



Southland Fly Fishing Club

Feb 2010



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www.SouthlandFlyFishingClub.org.nz

"Ripples"

The Official publication of the Southland Fly Fishing Club
PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand 9840



The club was founded in 1974



Cover Photo...

A small fly from Johnny Mauchline's collection, size 16 Greenwells Glory dry fly tied in Ireland.



Around the Club

Well finally Summer made some appearances and lasted for a few days at a time, in the odd case for a whole week, wow we are so lucky down here in the south. Then interspersed with that were patches of Spring and Autumn type weather. Well lets hope mother nature finally decides to settle a little and give us some extended spells of good weather (particularly over the weekends) for the next couple of months, for dare I say it, it wont be long before we start feeling Autumn chills, not that I'm trying to encourage it "I'm not".

This year by all accounts there seems to have been a bigger number of large fish caught this season, and that seems to be put down to a large number of mice around for the fish to grow big and fat quickly, probably producing an extra couple of pounds over what they would have gained in a normal season. There has been many reports of fishermen catching fish and the stomach contents containing mice or parts there of.

A couple of club members who had been planning a trip up north for around a year, headed off the St Arnauds and the Wairau River specifically, headed away on the 29th of January for 6 days of exciting fishing. More about that in the next issue if space in this issue does not permit.



Also a couple of members attended the FFF Conclave in Middlemarch this year, as advertised in last months newsletter. By all accounts it was extremely worth while.

Once we know the dates for the next one, the club should put this in next years calendar, and have more members make the trip to Middlemarch. I understand it was very worth while.

Just maybe we might get a report on the conclave next month, here's hoping.

Fly Fishing Course—2010

The club held its annual Fly Fishing course which was completely full back in October/November last year. A testament to the popularity of this course it would seem, presumably passed on to others by very satisfied customers from previous courses, as we did not need to do any advertising, other than the promotion at the last Boat Show. We seem to have found a good formula by having a stall at the Boat Show, being beside the Fish & Game Southland stand which was beneficial to both parties with our interests being promoting fishing as a sport.

This course was no different to any other, with the very able and knowledgeable instructor Mike Weddell from Mosgiel. With Mike's long history of Fly Fishing, and with some of his more humorous experiences through the years recalled, the course participants were kept entertained, while also receiving a wealth of information.

There were 16 participants booked on the two day course, with a couple of extra's sitting in on the first day in the classroom. Casting practice was held in the Hargest Gym, with some of the more adventurous souls going out onto the park to try their skills against the wind.

Sunday was not looking good as we left town, but as we headed to Wyndham things looked much brighter, with the morning at Coalpit Road being very nice, with sun and a light breeze, making the casting practice enjoyable.

After lunch, we broke into the usual groups to try our luck at a spot of fishing, then the weather decided to pack up, with the breeze stiffing and the grey clouds starting to descend upon us. There was at least one fish caught and one rod broken, a first on our courses for broken rods I believe, but overall people attending seemed to enjoy themselves. (Photos later and on the website)

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The merits of the Greenwells Glory and other Tall Tales

The Greenwell's Glory is an old fly originating on the River Tweed in Scotland. In the 1850's Canon William Greenwell asked James Wright to produce a fly that represented the local olive green dun found on the local waters. The original fly was a true wet fly and it was not until the infancy of dry fly fishing in the early 1900's that a dry version was produced. In 1857 W C Stewart, a 'practical angler' on the River Clyde then fashioned the fly 'Clyde style' which gave the fly the sparse dressing of the spiders and flymphs we know today.

I have used this fly successfully on many rivers and it has also shown its merits on the Mataura. Two seasons ago I inherited my uncle Jacks fly box that he used in the 1950's and one evening on the Mataura having been yet again frustrated in hooking up selectively feeding rising trout I tied on one of Jacks dark Greenwell spiders tied in the Clyde style. It was an instant success fished down in the surface film to the rising fish with no drag. I then tried some of his dry Greenwell's and found them to be equally effective. Having lost all but two of each remaining examples I sent them off to Alice Conba from Ireland, a world renowned fly-tier, and asked her to replicate them for me. I have since used her flies on many occasions in both light and dark patterns on many rivers in Southland. Unfortunately they and many others are not infallible in solving the mysteries of the Mataura rise!

Having then developed an avid interest in the fly I came across some exquisitely tied Greenwell flymphs tied by Mark E Libertone of New York.



Mark kindly sent me some Greenwell flymphs which have been very successful fished in the surface film as emergers both up and downstream.



Mark specializes in wingless soft hackle wet flies, flymphs, imitating the emerging insect.

And so to the river. Another Wright a namesake of the original fly tier, club member Derek Wright and I were fishing the Mataura rise one evening when Derek located a pod of at least 30 browns none of which looked under 3 to 4lb rising and taking a good hatch of emergers in a defined area of a flat on the Mataura. I was watching from the other side of the river as duns were hatching all over the pool and yet the trout were concentrated side by side in an area about 20m long within the large pool next to Derek. Why do they do that? The old real estate adage comes to mind, location, location, location. And why are the fish all of about the same size in distinctive pods? Is it peer group pressure to only admit the in crowd? Derek unwittingly tied on a Greenwell dry and after some unsuccessful casts, in frustration he pulled the fly under the surface in front of an actively feeding fish. Bingo! That did the trick and it was all on! By the time I got over the river to Derek's position he had given up as it was 'too easy'. Five big trout for him, before I had even started! I frantically tried a Dads Favourite and then a Greenwell emerger to no avail and then used the same tactic as Derek with less success. After trimming a Greenwells Glory dry "wing" and some hackle off I fished it sub surface and hooked five fish myself. I reckon the Greenwell Dry must have had a trigger that they desired (on this occasion!), perhaps the profile and colour, the imago has a green sheen, because they didn't show any interest in the natural imitation. I lost one of at least 8lb, (seriously I did, honestly). The third biggest I have hooked and lost in the same pools. Biggest was probably 12lb, (seriously big fish or was it a salmon? hooked on a Dads Favourite size 16 wet which pulled the hook. I still suffer with nightmares about that one and how naive I was in my tactics and strategy in containing it). They are cunning fish. The one lost on this occasion stripped my line well into the backing and broke me off on a lie in mid river.

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A mound of stones and logs that I didn't even know was there! I have now marked the spot on my GPS! Derek said when looking in the water 'as you do', "there is so much food in this river why do they take our offerings" and he is right (no pun intended). It is indeed a conundrum. We are investigating putting an underwater video camera in the pool and trying to capture exactly what stage of the hatch the fish are taking when on emergers. I am definitely getting the snorkel gear out this summer and going for a drift dive.

Fishing is all about being in the right place at the right time and certainly on the mid Mataura finding the exact action spot during a spectacular rise is an art in itself. Well done Derek on this occasion.

And always remember as the great Scottish gillie said, "yool no catch ony fish unless yir flees are in the waater"



If you want to see Alice Conba's work then click <http://homepage.eircom.net/~conba/>, or to look at Mark E Libertone's work, click <http://libstudio.com/FS&S/index.html>

Red Tag

Big Brown

It was mid-January and our annual summer monsoons had again arrived meaning most rivers were well above fishable levels which left me looking for a lake fed river or fast clearing stream.

Knowing that most of the lakes have beech trees surrounding them and therefore so do the outlets I thought at least there'll be a good chance of catching a mouse fish. I arrived at my chosen spot around 5:30am only to find someone had beaten me to it. Luckily for me he was a friendly American named Wes. He suggested that we fish together so off we went towards the water. Not long after we reached the river we had fog roll up the valley from the south. The river also had a little colour to it. This meant spotting was difficult and we had to fish the likely runs blind.

The mornings fishing was difficult but Wes managed a 6 pound brown which we weren't actually casting to. He took the nymph in front of a smaller fish which we'd spotted and cast to. Having not seen the fish take I thought he'd caught the bottom only realising there was a fish on when the snag took off upstream. Not long after stopping for lunch a southerly wind came up and cleared the valley of the fog. Thankfully the southerly didn't bring the expected cloud cover and spotting conditions were a lot better. We carried on upstream and while spotting plenty of trout we had a bit of trouble getting them to take. There was nothing wrong with our presentations and we'd had good drifts so I decided to change from 4x to 5x tippet thinking that these high country trout knew what 4x tippet looked like.

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This proved to be the turning point for us. Immediately following the change I hooked a good fish which took me on a battle downstream. Unfortunately he decided to turn around and head upstream faster than I could recover line and the belly of line in the water as well as another change downstream meant we parted ways. Not long after this I pointed out a spot which almost always had fish to Wes. I suggested we have a quick look into it and then carry on past as I'd never managed to get a fish out of it due to there being about three different current lines and three different flow speeds in the water column. The fact that I hadn't caught one there encouraged Wes and sure enough he managed to catch a fit 5 pounder after lengthening his leader to about 35 feet!!

Finally we reached a pool which I knew should result in a fish for me as there were usually three or four in there. The only problem we had now was that instead of the usual downstream NW wind that Southland anglers are so used to casting against we had a strong upstream wind which caused a couple of nymphs to catch my right shoulder. After leaving Wes to cast to a fish at the tail of the pool I headed up to the eye of the pool hoping that this would hold the better fish. Sure enough I spotted what looked to be a good fish feeding just on the edge of the current in deepish water. My cast needed to be accurate to get the right drift. I'd like to say it was but to be honest I landed most of my line in the faster water while the size 16 nymph landed in the calm edge water. Thankfully the fish never saw this and when the fly line dragged the fly unnaturally through the slow water he kept feeding.



My next cast was on the money with the fish not needing to move to intercept my offering. With the flash of his gill plate I struck. This fish didn't like being pricked and used the current and his bulk to his advantage dragging me towards the far downstream bank to try and pull me to an undercut bank. Plenty of side strain and I managed to get him away from it. He knew of another similar bank downstream and on my side and proceeded to take me to this. A quick crossing by me meant I could impart side strain again and keep him away from the bank. No sooner had I coaxed him from there he was off down a rapid. Up until now he had never been more than 15 metres from me however with the speed of the rapid being faster than I could run I looked at my reel and could see backing!! Thankfully he pulled into the slow water in the eye of the next pool and I managed to bridge the gap between us. Up until now I hadn't managed to get a good view of him to judge his size except that I knew he'd be close to my first double figure fish. With the fish just five metres away I could now see his bulk and I now started to get really nervous about having such a small fly on 5x tippet.

For the next five minutes we wrestled in the shallows with him not wanting to touch the bottom. Each time he looked ready to come in he'd have one more run left in him. I had no choice but to wade out and net him in the deeper water.

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After a couple of hairy moments I managed to net him and realised that he was definitely 10 pounds plus. Wes heard my yahoing and came running down. We weighed the fish in at 13 pounds exactly. Now what? Up until now I had always thought if I caught a fish over 10 pounds he'd be on my wall looking down at me. Looking at this magnificent fish and thankfully having someone there to photograph me it never entered my mind to knock him on the head. After a few photos (only about a hundred or so!!) and a couple more to make sure, I was holding my trophy in the water sending him on his way. After a few minutes I let go of him and he swam away strongly to hopefully be caught by someone else one day.

We carried on for a bit more but to be honest I didn't need to catch another fish and as Wes had to drive to Christchurch later that day to fly back to the USA we had to turn and walk the 8kms or so back to the vehicle. Now that I've achieved my goal of landing a double figure fish my next goal is to catch a 10 pound rainbow. Hopefully I'll be writing another piece shortly.

Michael Hartstonge

[From the President.](#)

Finally we have seen some summer. Hopefully you will have been able to get out on the river to make the most of the weather and the lower river flows.

Unfortunately the weather was not kind to the Club Fly Fishing Course, with the on the river day suffering from a high and discoloured river and too strong a wind. However this is good training for the course participants as this is what the weather can do to your plans in Southland. Thanks go to those members who made the effort to help out during the course weekend and especially to Les who organised the course and provided accommodation for Mike.

I have managed a few days fishing in the last month, most of them well outside Southland. I am sure Les will have a report on our trip to fish the Wairau River in Marlborough. This was a tough river to fish but that just provided a greater reward when magnificent fish were caught. The reason we went to fish the Wairau was to sample the river before it is altered for hydro power generation. TrustPower have resource consent for the hydro development but there is an appeal in process at the Environment Court. While the sections of the river we were fishing will not be directly affected, fish passage up and down the river will be altered due to much lower flows in the middle reaches. This could have a significant effect on the quality of the fish in the upper reaches. There were some advantages in the process that TrustPower had gone through in applying for their consent. One was that there are a number of reports available on the life in the river and these are freely available. This meant we knew what were the most common invertebrates in the river and were able to ensure we had the right flies to imitate these insects. When you are going that far it pays to be prepared.

Dave Harris

[SFFC Fly Swap 2—Open to all club members](#)

A fly swap is planned for February. The idea is to get as many club members involved tying different flies. The theme to this swap is something **BIG**. At the February 23rd meeting (**on the river**) the flies are to be handed onto Simon with the tying instructions, and in turn they will then be divided up and hand them out at the committee meeting the following week. If you cant make that meeting I can pick the flies up. So I hope you are keen to get involved. **It's Free !** Anyone interested call Simon on 2154120.



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Fishing Competition

Cost	\$20 per person
When	27th-28th February 2010
Where	Staying at the lodge at Castlerock, Lumsden.
What you will need	(other than your fishing gear etc) Camera, Measuring tape, Stop watch
What's involved	Fishing local rivers to designated beats with certain flies. Be prepared to walk a few kms
Prizes	1st ,2nd, and a team prize
Entries Close	19th Feb 2009

Contact Simon Budd on 2154120 or 0274364907 for more details. (Members Only)

Competition Results

Fish Competition.

Winner of the 'November Fish card draw' — Johnny Mauchline
(drawn by National MP—Eric Roy)

ALLAN WHITE SPORTS

Photo Competition.

The best Photo (judged by popular vote) — Les Ladbrook



Fish Competition:

There has been some impressive fish cards handed in over the last month or so, keep them coming in, the more cards you enter in the more chances you have of winning at the end of the year.

Photo Competition.

As well as catching fish we need a few people to take some photos and enter the monthly photo competition. Remember you can put in two 6x4 prints at each meeting (as taken in the camera). Last months competition was very well supported in number of photos submitted, keep them coming folks.

BBQ on the River

Don't forget, after work **Tuesday 23rd Feb**, on the River at Coalpit Road for the BBQ, numbers to Linz Withington.

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[SFFC 2010 Fly Fishing course photos](#)



Dave Harris (left) presenting this years winner, Sietze Feenstra with the fabulous, 9' 6wt-4 piece CD Tactical Fly Rod, supplied by our sponsors, Composite Developments

(The package valued at around \$499 also includes a spare tip, a very valuable addition for any rod, and bright idea from CD to include this)

Our course participants also received caps and other information. Our thanks and appreciation goes to CD for their continued support, please support them where you can.



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Coming Events

23rd Feb	[MM]	--- This meeting is "On the river" --- BBQ Tea about 6pm
27/28th Feb		Lodge Weekend including Simon's competition.
2nd Mar	(CM)	Fly Tying
14th Mar		Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game (7:00 am)
20/21st Mar		Mavora Boat Trip (Dave Harris)
30th Mar	[MM]	Speaker or Topic to be arranged
2-5th April		Easter



Club Contacts

Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand

- President Dave Harris, 30 Baxter Street Invercargill (03 215 6068) dcharris@southnet.co.nz
- Secretary Chris McDonald, 334 Racecourse Road, Invercargill (03 217 3733) ChrisM@mdp.co.nz
- Editor Les Ladbrook, 31 Taiepa Road, Otatara, Invercargill (03 213 1015)
Les.Ladbrook@SouthlandFlyFishingClub.org.nz
Items for publication must be submitted to the editor, prior to the 10th of the month
- Lodge Custodian Linz Withington, 234 Dome Street, Invercargill (03 216 4366) withingtons@xtra.co.nz

Club Items for Sale

Metal Badges \$15 ea.



Cloth Patches \$12 ea.



Club Meetings

The club meets at **7:30pm on the last Tuesday** of each month (except December) at the Fish & Game building, 159 North Road Invercargill. **The February meeting is on the river.**

Executive Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month following the general meeting, except for Dec/Jan, includes with fly tying, so come along and bring your gear if you want help with a fly—all members welcome.

Club Resources

The club has an extensive library of Books and Videos, contact the Librarian.

A blow up Rubber Boat and a set of five Radio's, which can be borrowed by club members, contact the Editor.

Disclaimer:

The opinions or views expressed in this newsletter, are those of the respective authors, and not necessarily those of the Editor or the Southland Fly Fishing Club. The Editor takes no responsibility for the factual content of this publication. News and pictures to Les.Ladbrook@SouthlandFlyFishingClub.org.nz

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