Lancashire Fly Fishing Association

News Letter
Issue 02
Editor Ian H Leaver.

Summer/Autumn Edition 2021



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- Member's letters and stories. P3
- A Selection of flies for Summer & Autumn.

Welcome to the second issue of our newsletter.

We are pleased to share this, the second issue, of the L.F.F.A. newsletter. We are delighted to welcome our new members and look forward to meeting you on the river banks and at social gatherings. I would also like to thanks those members who have contributed to this issue your input was much Appreciated.

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 or editor to discuss topics and establish a way forward.

Chairman's Mid year report Highlights.

Gisburn Car Parking

Negotiations for a new carpark at Gisburn are currently ongoing. The area which should accommodate approx. six cars will need some work to be undertaken before it is fit for purpose and is expected to be complete by the end of this year. The location and details of parking instructions will be available on the club website (member's page) when complete and all maps updated accordingly.
The dispute at Gisburn, regarding our parking rights is still ongoing.

Membership

This year to date we have managed to enrol another 6 new members. This has put us in a very sound financial position for 2021.

Ranunculus Fluitans (water crowfoot).

Over the past decade the amount of water crowfoot in our catchment has been slowly diminishing and by the summer of 2016 it was almost non-existent. The decline in Ranunculus was not really noticed by fishermen but I am sure that fish missed a very important part of their habitat. It took the devastation of Desmond in 2015 to highlight the loss of habitat and I suppose before then it was suggested that this was a natural cycle and that the river would rejuvenate its self. We recognised that plants cannot propagate upstream easily and if something wasn't done to re-introduce the plant back into the upper reaches we were going to lose a lot of necessary habitat and consequently a lot of fish. However some stock of the plant still remained in the lower part of the Ribble but it was questionable if some of it should be relocated.
A decision was taken to wait a couple of seasons to see if Ranunculus would naturally recover. The 2019 survey of the Hodder however found the plant now only existed at Hodder foot, the lower Ribble however had recovered and a plentiful supply was available.
In 2020 a pilot project to re-introduce Ranunculus was undertaken in the upper Hodder above Newton in Bowland. Recent inspection of the area has shown that the plants have established themselves and the objectives have been met.
Following this we have now relocated more plants this time at Knowlemere.



Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme (HARP)

The Haweswater aqueduct which transports water from Haweswater to Manchester is to undergo a major renovation starting in 2023. A compound and temporary bridge to service this work has been proposed which passes over the River Hodder below the bridge at Newton in Bowland. This work if allowed to go ahead is expected to cause some disruption to our fishing and current car parking arrangements during its construction and use for several years thereafter. United Utilities are aware of our fishing rights and are looking to minimise any disruption that may occur.

Further details, plans and project information can be found at www.harpconsultation.co.uk

United Utilities have on the 25/6/2021submitted their planning application to the Ribble Valley Borough Council planning Department. www.ribblevalley.gov.uk

Royal Lancashire Show

This was the third time LFFA have had a stand at the Show and probably the most satisfying!
Down by the river with Sale Wheel as a magnificent backdrop (and advert for club waters) we joined Guideline instructors to provide a focal point for fly fishers. We attracted good interest from potential new members as well as linking with existing members, sharing expertise with the bonus of casting practice available. A special thanks to David Moore (providing a magnificent gazebo) Pat Stevens (fly tying and all things grayling) Janet and Vince Edmondson, Bill Clegg and Alan Olive for their assistance over the three days. Put it in your diary for next year it's a great day out and good to meet fellow anglers.

Geoff Whitehead

Finally, the annual general meeting will be undertaken at the end of this year (legislation allowing). 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.

Vincent Edmondson

"OWD TILL" and the Stonyhurst Black

William Wilkinson, known as "Owd Till" -1833 – 1921 –was a well-knowr Ribble Valley character who worked as gamekeeper on the Stoneyhurst College estate for over 60 years. Till could neither read nor write but he could certainly catch fish! One of his duties was to supply the College with fresh fish, a task which he carried ou eagerly and successfully.

Some of his fishing methods were far from what we would regard as 'sporting' today. He would set night lines and nets for trout and snigs (eels) and even hinted at shooting sea trout or two!

As a 'sporting' fisherman Till excelled at fly fishing for both trout and salmon. His tapered casts were made from plaited strands horse hair with a single length of gut to which he attached the fly. One fly, which he tied himself – but the origin is unknown – was the '**Stoneyhurst Black'.** He had great success with this simple fly with its black wool body and turkey wing. Perhaps it might still account for a fish or two today and may be worth adding to your fly box.

Till passed away at the age of 88 and was still fishing a year before his death. Without doubt he was a great character, a real artisan and above all a supreme fisherman.

Member Keith Harwood has researched the life of 'Owd Till' and you can read his fascinating article in the LFFA web site on the member's page.

oOo

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

Stonyhurst Black



Hook size 12 -8
Tail: Golden Pheasant tippet fibres.
Body: Black wool.
Rib: Silver tinsel
Hackle: Reddish Black
Wing: Two slips of Brown Turkey
Head: Black

The Mole Fly

I first discovered this fly while searching the pages of the magazine Fly Fishing and Fly Tying. An article written by Neil Patterson.

I was searching for a dry fly that would land right each time and help you to keep the tippet off the water. This fly was just the job. It started life more than a hundred years ago on the River Mole in Surrey and still used today, apparently.

The original fly used teal breast feathers for the Sighter. I used Mallard flank feathers but soon changed to polypropylene floating yarn in various colours.

This fly can be tied to simulate any manner of insects, large or small, at any time of the year. All you have to do is alter the hackle and body to "match the hatch". The pattern is so versatile, it has all the features of the Klinkhammer, floats well, easily seen, due to the poly yarn Sighter, and catches fish. I think this style of fly helps to reduce drag. A great fly for fishing the "Duo".

From the photo's you might consider that the bushy fly is over dressed but in fast water this fly floats like a cork. If you struggle to find the eye of the hook then consider using a jig hook. For more open water or slower glides use a hackle with longer fibres and not as many turns of feather.

MATERIALS.

Hook size: TMC: 100 SPBL, 12–18.

Tying Thread: Semperfli Nano silk.

Post: Mallard flank, Aero Dry Wing.

Hackle: Good quality generic hackle,

Body: poly yarn, hackle, dubbing

Roger Smith wrote an excellent article in Fly Fishing and Fly Tying magazine entitled "The Dynamic Duo".(June 2016).

The fly he now uses is the mole fly.



Attachment of Post and Sighter



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The Finished Fly

Ian Beecham

Discounts' for members

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

Members' Letters and Stories.

MY FIRST SALMON (TWICE!)

By Ian Dandy

Ever since I joined Lancashire Fly, I'd tried to catch a salmon at Gisburn. I'd have had the casting lessons, bought the double handed rod and expensive lines, even the outsize net.

Every year I would book some time off in October, go when the river was supposedly at the right height. I saw them, hooked them, lost them, even netted them out for other anglers, but me catch one? No chance! I was doing nothing wrong according to the experts!. I would just have to be patient.

That was, until October 2018. That year, the river was low and clear, and the weather dry and mild. Perfect for grayling. The Lady of the Stream!

This particular day was different though, the 'Ladies' were not obliging me. I'd tried dry fly, managed a couple of out of season brownies, but no grayling. I thought I would try the Nymphing tactics that everyone raves about. I set up my 10' #3 Sage ESN rod, #3 line, French leader, and 1.5 lb tippet, and tied on a size 16 gold headed pheasant tail nymph with a spot of orange. As I worked my way along the Kennel Pool, nothing happened, until finally as the fly swung across and slightly downstream from me, I was just about to lift out when the indicator stabbed down, and I felt a pull. A good pull, this was some grayling! It ran slowly downstream keeping to the bottom, and all I could see was the occasional flash of sliver in the slightly coloured water. Then it moved a bit faster downstream towards the bridge, my rod bent double, and line flew off the reel. Suddenly, this big bronze shape leapt from the water. A salmon, I couldn't believe it. Stay on, you bugger!

Anyway, it did, and I managed to work it towards me. Obviously, I couldn't net it, what was I to do? I could see the fly lightly embedded in the side of its jaw, so as I edged the fish close, I carefully took hold of the hook, and released the fish. It slowly disappeared, apparently none the worse. Luckily, everything had held together, and my rod was still in one piece.

Once I'd regained my senses, I realised that the fish hadn't been on that long, and apart from the single leap, the fight wasn't spectacular, so my first Gisburn salmon experience wasn't all that spectacular. Why had I bothered putting in all that time and effort? Anyway, I'd broke my duck, and they do say the first salmon is always the hardest to catch. Next day, the weather was the same, so as I'd booked the week off, back I was at Gisburn, with my nymph rod, same set up, same fly. Working up the Kennel Pool, at exactly the same location, exactly same position of my fly, and away went my indicator with another savage pull, and again the slow, now familiar draw downstream, even the same leap at the same time and place. This was getting ridiculous!

To cut a long story short, everything was exactly the same as yesterday, except this time I could see that the fly was deeper in the throat, I would have to land the fish. What was I to do? At the risk of breaking my rod, I walked the fish into the bank, and got its head on the gravel. There it was, my second salmon, or should it be my first salmon twice? It was definitely the same fish. Anyway, seeing as I had her on the bank, I thought I may as well get a photo, I measured her length against my rod, about 8 lb I would guess, using the weight for length tables. I then carefully slipped her back, and away she swam. 'Be more bloody careful next time!' I said to her as she slipped away from my fingers. I do hope she went on to spawn successfully.

Thinking about what happened, most people would put it down to a 'fluke', but to happen twice in two consecutive days? Speaking to other people, and reading the stories, it would appear that this kind of thing is not an isolated experience. Many anglers have caught salmon on small wet flies and nymphs, often when the water is low. What can we learn from this? Have we got it wrong, should we be wading waist deep in high water, casting big heavy flies and lashing the water with splashy Spey casts? Or, should we be more subtle and cautious when fishing for salmon and concentrate more on Nymphing tactics in low water?

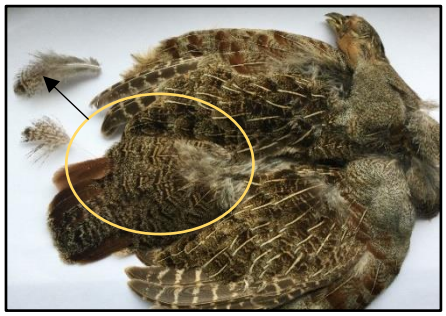
Food for thought, maybe, but as far as I'm concerned, my salmon score at Gisburn reads nymph rod Two, Spey rod Zero.

I still keep on with the big double hander though, but this year I bought an 11' #7/8 switch rod, so thought I'd tone it down a bit!



Fly tying Tip

How to use up your large well marked hackles



English Partrage skins are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain and are now quite expensive.

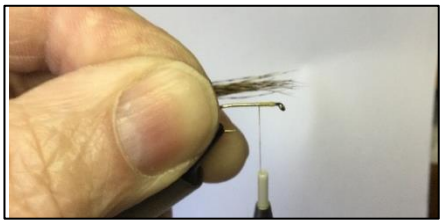
The majority of hackles used for spider fly are found around the neck and upper parts of the flanks. However there are many other well marked feathers on the skin that are suitable for soft hackle flies that could be used. But a different tying technique is required inorder to maintain the overall look of the traditional flies.



The photo above shows the relative difference of size of a typical neck feather compared to those found on the lower area of the skin. And typical comparison to a size 14 short and long shank hooks.



1. Remove the fluff from the bottom of the hackle feather, line up the fibre tips at 90 deg to the stem and tear away from feather.



2. Wax the tying silk to protect thread and provide grip to feather fibres. Wrap the thread around the hook shank a couple of turns should be sufficient. Establish the length of fibre you require



3. Roll hackle fibres around the bare hook. Tie down, and trim fibres to suit.



4. Complete the tapered body. Ribbing etc. may be added as required



Tease the fibres backwards along the hook shank a "hair drier" may make this operation easier, complete fly and varnish the head.

A dozen Flies for summer and autumn



Stoat's Tail

Hook: size 6/8/10/12/ single or Double
Thread: Black 8/0.
Tail: Golden Pheasant Topping.
Body: Black Floss.
Rib: Silver wire./Tinsel
Hackle: Black.
Wing: Stoat's Tail or Black squirrel. Jungle cock is optional.



Teal Blue & Silver

Hook: size 8/10/12/14.
Thread: Black 8/0.
Tail: Golden Pheasant Tippet.
Body: Silver Tinsel.
Rib: Silver wire./Oval tinsel.
Hackle: Teal Blue Hen.
Wing: Teal flank`



Peter Ross

Hook: size 8/10/12/14.
Thread: Black 8/0.
Tail: Golden Pheasant Tippet.
Body: Silver Tinsel scarlet thorax.
Rib: Silver wire./ oval Tinsel.
Hackle: Black Hen.
Wing: Teal flank.



Invicta

Hook: size 10/12/14.
Thread: Black 8/0.
Tail: Golden Pheasant Topping.
Body: Yellow seals fur.
Rib: Gold wire/oval tinsel.
Hackle: Palmered ginger cock/Blue Guinea fowl throat.
Wing: Hen Pheasant wing.



Peacock and Red

Hook: size 12/14/16.
Thread: Black 8/0..
Body: Peacock Herl.
Rib: Red Tinsel
Hackle: Black Hen.



Dunkeld

Hook: size 6/8/10/12/14.
Thread: Black 8/0.
Tail: Golden Pheasant Topping.
Body: Gold Tinsel.
Rib: Gold wire./ oval tinsel
Hackle: Hot Orange (can be palmered)
Wing: Bronze Mallard wing.



Pearly Griffith's Gnat

Hook: size 14/16. short shank
Thread: Black 8/0.
Tail: Crystal flash with a few grizzle fibres.
Body: .Peacock herl dyed black
Hackle: Black grizzle cock.



Wickham's Favourite

Hook: size 10/12/14/16.
Thread: rusty Brown 8/0.
Tail: Ginger cock fibres.
Body: Gold Tinsel.
Rib: Gold wire.
Hackle: Ginger cock palmered
Wing: Hen Starling or Mallard wing.



G&H Sedge (Grannom)

Hook: size 10/12/14/16.
Thread: Grey 8/0.
Body: Dear hair. & Green seal hair
Hackle: Light Ginger Cock Hackle.
Wing: Natural Roe Deer Hair.



Black "F" fly

Hook: size 12/14/16.
Thread: Black 8/0.
Body: Black seals fur.
Rib: Silver wire.(optional)
Wing: CDC Natural.



Olive Klink hammer

Hook: size 12/14/16.
Thread: Dark olive 8/0.
Body: Green Floss.
Rib: Green floss
Hackle: Dark Olive.
Thorax: Dark olive seals fur dubbing
Wing post: Aero dry wing.



Parachute Black

Hook: size 12/14/16.
Thread: Black 8/0.
Tail: Black cock fibres.
Body: Black Pheasant tail.
Rib: Silver wire.
Hackle: Black cock.
Wing post: Aero dry wing.