

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Most people will recognise the name "Arthur Ransome" as the author of that delightful children's story "Swallows and Amazons". Some will know that he was the overseas reporter for the *Manchester Guardian* (now the *Guardian*) and reported back from Moscow during the 1917 revolution. Few, however, will know that he was an avid fly fisherman and wrote a series of occasional articles on angling for his newspaper. In one of these articles he tells of an afternoon when an acquaintance called at his apartment close to Windermere and suggested a walk. When the two of them came to a stone bridge over a stream Arthur stopped to chat to a young boy who was attempting to catch a small trout with a worm. After a few minutes his companion became agitated and insisted that they continue their walk. Reluctantly Arthur agreed but mentally decided "I will never walk with this fellow again". My own experience with fly fisherman is that they will always have time to talk and always offer constructive advice when possible. For me one of the delights of our organisation is being in the company of like minded individuals who care passionately for our environment and our sport. We recognise that the next generation of anglers and tyers is our life blood. By now I expect many of you will have tired of my ramblings, so with my last "Chairman's Chat" can I thank you all for your good company and tolerance during my years as chairman and wish you all good health and "tight lines".

John Plowman.

Beware of the Fox!

Peter Winder reports that, following his return from Brick Farm after Trophy Day, he unpacked the car and put his fish on the patio, ready for gutting. He went inside for a drink and a bite, and on coming out an hour later the fish had gone. Knowing his memory is poor, he thought they were still in the car, but after searching there was sign of them. Somewhere locally they have a fat fox who also has his stringer! Another lesson learnt!

Oooooops! Charity Pairs

Full marks to anyone spotting the deliberate(?) mistake last month. Whilst shown correctly in the results table, the internal Branch Charity Pairs competition winning pair was of course Chris Nunn and Bill King – sorry Ray for having boosted your hopes!!

JANUARY SPEAKER 20th January 2011

STEVE THORNTON, of Virtual Nymph, a master of imitative patterns, will join us to demonstrate – and will no doubt bring a selection of his products.

Doors open at 7.30 pm. All are welcome.

Absolutely the last call for the Big Fish entries



Get your entries in NOW to Paul Bond or Roy Gurney. I bet there are some not yet registered, and big ones are still being caught!

To remind you, 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 31st October 2009 for browns and 31st December for other categories. Trophies will be presented at the Dinner.

Waterproof coats

By John Plowman

About eighteen months ago I wrote a short article expressing my soggy disappointment with various waterproofing systems used in clothes.

I had turned to a mountaineering jacket using a completely different method of producing a breathable and waterproof coat. I have now tested this coat in extreme wet exposure (a full day's wind and rain in a boat on Bewl) and am glad to say the coat performed perfectly. The coat is made by the **Nikwax** company and is called a **Paramo**. Most of the coats are for mountain use so are in bright colours but there is one available in "Forest Green". Mine cost around £200.

Jonathon Glover Trophy VOTE NOW!

This trophy is awarded annually to a member who has given outstanding service to the Branch over the year, not necessarily high profile. Under the rules, the last three winners are not eligible, and they are Bill Smith (2009), Paul Davis (2008) and Paul Bond (2007) – not as previously stated. Nominations have now been whittled down to the following candidates:

- Mike Guest** for his work on website
- Andy Steer** for tying nights and shows
- John Plowman** for his achievements as chairman
- Tony Harrison** for his constant support at shows, auction and events.

A voting slip is attached for **members only** to return by **9th December** or e-mail to roygurney@ntlworld.com or phone **01273 506184**.

The trophy will be presented at the AGM on 16th December.

Phil Waller

Our November guest speaker treated us to a very entertaining and informative evening on the history and development of tackle over the centuries. He spoke at length about reels and the fascination of collecting, having brought along some dating back to the 1700s through to the early 20th century. His enthusiasm and knowledge was evident (and for some of us, contagious!) and the display of unusual implements for fishing and related activities was most interesting.

Phil enjoyed the discussions and questions raised during the evening, and says that if anyone has any further questions or has some old tackle for disposal or would like to have valued, he would be pleased to hear from you – phone 0208 642 2357 or e-mail philipwaller@msn.com



Illingworth No.1

For those interested in old reels, Phil has written a couple of important books (*Fishing Reels – Collecting for All, Vols. 1 & 2*) on the subject.

STOP PRESS

News from the Guild

The Guild held its AGM on 27th November and it's all change at the top! Our own Alan Middleton has at last been able to find a successor as chairman – **Charles Jardine** now has the hot seat. Alan has been made a Life Vice President in recognition of his services - well deserved and congratulations! Membership secretary Ian Fazackerly hands over to **Malcolm Price** of Ringwood Branch, who will also take on the responsibility for the website, and the new Treasurer is **Stephen Millington**, also from Ringwood. The new position of Accreditation Manager is taken on by our own **Paul Davis**. The Guild still lack a Secretary, but all other officers remain unchanged.

JOHN WATT COMPETITION 2011

Please note that the above competition will again be on the Bank Holiday week-end, so make a note in your diary – **Saturday 27th August 2011 !**

Our February Speaker

17th February 2010

Mark Carr-Brown will give us a run-down on the first year of Weir Wood Reservoir re-opening as trout fishery.

Doors open at 7.30 pm.

All are welcome.

Auction(s) 2010

Once again we are indebted to Mike Humphreys for his outstanding skills in extracting cash for lots (and lots of lots at that!) at our annual auctions.

Many thanks also to all who contributed, either as vendors or buyers – in all we raised some £734 for Branch funds. Particular thanks are due to Mrs Marion Miller and the family of the late Jack Jupp who donated their total proceeds to the Branch and to Ms Jenny Gibbs who generously donated the proceeds of her partner's selection of materials, amounting to £538, to the Wheelyboat Trust.

May I also personally thank all the helpers – porters, runners and clerks - who helped make the evenings run so smoothly, and particularly Tony Harrison who gave up much time in preparing lots from the bulk parcels we had been given for sale.

Work is already in progress for next year's auctions as there are still some more items left over!

Next year's dates are:

Thursday, 20th October 2011 (Fly boxes, tools, materials, books etc)

Tuesday 2nd November 2011 (Tackle)

If you already have items you wish to enter, let me have details now on the usual forms, and this will reduce the panic to get the catalogues done in time!

Roy Gurney

MORE ARTICLES NEEDED

We need more items from YOU to keep this newsletter running. Let us have your contributions of news, hints and tips, outings – anything of interest!

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Jonathon Glover Trophy 2010

VOTING SLIP

Nominees are: **Mike Guest** for his work on website

Andy Steer for tying nights and shows

John Plowman for his achievements as chairman

Tony Harrison for his continued support at shows and committee

Mark your choice clearly

Mail this slip to 7 Eldred Avenue, Brighton BN1 5EB, e-mail roygurney@ntlworld.com or phone 01273 506184