



Sussex Branch

MARCH 2004

PROGRAMME DATE CHANGE

Please note the date for the match against Crawley Fly Fishers at Boringwheel, has been brought forward to:

Sunday, 18th July 2004

And now, not so much a change as a correction (again!!)

Also, the **Barcombe evening** is on Thursday **17th** June and not 26th as printed on the application slip.

25th MARCH SPEAKER DONALD DOWNS

We welcome back Donald Downs, past President of the Guild, who will give an illustrated presentation of the Trout's Larder with drawings and sketches of the trout's diet. Not to be missed!

ANNUAL DINNER SATURDAY 20TH MARCH

If you have forgotten to get your tickets there is still time!
Contact John Burt (01273 695164) with your menu choice and cheque **URGENTLY!**

PATCHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Please note that due to security problems it has been necessary to change the codes for entry. For late arrivals when the outer door is locked and unmanned, please ring the LEFT hand brass bell which rings on the ground floor.

The gates to the lower car park will be locked at 9 pm, but a key is available to members to let themselves out. If you leave early or arrive late, get the key from Roy Gurney or Alan Middleton to unlock it, and re-lock it on leaving.

CRAWLEY FLY FISHERS

They are holding a CASTING CLINIC at Three Bridges Cricket Club on **Sunday 14th March, 10.00am-12 noon**. Iain Thompson is the qualified instructor, giving his services FREE. Tea, coffee and biscuits available – all welcome.

On Tuesday 23rd March at 8.00 pm they are holding their annual BRING AND BUY AUCTION at Three Bridges CC. Baz Reece is auctioneer – always good for a laugh!

Baz has been selected for the England team in the European Championships in Sweden. The team has no major sponsor, so he is looking for some sponsorship to defray some of his costs. If you can help by selling raffle tickets, or in any way, contact Baz on bazreece@AOL.com.

This edition of the Newsletter has been sponsored by:

LAGOON BAIT AND TACKLE

OPEN WEEKEND

SATURDAY 27th & SUNDAY 28th MARCH 10am TO 4pm

FREE CASTING LESSONS

FREE FLY TYING LESSONS

Expert advice on Trout fishing – Sea fly fishing – Pike fly fishing

P A A coaching on all aspects of fly fishing with Peter Winder

Your opportunity to try the new seasons' range of tackle

Try before you buy!

SPECIAL DEALS ON THIS WEEKEND

Huge range of fly tying materials

Visit our showroom at 327 Kingsway, HOVE, BN3 4LD – Phone 01273 415879
and see for yourself our extensive range of fly tying and fly fishing tackle

Or log on to our website – www.lagoonbait.co.uk

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Sir

I have read Brian's two articles on line weights and rod rates etc; sorry, I found it too much for my tatty old brain (and body)! Still, very interesting and will give members something to think about besides fly tying.

I have been using carbon rods since they first came on the market – the best thing since sliced bread. In 1929 my first rod was greenheart, then split cane, then fibre-glass, finally to carbon.

Brian need not worry about only being able to cast a fly only 23 yards. A very old friend of mine in Cardiff, now deceased, even with his Hardy split cane Pope rod could only manage 20 yards...as for his flies, I would not be seen dead with them in my box. BUT, he was one of the best catchers of trout I ever fished with, so members need not worry if their flies are not up to Brian's standard!

I am sure I can get Brian to put a fly 25 yards without false casting. About 12 years ago on my 70th birthday I had a casting clinic for all the branch at Barcombe Reservoir, and put a line out 35½ yards without false casting, laying back or use of the upper arm. It is down to co-ordination timing, technique and patience. I have asked for a casting clinic to be arranged on the green next to the Centre in April – I have the markers ready for up to 40 yards and five 18" discs for accuracy casting. I have plenty of salmon and trout rods rigged up, including Michael Evans' rods and lines, should a member wish to try them. They are the best I have ever tried of those I have promoted.

By the way, double haul done properly will ease the load on the rod, not put extra weight on it.

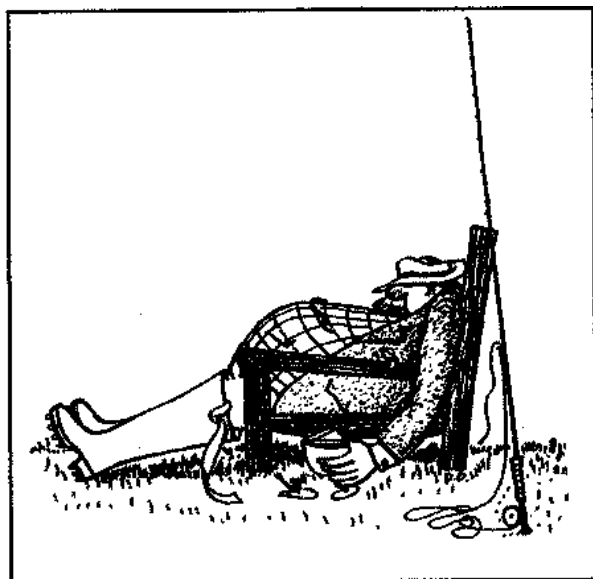
Yours etc

Albert Horne

Editor's notes:

(a) I am sure Brian was being very modest about his casting ability, having spent a morning assessing rod-ratings with him! Nonetheless casting clinics are a must to eradicate those bad habits.

(b) Details of the casting clinic are shown on the next page. Make the most of it! Don't forget to confirm your attendance to enable the organisers to advise final details.



The replete Angler

Handicapped Anglers Trust

New name and new website!

On March 1st, 2004 the Handicapped Anglers Trust changes its name to *The Wheelyboat Trust*.

The Trust has been providing its wheelchair accessible Wheelyboat to fisheries and other waters countrywide since 1985 and this year will see the 100th Wheelyboat come off the production line. Originally formed for the benefit of disabled anglers, the Trust has long since recognised that the Wheelyboat fulfils a much wider role than just as an angling boat.

A high proportion of its new Wheelyboats will continue to go to fisheries, such as the eight currently under construction for waters in North Wales. However, the Trust recognises the appeal of the Wheelyboat beyond the fishing lake and is working hard to ensure that it meets the demand for Wheelyboats wherever it exists.

The change of name to *The Wheelyboat Trust* will more accurately describe the Trust's principal objective and better reflect its broader remit.

To coincide with the change of name, the Trust is launching its brand new website at www.wheelyboats.org. The comprehensive site will provide details of the work of the Trust and its Alan Faulkner Memorial Award, a Wheelyboat locations list and a list of other game and coarse fisheries in the UK and Ireland accessible to disabled anglers. The help and advice provided by the site will prove invaluable to disabled anglers and fishery managers alike. The latter will find the section on the Disability Discrimination Act, and how its final part (coming into effect in October 2004) may affect fisheries, particularly useful.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR SALMON FARMING?

The Salmon & Trout Association pushes for fundamental reform to reverse an environmental disaster

Was the report exposing the levels of PCBs in farmed Scottish salmon just "another" food scare? The Salmon & Trout Association is determined that the underlying dangers of unregulated salmon farming will not disappear just because the headlines have. It is now co-ordinating support for the forthcoming Aquaculture Bill.

"Our target is the proper independent regulation of aquaculture through tight legislation," Paul Knight, the Association's Director, declares. "We are committed to ensure that wild salmonids and their marine habitat are freed from aquaculture's disastrous environmental impact over the past 20 years."

He highlights the three main factors the Association believe have together created this environmental disaster:

1. The transfer of unnaturally high populations of sea-lice from densely stocked farm cages to wild fish, caused by the siting of the cages in estuaries, rivers and ocean corridors the fish pass by on their migration runs.
2. The collapse in jobs and work supported by fisheries and angling that were caused by the precipitous decline in wild salmon as a result of aquaculture.

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3. Most importantly, the fact that most Scottish salmon farms are owned by foreign concerns, notably Norwegian, that are free to carry out practices permitted in the UK but not in their own countries. It is forbidden in Norway, for example, to practice aquaculture in river systems supporting wild salmonids yet the Tweed's vital spring salmon spawning tributary, the Ettrick, is the proposed location for a new Norwegian-owned smolt unit.

Paul Knight applauds the direct action stance of the Fish Farm Protest Group; especially their aim to replace sea-cages with pumped-ashore seawater tanks. "I fear lack of will to invest the money will delay this from happening for some while," he concedes. "But we must still lobby together for a complete rethink about the way in which fish are grown for human consumption."

The Salmon & Trout Association, together with colleagues from the Scottish Anglers Association, Atlantic Salmon Trust, Association of Scottish Fishery Boards and Sea Trout Group, having lobbied The Scottish Parliament for the past five years, and is now concentrating on the proposed Aquaculture Bill, due to come before Parliament in 2007.

"This means that a draft must be written by the end of 2005, which gives us just eighteen months to influence the direction of marine salmon farming in Scotland," Knight warns. "Now that we have a time frame for legislation, the gloves must be off to ensure the return and protection of the great salmon and sea trout runs to Scotland, Ireland, Norway – and anywhere else impacted by aquaculture – before it is too late."

CASTING CLINIC

As mentioned in Albert Horne's letter (*page 2*) we propose holding a casting clinic on **Thursday evening, 15th April**. The venue will be at Patcham, either on the school field adjacent to the Community Centre where we hold our meetings, or on the playing field in front of Patcham Place (opposite the "Black Lion") depending on permission being obtained for the school field. It will commence at 6.30 pm and continue till the light fades!

Anyone interested contact Roy Gurney, Paul Bond, Alan Middleton or any committee member with your phone number.

Chairman's Chat Lines

So what is it like participating in an elite and aristocratic sport? That is the impression of Game Anglers in the UK. I have just spent three days at the "Go Fishing" exhibition in Birmingham and let me tell you this we are the poor relations in angling.

When did you spend £1700 on a fishing rod? When did you last spend £500 on a boat seat? At the show there was a sprinkling of game angling hardware, obviously outnumbered by our coarse angling brethren. The most expensive salmon rod I could find was £650 and the only boat seat I saw was on special offer of £90. Now roach poles are a different thing!

The money spent by the coarse fraternity dwarfs anything we would be allowed to spend on fishing tackle. People were laden down with goods, whilst the game anglers bought a few hooks and maybe a fly tying vice at £25. All you need to go coarse fishing is a box seat, bivvi, sleeping bag, two poles, four carp rods complete with reels and bite detectors, 10kg of ground-bait, at least twenty different types of artificial bait, oh, and a rod licence.

I could see why most of the anglers were on the list for a hernia operation!


All in all the show was a success and the Flydressers' Guild contributed greatly to the Trout Fisherman stand. At least four tyers were present at any one time, generating a great deal of interest with a sceptical audience. Next year we have been promised there will be a greater emphasis on game angling so by then it might be worth a visit.

Our annual dinner is almost upon us so if you have not done so please book your table with John Burt. This event marks the end of our tying season and the start of the fishing. I look forward to seeing you at the dinner, but please excuse me if I do not recognise you when you are washed and clean shaven!

Tight lines for the summer.

2004

Salmon Fishing
At its Best




Accompanied trips to Vancouver Island in Canada during August/September/October for 1 to 5 weeks.

Outstanding fishing for Pink, Coho, and King Salmon, stunning scenery, fascinating wildlife and some of the cleanest and most unspoilt rivers in the world.

Come and Join Us

Can you afford not to? With a price of £1600 per week, which includes:
Premier Class Flights, Accommodation, Transfers and all transport whilst fishing and the Fishing organised with all the information and assistance you may need.

Loads of fish for the catching but don't be fooled, it is extremely challenging, exciting and highly rewarding!



Contact: Ian Davis (imclDavis@aol.com) 01835 850 788.
Visit our website at www.bcfishing.co.uk for more details

Game Fair 2004 – Blenheim

Paul Bond advises that there are only 7 seats remaining on the coach for 24th July so hurry, hurry, hurry if you want to join the merry throng! Fabulous day out in the very best of company! Contact Paul right away on **01273 420410**

Of course it's fly fishing.....

Spotted at Arlington on a windy day this February...an angler lying back in a deck-chair, fly rod resting on a rod-rest, fishing a booby on a sunk line. One small mercy – at least there was no sign of a bite indicator!

Irish Salmon and Sea Trout Fishing 2004

Flydressers' Guild & Salmon & Trout Association Members' Special

If you have ever wanted to fish the West Coast of Ireland for Salmon or Sea Trout or fished there in the past and have been longing to return - now is your chance with this very special offer only open to members of the above organisations.

Gone Fishing

This year I have arranged four weeks of fishing for Salmon, Sea Trout and Brown Trout, specifically for members of the above organisations, on the following world-renowned Salmon and Sea Trout waters:

Waterville (Lough Currane), Killarney Lakes (Lough Leane). The Loughs Acoose and Cloonee and the Rivers Laune and Caragh

The four week long expeditions are broken into two periods. The first being scheduled for 24th April to the 1st May and 1st May to 8th May for Sea trout and Spring Salmon on Lough Currane and the second from the 12th June to the 19th June and June 19th to 26th June for Sea Trout, Salmon and some Brown Trout. Conditions permitting there will be a chance for some exciting night fishing for Sea Trout.

You can come for just one week or both or all four if you wish. Each week will be limited to four people and is discounted to only £299.00 per person per week, representing tremendous value for a whole weeks high quality game fishing. This price includes 7 nights bed & breakfast at our lovely Old Farmhouse Fishing Lodge in the beautiful Kerry Blackwater Valley, packed lunches all boat hire, licences and permits where required. But at this price you'll have to bring your own whiskey! You will not need a car unless you particularly want to bring one as I have an eight seat four wheel drive MPV and can pick up from the airport if required. If you book early, flights with Ryanair are currently selling at £86.85 return to Cork and £111.57 to Kerry for these dates.

For more information on these waters visit the [Gone Fishing](http://GoneFishing.ie) web site

Spinning and trolling tackle available for hire if required.

Contact : Bob Burbidge
07836 713586
E-mail: blackwaterbob@gonefishing.ie

INSURANCE

For your information, the Branch has third party cover for members taking part in Branch organised events to the tune of £2 million. Please note this is not personal cover for other times - this is covered by your membership of FDG.

A SALUTARY TALE

Peter Winder tells of a warning to parents teaching their offspring to fish. Some time ago he was teaching at Tanyards. Farther round the lake, a father was taking his son fishing for the first time. After a while, father was called away, and during his absence the lake was re-stocked, all the fish being put in at one corner, near where the son was fishing. After a while, father returned to find his son had forty seven fish on the bank. Tanyards at that time had a pricing structure of £5 to fish, pay for fish per pound weight, so presumably dad was faced with a bill which might require a re-mortgage on the family home!

PROPOSED OUTING TO ASHBOURNE TROUT FISHERY

You will have seen the advertisement for the above syndicate fishery in February's newsletter. They have offered the Branch a special deal for a party of 10 or 12 giving us exclusive use of the fishery, and including a barbecue lunch with wine and beer, with a 3 fish limit.

If any of you are interested, let Roy Gurney know SOON and he will arrange something, probably for May or June, if support is forthcoming. Cost would be £40 a head.

This should be of particular interest to East Sussex members, as it is geographically the best stillwater in the area, being between Hurstmonceux and Battle.

Several members of the Branch have fished there, and all rate it very highly.

MICHAEL EVANS

Our February speaker was Michael Evans, who entertained us with a description of the flies with which he fishes for all sorts of game fish around the world. His fly boxes were a revelation, and he explained his philosophy of changing flies if fish are not taking, rather than "flogging away" with the same fly all day! It was interesting too to see some 17 variations on the March Brown - the "only" fly his father told him he would need!

He gave valuable advice on depth control and where fish are likely to be found, in both river and stillwater, and also depending on conditions of weather.

His views on differing colours for different waters was also illuminating - why a green nymph works on one clear water, but not on a coloured one, where a brown variant is needed, for instance. Suffice to say that his talk was avidly listened to till 10.30 - and only finished then because we had to clear the hall!

The editor was fortunate enough to win one of his lines in the raffle, and was impressed with its finish and lack of memory - dying to try it out in earnest next week!

SOUTH OF ENGLAND SHOW

We will have our usual stand at Ardingly on 10th, 11th and 12th June. Volunteers to man the stand are required for all days - it's not arduous, and indeed is great fun - we share the stand as guests of the Salmon & Trout Association and you meet a lot of interesting people, as well as getting around the Show yourself. Entry is free for exhibitors, and if we have four per day, there is plenty of time for a walk-about. Contact Roy Gurney ASAP.

Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

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