



Sussex Branch Newsletter



DECEMBER 2003

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

ANNUAL DINNER

This will be held a little earlier this year to avoid clash with Easter Holidays. The venue will again be the **Dyke Golf Club**, who have hosted us so well over the past few years. Make a firm date in your diary NOW to treat yourself and your partner to a fine evening out – the date is:

SATURDAY 20TH MARCH 2004

This evening will see the draw for the Rod Raffle, presentation of trophies, and the usual superb raffle for the evening with star prizes. Our guest speaker will be advised in due course, but we are hoping to get Malcolm Greenhalgh who will then provide a master class on Sunday at Patcham – watch this space for details.

John Cooper

You will be sorry to hear John recently suffered a heart attack, from which he is now on the way to recovery. We wish him a speedy return to his usual robust self! Indeed, I had a phone call from him this week and I am pleased to say he sounded well on form, and itching to get back to work as Competitions Secretary – take it steady, John!

FLYDRESSING COMPETITION

The patterns for this year's Branch Competition are:

Novice

Black Pennel and Pheasant Tail Nymph (one of each)

Intermediate

Beacon Beige – matched pair

Open

Klinkhamer Special – matched pair

Entries to be given to Paul Bond or Alan Middleton by 14th March 2004. Trophies will be presented to the winners at the Annual Dinner on 20th March.

Just to remind you, the Novice class is open to those with no more than one year's tying experience, the Intermediate for those with no more than three years' experience and the Open for any member. There is no restriction on entering for more than one category for which you are qualified.

Illustrations and recipes are on page 2.

DECEMBER SPEAKER

Phillip Ellis reports:

We started off with Malcolm Greenhalgh in the programme, then he dropped out for foreign climes; then we had Terry Griffiths and he got 'flu; finally we got our Chairman!

Alan Middleton gave us a master-class in winging techniques, applying his Keep it Simple principle. It was a good way of reminding us all of the techniques and how different materials can be used as wings. The point was made that with some patterns the fly is destroyed by the fish, so why go to great lengths to create a difficult pattern? A very interesting evening that kept the audience quiet for nearly two hours – apart from one member yawning, but not from boredom, I might add!

Items covered were:

- Adams, using hackle tips and wing fibre.
- Hendrickson, with duck wing fibre.
- Lee Wulff pattern with deer hair wing.
- Sedge pattern with folded turkey feather.
- Origami and Wonder Wings, doubling back feather fibres and a method of using up large hackle feathers, written up in *Fly Fishing and Fly Tying* a few years ago. Certainly a method well worth trying.
- CDC wing – a no-sink fly!
- Organza dry fly wings, using a delicate dress-making material obtained from fabric shops.

We should note that Alan had all his materials for each pattern in separate bags, with notes all ready to tie – so organised, Alan! We may remember a well-known writer a few years ago that spent more time looking for materials than he did demonstrating. A point worth noting when any of us are instructing on a Thursday evening.

We were fortunate on the evening to have the services of branch member Tony Herbert from Billingshurst with his video equipment and wide screen, allowing us to see every detail of the tying (what hand soap do you use, Alan?). He carefully projected the images on to the screen, zooming in and out to give us fantastic detail.

Thank you Alan and Tony.

P.E.

BRANCH COMPETITION

PATTERNS – 2004

A.G.M. 2003

BEGINNERS

1. BLACK PENNEL

Hook: Size 10 wet fly
Silk: Black
Tail: 6 strands Golden Pheasant tippet
Rib: Silver wire
Body: Black Floss
Hackle: Black cock



2. PHEASANT-TAIL NYMPH

Hook: Size 10 wet fly
Silk: Black
Tail: Pheasant tail fibres
Rib: Copper wire
Body: Pheasant tail fibres
Thorax cover: Pheasant tail fibres
Thorax: Rabbit fur



INTERMEDIATE

Beacon Beige

Hook: Dry Fly 12
Silk: Yellow
Tail: Grizzle cock fibres
Body: Well marked stripped peacock eye quill
Hackle: Grizzle, with red game wound through



OPEN

KLINKHAMER

Hook: Curved living nymph 12
Thread: Brown
Body: Olive seal's fur
Rib: Silver wire
Thorax: Peacock herl
Post: Floating polypropylene yarn



OUSE VALLEY F.F.

Strictly speaking the Ouse Valley *Sussex* Fly Fishers (I believe there may be a few other Ouses in England!) invited Jim Harris and I to their annual dinner, held at the Buxted Inn. Jim was captain of our team for the Gemma Winder Trophy, when the opportunity was taken to present the shield to Jim for our victory this year at Bewl. The trophy is fished for between our branch and OVSFF and it is our turn to host this event in 2004. The venue has not yet been decided, but it may be an idea to combine it with one of our Bewl events, nominating two or three of our pirs as the team, and incorporating the OV team in our lunch-break.

Ouse Valley was originally a branch of the Flydressers' Guild, but having learnt how to tie, they then concentrated on fishing. I think it is a great credit to our branch that we have managed to combine the two aspects of the sport, keeping interest going throughout the lesser fishing days of winter.

Some of our members are also members of Ouse Valley, and it is hoped that closer ties can be established in the future.

Some 40 members attended the AGM which produced no major upheavals, but a few changes in committee due to retirement of the Treasurer and Competitions Secretaries. The officers of your new Committee are:

Chairman	Alan Middleton
Secretary	Paul Bond
Treasurer & Membership Secretary	Roy Gurney
Equipment Officer	Jim White
Competitions Secretary	John Cooper
Committee members	Chris Croucher
	Ian Dunk
	Jim Harris
	Peter Winder

Jack Jupp retired from the committee after several years of hard work having instigated the Video Library and latterly extracting wads of cash for the Rod Raffle. In recognition of his efforts over that time, he was voted by the members to receive the Jonathan Glover Trophy for services rendered – congratulations Jack!

Ian Dunk has volunteered to take over the Rod Raffle and **Jim Harris** will look after the Video Library. Pending John Cooper's full recovery, Peter Winder will continue to "mind the shop" with regard to Competitions Secretary.

The meeting was advised that we were on a sound financial footing and, saving unexpected set-backs, there should be another satisfactory year ahead.

Membership was running at 87 paid-up members to date, with some 20 still outstanding for renewal.

One thing outstanding – we elected only four additional members of the committee, **leaving a vacancy!** If any of **you** would like to help in running things, please come forward and offer your services to Alan Middleton – he will be only too pleased to hear from you.

The **AGM** was followed by a quiz set by Alan Middleton which had all scratching their heads – it is amazing how much goes in and how little comes back out!!

CHARLES JARDINE

Our November speaker was Charles Jardine, a good friend of our branch, and well over forty members and guests attended a demonstration of fly-tying "how it should be done". He explained how the use of techniques developed originally for the materials of yesteryear should be used with modern materials, and stressed the continued superiority of some traditional materials, such as stripped quills.

Particularly welcome was his explanation of how to cope with elk and deer hair – this may well prevent at least one member from committing hara-kiri!! What impressed most was the quality his tying, under pressure, of the Beacon Beige (his first for some 8 years!), Stimulator, Bumble, Damsel Nymph, Buzzers etc, which were closely scrutinised by all when passed round.

We hope it will not be too long before we welcome him again – meantime, let us all try to achieve something of his expertise!

His demonstration was made visible to all by Tony Herbert, who kindly provided and operated the projection equipment – it is hoped that there will be a video available in due course of the demonstration, despite some technical teething problems with the brand new gear. Many thanks Tony.

SALMON FISHING IN DECEMBER IN CORNWALL

Having mentioned Wainsford Estate in the July/August Newsletter, the editor was invited by Bob Burbidge to join a party for the last week of the salmon season, organised by Ian Moutter, APGAI and author of *Tying Flies the Paraloop Way* and *Imitative Fly Tying: Techniques & Variations*. Bob had met Ian when he was an assessor at Bob's (successful) STANIC test, and subsequently went on a sea-trouting week at Wainsford in the summer.

The week started ominously when Bob had to delay his start due to illness of his mother, and the weather forecasters once again got it wrong! The rivers were at summer low levels due to lack of rain and the salmon (and sea-trout) were stacking up in the estuary waiting for waters to rise.

Nevertheless fishing started as planned on the Sunday exploring the considerable stretch of the Fowey which runs through the Wainsford Estate. As feared, the low levels meant that fish were hard to come by and it was thought that a visit to Lostwithiel on the tidal estuary of the Fowey might prove more satisfying on the Monday.

Having been forced to detour round bridge repairs in the town, we got lost and ended up half way down the estuary, where most of the available spots were occupied by locals fishing for bass and flounders as well as salmon. So, back to the town and this time finding the beats we were looking for, but by which time the tide was ebbing – ah well!

On return Paul Elliot, owner of Wainsford, called in to advise fishing arrangements for the rest of the week. Ian who, amongst his other attributes, is a fine cook, started to prepare dinner. Paul accepted an offer of a cup of tea, upgraded to 'something a bit stronger', then an invitation to eat with us, and a few more samples of the considerable array of beverages which had been in the baggage of the party, and finally departed some nine hours later!! Our two neighbours from the adjacent cottage also joined in the demolition of the equivalent of a small off-licence! Paul told of the proprietor of a local tackle shop, a dour Cornishman who, when sent a guest for a repair to a rod-tip, on being told they were from Wainsford, silently got on with the repair, murmuring after a while, with a shake of his head, "Liver damage!"

Bob duly arrived on Tuesday, and our party was now complete – the other member being Stuart, a fencing erector from Nottingham, with a laid-back sense of humour and a penchant for drinking two or more bottles of white wine per evening. The weather remained dry for the rest of the week with the consequence that none of us caught till Friday, when at last it rained and Ian managed a small sea-trout! We all had some pulls, but apart from a couple of wild brownies the fish were avoiding us.

We fished the Fowey, its tributary the Warleggan, and also some fine beats on the Camel. Due to the conditions, the main methods were spinning and worming, though it would be possible to fly-fish most of the water normally. One incident on the Camel is worth reporting. Bob and Stuart were fishing the Camel, and Stuart was on the bank, with a ledge of gravel about one foot deep, covered in leaves which needed rain and a flush through to clear. Stuart stepped off the bank on to the leaves, only to find – too late – that the leaves were several feet deep in a hollow! In he sank to within few inches of the top of his chest-waders. He managed to free his wading staff and discovered to his horror that he was an a rock in the middle of pool and no way to step forward to regain the bank! Calling out for Bob, there was no response until he waved his arms – Bob was looking



Bob hopefully tying salmon flies

for the plaintive caller, but only his cap was showing above the bank and it was ages before he saw the movement! Now Bob is not the biggest of persons and Stuart is six-foot and well-built – suffice to say they made it safely; however, the lesson is well learnt to use your wading staff before getting in!

I tried spinning and the fly, but

left the worming to the others. I saw fish, especially on the Camel, but they were not taking and it was clear that rain was badly needed to get them to move up river and stir them up generally. Bob did hook and lose a fish (on the fly) and the best I could do was get broken by a smash take by a rainbow in the lake, though I can claim two wild brownies!

Friday's rain, so badly needed in October, now caused the river to rise some three feet or more, and the fish started to run. The water would not be fishable till Sunday – after we had gone! How many times have you heard that?

Lack of success or not, I will be back – perhaps for the sea-trout in June or salmon again in December – anyone interested in making up a party? I can assure you Wainsford is THE place to have an enjoyable fishing break – ask Bob!

For further information on Wainsford, I have some brochures, etc which give details of the cottages to let. **RHG**

Chairman's Chat Lines

Our misfortune with speakers has haunted us to the end of the year. Last Wednesday I received an e-mail from Terry Griffiths to say that he was in bed with flu and would not be able to make it on the Thursday evening. An impromptu talk on wings on dry flies was prepared in haste. Fortunately none of the members who attended had been to Crawley Fly Fishers on the Tuesday as I had given the same talk to them as Terry could not make that evening for them either. Much thanks must go to Tony Herbert whose skills with the camera and video were faultless, which is more than could be said for the tying demonstration.

We have some news of a couple of our members; I have received the sad news that Cyril Hillman passed away peacefully on Tuesday 9th December. He had been a member of the branch for some years and his presence will be missed by many. John Cooper recently suffered a severe heart attack whilst in London, but I am pleased to say he is well on the way to a full recovery. He had provisionally arranged a "Winter League" series of events in January through to March. The arrangements are as follows:

January 18th Duncton Mill

February 15th Chalk Springs

March 7th Rover day

Anyone interested in this event please contact me.

VIDEO LIBRARY

This is now in the capable hands of **Jim Harris**. He will be bringing along the library each week, so why not take advantage of this facility?

We are also keen to receive further videos either as gifts or on loan – contact Jim if you have any to offer.

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 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!!

SUSSEX PISCATORIAL

We understand that the Sussex Piscatorial Society are looking for selected new members for their game (fly fishing) section. They have some fine waters in Sussex, plus a stretch of the Upper Itchen, so any interested in this opportunity should contact them. Alan Middleton will be pleased to put you in touch with the Secretary.

DUNCTON MILL

We have heard from Duncton Mill that the fishery is now open for day tickets for the winter at competitive rates of £20 for a 2-fish and £30 for a 4-fish ticket. As a bonus, if a day-ticket angler joins that day, his first day is free. To avoid disappointment by closures, etc, always book by phone – 01798 342048.

The new fourth lake is well under way and is currently being filled and landscaped; with a depth of more than 6 metres over half its area, it should provide all-year sport. The grand opening is scheduled for 1st August.

Once this lake is open, it is hoped that it will give opportunity for deepening the other lakes, one at a time, starting with the top lake.

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE GRAVADLAX

A Scandinavian recipe for sugar-cured trout or salmon

2-3 lb pink fleshed trout	2 oz caster sugar
1 large bunch fresh dill (or 2 tablespoons dried green dill)	2 tablespoons crushed peppercorns
1/4 cup coarse sea-salt	

Method

Fillet and bone the fish, try to leave the fillets joined together. Mix all the other ingredients together and sprinkle a quarter onto a large glass dish. Place the fish skin down, then sprinkle half the mixture over the flesh, close the fillets and sprinkle remainder over the top. Cover with foil and place a very heavy weight (e.g. a foil-covered brick) on top of the fish. Refrigerate for 48 hours, turning the fish over once a day.

To serve, remove the fish and wipe off the marinade. Place skin-side down on a board and cut in thin slanting slices. Serve with fresh dill garnish and a spicy mustard mayonnaise or *sauce aioli*.

ARLINGTON & BARCOMBE

The annual meeting of members of the above fisheries was held recently, when South-East Water advised they were holding prices unchanged for members for the new season, although there would be higher charges for non-members.

This season had been fraught with difficulties, starting with Barcombe developing algae early on due to the high temperatures, and before the new ultrasound equipment was in service.. This latter project has now proved most successful keeping the water clear although there is still some colour caused by pumping from the river. The back-end fishing was good and was extended to the end of November.

Arlington suffered greatly from the drought, and water levels were so low as to make it unfishable at the end of the season.

Following the reports and answers to some of the questions raised by members, Emma and her crew provided the usual sumptuous buffet.

Our own Jack Jupp won the Best Brace trophy and was presented with this at the meeting – well done Jack!



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