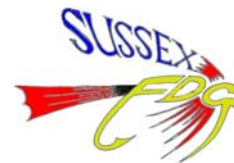




Sussex Branch Newsletter



OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2004

SUSSEX MEMBERS BAG YET MORE TROPHIES!

Following the success of **Jim Harris** and **Steve Chow** in the National fly-tying competitions, **Chris Croucher** and **Ian Dunk** have cleaned up the big fish competitions too. Chris has taken the David Collyer Shield for the largest rainbow with his 12 lb 5 oz specimen from Chalk Springs and Ian receives the Founders Trophy for his brown of 11 lb 10 oz, also from Chalk Springs.

Both competitions require the fish to be caught on a fly tied by the entrant, so congratulations to both for leading the way again

MATCH v. DORKING F. F.

This was held at Chalk Springs on 3rd October - a very wet day - all day! - with little breeze. Sussex strength in depth showed on a nasty day, catching 27 fish to Dorking's 17. In soccer terms "the boys done good!". Chris Croucher again showed that at a stalking water he is in a class of his own, with three fish for 29 lb 3 oz, rainbows of 12-5 and 5-4 and a brown of 11-10. Lee Redman had an 11 lb rainbow in his two fish bag of 14-5.. For Dorking F.F., Simon Moseley's three fish totalled 25 lb, his best fish a brown of 15 lb. Only three Sussex members took their 4 fish limit - Jim White, Bill Smith and Peter Winder.

Final result was: Sussex 100 lb 7 oz (26 fish)
Dorking 58 lb 6 oz (17 fish).

AUCTION – 11th NOVEMBER

There had been a fairly slow response for entries to the auction this year to date, but they seem to be coming in as a last-minute rush – more headaches for yours truly! However, the quality of entries received so far is good, and so we can look forward to another entertaining and hopefully rewarding evening under the guidance of our good friend and auctioneer, Mike Humphreys.

Please bring your entries duly labelled with lot numbers by 7 pm - viewing will start at 7.30 and the auction itself at 8 pm.

PRESENTATION

As you will know, Mike is also the President of the Flydressers' Guild, and will take this opportunity to present the trophies won by our members as detailed in our first report on this page.

BRANCH OUTING AT DUNCTON MILL.

Peter Winder organised our annual outing to Duncton Mill, even managing to arrange for fine weather conditions – except, it seems, for Peter Buss and Ian May!! Di produced a super lunch for 20 members, most of whom came back for seconds – nothing wasted here!!

After lunch, fortified by double helpings, Peter and Ian returned to the fray with Peter landing a 4 lb 6 oz tiger in what would have been a winning bag had he caught them during the morning. Ian landed a lovely 2 lb brownie from the stream

Top bags of the day (for the Jimmy James Memorial trophies) went to **Ray Love** with 11 lb 6 oz, with **Bill Smith** taking runner-up spot with 10-1. Ray also had a rainbow of 3-8, but elected to take "best bag", so **Paul Bond's** 3-6 rainbow gained him the John Plowman trophy. As only rainbows were taken during the morning, the cup for best brown or tiger was awarded to Peter Buss for afternoon contribution as a consolation!!



THE GUILDER

At the FDG stand at the Borde Hill show we were sited next to Pat O'Reilly - casting instructor and author. He and I got talking about sea trout fishing and flies. He suggested a possible classic sea trout fly which I tied, and after several modifications came up with the following pattern. He had a good camera with him and took the attached photograph, which he later sent me as a copy on disc. He suggested it should be called the "Guilder".



The dressing:

Hook : Long shank 8
Thread: Black
Body : Flat silver Mylar tinsel
Rib: Copper wire
Wing: Black squirrel hair
Overwing: Flashabou accent.
Throat hackle: Red squirrel hair.

John Plowman

FULLING MILL FLIES

On Thursday 21st October we were treated to an inside view of the world of mass production flies by Ian McKenzie, technical manager of Fulling Mill, who gave an enlightened talk on a wet October evening. The logistics and organisation it takes to produce 350,000 flies each month was a revelation to us all. Buying feathers by the weight and not by the packet; buying huge hanks of chenille and dying vast quantities were from another world.

Just organising 200 tyers in one building and supplying them with their materials had to be seen to be believed. With over 7000 patterns to tie and new fashions appearing by the minute, there were enough challenges to keep anyone on their toes. Just imagine buying 6 million hooks - I thought 100 of any size was a lot!

Not only did Ian give us a graphic insight into world beating flies, but he himself is no mean fly tyer. The deftness of his tying and the superb examples of Klinkhamer flies were worth the visit in themselves.

I think everyone there was impressed with his knowledge and skill. It was well worth venturing out on a filthy October evening.

A.M.

2004 CHARITY PAIRS COMPETITION AT BEWL

Last year, some 12 boats were organised to fish the equivalent event. This year, under the management of our John Cooper, no less than 24 boats went out, on time, and a great day was had by all. Getting 48 persons together at the same time, and to run the competition smoothly, takes a lot of organising and hard work. Everyone spoke highly of the organisation and the way things went - despite the weather! - and John Cooper deserves a huge vote of thanks for his efforts.

Now, here is his report on the competition:

On Sunday 10th October 48 fisherman from 7 clubs turned out to fish the first Open Charity Pairs Fly Fishing Competition at Bewl Reservoir. All the boats were away at 0900 and at the start the water was fairly choppy with a moderate wind, but during the course of the day the wind increased together with the waves!

Most people headed for the cages and by mid morning boats were moving around the reservoir in search of the fish. The best area was near the dam and the top flies were boobies and yellow coloured flies fished in the top surface.

The weigh-in was at 1600, A few competitors managed to catch their limit, with six fisherman not catching anything at all (including me!!)

The winners were:-

- 1st **Gavin Hunter and Alex Rainbow** (Sussex FDG) with 32lb 2oz of fish.
- 2nd **Ouse Valley** with 23lb 1oz of fish.
- 3rd **David Painter and Ray Love** (Sussex FDG) with 19lb 4oz of fish.

Total weight of fish caught during the day - 233lb 12oz. The Charities chosen by the winners are: The Children's Charity "**When You Wish Upon a Star**" and **Guys Hospital for Children**.

Hope to see you all there next year.

John Cooper

FISHING UNDER PRESSURE!

A fine fishing story from a good friend of the Branch, Peter Henton. Peter recently spent a holiday in Florida, and like all good fishermen took along a rod and reel with him (remember his travel rods?). His villa was on the banks of the Banana River, and the temptation to cast a fly was irresistible. Have cast out, he was surprised to see a heron land a few yards from him and commence to watch his efforts. After a few casts, another heron landed on his other side and joined in the spectator sport.

At last Peter hooked and landed a sea bream of about a pound, which he unhooked and threw towards the heron on his right who had edged towards him. The bird neatly speared the fish and swallowed it, whereupon the other heron also came closer, obviously waiting for his share of the catch! Sadly, he was disappointed, as no further connection was made!

CHAIRMAN CHAT LINES

The tying season is in full swing now and we welcome all of the new starters in Ian and Peter's group. We hope they find the course set out for them both informative and challenging.

In the next few weeks we have some special events, namely the auction and the AGM. The first will be a chance to pick up that bargain you have been looking for and the second is your chance to influence where the branch is headed over the next twelve months.

We still need more lots for the auction. Have a good rummage through that box in the corner and sort out those reels, lines and odd bits of tackle you do not use any more. Who knows you may make enough to buy another rod you always wanted.

The week after the auction we welcome another longstanding friend of the branch, Steve Cooper of Cookshill Fly Tying. Steve's demonstrations are always worth a mention. His skill in removing fur and feather is remarkable and he does not cut off any fingers in the process. No doubt he will have plenty of bargains for us as well.

Each year we look for new members of the committee. The task for these members is not onerous and can be very rewarding. This year one or two of the committee are resigning for various reasons and we thank them for their valuable contribution to the branch. This opens the way for new blood to come on to the committee, without which the branch would not develop. We need members to help organise outings, assist in raffles and to attend shows and exhibitions. The meetings are usually brief and anyway we meet on licensed premises and only occur about every two months. It is your branch and it is up to you to ensure that its welfare is secure.

Thank you for your support

NOVEMBER SPEAKER

On November 18th Steve Cooper of Cookshill Fly Tying will entertain us with a display of his craft of genetic cape rearing and preparation and bring us up to date with the latest in material for our craft. No doubt there will be a good selection of goodies on display, so bring your wallet!



ROD RAFFLE

Just to remind you, Ian Dunk will be running this popular raffle, so get your £1 coins ready to get your tickets for some of the best prizes of tackle offered. The top prize this year is yet to be chosen – why don't you let Ian know what you would like! For guidance, the rods for the last few years have been of about £300/400 retail value and the additional prizes depend on how many entries we receive from you. To meet with gaming laws, this raffle is open to paid up members only – another good reason to get those subs. In if you haven't done so!!

TONY HERBERT

We are sorry to hear that Tony (who provided the excellent screening of the fly-tying demonstrations) has spent a few weeks in hospital recently. He is now back home and brushing up his fly-tying, and we all wish him well and a speedy recovery. Maybe he will be able to get fishing with Bernie Meeten again soon (his last two dates to do so ended up by being cancelled for hospital appointments!).

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all those who added donations to their subscriptions this year – your treasurer tries to run a tight budget and the amount raised this way (currently over £75) helps enormously to keep us well in the black and give you the services you want.

A.G.M. – 9th DECEMBER 2004

It is perhaps a little premature to remind you of this event, but it is most important for you to remember that this is the time you can influence the way the Branch is run. This year three members of the committee are retiring and it is essential that replacements are found to continue the good work that they have done over the past few years of service. It is YOUR branch, so make sure that YOUR VIEWS are represented! If you cannot volunteer yourself, please try to persuade someone to do so – without willing helpers, there will be no competitions, outings, raffles, auctions etc. to keep you interested!!

The official notice of AGM and minutes of last year's will be sent with the November newsletter, together with the up-dated constitution, which will be required to be approved at the AGM. The revision has been made necessary to conform with requirements of our insurers – another benefit of your membership being third party cover.

“REFRESHMENTS” ON TYING NIGHTS

Whilst the facilities for tying (lighting, storage etc) at our new HQ are superior to the old one, there is a distinct lack of social amenities – i.e. the pub next door!

A suggestion has been made that we provide some light refreshments for members, perhaps a limited choice of cans of beer, lager and soft drinks. The kitchen has always been available for tea, coffee etc, if anyone cares to make it.

As we are not allowed to sell alcoholic drinks, there would have to be an option for partakers to contribute donations to cover expenses.

What are your views? Do you want this “service” or are you happy with the current set-up? Let any committee member know your views and we can then do what is necessary.

BRANCH PROGRAMME

It seems that some members did not receive the updated 2004/5 programme of events and fly-tying evenings. It should have accompanied the newsletter and I could have sworn everyone receiving it by post got one, but I am only human!

I understand that this has caused some upset with people bringing the wrong materials for their classes, and for this I apologise. Anyone not having the programme can pick one up on tying nights, or ask me and I will send it to you. All recipients by e-mail should have downloaded it, but I can send again if you ask me.

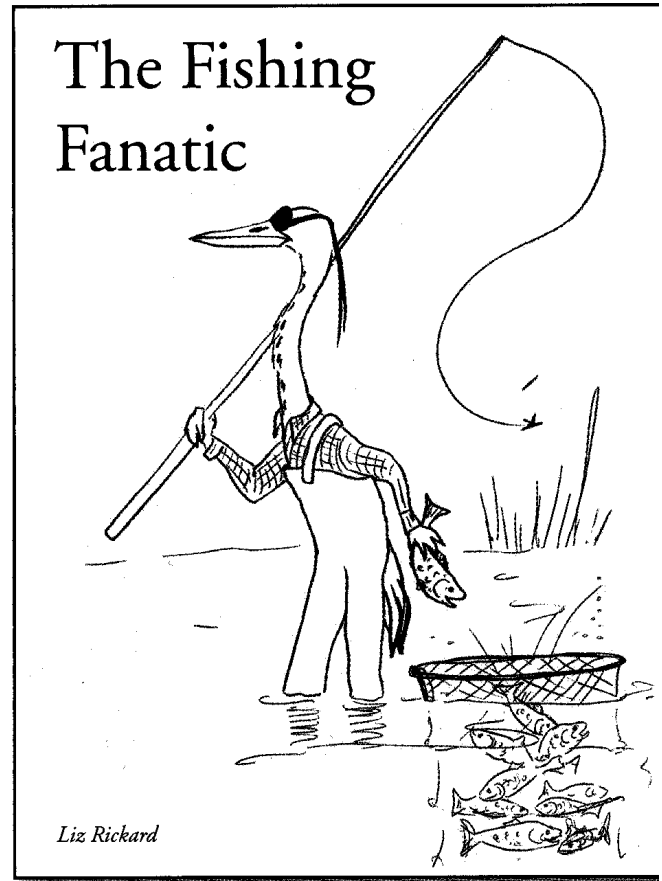
It is also on our web-site sussexflydressers.org.uk which is regularly updated, advising of any changes or additions to the programme.

Roy Gurney

AUCTION AGAIN

With this newsletter should be the catalogue, either hard copy by mail or as an additional attachment by e-mail. Anyone not receiving one please ring 01273 506184 or collect on a Thursday evening.

Additional lots for sale can be brought on the night – be there before 7.30 when viewing starts. Commission on lots brought on the night is 15%



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