



Sussex Branch Newsletter



MAY 2011

Annual Dinner

Once again we had a very enjoyable evening at the Dyke Golf Club, who made us very welcome and provided an excellent meal. Some 25 members attended and with guests a total of 40 - but why such a small turnout of members? The evening is always very convivial and the raffle outstanding value, as well as an opportunity to repay our "other halves" for the time they let us spend on the waterside.

Maybe we should rethink the event - let us have your views. This should be our highlight of the year when the fishing trophies are presented, we entertain our better halves, and maybe welcome a celebrity or two. Thoughts that come to mind are:
Date - should it be early in the "season", e.g. October or November? Or perhaps yet another Christmas dinner?

Venue - do we need a change?

Format - is a dinner the right thing?

Let us know via a committee member and we can then act accordingly. We want YOU to support us!
Coming back to this year's event - many thanks to Bill Smith for stepping in to organise the raffle - we take this opportunity to thank Jim White for his past efforts and wish him a speedy recovery.

This year we did without a guest speaker, partly due to combined senior moments by certain people, after the intended guest suffered a heart problem just before the event - not caused by terror at the thought of addressing us, I might add!

RHG

AUCTION CHANGE OF DATE

Due to an unforeseen clash of dates, we have had to rearrange the dates of this year's auction. As our auctioneer, Mike Humphries, cannot make the 20th October, the date of the **flydressing materials, flies and books etc** has been changed to

Thursday 17th November.

The tackle sale will remain unchanged on **Tuesday 1st November**. Please amend your programmes and diaries accordingly.

Entries for this year's auctions 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.

'Sussex FDG On Coarse'

Saturday 25th June

Swanborough Lakes, near Lewes

Cost depends on numbers but will be somewhere between £12-£18 (maximum number of rods = 20). Send a cheque for **£12** (as a deposit) dated **20th June 2011** and made payable to "**FDG Sussex Branch**" to:

Paul Davis
2 Park Cottages
Mill Lane
Forest Green
Surrey RH5 5SJ

We have exclusive use of two lakes stocked with specimen sized Chub, Tench, Perch, Roach and Rudd and other smaller species that all will rise to the fly. They also have a good head of medium sized Carp in the lakes.

Be prepared to fish flies other than the 'Bonio Fly' as all of these species respond to more imitative patterns (bloodworms, buzzers, nymphs and mini lures).

This venue offers you probably your best chance of a 'PB' (personal best) for many coarse species on the fly.

For more information contact Paul on 07905 607162 or flytyer@inbox.com
www.flytyingworld.blogspot.com

St Giles Church Shermanbury

You may recall that we were privileged to have a stand at the Shermanbury Fayre last summer, in aid of the repair to the roof of St Giles Church.

This was a very enjoyable day, and our host on that day, Mr William Greenwell, has now advised that on **19th June at Shermanbury Place** they are hosting a "Sponsored Ride" and "Dog Walk" in aid of St. Giles Church and the McIndoe Burns Unit at East Grinstead, so you are asked to bring along your horse or your dog (or both!).

There will be a beer tent and "Wellie Throwing Contest" - both hugely popular & successful, plus teas, lunches, tours of the church and things besides. Everything kicks off at 9:00am sharp!

The scaffolding around St. Giles is now in place and work proper is due to commence 12th April. The 'roofers' will be there for 14 weeks, and then it is planned to have a 'topping out' Service on 18th September, attended by The Venerable Roger Combes, Archdeacon of Horsham, followed by a Hog Roast for all who attend.

Presentation Evening

In music we have the last night of the Proms but we have to make do with presentations and the Rod Raffle! We had a fine turnout of over 50 members, more than half of our membership, and many of them going home with prizes from the Rod Raffle. Tony Woolnough, our Chairman, presented the fly-tying trophies to the winners – Nigel Duckworth (Novice), Peter Neave (Intermediate) and Paul Bond (Open) – but sadly there were no entries for the new categories of Salmon and Salt Water/Pike. Come on you experts – next year beckons!



Paul Bond – Open Fly-tying



Peter Neave – Intermediate Fly-tying



Nigel Duckworth – Novice Fly-tying

He then caught up with the fishing trophies due to have been presented at the Dinner, and it was particularly pleasing to see Jim White collect a pair for separate events: -



Jim White - Brass Monkeys



Jim White – Stillwater Challenge



Paul Davies – Frank Darrah Pairs

We apologise for the over-exposure of the Chairman in the above – such is the price of high office!!



Peter Buss was presented with an inscribed fly-box in recognition of his long service as Instructor to the Beginners' Class.

Peter led this class for some eleven years and it is a testament to his wit and expertise that so many of his pupils have progressed and continued to be skilled members of the Branch.

Accreditation

Paul Davis, as the Accreditation Manager of the Flydressers' Guild, also presented Bronze Award Certificates to:

Harry Atkins, Paul Bond, Ray Bond, John Cooper, Wayne Duerden, Tony Harrison, Steve Mustchin and Andy Steer.

Silver the next target!

Rod raffle 2011

Bill Smith did it again with a record sale of over £2000 worth of tickets giving over 40 prizes to the retail value of at least £4000, thanks to our generous tackle suppliers, especially Peter Winder of Lagoon Bait & Tackle, Paul Davis and Glasgow Angling. Top prize of a 9'6" #6 Hardy Swift Mk2 rod was won by Ian Dunk, with David Painter taking 2nd prize of an Orvis 9' #5 TLS rod. John Burt took the 3rd prize of a Rovex Waterbourne #6 reel. Ray Bond was the lucky fourth draw ticket and made a bee-line for the superb Stonfo pedestal vice coveted by many!

Frank Darrah Pairs

For the first time in many years the weather was warm, dry and sunny, with almost no wind, so twelve anglers from the Sussex branch of FDG set out on to a very clear Bewl Water hoping to catch. As always on a large water there are two main skills involved. One is finding the fish, both in location and depth, and the other is catching them. I suggested to my boat partner Steve Mustchin that we start at Bramble Bay and within thirty minutes Steve had two fish on small midge patterns - none for me. With hindsight we stayed too long at this location, for although the occasional fish rose no more came to the net. I caught one more lone fish just after starting a new drift but then nothing until lunch.

Lunch was its usual convivial event with beer provided in the ticket cost. It was difficult to be sure that anglers were telling the truth about their morning success but it was clear that the best area for the afternoon was going to be near to the dam wall. So that is where most of the boats went. I had two more, Steve had three more and I could see Bill Black and Chris Croucher catching regularly in boats near to us.

My best fish was a good condition blue trout of just under three pounds. These blues look like steel-heads and pull at twice their weight. When you get one to the net you cannot believe how small the fish is!

Finally to the weigh-in where the team of Chris Croucher and Ian Dunk just beat Bill King and Chris Nunn.

My thanks to all who took part and I hope more of you will try reservoir boat fishing (just ask me if you would like to share a boat with me). Once you have had your first reservoir success you will find it hard to go back to small water fishing.

Name	No fish	Boat total	Total weight	TotalBoat weight
Bill Black	4	4	8-4	8lb 4oz
Ray Love	0		0	
Chris Nunn	5	12	9-12	23lb 10oz
Bill King	7		13-14	
John Plowman	3	8	6-3	16lb 7oz
Steve Mustchin	5		10-4	
Michael Braine	4	9	8-10	20lb 6oz
Colin Rann	5		11-12	
Chris Croucher	8	12	16-2	24lb 8oz
Ian Dunk	4		8-6	
Ted How	2	7	3-6	14lb 13oz
Mark Berry	5		11-7	

John Plowman

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 are items currently in stock and price-list:

Multi-tools			5.00
Fly boxes (metal)			7.50
FDG cloth badges			1.40
FDG enamel badge (trophy)			2.50
FDG enamel badge with pin			3.20
FDG windscreen badge			1.00
Sweatshirts	Green	XL, S	18.00
Polo shirts	Green	XL	12.00
	Navy	XL	12.00
Caps			10.00
Woolly hats			5.50
"Fly-tying Bible"			10.00
"Fly-tying for Beginners"			10.00
Beginner's Pack -FDG			20.00
Fly-tying Tackle trolley			22.00
Dubbing boxes			7.50
"Flydresser" binder			6.50
Game fish recipes			2.00
Fishing log sheets			2.20
FDG polo shirts		L	17.00
FDG Snowbee shirts		L,XXL,XXXL	32.00
Fly-tying vice			7.50
Fly boxes - plastic			4.00
TFT 6-pocket wallet			4.00
TFT 12-pocket wallet			5.00
TFT tool wallet			8.00
TFT waste clipping bag			2.50
TFT fly retaining bar			1.75
Borax			1.00

Calling all Sea Anglers

A press release from the Angling Trust:

"Bexhill Byelaw Bans

Sussex sea anglers were shocked last month when Rother District Council published proposed new byelaws banning sea angling and bait digging from areas of the coast at Bexhill-on-Sea. In addition to the restrictions the byelaws include that "no person shall fish from the sea-shore in a manner that causes danger, obstruction or annoyance to anyone using the sea-shore" - while not applying the same requirements for other beach users.

The Angling Trust's legal arm, Fish Legal, have written to the Council highlighting why we believe these proposed new byelaws might be unlawful. A coalition of local sea anglers have been meeting with the Council to impress upon them the impact these proposed byelaws would have on the many thousands of anglers who fish in Sussex each year. If you hear of angling being banned or restricted please let us know by emailing us at fightforfishing@anglingtrust.net with as many details as possible."

CASTING CLINIC

Thursday 26th May 2011

Don't forget the casting clinic at Patcham House playing field (adjacent to the A27/A23 roundabout on the Brighton side, opposite the "Black Lion") from about 6.30 pm to dusk.

CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS

Know the quarry - Fish jumping

This may not seem relevant to the type of fishing we all do but nevertheless, I find it interesting.

To set the scene, we need to know why fish jump. I suggest that the reasons fall into the following categories:- to obtain food; to surmount an obstruction during migration; to avoid capture by predators; to remove parasites; and to throw the hook.

Many fish species jump to obtain food. I have witnessed rainbows jumping about a metre in the air at Arlington, turning and taking flies on the way down. It appeared as if it was raining fish. Yes I did take some by offering them dry flies similar to those hatching. Needless to say but on much larger hooks! On a river in the USA trout have adopted a feeding technique of taking flies well up in the air which is spectacular indeed. Anglers have adapted to this behaviour by casting very light flies on light leaders with the objective of hooking fish in mid air. I have not witnessed this method but would imagine that it is both challenging and exciting.

To surmount obstruction we have all seen pictures of fish leaping at water falls and man-made obstructions. Thank goodness they do, otherwise I would be on the jam roll! Incidentally it has been found (by experiment) that fish first examine the obstruction visually by resting in the turbulence at the toe and then dive to ascend through the standing wave and make the jump they have identified. Salmon have been recorded making an almost vertical jump over the 3.70 m Orrin Falls in Ross-shire.

We have all seen whitebait, fry and flying fish leaping to avoid predators. Flying fish have been known to jump for over 15m, no doubt using the up currents from the waves.

Although salmon that have successfully ascended an obstruction often appear to "jump for joy" (or is it relief?) most of the salmon (and sea trout) jumps are in fact to remove sea lice.

We have all had fish jump and shake their heads to throw a hook; this has broken many an anglers' heart. This is particularly spectacular in the case of sailfish that continue to jump and tail-walk throughout the fight.

Common sense tells us that the fastest swimming fish can jump the highest. Or is it that the fish which have to jump to complete their life cycles or obtain food, have developed the faster swimming speeds to achieve these objectives?

So what do we gain from this? Well salmon can jump vertically for over 3.0m, which, together with their high swimming speed, makes that a worthy quarry indeed.

Tony Woolnough



A sea trout ascending Andrews Weir at Barcombe

GAME FAIR 2011

23rd July 2011

There are still a few places vacant on the coach so get your place booked urgently with Paul Bond. Cost (including entry) will be £40 and a cheque, post-dated to 1st June 2011, made out to "FDG Sussex Branch" will reserve your place(s).

And a reminder to any who have booked but not yet paid, please let Paul have your money by the end of May.

Tying Benches

As a result of purchasing two new tables for tying at demonstrations and shows, we now have two or three (rather worse for wear) folding tying tables for disposal. Those of you who have attended any demonstrations will know what they look like (and indeed they feature in photographs of the stands) so if you might have a use for them contact Roy Gurney and you can take them away (from Patcham) before they are consigned to the recycling site!



Teeny Leech

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