

The Flydressers Guild Sussex Branch



Newsletter October 2022

Published by the Sussex Branch of the
Flydressers Guild

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Sunday 23rd October 2022– Branch Trophy Day – Brick Farm

Cost £38 for 4 fish ticket*- A great club day with the chance of a trophy fish on this well stocked fishery. There will be free bacon rolls for breakfast and best bag prize will be 2 fish voucher for Brick Farm. There will also be smaller prizes for some of the other challenges.

Club Trophies for best bag, best fish , best brown ,4 lake challenge.

* Note this is 4 fish for the price of 3

Payment can be by post-dated cheque payable to

“FDG Sussex Branch” to be sent to :

Peter Winder
17 St Helens Crescent
Hangleton
Hove
BN3 8EP

01273 973499

peter.winder@btinternet.com

If you prefer to do an electronic transfer the necessary details are below but please ensure you inform the organiser that you have done this and let Bill know that you have sent a payment and what event it is for.

FLYDRESSERS GUILD SUSSEX BRANCH
SORT CODE: 08-90-25
ACCOUNT NO: 65004180
bblack47@outlook.com

Arlington Reservoir Update

This article by Alan Wells was published in the Flyfishing and FlyTying magazine October edition (Page 9)

Having been “medically incapacitated” for a while I missed the deadline for the “engagement process” about future leisure pursuits at Arlington reservoir that SEW had said would end on 22nd July, though they did kindly let me have access to the questionnaire they had set up for interested parties. I went through the process without any real intent to submit a proposal but more to get an idea of what they were expecting of anyone who did. The process is much more of a submission of a clear proposal rather than the “**consultation**” exercise suggested in previous communications from SEW. It seems you would have to have a fully formed, costed , management planned proposal ,with the support of bank details & references, testimonials from previous

“landlords” and fitting in with the restrictions created by the SSSI designation for your submission to be taken seriously. The restrictions preclude anything which might involve swimming, so I assume things like paddle boarding or wind surfing would not fit in and I can’t imagine sailing or rowing being viable on such a small area of water. So not much could take place on the water. I’m not sure what they think land based activities might be but **it seems that anything which involves SEW with any form of financial outlay or management support is not going to be favoured.**

Another interesting comment is to be found in their news feed which relates to the process and I quote:

“We previously offered trout fishing at Arlington, but this stopped in 2020 due to falling membership numbers and a dramatic downturn in fishery income. Now we have a chance to work with the local community to find new activities that will encourage local people to visit Arlington.”

It seems SEW ignores the effect of a world pandemic on membership numbers and fishery income. The latter was also affected by the lack of boat access ,which other reservoirs had provided very early on in the lockdown & which is really a pre-requisite of successful fishing at Arlington from May onwards. Also we have to take SEW’s word on the level of membership as no figures were provided about the fishery operation as this was deemed “commercially sensitive” the company has also never made any real effort to advertise the availability of fishing at Arlington to the general public or via the fishing press and given the uptake of the sport during the pandemic this was an opportunity missed. To base the decision on closure of the fly fishery on such an **exceptional** year and without any consultation with members shows that SEW had very little intention of continuing to support the sport.

Alan Wells
Sussex Flydressers’ Guild

Storage of FDG equipment

We are in the process of sorting through all the FDG equipment stored at the Patcham Community Centre and moving it to a new purpose built facility in Portslade, West Sussex.

As it appears we have 3 marquees, and we are thinking of selling them, as we don’t really want 3 of these. We only use them for the South of England shows so the option is to sell of all three and then hire a marquee if we need one.

This option would greatly reduce the amount of equipment we need to store. But this will take time.



We also expect to dispose of some of the equipment as we have quite a bit of IFISH advertising which is no longer required. Club clothing, a PA System, Lighting, Flytying equipment, video equipment, display equipment and other items will be kept at the storage unit.

Once we have decided what to keep we may be able to hire a much smaller storage space for less money.

Simon Rickard



Brick Farm Update

We have now held our first League match of the season – 15 of the 20 signed up competitors turned up bright and early for bacon rolls, peg drawer and to hear the revamped rules and everyone went off to their designated starting peg. With some of the familiar names and faces from last year's League trying to put each other off the whistle was blown to indicate the start of the match.

Spring Lake was alive immediately – those lucky enough to draw near the middle of the lake in particular received multiple takes and several fish were landed early on. John Micklam and Jim Letham in particular were almost racing to their nets, both quickly rewarded with 3 fish. Jim changed tact to chase a bigger fish to complete his bag whilst John fulfilled his 4 fish limit in the first 45minutes!

With the time bonus removed from last year it wasn't over for the other anglers and fish were still being caught across both Spring and Brick Lakes. 4 anglers completely bagged up – congratulations John Micklam, **Peter Winder**, Dean Baker & Mark Baker, whilst several others finished the competition at 1pm with 3 fish in their bags. With a rod average during the competition of 2.7 fish we are very pleased – those of you from last year's League will remember that the first match was difficult being soon after the summer months but the recent rain definitely helped. We won't mention the one that got away for Rob Barden – he must be reminded that we don't allow catch and release! Whilst weighing in and in the following hour competitors went back out to fulfill their ticket - Brick Lake woke up hugely with some day ticket anglers catching 4 fish in an hour whilst others were hooking in on their first casts on the lake! All in all a fantastic day's fishing and a brilliant turn out and atmosphere.

The rock cakes were once again demolished at the end of the match whilst scores were totted up and John Micklam walked away in first place with a £20 Brick Farm Lakes voucher, a £20 Snowbee voucher & a voucher for the local village coffee house Geo's. **Peter Winder** was pipped to the post by Mark Baker who received a £10 Brick Farm Lakes voucher, a Snowbee Classic dry fly box and a voucher for Geo's!

We look forward to October's match (Sunday 30th), which will be hosted by Mark & Lorraine whilst Phil & Danni are off fishing in Thailand. Don't worry – Lorraine has practiced the rock cakes so you're in safe hands!

There is the ability to be a reserve on match days and there is a couple of spare spots each month, so give us a call at the Lodge if you'd like to sign up for any of the upcoming matches.

Carp on the Fly

So where can you catch hard fighting double figure fish on the Fly, Alaska maybe or for several thousand pounds less your local coarse fishery for just £10 a day makes you think.

Falkenvil, Sunday 11th September I arrived at 0930 to find just 2 pole anglers on the lake which was a surprise as the weather was perfect, a light breeze, warm sun and very little cloud.

After a coffee and a piece of cake, I have to keep my strength up, I started fishing at 1000. A few biscuits went in and very quickly lips began to break the surface, and I was in to the first of the day, A good fight and a healthy 12lb Common Carp was on the bank. The fish came at regular intervals and by 12 o'clock I had landed 6, all doubles, the best being 18lbs.

Harry and I thought it was time for lunch and a bit of sunbathing. In fact I fell asleep and woke up just before 2. Back to the bank. I missed three takes before landing a fish of 4lbs another 5 came to the net, all between 4-6lbs.

A complete turnaround from the morning. Fishing is strange, you never know what is going to happen next. Thankfully.

On another Carp on the Fly trip, Henry (the dog), Charlie and I recently went to Wylands, near Battle to see if it was suitable for Carp on the Fly.

After walking round all 8 lake we decided Home Lake was the most promising. We started at 1100 as the water seemed dead before then. After feeding for a while the carp started to show and Charlie hooked and landed her first carp on the fly, a nice fish of 9lbs. My best was 20lbs. Maybe the club should look at Wylands being a suitable venue for a Carp on the Fly event. They also have a campsite with reasonable prices, and a cafe that serves good food from 0800.



Charlie with he first Carp on the Fly

Peter Winder