



Sussex Branch Newsletter



JUNE 2013

Bill Smith

The end of an era has come. Bill Smith has relinquished control of the rod raffle, after many years of fleecing members out of their money every Thursday evening. He has done a fantastic job over the many years he has done the raffle, and has got some marvellous prizes. In all the time that he has been doing the raffle, he has not entered the raffle once. Now he can and I hope he gets first prize, as he deserves it. So I would like to say a big thank you on behalf of all the members and committee for his sterling work. I also hope that you will continue to give Bill's successor Nigel the same level of support you gave to Bill.

Andy Steer

HEATHFIELD SHOW 2013

I arrived at the showground just before 7 am. and Bill Smith arrived soon after. Overnight rain had left the site wet with a muddy surface but the forecast was good and it was not long before the Sun came out. Bill and I soon had our display set up and we were enjoying our coffee and doughnuts. The warm, dry weather kept a steady stream of visitors with several showing an interest in the Guild's activities. Bill was tying buzzers and I was tying a favourite variation of a Montana nymph (brown and orange rather than black and yellow).

At 11.15 I was due to give a casting demonstration in the arena: I cast and talked for about twenty minutes when the arena organiser interrupted to tell me that the p.a system had failed so I had been talking to myself and would I repeat the whole process in an abridged format. So, away I went again this time without any problems. Meanwhile back at my home my wife, knowing when I was expected to finish, called me on my mobile. I was just packing up at the end of my demo. I believe I said "I am still in the arena but there has been a complete cock up with the p.a. system" to which my good lady replied "Your signal is breaking up. What did you say?" I repeated my comments about the p.a. system only to realise that my radio microphone was still switched on so my views on the efficiency of the technicians were heard by all!

I needed to leave the show at lunchtime so my place was taken by Wayne Duerden and judging by the large number of people coming into the show as I left Bill and Wayne were going to have a busy afternoon. My thanks to both of them.

John Plowman

Auctions 2013

Some date for your diaries. This year's Fly Tying Materials/Book Auction will be held on **17th October 2013**, and our Fishing Tackle Auction will be two weeks later on **31st October 2013**.

To encourage as many members and friends to come along to support our auctions, this year both will be held on a Thursday night, in our usual venue at the Patcham Community Centre – viewing from 7pm, with the auctions starting at 7.45pm. We did look at holding the fishing tackle auction on a Saturday, but could not get both rooms.

It is early days yet, but if you are thinking of entering items to be sold, it would be really helpful if you could send a quick e-mail to Roy Gurney (roygurney@ntlworld.com), (I'm not on e-mail), with an approximate idea of how many lots you wish to enter into each auction. We never know from one year to the next how many entries we are going to receive. Two years ago we struggled to reach 200 lots for each auction, whereas last year we had a record 330 lots for each auction, and turned down a further 100 lots. Ideally, as the auctions are held in the evening, we are aiming for between 200 – 250 lots, which still allows our auctioneer Mike Humphries to spend a reasonable time on each lot, and still have everybody paid up, goods allocated and out the door by 10.30pm.

This year, should we be lucky enough to be inundated with entries, we will cap the upper limit at around 250, on a first come basis.

One other change – this year on a trial basis, we will be introducing a buyer's premium of 10%, ie if you bid £5 for a lot, you will actually pay £5.50 for that lot at the end of the evening. The sellers premium will remain at 10%, or 15% for our members.

As well as providing a service for our members and hopefully two fun evenings, our auctions have always been the main fund raising activity for our club, a thanks to your generosity and support, are which has enabled us to maintain a healthy bank balance in these difficult financial times.

Tony Harrison

Chairman's Chat

June 2013

South of England

Once again we showed the flag at the South of England Show. The new tent was well and truly staked down, following the failure last year, when the previous tent ended in the lake. I arrived early so that I could set out the stall with a verity of flies etc. I should have known better, Tony Harrison was already on site with the tent set up for business. Mike Guest turned up and we commenced demonstrating whilst fending off the insults from the Salmon and Trout Association which were parked opposite. All went well with a sunny day forecast with the possibility of a light shower from time to time. That was the forecast, gale force winds developed and the perfect (rain) storm developed with crashes of thunder in the background. Fortunately the tent stood firm. We spent a few hours with the public and some of the stall holders sheltering in the tent. About lunch the storm passed, the sun came out and we started to receive interest from the public with about four names added to the email list. The odd gust of wind ensured that we spent time retrieving feathers and in my case hunting for glass beads in the grass. Eventually all went well, it was another interesting day; Club members who have not demonstrated should have a go, it is almost always an interesting experience.



Tony Harrison showing how it's done

Even more trouble ahead

If you are thinking of a hiking holiday in the Pyrenees, don't bother to take out any holiday insurance against having an accident. Recently a hiker fell and may have died or have been seriously injured. No problem, before a rescue party found her, the recently introduced griffin vultures had disposed of her body leaving a well picked skeleton. Apparently these birds can achieve this in 45 minutes. So the good old conservationists have done it again, introduce vultures into a habitat where the EEC ensures that there are no farm animal carcasses left about so the vultures have to look

out for injured/dead humans. So no holiday insurance now necessary, the vultures will peck your eyes out before help arrives.

So wear your goggles !!!!

Tony W.

End of Season Gathering

On the last Thursday evening of the 2012/13 tying season, we were not only treated to a great rod raffle, but also a wonderful spread of food. It was organised by the branch committee, who got outside caterers to provide the food. The food that was provided was very good. I did not hear one negative comment, only positive comments. So I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to the ones on the committee who arranged for the food.

Andy Steer

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Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

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