

The Flydressers Guild

Sussex Branch



Newsletter

June 2021

Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers Guild

Chairman: Tony Woolnough 01273 483833
Secretary: Simon Rickard 07799484166
Treasurer: Bill Black 01323 763807
Membership: Andy Wood 07445274967

Visit our web site

sussexflydresserguild.org.uk

or on Facebook @

[Sussex Flydressers Guild](#)

or on Youtube

[Sussex Flydressers Guild](#)

Obituary

It is with much sadness, I have to announce that Ray Love has passed away. Ray had an operation for liver cancer last year and appeared to be doing OK for some time. However, he didn't react well to chemotherapy and his health declined over this year. The club have sent a £50 cheque to D. Painter to be put into the collection for St. Winifreds Hospital in memory of Ray.

Chairman's Chat

Coming to a river or lake near you – beavers and otters. **Beavers** have already caused flooding resulting to a need for remedial engineering works including culvert unblocking and providing overflows for beaver dams. The question has been asked by a landowner, “who clears up after beavers” ? In the USA beavers cause so much damage to ornamental trees and scrubs that there is now a thriving beaver trapping and re locating business. Who will be found responsible for injuries sustained by the public caused by beaver damaged trees falling ?



BEAVER DAMAGE IN SCOTLAND

In my opinion , the problem is that beavers are attractive furry animals. If they were spiders they would not have been re introduced.

So what can be done to prevent / minimise beaver damage ? Spay them, provide wire netting cover to valuable trees. But they will have to eat something. Confine to nature reserves. Keep numbers down !

We will also have problems with **otters** as you will see from the following photograph.

Some fisheries / trout farms have been put out of business by otters. Once again, furry animals which everyone loves.



This 18lb barbel – a huge and irreplaceable specimen fish – was killed and partially eaten by an otter.

Yes businesses have grown up for otter protection, namely fencing of waters but hardly practicable with a river and once again who pays ?

The barbel shown would have been a fish of a lifetime for most anglers; it was not even completely eaten or hidden up for later meals.

Eventually action will have to be taken to protect the environment and don't start me about sea eagles !

Tony W

Bowl Back on Song

The Frank Darrah Pairs 13th May.

Having struggled for participants those who took part seemed to feel that it was worthwhile making the effort. Having forsaken Bowl for Arlington after some disappointing results in recent years , the return was vindicated by some good bags.

We were blessed with almost ideal conditions in the morning , despite some worrying forecasts, with overcast skies and a mild and gentle SE breeze & only a brief shower of rain. The choice of a mid-week session also seemed to work for those who find the any methods contingent and higher numbers of boats a distinct turn off at the weekends. There were only about 10 boats out and more than half were fly anglers.

Simon and I started off drifting gently across the main bowl from Chingley towards the dam and I got into a fish on my 4th cast. Having read Ray French's report for last week I had followed suit with a fast intermediate with point Blob, Diawl Bach and Cruncher droppers. The fish seemed well up in the water and though he picked up one on a Di3 with a Cats Whisker ,



Simon changed over to a Slime line when I had taken my 4th fish on the intermediate & began to pick up fish as well. When we came upon Steve and Chris near the dam they had taken fish as well so we were definitely in the right zone. Suffice to say that by 12.30 I had my 8 bag, 5 on the Blob and 3 on the nymphs, and Simon was on 4. This included one on a very crafty "hang technique" – ask him about it-jammy so and so!

Meeting up for lunch, we passed on the successful methods to those who had been less fortunate and after some pleasant banter and catch-ups we were off again. Simon and I continued around the main bowl and Chingley in the pm but with less success. The breeze had stiffened and though I took one more and was smashed by another & Simon dropped one, we probably should have employed the drogue to fish more effectively. Chris and Steve made a good move up through Bewl Straight to Rosemarys where there were plenty of fish. Indeed after bagging up they had several more on C & R including a double up each. We came off the water at 4.00 pm and the final weigh and table of results looked as follows:

PAIR

Combined bag weight	No of fish	
Steve Mustchin Chris Nunn	8 8	35 lb
Alan Wells Simon Mole	8 4	26 lb 12 oz
Neil Benstead David Constable	2 3	11 lb 14 oz
Andy Wood John Plowman	3 1	8 lb 2 oz
Bill Black	2	3 lb 12 oz (x 2 = 7 lb 8 oz)

So well done Steve and Chris this years Frank Darrah Pairs winners.



Minor honours go to yours truly for best individual bag of 18 lb 4 oz and Neil Benstead for best fish at 3lb 14 oz. There was chat about a possible Charity Pairs match later in the year but everything is Covid dependent at present.

Tight lines

AW

From the desk of Ray Burt

I know I haven't written anything for the Newsletter for a couple of months but after two and a half years I was struggling to find anything new to write about and probably you'd had enough of my Ramblings anyway but after Simon's request asking for material last month I felt I couldn't let him down. This year because of the loss of fishing at Arlington and to my mind ever again and my close proximity to Powdermill I splashed out on the cost of a season ticket there - this was partly motivated by the Angling Trust's advice to fish locally - it also meant with the loss of Arlington and my reluctance to fish at

Bowl because of the spinners and bait fisherman it was the only choice left for any boat fishing without a long journey. The fishing at Powdermill is mainly from the dam but it has been fishing really well with the fish averaging about 2lbs and the best I've had 5lbs 6ozs. Spooning the fish have shown quite a few mayfly nymphs and bodes well for a good season with the dries. I've also fished Brick Farm quite a few times and the new people Chris and Danni have done a wonderful job in keeping the fishery going, keeping it well stocked and making you feel welcome when you visit. Another fishery that is doing well is Lakedown that is now run by Roger Daltrey's son Jamie who also makes you feel welcome. It is well stocked with a smattering of good fish - I had one of 5lbs a few weeks ago and I've seen others of 6lbs and 5lbs 12ozs taken recently and because of the lack of rain during April all the lakes have been clear. They've also started their own brewery - Jamie gave me a sample to try and very nice it is too! I've also fished three other waters. One is Ashdown Forest (formerly known as Boringwheel) near Nutley that I have fished only once before and that was seventeen years ago. On the day I went with the Ouse Valley club it hadn't been stocked for a fortnight but the owner was there to tell us that and to provide burgers and coffee before we started. Fishing from the bank was a bit tough getting just one pull in a couple of hours, but I took out one of the flat bottomed boats which are available free of charge and in the next hour or so had four fish the best 2lbs 12ozs and several other pulls. It's not a fishery that I'd want to fish a lot but it made a nice change. The second fishery is Springhill near Pembury that Alan Wells wrote about last month and one that I'd never fished before. The biggest lake is about an acre in extent and the colour is similar to others in the area like Chalybeate. Alan was quite right in that the Apps Bloodworm is successful and on this I took four fish and returned two before lunch and after lunch returned another two to complete my day. The four fish weighed nearly 9lbs. Again its not a fishery that I'd want to fish a lot but it's a pleasant place and not too far to travel. The third water is Coltsford Mill near

Oxted that I've been to twice recently. On the first occasion I was invited to fish a members and guests day and was paired with a member in a friendly competition. The format was that you each fished a peg for half an hour and then moved on two pegs. On my first peg on Mill lake I got two fish. On my second peg I failed to get anything but my partner got two from his peg and on our third pegs we both got our fish to complete our limits in under an hour and a half. It was a short day's fishing but it was a freebie and I got driven there and back and made for an enjoyable time. The second trip was with the Ouse Valley club. I intended to try and get one fish each from Mill Lake, Willow Pool, Lower Cascade and Upper Cascade but didn't make it as I couldn't get a fish from the Upper Cascade so instead got two each from Mill and Willow and one from the Lower Cascade for a total of just over 12 lbs and made Neil happy as I had to give him another £12 for the extra fish.

