

The Flydressers' Guild



Sussex Branch newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2004

SEPTEMBER 30TH – FIRST NIGHT OF THE SEASON !

Once again we are starting our tying season early to allow for breaks at Christmas and to fit in the auction and AGM. It also means we will be running until 14th April 2005, such is the fine programme Paul has arranged for you.

One matter you might like to consider, and give your views to committee members – the Annual Dinner has suffered a drop in numbers attending over the last couple of years. We are sure it is not because of the venue – good food, good setting, central to the county and good value. With Easter Saturday falling on 27th March next year, would you prefer it to be held before or after? It is your event, and an opportunity to treat your other halves to a good meal and a lively evening, so let us know what will get YOU there!!

SUBSCRIPTIONS

These were due on 1st September, so please make sure that Roy has yours paid up urgently, if you haven't already done so.

There is a cut-off date of 1st November – those not paid by then will be deleted from the mailing list for the *Flydresser* and our own newsletter, and of course you will not be eligible to vote at the AGM – so please, please cough up early!!!

ASHBOURNE 2004



Doug Chalmers, Neil Batchelor and Roy Gurney in the lodge



Ian Foster



Dave Coomber & Jack Jupp

Stop press:

MATCH v. ROTHER BRANCH

John Cooper reports: Sussex retained the cup by taking 37 lb 7 oz fish against Rother's 27 lb. Due to the very hot sun and little wind, three members from each team blanked as fishing was difficult, and our hosts, Duncton Mill, allowed us to fish the new lake, due to the conditions. At present the new lake is rather bland, but it will develop into a very nice water as time goes by.

CHARITY PAIRS – BEWL

John Cooper is still looking for more entries from members for this competition to be held at Bewl Water on **Sunday 10th October**. Names and cheques to John, please, by 1st October so that he can get the passes and boats organised in advance. If you don't have a partner, let him know, and he will pair you up with someone. John's number is **01903 813376** so give him a call NOW!



From Phillip Ellis

The Holy Grail and the Damsel!

Recently Duncton Mill Fishery held an Open Day together with a couple of tackle shops, Orvis and Lagoon Bait and Tackle. Yours truly represented the Guild and the Salmon & Trout Association, West Sussex Branch.

I spent most of the day tying flies starting with a damsel pattern that was given to me a couple of years ago by Duncton member Dave Kirkland. This he has called the "Duncton Damsel" and since using it myself for the last two seasons have caught several fish with it. I keep using it until the fish have destroyed it, even with the tail missing! Several anglers during the day took one from me to try and caught fish creating a slow demand during the day for more.

Duncton Damsel

Hook: size 10 or 12 heavy nymph
Thread: olive or green
Underbody: four turns of medium lead wire tied behind the eye
Rib: silver or gold fine wire
Tail: green marabou
Body: wrap remainder of marabou up to lead wire or dub on same colour dubbing of your choice.
Thorax cover over lead 1-2 turns fluorescent yellow chenille.

Later that day Trevor Gould from Orvis mentioned the "Holy Grail", a commercial pattern sold by Orvis that he and his friends have used with great success this year. Asking what on earth it is, thinking "is this ultimate pattern and no more do we have to tie all the patterns to entice fish?"! Eventually Richard Sampey went to his car and gave me one from his fly box. I can only describe it as a nymph/emergent pattern, useful as a Stillwater pattern. Now I was busy tying this pattern that again is fairly simple. Everyone on the Orvis stand wanted to give it a try and yes it caught fish before the varnish had hardened! Our Albert who was give casting lessons saw it and asked me for one to copy, no doubt! Needless to say I did not have enough opportunity to have a fish myself that day.

Holy Grail

Hook: size 10 or 12 grub/shrimp hook
Thread: colour to match tinsel
Rib: fine holographic tinsel green, pearl, red or gold
Body: hares dubbing
Wing case: cock pheasant tied down over gold head and hackle
Hackle: grey partridge

To tie, put on gold head and secure enough to stop it slipping, leaving a gap behind the eye to leave enough space for the hackle. Tie in wing case and ribbing.

Dub hares ear up to gold head to form a slim graduated body and then wrap tinsel in 3 or four even turns. I found that by finishing a little too far forward you could push the gold head back onto the body to make it secure.

Tie in hackle by tip and wind a couple of turns
Pull wing case over thorax, splitting hackle and tie down
Finish head with varnish.

Any of you wanting to see these patterns in the flesh, ask me on a Thursday evening and I will show you.



JOHN WATT 2004

In an unusual scenario of defending the trophy, Sussex entered their customary two teams, very ably organised by Joseph Holmes. The “A” team consisted of Neil Batchelor, Andy Gibb, Alan Middleton and In Dunk, and the “B” squad Alex Rainbow, Chris Croucher, Chris Nunn and Joseph himself.

New accommodation was arranged this year at the “Racehorse”, and this was by all accounts a great improvement over the previous quarters at the “Cross Keys”. The team took part in the local quiz night, and came a creditable 3rd – must be the practice with Alan Middleton’s quiz nights!

Due to heavy traffic, the journey up took some 5 hours, so late arrival meant that it was not possible to have a practice run on the Friday. The Saturday provided fine weather – light wind, cloud with sunny spells – and plenty of fish were caught, with London Branch coming out on top. Our “A” team took 14 fish and “B” team 28, ensuring sixth place. Best bag went to Alex Rainbow with 9 fish, and best fish was by Ian Dunk with 3 lb 3 oz, missing by only 4 oz for the best of the day. Neil Batchelor also had a 3 lb fish.

Ian took his on a floating black booby – big and black seemed to be the order of the day, though Chris Croucher had 4 fish on a Humungous, and lost another 3 at the net, plus a 2-2½ lb perch (see photo). His boat partner took 8 fish (all rainbows!), incidentally.

There will be a full report in the “Flydresser” in due course.



Chris’s fine perch

COMPETITION TYING NIGHT

In the tying programme for the coming season, you will notice an evening given over to tying competition flies. This is to enable you to tie the set flies (after demonstration) and receive advice on what is required. Class instructors will then take a pair of flies tied for entry, but it is stressed that additional entries may be submitted to replace those at a later date if you want to. Of course, anyone not present on that night can enter their efforts in the usual way, by giving them to Paul Bond, Alan Middleton or any committee member before the closing date.

We hope this new procedure will encourage more entries, added to which additional prizes are to be awarded this year as an incentive.

Full details of patterns and dates will be published later.

Team Captain Joseph in action

Chairman'S Chat Lines

Now that we have caught all of the trout, lost all of our flies, it must be the fly tying season again. As you will see in this newsletter the classes restart on 30th September. We are hoping for a new influx of beginners to tax Ian and Peter this coming season.

As most of the beginners will not have any fly tying tools it would be a great help if as many members as possible could attend the inaugural evening bring their vices, scissors etc so that the beginners can get started straight away. Once they have tied their first fly their enthusiasm should take over.

Last year's beginners will join Brian Hendry in the intermediate group and those from Brian will join the advanced course. As well as the formal classes there is always room for members just to come and tie a couple of flies and show what the irresistible pattern was last year. We have plenty of space at the community centre for everyone to have a go. All we ask is that the noise level is kept to an acceptable level so that the formal instructors can be heard.

In the coming months we can look forward to a varied programme of speakers, auction and many evenings of tying. Paul Bond has prepared a full programme of high profile speakers to entertain us. It is now up to you to make the most of the facilities on offer; if you do not attend then it has been all to no avail. In November we shall have our AGM when we shall be looking for new blood on the committee. All of the committee spend a great deal of time arranging outings, running raffles and organising events for you. Your support is more than welcome it is essential.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 30th.

Alan Middleton

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

The Branch acquired several trestles and some floodlights during its stay at Withdean. With the superior lighting and tables at our new headquarters, these are now surplus to requirements, and if any members are interested in purchasing some of these items, please contact Roy Gurney or Paul Bond for details.

Neil Batchelor at Sutton Springs



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AUCTION 2004 **11th NOVEMBER 2004**

To remind you of this event of the season – enclosed are entry forms for those items you want to dispose of. Please complete and return to Roy Gurney AS SOON AS POSSIBLE so that the catalogue can be prepared in good time.