

# *The Scottish Flyfisher* *Quarterly Magazine*

*April 2022*



Fly Fishing Rivers for Beginners

Importance of Kick Sampling

March Brown Time

Fly Tying for Beginners

The Dangers of Boat Fishing



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Welcome to the Scottish Flyfisher Magazine's quarterly April 2022 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](mailto:editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com) and I will add them to the magazine or to the "Have Your Say" page.

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## The Editors Bit



I stood in the local river casting away to my heart's content, the current passing around me and continuing on its path downstream. It might have been named a river to some, but it couldn't have been more than twenty feet wide and for its deepest part where I was only reached four feet in the narrow channel.

I thought to myself that it was more of a Scottish burn or a large stream than a river. Maybe I should probably leave such great debates to the more knowledgeable on such matters and be happy enough to say I just stood in a river fishing.

I made my cast just upstream and as the wet fly sunk and drifted past, I gave the rod tip a little wiggle and added a little life to the mixture of feathers, thread etc., tied to the size 18 hook, hoping it would fool the fish hiding in amongst the weeds, that my imitation of life was indeed swimming past it in distress, an easy target and a free meal.

For a few hours I was in my element scanning both upstream and downstream looking for a nice wee spot where the willy wee brown trout might be hiding and waiting to take my fly as it passed by.

Despite this I never caught anything but as they say that's fishing and not catching.

I know some of you will think I'm a great fly fisher with the stories and articles I have written in the magazine, but don't be fooled, I'm just an average fly fisher who has been fishing for over 50 years and really enjoy the art of fly fishing.

Even today like I did when I first took up fly fishing many moons ago, I sometimes get caught in an overhead tree branch, bushes etc. behind me, or sometimes with that miss cast myself. Or not concentrating properly when I've got a fish hooked and lose it getting the net as the line goes slack.

But hey that's fishing for you, everyone has a great day and a bad day out on the water, and we always come back for more.





## FLY FISHING RIVERS FOR BEGINNERS

BY THE EDITOR

River fly fishing, with all its various variations centres around a single goal to successfully tempt a fish to take a perfectly presented artificial fly/lure as a food source.

When you undertake river fishing for the first time, you should always remember the three basic principles that govern the fish's life: protection, food source, and current. You should always have these three points in mind when surveying the water for your next cast.

As a beginner to river fishing, there is one fundamental rule that can help you find the right place to catch your first fish: cast to the foam or bubbles. This is very simple but effective. Foam or bubbles are caused in a variety of ways fast moving water, logs, rock formations or some other underwater obstruction.

These obstacles in the river create a funnel effect for food indicated by the foam/bubbles and is usually located in deeper water or on a seam.

Sighting, hooking, playing and landing the fish is also a major part of the successful fishing experience, but the most important part is actually being able to get the fly to the fish in the first place, by the various casting methods utilized by the fly fisherman/woman.

Although there are many factors involved in getting the fly/lure to a timid or spooked fish, reading the water, casting technique, type of line utilised and the all-important thing the fly/lure.

The "main factor" of fly fishing - is learn to understand and pre-empt the constantly changing environment and choose the right approach for different water conditions, weather factors and even the nearby fauna.

Learn something about entomology; this is great for learning the life cycle of the insects within the water levels throughout the year.

This would help you to understand and to mimic the type of fly/lure required to catch the trout or salmon.

Unless trout have a specific reason for swimming downstream, like sea trout or salmon returning to the sea. Trout will always be facing upstream, thus swimming against the current. Naturally this burns up a lot of energy so the trout needs a lot of food to replace that expended energy.

Once they are facing upstream, they will see all the food that passes by them in the current, including insects and other small creatures, like worms, leeches, minnows, etc. that get swept away in the strong current. Fish will strategically position themselves in spots where the current is not too strong so they don't burn up too much energy and where the current will channel the most food to them and where there is a hiding place in close proximity.

The ultimate aim for all fly fishers is to imitate a fly or other insect so closely that it fools the trout into thinking that its next meal has just arrived. In order to do this, you must "present" the fly in such a way as to not spook the trout. This is where your fly-casting practice comes in useful.

You do this by drifting the fly past the trout's nose or with some movement to make the fly look like it is swimming or fleeing from the trout to instigate a take. No matter what you do, you must make your imitation fly look like the other flies that are drifting along with it.

Trout position themselves in a strategic location in the river, lake or reservoir where the most oxygen and the greatest quantity of food are delivered to them. Trout focus on two major things, self-preservation and sustenance.

Because of this, trout watch literally thousands of different things float by them and become accustomed to seeing these things float by at a certain speed and taking a certain path, etc. Because of its curiosity, a trout will experiment on occasion by eating items that it doesn't normally see. This is why the attractor fly's work. They don't really imitate anything in nature but you are preying on the trout's curiosity. If a trout sees any unusual movement, it will either simply ignore it or it will spook it.

This unusual or unnatural movement in your fly is called "drag."

Drag makes the artificial fly drift slower, faster or along a different path from real insects and is usually caused by the current pushing or pulling on your fly line and/or leader. Another factor can sometimes be the existence of wind.

Drag usually creates a V-shaped wake behind a floating fly. The easiest way to detect drag is to compare your fly's drift with the drift of a living insect next to it. If your fly is not floating at the same rate of speed as an object beside it, you're experiencing drag and your chance of enticing a trout diminishes greatly.

### **What can you do?**

**Mending the Line:** "Mending" is a technique for prolonging the fly's drift by adding virtual slack into the fly line. You can mend the line whilst it is on the water or in the air during your cast. Mending absorbs the current's push so the water cannot straighten the line too quickly.

To mend the line on the water, as your line begins to straighten out; point the rod tip at the line, then flip your forearm and wrist up current. This motion is simple but does take some practice to get it right.

To mend the line during your cast after you've stopped your forward cast motion, quickly reach your casting arm far to the side. The fly will follow its initial path when you stopped the cast. The fly line, however, will land to the side. This will give the fly more time to drift without drag before the current pulls on the line.

**Change your approach:** If possible, change your approach and position yourself directly above the trout in the current.

By doing this, you eliminate the sideways current between you and your fly. Feed your fly by stripping line off your reel and wiggling the rod tip close to the surface of the water so the line doesn't get hung up on the guides while feeding out.

If you are casting to a fish feeding at the surface, you can get closer to it than if it were in deeper water. The higher the fish is feeding, the less it can see above the surface. Approach the fish slowly and quietly.

**Change your cast:** Cast an "S" into your fly line to give your fly more time to float before the current straightens out your line and begins the drag. The moment after you stop your forward cast, wiggle the rod tip from side to side as you lower it to the water. By doing this you will introduce a zigzagging effect into the line thereby increasing the amount of time your fly has on the water without drag setting in.





**Pools and Pockets:** It seems like the most popular situation to fish is the deep pool. Pools generally hold the most fish because of the cover they provide and because of the slow and easy currents.

The head (beginning) of the pool will hold some trout, perhaps resting before heading upstream, but there will usually be more fish farther down the pool.

The tail (end) of a pool is where the water starts to become shallower.

Fish will sometimes hold up here as a resting spot after fighting stronger currents when heading upstream. Other times they'll be located in an area that creates a small underwater bank where the water depth quickly changes from deep to shallow.

Along with these pools, trout will often find "pockets" behind large rocks, which break the current and sweep food to them. To find submerged rocks, watch for bulges in the stream and for small patches of water that look slick against the rest of the current.

**Bends and Eddies:** At the bend of a stream a trout may be holding on the inside or the outside of the bend, depending on the speed of the current, depth, etc. If it is a deep bend, usually the current will be stronger on the outside, up against the bank. In this situation, a trout will usually hold in the slower current to the inside of the bend. If the water is shallower, look for the trout to be back closer to the bank on the outside of the bend in search of the deeper water and better food distribution.



An eddy, on the other hand, poses a bit of a different challenge in fishing. This is a phenomenon where the current actually flows in the opposite direction. When the current cuts into a bank, it creates an eddy which is an indentation into the bank where the water swirls around and flows back against the main current. This creates a pocket of water that collects food which will attract fish.

**Ripples:** Shallow, choppy water generally downstream of deep, slow pools, riffles usually hold fish, but there are fewer of them and they are probably smaller than the fish in the pool. In the riffles, look for patches of smooth water that reveal depressions deep enough to hold fish. At the bottom of a riffle, look for a "chute" that resembles a funnel carrying food to fish waiting on the edge where the current is slower than in the middle.

**Deadfalls and Brushy Banks:** Trees that have fallen into the water or hang over the water also create ideal places for fish to hide.

Overgrown banks with grass or brush create a hiding place for fish and also provide a good food source in the summer months as crickets, ants, grasshoppers, and other insects get blown into the water by soft breezes.

**Weed Beds:** On rivers you will often find weeds blanketing the river bed. Currents will cut channels into the river bed.

Trout will usually hang out in these channels, up against the weeds for maximum coverage, where there is plenty of food and a quick place to hide.

As you can see from everything you've just read, it's a little bit of a challenge to determine exactly where you should fish for trout. The more you get out on the river, the more comfortable you'll get at determining the best places to wet your line.

Just remember that fish like to hang out in areas where there is enough oxygen to breathe and where they can get the most food with little effort and a place to hide nearby.

You may not find fish in the same spots each day as streams can change rapidly.

Take time to study the water and don't get frustrated if you come up empty handed on your first couple of trips on a river, after time and practice you will get better at reading the river and how to cast the perfectly presented fly so that the fish will take.



### **River Fishing Safety Tips:**

I was enjoying a day's fishing on the River Tweed just on the outskirts of Peebles leading down to the Cardrona Hotel when I heard someone yell out.

Looking back, I saw a bloke heading my way in the middle of the river laying on his back and coming head first. It transpired he had turned to go back to the river bank and lost his footing and ended up on his back and traversing down the river.

If I hadn't been there at the time to grab him; I don't know what might have happened to him. There is nothing worse than slipping and ending up in the water and if you don't know your river craft when fishing you won't know what might happen to you when it does occur.

The aim of this article is to hopefully educate both the novice and expert fishermen on how to improve their river fishing skills.

### **The Basics of Fishing in a River**

River fishing is the method of fishing in a body of water that flows towards another river, ocean, lake, loch or sea.

You can fish a river from the shore, by wading or if the size and depth of the river make it possible, via a boat.

Many rivers have dams and water locks that help control the flow of water. These structures can be a great place for large fish to congregate because of the water depth and temperature. However, they can be a hazard to the wadding fisherman.

### **River Fishing Safety**



Get a Pair of Polarized Glasses - Depending on what river you plan on fishing in you may be able to see through the water with a good pair of polarized glasses. By being able to visually locate fish you can prevent a lot of wasted time searching for them also you can see the river bottom contours slightly better...

When you're fishing in a river, you'll want to follow basic safety precautions to ensure your safety and the safety of other people around you.

You should always know how to swim or fish with someone who is able to swim. If you're wading in a river, make sure to use a wader belt to prevent water from filling up your waders if you fall over.



If you're using a boat then make sure to follow all boating rules and regulations and remember that the depth and speed of a river can change quite drastically.



### **River Fishing Safety Tips:**

Always dress appropriately, this includes waterproof fishing jackets, waders and footwear.

Check the weather before you leave and be ready for any sudden changes in conditions that may occur.

Remember, the hooks on the end of your line are very sharp. Before you make a cast, make sure there is no one behind you.

If you go fishing alone, be sure to tell someone exactly where you are going and when you will be coming back.

If you're fishing from a boat, wear a life jacket.

If you are fishing in unknown waters with a strong current, go with a friend. Always carefully check out the area before wading in, and when you do wade in, do so carefully. Carry a wading stick and take one step at a time to feel for any deep drop-offs.

### **What river fishing equipment are you likely to need to be safe?**

Here is a little kit advice below:

Adequate footwear - Rubber soled boots for sand-based & felt soled for rock-based rivers

Water & wind resistant clothing

Wading staff or stick to determine water levels

Map of where you will be fishing

A method of communication such as a mobile phone/radio

First Aid Kit in case of minor injury.

If you do happen to have a mishap and end up floating down the river, try to right yourself if possible and retain your balance. If not try to make sure you travel feet first as there might be rocky outcrops in the water and it's better to hit them with your feet than with your head.

You can always mend a broken leg but not a loved one's broken heart.



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### **Loch and Stillwater Fishing**

Fishing your local loch or stillwater is quite a bit different than fishing a river.

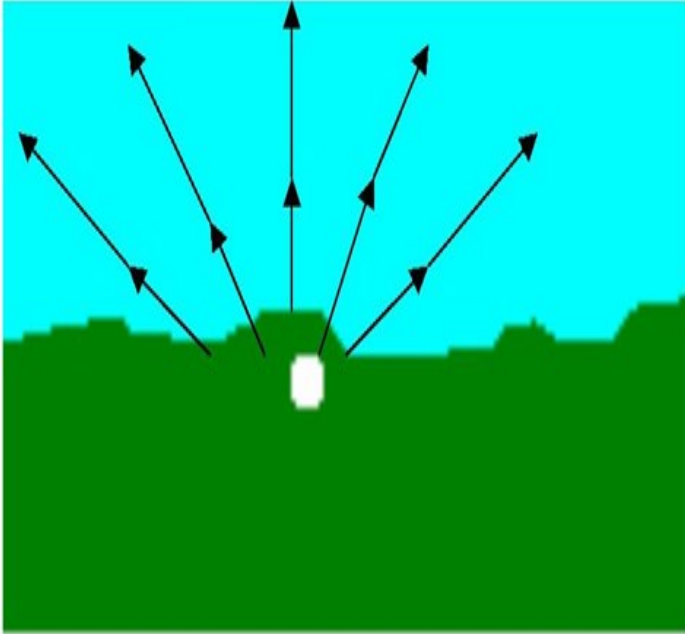
A fish's primary protection in a loch or stillwater is deep water, weeds, and large obstructions like rocks and logs. If you're fishing your local loch or stillwater during the day, you will have better luck if there is some cloud cover as fish do not have eyelids and will go deep or seek out shaded areas, as the fish will go to these areas as it provides protection and allows them to get closer to the shore. Fish in areas that have weeds. Again, this helps with protection.

You will want to be fishing fairly close to shore. This is where the food is.

Also look for areas that have weeds under the water and any places where streams are flowing in and out the lake.

Again, stay in the shadows if you are fishing during the day.

The best way to approach the water for the first time is to stand slightly back from the bank and start casting as there might be fish drifting along the side of the bank if you approach too quickly and noisily you will spook the fish.



One of the best techniques is to undertake short fan casts, imagine you are the centre of a clock and from 9 -3 start fan casting a short distance into the water so that you are covering a larger area of water. Once undertaken a couple of times counting down each time to try and locate the fish's depth, continue further out into deeper water.

This method is ideal if you are going to start wadding into the water as it gives you a better chance of finding the fish without scaring them of in the first instance by going straight in to the water.

You can have a good day's fishing casting dry flies when you see fish starting to rise using the fan casting method, even if you don't see the fish rising constantly, blind casting this way covers more water and gives you a better chance of catching more fish.

You must have a long leader as the fish have a long time to take a look at your fly. During the day, you will have better luck casting nymphs near the shore or in the weeds.

### **Playing trout**

Once hooked, a small trout can be easily retrieved "on the reel" or by simply pulling in the fly line with the reel hand while pinching the line between the rod handle and the index finger of the rod hand. It is important to keep the rod tip high, allowing the bend of the rod to absorb the force of the fish's struggles against the line.

Larger trout will often take line in powerful runs before they can be landed.

Unlike spin fishing where the line is already on the reel, playing a large fish with fly line and a fly reel can present a special challenge. Usually, when a fish is hooked, there will be extra fly line coiled between the reel and the index finger of the rod hand.

The challenge is to reel up the loose fly line onto the reel without breaking off a large fish (or getting the line wrapped up around the rod handle, one's foot, a stick or anything else in the way!). With experience, really large trout can be put on the reel simply by applying light pressure on the outgoing line using the fisher's fingers. Once the extra line is on the reel, an angler can use the reel's drag system to tire the fish. It is important to use heavier tippet material if it won't spook the fish.

The reason why this is important is an exhausted fish can easily die if released too soon. Heavier tippet material enables the angler to land the fish while not over exhausting it.



### **Catch and release**

This is a practice within recreational fishing intended as a technique of conservation.

After capture, the fish are unhooked and returned to the water before experiencing serious exhaustion or injury.

Using barbless hooks, it is often possible to release the fish without removing it from the water.



## Importance of Kick Sampling

We think we know what is under the water, are so excited and simply want to get fishing. **BUT** taking a few minutes to do this simple activity will radically improve your day's fishing and lead to a bigger catch!

This simple technique can increase your catch rate by volumes

The typical sampling method for streams and rivers is called kick sampling and involves disturbing the material on the bed of the river or stream and collecting the freed organisms in a net. Because invertebrates use a variety of habitat types it is important to collect samples from the different habitats present such as fast-moving riffles, shallow water, slow water, weeds and tree roots. This increases the chances of collecting all the different species present at the site.

The kick sample should be conducted for three minutes in each area of the river or stream.

Where possible, the time should be divided proportionally between the different habitats depending on their abundance. For example, if riffles occupy half of the site, they will be sampled for half of the time, and if vegetation occupies a quarter of the site, it will be sampled for a quarter of the time.

Place the net on the riverbed and disturb the area just upstream of the net by kicking or shuffling through the substrate, for the time allocated. The animals will then be carried downstream by the current into the net. Avoid kicking coarse debris into the net. Any debris caught in the net should be removed, while making sure to rinse the invertebrates that are clinging to it back into the net.

For in-stream vegetation and tree roots, sweep the net through the area for the allocated time, trying to scrape the net against the debris. It is also advisable to carry out an additional one-minute hand search of large stones by gently rubbing the stones in the water, letting any animals be carried downstream into the net. Be careful as there may be glass, metal or other sharp objects on the riverbed.



In order to identify what has been collected during the kick sample, fill a tray with river water to a depth of a couple of centimeters and lower the net into the water. Carefully turn the net inside out, and shake gently to release the contents. If you have collected a large sample or lots of debris, it may be necessary to examine the contents by taking smaller portions at a time. To do this you will need to empty the contents of the net into a bucket half filled with water. Remove a sample from that bucket using a kitchen sieve or similar, and empty the contents into your tray.

When you have finished examining the sample, empty the contents into a second bucket or put it back into the river. Continue taking sub samples until your first bucket is empty.

It may be necessary to remove each invertebrate into a separate tray using a small spoon as this will make identification easier. It may not be possible to count every individual present if there are lots. In this case the abundance should be estimated into the abundance groupings (greater than or less than 10, greater than or less than 100 or greater than or less than 1000).

Take care when removing individuals as some bite!



Once all the animals have been identified, return the sample to the river, ideally in the same location as where the sample was collected from.

We call it matching the hatch when we match the dry flies however it is probably even more important for the bugs under the water! After all, 80% of the Trout's diet comes from below the surface.

Bugs & Nymphs of the Water

The bugs and nymphs come in all shapes sizes and colours!

So, try to match as close and size as you can to the invertebrate within the samples taken and you will have a much better chance of increasing your catch rate.

## March Brown Time



For centuries the March brown dun has figured prominently in angling writing, but it is rarely if ever seen on the majority of rivers and streams and does not appear on Stillwater's. The March brown is "probably the most famous of all British mayflies", having been copied by anglers to catch fish for over 500 years

In the British Isles, the range of *R. germanica* includes the River Tweed and River Don in Scotland, the River Coquet in England, the River Wye in Wales and the River Liffey in Ireland. Typically, these are fast-flowing northern and western rivers with stony beds are not found in Southern UK.

In late March and early April, the main hatches occur, often with duns coming off in waves spread over two or three hours. It is unusual for one of these bursts of activity to last much more than fifteen minutes so be prepared as the fishing can be mad when these hatches occur.

On many rivers, the March browns are the first large mayflies of the New Year.

After a winter of tiny blue-winged olives and even tinier midges--always fussy and unpredictable hatches--the March browns are the heralds of all the delights of the next eight months.

They usually start about the first week of March, although they can be earlier or later depending on the warmth of the weather. March browns are beloved by local anglers even though the bugs often hatch in godawful weather. Many ardent fly fishers will spend a March afternoon shivering as droplets of cold rain run down the sleeve of their casting arm. If you listen close, you can hear them murmuring, "It just doesn't get any better than this."

In the mountain areas, March browns begin hatching in mid- to late-March in almost any weather and anglers have a more rational attitude about the insect.

Members of the clinger group of mayflies (family Heptageniidae), March brown nymphs live in riffles and fast, rocky runs. Nymphs are so well adapted to their habitat that they are seldom found in the drift until emergence time. As the nymphs near maturity, they migrate to slower (but not slow) water, usually within a hundred yards above or below a riffle.

Hatches usually start in the early afternoon. Just prior to the hatch, nymphs are often found drifting in the current, so it makes sense to present a nymph pattern near the bottom beginning a couple of hours before the hatch. As the nymph's hatch, they often drift a long distance before reaching the surface, so you find drifting nymphs anywhere from just below a riffle to runs that are well below them.

Duns usually emerge on the surface. As trout switch their focus to the duns and you see surface rises, switch to a dry fly. Sometimes, however, emergence happens underwater and the dun floats to the surface. In this case a Soft Hackle or down wing wet fly works best.

Spinners return to lay eggs over the riffles, but they usually do so sporadically and rarely in a concentration that captures the interest of trout.

### Matching March Browns

Stage	Pattern	Size/ Colour	Presentation	Where
Nymph	Hares Ear, A. P. Black, Pheasant Tail	10-16/Brown	Indicator, Tight line, Rising nymph	Near riffles
Emerger	Soft Hackle	10-16/Brown	Surface swing Standard dry fly	Near riffles, flats
	Quigley Cripple	10-16/Tan to red-brown body, brown wing	Standard dry fly	Near riffles, flats
Dun	Comparadun, Sparkle Dun, Parachute Hares Ear	10-16/Tan to red-brown body, brown wing		Near riffles, flats



## Fly Tying for Beginners



In the broadest terms, flies are categorized as either imitative or attractive.

Imitative flies resemble natural food items. Attractive flies trigger instinctive strikes by employing a range of characteristics that do not necessarily mimic prey items.

Flies can be fished floating on the surface (dry flies), partially submerged (emergers), or below the surface (nymphs, buzzers, and wet flies).

A dry fly is typically thought to represent an insect landing on, falling on (terrestrials), or emerging from, the water's surface as might a grasshopper, dragonfly, beetle, stonefly or caddisfly.

Sub-surface flies are designed to resemble a wide variety of prey including aquatic insect larvae, nymphs and pupae.

Wet flies, known as streamers, are generally thought to imitate minnows, leeches etc.

Artificial flies constructed of furs, feathers, and threads bound on a hook were created by anglers to imitate fish prey.

The first known mention of an artificial fly was in 200AD in Macedonia. Most early examples of artificial flies imitated common aquatic insects and baitfish.

Today, artificial flies are tied with a wide variety of natural and synthetic materials

Every fly fisherman/woman has his or her own reasons for starting into fly tying.

Some do it to save money from all the flies left in the trees and shrubs. Others do it to learn more about the life cycles of the flies they like to use.

There are many websites, books and videos available that are much better at writing than I am. I also highly recommend a hands-on fly-tying class. These are offered by many of the fly fishing clubs within your area or by professional fly-fishing coaches.

When you do decide to take up fly tying, there is absolutely hundreds of books, e-books and video clips on the web for you to choose from to show you how to tie buzzers, wet and dry flies also hundreds of different kinds of lures to cover every eventuality when you are out fishing.

There is so many variations and hybrids to the original fly/lure designs, sometimes I find it a bit daunting myself after all those years choosing what to tie. In fact, I have flies and lures in my many fly boxes that have been there for years and have never seen the day light never mind gotten wet.

However; everyone has their own preferences on what they like to use on certain waters despite all the information and advice out there.

I will talk about the tools, materials and supplies needed, some tips, tricks and worthwhile resources and will list the more popular fly patterns/recipes for trout.

If you are new to fly tying it can be a bit daunting to know what you need in relationship to tools, materials, hooks and all the other requirements to tie your first artificial fly.

There is nothing better than tying your own flies and catching fish on them, it not only gives you self-assurance that you have tied the fly correctly but you can also catch on them.

Tying your own fly can also save you money in the long run as the materials you use can be used for a vast variety of flies and lures.



Below I have listed a general idea of all the tools you will require to start you off in tying your own flies.

The tools you will need are: -

1. **Vice** - Today you can buy an adequate vice for as little as £20, but you can pay hundreds. Buy the best you can afford.
2. **Scissors** - You will need a pair of fine pointed very sharp scissors. Embroidery scissors are good. A good pair should last you for years as long as you don't go cutting wire with them.
3. **Bobbin Holder** - The early models had no ceramic inserts in the tube and eventually started fraying the threads. It is worth the extra cost to buy ceramic models.
4. **Hackle Pliers** - Basic models are not expensive and will do the job adequately. I still have my original one when I started fly tying over 40 years ago.
5. **Dubbing Needle** - I still use hat pins. They are handy for cleaning out varnish from the hook eye and applying varnish to the head of the finished fly. You can buy the proper tool cheaply.
6. **Threader** - An indispensable tool for feeding your thread onto the bobbin holder.
7. **Whip Finish Tool** - If you can use one of these then use it. If you cannot, tie off with the traditional double half hitch (like me).
8. **Varnish** - You only need clear to start with. Apply with dubbing needle. Very good advice is to remember to put the lid straight back on the bottle when finished, as the varnish can go really gloopy and not attractive when applying to the fly head.
9. **Beeswax** - Indispensable for dubbing.
10. **Pliers** - A pair of small fine nosed pliers for de-barbing hooks
11. **Dubbing Brush** - Used for raising dubbed hair. Make one easily yourself using an old lollipop stick and gluing Velcro to both sides at one end.

You will also need a substantial amount of different fly hooks for tying up from buzzers/nymphs, dries/wets to large lures and from sizes 10 to 16.

You can buy beginners complete fly-tying kits that offer all the tools, instructions and materials that you would require to start off with; they can vary in prices from £30 for a very basic kit to £100 for a more comprehensive kit. There are also available from all good tackle shops and online stores beginners tool kits, with all the above items that you would require to start your fly tying with.

The information booklets with the beginner's kits gives you all the information you will require to tie some of the best known and most used flies and lures today.



Basic Fly-Tying Tool Kit



Expert Fly-Tying Tool Kit

On the following pages I have put some simple fly-tying patterns that are easy to do and are good at catching fish on.

Once you have mastered the fine art of fly-tying you can progress onto more advanced patterns.



## The Cormorant



**Hook:** Sprite Wet Competition S2175 Size 10

**Thread:** Red

**Body:** Uni-Mylar Holographic Red Tinsel

**Wing:** Black Marabou

**Rib:** Silver Wire

**Head:** Red Thread

**Varnish:** Veniard No1 Clear Celire

This is one of those all-round lures, fish it on a floating, intermediate or sinking line at various rates of retrieve and it will still catch. It can be fished using many methods, under a bung, on a sinking line, using the washing line method. It can be used as a lure or nymph, from a retrieve that is static to one that is very fast.

If you fish Stillwater's then you must have some of these in your fly box.

There are hundreds of variants of the cormorant that can be tied up and will catch you fish on the day.

## Tying Method

1. Wind thread onto hook up to just before the hook bend.
2. Tie in tinsel with the thread and the silver wire, wind the thread back up to the hook eye.
3. Wind the tinsel up to the hook eye in touching turns and tie in with the thread
4. Wind the silver wire up to the hook eye, leaving an even space in between turns, and tie of with the thread.
5. Tie in the marabou feathers
6. Form an even head with the thread.
7. Give the body and head a coating of varnish.

## The Orange Blob



**Hook:** Partridge Big Mouth Nymph Size 12

**Thread** (orange)

**Body:** Orange Blob Fritz

**Tail:** Orange Marabou

**Head:** Orange Glo Brite Floss

The Blob is a fritz mini-lure and works superbly when fished very fast but can also be used on different methods of retrieve.

The pattern can be tied in a mass of colours from dark to very bright on the colour spectrum. The darker coloured fritzes are usually fished more slowly than the lighter-coloured ones.

A new method for reservoirs and Stillwater's is to fish the blob under a bung or large dry fly static and wait for a take.

I normally have this as my top dropper as an attractor for the fish, if they don't fancy it, they would normally go for one of the other flies on the leader.

## Tying Method

1. Take a pinch of Hot Orange Marabou and secure with winding turns along the hook shank. Return the thread to the place just opposite the barb
2. Take a length of blob fritz, strip a small amount of fritz fibres from the end so the centre core is left bare. Tie the core in and secure with thread. Now return the thread to the eye of the hook.
3. I've found that the easiest way to tie blob fritz is to perform one wrap of fritz around the hook shank, then wet your fingers and stroke the fritz fibres back towards the hook bend, then another wrap of fritz, wet fingers, stroke back and repeat.
4. About 5mm from the hook eye, hold the fritz taught and strip away the fibres from the core of the remaining fritz. Brush the fibres back with wet fingers from the last wrap that you did. Now wrap the striped core around the hook shank a couple of times and tie off with thread. Now trim the waste core and whip finish and trim any other waste including thread.
5. Now to finish the head. Take your preferred colour of Glo Brite floss, catch in and produce a neat head. Whip finish and varnish.

## Buzzer ~ Black / Gold Rib



**Hook:** Kamasan B110 Shrimp; Buzzer size 10-18

**Thread:** Black

**Body:** Black Flexifloss

**Rib & Wing Buds:** Gold Holographic Tinsel

**Final Buzzer Coating:** Varnish x 3 coats

There are many variants of the so called "Buzzer", but this is one of my favourites on a bright sunny day.

The fly can be fished like many buzzers on either an intermediate or floating line using a very slow figure of eight retrieve.

I have had many takes sitting this buzzer 2-4 feet below a dry fly used as an indicator and fished close to weed beds in shallow water. In winter this fly has excelled for me when trout are still taking buzzers as part of their diet.

## Tying Method

1. Wind the thread down the hook shank, catching in a piece of flexifloss and gold holographic tinsel to the base of the hook. Return the thread only to the eye of the hook, making a slim and equal body as you go.
2. Wind the piece of flexifloss up the hook shank to the eye and secure.
3. Wind the thread back to the start of the thorax.
4. Wind the gold tinsel around the base of the hook shank a few times and then up towards the eye in equal spaced turns. Secure the tinsel and trim waste.
5. Catch in two lengths of gold tinsel facing towards the hook bend which will act as wing buds
6. Create a neat thorax by running the flexifloss back and forth, tie off the flexifloss at the eye and trim waste.
7. Pull both pieces of gold tinsel forward and secure at the eye. Create a small head to cover the tinsel's ends that are visible.
8. Varnish the whole body with Hard as Nails varnish.

For best results the body should be varnished at least 3 times to produce a good solid finish

## The Hot Head Spider



**Hook** – Kamasan B175  
16 to 10

**Thread** – Black

**Hackle** - Black Hen

**Body** - Peacock Herl

**Rib** - Fine Silver Wire

**Thorax** - Hot Head Bead  
Lime Green.

This pattern is essentially a black and peacock spider.

The traditional pattern is excellent in a midge rise on both still waters and rivers.

The addition of the hot head bead to substitute a thorax gives the fish a hitting spot.

The big advantage of this pattern is that it can be fished at all depths with any kind of retrieve.

As the pattern resembles naturals in the water the fish will not be put off as per a standard lure from seeing the same fly too often.

## Fly Tying Method

1. Slip on the glow bead and place near the eye of the hook. Bed hook with thread behind the bead.
2. Tie in the peacock herl and silver wire rib.
3. Cut off excess, continue bedding hook with thread and return to just behind the glow bead.
4. Wrap the body with peacock herl and tie in.
5. Trim the excess and rib the body with the silver wire
6. Tie off, trim excess and whip finish behind the glow bead.
7. Push the bead slightly back onto the body and bed the hook between the eye and the bead.
8. Tie in a black hen hackle at the point. I personally prefer a longer than standard hackle due to the extra movement. Here experiment to obtain the look and movement you require.
9. Trim the tip of the hackle fibres and give the fly 1 or 2 turns of hackle. Catch the hackle in, form a neat head, whip finish and varnish.





## Flyncotsman Tackle

We are based in Scotland Email: [Flyncotsmantackle@gmail.com](mailto:Flyncotsmantackle@gmail.com) Phone/Text: 07791 442462



Here at Flyncotsman Tackle we are passionate about fishing! Our founder, James, started this business from a much-loved hobby and the desire to catch as many different species of fish.

He had his first catch back when he was 8 years old, spin fishing off the rocks with his family. By 12, James had taught himself how to fly fish, catching many wild trout using a thin 7-foot spinning rod to fly fish with, as it wasn't until he was 16 that he could afford to get his very own fly rod.

He continues to enjoy spin and fly fishing, while expanding into coarse and pike fishing. Now in his 30s, James has well over 20 years' experience and has taught many friends and family how to fish.

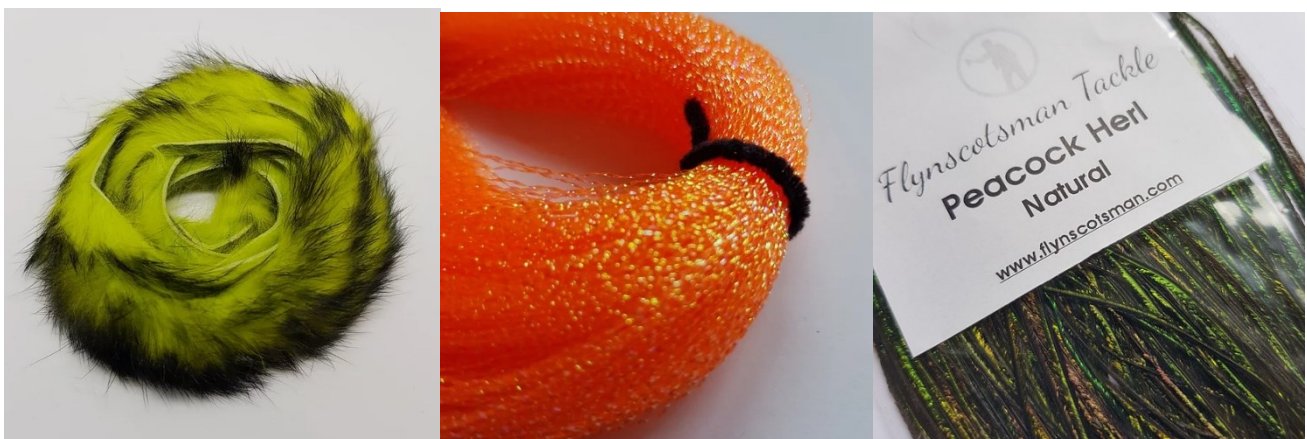
We sell top quality Flyncotsman Tackle branded products. We have a selection of fishing flies, hand tied by us, as well as all sorts of fly-tying materials, hand tied coarse rigs which can be pre-loaded with bait, pike traces, some terminal tackle, and artificial baits.

### **Our Commitment**

We are very proud of our products. We are fully committed to providing you with the best quality products at the best prices. We strive to give the best possible customer service and have proven track records of fantastic service.

### **Free Shipping**

Spend over £30 for free UK shipping, and £50 for free shipping outside of the UK.



For our best prices visit <https://www.flyncotsman.com> or give us a call (number above). You can also find us on our Ebay store, and Amazon, search for Flyncotsman Tackle.

## Dry Fly Trout Fishing

Dry fly fishing is done with line and flies that float. A tapered leader, usually made of fine polyamide monofilament line, is placed between the line and fly.

Unlike sinking fly (nymph) fishing, the "take" on dry flies is visible, explosive and exciting. While trout typically consume about 90% of their diet from below-water sources, the 10% of surface-level consumption by trout is more than enough to keep most anglers busy.

Additionally, beginning fly anglers generally prefer dry fly fishing because of the relative ease of detecting a strike and the instant gratification of seeing a trout strike their fly. Nymph fishing may be more productive, but dry fly anglers soon become addicted to the surface strike.



Dry flies may be "attractors", such as the Royal Wulff, or "natural imitators", such as the elk hair caddis, a caddisfly imitation.

A beginner may wish to begin with a fly that is easy to see such as a Royal Wulff attractor or a mayfly imitation such as a Parachute Adams.

The "parachute" on the Parachute Adams makes the fly land as softly as a natural on the water and has the added benefit of making the fly very visible from the surface. Being able to see the fly is especially helpful to the beginner. The fly should land softly, as if dropped onto the water, with the leader fully extended from the fly line.

Due to rivers having faster and slower currents often running side by side, the fly can over take or be overtaken by the line, thus disturbing the fly's drift.

Mending is a technique where by one lifts and moves the part of the line that requires re-aligning with the fly's drift, thus extending the drag free drift. The mend can be upstream or downstream depending on the currents carrying the line or fly.

To be effective, any mending of the fly line should not disturb the natural drift of the fly. Learning to mend is often much easier if the angler can see the fly.

Once a fish has been caught and landed, the fly may no longer float well. A fly can sometimes be dried and made to float again by "false" casting, casting the fly back and forth in the air. In some cases, the fly can be dried with a small piece of reusable absorbent towel or chamois, or placed and shaken in a container full of fly "dressing"; a hydrophobic solution. A popular solution to a dry fly which refuses to float is simply to replace it with another, similar or identical fly until the original can fully dry, rotating through a set of flies.

Dry fly fishing on small, clear-water streams can be especially productive if the angler stays as low to the ground and as far from the bank as possible, moving upstream with stealth. Trout tend to face upstream and most of their food is carried to them on the current. For this reason, the fish's attention is normally focused into the current; most anglers move and fish "into the current", fishing from a position downstream of the fish's suspected lie. Trout tend to strike their food at current "edges", where faster- and slower-moving waters mix.

Obstructions to the stream flow, such as large rocks or nearby pools, provide a "low energy" environment where fish sit and wait for food without expending much energy. Casting upstream to the "edge" of the slower water, the angler can see the fly land and drift slowly back downstream.



The challenge in stream fishing is placing the fly with deadly accuracy, within inches of a protective rock for instance, not long-range casting.

Done properly, the fly seems to be just floating along in the current with a "perfect drift" as if not connected to the fly line.

The angler must remain vigilant for the "take" in order to be ready to raise the rod tip and set the hook.



## The Dangers of Boat Fishing The Editor

Practicing good seamanship and being prepared can help you avoid the leading cause of recreational boating deaths.

Over the years, I have heard quite a few sad stories about fly fishers being out on a large lake and their boat capsizing or getting swamped. Sorry to say more and more are capsizing these days with the loss of life.

Hate to say it but; more often than not, the cause of such boats to capsize is not the bad weather or rough waters, but simple accidents or carelessness and stupidity of the people in the boats.

It is not the first time I've been out on the water and seen some stupid antics and actions undertaken by the person on the rudder or the other person in the boat standing up and moving about when the boat is in motion at speed, then losing their balance as the boat turns and nearly falling in or having a nasty fall in the boat.

For those who are not sure or inexperienced in using a boat when out on the water. There is a difference between capsizing and swamping a boat.

Swamping refers to when a boat remains upright, but takes on water, and capsizing is when a boat turns over in the water. Both can be caused by several things—high waves, someone falling over, etc.



There are several measures you can take to keep your boat intact and yourself dry on the water. For starters, seats are there for a reason **TO BE SAT ON**.

They are placed in areas where they will not shift the balance and where people can rest safely at high speeds.

Do not sit on the gunwales, seatbacks, bow, or any other spot that will shift the weight dangerously, especially in a smaller boat and especially while the boat is moving.

Do not stand while the boat is moving, as a sudden bump or unexpected collision with a submerged object can not only launch a standing person from the boat, but someone standing makes an easier target for a wayward propeller if the prop brakes off during a collision.

Remaining seated also keeps the centre of gravity low while you are moving, which helps maintain balance. You can also add to this by not overloading the boat with gear and balancing the stowed gear evenly.

You can reduce your risk of capsizing by practicing good seamanship. That means do not overload the boat, learn to distribute gear and passengers evenly for greater stability, turn the boat at controlled speed(s), never anchor from the stern, and be alert for the wake and waves of other boats. If you encounter a large wave slow down and try to take it head on or at a slight angle. Do not try to power through.

Safe boating on any body of water means having the proper safety equipment and staying alert to changes in the weather.

Be sure that you and your passengers wear a life jacket at all times. If you boat far from shore, or at a loch in the back of beyond consider getting an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB).

These devices – many of them equipped with automatic releases and an internal GPS – can alert rescue personnel to your emergency and provide your precise location.





If your vessel does capsize, make sure everyone is accounted for and stays with the boat. Do not panic and try to swim for shore. A capsized vessel may recover on its own and most trailer-sized vessels will remain afloat, even when flooded or overturned.

If your boat is small, try to turn it upright and bail it out. If you cannot right your vessel, you and your passenger/s should try to get as much of yourselves as possible onto the hull. Never swim away from a capsized boat unless it is drifting directly toward a hazard. It is the largest and most visible object in the water; that is what you stick with.

### Keys to safety afloat:

1. Lower your centre of gravity when crossing waves.
2. Ensure seats are properly fitted and cannot slide off the gunnel.
3. Sit amidships when making passage across waves.
4. Wear your lifejacket outside clothing.
5. Self-inflating jackets are preferable to oral inflating – either due to cold, or, worse still, unconsciousness.
6. Do not carry your lifejacket into the boat, Wear It!



### Lifejackets:

Lifejackets are becoming compulsory at more and more fisheries, many of them loaning them out.

They are often abused and of pull to inflate styles.

Many of us are fine swimmers and think them unnecessary.

Consider what happens if you are knocked out as you fall overboard, or if you lose consciousness in cold, early season water. For this reason, I would advise the purchase of a self-inflating lifejacket which you can ensure is properly maintained.

To summarise, load your boat safely and evenly, do not go into or with the waves too fast. Take advice from those with experience – it will be freely given. Do not do as others do and compromise safety for the sake of another fish or two.

There is always another day to enjoy your sport not a day for your family and friends to mourn.



## Clubbiedean Trout Fishery

Torduff Road  
Edinburgh  
EH13 OPA  
Phone: 07341 839378

Email: [clubbiedean\\_troutfishery@hotmail.com](mailto:clubbiedean_troutfishery@hotmail.com)  
Website: <https://www.clubbiedeantroutfishery.com/>

Clubbiedean Fishery is a family run fishery which caters for Fly Anglers of all ages and abilities.

Permits from as little as £15 and rowing Boats available, Rod hire, Bait, Basic tackle, Tea/Coffee & WC.

When you arrive at Clubbiedean the first thing you notice is the scenery and how peaceful it is.



Only 5 minutes West of the A720, through Colinton onto Woodhall Road you follow the signs to Bonaly Scout Camp.

Turning right just after Bonaly Primary School you follow a single-track road up past Torduff Reservoir until you find the fishery at the top of the hill.

Ample car parking awaits and within 5 minutes you can be either on the water or checking tactics with our fishery members or our staff over a complimentary tea or coffee.

After that the choice is yours, boat or bank, wild brownies, double figure rainbows or some Blue Trout, wet, dry, nymph or lure. Floating, sinking, somewhere in between there really is something for everyone.

The crystal-clear water allows the more adventurous to stalk the banks on the untouched south bank where, with a little careful casting you could find yourself into one of the bigger residents that like to hide under the fallen trees and pick off terrestrials as they fall onto the water.

With special rates for midweek anglers, as well as enhanced discount for those seeking employment, those in Retirement or persons employed with HM Armed Forces or the Emergency Services.

There is also bank fishing available for disabled anglers.

The fisheries season is from 1st April (weather dependent) to the 31st October

Day Sessions are from 8:00 am to 16:00 pm

Evening Sessions are from 16:30 pm to one hour after sunset or 22:30 pm Double Sessions Start - Saturday 8th May 2015 End - Sunday 22nd August 2015 Please call for prices and before 3 pm for evening sessions  
RUDY: 07549-411-074 OR AKIE: 07717-411-219





## *The Donald MacDonald Memorial Day Competition 2022 In Aid of the Macmillan Cancer Support*

**Why this is so important to you** - This is so important to us as it raises awareness of what Macmillan Cancer Support can provide to the person with Cancer and their family at the difficult time.

**Why have you changed the format with 4 qualifiers** - We thought that this would be a good way of bringing anglers from different places together as we had several venues interested in hosting an event then the final at a fishery that has been very supportive.

**What makes it attractive to anglers** - The anglers know when they come to a Donald MacDonald Memorial Day Fly Fishing Competition that they will have a fun relaxed day with good prizes and at the same time be contributing to a fantastic cause



**Tell me why you have gone for these particular fisheries** - The fisheries who are hosting our Donald MacDonald Memorial Day Fly Fishing Competition Qualifiers and Final are very popular venues and feedback from the anglers taking part in our previous events have suggested these locations as good venues to hold our competitions.

**Tell me about the support you have had from anglers in the past** - We have anglers who have attended our 4 previous events and anglers who have come from as far as Aberdeen and Newcastle to attend

**How much have you raised so far and do you have a target in mind** - To date we have raised £18,394 for Macmillan Cancer Support; we do not have a target in mind but with the help from the angling community we will continue to raise money for people affected by cancer.

**Did the pandemic effect your fund raising and if so how** - Like everything else the pandemic hit our fundraising efforts hard, we had to cancel our 2020 event and didn't have anything in 2021 due to all the uncertainties with regards to covid, thankfully we were able to continue fundraising via our website [www.donnaymac.co.uk](http://www.donnaymac.co.uk) by selling fishing flies and clothing, we also have four fisheries who now stock our Donnay Mac Fishing Flies Range and one shop, 100% of the fly sales go to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Mr Paul Young has attended 3 of our previous events and said "A great way to support such a worthy cause...I'm delighted to be involved"

This year's events are being held at the following venues, so if you want to enter a great event and support a worthy cause then, please contact Kevin Wilson at [chuckie\\_wilson@hotmail.com](mailto:chuckie_wilson@hotmail.com) to see if there are any spaces left. Or if you wish to donate anything to the raffle prize pool Kevin would be grateful for anything large or small.



Kinross Trout Fishery  
Saturday 19th March 2022  
Catch and Release

Eden Springs held on Little Eden and Bullstone Loch  
Saturday 16th April 2022  
Catch and Release

Alderneuk  
Saturday 3rd September 2022  
1st fish caught is kept - prize for heaviest 1st fish

Arran View  
Saturday 24th September 2022  
Catch and Release

Final  
Burnhouse Lochan Fishery  
Catch and Release  
Saturday 22nd of October 2022







## Have Your Say Here

If you have any questions or issues regarding fly-fishing within Scotland, then why not have your say here and see what advice you can get from the great Scottish fly-fishing community.



Or if you have a great fishing story to tell, then why not share it with everyone else.

From Archie Ferguson

Smashing read, but I have some issues with the article by Steve Cullen in the January 2021 issue, where (and I stand to be corrected) he seems to imply that it is now legal to remove previously stocked brown from "fully enclosed" waters.

Apologies if I have this wrong and misunderstood his point, but I have to point out that no distinction is made between artificially reared brown trout and wild fish. Scots law is clear, targeting, catching and taking brown trout out of season is an offence.

Although convictions are unlikely, many still waters and anglers are leaving themselves open to it by displaying out of season brown trout. Some fisheries I know are even giving out prize money for catching tagged brownies out of season.

Although that is their business, in an age where we are more at risk of persecution from the antis, I would encourage anglers to discourage this.

If you do catch an out of season brownie, simply slip it back without any fanfare.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2003/15/2008-08-01>



# Staycation Time



They say Scotland is the home of modern fly fishing, trips in Scotland are ideal for fly-fishing tourists.

Experienced fishermen/women can enjoy the tradition and serenity of the majestic beauty that Scotland has to offer, including the famous fly-fishing waters of the Tay, Spey and Esk rivers.

Fishing trips in Scotland can also be great for those keen to learn about fly fishing. Where better to learn than the fishing lochs in Scotland?

Fishing trips in Scotland, for beginners and experienced fishermen alike, can include hotels near fishing spots with professional fishing guides. Guided fishing trips in Scotland may indeed help you with many other tips that could help you reel in a better catch wherever in the world you fish next.

Although Scotland has arguably the best fly fishing in the UK, you will find that local knowledge is almost essential for successful fishing.

If it has always been your dream to fish the legendary waters of Scotland, why not look into a fly-fishing holiday that you will never forget.

Most fly-fishing holiday spots are within easy driving distance of Edinburgh or Glasgow, or if you fancy having a tour of Scotland you can also experience fly-fishing in the majestic Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

Or if you are Scottish and fancy a staycation and looking for some ideal accommodation for your next fly-fishing trip, then on the following pages are some really good places to stay, with easy access to local fisheries and rivers.



## **Cairnsmill Caravan Park**

Largo Road  
St Andrews  
Fife  
KY16 8NN

<https://www.cairnsmill.co.uk/>

Email: [info@cairnsmill.co.uk](mailto:info@cairnsmill.co.uk)

Tel: 01334 473604

Reception opening hours: Every day from 9:00am-4:00pm.  
(5:00pm on Fridays)

Situated on the outskirts of St Andrews, Cairnsmill Caravan Park is the perfect place for your next holiday! Whether it is with the family or just going on a weekend fishing trip and looking for somewhere to park your motorhome, caravan or pitch your tent, then this is the place for you.

The newly refurbished bar onsite offers a wide range of soft drinks and alcoholic beverages, all at reasonable prices.

It is the ideal place to unwind and enjoy the company of family and friends.

At Cairnsmill they have a lovely onsite fly-fishing reservoir which they regularly stock with some cracking trout.

Whilst you're enjoying a day fishing the rest of the family can enjoy the great facilities on offer, swimming pool, games room, soft play and gym



**Glen Clova Hotel & Lodges**  
**Glen Clova, Nr Kirriemuir,**  
**Angus,**  
**Scotland**  
**DD8 4QS**

<https://www.clova.com/>

**T: +44 1575 550350**

**E: [hotel@clova.com](mailto:hotel@clova.com)**

Glen Clova Hotel is a small country hotel situated at the foot of beautiful Glen Doll in the Cairngorm National Park (yet only 90 minutes north of Edinburgh).

Genuine, warm hospitality, comfortable accommodation, alongside tasty, locally produced food are the very essence. Whether you come for the stunning views, the fantastic restaurant, that blissful lodge escape, or that memorable special occasion with family and friends, we love to look after people.

The hotel has 9 lodges and 3 houses - Old Mill, 3 x hideaways, 3 x Clova and 2 x Glens Houses - Glenview (sleeps 6) - Brandy cottage (sleeps 4) and the old manse (sleeps 10) to suit all needs, whether it be for a romantic weekend, a getaway with friends or a family holiday.

Designed with your comfort in mind most lodges are fitted with its very own sauna and outdoor hot tub with large open plan kitchen dining and living areas, perfect for entertaining.

[Luxury Lodges in Scotland with Private Hot Tubs | Glen Clova](#)

[Elegant Houses \(clova.com\)](#)



So many good reasons to come and stay.

The South Esk rises high in the Grampian Mountains above the Glen Clova Hotel and drains the wilderness areas of the Glen Doll before winding its way to the North Sea at Montrose via Montrose Basin.

Salmon are present in the river when the season opens on February 16 but they are slow to pass upstream in low temperatures due to the dam at Kinnaird (near Brechin) and other obstacles further upstream. Once the temperature rises to 6oC and the water levels are suitable, fresh fish quickly run upstream. The middle reaches usually enjoy their sport around mid-March. In a normal year the second week of April will be the arrival of fresh springers in Glen Clova. May is the best month for spring salmon fishing. Given water, grilse can be expected on summer floods from June onwards and later in the season. Some larger salmon arrive until the season closes on October 31.



#### **The River South Esk**

£30.00 per rod per day or a half day is £20.00

#### **Loch Heath**

Stocked with quality rainbow and brown trout of varying sizes providing great sport for anglers of all abilities. The brown trout season is March 15 to October 6 and all brown trout caught out with the season must be returned unharmed. The loch is Fly Fishing Only.

1/2 day catch & release £15.00

Full day catch and release £25.00

Full day (keep 3 fish) £30.00

Father & son (keep 4 fish) £30.00

#### **Loch Brandy**

A natural hill loch in a dramatic setting with plentiful numbers of wild brown trout, smallish in size but feisty. Access by foot from the hotel.

\*Please note that all prices are subject to change, you should call the hotel reception on 01575 550350 if you wish to confirm price.



Fly Girl Leather Creations by Annie Margarita  
[www.anniemargarita.com](http://www.anniemargarita.com)



Annie Margarita creates wonderful original artwork in Leather. Fly fishing is her main interest in leisure and it is reflected in her enthusiasm for creating beautiful utilitarian cases. She researches aquatic life and fish, artificial flies, and three-dimensional techniques to bring each case to life in its own unique way. Each case is designed individually and never repeated. Her cases are always named and have an antique finish to them to convey history and patina.

So, if you're looking for that perfect gift for your partner or something special for your tackle room look no further, Annie Margarita can hand craft any design you may want on your fly-fishing gear.





## Recipe of the Month

### **TROUT with ALMONDS and CREAM Serves 4**

#### **Ingredients:**

flour for coating salt  
pepper  
4 trout, cleaned  
3/4 cup 170 g (6 oz) butter  
2 tbs (50 g) 2 oz blanched almonds juice of 1/2 lemon  
2/3 cup (150 ml) 1/4 pt Single cream lemon wedges to garnish

#### **Method:**

Mix the flour with salt and pepper and use to coat the fish.  
Melt 100 g (4 oz) of the butter in a frying pan.  
Slip in the trout and cook for 15 minutes or until golden brown on both sides and cooked through.  
Drain the trout and keep warm on a serving dish.  
Clean the pan, then melt the remaining butter in it.  
Add the almonds and fry until they are lightly browned. Stir in the lemon juice.  
Heat the cream gently in a separate pan and pour it over the fish.  
Sprinkle with the almonds and garnish with lemon wedges.

### **TROUT with AVOCADO and HAM Serves 4**

#### **Ingredients:**

4 x 225 g (8 oz) trout, cleaned  
60 ml (4 tbsp) lemon juice salt  
1 large ripe avocado pear 75 g (3 oz) sliced lean ham  
salt and freshly ground pepper 8 thin rashers streaky bacon 30 g (2 tbsp) flour  
75 g (3 oz) butter lemon wedges

#### **Method:**

Sprinkle the trout inside and out with half the lemon juice and a little salt.  
Peel the avocado and remove the stone. Liquidize or process the flesh with the remaining lemon juice until smooth.  
Add the ham, and blend until the ham is finely chopped but not pureed.  
Season to taste. Spoon this stuffing into the fish cavities.  
Stretch the bacon rashers with the back of a knife, and wrap two rashers securely round each fish.  
Dust the fish with the flour.  
Heat the butter in a large frying pan, and fry the fish for 4 to 5 minutes on each side, till the flesh is opaque and the skin is browned.  
Serve at once with lemon wedges.



# Fly Tying Time

## Red Blakestone Buzzer



**Hook:** - Buzzer Size 10 – 16

**Thread:** - Black

**Body:** - Red Thread or Floss

**Primary Rib:** - Silver Wire

**Back Cover:** - Mylar Tinsel

**Thorax:** - Peacock Herl Bronze

**Thorax Cover:** - Goose Biots

**Varnish:** - Veniard No1 Clear Celire

I find this to be a great buzzer either fished on a slow sinker or floating line as a middle or top dropper on a 15ft leader.

When using a floating line and if there is a bit of a ripple on the water, I like to let it drift naturally in the current with a very slow figure of eight retrieve, or a slight twitch to the line as this helps the buzzer to look as if it is moving up and down the water levels like a natural one would do before coming to the surface to hatch.

## Tying Method

**Step 1:** - Catch the thread onto the hook shank.

**Step 2:** - Take a length of silver wire and secure to the underside of the hook shank stopping part way round the bend. Return the thread to near the eye

**Step 3:** - Take a length of mylar tinsel or pearl film and secure to the top of the hook shank stopping part way round the bend. Return the thread to near the eye. Make sure that the body is uniform and all silver wire and tinsel has been covered with thread.

**Step 4:** - Carefully position the mylar tinsel so it runs on top of the hook, it may need adjusting after a few of the wire ribs are created. Wind the wire up the hook shank to create a rib, catching and securing the mylar tinsel on top of the hook shank. Continue to a position just short of the eye. Secure the wire with thread and trim waste wire by rocking it from side to side. Leave the mylar tinsel to be used as the thorax cover.

**Step 5:** - Wind the thread backwards to where the thorax will start, make sure that the mylar tinsel is brought backwards with the thread wraps. Catch in two goose biots, one each side of the thorax.

**Step 6:** - Catch in two peacock herl tips first. Wrap the herl around the thread to give reinforcement of the herl.

**Step 7:** - Wrap the herl up to the eye. Secure the herl with thread and trim waste herl.

**Step 8:** - Bring the two goose biots and mylar tinsel forward and secure at the eye. Trim waste and cover the tinsel and biot ends with thread. Whip finish the thread, trim waste thread and varnish the head. (This pattern does not require any varnish on the body section).



## Silver Humungus Mini Lure



**Hook:** - Kamasan B175 Size 10 or 12

**Thread:** - Black

**Head:** - Gold Bead

**Body:** - Silver Chenille

**Tail:** - Black Marabou

**Tail Flash:** - Silver Flash Attack

**Rib:** - Fine Silver Wire

**Hackle:** - Palmered Grizzle

## Tying Method

**Step 1:** - Place gold bead onto the hook

**Step 2:** - Once the bead is secure and in position, catch in a length of silver flash attack behind the eyes and secure with thread down the hook shank to a position opposite the barb.

**Step 3:** - Take a bunch of marabou for the tail and prepare it for tying in.

**Step 4:** - Catch in the marabou and secure to the hook shank, making sure that the body is kept uniform.

**Step 5:** - Catch in a length of fine silver wire making sure that its secured to the underside of the hook shank.

**Step 6:** - Now catch in a length of silver diamond chenille (Fritz) by stripping a small amount of fritz fibres from the end so the centre core is left bare. Tie the core in and continue to wind the thread up to the eye.

**Step 7:** - Wind the chenille up the hook shank until you reach the eyes. The easiest way to wind chenille / fritz is to perform one wrap of chenille / fritz around the hook shank, then wet your fingers and stroke the chenille / fritz fibres back towards the hook bend, then another wrap of chenille / fritz, wet fingers, stroke back and repeat. At the eyes secure the chenille / fritz with thread. Do not trim the waste yet.

**Step 8:** - Catch in a grizzle hackle behind the eyes with barbs just longer than the hook gape.

**Step 9:** - Wind the hackle down the hook shank in open and even turns. When you reach the lower end of the hook shank, take hold of the grizzle hackle with your left-hand using finger and thumb or hackle pliers and hold the silver wire with your right hand. Keep the hackle taught horizontally and wind a rib with the wire back up the hook shank trapping the Palmered hackle stem in as you go. It helps if you move the wire from side to side as you wind on the rib, this prevents having as many hackle fibres trapped under the winding. If you still find that too many hackle fibres are trapped, just use a dubbing needle to pick the trapped fibres out.

**Step 10:** - Secure the wire with thread at the eyes. To trim the waste wire, rock it from side to side until it snaps.

Perform a whip finish, trim waste and varnish the thread just behind the bead.



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## Tackle Reviews

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 please email me at [editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com](mailto:editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com)

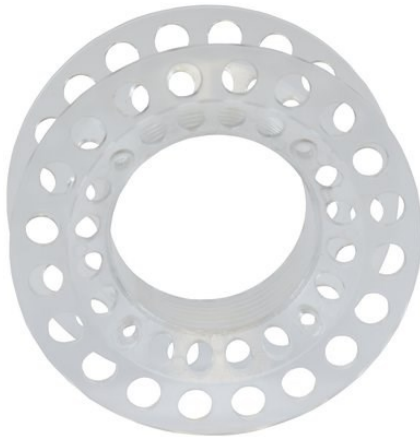


### Stillwater DNX-S Cassette Reel

The all new DNX-S Cassette has everything; lightweight, saltwater resistant, a multi disc drag system and easy change spools.



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- Fully vented for lightness
- Easy left to right hand change
- Complete with 3 Spare Spools (4 in total)
- A fully padded, zipped sections protective reel/spool bag



Thought I would change some of my fly reels as I had too many different ones in both my small tackle box and my very large boat bag.

So, to save all the hassle trying to take all the reels with me on my fishing trips I went for the above Glasgow Angling Centres own make the Stillwater DNX-S Cassette Reel in 5/7 weight format.

The reel is perfect for what I'm wanting and with the 3 extra spare spools that comes with it I can have all my usual lines all set up for a quick change. And if I wanted, I can even purchase additional spare spools for only £4.00 so that eventually I will have all my various fly lines in one format only.

Normally the reel is £69.99 but just now its on offer for only £49.99, so good value for money.

I also feel it would be a great reel combo for anyone just starting out in the art of fly fishing, as it's not too expensive for them.





## 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.

To enter online click [HERE](#)

Good luck and we look forward to seeing the entries

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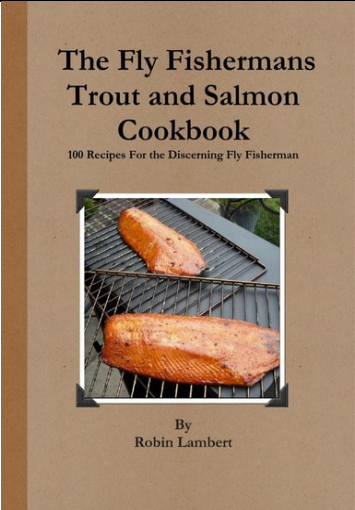
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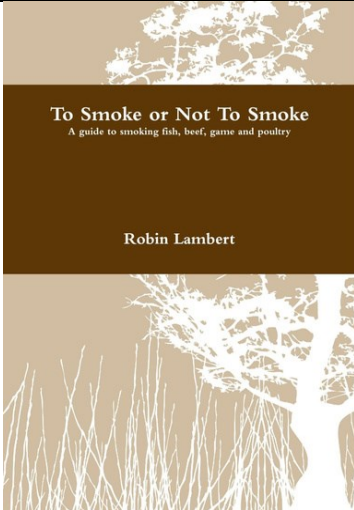



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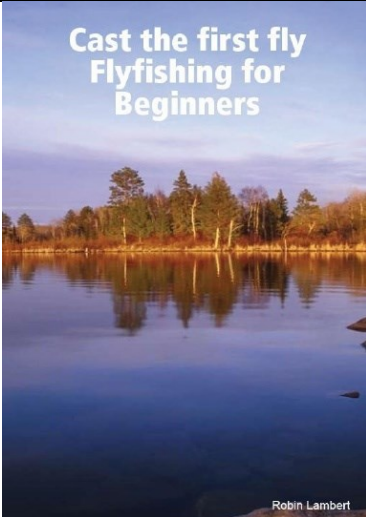


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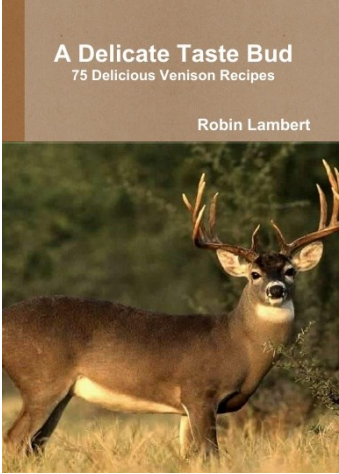


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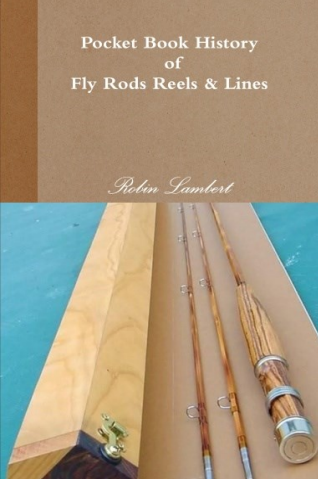


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## Strong Turnout or Salmon Film Premiere



Executive Director for SCOTLAND: Pete Cairns, introduced Riverwoods at The Barn on Monday 28th March

The Deeside premiere of 'Riverwoods', a feature-length film about the plight of Scotland's salmon, was held at The Barn in Banchory on Monday 28th March. The evening screening attracted over 120 people, who joined a Q&A session afterwards with some of the documentary's contributors, covering themes from across the linked crises of biodiversity loss and climate change.

Produced by rewilding charity, SCOTLAND: The Big Picture, and narrated by Peter Capaldi, 'Riverwoods: An Untold Story' is about the fractured connections between salmon and the lands through which their rivers flow. Dr Susan Cooksley, Manager for the Dee Catchment Partnership, a key contributor for the film, was on the panel responding to questions from the audience. She said: "It was fantastic to see such a strong turnout to this spectacular film. Land managers and policy makers were a key target audience for this film and we had good representation from both sectors as well as the general public, with an engaging discussion covering everything from the types of trees we need to be planting to the benefits of learning the lessons from other river catchments and countries."



Edwin Third, River Operations Manager for the Dee District Salmon Fishery Board, is another of the film's contributors. He said: "The current situation is bleak but thanks to the foresight and positive actions of many, including initiatives such as this film, there's a growing awareness of the need to act, and restore river woodlands at a catchment scale to help secure the future of Atlantic salmon."

Susan Cooksley agreed, and is keen to see the momentum generated by the film translated into wider advocacy and action: "There is hope - and it lies in using nature-based solutions to restore our catchments, whether by adding large woody structures to waterways to create better spawning habitats for salmon, or by planting a mix of native woodland habitats that will sequester carbon, reduce erosion, provide shade and food for aquatic creatures, improve water quality and slow catchment run-off. The health of our rivers and the life they contain depend entirely on the health of the landscapes through which they flow, and both need our immediate attention."



SCOTLAND: The Big Picture's Executive Director, Peter Cairns, added: "The motivation behind Riverwoods is to inspire action. The film shows some amazing examples of what people are already doing but we need to roll this out across the whole of Scotland."

The film's 12-venue screening tour kicked off in Edinburgh on 18th March and continues across Scotland until the end of May.

(picture on left) Planting more riverside trees brings major benefits to rivers and the creatures they support

Visit <https://www.scotlandbigpicture.com/riverwoods> to book a free ticket at the following locations:

- Helmsdale | Timespan (4 April)
- Dumfries | Theatre Royal (7 April)
- Perth | Perth Theatre (21 April)
- Fort William | Highland Cinema (28 April)
- Stornoway | An Lanntair (3 May)
- Drumnadrochit | Glenurquhart Hall (20 May)
- London | British Film Institute (24 May)

The film is part of a wider initiative involving a broad partnership of organisations focused on restoring a network of riverbank woodland and healthy river systems throughout Scotland, and increasing the ecological connectivity between land and rivers. You can find out more here: <https://www.riverwoods.org.uk/>

You can follow the screening tour and join the conversation on social media using the hashtag #Riverwoods. Other relevant hashtags include: #wildsalmon #atlanticsalmon #GenerationRestoration #climatecrisis #climatechange #WildlifeComeback #BigPicture

Established in 2003, the Dee Catchment Partnership represents and supports those with responsibilities for water management in the common aim of restoring habitat and water quality in the river Dee catchment. The organisation has secured funding for significant restoration work, such as a three-year invasive plants control programme, ten years of outreach and education, and the recently completed landscape-scale restoration on the Beltie Burn. EU programmes have funded significant programmes of improvement, investing over £10 million in Deeside restoration projects since 2003. The partners within the group are: Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen Harbour Board, Cairngorms National Park Authority, Dee District Salmon Fishery Board, James Hutton Institute, NatureScot, NFU Scotland, River Dee Trust, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Forestry, Scottish Government, Scottish Land and Estates, Scotland's Rural College, Scottish Water. The following organisations are also regularly involved in projects: Aberdeen Local Outdoor Access Forum, Dee Fisheries Management Plan, Flood Risk Management Strategy, National Trust for Scotland, North East Area Advisory Group, North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership, Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland, RSPB Scotland, Scottish Wildlife Trust, SEPA, The MacRobert Trust.

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Emma Brown (SBP Marketing & Events Mgr): [emma@scotlandbigpicture.com](mailto:emma@scotlandbigpicture.com)

# Fishing Reports

## Burnhouse Lochan

By May Anderson in Weekly Reports Friday 18/03/2022 – Friday 25/03/2022

Spring is in the air. The anglers have been enjoying the sunshine and fresh air. There have been a lot of hatches this week, giving the fish a plentiful amount to feed on and creating spectacular rises! The natural fly imitations are taking over the catch report and the anglers are experiencing the thrill of the surface take and hard hitting buzzer takes.

Though the days could prove difficult at times with the strong sun, the evenings have consistently produced excellent sport, the big fish in particular going into a feeding frenzy in the evening hours. Many PBs have been smashed this week and many anglers have reported their best days fishing!

The hot spots this week have been the deeper water from podiums 1-6 and the cabin side bay during the day, during the evenings the fish are being caught all over however the shallow water at the bridge has provided the best sport. For those eagle eyed regular anglers that are wondering why podiums 1-6 are being mentioned in the deeper water, we have re-numbered the podiums starting with number 1 being the big platform in front of the cabin.

This week we also hosted the final of the Quaich competition, you can read how the teams got on after the catch report.

**FISH OF THE WEEK** – The top spots go to JOHNATHAN MCDONALD with rainbow weighing 17.2lb! Well Done Johnathan!

**FLIES OF THE WEEK** – The top 3 flies were BUZZERS, DIAWL BACHS and APPS.

Other successful flies were shipmans, hoppers, suspended buzzers, spiders, muskins, caenis, corixa, klink hammers, foam beetles, double humpy, yellow owls, nymphs, crunchers, midas, fabs, Kate McLaren, black lures, eggs, blobs, squirmies, shimmies, mini lures, dogs bollocks, white cats whiskers, Donnay Mac charity lures, grub imitations, cat bug, black rabbit, okay dokey, hares ears, cdcs and various dries.

## Linlithgow Loch

Hi fellow anglers, some great catches since last Monday - Linlithgow Loch Catch Report – 21st - 27th March

There have been 39 boats out in the past week. There were 70 rods, 63 fish were kept, weighing 165lbs, and 161 fish were returned. The water is clearer, probably the reason for this.

On Monday, Mr Brogan, Mr Mills, and their boat partners caught five fish between them for 18 lbs, while Donald McKenzie kept two fish for 7 pounds 8 ounces. There were 11 anglers out on Tuesday. Mr Stewart and his boat partner caught 9 trout, contributing to the 45 that were caught. Four anglers out Wednesday kept 4 fish for 13lbs and returned 10. As a mark of respect for a colleague, we were closed on Thursday. Thirteen anglers out on Friday, 3 fish kept for 9lbs and 69 returned. The best catches were Nigel Muckle and his boat partner with 28 (yes 28!) rainbows on various blobs, Robin Smith with 11, Mr Stewart and his partner with 11, and Ian Dobbie with 9.

Saturday Falkirk Fly Dressers kept 6 fish for 19lbs between 2 boats and returned 28 on Saturday. Freddie Paddon, Mr Saunders and Mr Bathgate returned 8 trout, and Robin Lambert kept one for 4 pounds and returned two. We had 6 fish returned by Mr Murphy and Mr Golding on the bank.

Sunday saw Falkirk Municipal A.C. fish with 10 anglers and keep 14 rainbow trout for 37 pounds, 6 ounces, returning eight to the loch. Cupar A.C. with 4 boats caught 18 trout weighing 53lbs 6oz, also returning 9.

Fast-Glass, Di3, Ghost Tip and M/Tip lines with black/green lures, also, various coloured blobs, cats, cormorants and (for the first time) buzzers used on Sunday taking the most fish. The east end of the Loch offered the heaviest fish.

Many anglers again commented that they were getting lots of tugs and losing a lot of fish. Be aware, you may think you're catching weed and pulling your line out of the water, but fish are nipping flies/lures gently.



## Lake of Menteith

### Warming Up at the Lake

Clarity 1.9m on sechi disk; Temperature 11C at 6ft.

We had one of the finest spells of weather we can remember on opening day and the sunshine input over the last 11 days has increased the water temperature from 5.5C on opening day to 11C at a depth of 6ft today 29/3/22.

The increase in temperature as seen some spectacular buzzer hatches -usually around midday and catches have increased dramatically since opening days rather meagre reports. Best areas have been the roadshore (Kates Brae) and Todhole and the Butts - with one angler saying "where did we no get fish?" and another saying "at times we couldn't breath for buzzers". Not surprisingly buzzers have been the best method - fished on the hang. Interestingly, Keith Logan did well (21 fish) fishing them on a washing line type set up with a Di3.

Catches for quite a few individuals have been well into double figures. Dries and lures have also been working.

We took delivery of another two brand new Coulam boats today -these two will shortly be christened "11" and "12".

A flavour of the catches at the weekend... Costa Ecosse netted 44 and Dalzell AC had 157 with their 10 boats. Heriots caught 59 with their 6 boats, Kelvinside didnt mark in with their 4 boats. Kevin McCabe was out last week and netted this stunning silver finned resident.

Note to all. our day session times are 9am (or as soon as you are ready - gates open 8am) till 5pm. Voting emails on the rule change proposal for the boat league will be going out this week.

Plenty of boats available (unusually) on the following weekend days due to competitions moving or heat cancellations (15th May, 29th May, 12th June and 29th Oct).

## Lochter Report

### Buzzing Along Nicely at Lochter

Down Lochter way last week, it was too early in the season for the buzz of bees to be the talking point, but the quickening emergence of the humble buzzer as a source of food interest to the fish, was.

Many of the takes could be quite sudden and savage so you really had to have your wits about you at all times.

Ryan Wilson fished buzzers in combination with cormorants on a hover line and it served him well netting 14 fish for his session including a 12lb rainbow from the Muckle Troot loch.

Fishing trio of buddies, Ian Sutherland, Graham Taylor and Harry Watt all used buzzers in combination with either blobs or eggs and Ian had 12 fish, Graham 10 and Harry 7 for their fine efforts.

Also doing well on buzzers were Colin McDonald with 12 fish, Albert Cowie with 11 fish, Jim Gilmore with 9 fish and Mike Donovan on 7 fish.

Other flies used during the week were white minkies which got Mike Skene 16 fish, hothead and blue flash damsels which gave Barry Morgan 16 fish, green and black mini lures which gave Stuart Howie 15 fish and the white cats whiskers which got John Smith 9 fish.

With a bit of heat and high pressure forecast for the week ahead, as well as taking your buzzer box, you might add a few dry flies as there will be certain times in the day when they will no doubt work a treat.

Now there's something to look forward to.

# Find a Fishery – Quick Links

A full listing of all trout fisheries can be found on the parent website

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<p><a href="#">Ledyatt Loch</a> Ledyatt Loch Trout Fishery Ledyatt Loch Coupar Angus Road Lundie By Dundee <a href="#">DD2 5PD</a> Tel: 07530 592724 or 07891 896848 <a href="mailto:ledyatt@btinternet.com">ledyatt@btinternet.com</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Linlithgow Loch</a> 212A High Street (at Loch Side) Lilithgow EH49 7ES 01506 671753 <a href="mailto:linlithgowlochlodge@hotmail.com">linlithgowlochlodge@hotmail.com</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Loch Fad Fishery</a> Loch Fad Isle of Bute <a href="#">PA20 9PA</a> Tel : 01700 504871 Mob: 07712 534511 <a href="mailto:info@lochfad.co.uk">info@lochfad.co.uk</a></p>
<p><a href="#">Lochmill Fishery</a> Antermony Road, Glasgow, <a href="#">G66 8AD</a>, Glasgow City 0141 776 1903 or 07803 171402 <a href="mailto:ted@lochmillfishery.co.uk">ted@lochmillfishery.co.uk</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Markle Fisheries</a> Markle Fisheries, Markle, East Linton, East Lothian. <a href="#">EH40 3EB</a> Tel: 01620 861213 <a href="mailto:jon@marklefisheries.co.uk">jon@marklefisheries.co.uk</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Mill of Kellas Trout Fishery</a> Mill of Kellas Kellas Elgin IV30 8TS Tel: 01343 890777 Email: <a href="mailto:info@kellasestate.com">info@kellasestate.com</a></p>
<p><a href="#">Morton Fishery</a> Morton Road Mid Calder Livingston EH53 0JT Tel: 01506 883295 Mbl: 07592 577652</p>	<p><a href="#">New Haylie Fishery</a> The Haylie Brae, Dalry Road, Largs <a href="#">KA30 8JA</a> Tel: 01475 676 005</p>	<p><a href="#">Newmill Trout Fishery</a> Newmill Fishing Ltd. Cleghorn Lanark South Lanarkshire <a href="#">ML11 7SL</a> Tel: 01555870730</p>
<p><a href="#">Orchill Loch Trout Fishery</a> South Lodge, Orchill, Braco, Dunblane, <a href="#">FK15 9LF</a> Tel: 01764 682287</p>	<p><a href="#">Rothiemurchus</a> <a href="#">Estate</a> Rothiemurchus By Aviemore Inver- ness-shire <a href="#">PH22 1QH</a> Tel: 01479 812345</p>	<p><a href="#">Stoneyfield Loch Fishery</a> Stoneyfield House Newmore Invergordon <a href="#">IV18 0PG</a> Tel: 01349 852632</p>
<p><a href="#">Swanswater Fishery</a> Sauchieburn, Stirling <a href="#">FK7 9QB</a> Tel : 01786 814805 <a href="mailto:swanswater@aol.com">swanswater@aol.com</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Whinney Loch Fishery</a> Whinney Farm, West Loch Road, Coldingham, Berwickshire, <a href="#">TD14 5QE</a> Tel: 01890 771838 <a href="mailto:huskie@spinfish.co.uk">huskie@spinfish.co.uk</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Woodburn Fishery</a> Antermony Road Milton of Campsie Glasgow <a href="#">G66 8AB</a> Tel: 01360 313086 Mbl: 078 8875 8709</p>