



**SUSSEX BRANCH
NEWSLETTER**



December 2014

**Grayling Outing on the River Test at
Wherwell**

The weather played a large part in our annual pilgrimage to the Wherwell Estate on the River Test to fish for their stunning (and very large Grayling). You hope for light winds and blue skies, to be able to spot and target the larger specimens, but in the event we go 30 knot winds and torrential rain throughout the day.

Despite the dreadful weather, Steve Mustchin, Ian McGregor, Ted How, Bob Thomson and myself met up in the car park adjacent to the river, put on our wet weather gear and tackled up. I would love to report that we caught grayling after grayling, but in truth, the wind and rain made fishing really difficult. Having said that Steve Mustchin did catch some grayling (and on a dry fly), and I was able to tempt one onto a Caddis.

We met a lunch, at which time Ted and Bob decided to call it a day, which left 3 to venture back out. I have always known I was a bit crazy when it comes to fishing, but it is nice to know that I'm in good company!

Very occasionally during the day there would be a lull in the winds and rain, and you would spot some very beautiful and large grayling, but few ended up on the bank. I had hoped for some spectacular photographs of grayling to show those of you who have not fished at Wherwell what an amazing stretch of river it is, but the rain made that impossible.

Finally, would I go again next year? – You bet ya!

Tony Harrison

iFISH 2014

Congratulations once more to the hard working team who made this year's iFISH a resounding success. It is very difficult to follow a successful inaugural event but the general consensus of visitors and, more importantly, the exhibitors was that went extremely well.

It was a pity about the gloomy and very damp weather, which must have put a lot of potential visitors off, but those who came seemed prepared to spend and to enjoy the numerous demonstrations, presentations and especially world class fly-tying from some of the best international tyers.

A fuller report on this show will appear in the next newsletter but in the meantime you should note that next year it is going to be bigger and better – put it in your diary **now!**

**Sunday 20th November 2015 at the South of England
Show Ground**

No more parking problems and lots more show – you won't even have to get wet fly-casting if it is raining!

SALMON FLY WORKSHOP

Last year Alan Middleton held a Saturday workshop for members wishing to hone their skills at tying traditional salmon flies. Would anyone interested in repeating this, either just for their own benefit or for Gold Award, please let Alan, Paul Bond or Roy Gurney know, as booking room space will have to be done quickly.

**DON'T FORGET YOUR ENTRIES FOR THE "BIG
FISH TROPHIES 2014"**



The categories are:

- Best fish from any Sussex water
- Best fish from a Sussex reservoir (including Bewl Water)
- Best brown from any Sussex water
- Best brown from any Sussex reservoir or river.

The closing date of catching is 31st December for all categories.

Trophies will be presented at the End of Season party in April.

Entries a.s.a.p. to Roy Gurney – 01273 581519 or e-mail fdgsussex@capel29.plus.com

Chairman's Chat

Buildability

Obviously the solution to a fish pass problem must be capable of being designed, fabricated, transported and constructed. In addition it must have a positive benefit/cost ratio.

The design process is usually straight forward, provided all the necessary input data is available and reliable. This usually means the frequency of river flows in terms of % of equal or exceedance in a year and the swimming speed of the fish in question. This is necessary since the migration flow window opens at Q95 and closes at Q10. That is that fish start to migrate upstream when the flow exceeds the flow which occurs for 95% of the time. Migration stops in a flood i.e. flows occurring less than 10% of the time. During a flood fish seek refuge from the high flows (and velocities).

Fabrication problems are not so easy to solve. When the draft general arrangement drawing has been completed, the next phase in the design is showing how the fabrication can be actually made. This can be a big problem for a junior engineer. One way is to discuss the design with the fabricator and amend the design accordingly. Considerations include the size of the fabrication, can it be built in the works, what plate sizes are available, what are the dimensions of the galvanising tank etc.

Transport seems relatively easy until you consider that many of our projects are sites off narrow earth tracks in the Highlands with no access for craneage. We did build two smolt traps for Sweden which would not go on the lorry!

Construction includes temporary works, after all our projects are usually built in the river. Incorporating temporary works in the permanent works (e.g. steel sheet pile cofferdams for de-watering becoming part of the structure walls) a cost saving choice. Can the site be reached by a mobile crane? Does the fabrication have to be of bolted assembly with pieces transported the last few metres by hand?

The economic question is not so easy to answer. We know the value of migratory fish in terms of benefits and obviously the project budget estimate is known. We design for a project life of 40 years with a test discount rate of 5%. We often recommend that Clients do not proceed with the project on economic grounds. E.g. build a lake for a put and take trout fishery. The Client usually ignores our advice – thank goodness!

A simple example, we were asked to build a fish pass on the Thames at a site where de-watering was impractical due to a concreted bed. Our solution was a pass fabricated as "boxes" with purpose designed brackets which could move and be adjusted in any direction by a diver. The units were bolted together with hand holes which were later covered by panels with captive bolts. The aluminium sections were painted externally to match the adjacent concrete structure. On completion the wall sections were pumped full of concrete.



Reading through it, the Chat seems to be boring and long winded but so much of work is.

Happy Christmas from

Tony W

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