

# RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



April 2006

Website: [www.rwff.org.uk](http://www.rwff.org.uk)



## *John Wadham's Fishing Report*

### **Fishing Report for April**

10 days of strong winds between Southwest & Northwest have conspired to make this one of the most difficult openings of the season for many years for bank anglers and quite a challenge for boatmen. Anywhere that was accessible produced plenty of fish. What a pity that such a good first day attendance should have such lousy weather. However the weather outlook for Easter seems more favourable. Unfortunately, this wretched wind not only limits where you can fish from the bank, but, with the water still 1m below top level, the strength and the direction of the wind causes the loose mud in the recently flooded margins to spread out. Also water coming into the lake from the source- rivers and the River Gwash feeder will be quite coloured. In any winds that blow across rather than down the lake. E.g. Northerly or

Southerly, fishing has been very good. But as often with early season fishing quite local. So it pays not to spend too long in one place, because if you find fish they pull well.

Some tremendous fish have been caught. The best was a mint-conditioned 9lb 10 1/2oz Brownie caught by club member Mike Netherclift. The story goes that Mike was with fellow club member Paul Buck who was fishing from the rocks at Fantasy Island. Paul kindly let Mike try out his Loomis rod. A cast was made and this monster Brownie took hold. The fish, which gave Mike many anxious moments, was caught at 14.15 between the squally April showers. This fish has been submitted for the RWFF Trout Fisherman Trophy 2006.

Other big browns were caught from the bank including an 8lb 10oz and 5lb 4oz specimens from the west side of Whitwell creek.

With such a limiting wind the usual places produced.

Graham & Richard Cooper catching at New Zealand Point. A good number were taken from Whitwell Creek and the seat opposite the Old Lodge. Best method seemed to be a steady retrieve with something heavy on the point with two droppers up. Diawlbach accounted for most of the fish from the West side of Whitwell Creek. B&G Tadpole & Damsel were the best lure patterns. Some were caught on boobies on sinking lines.

Quite a number of well-proportioned over-wintered rainbows were caught all around the pond: mainly in the 2-3lb range.

On day 2 the wind backed more to the South and made bank fishing easier. But later on got up and veered Westerly – don't you know!

The best thing is to look for clearer water and there is a very good chance of catching. A good ploy, having caught a fish, is to move up or down a yard or two. This was especially effective on the dam when the wind permitted

The diet seems to be tiny buzzers less than size 20, tiny olive green larvae and daphnia.

It was gratifying to note that plenty of fish have been caught from the bank on the peninsula side of the North Arm: with fish caught at various places between the Finches and Carrot Creek when the wind has allowed. Most productive areas around the lake recently have been the stones, Old Hall bay, The Finches, Barnhill Creek, The Seat opposite the Old Lodge & Sykes and Fantasy ends of the Dam plus New Zealand Point

### **Stocking**

The quality of the stock-fish so far is above reproach with a good number in excess of 3lb and is now well in hand. This week, 3,000 2lb+ Rainbows and 2000 Brownies are due to go in. If you happen on a concentration of the browns don't dwell on them - move on. We have already seen how the browns prosper in Rutland – give them the best chance!

# Litter pick Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> 2006

This was a great event. In stark contrast to last year, we had a record turn out. Some thirty-five members and their families gathered at the lodge on a sunny but icy March morning for a delicious bacon sandwich and coffee. Before setting off with gloves and bags waving in the wind, the assembled group was photographed. Thirty-five bags of litter were collected. Equating to one bag per person! At the first event some years ago twenty of us collected some 80 bags of litter. Either, we are now well on top of the job, or people are more litter conscious!

RWFF & Anglian Water would like to thank all those who took part. A presentation will in due course be made to the Rutland memorial Hospital

## Water Aid Fly Fishing Challenge - Friday May 19<sup>th</sup> 2006

Anglian Water & Water Aid would like to thank all those who have already put their names forward as gillies. *We could, however, do with one or two more* - so that we can be certain that all the novices get a chance to go out and not only fish but learn about boat handling and the safety aspects of fishing on such a huge sheet of water. The day will proceed much as last year and in the due course – but well before the event - volunteers will be sent a detailed itinerary. Further details and application forms are available on line at [www.awfffc.org](http://www.awfffc.org) or Chris Evans on [cevens@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:cevens@anglianwater.co.uk) or info on water aid on. [www.wateraid.co.uk](http://www.wateraid.co.uk)

## Boat fishing

### Bob Church Classic

This was fished in very awkward conditions with a strong WSW wind and very heavy showers as on the opening day. There was a good result given the conditions. There were a few over-wintered fish taken with the best, a perfect rainbow of 4lb 12oz. Quite a number of limits were taken on a variety of methods. The wind increased during the day giving many competitors a quite “hairy” trip back to the lodge.

## Club meetings

We held all but one of our meetings at the Empingham Cricket Club and the club would like to thank Nigel Millner & Gary Cooper for their generous hospitality.

## RAF Bank Match - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

This was fished, again, in very difficult conditions with a strong and at times gusty WNW wind; the day ending with wintry showers. However, a good result was achieved with the best catches including a number of limits coming from the stretch between the seat opposite the Old Fishing Lodge and Stockie Bay. Old Hall Bay and New Zealand point area also produced fish. Again one or two over-wintered fish were caught.

## Troutmasters Bank “fish off” Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April

This was won by Colin Edwards from Nottingham with 7 fish for 18 1/2lb from the point of Barnhill Creek fishing over a mud-slick – again in very testing conditions

## The Army Boat Match – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April

Again fished in horrendous weather. However some good catches were taken mainly in the main basin. In one boat the two anglers both took 20lb + limits.

## General

Some fine over-wintered fish including an 8lb+ Brown have been caught by rudder anglers – mainly on wet-cel 2 if the wind hasn't been too strong. If and when the wind drops the main basin will prove most productive as this should be where the daphnia has accumulated

## Tackle shop

The new look establishment is a great improvement on its predecessor and I am sure less cramped for the work force: much more room to wave a rod about!

# Going, Going, Gone to the Tackle Auction

This was held in the Barn at Barnsdale Lodge Hotel. This was an ideal place to hold this sort of event and the club would thank the management for their very generous terms and pleasant ambience. It



made a nice change from the Victoria Hall.

Despite a good turn out for this event there was quite a reduction in the number of items for sale. His widow Ann presented the income from the sale of the second lot of the late Bob Garratt's tackle to the Rutland Memorial Hospital Palliative Care Suite.

Our thanks again to Jeff dale for generously conducting the auction and donating his fee.

Geoff auctioning off an item displayed by Kevin Taylor

## Dogs

Anglian Water will be clamping down on dog misbehaviour. Please, if you take your dog fishing, keep it under control. If you see any evidence of dogs causing a nuisance e.g. chasing sheep, entering the water etc, you are asked to contact the fishing lodge or the duty wardens' mobile number given on page 15 in your season ticket: (i.e. the last page in the preface to the catch return forms) a.s.a.p.

## “Bluebell” pony ride – Thursday April 27th

On the evening of Thursday April 27th there will be a “bluebell ride” around the Hambleton peninsula track between 1600 hours and dusk. You are asked to be watchful and take extra care when driving on the perimeter track that evening. Lets hope the bluebells come out in time this year. Last year they were over by then!

# Pre-season Dinner & Prize Giving

Thirty-four members and their spouses attended this function in the pleasant ambience of the Whipper Inn at Oakham. The prizes were presented by John Wadham assisted by Kevin Taylor. The Rutland Horseshoe is normally presented to someone in the club who has had

serious misfortune or made a substantial contribution to the club effort. It was felt by all that John Maitland appeared to have fulfilled both these parameters and was presented with the Trophy plus a lovely replica made by club member Gary Cooper. John proposed a toast to "Rutland Water" thanked JW for his effort. He went on to thank Sean Cutting for setting up the new website, the committee and all those who had supported the club effort. JW

thanked the Whipper Inn for an excellent meal. Our thanks to Jon Marshall for organising it all.

