



Sussex Branch Newsletter



NOVEMBER 2011

Paying the main guild subscriptions by standing orders

Those members that pay their Main Guild subscriptions by standing order should check that they are not paying the subscriptions more than once. You must cancel the old standing order if you set up a new one. If you do not the old standing order will stay valid and continue to pay the old subscription, as well as paying the new subscription.

Albert Horne

It is with Great sadness that I have to report the passing away of Albert on Wednesday night in Worthing Hospital. Albert had been suffering from a number of ailments throughout the summer. Albert was an integral part of the Sussex branch for many years.

He will be greatly missed and our condolences go out to his family and friends.

Jim White

It is with great sadness I have to advise that Jim passed away peacefully on Thursday 20th October after a long illness. He was a loyal member and for many years organised raffles and other activities on behalf of the Branch.

He will be greatly missed and our condolences are extended to his family and friends.

Justin Anwyl

Justin made a welcome return to the branch. He treated us to an interesting talk on when and where to go Bass fishing. He also informed us on the similarities between the Atlantic Bass and the Striped Bass.

December's Speaker

Andy Lush of Fishermans Friend will be our speaker on the 1st December.

Branch Trophy Day at Brick Farm Lakes

25th September 2011

This year we returned to a transformed Brick Farm for this event. The magnificent new lodge was now completed and Keith and Sophie welcomed us with coffee and breakfast to set us up for the day. Lunch was also provided – a superb chilli followed by apple crumble and washed down with plenty of wine.



Peter Winder with Keith Curtis Brick Farm Lakes
Owner

The weather was kind though a strongish breeze swept down the lake making some stations a bit testing to say the least. Success was varied – some catching their bag before lunch and others struggling.



View across Brick Lake

The successful flies were also varied – nearly everyone caught on different flies, though it seemed the margins were the best hunting grounds

To give some idea, the writer went through six patterns before trying a Montana (almost in desperation) and taking one and losing two more in quick succession just before lunch. Fortified, he returned to try a yellow-head green nymph (see David Coomber's patterns on the website) which took three more in the afternoon session to give lie to the stories that he never got his landing net wet!

To the weigh-in, accompanied by a magnificent cheesecake with fresh pineapple – we really were spoilt by our hosts! Results:

Plowman Trophy for Best fish

Winner: **David Burt** 3 lb 3 oz

Runner up: **Wayne Duerden** 2 lb 3 oz



David Burt receiving his prize for winning the Plowman Trophy for Best Fish

Jimmy James Memorial Trophies for Best bag:

Winner: **Roy Gurney** 4 fish 7 lb 2 oz



Roy Gurney receiving his prize for winning the Jimmy James Memorial Trophy for the Biggest Bag

Runner-up: **Eric Hunter** 4 fish 6 lb 6 oz



Eric Hunter receiving his runner up prize for the Jimmy James Memorial Trophy for the Biggest Bag

Brown Trout Cup for Best brown

Brian Raw 2 lb 3 oz



Brian Raw receiving his prize for Best Brown



Everyone enjoying Keith's and Sophie's hospitality

This was a great day in all – good company, excellent hospitality and well organised – thanks to our hosts Keith and Sophie and to organiser, Peter Winder. This is now a “must” on our calendar, and it is hoped that we will have it as a special “Brick Farm Day”, perhaps moving the Trophy Day to another date and venue – watch this space!

RG

Charity Pairs at Bewl Water 9th October 2011

The day looked none to promising at the start with some rain but it soon brightened up and was quite a nice day. In the end there were 15 pairs fishing. There was a nice ripple on the water and conditions looked really good, but it turned out to be not that easy with only 2 limit bags, but only one blank, thankfully not yours truly this year. I think everyone agreed it was an enjoyable day. This year thanks to Chris Nunn and Bill King we regained the trophy from North Kent with John Plowman and Steve Muschin coming second and Ray French and Bob Shaw North Kent third.

The comp raised £205 which is going to Chris and Bill's chosen charity St Peter and St James Hospice Chailly.



Ray Love

Chris Nunn and Bill King receiving the Trophy for winning the Charity Pairs

Chairman's Chat

I have been trying to sort out the information supplies by the Balanced Seas i.e. Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) without much success I must confess. I read the 83 page Report in detail and was none the wiser regarding the impact on the Sussex coastline.

One area to be protected is from Beachy Head west. to Chichester Harbour. Within this area the following has been identified as in need of protection:

Broad scale habitats

A1.2 moderate energy intertidal rock 0.02km²
 A2.1 intertidal coarse sediment 733.92 m²
 A5.2 subtidal sand
 A3.A2 LE infralittoral rock and thin sandy sediment 8.1km²
 A5.24 infralittoral muddy sand
 A5.3 subtidal mud A5.33 infralittoral sandy mud 1.97km²
 A5.4 Subtidal mixed sediments A3.94 ME infralittoral rock and thin mixed sediments 5.03 km²
 A3.A4 LE infralittoral rock and thin mixed sediments
 Habitat FOCI Blue mussel beds 1,954m²
 Littoral chalk communities 1.03km²
 Subtidal chalk 0.09km²
 Species FOCI Long snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus guttulatus*) 1 record
 Short snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus hippocampus*) 2 record
 Native Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) 10 records
 Highly mobile species FOCI
 European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) n/a

As you see our “scientists” consider geological features are also in need of protection. Note that one seahorse has been found, resulting in a need for protection of many miles of shoreline.

Despite careful examination of the Recommendations in the report, I have found no reference to what enforcement measures are proposed and how these will restrict anglers.

I conclude that, once again, we should wait and see. If you think this is boring, as I do, I suggest that you read the full Report !!

Tony W

Branch Grayling Outing – River Test, Wherwell 15th Oct 2011

Occasionally the fishing gods smile down on us. The branch Grayling outing on the River Test was one such day. The weather was bright, mild and calm making

perfect conditions for spotting and stalking these shy and delicate fish.

The fish were behaving oddly this year – normally at this time of year they are still spread widely with the fish in small groups of 2 or 3 (if they are large) and small shoals of tiddlers. After the frosts start to bite then the fish shoal up into big groups and they seek out the deeper holes and runs. This year the grayling were already in big shoals and many were not in the deeper holes. These shoals were unusually large with 30-40 grayling plus, and very unusually a large number of brown trout with them.

Although the day was mild and bright the grayling (and trout) were not rising freely although some members did manage to tempt a few fish to take their dry flies.

The most successful methods involved weighted nymphs, myself I used a Czech Nymph set up and 'high stuck' the nymphs (leaded olive shrimps and leaded olive Hydropsyche nymphs) through the deeper pools. For shallower runs it was a simple, lightly weighted (2.4mm tungsten bead) pheasant tailed nymph or gold ribbed hare's ear fished upstream. Both methods were very successful and I ended up with approximately 30 grayling – with only four of these under 1lb!

Whilst talking of size it was clearly evident that the grayling at Wherwell are getting larger year on year. When I started organising these trips several years ago the average stamp of fish was around the 4 to 8oz size – whereas now the grayling are in the 10oz to 1lb mark. Continuing on the size theme, Steve Mustchin had, as far as I know, the largest fish of the day (mainly due to his patience in stalking fishing during the morning and afternoon) with a fish that was easily over 2lb.

Another mention in dispatches is for Richard Burbidge who had a disastrous morning because he snapped his favourite cane rod. Bill Black came to his rescue by lending him a new fangled carbon fibre one for the afternoon. Lady Luck then played her normal trick of switching from bad to good as Richard had a red letter day (well afternoon) catching over 30 grayling.

I think everyone, bar one, caught grayling and I know that everyone I spoke to enjoyed themselves. We have rebooked for next year on a Saturday in November and if there is sufficient interest we will have a weekday fixture early on in October. If you are interested in coming on either of these events please let me know (flytyer@inbox.com).



Dr Paul Davis with a nice Grayling

Paul Davis

Angling Trust calls on British Canoe Union to Condemn Mass Trespass Protest



Tony Harrison on the Test

The Angling Trust, wrote to the Chief Executive of the British Canoe Union (BCU) today demanding that his organisation condemns a planned illegal trespass protest on Saturday 22 October 2011 on the Hampshire Avon. The Angling Trust has also asked for public confirmation that no BCU staff will be involved in the protest, and that the BCU will make it clear to participants that they will not be covered by public liability insurance while participating in an activity which is not recognised by the National Governing Body for Canoeing.

The illegal trespass event could damage the fragile ecology of the Hampshire Avon, which is currently suffering from low flows. Gravel beds used for spawning by fish, and beds of *Ranunculus fluitans* (a water weed which is a vital habitat for invertebrates) could be damaged by large numbers of canoes passing through shallow water. The large, garish craft will also disturb the peace of the river and destroy anglers' enjoyment of

their sport by scaring fish away. An angling match for 30 anglers is planned on the day of the protest and this will be ruined by the illegal trespass. The Hampshire Avon is one of the most iconic rivers in the country for both coarse and game angling. The organisers are claiming in their e-mail promotion see note 1 that the event is not a mass trespass, but merely an exercise of an ancient right of access. The law is clear: no such right exists see note 2.

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of the Angling Trust said: *"This trespass is irresponsible and dangerous and could do physical damage to sensitive habitats in a river already suffering from over-abstraction and diffuse pollution. We urge the BCU to advise its members to stay away and to adopt a new position on canoe access that is less confrontational and works with angling clubs and riparian owners to secure new access - with sensible restrictions - for the country's canoeists. Any sniff of support for this illegal protest would be highly irresponsible from a National Governing Body. We have contacted the police and have asked them to take action to arrest anyone participating in aggravated trespass."*

Stuart Wilson, the River keeper employed by London Angling Association who have owned a stretch of the river since 1965, said: *"Organising this event is completely unreasonable behaviour and will spoil the enjoyment of a group of anglers who pay a rod licence to fish and pay for a permit to fish at Britford. Their match has been organised for months and many will have travelled several hours to come and fish. They will be utterly disappointed if a group of canoeists who contribute nothing to the upkeep of the river come splashing through the river disturbing fish and other wildlife on an illegal process. They will spoil the fishing for the most of the rest of the morning."* Stuart Wilson has experienced an increase in illegal canoeing over the past 3 years which is affecting the fishing and the presence of wildlife such as water voles

Wessex Branch Guest Speaker

8th November 2011 @ 19:30

Dr Cyril Bennett

"Entomology and the Riverfly Partnership"

The Riverfly Partnership was formed to "bring together anglers, conservationists, entomologists, scientists, water course managers and relevant authorities to increase our knowledge, expertise and understanding of river fly populations".

One of the main initiatives of the partnership is to encourage countrywide angling groups to find out 'what is in their river' and to regularly monitor invertebrate numbers using a simple and standardised method of sampling. Dr Cyril Bennett will share some of his experience and knowledge with us in what I am sure will be an informative and enjoyable evening.

Finding Us

And a Finding Us flyer can be picked up by clicking on the attached link or cutting and pasting it into the address bar:

<http://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZmRnd2Vzc2V4LmNvLnVrfGZkZy13ZXNzZXh8Z3q6NGJlYjZiNDRjMjIwZTIINw>

or downloaded by clicking on the link below or cutting and pasting it into the address bar:

<https://sites.google.com/a/fdgwessex.co.uk/fdg-wessex/Home/download-information>

and then looking for the file < Wessex Branch - Finding Us (0.00).pdf > and clicking on the download button to get a PDF copy. The real address is

Atherley Bowling Club,
Hill Lane,
Southampton,
Hampshire,
SO15 5DB.

Arrive early (19:00 earliest) and take the opportunity to talk fishing and fly dressing with new and old friends.

If you arrive at Atherley Bowling Club for the first time you should remember that we are Guests of the Bowling Club, you will therefore need to use the VISITOR's buzzer to get in, If asked you are with the Fly Tyers and you will be made most welcome. We normally gather in the lounge and have a drink before we retreat to our session which will start at 19:30.

Please, **PLEASE** circulate this note to anyone that might be interested. Thank you!

All are welcome £5 door charge/raffle.

Please do come and enjoy the company and the event.
Hope to see you there...

Regards

Paul Eslinger

Paul Eslinger

Chairman

for and on behalf of the

Fly Dressers Guild - Wessex Branch

Angling Trust Calls On All Councils To Follow Rother's Lead And Back Sea Angling

The Angling Trust will be calling on all local authorities around England's coast to follow the lead set by Rother District Council in East Sussex who has thrown its support behind recreational sea anglers by recognising them as all-year-round visitors and important contributors to the seaside economy.

Following an impressive campaign by local anglers and businesses - which the Angling Trust's Legal arm, Fish Legal, supported - the proposed byelaws which would have restricted sea angling and bait collection have been abandoned in favour of embracing the many benefits that angling can bring to the local community.

A voluntary code of conduct for anglers will now be drawn up to ensure that Rother's coastline can continue to be enjoyed by all beach users - including sea anglers.

"We were willing to change the proposals and together we will now make even better use of our fantastic seaside resources for everyone's benefit." said Cllr Martin Kenward, Rother council's lead member for culture, sport and tourism.

David Mitchell, the Angling Trust's Marine Environmental Campaigns Manager said, *"The Angling Trust applauds the council's decision. We hope it will pave the way for more local authorities to wake up to the potential social, cultural and economic benefits of supporting and developing sea angling."*

He continued, *"There are many coastal resorts that could take measures to reinvent themselves as angler-friendly venues and start reaping the benefits. We will be doing all we can over the coming months and years to build on the success of Rother's anglers and ensure that sea angling is seen as an asset that should be encouraged rather than a nuisance activity that needs to be controlled."*



Irish Fly Tying DVD's Special Offer

One of our trade members, Angling Classics, has a special offer on Fly Fishing and Fly Tying DVDs just for Fly Dressers' Guild members.

Go to http://www.anglingclassics.co.uk/Fly_Tying_DVDs.html to see the DVD's on offer.

Angling Classics is offering individual DVD's for £15 each (instead of £24) or all 3 titles for £30 (instead of £70) - this is only available to FDG members. Please contact Stevie at anglingclassics@aol.com to purchase the DVD's at the discount price.



If you buy online from the Fly Tying Shop and don't want to pay postage you can collect your order on Thursday evenings at Patcham. What you need to do is enter the code FDGFreeShip at the checkout.

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: Andrew Steer, 37 Blatchington Road,

Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2AF

Phone: 01323 899257

E-mail: a.v.steer@talk21.com

Visit our web site

Sussexflydressers.org.uk