

The Flydressers Guild Sussex Branch



Newsletter July 2022

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Flydressers Guild

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2022/2023 Sessions Dates for Thursday meetings

I have at last received confirmation from the Clayton Village Hall committee that we can have the following dates for our meetings.

This information will also be available on our web site.

September 2022
1st, 8th, 15th, 22, 29th

October 2022
6th, 13, 20th 27th

November 2022
3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

December 2022
1st, 8th, 15th

January 2023
5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

February 2023
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd

March 2023
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

April 2023
6th, 13th

This is a book review by David Constable

Dry Fly Obsession

The ultimate dry fly revolution
Author Luis Meana Baeze
Published in Spain in 2020, in English

It's in Hard back with a dust cover and runs to 175 pages and encompasses six chapters.
Chapter one. About the Dry Fly and the Catch and Release fishing as a moral obligation to the Spaniards. It is clear that the rivers have benefited by this approach and of course it appears by what is written more of a hunter approach is required to be successful.

Chapter two. Is about the equipment that one can use and the reasons behind his thought processes which is very thought provoking. The **reel** in his opinion the least important item however, it should be light and balance the rod. The fly lines will vary depending on where the fishing is being undertaken and need not cost the earth. The **rod** is considered to be a very personal piece of equipment however, it

does have to handle a long leader. To this end he has designed his own rod in conjunction with the famous brand of Maxia Rods, which is available at a reasonable price. It is a combination of high-quality carbon and a thinner resin coat, the end result is a perfect balance of weight, action and resistance. The final product is a rod with an action that he would define as “electric”: relatively quick and smoothing out progressively. This enables us to shoot the first few metres of line with a lot of power without loading the rod completely. It also allows us to handle long leaders (as much as six metres long) without having much line out of the rod tip. He does not consider it is for use with nymphs and streamers or small rivers. He recommends 10ft long 5 weight.

Leaders in his opinion is the most important part of the set-up. To this end his construction of his **leader** and **tippet** are considered in great detail according to the style of fishing being undertaken and this part of the chapter goes into great detail on materials and overall lengths anything between 5.5 and 7.5 metres long, depending on the situation. Another point that is made is that manufactures vary in **leader** and **tippet** diameters vary greatly and to this end he always carries and uses a micrometer to ensure the correct diameter at all times. **Knots** along with insufficient quality and maintenance of **tippets**, he would say that knots are the biggest cause of lost fish, especially large fish. There are three complete tying diagrams for the following knots, **Blood knot**, **Surgeon's knot** and the **Infinite knot**. **Flies**, he finishes this section on flies but only with regard to considering the aerodynamics of a fly as it is cast and how the tying can be modified to enhance its aerodynamics.

Chapter Three. Strategies, Casting, Reading the water – Positioning and Presentation, Big fish – Small flies – Fine line. This chapter is all about preparing yourself for the types of water and how you will go about fishing, it must be born in mind not only does Luis fish for himself he is a guide and wants you to gain from his

own experience and that's what this chapter is all about.

Chapter Four. Spain, Dry Fly Paradise, this is a chapter about fishing in Spain for not only river trout, but sea trout, barbel and other species on the dry fly. All very interesting and makes you want to go and try.

Chapter Five. El Pardon de Meana. Evolution, this takes three of his fly's and takes them to the next stage from his first book that I have previously written a report on. There are step by step tying guides for each fly and which materials to use, for the observant it also shows one or two tools that are just variants on what we use which personally I find interesting. As you read through there are many small pointers that would be easy to neglect and make the tying perhaps a little easier and help in our journey off fly tying.

Chapter Six. Stories and Experiences an interesting round up of what the book is all about. This is a book written by a man that dedicates his fishing life to improvement of fishing and fly tying and is most willing to share all with the reader.

The books can be purchased through his website www.cotossalmoneros.com

His email address is:-
flyfishing@pardondemeana.com for more information.

Meon Springs update

The sunny weather over the last couple of days has brought a lot of people out fishing at Meon Springs catches have been good.

The fish are moving at all depths at the moment and fishing low and slow is pulling fish as well as high and fast. There has also been some dry fly action, with small little sedges and gnats dancing over the water. Anglers putting the dry fly under the trees are getting results.

Some of you over the past few weeks may have noticed the new arrival at Meon Springs. We now have a cafe and burger van on site.

The cafe is located by the bridge between Whitewool and Coombe lakes. It is run by a delightful couple Bolly and Zed. They are serving all manner of good food and drinks. So if you fancy a nice coffee with a piece of cake in the morning or one of Zed's fully loaded burgers for lunch pop down and see them.

We are still serving tea and coffee free for the anglers in the lodge as well as our grab-and-go snacks, but if the urge for a hot drink hits you. You can now enjoy one by the lakeside.



Brick Farm Update

We are now in one of the best seasons for fly fishing for trout and the recent catches reflect this – we're seeing much more being caught on the more natural flies such as buzzers and dries, as well as pheasant tail nymphs and smaller versions of the ever popular blue flash damsel.

We are still stocking weekly, with top up stocks throughout the week so there is always a good head of fish in the water. It's the perfect time to get newbies into the sport of fly fishing because we're not having to fight strong winds

and can often see the fish rising nicely – we're beginning to see some lovely Mayfly hatches so a beginner can really see and understand what the fish are doing naturally and learn to mimic the same in their own retrieves.

We have now extended the spaces available for our first ever 'Ladies Day' perfect for anyone who might like to give fly fishing a go in comfortable and relaxed surroundings, with other female anglers and expert tuition. BUT IT'S NOT JUST FOR THE LADIES – this event is also open to couples so it is a great way to get your wife or partner to have a go – it's the perfect opportunity to #GetFishing. Proudly sponsored by Snowbee UK Ltd there is a £100 Snowbee voucher to be won on the day (t&cs apply). Please call Danni on 01323 832615 or message via Facebook to book places for you and your friends!

LakeDown Update

Although many of the regulars managed to catch their full bags it was overall another tough week at Lakedown with a catch rate again just scratching 50%. The Farley brothers however were at it again on Sunday with 9 fish between them for an impressive 26lbs. Black and green seem to be the patterns working best. There are plenty of fish moving on the surface early in the morning but as the sun warms up they are going deeper (The surface water is currently a warm 20 Celsius).

A Reminder

Fishing License Renewals

The 16th of June marks the end of the close season, meaning you can now fish anywhere (subject to owners permission) including rivers, streams, drains and some canals which have been shut for the last 3 months.

The annual close season helps to protect coarse fish when they are spawning and support vulnerable stocks, meaning fish populations have time to grow and thrive.

Before you head out to fish, though, make sure you have a valid licence.

Tamar Salmon Tagging

The Environment Agency has completed the mammoth task of tagging more than 4,000 juvenile salmon smolts (juveniles) before they leave the River Tamar and head out to sea.



Hh

Fisheries experts have also fin clipped nearly 900 sea trout smolts, so they can be identified when they return to the Tamar.

Salmon and sea trout are monitored intensively on the River Tamar to provide information on the biology and status of stocks. The Tamar is one of 3 index rivers in England and Wales, but the only index river reporting on the marine survival rates of salmon and sea trout.

Some 4,093 salmon smolts, heading out to sea as part of their migration to their adult feeding grounds at sea, were trapped using the Environment Agency's rotary smolt trap on the River Tamar.

Fisheries experts then carefully injected a tiny tag (size of an iron filing) into their nose cartilage. This tag can be detected in any adult fish that return to the Tamar and are caught in

the fish trap at Gunnislake. The information can then be used to calculate marine survival rates.



A tiny tag is carefully injected into the nose cartilage

Sea trout smolts are tagged or fin-clipped on alternate years to distinguish between the different age classes and calculate marine survival rates. Although it is interesting to get reports of tagged or fin-clipped fish from anglers, only data collected from the adult trap at Gunnislake is used to calculate marine survival rates and it's preferable that any fish caught are returned to the water as soon as possible.

Raising funds for Ukraine

I've have been tying salmon fly brooches for friends for a few years now and recently, searching through my tying material boxes, I had a thought came to me. If I could find the right fur, feathers and floss I could develop a brooch in the Ukrainian flag colours that I could sell to raise funds for the DEC Ukraine appeal.

I decided to adapt the classic Garry Dog pattern, which I thought would be more hard wearing than a fly made from one using feathers. So, armed with blue and yellow floss and buck tail, some blue feathers, golden pheasant crest, silver oval and primrose tying thread, I set to work.

If you have used rayon floss you will know how much it frays. So the first attempt with a yellow floss body and head was a bit of a disaster, so out came the scalpel. I exchanged the yellow rayon floss for a pure silk yellow floss and started again. The result this time wasn't too bad at all. and my wife bagged number one 1 so I tied three. I circulated pictures to friends on WhatsApp suggesting that for a donation to the DEC Ukraine appeal I would tie brooches for them. In no time I had orders for eight. With the blue buck tail and brooch pins running out I phoned in a quick order to The Anglers Lodge in Darlington and two days later more supplies arrived in the post. Excellent service and a discount to boot! Alan Middleton kindly suggested an improvement to the design to make the blue wing more prominent and the production line started.



I have decided to call the pattern "For The Ukraine". and If anyone would like one (or

more) please get in touch. All I ask is for a donation of at least £10 or more for each brooch which I will send direct to the DEC appeal with GiftAid for the total sum raised, where you can decide whether or not to GiftAid the donation.

Wayne Duerden
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Carp on the Fly at Passies

Eight carp hunters assembled at the start of a predicted hot day. Updates on recent fishing expeditions and the health problems of Member's and their families where discussed whilst the Bailiff fired up the BBQ and produced the bacon butties. On inspection of the water, it was found to be stained dark green with a suppressant which is designed to cut sunlight and kill the water weed This is the only treatment which is approved these days. It was noticed that there was a long reach hydraulic excavator with a weed bucket on site which implies that channel maintenance was proposed. The channel by the footbridge at the entrance to the fishery was sealed with chalk making vehicle access available. Before our next fishing event, I suggest that permission for car access to the swims is made to reduce the task of lugging carp gear around the site and provide cover in the event of a rain storm. Initially anglers chose the swims by the entrance on the basis that fish would be fairly evenly distributed; I expected that the staining of the water would reduce viability for the carp and maybe reduce the attraction of the ground bait. The fish did not seem to react to the "sound" of biscuits being distributed, in fact not much interest was shown throughout the morning. A few small carp of about 2 lb made languid efforts to take the biscuits but that was all. One or two of these small fish were taken eventually although two members had broken leaders.

A high point for me was the number of reed warblers which were active through the morning.

Some anglers decamped to the far end of the channel and met with some success with a few larger fish (6 to 8 lb) being taken. I assume that after lunch most anglers made their way there. Despite lots of protection, I suffered from the heat and had to pack up after lunch and after having difficulty driving home spent the rest of the day and evening flat out on my bed ! Despite the heat, another enjoyable day.

Tony W

More Carp on the Fly

Sadly Alan Wells will be unlikely to be able to attend any events for either Ouse Valley or SFDG for some time as he is due to have an operation on 8th July & recuperation will take some weeks. Alan had been discussing a joint Carp on the Fly event with Ouse Valley, at Falkenvil but that would need to be arranged by someone else if people are still keen. If any club member is keen to take this on please contact me and let me know and I can give you the details.

Simon R

Update from Moorhen Trout Fishery

Unfortunately, Moorehen have no alternative but to close now until 1st September due to our rising water temperature. They feel it would be unfair for anglers and the fish to open when they are not at their best.