

The Scottish Flyfisher Quarterly Magazine

January 2023

The Grayling Society

Allandale Tarn Fisheries

The Avon Angling Club

Czech Nymphing



Robin Lambert editor
www.scottishflyfisher.co.uk

Welcome to the Scottish Flyfisher Magazine's quarterly January 2023 issue.

If you would like to let other people know about your flyfishing day out, or want to say something or ask a question about the fly-fishing in Scotland then email in to me at editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com and I will add them to the magazine or to the "Have Your Say" page.

Page 3: Linlithgow Loch Spring Competition 2023
Page 5: The Grayling Society
Page 6: Anglers must move quickly to secure place at National Stillwater qualifiers
Page 7: Burnhouse Lochan 25th Anniversary
Page 9: Morton Fishery Under New Management
Page 12: More talent needed to improve Scotland's standing in world fly fishing
Page 13: The Avon Angling Club
Page 14: Allandale Tarn Fisheries
Page 15: Leslie & Glenrothes Angling Club
Page 16: Czech Nymphing
Page 17: Fly Tying Time
Page 19: Tackle Review
Page 21: Recipe of the Month
Page 24: Fly Fishing Knots
Page 27: Jubilee Lakes
Page 28: Blue Ribbon Fishing - Montana

If you would like to advertise your fly-fishing business or holiday accommodation within either the magazine or the parent website, please contact me directly at editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com for an advertisement rates card.

Apologies again for the smaller magazine this issue, it is still due to illness like 3 damaged/cracked discs in my lower back along with torn and damaged nerve endings, which the surgeons will not operate on as it could leave me disabled from the waist down so I have to live with it going forward but will not stop me from fishing, just need to be careful in the future. Plus, other commitments which had stopped me from getting out as much as I hoped for before the bad weather settled in.

Do you know any fly-fishing clubs within Scotland who are looking for new members? Then ask them to email me their details and information on the club as I am now starting to add them to my magazine and the parent website.



Happy New Year everyone, hope you keep well and get a PB in 2023



LINLITHGOW LOCH SPRING COMPETITION

SUNDAY 14TH MAY 2023

The Forth Area Federation of Anglers will be holding an Open Individuals Fly Fishing Competition on Sunday 14th May 2023.

The competition is open to all keen fly fishers, and the entry fee is only £30.00.

1st Prize £100.00 GAC Voucher Plus Trophy
2nd Prize £75.00 GAC Voucher
3rd Prize £50.00 Voucher (Donated by Richard Wheatly Ltd)
Heaviest Fish £25.00 GAC Voucher

The competition will run from 9am till 4pm, all boats must be docked or be ready to dock by 4pm. Any boats not docked by 4.15pm will be disqualified unless mitigating circumstances deem otherwise.

Competitors must arrive by 8am and set up, there will be a competition briefing at 8.30am

You may be allowed 2 rods to be set up during the competition, but only one rod must be used at any one time and lines removed from the water before using the other rod.

Only fishery landing nets are allowed to be used during the competition.

All competitors must be on their allocated boat and ready to leave the dock at 9am once the horn has sounded.

There will also be a raffle on the day with some cracking prizes to be won, tickets are £5.00 per strip.

If you are interested in entering the competition, please contact the federation through our email account at linlithgowlochlodge@hotmail.com

A £10.00 deposit is required when booking your place and full entry payment must be made by Saturday 15 April 2023, or your place will be allocated to the next person on the waiting list for a space.

Competition Rules

1. Each individual will be randomly paired up with another boat angler.
2. 2 Fish Limit, first two fish must be kept, timings of first fish caught must be recorded on catch sheet in case of a draw on weights of the fish; timings will decide the winners where necessary. The timings must be witnessed by other boat partner. 2lb will be added to total weight score for fish caught after the bag limit.
3. If first or second fish caught and netted is a Brown Trout it must be returned safely to the water, it will count towards the points total and must be recorded on catch sheet. You may keep the next rainbow trout caught towards your bag limit.
4. After first 2 fish caught catch and release will follow, all fish caught must be recorded on catch sheet and witnessed by boat partner. All fish must be landed in the net to count towards points.
5. All hooks must be barbless or de-barbed during the competition.
6. If there is a complaint against another competitor, it must be reported immediately to the officials on duty when returning to the lodge and a decision will be made and announced accordingly.

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12 Flies minimum order

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[The Scottish Flyfisher](#)

The Grayling Society



The Grayling Society was formed in 1977 by a small group of enthusiastic game fishermen who wished to conserve and establish the Grayling as a true, wild, game fish.

From their very modest beginnings in 1977 and a handful of original members, the Society has grown. They now have over 900 members in a total of 18 countries around the World, with Overseas Secretaries in Europe, Scandinavia and America. More than 250 of their members live or regularly fish for grayling outside of the United Kingdom.

Membership of the Society provides you with an opportunity to make a direct contribution to the conservation of perhaps the most beautiful of all wild game fish. Membership costs: - **Under 16yrs £5.00, Adults £28.00, over 70yrs £22.00**

In return for your support, the Grayling Society will provide you with a range of benefits - principally aimed at informing you about the Grayling and its habitat - offering advice on fishing and helping you to keep in touch with other likeminded anglers throughout the world.

The Society in the UK is divided into areas, each with a secretary and some also have an administrative committee. The Central Committee of the Society is also based in Great Britain.

Within Scotland (region 12) is managed by Merv Proctor Mobile: 07557 409986 www.facebook.com/gsarea12

By bringing members from all areas together on an annual basis at their Symposium and General Meeting, they set about achieving their core aims of promoting: **Awareness, Conservation, Angling for Grayling.**

The Lady of the Stream

Grayling is among the most beautiful and most respected freshwater fishes in the northern hemisphere.

Their beauty; their habit of testing almost anything - including the angler - on the surface of the water; their shoaling instinct; the tendency to 'corkscrew' when hooked and fight seemingly forever make them a truly attractive and sporting fish.

Feeding

Grayling differs from trout in their feeding behaviour and reactions to fly patterns. Their habitat is generally similar to trout, as is their diet. However, whereas trout operate at most levels in the river system, the grayling tends to favour nymphs, caddis larvae and shrimps before surface feeding.

As one of nature's sublime contradictions, however, you can bet your boots that on a day when there is not a trout rise in sight the grayling will be pushing their nebs up to take surface fly like there was no tomorrow.

Grayling often glides up from considerable depths to intercept a floating fly. Because they come from so deep and their mouth is much lower down the jaw than that of a trout, a surface fly is taken by the grayling in a near vertical position, quite unlike the trout which generally just raises its position in the stream without changing its orientation.

A True Game Fish

Grayling has a tendency to shoal, so although they're not always easy to locate, once you've found one, you've found several, at least for a while. They are generally a more popular angler's fish in the autumn and winter.

A grayling hooked in, say, November is usually a stronger opponent than one caught in July. However, do not be misled into thinking grayling are only worth fishing for after the trout season.

A summer grayling is still an excellent hard fighting and challenging fish and, whenever you catch one you can be sure it will fight in a more dogged manner than a trout and use the currents and downstream pressure of the water to resist you.

For further information about the society and joining them, please visit their website at <https://www.graylingsociety.net/>



Anglers must move quickly to secure place at National Stillwater qualifiers

By Nigel Duncan

The Scottish National Stillwater Championship qualifiers have been confirmed and the winners will represent Scotland in the Home Internationals, but if you are keen to become involved then get your name down as soon as you can.

Allandale Tarn near West Calder is one of the qualifying locations and owner Iona Allan confirmed that she is already full and has set up a waiting list for her event on Sunday, March 19.

She said that deposits must be paid otherwise the next name down on the reserve list will be notified that a space has become available.

Brian Quinn, well-known for his fund-raising activities for the Scotland youth team, is masterminding this year's event and the pressure is on as Scotland host the competition.

West of Scotland-based Quinn is talking to several locations about logistics which include hotels for around 40 anglers plus travel to and from the venue.

The Scottish competition is open to anybody over 18 who has lived in Scotland for four years, but Quinn stressed that if an angler qualifies from one of the six heats, then his or her name will be taken off the list for another heat.

The organiser is anxious that as many people as possible get the chance to stake a claim and the team will be made up of the top six plus a reserve from the final. Eight anglers qualify from each heat and there will be two semi-finals with 24 in each with 12 from each qualifying for the final.

Scotland have finished last in the previous two events and the qualifiers start at Wormit near Newport-on-Tay on Sunday, February 19 (ring 07709 235 088 to book), Drumtassie at Blackridge, West Lothian, on Sunday, March 5 (07939 249 481), Loch Inch near Inverurie in Aberdeenshire on Saturday, March 11 (07398 054 287), Allandale Tarn at West Calder on Sunday, March 19 (01506 873 073), Burnhouse near Bonnybridge on Sunday, March 26 (07889 603 160), Waterfront near Ayr on Sunday, April 2 (01292 571268). The semi-finals are at Kingennie by Broughty Ferry, Dundee, on Saturday, April 22 and Kinross on Saturday, April 29 and the final at New Haylie near Largs on Sunday, May 14.

Registration is at 8am. The briefing is at 8.45am and fishing is from 9am. Anglers fish six pegs at 30 minutes each in the pre-lunch session and then six pegs for 30 minutes each in the afternoon session.

A £20 deposit is required to secure a place and it is non-refundable and Scottish Anglers National Association (SANA) membership is included in the £40 entry fee.

Quinn is determined to raise the bar and he has been encouraged by the up-take so far with 75 per cent of the heats reported to be full.



Burnhouse Lochan 25th Anniversary Special Competition Results.



The weather started off breezy and overcast, ideal conditions to kick off the final! But there was an air of dread amongst the anglers because the weather forecast for the rest of the day was horrific! Torrential rain and gale-force winds were due around lunch, so the finalists knew they had to make the most of the calm before the storm!

Scott Mudie landed the first fish after just one minute, with most anglers catching their first fish within the first hour. The larger specimens began to bite, the most memorable coming from Nathan Horner who had a dream day with a brown weighing 11.4lb and a tiger weighing 9.8lb! Graham Baird caught 2 tigers weighing 6 & 7lb one after the other! Toby Lomas landed a rainbow weighing 12.6lb, Wullie Carr after catching a beautiful wild brown weighing 1.5lb went on to catch a brown weighing 9.6lb and Johnny Porteous caught a 7lb tiger and an 8lb rainbow!

The strength of the wind increased by the hour, the direction changing throughout, a challenge to the finalists but they showed their strength and skill and the good returns continued.

Throughout the competition we had spot prizes, when the whistle blew the next angler to land a fish would win a prize, the last hour was incredible! Every time we blew that whistle, we would be blowing it again within a couple of minutes maximum! Unbelievable sport in the last peg that changed the scores drastically!

The results were so close that time of first fish was crucial!



FIRST FISH – Scott Mudie – 09.01
BIGGEST FISH – Toby Lomas – 12.6lb Rainbow

- 1st – This year's Burnhouse Champion – Scott Mudie – 17 fish
- 2nd – Ian Scott – 16 fish.
- 3rd – Graham Baird – 14 fish.
- 4th – Greg Howe – 11 fish.
- 5th – Darren McPherson – 11 fish.
- 6th – Nathan Horner – 10 fish.
- 7th – Robert Paton – 9 fish.
- 8th – Alan Smith – 9 fish.
- 9th – Colin Sharpe – 8 fish.
- 10th – Brian McCluckie – 7 fish.
- 11th – Boab MC – 7 fish.
- 12th – Johnny Porteous – 6 fish.
- 13th – Rory Stewart – 5 fish.
- 14th – Wullie Turner – 5 fish.
- 15th – Toby Roughton – 4 fish.
- 16th – Jim Anderson – 4 fish.
- 17th – Aaron Kirkwood – 4 fish.
- 18th – Chris Allan – 4 fish.
- 19th – Bruce Dysart – 4 fish.
- 20th – Michael McKenna – 3 fish. (Retired before lunch)
- 21st – Wullie Carr – 3 fish.
- 22nd – Robin Lambert – 3 fish.
- 23rd – Mark Gray – 3 fish.
- 24th WOODEN SPOON – Stuart Bell – 2 fish.

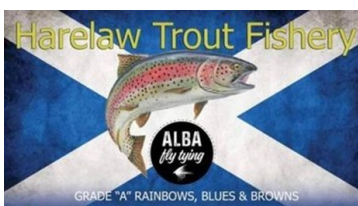


A total of 169 fish were caught with a rod average 7.04! Top angling in incredibly tough conditions, well done to you all!

A massive thank you all of the anglers that took part in this year's competitions, we were raw dealt with the weather for them all, but you didn't let it hold you back and all of the competitions were great fun! A massive thank you also to Wullie Carr for stepping in on the day of the final, I think your dad was looking down on you when you caught that brown!

A massive thank you also to this year's sponsors, your generosity as always was greatly appreciated and there was a lot of very happy anglers!

Many thanks to the below companies for their support and donations to the 25th Anniversary celebrations competition



Glencorse Rsv >





Morton Road,
Mid Calder,
Livingston
EH53 0JT

Fishery Number:
Management: 07842 075828

Open: seven days
Times: 8am to sunset
Car park: for more than 40 vehicles



Well, I'm happy to announce that Morton Fishings has been taken over and will be opening up again as a cracking trout fishery on Friday 3 March 2023.

The new management team run by Sandy Mabon is busy undertaking major work and upgrades to the fishery. Plus a massive stocking of 3.2 tonnes of A class fish before and on the opening day, so that anglers can have a cracking days fishing.

Sandy Mabon used to fish Morton Fishings as a teenager and now, around four decades on, he has acquired a ten-year lease on the popular water which will re-open to the public at the beginning of March.

Broxburn-born and raised Sandy is currently racing against the clock to complete a raft of remedial work before opening day as the 54-year-old, who is an experienced fishery manager, is determined to put Morton Fishery firmly back on the map after a closure of almost three years.

So far he has rebuilt the bridge over the burn leading to the tree line platforms on the left hand side of the fishery.

As you can see from the photo on the right he is also rebuilding the boat jetty as it had completed rotted through, and is planning to have the jetty completed within the next week.

The old bird cages and dog kennels have been removed and hard core will be laid down for additional parking, which will be for disabled anglers.

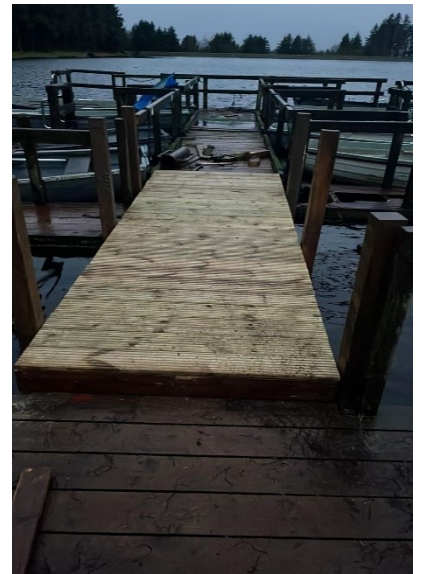
There is a lot of work to do and only around seven weeks for Sandy to complete it in time for the opening day, he is determined to do everything he can to create a fishery which customers want to come to and where they will enjoy a good days fishing.

Bookings are already coming in from individuals and angling clubs throughout the Central Belt and there has been interest from as far afield as Ayrshire.

Sandy is pleased with the responses to date in relation to the fishery being taken over and all the hard work that is going into upgrading the fishery, and stressed that this is a ten-year project and that is why he is investing so heavily in the fishery.

The website will still be the same www.mortonfishings.co.uk but with slight changes to it, plus there will not be any bait fishing allowed on the water going forward.

So if you enjoyed fishing Morton before, then get up there again and support the new management team.





PRICES FOR BANK & BOAT FISHING AT MORTON FISHINGS

Bank Fishing

4 Hours C/R £16.00

4 Hours £22.00 4 fish limit

8 Hours C/R £20.00

8 Hours £28.00 5 fish limit

Boat Fishing

1 Man Boat 4 Hours C/R £26.00

1 Man Boat 8 Hours C/R £30.00

1 Man Boat 4 Hours £32.00 4 fish limit

1 Man Boat 8 Hours £38.00 5 fish limit

2 Man Boat 4 Hours C/R £42.00

2 Man Boat 8 Hours C/R £50.00

2 Man Boat 4 Hours £54.00 4 fish limit each

2 Man Boat 8 Hours £66.00 5 fish limit each

Concessions OAP Monday to Thursday

Bank Fishing

4 Hours £13.00 C/R

4 Hours £19.00 4 fish limit

8 Hours £17.00 C/R

8 Hours £25.00 5 fish limit

Boat Fishing

4 Hours £23.00 C/R

8 Hours £29.00 5 fish limit

Please Note:

There will be boat nets available when booking a boat. If you are bank fishing there will be a disinfectant tub for dipping your nets into before fishing.

There will be new electric engines and batteries for hire, or you can bring your own. No petrol engines allowed.



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Nigel Duncan on Angling More talent needed to improve Scotland's standing in world fly fishing

Scotland's new fly-fishing champion, Steven Corsar, will lead Team Scotland in the World Championships in Slovakia next year, but bosses are keen to attract more talent in a bid to heighten domestic competition and to improve Scotland's standing in world fly fishing.

Corsar won the Premier League in the Scottish National Fly-Fishing League (SNFFL) after a hard season over three disciplines, stillwater, loch style and rivers, and the next four anglers in the rankings will accompany him to Liptov. The next five in the 18-strong Premier League will carry Scotland's hopes in the European Championships next year and the four newly-promoted anglers from the First Division will take part in the Five Nations which normally features England, Ireland, France, Norway, Scotland and sometimes Belgium.

Corsar, aged 46, will prepare for the world event by defending his title in the Premier League next year and, looking at the world event, the father-of-three said the squad selected get on extremely well and will be thoroughly prepared. The self-employed tradesman who runs Garioch Jonery in Inverurie near Aberdeen said: "We fish rivers and lakes here in Scotland and all the guys who have qualified are experienced anglers and fly tyers, so we should be OK. "What patterns we use will depend on conditions and that is why we take our fly-tying equipment with us to fine tune during the event."



The squad are likely to fly to Poland and then drive over the Tatra Mountains, which form a natural border between Poland and Slovakia, and Corsar added: "We take our 20k baggage allowance, 10k in the aircraft and also around 20k in sports baggage and the gear includes waders, boots and the rest, including nets and fly-tying gear."

The Scottish Anglers National Association (SANA), who administer the SNFFL league, have a waiting list for the First Division and Archie Ferguson, who is in charge of media for the league's, said bosses are keen to encourage more anglers to compete. He added: "Steven (Corsar) is, in my opinion, one of the finest anglers I have seen, but we need more like Steven and so the league system is in place to encourage domestic competition. We have 18 in the Premier League and the same number in the First Division, but we would love to form a Third Division and so we ask any anglers out there who have ever dreamed about angling for Scotland to come forward."

Ferguson admitted that it was difficult trying to raise Scotland's status in world fishing due to a number of issues. One of them is climate. Domestic league matches include loch, small stillwater and river fishing in waters including the Don, the Urie, a tributary which meets the Don at the south edge of Inverurie, and the Tummel or Tweed. However, conditions can be so different from Europe, said Ferguson, who explained: "Our guys can drive into a car park at the Tummel and pick out the tackle and patterns they need. Going into the world and European scene is completely different."

"Technical skill is not an issue as our guys carry all the requisite skills, and they can cast, but you could be faced with a 30c heat, you could have to crawl to find the best eddy to fish in and you could be facing low river levels. There are all sorts of things you need to be aware of in fishing abroad."

SANA, he added, would love to send somebody over to recce venues abroad, but that raises another issue, finance. Money is in short-supply and Ferguson said: "Most of the angling has to be self-financed by the anglers. Of course. We desperately want to be a bigger force in the world, we want to make a mark in Europe, and we want to compete strongly in the Five Nations, so we have to have a strong Scottish league. However, we also want to develop a pathway so that if an angler sitting at home, even if they are a beginner, can look at the progression and say: 'I want to give that a go.' We would be delighted to hear from them."

Last year's Premier League included anglers from: Aberdeenshire: Steve Corsar, Mike Cordiner, Kenny Riddell; Fife/Central, David Chalmers, Fred McDonald, Steven Livingstone, Robert Maxwell, Archie Ferguson; Borders: Cuillin Rae, Keith Renton, Derick Logan, Jake Harvey; Glasgow/West: Jim Kyle, Greg Forrest, Michael Ward, Craig Brown; Tayside/North East: Ian Runcie, Kathleen Shepherd. The 2023 program for the Premier and First Division is over ten sessions and five dates: March 11: Loch style, Harelaw; March 25: small stillwater, Ledyatt; June 11: River, Don/Urie; August 13: River Tweed; September 3: River Tweed.



The Avon Angling Club

<http://www.theavonanglingclub.co.uk/>
webmaster@theavonanglingclub.co.uk

If you're looking for some cracking river fishing, and a really friendly angling club then look no further than the Avon Angling Club.

The Avon Angling Club is a friendly fishing club whose home river is the 'Avon Water' which is known locally as the River Avon. The club has an open membership policy and aims to provide quality, affordable fishing for both the local and visiting angler.

The Club has been in existence for over 40 years and provides over 24 miles of river to fish for both migratory and non-migratory fish. The Club is keen to engage with both new and existing members throughout the year and offers information and casting tuition to help new comers grasp the fundamental elements of the sport.

The Club has 24 miles of superb water which is full of glides, runs and deep pools, over rolling farmland to steep, wooded gorges. You want it we've got it!

Membership is by annual subscription which helps cover the running costs of the Club. Being a member also entitles you to attend and vote at their regular monthly meetings which are held on the 3rd Thursday of every month in Stonehouse.

Permits can be purchased from lots of local outlets or via their website. More information can be found on the permit information section on the website.

Migratory Permit - Salmon & Sea-Trout

The season runs from the 11th of February to the 31st of October each year inclusive, except when these dates land on a Sunday. In which case the season will start the day after and finish the day before.

Migratory permits are issued by application only. The application form can be downloaded from the clubs website - AAC Migratory Permit 2023(PDF) or AAC Migratory Permit 2023(Word).

The prices for the 2023 season are as follows:

Adult - £40
Senior - £20
Junior - £20

Junior - Anyone who has not attained the age of 16 on or before 11/02/23
Senior - Anyone who has attained the age of 65 on or before 11/02/23

Please note any permits purchased via the website will be issued in a digital format.

The holder of a migratory permit is allowed to fish for the lesser species (Brown Trout & Grayling) when in season.

Members can upgrade from a non-migratory to a migratory permit at any time by filling out an application form and paying the difference in the cost of the permits.

If you are interested in helping out with club activities, they are always searching for volunteers. Our activities range from collecting rubbish from river banks, building styles to improve access and general maintenance. If you are interested in helping out the volunteers meet every Saturday morning from 9am onwards at their clubhouse.



**Allandale Tarn Fisheries,
Gavieside,
West Calder,
West Lothian.
EH55 8PT.
(01506)-873073**

<http://www.allandaletarn.com/index.html>

It's been a long time since I had fished at Allandale Tarn and had heard and read about the cracking fish being caught there lately.

However, I visited the fishery on the 23 November 2023 and the weather was miserable to say the least, temperature 6.5deg raining with an easterly wind which seemed to have put the fish off a bit on the day and lower down in the

water, there wasn't many fish rising throughout the day, the ones that were rising were further out in the middle around the weed beds.

I just set up my Airflo DC2 rod with the Arctic Silver Compact Beast floating line (see tackle review on it), 15-foot leader and a size 12 gold head emerger buzzer on the point, a hot spot PTN on the middle dropper and a size 12 white cormorant on the top dropper.

There was fish being caught though all around the lake, I had quite a few nips and tugs until I managed to land a cracking 8lb 6oz rainbow caught on the gold head emerger buzzer, as you can see in the photo on the right, it gave me a good run around before I could finally net it, and that was a problem also, stupid auld me had forgotten to take my longer handled landing net and all I had was a small landing net in the boot of the car. Will know better next time I'm out.



When speaking to Iona she said that the variable atmospheric pressure and the flat calm the previous few days had affected fish along with the cold snap but apps plus red buzzers have been working at various depths, sometimes with a slow retrieve and on other occasions fished static. Of course, everything is weather dependent, but Iona stressed that the sheltered Tarn is unlike other fisheries in the area.

Allandale Tarn issues a warm welcome to all anglers and angling clubs, whether it's Iona Allan the owner or one of her staff members.

Allandale's spring fed lakes have excellent water quality, ensuring a great range of fly life all year round. Stocked daily with quality Rainbow, Tiger, Blue and Brown trout. The main lake is only 2.5 acres but set in an ideal location and in the perfect condition the fish can be seen rising all over the place.



Iona also known to everyone as The Scottish Fly Lady, selling her own flies and fly-tying materials, prepped and dyed by Iona, who has an extensive stock for the DIY fly tyers out there, including hooks from size 22 down to six, threads, dubbing, tinsel and of course an amazing selection of CDC feathers in various colours to suit the avid fly tyer.

All fly-tying materials are at a very reasonable price, so if you're like me you will spend, spend, spend on the fly-tying stuff Iona has to offer in the shop.

That part of the business will be open on special days throughout the winter closure period so anglers can stock up and she will advertise opening times on her Facebook page called, not surprisingly, The Scottish Fly Lady. Iona added: "We'll be working on platforms during the closure period and, hopefully, installing a non-slip surface, and I will also be catching up on my fly tying to prepare for the spring which is always a busy time for us."

The fishery was shut on Saturday December 24 and will re-open on Saturday, March 11. During the break period Iona weather permitting will work on various maintenance projects around the fishery.

Leslie & Glenrothes Angling Club



The Leslie & Glenrothes Angling Club was established in 1959 and for over 30 years had fished Loch Leven until it's problems with pollution and algae.

The club currently has 18 members and fish around 28 weekends from March to October each year.

They fish all of their outings as catch and release with the time of the first fish recorded as a deciding factor in event of a draw on quantity netted. Any member wishing to keep fish can do so if within the fishery rules or by arrangement with the fishery.

Their Club Championship is fished at Menteith, Lintrathen and Glencorse where both browns and rainbows are included in the catch.

The club also holds a Rainbow Championship fished at Rescobie, Linlithgow and Eden Springs where browns are not included in the catch.

The Club is a long-standing member of SANACC and they have entered individuals in the Scottish National Championship and 3-man teams in the Scottish Club Championship each year and after a few years absence we are entering a 6-man team in the Airflo International Championship during 2023.

The Club are always open to new members who can gain entry at their Annual General Meeting in November each year, however our experience has been that most new members guest with us for a season by filling vacant boat places before committing to membership.

Our Annual Subscription is £20 which helps to cover any admin costs.

They can be contacted through their [Facebook](#) page where their outing reports are posted on a weekly basis throughout the season.

CZECH NYMPHING



More dedicated advice for you to get the most out of your fly fishing.

European, French or Czech fly fishing is a technique that uses heavy Czech nymphs.

It is based on short, repetitive casts, dead drifts and a deeper fly presentation. The leader hangs under the tip of the fly rod, which the angler holds with an outstretched arm; while the fly is guided through the run and as discussed is often called “high stick nymphing.”

A typical fly rig in Czech nymphing includes three nymph flies of different weights.

The technique uses Czech nymphs, also known as Bobbes.

The nymphs, made to imitate fresh water shrimps or caseless larvae of sedge flies, are tied on gammarus or shrimp hooks.

The current Czech nymphing craze owes its origin to competition fly fishing. Over time it has emerged as a popular and effective fishing method in Europe.

Some more traditional fly fishermen might look down on it, though, because they have their individual preferences and admire the splendour and heritage of classic dry fly fishing.

High Sticking in the sport of fly fishing, there are a number effective methods for presenting a nymph fly pattern to a holding or feeding fish. One common strategy employed by anglers is known as “high stick nymphing.” With this method the nymph flies in the faster, deeper water of pockets and short pools, and is an extremely effective way to fly fish, especially when you observe little or no dry fly activity or rising trout.

The high stick is a technique similar to short line nymphing. Often you don't use a strike indicator, but it can be effective for practiced anglers. High sticking is designed to deliver a subsurface fly pattern on a dead drift to trout which are holding in moderate to fast pocket water and short, deep pools. Line control is the key to this technique. And when it comes to using it on your favourite stretch of river the rule is: practice, practice and then practice some more.

So How Do You Do It? Approach a pocket or pool carefully. Make a short cast upstream at roughly 45 degrees from your position. Immediately the fly sinks to the river or stream bottom, raise the rod tip high and follow the line downstream through the drift. As the fly starts its drift, lift your rod tip high. Don't allow slack line to gather and drag in the surface film. Let the drift continue across your position and lower the rod tip as it continues the downstream movement. At this point in the drift, if you employ a “Leisenring Lift” as the fly passes your position you can greatly reduce the drag that may be created by mismanaged or under-managed slack fly line.

Fly fishing with this little technique will definitely improve your skills

Hooking a fish this way is actually fairly simple, because reduced slack and drag in the fly line sharpens an angler's strike-sensing ability. At the slightest tug on the line, lift the rod tip quickly and confidently. This style of fishing means that hook sets are simplicity itself.

To be completely effective in your practice of the technique, you should go for a specific fly rod.

I would recommend one with more length as it allows the angler to access lies further out-stream.

The extra length also affords you better line control for the ultimate drift.

High sticking has been given a bad name by some, and by dry fly fanatics in particular. And if you prefer to listen to the naysayers, that's fine and completely your choice. However, consider this: properly dispatched on a favourite stretch of pocket water can be the deadliest fly-fishing weapon you have.

Fly Tying Time

Easy Steps for Tying the Czech Nymph

Materials:

Hook: #8 grub hook

Thread: 6/0 UNI thread colour Tan

Weight: medium size flat lead (round wire works just as fine but flat is easier to work with)

Back: 4mm back cover, colour Honey

Ribbing: .16mm mono Body: Hare dubbing dyed light Olive. Seal dubbing dyed Hot Orange. 60 Hare/40 Seal dubbing dyed Black

Colour: a light touch of black CD marker pen



Olive Czech Nymph



White Czech Nymph



Brown Czech Nymph

Tying Method

Step 1: Hook Selection Select a scud hook of appropriate size. By appropriate I mean rather large – this one is size 8 and it is my favourite size for trout fishing. You will want your nymph to be both slim and heavy at the same time; that simply does not work in sizes 14 and upwards.

Step 2: Weight Add a layer of lead. Flat lead works the best; it packs more tightly than round lead and high density is crucial. In this example I went for one layer of lead, but you can add two for extra weight. In such case make the second layer one turn shorter on each side to preserve the tapered look. Make sure the lead does not extend past the hook bend – you want to leave a plenty of space to tie in the ribbing and back cover.

Step 3: Thread Tie in your thread and tightly lash the weight to the hook. I have selected UNI 6/0 thread in colour tan. The 6/0 thread is stronger than 8/0 I use for most of my other tying and can stand some abuse – it will receive a lot! I want my lead packed ever more tightly; high density is very important for a CZ nymph. I selected colour tan so that it will not darken the dubbing as black thread would

Step 4: Rib and Back Cover Now make use of the empty space you left in the hook bend and tie in first the ribbing – I am using 0.16 mm monofilament spinning line here – and then back cover. For back cover I am using 4 mm wide strip in honey colour, so it will be just a shade darker than my dubbing. Lash both to the hook bend very tightly, keeping in mind that the fat ass you are trying very hard to avoid

Step 5: Abdomen Dub the abdomen – about one half of the nymph body, perhaps slightly more. I am using hare dubbing colour light olive here, rabbit will work also fine. If using natural dubbing (which I strongly suggest) be aware that it will darken once wet and select the colour accordingly. Again, keep in mind the fat ass you are trying very hard to avoid!

Step 6: Hot Spot Dub the hot spot (optional). Use bright red, orange or hot pink colours. Here I am using Seal fur coloured hot orange. The hot spot is optional – when fishing it can make your day or scare the fish witless for no apparent reason.

Step 7: Thorax/Legs Dub the front part of the fly. Use scruffy dubbing with longish hairs, so it will add movement to your fly. I am using black hare mixed with black seal. Leave just enough space for the head.

Step 8: Fold Over the Back Cover This is the tricky part. Fold over the back cover, stretching it slightly forward so that it covers the body snugly. Tie in with your tying thread and secure tightly. Whip finish – and only then cut the redundant part off. Few things are more frustrating than having the fly come apart at this stage due to sloppy tying of the back cover. Trust me. I had it happen many times, and you would not wish to hear what I had to say about it.

Step 9: Wrap the ribbing Now that the tricky part is done you wrap your ribbing. Make sure you wrap in the direction of your tying thread; mono is slippery and you want your fly to look neat.

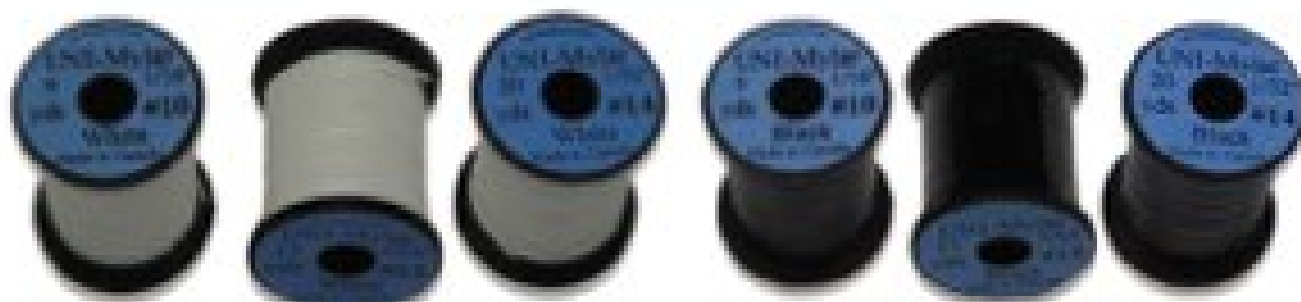
Step 10: Finishing touches You are almost done. The only finishing touches left are brushing your fly vigorously with a Velcro strip and colouring your head and front half of the back cover with black marker.



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All tackle reviews are impartial and honest reviews undertaken by the editor.

If you want an honest and frank review of your fly-fishing tackle, or fly tying products please email me at editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com



Arctic Silver Innovation AS

Valssetvegen 242A | 7350 Buvika | Norway

Phone: +47 45 1309 45

Email: post@arcticsilver.no



I was approached by a Norwegian company Arctic Silver to try out some of their new fly lines.

They sent me over two fly lines to try out, the Compact Beast 8wt floating line and the Classic Beast 8wt intermediated line.

I was fishing in the Burnhouse Lochan Fisheries 25th anniversary final competition on the 9th October 2022 and thought it would be a perfect opportunity to try the lines out as I knew it would be a full-on day for casting, and depending on the conditions would either need a floater and an intermediate line, so hey an added bonus.



I was allocated platform 14 up at the shallow end of the fishery, so the floating line was perfect due to the very shallow water being fished.

I set up my 1st rod with the Compact Beast floating line, set up with a 15ft leader of 10lb fluorocarbon and 2 droppers, with a size 12 cormorant on the point and 2 size 14 buzzers on the droppers. I got some great casts out over the water despite the windy conditions, and within the first 20 minutes had two fish to the net, the line handled the fish just perfectly.

Line Specifications: -

Length: 30,48 m/100 ft

Head: 9,14 m/ 30 ft in purple

Colour: Float - Light purple/white

This new series of fly lines has been designed to effectively cast a great line out with no problem at all even when casting into a head wind, which I experienced at the competition when changing pegs throughout the day.

A fine-tuned weight distribution, a short, but not too short, front taper and a 4-meter handling zone are among the success ingredients for combining line control with excellent turnover qualities, the line is perfect for even turning over some heavier flies like a snake or a humungous fly without losing control of the presentation of the flies or the line.

I found the Compact Beast a pleasure to use throughout the day especially unlike some new lines whereby you have memory recall when retrieving and the line gets slightly twisted and tangled, this line didn't so I could cast out a full line every time.

You can get the Compact Beast fly line in either Floating, Intermediate or Fast Sink



My second rod was set up with the Classic Beast 8wt intermediate line, and yet again with a 15ft leader and 2 droppers on the line. This line was set up with a size 12 cats' whisker on the point and 2 size 12 cormorants on the droppers in black and orange respectfully.

Specifications:

Length: 30,48 m/100 ft

Head: 10,36m/ 34 ft in orange

Colour: Intermediate - orange/white.

Yet again as with the floating line I found the design and use of this line an extreme pleasure to use, casting well without any memory on the line and shooting out a great distance without any trouble and of course presenting the flies how I wanted them so that they did not spook the fish when landing on the surface.

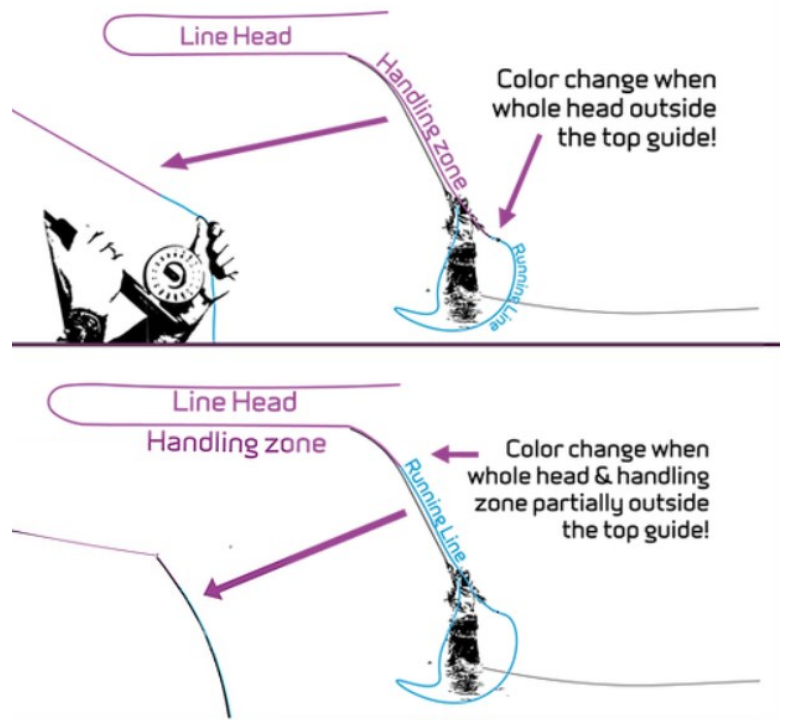
The Classic Beast fly lines have the same basic profiles as the Compact Beast lines but distributed over a 1,5-meter longer head that will increase your potential for distance and presentation.

The Compact Beast and the Classic Beast lines due to their design and front tapers shoot like crazy without too many false casts to get your line out. Also due to the finer rear line after the taper there is less friction on the rod rings which gives you a smoother cast and retrieval.

The lines only come in sizes 8wt, 9wt and 10wt but are ideal for the fly fisher who likes to use bigger and heavier flies, and even though I'm not a Pike Flyfisher, due to their design and make up they would be ideal lines for getting the massive pike flies out there.

And a wee added bonus the fly line boxes that the lines came in, can act as an extra fly box if you need it as they have spaces to hold up to 72 flies.

For information on your nearest dealer within the UK, Europe and the USA check out the parent website at <https://www.arcticsilvershop.com/dealers>



Recipe of the Month



TROUT SALTIMBOCCA Serves 4

Saltimbocca is a title the Italians give to a veal dish topped with sage and Parma ham. Trout takes to this method of cooking exceptionally well and the addition of the ham and sage give it zap...Serve with buttered spinach and new potatoes.

Prep time and cooking 30 mins

Ingredients:

8 large slices of Parma ham
150g (5 1/2 oz) cold butter, cut in thin slices
4 large trout, skinned and filleted
10 sage leaves, 2 shredded
salt and ground black pepper
2 tablespoons olive oil
juice of 1 lemon

Method:

Preheat oven to 190 c/375f/Gas 5

Lay slices of Parma ham lengthways on a flat surface. Place a thin slice of butter on top of each slice (this should leave you with about 55g/2 oz butter)

Top the butter and ham with the trout fillets. Place a sage leaf in the middle of each trout fillet.

Season the fish with salt and ground black pepper.

Roll up each fish fillet in the ham, creating a fish roll, and secure with a wooden cocktail stick.

Oil a baking dish and place the 8 fish rolls in the bottom. Ensure they are not touching. Place in the oven and bake for 15 minutes.

Heat a frying pan. Tip the juices from the roasting dish into the frying pan. Add the remaining butter and the 2 shredded remaining sage leaves.

Cook over a high heat until the butter starts to froth and go a nutty brown.

Add the lemon juice and some salt and pepper and pour over the trout. Serve immediately, and enjoy



Fish of The Week Competition



At Fishing Megastore, we are passionate about fishing, and we are always interested in what our customers are getting up to. We want to know what you are catching, and we'd love to see a picture of you and your catch.



For your chance to win £150 worth of [Daiwa Fishing Gear](#), simply send us a photograph of you and your catch with a little description. You can also enter in store - just ask a member of staff for assistance. The winner will be chosen by a panel of judges in our Glasgow store and will feature in the Scottish Daily Record newspaper on the Friday of each week. The winner will be announced on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) social media pages.

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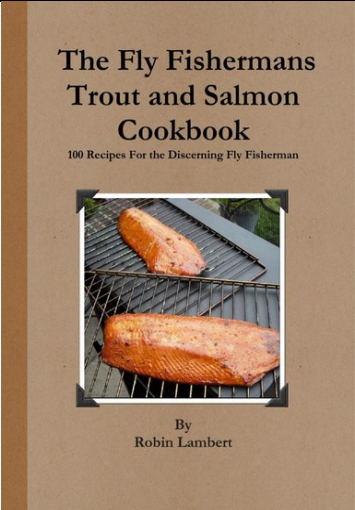
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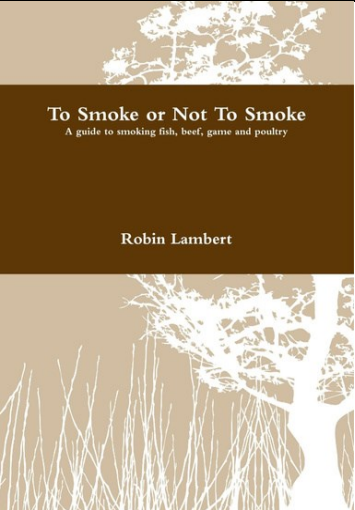



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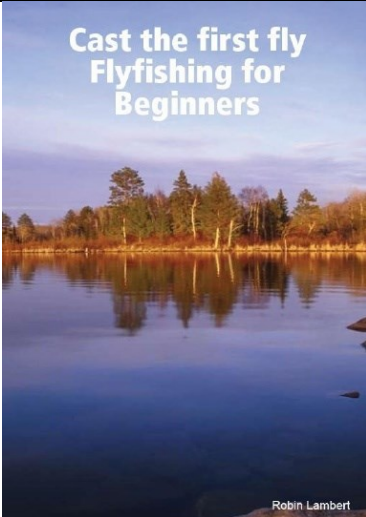


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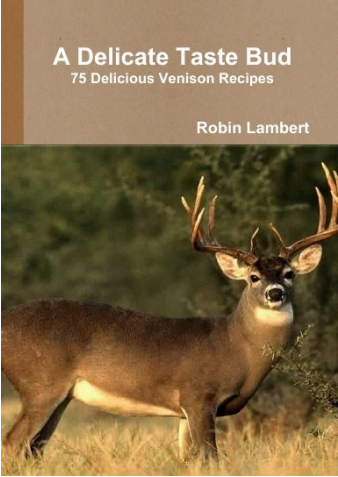


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Fly Fishing Knots

In fly fishing, as in all fishing, the knot the fisherman uses is crucial to success, as many of us have learned to our cost. It is important to get our fishing knots right, in securing our backing line to the reel; in connecting our backing line to the fly line; in joining our fly line to our leader; and in tying on our fly.

A number of the most reliable fly-fishing knots are illustrated below. These are the fishing knots used in salmon, trout and sea trout fly fishing. These knots are simple, strong and reliable and include some of the most popular fly-fishing knots in use today, such as the Perfection Loop and the Water Knot. For those who like to attach their leader to the fly line by a loop-to-loop connection,

It is important not only to select the right knot for a particular job but to tie it properly. Poorly tied knots will mean a lost fish or two and can cause some frustration which could also spoil a goods day's fishing.

Here are a few basic steps to follow when tying all knots for fly fishing.

Before you tighten a knot, lubricate it with saliva or by dipping it in the water. This will help the knot slide and seat properly. Lubrication also decreases excessive heat which dramatically weakens monofilament. Heat is generated by the friction created when knots are drawn up tight.

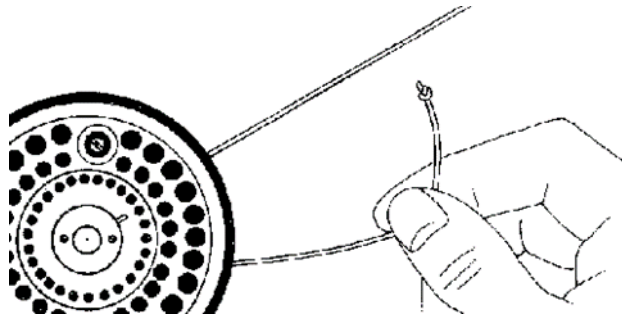
Tighten knots with a steady, continuous pull. Make sure the knot is tight and secure. After it is tied, pull on the line and leader to make sure it holds. It is better to test it now than to lose a fish.

Use nippers to trim the material as close as possible without nicking or damaging the knot.

On the next couple of pages, you will find some of the major knots you will require during your fly fishing trips.

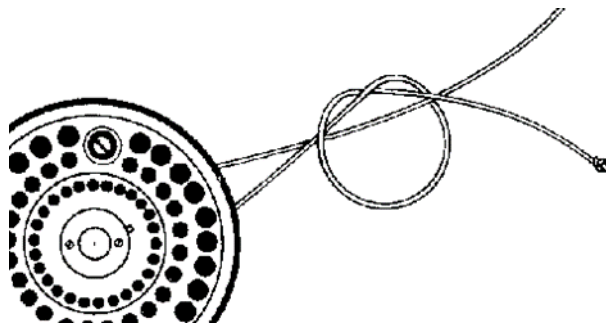
Backing to Fly Reel

Used to attach the backing to your fly reel.



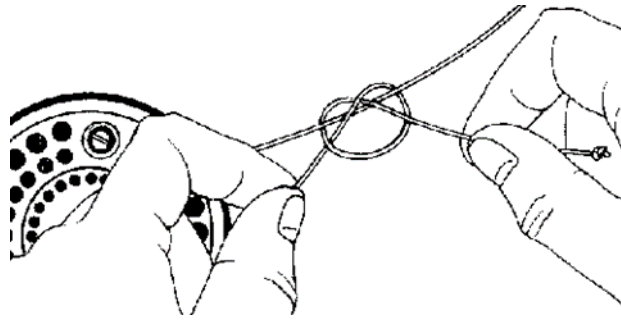
Step 1:

Pass tag end of backing around spool hub two times and bring it out again between the same set of reel pillars. Tie an overhand knot in end of line and tighten.

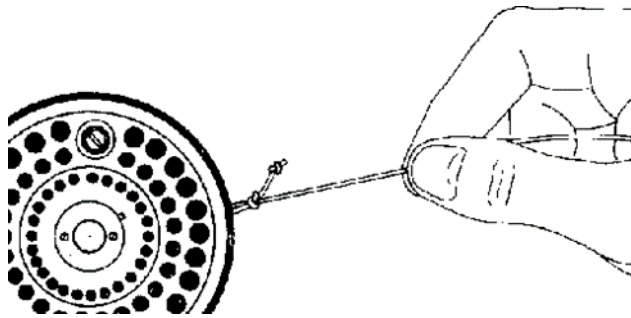


Step 2:

Tie a second overhand knot around the standing part of line.

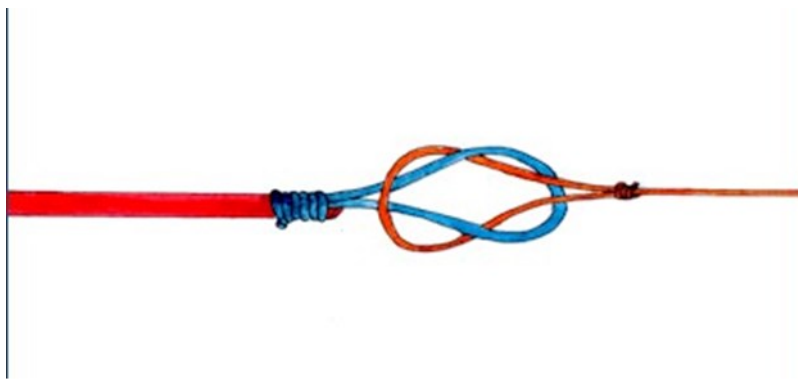


Step 3:
Draw second overhand knot tight.



Step 4:
Pull on standing line until the overhand knots tightens against reel hub.

Loop - Loop

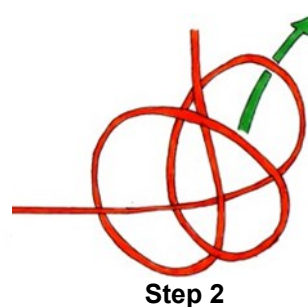
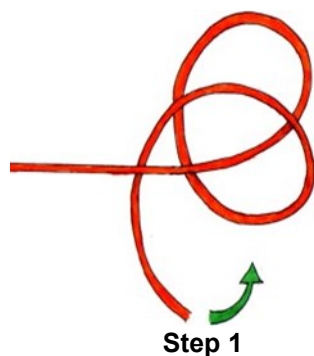


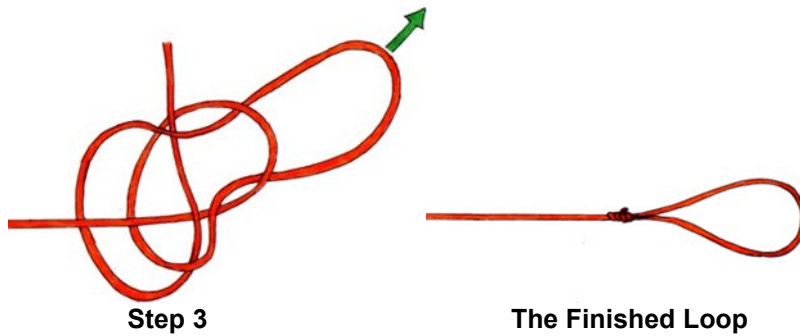
The loop-to-loop connection is for connecting your leader material to the fly line.

PERFECTION LOOP

A reliable leader loop which lies in line with the leader. The loose end can be trimmed very close to the knot. Not as difficult as it seems at first sight.

Use the thumb and forefinger of the left hand to grip the knot while manipulating the loop with the right hand. To tie the perfection knot, follow the instructions below:





THE WATER KNOT

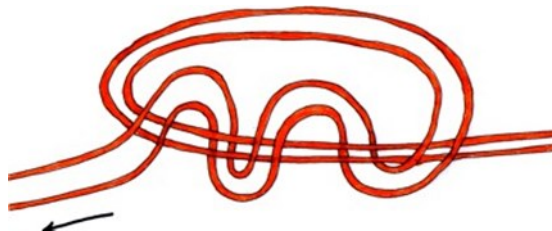
The water knot is stronger and more reliable and easier to tie than the blood knot. Although the typical advice is for three turns, you can use only two turns and the resulting knot seems quite reliable. Note that the length used for the dropper should be the one pointing away from the reel. Usually, the length of the dropper is on average 10", however some people prefer one between 6" and 8" due to the possibility of tangles.



1. With the "reel end" to your right, cut the leader at the point where the dropper is required and overlap the ends by about 10 inches, depending on the length of dropper.



2. Form an overhand loop with the doubled nylon and grip firmly at point "A" with the right thumb and forefinger.



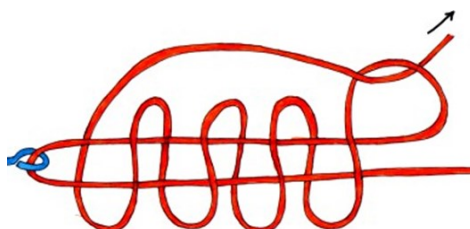
3. With the left hand, pull the dropper length along with the whole lower section of the leader through the loop at least twice.



4. Moisten, draw tight and trim the end which points towards the reel.

THE SLIP KNOT

I have used this knot for many years to attach my leader and droppers to my flies and it is an alternative to the half-blood knot.



Moisten and tighten the knot well and don't trim too close to the hook.



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You will enjoy fly fishing for the trout at the lakes as it is beautiful surroundings. Excellent sport, perfect peace.

Jubilee Lakes Stillwater Fly Fishery offers facilities such a heated angler's cabin and toilet and secure lakeside parking. Well-kept banks and paths make

trout fishing here a pleasure and ideal for anglers with limited mobility.

The fisheries aim has always been to provide first rate trout fishing, complimented by first rate facilities. Notably Jubilee Lakes is home to the renowned Anglers Lodge Tackle Shop; stocking everything for the trout & the salmon angler from Hardy Fly Rods to Fulling Mill Flies. "Good value for money, quality of trout and one of the best tackle shops I know, make a detour off the A1 and visit Jubilee."

"It is the quality of angler attracted to Jubilee which perhaps separates it from other small Stillwater's. "Charles Jardine, Fly Fishing & Fly Tying Situated in County Durham only a short distance from the local towns of Darlington, Newton Aycliffe, Bishop Auckland & Spennymoor.

Just over the border from North Yorkshire they are in easy reach of the tourist destinations of Teesdale and Weardale as well as the conurbations of Wear Valley and Teesside. Only 5 minutes from the A1 (M) motorway, 1 minute from the A68.

Jubilee Lakes Stillwater Fly Fishery is trout fishing at its very best. For a peaceful day's fly fishing in tranquil surroundings on well stocked, well maintained trout lakes you must visit them if you're on holiday down that way.

They have excellent facilities for all trout anglers: -

- Well maintained paths & banks
- Car park adjacent to & visible from the lakes
- Anglers' Lodge Tackle Shop
- Good disabled access to lower lake
- Comfy heated anglers cabin
- Heated toilet
- Free tea & coffee for anglers
- Refrigerator to store your catch

The fishery has one of the best game fishing tackle & fly tying shops in the country. A comprehensive range of fly-fishing tackle at mail order prices with the personal support you would expect from a family run business. The shop stocks excellent ranges of fly-fishing tackle: - Hardy Reels, Fly Rods & Tackle, Greys of Alnwick, Vision, Wychwood, Rio Fly Lines, Snowbee, Airflo fly lines etc plus a great range of Fulling Mill trout & salmon flies. For the avid fly-tying aficionado, they stock one of the most extensive ranges of tools & materials to be found anywhere including materials from Hareline, Wapsi, Veniard, Flybox, Partridge, Tubeworx, Eumer & many more.

So, if you've left home without something you need for the day; then the shop is the ideal place to get what you need

Blue Ribbon Fishing - Montana

Montana has been a dream destination for me due to its world-class trout fisheries, scenery and hospitality.

Fly fishing for several species of native and introduced trout in rivers and lakes is popular for both residents and tourists throughout the state.

Montana is the home of the Federation of Fly Fishers and hosts many of the organization's annual conclaves. The state has robust recreational lake trout and kokanee salmon fisheries in the west, walleye can be found in many parts of the state, while northern pike, smallmouth and largemouth bass fisheries as well as catfish and paddlefish can be found in the waters of eastern Montana.

Robert Redford's 1992 film of Norman Mclean's novel, *A River Runs Through It*, was filmed in Montana and brought national attention to fly fishing and the state.

Montana contains thousands of named rivers and creeks, 450 miles (720 km) of which are known for "blue-ribbon" trout fishing.



Montana's water resources provide for recreation, hydropower and crop and forage irrigation, mining, and water for human consumption.

Montana is one of few geographic areas in the world whose rivers form parts of three major watersheds (i.e., where two continental divides intersect). Its rivers feed the Pacific Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, and Hudson Bay. The watersheds divide at Triple Divide Peak in Glacier National Park.

The Bitterroot River is a tributary of the Clark Fork River (on the left) in southwestern Montana, USA. It runs for about 75 miles (121 km) south-to-north through the Bitterroot Valley, from the confluence of its West and East forks near Conner to the Clark Fork near Missoula.

Ravalli County and Missoula County along with the towns along the Bitterroot River, including Hamilton, Stevensville, Missoula, and Darby are popular destinations for fly fishing, with rainbow trout being fairly prevalent and with smaller populations of brown trout and west slope cutthroat trout.

The Bitterroot River is the essential blue ribbon trout river; a beautiful freestone river with endless river features around each bend and surrounded by the towering peaks of the Bitterroot and Sapphire Mountains.

The Bitterroot offers the avid fly anglers almost 70 miles of log jams, undercut banks, drop offs and deep pools along its path to its junction with the Clark Fork River in Missoula. The Bitterroot's main draw is its incredible dry fly fishing. The Bitterroot River is a bug factory with thriving hatches of Mayflies, Caddis and Stoneflies from March – November, it provides anglers some of the best dry fly fishing in the entire state of Montana.

When you fish the Bitterroot River you are more than likely to fish with dry flies. During the middle of the summer double and single dry fly rigs dominate the fishing. Fishing dry flies from the boat and presenting your fly ahead of the boat in a drag free manner tight to structure will get you bent. There are also some great opportunities to set up on rising fish out of the boat, and match the hatch.

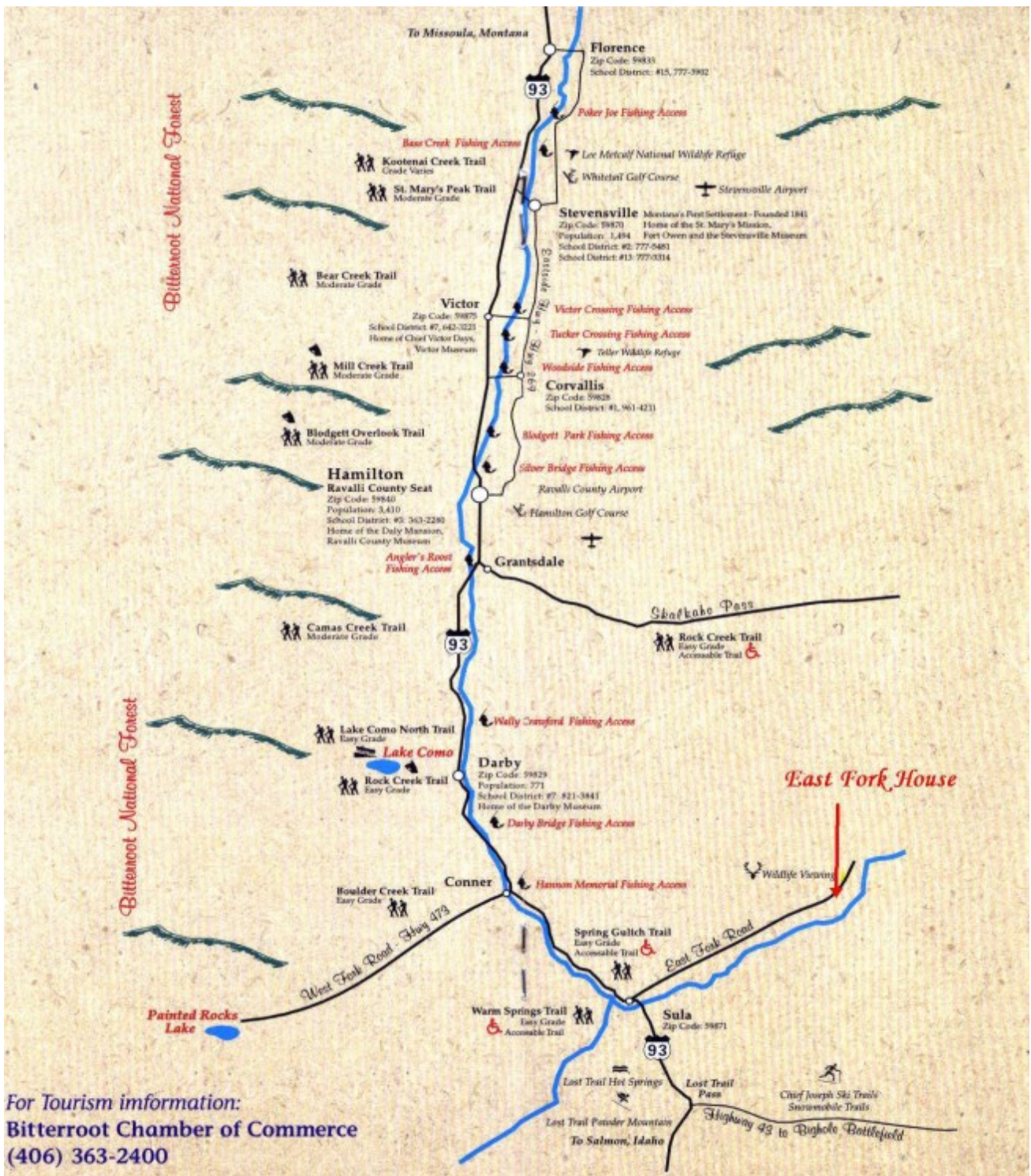
June – August Summer on the Bitterroot River starts with two more incredible stonefly hatches, the salmonfly and Golden Stones. These two hatches are concentrated on the uppermost reaches of the river, primarily the East and West Forks of the Bitterroot. High water Conditions during June allow us to float both forks of the Bitterroot for some incredibly exciting dry fly fishing with huge dry flies. Once the water subsides; the whole Bitterroot from the forks all the way to Missoula is in full swing. During July the rivers trout are coaxed out using by PMD's, Green Drakes, Caddis, tricos and Hecubas.

You can fish with double and single fly rigs fished to match the hatch in all the likely spots.

As you move into August terrestrial fishing becomes the name of the game. Fishing the trico hatch in the morning and Hopper – dropper rigs in the afternoon create most of the actions. Fishing with beetles and ants should not be overlooked as you can get some fantastic sport using them.

Late Summer/Fall September – November the late summer fishing continues into September; with Tricos and Terrestrials still being very effective.

Some of the best fishing in September is created by the Mahogany Dun hatch. As the cool nights arrive the trout start to become more aggressive again eagerly feeding on the Size 14 & 16 duns. The mahoganies will last into October when colder days give way to the fall hatch of Blue Winged Olives and October Caddis. As always, the streamer fishing begins to pick up as the trout more aggressively feed before the onset of winter



Below is a great link to the Montana Fishing Guide.

This guide is easy to use and will help you find lots of great places to go fishing. The guide includes angling and recreation information on hundreds of fishable waters, but not all streams, lakes and ponds with good fishing are included so you may still want to talk to your favorite fishing shop (or fishing buddy) for more ideas.

And before you go fishing on any Montana waters, you should always check the Montana fishing regulations or boating regulations for additional important information. So, take a few minutes to browse this site and see how easy it is to find information on fish distribution, fishing access sites, maps and much more. You might get hooked!

<https://fwp.mt.gov/fish>