



Sussex Branch Newsletter



OCTOBER 2011

Notification of Extraordinary General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the **Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild** has been called by the Chairman and Committee and will be held at 8pm on Thursday 27th October 2011 (Immediately before tying classes begin) at the Patcham Community Centre, Ladies Mile Road, Brighton. There will be only two items on the agenda and no other matters will be discussed.

AGENDA

- Item 1. Delete Rule 5(j) - "Smoking is not permitted in the meeting room" as this is already covered by statutory law.
- Item 2. Amend Rule 7 (a) – delete current wording and substitute "The Annual General Meeting shall be held not more than 13 months from the date of the previous AGM."

This enables the next AGM (and subsequent AGMs if required) to be held in January instead of the hitherto mandatory December.

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 sweatshirts, 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.

November 3rd Speaker

Justin Anwyl makes a welcome return to us to give more insight in to fly fishing for bass

AUCTIONS 2011

The catalogue for each of the auctions will not be available until two weeks prior to the auction.

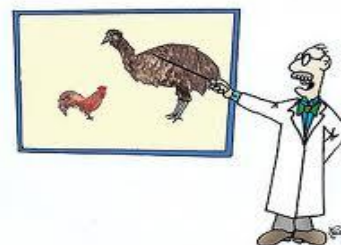
Tuesday 1st November - Miscellaneous tackle, clothing, rods, reels and lines

Thursday 17th November - Flies, fly-tying tools, fly-tying material, miscellaneous items and books

Both start at 7.45 sharp – viewing from 7 pm

September's speaker

David Wolsoncroft-Dodds visited us on the 15th and gave a very interesting talk to around 30 on the type of flies that he likes to tie and use for his pike fishing on the fly. He demonstrated how he tied his flies and what materials he used to tie them. He also talked about the venues and countries that he likes to go pike fishing, with his preferred venues being big fertile waters that produced top quality, hard fighting pike of considerable weight.



"If we breed a chicken with an emu, we not only end up with offspring resistant to avian flu but dry fly quality hackle feathers 4 feet long."

THE BOND EXPERIENCE 2011

Wednesday

Apparently, I appeared to most people to be very excitable about the imminent trip west with the rest of the guys. Perhaps the previous two years had left their mark on me! Perhaps I had a plan this time.

Paul leaves a meeting in Lewes (early, but don't tell his boss), picks me up on the way home, loads the car with rods, bags, engines and batteries etc then Gerry joins us and we are away. A quick, almost like 'Formula One' fuel stop, then it's off to Devon. The time seems to pass so quickly and before long we have reached Cartgate services just NW of Yeovil.

Time for a break with a cup of tea and bacon sarnie. We are then back in the car for the last fifty minute journey to Bovey Tracey. This leg of the route is probably the most picturesque as you pass from Somerset into Devon through the Blackdown Hills. Try it and I bet you won't be disappointed.

The rest of the group had left earlier, and had arrived only an hour before we did. They had however discovered the hotel had a new line in beers. Apparently they still weren't as good as the Teignmouth Reel Ale. Our bags were soon in the room and we were on our way down to the bar to try [in vain] to catch up with Colin and Peter. It was like we hadn't been away, strange as the staff recognise me this year, and talk to me as if I had been down with some of the others over the last fourteen years.

After the evening meal Gerry, Brian and I went to see the sights of Bovey Tracey, not that it took long but it saw the dinner down, leaving me tired and in bed by 11.30.

Thursday

Breakfast at the Dolphin Hotel never disappoints and sets you up for the day. We load the cars and up to the Kennick with high expectations.

Wind in the west, reasonable breeze and cloud cover. Brian was with Paul, Colin with Ed, Ray with Roy, Me with Gerry and Pete on his own (Chris his son had recently become a father and couldn't use any excuse to come – not that he should). At lunch it was evident the fishing wasn't

easy with few fish in the boats. But there were fish. Last year we had nothing until day 3.

Colin's [potential future son in-law] Ed, on his first ever fishing trip landed a commendable two fish. The days total was 28 Rainbows plus 2 Browns (to Peter), so much better start than last year.



The guys at lunch break on the first day

Friday

Today was going to be a break from tradition. Everybody was down for an early breakfast as we were off across Dartmoor to Tavistock trout fishery. The moor didn't let me down, sun was out and you could see for miles. The scenery was great but daunting. The fishery loomed within the hour and had plenty of room for all of us – booking recommended if you try it though. It has five lakes all with big stocked browns. The fishing proved hard with some catching, some catching and releasing without intention. The morning session produced fish to dry flies and I had a great day. Total fish was 14 Rainbows. I had 4, the two Bonds [Ray and Paul] on 3. There was three blankers on the day. As the day ended the weather closed in as only Dartmoor can produce and it rained, boy did it rain.

Saturday

Same routine, breakfast – god I wish that breakfast was smaller – and then back up to the Kennick where a healthy breeze makes the boats drift a bit too fast whilst trying to find fish. Others seek refuge from the wind in the various bays that exist around the reservoir. Back in for lunch where the opinion was the fishing was difficult (or is that not predictable) again. Back to the boats, Paul helping to get all the boats launched, and then came a touch of farce with Paul's boat escaping with nobody in it, starting off a scene from a 'Carry on film'. Turning his boat round Ray catches the lost boat. Ray successfully caught

and returned the boat to the dock so no harm done.

Into the last session with the leaders for the trophy or 'DUCK' were Paul and Pete, both taking the odd fish during the day. Gerry and I sought refuge from the wind by ending up in Clampitts Bay. At three o'clock with no fish at all Gerry announced "I've have never blanked here before" to which I replied "you might this time". By ten past three I had three with Gerry on two, hurray..... at last we had found some fish. But as always on the last day, we had to finish earlier because of packing up and a Masonic ladies night at the hotel meant that parking and the restaurant would be very busy. Still we put nine fish in the boat in a very short time. Isn't fishing fickle!



Yours truly in a quieter moment!

That was it, fishing over and the tally was a total fish was 22 on the day; I had 5 with Gerry and Paul both with 4. Despite a flurry on the last afternoon it was not enough to beat Paul who fished well over the three days. The DUCK was won by Paul with 14 fish over the three days.



Paul motoring across Kennick

Gerry left it at home as he thought he would win it for the fourth time on the trot, so it was presented at home.



Boats moored up for next year and an end to my third year in Dartmoor!

Another night in the bar, followed by breakfast, and the trip home. Next year, well who knows but I hope another invite heads my way.

William Smith, May 2011.

Chairman's Chat

Fly Fishing Reels

How can we improve fly fishing reels or are they fit for purpose already?

I think we should review the Brief for these mechanisms. I suggest that we can experience a number of problems with our reels whilst fishing, namely:

- Slow retrieve
- Back turning when a fish is running
- Inability to cope with smash takes.
- Line piling up on one side of the spool causing jamming

I suggest that the above problems contribute to the habit of not playing fish off the reel – which is OK until you hook that fish of a lifetime and you get line tangled around your foot, other tackle, natural obstructions etc which could result in a break – off.

So what are the solution/s ?

Easy, design a new family of reels combining the best of existing reels and features of other types of reel.

Slow retrieve – large (or medium) arbour combined with a multiplying gear system. This allows contact to be maintained with fish running towards you and the pick up of slack line to commence playing off the reel. Some reels include these features.

Back turning – an anti reverse system as per fixed spool reels – yes some expensive big game reels do and anti reverse – why not all ?

Smash takes – Not all takes can be absorbed by the rod otherwise we would not have any break offs. This is easy, an anti reverse combined with a slipping clutch – again some game reels have this facility.

Line pile – why not a distribution system as per some multipliers and all fixed spool reels – radical maybe but not difficult to design by modifying existing systems.

I can see no reason why a reel cannot be designed to incorporate all the above “improvements” although I can also see why vested interests and purists would probably have a fit of the vapours at the very thought of such sacrilege. To illustrate this attitude, when I asked a member of staff of Sportfish if he sold multiplying fly reels, he replied “if I had to use a multiplying fly reel, I would give up fishing”.

What are the views of the tackle trade (Peter and Paul)?

So what do you think? - be polite – it is about time that we had more correspondence in our Newsletter.

Tony Woolnough

Sandown Park Antique & Vintage Fair

**Sunday 27th November 2011
INCLUDING ANGLING
ANTIQUES**

Our old friend Phil Waller has advised us of the above event which will be of interest to all interested in old – antique and vintage – fishing tackle. As you will know from his visits to us as a speaker, Phil is a leading angling historian and author, and will be manning a stand at this fair along with other prominent dealers including Ron Meares (Tackle Roadshow) and Chris Wells



(Classic Fishing Tackle).

**THE SANDOWN PARK
ANTIQUE & VINTAGE FAIR**

Our regular Antique & Vintage Fair including antique, and vintage angling items bring, buy, sell, swap, free valuations
Supported by
Phil Waller (Angling Historian & Author)
Ron Meares (Tackle Roadshow)
Chris Wells (Classic Fishing Tackle)

Coincides with the
Carp Society Winter Show
26-27th November
Sandown Park - Surrey Hall

SUNDAY 27th NOVEMBER (including angling antiques)

This regular event includes antique and vintage tackle and memorabilia and you are invited to bring along your items to swap, sell, get free valuations – or of course buy!

The Sandown Park Fair date coincides with the Carp Society Winter Show in the Surrey Hall on the 26-27th

November and you can get further details on the organiser's website

www.wonderwhistle.co.uk

Don't eat your vice

Hi,

I just purchased a new vice from Anvil and was intrigued to see a cancer warning on the box similar to a packet of cigarettes. I emailed the company and had the following prompt reply which may be of interest to other members. Incidentally it's a great vice.

Best wishes,

Roger

Dear Mr Lewis,

Here's the explanation about the Cancer printing on the box:

The state of California has a large amount of unemployed attorneys looking for someone to sue and it's been discovered by California that if a person were to eat 10 or 12 of the C-Clamps, enough lead could possibly leach out of the brass to cause reproductive harm. Now from my viewpoint that's a good thing, someone stupid enough to eat C-Clamps shouldn't reproduce, his offspring will be dumber than he is. De-evolution is the phrase that comes to mind.

If we sell a vise to a shop in the state of Ohio and they mail-order ship it to California we run the risk of being sued because we didn't mark it properly even though we sold and shipped to Ohio. We printed it instead of using a label so an attorney couldn't say we never put a sticker on THAT box and his poor unsuspecting client was harmed due to our negligence. The same hold true of products we ship to the UK. There is a remote possibility that vice could make it's way back to the USA and the state of California.

Bottom line is you Brits are a lot smarter than your Colonies, you wouldn't put up with that kind of stupidity. But California was Spanish and look where Spain is.

I'm sorry about the concern it's causing but we're just protecting our company and our family.

Tight lines,

Don Vogel

Donald Vogel
Vogel Brothers Corp / Anvil USA

Changing Times

How times have changed! Albert Horne writes about pike fishing, which is becoming more fashionable on the fly nowadays. He says that from 1936 to 1939 and then from 1946 to 1970 (I wonder what happened to the bit in between?) killed many pike and other coarse fish from the River Wye.

The Bute Angling Society (of which Albert is a Life Vice President) fished the Wye for coarse fish on the understanding from the owners of the fishing rights that all coarse fish caught would be killed and taken away. The coach which took the anglers to the fishing would stop half way on the way back at the New Inn, which had a large pigsty. The fish, including the pike, were boiled up with other pig food – fishy bacon?

He goes on to say that some of the owners would then allow him to fly fish for trout on their beats of the Wye.

Fly tying materials

Pete Winder of "Hove Lagoon Bait and Tackle" has a variety of materials and tools for beginners and the more experienced tier for sale on tying nights. If he does not have what you want on the night, he will get it for you and bring it to the next meeting. An added bonus to the branch is that Peter gives 10% of all sales to the branch.

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Questions and answers

Why do this survey?

Information on catches and the value of sea angling to the economy is needed by government to better inform national policy options for sustainable development of all forms of fishing round our coast. The EU also requires the UK to collect information on recreational catches of certain species.

Why should sea anglers co-operate? What benefit is it to them?

Sea anglers are likely to benefit from the information collected because their representative bodies can use it to support the development of the sport.

It will also give sea anglers input as the new inshore fisheries and conservation authorities (IFCAs) develop their conservation policies into managing sustainable forms of all types of fishing within 6 nautical miles of the coast.

But sea anglers just want to go fishing. Do they have a significant impact on stocks?

Sea Angling 2012 should give sea anglers the chance to improve fisheries management and help conserve stocks locally and nationally. It will allow better informed, evidence-based decisions to be made on issues which are of importance to sea anglers – at both local and national level. It will also provide more accurate information on sea anglers' activity so their interests can be better represented in the marine conservation zones (MCZs) and marine spatial planning.

What about sea angling clubs?

Sea Angling 2012 should provide sea angling clubs and bodies with useful information to allow development of their own views and policies.

What other benefits are there?

Sea Angling 2012 will give related businesses more up to date accurate information on sea angling and inform local tourist boards on the levels of sea angling activity.

But might the results lead to restrictions on angling?

If Sea Angling 2012 and similar surveys in Europe highlight circumstances where anglers should play an important role in conserving vulnerable or overexploited stocks, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) would seek to agree voluntary measures to avoid having controls imposed from Brussels.

Why is Defra funding this project?

Recreational sea angling is one of the country's most popular sports, with between one and two million active participants each year. Despite this there is very little information available on catches and releases or even the number of fishing trips that take place. Sea Angling 2012 will provide the necessary evidence base to support Defra and the new IFCAs in meeting their objectives for sustainable development of all forms of fishing.

In addition to this, it will provide the means for the sampling of recreational fisheries that is a legal requirement under EU legislation (Data Collection Framework and the Council Regulation 1224/2009).

How are you involving the angling sector in this project?

In the early stages of this project we discussed the basic methodology with the Angling Trust. Representatives of the sea angling sector have been invited to form part of a steering group for the project. We are keen that the angling sector are involved in Sea Angling 2012 and their expertise will be of great benefit as details of the project are decided upon. This also gives anglers a way to influence how we collect data on their sporting activity and businesses. We hope that this will ensure that all parties can have confidence in the results of the project.

How will the information gathered by this project be shared?

We are keen to be fully transparent with this data - it will be openly shared within the constraints of legislation such as the Data Protection Act 1998.

What about catch and returns? Will Sea Angling 2012 collect data on this?

We know there are concerns in the angling community that European legislation specifies we need only collect information on what anglers catch, which is interpreted as meaning retained catch and not fish that are returned to the sea. We recognise that catch-and-release is widely practiced in the UK, and that returning fish in a live and healthy state will help conserve stocks for the future.

The Sea Angling 2012 project will estimate how many fish are being caught, as well as how many fish are returned alive to the sea. Information on both types of catch will be included when we provide information to the European Commission.

Is this survey a one-off or will this be an annual event?

The legal requirements from the Council Regulation 1224/2009 and the Data Collection Framework are for annual estimates. Therefore, we want to develop the most cost-effective way of providing accurate information on a time-series basis. In Sea Angling 2012, we aim to trial a number of different methods. The economic valuation will be a snapshot as there is no legal requirement for this.