



Sussex Branch Newsletter



JANUARY 2009

FEBRUARY SPEAKER

5th February

Paul Proctor will demonstrate a range of flies including river dries/emergers, with lots of useful tips and some cross-over to stillwater dries - something for everyone.

Just a reminder:

FLY TYING COMPETITION

This year's competition flies are:

Novice:

Flashback Pheasant Tail Nymph – p. 96

Soldier Palmer – p. 156

One of each pattern on size 10 hook

Intermediate:

Highland Dun – p. 54

Two flies on size 12 hook

Open:

Teal Blue and Silver – p. 168

Two flies on size 12

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 19th March 2009**

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.

ANNUAL DINNER

The venue will be the **Dyke Golf Club** on **Saturday 4th April**, subject to final confirmation. Full details and booking forms will accompany the next Newsletter. Out guest speaker will be **Doug Chalmers**, our host at Ashbourne Trout Fishery. Please make every effort to attend this highly enjoyable event – bring your ladies for an excellent meal and fabulous raffle!

BEWL AUCTION

The annual auction of tackle at Bewl Water will be held on **Saturday 7th February** at 2 pm, viewing from 12 noon. Always a good event! Bewl FF hold their AGM prior to the auction.

A.G.M. 2008

The Annual General Meeting went particularly smoothly (and rapidly), and the committee was re-elected *en bloc*. The committee is:

Chairman	John Plowman
Secretary	Paul Bond
Treasurer	Roy Gurney
Competition Secretary	Paul Davis
Equipment Officer	Andy Steer

Members : Chris Croucher, Tony Woolnough, Tony Harrison, Richard Foster, Peter Winder, Ray Love, Bill Smith.

The Jonathon Glover Trophy for the member who has given outstanding service to the Branch was awarded to **Paul Davis**, by one vote over several candidates including Bill Smith, John Plowman, Alan Middleton, Jim Harris and Roy Gurney.



Following last year's discussion on the Branch Outing and Trophy Day, it was well received that we will make a welcome return to Duncton Mill for 2009 on 18th October. Paul Davis had prepared a large and varied fishing programme with over 20 outings, which met with general approval and he would now firm up on the dates.

As usual the AGM was followed by mulled wine, mince pies and Tony Keeley's splendid Christmas cake. Many thanks to Alan Middleton and John Plowman for the fare, and also to John for the ensuing quiz.





Tony Keeley presents his cake after the AGM

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT LINES

How big is an acre?

Many of our small water fisheries advertise the size of the water in acres so perhaps it is time for those of us not involved in farming to know just how big an acre really is. It comes, I believe, from the area of land a horse drawn plough could reasonably manage in a day i.e. "A furlong by a chain" or 220yards by 22yards. This gives an area of 4840 square yards. So what! How does this compare with areas that we can recognise?

A soccer pitch is 110yards by 70 yards which is close to 1.6 acres.

A 70 yard square is 1acre

A circle of diameter 78 yards is 1 acre.

An oval 100yards by 60 yards is 1 acre.

So next time you visit a trout fishery that claims to be, shall we say, six acres look at it and ask yourself "Can I imagine four full size soccer pitches in this space?"

Alternatively you can go on to Google Earth and get an aerial view of the lake and then use the software to measure its dimensions. I did this for one Sussex fishery and it gave its size as 184 yards by 92 yards which is 2.7 acres. The fishery's advertising claims 6.5 acres; another claiming 4 acres measures at 1.8 acres. Clearly something is wrong. Try it for yourself for your own favourite fishery.

Finally, a happy new year to you all and tight lines for 2009

John Plowman.

Big Fish Competition 2008

The results of last year's efforts and the trophies are awarded as follows:

Peter West Trophy

(best rainbow from a Sussex water)

Andy Steer	Chalk Springs	10 lb 1 oz
Jack Jupp	Bewl Water	10 lb
Tony Harrison	Chalk Springs	8 lb 5 oz (blue)
Tony Harrison	Chalk Springs	7 lb 10 oz

Brown Trout Cup

(best brown from Sussex water)

Tony Harrison	Chalk Springs	10 lb 13 oz
Chris Croucher	Bewl Water	4 lb 1 oz
Roy Gurney	Ashbourne	3 lb 8 oz

Members Reservoir Plate

(best fish from Sussex reservoir)

Jack Jupp	Bewl Water	10 lb
Michael Brayne	Bewl Water	6 lb 9 oz
David Painter	Arlington	6 lb
Ian Dunk	Bewl Water	5 lb 14 oz

John Leitch Brown Trout Cup

(best brown from a Sussex reservoir or river)

Chris Croucher	Bewl Water	4 lb 1 oz
Roy Gurney	Ashbourne	3 lb 8 oz

Frank Darrah Trophy

(Bewl Pairs)

Chris Croucher & Ian Dunk	12 fish
Alex Rainbow & Chris Nunn	11 fish

Charity Pairs Trophy

(Bewl)

Michael Brayne & Colin Rann	11 fish
--	----------------

Branch outing (Lakedown):

Jimmy James Memorial Trophies

(Best bag)

Wayne Duerden	13 lb 4 oz
Tony Woolnough	10 lb 4 oz

Plowman Trophy

(Best fish)

Richard Foster	3 lb 5 oz
-----------------------	------------------

Trophy for Best Brown, Brook or Tiger

None caught

Presentations will be made at the Annual Dinner.

The results of the Stillwater Challenge were:

Best fish	Jim Harris	3lb 2oz
Best bag	Neil Batchelor	10 lb 15oz
	Ian Dunk	10 lb 15oz
	Jim Harris	10 lb 2oz

The results of the Brass Monkeys 2008 were:

Best Fish	Steve Mustchin	7 lb 9 oz
Best bag	Ian Dunk	9 lb 7 oz
	Paul Bond	7 lb 2 oz

Fly-tying Website

We are indebted to Michael Hirsh of Ouse Valley FF for drawing attention to a superb website which is well worth a visit.

It is <http://www.danica.com/flytier/index.html> and among the host of fly-tyers represented on the site is Johan Klingberg. Do have a go – I promise you won't be disappointed!

RHG

The New Body Representing Angling

You will no doubt have heard that as from January 2009 there will be one voice representing all aspects of angling in England. The new association is called **Angling Trust** with a legal arm **Fish Legal** (formerly the ACA). Sadly, the Salmon & Trout Association considered its aims as somehow different to the new body and did not affiliate.

As a member of both NAFAC and the ACA, the Branch will continue membership of both sections, and we would remind you that both bodies welcome individual members. Why not join now and help protect the future of your sport?

Details are held by Roy Gurney.

IMPORTANT!

Outings and Competitions

As you can see this year we have a very full programme of events and competitions. There were a few problems last year (and the year before) and therefore to prevent this happening again (and make the organiser of the event life easier) please can you:

1. Book early (at the latest by the date on the slip!) – it saves having to chase around trying to get numbers as some of the events need a minimum number of people to go ahead. Without that number the event may have to be cancelled and if we do that late it gets the branch and the guild a poor reputation with the fishery.
2. Understand that the price quoted may go up. This is because we have to confirm bookings/prices now. As a result of the current economic situation fishery overheads are going up and nearly all fishery managers have said that prices are liable to change for events after April this year.
3. Understand that if you say you are coming the organiser is relying on you to come and pay the amount required – the club hasn't got the funds to cover non-attendees.

Above all the events are organised for you, therefore if there are any events you want to do and are not on the list, or are not happy with any of the events that we do run, then please, please let us know. We can't fix things if we don't know about them.

**Paul Davis – Competitions and Outings
Secretary.**

Branch Library

Richard Foster has taken over from Jim Harris as custodian of the extensive collection of videos, CDs and some books which are available to all members on loan. An up-to-date inventory is being prepared, but in the meantime do ask Richard on Thursday evenings if you want some fireside viewing/reading.

Paradise in the waters of Eden (or feeling the Blues in Surrey) Branch Outing to Coltsford Mill, Sunday 16th November

Eleven members of our club and two members from Crawley Fly Fishers made the journey to Coltsford Mill – a venue the club hadn't visited for quite a while. I had never visited the venue before so I was really looking forward to the event.

Although I arrived at the appointed time it became apparent that the club's 'early boys' had already arrived, screeched to a halt by the first bit of the lake, and were already dispatching fish left right and centre! I pointed out that they weren't parked in the car park and also I hadn't yet paid for the fishing yet, so technically they were poaching! They reluctantly reeled in and followed me down and joined everyone else in the main car park. I hadn't expected such an eventful start!

Coltsford Mill sits on the upper River Eden and is recorded in the Domesday Book. For those non-history buffs the Domesday Book is a list of places to catch lots of trout and was written by two blokes called Norman and William around 6 minutes past 11 on modern clocks (or 10:66 in old money).

The mill itself is a series of old buildings and modern renovations, and as well as being a fishery there is a licensed bar and restaurant on site. The venue also holds weddings and corporate events but, and this was a surprise, there is a fully stocked tackle shop. A visit to the loos is normal but at this venue it is a must as these are the cleanest and smartest I've ever seen at a fishing venue.

The River Eden feeds all of the lakes – there are 4 lakes in total which give a total size of 4 acres to search for fish. The largest lakes are Mill Pool and Willow Pool and these are directly fed by the Eden. Mill Pool in turns feeds a smaller pool – namely Upper Cascade which in turn feeds into the Lower Cascade Pool. The unique way in which these two smaller pools have been constructed means that they behave more like a small river than typical freshwater pools – a positive bonus in my book!



Tony Harrison fishing the river-like Lower Cascade Pool

I won't prolong the agony any further but needless to say everyone caught their bag limit of 4 fish generally very quickly – and most then decided to have another top up ticket. For speed of catching their limit I must mention Ted How who caught his 4 fish by 9.45am and only took another 45mins to catch another 2 fish on his second ticket. All of the fish fought very hard, averaging about 2 to 2.5lbs –

I had one fish that straightened a Diawl Bach tied on Kamasan hook on the take and several members were broken by really savage takes.



Bill Smith successfully using one of Wayne Duerden's flies

We had a prize for the biggest fish – kindly donated by Bill Smith – and in a surprising act of divine justice the biggest fish was caught by Bill (in fact it was the first fish he caught on one of his first casts in the lake) and was around the 6lb mark. I always look carefully at the quality and health of fish – and if you look at some in the magazines they are in a shocking state. Well every single fish caught was fin perfect, not a ragged edge anywhere and as said before these fish really did pull hard - a testament to good fish management. The fish weren't just ordinary rainbows – the fishery is stocked with rainbows and Blues (which pleased Bill as he really prefers the taste of the Blues, but as someone who doesn't eat trout I'll take his word for it). What I can confirm is that the Blues here fight a lot harder than an equivalent sized rainbow. This is the sort of Blues I don't mind feeling!

It might seem from what I have written that the fishing was easy – well it generally was, but not universally so. Willow Pool proved to be a challenge and nearly everyone blanked on this lake – the fish here were just not playing ball – however Ian Dunk persevered and showed why he is regularly successful in the club competitions as he managed to work out the secret of this lake– fish in the inlet stream from the Eden. I did check with Shaun Moore, the manager, and he said we were lucky the fishing as it not always this easy, and to make the most of the fishes' good mood before it changed!



Bill Black, Ian Dunk and Eric Hunter on the notoriously difficult Willow Pool

As we were all catching fish relatively easily there really was a relaxed atmosphere - everyone would

wander around chat and offer advice to everyone else (whether you needed it or not!). It was a really pleasant and fun atmosphere, which I guess was due to it not being necessary for everyone to fish hard to catch.

The patio area overlooking the lakes was the venue for lunch, and exceptionally comfortable it was too – so much so that the next match versus Crawley FF was planned to be held here (see the programme with this newsletter - Sunday 2nd August).

Some members decided to leave after lunch and this just left a few members trying to complete their fish tickets. A few stalwarts stayed on to keep them company and were treated to the greatly entertaining sight of one presumed dead fish belonging to Bill giving a muscular twitch and then doing a nose to tail cartwheel down the bank where it launched itself majestically back into the water - just in front of where Peter Winder was fishing. Some of us (myself and Steve Mustchin) were laughing too hard to help, but Wayne came to the rescue and used a net to dredge the fish out, which was, when it was landed, stone dead!

The proceedings were brought to an end when a vicious cold rain shower was blown in by a stiff breeze and everyone scurried for the cars and shelter. A rather undignified end to what was an excellent day of fishing, fun and banter.

Paul Davis

The New Body Representing Angling

You will no doubt have heard that as from January 2009 there will be one voice representing all aspects of angling in England. The new association is called **Angling Trust** with a legal arm **Fish Legal** (formerly the ACA). Sadly, the Salmon & Trout Association, having gained charitable trust status, considered its aims as somehow different to the new body and did not affiliate.

As a member of both NAFAC and the ACA, the Branch will continue membership of both sections, and we would remind you that both bodies welcome individual members. Why not join now and help protect the future of your sport?

Details are held by Roy Gurney.

The programme for 2009/10 is enclosed.
Entry forms for events will be sent with February newsletter

Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

Chairman: John Plowman 01825 762975
Secretary: Paul Bond 01273 420410
Treasurer: Roy Gurney 01273 506184

Editor: Roy Gurney, 7 Eldred Avenue, Brighton
BN1 5EB

Phone: 01273 506184

Fax: 01273 881209

E-mail: roygurney@ntlworld.com

Visit our web site

Sussexflydressers.org.uk

