Golden Quill by Spider

Kapiti Fly Fishing Club Newsletter July 2016



The River Stour - Canterbury in Kent



Presidents report

Craig and his wife are away in Europe on holiday for the month enjoying an extended summer, Craig tender his apologies.

At the July Management Committee meeting the Committee agreed to send Fish and Game the following proposal for rewarding those farmers who allow public access across their land to access our water ways. This recommendation will be tabled at the next Fish and Game Council meeting being held next month in Upper Hutt, an update will be in next month's newsletter.

The Secretary New Zealand Fish and Game Council PO Box 13-141 Wellington

18th July 2016

Kapiti Fly Fishing Club Inc c/o 40 Harry Shaw Way Raumati South Paraparaumu 5032 New Zealand

Subject: Submission to Fish & Game New Zealand - Proposal to reward farmers with gratis NZ Fishing licences

The Kapiti Fly Fishing Club hereby proposes that Fish and Game New Zealand consider developing a programme aimed at recognising and rewarding farmers who are true friends of the fishing fraternity and the environment. These are farmers with land adjacent to rivers or lakes who have demonstrated an outstanding standard of stewardship of their land and broader environment by, for example, excluding animals from waterways, maintaining and/or developing appropriate riparian strips and by allowing anglers easy access to those waterways. By these and other ongoing actions, they will have demonstrated a strong environmental conscience.

It is proposed that these farmers be awarded free fishing licences for use anywhere in New Zealand, within the jurisdiction of Fish and Game's licensing authority.

- The significance of this award is not so much the monetary value, but rather the recognition it
 carries from an organisation that some farmers may have considered somewhat of an
 adversary. It can be seen as a way of Fish and Game recognising responsible members of the
 farming community another small step towards fostering mutual respect.
- It is anticipated that the number of farmers recognised by the programme initially would probably be small tens rather than hundreds.
- Such a programme could enhance the standing of Fish and Game with the general public by showing that it is prepared to recognise excellence in the farming community as well as tackling farmers who are operating outside the law and clearly degrading the environment.
- If Bryce Johnson and William Rolleston were to jointly launch the programme there would probably be considerable interest and favourable publicity. Promoting the recipients of the awards and their contributions to both license-holders and the farming community would

show that F & G are also committed to recognising the efforts of those farmers that have a strong environmental conscience. The fact that some farming activities do have serious detrimental impacts on our waterways and wider environment and need to be modified would receive further media attention and focus.

Please consider this proposal earnestly, as it is presented with thoughtful deliberation from the Kapiti Fly Fishing Club members and committee.

Kind regards

Peter Haakman Secretary

Kapiti Fly Fishing Club Inc

From Editor

Front cover photo is of the famous River Stour that runs through the city Canterbury in Kent, this is where as a young 9-year-old boy I saw my first trout. I have many fond memories just sitting alongside this river dreaming of one-day catching a beautiful brown trout, and this is where the passion for our wonderful sport was born.



The River Stour in its winter colours

Any newsletters success is influenced by the contribution of others so please pass on any truthful or Imaginative stories otherwise you may find 'yourself' as part of future tales from the river bank. Spider malcolm1@xtra.co.nz

You are invited to the next KFFC Club Night on Monday 25 July when Ian Linning from the Kapiti Photographic Society will be our guest speaker and he will give us some tips on how to make those fish look even bigger in your next photos.

From the Tyre's Bench at School Road

During the warmer months one of my go to flies is the 'emerger', this fly represents the emerging fly that is stuck on the surface struggling to release itself from its outer shuck. This fly will fish well in many parts of the river and can be tied using various body colours, size 14 and 16 work well on the Waikanae and Hutt Rivers.

I few years ago I came across the following instruction by O'Reilly on one of the Fly Fishing groups, simply but very effective when tied in a number of different body colours.

Caddis Emerger Pattern

It's unusual for me to like a fly as much as I like this one, yet know essentially nothing about it...

It's an emerger, and likely a caddis. I think I picked it up at the Orvis shop in Chicago about seven years ago, but I'm not sure. I sort of care...but I don't. I didn't create it, but it DOES fool some wary trout when it seems nothing else will. When drifting in the current, the only part visible is the CDC wing. The fine copper wire does its job of getting the body of the fly just under the surface...sometimes it works too well. After a fish or two, the fly has a tendency to sink unless the CDC is totally dry. I compensate by always having a number of them with me, and quickly change flies if it becomes saturated. Its quick to tie and I've never tried any size bigger or smaller than the original #14 I bought. The design would lend itself to sizes as small as #18 and much larger sizes quite easily.

Tying materials for the Caddis Emerger Fly Pattern

Hook: Scud Style, #14 (TMC#2487)

Thread: Black 8/0

Rib: Fine/small copper wire **Abdomen:** Tan Antron (spooled variety) **Antennae:** Mallard Flank Fibres (tan colour)

Wing: Tan CDC Head: Peacock herl

Tie in, wind thread approx. 1/3 of the way to the bend. Tie in the copper wire and wind thread back towards the bend.



Tie in the strand of Antron and wind the thread forward to approx. where the copper wire started.



Creating a slight taper, wind the Antron forward to the same point and tie-off. Wind the wire forward creating the rib. Tie-off. Trim the Antron and copper wire.



Tie in 2-4 mallard flank fibres as shown, tips facing forward. The length should be about the length of the body.



Align the tips of approx. 4-5 tan CDC feathers and tie in as shown. Trim off the butts of the feathers. Note: The amount and quality of the CDC is up to you. The "original" I have uses pretty poor quality CDC that's trimmed after its tied in.



Tie in 2 fine strands of peacock herl as shown and wind forward creating a bit of bulk. Tie-off; make 2 wraps of thread back through the herl, and 2 forward towards the head to protect the herl from being cut by the trout's teeth. I tie this fly with 12/0 black thread so this procedure does not flatten the herl



The finished fly.

Report from out Turangi correspondent - Noel Thomas

"Patchy" is the word that springs to mind. Certainly there are fish moving through the rivers when they can't resist their biological clock any more but we have yet to see solid runs of fish moving through. A good indicator is the bridge (troll) pool on the Tongariro. When the fishing is hot fishermen are shoulder to shoulder in this pool and I have yet to see that this winter.

There have been some good reports from some of our smaller rivers when fishermen have been lucky enough to encounter a pod of trout on the move.

We can improve our chances by monitoring the conditions that encourage trout to run, Low Barometric pressure, Increased river flow, and cold temps.

Again, be prepared to move around and alter your set up, fly choice, weight, leader length to increase your chances.

New licences are required for the Taupo area from 1st July. And don't stand on slippery banks with old, smooth soled wading boots.

Cheers Noel

Are the days of didymo numbered?

Unbeknown to most anglers, some research by a Kiwi and two Canadian scientists has the potential to be the silver bullet we have been looking for to control and possibly remove didymo from our waters.

Didymo as we know became the scourge of many waterways in New Zealand over a decade ago. While it is not known where it originated from, it suddenly bloomed in many rivers (and now lakes) making the angling experience less than optimal to say the least. In a very short space of time this invasive alga spread across and smothered the beds of many waterways. Not only was it unsightly and unpleasant but it also altered the rivers ecosystem in ways we are still coming to terms with.

No other organism has been such a disaster to our fishing as the appearance and rapid spread of didymo.

What we know about didymo makes it highly unusual. Didymo is an algae that prefers clean water with low nutrient levels – often the most pristine rivers and lakes we like to fish. It multiplies rapidly yet is a fragile organism easily killed by dilute concentrations of such things as bleach or even dishwashing liquid. And it can be spread by a single drop of infected water. Yet there are some strange aspects to didymo. It cannot survive in spring creeks and has never been found in any North Island river.

Itinerant anglers have long been blamed as the main agents of its spread. A large scale biosecurity "Check, Clean, Dry" campaign was launched in 2004 and then abandoned in 2008 when it became apparent that stopping the spread was not feasible. Felt soled boots were found to be able to harbour didymo for weeks and so were banned. And wardens were stationed at the interisland ferry terminals (but not airports) to ensure no infected gear crossed Cook Strait.

It is doubtful to say the least that these haphazard responses were effective and no angler (or kayaker, 4-wheel drive enthusiast or hiker) did not bring some infected gear to the North Island.

So why is didymo not in the North Island?

The short answer is the presence of phosphorus in the water. If a river has more than 2 parts per billion (and yes that is billion not million) of phosphorus present, didymo will not bloom. The North Island which has a large percentage of volcanic soil has a high level of natural phosphorus present. The South Island which has limited volcanic soils and low natural phosphorus levels so can sustain didymo. (Banks Peninsula is an exception being of volcanic origin and the rivers and streams there are didymo free).

Ah, I hear some of you exclaim – but what about the super-phosphate the farmers put on their soil? Surely that contains phosphorus that will leach into the waterways and so inhibit didymo. The answer is that this is true – where super phosphate does leach into the waterways didymo is inhibited. But where rivers and streams exit a clean lake (think the Buller, Clutha, Gowan and Waitaki as examples) didymo flourishes. Lakes allow phosphorus to settle out so when they flow into the headwaters of a river there is usually very little phosphorus present.

Cathy Kilroy from NIWA, one of the foremost researchers into didymo, states that didymo cannot become established in the North Island. The naturally occurring phosphorus present in the water in the North Island stops it. The Tongariro and other such waters are safe. And if a way could be found to allow the diffusion of phosphorus into infected waters in the South Island, then there is a good chance that waters in the South Island could at the very least, have didymo controlled to a manageable level. Cathy does sound some warnings however and for further information we suggest you read the summary of her findings on www.nzfishing.com.

But I am sure all anglers will agree that this is great news and worth celebrating. We need to support the scientists such as Cathy Kilroy at NIWA and encourage them to continue this valuable research which will benefit all water users, not just anglers.

We at www.nzfishing.com are putting forward a petition to have Fish & Game's Council consider revoking the felt sole ban for the North Island in the first instance. And if it is found that didymo can be controlled, we will also be pushing for this ban to be extended

across the country. If you wish to read more about this research and to keep abreast of developments, please visit nzfishing.com and sign up for the newsletters. This is possibly one of the most positive developments in our fishing history since those first trout were released.

Doug Stevens www.nzfishing.com

Indicator Nymphing - by Markus Church of Rod and Reel

Indicator Nymphing is probably the most widely recognised form of fishing on our well known rivers down in Taupo region. As we all know it can certainly be a tricky technique to master. You are contending with things such water flow, water depth, line drag, and 'contact' just to name a few areas. Typical Nymphing rigs which are used on rivers such as the Tongariro, involve the use of very heavy 'bomb' style nymphs, where very heavy tungsten beads are used (and may also include lead in the body as well) in conjunction with a lighter egg or natural style nymph. These 'bombs' are obviously required to get your flies down, in to the zone where the fish are holding. This is especially important in the winter months, when the spawning fish are moving up the rivers. Essentially, if you're not on the bottom, you are wasting your time!

Yes, most of us have at some stage tried, or are fishing this technique, and for all of us it can bring varying degrees of success. This brief write-up is going to look at some pointers, in your set-up, that might help improve your success this winter with this style of fishing;



1. Firstly, soak your indicators in products such as Liquid Mucilin or Loon Hydrostop. These products dry out completely and do not add any weight or residue to your indicator, which can happen when using silicon based floatants. Silicon based floatants will make your indicators heavier. Which can then be harder to cast, especially seeing you already have a huge bomb zinging around your head! This may then mean that you can fish a smaller indicator in size, for the same floatability. Ultimately if your indicator doesn't float, or can't hold up the weight of your nymphs, your level of success will be massively reduced.

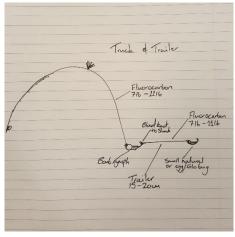
- 2. Fish as short a leader as possible, relative to the depth of water you are fishing. Too often we start with a 9-12ft leader and continue with this no matter what depth we are fishing. This is fine in 8-10ft of water, but not so good in 4 feet. Fishing a leader length up to, or just under 1.5 x the depth of the water you are fishing (as there is always some drag which must be allowed for) means that you will have much better 'contact' with your flies, and ultimately any takes. A leader set to the depth you are fishing will also mean you will have less 'drag' by your flies, therefore less hang up's on the bottom, during your drift and better 'contact' when fish take your flies. So if you are fishing water that is 8ft deep, you would want to be running a leader that is up to 12ft long (you will also need to take in to account, the speed of the current, and weight / size of the flies you are fishing).
- 3. Do you need to fish a tapered leader in winter? Not if you are fishing bomb style rigs. Tapered leaders are designed to help 'turn over' flies such as dry flies and smaller nymphs. Your heavily weighted flies will do that for themselves. The other reason for not needing a tapered leader is that due to the difference in diameter of the leader (thicker at the top and skinnier at the bottom) it will essentially create a bow in the line as it drifts, due to the increased water resistance on the leader from bottom upwards. A same length section of one weight of leader e.g. 8lb, will greatly reduce drag on your leader due to water resistance. With this you can add a lighter section of leader to the bottom if you want / need to. But ultimately the majority of your leader will be the same thickness throughout, so therefore water resistance will be equal throughout.
- 4. Fluorocarbon vs Monofilament. This is always a hotly debated topic and here are a few points that you may not know;
 - a. Fluorocarbon
 - i. Naturally sinks in water so suited to Nymphing techniques (not dry fly techniques)
 - ii. Has higher abrasion resistance than monofilament. So when nymphs are bouncing around rocks, boulders and logs, this may improve the overall robustness of your line.
 - iii. Only really stretches when first loaded, then has minimal stretch from there onwards. Can be an advantage when fishing longer leaders as you have better 'contact' due to decreased stretch. Also means that there is less 'shock absorbency' in your set up though, so may lead to more lost fish if you are going hard on them.
 - iv. Has a similar refractive index to water, so almost invisible to fish (important when the water is clear, or sun is on the water).
 - v. Quite stiff. Can be more difficult to tie knots and may not 'present' lighter flies quite as well as monofilament.

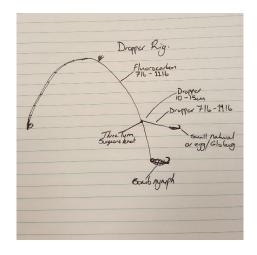
b. Monofilament

- i. Naturally floats in water suited to dry fly fishing. Ultimately has an element of buoyancy, so could affect sink rates of your flies.
- ii. Has a lower abrasion resistance than fluorocarbon.
- iii. Can stretch up to 20% of its length, repeatedly. This means that it can act as a very good 'shock absorber' in your set-up. It can also mean that the longer your leader, the more stretch there is when trying to set the hook.
- iv. Has a higher refractive index than water. So is essentially more visible in water than fluorocarbon. Not really an issue early and late in the day or if there is colour in the water.
- v. Quite soft. Easy to tie knots and 'presents' lighter flies very well. Allows them to move naturally.

5. 'Truck and Trailer' vs 'Dropper' rigs.

- a. Truck and Trailer rigs (fly tied on a short length of leader and attached the shank of your bomb fly) are great for getting your flies down and keeping them down as you know that your other flies will always be down behind your bomb. One disadvantage to this rig is that your other flies drift will always be dictated by that of your bomb (as they are always behind it). It can also mean that a 'take' has to transfer through your bomb and up your leader before it is detected and if there is any slack in that system (which can happen from bomb to fly) it may be missed.
- b. Dropper rigs (fly tied on a dropper above the bomb) will allow you to vary the depth of your flies and also may allow more natural movement of your flies as they drift. Where this can really make a difference is during daylight or sunny periods where the insect life can become more active. This system will also relate straight up your leader when there is a 'take' as both flies are independent of each other.





Hopefully some of the info here has given a bit of food for thought and might even help in your success this winter. Keep an eye out for our follow up article which will be focusing more on 'fishing' this style and some tips and hints that can help your drift and 'contact' with your flies.

A crossover from Czech Nymphing, cast your line 20 /25mtrs as your line comes back say 10/12mtr lift your fly line off the water just leave indicator on the water you will find your drift slows down and instead of being pulled towards you by the line. Your indicator drift true with the current you will see your indicator dip, twist, bobble strike, your indicator does not need to be dragged under.



The team at Rod and Reel in Newmarket Auckland

Are the days of didymo numbered? - by Doug Stevens

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Doug Stevens

Editor: The Manawatu Fly Fishing Club tabled a recommendation to the Wellington Regional Council recommending that the ban on the use of Felt Boots in the North Island be removed, there was some robust discussion on the issue but the recommendation did not receive any support from Council members. As long as didymo is present in our waterways 'felt sole boots' will be a thing of the past. The new type of wading boots available today are 'safer' than the old style of wading boot while in the water and many an angler have ended-up on their backside when walking along wearing 'felt sole's' including me.

Whitebait Season Begins with K - by Tony Orman

Whitebait season starts in a few weeks and if rivers are clear, homing in on the whitebait will be predators. One will be keen" homo sapiens" whitebaiters but in the mix of predators will be kahawai.

For the fly fisher that means some exceptional sport. If you haven't caught a kahawai on fly rod, well believe me it's a super-charged thrill. I recall talking to a South Island fishing guide who always gives his clients a go at kahawai with the fly rod at the Waitaki River mouth - after they spent a few day's trout fishing. "I always tag it on the end of their stay because if they did it to begin with, it's likely they wouldn't want to go trout fishing for the rest of their stay," he said with a laugh. Laugh he did but he was earnestly serious that kahawai on the fly rod can be such a blast, that catching a trout pales by comparison.

I remember having the same experience with an American friend who came to stay. Richard hailed from Michigan and I took him to the upper Wairau where frankly he struggled with the clear water and spooky fish. His casting was just not up to it. Fishless I took him on the last day down to Marlborough's Wairau Bar. It was a cool southerly although the sea was flat. Despite the conditions, Richard began casting and "whack!" a big 2.5 kg kahawai swirled and took. He was ecstatic.

More was to come. He landed four more big kahawais that left him almost speechless. "Wow! What a super sports fish!" he enthused. And indeed kahawai are. Whitebait season for the fly rodder starts with a K.

Kahawai can be fussy, selective feeders particularly when they home in on small bait fish like whitebait. I remember at the Waikato's Marakopa river mouth with a friend Colin when we took several big kahawai each while over a dozen other anglers went fishless. The reason for our success was using small lure's whereas the other chaps were using big spinners on heavy gear. Our very small lures matched the size of whitebait. Last summer one evening, I went down to the river mouth with my hunting companion Lloyd. He's a very good spin fisherman. The fly rod is ideally suited to targeting kahawai that have homed in on whitebait. Use a small whitish fly.

So it's a myth that kahawai will grab anything, anytime. Some days they just don't. The reason is like any fish can do, they are selectively feeding. That doesn't mean they're smart or cunning. The real reason is fish are of low intelligence rating in the world of biology. A fish kahawai, trout or whatever, invariably focuses on the prey that's available. Because of the low intelligence, it's incapable of going beyond that focus for the moment. It can only concentrate on one thing at a time.

If tiny bait fish are abundant, kahawai will concentrate solely on that sized prey. Perhaps a very small spinner (2.5 cms) might have scored too, certainly far better than the conventional 7 cm spinners the others were using on kahawai.

Almost always, I wear polaroid glasses when kahawai fishing. Sometimes, kahawai will swipe with a flash at the fly and not take. Perhaps they just follow in, as trout are inclined to do, after the swinging fly. When that happens, it's a signal to make a change, often to a smaller size.

Fishing a fly is awkward if other people are about. Other people walking within your back cast range is always a potential hook-up! If there's others there, I turn and forward cast away from the water so I can see any approaching person then let my back cast onto the water.

Fly fishing for kahawai is best left when a river mouth is thronged. On occasions because of a crowded river mouth, I've taken stock of the crowded scene, turned and driven off back home. If it's not too crowded, go off to the side. Best of all, pick a time when there's few people about. Dawn is always good for there's inevitably will be very few people, often none! Tide is important. I like to fish from an hour after full tide as the outflow picks up. So if dawn is say 6 am, try to pick a high tide about 5 am.

Besides the "change of light" period either at sunrise or evening is almost always the most productive. Early morning is usually good with no or little wind. An outgoing tide for fly rodding for kahawai, just before half tide and even down towards low tide can be productive. Fishing with a saltwater fly is best when the outgoing flow is substantial as the current assists the fly to work and move in retrieve. The key is to strip the line fairly fast. Some tuck the rod under the armpit and strip two-handed to get maximum speed. I don't use two hands but strip quickly with one hand while the fly swinging in the current adds to the speed.

Wear polaroid glasses which enables you to sight fish, pursuing your fly. It's exciting especially if two or three big grey shapes are chasing the fly. Polaroids aid you in being aware of kahawai just following the fly, not unlike a trout and not taking. When there's that lukewarm response, I change, perhaps to a smaller fly or different colour.

You can buy saltwater flies in most shops, but I suggest you tie your own because it's loads of fun and you can tie your own flies to suit your needs, which shops cannot always meet. Buy some saltwater fly hooks in sizes 4 and 2 and 2/0. Black Magic produces some excellent hooks for saltwater flies.

For materials start with just a few, perhaps a white calf tail or buck tail, a chartreuse buck tail, a packet of flashabou and perhaps another of Krystal flash. Yellow-green colours combined with white seem to work the best. Get a cheap packet of yellow or white or even red hen hackles. I find snooping around bargain boxes in fishing tackle shops usually reveals these saltwater materials at "bargain prices" for just a few dollars each.

More on fly tying another time.

The Otaki River mouth can have good kahawai runs, the Waikanae too. Further north if the Manawatu River is clear try there or the Rangitikei at Tangimoana?

My thanks to the follow members who have contribute to this month's newsletter Noel Thomas Peter Kettle

Big thank you to Tony Orman, Markus Church and Doug Stevens

If you have come across an interesting article that you think members would enjoy reading please contact the Editor.

Date	Event	Contact person
Monday 25 July	Kapiti Fly Fishing Club meeting	
20 July to 14	Series of five Fly Tying nights	Malcolm Francis
September		
24 July	Pohangina River	Hugh Driver
Sunday 7 August	Saltwater Fly Fishing Otaki River	Hugh Driver
Sunday 21 August	Hutt River	Malcolm Francis
9 to 11 September	Turangi – Chasing Rainbows	Peter Kettle

The Fly Tying Workshop are underway at present with the next workshop on Wednesday 3 August at the Turf Pavilion and will continue every two weeks through to Wednesday September 4. More experienced tiers are welcome to join us as this will give you the opportunity to share your knowledge and help other members. There is a small cost of a GOLD COIN entry fee.

If you are interested in joining the group can you, please contact Malcolm on malcolm1@xtra.co.nz or telephone 06 3642101 or mobile 027 3846596



Please note: I if you have an item or items you would like to sell then please advise the editor and we can include your advertisement in the newsletter.

Kapiti Fly Fishing Club

Purpose: Contacts

• To promote the art and sport of President: Craig Gutry: Fly Fishing. Email: craigg

Fly Fishing. Email: craiggutry@gmail.com.

• To respect the ownership of land

adjoining waterways. Secretary: Peter Haakman

• To promote the protection of fish and wildlife habitat.

Email: phaak@xtra.co.nz

• To promote friendship and goodwill between members.

Treasurer

Hugh Driver: ph.04 902 0177

• To promote and encourage the exchange of information

hetmeen members

Past
President

Stuart Ayres: ph. 04

between members.

President Stuart Ayres: ph. 04
Email: stuartayres1@gmail.com.

Newsletter

Club meetings Malcolm Francis: 06 3642101

You are invited to attend our club

meetings that are held on the Fourth

Peter Kettle: ph.

meetings that are held on the **Fourth Monday** of each month.

Peter Kettle: ph.

Email: peterkettle@clear.co.nz

The venue is the **Turf Pavilion Sport Grounds**, Scaife Street, Paraparaumu,

Malcolm Francis: ph. 06 364 2101

Email: malcolm1@xtra.co.nz

Our meetings start at 7:30pm with fellowship followed by speakers of Michael Murphy mnkmurf@gmail.com.

activities.

Club Committee meetings are held on

the first Monday of each month and the meetings are held at various members

homes and start at 7:30pm.

Please remember that the club has two Five Weight 8'6" fly rods that

IMPORTANT NOTICE

members are welcome to use, just contact Malcolm Francis.

Newsletter copy to be received by Second Monday of each month, your contribution is welcome just send it to Spider malcolm1@xtra.co.nz