

Cressbrook & Litton Flyfishers

Fishing Report

15 May 2015



Following the recent spate of poaching incidents, which have involved threats of violence towards our keepers, we have started to build up a head of steam on the issue. We invited Derbyshire Police to come and meet us at Duffers on the 1st May so that we could raise with them our concerns about the slow response to our 999 calls. We had a very useful discussion and we were assured that poaching was certainly not regarded by them as a minor offence, or for that matter a civil offence, which is what Chris had been wrongly told when he rang 999 recently. However, it was possible that individual officers may not have appreciated the seriousness of the situation and as a consequence may not have prioritised the job correctly. What has become evident however, is that there are hardly any police on duty in Derbyshire these days and with Bakewell Nick closing down and more Government cuts on the way, this situation can only get worse. We have agreed that the local PCSO, Ian Phipps, will do some foot patrols with the keepers, and will make a point of travelling the roads adjacent to the river in his patrol car.

Whilst waiting for the police to arrive, I had an hour or so on the river, which was low and gin-clear - not an ideal combination! The little Parachute Adams, which was still on the leader after my last outing, immediately brought up a fish although I failed to connect. The only fish of note came from a favourite run which looked absolutely stunning in the bright sunshine, jade green, almost like a New Zealand spring creek. It was very shallow but I knew there was a slightly deeper hole which always holds a fish. I approached it very carefully, keeping low. I made a short cast, with a bit of a wiggle in it to counteract drag, and a decent rainbow head and tailed - blatantly missing my fly. I managed to steel myself not to strike, letting the fly travel well below the fish before roll casting it back into the run. I was concerned that it wasn't quite on track but the fish came straight up and ate it without hesitation. A lovely wild rainbow of about 15 inches.

In addition to the Olive upright, which I mentioned in my last report, another good hatch to look forward to over the next few weeks will be the Agepetus caddis, a very modest little fly I've often mentioned in these reports, sometimes known as the Little Grey Sedge. This fly can really get the fish going and if you notice some urgent, splashy rises, this could be the cause.



The above is Stuart Crofts' imitation but a little F Fly, say size 20, will also work well. Fish it up and across in short, sharp jerks to mimic its progress to the bankside herbage. I'm sorry if I keep harping on about this fly, but it occurs to me that some of our newer members might not have come across it before. Other flies to look out for will be the true Black Gnats and Stoneflies, particularly the Yellow Sally which is usually around at the same time as the Mayfly. The odd mayfly is already making an appearance and some huge nymphs are showing up in our kick-samples. Expect the main hatch to start towards the end of May/beginning of June.

Friday 15th was our third Oliver Edwards Nymphing Masterclass and the weather was kind to us for once. Fifteen of us gathered at the Bobbin Mill to be entertained by Oliver in his inimitable style. The morning was spent in examining the results of a very short but productive riffle sample, comparing the nymphs with the patterns we had in our fly boxes (very edifying!) and then with Oliver's own patterns. We were left with no doubt that most of our nymph patterns were much too big compared with the naturals. Oliver then took us through the setting up of his usual nymph rig, and then he gave us a demonstration of his approach to

fishing a pool. The fact that the fish chose not to cooperate did not detract from the demo! In fact, it turned out to be a perfect dry fly day, with fish rising to stoneflies all around Oliver. I think that we all took away new ideas from the day and on our behalf I'd like to thank Oliver and John Glynn, who kindly drove Oliver for the day.

The peak of the season is now approaching so,

Tight lines!
David Marriott

