



Sussex Branch Newsletter



JUNE / JULY 2010

Arlington Evening

A fine turnout of twenty seven members – a third of our membership! – enjoyed mixed blessings at this annual event. The weather was kind, but the fish very selective as to who was to be blessed! Earlier in the day the dam had proved productive, but by the time some of members got there, the fish seemed to have moved away – further out, for the boats to benefit. Some bank fishermen did catch a fish or two but it was the boats that prospered. Thank goodness for the gathering in the lodge afterwards!



Early birds (or just gannets?)



Ray Love, John Plowman and Bill Smith

Our thanks to the ranger, Tom Todd, who looks after us so well, but also to the Village Bakery in Patcham who supply the sandwiches which disappear so fast that anyone late in has to go hungry!!

Chairman's Chat

It is that time of year when agricultural shows and game fairs are about. This spring and summer, active members of the guild have been busy demonstrating their tying skills while engaging in fishing stories with interested onlookers. So far the Sussex Branch has been represented at Peshurst, Heathfield and South of England shows where our presence has been welcomed by the show organisers.

We rely on these shows to attract new members so that we can continue to offer the service to you of guest speakers and tying instruction. There at least two more major shows remaining this year (at Michelham and Ardingly) with the possibility of another on August 28th. If you can help then please contact me or Roy. You do not have to be an expert, just enthusiastic.

Finally, is there someone who could help for an hour at Ardingly on Wednesday 14th July in the afternoon to erect the tent? The frame has four corners and it is very difficult for just three of us to manage

Thanks and tight lines

John Plowman

Mike Brayne

You will all be sorry to hear Mike suffered a stroke a month or so ago. He is now out of hospital, though walking with a stick. He even spent some time in the office this week! We all wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back on the bank soon.



Chris Croucher and Dave Painter

Heathfield Show

Agricultural shows always start early, so Bill Smith and I arrived to set up the Guild stall at a grey but dry 7.30 am, ready for the first visitors at 8.30. This year there had been no sign of rain in the days leading up to the show but the forecast for show day was not good. During the morning a steady flow of interested people passed by our tying table, set between the lace makers and a trug builder. The morning was quite successful with several anglers considering joining the Guild.

I was due to give a casting demonstration in the arena in the early afternoon and, precisely on schedule, as I stepped out, so the heavens opened. Almost all of my spectators rushed into the nearest marquee, so yours truly stood in the rain and showed everything from a roll cast to a double haul to an audience of perhaps three!

The rain was enough to soak our table, and the various publications displayed, and unfortunately in the afternoon visitors to the whole show stayed away. Eventually the rain stopped so at least we could pack up in the dry but the overall impression was of a successful morning that was spoiled by the inclement weather of the afternoon. Next year it will be sunny and warm!

John Plowman.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND SHOW 2010

Attendance at the Show seemed to be down this year but nevertheless we had much interest and have high hopes we will see many of our visitors again in September. The weather did not help with overall attendance to the Show, particularly on the Friday which had a wet and windy start.

Our new position on the opposite side of the "road" to the fly casting seemed to work – all we need now is for the organisers to place tackle stands (there were only three) in proximity – the writer failed to find any of them!



Visitors know who to watch tying!



Ray and Paul Bond show them how to do it

Many thanks to all who participated – it is good to see new faces on the stand with the "regulars". I can thoroughly recommend participation, if only for entertainment value, especially when Peter Buss is on the stand!

AUCTION – IMPORTANT CHANGE OF DATE

Due to an unavoidable clash of dates, our Auctioneer, Mike Humphreys, has had to ask us to re-arrange the date of the first auction (scheduled for 21st October). We have only been able to book the double room at Patcham for a slightly later date, and the new date is

Thursday 18th November 2010 for the auction for flydressing materials, books, etc.

The date for the tackle auction remains unchanged for **Tuesday 2nd November.**

The tying programme is adjusted accordingly, with the flies for 18th November being brought forward to the 21st October. Please amend your programmes and diaries accordingly.

Work has already been started on the catalogues. The sooner the entries are in, the easier the job is to complete on time. Entry forms are available via the web-site now so you can get cracking right away. Copies can also be mailed out to those not on the web - phone Roy Gurney on 01273 506184 or e-mail at roygurney@ntlworld.com

Sort out all those unwanted presents, tackle no longer needed and surplus tying tools and materials and books – you know it makes sense!

Match v. Surrey Branch Coltsford Mill – 24th October 2010

This has now been finalised and the cost is £45 for a 4 fish ticket and buffet lunch provided by the venue. Teams are 12 a side (enabling closure of the fishery) and we need more entries. Please contact Roy Gurney (using your entry slip if you can still find it!) with your details and send a cheque for £45 made out to "FDG Sussex Branch" and post-dated 10th October. Those who have paid a deposit can settle the difference either on the day or when convenient.

ASHBOURNE

The weather clerk is obviously not a fisherman, as he arranged for a chilly northerly wind to blow on what was otherwise a good day for fishing. Nevertheless some of us were into fish very quickly, with Wayne Duerden bagging up by 10.30!

The fish lived up to their reputation of being some of the best fighting rainbows in Sussex, and they are certainly good eating! Best fish was taken by Peter Winder with a fine, full finned 4½ pounder.



Peter and his fish

Lunch was at its most convivial and many thanks are due to our host Doug Chalmers who kept the wine flowing, and not forgetting Roy, who demonstrated his mastery of the barbecue once again.

A sighting of the eagle soaring in the clouds added to the delights of this lovely venue, though that of a mink reminded us that not all escapees are welcome. One member lost his way to the venue – it does help to bring the directions with you! Let's hope he makes it next year!



The Hosts' Table



The Noisy Table!

Yellow Peril

An article by Mike Guest

The Problem

Summer continues apace and as water temperatures rise the Trout, in my fishery at least, are not too impressed with the situation. As my thoughts turned to other species none seemed more likely to take a fly on a roasting hot Summers day than the ubiquitous Carp. Thus it was that my attentions turned in this direction and I began to tie up a stock of likely lures. The good old favourite which comes in many forms, and colours, is the 'Bonio', a deers' hair construction which, when spun onto the hook and trimmed down severely, is meant to represent a small floating dog biscuit known as a Mixer. There is no doubt that it is a good likeness and catches fish as a result but after a number of frustrating evenings at the bank side I decided that this fly had a couple of serious shortcomings.

Chiefly the problems lay in its buoyancy and its visibility. I mean if you can't see it and it won't float then it really can't be regarded as the right tool for the job. Believe me I tried every floatant available including the wonderful 'High & Dry' which although pricey makes the claim that one application will give you a fly that floats for ever. I can now confirm that sadly this is not the case.

I would have thought that the deers hair (notorious for its floating qualities) would have been yet another addition to the buoyancy factor. Again this was sadly not the case, each new fly seemed to float for a few casts then sink unceremoniously into and then below the surface. Add to this the fact that the deers hair itself is a somewhat dowdy colour and it's little surprise that I could scarcely see the fly, especially as the evening light began to fail.

The Solution

Working on the principal that necessity is the mother of invention I set about finding a way out of the problem. I am sure I am not alone amongst tyers when I tell you that I am always squirrelling away bits of this that and the other in case they might later be pressed into service in some fly tying fashion. One of my 'little treasures' a torn sheet of closed cell yellow foam, soft supple and around half a centimetre in thickness was the material that presented itself to me as a prime candidate. It looked like it would solve both problems at a stroke: firstly, being cellular and synthetic I had no fear that it would loose it's inherent buoyancy and secondly, being yellow, it looked like something I would be able to see from a good distance in most lighting conditions.

There followed a number of desperate attempts at taming this yellow foam and getting it to sit on the

hook in the manner I wanted, finally however I had matters under control and thus the 'Yellow Peril' was born.

My only concern now was whether the Carp would be fooled by this bright yellow blob floating amongst all those natural brown Mixer pellets. I couldn't imagine anything more garish and unnatural but, until I had field tested my creation I wasn't prepared to pass judgement. I need not have worried, the Carp did all the passing of judgement that was required, ten Carp, common and mirror, threw themselves onto my hook in close succession! In two hours between mid evening and last light I landed six specimens up to seven pounds in weight while another four escaped the net and made off happily wearing my new lure as an earring! I should point out that I only use barbless hooks so I am confident that their flirtation with this new form of jewellery will be short lived.



Conclusion

While musing on the reason these Carp were so ready to take a bright yellow floating object I was reminded of what Peter Apsley had to say on the subject during his recent visit, for it was his assertion that colour was of little or no value in a floating fly, everything appears pretty much as a silhouette looking upwards from below the surface.

It is true that the 'Yellow Peril' has a reasonably convincing profile and given that it looks much darker from below this might be the reason for its success. Anyway, I am not going to sit here speculating what the Carp might be thinking, all I can say is this fly has turned out to be a great success and they have voted with their feet, or do I mean fins?

The 'Yellow Peril' ticks several boxes:

- It is extremely buoyant and stays that way.
- It is extremely visible in all lights and at a good distance.
- It is extremely cheap in terms of materials.
- It is extremely fast to tie.
- It is extremely durable over time.
- It is extremely stress free to fish with.

- It is extremely popular with all the Carp I have encountered so far.

I dare say there are other qualities in its favour but as yet I have not found a single negative.

I have filled my Carp fly box with a couple of dozen on size 8 barbless Carp hooks and am consistently enjoying sport that I would never previously have imagined possible!

In due course I will be putting the 'Yellow Peril' pattern up in the [PATTERNS] section of our website so if you fancy having a crack I will be delighted to hear how you fare.

Just as a footnote I would like to say a big thank you to Peter Buss and Jim Harris who have invested so much time and effort in teaching me how to tie flies over the last couple of years. I know I am still a mere beginner in the craft but that in itself is good because I still have so much more to look forward to. Without the help and encouragement of these fine chaps I would not be in the position where I could even consider designing my own fly, let alone tying it! This is what fly tying is all about, I definitely feel empowered and am eagerly looking forward to more fun and games when the fur and feathers come out once more at Patcham in September.

Bass Fishing at Shoreham

The first session was held on 14th June on the estuary of the Adur at Norfolk Bridge with half a dozen members present. A chilly north-westerly wind kept the body warmers on and the evening was lacking in fish! The venue had been changed at the last moment due to the hot pipe at the power station being out of action due to refurbishment at the power station. (maybe this also contributed to the lack of fish in the estuary).

This likely to last till at least mid-July, and Brian Hendry will keep in touch to find out when the pipe is again in operation. Meantime, "Plan B" will operate with fishing moving to Norfolk Bridge whilst it is out of action.

Thanks to Brian for his organisation keep in touch with him for the latest news or alternative venues.

Show Volunteers Required

One of our visitors to the South of England stand was Mr William Greenwell, grandson of the famous Canon Greenwell of Greenwell's Glory fame.

He is organising a charity fair at Shermanbury in aid of the parish church on bank holiday Monday August 30th, and has invited us to give a demonstration. To erect and dismantle our tent we need four volunteers (one for each corner). Please contact John Plowman (01825 762975) or Roy Gurney (01273 506184) **urgently** if you can help, as we have to let him know very soon if we can go.

Honorary Bond ~ Year 2

It was with great anticipation that, after the events of 2009, I hoped not only the invite would come but there wouldn't be a repeat of last year's trials and tribulations! Time would tell.....the invite arrived and the rest as they say is now history!

DAY ONE – WEDNESDAY

A good start; Paul rang as he was away from work early this time and having picked me up at 11:30, we headed off to load his car and await Gerry to arrive. Gerry finally turned up just before 1 o'clock, his gear was thrown in and we were away for Devon just on the half past. A quick call from Colin confirmed that the rest of them (Colin, Ray, Roy, Pete and his son Chris), who had headed away mid morning, had taken the coast road and had now stopped at Bridport for a pub lunch.

We on the other hand travelled cross country along the A272 to Winchester and then via the A303 until we just got into Somerset for a break at Cartgate services. A swift bacon and egg sandwich and mug of tea and we were back on the road with just an hour left to travel. It's amazing that the hour seems to go so quickly and before long Bovey Tracey loomed, dwarfed by the hills of Dartmoor looking over it. The scenery on a clear day is just fantastic arriving just before 6 o'clock. With first pint gone in a blink of an eye and friendly banter with the staff I remembered from last year over, it was up to the rooms to do the unpacking, then back down to the bar for the evening. The boys discovered a new beer called 'Yellow Hammer' and they must have enjoyed it because the drinks kitty ran out twice! Apparently they didn't suffer from any ill affects the next day either – a surprise to me as they had quite a few!

Now one thing I hadn't forgotten about was the quality (and especially quantity) of the food. Again we weren't disappointed. That set all of us up for the days ahead and we retired to dream of the fish that we were about to catch!

DAY TWO – THURSDAY

Having got up at 7:30 and been out for the paper I met the lads at breakfast. After a Full English all round it was time to pack the cars and make our way to the reservoir. The first and last days were on the boats with the middle day on the bank. Boats were loaded and we got on the water by 10:00. The weather on the trip down had been perfect, cloudy and warm, but the morning started with sun, then progressed to rain, wind and hail. It was strange that on a water of only 45 acres some said that they had had no hail (obviously the demon drink having some effect). Fishing was slow but Gerry and I each had a fish and after spooning them we decided on the delicate method of a fast sinking line with a nymph (called a BOOBY!) stripped slowly through deep water with some success.

Only five of us caught. Gerry had five, Pete three, me and Chris with two and finally Ray with one. True to form Ray's was 3 lb 4 oz and a contender for the Trout Masters!

The day was very disappointing, the high expectation shattered, but then, remembering that days one and two last year had been worse, re-evaluation was in order and perhaps the day wasn't that bad. We headed away and another evening ensued starting with a shower and then down for the evening meal. We decided to share bottle of red tonight and take it easy, then in a blink of an eye we had had four! My! I had forgotten how these guys enjoy the unwind. A thick head would probably follow, so it was off to bed to dream of the winning tactics for the next day.



DAY THREE – FRIDAY

A repeat of day one's start with Breakfast was followed with a discussion about the wet stuff pouring down outside. How many of us have that treasured wet weather gear but avoid using it? Our day was a tactical one as instead of fishing it was decided to have the morning off and go to Trago's Mill, a trading estate on the A38 just outside town. Paul boast is that you can buy anything there cheap, and he's not far off. It killed an hour and a half, then it was decided to have some lunch; as I had promised myself a cream tea we found the strangest little tea room at the top of the town run by a dated 'Essex Girl' who gave as good as she received. To get to the tea room we went through a room full of antiques, to which Paul remarked never mind those – look at all the antiques sitting round our table.

The rain had by now eased, so it was time to go fishing. Pete and Chris had braved the weather and headed to Kennick in the morning. As we arrived we met another angler fully laden with his six fish limit. Again expectations rose - had the tactical move of not fishing gone against us? Had Pete and Chris also bagged up?

We all set out along the bank; we didn't need to fear, they hadn't caught a thing and had moved where our fellow fisherman had vacated – as we all do, but to no avail. Gerry and I made our way along the bank stopping every 10 minutes or so and moving along to cover as much bank as possible. Both of us were lucky and got into and landed a fish each. Ray also had a fish which in direct comparison to the day before was so small that it was returned to its mummy!!!!

With such a poor result and feeling cheated we packed the gear away and went back to the hotel for a quick freshen up and change. Then to the bar for dinner and a few more drinks – back on the Yellow

Hammer they were. I stayed on my vodka and coke. The group looked a tired bunch and eventually everyone drifted off to bed.

DAY FOUR – SATURDAY.

You now get the drift, same old usual of breakfast, load cars, up to Kennick, load up the boats and battle commences with bright sunshine. The breeze got up and made fishing hard with only Paul and Pete netting fish – Pete having to return his brownie.



Other fish were on but not for long and certainly not to the net. Shoulders were dropping just a little till it was time to get back to the hotel for our last meal together plus a few drinks.

FINAL FISH COUNT

GERRY	SIX
PETER	FOUR
BILL	THREE
CHRIS	TWO
PAUL	ONE
RAY	ONE (LARGEST FISH)
COLIN	NIL
ROY	NIL

This means Gerry won the DUCK for three years on the trot.

DAY FIVE – SUNDAY

Down for our last breakfast, settle the bills, say goodbyes and on the road by 10 o'clock. Colin and Pete took the coast road, whilst Paul, Gerry and I went back the way we came, arriving at approx one o'clock.

This report by Honorary Bond Bill.

ARE YOU ON E-MAIL?

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.

Despite sending out the majority of copies by e-mail, printed copies still account for well over half of the stationery and postage budget.

If you no longer want this newsletter and wish to be removed from the postal distribution list, let us know as we hate to think of it going straight into the waste paper bin (though hopefully for recycling)

BRANCH TROPHY DAY

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

Brick Farm Lakes **Sunday 26th September**

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

This was once again very well supported and we are grateful to the instructors who gave up their time to impart their expertise to us mere mortals, especially Brian Smart who was off on holiday at 6.30 the next morning. We also welcomed some new faces whom we hope to see again at future meetings and events. The evening was further enhanced by the inflation and departure of a hot-air balloon alongside the clinic – you can't say we don't try to keep our members entertained!

DON'T FORGET YOUR ENTRIES FOR THE "BIG FISH TROPHIES"



The categories are:

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

The closing date of catching is 31st October 2010 for browns and 31st December for other categories. Trophies will be presented at the Dinner.

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