

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



April 2005

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DIARY DATES

Sunday 17th April –
Cutting trophy
Bank match;
10.00 – 6.00;

Sunday 29th May –
Hanby Cup
Boat match;
10.00 – 6.00;

Friday 3rd June –
**John Wadham
Trophy**
Evening Bank
match;
6.00 – 10.00

Friday 24th June
Water Aid Day

Sunday 3rd July –
BBQ match
Afternoon / evening
boat match;
1.00 – 9.00
BBQ - 5.00—6.00



John Wadham's Fishing Report

The water is near top level, although, due to what has now been confirmed as the driest winter since 1975/76 has dropped a little and is very clear. The water temp is 6.5 Deg C which is about average for late March and certainly not as cold as the opening day in 1987 when it was 1.5 Deg C and still fished its head off!

There is no doubt the fish are not too affected by the cold early season but like us get fed up with it if it goes on. We have had many starts under ice!

As we all hoped and expected Rutland got off to a flier. This was due to a number of reasons. Firstly, we were blessed with some lovely quiet and warm weather. This in itself was a welcome change to the very cold early March, which preceded the opening. Secondly, the lake

reached top level around Christmas time. This quite clearly has allowed the margins to re-colonise. This is evident from the current big hatches of a tiny black buzzer in the margins. A similar event occurred in November 1992, which coincided with an early refill of the lake.

Thirdly and most importantly from the trout's point of view is the dense bloom of daphnia which they are grazing at the moment. Don't forget though that, unlike us humans, daphnia shuns the sunshine so dull days and early mornings are more likely to be productive. The fish are also consuming large quantities of tiny buzzers & a tiny green worm, which lives in the silt but regularly drifts around where the wind is blowing in.

You will infer therefore from the foregoing that with such clear water it pays to look for some colour. However this rule does not always ap-

ply. The basic rule is - warm in March fish into wind. Cold in March fish down wind. Recently with the cold north easterly winds the water and air temp have been about equal. So cross wind or sheltered spots also seem to be worth a try. This was graphically illustrated in the Old Hall Bay on Thursday night. In a northeast (left hand) wind one or two fish were being caught. As often happens at Rutland the wind shifted 90 degrees to a South Easterly and straight in ones face. Within minutes everyone was into fish and some took their limits within the hour. No! They were not fresh stockies as their stomachs were full of Daphnia. Some very large fish have been seen in the margins. So be on your guard for that croc who likes the stockies for company! A number of over-wintered fish have been caught and have varied quite a lot in condition. Cont.

Cont. The hen fish looked to be plumper than the triploids although not as silver. If you have any doubt about the identity of an over-wintered fish, the guts will reveal all. The o/w fish contain no white “puppy fat” and the gut is relatively small and has a purplish appearance and the stomach is often distended. The silvering in the tail is also a give away feature. They don’t get pellets every day so need to work hard for their food. Thus they tend to dispute harder for their liberty.

With the fish feeding mainly on daphnia, fly patterns have been academic. Black & Green Tadpoles in conjunction with buzzers seem to be a safe bet. JW has been imitating the other part of their diet and catching them on size 16 buzzers – still about five times larger than the real thing!

One very gratifying part of the fishing this year is that the North Arm has been producing fish with a good bloom of daphnia and tiny buzzers present. Leon Smith has been having a great time here but as in the rest of the lake on a “hit & miss” basis. The shoals of Rainbows are continually on the move.

Fish have been caught all around the lake. Normanton seeming to be the most productive at the moment with some fish movement and fish grazing on the clouds of daphnia here. The rest of the lake is now available. You would hardly have thought so as only one person was on the Green bank and no one could be seen between the Sailing Club and Gibbet Gorse on April 1st! Perhaps they thought it was an April fool!

The boats? Well, they appear, like the bank anglers, to be catching fish in most places: Sailing Club to Gibbets & Normanton being the most favoured spots. These places of course have had quite a lot of hammer. Intermediate lines in conjunction with the lure of your choice: i.e. the one in which you have most confidence including the dreaded B&G. So far, including Catch & Release they are averaging 8.1 fish per rod!

While the fishing is reasonably easy and you are catching plenty this is the time to help anyone who appears to be struggling: especially beginners and those new to Rutland. People are always immensely grateful. JW was even offered a day on the Test for just a few words of advice! A little help is worth a lot of pity!

Car Park Attendants

AWS are looking for Car Park attendants at Rutland Water. Duties would be at the weekend and bank holidays 0945 hours – 1600 hours. Contact John Seaton at the lodge for more details.

The Bob Garratt Memorial Seat

This year’s tackle auction was used as an opportunity to raise money towards the Bob Garratt Memorial Seat. We managed to coincide the auction with the only evening of snow in Oakham this year and as a result the attendance was reduced to forty members. Despite that, there were plenty of lots of a huge and interesting variety. The first 70 were items from the late Bob Garratt. This was half of the 140 lots assembled by Tommy Graham, Mick Lacey and John Wadham. At the request of his widow, Ann, the proceeds from the sale of his the first 70 items will be put towards a seat in his memory. This has now been installed and is located on the West side of the Old Hall point looking towards Lax Hill. A perfect location and already much sat in!

The remainder of Bob’s tackle - comprising a further 70 lots will be auctioned next year with the proceeds going to the Rutland Palliative Care Ward at the Rutland Memorial Hospital.

Cooking with Game

Barnsdale Lodge Hotel February 7th 2005

JW had some initial doubts of the possible success of such a venture. He need not have worried, as, in the event, it all went very well indeed. This was in no small way due to the very professional organisation by the Barnsdale Lodge Hotel staff and their events manager Jane Hales. Richard Caruthers who



was scheduled to give the presentation suddenly had a happy event on the day. He is now a father! So, Martin Selby from Grantham stepped into the breach at a moments notice. The general impression one got from his presentation was that Martin did this regularly. In fact he had not done anything like it before. To judge by his oratory skills he could have fooled all of us. The hotel provided us with a headed programme sheet and a very useful written guide on how to prepare game for the table. Martin's skill in filleting of the fish and butchering the venison was quite breathtaking. They say that cooking is in the tasting. Well the tasters of both the venison and fish were

superb. Martin also prepared some delicious sauces to go with both meat & fish. Copies of the recipes for these will be available from JW shortly. Our thanks to Ziggy Lesiakowski & Roy Kedge for providing the venison and Rainbow trout respectively. Members and their ladies said that this was definitely one of the most enjoyable evenings out we have arranged for some time.

RWFF MONTHLY £10 PRIZES

Don't forget to claim your prize! From April to October this year, every month we will pay £10 for the best rainbow and £10 for the best brown trout caught by a member. To enter, the fish must be over 4lb and be weighed in and photographed by the wardens.

Litter pick up day Sunday 6th March

The club is very grateful to the handful of members who turned out for what we see as one of our best opportunities to tell the public at large how much we care about our Rutland Water.

Thanks also to those who took the trouble to write to John Wadham offering apologies for absence. Our thanks also go to the Waters Edge catering for the delicious bacon sandwiches. The sponsorship money ex AWS for this event will be going to the Rutland Palliative Care Ward at the Rutland Hospital and will be presented to Sue Grainger in April.

RWFF PRIZE LIST 2004 SEASON

Trout & Salmon Shield (Best Rainbow)	R. McKendrick	6lb 14oz
Trout Fisherman Shield (Best Brown)	R. McCarthy	6lb 9oz
Mike Ellis Junior Trophy (Best Rainbow)	Luke Shevlin	4lb 10oz
Fario Junior Trophy (Best Brown)	Tom Cooper	2lb 15oz
“ “ “ “ “	Luke Shevlin	
Loch Style Trophy - Winner	Leon Smith & Barry Vaughan	
Loch Style - 2nd Place	Bob Barr & Keith Jones	
Loch Style (Best Fish)	Vacant – no claimants	
Hanby Cup	Mike Barrett & Graham Pearson	
Oliver Cup	John Tattersfield	
Roger Thom Trophy	John Tattersfield	
Cutting Trophy	Graham Cooper	
Wadham Trophy	Tom Cooper	
Rutland Horse Shoe	Bob Garratt (posthumously)	

ANNUAL DINNER & PRESENTATION EVENING 2005

This year 40 of us assembled in the Whipper In Hotel in Oakham for what proved to one of our best dinners yet. The food was excellent and the room was ideally suited for the numbers and the presentation of our 2004 trophies. John Wadham read out a message from our Chairman who is still recovering from his knee operations. He thanked Jon Marshall for organising a terrific evening and went on to introduce the guest speaker, Giles Catchpole is a regular contributor to Trout and Salmon and went to school in the area. He gave us an entertaining and thought provoking after-dinner talk. He very quickly showed us his passion for field sports and fishing. His credentials are obviously impeccable as, as a boy, accompanying his father, he fished Rutland on its very first day, catching a trout whilst his father blanked.. His real concerns came to the fore when he gave a salutary warning about the ‘business’ of the anti lobbyists. He outlined the size, numbers and scope of the organisations who are bent on stopping all form of activities

that involve animals. That is all field sports and fishing. He sincerely believes that they are now building up such a momentum that unless we are all extremely vigilant they will roll straight over us. They have huge resources available and need to spend them and demonstrate continued success if they are to carry on. No one needed to be reminded of the extent some of the fanatics will go to in pursuing their twisted agendas. As fishermen, we should at all times demonstrate our care and concern for the fish, wildlife and environment.

Giles went on to present our trophies, including the Rutland Horse Shoe, accepted by Ann Garratt on behalf of her late husband, Bob.



Giles Catchpole presenting the Roger Thom Trophy to John Tattersfield