

The Flydressers Guild

Sussex Branch



Newsletter



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Flydressers Guild

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Chairman's Chat Apl 21
Another difficult one, they are all difficult if you understand the problems. As you see, this is Cardiff Barrage (CB) where (static) sea levels in a 100 year storm can reach +7.87 m and the lowest astronomical tide (low tide) can be -6.30 m, it follows that the largest tidal range is 14.17 m. The highest tidal range in Sussex is about 7.0 m. So the tidal range at CB is the second highest in the world (highest Bay of Fundy, Canada). To add to the problems the proposed maximum retained water level behind CB is +4.00 m i.e. much lower than the sea. Four problems require four solutions. To allow fish to get to the fish pass at low tide, cross walls were built across the whole barrage in the sea to "pond up" water below the barrage (not shown) and to get fish from the sea to the barrage.

Given that a slope from the Bay to the sea is required to allow fish to swim past the barrage and up the River Taff (which outfalls into the Bay) could be a problem. In addition at low tide the downstream side of the barrage is fully exposed and as the tide rises more and more of the Barrage is accessible via the tide. At high tide there would be no flow from the Barrage and the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 states that a fish pass should be operational "at all states of the tide". A further requirement was to provide an ideal water velocity through the fish entrances at all states of the tide (about 1.0 m/sec). Four problems require four solutions. To allow fish to get to the fish pass at low tide, cross walls were built in the sea to "pond up" water below the barrage (not shown) and to get from the sea to the ponded water, a pool and weir pass was built on the downstream side of the Barrage. (also not shown). The rising tide moving up the side of the pass was provided with three fish entrances to prevent fish swimming past the main entrance. To ensure that water flows from the pass system to the sea at tide levels above bay level, 1000 HP pumps were installed to ensure that 15 tons of water a second is pumped to and flows down the pass continually (see blue line below the pass on the cross section,). See cross section; the pass itself is a series of pool and weir "steps" which will allow both salmonids and shad to ascend and rest when required. An internal elver pass was rejected by the Environment Agency. At the upstream head of the pass water flow to the pass and the bay water level are controlled by a Fishway Gate which tilts and also contains a further fish pass.

These small copies of the drawings give no idea of the size of the pass, the walls are 70 ft high and 10 ft thick the pool and weir pass is 30 ft wide. The structure was built in the sea together with the rest of the barrage. The boat locks on the barrage are the highest in the world. If you go to Cardiff, I suggest that you spend a day viewing the structure; most people (!) find it very interesting. The barrage has transformed Cardiff Bay. If you have read this far, you deserve a medal.
TW

Chairman's Chat

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Diagrams to support this article can be found at the back of the news letter.

Cinder Hill Fly Fishing

Cinder Hill Fly Fishing offers affordable fishing in Mid-Sussex with 2 x 3 lake locations in private natural unspoiled surroundings. This friendly syndicate is run by a volunteer committee and manages all aspects of the fishery from stocking, maintenance and events such as the Fly Fishing demonstrations at the South of England Show, charity events and fly casting tuition (when available).

The Cinder Hill syndicate has been in existence for over 30 years and offers members 25 visits per annum for a cost of only £285.00 and members can make 2 visits per week (1 to each venue). Each site has a self-signing in hut with a catch returns sheets for completion, and entry is by a padlock code. There is a catch limit of 3 fish per visit with limited catch and release in the early part of the season on selected lakes while conditions allow. The secluded lakes are renowned for their fantastic hatches of damsel flies throughout the season along with mayfly and many other species of natural fly life, and are regularly stocked with Rainbow and Brown trout of the highest standard up to 4lb plus.

There are usually spaces for new members at the start of each season (March 1st - November 30th), and if you are interested please contact Robert Nathan- Membership Secretary on Tel: 01892 770903 or email r.nathan@btinternet.com



Zoom Meetings

Our weekly Zoom meetings continue to be well supported, but we would still like to see more members joining us. We have 4 more sessions before the end of the tying programme so there is still plenty of opportunity to join in. The forthcoming sessions will be covering synthetics and substitutes.

Flydresser Binders

David Painter now has a number of these binders available for members at £6.50 each. Should you be interested in obtaining binders please email David at painterchrhl@aol.com

Are you Ready for the coming season?

With fishing and our new season getting nearer I have given some thought to my tackle as I am sure not the only one requiring sorting out and here are a few tips and thoughts. Time to go through your tackle bags by emptying it to find items you thought you no longer had or finding two of the same! Make a list of items in need of replacing or missing.

Are you ready

Rods

Get them out of bag and inspect rings for wear that may need replacing also clean rings of debris using warm soapy water. Remember if you used bead flies, they can seriously damage a rod if they hit the carbon fibre, so maybe the rod may need replacing. Check the cork handle in good condition and smooth to the hand and winch turning freely.

Reels

Take them apart clean, check for wear and apply reel grease to moving parts.

Lines

Probably the most abused piece of tackle and not cheap costing between £50 - £100. Take it off the reel, best using a line winder. Examine for wear & cracks and if excessive replace line. More lines now have loop connection, check that for condition and if no cut off and use normal connection. Wash line using soft soap detergent, dry and then apply a line treatment. Also check backing still in good condition replacing if not looking good.

Leaders & Tippet material

Replace your leaders is a good idea and avoid using those long-braided connectors. It is far better to use a nail or needle knot as it provides smoother action through the tip ring when you have a fish on. Alternatively, the Roman Moser minicon braided loops are a good alternative, Snowbee offer an alternative that is cheaper and is identical. I have been using tippet rings for the last year attached to end of leader and the main advantage is that when you replace tippet you do not shorten leader every time. Check your tippets spools and maybe needs discarding if a few years old as it deteriorates if left in sunlight.

Landing nets

Check them for condition holes, damage and replace net if likely to fail. Oil and grease moving parts.

Fly's

No doubt you would have tied lots and before you buy another fly box go through them discarding those that are past their best. Try and group them together to make it easier to find. As I do different types of fishing, I have boxes to cater for each need i.e., river and lakes.



Clothing

Is your waistcoat in good order, zips working and all gadgets still hanging securely? Should it be washed? Boots and waders clean and not leaking, may have perished during winter. For wader repairs contact Wader Dave based in Scotland.

By the time you have done all this you may then consider buying new tackle to start the season, rod you always promised yourself. Have you purchased a rod license?

From the desk of Ray Burt

In the absence of any fishing trips to report on the February Newsletter came to my rescue with a couple of interesting items. The first was the book review by Alan Wells on "Trout and Flies Getting Closer" by Peter Hayes and Don Stazicker. I have not read this treatise but have read Peter Hayes earlier book "Fly Fishing Outside The Box - Emerging Heresies" that came out in 2013. It's a book of twenty two chapters dealing with all aspects of river fly fishing and questioning a lot of firmly held beliefs. For example on Chalk streams where fishing is nearly always upstream only, Peter asks why are our dry flies dressed in the normal way which when cast have the tails facing upstream - the wrong way round - so he ties some patterns reversed. He goes on to mention how the flies take off and how wind direction will affect which way they float down. Does the same apply to nymphs - Stuart Croft the well known Yorkshire angler believes that some species of nymph swim downstream while rising to the surface as they are unable to make way against the flow. Ron Holloway who kepted on the Itchen for twenty five years and spent time lying flat on footbridges was of the opinion that nymphs swam head upstream and plane up with the current so perhaps nymphs should be tied reversed as well. Cosmo Barrett, Skues and Sawyer were all aware of the reversed tied fly but little was written about it and how many of us have nymphs tied like that? He goes on to provide hints on casts to avoid drag and then on why

we are advised to degrease the leader. He is of the opinion that the tippet is less visible to the fish when it is floating. I know that when I used to fish the Stour at Chilham using dry lies it was almost impossible to sink 7x (3.5lb) or 8x (2.4lb) Grand Max Fluorcarbon even after degreasing it - it used to bother me but found that I caught quite enough fish with the tippet floating and as Peter says if it's sinking the fish will have to push past it to get at the fly. In another chapter about floatants he writes about the time he got fooled by the head river watcher of the Wilton Flyfishing Club who told him that the best floatant for flies was Anusol. Eventually Peter plucked plucked up the courage to go into Boots and get some but found that it turned the flies pinkish white all over and sank them like a stone. The second item in the February Newsletter was the bit by Philip Ellis about Chewing Gum Material. I got six of the colours when they came out about four years ago and tied up several bead head patterns but the only one I've used is a pink version that on one occasion did very well with the Grayling on the Upper Avon, but since then I haven't used it much. The same thing happened when Squirmy Wormy material came out - I got all twenty two colours from Flybox and tied some up in several colours - the one that worked the best was the Bloodworm Red colour that caught quite a few fish at both Duncton Mill and Chalk Springs and was also pretty successful at Chalybeate Springs when the Tunbridge Wells club had a Squirmy Wormy only event there. And then of course there were the Mop Flies - again I got several colours and the best I found was the Chartreuse colour that worked well at Coltsford Mill but like the others I don't tend to use them much now. Perhaps one day I'll set myself a challenge to catch four fish - one on each of a Squirmy Wormy, a Chewing Gum, a Mop Fly and an Apps Bloodworm. The latter worked well at Chalybeate Springs a while ago when after fishing for three hours with various coloured tadpoles without a fish I changed to an Apps Bloodworm and caught three in fifteen

Christmas & New Year Quiz 2020 ANSWERS

- a. Geoffrey Bucknall
- b. Dr Bell
- c. Gold Rib Hairs Ear
- d. Cats Whisker
- e. Temple
- f. Dog
- g. 61
- h. This is where the largest British Fly Caught Salmon was landed by Miss Georgina Ballantine on 7th October 1922, weighing 64lbs.



Attachment for Chairman's Report

