



## Sussex Branch Newsletter



**JANUARY 2013**

**WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

### February Guest Speaker 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Simon Cooper who unfortunately cancelled at short notice after an accident in USA couple of years ago is going to be our guest speaker in February. His talk is going to be about angling holidays.

### Fly Materials and Fishing Tackle Auctions 2012

In the December 2012 Newsletter Tony Harrison wrote an excellent article regarding the 2 auctions thanking all those involved. Unfortunately the article failed to name the one person who deserved most praise for his efforts, namely Tony himself. He spent at least 72 man hours sorting, packaging and labelling the various lots. On the night of the first auction he set up the room entirely on his own. So a really big thank you, Tony.

Terry Tullett.

### The strange behaviour of water

All of us recognise the old style thermometer where a line of coloured liquid moves up and down a narrow tube to indicate temperature. The liquid is usually mercury or dyed alcohol. This begs the question "Why is water not used?" Your answer may be that for temperatures below 0 deg. C the thermometer would freeze and break. This is correct but there is a more fundamental answer than that.

Most substances expand when heated and contract when cooled. This is not always true for water. There is a range of temperature for which **water expands when cooled**. When water cools from 100 deg. C to 4 deg. C it behaves normally i.e. it contracts.

**However, below 4 deg. C it expands and continues to expand as it changes to ice.**

We normally expect warm water to rise and cool water to sink but below 4 deg. the opposite happens: **WARM WATER SINKS!**

Without this strange behaviour of water our deep oceans would be mostly ice at the bottom and life as we know it would not have evolved! On a more mundane level knowledge of the behaviour of cold water can help us with our early season fishing.

For those who like lake fishing in cold weather this means that the trout will be in the warmer water. i.e. on a cold day when the banks are frosty then the fish will be deep but on a warmer

day following a cold spell the deep water will be at 4 deg. C and the surface water will be warmer and close to air temperature so look for the trout in the top layers.

This is a summary of an article I wrote as a "Chairman's Chat" in the November 2006 newsletter. I hope it helps. Tight lines.

**John Plowman**

### Special Auction

'Our auctioneer, Mike Humphreys has an auction on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at All Saints Church Croxley Green Herts for the effects of the late Roger Loodmer who was the Main Guild Treasurer from 1999 – 2004 and then Financial Director of the Countryside Alliance. There are about 300 lots and if anyone wants a catalogue Paul Bond has some copies or you can contact Mike on [MWHFISH@AOL.COM](mailto:MWHFISH@AOL.COM) or 01923 778544.'

**Paul Bond**

### Jonathan Glover Trophy

The Jonathan Glover Trophy is awarded each a member of the Sussex Branch. The recipient is chosen by the members of the branch, which they feel has contributed the most to the branch during the course of the year. This year the trophy went to a much deserved member of the branch. He is a person that works very hard for the branch, spending hours sorting out the

items for the annual auction. He also demonstrates at shows, plus he does a lot more behind the scenes, that people don't see. So it gives me great pleasure to **Congratulate Tony Harrison**, who has been awarded the trophy this year.



**Tony Harrison receiving the Jonathan Glover Trophy from Tony Woolnough**

**Andy Steer**

## **John Goddard 1923 - 2012**



Well known angler innovator and writer John Goddard sadly died on the 26th of December, 2012, aged eighty-nine after a short illness. One of the greats in my opinion up with Halford, Sawyer & Skues. I think all us oldies that started coarse fishing in the 1950's will remember having items of tackle produced by John's company Efgeeco and I still have some items in the loft. John developed many hugely successful ranges of tackle during the years, before selling the company in 1984. I was privileged to have met him a couple of years ago in Peter Cockwill's shop while he was purchasing some tying materials.

John was born in London on August 27th, 1923 and been angling since he was a small boy, beginning on the river Wandle. John left school to be an apprentice engineer, but the

war soon put a stop to this career and he joined the army, training as a parachutist before being demobbed in 1947. He then joined the family business, F. Goddard & Co. Ltd, who made garden furniture. It was in 1950 that John designed a fishing seat and began trading under the name of Efgeeco.

John had been an enthusiastic and skilled fly fisherman since the early 1950s, and his expertise took him on fishing trips all over the world, from Norway and Newfoundland to New Zealand, Mexico, South Africa and Kenya to name but a few. John was also an experienced big game and sea fisher, and represented England at international level big game fishing competitions. In the 1960s he travelled widely, undertaking surveys of big game and promoting the fishing opportunities of many exotic locations at the same time.

In 1967 John published *Trout Fly Recognition*, the result of meticulous study of natural flies, and much painstaking photography. John's interest in fly-tying had led to him being recognised as an expert entomologist, and over the years he had developed more than fifty original fly patterns, the most famous being the G&H Sedge (or Goddard Caddis), developed with his friend Cliff Henry. I believe many anglers will have some his books including the *Waterside Guide* that could be considered essential reading. Latterly I believe he fished rivers almost entirely for Grayling between June and December.

John contributed in many fishing journals and has had ten fishing books published and I expect many tributes will be published over the next few months. He was a former President of the Fly Dressers' Guild. I expect dear Albert who we lost last year will now have a fishing partner to talk to!

**Phillip Ellis**

### **Annual Dinner**

It was reported at the AGM that there will not be an Annual Dinner this year after falling numbers, rising prices and quality of venue. The Committee has therefore decided that we will make more of the 'Last Night Gathering' on 18<sup>th</sup> April whereby a buffet will be provided for all attending and those who wish to bring their 'Better' halves are more than welcome. We will ask for confirmation of those attending to allow enough provisions to go around. We hope that the membership enjoy this new evening where trophies and rod raffle will be part of the evening

**Paul Bond**

### **Chairman's Chat**

Let us make a resolution to solve the "water shortage" problem in 2013 and prevent any more instances of dried up chalk streams and half empty reservoirs.

Firstly let us make it plain that there is no shortage of fresh water. The hydrological cycle has an almost constant amount of water in circulation. Let us consider the basics; on shore winds bring rain bearing clouds which have been produced by

evaporation from the sea. Rain (or snow or hale) then falls on the catchment. Of this rain, approximately 1/3 flows down the river (surface water) 1/3 evaporates and 1/3 soaks into the ground. So 2/3 of the rain that falls is available for public water supply, river flow and agriculture.

### Groundwater 1/3

In this area, the majority of the water used for public water supply is extracted via boreholes sunk into the chalk. There is such a borehole at the head the Ladies Mile Valley by the Community Centre. In Brighton boreholes are sunk into the fissures in the chalk for observing (measuring) ground water levels and salinity with other boreholes for extraction. In the summer as salt water enters the chalk it is detected in the observation boreholes and the extraction boreholes are taken out of service and the next inland borehole comes into operation. Throughout the summer this system operates until the groundwater levels recover and the salt water is “pushed back” towards the coast. BUT not all the groundwater is extracted, much still flows to the sea. This can be observed by flying a light plane with an infra-red camera, along the cliff face at low tide and the difference in temperature between the fresh and salt water can be shown and hence the “leakage” to the sea. These leak points can also be seen as channels worn into the chalk.

To minimise the loss of ground water to the sea, the fissures by the sea could be grouted up with foam concrete to say 1.0m below ground level. This would prevent the majority of leakage and make more fresh water available for public water supply.

### Surface water 1/3

Much of this water flows to the sea via surface water and marsh drainage systems but especially in times of drought, large volumes end up at sewage treatment works and are ultimately discharged to the sea via long sea outfalls. So why is all this fresh water going to waste? Given that effluent can be treated to higher standards than drinking water for the electronics industry, why waste all this water.

To prevent this loss of surface water to the sea, highly treat and pump this water to the upstream ends of the rivers. This water circulation system will keep the rivers full through drought periods to be made available for public water supply. Surplus water will be also be available for storage and aquifer recharge.

*Tony W.*

## How are your rod rings?

I wonder how often we check our rods in the winter to make sure they will be serviceable through to next season? Now is as good a time as ever. I recently took an angler out for some tuition, as he wanted to improve his technique for river fishing. He wished to use his own tackle and I quickly checked it over and did a few casts with the rod. What I did notice was that the snake rings had seriously worn. Where do you think the wear was found? Not on the top inner side of the ring, but two grooves on each ring close to the blank! These

grooves were so deep that you could cut your finger and cut through your fly line. Now go and check your rods – the chances are that if it is a few years old, the rings will all require replacing. You can do this yourself, or you may find someone in the branch or go to a specialist like Graham Dadswell. If it is a DIY job then follow the tips below which I recently found.

You will first have to remove the rings from the rod blank, and this is not a very easy job on modern rods. The reason is that most rings are tied and then varnished with a high build “epoxy” varnish that is very hard. This needs to be removed with the utmost care and I suggest the following procedure: Take some masking tape and wrap it around the rod at the very ends of the varnish both above and below the whippings. This is to protect the blank should your knife slip! With a very sharp blade, e.g. a new Stanley Knife blade, cut into the varnish. Assuming you are right handed and with the rod laid on a bench of some sort with the thin end pointing to the left, make the incision against the metal foot of the faulty ring. By so doing, the blade will cut into the metal and not the blank. It does take time - gently cut, do not try cutting it all off in one go - it does not work. If the blade slips, as it often does, hopefully it will catch the wraps of tape and not damage the blank. Once the varnish and thread is cut through to the ring foot, it is often possible to peel it off. Remove the first bit then turn the rod around and repeat the process. Finally, gently remove all traces of finish using wet and dry abrasive paper.

The following web page gives a pictorial step-by-step view of replacing rings:

<http://www.fishingthefly.co.uk/forum/index.php?to pic=1623.0>

Be mindful if you change from snake rings to ceramic lined ones, it may affect the action of the rod. I am sure this is the reason why we rarely see mass produced rods with anything other than snakes (or is it for commercial reasons?). I remember in the distant past there was much discussion on this subject in the angling press and I cannot remember a convincing conclusion.

*Phillip Ellis*



## WHERE ARE YOUR ENTRIES FOR THE 2012 "BIG FISH TROPHIES"?



This is your very last chance to record your best catch(es) of 2012! There has been a dearth of entries for the trophies on offer, and to remind you they are:

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

Trophies will be presented at the end of season party in April. Entries to Roy Gurney (01273 506184) or e-mail [roygurney@ntlworld.com](mailto:roygurney@ntlworld.com)

## Outings and Competitions

Once again we have a very full programme of events and competitions planned. Entry forms will be sent with the next Newsletter. Please

1. Book early (at the latest by the date on the slip!)— it saves having to chase around trying to get numbers as some of the events need a minimum number of people to go ahead. Without that number the event may have to be cancelled and if we do that late it gets the branch and the guild a poor reputation with the fishery.

2. Understand that the price quoted may go up. This is because we have to confirm bookings/prices now. As a result of the current economic situation fishery overheads are going up and nearly all fishery managers have said that prices may change for events after April.

3. Understand that if you say you are coming the organiser is relying on you to come and pay the amount required – the club hasn't got the funds to cover non-attendees. Above all, the events are organised for you, and therefore if there are any events you want to do and are not on the list, or are not happy with any of the events that we do run, then please, please let us know. We can't fix things if we don't know about them.

*Paul Davis – Competitions and Outings Secretary.*

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## ARTICLES WANTED

This newsletter requires a lot of filling! You may have noticed a bit of repetition (Weil's disease and insurance, for instance) but your editor is running out of inspiration and needs **YOU** to produce that literary masterpiece and academy standard photo to keep us all interested. Let Andy have yours and share your experiences with our readership!

## WEBSITE

Do keep an eye on our website which is continually being updated and expanded by Mike Guest, our tireless webmaster – [www.sussexflydressers.org.uk](http://www.sussexflydressers.org.uk) The home page has from time to time "Stop Press" announcements e.g. late changes to programmes, etc, as well as other items of interest. At the same time, please heed our plea for your flies to add to our portfolio, and for any ideas for improving things, too.

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