



# Sussex Branch Newsletter



**MAY 2007**

## MAIN BRANCH OUTING Change of date and venue

For nearly twenty years we have had the pleasure of visiting Duncton Mill for this event, initially as the guest of the founder, Ned Kelly, who started this beautiful fishery, and then his successors, Tom Bishop and more recently Martin Fleetwood, to all of whom we are greatly indebted.

Sadly, Martin has advised we can no longer hold this event on Sundays, and in view of the fact that some of our members are working Saturdays, we are reluctantly forced to find a new venue.

Consequently, after careful consideration, we are now trying a new venue and the event will now take place at:

### Lakedown Fishery

Swife Lane, Broad Oak  
West Sussex TN21 8UX

on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September**

Details of Lakedown and how to find it can be found on their website at:

[www.lakedowntroutfishery.co.uk](http://www.lakedowntroutfishery.co.uk)

but for those who don't have access to the web, Swife Lane is on the left hand (North) side between Broad Oak and Burwash Common on the A265 Heathfield to Hurst Green road.

In view of the trophies which accompany this outing – best bag, best fish, best brown etc, it was decided to have a special ticket allowing one fish from the “big fish” lake and three from the other three lakes; fishing the specimen lake will be by rota (five rods maximum at a time), leaving after the set time or when you have taken one fish, returning to the other lakes to continue.

The cost will be £52 which will include a first class buffet lunch (already sampled and approved by one of our members).

An application form is attached to the end of this newsletter which should be sent to the organizer, Peter Winder, with your cheque (post-dated) as soon as possible. Your utmost support for this event is sought, as if we can get 35 rods, we can have the fishery totally to ourselves – get your entry in now!!!!

## 2007 Big Fish Competition

Don't forget to get your entries in – we know some good fish have been taken, but so far very few have been actually entered! Do let us have your details so we can in effect have a “league table” by the end of the season.

## FRANK DARRAH PAIRS COMPETITION

On a warm and sunny day with a gentle SW breeze ten boats with twenty skilful(!) anglers set off for the waters of Bewl. At least nine boats did, for Bill Smith's and my boat had complete engine failure before we left the dock, but after an engine change we eventually joined the competition. After a morning in which the only use of my net was to retrieve Bill's hat from the water, all of us met for lunch where it became evident that there are two classes of fisherman in the Guild – expert and hopeless. Two boats had done well while the remainder were poor (most had blanked). After a reviving lunch with beer provided we were ready for the second half. All techniques from sinking line and fast stripped lures to floaters with static buzzers were tried with same results: I managed one perch and Bill one pull which did not stick. Eventually, out of nowhere, a trout grabbed my green and black Montana-like nymph. This was to be it for the day.

At the 5pm weigh in it became clear that on a very difficult day, the two expert boats had done well with eighteen fish between them and the remaining eight boats showed their class with just fourteen fish in total!

Congratulations to the winners Alex Rainbow and Chris Nunn, and also runners-up Chris Croucher and Ian Dunk.

I do hope those for whom this was their first trip to Bewl will not be put off this event in future. Last year the average catch was twelve per boat and several boats managed a full house of sixteen.

Results

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>1. Alex Rainbow and Chris Nunn</b>        | <b>10 fish</b> |
| <b>2. Chris Croucher and Ian Dunk</b>        | <b>8 fish</b>  |
| <b>3. Harry Richardson and Richard Lewin</b> | <b>4 fish</b>  |
| Everyone else (7 pairs)                      | 10 fish        |

*John Plowman*

## Equipment Officer

Our Equipment Officer, Harry Richardson, is departing later this year for Africa. We wish him a great time, but now it means we need someone to take over the reins. Not too arduous a job as the catalogue is done, and the stock is mainly held in the store at Patcham. Volunteers please contact John Plowman or Roy Gurney.

If you haven't received a copy of the catalogue of goods on offer, contact Roy for one.

## Some thoughts on variations of patterns by Ivan Everest

Most of us come into Fly Fishing through other branches of the sport, whether it be coarse or sea fishing, although the transition of switching from weighted lines and baits to lighter tackle can take some getting used to.

The art of presenting a single fly in the right place is initially a challenge in itself, hence our starting afresh by joining the Flydressers and being taught a new approach and different craft.

With some trepidation we go through the basic patterns (all fingers and thumbs and a few unprintable words), but eventually our offerings begin to take shape and also give us hope they may catch a fish.

Some of the older fly patterns are legendary and should not be overlooked but with the amount of modern materials available for tying purposes, there comes a time when we feel we can tweak a pattern and tie a variation (innovation will always be a challenge).

The fishing magazines offer a wealth of ideas and suggestions for us to take advantage of and in this respect Charles Jardine's articles are well scripted and balanced with the older and new materials.

My own humble offering is based on the pheasant tail and damsel nymph when a slim bodied fly is required:-

Take the pheasant tail and present it in the vice in the usual way, using a nymph hook, and tie down with the tail slightly flared for effect. A good selection of body materials and colours are now offered in the Lureflash Twinkle and Crystal Hair range and can be tied together as for feather or herl. Select three strands of your principal colour and one of Fluorescent Yellow to give the ribbed effect and reflective appearance.

Tie in the thorax cover over a mix of Partridge S.L.F dubbing with a touch of clear sparkle as an attractor, adding a brown head hackle for appendages before tying down.

These flies do not need wire or tinsel ribbing and if the body is varnished on completion you have a slim effective pattern.

The flashback damsel can be treated in similar fashion with colours to suit (photographs attached).



This body effect would be equally suitable for buzzers if given a try.

These flies are not radical and by adding a small variation they still keep the same foot print as the originals.

## Match v. East Sussex Salmon & Trout Association

7<sup>th</sup> May 2007

This year ESSATA hosted this event, which now seems to have replaced that against Rother Branch. Mark Brown, who is also one of our own members, organized things superbly on behalf of the hosts, providing us with a sumptuous picnic lunch, though his relations with the weather clerk might do with a bit of improvement!

Yew Tree Fishery provided some good fishing opportunities, including a delightful brown-only lake, which were not fully taken advantage of by some, including yours truly!

A total of 20 people fished though it was a little disappointing that we could only muster seven – due no doubt to the event being on Bank Holiday Monday – but the sides were evened up and the result was a good win for the hosts, who were presented with the Sussex Cup. A total of 34 fish were caught and the results were:

Sussex FDG	21 lb 13¾ oz
<b>East Sussex SATA</b>	<b>26 lb 12 oz</b>



*Mark Brown receives the Sussex Cup from Roy Gurney*

Our hosts generously provided individual prizes as follows:

Biggest brown (1lb .14oz) - Tony Harrison (FDG)

Biggest rainbow (2lb 9 oz) - Bill Smith (FDG)

Best bag (not including Best Brown or Rainbow)

went to Rod Yuill of ESSATA with 5lb 10oz.

and the Silly prize of best hat went to Vic (JR)

Hartley of ESSATA.

Thanks to Mark and all concerned for a great day, and to John Schumacher of Yew Tree for providing a fine venue.

Mark has sent the following to us:

"Please pass on my sincere thanks to all the members that attended on Monday. Despite the weather and my lack of catching I think the day went well and all looked as though they enjoyed themselves.

Regards

**Mark Brown**

## CASTING CLINIC

As your editor was away in Portugal, suffering blue skies, temperatures in the 20's and swimming in the pool before breakfast every day, he was sorry not to be able to attend this year's clinic. He understands that the weather was not so kind back home and relies on the following report sent to him by a long suffering member:

"Despite a damp day and evening four members turned up, assisted by Albert Horne and Phillip Ellis. Albert showed us all how easy it is to get a full line out at the age of 85 and make it look so easy. I think all those that attended found it useful and picked up a few tips

**PE"**

*Thank you to the hardy souls who braved the elements, and especially to Albert and Phillip for flying the flag!*

## ALBERT HORNE

Further to Phillip's comments on Albert's casting, hearty congratulations to him on being elected as a member of the British Fly Casting Club – a very select body of the tournament fly casters. Not bad for an 85 year old who does not use specialist tackle!!

## ASHBOURNE – 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Hurry, hurry, hurry – there are still a few places for this visit to what is probably the prettiest venue in Sussex – and great fighting fish too, as well as a BBQ to remember! Get in touch with Roy Gurney right away with your entry.

## Match v. Eastbourne F F

The day started fine but light rain began as the time came for setting off in the boats. Fishing was fairly difficult, though some found a few fish. The morning became worse as the weather changed, bringing wind and rain.

Some boats found it difficult to get back to the pontoon – Michael Brayne and Tony Keeley ended up being towed in!

After lunch the boats were abandoned, as the rain was now very hard. Some anglers ventured out to fish the bank, some went home and some waited for a break in the weather. Finally, after a close match Sussex FDG won by less than 2 lb.

David Painter took best bag at 7 lb 6 oz, just one ounce ahead of Colin Clark of Eastbourne! Paul Davis had best fish of 2 lb 7 oz (with another of 2 lb 6 oz), again beating J Anscombe of Eastbourne by just one ounce.

**WJS**

*Many thanks to Bill for his great efforts – even he couldn't control the weather! It does seem we have a jinx on the weather so far this season – let's hope it gets better from now on.*

## DEMONSTRATORS WANTED

As you are all aware, we attend several shows, etc with our stand to demonstrate the art of fly-tying. More volunteers are needed to spread the load. You do not have to be a prizewinning tier to do this and we have great fun with other exhibitors as well as getting free entry to the shows! Give John Plowman a call on 01825 762975. The South of England Show on 7/8/9<sup>th</sup> June, Parham Game Fair on 16/17<sup>th</sup> June, Michelham Priory on 14/15<sup>th</sup> July and the South of England Autumn Show on 29/30<sup>th</sup> September are next. Why not volunteer?

### Sunday 16th September – Lakedown – Branch Outing & Buffet

Trophies for best bag, best fish best brown, etc

**Cost £52 including grand buffet**

**Name**.....

**Phone No**.....

Please make cheques payable to **“Lakedown Trout Fishery”** dated 16<sup>th</sup> September 2007 and send to:

**Peter Winder,  
17 St Helens Crescent,  
Hangleton, Hove BN3 8EP**

**no later than 1<sup>st</sup> September.**

## **CHAIRMAN'S CHAT**

### **Preserving materials**

Last autumn I received a present from a friend in India who new of my interest in things wooden. I was a carved teapot stand. When I opened the package several cockroaches jumped out. I quickly resealed the package and jumped on the cockroaches. Cockroach eggs are laid in a small group of cells rather like a small wasp nest of about twenty individuals. It seems that these had hatched in transit from India and were waiting for me to open the packet!

What to do now? I did not want to burn the teapot stand but neither could I open the packet. Chemicals could be used if I could open the packet carefully but would I want to use the teapot stand if it was impregnated with noxious substances. I thought for a while and decided that my best solution was to freeze the cockroaches. Two weeks in a sealed bag in the freezer killed all the beasties and left the teapot stand unaffected.

By now many of you will be thinking that your chairman has completely lost his gold beads but not so. Many of us have valuable capes that are intended to last us a lifetime but if moths or mites get on to them then they can quickly be reduced to dust. It will do no harm to put all your capes into a zip top polythene bag and place them in your deep freeze for a week or two then next autumn when you are ready for another session of tying you can be assured that your capes are intact and will not be smelling of moth balls.

*John Plowman*

## **TYING EVENINGS**

This year we will start our winter programme a week earlier with a speaker on **20<sup>th</sup> September**, when Tony Hern from Albury Estate Fisheries will give a presentation on fishery management, followed by a demonstration of tying a dozen or so flies. Our tying evenings will then continue from 27<sup>th</sup> September in a similar form as before.

However, a number of members come along just to chat and perhaps do a bit of "freelance" tying, and we wonder if YOU would like to see some other activity on Thursday evenings. If you have any suggestions please contact a Committee member, or e-mail, write or phone the Chairman or Editor and the Committee will consider your ideas.

Full tying programmes will be sent out in good time, but you may have some ideas to put forward as to how we can make the evenings even more attractive

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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](mailto:roygurney@ntlworld.com)

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