



Sussex Branch Newsletter



FEBRUARY 2010

EVENTS & OUTINGS 2010

The (more or less) completed programme for 2010 will be available very soon. Entry forms for the events will be sent as soon as possible. Please complete and return these to the respective organisers **as soon as possible** as, unless he has your details, he cannot assure you of a place!

Please note cheques will not be presented until 10-14 days before the event

It is essential that the organisers know what support they have for their particular event, so please let them know of your interest by April 22nd for **all** events, even if you cannot positively confirm at this time. Fisheries need to have cancellations in good time if there are insufficient entries, and we will have to bear the cost if we let them down. Keep an eye on the web-site and newsletter for any dates changes or updates.

ANNUAL DINNER

17th April 2010

With this newsletter you will find an application form for tickets. Please complete and return to John Burt as soon as possible, or alternatively hand it to Roy Gurney on a Thursday evening (with cheque) in order to book your place.

As usual, we are having it 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 **£25.00** each.

You will note that a choice of menu is on the ticket application form – from past experience all choices are first class!

Our guest speaker this year is Brian Smart, the well-known casting instructor and an old friend of the Branch. As usual we will have grand raffle organised by Jim White and Chris Croucher with outstanding prizes and the fishing trophies will be presented to the 2009 winners.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

In order to avoid situations such as arose last October, when some renewals (and the cheque!!) went astray in the post, we are considering making available the option for subscriptions to the Branch, and where applicable to the main Guild, to be paid by standing order.

Thus those of you who pay their subscriptions to both Branch and Guild through Branch will receive standing order forms in August, having joined at the beginning of our tying season, with payments being taken on the 15th September.

Those who pay the Guild direct will pay the Branch subscription only on 15th September, quoting their membership numbers.

Those who have a Guild renewal date "mid-season" (i.e. after 15th September) can opt to either pay as a joint subscription on 15th September, with the main Guild renewal dating from the existing renewal date (which means you may be paying it a bit in advance), or pay the main Guild subscription direct when reminded, and just pay the Branch subscription on 15th September each year.

Regrettably, payment by direct debit is not an option as the banks require a much larger membership to make it viable.

If you have any reservations or comments to make, please let me know as soon as possible.

If you are still puzzled – let me know!

Roy Gurney

FLY-TYING COMPETITION 2010

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 **1st April 2010**.

Accreditation

On Thursday 4th February, Chairman of the Guild, Alan Middleton, presented our intrepid bunch of instructors with their certificates and badges, in recognition of their services over many years.



Left to right: Alan Chamberlain, Phillip Ellis, Paul Davis, Paul Bond, Peter Buss, Albert Horne, Jim Harris, John Plowman, Brian Hendry.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT LINES

Cold water fishing

This morning a heron appeared by the side of my small garden pond which probably means that the fishing at its usual lakes is still affected by ice. For those hardy types who like to fly fish in the coldest of weather can I suggest you go to our website and look for an article I wrote in our newsletter of November 2006 on the strange behaviour of water.

In essence you need to recognise that at water temperatures below 4 deg.C the warmest water is at the bottom, so fish with a weighted fly or a sinking line. However, when the surface water is above 4deg.C, then the warmest water is at the top, so put your fly in the upper reaches of the pond or lake.

Tight lines for 2010,

John Plowman.

FISHING RESERVOIRS

We believe that many anglers find the prospect of fishing reservoirs like Bewl Water from a boat very daunting.

Michael Brayne will be leading a discussion table on **Thursday 4th March**, with other "regulars" at Bewl, and give advice and guidance on things like drogue deployment, lines to use and easy line changes, motor usage and so on. It will be very informal, and will hopefully help those unfamiliar with the joys of this style of fishing to take it up and enjoy a new facet of our sport.

This will run alongside the usual tying programmes.

TROPHIES

If you are a holder of one of the Branch cups/trophies, would you please return it by 31st March to Roy Gurney in order that it can be engraved with the next recipient's name.

Presentations of the trophies will be made at our End of Season Gathering on 22nd April and Annual Dinner on 17th April, so it does not give us long to get the engraving done

SALTWATER FLYFISHING

It was suggested last year that we might organize an outing, perhaps to Shoreham power station or the Adur estuary, to try fly-fishing for bass. This is dependent on tides and weather, and for one reason or another it did not materialize, although some members did get together informally to go. We will try again this year, but inevitably it is likely to be a fairly last minute arrangement. It is most likely to be at the end of a week in June, July or August as that is when the tides are best and there is sufficient light in the evenings.

Do talk to Brian Hendry if you have a real urge to try it!

Otherwise, watch this space!

WEIR WOOD

As you may know, one of our members, Mark Carr-Brown, has joined with Michael Evans in re-opening Weir Wood as a trout fishery.

Originally a trout fishery run by Southern Water and more recently a coarse fishery, Weir Wood is now being run as a mixed fishery with fly fishing for trout from March through until the end of June (mainly during the coarse fishing closed season), any method trout, general coarse fishing from July until the end of February, and pike fishing from the beginning of October.

Weir Wood will also host competitions (including our own Frank Darrah Pairs competition), courses and corporate entertainment days for both coarse and trout fishing, catering for all ages and group sizes.

Day, evening and season ticket options are available, either from the bank or, on non-sailing days, from a brand new fleet of Pioneer boats which are fitted with outboards and two built-in comfortable swivel seats, so you can leave your thwart boards at home! Special arrangements are available for float tubers and a Weir Wood Angling Club will be set up, with lots of additional benefits and discounts for regulars.

At the fully refurbished fishing lodge there will be a drying room and changing facilities, with a well stocked tackle shop (which will be the main agent for ArrowHead tackle) and a cafeteria offering a welcome break and the famous Weir Wood Wedge, a succulent, locally sourced sausage sandwich!

Tariff details are as follows:

Fly only Trout fishing.

Opens Monday April 12th 2010 until June 30th

8 fish full day trout ticket: £28.50

4 fish evening ticket: £17.50

8 fish any day full season ticket: £600

4 fish any evening full season ticket:£300

Any method Trout and Coarse fishing

Begins July 1st

8 fish full day trout ticket: £28.50

Catch & release coarse (excluding

Pike) and trout fishing full day: £12.00

Pike fishing

After October 1st

Full day: £25.00

Boat Hire

Pioneer 15ft boats - with outboards and built in seats for 2 anglers.

Full day: £25.00

Evening from 3pm: £20.00

Prices, times and availability are subject to change without notice

Bank fishing will be available seven days per week, but boat fishing will only be offered Monday to Friday, or at week-ends when Weir Wood Sailing Club have little or no sailing.

For the latest information news and availability you will be able to check their website which is in course of preparation. A link will be established from our website.

AUCTIONS

London Branch of the Flydressers' Guild will be holding two auctions in the near future. These are organized by our good friend Mike Humphreys (who so efficiently releases the moths from your wallets at our own auctions) and have some very attractive lots.

The first, on **Saturday 27th February**, covers over 260 lots of Miscellanea, Clothing, Nets, Bags Rods, Reels and Lines.

The second, on **Saturday 10th April**, covers 415 lots of Flies, Fly-boxes, Fly dressing materials and Books, etc.

Roy Gurney has copies of the catalogues, and bids can be made in advance by post (and possibly by proxy if certain members are going!). If you want to go yourself, the address and details are:

**All Saints Church Hall
Croxley Green, Herts.**

(5 minutes from Junction 18 M25)

Both sales commence at 12 noon SHARP, with viewing from 10.00 am.

Sussex Otters

Our February speaker was Fran Southgate of the Sussex Wildlife Trust who gave a most interesting talk on the ecological regeneration of the Sussex countryside, with particular reference to wetlands, and especially rivers and woodlands affecting the habitat of the otter.

Whilst the traditional view of anglers is that otters are competing for "our" fish, it became very clear that a return of otters would be greatly appreciated by all – especially as they tend to drive out mink and even cormorants from their territories.

Fran provided much information and advice on recognizing footprints, otter watching and general matters ecological – the beautiful mounted otter did escape Peter Buss's desire to get some dubbing!

Our January speaker's night was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions, and we will endeavour to persuade Mark Bowler to abandon his Scottish lair on another occasion in the future.

Salmon & Trout Association

A number of our members are also members of SATA and as a Branch we have good ties with the East Sussex branch of the SATA – an annual competition at some local fishery, adjacent stands at various shows, etc.

In order to fulfil their objectives in raising water standards, furthering game angling and other vital matters, which is done in conjunction with other interested parties such as Countryside Alliance, Angling Trust, the CLA etc, the SATA need more members, because, as with most things nowadays, the more members organisations have, the greater the weight of their lobbying power, especially with Government bodies. Join now and add your voice!

In addition, (subject to vacancies being available) you would become eligible to join the East Sussex SATA syndicate for fishing Cinder Hill and Piplye fisheries – highly recommended!!

PETER LAPSLEY

11th March 2010

Our March speaker will be Peter Lapsley who will give us a demonstration of tying his dry flies and dry-fly fishing techniques – and nodoubt more besides.

WEBSITE

Do keep an eye on our website which is continually being updated and expanded by Mike Guest, our tireless webmaster – www.sussexflydressers.org.uk
The home page will have from time to time "Stop Press" announcements such as late changes to programmes, etc, as well as other items of interest. At the same time, please heed our plea last month for your flies to add to our portfolio, and for any ideas for improving things, too.

Ned Kelly

It is with great regret we have to advise the death of a very old friend of the Branch. Ned took over the old Rivers Authority trout farm at Duncton Mill over twenty years ago and transformed it into the marvellous Duncton Mill Fishery. He was a great supporter of the Guild and its activities, and many of our older members will remember the Branch days he invited us to hold there. Indeed many of our members joined his syndicate and will recall him walking quietly up behind them and asking if he "could have a go" – then casting nearly twice as far as they could, handing back the rod, often with a fish on!

He had been in poor health for some time, having relinquished Duncton in 1997, and died peacefully at his home on 15th February.

To quote from one of his own newsletters:

*Say not "Good Night" but in some brighter clime
Bid me "Good Morning"*

Got a New Line?

Albert Horne offers his services in fitting your new line and backing onto the reel. He can supply the backing if you require it, and make and fit the necessary loops. Whilst he is doing this, he can loan a line for you to fish if required.

All he asks is for you to make a small donation to the Branch for this service.

(I have to say that I for one cannot match a professionally fitted line – well worth taking him up on this offer! - Ed.)

LIBRARIAN WANTED

With the last newsletter we enclosed a list of items held. However, since then Richard Foster has had to relinquish his position as librarian for personal reasons.

The position now requires filling, so if you would like to help out, please contact a member of the committee right away. It is not necessary to be a committee member to do this job.

In the meantime just ask Roy Gurney or Andy Steer if you wish to borrow any item.

Brass Monkeys

(Sussex Branch version)

The morning started with the usual tackling up, banter and plenty of encouragement to Peter Winder to hurry up. The weather was with us - cold but dry - and after a reminder of the rules, it was off to the two lakes to await the starting whistle.

A false start from Ted How – another of those and he would have been sent to the sin bin – but finally the start whistle was blown, out went the flies and Bill Smith promptly caught the first fish to cries of ‘Fix!’ from all around. With a prize also being given for the second fish all eyes were on Peter Winder and Ian Dunk, both playing fish at the same time. Peter won by seconds.

Then down to the serious business for the day – the best bag and heaviest fish. Most people had two fish, but some were struggling. Wayne Duerden and Steve Mustchin (who had put in some serious practice on the previous Sunday on what they claimed to be a recce and fun fishing) spent the first three hours with dry nets. Steve went in search of answers from Chris Croucher, who seemed to be catching with every cast. After Chris had marked his card, Ian Dunk gave him the killer fly and off he went. Within 15 minutes he had the heaviest bag of the day.

Meanwhile Paul Davis had parked himself on a picnic bench next to the bottom pond and didn’t move all morning. Everyone who passed him gave him a nudge just to be sure he hadn’t nodded off. Paul had the last say by landing the prize for the biggest fish (was that really taken on a Booby?).

Wayne was having a bad day but he spotted Bill landing his second fish and promptly elbowed him out of the swim before Bill had administered the last rites. First cast and the duck was broken with the lunch whistle and end of the main competition fast approaching.

Chris and Ian were having their own battle of catch and release which continued through the morning which Chris eventually won. The Bonds had turned up *en masse* and seemed to be having their own family competition with most having good day.

After lunch and prize giving we returned to the ponds for the final competition – the heaviest fish in the afternoon. This year Bill took on the role of chief weigher and at one point was seen sprinting down the bank to the far end of the fishery much to amusement of everyone still fishing.

Thanks to Ted and Wilf (the fishery owner) who both donated prizes and to Yvonne (Wayne’s wife) who had kindly baked cakes for us all, and for which we were very grateful. Wayne and Bill would like to thank all who came along for making a really cracking day out and to remind you to book early for 2011! The results were:

Heaviest bag	Steve Mustchin	4lb 14oz
Biggest fish	Paul Davis	2lb 4oz
Smallest fish	Ray Fisher	1lb 2oz
2 nd best bag	Gerry Newland	4lb 2oz
3 rd best bag	Paul Bond	3lb 11oz
3 rd best fish	Chris Croucher	2lb 1oz
1 st fish	Bill Smith	
2 nd fish	Peter Winder	
Best fish after lunch	Chris Croucher	
Lucky Blanker	Andy Steer	



Chris Croucher tries his luck



Brian Raw concentrates on playing his fish

APOLOGIA

Sorry this newsletter is a bit late – I have been waiting for articles and especially trying to tie in despatch with booking forms, etc. The delay to the January edition, didn’t help either !

Just a couple of things to note:

1. Bill Smith is anxious to have entries for the annual match against Eastbourne FF at Arlington on 25th April – do contact him if you are interested.
2. John Plowman is trying to confirm the Frank Darrah date, but in view of the limited availability of Weir Wood on Sundays, it may well revert to Bewl.
3. The Branch Trophy Day at Brick Farm is confirmed on 26th September

Roy Gurney(Editor)

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