



Sussex Branch Newsletter



AUGUST 2020

Editor's Note – sorry we're late!

This is a rather truncated issue – mainly due to lack of articles from members. Our Chairman and Ray Burt have duly come up trumps, but what have the rest of you been doing during lockdown? I know that fishing has recommenced, but that should result in something to write about – I have had rumours of some fine catches on both trout and carp waters.

Don't forget that we are intending awarding trophies to verified carp taken as well as trout, so get your entries in too.

The boxes inexpensively produce a large number of fry and supply the stream with spawning facilities until the said waterfall is provided with a fish pass – or if uneconomic, provide long term facilities.

Why don't we do this in the UK? We all know the reason but I am not going to say!

Tony W

Chairman's Chat

So what has this to do with fly tying? Obviously we need fish. But why do we need boxes? Well these boxes produce fish – yes they do. If you have a stream with an obstruction preventing fish from accessing spawning areas upstream which is obstructed by say, a waterfall and you want to enhance the runs of adult fish into the stream, one way you can do it is by building hatch boxes. As the name suggests, these are boxes filled with spawning gravel sized boulders into which fish eggs (stripped from wild fish and fertilized) are supplied with a steady stream of oxygenated running water – see pipes shown. The black plastic is to ensure that the boxes are heated to air temperature.

When the juveniles hatch they pass down the water circulation pipes to the nearby stream and continue their growth and eventually their migration to the sea.

Hatch boxes



Rays Ramblings

Back in July I wrote about some of the flies, like Boobies and Snakes, that were banned at some fisheries and it got me thinking about flies that have been banned in the past.

One of the most prominent was the Alexandra, named in honour of Princess Alexandra, that came into use around 1860. At one time it was banned on some waters as it was considered too deadly, although apparently none of the great fly fishers at that time had much faith in it. I tied some up in the past and they're still sitting there unused in one of my fly boxes.

Another fly that was banned was the Nailer fly used at Ravensthorpe by one of Bob Church's fishing companions, Dick Shrive. He caught his limit each time and entered the successful fly as the Nailer. When he returned to the fishery there was a notice to say that the Nailer fly was banned. He took one out of his box and showed it to the Ranger, who said that that fly was OK it was only the Nailer fly that was banned.

Another fly that Dick used was a variant of the Missionary lure that he had come up with and on its first usage at Eyebrook Reservoir, which at that time was a no limit water, it was so successful he was told that unless he stopped catching so many fish he would not be welcome there anymore.

Talking about flies, I remember talking to the late Tony Pawson when I had just qualified for the first time for the England team, and he telling me that when he fished his first International on Chew Valley Lake that the England team had devised a system of signals to show how many fish had been taken and on what flies. On the day of the competition however most of the team had forgotten the signals, with one of the team saying he couldn't remember what was being

signalled by another team member until his Scottish boat partner informed him that he was being signalled to say that two had been caught on a Soldier Palmer!

When I was with the Weald of Kent team we had other names for flies. One I remember was a large eyed Booby pattern that we called the Receptionist. It was so named by one of the team who worked in an office where the receptionist was a rather well endowed lady.

Another fly that we used was a version of a Cat's Whisker, scaled down to International Rules size, that we called, rather too obviously, the Pussy.

A similar thing occurred when I joined the Bewl team. We were due to fish Pitsford for two days and I picked up a team member in Bromley to travel up. It was in the days before SatNavs and on the way we saw a lot of Northampton that we had no need to see. Anyway on our practice day my travelling companion had great success with a certain pattern and it was rather sarcastically called the Navigator - a name that has stuck to this day.

There was also a wet and windy day on Rutland in a Benson and Hedges International Final when one of my team members was doing rather well. I asked him what the fish were coming to and he called out what sounded like a Norman. Eventually I cottoned on to the fact that it was a Cormorant and again the name stuck.

Ray Burt

Views are stunning, but weather can be interesting....

Went for a bike ride today, its not flat that's for sure! But weather has been great, and then not so much too, all seasons in the day.

Here's some pics.



Love to all, take care and stay safe
Come see us soon

Sal and Roy

From Sally and Roy Page

Hi guys - We're in!

We got a lot of meadow to mow and lots of other stuff to take care of, but we can't head out anyway for another week, as we thought we should isolate for 14 days before going.



Just need more food tomorrow though, so will mask up and head into town, about 12 miles away, and that's all. 2 other neighbours seem great, at a distance, one already dropped off a dozen eggs - nice!

Use of metals in trout flies.

By John Plowman

I have just finished reading my latest FDG magazine where an article on using tungsten powder sink a fly is included. The idea and the suggested technique are admirable but one of the claims is totally incorrect. "Tungsten is three times as heavy as lead"

In order to compare the weights of different substances an agreed volume is used. This is a 1cm cube. The weight of a 1cm cube is called the density of the material. For water its density is 1g/cm³ and for the heaviest material on earth - a platinum like metal called osmium- its density is 22g/cm³.

For lead the value is 11.3 and for tungsten it is 19.3.

However, it is not the weight of an object alone that controls its rate of fall in water. The natural buoyancy caused by the water and the friction as the object slips through the water will also slow its rate of descent.

Both of these factors also depend on the size and shape of the descending object. To make the mathematics more straightforward I have done the calculations for 4mm diameter ball falling through still water at 15 deg. C. Buoyancy depends on the volume of water that the object displaces (such as the eyes on a booby) and friction depends on the surface smoothness (epoxy buzzer) and viscosity of the liquid (compare water with honey). Should you wish to extend these results for larger balls remember doubling the diameter puts the weight up eightfold and the surface length (and hence the friction) twofold

For buoyancy Google "Archimedes" and for fluid friction Google "Stokes' Law".

I have done all the maths and the results are in this table. I have included some other everyday metals and my calculations did not include the hole in the middle of a metal bead.

Terminal velocity is the speed the falling ball steadies at after its initial acceleration when it hits the water surface.

PS don't be like our government and ignore the scientific advice!!

John Plowman

Metal	Density (g/cm ³)	Weight of 4mm dia sphere (g)	Density in kg/m ³	Terminal velocity (m/s)	Terminal velocity in cm/s
Brass	8.5	0.28	8500	59.5	0.59
Copper	9	0.30	9000	63.4	0.63
Lead	11.3	0.38	11300	81.7	0.82
Iron/steel	7.9	0.26	7900	54.7	0.55
Tungsten	19.3	0.65	19300	145.1	1.45
Zinc	7.1	0.24	7100	48.4	0.48
Platinum	21.5	0.72	21500	162.5	1.63
Silver	10.5	0.35	10500	75.3	0.75
Titanium	4.5	0.15	4500	27.7	0.28
Gold	19.3	0.65	19300	145.1	1.45



Patcham Re-opening

Up to the present there no date fixed for re-opening the centre. As soon as we have news, we will let you know, but you will appreciate the enormity of the task facing the volunteers of the PCA committee to make it safe and conforming to the guidelines.

Meantime, your own committee are working on the "Zoom" alternative and will advise details in due course.

Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

Chairman: Tony Woolnough 01273 483833
 Secretary: Simon Rickard 07799 484166
 Treasurer: Bill Black 01323 763807
 Membership: Roy Gurney 01273 581519

Editor: ROY GURNEY

29 Capel Avenue, PEACEHAVEN, BN10 8NB

E-MAIL: fdgsussex@gmail.com

Visit our web site

Sussexflydressers.org.uk