



Sussex Branch Newsletter



DECEMBER 2009

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO
EVERYONE**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Probably too late to remind you – BUT - it is at
8 pm on Thursday 17th December at Patcham
Community Centre. Quiz and mince pies after
the business is concluded!

FLY TYING COMPETITION

Don't forget, this year's competition flies are:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 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 why not tie an Invicta pair for the
Guild Open as well!!

The references are to the edition of the "Flydresser"
in which the patterns are featured as they are also
patterns for the main Guild competition and are
also detailed on the Guild website:-

www.the-fdg.org/tying.htm

Baz Reece

On 27th November we were treated to "an evening
with Baz Reece", and what a treat it was. He
showed us just how easy (?) it is to fillet and skin a
trout and then to make the tastiest of dishes from
them with minimum effort. The, having tried out
his recipes for some at half-time, Baz gave us an
account of how he embarked almost by chance on
his career as an international fly-fisher for England,
culminating with a hat-trick of gold, silver and
bronze medals.

Can't wait till he comes to us again!!

Absolutely the 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!

To remind you, 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.

JANUARY SPEAKER

14th January 2010

We are pleased to welcome **Mark Bowler**,
editor of "Fly Fishing and Fly Tying" who will
enlighten us, no doubt on many subjects!

All are welcome – bring your friends!

Subscriptions

I know it is unseasonable to raise such a thorny
subject, but anyone who has not renewed by
now will have been removed from the mailing
list of the "Flydresser". However, if you cough
up **NOW** you can be re-instated – just let Roy
have your subs!!!!

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

For many anglers, including me, this time of year is for fly tying and tackle maintenance. Now is the time to inspect lines and change braided loops or check rod rings for grooves which will soon damage a line if left unattended. Ten years ago most rods came with single leg ceramic lined rings but the present fashion seems to be for metal snake rings.

Common sense suggests for a snake ring the pressure of the line on the ring is greater but its smaller area of contact means less overall drag on the line. For a lined ring the pressure is less but its larger area of contact may increase the drag. In fact, these two effects cancel each other out with the overall drag on the line being much the same. So which type should we prefer?

For me the answer comes from considering two other properties of the rings: weight and wear resistance. For my heavier lines that I use when double hauling from a reservoir bank I choose ceramic rings. The grit that I pick up on my line wears a groove in snake rings within a season. However, when my spare line is dropped into water when wading then the lighter weight that snake rings provide to a short rod is an advantage.

Whichever type you choose do inspect them regularly. Snake rings will groove and leave a very sharp edge. Ceramics can crack and a small segment fall out. Either way your line will soon fall victim.

If you have never replaced a rod ring see Paul Bond and sign up for the session on a Thursday on how to do it.

Happy Christmas to you all and I hope Santa fills your stocking with the goodies you have been hinting for since last Christmas.

Tight Lines

John Plowman.

Sussex Otters **Our February Speaker** 11th February 2010

Fran Southgate of the Sussex Otters and Rivers Project will bring us up to date on otters, water voles (and mink!) in Sussex.

Doors open at 7.30 pm. All are welcome.

JOHN WATT **COMPETITION 2010**

Please note that the above competition will revert to the Bank Holiday week-end for 2010, so make a note in your diary – **Saturday 28th August 2010 !**

Paul Davies's Heron Flies – the final instalment

Dries

Heron and Yellow

A good dry fly for reservoirs developed by Arthur Dew in the late 1960's. This has particular significance for me as it was developed for use at Shustoke Reservoir (near Coleshill, North Warwickshire) and then rapidly transferred to Draycote Reservoir near Rugby, both of which are my old stamping grounds when I was a fledgling fly fisher back in the 80's. Cast to a cruising trout

or danced through a ripple 'loch-style' this fly can be devastating! Almost certainly devised to imitate a recently hatched large ginger midge.



- Hook: Size 12 Light weight and wide gap (e.g. Partridge Flashpoint TDH The Dry)
- Thread: Brown (Sheer 14/0 Cinnamon)
- Body: Heron herl with a narrow band of yellow in the middle; the body is divided into 2 equal parts by the narrow ring of dyed yellow swan's herl (use dyed Goose instead – as this keeps HM The Queen off your back for messing about with a Royal bird and we're not talking Zara Phillips!).
- Hackle: Best Quality (genetic saddle if possible) Coch-y-Bonddu Cock Hackle. Correctly dressed it should be a C-y-Bd hackle but these are really hard to find these days – therefore you can substitute a Furnace hackle and dance an indelible black marker over the hackle points to create a passable 'Moch Coch'!

Kite's Imperial

A real corker of a dry fly. Invented by Oliver Kite back in 1962 as a *Baetis rhodani* (Large Dark Olive) dun imitation. Kite states that pattern was a straightforward imitation of a specimen taken from the River Teifi near Port Llanio in March 1962. Kite used this fly pretty much exclusively as his only dry fly towards the end of his life which is hardly surprising as it is an excellent imitator of any of the Olives, Iron Blues and Blue winged Olives and even at times Pale Wateries and this comes from the effect of the wet purple thread interplaying with the heron herl. The name was coined by F.W. Holiday of Pembroke based on the purple and gold which were 'imperial' colours. Interestingly the Welsh and Irish fish this pattern wet by substituting cock hackles for hen hackles and it is a renowned taker of sea trout when fished

like this. The pattern was original an early season pattern but by stepping down from a 14 to a 16 after Mid-May and slightly modifying the colours of the tail it continues to be effective whenever upwings are on the hatch throughout the season. Also Kite noted that true Honey Dun Hackles were difficult to come by and he regularly substituted Ginger Hackles in their place which didn't (and doesn't) affect their success.



Hook: Size 14 (spring); Size 16 (later) Dry fly hook
 Thread: Purple
 Tail: Greyish brown Cock Hackle Fibres (spring); Honey Dun Cock Hackle Fibres (later)
 Body: Heron herl (4 fibres) which are used to create the wing cases on the thorax
 Rib: Fine gold wire
 Hackle: Honey Dun

CDC Imperial

A modern development of the Imperial using the current in vogue materials!



Hook: Size 14 (spring); Size 16 (later) Dry fly hook
 Thread: Purple
 Tail: Coq de León (in this case Pardo Flor de Escoba)
 Body: Heron herl
 Rib: Fine gold wire
 Hackle: CdC (in this case Marc Petitjean Olive CdC)

Rough Olive

A dry fly from that god-like figure of Frederick Halford (actually it is dressing number one from his 1896 book 'Floating flies and how to dress them') and was designed to imitate the large dark olive dun (*Baetis rhodani*). By slightly tweaking

the dressing many other variants have appeared and these can imitate nearly all of the smaller upwings at the dun stage but to list them all would need a book on its own, however it would be biased to put in a Halford fly without putting in a Skues version – and his slightly more damp version is also below.

Halford's Rough Olive



Hook: Size 14 Up-Eye Dry Fly Hook (e.g. Kamasan B440)
 Thread: Olive (e.g. Sheer 14/0 olive green)
 Tail: Iron blue dun cock hackle fibres
 Body: Thread underbody wrapped with Heron herl that has been dyed olive green.
 Rib: Fine gold wire
 Hackle: Iron blue dun cock hackle
 Wing: Optional – paired quill wings from a dark coloured starling wing feather

Skues' Rough Olive



Skues' Rough Olive (cont'd)

Hook: Size 14 Light Wire Down-Eye Hook
(e.g. Drennan Wet Fly Sproat)
Thread: Olive (e.g. Sheer 14/0 olive green)
Body: Heron herl from wing covert that has been dyed brown-olive.
Rib: Fine gold wire
Hackle: Dirty brown-olive hen hackle with dark centre and yellowish-brown points

Pluen Biws

A Welsh pattern (pronounced pl-oo-en bew-ce) whose literal English translation is Puce Feather but actually is more like 'Puce Fly' in meaning. This fly was either developed or popularised around the turn of the 20th century by an enigmatic itinerant Welshman from Cwmystwyth area of mid-Wales called Twm Twm (Tom Tom in English). Twm Twm travelled all over the country fishing lakes and rivers and selling flies that he had tied as he went. Interesting to compare this fly with the Kites Imperial and see how similar they are – there being only very slight differences. Twm Twm had enjoyed regular fishing on the Teifi pools which is where Kite developed the Imperial in 1962 – Kite's earlier prototypes having green thread before settling on purple – therefore I wonder whether local Teifi anglers' Pluen Biws flies influenced Kite on the final form of the Imperial?



Hook: Size 12 Light weight and wide gap
(e.g. Partridge Flashpoint TDH The Dry)
Thread: Purple (Uni-Thread 8/0) – Blackberry purple is traditional and the juice of blackberries was used to dye the silk.
Body: Thread underbody wrapped with Heron herl.
Rib: Purple Thread – tight double or treble turns to make rib look wider
Hackle: Furnace or Tri-colour Cock Saddle Hackle

F Fly

Probably the most widely used fly incorporating CdC (Cul de Canard) - the duck 'bum' feathers with natural floatability. The F Fly (or Fratnikova puhovka to give it its proper name which approximately means Fratnik's Simple Fly) was created by Marjan Fratnik of Milan (but formally of Most Na Soči in Slovenia). He designed the fly as a more robust general purpose dry than Jules Rindlisbacher's Entenbürzelfliegen (Duck's Parson-Nose fly).

What makes the F Fly so good is that it imitates many insects that are encountered throughout the fly fishing year, including many of the olive species and midges. A great fly when the trout are on small 'stuff' and you don't know what exactly. It is a good general small dry fly that you can use anytime. In practical terms, it is a simple dressing but on the water it's a killer and a global traveller. This recognised variant uses heron as a body instead of the original thread body.



Hook: Any Dry Fly Hook from size 10 – 22
(this one is tied on a size 18 Kamasan B440 Dry Fly Hook)
Thread: Grey or dark olive (e.g. This one is Uni-Thread 8/0 Grey)
Body: Heron herl
Wing: Cul de canard (any colour – this one is Marc Petitjean Blue Dun CdC)

Iron Blue Dun

The Iron Blue (*Alainites muticus*) has long been known as a fly that trout are quite partial too – therefore it is little surprise that many patterns have evolved. These two examples of the many I could have chosen come from the vices of Freddie Rice & Pat Russell.

Rice's Iron Blue Dun

Hook: Size 16 Up Eyed Dry Fly Hook (e.g. Kamasan B440 Dry Fly Hook)
Thread: Olive (e.g. Sheer 14/0 olive green)
Body: Heron herl natural (or dyed olive using picric acid)
Wing: Pair slips taken from starling primary wing feathers
Hackle: Dark Olive Brown cock hackle

Rice's Iron Blue Dun



Russell's Iron Blue Dun



Hook: Size 16 Lightweight Down-Eyed Dry Fly Hook (e.g. Drennan Wet Fly Sproat)
Thread: Crimson (e.g. Uni-Thread 8/0 Wine)
Tail: Dark Slate Blue (Iron blue dun) cock hackle fibres
Tag: Neon Magenta Thread, Yarn or Floss (e.g. here is Glo Brite Floss Shade 1)
Body: Heron herl natural
Hackle: Dark Slate Blue (Iron blue dun) cock hackle two short fibre hackles palmered from the thorax area to the head

Heron Blue

Another dry fly designed to imitate the iron blue dun and one of only a trio of flies to have 'Heron' in their name

Hook: Size 14 Dry Fly Hook (e.g. Kamasan B440)
Thread: Ash Coloured (e.g. Uni-Thread 8/0 Grey)
Tail: Iron blue dun cock hackle fibres
Body: Thread underbody wrapped with Heron herl.
Hackle: Iron blue dun cock hackle

Heron Blue



Super Grizzly

A fly from the vice of John Goddard. Notable for the long tail design – not as long as the tails on Ron Holloway flies but they do act as a very stable design. The microfibrils (synthetic tails) I use are cut from the bristles of a B&Q Ultrafine Finish paintbrush – a fraction of the cost of commercial microfibrils and one paint brush provides a lifetime supply plus you can always make it look like you are off to do some painting and get 'brownie points' with the wife!



Hook: Size 12-16 Lightweight Down-Eyed Dry Fly Hook (e.g. Drennan Wet Fly Sproat)
Thread: Purple (e.g. Uni-Thread 8/0 Purple)
Tail: A bunch of pale coloured 'Microfibrils'
Body: Heron herl.
Hackle: Matching grizzle and natural red cock.

Autumn Dun

This is the dressing of the Iron blue dun (*Alainites muticus*), frequently seen during the autumn. The pattern is taken from Frederick Halford's 1896 book 'Floating flies and how to dress them'

Hook: 16 -18 Up-eyed Dry Fly Hook (e.g. Drennan Dry Fly)
Thread: Grey (e.g. Uni-Thread 8/0 Grey).
Body: Heron herl.

Wings: Pair slips taken from snipe primary wing feathers.
 Hackle: Palest blue dun cock hackle.



Autumn Dun

Grannom

The Grannom (*Brachycentrus subnubilus*) is the first sedge fly of real importance to appear in the spring. It tends to appear in April and the hatch last 10 days or so. It prefers medium paced chalk streams and rain fed rivers and one bonus is that there are not other sedges around at this time so general any small sedge pattern will do. On chalk streams the larvae congregate around reed beds whereas on stony rivers the glides are better places to fish in a hatch.

Halford's Grannom

Halford's dry fly version of the Grannom. Halford notes that, 'An even better body for this fly is obtained by selecting a strand of condor pinion-feather, which is nearly white at the point and shading into a dark slate-colour at the root ; the longer flue is then stripped off the dark portion of this strand only, and the whole dyed in No. V [grannom green]. The light unstripped part, which shows distinctly the green colour of the dye, is worked at the tail-end to form the eggs, and the darker portion the body of the fly. The wings of the Grannom when first hatched are quite pale, but darken considerably from exposure to the air. The trout, however, invariably prefer the newly-hatched flies, so that it is most necessary to dress them with the palest wings possible.'



Hook: 12-14 Up-eyed Dry Fly Hook (e.g. Drennan Dry Fly)
 Thread: Olive
 Tag: Grey ostrich herl dyed in No. V [Grannom Green].
 Body: Dark heron herl undyed.
 Wings: Palest hen partridge wing.
 Hackle: Rusty dun game-cock, or badger for a variety.

Russell's Grannom

Another fly from the late Pat Russell who was based in Romsey. This fly was invent to specifically imitate the mated female which has a green egg sac carried under the abdomen. Hence the green wool tag – it is interesting to note that Halford also put a tag of green ostrich herl so was probably trying to imitate the same arrangement.



Hook: Size 14
Thread: Green.
Tag: Fluorescent green wool.
Body: Heron herl.
Wings: Blue dun cock fibres, clipped level with the hook bend (optional to clip them).
Hackle: Ginger cock hackle

Hair-winged Heron

D.W. Roxborough in his undated pamphlet 'A Brief Guide To The Hill Loch Fishing Of Gairloch and District' describes the following pattern (unfortunately not in great detail and with some vital information missing) and also does not give it a name or an originator other than to say it is a local pattern which fishes well whenever there is a hatch of up-wings (Pond olives – *Cleon dipterum*). Therefore I have filled in the blanks in the original pattern and given it the name of Hair winged heron as it is the only hair winged fly that I have discovered that uses heron herl as well. NB – Make sure you Watershed/Gink/Silicone the squirrel hair (but not the body) very well before tying it in. If I had one improvement for this fly it

would be to improve its floatability by tying in an underwing of CdC below the squirrel.



- Hook: Size 12 Down-eyed Dry Fly hook (e.g. Partridge TDH The Dry)
- Thread: Purple (e.g. Uni-Thread 8/0 Purple)
- Tail: Tips of 4 strands of heron herl. These are the tips of the herl that are tied in to form the body.
- Body: Heron herl.
- Rib: Fine gold wire (e.g. Uni Soft Wire size #33 Small)
- Wing: Grey Squirrel tail fibres (stacked level and tied in as a hair wing)

Grouse Wing Sedge

The following is an Irish pattern to imitate the diminutive Grouse wing sedge, *Mystacides longicornis*. It also serves also for any other small sedges with grey, light-splashed wings.



- Hook: Size 14 Sedge Hook (e.g. Drennan Simulator Sedge)
- Thread: Grey (e.g. Uni-Thread 8/0 Grey).
- Body: Heron herl, ribbed gold wire.
- Wing: Woodcock, grouse or other brownish-grey feather with pale markings - tied wet style to copy the 'triangular' sedge wing shape.
- Hackle: Coch-y-Bonddu cock hackle –see notes above under Heron & Yellow about the 'Mock Coch'.

Silver Sedge

Another Irish pattern, this time imitating one of the Silver Sedges most likely, *Lepidostoma hirtum*.



- Hook: Size 14 Sedge Hook (e.g. Drennan Simulator Sedge)
- Thread: Olive Green (Sheer 14/0 Olive)
- Body: Palest heron herl, or swan herl dyed very pale green, ribbed very narrow silver tinsel.
- Wing: Any pale grey feather. In this case Jay primary tied as a rolled feather wing tied wet style to copy the 'triangular' sedge wing shape.
- Hackle: Ginger cock hackle

Green Glomma Duns

A series of flies created by Hans van Klinken (of Klinkhåmer fame) in 1990. These flies were created to mimic many of the olives and mayflies in his native Denmark, and also on the rivers in Norway and Sweden. They were designed to sit in the surface film, float exceptionally well even in rough fast water and always land perfectly. These are a little tricky to tie and the patterns are exactly as written by him. The photo is of these flies actually tied by Hans, rather than my clumsy creations!



Green Glomma Dun No 1

- Hook: Partridge E1A size 12
- Thread: Ultra grey, olive or tan
- Tail: Two very fine brown Peccary fibre tips (20mm long) or dark tan coloured spinnertails (or microfibets as substitute).
- Body: Grey Heron herl dyed olive
- Rib: Extra fine gold wire
- Wings: Greyish brown duck body feather burned with wing burners (13mm long)
- Hackle: Grizzly hackle dyed olive

Green Glomma Dun No 1A

Hook: Partridge E1A size 12
Thread: Ultra micro grey, olive or tan
Tail: Grizzly hackle fibres dyed olive
Body: Heron herl dyed olive
Rib: Extra fine gold wire
Wings: Just greyish brown duck body fibres tie in and split in two sections
Hackle: Grizzly hackle dyed olive

Green Glomma Dun No 2

Hook: Partridge H1A size 12
Thread: Sparton micro grey, olive or black
Tail: Two brown Peccary fibre tips (20mm long) or spinnertails as substitute
Body: Heron herl dyed olive
Rib: Extra fine gold wire
Hackle: Grizzly hackle dyed olive
Wings: Just greyish brown duck body fibres, tied in over the wing
Head: Black

Green Glomma Dun No 3

Hook: Partridge Swedish Dry fly Hook size 12
Thread: Sparton micro grey, olive or black
Tail: Two brown Peccary fibre tips (20mm long) (or spinnertails as substitute)
Body: Fly-rite colours 42 and 43, mixed 50-50 to get the Gary Borger Colour System #100
Rib: Monofilament
Hackle: Grizzly hackle dyed olive
Wings: Just greyish brown duck body fibres tied in and split into two parts
Thorax: Same as body or peacock herl
Head: Black

Wets

Rough Olive (Not Illustrated)

A wet fly version of the above described Rough Olive dry fly.

Hook: Size 14 Medium Weight Wet Fly Hook (e.g. Drennan Trad Wet Fly)
Thread: Olive Green (e.g. Sheer 14/0 olive green)
Body: Thread underbody wrapped with Heron herl that has been dyed olive green.
Rib: Fine gold wire
Hackle: Small feather from the upper surface of a Coot's wing (either the marginal or lesser coverts if you want to be technical)

Limestone Sedge

A final Irish pattern again designed to imitate sedges of the genus *Molanna* as they are emerging. These sedges are particularly important on some of the limestone lakes in August. This fly either real or artificial has not had a common or anglers name before so it seems appropriate to give it one now to match the name of the type of lakes it hatches from

in Ireland as well as the grey wing being the same colour of the local Irish Carboniferous limestone.



Hook: 12 Sedge Hook (e.g. Drennan Simulator Sedge)
Thread: Olive Green (Sheer 14/0 Olive)
Body: Heron herl dyed green-olive, ribbed gold wire.
Wing: Pale silver-grey (light starling or similar feather).
Hackle: Throat only -ginger cock, dyed olive.

Kell's Blue

Originally designed as a *Baetis* imitation for the River Usk. An excellent wet fly.



Hook: Size 12 or 14 Medium Weight Wet Fly Hook (e.g. Drennan Trad Wet Fly)
Thread: Purple
Tail: Blue dun cock hackle fibres
Rib: Oval silver tinsel
Body: Heron herl
Hackle: Coch-a-Bon-Ddu cock hackle –see notes under Heron and Yellow

Tom Forsyth's Flies

Tom Forsyth (1907 - 1999) of Lesmahagow compiled a handwritten book entitled 'A Book of Trout Flies: Favourite Flies for the River Clyde'. This little book of was transcribed from a meticulously kept hand-written notebook and published on the internet in August 2007. This notebook is remarkable as it lists detailed dressings of the many fly patterns used by the Tom Forsyth in a lifetime of fly fishing on the Clyde and other Scottish waters. It lists over 150 trout fly dressings, many of them little known beyond the Clyde valley. This book is a rare historical record of the popular flies in Scotland throughout the twentieth century. Of particular interest to the me were the dressings of the many "Clyde Style" flies, patterns unique to that great Scottish trout and grayling fishing river. Here are the ones that use heron.

Large Dark Olive (Dry)

Tom notes that, "Both the olive and blue dun hackle should be combined evenly, and should be stiff enough for the fly to sit up in the water. On the whole I have found the dry fly to be better than the wet, particularly when there is a good hatch."



Hook: Size 12 or 14 Up Eyed Dry Fly Hook (e.g. Kamasan B440 Dry Fly Hook)
Thread: Olive (e.g. Olive Sheer 14/0)
Body: Heron herl dyed in picric acid
Rib: Fine gold wire
Hackle: A normal, olive hackle wound on thinly combined evenly with a Blue dun cock hackle

Large Dark Olive (Wet)

A Clyde style wet fly version of the above dry.



Hook: Size 12 or 14 Medium Weight Wet Fly Hook (e.g. Drennan Trad Wet Fly)
Thread: Olive (e.g. Olive Sheer 14/0)
Body: Heron herl dyed in picric acid
Rib: Fine gold wire
Hackle: A normal, olive hackle wound on thinly [I presume hen hackle as is typical for many Clyde style wets].

Wings: Dark Starling

Light Olive Immature Nymph



Hook: Size 14 Long shank Wet Fly Hook (e.g. Drennan 2x Trad Wet)
Thread: Yellow (e.g. Uni Thread 8/0 Yellow)
Tail: Medium olive cock hackle fibres
Body: Heron herl or medium olive fur on yellow
Rib: Gold wire
Thorax: Blue fur mixed with primrose wool
Hackle: Yellowish olive

Light Olive Mature Nymph



Hook: Size 14 Long shank Wet Fly Hook (e.g. Drennan 2x Trad Wet)
Thread: Olive (e.g. Olive Sheer 14/0)
Tail: Medium olive cock hackle fibres
Body: Heron herl or medium olive fur on yellow
Rib: Gold wire
Wing Cases: Slatey blue wing of Snipe or Fieldfare. Light side out
Hackle: Yellowish olive

Paul Davies

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