

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

Affiliated to Federation of Midland Fly Fishers(Anglia) & A.C.A.

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APRIL NEWSLETTER 1996

Dear Member

23 April 1996

This is going to be a very brief newsletter as I am in the middle of my financial year end at the moment and do not have as much time as usual to put together the newsletter. By now I am sure that you will all have caught a few trout and are looking forward to warmer weather and rising fish. The season started quite slowly with frosts in the opening week making the trout not as active as in recent years. The fish seemed to be quite localized, Dickenson's Bay, Old Hall Point and Yellowstone were the best areas in the first few days, since then Berrybutts, Fantasy Island and the end of Whitwell Creek have all produced fish. More recently a lot of larger stockfish have been caught (some would say massacred) around the three trees on the north side of the peninsula near the Finches and I'm sure they will be in great condition in a few weeks time provided they have not all been taken by the more commercial fishermen among us. One or two large over wintered fish have been taken in the 7-8 lb range club member Graham Pearson took a 7lb 8oz rainbow from Old Hall Bay on a booby on opening day.

The pre-season stocking was not quite as high as usual to try and reduce losses to cormorants which have been making their presence known to the trout early in the mornings, there were quite few casualties among the fish last week following the stocking of 5,000 2lb + fish which had to be removed by the bailiffs. One of the reasons for stocking the fish later this year is that the numbers of anglers around the lake during April will deter the cormorants whereas in March they would have had the fishery to themselves. You may have already seen the scarecrows standing around the lake (not to be confused with Barry Thompson) some in boats some on the bank in an effort to frighten the birds and I know that John Marshall and his staff have been up at dawn in the speedboat protecting the fish. John Marshall has also informed me of his plan to introduce around 100 rainbow trout in the 4-5lb range in June when they have mended themselves; he hopes to dot these around the lake in ones and twos to provide something a bit special in August and September. However this is the maximum size that stockfish will be introduced at, any record fish at Rutland must have grown on for several years. There were one or two small fish that slipped through the grading process early in the season and one lorry load was sent back although more recently the stockfish have been at the other end of the scale and I know of quite few people who have taken 20lb + limits.

Enclosed with this newsletter are the entrance forms to the two Oliver Cup competitions on May 26th at Rutland and at Grafham on July 14th so get those forms off to Richard Hearth as soon as possible especially all you Cormorants and Kingfishers who have not bothered for the past season or two, so that the event regains some of its prestige. This competition is also a good place to learn loch style fishing so if you've been thinking about trying we'd be pleased to hear from you, the emphasis on all club competitions is on taking part and having an enjoyable day, all the cloak and dagger stuff is for the Bensons and England eliminators. I have also included an entrance form for the Roger Thom Trophy and another entrance form for the Major Clubs Competition, there are still places left for people willing to fish. John Maitland informs me that he is having problems finding a team for the match at Bewl on Saturday May 11th so if you would like to represent the Club please contact John Maitland **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** his address is on the attached sheet.

There have not been many competitions yet but the J.W Bank trophy was won appropriately enough by John Wadham with 6 fish for 8lb 6oz from Yellowstone beating Roger McCarthy into second place with 4 fish from outside the boat harbour there was a disappointing field of entrants for this competition although this may have had something to do with the forecast snow. In the recent Bob Church match club members Iain Barr and Graham Pearson found the stockfish and both finished in the top five. More next time.

Paul Wild, Secretary.