



Sussex Branch Newsletter



August 2013

Gold Accreditation

One Sussex branch member has attained the Guild's first Gold Award ever! The person, who will be presented with their Award when we start back shall remain anonymous only known to me. Five have submitted so far and I await reply on the remaining four but hope to have that knowledge before end of month. The individual has also put Sussex on the FDG map too.

Stillwater Challenge 2013

This highly successful and popular annual event once again lived up to its reputation, thanks to the untiring efforts of Chris Croucher and his team of helpers. Twenty anglers fished, taking 37 fish, with seven failing to land a fish.

The fishing was challenging – maybe the newly arrived hot weather made the fish somewhat uncooperative for many, though Paul Davis seemed to have the answer with his new fly pattern, developed for the day, which accounted for four rainbows in one session, including the best fish of the day at 5lb 9oz.

Paul duly took the honours for best bag at 11lb 3oz, with Chris Croucher runner-up with 8lb 8oz



Alan Lakin looks on as Paul receives his prize from Chris

Steve Mustchin took second heaviest fish at 4lb, with Paul Davis and Ken Pearce taking the Jim White Pairs Trophy with a total of 16lb 11oz.



Steve receives his prize from Chris



Paul and Ken with their booty

any thanks to Paul for redistributing his prizes, which enabled Dave Painter to have a booby prize for his bag of 11lb 10oz!



Chris and David Painter

Chris would like to thank Ian Dunk for his contribution in manning the barbecue, and Bill Smith and Paul Daltrey for providing the delicious puddings.

Thanks also to Chalk Springs for providing such a great venue – always a pleasure to visit!

Finally, thanks too to Ken Pearce for the photos – as usual, yours truly forgot his camera!

RHG



Chairman's Chat

Where have all the mackerel gone?

The beach at Seaford has been lined with mackerel fishermen all summer, so far without any significant success. One or two juveniles have been taken at splash point (the East end of the Seaford front) but reports of "catches" of more than two have not been reported. My Business Partner lives overlooking Seaford Bay and has fished for mackerel on numerous occasions this year feathering with heavy and light beach rods as well as spinners – all to no avail – and no fish were seen to be taken by other anglers. Incidentally he did have a follow to a spinner by a cuttle fish when fishing along the ledge below Newhaven breakwater. During flat calms there have been no sightings of shoals for up to half a km from the shore.

So why should a fly fisherman be interested in brave hearts with beach casters and a string of feathers looking for mackerel? When the beach casters start to take mackerel in numbers, it is time for the fly fishermen to wade in and enjoy some sport on light tackle. In addition garfish usually accompany mackerel and they are spectacular fighters, making many leaps during the fight. The mackerel shoals have their own range of predators including bass. So there is always a chance of a bass on a fly rod. My business partner cast a spinner over the back of a shoal of mackerel a few years ago and landed a sea trout which of course he had to return.

There are reports of two (only) shoals briefly visiting Hastings one day last week and then returning to deep water, never to be seen again.

So where are they? Still in deep water or more likely they have been swiped up by commercial fisherman. After all a side scanning sonar can locate and determine the limits of whole shoals which are then surrounded by nets and pumped into the boats. Is that sustainable - I think not.

I only hope that by the time this is printed the mackerel shoals have returned to their former glory and moaners like me will have to eat their words.

Yours in hope

Tony Woolnough

AUCTIONS 2013

Preparations are already under way for our Annual Auctions, so the time has come for you to sort out all those unwanted items of **fly-tying tools and materials, books, etc** for the first one which will be held on

Thursday 17th October 2013

The auction for **tackle, clothing etc** will be on

Thursday 31st October 2013

So make a note of these dates now and get your entries in – entry forms are enclosed with this newsletter (or attached if by e-mail) and are also available via the website on

www.sussexflydressers.org.uk

All, members and non-members, are welcome to enter lots, and especially to come and buy at the auction!

Mike Humphreys has kindly offered to officiate as auctioneer once again – and that makes it worth coming in itself!

This year, as a trial, we are levying a buyers' premium of 10% on the hammer price, in line with most other auctions, to help cover the cost of catalogues, room hire etc, all of which are costing more and more each year.

Entries can sent by post to:

Roy Gurney
7 Eldred Avenue
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or by e-mail to roygurney@ntlworld.com

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