



Sussex Branch Newsletter



APRIL/MAY 2005

2005 FLYDRESSING COMPETITION RESULTS

The winners of this year's competition were presented with their trophies and prizes at the end of season social evening on 14th April at Patcham Community Centre by chairman, Alan Middleton.

This year's judge, Albert Horne reported that the **Novice Class** was spoilt by lack of entries, but the standard was good.

A good number of entries were received for the **Intermediate Class** and again the standard was very good, the overall points winner was a cleanly tied pair.

The **Open Class** was the closest for years - a significant number of entries which were all extremely good. In making a decision reference had to be made to books on specific elements of the pattern and overall the winning entry just pipped the others. Some had short tied tails and others longer wings, but the winner had just the right balance.

The winners are:

Novice:	Howard Davies
Intermediate:	Steve Chow
Open:	Jim Harris
Salmon:	Brian Hendry

Congratulations to all - an even closer fight for next year?



Steve Chow gets his prize



Jim Harris the open winner



Howard Davies receives his trophy from Chairman Alan Middleton

“THE FLY TYING BIBLE”

by Peter Gathercole

Don't forget, any of you who do not have this book, or are looking for a present for a friend, we are able to supply this at the special price of **£10.00 per copy**.

If you want a copy, let Roy Gurney have your order as soon as possible.

Frank Darrah Pairs competition, Bowl - Sunday 24th April 2005

Seven hopeful pairs of anglers started to fish at 9 am with light winds and grey sky but no rain. Conditions appeared good but appearances were deceptive. Some boats spent most of the time tied up near the cages and others tried the extremes of Bowl Strait, Hook Strait and the Dam. All methods from small dry flies to large lures on floating and sinking lines were tried.

When we met for lunch the most common bag was zero. The few fish caught had come mostly from the cages with lures on floating lines.

After a convivial lunch of sandwiches and beer the ever optimistic fishermen set out again and by weigh in at 5pm the tally had changed little. Once again the anglers of Sussex FDG had demonstrated their fish catching skills!

Seven boats, fourteen anglers, seven hours fishing each, ten fish caught by three of the boats. Other anglers blanked!

The winners were **Ian Dunk and Chris Croucher** with five fish including two at around 3lb 8oz. Runners up: **Chris Nunn and Andy Gibbs** with three fish. **Ian May and Peter Buss** managed two. None of the other boats landed a fish but we had a good day especially since the rain held off until 15 minutes after weigh in!

My thanks to all those who supported me on the day.

John Plowman.

MUSTAD HOOKS

We have available a range of Mustad fly hooks in boxes of 25, at the very competitive price of £1.00 per box.

The patterns available (subject to prior sale) are:-

R30 - Dry fly - 2X fine / standard shank, in sizes 12,14,16,18,20,22,24;

R50 - Dry/wet - Standard wire and shank, in sizes 10,12,14,16,18;

R70 - Wet/nymph - 2X heavy wire / std. Shank, in sizes 6,8,10,12;

R72 - Long nymph - 2X heavy wire / 2X long shank, in size 8,10,12,14;

R74 - Streamer - 2X heavy wire/ 4X long shank, in sizes 4,6,8,10;

R90 - Ultra heavy - 4X heavy wire / standard shank, in sizes 6,8,10;

C49S - Caddis standard wire - 1X short shank, in sizes 8,10,12,14,16.

Also Sea Patterns in boxes of 25:-

S715SS - O'Shaugnessy in sizes 2,4,6,8

C47SD - Shrimp, in sizes 4,2,1,1/0,2/0,3/0

If you are interested, let Roy Gurney know and he will collate orders and place bulk order with the supplier.

Treasurer's note

We are not trying to compete with tackle dealers – but just occasionally we have an opportunity to pass on “one off” deals which benefit both members and Branch funds. There is no substitute for your local tackle dealer!

END OF SEASON SOCIAL

This proved to be a great success, and looks like the start of another tradition. Opportunity was taken to present the trophies for the 2004 season of big fish, as well as those to the winners of the 2005 Flydressing Competition detailed above.

In addition, the draw was made for the Rod Raffle which has become such a popular feature during the tying season. Many thanks to Bill Smith for his sterling efforts in extracting sufficient funds to produce a prize list worth over £1000 retail and to Peter Winder of Lagoon Bait & Tackle for supplying the prizes. The prize list was as follows:

1. **Greys' Travel Kit – 7-pce 9' #6 rod, G-Lite reel & Platinum line, all in travel case. (RRP £349.99)**
2. **Orvis HMH pedestal tying vice (RRP £159)**
3. **Orvis Battenkill Large Arbor IV Gold reel (RRP £155)**
4. **Orvis fly-tying kit in leather wallet (RRP £77)**
5. **Whitlock Landing net (RRP £59.99)**
6. **Whiting's Black genetic cape (RRP £50.25)**
7. **Whiting's Grizzle genetic cape (RRP £50.25)**
8. **Wheatley “Orvis” Fly Box (RRP £44)**
9. **Orvis Wrist watch (RRP £39.99)**
10. **“Fitover” Navigator Sun-glasses (RRP £39)**

In addition, Paul Bond kindly donated a brand new Sierra fishing vest to add to the list.

The forty or so members attending enjoyed refreshments provided by Alan Middleton and many thanks to him for organising this very entertaining evening. In addition to the rod raffle, Jim White and Chris Croucher organised a general raffle for the evening, which, with the help of an auction for an unwanted prize, raised some £110 for the Branch. We are particularly grateful to Bill Smith and Chris for donating all the prizes for this raffle.

BAZ REECE

Our last speaker for the season was Baz Reece who gave us a first class demonstration of gutting and filleting trout, as well as recipes for preparing tasty dishes from them. He concentrated on cold preparations such as gravadlax, and we are hoping to publish his recipes in the near future, either as a separate sheet or in the newsletter.

Baz, of course, is a member of the England Fly Fishing Team, and it was a pleasure to hear his relaxed approach to competitive fishing which gives him an opportunity to fish in many locations around Europe which would otherwise be out of reach.

FOR SALE

A 5' X 4' CAR TRAILER, COMPLETE WITH TAILBOARD AND LIGHTS AND TARPAULIN COVER - £110 O.N.O. CONTACT ROY GURNEY ON 01273 506184

OUTINGS AND EVENTS 2005

As you have already been advised there is a very full calendar of events over the Summer, and if you haven't already done so, get your entries in now to be sure of your place!

One additional event we are pleased to announce is that we will after all be attending the **South of England Show at Ardingly on 9th, 10th and 11th June**. Any volunteers to man the stand contact Alan Middleton (01273 493473), Paul Bond (01272 420410) or Roy Gurney (01273 506184).

Peter Winder, who is organizing the **Branch Day** (with barbecue) at **Duncton Mill** on 25th September, advises that we require a minimum of 25 to give us exclusive use of all four lakes and the stream. This is a superb day out, so get your booking in **now** so Peter can confirm with the fishery.

It is still a long way off, but the organiser of the Charity Pairs at Bewl in October, Alan Middleton, needs to book boats early – let him have your entries as soon as possible, please.



SALMON FISHING

SALT WATER FLY FISHING

As you know, we have a “resident” expert in the person of Ron Nicholson, who has a very thriving class for his tying sessions demonstrating salt water flies. He has time and again commented that he never sees anyone actually using the flies they tie when fishing himself, often at Shoreham, and has expressed his willingness to meet up with interested members for both coaching and just social fishing on the beaches locally.

He has just escaped to his Florida hideout for a couple of months, but will be back in June. Anyone interested should contact him on 01273 570414, or send an e-mail to flyinthesalt@aol.com. Let those masterpieces you tied prove their worth!!

Whilst on the subject of sea fishing, **Ian Foster** has offered to take out in his boat any members interested for fishing – not necessarily fly, of course – so if this is of interest give him a call on 01444 831654 or e-mail him: iotter1@aol.com

We know that our members are fully law-abiding, but this report is worth repeating, just in case you know of anyone taking a chance!

FISHING WITHOUT A LICENCE COSTS KENT ANGLER £300

A man from Kent was yesterday (Wednesday 20 April 2005) fined after he was caught fishing without a licence in Staplehurst, Kent.

The Environment Agency brought the charge under Section 27(a) of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975. In his absence, Mark Smith from West Kingsdown, Sevenoaks, Kent was fined a total of £300 and ordered to pay £80 costs by Maidstone Magistrates' Court.

Anyone over the age of 12 fishing in freshwaters in England or Wales must have a valid Environment Agency Rod Licence. On 12 December 2004, an Environment Agency Water Bailiff saw Mark Smith fishing with two rods and lines at Riverfield Fishery in Staplehurst, Kent. When asked to produce a valid rod licence he admitted that he did not have one and claimed to not know that he needed one.

Jon Whitmore, Kent Area Fisheries Team Leader, said: “We are pleased that the Magistrates took this case seriously. Not only is fishing without a licence illegal, but those doing so are also cheating fellow anglers and the future of angling. Money we raise through rod licence sales goes straight back into maintaining, improving and developing fisheries and enables us to carry out essential work, such as responding to reports of fish in distress - a significant issue for us last summer.

“It would have cost Mark Smith only £23 to get a fishing licence at that time but he now has a £300 fine to pay – if he'd made sure he had a licence before going fishing he would have saved himself a great deal of money.”

Buying a licence couldn't be easier – there are around 15,000 Post Offices and other outlets that sell them direct or for a small additional charge they can be purchased over the phone (0870 1662662) or from:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/rodlicence.

Fishing without a licence is an offence under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975. Members of the public who see illegal fishing should immediately contact the Environment Agency 24 hour hotline, free on 0800 80 70 60

BIG FISH COMPETITION

Entries are starting to come in for our competition, which runs over the season 1st January to 31st October inclusive. The categories are:

1. Best fish from Sussex reservoir (includes Bewl)
2. Best fish from Sussex water
3. Best Brown from Sussex water
4. Best Brown from Sussex reservoir or river.

Come on – let's have your entries as they happen – contact Paul Bond, Roy Gurney or Alan Middleton with the details – venue, date, species, weight, fly used and any other information that could be of interest.

Chairman's Chat

The last evening of the tying season was something of an experiment, but it seemed to work quite well. Congratulations to all those who received trophies for their endeavours. The raffle was a great success again and our thanks to those who extracted all that money from us during the tying evenings. We shall still be having our Annual Dinner but this year in November. John Burt is already working on the agenda.

We should all be well into the swing of losing all of those flies we so carefully tied last winter. The longer evenings give us more time to thrash the water and get rid of that pent up emotion. Whether we are river or still water devotees the excitement is still the same.

There is still the opportunity to sign up for the outings which have been organised by the branch. Please give the coordinators your support. I am sure they would be pleased to hear from you. Further copies of the list of events are available.

The branch is involved in a number of shows and exhibitions again this year. We shall have a presence at Ardingly for the South of England show, a tackle show in Worthing and at Michleham Priory. Your support at any of these events would be most appreciated. Do not think you need to be an expert to sit on the stand – it is not an arduous event and can be a lot of fun. Further details will appear in the newsletters. Just give Roy a call. Our presence at these events is the starting point in our recruitment campaign for next year.

A WORD FROM THE SECRETARY

Yet another year has passed and with the end of the tying season it is time to thank, on behalf of the committee and members, all the instructors who have spent a lot of time and commitment in developing members' skills in fly tying.

I am not sure what encouragement Peter and Ian gave this year but that certainly had an impact! Brian fared well with most of his group entering the fly tying competition this year. The advanced remained well attended and thanks goes to Phillip, Alan, Albert and Ron for their time and assistance this year. A big thank you to all of you for your efforts this year.

For the forthcoming tying season that is obviously months away – but really only round the corner – a new book, or bible, for assisting with the courses. If you feel you can add to the courses do not keep ideas to yourself; air them, we won't be offended.

Finally, this year's tying competition was heavily supported by entries through the various levels. Even the judge had to resort to guidance this year to make his decisions. This is a bit of fun for the members and we thank all of you that entered.

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

Paul Bond

ARLINGTON EVENING

Don't forget our annual evening at Arlington Reservoir on **Thursday 19th May**. It takes the usual form of meeting after fishing at the Lodge, where there will be some beer and sandwiches for members. Fishing usually starts about 4 pm, but of course you can come whenever you like – tickets per the fishery tariff.

A BONUS TO FISHING!

Phillip Ellis reports (25th April):

"I was at Arlington on Saturday on a coaching course. We heard in the morning that an Osprey had been seen taking fish.

In the afternoon we saw two large birds over the water and I first thought they were Herons but were in fact two Ospreys. Some of us then saw one take a fish (hopefully not a trout) and fly off with it.

Wonderful to see something that you normally only see on TV in a nature programme."

P.E.

(These wonderful birds are regular visitors to Arlington when on passage to their breeding grounds in Wales or Scotland - Ed.).

LAKEDOWN

News has filtered through that this lovely fishery near Burwash has re-opened. Details of prices, etc are not known, but we understand they are in line with other good fisheries. Fish quality is reported as excellent.

Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

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