

# Armchair fishing

**MAGNUS ANGUS** reads a book for anglers who are serious about casting

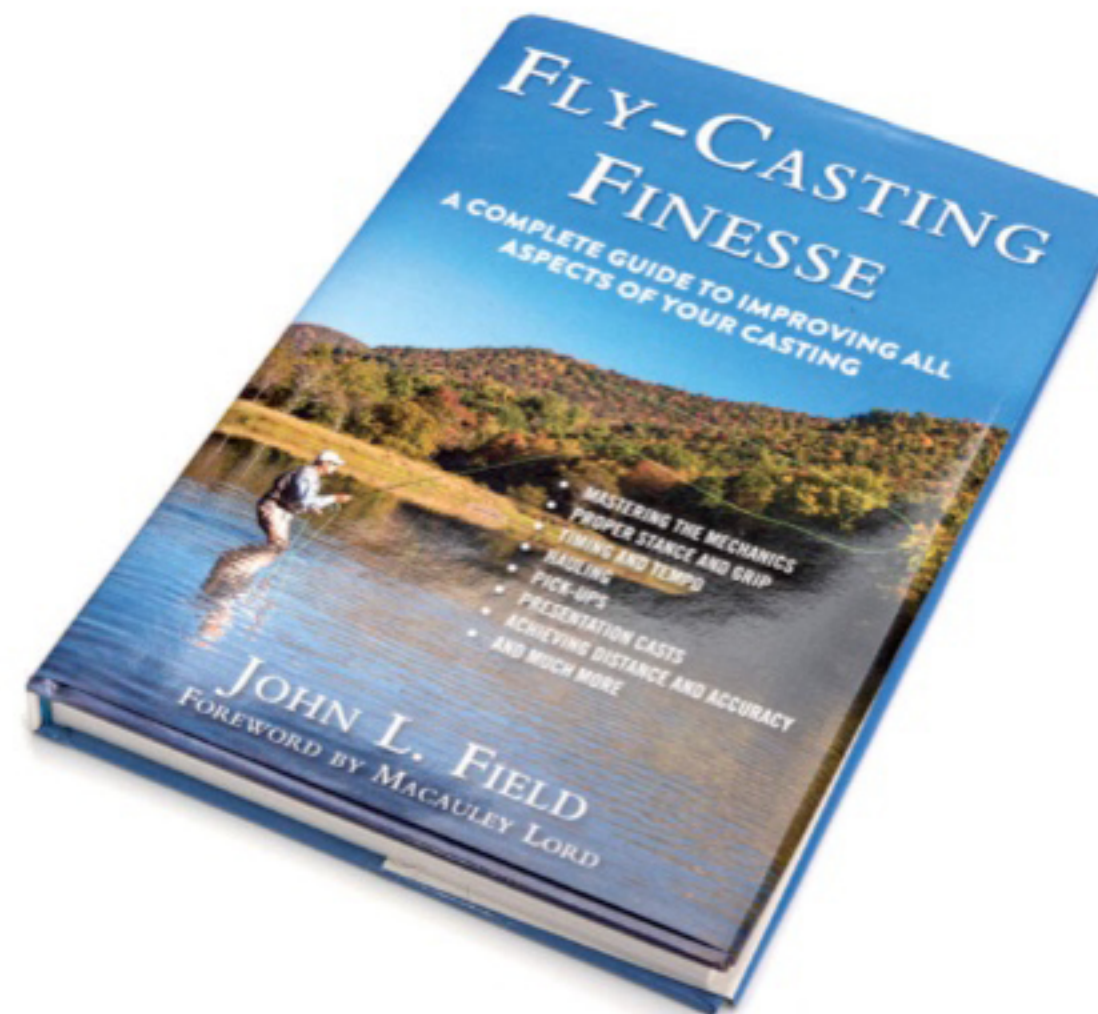
## Fly-Casting Finesse

By John L Field

Skyhorse Publishing

Price: £21.99 Amazon (hard-back)

An interesting and ambitious book. Field is an expert caster and casting instructor, however this is not simply 'Casting By John Field'. That is in there, but Field draws on a fairly wide library of casting literature, earlier writers and teachers; the research is obvious and quite extensive. The references to earlier writers and instructors are thorough and detailed, at times almost too detailed. If I were a novice caster I doubt I'd want or need careful references to who said what first, or how Lefty, or Joan explains this or that. However, as I see it this book is aimed at casting instructors more than novice casters, for anglers with a passion for the finer details of casting and casters who have a taste for, or



want to learn from, tournament style casting. So those details make much more sense and may well have value.

I like that Field tries to reconcile different schools of casting, I'm not convinced that always works well. The mechanics may well be the same, but what writers say and even how they explain the mechanics of casting is not always in agreement.

Field is an American, so there

seems to be an inevitable US bias to his sources and habits, but there is an honest attempt to see beyond US boundaries; for example, Field mentions and describe Italian TLT casting, and quotes UK casters and instructors. That said, the style of fly casting Field seems to advocate is influenced by tournament casting and is frankly quite 'international'.

I like the bias towards the

technical, physics and mechanics – I don't always agree with Field's account, or more exactly I don't always agree with the accounts he quotes, and I don't know if he realises he cites technical sources which disagree with one another.

This is a written book – which seems faintly absurd now I've written that. I mean this depends on written explanations and descriptions of casting, rather good explanations, rather than images to describe and explain. That said, there are plenty of images, photographs and line drawings, and they are well used.

As I read *Fly-Casting Finesse* I am aware I picked up a few things I had to chew on, working out if I agreed or not, I guess. Things I took to the practice field next time I went casting. I'd say this is for casting instructors, and for those of us who take fly casting seriously...