

## Wild Trout Trust Auction Day 2009 Pt 2

### Paul King

I have to take this opportunity to thank TM for his amazing generosity in taking me with him for his day on the wrong (for me) Wye even if it did cost me a considerable amount of VSOP Calvados and Single Malt the previous night. I can endorse everything he said about the day in general and Stuart Croft in particular. I learnt more about entomology from Stuart that day than in my previous lifetime, the guy's knowledge and the lengths that he goes to to find out so much detail about the insect life on the river are just amazing and yet delivered without a trace of frankly quite justifiable arrogance or superiority. It was a total privilege to be party to it. I also learnt enough from Stuart about the most effective way to use a furred leader to give them another try having previously decided that I didn't get on with them. His way involves a short 3 foot furred leader with a tapered tippet of about another 3 feet, yes a total leader of 6 feet of which only 3 feet are short tapering lengths of Bayer Perlon culminating in 1 foot section of a suitable x rating for the fly. It worked superbly and I'll be giving it a go.

The fishing was superb and although the numbers caught seem to suggest easy fishing, it was far from it as the constant gusting wind was severely testing and the fish were moving from emergers, to hatching mayfly, back to emergers and then on olive uprights and provided that you kept pace with the fickle mood swings of the fish there were fish to be had aplenty. This wasn't the biggest fish of the day but the colours of this wild rainbow are just stunning.



The story that TM wants me to relate took place in the magnificent hut on the top beat at the end of a fantastic day when all but one 🙄 of the seven members of the party had assembled round the table to make short work of the excellent Chinese provided by our hosts (remembering to leave some for TM). It was a very funny moment involving the considerable wit and comic timing of the Headkeeper but I have decided not to repeat it as it involves some questionable language, a less than complimentary reference to an innocent bystander and as it was one of those occasions when you had to be there or at least know the people concerned, on reflection I don't think it appropriate to repeat it. It was however a moment of such hilarity that a quantity of Sweet and Sour Chicken was sprayed around the hut and everyone, including the butt of the joke, was dabbing their eyes for several minutes afterwards.

As we reluctantly left with the light almost gone, TM gave me a Romeo y Julieta to enjoy on the way home. It was the perfect end to the perfect day, never have I had such good fishing in such good company and, as the Irish say, the craic was good! Thanks again TM, top man!!