



Sussex Branch Newsletter



JUNE / JULY 2002

SOUTH OF ENGLAND SHOW

Once again we were the guests of the Salmon & Trout Association, sharing their stand at Ardingly. Also, once again, the weather decided to do its best to ruin all the hard work put in to prepare the stands, the rain on the first day producing mud reminiscent of the Somme! Nevertheless spirits remained high, and the visit of the Queen on Friday boosted morale and the number of visitors (somewhat delayed until after the England match being shown in the main arena!

Saturday saw a marked improvement in the weather, with correspondingly more visitors and interest being shown in both the SATA and our demonstrations. In fact, I reckon we had twice as many on Saturday as the other two days put together, with the result that fly sales boomed!

Thanks are due to those who manned the stand, especially in the conditions prevailing – Jim Harris (two days), Brian Hendry, John Plowman, and Tim Albright and Alan Middleton whose salmon flies tied in difficult conditions were admired by all.

There were rather disappointingly few new member enquires, perhaps understandably, but we hope to see 3 or 4 new faces in October.

Thanks are due to Bob Hales and his crew from the SATA who work so hard to make a good display and also provide our Branch with a shop window.

Log on to the FDG web-site– www.the-fdg.org – to see us in action (I wish I could take the credit for the *Durham Ranger* in the vice but I just sat in for Alan!!

STILLWATER CHALLENGE & BBQ CHALK SPRINGS 24th JULY

Be there!! Organiser is Lee Redman — 01273 416672

HOW TO “WINDER” UP THE LOCALS!!

My wife and I wanted a few days break before the summer season so we took ourselves off to Dorset or ‘Daarwset’ as the locals call it. We relaxed for a few days, wandering around doing nothing much. But on the fourth day we felt like exploring so decided on Weymouth and its harbour followed by Portland and the famous Portland race - an awesome sight. There were big waves appearing out of a calm sea. On the way back to the cottage the route took us past Chesil Beach, an ideal dog walking spot. Also we thought there might be somebody fishing. There were in fact dozens of locals fishing all armed with the same weapons – a 13ft beach caster, a huge fixed reel, a set of silver lures and a six ounce weight. These lures were hurled out to sea and retrieved at breakneck speed.

I watched for ten minutes, not one fish was caught but it was water and I had a rod in the camper. Now I had a dilemma – the two rods I had with me were a 5 weight 9ft fly rod and a 10ft lightweight telescopic that would cast 1oz matched to a small fixed spool loaded with 8lb line. I chose the telescopic and having no feather, took a box of flies with me. As I got to the beach a group of four anglers were just leaving.

“Any luck?” I asked.

“Yes – all bad” replied one “three mackerel all day between us!” he looked at me in a rather strange way.

“Are you going to fish with that here?” he asked, looking at my poor little outfit.

(Continued on page 2)

Gamefair Trip – 27th July 2002

Still some places left – contact Paul Bond – 01273 420410- to reserve your place!

Match v. Ouse Valley F F

Please note this match has been postponed, probably until October. The new date will be advised as soon as possible.

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“That’s right. I had thought I might catch some mackerel for tea.”

“I think you gonna starve then” said the local, causing much amusement amongst his friends. They decided that I was worth watching for a while, so sat on the beach about 10 yards away. Comments about townies and complete beginners were directed towards me. I set up the rod, put the line through the rings and attached a 1oz lead to the end. The locals were silent and looking almost sympathetic. I cut the line and as I tied a dropper heard small giggles from behind. Then I took a size 10 cats whisker out of my fly box and tied it on, to the backdrop of locals in hysterics, rolling on the beach ringing friends on mobiles telling them to come down for some fun. I cast about 60 yards as far as some locals with their cranes. I let the fly go down, then three quick turns of the handle and bang! a mackerel hit me like a train. The rod curved right over, the fish raced left and right. The locals sat in amazed silence, the fish was landed and dispatched with a priest which they had never seen before! Six casts later, a second mackerel joined his brother.

I packed the gear away and walked up the beach past the locals looking superior. “I don’t think I’ll be starving tonight lads.” Maybe it’s the Dorset air but they were the tastiest mackerel we’ve ever eaten!

Peter Winder

MATCH v ROTHER at DUNCTON

We retained the trophy with a 69 – 61 lb catch on 9th June in pretty dour conditions – a full report from Lee will be in the next edition.

HARDY’S 2002

Our team narrowly missed progression to the finals, coming a very creditable 6th (five qualified) with 27 fish for 50 lb. Fishing was very hard, mainly due to the appalling weather, so special praise to Alex Rainbow who had best bag of 7 fish. Also many thanks to Peter Buss for a last minute call as substitute (having only returned from Devon chasing wild brownies the day before!) Congratulations all!

CAPTION COMPETITION

What has become of the sense of humour in the branch? A disappointing response, but my vote goes to Ian May for:-

“This lead underbody is real drag”

Runner-up was Jim White with a popular theme involving Chris Croucher and his penchant for overweight tiddlers:-

“Hey, Lee, just right for Sutton Springs”

When we next meet I will hand over a bottle of cheer to each.

BEWL PAIRS COMPETITION

Due to pressure at work (and perhaps from ’er indoors!) Tim has not been able to submit his full report – now absolutely promised for the next issue.

ARLINGTON EVENING

Some 25 or so came to the Branch outing and enjoyed beer and sandwiches after a mixed evening’s fishing. I was leased to have my first outing since early March, and thought I could pace myself over a 4-fish ticket – not so! Having taken two fish in six casts, I decided to try for one more and then wander around. Next cast – bang! Not content with one on the point, another on the dropper at the same time! John Plowman also reckoned on a hard evening and bagged up in twenty minutes too, yet many others found fish very elusive. It seems the main time was early on, as Tim Albright had four quickly, decided to take a breather for an hour, and the failed to get another touch!



*Sussex FDG at Arlington
2002*



BARCOMBE EVENING

A very strong wind and a dismal (and not very accurate!) weather forecast frightened off many – only seven hardy souls fished, all taking fish except yours truly, who managed to miss every offer he had! There was virtually no action till after 8 pm, and even then 90% of the rises came to artificial dries – CDC emergers, Shipman’s buzzers, etc. Still, good sport while it lasted, and very fit, hard fighting fish – so I am told!!



Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers’ Guild

Editor: Roy Gurney, 7 Eldred Avenue, Brighton BN1 5EB

Chairman: Roy Gurney 01273 506184

Secretary: Paul Bond 01273 420410

Treasurer: Philip Ellis 01903 504317