

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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FEBRUARY 1999 NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

Firstly, a warm welcome to any new members.

Video Evening - Tuesday 26th January 1999.

This was a poorly attended evening with only some 20 members present. Two videos were shown. The first was on fishing for salmon and trout in Russia's Kola Peninsula. This was very rewarding viewing. Particularly memorable were the shots of salmon coming and inspecting and sometimes taking hold of surface fished lures. This is the essence of great fly fishing; just to be at a vantage point and be able see the fish follow and take. Such was the anticipation and excitement that one felt that you, the viewer, was actually holding the rod. What about double figure Brownies on the dry fly? It is very good value, in my judgement.

The second one was one man's all method tour of many fisheries in the UK This was amusing but one felt that too much time was spent in each place and little information was given on "how and what with"! However some interesting places were visited.

Christopher Robinson - Tuesday 2nd February 1999

This was an equally poorly attended meeting with only some 22 members present. Those who did come were richly rewarded by a mine of information on fishing all over the world. Christopher has the delightful but very demanding task of assessing the value for money of potential of fishing stations world-wide. We were transported from the Caribbean to the Arctic Circle. And from Bone fishing in the coastal "flats" around Cuba to Salmon fishing in northern Russia. The shot of an angler fishing in the Tundra wearing a hat totally plastered with Mosquitoes was a little disturbing. However the fishing potential more than made up for that. Apparently the "mozzies" start their predations at the end May. So before that you are OK.

Wading bare foot or in the minimum of footwear on the Cuban flats amid Sting rays, Sharks and anything likely to remove a limb or give you a nasty sting gave one food for thought! The fighting prowess of Permit, Tarpon and Bone fish seemed to be well worth the risk.

Catch & release Sea Trout fishing in Tierra del Fuego on the Southern tip of South America sounded superb with fish averaging ten to eleven pounds. A good example of the benefits of catch & release.

Of course it is a very short season in the extreme Northern and Southern latitudes. But made up for with almost 24 hour daylight in summer.

This was a very informative and amusing talk by one with an in depth knowledge of fishing World-wide and Christopher will, I am sure, be pleased to advise any of our members on where to go & what to catch. You can contact him at Roxton Bailey Robinson at Hungerford on 01488 689701.

Tackle Auction Tuesday 16th February 1999

This was one of the best attended meetings for many years. Seventy one members and non members came and 140 lots which ranged from some very good rods to rusty priests were very efficiently moved by our resident Jeff Dale. He very generously donated his fee to the England Youth. This was presented to Nathan Clayton who is the England Youth Team Manager. A very big thank you to all the helpers which included Sean Cutting, J. Dodds, Brian Lloyd, Jon Marshall, Kevin Taylor, Dick Stephen, The Secretary, Lin Walters, Paul Wild and any other members who volunteered their services. With these and our very skilled Auctioneer the evening went very well. There were a number of new faces in the audience.

We were also grateful for the attendance of Rod Crothers who obtained some "pics" for the Rutland Times edition of Friday 26th February 1999.

Cooking Evening - Monday March 1st 1999 - Victoria Hall - 7.30pm

Jim Meikle from the Falcon Hotel, Whittlesey will be coming to cook for us. He will be preparing and cooking all forms of game and some of which we must have sometimes attempted to do at home. I know there are lots of cooking programmes on the box but there is nothing like live viewing. He will be performing in the in the smaller downstairs room. Jim will be paying particular attention to those delicious sauces which can so enhance meat dishes. The bar will also be available in the other room. This will give members the chance to socialise between "courses". Ladies will of course, be welcome. Please note that this function is on a **Monday** (not the customary Tuesday)

Fishing Report

The lake is now about 95% full: i.e. normal top level and the water has at last cleared after all the floods. The marginal temperature both upwind and downwind in the middle of the February cold spell was 5 deg C. This is about average. Even if the temp does not rise from that figure the fish will be well adapted. So when the warmer days come they will find the surface the warmest place to be. In 1975 - one of the best seasons on record - Pitsford, Ravensthorpe, parts of Grafham and Draycote were all frozen on April 1st. We pushed the ice away from the margins and had a bonanza. The stomachs of the fish were crammed with terrestrial stuff like worms, beetles and Roach fry. They had become used to feeding at that temp.

Hurry! Hurry! - Massive Rod Sale "Bonanza"

This is now on at the Fishing Lodge. Dave Phipps tells me that there are so many it would be impossible to list them here. There is a wide range to choose from and of course we are lucky in having the facility to try them out - without a fly attached! The price reductions range from 33% to 40%.

There are also tremendous bargains on a wide range of fly tying materials. A great deal of which is now available at half (not "Alf") price!

Dinner & Speaker Evening Wednesday 24th March 1999 - Victoria Hall, Oakham.

Time - 7.30pm for 8.00pm. Dress Jacket & Tie - not too formal. The Speaker will be Bob James of the much acclaimed T.V series "A Passion for Angling" and now working for the Anglers Conservation Association. I can guarantee that you will be well entertained by one with such a vast knowledge on all matters related to angling and angling lore.

There will be a three course meal consisting of starter, main Roast course and sweet followed by coffee for the rock bottom price of £8 -50. Alan at the Victoria Hall is a great chef as those who came last year will testify. The service and ambience was superb.

We apologise most sincerely for not sending out a slip or details of the meal. However, we do that this relatively short notice we can get a big enough attendance to go ahead. It acts as a nice get together before the off at Rutland and our speaker is very much looking forward to the occasion. So, "please, please" return the enclosed slip as soon as you can to Jon Marshall at the following address:

17 Trent Road, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HE or, if you are pressed for time, contact through the Fishing Lodge on 01780 686441 before March 4th.

The Lodge is open seven days a week between 9.00am and 4.00pm Again, sorry it is such short notice but it would be a pity to miss out on this opportunity to hear this interesting speaker with such an in depth knowledge of fishing.

The function will be covered by the local press.

Salmon Fishing - River Spey - 15th - 22nd May 1999

Bob Barr - long standing club member - is enquiring whether any one would be interested in sharing accommodation for one weeks fishing on the Spey Association Water on this famous river at Grantown - on - Spey. The lodging is a secure Mobile Home type edifice on ex-head bailiff's property. Cost would be about £50 - 00 per head plus the cost of the fishing which is approximately £135 - 00. Travel costs could also be shared. For further details you can contact Bob on 01778 343643.

Thwart Boards

Thanks to Brian Thomas we now have another 15 very sturdy units which should cope with the maximum "avoir - du - pois". But do *not* sit on them while the boat is motoring in a heavy wave.

Brian is now on the move - guess where? Orkney of course! He could be our most distant member. The committee felt that a 1000 mile round trip for committee meetings was asking a bit much! However far away he may be, he will be much missed by the committee and club members alike. Not only for his cheerful banter but for the tremendous contribution he has made to the club effort. The thwart boards being only one example. We hope he will be able find time come South cheer us up and when it gets tough and show us how to do it!

Litter pick up day - Sunday March 7th 1999.

This will be in aid of the Rutland Accident Care Scheme which is run by Dr Gray of the Oakham practice on Cold Overton Road. This worthy organisation which acts as a landed "Flying doctor" service has been much in demand. Lets hope we don't need them!. However the more people that attend, the more we can collect for them. There will be a raffle and A.W.S will be paying us £2 - 00 a bag. As I am sure those who walk round will have noticed there is plenty to do! So the more the merrier. There will be a mug of tea and a bacon sandwich to set us up for the task. We are then given a zone and a bin liner! We start at 9.00am and aim to finish for about midday. This event will be covered by the press.

R.W.F.F. Competitions 1999

After long deliberations at this better attended competition meeting and with a great deal of hard work by our Competition Secretary, Sean Cutting, the programme is now in place. All wishing to compete must be sure to get their application forms back to Sean as soon as possible. Some are enclosed with this issue.

Rutland Fishing 1999

The full range of prices are now available upon application to the fishing lodge. There are five new categories of season tickets which give access to all four waters and will of course allow us to fish Grafham, Pitsford & Ravensthorpe from their respective opening days. There are some catch and release options.

However full details will be available from "Hooked" magazine which is due out during the week commencing February 22nd. Season tickets will be on sale from February 24th. Midweek boats go up from £18 - 00 to £19 - 00. There is a free boat once you have ordered 20.

All season ticket holders will receive three free guest tickets.

Don't forget to supply a passport size photo when applying for your season tickets.

We will all get a log book for our catch returns. This will be a condition of holding a season ticket. So woe betides those who do not fill them in!

Day ticket prices are virtually unaltered from 1998 however; there are some reductions at Pitsford.

Some 20,000 Rainbows will be stocked in Rutland Water pre-season. These will be of a high average size. The fish will soon put weight on. The larger fish did very well last year. So with such rich food supply available should do even better this year.

For further details on these and other matters please contact the Fishing Lodge on 01780 686441.

Don't forget to renew your rod licence for April 1st.

If you want to chat to the Fishery's staff over coffee there will be an open day on Sunday March 7th at the Fishing Lodge. Then you can come and help with the litter pick up!

International Boatmen

The Home International will be fished at Rutland Water on Friday 11th June 1999. John Maitland is organising the 29 boatmen required. Could those willing and able to act as boatmen get the forms attached to this letter to John as soon as possible?

Hoping to see some of you at Jim Meikles's cooking evening on **Monday** 1st March and then at the Dinner & Speaker function on **Wednesday** March 24th.

And after that, on the bank!

Yours Sincerely

John Wadham - Hon. Secretary

BOATMEN FOR THE HOME INTERNATIONAL MATCH RUTLAND WATER
FRIDAY 11th JUNE 1999

Volunteers are required to act as boatmen at the above match. They must be sure that, excepting Acts of god, they will be available on the day. Boatmen must be experienced competition anglers familiar with Rutland water

The C.E.F.F. have arranged that boatmen on the day may either have a free weekday boat on any Anglian Water reservoir or attend free the post match international dinner at the Rockingham Forest Hotel

Will volunteers please complete the attached tear off slip and post it off without delay- and not later than the end of April. In the event of queries, please ring John Maitland on 01572 756650. As soon as possible, he will inform those who volunteer whether or not they have been selected.

Please tear off slip here-----

BOATMEN - INTERNATIONAL @ RUTLAND WATER - 11th JUNE 1999.

I am willing and definitely available to act as boatman at the above match.

I am familiar with Rutland Water and have the following competition experience:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|----------|
| If selected I would like: | (a) | a free weekday boat | Tick one |
| | (b) | to attend the post-match dinner | () |
| | | | () |

My name is:

Address:

Phone No:

(Home)
(Work)

Now post this to: John Maitland,
7 St Albans Close,
Oakham,
Rutland
LE15 6EW