

Fly of the Month

The Green Simon



Hook :- Dry fly 16-14-12

Thread :- Orange

Tail :- Six strands of green Krystalflash

Rib :- Fine silver wire

Body :- Peacock herl

Hackle :- White cock wound through with ginger

Head :- Orange thread, varnished.

Anyone looking into my main flybox couldn't help but notice that I like a touch of Krystalflash in most of my flies. Just about all my nymphs and a lot of my wet flies have one or two strands of the stuff in the tail. If I'm fishing a fly and I think the flash is inappropriate I can always cut it off but it's a bit difficult to tie some on waterside. I have never seen a dry fly where the dressing includes Krystalflash in the tail, except perhaps for a version of the Griffiths Gnat, so I was intrigued to come across the Green Simon in an English fly fishing magazine.

The article was about a fishing club that has the rights to 18 miles of the River Wharfe and River Skirfare in Yorkshire and included a picture of five must-have flies for their water. The Green Simon stood out amongst the traditional spider patterns and I just had to tie one. It was designed by a Laurence Catlow who is a well known shooter and fly fisher in that part of the world and has a whole series of books on shooting and fishing to his name. There are apparently four or five Simon patterns with the Green Simon being its latest iteration.

The Simon is a fairly straightforward fly to tie. Lay your foundation thread from eye to just above the barb.....or where a barb would be if using barbless hook.....and there tie in six strands of Krystalflash about 5mm long and the silver ribbing wire. Attach a good quality peacock herl, take your tying thread forward to just behind the eye and then wind the peacock herl forward forming a nice fluffy body, tying it off just back from the eye allow yourself room to tie in a couple of hackle feathers. Now counterwind the ribbing wire forward in three or four turns and tie it off at the same spot. The ginger or brown hackle feather is now attached followed by the white one. Wind the white hackle feather forward in three or four turns and tie it off. The ginger hackle is now carefully wound through the white and tied off in front of it. Build up a head of the orange thread, varnish or head cement it and the fly is finished.

Alan T.

