



# Sussex Branch Newsletter



## FEBRUARY 2008

### ANNUAL DINNER 5<sup>th</sup> April 2008

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 **£23.00** 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 2007 winners.

### Committee

With his usual deliberate mistake, the Editor managed to omit Tony Harrison from the list of elected committee members in the report on the AGM. Tony had hoped it would not be a mistake and was looking forward to a quiet time!!! Sorry Tony – we need you.

### FLY-TYING COMPETITION 2008

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 **20<sup>th</sup> March 2008**.

**OH SURE. I USED TO HIBERNATE ALL WINTER - BUT THEN I REALIZED HOW MUCH QUALITY FISHING THAT WAS WASTING.**



### EVENTS & OUTINGS 2008

Paul Davis has arranged a very much enhanced programme of fishing outings for the coming season. There is something for everyone – give him your support and get your applications in for the various events as soon as possible. It is essential that the organisers know what support they have for their particular event, so let them have an indication of your interest by April 10th for all events, even if you cannot positively confirm at this time. This is essential, as fisheries need to have cancellations in good time if there are insufficient entries.

Application forms for these 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.

We have endeavoured to keep costs of individual outings down to give best value – each one is aimed to be non-profit making and at the same time self-financing.

Let us have a bumper season!

**The complete programme of fishing events is on page 4 of this newsletter**

### WESSEX BRANCH SPEAKER

On 12<sup>th</sup> February Wessex Branch welcome Howard Taylor to give a presentation on chalk stream fishing followed by other sorts such as salt-water, with discussion. The venue is in Southampton at 7 for 7.30 pm, and, if you are interested, contact Roy Gurney for details.

### GAME FAIR 2008

The cost for this trip has now been finalized at £36.00 for adults and £13.50 for under 16's. The timing has also been adjusted due to regulations on driver's hours. Depart from Withdean at 06.00, leaving Blenheim at 16.30 (back at Withdean about 19.15). There will probably be pick-up in Crawley, exact venue to be advised.

## Neat Fly Clips



Paul Davis has found a cheap supplier for the neat fly clips (see picture) and will be placing an order for these clip in black (not red as in the picture). From this supplier these will cost about 25p each (maximum) depending on the numbers ordered (whereas Carillon are 49p each or £3.99 for 10). If anyone would like him to order some for them then please can they e-mail him with how many they would like - [p.davis@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:p.davis@nhm.ac.uk)

## PETER COCKWILL

Once again, after too long an absence, Peter returned to entertain us with a splendid presentation broadening our horizons to many forms of fly-fishing which are out there for our pleasure. The beautifully photographed locations and surrounding wildlife had us all hankering after new fields.

Maybe Peter's attraction to the grayling will spur some of our members to join the winter grayling outings being organized – at least that won't cost an arm and a leg to get there!

A great evening with a living legend of the fly-fishing world – thank you Peter!!

## Re: Trout up and down Pipe

Phillip Ellis has had some correspondence with Peter Cockwill and Paul Knight on the article reprinted from the "Telegraph" last month. Peter replied:

*"It's a good story to appeal to all those who like to believe such things. Looks more like fish being moved from one pond to another and they always face into the water flow as they are flushed along but as Dave Reilly says, he knows the guy and has to believe him even though him owning the place and being on site for 30 years has never seen it. Bit like the 3lb grayling everyone catches!!!!"*

He then passed the reply to Paul, who commented:

*"It's a very long time since I've moved trout around, but I think Peter is absolutely right, now you mention it. We used to move fish with a pump and pipe system when I was a trout farmer, and they would always travel backwards - in other words, facing into the flow. I didn't think this picture looked right, and now Peter has suggested a set-up. I think he may well be right! You can tell him that I bow to his greater powers of observation!"*

We leave it to you to judge!!!!!!

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT LINES

With the rain of the last few weeks we can be confident that our reservoirs are full and the aquifers that feed our smaller waters will be able to keep a good flow of water at least for the first half of the year. One of the advantages of prolonged heavy rain is that pollutants in the land that may be washed into the rivers are significantly diluted so that we may be spared the algal blooms of high summer and the invertebrate population of our lakes and rivers will increase. It bodes well for those of us who like to use imitative patterns on small hooks.

With this newsletter you will find the plan of events that your committee has prepared for you this year. Please take part in as many as you can. Most importantly make your applications early (remember cheques are post dated so you will not be charged until close to the date). Early application means that the organiser will be able to confirm our visit with the fishery and with sufficient numbers may be able to book the fishery for our sole use.

For the fly dressing displays at agricultural shows etc. please make it your new year's resolution to help for at least one day. You do not need to be an expert, just enthusiastic.

Finally, for those of you who may be concerned about fishing the big reservoirs in a boat please contact me. I will gladly accompany you and introduce you to the delights of big water fishing. Remember a 2.5lb full-finned silver rainbow that has grown on in a reservoir for a month or two will easily take all of your fly line in its first run!

Tight lines

*John Plowman.*

## Branch Trophy Day

### Lakedown

Last year we had a disappointing response for this event. One factor may have been the unwanted change of venue, but as we cannot get back to Duncton on a Sunday a change was inevitable. The main problem seems to have been the price – it seemed a good idea at the time to try to incorporate the "big fish" lake, but the cost was high.

Consequently, this year we are returning to Lakedown, but using only the three other lakes which gave good fishing in delightful surroundings, all with a splendid lunch! Let's have a bumper turnout, and find out who will trot off with the trophies this year!

The cost is now £42 which includes a (big) buffet lunch, and a four fish ticket. For another £4 you may upgrade (in advance) to a five fish ticket, but only the first four will count for the competition.

**BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!**

## TYING TACKLE ITEMS

**Tying kit bag** "Hobby Trolley" (as used by Peter Buss). The Branch has one available at £32 (rrp £64). Ideal as a mobile storage for tools and materials.

See Andy Steer or Roy Gurney.

## HAZELCOPSE FISHERY

Rudgwick, Surrey  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2008

*As this is a new venue for this year, and an early one, the following information from Paul Davis may help you decide to support the Branch outing:*

We have exclusive use of the fishery for the day. Final price will depend on numbers fishing (maximum 20) and on how many fish people want (after your limit you can catch and release for the rest of the day).

Fishery size is 3.5 acres made up of two well featured lakes of 2.25 and 1.25 acres. Maximum depth 14ft in the top lake. Water is relatively clear in top lake.

It is stocked mainly with rainbows but also browns and the odd salmon (Hazel Copse has a block salmon licence - all you need is an ordinary Environmental Agency license).

Fishery records:

Salmon 341b 12oz

Rainbow Trout 271b 14oz

Brown Trout 181b

Golden Trout 81b

Blue Trout 61b.

This is a very friendly fishery that has shown many pioneering initiatives. It was one of the first to practice catch and release. The fishery was a pioneer in introducing salmon into still waters, opening up salmon fishing for everybody at a sensible price. Whilst not the most picturesque fishery in the region it is exceptional value for money and has some of the hardest fighting fish in any small stillwater in the south-east. Also, because you can catch and release, fish are much more challenging (but still very catchable) than some of the suicidal stockies found in other fisheries in the region!

Please send your confirmation slip (attached to this newsletter) and cheque for the deposit of £20 (payable to Sussex FDG) to Paul Davis ASAP and **by 28th February at the latest**. Unfortunately if we don't get enough confirmations (12) by that date we will have to cancel the event.

## BEWL AUCTION

The annual auction of tackle at Bewl Water will be held on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February** at 2 pm, viewing from 12 noon. Always a good event! Bewl FF hold their AGM prior to the auction.

## EQUIPMENT

Now the fishing is almost upon us, get yourself up-to-date with gear from our Equipment Officer, Andy Steer. Catalogues of the items we have, including sweatshirts, fishing shirts, badges and all sorts of goodies are available from him or Roy Gurney.

## WOODINGTON FISHERY

You will see from the programme and entry forms that we have this as a new venue. Paul Davis, our Competitions and Outings Secretary, has given a few more details:

Woodington has three lakes to fish, one a gin-clear stalking lake, two other lakes plus 1600 yards of chalk stream (a tributary of the Test). If the weather is warm enough, you can also fish the carp lake with the fly.

The price of £36 for two fish, then catch and release for the rest of the day, includes breakfast (bacon, sausage, 2 eggs, beans chips or hash browns) and lunchtime BBQ including sweet. Free tea and coffee also available all day!

For an additional £13 on the day, you can fish the big fish lake (gin clear stalking water with minimum stock size of 4 lb) and take your 2 fish from there.

Sounds a great day to me!!!!

## INTERESTING LINKS

For those of you with access to the web, the following is a link to a piece of free software that allows you to record fly patterns, material inventory, fishing trips, etc – have a look and try it out – it's not bad for free!

<http://www.erobillard.com/SuperFly>

And for the traditionalist or vintage buff the following is a link to images of Frank Sawyer tying his PTN. Paul notes "Did his mother never teach him to scrub his nails!"

<http://www.salisburydistrictac.co.uk/gallery 4.htm>



*Sawyer's Nymph*

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**[Sussexflydressers.org.uk](http://Sussexflydressers.org.uk)**

## Fishing Programme 2008

**Advise Paul Davis of your interest in any event and confirm with organizer**

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DATE &amp; DAY</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>ORGANISER</u>
<u>February</u>	17 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	Branch Winter Outing – Chalybeate, Eridge Green, Kent	Bill Smith & Wayne Duerden
<u>March</u>	16 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	Branch outing – Hazelcapse Fishery, Rudgwick, Surrey	Paul Davis & Peter Winder
	30 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	Committee Day – Robinswood (Frensham Trout Fishery), Churt, Surrey (Committee, Instructors & Helpers)	Paul Davis
<u>April</u>	20 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	Frank Darrah Pairs - Bawl Water, Kent	John Plowman
<u>May</u>	4 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	Match v. Eastbourne F.F. – Arlington Reservoir, East Sussex	Bill Smith
	18 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	Match v. East Sussex Salmon & Trout Association – Chalk Springs	Roy Gurney
	22 <sup>nd</sup> (Thursday)	Branch evening with beer and sandwiches- Arlington Reservoir, East Sussex	Roy Gurney
<u>June</u>	1 <sup>st</sup> (Sunday)	Branch Outing & BBQ – Woodington Fishery, East Wellow, Hants	Paul Davis
	15 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	Branch Outing & BBQ – Ashbourne, nr Battle	Roy Gurney
	22 <sup>nd</sup> (Sunday) TBC	Match v. Surrey FDG - Avon Springs, Durrington, Wilts	Chris Croucher
<u>July</u>	6 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	Match v. Hastings FFC - Powdermill Reservoir, Sedlescombe, East Sussex	Paul Davis
	20 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	Stillwater Challenge – Chalk Springs	Chris Croucher
<u>August</u>	10 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	Match v. Crawley F.F. - Chalk Springs	Bill Smith
	23 <sup>rd</sup> (Saturday)	FDG John Watt Trophy - Grafham Water, Cambs	Chris Nunn
	31 <sup>st</sup> (Sunday)	Branch Outing – Albury Estates, Fishery, Vale End, Albury, Surrey	Paul Davis
<u>September</u>	21 <sup>st</sup> (Sunday)	Branch Trophy Day & BBQ – Lakedown	Peter Winder
<u>October</u>	12 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday) TBC	Charity Pairs Competition, Bawl Water, Kent	Ray Love
	19 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	Grayling Fishing – River Test, Timsbury, Hants	Paul Davis
<u>November</u>	16 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	Branch outing – Coltsford Mill, Oxted, Surrey	Paul Davis