



Ceiriog Fly Fishers Limited

Newsletter

AGM

Ceiriog Fly Fishers 2016 AGM will take place on Saturday 9th April at 2.30pm and will be held at Chirk Parish Hall.

The Club Secretary will issue the agenda and papers for the meeting to all members next month and this year this will be done by email.



Ceiriog Fly Fishers has had a water sharing arrangement in recent years with Denbigh and Clwyd AC who during the winter have amalgamated with Bodewydden AC to form Vale of Clwyd Angling Club.

CFFC has now reached a new agreement with Vale of Clwyd AC in which Ceiriog Fly Fishers members can fish all the River waters of Vale of Clwyd AC except for the Elwy.

CFFC members cannot, under the terms of our agreement, fish the Still Waters of Vale of Clwyd AC.

Details of all the rivers and beats can be viewed on the website of Vale of Clwyd AC - there is link to that website on CFFC website

Vale of Clwyd A C members will continue to be able to fish the Ceiriog.

CFFC's NEW COMPANY SECRETARY

An introduction to Peter Heath with his own thoughts on his first ten months as Secretary



In April 2015 CCF held its AGM during which it was announced that Steve Murgatroyd would, due to personal reasons, need to relinquish his post as Company Secretary. A request was passed to the meeting if anyone would like to volunteer for the post. At this point you could visibly see people shrinking in their seats and avoiding eye contact with the front bench. I myself had a very brief thought about the possibility but very quickly dismissed it on the grounds of, too busy, didn't know enough, better things to do etc. There was a deadly silence in the room for a few seconds then the meeting moved on and everyone, myself included, breathed a sigh of relief.

However, my brief thought process must have registered somewhere on my face as after the meeting I was approached by Roger and asked if I would consider the position. Being somewhat pushed into a corner with no escape my only option was to agree to "think about it". I failed to see Steve coming in on my blind side and suddenly found myself agreeing to meet a few days later to discuss the role and what was actually involved, (I knew I was being out-manoeuvred but was powerless to resist).

I met Steve a few days later and on a lovely evening just lazily casting to a few rising fish I was assured that the role was nothing more than writing a few letters and taking some minutes now and again and once a year sending out the renewal forms. He did forget to mention the boxes of old company records that now fill my fly tying area and which my good wife is continually asking with a resigned sigh "What are you going to do with all that stuff" I might just re-visit that explanation of the role with Steve one day!! However, before we had caught one fish I had agreed to take on the role and now find myself as your Company Secretary.

So who are you, I hear you ask. Well, after leaving school I spent 22 years in the Royal Air Force Police. Then spent a few years with a national food retailer investigating stock and cash losses within the business. I finally ended up working for a company in Stoke on Trent who install commercial grade security and safety systems.



My fishing career started when I was about 8 or 9 in Ireland where at that time all my mates seemed to fish, we would hit the river mob-handed on a Saturday morning with the best intentions but by about 10am at least one person would have fallen or been pushed in. After that it was a free for all!! We did catch the odd trout but caught a lot more eels which we hated because they would just end up in a big tangle of line and fish. My early career only lasted a few years and apart from the odd dabble at sea fishing when I was posted to places near the ocean I didn't come back until about 4 years ago.

There had been something in the back of my mind for some years to try Fly Fishing, I don't know where it came from, maybe it's an age thing, but it was there. I started to look at web sites and read articles trying to work out what it was all about. My wife purchased a casting lesson for me and that was it. The next week I ended up in Foxton's telling them what my budget was and to "kit me out" I started off on still water but after a year wanted something different and had some lessons on a river in Derbyshire. I was hooked; I just loved getting on the river and very soon afterwards saw an advertisement for the Ceiriog Fly Fishers wanting members. I sent my money off, received my membership card and off I went. Rod too big, line too heavy, didn't know what flies to use, didn't catch a thing for months but loved every minute and still do.

I still feel really privileged just to walk along the river and have a little fish here and there, I do catch a few more fish these days but for me that doesn't really matter, while I'm there everything else gets left behind and I always leave the river with a feeling of contentment. So if you see someone thrashing away with very little skill or getting untangled from a tree but with a big smile on their face it's probably me, stop and have a chat before moving on.

Peter Heath

The long pool set down from Duffer's ...by Ginger Quill

I arrive near the weir and set up my tackle in the early sunlight,
The merger fly is my first fly even with spring weather so right,
It is May and I make my way to wade with car across the lower ford,
With recollections to again exploit the valuable words of our Mr Halford.
Expert patterns have moved on well and hackle legs are now set horizontal,
With a white antron pillar set up, and bend sunk down, I remain so hopeful.
The water height is fine and clear today with the gravel clean and bright.

Taking to the lower shallow route across this long flat, still and shaded pool
I look up having heard, then see afar a trout rise enough to make me frown,
Will he rise again when I reach his higher station or will he let me down?
Encouraged, I make my first cast up and back across to the other bank
Will my opening cast so delicately and laid out not produce a blank?
The spray preened dry fly bright sits directly in the surface film alright
Without revealing drag the fly is clear of river foam, so usually white.

No pluck or take was I to have on any cast, not even on a fourth time.
I wade on slowly up the stretch to seek the target goal quite truly mine.
The stream is becoming deep and I cast towards the rots for one to keep.
The fly rides clear and high, and nods; the trout must think I'll eat those bods!
I cast again to deeper water and watch it open, my heart it missed a bleep,
The surface broken with a flash, the aimed for trout did make splash,
A dogged fight, my net did reach and I did land that trout of my first sight.

CEIRIOG FISHING SEASONS.....REMINDERS

The Grayling season ends on 29th February 2016.

The 3rd March is the opening day of the Trout season on the Ceiriog



Tackling the Ceiriog...by Louis Noble (Orange Otter)

When asked to put together some helpful tips my immediate fear was that this could be a good exercise in 'teaching granny to suck eggs' or 'preaching to the converted'. However, I know that there are members fairly new both to the club and fly fishing but also that none of us, irrespective of experience, are beyond picking up the odd piece of helpful advice – so here goes.....

There's no pun intended in the title but tackle choice would be a good starting point. Can I stress that any suggestions are purely my opinion. Successful fishing on the Ceiriog is all about good line control, without it we're going to have a tough time.

- I think that a rod length of 7 – 8ft is ideal. We do a good job of bank clearing but 9ft is generally too long. Conversely, anything shorter makes line control difficult when fishing upstream.
- If the rod isn't loaded correctly when casting, the temptation is to put too much effort and speed into it which can result in poor presentation. A loaded rod simply means an efficiently bent rod and in tackle technology the #4 for instance indicates that 30 ft of line should be out of the tip ring for optimum loading. This would be a long cast on the Ceiriog and more often than not you'll only have between 15 – 20 ft, or less of actual fly line out. The answer is simply to use a line one weight up, ie, a #5 on a rod intended for #4. The difference in feel and casting efficiently will amaze you, the cast can then be made at the correct tempo.
- Leader length is also an important issue when it comes to presentation. A common misconception is that on say, a 7ft rod you use a 7ft leader. Short leaders can cause the fly to kick over hard which results in a splashy landing, far better to use 9ft which lands much softer.
- Leader construction is important as well. A tapered leader is essential both for presentation and accuracy. If you simply use a level leader of say, 3 lb you'll find that the fly line kicks badly on the forward cast. This is because the energy built up in the casting action can't dissipate beyond the line/leader join and the cast falls badly.
- Tippet size: generally you'll be using s14-18 flies for fish not much larger than 12" so I suggest that 3lb bs is adequate.
- Flies: it simply isn't necessary to carry a lot of patterns, half a dozen is enough but have more than one size for each. A refused fly is often too large. As a rough guide I would suggest a couple of general dries such as the Baby Sunfly and Grey Duster, some F flies in different shades/sizes to cover several sub species of the Olives, the Rusty Spinner to cover the various spinners and some nymphs such as the trusty Pheasant Tail, Hare's Ear with and without tungsten beads.

continued on page 4



- Casting: a few suggestions here. If the fly is cast upstream as in normal methods, it naturally drifts back to us and I see many anglers trying to pick up loose line into an overhead cast. This is both dangerous and inefficient as you cannot cast slack line. It often ends up in the foliage as well. Far better to perform a roll cast into the air as the end of the line is almost in front of you and then go straight into an overhead cast. This is called a 'roll cast pick up' and is very efficient. It also minimises false casting which scares fish.
- As the fly is drifting towards you I suggest moving the rod backwards and upwards which keeps you in contact with the fly. If the rod is kept low, even with line stripped in, slack forms under the rod tip and a strike or recast is compromised.
- If width allows, it's better to cast to a rising fish at say, 45 degrees. A cast directly up to it will in all probability line the fish and it will disappear.
- Even if the canopy allows, it's far better to side cast than overhead. Side casting allows the line to level out horizontally and fall delicately – an overhead casts often presents the fly in a downward trajectory, 'fly first' as it's called and lands hard.
- One of the most difficult approaches to a fish is from fast water up to the smooth tail of the pool above because the water is accelerating. A good tactic is to use a 'wiggle cast' which is performed simply by moving the rod tip sideways as the line starts to fall. Practice makes perfect and you should get rises from fish which seem to favour that position.
- Wading: better to fish from the shore but if you need to wade then move VERY slowly, if you send waves up the pool the fish will be gone.
- And finally: one of the greatest aids to catching fish is a pair of knee pads. You'll never catch a scared fish ie, one that's seen you coming so far better to cast from a kneeling position, even if this is mid-stream. It's amazing how close you can then get to a fish and this really helps with the side casting I mentioned earlier. Kneeling without pads is a painful business. You can buy custom ones for £40 or go to a hardware shop and get the sort that flooring contractors use. I promise you that it will help enormously.

In conclusion: I've tried to cover all aspects and hope that at least one tip will increase your catches.

Louis Noble



Life of a Ceiriog Trout.... by Ginger Quill

With the trout

I spend the best day's stationed quiet, in the swift brook,
 Watching the small flies, as softly they float overhead,
 Caring I check, each one as they bob gently past,
 When selecting to intake a fly for choice I may strike,
 Alas surprisingly, get just snagged on an angler's cast...
 but then, I enjoy each bright day, as they do deliver
 Lots of fresh flies, these faster streams are such a giver.

With piscatorial doctor

Make-set to find another likely place for a fly,
 To be cast softly to let float drop for further bold try.
 Look under tree roots and around deeper river stones,
 The good fish we just see rising afar creates expanding rings.
 We choose anew parachute dry, for the chance they imply.
 Like breeze thistledown we cast into this clear vantage spot,
 The surface swirl is without luck, the small fly hooks not...

But there may be a way still, with a floating trout fly,
 Covering so carefully where the big brown may just lie.
 Casting put out delicately over the preferred shade place,
 Watching the trick nod slowly until attention is fast gained...
 Hooked, set and fought until you have won your joy,
 A fish in the net and magnificent still, on the bank may lie,
 Not even a blue spot but a wild brown, you say, "My".

Slipping back in with a gulp bubble and fast flick of its tail
 The wild trout may lie quite still and gasp more to inhale...
 Lingering motion with stable breath until the air sac is full,
 Then steady, still and well rested nerve senses start to mull...
 With head best kept upstream, a dart back to a favoured
 position.
 Where native it had taken my selected fly, put fair in advance.
 Move on now, how many more captures this day by chance?