



Sussex Branch Newsletter



JANUARY 2018

FLY-TYING TROPHIES

A reminder of the patterns for this year:

Novice	Gold-head Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear #10
Intermediate	Teeny Nymph #12
Open	Copper John #16
Saltwater	Clouser Minnow #6
Salmon	Ally's Shrimp #8

Three identical samples of each fly to be submitted by Thursday 15th March 2018 to **Paul Bond** or **Alan Middleton**.

Christmas Outing

Brick Farm 3rd December 2017

There were a number of absentees on the day due to various reasons but those attending were greeted with a calm day, dry and mild for the time of year - as good as it gets.

The best rainbow of the day was taken by Tony Woolnough at 2lb 9oz with Andy Wood close behind at 1lb 15oz.

No brownies were taken, though three good ones were taken by other anglers, with the best weighing in at 6lb 8oz, and others were seen cruising but not taking.

Andy Wood and Tony Harrison tied for the best overall bag of 5lb 4oz each, whilst Tony Harrison took the 3 lakes challenge with his catch with Peter Winder runner-up with 4lb 7oz (and also taking the smallest fish of 1lb1oz).

Annie supplied a very good buffet, followed by trifle, mince pies and Christmas cake. Peter brought along some bottles of fizz which went down very well.

Next year lake four will be open so there will be more options available. Annie can cater for 20, so let's try to get more of you to come next year, with guests, for a very convivial day. **PW**

SPRING AUCTION

The date for our Spring Auction has been set for **THURSDAY 19th APRIL** at Patcham, as usual. If you are looking to sell some items of your fishing tackle, All auction entries should be sent to fdgsussex@capel29.plus.com 10% of the sale (or, if you don't have e-mail access, to Roy at 29 Capel Avenue, Peacehaven, BN10 8NB). Entry forms can be downloaded from our website at www.sussexflydressers.org.uk.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on 4th January 2018

The Chairman welcomed some 30 members (where were all the rest of you?) and reflected on a good year for the branch with two new shows attended and carp on the fly gaining popularity. iFISH was much appreciated by both punters and exhibitors and will held again this year. Despite the interest shown at shows, it is disappointing that few new members have been recruited.

The Secretary reported that things were running smoothly and speakers arranged, though still looking for one for April and asked for any ideas from members.

Bill Black presented his first report as Treasurer showing a surplus on the year of some £2265 as a result of excellent returns from iFISH2016 and the auctions. However, due to a small loss on iFISH2017 and diminishing membership things would be much tighter. Nevertheless, with a current bank balance approaching £10K, it is possible to maintain our low subscriptions and minimal charge for speakers.

Membership declined from 91 to 74, which included 6 new members, and this trend is continuing with only one new member and is currently at 65. Recruitment of new members is vital for the continuance of the Branch.

All officers were available for re-election but Bill Smith retired from the Committee after many years of service. His place as Competitions and Outings Co-ordinator was taken by **Alan Wells** and **Neil Benstead** also joined the Committee.

Some discussion then ensued on the difficulty in parking and whether an alternative venue can be found. The chairman advised he is pursuing this matter.

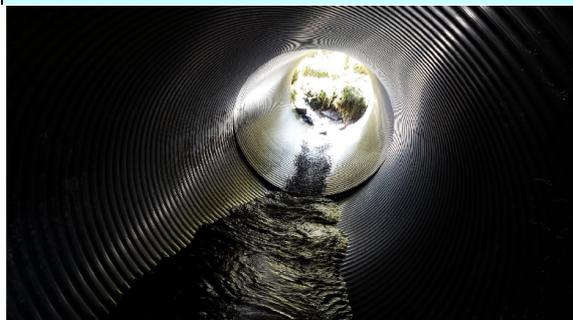
The meeting was accompanied by mulled (non-alcoholic) wine and then followed by a quiz, all mastered by Alan Middleton – many thanks!!

The **JONATHON GLOVER TROPHY** for 2018 was awarded to **Bill Smith**, for his tireless efforts on the Committee for many years.

The **ALBERT HORNE MEMORIAL TROPHY** for services to fly-tying was presented to **Neil Benstead** for his work as instructor at classes and his many demonstrations around the county..

Chairman's Chat

Yet another simple problem, other than being in the Highlands. As you see a pair of circular culverts at a fairly steep gradient (shown by the water depth). The client wants us to supply a set of baffles to slow that water down to a speed which a fish can swim against and hence ascend the culvert,



No problem on the hydraulic front.

A low weir just upstream of the other culvert entrance and hay presto, the water depth in this culvert will double. Another requirement was that the proposed baffles can be fitted without dewatering the culvert, no problem again, made up a panel in aluminium with several baffles with fixings to the culvert walls above water level. OR divert all the river flow (at low flows) through the other culvert allowing works to be carried out in this culvert in the dry.

BUT we are also Civil Engineers with experience in highway works. Baffles in the culvert will retain debris, small branches at first, larger later, then grass and possibly fertilizer bags, i.e. a complete blockage. The resultant flooding upstream would make unblocking literally impossible. So why not try from downstream? Unblocking from downstream would release (if successful) a flush of water typically at 3.0 metres per second. So you would have the choice of being drowned upstream or downstream.

So what to do. Build a weir downstream to flood the culvert to fish swimming depth, i.e. a check weir.

We await more photographs and survey to see if this is practicable.

Happy new year to all.

Tony W

iFish Photographs

Thanks to the efforts of our photographer Helen, ably assisted by Bill Smith, we now have 409 photographs of the iFish Show, which of course are very interesting but are far too many to circulate by email.

Our Chairman can provide copies (of the whole lot!) on disk or memory stick as required.

Let him know at Tony@fishways.com and/or provide him with a disk or stick.

SALMON FLY WORKSHOP

Saturday 17th February

Patcham Community centre.

Any more for the workshop?

There are still some places available so let Alan or Roy know as soon as possible as numbers need to be known so that the materials can be obtained.



Blue Baron

Heather Dog

There is no charge for the class as the branch will be supplying the materials and hooks for the course; you will have to bring your own tools, black and white tying threads, etc.

The session starts at 9.00am and finishes about 4.00pm. Tea and coffee will be provided but you will need to bring your own lunch.

The construction of these flies will act as an aid to tying the flies you normally tie. Techniques such as thread management and wing construction can play an important part in developing your tying skills.

In previous years we have mounted the flies in frames or cast them in resin to create a lasting memento of the course.

The course is restricted to ten individuals. For further details contact **Alan Middleton** on tying evenings and register your interest with **Roy Gurney** – phone 01273 581519 or e-mail fdgsussex@capel29.plus.com.

NEW CLASS

FOR TYING POPULAR FISHING FLIES

You enjoy tying, but do not want to be constrained by a more formal syllabus working towards bronze, silver or gold awards? Then this could be for you.

Neil Benstead is running an additional class on our Thursday tying nights where the group ties the most popular fishing flies and their variants.

How it works is that the group decide amongst themselves what fly they would like to tie the following week, and that is what is tied. Flies so far this year have included damsel nymph (including blue flash variations) Cat's whisker, boobies, etc.

If this sounds appealing and of interest to you, why not come along and give it a go? As always, as with any of our tying classes, you will be very welcome.

Tony Harrison

MOORHEN MAYHEM

Alan Wells reflects:

I accepted Bill's invitation to fish here for the first time (Dec 29th) with great pleasure, as I know that by Boxing Day I am usually already suffering from cabin fever. Our esteemed Chairman had kindly agreed to give me a lift as my ancient 4X4 had an intermittent fault which occasionally and somewhat alarmingly sent it into "limp mode". (No smutty jokes please)

The day started poorly, with Tony doing an unscheduled tour of Sussex Uni campus trying to find me in the Sports Centre car park, but we eventually met up and set off along the A27. After a while it became apparent that the lake at Moorhen was trying to come to us, as the skies turned increasingly black the nearer we got to our destination and the heavens opened! Anyway, after negotiating a 3 car pile upon the M27 and a speeding idiot and several minor floods on the A32 we got there in one piece, if a little frazzled.

We had assumed that the weather would mean we would spend most of the day either soaked or taking refuge in the lodge but literally as we arrived the skies cleared and the winds dropped, and with bacon rolls and sherry (they had lost power so tea not available) being served, our spirits rose.



The early morning fishing was good with quite a lot of fish being taken in the first hour. I started on the nearside right corner, fishing across the wind, which was still quite gusty, and having lost a fish on my 3rd cast, took one on the hang on the next cast on a small bead-head Damselfly. I then moved to my left to cover a rising fish and landed my best fish of the day of 3lb 8 oz. So with 2 fish within the first 3/4 hour I gave my peg up to Bill as he had yet to score. **Always a mistake to get cocky** - as he told me - as for the next two hours I moved around the lake, changing flies and retrieves with little result, whilst Bill caught a fish from my vacated peg! Spirits were revived a little by the serving of sherry, mince pies and chocolates at the lakeside by our charming hosts. The usual suspects - Messrs Croucher, Dunk and Burt had bagged up before lunch and in the spirit of Christmas I had decorated a tree with what I was told was the "catching fly" - an orange blob. So Bill's suggestion of lunch seemed a great

idea, particularly as the power had returned and a warming cuppa was available, with packed lunch and yet more mince pies and chocolates - which seemed to send Chris into a coma!

A few of us returned to the fishing before the others, to be welcomed by a colder, stiffening wind. Ian MacGregor and myself braved the windward bank and the hard work of getting a line out into the wind was rewarded within about half an hour with our remaining 2 fish each, on orange lures, closely followed by Ray Love bagging up from the same position.

Despite the rather challenging conditions, everyone seemed to enjoy their day here, not least due to the fantastic service from the proprietors who do everything they can to make your day a welcoming and comfortable one. I look forward to another opportunity to visit - thanks Bill.

AW

"BIG FISH TROPHIES"

Have you entered yet?



Fish must have been caught before 31st December 2017 from a Sussex water.

A reminder that the categories are:

- Best fish from Sussex water
- Best fish from Sussex reservoir (includes Bewl Water)
- Best brown from Sussex water
- Best brown from Sussex reservoir or river
- Best Arctic char - (Jack Jupp Memorial Trophy)

So far no entries yet received for best brown from reservoir or river, nor for best Arctic Char (where are all you Duncton fishers?)

Trophies will be presented at the End of Season Gathering on 12th April 2018.

2018 FDG ELINOR BANK COMPETITION

The Guild's 5th Elinor bank competition is being held on **Sunday 22nd April 2018.**

The organisers are glad to say they have been able to keep the entry fee at last year's price of £35. Sussex Branch intends to enter a team, plus individual members if required. If you are interested, contact **Brian Raw** on **01444 456704** or e-mail b.raw@talk21.com to arrange entry forms etc.

iFISH 2017 Report

The fifth iFISH Show was held in the Norfolk Pavilion at the South of England Show Ground, Ardingly, West Sussex on the 19th November 2017. The Norfolk Pavilion, with its own parking facility, was a new venue for us at the Show-ground, and provided us with excellent facilities indoors, including catering facilities, and access to the main arena where the fly casting events took place. All being well, we look forward to returning on 18th November 2018.



Aldo Orlando (right) and Italian colleague

The demonstrating fly tyers, who sported many internationally acclaimed individuals, including our regular visitors from Italy, had plenty of room upstairs to show off their skills. The tying room was well attended by the visitors, and tyers were kept busy with questions and giving help and advice to improve skills.



What shall I buy?

The show was well supported by tackle dealers, plus various charities, angling clubs and organisations, and raffle prizes were donated by both *Trout and Salmon* and *Flyfishing* and *FlyTying* magazines, Moorhen Fishery, Coch-Y-Bonddu Books, and Brick Farm Lakes.



Spectators at the casting demonstration

As the fly casting was taking place in the main arena, which is overlooked by the Norfolk Pavilion, it was noted that many of the public enjoyed sitting in the warm, having a drink, and watching the fly casting; our thanks to the GAIA members for their efforts.

This year our supported charity was the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance, and at the end of the show our Chairman presented them with a cheque for £500. The branch has since received a letter of thanks, and a certificate from the Air Ambulance.



Our Chairman presents the cheque for £500 to Air Ambulance

On the financial side of things the show made a small loss of around £200. This was partly due to the loss of one major exhibitor due to a clash of events and a lower footfall (perhaps caused by the change of venue and inadequate signage at the show-ground). Maybe we should all make an effort to promote this event and persuade friends and acquaintances to come; it really is a good day out, even for non-flytyers, at minimal cost - where else can you go for a fiver? .

Simon Rickard

LET'S HAVE YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS – ANY PHOTOS REPORTS AND STORIES (ESPECIALLY IF INFORMATIVE OR UNUSUAL) EAGERLY AWAITED BY YOUR EDITOR. ASK QUESTIONS, OFFER STUFF FOR SALE, GIVE ADVICE – USE YOUR NEWSLETTER!

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