

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

Tennyson way

Lincs

757853

Chairman

Mr. J. Maitland

Oakham

Rutland

LE15 6EW

Tel 01572 756650

Secretary

Mr. J. Wadham

Oakham

Rutland

LE15 6NN

Tel 01572 771092

Treasurer

Mr. P. Wild

Stamford

PE9 2GZ

Tel 01780

APRIL NEWSLETTER 1998

Dear Member,

Season Report 1998

Well, what a start! Right from the off, on April 1st, the hoped for over wintered fish showed up with some tremendous fish both Rainbows and Browns being caught. Some 20 over 5lb. Nine in the first week. Whitwell Creek was the main focus of attention of both anglers and fish. The large over wintered fish and later the stockies were drawn to a rich food source in the form of roach fry. These hapless fry seemed to have a form of tail rot and could be seen lying limp and helpless just below the surface and drifting out of the creek in the winds between North West and North East. This made for easy pickings for the trout and supplemented a rich diet of earth worms, slugs, crane fly larvae consumed over the newly flooded land producing some of the best Rainbows the secretary has seen since Grafham opened in 1966!

Some of the larger fish contained as many as 75 roach fry plus the digested mush of others. However the diet is gradually changing and buzzers and Corixa are being eaten. The bulk of fish elsewhere in the lake have been grazing on copious hatches of tiny green and black buzzers. But even here the larger fish have contained fry and some earth worms.

The fry feeding has not been restricted to Whitwell Creek. East Creek, Barnsdale, Berrybuts and Cardiac Hill have provided some very large fish - mainly Rainbows.

Some 8,000 fish were stocked prior to the Easter break and as of old, they all seemed to have made a beeline for Whitwell Creek. This has resulted in quite a carnage with some "anglers" taking double limits of stockies with the odd over wintered fish.. These have included stock fish up to 4lb. These stockies are "silvering" up well in the mild water and rich feeding and should soon be in fine fettle.

The bitterly cold weather and heavy angling pressure put a slight damper on the over wintered feeders' activities. However many fish are still being caught and now its warming up they are gradually returning.

There is now a good hatch of buzzer in progress - especially in the South Arm - with some larger samples hatching up to about a size 10. So lets hope that the "biggies" which now seem to have left Whitwell creek will come looking for them. If they do and you hook one in shallow water, you are going to need some thicker "string" a great deal of backing!

The colour resulting from the heavy rain caused Eye Brook to be totally unfishable. However this is settling out. Ravensthorpe apparently suffered the same fate but is now clearing. They say it's an ill wind. Rutland has, as a result, attracted a lot of customers who have enjoyed great sport.

The shallows of the North arm appear to be quiet at the moment. They will soon liven up when the warm weather - like we had in February! - Returns.

Many of our members have got among the 5 pounders - mainly in Whitwell Creek. The secretary, who always carries a camera and a tape measure, was able to obtain many pictures. These are at present with Trout Fisherman magazine and may appear in "the net" column. The photos will also be featured on our notice board at the lodge and copies sent to the respective captors listed overleaf:-

D..Rix	Peterborough	Rainbow	5lb 1oz	Minkie	Whitwell Creek
A..Mosley	Mansfield	Rainbow	5lb 12oz	Minkie	``
J.Wadham	Oakham	Rainbow	5lb 0oz	Minkie	``
``	``	``	5lb 0oz	``	``
Lewis Carlin	Oakham	Rainbow	5lb 4oz	Minkie	Barnsdale Creek
Andy Flitcroft	Stamford	Rainbow	5lb 4oz	Minkie	Whitwell Creek
Richard Hearth	Oakham	Rainbow	5lb 4oz	Minkie	``
Dick Stephen	Hambleton	Rainbow	5lb 6oz	Woolly Bugger	The Stones
Nigel Savage	Leicester	Rainbow	5lb 1oz	Floating Fry	Harbour
Jim Watchorn	Seaton	Rainbow	5lb 0oz	Nymph	Old Hall Bay
Andrew Flitcroft	Stamford	Brown	7lb 1oz	Floating Fry	Barnsdale
Roger McCarthy	Melton	Brown	6lb 9oz	Floating Fry	Harbour
Malcolm Janik	Spilsby	Brown	6lb 8oz	Minkie	Outside
Harbour					

Many other 5lb Browns have been returned - standard Brown = 5lb +. Wow!

Dick's fish contained only small buzzers - and was not caught from Whitwell Creek! - so look out you could meet them anywhere!

Almost all the large fish taken have been taken within a foot of the surface with numerous offers from "cros" on floating fry.

If there are any other takers for the "5 pounder club" please let me know so that they can appear in the next letter. Despite all this talk of big fish none have been submitted for any of the club specimen trophies. Forms are available next to our new notice board at the Lodge.

Nigel Savage started the "rot" by taking a magnificent 6 over wintered fish for 19lb on a floating fry. A method Nigel has brought to perfection. He also caught and returned a 5lb Brown on the same day as he caught the 5lb Rainbow.

Credit for the biggest fish has to go to Roger McCarthy for a 16 pounder taken at dusk in Whitwell Creek. The fish fought long and hard and very doggedly on his AFTM 6 "Sage" and after what seemed ages - i.e. a quarter of an hour - was landed. Of course it had to be Pike! Roger took the fish to the lodge and told Nigel Savage he had a 16 pounder. All excitement until he saw what it was! The large amount of flooded grassland is ideal spawning ground for Pike and some large specimens have been seen in the margins. Also, Rick Broome who caught the largest Rainbow of the season at 6lb 11oz also had two Minkies "stolen" - presumably by pike - there being little pull on the line resistance prior to the removal of the lure.

Congratulations to Andy Flitcroft for catching the best Brown by a club member so far this season. A 7lb fish taken from Barnsdale Bay.

Current best spots for both boat and bank are Green Bank, The Stones, Old Hall Point, Yellowstone, Spud Bay, Normanton Car Park area, New Zealand Point, Sykes Lane, Stockie Bay and Whitwell Creek - bank anglers only. North Arm generally very quiet although Dickenson's produced on Saturday for two former club members and of course for Rob Waddington!

With all this talk of over wintered fish. How do you identify them? Features to look for are a full slightly concave tail fin with sharp points at both lobes with a silver flush. The flush is not always present. The most reliable distinguishing feature is the gut which contains little or no white "puppy fat". The gut of an over wintered fish is relatively small and purplish in appearance but the stomach is prominent even if it has not recently eaten. There are a lot of small very silvery stockies which have a silver flush. Generally speaking most of the rainbows over 4lb are over wintered. Although on angler caught five perfect over wintered fish between 2 and 3 lb on the Green bank. These were rather thin, fin perfect and evidently not had the benefit of fry feeding - and there's another point - they fight long and hard and much faster than the silver stockies. It is well worth recording these on your return. Make no mistake though, the stockies will make very good fish by mid - summer.

Boat Fishing.

Plenty of fish have been caught but the large over wintered fish have not been the feature that they have been for the bank fisherman. Mainly due to their location in Whitwell Creek. However, one boat caught some large fish at the entrance to the Creek. All methods have been working with some anglers catching in front of the boat in the middle of the lake on floating lines. The huge influx of water over the Easter period turned the tops of the arms into "tomato soup". This has restricted activity to the main body of the lake. Pitsford had quite another problem. Too much water! Yes! It was too high for the boats to pass through the causeway into the South Lake. The water has now fallen sufficiently to allow access again. It never rains but it pours! Some very well known die hard boat anglers have been taking their toll from the bank at Rutland. In fact congratulations are due to Graham Pearson for winning the Trout Masters "Fish off" from the bank in Whitwell Creek with 8 fish for 15lb14oz.

The Bob Church Northampton Town F.C match on was won by club member Martin Introna with other club members Graham Pearson, Kevin Taylor and Tony Curtis taking second, fourth & fifth place respectively. Well done chaps!

During this event some over wintered fish were caught. So they are out there as well. The regulars seem to be averaging 10 fish per boat.

Disabled Anglers International - Rutland Water - Friday June 19th & Saturday June 20th 1998.

The secretary of the Disabled Anglers Federation, Derek Lucas is looking for seven boatmen for the two days i.e. 7 men for each day. Fishing is from 1000am to 5.00pm. You will be acting as boat handler and steward for the day. So good boat handling skills would be an advantage. Some members have already expressed an interest in helping out. So if you can help out please let your secretary know as soon as you can or contact Derek on 0116 278 5485

Visit to Wing Water Treatment Works - Wednesday 6th May at 7.00pm

Meet at the Fishing Lodge at 6.45pm for coffee. Then proceed to the works so as not to clutter the entrance to the works and cause their duty control officer a nightmare! I can honestly say that a visit is well worth while. You will be shown round by David Dimpleby the works engineer. At our visit in march Paul explained it all in easy to understand layman's terms. After our visit one realised how much goes into preparing a natural resource for human consumption. At our March visit they had "problems" with Daphnia at the intake screens. No problem for the hungry March Rainbows. No wonder they look so good!

Association of Major Clubs

(From John Maitland)

I have now nominated the RWFF team for the first association match on 24th April. However, looking ahead to the matches in June and later on, I can foresee difficulty in making up numbers unless more club members show willing to have a go. So far I have had only nine returns and although I can twist the arms of such keen boat anglers as John Wadham and Dick Stephen it would be better to have willing volunteers! I suspect that quite a few members read the piece in the last newsletter and intended to send off the proforma but somehow it never got done. Please complete the proforma attached to this newsletter and put it in the post - **NOW**. Thank you.

Nature Reserve Fishing Zones

Boat fishermen are warned that the 50 M exclusion zone from the bank abutting the Nature Reserve will be rigorously enforced. The management will take a very dim view of offenders. I am sure club members are not necessarily guilty. However, you have been warned.

July Committee Meeting

This will be held on Tuesday July 7th 1998 at 7.30pm. Venue to be advised in due course. At this meeting the winter programme will be discussed. So if you have any suggestions for future events please contact the secretary before that date so that they can be discussed and dates agreed.

Users Panel meeting Monday March 23 1998

Here are some of the salient points discussed:-

- 1) Following the recent drowning at Rutland - A.W.S. will be considering stricter implementation of safety regulations e.g. wearing of life jackets.
- 2) Toilets now refurbished with improved opening hours - for the early starter!
- 3) Distance buoys along the dam to be realigned. They are difficult to maintain in position due to the depth of the water, wind and water currents etc.
- 4) Manton Reed Bed Proposal - Feasibility study in progress. Not likely to interfere with fishing. Proposed extent is 4 hectares. Details of the plan will be available to R.W.F.F. when complete.
- 5) Fantasy Island is now available for fishing. Fenced off area around draw off tower compound is out of bounds. Its use will be monitored during the season - so don't abuse it.
- 6) The litter pick up day was well reported in the Rutland Times. Our thanks to the owner of the paper Bob Feetham for the coverage, to all those who helped and of course to AWS for their sponsorship.
- 7 Nature Reserve
Osprey Relocation Scheme - twelve birds imported from Scotland
Camera due to be installed with connection to the internet - dial a cormorant?
Amplifiers for the sounds of nature for the hard of hearing - via headphones
The 1998 Bird Fair will be held 21st to 23rd August.
Cormorants - there are 17 nests this year compared with 42 in 1997 - nothing left except roach fry to feed their young perhaps? Population appears to be moving North - look out Keilder!

Club Competitions

The Wadham Trophy - For those of you who mislaid your 1998 competitions list here are the details. This will be fished for on Friday 5th June in the evening from 6.00pm to 1000pm.

It is an individual bank fishing competition to fishery rules. Enter by booking in at the lodge in person or by phone between 9.00am and 5.45pm on the day on 01780 686441. Your name will be entered on the competitors list. 8 fish limit and no time bonus. Only those on the list will be eligible to weigh in at the Lodge between 1015 & 1030 pm. This was a great success last year with one member, Lynn Walters, taking an 8 fish limit. Remember that it is fished at the best time of the day and is just a bit of fun. Further details in May newsletter

Club Competitions (Contd.)

Oliver Cup 1998 - First round - **Rutland Water** - Sunday 14th June_

Second round **Grafham Water** - Sunday 20th September

Entry forms enclosed - deadlines for return are 5th June and 11th September respectively. Individual boat match to International rules. The club books the boats. Overall winner will be determined by the results of both rounds. 10 boats provisionally booked. 8 fish plus time bonus. If you know you can fish both legs please return both forms to Sean Cutting. The form for the second leg will also be sent out in July/August.

Hanby Cup Sunday 21st June - Rutland.

Pairs Boat match 20 boats provisionally booked. 8 fish limit no time bonus vouchers for 1st & 2nd places only. Fish 9.00am - 6.00pm weigh in 6.30pm - 6.45pm. Book in at Lodge on the day- fish to Reservoir rules.

Roger Thom Trophy -Sunday July 12th Rutland

Individual competition. Bank and boat fishing to Reservoir rules. No rudders. 8 fish limit no time bonus. Club has provisionally booked 10 boats.

Open Day for the Disabled People -Saturday 6th June 1997

This will be held at the Whitwell Creek. There will be something for all the family. Our help has always been appreciated and in 1997 they had a much increased attendance. So anything we can do to help is always appreciated. We will try and obtain some fishing boats either to take offspring or parents out for fishing trips for say one hour or just for trips "round the bay" Please help if you can. They usually start at 1100am and finish at 4.00pm. More details in May newsletter.

May Newsletter

More details re above competitions in May Newsletter due out about 28th of the month. Deadline for inclusion of news items will be 23rd.

Late Extra -

Fishery Manager -Jon - takes mad half hour on Harbour Wall and catches 5lb brown and 3lb Rainbow. No less than you deserve mate! - for providing us with the best opening since we can remember! Well done!

Have a great season

Yours Sincerely

John Wadham Hon. Secretary