



The Flydressers' Guild



SUSSEX BRANCH

Newsletter

October/November

Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

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EDITOR'S EXCUSES

I start by apologising for the late publication of the September issue, which is not as late as this one! The main reason is the ins and outs of hospital I have had, plus coping with a switch to Windows 10 from 7, and a replacement printer for my old one, which is not compatible with Windows 10!

This has completely shattered my belief that I knew a bit about IT – the jargon is like a foreign language! Hopefully this will be a thing of the past and we might be back to normal next month.

This also accounts for the change of format as I just could not transfer the old heading to the new system. Maybe my successor (!?!) will have better ideas/competence.

In particular, apologies to those who get this by post; you missed the September issue which I was unable to send in printed form. Just in case you are interested, a copy is enclosed with this issue – some bits are already out of date!

Another problem was lack of material – apart from the Chairman's Chat, Ray's Ramblings and regular Alan Wells, there is little in the way of offerings from the rest of you.

Get your news, reminiscences, information or tips to me and I'll publish them.

Yet another thing is that the years are rapidly catching up on me, so if there is anyone out there willing and able to take over, let me or Tony Woolnough know. It's not arduous and you might prefer to publish less often if you don't have the time to do it every month.

Roy Gurney

Ray's Ramblings

Alan Middleton last month was quite right in his assessment of Eyebrook Reservoir - he was unlucky to get such an unpleasant day. The last time I fished there was a couple of years ago in October and in the morning had seven rainbows on dry Claret Hoppers and another seven in the afternoon when the wind got up on Foam Daddies and Claret Poppers (Hoppers with foam heads) In my opinion it is one of the best two reservoirs in England for fishing dries and nymphs - the other being Draycote Water. Another water in that area is Elinor, which is a fifty-six-acre water that I've mentioned before. It fishes well to nymphs fished washing line style, although I have to admit that the last time I fished there it was a black snake fly that took all of my twelve fish, after seeing a local doing well with one. It really is great value as a day ticket for six fish with catch and release is just £21 for an old f-t like me.

The only downside to these waters is that, as Alan says, they are all in the region of 130 miles or more away.

It was two years ago that I started to write these Ramblings as a "fee", suggested by Roy because I put in a request for a Greys GX700 Cassette Reel.

There were no responses but a little while ago I remembered that Sportfish took tackle in part exchange so I phoned them to ask if they had one and Steve Hunt, their Assistant Manager, said that one had come in the previous day. He asked what I would like to pay for it and I suggested £40 and he agreed - I was happy because I got a reel that originally cost near to £100, was virtually unobtainable, and when it arrived was in good condition. Steve suggested I should get a lottery ticket but I always maintain that a lot of sudden wealth like that would be more of a worry than I could well do without!

I also traded in a Hardy Reel for another of the Snowbee Onyx Cassette Reels so now all my lines are on the two Greys reels and the two Onyx reels apart from the three-weight floater that I use on the streams on my Vivarelli Automatic reel - really useful for getting line back on the reel quickly.

This means that I now have several reels to get rid of, so if anybody wants a reel by Sage, Orvis, Wychwood or Snowbee give me a call - they are all in good condition - the only downside is that it will be sad to see them go - or am I getting a bit sentimental?

Hang on though, I've just thought that Roy might think I've got to pay a fee for advertising and you'll have to put up with these Ramblings for another two years!

Over the years there have been quite a few amusing tales. One was while out boat fishing with Jim Bates, who I've mentioned before in this newsletter. We were out on Bewl and it was before the days of specialised boat seats and we just used planks of wood to sit on. Anyway, Jim was doing some adjustment to his leader and had taken off his very latest and very expensive Polaroid glasses and put them on the seat beside him. When he was sorted, he started to cast again but the fly line backing got tangled in the glasses and they flew over the side of the boat. Jim peered over and watched them disappear into the depths and announced "You just wait till I catch the trout that's wearing my glasses - I won't have to give him a clout on the head!" Jim was quite a character - his driving consisted of doing fifty miles an hour whether he was on the open road or through a built-up area. On one occasion he passed a police car in a lay-by whilst exceeding the speed limit and said to Mick Clarke who was sitting in the seat beside him "I don't believe it, that police car didn't come out and pull me in" and Mick replied "They're going to let it all mount up and then they're going to hang you!"

Ray Burt

Summer Surprise

August is usually a difficult month for trout fishing and the recent heatwave didn't augur well for my outing on 18th August, but Brick Farm had produced last time in hot weather so I thought I would give it a try. Suffice to say the photo below shows a surprising result.



Total bag 8 lb 4 oz , best fish 3 lb 1 oz.

I started with a 3-fish ticket but Spring Lake in particular was fishing so well that I had my three by 10.30 and decided to pay for a fourth fish. Of course, as with the usual Murphy's Law, that took longer to get than expected but fish were up in the water and taking buzzers avidly. It does seem that this lake has the set-up to do well in warmer weather, with fish cooling off in the central depths but patrolling the drop-off in spells. I took one from Brick lake at the dam end on a deep fished Damsel, another on this in the western end of Spring and then two on Diawl Bach droppers.

Alan Wells

CHRISTMAS OUTING

**BRICK FARM – Sunday 6th December
(subject to Government guidelines)**

Thanks to Covid restrictions, only a token lunch will be available. For details, contact Peter Winder:
e-mail peter.winder@btinternet.com or
phone 01273 973499c

Chairman's Chat

In my Chat about the Bonneville Dam I mentioned turbine losses of juveniles (15% of the run) which were replaced by farmed fish. As part of this facility, very large fish are also raised. I was invited to enter the pool and examine these fish, which I declined as the one in the photograph is 4.5 m long! These are of course sturgeon, which inhabit the Columbia River at this site. Some of the fisheries' officers fish for sturgeon, they know where they lay in low spots in the bed of the river. Once brought to the boat they have a rope passed through their gills which is attached to a tree – I hope I never have to do this!



A Bonneville Sturgeon

A TV station asked if they could film a sturgeon fishing expedition but they wanted the fish to be landed into the boat. Despite objections, the anglers eventually agreed. Lines baited with lamprey were duly cast into a depression in the river bed. After a time, a bite was detected and after a very long struggle a sturgeon was brought to the surface. As requested, the sturgeon's head was duly drawn over the gunwale, with a camera man recording. The fishermen noticed that the cameraman's face had turned white (some of these fish weigh half a ton); eventually the fish was brought over the side and commenced to bat its tail back

and forth, sending equipment over the side including expensive cameras.

So my advice is, if you hook a sturgeon (a 250 lb one was taken in the River Piddle in Dorset) don't try to boat it.

Tony W

TROPHY DAY

Sixteen members fished for this annual foray, switched this year from our usual venue at Duncton to Brick Farm, due to complications arising from the Corvid lockdown, etc.

The weather was dry with a breeze which sometimes gusted to what seemed like force 6! After lunch with a nice roll, it rather went downhill from then on. The thinking was heavy rain the night before had put the fish down.

Only Ray Burt caught four fish, but not from each of the four lakes. The results were:

Heaviest bag	Ray Burt	9 lb 2 oz
Runner-up	Cliff Brown	5 lb 12 oz
Best rainbow	Gerry Newland	4 lb 4 oz
Joint winner	Cliff Brown	4lb 4 oz
No browns	were caught and no-one	
	completed the Four Lake Challenge.	

Incidentally, Eastbourne fished Chalybeate and really struggled and even the carp at Horam Manor went off the feed.

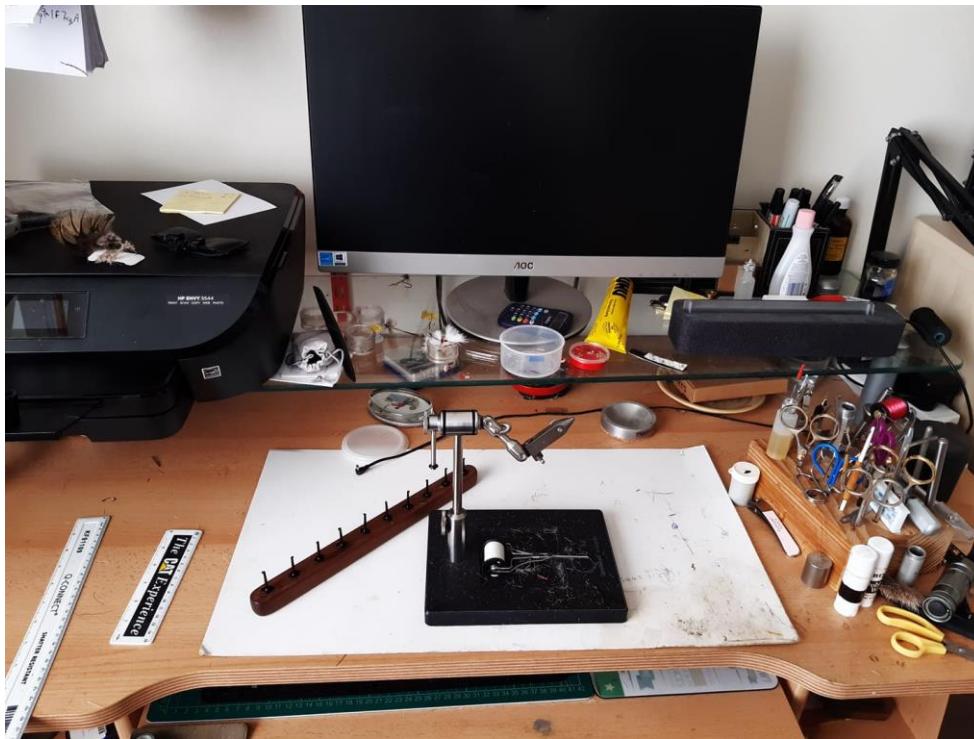
Peter Winder

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Sorry to have to remind some of you, but the subscriptions for both the Guild and Branch were due on 1st September, so **please** let Roy Gurney have them ASAP. It is not necessary to complete a form if your details have not changed – just let him have the money, BACS or cheque - £32 for Guild and Branch, £12 if you pay the Guild direct. If paying by BACS the bank details are:

Account: Sussex FDG
Sort no: 08-90-25
Account no: 65004180
(and don't forget to let Roy know you have paid!)

**Alan Middleton's desk before
Zoom**



And after three demonstrations

