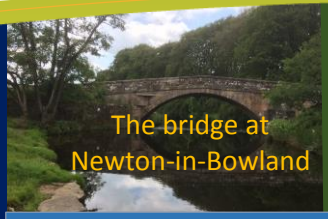
Lancashire Fly Fishing Association

News Letter
Issue 01

Spring Edition 2021



The bridge at Newton-in-Bowland

This issue

- Chairman's /Secretary reports. P1
- Hodder Restoration. Members retail discounts p2
- Member's letters and stories. P3
- A Selection of flies for spring.

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter.

We are pleased to share this, the first issue, of the L.F.F.A. newsletter. We intend this to be a regular production which will keep you up to date with the latest news and any recent developments within the club.
We are delighted to welcome our many new members and look forward to meeting you on the river banks and at social gatherings.
The newsletter is not meant solely for airing the views of members of the committee. There is an open invitation for anyone to submit interesting stories ,incidents or anecdotes which I'm sure will provide a welcome inclusive (hands on?) feel to the newsletter.
If you wish to contribute to future issues please contact the chairman to discuss topics and establish a way forward. It has already been suggested by several members that a fishing contest and social event should be introduced this year and possibly a best photo competition. We look forward to hearing your views and ideas on these topics.

Chairman's end of year report Highlights.

A full copy of the report can found on the members page of the Website

Gisburn Car Parking

The dispute at Gisburn, regarding our parking rights is still ongoing, however car parking spaces have been negotiated for us at Gisburn Park Hospital, (see the new map on our website).

Membership

This year due mainly to our membership offer we have managed to enrol 22new members. This has put us in a very sound financial position for 2021.

Stocks Reservoir.

I understand that Stocks Reservoir Fishing has now changed hands and I believe that there will be no changes to our existing agreement.

Secretary's end of year Highlights.

2020 was a better season for migratory fish in Lancashire and indeed for most of the West coast rivers of England and Scotland with some Clubs recording up to more than double their 5 year average of salmon. I believe the most likely explanation is the significant reduction of netting by the number of inshore trawlers operating in the Solway and the Irish Sea due to the Corvid situation. It will be interesting to see what happens in 2021.The other interesting feature is the increase in the Spring and Summer runs of salmon and the lower runs of the Autumn fish.
On our waters the trout fishing has held up well aided by some judicious stocking .We have not in recent years stocked anything like the numbers we have stocked in the past. This I think has resulted in the absolutely amazing number of small grayling being seen, with some rods catching up to forty of these small fish in a session and also from the lower beats of the Ribble which has traditionally been deemed too unclean for grayling.

John Shorrock
Secretary

I remember when our rivers were full of Water Crowfoot or Ranunculus Fluitans, which you all know is a very important habitat for small fish and invertebrate's recently I walked over our beats and discovered NONE.

Geoff Whitehead and I decided that a good project would be to re-introduce Water Crowfoot (*See page 2*) into the head waters of our rivers. Having eventually found a source locally, we planted some in the Hodder above and below Newton Bridge to see if it will regenerate

Mossthwaite conservation project.

Last year we gave financial support and volunteered to assist with planting trees to help River Ribble Trust (RRT) with their conservation project below Knowlmere.
Finally, the annual general meeting this year will be deferred until legislation allows a full meeting to be safely undertaken. Some of you may wish to table questions and requests for discussion at the next meeting, if this is the case then call me anytime on my landline, mobile or email.

Please remember to pay your subscriptions which remain the same as last year by the 31st December2020.

All the best for the New Year and tight lines to you all.

Vincent.

River Hodder restoration.

Introduction of gravels in the river Hodder at Knowlemere.

The natural flow of the upper stretches of the Hodder has been severely disrupted over many years by engineering projects, flood prevention schemes, bank erosion protections walls and barriers and the introduction of Groins in the river.

This intervention has resulted in undesirable flow of water in many areas and as a result areas of erosion, general shallowing of the river and exposure of many large stones. And is considered to be the main cause of gravel washouts and the progressive destruction of fish breeding grounds.

In order to restore some of the lost spawning grounds it is proposed to reintroduce the lost gravel and where appropriate restore damage /eroded banking.

The restoration was originally planned to start at Knowlemere early 2020 and further work would have been undertaken at Newton in 2021.

Unfortunately all work has been suspended due to Corvid-19 restrictions.

Hopefully the work will commence early in 2021



Covid-19

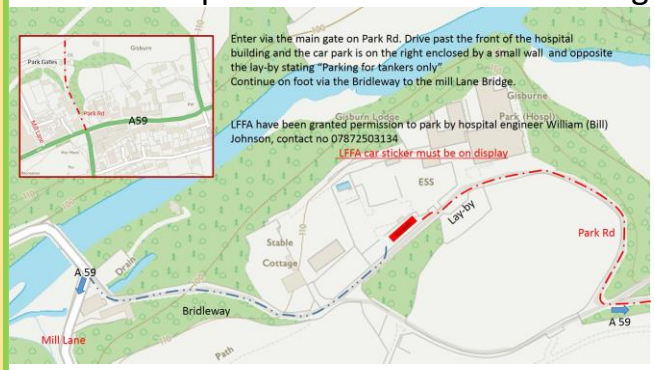
Due to the Covid 19 no social events are being planned at this point in time. Further announcements will be made at the appropriate time

Proposed Annual Fishing Social Gathering.

It has been proposed that the club holds an annual and social gathering at one of our resevoir Barns fold or Stocks any members interested should contact the Chairman

New car Parking site at Gisburn

Gisburn hospital have kindly granted permission for LFFA members to park their vehicles on the Engineering car park.



Please note:

It is important that the LFFA car window sticker is displayed at all times

The current L.F.F.A map book has been updated and can be viewed on the web page. Go to the **"Members "**section and click **"Members Maps"** and scroll down Page.

Discount's for Members

John Norris of Penrith offers a 15% a discount on all none sale items for LFFA members

GO outdoor offers a 10% a discount on all none sale items for LFFA members

Reader's Favourite flies

If you have a favourite fly which you are prepared to share with our members then please contact the editor and we will publish it in our future newsletter. A photo, tying instructions and how to fish it should be supplied. If it's unique then give it a name.

Working Parties:
Due to Corvid 19 restrictions no working party dates have been set for 2021.

A salmon Angler is Born

I thought I'd share the news of my 1st hooked Salmon. It was a brief moment, maybe 30 seconds but nevertheless a memorable one. I was fishing on the Ribble at Cromwell's with a couple of purple spiders for Grayling. I'd had a good morning catching eleven small Grayling. After a break I noticed the water levels was rising. The river gradually rose by 15 cm, knocking the fishing on the head. At 3pm with just an hour left a few small Brownies decided to feed. I had just arrived at the neck of a fresh pool when I heard a large splash around an area of submerged rocks near the tail of the pool. I didn't see the fish but assumed it must be a Salmon. I've only got a trout rod license so therefore only carry tackle required to catch my quarry. Therefore didn't read too much into the leaping Salmon other than a reminder to myself of a possible lie for next year. I worked my Size 16 Purple spiders through the pool catching a few small Trout and Grayling as I went I paused for a moment as I arrived at the submerged rocks, wondering if that Salmon was lying around these rocks. Anyhow, I cast my line and drifted the spiders just on the mid-stream side of the rocks. I thought nothing of it as I felt what I thought was a leaf caught on one of my flies. Something in my head made me release the small loop of fly line. I've been reading, no studying would probably be more accurate Hugh Falkus Salmon Fishing. He advocates giving a Salmon slack line when feeling the initial take. Within seconds on the loop being released my line went heavy. Instinct took over and I struck. The fish made a strong run downstream, but I managed to slow and eventually halt the run. At which point the fish went air born. It leapt clear of the water, a long deep bar of silver. Thankfully the fish decided to swim back to its lie. Unfortunately this presented a problem as 0.14mm diameter line would snap in an instant if a fish of this size would run it against a rock. I applied pressure and the fish took to the air again. I had gain some momentum and managed to drawn the fish upstream of its lie. Now I have no experience of playing Salmon and what happened next was quite bizarre. The fish just held at 45 degrees downstream of me, roughly where my cast had landed my gut instinct was to try and get this fish moving upstream so I applied as much pressure as I dared. The fish moved alright, swimming fast upstream before going air born and shaking out my hook upon landing. I'd had the privilege of hooking and playing a Salmon for what seemed like minutes, probably no longer than 30 seconds. I didn't feel gutted at the loss of the fish, more reflective of the moment. One thing for sure,

A Salmon Angler has been born

Andy Hoyle

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'The Knowlemere Humdinger'

Blended Hare's Mask Dubbing.

One of the most useful flies used for Trout and Grayling is the Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear (GRHE) in its many forms. One only has to browse the pages of any fishing magazine to prove that. I have developed a method of obtaining some of the best dubbing for GRHE one can use, from a hares mask. Find a road casualty victim and **pluck** (do not cut as you want long strands) the fur from the mask of the hare. Some pluck more easily than others.
Place the fur into a jam jar along with a 3-4 **small** drops of "Domestos", add water and shake. Hot water will kill parasites. Pour contents through a sieve. Rinse several times until the water runs clean, and then dry fur. Place in suitable poly bag and put it in the freezer for about a week. That will kill any remaining parasites. The washings blend the fur to produce a most wonderful dubbing. It can be dubbed onto thread very easily. Then make the best ever 'caddis bugs' at your vice. One of my most successful flies, both on the Hodder and the Ribble using this material, is the Gold head GRHE. It has taken many fine Grayling and Trout.

Hook: Scorpion Grub hook 14, 12 10
Charles Jardine Red Hooks 14 12 10
Thread: Black 6/0
Underbody: Lead wire or foil
Head: Gold bead
Rib: Copper or red wire. Or gold tinsel
Body: Blended Hare Dubbing.

1. Put bead on hook and place hook in vice.
2. Apply tying thread down past the bend.
3. Apply lead foil or wire.
4. Tie in rib
5. Dub thread and wind on up to bead. It eats dubbing.
6. Rib body with wire or tinsel and tie off.
7. Secure thread with head cement.

You can dye the fur or blend it with other materials such as Lite Brite, Glister or other animal fur, to give the most wonderful bodies. The guard hairs can be picked out or rough it up with Velcro to give a leggy effect. To obtain a darker dubbing use only the fur from the centre of the mask. Using the fur from the sides of the mask will make a lighter dubbing. Fur from all parts of the body can be used, including just the ears, and blended together, so making a softer or more course type of dubbing. Blended Mole body fur is superb and makes excellent Water hen Bloas. (Get to know your local Pest Control Officer) For some reason Mole fur from a dried skin is much shorter, by plucking the fur from the body you will produce longer strands which you can "mist" onto the thread. Try Squirrel and Rabbit. No doubt you will know of other that can be used

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4lb Hodder grayling taken on first cast using Ian,wonder fly! (never let the truth spoil a good story)

WARNING When collecting animals at the side of the road be careful not to become a victim yourself!

Ian Beecham.

Best Photo Competition

It has been proposed that the club holds an annual best photo competition.

The topics are:
1: Best fish
2: Other ideas required

You views and suggestions are required.

A dozen Flies for the spring



Red Tag

Hook: size 12/14/16.
Thread: Black 8/0.
Tail: Red wool or floss.
Body: Peacock herl.
Rib: Silver wire.
Hackle: Brown.



Black And Peacock

Hook: size 12/14/16.
Thread: Black 8/0.
Body: Peacock herl.
Rib: Silver wire.
Hackle: Black.



Bibio

Hook: size 12/14/16.
Thread: Black 8/0.
Body: Black and Burgundy seals fur.
Rib: Silver oval wire.



Iron Blue Dun

Hook: size 14/16.
Thread: Black 8/0.
Tail: Cock de Leon fibre's
Body: Mole skin dubbing.
Hackle: Iron Blue cock Hackel.
Wing: Starling wing.



Gold Rib Hare Ear

Hook: size 10 to16. 2x long shank
Thread: Brown 8/0.
Tail: Hare's hare ear fibre's.
Body: Hare's ear dubbing.
Rib: Gold tinsel.
Thorax: Pheasant tail fibre's.
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Partridge and Orange

Hook: size 12/14/16.
Thread: Orange 8/0.
Body: Orange thread.
Hackle: Grey Partridge neck



Large Brook dun

Hook: size 10/12/14.
Thread: Medium olive 8/0.
Tail: Hackle fibre's.
Body: Medium olive Floss.
Hackle: Medium olive cock.
Wing: Starling wing.



Greenwell's Glory

Hook: size 12/14/16.
Thread: Yellow 8/0.
Tail: Hackle Fibre's.
Body: Yellow tying thread.
Rib: Gold wire or tinsel.
Hackle: Greenwell cock hackle.
Wing: Starling wing.



Black Pennell.

Hook: size 12/14/16.
Thread: Black 8/0.
Tail: Golden Pheasant Tippet.
Body: Black floss.
Rib: Silver wire or tinsel.
Hackle: Black hen.



Ribble rouser

Hook: size 14/16/18.
Thread: Scarlet 8/0.
Body: Awesome Possum.
Rib: Copper wire.
Hackle: Cock rust red.



Gold Head Pheasant Tail Nymph.

Hook: size 12 /16.
Thread: Gold 8/0.
Tail: Pheasant Tail fibre's.
Body: Pheasant Tail fibre's.
Rib: Copper wire.



Snipe and Purple.

Hook: size 12/14/16/18.
Thread: Purple 8/0.
Body: Purple thread.
Hackle: Snipe
Wing: Hen Pheasant wing.