



Sussex Branch Newsletter



AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2006

SOUTH OF ENGLAND SHOW

In all of the panic in getting out the last newsletter your editor missed out on reporting on the above. We once again had a place by the casting pool in the countryside section and found ourselves on our own flying the flag for angling, apart from the overworked casting instructors, Bob Hales and Brian Raw, who were in great demand. Where, oh where, were the Salmon and Trout Association who once again missed the opportunity to foster interest in angling? We received several enquiries from the public who were expecting their presence. Our own stand got off to a disastrous start when, on setting up on the Wednesday before the show, found that the gazebo was missing from the trailer! It was too late to do anything that evening, so the gear was towed away, as we could not access the gazebo due to holidays. However, we "borrowed" a gazebo, hastily purchased some walls for it, and returned on the Thursday to erect it. As a result we missed demonstrating that day, but managed to get two full days on the Friday and Saturday.



David Holmes and Jim Harris manning the stand



John Plowman shows Brian Raw how to do it!

The weather was baking hot and this may have affected turnout, but we were kept busy with enquiries and recruited some new members, who are very welcome.

Grateful thanks to all who helped – especially David Holmes who was press-ganged in because he had a tow-bar on his car! He, together with Brian Hendry, Jim Harris, Tony Harrison, John Plowman and I, manned the stand over the three days and we look forward to more members joining the band of volunteers for these shows.

Branch day - DUNCTON

As some of you know, Peter Winder recently suffered a heart attack, from which we are pleased to report he is recovering well. However this has meant he will not be organizing the outing to Duncton on **24th September**.

Chris Croucher and Bill Smith have kindly stepped into the breach and volunteered to run the day, complete with barbecue, so if you have not already sent your booking form to Peter (who will pass it on) contact **Bill Smith NOW**, either by post with your cheque for £36.00 (made out to "Duncton Mill Fishery") at:

**Chanctonbury,
New Way Lane,
Clayton, HAS SOCKS,
West Sussex, BN6 9PP**

or ring him on 01273 845173.

It is a great day of fishing with trophies for best bag and best fish, to say nothing of Chris's renowned barbecue!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

With this newsletter you will find enclosed (or attached if by e-mail) renewal forms for both branch and main guild subscriptions, which are due on 1st September. Those members who have joined (or renewed) since June will be considered paid up and will not require renewal till 2007.

Please ensure you let the Treasurer/Membership Secretary have your subscription right away, to avoid "chasing" and to ensure the Branch (and Guild) remain solvent! If you pay the Guild direct, remember to send your Branch subscription to Roy as well.

Please note that if you don't pay up promptly (i.e. by mid-October), the "Flydresser" will not be sent to you. The "mid-October" period of grace is granted to allow for those who pay on tying nights which start again on **28th September**.

Schools' Day at Ardingly

13th July 2006

Despite my 40 years as a schoolteacher it was with some trepidation that I agreed to put on a demonstration of fly tying for 2000+ primary school pupils. I had visions of hooks in fingers, feathers as Indian headdresses and scissors being used to cut hair.

Fortunately my fears were unfounded and Brian Hendry and I had a busy but enjoyable day as most of the 2000 moved before us with questions such as: "What's that?", "Can I have it?", "Is it real?"

Brian spent the day tying sea flies (copies of sand eels, shrimp, squid and whitebait) while I stuck to daddies in the hope that some might recognise the natural. The youngsters were well-behaved and carefully supervised and both of us felt that the day had been a worthwhile exercise.

The short day ended at 2.30pm to allow the children to get home to all parts of Sussex and then Brian and I were treated to an excellent buffet lunch by the show organisers. They hope to repeat the exercise next year.

John Plowman

MICHELHAM PRIORY

Game & Country Fair, 15/16th July 2006

The Guild gazebo and display stands had been in my car for just two days after the outing to Ardingly before early on Saturday morning I arrived at Michelham Priory to set up. Brian Hendry, reliable as ever, was already there so we quickly assembled the tent and displays and set to work. Early on I was presented with an olive hen cape by one of the fishing tackle stands to see what I could do so I took this as a challenge and using only thread and the cape tied: damsel nymph, buzzer, matuka, Adams, gamarus and sedge. Brian was using synthetic materials to tie his salt water flies.

On the Saturday Brian and I were joined by Jim Harris, clearly showing why he won the Guild open competition this year, and on the Sunday by Alan Middleton. The weather was good for all the weekend and much interest was shown by the public. Alan did a good job at recruiting new members.

John Plowman

Tying Tip

When tying in a Marabou wing or tail the presence of static electricity can cause the material to 'flare' and interfere with the tying in process. This can be overcome by drawing the material several times through a well moistened finger and thumb. The marabou fibres will now cling together.

The material now becomes more manageable and tying in is easier, it also gives a fair indication as to how the material will appear when saturated under water.

Jack Jupp

Match v. Crawley Fly Fishers

Chalk Springs, 13th August 2006

After the recent hot weather, it was almost a relief to find lower temperatures, albeit accompanied by showers. As usual the fishery was in fine condition, with fish showing, but not co-operating! Most anglers found the going hard and only a couple (both from Crawley) managed their 4 fish limit. Even our "top gun", Chris Croucher could only boast three, but what fish – the biggest was 8lb 4oz with a total bag of 19 lb 8oz, to take the individual title.



Bill Durrant nets his second

However it was not enough to avoid Crawley retaining the trophy with a total of 65lb 8oz for 18 fish against the Branch's 60lb5oz for 16 fish.



Bill Smith reluctantly hands over the trophy

2006 Big Fish Competition

Entries close for brown trout on 31st October and rainbows on 31st December. Get you entries in as soon as possible so that we can get the "league table" up to date.

CHARITY PAIRS COMPETITION

Sunday 8th October

If you haven't already done so, get your entry in now for this great day at Bewl. We have teams from several other branches and clubs who bolster our own internal entries. If you want a boat partner, organiser John Plowman can get you one, so contact him **NOW** on **01825 762975**.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Bass Bags

Now that we are used to the hot days of summer its rime to understand how to keep our hard one catch cool until we get home. The modern way is to use an insulated bag with a cool pack from the freezer but many of us still use a bass bag. This, when thoroughly wetted, will keep its contents at a lower temperature than the water it has been dipped in.

To use it properly the fish need to be placed in a plastic liner (any polythene bag will do) which is then placed inside the bass bag. The bass bag is then thoroughly wetted and then placed in a shady spot on the bank. As the water on the bag slowly evaporates the contents are cooled.

The very small particles of all matter are called molecules by scientists. These molecules (especially in liquids and gasses) move around at speeds ranging from slow to very fast. This normally need not concern us but the large scale effect of the **average** speed of the molecules in a sample of liquid or gas is its temperature. So in hot water the **average** speed of the molecules is higher than in cold water.

At the surface of water the very highest speed molecules are fast enough to leave the surface where they may be blown away by the movement of the surrounding air. If you remove the highest speed molecules from the water then the **average** speed of those remaining must be less i.e. it has a lower temperature.

This is why wet skin feels colder than dry even though the air temperature is the same. It also explains how the bass bag works. However you must remember to keep the bass bag wet and out in the air. Simply dangling it in the water will not have the same effect.

Finally, on a different topic can I encourage as many of you as possibly can to attend the Charity Pairs competition at Bewl on 8th October. I still need a boat partner for myself. If you are new to reservoir boat fishing don't be shy for it is an enjoyable day out where the competitive side need not be taken too seriously. If you need any info. then contact me at 01825 762975 or at beehives@btinternet.com.

John Plowman.

BRANCH EQUIPMENT

As you have been advised, we are currently seeking a volunteer for the position of Equipment Officer. In the meantime Roy Gurney has a small stock of items, and can take orders for any not in stock to set the new man on his way:

Sweatshirt with branch logo – green	£18
ditto - red	£18
Polo shirt with branch logo - green	£12
ditto - navy	£12
Caps with branch logo - green/buff	£10
FDG cloth badges	£2.60
FDG enamel badges	£2.50
Wheatley aluminium fly-boxes	£7
Multi-tools (similar to Leatherman)	£5
“Fly-tying Bible”	£10
“Fly-tying for Beginners”	£10

STILLWATER CHALLENGE

Chalk Springs – 23rd July

Nineteen members fished this highly appreciated annual event, superbly organized once again by Chris Croucher and Lee Redman, whose BBQ is one of the culinary highlights of the season! We particularly welcomed two new members, Bill Durrant and Matt Staplehurst, and hope more of our new members will avail themselves of our organized events.

On a warm, overcast but dry day, which brightened up in the afternoon, fishing was hard. However, only two blanked, and 36 fish totalling 128lb were caught in all with an average weight of some 3½lb. Some fine fish were banked; Alan Middleton had two browns of 5¾lb and 4½lb in the afternoon, Ray Bond a brown of 4½lb and Bill Smith a blue of 4lb 2oz. The honours went to:

3rd place - Bill Durrant – 3 fish for 10lb 13oz

2nd place - Bill Smith – 4 fish for 15lb 2oz

1st place - Chris Croucher – 4 fish for 23lb 15oz (a rainbow of 10lb 7oz, two blues of 5lb 4oz and 4lb 6oz and a brown of 3lb 14oz).

Many thanks to Bill Smith who donated two bottles of champagne as prizes, and to Chalk Springs Fishery for donating a day's fishing for the winner (and of course for hosting this event and providing such excellent fishing).

EDITOR'S NOTE

Sorry for the lateness of this edition – holidays and other interruptions have put me right behind schedule. To be fair, however, I have been waiting for items to publish – I am sure that there are lots of stories, tips, news etc which you can supply, so let me have your contributions, please!

And finally –

SUBSCRIPTIONS PLEASE !!!

**Don't delay – get them in
the post today and ensure
your continued receipt of
the “Flydresser” .**

Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

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