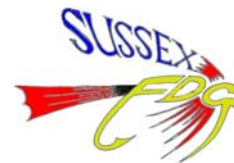




## Sussex Branch Newsletter



JUNE / JULY 2004

### DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSLETTER

From the majority of comments received the distribution by e-mail went fairly smoothly. Thanks to one of our members, this time it should be even better, as he has kindly used his greater knowledge and availability of the right technology to rescue yours truly! Many thanks, David Champness! Once again, DO let Roy Gurney know if you have any problems – they can't be rectified if he doesn't know about them!

### **ARLINGTON EVENING**

Wouldn't you just believe it? A week of fine weather and then the skies open on the Branch outing! The day had started promisingly with warm air and some cloud cover, but generally fine. Then the skies opened in some parts of Sussex mid-afternoon, flooding localised areas but missing some altogether, including initially Arlington. However the wind did get up, it clouded over, and when the lightning started with heavy rain to boot, fishing ended early – by 8 pm all had returned to the lodge to partake of the beer and sandwiches.

Those who had arrived early, and had taken boats, did get some good fishing in, with regular Chris Nunn bagging up, and others taking reasonable catches. Tony Harrison took the best fish of the day – a magnificent 6lb 3oz rainbow, and is now leading the Members' Trophy for best reservoir fish.

Last to arrive in the lodge was Bob Burbidge, looking like a drowned Nanook of the North, and having had a tour of Sussex via Ardingly Reservoir (!!) before he eventually arrived, took a boat, and then got caught on the far side of the water when the rains came!

Unluckiest was probably Peter Winder, who, having rushed from closing his shop early, had time for only one cast before the lightning came – has to be his shortest fishing trip ever!

Some 20 members took part in demolishing the sandwiches, and no doubt there were several who were caught by the localised earlier flooding who decided not to venture out. Let us hope that Barcombe next month will have better weather and that it has had its water levels topped up.



*Tony Harrison pleased with his fine 6lb 3oz rainbow*



*Dry inside – some members in the Lodge after fishing*

# HOLBURY LAKES TROUT FISHERY

Alan Chamberlain and Phillip Ellis joined the Rother Branch for their annual trip to this fishery in April on what must have been the wettest day of the year.

The fishery is located west of Romsey in the village of Lockerley just on the Hampshire/Wiltshire border so it was an hour and a half journey to the fishery after an early start. There are four landscaped lakes with the river Dunn, a tributary of the Test, running through the fishery, providing a very pleasant location. On arrival, jovial manager Tim Weston greeted us and we all had a bacon roll with coffee. Jacqueline Wakeford's brother Jerry was present; he helps run the fishery as well as his "Test Fly Fishing School". The river Dunn can be fished at an extra cost and did provide fish for one of our group.

When fishing started around 9am it was not raining and very quickly fish were being hooked. Black Nomads were being used as well as other patterns as it appeared to one of those days when it did not matter too much. The fish fought very hard charging all over the lake in desperation and sometimes throwing the hook with their antics. By 10am it had started to rain and gradually got heavier and heavier! By noon several anglers had had enough or had their limits and retreated to the lodge. By then Alan and Phillip had three nice fish each. They both went out again at 1 o'clock and both had a fish on the first cast, saving getting wet again! Alan's best fish was five and a half pounds and Phillip's best was a Blue Rainbow of four and a half pounds on a Bardogs Aldie, a fly designed by Donald Downs.

If you are looking for somewhere different and do not object to the distance, well worth a try this year. Perhaps our branch can organise a trip there sometime in the future. Tim took over the fishery some time last year and is very keen to carry out a programme of improvements and it should be a fishery that will become better known.

The fishery has a very good website with lots of information:

<http://www.holburylakes.co.uk/pages/nature.html>

Telephone: 01794 341619.

As a point of interest this was a good day to test waterproof clothing and here are my observations. Several of our group had some of the modern coats we see advertised in the angling press at attractive prices. At lunchtime when the coats came off, lo and behold the rain had got through most of them! My observations reveal that you need to spend over £150 on a coat to be really waterproof; Touchdown and Musto were a good choice on the day. I wore a pair of Wychwood leggings that worked well but the waxed jacket did not!

## Bardogs Aldie

**Hook:** Longshank 10 or 12  
**Silk:** Brown  
**Rib:** Fine gold wire  
**Tail and overbody:** 10 barbs of Pheasant tail over top of body with a tail.  
**Body:** Mixture of brown and cream to give mottled effect, seals fur or synthetic dubbing  
**Hackle:** Red cock tied two thirds down the body.

## 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?

## MATCH v. EASTBOURNE F F

This event was held as a pairs competition at Arlington Reservoir on 16<sup>th</sup> May. Five pairs from each side fished from boats, with the exception of one pair from Eastbourne who chose to fish from the bank.

Weather conditions were initially unpromising with little wind and bright sunlight but as the day progressed the wind waxed and waned and occasionally there was some cloud cover. Garry Gwynne and Ian Foster were the first pair to get their four fish limit each, finishing before lunch. The rest of the boats found the fishing generally slow and so, after a short break for lunch, fishing recommenced for the rest, finishing at 4 pm.

Team result:

Boat 1 – Ian Foster/Gary Gwynne	12lb 10oz
Boat 2 – Dave Painter/Ray Love	12lb 3oz
Boat 3 – Michael Brayne/Paul Willis	12lb 10oz
Boat 4 – Jim Harris/Eric Hunter	9lb 7oz
Boat 5 – Bill Smith/Ian Dunk	11lb 2oz

The combined weight of 58lb was enough to win the match with the Eastbourne team weighing in 31lb 6oz.

Heaviest combined weight of the match was shared between Michael Brayne/Paul Willis and Ian Foster/Gary Gwynne (12lb 10oz). Heaviest individual bag went to Dave Painter with 8lb. Jim Harris had the heaviest fish at 2lb 9oz.

## CHARITY PAIRS – BEWL

This event (Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October) has been re-vamped by opening it up to several teams, and a fine new trophy is up for grabs for the successful pair. There will still be the Bowl for top Branch pair, and John Cooper has booked 30 boats, so we need as many competitors as possible..

Send in your completed forms and cheques to John Cooper NOW or ring him on **01903 813376** for further details.

## Match v. Ouse Valley F F

Sadly this competition for the Gemma Winder Trophy has had to be cancelled (possibly postponed, if we can fit it into the Charity Pairs day) due to lack of support. Surely with a membership of some 95+ it should be possible to get six members (three pairs) to turn out? Let's have some support for the organiser!

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

John Cooper would like to remind everyone of the following events which have been arranged and need your support:

July 11<sup>th</sup> Freshwater Challenge at Chalk Springs  
July 18<sup>th</sup> Match v. Crawley FF at Boringwheel  
August 21<sup>st</sup> John Watt Competition at Grafham  
September 5<sup>th</sup> Match v. Rother at Duncton Mill  
September 26<sup>th</sup> Club day with BBQ at Duncton Mill  
October 3<sup>rd</sup> Match v. Dorking FF at Chalk Springs  
October 10<sup>th</sup> Charity Pairs at Bewl Water

If you have lost your entry forms, ring Roy Gurney on 01273 50684 or e-mail [roygurney@ntlworld.com](mailto:roygurney@ntlworld.com) for replacements or to find out who is organising each event.

In addition to the fishing events above, we are also manning stands at the following events, and volunteers to man the stands are welcome:

July 17/18<sup>th</sup> Game & Country Fair, Michelham Priory  
August 21/22<sup>nd</sup> Borde Hill Show – Angling Village  
September 1<sup>st</sup> Patcham Community Centre Open Day  
October 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Autumn Show at Ardingly

If you would like to help in manning these stands (thereby getting free entry!!) contact Roy Gurney.

Finally, check our website for the up-to-date programme to April 2005 – our secretary has been working overtime to keep you entertained!!

## AVON SPRINGS – MATCH v. SURREY BRANCH

The annual outing with our old friends and adversaries, Surrey Branch, was again held at Avon Springs, which provided such magnificent sport last year. This year the fishing was quite different, with Surrey organising a “pegged” competition, moving on at hourly intervals. The weather was dry but overcast with a variable wind (which always seemed to be in my face!!).

A grand total of 56 fish were caught, 27 by Surrey and 29 by Sussex. The total weight was 248 lb 15 oz giving an average weight per fish of nearly 4½ lb. The Sussex total of 133 lb 8 oz was sufficient to retain the trophy, comfortably beating Surrey's 115 lb 7 oz. All the Sussex team of 12 caught, four taking their limit of 4 fish. Heaviest fish went to Ian May with 7 lb 2 oz, and Chris Croucher had heaviest bag of 19 lb 13 oz.

And now we give you a personal view from one of the team:

## MY DAY AT AVON SPRINGS

Weather fine with a light breeze. I set up two 9' #5 rods, one with a standard floating line and the second with a clear slow-sink. This should cover most situations. Chris tells us that damsels are the fly of the moment.

My first peg is 23 – looks promising, clear water with weed about 3 feet down, a bay to my left, some reeds but I can cast over them. Start with a damsel marabou, slow retrieve. Ten minutes gone, and the Surrey man to my left has a fish; watch his next cast – a very fast retrieve, not damsel! Change to a cat's whisker on slow sink line. Second cast, a fish of about 2½ lb. Tey bay to my left – fairly shallow, pulling through the weed. A second fish hammers the cat, looks about 3½ lb – getting bigger! To my right, Surrey man is fishless, to my left two fish. Odd fish around this end of lake, but are dies and no more takes.

Now to peg 3, opposite my last one. Swap flies, alter retrieve and depth. Not a pull for 45 minutes – change to sinking daddy – fish first cast (how often does this happen – a case for study, perhaps?) This is a really good fish; runs a long way, get him in near the bank and then he runs away again. Oh no! There's a knot in my line going through the rings- third ring, fourth ring, JAM, snap!!! Check line and re-tackle for next peg.

Peg 7 has yielded a lot of fish in the first two hours, good for those anglers, bad for me! Fish now out in the middle and very spooky. Try lures, dries, emergers, damsels, buzzers – nothing! Not one fish from six pegs at top of lake this hour – off to lunch now.

Peg 11 is on the upper lake – shallow, clear, no fish in sight. Sit and watch for signs of life – nothing for whole hour.

Peg 15 has wind in my face, open water in front, probably been thrashed all day. Don't bother – to my right a nice bay with floating weed looks very fishy. Try my usual practice of pulling a lure/damsel to see if there is any interest – three casts, three follows, nothing positive. Change tactics – I think a buzzer might work but the water is shallow so a normal long leader won't work. Hang a buzzer under a sight bob, cast among the weed and let it drift. After about ten minutes, Surrey man to my left calls out a question about my parentage; I look round to give him a polite answer but I can't remember how many fingers the answer required! As I look back, the sight bob resurfaces – kick myself mentally for losing concentration – it won't happen again! Re-cast, watch, wait fifteen minutes; the bob twitches – strike, got him! Good fight in weeded swim – looks 5 lb+ - one more to get.

Last peg no 19, back to first lake at top end. Try four casts with a damsel, no follows; back to the buzzer, spot a fish moving 20 yds out, cast in general direction and wait. Fifteen minutes and bob moves a fraction, haul the line with one hand and lift the rod at the same time – it takes quite an effort to set a hook at 20yds range! But he's on and a superb fight ends with a 6 lb+ fish on the bank with half an hour left.

### Conclusion

Pleased to have four fish; very pleased we have won the match, but annoyed at the lapses of concentration on a challenging day.

**PETER WINDER**

## Peter Buss and Ian May go west!



*Wading the Torridge*

Ian and myself have just got back from fishing the Torridge at Sheepwash. Hot bright sunshine and low river level made for difficult fishing but we still managed to have a lot of fun on the dry fly. One fish in particular gave me a real tussle, very difficult to cast to as it was under an overhanging tree, but when it took my size 18 dry it charged out into open water and it was a few minutes before I managed to slide the net under him. I don't know how much he weighed but he had to be at least 2lb. As soon as I had taken his Photo (see attached) I returned him to the river, and within half an hour he was back on station rising to naturals, though far more cautious to the artificial.



*Worthwhile!*



I have attached some pictures of our trip including one of Ians' new girlfriend helping him unpack.

Regards.....Peter

## SUSSEX TIERS ON TOP!!

The results of the national Flydressers' Guild competition have just been announced, and this year Sussex have TWO national winners.

Hearty congratulations to **Jim Harris** for carrying off the Salt-water and Pike Fly trophy for the second time, repeating his success last year.

However, special congratulations to **Steve Chow** who won the Novice Trout Fly award at his first attempt.

Who knows, if we had more entries for all classes, we could improve on this for next year!

Well done Steve and Jim!!

## MISSING CAPES

A plea from Paul Bond – on one of the tying nights he lent a set of Rainbow Capes from D J Hackles to someone, but can't remember who. Whoever it is, Paul would be grateful for their return, so give him a ring and let him rest soundly!

## SOUTH OF ENGLAND SHOW

For once the weather was kind and we could dispense with gum-boots and waterproofs. Unfortunately the fine weather did not bring out the expected crowds, at least to our side of the showground, and we did not have as many visitors as in past years.

Nevertheless we managed to take some £40+ for the sale of flies, mainly to order as we did not have a big stock of ready tied flies. Don't forget to let me have your surplus for future shows!

Despite the above, it was a successful PR exercise and all who helped enjoyed it – except perhaps Brian Hendry who succumbed to a 'flu bug after the first day! Thanks to all who helped – Jim Harris, Brian, Peters Buss and Curry, Andy Steer, Tim Albright, Pauls Bond and Daltrey and Alan Chamberlain; Alan also introduced to us a new fly, tied as an exact copy of one spooned from a trout, and then identified by Richard Osmond, the entomologist who entertained us recently and who had a demonstration stand near ours. Alan has promised us an article on the fly for the next issue – with its history.

## GAME FAIR

The coach will leave Withdean Stadium Car Park at **6 am sharp** on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July**.

**Don't be late!!!!**

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