

## Cressbrook & Litton Flyfishers

### Fishing Report

31 May 2015

I've been on holiday so fishing opportunities have been limited over the last couple of weeks. It was timely therefore, to receive a report from John Frazer, our very own Hell's Angel, who had a red letter day on our upper beats recently. I leave it to him to describe his day -



"Nice sunny day on Friday, river lowish & clear, gusty wind was a problem at times. No other fishers upstream of Duffers. Apart from one hour between 14.30 and 15.30 I was casting to rising fish the whole time from 11.00 to 18.00. All sorts going on, Olives hatching, spinners and caddis laying but most of the time I didn't have a clue what was going on. (Needs to come on the next Rivercraft Day. Ed.) Walked up from Duffers to two pools past the Wormold (Wormhill) Gorge. Rising fish interested only in very small olive or black flies. Assume these were insects falling from trees. I will have to get a seine net, I lost mine a couple of years ago. Not easy but picked up a fish or two in almost every pool. Good Olive hatch around 13.00 below viaduct and I landed 6 fish in 30 minutes with a s16 Para Duster. Got to the Gorge around 17.00. It has changed as a result of trees falling in upstream. Big back eddy against the cliff face has gone - bummer! Entry from below was also marginal for

someone vertically challenged. Fish rising all the way through, looked like spinner rises, slow sipping. Tied on a s16 Para Rusty Spinner and could not miss, they just slowly sucked it in, hook up almost every time. Netted 7. Had a couple in the pool above with slashy rises. Nothing seen or rose in the pool above, so headed home about 18.30."

On my return from holiday, I put in a few hours on beat 8 on Bank holiday Monday. It was a cold, raw afternoon, which is par for the course as far as I am concerned this season. There was a cold downstream wind which was pushing hatching flies into the far bank where they were getting held up in back eddies. There were several good fish taking advantage of the trapped flies. Judging by their size and light olive appearance, I'd say these were Olive uprights but there were Pale Wateries and Iron Blues about too. Unfortunately, it was too deep to wade across, making it difficult to hold my fly in the killing zone without the intervening current bringing on drag, but I did hook a couple of nice brownies in this manner. Turning the corner there was a nice steady run which tempted me to try the nymph. After fishing diligently for half an hour without success I was persuaded back to the dry, having seen a couple of rises in the neck of the pool. The



fly I was using is my imitation of the Olive upright, tied after the fashion of the

Baetis Cripple, but with a CDC wing tied pent. First run down brought up a rainbow of about a pound which soon came to hand. The second fish took a little longer to persuade but eventually he had it too, turning out to be another feisty rainbow of similar size. Catching a few fish has the amazing ability to ward off the chill of the water but I was soon shivering again and not enjoying myself at all. If it hadn't been for the fact that I was with the President and he'd promised me a pint at the Bull's Head later, I think I would have gone home at this point. As it was I pressed on and winkled a few more fish, these to a Parachute Adams.

When I got back to the Mill, the wind had dropped, the sun came out and I could see clouds of spinners dancing above me. This reminded me that I ought to be collecting a few for Stuart Crofts, so I spent about 30 minutes leaping about with my collecting net, which certainly got my circulation going again! I captured a mixture of Olive Uprights, Medium Olives, Iron Blues, Black Gnats, Aegiptus and Stoneflies. Still no sign of Mayflies at the time of writing (26th), although Chris Dore witnessed a brief hatch recently and John Smith saw two or three in Duffers the other day. They were late of course last year and the current poor weather isn't helping either.

Best wishes,  
David Marriott