

# RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



April 2007

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



## John Wadham's Fishing Report

### April Newsletter 2007

What a wonderful social gathering the first day is! April 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 saw the best first day turn out for many years: possibly in excess of 350 on boat and bank "Have you wintered well?" was the commonly heard catch phrase. JW went for his customary first day bike ride to see how folks were faring and came back to the Green Bank three hours later beaming!

The Rutland season got off to a flier in an ideal northeast wind and pleasant sunshine. How nice also to be able to fish from grassy banks, which had dried out after the winter floods; there will therefore be no need to wade for some time to come.

The water temperature on the first day was 8.5 deg C. As one would expect after such a mild winter this is about two degrees above average. The water had dropped down about 18 inches from top level. However the new pump-

ing regime will enable AWS to take advantage of a summer rise in source river level by the use of one smaller pump to top up with. To be able to maintain a high level through the summer should hopefully protect the marginal ecology and extend the bank fishing beyond the end of June.

The Northeast wind on day one meant that anglers had masses of bank to go at but, even so, by 10am there were very few slots left. This is very gratifying and good news for the fishery. Preliminary figures show a catch rate of over 6.16 per return on the first day. This does not include season ticket returns as the season started on a Sunday. Best fish was a 4lb 6oz Rainbow caught by Craig Barr, which won him the Independence Day trophy.

The boats also had a good time. Among the best catches was that taken by Jim Watts & Ken Merridan who weighed in 16 fish for over 40lb. Six fish bag limits averaged 14lb. There were a number of

other 8 fish bags around the 20lb mark from both bank and boat. There was a smattering of over-wintered fish caught most of which appeared to have "wintered well" and fared better than in the last two winters.

These fish with some exceptions were much fuller of body. JW had a 4lb fish from Yellowstone on a Diawl Bach. This unlucky fish came off on approach to the net and finished up hooked under the chin on the point fly! This fish like others seen resembled one that had been feeding recently. It took 20m of backing in its first "reel shredding" run. Roger Gill had a similar experience with a 4lb 4oz fish caught near the Monument on Sykes Lane on a black buzzer. This one took almost all of his backing!

Over-wintered fish are best identified when you come to gut them. They have only a small purple looking gut and no white puppy fat. Externally they exhibit silver flush in the tail and tend contain a

good share of the current available diet.

The quality of the stockies is above reproach with a number in excess of 4lb. At present, these are living mainly off their fat but "silvering up" quickly and gradually, getting on to the hordes of tiny buzzes currently hatching all day.

Most people caught fish with most patterns of fly or lure and by any method. However, a good tip to attract the seasoned fish is to fish slowly with more imitative patterns: e.g. buzzers, GRHE & Diawl Bach. Fish were caught all around the fishable banks and the Dam. Jamie Weston Luke Shevlin and Phil Brown taking some over-wintered fish here.

As usual, though, there were the characteristic hot spots: e.g. Sykes Lane, Whitwell Car Park, Old Hall point and Yellowstone. To give an idea of how mobile the fish are: one fellow spent two hours fishless then caught two at once! If this happens to you summon a

neighbour with a second net but make sure that you net the biggest one! Or, beach them both – but not a catch & release ticket please! At present fish can be caught all day and for the most part are well within range of the bank – the boats coming quite close in to catch! The west wind on Thursday enabled one to fish virgin water i.e. north facing banks. There appeared to be fish to be caught from New Zealand point to the Dam.

### Spring migrants

It is nice also to report the arrival of some of the spring migrants. Sand Martins, Swallows and two returned Ospreys one of which has adopted the stand in Manton Bay. The real early harbingers of spring the chiffchaffs are singing all day in Hambleton Wood. The nightingales, due about mid month, being the next joy – all a very important part of the pleasure of being at the waterside!

### Bank-side Erosion

Many south and, indeed, some north facing banks have become considerably eroded following this last winters gales. AWS staff have asked that we take care when fishing from the bank. Do not get too near to the water's edge as in some areas the bank has been quite seriously undermined. The water is too cold for bathing in April!

### Catch Returns

AWS have warned us that the non-submission of catch returns could result of forfeiture of your ticket for a month as indicated on the inside cover thereof. You could also lose your loyalty discount.

### Two Handed Rod Demo – Rutland Water Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April

Come and see a demo of modern two handed out fits. These could solve some problems for those with arm problems like tennis elbow, arthritis etc. The event is free and open to all. Try the tackle out for yourself.

JW has had a go with Henry Lowe & Nigel Woolnough (Hector's son) and was amazed that a thirteen-foot AFTM 8 weapon seemed no heavier than ones similarly rated single-handed ten footer! There will be some units for sale.

### Perimeter Track Surface

This is due to be repaired with neutral pH granite fines which when wet should not give rise to the abrasive sludge formerly thrown up by the limestone material

### Mitigation Works

This scheme is scheduled to start in 2008 and mercifully access will be via a road to be constructed off the A 6003 Oakham to Uppingham Road not via barges across the lake.

### Evening Pony Ride Wed 18<sup>th</sup> April

There will be a ride around the Reservoir perimeter track on the above date. Please take care when driving round this evening. They start at 1600 hours and finish at dusk

### Pre-season Dinner Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup>

This was a very pleasant evening at the Whipper Inn Hotel in Oakham.

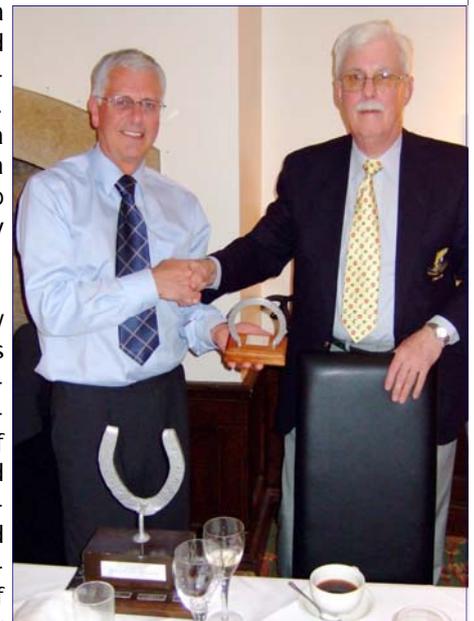
David Moore was the guest of honour. We were also pleased to welcome two of the club's founder members Peter Hawes and John Wilshaw - founder editor of Trout Fisherman. David who retires as Anglian Water Recreation & Access Manager some time in June presented the prizes. We wish him all good fortune in his new post. Here, he will still be well involved in Rutland Water matters.

David was presented with the Rutland Horseshoe in recognition of a long-standing and cordial relationship with RWFF. He also received a lovely replica "forged" by club member Gary Cooper.

David said how delighted he was to have been invited to the function as guest of honour. He told us about his career, which had quite clearly covered all aspects of the water industry

from Fisheries Officer with the former Welland & Nene River Authority to fishery manager at Rutland Water – then called Empingham Reservoir. He regaled us with some of his fishing exploits including all night sessions on the River Nene in the Peterborough Power Station warm water out flow for Carp. Here he caught three twenty pounders in one night. This was before the days of the boilie fed "fat cats" now caught nationwide.

He thanked Peter Hawes for introducing him to fly tying – starting with the Black Pennell. He congratulated the juniors on their success at international level. He praised the various secretaries who had served the club over the years.



# RWFF Trophy Winners 2007

## Trout Fisherman Shield

Best Brown (Senior) Mike Netherclift—9lb 11oz

## Trout & Salmon Shield

Best Rainbow (Senior) J Wadham — 4lb 4oz

## Mike Ellis Trophy

Best Rainbow (Junior) Richard Cooper—5lb 0oz

## Fario Trophy

Best Brown (Junior) L Shevlin—5lb 12oz

## Loch Style Trophy 1st

G Pearson & M. Barrett 16 fish—39lb 5oz

## Loch Style Trophy 2nd

G. Bloodworth & Al Owen 16 fish—30lb 3oz

## Loch Style (Best Fish)

G. Pearson 4lb 1/4oz

## Hanby Cup

J. Weston & P. Brown 11 fish—25lb 0oz

## Cutting Trophy

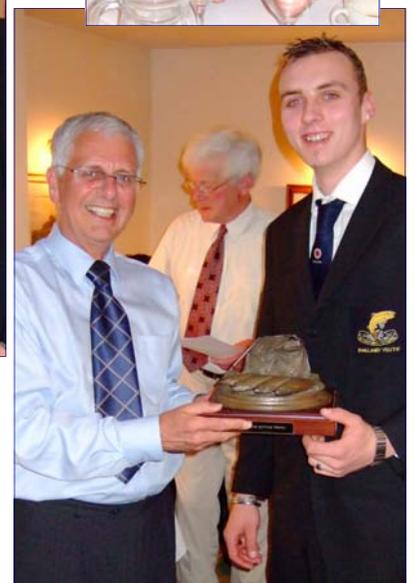
Luke Shevlin

## Wadham Trophy

Phil Brown

## Rutland Horseshoe 2007

David Moore



## Membership renewals

From our records it seems that some members have not renewed their subs for 2007/8 this makes for considerable administration problems for the Treasurer & Secretary.

While not wishing to trouble you, if you still wish to retain membership, we would be grateful if you could renew as soon as possible as we are now half way through the club's financial year. If we do not hear from you we will assume that you have resigned and for economic reasons and no further newsletters will be forwarded. However if you have renewed and are not receiving monthly letters we apologise for this and would be grateful if you could let us know?

## Club Matches 2007

John Wadham Trophy Friday (evening)	Bank Match May 11th
Oliver Cup Sunday	Boat Match May 27th
Cutting Trophy Friday (evening)	Bank match June 1 <sup>st</sup>
Hanby Cup Sunday	Boat match June 17th
Loch Style Trophy Sunday	Boat match Sept 16 <sup>th</sup>

Full details of each match in subsequent new

## Membership Recruitment

Membership numbers have slowly declined over recent years. Various methods of recruitment are in place: including press & local radio. Also John W will be addressing the beginners' courses run by "Curly" – Dave Doherty and telling them what we are about. It is incumbent upon all of us to encourage people to join. Forms are available on-line via our web site, but they will also be available in due course from the fishing lodge. More details in the next newsletter.

## Water Aid – Friday May 18<sup>th</sup> 2007

RWFF committee would like to thank to the 19 volunteers who have put already their names forward as boatmen. However we still need another 10. Please, if you can help, either ring up or email John Wadham or return the enclosed slip to him a.s.a.p. Ideally, the closing date for entries is May 11<sup>th</sup>. This gives time to get everything in place for the great day. Even after May 11<sup>th</sup> your offer will not be refused, as we need all the help we can get. This event does much for our image and for that of angling in general. Lets hope for better weather! Full details enclosed ...

## HELP – Still Urgently Required

The England Ladies urgently need the help of 28 Boatmen for their Home International at Grafham

Water on Thursday the 31st of May 2007. I am told that they are apparently offering to pay £25 to anyone who is willing to help. Not bad to be paid for helping at such an interesting event!

Contact Sheena Goode on 0121-744-7640, or email her on: [sheenagoode@hotmail.com](mailto:sheenagoode@hotmail.com)

## "Late Extra Fishing News"

South banks best at present. There are fish between Armley Wood & the Finches - put out the flag!

Also there are Plenty of fish on the South side of the lake from Berrybutts to the Dam.

Best fish I have heard of so far are a 5lb O/W Rainbow from the bank at Cardiac Hill and a 6lb 1oz from the boats, caught by Graham Pearson.

Out of interest and always finish on an amusing tale, Sean Cutting has pointed out that Graham was last years 'featured' photograph on the front of the AW Season Ticket, have you noticed what they have replaced him with for the 2007 one ... you must have a look! Either it is meant to imply a large 'rise' or maybe it is a big 'splash' let's hope that this is not an omen of what's to come ...



Trout in the net and Bluebells in the wood, what more could you ask for on opening day 2007...



## Membership Cards

If you have not yet received your Membership Card, please contact Roy Taylor on **01572-723496** or [roy\\_taylor\\_home@hotmail.com](mailto:roy_taylor_home@hotmail.com) and he will send it out with the next newsletter.

# WATER AID FRIDAY May 18<sup>th</sup> 2007 - RUTLAND WATER

This is our opportunity to show to the world and those who would chose to interfere in our recreation that we care more about the needs of underdeveloped countries rather than just filling our bags with fish.

Last year we helped in raising over £19,000 for the charity from this one event alone – we are going for £20,000 this year! The aim of Water Aid is to show other countries how to make the best use of their water resources and teach them the basics of sanitation

## RWFF involvement

We had a very good turn out last year and this year we will again be featured in the press At least **thirty** gillies are needed on the Friday-but, the more the merrier. GWFFA & Invicta FF have kindly offered to help out with boatmen. As gillies you will be going out with novices. Take your own gear, as you will also be able to fish. They are trying to do this on a one to one basis.

An area will be set aside for the casting clinic in the field below the main Normanton car park where casting volunteers should assemble: all those needing instruction will be sent here on the day. You don't need to be a professional for the casting sessions. Just teach them the basics including safety aspects e.g. Eye protection, hat, life jackets.

## Tackle will be available from AWS on the day and for the casting clinic

The organisers want to avoid two novices going out in a boat together unaccompanied - a recipe for disaster - but at the same time want to get them out on the water on the day. Only we can do this

- There has been a proposal mooted to offer a trophy to the most successful volunteer boatman
- This was a tremendous event last year and the organisers were profuse with their thanks for our involvement.

You will be apprised of progress, any further details or alterations to the programme in subsequent newsletters.

If you can help please return the tear off slip at the bottom this page or contact John Wadham on 01572-771092 or 07762-607630 a.s.a.p.

For further information please contact the Anglian Water Services Organiser, Chris Evans at [chrisd.evans@btinternet.com](mailto:chrisd.evans@btinternet.com)

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I would like to help on the following days: -

			No of helpers required	Tick	
Wednesday	May 16th	Make up fly boxes and goodie bags	6	( )	
Thursday	May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Make up rods – some casting instruction	6	( )	
Friday	May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Further casting clinic from 0830	6	( )	
"	"	"	Boat gillie - fish 1000 – 1700	30	( )

Name & Address: -

Post Code: -

Tel No: -

Please note the web page link – [www.awwaffic.org](http://www.awwaffic.org).

Any sponsorship from companies that any member's work for would be very welcome, as would items for the auction sale and raffle prizes.

# WATER AID PROGRAMME - RUTLAND WATER

## 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> May 2007

In order to ensure that it all goes smoothly I have drawn up the following itinerary for RWFF

### Wednesday May 16th

1100hrs Assemble fly fishing kits for novices - leader + wool - 2 hours  
1300hrs Lunch for helpers from Waters Edge Cafe (*see John Seaton*)  
1400hrs Make up fly box selections for novices - 3 hours

### Thursday May 17th

1500hrs Make up goodie bags - 2 hours  
1700hrs Casting clinic for novices - Ad lib  
Re-assemble kits (*for novices clinic on 19th*)

### Friday May 18th

0800hrs Assemble at the fishing lodge for group photograph and briefing  
0805hrs Casting clinic for novices  
0930hrs Briefing by AWS  
1000hrs Fishing  
1700 hrs Weigh in

The casting clinics will be supervised by JW and Malcolm March will be held in the field west of the lodge below the Normanton car park. Style access is near west end of harbour wall. For safety reasons the area will be cordoned off from the public.

As there may be more for the casting than previously anticipated it would help if as many boatmen as possible could help with the casting on 19th.

Also, it would be ideal if one gillie could pick up a pair of beginners at registration and stay with them for the duration ushering them around.

Please get to the fishing lodge on time on 19th as Lewis Carlin has arranged for a photographer to be present so that we get some press coverage - *It would help if we had a spare camera on hand – just in case!*

After the match, there will be a meal and presentation to which we are invited. Followed immediately by the auction.

As last year all the boats will be in use so, I am sorry to say, it will be three in a boat. It might therefore be a good idea to show one or both of your protégées how to use the motor. That way you can sit in the middle, direct operations and duck as appropriate! It might also be worth, matching left & right-handers or showing right-handers how to cast over the left shoulder.

Feel free to take your own fishing equipment out in the boat. Life jackets will be available. There will be sufficient fishing kits for all novices who must wear hat & glasses, be in possession of rod licences and be aware of the fishery regulations and safety code. For identification purposes we hope to be supplied with bright yellow AWS vests.

Any problems. Please contact: -

Malcolm March 01780 722466

John Wadham 01572 771092 or mobile 07762 607630

**If you are unable to attend please let one of us know in good time**

E. J. Wadham 27/04/2006