



Sussex Branch Newsletter



JUNE / JULY 2009

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

More and more copies of our newsletter are being delivered by e-mail. Despite this the newsletter costs £400-450 per year in printing and postage – well over half of the stationery and postage budget.

If you currently receive a printed copy by post, and you have an e-mail address we can send it to, please let us know and we will add you to the 100+ who already receive it in this way.

Similarly, if you wish to be removed from the postal distribution list, let us know too as we hate to think of it going straight into the waste paper bin (hopefully for recycling) !

Match v. East Sussex Salmon & Trout Association

Yew Tree Fishery saw a full house on Sunday 17th May when our good friends from S&TA hosted our annual get-together. We managed to raise a team plus a reserve – thanks to our organiser's memory (or lack of it!) – but the reserve managed to incapacitate himself anyway, and couldn't fish!

The conditions were far from ideal – it was blowing a hooley and very much sunshine and showers, with the showers prevailing! Nevertheless a couple of rods bent early on, but on the whole fishing was not easy.



Lunch time break

Yew Tree was looking beautiful, and many anglers tried the small brown trout lake at the top, most without success. However, Phillip Ellis persevered and was duly rewarded with a full bag of 4 brownies, one of which gained him the prize for best brown (a 4

fish ticket, kindly donated by John Schumacher), at 2lb 10oz (run close by Steve Mustchin's of 2lb 5oz). Most fish came from the main lake in front of the lodge, with Bill Smith vying with Wayne Duerden to be top rod. Wayne eventually came out on top with 4 fish for 8lb 9½oz. However, best fish of the day went to Anthony Bartlett of ES S&TA with a fine fish of 3lb 8½oz.



Wayne receives his prize from Geoff Taylor

The prime object of the day, apart from the comradeship of fellow anglers, was the team prize, which was retained by the Branch by a fair margin – 36lb 3oz to 11lb 5oz – but ES S&TA have vowed to get their revenge next year! We look forward to hosting them then for this very friendly competition.



Roy Gurney receives the Cup from Geoff Taylor

Many thanks to Geoff and his colleagues for being such good hosts, and to John Schumacher for the splendid lunch, bacon butties to start the day, and for providing such a delightful venue – what a pity the weather (and the fish) were not more co-operative!

Arlington Evening – 21st May

A good turnout of some twenty or so members took advantage of the deceptively fine weather and, as is so often the case, met with mixed results. Some caught well and others struggled – but the gathering in the lodge afterwards was as convivial as ever and the drinks and sandwiches went down well. Whilst the weather was bright and sunny, there was a fair breeze and it became quite chilly.

Many thanks to the ranger, Tom Todd, who was surprised to see us (somehow the organiser had failed to ensure that we were on their calendar – *mea culpa Ed.*) but nevertheless gave us a warm welcome. This long-standing event is still one of the highlights of the season.

BRANCH TROPHY DAY

Don't forget – let Peter Winder have your entry form **now** for our return to:

Duncton Mill

on
Sunday 18th October

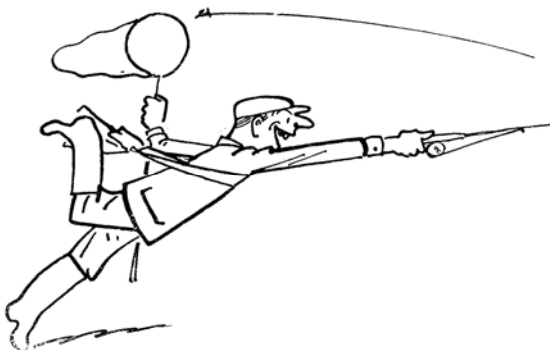
Trophies for best bag, best fish, best brown etc. The cost is £40 for a 4 fish ticket and includes a buffet lunch. Remember, this is THE branch day when all the trophies are up for grabs!

CASTING CLINIC



Too much force—

This was once again very well supported and we are grateful to the instructors who gave up their time to impart their expertise on us mere mortals. Especially welcome were some potential new members who dropped in. Albert Horne again demonstrated his exceptional casting ability, despite his arthritis, and we also welcomed Brian Sharpe who brought along a range of the new rods and reels from Hardy Grays.



—Should never be used.

Chairman's Chat

Elsewhere in this newsletter you should find my report on our first show of the 2009 season. Our presence at the various agricultural and game shows in our region does much to raise the awareness of the general public and, perhaps more importantly, gives us an opportunity to encourage fellow anglers to join us and learn the skills associated with fly dressing. We should all remember that we are not primarily a fishing club but a guild whose *raison d'être* is to pass on to the next generation the skills and patterns essential to our craft.

With this in mind can I please encourage all of you to come to at least one show as a demonstrator? You do not need to be an expert for it will be important that a prospective member can be shown the standard he can expect to reach after just one winter's instruction. I look forward to seeing more of you at the remaining shows – I still have vacancies.

Tight lines

John Plowman.

Heathfield Agricultural Show

Following the rain and wind of previous years the weather at Heathfield at last was calm and sunny. The show organisers had given us an electricity power point so Bill Smith, Richard Foster and myself were well set up with plenty of tea and a comfortable demonstration area. This Show is a charming old fashioned agricultural show where groups like us, the beekeepers, wheelwrights and lace makers were a welcome attraction but not the main event.

The public were late in coming to the show but by the afternoon they were there in record numbers. We had many enquiries about the techniques we employed and how we used the flies, and the anglers in our audience exchanged fishing stories and told us how well or otherwise different fisheries were performing. Heathfield is rather too far east for us to recruit many new members but I am hopeful that one or two might join us in the autumn.

After last year the show management had kindly moved the public address speakers further away from us so an altogether pleasant day was spent by the three of us. We certainly raised the profile of the Guild in East Sussex.

John Plowman

Calling all Golfers!

We have been invited by The Dyke Golf Club to enter a fourball team for their Society Organisers' Day on 5th October 2009, at a cost of £120 per team.

The format is two scores to count from four on each hole, stableford, $\frac{3}{4}$ handicap. Tee times will start at 9.30 am. The day will start with a bacon roll, available from 8.30, and after the golf there will be a two course lunch and prize presentation. There will be prizes for the best team score and runners-up.

Anyone interested please contact Roy Gurney (a total non-golfer!) and he will pass you details – entries to be made by 4th September.

ACCREDITATION - The National Certification Scheme

The Flydressers' Guild is implementing a form of qualification for fly tying, following the general pattern of the courses which we in Sussex Branch have been running for many years. Last year was the first "dry run" using Sussex and Ringwood branches as the guinea pigs.

It must be stressed that it is purely voluntary if you wish to participate in this scheme – in this day and age it seems to be the norm that such accreditation is deemed appropriate even for recreational skills and the younger generation take it all in their stride, unlike the old stagers like your Editor!

There will be three grades of ascending certification: Bronze (i.e. beginners), Silver (intermediate) and Gold (advanced). The Bronze, and in the first instance the Silver, awards will be made "in house" by submitting certain flies demonstrating skills learnt during the year before a panel appointed by the Branch Committee. The Gold award, and eventually the Silver award, will be adjudicated by the FDG nationally. A certificate and a badge will be presented to those who qualify.

However, for this first occasion, those of you who wish to be included in the scheme and were in last year's classes for beginners and intermediate, give your name to your last year's Instructor and he will then put your name forward to the adjudication panel for approval.

If you would like to see the outline of the scheme drawn up by Ian Fazakerley, Membership Secretary of the FDG, please ask Roy Gurney who will gladly e-mail you a copy (or send a hard copy if you are not on-line).

Your support will ensure Sussex will continue to be a "Branch of Excellence".

GET YUR ENTRIES IN FOR THE "BIG FISH TROPHIES"



The categories are:

- Best fish from Sussex water
- Best fish from Sussex reservoir (including Bewl)
- Best brown from Sussex water
- Best brown from Sussex reservoir or river.

The closing date of catching is 31st October 2009 for browns and 31st December for other categories.

Trophies will be presented at the Dinner.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND SHOW 2009



Andy Steer holding the fort on Saturday

This year we were favoured with fine weather and great expectations for record visits to our site, which had been transferred to the other side of the lake, facing the more heavily trafficked walk-way.

However, the Thursday was remarkable for its lack of visitors and Friday was not a lot better, although those who did come were genuinely interested and took away details for the Branch – we hope to hear from them again.

Saturday was much busier, and we had some fifteen or sixteen very positive enquiries, and hopefully will see a number of them at our meetings starting next September.

As usual we received a few requests for flies, most of which were tied to order – our stock of good quality flies is rather diminished, so when you are clearing out your fly-boxes or tying new stock, put aside some for the Branch to sell at the shows. Someone will collect them on Thursday evenings if you bring them along.

Many thanks to all who participated – four different volunteers for each day, plus the "setters-up" on Wednesday - it does make John Plowman's job easier to have lots of willing hands volunteering!

AUCTION 2009

It hardly seems credible, but time is creeping up on this event and we need details of your items for sale as soon as possible. Entry forms are available via the web-site now so you can get cracking right away.

Copies will also be mailed out to those not on the web with the next newsletter. If you want hard copies (or e-mailed forms) let me know by phone on 01273 506184 or e-mail at roygurney@ntlworld.com

At the moment, entries are down on last year (which was exceptional) but it is early days yet and it is hoped that it will still be viable to have two dates as shown in the programme.

Come on folk – sort out all those unwanted presents, tackle no longer needed and surplus tying tools and materials and books – you know it makes sense (and pleases the missus when you make some room for your next buy!!)

Match v. Surrey Branch Chalk Springs – 14th June 2009

The weather was kind and a pretty perfect day for fishing. Once again it was splendidly organised by Chris Croucher, memorable for the sumptuous BBQ as much as for the fishing! He was ably assisted by Ian Dunk, who was in charge of the barbecue, and it is notable that they still managed to get their fair share of fish despite the time taken to do the cooking! Surrey were only able to muster seven rods for their team, so we took our top 7 to match them. Many thanks to the “guests” who made up the numbers to enable Chalk Springs to close the venue for us.

A grand total of 54 fish were caught, weighing in at 97lb 4oz, but for the teams, Sussex took 23 fish for 57lb 4oz against Surrey’s 18 for 46lb.

Best bag went to Tony Harrison with 13lb 4oz, and he also had the top brown of 5lb 12oz. Bill Smith had the best rainbow at 4lb 14oz, and Steve Mustchin was second best bag at 12lb 3oz. It should also be noted that Neil Batchelor has a “full house” of a blue a brown and two rainbows for a weight of 10lb 14oz. Best Surrey bag was 10lb for 4 fish.

Thanks are due to our hosts at Chalk Springs, who generously provided prizes of day tickets (one of which was gratefully received by yours truly – the booby prize for blanking, of course). We are always made most welcome and are provided with first class facilities.

ASHBOURNE

The eagerly anticipated day dawned fine and sunny, but with some cloud and conditions seemed perfect – and so they proved. Our host, Doug Chalmers, ably assisted by Roy Bentley, laid on a splendid feast, this time even pampering us with tablecloths and an awning!



As can be seen, this was most appreciated by all!!

There were no complaints about the fishing either – all caught and most bagged up with some of the best fighting rainbows in Sussex. Several browns were also caught and returned, including a fine 18” one by John Plowman.

Best fish was taken by Jim Melbourne, weighing in at 3 lb. When we next meet, I can give him his prize which I forgot to bring on the day!



Chris Hall nets a good fish

Many thanks to Doug and Roy for hosting this event, which is now one of our highlights of the summer. It really is the prettiest of venues and one of the hidden secrets of Sussex fishing. Catching one of the hard fighting, fully finned rainbows is really a bonus, and as for the lunch.....



OTHER OUTINGS

Reports are outstanding for Meon Springs and the matches against Hastings FF at Powdermill and Eastbourne FF at Arlington – it is hoped to include these in the next edition.

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