

Cressbrook & Litton Flyfishers

Fishing Report
21 July 2015

Fishing opportunities have been limited since the end of June, so I'm afraid I've not much to report. I met an old friend at Duffers one evening recently and we shared a rod. He hasn't been in the best of health for the last year or two and I was sorry to see that his fishing abilities had declined alarmingly. I did manage to get him attached to a nice brownie which was lying in a hole in the weed. We hid behind a bush like schoolboys and fed the fly downstream. The fish came up and looked very closely at the fly for what seemed an age before tipping up and taking it. I would normally have struck too soon but on this occasion I steeled myself and let the fish return to its lie before setting the hook in classic fashion. My friend then played the fish whilst I netted it for him. I was impressed by the luxuriance of the weed in Duffers this year - I don't think I've seen it so thick for 20 years. At this rate we'll have to get the keepers reintroduced to weed cutting! Every weed bank had a fish resting in the cushion of water at its head and every hole had a fish on station.

On the 11th we held our second, more advanced Rivercraft Day, at which we had a full compliment of 12 rods. The ETHK rose from his sick bed to cook a barbeque for them, ably assisted by the President, who had kindly agreed to help David with the catering. Actually that last statement is untrue - he turned up over an hour late to find lunch over and no burgers left! Judging by the very complimentary emails I have since received from the participants the day was a great success and enjoyed by all.

My only other Wye fishing escapade since the last report was a day on the idyllic

Duke's Beat at Haddon Hall with Dr Smith. When I die I would like to come back as a Lord - a Lord who allows wading! But rules is rules so the President and I behaved ourselves impeccably and caught very little as a result!

I am now about to embark on my annual trip to Iceland to fish for the awesome wild brown trout of the Big Laxa. I made the mistake of checking the weather forecast today. It was 3 degrees C with a cold northerly wind forecast for the next seven days, with temperatures between 5 and 10 degrees. Oh joy! Better pack more thermals.

Whilst I am shivering in Iceland, look out for some tasty terrestrials during the day -



I've noticed that Soldier Beetles have been very active on the Cow Parsley recently and the strong winds are blowing them on to the water, where the trout are waiting for them. As the heather starts to flower, look out for the Heather Fly, *Bibio Pomonae*, which is always worth a try at this time. Evenings will see a continuation of Blue Winged Olives, both spinner and dun, whilst a skated caddis will always provoke a take in the gloaming.

Tight lines!

David