



Sussex Branch Newsletter



OCTOBER 2007

NEW MEMBERS (and old ones too)

We welcome all new members, some of whom have already paid their subscriptions, and hope they will enjoy and gain benefit from our classes, meeting and outings. Don't forget too that we have available sweaters, polo shirts, caps etc with the Branch logo, all available from our Equipment Officer, Andy Steer.

"*The Fly Tyers' Bible*" is also to be had from him at the bargain price of £10 (r.r.p. £16.99) as this is used as our Course Manual. "*Fly Tying for Beginners*" by the same author, Peter Gathercole, is also available at the same price.

AUCTION 2007

7.45 pm prompt 27th October 2007

With this newsletter is a copy of the catalogue, with some 360 lots of both fishing and fly-tying tackle, plus a very good selection of books. Shake those moths out of your wallets and come and enjoy a great evening. Mike Humphries will once again officiate, so you are guaranteed a first class auction. Four late entries are detailed on the last page of this newsletter as they were too late for the catalogue.

Tackle Fair Cancelled

Please note that we have been advised the Tackle Fair at Rustington, scheduled for 21st October, has been cancelled.

A.C.A. – the Anglers' Conservation Association

As you may know, the Branch is a "club" member of this association. Whilst we do not have any waters of our own, we have always supported this organization, which does so much to protect our fishing in lakes, rivers and canals.

The ACA is trying to increase the number of individual members (of whom there are already many in the Branch) as the more members they have, the more seriously they are received by Government ministers and civil servants. Members of the Branch benefit from having an individual subscription of £12 rather than the usual £20 for the year. Contact Roy Gurney for membership leaflets or to read the Annual Report on their activities.



BLESS YOU . . .

This cartoon was spotted in "*Waterlogue*" Summer 2006 issue by Brian Hendry. Now the tying season is upon us we should remember colds and sneezes come at the same time!

And could that be our own Donald Downs giving the master class?

Geoff Cherrett

You may recall Geoff was one of our speakers last season. Geoff has recently acquired a small retail outlet in Steyning, details below: it is suggested that anyone wishing to visit the shop checks opening times with Geoff first.



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September Speaker

The season started on 20th September with the new idea of having a speaker to kick off prior to tying nights beginning. Our guest was Tony Hern, who manages the Albury Estates Fisheries (where we started the 2007 fishing season).

The 25 or so members and guests were treated to an admirable presentation of his life in fishery management, beautifully illustrated (despite the Heath Robinson projection) and confirming our decision to add Albury to our list of visits

He then proceeded to dazzle with a high-speed fly-tying demonstration, tying some eleven different flies in just over half an hour – all perfect and very, very fishable. This even included tying the legs for the daddy longlegs! Apart from the great skills involved, what impressed was the preparation and organization of tools and materials – a far cry from many of us mortals!

A splendid evening – our other “regulars” missed a treat – both the above super presentation and Tony Keeley’s delicious chocolate cake!

Jonathon Glover Trophy

Over the next few weeks, apart from Bill extracting money for the rod raffle, you will be pestered to vote for your choice for this year’s recipient of the above cup – awarded to the member who has given outstanding service to the Branch. The last three winners are not eligible, and they are Brian Hendry (2004), Alan Middleton (2005) and Chris Croucher (2006). Your nominations, please, to the Chairman, John Plowman, the Secretary, Paul Bond or to the Editor as soon as possible – voting slips will be issued later with the short list. The trophy will be presented at the AGM on 13th December.

FRANK WEST

It is with sadness that we have to report the death of this very long-standing member, and we extend our most sincere condolences to his family and friends

Grayling Fishing in Hampshire



I have recently been contacted by a river keeper in Hampshire to find out if I can find anglers interested in fishing a stretch of the river Itchen he manages. Pat Moyle works on the stretch of the upper Itchen that I manage for Sussex Piscatorial, which is purely wild Brown Trout and no Grayling, hence the reason for contacting me.

The Easton fishery is just east of Winchester, primarily a trout fishery lightly fished by the four or five syndicate members. It holds a good head of Grayling and the owners have been persuaded by the keeper to offer day tickets this winter, maybe for the need to get some income.

It is about one mile in length of main river and must be at least 10 metres wide, quite fast flowing and deep in places. I have fished it a couple of times with some success over the last couple of years. Recently I walked the stretch and was pleased to see some good quality Grayling and would think some up to twenty inches long without any exaggeration. Obviously it contains Brown Trout that have to be returned and would hope anglers would do the same with Grayling. A six weight nine foot rod would be ideal and would need to use heavy flies in view of the depth and current to get down quickly, Pink shrimps have worked for me. I would not expect anglers to catch large numbers but certainly good sized quality fish as I mentioned.

Fishing will be restricted to 2 rods each day and it is not going to be allowed to be fished seven days a week. Obviously no wading due to depth and current but it can be fished in most places from both banks. Barbless hooks to be used and any trout caught to be returned alive.

Access to the fishery is good, either parking next to the bridge or just inside the gate if the ground is not wet. There is a pub close by and also the Rod Box for fishing tackle at Kings Worthy. Driving from West Sussex you can either use the A272 or the M3 from Southampton to junction 9.

Cost for a days fishing will be £30.00 which is about the normal charge - much cheaper than fishing for trout on the Hampshire chalk streams!

If any are interested please contact me first for further details and advice on 01903 504317 or 07969 104421. I will also offer a guiding service if help is required in techniques if anyone wishes to join me. Well worth a try up to Christmas on a nice dry autumn day.

Phillip Ellis

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Now that our tying evenings are well under way and our spring and summer events are over for this year it is time to look back. With plenty of rain and our rivers and lakes near to full the fishing has been much improved on 2006. We even managed to exhibit at the various local agricultural shows and game fairs without getting blown away or drowned!

The activities of the Sussex branch depend on maintaining a high level of membership and we need to continuously attract new members so please spread the word when you talk to other anglers at the bank side.

Many of our members are recruited when we demonstrate at local shows so please volunteer when you can. I do not want any of you to think that the shows are dominated by a small cartel of older tiers who are unwilling to allow new blood to get involved. The truth is the opposite: it is only the "Old Gang" who regularly offer to help. So please make your new season's resolution to take part in at least one event.

Tight lines

John Plowman.

Branch Outing – Lakedown

The move from our traditional Duncton venue was a little disappointing as only dozen members were present, as opposed to the 20-25 for past events. What the reasons were need to be assessed – was it perhaps the cost, which allowed for one fish from the specimen lake? Whatever the reason you had for not coming, let the committee know, so that we can address the matter next year.

Those who did come received a warm welcome at this lovely venue and were treated to a sumptuous lunch. The weather could have been worse – sunny with some fast moving clouds and a fairly strong breeze.

Most anglers caught, but the return from the specimen lake was disappointing with only one sizeable fish, gaining Bill Smith the trophy for best fish of 8½ lb. The minimum size for the lake is 4 lb, and Bill had already had one of 3 lb which did not count and was allowed to fish again later in the day to great effect!

The general size of fish was in the region of 2 lb, but good fighting fully finned rainbows. Fishing was difficult on all lakes, with a water temperature of 22 degrees still too high for comfort (of the fish!). Peter Buss had a 3 lb 14 oz brown to take the Brown Trout cup, and the best bag went to Bill Smith (14 lb 8 oz) with Peter Buss (10 lb 8 oz) runner-up.

For next year, the question is where do **you** want to go? Maybe a return to Duncton on a Saturday? Perhaps Lakedown again, but only fishing the three "ordinary" lakes, which means the cost would reduce by £10? Or do **you** have somewhere else to suggest? It **your** day, so let us know!!

Charity Pairs Competition

With the weather fair and little wind, although a fog delayed start, good fishing was anticipated for this year's event. Our hopes were fulfilled. Seventeen boats took part with almost equal numbers from both us and the North Kent branch. Unfortunately, the Salmon and Trout Association had to withdraw because of their commitment to the Ardingly game fair and other local fishing clubs did not reply to my invitation.

As usual I failed to find the fish until later in the day but those that selected to drift westwards from the dam wall were soon into fish especially around the aerators. Chris Croucher and Ian Dunk had bagged up with sixteen fish by 2pm. And by the end of fishing at 5pm three boats had a maximum of sixteen fish and eight boats had ten fish or more. The weights of the first three boats were:

Chris Croucher and Ian Dunk (Sussex)	31lb. 1oz.
Bob Shaw and Mike Phipps (N.Kent)	30lb. 5oz.
Paul Smith and Peter Young (N.Kent)	28lb. 5oz.

David Painter and Colin Rann each had a rainbow of over 6lb. The unluckiest angler of the day was Ray Love who, on netting his sixth fish and putting it into his bag over the side of the boat saw his first five fish disappearing through a hole in the bottom of his bag!

Sussex FDG now hold the trophy and Chris and Ian will be awarded the club pairs trophy at the end of the tying season.

Finally, and most importantly the sum collected for charity was £164.80 which with the agreement of the winners will be the Wheelie Boat Trust for disabled anglers.

John Plowman

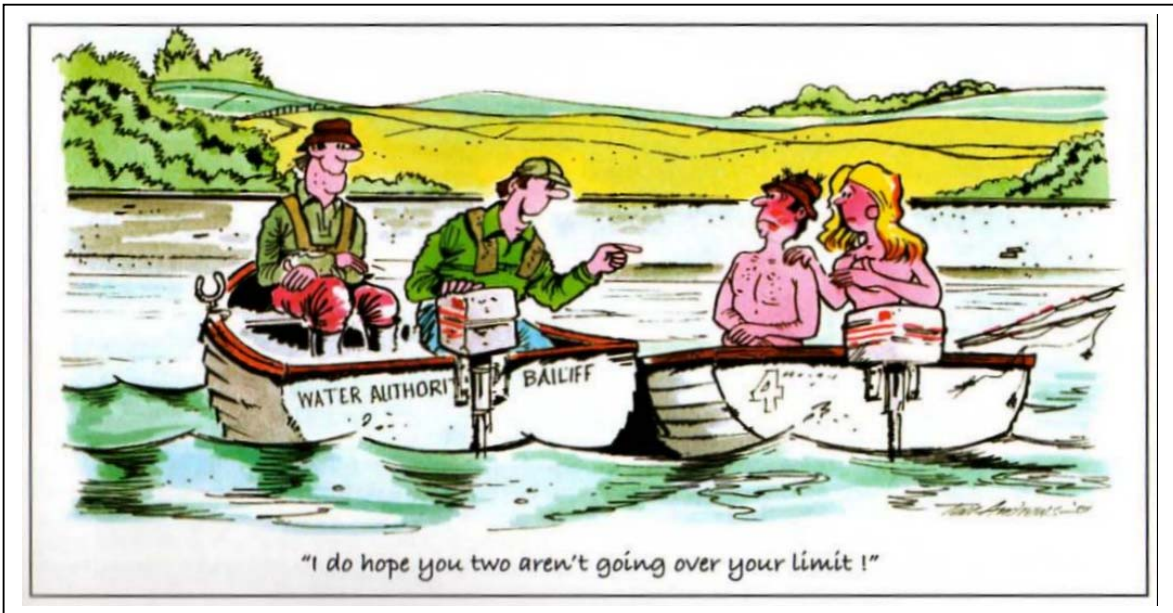
South of England Autumn Show and Game Fair

From preliminary reports this was rather disappointing as a Game Fair with no trade stands for fishing, but it was good to see a return of our colleagues from SATA – but how about the EA failing to arrive – don't they care?

Many thanks to those manning the stand, specially to Bill Smith who transported the gear to and from, and who was left to dismantle and return it all on his own at the end! Fortunately Mark Brown from SATA was there to help him load the gear, but he was on his own to unload at Patcham. This shows the need for volunteers to help – you just cannot sit back and expect the same willing horses to be there all the time!

It was unfortunate that this year the Charity Pairs clashed and accounted for some of the members, and we will try to avoid this next year.

Demonstrating is not taxing and you don't have to be a star tyer – the public are always fascinated and it is a great opportunity to meet anglers and indeed recruit new members, which we were able to do this time. The shows are generally great fun and at least you get in free! Don't be afraid to volunteer next time!



NOVEMBER SPEAKER – JOHAN KLINBERG

Thursday 1st November at 8 pm

On his way to the International Fly Fair, Johan is visiting us to give us an illustrated talk on fishing techniques for skaters (?) and Czech style flies and techniques. Let us give him our usual grand Sussex welcome. As usual, everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike – bring your friends. Coffee and tea will be available at the half-way break.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW OVERDUE!!!!

I know most of you have renewed but there are still one or two outstanding, and it would be most appreciated if those members who have not yet done so let the treasurer have them as soon as possible, as continued receipt of the “Flydresser” is dependent on the main Guild subscription being received by the end of October. Of course, if you happen to pay the Guild direct, then Branch subscription only is due to Roy – but the Branch needs this to maintain the service and programmes you require.

LATE ENTRIES FOR THE AUCTION

Lot no.	Description
120	Greys Platinum XD salt water rod, 9', 4pce#8 (list price £269) new in tube
120X	A similar lot
168	Greys G-lite no. 2 reel (#7/8) with backing and Rio WF-8-F line, NIB
169	Greys G-lite no. 2 reel (#7/8) NIB

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