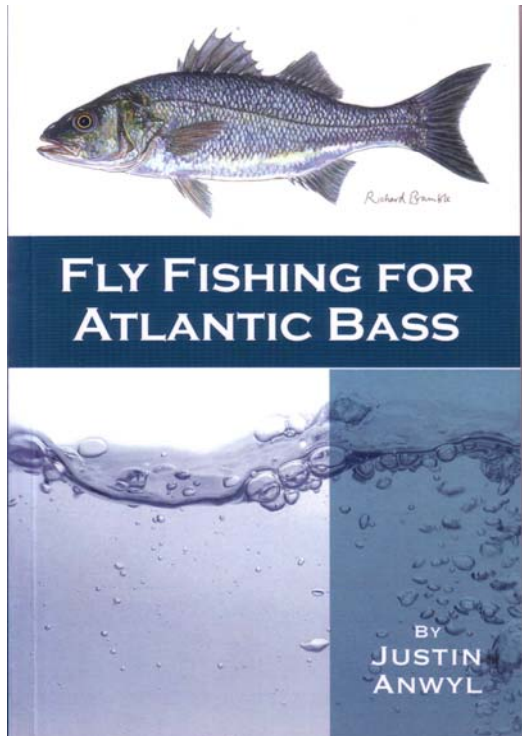




Sussex Branch Newsletter



MAY 2009



At the recent "Cast & Blast" day promoted by Orvis held at Meon Springs, Hampshire, Justin Anwyll, a well known guide for Bass fishing based in Chichester harbour (*and who was one of our speakers a couple of years ago – Ed.*), gave a talk and demonstration. Being one of the gang following Brian Hendry's saltwater fly tying demonstrations recently, I followed Justin's talk with interest that was very precise in its format and delivery. He has just published a small book of 66 pages on the very subject and yes, I bought a copy at £11.00. Not cheap but I have to say it is full of information with little wasted text. He talks about the basics and quickly gets onto tides and the lunar cycle. A very brief description of tackle and flies but nothing about techniques.

One safety tip I learnt is that it is not advisable use automatic lifejackets, so it has to be manual otherwise it will go off at the slightest amount of spray when fishing in surf. Oh well there goes another fifty pound or more!

A book well worth reading for the basic principles of bass fishing along our coast, from someone that does it for a living.

Phillip Ellis

Frank Darrah Pairs

John Plowman reports:

Six pairs of enthusiastic anglers assembled at Bewl on a warm, calm and sunny morning. The fishery staff were their usual positive selves and assured us that there were plenty of fish being caught all around the reservoir and suggested the best places for success. Bill King and I motored to Chingley Wood and drifted on a very gentle breeze towards the dam. Bill was soon into his first fish and I watched two trout follow my fly right to the edge of the boat before turning away. The morning continued like this with the wind gradually increasing in strength. Bill hooked and lost another while I eventually got into the fish and caught three. We all met for lunch when it was evident that almost all had had a good morning, the most successful being Chris Nunn with seven fish.

The afternoon went badly for me for I did not touch another fish. However, Bill managed to hook three more but lost two of them. By the 5 pm weigh in it was clear that the contest between the three boats of expert reservoir anglers was going to be close. We had two boats each with fourteen fish and the final result was secured by the magnificent 7lb 10oz. rainbow of Chris Croucher which clinched the success of himself and Ian Dunk.

We all had a good day with 12 anglers catching 50 fish for a total weight of 93lb. 7½oz.

My thanks to the fishery staff at Bewl and to all who took part.

Boat	Name	Fish	Weight		Boat total	
			lb	oz	fish	weight
1	Chris Croucher	8	18	12.5	14	28lb 10oz
	Ian Dunk	6	9	13.5		
2	Chris Nunn	8	14	9.0	14	26lb 5oz
	Neil Batchelor	6	11	12.0		
3	Colin Rann	7	11	11.5	10	16lb 15½oz
	Michael Brayne	3	5	4.0		
4	John Plowman	3	5	5.5	5	8lb 6oz
	Bill King	2	3	0.5		
5	David Painter	0			4	7lb 11oz
	Ray Love	4	7	11.0		
6	Tony Woolnough	3	5	8.0	3	5lb 8oz
	Ted How	0				
	Grand total	50				93lb 7½oz

CHAIRMAN'S CHATLINES

Boat Safety

The interesting session some of us had with Michael Brayne on reservoir fishing reminded me of some of the safety precautions we need to be aware of when on a boat on a large reservoir. These are my own suggestions.

1. Wear a life jacket when in the boat or on the jetty and wear it outside your coat.
2. Wear eye protection (Polaroids).
3. Take and use sun protection cream and carry a simple first aid kit.
4. Wear a hat preferably with a brim unless you want involuntary ear piercing!
5. Avoid all unnecessary standing in the boat.
6. Take a seat cushion.
7. Check the fishery rules and finishing time.
8. If you have not used an outboard motor before, then ask the fishery staff to explain its correct use.
9. When drifting with two right-handed anglers, then keep the engine on the left as you face down the drift. This reduces the number of times the left side angler hooks the engine.
10. When on your own on a boat make sure the engine cut out cord is fixed to your clothing.
11. Make sure you know the phone no. of the fishery lodge (in case of engine failure or bad weather).
12. Keep your mobile phone in a waterproof pack.
13. In case of "Man overboard" get the wet angler to the side of the boat and check he is secure. Then go to the front of the boat and make a Loop of rope with the anchor rope. Guide the man in the water along the side to the front and use the rope loop as a stirrup to manoeuvre him into the boat. NEVER PULL HIM OVER THE SIDE OF THE BOAT: YOU WILL TIP THE BOAT AND HAVE BOTH OF YOU IN!
14. If you are on your own and fall in then the engine will cut out (see section 4). You will now need to get to the front of the boat and pull yourself over the bows using the anchor rope as described.
15. In strong winds never fix the boat to anchor, buoy or drogue by the side of the boat. There is a serious risk of swamping or overturning. Fix your anchor point to the bows.
16. When motoring or rowing in strong wind it is safer and more comfortable to point the boat directly into the wind. Take great care when turning the boat side on to the waves.

I hope this does not put you off trying an important and satisfying branch of fly fishing!

Tight Lines

John Plowman

Materials for Bass flies and tungsten beads

Looking for crystal flash and holographic tinsel and tungsten beads? Then look no further!

Joel Barrow offers a wide selection of colours very well priced if you buy in quantity. I recently bought the whole section of 16 colours available for £16.00. I have to say the quantity you get is perhaps a little less than in the shops but it very good value and you get a discount according to value of your order if it's over £25.00. My order arrived two days after placing order by email.

Joel also offers a wide range of tungsten beads, dumbbells and the latest shrimp backs ideal for Grayling fishing.

www.tungsten-beads.co.uk

Contact:

J. Barrow,
8 Grove terrace,
Birkenshaw,
Bradford,
W. Yorkshire,
BD11 2LY.

Joel@tungsten-beads.co.uk

Phillip Ellis

EQUIPMENT



Andy Steer, our Equipment Officer has a catalogue of items available. If you require one, please ring him (01323 899527) or Roy Gurney (01273 506184) 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

These are the “course books” for our tying classes. 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.

Honorary Bond

By Bill Smith

Joining the annual Bond family pilgrimage to Kennick Reservoir high on Dartmoor as an 'honorary Bond', the trip for me was into the unknown. Paul picked me up on Wednesday later than planned at 3.20pm having been held up at work (boring), flew to his house to load the car and jump in and away with father-in-law Gerry in tow just after 4pm. We motored at a fair rate of knots through rush hour and still got down in some 3 ¼ hours to Bovey Tracey on the edge of Dartmoor.

We met up with the other six 'family' members, Peter, Colin, Ray, Brian, Roy and Chris, who had travelled during the day and had been on the beer since lunch that day. The Dolphin Hotel seemed to welcome these guys with open arms, especially the owner's wife. The meal that evening was extraordinary – didn't know cod and chips came so large! Had to leave the chips....!

Well after a few more beers – god these guys drink – and shorts before bed, it was bed, sleep, shower and full English to set yourself up for the day on Kennick. Cars loaded, we set off up steeply graded roads to climb onto the moor. Through picturesque countryside we arrived at this beautiful reservoir, signed in and loaded the boats.

The first day was very hard, wind in the east and bright skies above; it was a day on Hi-D and boobies, with only six fish caught all day. To give some form of compensation even the locals were complaining how bad it was. At lunch we banked the boats, ate more food and drunk some wine in glasses (plastic but glasses in any case). The obligatory group photo was done with all the guys wearing matching hats to Ray, whose hat is as old as his stories.

Fishing didn't improve. The same evening routine ensued, dinner this time was again monumental and this time I stayed on shorts as the beer had taken its toll the night before.



The Bond/Newman clan - plus one!

Day 2 was a change in format, (not for me being first trip), but we split the day and fished from the bank. We had a few hours in the morning followed by lunch (dinner) back at the Hotel – all this food was starting to stretch the mid-rift. This tactic did reap benefit as although the weather was basically the same but with sheltered areas, some fish did come to the net, and on floater as well. After lunch and some well earned respite from food, we headed back to the fishing to carry on until the death of the

light. The evening rise probably occurred somewhere, but not on Kennick; a shame, as that was why the day was split. Rumours of what had been before had paled by the lack of fish rising. Still, people caught this night but not me! By the end of the day Roy was the front runner with three fish in 17 hours of fishing. There were still four blanker's.



Bill on thebank

A rush back to the hotel at dusk but the time was running short. However as always the staff looked after us and we were all fed with the largest cheese board I have seen in while. More food! And of course the dreaded drink. I have a suspicion that there is more to this village and these guys that I have yet to find out. To cap the evening guess what these boys did to me, they produced a bottle of Whisky, a sealed box and a book of raffle tickets and expected me to sell them to raise cash as an initiation!

Day 3, the last day, and back in the boats. During the night torrential rain and a change in wind saw a different perspective on Kennick. Wind was south westerly and blustery. The first day had had its problems with dud battery meaning I had to row part of the day. I thought nothing could be worse - how wrong can you be - the engine wouldn't work properly after getting out on the water. With a multi tool (get one if you can) I repaired the engine enough to get us in for lunch on the bank. However fish had now started to show and Gerry had almost bagged up on one spot, before moving to let others relish a tight line. Another repair ensued, then lunch – more food – then back out onto the water again with renewed vigour, only to discover that the motor simply worked backwards!

I can work backwards, I thought, and getting into the afternoon's fishing with a little luck (or skill) and just one fish to this point, Paul suggested I try Gerry's drift. Brian and I did just that and we managed to connect with the trout at last – 5 casts, 3 hooked and 2 landed. With renewed optimism we decided to try another drift. Turning the boat around we found the wind had freshened and we were going back faster than forward. Paul noticed us and came to the rescue, but with two laden boats, four anglers and a very forthright wind we struggled and drifted into the bank. By now others seeing our plight had headed in and came along the bank to tow us in the good old fashioned way back to the boat berth. Just my luck as it had taken three days to really find the fish and as fast as the journey down the fishing ended.

Last night at the hotel was again a night of food, drink and farewells. The prize was presented to a cheery Gerry who like some before had retained the trophy. To them this was year 13, to me my first. My first time was an experience and I thank all the guys – as this is a boys holiday, and apparently there are four more waiting in the wings who couldn't make it this year plus three 'women' who also fish! How many families can boast so many fisher-people – for four wonderful days on Dartmoor.



Gerry gets his prize

**Bill Smith -
Somewhere on
Dartmoor!**



Would I go again? If there is a next time and I'm invited I am sure I would make a better fist of it.

Bill Smith

CASTING CLINIC Thursday 14th 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.

An added attraction is that Brian Sharp will be bringing along a selection of the latest rods and reels from Hardy-Greys for you to try out.

ENTRIES FOR OUTINGS

There are still some outings which are under-subscribed despite Paul's efforts to get everyone to register by 16th April. Organizers need to know as soon as possible of your 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 – then book your places!! If you haven't been on any before, rest assured you will enjoy the company and the venues.

Rod raffle 2009

As you know, all ticket money goes to purchasing the prizes, totalling this year some 38 in all.

Top prize went to David Craig, and even allowing for Mike "I've never won a prize" Guest taking home a handful, including the 2nd prize of a super Snowbee vice, there were plenty of satisfied winners at the end of season gathering.

Bill Smith once again produced another fantastic array of prizes and we all thank him for his tireless efforts in extracting your money, which this year came to just under £2000! Also we were supported wholeheartedly by our suppliers, including our local tackle shop Lagoon Bait & Tackle, who gave us huge discounts, enabling the RRP of the prizes to well exceed £3000!

FISHING WORKSHOPS?

A suggestion has been made that we might arrange "workshops" on various aspects of fishing, such as using and making braided leaders and loops, leaders with droppers, tips for boat fishing, etc, etc, etc.

These could be on tying evenings on the "odds and ends" table. Any goods tips coming out of this could be added to the web-site too – what do you think?

Let one of the committee know if you think it a good idea, and we will implement it next "season" if there is sufficient interest.

MEMBERS' PATTERNS for WEBSITE

Have you a favourite fly, either of your own or one which may not be a regular pattern? We have a new section on our website ("Patterns") where your killer fly can be shown – download the pro-forma for the recipe, and then submit to Mike Guest, with a tied fly for photographing.

Also other contributions for inclusion are welcome.

Auction 2009

For those of you who have not seen it on the website, Roy Gurney has asked that early entries for this year's auctions (on 22nd October and 3rd November) would be greatly appreciated, as it helps to stagger production of the catalogues. Entry forms can be downloaded from the website, or ask Roy for some as hard copy.

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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