



Sussex Branch Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2018

FIRST NIGHT

Thursday 6th September 2018

Alan Middleton will demonstrate how to bleach fur and feather; how to dye fur and feather and how to preserve fur and feather.

If anyone wishes to bring along some materials they want to work on then he is willing to have a go. No promises and no guarantees!

As usual with Alan, it will be a little light-hearted as well as being very instructive.

AUTUMN AUCTION

Thursday 19th October

Regretfully, entries for this Autumn's auction are now closed early as we already have a full catalogue.

If you want to get ahead of the queue for the Spring Auction, you can download an entry form from the website www.sussexflydressers.org.uk or get one by ringing Roy on 01273 581519 or e-mail fdgsussex@gmail.com.

A Real Royal Family – Day 2

by Alan Middleton

The following day dawned bright and dry; a little too bright for fishing but there was chance of rain after lunch according to the BBC weather bulletin. All was prepared for a good day's fishing, tackle carefully assembled and checked. By 9.30 it was apparent that my offer of an early start had not been taken up and indeed they arrived promptly at 10.45! The children had slept in and they were late for breakfast, but it did not matter too much as they had the whole day in front of them.

We were back to four members as the daughter had gone back to school to be part of a horse riding event, which had been pre-arranged. Mother fished intermittently, but the male members fished with enthusiasm and vigour, catching fish on a regular basis such that I was constantly running around the lake unhooking and releasing one trout after another.

Jeremy approached me and enquired if James' casting was satisfactory. James was the elder son and was aged about sixteen. He was a large boy of almost six feet tall. He told me he was in

the first team squad of the school rugby club and I could see why. I replied that his casting was quite good, but like all boys of his age he was in a bit of a hurry and if he could slow down the casting process he would benefit from it. Jeremy asked me to spend some time with him so correct any faults I could observe. He was above average intelligence and a quick learner, so we soon had the fly-line shooting out through the rings, much to his delight and his brother's annoyance. This prompted a second lesson improving John's casting technique, which proved to be a bigger challenge as he was not as patient as his elder brother.

After about an hour of intensive tuition we stopped for a refreshment break comprising of pastries the like of which I had never seen before. Each one was a heart attack on a plate. The hotel where they were staying had a French chef who specialised in such delicacies. One was more than anyone could manage but the boys had at least three each that I counted.

The boys were very interested in the types of fly we were using on the lake as they had spent most of their brief fishing life on a small river in Yorkshire.

We fished on until lunchtime trying out different styles of fishing - dry fly, slow nymphing and lure stripping, each one successful to a point. The boys enjoyed the variety and were keen to learn the different techniques. As a break from the fishing we tied some simple flies which were also quite successful on the rainbow trout in the lake.

Jeremy thanked me for the tuition and commented that James's casting should improve in the Summer as he could fish the lake back in Yorkshire during the school vacation. At this point his wife interjected saying that he would not be able to fish the lake as it was completely surrounded by trees.

This and other comments she had made proved my theory that underneath the fringe on her forehead would be the family motto, "*I cannot be and have never been wrong*". Not to be completely out done, Jeremy simply commented that he was aware of this and had instructed one of the gamekeepers on the estate to cut down a section of the trees so that James could be able to fish without restriction on the lake. He had also stocked the lake with some rainbow

trout from a local fish supplier. Some people just think of everything.

At 1.00 lunch was called for and out of the car came the "picnic". It would have fed the 5000 let alone a family of four. The table sagged under the weight of the sandwiches, the chicken thighs, sausage rolls, to say nothing of the crisps, nuts and other items.

Over lunch I suggested that they could fish on a little later if they wished. For one thing, as the sun settled nearer the horizon the fishing might improve and as I was working locally the next day and did not have to travel any particular distance. Jeremy thanked me for the offer and would consider it as the afternoon wore on.

For my part I had a most entertaining lunch with the chauffeur. He informed me that Jeremy's mother still lived full time in Yorkshire living alone in a mansion which could easily double up as a country hotel. Even when the whole family were in residence, which was only at Christmas, one wing of the house was still vacant. There were occasions in the autumn when the house would be filled as Jeremy was a good shot and hosted elaborate shooting parties.

After the picnic which seemed more like a banquet we were back to the fishing. Although this had slowed down as the forecasted showers did not materialise and the sun was getting stronger by the minute. Fishing was being confined to the far side of the lake where there was still some shade. The proximity of the trees which gave the shade meant that casting styles had to be adapted and the boys both quickly cottoned on to roll casting in a big way.

We stopped fishing about 3.30 for "afternoon tea" which turned out to be yet another culinary masterpiece. As I cleared away the cups and saucers Jeremy announced that as they had to travel all of the way back to London It may be as well if they left and so they packed up their belongings and said their goodbyes.

When asked what the duties are when you are a ghillie as well as being a mentor, tackle sorter, tutor, cook, washer up and general factotum you can say that you are there just to lend a hand. Working with and for such people is not a chore; it is a pleasure and can be a great deal of fun. I sometimes hope that they will remember our days together as that is what it is all about, creating memories.

AM

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Guild and Branch subscriptions 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. If you do need a form you can download one from the website, e-mail fdgsussex@gmail.com or ring 01273 581519

Chairman's Chat

Well I hope you all have had an enjoyable summer as I have, trout fishing has been replaced by carp on the fly resulting in one broken rod and three broken 15 lb leaders.

Anyway, work continues. Our remote design (site unseen) for a mixed salmonid / lampreys / elver pass system (as previously discussed) has resulted (after a lot of hassle with the American owners and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency) in a satisfactory construction of the system.



BEFORE

As you can see, the weirs are a formidable obstruction to migrating fish. Yes, the salmonids can jump onto the apron but will immediately be washed back downstream. The damage they receive would render them vulnerable to infection later resulting in many casualties. In addition the rock at the toe of the left hand weir would cause further damage. In addition the "survey" which the Client provided missed out the penstock in the centre of the left hand weir – not good. We had to completely revise the general arrangement drawing.



AFTER

Rock removed, penstock re-sited, divide wall extended and the Alaskan Steepass in service for salmonids and the pass on the right for lampreys (sea and river) with a refurbished toe to the right hand weir.

It looks satisfactory to me. The only fly in the ointment was the three month wait to be paid by the American owner of the Distillery to pay the bill – job done – now for the next.

Tony W.

John Watt Competition 2018 Draycote Water.

The team this year consisted of Chris Nunn, Chris Croucher, Ian Dunk and Richard Thomlinson.

Two of the team fished the day before the competition. With water temperatures of 20 degrees it proved a difficult day. The odd fish had a look at the dries and a couple of follows to pulled flies. Lines from floater down to Di 7 were tried, with only three fish coming to the boat, two in the top few feet and one on the hang deep down.

Match day was slightly better, although sunnier and with heavy squally showers at times. The majority of fish were at the western end of the reservoir, over deep water, and were well spread.

The most consistent method consisted of Midge Tips through to Intermediate lines, with Fabs, Blobs and Nymphs or Hoppers fished 'washing line' style.

The competition was won for the second year running by the Scottish team, New Haylie F.F The Sussex team finished 7th out of 13 teams with 11 fish.

52 Anglers caught 151 fish for a rod average of 2.9

Chris Nunn

FORTHCOMING OUTINGS

Get your bookings in NOW for these outings:

CHARITY PAIRS

BEWL WATER – Sunday 7th October

Entries urgently required. If you don't have a partner, we will endeavour to pair you up.

Contact Ray Love as soon as possible – e-mail raylove500@sky.com, phone 01323 639122.

TROPHY DAY

DUNCTON MILL – Sunday 28th October

This is our premier event when a multitude of trophies are up for grabs. Get your entry in now to Peter Winder: phone 01273 973499 or e-mail peter.winder@btinternet.com

CHRISTMAS OUTING and lunch

BRICK FARM- Sunday 2nd December

Bring your wives and family for a pleasant day in the fine lodge – and fishing too! Contact Peter Winder: e-mail peter.winder@btinternet.com or phone 01273 973499

Grayling Fishing on the Test

We have now booked a day at Wherwell on **Sunday 4th November** – the date had to be adjusted as we did not have enough entries when requested earlier. To reserve the fishery for our use we require a minimum of 12 rods and we had to relinquish our favoured date as we had only two takers by early August.

We now have 9 or 10 who have indicated they can make the new date, so if you wish to add your name **DO IT NOW!**

This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the most prized chalk stream fishing for the bargain price of £45.

Get in touch with Roy Gurney on 01273 581519 or e-mail fdgsussex@gmail.com immediately.



Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

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