

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

Affiliated to Federation of Midland Fly Fishers (Anglia) & A.C.A.

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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 1998

Dear Member

Fly Tying Evening & Prize Giving - Tuesday 12th January 1999

Firstly, a reminder that the first meeting in the New Year will be a Fly Tying evening to be held at the Victoria Hall. Oakham on Tuesday 12th January 1999 at 7.30pm. The fly tiers giving us the benefit of their skills will be Trevor Ashby, Andy Flitcroft, Iain Barr, Sean Cutting, Brian Lloyd, and The Secretary. Between these anglers we should see a useful range of flies tied from low water salmon irons to tiny C.D.C. patterns. Something to suit all waters from rivers to reservoirs. Brian Lloyd, as one "steeped" in the dyeing industry, will be giving some very useful advice on dyeing of all manner of materials.

The Committee has agreed to provide food for the evening at no charge to club members. There will be lots of good eats in the interval at about 9.00pm - so don't have too big a meal before you come. We don't have too many "doggy bags"!

Prize Winners are as follows:-

Trout & Salmon Shield for the best Rainbow - Malcolm Janik

Trout Fisherman Trophy for the best Brown - Mike Barratt

Mike Ellis Junior Trophy for the best Rainbow - Michael Wild

J.Wadham Trophy - Lin Walters

Oliver Cup - Steve Crowson

Rutland Pro/Am - Kevin Taylor & Richard Walden

Loch Style Trophy - Paul Wild & Kevin Taylor

Roger Thom Trophy - Sean Cutting

The Hanby Cup - Graham Pearson & Mike Barratt

The Rutland Horseshoe - This will be awarded to the member who is deemed to have made the greatest contribution to the club effort.

Tuesday 26th January - Video Evening -

Dick Stephen has manage to procure some interesting and hopefully *rarely seen* Videos to show us viz.:

Salmon and Brown Trout fishing in the Kola Peninsula in Northern Russia.

I know it is out of the reach of many of our purses but the photography more than makes up for that This will include footage of Salmon taking dries and Brown Trout in double figures on the May Fly

The Game Fishers Year with Nick Dunn and Andy Nicholson.

This comprises a wide range of fishing activities from small put and take fisheries to worming for Sea Trout in Wales and Salmon fishing in Ireland.

Tuesday 2nd February 1998

Christopher Robinson who represents a very well known angling travel firm will be coming to give us the benefit of his boundless knowledge on fishing abroad we may all afford. More details in January newsletter.

Committee meeting at the Victoria Hall on Tuesday 19th January 1999.

If there is anything you want raising please contact the Secretary or Chairman in good time.

Fishing Report December 1998.

The old adage that the fishery closes itself as per the last few seasons has been to some extent borne out. Many of the hen Rainbows were past their best by the middle of the month. The weather was however very kind to us in terms of wind strength but the fishing gradually faded out as the reservoir gradually cooled off. The water temperature was 8 deg. C by Christmas eve. This might seem quite low but this temp is rarely reached in Spring until early May. This spring, of course, the marginal water temp actually fell from a high of 11 deg. C on 1st April to 9 deg.C after the horrendous Easter weather. Very bad news for fishing. Much better to start cold and then it can only get warmer. Full report on the 1998 season in the next newsletter.

Since the last letter some tremendous fish have been caught. The largest was a Rainbow of 11lb taken from the former disabled Pontoon Bay at Normanton; it was caught from the bank on a Minkie and was the anglers only pull! Who needs another after that?. This is the second largest Rainbow caught from Rutland since it opened in 1977. The Secretary's prediction of a 12 pounder was, as it turned out not too wide of the mark.

Rob Holloway had an encounter with something resembling the proverbial portmanteau while fishing from a boat at anchor off the Normanton Car park frontage at the end of October. The fish seized the white Minkie and as with all these large fish made a panic stricken dash to wards Spud Bay. In the process Rob's rod was pulled across the boat and practically strangled his son as the fish fled. The end of the backing was then reached. Ping!! Ouch! Had they not been at anchor no doubt they could have followed. Another reminder for you this winter to make sure your reels are backed up with at least 100m plus the fly line for next season. You could of course swim after the fish in April in icy water!

However his son redeemed the situation by taking a superb Rainbow of 7lb from the boat dock nearby Sean Cutting is another member to catch his career best Rainbow. On 28th November he took a perfect fish of 6lb 8³/₄oz from the point of East Creek on a Minkie in torrential rain.

Many of these large specimens are hen fish which, during the Winter, will either shed or reabsorb their eggs and consequently not give their full weight potential in April but will be very silvery nonetheless. We will have to see how they fare between now and then - given reasonable weather - they should get by.

Daphnia and Bloodworms were the main diet at the close. Although the intake of these gradually reduced. The sticklebacks had obviously gone somewhere warmer as they and Corixa hardly featured at the end.

However just to disprove this theory John Dracup and Rob Holloway had some very lively sport on the last two days of the season near Fantasy Island. The very mild weather which was more akin to May evidently livened up the fish again They all appeared to be grazing on Daphnia. Rob was however unable to keep them on the hook but had lots of pulls as did John. The fish were all in tremendous condition and looked in very good shape to get through the rest of the winter. However, John confirmed the fears of many of us that the Pike, in the absence of a buffer of coarse fish which appear to have been consumed by the now decreasing cormorant population, are now turning on the Trout. Rainbows up to 7¹/₂ lb have exhibited teeth marks of some giant Pike.

The only draw back to Winter fishing during the late season low water level (though it was not too low this back end) is that the marginal clay solids are much more easily moved by the wind. However, they are normally clay rather than clay and algae mix and settle more readily. Therefore wading should be avoided if possible.

Fishing Report (Contd.)

This December, interestingly enough, there was a very dense late Autumn bloom which at times was in such dense mats on the surface it was difficult to get the fly through it. So the ideal conditions was a light wind in your face so as to give you slight colour and keep the algae tight to the bank and allow you to fish in comfort.

One thing the Trout quite clearly don't like is a strong cold wind or thick fog. Another and vital factor important factor was the necessity to keep on the move. This was borne out during the Fur & Feather when one pull first cast was all that many people could achieve.

The water is now rising very rapidly thanks largely to pumping by A.W.S and recent prolonged heavy rainfall. It is now about 2 ft below top level. This is good as the margins will have almost three months to re-colonise before next season.

At the end of the season, the average Rainbow you could expect to catch was, at 3lb 3oz, an all time record high. This compares with 1lb 12oz in 1997.

In 1998 we started off catching 5 pounders. Therefore, theoretically according to form, all things being equal etc. next season should start with 9½ pounders! What a prospect!

Rutland Fur & Feather Sunday 13th December 1998

The fishing on the day did not give a true reflection of the current quality of the sport. However, some good fish were caught with a 7lb 14oz Rainbow coming from the North Arm no wading area. As per usual the weather had the last word. A near gale force Westerly wind during the previous night turned a lot of the lake to a soup and severely limited fishing stations. However the wind did drop somewhat on the day. The winner was D..Deighton with 5 fish for 15lb 12½oz .Congratulations to the club members who finished in the top six viz.

Third Place	Neil Osborne	7 Fish for 15lb 1½oz.
Fifth Place	Iain Barr	5 Fish for 12lb 12oz.

Forum of "experts" held at the Fishing Lodge on Tuesday 8th December.

This event was attended by some 30 members. With the Fur & Feather in prospect, numerous items relevant to Winter fishing were discussed. So as to give some idea of the current best method, the secretary passed round his Bloodworm/Black Tadpole set up which had recently caught a considerable number of fish. Iain Barr who is evidently a clear thinking angler in all aspects of the sport gave us all some very sound advice on match fishing techniques. Brian Thomas & Dick Stephen gave us many useful hints on all manner of subjects of the sport. There was also some good feed back from the audience from which the forum was able to benefit! Our thanks to Jon Marshall for providing sandwiches in the interval.

Subscriptions renewals 1998/99.

The Treasurer tells me that many members have not yet renewed their subs. I am sorry to harp on about the subject but according to Rule 5(c) of the constitution, membership will be invalid if subs are not paid by December 31st. While appreciating the problems associated with Christmas post, if subs are not paid by the deadline date of the next newsletter i.e. Tuesday 26th January (The Video evening) then you will be deemed to have resigned and no further correspondence will be forwarded. Please find a membership renewal form enclosed.

Wishing you all a prosperous new year and tight lines for the 1999 season.

Yours Sincerely

John Wadham - Hon. Secretary