



2011 Early-Season Newsletter

Early-Season Update

The season has been pretty good, so far this year, despite the rather strong winds from time to time and the long dry spell of April and May. By the end of May some 1,000 fish had already been caught; and stocking continues in the ponds, subject to water temperatures being reasonable for the trout.

Again, a number of larger fish have been stocked this Spring. One of 6 lbs was caught at Figgs on May 8, the Guest Day. To end May the largest caught was a rainbow of 8 lbs 8 oz; in June a guest landed one of 10 lbs 4 oz. Mike Rudd says there are still a good few such monsters in some of the lakes; though they may be lurking deeper, they do surface from time to time. Go get'em

The May Fly hatch has been quite good this year and extended over several weeks. Mayflies were also abundant on the river Rother. Little Springs has been very productive this Spring and Upper & Lower Bognor lakes have been fishing very well until mid June, when the fish became more challenging to catch.

The AGM on February 24th was again well attended, and gave members a good opportunity for meeting others and the committee, and for sharing ideas and views at the start of the season. Andrew Thompson gave an entertaining and informative talk on the work and developments on the Rother – with many lovely illustrations. The after-AGM party was well-supplied, as usual, and went very merrily!



Apparently June is the real beginning of the carp season. So do go and try – with dog biscuits, artificial bloodworms etc. Cox's has not been fished much so far this year and there are plenty of exciting carp to be caught – and returned.

Season Opening Day: opening of the new Fishing Hut

On March 12 the new fishing hut was opened officially, with a most welcome glühwein party most kindly provided by our Chairman. It was a great occasion, much enjoyed by all – especially those



who re-stocked their larders and freezers with fresh trout. Very many thanks, Mrs. Wilson.

The hut seems to be very popular and well used by Members. Our thanks to the Leconfield Estate who contributed considerably towards it – not least in getting it all set up. There is a barbecue kept outside the hut: this is for use by members. After use, do please leave it as you would hope to find it.

Bring a Guest Day

The early season barbecue at Great Springs on May 8 was a really beautiful, sunny, Spring day and very well attended, with some 35-40 people taking advantage of the cooking by our Chairman, members of our committee and Bailiff. It was good to see several youngsters having a great day fishing. On the day there were 36 fish caught.

Members were very grateful for the help from Brian Smart, our friendly local instructor. Many thanks again, Brian.

Our thanks go especially to Mrs. Wilson and to Mike Rudd for orchestrating a most enjoyable and fun event.

We do hope that members attending the day with guests will do all they can to encourage them to join the club.

In the afternoon, after the Hut opening, George Clevett (pictured) caught a beautiful 6lb 3oz rainbow trout at the Southern end of Lower Figgs, near by the sluice, deep down, on a size 14 gold headed fly.



The Club at Parham Point-to-Point

Thanks to Mike Parry, Mike Rudd and David Robinson, the Club had a gazebo among the tents and exhibitions at this event on April 30. It was visited by a variety of people, from avid fishers (often for other species than trout), to browsers by non-fishers for curiosity or possible interest in our sport. A short demonstration of different types of casting (Overhead, Spey, Snake-Roll, etc.) was given on two occasions in the arena.

No new members have joined from this venue, but one or two might yet do so. If members know of other occasions

when we could try to encourage others to fish – and join the club – please do contact Nick Cutter at nick.cutter@smithsgore.co.uk or one of the committee.

Next Club event: Bring a Guest Fishing evening - 4 pm, Sat., September 3, 2011

At the fishing hut, Great Springs. £4.50 per head includes 2 fish per person and drinks and nibbles. RSVP The Estate Office, Petworth, GU20 0DU 01798 342502

Website

Thanks again to Tim Wardle, our Treasurer, the website has been updated again and is running well, with an extremely useful link to the Met Office weather forecasts. The website is:- www.leconfieldflyfishingclub.org.uk Photographs from members to add to the website would be welcomed. Tim adds the newsletters to the website in future to provide further information for our website visitors. Tim's e-mail address is: tim@leconfieldestates.co.uk

Fishing Conditions

With the recent sun and warmth, the waters in most ponds are beginning to warm up with temperatures currently ranging between 17- 20 degrees. Some of the fish may have settled rather deeper in the water; sink tips or sinking lines (or very long leaders on floating lines) may well pay dividends. Pheasant tail nymphs and even later season flies such as daddies and damsels have been catching fish.

For those of you who usually just use a nymph, why not try a dry fly, as the fish have been rising well on most of the lakes at various times even during the middle of the day. Try a small grey duster, a grey wulff, a coachman or a silver sedge and cast to a rising fish it is more fun and more challenging than using a wet fly!

All lakes are fishing well but the trout can be a fearful tease at times! Not many members have tried Jacksons or Cox's to date.

Mike Rudd has been hard at work keeping the once again rapidly-growing grass mown and trimmed on the banks and the weed trimmed, so we can best enjoy these lovely lakes. Don't forget to add some comments on the catch return sheets if only for Mike's information/enjoyment.

Newsletters

We are hoping to prepare these rather more frequently for you. **BUT:** they'll only be sent by e-mail. So please make sure that Nick Cutter has your e-mail address. Just send him a quick note at nick.cutter@smithsgore.co.uk

Parking

Please would members only park in the designated car parks when visiting the ponds. We regret there can be no exceptions to this rule.

The Rother

Do remember that you can arrange for days to fish the river. The 5 day membership is good value. (Details are on the annual subscription rates list; or call Andrew Thompson, the bailiff, on 07801 244 538)



Schools Day

The Leconfield Estates hosted the annual Schools Day at the end of May when 130 children from junior schools across the county were shown and encouraged to participate in activities within the various departments of the Estate to help them to understand how the countryside is managed. Staff from the Environment Agency talked about the ecology of the lakes, and the picture shows the children being taught fly casting.

Suggestions

If you have other suggestions, please let a member of the committee know.

Some e-mail addresses of committee members are:

Mike Parry mike.parry8@btinternet.com

Charles Stancomb cstancomb@sbi-i.com