



Sussex Branch Newsletter



FEBRUARY 2007

ANNUAL DINNER – 24th MARCH 2006

With this newsletter you will find an application form for tickets. Please complete and return to John Burt as soon as possible, or alternatively hand it to Roy Gurney on a Thursday evening (with cheque) in order to book your place.

As usual, we are having it at **The Dyke Golf Club, Seddlescombe Road, Devil's Dyke, Brighton**, 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Dress is lounge suit or smart casual, and tickets are £19.50 each.

You will note that a choice of menu is on the ticket application form – from past experience all choices are first class!

We will have grand raffle organised by Jim White and Chris Croucher with outstanding prizes and the fishing trophies will be presented to the 2006 winners.

INVITATION TO LOCH FISHING

Crawley Fly Fishers enter a team in a national league for friendly competition, visiting several venues over the season. They would be keen to invite any members of the Branch to join them on an Associate basis to enable them to have a bigger rotation of participants. As Tony Kaatze, their Secretary, says: "One thing to remember is we go for a day's fishing with good company; catching fish and winning is a bonus."

One of their well-known members has provided the following article :

COMPETITION LOCH STYLE FLY FISHING – CRAWLEY FLYFISHERS STYLE.

Roy has asked for our club to put together a piece to explain competition flyfishing to you. Crawley Flyfishers are a small club who for many years have been participating in the Association of Major Fly Fishing Clubs league. This is a Loch style competition fished over the season and involves teams of six fishing the home waters of clubs in each league.

It is fished to international rules. That is drift fishing from boats, unweighted flies and fishing to fishery limits with a time bonus weight if fish are caught within the eight hour competition.

Crawley is quite a small club compared to Bewl, Armed Forces and some of the Midlands clubs. To turn out a team of six for the competitions is sometimes hard and as we have a good relationship with yourselves we are asking for any of the FDG members interested in swelling our ranks to put the names forward.

I realise that some will wince at the thought of competition flyfishing especially Loch style. But let me explain why this competition is different.

Crawley has an unenviable and unique record in this competition. We will never be relegated from our league. That is, there isn't any league

to drop down into! We are usually last on the day and somewhere near the bottom of our league each year. It's an odds on bet that if there was a league below us we would get relegated into it.

So why do we do it? This competition was set up for clubs to enter in a friendly and sporting manner. It is an opportunity to fish a variety of waters and a chance to learn from the experience. You get to meet some of the top guys and meet new friends. Of course there are some serious clubs who are looking to get promoted or win the leagues. Crawley isn't in to that sort of thing. We go out as a team and enjoy the day. If we get a result, such as not being last, it is an achievement. In fact we have actually won an association day. This is a day where all the leagues fish together and at Bewl we took top honours! In 2006 we had two wins and with two matches to go were second in our league. Unfortunately on one of the competitions we could only manage to field four anglers and we dropped away. Hence our request to your members.

All you need to be able to do is cast flies and want to have a good day out. You don't have to be the best - one of our members hadn't fished in a boat in his life. He has improved his skills in that he has always caught and can even cast buzzers on a 30 foot leader! Some of you know Baz Reece who is one of the Crawley club members. He started entering local competitions with Crawley and then the AMFC. From that start he has gone onto gain International medals for England. But even with the lure of better teams Baz has always fished with Crawley in this competition as he feels it is how competitions should be fished.

So there you have it, Friendly, fun and a good day out. What more could you want? Names to Roy and form an orderly queue please.

Baz Reece

As Baz says, let Roy Gurney have your names and he will pass them on .

Where Do You Keep YOUR Tackle?

By Phillip Ellis

A working colleague recently told me all his tackle, coarse and game, was stolen from an outhouse over Christmas. I said to him "You should have kept it in the loft or in house" and his reply was, "My wife would not allow it"! Now, some years ago I had my bag stolen out of my car whilst it was in the drive overnight prior to a trip, just at the time that I was upgrading my reels and I reckon the value to be close on a £1000. Yes, just think about the number of reels and lines you have, each one is likely to be worth to replace over a £100 and what about all the spare spools! I was not covered for insurance in that instance so I had to start collecting again almost from scratch. I did find my boxes of flies thrown over a wall in my road. From that point I realised that leaving gear in garage or shed was a risk and did not want to lose again. I now leave it somewhere very secure and, if stolen, would be covered by insurance. Talking of insurance, do make sure you have a policy that covers it.

If your tackle is in an insecure place give some thought to keeping it away from thieves. The loft is a good place to start, say, during close season, or not being used for some time. If you have to keep it in the shed or garage, think about getting a secure lockable chest and if needs be padlock to a ground anchor. Another piece of advice is to try and not to draw attention to yourself when loading the car prior to a trip as you could become a target from then on, as I am sure that is why my car was broken into. When you go fishing think about what you leave in car; yes it happened to me some years ago when fishing a reservoir on holiday, so have the minimum in your car and out of sight.

Do give your tackle security some thought before you lose it. Where do I keep mine? Well that's my secret!

FLY-TYING COMPETITION 2007

Don't forget to get your entries in!

The Intermediate class is open to all who have not won a prize at Intermediate or Open, and anyone can enter for any class above his qualifying level. Closing date for entries is **15th March 2006**.

EVENTS & OUTINGS 2007

Application forms for various events and outings arranged for this Summer are enclosed. Please complete and return to the respective organiser as soon as possible as, unless he has your details, he cannot assure you of a place! The competitions and matches are not meant to be anything more than a good excuse for a day's fishing with friends – do join in and enjoy yourself! Some of the dates shown on the Programme may be changed – watch the Newsletter and web-site for updates.

ARLINGTON REPORT

We are indebted to Jack Jupp for this report on the Arlington/Barcombe members' meeting in December:

" First the good news, fishing ticket prices will remain unchanged for 2007 !

The Ranger's report for the 2006 season at Arlington stated that around 8000 fish were stocked with about 4000 being caught. The early part of the season was disappointing, due to very low water temperature. Fishing improved during April with the boats doing better than bank fishing and continued to improve during May and became very good in June when there was some excellent dry fly fishing before closure on 30th June.

The reservoir re-opened in October, fishing was slow but picked up well during November. There was little activity in December, anglers choosing to stay away because of poor weather conditions.

In 2007 the Arlington season will change, now from January 2nd through to the end of December, the exception being the usual closures in July, August and September and those public holidays which fall in December. Membership forms will be available at the lodge as from 2nd Jan until the usual letter at the end of the month.

At Barcombe the early part of the season fished reasonably well and apparently there were good hatches of fly. However poor quality water pumped in to the reservoir together with high temperature combined to produce enormous blue-green algae blooms which seriously affected the fishing, the very last fish caught in 2006 was on 17th July.

The sad news is that Barcombe reservoir is now permanently closed for fishing as the Health and Safety authorities have ruled there should not be any public access to the site because chlorine gas is used in the water treatment plant."

February Speaker Geoff Cherrett

15th February sees a first visit from Geoff – a professional fly tier who will talk about and demonstrate the techniques he uses and life making money from tying flies.

A note for your diary

Well known angling writer **Brian Clarke** will be speaking to the Rother Valley Branch, Havant on **Tuesday March 6th**.

Brian who has been the angling correspondent with the Times for many years and has written a number of books including the famous "Trout & The Fly" still referred to after so many years. If you are prepared to make the trip you will not be disappointed.

Peter Gathercole

It was a great pleasure to greet our January speaker, already known to us as the author of our course book, "The Fly Tying Bible", in person. We were treated to a splendid display of techniques tying some of his patterns, as well as a lesson in how to tie our target patterns for this year's competition!

His mastery of winging on the March Brown left us in awe, and I am sure enlightened all as to how to do it – whether we can and will is another matter!!

It was also very pleasing to welcome past guest speaker Peter Cockwill along – he and the other Peter had been on a photo shoot earlier in the day.



Peter and Albert discuss finer points

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT LINES

During my recent holiday in New Zealand I had my first real introduction to upstream nymphing. With a fast flowing river and a depth of around five feet, the nymph needed to be heavily weighted to get down near the river bed. The technique was to use a large heavy tungsten head nymph followed 18 inches behind by a smaller weighted nymph. All the fish were caught by the smaller nymph. Here is its dressing:

Hook:	size 12 standard wet fly
Thread:	black or brown
Head:	small gold bead.
Tail:	two brown goose biots tied in a short "V"
Rib:	fine gold wire
Body:	dubbed brown rabbit or similar
Thorax:	as body
Wing buds:	two white goose biots tied flat along body so that tips just reach the base of the tail.
Hackle:	just one or two turns of red game. Fibres only slightly longer than hook gape.

If more weight is needed then it uses a lead wire underbody. Using this fly I caught three wild rainbows in less than one hour. The best was 24 inches long.

I do not know the name of the fly nor that of the insect it imitates but it should work well whenever a weighted general purpose nymph such as GRHE is required.

John Plowman.

Editor's note: This sounds almost like the Prince Nymph but tied with a hackle

How sharp are your scissors?

Albert Horne offers a scissor sharpening service – avoid those infuriating times when your thread frays out or that tinsel just doesn't cut smoothly. He can also load your reel properly with backing and line if required. Have a word with him on tying nights or ring 0903 765237.

HOW GOOD IS YOUR RIVER?

**2nd Riverfly Conference, 8th March 2007
Natural History Museum, London**

The Riverfly Partnership Conference heralds the national launch of the Anglers' Monitoring Initiative. Endorsed by the Environment Agency and the Salmon & Trout Association, amongst others, the initiative enables angling groups to monitor riverfly populations and highlight severe changes in the water quality of their rivers.

Paul Knight, Chair of the Riverfly Partnership, will open the conference programme, followed by a keynote speech from the Head of Policy at the Environment Agency. Speakers, including anglers, Environment Agency staff, conservationists and academics, will be discussing the conservation of riverfly populations and the associated impact of river management, farming and climate change.

Jeremy Paxman will chair a panel discussion, taking questions from the floor.

Further details, including the conference programme and booking form can be found on www.riverflies.org.

Registration: Contact Bridget Peacock at the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, b.peacock@nhm.ac.uk, 0207 942 5932.

Cost: Registration is £45 for corporate delegates and £30 for individuals. The cost includes refreshments, lunch and a conference pack.

Sponsors: Natural History Museum, Natural England, Environment Agency, Salmon & Trout Association, Buglife, Wild Trout Trust, National Biodiversity Network.

PROGRAMME

The last page of this newsletter is the provisional programme for 2007 – save it till it is updated, or view the web-site for any updates

Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

Chairman: John Plowman 01825 762975
Secretary: Paul Bond 01273 420410
Treasurer: Roy Gurney 01273 506184

Editor: Roy Gurney, 7 Eldred Avenue, Brighton
BN1 5EB

Phone: 01273 506184

Fax: 01273 881209

E-mail: roygurney@ntlworld.com

Visit our web site

Sussexflydressers.org.uk

The Flydressers' Guild Sussex Branch

Programme 2007/8

<u>January</u>	4 th (Thursday) 18 th (Thursday)	Fly tying recommences Peter Gathercole will regale us with further exploits and more of his favourite flies.	
<u>February</u>	15 th (Thursday)	Professional fly-tyer Geoff Cherrett will talk about techniques he uses and life making money from selling flies.	
<u>March</u>	25 th (Sunday) 4 th (Sunday) 15 th (Thursday)	Tackle Fair, Woodlands Centre, Rustington - Demonstrating Albury Lakes – Branch outing Tony Woolnough, one of our members, will give an illustrated talk on his work as a fisheries engineer.	Roy Gurney Paul Davis
<u>April</u>	24 th (Saturday) 5 th (Thursday) 22 nd (Sunday)	Annual Dinner at the Dyke Golf Club End of Season Gathering – with prizegiving Bewl Water - Frank Darrah Pairs	John Burt John Plowman
<u>May</u>	7 th (Monday) 13 th (Sunday) 26 th (Saturday)	Yew Tree Fishery – Match v. East Sussex SATA Arlington – Match v. Eastbourne F F Heathfield Show - Demonstrating	Roy Gurney Bill Smith John Plowman
<u>June</u>	3 rd (Sunday) 7/8/9 th (Thurs/Fri/Sat) 10 th (Sunday) 16/17 th (Sat/Sun)	Avon Springs - Match v. Surrey South of England Show, Ardingly - Demonstrating Ashbourne – Branch outing and BBQ Parham Game and Country Fair - Demonstrating	Chris Croucher Roy Gurney Roy Gurney John Plowman
<u>July</u>	12 th (Thursday) 14/15 th (Sat/Sun)	South of England Show, Ardingly – Schools Day - Demonstrating Game & Country Fair, Michelham Priory - Demonstrating	Roy Gurney John Plowman
<u>August</u>	22 nd (Sunday) 13 th (Sunday) 25 th (Saturday)	Chalk Springs – Stillwater Challenge Chalk Springs - Match v. Crawley FF Grafham Water – John Watt Trophy	Chris Croucher Bill Smith Chris Nunn
<u>Sept.</u>	20 th (Thursday) 23 rd (Sunday) 27 th (Thursday)	Speaker TBA Duncton Mill – Branch Outing with BBQ Fly tying recommences	Peter Winder
<u>October</u>	29/30 th (Sat/Sun) 7 th (Sunday) 25 th (Thursday)	SoE Autumn Show and Game Fair - Ardingly - Demonstrating Bewl Water – Charity Pairs Competition AUCTION	Roy Gurney John Plowman Roy Gurney
<u>November</u>	8 th (Thursday)	Speaker TBA	
<u>December</u>	13 th (Thursday) 20/27 th	AGM followed by Quiz and mince pies and mulled wine No meeting – Christmas break	
<u>Jan. 2008</u>	3 rd (Thursday) 17 th (Thursday)	Fly tying recommences Speaker TBA	
<u>February</u>	14 th (Thursday)	Speaker TBA	
<u>March</u>	13 th (Thursday)	Speaker TBA	
<u>April</u>	10 th (Thursday)	End of season gathering with prizegiving	

Please note that fly-tying and speakers' evenings are held every Thursday evening starting at 8 pm at the
Patcham Community Centre, Ladies Mile Road, Brighton, BN1 8TA