

Useful Tips gleaned from a Trout Fisherman article by Steve Cullen.

I am still working my way through the backlog of magazines I have built up and have just finished Trout Fisherman 2019, issue 519 where on page 56-7 I found what could be some useful tips.

The article is by Steve Cullen and relates mostly to the use of the hang and how to get good hook ups, this starts by marking the line at 10/20/30 feet from the tip. He then says to retrieve and hang the line at each marker for a reasonable time in turn and before proceeding to strike blind in case there is a soft bite or a fish mouthing the fly; worth a few fish he says.

The next comment relates to lure fishing using any speed of roly-poly retrieve only to have soft takes with no hook up, shades of fish at Grafham after a few have been released. What he did was to cast out and time the retrieve from the flies landing on the water to until a tentative take that again failed to connect to the fish; he repeated the process and stopped at the appropriate time for a couple of seconds then struck blind into a well hooked fish and the procedure worked several times in a match. Could this be an appropriate trick for the Grafham shrimp feeders particularly off the dam when they get cagey after a hectic catch and release morning especially if combined with reduced fly size as well.

He then made an interesting comment about hooking up with passive fished flies for example the bung or New Zealand method where he suggest that not only are curved hooks with bent in points better at hooking fish than straight hooks but he also recommends moving the point a few degrees out of line or 'kirbing'. The hooks he suggests are pricey Tiemco 2499 ones at £5.50+ for 20 but I would suggest you try the Kamasan ANIMAL either barbed or barbless which are heavy weights like a B175 or the lighter barbless Kamasan B983 wide gape of similar weight to a B170; all are around £1.30 for 10 at tackle shops with 25's and 50's available on line.

I personally use a lot of Kamasan hooks namely B980, B982, B983, ANIMAL barbed and barbless for nymphs/shrimps and lures; also the Drennan Specialist hooks are worth a look at similar prices and tend to be complimentary in lighter weight wires.

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