

Casting into the wind

If you arrive at the river and you find that you will have to cast into the wind if you are to get the fly where you want it, here are three techniques you can try.

1. Change your casting arc so that your back-cast is high, and your forward cast goes low. If the wind is light this can be very helpful. If the wind is strong then look for a location **where the wind is blowing across your body from left to right** (for right handed casters).
2. Use a horizontal rod technique to keep your line below the wind.
3. Straightening the line (Advanced).

The line hand can play an important role in line straightening, especially under adverse conditions.

When the basic cast is made without any shooting line the line hand can be used to straighten the line by pulling on the line as turnover of the extended line is nearing completion. This action adds speed to the end of the line and leader relative to the line already turned over.

This technique is very useful when casting dry flies into a headwind, or any other flies into strong wind. If shooting line the same effect can be achieved by closing the line hand on the line, then pulling down. **This action will make the fly and leader kick over.**

Even in calm conditions making the fly kick over is useful with large dry flies so that they hit the water hard as some naturals do.

Note:

1. To help cast into strong wind the wrist action should be short and very sharp on the forecast.
2. The cast should be made with an exaggerated follow through.
3. The wrist turnover should be made when the forearm is almost down to the horizontal. This tends to give a forceful cast that can hit the water with quite a splash.
4. Get as much line speed as possible.
5. Change to a heavier line.
6. Shorten the leader as much as possible (eg 1.5 to 2 metres) to make its taper as steep as possible.
7. Casting a tight loop into the wind reduces the effect the wind will have on the line.
8. It is better to limit the amount of line you are casting rather than be constantly taking tangles out of your leader.
9. In variable wind, especially if you have a sighted fish, wait for a gap in the wind.

CASTING NOTES

Hutt Valley Angling Club

If a strong wind is blowing from the casting side, the correct procedure is to cast straight overhead, **or lean the rod to the other side and cast over the opposite shoulder**. This keeps the fly and line away from your person.