

**Hutton Rudby Fly-Fishing Club
2016 Members' Newsletter**

2015 Season's Fishing.

My Favourite Flies by Alistair Corbishley.

For those of you who like to tie and try new flies which other members have found effective Alistair Corbishley has written about his fishing experience on the Leven and elsewhere with instructions to tie his favourite flies and some excellent pictures of them. See his note at the end of this Newsletter.

2015 Catch Return Analysis

The table below summarises our catch statistics for the last 7 years. This year's figures are affected by a poorer than usual proportion of accurate catch returns: only 74% of members who normally fish made a return compared with 97% last year. Our recorded total catch for all members (1403) is nevertheless the second highest since we started collecting these statistics. If we had received all members' catch figures I estimate we would have recorded around 1800 fish caught in total. This would compare well with last season's total of 2058, which benefitted from Scott's bumper total of 650 fish!

For much of the season, too, the water was low and fishing conditions difficult. This may part explain why the grayling catch was small: nymph fishing seems to be more successful for grayling than dry fly and in low water conditions maybe more members were using dry fly? Members have also suggested in low water conditions grayling may drop down stream. Large grayling have certainly been caught by our members who also fish the Leven well downstream of our stretch.

Summarised catch data for 2009 - 15 seasons.

| | 2009* | 2010* | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total number of members: | 66 | 56 | 52 | 52 | 48 | 46 | 48 |
| Number of potentially active members: | 58 | 49 | 44 | 44 | 40 | 38 | 38 |
| Total hours fished by members: | 882 | 582 | 497 | 685 | 554 | 600 | 450 |
| % of active members who fished <3 times: | 40 | 32 | 32 | 42 | 48 | 49 | 40 |
| Total number of fish caught: | 1248 | 574 | 861 | 1282 | 874 | 2058 | 1403 |
| Average number of fish caught per member who fished: | 35 | 20 | 32 | 28 | 31 | 94 | 70 |
| Average number of fish caught per angling hour: | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 3.4 | 3.1 |
| Average size of native trout caught (inches): | 7.5 | 6.7 | 7.3 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 7.2 | 7.2 |
| Number of trout >10" caught: | 231 | 51 | 121 | 130 | 84 | 244 | 167 |
| Trout >10" as % of total catch: | 16 | 8 | 14 | 11 | 10 | 12 | 12 |
| Number of grayling caught: | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 7 | 45 | 7 |
| Maximum number of fish caught by a member: | 206 | 141 | 222 | 221 | 194 | 644 | 287 |
| Maximum average catch rate by a member: | 4.6 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 5.9 | 5.2 | 6.0 | 5.7 |

*400 11" to 13" brown trout stocked.

Club Website.

The Club website has been in use for virtually a whole season, just less than half the number of registered users has logged onto the site. The website has the facility for members to enter their catch returns on-line by computer or mobile 'phone. If we can get a high proportion of our members to use this we can save money and trouble for us all by eliminating the need for logbooks and associated postage. Elimination of the manual transfer of data from logbook to spreadsheet will reduce errors. We shall also be able to show the summary statistics in real time on the website through the season as they build up.

The site has also got some videos in the "members only section" of Scott Hansford in action last year. Also recently added is a link to the Environment Agency web site for Leven river levels – useful for out of village members.

We want to get your views on this use of the website at the AGM. Our ambition is to get all members using it and so we want members to consider incentives for those who do use it at the AGM: see below.

Wild Trout Trust Conservation Award

The Club entered the competition for the 2015 Wild Trout Trust Conservation Award. The basis of our entry was our use of logbooks to determine our non-stocking policy and the work described below under “River Improvement Work 2015” and “Introduction to Fishing Days 2015 and 16” We believe we put forward a good story linking the logbook analysis to money saving from not stocking, to spending on river improvement in the junior section and the fishing tuition for young people who will be the river and trout conservation enthusiasts of the future. We got through to the interview stage but did not win.

Angling Trust.

The Angling Trust is now arguably the most important organisation in the UK for supporting fishing of all categories. The Environment Agency has “outsourced” many of its responsibilities to the A.T which now looks after water quality standards, poaching prosecutions, encouraging people into fishing, making grants to improve river habitats, regulation of standards in fishing club management and representing fishing to government.

It has, for instance, recently taken the government to court for failing to use its statutory powers to improve water quality. It gave our Club a grant of £5000 in early 2015 to carry out the river habitat improvement described below.

We are members of the AT and because of its importance to fishing I shall be e-mailing its Newsletters to you.

River improvement work in 2015.

All the work on the river in 2015 was carried out on the “Junior Section” water upstream of Church Bridge. It was funded mostly by grants of £5000 from the Angling Trust and £2000 from Hambleton District Council. The whole scope of work included improving fish cover in the river, easement of fish passage at the two weirs near Church Bridge by small fish passes and running events to encourage local young people to take up fishing. The work on the river was mostly completed, by Richard Holmes of the Tees Rivers Trust. The fish pass downstream of the bridge has been pre-fabricated but high water levels have delayed its completion till next season.

River Improvement Work 2016

Our intention is to hold 3 working parties for members this season with a mixture of light pruning and heavier work. We shall pull together a plan for more substantial work with the Tees Rivers Trust.

River fly life monitoring.

Bill Arnold and David Stokes-Herbst have continued to monitor our river fly-life, with junior member Jack Swales standing in for David on one occasion. The results have been sent to the “Riverside Partnership” for inclusion in their national database of fly life health in UK rivers. Bill can access this and it is hoped that it will be available to all members in the future.

Bailiff's Activities.

Gary has had no serious poaching incidents to deal with. His watch on the river and low-key but firm dealing with occasional casual poachers seems to be the way to prevent any serious unpleasantness.

Membership and Finances.

Our paying adult and junior membership increased slightly this year. Adult paying membership was 33 members (31 in 2014) and junior membership 7 (5 in 2014). There are 15 life members.

The club audited accounts for 2015, included with this Newsletter, show the finances to be sound. This good news is specially important because the financial pressure on the Environment Agency and the increased priority which will be given to flood defences will most probably severely restrict the availability of grants for river improvement. If we wish to continue to maintain or improve our fishing we shall largely have to fund our work ourselves.

The Club committee will recommend to the AGM that Club subscriptions remain at £70 for adult members and £5 for juniors.

In order to encourage more members to use the Club website for making on-line catch returns through the season the committee will recommend to the AGM that those members who do so be given a discount on their next season's subscription, this also to be retrospective to 2015.

Payment of subscriptions by electronic transfer

Members are invited to use electronic transfer when paying their subscriptions subject to rules necessary to ensure payments are properly identified against the member and his ticket. These are given on a separate note sent out with this Newsletter.

“Introduction to Fishing Days” 2016

A report sent to all our members described the fishing days for young people held in 2015 in partnership with Ayton Angling Club on their “Larners’ Lake” stillwater, with the help of the Angling Trust, and the River Leven. They were outstandingly successful. This was mainly due to the one-to one tuition given by both Club members and the generous stocking of the lake by Ayton. Here, again, is a very brief summary of the results: The organisers and drivers for the event were Jeff Mulroy and Scott Hansford. Members of the two clubs gave about 250 hours of their time to provide one-to-one tuition for 5 sessions of 5 hours each fishing day. About 25 boys and girls attended in total. On the three lake sessions about half caught rainbow trout and 14 Scout Fishing Badges were awarded. On the two Leven sessions 4 youngsters caught 15 wild brown trout. We gained 2 junior members and 1 adult member.

The success of the events has convinced both Clubs we should run them in 2016 concentrating on the lake venue because it is much more suitable for one-to-one tuition.

Ayton have had 5 members trained as Angling Trust Level 1 coaches and will have 2 trained to Level 2 by the early part of 2016. Level 2 coaches are preferable for this sort of event. Ayton Angling has confirmed its support to HR for joint training. Since we shall benefit from their efforts and venue we have made a donation of £700 for the training of one Level 2 coach. This seems better than having one of our members trained, which would put a heavy load on that one member.

Exchange of Membership tickets with Ayton Angling Club

Working with Ayton Angling Club on the fishing days for young people and their success has led to the suggestion that members of the two Clubs would benefit from a ticket sharing scheme similar to the one we have with Yarm Angling Association.

The suggested arrangement, for members’ consideration and vote at the 2016 AGM is:

The two Club secretaries each to hold 2 exchange tickets for issue to members of the other Club by prior booking so that a record of their use can be maintained.

A total of 10 mandays of fishing in the whole season on Ayton water to be available to Hutton Rudby Fishing Club. No more than two Hutton Rudby members to fish at any one time.

Fishing will be to the Ayton Club rules except that all fish caught are to be returned to the water.

Ayton Club members will have similar, reciprocal rights on our water.

2016 AGM and season start date.

The season starts on Saturday 22nd March 2016.

The AGM will be at 8.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 9th February in the Methodist Chapel which is accessed at the front of the Chapel at the top of the Village Green near the King's Head.

Please come along, give us your views and join the Club for the 2016 season. The draft 2015 A.G.M minutes and the 2015 audited accounts are included with this newsletter.

The A.G.M. Agenda will be: 1. Apologies, 2.Minutes of the 2015 AGM. 3. Chairman’s report. 4.Treasurer’s report. 5. Club Website 6. Fishing Logs. 7. River Improvement. 8. Wild Trout Trust Award 9. Riverfly Partnership 10. Encouraging Youngsters to Fish. 11. Ticket Exchange with Ayton Angling Association. 12. Subscriptions 13.Work parties 14. Election of officers. 14 Any other business.

Club Committee Members.

Your current Committee members are: Mark Jones (Chairman, 01642700238), Nick Gray (Treasurer, 01642786282, e-mail: nick.gray@fgould.com), David Clarke (01642700270), Peter Johnston (01642700868), John Gifford (Secretary, 01642700728 E-mail: gifford929@btinternet.com, Scott Hansford, (07940550816), David Stokes-Herbst (01642281375), Andy Thompson (01642706165), Phillip Whittingham, Andy Stott

Please fill in the slip below when joining to help the Treasurer and Secretary to contact you:

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Name..... Tel. No..... e-mail address:.....

Postal Address:



My Favourite Flies **by Alistair Corbishley**

I have been a fly fisher for almost thirty years fishing the rivers, streams and brooks of the North York Moors and the North East Pennine Hills. As well as fly fishing, I have also been tying my own flies on and off for about twenty years. Initially my inspirations were the spiders of the old North Country tiers which I used to great effect on the Rivers Tees & Esk. Following a break from fishing for about 11 years due to University and moving away from my home area for work, I returned to North Yorkshire about 5 years ago.

It was at this time I also re-discovered my passion for fly tying. After a couple of seasons with mediocre results with my old style spiders, I changed to dry fly and following a couple of trips which are probably best forgotten my results dramatically improved. With this improvement in fortunes came a thirst for new patterns to experiment with: this resulted in me discovering the 'Catskill Style' dry fly at the end of the 2013 season. I was hooked (excuse the pun!) by them and set about adapting the style to our little river to match our up-wings. I have even transferred some of the styles into modern patterns such as Klinkhammers, Parachutes and crippled flies with some success.

Best (or most consistent) patterns for me this season have been peacock quill bodied dry flies in sizes 16 to 20 – best styles have been 'Last Chance' cripples, parachutes, Klinkhammers and 'Catskill' style. I have also had occasional success with small F-Fly's, Elk hair caddis and little black gnat patterns.

Here are a few recipes to try:

'Last Chance' Cripple



Represents a stuck in the shuck or still born Up-Wing that is stranded in the water film (and therefore easy prey for the fish.

Hook 14 – 16 Dry Fly (Partridge SUD, Varivas, 2100, Orvis Fine Dry Fly)

Thread – 14/0 Shear (orange is my favourite colour but have also used cream, olive, tan & grey)

Tail / Shuck – few fibres amber coloured Z-lon (cut in a taper) length of hook shank with a few fibres of wood duck /mandarin / bronze mallard underneath

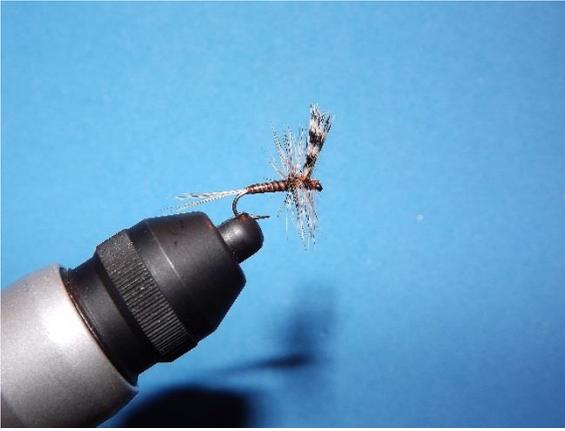
Body – well marked stripped peacock herl from eye of feather (varnish or UV resin this after wrapping). As alternative I have also use olive turkey biot with some success

Thorax – pinch of musk rat or mink to form a small ball

Wing – 2 -3 CDC plumes (leave the butts to form small stubs over the thorax) wing no longer than the length of the shank

Hackle – I found dark dun, grizzle/brown or grizzle/barred ginger cock hackle best

Mongrel Catskill



Tied in the classic 'Catskill' style, it's like a cross between a Quill Gordon & an Adams

Hook 16 – 20 Dry Fly (Partridge SUD, Varivas, 2100, Orvis Fine Dry Fly)

Thread – as above

Tail – brown/grizzle cock fibres length of shank

Body – as above

Wing – either grizzle hackle feathers or (my favourite especially in the tiny sizes) a well-defined teal breast feather with good broad barring (tied split wing same length as hook shank)

Hackle – nice stiff brown/grizzle cock (or grizzle/barred ginger) 1.5 times hook gape wide

Parachute



Hook 14 – 20 Dry Fly (Partridge SUD, Varivas, 2100, Orvis Fine Dry Fly)

Thread – as above

Tail – Coq de Leon fibres length of shank

Body – as above (I have also had success with a stripped brown or golden badger cock hackle as an alternative)

Wing – dun coloured parapost (on smaller flies I have used a tiny amount of parapost and added a small CDC plume as well) length of hook shank.

Hackle – natural or dark dun, dark barred ginger, grizzle, honey dun have all worked well. Use a nice stiff hackle 1.5 times hook gape wide

Whip finish at the base of the hackle post.

Klinkhammer



Hook 18 – 22 Partridge Klinkhammer or 18 – 20 Daichi Klinkhammer

Thread – as above

Body – Original called for Musk Rat, but I have also used blue/grey underfur from a Rabbit (it does tend to have a lot of guard hairs though)

Thorax – Original used bronze peacock herl, I use peacock dubbing (I like Hemmingway's) as it is more robust

Wing – Parapost such as TMC Aerowing or Orvis Parapost.

Hackle – Red/Brown & Grizzly or (if you are lucky enough to own one!) Cree

Whip finish at the base of the hackle post.

Most of my fishing is targeted to either rising fish or areas where I have seen fish previously or where I expect a fish to be stationed (in a pocket or a seam behind a rock or other obstruction). I nearly always use a single dry fly fished up stream, but have on occasion used a dropper with a small spider (e.g. poult bloa) to fish 'washing line' style. My favourite fly (to tie and fish) is the Mongrel. I tend to use this in the streamier sections where it can ride high over the riffles – there is just something about seeing it being bounced around on the waves of the river and then being engulfed in a confident take of a fish. As they sit lower in the water, use the parachutes in calmer sections where they are less likely to get drowned. I have found that both the cripple and the Klinkhammer work on most types of water where you expect to find trout and grayling. I use the Klinkhammer when there are no flies hatching or fish rising and cast it to likely fish holding spots.

These flies have been used to great effect not only on the Leven but also on the Tees in County Durham and on the Dye Water and Whiteadder Water (tributaries of the Tweed) up in the Scottish Borders.
