Lancashire Fly Fishing Association

Newsletter Issue 5.
Editor Ian H Leaver.

Spring Edition 2023.

Welcome to the sixth issue of our newsletter.

We are pleased to share this, the sixth 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.



Bridge over River Irt

This issue:

- Chairman's Reports Page one.
- Members' letters and stories Pages 2 - 4.
- River Fly Monitoring Project. Page 5 & 6.

Chairman's mid-year report.

Dear Members, Another year of very dry weather with our rivers on their "bones" at the lowest that I can remember but the Hodder was at a consistent level mainly due to the compensation water that is introduced during the summer months.

All things considered it has been a good year so far and apart from the lack of rain there has still been some good fishing with reports from the Ribble and the Hodder of very good grayling and some large wild trout caught at the back end. Two pound fish were not unusual with a four pounder caught by a member of the committee.

Our membership remains at a good level, and our financial position is very strong, and supported by substantial cash resources available for when any of our leased waters become available for purchase.

We have two conservation projects ongoing with the Riverfly monitoring by our enthusiastic team, which I wish to thank for giving their time, at three sites on the Hodder on a monthly basis. The data obtained can be found on page 6 of this newsletter to complement the natural ones.

The other project is the introduction of water crowfoot (Ranunculus) which was harvested from the respective rivers where there is an abundance. It was then transplanted in prepared bundles back into the upper reaches of the Hodder and some at Gisburn. This is year three and we have seen great success on both rivers.

(See page 2 for more info)

The New car park at Gisburn, which we own, has been well used. However some flooding has occurred in the autumn months and we will be improving the surface and drainage for next season.

Royal Lancashire show went well with our new location near to the river and next to the fly casting exhibition. Thanks to Geoff Whitehead for organising the event, our volunteer staff and David Moore for the use of his gazebo. *(See page 3 for more information.)*

The United Utilities (U.U.) HARP project seems to have gone quiet whilst the planners and the environment agency review all the conditions that they require the utility company to address. We will continue to be vigilant and act with your best interests if we find anything to the detriment of our fishing. Any updates will be reported in our newsletter.

There have been reports of fine silt deposited in the Hodder around Newton and we have reported this to the EA and used the reporting system on the RCA website without any response.

With the help of the Hodder Consultative and their Secretary Bob Thomas we did an inspection of the river to the outflow from Stocks treatment works. The river was coloured from the outflow and we tested water samples with a test kit from Bowland Game. Chemically the water was slightly acidic and had a little nitrate in it but the fine sediment was inert. This was good news but could cause the gravels in the river to become congested and affect invertebrate life. Several communications were sent to U.U. operations but they denied the discharge. At the time of writing this report the colour of the river has returned to normal.

If you see anything that concerns you regarding the river or if anyone would like to help with any of the above then contact me by phone or email and I will try my best to respond.

All the best and tight lines for the New Year,

Vince Edmondson.

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Members' letters and stories

River Hodder River Water Monitoring Project

The HARP project that United Utilities (U.U.) will be starting in the Newton in Bowland area in approximately 6 months' time is a cause for great concern for our club. This construction work, and the associated transportation logistics, will have severe implications for the health of the River Hodder and its tributaries for the duration of the project.



Members of the Team left to right are Vince and Janet Edmondson and Geoff Whitehead. Photo taken by Ian H Leaver the 4th member.

LFFA have decided, as a fishing association with the help of both the River Ribble Trust and other interested parties, to start monitoring the condition of the river and note any significant changes. Three strategic locations have been identified, and the first evaluations and samples were completed in April 2020. The work was done by 4 of our members who had been trained by The River Ribble Trust and they will be involved for the duration of the project,



Heptageniidae
Late march Brown,
Large Brook, Autumn Dun.

Initial observations and invertebrate count has shown that the river is in exceptionally good health with a wide variation in species being detected in relatively large numbers. *For more info see page 5 & 6*



Contents of sample net showing a variety of invertebrates found in a kick sample.

oOo

Ranunculus Fluitans (water crowfoot). A LFFA conservation project

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 storm 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

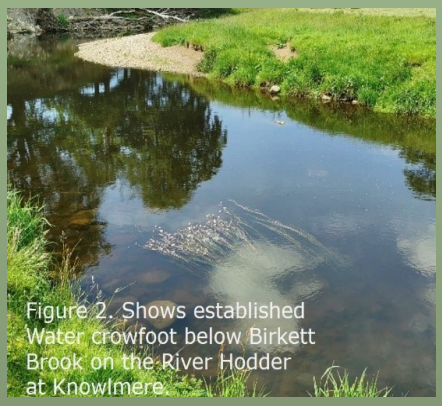


Figure 2. Shows established Water crowfoot below Birkett Brook on the River Hodder at Knowlmere.

cannot propagate upstream easily and if something wasn't done to re-introduce the plant in 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.



Figure 3. . Shows established Water crowfoot above the Road Bridge at Gisburn.

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. However the mid to upper stretches of the River Ribble were devoid of plants. 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 Original objectives have been met.

Following this we have now relocated more plants this time at Knowlemere and the River Ribble. See figure 2 and figure 3 above.

Further planting will be undertaken this year (2022) on both the Hodder and upper reaches of the Ribble at Gisburn and some of their tributaries.

JOHN NORRIS OF PENRITH

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

Members' letters and stories

Royal Lancashire Show.

The Royal Lancashire Show 2022 was the biggest yet. LFFA was there again, down by the river, in what must be the most picturesque part of the Ribble with Sale Wheel as a marvellous backdrop. Unfortunately, the extra farm vehicles blocked us off somewhat – better signage next year! Despite this we had a steady trickle of interested anglers of all ages. Our river fly monitoring proved a great success, with young people particularly, fascinated by the variety of insect larvae they managed to collect. It is a way of putting the club on the map. It's a great opportunity to speak to fellow anglers, brush up your casting skills and you never know, the person you have spent time talking to may be the new member of the future! Thanks to our volunteers who helped out and to Dave Moore for providing his excellent gazebo.

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Red Skin Disease.

Red Skin Disease (RSD) is a condition that has recently emerged in wild Atlantic salmon. Scientists at the National Fisheries Laboratory have been leading on investigations into this unusual condition. Little is currently



Known about the disease and its impact, and we are working with partners to better understand its cause and effect on our wild salmon stocks.

The Environment Agency is asking anglers to be vigilant and report any sightings of this condition to them. This information is extremely valuable and will help them to better understand the distribution of any new or existing disease cases. They are also asking anglers to quickly and carefully take photographs of fish exhibiting any unusual marks if safe to do so, although not to remove or handle fish in distress.

To discuss sightings of RSD in salmon, request further information about this skin condition, or for specific queries on fish health issues, please contact fish.health@environment-agency.gov.uk.

To report dead, dying or distressed fish in England, please contact their incident hotline immediately on 0800 80 70 60. In Wales, please contact the NRW incident hotline on 0300 065 3000.

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.

LFFA Website.



The LFFA website has been troublesome this year with several member's reporting that they were unable to access the site due to critical errors occurring within the system.

Investigations into the cause of the reported problems have now been undertaken and a rebuild of the site has been successfully undertaken.

Several updates to the contents, along with improvements to the access process and security of the web sites have also been addressed and implemented.

Additionally we have added links in the Members page to all Newsletters, News bulletins and other documents which may be of interest.

The website has now been up and running for several weeks without problems and is working well. Why don't you give it a try and let us know what you think.

Many thanks to Alison Hargreaves for all her work.

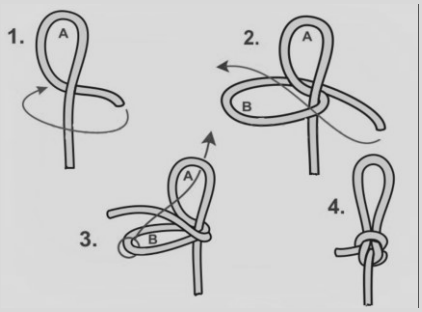
Ian H Leaver

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GO Outdoors

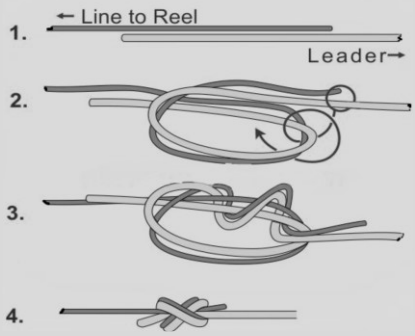
Go outdoors offers a 10% discount on all none sale items for LFFA members.

Four essential knots every angler should know.



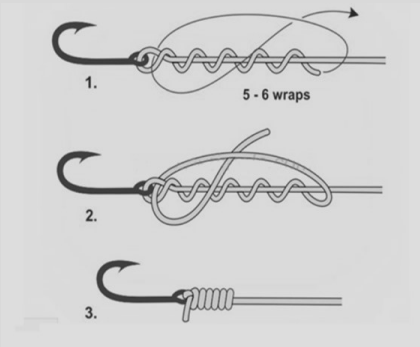
Perfection loop.

Mainly used for attaching a tapered leader to a looped Fly line.



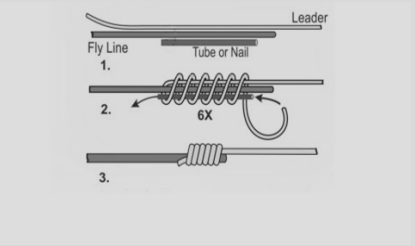
Surgeons knot.

Mainly used for the Joining of droppers on tippet. And the manufacture of tapered Leaders.



Improved clinch knot.

Mainly used for attaching a hook to tippet.



Nail Knot.

Mainly used for attaching a tapered leader to a Fly line.

The Dynamite Harry.

Up to a few months ago I had never heard of this fly. It's a simple fly to tie that floats extremely well. It can be used as either a single fly on the point and/or for the indicator fly on a dry dropper setup used on the New Zealand style of fishing.

It can be tied in any colour in sizes 16 to 10. The example shown is a golden olive tied on a Fulling mill size 14 Czech nymph but any stile of hook can be used.

I tried it several times in September and it rose several Brown Trout. Why not give it a go and let me know how you get on.



1. Wax the tying thread to protect the thread and lay down the Body to the Point of the hook. Attach Approx. 6 to 10 fibres of Coc de lion tailing, and wrap your thread back to the centre of the body.



2. Position a length of Aero Wing so the body length is about half the tail length and tapered along the body.



3. Prepare a pinch of golden olive dubbing and twist it onto your thread. Wrap around the body and wing post to create a thorax.





The Finished Fly

4. Prepare the base of the Wing and tie in a Gristle Cock hackle and wind around the stem about 4 to 6 times depending on the feather density. Tie down and add a touch of clear varnish to the base.
If necessary, add some more dubbing in front of the wing post making sure not to cover the eye of the hook add some varnish to the thread and whip finish. Cut wing post at a slant to required

Ian H Leaver

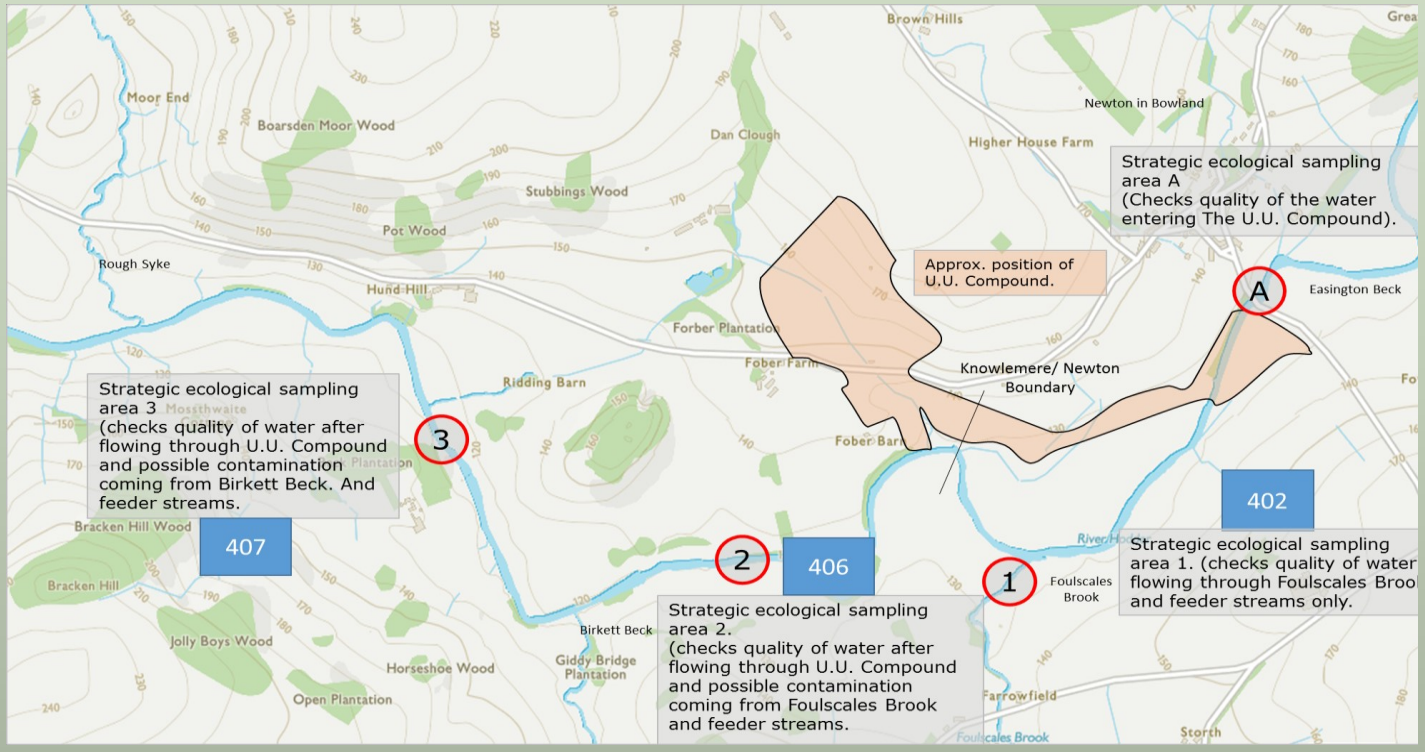
Riverfly Monitoring Project.

As part of the HARP Project United Utilities (U.U.) have applied for planning permission to construct a compound immediately below the bridge at Newton in Bowland. The plan, which is shown below, shows the section of river which LFFA owns, and the relative position of the compound.

If this application is granted as proposed the consequence of such an action will disrupt access to LFFA fishing waters and may have a serious effect on river life as a whole. It is understood that U.U. are aware that LFFA own the river bed at this location and have stated that they will fully involve LFFA in any decisions that are made in this area. If this is undertaken in a timely manner then minimum disruption should be possible.

LFFA Fishing rights extends above Newton bridge for app 800 yards and below the bridge for approx. 2 000 yards and adjoins to our Knowlemere stretch at the U.U. pipe line.

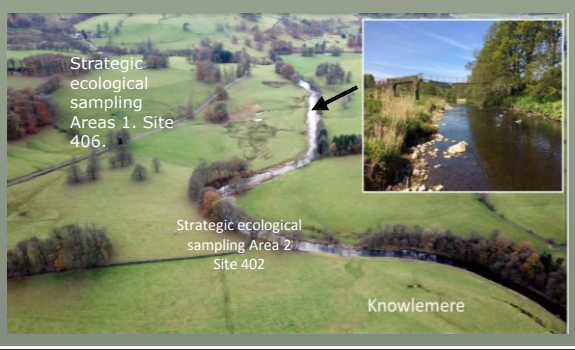
Access to both stretches are via the gates at the side of Newton bridge, via a public right of way along the side of the river bank which currently appears to be unaffected by the construction. The proposed work, and the associated transportation logistics, will have severe implications for the health of the River Hodder and its tributaries for the duration of the project. Therefore LFFA have decided as a fishing association with the help of both the River Ribble Trust and other interested parties to start monitoring the condition of the river and note any significant changes that may occur.











Riverfly Monitoring Project.

