

# The Flydressers Guild

## Sussex Branch



## Newsletter

## January 2022

Published by the Sussex Branch of the  
Flydressers Guild

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[sussexflydresserguild.org.uk](http://sussexflydresserguild.org.uk)

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### The Christmas Competition

This years Christmas Competition took place on the 5th December at Brick Farm Trout Fishery, and as usual was organised by Peter Winder.

The weather was relatively warm compared to the previous week when line was freezing on the rod rings. When the sun showed its face it was very pleasant.

We had 19 members attending the event, with some of them not having been seen in a long time.

The event started with a breakfast of a hot bacon roll which went down very well.

Several members caught there limit early, so retired to the lodge, while others struggled to catch.

The competition finished at 1 o'clock, and after weigh in we sat down to a Christmas lunch.

The event for Christmas 2022 has been booked already we would like see another good turnout of members.

The results are as follows:

Best Rainbow	Ray Burt	3lb 12oz
Second	Peter Winder	3lb 4oz
Best Brown	Bill Black	8lb 0oz
Second	Chris Nunn	1lb 15oz
Heaviest Bag	Ray Burt	9lb 6oz
Second	Peter Winder	9lb 0oz

### 2021 - The Good ,the Bad and the Ugly.

Like others I suspect, I sit here a week before Xmas with crossed fingers hoping that my two lads and their partners and our first Grandson are going to make it down for the festivities. It set me to thinking about how the season had gone for me personally and the club in general .

On a serious note , two major “bads” have been the passing of club stalwart Ray Love and of course as he has been described to me by many , Mr Sussex Flydressers’ himself - Roy Gurney. They will both be sorely missed and our thoughts go out to their families & friends at what will be a tricky time of year for them.

Despite the bad of Covid there have been quite a few **goods** fishing wise. The ability of small still waters to survive difficult times and in some cases prosper, has been very encouraging. Brick Farm seems to go from strength to strength ,with a good balance of stocking, reasonable price structure and it’s new league comps it seems to be getting the recipe right. Lakedown has also seen a resurgence under Jamie Daltrey, with a good balance of stocking , a truly beautiful, well maintained location & the interesting addition of the taproom. I have fished it several times this year (some of them with my son, whose return to fly fishing and failure to blank was another pleasing good) & have not been disappointed. This venue will be added to our event diary next year. Whilst I have not visited this season, I am also hearing good things of Ashdown (formerly Boringwheel) and Chalybeate & am hoping to get outings to these set up, hopefully in small inter-club comps.

Club events have been a bit of a mixed bag. Early season was a bit of a non-starter but we did manage a few boats out in May on Bewl for the Frank Darrah Pairs and several (including your’s truly) bagged up. However, Bewl, as is usual, turned around and slapped us in the face on

Charity Pairs day with only 3 fish taken from 6 boats but at least we collected a tidy sum for charity.

Trophy Day and the Xmas Outing were very well attended and we were treated to high quality hospitality by Brick Farm's team. Bill Black seems to be making a habit of taking big fish at these events and Andy Wood continues to get his PB's here – unfortunately after the competition is over.



Bill's 8lb Xmas present



Andy's PB Brown of 5lb 4 oz

The “**Ugly**” for me has been the continued corporate stubbornness & manipulation of SEW . The promised spring consultation over the future use of Arlington has failed to materialise and to be frank I don't think I ever will. The company can no longer use Covid as an excuse for their actions and inaction , they just believe that if they keep quiet we will all disappear.

To end on a **good** note, however, I am already part way through planning next year's events and we have the return of some old favourites such as Brass Monkeys and Passies and new matches at new locations like Lakedown and Chalybeate. So it just remains for me to wish you all a Merry and above all **Safe** Xmas and a Happy New Year.  
AW

## Ray Burt does it again

Ray Burt who landed the first Spartic trout caught at Brick Farm - a stunning fish forming one of a brilliant 8 fish bag



## Spartic Trout

What is a Spartic Trout? A Spartic trout is a cross between Brook trout and an Arctic Char. This is a very pretty fish distinct markings and fantastic colours. This is a rare breed, as far as it is known Torre trout farms ltd are the UK's only producers.

## Four Fly Challenge.

With our usual end of season venue at Moorhen still closed, Des had allowed us to team up with Ouse Valley Flyfishers for their 4 Fly Challenge at Brick Farm on 29<sup>th</sup> Dec. This involved using 4 flies tied by someone else with the aim of catching the heaviest fish. The total number between the 2 clubs was 19 and with 2 other groups there as well, there were over 30 anglers so things were a little tight for space but there are over 50 pegs to chose from.

The weather started pretty dismally and to be honest, didn't get any better during the course of the day with periodic rain and strong winds. I managed to get some good flies- tied in fact by Des -which included a very successful Cats Whisker which took all of my 3 fish including a 3lb plus rainbow from Stag- a lake I usually do poorly on. The fishing was not easy and there were quite a few blanks at lunchtime but several did take 4 fish bags including SFDG's Cliff Brown , who also caught the heaviest fish at 3lb 8oz. (CB has a red bottle shaped prize awaiting him, as he left early)

Despite the poor weather, spirits remained high, aided by Brick Farm's usual fine hospitality (excellent cake!) and thanks go to Des for organising a great event.

AW

### **A message from Peter Winder**

This is to update members that it is with deep regret that Peters wife Di passed away back in July, but not everyone who knew Di was aware of this.

# **Spring Auction**

***Over 200 lots of***

***Flytying tools and materials, Game, Sea & Coarse Fishing Tackle, Books and Miscellaneous items***

To be held at  
**Hurstpierpoint Village Centre**  
**Trinity Road**  
**Hurstpierpoint**  
**West Sussex**  
**BN69UY**

**on Saturday 5th March 2022 at 12.30 pm sharp**

**(viewing from 11.45 am)**