

The Flydressers Guild Sussex Branch



Newsletter

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Flydressers Guild**

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Brass Monkeys Competition Saturday 8th Nov- Hazel Copse

Hot on the heels of Trophy Day comes our outing to Hazel Copse for the Brass Monkeys Competition. This is usually one where we change things up to limit the flies you can use for the first hour and it's the "fastest fish" which wins a prize.

The cost is £25 (TBC) for 2 fish and catch and release thereafter.

As the weather can be somewhat unpredictable at this time of year I will not be expecting people to pay in advance but I suggest you bring **cash** to pay on the day.

However, it's only fair to let the venue have an idea of how many to expect so if you could let me know by the end of this week by email if you intend to come it would be very helpful.

Hoping we can have as good a turnout as at Trophy Day.

Please let Alan know if you will be attending.

Popper Job

I had a thought last night (I knowdangerous!) after writing the Trophy Day report, that when we do fishing reports we quite often miss out saying what our successful flies were. So here goes. Whilst my first 3 fish were caught on a fairly standard weighted BFD, I had most fun with the little chap pictured below- a Damsel Popper. I had tied a few of these up for occasions when I might need to fish amongst weed.. certainly the case on Spring Lake last Sunday! Putting a floating fly like this out into the limited space amongst the weed meant you had more time on your retrieve and the surface wake had immediate effects. It was really exciting to watch the bow waves following the fly and hoping the trout would reach it before the thicker weed. Suffice to say I hooked and lost 2 and then finally managed to drag my fourth fish through the weed to the net! A tactic I will definitely be trying again.



Simon is always waiting for new pieces for the newsletter so how about some bits on your recent most successful flies.

Trophy Day- Brick Farm Sunday Oct 19th

Considering the warnings of dire weather and the supposed impact of warm water, I think this was a fairly successful day. It was good to see both new members and some of our more established colleagues out on the bank so that we had 17 starters . (Apologies for the lack of photos- I always get too engrossed in the fishing and forgot this is part of my role) As “organiser” I thought / was early getting there at 7.40 but of course there were 4 or 5 there before me. However, the early turn-ups did allow us, after the obligatory bacon rolls, to get going before the customary 9.00 am start, as the forecast had suggested we were in for a soaking by about 10.30. As it happened the rain did not really make an appearance till about 12.15. By this time the more hard-working among us had bagged up and got into the dry of the lodge- teehee!

It was quite interesting to see the impact of the prolonged dry spell upon the different lakes at Bricks. Well, being spring fed, did not seem particularly low and as Stag feeds from this, it was not hugely impacted, though there was a lot of weed growth. Despite being stream fed Brick Lake was lower than expected but Spring Lake was, I would say, a good 3 ft down on its usual levels and the margins, particularly at the western end and on the south side, were very heavily weeded. However, my thinking was that the fish that were in there would be concentrated into the available water and it would be a case of how possible it would be to cast against the slight breeze and get a fly into open water. So unlike some who had heard Keith say Spring Lake was virtually “unfishable” when he visited , myself, JP and Wayne took on the “north bank challenge” .

It was quite hard work getting a line into the constricted space but it soon became obvious that a lot of fish were there and up for the chase in even the limited distance of open water. Over the course of

the next hour or so there were numerous hookups and quite a few unhooks as you had to pull your fish through the weed & quite a lot of “gardening” as JP puts it. Whilst eventually a fair number of fish came out through our thrashing about, it was instructional to watch Tony Harrison serenely fishing dries on the opposite bank and producing fish in a far less exhausting manner! However, I did achieve my aim of getting 4 fish early to avoid an afternoon soaking.

Meanwhile Steve Mustchin and Howie had been fishing Well and Stag lakes near or on the surface to good effect and joined me at the lodge just after 11.30, closely followed by Martyn. Peter had gamely attempted the illusive 4 Lake Challenge for a while but even he had to give up on this eventually.

Lunch was enriched by some fabulous cakes provided by Wayne, who should enter “The Great British Bake Off” as they were really delicious. By this time the rain had begun in earnest and several called it a day at that point, sadly a few without troubling the scorers. About half a dozen brave souls continued into the pm session and I think only Steve Matthews managed to add to his total but with a very creditable 3 lb plus rainbow , to add to his morning fish which narrowly missed the top fish spot. The picture below showing the results of John Plowman’s fish autopsy with large numbers of small snails, may help to explain how high in the water some fish were & why they may have been a bit “picky”.



The results table **shows Martyn Grey sweeping the board with best bag and best fish.** Well done Martyn! No browns were taken and no-one managed the 4 Lake Challenge. The trickiness of the fishing in October over recent years and the often inclement weather, have intensified ideas of moving Trophy Day to the Spring. The Committee will be discussing this shortly so watch this space. Thanks to the Brick Farm crew for being such hospitable hosts. We will return for our Xmas bash!
Tight lines. Alan

Trophy Day Results

Name	No of Fish	Bag Weight	Best Fish	Best Brown	Position
A. Wells	4	9lb 1oz	3lb 1oz	0	2
S. Horsley	1	2lb	2lb	0	9
C. Brown	1	?	?	0	9
A.Wood	0	0	0	0	10
P.Winder	1	2lb	2lb	0	9
J.Plowman	2	4lb	2lb	0	7

B.Black	0	0	0	0	10
S.Mustchin	4	8lb 12oz	2lb 13oz	0	4
S.Nanson	0	0	0	0	10
S.Matthews	2	6lb 4oz	3lb 11oz	0	6
S.Rickard	0	0	0	0	10
H. Dodsley	4	8lb 13oz	2lb 14oz	0	3
W.Duerden	1	2lb	2lb	0	9
T.Harrison	3	7lb	2lb 12oz	0	5
B. Hill	1	2lb 12oz	2lb 12oz	0	8
M. Gray	4	11lb 12oz	3lb 12oz	0	1
T .Woolnough	0	0	0	0	10

Book Review: The History of Fly Fishing in Fifty Flies

Author: Ian Whitelaw Publisher: Aurum Press Price: £18.56

I was given this as a gift for a recent birthday and have thoroughly enjoyed reading it, so it might be worth putting on your Xmas list.. After an introduction, there are sections on flies dating from 1496 to the present day. Each has a lovely water colour illustration by Julie Spyropoulos rather than a photograph (though there are plenty of those as well), along with a brief note about the materials used to construct the original pattern. An explanation of the significance of each pattern is also given along with information on its originator. The patterns have been carefully selected to represent key stages in the history of the sport and key figures who had a role in both fishing and fly dressing. This I found fascinating and illuminating, particularly where it deals with the upstream dry fly versus nymph controversy espoused by Frederic Halford and G.E.M. Skues respectively. Each fly also offers the opportunity to investigate new techniques, linked patterns and the luminaries who introduced or refined them, such as Cotton, Marryatt, Edwards, Sawyer , Van Klinken, Wulf and La Fontaine to name but a few. There are also sections titled “The State of the Art” in 1500 ,1800, 1900 and 2000, which describe key developments in fly fishing equipment such as rods, reels, hooks and lines and their impact upon the nature of the flies we use.

If you receive requests on the Club WhatsApp for sourcing unusual hooks or materials, it is because I am attempting to tie all fifty flies and mount them, trying where possible to use the original materials, though this is difficult with things like “ram’s scrotum hair” for the thorax dubbing on the Tup’s Indispensable! You can get a rather dubious name for yourself chasing sheep around the Sussex countryside.

A. Wells