



## Sussex Branch Newsletter



**MARCH 2008**

### **ANNUAL DINNER**

**5<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

Book your tickets now! Don't be disappointed this year. It's at **The Dyke Golf Club, Seddlescombe Road, Devil's Dyke, Brighton**, 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Dress is lounge suit or smart casual, and tickets are **£23.00** each.

If you've mislaid your form – ring John Burt on 01273 695164 or get one from Roy Gurney.

### **FLY-TYING COMPETITION 2008**

Don't forget to get your entries in!  
The Intermediate class is open to all who have not won a prize at Intermediate or Open, and anyone can enter for any class above his qualifying level. Closing date for entries is **20<sup>th</sup> March 2008**.

### **More Trout Up the Pipe!**

Tony Woolnough has sent in this comment, which restores faith in the photographer!!

“Whilst working on the River Main at Randlestown, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland; we were called upon to design a fish pass with counting facility. One problem was that there was a smolt bypass to the weir which was outfalling via a pipe downstream of the weir. This pipe (about 400 mm dia) was about 700 mm above downstream water level. The site is unusual in that the design fish is a dollaghan trout (a brown trout variant which migrates to Lough Neagh). Although dollaghan are not fast swimmers compared with other salmonids, they were able to jump (over 500 mm) repeatedly at the flow from this pipe outfall. This could be witnessed during migration periods and is no doubt still occurring; since the smolt bypass fish pass was never built. Adult dollaghan are not able to enter the smolt bypass culvert from upstream and be washed out of the culvert.

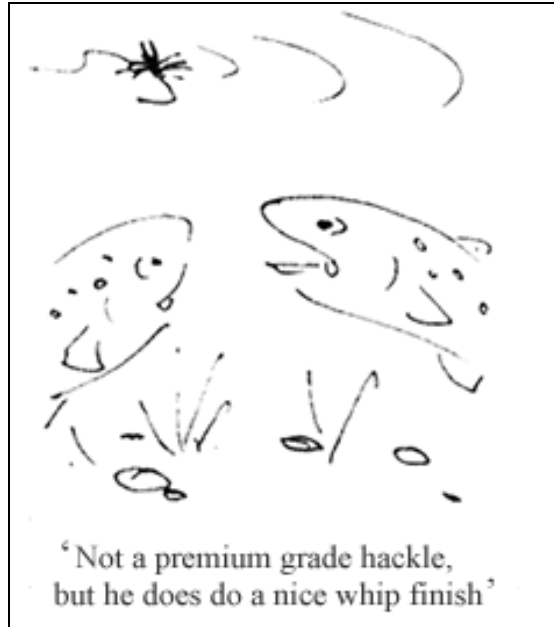
It follows that farmed trout may well choose to jump to a pipe outfalling into rearing ponds.”

### **Richard Osmond**

**13<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

Our March speaker makes a welcome return to enlighten us on the fabulous world of invertebrates and other life in the waters we fish – a whole new view of “pond life”! His stand at the shows is always popular and the magnified view of the underwater world he projects is something to be wondered at.

See also the article on the April Silver (page 3).



### **Bob Barden**

Our February speaker, ranger at Bewl Water, gave us a comprehensive guide to fishing Bewl, which was illustrated with some great photographs, and made wholly fascinating by his in depth knowledge of the water (no pun intended!). He followed this with a detailed look at his fly-box, and how to fish them. Famous for his “anorexic” nymphs, the methods he demonstrated opened a lot of eyes to new techniques. The question and answer session was very informative and it was good to see and hear so many joining in on the discussion.

He rounded off by inviting anyone to ask for him for guidance, especially on our “club” days there, when he will make every effort to assist.

### **BEWL WATER**

Bob brought along with him some flyers showing the updated permit charges for 2008. Unfortunately we forgot to distribute them on the night! If you would like a copy, Roy Gurney has them and will bring them along on Thursday evenings.

### **WANTED – TROPHIES!**

Would all of you holding Branch trophies from 2006 please return them urgently to Roy Gurney as we need to engrave them ready for presentation at the Annual Dinner or the final evening get-together. We need a couple of weeks for the engraving and this year Easter intervenes – so **please** let us have them in good time.

## LONDON BRANCH AUCTIONS

Mike Humphreys, who you all know from his great efforts at our own auction, has advised that the London Branch are holding auctions as follows:

**Miscellanea, Clothing, Nets, Bags, Rods, Reels and Lines on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

and  
**Flies, Fly-boxes, Fly Dressing Materials, Books, etc on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2008.**

Both sales will start at 12 noon sharp (viewing from 10 am) at **All Saints Church Hall, Croxley Green, Herts.** (5 minutes from Junction 18 M25).

Roy Gurney has a catalogue for perusal, or you can send s.a.e. to M W Humphreys, The Weather House, Croxley Hall Woods, Herts. WD3 3BE, price £1.

### CHAIRMAN'S CHAT LINES

#### Wind lanes

***Now that the new season will be on us shortly and the weather may be inclement, perhaps now is the time to think about wind lanes.***

***Try this! Take an A4 sheet of paper and hold it by the two corners of a short side. Bring this up to your lower lip with each hand just below your ears. The paper should fall in a gentle curve down towards your chest. If it doesn't, then twist your hands until it does. Now blow hard across the top of the sheet. Rather than bend down, the paper lifts. Increasing the speed of the air decreases its pressure and the paper moves up towards the lower pressure.***

***Imagine you are on a large expanse of water on a windy day. The moving air reduces the pressure over the water and the water starts to move up. It does not do this uniformly but in narrow strips called wind lanes. In these lanes the water from the depths of the lake or reservoir is moving upwards bringing insect food from the bottom. The trout will feed in these wind lanes. You can recognise the wind lanes by strips of white water stretching in the direction of the wind. If you can cast to them wind lanes are always worth a try.***

***Simply use a nondescript insect fly such as a Hare's Ear or Pheasant Tail with a little bit of weight and cast across the lane and let the fly swing downwind. Be prepared for a violent take because the trout will be moving quickly in the turbulent water. The trout will normally move up the lane against the wind. If you can position yourself with your back to the wind then cast a floating line with a suitable nymph out into the water and let the wind gradually take line from your reel. No need to retrieve, just wait for the pull as the fly swings and wobbles in the water.***

***Tight lines***

***John Plowman.***

## IMPORTANT NOTICE - LIABILITY INSURANCE

As you know, as a member of the Flydressers' Guild through your subscription you are covered for personal third party liability for up to £5 million. The Branch also has similar cover for up to £2 million for events organized by the Branch (including the normal tying nights for instance).

Following changes in the way companies manage liability claims our insurers require us to advise them immediately following incidents in which they may have an interest, particularly incidents involving personal injury.

In order to comply with these changes any member who is involved in an incident whilst angling, taking part in any Branch activity or on any fishery, must immediately report the circumstances to the Secretary.

## WEIL'S DISEASE

Whilst we are in a serious mood, and the fishing season is getting well under way, it might be wise to remind ourselves of the above. Weil's Disease (Leptospirosis) is a bacterial infection carried in rats' urine, which contaminates water and the banks of lakes, rivers and ponds.

The early symptoms are similar to those of 'flu and normally start 3 to 19 days after exposure to contaminated water. Every year people die from this disease, which is unnecessary because it is easily treated if diagnosed in time.

**DON'T LET IT HAPPEN TO YOU!**

There are a number of sensible precautions you can take:

- Cover any cuts, sores or scratches with waterproof plasters or gloves
- Disinfect any wounds that occur at the waterside
- Do not put your hand in your mouth after immersing in river water and never place bait or fishing line in your mouth
- Do not touch dead animals, especially rats
- If you develop 'flu-like symptoms that persist, tell your doctor that you may have been exposed to leptospirosis so the he/she can consider it in the diagnosis
- Do not leave food, ground bait or bait on the bankside.

***After all that – enjoy yourself, keep safe and tight lines!!!***



***Super Silex Multiplier reel, c. 1930***

*The following article was published in a previous newsletter, but the timing seems right to repeat it:*

## **The April Silver**

### **(The Grey Boy)**

*by Alan Chamberlain*

In April of the 2002 season, whilst fishing at my local Society lake, I was chatting with a fellow angler who had earlier caught, killed and spooned a rainbow trout. He had deposited the result of the spooning on a nearby fence post. What caught my eye when I examined the debris of insect parts was two small nymphs, still alive and struggling in the intestinal ooze.

Unlike most nymphs that I had seen with body colours in various hues of brown or green, these had silver-grey bodies with prominent orange wing buds and, unlike the Ephemeroptera family, were arched downwards.

I took one home, still alive, and made an actual size drawing, noting the colour and shape. I also made two flies copying the natural as nearly as possible. These were deposited in a flybox where, despite subsequent visits to the lake, they resided until one early Spring morning in April 2004 when I revisited the lake, full of excited anticipation. Two desperate hours later, after trying every likely fly in my box, I began to wonder whether the delights of knitting or perhaps Morris dancing might provide a more satisfying way of passing time. A further plunge into my flybox revealed, buried under a mess of fur and feathery things, the still virginal 2002 nymphs. I tied one on as a dropper, leaving a pheasant tail on the point. I cast, and the take was immediate - a brownie of about a pound had taken the 2002 nymph. Over the next hour or so I landed and released 2 further browns and 3 rainbows all on the same fly and this despite a number of changes to the point fly. My next trip produced much the same result although I lost both flies - one to a trout and one to a tree. Thankfully my drawings and notes were still intact and I was therefore able to replenish my stock.

This should be the end of the saga, but it isn't - sorry !! I was working on our stand at this year's South of England Show with Peter Buss and Roy Gurney (well, somebody has to) and was boring them with the foregoing yarn. I showed them my nymph, whereupon Roy took it to a neighbouring Entomology Stand run by Dr. Richard Osmond. Much entomological investigation as to the species ensued over the remaining Show days and was continued afterward between Richard and Roy over the e-mail. Finally the veil was lifted. My little nymph turned out to be the pupa of the Grey Boy midge, part of the Chironomus Plumosus group of aquatic flies which hatch, often prolifically, during the day in April and early May. Furthermore, Richard found reference to it, with fine photographs of the larva, pupa and adult fly in John Goddard's Waterside Guide, a copy of which I now own and recommend to every flytyer.

In thinking about a name, it seemed appropriate in all the circumstances to dub my nymph The April Silver. Try it early next season, fishing it almost

stationary. I'd be really interested to hear how you fare.



The tying is simple and the materials are as follows:-

1. Hook: Mustad Shrimp/Caddis Size 12
2. Thread : Black or red
3. Tail: 2/3 Pheasant tail fibres tied short 3-4mm
4. Body: Silver grey floss
5. Ribbing: Black or red tying thread
6. Wing-case: Orange goose biots
7. Thorax: Peacock herl

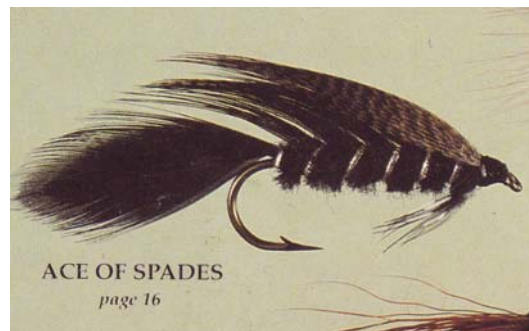
*Editor's note: The short tails are hidden behind the blue clip in the photograph.*

## **MATCH v. SALMON & TROUT Chalk Springs**

Please make sure you have your membership number with you for this event. You will be eligible for discount on the price quoted – refunds on the day if you have already paid the full price.

## **GAME FAIR 2008**

Still a few seats left - book your place now with Paul Bond - £36.00 for adults and £13.50 for under 16's. Depart from Withdean at 06.00, leaving Blenheim at 16.30 (back at Withdean about 19.15). Intermediate pick-up(s) may be arranged.



## **Wessex Branch Speaker**

Wessex Branch have advised that **Charles Jardine** will be their guest speaker on 11th March at their venue, the Atherley Bowling Club, Southampton, 7pm for a prompt 7.30 start. For details contact Roy Gurney if you are interested.

## “Brass Monkey” Outing

Report from John Foster

We all met up around eight and were disappointed to see that Chalybeate had frozen over. The bailiff had gone out to break the ice but did not have any luck.



We waited until nine and then Richard Foster had an idea. He tied a climbing rope to the boat and dragged the bailiff out onto the water (*I trust in the boat!* – Ed.), and pulled him around.



We all agreed that at ten we would pack up. At ten we left and we went to see if Boring Wheel was fishable and it was. We all had a great and most enjoyable day and most of us left with our limit of fish. We plan to try Chalybeate again in the near future. The trophies for best fish and bag will be awarded then.

## Wild Trout Trust Auction

The Wild Trout Trust are running an internet and postal auction for some mouth-watering items starting towards the end of March. Details from: <http://www.wildtrout.org/images/PDFs/webauctioncat08.pdf> or get someone to download it for you!

## BRANCH TROPHY DAY

Just noticed that the entry form for this event does not show the venue. It is, of course, as mentioned in previous articles, **Lakedown Trout Fishery**, Swife Lane, Burwash Common, East Sussex - (TN21 8UX for those of you relying on SatNav!) – **Sunday 21st September**.

Don't forget, this is the main Branch event with trophies to be won for many categories. A splendid buffet lunch is included in the entry.

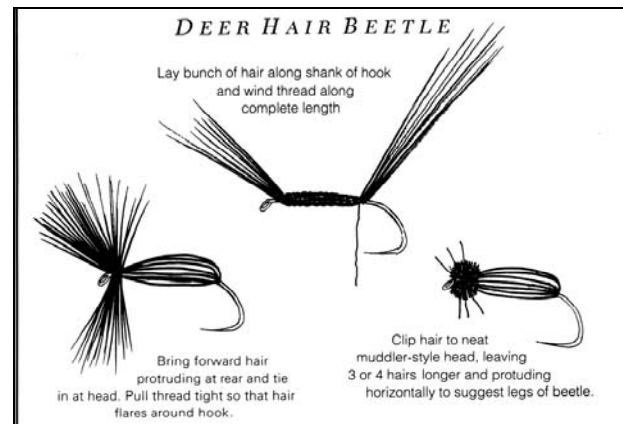
## OUTINGS – WHAT DO YOU WANT?

As you know Paul Davis has arranged a wonderful range of outings this year, most of which are fairly localised. It has been suggested that a two or three day trip to Chew and Blagdon, or Rutland, Graffham, Eyebrook, Ravenswood etc might be of interest. If enough people are interested (three or four would seem to be an ideal minimum) perhaps something can be arranged – probably for next year (though it's still not too late for 2008) – let Paul know if you think it is a good idea either on a Thursday night, e-mail [p.davis@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:p.davis@nhm.ac.uk) or phone 01306 621157.

## “Better River Fisheries”

29<sup>th</sup> March 2008

The Environment Agency is holding a Sussex Fishery Management Workshop at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Arundel on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March. This should be a very informative meeting, especially for those members involved with small fisheries, river or lake. Roy Gurney has details of programme and application forms.



*Try this simple deer hair beetle pattern - start with a size 10 hook and reduce the size of hook as you get more proficient*

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