

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



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STOP PRESS

Al Owen wins Tuesday Night Boat League.

Going into the final night of the league (12th August), Al was just 1 point ahead of Leon. He won, having bagged up in 2 hours, making him the clear overall winner for the season. Leon was on holiday this week.

Results

Tuesday 12/08

- 1 Al Owen 8 fish 15lb 11oz
- 2 Roger McCarthy 6 fish 11lb 13½oz
- 3 Keith Jones 5 fish 9lb 10oz
- 4 Martin Tomlinson (Junior member) 5 Fish 7lb 12oz

Final Result for 2003 Season:-

- 1 Al Owen 69 Points
- 2 Leon Smith 58 Points
- 3 Paul Wild 56 Points

Well done everyone for what has been a keenly fought but friendly competition throughout the summer months.



John Wadham's Fishing Report

In the now customary bleak mid season period for bank anglers it was nice to report of some success from the bank in July. This was mainly over the deeper water of Stockie Bay, Ernies Point, the Dam and Blue Pipes and largely engendered by a short period of East winds, which drew the fish towards the dam area. Fish were caught on most things. The best fishing was in the morning and at the last knockings. Diet was a tiny olive buzzer with the odd fish taking sedge pupae. This is a very rare occurrence at the "big R".

The bank fishing isn't all doom & gloom. Nick Evans and son from Ramsey took 14 fish from the bank in Stockie bay at the end of July. Nicks 8 fish weighed 21lb. They were caught on epoxy buzzers fished very slowly on floating lines. The most productive boat areas have been in the main basin around the new aerators with some good limits coming from here plus some good fish including a 6lb 8oz Brown and 4lb 10oz rainbow.

Having said that, Malcolm Janik took a very fine bag of fish from the boat on sinking

lines and gold & silver lures mainly around the aerators. He caught eight fish for 21lb. As the month progressed, the weather got hotter but the fish still remained near the surface especially in any ripple.

Most effective patterns for surface fishing have been GRHE, Diawlback & dannels fished on floating lines from boat & bank.

Terry Oliver took a rare prize in the form of a superb 5lb 4oz Rainbow.

The boats did better in the middle of the South Arm rather than in Hideaway bay etc. and fish were again caught on all manner of patterns form Rudder fished sparklers to dries!

In the "Toady's Fly Fisher" open on 12th July, 43 anglers caught 176 fish for an average of just over 4 fish per rod with five of the leading contestants taking 8 fish limits. Ian Barr was the winner - wouldn't you just know it - with 8 fish for 25lb 15oz. Well done mate!

The Golden Oldies event fished on July 16th produced an even better rod average with several competitors taking their 16 fish per boat limits. Most of the fish were caught in the main basin on the usual patterns i.e. Diawlback, GRHE, PTN & orange blobs!

In that week Dan Perks took the best rainbow of 4lb 2½oz

Congratulations to young John Frank from Yorkshire who won the Tuesday Boat league event on July 15th with a superb 8 fish for 18lb 2½oz

Leon Smith seems, like his namesake captaining the South Africa cricket team, to be in a purple patch. He won three Tuesday boat league events in succession. This put him in front: one point ahead of Al Owen. In the following week the roles were reversed and Al is now in the lead by one point!

In this last heat it fished exceptionally well with the first four catching their 8 fish limits in less than 2½ hours fishing.

Rob Holloway and son had a great day's muddler "bashing" in the Manton Bay area. Rob said that they had dozens of offers and follows finishing up with fish to over 4lb.

All in all this has been the best midsummer fishing for some time: especially from the boats and a massive improvement on the nightmare 2002 mid-season period

As I write, boats are coming in with numerous limit bags taken mostly in the main basin on Hoppers and other surface fished flies: despite the temperature of 27deg c (81F in old money) but helped by a North Easterly wind.

Stocking is still continuing

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES - John Maitland, Chairman RWFF



I have now been back ten days from a week spent after salmon 300 miles north of the Arctic Circle in the Kola peninsular. The country roundabout is bare hilly tundra with no vegetation above six inches, criss-crossed with reindeer trails and with a myriad pools and lakes. The rivers we fished, the Kharlovka and Litza, have cut valleys and gorges through this rugged terrain. While the early season runs of really big salmon were over, both grilse and big salmon were caught by our party including two over 30lb. Unfortunately none so big came my way, in part because my week was interrupted on day two. Fishing the Home pool before breakfast I slipped on wet algaed rock and in falling dislocated my left shoulder (again). Luckily there was a resident doctor at a nearby camp on helicopter call and after an unpleasant morning the joint went back. Fishing was out for the next day too but after that I was back in action with a powerful 15 ft double hander! However, the heat wave affected the Kola too and by the end of the week the air was in the high 80sF and the water at or above 70F, too high for good salmon fishing. But I have memories of catching salmon and grilse, both wading and from the top of 25 -foot cliffs besides seeing many others, some huge, jumping and rolling.

Though we were taken to our beats by helicopter (fascinating to a one time RAF chopper pilot) there was a good deal of rugged walking with wild flowers and birds to catch the eye. I did not see the bears and wolves that follow the reindeer herds but sea and golden eagles were more obvious. A land of many fascinating memories but hard going for a 70 year old with a tin knee. Now it's back to more mundane fishing and hoping for the heat to break and usher in late season sport.

RWFF Juniors evening Friday 22nd August 2003

This event has been a great success in previous seasons. We need experienced boatman who would be willing to spend a few hours in a boat helping a youngster take the first steps in our sport. To see the look on their faces when they catch their first trout is wonderful to behold. If you can help, please contact Andy Flitcroft on 01572 770703

We are also looking for youngsters, preferable aged over 12 who, accompanied by an adult, would like the opportunity to try out fly fishing. If you know anyone please get them or their parents to contact either Andy or the Fishing Lodge.

Thanks to the sponsorship we receive from AWS and the tackle trade, this is a wonderful opportunity to get youngsters into the sport. There will be plenty of prizes. The day starts with casting tuition from 2.00pm. Then we all go out in a boat from 4.00pm to 8.30pm to receive one to one tuition and catch that first fish.

This year, due the child protection issues that are effecting all events involving children, we are having to change the arrangements for the fishing tuition. **Only juniors accompanied by a parent/ carer/ adult sibling in a boat, supported by an experienced boatman, will be allowed to fish.** To comply with Health and Safety considerations, all boatmen will be briefed by John Wadham on their responsibilities and behaviour prior to fishing. This is for everyone's protection so please don't let it put you off from helping on this very enjoyable and worthwhile event. Boatmen should report at around 3 p.m. but it is important that you let Andy Flitcroft know that you are coming. It is a difficult job matching the numbers of youngsters to boatmen so an early phone call would be appreciated.

MY FIRST DISABLED INTERNATIONAL

by Trevor Ashby

After months of planning, tying flies by the hundred, asking the experts, i.e. Tony Curtis and other members of the International teams what flies to use and how to fish them. I had some experience of wild brown trout fishing in Scotland, but this was different, I was representing England and felt very honoured. So after weeks of nerve jangling, sleepless nights the day finally came.

Tess and I set off at 4.30 a.m. on the 17th June to catch the Stranrair to Belfast ferry. My good lady has the misfortune to suffer from claustrophobia and we had made arrangement with the ferry operator for someone to take her on board the boat and show her where she could sit outside. On arrival at the ferry check in we were told this was not possible on the ferry we were booked on. Panic set in! The Port Manager took control of the situation and we were soon on the next ferry being treated like royalty.

The drive from Belfast to Dunderan was uneventful but a few signs saying what village or town we were travelling through would have been helpful. We came upon a sign saying 'slow' then a hundred yards on another saying 'slower'. This really tickled Tess's sense of humour. Staying in a small local hotel, a couple of pints of Guinness, a good night's sleep, an Irish breakfast and all was well with the world. We spent the morning site seeing before going to the Great Northern Hotel joining the official party. There was talk about how bad Melvin (the local water) was fishing and of course a few pints of Guinness drank.

On practice day there was a howling wind, which would have stopped the boats going out at Rutland. On our first drift, Jim Watts and I both caught fish. Then the weather got worse and we decided to call it a day. Both Jim and I were confident at this point.

Day one of the competition – the wind had eased off and I was drawn to fish with Wales's top angler, Ian Phillips, who I had met several times previously. Ian fished a team of flies on an intermediate. I started off on the floater with Dunkeld on the point, Green Peter middle and Bibio on the top dropper but soon changed to a Kelly Green when Ian started to take the odd trout. Soon I too was catching, but nothing of size. We were fishing to a 10 inch size limit. Ian managed to take a sizeable fish, which put pressure on me and with half an hour to go a nice fish took the top dropper that I duly landed. All my fish fell to the middle or top dropper although I changed my point fly to no avail. At the end of the day Ian had taken 6 fish with one to weigh in and I had caught 7 with one to weigh in. The team result at the end of the day one was Ireland 6; Scotland, Wales and England, 5 fish. At the team meeting that evening it was brought to the team's attention that Jim and I used Kelly Green Lines and much the same flies. 4 Members of our team had failed to weigh in. I said quite strongly that all the team needed was to weigh in one fish each and we would win.

Day two – the lake was almost flat calm. The wind had completely changed direction. The fishing was even more difficult with even less fish being caught. Jim Watts and myself were the only members of our team to weigh in. Jim was England's top rod with 2 fish. I was second 2 fish, one fish each day. Over the two days England had caught the most fish but had the least weight and finished last.

All in all, I was a great experience, one that I will never forget. Your local lads did their best and we can hold our heads up high. But if I ever hear any of the Rutland moaners complaining about Rutland I'll send them packing to Melvin and I bet that they will never moan again.

THE HANBY CUP—Sunday 27th July

It was very pleasant day, there was a light ripple, the fisherman were keen but unfortunately nobody told the fish about their part in the scheme. It was hard. Quite a few fish showed themselves but somebody swore that they were just coming up to look and grin at us. What few fish were caught were on a variety of patterns with no particular one doing the business. You'll see from the results how few fish were caught, with the top three teams landing 8 fish between the 6 of them! Still, there was a good turn out and Roy Taylor was thanked by all, for his excellent last minute organisation of the day

RESULTS

1st	Roy Taylor & Andrew Wells	4 fish for 9lb 6ozs
2nd	Lynn Walters & Danny Perks	2 fish for 5lb 1oz
3rd	Peter Line & John Innes	2 fish for 4lb 1oz

Best fish—Danny Perks 2lb 15ozs

LAST KNOCKINGS -A WRY LOOK AT GOINGS ON AT RUTLAND



The dog days of summer are with us and it is a brave man who commits himself to a full day out on a boat at this time of year. One only has to look at the number of boats tied up to see how few people are bothering, maybe AWS need to be innovative to attract more customers how about an ice cream boat taking cold refreshments (lager even!) out to the overheated fisherman. They could try a BOGOF promotion (buy one get one free) to try and entice a few more day ticket anglers to the banks or boats.



Lifejackets are particularly uncomfortable at this time of year and quite a few people invested in a rather snazzy pale green safety waistcoat with a built in lifejacket which are easier on the neck muscles and very nice they look too. Unfortunately they don't work very well in the rain, or rather they work too well; after a recent competition at least 4 anglers came back in with lifejackets that had automatically inflated due to the rain, and they weren't looking quite so smug as they had been that morning!



In these days of travel to foreign destinations to chase exotic species many anglers are moving to 3 and 4 piece rods. Graham Pearson came across a novel way of converting an existing 2-piece rod one Tuesday evening in July. You need to lay your rod across the boat with about 5 foot of the tip extending over the water. The next bit is the trickiest, you need to aim your boat at one of the sailing limit buoys with a triangular sign on top located in the middle of the South arm and if you get the angle and speed of the boat right you no longer have a 2 piece rod! For more details I suggest you contact Graham, I think its possible to slice 2 rods at once with a bit of effort.



Al Owen learned a valuable lesson recently – don't attempt any decorating, DIY or anything that involves climbing up ladders until the end of season, that way when you fall off and break your fingers you don't miss any fishing. Al has been doing well in the Tuesday Night League recently and it has fished pretty well really, last week 4 anglers caught a limit. It's far better to have 3 hours in the evening than all day in the scorching sun. The Tuesday Night matches also provide a good learning ground for less experienced anglers, Roy Kedge has recently worked out the difference between forward and reverse gears on the outboard motor although for a few moments the bailiffs were worried that something was going to sink!



To look at Roger McCarthy you wouldn't think that he was the sort of person to be into body piercing however I don't think its through choice. During a recent Pike match his long-suffering boat partner Nigel Savage managed to dive a 6/0 Pike fly through one ear. To balance this out a few weeks later Ken Meridan did the other ear for him, this time with a trout fly and last week Ziggy got him in the head. Maybe he's got magnetic ears, anyway if you see someone out on the water wearing a motorcycle helmet you'll know who it is.

THE INFORMER