



Sussex Branch Newsletter



Jan 2014

Happy New Year

Happy New Year to everyone. Hope Santa brought you all your fly tying wishes.

Gold Accreditation

Congratulations to Tony Harrison and John Cooper on receiving their Gold Accreditation Certificates. Their achievement along with Peter Neave puts The Sussex Branch of the Fly Dressers Guild on the map, for having the highest number of members who have achieved the Gold Accreditation.



Tony Harrison receiving his Gold Accreditation Certificate



John Cooper receiving his Gold Accreditation Certificate

Christmas Outing and Lunch 2013

After some dodgy days beforehand we enjoyed fantastic weather with lots of hard-fighting fish – coupled with great food and good company, what more could you wish for on a day out?

For those of you who missed it nothing could have improved the day other than a few more of you! In the end we had eight fishing on Well Lake, sharing twelve pegs. With little breeze, all the pegs were fishable but only the south side of the lake produced fish- and, boy, did it produce with 7 fish over 2½ lb, topped by a 2lb 12oz rainbow for Cliff Brown who also had top bag of 9lb 14oz.

With the cooler water the fish fought really well. After taking two fish quickly, I fished a dry fly and landed a 2½lb fish also losing another. There were fish feeding at various levels, with some people catching deep and others on or close to the surface.

Sophie prepared a superb meal everyone praising both the quality and quantity, many being unable to manage a sweet! The log fire was great and Cliff regaled us with tales of his rugby playing days – great fun.

For those of you who did not make it, you missed a great day out – maybe in part due to heavy commitment at iFISH the previous day. Let's make the 2014 fixture a humdinger!

Peter Winder

Entomology For Anglers - 17 May 2014

During Stuart Crofts excellent talk on Caddis Flies last year he mentioned that he runs courses on Entomology for Anglers in conjunction with the Freshwater Biological Association. There are 3 levels from beginner to advanced and the courses are held at the FBA HQ at Ambleside in the Lake District.

I said I would try and organise a group from the branch to go to the Level 1 course. The course is on Saturday 17th May. It costs £65. The full details of the course are below. If I get enough people to make this worthwhile I will make a group booking and organise some accommodation for the Friday & Saturday nights. If people are interested I will also sort out some local fishing for the Sunday (18th).

Please let me know ASAP (send an e-mail to flytyer@inbox.com) if you are interested in attending the course and also whether you would be interested in fishing on the Sunday.

Paul Davis

and grab it. You don't have to induce a take. I have seen it done at Chalk Springs.

I think it is open to Members to discuss.

Peter Winder

Entomology for Anglers Level 1

Tutors: Stuart Crofts & Andrew Dixon

When: Saturday 17th May

Cost: £65pp

Location: Freshwater Biological Association, The Ferry Landing, Far Sawrey, Ambleside, Cumbria. LA22 0LP

The purpose of this course is to increase fly-fishers' understanding of entomology, which could make a big difference to their catch. Understanding the life cycle of the flies that are being imitated helps better decisions to be made on what a fish is feeding on, when and where that type of food will be available, and how best to represent that food form. The course will describe certain aspects of the natural fly which can be incorporated into imitations, explain why some flies are more significant than others and why some important flies are often neglected by anglers. It will also involve a field visit to a river site to collect some of the species the fly-fisher encounters. This will be followed by practical advice on how to identify them under the microscope. Anglers Stuart Crofts and Andrew Dixon, have both fished for England at national and international level and have studied entomology for many years.



Additives - (amino acid)

Sea anglers use rubby-dubby, pilchard oil and worm juice. Coarse anglers use a host of flavours dips, spray etc to boost catches.

Should fly anglers follow this trend or stick purely to materials to catch fish?

There are mass produced additives such as bloodworm trout attractants on tackle shop shelves. In clear water you can cast to a shoal of fish and they will home onto your flavoured fly

Albert Horne Trophy

Congratulations to Paul Bond on being the first recipient of the Albert Horne Trophy. It was awarded for all the hard work that Paul puts in to organising the tying programme and speakers.



Paul Bond receiving the Albert Horne Trophy

Jonathan Glover Trophy

Congratulations to Paul Davis on receiving the Jonathan Glover Trophy for all his hard work on organising the iFISH event.



Paul Davis receiving the Jonathan Glover Trophy

Fly Dressers Guild 1st bank fishing competition

Dear All

I am very happy to announce the first Fly Dressers Guild bank fishing competition to be held at Elinor Trout fishery, Northamptonshire on the 23rd of March.

There will be prizes & after competition buffet. Rules & more details to follow very soon.

Please find entry form attached & please contact me if you have any questions.

Hope to see you there.

Best Regards, **Lee Hooper**

Guest speaker for 6th February 2014 is 'Mark and Wendy' from Moorhen trout Fishery

To give us an insight into their facility at Meon, Hants. The evening starts at 7.45pm and will include a raffle in the cost of entry on the night. Their presentation shows what fishery owners go through to provide us with our sport and there will be a Q&A session. As you know a number of the membership visit the venue regularly and hope you support this evening.

Guest speaker for 6th March 2014 is Keith Wallington

Who will provide a slide show and talk on further adventures in his fishing life and feedback from BFFI which he is attending next month. The evening starts at 7.45pm and will include a raffle in the cost of entry on the night.

Chairman's Chat

Bottom Baffle Fish Passes

As the name suggests, these passes are composed of a wide trough, usually in reinforced concrete, with baffles fixed to the base only. This pass is suitable for sites where the flow requirements are high. The minimum design flow capacity of a fish pass in the UK is between 5% and 10% of MDF (mean daily flow) which can be a problem as it results in a large and expensive pass. In order to minimise the rise in water level in the pass to accommodate the large flow, the bottom baffle system is the most suitable. This can cause a problem when a fish counter is required since an infra red counter on a wide pass requires an inscale (grids to guide the fish through the counter) which in turn poses a maintenance problem due to the potential for debris being trapped on the grid bars of the inscale. It follows that a resistivity counter is the most suitable counter for a bottom baffle pass.



An advantage of this type of pass is the lack of side baffles which would trap floating debris; therefore maintenance requirements of the pass are minimal.

Another feature of the pass is the comparatively high mean water velocity which occurs within the pass. The mean velocity in the pass could typically be 1.3 to 1.6 metres per second. This is too high for the design fish which is capable of swimming at 1.0 metres per second (according to the Environment Agency). So the EA design fish will not be able to ascend the pass. However the mean velocity is the average of all the various velocities in a water column in a pass, at the bottom of the pass the velocity could well be $\frac{1}{3}$ of the mean, say 0.5 metres per second. This explains how coarse fish, with a slower swimming capability, are able to ascend the pass.

We designed the pass below in Ennis in the Irish Republic. This pass includes flat panels for lamprey to use their suckers on, an elver pass and electrodes for a resistivity counter. The river flow has yet to be diverted into the pass.

I hope you wished to know this.

Tony W.

PURElite Magnifying lamp



Some of us on a Thursday night struggle to tie with poor light and also require a bit of magnification and we come along with all sorts of battery operated lights and magnifiers. Ken Pearce earlier this last autumn came along with the table lamp as seen in the photograph that is possibly the best type I have come across. Battery or mains powered on a flexible arm long enough to go over top of your vice, dimmer switch illuminated with 16 LEDs, 4" glass lens 2x magnification.

They did cost £29.95 complete with mains adapter through Amazon but I notice now £37.00, so it will be worth hunting around as no doubt demand has put the price up at present. Are they going to be essential kit to haul along on a Thursday evening?

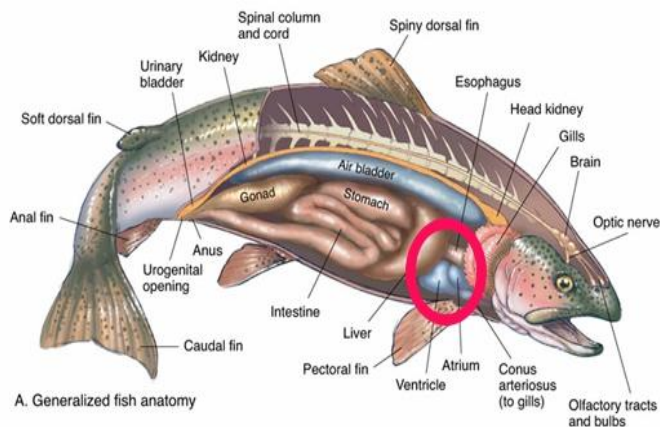
http://www.amazon.co.uk/PURElite-Anywhere-Magnifying-Table-Light/dp/B005SRA8R0/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1381673852&sr=8-2&keywords=purelite+magnifying+lamp

Trout Dying To Get a Good Photo

We all should know the **rules for releasing a trout** with the best chance of survival, but there is one rule that is almost never included in articles about successful releasing.

So, you have landed the fish as quickly as possible to limit capture stress and you are about to pick up the fish and get a few 'grip and grin' shots before release.

But, grip and grin, can all too often turn into **grip and kill**, and it is all down to where and how you grip the trout that can determine its survival.



Have look at the anatomical drawing above showing the main internal structure and components of a trout. Take particular notice where the heart is (red outline) - between and under the gills and liver, just above the Pectoral fins.

These three organs, heart, gills and liver are very susceptible to damage, although not always immediately obvious, unless the damage is very severe leading to immediate death. A fish subject to external pressure to the heart and other organs may swim away on release, but many die soon after.

Gripping a fish in the pectoral area using inward force and squeezing pressure will compress the heart and maybe the liver and gills. The outcome for the fish is not going to be good, even if it does manage to swim away on release.

So we should have a look at a gallery of grip and kill photos copied from the web and magazines - any ID of the person holding the fish has been removed. I should also note that some or even all of these fish were not released - I could not tell.



This grip while probably not lethal will still stress the heart. Any squeezing here must be avoided.



This fish has little or no chance of survival. It is already in very bad condition, and merely lifting the fish behind the pectoral fin has meant the head is putting pressure on the heart.

Again a grip so bad it is likely to damage the fish's heart and reduce survival chances.





Two fish that will most likely be damaged by the vice-grips on the heart area.

The worst example of 'grip and kill' in these shots - almost certain lethal damage to heart, liver and gills.



The 'UK Grip' - A Killer Too!



Those who follow UK trout fishing magazines and websites may have noticed the prevalence of photos with the trout being held as seen in the photo above. I did a quick flick through a pile of recent top selling UK magazines and websites and as rough estimate well over 70% of fish are held by what I call the 'UK grip'. I believe trout are held this way to show off the fact that the fish is a 'full-finned' or a wild fish, not a stocked fish.

Most fly-fishing in the UK is done in stocked still-waters. Many (most?) stocked fish have their tails and fins damaged by other fish and the concrete walls of the stock pens. So to show off the fact the fish is 'full-finned and tailed' you need a grip that does just that. That grip, which I have called the 'UK grip', is great for showing fins and tails, but is it good for the trout? **No!**

The UK grip means that the tail of the fish is not firmly held, so the holder must squeeze the fish in the heart area as shown above. If the fish thrashes about, the grip around the heart area has to increase, because the grip ahead of the tail is very weak. All bad news for the heart and other organs.

But this bad grip is certainly not confined to the UK, you see grip and kill photos from around the world on the net, but it seems to be a more common practice in the UK.

This practice needs to stop. Magazines and websites need to stop showing photographs of fish held in damaging way.

The way it should be...



The right way to hold a fish near the head. The trout is 'cradled' with the **fingers parallel** to the side of the fish, not clawing in like talons, or squeezing this vulnerable area.

The tail is held firmly; the thumb and forefinger encircling the 'knuckle' at the start of the tail, so, if the fish 'bucks' it can be controlled from the less vulnerable tail end without the need to squeeze the heart area.

The Harsh Fact About Holding a Trout Out of The Water

There is no getting around it, lifting a trout out of the water to take a photo is almost certainly going to dramatically increase the stress and physical damage already done while landing the fish.

This is true, even when the fish is handled very carefully and all the "rules" about releasing are followed to the letter.

If you are really concerned about releasing a trout with the maximum chances of survival never lift it clear of the water.

Phil Ellis

Volunteer Wanted

A volunteer is required to run the "Rod Raffle", due to work commitments Nigel is unable to attend all the Thursday meetings, and so feels that someone else who can and does attend all the Thursday meetings should run the raffle. Please contact Nigel if you are able to volunteer for the job.

Club Outing to the Cinema!

This is a bit of a deviation for the club but there is a film about fly tying doing the rounds of the independent cinema scene! The film, called Kiss the Water, is a poetic portrait of the world's most celebrated maker of salmon fishing flies, Megan Boyd.

Boyd lived in isolation in the Scottish Highlands where she taught herself the almost mystical art of fly making. While no-one can explain why salmon will take one lure but not another everyone agrees Boyd's were not only objects of incredible precision and beauty but the most successful flies ever made.

Boyd received an OBE from Prince Charles for her services to Fly Fishing as well as international recognition from within her sport. Yet, until now, she has remained largely unknown and unappreciated outside the angling community.

Filmmaker Eric Steel's curiosity was piqued on reading a lengthy obituary in The New York Times on her death in 2001. His beautifully crafted documentary makes a case for Boyd as one of Scotland's great unsung artists. Employing a lyrical mix of interviews, meditative landscape photography and animation Kiss the Water explores a remarkable woman's utter dedication to the perfection of her craft.

The film is due to be screened in Brighton either in late January or early February. The date hasn't yet been set by the cinema.

If you are interested in going then please get in touch ASAP and I'll keep you informed of the time & date and the price of the tickets when I have it.

Paul Davis

flytyer@inbox.com

01306 621157



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, Flat 6 Southdown House, 2
Silverdale Road, Eastbourne,
East Sussex BN20 7AL
Phone: 01323 439688
E-mail: a.v.steer@talk21.com

Visit our web site

Sussexflydressers.org.uk

