



## Sussex Branch Newsletter



APRIL 2006

### JUSTIN ANWYL

With one of the best turn outs of the season (some 50 members and guests) it is clear that fly fishing for salt water species is catching on. They were rewarded by a very informative discourse on all aspects of bass fishing in the south of England, with particular reference to comparatively local Chichester, Hayling Island and the Dorset coast.

An attentive and appreciative audience was able to handle and appreciate the superb Orvis tackle used by Justin, giving them the "feel" of the subject.

His advice on when, where and how to fish, and which colour to favour at different times of day, will be gratefully received and tested by many.

A lively question and answer session further demonstrated the interest in salt water fly fishing - the next day saw one of our members purchasing a kit as offered by Lagoon Bait!

Apologies for the lack of pictures - unfortunately the crucial cable connection for lap-top to projector was not to hand, but the lack of illustration did not detract from the quality of the talk. Some were able to view the illustration on Justin's lap-top after the talk, so all was not lost.

Your secretary, Paul Bond, is currently fixing the exciting round of speakers for next season and if you have any ideas for subjects or speakers, let him know. The full 2006/7 Programme will be ready over the Summer - keep an eye on the web-site or enclosures to the newsletter.

### PROGRAMME of EVENTS & OUTINGS 2006

Just a few additions/alterations:

11 <sup>th</sup> May	Casting Clinic - Patcham
28 <sup>th</sup> May	Match v. East Sussex SATA - Chalk Springs
17/18 <sup>th</sup> June	Parham Country Fair
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Stillwater Challenge - Chalk Springs (change of date due to Original date clashing with the World Cup Final

An updated list of events is attached.

### LAGOON BAIT & TACKLE

#### Discount for Members

Peter Winder has asked me to remind all Branch members that they are entitled to a 10% discount on tackle bought from the shop. Just ensure that you mention you are a member.

### CASTING CLINIC

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May

A casting clinic will be held on the playing fields in front of Patcham House (opposite "The Black Lion"). Albert Horne will demonstrate how to cast a full line with what appears to be a mere flick of the wrist, and our other instructors will try to correct all those casting faults you will have uncovered so far this season! We will start soon after 6.30 pm, and continue till the fades. Just bring your rod and line and improve your skills.

### GAME FAIR 2006

Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>

Paul Bond may still have some vacancies on the coach. Phone Paul on 01273 420410 or Roy on 01273 506184. Cost £34 including entry.

**Anyone who has booked but not yet paid for his ticket(s) MUST let Paul Bond have his money or cheque, post dated to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006, by 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL. There are also a few seats left for those who have not yet booked.**

### ANNUAL DINNER

Nearly 50 brave souls ventured forth to attend the event which was held at the Dyke Golf Club. They may have set out in reasonable conditions, but low-lying cloud on the Downs meant that the last few miles were covered in pea-soup fog making driving quite hazardous! The ghostly figure waving a torch barely visible in the murk turned out to be John Burt, redirecting us to the overflow car park due to a failure of the gates! Thank you, John, for all your sterling work in organizing the dinner.

However, once inside the atmosphere was one of warmth and conviviality and we were treated to a first class meal by our hosts. Our speaker, Tom Todd, chairman of the East Sussex SATA and a ranger at Barcombe and Arlington, gave an entertaining speech on behalf of our guests.

Jim White provided a splendid range of prizes for the raffle and he and his band of helpers did a wonderful job in relieving us all of our cash! Many thanks for this effort in boosting Branch funds. Trophies were presented after the dinner as follows:

**Peter West Trophy**

**Tony Harrison**

(best rainbow from Sussex water)

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Annual Dinner (Contd.)

**Brown Trout Cup**

(best brown from Sussex water)

**Members' Reservoir Plate**

(best fish from Sussex reservoir)

**Frank Darrah Trophy**

(Bowl pairs)

**Charity Pairs Bowl**

**Paul Daltrey**

**Jan Suppel**

**Ian Dunk &  
Chris Croucher**

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Chris Croucher**

**Branch outing at Duncton**

**Jimmy James Memorial Trophies** (best bag)

Winner

**Peter Winder**

Runner-up

**Ian Dunk**

**Plowman Trophy** (Best fish)

**Bill Smith**

**Best brown, etc**

**Ray Love**

**Stillwater Challenge**

**Best fish**

**Paul Daltrey**

**Best bag**

**Paul Daltrey**

Unfortunately, a couple of the trophies were not returned in time for presentation – if you have one, **please** return to a committee member pronto!

Jan and Ray were not at the dinner, so their trophies will be presented at the Social on 6<sup>th</sup> April.

## 2006 ROD RAFFLE

This was drawn at the Social also for the following 16 magnificent prizes, provided by Lagoon Bait & Tackle with a retail value is in excess of £1200!

1. Diamondback V&R 9' #5 fly rod - John Cooper
2. Greys G-lite reel - Lee Redman
3. Fishing Rod Holdall - Roy Gurney
4. Danica fly-tying vice - Andy Steer
5. Orvis fly-vest - Peter Buss
6. Orvis Fitover Polaroid glasses – Brian Broadbridge
7. Magnilight - Chris Croucher
8. Cape - Tony Harrison
9. Orvis Clearwater 10' #7 fly rod – Brian Broadbridge
10. Cape - Roy Gurney
11. Wooden Fly box - Bob Burbidge
12. Large Okuma Fly box - Peter Buss
13. Small Okuma Fly box - Steve Chow
14. Cortland 555 line - Chris Croucher
15. Cortland 555 line -
16. Orvis line-winder - Steve Fowler

Congratulations to the winners – commiserations to the rest – better luck next year. Heartiest thanks to Bill Smith for his hard work in making this such a success – remember ALL takings go to purchasing the prizes.

## “Fly Tying for Beginners” & “The Fly-tying Bible” by Peter Gathercole

Each published at £16.99, we can supply either for only **£10.00** per copy. Roy Gurney has a small stock, so contact him now for your copies.

## FLY-TYING COMPETITION 2006

The winners of this year's competition are: -

**Beginners:** Harry Richardson

**Intermediate:** Tony Harrison

**Open:** Jim Harris

The trophies were presented at the end of season Social, together with permanent mementos provided by our chairman, John Plowman.

## 2006 Big Fish Competition

Jim White captured, towards the end of 2005, a beauty of a rainbow from Blackwool Farm. Some of you may have seen the picture in “Trout Fisherman”. This puts him at the head of the big fish league for this season so far (we will run the rainbow section from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005, as we finished early last year) but there is plenty of time for you to get your entries in. Last year's winners are detailed elsewhere in this newsletter, so you have some targets!



Here's another – **Aubrey Wooton** is going for the Brown Trout Cup – 10 lb + from Chalk Springs:

## Flyfishing for Allis Shad

On May, 6th 2005, Sam Davis broke the IGFA 'all tackle' world record for the Allis shad while taking a break from a week's salmon guiding in central Brittany. The 60 cm fish which weighed 2.31 kg (5 lb. 2 oz.) almost doubled the weight of the previous world record Allis shad of 1.19 kg (2 lb. 9 oz.) held since June 2001 by Stephane Giraudeau.

Instead of fishing for salmon on the river Aulne, on the evening of the 6<sup>th</sup> Sam decided to take his 7 weight and fish for shad. The conditions seemed hopeful with fish cruising on the surface and light levels dropping slowly, coupled with a slight tail wind to aid casting. Since the river flow was quite strong and the majority of 'taking' shad were located in deep pockets between current seams just below the weir at Coatigrac'h, he switched from a WF7 to a high density sinking line to get down to the fish quickly. Early in the evening, the session appeared to look quite productive with 5 fish in the 4 to 4.5 lb. range succumbing to various number 8-sized mini fly lures with color combinations ranging from red and white, green and black, to the most productive, chartreuse and white.

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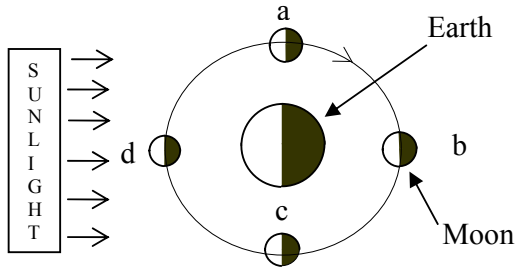
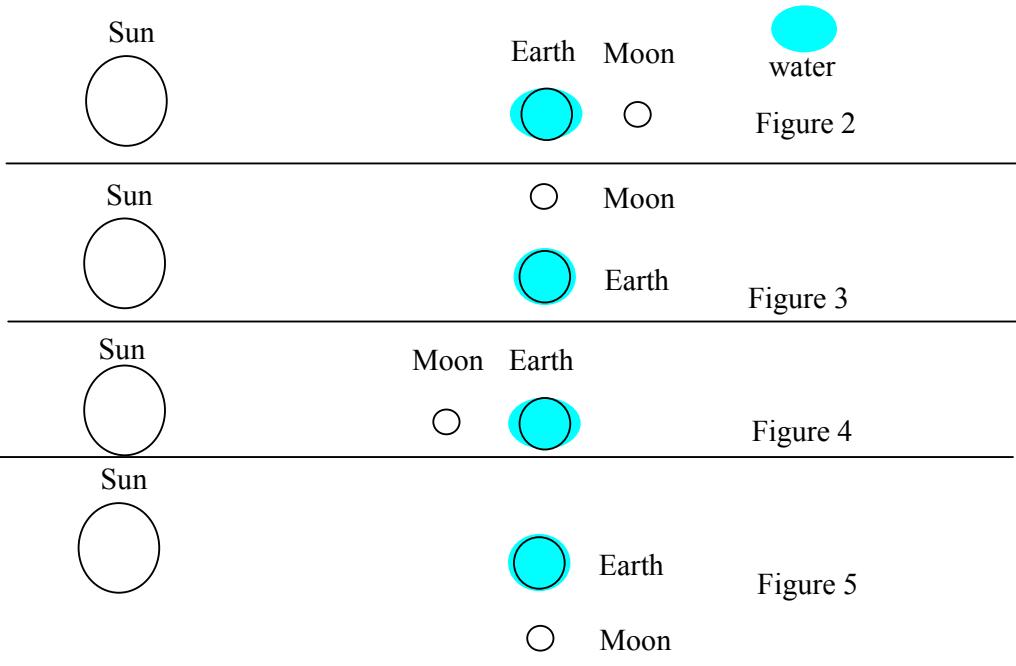


Figure 1.



At our last meeting when we were given a fascinating talk on sea fishing for bass some people seemed to be confused over the link between the Moon and the tides. I will try to explain. (This is the simplified version and some of you may be able to spot the simplification! If you want the full works then ask me).

All the diagrams above are viewed from above the Earth's North Pole

Figure 1 shows the moon in orbit around the Earth with light from the Sun falling on both Earth and moon. When viewed from the Earth the Moon will appear "new" at d, full at b, and half Moon at a and c.

Since the Moon orbits the Earth once every 28 days then 1week passes between each of the positions a,b,c and d.

The next 4 diagrams are most definitely not to scale!

The gravity of the Earth is sufficient to keep the Moon in orbit, but the effect that the gravity of the Moon has upon the Earth is much less. All it can manage is to pull the water of the Earth towards the side of the Earth that is facing the Moon. This gives a bulge in the water on the side facing the Moon. Inertia causes a similar

bulge on the opposite side. As the Earth rotates, the "bulge" is held in place by the Moon's gravity so a coastal area experiences two high tides every 24hrs (almost).

Unfortunately, things are never so simple! The Sun, although much larger and further away, also has a gravitational effect on the oceans.

Figure 2 shows the Sun, Moon and Earth all in a straight line so that both the Sun and Moon pull the water "bulge" in the same line. The same thing happens in figure 4. The water bulge is at its greatest and we experience a spring tide. From figure 1 you can see that this occurs at new and full Moons.

Figures 3 and 5 show the Moon and Sun pulling at right angles. The water bulge is now at a minimum. The tidal range is also at a minimum and we experience neap tides. Looking at figure 1 shows us that these occur at half moons.

So now you know!! The easiest way is to use a torch, football, tennis ball and golf ball in a darkened room to model the processes. Finally since the Moon rotates around the Earth every 28 days then the "bulge" moves 24/28 of an hour each day (51 minutes) so each day high tide moves forward by this time.

*John Plowman*

(continued from page 2)

Most takes resulted from casting cross-current, then allowing the fly to sweep and sink towards the centre of the river where the shad would normally 'pluck' or 'hammer' the lure.

To avoid losing the interest of the shad, he would systematically change fly sizes (normally from size 6 to 8 and vice versa), colour combinations, and patterns. However, after a couple hours of trying various lure combinations, he was now down to the last unused fly of the evening which was a simple dull silver fry pattern. After tying on the fly, Sam cast to the left bank of the river, but as soon as the fly started to swing, a fish came up and crashed the fly. Instinctively, he pulled sharply on his line hand while lifting the rod to embed the fly into the shad's bony mouth. Immediately after the hook-set the shad was in the air dancing as if he had tarpon blood in her. Then as quickly as it was airborne, the shad would lunge for a deep run using the current to her advantage by turning sideways to use the current for leverage. After 10 minutes of a seemingly endless scenario of 'flight' then 'dive' the fish finally tired and glided sideways into his landing net. After re-grouping from the fight, Sam rushed home to look up the existing record on the Allis shad. It is then he realized that, if certified, he had caught the second largest 'all tackle' shad on record.



*Sam and his big shad*

## Shad? Where can I get one?

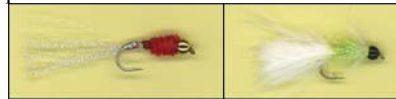
So you're thinking, if this European fish fights this good, where in the U.K. can I go and catch one? For the U.K. fly fisherman, the depressing answer comes in the form of the **Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981**. This bit of legislation makes it illegal in U.K. waters to catch Allis or Twaite shads via commercial or leisure-angling methods. The old culprits of over fishing, pollution and water abstraction head the list of reasons for prohibiting shad fishing in the U.K. But don't throw in the fishing towel just yet as the solution to this angling problem lies just across the channel in Finistère ('Land's End'), Brittany.

Although virtually unknown to English-speaking fly fishermen living outside of France, every year Brittany plays host to a special home-coming. Starting from mid to late April, the river Aulne near Châteaulin (just 30 minutes from the city of Brest) boils up and comes alive with prolific runs of Allis shad. These migratory spawners are easily

observed below the last 3 weirs of the Aulne river (also known as the Nantes to Brest Canal). Allis shad migrate upriver often alongside the Atlantic salmon and are as big as many returning grilse. Although fishing for the Allis shad is very popular in the south of France, this is not the case in Brittany where most local and visiting French anglers to Châteaulin concentrate their efforts solely on catching spring salmon. This fishing snobbery exhibited by French fishermen towards Allis shad helps to create a wonderful fly fishing opportunity for the rest of us! Therefore as a result of under-fishing the population of returning Allis shad is composed of many fish averaging 4 lb. or more.

Visiting fly anglers to Brittany not only have a chance to catch these hard-fighting silver 'nut cases' but still have the opportunity to hook the next world record. Recent scientific studies plus Sam Davis's own observations indicate that there are still some big critters amongst the returning legion of Allis shad to the rivers of Brittany with fish in the 80 cm range amongst the returnees. So the story of big shad on the fly isn't a red herring after all!

A couple of shad flies:



**Sam Davis** is a fishing guide, fishing gîte owner and casting instructor. Contact him via his web-site [www.fishandfunbrittany.com](http://www.fishandfunbrittany.com) to avail yourself of the fishing described above. Graham Dadswell of World's End Angling, Burgess Hill, has been there and can give first hand details, too.

## DEMONSTRATIONS Volunteers wanted!!

No, not the banner-waving type, but our stands at various shows where we give tying demonstrations. We need volunteers to man these – great fun as you get free entry to the show and meet a lot of like-minded people. The more we have, the more time spare to look around the show! You don't have to be a prizewinner to do that, and it gives you a chance to make a few for yourself (or for sale). Give the organiser or Roy Gurney a call and help out at one or two of those on the programme.

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