

With a trip to Eden cancelled due to high winds and forecast high rainfall I went to Ilkley yesterday, 9th April. Unlike Cumbria we had no wind, great cloud cover, 9.5 degree air temperature, a good drizzle at times and the gauge was showing .29m which is a bit higher than I like, but well fishable. I arrived at the riverbank at 11am to try and get there in time for the main Grannom hatch and there were some coming off Bath Street run. I got a trout I had seen rise 3rd chuck. That was it for ages; I waited around and nowt more showed so eventually went below suspension bridge and lurked with intent there for perhaps 30 minutes...again nowt happened.

I then walked farther downstream and picked up two risers during a wee hatch of Grannom(all on parachute emerger though they were clearly on the hatched insect). I then continued downstream and by now it was probably 1:30pm. I spotted what turned out to be my best fish which went 1lb 9oz and got this first cast again on the same fly.

Then there was another 30 mins of not that much activity and I got in a run just to get a better angle and see what was happening farther upstream. After 5 minutes I noticed a couple of rises and then fly started hatching(it was 2:20pm by now) with LDO coming down. I got another on a paradun when I noticed larger upwings riding the tops....looked like Olive uprights to me, caught one-it was!! And they were coming down in good numbers-definitely enough to constitute a hatch. What a fantastic site to see these at Ilkley. I have seen the odd one here and there but NEVER in any numbers. Brilliant to see their big wings coming down the riffle!! Then I noticed a far smaller fly mixed in with the LDO and OU and thought I knew these too-caught one-Iron Blue Dun!!! Again when studied closely there were good numbers of these too. The drizzle kept them all pinned to the surface for a long time-excellent!!

Hatch lasted maybe 45 minutes and got some more fish and jacked it in at 4pm finally with still more fish rising on Weir Pool but by then I was a bit cold and the Weir Pool at .30m on the gauge gets quite deep!