

# The Flydressers Guild Sussex Branch



## Newsletter January 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

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### \*\*\*\* Club Meetings\*\*\*\*

The club meetings for the 2023 period start  
on the 5<sup>th</sup> January and run through to the  
13<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

January 5, 12, 19, 26

February 2, 9, 16, 23

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

April 6, 13

## AGM Results

### Minutes of Sussex Flydressers' AGM 2022.

Held at Clayton Village Hall 7.30 pm  
8/12/22

Present: Committee plus 7 members. (13  
in total).

#### 1. Chairman's Report

Tony talked of another "interesting year"  
following the Covid lockdown. He commented  
on demonstrations at shows being well  
received, apart from comments by Vegans. He  
had supported Roy Gurney as his health failed  
and dealt with the sale/re-distribution of Roy's  
substantial fishing possessions. He has been  
busy with trying to find storage sites, looking  
for new venues for meetings, getting cups  
engraved etc. He thanked members for their  
support over 11 years as Chairman but was  
looking forward to someone new taking over.

**Huge gratitude must go to Tony for  
representing and serving the club so  
well, for so long.**

**After nomination and seconding Peter  
Winder was unanimously voted in as new  
Chairman.**

#### 2. Secretary's Report.

Simon talked of issues with dealing with the  
Guild over the awarding of Silver tying awards  
which stemmed in fact from the illness and  
subsequent passing on of someone at the  
Guild. He has also been instrumental in  
dealing with the club's storage issues. Simon  
says his most enjoyable task was creating the  
monthly newsletter and would like to continue  
with this but needs to step down from other  
duties due to serious family commitments. **The  
club thanks Simon wholeheartedly for his  
hard work in this role, whilst under  
considerable personal stress.**

**Alan Wells accepted a temporary position  
to act as secretary with the proviso that he  
will get committee support with certain  
aspects of the role he feels unqualified to  
deal with.**

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

Bill Black essentially reported on a healthy financial situation but with some concerns about future income and outgoings. Income from membership was down quite substantially and although the March auction was profitable, it was only to the tune of £200 or so which, considering the effort required to set it all up, was not a lot. A thanks to Tony Harrison in his absence was important here for his past efforts in this area. It was noted that this was very likely the last of these major auctions due to the complicated efforts required, for decreasing rewards and the age of Mike the auctioneer, despite him saying he would always be available to help.

A major outgoing at present is storage costs. Having lost the storage at Patcham and been unable to tempt a club member to be paid for garage/shed storage, commercial storage at a cost of approx. £115/month had been taken. This was unsustainable in the long run. (More of this later). Bill also mentioned that the committee had agreed to use funds to subsidise fishing events. Despite all of this the audited accounts show a balance close to £9000. Bill recommended a change of bank due to the rather restrictive practices of the Co-op Bank

The storage issue was discussed at some length with the consensus that, with some investigation as to costs, we should dispose of the bulky marquees and borrow or hire these as necessary for events in future. This would substantially decrease the size and costs of storage. Alan Middleton mentioned that a charitable group in Henfield would probably welcome the acquisition of the marquees and perhaps be willing to loan them out again as a quid pro quo. AM and TW to investigate.

**Bill also made the point again that he would very much like to stand down from the position of treasurer, which he has held since 2017, due to family commitments.**

**At the present time no-one seems willing to take on this role so Bill will continue to fill**

**in until other arrangements can be made.  
Thank you Bill for your patience**

### **3. Membership Secretary's Report.**

Andy Wood said that membership was in decline, sadly. Last year we had 50+ on the books this year (with perhaps a few stragglers to come) there are only 35. There had been difficulties with the central FDG's membership organisation but there is an obvious downward trend. Reasons may include:

- The aging nature of our membership with some no longer wanting to/being physically capable of traveling to tying nights and sadly the passing on of some long standing members.
- Difficulties of recruiting new members, particularly from younger age groups, despite some expenditure on local advertising.\*
- There is also possibly some dislike of the current location for tying.
- This is a national situation with tying seen as an old man's pastime. Whilst uptake of fishing during Covid spiked, it has not translated into fly tying uptake.

\*KV mentioned the opportunity to advertise through Lagoon Bait and Tackle who had noticed an increase in interest in their fly fishing section. Others noted our need to possibly improve our Facebook showing. Work will follow on these two ideas.

### **4. Events Secretary's Report.**

2022 had proved difficult for AW due to medical concerns but others had stepped into the breach admirably.

As participation had become something of a struggle (reasons similar to membership reduction), AW circulated a short survey to illicit which events would be best to concentrate upon/dispense with. The results suggest the main events under threat are the Charity Pairs, the match V Hastings FF at Powdermill and the "Twixtmas" Moorhen visit,

if the Chairman's Day continues to be held at this venue on another date.

There have also been discussions between the events organisers at EDFFC, Ouse Valley and SFDG to see if more combined events would help with attendance .At present 2 events look likely to succeed in this context and some others may be opened up for invite between clubs.

A question was asked about the lack of use of Chalk Springs and Duncton. The former has to a certain extent priced itself out of the market, unless there has been a change of policy for club days. Duncton is going through a change of management and seems to be trying hard to attract new custom. AW will investigate possibilities at these two venues ,however, some cuts in proposed events would probably need to be accepted with increasing fishery/travel costs. AW seemed to have the support of members to continue the policy of subsidising events using funds largely generated by the current membership.

#### **AOB**

Nothing was brought up, so the meeting was ended and refreshments were taken- thanks to Tony W for organising. Thanks also to Alan Middleton for his excellent mulled fruit punch thingy? Delicious.

Our thanks also to Keith Verrall for organising the long overdue Rod Raffle  
AW\_

### **Christmas Competition**

The Christmas competition took place on Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> December at Brick Farm Trout Fishery. 15 members took part on a Cold, overcast, breezy day.

Brick Farm provided us with Bacon Rolls prior to us starting fishing, and a superb lunch of Turkey rolls and hot potatoes, followed by mince pies.

From the start action was fast and furious, with Keith Verrall getting his 3 fish limit in 30 minutes. Several other only took a short time to catch there limit, while others struggled a bit.

The outcome of the competition is as follows:

#### **Best Rainbow Trout**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Alan Wells	4lb 3oz
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Keith Verrall	3lb 4oz
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Peter Winder	2lb 14oz

#### **Best Brown/Spartic**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Andy Wood	3lb 0oz
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#### **Biggest bag**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Alan Wells	7lb 13oz
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Andy Wood	7lb 5oz
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Keith Verrall	7lb 3oz

Alan Wells and Andy Wood received trophies for their respective catches.

### **Tie a Salmon Fly with Alan Middleton**

Alan Middleton is holding his annual workshop on how to tie a particular Salmon Fly.

The event is taking place on the 18<sup>th</sup> February at Clayton Village Hall, from 0900 to 1600. You will need to bring a packed lunch.

Alan will supply all tying materials, all you need to bring is your vice and sundry tools.

The cost of the event is £15 per person. This event is very popular and we only have a few places left, so if you are interested in attending please let Alan Wells know asap.

### **Cup Winners**

For those of you holding cups/shields for this years events if you would like to have your name engraved on them please feel free to do so.

A colorful, stylized logo for 'Happy New Year!'. The word 'happy' is in a multi-colored font (green, blue, red, yellow), and 'new year!' is in a similar multi-colored font (red, orange, yellow, green, blue). The exclamation mark is blue.