



Sussex Branch Newsletter



JANUARY 2019

Christmas Outing Brick Farm 2nd December 2018

A very mild day for December, but it was dull and cloudy with a fair breeze. Fourteen anglers fished, and everyone caught at least two fish – 39 were caught in all



The fish were high in the water, chasing lures pulled fast. No browns were taken but several blues, the largest of which was taken by **Peter Winder** at 1 lb 9 oz, only one ounce better than both Alan Wells and Richard Thomlinson. Best bag of the day was **Cliff Brown** with 9 lb 1 oz with Bill Black following at 7 lb 6 oz.



Best rainbow of the day went to **Roy Page** with 3 lb 7 oz, followed by Cliff Brown at 3 lb 1 oz.



Annie and Caroline laid on a really good buffet – more than we could eat, and or thanks to them for a memorable day.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held on 10th January 2019

Some 28 members attended this year, but there several who were suffering various ills who could not make it - where were the rest of you? The reports of the officers were presented and are available with the minutes. However, mention must be made of the Treasurer's report, which revealed a substantial loss of over £1500 for the year, mainly due to lack of revenue from the cancelled iFISH and very high donations to charities. This led to discussion on how to rectify the situation, including the possibility of raising subscription rates. Membership had continued to decline though we welcomed 5 new members and recruitment of new members is vital.

All officers were duly re-elected, but the Secretary gave warning that this would be his last year, after 19 (or is it 20?) years in the job. David Painter, Neil Benstead and John Cooper also resigned and volunteers to replace them are invited to contact Paul Bond.

As is now the tradition, the meeting was followed by a quiz, accompanied by mulled wine (non-alcoholic!) all orchestrated by Alan Middleton – many thanks Alan!!

The **JONATHON GLOVER TROPHY** for services to the Branch was awarded to **Alan Wells** and the **ALBERT HORNE MEMORIAL TROPHY** for services to fly-tying was awarded to **David Walker**.

Chairman's Chat

A shallow V flow gauging weir - that is to say a weir with a specific cross section (upstream slope 2:1 downstream slope 5:1) which has a known stage / discharge relationship, although in this case the crest slopes towards the centre of the weir to allow accurate measurement of very low flows.



SHALLOW "V" WEIR

As usual, what is the brief? In this case, providing passage for eels (they mean elvers), without reducing the flow measuring accuracy of the weir by much.

So what are the options ?

1. Cut in a concrete channel into the weir beside one of the side walls and line the channel with brushes or special plastic tiles with "pimples". OK but the sides of the weir are much higher than the upstream water levels at low flows and so the cut would have to be deep. The Structural Condition Survey shows that the weir is of poor construction consisting of rocks and gravel faced with had placed concrete. It follows that the cut would/could render the side wall and weir crest unstable – unacceptable risk.

2. Fix special elver tiles on the back face of the weir; to obtain a flow from upstream the weir would have to be cut (see 1 above) or a pumped water supply with the flow split and the pass crest to provide a flow down the pass with a jet to wash elvers to upstream. OK once again but the tiles would require a side support and the pass will vulnerable to bird predation and will drown out at higher floods, washing elvers down the pass. Not recommended.

3. A metal duct with opening lid could be fixed to the side wall of the weir going over the top of the crest and with chute to upstream. Flow would be via a pump discarding at the duct crest providing a flow downstream and a wash to upstream water levels. This is the one we recommend, hopefully job done – as they say.

Happy New Year,

Tony W

FLY-TYING COMPETITION

This year we go 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 **The Double Badger #10**

Intermediate **The Royal Wulff #10**

Open **Paraloop Olive #14**

PATTERNS - see Summer 2018 "Flydresser"

Salmon **The Executioner #10 double**

Saltwater **Cockroach #1/0**

PATTERNS - see Spring 2016 "Flydresser"

Pike The Leveller

PATTERNS - see December 2018 Newsletter (from Dec 2011 "Fly Fishing and Flytying")

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

LAST CHANCE FOR THE "BIG FISH TROPHIES"



Fish must have been caught before 31st December 2018 from a Sussex water.

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

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

Ray's Ramblings

This month I'd thought I'd give you a break from my competition exploits and because it's the start of another year some tips for the waters you might be fishing would be helpful.

Most of my fishing is what might be termed two method fishing, in that two methods will cover most of the situations that you will encounter. We'll start with bank fishing reservoirs such as Arlington. Here, at the start of the season in late January with the water cold, the method most likely to catch will be boobies on a fast sinker. I tend to rig up a leader about six to seven feet long with a dropper half way along to fish two different colours. On warmer days a floating line with a team of three superglue buzzers works well - this method is helped by a favourable wind blowing from behind, but it can be achieved in a headwind by shortening the leader; side winds are probably the worst as a floating line drifts the flies round too quickly. The branch event at Powdermill, which is fished early in the year, covers both bank and boat fishing and here again two methods suffice. Because of the ban on boobies there, from the boat an intermediate line with blobs seems to work best, while on the dam it's usually a floater with nymphs and buzzers that produce the fish.

At Arlington when the boats go out in April again you will find two methods cover most situations. Early on if it's cold, I find fishing at anchor with a fast sinker and two boobies, though spaced further apart on a longer leader, is best. As the weeks go by and the water warms up, the fish will hopefully move up in the water and then the floating line comes into its own with either a team of buzzers or a washing line set up with a booby on the point and two nymphs on droppers. If the fish start to rise it's easy to swap the nymphs for dries, like hoppers.

As the season progresses the branch has further outings to small stillwaters like Duncton Mill and Chalk Springs. Here, where the water is clear, my favoured method is stalking. Chalk Springs is ideal for this method and it also works well on Birch Lake at Duncton. On the other lakes at Duncton though, because they are shallower round the edges, the fish tend to keep further out and then a floating line with bead head blobs cast out and allowed to fish on the drop before being retrieved are successful. If you're lucky enough to get on rivers, again it's either of two methods that will work. If the fish are rising you obviously turn to dries like F Flies with sloped back CDC wings or emergers like CDC Shuttlecocks. If none are rising and the rules allow, it's time to fish nymphs to visible fish and rely on the movement of the fish or watch for the white flash of its mouth as a signal of the take. Later in the year when it's time to fish for Grayling, it's one of two methods. I favour bugging with a French Leader and nylon

indicator, provided you can get near the fish, but if they are particularly spooky the Duo method with either a dry fly or suspender device is easier to fish at range and is good where the depth is uniform.

I hope these tips help and give you a successful season in 2019.

Ray Burt

THINGS TO DO IN 2019

- GO FISHING MORE
- FISH MORE OFTEN
- FISH ALL THE TIME
- FISH MORE
- NEVER STOP FISHING
- FISH A LOT

SALMON FLY WORKSHOP

Saturday 2nd February

Patcham Community centre.

Any more for the workshop?

There are still some places available so let Alan or Roy know as soon as possible as numbers need to be known so that the materials can be obtained. The format will be similar to previous years, though this year we will be charging participants £10 to cover the cost of materials and room-hire.

The session will start at 9.00am and finish by 4.00pm. Tea and coffee will be provided but you will need to bring your own lunch.

The flies Alan has selected for the workshop are **Moray Doone**
Gallentine

Both are in Terry Griffith's book "The Essential Kelson"

All materials and hooks will be provided although you will have to bring such items as tying threads, black and white, together with your own tools.

Whilst none of us actually use these flies for fishing, the construction of them will act as an aid to tying the flies you normally tie. Such techniques as thread management and wing construction can play an important part in developing your tying skills.

In previous years we have mounted the flies in frames or cast them in resin to create a lasting memento of the course.

The course is restricted to ten individuals. For further details contact Alan Middleton on tying evenings and register your interest with him, Tony Harrison or Roy Gurney – phone 01273 581519 - or e-mail fdgsussex@gmail.com .

FEBRUARY SPEAKER IAN MACKENZIE

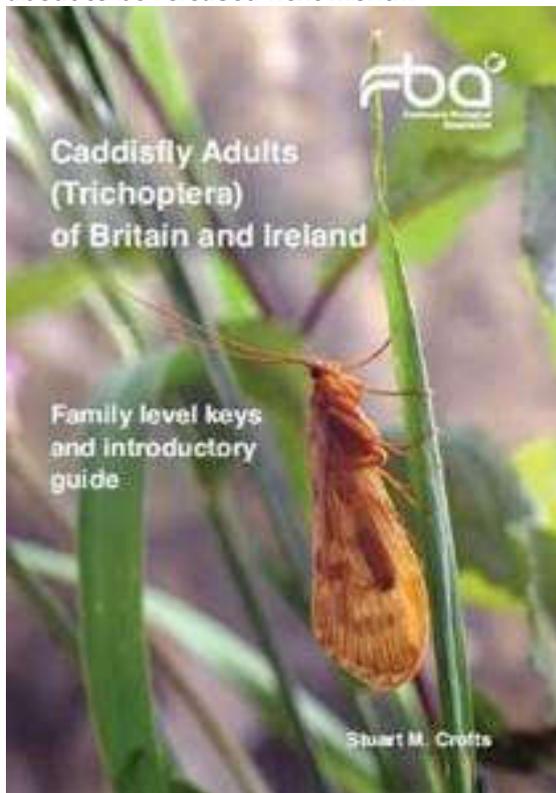
7th February 2019

Ian makes a welcome return to demonstrate his latest twist on fly-tying and relative matters. Ian is the ex-CEO of Fulling Mill and is now a regular on the fly-tying circuit with his realistic yet simple flies.

Stuart Crofts

Stuart is due to be our guest speaker in April and Phillip Ellis has sent us the following:

Paul mentioned Stuart Crofts speaking to us last night. This morning I got details of a book on Caddis Flies he has written and about to be released next month.



Quite an achievement for a man who has not had academic training on the subject, similar to John Goddard, as they both turned a hobby into an academic study.

SPRING AUCTION

The date for our Spring Auction has been set for **THURSDAY 21st MARCH** at Patcham, as usual.

Please note that no further entries can be accepted for this auction as we have many items left of Brian Raw's estate and other entries omitted from the last auction.

Catalogues can be downloaded from our website at www.sussexflydressers.org.uk when available **towards the end of February.**



iFISH 2019

Planning is now under way to determine if it is worthwhile to hold our flagship exhibition at the South of England Showground on October 13th 2019.

As soon as it is confirmed that the show will be viable, the basic groundwork will be put in place, further details will be announced accordingly.

PARKING

I know this has been a pain in the butt for many, but if you remember that the gates to the school car-park are not closed till 8 pm (and we start at 7.30) there is normally plenty of room. We have access to the key to let you out, although a bit of co-ordination so that all depart at the same time at the end of the meeting does help!

We will try to let you know in advance if the school has an evening event when it can be a bit frenetic, but this depends on them advising us!

Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

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