

Fly fishing in France

Have you booked your holiday yet?

Come fly fishing in the beautiful foothills of the Pyrenees. We have two very comfortable three bedroomed holiday cottages, and can help with the purchase of your permits and arrange for a guide if you wish.

We are situated in "Da Vinci" country if you want to follow the trail and there are plenty of things for non-fishers to do. You can take it easy and relax around the swimming pool, visit the magnificent Carcassonne Cité, explore local markets and try out the local Blanquette de Limoux sparkling wines. Roy Gurney can give you some further insight (which might be biased due to family connections!) and do visit our website www.gitesfa.com for more information and to contact us.

ANGLING TRUST

The Branch is a member of the Angling Trust and Fish Legal in order to support the protection of our waters from the ravages of modern life – pollution, water abstraction, poaching – you name it!

Roy Gurney receives regular newsletters and press releases on its activities (by e-mail) and has hard copies available on meeting nights. Do have a look at them and see what is happening on this front.

Angling Trust also needs more individual members to achieve more weight with bodies such as Government, Environment Agency, etc. It is in everyone's interest, so why not join and add your voice? Details and application forms are available from Roy.

Got a New Line?

Albert Horne offers his services in fitting your new line and backing onto the reel. He can supply the backing if you require it, and make and fit the necessary loops. Whilst he is doing this, he can loan a line for you to fish if required.

All he asks is for you to make a small donation to the Branch for this service.

(I have to say that I for one cannot match a professionally fitted line – well worth taking him up on this offer! - Ed.)

LIABILITY INSURANCE

For the benefit of new members (and as reminder to old ones!), as a member of the Flydressers' Guild you are covered for personal third party liability for up to £10 million through your subscription. The Branch also has similar cover for up to £5 million for events organized by the Branch (including the normal tying nights, fishing outings and demonstrations for instance).

Our insurers require us to advise them immediately following incidents in which they may have an interest, particularly incidents involving personal injury, and therefore **any member who is involved in an incident whilst taking part in any Branch activity must immediately report the circumstances to the Secretary.**

WEIL'S DISEASE

Boring though it may be, it is also worth repeating this article, too. Weil's Disease (Leptospirosis) is a bacterial infection carried in rats' urine, which contaminates water and the banks of lakes, rivers and ponds.

The early symptoms are similar to those of 'flu and normally start 3 to 19 days after exposure to contaminated water. Every year people die from this disease, which is unnecessary because it is easily treated if diagnosed in time.

DON'T LET IT HAPPEN TO YOU!

There are a number of sensible precautions you can take:

- Cover any cuts, sores or scratches with waterproof plasters or gloves
- Disinfect any wounds that occur at the waterside
- Do not put your hand in your mouth after immersing in river water and never place bait or fishing line in your mouth
- Do not touch dead animals, especially rats
- If you develop 'flu-like symptoms that persist, tell your doctor that you may have been exposed to leptospirosis so the he/she can consider it in the diagnosis
- Do not leave food, ground bait or bait on the bankside.

After all that – enjoy yourself, keep safe and tight lines!!!

WEBSITE

Do keep an eye on our website which is continually being updated and expanded by Mike Guest, our tireless webmaster – www.sussexflydressers.org.uk The home page has from time to time "Stop Press" announcements e.g. late changes to programmes, etc, as well as other items of interest. At the same time, please heed our plea for your flies to add to our portfolio, and for any ideas for improving things, too.

ARTICLES WANTED

This newsletter requires a lot of filling! You may have noticed a bit of repetition (Weil's disease and insurance, for instance) but your editor is running out of inspiration and needs **YOU** to produce that literary masterpiece and academy standard photo to keep us all interested. Let Roy have yours and share your experiences with our readership!

Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

Chairman: Tony Woolnough 01273 483833

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

Get Down, Deeper and Down

By Paul Davis

This article, with apologies to Status Quo for the title, is all about weighting flies and getting them down to where the fish are. Getting the flies down to the fish is probably the most important aspect of fly fishing – and I might even be persuaded to say it is more important than fly choice (even if it is quite heretical for publishing in a FDG newsletter). You will often be asked (if you are catching and the enquirer isn't) what fly are you using? In fact the important question is what fly and what depth are you fishing it at and what speed of retrieve are you using (as this dictates how the fly rises and falls in the water column).

The \$64,000 question is how deep are your flies fishing? This of course can be achieved by either using sinking lines or, more often what weighting is used in the fly construction. Most of us we be happy in stating that brass beads sink slower than lead shot, and that lead shot sinks slower than tungsten beads. Are we correct in this assumption? Well now for the science (and some maths) bit, therefore I advise those of a nervous disposition to look away now and come back in two paragraphs. We are all familiar with the concept of weight – this is simply how heavy something is. However if you wish to compare say a 3mm brass bead with a 2mm tungsten bead it is not so simple. Why? Well heavy things don't always automatically sink. For example an oil super tanker can weigh 400,000 tons yet it will still float. This is because weight isn't the only factor in whether an item sinks. What we need to consider is the mass. Mass, scientifically speaking, is the weight per volume of an item. This allows us to compare directly. Fortunately for us, as fishermen, freshwater is used as the standard and 1 cubic metre of water (m³) has a mass of 1000 kilograms (kg) – which when expressed properly is 1000 Kg/m³.

We are also lucky in that most of the added weight to our flies is in the form of a bead or split shot, which for simplicity is a sphere. The volume of a sphere is calculated as $\frac{4}{3} \pi r^3$ (i.e. radius of the sphere X radius of the sphere X radius of the sphere X pi X 4 and then dived by 3). As we buy beads by their diameter (e.g. 2mm, 3mm etc) it is ease to calculate their radius, it is the diameter divided by 2. As beads are measured in mm we need to convert Kg/m³ into g/mm³ (grams per millimetre cubed) to enable us to do the sums. This again is easy as you divide the stated mass of a material in Kg/m³ by 1,000,000 to get the value in g/mm³. As an example water has a mass of 1000 Kg/m³ which (when divided by 1 million) is the same as 0.001 g/mm³.

So all this maths and physics can be easily summarised into the following tables. The third table is arguably the most important as this lists all materials, sizes and what their mass is. This means you can easily compare the different weighting products and see which is best for each situation. When you look at the table some surprises crop up – such as a 2.4mm Tungsten Bead has almost the same mass as a No5 Non Toxic Shot and both have only a slightly larger mass than a 3mm Brass Bead!

I hope you find this table useful and are glad that I have done all the maths for you.

Material	Mass (Kg/m ³)	Mass (g/mm ³)
Brass	8580	0.00858
Copper	8930	0.00893
Gold	19320	0.01932
Lead	11340	0.01134
Non- toxic 'Lead' Shot	9505	0.00950
Silver	10490	0.01049
Stainless Steel	7740	0.00774
Tungsten	19600	0.01960
Water	1000	0.00100

Diameter of Sphere (Size of Bead)	Volume mm ³
2mm	4.19
2.01mm (Number 9 shot)	4.85
2.26mm (Number 8 shot)	6.04
2.4mm	7.24
2.8mm	11.49
3mm	14.14
3.05mm (Number 5 shot)	14.86
3.56mm (Number 3 shot)	23.62
4mm	33.51
4.06mm (Number 1 shot)	35.04
4.57mm (BB shot)	49.97

Material	Size	Mass g/mm ³
Brass Bead	2mm	0.036
	3mm	0.121
	4mm	0.286
Copper Bead	2mm	0.037
	3mm	0.126
	4mm	0.299
Lead Shot All modern shot (post 1987) larger than size 8 are made of non-toxic shot	No9	0.054
	No8	0.068
	No5	0.169
	No3	0.264
	No1	0.397
Non-Toxic Shot All shot smaller than size 8 are made of lead	BB	0.567
	No5	0.141
	No3	0.224
	No1	0.333
Stainless Steel Bead	BB	0.475
	2mm	0.032
	3mm	0.109
Tungsten Bead	4mm	0.259
	2mm	0.082
	2.4mm	0.142
	2.8mm	0.225
	3mm	0.277
	4mm	0.657

Subscriptions

The Guild is having a big committee meeting on 19th February at which it is expected that Branches will again be allowed to collect both subscriptions (Guild and Branch), thus pleasing lots of you! Whether the rates will change remains to be seen!

Fly Tying Competition 2010/11

Don't forget to get your entries in!

The Intermediate class is open to all who have not won a prize at Intermediate or Open, and anyone can enter for any class above his qualifying level.

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

Beginners (Novice)	The Professor (Summer 2010)
Intermediate	Skating Caddis (Summer 2010)
Open	The Professor (Summer 2010)
Saltwater/Pike	The Atomic Anchovy (Summer 2010)
Salmon	Gorgeous George (Summer 2009)

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

We are particularly looking forward to the entries for the new categories of Salmon and Salt Water/Pike – come on you specialists!

Salmon & Trout Association

A number of our members are also members of SATA and the Branch has good ties with the East Sussex branch of SATA – an annual competition at some local fishery, adjacent stands at various shows, etc.

In order to fulfil their objectives in raising water standards, furthering game angling and other vital matters, which is done in conjunction with other interested parties such as Countryside Alliance, Angling Trust, the CLA etc, the SATA need more members, because, as with most things nowadays, the more members organisations have, the greater the weight of their lobbying power, especially with Government bodies. Join now and add your voice!

In addition, (subject to vacancies being available) you would become eligible to join the East Sussex SATA syndicate for fishing Cinder Hill and Piplye fisheries – highly recommended!!

LIBRARIAN WANTED

This position is still vacant, so if you would like to help out, please contact a member of the committee right away. It is not necessary to be a committee member to do this job.

In the meantime just ask Roy Gurney or Andy Steer if you wish to borrow any item.

CHARLES JARDINE 17th March 2011

Our March speaker brings his welcome return, who was booked before becoming the new Chairman of the Flydressers' Guild. We are eagerly awaiting his promised new presentation, which no doubt will also have added some thoughts on his new role!

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT LINES

What do we know about the quarry?

Temperature effects

We have seen what maximum swimming speeds fish can achieve and how various swimming speeds at, say, a water temperature 10° C would impact on a typical fishing experience.

To complicate predictions of swimming speeds further, changes in water temperature have a major impact. Fish, being cold blooded, rely on the ambient temperature of their environment to determine their body temperature. As anglers are aware, at low water temperatures fish become slothful and are reluctant to actively feed. As temperatures rise, fish are more active and may start to feed avidly. At higher temperatures fish can once again go off the feed and become more languid in their movements.

Although I cannot prove it, in my opinion this has resulted in permanent changes in the behaviour (over generations) of fish such as the Placid Shark. This shark lives in the Antarctic and therefore spends the majority of its life under the ice and as the name suggests, is known for its comparatively placid behaviour, in particular its slow swimming speed. It is quite impressive to see an Eskimo haul this large fish up through a hole in the ice with no great effort. It is my opinion that a few generations in warmer seas would transform this fish into the vigorous animal typical of the shark family.

Another example is the so called "temperature migration window" (there are other "windows"). This is the temperature at which salmon and sea trout commence migration and was found to be 5° C (which is the temperature at which potatoes start to grow – if you wanted to know that !!) Migration ceases at about 21° C, and this should be of interest to salmon and sea trout anglers.

There is a trade off between swimming speed and duration and a further impact of temperature is on the duration of swimming. At low water temperatures, fish can only achieve slower speeds, but for longer durations, and vice versa. Fish have two types of muscle, red and white. The red fibres are situated just below the skin and cover the main muscles, which consist of white fibres. The red muscles are designed for aerobic activity and are used by the fish for cruising. Most of the mass of a fish is white muscle which is used for anaerobic activity i.e. burst swimming. The length of time a fish can maintain its burst speeds is dependent on how quickly their glycogen store becomes exhausted, which is faster at higher temperatures. Once this store is exhausted, it takes up to 24 hrs to restore. Hence anglers experience of released fish "sulking on the bottom". Temperature also affects the rate at which muscles retract; the frequency of retraction, of course, also impacts on the swimming speed which can be achieved. But what does this mean in practice?

At 10°C a salmonid of say 400 mm long can swim at about 3 metres per second (m/s) for about 40 seconds. At 15°C the speed is 3.7 m/s for about 15 seconds. At 20°C speed goes up to 5.4 m/s, but only for 10 seconds. These details may not be so interesting to anglers but if you had to calculate the position of a resting pool in a fish pass, it is of great importance.

Tony Woolnough

Annual General Meeting

As a result of balancing the programme and rearrangement of speakers' dates, the AGM has been moved to **5th January 2012** when it will follow the usual format of AGM, followed by quiz and/or possibly some brief talks by members on their favourite subjects.



Sussex Branch Newsletter



FEBRUARY 2011

ANNUAL DINNER

2nd April 2011

Application forms for tickets will be sent shortly (we are waiting for menu choice). Please complete and return to John Burt as soon as possible, or alternatively hand it to Roy Gurney on a Thursday evening (with cheque) in order to book your place.

As usual, we are having it at **The Dyke Golf Club, Seddlescombe Road, Devil's Dyke, Brighton**, 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Dress is lounge suit or smart casual, and tickets are **£26.00** each.

You will note that a choice of menu is on the ticket application form – from past experience all choices are first class!

As usual we will have grand raffle with outstanding prizes and the fishing trophies will be presented to the 2010 winners.

TROPHIES

If you hold one of the Branch cups/trophies, would you please return it by 31st March to Roy Gurney in order that it can be engraved with the next recipient's name. Presentations of the trophies will be made at our End of Season Gathering on 22nd April and Annual Dinner on 17th April, so it does not give us long to get the engraving done

EVENTS & OUTINGS 2011

The (more or less) completed programme for 2011 is now on the website, and also enclosed.

Entry forms for the events are enclosed. Please complete and return these to the respective organisers **as soon as possible** as, unless he has your details, he cannot assure you of a place!

Please note cheques will not be presented until 10-14 days before the event

It is essential that the organisers know what support they have for their particular event, so please let them know of your interest by April 22nd for all events, even if you cannot positively confirm at this time. Fisheries need to have cancellations in good time if there are insufficient entries, and we will have to bear the cost if we let them down. Keep an eye on the web-site and newsletter for any dates changes or updates.

DONALD DOWNS

It is with great sadness we have report that Donald Downs, past president and a founder member of the Guild, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Thursday 10th February

SALTWATER FLYFISHING

Brian Hendry has again volunteered to organise some outings to Shoreham power station and the Adur estuary, to fly-fish for bass and mullet. This is dependent very much on tides and weather, so inevitably it is likely to be a fairly last minute arrangement.

If you are interested in participating, please let Brian have your contact details so that he can let you know near the time if conditions are right. A slip is provided with the entry forms to send to him, or give him a call on 01273 463126.

Steve Thornton

Our January guest was the immensely skilled tyer Steve Thornton, who treated a good gathering of nearly 40 members to a display of tying imitative patterns which left us all in thrall. The patterns are all in his books "Listen to the River" vols. 1 & 2.

He also brought along some of his excellent tying products, and if anyone did not get what they wanted, or missed the evening, you can catch up at www.virtual-nymph.com where the patterns are also shown and can be downloaded.

AUCTIONS

London Branch of the Flydressers' Guild will be holding two auctions in the near future. These are organized by our good friend Mike Humphreys (who so efficiently releases the moths from your wallets at our own auctions) and have some very attractive lots.

The first, on **Saturday 5th March**, covers Rods, Reels Lines and Miscellanea.

The second, on **Saturday 19th March**, covers Flies, Fly-boxes, Fly dressing materials and Books, etc.

If you want to go, the address and details are:

All Saints Church Hall

Croxley Green, Herts.

(5 minutes from Junction 18 M25)

Both sales commence at 12 noon SHARP, with viewing from 10.00 am.

Catalogues are available from:

Mike Humphries

The Weather House

Croxley Hall Woods

Rickmansworth

Herts. WD3 3BE

Roy Gurney has a few copies, and bids can be made in advance by post (and possibly by proxy if certain members are going!).