

Fly of the Month

The Kate McLaren



Hook :- Wet fly 14-12

Thread :- Black

Tail :- Golden pheasant topping

Rib :- Silver tinsel

Body :- Black seal's fur

Body hackle :- Black cock

Front hackle :- Brown

The Kate McLaren is a popular Scottish loch fly and therefore well favoured by Jim Fulton. It is usually fished as the top fly, or dibbler, in a team of three flies but is effective as a point fly or even as a solo wet fly. Although primarily a sea trout and brown trout fly in the Scottish lochs it is also used 'down and across' in rivers.

The 'Kate' is a nice looking fly and not too difficult to tie. Lay your foundation thread from behind the eye to a point just over the barb and tie in a bunch of golden pheasant topping, trying to make it kick upwards a little. Next, attach a length of silver tinsel and let it hang. Dub the thread with the black seal's fur and wind a nice even body to a point about two millimetres behind the eye. Now tie in a black hackle with fibres a little longer than the hook gapethe original dressing said cock hackle but hen will do just as well.....and wind it back in three or four turns to where the tail is tied in. It can get a bit tricky at this point because you now need to hold the black hackle while you wind the silver rib forward through it. The best way is to clip your hackle pliers to the hackle feather so that it hangs under tension. Wind the rib forward wriggling it from side to side as you do so as not to trap too many of the black fibres and tie it off at the front of the body and where the black hackle is attached. Now tie in a brown hackle feather with fibres a bit longer than the body hackle and wind on three or four turns stroking them backwards as you do. Clip off the surplus, build up a nice, varnished black head and the fly is finished.

A.T.

