

## Sussex Flydressers Brass Monkeys 2011

The morning started with the race to be first at the fishery. As usual Tony Harrison was in first place and was closely followed by Tony Woolnough. Unfortunately there was no prize for that. After tackling up and a reminder of the rules, it was off to the two lakes to await the starting whistle. With everyone in place the start whistle was blown, out went the flies and three fish were on. Wayne Duerden promptly landed the first fish to cries of 'Fix!' from all around, narrowly beating Ray Bond and Steve Steer. The catching continued with Ray and Wayne bagging-up with their third casts. Then down to the serious business for the day – the best bag and heaviest fish. Most people had two fish in double-quick time and were then catching and releasing for the rest of the morning, but some were struggling despite much encouragement from all around.

After lunch and prize giving we returned to the ponds for the final competition – the most fish in the afternoon. Sadly the number of participants was depleted as some had to go home early to watch the football and heavy rain deterred others. It was a head to head battle between Peter Winder and Ray Fisher which Ray should have won easily but he kept letting the fish go. Finally, after the equivalent of a penalty shoot-out, Ray beat Peter 5 – 4 to win the final prize of the day.

Thanks to Wilf (the fishery owner) for making sure there were plenty of fish for us to catch 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 2012! Next year Andy Steer has promised to tie a fly on his leader and try to catch a fish.

Results:

Heaviest bag	Brian Raw	6lb 0oz
Second best bag	Tony Harrison	5lb 12oz
	Paul Bond	5lb 12oz
Biggest fish	Jim White	3lb 7oz
Smallest fish	Peter Naisbit	1lb 11oz
1 <sup>st</sup> fish	Wayne Duerden	
Most fish after lunch	Ray Fisher	
Lucky Blanker	Andy Steer (again, going for the hat trick in 2012)	

*Wayne Duerden & Bill Smith*

### PROGRAMME

As usual, some slight adjustments! The main Guild SGM is to be held at Eyebrook on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April** (and not 19<sup>th</sup> as in Charles' memo). Also omitted from some programmes is the South of England Autumn Show and Game Fair on **1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> October** at which we will have a demonstration stand as usual.

### Fishy Stories (don't blame me – Ed)

Why should you never put trout in a tank?  
They can't reach the pedals.

Two fish in a tank. One says to the other, "You drive, I'll fire the gun."

Two guys are fishing a nice beat close to a road when a funeral cortege approaches. One of the guys lays his rod down and removes his hat as it passes. His companion says "That's very decent of you old chap."

"Least I could do - she was a damn fine wife"

What is the difference between a catfish and a lawyer?

One is a bottom-dwelling, scum-sucking scavenger and the other's a fish.

One day while driving home from his fishing trip in the pouring rain, a man got a flat tyre outside a monastery. A monk came out and invited him inside to have dinner and spend the night. The motorist accepted. That night he had a wonderful dinner of fish and chips.

He decided to compliment the chef. Entering the kitchen, he asked the cook, "Are you the fish friar?"

"No," the man replied, "I'm the chip monk."

A Ghillie found a man on the bank of the Test carrying a bucket of trout, obviously a poacher and challenged him...

"Hey you...what are you doing with those fish?"

"These are my pet fish, I'm taking them home" replied the poacher.

"Pet fish?" asked the Ghillie, incredulous at the audacity of the poacher.

"Yes" replied the poacher, "every day I bring them down to the Test, let them swim for awhile then whistle them to jump back in the bucket."

"What - are you mad?" the Ghillie exclaimed.

"No, let me show you" the poacher replied, and gently poured the trout back into the clear Test waters.

After a minute or two, the Ghillie said "Well - aren't you going to whistle the fish back?"

"What fish?" replied the poacher....

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## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT LINES

### Food

I am surprised that more anglers do not spoon their catch. The information gained from this technique is invaluable in matching the "hatch" or other constituents of the trout's diet at the time of fishing. A nil return implies that you have taken a recently stocked fish. An interesting statistic is that a study of thousands of trout found that over 90% of them had buzzers in their stomach contents.

So what does this mean? Obviously the majority of the time we could be fishing buzzers at least for part of the day, in the knowledge that the majority of fish will be including them in their diet. Spooning the dead fish in the catch will provide valuable information on what the fish are feeding on at the time.

Do migratory salmonids feed in fresh water? The textbooks say no. So why can you catch them on worms, a creature which they have never seen before?

Pacific Salmon not only do not feed in fresh water, they even digest their stomachs! Hence there is no such thing as a Pacific salmon kelt!

Some Atlantic salmon can survive spawning - typically 10% of them. Those that die may be the result of wastage due to lack of food - a typical weight loss is 40%.

If you have a recovering river, i.e. one with only a few salmon in a run, one way to increase numbers is to provide a hatchery, but the brood fish for the hatchery must come from the river to be improved. These brood fish are therefore very precious. A 90% loss at spawning is not acceptable.

This problem has been solved in the USA by force feeding Atlantic Salmon kelts in the hatchery. The following picture shows an Atlantic Salmon kelt which has been force fed and spawned nine times - quite an achievement.



Tight lines

*Tony Woolnough*

### **Peter Cockwill**

Peter, who has been a very welcome speaker and visitor to the Branch on many occasions (and overdue for another visit, Paul!!) has asked me to remind you that as members of the Guild he grants 10% discount on any purchases at his store at Albury Game Angling, so if you are in the area and/or fishing at Albury, do call in. Alternatively, visit his website: [www.alburygameangling.co.uk](http://www.alburygameangling.co.uk) or for greater appreciation: [www.petercockwill.com](http://www.petercockwill.com)

## Country Experience Day

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Open from 10am  
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[www.meonsprings.com](http://www.meonsprings.com)  
or call Jamie on 01730 823794

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## **LIBRARY**

We now have a new librarian - **Peter Winder** has volunteered to look after and audit our stock of videos, DVDs, books, etc, held at Patcham. Do check with him if you wish to borrow any item, or, if he is not there on any Thursday, ask Roy Gurney for access to the Library. A full revised list of titles will be available shortly, but in the meantime ask Roy for the current one. If you have any unwanted DVDs, books etc, do let Peter have them to add to our collection.

*Phillip Ellis reports:*  
**Spoolholder**

Like so many, I often look around the internet at fishing sites for something different and here it is. Based in Yorkshire, [TheESSENTIALFly](http://www.theessentialfly.com/) offer a wide range of tying materials and tools at their online shop <http://www.theessentialfly.com/>. I came across this spoolholder recently and made a purchase of one with a few other items and it arrived within a few days.

The photograph below shows it clearly and I have found it useful on the tying bench holding up to 32 spools in four tiers and you can see all of them at once without having to scabble around your boxes. It will fit into a fly tying box or bag to bring along on tying nights. Each post is graduated to take either a small or large bobbin. My only comment is that it is made in plastic and could be easily damaged if you say dropped it on a hard floor. Cost @ £4.50 each is a lot cheaper than those custom-built wooden ones - a very useful accessory for the tying bench.

The [TheESSENTIALFly](http://www.theessentialfly.com/) are offering 15% discount to Sussex FDG members ordering on line, just simply use the code "goring" to ensure discount.



**Earn Money for your Branch!**

As you may know, Andy Steer has a large range of tying materials available on tying nights. These are provided by [Lagoon Bait & Tackle](http://www.lagoonbaitandtackle.co.uk/) and 10% of the sales price goes to the Branch, courtesy of Peter Winder. Peter would like to remind you that he will make the same donation for any of the items sold by the following companies:

Greys	Scierra	Pure Fishing
Snowbee	Cortland	Shakespeare
Wychwood	Mustad	Orvis
British Fly Reels	Kamasan	Stonefly
Fulling Mill	Fuji	Leeda
Scientific Anglers		

Just order the items you want through Andy and he will get them from Peter for the next tying night (subject to availability, of course).

Why not visit the shop:

**Lagoon Bait and Tackle**  
327 Kingsway  
HOVE, BN3 4LD  
(Opposite Hove Lagoon)  
Phone: 01273 415879  
or visit [www.lagoonbait.co.uk](http://www.lagoonbait.co.uk)

**Weir Wood**

The following are the prices quoted for the new season:-

**Trout fishing – Opens March 15<sup>th</sup> 2011.** Fly only March 15<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>. Any method (see rules) June 16<sup>th</sup> to September 14<sup>th</sup>. Fishing times vary - see diary.

**Fly fishing for trout day ticket** - Keep a brace of fish plus catch & release £30.

**Fly fishing for trout day ticket** -Keep 4 fish plus catch and release £40

**Boat Hire** 15ft boats with outboards and built in fishing seats for 2 anglers - full day with fuel £30.

**Boat share ticket £80.00** Two anglers, two trout then catch & release day permits and your boat and fuel for the day. Additional fish to keep may be purchased at £5 each.

**Full Season Trout £500** Catch and keep your first 2 trout any day and catch & release thereafter. Full season permit holders may also coarse fish and pike fish in season.

**Note:** Season ticket holders wishing to use boats out of hours will be required to attend a boat users safety training session and will need to purchase and carry with them their own life jackets and fuel tank.

Early morning and late evening fishing is only available to season ticket holders.

Breakfast and lunch can now be booked on line as well to await your arrival.

**Calling all storytellers.....**

The Editor is running out of steam! Rather, and more specifically, running out of material for the Newsletter. Unless more articles are received from you, the members, the Newsletter will dry up.

I am sure there are lots of tales, photos, hints and tips, gems of knowledge etc, etc, etc lying out there so let me have them urgently or there will be none next month!

**Tying benches**

Your committee has been investigating how to improve facilities at Patcham and is experimenting with the use of white cards instead of the large white boards placed on the tables. Let us know if the additional room for circulating outweighs any disadvantage on table space and background.

Next year, speakers' nights will be on the first Thursday of the month in the smaller room, thus avoiding the congestion when tying.

We have also purchased two white tables for use at shows to replace the slightly worse for wear tying benches. This means we need to dispose of the old benches – anyone interested please ask Roy Gurney - they have folding hardboard sides and white "contiboard" tops – might be useful for the garage, shed or even as your own tying bench!

**Main Guild Website**

Thanks to sterling efforts by our own Mike Guest, the new Guild website is up and running at:

[www.flydressersguild.org](http://www.flydressersguild.org) .

Do log on and see the improvements!



## Sussex Branch Newsletter



**MARCH 2011**

### **ANNUAL DINNER**

**2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011**

Hurry up, book your tickets now! Don't be disappointed this year. It's 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 **£26.00** each.  
If you've mislaid your form – ring John Burt on 01273 695164 or get one from Roy Gurney.

### **FLY-TYING COMPETITION 2010/11**

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 dates for entries are **26<sup>th</sup> March for Branch and 1<sup>st</sup> April for the main Guild.**

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE!**

*Members' Reservoir Plate winner 2010*



*Bob Thomson's 10 lb from Weir Wood*

### **FRANK DARRAH PAIRS**

Please note that this prestigious Branch event has been arranged for **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2011**. Cost has been held at £37.50 which includes lunch-time beer, boat hire and fishing. This is an ideal day for both experienced reservoir anglers and newcomers wishing to experience this style of fishing. If you do not have a partner, John Plowman will arrange one for you. Just fill in the entry form and enjoy yourself!!

### **INTERESTING LINKS**

If you want to see and tie some of the patterns from master fly-tyers from all over the world go to:  
[www.danica.com/flytier/](http://www.danica.com/flytier/) - you will be spoilt for choice – just select the fly or tyer, get the picture and click on the picture – Magic!!!!

*Maybe worth repeating from an old newsletter:*

“For those of you with access to the web, the following is a link to a piece of free software that allows you to record fly patterns, material inventory, fishing trips, etc – have a look and try it out – it's not bad for free!

<http://www.erobillard.com/SuperFly>

Both links have been added to our website.

- and for the traditionalist or vintage buff the following is a link to images of Frank Sawyer tying his PTN. Paul notes “Did his mother never teach him to scrub his nails!”. Go to Gallery 4 on <http://www.salisburydistrictac.co.uk> “



*Sawyer's Nymph*

### **A discrete cough**

In the programme recently distributed, Andy Lush, our speaker for December 2011, was described as a well known cough sweet! He is, of course, “The Friendly Fisherman” and not a Fisherman's Friend (although I'm sure he is!) – sorry Andy – one of those senior moments!

### **GAME FAIR – STOP PRESS**

The price for this trip has been **reduced to £40 per person!** Contact Paul Bond to book – places are limited and going fast! Roy Gurney has the revised booking form if you haven't had one by e-mail.

All those who have already booked can either replace their cheques with Paul, or wait till the coach trip and receive a refund of a fiver per head. If you have bought entry tickets direct, you can join the coach for £20 – book with Paul.