

# Rutland Water Fly Fishers



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

August 2010 Newsletter

The water level is now well down following what has been the driest spring and early summer for some 80 years and it is now rapidly approaching last years lowest level.

The water however still remains beautifully clear.

## The North Arm

It is great to report that it has been the most productive years fishing so far in the North Arm since the dreaded September of 2001.

## Rutland Fishing Update ...

No obvious reason for this. Some tremendous catches have come to the boats with Ron Gent and his boat partner catching a 16 fish limit for nearly half a hundred weight in Tim Appleton's trench in June.

This was followed up by Al Owen and friend Michael "Jimmy" Riddell having a bonanza with fish culminating in an amazing 12lb 9oz Brown caught by Jimmy: all taken fishing deep with

midge tip lines with Al's special buzzer.

## Damselfly

The hatches of these lovely insects have been the most prodigious since 1996 when Burley was at its peak.

If we had marginal weed beds these insects would be able to transpire on the weed and the trout would have to come in for them and be easy pickings for us anglers.

Anything that is jutting out of the water they will use to climb up to dry out their wings: e.g. the transformer fence where thousands of males could be seen dancing round the females and fish in eager attendance.

## Stealth!

Recently we have been fishing Burley and the north arm shallows from the bank with the great-



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est expectation of a catch for as long as I can remember. Some very large fish have been seen here parading up and down 15m from the margins in less than a foot of water. So as with carp fishing stealth was essential to get them to take.

I was informed by an angler wading in up to his navel that the water at the top of the north arm was obviously too shallow to fish and he was going to try elsewhere!

Moral: look and listen before you enter the water. Many anglers seem to assume that the fish are always on the horizon! If you must wade in do it with great care.

Recent fishing exploits, waiting long hours for a bite from the Tench, taught me to be patient. So applying that rule to Rutland: if there is nothing showing just chuck out a dry of your choice and await events: as with watching a float; only it's a dry fly.

Yes! Of course the moment you take your eye off the "float" it disappears. So concentrate! If there is nothing actually showing this is the best way to test the water and of course any fish that does show will almost certainly be to your fly.

Striking timing has been the biggest problem with most of the fish just testing the fly. It was noticeable, however, that the larger fish made no mistake and any faults in your tackle were soon highlighted in that first panic stricken rush! So check your leader regularly for "wind knots" or other damage.

Listen very carefully on Burley and you will hear what we used to call the "Burley Click". This is the sound caused by rainbows sucking in Corixa from the film without actually showing an obvious rise. However, with a keen eye from the sitting position you could see a slight "boil".

### **Be seated!**

So, sit down to it. It is amazing how many more rises can be observed looking out across the surface from the sitting position rather than looking down on the water. In a flat calm fins could be seen gently tipping the surface and bow waving fish in search of food in a few inches of water.

While seated I had fish within a rods length and actually caught a 4lb 5oz fish just a few yards from my chair. This fish as you can see from the picture below was sated on Corixa,



Buzzer and Bloodworms; and despite its full stomach which resembled a swan's egg, fancied a Bloodworm CDC.

The fish are at the moment feeding from 0700 to 2000. So as you can imagine, the fishing seems to die away in the evening.

Roy Taylor (right) with a fine perfect 4lb fish that was ready to consider anything in the way of food: large bloodworms, Corixa, Buzzers in various colour, caddis, snail, etc: but no damsel nymphs in either of them.

Following on from that, fish have been caught on a variety of patterns from suspender damsels to daddy long legs.

In one two hour session I must have had offers on ten different patterns of fly from educated resident fish. Then, if you are lucky a batch of "non resident" fish appear and seemed more willing to take rather than inspect the fly.

A supreme example of this occurred when after toiling for what seemed ages to get a fish on the end of the line for a Trout & Salmon feature Peter de Kremer had a double hook up while fishing across the wind.

He was casting to "travelling" fish rather than "obdurate" residents. Unfortunately one broke away and the other was lost at the net. Not long after he succeeded in landing one! Well done mate!

### **Egrets ...**

Welcome back the Egrets three of which appeared on the bank be-



tween Burley Reach and Tim Appleton's on Monday.

### **Tuesday Boat League**

Phil Longstaff is well ahead of the field on 66 points followed by Richard Cooper on 44 points and Keith Jones on 38 points. There will be an extension this year with the last match being fished on Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **English Disabled Fly Fishing Association — Fishery Rules Comp**

Congratulations to Trevor Ashby who won this event with five fish for 12lb 12oz including the best fish - a mint conditioned Brown of 4lb 13oz.

### **Sea Trout**

It is very gratifying to report record runs of these enigmatic fish into the South Coast Rivers this year. Even in the smaller streams – no bigger than the Welland below Stamford – fish were laying three deep in some of the pools.

The bad news is that they came in on a spring tide as usual at the end of June despite the fact that it had

not rained in the New Forest since April 5th with many of the trees looking very sad and little grazing available for the ponies.

Consequently these grand fish have been confined to small pools in dwindling river flows. One prays for rain for their welfare. Fish up to 15lb could be seen looking fed up with the lack of flow.

It was wonderful to see them. So, let's wish them and the anglers much needed rain. Just a couple of thunderstorms would do the trick.

### **Surprise on a canal?**

I was working my way along the towpath of the Oxford Canal near the lovely village of Aynho in Oxfordshire.

I was casting two black & green tadpoles into likely looking places for the chub which once inhabited that stretch.

I had caught some good chub up to 3lb 12oz, but then, instead of a gentle flicker on the line indicating a chub, a wrench occurred which nearly pulled the rod out of my hand. To my utter astonishment this near 4lb, very ancient looking Brownie raced off up the canal and jumped. Isn't it nice when a particular species of fish come as a surprise!

The fish was released soon after



capture none the worse for its misadventure.

### **From the Chairman — Sean Cutting – An appreciation ...**

At our June committee meeting Sean Cutting informed us that he would regretfully be resigning from the committee.

Sean has been one of the longest serving members of the committee and we are all grateful for all he has done for RWFF: in the competition scene: involvement with the Federation and Confederation: bringing the newsletter - now the envy of other clubs - into its new colour format; managing the website; organising pre-season dinners and much else. Thank you Sean for everything!

Sean has agreed pro-tem to continue to manage the newsletter provided sufficient copy and pictures can be provided (readers please note!).

Having lost such a valuable member of the committee, we are now two members short in spite of having recently co-opted Dave Porter (to be confirmed at the AGM).

If any member feels that they could contribute to the well-being of RWFF and can spare half a dozen evenings during the winter, could they please give me or John Wadham a ring - details at the foot of the front page of the newsletter. Good IT skills would be particularly useful but not essential.

For future newsletters if you have had an interesting or amusing ex-



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perience to pass on to the rest of us, a few paragraphs or photographs would be welcome. Please submit them through John Wadham.

### **Water Aid**

A big thank you to all those 23 club members who have volunteered to help out at this year's event on September 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>.



You will all shortly receive a letter outlining the programme details, plus there is a form on the back cover of this newsletter.

The photograph above shows the 2009 event volunteers.

### **Boat Fishing on Rutland by Peter De Cremer**

The boat fishing this year has been very localized so far as the fish have still not, at the time of writing in early July, spread out into the open water.

This can be good in that if the fish could be found there would be relatively easy fishing with many good size 3lb+ fish in amongst the stock fish.

The converse also applies in that if your boat is not in the right area

(and this can be as little as a hundred yards away from a concentration of fish) then the fishing can be very hard.

For a long time, correct depth was vital with the fish often lying near the bottom in 12 to 15 feet of water. The cold water and bright early season conditions combined with what must have been massive numbers of buzzers near the bottom made the correct depth critical with heavy buzzers on floating or midge tip lines the best way forward.

Indeed the numbers of large buzzers both at Rutland and Grafham have been exceptional this year.

June saw the fish come up in the water and slowly begin to spread out although 12 to 15 feet of water was still the best.

Dry fly fishing improved rapidly with the best depth being in less than 10 feet of water with some larger fish being found in wind lanes over deeper water.

With the recent hot weather, bright and windy days have proved difficult but some fish are now appearing around the boils and their as-



sociated downwind slicks. The ecology of the lake has been amazing despite the lack of weed growth with a few evenings producing massive buzzer hatches.

On two evenings in late June I saw as heavy clouds of large buzzers above the trees as I've ever seen with a quite loud humming/buzzing noise.

All the fly/insect life seems to be in water less than 15 feet deep which explains why the boat fishing has been best in shallow areas which were still covered by water at the end of last seasons low water levels.

In early July the fish have also begun to feed on damsel nymphs and pin fry, each having their own distinctive rise form. Do try a seals fur bobs bits dry fly for these feeders as this can work well even in bright sun as long as there is not too much wind.

Do not use too much Gink though, as these flies needs to be semi-submerged for these trout. High and dry is far less effective, do not re-Gink your fly even after having caught a fish.

One feature of the shallow water areas both here and at Grafham has been the late spawning bream colouring up the water in certain areas.

This year I've fished with two friends who have caught bream on buzzers - see photo of Martin Cottis (left) who gave a talk last year to R.W.F.F. with his first ever fly caught Bream/Roach hybrid taken in Dickinson's Bay.

It seemed that as long as the bream were not colouring up the water badly then the trout would not mind their presence. It is surprising how often bream will rise to the natural fly although I have never seen one taken on a dry fly.

It has been particularly noticeable this year that probably due to the abundance of food it is vital to be among the better fish at the times when they are feeding. Several times while boat fishing I have had excellent fishing until mid afternoon when the fly life has stopped hatching.

In the space of 20 minutes the fish can become very hard to catch presumably because they are full of food (as shown by spooning) and have no need to go looking for food once the hatches have stopped.



**RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS**

**LOCH STYLE TROPHY 2010**

**SUNDAY 15th AUGUST**

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**www.rwff.org.uk**



Manton Bay was a perfect example of this with very few fish being caught on the day it was reopened.

About 8 boats went straight down there when it opened but only 1 or 2 fish were caught with all the boats having left by mid morning.

The fish were there but not feeding until a wind lane developed in which several 3lb fish were caught in less than half an hour. Once the wind lane disappeared the fishing became very hard again. It will be interesting to see how Manton fishes through the rest of the season.

Sailing Club bay has fished very well through most of the season, except when coloured up by the bream, and has been notable for a few very large fish (mainly browns) having been caught.

The above photograph of Nigel Savage in Hideaway Bay in May with a fine 4lb fish.

In May I managed to lose one of biggest browns I've ever hooked after about 15 minutes. Thinking that the fish must be tiring and hav-

ing brought it next to the boat twice (after having had to start the motor and chase it twice) I stupidly put too much pressure on it when there was a large curve in the line with 20 metres of backing also in the water and the fish broke the line at the dropper knot.

Very annoying but at least I had the enjoyment and excitement of hooking it in the first place.

### **Bank Fishing Report by John Wadham ...**

The last two weeks of June and first two weeks of July were plagued by very hot, bright weather with only occasional cloud and a strong north easterly wind during the earlier part of the period followed by another period of north westerly and in between times periods of either flat calm or only light ripple, and occasional south westerly.

Mid July brought some less settled and cooler weather with rain and some strong west/ south westerly winds which caused the water to colour, not the best of conditions for the bank fisherman and rather a disappointment, given the bank fishing we all enjoyed during the same period last year.

Latterly, these conditions seem to have driven the fish out into the deeper water, (as witnessed by the boats) and they are tending to only come into the bank during the mornings (6am/10am) and again in the evenings (after 6.30/7pm), although they do oc-

asionally come into the bank when it is overcast and cloudy.

It is against this background that we need to consider the fishing, which initially was fairly straightforward, with fish coming to black and green buzzers, Diawl Bach and dries, including sedge pupa, (tied CDC shuttlecock style) bits and hoppers in the usual areas i.e. New Zealand point, East creek, Normanton stocky bay, Yellowstone bay/ Inmans spinney and Whitwell.

Although it is fair to say that you had to keep on the move to find them as they were holding in pods of varying sizes and moving about all the time.

This seemed to change towards the end of the month and into early July, when it became apparent that the fish were starting to focus in on the large numbers of immature pin fry (about ½ inch long) that were concentrated in the margins.

These were particularly apparent in the North arm virtually all along the bank from the Transformer to Armley wood and they gradually moved along that bank as the month progressed reaching Carrot creek/Barnhill creek by the middle of the month.

They held for about a week during this time off the Finches, and pods of fish were coming in, some of them very large, and they could be taken on silver/pearl ribbed Diawl back, pearly pheasant tail, silver Invicta and I even heard of one being taken on a butcher!!!

As the light started to fade they could also be taken on dries, including the CDC sedge pupa, fiery brown Shipmans and black hoppers, the technique being to cast into the middle of a frenzy of feeding, wait until the dust started to settle and then giving the fly a 'tweak'.

Other areas also held pin fry and I understand that this includes New Zealand point and a number of the other areas I have mentioned above, although I have no experience of fishing these, and have not spoken to anyone who has been particularly successful in these areas.

To advertise in this newsletter, RWFF charge £5 per item. Please send all info, etc to John Wadham.

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BOATMEN - IF YOU CAN HELP**

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or 07873 214116 or Malcolm March  
01780 722466 or 07906 350748**

# Water Aid Fly Fishing Challenge



and



**Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

I can help on the following days:-

## **Wednesday September 8<sup>th</sup>**

1000 – 1700 – Lunch provided

No. of helpers required    Tick

Make up goodie bags/rods etc

6                    (    )

## **Thursday September 9<sup>th</sup>**

1400 - 1930

Make up rods/fly boxes

6                    (    )

Casting clinic till 1930 hours

## **Friday September 10<sup>th</sup>**

Boatmen needed.

30                    (    )

Parade at 0800am - Fish 1000am, – 1700pm with a meal afterwards.

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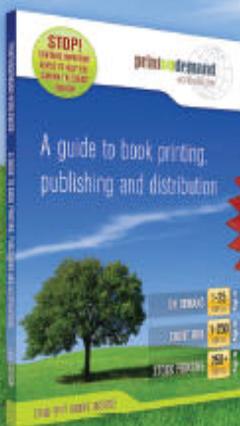


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