



## Sussex Branch Newsletter



**MAY 2019**

### Great Start to The Season's Competitions at Powdermill



*The team (L to R):*

**Martyn Gray, Richard Tomlinson, Des Watson, Dave Painter, Ray Burt, Neil Benstead, Tony Woolnough, John Lindley, Bill Black, Nathan Winter and Ray Love (AW behind camera)**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April saw our start to the competition season with the annual bank/boat competition at Powdermill Reservoir.

Despite the vicissitudes of sat-nav we all made it on time and your's truly, thankfully, with an intact clutch! After set up we managed to wrinkle out those sheltering in the comfort of the log burner's warmth to make a start. Skies were overcast and temperatures a little low but the main annoyance was a rather bitter northerly wind. I was on a boat in the morning and whilst it was possible to find some shelter with careful anchoring on the water, those on the bank had a difficult morning with the dam facing straight into the wind. I managed to catch just one from the boat with my Hastings boat partner blanking. Most boat's fared little better in the morning but thankfully Nathan and Ray Love managed to find some fish, coming in with 4 fish each Dave had 2 & Bill managed one as well. On the bank meanwhile, anglers were suffering in harsh conditions which led to only Ray Burt and Hasting's Derek Cole taking one fish each. So many were relieved to hear the klaxon for lunch at 12.30 and the chance to warm up in the lodge.

This break also gave a chance for information swaps and this helped those in the pm boats to do a bit better. Martyn and Neil both caught six fish and Ray Burt took his remaining five fish.

Sadly Richard and the Chairman failed to trouble the scorer but Des and John managed to pull one each into the boat, adding to the steady accumulation of fish for our team. On the bank it was still hard going but Dave, Ray Love and myself managed 2 fish each.



**Our individual prize winners (L to R):  
Dave, Ray B and Ray L, and Martyn**

By 5.00 pm everybody fully deserved the very ample BBQ and beverages supplied by our generous hosts. At the final calculation SFDG ran out winners with a healthy margin of 66lb 8 oz compared to HFFC's 39 lb 5 oz – so the Cup is ours again! We also did well on the individual prizes with Ray Love taking best overall bag, Martyn best boat bag, Ray Burt best fish from the boat and Dave P best fish from the bank. Mr Telford from HFFC took best bank bag and several anglers from both sides benefited from raffle prizes.

Thanks again to our hosts and particularly Mary Stacey and Vic Partridge for organising a great day.

**A Wells**

### **ARLINGTON OUTING**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019**

Get your application in **URGENTLY** to **Alan Wells** as we have to book in advance for the preferential rates.

If you can't make it during the day you can have a wonderful evening's fishing and afterwards we all gather at the lodge about 8.30 pm. for refreshments

If you've mislaid your entry form, Download one from the website [www.sussexflydressers.org.uk](http://www.sussexflydressers.org.uk) E-mail Roy at [roygurney33@gmail.com](mailto:roygurney33@gmail.com) or phone 01273 581519 **immediately.**

# Stillwater dry fly fishing

## Part Two

### General approach

When bank fishing, a useful tactic is to initially cast a short line as fish often patrol the margins as much of their food is found in shallow water. I've witnessed this at many lakes and caught fish a few feet from the bank. If you are quiet it is possible to see fish rising barely a rod's length from the bank, so standing well back and casting across the bank if the grass is short means that little of your fly line is on the water. Once you have cast a short line slowly extend your casts to cover more water, looking all the time for surface activity. Again, fan cast leaving the fly on the water for a minute or so and then recast. Slowly cover the water all the time looking for fish movement and be ready to cover fish rising further out. If there are no fish rising my 'go to' flies are Hoppers, Bobs Bits and Klinkhammers in size 14 or 16, tied in black, claret or fiery brown depending on the season. Concentrate hard as fish can rise to these flies when nothing appears to be moving and it is easy to miss a take, although I've often found that fish can take these flies so confidently that they can hook themselves.

### When you see rises

When there are only occasional rises and you are not sure what is hatching use a general search pattern and fan cast in the area where the rises took place as it's possible you can interest the fish in your fly. Resist the temptation to start retrieving the fly and leave it on the water for a few minutes or so before recasting. The smallest twitch is as much as you should attempt to give the impression of a fly trying to break the surface. You'll be surprised how often you can bring a fish up to inspect your fly if you leave them on the water. If you get a fish to rise but it turns away consider changing the fly, remember it's either size or colour or your leader visible on the surface. The old adage when in doubt try a smaller darker fly can make the difference. As the dry fly can bring up the larger rainbows and browns you need to be ready for strong takes and deal with heavy fish on light tippets.

If a fish rises and takes your fly don't strike – tightening is sufficient. If the trout is taking flies confidently in the surface then it is sufficient to just tighten. On the other hand, if the trout slashes at the fly, probably trying to drown it in order to take it subsurface, then you need to give it time to turn down and the hook to penetrate. Over-enthusiastic striking is one of the main reasons for missing takes. One of the advantages of dry fly fishing is the reduced risk of deep hooking. Most trout taking dries will be hooked in the scissors as the fish turns down on the fly, leading to easier unhooking so long as

you have completely flattened the hook barb or tie your own flies on barbless hooks.

Although leaving the fly static on the water is my main approach this is not an exact science and there are other options which I use at times. If I see fish moving in the vicinity of my fly gently drawing it across the surface can elicit a response, or a very slow figure of eight retrieve can bring results with fish following the fly and then trying to grab the fly as it reaches the bank. If there is strong wind disturbing the surface stripping a deer hair pattern, such as Muddled Hopper or Daddy, through wavelets can also bring a response. In calmer water when using a CdC pattern a short pull can sink the fly and then as it pops up again it can attract the fish's attention. When sedges are on the water later in the evening here a series of short twitches and even skating a fly over the top of the water can lead to slashing takes as the trout tries to catch the fly before it leaves the water.

Alternatively, if fish are rising regularly try to work out what they are taking (refer to the main naturals and hatch times) and tie on an imitative pattern. Here a knowledge of the rise forms can be a great help. This will give you an advantage as you can adapt your methods to suit the conditions. If you see a fish rising and it's in your casting range cast and drop the fly in front of the last rise form. Don't cast at the actual rise as the fish will have moved on. If you can observe the direction of fish movement this can help you place your fly in the right place. Fish often move against the breeze which can give you an idea where to place your fly. Again, don't immediately start retrieving, give the fish time to find your fly with the occasional twitch to attract their attention. If you fail to get interest consider changing the fly as it may be colour, size or how it is sitting in the water that results in lack of interest.

It can also help if you are able to identify what sort of rises are taking place. Are they gentle sips, barely susceptible at the surface which suggests the fish are taking emergers caught in the surface tension or are there positive head and tail rises to nymphs heading for the surface. Or in the evening slashing rises which means sedges are hatching. To help understand rise forms it's worth purchasing a small book *'Matching the Hatch'* by Peter Lapsley and Cyril Bennett which is very helpful if you are learning to understand the different rise forms and the range of flies that may work at different times of the season. Another book worth dipping into is Peter Cockwill's *Trout, From Small Stillwaters* which although an introductory book has some helpful short sections on dry fly fishing. Also keep an eye open for articles on dry fly fishing in the angling magazines.

I carry a small pair of binoculars which are useful for scanning larger waters for fish movement. It is surprising how often fish are

sipping flies on the surface that barely register on the water and are easily missed at distance. Similarly bulges in the water or flattening of the surface indicate that fish are feeding near the surface and can be difficult to spot particularly on larger waters.

#### **Flat calms**

One area that can cause problems is when there is no wind on cloudless warm days and the water is a flat calm. Flat calms can be challenging and here the small emerger reigns supreme as naturals will have difficulty breaking through the surface tension. A fly that sits in the surface film such as the CdC Shuttlecock, Shipman's Buzzer, Klinkhammer or Midge Emerger can make the difference. Flat calms also mean delicate casting with a longer leader and light tippets and the smallest flies. When retrieving avoid creating a wake on the surface which alerts the trout and ideally lift off cleanly and recast to reduce disturbance. It is also essential to thoroughly degrease the tippet so that it avoids looking like a large piece of rope on the glassy surface.

Another area where flat calms can cause problems is when you need to cast across it to reach fish rising in rippled water. The action of wind can concentrate food in particular areas of a stillwater and where trout are likely to be found moving upwind to intercept food that is brought to them. If there is a flat calm between you and the rising fish you risk alerting them as your leader and fly line land in clear water. Try to find a location where you can cast directly into rippled water where the fish will be less wary. If you can also cast across the wind your fly will also be more visible to fish as they move upwind and have a better chance of successful hooking. The one thing to try and avoid is your fly dragging when the wind puts a bow in your line as this will put the fish off taking your fly.

#### **Dries in winter**

Although dry fly fishing is my main tactic from spring through to late autumn, I also take every opportunity to use it in the colder months too. Midges hatch throughout the year and although rises may be fewer in the day due to lower temperatures, when the sun is at its height around midday it is not unusual to experience a rise to buzzers. Here a Shuttlecock, Shipman's Buzzer or Hatching Midge size 16 or 18 can be successful and adds to the variety and enjoyment of fishing stillwaters throughout the year.

If you haven't fished dry fly before it's a skill worth developing as it will lead to great satisfaction knowing that you are deceiving the trout with an artificial the fish recognises as a food source and in turn leads to a greater understanding of the behaviour of fish, natural flies and different rise forms. I hope this article is a helpful introduction to dry fly fishing and will encourage you to have a few dries in your fly

box and provide another option when you see fish rising. I'm sure if you catch on the dry fly you will want to use it again whenever conditions are favourable. Maybe it's time to leave the wet flies at home!

**Terry Scragg**

### **Chairman's Chat**

Yes we do build lakes as well - when asked. If it is a trout lake a client wants, we usually discourage them. Unless you have an existing lake, a trout lake is totally uneconomic, in our view. The one success we did have, was building a dam across a valley on a rough bit of ground, unsuitable for agriculture. We told the Client not to stock it, put an advert in the local paper seeking angling clubs which would want to lease it - let them put up the toilets, stock the fish and check for ticket holders. I pointed out that you could still take the dog around in the evenings and speak to the anglers. He took my advice and the first years lease paid for the dam.



#### **Burnt Oak Lake**

Back to the present lake. The Client owned a number of carp fishing lakes (one of which holds the record UK perch) and wanted to improve the aesthetics of the site, so that he could build a bungalow overlooking it at some later date. This was the most uneconomic lake building method, i.e. digging a big hole in the ground and using the excavated material to form a dam. We also planned to fit a hydraulic ram in the stream below to feed the lake. You may recall that a hydraulic ram requires no motive power what so ever. The principle is that a large low of water at a low level is sufficient to pump a small flow of water to a high level; clever. If you look on ordnance sheets you will see "rams" shown on various streams.

As usual we had problems obtaining Planning Permission, despite the lake being sited within an existing fishery. First the Planning Officer objected due to the increased traffic which the anglers would produce, until I pointed out that there would be a similar reduction elsewhere as a car can only be in one place at a time. He checked the construction drawing to ensure that no dam was to be built; due to my bad back I

had to lean on the drawing board, accidentally covering the detail of the 7.0 m high dam !! Then the locals complained to the EA who sent a representative who came on site like Herman Goring but calmed down when we showed him the Planning Approval.

As you see, the lake was built and a surprising outcome was that masses of juvenile carp appear each year, which the Client is overjoyed to sell.

We were thinking that it was Job Done until the Client received a letter from the EA calling for an Extraction Licence to keep the lake fed with water. I did a few checks on various weirs on the site and was surprised (but not as much as the EA) that more water was coming out from the lake than went in. Fortunately we had broken into a spring, which kept the lake "sweet".

**Tony W**

### **CASTING CLINIC** **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

We will be holding a free casting clinic on the evening of Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May, starting from 6.30 pm, at **Stanmer Park**. There is plenty of parking and the site will probably be just on the left after the entrance (depends if there are any other activities which might clash). We all need a "refresher" so do come along and benefit from those instructors who give their services *gratis*.

Make sure you got your fishing license this year.  
They are getting real sneaky...



***In the absence of a formal report and results here is one from one of our newer members, also new to fly-fishing***

### **SxFDG v. Sx STCUK** **Duncton Mill - 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

My second fishing competition! Hoping for better luck than last time, when I caught a fish eventually, but after the competition finished! ha. Fingers were crossed - although it was a bit cold for that, so they were wrapped around my hand warmer. We saw a massive herd of deer on the early morning journey which was superb, and loads of pheasants.



#### **Team Sussex FDG**

So Saturday 13th April found us at Duncton Mill near Petworth getting ready to meet Sussex Fly Dressers Guild team, and the team from Sussex STCUK (Salmon & Trout Conservation UK) for 8am when we were read the rules and drew lots for what lakes we were to fish from at the 3 different time slots. It was a lovely sunny chilly day, very still compared to the last comp. I'd drawn to fish on Coote & Alder Lakes first. I knew I wouldn't fish Alder, it's very narrow and looks like lots of trees and underwater hazards - not helpful for a newbie! So I went for Coote - lovely and calm, hoping for some fish. Again, I'm stood next to the guy that catches the first fish within a matter of minutes from the hooter going off! Same as the last competition! Obviously my fly lured them in close, they just took their fly, not mine first!

So I started with my midge-tip line, as Coote isn't as deep as Birch. But I was having trouble casting it out far enough, something I have been struggling with. So after a change of flies to something a bit heavier and warming up my technique a bit, remembering all the hints about casting, it got a bit better. I moved to another spot, but still nothing biting.

Others were catching... "what are you using?" ... floating line, sinking line, buzzer, blob... seems no matter what's being used, others are catching fish. Umm!

I'd not used my floating line before, so gave that a go. I've only one rod, so stripped it down and

changed reels. I don't mind doing that but the annoying thing is having to put my prescription glasses on to be able to do it, so that I can see the eyes/rod rings and tie knots, and switching over to my polarised sunglasses each time..



**Cootie**

.Oh, I can cast better with this line, similar to my sinking line which I found easier to cast too. That's a good feeling, must just be getting the timing wrong with the midge-tip perhaps.

Anyway that session was over before I knew it, and it was all change, onto our next lakes. As people moved around you could see some empty fish bags still, like mine... and some with some weight in already.

Popping to get a coffee, I found out that some had full fish bags already, mostly all from the first session on Birch. Wow! Back to it, on Rosies, which has some nice spots. I find I still have to consider the spot I choose wisely with my less than perfect cast; I have to check for closeness of trees and shrubs, and angles to cast. Still doesn't mean I don't get hooked up on stuff, but less likely to. And for me, the wind direction is another consideration. As I can't yet cast so far out, casting into the wind doesn't work so well, and with the wind coming from the right, as a right hander, the hook is likely to end up in the back of my head or face! It's also good to see, not disrespectfully, that others get tangled up sometimes too.



**Rosies**

Changed flies, changed lines, nothing biting. Then it was lunch time, put on by the great

rangers at the Mill. Some had already bought more fish tickets to go get more fish after lunch too; others were just enjoying the weather and facilities.



**Lunch in the clubhouse**

Found a swarm of ladybirds were in the barn where we had lunch, all different colours. Don't think (hope) any dropped onto my plate! So I'm thinking, gotta catch on Birch, but then so many were caught in the morning, would there be any left for me?? Seems not - tried everything again, copied what others were doing, did other things different. Mostly on sinking line as it's so deep. Then the hooter went - end of session. OMG, I just had a bite, doh, so I cast again, another one... doh, doh, it's too late now, but just enough to keep me wanting to go again.

A blank day, but a nice day, with lots of casting practice at least. Ached a bit by the end, a long day, so still more technique to improve on it seems. Nice to hear a comment from a chap from the other team, who thought my casting was better than his, he was a relative newbie too. Thanks for that.



**Sally at work!**

Fish caught were weighed, there were some 3lb+ and although no total weight added up at the time, but total fish for SFDG 35 to STCUK 27 (to be confirmed). Good job rest of my team knew what they were doing and not relying on my count!

Many thanks again to team members for their support, encouragement, suggestions and continued efforts to get me off the mark - it's

much appreciated. I'll get there! It's nice to know that the flies I've been tying have been catching fish (at other times) and are actually starting to look like the real things.

Roy and I went back out to fish after the competition finished to see if he could catch one last one (he had caught 3 already - one from each lake which is great). After a quick rain shower and chilly wind, the clouds cleared and a perfect warm sunny evening of just quiet (well ducks, coots, geese, swans, birds etc.) in the beautiful lake setting was bliss.

Tight lines (next time?) and at least, far less knots this time!

**Sally P**

## Ray's Ramblings

Sally Page's report on the Brass Monkey event at Hazelcops and her problems casting in that pretty atrocious wind reminded me of some tips I gave to the Ouse Valley Newsletter a couple of years ago. One was to learn to cast well. If the fish are close in and you can't cast very well you'll probably get some, but if the fish are a long way out you'll struggle. By overloading your rod by one line size you'll see an immediate increase in the distance you can cast. I'm self taught and certainly don't claim to cast well - a few years ago Charles Jardine was watching me cast and said that my casting style was terrible but that I shouldn't change it because the line went out a long way. Sally probably noticed that day that some of the time I backcast. I've tried to cast left handed but it's not been very successful so I just turn my back to the water and let the line go out on the backcast. By doing this it prevents your fishing position being dictated by the wind direction. I see that the branch are having a Casting Clinic at Stanmer Park on 16 May at 6.30pm - that would seem to be a good occasion to get some free tuition.

Perhaps some of the tips that I have learnt over the years might be of interest. One is that I never used to be a fan of Airflo lines but over the last few years they have improved a lot and I now use the full range of Forty Plus lines. They cast well, have little stretch so that takes are felt better and a strike connects more positively and I wouldn't want to be without a floater, a slow intermediate, a fast intermediate, a Di3 and a Di5. With regard to leaders I do not bother with tapered leaders but use pure fluorocarbon straight through. One of the best of these I have found to be Riverge Soft Plus which has a higher breaking strain for it's diameter than most others. For example Fulling Mill .23mm is 7lbs breaking strain but Soft Plus is 13.7lbs. Again Fulling Mill .18mm is 4lbs but Soft Plus is 8.2lbs. Yes Soft Plus is dearer but you'll have saved money by not buying tapered leaders. For bank

fishing with a single fly go for a ten foot leader - with two flies up this to thirteen feet the dropper eight feet from the fly line and a further five feet to the point. For boat fishing go for a sixteen foot leader with three flies at six feet from the fly line then five feet and another five feet. All of these distances can be varied depending on the strength of the wind, it's direction and water clarity. For joining sections of fluorocarbon I use a two turn variation of a water knot - it's not easy to show if you want to see it just ask me. The only other knot that I use is the TUCKED four turn blood knot for joining leader to fly line and for attaching flies. I've heard good reports on the Davy Knot but I find it quicker to use the blood knot that I've been using for over forty years than spend time to learn the Davy knot even though the latter looks neater. With regard to flies there are a few other points to consider apart from knots. As members of the Fly Dressers Guild you'll no doubt be tying your own flies and the first thing to consider is hooks - always use good quality ones like Kamasan or Tiemco. Only the other day I was fishing at Moorhen and an angler there was losing fish after fish. When he eventually looked at his hook it had been opened out. He won't be using those flies that he got cheap on the Internet again that's for sure. So the point here is to always check your hook after losing even one fish. With good hooks it's not likely to be the problem but it only takes a few seconds to check. Another time to check the hook is after getting caught in a snag - if you get the fly back check that the point is not damaged - my way of doing this is to draw it across my thumbnail - it should dig in but if it slides across it needs some attention with a hook hone. With flies it's best to keep to a few patterns that as time goes by will build your confidence. Have some tadpoles with marabou tails and fritz bodies in black, white and orange both with and without gold beads and also some Boobies in the same colours for use with the fast sinker or for fishing the washing line. Then have some imitative flies like Damsels, Diawl Bachs, Crunchers, Cormorants and Buzzers and you'll have a set of flies that will catch in ninety per cent of situations.

## FLY-TYING RESULTS 2019

Hearty congratulations to the winners of the trophies, presented by Tony Woolnough at the End of Season Night on 14<sup>th</sup> April:

Novice	Dave Otterson
Intermediate	Susannah Pattinson
Saltwater	Alan Wells
Pike	Simon Rickard

There were no entries for the Open or Salmon categories - where were yours????

## Catch and Release of Trout

We have all seen Trout badly handled in a catch and release situation. This includes fish dropped into the water, fish dragged out on to the bank, fish unnecessarily removed from the water for unhooking, and large fish needlessly killed because “they won’t go back”. It is our responsibility to treat our fish with respect, so for the benefit of us all, here is the best practice advice I can find on catch and release fishing.

### Key aspects of catch and release

Effective catch and release fishing techniques avoid excessive fish fighting and handling times, avoid damage to fish skin, scale and slime layers (that leave fish vulnerable to fungal skin infections) by nets, dry hands and dry surfaces, and avoid damage to throat ligaments and gills by poor handling techniques.

- Use the strongest tackle suitable for the circumstances to minimize fighting times
- Bully the fish in when playing it, to minimize fighting times
- Use needle-nosed pliers or a catch and release tool to aid unhooking
- Always use Barbless hooks\* to minimise unhooking time and damage to the fish
- Do not remove your catch from the water. Leave your fish submersed during the unhooking and release process
- Always minimise any handling and, where necessary, use wet hands

You can minimise tangles and make handling easier by keeping your fish in the water and turning it upside down. Most trout remain docile in this position.

Generally speaking trout should not be removed from the water. If this is should become necessary due to line tangle around the fish or for any other reason, key aspects of handling include:

- Only ever touch the fish with wet hands
- Avoiding touching the fish with dry surfaces (e.g. shirt fronts) or laying them down on dry surfaces (e.g. dry ground, punt bottoms)
- Never squeeze the fish or rip a hook out
- Hold your fish horizontally and support them under the belly
- Minimize their time out of the water (ideally 20 seconds maximum)
- Support the fish gently upright in the water until it swims away

If your catch is exhausted from a long, drawn out fight it will enter a state of almost unconsciousness. In this condition the fish will not be able to swim off when you release it. Instead the fish will float belly up. If this occurs or if you suspect that your fish is too weak to swim away you will need

to resuscitate your catch by performing Fish First Aid.

- Find a place where the water is clear, where there is no mud or sediment stirred up by the process of netting and landing the fish
- Place the fish in the water gently, supporting its mid-section
- Move the fish gently back and forth until you feel it revive and start to swim away.

The effects of catch and release vary from species to species. Trout caught on the fly are usually hooked cleanly in the mouth, somewhat minimising injury and aiding release, and a number of scientific studies have shown extremely high survival rates (upwards of 97%) for such fish where they are handled correctly.

Most importantly, there is little difference in the survival rates between large trout and small. You should never kill a big fish out of the assumption that “it won’t go back”. There is no reason not to return fish of any size, provided they are properly treated using the guidelines above

## JOHN WATT COMPETITION 24<sup>th</sup> August 2019

This annual boat competition between the branches of the Flydressers’ Guild is fished the Saturday of the Bank Holiday weekend at the end of August. Like last year, it will be held at **Draycote Reservoir**.

As usual, our stalwart captain for this event, Chris Nunn, will be aiming to recruit two teams, so please get in touch with him ASAP to book your place as he needs to know what accommodation to book. You don’t have to be an international to fish - it is a friendly day on one of the best waters in England, when you can meet up with anglers from over the whole of the UK.

The Branch pays for your fishing, so your only expense will be for travelling and a B&B if required.

Let’s see if we can regain this Trophy, which we won in 2016.

Chris’s phone is **01825 765272** and e-mail is [chrisandairi@btinternet.com](mailto:chrisandairi@btinternet.com) if you have mislaid the booking form.



## 2018 FISHING TROPHIES

*Presented at the End of Season Gathering*

### Peter West Trophy - Biggest Rainbow from Sussex water

Ray Burt          Duncton Mill          6 lb 12 oz

### Brown Trout Cup - Biggest Brown from Sussex water

John Burt          Brick Farm          7 lb

Sadly, John passed away earlier this year and the trophy was "awarded" at his funeral

### Members' Reservoir Plate - Best Fish from Sussex Reservoir

Ray Love          Arlington          5 lb 4 oz

### Frank Darrah Memorial Trophy - Pairs

Ray Burt & Martyn Gray    12 fish – 26 lb 1 oz

### Branch Trophy Day

### Jimmy James Memorial Trophies - Best Bag

Ken Pearce          9 lb 6 oz

Andy Wood          7 lb 7 oz

### Plowman Trophy - Best fish

Ken Pearce          4 lb 7 oz

### Best Brown, Tiger or Brook trout

Martyn Gray          2 lb 4 oz

### Stillwater Challenge - Chalk Spring

#### Jim White Pairs

Ray Burt & Paul Davis    18 lb 9 oz

#### Best Fish

Paul Davis          3 lb 12 oz (brown)

#### Best Bag

Howard Dodsley & Paul Davis - tied    9 lb 10 oz

### Brass Monkeys Day 2019

#### Best fish

Keith Verrall          2 lb 12 oz

#### Best bag

Keith Verrall

Unfortunately a number of recipients were not present to receive their trophies and they are now "in store" at my house. No doubt there is a sigh of relief by some that they don't have to clean them, but neither am I keen to do so!

Equally unfortunate is that any photographs of the presentations have not reached the editor, so mug shots are not available!

A new custodian of trophies is being sought, so please let any committee member know and a handover can be arranged. It is intended that a review of trophies and awards be made before next season, so the sooner the better.

## Demonstrating at Shows

As you know we often have stands at various Shows. For these, we need some members to demonstrate fly-tying and talk to the visitors to our stand in the hope we can recruit new members,

We stress that you don't have to be a "gold standard" tyer – the idea is to show that anyone can tie and enjoy the experience of catching a fish on a fly you've tied yourself.

Why not volunteer for a Show – you get free entry and the chance to wander round the rest of the show from time to time.

Our Chairman, Tony Woolnough, organises the roster, and in particular he is looking for volunteers for the Chiddingstone Autumn fair on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September and the South of England game fair at Ardingly on Saturday and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> October (and also Friday 4<sup>th</sup> to erect tent and set up).

Contact Tony at [tony@fishways.com](mailto:tony@fishways.com) or phone 01273 483833

## STILLWATER CHALLENGE

### Chalk Springs

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Book your place now!**

This very popular event, when we have this top fishery for the day, has trophies galore and a barbecue lunch included.

The price of £50 includes the BBQ and a four fish ticket. Gather at the lodge about 8.30 am for the draw for your partner for the Jim White Pairs trophy, with weigh-in at 4pm.

There are still a few places available, so hurry!

If you've mislaid your entry form, E-mail Roy at [fdgsussex@gmail.com](mailto:fdgsussex@gmail.com) or phone 01273 581519

**immediately.**

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