



Present:

Geoff Wilcox (Chairman)
Richard Ellis
John Watkins (Secretary)
Peter Watson (Senior Instructor)
John Alcock (Web Manager)
Richard Elbro (Treasurer)
Roger Tribe
Peter Huggard
Philip Mann
Richard Bird
John Kendrick-Hurst
Gary Smith
Terry Morris

Apologies for absence received from Sean Doyle, Paul Lawrence, and Dave Creevey.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and kicked off proceedings at 7:40

Minutes of previous meeting.

The Secretary had previously distributed a copy of the 2018 minutes to members and they were accepted as a true record of the 2018 AGM.

Proposed: Peter Huggard

Seconded: Peter Watson

Matters arising.

No matters arising

Chairman's Report.

Geoff said some heartfelt and very pleasant words about the branch, its committee and members. He offered a vote of thanks to John Watkins who was standing down as secretary after 10 years' service. He also mentioned The Chairman's Upwing Trophy, details of which are on the website and wished all members best wishes for the coming year, and thanked Sean who has acquired a video camera etc. so we can show demos on the FP TV.

Full report attached.

Treasurer's Report.

Richard provided a balance sheet and it was decided that if we are going to maintain the website that subs would be required on an ongoing basis. Members present paid £10 to the treasurer as annual subscription. All regular members will be requested to pay £10 at the next evening they attend. New members will in future be requested to pay subs at the same time that they are requested to join the main FDG i.e. when they have completed their 3-4 week introductory period.

Accounts attached.

Accounts proposed accepted: Richard Ellis

Seconded: David Jennings

Secretary's Report.

John spoke about his and Paul's commitment to SWFFL Berkshire group and that Phil Mann had volunteered as a helper and is being sponsored for his AT Level 1.

For full report see attached.

Instructors Report.

Among other topics Peter praised our members who have been tying at the various shows including the BFFI, the shows across the South and as far afield as Ireland.

He also felt that perhaps the evenings were getting a little stale and if not now eventually somebody will have to come forward to take up the baton.

For full report see attached.

Web Managers Report.

John reported that the website was still receiving plenty of hits (143,000+) 30 of which were links from HQ. He welcomed any ideas for content and possible links to other sites. Also that any input from members mainly with regards to fishing trips and publishing their own patterns would be welcomed. It was decided that no content would be deleted as it serves as a good record.

Election of Officers.

With the exception of the Secretary all other officers intimated that they were happy to go or stand again as required. With no objections or nominations they were re-elected on block.

Proposed. Richard Ellis

Seconded. David Jennings

Peter Huggard volunteered to take on the role of secretary and was welcomed and thanked for coming forward. The incumbent stated that he would handle all current requirements, which includes informing HQ and hand over a clean sheet to Peter sometime early in the new year.

Proposed Phil Mann

Seconded Richard Bird.

AOB

Sean has stated that he is happy to continue in the role of events organiser. Many thanks Sean.

New member Terry Morris thanked everyone for making him feel welcome.

David Jennings said that he would make every effort to come up with a magazine article to publicise the branch.

He also mentioned forming a WhatsApp group. This could be useful if used correctly but needs discussing in depth at another time.

Geoff said that once our publicity poster is updated he will take a copy to Sportfish for display. We have one in Barn Elms. If anyone can find a home for any more let me know and I will forward a copy.

John K-H mentioned that we require more bodies if we are to field 2 teams in the annual John Watts Trophy.

Peter mentioned our sadness at the passing of our friend Pablo Lievano after a long battle with cancer.

There was a general vote of thanks for the outgoing treasurer and Peter Huggard offered a vote of thanks to the officers of the branch for keeping it running so smoothly.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the AGM at 8:30.

Post meeting note re TV Branch Fly Tying competition winners:

- No Novice entries
- Richard Bird - Trout
- Peter Huggard - Salmon

All the entrants were congratulated on the high standard this year and everyone was encouraged to submit their entries to the National FDG Fly tying Competition before mid-March when they will be judged by Peter Gathercole.

Chairman's Report 2019:

Welcome to you all and thank you for attending the 2019 AGM.

Once again congratulations. We continue on an upward trend and still looking to increase our attendances. We offer a warm welcome to all who make the effort to come along.

I have put on record the sense of pride and friendship that prevails in the branch, promoted by the members who continue to work hard to create such a vibrant and successful branch.

I would like to mention Sean Doyle who through keeping in touch with other FDG branches has acquired a Camera etc so we can show on the TV just how good we all are!! Well done Sean.

I thank the Officers and Members for their efforts, arranging trips, creating a diary of events, and adjustments to the syllabus for the Gold, Silver and Bronze awards, assessing and advising on the members entries, 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 vibrant growing group of members who have achieved awards and reached their goals.

Congratulations, to Paul Lawrence 2019 winner of the Chairman's Up Wing Trophy. Paul has not as yet claimed his prize of a days Chalk Stream Flyfishing with yours truly but I shall jog his memory.

Also Alex and Paul and their efforts to make the England rivers team, good luck to them.

I congratulate all who have received accreditation awards or are working hard towards them.

I know you will need little encouragement from me to maintain your competitive edge, keep up the good work and have fun while you do it.

I wish to remind members that the Chairmans 'Up Wing Trophy' begins again in December thru to April 2020 and you are all invited to enter.

The 2020 pattern is the 'Procloeon pennulatum'

The 3 life stages of the 'Large Spurwing' The details are on the website.

The committee look forward to receiving any suggestions as to any new Social/Fishing events and please let us know of any new ideas you wish to see introduced.

I would like to thank John Watkins for his long service (10+ yrs) as our Secretary and record our appreciation for keeping us all informed and up to date with events!

I would like to end by saying it gives me pleasure, to see everyone enjoying the social side of our branch, the camaraderie and simple sharing of the pleasures of fly dressing, not to mention catching fish!!

Best wishes

Geoff

Chairman



THAMES VALLEY FLY DRESSERS GUILD

Income And Expenditure for 14th December 2018 To 12 December 2019

Accounting Year 2018/2019

Presented by R C Elbro Treasurer

<u>Brought Forward</u>		£
Nationwide BS		£ 142.76
Cash		£ -
<u>Income</u>		
Subscriptions		£ -
Merchandise		£ -
Interest (BS net)	TBA	£ -
Total Income		£ -
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Website		£ 97.30
Trophys		£ -
Refreshments		£ -
Total Expenditure		£ 97.30
Balance		£ 45.46

Available as

Nationwide BS	£ 45.46
Cash	£ -

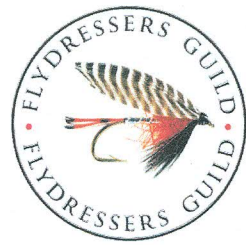
Nationwide BS account 0796/704010761

In my opinion this unaudited income and expenditure account and statement of assets for the period 14th Dec 2018 to 12 Dec 2019 gives a true record for the branch.

R C Elbro
Treasurer

G Wilcox
Chairman





Secretaries Report 2019

All communication from HQ and other sources is forwarded to branch members immediately. This includes auctions, fishing and tying competitions, forthcoming events, and the Sussex branch newsletter. Since data protection all emails are being sent by blind copy.

Note: If any members receive information they think would be interesting to other members they are welcome to forward it to me for circulation or to John for the website, or just circulate it yourself.

Although we have a lot of members on the books attendance at meetings does fluctuate a bit. A few of the 'old' regulars only put in an occasional appearance and there are a couple we haven't seen at all. This season apart from a 4 meeting poor spell we are averaging 13. I'm hoping Terry Morris turns up tonight as he is our only novice for this tying season.

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.

There is a Facebook page now so if you are a user please join. It doesn't get a lot of use but it is available to be used in much the same way as the website.

I've not reported on details of awards and trips as they will be covered by Peter in his report.

Barn Elms FFL, the Berkshire branch of South West Fishing for Life. That's the charity that me and a couple of the guys are involved and I'm pleased to report it is going from strength to strength. Phil came on board as a helper this year and will be taking his Level 1 coaching in February. Me and Paul took our Level 2 earlier this year, mine came through at the end of the summer and Paul's is on its way.

We started the year with 5 members and now have 8. In the last few meetings it seemed that the penny was starting to drop with most of the members and their casting skills are starting to show some encouraging improvement. If anyone thinks they could give a regular hand on nominally the 3rd Tuesday of the month from March to November please let me know.

Thames Valley Fly Dressers Guild Branch
Instructor's Report to AGM 2019 at mid-point of 2019-20 Season

Overview of Meetings

We have had fewer members (8-12) each evening so far this year, down a couple from last year. Tyers spread over beginners / Bronze, intermediate / Silver, experts / Gold, Salmon, Stillwater and some social / angling tyers. It has been great to see so many actively competent tyers and the progress and the improvement made by all.

We have continued the popular 10-minute demonstration at 9pm each meeting. Volunteers very welcome! We hope to have a video camera shortly to project demos directly onto the TV – the trial was a huge success.

New Members

We are always delighted to welcome newcomers to our Branch –beginners, novices, and experienced tyers. Please do ask your angling colleagues if they would like to come and join us. All are welcome

Awards Scheme Progress

None of our Branch Members has achieved a milestone this year, although we have several working towards their Bronze, Silver & Gold Awards. Please let me know if is incorrect!

Asking for Instruction and solving problems

All our instructors are there to answer questions and solve tying problems. Please do ask if you need a demonstration, or explanation. The Instructors have over 100 years of fly-tying experience between them!

FDG Tying Competition – Branch

Many thanks to all who submitted flies for the Dec 18 TV Branch Fly Tying Competition. The winners were:

- Novice Gary Smith
- Trout Richard Bird
- Salmon Richard Bird
- Chairman's Upwing Trophy (May19) – Paul Lawrence

FDG Tying Competition - National

We had an improved success in the Mar 19 FDG National Fly Tying Competition with:

- Roger Tribe – Runner Up in the Dry Fly class
- Richard Bird – Runner Up in the Open Salmon class
- Peter Watson – surprise Winner in the Open Salmon class.

I hope we will have more entries and more successes this year - you are all more than capable of winning!

Surplus Materials

We all have stacks of 'surplus' fly tying materials – if you need something, do ask before buying - it is probably available inexpensively, especially materials for fishing rather than presentation flies.

Shows – for Recruiting

We've had members tying flies at the BFFI Show, the SportFish Fly Fishing Show, the London Fishing Show iFISH, the Galway show in Ireland in 2018 – my many congratulations!

We will be looking for volunteers to tie flies at the SportFish Show at Theale on 16th & 17th May 2020. Please put it in your diary and volunteer to demonstrate and answer questions for a half or full day on either day.

Grayling Fishing

We have had the excellent Grayling fishing organised by Sean D on the R Test; however, highwater cancelled our annual trip to the River Dee at Llangollen in early October. We would love to find a second Grayling fishing location on the River Test – could you arrange one?

We also have a couple of members knocking on the door of the England Rivers Team – Alex A & Paul L!

Reservoir Fishing

The TV FDG 'Invictas' team of John H, Peter H, Richard E & Peter W achieved 3rd place, again, in the FDG annual John Watts boat fishing competition at Draycote Reservoir in August 2019. It was a tough day fishing.

Salmon Fishing

I fish for Salmon occasionally on the River Wye in South Wales. If you are interested in fishing or learning to Salmon fish – please let me know. Season starts on 3rd March!

Next Year's Programme

If you have any requests for next season's programme or a fly pattern or demonstrations of particular tying techniques or would like to volunteer to demonstrate for 10 minutes – then please let me know.

As our Members progress through the Bronze-Silver-Gold Awards, I think the Programme has become somewhat 'stale', however it is predictable. I would love someone to take over the Programme!

Peter Watson
Windsor

05th December 2019

