



DFFC

NEWSLETTER WINTER EDITION 2023

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Bronte Fly Fishing School



Office Bearers 2022 – 2023

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For those that do not know me I have been a member of the Devonport Fly Fishing Club since my first camp in 2010/11. Since then I have attended casting sessions run by Wayne Bellette and Adrian Scott in Hobart. Organised casting sessions with Peter Morse, attended the casting competition at Winspears Dam, attended the winter fly tying session at Devon Lodge. I have been on the committee for the Great Lake tie in since the relaunch in 2016. I am proud to see how this event has grown to be what it is today.

I have recently been chatting to Jo Starling who is founder of the Womens Recreational Fishing League and I applied to be Leader of the Tasmanian division. This is an exciting opportunity for women to chat and share fishing knowledge in a safe and accepting environment. This is very empowering for women. I was blown away to hear how many women have joined already in each state. QLD has 228 members, WA 98, VIC 175, NSW 579 and Tassie currently has 125 and growing.

I haven't had time to fully commit to many club activities in the past as many are held up the North of the State. This should not deter anyone from becoming a member of this great club.

I am based in Hobart but currently working in the Central Highlands Miena and find myself with a bit of extra time. The Newsletter came about with discussion with Wayne and Adrian re Allan Ekert's casting articles and how they miss reading them...so here we are. I have started Casting sessions in the Highlands because I was missing the sessions. Now we have a central location in Tassie and these sessions will coincide with the Wind Knots Casting Group Facebook group sessions in Hobart.

In the Winter Edition of the Newsletter you will find a report from our President Max Jones, Casting articles from Allan Ekert, Fly Tying Corner with Tony Dell, Shack booking procedure, club meetings and upcoming events. It was great news to hear the Australian Fly Fishing team that have just competed in Scotland, mens team placing 3rd ladies 8th. Looking forward to a full report from our members Julie Bulter and Jules Stephens.

I will continue the member page where you can share photos/stories of your fishing trips or that special fly pattern, or include your secret fishing location.

If you would like to add something to the newsletter simply send me a message via messenger as I don't have access to the club email yet.

Editor

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Max Jones



Hello Devonport Fly Fishing Club members,

Let me introduce myself to you

My introduction to the club began with the club's annual Bronte Fly Fishing Camp in 2010 as a 1st year student and as a returnee in 2011. After 2011, I returned to assist George Surman with the day to day duties at camp. After a seven or eight year apprenticeship George handed the reins over to me under his watchful eye for another two years. I also joined the camp committee, I have served as Jnr Vice President and Snr Vice President before being elected Club President in 2022/23. Over the years of my involvement in the club I have met a lot of people all with a common interest of fly fishing and the advancement of our club.

President, Max Jones.





What a Difference a Fly Line Makes

An activity that we do often in our weekly casting group is a rod testing session. This consists of having everyone place their rod in a circle so that each person has a chance to cast each rod in turn. I sometimes throw in a few of my rods to make things interesting. My rods range from very cheap to expensive and include 4 or 5 identical rods. The identical rods are matched with different line and leader setups. To avoid preconceived ideas about rod brands, I mask the information about the rod with tape. This is probably not necessary in the case of most newcomers who have yet to learn that “sage” is not just an herb they grow in their garden.

Working in pairs, the group then spends about 5 minutes "testing" each rod with short casts, long casts and roll casts. Then they have to write up their findings on the sheet provided:

Rod: State Brand name written on blank (if visible)

Weight: What weight line is the rod rated for? e.g., 5 weight (guess if it is covered up)

Comments about Line: Does the line work with this rod, how does it feel, what taper does the line have?

Comments about the Rod and Line: Some rods are identical but have been setup with different lines. Pay particular attention to the way the rod responds to the line and comment on the way the rod and line work together.

Rod	Weight	Comments about Line
Comments about Rod and Line:		

The handful of people who read these articles are probably part of this casting group and know about this already. Those who haven't been involved will be wondering where all this is leading. The reason I am writing about this comes from the discussion and questions that this activity generates. The "testing" leads to conversations about fly rods and fly lines and what a difference a fly line can make.

Of the many things discovered and talked about during these casting sessions, the biggest eye opener for most people is how fly rods perform with different fly lines. When you only own one or two outfits that have been put together by someone in a fly shop, you are not always aware that there are other options. It is only as you try a variety of rod and line combinations that you can see and feel the difference. This is where a casting group with a range of rods and lines

to try is invaluable. It also helps to have a casting instructor who has too many rods and lines.



The Tuesday Casting Group in action. Photos courtesy Vaughn Hagelstein.

As an aside, I wrote an article about fly lines back in 2015. Back then, I did a Google search and counted over 60 different fly lines on the market, and that does not include all the no-name brands from China. Although there are so many brands on the market there are only a handful of manufacturers who make these lines. I could only find 6 major manufacturers of fly lines in the world (again, excluding China). If you do the maths, you can see that many

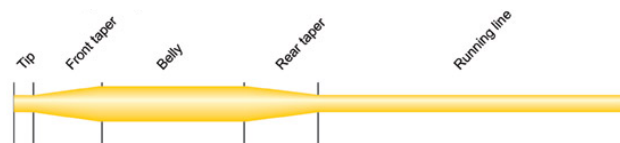
different brands come out of the same factory. I think if I were to count fly lines and manufacturers today the figures wouldn't be much different. You can see an updated list at the end of the article.

The difference a fly line makes really became obvious when comparing identical rods set up with different lines. Five 4 weight rods were assembled with various lines and leaders. The rods were definitely at the cheaper end of the market but when they were matched with the right line, they performed very well and scored quite highly in the opinion of the casters. When the rods and lines didn't work together, the results were equally obvious.

Comments about how the rods and lines worked together left people asking lots of questions about fly lines. When you have spent as much money as I have on fly lines, you take it for granted that everyone knows all there is to know about fly lines. That wasn't the case within our group and it may not be the case with you. So, for those who are beginning their fly fishing journey, I need to go back and explain a few things about fly lines. If you already know these things you can skip this section (you probably haven't bothered to read this far anyway!)

As I mentioned earlier, I have written about fly lines on a number occasions in this column but I am still only scratching the surface on the subject. If you want the whole picture there's Google and plenty of books, videos and magazine articles by more knowledgeable people than me. One of the most authoritative figures in the design of fly lines is Bruce Richards of Scientific Anglers. He is considered by many to be one of the top fly casters and instructors in the world and what he doesn't know about fly lines is not worth knowing. His book, "Modern FLY LINES", published in 1994, is still regarded as the 'bible' on fly lines and sells for over \$200 when one can be found.

I don't have a copy of Bruce's book (does anyone have a copy to sell?) but if you were to read the book you would learn a lot about fly lines that will help you understand the difference a fly line can make. The following information is not from Bruce's book but I am sure it's pretty close to what he has written. Understanding this background information on fly line terminology and taper is essential if you are going to be get the most out of your fly rod and line.



Line tip: the front part of the line, equally thin over its length, where the leaders is attached. The tip was level so that when cutting off leaders with nail knots you didn't lose any of the taper of the fly line. These days the tip is often omitted and replaced with a welded loop.

Front Taper: The front taper is the section of the fly line that transitions from the thick belly to the fine tip. It helps control the energy transfer during casting,

allows for delicate presentations, and provides smooth turnover of the leader and fly.

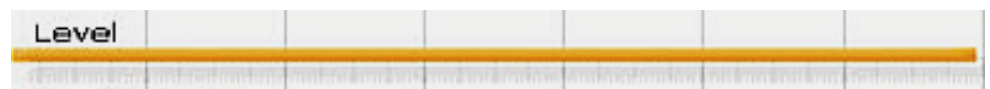
Belly: The belly is the thickest and heaviest part of the fly line. It carries most of the line's weight, providing the momentum required for casting larger flies or longer distances. The length and taper of the belly vary depending on the specific fly line design and purpose.

Rear Taper: The rear taper is the section of the fly line that transitions from the thick belly to the thinner running line. It helps control the transfer of energy during the casting stroke and ensures a smooth turnover from the belly to the running line.

Running Line: The running line is the thinner and more level section of the fly line that extends from the rear taper to the end of the line. It is designed to shoot through the guides smoothly during casting, allowing for longer distance casts.

Welded Loops: Many modern fly lines come with pre-welded loops at both ends. These loops provide convenient attachment points for leaders, tippets, or backing, eliminating the need for knots.

Now that you have a handle on the terminology of fly lines you need to know about their taper. The taper of a fly line refers to how the weight and diameter of the line are distributed along its length. In the days of horse hair and silk, fly lines were usually level as it was difficult to make complex tapers by weaving the natural materials together. Once plastics came into the equation, level lines lost their popularity as complex tapers were able to be made when extruding the coating. Level lines are almost impossible to find today except as running lines for shooting heads.



There are five common tapers that you will find available today. Each one is different. The taper affects how the line loads the rod, how it shoots through the guides, and how it delivers the fly to the target. Selecting an appropriate taper can make a world of difference to how a rod casts and fishes. Our casting group quickly discovered what a difference a taper can make.

Here are the five common tapers but within each category there are many variations as can be seen by the variety of fly lines produced by many fly line companies.

Weight Forward (WF): This is the most popular taper for fly lines. The weight is concentrated in the front section of the line, making it easier to cast long distances and control larger flies. The front taper, belly, and rear taper are all designed to facilitate smooth casting and accuracy.



WEIGHT FORWARD LINE

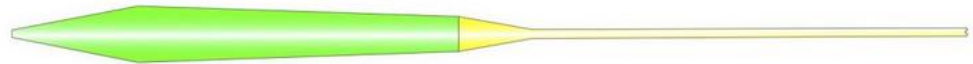
Double Taper (DT): In a double taper line, both ends of the line taper gradually towards the middle. This allows for delicate presentations and better control at shorter distances. DT lines can be reversed when one end gets worn out, effectively doubling the lifespan of the line.



DOUBLE TAPER LINE

Shooting Head Taper: These lines have an aggressive front taper and a thin running line. They are designed for long-distance casting, particularly for saltwater or big game fishing. Shooting tapers enable anglers to shoot out more line with less effort.

Shooting Head



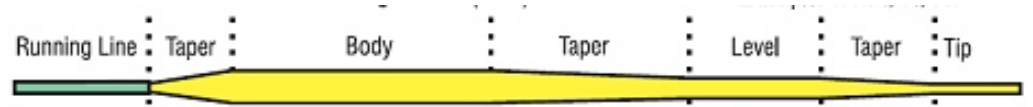
Triangle Taper: Triangle taper lines have a long, gradual front taper that forms a triangle shape. This design allows for delicate presentations, accurate casting, and gentle turnover. They are favoured by anglers who require precise control and want to achieve delicate presentations.



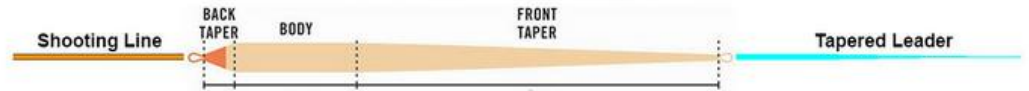
TRIANGLE TAPER (TT)

Spey Lines: Spey lines are specifically designed for two-handed casting techniques, primarily used in Spey and switch rod fishing. They come in various tapers, such as long belly, mid belly, and short belly, to accommodate different casting styles and fishing conditions. Scandinavian and Skagit lines are variations of the spey line.

Spey Line



Scandinavian Shooting Head



Skagit Shooting Head - with sinking tip



When it came to testing different tapered lines on the same rods in our casting group, it became obvious what a difference a fly line can make. Some tapers worked well while others presented problems or did not do the job as was expected. But there's a lot more to understand about fly lines than just taper. The way we weigh a line to find which rods it is designed for, the core, coating, texture and even the material that it is made from are all important factors to consider. Next month, I'll discuss these and other things about fly lines in the never-ending discovery of what a difference a fly line makes.

Updated Fly Line Manufacturers in 2023

Airflo - Based in the UK, now owned by Mayfly Outdoors, an American company.
 Cortland - USA. Monic - USA. Northern Sport Fishing- UK and Canada, now probably only manufacturing in Canada. Rio - USA. Owned by Fairbank who also own Sage.
 Scientific Anglers (Orvis owned) - USA. Leichi - China. Best known for their brand Maxcatch. (Not much is known about Leichi they may outsource production and there may be many more Chinese manufacturers.

Updated Fly Lines in 2023

Cortland, (Masterline), RIO, Airflo, Northern Sports (Shakespeare), Monic, Scientific Anglers, Jim Teeny, White River, Barrio, Snowbee, Wildfisher, Blue Halo, Beulah, Streamside, Cabelas, Orvis, Royal Wulff, Sage, South Pacific, Vision, Guideline, Loop, ARC, Redditch, Hardy, Greys, Iridius, ZEN, Michael Evans, SKB Pitsford Pirate, 406, Sunray, Allen, Mackenzie, Scandinavian, Talon, Aleka, Stalker, Sonik, Hatch, Naru, Sierra, Ron Thompson, EGO, Drury, AquaPro, Speyworks, Gaelforce, Ballistic, Partridge, LTS, CND, Wychwood, Shakespeare, Sierra, Maxcatch, Sexyloops
 Ballistic, Spartan



TYING CORNER WITH TONY DELL, FISHING THE CLARET DABBLER

With Additional Comments from Brian McCullagh and Brian West, Tasmanina Fly Tyers Club of Hobart.



Claret Dabber

Hook: #10, #12 or #14 Kamasan B175

Tail: Bunch of Pheasant Tail fibres [or claret dyed cock fibres *BW*]

Rib: Gold wire [or fine gold holographic tinsel *B.W*]

Body: Claret dubbing (I use dyed Possum. I also use fine claret UV 'Straggle'
(semi-cloaked with claret dubbing as a variation.)

Body hackle: Claret or dark natural red

Cloaking hackle: Bunches of Bronze Mallard flank feathers or Wood Duck breast/flank feathers dyed Veniard's "Summer Duck"

***Head** Head is commonly black, but also can be effective finished in claret, red or fluoro orange.[*BW*]

***Eye** (optional) Holographic Red #14 UNI-Mylar. [*BW*]

***Hotspot** (optional variation) a fluoro red/orange trigger/hotspot can also be tied in at the 'butt' before the tail is tied in. [*BW*]

Fishing the Claret Dabber

This is an Irish lake fly, the most popular in a range of different coloured Dabblers.

On Irish Loughs the Dabber-style flies are used as one of a team of usually three flies on a floating line in a rig for Loch (or Lough)-style fishing.

The Dabber is generally placed on the top dropper of the rig as a "wake" fly, to be dabbled across the surface during the last part of the retrieve, with the rod held at about ten o'clock and the flies stripped at various speeds to have the dabber in the surface creating a wake.

At the end of the retrieve the flies are generally "hung" motionless for 20 to 20 seconds to tempt any fish that have been following to take either the Dabber or the trailing flies behind it.

Fishing the Dabbler in Tasmania

(1) Loch-style

I tend to set up my loch-style team on a floating line with a weighted fly on the point to "anchor" it. This can be anything from a weighted nymph, a weighted Yeti, to a tungsten bead woolly bugger such as a Shrek or Magoo, depending on conditions and water clarity. The middle fly is sometimes a lottery. I like to use a fairly bright unweighted English wet such as an Alexandra or an Invicta. The middle fly choice is ripe for experimentation.

[*Middle fly can also be a Duck Fly. BW]

If I am using this method, I will normally treat the Dabbler with floatant.

This rig is fished generally as described above. I will generally cast out, straighten the cast, count down about 5, then figure-of-eight retrieve 10-12 times, then begin a stop/start retrieve until about 2/3 of the cast is retrieved, then lift the rod to 10 o'clock and strip so the Dabbler comes to the surface and lastly, hang for 20-30 seconds before recasting.

If nothing is happening after a reasonable period, and wind strength allows, count down to 10, 15 etc. In stronger wind you will have to retrieve faster to stay in touch with your flies, so the initial figure-of-eight retrieve may not be appropriate.

Fishing loch-style is best when there is a bit of "top" on the water. Until the wind gets to the stage where it is difficult to control your fly line and keep in touch with your flies, the windier the better,

As a rule of thumb, as the wind is less and the water clearer the smaller your flies and the slower your retrieve.

Another option is to use the same team on a ghost-tip or sink-tip line and fish it exactly the same way, varying the count-down and retrieve speed.

The key to Loch-style fishing (and all fly fishing, come to that) is line control - you must stay in constant contact with your flies [*especially when lifting 'up' to the hang. BW]! On the hang you need to be particularly vigilant to strike at the very slightest straightening of the line. Watch closely where your leader enters the water while hanging.

(2) Fishing the Dabbler as a dry fly

Another approach is to use the Dabbler on the point as a prospecting dry fly on a floating line with an unweighted nymph on the top dropper. This method is more useful, but not only so, on calmer days

I tend to use a smaller Dabbler (#14) for this method and generally will treat it with floatant, but sometimes not if I think an emerger is likely to be more productive. [*For this style of fishing the Dabbler, the fly can be dressed a little more *sparsely* with the Bronze Mallard cloaking and be allowed to have a more prominent wing on top. Often fish grab it when or soon after it lands. BW]

My general strategy when using this method is to cast out and let the Dabbler sit static for 30 seconds or so and then just grimple it in very slowly using a figure-of-eight retrieve. If you get a take at this stage it is likely to be explosive!

Don't, however, be afraid to vary speed and method of retrieve using this method if nothing is going on.

Also, changing the position of the Dabbler to the top dropper, putting a weighted nymph on the point and using the same strategy is very definitely worth a try.

If nothing is happening, experimentation is the key. [*For example, have a look at the following Dabbler ties using alternative colours in the body and head. BW]

#The Claret Dabbler is traditionally associated with a good wave (top) but it also works very well in Tasmanian lakes with light winds and less wave action.

Therefore, I tie two styles of dabbles:

(i) for good waves the dabbles I tie have longer and heavier palmered hackle which gives dabbler a good action in the top of wave;

(ii) when loch-style fishing the smaller lighter dabbler, mainly in lighter conditions, it has a smaller palmered hackle (I also strip one side of hackle to reduce hackle count). This dabbler will sit much lower in water, if not slightly under the surface.

When tying dabbles, tie them on heavy gauge hooks (B175). This helps keep fly in the top of the wave, not on top of wave. You are, therefore, moving more water and making more wake to attract following fish.

When loch-style fishing these dabbles, as noted by Tony above, your rod should not be raised higher than 10 o'clock. The movement of dabbler is controlled by short sharp retrieves keeping fly in the top surface of the water.

Using this method you are always in contact with fly.

I use a 10 ft soft rod for loch style fishing which helps bring top fly to surface earlier than a 9 ft rod.

My typical rig for loch style fishing the Claret Dabbler is a weighted point fly, my middle dropper is usually an English wet (Mallard & Claret or Dunkeld), the top dropper is the Claret Dabbler.

I mainly use a floating line when loch-style fishing. But I also use Claret Dabbles as the top dropper on sinking lines with both 2- and 3-fly rigs.

My tie is slightly different than Tony's:

Hook: #10, #12 or #14 Kamasan B175

Thread: brown /black 8/0 Uni thread

Rib: oval gold

Tail: natural pheasant tail

Body: claret seals fur (loosely dubbed and teased out)

Body hackle: palmered light brown cock

Throat hackle: claret cock hackle couple full turns

Wing: bronze mallard (I cloak around the fly for the heavier water one and only tie the wing on top for lighter one)

On some of my smaller dabblers, I use only fine claret Straggle for the body as per Brian West's pattern. [B mcC]



Macca's rough water Dabbler [#B McC]



Gold Angel Hair body and gold head Dabbler. For more ideas, have a look at Davie McPhail's Mosaic Dabbler <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEcOADJrKwM>



More sparsely tied dabblers

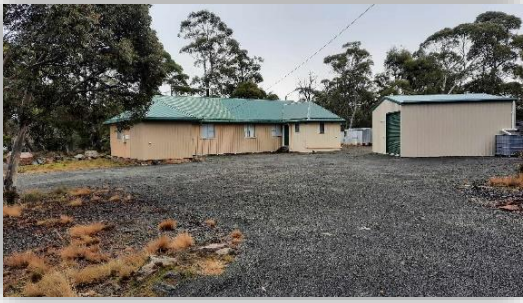


A 'flock' of dabblers... [*BW]

Written by Tony Dell, with additional comments from Brian McCullagh [#B McC] and Brian West [*B W]

Tasmanian Fly Tyers Club Inc,

July 2023



The Devonport Fly Fishing Club has a Lodge located in the central Highlands, Miena. The Highlands are renowned for its Brown Trout fishery, while being centrally located in Tasmania and a short drive to all that the state has to offer. Devon Lodge is available to members and their families.

What a great space to relax after fishing, suitable for family or group gatherings. Or just to curl up in front of the fire on a cold day. Devon Lodge is a large open plan space, it has two bunk rooms that sleeps 16, The large kitchen is spacious enough and can cater for larger groups. The entry is large enough and doubles as a BBQ area and enough hangers for your wet weather gear, waders and boots. The Lodge has 2 bathrooms with a toilet in each.

The Lodge is located approximately 500m from Great Lake and the local boat ramp,

The large flat block caters for multiply parking including boats. Camper vans/Caravans are allowed on site on application for the same rate as they have full use to the facilities

Advance bookings can be made via email devonlodge.dffc@gmail.com

You will be sent confirmation details for your selected dates, pass code to enter the Lodge and procedure instructions along with payment method and bank details.

You will need to provide your own bedding, food and toiletries.





CLUB MEETINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Club meetings

Are held on the last Thursday of each month (except December).

Meetings are held at the Paranple Centre (above the new library) at 137 Rooke Street, Devonport, at 7.30 pm. Members and guests are asked to arrive between 7.15 to 7.25 pm as the doors will be locked after this time.

Club dam fishing days

The club has a dam outside of Devonport with fishing days/competitions occurring throughout the year.

Fly tying events

Fly-tying events are regularly run by members. These are sometimes of a night in Devonport or for a weekend at the Club Shack, Devon Lodge.

Club working Bees

Working bees are held at the Devon Lodge as required. Members are encouraged to assist if possible.

Casting practice Sessions

Club members hold regular catchup/casting practice sessions on ovals in the North, South and Central Highlands of Tasmania. For updates of times etc you can join the "Wind Knots Casting Group" on Facebook.

Club Facebook Group

Financial Membership of The Devonport Flyfishing Club Inc. is a prerequisite to joining this Facebook Group. Up to date activities are posted on this page.

[Devonport Fly Fishing Club Inc | Facebook](#)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 27 th	AGM followed by General Meeting	7.30 pm	Paranple Library Meeting Room Devonport	
August 5 th	Opening of most waters including Brown Trout			www.ifs.tas.gov.au
September 30 th	Opening of designated Rainbow Trout Waters			www.ifs.tas.gov.au
October 14 th	Great Lake Tie-In	10 am – 3 pm	Great Lake Community Centre, Miena	greatlaketiein@gmail.com
December 2 nd	Opening of Canal Bay, Yingina/Great Lake			www.ifs.tas.gov.au
January 7 th -14 th 24	Bronte Fly Fishing School/Camp		Bronte Lagoon, Hut bay.	campsecretary.dffc@gmail.com



Each year the Devonport Fly Fishing Club holds a fly fishing school/camp at Hut Bay, Bronte Lagoon, aimed at teaching the art of fly fishing to beginners. In addition, the intermediate course is held for those wishing to hone their skills. The emphasis is on teaching beginners the necessary skills to catch fish. We offer tuition for men, women and children over 12 years.

The camp provides a friendly atmosphere where stories are shared, knowledge is acquired and the instructors who donate their time are more than approachable and willing to help.

It is a great opportunity to spend 5 days camping and learning to fly fish as a family also the non fishers can come along and just enjoy the camp. The whole family will love it!

Sunday 7th to Friday 12th January 2024

Enrolments closing date is 15th December 2023

For more information contact "Bronte Enquires Contacts"

2025 Camp Dates: 12th to 17th January.

Members having attended our Novice Program can return each year at the discounted rate of \$100.

Novice participants for Bronte 2024 are as follows, 14 Enrolled with 4 still to pay. Returnee participants are 8 Enrolled with 5 to pay." Jo-Anne Anderson, Enquires email campsecretary.dffc@gmail.com

