



Sussex Branch Newsletter



JULY 2019

Christopher John "Chris" Croucher

Aka: Cruncher, CC or Mr. C
Born December 1961

Sadly, Chris passed away at the Martlets Hospice on Sunday 2nd June 2019, after a struggle with cancer. Chris has left a loving family - his life partner Debbie, his son Luke and daughter Emily.

Chris was born in Brighton and went to the Knoll Secondary School in Hove. He started his working life in a bakery, before becoming a floor layer at St James Furnishing in Kemp Town, where later he was made a director. Chris worked tirelessly over 40 years building a huge customer base for the company and took pride in providing a first class service.

He had several other passions, from motor cycles to playing cards, but I suppose fishing was his biggest, and this is how I met Chris. He was introduced to me by my son Andrew who at the time was working at the Lagoon Bait and Tackle shop for Peter Winder.



Chris with his 19 lb + rainbow from Duncton

Chris was a very successful angler from very early on and I believe you will find his name stamped on every trophy, although one did elude him until 2016 - the John Watt, run at Grafham by the Fly Dressers Guild. This was one proud moment for Chris being part of the winning team after 20 years of taking part in the competition. "I'm a Grafham champion Mr. D" he said; "So what" I said "I've won it twice". Having said that, he did virtually win it single handed

with a full bag of 12 fish.

Others of you will recall the Chalk Springs Challenge that CC organised for many years. This has become a premier event in the Guild's calendar; the BBQ was always a feast and he worked hard for weeks prior to the event trying to get most for the members' money.

The only issue was trying to beat him; sometimes he would only fish in the afternoon and still win, such was the determination and the competitive nature of Mr. C.

In August last year just 8 weeks after having a brain tumour removed and intensive radio therapy, Chris was back fishing and we went to Dever Springs, where he managed to catch the



The brownie from Dever

largest fish in the lakes, a brown trout weighing in at 12lb 8oz, and to top it Peter Cockwill netted it for him free of charge!

In recent years Chris loved taking his holidays in Cape Verde and fishing the sandy beaches for sharks. The beaches are superb, reasonably shallow and full of small fish.

For those that knew Chris, and for those who didn't, I never found out the secret to his fishing success but, like me, one day you may have the opportunity to ask him yourself.

I wonder if the trout will ever know he was a poker player.

In loving memory of a truly great friend.

Ian Dunk (Mr. D)

Chairman's Chat

This year's South of England was supported by the usual crew who got the tent up in just over an hour on a (thankfully) dry day. The first Show day we managed to collect the details of five potential new members who showed interest in our efforts to demonstrate the art.

The second day was wet but some interest was shown, so let's hope that we will get some new members next year.



Tony Harrison at a previous Show

Next on the Show agenda is 2 500 school children on Children's Day so we will all take Valium to get over the day!

So why not sign up and spend a day at a Show, volunteers are always in short supply.

Tony W

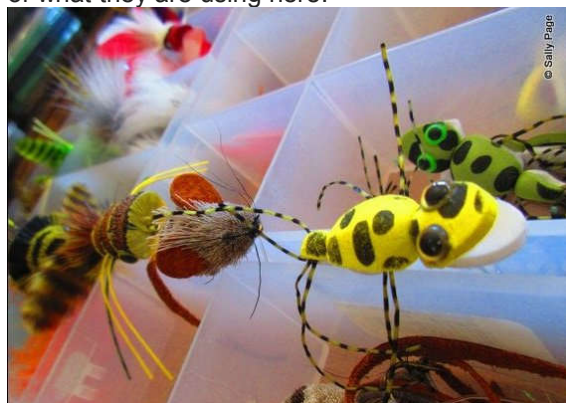
E-MAIL FROM SALLY

22nd June 2019

As you may know, Sally and Roy Page are on a trip the USA. Here is what I hope will be the first of many e-mails from them:

Hi all

We just made it to Oregon, after some re-do repairs on the trailer... just dropping a line to say, we went into the second fly tying shop today while we've been here... see pic attached of what they are using here!



OMG our fly-tying is going to have to improve!! haha. So much stuff in these shops, like candy. Anyway, hope to report more soon on first fish, hoping for a big one or two. Hope you've all been well, and John hope you're doing ok too?

Sal and Roy

Rays Ramblings

Back in May I gave some tips which members hopefully found useful - one of which was to learn to cast well. Having said that, just because you are able to cast a long line doesn't mean you have to do it all the time.

One of the occasions when it's useful is when there are a lot of people on the bank and the disturbance drives the fish out. Another occasion when it undoubtedly helps is when fishing sinking lines from a boat, especially fast sinkers, so that you can let the line get down to the depth you want for a longer period.

But when fishing a floating line there is often no such need to cast a long way and this is especially relevant when fishing dries from a boat. In such cases it's best to stick to a cast of twelve to fifteen yards so that with any rises seen you can lift off and easily cover them. Making a long cast and then seeing a fish move nearer merely means you have to retrieve a lot of line causing disturbance and by the time you get the line back it's too late to cover the fish. Another situation when you only need to cast short was highlighted by Iain Barr in a recent edition of *Trout Fisherman* magazine and that is if the fish are close to the surface in a flat calm. Putting a long line out merely disturbs the fish closer in and once spooked you most likely won't catch them. In such conditions fan cast a short line in front of the boat so that the flies land in a new piece of water each time and most importantly ensure that the leader turns over by putting the heaviest fly on the point, and a good way to achieve turnover is to fish a short line so that the cast hits the reel and helps the flies catapult forward. Once landed the flies can be fished static for a while and then retrieved but very, very slowly to avoid line wake, watching the loop of line at the rod tip for any sign of takes.

Another tactic when long casting is not needed is when fishing clear water fisheries like Chalk Springs, Avington and Holbury where larger fish can be targeted and stalked, fishing lead bugs on the drop, watching for the white flash as the trout opens its mouth to take the fly. and that's a lot easier to spot if it's closer to you.

With these sort of waters my reasoning is that it's only worth putting a fly in the water if you can see a fish otherwise you're merely fishing barren water.

Ray Burt

Noake Akimoto

Faithful followers of "Countryfile" on Sunday evenings may have been surprised to see Noake interviewed in a report on "Fishing for Recovery" on 16th June, giving encouragement to all those ladies recovering from the effects of treatment for breast cancer.

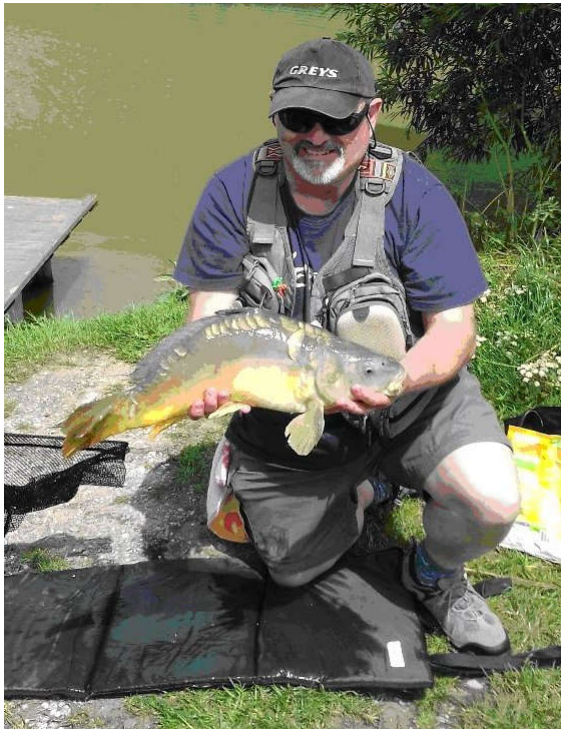
In addition to this claim to fame, we must also congratulate her on achieving runner-up in the main Guild Novice Trout Fly competition for 2019 – which she modestly forgot to mention when telling the editor of her impending TV appearance!

Well done, Noake!

Passies

A respectable 17 turned out for the first "Carp on the Fly" event at Passies Ponds on 15th June. After a breakfast of bacon butties, we ambled down to the match lake which had been reserved for our use. A stiff breeze was fortunately at the back of most pegs but the very heavy weeding of the "eastern leg" of the lake did somewhat restrict the availability of "comfortable" fishing. The carp did seem particularly finicky in the morning but a fair number managed to bag some fish, including about three into double figures.

After managing three from the corner swim I gave it up to Paul and Rosa Bond who combined to pull in an eight pounder (below)



*Rosa's interesting line in tackle bags!
Gucci?*

After an enjoyable natter at lunch time, fishing resumed but was curtailed for some by the onset of "showery" conditions. Wayne and Keith did well with eleven and twelve fish respectively, closely followed by Tony with nine.

Putting us all to shame however were Howie with fifteen and his mate Sean with twenty plus, including two twelve pounders, many caught on beetle imitations and very small flies.

Meanwhile Brian Hendry in the top corner was quietly pulling them in with six by the end of the day, and, with some weed-ensnared struggles, yours truly managed five, including a rather ugly ten pounder.

Aside from the numbers, people seemed to have an enjoyable day, with plenty of the usual good natured banter.

Next up for those of you enjoying carp as a quarry is Falkenvil on 20th July.

A W

Howie at Passies

Another very enjoyable day with the guys from the Sussex Fly Dressers Guild. The event was the Carp on the Fly at Passie's Pond. A lovely bacon butty breakfast supplied by Passie's on-site cafe went down well. Then it all began trying to outwit the cunning carp.

Even though we only fish this event once a year I am sure the fish remember us and our deer-hair biscuit flies. The carp repeatedly test and refuse our flies no matter how close we tie them to copy the dog biscuits we use for bait.

Myself and guest Sean Docherty (a canny all round angler), who is a newbie to this highly frustrating game, fished together, swapped notes and experimented with different flies. We eventually got into fish by offering them an alternative menu of foam beetle flies, a cork ball pattern which actually I got from Brian Hendry,

and which is so easy to make. One can knock them up on the day as required. Materials: hook, knife, super glue (and deer-hair!). Sean did well with a white deer-hair biscuit fly, but trimmed really small.



We ended landing 35 fish and probably lost a dozen in the heavy weed beds.

Packed up at 5pm tired but very happy - best couple of fish were around 12lbs caught by Sean.

A big thanks to Alan Wells by the way, for organizing the day. Photo shows flies that worked for us. To give some idea of size the cork ball is 12mm.

Howard Dodsley

John Plowman

Several people have asked after John so I thought I would get back in touch. Below is the text of the email back from John. He says that he hopes the colon will be reconnected in 6-12 months.

I have an address if people do wish to visit. As I said to John - he is made of pretty sturdy stuff to survive this lot!

Alan Wells

Hi Alan,

Thanks for your email and for your kind thoughts. I am still making good progress and returning to my usual levels of activity. I am gaining weight so I no longer look like an inmate of Belsen and I am moving towards being able to cope with a normal diet.

I went to my GP last week to get him to explain what I had done to me and he was not only surprised to see my recovery but he hinted that he was glad to see me at all!

When I returned home I looked up my operation on the web and was horrified to discover that the survival rate was around 20%. I am pleased nobody told my wife or me at the time.

I am still unable to drive and need to sort out my artificial colon at 3 hourly intervals so I cannot go far from home yet. Anyone who can find time to call in at home here will be very welcome.

Best wishes

John

Where are you all?

A reminder of upcoming events - get your bookings in urgently!

First up on **Sunday July 14th** is the **Stillwater Challenge** at Chalk Springs - an absolutely lovely venue with the chance of trophy standard rainbows and browns. **This year we have dispensed with the BBQ enabling a price reduction to £40.** Chalk Springs' cool waters usually avoid the issues of overheating found in many small waters. So far we are well short of the number (20) required to have the fishery to ourselves so **contact Roy NOW!**

On **Saturday July 20th** is our second **Carp on the Fly** day at Falkenvil. The well stocked match lake with plenty of room for many anglers and with easy casting conditions makes it a snip at £8 for the day.

AUTUMN AUCTION

Thursday 17th October

Doesn't time fly! Yes, we are already lining up items for the next Auction which will be at our Patcham HQ as usual on Thursday evening 17th October. The catalogue is already under way as we already have some tasty lots from donated material so you should get your entries in to Roy Gurney urgently, and in any event by **15th September**, as we are nearly at capacity.

Now is the time to ransack your den and enter your surplus items of tackle and clothing as well as fly-tying materials and tools for this or the Spring Auction in March 2020.

You can download an entry form from the website www.sussexflydressers.org.uk or get one by ringing Roy on 01273 581519 or e-mail roygurney33@gmail.com.

Michael Blaber

We are sorry to advise the peaceful passing of this very long-standing member, at the age of 85. We not have the pleasure of his company for some time due ill health, and we offer our condolences to his family

Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

Chairman:	Tony Woolnough	01273 483833
Secretary:	Paul Bond	01273 420410
Treasurer:	Bill Black	01323 763807
Membership:	Roy Gurney	01273 581519

Editor: ROY GURNEY

29 Capel Avenue, PEACEHAVEN, BN10 8NB

E-MAIL: fdgsussex@gmail.com

Visit our web site

Sussexflydressers.org.uk