



# Sussex Branch Newsletter



**MAY 2013**

## “Flydresser”

Many of you will have received two copies of the Spring 2013 “Flydresser”, thanks to a cock-up by the distributor. Please don't throw away the spare copy – let Roy Gurney or Tony Woolnough have it as we can use them at shows for promotional purposes.

## DALES WAY WALK 2013

Alan Middleton is walking from Ilkley to Windermere from 22<sup>nd</sup> June to 29<sup>th</sup> June. All the funds raised are going to the “Wild Trout Trust” and the “British Heart Foundation. If you would like to sponsor Alan and have not done so yet, you can contact Alan via his email address. [woryem@ssff.co](mailto:woryem@ssff.co) or [www.sussexschoolofflyfishing.co.uk/](http://www.sussexschoolofflyfishing.co.uk/)

Alan's itinerary is as follows:

**Start date is Day 1 is Saturday 22nd June**

Day 1 Travel North

Night 1 Grassington

Day 2 Ilkley to Burnsall 12.8miles

Night 2 Grassington

Day 3 Burnsall to Buckden 13.7 miles

Night 3 Grassington

Day 4 Buckden to Holme Hill 12.5 miles

Night 4 Sedburgh

Day 5 day off

Night 5 Sedburgh

Day 6 Holme hill to Sedburgh 14.0 miles

Night 6 Sedburgh

Day 7 Sedburgh to Burnside 12.4 miles

Night 7 Bowness

Day 8 Burnside to Bowness 10.0 miles

Night 8 Bowness

## How do you eat an Elephant

As I drove towards Patcham Community Centre a few Saturday's ago, to spend the day making one married wing Salmon fly. I got to reflect on what a strange and unusual hobby it is that we all pursue.

I should explain – looking for a challenge and having completed our Bronze and Silver FDG Accreditation, a group of us started off on the two year Gold Accreditation syllabus. Both the syllabus and the standard are set by the main guild, the two year course involves 40 different flies, in matched threes as trio's. (Those of you who have entered our branch fly

tying competitions, where a matched pair of a particular fly has to be tied, will understand the challenge of tying 3 identical flies).

The gold accreditation involves the tying of matched trios of , - nymphs ( Crystal Prince nymph), lure (The Professor), trout winged wet fly (Watsons Fancy), trout winged dry fly (Ginger Quill), salmon hair winged fly (Cascade), and finally the salmon married wing fly (The Kate), which are to be judged by the main guild.



**Hard at work on the Gold Accreditation Fly**

at 8.15 for a masterclass under the tutelage of Alan Middleton. The group came prepared for a working lunch, and members brought in tea, coffee, biscuits and cakes. Paul Davis drove an 80 mile round trip to support the group. The branch booked us an upstairs room, which we set up in a U, each of us with our own table. Alan Middleton had prepared a pack of materials for each of us and at 9am promptly we started off.

I am reminded from my childhood of the answer to the question "How do you eat an Elephant" – one bit at a time! And it was one bit at a time tying The Kate. Alan Middleton broke it up into small sections, which he would tie, whilst we gathered around, and then we would go and tie it. If it wasn't perfect, you would start again. The group soon gathered that a real skill is selecting and preparing the right feather, as well as putting it on. Our rollercoaster of a day started, with all the group making good progress. Paul Davis made the first round of teas and coffees and by 12 o'clock everybody had a more than acceptable base or bottom half of the fly.



**Alan demonstrating another section of the fly**

The mood was good, and we ate our sandwiches to an accompaniment of some great stories and amusing anecdotes.

After lunch, Alan showed us how to build as many fibres or slips of feather, to form a wing. He explained that if there are 5 different materials used in the wing, then each slip of material has 5 fibres, make a total wing of 25 fibres.

Some salmon married flies have 6 different materials, in which case 4 fibres of each are used making 24 in total. By

now you are probably starting to get a feel for why these married wing flies take so long to tie.

On The Kate each wing (there are 2) consists of 5 fibres of Golden Pheasant Tail, Bustard, Red Swan, Yellow Swan and Brown Mallard. Not many of us have Bustard or in deed the others mentioned, so we were really grateful to Alan for sourcing these. The process is that you separate, then cut 5 fibres from the second feather in a matched (the feathers come from the opposite wing). You then wiggle the slips of 5 fibres together, and hay presto, like Velcro they join up. No glue or hair spray – just the way nature intended. So you build one wing, and then the identical second. Quite often a feather will not marry, because they are from the wrong wing, and you have muddled up. Certain feathers knit together well, others are harder – marrying them together is a skill, which takes practice.

After about 1 hour of cutting and marrying, the group all had a pair of passable wings to attach. Then came the moment of truth, when we attempted to tie them in. The air went blue, as wing after wing disintegrated and collapsed (along with our dreams). We should have had a swear box as Red Nose Day would have benefited considerably. The rollercoaster day had first hit rock bottom, - some of us including me where ready to call the Samaritans!

Alan Middleton was just brilliant; he showed us where we were going wrong and gave us lots of tips to overcome the problems that we were encountering, so that by the end of the day we all had a passable built wing salmon fly. He then told us to go away (I think that's what he said) and practice the key

elements on a bare hook with old materials, before attempting to create a matched trio of The Kate.

You have probably gathered by now that married wing salmon flies are designed to be mounted in a display case – you would not fish with them!

When I got home at 5pm that afternoon, I proudly showed my wife my fly and her only response (not for the first time in our 38 years of marriage) was; - is that it! She promptly checked my breath, convinced that 7 of the 8 hours I had spent away had been down the pub!



**One view of the finished Fly**

Lots of thank you's – for the branch hiring the room and also off setting some of the cost of materials, Paul Davis for his support, to the rest of the group (John Cooper, Wayne Duerden, Allan Larkin, Peter Neave, Fred Wassell and Eric Wren) for their support and encouragement and to Alan Middleton, who is quite simply a star. He did say at one point when we were all a bit despondent, that we should remember that he had been tying for 40 years. I have worked out – currently I have been tying for 10 years, so I reckon by 2043 I will be able to tie quite a classy married wing salmon fly!



**Another view of the finished Fly**

Just as a post script, I mentioned earlier that our masterclass took 8 hours to teach and make one married wing salmon fly. The following Thursday, Alan Middleton tied an even more complex married wing salmon fly in 45 minutes, start to finish – at Patcham Community Centre – no light, no magnifier. Where was that number for the Samaritans – I have got it here somewhere.

**Tony Harrison**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 16.30  
 Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 17.30  
 Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 15.00  
 Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 17.30

**Back-up plan if sea is rough** is to relocate to the river at Norfolk Bridge, Shoreham – free parking at Adur Recreation Ground. If travelling from Brighton direction it is necessary to cross the bridge and go the roundabout and come back to the car-park just before the bridge. **Tides are about 1 hour later at the bridge.**

### Darrah Pairs 2013

With the weather at last improving twelve anglers in six boats were looking forward to a good day's fishing at Bewl. Bright sun and calm water meant no need for drogues but although it was near the end of April the conditions were those of mid March. Trees were leafless and the cold water meant the fish were close in to the banks and deep in the water.

Nigel Duckworth and Bill Smith were soon into fish using fast sink lines and boobies near to the north bank. It soon became apparent that my floating line and small lures were not going to succeed. I personally don't like fishing boobies but in a competition the aim is to catch fish rather than simply enjoy one's own preferred methods. Fishing with me, Steve Mustchin had taken five fish by lunch, while using identical flies and line, I managed just one: all on boobies in the Seven Pound Creek area of the reservoir.

Meeting together at lunch most anglers had caught but rather surprisingly Chris Croucher and Ian Dunk had not done well at all. You only have to look on the trophy to realise how many times this pair have one the competition.

After lunch, I managed to push my total to six, Steve reached eight, and both Chris and Ian caught eight each as did Nigel and Bill. The other Bewl regular Chris Nunn finished with seven.

Overall a very good day with twelve anglers catching 64 blue and rainbow trout for a total weight of 142lb. The winning pair was Nigel Duckworth and Bill Smith with 16 fish for 35lb 15.5 oz. Second were Chris Croucher and Ian Dunk with 16 fish for 35lb 5oz.

I believe the largest fish was my rainbow of just less than four pound.

Finally, if I am asked to organise this event next year, I would like to extend the finishing time to 6pm. Five o'clock does seem early when the reservoir does not close until eight. Please let me know your views.

**Tight lines, John Plowman**

## **Casting Clinic 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

A new date for the calendar:

Our annual casting clinic will be held as usual on Patcham House Playing Fields, opposite the "Black Lion" and running from Patcham House up to the entry roundabout to Brighton on the A23, western side.

We have a number of fully qualified casting instructors in the Branch, and we hope to get Brian Sharpe to come over, probably with some super Gray's gear to try out (or at least ogle and fondle!).

Always a good opportunity to iron out those niggling faults as well as a being able to recall our late lamented Albert Horne who was the instigator of this event.

### Rod Raffle

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Peter Winder
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Dave Walker
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Alan Middleton

## Bass Fishing at Shoreham

### Provisional Dates 2013

Brian Hendry has drawn up the programme for fly-fishing for bass at Shoreham. Wading is from the beach at Shoreham Power Station – **chest waders are essential.**

**Meet** at the following times in the car-park at Carat's Café on the Eastern side of Shoreham Harbour entrance, on the South (sea) side of the port.

Monday	27 <sup>th</sup> May	17.00
Tuesday	28 <sup>th</sup> May	17.30
Monday	24 <sup>th</sup> June	16.30
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup> June	17.00
Wednesday	24 <sup>th</sup> July	16.30
Thursday	25 <sup>th</sup> July	17.30
Wednesday	21 <sup>st</sup> August	16.00



## Results

	No of fish	boat total	weight		
			lbs	oz	total boat weight
Nigel Duckworth	8	16	16	12.5	35lb. 15.5oz.
Bill Smith	8		19	3	
Ian Dunk	8	16	16	15	35lb. 5oz.
Chris Croucher	8		18	6	
Steve Mustchin	8	14	15	8	29lb. 2oz.
John Plowman	6		13	10	
Chris Nunn	7	10	15	0.0	24lb.
Bill King	3		9	0.0	
Brian Raw	4	6	9	0.0	13lb. 6oz
Bill Black	2		4	6	
Ted How	1	2	2	6	4lb. 2oz.
Peter Neave	1		1	12	

## Chairman's Chat

On a very cold and frosty morning last month, 14 Club Members assembled at Moorhen Trout Fishery in Hampshire to take part in the Chairman's Day fishing event. Road diversions in rural Hampshire did not make for an easy journey in fact one angler made a tour of most of East Hampshire before he turned up.

The day started well with the consumption of bacon rolls and coffee and a warm by the fire before we started to pursue the fish which were supposed to be "evenly spread throughout the fishery" as they say. I had my reservations knowing that one peg was known as "duffers corner" which fortunately I did not have to resort to. Despite the numbing cold affecting our hands with the retrieve, fish soon started to come to the net and very fine fish they were. The system at Moorhen is that the Bailiff collects the fish as they are taken, weighs them, records weights and places them in labelled bags in the fridge. The system is called *being spoilt* !

Here are the boys in action:



A highly insulated Bill Smith in action.

Despite the sport, we returned to the Lodge for frequent warm ups by the fire. Even the huge dogs were not keen on sitting

outside. Instead of enjoying our picnics in the sun we all chose to huddle in the Lodge.

Everyone took fish, ironically I chose to bail out after lunch to avoid hyperthermia which of course was when Wayne took the 9lb 4oz fish of the day – serves me right I suppose.

Moorhen is the best fishery that I know of with a large array of tackle and flies, first class refreshments and very helpful and pleasant staff.

Enjoy your summer fishing, volunteer for the shows and I hope to see you at the Casting Clinic on the 16<sup>th</sup> May.

Tony W.

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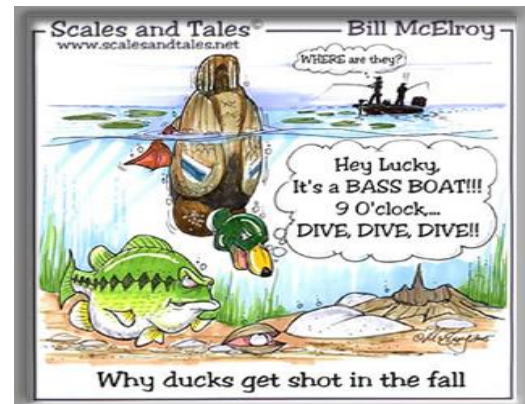
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