



Sussex Branch Newsletter



NOVEMBER 2019

"BIG FISH TROPHIES" Have you entered yet?



**Fish must have been caught before 31st
December 2019 from a Sussex water.**

A reminder that the categories include:

- Best fish from Sussex water
- Best fish from Sussex reservoir (includes Bewl Water)
- Best brown from Sussex water
- Best brown from Sussex reservoir or river
- Best Arctic char from Sussex water

Trophies will be presented at the End of Season
Gathering on 2nd April 2020.

Where do you keep your fishing tackle?

A working colleague recently told me all his tackle, coarse and game, was stolen from an outhouse over Christmas. I said to him "You should have kept it in the loft or in house" and his reply was, "My wife would not allow it!" Now, some years ago I had my bag stolen out of my car whilst it was in the drive overnight prior to a trip, just at the time that I was upgrading my reels and I reckon the value to be close on a £1000. Yes, just think about the number of reels and lines you have, each one is likely to be worth to replace over a £100 and what about all the spare spools! I was not covered for insurance in that instance so I had to start collecting again almost from scratch. I did find my boxes of flies thrown over a wall in my road. From that point I realised that leaving gear in garage or shed was a risk and did not want to lose again. I now leave it somewhere very secure and, if stolen, would be covered by insurance. Talking of insurance, do make sure you have a policy that covers it.

If your tackle is in an insecure place give some thought to keeping it away from thieves. The loft is a good place to start, say, during close season, or not being used for some time. If you have to keep it in the shed or garage, think about getting a secure lockable chest and if needs be padlock to a ground anchor. Another piece of advice is to try and not to draw attention to yourself when loading the car prior to a trip as you could become a target from then on, as I am sure that is why my car was broken into. When you go fishing think about what you leave in car; yes it happened to me some years ago when fishing a reservoir on holiday, so have the minimum in your car and out of sight.

Do give your tackle security some thought before you lose it. Where do I keep mine? Well that's my secret!



"Why don't you drink and gamble like other husbands?"

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Don't forget - if you don't renew now, you will not receive further copies of the "Flydresser", be able to enter Guild competitions or be eligible for insurance cover provided by the Guild, if you can't get down on Thursdays, Roy's address is:

29 Capel Avenue, Peacehaven, BN10 8NB

Chairman's Chat

Once again we set up the tent for our last show of the year at the Ardingly Game Fair. My thanks to all those who helped with the tent and demonstrated at the Show. Here we see Jim and Dave discussing some complex tying method or was it where the next beer would come from ?



We managed to get to get four people to sign up for details of the Club and many more took copies of the Auction catalogue.

Last years Club questionnaire highlighted a need for social events, which I have acted on and obtains details of an offer of a Hog Roast (and a vegetarian option) at the Barley Mow, Selmeston (on the A27) and a family day with fishing for those who want it, at Brick Farm fishery, Hustmonceux. Subject to Committee approval, details will be circulated later.

I have discovered the secret of a successful business – Get Tony Woolnough to announce his retirement and an pile of jobs will result, which has occurred in our case ! We even have a big enquiry from the USA.

Every cloud has a silver lining. My wife has been diagnosed with deep vein thrombosis, which means she has to wear a sling for her arm. The sling is made of sorbo rubber, which I think will make excellent carp “flies” if I run out, I can always beak the other arm !

Tony W

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A reminder that the AGM is on the earlier date of **5th December 2019**, followed by a quiz. Come along and let us know what **you** want of the branch.

Ray's Ramblings

Over the last year I've written about some of my fly fishing exploits and thought it might be of interest to say how I started flyfishing.

That was in 1972 when my friend Jim Bates, now sadly no longer with us, with whom I'd carp fished with in many waters in the South East started fly fishing. I contacted Dick Walker who wrote a weekly column in the Angling Times and asked his advice. He in reply wrote me a seven page handwritten letter detailing tackle to use and flies to use, saying that he fished Darwell Reservoir near Mountfield where I was intending to start and if I needed help with casting or any other aspect to meet him there. Sadly that never happened but his advice in my early outings proved invaluable. The tackle and flies he advised me to use I got from Don Neish of Dons of Edmonton, who not only provided great flies but was also an expert caster. My start at Darwell was not a success. I suppose putting five hundred trout in a water of one hundred and seventy acres was not going to make catching fish easy and in fact in my first season I caught just three fish in seven visits.

The first of these came on a trip to Chew Valley Lake and the other two from Weirwood Reservoir near Forest Row. Things gradually improved and in my second season I took thirty eight fish in nineteen visits and the following year one hundred and fifty three in thirty four visits. The flies I used in those early days that were successful were Sweeney Todd, Black Muddler, Wormfly and the Invicta.

After a couple of years, again with the help of Jim Bates, I started to tie my own flies - simple patterns like Black and Peacock Spiders, Baby Dolls, Stickflies and Midge Pupa patterns.

About that time a new material called Marabou came on the market and flies tied in either black or white with a chenille body and a marabou wing were taking a large percentage of the fish that I caught.

I moved on to tying various nymphs and traditional wet flies like Dunkelds, Mallard and Clarets, Wickhams Fancy and Soldier Palmers. How times have changed, cos now it's Boobies, Blobs, Fabs, Squirmy Wormies and Mop Flies. Sorry about that - I'll go and wash my mouth out now!

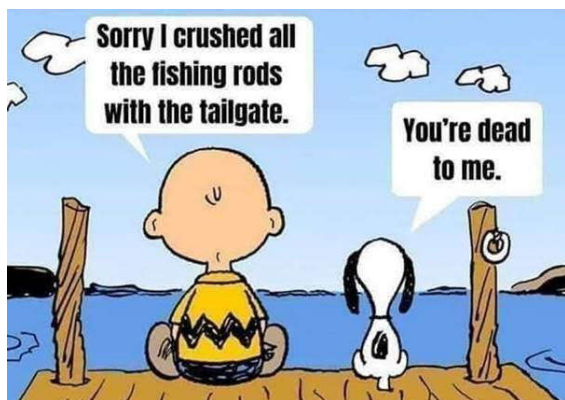
Ray Burt

Christmas Outing

Brick Farm – 1st December

Peter Winder needs to know numbers by the second week of November so **LET HIM KNOW** now by phone on 01273 973499 or e-mail

peter_winder@btinternet.com



Autumn Auction 2019

Thanks to your help and support, our recent auction was another success. On the night 45 bidding cards were issued (29 to members and 16 to guests/non-members), and this number included 3 absentee bidders who left bids via Roy Gurney. Bidding for the 300 or so lots was brisk, prompted by the skill and dry humour of our auctioneer, Guild president Mike Humphreys. Mike drives over 100 miles to us, runs the auction and then drives 100 miles home – this time, due to 3 motorway closures for roadworks, he didn't make it home till 1.45 am!, This auction was unique as the Branch was benefiting from two extraordinarily generous donations, one a bequest from the late Michael Blaber and another from the family of the late John Burt. In addition were lots from Bob Thomas and Keith Bowden, who very generously decided to share on a 50:50 basis. Finally, throughout the year a number of members made individual donations of goods to the Branch. So it will come as no surprise that that because of the above we had a very good result.

At this point I would like to thank:

Those members who chose our auction to sell their goods

All those who came along and had a bid or two (in some cases a lot of bids!)

All those who took the time and made the effort prior to the auction to contact other clubs and fisheries and, of course, their friends to come along

All helpers on the night, without whose help the auction simply would not happen

All those who helped clear up afterwards by putting chairs back, collapsing tables, etc.

Finally, we have already set the date and booked the rooms for our Spring auction which will be on Thursday 19th March 2020 at the usual time and venue at Patcham Community Centre – we look forward to welcoming you.

Tony Harrison

“Heavenly Bodies”

This was the title of the presentation by Alan Middleton on 5th November – and sure enough, Alan produced many. His variations on dubbed bodies and especially detached bodies (for mayflies rather than angels!) were startlingly simple and effective – his message was “Do it your way, as your way is best!”

All this was delivered with great humour and interspersed with tales from the riverbank whilst guiding on the Test and Itchen.

Thank you, Alan, for standing in at very short notice – if you are not careful we will have you back every speaker night on this pretext!

Weil's Disease

If you are a member of the Angling Trust you will have received a copy of last year's annual review.

There is an article about Weil's Disease 'Rat water' disease (*leptospirosis*). Shaun Leonard Director of the Wild Trout Trust, caught a mild infection whilst fishing for roach on the Thames and a member of the trust staff contracted the disease two years ago and was in intensive care for two weeks. The disease is spread by urine from rats in the water or on the bank and the only way to reduce risk of infection is to cover cuts and grazes and importantly wash hands in hot soapy water or hand gel before eating. If you are in a habit of wetting nylon with your mouth before tightening knots, be very careful.

Symptoms of Weil's disease

- a very high temperature, or feel hot and shivery
- a headache
- feeling and being sick
- aching muscles and joints
- red eyes
- loss of appetite

The Angling Trust have produced useful information credit card sized cards on the disease to carry that are available in batches through your club. If you suspect you have the disease after a fishing trip go to a doctor and show the card as it has information for medics.

More information from:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Leptospirosis/>

And don't forget the cards issued by the Flydressers' Guild to carry with you and to show to your GP if you have symptoms. Roy Gurney has a few if you have lost yours.

ED

Trophy Day Duncton Mill, 27th October 2019

Peter Winder reports on this prime event in our calendar:

We were provided the usual warm welcome from Martin (who is still going to be with us at Duncton till next Summer, as the scheduled change of management fell through), and this was accompanied by a superb Autumn day – warm and sunny enabling us to sit outside for lunch.

Sadly, only eleven members turned up for this main event of the season and enjoy all lakes in good condition with plenty of water, though Alder was somewhat weedy, no doubt a factor in the failure of any to complete the Four Lake Challenge, although Tony Harrison was unlucky to hook and then lose two fish on Alder. The fish were in fine condition and very hard fighting. In all 38 fish were caught – all rainbows, so the Brown Trout Cup goes begging!

Best bag went to Bill Black with 6 lb 10 oz, with Peter Winder close behind with 6 lb 8 oz.

Peter took best fish with a rainbow of 2 lb 12 oz with Ian Dunk second with one of 2 lb 3 oz (and one of 14 oz!). % fish over 2 lbs were caught but no browns or tigers.

PW

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

A number of members have advised me they have not received their membership cards. There is often a delay of up to three weeks after renewing with me for them to be distributed on a Thursday, or mailed to those not attending, and so I did not immediately recognise this failure.

It seems that a bunch of letters/cards intended for Sussex Branch were instead sent to Surrey in error – and then disappeared! Joint apologies from the Guild Membership Secretary and myself for not sussing this sooner, but with good luck and a following wind we will have them very soon.

Once I have received and distributed them, I will then ask if any **paid-up** member is still missing his or hers. It might also remind one or two who have forgotten to renew to cough up!!

Roy Gurney
Membership Secretary

OFFICERS REQUIRED!

The AGM is looming, and both the Chairman and Secretary have advised their intention to retire from their positions. Would anyone prepared to take over these tasks please contact Tony Woolnough or Paul Bond as soon as ever possible?

Editor's Note

Sorry this edition is a bit late – however, the fact that I have had re-run two articles from previous issues might alert you to the fact I need input from YOU to fill the pages. Our regular contributors (the Chairman and Ray Burt) cannot be allowed to be the only ones to keep the pages filled, so do let me have your fishing (or perhaps non-fishing) stories to publish – trips abroad, to Wales, to Scotland or even to the further parts of England, or at sea, would be of interest to many readers.

Without this, the newsletter will die – so do something!!

RG

Branch Equipment

With Christmas looming, why not drop a few hints and get yourself some gear from the Branch? David Painter, our Equipment Officer, has available polo shirts, fleece jackets, sweatshirts, baseball caps, etc , all with the Branch logo, plus magazine binders for the "Flydresser" and other items,

Contact him for a comprehensive list and prices – time is running out for the stocking-fillers, though they are useful any time!

David's e-mail is painterchrl@aol.com or phone 01323 843749 or see him on Thursday evenings when you can see some of the items.

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