

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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MARCH/APRIL NEWSLETTER 2000

Dear Member,

Great to be back on the banks again amid so many friendly faces and cheerful banter! The social side of fishing is so important. Even on the hard days you will always see groups huddled together on the bank discussing tactics and what to do or where to go next or cursing the icy blast which always seems to put in an appearance in April and of course "do you remember that day".....?

Fishing Report - Rutland 2000

As you may have heard on the "grapevine" Rutland opened in near perfect weather with overcast skies and a light wind from the South but preceded by a dawn ground frost. This quiet weather opened up most of the bank for fishing. Just as well, as some 500 turned up to fish. Surely there could not be a better testament to the quality of the fishery than that!

From the 222 returns submitted some 1361 Rainbows and 8 Browns were recorded giving an unprecedented 6.16 fish per return. The 222 catch returns sounds like a lot but it represents only approximately a 44% submission of catch returns. While one is sure that RWFF members were not guilty, we must all put in our returns to ensure the continued efficient management of the fishery

Mercifully, the fish were pretty well spread out: although, as usual, some places were more productive than others. No one place was prolific. The best places proved to be Normanton Church to the Dam, The Dam itself, Sykes Lane, The Stones/ Green Bank, The Old Hall Point, Half Moon Spinney. Curiously enough, Whitwell, Barnsdale, Sailing Club/Berrybuts, Yellowstone were less productive. This may in part be due to the relative absence of overwintered fish present in the margins. There are plenty in there: but, except for the years when they have been feeding on fry in March, don't really show up in quantity till the main buzzer hatch starts. That won't be long now

There was a reasonable hatch of tiny buzzers on both the first two days. The fish were feeding on them but appeared mainly to be on Daphnia. The fish on the "wind offshore" banks stood off: but as you would expect the onshore banks were the most productive - some anglers finding it too easy! The early morning frost on the first day caused the daphnia to drift out and sink quickly soon after sun up. This was almost certainly caused by the 180 degree change in wind from a strong biting North North Easterly to a soft and light South South Westerly.

Some of the overwintered fish caught were ripe and therefore turned rather dark after capture. Like us humans, they will soon recover given good food and some warm weather!

The best fish and winner of the £10 - 00 per pound prize and independence day trophy offered by AWS was an 8lb 7oz personal best Rainbow taken by Graham Pearson from the mouth of East Creek on an international size 10 "Chartreuse" Booby on a DI. 7 Shooting head. This fish has been submitted for the RWFF Trout & Salmon Trophy.

Graham will be acting England Team Manager at the Spring International 2000 and England Team Captain at the Autumn International 2000.

Knowing what was in East Creek in October 1999 and witnessing Graham's success, a "minkie attack" was launched on the creek. Result - one stockie! The "cross" will be back one day - mark my words!

Two other large fish were caught. A 6lb 10oz Rainbow from Pontoon Bay point and another five pounder elsewhere. There was quite a few 2 to 4lb overwintered fish caught. So the policy of stocking with the larger fish does seem to be paying off.

One or two good Browns showed up with the best fish a 5lb 4oz caught by R. Wilson from Shrewsbury.

The marginal water temp at 9 deg. C (48 deg. F in "old money") taken on the opening day was pretty uniform both on and offshore mainly due to the constantly changing wind.

Fishing Report (Contd.)

However, Monday's huge influx of cold water and the present falling snow may have some impact on that. Is it Winter or Spring, which starts on the first day of Spring? April showers? No! April blizzards! Tough luck on a Scottish group who came for the first few days.

As I write, the Northerly wind is driving spume over the Harbour Wall. Not a day for the "Wall Man" - sorry Terry! The huge amount of rainfall - Wittering, 5 miles away, had the highest fall in the UK at 1.67ins on Monday - has considerably coloured up the tops of the arms and slightly reduced the water temperature. The Guash at Sounding Bridge resembled a torrent of tomato soup! There is a plus side to this. The water was very clear for the off so the colour may help. Also the sudden influx of icy melt water could drive the fish out of the arms and concentrate them in the main body of the lake. However, the forecast is good, fish are still being caught and plenty being stocked. On Tuesday one angler took his limit off the Stones in a 40 knot Northerly gale - brave man. He deserved them all.

It is very gratifying to see, and there has already been much favourable comment on, the increased presence of AWS staff patrolling the banks this season - keep up the good work chaps.

Resurfacing work is in progress on the peninsula perimeter track. But take care where the track has subsided near the Old Hall cattle grid.

Litter Pick Up Day March 5th 2000

This was a great success with some twenty-six members and AWS staff in attendance. We collected some 30 bags of rubbish and the raffle realised £50 - 00. Our thanks to AWS who put £100 - 00 towards it. The presentation of the sum of £150 - 00 to the RACS - Rutland Accident Care Scheme - will be at 12 30 on Friday 7th April at the Fishing Lodge. Thanks to all those who came on a lovely sunny morning. Thanks to Steph and her staff at "Tickled Trout" for the delicious bacon sandwiches.

It is sad that each year we seem to collect so much litter - some items of which defy belief. However we may be winning as we seem to get slightly less each year.

This function which does enormous good for the cause of anglers nation-wide was reported in the local press and details given to enquiring passers by.

Philip White

On the 7th March we welcomed Philip White former river keeper on the Haddon Hall stretch of the Derbyshire Wye and now with Lathkill Tackle in Darley Dale.

He gave the few people who came a fascinating insight into the problems and joys of managing a river fishery and the discomfort of the stripping of the fish for breeding the new stock which always seems to coincide with a freeze up! He went on to highlight problems associated with the apparent "right to roam" and told some horrific tales of his encounters and methods of dealing with those who chose to roam on his patch!

It was most interesting to learn that the Lathkill river a tributary of the Wye is, an entirely artificial fishery, in a river bed which receives only a small flow of underground limestone water.

Philip emphasised the need for stealth when approaching fish in any waters whether the clear waters of the Wye or bank fishing at Rutland Water.

He is a firm believer in the brown as opposed to the highly coloured lines and made out a good case for it.

Matt rod finishes were recommended. The tackle trade might take note of that. Perhaps it does not sell rods. How many motorists would buy a new car in a matt finish?

The Wye is almost entirely syndicated. However some half days are available.

Philip suggested that the nearest Grayling fishing available to us on a day ticket is the R.Wharfe at Bolton Abbey in Yorkshire. Further afield of course is the Welsh Dee. I am sure Philip would be pleased to give details on these and other matters. Contact him at Lathkill Tackle on 01629 735101

Pre - Season Dinner & Speaker - Tuesday 21st March 2000

This year, we were pleased to welcome Taff Price as our After Dinner Speaker and John Wilshaw from Trout & Salmon as club guest. Well, we did well in our choice of speaker. Just as well he spoke after we had finished our coffee or we might have choked on some of his incredibly funny stories. For those of you who have heard him speak before will know what I mean. He told us of adventures on the Amazon. At which point the secretary intervened to ask him if he would care to come and tell us about it next February. He agreed to do this - not to be missed!

Pre – Season Dinner (Contd.)

He had been to Wakefield the night before and went straight home to Kent from us to ensure he would be ready to catch his flight to Mozambique the next day!

Thirty-two members had a really entertaining evening in a nice ambience, good company and excellent food - for which many thanks to Alan Brown the resident chef at the Victoria Hall.

This function was reported in the local press

Association of Major Clubs Competition 2000

Please find enclosed the application form for the Association of Major Club Competitions for the 2000 season. There is a lot of work involved in arranging this event so if you can represent the club please get your forms back to Sean Cutting as soon as possible.

Club Competitions 2000

Please find enclosed a list of the club competitions plus application forms. If you want to fish in any of these or the AMC events please again get your forms back to Sean as soon as possible so the boats can be booked and integrated into the match programme at the respective waters.

Commonwealth Championship - Wednesday May 24th Rutland Water?

The organiser, Bob Church is looking for competent boatmen. If you can help out contact the Fishing Lodge on 01780 686441 or Bob Church direct at his factory on 01664 627052. They have 20 boats booked. It sounds quite a cosmopolitan affair with competitors from Canada, New Zealand, Australia etc. It should be quite an education and who knows what may follow from that. Who knows? You may get an invite to some exotic location.

Juniors Evening Thursday 20th July 2000

Twenty boats have been booked for this event. If you can help out on 20th please contact Andy Flitcroft on 01780 754004 or 01733 465054. This is one of the highlights of the season and is a great way of introducing much needed youngsters into the sport. Full details in next letter.

AWS Fishery Appointments

Congratulations to Jon Marshall on his promotion to Site and Fishery Manager at the “big four” reservoirs plus Hollowell and is now based at Wing W.T.W.

Congratulations also to John Seaton and Nathan Clayton both of whom have been promoted to the post of Senior Warden at Rutland and Pitsford respectively.

We wish them all well in their new roles and we must give them our full support.

Rutland Water Guide - Quick Finder Chart

Please find enclosed quick finder notice. Henry & I thought it appropriate that having seen where the wind was when you arrived to fish you would want to know the most productive spots to go in that particular wind

Salmon & Trout Association - Leicester & Rutland Branch

Members Social Evening - Tuesday 18th April at the Barnsdale Lodge Hotel at 7.30pm

The Hotel is the one to the North of the A.606 at the Barnsdale Cross Roads. However, there is a limit of 50 persons in the room.

The speaker will be the well known and much travelled angling personality Charles Jardine. Admission will be £4 - 00 and will include an entry in a draw for a days fishing for two at either Thornton or Cropston Reservoirs.

There will also be a raffle and prizes for this would be very welcome.

Salmon & Trout Association (Contd.)**Cropston Fishing Day - Saturday 30th September**

The cost will be £12 - 50 per head with a 1300 hours start and fishing available from both bank and boat
The numbers are limited to thirty on the day.

As the RWFF, as a club, is a member then members are eligible to take part in both events

If you wish to take part in either of the above functions please contact the organiser Ian Kilgour on 0116 235 0025

Thames Water Shield - Open Bank Fly Fishing Competition - Farmoor 2 Reservoir - Saturday May 6th

Proceeds to English Youth Flyfishing Association. Fish 1000 hours - 1700 hours.

Cost is £21-00-Non concessionary & £16 - 00- Concessionary. Lots of prizes to be won.

Further details and application forms for this event are available from the Farmoor 2 Fishing Lodge or E.Y.F.A. c/o Deborah Allan, 26 Valentia Close, Bletchingdon, Oxford, OX5 3DF – Tel: 01869 350131

Club website

The site - detailed in the letterhead - aims to provide information throughout the season. If you are on the “net” and want to view the newsletter “on line” then please contact the club secretary for the password.

Gary Legge would like to receive photos of Rutland in the old days to put on the site. E.g. the Old Lodge, boats, catches etc. preferably with captions on the back. Gary is also including a “rogues” gallery and in it he would like to do features on club members, the stars, committee members, AWS staff etc. He would like some photos accompanied by brief write up on them.

Please send the photos etc to Gary Legge at 1 Wellfield Close South Witham Grantham Lincs NG33 5SN

Late Extra

Considering the horrendous weather, the boats have done pretty well. A Scottish group on catch & release did very well to catch 70 fish in their 5 day stint in the worst possible conditions including blizzards. The must be very hardy souls North of the border.

The RAF bank match fished on Wednesday 5th April produced very well. 70 Anglers caught 189 fish for 338lb 14oz giving an average size of 1lb 13oz and 2.7 fish per rod. Bearing mind that there was a force 6 biting Northerly blowing this a tremendous catch.

Water Industries Game Fishing Competition – WIGFIC – Friday 5th May 2000. Don't forget that the bank will be closed to bank fishing until the match finishes at 1600 hours.

As suggested earlier, the fish seem to have moved towards the dam and the current most productive places appear to be The Dam to Whitwell Creek, Yellowstone and the Dam itself

Not much sign of fish moving yet. So, keep it deep with nymphs and small “Taddies”

And finally

The weather can only get better!

Roll on the large red/ black buzzers and CDC fishing!

Have a great season!

Yours sincerely

John Wadham