



## Sussex Branch Newsletter



OCTOBER 2010

### AUCTIONS 2010

Either enclosed with this newsletter, or attached separately if you receive by e-mail, is the catalogues for the first auction – the second will come with the next newsletter:

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** - Miscellaneous tackle, clothing, rods, reels and lines

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November** - Flies, fly-tying tools, fly-tying material, miscellaneous items and books

Both start at 7.45 sharp – viewing from 7 pm

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS (and old ones too)

We welcome several new members this year, and trust they will enjoy and gain benefit from our classes, meeting and outings. Don't forget too that we have available sweaters, polo shirts, caps etc with the Branch logo, all available from our Equipment Officer, Andy Steer.

"Fly Tying for Beginners", the beginners' course manual, is also to be had from him at the bargain price of £10 (r.r.p. £16.99). "The Fly Tyers' Bible" by the same author, Peter Gathercole, is also available at the same price.

### PARKING

We are afraid that some of our new members may have been put off by the rather chaotic parking on our first tying night. May we assure everyone that things are back to normal and there are generally plenty of spaces in the lower car park, through the school gates, if the first one is full.

Also, don't think that missing an evening matters – the "courses" are flexible and there are plenty of willing experienced tyers present who will catch you up on anything you may have missed.

### BIG FISH TROPHIES

Where are all your entries?

I am sure that some of you have been lucky enough to have landed some fish this year – so get your prize specimens entered!

The categories are:

- Best fish from Sussex water
- Best fish from Sussex reservoir (including Bewl)
- Best brown from Sussex water
- Best brown from Sussex reservoir or river.

The closing date of catching is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2010 for browns and 31<sup>st</sup> December for other categories.

### September Speaker

Simon Cooper unfortunately had to cry off due to injury – full details later in this newsletter. We wish him a speedy recovery, as well as offering some humble pie from the Editor, who described his company incorrectly last month instead of **Fishing Breaks!** We will try to rearrange his visit as soon as possible.

Fortunately, we were rescued by Tony Woolnough, who stood in at very short notice and gave an excellent presentation on his work as a water engineer.

On our next speaker's evening we welcome:

**JOHAN KLINGBERG**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October at 8 pm**

Johan is over here for the British Fly Fishing Fair and we are very fortunate to be able to welcome this return visit. Johan has entertained us on two previous occasions with his beautifully illustrated accounts of his fishing experiences, coupled with a superb demonstration of fly-tying, and he promises us a new presentation for this occasion.

As usual, coffee and tea will be available at the half way break.

**All are welcome – members and non-members**

### Jonathon Glover Trophy

This trophy is awarded annually to a member who has given outstanding service to the Branch. The last three winners are not eligible, and they are Bill Smith (2008), Chris Croucher (2006), and Paul Bond (2007). Nominations, please, to John Plowman, Paul Bond or Roy Gurney as soon as possible – voting slips will be issued later with the short list. The trophy will be presented at the AGM on 16<sup>th</sup> December

## Simon Cooper

*Our first speaker was unable to make it, and here is his own story taken from his own Fishing Breaks newsletter. There is a message in his story, and that is do not take risks. I reckon Simon is very lucky to be still in one piece, let alone alive! Here is his story that I am sure we would have been told had he made it to Brighton. Perhaps it is safer to only fish the UK One fly competition!*



### **The wounded!**

Fishing can be a dangerous sport. We sometimes joke about it because angling regularly tops the Government statistics as the most dangerous pastime. However, the joke was on me when I went to compete in the Jackson Hole One Fly in the USA, with stitches and broken bones to prove the point.

The One Fly takes place on the Jackson and South Fork rivers in Idaho and Wyoming that flow beside the mountains famous for the Jackson Hole ski resort. Beautifully clear and fast (picture the River Test times fifty), they flow through steep gorges and ravines, as much used for white water rafting as fishing where anglers, rafters and canoeists navigate Class A rapids. When we arrived the Guiding community was jittery; two Fishing Guides had died in the past three weeks.

Just to put you in the picture, these rivers are fished from drift boats. There are two anglers in each, one front, one back, with the Guide in the centre. During a day you will easily drift 10-15 miles downstream as the guide controls the boat with oars to fish the likely spots, which are mostly cast to on the move.

Serene on top, these rivers hide great dangers and both the Guides who died were no greenhorns, with a combined 30 years drift boat guiding between them. The exact details on what happened are sketchy but in both cases the boat was flipped over when it struck or caught something beneath the surface. One Guide may have become tangled in the anchor rope, whilst the other failed to make the swim to shore. In both cases the two anglers in each boat made it to safety.

So against this background the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Jackson Hole Fly took place on the first weekend in September. It's my fifth time there, because as with our one fly all day, "lose it and you are out!" Cut-throat, brown and rainbow trout are scored on a sliding scale according to length. Pattern wise there are really three ways to go: the real pros (each team of four is allowed one professional

angler) like to go with streamers which have a lot in common with our reservoir lures. Heavily weighted they are fished deep and jerky, scouring the drop offs and deep pools. The traditionalists like dry patterns like the Parachute Adams or Wulff variants we are familiar with. The locals pile in with huge foam patterns with great names like the Pink Panther or Casey's Creature. About two inches long on a size 8 hook, they represent stone flies, grasshoppers or something similar.

Generally the best fish are caught prospecting. Particular Guides like particular kinds of water; pillow water ahead of rocks, 'foam is home', drop offs, green water, frog water - the advice is endless. But be absolutely certain you will cast non-stop, solidly from 8am to 4.30pm whilst standing in a boat covering miles and miles of river; my longest day was 23 miles. Use an 8-10lb leader and be prepared to put on a new one every couple of hours. Having put in a good score on day one that left me in the top quarter (of 160 entrants) I had a great draw for day two on the White-water section of the Jackson River, so called because of the rapids. Ironically this has always been one of my favourite and most successful sections in previous years, but I came to grief on the section that gives White-water its name. As you approach the rapids, there are rocky outcrops that create pools which are always worth a cast. The Guide, Sean Clark, and I left the boat, moving from one rock to another. However, these are high rocks and you have to leap small ravines with the torrents below. For young, mountain goat-like guides it is a breeze, but for clumsy oafs like me in waders not so good. Leaping the first, I caught my toe and did a head dive into the torrent hitting my head on rock river bed.

Showing great presence of mind, fearing that I would be swept into the rapids and assuming that I had been knocked out, the Guide leapt in below me. At this point I'm wedged under water, waders filling up fast, fully conscious and thinking, 'Bloody hell this water is colder than any chalkstream'. After a few seconds of struggling Sean gets my head above water, sees the cut to my head; we work out I'm fine to climb and we clamber onto the rock. Fortunately, another Guide had seen it all and came over and did a great job patching me up. Sean, ever the One Fly guide, managed to rescue my rod and to general amusement announced that I still had my fly.

If you ever need to have 18 stitches in your head Jackson Hole is no bad place as plenty of similar ski injuries come their way. As for the hand, well I didn't know it was broken until I got back to England. Actually it didn't hurt much at the time and I must confess I did fish on after the accident. Well, what else are you supposed to do for 3 hours when the only way out of the canyon is in a drift boat designed for fishing?

Anyway that's my One Fly adventure for 2010; suffice to say I will be back next year. It is a truly wonderful place to fish and, competition or no competition, it is one of the best places on earth I have ever fished.

*Simon Cooper*

## John Watt Trophy 2010

Report by Chris Nunn

This year we managed to put out only one team. Two of us fished the day previous to the competition - myself and Bill King. Conditions were not good; a very strong north westerly wind and a heavy chop on the water. We covered most of the reservoir using various lines, flies and methods but struggled to locate fish. Bill moved a couple of fish and late afternoon and after a bit of local information we managed to find a few fish on the south east shore. A couple of follows and takes but only one fish was netted. We retired to the local pub a bit despondent but the sight of the barmaid soon lifted the spirits.

The match day dawned bright and sunny with a strong westerly wind - once again not ideal conditions. The majority of boats headed for the south east end of the reservoir, a few dropped off just outside the harbour and a few headed for the more sheltered west end. The majority of fish seemed to be in the top three to five feet of water, so most people opted for floating lines down to fast glass intermediates, with nymphs and perhaps a blob somewhere on the cast to act as an attractor. A few went for Di-3 lines pulling lures. Both myself and Chris Croucher managed to net an early fish which boosted confidence a bit. As the day wore on the cloud cover increased and the fish moved up in the water and became a bit more responsive, but the wind increased and the majority of boats retreated to the more sheltered west end. Bill King lost his only fish, I managed to wangle out six on hoppers, Chris Croucher landed three and Ian Dunk two.

This was a creditable all round team performance on a difficult day which gave us equal 6<sup>th</sup> place on numbers of fish caught, but 9<sup>th</sup> out of fifteen on weight of fish.

The statistics for the day were 181 fish caught by 60 anglers giving a rod average of 3.02

### Footnote:

I heard on the grape vine that a certain club member named Alan known for his river fishing and imitative flies fished for the Wilts Chalk Stream team and caught his two fish on a BLOB! Mind you this could only be a rumour.

Chris

See [www.the-fdg.org](http://www.the-fdg.org) for the full results.

## South of England Autumn Show and Game Fair

What a wash-out! Setting up on the Friday was an absolute nightmare in the wind and rain and as the water level slowly rose, so did fears for the show days. The Saturday started hopefully, but by the afternoon it was rain again, with much more forecast overnight. This duly arrived with high winds, blowing away some of the more fragile stands - thank goodness we have replaced the gazebo! Sunday also started hopefully, but a storm at mid-day put paid to tying in comfort.

Nevertheless we had quite a few very interested callers, and we hope to have the pleasure of welcoming them in the near future.

## POWDERMILL CUP 2010

(Report courtesy of the Hastings FF website)

Members of Hastings Fly Fishers took on visiting members of the Sussex Fly Dressers Guild on Saturday 3 July. This was the third year that this event has taken place and the score was one win each with the Guild currently holding the cup.

Each team consisted of twelve anglers: Six from each team fished from the bank in the morning while the others paired up (one from each team) to fish from the boats. In the afternoon they swapped over.

The weather was hot with a slight breeze and some occasional thin cloud. Despite the warm conditions, all 24 anglers stuck it out, but overall the fishing was exceptionally hard with only 28 rainbows being landed for a total weight of 45lb 12ozs.

Almost half the fish (13) were taken by the morning boat anglers, with morning bank anglers only managing 7 fish. The afternoon proved even harder with only 8 fish being caught; 5 fish falling to the boats and 3 to bank fishermen. By the end of the afternoon most anglers had had enough and were more than ready for the barbecue.

<u>Team &amp; Prize Results</u>	<u>Fish Caught</u>	<u>Weight</u>
<b>Hastings Fly Fishers Club</b>	22 fish	34lb 10ozs
<b>Sussex Fly Dressers Guild</b>	6 fish	11lb 2ozs
	<b>Hastings FF Win The Powdermill Cup</b>	
<b>Best Bag</b>	K. Blundell	9lb 10ozs (5 Fish)
<b>Biggest Fish</b>	K. Blundell	2lb 7ozs
<b>Best Bank Bag</b>	N. Harle	3lb 14ozs (2 Fish)
<b>Best Boat Total</b>	K. Blundell & P. Davis	11lb 11½ozs (6 Fish)



Vic Hunter, Hastings FF Bailiff, receiving the Cup on Behalf of Hastings Fly Fishers

Individual Results			
Sussex Fly Dressers Guild	Fish Caught	Hastings Fly Fishers	Fish Caught
Ray Bond	1	Adams	0
Buss	0	Austin	5
Davis	2	Blundell	5
Hunter	1	Brignall	1
Love	0	Burt	2
Maslin	1	Coleman	0
Mustchin	1	Hards	3
Naisbit	0	Harle	3
Painter	0	Hills	0
Plowman	0	Ralph	0
Smith	0	Sarford	1
Woolnough	0	Wood	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

No angler caught his 6 fish limit and only two anglers managed 5 fish. Jim Adams caught one of the water's fine wild brown trout while fishing from the bank by the willow tree, but unfortunately this does not count as all browns have to be returned immediately. Ten anglers failed to catch anything (bar the odd perch and rudd) which shows how hard the day turned out to be and all anglers were pleased when the fishing was finally over. After a few drinks and plenty of BBQ food everyone was happy once more. No doubt everyone went home a little wiser as Powdermill once again proved to be the real winner and virtually all the fish lived to fight another day.

Unfortunately the amusing highlight of the day was not captured on film – namely when one of the home team fishing from the dam, put his rod down only to see it slide into the water as a fish hooked itself. Apparently, not prepared to lose his precious rod, he rushed into the water – seeming to walk on water and just managed to grab it before it disappeared. A very risky reaction as the dam is quite steep and slippery, but on this occasion he got away with it.

It goes without saying that we all appreciate the time and effort that Mandy and John (The Catering Corps) spend cooking the BBQ food for us all to enjoy. Thanks also must go to Mary for organising the Hastings team and to Vic for maintaining such a superb fishery.

*.... and from the Branch – a hearty “thank you” to Hastings Fly Fishers for their hospitality!!*

## HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBS?

Don't forget that you now have to rejoin the Guild via their website [www.the-fdg.org](http://www.the-fdg.org), or by completing a Bankers' Order (available from Roy Gurney) and sending to your bank, letting him know so he can advise the Guild.

**BRANCH SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE STILL PAID TO ROY**

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

October is with us and for me this means our game fairs and agricultural shows are over until next spring. The shows this year have been a success in the amount of interest shown by the public in our tying skills and they have also attracted new members to the guild so that the art of fly dressing can be passed on to the next generation of anglers and tyers.

My thanks must go to all of you who have helped in any way to ensure that the show programme has run so smoothly.

I must also thank Tony Woolnough for standing in at short notice as a replacement speaker in September (you do not know how close you were to having to sit listening to me talking about the science and technology of fishing!).

I will be resigning as chairman before the end of this year and at the AGM you will be asked to elect a committee for 2011 so perhaps now is the time to consider standing.

Finally, most insect life will be slowing down so our normal imitations may not be so effective. Do try the extremes of sizes i.e. a size 18 buzzer or a size 6 fry copy.

Tight lines

*John Plowman.*

## Branch Trophy Day

26<sup>th</sup> September 2010

We visited Brick Farm for this event for the first time. The new owners, Keith and Sophie, came round to welcome members and have a chat.. We had a lake to ourselves with 16 platforms and the footings are in place for a new lodge which will be ready for the New Year. Diane Winder supplied the lunch which was voted a hit by all.

The weather was as usual unpredictable starting with a strong northerly wind, dropping as the day progressed with sunny spells and drizzle later in the day. Fish were taken by a huge variety of flies and methods from dries to sunk lures.

Results:

**Jimmy James Memorial Trophies** for Best bag:

Winner: **Bob Thomson** 4 fish 10 lb 4 oz  
 Runner-up: **Peter Buss** 4 fish 9 lb 9 oz

**Plowman Trophy** for Best fish

**Tony Harrison** 3 lb 14 oz

No Browns were caught.

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