



# Sussex Branch Newsletter



**FEBRUARY 2012**

## Flydresser

A few members report not having received some issues of the "Flydresser". Please let Roy Gurney know if you have missed any issues and he will take it up with the Guild - the last issue was Autumn 2011 and the Winter issue is late - due very soon.

## Big Fish

Now that more and more are taking up fishing salt water on the fly, maybe it is time to consider adding this category to our trophy list. Howard Dodsley caught this fine 3 lb 9 oz Bass on a Clouser under the foot bridge of the River Adur on the last day of May 2011. He also caught a 6 lb river mullet but didn't have his camera with him on that day. How one judges the best fish across the species, I don't know - any ideas?



## Branch Trophies

It is that time of year again, when the branch trophies are awarded for the various competitions that are run by the branch throughout the year. Could those members that won the trophies last year please return them to the branch so that they can be engraved ready for the next recipient

## Big Fish Competitions 2011

The most remarkable things about this year's results were the closeness of the best rainbow categories and the fact that these came from a reservoir and not a

Stillwater - where were the Chalk Springs entries? - I suspect that someone forgot to enter, though Tony Harrison did record one of 3lb 12oz. Ray Fisher must be gutted to have taken two fish of the same weight (and on the same day), only to be beaten by one ounce by Ray Love within a fortnight.

The brown trout weights were also very close - Tony Harrison pipping Steve Mustchin by only 4oz - nice to see Duncton coming close to Chalk Springs for this category.

A new trophy in memory of Jack Jupp was instituted for our annual outing to Ashbourne, and resulted in a tie between Wayne Duerden and Tony Harrison - this will be awarded for best bag annually from now on. New challenges are planned for the next season for the "Albert Memorial" as a tribute to Albert Horne - details will be announced in the near future. Similarly there may be a fitting award in memory of Jim White, who also passed away in 2011.

## Big Fish Competitions 2011 Results

### Peter West Trophy (best rainbow from a Sussex water)

<b>Ray Love</b>	<b>Arlington</b>	<b>6 lb 5 oz</b>
Ray Fisher	Arlington	6 lb 4 oz
Ray Fisher	Arlington	6 lb 4 oz

### Brown Trout Cup (best brown from Sussex water)

<b>Tony Harrison</b>	<b>Chalk Springs</b>	<b>10 lb 10 oz</b>
Steve Mustchin	Duncton Mill	10 lb 6 oz
Peter Winder	Chalk Springs	9 lb
Tony Harrison	Chalk Springs	8 lb 3 oz

### Members Reservoir Plate (best fish from Sussex reservoir)

<b>Ray Love</b>	<b>Arlington</b>	<b>6 lb 5 oz</b>
Ray Fisher	Arlington	6 lb 4 oz
Ray Fisher	Arlington	6 lb 4 oz

**John Leitch Brown Trout Cup** (best brown from a Sussex reservoir or river)

**Terry Tullett**      **Upper Ouse**      **1 lb 14 oz**  
**(Balcombe FF)**

**Frank Darrah Memorial Trophy** (Bowl Pairs)

**Chris Croucher & Ian Dunk**    **12 fish**    **24 lb 8 oz**  
Chris Nunn & Bill King      12 fish    23 lb 10 oz

**Charity Pairs Trophy** (Bowl Water)

**Chris Nunn & Bill King**      **14 fish**      **22 lb 13 oz**  
John Plowman & Steve      12 fish      19 lb 2½ oz  
Mustchin

**Stillwater Challenge**

Best Fish      **Peter Winder**      **9 lb (brown)**  
Best Bag      **Steve Mustchin**    **9 lb 3 oz**

**Jack Jupp Memorial Trophy** (Ashbourne)

Best Bag      **Wayne Duerden and Tony Harrison**

**Branch Trophy Day** (Brick Farm):

**Jimmy James Memorial Trophies** (Best bag)

Winner      **Roy Gurney**      **7 lb 2 oz**  
Runner-up    **Eric Hunter**      **6 lb 6 oz**

**Plowman Trophy** (Best fish)

**David Burt**      **3 lb 3 oz**  
**Wayne Duerden**    2 lb 3 oz

**Trophy for Best Brown**

**Brian Raw**      **2 lb 3 oz**

**Brass Monkeys Day 2011**

**Best fish**

**Jim White**      **3 lb 7 oz**

**Best bag**

**Brian Raw**      **6 lb**

## ANNUAL DINNER

Please note that this year we are having a change of venue and the date to note is the

**28<sup>th</sup> April 2012** and not the provisional date previously advised. Our new hosts are **Wickwoods Country Club** at Albourne – a lovely venue and good food! (Have a look at their website [www.wickwoods.co.uk](http://www.wickwoods.co.uk)).

Ticket application forms and menu choices are enclosed (or attached, in the case of e-mails) and early return to John Burt or Roy Gurney would be appreciated. Let's have a big turn-out for this year's "do" and enjoy the trophy presentations to all those who succeeded last year and have a go on the grand raffle for the evening.

As usual, dress is smart casual and formalities few and far between – just enjoy the company of friends and partners (let's face it, they deserve a treat!).

## An Auction With a Difference

Each year Radio 2 holds an auction in aid of "Children in Need". The concept is simple and unique. A number of celebrities put together a unique and special day out with them, which in turn is put up for auction. What makes the day so different is that you cannot normally go out and buy it, as the auction lot is for a hosted day out at a particular event. For example, if you have sufficient funds you could pay to go to the Monaco Grand Prix, but the Radio 2 auction lot might be that you bid for a day at the Monaco Grand Prix, hosted by Bernie Ecclestone, with you as his guest, and where he does everything in his power to make your day unique and special. Over the years this concept has raised millions of pounds for "Children in Need".

This got me thinking that, as members of our fly tying branch fish a wide range of waters and have extensive and diverse fly fishing skills, it might be fun to set up an auction along the Radio 2 lines, with all the monies going to our club.

Amongst the possible auction lots might be a hosted day or part day fishing for Bass, Carp on the fly, Grayling, Pike on the fly, stalking for trout, trout from a reservoir, wild trout or trout from a special venue, etc. it does not have to be just fishing. Some of us (me especially) would benefit from a one on one casting coaching session.

To make the day unique, I envisage that all the auction lots are donated and hosted with the host doing everything possible to ensure that the successful bidder has a fabulous day out, even including help and tips with that style of fishing.

For the auction to be a success, I am relying on the generosity of our members, both to donate a lot for auction, and for others to bid for it, however past experience is anything to go by, Sussex branch members have always been generous with their time and money in supporting the branch.

If you feel that this is something that you would like to be involved in, and would like to contribute a day or part day's hosted fishing as an auction lot, please contact Tony Harrison at the fly tying evenings, or as I'm not on email, Roy Gurney by email.

If the idea of donating and hosting 'a fishing day out with...' is not for you, not to worry, as we need lots of people to come along to the final fly tying evening, when Bill Smith's Rod raffle draw is held, to bid for the auction lots on offer

Tony Harrison

## **Chairman's Chat**

What is the future of fly fishing during times of recession? A personal view.

Trout feed prices are going up, so stock fish prices will go up, so some anglers will no longer be able to afford to fish for trout exclusively and / or so frequently. Some of these anglers will stop fishing altogether. Others will turn to alternative species or more mixed quarries.

What other species / mixed quarries ?

Well, sea fish for a start, and not just bass, garfish and mackerel. The obvious one is mullet, the so-called UK bonefish. I have yet to fish for one on a fly rod but I am told they fight very hard with long runs and are able to bend most trout hooks. I am told that mullet will take a Alleys Shrimp fly if presented properly. I intend to try with ground baited maggots (purists look the other way) and maggot flies. Incidentally I have taken quite a few trout on maggot flies, I don't know why ! Another weapon in the mullet fly fishers armoury is floating bread fished with an artificial bread fly. I understand that fishing tackle shops sell artificial bread and / or bread flies. No doubt polystyrene would do the trick. A friend of mine fished Newhaven Harbour entrance with small white flies and took – wait for it – a good bag of herring, why not ? I seem to remember an old sea fishing book recommended using soleskin flies fished on the surface under harbour light was good for herring – I will give this a go as well next year.

Secondly coarse fish, not only the obvious carp, but what about dace, perch and of course pike. Perch and jack pike on a fly rod give great sport. I remember lots of frosty days fishing with a light spinning rod on the Norfolk Broads for jack pike and perch and great fun it was. I have taken bream on a fly at Barcombe but they did not give much sport.

So do you have any plans for “other species” during the coming season ? Do you agree with my proposals ? Letters please to the FDG Newsletter and you purists, let's hear from you.

Tony W

## Pre-Christmas fishing at Brickfarm Lakes

Members have spoken to Peter Winder and requested a fishing trip before Christmas. He has spoken to Brickfarm Lakes and they are happy to lay on fishing and food for the branch



Inside Brickfarm Lakes Lodge

## March 1<sup>st</sup> Speaker

Keith Wallington is to be the guest speaker in March. He has a [blog](#) that I would suggest you visit, so that you can see the types of flies that he ties. Also bring along any questions you would like to ask Keith. The address for his website is:

<http://fliesandstuff.blogspot.com/>

## Tony Hern

Tony made a welcome return to us as our speaker. He is the Fishery Manager at Albury and a professional fly tyer. He gave a slide show and talk on the various lakes that Albury has, and then treated us a demonstration of his fly tying skills.

## Alan Middleton

I intend to walk the length of Hadrian's Wall, 84 miles of it, from just outside Carlisle to Wallsend near Newcastle.

I shall start on Saturday June 30th and finish on Saturday 7th July. I hope to keep a blog but that will depend upon my grasp of the technology.

If time permits I hope to fit in a day's fishing on Keilder Water, but negotiations with my wife have reached a delicate stage; she says no!

I hope to collect sponsorship for this event in aid of The Wild Trout Trust and I shall be seeing Shaun Lennard in the next few days.

I have not printed any sponsor forms yet but hope to have some at the meetings soon.  
thank you.

Alan Middleton







The purpose is to give members a way to communicate with branches, each other and of course the Executive Committee of the main Guild. Please note - this is not meant to be a vehicle for attacking individuals or committee decisions; that said we welcome constructive ideas and genuine offers of help. Please remember that your committee are all volunteers, running the Guild for your benefit.

Branches are welcome to publish their programmes or details of events here.

It may not be appropriate to answer some questions via the forum, e.g. individual membership issues, other issues which would be best dealt with via an email to the relevant officer of the Guild. We also reserve the right to refer questions to the EC and reply to individuals rather than through the forum.

We welcome non-members to the forum and hope that maybe they will join the Guild in time.

## Rivers, Streams and the Art of Fly Tying

Please note this exhibition themed around the **Northern traditional flies**, the **insects** they imitate, the **birds** whose plumage is used to tie them, and the **modern day substitutes** for protected species. Further details below:

**Bracken Hall Countryside Centre and Museum**  
 Glen Road, **Baildon, Shipley**, West Yorkshire, BD17 5EA.  
 Tel: 01274 584 140  
 Until **1 April 2012** - **FREE** entrance!

The exhibition brings together objects from the museum's Natural History collection, images of freshwater animals found in local streams, and our imitations of them. 'Natural design' has been copied over many years by the fly tyer to attract fish. The famous 'North Country Flies' were tied to mimic the natural food of fish in northern streams and are seen by many as a perfect copy of nature itself.

Opening times:  
 January to March: **Wednesdays** and **Sundays** 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm  
 April: **Wednesdays**, **Saturdays** and **Sundays** 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm

Contact the Museum to enquire about planned fly tying day courses.

Kindly supported by Bradford Museums, Ken Stokes and other members of the Fly Dressers' Guild; Dean Andrews, John Tyzak and FishOn Productions; and Rob Smith of North Country Flies.

**FLYTYINGSHOP.CO.UK**  
 for all your fly tying needs

10% off all web orders

Enter the code FDG10%2012 at check out.

Don't have a computer? Can't find the product you want online? Then call us on 01273 252504 to receive the same offer.

**OVER 5000 ITEMS IN STOCK**

www.flytyingshop.co.uk

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: Andy 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](http://Sussexflydressers.org.uk)

## Fly Dressers' Guild forum (January 2012)

A new forum for the Guild has been set up on [www.flyforums.co.uk](http://www.flyforums.co.uk). Follow the link to the Fly Forums website, then scroll down to the "Fly Tying" section, and then "Fly Dressers Guild".