

THE FLYDRESSERS' GUILD



Sussex Branch Newsletter



APRIL 2018

Knots – Phillip Ellis

Not my favourite subject or indeed skill but we anglers need to understand knots to catch fish and usually we have our favourites that we stick to. A couple of articles last Autumn in *Trout & Salmon* magazine (August & September) by Don Stazicker, a guide on the Derbyshire rivers, prompted me to consider knots and how I could improve.

I expect like many of us I only use knots I can tie easily and that work for me, without getting complicated. There are many books on knots but always the knot I need to learn is not in the book at hand. I often refer to "Pocket guide to Fishing Knots" by Peter Owen and "Fishing Knots" by Lefty Kreh, "Fly Fishing Knots - from the reel to the hook" by Andy Steer are all full of useful knots and you will find a huge range of his drawings on YOUTUBE :

<http://www.anglingknots.com/index.html>

Consider the following:

1. Knots weaken strength to some degree. Look for knots that limit strength loss.
2. Neatly tied knots are less likely to fail
3. Always moisten before tightening smoothly
4. Number of turns is important - or rather the correct number - not too many for extra security.
5. Casting knots or wind knots weaken leader or tippet and should be checked regularly, we all get them.
6. Practice knots using thicker line i.e. and old fly line or cord will give a better understanding and improve tying efficiency.
7. Always leave a tag at the hook not too long but just visible as a fish on may well tighten knot, pulling in the tag, and if too short it will pull through, resulting in a lost fish. Don states a neatly tied knot does not need a tag left if tied correctly, I might not agree.

Attaching fly line to leader:

Tying directly is considered best using a needle or nail knot as it forms a direct link between line and leader. Certainly instructors are expected to do this as the line and leader should land straight on the water. I use a mix of methods and often use the Roman Moser braided connectors that provide what I want; they are double walled and the main advantage is that

they are easy to replace. The braided leaders that often come with new fly line or purchased, usually in a pack of three, are far too long and when line lands on water you see a curve at point of connection; if you do use them, try cutting them in half before connection to fly line.

My Favourite Knots

Line to reel	Arbor knot
Line to leader	Braided connection, nail knot or needle knot
Leader knots	Surgeons knot & blood knot
Tippet to fly	Tucked half clinch or grinner. Albert Horne always favoured the Turle knot

PE

SPRING AUCTION THURSDAY 19th APRIL

With this Newsletter is attached (or enclosed) the catalogue for this Auction. Do come along and bag yourself a bargain and don't forget to bring along your friends and acquaintances too! Everyone – members and non-members – are welcome to bid for some 300 items of fly-tying tools and materials, flies and fly-boxes, clothing and tackle (fly, coarse and sea) and books, etc.

This is last of our meetings at Patcham till we resume in September and our programme of fishing outings is now well under way for the Summer months.

APRIL 5th SPEAKER STEVE SKUCE

We hope you all got the message that "The Beast from the East" (aided by that erstwhile suffragette Emma) caused us to cancel the last meeting on 1st March, to avoid Steve (and you!) possibly getting stranded.

Steve has graciously adjusted his diary to come to us on 5th April instead and we welcome him to fill us in on the latest from the Grayling front. Let's hope there is not a hurricane or earthquake threatened this time!!

Chairman's Chat

This is a chance for you to quote for a project that we have rejected. It is quite simple actually, it is just the design and construction of two bridges, to replace two fords.

The Client reports that the existing the culverts (pipes) through the fords keep blocking (they would do if you do not maintain them) and causing water to flow over the ford causing a differential head (step in the water level) and the need for fish to jump onto the fords and swim in minimal water depth. These fish would, of course abrade themselves and be vulnerable to infection later, resulting in their death before spawning.



So what information do we require ?

A detailed survey of both sites – no problem. The hydraulic design of the bridge outlines – no problem.

The width of the bridges – not stated. The width depends on the traffic. Are they for a bridleway, i.e. horse width and loading? Or farm traffic – maybe the odd tractor and/or cattle truck ? Will there be an occasional milk tanker? This could be 40 tonnes.

So we could have bridges with widths of say 1.5 m to 4.0 m with unknown spans and loading. So what are the soil conditions? Is there rock underneath? Do we need to provide piled foundations? We will need a site investigation and report or will we?

Who will need to approve the bridges? Local Authority, Highway Authority? Local Land-owners – or all of these?

This is a lump sum Design and Build contract requiring site supervision, soils investigation (maybe) temporary rivers diversions – Environment Agency approval.

Here is your chance: you would be bound to get the job as any sensible person would not touch this with a barge pole – it would be easy to go bankrupt on this one – so you see why we rejected it.

Tony W

Magnifying glasses for Tying

For some years I have been wearing what may be considered unusual magnifying glasses when tying. Instead of having two arms, one over each ear there is a continuous adjustable band with the connection on the bridge of your nose that is magnetised. The advantage for me is I do not lose them and if I need to look or speak with someone all I do is break the bridge and not having to put them down to be lost! I first had a cheap pair that are now disintegrating slowly. I found my replacements recently "TEYES" produced by a London company and are much better quality.



The lightweight comfortable frames are made from Rilsan Clear® an eco-friendly modern nylon and the lenses are CR39 quality, strengths start at +1.0 and go up to +3.5 in half increments. The basic model available in different frame colours costs £30 plus postage and if you need a prescription pair from £50. They come with full instructions together with spare side arms for adjustment. My only comment is that they do not come with a case or bag that would have been useful for storing in tying box. They can be brought direct and Sportfish outlets stock them. Remember if you buy a pair, you hopefully will not mislay your glasses, but you could leave them behind if you forget to pack them away is another matter! Guaranteed for a year and parts are replaceable should you have a mishap.

<https://www.magneteyesuk.co.uk/>

Telephone: +44 (0) 207 582 2347

Phillip Ellis

FRANK DARRAH PAIRS

Thanks to fixture congestion both at Bewl and our own schedule, this event will now be held at Arlington Reservoir on Sunday 13th May. You should use the old booking form and send ASAP to David Painter; check with him the new (lower) cost. This should be better for fishing, without the "any method" boys.

A Fly for the Game Fair's 60th anniversary

From the Game Fair:

As its The Game Fair's 60th anniversary, we'd love to see if someone at the Guild could create a Game Fair Fly over the next few weeks. It would be a lovely thing to showcase in advance and should reflect the ethos of The Game Fair – so perhaps they would use deer hair, some pheasant feather material or similar. It would be great to have a bit of a back story to it, too. We don't mind if it's a trout or salmon fly, to be honest, as long as it looks the part. Our website is www.thegamefair.org if anyone wants any inspiration.

We would obviously promote the fly quite heavily, along with The Fly Dressers' Guild and the actual creator through our various media outlets (social media, option and e-newsletters). We could also use this as an opportunity to encourage people to join the Guild. The tyer could even give a small talk in our Fishing Theatre about how they tied it (or get them to visit the Fair's fly tying area to discuss)

This is a great opportunity for the FDG to promote ourselves on the larger stage.

The deadline for submission is the 2nd week of May and we'll give you an address to send the flies to when we have it.

Up to date downloads

We have had some confusion this year with the Fly Tying Programme due to members using out-of-date programmes, despite updates being sent by e-mail either as messages or with the newsletter. We would apologise especially to those who don't have e-mail as they may have missed some.

The downloads from the website should have been correct, but one or two had problems due to the habit of computers being too clever; when calling up a website used before, they often take a "short cut" by displaying the version last accessed. This means some pages may be out of date; to remedy this it is necessary to key F5 which will bring it up to date.

Next year we will also date each edition (which we hope will not be many!) so if there appears to be an anomaly, comparison of copies should solve the matter.

Lefty Kreh

Sadly this month we lost one of the greats in fly fishing - Lefty Kreh, who has died at the grand age of 93 at his home near Baltimore in the US. Most of us will remember him for his many books on fly casting but he was also a renowned salt-water fisherman and devised "Lefty's Deceiver", a fly used all over the world.

"50 Not Out"

We were privileged to host Charles Jardine on 1st February when he provided a very interesting illustrated talk which covered his fishing life and the way that tackle and techniques have developed over the years.

Like many of us Charles started very young with what we would now consider to be relatively primitive tackle which eventually developed into carbon rods, plastic covered lines and nylon leaders. Those were the days, so to speak, when the rivers were full of fish and, more importantly, fly life. (I have forgotten what an evening rise looked like).

Charles combined his artistic skills as a school teacher with his interest in fly fishing and then at one time spent a few years as a guide, fishing in many countries, until he got bored with his clients and returned to teaching. He became well known for his fine illustrations of fish in various magazines.

He was fortunate that his son took up the sport and developed into a very accomplished angler, who now gives Charles advice! I bet that goes down well!

Charles has now branched out into fishing books, tackle, guiding, demonstrating and in particular supporting many charities.

If any angler could be referred to as a "Living Legend" Charles fits the bill and we were very lucky to experience his interesting talk.

Tony W.

Give a man a fish
and he has food for a day.



Teach a man to fish
and he has to buy bamboo rods,
graphite reels, monofilament lines,
neoprene waders,
creels, tackleboxes, lures, flies,
spinners, worm rigs, slip sinkers,
offset hooks, gore-tex hats,
20 pocket vests, fish finders, depth
sounders, radar, boats, trailers,
global positioning systems, coolers
and six-packs.

FLY FISHING FOR BASS

As you may know, one of the popular venues for fly fishing for bass is by the outfall from Shoreham Power Station, where the effluent contains the cooked bodies of shrimps and small fish which have been drawn in at the cooling water intake.

At a recent trip to Moorhen Trout Fishery, I bumped into a Shift Engineer at the Power Station who told me that the station would only be running for the next two months (April and May) and then shut down for the summer to re-open in the Autumn, due to reduced electricity demand during the summer months.

Obviously there are other bass fishing venues e.g. the mouth of the River Adur at Shoreham.

Tony W

Main Guild Website

You may have been having trouble accessing the Guild website. The webmaster advises:

"There is an issue with the link with "Bravenet" (the service that validates passwords) due to a change in the way internet security works and we need to make some coding changes to get it working again. Unfortunately this coincides with the fact that we are in the process of migrating the web site from Microsoft SharePoint to another provider and so we can't fix the issue until that is done - by end March.

I have found that in Internet Explorer 11 I can "click through" the error, but not in Apple/Mac Safari and other versions of Internet Explorer. I apologise for the inconvenience."

Brass Monkeys

This outing was always intended to challenge the resilience to winter weather of the anglers participating. However, it seems to have crept nearer the warmer spring, culminating this year in a double postponement due to the late arrival of winter weather!

Of course, it is not possible to fish an iced-over lake and who wants to be frozen to death if it can be avoided?

My condolences to the organisers who have had to frantically rearrange everything and finally it went ahead on Sunday 25th March.

A fuller report will follow in the next newsletter, but the highlight results were;

Best Bag	Geoff Moseley 5lb 8oz
Best Fish	John Plowman 3lb 4oz
First Fish	Nathan Winter
Smallest Fish	Tony Ryan 1lb 6oz

There were no blankers this year!

(Report to follow when I have time – **WD**)



A new perspective on the blue winged olive!

I think the recent weather bears out this old saying!

*When the wind is in the east,
'Tis neither good for man nor beast;
When the wind is in the north,
The prudent fisher goes not forth;
When the wind is in the south,
It blows the bait in the fishes' mouth;
When the wind is in the west,
Then 'tis at the very best*

PAYMENT FOR OUTINGS

We are finally dragging ourselves into the 21st century ! A number of people have said they rarely if ever use cheques anymore and would prefer to use online bank transfers. We have piloted a few of these now and it seems to be an effective system. If you wish to avail yourself of this method, e-mail wellsywells@btinternet.com and you will receive bank details and full instructions.

We hope this makes life easier for those who want to use it but of course the other forms of payment are still available.

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