



# Sussex Branch Newsletter



## JANUARY 2007

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM had a disappointing turnout of only 19 members – bearing in mind this is your opportunity to influence the running of your Branch. Mind you, it could be construed as a compliment to the Officers and Committee who have been running the Branch, presumably to your satisfaction. It was followed by mulled wine, mince pies and a quiz, organized by our Chairman, John Plowman, and thoroughly enjoyed by all. There were some minor changes to the Officers of the Branch, Harry Richardson being confirmed as Equipment Officer and Peter Winder relinquishing his duties as Competitions Secretary for health reasons; his successor will be appointed by the new Committee. We also welcome two new members who will undoubtedly bring fresh ideas.

The Jonathon Glover Trophy for the member who has given outstanding service to the Branch was awarded to **Chris Croucher** for his contributions year on year in organising the Stillwater Challenge and other events – maybe his BBQs had something to do with it! Congratulations, Chris.

Your new Committee is:

Chairman	John Plowman
Vice-chairman	Peter Curry
Secretary	Paul Bond
Treasurer	Roy Gurney
Competition Secretary	TBA
Equipment Officer	Harry Richardson
Members	Chris Croucher Paul Davis Ray Love Bill Smith Tony Woolnough

### PETER GATHERCOLE - OUR JANUARY SPEAKER

We welcome Peter on **18<sup>th</sup> January** when we anticipate a first class account of his fishing exploits and a demonstration of his fly-tying skills. As author of our course handbook, "The Fly-tying Bible" he is specially welcome.

### FLY-TYING COMPETITION 2007

Just a reminder:

**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:**

**Muddler 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**

### Good News for Anglers

You may have missed the following press release in December from DEFRA – let us hope it does not go the way of other Government initiatives!

"Millions of anglers will benefit from government plans for new powers designed to improve freshwater fishing across England and Wales.

The measures are aimed at boosting stocks of salmon and other fish, will put in place better controls to prevent the introduction of alien fish species, remove obstacles stopping fish reaching breeding and feeding grounds and help to address the growing problem of fish theft.

Fisheries Minister Ben Bradshaw today announced that new laws would be brought in as soon as possible now that a government review had been completed.

Mr Bradshaw said:

'Angling is our most popular leisure pursuit with huge social, health and environmental benefits. Our existing laws are out of date and not effective enough. The new laws should mean better conservation and regulation ensuring a better future for anglers.'

The government intends to use secondary legislation under the Regulatory Reform Act, the Water Framework Directive and other recent European measures to achieve the improvements. "

## Big Fish Competition 2006

We now have the results of last year's efforts and the trophies are awarded as follows:

### Peter West Trophy

(best rainbow from a Sussex water)

**Jim White Blackwool Farm 20lb 1oz**

Eric Hunter Brick Farm 12 lb

### Brown Trout Cup

(best brown from Sussex water)

**Tony Harrison Chalk Springs 15lb 13oz**

Richard Lewin Chalk Springs 14lb 14oz

### Members Reservoir Plate

(best fish from Sussex reservoir)

**Chris Croucher Bewl Water 4lb 6oz**

### Frank Darrah Trophy

(Bewl Pairs)

**Ian Dunk & Chris Croucher 16 fish**

Ian Foster & Gary Gwynne 16 fish

### Charity Pairs Bowl

(Bewl)

**Tim Cripps & Richard Lewin 3 fish**

### Jimmy James Memorial Trophies

(Branch Outing – best bag)

**Ray Love 5lb 8oz**

Peter Winder 4lb 12oz

### Plowman Trophy

(Branch Outing – best fish)

**Richard Lewin 3lb**

### Trophy for Best Brown, Brook or Tiger

(Branch Outing)

**Ray Love Brown 2lb 1oz**

Presentations will be made at the Annual Dinner.

The results of the **Stillwater Challenge** were:

**Best fish Chris Croucher 10lb 7oz**

**Best bag Chris Croucher 23lb 15oz**

Bill Smith 15lb 2oz

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT LINES

A Happy New Year to all Sussex fly dressers! Thank you to all of you that attended the AGM for 2006. Your committee will soon be completing the programme of events for the coming season so I hope you will all find something to enthuse you.

I suspect many of you, like me, have spent the long darkness hours of winter tying the "killer patterns" for 2007 and carrying out minor repairs to braided loops etc. With so many new fly patterns appearing each year don't forget the old traditional flies. Flies that have been successful for so long must be good or they would have long been forgotten. Do make sure your fly box contains a pheasant tail, a Wickhams fancy and my own favourite- the gold ribbed hare's ear.

Can I ask each of you to make a point this year of doing three things for the Guild?

1. Attend at least one of our outings/competitions.
2. Take part in one of our fly tying demonstrations at country shows.
3. Write one article for the newsletter.

If we can all do this it will ease the load on those who at present do most of them.

Tight Lines for 2007.

*John Plowman.*

## ANNUAL DINNER

Make a note for your diary – we are holding this at the **Dyke Golf Club** on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2007**, 7.30 for 8 pm. Full details and booking forms will be issued next Newsletter, but expect price to be about £19 per head. The food is excellent, the company great and you can collect a wealth of prizes from the raffle.

Trophies for the competitions will be presented after dinner

## TACKLE FAIR

The next Tackle Fair will be held at the Woodlands Centre, Rustington, on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February. Once again we will have a demonstration table and look forward to seeing you there. Lots of good vintage tackle as well as new, and some good bargains to be had.

## R.I.P. BARCOMBE!

Many of you will already have heard that South East Water have decided to discontinue fishing at Barcombe Reservoir, citing Health and Safety and security (there are many hazardous chemicals on the site) as well as difficulty in maintaining water purity in this changing climate. Sad news, but not entirely unexpected, especially as financially it was also running at a loss. Consequently we will not be having a Barcombe Evening this year – any ideas for a substitute?

## BEWL AUCTION

The annual auction of tackle at Bewl Water will be held on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February** at 2 pm, viewing from 12 noon. Always a good event! Bewl FF hold their AGM prior to the auction.

## FOR SALE

**Peugeot 206 Allure 1.6 Coupé Cabriolet**

**Reg. 2004 (04) 20,000 miles.**

**Immaculate condition, blue with leather upholstery, fully equipped. Still has 7/8**

**months to run on warranty. Price £10K**

**o.v.n.o. Contact Roy Gurney in first**

**instance – seller is close friend and I**

**have first-hand experience of the car.**

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