

# The Flydressers Guild Sussex Branch



## Newsletter May 2023

Published by the Sussex Branch of the  
Flydressers Guild

Chair: Peter Winder 07732024857  
Acting Secretary: Alan Wells 07795523608  
Treasurer: Bill Black 01323 763807  
Membership: Andy Wood 07445274967

Visit our web site  
[Sussexflydressers.org.uk](http://Sussexflydressers.org.uk)

or on Facebook @  
Sussex Flydressers Guild

or on Youtube  
Sussex Flydressers Guild

### BRICK FARM LEAGUE MARCH.

I had been unwell beforehand so didn't want to use my favourite bloodworm. It normally produces bigger fish but takes longer. so I went for a DI 3 line and cats whisker. I was drawn on peg 17 at the far end of SPRING LAKE. I always count down starting at 4 then 8 and twelve. Nothing on the first two but first cast on twelve a fish, they then came at regular intervals so that I was on my way back to the lodge when the whistle went for the first

change. The 4 fish weighed 8.14. good enough for seventh place. I was very pleased with that as a few days before I was sure I would not be fishing. On to the next one last Sunday in April.

Peter Winder

### Heathfield Show Demonstration, Sat May 27th

We are demonstrating fly tying at this years Heathfield Show. Come along and support the event. Our thanks to the volunteers manning the stand.

### Hove Deep Sea Anglers

I was asked to demonstrate fly tying at the HDSA this month. They have some "Come and try" fishing events coming up where they will be running Mackerel fishing trips, but they needed lots of Mackerel feathers made up. So I went along to show them how to tie Mackerel feathers.

### Duncton Mill Fishery Nr Petworth - Report by Phillip Ellis



Two trout caught by Alan Wells,

Its several years since I fished the lakes after Martin Fleetwood took over. The fishery was created by Ned Kelly created the fishery and brought the fish farm back into action after the



Birch Lake

EA fisheries stopped raising Sea Trout for stocking the Ouse. Since then, it's gone through many changes of management and now owned by the Anstruther estate. It is currently managed by Dan Young and his team who also manage the onsite fish farm and like other fisheries deserves support.

I visited the fishery on its recent open weekend in March with Alan Wells to demonstrate fly tying and in the hope of getting new members into our branch.. One item of interest was a new man on the supply of materials and Fly's was Mark Roberts <https://www.lostlakefly.co.uk/> Visitors were catching fish all day and I saw a nice 6lb brown trout caught. The fishery has been tidied up with the bankside trees have been pruned to help with fly's catching trees!

There are two car parks, one for members fishing the three lakes Rosie, Alder, Coot and Birch. The fish are reared onsite from and stocked at 2lb plus.

To fish all four lakes, you need to become a member that costs £290 including 5 free fish. Members receive exclusive access to all 4 lakes, discounted fish quotas, unlimited visits, online membership profile and much more. You can fish as often as you wish and extra fish can be purchased on a quota system, 10 Fish £150, 20 Fish = £280, 30 Fish = £390. None members can only fish

Birch lake by purchasing simply purchasing a fish quota, 3 Fish = £55, 5 Fish = £80, 10 Fish = £155. There is no one regularly on site and you need to book in and out at a hut next to Birch Lake.

The cost of rearing trout has pushed up the cost of trout fishing enormously and for fisheries to remain viable they have to pass on costs. Fish farms are having to charge £3.50 a one lb, that makes a 3lb trout worth £10,50.

Telephone: 01798 879139

Website:

<https://www.duntonmilltroutfishery.co.uk/>

Email: [info@duntonmilltroutfishery.co.uk](mailto:info@duntonmilltroutfishery.co.uk)



View of Rosie



Car Park next to Birch Lake



## Oliver Edwards

We are deeply sorry to report the death of Oliver Edwards – one of the most skilled and influential all-round fly-fishers of the modern era – at the age of 85 on Saturday 22 April. He presented to our branch on a couple of occasions.

Oliver started fly-fishing as a teenager, learning his craft on the River Wharfe and other rivers of the Yorkshire Dales, which would remain his home waters for the rest of his life. Successfully fishing North Country spiders in the tradition of Pritt, Edmonds and Lee, he nevertheless realised that these looked very little like the natural flies that the fish were actually eating.

Oliver went on to develop his own style of tying imitative flies, which he described as ‘super impressionistic fly patterns’ with trigger points including size, shape, proportions and silhouette.

As he demonstrated his skills at fly-tying shows, his reputation grew, and he won the Fly Tyer of the Year award in 1980 and 1981, before being invited to join the judging panel in 1982. His fly patterns made regular appearances in magazines like Fly Fishing & Fly Tying (UK) and Fly Tyer (USA), and his ground-breaking book ‘A Fly Tyer’s Masterclass’ was published in 1994 to much international acclaim.

In addition to his creative skill as a fly-tyer, Oliver was also a master of fly-fishing technique – representing England at world championship level in the 1990s, and running the Orvis fly-fishing schools in Yorkshire and Hampshire for many years. Later, he condensed all this technical and teaching experience into a very popular series of ‘Essential Skills’ DVDs, which are still available.

In 2004, Oliver was appointed as one of WTT’s first Vice-Presidents, with a brief to help to raise our profile among fly-fishers,

which he did with great enthusiasm and effectiveness. Many WTT members tell fond stories of being inspired (and sometimes star-struck) by meeting him at fishing shows, or encountering him stalking wild trout on the river banks of Yorkshire and Iceland.

Oliver’s views on many aspects of fly-fishing could perhaps be best described as ‘forthright’, but beneath that no-nonsense Yorkshire exterior was a man of very great kindness, humour and generosity.

In recent months we were all very sorry to hear of Oliver’s struggles with Parkinson’s, and his passing truly marks the end of an era.

## **Lakedown Larruping.**

Sadly, for the second year running we took a beating from the Ouse Valley lads at the Lakedown match. On what proved a tricky day, OVSF’s 10 men caught 60 lb 14 oz to our 13 members 49 lb 8oz. To add insult to injury both the heaviest bag and the largest fish prizes were taken by OVSF as well. Tony Godden took the 3 fish voucher for the bag and Chris Browning the 2 fish one for heaviest fish (Thanks to Lakedown for the prizes). Tony’s 7 lb fish was in fact the heaviest but we like to share out the prizes and Chris’s 6lb plus fish was the next in line. Fortunately, Pat Sullivan saved us from total disgrace by winning a bottle for the smallest fish prize with a beauty of 1lb 12 oz.

The morning was beautiful and some of us heard the first cuckoo of a belated Spring. The fish however, were not playing ball and both sides struggled. Most success was in fact had by those using small flies such as Diawl Bachs and Buzzers, which included Pat. Howie did get a good start using Humungous for 2 fish and then being broken twice. Dave P and AW got their early ones on Damsels but the takes were few and far between and some suggested an event the previous day may have made the fish that were left rather fly shy. Perhaps, as Tony Godden suggested, it’s an

argument for fishing Saturdays rather than Sundays?

Anyway, by lunchtime- taken in warm sunshine and accompanied with a welcome Lakedown beer for some- the 2 sides had similar numbers of fish and it was all to be played for ,if someone could match or better TG's 7lber. However, the afternoon provided few fish and most of those were for OVSF, so Des didn't even need to use his complex formula for uneven sides to see that SFDG had been defeated. Despite the lack of fish for some, people seemed to enjoy the day and we look forward to the opportunity for revenge next season- perhaps on a Saturday?

Tight Lines

<b>Name</b>	<b>No of fish</b>	<b>Total weight</b>	<b>Best fish</b>
A. Wells	4	13lb	5lb
H.Dodsley	4	11lb 4oz	4lb 2oz
P.Sullivan	3	6lb	2lb 6oz
S.Mustchin	2	4lb 12oz	2lb 12oz
A.Neave	1	4lb	4lb
J.Pursglove	1	3lb 12oz	3lb 12oz
D.Painter	1	2lb 8oz	2lb 8oz
A.Ryan	1	2lb 4oz	2lb 4oz
A.Woolnough	1	2lb	2lb
K.Verral	0		
W.Black	0		
J.Cooper	0		
A.Wood	0		

AW