

Rutland Water Fly Fishers



www.rwff.org.uk

August 2009 Newsletter

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The lake is now about 2.5 meters down from its top level. Dickenson's Bay is now almost fully exposed. As per most of the summer the wind has conspired to make bank fishing difficult.

As we have said many times in the past the bank fishing tends to close down at the end of June: although, a few fish can still be seen here and there, especially over deeper water.



Rutland Fishing Update ...

A recent stocking of 10,000 fish in two loads should galvanise these residents into action. Since this introduction fish have been caught along the Normanton Bank.

Time to take to the boats! The most productive areas for this have been the main basin especially but, not exclusively, around the boils. Fish have also been taken along Berrybuts.

The rudder men have

been doing well on Di-3's, taking fish at about 2 to 3 meters down.

Surface fishing has been fun with lots of offers but not productive in catch. Fish seemed keen to chase but loath to get too close to the hook!

Their stomachs are almost empty compared with their May feasting period. Despite the fasting, the seasoned fish are in fine fettle. Hopefully they will return to the banks in the autumn: if not for the fry then for snails or Corixa.

The weed beds are very extensive this year. Some very large Rainbows estimated to be in the 6 to 8lb category have been seen in these weed beds in the Manton area with their heads down: no doubt grazing on the plethora of snails

Chairman: John Maitland, 7 St Albans Close, Oakham, LE15 6EW. Tel: 01572 756650 **Treasurer:** Paul Wild, 33 Keltorpe Close, Ketton, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 3RS. Tel: 01780 720308 or e-mail: paulwild1@sky.com **Minute Secretary:** Roy Taylor, 4 Toletorpe Close, Oakham, LE15 6GF. Tel: 01572 723496 or e-mail: roy_taylor_home@hotmail.com. **Secretary:** John Wadham, 6 Mendip Road, Oakham, LE15 6NN. Tel: 01572 771092 e-mail: john@ewadham.fsnet.co.uk

therein. They haven't been bottom feeding for years. This is good to see. Not quite bottom feeding perhaps as the snails could be seen on the "pinnacles" of weed: so easy for the fish to collect.

On June 4th the temperature at midday was 4 deg C as shown in the photo. Only a few days later it was 30deg C at the same time of day! Was the promised "barbecue summer" here at last? No, thank goodness! We and the fish have been spared that!



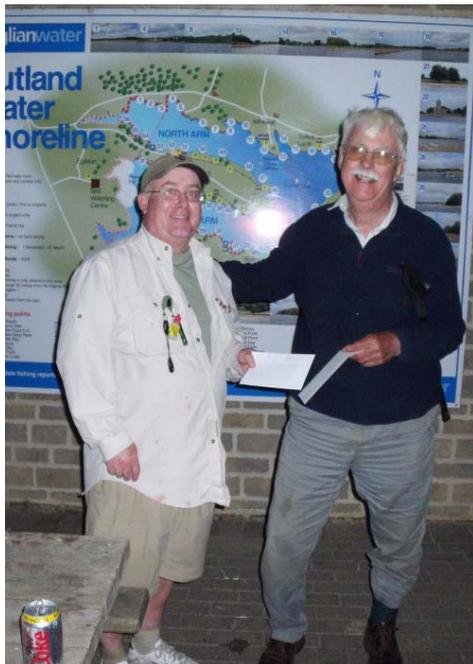
As this newsletter goes to press, we have heard that Normanton is producing from the bank. Fish seem to be well on fry in the margins.

Thwart Board Generosity

Not all the people taking out thwart boards. Thanks to the cus-

tomers whose generosity caused the slot machine to jam up with a fiver!

Cutting Trophy – Evening Bank Match June 5th



The match was fished in near perfect conditions with a light south easterly wind and good cloud cover.

This meant that most headed for the Normanton Bank. Fish were caught all along this stretch from the Church to the Dam.

The – much needed - rain held off until after the weigh in. The fish caught were in superb condition. Some members reported having reel shredding runs and missing takes and losing fish.

They were caught on a variety of patterns but, as with the present trend, mainly on dries or nymphs fished within a centimetre of the

NAME	NUMBER of FISH	BEST FISH	WEIGHT	PLACE
Paul Wild	8	3lb 3oz	18lb 14oz	1
Malcolm March	6	3lb 4oz	14lb 12oz	2
Steve Crowder	6	3lb 4oz	13lb 10oz	3
Mick Stevens	5	3lb 3oz	13lb 4oz	4
Dave Porter	5	-	11lb 6oz	5
John Maitland	4	-	8lb 12oz	6
Chris Evans	3	2lb 11oz	7lb 6oz	7
Matt Gregory	3	-	6lb 0oz	8
Jamie Weston	2	*3lb 13oz	5lb 8oz	9
Ian Ushman	2	-	4lb 14oz	10
Phil Brown	2	-	4lb 4oz	11
2 DNWI	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	46 Fish		108lb 10oz	

tions also to Jamie Weston (below left) for catching the best fish – a cracking overwintered Rainbow of *3lb 13oz.

The best average weight was achieved by Mick Stevens whose bag comprised five perfect mint conditioned Rainbows. Competitors averaged 3.54 fish per rod with five fish over 3lb and average weight of 2lb 2oz.

This was a great result and reflects the continuing excellent quality of the fishing and indicates just how well the fish have prospered in this wonderfully rich ecosystem.

The Chairman presented the prizes and thanked John Wadham for organising the event.

surface.

Congratulations to the winner Paul Wild (left) who weighed in by 2030! He also won the Wadham Trophy match in May. Congratula-



C.L.A. Game Fair 2009

This great event was held again at Belvoir Castle and was a well organised affair with less than the usual traffic hold ups. John Wadham was lucky enough to be chosen to help judge the casting competitions over the three days from a pontoon located on the dam wall.

It was quite humbling to see the skill of some of the junior competitors – some wielding a 14 ft #9 salmon rod with consummate ease. Great to see and much to be encouraged!

As for the finals of the salmon Spey distance: this was a breath taking display of skill: the winner casting over 60 meters in a fiendish gusty following wind which conspired to close up ones loop.

JW who has never handled a salmon rod, was lucky enough to

have a lesson in this art from Michael Egan from Eire – who featured in the final that was won by Tommy Aarksvilla from Scandinavia.

New Forest Sea Trout

JW had fun in the New Forest rivers with Sea Trout where the fish average 5lb. Following the prolonged drought here with the “lawns” – pony grazing areas – brown, the rivers were skeletal. You are not going to like the following!

Best pattern seemed to be a small Black Marabou lure size 10 fished roly-poly on a motorbike in broad daylight 2 cm below the surface. Tackle was a 5 weight rod, floating line and 9 foot 10lb 2X co-polymer Rio Powerflex leader.

At least with this method the fish were all securely hooked. Well, I suppose they would be at that speed. There is nothing more excit-

ing than to see the follow, the take and “turn away”.

In fact, just seeing them in situ is rewarding in itself: my favourite salmonid. Wild, mysterious and acrobatic when hooked!

AW Tuesday Boat League

As the event draws to a close, Richard Cooper and Keith Jones are tied for 1st place with 36 points.

New Patrol Boat for Rutland

In June Rutland acquired a new craft – forgot the champagne for the launch, Tommy gives it his approval. In the photograph below some might say is it Alan Dalton at the helm, looking for reverse!

Anglian Water Loch Style 4 man team event 15th August 2009

Each angler pays £5 pool money and £12.50 towards the boat. Permit £19 (nothing to pay for AW season ticket holders).





RWFF's

HANBY CUP 2009

(RWFF Members only Boat Pairs Competition)

SUNDAY AUGUST 30th 2009

To enter: **BOOK IN AT THE LODGE**

FISH 09.30AM – 17.30PM

Followed by a swift weigh in by 6pm and home in time for tea ...

**This Boat Pairs Match will
be fished to an 8 FISH
LIMIT & NO TIME BONUS**

PRIZES FOR Top 3 BAGS AND BEST FISH!

Full details in our Newsletters & Website

www.rwff.org.uk

The match is followed a two course meal at the Waters Edge restaurant at £9-50 per person.

To book or make enquiries call 01780 686441 or 01780 686442

Hanby Cup – Sunday 30th August 2009 – Rutland Water

Another year has passed since the last match, so dust down the tackle and book yourself a boat ... Seriously this a Reservoir rules match with sections for Loch-Style and Rudder. All the details are shown on the next page, so why not give it a go?

Reservoir Access Improvements 2009—So Far ...

The cattle grid at the bottom of Hambleton Hill has been replaced and is now open to all traffic.

The style access to the “Transformer field” is now closed but an anglers’ lock has been put on the access gate. The Finches style plank has now been repaired and is now on an even keel once again!

RWFF’s Seasonal Specimen Fish Trophies 2009 ...

- Trout & Salmon Shield adult best Rainbow – Barry Vaughan 6lb 3oz
- Trout fisherman Shield adult best Brown – no claim
- Fario Junior Trophy for best Brown – no claim
- Mike Ellis Junior Trophy for best Rainbow – no claim

If I have missed anyone out or you have submitted a form please let me know. These are available in the shop, warden’s office or from the folder hanging in the passage of the lodge opposite the foot of the stairs.

There have been plenty of takers with fish over 5lb for the best rainbow by an adult member. Someone must have caught a worthy Brown or junior a rainbow!

Hilary Tomlinson of ELFA took a fine 4lb 93/4 oz Rainbow on 30th June.



The Angling Trust ...

This organisation is the new single body set up to represent all game, coarse and sea anglers and angling in England.

At present RWFF has corporate membership. In order to support this organisation we should also join as individual members.

As they say in their latest newscast "Put simply, the more anglers who join the more clout we'll have".

For further details and application forms visit: www.anglingtrust.net
Who better than David Moore our former Recreation & Access Manager for Anglian Water at Rutland to be in charge of angling development?

David is also the chairman of Regional Fisheries, Ecology & Recreation Advisory Committee (RFERAC) in the Anglian Region of the Environment Agency.

JW is now serving on this committee. So if there is anything you would like raising contact him and he will put your case to the committee through the Chairman.

Anglian Water - Water Aid Fly Fishing Challenge – Rutland Water Friday June 12th 2009

This boat fishing competition was held at Rutland Water to raise funds for Water Aid.

The weather was perfect with cloudless skies and light winds. Not ideal for fishing but great for getting out on the water. Some cloud appeared later to allay the brightness of the sun.



Despite the brightness, the fishing was extremely good with some good bags taken by novices and experienced anglers alike. A range of methods proved effective from "blobs" at depth to dry flies. Fish were caught all over the lake from Manton to the Main Basin.

Some twenty one members of Rutland Water Fly Fishers acted as gillies for the novices on the Friday. See photograph on the left.

On the Wednesday members also made up the goodie bags, rods and fly boxes. They held a casting clinic on Thursday evening which was well attended and a lot of fun.

100 people took part in the match comprising 50 novices and 50 experienced anglers.

The winning gillie was Mike Brooksby (above), RWFF member and Rutland Water warden, whose protégés put together a catch of 20lb 5oz.

Despite a few technical hitches all went very smoothly on the day and everyone got on the water by 1000. There were many smiling but very sunburnt faces arriving back at the harbour at 1700.

The fishing was followed by an excellent meal provided by Neil and his team in the Waterside Restaurant. We were then given an update by a representative of Water Aid on their work in Africa.

We then had an auction conducted by local auctioneer Jeff Dale. Then came the prize giving and finally the raffle conducted by Chris Evans and Paul Dimbleby.

100 rods took 171 fish for a total weight of 398lb 14oz. The average weight was 2lb 5 oz. The best fish was 3lb 14oz rainbow.

Fish were taken from all over the lake from Manton to the Main Basin. Many fish were hooked and lost and anglers had many takes pulls besides.

Finally, Chris Evans and Paul Dimbleby thanked all those who took part.

RWFF Chairman in turn thanked Chris and Paul for organising the whole event.

The event realised some £15,500. This included proceeds from the raffle and auction - amounting to £2,092.50p.

RWFF—Loch Style Competition July 26th

The day started with a moderate to strong westerly wind and light

cloud as the four boats competing left the boat dock. Three of the four boats went up into the main basin in the area of the blue pipes; Fantasy Island and V buoy drifting towards the dam.

There were plenty of fish in this general area and initially they could be tempted with a fly but they soon went off with the fishing pressure and the boats split up. One, Phil Brown and Jamie Weston going down the south arm and drifting Berrybutts towards New Zealand point and another, John Innes and Pete Lines out in the middle of the basin fishing between Y buoy and the tower.

The third boat, Andy Wells and Roy Taylor remained on Normanton bank and the fourth boat, Danny Perks and Lin Walters started in the mouth of the north arm at carrot creek gradually working way down the arm fishing Armley woods and The Finches.

As the day progressed the cloud became thicker, the wind picked up to strong (22-25mph) and moved round to south westerly and there were intermittent flurries of rain thrown in. Methods of catching seemed to vary and there was certainly no clear pattern, in fact it would almost be easier to say what patterns were not used.

Phil and Jamie used blobs pretty much all day on Di 3 lines, John and Pete used a combination of dries including hoppers and managed to come up with some quality fish including Pete's best fish of the match a rainbow at 3lb. 13/4 oz.

Andy and Roy used a mixture of dries, boobies and blobs as well as crunchers and Diawl Bach's on a mixture of floating and sinking lines and Danny and Lin used Di 3 lines with mainly brown Minkie's.

The common theme was that the fish would come to the fly and follow it, but not take it. It was a lottery as to whether they would actually take.

The eventual winners were Phil and Jamie with 11 fish for 22lb. 13oz (best fish 2lb. 91/2oz and they won the trophy and £30.

In second place was Andy and Roy with 9 fish for 20lb. (Best 2lb. 13oz) they won £20 with John and Pete in third with 7 fish for 15lb. 41/2oz (best fish of match 3lb. 13/4oz) and last but not least Danny and Lin with 3 fish for 6lb 131/2oz (best 2lb. 11oz.).

Rod average was 7.5 fish per boat, 3.75 fish per angler and the average weight was slightly over 2lb. 21/2 oz.

This is a friendly competition run for the members benefit, and whilst I appreciate that this years it clashed with the last day of the Game Fair, it was very disappointing to have only 4 boats – 8 members taking part.

This is the reason that the prize money was reduced, and to some extent this is unfair on those that did take the time and trouble to turn out on what was otherwise a hard but enjoyable day. It would

be great to see the boat competitions supported as well as the bank ones are.

Summer Fishing by Peter De Kremer

Despite the hot, sunny weather we experienced, bank angling up to Thursday 2nd July was superb, especially at the dam / fantasy island area. The easterly winds were pushing the warmed top layers of water down both arms which in turn, due to a tilt in the thermocline, brought cool water up at the eastern end of the reservoir.

However, on Friday 3rd July the wind turned round to the usual Westerly direction and the bank fishing went from superb to very difficult overnight. The same effect occurred to a degree with boat angling and the fishing also proved difficult although the boils fished very well.

The favoured tactic from the bank when the fishing was good was dry fly from the dam or fantasy island and even though we had sunny weather the fish were prepared to rise or at least come and have a look.

Indeed there were several browns around fantasy island that were very wary and although they did make the odd mistake, most of the time they signalled their presence by a swirl and a wave goodbye from their obviously well developed tails.

Difficult to say their exact size but these were experienced, wary fish that were feeding very well (it was

obvious from their head - dorsal - tail rises) and they were not going to be caught easily.

If the day was cloudy fish could be caught on dries through most of the day, some pin-fry feeders could be tempted into a mistake with a large dry fly, but the general form on sunny days would be the wary browns feeding after 6pm, followed by better rainbows an hour or so later with a switch to *Caenis* from 8:30 – 9:30pm and back to sedges/buzzers after 9:30pm with lots of fish of all sizes moving close in after 10:00pm.

Great sport was to be had with quality fish up to 4 ½ pounds taking lines out into the backing. Spooning the fish revealed mainly sedge pupae, buzzers, a few terrestrials and the odd snails at times.

J.W. reported some extremely large buzzers, the likes of which he had not seen for many years. Flies used by regular fisherman, several of whom were R.W.F.F. members over many days were mainly dries including CDC's, hoppers and bobs bits.

The best of the fishing seemed to be at the fantasy island end of the dam but good fish were also at Sykes lane, indeed this was the best side in early June, when you could see thousands of Caddis larvae crawling slowly along the bottom in a couple of feet of water.

Fly Tying - Fly of the Month

by John Maitland

"Hover & Drone Fly"

Recently on sunny days I have

seen quite a lot of hover-flies around the flowers in my garden.

Through August and September, if we get a spell of settled warm and



sunny weather, there may be more and slightly larger but similar drone flies.

In this event many will fall onto the water and Trout are not slow to take advantage. Then this very simple dry fly pattern will do the business.

- Hook: Medium weight (Kamasan B175) in sizes 12 or try a few in size 14
- Thread: Brown, Yellow or Orange UTC 70 Denier or Uni-Thread (6/0)
- Hackle: Natural Ginger or Red Cock. Clip off most fibres below the hook shank
- Body: A mix of Yellow, Orange & Ginger seal's fur dubbed full
- Rib: Black or Dark Brown fine Spanflex or why not try using a stout sewing thread, using 4 even turns up the shank

Note: Don't forget to Gink the fly

and thoroughly degrease your leader.



Salmon and Trout Association Sponsored Courses* for Junior Anglers (under 18's) Wednesday *26th August at RUTLAND WATER

The Salmon and Trout association are sponsoring the following courses for junior anglers who would like to learn to fly fish, junior anglers who wish to improve their technique and junior anglers who would like to try a salmon fly rod.

The courses are for three hours and will cover tackle requirements, the basic casts and some fly tying.

The day will be split into two sessions, 9.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.30pm. The cost is only £10 per session and well worth it.

Students can attend two sessions if they wish. Parental consent forms are required and will be provided.

Please call Peter Hartley on 07922-126154 or visit: www.bsff.co.uk/GameBeginners to find out more and book your place.

Major Clubs Blues ...



There has been a definite feeling of 'after the Lord Mayor's Show' about this year's Division One of the Major Clubs competition for reigning

champions, Rutland Water FF.

Now currently lying in bottom posi-

tion in the 2009 competition, we need some good results in the remaining matches at Pitsford, Rutland and Chew to confirm our Division One status for next year!

This year's campaign didn't begin well with a last place in the opening match at Hanningfield on April 24. And it didn't improve dramatically at the next match on May 25 on Bewl Water when we were two anglers short following a sudden illness on the night before the match. The four anglers who actually fished did well to finish in fourth place in the match.

Since then things have improved marginally with a third place, again at Hanningfield, on June 27, when the team weighed in 81lb 11 oz and finished just behind Bewl and Fish Hawks, the top two. Actually, Hanningfield fished very well and scotched all the myths that the any-method fishing, which the reservoir is trialling this season, was likely to ruin the trout fishing.

So after the first three rounds of this year's competition, the league positions are as follows:

- Fish Hawks 12pts
- Bewl Water 11pts
- Hanningfield 9 pts
- Soldier Palmers 7pts
- Rutland Water FF 6pts

However, with Pitsford and Rutland as the next two venues and two strong teams in place, we are hoping for a change in fortune, and with that extra bit of luck, to move up the league table.

Mike Gunnell, 2009 Organiser.

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