



Sussex Branch Newsletter



NOVEMBER 2006

Charity Pairs Competition

Sunday 8th October

On a fine, sunny Sunday morning fifty four optimistic fly fishermen put their boats out onto a somewhat turbid Bewl Water. The Bewl team had told us that conditions were difficult due to recent high water temperatures and the earlier algae bloom. The top metre or two of water was relatively clear and this is where we might catch fish. We were advised to avoid the extremities of the two arms and stick to the water between ferry point, the cages and the dam.

Jim Harris and I motored to an area 200 m. to the east of the cages and let the boat drift without drogue in the gentle southerly breeze. Within ten minutes I was into my first fish, a lean full tailed rainbow that looked half starved, and ten minutes later Jim caught his first fish. Two fish in twenty minutes on what we had expected to be a difficult day – we might even win!

At this point the fishing gods looked down on us and said "That's enough". For the remainder of the day despite our best efforts neither of us made permanent contact with another fish.

At the 5pm weigh in we discovered that our experience was better than average with a total catch of forty fish from fifty four anglers. The best boat caught five fish.

My personal thanks must go Janet Beeney and the team at Bewl who had everything ready for us on the day so at least the organisation went without a hitch even if the fish were not cooperative.



Overall winners:

Nigel Govett and Trevor Bourne from the North Kent FDG (5 fish)

Sussex FDG winners:

Tim Cripps and Richard Lewin (3 fish)

Match (4 boats each) between Sussex Branch and Dorking FF:

Winners:

Sussex with 6 fish for 13lb 14oz.

(Dorking failed to attend the weigh in as 3 of their boats went home early, but a later phone call claimed 3 fish)

The real winners were all anglers who competed, raising **£248.70** for the British Heart Foundation. Thank you.

John Plowman

AUCTION 2006

Thursday 16th November

The catalogue for this is enclosed (or attached by e-mail) . Bring your friends as well as your wallet/cheque-book!

All are welcome, members and non-members.



John Plowman hands the cheque for £248.50 to a representative of the British Heart Foundation, showing her an example of what we do!

The strange behaviour of water.

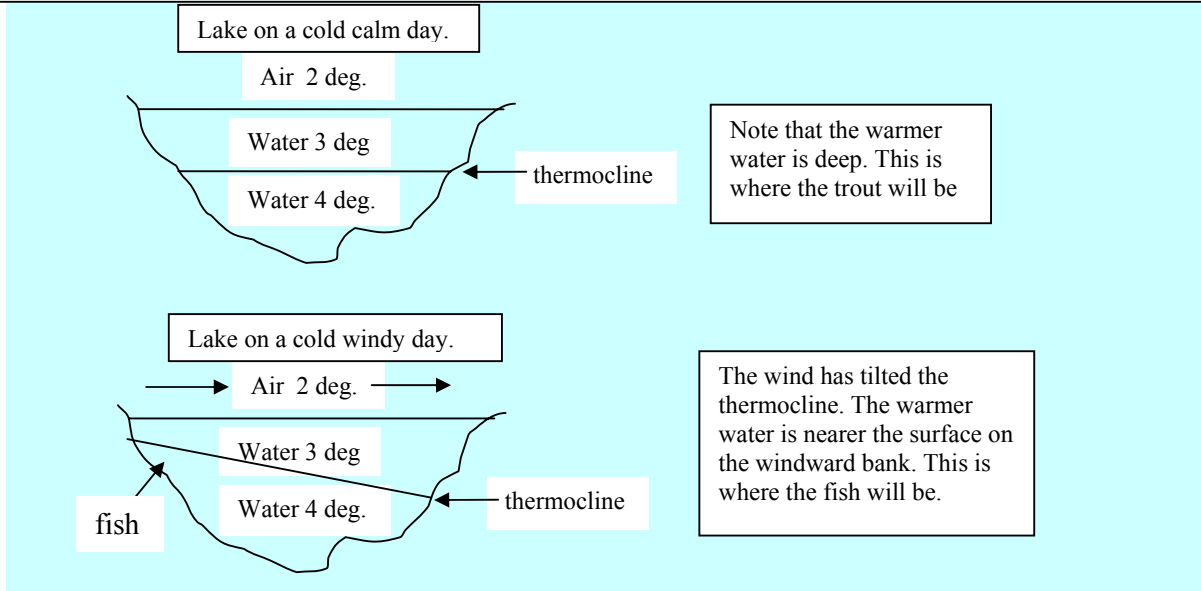
All of us recognise the old style thermometer where a line of coloured liquid moves up and down a narrow tube to indicate temperature. The liquid is usually mercury or dyed alcohol. This begs the question "Why is water not used?" Your answer may be that for temperatures below 0°C the thermometer would freeze and break. This is correct but there is a more fundamental answer than that.

Most substances expand when heated and contract when cooled. This is not always true for water. There is a range of temperature for which **water expands when cooled**. When water cools from 100°C to 4°C it behaves normally i.e. it contracts.

However, below 4°C it expands and continues to expand as it changes to ice.

We normally expect warm water to rise and cool water to sink but below 4° the opposite happens: **WARM WATER SINKS!**

Without this strange behaviour of water our deep oceans would be mostly ice at the bottom and life as we know it would not have evolved! On a more mundane level knowledge of the behaviour of cold water can help us with our early and late season fishing .



So, when air temperatures are close to freezing, then fish with the wind behind you and find the deep water.

John Plowman

MAHSEER

A visitor to our stand at the SoE Show at Ardingly was John Cranfield, who asked if we could help in designing a fly for mahseer fishing in fast flowing Indian rivers. Although we were unable to do so immediately, if anybody knows of a pattern which will sink rapidly (possibly by incorporation of a vane to assist in taking it down) let us know – just weight is not sufficient, even with a Hi-D line!

To give some idea of the prey, John has sent this picture of one caught on a fly rod, but using a sort of plug rather than a fly:



John Cranfield and Mahseer

FISHING

Having failed to deliver on the mahseer flies, Brian Hendry won John over with his salt water flies, and persuaded him to try fly fishing for bass off Shoreham Harbour. Not quite in the league of permit in Florida or mahseer in India but it will be interesting to hear how John gets on!

Now let us have **your** knowledge on mahseer flies!

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