



# Sussex Branch Newsletter



Nov 2013

## charity pairs 2013

Well this years comp was fished in the worst conditions I can remember, with teeming rain and strong winds so 26 hardy anglers set out with high hopes as the reservoir had been fishing quite well previously.

Unfortunately the change in conditions had made it somewhat challenging, also some anglers soon found out there waterproofs were not quite as waterproof as they thought as some decided to call it a day early.

Anyhow back to the main business of the day, trying to regain the trophy back from North Kent as it turned out David Painter and yours truly tied with them on 14 fish so it came down to weight and they just piped us by 1lb 5 ozs and so retained the trophy, better luck next year.

Can I thank everyone who supported the competition this year which raised £158, which went to Ray French and Bob Shaws chosen charity The British Heart Foundation.



I hope to see you all next year and hopefully maybe a few new faces

Ray Love

## A TALE OF TWO FISHES (with apologies to Charles Dickens)

I am sure almost every fishing holiday starts out in the same way. THIS will be the week, THE amazing week, with

perfect weather, the right coloured clouds, the right colour sun (not too bright), the right rain (not that drenching downpour but the gentle, soft, steady stuff that eventually makes you really, really wet, but is still warm). You know the feeling?

Well I certainly do and that's how I felt as I waited for my friend to collect me for our drive to Pembroke Docks, the ferry to Rosslair and the pleasant drive across Ireland to the far south-west and our annual September pilgrimage to chase the salmon and sea trout and the willing little brown trout.

We gave up flying when a well-known Irish airline decided to make the experience a nightmare rather than a pleasure. We travel easily, take all our gear (at no extra charge!), don't have to hire a care when we get there, and everyone along the way is friendly. Such fun!

We stopped in Kenmare for a "coffee", which miraculously turned to Guinness as it touched the glass! Fancy that.

Our arrival was greeted by the welcome news that the weather was about to "improve", the sun was coming out as an area of high pressure had sneaked up from the Continent and would be around for "a day or so"! I felt uneasy about this and the first vague doubts crept into the back of my mind. Could this really be happening?

We went straight to the river, a spate river that shall remain nameless, to see it low, too low for fishing and too low for the fish to run. It had been so since August. Only a few weeks you say, but a long time for a spate river in September. The vague doubts crystallised into secret certainties that, once again, we had got the wrong week. Soon it would be the wrong sun, rain, clouds and winds, and then the only thing is choosing the right bar! But not yet!

There are some truly beautiful locks to fish above the river system, each with a boat and no bank fishing allowed. As there was no river to fish, we booked a loch and with suitable packed lunch and plenty of enthusiasm set out for the day to try our luck.

There is a reasonable run of sea trout in August and September and as these lochs are at the head of the system, our hope was to find the sea trout firmly attached to our flies on almost every cast and some of them to go into the mega size bracket. (This is when you need a net to bring them into the boat, i.e. 1lb plus!)

It was a perfect day, clouds, breeze, sunshine, ripple. What more could you want? It took us an hour or two to get into the rhythm and find the right flies, but when we got there, we found not the sea trout, but the willing little brown trout. They were everywhere, and every drift and almost every cast. I fished three dry flies with a skatey type of caddis on the point. This was their favourite and when they didn't get it first time, they tried jumping on to it (in an effort to drown it?) chasing again and again. Several times there were several fish going for the same fly. Curiously enough nothing else seemed to have quite the same effect.

Our first day produced about 50 fish in the boat with 70 plus on the second and falling back to 40 plus on the third day. Almost all were safely returned. The average weight was about half a pound with the usual number above and below this. One good fish of a pound and a half was the best brownie. And what a range of colours, through dark brown to golden butter to silvery, all decorated with those beautiful spots, the most distinctive of which are the crimson red.

Then the weather turned, the clouds and mist rolled in and the rain fell.

We went to the river and guess what? My friend caught a fresh run salmon and I lost three! How sad is that?

It continued to rain. We delayed our return. Another friend came to join us for the day all the way from Dublin! But to no avail. And it rained and rained and rained. It rained so much that the water was running off our jackets and waders like we were under a fire hose. The river rose and we had to go.

As we sadly packed our soaking clothes in plastic bags and laid newspapers on the car boot floor to take the worst of the damp, as we said our hurried goodbyes under umbrellas and ran through the downpour to escape the worst of the wet on our travelling clothes, I couldn't help thinking of those willing little trout in the loch, unfazed by the rain and wind, and probably wondering where that particular skatey type of caddis had gone to so suddenly.

I have a warm feeling towards them and although I missed my salmon, I have a date with those willing little trout next year!

**Peter Neave**

### ***Chairman's Chat***

Well I hope you are all geared up for iFish, in the trade the word is that it is creating "quite a buzz".

### **Borland Lifts**

It occurred to me that you may be interested in a type of fish pass system which is used for high dams. This type of pass

consists of a floodable shaft (typically 3.0 m diameter) which has a water tight door at the river level (downstream of the dam) and a shaft and an exit channel to the water level upstream of the dam.

When the door downstream is open, water cascades down the shaft and exits (via the open door) into the river downstream thereby attracting fish (we hope) to the (fish) entrance to the Lift. The fish (usually salmon and/or sea trout, but it will work with any species) stay in the bottom of the shaft, attracted by the water cascading down from upstream.

After say 15 minutes, the watertight door is closed and the shaft begins to flood until shaft water level reaches upstream river level, when the fish swim out.

Opening the door results in a rush of water to downstream which attracts fish to the entrance and the cycle is repeated.

When a large dam is designed, this method of fish pass is very attractive to the designer as a lift can be of any height and the structure forms part of the dam concrete works. Whereas a separate fish pass at a typical slope of 1 vertical to 7 horizontal plus resting pools may be 200m long and therefore very expensive.

The system can be very efficient, except that 1) some fish may decide not to swim out of the shaft at the end of the cycle and 2) difficulty may be experienced in attracting fish to the entrance. To ensure that fish exit at the end of the cycle, a rising brail can be fitted, which moves the fish up the water column as the shaft is flooded. Attracting fish to the entrance is more difficult, one option is to fit a side scanning sonar device by the entrance door and carry out experiments with different operating cycles, to identify the most (fish) attractive.



The photograph shows a vertical Lift in Ireland which the fish have decided not to enter. When we visited site salmon were showing adjacent to the Lift entrance but none decided to enter. This has been confirmed by the fish counter in the exit channel. Incidentally the maximum flow through the turbines at this site is 500 tons of water a second. The photograph shows the door closed and the jets are leaks.

This could be a very serious and expensive problem. The local Environment Agency could insist that a conventional fish pass is built to replace the Lift, at a cost of millions of pounds. I would be upset if this occurs !!

*Tony W*

### *You can't out-smart a woman*

A man calls home to his wife and says, "Honey, I have been asked to fly to Canada with my boss and several of his friends for fishing..We'll be gone for a long weekend. This is a good opportunity for me to get that promotion I've been wanting so could you please pack enough clothes for a 3 day weekend....

And also would you get out my rod and tackle box from the attic ? We're leaving at 4:30 pm from the office and I will swing by the house to pick my things up..

Oh! And please pack my new navy blue silk pyjamas."

The wife thinks this sounds a bit odd, but, being the good wife she does exactly what her husband asked.

Following the long weekend he came home a little tired, but, otherwise, looking good. The wife welcomes him home and asks if he caught many fish?

He says, "Yes! Lots of Walleyes, some Bass, and a few Pike." He said, "But why didn't you pack my new blue silk pyjamas like I asked you to do?"

You'll love the answer.

The wife replies, "I did, they're in your tackle box".

**John Perry**

## **2013 Auction Results A Big Thank You**

The good news is that this years' two auctions made a net contribution to our club funds of over £800, which nearly matches the money we receive from your subscriptions.

We are extremely lucky in our club to have many highly motivated & enthusiastic club members , who will turn out to support club initiatives, either by volunteering to help out on the night (some might say being press ganged !) or by coming along and showing their support by bidding at the auctions.

So my first big thank you is to those of you who come along and bid, and in the process get some real bargains as well as a fun evening.

My second big thank you is to the team of helpers, who make everything go smoothly on the night. They set up the room, display the auctions lots, bring items up for auctions, put them ready for collection, transpose the bids onto individual sheets, total them up, collect the money due, and finally give out the goods that have been purchased. Running an auction calls for some great team work and we are very lucky to have a great team.

So my second big thank you is to :- (in alphabetical order) Paul Bond, Ray Bond, Ray Burt, John Cooper, Paul Davis, Nigel Duckworth, Jim Harris, Brian Hendry, Bill Smith, Andy Steer, Terry Tullett, Tony Woolnough.

I have singled out one person for my third big thank you, and that is Goy Gurney for the vital role he plays in the putting together our two auction catalogues, collecting the money and balancing the books. Sounds simple, believe me it isn't! So many thanks Roy for all that you do.

Putting aside a great team of helpers, you cannot run an auction without an auctioneer, and we are so lucky each year to be able to call upon the services of Mike Humphreys, auctioneer par excellence and also president of the main Fly Dressers Guild. Twice a year Mike drives the 160 mile round trip from Hertfordshire to support us.

On behalf of all of us in the Sussex branch of the FDG, a very big thank you, Mike.

Finally, we are already working on ideas to make our 2014 auctions even better, so watch this space!

**Tony Harrison**

A Big Thank You should also go to Tony Harrison for all the hard work and time that he puts into the running of the two auctions every year. So Tony, on behalf of the branch I would like to say THANK YOU.

Andy Steer

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## Exotic Caddis Larvae

Following Stuart Croft's most illuminating and interesting talk on Caddis flies recently, Julian Jakubowski says :

"Don't know if you have seen these photos of caddis larvae that have been given new materials to build their cases."



They may be of interest to members who wish to bribe their fish into submission!!

To get further details go to :

[www.cabinetmagazine.org/issues/25/duprat.php](http://www.cabinetmagazine.org/issues/25/duprat.php)

## TRANSPORT

One of the advantages of being based at Patcham Community Centre is the opportunity to avail ourselves of the facilities on offer. One of these is the use of a minibus if anyone should organise an outing to a far-flung fishery, subject to availability for that time. Any event organiser who is interested, please contact Roy Gurney who will check with the authorised driver (who is a fly fisherman himself) and see what can be arranged.

## LIBRARY

The Branch has a substantial number of videos, DVDs, books etc which are desperately looking for a librarian to organise and offer for loan to members. Anyone interested please advise any committee member and he will be welcomed with open arms!!

## SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

There are some members who have not yet renewed their subscriptions for this year. We realise that those who renew their Main Guild subscription direct may think that this covers the Branch as well – one of the problems of having two lots to pay! However, it is still necessary to pay the Branch subscription of £12 to Roy Gurney by cheque or cash as the Branch does not have standing order facilities with the bank.

If you wish to pay both together, then it is £32 total and Roy will be only too pleased to pass on the necessary to the Guild to ensure your continued receipt of the *Flydresser* and maintain the insurance cover members enjoy.

You get a lot for your membership – speakers, tuition, fishing outings arranged and of course the auctions for great deals, but it does cost us to maintain these. If you need to fill out a renewal form (if your contact details etc have changed) let Roy know and he will send one to you – or preferably see you on a Thursday at Patcham!

Roy Gurney

7 Eldred Avenue

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or E-mail at [roygurney@ntlworld.com](mailto:roygurney@ntlworld.com)

or phone 01273 506184

## PROGRAMME

There have been a few changes and additions to the programme, so with this newsletter the current edition is attached. It will be updated periodically and will be regularly updated on the website – sorry if we've been a bit behind lately!

## BIG FISH COMPETITION

Where are all your entries????

I cannot believe that no-one has caught a big fish this year. Let Roy Gurney have your entries as soon as possible – at this rate a 12oz sole catch will qualify for four trophies!!



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