

Dave Coomber

In the last Newsletter we introduced (or rather re-introduced) our old friend David Coomber. As a follow-up, some of his individual flies are being highlighted.

Dave's Shrimp

The fly I am going to discuss is the Shrimp. This is really a “confidence fly”. In all honesty I have not seen many anglers use these patterns; I have met two fishermen, one at Damerham and the other at White Sheet Farm, Dorset, who only use shrimps, and they had great success with these. I only use a shrimp when the going gets tough, i.e. hot, middle of the day, no breeze and the fish off the boil.

I fish it on a long leader - let it settle, give it three quick jerks, a pause, and then a long pull, and then start again. I have done well at Duncton Mill and Chalk Springs. I have tied several types of shrimp, some of my own design. These were illustrated in the *Flydresser* and Trout magazines. **D.C.**



Dave's Shrimp



Orange Tag Shrimp

[The Editor's choice is another shrimp variation, the Red Spot Shrimp (*see below left*). The red spot represents the coloration caused by a parasite, which conveniently becomes an attractor to fish. (I recall Dave at a branch outing to Duncton, having taken his four fish, demonstrating his method of fishing this fly to a fishless colleague - "you just give it 3 tugs and then pull – oops, there it is!" - and this on the first pull of the first cast!! Dave had on a previous visit witnessed Ned Kelly pulling out masses of weed after cutting, and noticed the weed was swarming with shrimps.)]

Dave's Preferred Flies



Red-spot Shrimp



Yellowhead Green Nymph

Yellowhead Nymph (see above right)

Now, about some of the flies I prefer. I try to use nymphs where possible, including buzzers, shrimps and various other forms of nymphs. Some of these are standard recognised patterns, and some of my own design. The yellow-head is a particular favourite of mine; first used at Damerham some years ago, I have had a great deal of success with this fly. I tie it quite small, 14 - 12 size hook, with a narrow body of olive green marabou, gold rib, thin tail and a small yellow head made of narrow lead wire, painted yellow, with a black dot on either side for eyes. To fish it, use a fairly long leader of 15-17 feet long.

Pheasant-tailed Nymphs

We must not forget the pheasant tail nymph, an all time great, first used in rivers but now used in stillwaters everywhere. There are so many variants these days, but they all catch fish. Some of the most famous names attached to this fly are Frank Sawyer (the originator), Arthur Cove (arguably the finest exponent of nymph and buzzer fishing), Jim Tweeny from USA, Al Troth, D Mason, Bob Church and so-on. You only have to look at Arthur Cove's Cove Nymph and sedge pupa to see how deadly they are.



Cove's Nymph



Sawyer's Pheasant Tail Nymph





Pheasant Tail Variants

Bloodworm

Another great fly I use is the red buzzer, or bloodworm. Of course it is also known as the “Datsun” when it is just a painted hook. The first time I saw this fly tied was at the Guild, by Terry Griffith (now editor of the *Flydresser*). A red stretchy material (such as Flexibody, Flexifloss, etc) is tightly wound round a nickel or gold grub hook, finishing with a larger head, and then super-glued. You can tie a dozen in 15 minutes - so quick and easy. This is a really deadly fly fished on the drift and inched slowly back.



Bloodworm