

The Flydressers Guild

Sussex Branch



Newsletter

December 2021

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Flydressers Guild

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Chairman's Chat

Another one of the "triumphs"; this time in Dorset where a weir built to retain water to supply Parsons Brewery formed an obstruction to migrating sea trout. The pass was built by our fabricator at Pevensy and comprises a bottom baffle pass designed to cater for all species. The concrete work was carried out by my son in law's company in Seaford.

The pass was swung into place by a large mobile crane stationed on the nearby brewery car park. The floor of the pass, between the baffles has fixing holes at one meter centres. The holes were designed to be suitable for drilling fixing holes through and into the concrete. Large stainless steel coach screws with plastic plugs and nylon washers were provided to avoid corrosive action between the stainless steel and aluminium.

- The pass fish intake location is not ideal but a compromise of "safe to build and safe to maintain" as is specified in the Elf and Safety regulations. To overcome the poor fish entrance location, we ensured that there was a comparatively large flow. Yes fish do use it ascending without hesitation.

Another one bites the dust.



Tony W

Wading Boot Experiences

Let me first state that I do not consider myself to be an expert in wading equipment. I have only owned a handful of pairs of waders and boots during 50 years of angling. Added to this, while resident in Sussex, the waters I have fished have not presented much opportunity or need for wading. Having said that, even for bank only fishing on wet and or cold days, chest waders combined with a wading jacket, do make a good waterproofing option. I have fished venues such as the Wye in the past, where wading is almost a necessity. However, waders can be an expensive investment and, in my own experience, are not all that durable. I understand why this is the case for breathable waders, but struggle with just how flimsy the boots can be. Perhaps I am not paying enough for my them, never having been prepared to part with more than about £100 of my hard-earned cash. A case in point is a pair of boots I currently have. They cost about £80, are from a popular manufacturer, and after only two sessions use the cheap rubbish they use for the uppers started to crack (just outside the warranty period of course!) I am well aware that wading equipment must be treated with respect and properly dried out before being stored, so do not feel that they

have been abused in any way. These are boots are felt sole ones, so have barely been walked in at all. I have had similar poor durability experiences with other boots I have owned in the past.

Last year I was reading a blog by a guy named Henry Gilbey. You might remember him as a sea angling personality, who had a TV show called 'Fishing on The Edge' several decades ago. Nowadays he is a shore Bass fishing guide and I enjoy reading about his experiences. He also carries out reviews of fishing equipment that he uses in the rather harsh environment that is shore Bass fishing. Indeed, from my own experiences, I well know that salt water is the ultimate durability test of any piece of angling equipment. The article I was reading was about his universally negative experiences with wading boots from a selection of different manufacturers. He stated that the various mid-range boots he had tried had all ended up in the bin after unacceptably short periods of time. He went on to say that he had discovered a solution to his problem. This was to use cheap and readily available safety boots instead of wading specific ones. The boot he uses is a Dunlop branded one, available from the high street shop Sport Direct, at a mere £26.99. At that price, he went on to say, he didn't care if he went through several pairs a season. However, he had actually found that they lasted considerably longer than any wading boot he had used. Coincidentally, I realised that I owned the very same pair of boots described in his article, not for fishing but as a pair of steel capped safety boots. I have had these boots for the best part of 10 years, admittedly with only modest use, and they are still going strong (I seem to remember paying about £20). They even have leather uppers, which can be polished or waxed to help preserve and condition the leather. The rubber soles have deep tread and are very 'grippy'. A further tick in the box is that seem very comfortable to wear straight out of the box. I decided I had nothing to lose in buying myself another pair to try out as an alternative to wading boots. I actually took my waders to the store with me, and inevitably attracted a few odd looks when I put them on before trying the boots! I knew from my last pair that sizing was spot on, for me at least, and applied the general rule of thumb in selecting a pair 2 sizes larger than my foot size.

This was spot on so I ended up buying the very first pair I tried.

Last weekend I went to Devon for a long weekend in order to attend a friend's wedding. Knowing that my wife would be busy helping out with wedding related stuff on the Friday, I booked a day ticket on the River Culm. This was my first opportunity to use the new boots. I found them to be, without question, the most comfortable 'wading' boot I have ever worn. This was extensively tested as the beat was 2km and I walked the whole

length of it and back again. In terms of their submerged performance, they were pretty good as well. Not as good as felt of course, but then there is no way I could have walked anywhere near 4km in felt soles. I did note that the grip would probably be improved by adding some studs. I managed to find a spare bag of studs when I got back home and fitted them, ready for my next outing.

In summary, with the possible exception of a felt sole pair for venues such as the Wye, I will not be throwing any more of my money away on shoddily built, overpriced wading boots. Henry has since produced a follow-up article, where he has started to experiment with other types of safety boot, all below the £40 mark. Again, his experiences have been nothing but positive. If you are, like me, fed up with paying over the odds for poor performance, give something like the Dunlop's a try, you've nothing to lose at the price. I did notice that Sports Direct also sell a Dunlop safety boot that resembles more of trainer style as well for a few pounds more. I might give them a try in the future.



Andy Wood

Guild Trophy Day by Peter Winder

This years Trophy Day competition took place at Brick Farm Trout Fishery. The weather was very mild with a light breeze. 14 members fished the competition.

No big fish were forthcoming, and no one, not even Ray Burt could manage to complete the Four Lake Challenge. One piece of news was that after several years of no Brown Trout being caught, this year we had 2 caught. The lunch provided was well received and everyone thought it was good value.

The winner with the biggest weight was Keith Verral.

Winner - total weight	6lbs 14oz	Keith Verral
Largest Brown Trout	2lbs 13oz	Bill Black
Largest Rainbow Trout	2lbs 8oz	Alan Wells

Mullet on the Fly Talk by Peter Winder

On the 4th November, our Guest Speaker was club member Peter Winder talking fishing for Mullet on the Fly.

Peter went into great detail, showing us on a map all the local fishing locations around the Shoreham Harbour and River Adur area. He also talked about fishing in Marinas, provided you can get access.

Peter also talked about the use of **black** ground bait and **white** maggots to draw the fish into the area and create a feeding frenzy.

Members provided a constant stream of questions so I would like to think that next year we could be having a club mullet fishing event.

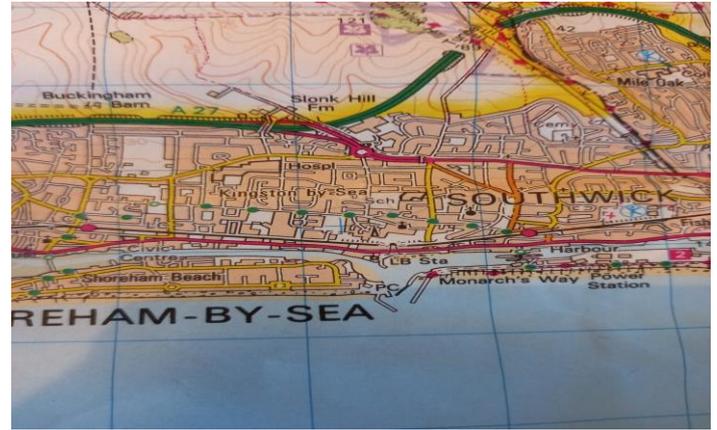
Alan Wells, what do you think.

An in depth report by Alan Wells on the local Mullet fishing locations

Peter Winder's talk on Thurs night was very illuminating , particularly for those like me ,who have no experience of fly fishing for mullet. Peter made a distinction between "marina" fishing for them which is increasingly difficult (unless you have access to a boat in a marina) & more "open river/estuary based" fishing . Lady B marina shown highlighted above is a possibility (GR 245149*) but access here is becoming more difficult. Mullet in marinas may react well to "weed flies" or maggot flies but it's best to use an "onion bag" groundbait system and strong braid leaders, as there are many obstacles the fish will need to be steered clear of. Peter suggests that groundbaiting is advisable to get fish on the feed and confident enough in the clear water of marinas. A drop net is also a useful tool where large drops to the water are an issue. The following maps show other favourable marks.



Silversands



The place above is a shallow run , adjacent to the sailing club (GR232048), best fished at low tide with a fly suspended below an indicator. The less obstructed water here allows the use of lighter tippet and rods but be prepared for electric runs from the "British Bonefish".

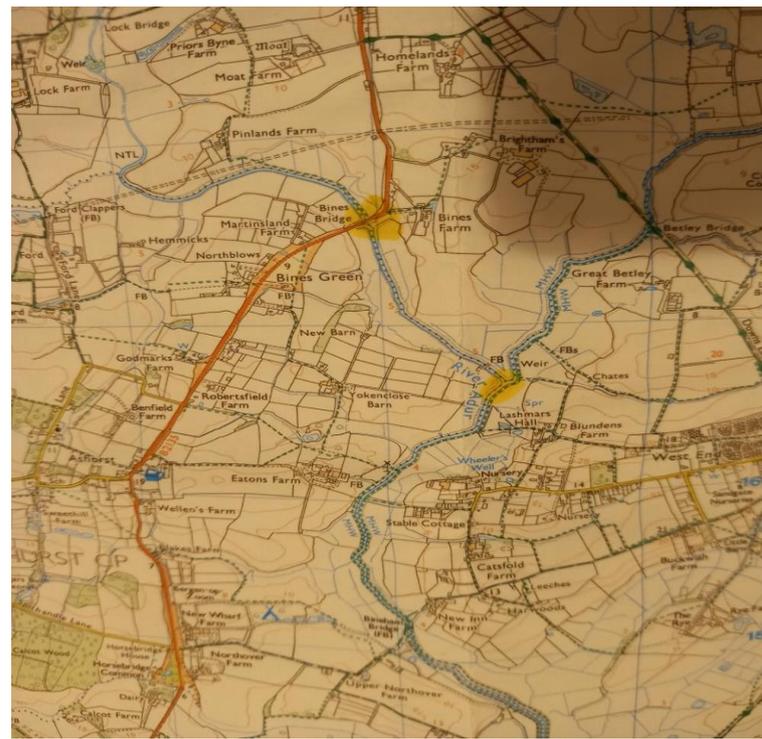
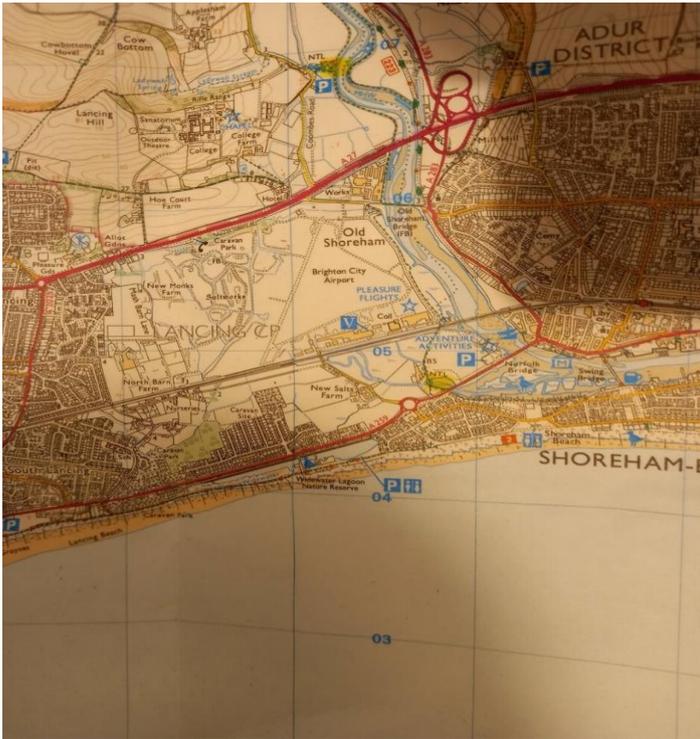


This can also work well at high tide on the tidal pool near the Shoreham houseboats shown on the map & the photo overleaf. Parking for this can be found at the corner of the recreation ground or across the road on the Shoreham beach residential streets.



GR 189176

GR 197167



The other location shown here and on the right hand photo known as "Cuckoo Corner", (GR 203068) has easy parking and access from Coombes road but needs to be fished very early to avoid walkers along the path. On my visit to take the photo there seemed to be some fish finning on the surface which may well have been mullet but the water was too murky to tell for sure.

Houseboat pool

(G.Ref 208047)



These final 2 locations are much further north on the Adur, near Henfield, where deeper pools are created by a confluence and obstructions to upstream movement.

Peter uses a variety of flies but his constant is the use of groundbait (a mixture of bread and maggots) to get fish on the feed, unless they are obviously feeding already. His most recent "Red Rag" fly has as yet to catch mullet but was successful with bass, fished on a fast sink line, which isn't a bad "by catch". In other areas Peter uses a #5 and a floater but moves up to a #7 where obstacles create a need to bully fish a little.

This is a very sketchy outline which has focused mainly on locations which should be familiar to many members but I'm sure that a chat with Peter, Howie or Brian, our saltwater specialists, would be a great help to anyone wanting a new quarry and perhaps even a guide for the day. Peter tends to fish for mullet in the dog days of summer when the trout fishing is difficult but says that fish can be taken virtually all year round under the right tide and weather conditions.

AW

*Grid references are taken from the OS Landranger 1:50000 scale map for Brighton and Lewes.

Lake Down Report by Alan Wells

Just a quick update on one of our local fisheries. Ouse Valley & Eastbourne have both fished this water recently and nearly all anglers got their bag. Most caught on lures on floaters or intermediates with fish well up in the water.

I gave it a go on Nov 9th and plumped for a 4 fish ticket as Jamie said it was fishing well. Started on the first Lake, which despite warnings that it was the hardest, had fish showing. Got my first within 15 mins and another within $\frac{3}{4}$ hour (best of the day at 4 lb). Moved on to Lake 2 and had more takes but failed to land fish. On Lake 3 hooked a fish casting over cut reedbeds but lost it trying to pull it through the reed stems to land it. Got my last 2 in the narrow part of Lake 3 in consecutive casts so was bagged up by 1.10. All fish came to an "Incredible Cat" fished on a midge tip.



Also spotted Roger D walking around with a double barreled 12 bore- scary sight – but on questioning he was out for squirrels, which he said the place was overrun with. Not a conversation I expected to have on meeting an "all time rock legend". LOL

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Brick Farm Trout Fishery Update

For the Autumn period Brick Farm will open daily from 7.30am until sunset, unless all anglers have packed up and gone home, in which case it may close the fishery 2hrs before sunset (as per BBC weather). With Autumn well on its way there has been a notable increase in catch rates due to the cooling water temperatures.

REMINDER

This is a reminder that the Clubs AGM is taking place at 1945 at Clayton Village Hall on the 2nd December. Your input into the running of the club welcome.



A very Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year