



## Sussex Branch Newsletter



**AUGUST 2007**

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

With this newsletter you will find enclosed (or attached if by e-mail) renewal forms for both branch and main guild subscriptions, which are due on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Those members who have joined (or renewed) since June will be considered paid up and will not require renewal till 2008.

Please ensure you let the Treasurer/Membership Secretary have your subscription right away, to avoid "chasing" and to ensure the Branch (and Guild) remain solvent!

If you pay the Guild direct, remember to send your Branch subscription to Roy as well.

Please note that if you don't pay up promptly (i.e. by mid-October), the "Flydresser" will not be sent to you. The "mid-October" period of grace is granted to allow for those who pay on meeting nights, which start again on **20<sup>th</sup> September** with our guest speaker, Tony Hern from Albury Estates. **Tying nights recommence on 27<sup>th</sup> September.**

### TEAM FOR JOHN WATT 25<sup>th</sup> August 2007

Chris Nunn is struggling to get the second team for this great day at Graffham – surely there are some more keen boat anglers in the Branch who would like to regain the trophy we won a couple of years ago? The Branch pays for the fishing, so all it will cost you is the B&B if you go up on Friday night. Give Chris a ring urgently on **01825 765272** as he needs to book the entry by early August.

### Fishing Buzzers

As a follow up to my previous article I thought I would push on a stage further and see if an article on buzzers would create an interest.

So much has been written on this subject over the years since Skues opted to fish his patterns beneath the surface, thus falling out with the purists but opening up new opportunities for the future.

Buzzers usually come in a cluster or not at all and we can only guess as to what generates that movement to the surface which is when we start to get interested.

My own selection comes in various forms and colours, some tried and tested and some not, but all having that that body wrap I advocated previously for the nymphs, Lureflash and Crystal Hair strands wound together to give that reflective ribbed appearance and touch of realism.

With that combination of thorax covers in Pheasant tail or Pearl Lurex over mixed dubbings and some with a single turn of fine Coral Fritz, you would feel reasonably confident to give it a go.

I was fortunate on one occasion when visiting that lovely fishery at Kings Sombourne, near Stockbridge, to meet a chap who intended to fish the Test but because the water was cloudy decided to fish the lake.

We got chatting about the various options of flies and he produced this small fly box with a well tied selection of Buzzer/Nymphs. He had worked in different countries because of his profession and these flies, coupled with a 5wt rod, were the extent of his tackle. He advocated that was all he needed!! Makes you think.

How many of us would opt to fish a season or even a month with this set up? If trout feed over ninety per cent of their time on these under water insects, we could be missing some of the best fishing. Add a few deep water nymphs if you wish to cover the options, but this selection should give you some varied fishing.



*I.R.E*

## Schools' Day at Ardingly 12<sup>th</sup> July 2007

### *Connect with the Countryside*

This event is aimed at older primary school children to help them understand the way the countryside is used both commercially (i.e. farming, forestry etc.) and for recreation.

This is the second year of this event so once again Brian Hendry and I faced a barrage of questions as 2500 young people watched us tying imitation of insects. This year I was fortunate to have four dragonflies emerge from my garden pond and I managed to collect the nymph cases to display to the children. Brian had these in front of him while he compared the real with the artificial. A true copy of a dragonfly nymph would need to be tied on a long shank size 4 hook or larger! Brian also brought with him a range of nymphs and adults of the same insect, which he had superbly tied, to explain the life cycle of the naturals.

I stuck to Daddies and even persuaded several children to tie the legs for me. Their small fingers and young eyes did this with relative ease. The reactions of the children varied from complete ignorance of the life of a water insect to significant understanding. This latter group usually had a parent who was an angler. The commonest questions: "Is it real?" To which I replied – "Of course it is, you are not imagining it!" and "How long does it take to make?"

The whole event was very well organised and the children were carefully supervised at all times and as last year a generous buffet lunch was provided for all the stall holders when the show ended at around 2.30 pm.

My thanks must also go to Tony Woolnough who generously agreed to deliver, help erect, and dismantle our tent and tying tables.

*John Plowman*

## PARHAM GAME FAIR

Despite our report in the last Newsletter, it is with pleasure that we can report that the Guild flag was well and truly flown by our own Albert Horne. Thanks to Phillip Ellis's recruitment of casting instructors, Albert was able to concentrate on fly-tying in the GAIA tent. He had over a hundred salmon and trout flies on display and sold at least half of them! Thank you, Albert for your efforts.

## LOCH STYLE FISHING

Tony Kaatz of Crawley Fly Fishers has drawn attention to their Floating Line Boat Fishing event on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September**, 09:00 until 17:30, at **Bewl Water**.

This is not a competition but a day to try loch style fishing. They have a number of quite experienced members who will take out and help newcomers (and others) to this style of fishing in boats.

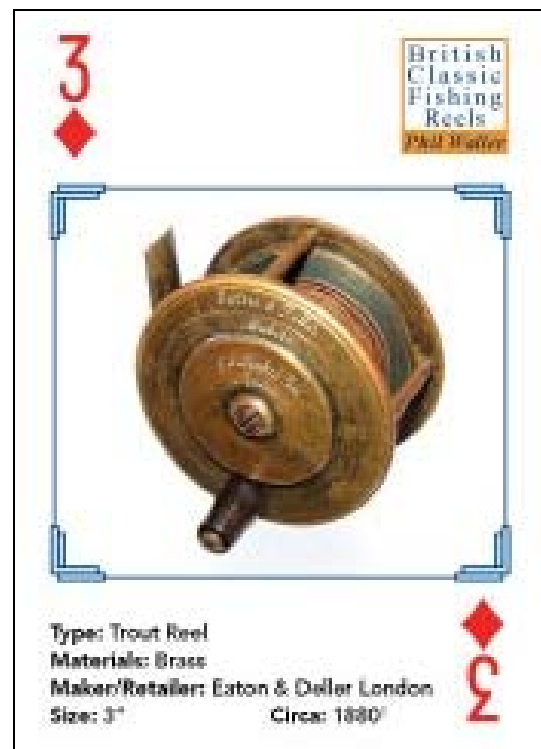
He has booked 10 boats and has a number of places left. If you are interested, give him a ring on **01273 834026 or Mobile 07742 181185**.

## Phil Waller puts his cards on the table



Spotted on E-bay – Phil Waller has produced a 500 limited edition pack of playing cards depicting vintage fishing reels. The pictures are of a high standard and this could be a very interesting gift for those interested in angling history.

Anyone interested in buying a pack should ring Phil on 0208 642 2357.



## TYING NIGHTS

Yes, believe it or not we are fast approaching that time when we resume our Thursday night spectacles. We are again running our usual courses and with this newsletter you will find the schedule of flies to be tied each week.

Remember you can sit in on any class you want to and hone up your skills on that favourite fly!

Classes start again on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September** but also note that we are starting the season with a speaker – Tony Hern – on the previous **Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> September**. Bring your friends, too.

## MICHELHAM PRIORY

### Game & Country Fair, 14/15<sup>th</sup> July 2007

Following on only two days after the Schools' event, Tony Woolnough again came to the rescue by delivering and helping erect the tent with Bill Smith and his good lady.

Brian Hendry and Roy Gurney manned the stand both days and by good fortune the weather did not live up to the dire forecasts and was reasonable good – if rather hot in the tent at times.

On the first day, Brian's salt water flies created a lot of interest, but the Sunday saw him tying some Green Highlander salmon flies for the manager of Michelham Priory – this time his box of various pattern salmon flies caught many an admiring glance.

We were placed a little away from a lot of the attractions, but right in the middle of the fly-fishing area with a host of instructors demonstrating and giving casting lessons as well as the SATA stand, all alongside the lake which was full of rising carp (who declined my offer of a deer-hair "bread fly" – maybe they wanted some Marmite on it!

Alongside was our own John Rush showing his new boats designed for fly-fishing, which evinced considerable interest and admiration.

Michelham is a lovely show and though interest may have been a little less than previous years, a "must" for the future.

For once we were able to pack the tent in the dry, and with the aid of Brian and Sheila Hendry, Ray Love provided the muscle and the van to return it to our store at Patcham.

## SOUTH OF ENGLAND AUTUMN SHOW AND GAME FAIR 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> October 2007

This is promising to be bigger and better than in previous years and once again we will be demonstrating in the planned "Fisherman's Row", alongside SATA and EA Ouse Preservation and other angling stands.

We will set up on the Friday evening, and volunteers for that and for demonstrating on the Saturday and Sunday please contact Roy Gurney as soon as possible so that a rota can be arranged.

Don't forget, those demonstrating will get free entry and time, (subject to enough volunteers!), to have a good look round the Show.

### JIM HARRIS does it again!!

Heartiest congratulations to Jim for achieving a remarkable triple success in the Guild's national fly-tying competition. He won both the Open Trout Fly and the Dry Fly trophies, and was runner-up in the Open Salmon Fly.

Keep a look out for the photographs which will undoubtedly appear in the "Flydresser" shortly

## STILLWATER CHALLENGE

Chalk Springs – 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Another successful event – Chris even managed to organize the weather! With the current summer(?) the majority of the 19 members turned out in waterproofs, but by lunch varying displays of strip-tease were to be seen as the temperature rose.

A total of 35 fish were taken, but with only four of the members completing a 4 fish bag, it can be seen that fishing was not that easy.

Best fish of the day went to Chris Croucher with a 6lb 14oz brown which, together with another two of 6-8 and 4-10, plus a rainbow of 6-5, gave him best bag of 24-5, winning a bottle of champagne, donated by Bill Smith. Runner up was Ian Dunk with 17-4, who was recipient of another bottle of Bill's champers. Gary Gwynne (12lb) and Steve Mustchin (11-7) were the other front runners, and Harry Richardson's only fish was a 5lb brown. Gary Gwynne had a 3lb 4oz blue in his bag of four.



*Chris Croucher receives his prize*



*Ian Dunk gets his too*

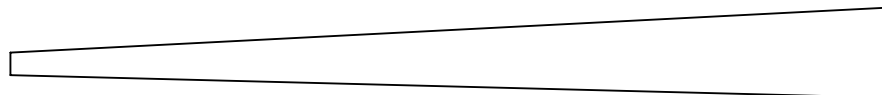
Once again we are indebted to Chris for laying on a superb barbecue and organizing this event – even if he seems to always win it!



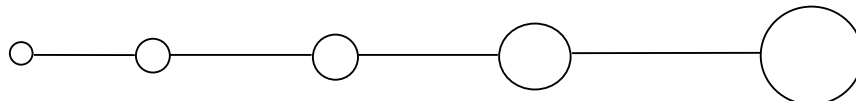
## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

### *Why are fly lines tapered?*

We are approaching the time when tackle manufacturers and retailers are beginning to discount some of their products especially the lines so perhaps it is timely to explain the need for a taper in our lines. There are two properties of a line that concern us: its weight and its elasticity. Both these properties are controlled by the materials in the line and dealing with them together is complicated so a scientist treats them as separate items. Rather than thinking of the line as a slowly decreasing weight with stretchy core the scientist separates the two



This continuous taper



Becomes this series of weights and stretchy strings

Now it is easy if you play snooker and bowls. With no spin when the cue ball strikes a colour the cue ball stops and the colour continues at the same speed. However, when the moving ball is heavier as when a bowl hits the jack then two things happen:

1. The bowl continues to move forward after the impact and
2. The jack moves off at a higher speed.

So as a tapered fly line turns over the main body of the line continues to move forward and the lighter tip is accelerated. Simple isn't it!!

Tight Lines.

*John Plowman*

## **BRANCH EQUIPMENT**

Our new Equipment Officer, Andy Steer, is waiting your orders! We have a small stock of items, and can take orders for any not in stock to set him on his way:

Sweatshirt with branch logo – green	£18
ditto - red	£18
Polo shirt with branch logo - green	£12
ditto - navy	£12
Caps with branch logo - green/buff	£10
FDG cloth badges	£2.60
FDG enamel badges	£2.50
Wheatley aluminium fly-boxes	£7
Multi-tools (similar to Leatherman)	£5
“Fly-tying Bible”	£10
“Fly-tying for Beginners”	£10

## **CHARITY PAIRS COMPETITION**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October**

If you haven't already done so, get your entry in now for this great day at Bewl. We have teams from several other branches and clubs who bolster our own internal entries. If you want a boat partner, organiser John Plowman can get you one, so contact him **NOW** on **01825 762975**.

## **AUCTION**

**25<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

Our annual auction is little earlier this year to enable new members to perhaps get kit etc in time for the season's tying. With this newsletter you will have entry forms for your entries into the auction - please return these as soon as possible and in any event by **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October** in order that the catalogue can be completed and distributed in good time.

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