



Sussex Branch Newsletter



JUNE 2011

Match v. East Sussex S&TA Duncton Mill – 7th May

After the driest April for years, the rain came – but fortunately only for a short time during the pre-match briefing. Duncton was looking at its best and the early fishing in Birch, the first (new) lake, was very rewarding – so much so that some feared finishing before lunch! Elsewhere it was harder, and those who were “pacing” themselves found it difficult (in some cases impossible) to complete their bag!

It was great to have a lady fishing for the S&TA – we must try to get more of the fair sex tying flies (or are you afraid that they will show us up?).



Pat Dunn of S&TA nets her first

Best bag of the day went to Steve Mustchin, with a four fish bag of 13 lb 2 oz, and best fish of 5 lb 10 oz and Julian Jakubowski had best brown at 3 lb 7 oz. For S&TA Bob Thomson and Robert Nathan had full bags but this was not enough to wrest the cup from us. Their total of 20 fish for 35 lb 9½ oz was short of the 25 fish for 50 lb 15 oz achieved by the Branch – seems our flies attracted heavier fish too!



Lunch time



Still more lunch!

It was a great day with much friendly banter and a good spirit between the (much overlapping) members of both organisations. We look forward to more of the same at the Shows later this summer!

Many thanks are also due to Geoff Taylor of S&TA who organised the event this year and to Martin and Caroline of Duncton who provided a splendid lunch in keeping with the superb venue.

By general consent it was agreed to repeat the event next year at the same time – maybe revenge?!!



Phillip accepts the Cup from Geoff Taylor

TROUTMASTERS FINAL GRAFHAM WATER

140 of the country's top trout anglers gathered at Grafham Lodge on Monday morning for the final of the largest competition in Europe. The conditions were not promising, very bright and sunny with no cloud cover and a strong southeast breeze, not too bad for boat fishing but the kiss of death for the bank. For those of you who don't know the format for this competition, the day is split into two sessions of three hours. Half the competitors fish on the boats in the morning and half on the banks. I was drawn on the boat for the morning and my boat partner, who had been practicing for several days, thought the west bank would produce. We anchored about 100 yards offshore along with a dozen other boats; the area had been producing lots of fish previously, but, with a no limit catch and release policy in the days leading up to the competition, a huge amount of fish had been caught and they would be very wary, especially with lots of boats on the water and lines flying around. After 1½ hrs with no takes and only a couple of fish caught between all the boats, we decided to move. Having suggested the first place, my boat partner left the decision to me. Boats were moving all over the place, so no area was that promising. I went for the deep water near the dam about 15 minutes motoring from our first position; this left about an hour fishing and no chance of another move. As we arrived so 2 other boats were moving - not a good sign. Undaunted, I tried a team of buzzers, with no success, so switched to a blue flash damsel pulled fast through the surface wave with instant results - some relief I can tell you. Back at the lunchtime weigh-in it was clear by the shortage of anglers in the queue for the scales that it had been a hard morning, especially off the bank.

After a lunch break it was all change, with the morning boat anglers reverting to the bank, driving around to find a favoured spot, the morning bank anglers taking to the boats.

I had decided to fish Plummers Park, an area that stretched from an inlet with a point from which you could reach deep water, down to the dam wall. Unfortunately every other competitor seemed to have thought the same thing! On the point they were already shoulder to shoulder, so a long walk in chest waders was necessary, bringing me to a clear area midway between the point and the dam wall. By the time the siren sounded for fishing to commence I counted 50 anglers in a line standing in the water. If the morning was tough, the afternoon was going to be much more challenging. The water was gin clear, the area had been hammered in the morning, and was about to suffer the same fate in the afternoon. After an hour a bailiff came past, saying only 2 fish had been caught from the deep water off the point. Time for a bit of lateral thinking - if the fish had moved away from the bank, I would have to follow them somehow. Unfortunately there is a limit to the distance you can wade out, as the bailiffs can eliminate you if they don't see daylight between your legs, so a plan was hatched. I put the biggest booby I had on the top dropper, a killer nymph on the second dropper and a buzzer on the point,

casting as far as I could and then drifting the line out with the wind, using the booby as a sail. I soon had all the line and backing stretched out 80 yards in all. I then started retrieving, winding the line back on the reel. I hooked a fish at about 70 yards and it seemed an age before I netted it, and that was the only fish to be caught between the dam and the deep water.

Back at the weigh-in, once again there was a very short line of anglers waiting for the scales. The boat anglers had really struggled and on the bank hardly anyone had caught. Catching in both sessions is the key to success in this format and although I hadn't caught a huge number of fish, I finished in 19th place out of 140 - this on a large water which is strange to me. I felt was a successful day.

Peter Winder

ARLINGTON EVENING

Despite a few late cancellations due to family illness (though I'm not sure Glyndebourne comes into this category) we had another splendid turnout, matching last year's numbers. This time the sandwiches did not run out, though it was a close run thing on the drinks front!

The weather was kind, though a bit chilly at the end, and fishing was reasonably hard - on the bank it was the dam that was favoured due to the low water level, with sparse results, and few managed limits in the boats either - even JP could not manage his eighth!



In the lodge after a hard day's evening!

This is a fine evening outing (rather longer for those early birds!) and probably the longest standing in the Branch - long may it prosper!

Thanks to the Ranger, Dave Wickens, for putting up with us and to the Village Bakery in Patcham for providing the great sandwiches - every year I'm asked who makes them!

R H G



Tony Woolnough and Eric Hunter

BRANCH TROPHY DAY

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

Brick Farm Lakes Sunday 25th 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!

Anyone with poor eyesight?

20/20 Magnetic Tippet Threader



FLY THREADING MADE EASY

Designed to thread a wide range of fly sizes
Works great on flies with or without beadheads
Uses a Strong Rare Earth Magnet to hold the fly
Molded from durable lightweight UV rated vinyl
Includes D-Ring clip to attach to lanyard or zinger

Recently a friend with failing eyesight rang me asking about a fly threader he saw a few years ago. As there have been a few on the market it was difficult to pinpoint the one he described. Anyway whilst on my travels I was in a tackle shop and saw what I thought was suitable, purchased and sent off to my friend. The report came back that it did the job and now I own one! They work very well, just place the fly at the end of the groove the eye is over a powerful magnet. Push your tippet down the groove and hey presto the fly is threaded ready to tie knot as in the picture. One word of caution, do make sure the eye is clear of varnish and tippet material.

The cost around £14 which is a bit pricey for such a simple item but perhaps worth more for the gain! You will also need another zinger!

Phillip Ellis

Editor's note:

Presumably this is the Wapsi brand. However, I found an equivalent made by Awjam in Australia, listed as Fulling Mill 1068, at £12.95, so Fulling Mill stockists will have it, too – try Peter Winder at Lagoon Bait!. I will get one myself, as you know I have just this problem!

Bass Fishing at Shoreham

Brian Hendry has drawn up the schedule for intended sessions, having studied when the tides are suitable. The following are the dates and times for wading from the beach by the power station – **chest waders are required.**

Thursday	16 th June	16.00
Friday	17 th June	17.00
Monday	4 th July	18.00
Friday	15 th July	16.00
Monday	1 st August	16.00
Thursday	4 th August	19.00
Monday	15 th August	17.00
Thursday	1 st September	18.00
Friday	2 nd September	18.30
Monday	12 th September	16.00
Thursday	15 th September	18.00
Monday	26 th September	15.00
Thursday	29 th September	17.00
Friday	30 th September	18.00

Meet (in boots/shoes) at the car-park at Carat's Café on the Eastern side of Shoreham Harbour entrance, on the South (sea) side of the port.

Back-up plan if sea is rough is to relocate to the river at Norfolk Bridge, Shoreham – free parking at Adur Recreation Ground. If travelling from Brighton direction it is necessary to cross the bridge and go the roundabout and come back to the car-park just before the bridge. **Tides are about 1 hour later at the bridge.**

B.H.

AUCTION DATES

Just a reminder that the tackle auction date is

Tuesday 1st November 2011

And the new date for flydressing materials, books, etc. is

Thursday 17th November 2011

Download your entry forms for items to be sold from our website www.sussexflydressers.org.uk or 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!

CASTING CLINIC

This year the weather was at its most fickle – during the day and up to six o'clock it was heavy showers and blowing a hooley. Then, by 6.30, the wind had dropped and the skies cleared, though there was still a cool breeze, which did a 180 degree turn during the casting! The weather undoubtedly put off a number of members but the brave souls who did come along benefited from some sound advice and coaching from the instructors. It was very pleasing to see Michael Brayne back, recovering well and casting a beautiful line still. Thanks to the instructors – faults were ironed out and at least one member learnt how to double haul – proof of the value of this event.

Chairman's Jottings

Know the quarry – Migration - Fallacies

Atlantic salmon are *sea fish* which spend about two years off the coast of Greenland in their major feeding and growing phase. They then return to the coastal areas of the mainland and commence a *coastal searching* regime. They “taste” the outgoing fresh water for pheromones that have been released by juveniles in the river of the adult's birth. Contrary to popular opinion, by no means all adults which ascend rivers are born in the headwaters. Studies have shown that up to **30%** of these fish have been *born in other river* systems. In many cases runs of adults may also include salmon which have escaped from *fish farms*.

To ascend the chosen river, they take advantage of *tidal transport*. As the name suggests, they swim up with the tide to reach the fresh water / saline interface where they rest up waiting for the flow and temperature windows to open. Migration commences when a combination of water temperature of 5° C and above and flows are at or above those which occur for 95% of the time.

When suitable gravel is found, spawning occurs and the spawned adults return to the sea as kelts. Those which survive the weight loss will return as “*blue backs*” to repeat the migration and spawning cycle.

Some eggs are fertilised by *promiscuous par*.

After about two or three years in fresh water, the juveniles turn into smolts if sufficient food is available for growth and then return to the sea. In the case of Pacific salmon in comparatively barren streams, juveniles may be up to *seven years* old before they smolt

So what does this mean to the angler?

Don't believe all you are told about the simplified life cycle of a salmon.

Don't expect fish to run in temperatures below 5° C

Don't expect fish to run during low flows.

Tony Woolnough

Ashbourne (continued)

You might have bet on it – weeks of sunshine and drought – then comes Sunday at Ashbourne and the rains came! Actually the rain was welcome and luckily not too heavy to spoil the day's fishing in this beautiful setting. As usual the venue provided hard-fighting rainbows, and though some managed to “bag-up” early there were some of us still frustrated at the end of the day!

Regardless of the success or otherwise for the fishing, lunch was at its usual convivial best – helped by the enforced bar extension caused by the delay in getting the barbecue under way due to the rain. Our host, Doug, ably aided by bailiff Roy and his good lady, Nicki, produced a fine spread to accompany the fine wine and then the afternoon session got under way for those who had not yet finished.

In memory of Jack Jupp, one of our members who loved Ashbourne, it was decided that a memorial trophy would be presented to the best bag for the day, and Wayne Duerden and Tony Harrison tied on this occasion – with three others within a few ounces!

It is a privilege to be able visit Ashbourne and enjoy its surroundings – I believe there may be a few vacancies for the syndicate and if you are interested, I would be happy to put you in touch with Doug Chalmers – have a look at their the website – www.ashbourncountry.com

Roy Gurney



View from the lodge

ASHBOURNE 2011 Jack Jupp Memorial Trophy



Doug Chalmers presents the Trophy for the first time to the joint winners, Tony Harrison and Wayne Duerden

Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

Chairman: Tony Woolnough 01273 483833

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

Visit our web site

Sussexflydressers.org.uk