

The Flydressers Guild

Sussex Branch



Newsletter

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Flydressers Guild

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Chairman Chat

This is an interesting one for me. I found this on the internet as an example of an Alaskan Steepass, it also looks familiar.

It is familiar because I designed and built it! No request from the internet to use it no copy write enquiries. This is Andrews Weir, Andrews Stream, Barcombe, you may have seen it. Andrews Weir is a flow measuring structure which together with other structures measures the flow of the river Sussex Ouse so that extraction can be monitored at the upstream intake of the Barcombe Reservoir. The weir also impounds water making extraction easier.

There are twin passes to ensure that the weir accurately matches the flow the stage / discharge relationship of the weir which must be retained. This is the first time that it has been achieved, as far as I know.



Andrews Weir Fish Pass

Before this pass was built, Her Majesty's Inspector Of Fisheries had approved that construction of a pass which became an efficient fish killer! Many sea trout attempted the ascent HMS fish pass and got trapped in the pool below. So many that the EA used to net them, strip them, release the adults (alive) and raise the juveniles in a fish farm, so minimising the death of juveniles which occurs in nature. One year 64 adults were netted including one of 18 lb.

Sea trout now ascend the pass at such speed that they are launched out of the water like rockets.

Tony W



Cameron Craig, the Albury Estates fisheries Manager has sent out an update on what's been happening at his fishery. You can imagine the summer months are no time to be sitting in the office with endless hours of maintenance jobs to do around the fisheries. With four sites (Weston, Vale End, Powdermills and Park) to look after the hours mowing, strimming, weed cutting, stocking not to mention bailiffing and a multitude of other jobs just makes the summer fly by and I certainly wouldn't be able to do it without a great little team of Steve and Luke, who is studying at Sparsholt but has been working with us during the holidays which will hopefully continue.

Winter Season

We have had lots of people asking about the winter season rod and am glad to say that this is now available to [purchase online](#) at £125, the same cost as last season. Winter season membership offers fishing from October 1st 2021 to end of March 2022 and gives you unlimited access to all fisheries (excluding the Park Syndicate). During this period we will see the best fishing when the trout are at their most active. This is also a time when we are able to stock some other trout species like the Spartic trout and Arctic char that need the lower water temperatures. Season rods can also buy fish tokens in larger multiples to make further savings.

Events and Other News

As we approach autumn and winter we will be looking to start up our Albury Fishing club events which in the past has included some fantastic talks from Peter Cockwill and Charles Jardine. Our First event will be our annual away day grayling fishing trip to the Lower Itchen fishery in October which due to COVID we could not run last year. I am just awaiting confirmation on availability and will publish the confirmed date on the website as soon as I know but it will be a midweek day. Anyone interested please email me to put your name down. I will also be putting out dates for some talks by guest speakers which will take place in the new fishing lodge. Cameron's email is info@alburyestatefisheries.co.uk

A Date for your Diary

The long delayed "Spring Auction 2020" will now take place on **Saturday 5th March 2022**. We have a new venue at Hurstpierpoint Village Centre and hope the **weekend** timing (probable start time around 12.30) will help swell the attendance. Watch this space for confirmed details and catalogue etc.

Sussex FDG Forthcoming Events

Trophy Day 24 October 2021

Christmas Competition 5th December 2021

Both of these events to held at Brick Farm. Contact Peter Winder for more information .

New Year Bash 28th December 2021

This event has had to be cancelled.



Beyond Belief.

Having gone fishing in mid-August I was not expecting too much of Bricks but we can't all be choosy about the days we can go and my last abortive carp on the fly afternoon had seen me manage a couple from this venue when I switched . Again I had to go in the afternoon, so missed the opportunity of an early morning start (it's open from 5.00 am!) which was more likely to produce , however, I thought I might be able to catch in the evening.

On arrival some who were just off said the morning session had been OK but the next 3 hours saw me ringing the changes and moving locations with only two missed takes ,one to buzzers and the other on a fast intermediate with an Amber Apps Worm, which had produced in the last session.

On both Brick and Spring lakes I had seen several fish charging around and leaping out of the water but put this down the "heat stress" and did little to target them. However, having exhausted my ideas I thought why not give dries a go. I moved to the windward side of Spring which, whilst more difficult to cast from, I have found more productive in the past. I changed the point buzzer to a detached body Daddy (enter Alan Middleton's deer hair model) and bang – a hit first cast. Of course I mis-timed the strike but after removing one of the buzzer droppers to aid floatation I was soon into a fish and managed to manoeuvre it back to where I had left the net. Great- blank broken.

It now became apparent that whatever they were actually eating,(difficult to see in the gathering gloom) these fish would willingly take a Daddy in the riffle. I removed the remaining buzzer and replaced it with another Daddy and followed what had now become a full on evening rise up and down the bank. Having been fishless for so long, a somewhat panicky

approach led to some interesting “parking places” for flies as I dealt (or didn’t) with casting quickly into the wind:



This will not surprise those of you who have witnessed my messy style (or lack of it) at first hand. The American phrase “klutz” comes to mind. Thankfully the fish seemed to be equally fond of the Foam Body Daddy I used as a replacement and within a half hour I had my 3 fish and some great fun along the way. So perhaps I should have *believed* the evidence of surface activity in front of me earlier in the day, though I do think the evening rise was a major factor & could guide your arrival at a fishery if you are venturing out soon. Hopefully the “Daddy season” is now upon us, as it really can be exciting stuff- let’s hope it extends to the Charity Pairs on Bewl in September.

AW

Falkenvil Folly.

In one of my previous pieces, I mentioned my “klutz like” tendencies as an angler and my first carp catch of the year was a case in point. Having had to abandon my last visit to Falkenvil through windy conditions and sodden ground, the elements were kinder on 15th September, with dry ground and very little breeze. There were also few anglers on the match section so I could choose a swim near the gate which is much more sheltered, so

your free dog biscuit offerings don’t end up benefiting your neighbours more than you.

So having sent out some freebies, after a few missed takes I struck into a reasonable fish only to find my 2-piece rod in 2 pieces. In my haste to get fishing I had not pushed the ferrules together well enough! Klutz! There followed a comical episode of me trying to bring the fish in at the same time as trying to reach the upper rod section and put the two sections together. Amazingly I managed it somehow and the patient carp at the other end was finally landed and returned unharmed.

The rest of the day was quite successful- I managed 6 carp altogether and lost one I think was in double figures. The low numbers of anglers meant I could wander about a bit. This seems to work as you can give fish that are becoming a bit wary a rest and “new fish” seem more confident in their takes, particularly if the swim is well away from others. The fish all seemed to be in good nick- as shown by the one below.



It was interesting to watch how “fly wise” carp become with fish nosing at offerings to test their consistency and the speed of rejection from the mouth can be staggeringly fast. I know I have to work harder at getting the balance of size and density of my deer hair offerings better, so the fly sits in the water more like a biscuit & pulls under more like one. Mind you I did take 2 fish on cork imitations when they seemed to be becoming too “educated” about the deer hair ones. I know this is not “real” fly fishing but it is great fun and you certainly get an upper body work out from these powerful fish. Also, let’s face it, if you have a tricky session, at £10 a day you don’t feel so aggrieved.

AW

Sadly we have heard from Wendy at Moorhen that she has to have an operation on her shoulder and that this will take some considerable time to recover from. Hence the planned re-opening of Moorhen on Oct 4th has been put back into some time in the New Year & this means that our planned event on 28th Dec has to be cancelled.

Our condolences have been sent and we hope that her recovery doesn't take too long.

Ray Love Memorial Charity Pairs.

The only things that weren't charitable on Sunday were the fish! Des Watson and Martin Nock were worthy winners with 2 fish to the boat- both to Martin. Sadly the **only** other fish taken was by Lee Gallant who had come down to fish from Surrey with Chris Reeves, braving the fuel chaos. At least we weren't outdone by the any methods boys who, despite outnumbering us about 6 to 1, hardly took a fish either.

However, with a kind "fishing discount donation" from Bewl and donations from some besides those who fished, the total for the hospice ,which will be donated through Ray's widow Maureen, will be £151. A respectable sum so thanks to all those who took part or donated.

AW

The 2000/21 Rod Raffle Draw

Our thanks goes out to Keith Verrall for obtaining prizes for the long overdue raffle. As always there were a good selection of prizes for the winners to choose from.

Keith is already collecting for next years raffle so if you see him on Thursday evenings he will only be too pleased to accept your money.

