



Sussex Branch Newsletter



MARCH 2003

ANNUAL DINNER Saturday 12th April 2003

An application form for tickets and menu choice is enclosed with this newsletter. Please complete and return to John Burt with your cheque as quickly as possible. Tickets are £18 per head and we repeat it is a great evening – good food, good company, the draw for the Rod Raffle, as well as the evening's raffle on the night for a star prize of a DVD player and other goodies of quality organised by Jim White.

The guest speaker is Graham Ketley, and he will be followed by the presentation of trophies, both for the fly tying competitions and fishing trophies for 2002.

WEBSITE

Believe it or not, the web-site is now up-to-date. At long, long last the Editor has been up-dated himself by a long-suffering son-in-law and hopefully will get on top of keeping it current!

Chris Elliot – 13th March

Have you dreamt of catching that specimen of a lifetime and having it preserved for your descendants to marvel at? We have a welcome return visit of renowned taxidermist Chris Elliot, who will give an insight into the world of preserving those prized catches, fur, feather or scaly, and displaying them as works of art. A number of our members have had their prizes preserved for posterity, including Chris Croucher's record tiger (trout, that is!), which hopefully he will be able to bring along.

PROGRAMME 2003

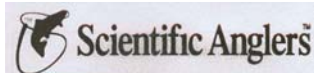
Enclosed is the programme to the end of the year, from which you will see Malcolm Greenhalgh will now visit in December.

Entry forms for the various outings and competitions are also enclosed – please return these as indicated as soon as possible – some are already filling up! We will also enter teams for the Anglian Water and TFE0 team competitions. If you wish to fish these, or the John Watt, please contact Peter Winder and register your interest NOW!

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Gavin Hunter



Following our reports of Gavin's successes with the England Youth Team, here are the trophies (the Rosebowl for best individual and the team trophy, together with the Arlington trophy for best fish of the season.

A.G.M. – 2003

I know it is a long way off, but in view of the poor attendance at the last two AGMs, following a decision to hold it on a Monday to avoid taking up a tying night, your committee has decided that this year's AGM will be held on the first Thursday in December, i.e. **December 4th**. The AGM is the time for everyone to air their views on the running of the Branch, as well as electing the Committee, so it is hoped that this reversion to a Thursday will encourage you all to attend.

Gazebo for hire

The Branch has acquired a gazebo, 10' x 10' (or 3m x 3m if you have gone metric!) with four walls, two with windows. If any member wishes to use this for a week-end for a garden party, barbeque etc, it can be hired for a £10 a time donation to Branch funds. It goes without saying that it is subject to return in the same condition as it started. Contact any committee member – it is in the care of Roy Gurney at the present time.

AUCTION

About 65 people attended the annual auction on 10th February when 210 lots raised nearly £2100. Auctioneer Mike Humphreys kept the bids coming in his own inimitable way, despite the reluctance of some to part with their cash! Good prices were realised for most items and both buyers and sellers went their way satisfied. Certainly there were some very good bargains, especially in the lots of fly-tying materials, so maybe we can hope for lots of flies to be offered to be sold for branch funds at our show stands?

The auction is our main fund raiser apart from subscriptions, so it is good to see such support from members, but not forgetting our visiting friends too!

As well as the performance of the maestro auctioneer great credit goes to the hard-working clerks, porters and the treasurer who had to miss out on some of the bargains!

Sussex Ouse Conservation Society

SOCS continues its work to improve the environment of the River Ouse. Whilst we cannot claim all the credit, the catches of sea trout during the 2002 season have been unusually good with over 100 reported from members of the Ouse Angling Preservation Society.

SOCS is now a member of the Anglers Conservation Association. This association will be familiar to most of you. It is experienced in dealing with matters of pollution and water quality. The ACA has agreed to handle our application for salmonid designation on appropriate areas of the main river and its tributaries. Their solicitor, Peter Carty, has kept us informed of progress on his negotiations with DEFRA, which have been protracted, but we hope to hear their decision in the near future. We understand that the Environment Agency wholly supports our application. When the designation is in place, we will work to improve the standards of the existing effluents.

The task force has continued its regular monthly work parties, and this year we have concentrated on the Northend Stream to improve the habitat for sea trout redds.

Our campaign to have Redbridge Weir, on the Bevern Stream, modified to allow fish migration continues, but very slowly. However, there has recently been some progress on this and we understand that the Environment Agency may have the modification in place by April 2003.

Water quality testing has continued on the Bevern and Northend Streams. The results over a one year period have been published on our website and mean values in the newsletter. Our findings indicate persistently high levels of nitrates and phosphates in some areas, particularly in the stretches affected by sewage works effluents. We have also identified sporadic high ammonia levels and the Environment Agency was alerted on these. We have expressed our concerns to the Agency about the generally high nutrient salt levels. Testing is now being extended to the Longford Stream.

The monitoring of the sea trout population of the Ouse continues under the aegis of Dr. Clive Fetter and Jim Smith. This involves analysis of scales from fish captured by anglers, fish migration and redd site reports.

Our plant biodiversity programme on the Bevern Stream continues and we now have well established colonies of ranunculus (water crowfoot). Other species are being introduced.

The Sussex Ouse Restoration Trust (*see page 4*), a body who intend to restore navigation on the River Ouse, has contacted us for our views. We have made it clear that we do not think this is either a viable or desirable project from environmental and fishery standpoints. However, they have said that they will inform us of the results of the feasibility study that they propose to undertake.

Our plans for the coming year need to develop and consolidate our present activities. There is much more we could do but the main limiting factors are lack of manpower and finance. We therefore need to recruit more active members who will readily involve themselves in the Society's work.

What we do has a direct beneficial effect on the quality of River Ouse fishing. We would be delighted to hear from any FDG members who would like to support us. Have a look at our website, www.sussex-ouse.org.uk for more information, or telephone "Sam" St.Pierre at 01273 400093.

ODE TO THE FLYDRESSER

To Albert
from Jimmy Younger
Feb. 1998



Think ye, my friend when struggling there; with Feathers, Tinsels, Fur and Hair
How much simpler it would be; to just go out and buy 'em'!

© Anglercraft, 1995. No. 101175 (Scotland)

Younger

We are indebted to Albert Horne for sending the above cartoon, which as you will see is dedicated to him by Jimmy Younger.

Chairman's Chat

I can confirm that Spring is on the way and that the fishing season will soon be in full swing. By now I am sure you will all have received your final reminders for your respective fishing club fees. This month we see the invitations to the Annual Dinner (that celebrated social event of the Sussex calendar). The nights are getting noticeably lighter and the wife has bought a crate load of decorating materials!

We are approaching competition time both in the branch and at national level. The standard of tying within the branch is very high and we have much to be proud of. In the past few years we have had notable success at national level through Joseph Holmes, Paul Bond and Jim Harris. Let us see that this tradition is maintained again this year. The branch competitions are usually close fought encounters, but it does need your participation to make them a success. We are fortunate to have Albert to judge our efforts and those regulars of Thursday evenings will have gained some insight into what he requires of the patterns we submit. There is still time so let us make this a bumper year for entries.

Once again we are privileged to have John Burt to organise our Dinner, which will be held at the Dyke Golf Club. A guest speaker has been arranged, and look out for some surprise guests at some of the tables. This event is the culmination of our season's fly tying and fundraising. The major rod raffle will take place as well as other money raising activities. It is through the stalwart efforts of Messrs White and others that we are able to contain our membership costs at the level they are. With the cost of speakers constantly rising it is vital that we support these raffles.

You will have received the list of summer activities coordinated by Peter Winder. Once again these are for your benefit and enjoyment so your support for these is vital to their continuation. Please inform the respective event organisers in good time of your intentions and do not let them down at the last minute. For many of these events numbers are limited and to drop out at the last minute can often deprive someone of a day out as well as cause unnecessary work for the organiser.

Committee Day at Wherwell



Tackling up – Peter Buss, John Plowman, Roy Gurney and Ian May

The Committee revisited Wherwell Estate on the Test for some grayling fishing in January. The weather was to say the least variable – pouring rain in the morning, a fine sunny afternoon ending with a downpour at 4 pm, just when everyone had got dry! The only constants were the cold wind and high water. The picture (*below*) of Jim White and Tim Albright, has in the background, not the lake, but the field leading to the river bank in the background!

Nevertheless, many grayling and a few brownies were taken and released, the most successful method being a very heavy nymph or shrimp on an 8' leader, with a sight bob indicator. Greg, one of our colleagues from Wessex branch who fishes the water regularly showed us how – a twitch of the sight bob nearly every cast, quick strike, and a fish 5 out of 6 strikes! He was using a pink shrimp, tied with tungsten strip for weighting to get it down fast in the fast-flowing water. Tim Albright also had good success using a similar technique, having shadowed Greg when he saw his early successes. Others were also successful, both on the river and on the lake (for rainbows).

A great day on the hallowed waters of the Test, out of reach in the trout season, but just as attractive in the grayling season – and affordable!

If anyone is interested in fishing this water for grayling, ask Roy Gurney for details, or contact Wherwell Estate direct on 01264 860243.





Anticipation

Video Library

Jack Jupp reminds everyone to return any videos out on loan to them by the last tying night (or he won't have anything to watch over the summer nights!!). Please get them back, as things tend to go astray if not tended for some months!

Spring & Summer

Irish Salmon and Sea Trout Adventures

If you have ever wanted to fish the West Coast of Ireland for Salmon or Sea Trout now is your chance.

Gone Fishing

Guided fishing Adventures

Invites you to join them on one of two fishing Adventures scheduled for this year.

The First is a one week **Spring Salmon and Early Sea Trout Quest**. For a day on each on the following world renowned Salmon and Sea Trout waters – Waterville (Lough Currane), The Curagh Fishery, Killarney Lakes (Lough Leane), and the rivers Laune, Curagh and Inny. Six fishing days that could change your life – 22nd - 29th March.

The second is a two week **Early Summer Adventure** scheduled for the 14th – 21st and 21st - 29th June for Salmon and Sea Trout similar to above but will include some night fishing for Sea Trout if conditions suitable. You can come for just one week or both if you wish.

Each Adventure will be limited to five people and, at only £250.00 per person per week, represent tremendous value. This price includes full board at our lovely Kerry home, all boat hire, licences and permits where required. All you have to do is get there. Spinning and trolling tackle available for hire if required and I can supply local fly pattern details if needed.

Alternatively the cottage is available for letting for your own trip.

For further details contact

Bob Burbidge (Blackwater Bob) 01903 873878 evenings

E-mail: blackwaterbob@gonefishing.ie

www.gonefishing.ie

Please note this web site is still under development & a few pages are incomplete.

Sussex Ouse Restoration Trust

During the Autumn Show at Ardingly, Michael Waller of the above organisation visited our stand and explained some of their activities. He has now sent the editor a copy of their newsletter and current update on activities, kindly enclosing the photographs which appeared in last month's newsletter.

The prime object of the trust is to restore the Ouse Navigation – the Ouse was canalised in the late 18th and early 19th century, ironically enabling the construction of the Balcombe railway viaduct, for it was the railways which made the canals redundant.

A number of our members fish the Ouse or its feeders and the project will have a direct effect on them, but nevertheless there may be potential benefits in utilising some of the river for recreational purposes. Anyone interested in this project can contact SORT direct by e-mail on sussexouse@hotmail.com or contacting Mick Waller at: 5 Cranedown, LEWES, East Sussex BN7 3NA

DUNCTON MILL

Duncton Mill is now under new management and Martin Fleetwood outlined his plans to restore the old ethos of this lovely water at a special meeting of members. Duncton will remain a season ticket water with improved stocking policies and water management – we wish him well!!

More browns will be stocked at the beginning of the season, with higher fish weights and hopefully greater stocking density. He does not want Duncton to become a “big fish” fishery, but some double figure fish will be introduced to give you a thrill! These will be grown on in the Millpond, which will no longer be fished.

The season tickets will be more flexible regarding fishing days, and day tickets are definitely out! However, winter fishing, including catch and release, will continue for the time being – during the season, it is catch and kill only.

He did express his desire to see more young persons fishing and some form of shared ticket may be possible.

There will be less Sunday “corporate” events and club bookings (though long-standing bookings such as our outing will continue).

Meantime we can confirm that the Annual Branch Outing to Duncton will take place on Sunday 21st September, cost £35 including BBQ. Book now with Peter Winder!

However, due to full bookings in June our annual match with Rother branch will now be held at Chalk Springs – details on the enclosed application forms.

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