



Sussex Branch Newsletter



October 2013

Marketing

We are looking for a member of the branch, who works in Marketing. As we are looking for ways to market the branch to attract new members to the branch.

Thursday Evenings

Please note, as our fly tying season kicks off there are some minor changes to our Thursday nights events. Tying classes will aim to start at 7.45pm to allow instructors to travel and set up for the evening and also allow our members travelling distance to head away early during the oncoming winter nights. It will be up to the instructors to confirm any changes to this time.

Please also note that all future speaker evenings will start at 7.45pm sharp and we ask where possible members plan to turn up that they are seated and ready to go before this time. There will also be a charge for this season of £2 per member or guest for the speaker evenings. In return the ticket, it will entitle you to be in with a chance to win one of the raffle prizes drawn at the interval on that night.

Surrey Branch Auction

Surrey FDG Branch Secretary are holding their **biennial auction** on **Monday 14th October**. It will include a number of the fly-tying and fishing effects of **John Goddard**, who founded is branch. The auction is taking place at **Effingham Golf Club**, Guildford Rd, Effingham, Surrey KT24 5PZ. Tel: 01372 452 203. Viewing will commence from **6:30 pm** and the auction will start promptly at **7:30 pm**.

Giant pike falls to a fly

August 2013

Fly fishing for coarse species is a tactic rapidly growing momentum – and it's easy to see when fish like this 34lb 7oz pike, taken by John Machin, can be caught.

The huge predator was caught during a trip to a top secret Midlands stillwater, falling to a FlyTek 6ins perch pattern. It's

one of the biggest pike to be landed on fly tactics and set a new personal best for the seasoned game angler.

John's giant now leads the way in the brand new 'Fly for Coarse' competition, which is endorsed by Matt Hayes and organised by Bait Factory angler, Dom Garnett.

"This is an exceptional specimen and proof that even huge coarse fish can be caught on the fly," said Dom. "But this competition is open to anyone and we welcome all captures regardless of size."



John Machin with his huge fly-caught pike

"Fish on Friday"

Flies wanted for shows

We all have them, flies that we have tied during the tying season, that are surplus to our requirements. The branch would like you to donate any flies that you can, as we can sell them at the various shows we attend throughout the year, and make funds for the branch. So if you have any flies that you do not require, bring them in and donate them to the branch.

Branch Trophy Day

Dunton Mill – 6th October 2013

Peter Winder again organised this event and his report is as follows:

A fantastic warm sunny day with a gentle breeze – just what I ordered!

Six anglers caught a 9lb plus bag with seven fish of over 3lb landed. The biggest fish was 3lb 13oz taken by Bill Smith, closely followed by Ken Pearce with one of 3lb 12oz. Best bag went to John Lindley with 9lb 8oz with Bill Smith close behind with 9lb 7oz. No blues or browns came to the net this year.

Thirteen anglers took part – not great for what is supposed to be the Branch's biggest competition of the year. However, it was good to see Brian Raw and Roy Gurney struggle through the pain to make the day.

I hope to see a good turnout at Brick Farm for the Christmas competition and lunch. **PW**



I would like to add my own comment as a long-standing member. This event has been the main focus of the fishing season for a long time, though increased outings and activities have inevitably diluted its novelty, as well as causing adjustment to dates to avoid congestion.

Duncton Mill is a lovely venue with the added advantage of the chance to catch blues and browns, not to mention tigers, and we always have a warm welcome from Martin. As we prefer to hold this on a Sunday, Martin cannot provide lunch, and this year Peter and Di were unable to provide their own catering. Did this have an effect on the turnout?

As Peter says, this is our prime outing, when many trophies are up for grabs. This year we did clash with the South of England Autumn Show and some "regulars" were unavailable, but should we change the date, provide lunch, hold it on a Saturday, or just hope it will be better next year? **LET YOUR COMMITTEE KNOW !!!**



DON'T FORGET YOUR ENTRIES FOR THE "BIG FISH TROPHIES"



Where are all those entries for this year's trophies? Let Roy Gurney have yours now by e-mail roygurney@ntlworld.com or phone 01273 506184 or mail to 7 Eldred Avenue, Brighton, BN1 5EB.

The categories are:

Best fish from any Sussex water

Best fish from Sussex reservoir (including Bewl)

Best brown from any Sussex water

Best brown from Sussex reservoir or river.

The closing date of catching is 31st December 2013 – BUT get your entries in early so we can keep the table up-to-date.

Trophies will be presented at the End of Season Get Together in April.

RHG

Peter and Nobby are friends of a friend of mine. Peter is very well connected in salmon fishing circles, and regularly manages to book rods on some of the top Scottish beats. Last

year Peter managed to secure four rods for a week on the Spey at prime grilse time, and offered a rod to Nobby. Nobby jumped at the chance and suitable arrangements were made.

The party meet up at Peter's home early Sunday morning. They find that they'll be travelling up in Peter's new pride and joy, a spanking new Toyota Landcruiser, which Peter has taken delivery of the previous day. Settled back in the leather seats they begin the haul up north. Each bloke takes two hours at the wheel to share the driving around. Eventually Nobby's turn comes around.

Now Nobby is a plumber, and drives like one, screaming up the motorway like his hair's on fire. Like most van drivers, he also considers it an affront to his virility to leave the fast lane until the last possible minute. Still, the miles are passing rapidly. Disaster strikes when Nobby approaches some roadworks at warp speed and leaves it too late to dive back into the middle lane. He wipes the whole passenger side of the landcruiser along the side bars of a passing lorry.

Eventually, after much grief, they arrive in Speyside, and immediately hit the local curry house. Come the morning they jump into the mangled car and drive to their beat. The atmosphere is still a little frosty between Peter and Nobby, but becomes positively Arctic when Nobby slams a door on Peter's 15 foot, custom built Loomis. The rest of the party pull Peter away from Nobby and fishing commences.

Mid afternoon, and as Nobby watches his line lead his bunch of feathers across the river for the umpteenth time the line tightens etc. etc. A 6lb grilse – lovely! Immediately after landing the fish the effects of last night's curry and lager kick in, and Nobby gets a warning twinge from his guts. Realising he'll be very short of friends if immediate relief is not forthcoming Nobby drops his rod and heads for the bushes.

Meeting up back at the car, the grilse proves the only success of the day (and as it turns out the week). Rods are shipped and everyone jumps in. Halfway to the hotel Peter wrinkles his nose and asks who's dropped one. Denial all round. The smell worsens. On investigation it turns out that Nobby has managed to drop his dump on the back panel of his chesties, failed to notice for the rest of the day, and has now smeared it all over the new leather.....

Nobby doesn't get too many invites any more. Peter will be eligible for parole soon.



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Chairman's Chat

iFish

As the 30th November draws near, we are still short of a number of volunteers to help on the day, so contact Paul Bond or any Committee Member and ensure that the day is a success and that you will be able to observe the professionals on the various stands. You are reminded that the Fair includes fly tying, a casting clinic and fly tying and casting demonstrations as well as many other fish related stands.

Autumn Game Fair at Ardingly

We were blessed with good weather at the Game Fair, the only flies in the ointment were the quality of the food at the various kiosks, which was horrible and expensive, and the lack of Game related stands. My count was three stands (other than the FDG, Salmon and Trout Association and the Environment Agency) two for shooting and one for fishing tackle. It seems as if all the shows are degenerating into glorified collections of market stalls. Reports in the press suggest that the (national) Game Fair is going the same way. We (Fishway) used to attend conferences' and man stands for days on end but have now decided to opt out due to the cost and the lack of interest shown by the mainly biologists who treat these events as an annual meeting of their mates in the trade. This moan illustrates the need for a specialist fly fishing fair such as iFish above. I note that a number of fly fairs are now being held, mostly in the north of England presumably partially due to the lack of participants in "Game Fairs".

Tony W

Chairman

iFISH

iFISH 2013 – Volunteers wanted. Dear members as the Fly Fair looms next month we have now drawn up a table for roles for volunteers on 30th November as attached. We need 16 people to carry out various duties and if you volunteer for ½ a day you will get free entry to the show for the other half. Should you be intending to go to the show perhaps you would assist those members who have already said yes by allowing them time to see the show too. If you are willing please contact your secretary on tying nights or by email on paul.bond13@btinternet.com

Paul Bond



2013 / 14 Sussex Branch Fly Tying Competition

2013 / 14 Sussex Branch Fly Tying Competition will be based on patterns from Peter Gathercole's Fly Tying Bible, upon which our intermediate level is based and you are required to three flies to show consistency. The final date for entry will be 13th March 2014, on our normal tying night. The patterns to be submitted are:

Beginners – Woolly Bug*er (page 190)

Intermediate – Detached body mayfly (page 88)

Open – Prince Nymph (page 130)

Salmon – Silver Rat (page 226)

Saltwater – Clouser Minnow (page 215)

Our competition patterns will be demonstrated on the 14th November by your instructors for the top three patterns but should you wish to have a specific one to one for Salmon or Saltwater patterns then let your secretary know please.

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