

## Cressbrook & Litton Flyfishers

Fishing Report  
31 August 2015

Opportunities to go fishing continue to be rare and with the first half of September blocked out for a family holiday, the end of my season is looming. In anticipation of this self-imposed fishing purdah, I had another morning session on the Saturday before the bank holiday.

I parked up at President's and walked downstream with the intention of examining Dr Smith's Back Passage. The river was horribly low but several fish could be seen rising in a very leisurely fashion, which spoke to me of spent spinners. I got in very carefully and tiptoed across to the entrance where I waited patiently for things to calm down, knotting on a s18 Parachute Spinner in the meantime. My first cast produced a rise and a small brownie came skittering down to me. This pool looks more favorably on a right hander and I struggled to get the fly over the next fish, which, although hooked, shot under a trailing branch and came off. Fortunately, the fly was still there and I was able quickly to cover another rise which I'd seen out of the corner of my eye. This fish was right in the edge, in very thin



water, at the side of some protruding weed. Fortunately the fish took before the line caught in the weed and it turned out to be a very pretty little brownie.

I missed out the Bend Pool, (although it was here, on my first ever day on the Wye in 1981 that I caught a 3 pounder) and recommenced in President's. The low water made this pool a very tricky proposition, with fish fleeing as soon as I lifted the rod. I got in to reduce my profile and I considered myself lucky to have a fish follow my fly down for a yard or two, before boiling underneath it and bolting. Even though this pool was full of fish (I counted 20+ big fish on my way back), I decided to move on. No point in pestering these spooky fish for the sake of it.

I was pleased to find rising fish at the back of the little island between President's and



Harry's, most of which were lovely wild rainbows. In Harry's there were fish rising



in between the weed beds, one turning out to be a good sized brownie, which took as my attention was elsewhere. I didn't deserve this fish but it was the best of the morning so far. At this point, just for a change, I put on a Light Tan Klinkhamer, and this immediately started to bring fish up.

As I approached the Angler's I got a whiff of sewage, and sure enough, there was that damn septic tank outflow clearly malfunctioning again. We had problems with these outflows last year and Jenny, our EA pollution officer, ordered that these tanks be repaired. Unfortunately, because of EA cut backs, I understand she can only attend major pollution incidents now, so many of these low grade incidents will probably be ignored in future. I've reported it to Chris and hopefully he will be able to prevail on the residents to get this problem sorted.

After enjoying some fun with the Angler's Car Park bread feeders I decided to call it a day. Fish & chips with the EHK and a good natter about the old days with Keeper Whittle rounded off another perfect morning.

We played host to the EA recently, who did some electro fishing in the Dale and at Duffers. They found plenty of wild fish in



all age and size ranges, which bodes well for the future. I will let you have their detailed report when I receive it.

Alistair Diack was fishing down at the Bobbin Mill with his son recently and they disturbed a Common Crane, a bird that I've not heard of before on the river, although he tells me there have been several sightings in Derbyshire. Apparently they have been introduced to the UK and there are two

breeding colonies, one in Norfolk and another in the South West.

The last few weeks of the season see the resurgence of the Olives, whilst terrestrials such as the Crane Fly can often tempt a good fish. My favourites at this time of year are the autumn Stoneflies, usually Needle and Willow Flies, which can often be the predominant species during the day. Oliver Edwards' Spent Stonefly pattern is always worth a try, as is the IOBO Humpty.

I won't be on the river for the next couple of weeks, so please let me know how you get on.

Tight lines!  
David