

Cressbrook & Litton Flyfishers

Fishing Report 7 October 2015

I've rather fallen out of love with Tenkara of late. I'm not sure that our river is entirely suited to the method, which I believe is better on upland, treeless streams with smaller fish. I've not felt inclined to use the method at all this year and I've been enjoying using the fly rod again. That said, I acknowledge the superiority of Tenkara when it comes to avoiding drag. Where it can score is on our upper beats and I was not surprised to see two stunning catch returns from Phil Wilde in the book at Duffers recently. Here's what he had to say about his first day:

"I had tried out my Tenkara rod (12ft 6:4 Iwana) on other beats with variable success. With the water being low and gin clear it was difficult to get close enough to the fish when the surface was smooth. They tended to spook easily. I failed to get any takes on Beat 7 for this reason. I did manage to fool a few of the resident fish in Duffers with a beetle pattern plopped under the trees. Although I managed to land a couple of decent fish this was mainly due to them being a bit sluggish. Once I hooked a fish with a bit of 'attitude' it became a different ball game and I got broken twice. So I decided that smaller fish would be better with the Tenkara rod. I therefore decided to try it in smaller pocket water where there was a bit of surface irregularity to shield me. It seemed that the place to try was up in Cheedale.

"I parked in Duffers and initially fished the pocket water up to the viaduct. There were browns and rainbows in most of the holes but all under 6 inches. In the pool under the trees where the new dam has been built (Note: this unauthorised structure has now been removed. Ed.) I found two feisty 8

inch rainbows, which was pleasing. I was fishing a small Klinkhamer. Above the viaduct it was harder to find fish so I moved up to Beat 1. Here I switched to a small Deer Hair Sedge which was easy to see in the low light. It proved irresistible to fish. I was able to creep up the river, popping it into all the little pockets, the Tenkara rod making it easy to keep line off the water and avoid drag. I got a take in almost every little hole although not all were hooked. There were a few larger runs where, with careful wading, I managed 5 or 6 fish, especially where the surface was rough which prevented me being seen or heard! Once above the second viaduct the water was again quite smooth but there are some good riffly spots, all of which produced fish. The overgrown and fallen trees made it difficult in places, however. The top bit up to Blackwell Mill has some nice spots but is very overgrown and needs a bit of orienteering to reach the river. I did find a feisty 12 inch rainbow in the pool just below the end of our water, which was a lovely way to end. Sadly, the very top bit is not really fishable due to the willows which have encroached. I then walked back down the Monsal Trail and back to my car. All in all, a great day!"

Point taken about the trees Phil, we'll see what can be done about these during the winter.

I had another report from Carl Brumby:

"I arrived at Presidents on Saturday morning amidst the squally showers that were forecast, sat in the car for a few minutes to assess the weather before nipping round to the tailgate to put my waders on to avoid getting too wet. All my gear was there, rods, vest, net, boots etc - but no waders! In all my years fishing I'd never before forgot to pack them. After calling myself all the names under the sun I took stock. It was clearly possible to

fish from the bank but the grass was so wet I would soon be soaked. I could have asked the keepers to lend me a pair but in the end I decided to give it a miss and head back the 60+ miles home and have a family day.

"I returned the next day, went to the same spot after noting from the gauge that the river had risen and fallen back after the steady rain of the previous day. The river was tinged with ochre from the mine upstream, something I'd not witnessed before. From lunchtime onwards the olive hatch was superb with most of the fish in the river taking the duns. Due to the high humidity they were struggling to get airborne, sailing downstream making easy targets. Twice I had rainbows around the 2lb mark dart across stream to attack my JT Olive. A fantastic few hours dry fly fishing was had and I reflected on how I might have fared if I'd not forgotten to pack my waders the previous day!"

And another from Colin Diamond:

"I was fishing above Quaker on Beat 6 one evening recently. On seeing a few splashy rises I decided to try a sedge pattern that Stuart Crofts had showed us at his fly tying day earlier this year. After casting directly upstream into the white water at the head of the run, keeping in touch by stripping the line, I noticed that the fly was zig zagging in a most lifelike manner. Before I was able to re-cast the fly disappeared and the rod slammed over. That was number one of five fine rainbows in fine fettle, all fighting like little devils. The action lasted about 20 minutes and was cut short by the rain. I returned to the car a very satisfied angler."

At the end of September we hosted coffee mornings for MacMillan Nurses at both the huts. This was the idea of Chris Thirtle and his partner Nicky, who helped out with the catering. With Gift Aid, we raised



nearly £600 which was a tremendous result. Many thanks to all those who contributed cash and cakes.

We can look forward to the grayling fishing now, and if the Indian Summer continues we should see good hatches of small olives, caddis and stoneflies to keep the fish looking up. Don't forget the Crane Flies too - excellent for bringing up those big back-end brownies!

Tight lines!
David