THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER

Issue No 400 : May 2015 Newsletter of the Hutt Valley Angling Club Inc



May Activities

- 11th Club Monthly Meeting King Lion Hall 7:30pm
- 16th Doughty Shield Competition Ruamahanga River
- 17th Casting Clinic Belmont Domain 9am
- 19th Committee meeting Community House 7.30pm
- 22nd Copy deadline for June newsletter
- 27th Fly Tying Community House 7.30pm

Editorial

This edition of the newsletter will be my last as editor and I welcome Chris Kuchel as he takes over for the June issue. Chris has posted several fine articles in our newsletter over the last few seasons and these have shown that he is the man for the job. I ask our club members to give their support to Chris by submitting articles and photos for inclusion in **your** newsletter.

John Millar

Newsletter Editor

John's first newsletter was No 325 July 2008 without missing a month over the next 45 issues. (Pub)

President's Piece

April has been workshop month. An excellent night at last club meeting and a big thanks to the team that shared tips and their experience on flies, indicators, knots, leaders and add-on's. I am sure you would have learnt something as I did. This was followed by our new members workshop held at Belmont Scout Hall and the Hutt River. A great turnout, it is always good when the learners outnumber the teachers. We



have had some excellent feedback from the river from all those that participated and we have a group of newer members who are a step closer to being the teachers in time to come. One of the things that I enjoy about these events is the questions we get asked, not only does it indicate the level of interest in the sport of fly fishing but having to think again about why we do what we do, sometimes refines our own skills and knowledge as we pass it on. I remember being told once that to start teaching what we have just learnt is one of the best ways to get better. I think it is because we have to think again what has become reflex and out of it we sharpen our own skills. Having said that I want to extend thanks to the newer members that came along, you make what we do as a club worthwhile and you have contributed to a refining of our skills as well.

Steve Doughty

Club News

Club Night – Monday 11 May at 7.30 p.m. in King Lion Hall, King Street, Upper Hutt.

Our guest speaker this month will be **Derek Grzelewski** on video link. We have included here an extract from Derek's online biography and some information on his fishing activities. It promises to be a very interesting interview.

"In 1986, after years of social upheaval, martial law, and with four agonising years to go before the communist regime's final collapse, 22 year-old Derek Grzelewski—a keen mountaineer—went climbing in the Carpathians. He did not return to his native Poland. Descending instead into Slovakia then crossing into Austria, Derek slipped quietly into Western Europe through the back door. Travel brought him to New Zealand where he fell into an eclectic mix of vocations, including professional diver and high-rise window cleaner—applying industrial abseiling methods as required. As a freelance cameraman, Derek's full-immersion tendencies earmarked him for "2nd Unit" footage (action sequences). But his ambitions always lay in writing, which came to proper fruition in magazine assignments and his fly fishing stories.

Ever since I arrived in New Zealand nearly 30 years ago now I've developed an all-consuming passion for fly fishing for both brown and rainbow trout, and an odd salmon as well. Over the years and many magazine assignments I had the privilege to fish with some of the best guides this country has ever produced.

Later I took to guiding myself, partly to spend more time on the river, and largely to share what I have learnt. Later still I wrote the books **THE TROUT DIARIES** and **THE TROUT BOHEMIA**, and well, got to fish and guide even more".



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Casting Clinic

The next clinic will be held on Sunday 17 May at Belmont Domain on the Hutt River.

This event should be attended by all recent club members and those who consider themselves to be inexperienced or require some help with their casting.

Fly Tying Meeting - Wednesday 29 April 7.30 p.m.

Upper Hutt Community Meeting House, off Logan Street beside Upper Hutt Medical Centre.

This month – Spider Patterns

Read Tim's article about spider wet flies later in the newsletter. These simple patterns have been fooling trout for hundreds of years.

Our **monthly beginner fly tying group** will meet at 6.30 p.m. in the same room immediately prior to the senior meeting. Those attending this group are reminded to be there by 6.30. This month we will be revising some of the more difficult techniques we have learned.

Raffle Winners in April

Green Trout Guiding Raffle Entry – Damian Bengree Fly Box with 12 flies – Fraser Gibbs \$20 Hunting and Fishing Voucher – Steve Doughty

Fish of the Month

Details of trout caught can be entered in the club fishing diary and will be considered for our fish of the month award. Hunting and Fishing (Alicetown) sponsor a \$10 voucher each month for heaviest fish. Entries need to be received by the Saturday prior to our club meeting to qualify for fish of the month. You can enter fish in the club diary by email or phone to John Millar.

The March winner is Ian Lawson for a 9lb 1oz Brown Trout caught in a local river (size 16 fly and 4lb tippet).

Green Trout Guiding Sponsor of the Club's Guiding Raffle Phone Jim Rainey (06) 382-5507 Kawhatau Valley Road, RD7, Mangaweka office@greentroutguiding.co.nz www.greentroutguiding.co.nz

Please support our Sponsors

Handicap Fishing Competitions

This month we hope to fish the **Doughty Shield** competition on the Ruamahanga River. The date is Saturday 16 May. The plan will be to fish two sessions of two hours each. If the river is unsuitable for fishing we may hold the competition as a fly only competition on Kourarau Dam.

Please register for the competitions through our easy website registration or by contacting John Millar by email or phone. If you haven't fished a competition before, then give it a try.

Olds Shield, One Fly Competition on Hutt River.

Seven club members took part in this competition on Anzac Day 25 April. It was arranged for the afternoon so that there would not be a clash with Anzac services. The rules were quite simple; each competitor was allowed to carry 3 identical flies <u>only</u> that could be fished by any legal method of their choosing. If the competitor lost all three flies then their competition would be over. The river was divided into beats and a single session of 2 hours was fished. The obvious disadvantage with this arrangement is that not all stretches of the river are productive and a single session relies heavily on the luck of the draw.

It was interesting to see the different interpretations of the word "identical". Out of the seven competitors two submitted flies that were not identical in the eye of the organiser.

The first competitor showed 3 visibly very different flies that had been purchased as "March Brown" pattern so his interpretation was based on name of fly. The second competitor put up 3 flies of the same pattern but different sized hooks. After some rule clarification and a change of flies the fishing beats were drawn and the competition set to start. The weather looked changeable with a fresh breeze and some cloud cover. The air temperature was warm and we were in for some bright spells. One competitor Ian Lawson had decided he would fish across and down with a lure wet fly (because of the wind mainly) whereas most of the others stuck with upstream nymph into the wind. The first hour of the competition was fairly testing especially if accuracy in casting was required. One competitor spooked 2 good fish on different occasions when his cast blew back more than 4 metres downstream and landed close to the trout. The second hour of the competition saw a noticeable abatement of the wind making it much easier to cast.

When the anglers met back at base there were a few hard luck

stories with the wind being the main problem. Only one competitor caught any fish and no-one else even touched anything with fins on it. Ian Lawson won the competition with two fine trout of 5lb 4oz and 4lb. His tactic of fishing a Woolly Bugger across and down using a floating line proved to be a smart choice.

Ian hooked the bigger fish on his very first cast and took its photo only 3 minutes into the competition.

It would be another hour before he caught the second fish. There did not seem to be many opportunities but Ian converted those chances into a winning result.





Competition and Olds Shield

Winner is Ian Lawson with a winning score of 2298 points.

Club Trips

Our trip co-ordinator is Damian Bengree. If you have suggestions for a club trip please talk with Damian. His contact details are at the back of the newsletter.

HVAC Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Monday 8th June at 7.30pm

Notices of motions and remits for consideration at the AGM must be signed by two financial members and submitted to the Secretary by Monday May 18th.

Recommendations to the incoming Management Committee must also be submitted in writing to the Secretary by Monday May 18th

Fishing Rods for Sale

The following fly fishing rods will be presented for sale at Club Night 11th May 2015.

Offers may be made on the night.

Half of the proceeds will be donated to the club funds.

A **Kilwell Graphite** 9089 9' #8-9 2 piece rod, carry-tube and carry bag. As new

- B **Kilwell Innovation** 9' #6 4 piece rod, carry tube and carry bag. Good rod
- C **Kilwell Innovation** 9' #8 3 piece rod, carry bag and carry tube. Powerful rod
- D **Kilwell Blank** 9' #5 2 piece rod, An easy caster.

Contact Keith Tourell Tel. 04 976 9786

Stewart's Spider.

By Tim Trengrove

This is the story about two men and a spider.

If you know about Stewart's Spider then you will have heard about W C Stewart. The other man is James Baillie, the one who in the early 1840s first showed his spider patterns to Mr. Stewart. Patterns, yes, there were more than one but it was the Black Spider which Mr. Stewart found indispensable and propelled to world-wide fame in his book *The Practical Angler*.

So far in these HVAC Newsletter articles we have visited the March Brown and Greenwell's Glory. Both famous patterns and universally acknowledged as beautiful flies. Stewart's Spider is equally famous but beautiful it ain't! If there is an ugly duckling in the world of historic patterns, this is it. What it lacks in beauty though, it makes up for in charm. Just half a shank length of one hackle, twisted with dark brown silk thread. That's it, so simple. Tie it, catch fish with it and you too will feel the charm.

#16 Stewart's Spider I tied using starling hackle and brown Pearsall's gossamer silk.

Great flies make their way to us on the back of great stories and we know a lot about Stewart's Black Spider through both Mr. Stewart and James Baillie. The following was written about these two men by American angler/fly tier Ron Eagle Elk in 2009:

James Baillie was a commercial trout fisherman around 1850. His job was to catch trout for



the local hotels to serve to their guests. He was very successful as a trout fisherman using three flies of his design. When WC Stewart, a gentleman fly fisher and author of fishing books, was in the area he asked James Baillie to be his guide (Ghillie). While acting as Stewart's guide, James Baillie showed Stewart how to dress his three spiders. The flies were so effective that Mister Stewart published a book containing the recipe and tying instructions for the spiders. The credit for these flies is usually given to Stewart, while James Baillie is often forgotten completely. Such is the power of the pen.

James Baillie was so successful as a semi-professional angler he was able to support his family during the fishing season. He regularly brought back numbers of trout. When you consider the gear used then and the competition from other anglers, this was a major accomplishment. One that did not go unnoticed by Mr. Stewart, who went on to catch prodigious numbers of fish using Baillie's flies. On a side note, Ron Eagle Elk is a fellow member of the International Brotherhood of the Flymph and would no doubt have drawn comparisons between James Baillie and James Leisenring who was said to have made part payment for his hotel account with trout caught on his fishing holidays during the early 20th century.

While these HVAC Newsletter articles deal with historic patterns and their effectiveness, the way the flies are fished is of huge importance. W C Stewart was a champion of presentation over representation - perhaps a lone voice from afar. While down in the streams of southern England the cry was for representation (of the mayfly dun) over presentation, Stewart defiantly maintained that while a trout stream insect could be represented on a hook, its movement could not. Therefore, close representation was not needed. Stewart's Black Spider is an impression and was never meant to be an exact representation of an insect. We can think of it as what the trout perceives and not a photo of an insect. The fly was to be fished upstream and on this point, nowhere was W C Stewart more strident.

The Practical Angler can be read online and anyone serious about their fly fishing must read the book. It is a superb work on practical methods to catch fish as well as Stewart's stick to beat the (Impractical) dry fly anglers with. (To gauge the stranglehold the dry fly cult had on English fly fishing, read the letters from the next generation by and to G E M Skues, a book in our club library.) It took an angler of considerable standing and thick armour to take on the southern dry fly fishermen. Stewart certainly did that. Such is the impression made on me by *The Practical Angler* that I look over my shoulder when fishing the fly any way other than upstream.

A stern voice then shouts "WHAT ARE YOU DOING LADDIE? PRESENT IT UPSTREAM!"

I only tie the fly on a #16 hook and do fish it upstream when fishing up a medium fast, narrow run. Browns have hit the fly first cast. Good fish too. Cruising browns and rainbows have also taken the fly when presented instead of a nymph. Working it downstream in tandem with a weighted nymph also works well but don't tell W C Stewart about that.

With the brilliance of James Baillie, the perseverance of Mr. Stewart and the charm of such a simple fly, a Stewart's Spider deserves a place in your fly box.

New members enjoy Basic Skills Workshop

After a week of wind and rain, the morning of Sunday 20 April dawned clear and full of promise for the 7 new members who attended the basic skills workshop which was held at the Belmont Scout Hall. In fact, the weather just seemed to get better as the day went on. So much so, that 3 of the newbies stayed on at the river long after the scheduled 2pm finish time to practise their casting and line control skills. Great stuff!

The format of the day differed slightly from past similar events, starting with a very informative session on what gear to take fishing and how to stow it efficiently into a vehicle. From there, the

focus moved on to an indoors discussion covering topics such as vests, packs, waders, boots, leaders, basic set-ups, sun protection and eye wear. The beauty of these sessions is the wealth of useful information that gets shared amongst all of the members, not just those new to fly fishing. I'm sure that even the most experienced angler would agree that there is always something new to learn. After morning tea, the group moved down to the river where the discussion turned to specific fishing techniques such as Czech nymphing, indicator nymphing, dry fly, dry and dropper and wetlining. Each technique was demonstrated, along with useful information about reading the river, approaching the water, fly presentation and line control.

The afternoon session gave the newer members a chance to try out these skills under the guidance of the more experienced members. Judging by the positive comments that were heard, this workshop was very successful in accelerating the learning curve of the newer members while also providing new useful tips for all. Club President Steve Doughty closed the session and summed the day nicely by reminding us that the club is all about sharing information and helping all members get the most enjoyment out



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of their fishing. A big thanks to all of the committee members who put in their time to make the day a success.





Discovery Page

If you are new to fly fishing this page is for you

Notes on Leaders, Droppers and Attachments

It is almost always recommended to use tapered leaders when fly fishing.

Properly constructed tapered leaders will transfer the 'energy' generated through the fly line during casting along the leader towards the fly or flies. This achieves a good turnover of the fly/ flies and avoids the messy heap that would result if a level piece of fine monofilament were used. Another reason to use tapered leaders is that in the event of a break-off due to the fly snagging or the leader being broken by a fish, only the weakest part of the

leader would be sacrificed which **should be** the fine tip. A new replacement tippet can be added.

Tapered leaders can be knotless and are available in a number of length and strength dimensions. It would be most common to buy 9ft (3 metre) tapered leaders. These are ready to use straight from the packet or can have finer tippet material added to extend them. Alternatively tapered leaders can be made up from different lengths of level monofilament knotted together. A common and simple version would use 60% of the heaviest mono as the butt section. To this would be knotted 25% of a finer mono and finally 15% of the finest tippet material. A minimum of three different thicknesses would be required and more may be needed if the butt and tip sections are hugely different. There is a common sense rule that says we should never join two pieces of monofilament where one is close to half the diameter of the other. This would require a third piece of intermediate thickness in the middle. Several websites offer guidelines on knotting together tapered leaders and there are some formulae which claim to give the best casting performance. It is worthwhile to check out this information if you intend to tie up any tapered leaders.

One exception is where a heavy lure type of fly is being attached to a sinking line. Many anglers use a length of level monofilament because the weight of the line and fly should enable the cast to extend without landing in a heap. Some anglers use a very short piece of monofilament tippet when trying to take an unweighted or lightly weighted fly down to fish that are lying deep. The weighted line pulls the fly deep in this case.

Braided loops can be attached to the end of a fly line then a loopto-loop connection used between fly line and leader. This system has an advantage over leaders that are knotted to the fly line because it allows leaders to be easily and quickly changed if required and avoids cutting (shortening) the leader each time it is changed for another.

Polyleaders (marketed by Airflo and other manufacturers) are available, but quite costly, and these have a very pronounced taper from close to the thickness of the fly line tapering to a fine point. Polyleaders are constructed with a monofilament core and tapered clear plastic coating. These can be bought as floating or sinking types for different applications. They usually have a loop at each end for attaching between fly line and leader or tippet. Polyleaders are a definite aid to casting and, if using the sinking type, will allow accurate placement of the flies to different depths but enable the angler to achieve this while using a floating line.

Furled Leaders are an alternative leader option. These are usually limp in character but should give superior casting because they taper from many strands of fine leader material (twisted together) down to a single strand of tippet. It has to be said that most experienced anglers are in one of two camps. They either love them or they dislike them. The author has found that when using a furled leader it is necessary to dress it with floatant for dry fly or emerger fishing otherwise the furled leader tends to sink and impart drag to the tippet and flies. He found this to be quite a nuisance.

Furled leaders can be bought that have one or more coloured strands woven into the leader making them more visible to the angler. This might be of use when nymphing without an indicator.

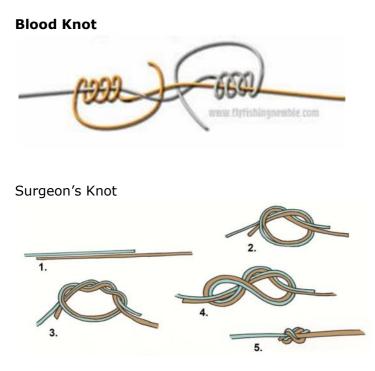
Tippet Rings are tiny stainless steel rings that can be used when joining leader material. They give the option of having a link where a dropper can be attached or a floating indicator can be clipped into the ring. Tippet rings are expensive however and run at about \$15.00 for a set of ten or so. My best advice is to make up your leaders over a table at home rather than on the riverbank and always knot one end of leader to a ring before sliding it off the "keeper" clip. The rings are almost impossible to find if dropped over grass (or carpet)

Leader Loop

Probably the easiest loops to tie on the butt end of a leader are the figure of eight loop or the Surgeon's loop. These will not slip and are quick to tie.

Droppers are usually short lengths of tippet material that are joined into the leader so that extra flies or indicators can be attached. A dropper can be any length you wish to make it but generally are inserted to space out flies on a leader system. Droppers can be incorporated into a leader when the different sections are knotted together to make up the leader in the first place or short droppers can be added by using appropriate knots at any time. To incorporate a dropper when knotting together a leader, simply leave a long tag end on one of the pieces of leader tippet. This would usually be the thinner piece if intended to attach a fly.

When tying different thickness sections into a leader most people use the Blood Knot or the Surgeon's Knot (sometimes referred to as the Double Surgeon's Knot).



Sketches borrowed from www.flyfishingnewbie.com take a look at the website.

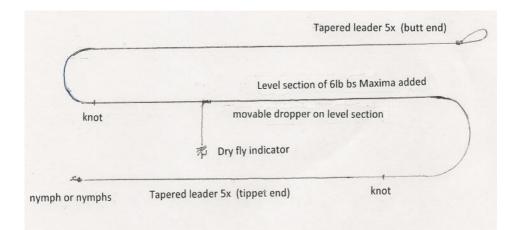
It is a simple matter to leave an extra-long tag end to be used as a dropper. If attaching a dropper by a Surgeon's Knot or by a Figure of Eight Knot the dropper will lie along the tippet. If it is preferred to have it stick out at 90 degrees a half hitch can be inserted after the knot is tied.

Truck and Trailer

This term is used when attaching two flies at the end of a leader where the end fly is tied off the bend of the hook of the first fly. The distance between flies will depend on what the angler is trying to achieve but can vary from 15 cm up to a metre or more. **Do not** tie truck and trailer style on a barbless hook. When casting, the trailing fly will be flicked off. In this case it is better to tie the monofilament through the eye of the upper hook if the eye is big enough to allow this.

Movable dropper

The sketch shows an alternative system that works very well by allowing the indicator dry fly to be moved up or down the level section of leader, thereby adjusting the depth between dry fly on the surface to nymphs near the riverbed.



Meet the Member

Introducing John Costello

I am currently a resident of Eastbourne, the father of four children and a black Labrador called Daisy.

Grew up in sunny Nelson and have friends and relations who are good fishermen; I have long been interested but never really got hooked with the fly fishing bug until late last year.



What has stopped me in the past has been my inability to get the little flies to fly anywhere - other than maybe into shrubs around me - casting technique or the total lack of it.

The club's monthly clinics have been great, you need patience to be a good fisherman and some club members' certainly have that.

I am really enjoying getting to know a bit more about the dark arts of trout fly fishing. It seems to share some common traits with my other pastimes like skiing, golf & bonsai; "letting the gear do the work", patience and timing. It can be very frustrating, you spend a long time buggering about - usually producing very little to show for your efforts -and it all bores the hell out of those unfortunate souls who simply don't understand.

Since joining the club I have met some very experienced people who are friendly, open and willing to pass on their knowledge and I look forward to getting to know you all a bit better.

Regards

John Costello

Winter Fly Fishing on Local Waters.

This short message is intended for our newer club members.

Contrary to popular belief, trout do feed all year round. The winter months are a good time to get out on rivers that remain open for fishing (so check the Sports Fishing Regulations). Most tributaries of the main rivers are closed until October but rivers including the Hutt River and Ruamahanga River outside of regional park areas can be fished year round.



There are some differences to be aware of when winter fishing.

- There is likely to be an absence of surface feeding or it will be greatly reduced except on warm days when flying insect activity can be observed. Swallows flying low over the river are a good indicator of this.
- Fish generally will be feeding close to the bottom so deep nymphing would be the best approach.
- If you like solitude (who doesn't?) then winter fishing should appeal because you won't have swimmers in the river and you are less likely to be troubled by dogs and 4WD vehicles.
- Winter days can be still and more free of wind than the warmer Spring and Summer days so get out there and work on your casting.
- There will be a limited range of insects available to the hungry trout so it is best to figure out what artificial flies will work best (ask knowledgeable local anglers).
- In mid- winter it has been found that nymphs with an orange bead seem to be attractive to both brown and rainbow trout. Possibly because fish roe is orange in colour?
- Due to lower water temperatures insect activity slows down and the metabolism of cold blooded fish also slows noticeably so your approach needs to be adjusted to suit. Bear in mind that trout will be hungry so they should respond to a well presented fly.
- In winter there will be less vegetation on trees and bushes meaning that an angler may be more visible as a silhouette or against a stark background so stealth is necessary.
- The sun is always lower during winter and this can cast glare on the water surface making sighting fish difficult.
- The low sun also casts longer shadows so it is best to avoid fishing with the sun behind if this possible.
- Fishing in the middle of the day can very often be most productive.
- Due to the fact that there will be less human activity at the river the trout will not be disturbed to the same extent as in Summer so they may be lying close to the riverbank, especially if the main flow is strong. Cast there first before casting further out. Don't be surprised to find trout lying in a few inches of water. If one is spotted then the weighted nymph should be replaced by an un-weighted fly so as not to

alarm the fish by plopping a heavy fly close to it. This type of close-up fishing requires accuracy and gentle casting, bearing in mind that there is usually very little or zero flow where the trout will be lying and therefore the fly needs to be placed ahead or to the side of the trout but close to it to attract the fish.

- Trout may be recovering form spawning so they should be handled with great care and returned to the river safely to continue their recovery. Barbless hooks make release easier.
- Take care in the river you are fishing. While you may have a fine day, rain in the headwaters may cause fast rising water to cut off your retreat from where you are fishing.

Appeal to Duck Hunters

Please save feathers for the club fly tying group. We are interested in wing primary feathers and also more importantly (at present) CDC or Cul de Canard. The photos will help to show where these feathers are found. Cul de Canard are the soft webby underfeathers on a duck's rump. These are found close to the bird's



preen gland on its lower back.

If you are a successful hunter then it won't take long to strip off some feathers to help your mates at the fishing club. Contact a committee member if you have feathers available or bring them along to a club meeting.

Confusing Fishing Report

This report landed on the editor's desk but he is very confused. Can you finish it off for him?

Clive and Andy go fishing and over the course of the day each angler uses several different flies.

Andy chooses to nymph and starts off with a Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear (GRHE). Later he uses a Partridge and Orange then a Copper John.

Clive decides to wet-line and begins with a Hammil's Killer, then changes to a Rabbit and Yellow. Finally he puts on an Olive Woolly Bugger.

At the end of their time on the river Clive has caught 4 more fish than Andy.

Clive catches 2 fish each on the Rabbit and Hammil's.

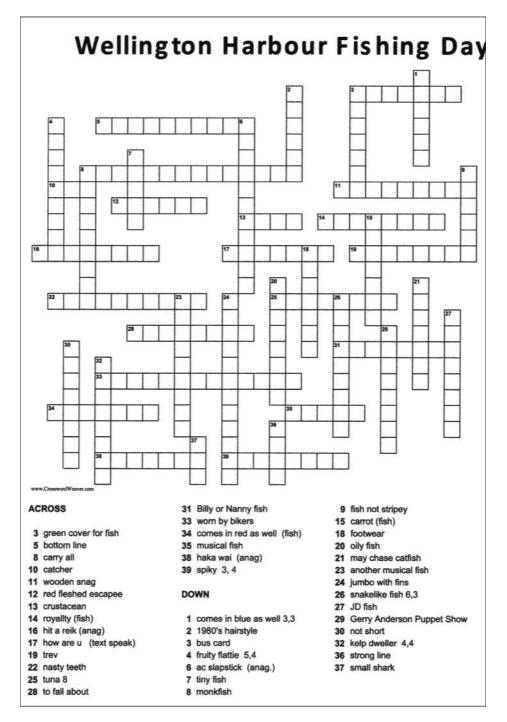
Andy catches 60% of his fish on the GRHE and 1 fish each on the other flies.

Write the report by filling in the blanks

Clive caught	trout in total.
_	trout were caught on a Woolly Bugger.
	trout were caught on Hammil's Killer
	fish were caught on a Rabbit.

Andy caught	trout in total
	trout were caught on the GRHE
	trout were caught on the Copper John
	trout were taken on a Partridge and Orange.

The most successful fly on the day was withfish caught.



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