Lancashire Fly Fishing Association

News Letter
Issue 4
Editor Ian H Leaver.

Summer Edition 2022.



This issue:

- Chairman's / Secretary Reports Page one.
- Members' letters and stories Page two and three.
- A Selection of Tenkara flies and others Page four.

Welcome to the fourth issue of our newsletter.

We are pleased to share this, the fourth 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.

This and Previous issues of the newsletter can be found on the LFFA Website.

WWW.lffa.co.uk/members page.

Chairman's mid-year report.

Dear Members,

I need to bring to your attention the situation regarding the HARP project that United Utilities (U.U.) will be starting in approximately 12 months time. We have had several meetings with U.U. to advise them of our interest in the river and also the concerns with respect to the potential pollution that their operations may cause.

The outcome of the meetings has been positive with them taking responsibility to monitor the health of the river for the duration of the project. Our opinion is that a baseline ecological study of the river should be undertaken near to where their workings will be sited to establish the current state of the river. These sites will then be monitored at frequent intervals to establish if any negative impact has occurred.

Whilst United Utilities promised to implement these requirements last September to date there has been no action from them, and as a consequence we have decided to start monitoring the river ourselves. Three strategic locations have been identified and the first was surveyed on the 23rd March. The remaining two locations will be surveyed in the near future.

Alongside of this we have applied to have three members trained in the collection of data through the River Fly Project (RRT) which will be administered by Ribble Rivers Trust.

We will therefore monitor the areas required by RRT and also the strategic locations we have identified. The data that is collected will be published in our newsletters for the interest of our members.

Ranunculus Fluitans (water crowfoot).

Following the success of our two year pilot project to re-establish this water plant in our waters at Newton, we have recently identified a new location that has the potential to increase the propagation of the plant and is a more suitable location for its sustainable production.

Stocking.

This is always a debatable subject but I believe that if the habitat for our fish isn't fixed first then there is little point in trying to increase the wild fish population by not stocking.

Triploid trout are the worst thing that can be put into the river. They just displace any wild fish and do not add anything to the breeding stock. Wild Trout and Salmon stocks in our catchment are severely depleted and may now have reached a level that may be an unsustainable breeding population.

Therefore the questions are this: At what population density do we intervene when the trend is downwards? Is it when we have only 50% of what we had say 5 years ago? I would appreciate your views and comments.

Good luck to you this season and let's catch some fish.

Vince Edmondson.

Tel: 01254 813101
Mobile: +44 7703 395 729
Email: vincentedmondson1@gmail.co

Secretary's Report.

I am looking forward to this season. Although it has been a relatively benign winter, cold and wild East winds have severely curtailed the grayling fishing so it will be good to have some trout fishing on the Ribble and Hodder.

The migratory fishing last year was poor as a result of the very dry weather but a return to a more normal weather pattern this year could prove to be better. I have a theory that where migratory runs are adversely impacted by dry conditions a following season of wetter weather sees improved runs of fish. Let us hope that this is the case this year! However, I am firmly of the belief that if we are to ensure the survival of the Ribble and Hodder as salmon fisheries then a return to hatcheries is a necessity, in spite of the views of the pseudo-scientists at DEFRA and their disciples.

What they don't seem to understand is that the salmon live the vast majority of their lives in an environment over which we have no control, Namely the Atlantic Ocean! And there is no likelihood of this changing until there are no salmon left.

John Shorrock.

A Basic introduction to Tenkara.

You will hear "*It's dapping*", "*It's not traditional*"," *It will not work on my river"*. Well there may be a small element of dapping but as for the "tradition" fishing with a long pole and fixed line has been around a lot longer than rod and reel, ask Isaac Walton and his pals, that's how they fished.

But seriously, Tenkara, *(meaning "from the heavens")* has been used in Japan for centuries by local fisherman who used this method, fishing fast flowing mountain rivers, to catch food to survive. They had a ready supply of long bamboo canes and used furled horse hair for their lines. Fishing hooks were sewing needles, heated and bent into shape. Feather, fur and even plant material were used to dress the flies which are called Sakasa Kebari. They are Similar to a North Country Spider. Patterns vary from village to village but quite often just one simple fly was used for all fishing scenarios.


Kebari Fly

Image courtesy of Esoteric Tackle

The most recognized style of kebari is a forward hackled fly *(see above)* with a simple thread body, they didn't change the fly so much as changed how they fished or manipulated the kebari.

Nowadays tackle has changed as Tenkara developed into a recreational sport. Rods are telescopic in the 11 to 13 foot range and made of carbon fibre. Lines are light, straight through fluorocarbon usually the same length as the rod, #3.5 being an average weight in the Japanese scale. Longer lines can be used. Some enthusiasts still use horse hair. The line is attached to the small red line, known as the Lillian, on the tip of the rod. A length of tippet material is attached to the line, anything from 3-5 feet of up to 4lb BS. You then select your fly and tie it to the tippet. The line can be wrapped round a spool for carrying and the spool slipped over the rod until it touches the handle.



Flies are numerous and still called kebari, but you can use any of the flies in your own box, dry flies, nymphs, wet flies and even streamers.

A Tenkara rod is easy to use. The correct way to hold the rod is by placing your index finger on top of the grip. For western fly fishing the thumb is placed on top of the grip.
The line is cast like a western rod but through a shorter arc and the back cast is pushed upwards. (*Beware of trees, the fly is a lot higher up)*. The rod at the end of the cast is held high allowing the rod and line to form a triangle.

With traditional Tenkara, you always want the fly to land first, and to keep most, if not all, your line off the water. Only fly and tippet should touch the surface.

The upstream dead drift is the first Tenkara method that should be tackled.

There are a number of other techniques.

A tight line technique like Tenkara allows you to detect strikes in two ways. First, by feel, second, and perhaps most importantly, by sight. Quite often you will see fish dart out, hit the fly, spit it out and dart back. All this happens in the blink of an eye, before you are able to react. We have no idea sometimes, when fishing sub surface, just what is going on and how many fish have actually had a go at our fly. So many missed opportunities!

Due to the length of the rod you can reach over fast flowing currents without your line being pulled by the water. Drag is reduced to almost nil. Fish upstream but once you have fished it out go back down the pool and Fish in the opposite direction. Surprising how many times you will pick up a fish. Why did it not take the fly first time? Presentation was wrong.

Wind can be your enemy by lifting the fly out of the water. A little bead headed fly will help it to anchor. Better still get the wind to your back and let it help you. Landing a good fish can cause problems for some anglers. You cannot shorten a fixed line. The best way is to gently take hold of the line once the fish has had some of the steam taken out of it. Lower the rod and manoeuvre the fish towards the net. (*Called a Tamo*) If it makes a run allow the line to run through your fingers and lift the rod again until you are once again in contact with the fish. It might sound a bit risky but I can assure you, done properly, it works.

Tenkara is a very simple form of fishing- rod, line, tippet and a single fly.

But there is so much more to it than that and I am still learning. It has a great history, culture and so many techniques. But you can keep it as simple as you wish. It is a great way to fish.

Someone once said that always and never should not be used in fishing. This applies to what I have just written. Oh and by the way, it works on any river!

For more information on Tenkara I urge you to visit: -

https://www.discovertenkara.com/
Another good site is: -
https://tenkarausa.com/
Tenkara tackle supplies: -
https://esoterictackle.co.uk/15-tenkara

Ian Beecham

JOHN NORRIS OF PENRITH

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

NEW ROD TAKES FIRST SALMON

One of our members Will Clayton, from West Marton, North Yorkshire, is pictured with his only River Ribble salmon of the year-which he caught on the last day of the 2021 season.



The Calvin Shrimp

Will, who fishes the Ribble regularly, ignored the poor weather conditions to try his new rod a 12ft Mackenzie DTX rod. He said that the river was running 3ft high with leaves coming down and was the colour of chocolate. "Conditions were completely against fishing, but I wanted to try my new rod, so I headed to the river above Gisburn. I put on my favourite Calvin Shrimp tube tied with a pink cone head by local tyer and friend Andrew Thompson,

Mid way down the pool as the fly came on the dangle, the fish took only a foot from the bank. I was really surprised but obviously very pleased. I wouldn't normally fish in water like that, but it just goes to show that you don't catch them sitting on the sofa! The hen fish weighed 14lb."

Royal Lancashire Show

LFFA will be attending the Royal Lancashire show this year and will hopefully be joined with "Guide instructors" who will once again be providing casting tuition and practise.

Anybody wishing to help out with the erection of the stand and manning of the stall should in the first instance contact Geoff Whitehead (Vice-Chairman) for more details.

Tel: 01706 215221
Email: geoffrey.whitehead@ntlworld.com



Working Party at Plantation March 6th 2022

A lovely Day for the eight members of the working party albeit a little wet underfoot. The party split into two teams, cutting overhanging branches and clearing paths of fallen branches etc. from the recent storms. The 8th member of the team Mick arrived shortly after this photo was taken.

Members are, from Left to Right, Ian Beecham, John Davies (co-ordinator), Andy, David, John Chippendale, Bill, and New member Paul.
Photo taken by Sue Davis.

Three other working parties were undertaken during March on the River Hodder at Newton, Knowlmere and the Ribble at Gisburn. Many thanks to all the Members who took part.



Some of the improvements made on the River Ribble at Gisburn.

Future Issues

We hope that you've enjoyed this issue of the club's magazine and found the articles useful, informative and enjoyable.

For future editions we would be more than pleased to receive contributions from any member. If you have any stories-serious or amusing - advice, anecdotes, or simply would like answers to any fishing related queries you might have, then we would love to hear from you.

GO Outdoors

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

Selection Tenkara flies and others.

Hook - 12 - 14.
Thread – Black Thread.
Body - Peacock.
Hackle – Grizzle cock



Kaju Shinka Kebari
Weighted sinking Hook.

Hook -12 – 14.
Thread – Black.
Body – seal fur light olive.
Hackle - Pheasant shoulder.



Mendori Jun Kebari
Hen normal hackle Hook.

Hook - 12 - 14.
Thread – Black thread.
Body – Peacock Herl.
Hackle – Hen Hackle.



Sakasa Kebari
Upside down Hackle Hook.

Hook -12 - 16
Thread – Black thread body
Body – Black Thread.
Hackle – Ginger red game cock



Ondori Kebari
Rooster cock Hackle

Hook – 14 - 18
Thread – White.
Body – White floss.
Hackle – Grouse



Sakasa Kebari
Upside down Hackle

Hook – 14 - 18
Thread – Black.
Body – Peacock red Floss.
Hackle – Coachman
brown hen



Sakasa Kebari Coachman
Upside down Hackle

Hook – 14 -10
Thread – Black and Chartreuse
Egg sack – Chartreuse Thread.
Body – Hares ear dubbed body.
Thorax – Hares ear dubbing.
Hackle – Light grizzle died Grey.
Wing – Light Pardo Coc de Leon hackle fibres.
Horns – Light Pardo Coc de Leon Fibres.



Coc de Leon Grammon
Caddis Fly

Japanese Translation

Kebari – Fly/Hook.
Sakasa – Upside down Hackle.
Ondori – Rooster/Cock Hackle.
Mendori – Hen Hackle.
Jun – Normal.
Kaju – Weighted.
Shinka – Sinking.

.
Hook – 14 -10
Thread – Dark olive
Tail–golden pheasant tippet .
Body – Natural raffia.
Rib - Herron wing feather barb.
Hackle – Dark olive and silver partridge.



May fly (variant)