



Sussex Branch Newsletter



DECEMBER 2007

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO
EVERYONE**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A reminder that the AGM will be held on 13th December, followed by a quiz and mince pies organized by our Chairman, John Plowman. The AGM is your opportunity to influence the way the Branch is managed – let us have your ideas - remember that new committee members are needed for the ongoing development of the Branch. The Jonathon Glover award will also be presented at the AGM.

FLY TYING COMPETITION

This year's competition flies are:

Novice:

Red Tag – p. 36-7

Soldier Palmer – p. 156-7

One of each pattern on size 10 hook

Intermediate:

Ascending Midge Pupa – p. 138-9

Two flies on size 12 hook

Open:

Ace of Spades

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 15th March 2007**

If anyone requires a copy of "The Fly-tying Bible", they are available from Andy Steer or Roy Gurney at the very competitive price of £10.

Peter Gathercole's "Fly Tying for Beginners" is also available at the same price.

Johan Klingberg

It seems we made a very good impression on our speaker in November, complementing our own view of his excellent presentation. He has e-mailed Paul as follows: "Hi Paul - Just wanted to send you an e-mail and say thanks for a nice evening in Brighton. I was very glad to see so many enthusiasts among the public. You have a really great club there and I very much enjoyed to meet them. The hotel was superb and the day after I went down to Brighton to get a bus to London and Stoke. I saw the pier, beautiful – have just seen it on TV before. The bus trip to London was such of an adventure but that is another story. Say hi to all! - Johan Klingberg"

British Fly Fair International

Report from John Cooper

On Sunday 4th November I had the opportunity to go with Alan Middleton to the British Fly Fair International, held at Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-Trent. The journey started at 6am with the roads being fairly quiet, but as most of it was in fog, it took about 3 hours.

Alan was manning the Guild's stand, together with all the Guild committee and very impressive it was. In one large marquee there were 40+ international tyers giving demonstrations throughout the day, including our November speaker, Johan Klingberg. I learnt a new way for tying very realistic wings. I saw very large salmon flies tied by the Americans, down to some very neat flies tied on size 33 hooks (yes - size 33 hooks); they looked like grains of sand. In the second marquee there were 2 massive plasma screens showing live demo's throughout the day and in the third marquee there were 80+ specialist trade stands showing the latest materials and products; going around this section alone took most of the day.

I had a great day and it was a great show for fly tyers. You could find everything one would need including some very unusual feathers and spend a fortune if one was so inclined.

Maybe the branch could run a small mini bus there next year ?.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Sometimes I find it very difficult to understand why one style of an imitative fly such as a damsel nymph succeeds when a similar one will fail even when both seem to be fair copies of the real insect. The failing one regularly seems to be on my leader while the successful one is tied to the angler next to me!

The Dutch biologist Niko Tinbergen was awarded the Nobel Prize for science for his contributions to the study of animal behaviour (ethology). One of his experimental subjects was a sexually mature stickleback which, as every schoolboy knows, develops a red belly at this time. This fish was observed to dash across his aquarium when a red mail van drove past the laboratory window. The fish was aggressively trying to chase away the reflection of the mail van in the glass side of the aquarium. Tinbergen tried to induce this reaction by making models of male sticklebacks and introducing them to the resident fish. Perfect models of sticklebacks were ignored unless they had a red belly, whereas unrecognisable shapes were attacked if they had a red belly.

When tying trout flies we do need to understand what the trigger is. The small flash of yellow on the thorax of a damsel nymph may be the only difference between success and failure.

The trouble is that once you have discovered the trigger then next time you use it the trout are responding to a different one!! Perhaps somebody will find a way of teaching trout to read the scientific papers.

Tight lines, and a very happy Christmas and successful New Year,

John Plowman

ALBERT HORNE

Some of you may know Albert has recently been in hospital due to a flare-up of his arthritis. He is now at home again, but sadly his hands are too swollen to tie flies. He is not able to get in and out of a car at the moment, so he will have to stay at home for the time being.

As he is house bound, those of you who know him might like to give him a ring to cheer him up – though knowing Albert he will be putting a good front on things!! His number is **01903 765237**

Big Fish Competitions

Last chance to enter!! There are some who haven't I know – there are some big rainbows not entered and I can't do it for you!!

To remind you, the categories are:

Best fish from Sussex water

Best fish from Sussex reservoir (including Bawl)

Best brown from Sussex water

Best brown from Sussex reservoir or river.

The closing date of catching is 31st October 2007 for browns and 31st December for other categories. Trophies will be presented at the Dinner.

JANUARY SPEAKER

17TH January 2008

We are pleased to welcome once again our old friend **Peter Cockwill** who will “**Broaden your Horizons**”. He promises something for everyone **All are welcome – bring your friends!**

Sussex Otters

Crawley Fly Fishers are having a talk by Fran Southgate of the Sussex Otter and River Partnership on **January 22nd at 8.00 pm**; venue is at the **Three Bridges Cricket Club, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.**

Doors open at 7.30 pm. All are welcome.

GAME FAIR 2008

Hooray!! The Game Fair in 2008 returns South to Blenheim Palace and Paul Bond is once again organizing a coach party for the branch and friends. With this newsletter is a form giving details and an application slip to book your (and your partners or friends) seats. The date is **26th July 2008** but Paul needs your booking and deposit or post dated cheque as soon as possible.

Subscriptions

I know it is unseasonable to raise such a thorny subject, but anyone who has not renewed by now will have been removed from the mailing list of the “Flydresser”. However, if you cough up **NOW** you can be re-instated – just let Roy have your subs!!!!

TIGHT LINES!



**AND MAY ALL YOUR
FISH BE THIS SIZE!!**

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