



# Sussex Branch Newsletter



**DECEMBER 2006**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A reminder that the AGM will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> December, followed by a quiz and mince pies organized by our Chairman, John Plowman. The AGM is your opportunity to influence the way the Branch is managed – let us have your ideas - remember that new committee members are needed for the ongoing development of the Branch.

The agenda and minutes of last year's AGM are sent with this newsletter, and we look forward to seeing you then!

Correction to minutes: The Jonathon Glover trophy was awarded to **Brian Hendry** – please amend.

## AUCTION 2006

An even bigger turnout for this year's auction saw some 65 bidding cards issued, with a total attendance of some 70 persons. Once again we had a big entry of items, though down on last year to a (slightly) more manageable 300, of which a majority were fly-tying items from the estate of a member of the Guild, plus some generous donations from Mrs Angela Herbert, Jack Jupp and John Perry. The turnover of £2520 was extracted with his customary humour from an apparently reluctant audience by our good friend, Mike Humphreys, President of the Guild. Mike deserves a hearty thank you from us all for his generous support and considerable effort in conducting a very enjoyable auction. Thanks are also due to the untiring efforts of the porters and clerks who kept things running smoothly.

And now for the very good news – the Branch benefited to the tune of **£819** of which some £630 was from the donations mentioned above. After subscriptions, this event is our major source of income and benefits all members by enabling us to book speakers, organise events, buy equipment and keep the Branch riding high, reducing the necessity to raise subscriptions even when costs are rising generally.

Next year we are hoping to start a little earlier, now that we have things running more smoothly, avoiding the very late nights of the last couple of years.

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

The Chairman regrets(?) there is no erudite contribution this time – he is on holiday in New Zealand, so with a bit of luck he will have some tales to tell – surely he has taken a travel rod with him! (He'll be back for the AGM)

## FLY TYING COMPETITION

This year's competition flies are:

### Novice:

**Flashback Pheasant Tail Nymph** – p. 96-7

**Soldier Palmer** – p. 156-7

One of each pattern on size 10 hook

### Intermediate:

**Light Cahill** – p. 48-9

Two flies on size 12 hook

### Open:

**Muddier Minnow** – p. 196-7

Two flies on size 10 long-shank hook

Page numbers refer to "The Fly-tying Bible" where full tying details can be found.

Entries to be handed or sent to Paul Bond or Roy Gurney by **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

If anyone requires a copy of "The Fly-tying Bible", copies are available from Harry Richardson or Roy Gurney at the very competitive price of £10. Peter Gathercole's "Fly Tying for Beginners" is also available at the same price.

## Mahseer Flies - continued

You may recall we had a request for information and ideas from John Cranfield a little while ago. He has been busy designing deep diving patterns and has sent some interesting pictures of his developments:



*"The Dead Chicken Fly"- note the weight*

(cont'd)



*Diving version of Dead Chicken Fly*



*Hook with vanes (and weight!) attached*



*Vanes ready for attaching to hooks*

John tested the patterns in the swimming pool of his hotel in Mombasa, to the great amusement of the staff. Full marks for the inventiveness of the designs - we now await with bated breath the outcome of trials v. the mahseer!

The target is to get the fly to sink downstream in fast flowing turbulent rivers when even Hi-D lines stay on the surface due to the current. Any ideas?

## Subscriptions

I know it is unseasonable to raise such a thorny subject, but anyone who has not renewed by now will have been removed from the mailing list of the "Flydresser". However, if you cough up NOW you can be re-instated – just let Roy have your subs!!!!

## Jonathan Glover Trophy

Especially for new members, we remind you that this prestigious trophy is awarded at the AGM to the member considered to have given the greatest service (often in the background like organising events) to the Branch during the previous year or maybe over several years. Winners of the cup in the past three years are not eligible, which means the following are NOT in consideration:

Brian Hendry, Jack Jupp and Roy Gurney.

This year, there are some names "in the frame" such as Chris Croucher, Jim Harris, Bill Smith, and others, but the decision is **YOURS**. Please vote by handing or sending the name of your choice to a committee member before the AGM.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED!!

Once again we face another year with the same old workhorses running your Branch. One or two of your committee may be standing down for various reasons and in any case there is always room for new blood to bring new ideas to running the Branch. How about some volunteers from the newer members?

## MERRY CHRISTMAS



## AND TIGHT LINES!!

*Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild*

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