

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2001

Dear Member

Firstly, a warm welcome to our new members who have joined us since the AGM. Our thanks to those who have renewed their membership for 2001.

While not wishing to be too draconian to existing members who have not paid their subs, this will be your last newsletter as it will be assumed that you do not wish to continue membership of the club. Between now and the next edition we look forward to receiving your subs.

Total paid up membership so far is about 120. After the juniors event last year we were at 230.

Reservoir report

The lake still remains about 2 to 3 feet below top level. Recently during the cold spell the tops of both arms and some areas of the main basin were frozen over. This soon dispersed when the milder weather came. A winter freeze up seems to have little bearing on the fishing of the next season. Some of the vintage years at Rutland – 1979, 1982 & 1987 were preceded by some the fiercest winter weather of the twentieth century. In 1979 there were still blizzards in May. In 1987 the entire reservoir was frozen to a depth of 8 inches in late February. On opening day in that season the marginal water temp was 2deg C. There is only one way from there and that is up! That was one of the best opening days on record! Details of prices, opening days etc will appear in “Hooked” magazine due out towards the end of February. Former Season ticket holders should soon receive their pre season-letters from AWS.

Cooking Evening with Jim Meikle -Tuesday February 6th 2001 – 7.30pm – Victoria Hall, Oakham.

Jim is one of our club members and now runs the Golden Pheasant Hotel at Etton near Peterborough. His cuisine comes highly recommended by many club members who have dined there. Jim will be demonstrating his skills in the downstairs room at the Victoria Hall. Ladies are of course are welcome.

Steve Parton - Tuesday 20th February 2001 - Victoria Hall at 7.30pm

Well known author and world-wide fly fisher Steve will be coming to give us the benefit of his knowledge on float tubing and Tarpon Fishing and “other matters”. If I know Steve, this will be a very entertaining evening but not to be taken too seriously.

Rutland Fly Fair – Sunday 4th February 2001

This will be held at the **Barnsdale Lodge Hotel** on the Main A606 on the North side of the Barnsdale Cross Roads **not** at the Barnsdale Country Club as previously advised. Further details from Stuart Illsley on 01780 482901. Direction signs will be posted.

Litter pick up day - Sunday 4th March 2001

This again will be carried out in aid of the Rutland Accident Care Scheme. Meet at the Fishing Lodge at 9.00am for coffee and a bacon sandwich. Most years we have raise in excess of £150 – 00 in aid of this most worthy cause. You may need their services one-day. So please come and support it.

You never know what you may find around the banks: yes, even rods and waders have been collected and anyway it is a good excuse for a pre-season natter. AWS will be putting some money towards it and RWFF holds a raffle. So, the more who can come the better. AWS will supply us with bags and gloves. Don't be late back to the Lodge like our Secretary whose ticket was drawn in the raffle and he missed out on a free boat!

Pre – season Dinner Tuesday March 20th – 7.30 for 8.00pm – Victoria Hall, Oakham

For our speaker John Marshall has procured the services of Keith Arthur of Sky TV and of course a well known and respected writer in the Angling Press for many years. This will, I am sure, be a very enjoyable function at which ladies are more than welcome. The cost will be £11 – 00 for a three course roast dinner including raffle. See enclosed poster.

Tackle Auction – Tuesday 6th March 2001 – 7.30pm – Victoria Hall, Oakham -

The doors open at 6.00pm so giving everyone time to book in their items for sale and for us to be able to give them a lot number and lay them out for the commencement of the sale at 7.30pm. So get as soon as you can. This saves having to queue to book in. See enclosed poster for details. Our thanks to Jeff Dale for agreeing to be Auctioneer again.

Osprey Relocation Scheme – Lecture with slides given by Tim Appleton and Andrew Brown from AWS on Tuesday 9th January 2001

This replaced the proposed lecture that was to be given by David Arnold Forster OBE on the subject of the “Wildlife Management at Rutland Water. Sadly, Mr Forster was taken ill a few days before the event and had to enter hospital for an operation. We all wish him a speedy recovery. He has agreed to come for the next winter season and we all look forward to the occasion.

Tim and Andy gave us a very interesting up to date survey of the Osprey scheme. This was apparent from the prolonged question and answer session after the slides. It was interesting that so much had been learned about their migratory habits. Apparently Ospreys don't suffer cormorants gladly. Good news for Rutland Trout! The osprey population was not thought likely to have any impact on the trout. Anyway, I have seen many anglers put their rods down or miss a pull while they have watching these birds! On that basis I am sure they will be welcome at the lake.

Club Competition Programme 2001 – Sean Cutting – Club Captain

Our thanks to Sean for the enclosed programme for next season. Integrating our match programme into the whole scheme of things is “complicated enough” as they say. So please be sure to get all your forms back to him as soon as you can so that boats can be booked and catering put in place. Particularly important is the reply slips for the Association of Major Club's matches and our Oliver Cup.

Fly Tying and Prize Giving.

This was the best-attended evening for many years with fifty-six members including Junior members John Frank, Luke Lavelle & Luke Shevlin present. Our thanks to their respective parents for bringing them to the event. Thanks especially to Sheila Frank who brought her son John all the way from Pocklington near York to receive his prize. The super mass photograph supplied by Sheila, the prize list and write up will be sent to the local press. Our thanks to Trevor Ashby, Bill McIlroy, John Maitland & “Curly” Dave Doherty who gave us the benefit of their skills gratis.

The secretary apologises for not tying a pike fly during the evening. There seemed to be so much to do and so many nice people to see. One of the great benefits of this type of meeting is that you can have a good natter without drowning a speaker.

However, a number of mink patterns up to eight inches in length were shown to interested members. Most important is to imagine you are tying them to catch Piranhas or Barracuda. That way they will survive the Pike’s “gnashers”. Two black mink patterns were given to Jon Marshall who put them to good use on a Fenland drain sharing in a catch of twenty Pike to 14lb with Roger McCarthy, Ken Merridan & Nigel Savage. Roger had the best one.

Letter from Mick Stephens – English International Youth Team Manager

“It is a great pleasure for me as a member of RWFF to make a small but important contribution to the newsletter. I am probably better known to the Junior members of RWFF that have passed through to the Youth International teams and eventually to compete at senior level over the past ten years. These include Iain Barr, Richard Hearth, Robert Edmunds to name but a few. What is more encouraging is that, looking to the future, the club has a small but effective section of youth members that are keen to compete and have worked hard over the last year and have qualified to fish in the International Team in the 2001 event at Llyn Trawsfynydd. Those who have achieved this are Charles Bowers, Daniel Jackman, Luke Lavelle and Luke Shevlin. I look forward to working with all of you and the team over the next few months because it is a great experience and there to be enjoyed”. Rutland Water Fly Fishers wish them all every success and thank Mick for the time and effort put in to support them.

2001 Trout Fisherman European Open – For details, application forms, contact John Horsey a.s.a.p. on 01761 490367 or E.Mail him on tfeo@johnhorsey./co.uk

Please make a note of the enclosed as the next newsletter may not go out until March

Yours sincerely
John Wadham

I would like to attend the Pre - Season Dinner to be held at the Victoria Hall on Tuesday 20th March. I enclose my remittance of £11 – 00 which includes a raffle.

Name

Telephone number

Please get this tear off slip back to John Marshall at **17 Trent Road. Oakham Rutland, LE15 6AG** - as soon as possible - so the caterer can be given an idea of numbers attending.