



Sussex Branch Newsletter



AUGUST 2011

NEW EDITOR

Welcome to your new Editor – Andy Steer, who has volunteered to take over the reins from Roy Gurney, who has held the fort for the last (nearly) ten years. At least he didn't have to go because he had hacked into the undoubtedly interesting phones of the members! He wishes the best of luck to Andy, and hopes he has a bit more success in getting events reports and articles out of you!

Salt-water Frustration

Brian Hendry has organised some great outings fly fishing for bass and mullet at Shoreham, but was totally frustrated on 4th July when I received a call from a lone angler asking why there was no-one at the meeting point.

Conditions were as perfect as they could be and I could not see Brian missing this golden opportunity. However, on ringing him it transpired that there had been a plane crash on Adur Recreation Ground and traffic was gridlocked around that area. So much so that Brian had been unable to get from Shoreham Beach to the other side of the harbour (about 200 yards as the crow flies, but several miles by road) as, after an hour and a half of trying, he had to give up!

After "phone in" to Brian from the lonely angler for advice, he then had a perfect evening with a catch of some twenty school bass – frustrating for those who didn't make it (presumably due to the news of the traffic chaos, which actually did not affect access from the East). The bad news is, Barry, that after such a great first outing, it is all downhill from here! P.S.

Brian is now considering the purchase of a kayak to enable him to come over by water!!

RG

Tying Nights

With this newsletter, you will receive a copy of the tying programme for 2011-12. You will see that there has been a major review of the classes to allow for the Accreditation Scheme, though the Beginners' and Intermediate courses follow the same general theme covering the various tying techniques. As said before, it is not compulsory and if you want to sit in on any particular class (for instance you just want to brush up on hackles) feel free to do so.

Don't be afraid to ask for help or instruction for whatever YOU want.

Paul has put in a lot of work in formulating this programme and would welcome any suggestions from members as to how it can be improved.

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!

AUCTION DATES

Just a reminder that the tackle auction date is

Tuesday 1st November 2011

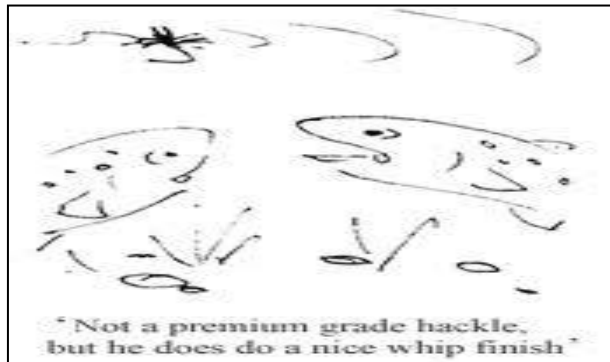
And the date for flydressing materials, books, etc is

Thursday 17th November 2011

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

Tony Harrison 01273 582470 or you can e-mail 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!



* Not a premium grade hackle, but he does do a nice whip finish *

Chairman's Jottings

Know the quarry – Triploids.

In the USA, a problem developed when stocked rainbows mated with native cutthroats and produced hybrids that were neither full rainbows nor true cutthroats. In time this would have resulted in the disappearance of the local strains of fish. The solution was to stop stocking with rainbows to waters that contain other trout species but rainbows do not necessarily stay in their stocked lake, many migrated both upstream and downstream and bred with native fish in other lakes.

So what to do? Fishing pressure called for stocked fish to be available. Eventually biologists discovered that given that female trout possess two sets of chromosomes (C) and males one, at spawning one C from each sex combine and form a juvenile with the spare C of the female being rejected. Rarely in the wild fish do juveniles develop with the three Cs turning them into "natural" triploids which are unable to breed although complete in all other ways.

Biologists found that by either exposing the eggs to pressure or warmth soon after spawning, the two Cs from the female stuck together and triploids were produced.

This solved the inter breeding problem, although we can often identify "stockies" we should be grateful that we can now enjoy trout fishing for all, including large still waters.

Hybrids formed from other species also have their uses. At Washington University I was shown a tank of pike / muskellunge hybrids which are used as "cleaning fish". There were stocked in lakes with high densities of coarse fish which are soon decimated by the cleaning fish which did not require removal at the end of the process, as they could not breed and therefore would die out naturally.

As a matter of interest, most of our rainbows originated from Shasta Lake in California, you may remember, if you were awake, that I displayed a slide of a fish lift into this lake in my talk last year.

What does this mean to the angler ?

- We know the origin of most of our rainbows
- We know how triploid trout of all species are produced.
- Plenty of sport

Tight Lines

Tony Woolnough

Michelham Priory 2011

Saturday was fairly quiet, unlike previous country fairs at Michelham Priory. The weather was kind and stayed nice and sunny throughout the day. We had a few people come and talk to us about what we did, and show an interest in joining the Guild. On Saturday the stand was manned by Bill Smith, Steve Steer and myself. Bill's lovely wife Phyllis and retriever Sam also came along for the day. What made it even better was the bacon rolls from the Salmon and Trout team and the cakes brought by Bill and his wife.

Bill set out tying his gold head hares ear and fritz. Steve was tying his own patterns, while I tied some hares ears for one of the Salmon and Trout people and some red flying ants.

Andy Steer

This year's show was a little quieter than previous ones, but as usual the beautiful setting and the fine weather made it most enjoyable. Many thanks to the members who manned the stand – Bill Smith and Andy and Steve Steer on the Saturday and Ray Love, John Plowman and Brian Hendry who joined me on the Sunday – plus the invaluable help (and sandwiches) from Sheila in dismantling after the Show!

The new tying tables again proved their worth – and this time Bill came up with the solution of clamping vices to them – a boon for those who do not use pedestal vices.

We are fortunate in having some hardy regulars for these demonstrations, so my apologies to one such, Ray Love, whom I forgot to mention last time at the South of England Show!

Brian strayed from his usual display of salt-water flies by tying the "D F" featured in the July *Fly Fishing & Fly Tying* by Chris Sandford – designed to fish on the Test it must have a lot of traditionalists revolving in their resting places! However, it has proved its worth elsewhere – maybe you should have a go! The story of its name is worth reading, anyway!

RHG



Bill Smith and Steve Steer manning the stand at Michelham Priory

Fishing in Norway

Those who attended his speaker's evenings will remember Johan Klingberg and his fine videos of fishing in Scandinavia.



He has now sent us the following message:

"I have every year a fly-fishing week in Norway, close to the river Femund with grayling and brown trout. The fishing is nice, not a lot of very large fish, but still nice. Normally we have hatches of sedges or upwings just 100 yds from the cabins. The week is always fully booked; normally 10 out of 12 are the same ones every year.

The Norway trip this year was fantastic. The amount of grayling we caught was countless, and we also had a good number of decent fish. Maurice, one of the group who joined us this year, is actually from England. He was lucky enough to catch a very nice arctic char in one of the mountain lakes, but to get up to the top where that lake is located is a work for real athletics and I doubt if I ever will make it again!

After speaking to my friend Chris Reeves we decided to give it a try for a party from England and I wonder if anyone from your club would be interested for a week next year? The idea is to have all included for a very fair price; five days with full accommodation, fishing license, fly tying evenings, casting schools, learning different fishing techniques and a lot more. The flight shouldn't cost too much from London to Stockholm with Ryanair; Chris is also comparing different flight prices from London to Stockholm right now.

So what happens now?

- We will arrange a Norway trip for next year from Stockholm to Femund River for the **2nd to 8th July 2012.**
- Accommodation for 6 nights, breakfast, lunch, dinner, driving, fishing license, guiding, fly tying, (waders, fly rods etc for loan if needed) will be included for **£550.**
- Chris will look out for the best price for the flight and in September you will get an invitation to this trip with a schedule and more details.

For next year I may need to look for alternative accommodation because the cabins that we used to rent are on the market. I hope they won't manage to sell because these cabins are very good and cheap. But, for sure there will be other cabins to hire so no problems at all.

So, now it is clear - **there will be a Norway trip next year!**

OK, need to tell that we need to have 12 in the group, but I think that won't be any problem!"

This sounds like a memorable trip, so please register your interest with me at roygurney@ntlworld.com or phone 01273 506184 or write to Roy Gurney, 7 Eldred Avenue, Brighton, BN1 5EB.

Roy Gurney

Coarse fish on the fly at Swanborough

The ten members that turned up at Swanborough were greeted to a damp and windy start to the day. We all decided to fish the Tench Lake to started with and see how it went. Unfortunately no fish were landed during the morning session. So we all decided to have an early lunch. After lunch it was decided that we would try the other two lakes that are there. Wayne Duerden managed to foul hook a chubb and pull out of another. That was the only sign of fish all day. Bill Smith probably caught the best fish of the day in his dreams, as he managed to sleep through most of it.

Last chance to contribute to Angling Research

Dear All,

Please see a request for information which is about collecting an evidence base about angling's positive impact and helping angling make its case – to government, policymakers, regulators and funders.

Hello gents

At DEFRA's angling summit earlier this year you may recall Adam Brown presenting about Big Lottery-funded Social and Community Benefits of Angling research project. The project is due to finish at the end of this year, and I have taken the liberty of emailing you to ask a small favour. We want to let anglers know that it is not too late to contribute to our online tools, and are wondering if you could forward his email to your angling club/organisation/friends & associates.

All the relevant information is attached as both a PDF and Word file. I would greatly appreciate it if you could share the content of these documents to your angling networks, and encourage them to participate if they haven't already been involved in our work. The document also contains links to Research Resources website, which is a free service where people can access the data we have been collecting. Any questions, feel free to contact me.

Thanks

Paul

**Dr Paul Stolk
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Match v. Hastings F F Powdermill – 2nd July 2011

The following report is “borrowed” from the Hastings FF website:

“Members of Hastings Fly Fishers took on visiting members of the Sussex Fly Dressers Guild on Saturday 2 July. This was the fourth year that this event has taken place.

Each team consisted of 12 anglers; six from each team fished from the bank in the morning while the others paired up (one from each team) to fish from the boats. In the afternoon they swapped over.

The weather was hot with a slight breeze and some occasional thin cloud. Despite the warm conditions, all 24 anglers stuck it out, but overall the fishing was quite hard with only 27 rainbows being landed for a total weight of 35lb 3ozs.

No angler caught his 6 fish limit and only three anglers managed 4 fish which shows how hard the day turned out to be and all anglers were pleased when the fishing was finally over. After a few drinks and plenty of BBQ food everyone was happy once more. No doubt everyone went home a little wiser as Powdermill once again proved to be the real winner and virtually all the fish lived to fight another day. It goes without saying that we all appreciate the time and effort that Mandy and John (The Catering Corps) spend cooking the BBQ food for us all to enjoy.”

And may we add our own thanks for the great hospitality shown by our hosts.



Tony Woolnough hands over the Cup to the victors

Results

Hastings FFC	16 fish	20lb 04½ozs
Sussex FDG	11 fish	14lb 14½ozs
Best Bag	Smith (EFDG)	5lb 05ozs
Biggest Fish	Austin (HFFC)	2lb 02ozs

Congratulations to Bill Smith for achieving Best Bag.



Stillwater Challenge 17th July 2011

The weather was not as kind as it might have been and wet weather gear was the order of the day to combat the showers. Maybe this was the reason for the spookiness of the fish, as they were found difficult to catch.

Twenty three members fished the event, with only 29 fish taken and of these 17 were browns – a very curious result.

First blood came to Peter Winder, who landed a magnificent 9 lb brownie after a long tussle – enough to land him the runner-up for best bag, despite not taking another fish all day! Had he not lost one at the net just before the end, he would have pipped Steve Mustchin for the honours; Steve had the only full bag of four fish for 9 lb 6 oz. Ian Dunk would have beaten both if he had landed the big one just before the end, but had to be satisfied with three fish and third place.

The rest of us struggled with ones and twos and eight ending with dry nets – many follows, few takes and fewer hooked! Nevertheless the day was highly enjoyable, with a superb barbecue laid on by Chris Croucher and helpers which survived the rain, – a magnificent spread which was enjoyed in one of the dry spells!

Sadly no-one remembered to bring a camera and the only mobiles were camera-less!

Thanks to Chris and to Chalk Springs for yet another great Stillwater Challenge.

Tackle Fairs

Phil Waller advises following dates to note for Antique & Vintage Fairs at Sandown Park:-

Sunday September 11th

Tuesday October 18th

Sunday November 27th –the big one!

Entry for Tuesdays £5 at 11 am, £3 from 12-4 pm

Entry for Saturdays £ £3 (trade and public)

Further information at www.wonderwhistle.co.uk

Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

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