



Sussex Branch Newsletter



NOVEMBER 2009

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 17th December 2009

With this Newsletter comes the official Notice of the AGM and the minutes of last year's AGM, plus the annual reports of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, with accounts for the year 2008/9. Please make every effort to attend as this is your opportunity to make known what **you** want from your Branch, and to elect your new Committee and tell them what you want. It is always good to have new blood on the Committee as the "old hands" need freshening up, as well as in many cases some relief of their work-load.

The AGM will be followed by a general knowledge quiz, with prizes for the winning team, and mince pies, etc.

CHARITY PAIRS 2009

Bob Shaw and Ray French from North Kent Branch FDG once again pipped one of our pairs – this time it was John Plowman and Steve Mustchin – for the title, catching 7 fish to 6. Maybe we will get our revenge next year!

Chris Nunn and Alex Rainbow also had 6 fish, just 9oz putting them into 3rd place. As can be seen from the winners' tally, fishing was challenging with a total of 40 fish from 12 boats, though Paul Davis's partner Dean Epton did take a fine 5lb 12oz brownie plus 4 rainbows for a total weight of 12lb.

The winners, Bob and Ray, chose the British Heart Foundation as their beneficiary charity, and a cheque for £166.50 will be sent under their name.

Thanks to Ray Love for his organisation – it is a pity only eleven of our members supported this event – let's have a better turnout next year!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Once again we have news of success in the national Guild fly-tying awards.

Jim Harris has again been successful in the Open Salmon category with the judges' comments "this was an out and out low water dressing so a slender slim fly was required - many didn't stack the hair wing; jungle cock ideally needs to be matched both within and across the pair – the winners were very good."

John Cooper also had a repeat placing in the Dry Fly category – runner-up once more. This time the judges said: "A standard type of pattern but fly to fly consistency makes it tricky – lots of very good flies in the mix but fly to fly variation settle the outcome." Well done both of them – if we entered more from the Branch we might even get the Branch prize! Let's get tying!

John Watt 2009

Chris Nunn once again took two teams from Sussex to the annual competition between branches of the Flydressers' Guild, held at Graffham Water. Full details of the results can be found on the Guild website www.the-fdg.org, but here is Chris's report:

The weather was very windy and fishing difficult. On Friday Chris Croucher, Chris Nunn, Jim White and Ian Dunk took a practice day. They fished all day and managed only two rainbows and a brown between them – only half of the reservoir was open due to the conditions, and at lunch new boats were stopped from going out! Saturday saw a slight improvement in conditions and the whole reservoir was open to boats, though winds were still high.

Both Sussex teams managed six fish apiece, with the "A" team of Chris Nunn, Chris Croucher, Ian Dunk and Michael Brayne pipping the "B" side of Jim White, Neil Batchelor, Bill King and Paul Davis by 14lb 2oz to 13lb 4oz. Sadly even the two together would not have been enough to worry the winners, London "A"; at least both avoided bottom spot!

Jim was particularly unlucky, as his boat partner told him (after they had started) that he had to be in by an hour before the end! Having already taken 3 fish, Sod's law meant that they were just drifting into fish when they had to call it a day, and there was not enough time for Jim to get back out again.

This is a very enjoyable outing and we are grateful for Chris Nunn's efforts in organizing our teams – many thanks Chris!

Maybe next year the rules will be relaxed and we might be able to enter more than two teams – I believe it is now possible to enter a team of members of the Guild who are not members of a Branch, so an "individual" team might be possible too.

More of Paul Davies' article on Heron Flies (continued from October)

Spiders (contd.)

Stone Midge (Pritt No. 40; Edwards & Lee No. 20)

Designed to imitate a small dipteran e.g. a midge or gnat. Pritt notes, "The natural fly [stone midge] is not good to imitate owing to its diminutive size, but the above will kill well on cool days."



Hook: Size 14 Medium Weight Wet Fly Hook (e.g. Drennan Trad Wet Fly)
Thread: Ash Coloured (e.g. Uni-Thread 8/0 Grey)
Body: Thread underbody wrapped with Heron herl.
Hackle: Feather from a Lapwing (Peewit) neck, breast or rump. NB. Lapwing is pretty much impossible to come across therefore a small glossy green/black feather from the underside of a Magpie wing works as a very good substitute.
Head: Magpie Herl (completely dark herl from a wing or tail feather)

Knotted Midge (Pritt No. 42; Edwards & Lee No. 21)

Designed to imitate a small dipteran e.g. a midge or gnat. Pritt states, "Does very well sometimes on hot stuffy days, when thunder is about."



Hook: Size 14 Medium Weight Wet Fly Hook (e.g. Drennan Trad Wet Fly)
Thread: Ash Coloured (e.g. Uni-Thread 8/0 Grey)
Body: Thread underbody wrapped with Heron herl.
Hackle: *Pritt* = Hackled with a feather from the back of a Swift or Martin, or from the shoulders of a Lapwing (Peewit) wing. *Edwards & Lee* = Hackled down the body "palmerwise" with a small black [*and soft*] cock's hackle.
Head: Magpie Herl (completely dark herl from a wing or tail feather)

Fog Black (Pritt No. 53)

Pritt states, "Suitable for cold dark days, from June to the end of the season. The natural fly is very diminutive, and the artificial must be kept as small as possible. A capital grayling fly."

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Fog black



- Hook: Size 14 Medium Weight Wet Fly Hook (e.g. Drennan Trad Wet Fly)
- Thread: Purple
- Body: Thread underbody wrapped with Heron herl or, more sparingly, with black Ostrich herl
- Hackle: From a Bullfinch's wing (use any soft pale bluey/grey hackle as a substitute)
- Legs: Fibres from a Starling neck feather tied in as a beard hackle.

Olive Bloa

A more recently designed spider from Phil Holding. It is a superb imitation of many of the olive species



- Hook: Size 14 Medium Weight Wet Fly Hook (e.g. Drennan Trad Wet Fly)
- Thread: Yellow (e.g. Uni-Thread 8/0 Yellow) well waxed.
- Body: Thread underbody ribbed with Heron herl dyed olive
- Hackle: Marginal covert feather from wing of French partridge died olive

Next to come: Dry flies

Last call for the Big Fish Entries



Get your entries in NOW to Paul Bond or Roy Gurney. I know there are some out there not yet registered, and some big ones are still being caught!

SUBSCRIPTIONS

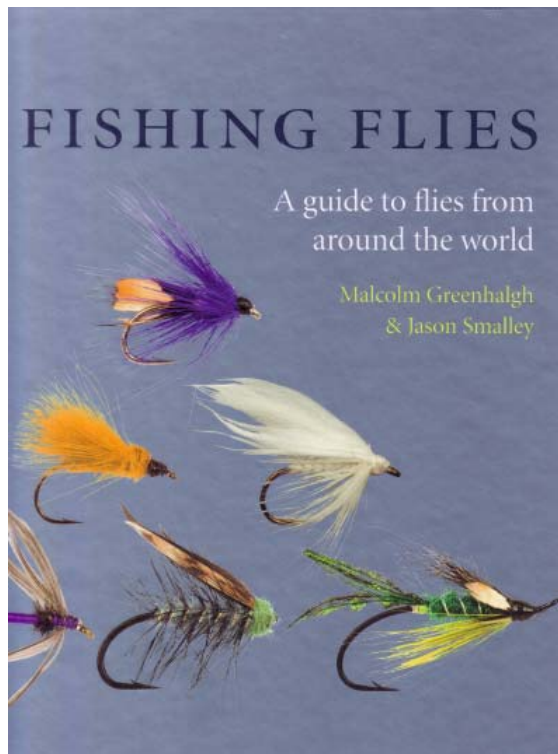
Sorry to labour the subject – BUT, there are still a few members whose subs are still outstanding. If you pay the main Guild direct by direct debit or standing order, membership of the Guild is renewed on the anniversary of the first payment, but the Branch subscription runs from 1st September to 31st August each year. If you pay the Guild direct, please try to remember the Branch.

If you pay the Guild through the Branch, then the Guild renewal will be extended from the joining date whenever you pay, but if the Guild subscription is also due on 1st September and is not paid by the end of this month, you will be struck off the Guild list – no more “Flydresser” or insurance cover!!

We rely on your subscriptions to maintain the level of service – speakers, outings, newsletters, etc, etc.

If you are not sure – ask Roy Gurney!!

Book Review



Phillip Ellis writes:

Being a bit of a “book tart”, I am always on the lookout for the latest publications. Recently this book reviewed in FlyFishing & FlyTying.” A major reference book was announced and at a reduced cost for a limited period. Yes, I ordered a copy and here are my initial comments:--

Written by North Country angler, Malcolm Greenhalgh who has visited the branch in the past, this is not a “how to tie” book but just a reference to popular patterns of some 462 pages covering a huge range of flies currently still in use, with many recent patterns. The last similar book by John Roberts was published back in 1995 “Illustrated Dictionary of trout Flies”. Unlike similar books where the pictures of patterns are grouped together on separate pages, here they are alongside each pattern description, making it easier to see and read the recipe. There is good coverage of flies for all types of fishing and I was impressed with the predator flies for pike and the saltwater flies.

For members using Peter Gathercole’s “Fly tying for Beginners” and “Fly-tying Bible”, this is an excellent book to move onto and will be a classic reference book for many years.

The book is published at £30.00 but on offer from the publisher at present for £20. However, it is in the catalogue of The Book People at £9.99, with no conditions – 60% saving – an offer you can’t refuse!

I will have the book with me on Thursday evenings if any member wishes to have a flip through.

(Watch out for copies in the raffles! – Ed.)

Chairman’s Chat

Why so many flies?

I regularly fish with an artificial fly that I call a “Scruff”. It is simply two colours of seal’s fur dubbed on to a hook, ribbed with fine copper wire and raked over with Velcro. e.g. black body and yellow thorax. This is **one fly!** Now add one more colour (claret) and there are **3** possible flies. Add a fourth colour (olive) and you have **6** possible flies. For each pair of colours I will need them each way i.e. black-yellow and yellow- black. The total is now **12**. I will also need each fly both unleaded and leaded: I now need **24**. To ensure I do not lose the successful pattern I will need two of each type (I now need **48**).

Finally I will need each pattern tied on three hook sizes (14,12,10). I now need **144** flies just to keep two patterns of each fly in my box!! At a guess there are about twenty different shades of seal’s fur available. To tie all the combinations as above would require **4560** flies. This would leave us with a lot of bald seals!

Tight lines

John Plowman.

Club Trophy Day 2009

Dunston Mill 18th October

A welcome return to Dunston saw twenty members arriving with frost on the grass, but as the sun got to work it warmed up, only to cool again by the end of the afternoon. Fishing proved difficult, with only two taking the full four fish limit and with browns outnumbering rainbows by 11 to 7 – 18 fish total taken on various lures – damsels, sunk daddies, cat’s whiskers etc, with one taken on a black buzzer fished static. Results were:

Jimmy James Memorial Trophies for Best bag:

Winner: **Ian Dunk** 4 fish 11 lb 0½ oz

Runner-up: **Wayne Duerden** 4 fish 7lb 8 oz

Plowman Trophy for Best fish

Tony Harrison 9 lb 14 oz

Best Brown

Bill Smith 4 lb 12 oz

Chris Halls 4 lb 8 oz

Special thanks to Chris Croucher, Ian Dunk and Jim White for the lunch served in the clubhouse, and to Peter Winder for organising – and not forgetting Martin Fleetwood for welcoming us back again!

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 Chris Croucher (2006), Paul Bond (2007) and Paul Davis (2008).

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 17th December

Workshops

We are still waiting for you to tell us what and when you would like to see in the programme. Another subject suggested is dying (of materials, that is!) and Alan Middleton has volunteered for this – but he needs to know when it can be fitted in! Let Paul Bond, or failing him Roy Gurney, know what your choices are.

Demonstrations

We now have a few memories of the events this year:



Ray Love at Michelham Priory



John Foster and John Plowman at the Schools Day



Richard Foster at the Schools Day



Recruiting Sergeant Bill Smith!

Auctions 2009

Once again the large number of lots necessitated two auctions, with fly-tying and books the first, followed by tackle in the second. The first auction was attended by fewer people than in the past, possibly due to less advertising, but nevertheless producing a turnover of nigh on £1400 for 302 lots, despatched at great speed by our “resident” auctioneer, Mike Humphreys, who so readily gives up his time to support our Branch. We are indebted to him for these events are one of major sources of income.

The second surpassed expectations with a turnover of £1920 and in all the Branch benefited by over £400 from both auctions. This enables us to maintain our low membership fees at the same time financing a good selection of speakers.

Many thanks also go to the helpers – porters, clerks and those who helped prepare some of the entries.



Bill Smith and Wayne Duerden at Coltisford Mill

26th November 2009

“An evening with Baz Reece”

We welcome back one of our favourites to give a talk on his fishing experiences and also to educate us in the art of cooking those trout (some of us) catch.

As you may know, in addition to his talents in the kitchen, Baz is also a member of the England Fly Fishing team, winning gold this year.

The following report comes from Tony Kaatze of Crawley F F :

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS DRYMEN SCOTLAND



Lets not banter around! Baz proudly holds the World championship team Gold.

After being selected last year Baz joined the lads to get up to Scotland to get to know the venues. A lot of preparation was done as the venues couldn't be fished for 60 days prior to the event.

Twenty seven teams competed in the event centred in Drymen. The venues were four lakes, Leven, Menteith, Carron and Loch Awe. The river section was on the Tay.

No practice on the venues meant fishing on other Lochs but we could fish non competition stretches of the river.

The competition was held over five sessions and after the first England lay in sixth place. Over three sessions the French were putting a big gap between themselves and the chasing pack which included England, Czech Republic, Norway, Canada and others. The Welsh were pushing too but where was Scotland?

Loch Awe being 22 miles long was proving a mare for all teams as finding a fish was a bonus and also Leven was proving hard. Lots of blanks and this became a key in the fortunes.

By the last day the French were still ahead by about 40 points and the England team were in silver position with a few teams snapping close behind and the Scots had also come into the frame.

Nerves were jangling into the last session. The England had one blank and some fair results. The French had two so had heavy points but what was the score?

When the results were announced England had overturned the French advantage and taken the prized Gold! Scotland had edged into third place. Iain Barr had taken the Individual crown.

What a performance!! The team were of course elated as this was the first team Gold since 1995! For Baz it was the final addition to his collection now having the Gold to add to Silvers and Bronzes.

Fly Tying Competition 2009

Now is your chance to emulate Jim Harris and John Cooper – take up the challenge!

On Thursday 19th November Alan Middleton will be demonstrating and advising on the competition flies – both the main Guild competition AND the Branch. To encourage entries for both competitions we have chosen the same patterns, as described in the enclosure in the last “Flydresser”, and also detailed on the Guild website www.the-fdg.org/tying.htm, where .pdf downloads are also available. The references are to the edition of the “Flydresser” in which the patterns are featured:

Beginners (Novice)	Diawl Bach Variant (Summer 2009)
Intermediate	Invicta (Winter 2008)
Open	Smoky Mountain Forky Tail (Spring 2009)

A matched pair of each pattern is required, and your entries can be doubled up for entry to both Branch and Guild competitions. The Open category above is actually the Dry Fly for the Guild, so tie an Invicta pair for the Guild Open as well!!

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