

## Cressbrook & Litton Flyfishers

### Fishing Report

8 October 2014

It was a dull, slightly chilly Saturday afternoon with a hint of rain in the air. I'd agreed to meet the President at Netherdale Farm, neither of us having fished Beat 5 this season. There was no sign of him when I got there, so I tackled up and had a look at the pool opposite the Car Park. The river was painfully low and although a few fish were showing I knew they would be time wasters.

I crossed the bridge and made my way upstream, keeping well back from the river. The odd fish rose in a desultory fashion in the sluggish stream, to what I couldn't say. Trying to keep out of sight, I offered a tiny F-Fly to what appeared to be a sizeable fish. The moment I raised my rod, the fish sank from view. It was not going to be easy.

I decided it was pointless trying for the rising fish in the flats so I pressed on until I reached the first streamy section. I put on the small Copper Squirrel Nymph which had served me well on my last visit. First run down it brought a take, but I didn't connect. I fished out the stream assiduously but there was nothing more at home. I kept moving until I reached the next fast run, where I slipped in opposite Riversdale Cottage. Again, a fish took the nymph, quite a good one it seemed from the glimpse I had as it turned down. Again, it slipped the hook so I pressed on, cursing as ever the barbed wire strung across the river, forcing me out of the water.

I watched the river from the steps above Tom's Pool and saw a good fish move in the left hand stream of the run - in. It's lie suited me as a left - hander, so I quietly entered the water and waited for things to

calm down. As I watched the run, I could see that the fish was indeed a good one, possibly one of Alistair's 3 pounders! It lay in a hole below a protruding rock, actively feeding this way and that on nymphs in the water column. I flipped the nymph above the rock, letting it wash down into the hole. It came over to have a look but didn't take. I tried again, this time dropping the nymph a foot or two further upstream. Another fish appeared from nowhere, hunting the nymph downstream

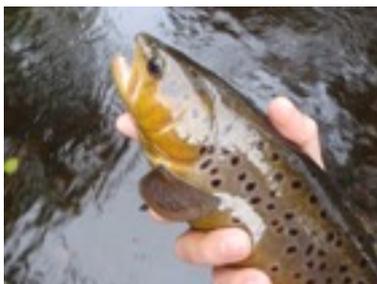


and taking it just in front of the rock. It was a good fish but not the 3 pounder I was after. After I'd let it go, I looked for the big one, but he'd gone.

After a chat with one of the day ticket rods I phoned the Pres. He'd been delayed but was on his way. I told him to forget Netherdale and head to Beat 8, where we met 20 minutes later. I elected to go downstream, but in the event I didn't get very far as I was drawn to the fast water below the weir. A brownie obliged almost immediately, taking the nymph very confidently. As I moved carefully up the pool I became aware of a very good grayling, seemingly lying at an angle to the main flow. I've commented on this phenomenon before and I can only assume that the current immediately above the river bed must be sent in a different direction to the surface flow by some hidden underwater obstruction. Either that, or the grayling

was feeling a little odd. Whatever the reason, the fish had chosen the perfect lie because I just couldn't get the nymph to come over the it in the correct manner. Never one to flog a dead horse, I moved on and only a few metres further upstream I spied two more really good grayling lying side by side in a depression below a weed bed. I was directly opposite them and felt that they must have seen me, but you never know with grayling so I kept running the nymph by them. Nothing, not even a parting of the ways to let the nymph through. Maybe it wasn't getting down to them. I put on a bigger version of the same pattern, with a 3 mm bead head. This time it got their attention. The bigger of the two came up in the water column and I felt he must have taken the nymph. I lifted, felt him briefly, then he was off, taking his companion with him. Oh bother! I did get a consolation prize above the weir, a pretty brownie. A frustrating day but as always, something learned for future reference.

The New Zealand Strike Indicator Kits have turned up, annoyingly too late to put them in the Huts. If you would like one, you can send me an email or call me on 07885 116638. They are £11 plus £1 post and packing, for which investment you get the little tool, spare plastic tubing and a stock of wool - natural white and fluorescent green. Needless to say, I tested the indicator as soon as I could and the system works perfectly. The little tuft of wool, being impregnated with natural



lanolin, floats like a cork and the whole thing can be moved up and down the leader to adjust for depth.

This Derwent brownie in its pre-spawning colours was the first victim.

I'll be reporting on the 50th Anniversary Dinner in the end of season Newsletter, but suffice to say it was a resounding success. Hassop Hall did us proud, Simon Johnson's auctioneering skills raised over £500 and Jon Beer's Improved Fly Selection Engine was a triumph! Only sorry I won't be there for the Centennial Dinner!

Grayling have technically been in season since 16 June but for most of us, now is the time when we turn our attention to these wonderful fish. Depending on the weather and the fly hatches, October & November can produce some superlative surface sport, often to very challenging fish. Tiny terrestrials, Stoneflies or small Olives can all bring grayling to the surface and an IOBO Humpty, F-Fly or traditional flies like the Sturdy's Fancy are all worth a try. It will of course be necessary to get down to them too, and my personal favourites are the Pheasant Tail (sometimes with an orange bead head) the Killer Bug (sometimes with a pink bead head) and the Red Tag, often fished under a Klink which will itself always take a few fish.

I shall now go into hibernation but I will be in touch if there is anything interesting to report. Meanwhile, have a good grayling season.

Best wishes,  
David Marriott

PS Rainfall for September was 15.6 mm, the lowest ever recorded. Total rainfall for year to date 832.2 mm (2013 656.4 mm)  
Source: Buxton Weather Station