

Fly of the Month

The Black Pennell



Hook :- Wet fly 14-8

Thread :- Black

Tail :- Golden pheasant tippets

Body :- Black floss silk or tying thread

Rib :- Silver tinsel or silver wire

Hackle :- Black hen

The Black Pennell was devised in the late nineteenth century by Mr. H. Cholmondeley Pennell. Mr. Pennell was a prolific author of fishing books and one time editor of *The Field* magazine.

The Black Pennell is primarily a stillwater fly used extensively on Scottish lochs, Irish loughs and English reservoirs where it is favoured as the bob fly on loch style rigs but can also be used as a down and across fly in rivers or, of course, as a single wet fly.

Tying the fly is nice and straightforward. Lay the foundation thread from eye back to the bend where you tie in a small bunch of golden pheasant tippets about $\frac{3}{4}$ shank length and the silver ribbing. If you have black floss you also attach that and wind it forward forming a nice slim body to just behind the eye leaving room for a few turns of hackle. If you don't have black floss two or three layers of your black tying thread will do the job. Mr. Pennell emphasised that the body must be nice and slim. Next you wind the rib forward and tie it off. There is apparently some dispute about whether hen or cock feathers were originally used for the hackle but most tiers these days use hen because the Pennells is a wet fly and there is more life and movement in the softer hen feathers. Make a small head with your tying thread and form it in such a manner that you make the hackle slope to the rear.

Incidentally, the name 'Cholmondeley' is pronounced 'Chumley' in true English aristocracy manner.

A.T.

