



Sussex Branch Newsletter



MARCH 2009

ANNUAL DINNER **18th April 2009**

Book your tickets now! Don't be disappointed this year. It's 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 **£24.00** each.

If you've mislaid your form – ring John Burt on 01273 695164 or get one from Roy Gurney.

FLY-TYING **COMPETITION 2009**

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 **19th March 2008**.

CHANGE OF VENUE

Match v. Surrey Branch 14th June 2009

As threatened, there are some changes inevitable for our programme, and the first is the change of venue for this match against our Surrey neighbours. Surrey have asked to have a venue nearer home, so Chris Croucher has kindly re-arranged this fixture to take place at **Chalk Springs** on the same date. Cost is now £48 which includes a 4 fish ticket and barbeque or buffet lunch. Please use the booking form already sent, amending the venue and price accordingly..

Committee day

Again the venue has been changed to **Spring Hill** as John o' Gaunts is apparently up for sale!

WANTED – TROPHIES!

Don't forget that anyone holding Branch trophies from 2008 should return them urgently to Roy Gurney as we need to engrave them ready for presentation at the Annual Dinner or the final evening get-together. We need a couple of weeks for the engraving and once again Easter intervenes – so **please** let us have them in good time.

Fly Fishing Venues in the South East for 2009

Again this year the Kent branch of the S&TA have produced a comprehensive, updated booklet "Fly Fishing Venues in the South East for 2009".

Covering Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire and Essex, it includes Stillwaters and rivers, both day ticket and private fisheries, making it a useful reference book if you are looking for new venues. There are approximately 80 fisheries covered by the booklet so you can have no excuses for not having somewhere to fish!

Phillip Ellis, the regional representative, has copies and they can be obtained from him on Tying nights or by phone on 01903 504317. Cost £2.50 each.



John Plowman sends us this notice seen in Campbell River, Vancouver Island

PAT testing

As you may know, it is a condition of hire of the Patcham Community Centre that all electrical equipment (including extension leads) used in the centre and which is plugged onto the mains, has to be approved and so marked by a sticker or cord tag. This has to be done annually (the first year after purchase is exempt).

The Centre is arranging a PAT testing day on Saturday 21st March and anyone requiring to use such equipment in the centre should bring the item(s) along for testing. There will be a nominal charge of £3 per item tested. If the equipment is to be used in connection with the Branch activities, the Branch will pay this charge.

Please let Roy Gurney know if you wish to take advantage of this (phone 01273 506184) or if you cannot attend but wish to leave any articles with him for testing.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT LINES

I have mentioned this before but with the very cold air and water temperatures we have been experiencing recently it is worth saying again.

Remember that water does not behave as most liquids when it cools. At temperatures from 100 to 4 deg.C water will contract, become denser, and descend as it cools. This means that for most of our fishing year the warmer water is at the top and the cold water is at the bottom. However, from 4 to 0 deg.C water expands and rises as it cools so now the colder water is on the surface and the warmer water is below.

So, in the winter, if the surface water is below 4 deg.C then the fish will probably be in the deep water but if it is above 4 deg.C then the fish will be nearer the surface.

For Bewl anglers there is a very good on line weather station at:

<http://www.bewlbridgeflyfishers.com/weather.html>

On this the box marked "soil temperature" is actually the water temperature. Other information will probably be relevant to most of SE England.

John Plowman.

Fishing on the Teviot

Some of you may recall that a few years ago we advised availability of fishing organised by Ian Davis on the Teviot. Ian has recently relocated, and has sent the following details for anyone interested in reasonably price fishing on this fine river:-

"I'm now living in the Scottish Borders and have a beat on the River Teviot, just 7 miles from the Junction Pool with the River Tweed.

So, if any members are interested in some salmon, sea trout, brown trout or grayling fishing, then please get them to give me a call. Prices for salmon fishing range from £25 to £70 per rod day. We keep the cost down, then if anyone catches more than one fish in any one day then we ask them to pay the Tweed Salmon Levy contribution of £50 on their second and subsequent fish. It's a system that has worked well for a number of years and we believe it is much fairer. In the 2007 season we had one guy who caught 5 salmon in a morning and happily gave a cheque for £200 for what was his best day salmon fishing ever.

Last year we had 70 salmon and over 20 sea trout. Best Brown Trout was 6lbs caught on a dry Invicta at the end of May.

My contact details now are as follows:

Ian Davis
2, Wester Wooden Farm Cottages
Eckford
Kelso TD5 8LQ
(Tel: 01835 850788)

(his e-mail is imcldavis@aol.com - Ed.)

I hope all's well in the South!

Tight lines and best wishes, Ian."

SUSSEX PISCATORIAL

Sussex Piscatorial Society is one of the oldest angling clubs in the country (founded in 1891), and have a number of coarse and trout fisheries in Sussex where traditional angling methods are encouraged.

The trout section has three lakes, one near Heathfield and two just west of Steyning. They also have a stretch of the river Itchen in Hampshire.

Membership is £250.00 per annum including guest tickets which is exceedingly good value. Anyone interested should contact **Bob Burbidge** (who is one of our members, and usually in attendance on Thursdays) on 01903 873878 who will give you full details. Alternatively, go to their website www.sussexpiscatorialsociety.co.uk where all will be revealed.

LIABILITY INSURANCE

As a member of the Flydressers' Guild you are covered for personal third party liability for up to £10 million through your subscription. The Branch also has similar cover for up to £5 million for events organized by the Branch (including the normal tying nights and demonstrations for instance).

Our insurers require us to advise them immediately following incidents in which they may have an interest, particularly incidents involving personal injury, and therefore any member who is involved in an incident whilst taking part in any Branch activity must immediately report the circumstances to the Secretary.

WEIL'S DISEASE

Whilst we are in a serious mood, and the fishing season is getting well under way, it might be wise to remind ourselves of the above. Weil's Disease (Leptospirosis) is a bacterial infection carried in rats' urine, which contaminates water and the banks of lakes, rivers and ponds.

The early symptoms are similar to those of 'flu and normally start 3 to 19 days after exposure to contaminated water. Every year people die from this disease, which is unnecessary because it is easily treated if diagnosed in time.

DON'T LET IT HAPPEN TO YOU!

There are a number of sensible precautions you can take:

- Cover any cuts, sores or scratches with waterproof plasters or gloves
- Disinfect any wounds that occur at the waterside
- Do not put your hand in your mouth after immersing in river water and never place bait or fishing line in your mouth
- Do not touch dead animals, especially rats
- If you develop 'flu-like symptoms that persist, tell your doctor that you may have been exposed to leptospirosis so the he/she can consider it in the diagnosis
- Do not leave food, ground bait or bait on the bankside.

After all that – enjoy yourself, keep safe and tight lines!!!

BRASS MONKEYS 2009

The Brass Monkeys Challenge was fished in cold but dry weather at the Hazel Copse Fishery near Rudgwick on Sunday 15 February. Twenty of our hardest souls assembled at 8.30 a.m. to be greeted by Richard Foster, who generously passed around a bottle of malt whisky 'to keep the cold away'. After each angler was issued with two flies, a hare's ear and a damsel, and the rules of engagement had been read by Bill Smith, fishing began.

The earliest prize was to be awarded for first fish caught on one of these two flies. The Bond family, Paul and father-in-law Gerry, practised catch and release to allow everyone else a fighting chance. In the event, Tony Harrison and Tony Woolnough landed fish simultaneously. They were standing about as far away from each other as possible, making a photo finish impossible to establish. A dead heat was agreed and each collected a prize.

The fishing was good, with hard-fighting fully finned rainbows being caught all around the two lakes. At the lunchtime weigh-in, the close of the main challenge, the most contested prize was for smallest fish. Ian Dunk, Brian Raw, Steve Steer and Peter Winder were all in with a chance. After a re-weigh Ian was all smiles, having had his fish downgraded by 1oz to 1lb 9oz. All was settled – or so we thought – when Richard Foster ambled along for lunch and weighed in a monster of 1lb 7oz to take the prize.

The final competition of the day was for the biggest post-lunch fish. As most of us had already caught and dispatched our limits of two fish, Paul Davis was kept busy, and got much exercise, running around the lakes weighing fish before they were returned to the water. That'll teach him to tell us he had some scales in his bag.

Bill Smith was in pole position for much of the afternoon until, with his last cast of the day, Peter Winder hooked a rainbow of 3lb 6oz (despite Bill desperately trying to end the competition by blowing his whistle).

A good day was had by all, with most vowing to return to do battle again in 2010. The results of all the day's competitions are:

First Fish	Tony Harrison & Tony Woolnough
Heaviest Bag	Paul Davis (7lb 2oz)
Biggest Fish	Wayne Duerden (4lb 3oz)
Second Heaviest Bag	Ted How (6lb 2oz)
Smallest Fish	Richard Foster (1lb 7oz)
Biggest Fish after lunch	Peter Winder (3lb 6oz)

The Brass Monkeys cups will be presented to Paul and Wayne at the Annual Dinner on 18 April.

The next Brass Monkeys Challenge will be held in February 2010 – you'll need to book early.

WILD TROUT TRUST

Denise Ashton and Andy Thomas were welcome guests on 5th March and gave us a splendid insight into the aims and operation of the WTT. The work which this organisation does for river management not only improves the lot of brown trout, but all river and water environments. As the "open floor"

discussions showed, their activities touch us all, and deserve fullest support from all anglers – join now and help – details from Roy Gurney or visit their website www.wildtrout.org

JIM TEENY

We were very lucky to be able to welcome Jim, known for his specialist fly-lines as well as the iconic Teeny Nymph variations. Jim and his wife were staying over for a few days with Peter Cockwill, who kindly helped arrange this last-minute fixture. Despite the short notice we had a full turn-out, with many welcome guests, who were kept fully engaged with his description of fishing in the State of New York, which is much more accessible than the better-known Mid-West and Western regions of the USA and Canada.

I am sure there are many now considering whether a trip to these lovely rivers and their magnificent brown trout and steelheads would be a good alternative to the more expensive traditional areas.

Jim would be pleased to help in advising on this, via Peter Cockwill, and we are grateful him slotting us in on his short visit. His fishing method – Teeny Nymphs of many variations, on Teeny sink-tip lines – is certainly a killer for the river conditions there, and adaptable to our stillwaters, too.

Jim kindly donated to the Branch a set of Teeny Nymphs, tied by himself, in on of Peter's fly-boxes, which is now in our archives for all to see.

LONDON BRANCH AUCTIONS

Mike Humphreys, who you all know from his great efforts at our own auction, has advised that the London Branch are holding auctions as follows:

Miscellanea, Clothing, Nets, Bags, Rods, Reels and Lines on Saturday 7th March 2009 and Flies, Fly-boxes, Fly Dressing Materials, Books, etc on Saturday 14th March 2009.

Both sales will start at 12 noon sharp (viewing from 10 am) at **All Saints Church Hall, Croxley Green, Herts.** (5 minutes from Junction 18 M25).

Roy Gurney has a catalogue for perusal, or you can send s.a.e. to M W Humphreys, The Weather House, Croxley Hall Woods, Herts. WD3 3BE, price £1.

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WANTED

CASTERS AND HELPERS

TO ASSIST CHILDREN

AT FLY FISHING EVENTS 2009



Hello fellow fly tyers, I'm Brian Raw lately of Cinder Hill notoriety, an inveterate angler, shooter and Freemason. Since resigning as Trouting Syndicate Organiser with the S & T Assoc. I have taken on yet another job as Organiser for the Masonic Trout and Salmon Fishing Charity known as 'MTSFC' in Sussex.

The charity has been operating for only 10 years now in several parts of England and Wales. Last year we ran over 40 events in 15 counties for some 700 disadvantaged children and adults. This year there will be more events in more counties (including Sussex), with even more participants. There are coarse and fly fishing events in different counties.

Essentially, a group of Freemasons and helpers (wives and non-masons) book a fishing venue for the day, erect a marquee, arrange catering, toilets and other facilities and invite schools to send suitable children along to enjoy a day out in a pleasant environment. We provide breakfast for helpers, a fun day with lunch for all and an opportunity for adults to have a cast after our guests have departed.

We are looking for competent casters who are willing to use their own gear to encourage youngsters in casting and landing fish. Some may be wheel chair bound or sight restricted, others may be autistic, although handicaps will be clearly identified before the day. Tackle bags and fly boxes hold a particular fascination and starting points for supervised discussion and investigation.

I'm hoping to run two events this year with the first one at Chalk Springs, Arundel for 16 children in May and a second for 12 children at a venue to be decided, in either July or September. For the second event I'm considering Cinder Hill syndicate waters, Yew Tree, Brick Farm and Hazel Copse.

There is no cost for Casters or Helpers (other than your own transport) and I'm sure you will enjoy the day, whatever the weather. To see the kids depart with a smile on their faces is a real treat!



CATCH THE SMILE

Last year I helped at events in Middlesex, Surrey and Hampshire (on a very exclusive estate) and have been invited to go fishing in Oxfordshire, Hertfordshire and North Wales as a result of contacts made.

As a safeguard for you and the children, all helpers must have CRB clearance through the MTSFC. This is free, but takes about a month to clear.

You can find out more about the charity and expectations by accessing the website; www.mtsfc.org.uk If you would like to help as a Caster or just with the running of the day then please contact me, Brian Raw on 01444 456704 or b.raw@talk21.com