



# Sussex Branch Newsletter



**NOVEMBER 2008**

## **AUCTION 2008**

Having been necessary this year to hold our annual auction in two parts, the first, covering flies and fly boxes, materials, tools and books was held on the original date of 23<sup>rd</sup> October and proved to be a wow! Over fifty bidders attended (and we even had some postal bids!) and parted with some £1827, resulting in a healthy contribution to Branch.

Grateful thanks to auctioneer Mike Humphreys, and to the team of helpers who made it such a success.

## **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008 Auction of tackle**

With this newsletter is the catalogue for the second half of the auction, covering miscellaneous tackle, clothing, rods, reels and lines. Mike Humphreys will again officiate so you are guaranteed a great evening with some great bargains to be had.

Bring along friends as well as your wallets!!

## **Johan Klingberg**

On 30<sup>th</sup> October we had a very welcome return of Johan Klingberg, the renowned Swedish fly-tyer and fisherman, on his way to the British International Fly Fair. Once again his presentation was superb, giving a great insight in to Rainbow fishing.

This was followed by a demonstration of tying CDC flies – how easy he made it seem! Johan's skill and speed in tying is of the very highest calibre.

One of the flies he demonstrated was a foam beetle, and he demonstrated its deadly character the during the afternoon preceding his talk when the editor took him to Ashbourne. Two beautiful browns (duly returned) and then a 6lb 6 oz rainbow – the best of the season so far at Ashbourne. Mind you, his 45 yard casting might also have helped – he was able to cover water no-one else could reach!

## **BRICK FARM**

Eric Hunter reports that this venue is now under new ownership (as of the first week of October). The new owner is young family man and is keen to upgrade the fishery. For the time being anyway, the stocking policy will remain unchanged, with the emphasis on encouraging youngsters to take up the sport.

He is very keen to have anglers' views on how to better things, so why not go along and try it out!

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

With this Newsletter comes the official Notice of the AGM and the minutes of last year's AGM. The AGM will be followed by a general knowledge quiz, with prizes for the winning team, and mince pies, etc. Please make every effort to attend as this is your opportunity to make known what **you** want from your Branch, and to elect your new Committee and tell them what you want.

It is always good to have new blood on the Committee as the "old hands" need freshening up, as well as in many cases some relief of their work-load.

## **CHARITY PAIRS 2008**

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October saw 14 boats disappearing into the mist on a millpond-like Bewl Water. Unfortunately one boat had only one occupant, his partner having failed to turn up – a pity the organiser's hard work had to be spoilt by this. The start was delayed due the mist which was only slowly clearing, but by mid-day it had done so and a fine afternoon ensued, with just enough breeze to form a ripple.

Fishing was a bit patchy, with most taken on or near the surface. The result was close – Bob Shaw and Ray French of FDG North Kent Branch just pipping our own Chris Nunn and his partner, Mick Phipps, 15 fish to 14.



*Ray Love presents the trophy to the victorious North Kent FDG team*

### *Charity Pairs – contd*

In third place were Michael Brayne and Colin Rann with 11 fish, who take the Branch trophy as Chris's partner is not a Branch member.

Ted How had a 4 lb rainbow to match Steve Hardy of North Kent who had a similar fish, and Neil Batchelor had a rainbow of 3 lb 14 oz just behind them.

In all 93 fish were taken with a total weight of 191 lb 12 oz – best bag of 8 fish for 18 lb 1 oz going to Bob Shaw, with Chris Nunn taking 7 for 14 lb 14 oz. All boats had at least 2 fish, so it was in all a great day.

Many thanks go to Rother Branch (2 pairs) and North Kent (4 pairs) for their support. The winners chose Demelza House Children's Hospice as their charity and a cheque of value of £182 has been sent.

Grateful thanks also to Ray Love for organising the event so well – he would have had an easier task if everyone had booked with him earlier!

*With the AGM coming up, the following might be relevant:*

## **The Branch**

**by John Hyde**

When you join an association society or guild,  
Just pause for a while as your form's being filled  
And think what becoming a Member entails -  
Don't turn out to be one more Member who fails.

It's not just the cost of your annual fee,  
But attending the Branch Instead of TV,  
Of actively helping to arrange Club "do's"  
And not opting out whenever you choose.

Don't say all decisions are made by the few  
Get on the committee and state your own view;  
Don't slate Club officials from behind their backs  
Be honest and face them when grinding the axe.

Drum up fellow members when interests lag  
Don't say "not tonight, it's too much of drag",  
Or "there's gardening and painting and lots more to do"  
A Branch is made up of such Members as you.

Remember the comradeship found when abroad,  
That - and hard work - then the future's assured,  
So please do your bit, be it large, be it small  
Without you, my friend, there'd be no Branch at all!

## **Last call for the Big Fish Entries**



### **Chairman's Chat**

Good quality floating lines are not cheap and with a few season's double hauling from a reservoir bank they soon begin to crack where the running line joins the tapered head.

About four years ago I was pleased to buy a seemingly little used Scientific Anglers floater at our auction. When I tried to put it on to a reel I discovered to my annoyance that the line was in two halves joined by a blood knot!! With nothing to lose I decided to try to splice the line. This is how I did it.

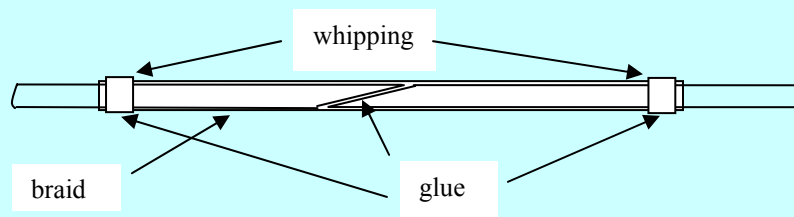
With a razor blade cutting on to a hard surface I cut the two ends at a step angle so that they matched each other. I then took a six inch length of braided monofilament (just like you would use to tie a braided loop) and threaded one cut line end right through it. The next bit was tricky: I laid the two cut ends of line so the sloping surfaces were touching and then superglued them together. This join has very little strength but it is sufficient to hold the two ends in place.

Now all that needs to be done is to slide the braid over the join so that the join is central and whip two ends with tying thread. Finally, three very small dabs of superglue: one at each end and one in the middle complete the splice. Go easy on the glue for it will make the line stiff if you overdo it.

I have used this line successfully without problem and since the join occurs in the arialised part of the line it has little effect on my casting distance. I now use the same technique to reverse the running line on other floating lines and so double the life of a line.

Tight lines

*John Plowman.*



## Branch Outing to Albury

A sign of the (bath) times by Paul Davis

Albury seems like the archetypical sleepy Surrey village but who would have thought that it was the birthplace of an invention that we all use every day. It is not the stunning Tudor revival 1850's chimneys designed and added to the houses along The Street by Augustus Pugin (whilst taking time out from designing Albury Hall and redesigning the Houses of Parliament after a major fire in 1834).

This invention is something far more humble, and frankly more useful.

William Oughtred was rector of St Peter and St Paul (the Albury parish church) from 1610 to 1660 and when not burning witches at the stake he invented the X. I don't mean X as in X Factor (good god, Simon Cowell has even gotten into this article) but X as in  $2 \times 2 = 4$ . Yes, Vicar Bill invented the multiplication sign and forced several hundred years worth of primary school children into chanting times tables. It seems remarkable that we managed to get by until then without any way of expressing how many times something was better than something else but there again, back in the 17<sup>th</sup> century numeracy was limited for the majority to something like:

Peasant counting (just imagine Baldrick in the role):  
1 turnip, 2 turnips, feast!

Which brings me neatly (if not at a slight tangent) around to the fishing (*at last!* –Ed). The branch outing event was held at Albury's Vale End fishery on the 31<sup>st</sup> August and the weather forecast promised heavy rain with thunder and lightning at times – ideal for waving a 9ft carbon fibre rod about in!. The last time the club came to Albury and Vale End it was in the winter of 2007 and the weather was not kind then either – even though the fishing was. However the fishing this time could not be described as 10x better in fact it couldn't use a multiplication sign to say how many times better it was because it wasn't. There is no way of hiding the fact or pulling the punches – the fishing was hard and any fish were well won.

Tony, the fishery manager, was completely honest about things right from the outset and said that people could buy a 2 fish ticket (normally you have to have a 4 fish ticket as a minimum). He knew it was difficult fishing as the weed growth this year had been exceptional and the only weed cutting boat had been sent to the estate's other fishery at Syon Park, thereby hampering him in his efforts to provide sport to the anglers.

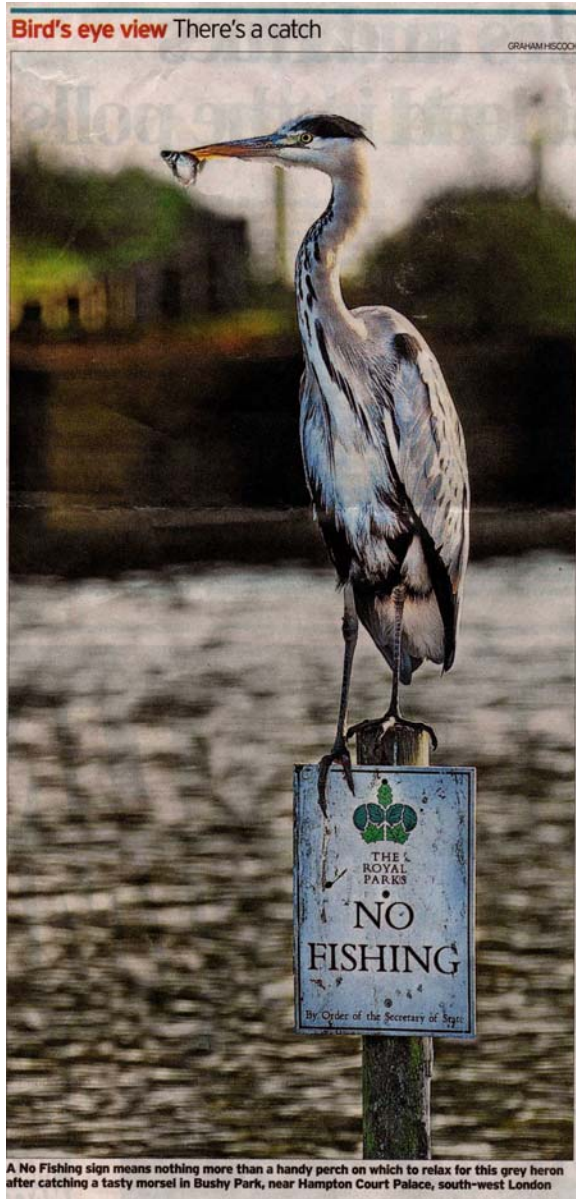
Even I had not seen the weed at these levels: it was particularly dense and thick at the margins, meaning that casting was limited to small windows between it. Most people tried hard and fished well with the odd fish coming out, and I should point out that Bill King was unlucky to lose a lovely fish in the weed quite early on in the day.

As a person who loves river fishing, the beauty of the Vale End fishery is the long stretch of the Tillingbourne, a stream that has its origin on the northern slope of Leith Hill and then flows south until it reaches the junction of the chalk and

greensand, at which point it heads west. So although not a chalkstream in the true sense, it is fed and enlarged by the small proper chalkstreams that come from the chalk of the North Downs. This means it is fertile, nutrient rich water with abundant insect life and is also very clear and free of the masses of weed that plagues the lakes it flows through at Vale End. It was surprising then that only myself and Tony Harrison fished the stream. I will be honest and say the fishing was slightly easier on the stream or where the stream travelled through the lake, and I managed my bag limit by using a very spare GRHE tied on a buzzer hook (Kamasan B100), casting upstream and letting the nymph dead-drift back with the current and watching the fish come for the fly. Exciting stuff (or at least I thought so).

Steve Mustchin fished exceptionally well and took his limit from the lakes by patiently looking for fish in the clear water and then targeting these. Other club members such as John Perry, Eric Hunter and Ted How stoically carried on, but the day was to be frustrating with only a few fish putting in an appearance for all their efforts. However the Albury ticketing system means that if you don't catch your limit you can return another day before the end of the next March and pay just a nominal sum (about £10-£12) and fish for those you didn't catch last time. Therefore if you have paid for a four fish ticket you can get them – even if you have to come back another day!

One of the other benefits of the Albury fishery is that you can move to any other of the lakes in the complex if you get bored with or frustrated by the one you are on. There are three sites – two in Albury (Weston and Vale End) and one about 2 miles west of Albury, just on the outskirts of the village of Chilworth. This happens to be the big fish lake – called Powdermills - where the minimum stock size is 4lb. A couple of our party (Bill Smith and Wayne Duerden) decided to go and try their luck here, working on the old adage move location not your fly. Now another famous resident of Albury (actually in Vale End House that overlooks the entrance to the fishery) was a Dr Maurice Burton who is probably remembered as the author of many popular natural history books in the late 1950's through the 60's and 70's. However in a former life he was the deputy Keeper of Zoology at the British Museum (Natural History) and an expert on sponges. In fact he actually discovered that they could move (well crawl) and are not the fixed and static organisms on the seabed that we think they are. You might wonder why I mention this but if you remember back to my last article on the competition at Powdermills (do you see the link now?) against Hastings FF – Bill (and for that matter all of us) got absolutely soaked by the rain – so much so that they we resembled human sponges. If only Dr Burton was still alive and had looked out of his house window on our visit to the fishery then he would have seen several large human 'sponges' migrating to other water bodies. It could have changed the course of human history, science and bathtimes forever. Or should that be bathX?



*Seen in the "Daily Telegraph"*



## A tip worth the weight!

As I was tying a batch of north country spiders that had wire ribs the other day, the following came to me. Although this may be well known by some of you and written about elsewhere, I thought it was worth passing on because I have not heard it mentioned before, and, in the words of Blackadder, this idea is so cunning you could pin a tail on it and call it a fox.

It is easy to spot weighted flies that have bead heads or super heavy lead underbodies (such as Czech nymphs). However if you tie patterns that can be both unweighted and also moderately weighted with an underbody of wire, then it is difficult, if not impossible, to tell them apart when you look in your fly box on the bankside. As depth is one of the critical factors in catching fish how can you then select the correctly weighted version of a fly?

Well I now use the following rule. If one of my flies is tied unweighted, then the rib is tied in clockwise – so if you look at the body of the fly it will look like this

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However, if you have put a weighted underbody on the fly, then the rib is tied in anticlockwise and the body of the fly will look like this.

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This is from my perspective as a right hander but of course if you're left handed it will be the other way around.

Now at a quick glance it is simple to see which is the heavier fly and appropriate for getting down to the correct feeding depth of the fish.

*Paul Davis*

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Sorry to labour the subject – BUT, there are still a few members whose subs are still outstanding. Those who pay the main Guild direct by direct debit or standing order are renewed on the anniversary of their first payment. This is difficult to monitor at Branch level, so the branch runs from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> August each year. If you pay the Guild direct, please try to remember the Branch – we rely on your subscriptions to maintain the level of service – speakers, outings, newsletters, etc, etc.

If you pay the Guild through the Branch, then you will be struck off the Guild list if not renewed in the next week or so – no more "Flydresser" or insurance cover!!

If you are not sure – ask Roy Gurney!!

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