



## Sussex Branch Newsletter



**MAY 2010**

### Penshurst Flyfishery

In my rush to get to print last month, I managed to overlook two vital pieces of information. Firstly, and very importantly, Penshurst Flyfishers offered to make a donation to a charity of our choice as a "thank-you". We asked that this should be the **Wheelyboat Trust**, on whose behalf we thank them for doing this.

The other thing was to say that the day is very well illustrated on their website, under "Gallery", with some splendid photographs (one even rarer than hen's teeth as it shows your editor actually tying!). Do have a look on [www.penshurstflyfishing.co.uk](http://www.penshurstflyfishing.co.uk) as it gives a good coverage of the fishery, if you have an inclination to try it out.

A couple of photographs by Nick Delaforce from the gallery give you some idea of the quality:



### MEMBERS' PATTERNS for WEBSITE

This section of our website is slowly expanding, but we are still lacking in one or two areas. Have you a favourite fly, either of your own or one which may not be a regular pattern? Download the pro-forma for the recipe, and then submit to Mike Guest, with a tied fly for photographing.

### Frank Darrah Pairs

This competition was two weeks later than last year so that we might find an improvement in weather conditions. The plan failed! Although the rain forecast earlier in the week did not materialise, the cold north easterly wind certainly did. Most of us spent the day being thoroughly chilled and the cold beers provided at lunchtime were not welcome.

The fishing was difficult for there was no sign of insect activity. My first fish was spooned and was full of daphnia, so off came the buzzers and on went the lures. By lunch I had two fish and my partner, Steve Mustchin, had none. At lunch several anglers had no fish and the best was three. While eating lunch a bank angler caught one trout right in front of us and we saw another rise, so the plan for the afternoon was clear: fish close in!

By the end of the day Steve had three fish but I did not have another pull. Paul Davies and Dean Epton had both blanked by lunch but in the afternoon took six when anchored ten yards out from the bank.

Apart from the good company the highlight for me was the quality of my two fish. Both were long, lean, full-tailed and silver. My better fish was nineteen inches long yet weighed just 2lb 5oz but still managed to strip the line twice from my reel and turn the boat round.

**Results:** 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Davis and Dean Epton (6 fish)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Steve Mustchin and John Plowman  
3<sup>rd</sup> David Painter and Ray Love

A total of 17 fish were caught by 12 anglers. Finally, Ted How generously donated a bottle of whisky to the captor of the smallest fish. This was won by Chris Croucher with a 15oz specimen from his two fish total of 1lb 15oz. *John Plowman*

### Rod raffle 2010

Another spectacular array of prizes gathered by Bill Smith – what would we do without him?

This year top prize of an Orvis T3 rod went to Chris Croucher, who then took a Sage rod and an Impulse fly-box as well!! Just to round off, he was also awarded a special rod for Chalk Springs!!

2<sup>nd</sup> prize of a super Stonefly 478 vice went to Ray Fisher, with Paul Bond taking the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize of a Rovex Waterbourne reel.

Once again there were plenty of satisfied winners of prizes approaching £3500 total retail value and we are grateful to our suppliers, especially Peter Winder of Lagoon Bait and Tackle, who gave us huge discounts.

## FISHING WORKSHOPS

This innovation seems to have gone down well, with good attendances for the various subjects covered so far. We lost a couple of nights due to the snows in January, but for next "season" we have already earmarked some dates, shown on the Tying Programme, including:

Pike flies	23 <sup>rd</sup> and 30 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2011
Making brooches	6 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2011
Using and making furred leaders	27 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2011
Selecting and fitting rod-rings	10 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2011
Reservoir fishing	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar 2011
Splicing and loops	24 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2011
Carp on the fly	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2011

If you have any other ideas for subjects you would like covered, or would like to impart your own expertise in any particular field, let Paul Bond know and we will include it in the calendar.

## CHAIRMAN'S CHATLINES

### *I'll feel better when I've said this!*

I am sure I am not alone when I feel the need to let of steam when I see something ridiculous. Fishing is a country sport and any of us that partake know that on occasion we are going to have an accident such as slipping on a muddy bank, falling into a stream or grabbing hold of a handful of nettles or brambles. If you are more adventurous like me you may fall out of a tree while trying to reclaim that favourite fly or slide on one's backside into the lake or reservoir. I would not dream of holding the water owner responsible for my stupidity or lack of care.

If I find the place where I am fishing is too difficult because of unsure footing or awkwardly placed undergrowth, either natural or man made then I GO SOMEWHERE ELSE! I do not complain to the management. Why then has 100yds of the best early season bank fishing at one of our Sussex reservoirs been banned to fisherman simply because someone felt the strong wire that wraps the gabions was not to his liking? As long as our fishery managers do not set trip wires or dig bear traps to intentionally injure anglers then we must expect our fisheries to be part of the countryside. And now for something completely different - I am still looking for volunteers for the following show dates: 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> July at Michelham Priory; 14<sup>th</sup> July at Ardingly (just to erect the tent); 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. at Ardingly. Please contact me if you can offer any assistance.

Thanks, and "Tight Lines"

*John Plowman*

## Auctions 2010

Entries for this year's auctions (on 21<sup>st</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> November) are being accepted from now on, as it helps to stagger production of the catalogues if they are received over a period rather than a last minute rush. Get rummaging amongst your tackle (fishing and fly-tying) for those unwanted or surplus items and raise that little extra for your trip to Alaska! Entry forms can be downloaded from the website, or ask Roy Gurney for some as hard copy.

## Match v. Eastbourne F F

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2010

The day started in the usual way, with coffee and bacon rolls, kindly supplied by Mary.

The boats were out by 9 o'clock, this year with the knowledge that the fish were still in the margins, and most boats tried to fish as close to the shore as possible, with success in most cases.

At lunch Steve/John and Brian/Jerry had all bagged up with most of the rest having taken two or three fish. In the afternoon three more of the Sussex team also bagged up, giving us a winning total.



*The victorious Branch team*



*Bill receives cup from the president of Eastbourne FF*

Detailed results:

Sussex FDG: 50lb 15oz

Eastbourne F F: 25lb 5oz

Heaviest bag: John Plowman 6lb 4½ oz

Heaviest fish: R Fox [Eastbourne] 1lb 15½ oz

Smallest fish: Steve Mustchin 13oz



**John gets his prize**

Many thanks to Mary yet again for organizing this most enjoyable day.

*Bill Smith*

## 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!! Here is our current stock and price-list:

Multi-tools		<b>5.00</b>
Fly boxes (metal)		<b>7.50</b>
FDG cloth badges		<b>1.40</b>
FDG enamel badge (trophy)		<b>2.50</b>
FDG enamel badge with pin		<b>3.20</b>
FDG windscreen badge		<b>1.00</b>
Sweatshirts	Green XL,XXL(2)S	<b>18.00</b>
Polo shirts	Green XL	<b>12.00</b>
	Navy XL	<b>12.00</b>
Caps		<b>10.00</b>
"Fly-tying Bible"		<b>10.00</b>
"Fly-tying for Beginners"		<b>10.00</b>
Tackle trolley		<b>22.00</b>
Dubbing boxes		<b>7.50</b>
"Flydresser" binder		<b>6.50</b>
Game fish recipes		<b>2.00</b>
Fishing log sheets		<b>2.20</b>
FDG polo shirts	L ,L	<b>17.00</b>
FDG Stonefly shirts	L,XXL,XXL	<b>32.00</b>
Fly-tying vice		<b>7.50</b>
Fly boxes - plastic		<b>4.00</b>
TFT 6-pocket wallet		<b>4.00</b>
TFT 12-pocket wallet		<b>5.00</b>
TFT tool wallet		<b>8.00</b>
TFT waste clipping bag		<b>2.50</b>
TFT fly retaining bar		<b>1.75</b>
Borax		<b>1.00</b>

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

You will shortly be receiving a letter from the main Guild advising that the payment of subscriptions will change from this summer onwards. In order to reduce the workload of the treasurer (who for the last several years has been the Chairman, as no volunteers were forthcoming) the main Guild subscription will be simplified. There will be only one membership category at the rate of £20, but if paid by standing order it will be discounted to £15. Family, retired and junior membership rates will be discontinued.

The Branch may also move to standing orders as the preferred means of payment, the date of which can be aligned to the Guild renewal date or remain at 1<sup>st</sup> September to suit the individual. This would mean two standing orders – one for the Guild and one for the Branch, unless we can come to some agreement with the Guild.

We had been considering an increase in the Branch subscription because our finances are fairly finely balanced, but in view of what is effectively an increase for retired members, it is now proposed that for this year at least the Branch subscriptions should remain unchanged, i.e. £13 for full members and £10 for retired.

However, at least for the time being, the Branch will still accept cash or cheque. It is worth bearing in mind that both Guild and Branch rates have been unchanged for 10 years, thanks to efficiency savings and good management at both levels.

## SUSSEX ANGLING SHOW 8/9<sup>th</sup> May 2010



**Brian Hendry and Jim Harris having profound(?) discussion Tony Kaatz**

The Branch was invited to man a stand at the revived Sussex Angling Show and duly performed the usual display of tying to sceptical coarse fishermen, although to be fair there were a number of interested game anglers visiting the stand. There was considerable interest shown by a number of potential new members interested in tying, and our literature disappeared at an alarming rate!

The show was overwhelmingly coarse orientated, with heavy emphasis on carp, but with a few other bright spots such as demonstration of some superb engraving on glass and metal – watch this space for a new trophy, perhaps!

We give many thanks to Tony Cox of Nelton for the invitation and providing the stand, and to Mike Guest, Brian and Jim for their sterling efforts

## 2010 Salmon Fishing on the Lower Tweed

Paul Davis advises he has again been offered a fantastic bargain for back end salmon fishing on the Tweed. The back end fishing on the Tweed is normally dead-man's shoes as it is the most prolific salmon fishing in the UK. One of the Tweed's most prolific low water beats has two separate weeks fishing available for exclusive use. Basically the price reflects the likelihood of numbers of fish.

If the Tweed is unfishable, for a small additional charge we can fish the River Whiteadder (the Tweed and the Whiteadder have different catchment areas so normally if the Tweed is unfishable the Whiteadder is still OK). The price is £20 pppd in August and £35 pppd in September. Therefore, as I will take one rod for each of these weeks, there are other 3 other rods available for both weeks (a rod share is available but you would have to find a rod share partner and the price each would be 50% of the full rod price plus a fee of £50 each).

If you want, partners can also come for an extra £50, as the accommodation on offer is large enough to cope.

If interested, Paul needs definite answers by 21<sup>st</sup> May, plus a £250 deposit ASAP to secure this offer.

### The Fishing

The beat comprises of 1000 yds of right bank fishing (right hand bank = English side) and is made of the Gliddeyhaugh and Canny beats situated just above Norham Bridge. It is opposite the Ladykirk beat (should you want to compare fish stats!). This beat has done exceptionally well in dry years. Its position next to the tidal waters means that it excels in low water when many fish tend to congregate around Norham Bridge as they are forced to wait for higher water. The pools range from 6 to 25 feet, with mainly slow to medium movement depending upon the height. The lower part is easily fished from the bank or by wading, the upper part is fishable only from the boat. The beats have been very lightly fished over recent years.

**Cost** (see below for the details of what is included)

### **Week 1 (August)**

Accommodation from Sun 15<sup>th</sup> - Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> August  
Fishing from Mon 16<sup>th</sup> - Sat 21<sup>st</sup> August inclusive  
**Cost £950 per person** - A half rod share £525 pp

### **Week 2 (September)**

Accommodation from Sun 19<sup>th</sup> - Sun 26<sup>th</sup> September  
Fishing from Mon 20<sup>th</sup> - Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Sept inclusive  
**Cost £1300 p p** - A half rod share £700 pp

### **What is included**

The price for each **Week 1** includes:

- Monday through Saturday Fishing (6 days)
- We will share a cottage - an ETB 5 crown self catering accommodation 15 miles from the beat - see <http://www.crabtreeandcrabtree.com/index.php?id=23&myPid=11679>

and each full rod will have one en-suite double/twin room to themselves.

- Breakfast and lunches
- Boatman/ghillie (for each full rod every 2 days you will spend about 1/2 a day fishing from the boat with the boatman who has over 25 years experience of the beat)
- As I have fished here before I will help/assist ('ghillie') when you are fishing from the bank/wading (NB the wading is easy with a gravel bottom) - but do remember that I will be fishing as well

The price for each **Week 2** includes:

- Monday through Saturday Fishing (6 days)
- We will share a cottage - an ETB 5 crown self catering accommodation right on the beat - see <http://www.crabtreeandcrabtree.com/property-details.html&myPid=11647> and each full rod will have one en-suite double/twin room to themselves.
- Breakfast and lunches
- Boatman/ghillie (for each full rod every 2 days you will spend about 1/2 a day fishing from the boat with the boatman who has over 25 years experience of the beat)
- As I have fished here before I will help/assist ('ghillie') when you are fishing from the bank/wading (NB the wading is easy with a gravel bottom) - but do remember that I will be fishing as well

### **Not included extras on any week**

The cost **does not include:**

- Your travel
- Evening Meals (however we could club together with a kitty and cook or just go down the pub)
- Boatman/ghillie tip (suggested is £10-£15 pppd i.e. £60 -£90 for the week)
- NB: You don't need an EA salmon/sea trout licence as the river is under Scottish law.

**If you are interested please call in the evening on 01306 621157 ASAP to discuss, or e-mail [flytyer@inbox.com](mailto:flytyer@inbox.com)**

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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](mailto:roygurney@ntlworld.com)

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