

Jon and Linda Babulic arrived from Canada on Sunday, August 8th. They attended the weekly NFC briefing meeting and eagerly set off for the Bogen Sondre (BS2) beat with their guide Chris Lindstrom. They arrived at a lovely Norwegian farmhouse, set up their rods and walked a short distance for their first experience of the famous Gaula River. They took a small rowboat across to the gravel island. By 9 pm Chris was providing them with instructions on where and how to fish this beat for the greatest likelihood of success, especially in the very low water level.

The action was fast and furious. Within 30 minutes, Jon had a take 'a bite' followed by hooking but loosing two fish. Then Linda got a hard take. Jon hooked another fish, a big one this time; Chris coached him on playing and landing of the fish. It was 11:28 pm when Linda started snapping pictures. Unfortunately, the fish rubbed its nose in the gravel and managed to get the hook off. What a disappointment. At midnight, just as they were about to get into the little rowboat, Jon turned and looked at the spot where he had lost the fish and whispered, "I'll be back for you...."

Thursday, August 12th the rotation schedule brings Jon & Linda back to BS2 from 6:00 to noon. Chris meets them at 6 am; they don't even try to hide their excitement. They take the little rowboat across to the gravel island. As they are putting flies on their lines the fish are jumping all over the place. Linda starts down the beat first and Jon is five meters behind her. They have been there less than an hour when Jon executes a perfect Spey cast. "Here we go", he says calmly. Linda knows that means he has a fish on. She reels in her line and gets the camera. Chris coaches him on playing and landing the fish, "Turn him around". The fish won't turn, so Jon walks backwards as instructed and bring the 4-kilogram (9 pound) salmon in to the edge of the water. A beautiful salmon well deserved. Congratulations Jon.



Jon Babulic with his first salmon with his guide Christian Lindström – approx. 4kg (9 lb)and carefully released

Friday, August 13th the first rotation of the day at Long Pool – nothing, no takes, no hooks and no fish. The day is not done yet, the last rotation is at Bridge Pool; a beat famous for loosing flies in the rocks unless the back cast is perfect. Jon isn't feeling well so the agreement is that fishing will end at 22:00. It's 21:50 when Chris encourages Jon to fish the last 10 minutes. It pays off at 21:56 Jon's Bouglé screams, and Jon says: "Here we go. Come and reel it in, Linda". A team effort brings in a 1.5 kilo fresh grilse just arrived from the ocean. Great teamwork at the end of an exciting and unforgettable week on the Norwegian Flyfishers' Club beats on the famous Gaula River in Norway.



Linda and Jon Babulic are holding their "team salmon"

Photos and text by Linda Babulic.