



Sussex Branch Newsletter



APRIL / MAY 2008

CASTING CLINIC Thursday 15th May

A casting clinic will be held on the playing fields in front of Patcham House (opposite "The Black Lion"). We hope Albert Horne will be fit enough to demonstrate how to cast a full line with what appears to be a mere flick of the wrist, but our other qualified instructors will be there anyway. We will start soon after 6.30 pm, and continue till the light fades. Just bring your rod and line and improve your skills.

PROGRAMME of EVENTS & OUTINGS 2008

Just a few additions/alterations:

15th May (Thursday) Casting Clinic – Patcham
18th September Speaker – Denise Ashton of the Wild Trout Trust will give us an insight into the operations of this organisation

ANNUAL DINNER

Where were you all? This year we had only 40 members including guests at the Dyke Golf Club, whose hospitality was once again superb and the meal first class. A convivial atmosphere, good food and an entertaining speaker – you missed it all! I know a few were unable to come due to a clash with a wedding, but it does beg the question – what do you want?

Jim White provided a first class range of prizes for the raffle, headed by a television set, and was aided this year by the ever willing Bill Smith.

Trophies for 2007 were presented after the dinner to those recipients present; the rest will be presented at the end of season get-together as follows:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <u>Peter West Trophy</u>
(best rainbow from Sussex water) | Harry Atkins |
| <u>Brown Trout Cup</u>
(best brown from Sussex water) | Tony Harrison |
| <u>Members' Reservoir Plate</u>
(best fish from Sussex reservoir) | David Painter |
| <u>Frank Darrah Trophy</u>
(Bowl pairs) | Alex Rainbow &
Chris Nunn |
| <u>Charity Pairs Bowl</u>
(Bowl Pairs) | Chris Croucher &
Ian Dunk |
| <u>Branch outing at Lakedown</u> | |
| Jimmy James Memorial Trophies (best bag) | |
| Winner | Bill Smith |
| Runner-up | Peter Buss |
| Plowman Trophy (Best fish) | Bill Smith |

LAGOON BAIT & TACKLE 40th Anniversary

Peter Winder invites you all to come and see them on 7th June when there will be many interesting things to see and do, in celebration of the 40th anniversary of his family business. A raffle in support of the R.N.L.I. will be held, and also a "Guess the weight" of the Lifeboat cake.

Well-known names from the fishing world will be there to talk to and you will be offered a drink while you are visiting the shop.

Lagoon Bait & Tackle Shop
327 Kingsway
HOVE
BN3 4LD
Phone & Fax: 01273 415879
E-mail: lagoon@talk21.com

Best brown, etc
Stillwater Challenge
Best fish
Best bag

Peter Buss

Chris Croucher
Chris Croucher



Bill Smith receives the Jimmy James Memorial Cup from Chairman John Plowman



Tony Harrison receives the Brown Trout Cup

INSTRUCTORS

A number of our members are qualified game angling coaches and members of The Game Anglers Instructors Association (GAIA) with Alan also a member of Association of Professional Game Angling Instructors (APGAI). Most of them you will already know from attending tying nights at Patcham.

They are willing to offer tuition in all aspects from casting, entomology through to how to land fish or any aspect you need instruction on.

They are:

First Name	Surname	Town	Home Telephone	Mobile Telephone
Andy	Beadsley	Petworth	01798 343582	07860 650023
Michael	Brayne	Hove	01273 327906	07836 624043
Alan	Middleton	Henfield	01273 493473	07790 251693
Bob	Burbidge	Worthing	07903 873878	07836 713586
Mark	Carr-Brown	Uckfield	01825 749843	07801 750166
Phillip	Ellis	Goring-by-sea	01903 504317	07969 104421
Albert	Horne	Lancing	01903 765237	07810 227715

FLY-TYING COMPETITION 2008

The winners of this year's competition are: -

Novice: Richard Foster

Intermediate: Steve Mustchin

Open: Jim Harris

Once again we must thank Albert Horne for judging this competition. Numbers of entries are slowly rising – let's have even more next year – I know there are many of you out there who would be in the running!

Hazelcapse outing

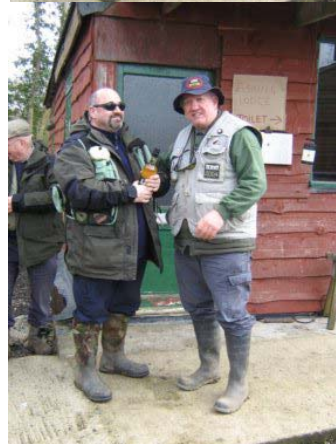
John Foster reports:

We arrived at Hazelcapse at 8 and started to fish at 9. After about five minutes John Foster caught the first fish in the competition and won a bottle of wine. Steve Mustchin caught a 7lb 9oz fish with a total bag of 10lb, allowing him to take away the first prize which was a 1 litre bottle of scotch.

Second prize went to Ian Dunk who had a total of 9lb 7oz; his best fish was 6lb 9oz, winning him a bottle of brandy. Paul Bond took third prize with 7lb 2oz and a best fish of 5lb 1oz; he took home a bottle of whiskey.

(Seems the prizes were apt for what was billed as a Brass Monkeys day! – Ed.)

Bill Smith presents the prizes at Hazelcapse



From the top: Ian Dunk, Steve Mustchin, Paul Bond and John Foster

2008 ROD RAFFLE

This was drawn at the Social for magnificent prizes with a retail value of some £2500 + ! The main prizes were:

1. Fenwick World Class 4 pce 9' #6 travel rod
2. Greys Missionary 5 pce 9'3" #6/7 travel rod
3. Swiss Vice – Master version

The other prizes included:

Orvis Western 2 10' #6 3 pce fly rod
Diamondback 9'6" 3 pce #6 fly rod
BFR reel with 3 spools
X-stream 50cm landing net
McLeans Weigh landing net
Airflo X-stream bag
"Listen to the River" vols. 1 And 2
A Ron Thomson fly vest
and a host of fly-boxes, lines, capes etc, totalling well over than 30 in all.

Another fantastic array of prizes! Once again many thanks to Bill Smith for his tireless efforts in extracting contributions before the treasurer could collect fees on tying nights! And last, but not least to the generous support of our suppliers of the prizes, particularly Lagoon Bait, who provided them at huge discount.

All ticket money takings go to purchasing the prizes – this year well in excess of £1500.

EQUIPMENT



Andy Steer, our Equipment Officer has a catalogue of items available. If you require one, please ring him or Roy Gurney and he will send one out to you. The catalogue has an order form on the back with details of where to send it.

No excuse now for not providing a corporate image!!

"Fly Tying for Beginners" & "The Fly-tying Bible" by Peter Gathercole

Each published at £16.99, we can supply either for only **£10.00** per copy. We have a small stock, so contact Andy or Roy now for your copies.

ENTRIES FOR OUTINGS

Despite Paul's efforts to get everyone to let him (or the individual organizer) know by 10th April what events they would be entering - or at least those which they might enter, subject to the inevitable clash of holidays, etc – there are still some which are undersubscribed. Please let the organizer know as soon as possible of you intentions, as otherwise it may be necessary to cancel if there does not appear to be sufficient support.

Get your diaries out and note the dates from our programme – and then tell someone!!

JOHN WATT COMPETITION

One event which is worth mentioning is the above. New members (and some of the old!) may not be fully aware of this competition held at Grafham Water at the end of August. This the Guild's Annual Fishing Competition that will end with a buffet and prize giving in the lodge. The competition is fished from boats by teams of four Guild members, the winners being the team landing the most fish on the day.

The first and second teams, plus the anglers with the heaviest bag and the heaviest fish on the day will be presented with trophies to be held for one year, plus permanent mementos.

This year it is to be held on **Saturday 23rd August** and Sussex are aiming to enter two teams, so get your applications in to Chris Nunn as soon as possible. The usual pattern is to go up on the Friday afternoon/evening and stay at a local pub. All you pay is the B&B as the Branch pays the entry fee and cost of fishing



John Foster with his fish at Boringwheel

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT LINES

"Desert Island Flies"

While gazing into my fly boxes looking for inspiration on a difficult day I realised that I probably had far too many patterns. In the way of "Desert Island Discs" what eight fly patterns would I choose to have with me if I was alone on an island in the middle of a large lake?

I decided that I would need to split my selection into four groups: dry flies, wet flies, nymphs and all purpose.

In my dry fly fishing on still waters I have found that flies that leave a large "footprint" on the surface film succeed for me, so my choices would be (a) Daddy Long Legs and (b) Claret Hopper.

For wet flies I have one obvious choice - (a) the Black Pennell - but the second is more difficult and eventually I came down in favour of (b) the Invicta for those late June evenings when the sedges are active. It would also double up as a passable fry imitation.

Choosing nymphs was relatively easy. First choice must be (a) the Damsel and second (b) the Montana.

Finally, the all purpose non-descript pair that copy nothing but will succeed as anything. The first choice can only be (a) the Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear which has consistently been successful for me - the scruffier the better - and (b) that little devil of a fly from Wales, the Diawl Bach.

Do I believe I could fish for a year with only these eight patterns in a range of sizes available? Probably not, but it would result in a tidier fly box and more time with a line on the water and less time spent agonising over my choice. Simply tie a Damsel on the point, a GRHE in the middle and the Black Pennell on the top dropper.

Tight lines for 2008

John Plowman.

"Brass Monkeys"

You will recall from the report in the last newsletter that original "Brass Monkeys" outing had to be called off - here's a photograph of why! The Brass Monkeys trophies were awarded at the Hazelcopse event reported on page 2.



Ice-breaking at Chalybeate

Frank Darrah Pairs

John Plowman reports:

After a week in which the weather forecasts for Sunday had been grim, 18 anglers turned out to fish for the Frank Darrah trophy awarded to the pair of anglers who put the most fish in the boat at Bewl.

Bewl is never an easy reservoir for the average angler but things started well for many of us with several trout caught in the first hour or so. However, at around 11 am everything changed with pulls at the fly becoming rare and boats moving all around the reservoir attempting to find the fish. In these conditions the difference between the average angler and the committed big water specialist really shows so that while most of us struggled our four experts continued to catch.

At the end of the day at the weigh in there were a few blanks but most had caught one or two fish but the experts had done really well.

Results: Ian Dunk	8 fish
Chris Croucher	4 fish
Chris Nunn	6 fish
Alex Rainbow	5 fish

So the boat pair of Ian Dunk and Chris Croucher was declared the winner for 2008.

In the bag of the winning boat was a Brown of 4lb. 1oz. from Chris and a Rainbow of 5lb. 14oz. from Ian. For reservoir fish these were exceptional.

My thanks to all those who took part and I hope to see you all again next year.



Lunch break at Bewl

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