



# Sussex Branch Newsletter



## JANUARY 2010

### APOLOGIES

#### For the lateness of this Newsletter

As some of you may know, the Editor has had a virus (or rather his computer has!!). As a result this edition of the newsletter has been delayed, with the result that some of the notices and news may be out of date, or too late for usefulness.

One of the problems was the loss of data (e-mail address book, half finished newsletter, accounts etc) and it is only now that his computer guru has been able to extract this data, enabling him to use his wife's lap-top till all is repaired.

It is also rather sparse in content – more articles from members required!

#### .....and the weather!!.....

The weather decided to co-operate with the chaos at the same time, so that our first two sessions of the New Year had to be cancelled. We tried to contact everyone by e-mail and notices on the web-site, plus some by telephone, but inevitably one or two did not get the message for the 14<sup>th</sup> so our apologies to them for their wasted journey.

We will catch up the missed tying evening (7<sup>th</sup> Jan) at the end of the session, and have booked the room accordingly.

**The end of season bash has been moved to the 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

### ANNUAL DINNER

The venue will again be the **Dyke Golf Club**, on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April**.

Full details and booking forms will accompany the next Newsletter, but make a note **NOW** in your diary so as not to miss this highly enjoyable event.

**Cost will be £25 per head.**

John Burt will be organising as usual. Bring your ladies for an excellent meal and fabulous raffle, as well as presentation of the trophies won in 2009.

### Branch Library

The inventory of our collection of videos CDs and books has been updated by our librarian, Richard Foster, and a copy is enclosed with this newsletter. All items are available to all members on loan, and are kept in the store room at Patcham. If Richard is not around on any Thursday, ask Roy or Andy to get them out for perusal.

Some of the videos may be found to be a bit dodgy (worn out!) and if so, let him know and they will be deleted from the list. New items are always welcome.

### Sussex Otters

#### Our February Speaker

**11<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 8 pm**

**Fran Southgate of the Sussex Otters and Rivers Project will bring us up to date on otters, water voles (and mink!) in Sussex.**

**Doors open at 7.30 pm. All are welcome.**

### FLY TYING COMPETITION

Don't forget, his year's competition flies are:

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Beginners (Novice)</b> | <b>Diawl Bach Variant</b><br>(Summer 2009)        |
| <b>Intermediate</b>       | <b>Invicta</b><br>(Winter 2008)                   |
| <b>Open</b>               | <b>Smoky Mountain Forky Tail</b><br>(Spring 2009) |

A matched pair of each pattern is required, and your entries can be doubled up for entry to both Branch and Guild competitions.

The Open category above is actually the Dry Fly for the Guild, so why not tie a pair of Invictas for the Guild Open as well!! There is a prize for the Branch entering most flies – let's have a crack at winning that this year. Remember too that the main Guild qualifying rules are slightly different to ours, enabling beginners and intermediates to double up entries.

**Closing dates for entries are 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010 for the Branch, and 1<sup>st</sup> April for the main Guild.**

The references are to the edition of the "Flydresser" in which the patterns are featured as they are also patterns for the main Guild competition and are also detailed on the Guild website:-

[www.the-fdg.org/tying.htm](http://www.the-fdg.org/tying.htm)

*Ted How sends us this little limerick:*

**There are trout in my river whose attitude,  
Is one of the blackest ingratitude,  
Though I offer them duns,  
Most superior ones,  
They maintain a persistent Black Gnatitude.**

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT LINES

### How big is an acre?

Many of our small water fisheries advertise the size of the water in acres so perhaps it is time for those of us not involved in farming to know just how big an acre really is. It comes, I believe, from the area of land a horse drawn plough could reasonably manage in a day i.e. "A furlong by a chain" or 220yards by 22yards. This gives an area of 4840 square yards. So what! How does this compare with areas that we can recognise?

A soccer pitch is 110yards by 70 yards which is close to 1.6 acres.

A 70 yard square is 1acre

A circle of diameter 78 yards is 1 acre.

An oval 100yards by 60 yards is 1 acre.

So next time you visit a trout fishery that claims to be, shall we say, six acres look at it and ask yourself "Can I imagine four full size soccer pitches in this space?"

Alternatively you can go on to Google Earth and get an aerial view of the lake and then use the software to measure its dimensions. I did this for one Sussex fishery and it gave its size as 184 yards by 92 yards which is 2.7 acres. The fishery's advertising claims 6.5 acres; another claiming 4 acres measures at 1.8 acres. Clearly something is wrong. Try it for yourself for your own favourite fishery.

Finally, a happy new year to you all and tight lines for 2009

*John Plowman.*

## WORKSHOPS

Make a note of the following dates of workshops:

4 <sup>th</sup> February	Brooches	Alan Middleton
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Rod Rings	John Plowman
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Furled Leaders	Bob Burbidge
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Reservoir Fishing	Mike Brayne
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Carp on the Fly	Paul Davis
8 <sup>th</sup> April	Splicing & loops	John Plowman

## Big Fish Competition 2009

The results of last year's efforts and the trophies are awarded as follows:

### Peter West Trophy

(best rainbow from a Sussex water)

<b>John Burt</b>	<b>Boring Wheel</b>	<b>9 lb 15 oz</b>
<b>Tony Harrison</b>	<b>Chalk Springs</b>	<b>9 lb 15 oz</b>
Tony Harrison	Dunton Mill	9 lb 14 oz
Chris Croucher	Bewl Water	7 lb 10 oz
Gavin Hunter	Ashbourne	7 lb 1 oz
Tony Woolnough	Yew Tree	7 lb

### Brown Trout Cup

(best brown from Sussex water)

**Chris Croucher** Chalk Springs **11 lb 8 oz**

### Members Reservoir Plate

(best fish from Sussex reservoir)

**Chris Croucher** Bewl Water **7 lb 10 oz**

### John Leitch Brown Trout Cup

(best brown from a Sussex reservoir or river)

No entries

### Frank Darrah Memorial Trophy (Bewl Pairs)

**Chris Croucher & Ian Dunk** **14 fish**

Chris Nunn & Neil Batchelor 14 fish

### Charity Pairs Trophy (Bewl Water)

**John Plowman & Steve Mustchin** **6 fish**

Chris Nunn & Alex Rainbow 6 fish

### Branch Trophy Day (Dunton Mill):

#### Jimmy James Memorial Trophies (Best bag)

##### Winner

**Ian Dunk** **11 lb ½ oz**

##### Runner-up

**Wayne Duerden** **7 lb 8 oz**

### Plowman Trophy (Best fish)

**Tony Harrison** **9 lb 14 oz**

### Trophy for Best Brown, Brook or Tiger

**Bill Smith** **4 lb 12 oz**

Steve Mustchin 4 lb 8 oz

Presentations will be made at the Annual Dinner.

The results of the Stillwater Challenge were:

<b>Best fish</b>	<b>Colin Maslin</b>	<b>5lb rainbow</b>
	<b>Chris Croucher</b>	<b>4 lb 8oz brown</b>
	<b>Peter Buss</b>	<b>3 lb 7oz blue</b>
<b>Best bag</b>	<b>Tony Harrison</b>	<b>14 lb 13oz</b>
	Chris Croucher	12 lb 12oz
	Ian Dunk	12 lb 6oz

## Outings and Competitions

Once again we have a very full programme of events and competitions planned. Entry forms will be sent with the next Newsletter. Please

1. Book early (at the latest by the date on the slip!)– it saves having to chase around trying to get numbers as some of the events need a minimum number of people to go ahead. Without that number the event may have to be cancelled and if we do that late it gets the branch and the guild a poor reputation with the fishery.
2. Understand that the price quoted may go up. This is because we have to confirm bookings/prices now. As a result of the current economic situation fishery overheads are going up and nearly all fishery managers have said that prices may change for events after April.
3. Understand that if you say you are coming the organiser is relying on you to come and pay the amount required – the club hasn't got the funds to cover non-attendees.

Above all, the events are organised for you, and therefore if there are any events you want to do and are not on the list, or are not happy with any of the events that we do run, then please, please let us know. We can't fix things if we don't know about them.

*Paul Davis – Competitions and Outings Secretary.*

**THE PROVISIONAL FISHING  
PROGRAMME IS ON THE BACK PAGE**

## A.G.M. 2009

Thanks to a sudden deterioration in the weather the Annual General Meeting had even fewer members present than usual – is that a sign of approval, or just plain apathy? The current committee was re-elected *en bloc*, with the addition of three new members in accordance with the new rules which were approved. The committee is:

Chairman	John Plowman
Secretary	Paul Bond
Treasurer	Roy Gurney
Competition Secretary	Paul Davis
Equipment Officer	Andy Steer
Members :	Chris Croucher, Tony Woolnough, Tony Harrison, Richard Foster, Peter Winder, Ray Love and Bill Smith, with the welcome addition of Howard Dodsley, Wayne Duerden and Mike Guest.



The Jonathon Glover Trophy for the member who has given outstanding service to the Branch was awarded to **Bill Smith**, by an overwhelming majority of votes cast.

With little contentious matter to discuss, it was advised that Tony Keeley, whose absence had been noted by many, had decided not to rejoin this year. He will be missed by all (especially his wonderful cakes!!) and we all wish him well.

As usual, the business completed, all settled in to mince pies and mulled wine and a brain straining quiz. Many thanks to Alan Middleton, Ray Love and John Plowman for the fare, and also to John and Paul Davis for the quiz.

## NAIAD NYMPHS

We have been contacted by Keith Roderick, who has developed a very rapid method of tying buzzers which may appeal to those who are less traditional in their tying! Samples of the materials are being sent to Roy Gurney and will be available for demonstration soon. Meantime, visit his website at [www.naiad.ch](http://www.naiad.ch) for demonstration video and further details. A link from our website is also available.

## WEBSITE

### New additions

Visit to our website: [www.sussexflydressers.org.uk](http://www.sussexflydressers.org.uk) and have a look at the new additions to the Patterns submitted by members. Now add your own! You will see that so far only a few have contributed and our webmaster, Mike Guest writes:

*"It has taken a fair bit of work to put it together from my end obviously, but also I know that Phillip has made a massive effort sitting with Albert and talking him through the production and history of each of his 'Specials'.*

*Phillip himself has contributed several and of course there was Paul Davis who kicked the whole thing off.*

*I hope, nay EXPECT, that this is the beginning of a long trickle of new patterns from the 'floor' so we can make the site as attractive and useful as possible."*

You can download the pro-forma recipe forms and e-mail them to Mike, or get some hard copies from Roy Gurney if you prefer. Mike will need a sample fly for photographing. Let's make ours the envy of the Branch websites!

## Salmon Fishing in the West Highlands

I have a week of salmon fishing for 4 rods on the River Lochy starting on 10 May 2010

.See <http://www.riverlochy.co.uk/>

The Lochy is known as the Queen of Salmon rivers and it is the most beautiful river to fish on in the UK (well I think so). This week isn't the most prolific in terms of salmon numbers but if you do catch it will almost certainly be a fish of a lifetime (the average size in May is 18-20lb) I will also book self catering accommodation (I will try and get a minimum of 4\*)

Cost will be about £1100 pp and this will include 6 days salmon fishing, accommodation, ghillie (up to 2 days per person over the week) intensive casting instruction) and food. The only extras are drink and travel (and the travel can be shared).

I need 3 other people to make this trip happen. If you are interested or want more info please e-mail (or call) me asap.

**Dr Paul Davis**

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**Visit our web site**

**[Sussexflydressers.org.uk](http://Sussexflydressers.org.uk)**

## Provisional Fishing Programme for 2010

Date	Title	Venue	Organiser
7th February	Brass Monkey Cup	Hazel Copse	Wayne Duerden & Bill Smith
14th March	Chairman's Day	Meon Springs	John Plowman
TBC April/May	Frank Darrah Pairs Competition	Weirwood Reservoir	John Plowman
25th April	Eastbourne FF Competition	Arlington Reservoir	Bill Smith
13th May	Casting Clinic	Patcham	Roy Gurney
TBC	East Sussex S&TA Competition	TBC	Roy Gurney
20th May	Evening Outing	Arlington Reservoir	Roy Gurney
20th June	Branch Outing	Ashbourne	Roy Gurney
3rd July	Hastings FFC Competition	Powdermill Reservoir	Paul Davis
25th July	Stillwater Challenge	Chalk Springs	Chris Croucher
TBC August	Bass on the Fly	Shoreham Harbour Stammerham Farm	Brian Hendry
21st August	Carp on the Fly	Lakes	Paul Davis
28th August	John Watt Competition (Main Guild)	Grafham Reservoir	Chris Nunn
12th September	Crawley FF Competition	TBC	Bill Smith
26th September	Branch Trophy Day	Brick Farm	Peter Winder
10th October	Charity Pairs Competition	Bewl Water	Ray Love
17th October	Grayling Fishing	River Test, Wherwell	Paul Davis
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TBC March	Chairman's Day	TBC	TBC