

# RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



April 2004

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## John Wadham's Fishing Report

### Bank Fishing Report

The season at Rutland as usual got off to a flier. The weather could hardly have been better. A very warm sunny day on the Wednesday – up to 20 Deg C in some areas: then a lovely soft overcast day to follow for the off with a wind varying between South & East. This meant that most of the water could be covered from the bank and it spread people out so that no one place got hammered.

**This was borne out by the catch return for the first day - 744 fish from 113 returns giving a great average of 6.25 per return! Best rainbow on the first day weighed 5lb 10oz caught by Nick Allcock from Leicester. The best Brown weighing 5lb 14oz was taken by Chris Healey of Oakham**

March 2004 was one of the coldest for many years but, in the week prior to the opening, thanks to strong relatively mild winds, the water temp gradually crept up to reach 7.5 in the margins for the first day. This is about average but compares poorly with an exceptionally high 10deg C in 2003

As a result of this rise in water temperature, fish were caught very widely on all manner of fly patterns and by all methods. Numerous overwintered fish were caught but, with a lower water temperature, there were fewer than in 2003.

That should leave plenty for later on. Generally speaking, deep fishing was the order of the day with long leaders on floating lines or intermediate/slow sinkers.

With a lake full of lovely clear water, in most places, wading was unnecessary and would no doubt have been very chilling in the cold margins. With a high bank behind, I saw one or two wading anglers getting in and out of the wa-

ter attempting to remove their flies from the rearguard vegetation. A fair rule of thumb is that "for every ten yards you wade the fish take another twenty"! Early season fish are quite green and tend to stay close in. The diet was quite varied including daphnia, tiny buzzers, ostracods (tiny free-swimming mussels - the size of daphnia), snails. A near 5lb brown taken from the Stones contained corixa. This fish had wintered very well and could easily have been mistaken for a Sea Trout!

In view of their diet – especially the daphnia, the recent warm winds and the supreme clarity of the water, there would seem to be some benefit in fishing into the wind. There were a lot of fish between the Old Hall Point and the Green Bank in a Southerly wind coming in from 10.00 O'clock.

On these warm evenings there has been a short-lived rise. If you blinked you missed it: but it meant that the fish had actually come up in the water so less weighty patterns proved more effective. The fish appeared to be see-sawing, i.e. rising from the bottom to take something off the surface then sounding again. A good ploy in that case is to put the fly well ahead of the fish to get it down to their level. In these cases, if you cast directly at the rise, the fish is actually looking the wrong way!

However, the weather always has the upper hand. Northerlies are now predicted for mid-week onwards. Wouldn't you just know it! No! We don't want a white Easter! However the recent warm weather should have raised the water temperature sufficiently to ensure continued great fishing through any cold snap.

Nobody could quibble with the quality and size of the fish stocked. Many of them have already showed signs of silvering up. This time of year they must tuck in to whatever is available to get them through what appear to be increasingly hot summers.

No evidence of the large buzzers yet. When this hatch gets under way, it will no doubt - as per 2003 - galvanising the overwintered stock into a feeding frenzy – especially in the top of the South Arm. Very interesting is the

capture of a 4½lb eel taken from the Harbour Wall. The fish which measured 3ft 9in was caught on a yellow head black tadpole – have we trophy for the "best eel"?

**Leon Smith followed his capture of the best fish of the first week at Grafham – a Rainbow of 5lb 6oz taken from the dam on a competition size Black Taddy – with a 4lb 8oz specimen from the Yellowstone bank at Rutland**  
The best rainbow reported from Rutland is an 8lb 3oz specimen taken from the bank at New Zealand point by Stuart Young from Glaston on a black buzzer on a floating line on Saturday. The fish was hen but in appeared to have wintered very well, as have the other larger Rainbows.

### Boat fishing

Like the bank fishing, fish have been widespread. Most productive areas however have been Normanton, Sykes, Cardiac Hill, Dickensons, Yellowstone & Old Hall area. So, mostly in the main basin.

Best methods have been slow-sink lines and Black & Green lures and the dreaded "Blobs & Sparklers. However some have fared quite well with buzzers on floaters at anchor.

### Stocking

15,000 already stocked. 6,000 fish to go in this week including some of the promised 15,000 Browns.

### Horseshoe Catering "Water's Edge" Restaurant - Rutland Fishing Lodge.

Neil will be opening the Waters Edge as usual from 07.30 and, for our comfort, will be refurbishing it with new chairs & tables. They are offering 20% discount on menu items to season & day ticket anglers. For further details contact Simon on 01780 686444.

### The Harbour Bar and Restaurant – Whitwell Creek.

This establishment occupies the former fishing lodge in Whitwell Creek and has now been refurbished by John & Louise Bloor trading as "Rutland Puma" Catering. They are offering a variety of menus and also with 20% discount to Rutland season & day ticket anglers. For the time being, they will be open from 09.00 to 18.30 and weekends 09.00 till dusk. For further details contact John & Louise on 01780 460007

### Weekly Updates

John Wadham has been approached by Rutland Times for a weekly update on the bank fishing. So anything, however trivial on any subject related to Rutland Water would be much appreciated by: E mail or phone on 01572 771092 or mobile 07762 607630.

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# RWFF's CLUB COMPETITIONS 2004

Using member's feedback from our competition survey, we have organised this year's programme, the early part of which is listed below. The principle changes have been the introduction of a new bank fishing competition, the Cutting Trophy, the scrapping of time bonuses and making the 'boils' out of bounds. 10 boats have been booked for all boat matches.

**CUTTING TROPHY round 1**      Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April      10.00am - 6.00pm  
Individual bank fishing competition to fishery rules. The match will both start and finish at the lodge.

**CUTTING TROPHY round 2**      Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October      10.00am - 6.00pm  
Individual boat competition to fishery rules. Overall winner will be determined by results from both rounds.

**ROGER THOM TROPHY**      Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May      10.00am - 6.00pm  
Individual boat competition. Fishing to International rules.

**JOHN WADHAM TROPHY**      Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May      6.00pm - 10.00pm      I  
Individual evening bank fishing competition to fishery rules. Enter by booking in at the Lodge in person from 5.00pm onwards, with fishing starting no sooner than 6.00pm. Your name will be then entered on the competitors list. Only those on the list will be eligible to weigh in at the Lodge between 10.15pm & 10.30pm. The match will both start and finish at the lodge. **Note:** There will be no meal after this match.

**HANBY CUP**      Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June      10.00am - 6.00pm  
Pairs boat fishing competition to reservoir fishery rules. Enter by booking in at the Lodge on the day. Only 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> place vouchers to be awarded. Weigh in at the Lodge between 6.30pm - 6.45pm.

**OLIVER CUP – Round 1**      Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, Rutland      10.00am - 6.00pm  
**OLIVER CUP – Round 2**      Sunday 26<sup>nd</sup> September, Grafham      10.00am - 6.00pm

Individual boat fishing competition to be fished to "International Rules".  
Separate entry for each round. Overall winner will be determined by results from both rounds.

**LOCH STYLE**      Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September      10.00am - 6.00pm

Pair's Boat fishing competition to International Loch Style rules. Entry is by returning the entry slip. Limit is 16 fish to the boat, with no time bonus. There will be a 'best fish' and 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy presented. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> place vouchers only for this match. Weigh in at the lodge between 6.00pm - 6.15pm prompt.

- All matches will have an 8 fish limit.
- There will be the presentation of the competition trophy replicas after each of the matches plus vouchers for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> places. The original trophies will be presented at the Club's annual dinner.
- There will be a subsidised meal after each match at the **Horse & Panniers in North Luffenham**. You must indicate on the application form if you intend to stay for the meal.



## RWFF LITTER PICK-UP DAY CREW

This is our annual early March event and this year some 52 dustbin liners of assorted rubbish were collected from around the car parks and the margins of the lake. Before we set off, we were provided with delicious bacon butties & coffee, provided by Waterside catering at the Fishing Lodge. We were also provided with large bin liners and a pair of sturdy rubber gloves. Our grateful thanks go to all those who took part, as shown on the above photograph.

AWS sponsored the event and the proceeds will be presented in April to Dr Gray – the founder of the Rutland Accident Care Scheme (RACS) which has now been renamed the East Midlands Immediate Care Acheme (EMICS) (see below). In addition to making the place clean and tidy and providing funds for a good cause, this event gives the club superb positive public presence.

### Tackle Auction—February 23<sup>rd</sup>

Some 70 members and guests attended our annual function held at the Victoria Hall. Our thanks to Jeff Dale for his very capable services as auctioneer and for providing us with numbered cards. This is much better than having to shout your name out each time you win a bid. He very generously donated his fee as auctioneer to EMICS (Formerly RACS).

Thanks to all those who supplied the 125 items for sale which included some super fly selections and some very good quality rods and kit.

### East Midlands Immediate Care Scheme (Formerly RACS)

The former Rutland Accident Care Scheme (RACS) will in future be part of the East Midlands Immediate Care Scheme (EMICS) under the Chairmanship of Dr Tim Gray of the Oakham Medical Practice who founded RACS in 1984. (See front-page feature on EMICS in the Rutland Times (Friday March 26<sup>th</sup>). In this issue Tim thanked all the people of Rutland for their support over the years.

The scheme is a registered charity and relies heavily on voluntary contributions. They are seeking new doctors in other counties to carry the message forward and help raise funds. They are based at the Oakham Medical Practice on Cold Overton Road, Oakham. Tim is hoping to roll out the service to serve the area covered by the East Midlands Ambulance Service.

RWFF received a letter from Tim thanking us for our support and added that he was sad to lose the name "Rutland".

As a club we will continue to support EMICS and wish them all success in the future: who knows we may need their services on the bank at Rutland Water. For further information contact Mary Boothroyd on 01572 759680



Back Row Nigel Millner, Charles Bowers, John Innes, Roy Taylor, Andy Wells Front Row Trevor Ashby, Paul Wild, Kevin Taylor, Leon Smith

## Annual Awards Dinner, the Noel Arms, Whitwell 10<sup>th</sup> March 2004

Held for the first time in the pleasant ambience at the Noel Arms, this years function was a great success with a record number of members and guests present. The food was excellent.

The speaker for the evening was Mel Parrott who regaled the assembled company with many amusing anecdotes on a range of subjects and in company with the RWFF Chairman Mr John Maitland, presented the annual club awards.

### RWFF PRIZE LIST 2003 SEASON

Trout & Salmon Shield (Best Rainbow)	Trevor Ashby	8lb 2oz
Trout Fisherman Shield (Best Brown)	Charles Bowers	5lb 3½oz
Mike Ellis Junior Trophy (Best Rainbow)	Richard Baines	3lb ¾oz
Loch Style Trophy - Winner	Leon Smith & Barry Vaughan	
Loch Style - 2nd Place	Kevin Taylor & Paul Wild	
Loch Style (Best Fish)	Terry Butler	
Hanby Cup	Roy Taylor & Andy Wells	
Oliver Cup	John Innes	
Roger Thom Trophy	Paul Wild	
Wadham Trophy	Iain Barr	