

# The Flydressers Guild Sussex Branch



## Newsletter

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Flydressers Guild

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## Moorhen Update

We wanted to let you know that we recently experienced a minor setback during the sale of our fishery. We had to find a new buyer, but fortunately, we were able to secure another purchaser the day after we went back out to the market. Jamie and his family will hopefully be the new owners soon, and they are truly lovely people. Jamie is an avid fisherman who

has been looking to purchase a fishery in the UK, for some time, and he is excited to have his very own on his doorstep.

As with any purchase, it is difficult to predict how long the sale will take, especially since we are starting the process all over again.

Everything seems to take a long time! Jamie has said he plans to keep the fishery as it is, but he also has some ideas for improvements, such as staying open over the weekends! We'll have to wait and see what he decides. One thing is for sure, though: Jamie will take this fishery, which we have loved for so many years, to the next level.

**Finally, please don't forget we close in July and August!**

## GAIA News

The [Game Angling Instructors' Association \(GAIA\)](#) are holding casting clinics at Duncton Mill monthly, the next dates for your diary being Sunday May 26th, June 30th, July 28<sup>th</sup> & August 25<sup>th</sup>. Chance to hone or gain your skills or maybe consider becoming an instructor. Organised by qualified instructors Tony Fox and Bob Burbidge. The event will run from 10:00 to 13:00 and will be £20 for each attendee. I should add, this is not including any fishing, mainly casting over grass. If you wish to fish at Duncton Mill afterwards then you would need to book in and can only fish Birch lake. If you are interested in attending one of these sessions, please contact Tony Fox to let him know you will be attending at [tonyfoxltd@gmail.com](mailto:tonyfoxltd@gmail.com)

## Fishery closures

Many of you will have heard about fisheries and fish farms closures that is very sad indeed as it could affect the future of fly fishing in the south. I do not have details of each one but

Dever Springs a double figure fishery has closed. Let's hope they are able to come back. As I see it the problem is cost of trout food that puts up cost of trout making fishing unaffordable. The sale of Moorhen farm has fallen through (but someone else is in the process of buying it) but when I passed last week there was a sold board there. I believe we will now see more fisheries offering Carp on a fly as has Albury on one of its lakes. In contrast river fly fishing is becoming more popular with news that most of Fishing Breaks beats are already booked through the summer!

## **Frank Darrah Pairs and the Rest.**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May saw our combined club event at Bewl. This is a "three legged affair" which includes our club boat pairs competition, our match against EDFFC and for those with dual membership Ouse Valley's boat competition.

Sadly we could only muster 3 boats for SFDG but we sallied forth in a light drizzle with Ouse Valley and EDFFC bringing our tally up to 9 boats. The day started on a "dodgy" note with Tony Godden accusing me of nicking his boat but as it was labelled 00 he thought it suited my prospects better! To add further insult the engine wouldn't start until one of Bewl's chaps had done some jiggery pokery with it with a pair of pliers. So everyone else had a head start on Adrian and myself. The wind was very light and coming from the north so I suggested we drift out from the dam into the main bowl. This proved fruitful for me as at the end of the first drift I had 3 fish to the boat on my fast inter with a Tequila Blob, Diawl Bach & Cruncher setup. Two came to the blob and one on the hang on the Cruncher... very pleasing.

However, as we turned to repeat our drift they turned on the taps and we had to endure 1 ½ hours of torrential rain. Adrian and I tried to get respite by "sheltering" near Chingley bank but it had little effect and there was literally some serious bilge pumping going on. Caroline Cutmore's idea of taking an umbrella on board now seemed a sensible trick! So as

it started to relent we went round to Copens Reach to arrive early for lunch but a short drift did not add to our tally. At lunch break the SFDG and Ouse valley lads met up for some banter and it transpired there were only about 9 fish between our 4 boats. The fish were high in the water but not as obvious or plentiful as reports had suggested previous weeks had seen.

In the pm Adrian and I tried a drift out from Copen's towards Chingley Point, I picked up my 4<sup>th</sup> fish to complete my bag and a C&R fish as we came to the rear of the boats at Chingley. This seemed to be a hotspot but it was rather overcrowded with anchored boats (several from EDFFC) making drifting a little difficult. So we spent the rest of the afternoon in the quiet of Seven Pound Creek and the cages but unfortunately with no luck for Adrian. On return to the boat dock we found that the only other SFDG member with fish was Martyn Grey with 3 fish to just over 7lb. So in fact Adrian and I took the Frank Darrah Pairs with 4 fish to 10lb 1 oz. Martin Nock pipped me to the post for the Ouse Valley Boat title, with his 4 fish coming in at about 10lb 3oz.

Sadly with the match against the EDFFC we were rather hammered. Their top 6 anglers totalled 18 fish compared to our 7 so a weigh in was rather pointless. Some of their team's tactic of anchoring up at a hotspot seemed to have paid dividends, with a fair number bagging up. Well done Eastbourne! The cup seems to be changing hands from year to year just lately.

So a rather mixed set of results for our chaps who, despite a thorough soaking, seemed to enjoy their day and thanks to Bewl for keeping prices at a very reasonable level.

Next up Carp on the Fly at Springbarn.

**AW**