



## Sussex Branch Newsletter



**MAY 2018**

### **Fishing Trophies 2017**

**Peter West Trophy** (Best Rainbow from Sussex water) **John Plowman 9 lb 4 oz**

**Jack Jupp Memorial Trophy** (Best Arctic Char) **None caught**

**Brown Trout Cup** (Best Brown from Sussex water) **Tony Harrison 5 lb 1 oz**

**Members' Reservoir Plate** (Best Fish from Sussex Reservoir) **John Plowman 9 lb 4 oz**

**John Leitch Brown Trout Cup** (Best Brown from Sussex Reservoir or River) **Dave Walker 4 lb 3 oz**

#### **Bowl Pairs Competitions**

**Frank Darrah Memorial Trophy** **Cancelled**

**Charity Pairs** **Martyn Gray & Ray Burt**

#### **Branch Trophy Day – Duncton Mill**

**Jimmy James Memorial Trophies** (Best Bag) **Winner Peter Winder 9 lb 9 oz**

**Runner-up Andy Wood 8 lb 14 oz**

**Plowman Trophy** (Best fish) **Tony Harrison 3 lb 10oz**

**Best Brown, Tiger or Brook trout** **Ian Dunk 2 lb**

**Gemma Winder Trophy** (4 Lake Challenge) **Peter Winder 9 lb 9 oz**

#### **Stillwater Challenge – Chalk Springs**

**Jim White Pairs** **Ray Burt & Nathan Winter 21 lb 7 oz**

**Best fish** **Martyn Gray 5 lb 1 oz**

**Best bag** **Martyn Gray 14 lb 4 oz**

**Peter Neave Trophy** (Best brown) **Paul Davis 4 lb 8 oz**

#### **Brass Monkeys Day 2018**

**Best fish** **Andy Wood 3 lb 12 oz (Brown)**

**Best bag** **David Worsfold 6 lb 12 oz**

Once again, there were some close calls for some entries; the Jimmy James Trophy had runner up Andy Wood with 8 lb 14 oz, and Ray Burt was not far behind John Plowman for the

Members' Plate and the Peter West Trophy with an 8 lb 14 oz rainbow, also from Arlington - and how about this fine brownie from a small feeder to the Adur?



*Dave Walker and his winning brownie*

At the Stillwater Challenge, held as usual at Chalk Springs, the best brown of 4 lb 8 oz was taken by Paul Davis. As stocking of arctic char seems to have more or less ceased at Duncton, the Peter Neave Memorial Trophy will now be awarded for this category.

### **WHERE ARE THE MISSING TROPHIES?**

Perhaps due to cancellation of the following year's event (and other excuses!) we are missing the trophies for the **Open Fly-tying Cup**, the **Salmon Fly-tying Cup** and two cups donated by Dave Walker.

If you have any of these, or know their whereabouts, e-mail Roy at [roygurney33@gmail.com](mailto:roygurney33@gmail.com) or phone 01273 581519 as soon as possible.

## EVENTS ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FRANK DARRAH PAIRS

Just a reminder that thanks to fixture congestion both at Bewl and our own schedule, this event will now be held\_ at Arlington Reservoir on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May. You should use the old booking form and send ASAP to David Painter; check with him the new (lower) cost. This should be better for fishing, without the "any method" boys.

### JOHN WATT COMPETITION

This annual competition between the branches of the Flydressers' Guild has traditionally been fished at Rutland Water on the Saturday of the bank holiday weekend at the end of August. However, this year, due to overbooking at Rutland, it has been switched, still on the same date, to **Eyebrook Reservoir**.

As usual, our stalwart captain for this event, Chris Nunn, will be 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](mailto:chrisandairi@btinternet.com) if you have mislaid the booking form.

### CASTING CLINIC

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

We will be holding a free casting clinic on the evening of Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May, starting from 6.30 pm, at **Stanmer Park**. There is plenty of parking and the site will probably be just on the left after the entrance (depends if there are any other activities which might clash). We all need a "refresher" so do come along and benefit from those instructors who give their services *gratis*.

### HOG ROAST CANCELLED

Sadly, due to unavailability of the venue for the dates required, this event has had to be cancelled this year. It will take place in 2019 but it has been proposed that it should be later in the year – perhaps September  
**WATCH THIS SPACE !**

### ARLINGTON OUTING

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

Get your application in **URGENTLY** as we have to book in advance for the preferential rates.

If you can't make it during the day you can have a wonderful evening's fishing; afterwards we all gather at the lodge for refreshments about 8.30 pm.

If you've mislaid your entry form, E-mail Roy at [roygurney33@gmail.com](mailto:roygurney33@gmail.com) or phone 01273 581519 immediately.

## Save Our Shows !

You will see from the attached Shows Schedule that, as usual, I still require more "volunteers" to fill in the yellow boxes in the schedule.

Those who attend will have free entry and have time to have a good look around the Shows.

So please fill in the blanks and make me a happier man

**Tony W**

### Hastings Hammered!



I'm pleased to announce that my first outing as "captain" in an FDG competition has resulted in a resounding win for the Flydressers. The final toll showed us catching 80 lb 9 1/2 oz with Hastings only accumulating 59lb ! Furthermore FDG swept the board with individual prizes, Brian Raw having best overall bag, Andy Wood best fish from a boat and Des Watson best fish from the bank (see above). Other major contributors with 6 fish limit bags included Ray Burt, Martyn Gray and yours truly but everyone contributed at least one fish ( yes even the Chairman!) and many had four fish bags.

The day had not started promisingly with a steady drizzle threatening to dampen spirits but fortunately by about 9.30 the skies started to lighten and conditions were good for fishing with a light breeze creating an encouraging ripple. My boat partner Derek Coles happened to be

the person who had caught an 8lb + fish 2 weeks before and his "secret weapon" fly seemed to be just that with a fish hooked and lost on the first cast and him then going on to get his 4 fish in less than an hour! Just my luck, as I steadily plodded on, getting my first fish having followed his lead and changed to a sinker and bright lure. However, as I looked around I was encouraged by FDG rods bending on boats around us and of course Ray Burt showing off by netting a double hook up! It must be said that our hosts were very good in putting us onto fish and in several cases advising on tactics, such that coming off the boats I was encouraged by the numbers who had taken at or near their limits. The bank fishers had had a harder time but with Bill Black, Des Watson and Martyn Gray doing well, at lunchtime we seemed to be in an encouraging position.

The clearer, brighter conditions in the afternoon seemed to put the fish off somewhat and bank fishing was certainly hard work with fish dribbling in, generally on smaller flies such as Hares Ears, small Montanas and buzzer patterns.

Again Ray finished fairly early and Brian caught his remaining 2 with enough time to spare for them to join Martyn on the spectators' bench at the lodge to watch the rest of us gamely flogging on with the odd fish playing ball. As the boats came in, it seemed the afternoon had been harder work than the morning session but Nathan Winter's 4 kept up the FDG scores.

Whilst none of the fish were of huge proportions they are in fine condition and particularly off the boats, give fantastic fights for their weight.

After a generous BBQ, some beer and much banter, it only remained for us to receive the spoils of victory and wend our way home. I must thank Hastings FF and in particular Mary and Vic for their hard work in putting on what is a very hospitable event and congratulate the club on a truly special, immaculately kept venue.

Everyone from FDG said what an enjoyable day it had been and I for one will be looking forward to returning next year and perhaps even before then during the much talked of Mayfly season.

**Alan**



## Chairman's Chat

This is a site with many interesting components (to me). A steep bank on the right of the photograph, so no machine access from that side and therefore no pass that side of the central weir. Open grassland in front of residential property on the left so no great enthusiasm from the houseowners to cranes working. The attraction (turbulence) is obvious, a river flow measuring weir to which someone has decided to add a baffle wall to minimise bed erosion downstream – the designer did not build a stilling basin which would have protected the bed. This baffle wall will of course prevent fish from swimming over the weir. So all in all lots of things for the designer to consider, including a 3.5 m difference in water levels between upstream and downstream.



The difference in water level means that a resting pool will be required giving an overall pass length of 24 m or so. If a conventional layout was adopted, with the fish entrance by the weir, the pass would project upstream of the weir at least ten metres, so a footbridge for maintenance would be required together with handrails etc. Not a good layout; unacceptable on Health and Safety grounds. Not to mention the need for a steel sheet piled coffer dam in the centre of the river, to build the pass. We drew up this pass to illustrate what a bad Option this was (in case the Client could not read drawings). Now we were in a fix, until "inspiration" struck. Why not build a pass with a folded layout with a upstream length on top of the downstream length? A relief, this solves all the site problems all in one go. The bottom layer of pass would be in operation at the start of the design flows (Q95%) for those interested; as water levels rise the upper pass length would come into service. Minimal temporary works, no access / maintenance problems and lower capital cost. I leave you to decide which Option the Client chose !!

**Tony W**

## BOAT SAFETY

Now that the boats are available for reservoir fishing reminded me of some of the safety precautions we need to be aware of when on a boat on a large reservoir. These are my own suggestions.

1. Wear a life jacket when in the boat or on the jetty and wear it outside your coat.
2. Wear eye protection (Polaroids).
3. Take and use sun protection cream and carry a simple first aid kit.
4. Wear a hat preferably with a brim unless you want involuntary ear piercing!
5. Avoid all unnecessary standing in the boat.
6. Take a seat cushion.
7. Check the fishery rules and finishing time.
8. If you have not used an outboard motor before then ask the fishery staff to explain its correct use.
9. When drifting with two right-handed anglers then keep the engine on the left as you face down the drift. This reduces the number of times the left side angler hooks the engine.
10. When on your own on a boat make sure the engine cut out cord is fixed to your clothing.
11. Make sure you know the phone no. of the fishery lodge (in case of engine failure or bad weather).
12. Keep your mobile phone in a waterproof pack.
13. In case of "Man overboard" get the wet angler to the side of the boat and check he is secure. Then go to the front of the boat and make a loop of rope with the anchor rope. Guide the man in the water along the side to the front and use the rope loop as a stirrup to manoeuvre him into the boat. NEVER PULL HIM OVER THE SIDE OF THE BOAT: YOU WILL TIP THE BOAT AND HAVE BOTH OF YOU IN!
14. If you are on your own and fall in then the engine will cut out (see section 10). You will now need to get to the front of the boat and pull yourself over the bows using the anchor rope as described.
15. In strong winds never fix the boat to anchor, buoy or drogue by the side of the boat. There is a serious risk of swamping or overturning. Fix your anchor point to the bows.
16. When motoring or rowing in strong wind it is safer and more comfortable to point the boat directly into the wind. Take great care when turning the boat side on to the waves.

I hope this does not put you off trying an important and satisfying branch of fly fishing.

Tight Lines, *John Plowman*

## Match v. Salmon & Trout

Duncton Mill, 14<sup>th</sup> April

At last the weather gods relented and presented us with a perfect day for fishing at this beautiful fishery. The fishing was patchy, with some anglers bagging up in the morning and others struggling. However everyone caught (with one exception who, it was claimed, was a fifth columnist "lent" to the other side).

Surprisingly Coot lake proved to be the most difficult, with Birch being most productive with Rosies close behind. First to bag up was Rod Yuill of STCUK but it proved to be a false start as the final tally showed that FDG Sussex were a country mile ahead. STCUK totalled 27 fish for 51lb 11oz with Mike Newman having best bag of 8lb 5oz. FDG however had 36 fish for a total of 84lb with Ray Burt's best bag of 14lb 13oz and best fish of 6lb 12oz.

This was a most enjoyable and convivial day, with many anglers qualifying for both teams. The lunch was as usual outstanding – Caroline did us proud – especially with the pavlova!

Thanks too to Martin who provided us with excellent fishing, although the big browns he had put in failed to succumb to our efforts.

So the cup remains with FDG for another year – let's hope next year is as good as this – and perhaps revenge will be had!

**RHG**

## SPRING AUCTION

A really big and heartfelt THANK YOU to all the helpers at this year's Spring Auction and to all of you who came along to support the Branch with a bid or two. Due to lack of space in this month's newsletter the full report will be in the June edition.

**TH & RG**



2018 FLY FAIR

**18th November 2018**

### 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: [roygurney33@gmail.com](mailto:roygurney33@gmail.com)**

**Visit our web site**

**[Sussexflydressers.org.uk](http://Sussexflydressers.org.uk)**