



Sussex Branch Newsletter



JUNE 2019

Hard Won Win.

Sunday 5th May saw SFDG's annual match with Eastbourne Fly Fishers at Arlington. After tea and lovely bacon rolls provided by Eastbourne and a recap of the rules, we went down to embark around 9.00 am on what started as a cool but sunny morning, which sadly developed into a rather cold and windy one.

Neil and I had something of a false start with an engine with no reverse gear and a forward motion similar to a nonagenarian snail.

However, once set up again by the ranger, Harvey, we set off for the dam as the wind had been blowing from the North for about three days and we figured the fish might be at the top of the wind. Unfortunately several others had the same idea and the prime spots in Duffers' Corner had been taken. So after a fruitless drift into the dam we went towards the Gabions. Again we were beaten to the punch here and after Neil took one in deep water off the dam we headed back westward. Neil took one more and then by 11.00 am I finally broke my duck!



One of the more successful fishermen during the day!

It became apparent that Ray Burt and Martyn Gray were catching much closer to the shore, as was Dave Painter. However, fish seemed hard to come by for everyone, though I did see Andy Wood take one and then pleasingly Roy Page, on his first boat outing on the fly, despite a revolving reel seat on his rod – tricky and frustrating to deal with. After lunch and one more fish each for Neil and I, Ray Burt informed us there were fish holding off the Willows where he and Martyn had completed their bags. Dave Painter and Ray Love took advantage of this and Bill and Nathan arrived here after getting the message.

After one fruitless drift parallel to the shore we decided to give Duffers' one last go. We arrived to see Andy bag up with two in quick time on a Humungous. I quickly changed flies and, after one missed hit, took two fish in two casts very close in. There followed a few more infuriating losses before sadly time ran out, if we were to make the lodge by the 4.00 pm deadline.

As we disembarked it looked as if EDFFC bags were a little lighter than ours and from the crush at the landing stage it seemed no-one, other than Ray and Martyn, had come ashore bagged up. So it proved to be at the weigh in (as usual overseen in her inimitable style by Mary Carden) with SFDG totalling 35 fish for 61 lb 2oz, against EDFFC's 25 fish for 51lb 8oz – so they could have done with Mary in a boat as she had 4 fish from the bank!



AW receives the Trophy from Caroline Cutmore of EDFFC.

Furthermore we nearly swept the board with individual prizes, Ray Burt and Neil Benstead being beaten by 1 oz by Mike Richardson for heaviest fish (3lb 1 oz). Ray took heaviest bag and Dave Painter achieved the dubious honour of smallest fish!

Ray Burt, Martyn Gray and Andy Wood are to be congratulated for being the only ones to take full bags, but no-one blanked and team work in sharing information also played its part. Post-match there was a raffle with proceeds of £90+ going to the Prostate Cancer charity.

So, despite seasonally cool weather, we all stayed dry and everyone seemed to enjoy the day and the post-match banter. Thanks again to Caroline for her part in the organisation and the excellent bacon rolls. Sorry Roy but we have to engrave our name on the Cup again **for the 15th time in 16 years!** Just saying!

Well done team!

AW

Casting Clinic

There was a good turn out of about 16 for this event in Stanmer Park, with pleasingly all of our new members coming along for some guidance, and plenty of more established people getting some tweaks on their style (or in my case lack of it). Thanks must go to our coaches Phillip Ellis, Tony Kaatze, Neil Benstead and Howie Dodsley who gave invaluable help to our newbies. This year at least the weather was on our side with a sunny if cool evening with a helpful if sometimes a little strong breeze behind the casting arm.



Star of the evening was Sally Page who went from struggling a little to double hauling in one session, with Phillip's expert guidance. I still can't double haul after 15 year's of trying! Sadly we will be losing Roy and Sally to the States for 6 months, where they hope to be fishing some of the places on most peoples' fishing bucket lists- Montana, Ohio etc. I for one am green with envy but we all wish them the best of luck and look forward to seeing them in November – they have been a very welcome addition to our club.



An interesting expression from our Chairman- someone said they thought he was trying to catch some Mayfly in his mouth for dapping! Tight Lines.

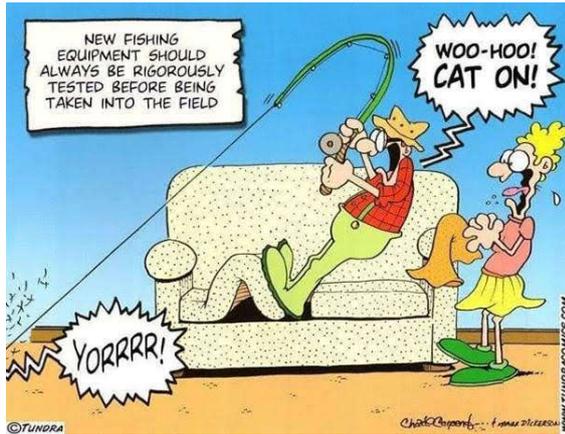
Alan

Phillip Ellis adds:

Below are a few brief observations and tips from the session.

- Firstly, as an instructor, putting a maximum of 30 feet in the air is one of the first principles required to cast a line. Keep extending and you the overload the rod and that last cast will often collapse. What I advise is to mark the line at 30 feet with a felt tip pen and then that mark should be either just inside or just outside the rod tip. Many lines are now twin-toned for that very reason, changing colour at 30 feet.
- Cast using as little effort as possible, as so many put in so much energy they end up with an aching arm and exhaustion. Keep your shoulder close to your body, as holding your arm away from your body will eventually cause arm ache. If you have tennis elbow through casting, you are using too much effort! Suggest a maximum of three false casts before shooting line.
- Make sure you have the right line weight to match the rod. The number on the rod butt next to the # mark indicates the line weight to be matched. You can go one weight up or down, but you may under load or overload the rod. It's fair to say manufacturers' line weights are not always accurate and, for instance, RIO lines are a half weight heavier, so I am told.
- Pause on the back cast, not bringing forward to quickly, a potential cause of wind knots.
- Always keep tension on the line with your hand, no slack, otherwise the cast becomes inefficient.
- Heap of line in front of you? Do a roll cast to straighten line and then cast. We call this a roll cast pickup.
- Some of you tried the double haul and grasped and understood the principle of not having more than 30 foot of line beyond the rod tip. It's all about timing using short down up action, pull too far and you may get slack line. If you have never achieved this skill, start by doing a single haul.
- If you have an accessible large grass area or garden it is well worth practicing, gaining near perfection!

Anyone wanting more help with casting or another session, please get in touch with Phillip, elsteadbysea@btinternet.com or 01903 504317.



Due to G-mail and Outlook between them managing to lose Tony Kaatze's report for the last newsletter, I can now belatedly publish below:

Sussex S&TC / Cinder Hill

Quite an eventful day for me as on the Friday before I had a call from Mike Richardson of the S&TC to say he had a touch of Deli Belly and could not venture more than an few yards from the loo; he asked if I would run their team as well!

The day started well with all bar one there at 09:00 for the start. The weather was dry and sunny but with a cold east wind. With this cold wind the fish were down deep but Birch was producing fish.

I think Peter Winder was first with a bag limit of 4 fish by about 10:30 from Birch. Rosie's and Coot and Alder were harder but still produced fish.

The lunch provided by Caroline was excellent as usual and enjoyed by all.

Sussex FDG

	Name	Fish Caught	Best Fish	Total Wt
			lb - oz	lb - oz
1	R Burt	4	2 - 12	8 - 8
2	T Harrison	4	2 - 0	7 - 0
3	T Kaatze	3	2 - 0	4 - 10
4	P Winder	4	3 - 11	9 - 1
5	M Gray	4	2 - 14	7 - 2
6	K Pearce	4	1 - 8	6 - 0
7	S Page	Nil		
8	R Page	3	3 - 0	5 - 15
9	J Cooper	2	1 - 6	2 - 10
10	B Hendry	2	2 - 0	3 - 10
11	N Winter	4	2 - 5	9 - 14
12				
Total No. of Fish = 34		Total Wt = 64 - 6		
Team Score 98 - 6				

STCUK

	Name	Fish Caught	Best Fish	Total Wt
			lb - oz	lb - oz
1	J Barker	4	2 - 12	8 - 8
2	E Belsey	Nil		Bad day
3	V Hartley	3	1 - 8	5 - 4
4	P Lyne	2	1 - 10	4 - 9
5	M Newman	2	1 - 15	3 - 8
6	M Orchin	4	2 - 0	8 - 8
7	N Price	3	3 - 0	6 - 14
8	K Reeves	4	3 - 0	7 - 10
9	P Stephens	1	2 - 0 B	2 - 0
10	R Wenlock	2	1 - 6	3 - 0
11	M Richardson	Sick		
12				
Total No. of Fish = 25			Total Wt = 49 - 13	
Team Score 74 - 13				

RESULT:

In Silver position with a total score of 74.13 was Sussex S&TC/Cinder Hill, which from previous years was a very commendable total, but in Gold position was Sussex FDG with 98.6.

Best bag of the day went to Nathan Winter and Peter Winder had best fish. P Stephens of S&TC had a fine brown of 2 lb.

Tony Kaatze

Congratulations!! To ALAN WELLS

Runner-up in the main Guild national fly-tying competition for Trout Fly 2018/19

John Watt Trophy Any more for the skylark?

Saturday 24th August at
Draycote Reservoir.

Our stalwart captain for this event, **Chris Nunn**, is aiming to recruit two teams, so please get in touch with him **ASAP** to book your place as he needs to know what accommodation to book.

This is a friendly day on one of the best waters in England, when you can meet up with anglers from over the whole of the UK. The Branch pays for your fishing, so your only expense will be for travelling and a B&B if required.

Let's see if we can regain this Trophy, which we won in 2016.

Chris's phone is 01825 765272 and e-mail is chrisandairi@btinternet.com if you have mislaid the booking form.

Chairman's Chat

Together with many odds and ends we also sell and range of Floating Smolt Traps. As you know, juvenile migratory salmonids return to the sea (migrate downriver) for the growing portion of their life cycle. In order to obtain smolts for research purposes (typically fitting location and tracking devices such as various electronic tags) a trapping system is required.

The floating traps (see photograph) consist of a large (up to 2.4 m dia) cone fabricated in aluminium and stainless steel which contains vanes and is mounted on a stainless steel shaft. The cone is suspended between two aluminium floats (filled with polystyrene) and fixed at the lower end. The trap is anchored in the river with the cone facing upstream; the internal vanes cause the cone to rotate directing smolts to a life box at the rear.



Rotary Smolt Trap

We have sold quite a large number of these traps to almost all the countries in Europe, with no problems. So far so good, until we received another order from Germany. This order was accompanied by a long list of standard conditions and requirements. Note government requirements should apply to Tenders only, our offer was a Quotation which comes with our conditions of sale.

We pointed out that the Client's requirements were in German and reminded them that we required a 30% deposit with order. The translation of the "conditions" included a need for us to off load (in Germany), provide documentation in German, a deposit guarantee (which would cost us £700) to cover the 30% payment (no mention of Brexit) and disputes to be settled in the courts in Germany. Also the Client to have the right to cancel the order if there is late delivery (see Brexit)

At present we are locked in legal combat with them, much to the dismay of their Biologist who just wants to get his hands on the trap before the smolt migration period starts.

So you see it is not all beer and skittles for small companies trying to earn a crust and in this case

keep me in finance for my fishing trips and tackle. If you are still awake, you will be pleased to know that I will not tell you the outcome of this disagreement.

Tony W

Ray's Ramblings

In the April Newsletter I told how by fishing competitions I had fished so many places that I otherwise would most likely never have visited, and I'd also fished with a great number of people, many of whom have become friends.

Of course there have been a few exceptions and one of these was while fishing the Lake of Menteith in Scotland in 1994. By 2pm both my boat partner and I had eight fish and by 4pm I had taken another five without him getting another. At that time it was his turn to decide where to go and he decided he wanted to go into shallow water and fish dries. I managed to get one more fish to help the team to a gold medal and although he got a few rises he didn't get any more.

On another occasion in Ireland on Lough Owel the England team had found fish at the top of the 2500 acre lough but on the morning of the competition my boatman said that his engine was not running properly and we wouldn't be able to get there. I managed to get just one fish to help England to another gold medal while his Irish competitor blanked.

That result ended a run of fishing six consecutive Internationals for me but obviously the Scottish team were happy, because in the evening at the dinner, Stewart Barclay, the Scottish captain, came up to me and said that they were happy to have got rid of me for having helped England to four Gold medals in that time!

On the plus side I've had some excellent boatmen and one such was in Ireland in 1994 on Lough Conn, a water of 14000 acres. That man was Frank Reilly, himself an Irish International and who I mentioned in the March Newsletter. It was a matter of great pride to people like him that his anglers did well and caught fish.

Another was on the Lake of Menteith in 1995 when my boatman was Iain Mallard. I thought I'd been stitched up when he suggested we let the other boats go at the start of the match and that after about 20 minutes the fish would start to rise in the area they had motored through. He was absolutely correct though and after 20 minutes fish started to rise. I missed the first one that came to a black hopper but then gradually started to get fish on a green nymph (the one that is listed in Bob Church's book *Guide to the Champions Fly Patterns*) and ended the day with eleven fish for top rod in the England team. Iain had not started the motor once during the day just simply rowing out a hundred yards or so and quietly drifting in each time.

My outlook in competitions was that you were spending eight hours in a boat with another angler. Although he was a competitor it was good to work as a team as to choice of area to fish and tactics to use, so that you both caught fish. Obviously the object was that you caught more than him but it was not that pleasing if you were catching fish and he was struggling. I remember one such day in a Hardy International Final at Rutland Water when I was fishing with an angler from the Shetland Isles team. It rained heavily all day but he sat there in his jeans with no waterproof trousers on and when I questioned him he said that they were used to it up in Shetland!! Anyway I'd got my limit of ten fish by four o'clock and he hadn't got any so I gave him my rod with the flies I'd caught on still on it and he went on to get two fish and lost some others and ended up a happy man as up to that time he was staring a blank in the face – not nice at all when you are part of a team

Ray Burt

Letter to the editor.

Payzac-Le-Moustiere
France
7th May 2019

Dear Roy

I am reading your April newsletter with great interest and as a distraction, as at present I am in great pain, as I have had two operations on my spine and scaffold to stop me from becoming paralysed from the waist down. I have been in the Fraineville Clinic Hospital since 8th April and laying flat on my back for one month and having to be looked after by many young and beautiful amazing nurses.

Not being able to do anything for myself, my brain is the only thing that is functioning and that is in overdrive.

I found the article by Terry Scragg most interesting and the thought of those two practical jokers – I think they were Ian (May), who moved to the Tarn in France, and his partner in crime Peter (Buss) who lived in Heathfield, if my memory serves me well – or maybe not, as I am on morphine 24 hours a day and this plays tricks with your mind. The thought of these happy-go-lucky guys brings a smile to my face and good memories of the club.

As you may remember we moved to France in June of 2008 and we had a farm of 12.5 acres of good land. We had a flock of 25 sheep, 12 geese, 60 chickens, ducks and bred quail; we grew all our own vegetables and were basically self-sufficient.

We have one kilometre of the Vezare river bordering our land which I fished until 4 years ago, when alas I had an accident on site which left me incapacitated – hence a knee replacement and several operations later, the predicament I am in now.

However, our life in France is great, as too is the weather and the general medical and hospital treatment which is unbelievable.

I am now looking forward in the not too distant future to fish our own stretch of the river Vegare for the brown trout in it. I have looked down at the river 80 ft below and seen with binoculars as cock brown trout with maybe smaller hens nearby – possibly I can catch and release the fish.

It is so beautiful here, looking out from here at the glacial rocks, sitting in the dark and listening to the nightingales sing to each other, with deer raiding our veg and the wild boar rotovating the field for truffles. I no longer want to kill anything as we have found our own little piece of paradise.

However, enough of my sentimental ramblings.

Fond regards to everyone who remembers me

Au revoir,

Yours sincerely

John Rush

P.S. Forgive the script as I am on my back in bed.

Editor's note:

Some of the longer serving members may remember John Rush (who surprised us at Michelham Priory one year by pitching his stand alongside ours, demonstrating the result of his boat building skills). I have just received the following letter from him:

STILLWATER CHALLENGE

Chalk Springs

Sunday 14th July 2019

Book your place now!

This very popular event, when we have this top fishery for the day, has trophies galore and a barbecue lunch included.

The price of £50 includes the BBQ and a four fish ticket. Gather at the lodge about 8.30 am for the draw for your partner for one of the trophies, the Jim White Pairs, with weigh-in at 4pm.

There are still a few places available, so hurry!

If you've mislaid your entry form, E-mail Roy at fdgsussex@gmail.com or phone 01273 581519

immediately.

John Plowman

Many of you may not have heard that John, following severe abdominal pains, underwent major surgery recently in the Royal Sussex County Hospital, resulting in removal of some intestine. He is now recuperating in Harlands Ward in Uckfield Community Hospital and would be happy to have visitors if any of you are in the area. Visiting hours 3-7.30pm, but check with the hospital to confirm he is still there.

We wish him a speedy recovery

Frank Darrah Trophy

Ten anglers arrived to pit their wits against the fish lurking in the Reservoir. There was a tiny shower first thing but otherwise a good day for fishing with a gentle NE breeze and overcast conditions. For most people the action was pretty slow with the occasional fish in the morning. The afternoon was however much improved.



Six fish were taken over three pounds, with two over four pounds. There were 44 fish caught at a total weight of 96lbs 14oz, the heaviest being 4lbs 7oz landed by Sally Page.

	NUMBER OF FISH	BEST FISH	TOTAL WEIGHT	COMBINED WEIGHT
RAY BURT	6	3lb 8oz	13lb 13oz	23lb 3oz
MARTYN GRAY	4	3lb 2oz	8lb 6oz	
RAY LOVE	6	4lb 1oz	14lb 10oz	
DAVE PAINTER	5	2lb 13oz	10lb 7oz	25lb 1oz
BILL BLACK	2	1lb 6oz	2lb 7oz	
NATHAN WINTER	1	1lb 4oz	1lb 4oz	3lb 11oz
SALLY PAGE	6	4lb 7oz	14lb 2oz	
ROY PAGE	6	3lb 13oz	13lb 9oz	27lb 10oz
NEIL BENSTEAD	5	3lb 13oz	12lb 7oz	
DAVE CONSTABLE	3	2lb 10oz	5lb 14oz	18lb 5oz

The winners, with 12 fish weighing 27lbs 10oz, were Roy & Sally Page and the runners up with 11 fish weighing 25lbs 1oz were Ray Love & Dave Painter.



Sally and Roy with the winning bag

If this doesn't whet the appetite of some of our members I don't know what will, so please make this date a priority for next year.

David Painter

Arlington Evening

We were blessed with beautiful weather for this event – what contrast to previous years when we have had torrential rain, high winds, just stormy weather and whatever the weather clerk chose to throw at us. It did mean that the bright sun put the fish down, but there were several full bags and several fish over 3 lb.

It was therefore a little surprising that the turnout was somewhat lower than usual, partially explained by an e-mail from Philadelphia from Sally Page apologising for her and Roy's absence!



This is purely a social occasion, but it is always worth noting how people fared on the evening. Jim Harris had best fish at 3 lb 15 oz, taken from the bank, with Dave Painter taking two off the dam at 3-13 and 3-8, whilst Tony Harrison had two of over 3 lb from a boat.

For the first time in ages we were able to enjoy our drinks and sandwiches outside in the balmy evening, with a background of songbirds, and with several buzzards overhead.

It was a particular pleasure to see Steve ("I only came for the sandwiches") Mustchin and Jan Suppel come out of hiding – hope to see you both more often!

Many thanks to ranger Greg for his hospitality and assistance – especially for rapid engine changes when batteries failed – Howie Dodsley had to come in three times before getting his bag!

RG

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