



MILLER'S TALES

Bintry Mill Trout Fishery -- June 2017

SLOW START TO NEW SEASON

The season is now well underway but the sometimes mixed weather has not encouraged the less hardy or less committed to venture forth. Although a few hawthorns were seen in April there were never enough to attract the attention of the fish. It is quite some years since we have had some really good hawthorn fishing.

What about the Mayfly? The first few were seen on 8 May which is a few days earlier than has been the case for the last three or so seasons. Others may disagree but in the writer's opinion there have not been any significant hatches of Mayfly. Although fish have been caught rising to Mayfly, the numbers of fly hatching earlier in June were very few and far between. Our Mayfly do hatch through to August so it is possible that we may get a late surge at some stage. As important as the Mayfly hatch is, there are other flies that hatch in significant numbers such as caddis. Caddis that have hatched can be seen in clouds fly around close to the water. Before this happens look out for fish feeding just below the surface on hatching on hatching caddis pupae.

STOCKING

The rivers has been stocked twice this season with 270 fish. The second lot have black tags while the majority of the first lot have clear tags. Both colours of tag can be found by the leading edge of the dorsal fin. Other tag colours to check for are red - which will be covered in algae which you can remove with a finger nail - which will be 2015 fish. 2016 fish all had clear tags which will also be covered in algae. These fish should be recorded as having clear but dirty tags while fish from this season's first stocking will have clear but clean tags.

Untagged wild fish should all be measured and their length recorded. To measure the length of fish you will obviously have to carry a tape measure when fishing.

Waterproof dress-makers tape measures can be bought on Ebay for about £1. It is usually fairly easy to hold a fish alongside your rod or landing net handle and note the position of its nose and tail. When you have returned the fish, get your tape measure out and measure the distance between the two points. Tying a short piece of elastic around your rod shaft above the handle, or on your landing net handle, works well as it can be slid into place to mark the length of the fish.

The reason for wanting to know the length of wild fish is that the length of fish gives a much better indication of their age than does the weight. Some fish will 'do' much better than others of the same year group and give a false indication of their age.

IS THIS THE SALMON?



John Powell caught this magnificent fish on a six inch long smelt when pike fishing in Deep Chub Bend just before the end of the coarse fishing season. It weighed 4lbs 11oz and he wished it had been on a size 16 Klinkhamer. Why the reference to salmon in the headline? A couple of seasons ago there was a big fish in the pool that was often seen jumping clean out of the water, just like a salmon. Thus it was christened the Salmon.



A magnificent wild fish caught in September 2016. As the end of the season draws closer, wild fish, with a season of good feeding behind them, will be at their fittest and fattest. The weather in September is often at its best and members who fish this month and October can often have some extremely good days.

FLY TYING

Some members have expressed an interest in learning to tie their own flies. One of our members, Richard Slaughter, has run a fly-tying group in Norwich for many years and if there is enough interest would be prepared to put-on an introductory tying demonstration.

If you are interested please let our Secretary Dave Pitchers know. A date - most likely towards or at the end of the season - and venue will have to be agreed in due course.

In the meantime an ex-member, Michael Hewett, has complete fly tying kit for sale as well as some fly rods and a few fishing books. If the tying kit is of interest, Michael lives in Taverham and can be contacted by email:

michael.hewett001@btinternet.com

THREE LINE WHIP

The annual weed cut is the one event of the season when we need a good attendance by fit and willing members. Although we employ a man to do the actual deep-water cutting, cutting the shallows is done by hand. As in previous seasons we will have an excavator on the bank to remove the bulk of the cut weed from the river at County School Bridge and then Yarrow Bridge, but manual help is still needed.

At this stage it is difficult to be precise about when we will need to cut the weed, but it is most likely to be either 22 and 23 July or 5 and 6 August. (The intervening weekend is the Game Fair.)

Deciding when to cut has to be a balance. If we cut too early we will have a lot of weed growth afterwards but a later cut does mean more weed in the river before we start cutting. A call to arms will be issued as soon as possible.

RIVER WATER LEVELS

The Bintree (*sic*) Mill gauging station provides information on water levels that could be of benefit to members who live some way away from the river and would like to know how any heavy rainfall may have effected the water level in the river. This is the link: <http://www.gaugemap.co.uk/#!Map/Summary/11709/7116>

Clicking on the Gauge Options button gives you the latest level and levels for the day, week, month and year to date. The information available and the effect on water levels should be more helpful and easier to understand than the 'raw' information from the Environment Agency (EA) gauging station at Swanton Morley on the EA website.

The next time we get some heavy rain it will be interesting to see how the gauge shows it effect.

Our thanks to Bill Green for sending the link.

FISHING RULES 2017

For the benefit of those members who have never read or have forgotten them, here are the current fishing rules.

1. A member must have a current Environment Agency rod licence. The membership card must be produced when requested by another member, the bailiff or an owner of the Club waters.
2. The extent of the Fishery is shown on the map provided to members. It is divided into four beats: Bintry Mill, Yarrow Farm, County School and Goff's. Please note that:
 - a) On the Bintry Mill Beat, no fishing is allowed between point A and the mill itself. Members must not set foot on the west bank where marked in red on the map
 - b) On the Yarrow Farm Beat, members are not allowed to set foot on the east bank where marked in red on the map
 - c) On the County School Beat, members are not allowed to set foot on the east bank where marked in red on the map
 - d) Access to Goff's is from the west bank only
3. A fishing box is situated at the spot marked on the map. Each member will be issued with a key and will be responsible for leaving the box locked. There are blank catch return cards in the box and members must complete Part 1 of a card on arrival for the beat, or beats, they intend to fish. Before departure members must record the number of fish caught and the **length of wild fish** caught on the beat or beats that have been fished, and any other fish caught described.
4. Cars are to be parked in the following places only, as marked on the map:
 - a) On the lane by the fishing box, but not in the field through the gate
 - b) On the parking area by Yarrow bridge on the west side of the river
 - c) On the road by County School bridge on the west side of the river
 - d) At the end of the track leading to the river from North Elmham church

The car sticker must be displayed clearly when a member's car is parked in one of the designated places.
5. Members must not bring dogs, disturb game nor swim; they must shut gates after passing through, remove all litter and not do anything that is not in the best interests of the Club.
6. The fishing season is from 1 April to 29 October (both dates inclusive).
7. A member may fish on any day of the week which is from Monday to and including the following Sunday. Fishing is permitted until one hour after sunset. **All wild fish and untagged fish must be returned to the river.** When returning fish handle them as little as possible and only with wet hands. All stock fish are marked with a coloured tag by the base of the dorsal fin. Only stock fish, up to a limit of **four** fish per week, may be killed. The use of barbless or de-barbed hooks is encouraged. Any pike caught should be killed.
8. The only methods of fishing are dry fly and upstream nymph.
9. A member may bring a guest who will be accompanied by the member. The member will be responsible for the guest who must fish the same beat as the member. Fish caught and released or killed by the guest are to be included in the member's weekly total.
10. Day tickets are available only for the Yarrow Farm and County School Beats.