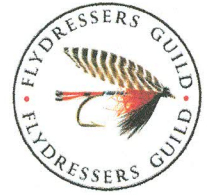


TVFDG AGM 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014  
Flowerpot PH  
Aston, Nr Henley-on-Thames, Berkshire.



**Present:**

Geoff Wilcox (Chairan)  
John Watkins (Secretary)  
Richard Ellis (Treasurer)  
Peter Watson (Senior Instructor)  
John Alcock (Web Manager)  
Richard Elbro  
Richard Bird  
Paul Lawrence  
Roger Tribe  
John Kendrick-Hurst  
Alex Adams  
Peter Devery  
Tim Bennett  
Alan Hancox

Apologies for absence received from Dave Creevey and David Jennings

The Chairman welcomed everyone and kicked off proceedings at 7:38.

**Minutes of previous meeting.**

The Secretary had previously circulated a copy of the 2013 minutes that were accepted as a true record of the 2013 AGM.

Proposed : Richard Bird  
Seconded : Richard Ellis

**Matters arising.**

No matters arising from previous minutes.

**Chairman's Report.**

Geoff said some heartfelt and very pleasant words about the branch and its members.  
Full report attached.

**Treasurer's Report.**

Richard provided a balance sheet (attached), and the bankbook to confirm we are quite solvent and therefore he decided there would be no subs collected this year.

Accounts proposed accepted: John Watkins.  
Seconded: John Alcock.

**Secretary's Report.**

See attached.

There was a matter arising from the Secretaries report inasmuch that he had stated in error that we did not compete in the John Watt's Trophy. We did compete and in fact we came fifth.

Suitably admonished the Secretary replied that members taking part in any events should file a report to keep us all in the picture.

**Instructors Report.**

See attached.

**Web Managers Report.**

John reported that the website was going well and had received in the region of 13700 hits. From places as diverse as Nicaragua and China.

There followed a brief discussion re content. The website was agreed to be a very useful tool for recording a lot of the information that was being circulated to members. But also that it could do with more input from members mainly with regards to publishing their own patterns.

#### **Election of Officers.**

All officers intimated that they were happy to stand again. With no objections they were re-elected on block.

Proposed Peter Devery.

Seconded Richard Elbro.

#### **AOB.**

- A team for the John Watts is being assembled.
- We will also be competing again in the FDG Bank Competition at the Elinor Fishery. We have wooden spoons to defend!
- Paul Lawrence was enrolled as a new Instructor. Being in need of another Instructor at Introductory/Bronze level to assist with the good intake of novices at the start of the tying season, it was decided Paul was the man.
- Suggestions. - Peter said to let him know of any program suggestions, patterns, outings or demonstrations, between now and the summer recess.
- The secretary reminded those present that any surplus flies would be welcomed by the bailiffs at Barn Elms Fishery where they would be sold on for charity.
- Geoff announce that he would like to start a new trophy based on his main love of river fishing. Details of the Chairman's 'Upwing Trophy' were circulated post meeting.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the AGM at 8:08.

The Secretary would like to add 14 members attending the AGM is a considerable increase on any other AGM attendance since he has been taking the minutes.

## Chairman's Report 2014:

Welcome to you all and thanks for attending the 2014 AGM.

My first comment to you all is congratulations. When I think back to our first meetings here at the Flowerpot we were a bit thin on the ground. Slowly but surely we have increased our numbers and with that the warm welcome which is extended to all who make the effort to come along.

The reason I mention this, I wish to put on record the sense of pride and friendship that prevails in the branch. This achievement is down to you, the members, and in no small part to one or two key members who have worked hard to create such a vibrant and successful branch.

By name they are Peter Watson, John Watkins, Richard Ellis and John Alcock.

Behind the scenes it takes time and effort to make things work, creating a diary of events, a syllabus for the Gold, Silver and Bronze awards, making arrangements and collecting information for the website and gathering fly tying materials, so we can all enjoy our hobby.

The result of all this effort is a number of members who have achieved what at one time they perhaps did not think possible. I congratulate all who have received accreditation awards, and as Flowerpot men or Tight wrappers in national competitions.

I know you need little encouragement to maintain your competitive edge, keep up the good work. Go for Gold.

I would like to end by saying it makes me a little humble but gives me great pride and pleasure, to be your Chairman, and I thank you all for that.

*Geoff*





## Secretaries Report 2013/2014

The Thames Valley annual tying competition took place immediately after the 2013 AGM and the close competition was won by Geoff Ray in the Silver category and Richard Bird in the Bronze/Novice category. This competition is becoming increasingly keenly fought and both guys did exceedingly well to emerge top dog. I'm sure the usual culprits will be coming back at them with a vengeance in 2014.

The flies submitted for this competition then went on to achieve the Team and Team R-Up in the FDG annual competition.

All communication from HQ and other sources is forwarded to branch members immediately. This includes auctions, fishing and tying competitions, forthcoming events, Chris Sandford's 'Stuff' and the Sussex branch newsletter.

Membership and attendance at meetings fluctuates slightly but we are maintaining a good core of regulars and we now boast more than 10 attendees at each meeting. Peter Devery and Tim Bennett have been regular attendees in the new season also Alan and Judy Hancox and Stuart Potter have shown interest in attending when other commitments allow.

The main Guild AGM was held once again at Lechlade Fishery.

Richard and I made the trip and fished the bank competition that followed. Richard reversed last year's achievements when he took the prize for top weight instead of lowest weight. I maintained my record at FDG competitions and blanked.

The timing of the Fred Watts boat fishing competition seems to prevent us submitting a team but 4 of us, 2 x Richards and 2 x Johns, fished the first FDG Bank Competition at Elinor Trout Fishery, some acquitting themselves better than others. John A and myself both blanked and won enviable booby prize of a Partridge mug each.

We still have a good number of members endorsing the Awards Scheme, and working their way through the various stages.

Richard achieved his Gold award this year and Paul Lawrence has been voted in as an instructor.

To commemorate all of our achievements back in May I wrote a poem. See attached.

The members who are not following the Scheme still attend and use the evenings for topping up their boxes and indulging in fishy chat.

The Grayling outings are well under way. There have been 3 very successful outings so far on the Test, and the last one is over the Christmas period. The annual trip to the Cammarch Hotel in Powys, Mid Wales doesn't look like happening again this year

The Website continues to be ably run by John A and is proving to be a useful way of circulating information to members and visitors alike. So don't forget, if you've anything to say, a fishing trip to report on, tips or patterns you'd like to share, just send your words/photographs along to John.

## IN RECOGNITION

First place and runner up in the FDG Team Competition.  
Richard & Alex in the FFFT league.  
Richard Ellis first in TV to achieve the Gold Award.

**The Thames Valley Boys go marching on  
Their triumphs undiminished.  
My Gold submission's been half done for about 2 years  
I really must get them finished.**

**Traditional flies that have stood the test  
We know they'll do the job.  
But when competitions come around,  
Where's my Orange Blob?!**

**A more disparate gang you couldn't find.  
But all in all quite pleasant.  
John the web was Maître D,  
Richard Bird bred pheasants.**

**My mate Geoff sold toys – for us!  
Peter is quite Civil.  
Richard is a white van man.  
And Paul he has his shovel.**

**In Autumn time we'll reconvene,  
In bad light and stuffed fauna.  
With thorax, hackle, hair and bead.  
And the landlady in a trauma!**

© *John Watkins 2014*



**Thames Valley Fly Dressers Guild**

**Income and Expenditure for 19 December 2013 to 11 December 2014**

**Accounting year 20013/2014**

Presented by S R Ellis Treasurer

<b><u>Brought Forward</u></b>		£
Nationwide BS		113.05
Cash		0.00
 <b><u>Income</u></b>		
Sale of books		480.90
Subscriptions		0.00
Interest (BS net)	31-Dec-13	0.18
Interest (BS net)	30-Jun-14	0.34
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>481.42</b>
 <b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
Website		80.38
Trophy		21.90
Refreshments		29.28
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>131.56</b>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>462.91</b>
 <b><u>Available as</u></b>		
Nationwide BS		462.91
Cash		0.00

Nationwide BS account 0796/704010761

In my opinion this unaudited income and expenditure account and statement of assets for the period 19 Dec 2013 to 11 Dec 2014 gives a true record for the branch.

S R Ellis  
Treasurer

G Wilcox  
Chairman

11-Dec-14

**Thames Valley Fly Dressers Guild Branch**  
**Instructor's Report to AGM 2014 at mid-point of 2014-15 Season**

**Overview of Members**

We have had a steady 10-12 members per evening so far this season, with four 'streams' of: beginners / Bronze, intermediate / Silver, experts / Gold, and some social / angling tyers. It has great to see so many actively competent tyers and in particular the progress and improvement made by all.

**Awards Scheme Progress**

During the past year the FDG has issued the Gold part of the Guild Awards Scheme, following the previously issued Bronze and Silver parts. The national FDG Awards Scheme is led by our Richard Ellis. We have converted to using the new Awards Scheme, supplemented with pattern sheets of similar flies from the old Thames Valley Accreditation Scheme.

This year we are running three courses in parallel (Bronze, Silver & Gold), with myself, Richard Ellis and John Watkins as instructors. We are recruiting Paul Lawrence to instruct at Bronze Level.

Progress during the past year amongst our current active members has been:

**Gold Level**

Achieved: Richard Ellis (FDG: 15158) (March 2014)  
 In progress: Paul Lawrence (FDG 17116)  
 Roger Tribe (FDG 17114)  
 John Watkins (FDG 15845)  
 Geoff Ray (FDG 15838)

**Silver Level**

Achieved: Richard Bird (FDG 17117) (March 2014)  
 In progress: Alex Adams (FDG 17379)  
 Mike Robinson (FDG 17517)

**Bronze Level**

Achieved: Alex Adams (FDG 17379) (March 2014)  
 Mike Robinson (FDG 17517) (March 2014)  
 In progress: John Alcock (FDG 16954)  
 David Jennings (FDG 17597)  
 Peter Devery (FDG XXXXX)  
 Tim Bennett (FDG 17689)  
 Just starting:  
 Alan Hancox (FDG XXXXX) / Judy Hancox (FDG XXXXX)  
 Philip Wellesley-Davies (FDG XXXXX)  
 Stuart Potter (FDG XXXXX)  
 Mark Bradbury (FDG XXXXX)

**Social & Angling Tiers** seen when time permits, tying around Silver level:

Geoff Wilcox (FDG 16263)



Jon McMillan (FDG 16935)  
Richard Elbro (FDG 16905)  
John Kendrick-Hurst (FDG 16493)  
Leo James (FDG 17531)

### **Instructors**

Peter Watson (FDG 12489)  
Richard Ellis (FDG: 15158)  
John Watkins (FDG: 15845)  
Paul Lawrence (FDG 17116) (appointment in progress)

Our tyers have shown themselves more than capable of completing a Bronze, Silver or Gold level course within our tying season of September to March, during which we meet around 16 times.

### **Instruction**

All of the instructors are there to help, answer questions and solve tying problems. Please do ask if in doubt, need something demonstrated or a pattern assessed. Collectively we have over 100 years of fly tying experience!

### **FDG Tying Competition**

Thanks to all who submitted flies for the Thames Valley Branch Fly Tying Competition.

We will adopt the same process as last year and select two teams of four tiers to enter patterns in the Group Award section of the national FDG Fly Tying Competition.

We had a huge success in the 2014 competition with our two teams winning 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places – a great achievement!

### **Materials**

I have stacks of 'surplus' fly tying materials – if you need something, please ask before going out and buying something, it is probably available for free.

### **Shows – for Recruiting**

We had members tying flies on the Partridge Stand at the SportFish Fly Fishing Show at Theale in May 2014.

We will be looking for volunteers to tie flies on the FDG and / or the Salmon & Trout Association stand at the SportFish Show at Theale on 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014. Please put the dates in your diary and let Richard, John, Geoff or me know if you can volunteer to demonstrate fly tying during a half or full day on either or both days.

### **Next Year's Programme**

If you have any requests for next season's programme or particular fly patterns or demonstrations of particular tying techniques – then please let me know.





**Thames Valley Branch Members at Dec 2014**

*Below is my record of our Branch Members as regards who is tying at which level. Please let me know if I have omitted any name or any detail is incorrect!*

**Instructor**

Peter Watson (FDG 12489)  
Richard Ellis (FDG 15158)  
John Watkins (FDG 15845)  
Paul Lawrence (FDG 17116) (appointment in progress)

**Gold Level**

Achieved: Richard Ellis (FDG 15158) (March 2014)  
In progress: John Watkins (FDG 15845)  
Geoff Ray (FDG 15838)  
Paul Lawrence (FDG 17116)  
Roger Tribe (FDG 17114)

**Silver Level**

Achieved: Richard Ellis (FDG 15158) (March 2011)  
John Watkins (FDG 15845) (March 2011)  
Paul Lawrence (FDG 17116) (Apr 2013)  
Roger Tribe (FDG 17114) (Apr 2013)  
Richard Bird (FDG 17117) (March 2014)  
In progress: Alex Adams (FDG 17379)  
Mike Robinson (FDG 17517)

At Silver level but tying mostly for fishing:

Geoff Wilcox (FDG 16263)  
John Kendrick-Hurst (FDG 16493)  
Richard Elbro (FDG 16905)  
Jon McMillan (FDG 16935)  
Leo James (FDG 17531)

**Bronze Level**

Achieved: Paul Brooks (FDG 16787) (March 2011)  
John Watkins (FDG 15845) (March 2011)  
Paul Lawrence (FDG 17116) (Jan 2012)  
Roger Tribe (FDG 17114) (Jan 2012)  
Richard Bird (FDG 17117) (Apr 2013)  
Alex Adams (FDG 17379) (March 2014)  
Mike Robinson (FDG 17517) (March 2014)

In progress: David Jennings (FDG 17597)

Peter Devery (FDG XXXXX)

Tim Bennett (FDG 17689)

Just starting: Alan Hancox (FDG XXXXX) / Judy Hancox (FDG XXXXX)

Philip Wellesley-Davies (FDG XXXXX)

At Bronze level, but mostly tying for fishing:

John Alcock (FDG 16954)

**Not seen recently:**

Pablo Lievano (FDG 17526)

Paul Brooks (FDG 16787)

Jonathan Oliver (FDG XXXXX)

Jason Todd (FDG 17095)

Mick Small – moved away

David Ord – moved away

---

Peter Watson

Windsor

4<sup>th</sup> December 2014

