



# Sussex Branch Newsletter



Nov 2014

## Bowl Water Charity Pairs

With a forecast of heavy rain for the afternoon, we set off in calm misty conditions in high spirits. Fishing wasn't, as easy as we had hoped, with 3 anglers blanking and several with 1fish, some anglers managed to find some fish with 3 limit bags 1bag of 7 fish, a total of 58 fish being caught.

Our David Painter had the best bag of 8 fish including a very nice rainbow of 3lb 13ounces. The last hour and a half the wind freshened and it started to rain hard, which put the fish off, also as I might add.

The winners by 3 fish were North Kent once again (boo) we will have them next year. Their chosen charity was Ellenor Lion Hospice. Can I thank all of you who supported the competition this year, it would be nice if we could get a few more members fishing next year.



North Kent receiving the trophy

Ray Love

## The Results of Our Autumn Auction

On the evening of 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014, we held our autumn 2014 auction at Patcham Community Centre. Because of the work done by Roy Gurney, Andy Steer, Peter Neave, Bob Burbridge and others, in communicating and publicising this event, we were able to attract 55 potential bidders (32 from the branch and 23 non members/guests). Doubtless this number would have been higher, had the school, whose car park we

use, not been holding a parent's evening, as from 6.30pm parking anywhere nearby became a nightmare.

The 55 who did attend bid strongly for the 315 auction lots on offer, and we generated sales on the night of over £2,200 (well up on last year). The average spend per head was over £41.

I won't bore you with a lot of figures, but can tell you that after auction costs of £100 approximately. The auction team were able to make a net contribution to club funds of around £370 (the additional revenue was from club purchases and items donated to the club for the auction.

An auction of this size does not just happens – it takes a lot of volunteers to make it run smoothly and to be a success, so I would like to thank personally and also on your behalf the following, for all their help, support and hard work on the night; - Paul Bond, Ray Bond, Ray Burt, Paul Davis, John Cooper, Nigel Duckworth, Roy Gurney, Jim Harris, Brian Hendry and Bill Smith. Thanks Guys, it could not have happened without you.

Special thanks go to Mike Humphreys, our Auctioneer, who makes the round trip from Hertfordshire to help and support our club.

My final thanks are to the 32members of our club, who came along and in some cases brought friends along to support the event – once again, it could not have happened without you.

Tony Harrison

## Stuart Crofts

Our October guest speaker was making a welcome return at the request of members who missed his last visit and also many who wanted to hear him again! As ever, Stuart held us mesmerised by his knowledge of our favourite model for a fly and even those who heard him last time found much that they had missed.

His expertise was well illustrated by his almost casual reference to a slide showing a caddis pupa with the upper half of the abdomen cover removed displaying the folded wing and other contents undisturbed. Bearing in mind the diminutive size (no more than 3-4 mm) it was an operation worthy of an eye surgeon (which equipment he used).

Stuart will no doubt return again very soon with a new presentation – perhaps this time to demonstrate his flies – no

doubt closely imitating the activity of his beloved caddis in all its forms.

Stuart is also a leading the campaign for biosecurity – the prevention of foreign species gaining a foothold and devastating the natural habitat of our rivers and lakes. He is a leading proponent of this battle and a copy of his report on this is attached to this newsletter – it is essential reading for the angler!

RG

## Christmas Outing

Once again Peter Winder is organising the Branch Christmas Lunch at Brick Farm on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Members are invited to bring along their friends – tickets are £45 for a 4 fish ticket and lunch, and non-fishing guests pay £15 for lunch.

This is a very convivial event and it may be a last chance to enjoy Sophie's splendid lunch if Brick Farm is still to be sold! Contact Peter on 01273 973499 or e-mail [peter.winder@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.winder@btinternet.com) to book your place.

## Moorhen's Halloween Fishing Competition 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014

4 members of the club entered the competition (Bill Smith, Wayne Duerden, Steve Mustchin & Dave Walker).

We all met at McD's for breakfast, before arriving at Moorhen by 9.00. There were about 10 fishermen putting their rods together, with us made 14. Wendy informed us there would be 17.

We thought where are they going to put us all, but after walking round the lake we were surprised at the space around the pegs.

After the obligatory cup of Tea or Coffee. At ten O'clock we drew for the pegs and the fishing began.

Wayne had a peg where he reached several fish holding spots. As usual he had the first fish.

We had 30 min's on each peg and Wayne got 3 to the net. Bills second peg was the peg opposite Wayne's. He listened to the fisherman leaving the peg and tried their method for 25 min's, catching nothing. He decided that big flied stripped wasn't working for him, so he put a black buzzer on, first cast two pulls with two fish hooked and lost. He finally got one to stick, (His only fish of the day).

Meanwhile Steve had a slow start, but when he caught a fish, it was a good size, with one at 7lb 2oz. Steve finished in good time and earned a time bonus of 2hrs, which equated to 2lb extra.

Dave struggled to find a fish, but on his last peg, with time running out, he caught his only fish.

There were 3 blankers on the day. Wayne struggle for his last fish, but still managed a 1hr bonus, his last fish 5lb 5oz.

Lunch was at 10'clock, where Mark barbequed bacon and Terry made bacon butties.

After fishing, we all joined Wendy and Mark in the lodge for the prize giving and raffle. Our club could be proud that the winner was Steve Mustchin with 19lb 2oz, 3<sup>rd</sup> was Wayne with 16lb.

We 4 would like to thank Wendy, Mark and Terry for the welcome we were given.

Anyone in the club that has not fished Moorhen and had a real friendly welcome should do so.

Steve won a £150 Greys rod  
Wayne won a £30 voucher.

Fish weights

Steve 2lb 9oz, 4lb 6oz, 3lb1oz, 7lb 2oz, + 2Hrs

Wayne 5lb 5oz, 3lb 14oz, 2lb 10oz, 3lb 3oz, +1Hr

Bill 2lb 3oz

Dave 2lb 9oz

There were 17 fishers.

Bill Smith

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2014 Duncton Mill Fishery Branch day

15 members arrived and kitted up, before 9 O'clock. After instruction on the rules (Peter made another cup for 1 fish in all lakes).

Lucky with the weather, most of us bagged up, but all caught fish.

Results were:-

Best Bag

1. Tony Harrison	10lb 12oz
2. Ken Pearce	9lb 1oz
3. John Lindley	8lb 13oz

Best Eainbow

1. John Lindley	3lb 7oz
2. Ken Pearce	3lb
3. Ted How	2lb 15oz

## Best Brown

1. Tony Harrison 2lb 15oz
2. Peter Buss 1lb 6oz
- 3.

## 4 Lake Challenge

1. Tony Harrison 10lb 12oz
2. Ken Pearce 9lb 1oz
3. Peter Winder 7lb 10oz

Thanks to Martin and all at Duncton Mill Fishery  
Bill Smith

## Chairman's Chat

### Equipment

In addition to the hydraulic and structural calculations, each project needs a range of equipment to complete the design. Most projects bring together various standard items which have stood the test of time and in most cases many years in service.

In the case of a pool and weir fish pass (the clues are in the name) the weirs (vertical barriers) are usually formed in concrete as is the remainder of the structure. But how do you modify these weirs if conditions in the river, such as water levels as the result of dredging, change? The obvious solution is to install timber boards in concrete or metal slots which can then be adjusted. These boards have to have curved tops and a low flow channel in the centre. The curved tops are required so that the nappe (water flowing over the face of the weir) clings to the curve, i.e. the nappe is adherent, so that fish swim over without jumping. Jumping can cause problems with abrasion if the fish strike the sides of the pass and damaged fish are prone to infection later. In addition the maximum stress on a weir is obviously in the centre but the low flow notch weakens the timbers. Our experience is that it is difficult to get timbers shaped into curved tops; one contractor sent his timbers to Holland for shaping!

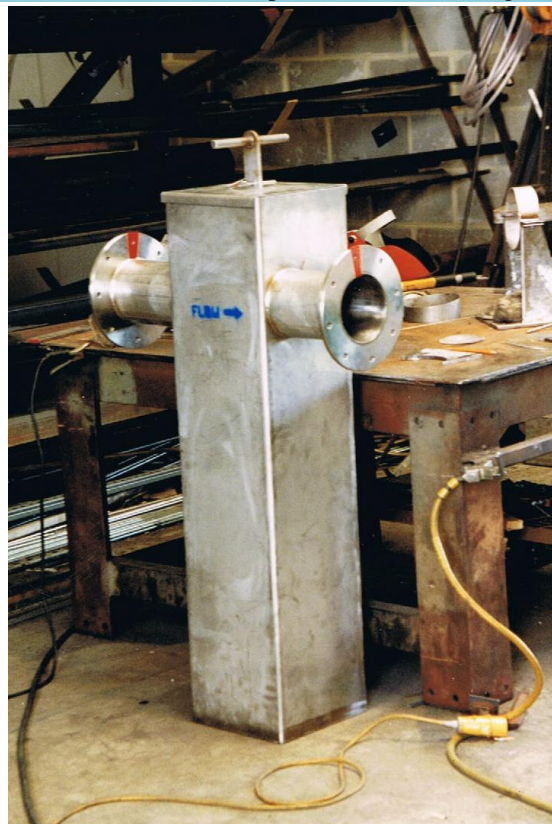
The solution, fabricate from stainless steel or aluminium, which surprisingly is not much more expensive than wood, see below.



As you no doubt know, eels are catadromous, i.e. they spawn in the sea and grow in fresh water, so they migrate upstream to grow. Elver pass **traps** was another problem we faced. They are not available commercially. Our requirement was for a trap which could be installed in line with a pipe lined with squirming media, acting as an elver pass. The trap should be in or out of service and provide a basket to contain the elvers for study, as well as being "poacher proof". Bear in mind elvers are worth over £600/kg.

Our proposal, shown below, is a stainless steel oblong box with an internal perforated basket, as follows:

- The rising stem is lockable in two positions for security
- When not fishing, the trap provides a continuation of the elver pass tubing
- In the fishing position (raised) the downstream side of the basket is in the form of a cone (like a crab pot) the upstream side presents a fine screen to allow a free flow of water but prevents elvers exiting. The



whole basket can be removed containing the elvers for examination, counting and research.

Both these design have been in service for many years, without problems being experienced. One of our elver passes is 160 m long.

Tony W

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

## To Help With the iFISH Fly Fair

iFISH is on Saturday 22nd November at Clair Hall, Haywards Heath.

About 20 volunteers are needed for many jobs on the day.

Each volunteer is required for only 3 hours work.

Volunteers get free entry to the show (worth £5).

e-mail Paul Bond to offer your assistance

[paul.bond13@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.bond13@btinternet.com)

they are vital to the running of the Branch – and essential if you want to keep the “Flydresser” coming.

If your details are unchanged from last year, it is not necessary to complete a renewal form - just let Roy Gurney have your cash!

Both subscriptions are the same as last year – and for over a decade now - £12 Branch and £20 Guild. If you pay the Guild direct you only have to pay the £12 Branch subscription. You may well get a reminder from the Guild direct but you might find it easier to combine the two through Roy



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## Subscriptions

We are now in the third month of the new “season” and it is time to jog the memories of some members to remind them that subscriptions to both the Guild and the Branch were due on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

As a member stressed in an article earlier this year subscriptions give extraordinarily good value for benefits offered (*Newsletter August 2014*) but, small as they are,

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