

The Flydressers Guild Sussex Branch



Newsletter July 2023

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Flydressers Guild

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Fishing the River Exe

Being a member of both the Motorhome and Caravan Club, plus the Camping and Caravanning Club for a number of year I have taken advantage of the various locations that offer on site fishing. My wife and I travel the UK to enjoy the scenery and history, while allowing me to get in a few hours fishing.

Some sites offer free onsite fishing, while others you still need to pay the fees, which are

usually cheaper to those visiting on a day ticket.

Fly Fishing availability is very limited, but they are out there.

This year, having already managed 3 days Carp fishing on the Cambridgeshire Fens which resulted in catching numerous fish. I then found a location at Dulverton, on Exmoor. This Caravan site was literally on the banks of the River Exe, and offered free fly fishing on a 600 yard stretch.

Standing on the bank side, fish could be observed. The river had high banks, the banks being 5ft high. High water marks were visible which during a heavy rainfall would have meant the depth would have been several feet higher.

The only trouble was that during my time there, the water level was low. Wading in the river the deepest was around knee high. The river had occasional large rocks, but because of the low water levels they were easy to negotiate.

I used a 7ft, 4 weight rod which was ideal for the location, with small dry flies size 20 and 22..



One evening I had several takes but no luck in landing any fish.

I even paid a visit to the local tackle shop, Lance Nicholson, who advised that I was fishing a too smaller fly and should move up a

size or two. Even with this advice I still failed to land any fish.

From a wildlife perspective, the bird life was exceptional with Kingfishers, Dippers, Buzzards, and many of the common species we get at home. Deer and Otters have been seen in the area, but not during my visit.

My thanks to Phillip Ellis for the information about Lance Nicholson, the shop was well worth a visit, and for the information on the area.

Simon Rickard

South of England Show 2023

It was decided that Sussex Flydressers Guild would attend the Sussex County Show held at the Ardingly Showground on the 9th, 10th and 11th June 2023. For change it did not have horizontal rain, force 10 gales or snow, although it did get quite hot.

The Gazebo was erected by Bill Black, Peter Winder and Tony Kaatze on the Wednesday before the show opened and the tables were set up on the Friday morning when we arrived.

On the Friday the stand was staffed by Alan Middleton, Bill Black and Tony Kaatze. As Alan on the stand we were able to answer any questions that were forthcoming from the public and 'old' fishermen. We saw quite a few old friends and acquaintances who stopped for a chat.

On Saturday it was staffed Alan Middleton, Andy Wood and Peter Winder. Andy put on his sales hat on and it looks like we will now have 2 new members which is excellent news to hear.

On the Sunday we had Noake Akiba and myself on the stand. Noake did attract some attention with some older fishermen surprised at her skills and requests for some sample flies. Although we are not allowed to sell flies we were giving away flies that were left over from the Ifish show, this I hope gained us

some friends. As this was the last day the Gazebo had to be taken down and my daughter Alison turned up to help in the afternoon.

As the stand was well staffed it gave the opportunity for the members of the Guild to look around the show and make some purchases, hopefully everyone who attended enjoyed themselves and thank you for everyone who helped.



Looking forward to seeing everybody at the Autumn Show

Tight Lines
Tony Kaatze

Carp on the fly Springbarn 17th June 2023

A new venue this year: Springbarn near Kingston. This is a private angling club with two lakes, one with a wide range of coarse fish, and the main lake stocked with mostly carp. We were fishing the main lake. Several SFDG members are also Springbarn members and fish there regularly. The lake is surrounded by trees with fishing pegs cut between them. A short section of the lake is relatively open but has only three pegs. This was going to make fly fishing a challenge!

Tony Woolnough arranged for us to have the main lake to ourselves for the day and arrived early on Saturday morning with me (both Springbarn members) to welcome our anglers and explain the lake layout and the facilities. I made an early circuit of the lake, feeding floating mixer to make sure the carp were feeding before we started fishing. Tony stationed himself by the main road to direct people down the track to the lake. There was more cloud cover than on the previous few days and it was a little cooler, although it was to get much warmer as the day went on.

There were nine of us fishing for the day and, once tackled up, everyone chose his fishing position. Surprisingly nobody initially chose the open pegs but instead took on challenging casting around the trees. A simple roll cast was sufficient from most of the pegs as the carp come close to the bank.

The dog biscuits were chucked in and almost instantly everyone had fish in front of them slurping up the snacks. Within a few minutes Bill Black was first to strike. The fish escaped but Bill was soon into another. However, those trees had crept up behind some of our anglers and Harry Atkins and Andy Wood moved to the vacant open pegs.

The carp were very obliging and everyone was catching regularly. Having settled everyone in, Tony and I could wait no longer and were soon tackling up ready to join the action.

Harry landed a good carp and soon after Andy landed a big ghost carp estimated at around 8lbs. Maybe all the big ones were in that part of the lake. But this proved not to be the case and several carp in the 8 to 10lbs range were landed. Keith Verrall landed one that he estimated to be a good double.

After a break for lunch the fishing resumed and again the carp were being caught regularly by everyone. We all noticed that they seemed much bigger in the afternoon - perhaps all the small ones had eaten their fill! Mid-afternoon Keith landed the biggest carp of the day, which weighed 12lbs 14oz.



Keith Verrall

Other SFDG members fishing on the day were Jim Harris, Brian Hill and Steve Mustchin. We all had a great day and caught numerous carp.

An Andy Wood carp.



Thanks to Tony for arranging the outing and to Bob Marshall at Springbarn for allowing us to fly fish. Hopefully we can do it again if we can find a suitable date in the busy Springbarn fixture list.



Steve and Wayne

Wayne Duerden

2023 start Date

A note for your dairies that the new start date for the next fly tying season is September 7th, 2023.

The venue as usual is Clayton Village Hall.