

## Cressbrook & Litton Flyfishers

### Fishing Report

2 September 2014

Since my last report I've become a resident of Derbyshire, and I'm pleased to find I'm now 15 minutes nearer to the river! I have a limestone brook chuckling away at the bottom of my garden, a mini Wye complete with trout, kingfishers, wagtails and no doubt many other interesting flora & fauna I've yet to discover. I've made my first capture for Crofty's caddis fly occurrence record and I'm tempted to give my Tenkara rod a try over my garden wall.

Despite the chaos following the house move, I managed to find most of my kit and sneaked out a few times when Mrs M wasn't looking! My first trip was to the Derwent with Steve Rhodes, the river dead low and clear making for a challenging afternoon. The only insects on the wing were Willow Flies, prompting me to put on an IOBO Humpty, a fly that seems to do well when these stoneflies are around. I could see a few fish rising all the way up the flats so I carefully slipped into the pool and cautiously edged myself into close proximity. I've recently taken delivery of a Sage 1 four weight to replace my ageing XP. It is a worthy successor and it delivered the fly gently on target. The fish took confidently yet still I struck too soon, a frustratingly common occurrence with me this season. Fortunately another fish was showing within reach and this time I let it turn down long enough to achieve a perfect hook up. A nice little wild brownie of around 10 ounces. I spent an hour or so on similar targets, fooling some but many just melted away after a cast or two. When I reached the faster water of the run-in I changed to a heavier tippet and put on one of Oliver Edwards' Heptagenid Nymphs,

(the one's with the J-son rubber legs) under a Klinkhamer. Within a cast or two the klink hesitated and I lifted into a solid resistance which turned out to be a rainbow of around 2 1/2 lbs. It didn't put up much of a fight, a feature of rainbows on the Derwent I find, despite it being in excellent condition. Several more fish of a similar stamp followed before I'd exhausted the run. It was getting chilly so Steve and I agreed to give it another hour before retiring to the Plough. The nymph picked up a couple of lovely browns from another fast run, an altogether satisfying session. Steve, by the way, had most of his fish on a Red Tag.

I had an email from Malcolm Goude recounting a strange "tale". He noticed what appeared to be a piece of string protruding from the mouth of a small brownie he'd caught on a caddis pupa at the bend below the Bobbin Mill bridge. On investigating further, he was astonished to find that it was attached to a partly digested mouse! This reminded me of a similar incident a few years ago, when a guest of mine caught a small brownie in Harry's Weir, its mouth completely blocked by the tail of a bullhead, yet still it had managed to take his dry Adams. Mind you, this is nothing compared with a five



pound Icelandic brownie from the Big Laxa, whose stomach was found to contain no less than 4 ducklings!



It's been a long time coming but the "Dorcival" toilet facility is now in place at the Locked Bridge, the product of a great deal of hard labour by the Head Keeper. I believe it is tucked away in the woods to provide a modicum of privacy. The

keeping staff request Number Ones only please, unless one is absolutely desperate! In which case a shovel will be provided.

Not to be outdone, the EHK, ably assisted by Stuart Crofts, (or should it be vice-versa?) has installed solar powered lighting in the hut at Duffers. Like the similar system at the Locked Bridge, the lights switch on and off automatically. There is no switch, I repeat THERE IS NO SWITCH!

I've just had a most enjoyable late August day on the Derwent with Alan Dean & Colin



Dimond, the winners of the lot I donated in the Anniversary Auction, and two more pleasant fishing companions it would be hard to find. The river was up a little following heavy rain the night before and the fish seemed invigorated as a result. There were plenty of fish rising and these happily took the IOBO Humpty, while the bigger fish were still taking nymphs in the fast water. As we set out in the morning we were astonished to find a red Peugeot in the river. It had come off the road on a sharp



bend, gone over the wall (without apparently touching it), hit a tree and dropped something like 20 feet into the river. Thankfully there were no bodies and we concluded that the driver must have miraculously survived and done a runner the night before. Sure enough, about half an hour later, three sheepish looking youths came along the path, looked sorrowfully at the car for a few moments and left without a word. I hope they were insured because it is going to be a major operation to get it out.

Prospects for September. As the heat of the summer subsides we should see a return of day time activity. We can expect a resurgence of Olive hatches, stoneflies, caddis and terrestrials such as the crane fly. With only a month to go, make the most of what can be the best part of the season, with bigger fish feeding hard in preparation for spawning.

A couple of housekeeping points:

Fly sales. We don't want any cash left in the huts for obvious reasons. I send out invoices by email each month and all you have to do is pay by return, preferably electronically but a cheque is also fine.

Anniversary Dinner. Will members who haven't booked, or sent apologies, please let Hilary know whether or not you are coming. It's your Club and I'm sure that you would like there to be a good turnout at Hassop on the 4 October. We still have plenty of room for wives/partners and friends.

Tight lines!  
David

Rainfall to August 816.6 mm (2013 577.0 mm)