



Sussex Branch Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2020

Recommencing Meetings at Patcham

It has been decided that we will endeavour to recommence meetings at Patcham Community Centre in the New Year as a consequence of the current situation.

Whilst the centre is opening in a very limited way from September, there are insufficient members able to attend under the current restrictions which we all hope will be relaxed by the New Year.

However, we are preparing virtual meetings for those who want them via Zoom and full details will be circulated as soon as possible.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Guild and Branch renewals and subscriptions are due on the **1st September**, so please let Roy Gurney have them ASAP - renewal/application forms are attached. **It is not necessary to complete a form if your details have not changed.**

Forms can also be downloaded from the website, e-mail fdgsussex@gmail.com or ring 01273 581519.

Payment can be made by cheque or cash sent to Roy, or by BACS direct to the branch account. If you do this, you **MUST** advise by e-mail when you do it. **Account details are on the form.**

Summer Surprise

August is usually a difficult month for trout fishing and the recent heat wave didn't augur well for my outing on 18th August but Brick Farm had produced last time in hot weather so I thought I would give it a try. Suffice to say the photo below shows a surprising result.

Total bag 8 lb 4oz, best fish 3lb 1 oz.

I started with a 3 fish ticket but Spring Lake in particular was fishing so well that I had my 3 by 10.30 and decided to pay for a 4th fish. Of course, as with the usual Murphy's Law, that took longer to get than expected but fish were up in the water and taking buzzers avidly. It does seem that this lake has the set up to do well in warmer weather, with fish cooling off in the central depths but patrolling the drop off in spells. I took one from Brick lake at the dam end on a deep fished Damsel, another on this in the western end of Spring and then 2 on Diawl Bach droppers.

Alan Wells

July Quiz Answers

Apologies for forgetting to list these in the August issue.

1. Lefty Kreh.
2. A Kingfisher.
3. Between a trout taking a dry fly and the angler's strike.
4. The Dog Nobbler.
5. Lough Corrib.

The winner was Ray Burt.

Too Hot to Fish!

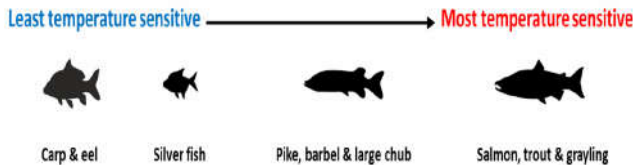
This summer has maybe been too hot for fishing at times and has had a serious impact on fish welfare. Fishing for some time was put on hold this year due to Covid 19 but with lots of water in our rivers and lakes in the spring. After we were allowed to go out and fish we soon ran into warm weather and now in August temperatures in excess of 30 degrees centigrade! Far too hot for me, staying in the house where it's cooler.

As I carry out regular Riverfly monitoring, when one observes conditions in a bit more detail counting a range of invertebrate species. In the Hampshire chalk streams water temperature has risen from 11° C in May to 19° C and in the first week of August. Fishing has been hard and often not even rising, just lying low. I have been watching a couple of lakes near me and they have suffered more so with higher temperatures and risk of algal blooms forming recording as high as 20° C and maybe higher as I write. As water temperature increases so the dissolved oxygen in the water reduces, fish absorb oxygen through their gills, so it is more difficult for fish to breathe. One solution that helps is to provide some sort of aeration by pumping air into lake.

In shallow lakes water will heat quickly and in deeper lakes the deeper parts will be cooler but contain less dissolved oxygen with a risk of what is known as turnover when the water at bottom of lakes moves to the top followed by fish deaths due to lack of oxygen.

EA Advice:

The optimum temperature for Salmon & Trout & Grayling is 16° C and when it reaches 20° C fishing should be suspended. In lakes they advise asking fishery owner but certainly temperature will be higher than in a river. Coarse fish are less sensitive but remember to limit handing of carp on a fly, use wet hands and unhooking mat and returning quickly to the water. When releasing a fish make sure it has recovered before finally releasing. Fish early in morning when temperature could be lower or not fish at all.



It might be wise in hot conditions we have experienced not to fish and aim for the beach, but We all want to go fishing! Maybe if this is the trend for the future, we need to close fisheries and reduce fish stocks in lakes during high summer. Please do not blame fishery owners for difficulties catching but be patient and understanding.

PE

Chairman's Chat

This looks a big one ! Yes it is, this is Bonneville Dam fish pass which as you can see is a pool and weir. This replaced two Boreland Lifts, copied from dams in Scotland which did not work! Yes it can and does happen. Like all fish passes, an essential requirement for success is that the fish must enter them, obviously. Anyway this pass is on a massive dam and is designed to have a high fish capacity and it does. One year over a million fish of thirty two species ascended. And some say fish passes don't work!



Bonneville Dam Pool and Weir

The dam is built for hydro power which was designed to generate lots of cheap electricity from the Columbia River to power the American factories to produce weapons etc for the second world war. In fact, that the allies (principally the

USA) out produced the enemy, was the reason why we / they won. *(cont'd)*

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The turbines which generate the electricity also damage about 15% of the juvenile fish which are drawn into them. There are no adult casualties, as Pacific Salmon do not have produce kelts i.e. they all die after spawning. To replace these turbine losses, the power company has a fish farm which raises replacement stock. There are also efforts to minimise losses of juveniles through predation etc on their downstream migration to the sea. As usual Americans think big; the smolts are collected in (very big) barges and taken to the sea and released. All good work but very expensive of course.

By comparison, I remember being told that Barcombe has been stocked - Jim the Fish had been seen on site with a bucket !

Tony W

Howard Dodsley

Took this nice 3lb Thick Lipped Grey Mullet on a mud shrimp pattern on evening of 30th July – safely returned, of course



Ray's Ramblings

Back in June I wrote about some of the things that keep Billy Connolly awake at night. Well this month I've got one of my own - is a person who dresses flies a fly tier or a fly tyer? Mike Dawes in his two books uses Fly Tier but Oliver Edwards in his book uses Fly Tyer. Des Watson secretary of Ouse Valley Flyfishers and FDG member has done some research and it seems that tier comes mainly from America and the U.K. usually use tyer, so it seems that both can be used and I can sleep soundly at night and now get on with what I was going to write about this month.

You may recall that in one of my early Ramblings I told how I had first qualified for the England team. In fact three of us had qualified from the South East region and we decided to travel up to Scotland where the event was due to be held in the autumn on Loch Leven. The other two travelling were Chris Howitt who had fished for England several times and who had won the Spring International at Rutland Water that year. The other was Hugh Frew who like myself was fishing his first. It was a bit of a tight squeeze in the car with our fishing tackle, fly tying gear and clothing and we also had in the car the trophies that Chris had won earlier and needed to be taken back. We joked that it would be easier on the return trip because we wouldn't have the trophies to take up room.

On the first practice day I was paired with Chris and we fished the area we had been allocated. I had a few pulls but didn't get any fish and Chris had one and lost another good fish. In the evening the team discussed the areas fished and the successful flies and tactics.

On the second practice day I was out with Geoff Clarkson who two years later was to be my team manager when I fished in the World Championships in New Zealand. He wanted to fish the same area that I had fished the day before with Chris. This day we had a boatman - an old chap by the name of Will Stark who was eighty nine years of age.

With three of us in the boat it drifted slower - there were no drogues allowed - so I was able to fish my flies deeper in the fresh south west wind. By 2 pm I had taken two Browns on a Soldier Palmer and a small Appetiser and also lost several others after having them on for a few seconds. We then moved to a fresh area and Geoff had a fish on the Appetiser and I lost one. I must admit that I was not trying too hard as I had learnt a lot about the flies to use, the taking depth and the best area - a fact that had not escaped the sharp eyes of Will who said to Geoff "the young laddie dinnae seem to be trying awful hard" He was quite correct as I knew where the information would be going. When we finished we went to the bar and I asked Will if he would like a drink. He replied that he didn't as

he would be driving. Later I looked out of the window and saw him get on his bike and cycle off - some eighty nine year old!

In the evening after the team meeting I tied more of the successful patterns and it was well worth the effort as the next day of my match winning catch of eight Browns seven of the fish fell to the Appetiser or the Soldier Palmer. And the three who had travelled up to Scotland had a good laugh because we didn't have any more room on the trip home as we still had the trophies that I'd won with us.

Ray Burt

AN EYEBROOK ADVENTURE

Most of you will know that as well as being something of an anorak at tying flies, I also play the clarinet. Recently I subscribed to attend a weekend workshop in Northampton for a two day session on jazz improvisation.

Without boring you all rigid, the workshop was fantastic, meeting up with some of the most talented people in the country.



As I had negotiated the weekend away with my "commanding officer", I decided to add a day to my stay in the Midlands and have a day's fishing at Eyebrook.

I do not know if you know this fishery but I can recommend it most heartily. The reservoir was built to supply water to the Corby steel works as it was then; the steel works is long gone. Its claim to fame is that it was used in World War 2 as the practice lake for the 617 Dambusters Squadron. Apparently it had the same contours as the dams on the Rhine.

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Unlike its near neighbours at Grafham and Rutland, the lake is not used by sailing boats nor surfboards - fly fishing only. It is privately run in conjunction with Draycote water. The lake is not as large as Bewl and nowhere as deep. The fly life is abundant and the fish free rising.

I fished it many years ago and had a great day, so I could not pass up the opportunity to fish it as I was staying only 30 minutes from the lake.

Due to the Covid restrictions in place I had to book well in advance and I reserved a boat and 4 fish ticket. There are numerous ticket options including catch and release.

I awoke to find the sky a bit overcast, but not too perturbed I set off to the venue.

There were not many anglers out that day and I was directed to my boat. The water keeper informed me that the Southern shore was the place to be as there were many fish feeding on small snails and a black fly was working really well. Off we set full of enthusiasm and hope.

The weather forecast was really quite accurate - there was a gentle westerly breeze of 25 - 35 mph. There was a slight ripple on the water - , about 2 foot waves!

The drift of the water was just enough so that the anchor would not hold the bottom and the sight drizzle turned out to be intense horizontal rain.

After some 4 hours of racing across the lake, I decided to call it a day and returned to the lodge. I apologised for coming in before my time as it was only 12.30, to be told that I was the last boat out and they were concerned if I would get back in!

The comments from the water keeper summed up the day completely: "You should have been here last week!"

I then travelled the 130 miles back to Sussex on a beautiful summer's day only to turn off the headlights and the windscreen wipers as I entered my driveway.

It does not always go to plan does it?

But I will be back.

.Alan Middleton

ARLINGTON

South East Water has taken the decision to extend the fishing season further into September. At the present time the water temperature is 20° and they have taken on board comments about opening the fishery during September when the weather/water temperature is cooling down.

From 1st September you will be able to fish until 4pm each day.

Start times remain the same and member tickets will be £10 for a 2 fish, £15 for a 4 fish. Non-member tickets will be £20 for a 2 fish ticket and £25 for a 4 fish ticket.

Facilities at the lodge will remain closed this season. Catch details will not be posted on the website but anglers can get this information by ringing the rangers and it will also displayed on the board at the fishing lodge.

South of England Autumn Game Fair

The South of England have decided to hold the Annual Game Fair again this year. I request volunteers to erect, dismantle and man the tent. This will give those who man the tent an opportunity to view the Show.

Fortunately (for me) a high standard of fly tying is not required!! Please email me your availability at tonyfishway@gmail.com.

Friday 2nd Oct Delivery and erect *

Saturday 3rd Oct Demonstrating

Sunday 4th Oct Demonstrating

Sunday 4th Oct Dismantle & removal

* Tents etc to be picked up at Patcham at 2.30 pm.

Regards to all - see you all after Lock Down.

Tony W

FORTHCOMING OUTINGS

Get your bookings in NOW for these outings:

TROPHY DAY

Please note change of venue

This is our premier event when a multitude of trophies are up for grabs. Get your entry in now to Peter Winder: phone 01273 973499 or e-mail peter.winder@btinternet.com

CHRISTMAS OUTING & LUNCH BRICK FARM –Sunday 6th December

Get your entry in now to Peter Winder: phone 01273 973499 or e-mail peter.winder@btinternet.com

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