

First Day on the River Leven, 2014 – Scott Hansford

One of my most memorable days was my first day on the river this season.

A cold start to the day slightly overcast but still.

As usual I kit up at the church bridge parking area

Walk down to the lower bridge on the middle stretch slowly slide down the bank and into the water, being careful not to make too much wake as I cross the bottom pool.

I sit on the concrete block under the private bridge and watch.

Within 2 minutes it's decided: I'll try the deadly duowhy ?

There's a small trout rising up ahead but only the one ...

And a little colour in the water, it rained yesterday

Not seeing much flying about so a nymph might tempt one or two fish

but the dry may trick that little brownie (spotties I call them)

So after tying on a size 18 gold head haresear and two foot above that a large (well size 14) cdc & elk we're off .

Slowly, slowly move out into the flow.

First cast up into the bubble line .. nice cast start to retrieve the slack line as the flies settle and start to fish back to me ...

One two three four five six seven - oop the dry fly dips under the surface. Strike !!!!!

Thump thump I can feel this fish shaking its head; funny it feels like a grayling.

Then it settles and just swims, then thump thump head shaking again but what's this?

I'm gob smacked: a cheeky little spotty has taken the dry fly as I'm playing the grayling. I've never seen that one before

So now the next challenge to net 2 fish with one scoop !!!!

Made it though. Great result haha

It's a good pool this, it's the same place I caught that brown/sea trout (still under debate. I think it was a sea run brown in the transition from brown to sea - but that's a guess.

Anyway back to this day. All I can say is it was a great start to a brilliant days fishing.

26 to the net - and a good start to my best season on our beautiful River Leven.

Scott Hansford, November 2014