

CRESSBROOK & LITTON FLYFISHERS

FISHING REPORT

14 APRIL 2015

After a great deal of faffing about, we managed to get enough members together to fill 5 boats at Carsington for our Club Outing on the Saturday of the Easter weekend. The weather was kind to us, given the vast amount of rain that fell during the previous week, effectively blowing out the river, of which more anon.



This boat fishing mallarkey is a surprisingly tiring business, considering that you're sitting down all day. I was aching in every joint the next day. Goodness knows how my boat partner Peter Hayes felt - he's got a few years on me and I feel rather guilty now, having made him do all the heaving on the anchor whilst I just sat there and did the driving! Anyway, we got on famously, putting the fly fishing world to rights in between catching a few fish. Peter has, I think, forgiven me for driving him into a willow bush after becoming confused with forward and reverse! Everyone caught, with some very nice over-wintered fish turning up amongst the stockies. The highlights of the day for me were ornithological; seeing my first swallows of the year and a pair of White Throated Divers. We all retired to the

Ketch for supper and a good natter. I think the day can be called a success and we'll certainly do it again.

The period between Opening Day and Easter to which I alluded earlier, was very wet and the Buxton Gauge was off the scale on a couple of occasions. Local members can view this with equanimity, but some of our southern rods have to plan their trips well in advance. Roger Minost and Peter Hayes are two such members and their first visit of the season coincided with the deluge. Nothing daunted, they trudged about hopefully in the downpour looking for likely spots. As I never tire of saying, the Wye is very rarely unfishable and both of them managed to winkle a few out in back eddies out of the full thrust of the main flow. Often, these back eddies will capture duns in the contra flow and a fly cast down stream but up into the reverse current will tempt fish. Needless to say, the wet and cold conditions did not bother the Large Darks, nor the Iron Blues, which Peter observed on one of his forays.

Peter Gilman drew my attention to a piece in the Buxton Advertiser. A section of the upper Wye, above Buxton, has disappeared under ground, as rivers are wont to do in these limestone parts, leaving a couple of hundred trout stranded, some of which were rescued. A fissure had appeared in the rock substrate, draining a section of approximately 1 km along the Macclesfield Old Road at Burbage. Apparently the EA is looking for the missing water (I know - you couldn't make it up!)

I'm a bit of a sucker when it comes to new fly fishing impedimenta but I reckon I have a good nose for a genuinely good product. The New Zealand Strike Indicator was one such, and my latest find, imported from Montana at significant personal expense (in the interests of research you understand), is the TMC Shimazaki Dry



Shake Spray. I think we're all familiar with the original Dry Shake, which along with Frog's Fanny revolutionized dry fly fishing, especially with CDC patterns. This is the aerosol version, which I'm looking forward to giving a good field test over the next few weeks as dry fly fishing really gets into gear. Incidentally, I found that Peter Hayes had also spotted it and was getting an American friend to bring some over for him on his next trip to England. No one is importing the product at the moment - "There's no call for it" (Fulling Mill) but if anybody is going over to the States soon I'd be interested in talking about bringing a quantity back for sale in the Huts. I must say that it is ridiculously expensive stuff but then in my opinion one should never let cost stand in the way when justifying the purchase of fly fishing kit!

Just before finishing this piece, I spent an afternoon fishing up from Duffers to Slitherford with the President. After an unseasonably warm week a cold front had come in from the west and the temperature plummeted, although it was pleasant enough in the sunshine. John had a fish on straight away at the top of Duffers and I



had a very small rainbow out of the pool above but thereafter we both struggled. I had a lot of quick on-offs to a small PTN, eventually hooking another small rainbow, but it was hard going. As I got into Slitherford, I found the reason for the reluctant fish - Carl Brumby had just finished, having had a great session with 15 fish to a Parachute Adams! We were really pleased for you Carl, honest! We called it a day and on our way back to the car park we came across Brian Garner in the Dinosaur Pool, still trembling after the loss of a big brown which had taken his Quill Olive nymph.

The next couple of weeks will see the change from Large Dark to Medium Olives and if we're lucky, Iron Blues too. So think small when choosing your imitations. Towards the end of the month look out for Hawthorns on the wing and pray for breezy conditions to get them on the water.

Tight lines,
David

P S

Stuart Crofts has sent me his first report from the results of his Adult upwing & Stonefly Survey, which you can see on the Riverfly Survey Page of our website.