



Sussex Branch Newsletter



MARCH 2006

ANNUAL DINNER – 25th MARCH 2006

Have you got your tickets yet? If not, contact John Burt or Roy Gurney immediately and we'll make sure you will get in! As advised, it will be at The Dyke Golf Club, Seddlescombe Road, Devil's Dyke, Brighton, 7.30 for 8.00 pm.

Dress is lounge suit or smart casual, and tickets are £18.50 each.

Choice of menu is on the ticket application form.

Grand raffle organised by Jim White and Chris Croucher with outstanding prizes.

Fishing trophies will be presented to the 2005 winners.

SUSSEX PISCATORIAL

Sussex Piscatorial Society, one of the oldest angling clubs in the country, have a number of coarse and trout fisheries in Sussex where traditional angling methods are encouraged. The trout section has three lakes, one near Heathfield and two just west of Steyning. Not intended to hold large fish, one to two pounds, but purely for anglers to enjoy themselves in peaceful surroundings. Fishing is normally limited to three days each week per member and catch and release is encouraged. They also have a short stretch of the river Itchen in Hampshire that is currently undergoing restoration. The society does have vacancies in the trout section and anyone interested should contact Gordon Rippin on 01403 822742 who will give you full details. Membership is less than £250.00 per annum including guest tickets which is exceedingly good value.

Alan Bithell

We were treated to a masterful display of fly-tying by a master – working with the minimum of equipment and tying the most amazing replica flies. Whilst making it look simple, clearly practice makes perfect, but the patterns he demonstrated were simple in themselves and well worth a try yourself. His imitative patterns were simpler than those demonstrated by some other tyers, but just as life-like.

He completed the evening with a demonstration of tying furred leaders – let me know if anyone tries this one at home!

Once again our video/projection equipment came into use most effectively (once we had the focus right), but a word of warning – please do NOT switch the projector off at the mains; please wait for the person in charge of it that evening to do the necessary, as it has to cool down with its internal fan running to avoid burning out the (expensive) bulb.

Incidentally, we were pleased to welcome Chris Sandford in the audience – a reminder that all are welcome.

FLY-TYING COMPETITION 2006

You have until 30th of this month to get your entries in – get tying!!! To remind you –

Beginners: Prince Nymph & Black Pennel
(one of each)

Intermediate: Greenwell's Glory
(matched pair)

Open: March Brown (matched pair)

The Intermediate class is open to all who have not won a prize at Intermediate or Open, and anyone can enter for any class above his qualifying level.

PROGRAMME of EVENTS & OUTINGS 2006

As ever, there have already been some date changes to events – NOT the fault of the editor this time (well, not all of them). Here is the update so far:

South of England Show - 8th, 9th and 10th June

John Watt Competition - 2nd September

Please amend your programmes and alter the application forms accordingly. New programmes will be available in due course, and the web-site is already updated (wonder of wonders!!)

“Fly Tying for Beginners” by Peter Gathercole

As you are aware, we are using Peter Gathercole's book “The Fly Tying Bible” as the reference for our courses. The author has now published a new title in the same format, which is an equally fine reference book, not only for beginners but for anyone interested in progressing his tying.

Published at £16.99, we are pleased to advise we have negotiated a special price for this volume also and can supply it for only **£10.00** per copy. Roy Gurney has a small stock, so contact him now for your copy. The “Bible” is also available at the same price.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

There are still a few members who have still not renewed their subscriptions for this year. One or two may have paid the main Guild subscription direct, and forgotten to do the Branch renewal. Please remember that our programme of events is for paid-up members only (with the exception of the Auction and the Game Fair outing).

There is quite an expense in keeping members up to date with events and organising those events, so please let us know if you are not rejoining and we can delete you from the mailing lists.

March Speaker: Justyn Anwil

For all you salt-water fishermen (and especially those who have not yet tried it!) **16th March** sees a visit from Justyn Alwin of Bass Fishing UK. With the growing interest in salt water flies and fishing, courtesy of Ron and Brian, this should prove to be a most interesting evening. See you there – all guests welcome.

Furled Leaders – a different perspective from one member

Alan Bithell demonstrated making furled leaders at the end of his talk, but I for one am not going to try making my own -- “buggers muddle” comes to mind!

Darrel Martin describes making these leaders in his book “Micropatterns”.

If you wish to obtain them they can be purchased from:

Furled Leaders
“Pear Tree Cottage”

The Hill

Little Somerford

Chippenham

Wiltshire SN15 5JP

(Phone: 01666 822905

Mobile: 07870 305749)

Web site: www.furledleaders.co.uk/home.htm

P.E.

[*Editor's note – They are also available from the Grayling Society, either direct (ask Roy Gurney for details) or from their stand at the Game Fair or other shows.*]

GAME FAIR 2006

Paul Bond still has some vacancies on the coach for this highly recommended day out for both halves of the family (unless you don't want “er indoors’ to see you buying all those goodies! – or perhaps she might have expensive tastes in country wear, too!). Roy Gurney has some booking forms you can collect on Thursday evenings, or phone Paul on 01273 420410 or Roy on 01273 506184. Cheques post-dated to 1st June 2006 and made out to “FDG Sussex Branch” and should be with Paul by the end of March.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT LINES

“Why does water appear shallower than it really is?”

Every angler knows that when he sees a fish in clear water the fish appears closer to the surface than it actually is. The angler will need to allow for this difference when presenting his fly to the fish.

The reason for this apparent difference is the speed of light in air compared with its speed in water. Light travels at 300 000 km per second in air but only $\frac{3}{4}$ of this in water. Both these speeds are so large that under most everyday circumstances we are not aware of their effects.

Imagine you are walking along a path with a fence on your left. If you put out your left hand then it will make contact with the fence and your left side will be slowed. This will cause you to turn towards the fence.

The same thing happens to light at the surface between light and water. The part of the light wave moving into the water is slowed down and the light changes direction and turns into the water. The reverse occurs when light moves out of water into air. So light coming to you from a submerged fish changes direction when it passes through the water surface.

However, our brain has learned through all its experiences that “Light travels in straight lines”. The only way our brain can cope with this is to imagine the fish is in the position it would be had the light not changed direction. The result; we “see” the fish closer to the surface than it really is. In practice you need to add an extra third to the observed depth. A fish that appears 3ft deep is really 4ft down so you need to allow for this extra depth.

Finally, can I encourage all of you to take part in the events that your committee has arranged for this coming season, and to stick to the deadlines. We owe it to our hosts to give them plenty of notice of changes of numbers etc. Thank you and tight lines!

John Plowman.

FOR SALE

Brand new waterproof “Country Collection” coat, size XL, $\frac{3}{4}$ length, never worn (purchased wrong size!). Tartan wool lining with inner pockets, Made in England. Original price £40+ - great value at £30. Contact Albert Horne (01903 765237) or Roy Gurney (01273 506184) if you are interested.

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