THE FLYDRESSERS' GUILD

Sussex Branch Newsletter

MAY / JUNE 2003

ANNUAL DINNER

The Dyke Golf Club once again did us proud with a most sumptuous meal and a fine atmosphere in their club house with a magnificent view over the course towards Brighton.This event gives us the opportunity to thank all those long suffering partners who let us anglers off the hook (if that is the right expression) and what a pleasure it is to meet with the better halves! We were entertained to a light-hearted speech from our guest of honour, Graham Ketley, who somehow managed to relate fly-tying skills to that of mastering the garage door when opening up!

With all the hard work which John Burt put into organising this event , it was disappointing to have a low turn-out, with numbers down on even last year. Maybe we have the timing wrong, and should revert to a date before the end of March – it does seem a lot of competing events were on this particular week-end this year. Those of you who couldn't make it missed a great evening.

Other than the good company, fine food and ample wine, the highlight of the evening was the presentation of trophies and of course the draw for the Rod Raffle and the dinner raffles. No less than 15 winners this year in the rod raffle with two top-quality rods leading a host of fine prizes including Renzetti and Danica vices, BFR Lamina and Modula reels, Cortland lines, Metz capes, Orvis tying kit and more……pity was that most of the winners were not there to receive them. Thanks and congratulations to Jack Jupp who relieved members of a record sum of in excess of £800 over the season and to Peter Winder of Lagoon Bait & Tackle who provided the prizes without profit.

The dinner raffle was again organised by Jim White, with a DVD player and a lean, mean grilling machine leading the superb prize list. Thanks too to the donors of other prizes – in all Jim and his team of Chris and Lee raised just under £200 for branch funds – great going!

The winners of the fly-tying competitions were announced but again sadly none of the winners were present to take away their trophies, which will be presented to them at the first opportunity – maybe at Arlington?

Finally, to all those who did not come – YOU MISSED A GREAT EVENING – COME NEXT YEAR!!!

This edition of the newsletter has been sponsored by Lagoon Bait and Tackle, and a "flyer" is enclosed listing some of the extensive range of well-known brands stocked, both for fishing and fly-tying

2003 FLY-TYING COMPETITION

The results of this year's competition are:

NOVICE

Winner **Gary Gwynne**
Runner-up **Raymond Bond**

INTERMEDIATE

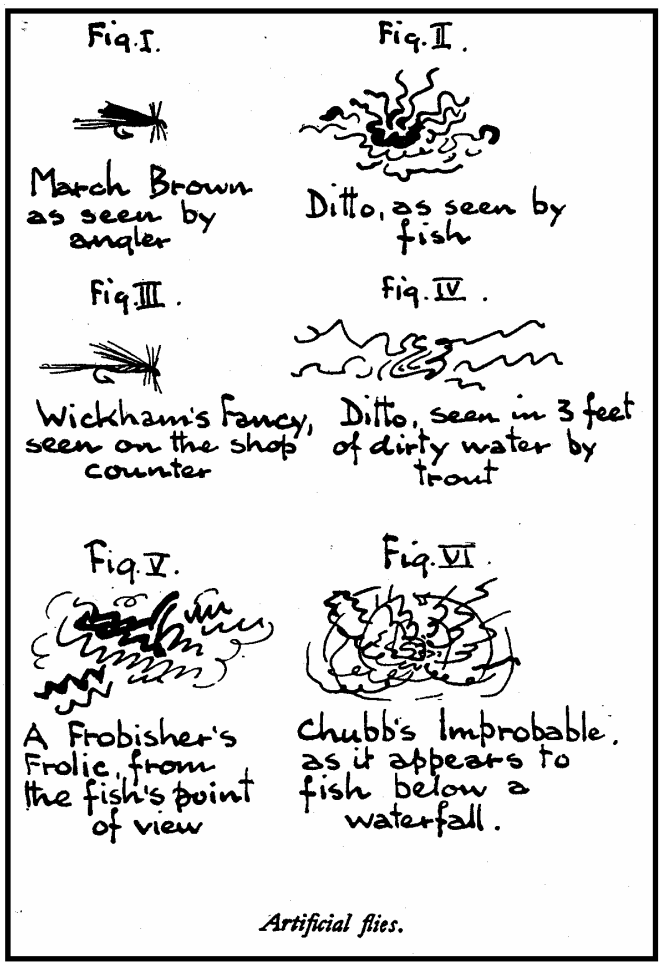
Winner **Andy Snudden**

OPEN

Winner **Paul Bond**

Judging this year was by Albert Horne, to whom we give thanks for his time and expertise.

Towards the end of March one of the classes was devoted to "Footprint" flies. In case you missed the opportunity to attend this illuminating session, we give here an expert appraisal of the subject:-



Match v. Eastbourne Flyfishers

The first match of the season was at Arlington (bank only) on March 23rd. An overnight frost with a cold Easterly wind put the fish down. The Bay was the most productive area, although the wind was in your face here. Despite the early cold, the day was bright and sunny, and by mid-day was quite warm.

Love them or hate them, boobies catch fish. Our top three anglers caught all their fish on boobies, whilst the rest struggled, trying just about everything in the fly-box. Eastbourne coach, Jim Betts, landed two limits (12 fish) before helping a fishless Ken Torkington with advice and some of his own deadly boobies – Ken ended up with top weight for Eastbourne. Peter Winder found a 4' leader of 8lb fluorocarbon with a pink booby on the point and a dark red buzzer (bloodworm) on the dropper the killing combination, using a Cortland WF-7 ultra-fast sinking line.

The final result was a whopping win by Eastbourne with a 59lb 9oz total against our 39lb 15oz. Best bag was Peter's 6 fish for 10lb 14oz, but only Gavin Hunter could match 6 fish for us. Eastbourne had no less than five with their limits. Heaviest fish went to Graham Penfold of Eastbourne with a 5lb 1oz rainbow whereas our best was Peter with a fish of 2lb 14oz. Detailed results are:

Sussex Branch F D G			Eastbourne F F		
Peter Winder	(6 fish)	10--14	Ken Torkington	(6 fish)	10—
Gavin Hunter	(6)	9—6	12 John Carden		(6)
Andy Dunk	(3)	5—	9—6	Alan Skinner	(6)
1 Eric Hunter	(3)	4—	8—13	Derek Holt	(6)
7 Peter Buss		(3)	8—15	Brian Bignell	(6)
4—5	Ian Dunk	(2)	8—9	Graham Penfold	(3)
3--10	Bill Smith	(1)	8—3	Mary Carden	(3)
1—8	Dave Morris	(1)	3—11	Peter Reece	(1)
1—2	Total	(25)	1—4	Total	(37)

Clothes don't make a fisher

FISHING IN THE PEAK DISTRICT

Knowing that some members get away to this area for their holidays, I thought the following information on fishing one of the best waters on the Wye (for wild rainbows) might be of interest:

THE PEACOCK AT ROWSLEY

Haddon Fisheries – Derbyshire Wye

Welcome back
The season will soon be with us and we are looking forward to welcoming you to the "Peacock Water" again. The River Keepers have continued in the drive to improve the river for its inhabitants and for you the anglers, your support is highly valued. You will notice, and we hope welcome, some things that are a little different.

More and better
Much more water is now accessible and fishable. This is as a result of work done to allow more light to reach the river bed. Good long periods of sunlight on the river bed coupled with the excellent flows of clean water cause water crowfoot (ranunculus fluitans) to gain ascendancy over less desirable water plants. Water crowfoot is a great oxygenator and provides more opportunities for invertebrates like shrimps and olives to earn their living. This boost in food supplies encourages more trout to take up station and because there is more food to go round, the average size of fish increases. We have seen positive results in this area already.

Easy access
On the banks you will find new gates that are hung properly so that it is easier and safer to pass through whilst carrying your tackle. You will come across new foot bridges to allow you to get over permanent obstructions like ditches. Places in the past where you have had to come away from the water to reach the next fishing station have been altered, where possible, so that you can stay by the water and work your way up, whereas in the past, opportunities would have been missed.

VIP Quality
It is important that you have nothing but the best that the Wye has to offer. Wild trout are a precious resource these days, as more and more rivers deteriorate. Happily we have good flows of good quality water and the Estate's traditional approach to managing the water by good husbandry means that you can still come and enjoy the very best of dry fly fishing. To ensure that the fishery can sustain itself we have lowered the number of rods available to a strictly enforced limit of 12 anglers only per day. This means that with 6 miles of river and nearly 12 miles of river bank you really can expect to have a great day in pursuit of fish that have not been scared a few minutes earlier by another rod.

Booking your days
As you will appreciate the Peacock is primarily a fishing hotel and we must give priority to our resident guests, however we are now able to offer day tickets for both high and low season, subject to availability. Please ring either Gillian or Jenni at The Peacock at Rowsley where we can check the availability and you can make your booking (Tel: 01629 733518). The rates for the season are £60 per ticket high season (17th May until 22nd June) and £30 for low season, all inclusive of VAT. Should you wish to book a picnic hamper for lunch, or stay at The Peacock, please ask for details.

Visit the web-site www.thepeacockatrowsley.com (E-mail address reception@thepeacockatrowsley.com)

Apropos the above, the Editor recently had a few days in Derbyshire as a guest of Mike Locke of Wessex Branch. We are both members of Derbyshire Railway AC who have some delightful trout and grayling waters including stretches of the Derwent, Dove, Sutton Brook, etc. In fact we fished the Dove on a rather showery day with a chill wind, but this did not prevent us taking fish up to 12" on a dry fly (klinkhamer and CDC were favourite) though on tiny brownie did take a nymph nearly as big as itself! Whilst we suffered only showers, much heavier rain on the other side of the hill meant spate conditions for the *Peacock Hotel* water on the Wye with somewhat coloured water the next day.

Despite the photographs in recent magazines, this is strictly no wading water, but the beauty of the long stretch and good access cannot be bettered. The Wye is dry fly only, and Mike managed to winkle out a couple of the wild rainbows for which it is famous, whereas I had to be content with a couple of 10/12" wild brownies – but what a lovely day!

Our last day was on Sutton Brook in cold blustery conditions which kept the fish well down. Between us we only managed one 6" brownie on a CDC dry, but this water could prove to be a winner under the right conditions.

Derby Railway AC have vacancies and at £54 for the year is remarkably good value – contact The Secretary, PO Box 115, Derby DE1 1AF or visit www.drac.org.uk

QUICK TRIP TO FINLAND

Your editor was lucky enough to be invited by an old friend to join him and a mutual Dutch (non-fishing) friend for a couple of days' fishing at his summerhouse in south central Finland, about 300 miles north-east of Helsinki. Being my first time in Finland, it was rather strange to find in mid-May tulips just coming into flower, daffodils in their prime and the silver birch trees just breaking into leaf; only three weeks earlier there had still been a metre of snow laying at the lodge!

This was situated on the banks of a river running between two lakes, and Joni and his two partners had the exclusive fishing rights to about a mile of this river, fairly shallow and reasonably fast-flowing, and about 100-150 yards wide. Water covers about 25% of Finland's surface, the rest being silver birch and pine forest. The lakes, being of glacial origin, are comparatively shallow and freeze over in the winter; but the river between the lakes stays free of ice all the year.

It was a surprise to find that the minimum size limit for

brown trout is 40cm (16") and locally they were trying to raise this to 50cm! The lakes had a good head of large brownies of between 6 and 10lb with some even larger, the smaller fish migrating to the river. As the summer progresses, the larger fish come to spawn in the river, but it was a bit too early for this. As may be gathered, wading is essential, unless using the outboard powered large canoe housed in Joni's boat-shed. The morning of the first day was spent wading close to the lodge, and the afternoon exploring by boat further upstream. Joni caught and released two or three good brownies of 30-35cm whereas yours truly managed to lose the only two he hooked – one of which was certainly of takeable size! After a late lunch of gravedlax salmon, Dutch salt herring, smoked eel, cheese and ham – such hardship in the backwoods!! - wading again in the evening, when darkness never falls, followed by a similar feast, this time with copious amounts of wine!

The weather on the first day had been patchy, though mainly dry. The next day was bright and sunny and seemingly perfect conditions. Yet further lost fish began to convince me that I was not destined to succeed, but Joni in the meantime had taken the boat (which I had found excruciating to my back) with his spinning outfit to catch a pike, promising a classic French recipe for dinner. Duly taking a 6lb pike, he then proceeded to catch a *Cyprinus erythrophthalmus* (or so we tentatively identified it), which according to the Scandinavian reference book grows to a maximum of 1.7kg and 41-45cm. Joni's, however, was 52cm and weighed in at 2.2kg! Sadly, it had taken the plug

down so far that it had to be despatched, but it is now on its deep-frozen way for verification and mounting!

While this excitement was happening, I at last managed to net a 35cm brownie wading just outside the lodge – and in the process managed to lose my landing net – moral: always use a lanyard! Thus the fortunes of tackle dealers are made! Another 30cm fish and at last I felt the trip had been justified, though in truth I would have been content with just being there, catching or not.

The pike was delicious – not only is Joni a very successful businessman (how else can one afford this paradise?) and angler, but a *cordon bleu* chef as well – I feel so inadequate!

The last day saw us fishing in the morning and then the four hour drive back to Helsinki to have a brief guided tour of that fine city. Dinner at a superb traditional restaurant, and then a visit to a bar, followed by a jazz club….. but that's another story!!

Chairman's Chat Lines

The flydressing season ended in grand fashion with a splendid dinner at the Dyke Golf Club. Most members could be recognised despite having had a wash and clean clothes. Indeed most were well behaved, considering there was alcohol available.

You will have received a number of leaflets regarding outings, which have been arranged during the summer months. Please support these events wherever possible. Committee members have gone to a great deal of time and trouble to arrange these events for you. It is often a thankless task to phone around at the last minute for replacements for team events.

As you will have seen from the diary of events the flydressing season starts in September. We are constantly looking for more demonstrators and assistants on Thursday evenings. It is not an onerous task to lead a couple of evenings and it lightens the burden on the individuals who lead each week.

The South of England Show is the highlight of our external recruitment campaign. We need volunteers to assist on the stand for each day. You will receive a free entry to the show if you offer to assist for a day on the stand. Again it is not an onerous task, just to sit and tie some flies and give out information on the Guild. This year we have new tables, leaflets and frames to display, making the whole stand look very professional. Just contact the editor or any committee member for details.

On 15th June Albert Horne is organising a fishing section at the Adur Festival to be held on Beech Green, Lancing. Anyone who can assist should contact Albert direct on 01903 765237. There will be plenty of "have a go" activities with side shows and other stands.

BEWL PAIRS –13th April

1st: Tim Albright/Alex Rainbow	**13lb 12oz**
2nd: Lee Shergold/Gerry Newland	**6lb 11oz**
3rd: Gavin Hunter/Peter Winder	**5lb 1oz**

Total weight of fish caught for the day was :- 46lbs 14oz

Weather: bright sunny and windy with some strong gusts.

All 22 competitors arrived by 0830 and the boats were away at 0900. The majority of boats headed for the cages expecting to catch the early fish but by 1100 started to drift away without any fish being caught. The boats went to all areas, most started to drift along the edges of the reservoir.
Lunch time arrived and all but 2 boats turned up for beer and sandwiches on the bank. At this time only single numbers of fish had been caught per boat. The wind was cold and gusting but didn't deter members from getting back amongst the fish (?). The weigh-in was at 1600 with one boat failing to turn up. The fish were weighed in the club room with the winners receiving fisherman statues and the runners up receiving silver and bronze medals.
The total number of fish caught was disappointing but according to the warden the wind and cold water temperature had a lot to do with it.
James and John Cooper weighed in with 11lb 13oz but couldnot enter the Competition as James is not a member. (Yet!!)

Joh Cooper

An interesting footnote to this report is that Lee And Gerry , immediately returned to their boat after weighing in, thinking they were out of the running, only to be recalled to receive their runners' up prize. At this time Lee had only one fish and first timer Gerry two! They returned to the water again and within an hour, Lee had a further seven fish to bag up and Gerry another two! Their (eventually) successful set-up was a DI3 line with a booby on the point with two nymphs on the droppers. – Ed.

BEWL CHARITY PAIRS

John Cooper is also organising the above in September and sends the following plea. His phone number is **01903 813376**

Don't forget to enter the Bewl Charity Pairs Competition on Sunday 28th September. I only have 4 boats taken so far. To make it a successful Competition we need 10 boats at least. You can send me your pre dated cheques and forms now.

"CLASSIFIEDS"

It has been suggested that we might add a "For sale" and "Wanted" column for use by members. Whilst not wishing to put *Friday Ad* out of business it seems a good idea. To start the ball rolling here are a couple:

For Sale

BFR Lamina 75 fly reel & spare spool (unused in box).
No serious offer refused – ring Paul Bond 01273 420410.

FoxBox fly boxes – £3 each or £10 for four - 01273 506184

Architectural Services – RIBA Chartered Architects .
Contact Robert Saunders or Sue Elsom on 01273 727366 .

ARLINGTON EVENING

A strong south westerly wind with fierce gusts created very cold, horrible (weather wise) conditions for the 18 members who fished. 5 braved the conditions and went in boats, which produced 3 fish for Ray Love and Dave Painter and 2 for Chris Nunn and Peter Buss. He 13 remaining who fished from the bank managed only 2 fish – one each for Peter Winder and Jan Suppel. A great day for teaching buzzer fishing – lines moving at 50 mph right to left in the bay! Most gave it best at 8.00 pm, with the good result that there was lots of time to chat and enjoy the beer and sandwiches!

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.

STOCKING at BALCOMBE FF on the OUSE
Brian Hendry (left) watches as Alan Freeman unloads the net at the spring stocking in March.

The following headline appeared in an American (who else?) newspaper. Somehow we think this contravenes International Rules!!

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