

# The Flydressers Guild

## Sussex Branch



### Newsletter

## August 2021

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Flydressers Guild

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### Chairman's Chat

Disposal of no longer required fishing tackle will become a problem now that we are no longer able hold auctions.

Last month I took the chance (liberty ?) , in the Newsletter to dispose of my late nephew's extensive range of fishing tackle. I managed to sell it as a job lot to a second hand tackle dealer, for £2,000 which I am sure you will agree was a good outcome, his widow was very relieved (as was I).

It occurred to me that we may be able to set up an annual contract with a second hand tackle dealer to take Club and Members equipment as a job lot. If it does not work we have lost nothing.

What do Members think about this idea ?

More exciting Chats to follow in the Autumn.

**Tony W**

## Subscriptions due for September onwards

With current membership about to fall due from the 1st September 2021 this a reminder that the new fees can be paid using the following options:

- by cheque,

- online banking ensuring your surname is included on the description,

or direct to **Bill Black on a Thursday evening using a Debit/Credit card**  
**The membership renewal application form is available as a separate attachment.**

### From the Desk of Ray Burt

As Alan Wells put in an Email to members some while back Lakedown has been fishing really well. I went on a Saturday a while ago and caught on all four lakes and the most astonishing thing was I had the place completely to myself as there were no others there at all. I went again two weeks later and caught fish from three of the lakes the best going three and a half pounds. I've been to Chalybeate Springs twice with the Tunbridge Wells and Eastbourne clubs. On both occasions the day started with bacon and egg rolls and your favoured cuppa. The first trip was quite difficult with a lot of willow seed floating on the water catching on the leader and the heads of the fly, in fact eighteen anglers caught just fourteen fish. I had several pulls but none resulted in a fish. On the second trip the willow seed had cleared and it was dries, especially a daddy long legs, that accounted for the fish in very short time. At Powdermill the mayfly fishing has been really good but because of the hot sunny days during May and early June it has been restricted mainly to evenings and I tend to fish in the day - even so by fishing weighted mayfly nymphs and claret and olive dabblers I've had limits each time apart from the last trip when I had four - the water felt really warm on that occasion and a lot of the fish were jumping which some people suggest is a sign of stress. So my latest few trips have been to Brick Farm which like my trips to Lakedown have produced fish from all four lakes to a variety of methods and you can if you want enjoy a bacon and egg bap and a beer there - nice way to start and end your visit. Alan Wells piece on barbless hooks in the May Newsletter reminded me of the time I wrote in the April 2020 Newsletter when on my first European event in France I fished my first peg for thirty five minutes hooking twelve fish and landing only three. Jeremy Herrmann, an exceptional angler, former world champion and England teammate on several occasions put me right on how to land fish on barbless hooks - just keep

pulling. This is helped by using good leader material of sufficient strength - I use Seaguar Soft Plus Fluorocarbon in 13.7lb breaking strain sometimes dropping to 10.4lb if the water is clear. I know these sound strong but check the diameters with what you are using. The 13.7lb is .235mm and the 10.4lb is .218mm - even the 8.2lb is only .185mm. I'd rather use these strengths than leave a fish with a fly in it's mouth and possibly a length of leader material trailing as well. Another thing I have found when using barbless hooks as opposed to crushed barbed hooks is to use those with an inturned point - they really help the fish to stay on but when the fish is netted the fly often drops out in the net which is really helpful if the fish is to be released as it does not have to be touched. Talking of Jeremy Herrmann reminds me of the time at a team meeting at an International he was asked by a team member what the best three flies were for stock fish and he replied Cat, Cat and Cat and he's not far wrong!

### **best laid plans.....**

You can't always choose the days you can go fishing & in Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June I managed to end up with the hottest day so far this year. I was going to try Brick Farm as I hadn't been there for some time and had done quite well there in the past, even in hot, sunny conditions. So, I thought, (having seen the forecast) let's get there early and try to catch some fish in the cooler early morning. I went for a 4 fish ticket, which I thought was quite ambitious considering the conditions. That part of the plan worked. I set up two 6 weight rods, one with a clear intermediate and to start with a Stalking Damsel & the second with a 2 dropper buzzer rig anchored by # 14 bead head PTN on a midge tip. Starting at the dam end of Brick Lake I fished the Damsel rig first and was soon encouraged by some knocks which were noticeable right near the end of slow retrieves. So I made sure I hung my flies at the end of the retrieve and caught two fish in this way, which pleased me no end but as always created a dilemma as it was only 8.10 am!

The next bit was the part where the plan "gang astray". I thought that using the buzzer rig might put me in touch with fewer stockies and perhaps some larger fish and wandered up to Spring Lake. Fishing the deep central water with a long leader and buzzers had served me well in the past here. Not today... the next 4 hours, despite various changes in flies and tactics, produced not a touch and my head was beginning to boil!

Time for a lunch break. On my way past Stag Lake I had a chat to Chad ... who some of you might know of from his "Barry Big Plums" Youtube videos. He had had a reasonable morning with 3 fish on buzzers from Spring and Stag but was now stuck and was trying a buzzer under an indicator to try to break the stalemate. I left him to it and enjoyed a cup of tea, tasty sausage bap and a natter with two more anglers setting up, in the shade of a gazebo on the lodge terrace.

From here I noticed some movement near the disabled platform at the top of Brick lake and decided

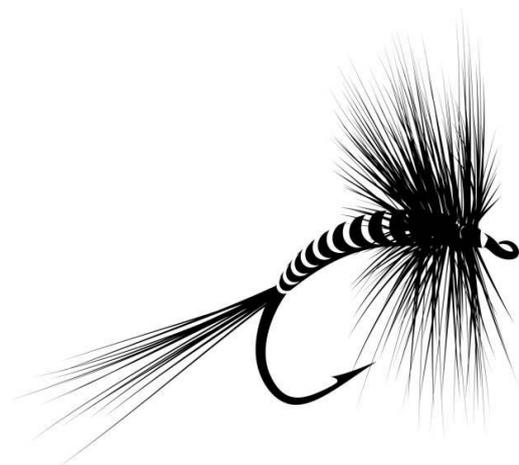
to shorten and lighten my buzzer setup and try again. Within a few casts I had hooked a very energetic fish which ran about all over the place but just as I thought I had subdued it, it came off. I fished on here for a while with one more pluck but it became unbearably hot so I moved into a shady spot to reappraise. I had noticed some sporadic rises along the right hand side of the lake and thought that the middle pegs here had not been fished much all day & in places offered some shady respite. So I decided to use the intermediate here to start with but changed to an old faithful pattern for Brick – the black and green Montana on a slow figure of 8 retrieve and slightly higher in the water. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> cast a tap and then a solid lock up brought the best fish of the day at a shade under 3 lb to the net and 2 casts later it was followed by the final fish.

**Alan Wells**

### **Fly Tying Programme 2021/22**

**The Fly Tying Programme for the 2021/22 season is also available and can be found on a separate attachment. We are lucky enough to have the continuing support of John Plowman, Jim Harris, Phillip Ellis, Brian Hendry, Paul Bond and Alan Middleton to the tutoring for the various levels.**

**Also for those interested the long awaited Rod Raffle Draw will be taking place on the 30th September 2021.**



# CREAMY TROUT, LEEK AND ASPARAGUS RISOTTO

- 60G BUTTER
- 1 TABLESPOON OLIVE OIL
- 1 SMALL LEEK, SLICED (WHITE ONLY)
- 1 CLOVE GARLIC, CHOPPED
- 150G DICED BUTTERNUT SQUASH
- 1 GLASS WHITE WINE
- 1 TEASPOON CHOPPED OF FRESH THYME
- 300G ARBORIO RICE
- 1 LITRE CHICKEN STOCK
- 200G DICED TROUT FILLET
- 150G ASPARAGUS TIPS
- 1 TABLESPOON SINGLE CREAM
- SALT AND PEPPER TO TASTE
- 1 TABLESPOON CHOPPED CHIVES, DIVIDED
- 70G GRATED PARMESAN

1. Melt 2/3 of the butter and the oil in a pan.
2. Fry the leek, garlic and butternut squash for 1 minute without browning.
3. Add the wine, thyme, rice and stock.
4. Bring to the boil and simmer for about 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.
5. Gently add and stir in the diced trout, asparagus and cream, plus a little more stock if necessary.
6. Cover and simmer very gently for 3 minutes. Stirring every minute till the rice is soft and creamy and the fish is cooked.
7. Season with salt and pepper. Stir in the rest of the butter and half of the chopped chives.
8. Serve hot, sprinkled with Parmesan and chopped chives.