



Sussex Branch Newsletter



JANUARY 2011

A.G.M. 2010

Once again the weather did its best to disrupt the Annual General Meeting, but some 30+ members braved the elements and enjoy the mince pies and quiz which followed. Many thanks go to John Plowman for the fare, and Paul Davis for the quiz.

We now have a new chairman, but he is supported by an unchanged band of officers and a committee with two new members. The committee is:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Chairman | Tony Woolnough |
| Secretary | Paul Bond |
| Treasurer | Roy Gurney |
| Competition Secretary | Paul Davis |
| Equipment Officer | Andy Steer |

Members – Tony Harrison, Bill Smith, Ray Love, Howard Dodsley, Wayne Duerden, Mike Guest, Peter Winder and the Welcome addition of Bill Black and Richard Burbidge

A big “thank you” is due to the retiring member, Chris Croucher, who will continue to support the Branch with his organising skills, for his support and to the outgoing chairman, who was then voted the Jonathon Glover Trophy for his contribution to the Branch.

With no contentious matters to discuss, business was completed in very good time, enabling an early departure to avoid the worst of the weather.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

In order to simplify matters the Branch now has one subscription rate of £12 for all categories with the exception of Family membership @ £15.

One unfortunate result of the main Guild changes has been a big increase in unpaid subscriptions for the Branch – probably due to the renewal of Guild membership direct, and forgetting the Branch dues! Could any of the 17 still outstanding please, please let the Treasurer have your £12 as soon as possible, otherwise an increase in subscription next year will be necessary to recoup the lost income.

ANNUAL DINNER

The venue will again be the **Dyke Golf Club**, on **Saturday 2nd 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 £26 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 2010.

Big Fish Competition 2010

Here are the details of the 2010 trophy awards:ows:

Peter West Trophy

(best rainbow from a Sussex water)

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Peter Neave | Duncton Mill | 13 lb 2 oz |
| Tony Harrison | Chalk Springs | 10 lb 13 oz |
| Bob Thomson | Weir Wood | 10 lb |
| Harry Atkins | Blackwool Farm | 6 lb |
| Chris Croucher | Bewl Water | 5 lb 11 oz |

Brown Trout Cup

(best brown from Sussex water)

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Tony Harrison | Chalk Springs | 7 lb 2 oz |
| Chris Croucher | Chalk Springs | 6 lb 9 oz |
| Jim White | Chalk Springs | 5 lb 4 oz |

Members Reservoir Plate

(best fish from Sussex reservoir)

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Bob Thomson | Weir Wood | 10 lb |
| Chris Croucher | Bewl Water | 5 lb 11 oz |

John Leitch Brown Trout Cup

(best brown from a Sussex reservoir or river)

No entries

Frank Darrah Memorial Trophy (Bewl Pairs)

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Paul Davis & Dean Epton | 6 fish |
| Steve Mustchin & John Plowman | 5 fish |

Charity Pairs Trophy (Bewl Water)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Chris Nunn & Bill King | 6 fish |
| Ian Dunk & Chris Croucher | 6 fish |

Branch Trophy Day (Duncton Mill):

Jimmy James Memorial Trophies (Best bag)

Winner

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Bob Thomson | 10 lb 14 oz |
|--------------------|--------------------|

Runner-up

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Peter Buss | 9 lb 9 oz |
|-------------------|------------------|

Plowman Trophy (Best fish)

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Tony Harrison | 3 lb 14 oz |
|----------------------|-------------------|

Trophy for Best Brown, Brook or Tiger

None caught

Presentations will be made at the Annual Dinner.

The results of the Stillwater Challenge were:

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Best fish | Jim White | 5 lb 4oz brown |
| | Peter Buss | 3 lb 7oz blue |
| Best bag | Chris Croucher | 17 lb |
| | Jim White | 10 lb 4 oz |

Fly Tying Competition 2010/11

Just to remind you!

To encourage entries for both the Branch and the main Guild competitions we have chosen the same patterns, as described in the enclosure in the last "Flydresser", and also detailed on the Guild website www.the-fdg.org/tying.htm, where .pdf downloads are also available. The references are to the edition of the "Flydresser" in which the patterns are featured:

Beginners (Novice) **The Professor**
(Summer 2010)

Intermediate **Skating Caddis**
(Summer 2010)

Open **The Professor**
(Summer 2010)

In addition, in view of the great interest shown on tying nights, we are introducing a new trophy for the Branch (which also doubles for the Guild):

Saltwater/Pike **The Atomic Anchovy**
(Summer 2010)

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

Closing dates for entries are 26th March 2011 for the Branch, and 1st April for the main Guild.

STOP PRESS!!!

Thanks to a generous donation of the trophy by Paul Davis, we now have an additional category of **Salmon Fly** for the tying competition.

In line with the other categories we will use the main Guild pattern which this year is:

Gorgeous George (Summer 2009)

The tying recipe is on www.the-fdg.org and if any are missing that copy of the *Flydresser* for the full instructions, then ask for a photocopy from Roy Gurney.

ACCREDITATION

Don't forget – save those flies you have tied on the course till the end of the tying "season" as they will be required for assessment to show you have completed the task. If you have already used any, you can always tie another to replace it!

Whoops!!

As usual the Editor managed to get some dates for next year wrong again.

The date for the **Tackle Auction** is in fact **Tuesday 1st November 2011**

Programme alterations

There may be some changes to the programme to cover for the lost evenings to snow and ice. Please check with your course instructor.

The end of season bash is still scheduled for 14th April 2011



BALANCED SEAS

Tony Woolnough reports:

You will no doubt remember that, on behalf of the Branch, I have been keeping an eye on the proposals to produce Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ). MCZ are areas of the sea bed which will be designated as "not take" zones where fishing is restricted or banned altogether. To date consultations in the UK are complete and the various comments and recommendations being assembled to aid the decision making process.

Consultations have also been carried out with like bodies on the French side of the Channel who intend to establish conservation zones of their own - in other words, not much to report.

My main concern remains the risk of zones being established where fishing for some species will be banned. Obviously this will be entirely impractical since fishing methods do not discriminate between species and many fish would continue to be dumped dead. In addition the only way to police these zones would be for the coastguard service to use their radar cover. This of course has another weakness; fishermen would claim to be fishing for permitted species, whilst taking protected species. In addition boats within the zone would need to be inspected at sea.

I also received another Newsletter from the Science Advisory Panel (SAC) which modestly describe themselves as "expert marine scientists". As many of my customers are "scientists" I am well aware of their "expertise" and in future I will keep a careful eye on their proposals!

The gist of the Newsletter is that deadlines for consultation with stakeholders have been extended and further meetings with interested parties have been carried out. The academics managing the project have discovered (surprise, surprise), that there is a need for more time for discussion with Stakeholders at meetings. The project team has therefore developed a more flexible approach to meeting structures. As we all know, there is a fine line between meetings developing into talking shops and giving everyone an opportunity to state their case.

I await production of the first draft map of the proposed Marine Conservation Zones, which I will place in our newsletter and invite your comments, so that I ensure that I represent the wishes and concerns (if any) of Club members.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT LINES

What do we know about our quarry?

Swimming speeds.

Fish swimming speed depends on the condition of the fish, species, water temperature and surprisingly, length. Considering only healthy salmonids (including our rainbows and browns) the main determinates are water temperature and fish length. To take fish length out of the equation, biologists (and fisheries engineers) refer to swimming speeds in terms of body lengths per second (bl/s). Adopting this unit of bl/s, we arrive at some surprising results for maximum recorded swimming speeds:

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Salmonids | 10 bl/s |
| Carp | 10 bl/s |
| Yellowfin Tuna | 21 bl/s |
| Herring | 8 bl/s |

A contact I have on the West coast of Ireland owns a bluefin tuna fishing boat and reports the these fish take an artificial squid lure and make an initial run at 55 mph for half a mile. This is impressive and explains why the local hospital is full of anglers with torn ligaments and bad backs.

In terms of absolute speed we find:

| | | |
|----------|--------|----------------|
| Sailfish | 30 m/s | 67 mph |
| Marlin | 36 m/s | 80.5 mph !!!!! |

These values were obtained by using side-scanning sonar, piscatometers (ie fishing reels with speedometers attached) and artificial channels with pumped water supply.

An interesting speed value obtained by side scanning sonar, of an unknown species of sea fish, was 32 m/s, this fish travelled 8 m in 0.25 secs and 7 m in the next 0.25 secs (i.e. 15 metres in half a second, or 67 mph) – I hope I don't hook that one !

For design purposes, swimming speeds can be divided into darting, burst, sustained and cruising.

Darting is the maximum speed that can be achieved by a single effort sustained only momentarily. For salmonids this is typically 10 bl/s - hence those smash takes we experience all too infrequently.

Burst speed is defined as the speed that can be sustained for up to 20 seconds using white muscle. This is the speed at which a trout will "take off" when hooked i.e. the start of the fight - typically 4 bl/s.

Sustained speed is a speed that can be maintained for up to about a minute and a half - typically 3.5 bl/s using red muscle. This is the dogged resistance that a hooked fish will use to avoid capture to the very end.

Cruising speed, as the name suggests, is the speed that a fish can maintain for hours, eg during marine migration. Typical values are 1.5 bl/s.

In practice there will be a seamless transition from one defined speed to another and a mixture of all swimming abilities demonstrated by a taking fish.

So what do the above figures mean to us?

A typical 400 mm long rainbow in good condition and swimming in water at a temperature (more info. later) of say 10 deg. C can snatch your lure at 9 mph and run at 3.5 mph for 20 secs, and continue to fight, making runs at 1.3 mph until finally tiring due to resistance from the rod, or in my case get off !

Tony Woolnough

Sussex Piscatorial Society

The Sussex Piscatorial Society is pleased to announce it has been asked to take over the management of Colin Godmans Farm Trout Fishery near Furners Green, East Sussex. This fishery has been operated as a private syndicated water for the past thirty years. For those that do not know this fishery it is a beautiful and intimate three lake complex of approximately seven acres, set in stunning and quiet surrounding just north of Sheffield Park.

Whilst all the existing Society Lakes are now open all year, Colin Godmans will continue to be a seasonal fishery for this coming season; starting in April, the fishing will continue until October. The Fishery will be run along the same lines as all other SPS trout waters and we will be stocking our usual range of superb quality, hard fighting, Brown and Rainbow Trout from 1½ to 5lb with many over-wintered and grown on fish exceeding these weights. Since changing our fish suppliers two years ago our members are reporting the best fishing ever, with these super fit fish often taking lines onto the backing.

Any Guild members interested in joining the SPS should enquire soon, as the Trout membership is capped and numbers have nearly reached this cap. The Society is therefore expecting to return to having a waiting list for prospective members quite early in this season. Membership for 2011 is £250 for the season and there is a one off Society Joining fee of £50. This represent tremendous value as members can fish up to three times a week throughout the season on any of our six trout still waters and our two sections of the river Itchen in Hampshire.

If you would like further details please contact our Membership Secretary, Terry Scragg, on 01243 551473 or visit our website:

www.sussexpiscatorialsociety.co.uk

where you can down-load an application form, or make contact with Bob Burbidge the Trout Curator at Sussex Branch FDG meetings.

Bargains to be had!

Albert Horne has some grand tackle bargains to offer – mainly new or very little used items which include:

| | | |
|------------|---|-----|
| Fly lines: | Wickhams WF-7-I | £5 |
| | Wychwood WF-7-I | £5 |
| | Airflo Ridge line WF-7-F | £10 |
| | John Norris WF-7-I | £5 |
| Reels: | Orvis Clearwater (with WF-7-F) | £15 |
| | Shakespeare Alpha (w. WF-7-F & Spare spool w. WF-7-I) | £25 |

All subject unsold, but he will let us know on tying nights any further items on offer!

His naval nickname was "Trader" after all!

Bewl Bridge FF Auction

Their 2011 auction will be held after their AGM on **Saturday 19th February**, starting at about 2 pm.

BOAT SEAT FOR SALE

One of our members has a Bob Church Standard boat seat for sale for £60. As these are over £160 new, this seems a great bargain! Contact Ray Fisher on 01444 244950 or 07507 072625

How are your rod rings?

By Phillip Ellis

I wonder how often we check our rods in the winter to make sure they will be serviceable through to next season? Now is as good a time as ever. I recently took an angler out for some tuition, as he wanted to improve his technique for river fishing. He wished to use his own tackle and I quickly checked it over and did a few casts with the rod. What I did notice was that the snake rings had seriously worn. Where do you think the wear was found? Not on the top inner side of the ring, but two grooves on each ring close to the blank! These grooves were so deep that you could cut your finger and cut through your fly line. Now go and check your rods – the chances are that if it is a few years old, the rings will all require replacing. You can do this yourself, or you may find someone in the branch or go to a specialist like Graham Dadswell. If it is a DIY job then follow the tips below which I recently found.

You will first have to remove the rings from the rod blank, and this is not a very easy job on modern rods. The reason is that most rings are tied and then varnished with a high build “epoxy” varnish that is very hard. This needs to be removed with the utmost care and I suggest the following procedure: Take some masking tape and wrap it around the rod at the very ends of the varnish both above and below the whippings. This is to protect the blank should your knife slip! With a very sharp blade, e.g. a new Stanley Knife blade, cut into the varnish. Assuming you are right handed and with the rod laid on a bench of some sort with the thin end pointing to the left, make the incision against the metal foot of the faulty ring. By so doing, the blade will cut into the metal and not the blank. It does take time - gently cut, do not try cutting it all off in one go - it does not work. If the blade slips, as it often does, hopefully it will catch the wraps of tape and not damage the blank. Once the varnish and thread is cut through to the ring foot, it is often possible to peel it off. Remove the first bit then turn the rod around and repeat the process. Finally, gently remove all traces of finish using wet and dry abrasive paper.

The following web page gives a pictorial step-by-step view of replacing rings:

<http://www.fishingthefly.co.uk/forum/index.php?topic=1623.0>

Be mindful if you change from snake rings to ceramic lined ones, it may affect the action of the rod. I am sure this is the reason why we rarely see mass produced rods with anything other than snakes (or is it for commercial reasons?). I remember in the distant past there was much discussion on this subject in the angling press and I cannot remember a convincing conclusion. *P.E.*

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.

TROPHIES

Would all holders of the annual trophies (for big fish, tying competitions, etc) please return them to Roy Gurney as soon as possible so that they can be engraved in time for presentations at the Dinner or end of season Social Evening.

GAME FAIR 2011

This is a great family day out and Paul Bond is planning to organize a coach trip to the Game Fair at Blenheim Palace on

23rd July 2011

The preliminary notice is attached (on the back of the provisional fishing programme) with a booking slip for you to complete to reserve your place. Cost (including entry) will be £45 (£18 for under-16s) and a cheque, post-dated to 1st June 2011, made out to “FDG Sussex Branch” will reserve your place(s).

Carp on the fly

You will note that this popular item at our usual venue is missing from the programme – it is booked up for this season already!! Paul has booked for 2012, but meantime is looking for alternative venues for this year – do contact him with your suggestions as soon as possible – phone 01306 621157 or e-mail flytyer@inbox.com

FURLED LEADERS

Thursday 27th January

Bob Burbidge will be holding a workshop on making furled leaders – some say they are a must, especially for grayling fishing. As usual this will be held alongside the normal tying classes.

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Gamefair - Blenheim Palace, Oxon on July 23rd 2011

October-
2010

The next Game Fair in in 2011 will be in Oxfordshire at the end of July and we are organising a coach trip starting from Brighton calling in at Crawley en route to Blenheim Palace.

A deposit of a post dated cheque for the full value below will secure seats. We will have 49 of them!

The coach will depart initially from Withdean Stadium (due to free parking) at 5.45am. Our aim is to be Blenheim around 8 - 8.30am subject to traffic. We will then be on site until departure for the return leg at 5.30pm. Due to legal restrictions on coach drivers this time is not flexible.

If for any reason you have a problem on the day my mobile number is 0779 171 9909

Our arrival will determine our departure time as the driver has to ensure he returns to his garage by law. Subject to this we should depart about 5.30pm and complete the return trip to Withdean via drop offs depending upon traffic.

If for whatever reason you have any queries please ring me in the first instant on 01273 420410.

The cost of this year's trip will be £45.00 payable in advance with a post dated cheque of 1st June 2011 made out to 'FDG Sussex Branch'. Children under 16 are £18.00

.....
Remittance

Name : _____ **Number of tickets :** _____ **Total :** _____

Pickup from: _____ **Withdean or other (Specify).....**

Please find attached cash or a cheque for the number above post dated for 1st June 2011

All cheques made payable to ' FDG Sussex Branch '.

Please detach bottom of form and return with cheque to:
P A Bond, Y-CWT-MOCHYN, 61 Spencer Avenue, HOVE, BN3 8DA.

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 it 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 many 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, please, please let us know. We can't fix things if we don't know about them.

Paul Davis (Competitions and Outings Secretary)

Provisional Fishing Programme for 2011

(Sundays unless otherwise indicated) **events in red to be confirmed**

| Date | Event | Venue | Organiser |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 27 th February | Brass Monkey Cup | Hazel Copse | Wayne Duerden & Bill Smith |
| 27 th March | Chairman's Day | Moorhen Fishery, Hants | Chairman |
| 17 th April | Frank Darrah Pairs Competition | Bewl Water | John Plowman |
| 7 th May (Sat.) | East Sussex S&TA Competition | Duncton Mill | Roy Gurney |
| 8 th May | Eastbourne FF Competition | Arlington Reservoir | Bill Smith |
| 19 th May (Thurs) | Evening Outing | Arlington Reservoir | Roy Gurney |
| 26 th May (Thurs) | Casting Clinic | Patcham | Roy Gurney |
| 19 th June | Branch Outing | Ashbourne | Roy Gurney |
| TBC June | Bass & Mullet on the fly | Shoreham | Brian Hendry |
| TBC June | Carp on the fly | Passie's Match Lake | Paul Davis |
| 2 nd July | Hastings FFC Competition | Powdermill Reservoir | Paul Davis |
| 17 th or 24 th July | Stillwater Challenge | Chalk Springs | Chris Croucher |
| TBC July | Carp on the Fly | Passie's Match Lake | Paul Davis |
| TBC August | Bass & Mullet on the Fly | Shoreham Harbour | Brian Hendry |
| 27 th August(Sat) | John Watt Competition (Main Guild) | Grafham Reservoir | Chris Nunn |
| 25 th September | Branch Trophy Day | Brick Farm | Peter Winder |
| TBC September | Bass & Mullet on the Fly | Shoreham Harbour | Brian Hendry |
| 9 th October | Charity Pairs Competition | Bewl Water | Ray Love |
| 15 th October(Sat) | Grayling Fishing | River Test, Wherwell | Paul Davis |
| 2012 | | | |
| 15 th July | Carp on the fly | Newdigate | Paul Davis |
| 11 th August | Carp on the fly | Newdigate | Paul Davis |