

## **RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS**

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

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## **FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 1998**

Dear Member,

### **Bill Pennington - Tuesday March 3rd 1998**

Just a reminder that on Tuesday 3rd March we will be pleased to welcome Bill Pennington ( A.P.G.A.I.) of the North West School of game angling all the way from Lancaster. He will be giving us the benefit of his knowledge of fishing in the Lake District that is available to the likes of us poor mortals. Many people who go to the lake District on holiday (the secretary included) forget that there is an abundance of rivers, streams and of course lakes. These, Bill tells me, offer an interestingly wide variety of sport upon Bill will enlarge when he comes. He will be describing the best methods, fly patterns and times of year to fish. What about Char? He will be giving us a brief fly tying demo of some of the most deadly Lake District Patterns. It will be interesting to see how they compare with our "lowland" lake & reservoir patterns. Bill will be very generously donating a small box of the best fly patterns as a raffle prize. This sounds like an enthralling evening so come on chaps give it your best shot and come along! We miss you.

### **Plans for the 1998 season.**

Jon Marshall will be addressing the meeting on March 3rd - prior to Bill Pennington - and will give details of plans for the 1998 season including stocking and other activities. So if you want to know more come along then.

### **Pat O'Reilly - Tuesday 3rd February 1998**

Here was someone with an incredible insight to the habits of fish and insects that matter to anglers. We saw some amazing slides of insects seen from all angles especially that of the fish. Particularly interesting was how fish viewed insects and how their colour by reflection matched that of the river bed upon which the fish lay. Also that anything seen from below the surface appeared black.

Sea Trout with stomachs full of caddis from the Towy? Who said they didn't feed in fresh water! Ever tried caddis imitations made from rubber bands and "Hoover contents"? Pat took many on these on dry flies especially stone flie immitations scurried across the surface but sportingly killed only a few each season. The ultimate in "match the hatch" - to quote a well known source.

One thing that was surely relevant to us reservoir types was that the time the sedge was most likely to be taken was the "morning after" when the spent insects lay "awash" or "swamped in the surface film.

How about fishing at 6,500 feet up in the Swiss Alps where the water temperature rarely exceeds 3 deg. C - makes you shudder to think of it. But tremendous rises occurred when clouds covered the sun. Where have we heard that before?

Pat suggested that the best fly patterns for Sea Trout were black and silver. This was borne out by his success with the Butcher. The secretary and others have found the Black Pennell and the Viva to be very effective. Same colour scheme.

Pat went on to highlight the damage done to some of our highland fisheries by land drainage schemes, pesticides. acid rain and cattle trampling the bank side etc.

### **Pat O'Reilly (Contd.)**

One interesting fact that does not normally occur to us is that certain nymphs are only available to the trout in flood conditions as they get washed out from under stones. These normally only crawl out to hatch and that is when they are of most interest to us and the trout.

Did you know that George Melly fished? He should do. He and Tom Saville made numerous jazz recordings together after the war. I cannot believe that fishing did not once or twice enter the conversation! Pat was able, by carefully examining the water surface, to put him on fish. Pat summed up by saying that enjoyment the sport gave was the most important part of fishing.

Pat started in a very self effacing way by referring to our audience as experts. After what we learned that night there was no doubt who the expert was! The Chair man thanked Pat for a very informative evening and thanked him for his generosity in donating his fee to the LOROS hospice fund. If you need more info on the rivers and streams discussed you can contact Pat on 01239 698678.

### **Paul Canning Tuesday 17th February 1998**

Never was an evening so well filled with good sound advice for the still water fly fisherman whether pleasure or competition angler by one who pays great attention to detail - even to the extent of changing the

weight of his intermediate line ten times in one drift to get to the right depth!

Rods - 10ft was the preferred length for most fishing. The rings were fixed on the rod in corkscrew fashion with much enlarged butt and intermediate lined rings for the butt section and snake rings for the top section. A very useful feature was a moulding at the top of the cork butt to fit the thumb. This is designed to give the angler more power and control in the forward drive.

Reels - these should be of good quality for the regular angler so as to last a life time. No need then for regular sprocket replacement etc.

Nets - Very wisely he suggested the inclusion of a very large and long handled landing net. For landing fish from slippery dam walls, high banks, over weed beds etc. The secretary recalls an incident when one of the Grafham staff had to be rescued from the water after slipping on the dam wall there being no way out of the water on the slippery surface. Catch of a lifetime you may say - but a life saved by a landing net! And what about that 15lb Brownie you are going to hook in 1998 and lose because the net is too small!

Fly patterns - we were shown some very interesting samples. With emphasis on not what but how. E.g. dry patterns including floating fry should be fished on the "dangle" i.e. partially submerged - rather than having the whole fly/fry on the surface.

Caenis! Well Paul even seemed to have an answer to this phenomenon. He suggested a tiny white ostrich herl nymph size 16 for the nymph feeders. And a similarly dressed dry for those that come to mop up the spinners.

Particle nymphs. These could well be the answer to the ostracod / water mite feeders on Burley. Very simply tied with cul - de - canard head and a tiny ball of a suitably coloured lava lace on the bend of a size 10 Kamasan B.400 hook. Sounds silly but Paul made out a very good case for its use. Having won a match with it!

Leader material - As is almost universally agreed clear nylons were the order of the day and the pros and cons of numerous brands were discussed including the copolymer types. For droppers, the three turn water knot was recommended. Paul suggested teasing the leader and knot through ones fingers simultaneously to create sufficient heat to cause the dropper (which should be made up from the end pointing down the leader) to stand out better from the main body of the leader. To attach the fly a double tucked blood knot with the leader point being passed twice through the eye of the hook before tying the knot.

He discussed the different habits of the fry which trout eat and how and when the trout take them i.e. slow moving perch fry and sticklebacks which are easily captured or hard to catch roach or bream fry. The angler should therefore fish accordingly.

### **Paul Canning (Contd).**

Paul then went on to make comparisons between the various larger still waters. Some very interesting analogies were drawn.

Rutland Trout were moody and easily put down by wind. Don't we know! He thought quite rightly that the regulars at many fisheries missed some of the best spots because of too much weed or limited back cast etc.

Surface slicks appeared to attractive to fish at Grafham and Rutland - even those engendered by the boat itself - but not apparently to Bewl Water fish - matchmen take note. Anglers here quite often preferring to cast to distant risers downwind from a boat.

It was very fitting that Bernard Venables of Mr Crabtree fame was mentioned. He was your present secretary's mentor and one who verily bubbled with enthusiasm. Read Crabtree now and those values still hold good today.

Well one could go on. Paul was a very generous fund of useful information. There were sadly only some thirty members to benefit from such a wealth of such valuable material

### **Dinner & Speaker Evening March 17th 1998 at 7.30 p.m.**

This has now, thanks to the efforts of Roger McCarthy and Join Marshall, got off the ground and some twenty plus members have expressed an interest in attending. But so far only some half dozen have paid up. Please be certain to pay your £8 -00 by the next meeting - March 3rd or the event will be called off. Names and fee to Roger McCarthy on 01664 567024(Address on page 4) as soon as possible please so that the necessary catering arrangements can be made. ( Please note Roger's new number).

This will be a fun social evening before the season's opening on April 1st. The speaker will be Bob Feetham former Angling Times editor and now the owner of "Rutland Times" who, with such a vast knowledge of the sport, will no doubt entertain us royally.

### **Litter pick up day Sunday March 8th 1998.**

We meet at the Fishing Lodge at 9.00am for a bacon sandwich and coffee/tea. We move off to our allotted sections at 9.30 and hope to finish by about 1230 with a raffle. Come along if you can. It is very good pr. for the club and socially very pleasant. Let's hope for a nice day like last year. Hopefully we may get some assistance from other bodies which will enable us to do a more thorough job and cover a bigger area in the time. The proceeds will go towards the Karen Ball Memorial Fund for palliative care at the Rutland Memorial Hospital where some of our late members spent their last days.

### **Newsletters**

The next newsletter will only be sent out to paid up members which number approximately 130. So if you want a newsletter with details of the coming season you had better look sharp!

### **General News**

The marginal reservoir temperature at 8 deg.C is still the same as it was before Christmas there having been insufficient cold weather to affect it. This is the value you could reasonably expect at the beginning of May. A journey through the country quite simply tells you how advanced the season already is. The blackthorn is now quite well out in sheltered places. Perhaps the "blackthorn winter" will visit us in March rather than the normal early May! The lake water is quite clear. Some small buzzers are hatching on the calmer days. Much of the thistles and other submerged vegetation has now rotted down giving plenty of detritus for blood worms, hog lice & caddis etc. to graze on. We should then hope to find the fish in the margins at the start. On calm days fish have been seen moving quite close in especially in the harbour compound at the lodge.

Our thanks to A.W.S for the three plugs of R.W.F.F. activities featured on page seven in their 1998 "Hooked" magazine. Details are given on the same page of the catch & release rules for Ravensthorpe.

**Prices for 1998 season** - all details may be found in "Hooked" magazine which is available free from the fishing lodge. Further details from the Lodge on: 01780 686441.

**Thwart Boards**

Brian Thomas has very generously agreed to manufacture some ten more for the 1998 season. These will be of sturdier material to stand the heaviest weight and stresses applied to those sitting on them in a big wave. ***They should not be sat on while the boat is in motion - especially in a big wave.*** The existing boards will be reinforced with slats. Our Chairman and Dick Stephen will be the "carpenters" for this job. The layout of the area will be improved for the new season. The hire rate will still be "not less than 50p".

**Competition Meeting- Tuesday 27th January 1998**

This was attended by a measly ten members. However a summary of the matters discussed is enclosed. The club membership is very grateful to Sean Cutting for taking on what is a very onerous task as Club Captain. So therefore it is up to us to help Sean as much as possible by getting application forms back in good time, good time keeping on the day - any organisational help being most welcome. Details of the 1998 events are enclosed with the meeting report. Any problems or queries to Sean on 01780 720833

**Thames Water Shield - Open Bank Competition Saturday May 2nd 1998 - Farmoor II Reservoir Near Oxford.**

Full Details and application forms for this event are available from:- Graham Pearson, 30 Upping ham Road, Houghton on the Hill, Leics. LE7 9HH - Tel 0116 2412 797.

**English National Youth Final - Sunday July 19th - Rutland Water**

Full details and application forms for this event are available from - Mike Watts, 66 Northampton Road, Kettering, Northants NN15 7JX - Tel 01536 514381 or 0421 561707

Roll on April 1st

Yours Sincerely

John Wadham - Hon. Secretary