



## Sussex Branch Newsletter



**OCTOBER 2008**

### AUCTION 2008

#### Important announcement

Due to a huge increase in entries this year, it has become necessary to hold a second auction to accommodate the increased number of lots. You may recall the late nights on the last two occasions, so the new format should make things a lot more amenable to everyone.. The first will be as already announced on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October with viewing from 7.00 pm and starting at 7.45 pm prompt.** This auction will cover **Flies & fly-boxes, Materials and tools, and lastly Books.** A copy of the catalogue comes with this newsletter.

The second auction will be on **Tuesday 18th November** [note the change of day!!!] with viewing from **7.00 pm and starting 7.45 prompt.** This will cover **Miscellaneous Tackle, Clothing, Rods, Reels and finally Lines.**

Shake those moths out of your wallets and come and enjoy two great evenings. Mike Humphreys will once again officiate, so you are guaranteed a first class auction.

#### September Speaker

The season started on 18<sup>th</sup> September with a very enlightening illustrated talk by Lawrence Talks of the Environment Agency giving an insight to their Fisheries Strategy, as it applies to our region.

It is heartening to have a keen fisherman in charge of this project, and he gave us a good inkling of the problems faced, and solutions hopefully found, in maintaining the quality of our fishing habitat and, most importantly, how it is hoped to improve it for future generations.

All present found it very informative and pleasing to find the work going on "behind the scenes" at the EA which is funded by the Licence Fee we pay each year. The discussion after was keen and open and we look forward to hearing more of developments in this time of climate change and ever increasing pressures on the water demand.

We are also grateful to the EA for stepping in at short notice, due to a late change in scheduling of our speaker programme.

Our next speaker's evening will be a very welcome return of:

**JOHAN KLINBERG**

**on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 8 pm**

Those of you who so enjoyed his visit last year will be pleased to know that Johan has a completely new presentation and this promises to be the treat of the season! As usual, everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike – bring your friends.

**As usual, coffee and tea will be available at the half way break.**

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**(and old ones too)**

We welcome several new members this year, and trust 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.

#### South of England Autumn Show and Game Fair



**Steve Mustchin and Roy Gurney tying in adverse conditions in the storm battered tent.**

The weather forecast for the show was windy, becoming wet on the Saturday, and gales and heavy

### SoE Autumn Show – contd

rain on the Sunday. What they didn't say was the temperature on Saturday was going to start out below zero, but otherwise they were only too accurate! Jim Harris and Brian Hendry manned the stand with yours truly on the Saturday, and managed to tie a few flies despite the bitter cold. It did warm up a bit through the day, but the wind and eventually rain made it a day for good humoured banter and multiple layers of clothing.

Despite this we had a number of interested visitors and some potential new members.

Sunday was warmer – the only good thing to say! High winds and torrential rain made it impossible to tie in the morning, but come lunch-time the wind dropped sufficiently for us to open up and do a bit of tying. The foul weather did not stop people coming and we had some positive interest during the afternoon. Richard Foster and Steve Mustchin kept the flag flying with wet flies, whilst Roy perversely tied hackled dry flies just to be contrary!



*The morning scene!*

Many thanks to the demonstrators and to Ray Love who transported the gear to set up – Richard took it back to dry out (hopefully!) before storing back at Patcham.

In spite of the dire conditions, it was an enjoyable event – and we do have some new contacts who we hope will join us one day.

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

Your Branch is a “club” member of this very important organization and, whilst we do not have any waters of our own, we have always supported the ACA which does so much to protect our fishing in lakes, rivers and canals.

The ACA is encouraging more anglers to become individual members (of whom there are already some in the Branch) to swell their influence with Government ministers and civil servants – numbers count in the amount of political clout organizations can muster.

Members of the Branch will benefit from having an individual subscription of £14 rather than the usual £22 for the year.

Contact Roy Gurney for membership leaflets or to read the newsletters and Annual Report on their activities.

## **CHAIRMAN'S CHAT**

### **Rod ring repairs**

By now our traditional fishing season has finished and with the weather worsening and the days shortening it is time to spend the longer evenings tying flies. However, don't forget the rest of your tackle. Through the summer we will clean our lines and oil reel bearings but our rods may get limited maintenance. I use a small hand lens to check all rod rings- the fine grit particles picked up by the soft plastic outer of a fly line will wear a groove in snake rings and will eventually damage a ceramic lined tip ring. Ceramic rings can also become chipped and an expensive fly line will not last long under these conditions.

Tip rings are easy to replace for they are usually fixed on by a hot melt glue. Simply heat the metal tube part of the ring with a cigarette lighter and pull the ring off with cloth protected fingers. Put the new end ring in place, heat it and slide it into position before the glue cools.

There is normally enough glue remaining but if you need more then use a small slice cut from a glue stick or use a glue gun.

Other rings will need to be whipped and then varnished. First mark the position accurately and then remove the old ring carefully by cutting through the old varnish and thread without harming the rod blank underneath. Put the new ring in place and hold it with some sticky tape until you are absolutely sure it is located perfectly. Now whip the ring and varnish. Always finish one ring before you remove the next old one.

The new rings may just give you the extra yard in your cast that catches you the trophy fish next year!

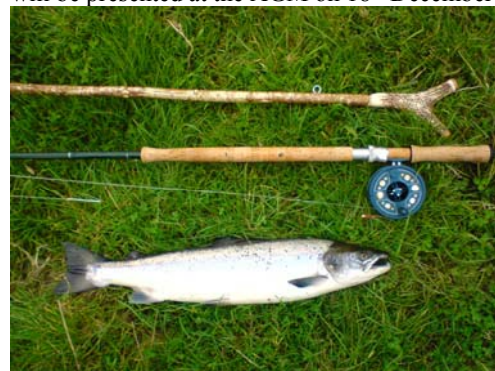
Tight lines

*John Plowman.*

### **Jonathon Glover Trophy**

This trophy is awarded annually to a member who has given outstanding service to the Branch. The last three winners are not eligible, and they are Alan Middleton (2005), Chris Croucher (2006) and Paul Bond (2007).

Nominations, please, to John Plowman, Paul Bond or Roy Gurney as soon as possible – voting slips will be issued later with the short list. The trophy will be presented at the AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> December



*Paul Davis has his first salmon in September on the Tweed!*

## Branch Trophy Day Lakedown

The weather for once this summer was reasonably kind – sunny, very warm and still in the morning, and after lunch a breeze and some cloud improved fishing.

Only 26 fish were caught between 17 anglers due to the hot still conditions early on making for very hard fishing. With the breeze things improved, but only in one small area with ten fish coming from one swim, on dries fished in the ripple.

The food was good and plentiful but at some cost - £9 per head, causing a subsidy from Branch funds! Wayne Duerden took best bag with 13 lb 4 oz and Tony Woolnough was runner-up with 10 lb 4 oz. Wayne also had best fish at 5 lb, but the trophy goes to Richard Foster with his 3 lb 5 oz rainbow. No browns were caught.

### Next Year?

Lakedown require a minimum of 35 anglers to close the venue, more than we can muster, and this meant we had to share with at least one other club day. Whilst it is great to meet other anglers, the venue became a bit crowded and we must consider if we should find another venue for our flagship outing. Any suggestions would be gratefully received, as it is proving very difficult to find a replacement for Duncton Mill. A return to Duncton on a Saturday did not seem to meet with approval – is it worth looking out of Sussex, or will the extra travelling put you off? **LET US KNOW!!!**

### Grayling fishing – Timsbury

Paul Davis has a full house of 20 rods at present, but if you are interested contact him in case he has a last minute drop-out. Phone 01306 621157 or e-mail him [p.davis@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:p.davis@nhm.ac.uk). With an uptake like this, maybe a second one is on the cards!!

### COLTISFORD MILL 16<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Have you registered yet? Contact Paul Davis on 01306 621157 or e-mail him [p.davis@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:p.davis@nhm.ac.uk) to book your place at this very fine fishery, situated in Oxted, Surrey. Easy to get to and promising to be a great day out. Cost is £35 for a 4 fish ticket and you should send your cheque made out to “FDG Sussex Branch” post-dated 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008 to **Dr Paul Davis, 2 Park Cottages, Mill Lane, FOREST GREEN, Surrey, RH5 5SJ**

#### **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**

## COMMITTEE Members Wanted

The Annual General Meeting is not too far away now – 18<sup>th</sup> December to be exact – so it is time you considered whom you would like to have on next year’s committee, or indeed if you would like to do you bit, too.

New blood is always required to keep the progress of any organisation going and at least one of your officers is getting a bit long in the tooth and overloaded!!

If you are interested or have any suggestions, please contact your Chairman, John Plowman, or Secretary, Paul Bond and let them know.



*Pictures from Ashbourne visit, June 2008*



#### *Editor's Note:*

*This edition is a bit truncated – partly due to lack of reports of events and articles in general, plus the need to get it out in time for the catalogue of the Auction to be included..*

*Please, please let me have your contributions as it makes for so much better reading – I have a very limited vocabulary!!*

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