

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 1997

Dear Member

Firstly, a very big welcome to a number of new members who have joined us this Winter. It is hoped that you will be able to join in as many of the events as possible

Charles Jardine - Tuesday February 4th

The next meeting will be held at the Victoria Hall, Oakham at 7.30 pm on Tuesday February 4th 1997 when we will be pleased to welcome Charles Jardine who will be travelling up from Kent to give us the benefit of his knowledge on lake flies and their imitation. This will be relevant to all of us - expert and beginner alike. Just a few words about Charles. He has a very wide and intimate knowledge of all forms of fly fishing including Rutland Water!

He is a very skilled caster as any of you who have watched his multiple rod casting at the Game Fair will testify. He is also a prolific writer on the subject and an imaginative fly dresser as readers of game fishing magazines will agree. With such a wealth of knowledge at his finger tips we are promised a very enthralling evening.

Fly Tying Evening February 18th

On Tuesday 18th February we will be having a fly tying evening in the downstairs rooms at the Victoria Hall, Oakham starting at 7.30 pm. Some very skilled fly dressers will be on hand to demonstrate fly tying techniques. They will be tying a big range of patterns from tiny Cul-de Canards to Salmon Flies. There will be five performers who will be spread around one of the rooms leaving the other room available for those who want to indulge in social banter - a very important part of the life of the club.

Fly Tying Evening (contd.)

The experts all drawn from our membership comprise:-

Trevor Ashby
 Dave Doherty
 John Maitland
 Nigel Savage
 Dick Stephen

They will not only be tying flies but giving us that all important info. on how to fish them. As Arthur Cove said in his talk "it's not what you use but how you use it".

The Secretary is not included in the list of fly dressers for obvious reasons. Apparently someone found his fly box on the bank took one look inside it and threw it down again. That is quite possible as he had to go to Trevor's class at the Lodge to learn the whip finish. Perhaps he could plead Cove's maxim!

Fly Tying Sundays

I hope as many of you as possible will encourage the less able fly dressers to visit the Fishing Lodge on Sundays to learn all about fly tying from Trevor Ashby who is on hand from 11.00 am until 3.00 pm .

Arthur Cove - January 7th

On Tuesday January 7th Arthur Cove gave a well attended meeting an anglers life history from the use of silk line in German Rivers during the post war occupation to the modern methods of today. There was a lot of sound advice in what Arthur told us. If you listened carefully, you soon realised that the old reasoning still applies to the modern approach. He told us about the Eye Brook trout of the fifties which despite feeding on pupae could be caught on standard wet flies. However there were days when they proved uncatchable. So he tried to overcome this problem. That is when the Cove Pheasant Tail was born.

The one thing which clearly emerged from his talk was that "It's not what you use but how you use it" presentation being ninety percent of the art. He is still piloting his "microlite" aircraft around the country. A good way of seeing your reservoir in a different perspective!

Marcus Warwick - January 21st

On Tuesday 21st January we were pleased to welcome Marcus Warwick who gave us all a very amusing account of the history of rod making and angling back to the middle ages. He drew a very interesting analogy between the Hexagonal shape of built cane rods to the bee's honeycomb which is built for strength. So maybe there is something to be said for producing hexagonal carbon rods. At least one company already does. He discussed all sorts of problems associated with the manufacture of rods from the early greenheart "softies" to the ultra-modern carbon "quickies". We were shown some very practical "personalised" rods and expanded bearing reels of superb engineering quality which attracted a lot of attention both in the interval and after the talk.

Marcus Warwick(contd)

We also received some very sound advice on rod building with particular regard to the shape of cork handles and ring spacing which appears to be critical. We also received some much needed clarification of the A.F.T.M. rating of rods. One final point of interest was that you kill fish quicker by playing them with your rod held at approx. 60 degrees thus using not just the tip but the whole rod to fight the fish. For those who did not come to the talk a visit to his workshop in Uppingham would be an education.

Questionnaire 1997

We would like to thank all those who have so far taken the trouble to return their questionnaires. Some seventy have so far been received. While this response is gratifying there are a lot more still out there. So please make a special effort and get them in as soon as you can. They are all confidential and stored on disk. The Secretary has extrapolated the figures so far and you will in due course be notified of the results. Remember this is purely a survey of Club opinion. Many very valid comments have been made so far on all the topics. So please keep them coming or bring them to the next meeting if you want to save the cost of a stamp.

Youth National 1997 - Rutland Water.

Mike Watts, organiser and press officer who has taken over from Graham Pearson is looking out for experienced boatmen to help in the Youth National Competition at Rutland Water on Sunday 20th July 1997. 50 boats have been provisionally booked for the 1997 event. Next years provisional dates are respectively:-

Sunday June 21st 1998	Youth National
Wednesday August 5th 1998	Youth International

For further information, please contact Mike Watts on: 01536-514381

Winter Fishing 1996.

This ended on a high note for those hardy souls who braved some horrendous weather in the closing days of December. The heavy snowfall which occurred on 30th actually did the exposed margins of the reservoir a favour by protecting them from the subsequent severe frosts. The top halves of both arms were in fact frozen over for over a fortnight. One silver lining to the cloud was that when crossing the frozen exposed zone from the water's edge to the car one's waders did not pick up tons of "araldite" like mud.

The fish fed right to the "bitter" end and were last seen feeding on large blood worms in the dirty water being stirred up by the incoming icy blasts mainly between the Finches and Tim Appleton's. With all this talk of hard feeding it was easy to realise why the fish contained much natural body fat to see them through the worst of the Winter. We all tend to look at the stomach contents of our fish when we have caught them. This tells you about their current diet. When you get home to clean the fish how about looking at their digestive tract? This sounds messy but it is most revealing and gives one an insight into their feeding habits over the previous 24 hours. Some food items e.g. beetles, water mites and much of the Corixa body go through undigested. In fact the mites, beetles and some of the Corixa come through alive and swim around in the vessel at home.

Winter Fishing (contd.)

This digestive content needs careful washing in a sieve and then transferring into a white flat bottomed bowl for assessment - after you have strained the dinner vegetables! This is invaluable information if you are fishing the next day i.e. to know what they are on in the day time rather than what they were feeding on when you caught them last thing at night or whenever.

One thing was quite clear from the number of pulls one had and the number of fish seen moving on the calmer days is that there are a lot of good quality fish left in the lake . In view of their hard feeding this Autumn the hope is that they will survive to provide with us some much needed over wintered fish - to give you a fright when you hook one in April which looks like taking all your backing! If all this sounds like a plug for winter fishing - then yes it is!

Competition Meeting 28th January 1997.

You will be given an appraisal of all matters discussed at the meeting including match dates etc. These details will appear in the next news letter due out on or about 24th February.

Fishing prices for 1997

Details of these and other related matters will be notified to you as soon as they are to hand.

Other items

If there are any news items you wish to include in these letters please let me know in good time. Preferably at least a week prior to publication. You will be given a deadline date with the previous letter.

The Litter Pick up Day

Referred to in the January newsletter is proposed for Sunday 16th March 1997. The proceeds from the event will go towards the Rutland Accident Care Scheme (R.A.C.S.). We will assemble at the Fishing lodge where refreshments will be available afterwards. It will be a morning session .The more hands we have the better. This should be a useful task and good P.R. for fishing as a whole. More details in next newsletter.

Just a gentle reminder to any who have not renewed their subs please get them in to the Treasurer

They are the same as last year, i.e.	Adult	£12-00
	Senior Citizen	£6-00
	Junior / Full Time Student	£3-00

Your 1997 membership books are enclosed.

Also for committee members Minutes of the January 1997 Committee Meeting. The agenda for the Committee meeting on Feb.11th will follow under a separate cover.

Wishing you all a flu free February

Yours Sincerely

John Wadham - (Hon. Secretary)