy Gurney)
- ?June/July TFEO (heat) - Bawl
- 13 July** Stillwater Challenge – Chalk Springs (Chris Croucher)
- 30 August** John Watt Competition – Grafham (Joseph Holmes)
- 21 September** Branch Day at Dunton Mill, with BBQ (Peter Winder)
- 28 September** Charity Pairs Competition - Bawl (John Cooper)

There is a possible further match v. Ouse Valley FF (if they can raise a team this Year).

You may have some ideas for additional outings or matches (which should be friendly and fun!). If so, let your committee know and they will see what can be done.

One idea under consideration is to have a day at Damerham – a trip down memory lane for a lot of the longer-serving members. This prime fishery is now season ticket only or block bookings, so is not available for day tickets. It remains the father of "big fish" fisheries however and the home of the famous "Damerham blues". More details will follow later.

In addition to the fishing event above, we also man stands at the **South of England Show (5/6/7th June)** and other shows (Tightlines 2003, etc) dates of which will be advised. If you can assist by manning stands, etc, let us know.

## TROPHIES

Would all holders of branch trophies please return them to Paul Bond or Alan Middleton as soon as possible, in order that they may be engraved ready for presentation to the new recipients at the Annual Dinner.



## TYING PROGRAMME 2003/4

The programme for 2003/2004 is fairly well progressed but it has been suggested that the top table could be utilised for specific requested instruction. It would be nice if Sussex could put themselves on the map by the numbers entering the various tying competitions or perhaps dealing with specific problems an individual may have. This could be salt-water flies, salmon flies or techniques in magazines not covered by any of the courses. It is not intended that there be a set programme but if subjects are known before the end of March then instructors will be sourced to assist for "one-off's" and dates set to suit for 2003/2004.

Contact Paul Bond with your ideas ASAP – 01273 420410, or e-mail [paul.bond@kier.co.uk](mailto:paul.bond@kier.co.uk).

*Editor's note:*

Some magazines are running tying competitions, notably *Fly Fishing and Fly Tying*, as well as the Guild competitions, Amongst others, Peter Buss and Tim Albright have done well in these in the past, so let us all have a go!!

## South of England Autumn Show 2002



*Above:* Brian Hendry and Jim Harris demonstrating their skills at Ardingly last October.

*Left:* A rare sight of the editor actually tying a fly!!

This industrious trio were performing in the new demonstration tent which proved a great success. Photos are by Michael Waller of the Sussex Ouse Restoration Trust (see article on p.4)

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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](mailto:roygurney@enterprise.net)

Visit our web site  
[sussexflydressers.org.uk](http://sussexflydressers.org.uk)

## THE 20<sup>TH</sup>. LEICESTER FLY FISHING SHOW

SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup>. MARCH 2003

**\* OUR FIRST SATURDAY SHOW !\***

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FLY FISHING ASSOCIATION

RAFFLE IN AID OF RAINBOWS CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

The above advertisement is reproduced courtesy of *Fly Fishing and Fly Tying*. Those of you who have been before (when it was held on a Friday) take note that this year the day has been changed to a **Saturday**, to enable more folk to attend.

In the past a number of Sussex Branch (and friends) have visited this event, availing themselves of car-sharing. Why not get a party together for this very lively and entertaining day out?

If you intend going, let Roy Gurney or Phillip Ellis know, and likewise if you would like to go with someone, and we will put you in touch.

## RUTLAND FLY FAIR

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2003  
10am – 4pm

Barnsdale Lodge Hotel.  
Rutland Water (North Shore),  
Nr Oakham, Rutland

In conjunction with Fly Fishing and Fly Tying Magazine  
and  
In aid of the English Disabled Fly Fishing Association

A Fly tying event covering all aspects of the craft, Retailers.  
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**Charles Jardine, Mick Bewick,  
Mick Huffer, Ian MacKenzie**

Admission £4.00  
Bar and Refreshments available.

