

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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APRIL NEWSLETTER 1997

SEASON 1997

Needless to say the weather had the last word and we opened with the dreaded West North Westerly Gale. Tough luck for every body, especially those who travelled long distances to fish. It is interesting that this strong cold wind had no impact on the marginal water temperature which remained at an all time high of 11deg C. This has caused the fish to be much more widely spread. Since then, in unusually warm April weather but with very cold nights, it has only risen a degree or so. The sunny weather conspired to make daytime fishing difficult but there were occasional evening rises - quite a rarity in April. Small lures and all sorts of buzzer and "damsel" patterns fished on floating and intermediate lines have been most effective. Some days the fish have been well up in the water and some patient souls have caught good fish with dries. As per last season the stock fish are of excellent quality with Rainbows up to two and a half pounds and Browns up to three and a half pounds being introduced. Numerous over wintered fish have been caught fairly widely around the lake. Sadly many of these have shown the scars from wintering with cormorants with fish up to four and a half pounds being badly damaged. Quite a number are "eggy" hen fish. These will, if carefully returned to the water, I am sure recover and when mended will provide some "empty reels" in July. It is very easy to identify the over wintered fish as they are usually slim, perfectly proportioned and fight like tigers. You will be left in no doubt when you get them home and clean them. The new stockies have abundant layers of white fat around the gut off which they can live in the early season when food can be scarce. However, the over wintered fish contain almost no fat, the gut appears very small and may have a purple appearance. The flesh is also much redder. It will be a great help if these over wintered fish could be recorded on your catch returns. At the time of writing fish are being caught in most places. Barnsdale Bay, the Mound, The Lodge to the Sailing Club, Sailing Club Bay, Yellowstone, Inman's Spinney, West of Armley Wood, Dickenson's Bay, and Old Hall Bay Corner have all been good. The Shallows are not yet fishing. This is due in part to the lack of weed growth which will offer cover when it starts to grow and also to the present very clear water. This latter has necessitated a more imitative approach and buzzer and dry patterns are coming into their own and need to be fished on clear nylon leaders. The hog louse has featured largely in their diet. A hare's ear size 14, spiky and with a little lead, is a good imitation of this and has taken numerous over wintered fish. The annual "sloughing" is now in progress and like everything else is a month earlier than last year. This is when a mixture of diatoms and algae on the bed of the lake which, during spring sunlight, create gases and rise to the surface in the form of mats causing some problems for bank fisherman in calm conditions. If you examine it you will find that it sometimes contains small larvae. So try a slow sink bloodworm imitation in either green or red. When the sloughing ceases the fishing really gets into its stride. The large black buzzers are just starting to appear. Let's hope for a good hatch this year just in case, for what ever reason, the damsels don't appear as they did in 1996. As the Trout make very little use of the vast hatches of sedges, this buzzer hatch is their most important food item in the year and their chance to make good weight. The first fish to be submitted for a trophy was a Brown of 2lb 6oz submitted by junior member Jonathan Tomlinson. It was caught on a size 12 Cat's Whisker on an intermediate line in sunny flat calm conditions. He saw a very large Brown follow the lure right up to the boat. This was part of a limit catch he caught from a boat in the Sailing Club Bay and Dickenson's. Congratulations to him!. Keep them coming.

Season 1997 (Contd).

As we would expect with the continuing drought, the water level is falling steadily. So do take care as there are odd "boggy" places appearing e.g. the South West bank of Barnsdale Bay. This is an area which receives no erosion by wind and there is therefore a build up of organic matter - good bloodworm / buzzer "country". The Ospreys, Swallows, Willow Warblers and many other migrants have now arrived. As I write, it is so cold some of them must think they have gone too far North! No sign of the nightingales yet. A visit to Hambleton Wood Bay in about a fortnight would be amply repaid with bluebells and nightingales. What a prospect! Its not all about catching limits!

SUMMER FIXTURES 1997

At the competition meeting held on Tuesday January 28th the following programme of events was drawn up:-

COMPETITIONS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Function</u>	<u>Organiser</u>
Friday June 6th 1997	J.W. Bank Trophy (Details below).	John Wadham
Sunday June 8th 1997	Oliver Cup (1st leg) @ Rutland	Kevin Taylor
Sunday June 22nd 1997	Hanby Cup	John Dodds & Dick Stephen
Sunday July 13th 1997	Roger Thom Trophy (Rutland) (Boat & Bank - 8 Fish limit)	Roger McCarthy
Sunday August 3rd 1997	Loch Style Trophy	Jon Marshall & Dave Doherty
Sunday August 31st 1997	Rutland Pro / Am	Brian Thomas & Jon Marshall
Sunday September 21st	Oliver Cup (2nd Leg) @ Grafham	Kevin Taylor & John Maitland

OTHER EVENTS

Saturday June 7th 1997	Open Day for the Disabled	A.W.S.
Thursday July 17th 1997	Juniors Evening @ Rutland	Roger McCarthy

For details of these events please contact the organisers on the following telephone numbers:-

J.Dodds	01778 440213	Kevin Taylor	01778 342423
J Marshall	01780 721999	Brian Thomas	0115 9 119257
R.McCarthy	01664 67024	John Wadham	01572 771092
Dick Stephen	01572 770416		

J.W. Trophy - Friday 6th June 1997

This is a bank match fished to Reservoir rules and in order to accommodate the mid - week season ticket holders has been moved to a Friday evening. In view of this it has been decided that contestants should go straight to the fishing. This will enable late finishers at work to take part. Fishing commences at 1800 hours and ends 2200 hours with a weigh in up to 2230 hours. This should give plenty of time for you to get back to the Lodge in time. In view of the late finish, food will not be available. However the Fishing Lodge Bar will still be open. On the plus side - as a special dispensation and to unify the catch limit Jon Marshall has allowed us all an eight fish limit bag for this match and for the Roger Thom Trophy. As per last year there will be Tackle Vouchers for first second and first prizes. These will be of £15 - 00, £10 - 00 & £5 - 00 respectively. Grafham Water F.F. had a turn out of some 50 members for their event. Lets see if we can match that! Remember its just a fun event.

Trout Fisherman Rutland Water Anniversary Day Saturday May 3rd 1997

I am informed that, provided that you register at the Fishing lodge from 0800 hours on the day and you are a Season Ticket Holder, you will be eligible to fish upon production of your ticket. This applies even if you did not return an application form to T.F. A.W.S. would be glad of some volunteers from the club to help as guides & marshals on the day. For further details please contact the Fishing Lodge on - 01780 721999 a.s.a.p.

Open Day for the Disabled Saturday June 7th at Whitwell Car Park Area

A.W.S will be providing a couple of boats and some tackle for the event. It would also be very good if the club could provide some fishermen to take out disabled anglers or their offspring for short term trips of say an hour or so, or take non anglers out for trips around the lake. They really do appreciate it and a few smiling faces is worth a hundred limits! Details of the event are not yet to hand but will be published in the May newsletter. This is the Club's opportunity to show how much we care about Rutland and do something in the same vein as the litter pick up day to continue to enhance the club's image. Only two members came last year. So do come along if you can. Please contact the Secretary if you can make it.

Cyclists

Members should take care when driving around the peninsula track especially at weekends. This has now become more akin to a "white knuckle" ride as there seem to quite a number of budding Chris Boardman's about - remember that they are not expecting to meet cars - even less a white transit van! Following our comments at the users panel meeting with A.W.S. and other water users we asked for warning signs to be erected at "black spots". This work is now in hand and will include the peninsula track.

Association of Major Clubs Competition - see overleaf for details and a report on the Association match at Bewl Water on April 25th 1997.

Next newsletter out on or about May 31st 1997

Yours sincerely

John Wadham - Hon Secretary