



## Sussex Branch Newsletter



DECEMBER 2005

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A final reminder that the AGM will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> December, followed by a quiz organized by our outgoing Chairman, Alan Middleton. The AGM is your opportunity to influence the way the Branch is managed – so let us have your ideas and propositions for committee members. The agenda and minutes of last year's AGM are sent with this newsletter, so we look forward to seeing you then!

This is a good opportunity for your editor to apologise (what again?) for the conflicting dates given for the AGM. Originally it was scheduled for the 8<sup>th</sup> December and appeared in the first programmes as such. Due to subsequent change in the speaker programme it was put back to the 15<sup>th</sup>, but not fully publicised, although later editions of the programmes were updated. Sorry, folks!!

### AUCTION 2005

What an evening! With some 54 bidding cards issued, plus some spectators (or was it minders – to keep a check on the purse!) there was a great atmosphere, and the fantastic effort put in by our auctioneer, Mike Humphreys, resulted in a record take of £3105 from some 350 lots. Mike had to work hard to extract the cash from those tight wallets (he always claims Sussex have the tightest purse-strings in England), but whilst there were some great bargains to be had, the quality items reached sensible figures too. The Branch benefited by some £484.45 from commissions, boosted by generous donations of lots from some members, notably Len Richardson, John Burt, Jack Jupp and Albert Horne, as well as John McBride who gave an additional 5% commission on his items.

The number of lots resulted in a very late finish, and it is to be hoped that the final chaos did not result in many "lost" items - let Roy Gurney know if you are missing anything (unsold items or uncollected purchases) and he will try to trace them. Actually, there were very few unsold lots, thanks to Mike's persuasiveness!

Many thanks to the "backroom boys" – the clerks and the porters, who did splendid work keeping things going and making the cashier's job so much easier.

There may be a few "strays" – if you have any queries contact Roy Gurney who will try to sort it out.

### CHAIRMAN'S CHAT LINES - Finale

This will be my last chat line to you. This month we shall elect a new chairman – and so we should. Whilst it may be an advantage to have experience at the helm it is more important that the branch moves forward under new guidance and new eyesight.

The branch is one of the largest in the UK. This has come about simply by the hard work of the membership of the branch. The committee, on your behalf, have worked tirelessly to bring new speakers to be with you, to arrange social events, to coordinate inter-branch fishing events and to ensure that your subscriptions are wisely invested.

The Sussex branch is something we can all be proud of. It is a well oiled, well run machine. But like everything else it relies on 90% perspiration and 10% inspiration. The committee relies upon your support; indeed if it does not have your support it should not be there.

In a week or so we shall hold our AGM. This is the ideal opportunity for YOU to become involved in the activities of the branch. Involvement is so much more rewarding than just participating. For every hour you put into the running of the branch you will reap endless hours of satisfaction and pleasure. Do not think you are too busy to become involved. All of the committee are over employed every day just paying the mortgage and yet find some time to help to run the branch. You will never be required to spend endless hours scheming up new strategies, business plans and such like. We need people who can continue the progression and maintenance of the activities of the branch. We have a good blue print; it has worked well in the past and, with a little updating it will serve well in the future.

It only laves me to thank you for your support over the past years and I hope your trust in me was not squandered. I have enjoyed my occupation of the chair and I wish my successor every success in the future.

Thank you and Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to you all.

*Alan Middleton*





### Skuli Kristinnson

We were privileged to witness a masterful display of fly tying by Skuli, who demonstrated how to tie hairwings on small trebles without lacerating one's fingers on those hook points! It taught us some new wrinkles on how to tie a slim body despite the potential bulk of the hair, and the effectiveness of his demonstration was amply shown by the success of our own Steve Chow tying the demonstrated fly with the added pressure of being filmed doing it. Many thanks to Skuli for sharing his skills with us, and to Steve Cooper for bringing along his "shop" and ferrying Skuli on his journeys.



**The Guildler by John Plowman**

### **LAST CHANCE!**

If you have not yet paid your subscription for this year (due on 1<sup>st</sup> September!) this will be the last Newsletter you will receive. Also you will not be eligible to vote at the AGM (but you can pay on the night!) nor take part in the Rod Raffle. Come on, you know it's worth it!!

## John Watt Competition 2005

Further to the recent report in the "Flydresser" on the above, we now have confirmation that the Sussex team was placed 8<sup>th</sup> out of 16, with 21 fish. This is a good result, bearing in mind the difficult conditions, and we now look forward to entering two teams next year and perhaps regaining that trophy!

## MERRY CHRISTMAS



## AND TIGHT LINES!!

### .....and a final plea.....

Sorry to harp back to the AGM, but volunteers are desperately required to supplement the hard-working members of the Committee, and those regular helpers who keep the machine well oiled. New blood will bring new ideas for enhancing the Branch, so let yourself "be volunteered" to join the Committee, or just help on specific tasks if committees are not your scene. (I might add that our committee meetings are certainly not tedious, and taking place about once every six to eight weeks in an establishment selling the cheapest beer in Brighton!).

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