



Sussex Branch Newsletter



NOVEMBER 2018

South of England Game Fair 2018

As usual, a group of Members put up the tent and attended the South of England Game Fair on the 5th to 7th October. We were lucky to erect and dismantle the tent in fine weather. The demonstrators on the 6th were not so lucky experiencing pouring rain most of the day. A lot of interest was shown in the Auction and Club Membership, however with some reluctance to give addresses etc.

When not demonstrating, Members enjoyed short breaks to view the Show and enjoy first class WI refreshments.



The Show was another opportunity to spread the word about Club membership and engage with those of similar interests. Why not demonstrate next year, all standards of fly tying are welcome (thank goodness)!

Tony W

News from Angling trust:

Sea Bass back in the bag

Campaign Update - 1st October 2018: Bass bag limit success!

As of 1st October, the bass bag limit has been reinstated so that recreational sea anglers can retain one bass of over 42cm per day for the remainder of the 2018. The EAA, Save Our Sea Bass and the Angling Trust have put in a huge amount of work over recent months to make this happen. We'll continue to campaign to get anglers a better deal in 2019.

Sea Bass back in the bag (contd.)

The UK angling public is finally able to keep sea bass caught recreationally from October 1st until the end of 2018.

One bass per day will be able to be legally retained by anglers and other recreational fishers after a proposal was made by the European Commission which was adopted by the EU Council on September 27th and came into force on October 1st.

The Angling Trust has been campaigning heavily for a bag limit for recreational catches to be reinstated after a ban was introduced in January this year following flawed scientific advice which dramatically overestimated the impact recreational catches were having on the stock.

The EU Council agreed at the time of the ban that the scientific evidence needed reviewing after which the ban on recreational landings might be lifted.

Angling representatives attended an ICES benchmarking session in February where the scientific evidence from around Europe was reviewed. However, it took until June for the new evidence to be published and recreational anglers have been waiting since then for a bag limit to be re-established after the impact of recreational fishing in 2016 was reduced by 87 per cent from 1,600 tonnes to approximately 200 tonnes.

David Mitchell, Angling Trust Head of Marine, said: "Members of the public fishing for sea bass sustainably for their own consumption have suffered a terrible injustice in 2018 due to a massive overestimate in the impact they were having on the stock. We are very pleased that the right of those members of the public who wish to catch and eat a publicly-owned sea bass has been re-established for the remainder of the year. However, banning the public from catching sea fish for personal consumption in the first instance, particularly while allowing commercial fishing to continue, displays contempt for the rights of EU citizens and highlights the chronic failures of the Common Fisheries Policy. It cannot happen again"

Ray's Ramblings

Roy said he would like articles and last month you saw what you got from me. He seemed keen on me writing more - he's obviously desperate - but as you lot haven't done anything you've got me again.

I first started fishing at the age of eleven in the local park ponds catching roach, gudgeon and a few perch. It was in 1972 that I started fly fishing and in my first season caught just three trout in seven visits. The next year I caught 38 in nineteen visits and over the years the results improved.

In 1988 I entered my first competition, an eliminator at Bewl Water for qualification to the National Final and a place in the England team. I won that and so went to Rutland Water where a hundred anglers from all over the country were competing for the top twenty places that would put you in the teams for the following year. To my surprise I caught five fish that day and qualified in sixteenth place. That started a period over the next twelve years or so of successes and failures that came my way.

This time I'll start with a success. It didn't take long in coming, for having qualified for the England team I was to fish my first International at Loch Leven in Scotland in August 1989. I'd practiced for two days and caught a few fish and on the day of the match I was drawn to fish with a Welshman who was fishing his twelfth international - a bit daunting. However he was in agreement as to which area to fish and we had an excellent boatman that was later to prove an advantage. The day started with a force 4 southerly wind and we fished the area I had practiced in. On the first drift I caught three brown trout and lost another three. When we went back for another drift the wind had increased to a force 6 and I started to fish just under the surface with a fast sinking line stripping the flies back, and had another two browns by 2.30 pm. During this time most of the other boats had left the area but our boatman was quite happy with the conditions. By 4 o'clock my arm was just about dropping off but I got one more fish before my partner suggested we move to an area where some of his team had caught in practice. Here we caught two more fish each before the 6 o'clock finish. At the weigh in my eight fish went exactly 10lbs and nobody else had caught eight, but it was not until the dinner and presentation in the evening that I found that I had won the Grafham Trophy for the top English rod and the Brown Bowl for the top rod overall. It also qualified me to fish the Spring International in Ireland the following year. I couldn't have asked for a better result but in the next newsletter you'll see that as in life there's ups and downs.

Ray Burt

Chairman's Chat

As you know, there are a number of fish which migrate to the sea as juveniles to obtain food for their major growth phase. In this country this includes salmon, sea trout (brown trout) and a very few rainbow trout; there are other non-salmonid species such as shad and smelts etc. To obtain specimens of juveniles migrating downstream for study and research purposes, we manufacture so called smolt traps.

The trap is anchored in the river facing (the cone) upstream, using the floats as shown. When smolts are required, the cone is lowered into the water and the vanes welded into the sides of the cone deflect the flowing water which causes the cone to revolve. The revolving cone channels water (and smolts) into a live box where the smolts are kept healthy by the flowing water until required for marking and/or other river management purposes.



FLOATING SMOLT TRAP

So what you say ? Well these traps are large and unwieldy; one 8 ft diameter model required a low loader to transport. We have orders for three, two for Sweden and one for Germany, which is OK, but the UK is in the midst of the Brexit negotiations, which may well involve the imposition of some sort of border / customs checks (and the associated delays) and maybe import duty in European companies. This could be both costly, time consuming and very hard to budget (quote) for.

It follows that we have had to add to our conditions of sale which has already upset a number of potential clients, especially when we ask for one third payment with the order.

I can see that it will be some time before we can "bed down" our revised policy regarding foreign sales. Or it may just be no problem, with a satisfactory deal with the EU - who knows.

Tony W

AUTUMN 2018 AUCTION **(or “lightning DOES strike in the same place twice”!)**

Back in April, for our Spring auction, both the A27 and A259 were blocked, leading to chaotic tailbacks, and resulting in nightmare journeys for the 39 people who managed to get in.

Guess what happened this time? There was a two car fire on the A27 westbound leading to a 10 mile tailback and gridlock on the other roads!. For those coming by rail there was also an incident/fatality at Hassocks on the main line from London! And then, a parents' night at the school caused nightmare parking problems. When, at 6.30 there were only 10-12 auction helpers in the room and phones were buzzing from others struggling to make it in, my stress levels were soaring!

In the event some 54 souls made it, some after hour and a half journeys, just in time for a soothing cup of coffee and a chance for a good view of the 300 lots on display. We were lucky that our venerable auctioneer Mike Humphreys, who does a round trip of 240 miles, came down at 5 pm and missed the chaos – you can't have an auction without an auctioneer!

The auction started promptly on time at 7.45 and there was brisk bidding from the start. I never cease to be amazed at the skill Mike shows in selling 300 lots in 150 minutes. The mathematicians among you will have already calculated that he has to sell a lot every 30 seconds and also log both sale price and bidder's number within that time. In fact the last lot was hammered at 9.55, and by 10.35 the last of the 49 bidders had paid up, collected their goods and departed for home.

As our newsletter has a wide circulation beyond our members, I won't go into detail beyond saying that the auction was a financial success. Full details will be given on our Thursday evening and at the AGM.

Quite a number of our members specifically bid on the 120 lots from our recently departed and much missed Brian Raw. Despite having a lot of fly-fishing and fly-tying equipment, without fail Brian would still always come along and support our auctions with several bids, and I would like to think he would have been pleased to see so many members and friends bidding on his lots, sometimes way over the odds, for items to remember him by.

I have written in the past about how blessed we are to have so many generous members and former members. The main reason the auction was so successful was that around 100 of the lots had been either donated to the club or were being sold on a 50/50 basis.

So at the top of my list for a huge thank you are the following who have made most generous donations: Keith Bowden, Bernard Standen, Roger Dinost, Graham Gunter, Bob Thomas and

Bill Smith. Thank you all for your extraordinary generosity.

Generosity can be in several ways – by giving or making donations or equally important, by giving their time to ensure the auction is a success. So a huge thank you to the helpers on the night (in alphabetical order): Bill Black, Paul and Ray Bond, Ray Burt, John Cooper, Paul Davis, Roy Gurney, Jim Harris, Brian Hendry, Ray Love, David painter, John Plowman, Simon Rickard, David Walker, Alan Wells, Nathan Winter and Tony Woolnough. I make it 17(or 18 including myself) who did everything in their power to ensure the auction went smoothly and was a success.

The next group are those of you who helped by getting the word out and encouraging members and non-members alike to come along. Your hard work resulted in 52+ making it and if it had not been the traffic and parking disruption that number would have been closer to the 60+ once again, so a huge thank you, and also to all members and friends who had a bid or two (in some cases lots of bids!) – I say again, “thanks a million”.

To end, on behalf of Roy and me personally thank you for support and generosity – it is really appreciated.

Tony Harrison

“BIG FISH TROPHIES”

Have you entered yet?



Fish must have been caught before 31st December 2018 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 18th April 2019.

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

SALMON FLY WORKSHOP

Once again we are holding a full day salmon fly workshop, courtesy of Alan Middleton. It will take place on **Saturday 2nd February** in the Patcham Community Centre. The format will be similar to previous years, though this year we will be charging participants £10 to cover the cost of materials and room-hire.

The session will start at 9.00am and finish by 4.00pm. Tea and coffee will be provided but you will need to bring your own lunch.

The flies Alan has selected for the workshop are **Moray Doone**

Gallentine

Both are in Terry Griffith's book "The Essential Kelson"

All materials and hooks will be provided although you will have to bring such items as tying threads, black and white, together with your own tools.

Whilst none of us actually use these flies for fishing, the construction of them will act as an aid to tying the flies you normally tie. Such techniques as thread management and wing construction can play an important part in developing your tying skills.

In previous years we have mounted the flies in frames or cast them in resin to create a lasting memento of the course.

The course is restricted to ten individuals. For further details contact Alan Middleton on tying evenings and register your interest with him or Roy Gurney – phone 01273 581519 - or e-mail fdgsussex@gmail.com.

Speakers Evenings

We seem to be fated with our last two evenings – on 4th October, Alan Middleton streamed "Chalk" on to the big screen, only to be thwarted by the wifi connection failing half way through what is clearly a fascinating film. Maybe we will be able to get the second half later!

Then 1st November saw us without a speaker for the first time – be assured we have speakers for the rest of the season – see the programme of events.

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

Weil's Disease

If you are a member of the Angling Trust you will have received a copy of the 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 your GP if you have symptoms. Roy Gurney has a few if you have lost yours. **ED**

Trophy Day

It was a reasonably successful day at Duncton on Sunday 28th October for the sixteen members who fished – where were the rest of you? A full report and photographs from Sally Page will be in the December newsletter.

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