

## **RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS**

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## **AUGUST NEWSLETTER 1995**

Dear Member

11 August 1995

We are now more than halfway through the season and I 'm sure that we are all hoping to finish the season with a few good fish as they start to feed on the perch and roach fry when the water temperature cools. The recent hot weather has seen the weed proliferate around the margins and the fish have sought the cooler water. As usual at this time of year it is the boat anglers who have had the best of the sport. The banks have been relatively quiet for several reasons , the weed growth restricts the areas anglers can find to fish , the high water temperature drives the fish away from the banks for the majority of the day and the trout have not really been feeding , there is not so much scope to induce fish as from a drifting boat. The bank anglers have had most success recently on the dam where an easterly wind has resulted in drawing the cooler water to this end of the reservoir, as was the case last year it appears that the fish have been more willing to feed in the mornings, small dries and suspenders have been the most successful patterns from the bank although pheasant tails and floating fry have also been taking fish. There have been one or two better fish taken, Vic Winterton has had a 4lb 6oz rainbow and James Warbrick Smith has caught a 4lb 13oz brown, a brown trout over 9lb from the fishpond wall in the north arm by regular Barry Thompson on an olive tadpole.

The boat anglers who were struggling a bit in June have rewarded recently with some very good top of the water fishing. July saw the boats chasing the shoals of rainbows around the South Arm from Gibbets Gorse to H buoy to Browns Island to Lax Hill to Manton Bay to the Bird Hides and back to Gibbets as the wind direction changed. One of the most successful anglers during this period was Iain Barr who was one of the first to cotton on to the fact that the trout were a lot easier to catch fishing just one fly and he was returning with some good bags of fish whilst the rest of us were struggling to convert follows into takes. Quite a few flies and methods have been successful Mike Ellis has been doing well on orange suspenders and hoppers, Vic Winterton has been catching on his muddlers and Mike Netherclift was doing well on orange tadpoles and dries. One of the most killing patterns has been a small hares ear suspender which imitates the myriad of items that the trout find attractive to eat at this time of year and which when pulled will also induce trout to follow and attack out of curiosity. Graham Pearson has been catching well on waggys , winning the bailiffs boat match and Brian Moore has been doing well on small silver tubes on the rudder

In July the trout were prepared to feed through the day until about 4.00 p.m. but of late they seem to have been feeding in the morning as was the case last year. There have not been large quantities of trout taken by and large but those fish that have been caught have been of excellent quality averaging between 1lb 8oz and 2lb with plenty of fish in the 2-3lb bracket to liven up proceedings. It is only a year or two ago that a fish over 2lb was considered a specimen. There have been fish caught on the boils (most of them by Geoff Robinson) but this area of the lake has been a bit hit and miss some days producing other days nothing. Another part of the lake that has produced was around the tower in the North Arm although there didn't seem to be quite the quantity of fish that were in the South Arm , however we can expect this area to fish well in early September.

August has seen most of the boats concentrating on fishing the main basin particularly along the dam where some nice silver fish which have obviously been in some time have been taken. The single suspender tactic has again been effective, sometimes pulled sometimes fished static. This was brought home to me when fishing with Stan Webster who had six fish in the boat to my one before switching to a single fly brought me five quick trout.

John Marshall at the fishing lodge has noticed that the quantity of returns collected has dropped off recently and has asked me to remind anglers to keep putting them in particularly as we move into the 'cormorant season', bailiffs will be checking on damaged fish at the weigh-ins of the remaining competitions this season. John also informs me that the fishery has purchased some new weed cutting chains and they hope to cut some swims out once the weed has stopped growing so rapidly. A couple of gaps in the weed have already been cut in Barnesdale Creek but it is quite time consuming work , the boat harbour is likely to be first priority for treatment.

I am sure that we are all hoping that the sudden cold spell and influx of water that happened last September will not be repeated this year and that September returns to being one of the best months of the season. In all 103,000 trout have been stocked to date including some nice brown trout which means that there should be good head of fish in the water to mop up the large quantity of fry around the weedbeds when they regain their appetite. John Marshall informs me that the seasons total is likely to reach 120,000 and there are some more 2 pounders to go in, most fish will be stocked before the end of August with a break for a fortnight prior to the B & H competition and the remainder being stocked before the end of September.

For those who cannot wait until the RWFF tackle auction there is to be an auction of fishing tackle in aid of the charity LORUS at the lodge on Sunday 10th September at 6.00p.m. Anglian Water Services are again organising their Loch Style Championship for teams of four on Wednesday August 30th which is very good event in which local anglers normally do well.

### Competition News

The mad flurry of competitions of May and June has drawn to a close with just a few like the Masterline, Anglian Water Loch Style teams of four and the RWFF Pro Am remaining not forgetting the John Wadham bank match on September 24th

A lot of Rutland anglers fished the Wychwood Final on June 23rd and most of them probably wish that they hadn't bothered as strong wind and bright sunshine made the fish hard to come by, the rod average was less than one and a lot of the country's top competition fishermen blanked. The event was won by Bristol with 10 trout but they were only 1 fish ahead of the Rutland Kingfishers who included Craig Barr, top individual with 6 trout, Martin Introna had 2 and Iain Barr caught 1, beating the Cormorants may have been some consolation for their early exit from the Benson & Hedges competition.

In early July several club members participated in the B & H England Final at Chew reservoir fishing for several teams. On the first day the Peterborough based Cormorants team trounced the opposition to take top spot by a large margin catching 68 trout between 6 anglers, this was about twice as many as the second placed team catching most of their trout by pulling small orange lures on intermediates and Wet Cel 11 lines. They had the top 3 individuals within their team Dave Shipman narrowly beating Tony Curtis into second place by 1 fish with 19 trout, it is not the first time that Tony has been close to winning the coveted jumper, better luck in the International Final. Leon Smith caught the best fish of the day for the second year running but denies rumours that he is having a Chew season ticket next year.

The RWFF team fished the next day and the fish weren't quite so easy to tempt but some good bags of fish were taken, similar tactics to the previous day again catching most of the fish. Top Rutland angler was Rob Landless who was third individual on the day with 7 fish for 15lb 11oz beating Sean Cutting by just over 2 lbs despite the fact that Sean caught 8. Last minute replacement John Marshall had 4 nice fish, Chris Ogbourne commented that John had one of the longest that he had seen, we assumed that he was talking about a 3lb+ brown trout that John weighed in. Overall the RWFF team finished 5th out of 9 teams but missed out on qualifying by 7lb 12oz, about 3 Chew rainbows.

Sovereign FF	32	60lb	8oz
<u>Fish Hawks</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>57lb</u>	<u>12oz</u>
Bath & District	29	55lb	0oz
Bob Church Tackle	26	54lb	2oz
<b>RWFF</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>50lb</b>	<b>0oz</b>
Weald of Kent	18	35lb	3oz
Tottiford Hawthornes	14	27lb	8oz
Defenders AC	15	25lb	12oz
FDG Lakeland	6	13lb	10oz

It was a case of so close but so far, but the club team can feel proud of its achievement against some of the top teams in the country without having done a great deal of practice. Barry Vaughan has promised that he will catch more than one next year! The third day of the competition was completely different and club member and bailiff Dave Doherty qualified for the international Final at Rutland despite blanking at Chew, his team Cottesmore only needed four fish to qualify.

The FMFF (Anglia ) final eliminator at Grafham was a hard match with a rod average of 2.0, the result was that all RWFF competitors got knocked out failing to catch the 4.82lb required to get through to the National Final at Kielder. Paul Wild and Trevor Bellamy were the closest RWFF members both missing out by an ounce or two, however this does mean that all of the clubs competition anglers will hopefully be able to fish in the RWFF Pro Am competition on September 3rd, more later.

### **Major Clubs Competition**

The third round of the Major Club Competition was held at Chew reservoir on June 30th in a flat calm on the hottest June day for 20 years. RWFF came third on the day thanks mainly to a bag of 5 fish from Rutland's answer to Frank Sinatra, Leon Smith, taken from the boils which seemed to be the only place where any fish were caught. John Maitland caught 2 and Sean Cutting contributed 3, Gordon Bloodworth, Gary Spooner and myself all had blanks or as they were becoming known as at the time, 'Gordons'. Local instructor John Horsey didn't seem to be catching very much despite his love of flat calms!

In the fourth round at Pitsford last Thursday RWFF again finished third top Rutland angler was Bill Law with 4 trout weighing 6lb 4oz, Leon Smith managed to serenade another 4 out for 5lb 5oz, Peter Cliff managed 1, Gordon Bloodworth and Rob Landless had 2 each, most fish were taken deep on Hi Di lines on a bright day. Mike Ellis had what is described usually a nice relaxed day, he must have been recovering from his top weight in the Cormorants versus Five Towns challenge the previous Sunday.

### **Club Competitions**

The second and final round of the Oliver Cup was held on July 2nd, top rod on the day was Barry Vaughan with 5 rainbows for 8lb 3oz caught on dries near Fantasy Island narrowly beating Steve Crowson who weighed in 6 fish for 7lb 11oz, Keith Landless was third with 3 fish for 5lb 10 oz taken from the South Arm. Over the two matches it was a three way tie on points but after taking into account weight of fish caught Graham Wright came out on top ahead of Sean Cutting and Steve Crowson. Graham is the first angler to win the Oliver Cup twice.

The Roger Thom Trophy was won convincingly by Roger McCarthy he won both legs catching 5 trout in the main basin for 6lb 11oz to take top place in the boat event on August 3rd ahead of Mike Gunnell who weighed in 3 for 4lb 5oz. I'm sure that Sean will not like being reminded but he finished second overall after blanking in the boat event. Again this event was poorly supported with only 8 participants we may need to change the format of this competition for next year

### **Other Events**

On Thursday July 20th the Club again held its junior evening which was considered a great success by all involved nearly all of the credit must go to Roger McCarthy who spent a lot of time and effort into making the evening a success and those club members who volunteered to act as instructors on the day. It was good to see both competition anglers and pleasure anglers from the club combining to give something towards the future of the sport and I'm sure that all those involved felt that it was one of the more rewarding club events that they had been involved in. I can remember when I first started fishing Rutland about 16 years ago I didn't catch anything on my first six outings when I did catch my first trout it was under the wing of a RWFF member, Rutland is not an easy place to learn to fish. Despite early signs that there would not be much interest from juniors in the end Roger had to turn down applicants as the number of boatmen who volunteered was 25, it is a shame that there are not more **active** members in this club who participate in club events.

I have include a copy of the press release that Roger has circulated to local papers for your perusal.

### **RWFF Pro Am Event**

This is new event and we have had a great deal of support from the 'Pro's but there are still some spaces left for 'Ams'. The experienced competition anglers will pair up with a less competition orientated angler and fish as a team hopefully passing on some tips about lochstyle boat fishing in the process. It will be fished to International rules from 10.00a.m. to 6.00p.m. on Sunday September 3rd. We have in our club a lot of very experienced competition anglers many of whom have fished for England, all of the Cormorants team have volunteered to fish, it is not very often that anglers get the opportunity to fish with anglers like Dave Shipman so I'm hoping that we can have further

response to make this a well supported event with a future. John Marshall has kindly agreed to donate a trophy for the winning pair and there will be prizes for the top three pairs. I have included an application form which should be

returned to Sean Cutting as soon as possible i.e **do it now** . The following ‘professionals’ have already agreed to support the event, Sean Cutting would be grateful if those listed below would forward to him a cheque for £11.00 to cover the boat and refreshment to make the administration of the event easier. Please support this event whether you are a competition angler or bank pleasure angler, the more the merrier. We are hoping that all those anglers who have supported Oliver Cup matches etc in the past will come forward together with anyone new to boat fishing ,or the club.

Dave Shipman	Paul Miller	Martin Introna	Trevor Bellamy
Tony Curtis	Wendy Miller	Stuart Billam	Graham Pearson
Leon Smith	John Maitland	Richard Hearth	Brian Thomas
Gordon Bloodworth	Graham Pearson	Chris Churm	
John Ieldon	Keith Landless	Rob Landless	

One or two final interesting bits of information , Rob Landless landed a carp estimated to be about 8lb in one of the Tuesday League matches in early July the successful pattern was a claret hares ear , he took it in the main basin. Martin Introna thought he had hooked a monster whist fishing at Grafham he played the fish for over an hour but was somewhat disappointed when he netted a 3 1/2 lb rainbow , obviously one trout that had been keeping fit!

Please keep me informed particularly if you have caught a good fish as we move into fry time.

Paul Wild  
Secretary