



Sussex Branch Newsletter



APRIL 2009

WEBSITE

Thanks to considerable time and effort by Mike Guest, we now have a completely re-vamped website. Do make a visit and sample the delights – any suggestions for further improvements or alterations please let us know. You now have access to back numbers of the Newsletter to November 2001.

“Brass Monkeys”

We have been taken to task by Chalk Springs for purloining the title of their famous Brass Monkeys Competition. Their prestigious event has been held for some 15 years and we would never wish to try to steal their thunder. Naively, I thought that, as ours is a closed event only for members of the Branch, there would be no confusion, but I underestimated the power of the Press! At least it shows Darren reads our Newsletter!

Unfortunately, as the trophy has already been engraved, it is too late to change the name of ours, but I have assured Darren that we will not be holding an April Fools, Summer Invitation or September Singles!!!

The following photos were too late to accompany the report last month, but may still be of interest:



Bill Smith and Wayne Duerden



Paul Davis nets his fish

CASTING CLINIC Thursday 14th May

A casting clinic will be held on the playing fields in front of Patcham House (opposite “The Black Lion”). We hope Albert Horne will be fit enough to demonstrate how to cast a full line with what appears to be a mere flick of the wrist, but our other qualified instructors will be there anyway. We will start soon after 6.30 pm, and continue till the light fades. Just bring your rod and line and improve your skills.

FLY-TYING COMPETITION 2009

The winners of this year’s competition are: -

Novice: Frank Wassel
Intermediate: George White
Open: Steve Mustchin

Many thanks again to Albert Horne for judging this competition - he commented that the Open winner was chosen on the quality of the wings and the Novice winner was good with all elements correctly proportioned. Whilst numbers entering are up overall, there is still much room for improvement.

Let us have your ideas as to how we can get **you** to enter – perhaps a prize winners’ cup to open up the “Open” category, salt-water cup????

ENVY CORNER

Just to make you all envious, Doug Chalmers, our guest at the Annual Dinner, has sent in this mouth watering photograph taken on his trip to Tierra del Fuego in February.



Hanging by a thread

By Paul Davis

Thread, silk, cotton - whatever you might call it, it is probably the most important part of a fly other than the hook. Have you ever experimented with different threads early in your fly tying career leading you to choose a favourite thread? I certainly did. Human nature being what it is means we often stick with that same thread through thick and thin and only changing it when we can't get it anymore. Well I started to wonder what those other threads were like, of course my favourite thread got jealous and we had a bit of an argument along the lines 'how could you leave me after so long' which was quickly resolved when I was only doing this in the name of science and the Fly Dressers Guild.

Therefore for those with an enquiring mind but don't want to upset 'the thread indoors' do you ever wonder how the different threads compare against each other? What does 70 denier mean and is this the same as 8/0. Does 8/0 thread break with 2lb of pull or 2ozs?

Well I decided to try and pull together a definitive chart. I hope that I have got all of your favourites in here - if not send me details and I'll add them to the chart. It is not complete, by any stretch of the imagination but it'll do for now and I'll add extras if anyone wants to send me a spool of thread to test. I have tried to get the manufacturer specific-ations for each of the threads and where there are gaps either the manufacturer doesn't know or isn't saying! One other thing I also need to point out is that Gudebrod has stopped making fly tying threads and only a few suppliers in the US and UK still sell this - but seeing it is still found in some fly tyers boxes I've put it in.

If we are going to make any sense of the compare-ison table we are going to have to go back to basics with the fundamental questions of what does those strange symbols and language mean on a spool of thread? Well basically they are a notation for the fineness or sheerness of the thread.

The first attempt at some sort of thread notation was the 'naught' scale. This was based on a system where the number 0 or "naught" was the base point

(i.e. the company standard); as the thread became smaller, additional zeros were added indicating that the thread was finer. As an example, a thread with six zeros (000000) translated to a 6/0 thread. As other manufacturers appeared, they followed the same system; however, each company had a

different standard for its base point. As more brands became available, the accuracy of the "naught" became pointless unless comparing within the same company. Now it is not often I say this, but, thank goodness for the French, because they 'invented' the Denier scale.

For those who didn't know Denier is a measure of the fineness/sheerness of thread. It is based on the number of grams per 9000 metres. A 70 denier thread weighs 70 grams and therefore the finest thread has the smallest number.

Of course it couldn't stay this simple. The inter-national drive for decimalisation and the use of SI units (mm, km, kg instead of inches, miles and pounds) created the Decitex, which is the weight in grams per 10,000 metres and is the officially adopted unit of thread fineness (NB of course it has been adopted by the EU, which means that nobody actually uses it but it is here in my table just for completeness).

There is a correlation between denier and breaking strength of nylon and polyester thread. The smaller the denier numbers the lower breaking strain sounds obvious, and of course it is. However, when you get onto comparing Kevlar and GSP (Gel Spun Polypropylene) threads, they are much stronger than their equivalent nylon or polyester threads and therefore they can have a higher breaking strain for the same denier.

Fineness or breaking strain of a thread is not the end of the matter; there are other issues such as "can the thread be split for dubbing loops?", "does the thread lie flat if twisted against the roll of the individual fibres?", "how slippery is the thread?" and "does it grip all materials well?" The list goes on - but basically you will need to try the threads to find the ones you like and suit your tying style (just like choosing a rod to match your casting style). Hopefully this table will point you in the right direction to start trying other threads. Good luck if you do!



A selection of threads to get you started using the chart!

| Thread Brand | Aught Size (X/0) | Denier | Decitex | Breaking Strength (oz) | Thickness (.000) | Material |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--------|---------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Danville Flat Waxed Nylon | N/A | 210 | 233 | 46 | 2 | Nylon multifilament |
| Danville Fly Master Plus 140 | N/A | 140 | 156 | 32 | 1.8 | Nylon multifilament |
| Danville Fly Master Plus 210 | N/A | 210 | 233 | 48 | 2.8 | Nylon multifilament |
| Danville Flymaster | 6/0 | 70 | 78 | 11 | 1.5 | Nylon multifilament |
| Danville Nylon 3/0 Monocord | 3/0 | 116 | 129 | 26 | 2.6 | Polyester |
| Danville Spiderweb | N/A | 30 | 33 | 5 | 2 | Nylon monofilament |
| Euro Thread | 12/0 | 45 | 50 | 15 | 1.3 | Polyester |
| Giorgio Benecchi Fine | 8/0 | 150 | 167 | 29 | 2.2 | Polyester |
| Giorgio Benecchi Fluorescent Thread | 4/0 | ? | ? | ? | ? | Polyester |
| Giorgio Benecchi Ghost | N/A | 60 | 67 | 11 | 3 | Nylon monofilament |
| Giorgio Benecchi Strong Medium Thread | 6/0 | ? | ? | ? | ? | Polyester |
| Giorgio Benecchi Super Strong | 10/0 | 50 | 56 | 38 | 1.3 | Gel Spun Polypropylene (GSP) |
| Giorgio Benecchi Superfine | 10/0 | 120 | 133 | 22 | 2 | Polyester |
| Giorgio Benecchi Ultrafine | 12/0 | 70 | 78 | 15 | 1.9 | Polyester |
| Gordon Griffiths (Veniards) Cobweb | N/A | 134 | 149 | 67 | 4.1 | Polyester |
| Gordon Griffiths (Veniards) Shear | 14/0 | 72 | 80 | 10 | 1.8 | Polyester |
| Gordon Griffiths (Veniards) Wisp | 8/0 | 108 | 120 | 15 | 2.2 | Polyester |
| Gudebrod | 10/0 | 50 | 56 | 43 | 4 | Nylon monofilament |
| Gudebrod | 10/0 | 45 | 50 | 9 | 1 | Polyester |
| Gudebrod | 3/0 | 176 | 196 | 38 | 4 | Polyester |
| Gudebrod | 6/0 | 143 | 159 | 43 | 6 | Nylon monofilament |
| Gudebrod | 8/0 | 67 | 74 | 15 | 1.8 | Polyester |
| Gudebrod G | N/A | 210 | 233 | 55 | 7 | Nylon monofilament |
| Gudebrod G | N/A | 330 | 367 | 59 | 3.5 | Polyester |
| Gudebrod GX1 | N/A | 70 | 78 | 89 | 1 | Gel Spun Polypropylene (GSP) |
| Gudebrod GX2 | N/A | 130 | 144 | 112 | 2 | Gel Spun Polypropylene (GSP) |
| Gudebrod Kevlar | 3/0 | 115 | 128 | ? | 3.5 | Kevlar |
| Gudebrod Nylon D | 6/0 | 143 | 159 | 31 | 2.3 | Polyester |
| Lagartun X Strong | N/A | 75 | 83 | 16 | 1.2 | Polyester |
| Lagartun X Strong | N/A | 95 | 106 | 17 | 1.4 | Polyester |
| Lagartun X Strong | N/A | 150 | 167 | 32 | 1.9 | Polyester |
| Lagartun XX Strong | N/A | 50 | 56 | ? | ? | Gel Spun Polypropylene (GSP) |
| Lagartun XX Strong | N/A | 75 | 83 | ? | ? | Gel Spun Polypropylene (GSP) |
| Lagartun XX Strong | N/A | 100 | 111 | ? | ? | Gel Spun Polypropylene (GSP) |
| Lagartun XX Strong | N/A | 130 | 144 | ? | ? | Gel Spun Polypropylene (GSP) |
| Marc Petitjean Split Second Thread | 8/0 | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| Pearsall's Gossamer Tying Silk | 6/0 | N/A | N/A | ? | ? | Natural Bombyx Silk |
| Pearsall's Marabou Floss Body Silk | ? | N/A | N/A | ? | ? | Natural Bombyx Silk |
| Pearsall's Naples Silk | 4/0 | N/A | N/A | ? | ? | Natural Bombyx Silk |
| Pearsall's Stout Floss Body Silk | ? | N/A | N/A | ? | ? | Natural Bombyx Silk |
| Roman Moser Power Silk | 6/0 | 110 | 122 | 72 | 1.3 | Gel Spun Polypropylene (GSP) |
| Roman Moser Power Silk | 8/0 | 55 | 61 | 38 | 1.3 | Gel Spun Polypropylene (GSP) |
| Sparton Fluorescent | N/A | 162 | 180 | 32 | ? | Polyester |
| Sparton Macro | N/A | 225 | 250 | 48 | ? | Polyester |
| Sparton Micro | N/A | 72 | 80 | 20 | ? | Polyester |
| Sparton Professional | N/A | 135 | 150 | 35 | ? | Polyester |
| UNI Big Fly Thread | N/A | 400 | 444 | 100 | 3.5 | Polyester |
| UNI Caenis | 34/0 | 20 | 22 | 3 | 1.7 | Nylon monofilament |
| UNI Cord 12/0 GSP | 12/0 | 50 | 56 | 39 | 0.9 | Gel Spun Polypropylene (GSP) |
| UNI Cord 7/0 GSP | 7/0 | 100 | 111 | 89 | 1.4 | Gel Spun Polypropylene (GSP) |
| UNI Cord 8/0 GSP | 8/0 | 75 | 83 | 68 | ? | Gel Spun Polypropylene (GSP) |
| UNI Flexx | N/A | 1620 | 1800 | ? | ? | Spandex |
| UNI Floss | N/A | 600 | 667 | 44 | ? | Polyester |
| UNI Kevlar | N/A | 200 | 222 | 134 | ? | Kevlar |
| UNI Micro Tinsel 3/0 | 6/0 | 215 | 239 | 44 | ? | Tinsel |
| UNI Micro Tinsel 6/0 | 3/0 | 135 | 150 | 17 | ? | Tinsel |
| UNI Mono Thread Fine | N/A | ? | ? | 22 | 4 | Nylon monofilament |
| UNI Mono Thread Medium | N/A | ? | ? | 59 | 6 | Nylon monofilament |
| UNI Nylon 210 | N/A | 210 | 233 | 53 | 2 | Nylon multifilament |
| UNI Nylon 70 | N/A | 70 | 78 | 15 | ? | Nylon multifilament |
| UNI Stretch | N/A | 270 | 300 | 53 | ? | Polyester |
| UNI Thread 1/0 Neon Fluorescent | 1/0 | 234 | 260 | 35 | ? | Polyester |
| UNI Thread 3/0 | 3/0 | 220 | 244 | 32 | ? | Polyester |
| UNI Thread 6/0 | 6/0 | 130 | 144 | 29 | 2.9 | Nylon multifilament |
| UNI Thread 8/0 | 8/0 | 72 | 80 | 15 | 2 | Polyester |
| UNI Thread A+ | N/A | 315 | 350 | 48 | ? | Polyester |
| UNI Trico 17/0 | 17/0 | 40 | 44 | 5 | 2 | Polyester |
| UNI Yarn | N/A | 436 | 484 | 34 | ? | Polyester |
| Virtual Nymph Dyneema | 12/0 | ? | ? | 96 | ? | ? |
| WAPSI GSP 100 | N/A | 100 | 111 | 111 | 1.2 | Gel Spun Polypropylene (GSP) |
| WAPSI GSP 50 | N/A | 50 | 56 | 37 | 0.8 | Gel Spun Polypropylene (GSP) |
| WAPSI UTC 140 | N/A | 140 | 156 | 44 | 1.6 | Nylon multifilament |
| WAPSI UTC 210 | N/A | 210 | 233 | 53 | 3.2 | Nylon multifilament |
| WAPSI UTC 280 | N/A | 280 | 311 | 62 | 2.7 | Nylon multifilament |
| WAPSI UTC 70 | N/A | 70 | 78 | 13 | 1.1 | Nylon multifilament |

John Cranfield- an unusual “fly”

Some of you may recall John and his quest for flies for mahseer fishing. He is fortunate to be able to indulge in all sorts of exotic fishing and his latest efforts are chasing permit. He writes as follows:

Hello Roy,

Your saltwater men might find this of interest. It is prototype no 5 and hooked a big permit on its first (and last) outing ... fish, flyline and about 50 yards of backing cut off in coral. The upper part of the body is buoyant and the split shot ensures the fly swims in the correct sense. The fly can be chucked 70 feet without difficulty as weight and aerodynamic drag are balanced about right.

Regards to Richard F.

Cheers - John



Mantis karadesi



The kill tying

ENTRIES FOR OUTINGS

Despite Paul's efforts to get everyone to let him (or the individual organizer) know by 16th April what events they would be entering - or at least those which they might enter, subject to the inevitable clash of holidays, etc – there are still some which are undersubscribed. Please let the organizer know as soon as possible of your intentions, as otherwise it may be necessary to cancel if there does not appear to be sufficient support.

Get your diaries out and note the dates from our programme – and then tell someone!!

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT LINES

Good Company

At the end of March your committee and other Guild activists had their annual day out fishing together and once again I realised what good company they are. Most of my fishing is done on my own so these outings are really appreciated by me.

For those of you who have not attended one of our outings I can thoroughly recommend them. Do not be put off by thinking you are not a good enough angler to join in. There are some very good fly fishermen in the Guild but many, like me, are pretty competent at hooking trees, getting tangles, choosing the wrong fly and anything else that makes actually catching fish more infrequent and more interesting.

What makes these outings special is the cheerful companionship of friends joining together in an activity that we think of as being rather special. So don't be shy. Come and join us!

P.S. Don't forget to renew your rod licence.

Tight lines

John Plowman.

Ben Fitch

*Ben, one of our members, sends this message.
Let's back him up!!*

I am taking part in the Three Peaks Challenge from 4th-6th September 2009 to raise money for Meningitis Trust and I would love your help to ensure that I raise as much money as possible for a very important cause.

It's easy to sponsor me online by credit or debit card - just go to my Justgiving page:

<http://www.justgiving.com/benjaminfitch>

Justgiving sends your donation straight to Meningitis Trust and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you're a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more. I hope you'll join me in supporting Meningitis Trust.

A HUGE Thank you.

Ben Fitch

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Chairman: John Plowman 01825 762975
Secretary: Paul Bond 01273 420410
Treasurer: Roy Gurney 01273 506184

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

Phone: 01273 506184

Fax: 01273 881209

E-mail: roygurney@ntlworld.com

Visit our web site
Sussexflydressers.org.uk