



## Sussex Branch Newsletter



OCT/NOV 2012

### Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Roy for stepping in and producing the newsletter while I was offline. As I moved in August, it took my telephone and internet provider over a month to reconnect me.

### BRANCH TROPHY DAY Brick Farm – 30<sup>th</sup> September

Perhaps due to the unavoidable switch from Duncton there was a disappointing turnout for this event, with only 13 members arriving for breakfast which was served from 8 am.

The weather was dry with light winds early but strong winds blew up by lunch, though it did stay dry.

After drawing for pegs we started at 9 am. Fishing started very slowly, with the exception of peg 2, where Ray Burt caught his four fish in 29 minutes!

This proved to be the best bag at 6lb 11oz, narrowly beating Peter Buss's 6lb 10oz as runner-up. The trophy for best fish went to John Burt at 2lb 2oz and best brown trout to Keith Verrall at 1lb 5oz.

Lunch at 12 consisted of a superb curry cooked by Sophie, followed by a delicious apple crumble.

Back on the water after lunch fishing was very difficult, with no pattern emerging as to flies or depth at which the fish were feeding.

At the weigh-in we counted a total of 27 fish landed with three blanks, but everyone said it was a good day.

Tea and cakes were provided to round the day off. The hospitality shown bodes well for the pre-Christmas outing on December 2<sup>nd</sup> – book now with Peter Winder for your place – don't forget, guests are welcome to come whether they fish or just enjoy the lunch!

PW

### The Angler's Prayer

Lord, grant that I may catch a fish  
So large that even I,  
When telling of it afterwards,  
May have no need to lie



### AUCTIONS 2012

This year's auctions look like being both bigger than ever and very exciting. Just to re-iterate – BOTH auctions this year are on TUESDAY evenings.

**The fly-tying materials, tools, books etc is on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October and**

**Fishing tackle on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November.**

Both are at Patcham Community Centre and viewing is from 7 pm with the auctions prompt at 7.45 pm.

Both are open to everybody so if you have friends who fish or tie flies, encourage them to come along. There is no buyers' premium, so what you bid you pay (if you win, of course!)

Catalogues are available from Roy Gurney, and if not attached to this Newsletter, will be e-mailed within a few days. When you receive it, you will be delighted and amazed with the range and quality of the items for sale. In the first there is an extensive range of materials and tools and fishing and fly-tying books of the highest quality.

In the tackle auction we are blessed this year with a fantastic range of trout and salmon tackle, plus some sea tackle of the highest quality.

If you ever dreamed of owning a Hardy or Loomis rod or similar you will never have a better opportunity.

Tired of, or no time to tie flies – there are some great fly-box collections available – there really is something for everyone.

Remember our auctions are our biggest fund-raising event of the year as well as being your chance to pick up some real bargains, so bring your friends and colleagues along!

**Tony Harrison**

## SoE Autumn Show

At last! The weather was kind to us for the Autumn Show at Ardingly – on setting up on Friday, the Weather Clerk allowed us to get the roof up before turning on the tap so this was achieved without getting soaked to the skin. The rain cleared overnight and after a dull start, Saturday was actually sunny for a change, though still a bit chilly out of the sun, and it was very wet underfoot.



Visitors were not too plentiful, but we did have some very interested potential new members whom we hope to welcome to our meetings soon.

Sunday also proved quite pleasant, but again there seemed to be a lack of people coming to the game area – perhaps there are too many attractions elsewhere on the ground. At least this year we had a tackle dealer in “fisherman’s row” as well as our old friends the Environment Agency and the Salmon & Trout Association.



*John Plowman and Jim Harris demonstrate their skills*  
**Roy Gurney**

## Chairman’s Chat

### Information from fish counters.

As you may know, we are the agents for Riverwatcher fish counters in the UK, which is to say we provide the counters and design, manufacture and install the various equipment for the efficient and safe operation and maintenance of the counters.

As well as counting, measuring, photographing, producing silhouette and determining the fish species, one option which can be provided, is the installation of a video. This video can be interrogated remotely.

Over 300 of these counters are installed in rivers throughout the world and well as many more in fish farms.

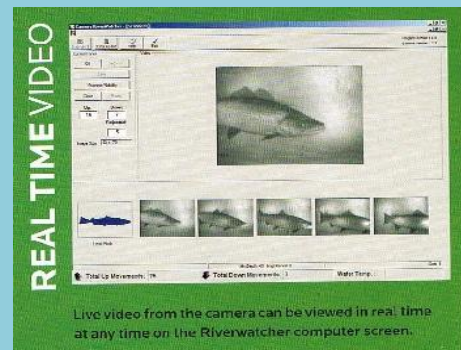
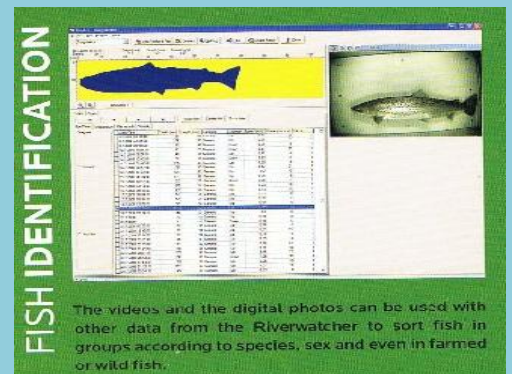
In fish farming the counters are used to identify when fish are ready for harvest and when feed rates are to be adjusted to ensure efficient conversion.

Yes I know it is sad, but I like it.

Anyway, seen on recent video, in Norway where beavers taking advantage of the fish pass as a route between streams. In Sweden a five foot long Atlantic salmon swimming up the fish pass and going through the counter. I have not studied the tables of size/weight but this fish must be 70 lb +.

What was upsetting on a site in Scotland, was a video of an otter killing, but not eating, all the salmon in the fish pass – so what do you think of furry animals now ?

So what is this to do with fishing ? Well in the near future you will be able to use your computer to interrogate a fish counter and determine how many fish have ascended a river and get a handle on the run to date.



Live video from the camera can be viewed in real time at any time on the Riverwatcher computer screen.



Here is a picture of Adam Stamford's pike of the season caught 2 weeks ago on a Clouser on Bewl. He was fishing with Julian Erbsloeh

## Charity Pair's Competition at Bewl Water

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October was the Charity Pair's comp at Bewl, we finished up with 26 entrants (14 from Sussex Branch and 12 from North Kent Branch) unfortunately we don't seem to arouse any interest from the other branches, which is a pity because everyone that take part says it is a good day and also supports a worthwhile charity each year.

The weather was kind to us again this year although there was a cool breeze most of the day but generally sunny.

There were plenty of fish caught in the 2lb to 3lb range that fought like demons although some of us found it more difficult than others, Bill Smith had only 1 fish all day and then latched on to 7 in half an hour.

Unfortunately we had to relinquish the cup back to North Kent with Bob Shaw and Ray French the only pair to bag up with 16 fish. The top pair for our guild was Chris Crouch and Ian Dunk followed by David Painter and yours truly thanks to David's 8 fish which included the biggest fish of the day at 3lb 3ozs.

The charity chosen by the winning pair is the British Heart Foundation and the money raised was £155 so thanks to all who took part, maybe we could tempt a few more members to take part next year

**Ray Love**

## Fishing for Heroes Event at Duncton Mill

On 30 September Nigel Duckworth, Brian Raw, Ken Pearce and Wayne Duerden took part in the Fishing for Heroes event at Duncton Mill. It was a great day which raised over £1800 for the charity. Details are on the Duncton Mill website at <http://www.dunctonmillfishery.co.uk/club.html>.

There were two competitions – the first for the heaviest bag with one fish taken from each of the four lakes and the second for the heaviest fish of the day.

In the event only two of the anglers, Wayne and fellow Duncton member Roger Golding, managed the first challenge and both weighed in with a 7lb bag and heaviest fish of 2lb - they were duly declared joint winners and as a result invited to fish the final of the UK Stillwater Trout Fishing Championship at Dever Springs on 18<sup>th</sup> November. Brian came a close second in the heaviest fish competition missing out by just two ounces with a blue trout of 4lb 2oz.

Wayne will be around looking for sponsors in the coming weeks so dig deep!

**Wayne Duerden**

## Tenkara fishing

New to the fly fishing scene in the UK and US a Japanese method of fly fishing currently being reviewed in the magazines using a simple ultralight telescopic rod with no reel or rings just a short length of line attached to the tip of rod. What I am about to describe are my own views based on owning a rod for the last three months. Not a method suitable for fishing Stillwater's or for landing fish over 1 1/2lbs. Best suited for rivers and streams where wading is possible. Also ideal for coarse fishing on Sussex Rivers for say Roach & Rudd. The largest fish I have landed so far is a 1 1/2 Grayling and would not want to land a larger fish as it makes for a real fight. The method of fishing was first used by the Japanese in the 1600's fishing small rivers.

I was first introduced to this method while on holiday in Derbyshire fishing the Derwent in August where the method is catching on, offering a new dimension to my fishing. Within an hour of trying the method I landed three trout quite easily and I was sold and had to own one.

The rods come in various lengths from 10' to 15' made of carbon fibre with a cork handle purely telescopic folding down to two foot that can comfortably carried and indeed little tackle needs to be carried just tippet material a few flies and a light landing net. They do have a rating related to rod flexing I believe based on number of stiff and supple sections.

Transporting the rod is easy leaving the leader and flies attached to the butt section with either two clips or a special spool that fits over the butt. Setting up the rod is very easy and some basic knots and you are fishing. All you need is a landing net, tippet and a few flies without all the swagger we all carry! Cost of basic rod and line is likely to cost around £120 depending on the rod you choose.

The tippet is connected to a short piece of braid fixed to the rod tip by manufacturer, called a lillian is either made from nylon or a 9' tapered furred leaders with 3 -4lb nylon at the tip not much longer than the rod as they aid presentation.

Casting is very simple and here is the advantage of using one there is no real drift. This method is surely going to catch on with coarse anglers who cannot grasp casting with a normal fly line. With a bit of practice you soon get the hang of it and no more do you need to swing arms backwards and forwards just something similar to a roll cast but with much less energy.

If anyone is interested in looking at my setup, will be pleased to bring it along any Thursday evening. Do bear in mind Tenkara fishing is not suitable for large fish, just rivers and streams and as I said before I think they will be good for coarse fly fishing.

Phillip Ellis

## MTSFC

### The Masonic Fishing Charity

As many of our members may be aware, for the past four years we have been running a branch of this charity in Sussex, covering both East and West of the county. The charity aim is to give a day out to disadvantaged children and adults through fishing activities. The day is funded by Freemasons but often the Casters and Helpers are non-masons. We provide breakfast butties, lunch and after event drink for all our Casters.

We've managed to run 4 events this summer with 11 schools bringing 65 pupils along and catching 104 trout

At Brick Farm in May we entertained pupils from Hazel court School, Eastbourne; Saxon Mount, St Leonards; and Grove Park School, Crowborough.

The S&T syndicate fishery at Cinder Hill in June hosted Chalkhill Education Centre, Haywards Heath; Manor Green College, Crawley and Newick House School, Burgess Hill.

Chalk Springs was the popular venue in July for Oak Grove College, Worthing; Fordwater School, Chichester and St Anthony's School Chichester.

The final event at Duncton Mill in September was the venue for Brinsbury Campus of Chichester College, Pulborough and our latest school, Muntham House from Horsham.

Unfortunately, it proved impossible to run our planned coarse fishing event at Passies Ponds, Lancing. The main cause of our failure was trying to get events in at the end of term just

prior to the holidays. We also need to build up our crew of Casters and Helpers for the coarse fishing events.

I've highlighted our venues, schools and home towns to reinforce that we cover the whole of East and West Sussex. We now have over 40 Casters on our list in Sussex. We welcome more because as soon as dates are arranged, inevitably, individuals can't attend. Very fortunately we do benefit from close association with many members of the Fly Dressers Guild and also a number of qualified angling coaches. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for new schools or venues.

At the end of each season we hold a 'Fish-Off' which is open to all Casters and Helpers. The event this year is to be held at Chigboro Lakes, Malden, Essex on Saturday 20th October(probably too late for this newsletter). The cost usually includes a fishing ticket, breakfast and lunch or tea. A group of our Casters are intending to travel hoping to bring back some trophies!

We're already planning next year's events at the same venues. Please contact me if you would like to join the fun. We're out to 'Catch the Smiles'

My apologies for not including photos.

Brian Raw



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*Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild*

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