



Sussex Branch Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2005

Editor's note

This edition of the Newsletter will be brief, as it seems there were some troubles with the August edition – it seems that Outlook Express doesn't like downloading "Word" files (.doc). I have now cracked the way to convert to .pdf which has been done this time. If anyone is still having problems do let me know – I probably can't solve them, but it is nice to know others have the same problems as me!!!!

This has been e-mailed to all who have given me an e-mail address – if you want a hard copy sent instead, let me know, but e-mail saved us some £200 in stationery and postage last year!

If anyone did not get August edition, please e-mail me and I will re-send in .pdf

Charity Pairs Competition – Sunday 9th October

Alan Middleton is still looking for entries for this event – you still have time to enter so contact him urgently. If you haven't got a partner, he will arrange one for you. Contact him at home on **01273 493473** out of office hours or by E-mail at woryem@globalnet.co.uk

Cost is £33 and your cheques to made out to "Southern Water" dated 9th October 2005 and sent to him at :

"Wor-Yem"

Blackgate Lane

Henfield

West Sussex BN5 9HA

Duncton Branch Outing – Sunday 25th September

The next Branch outing is the BBQ at Duncton on Sunday 25th September – get your booking in to Peter Winder at his shop number **01273 415879** or in the evening at home **01273 416766** for this great day, as there are still some places left at the time of going to press.

HURRY, HURRY, HURRY!!!!

John Watt Trophy

As you know, we only entered one team this year, and it seems we were not the only ones to have difficulty in raising a side. There were only 16 teams this year, a considerable drop on usual numbers, and the final result was a win for London Branch, with 33 fish, and Lakeland "A" and "B" teams taking second and third places.

Our team finished in mid-table, with Alex Rainbow our "top gun" with eight fish, Andy Gibb and Chris Nunn taking three apiece and Neil Batchelor two. Fishing was not easy and all credit to our lads – two teams next year, and get the trophy back?

Competitions/Outings

Match v. Crawley F F

This was held at Boring Wheel, but sadly for the last time as the fishery will no longer host matches/outings on Sundays. Crawley managed to get the better of us on a sunny day with a high water temperature which made fishing difficult. Brian Martin of Crawley managed to find a hot spot and had a bag of 19lb 12oz, including the largest fish of 7lb 9¹/₂oz. With that great start, Crawley more than doubled the Branch weight. A great day out and looking forward to the return next season.

AUCTION 2005 24th November 2005

Attached or enclosed are lot entry forms for this event of the year. Get these to Roy Gurney as soon as possible as it takes a lot of time and effort to produce the catalogue in advance. This is your opportunity to get that bargain, or alternatively unload your surplus gear – or even both!

Message from the Chairman

I do not know if you are aware that I have assumed the mantle of Treasurer for the Main Guild as well as Chairman. This has taken a fair chunk of my time and I am well aware of the fact that I have not been to any outing this summer which the Branch has laid on. In the present circumstances I do not feel that I can do justice to the members of the Sussex Branch by remaining as Chairman. My involvement has been limited to say the least. I shall therefore not stand as Chairman at the next AGM. Thank you for all your patience with me.

A.M.

We now have until the AGM in December to find a replacement for Alan to continue to lead the development of the Branch. Give it your serious consideration, and any suggestions to Committee members, please.

NEW MEMBERS

(and old ones too)

We welcome all new members, some of whom have already paid their subscriptions, and hope they will enjoy and gain benefit from our classes, meeting and outings. The Main Guild has made a "special offer" for new members, detailed in "*Fly Fishing and Fly Tying*", and any new member who joined us direct can take up this offer too – some £45 worth of tools, materials and a copy of Terry Griffiths' book on fly-tying, all for £20.

Alan Middleton will be bringing along a sample pack for examination on the first night on 29th September, and we will take orders then and subsequently.

Don't forget too that we have available sweaters, polo shirts, caps etc with the Branch logo, all available from our Equipment Officer, Jim White.

"*The Fly Tyers' Bible*" is also to be had from Roy Gurney at the bargain price of £10 (r.r.p. £16.99) as this is used as our Course Manual.

A salutary lesson.

Earlier this summer my fishing friend and I were spending a day at Farmoor reservoir near Oxford. The reservoir is a large concrete bowl surrounded by the usual reservoir wall. Although Farmoor is not visually attractive the water is taken from the upper Thames, is clear and supports a good range of invertebrates especially buzzers and damselfly, and has a reliable evening rise.

Ian and I had been there all day with Ian taking fish with a lure and fast sinking line, while I was doing well with dry flies. In the late afternoon a fellow angler who had seen our success came and fished between us. Unfortunately he seemed unable to persist at one style of fishing: if Ian caught then he changed to a sinking line and then when I caught, he switched rods to a floating line. With all this changing he never managed to hook anything and became more and more frustrated.

Dusk approached without any success for our companion. In desperation he put a booby on his sinking line, cast out and put the rod down on the reservoir wall while he continued to fish with dry flies on his floating line – strictly illegal. I was fishing about 20 yards to his left when my concentration was broken by a clattering sound followed by a splash as a trout grabbed the booby and took line, rod and reel into the depths. The poor fellow was quite distraught but it was difficult to feel much sympathy for someone who was cheating.

Whenever I put my rod down to have a cup of coffee or similar I make sure my rod is secure by passing the handle of my landing net between the line and rod just in front of the reel and then push the net handle into the bank. If you lose a set up with a floating line you have just a chance of recovery but with a sinking line you have no chance.

John Plowman (September 2005)

Big Fish Competitions

Yet another reminder for you to please re-submit your entries if you have already made them, and get your new ones in as soon as possible. To remind you, the categories are:

Best fish from Sussex water

Best fish from Sussex reservoir (including Bewl)

Best brown from Sussex water

Best brown from Sussex reservoir or river.

The closing date is 31st October 2005 for ALL categories, and trophies will be presented at the AGM or Dinner.

South of England Autumn Show – 1st/2nd October

We will be manning a stand at this event at Ardingly – any volunteers to help please contact Roy Gurney on 01273 506184 ASAP.

Tackle Fair – 16th October

Whilst on the subject of demonstrations, we will also be demonstrating at the above which is held at the **Charmandean Centre**, Worthing.

Game Fair 2006 – Broadlands

With Game Fair returning to a more accessible spot next year, Paul Bond will again be organizing a coach party for the Saturday. Details in due course, but book early for a place at it is usually a sell-out! Contact Paul Bond on 01273 420410.

Finally:

**Fly tying recommences on
Thursday 29th September at
Patcham Community Centre
at 8 pm – we look forward to
seeing you again and
welcoming new members!**

Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

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