

Dear Syndicate Member,

So far the 2017 season has been one of our best for several years with a high number of members and guests enjoying first class fishing at both the Cinder Hill lakes and at Piplye. Stocking has been approximately every 2 weeks since the start of the season and the final stocking was w/c 26th June at both locations with fish averaging 2lb. Water temperatures and oxygen levels have been favourable even during the hot spell in June and as we write in late July the fishing is still very good with a good stock of fish in the lakes and plenty of bag limits recorded. We have received lots of comments back from members who have mentioned how hard the fish are fighting as well as tasty eating.

A variety of successful flies feature this year but most notably, cats whisker, montana, black buzzer, blue flash damsels, damsels and the infamous R+C (rhubarb and custard AKA tequila sunrise!) along with a few dry flies.

Work Parties and Maintenance

Our lakes are maintained mostly by ourselves by Syndicate member volunteers on regular work party days. This year significant work has been carried out at both sites where we have removed many trees and branches to open up more fishing access, particularly on McArthur's and the causeway at Piplye Pool. Work parties are regularly notified to members by email and we would really encourage participation. It is actually a really good social occasion and the work can be suited for everyone. The toilets have been serviced and cleaned at both locations recently and are particularly presentable for our lady members and guests if required. Recent visitors to Cinder Hill will have noticed our refurbished hut with new floor and work surfaces and the intention is to replicate this at Piplye as soon as possible.

Remember every time you attend a working party you get an extra visit which is always useful if you want to bring a guest.



Mike Richardson in the deep end' at Piplye in June



Not quite the Savoy but good enough for purpose!

Website and Facebook page

Don't forget to visit the syndicate website every month as it is regularly updated with details of stocking and catches along with plenty of useful information – to access the members area the username is 'cinderhill' and password 'CH1502'

For those who use social media we have a Facebook page which usually has info and pictures added each week, and as members you can also post comments, pictures and anything else fishing related, please give it a try.

Annual dinner

On 16th June this year 30 members attended our annual dinner at the Cock Inn Wivelsfield Green and enjoyed a superb meal with excellent service along with an amusing local knowledge table quiz. The evening was deemed such a success that it will be repeated in 2018 at the same venue.

Cinder Hill Fly Fishing & Sussex Branch of STC UK at the South of England Show 2017.

June 2017 saw the Cinder Hill Fly Fishing Syndicate together with the Sussex Branch of the S&TC UK back at the South of England Show again and similar to previous years, we met up at the show-ground in Ardingly on the Tuesday before the show to set up our stand. The gusty breeze brought with it some challenges as we erected the tent and, luckily for us, we had the roof on before there was a brief shower of rain. The weather on Thursday, the first day of the Show, was dry but still rather breezy. Visitor numbers to the stand were moderate and well spaced with more adult casting candidates than juniors. Friday was very similar with the casting emphasis reversing and a larger number of juniors than adults. Saturday was, however, our bumper day with warm sunny weather, a lighter breeze and plenty of visitors to the tent. We saw almost 40 juniors who wanted to 'Have a Go' at casting as well as a good number of adults too. Many of the juniors showed great interest in coming to one of our Courses and our 'Trial Sessions' for people considering Syndicate membership proved very popular. This year we were lucky enough to have Henry Gould, who is a Member of the England Fly Fishing team, with us on one of the show days.

It was also good to meet up with some of our Members who popped into the tent to say hello. Our prize Rod this year was won by a very enthusiastic young man from Hurstpierpoint and our Hamper went to a lady who lives in Henfield. Once again I make no apology for mentioning our hard working band of volunteer Instructors and Members who make it possible for us to attend these shows which help recruitment to the Syndicate as well as the national fishing organisations. The Show was a great success and we are indebted to everyone who supported us. The new 'taster-day' offer has also produced some new members for the Syndicate which is very good news.



The incomparable Geoff Taylor (seated left) who organises and sells the raffle



Instructor Simon Young with England Junior Henry Gould

Connect with the Countryside Notes

Once again this July volunteers from the Cinder Hill Syndicate, together with the Sussex Branch of S&TC UK, supported the team of GAIA Instructors at the Connect-with-the-Countryside event held for schoolchildren from local schools at the Ardingly show-ground. It was a warm and sunny day with just a slight occasional breeze. The children visited our enclosure by the lake in class groups and as many children as possible were given the opportunity to learn the technique of Fly Casting by the team of Instructors. The pace was hectic from about 09:30 in the morning until around 2:30 in the afternoon, with barely a chance for anyone to stop for a drink.

The feedback from the candidates was good and, although brief, they all seemed to have enjoyed the experience. Finally, after the last child had been seen, with the school coaches filled and heading out of the show-ground, the instructors and volunteers adjourned to the pavilion, where a very welcome buffet lunch was provided for exhibitors by the show organisers.



Autumn Game Fair

We shall be attending the Autumn Show and Game Fair at Ardingly on the 30th of September and the 1st of October so why not come along and see us there. There are many interesting stands for fly tying, tackle, fisheries and we will represent the Syndicate.

Charity Day - September

On Saturday September 9th we will be holding a cancer charity fishing day at Piplye, where we are hoping to stock some extra large fish in advance of the day.

Details will be sent out as soon as possible, but in principle it will be open to the first 20 members who register for the day. We intend it to be a pleasant social occasion and will have a barbeque running through the day. We would ask all members who attend to make an appropriate donation and will advise which charities we intend to support.

This is of course weather dependant but the long range forecast looks favourable for early September, so fingers crossed.

New catch returns sheets

The new sign-in / catch return sheets include a box for members to tick or cross which lakes they have fished when they complete fishing. Please fill this in for us correctly, as it gives us an idea of the frequency each water is fished as this can determine where we invest in stocking, plus time and effort with working parties. With recent cormorant sightings at Cinder Hill it is also important to record these in the box provided as well.

Poaching

We have had a suspected incident of long-lining with baits at Piplye this summer and contact with coarse fishery clubs in the Mid-Sussex area have confirmed that there have been a number of recorded incidents over the past 2 years or so. Please be vigilant when you are fishing and report back to the Committee if you see anything suspicious and we will inform the Police and authorities as appropriate.

Catch and release

The 2018 season will see us allowing catch and release at the top lake at Piplye with the same rules as at Cinder Hill. This will be allowed from the start of the season until June or later if water conditions allow. This addition to our sport has been well received by members and if the rules are adhered to correctly will enhance early season fishing for lots of us.

Autumn Auction

Later on in September, we propose to hold another on line auction giving both Syndicate and Sussex S&TC UK members the opportunity to bid for some really exciting lots and, at the same time, help to raise further funds to maintain the Syndicate.

Lots will include donations from organisations who sponsored us in the past and include:

A Tour and Taste visit to Ridgeview Wine Estate

A bottle of Ridgeview's prestigious sparkling wine

Selectafly have donated a presentation box of barbless flies

Duncton Mill have provided a four fish ticket

Brick Farm Lakes have offered two separate lots of two fish tickets

Alan Purnell has agreed to provide three hours of one to one professional fly fishing coaching

The above lots have proved to be incredibly popular in the past and we hope the winning bidders will continue to enjoy these great opportunities.

In addition to the above, we have secured some new and exciting lots which will include:

Northall Clay Pigeon Club have donated a clay shooting experience. This can be enjoyed by either a complete novice with professional tuition or as an experienced shooter.

Mark Orchin, has kindly agreed to provide two hours professional guitar tuition to anyone who would like to consider starting to play or someone who would like to improve their current skills

East Sussex Gliding Club have offered temporary membership to their club.

Between now and September, we hope we can include more auction items. If you have any suggestions for items please let us know and we will do our best to include them.

Last years auction was very successful and we hope that members will continue to support the 2017 event.

And finally, best wishes from the team who run the Syndicate, please enjoy the fishing over the next few weeks. We hope the current conditions prevail to allow good fishing at the lakes for the rest of the summer.