



## Sussex Branch Newsletter



DECEMBER 2018

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A reminder that the **AGM** is on **10<sup>th</sup> January 2018**, followed by a quiz with refreshments.

It is a bit later this year as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan. would be risking hangovers from Christmas and New Year celebrations!

**This is your chance to let us know what you want from the Branch.**

### JONATHON GLOVER TROPHY

It's that time of year again when we ask you to consider which person has done the most in terms of Branch activities and left an impression on you during the last year. The last three winners are excluded – Nathan Winter, Chris Nunn and Bill Smith.

Send your vote to the Secretary by email to [paul.bond13@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.bond13@btinternet.com) or on a piece of paper folded / sealed with your vote. This can be collected by anyone on the committee who will get them to him in time to get the Trophy ready for presentation at the AGM.

### FLY-TYING COMPETITION

This year we back to following the Main Guild patterns as they have reverted to conventional patterns. However we have chosen larger hook sizes for our internal competition for novice and intermediate, but they would be good practice if you wish to enter the main Guild competition too. We would encourage all to have a go at them (or at least one of them) as there is undoubtedly talent enough in the Branch to join Jim Harris among the winners!

Our Rules are:

- Novice** – for those having no more than one year's experience
- Intermediate** – for those having no more than three year's experience
- Open** – for any Branch member
- Salmon** – for any Branch member
- Saltwater/Pike** – for any Branch Member

**Members may enter for any class above their lowest qualifying standard.**

The patterns for this year are:

Novice	<b>The Double Badger #10</b>
Intermediate	<b>The Royal Wulff #10</b>
Open	<b>Paraloo Olive #14</b>

**PATTERNS - see Summer 2018 "Flydresser"**

Salmon	<b>The Executioner #10 double</b>
Saltwater	<b>Cockroach #1/0</b>

**PATTERNS - see Spring 2016 "Flydresser"**

Pike	<b>The Leveller</b>
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**PATTERNS - see Page 2 of this Newsletter (from Dec 2011 "Fly Fishing and Flytying")**

Three identical samples of each fly should be submitted by **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019** to **Brian Hendry** or **Alan Middleton** or to Roy Gurney if they are not around.

### LEDERHOSEN UND GLÜHWEIN IN PATCHAM

Well, not really, but hopefully the title has grabbed your attention and sufficiently interested you to read further.

The plan is that BEFORE our speaker night on 6<sup>th</sup> December and BEFORE the tying night on 13<sup>th</sup>, between 7 and 7.30 pm we will be giving you the chance to treat yourself and your friends to some early Christmas presents.

On sale will be **fly lines, fly boxes, both with and without flies, and books**, all of which will be competitively priced and displayed on a couple of tables. Please note this is not another auction, but I am trying to reduce the number of Spring 2019 Auction lots in specific categories where there are too many lots - items that should reach £10-20 but end up selling for £1. **Everything being offered for sale on these two evenings belonged to our much missed member, Brian Raw.**

Apart from yourselves (and your tying gear on 13<sup>th</sup>) all you need to bring is some cash, your chequebook or debit card. Despite rumours to the contrary, I will not be wearing lederhosen and drinking glühwein!

**Tony Harrison**

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

**Have you renewed yours yet? Not too late to get all the benefits from the Guild!**

# COMPETITION PIKE FLY

## TYING THE LEVELLER



Tie in bucktail with a few strands of Pearlfash, white for sides and black for top. Build up the thread and shape to form a head. Apply eyes and epoxy.

### TYING TIPS

- Flatten the barb.
- Tie thread at the eye and run down to the start of the bend.
- Beginning opposite the barb, tightly bind down approximately 8mm of a 75mm strip of the zonker fur.
- Follow with small bunches of 50mm long marabou plume feathers all round the hook.
- Next, tie in start of the cactus chenille. Run the thread to the eye. Wind the chenille away from the point along leaving a 6mm space behind the eye, tie off the chenille.
- For the throat tie in a small bunch of orange marabou.

### The Leveller

**Skill level:** @@@@

**Hook:** Varivas sea hook size 4/0, gun-metal finish.

**Thread:** Black.

**Tail:** Rabbit Magnum Zonka strips 6mm wide yellow, green or black.

**Body:** Cactus chenille 6mm, pearl and marabou plumes green or black.

**Cheeks:** Bucktail, white, blue, red and black.

**Throat:** Orange marabou.

**Eyes:** Flat self-adhesive stick on eyes.

**Glue:** Two mix Araldite clear.



## TROPHY DAY 2018 Duncton Mill 28<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Sixteen members turned out on a cold Sunday which did however have some good sunny periods, warming up in the afternoon.

Four managed a full bag of four fish, but the Gemma Winder Trophy (Four Lake Challenge) had several members spending long periods trying to tempt one of the browns hiding in the weed, all to no avail, which no doubt stopped others achieving that goal.



A good day was had by all with very close margins for the main results:

### Best Fish - Plowman Trophy

Ken Pearce	Rainbow	4 lb 7 oz
John Cooper	Rainbow	4 lb 1 oz

### Best Brown

Martyn Gray	2 lb 4 oz
Peter Winder	2 lb 1 oz

### Best Bag – Jimmy James Memorial Trophies

Ken Pearce	9 lb 6 oz
Andy Wood	7 lb 7 oz

**Sally Page** took a hatful of fine photographs, all of which will hopefully be available on the website including those reproduced here.

## DON'T FORGET YOUR ENTRIES FOR THE "BIG FISH TROPHIES"



The categories are:

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

**Fish must have been caught before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 from a Sussex water.**

Trophies will be presented at the End of Season Gathering on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

Enter via e-mail [fdgsussex@gmail.com](mailto:fdgsussex@gmail.com), phone 01273 581519, by hand or mail to Roy Gurney, at 29 Capel Avenue, Peacehaven, BN10 8NB.

## Chairman' Chat

A real chat this month, almost ramblings, you might say.

**Bass** – to my mind the king of fish and also the subject of much illogical thinking. Why are commercial fishermen able to take large catches of this fish, which seems to be in decline? Or is it incline - divers have reported vast shoals on some occasions. As an example, a couple of my friends, one of whom has a commercial fishing licence, put to sea for the afternoon from Brighton Marina and took over 40 x 4 lb bass on rods and bait, a catch with a retail value of about £1,300. Not a bad afternoon's fishing, you might say. Presumably they were all over 42 cm (why cm, the unit of length is the mm so they must have all have been over 420 mm)? Compare this with two other friends who fished the Newhaven beach with spinning rods to take over 60 bass, all below 420 mm and therefore had to be returned. In any case, one fish per fishing session (420 mm or over) may now be taken by sports fishermen.

**Elvers** – we are getting a number of enquiries for elver passes and elver excluding screens. We designed and built the elver pass at the Tees Barrage which consisted of a stainless steel pipe lined with Enkermat (a plastic bank protection fibre) – I am relieved to say that the pass was great success. But now the boffins have got into the act and will not approve any similar designs. We are now required to provide (at great expense) vertical plastic panels with indentations – or similar panels mounted horizontally or side and bottom brushes.

All this concern confuses me; recently elver fishers were issued with licences and made fortunes elver fishing on such rivers as the Severn. No wonder elver numbers have declined.



Cross section of a brush elver pass

That's my rant for this month – I will try and be a bit more interesting next month.

Tony W

## Ray's Ramblings

In the last newsletter I told how I had qualified to fish the Spring International in Ireland in 1990. This was held on Lough Owel near Mullingar, and in the match I caught three brown trout that the boatman measured and said were sizeable but at the weigh in one was discounted as undersized and because of this I failed to roll over to the next International as one of the top four and would have to requalify. However, because I had now fished for England twice, I was eligible to be considered for the World Team Competition which in 1990 was to be fished in Wales. However I heard nothing until March 1991, when I had a phone call while at work to say that I had been selected to fish for England in the World Championships in New Zealand in 1991. During the summer there was a lot of practice involved on waters that were similar to those that we would fish. Then in November it was time for the long flight from Heathrow to Auckland via San Francisco and Honolulu. Practice sessions on the waters to be fished gradually produced successful methods and flies.

On the evening before the competition started the draw took place and I found that I would be boat fishing my first session on a lake, the water that we had all been most successful on. I was paired with a Frenchman who won the toss as to where we were to fish for the first ninety minutes. After a fishless hour though, I persuaded him to move to the river channel that flowed through the lake and he promptly caught three fish.

However, I gradually started to pick up fish and by the end of the six hour session had taken nine fish, seven of which were over the size limit and when the results were announced at the end of the day I had won the session.

Things could only get worse and so it proved when I was drawn to fish two sessions on the river the next day. It was not a great start to the day when my controller said that the Czech competitor fishing my stretch the day before had blanked and that he personally wouldn't bother fishing it. Nevertheless, on my second cast I hooked a good rainbow only for it to jump and throw the barbless hook. Further down I had two rainbows that were both undersized and then, just before the end of the session, hooked a brown trout that my controller agreed was in excess of 4lb, only for the hook to pull out again. In the afternoon session I only took one undersized fish a few minutes before the end only for it to come off again. I was devastated, having hooked six fish and landing only three that proved to be all undersize.

On the third day I was to bank fish a small lake but my peg was in a sheltered bay with no ripple and in three hours, despite trying several methods, I never had a take. The afternoon

session was on a deep fast flowing canal and was fished in torrential rain. I only had two takes, missing one but landing the other, only for it to be fractionally undersized. At the end of the day my controller confided that over the course of three days only one sizeable fish had been recorded. It goes to show how difficult the fishing was on the lake and canal that day when eighteen hours fishing by three anglers had produced just one sizeable fish. As John Horsey later commented, it proved to be a competition of blanks as highly sensitive fish switched off and catching depended on a good draw and fish staying in the net. Under the conditions and scarcity of fish, it felt that the 30 cm size limit was too large, especially as all the fish were being returned, and anyone who caught a fish regardless of size deserved to be credited something.

When the results were announced it showed that Team England had in fact got third place behind hosts New Zealand and Poland and, whilst I was very proud to receive my Bronze Medal, it still to this day rankles that I had technically blanked in four sessions though I had caught fish in three of them.

**Ray Burt**

## Terry Tullet Flies the Flag

I have just received the following e-mail from Terry, who is now well settled in Northern France:

".....Thanks for the monthly newsletter which I always enjoy reading. Had a chat with John Plowman not so long ago, he said it was proving difficult to recruit new members and that parking at Patcham was still causing problems.

I've had a few days fishing, but not as many as I would like; summer here was the hottest ever.



Have attached a picture of my local fishing group, "La Truite Cauchois" at the annual general meeting. If you look to the right of the picture you can see myself resplendent in my Sussex Flydressers Guild jumper.

Best regards  
Terry"

## Grayling Fishing at Wherwell

November 4<sup>th</sup>

This year the grayling fishing day at Wherwell, on the Test, attracted eleven anglers who met up at around 8.30 am in the car park to tackle up. To begin with the weather did not look too promising as it was grey and dull, but during the day it brightened up and the sun came out. Tony Harrison was team leader so to speak and informed us of the fishery rules and showed us a map of the fishery and pointed out where we were allowed to fish and where not to fish. We all set off at just after 9.00 am.

The Wherwell estate has a lot of water available to anglers, so we were not crowded. The party consisted of experienced grayling fishermen but included two anglers who were new to this facet of the sport.

To summarise, everybody had a good day and most of us caught fish. I personally chose to fish upstream the water closest to the car park where quite a long stretch is available. The water is as clear as gin with good weed growth and because of this I managed to frighten a lot of the river's residents. There were plenty of fish visible but catching them was another matter. I decided to have an early lunch as I was still fishless. When I spoke to several of our party, it appeared more trout had been caught than grayling and few were of any size.

In the afternoon I fished the carrier that runs downstream from the car park stretch. It is smaller, but the water is just a clear and the weed growth is healthy. Also I spooked plenty of fish, just as I did in the morning.

I eventually caught 3 nice trout, 2 Browns and 1 Rainbow, all in the region of two pounds in weight and all on the dry fly. I was not expecting to catch a rainbow trout so I weighed it, it was exactly 2 pounds. Overall more fish were caught on the nymph than the dry and bigger fish were also banked. Tony H landed a brown in the region of 4 pounds.

So in closing Wherwell is a lovely place to fish and a lot of us plan to return next year.

**Bill Black.**

### Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

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