

# **RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS**

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

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## **March/April 2001 Newsletter**

Dear Member

### **Fishing report**

If one had one wish at the end of March it would be for a perfect day for fishing at Rutland. The warmth and sunshine on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April would therefore have fulfilled ones hearts desire.

The water, however, was very cold (5deg C). With a soft Southerly wind which had been very strong on the previous day with an air temperature of 18deg C, it was reasonably certain that the fish would be on the lee shore. I.e. where the warm surface water was being blown to. Thus, any bank or bay facing south was going to be a good bet. This proved to be the case with Whitwell Creek, Barnsdale and the Mound being the most productive. The former is still probably the best bet.

There is only one way for the water temp to go and that is up! Although, as I write, the air temp is 4deg C in sleet with a 33 knot westerly gale. Lets hope this doesn't undo all the good work of the weekend warmth. The stockies, which averaged 1lb 10oz, were of very good quality and quite silvery.

The diet was almost entirely tiny buzzers which, to judge by the quantity in the stomachs of the fish, were obviously hatching in profusion. The rest of the diet consisted of odd snails and caddis cases and bloodworms.

There was quite a good rise in Whitwell Creek and elsewhere to this tiny buzzer and to bloodworms rising in the slough. You know – it is that surface scum which a friend of mine described as “that crappy stuff that rises from the bottom in April and May”. This scum which consists mainly diatoms contains plenty of fish fodder so don't be put off fishing through it.

From the bank use a floating or sink tip line with buzzer/bloodworm dropper and small lure of your favourite colour on the point of as long a leader as you can cast. The best method is to allow all to sink - look out for takes on the drop - fish slowly then speed up for the induced take.

One or two overwintered fish were caught with Michael Mohan of Yaxley taking the best Rainbow of 6lb 11oz from Barnsdale on a minkie. Sadly some of these overwintered fish exhibited the tell tale marks of cormorant damage. Some were eggy but others perfect silver “slimline” specimens. Two or three Browns were caught and as you would imagine, these were perfect fish averaging about 5lb and resembling sea trout. The best one the secretary saw was a perfect 5lb fish taken by Peter Bills from the boat on a tube. A 6lb 5oz brown was also taken from the bank near the Fishing Lodge. There has just been a stocking of Browns. So, if you start catching them in numbers move on and give them a chance to settle in.

Like the bank anglers, the boats caught mainly stockies with a smattering of overwintered fish.

At present there is no limit on the boat fishing areas except the 50 metre limit from the bank or Nature Reserve.

The attendance was well down on 2000 but a catch per rod of 6.5 was reported.

Recent pumping combined with heavy rain and snowfall in the wettest March since 1988 have conspired to bring the water up to top level. So, no need to wade anywhere. And when the banks dry out we should be able to sit there and enjoy what promises to be a lovely spring. The chiff chaffs are now to be heard round the lake, as are the first warblers. Also, when the respective banks are open, keep an ear out for the nightingales, which normally come to Barnsdale & Hambleton Woods respectively. In April they sing day and night – sheer delight!

**Fishing report (Contd.)**

Enclosed for your attention is the map showing available fishing banks. With the ever changing F&M situation, it is still worth checking with the Fishing Lodge on 01780 686441 before proceeding to your chosen bank fishing spot. The last thing we as anglers want to do is to endanger our local farmer's lively hoods. We are very lucky to have any where to fish at all. So please observe all the precautions.

Other Anglian Reservoirs are open but still check what is available with the relative fishing lodges. Viz. Pitsford & Ravensthorpe on 01604 781350 and Grafham on 01480 810531.

**Pre - Season Dinner with Keith Arthur**

This was a very congenial evening in company with Keith Arthur of Sky Television and Angling Times fame.

We all sat down to an excellent meal of roast British beef provided at very reasonable cost by Alan Brown and his staff at the Victoria Hall.

Keith related some of his encounters with giant fish from all over the world. Particularly heart rending was his account of the loss of a giant Tarpon hooked on a fly. After a six-hour battle the fish finally reached the safety of the deep water outside the reef only to be taken by a Hammerhead shark!

Keith, was very touched to be presented with a fly box provided by John Maitland and engraved by Dick Stephen containing a selection of Rutland patterns tied by club and committee members. Sean Cutting also presented him with his compact disc of Rutland patterns.

Keith, who very kindly came just for the evening, had to drive all the way to Ham in Surrey afterwards!

Sadly, Alan Brown is moving on from the Victoria Hall. Amid applause, the chairman thanked Alan for the excellent meal and presented him with a cheque for £100 - 00 for his generous services to the club over the years. We all wish him well for the future.

Thanks to the organisational skills of Jon Marshall this was all in all; a very enjoyable evening in good company.

**Tackle Auction Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

This was a great success. Some 86 members and guests attended and provided over 200 lots. A very big thankyou to Jeff Dale for managing to trade these lots in just over 2 hours. Jeff very kindly donated his fee for the occasion to the youth programme. The total income from sales was about £1500 - 00. We owe a big thankyou to the committee and club members whose hard work in laying out the sale items, booking in and cashing up made the event go very smoothly.

**Sky Sports – Game Angler of the Year.**

Congratulations to Graham Pearson for polling the most votes as game angler of the year from a final short list of those nominated by Sky television which comprised Nigel Collins, John Horsey, Gareth Jones & Simon Robinson. In 2000 Graham represented England and managed the team in the Spring International in Ireland. He captained England to victory in the autumn international at Llyn Brenig and came third in the match. He was a member of the ACA Masterline Team that won the Hardy International Championship. He was also winner of the Troutmasters Championship

**Newsletters**

An attempt will be made to provide a monthly edition to paid up members. So, if you know of anyone who appears not to be receiving one please let the secretary know.

Lets hope for some fine sunny warm weather. This, the experts tell us, should put paid to the F&M menace and of course make fishing on exposed reservoir banks all the more enjoyable.

Yours sincerely

John Wadham Hon Secretary

Enclosures:- Application forms for Hanby Cup, Roger Thom, Oliver Cup(both legs),  
Pro/Am, Major Clubs, full details of club match programme.