



Sussex Branch Newsletter



JANUARY 2006

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Some 22 members braved the elements and attended the AGM which was followed by mulled wine, mince pies and a quiz, all organized with his usual efficiency and flair by the outgoing Chairman, Alan Middleton. Alan will still be one of our instructors of course, and we will benefit from his boundless enthusiasm both as Chairman of the Main Guild and support for our Branch. He was deservedly awarded the Jonathon Glover Trophy for all of his efforts over the years, presented by our new Chairman, John Plowman. There was little change overall to the other Officers of the Branch, but it was pleasing to see some new blood elected to the Committee – this will ensure fresh ideas and progress for the future.

One important contribution from the floor highlighted the need to obey fishery rules on Branch outings, both from the point of view of respect for the owners, who have invited us to their fishery, and for the sake of sportsmanship. It is to be hoped that none of our members abuse hospitality or the basic ethics of our sport.

The new Committee is :

Chairman	John Plowman
Vice-chairman	Peter Curry
Secretary	Paul Bond
Treasurer	Roy Gurney
Competition	
Secretary	Peter Winder
Equipment	
Officer	TBA
Members	Chris Croucher Ray Love Bill Smith

plus two vacancies.

FLY-TYING COMPETITION 2006

This year's patterns are:

<u>Beginners:</u>	Prince Nymph & Black Pennel (one of each)
<u>Intermediate:</u>	Greenwell's Glory (matched pair)
<u>Open:</u>	March Brown (matched pair)

This year the Intermediate class will be open to all who have not won a prize at Intermediate or Open; anyone can enter for any class above his qualifying level, of course. Closing date for entries is **30th March 2006** and prizes awarded at the end of season gathering on 6th April.

The "McDougal"

Doug Chalmers of Ashbourne writes:

"Thought I might advise you of a new idea that we have introduced recently and which may be of interest to some of your members at this time of the year. The new challenge at Ashbourne is a McDougal, (very loosely based on the McNab of Scotland but not involving a stag, grouse or salmon!) The idea is to shoot a cock pheasant in the morning (walked up shoot with dogs flushing the woodland etc) and then, at lunchtime in the fishing lodge (nicely set up for a hot lunch of Ashbourne venison etc), tie a Pheasant Tailed Nymph from the feather of the bird you got, and then catch a trout in the afternoon with the tied fly before the light goes! We have had great success with this (even *Shooting Gazette* and *Trout & Salmon* magazines want to do an article on it!) and if a punter is successful they get a crystal trophy (a McDougal) as well as a decent bottle of champers. Just thought I would mention it to you as I'm sure that some of your members are shooters as well as fishermen.

The number of people is limited to a maximum of 5 due to the shoot and lunch in the lodge.

Next season we will be starting the McDougal challenge in October (to get a bit more light for fishing).

I thought you might be interested to let the Guild know about it - either for a few of them to do something in January or think about for next season.

Cost is £160 a head providing a really personal and quality day (good wines too!)."

Anyone interested contact Doug at 01892 864471 or e-mail DougChalmers@aol.com

JANUARY SPEAKER – PHIL WALLER

We are welcoming Phil for a return match on **19th January** when he (and his helpers) will show and demonstrate antique and vintage fishing tackle in a very entertaining way. Bring along your own vintage tackle for identification and/or valuation – the more the merrier!

TACKLE FAIR

Apropos our speaker, visit the above fair at the Charmandean Centre, Forest Road, Worthing (on the A27) on Sunday 22nd January, 9am-3pm. Phil will have a stall, and the Branch will have a demonstration stand.

Mounting Goldheads

By Phillip Ellis

Reading recently an American fly-tying magazine I came across a method of fixing goldheads or any type of bead without having to use a lot of thread and it saves time.

1. Put bead on shank of hook and put hook in vice as normal.
2. Take a length of lead wire about same diameter as hook shank and take four or more wraps around the shank behind the bead. Additional wraps can be made to add more weight if desired.
3. Push the front of the wrapped lead wire into the opening of the bead making sure the front tag of wire is pushed down. If it will not go in then you will have to use a smaller diameter wire. The wrapped wire must be pushed in to centre the bead, another advantage with this technique.
4. Now mount the tying thread and wind over the exposed wire to form a tapered thread bump. Coat the thread wraps with head cement or superglue if you wish. Now complete tying remainder of fly.

This idea is worth experimenting with as it certainly fixes the bead firmly. If you've got any other ideas of fixing beads let us know

Big Fish Competition 2005

We now have the results of last year's efforts and the trophies are awarded as follows:

Peter West Trophy

(best rainbow from a Sussex water)

Tony Harrison Chalk Springs 12lb 3oz

(Tony also had one of 11lb 8oz, followed by Peter Winder from Duncton at 10lb)

Brown Trout Cup

(best brown from Sussex water)

Paul Daltrey Chalk Springs 7lb 8oz

Bob Burbidge Chalk Springs 5lb 8oz

Members Reservoir Plate

(best fish from Sussex reservoir)

Jan Suppel Arlington 6lb 2oz

John Burt Barcombe 6lb 1oz

Eric Hunter Arlington 5lb 12oz

Frank Darrah Trophy

(Bowl Pairs)

Ian Dunk & Chris Croucher 5 fish

Chris Nunn & Andy Gibbs 3 fish

Charity Pairs Bowl

(Bowl)

Chris Croucher & Ian Dunk 7 fish

Jimmy James Memorial Trophies

(Branch Outing – best bag)

Peter Winder 23lb 10oz

Ian Dunk 17lb 4oz

Plowman Trophy

(Branch Outing – best fish)

Bill Smith 8lb

Trophy for Best Brown, Brook or Tiger

(Branch Outing)

Ray Love Brown 2lb 1oz

Trophies will be presented at the Annual Dinner.

Stillwater Challenge

In addition to the foregoing trophies, the results of the above competition were:

Best fish Paul Daltrey 7lb 8oz brown

Chris Croucher 6lb 8oz blue

Best bag Paul Daltrey 13lb 8oz

GAME FAIR 2006

Paul Bond requires cheques post-dated to 1st June 2006 and made out to "FDG Sussex Branch" to be sent to him by the end of February for those of you who have booked seats without deposit. There are a few seats left, so hurry up and contact him to ensure your seat – it is a great day out, for the other half too! Roy Gurney has some booking forms you can collect on Thursday evenings, or phone Paul on 01273 420410 or Roy on 01273 506184

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT LINES

Welcome to my first attempt at "Chairman's Chat". My fly tying skills do not come close to Alan's so I thought I would make these chats about things where I have some claim to expertise, i.e. science and technology where it impinges on fly fishing. They will probably not improve your fly fishing but may just enable you to understand the reasons behind your actions.

MODULUS: How often do you see rod manufacturers claim carbon fibres of "High modulus"? When a scientist or engineer wishes to describe the strength of a material the word "strong" can mean several things:

- (a) how much force is needed to break it- ultimate strength
- (b) how well can it resist sudden shock forces – toughness
- (c) how little will it deform when a force is applied

It is this last one that is measured by the "Modulus of elasticity" or **modulus**. Most materials that have a high modulus are also brittle e.g. glass and ceramics. Carbon fibres have a very high modulus but are also brittle in themselves; by embedding them in a tough material such as epoxy resin or nylon the tackle makers produce the compromise of stiffness and toughness we require. Simply put, the higher the modulus the stiffer the material will be but it may be less resistant to abuse.

A Happy New Year to you all.

John Plowman.

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