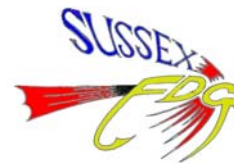




# Sussex Branch Newsletter



APRIL / MAY 2004

## FLY-TYING COMPETITION

The trophies for this year's competition were announced, and awarded to those winners present, at the dinner, but for those who were unable to attend they were as follows:

**Novice:** Steve Chow  
**Runner up** John Lindley  
**Intermediate:** Garry Gwynne  
**Open:** Peter Buss

The judge for this year, Albert Horne, commented that he had a difficult decision to make at all levels and called for magnifying glass for the final selection! He particularly expressed delight at the quality of the beginners' entries as they were on a par with the intermediate flies.. Special commendation should go to the instructors, Peter Buss and Ian May, for their diligence in instructing – especially as Peter won the Open category!

Despite the high quality of the entries, there were less in numbers than we would have liked. Maybe we can give some thought to getting more of you involved – it really is a bit of fun, but with a purpose – to tie better flies!

## Game Fair -- 24th July 2004 Blenheim Palace

There may still be few places available so hurry and contact Paul Bond as soon as possible. For any one who has not been to one of these, it is a marvellous day out (for 'her indoors' too) with plenty of countryside pursuits besides game fishing.

## South of England Show

A reminder that this is our big showcase and volunteers to man the stand are required. The dates are **10th, 11th and 12th June** at Ardingly, and the four daily volunteers needed will have free entry. The Salmon & Trout Association let us share their stand and it is a great day out. Contact Roy Gurney or Paul Bond if you would like to help man the stand, doing a bit of demonstrating but mainly P R.

Also everyone can raid their flyboxes and donate those unwanted (and preferably unused) flies as their sale is a big boost for Branch funds

## ANNUAL DINNER

Once again the Dyke Golf Club provided us with a splendid meal in fine surroundings – What a shame so comparatively few members were present to enjoy it. The (nearly) fifty present not only enjoyed the food, but an entertaining speech from our guest, Martin Fleetwood of Duncton Mill. He gave us his version of the "Oscars" for anglers, with some amusing anecdotes of characters met on the bankside. He also generously donated a ticket for opening day of Duncton's new lake for the raffle.

The highlight of the evening was the draw for the Rod Raffle, which this year provided some eleven substantial prizes, culminating in the rod itself, won by John Cooper. Our thanks are due to Lagoon Bait & Tackle for providing the prizes at trade cost, enabling us to give prizes to the value of way over £1000 at retail prices!

Not to be forgotten are the tireless extractors of cash for this event – Jack Jupp initially, and latterly Ian Dunk, who made it all possible – with YOUR help of course!!

Jim White organised the very successful raffle on the evening, with a digital radio as the star prize, but backed up with other fine "goodies", many generously donated by members. Jim and his merry band of helpers made over £120 for Branch funds.



*Peter Buss receives the Open Flydressing Trophy from the Chairman, Alan Middleton*

## Flies wanted!

Now that you have selected your flies for the season, let us have all your unwanted flies for sale at the South of England Show at Ardingly 10/11/12th June. This is one of our best money spinners for branch funds so let Paul Bond or Roy Gurney have your unwanted flies as soon as possible but in any case before the Show!

## DONALD DOWNS

Our last speaker for the season was our own Donald Downs, past President of the Flydressers' Guild, now Life Member, and almost a national treasure! He gave a demonstration of fly-tying using a hand held vice which followed an illustrated talk on the trout's diet and eating habits. The audience was fascinated by his artistic skills as well as his knowledge of the subject and we look forward to seeing him again in the near future.

## REFLECTIONS FROM OUR SECRETARY

With the culmination of the end of the tying season it is time to reflect on what has been or not achieved.

Firstly, on behalf of the committee and members, I would like to thank all the instructors who have spent a lot of time and commitment in developing members' skills in fly tying. Easy words, but it takes more than a little encouragement to teach (and in Peter's and Ian's case a lot!). The course structures have been in place for a few seasons now and there appears little complaint – or if there is it's not reaching my ear.

Looking ahead, everyone on the treadmill moves up a class if that's what they want to do. If you wish to hone your skills before partaking a new course then nobody will judge you. Next year, with our auction being on a Thursday, the winter's entertainment programme has extended slightly. Due to this we will commence late September. The newsletter will no doubt remind all.

If you feel you can add to the courses do not keep ideas to yourself; air them - we won't be offended. Finally, we aim to extend our tying competition by enticing you to participate. Prizes can be whatever you want so suggestions on a postcard or in discussion. A lot of people who do tie did state that they had tied 'some' entries but had left them at home or were still undecided on which pair to enter. This is a bit of fun for the members and we do not take it seriously, although the judge will of course. You can only win if you enter those flies!

Many thanks for enjoying the evenings arranged for you, best regards and tight lines.....

PAUL BOND

## ASHBOURNE

A number of members have expressed interest in a day at Ashbourne, and so Roy Gurney has fixed a date – **SUNDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> June** – so let him have your cheque for £40, post-dated 12<sup>th</sup> June, and made out to Ashbourne (Country Leisure) Ltd, as soon as possible, as numbers are limited. The cost includes a 3 fish limit, and barbecue lunch with wine or beer. This will be a great day – lovely fishery, great fishing and good companionship.

An application form is enclosed which please complete and send to Roy Gurney as soon as possible, together with your cheque. Any queries, please ring Roy on 01273 506184, or e-mail on [roygurney@ntlworld.com](mailto:roygurney@ntlworld.com).

## ARLINGTON EVENING

Just to remind you that the annual get-together is on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May**. We gather from 4 pm onwards (but some like to come earlier if they are able). Cost of ticket depends on which you choose, but after fishing (at about 8-8.30pm) some beer and sandwiches will available to members at the lodge. Let Roy Gurney know if you are coming for catering purposes.

Peter Winder is holding a "teach-in" on nymph fishing for those who want to attend (let him or Roy know beforehand if you do) - otherwise it is just a good opportunity to meet up and fish together. Boats are available on a first come, first served basis. See you there!!

## BARCOMBE EVENING

Similarly, the evening at Barcombe Reservoir is on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June** and there will be a "teach-in" on dry fly fishing for those interested. Again tickets are depending on choice, but no boats, and regrettably no beer and sandwiches!! Still this is usually a great evening, with demonstrations freely given on how to lose fish or miss strikes!!!



*Just taken the dog for a walk!*

## 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 24<sup>th</sup> April to the 1<sup>st</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> May to 8<sup>th</sup> May for Sea trout and Spring Salmon on Lough Currane and the second from the 12<sup>th</sup> June to the 19<sup>th</sup> June and June 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> 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 [GoneFishing.ie](http://GoneFishing.ie) web site

Spinning and trolling tackle available for hire if required.

Contact : Bob Burbidge  
07836 713586

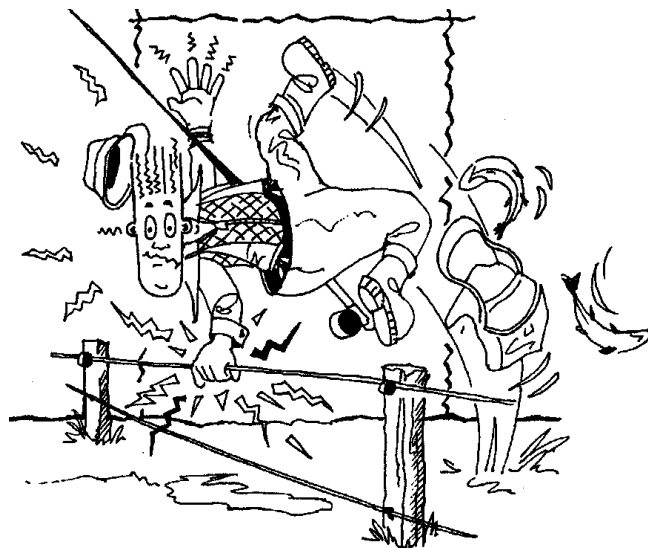
E-mail: [blackwaterbob@gonefishing.ie](mailto:blackwaterbob@gonefishing.ie)

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### TROUT IN WHISKY SAUCE

4 small trout	6 oz finely sliced onions
1 oz seasoned flour	½ teaspoon chopped dill
2 oz butter	a few capers
2½ fl oz whisky	¼ pint double cream
¾ lb skinned chopped tomatoes	chopped parsley
½lb sliced mushrooms	

Clean trout and coat with the flour. Fry in the butter over gentle heat until cooked, turning once. Lift on to warmed serving dish and keep hot. Add whisky, tomatoes, mushrooms, onions, dill and capers to the pan. Heat gently until cooked, then gradually stir in cream. Season to taste. Pour over the trout and serve garnished with parsley.



Beware electricity!

## NEWS FROM KERRY

Bob Burbidge sends the following from Ireland:

"I'm into the third week now and have only managed to fish three times so far as the wind and rain has been nearly constant. The wind is still very cold here and there's snow on the mountains down to about 1000ft. This means the air temperature is quite cold which is keeping the fish down. Only two wee sea trout today - 2½ and 3 lb. A friend had an 8½ lb beauty yesterday on Lough Currane. Ah well, there's always the Guinness and the crack. Here's a couple for the joke book:

*Brother Podraigh O'Sullivan entered the "Monastery of Silence" and the Abbot said, "Brother, this is a silent monastery; you may not speak until I direct you to do so."*

*Brother Podraigh lived in the monastery for five years before the Abbot said to him, "Brother Podraigh, you have been here for five years now; you may speak two words."*

*Brother Podraigh said, "Hard bed."*

*"I'm sorry to hear that," the Abbot said, "We'll get you a better bed."*

*After another five years, Brother Podraigh was called by the Abbot: "You may say another two words, Brother Podraigh."*

*"Cold food." Said Brother Podraigh.*

*On his 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the monastery, the Abbot again called Brother Podraigh into his office. "Two words you may say today."*

*"I quit," said Brother Podraigh.*

*"It is probably best - you've done nothing but complain since you got here!"*

*Father O'Malley, the new Irish priest is nervous about hearing confessions, so he asks the older priest to sit in on his sessions. The new priest hears a couple of confessions, then the old priest asks him to step out of the confessional for a few suggestions. The old priest suggests, "Cross your arms over your chest, and rub your chin with one hand." The new priest tries this. The old priest suggests, "Try saying things like 'I see, yes, go on, I understand and how did you feel about that?'" The new priest says those things. The old priest says, "Now don't you think that's a little better than slapping your knee and saying @No shit!! What happened next?"*

## Reports on Outings and Events

### **BEWL PAIRS 2004**

A week or so of fine weather, then comes the first major outing of the season on Sunday, and the skies open and the wind blows! Here's John Cooper's report on the day:

16 competitors arrived by 08.30 – 4 decided not to fish because of the weather. The hardy fishermen went out at approximately 09.00, returning to have lunch in the Sailing Clubhouse and to dry off. Fishing started again at about 1300, but 4 members decided not to continue because of the bad conditions. This included myself, so I handed over the weighing in to Tim Albright, to whom I say a big "Thank you." Results are:

1<sup>st</sup> Ray Love & David Painter with 11 fish 24lb 12oz  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tim Albright & Alex Rainbow 8 fish 12lb 14oz  
3<sup>rd</sup> Peter Buss & Ian May 4 fish 9lb 0oz  
Best fish was a 5lb 6oz rainbow to David Painter.

### **CHARITY PAIRS – BEWL**

John also reminds you about the Charity Pairs at Bewl in the (hopefully) better weather on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October. This year we are fishing against other Branches and clubs, so we need as many competitors as possible to make it a worthwhile day.

Send in your completed forms and cheques to John Cooper NOW.

### **MATCH v. OUSE VALLEY**

**More entries URGENTLY** required for this match on **30<sup>th</sup> May also at Bewl Water**. The weather will certainly be kinder then, and as Ouse Valley already have a full team and we are six short, if you haven't entered, get in there now and keep the flag flying! The Gemma Winder Trophy is at stake – don't let them take it back!!

### **CASTING CLINIC**

Some 25 members and guests turned up at Patcham for the casting clinic run by Albert Horne, to whom many thanks for his efforts. Alan Middleton also assisted in trying to correct the faults of years (quite unsuccessfully in my case, but that's not his fault!) The sight of twenty plus men in fishing gear casting across a football pitch caused a few near misses on the A23 – a new definition of "worm-casts"?

The end of the evening caused some mirth when PB deposited the inevitable empty beer bottles in the dog-poo receptacle, but then refused to take them out! One other member then announced that he had solved his casting problems – from now on he would only fish small waters!

Nonetheless a very useful and entertaining evening, well worth repeating next year. Thanks again to the instructors and to the supporting cast (ouch!).

Albert has written to say that he was trying to put too much into the limited amount of day light we had. He was hoping to have some fun with accuracy

casting, for which he had made up some discs, and with Jim Harris's help he had marked out up to 40 feet, but did was not able to get them manned.

Still, he did get everyone's attention for his demonstration when he cast the "fly" 34 yards without false casting, laying back or use of the upper arm.

He makes the comment that most anglers spend too much time false casting and spend half of their fishing time with their line in the air!

It is now 74 years since Albert was shown how to tie a fly with his fingers and present it to a trout by a dry-fly purist, the late Major Charles Eastman. Then in 1930 his father introduced him to Lionel and Molly Sweet of Usk, who in turn introduced him to the well-known Harry Powell of Usk. – all treasured names in the history of Welsh angling. Molly was a professional fly dresser who taught Albert to tie, and Lionel was world casting champion for 13 years.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSLETTER**

You may have noticed the slightly different layout of this edition of the Newsletter. This is an attempt to formulate it in a way that it can be transmitted to those who can receive it by e-mail, saving a considerable cost in postage. For those not on e-mail, it will be posted in the usual way. For this edition you may receive it in both forms, but anyone who cannot download it from e-mail should contact Roy Gurney immediately and a copy will be mailed.

### **BIG FISH COMPETITION 2004**

Don't forget to keep your entries coming in for the various trophies up for grabs at the end of the season. It is of great interest to receive entries throughout the season, rather than a late rush at the end. There are trophies for best fish and best browns or tigers from reservoirs, stillwaters and rivers, the only stipulation that the waters must be in Sussex (including Bewl Water). Get them in – the reservoir best fish is Dave Painter with 5lb 6oz so far – can you beat it?

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