

The Flydressers' Guild



## SUSSEX BRANCH

Newsletter

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A very happy and prosperous New Year to all our readers – it surely has to be better this year!

## WHERE ARE YOUR ENTRIES FOR THE 2020 "BIG FISH TROPHIES"?



This is your chance to record your best catch(es) of 2020. I know the blessed Corvid has upset the season at times, but there has been a dearth of entries for the trophies on offer, despite the numbers of large specimens, some reported in the Newsletter, but I still need your entry to complete the list. To remind you they are:

**Best fish from Sussex water**

**Best fish from Sussex reservoir (including Bewl)**

**Best brown from any Sussex water**

**Best brown from Sussex reservoir or river.**

Trophies will be presented at the end of season party in April, Corvid permitting!

Entries to Roy Gurney (01273 581519) or e-mail [roygurney33@gmail.com](mailto:roygurney33@gmail.com)

**DO IT NOW!**

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

**Believe it or not, still some have not yet paid up!**

Subscriptions are our chief source of income, enabling us to provide engraved trophies etc, plus our Newsletter and for the Guild to produce the "Flydresser".

Both Guild and Branch subscriptions were due on 1<sup>st</sup> September, so **please** let Roy Gurney have yours ASAP if you haven't already done so. I know Corvid has upset the applectart, but we are keeping going with the Newsletter and Zoom and outings when possible.

Pay by BACS or cheque - £32 for combined Guild and Branch, £12 if you already pay the Guild direct. Our bank details are:

Account: Sussex FDG

Sort no: 08-90-25

Account no: 65004180

And don't forget to advise Roy at:

[roygurney33@gmail.com](mailto:roygurney33@gmail.com) you have done so.

## *Chairman's Chat*

This is an old Lock at Midhurst The owner raised no objection to the formation of a fish pass, provided the design allowed for the passage of canoes during the annual race. In addition, I was mindful of the need to make minimal alterations to the lock as it could be refurbished in the future if navigation was to be restored.

Additionally, I had to consider buildability. The Brief was met by resin-bolting galvanised steel angles into the lock walls to take the pre-fabricated timber weirs.

So a simple construction - the weirs were fabricated in our carpenter's shop at Pevensy, fitted with rubber seals all round and man-handled into position. A gang of four men completed the construction in a week.



If required the weirs can be removed and the resin bolts cut off flush with the masonry walls and the lock brought back into service for navigation.

The nett result was that sea trout readily ascended the pass BUT accumulated at Midhurst in the pool just upstream of the bridge. On the other hand, it could be good for business as another pass will be required there. Another one bites the dust !!

**Tony W**

A couple of months ago I wrote about some of the amusing incidents that have occurred over the years - well here's a few more. When I went to the World Flyfishing Championships in New Zealand in 1991, we landed at Auckland Airport and our team manager, Geoff Clarkson, was the first to be confronted by the Customs Official. When asked his name he replied "Geoff" but in the local dialect he was "Jiff", a name that stayed with him for the rest of the trip. John Horsey was next and he was asked whether he had any nits. John indignantly said "Nits, no I've not got any nits" to which the official replied "Nits, what you put in the water to get the fish out".

In 1998 the Bewl team were doing a lot of fishing at Rutland Water as we had qualified for the Hardy International Final. On one of our days out the joker in the team - Dave Fleming - came across to our boat to ask how we were doing and then threw a snake into our boat. It slivered down under the boards in the bottom of the boat and both my boat partner and myself fished the rest of the day with our trousers tucked into our socks. We often wondered what happened to that snake because the next day the boats were being used for the Ladies National.

You may recall that that year the World Football Championships were being held in France and the Romanian team had all had their hair bleached. A few weeks later Joker Fleming turned up at Rutland a couple of days before the two-day final with a beanie hat on which when it was taken off revealed that he had his hair bleached.

On our practice days we did reasonably well and on the first day of the final ended up in third place. On waking the next morning though we found that the wind had increased to such an extent that the second day was cancelled - only the second time when I've been there that the boats have not been allowed out. I don't know how Fleming managed it but he persuaded the other five of us to go into Oakham and get our hair bleached - I imagine that drink must have played a part! I've still got the photo but I'm sure you wouldn't want to see it- anyway I'd have to get the others agreement, wouldn't I? So the results for the first day stood and when we went up to get our medals the organiser, a tall blonde haired bloke I'm sure most of you know, seemed a bit miffed - perhaps he thought we were taking the piss, which was not the case at all.

**Ray Burt**

**Ray's Ramblings**

**CHRISTMAS COMPETITION**

After very heavy rain on Saturday fishing was far from easy. On the day, it was cold early but then the sun made it warm and nice for December.

Brick Lake was very muddy and few fish came out. With three other clear lakes it was possible to catch, but the fish needed tempting.

The mornings results were:

**Best Bag:**

<b>Bill Black</b>	8 lb 1 oz	(2 fish)
Martyn Gray	7 lb 11 oz	(4 fish)
Neil Benstead	6 lb 8 oz	(4 fish)

Four others caught 3 fish

**Best Rainbow:**

**Bill Black** 6 lb 3½ oz

**Best Brown:**

**Martyn Gray** 1 lb 12 oz

No blues were caught and no-one completed the four lakes.

Bill Black caught his fish from Well Lake which was gin clear.

Danni produced a very tasty lunch - eaten at a distance, of course – which was enjoyed by all.

In the afternoon Andy Wood, having blanked in the morning, went back out and caught a 7½ lb rainbow from Stag lake on a Humungous.

Many thanks to our hosts, Phil and Danni, for a great day.

**Peter Winder**

would have happily returned to the water had there been the option of doing so. Back at the lodge, the scales confirmed a new PB of 7lb 7oz. What had started as a pretty miserable day's fishing for me was instantly turned around.



I mentioned to Alan last week that, with my current run of favour from the 'fishing gods', I felt like I was on for a good fish at Bricks. Well, that eventually proved to be the case!



Peter, I guess it's too late to claim the best Rainbow from Bill (he can hang onto the best bag of course) :) And thanks for arranging an excellent day's fishing.

**Cheers Andy**

## **Postscript to Christmas Bash**

Someone from another club had already weighed in a 12lb 8oz brownie earlier in the morning so Phil and Danni have been true to their word of supplying some trophy size specimens in their stocking - thanks guys. **AW**  
**Andy Wood added to this –**

Persisting with my total lack of any activity whatsoever, I fished on at Well Lake until about 15:00 yesterday (Cliff fished there until I met him back at the lodge around dusk - he finished with 2 fish, one going at 3-4lb). Heading back towards the car in disgust, I decided to have one final try on Stag, the only lake I hadn't fished. In desperation I changed to a Humungous on the point, a pattern that has rescued a challenging day's fishing for me several times before. After 3 or 4 casts, I hooked into a fish that felt a bit special. It must have taken me a good 10-15 minutes to land as it fought very hard indeed for it's freedom. Eventually it slipped into the net, where I immediately realised that I had a new personal best Rainbow. A beautiful fish that I

Finally found out why the fish weren't biting..



(sorry about the spelling!)

### **Message from Caroline and Martin Fleetwood**

We look forward to receiving your monthly emails, so thank you for keeping us in the loop, It's lovely to hear all the news and views of fly fishing in the South of England..

We were saddened and shocked to hear of the closure of Arlington, and if Ray had wanted to contact Martin to chat / email / zoom .- although not sure Martin can zoom. Please pass our email address and he will be happy to chat through his last few years stocking / logistics at Arlington if that would be any help.

We hope that you are keeping well, and that you are enjoying your fishing, despite all the Covid restrictions.....it's been a funny old year.

We are enjoying life Devon, and Martin not missing the fish too much, hope you are still enjoying your trips to Duncton.

Take care and if Ray did want to touch base with Martin just let us know.

***Caroline and Martin ( Duncton Mill ).***

### **Big fish**

I am sure there are some big fish waiting to be honoured on our trophies, but (as mentioned in the plea on the front page) there are few entries at the moment. This photo of Peter Winder taken shortly after our Christmas bash, shows what can be done! A 5 lb and 6 lb fish taken on a black buzzer at Brick Farm are not only commendable in themselves, but also the commitment by Phil and Danni to give everyone a chance for a specimen, following Andy Wood's success demonstrated in his article above.



### ***Now for some good news***

Many of you may have already heard, but the Government have now allowed fishing during the current lockdown, due to the monumental efforts of Angling Trust. For full details follow the following link [Fishing to be allowed during England's national lockdown - Angling Trust announcement - Angling Trust](#)

### **EDITOR'S FOOTNOTE**

I start with a humble apology to those who receive the newsletter by post. As I have mentioned before, I acquired a new printer which immediately ran out of ink; everyone of the suppliers showed "out of stock" I eventually found the last from Currys but these ran out very quickly and I am still waiting for replacements. Moral of this – don't buy a new model HP printer! Maybe the new Year will bring some more replacements, but I'm not holding my breath!

Meantime, it was a pleasure to hear from our fondly remembered hosts at Duncton Mill and wish them well.

Finally, as due to increasing fragility and general old age (which accounts for the late publication once again) I am still looking for a brave soul to take over the role of editor – where are you?

***Roy Gurney***

***Quiz attached***