

NEWSLETTER

The Lock Bridge is no more!



The Lock Bridge was in a poor state of repair long before we took on the Monsal Dale lease and it has been deteriorating rapidly ever since. We agreed with the Chatsworth Estate that we would replace it, little knowing the problems and delays that would ensue, not to mention the little embarrassment at the 2010 AGM. After receiving a direct hit from a particularly large piece

of large woody debris during last autumn's floods, the crumbling structure finally subsided to the river bed just before the start of the season. Quick work by Steve and Chatsworth's tractor driver made sure the structure was out of the river for the new season and work has now started on its replacement, completion of which should be achieved by our next meeting.

Thank you

On behalf of the Club, I would like to thank those who volunteered their help in the erection of the new bridge, particularly Gerald Colley, who actually designed and is now building the bridge (with the help of Steve & Chris), and Chris Pryor, who is managing the project and who had the frustrating experience of dealing with the dead hand of the Planning Authorities - who tried everything in their power to delay the work.

I would also like to thank those members who turned out pre season to help with litter clearance in Chee Dale & Miller's Dale. This not only improves the look of the river in the Spring but also creates a good impression with the residents of Miller's Dale & Litton.

David J Marriott

PRESIDENT, C&LFFC

CATCH RETURNS TO THE END OF MAY

As conditions improved during May, the numbers of fish caught increased dramatically and with it the average fish per rod. Total fish caught numbered 5,717 with rod numbers at 600, giving an average of 9.53 fish per angler visit.

The early season drought has certainly had an impact on catches but our top rods still managed to bring in



some very respectable bags with a number of very good fish of 3lbs +.

Top beats have been 7, 8, 3 & 2, between them accounting for 77% of the total. This is no doubt in large part due to their accessibility, rather than any other reason.

After the mayfly we will be restocking, subject to suitable weather conditions.

FLY TYING



Hook: TMC 206 BL or similar
Thread: Spiderweb
Tails: Cock hackle fibres
Abdomen: Fly Rite Superfine dubbing
Wing Post: Aero Wing or similar poly prop yarn
Hackle: Cock tied parachute style

Top: John Glynn's Upside Down Dun.

Bottom: The post wing tied in prior to trimming

There can be no doubt that we have some very able and innovative fly-tyers in the Club, none more so than John Glynn, whose exquisite patterns are quite breathtaking. An apprentice of the great Oliver Edwards ("One o' my lads"), John has now several unique patterns to his name.

I want to feature his Upside Down Dun, a generic dun pattern, which was demonstrated by John at one of our winter fly tying sessions at the Cock & Pullet.

Upside down flies have never really caught on, mainly because they are fiddly to tie and don't always land the right way up. This one is a relatively easy tie and consists of just three materials and, from my limited trials, seems to cock easily on most casts. John acknowledges however that it isn't a rough water fly.

So, to the tying

Tie in the tail fibres well round the bend of the hook. John takes a hackle and cuts out the tip, then strips off the fibres each side of the stalk until there are approximately three on both sides. I think it is important that the tails form a 'V' to aid in cocking the fly.

Dub on the body material, winding it sparingly from the base of the tail for about three quarters of the length of the shank. Now take about an inch of poly prop yarn and split it in half. Tie the first half by figure of eight windings so that it lies

at right angles to the shank in the vertical plane, extending above and below the shank at the point where the dubbed body ends. Repeat the procedure on the other side of the hook so that the two pieces lie together. Dub on a little more Fly Rite and take it, figure of eight fashion, around the post and up to the eye, bringing the thread back to the post.

Take a few turns round the base of the post (on the top of the hook) to form a bed for the hackle. Catch in a suitable hackle at the base of the post and take it round three or four times. Tie off with a whip finish either round the post or at the eye, whichever is your preference.

Now for the clever bit. Snip off the post leaving about 1mm proud of the hackle. John uses a piece of metal rod but an old allen key I found in my desk drawer does the job just as well. Heat one end with a cigarette lighter and bring that end down firmly onto the stub of the wing post, the resulting melt forming a flange which secures the hackle in place. Turn the hook around in the vice and trim off the wing to length.

Beautiful. I could eat it myself!

-DJM



BIO SECURITY



Would members and their guests please try to do their best to reduce the risk of inadvertently bringing invasive species to the river, such as the newly discovered Killer Shrimp, by disinfecting their waders, nets etc with the Virkon sprays we have placed in the Huts and the Bobbin Mill.

FORMAL REOPENING OF THE "PERCIVAL" SELF-FLUSHING TOILET FACILITY

Repairs to the wall in Duffers during the winter necessitated the removal of the Hut to provide access for the workmen. This led to the unfortunate destruction of the "Percival", much to the consternation of the eponymous builder of the aforesaid. However, for the continued ease and comfort of members, the facility has been lovingly restored by Chris and Steve to the original exacting standards laid down by the Former Head Keeper.

Members gathered in Duffers on Opening Day to witness the rededication of the stately edifice by the President, Mr David Marriott. In formally reopening the convenience, the President paid tribute to the remarkable plumbing skills of the Erstwhile Head Keeper, whose ingenious self-flushing device was arguably the greatest advance in public hygiene since the invention of the soft-closing toilet seat.

For the benefit of new members, the President advised that the facility was strictly "Number Ones Only" and that all other uses were to be eschewed. He concluded by saying that he

would be replacing, at personal expense, the honeysuckle which had formerly adorned the screen.

The excitement proved all too much for the Elderly Factotum and unfortunately he had to "go" before the President was able to cut the ribbon.



DIARY OF THE FORGOTTEN MAN OF DERBYSHIRE



By D. Percival aged 66 and a half

Monday

Another terrible night. According to the Sleep App on my iPhone, I have been a stranger to sleep, tossing and turning until 05.00 when I fell into a fitful slumber, only to be awoken by Toby demanding breakfast.

Tuesday

Discovered a Pedometer App for my iPhone. Went out with the dog up High Wealden to try it out. Covered 4.6 miles at an average speed of 3.9 miles per hour and burnt up 839 calories. Toby

did 15.75 miles at an average of 10 miles per hour, pausing only to replace lost calories by killing one of my neighbour's chickens on the way down.

Wednesday

Did some more work on the new bathroom. This project has been on the go since I retired and now Valerie is starting to ask when it will be finished, as she would like a bath. Have asked the President to come over and conduct the official opening ceremony.

Thursday

To the fleshpots of Macclesfield for a haircut and head massage from the lovely Lisa and her bevy of beauties. Had to behave myself as she does Valerie's hair too.

Friday

Popped down to the river to see how Steve and Chris are coping without me. Annoyingly, they seem to be managing quite well,

but it's clear that catering standards have seriously declined.

Saturday

Toby is starting to become an embarrassment on the river. He is convinced that the sole duty of members is to catch fish for him to land. Anglers are now feeling bad if they don't catch the fish he's taken the trouble to point out to them.

Sunday

The benefits of retirement - Sunday at home with the grand kids and no poachers to deal with!





MURDER MOST FOUL AT RAVEN'S TORR

The beat of the river known to us as "Rock Face", is overlooked by the great limestone buttress of Raven's Torr, where to this day these birds nest on its upper ledges. It was hereabouts, on a wild night in 1854, that one of our Patron's ancestors met an untimely death at the hands of a gang of ruthless poachers.

William Leonard Gill Bagshawe, known somewhat prosaically as "Bags", the heir to the Bagshawe Estate, one of the Peak District's oldest families, had been sent down from Cambridge following a betting scandal. Far from being dismayed, young Bags was delighted to be going home with his £300 winnings and the prospect of some hunting. Full of the zest for life and just 26 years old he loved all aspects of country sports and was incensed to hear that a gang of poachers had been making depredations into the trout population of the River Wye, close to his home in Wormhill. Their chosen method was to wade the river by night with lantern and leister, spearing fish in great numbers.

Determined to put a stop to this, young Bagshawe and his brother in law, Sir Henry Halford, set out on the night of 19th July 1854 to watch the river. They armed themselves with sticks and an old bull dog and were joined by Bagshawe's cousin, Captain Partridge, and Jarvis Kaye, Bagshawe's game keeper. Word soon came that the poachers were approaching and Bagshawe, being hot headed and eager for the fray, proposed an immediate attack. He was persuaded to wait for reinforcements but as they lay in the darkness observing the poachers drawing nearer and nearer, it all became too much for Bagshawe, for when they were just 15 yards away he rose up with a cry "Go into them!" and fell upon the nearest ruffian, alleged to have been one James Walton. Kaye let loose the bull dog and the attack began in earnest. Two of the poachers were armed with guns, which they discharged without effect. The fight was short and sharp and precisely what happened is not clear, for all were engaged in the melee and there were no unoccupied spectators to describe the combat.

Another of the poachers called Milner shouted "Hey up for the best man!" and flailed about him with his stick but was himself brought down with a blow from the Keeper. As he was being apprehended, the Keeper heard Bagshawe calling for help and when he approached he found him strug-

gling in the river with one of the poachers. He struck the scoundrel on the head, causing him to release Bagshawe and then returned to the affray. At this point, the reinforcements arrived and the poachers had no more stomach for the fight. They were put in handcuffs by Captain Partridge. Bagshawe stumbled out of the river, saying to the newcomers "We have had a terrible business; they have nearly killed me; I think they have done for me. Three big brutes got me down in the river and knelt on me. I think one of them may be dead in the river."

Bagshawe was assisted to Wormhill Hall by his friends but he was in a terrible state, his head having been battered severely and fractured at the base of the skull, apparently by a gunstock, later found broken after the fight. His liver had also been ruptured. Suddenly he became faint, his head fell forward and he was carried home unconscious. He never spoke again and by noon the following day he was dead.

In total, seven men were charged at the Derby Assizes on 29th July 1854, before Mr Justice Maule and a jury, with the wilful murder of Mr Bagshawe. But against all expectations, they were acquitted on the grounds that Bagshawe, by going forth with the intention of punishing the men himself, rather than apprehending them, had taken the law into his own hands. Thus the men were not resisting arrest but defending themselves from a savage attack. Moreover, because of the confusion in the dark, it could not be said who had struck the fateful blow.

The freed men marched triumphantly through the streets of Tideswell with their friends, giving rise to bitter resentment amongst the neighbouring estate owners and Bagshawe's many friends. It was commonly supposed that the Judge had been determined to throw out the case from the start, being known for his opposition to the Game Laws and as a special favourite of poachers. His directions to the Jury were said to be more like the counsel for the defence and no alternative charges of manslaughter or armed night poaching were allowed.

Thus, Bagshawe's younger brother, Francis Westby Bagshawe, became heir to the Bagshawe Estate and consequently the present incumbent owes his inheritance to a desperate act carried out one dark night on the banks of the River Wye in 1854.

-DJM

FAVOURITE FLIES

The Mayfly Emerger by Don Stazicker

The time for the Mayfly (Ephemera Danica on the Wye) is now upon us. The traditional season here in North Derbyshire is the last week in May and the first two of June, subject to weather conditions and natural cycles.

Steve's predecessor on the Monsal Dale water, Tom Richardson, reckons the fly has a three-year abundance cycle which he has witnessed many times



over his long association with the river. After several exploratory excursions from its home in the silt, the mature nymph makes its way to the surface and once there the adult dun escapes from the shuck quite rapidly. Even so, there is a short period when the fly is emerging when it is very vulnerable to predation by the trout. It is at this stage that the Mayfly Emerger works very well indeed. Its low-floating, vulnerable posture, with its tails apparently caught in the nymphal shuck, make this an attractive proposition to the fish, more so than the higher floating dun. The fully emerged adults tend to skitter about on the surface, particularly in



the breezy conditions we've been enjoying, making them a more tricky target for the trout.

This pattern can be fished to trout feeding on floating nymphs, emergers and even the fully emerged duns with utmost confidence. Due to the relatively large size of this fly, I recommend that a leader of at least 4x is used to avoid line twist and poor presentation. Heavier nylon also increases confidence when bigger than average fish are to be expected!

Floatant should be applied to the body and wing but not the hackle. If this gets bedraggled, then refresh it with Frogs Fanny or Dry Shake.

The dressing -

Hook: Size 12 Tiemco long shank

Thread: Brown 8/0

Tail: Three black dyed cock pheasant tail fibres tied short

Shuck: Brown Zelon 2/3 length of hook shank

Butt: Dark brown Wapsi Life Cycle nymph dubbing

Body: Cream dubbing, as Butt

Rib: Medium pearl tinsel

Emerging Wing: Grey Zelon tied short and mottled with black permanent marker.

Hackle: Grey & yellow CDC feather fibres, trapped in a dubbing loop and wound as a hackle

Head: Dark brown dubbing

The Zelon tail should be tied to give the appearance of the fly trying to pull its tails free of the shuck.

Zelon is a synthetic fibre that holds its shape when wet and does not matt together. As far as I'm aware it isn't available in the UK and alternatives are usually listed as emerger yarn or shuck material. You could use Antron but I find it doesn't work as well as Zelon.

Fortunately, thanks to the Internet, the original material is available from Blue Ribbon Flies, of West Yellowstone, Montana, USA. They can be ordered from their website <http://www.blue-ribbon-flies> and, because they weigh so little, post and packing is not expensive.

Hang loose!

Don.

HEAD KEEPER'S REPORT

Yet again, the opening weeks of the season have been dogged with low and clear conditions, making for very challenging angling. Eventually we went for thirty straight days without rain, resulting in the river falling below summer low for the whole of April.

Those prepared to fish fine and far off still managed some respectable bags, mostly on terrestrials but for those in the right place at the right time, with upwings too. We've had good showings of Iron Blues, Medium Olives and Olive Uprights since the weather turned at the beginning of May but it has been Hawthorn, Black Gnat and latterly Greenfly which have claimed the attention of the trout in recent weeks.

I have been planting Ranunculus weed in Presidents, Freddie's, Lock Bridge and Upperdale, kindly donated by Warren Slaney, my opposite number on Haddon, to whom I am most grateful. The new pools I've created above Harry's also had some fresh weed and fish were caught there just a matter of hours after the work was completed.

With so many fish on view in the clear water, it is hardly surprising that we have been troubled with poachers. I missed our regular pre season poacher who was disturbed in Duffers before he could do too much damage but Chris nabbed three at Quaker Ponds, who paid handsomely for their wrongdoings. I must also thank David Percival's daughter Alison, who spotted a dodgy motor parked in the gateway at New Bridge, which turned out to be owned by three Romanians in florescent green jackets. When apprehended David told them that they had been spotted by satellite from outer space! The joke may have been lost on them. I have also removed two illegal crayfish traps from the Day Ticket water.

A couple of warnings - the fence on the true left bank at the Bobbin Mill is now electrified so don't be

tempted to touch it, otherwise you'll find out what 7,000 volts feels like! We have also had a couple of stone throwing incidents following the opening of the tunnels on the Monsal Trail. Some of the "walkers" using the newly opened trail seem to think it funny to drop rocks into the river from the various viaducts. Members have already had some near misses so take extra care when fishing in the vicinity of the viaducts. A complaint has been made to the Peak Park Rangers but there is a limit to what they can do to stop this behaviour.

We have had a mink leading us a merry dance for the last few weeks but I'm pleased to report that it was eventually caught in the trap at Lock Bridge. The young rabbits we have around at the moment will now breathe a sigh of relief.

It has been a great year for trout fry, possibly because we didn't experience any major floods during the winter, leading to optimum egg survival. Similarly, the Dippers have had a great breeding season, with at least 60 fledglings to my knowledge. We also have Kingfishers back in



Monsal Dale, possibly a breeding pair, and the summer migrants have arrived, foremost of which are the spectacular Redstarts.

Finally, I'd like to thank Steve Yeomans, Stuart Crofts and Don Stazicker for helping to make our third annual Rivercraft Day another resounding success. I'm now looking forward to the Bats and Bugs Evening later this month with Stuart Crofts and Cath Jonson.

***Tight lines,
Steve***

Calendar

June 25th 2011

Bats & Bugs Evening

July 5th 2011

Mid Season Meeting

October 7th 2011

Trout season ends

November 1st 2011

End of season Meeting

March 14th 2012

Grayling season ends

Contributors

DON STAZICKER



Don is our River Conservancy Officer, a qualified GAIA instructor and an

acclaimed film maker.

DAVID MARRIOTT



David is our current President and prior to his

appointment in 2010 was Treasurer of the Club for 25 years. He is also Finance Officer of the Wild Trout Trust.

STEVE MOORES



Steve was appointed Head Keeper in 2007, having previously served as Head

Keeper on the Monsal Dale water for the Chatsworth Estate.