

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2000

Dear Member

Tackle Auction

This was a very enjoyable evening attended by ninety-one members. This is the best attendance at any meeting in the history of the club with a number of people from Yorkshire present.

There were unfortunately fewer lots on offer. Even so, the sale realised a total of £710 - 00 including £82 - 00 from the AWS lost property box. The secretary examined the items for sale and found to his delight that one lost property bag contained his long lost Earland Brothers hat. However, his bid was successful and he also acquired another very useful hat with ear muffs. He feels sorry for whoever lost it as it is ideal in a cross wind!

The evening was also made very entertaining by our resident auctioneer, Jeff Dale's wry humour. Jeff has made a tremendous contribution to the club effort. In recognition of this, he was presented with the Rutland Horseshoe by the RWFF Chairman, John Maitland. We are very grateful to Dick Stephen who hand crafted a super replica. Jeff very kindly donated his fee to the club juniors coffers. The event was reported in Rutland Times this week

Club Web Site

Please find enclosed a note from Gary Legge who is in the process of setting up the site. The site has already had a lot of "hits". We are grateful to Gary who has given up so much of his time to the task for which he has charged a minimal fee.

Stocking & Prices

In the last newsletter I implied that smaller fish were being stocked this year. This was incorrect.

Anglian Water will be stocking fewer fish under 1½lb and increasing the number of 1½lb to 2lb fish compared with last year. This could have the effect of increasing the number of fish stocked.

Their objective is to stock with fish which are big enough to avoid the cormorants but not so big as to spoil the satisfaction of knowing that all the fish over 3lb have grown on naturally in the lake.

Full Details will shortly appear in the AWS "Hooked" Magazine. If you have not received your copy please contact the fishing lodge on 01780 686441 and your name will go on the mailing list. If they haven't already, season ticket holders will also soon receive full details.

On the Blue catch & Release Ticket you can take five 8 fish limits on nominated days during the season so as to cover you for matches. This makes good sense.

Bill Rawlings - Tuesday 22nd February

Twenty five members were present to welcome Bill Rawlings who came up from Colchester to give us the benefit of what was evidently a wealth of knowledge on fishing in Ireland. As an opener he suggested that the most successful angler was the one who thought most about what he was doing rather than just going through the motions of perfect casting.

We were given a guided tour of the Island and spent a good deal of time on Lough Currane in Kerry. This is a very popular venue among many of our members. So was of particular value. However we were warned about the necessity to have a good Ghillie to tell you when you are about to ground on the multitude of rocks!

Suggested hot spots for salmon on Currane were Morgan's Rock, Grey Rock, and Cummeragh Island. All near the Cummeragh Inlet. Lough Derriana up in the Mountains is also worth a try especially after a flood. We were given maps of Currane and a sketch of Ireland with the best fishing places which could prove very useful - copies available from RWFF Secretary.

We were also given an in depth account of the fishing at Costello in Galway. The suggested reference book for fishing in this area is "A Man May Fish" by Kingsmill Moore.

He suggested two very good books on fishing in Ireland by Peter O'Reilley - who, incidentally, came to speak to RWFF in 1998.

Bill found the following patterns useful to cover most eventualities.

Black Pennel, Bibio, Delphi Silver, Daddy, Claret Bumble, Zulu, Butcher (especially effective during the annual "ant fall", Bluebottle, Watson's Fancy, Teal Blue & Silver and nymph patterns in the " pools". I.e. the canalised sections of rivers.

Our thanks to John Maitland & Jan for accommodating Bill for the night

Philip White - Tuesday March 7th 2000

Philip will be coming from Darley Dale in North Derbyshire to give us the benefit of his apparently boundless knowledge on rivers and their environment. He is a delightful and incredibly imaginative fly tier as all those who have watched him at the Game Fair will testify.

His extensive knowledge on Grayling and their habits will be of great interest to members and having been the River Manager at Haddon Hall on the Derbyshire Wye he is well acquainted with the habits of wild Rainbows. This river is in fact one of the only rivers in the UK where Rainbows spawn naturally.

As you may be aware he is now the manager of Lathkill Tackle.

It seems that he has been involved with all aspects of the Sport. I am sure that many of you will remember his previous visit when the audience was so enthralled you could have heard a mouse cough!

Food At Meetings

From 22nd February food in the form of sandwiches will be available at the Winter meetings. These will be provided out of club funds. This could help those who are unable to get home for a meal before coming to meetings.

Fly Fishing for Pike

Ken Merridan hit the jackpot on his first attempt taking a superb 12lb 12oz fish from Morton's Leam on a Minkie. What a start!

A week later the Secretary upped his best to a 15lb 10oz specimen also on a Minkie from the Old R.Nene course near March.

Water Level

The water is still a metre down but with promised rainfall this week may reach top level .This has, locally, been a comparatively dry Winter. However the snow melt on 17th brought up the source rivers just high enough to activate the pumps. We need to start at full water. If it is a bit short, places like the Stones, Old Hall Point and Yellowstone soon run out of depth. Also, even a moderate wind tends to colour the margins. And, anyway, it is nice to sit on grassy banks and listen to the sounds of Spring.

Litter Pick up Day - Rutland Water - Sunday 5th March - Sponsored by Anglian Water

This was reasonably well attended last year and some forty bags of rubbish were collected in the most appalling weather. We meet at the Lodge at 9.00am for bacon sandwich and a mug of tea to see us on our way. By the way, Nathan, could please remember to unlock the barrier onto the peninsula!

Seriously, though, this is a great social occasion and does no end of good for the club image and for angling in general. Last year we had some very nice things said by those walking round or cycling in the sleet! Please come and help. We do it in aid of the Rutland Accident Care Scheme (RACS). This is the brainchild of Doctor Gray of the Oakham medical practice.

AWS donate £100 - to the scheme and RWFF hold a raffle which last year yielded £62 - 00.

Each year there seems to be as much rubbish as previous years.

Bags and gloves - for personal hygiene - are provided at the Lodge. Be thorough in your cleansing but don't, like the secretary, collect that one last nasty item on the way back to the lodge and find that your winning raffle number was drawn in your absence!

Pre - Season Dinner & Speaker Evening - with Taff Price - Tuesday 21st March 2000 -7.30 for 8.00pm

This promises as last year to be great fun with speaker to match. For those who have not heard Taff Price before this will be an event not to be missed. The food in the Victoria Hall provided by Alan Brown the resident chef is excellent and the ambience is ideal. For those of you who have lost your form or have recently joined the club, a replacement is enclosed. Please get your application form back to Jon Marshall as soon as possible so that we can give the caterer an idea of numbers in good time.

The club guests will be Mark Sutcliffe of Angling Times & Andrew James of Trout Fisherman Magazine.

Leicester Fly Fishing Show - Friday 10th March 2000 - Parklands Leisure Centre, Oadby

This is a good place to socialise pre season and top up your tackle box. John Maitland and Dick Stephen have just produced a super plaque which will be on show and hopefully the draw attract some attention. It is made absolutely "to spec" with the odd number of tack holes in the horse shoe. Viz. four on one side and three on the other. Looks odd but that's how it is.

AWS have kindly allowed us to use their stand. Our thanks to The Chairman, Dick Stephen and Kevin Taylor for agreeing to take time out to man our part of the stand. It is tiring standing for a long time looking "the business". So any additional assistance would be very welcome. If you can help out please let John Maitland know. This can be a great opportunity for recruitment of new members.

Club Membership

The club membership continues to thrive. We have increased in numbers from a onetime 90 to a present day number approaching 200.

Club Members' News

During the season there will be a club members' news column in the news letters. E.g. How well did you do on the Spey or how did you get on in Alaska? Did you have a good day in the boat?. You fell flat on your face in the water on the green bank! You think you saw an osprey fishing. So, this season, don't let the secretary hog the news or the letter could finish up as an "ego trip". That would be a total bore to all readers. Any anecdote whether amusing or one to teach us a salutary lesson - E.g. you fell overboard and were saved by your life jacket. These sorts of items are an essential part of the publication. As they say "No news - no letter"

Club Competitions 2000

Please find enclosed application form for the house of Hardy and the list of the club events for 2000.

Further application forms to be forwarded for other matches in due course. Our thanks to our hard worked Competition Secretary, Sean Cutting, for the prompt organising of the programme.

Look forward to seeing as many as possible of you on March 5th. Or on the bank on April 1st

Yours sincerely

John Wadham - Hon. Secretary