



Sussex Branch Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2003

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION?

SUSSEX BRANCH TRIUMPHANT IN THE JOHN WATT TROPHY AT GRAFHAM

By taking first and third places in the annual match for all branches of the Flydressers' Guild, our teams have really done the Branch proud. Chris Nunn also took the individual trophy for best bag. *Full report – Page 2*

AUCTION 2003

As previously announced it was decided to bring the Auction forward to enable new members avail themselves of some of the bargains, both for fly-tying tools and materials as well as tackle in general.. The new date is:

MONDAY 10th NOVEMBER

at 8 pm in the clubhouse. Forms for entering goods in the auction are enclosed, and must be returned to Roy Gurney by Friday 17th October in order that the catalogue can be produced and circulated in time.

PROGRAMME 2003/2004

With this edition is enclosed the latest programme of events and fly-tying classes for the new season.

Don't forget – the first night is Thursday

25th September

TYING NIGHTS

You will see from the programme that the "Masterclass" shows "free table for tying". Apart from individual tying, it might be an opportunity to utilise some of the nights on this table for tying competition flies and discussing and solving specific problems with the aid of "experts". Any ideas how this can be done and suggestions for best utilising this table will be greatly appreciated – speak to Paul Bond.

BEWL CHARITY PAIRS – STILL TIME TO ENTER

A reminder that this Branch competition will be held on **Sunday 28th September**. Organiser John Cooper advises that he has boats to spare – contact him now with your entry – a partner will be arranged for you if required. The event will, as usual, start with boats away at 9 am til 4 pm, with a 45 minute break for lunch and beer at about one o'clock. Weigh in at 4.15 pm. Cost of £35 is a little higher than normal to cover the donation to charity.

John's phone is **01903 813376**.

Reports are that Bewl is fishing very well now, so get in there and make the most of it!!

CLUB DAY & BBQ - DUNCTON

This is on **Sunday 21st September** and if you have not booked for this, hurry now and contact Peter Winder, as there are still a few places available. His phone at home is **01273 416766** or try his shop, Lagoon Bait & Tackle, **01273 415879**.



Chris Nunn receives the Hertfordshire Shield for best bag at the John Watt Competition from John Watt
(Full story – page 2)

JOHN WATT TROPHY 2003



Sussex "B" team receives the trophy from the donor
L to R: John Watt, Chris Nunn, Ian Dunk, Peter Buss, Ian May



Alex Rainbow and Peter Buss tying their secret weapons

The Annual inter-branch competition of the Flydressers' Guild was held at Grafham Water on 30th August and as usual Sussex entered two teams. We have always taken the event fairly seriously, but not to the extent of some of the branches and it is therefore no surprise that our name last appears on the trophy in 1976, when the competition was bank only.

This year the event was well supported by the branches, but the weather did not appear ideal at the start, being very bright with a northerly wind. The wind died down somewhat by lunch-time however, and some cloud cover appeared.

The teams stayed at our usual hostelry, the "Cross Keys" on Friday night and in case other halves read this, we will confine ourselves to the fishing!

Alex Rainbow had a practice run on Friday, fishing with Jeremy Jacobs, who used to be based in Sussex, and managed 5 fish and Peter Buss and Ian May also had a trial run. Chris Croucher arrived later, and met a couple of local anglers who had just taken some 18 fish, the best being a 5½lb brown. Having ascertained they were not competing next day, he asked for their successful methods which proved to be invaluable. They identified S-buoy as the "hot-spot" and caught mainly on a Gold Humungus on a slow-sink slime line. Fortunately they gave Chris a couple of the flies, as the lodge only had Silver Humungus in stock.

Friday evening saw Alex and Peter busy tying amongst the beer glasses, and then it was off to the competition! Anglers were paired with one of their competitors, and those from Sussex who had control went straight to S-buoy. The limit for the day was 12 fish, the first four to be retained and the next 8 catch and release.

Sussex "B" team consisted of Chris Nunn (12 fish for nominal 26lb 15oz), Ian Dunk (4 fish), Ian May (1) and Peter Buss(2) – 19 fish in all for a weight of 42lb 10oz, gaining them first place and the John Watt Trophy, Chris taking the Hertfordshire Shield for best bag.

The Falkirk Shield, for 2nd place, was taken by South Cumbria "A" who landed 15 fish for 33lb 3oz.

Sussex "A" team of Joseph Holmes (who organised both teams), Alex Rainbow, Andy Gibb and Chris Croucher took 13 fish in all – 6 to Chris, 3 each to Joseph and Alex and one to Andy. Chris's four weighed 10lb 14oz, the two he released being bigger! This total earned them 3rd place.

As might be expected, their most successful fly was the Gold Humungus, but Grey Minkies, Cat's Whisker and a Sparkler

Orange Fritz were also among the successful flies. Chris Croucher fished on the drift at about 10' depth, with most takes coming on the hang. Alex was fish-less at lunch, but was guided to S-buoy where he caught his bag in the afternoon. He also returned much bigger fish after his first four.

Chris Nunn was using a Hi-D mainly on the drift, but did anchor at S-buoy for a short time; again some takes were on the hang, but by no means all. Chris was fishing a team of a Booby Minkie on the point, which accounted for 7 fish, a Minkie on the middle dropper (3 fish) and a Poison Dwarf variant on the bob (2 fish). All the fish had been feeding on fry. He started out the day at Savages, where he and his boat partner from Scotland had one apiece, but after a blank period moved to S-buoy where he was quickly into fish. His partner was not so fortunate, despite being given a couple of flies, and Chris even gave his whole leader to him after completing his 12 fish bag! This did provide at least one more fish for him! It is expected that the flies used will be described in a future edition of the *Flydresser*.

The fish were in excellent condition – beautiful silvery blue, long and fit and averaging 2¾-3lb. Most of those who had their four returned heavier fish than those retained.

Congratulations to the organisers and to the fishery for an excellent day, rounded off by a good buffet to fortify the homeward bound.

The ANGLING SHOW (formerly TIGHTLINES 2003)

This will be held at the South of England Showground at Ardingly on 20th and 21st September. An enhanced fly-fishing presence is promised, and as usual we will be manning the Flydressers' Guild stand.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND AUTUMN SHOW – ARDINGLY

This will take place on 4th and 5th October and we will be manning a stand with the Salmon & Trout Association. If anyone is interested in helping to man the stand, let Paul Bond or Roy Gurney know as soon as possible.

WEST COUNTRY RIVERS TRUST & ANGLING 2000

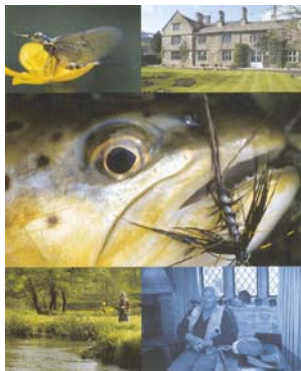
Those of you who might like to fish for wild brownies in rivers, but are not sure of where such fishing is available on a day ticket basis, might be interested in "Angling 2000" which is operated by the West Country Rivers Trust. They have some 20 beats available in Devon and Cornwall, with some salmon and sea-trout opportunities as well. The idea is that you buy vouchers for £2.50 each, and then put the required number of vouchers in the box at your selected site. The number required depends on the type of fishing and location, but is never more than 4 (i.e. £10) but usually 2 or 3. Visit their website www.angling2000.org.uk or phone Simon Evans at the WCRT office on **01566 784488** or e-mail simon@wrt.org.uk.

A comprehensive "Get Hooked!" Guide to Angling in the South West is also available from WCRT or on the web www.gethooked.co.uk.

Some of our members have already used this scheme, so ask them about it – Ian May, Peter Buss and Roy Gurney are amongst them.

HOLIDAY COTTAGES WITH FISHING IN CORNWALL

Roy Gurney has some details of well-priced holiday cottages in Cornwall with access to some very good fishing. They are owned and run by a keen fisherman and Roy can't wait to go there himself (he had already booked elsewhere this year!). Wainsford Riverside Cottages on the Wainsford Estate can be found on the internet – www.wainsford.com where you can find all details, alternatively Roy has some brochures if you want one.



3-day Fishing Course

We have received a flyer from the Peacock Hotel in Rowsley, Derbyshire, offering a special 3-day fishing course on the Wye sometime in September. Phone **01629 733518** or e-mail office@thepeacockatrowsley.com for full details.

Chairman's Chat Lines

The new season of fly tying classes is almost upon us. We need a whole new class of beginners to make out Thursday evenings a success. Adverts have been placed in some of the local newspapers but we need maximum coverage. If there is any suitable place where a poster would attract new members please ask Roy for one. He has a stock of them.

They say that crime does not pay. Have faith in your casting instructor. At the Edenbridge Show this year I witnessed an unsavoury incident. A youth approached the Salmon & Trout stand and proceeded to smash a hand built split cane rod, value £350. He then left the stand and wandered behind the casting instructors, where he was stopped by one of the instructors. After a certain amount of altercation two instructors subdued the youth and summoned the local police. The youth challenged the two instructors repeatedly throughout this incident claiming his innocence. Unfortunately for the youth, one of the instructors was in the Gatwick police force and the other a member of the Metropolitan Flying Squad.

Moral of the story – trust your instructor and don't argue with his instruction.

A heartfelt plea from the Editor:

CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED

During the tying season (starting now) it is hoped to provide a four-page newsletter every month. This takes some time and effort to produce, and I am running out of articles for you to read – unless I get more contributions from you I am afraid space will be filled with more and more "junk" as I am also running out of inspiration for my own bits and pieces!

This is your newsletter, so please let me have your contributions – that fishing experience during your holidays, expedition to deepest Wales or the Congo, reports on competitions attended, when your best friend fell in – anything!! Of course, anything on fly-tying will be especially well received, and if necessary I can photograph that new killer fly you have tied and written up.

Articles can be handed to me, e-mailed, posted, hand-written, typed — but get them to me! Photographs can also be e-mailed (if you have the technology!) but I can copy any photograph and return it to you.

HOLIDAYS IN THE ALGARVE

A friend of one of our members has a 3 bedroom (sleeps six) villa in a village near to Vilamoura. Any bookings made through this advertisement will result in generous donation to Branch funds.

Visit the website



A VISIT TO NORTH UIST



Ever since I caught my first trout on the fly on Lewis I have meant to return to the Outer Hebrides and to fish North and South Uist and Benbecula. This year my fishing mates and I decided to take advantage of some very low fares with BA and stumped up £116 each to fly to Benbecula from Gatwick for a week's midsummer fishing. The island of Benbecula connects the islands of North and South Uist with the whole area being covered in lochs. It is said of the area that:

"The chain of islands that form the Outer Hebrides constitutes only 1.3% of the UK land mass but contains 15% of its freshwater surface area."

And much of it is full of trout. The landscape is wild, with many lochs; some so big you can easily get lost on them in a boat, boggy moors, mountains and machair, which is a sandy dune environment which has some unique lochs. The river systems are not large but there are runs of salmon and sea-trout.

We arrived on Saturday lunchtime on a sunny but windy day picked up our hire car and set off for Lochmaddy on North Uist to the cottage we had booked for the week.

We bought day tickets to fish the estate waters, which gave us access to a huge fishing area. Despite a fairly dry week the wind was near gale force, which meant that boat fishing was considered dangerous and impractical, especially when you had to row back! However a wind assisted cast went a long, long way. We had hoped to take a ghillie for some boat fishing but the weather did not allow this.

Though all the literature mentions only Scottish wet flies we had far more fun and fish by fishing dry flies. As the week went on, in sun, wind and in the evening the fish went for flies as varied as Klinkhammers, sedges, midge patterns and ants. Patches of water lilies often had a nice trout beneath them and from the banks you could easily cast in to wind lanes with a good chance of a fish.

We spent quite some time exploring the islands. The west coast has spectacular sandy beaches and we collected tasty mussels and cockles from the seashore. Oystercatchers nest on the dunes. Easy to dig were the biggest black lugworms I have seen, but when we baited our hooks and threw them in the sea whatever fish there were showed no interest. Strange.

We did a bit of hill walking. We climbed the 347m Eaval, which we nicknamed Mount Evil that gave great views over to Skye and also walked up Ben Stack. We could see the Isle of Barra but it was too windy for the ferry.

Being so far north and west meant that at closing time there was still light in the sky when we staggered home from the pub.

For more information contact the tourist board in Stornoway or visit:

<http://www.fishhebrides>.

Julian Jakubowski

SPEAKERS FOR 2003-2004

Have you any preferences for subject matter or especially for new speakers for our speaker's evenings? We are always looking to have a variation of wide subjects, and your ideas will be welcomed by our Secretary, Paul Bond. Please contact him on **01273 420410** with your ideas.

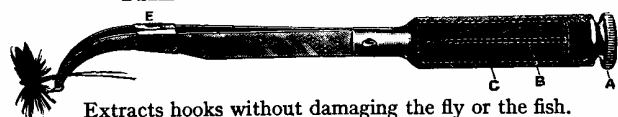
SPREADING THE WORD

A number of our members enter – and often win! - competitions such as Troutmasters, etc. It has been suggested that when they enter, they acknowledge membership of Sussex Flydressers to raise the profile of the Branch. Now go out and win the lot!!!

BIG FISH TROPHIES

Where are all your entries for the best fish of 2003? We know the fishing has been a bit dicey over the past few weeks, but rumour has it that there were some big ones caught before the weather forgot that this is England and we don't have hot summers here!! In any event, the temperature is back to normal now and the fish are once again coming to the fly – get your entries in to Pal Bond or Roy Gurney and maybe get your name on one of the super trophies we have to offer.

THE "CURATE" (Regd. 557672.)



Extracts hooks without damaging the fly or the fish.

A combination of the following useful anglers' tools.—Small Priest; Tweezers, or a disgorging; Gut Cutter **E**; Reservoir **C**, to hold oil for reels; Stiletto **B**, to apply oil or clean the eye of a hook. The handle may be used as a match striker. Price 5/6 each.

GAME FAIR 2004 – BLENHEIM

Paul Bond is arranging the usual coach trip to next year's Game Fair at Blenheim Palace on **24th July 2004**. Make a note in your diary – you must be suffering withdrawal symptoms having missed this year's (Yorkshire was just TOO far for a day trip!). For those who have not been before, it is a great day out, giving you chance to see and buy all those things you can't do without! Cost will be about £30 which includes entry. You can register your interest and/or book now with Paul on **01273 420410**.

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