

# NEWSLETTER

## Important New Study of fly life on the Wye



The Derbyshire Wye is rightly famous for its prolific insect life, which is the main driver of the fantastic fly fishing we are all privileged to enjoy.

The Club has long supported the work of entomologist Stuart Crofts in his studies of the caddis species of the UK. Now we are delighted to support his latest project, involving the study of the

ephemeroptera and plecoptera to be found in our waters. Of lasting benefit to us as anglers will be a definitive flight period chart for the various species to be found on our stretch of the Wye.

For more information on this study, and how you might be able to contribute, please turn to Stuart's article on page 6.

*Photo: BWO Dun Stuart Crofts*

### New Honorary Members

The Committee was pleased to grant Honorary Membership to two former Presidents of the Club.

Harry Tomlinson, who served from 2001 to 2003, was heavily involved in the negotiations with the developers of Litton Mill and was instrumental in preserving our right of way through the Mill Yard. Harry has not been in the best of health lately and I wish him a speedy recovery.

John Shirtcliffe was President from 1995 to 1997, having also served as Secretary for many years like his Uncle Charlie Shirtcliffe before him. John's period as Secretary was marked by our acquisition of the Monsal Dale lease.

Both have served with distinction. On behalf of the Club, I thank them.

*John Smith  
President.*

### RULE CHANGES FOLLOWING THE AGM

There were three rule changes proposed by members for debate at the AGM.

- To add the words husband and wife after son or daughter in Rule 15. This is the rule whereby close relatives of a member may be considered for membership ahead of those on the waiting list. After some debate it was suggested that to keep in line with current social changes, civil partners should also be included. The President

put the amended proposal to the vote and it was passed by a substantial majority.

- Other proposals concerning Fishing Rules 1 & 13, namely the increasing of the permitted number of flies allowed per cast, and the redefinition of courtesy when fishing in close proximity to another member, were rejected by a large majority.

The amended rules will be circulated to members as soon as possible.

## A YEAR OF PLEASANT SURPRISES

*by Colin Dimond*

Now that my first season on the Wye has come to an end, it is a good time to review my experiences.

### **The Start**

I can remember the excitement like it was yesterday. Chris Pryor's phone call advising me that I was finally in! After what seemed like an eternity I was at last able to join the illustrious band of brother anglers of Cressbrook & Litton. Once it had sunk in my mind began to run riot with anticipation. And to add to my delight, my best mate Alan Dean had also got the call. I took up the opportunity to attend the fly tying day with Paul Procter. I have long admired Paul's writings and meeting him face to face confirmed what an all round good chap he is. Hilary Langan's organizational skills made it a very special day.

### **The First Visit**

With some trepidation I arrived for my first day's fishing, choosing to start at the Locked Bridge. After crossing over and heading downstream I was met with a sight that I will always remember. A little archway of black thorn bushes which I took to be Heaven's Gate, mentioned by our late member, Peter Lapsley in his article about the Club in FF&FT. Then onto the fishing. I was blessed with a steady trickle of Large Dark Olives that kept up for over four hours, enabling the extraction of over 20 fish, mostly browns. Most of these came from the run-in to Twin Pools on one of my favourite olive imitations, the Purple Haze. This was

only a short drag free run but the fish were on the fin and hit the fly hard. I had chosen wisely to join and life was good! Fishing back up to the Hut I spied several hidden gems to be investigated on my next visit.

### **Stuart Crofts' Bugs & Burgers Evening**

Well, what a treasure Stuart is. His interaction with members, encyclopaedic knowledge and his easy presentational style were a delight. I think I can say that we were all captivated. The burgers were pretty good too! Alan Dean and I retired later to Beat 9 (The Cock & Pullet) and agreed that we had joined a great Club.



Colin, Alan & Meg

### **The Cream of the Season - the Mayfly & all that**

I'd seen a few mayfly duns hatching during the last few visits but I was not prepared for the sight that greeted me at Presidents one Saturday afternoon. I just couldn't fail - and I couldn't resist winding up Alan, who was stuck at home on the West Coast of Scotland. During the next few days life was good, culminating in my great fortune of netting a 6lb

brown from the pool below the Locked Bridge. I will remember, until my dying day, the feeling of ecstasy as I released this beauty. In all the panic I forgot to take a photo for posterity! Anyway, shortly after I was able to enjoy a full week on the river with Alan and another friend from Scotland, Colin McQuiston, who joined us for a few days. We had a fabulous time, all of us catching plenty of fish. Colin was astounded to be catching such big fish on small flies, being used to smaller fish on the Clyde. He was fortunate to catch his personal best, a brown of over 3 lbs, on a size 18 bead head nymph.

### **The Famed Spinner Fall**

David Marriott had suggested to me that I shouldn't neglect the Blue Winged Olive spinner fishing as the sun went down behind the hill. You cannot really describe the effect of this magical time to someone who hasn't experienced it. Small dimple rises from fish that turned out to be of significant size, the actual spinners changing from 18 to 20, even 22. What a joy to know that I would be back to share this with my best mate a couple of days later, staying at the Cock & Pullet.

### **And more to come**

A week on the Findhorn and a couple of auction days, and suddenly August became September and the trout season was over. But as I write I am looking forward to attending the 50th Anniversary Dinner at Hassop Hall, not to mention the pleasures of grayling fishing during the short winter days. A truly perfect start to my membership of C&L.

## TALES FROM THE HUT

PHIL SPILLANE

Last September Liz and I booked a holiday cottage in Devon, where we have friends. I hoped to do some fishing but as things turned out I never did wet a line. I'd rolled up my waders, and put them in a large plastic box with my boots and other tackle for ease of transportation. On arrival, I popped them in the corner of the kitchen where they stayed all week.

Just before retiring on the last night I thought I saw something dart over my feet as I left the kitchen. I remember thinking it might have been a mouse but thought better of telling my wife. So I wasn't surprised when she complained the next morning that she'd been kept awake all night by "something scratching about downstairs". I told her of a funny story I'd heard last year when a chap fishing in Wales had left his waders to dry on the back of a chair, only to find the next morning that a mouse had chewed through the knee in its attempt to get at a biscuit left in the pocket.

After breakfast, as I started to pack the car, Liz suggested I should tip out the contents of my tackle box "As we certainly don't want a mouse coming back to Derbyshire with us!" I tipped it

all out onto the drive half expecting to see the mouse, but no. I unrolled my waders and was relieved to find that there were no holes in the legs or feet. However, in the little bib pocket, there was a tell tale hole, with the remains of a mouse-nibbled Mars Bar that I'd left there from a previous trip! Cue great family amusement, but at least my waders were still wearable!



## THE POLY POST PARACHUTE B W O DUN

STUART CROFTS

Wing post of a polypropylene yarn such as TMC Aero Dry Wing

Parachute hackle of grey or grizzle genetic cock

Tail/shuck as per wing, thinned out



Photo: Stuart Crofts  
See page 4 for tying instructions

Body and thorax of light tan or brown olive Flyrite or Wapsi dubbing

Hook s.16 Partridge SUD or similar



## CHRIS THIRTLE

Following the resignation of Assistant River Keeper Rod Evans, we were pleased to be able to welcome Litton Mill resident Chris Thirtle to the role. Chris is a retired RAF fighter pilot. Chris has already been of invaluable help to Chris Dore in dealing with the many fallen trees which have been a feature of this winter's storms.

## TIED &amp; TESTED - THE POLY POST PARACHUTE BLUE WINGED OLIVE DUN

*by Stuart Crofts*

This neat, compact and hard wearing design was originally developed to represent the Blue Winged Olive duns of summer evenings but it has turned out to be a great all-rounder. Just by changing its size and colour you can imitate any of the olive duns you see on the surface - even the big mayflies! This robust little pattern is a relatively straight forward tie and has the advantage of always landing the right way up.

**Materials**

Hook - Partridge SUD size 16 or similar

Thread - Unithread 8/0 in Tan

Wing and Tail/Shuck - fine pale grey poly yarn

Hackle - Grey or grizzle genetic cock or saddle hackle

Body and thorax - Fine poly type dubbing (Wapsi or Flyrite) in a light tan or brown/olive

**Tying Sequence**

1. Start the thread just behind the eye and work down about a quarter to a third of the way to the bend.
2. Lift in the poly yarn (for both the wing and the shuck) with the longest end pointing towards the bend of the hook.
3. Tie down the poly yarn on top of the hook working towards the bend. By thinning out the poly yarn as you go you can create a neat tapered body and a slim tail/shuck.
4. Take the tying thread back up to the wing root in open turns.
5. Lift up the wing and move the thread to just in front of it.
6. Add a tiny amount of dubbing to prop the wing into an upright position.
7. Now take your hackle. This is going to be tied in parachute style, so pick one with a flue length that will, when wound around the wing, reach the bend of the hook. Too big and it will look naff, too short and the fly is likely to land on its side.
8. Present the hackle so that it is pointing over the hook eye and catch it in with the thread behind the wing. Wind down towards the bend of the hook and when you are happy that it is firmly tied in, cut off the waste stalk.
9. You should now have your tying thread hanging just before the bend, with an upright wing, a tail/shuck of poly yarn plus the hackle tied in at the base of the wing pointing over the hook eye.
10. Very lightly dub the thread to form the body. Wind this back to make a neat, tapering body up to the wing and follow through to just in front of the wing.
11. Wind the hackle around the base of the wing, making sure that each turn goes under the previous one. Three or four turns should suffice. Tie off just in front of the wing and cut off the waste hackle.
12. All that remains is to lightly dub the thread again to create a nice thorax area, working towards the eye. Tie off the thread at the eye with a whip finish.



## CATCH AND PROSECUTE

Good news from Buxton Magistrates Court. On 17 February, two of our fellow EU citizens, who had been apprehended while poaching at Netherdale last summer, were both fined £290 and ordered to pay costs and levies of £626. Their fishing tackle was also ordered to be confiscated.

The two Eastern Europeans had decided that the signs stating private fishing did not apply to them and set about catching some fish for a barbeque. Fortunately they were spotted by our Assistant River Keeper, who quickly set in motion a pincer movement. This involved all keepers (past and present), Lizzie and Den from Netherdale Farm and the Derbyshire Constabulary. Our two retired keepers, Tom and David, who perhaps should have known better, got into a heated argument with the miscreants and had to be ordered out of the way by the police. Calm was restored, details were taken and the evidence seized.

The reprobates subsequently pleaded guilty by post and were consequently not in Court to hear that they had been fined not only for theft but also

for fishing without an EA licence. It remains to be seen whether the gullible softies employed by the Court will actually collect the costs due to us.

More recently, following a tip off by a local resident, (Chris Thirtle's partner) we were able to catch two more poachers in the act, this time in Millers Dale. Again, the police were very helpful in bringing these thieves to book. We have once again instructed our solicitors to prosecute, which will send out a strong message to the criminal fraternity.

More recently still, we were tipped off that poachers were in action at New Bridge, unfortunately the day after the event! Subsequent inspection of the area revealed a Blackberry phone abandoned by the poachers, making it an expensive day's fishing.

Once again may we remind members that if you come across poachers, for your own safety do not intervene. Make a tactical retreat and call the keepers, whose telephone numbers are on the reverse of your membership cards. Alternatively dial 999 and report a crime in progress.

## THE PLASTIC BAG WADER TRICK

This idea is so simple I'm amazed I've not heard it mentioned before. I must thank Dave Southall for drawing it to my attention.



I think most of us will have experienced difficulty getting our feet into or out of the neoprene stocking feet of our waders, particularly if you are, like me, no longer as flexible as you once were.

For those of us who can no longer afford to employ the services of a personal ghillie to perform this chore, the answer is simply to insert your feet into thin plastic bags before donning your waders. Supermarket bags, or even dog poo bags, will suffice. The slippery plastic makes it easy to perform what is normally (for me at least) a very

fraught and time-consuming procedure.

The bags also have the advantage of keeping your feet dry if the neoprene has started to leak and surprisingly, they do not seem to make your feet sweaty and smelly.



## ROD EVANS

Rod Evans made a great contribution as Assistant River Keeper last year but the pull of his native Wales has lured him back home. We wish him every success in his future career with Railtrack.

## PROPOSED ADULT EPHEMEROPTERA & PLE- COPTERA STUDY

by Stuart Crofts

Since 2008, thanks to the kindness of Cressbrook & Litton Flyfishers Club, I have been identifying and recording the many adult caddisfly species that can be found on the Club waters of the Derbyshire Wye. This has not only produced a very good



list of species but has also provided very useful data (for the fly fisher) on the emergence periods of the many different species present. A copy of this dataset is available to members on the Club website. Significantly, many of the samples for this study have been collected by Club members.

I think it is now time to take a closer look at the upwinged flies (ephemeroptera) and stoneflies (plecoptera) that are also present and important to the fly fisher on the Club's waters. To obtain material for this study I would like to appeal to members once again for assistance in collecting specimens. To produce a meaningful spread of data I see this as being at least a five year project. My plan is to have a supply of small sample tubes in both fishing huts and in the Bobbin Mill so that when you sign in you can also pick up a couple of tubes to take with you.

Then, while you are fishing, if you see some upwing flies or stoneflies I would like you to catch one or two and pop them in a tube. If you see different types on the same day then try to get a sample of each - you can easily fit several in one tube unless they are huge mayflies!

On returning to the fishing hut you will find some special alcohol. Fill the tubes with the insects inside, which will not only kill them but also preserve them until such time as I can determine their identity. Additionally, and most importantly, fill out one of the information slips with your name, the date, the beat number and the approximate time of day that you observed the insects. Any other notes of interest can be put on the reverse of the slip before putting it inside one of the small ziplock bags provided, along with the tube. Please note,



a sample without an information slip is useless. Leave the tubes in the Huts and I will collect them.

I only need the adult stages of these insects for the flight period data. As you will be aware, upwings are peculiar in that all our UK species have two adult stages, known to anglers as *duns* and *spinners*. It does not matter which you collect, in fact getting samples of both is very useful, as some species are easier for me to identify as duns whilst



others can only be positively identified as spinners.

Catching flying insects can be a challenge, as those of you who catch caddisflies for me know only too well! You will find a net advantageous. The one I carry with me is a folding type spring steel pocket net that can be tucked away in your fishing bag or fly vest pocket at all times. Here is a link to a supplier: [www.watdon.co.uk/acatalog/Aerial\\_Nets.html](http://www.watdon.co.uk/acatalog/Aerial_Nets.html).



The richness of the insect life on the Wye is superb and it would be great to create a record of some of its most important species. Collecting these samples will add an extra dimension to your fly fishing and will help your understanding of our fascinating sport.

If you would like to take part in this project, or would like more information, feel free to contact me on [pennine@troutbum.freemove.co.uk](mailto:pennine@troutbum.freemove.co.uk).



## THIS WINTER

It's looking good for the new season, with ample water coming into the river from the springs, following plenty of rain & snow in the catchment. Weed growth is very healthy and it is hoped that the weed beds lost in last year's floods will be restored.



Snowfall in December and January was heavy and clinging, with the result that many large trees came down in the river, particularly at New Bridge, Sandyford and Cheedale, which will keep us busy with the



chainsaw for some time to come. Some trees have been brought to the side of the river and pinned in place to create deflecting currents and provide cover for fish and insects.



We have invested heavily in new fencing along several stretches, including the Day Ticket, to keep cattle away from the river's edge, and to encourage marginal cover for insects. Typical is the stretch below Tom's Pool, where we have been able to remove that horrible strand of barbed wire that stretched right across the river.

A little judicious pruning has been done to improve access, mainly below the Bobbin Mill. I should add that we have not been responsible for the clearance of the willows from the true right bank on Beat 1. At the moment it is a mystery who is responsible for this vandalism, which has destroyed valuable cover.



Following the tragedy at Blackwell a couple of years ago, Derbyshire County Council has finally got round to installing safety barriers on the track from Topley Pike to Blackwell. This should be finished before the start of the season, making the narrow sections much safer.

Finally, should you be feeling the strain after a day on the river, you'll be pleased to know that a Chiropractor has set up in the newly converted Mill at Millers Dale.

*Tight lines!*

*Chris*

## Calendar

### 18 March 2015

Trout Season begins

### 4 April 2015

Club outing to Carsington Water

### 25 April 2015

Rivercraft Day 1

### 15 May 2015

Oliver Edwards' Streamside Masterclass

### 11 July 2015

Rivercraft Day 2

### 14 July 2015

Hog Roast at Cressbrook Hall

### 3 November 2015

End of Season Dinner

