

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



February 2003

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DIARY DATES

March 1st
Leicester Fly Fishing Show

March 4th
Tackle Auction - **note** this is to be held at the *Victoria Hall*.

March 9th
Litter Pick Up & raffle in aid of RACS - Fishing Lodge

March 25th 2003
Pre-season Dinner

NOTE All meetings are held at the Empingham Cricket Club unless otherwise stated and start at 7.30pm

Please note that subscriptions are now overdue



On the 14th January, David Moore, AWS, gave us a very clear, concise and frank summary of the 2002 season at all four of their fisheries. Rather than write you a prose version I have summarised it thus.

1. This was a record year for season permits at Anglian Water's reservoirs.
2. There were more newcomers to the sport than ever before.
3. Grafham had its best year since opening in 1966.
4. Record fish had been caught from Rutland, Pitsford & Ravensthorpe
5. 50% of the fish caught in AWS reservoirs were over 2lb and nearly this proportion was achieved at Rutland Water, despite their mid season fast.
6. There is now increased bank access at Ravensthorpe including the installation of platforms.
7. There had been many prestige events during the season and David thanked members of RWFF for helping out with these.
8. AWS Staff angling achievements at national level - Trevor Ashby had

John Wadham's Fishing Report

been selected to represent disabled anglers and Tracy Rathbone from Grafham to represent the ladies.
9. Cormorants - these were now at a manageable level and seemed to be having only a limited impact.

Rutland

David discussed at length details of the catch rate over past seasons and the apparent mid summer slumps in 2001 & 2002.

Ergasilus

David gave us details of its life cycle. The little monster is free swimming feeding on plankton. Only the adult females attach themselves to the gills of fish and when mature lay their eggs, which go through a 12-stage life cycle. It exists worldwide and affects many fish species especially those in lakes and slow flowing rivers. It is only a recent visitor to the UK, first being identified in 1967. Fish mortalities caused by the bug are apparently very rare but it does appear to reduce their appetite for food in warm water.

Anglers could help by putting comments re Ergasilus or other apparent symptoms on catch returns.

Action

1. Stocking to continue as before.
2. *So as to prevent the spread of the bug, there will be no catch and release facility on any permits for 2003 at Rutland.*
3. All AWS fisheries are being carefully monitored.
4. There was apparently no likelihood of the spread of the bug via anglers, birds etc.
5. Considering a research project with a University
6. All fish stocked are being monitored at all sites.


Opening days 2003

Ravensthorpe 28th Feb.
Pitsford 14th March
Grafham 22nd March
(bank & boats in winter zone until 1 April - details from fishing lodge on 01480 810531)
Rutland 29th March for boats only within sailing area. Remainder and banks from 1 April (confirmed with English Nature after the meeting)

Prices

Minimal increases and mostly in boat prices Permit prices virtually unchanged. Season Ticket options, loyalty discounts, & 10% shop discounts to remain unchanged. *Cont. over*

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES - John Maitland, Chairman RWFF



Here we are in the trout fishing doldrums but with still good time to get tackle in order before the off. Perhaps while checking rods and reels etc. members will find redundant items which can be recycled at the tackle auction. For me, and perhaps other members, the shooting season has drawn to a close. On advantage of getting ones hands on a fair number of game birds is the freebie fly tying materials available. On a recent day out there were several melanistic cock pheasants in the bag. In these all the reddish-copper colour of the normal cock is replaced by iridescent black. Some were old stagers who would have been pretty tough on the plate but carried magnificent centre tail feathers with incredibly long tail herls. Whoever got to take them home did without these feathers! Now I can tie one of the best early season nymphs: a pheasant tail tied the normal way but using these blackish herls plus a thorax dubbed with mole fur. I may try some ribbed with red wire instead of copper. I bet they will work.

Meanwhile there are still several evening events to go, at which I hope to meet many of you. I can recommend the litter pick-up as a good morning out if the weather is kind. It provides excellent PR for our club. However, I must apologise in advance that I will not be at the pre-season dinner since Dick Stephen and I will be in Cuba after bonefish and hopefully permit and tarpon that week.

FISHING REPORT Continued

Safety

AWS safety record was very good thanks in no small measure to anglers observing safety rules. Boat handling courses available at Rutland & Pitsford for £55 for the day course. Certificate holders eligible for a £1 discount on daily boat hire at AWS waters. Details will appear in "hooked" magazine.

Questions

There were plenty of these answered by David, Jon Marshall and John Seaton: -

There was much discussion on the subject of blue C&R tickets. Blue tickets would still be available but with no C&R facility at Rutland on any ticket for the 2003 season. Blue tickets would now allow 12 days with 8 fish limits to compensate for this.

There was no evidence that brown algae debilitated fish leading to infestation. No evidence that Rhodomonas – the brown algae, which also appeared at Pitsford - produced anything harmful to fish.

Grafham has 2 to 3x the Rutland quantity of Daphnia – hence the higher growth potential.

Possible low flow in R.Gwash d/s reservoir to be investigated – compensation flows normally 1 million gallons per day.

Absence of weed beds at Rutland. These seem to come in annual cycles, there was very little at Pitsford this year either.

Stocking not commenced until main wintering cormorant population has vacated the lake.

Main input of stockies from March to July so as to take advantage of best feeding period and to provide good mid and late season fishing. Concern was expressed re absence of wardens on the bank. John Seaton highlighted problems e.g. F&M, staff engaged on many more jobs not associated with fishery matters and absence of bank anglers mid - season.

Permit and bag checks were in fact carried out regularly in 2002 and pleased to report very few offenders. All details re prices, permits, bonuses, C&R etc to be published in AWS "Hooked" magazine out 20 February. Finally David thanked RWFF officials and members for their help and support in 2002. and applauded the juniors' evenings, newsletters and hoped to continue in what has been a very good partnership. The Chairman thanked David for a most informative talk and added that members had come along way for what turned out to be the best attended evening for some time.

2002 COMPETITION WINNERS

Trout & Salmon Shield(R)	Mike Burnside 14lb 4¾oz		
Mike Ellis Trophy(R)	Luke Shevlin...10lb 8oz		
Fario Trophy(B)	Luke Shevlin... .2lb 3oz		
Loch Style Trophy	1 ST Sean Cutting & Stuart Young	2nd	John Innes & Peter Ling
Loch Style Trophy (best fish)	John Innes		
Hanby Cup	Mike Barret & Graham Pearson		
Oliver Cup	David Lang		
Roger Thom	John Tattersfield		
Wadham Trophy	Iain Barr		
RWFF Pro/Am	Cancelled	Trout Fisherman Shield(B)	No Claimant

RWFF's CLUB COMPETITIONS 2003

ROGER THOM TROPHY Sunday 25th May, Rutland Water 10.00am - 6.00pm

This competition will be an "Individual" boat competition. Fishing to International rules, 8 Fish to the Rod, with time bonus. The Club has provisionally booked 10 Boats.*

Deadline for entries will be 19th May.

JOHN WADHAM TROPHY Friday 30th May, Rutland Water 6.00pm - 10.00pm

Individual bank fishing competition to fishery rules. This will be an 8 Fish and no time bonus match. The match will both start and finish at the lodge. Enter by booking in at the Lodge in person from 5.00pm onwards, with fishing starting no sooner than 6.00pm. Your name will be then entered on the Competitors list. Only those on the list will be eligible to weigh in at the Lodge between 10.15pm & 10.30pm. **Note:** Due to the late finish, there will be no meal after this match.

OLIVER CUP – Round I Sunday 22nd June, Grafham. 10.00am - 6.00pm

Individual boat fishing competition to be fished to "International Rules".

Enter by application to Competition Secretary. Separate entry for each round. Please post your entry slips by closing deadline shown on bottom of slip. Overall winner will be determined by results from both rounds. The Club has provisionally booked 10 boats*. 8 Fish and a time bonus apply in these matches.

Note: There will be no meal after the Grafham round match.

Deadline for entries will be 16th June.

HANBY CUP Sunday 27th July, Rutland Water. 10.00am - 6.00pm

Pairs Boat fishing competition to fishery rules. Enter by booking in at the Lodge on the day. The Club has provisionally booked 15 boats.* Please note that 8 Fish and no time bonus applies for this Match and only 1st & 2nd place vouchers to be awarded. This is a Reservoir Rules Match. Weigh in at the Lodge between 6.30pm - 6.45pm.

Deadline for entries will be 21st July.

LOCH STYLE Sunday 24th August, Rutland Water. 10.00am - 6.00pm

Pair's Boat fishing competition to International "Loch Style" rules. Entry is by returning the entry slip. Limit is 16 Fish to the Boat, with no time bonus. There will be a "Best Fish" and 2nd Place Trophy presented. 1st & 2nd place vouchers only for this match. Weigh in at the lodge between 6.00pm - 6.15pm prompt. The Club has provisionally booked 15 boats.*

Deadline for entries will be 18th August.

OLIVER CUP – Round II Sunday 14th September, Rutland Water. 10.00am - 6.00pm

Individual boat fishing competition to be fished to "International Rules".

Enter by application to Competition Secretary. Separate entry for each round. Please post your entry slips by closing deadline shown on bottom of slip. Overall winner will be determined by results from both rounds. The Club has provisionally booked 10 boats*. 8 Fish and a time bonus apply in these matches.

Deadline for entries will be 8th September.

RWFF's PRO-AM Unfortunately this has been cancelled due to lack of interest from club members.

PLEASE NOTE For all the above matches there will again be several things planned for this coming season.

- There will definitely be no exceptions made or people chased for late entries past the deadline date this season, as it causes the organiser too much unwanted stress!
- For this 2003 season, all matches will be an 8 fish limit. Time bonus will then apply after the 8th fish caught in the match. Time bonus will be based on a ½lb per 15 minutes.
- There will be the presentation of the Competition Trophy "Replicas" after each of the Matches. The Original Trophies will be presented at the first Club Evening in January 2004.
- Vouchers for 1st, 2nd & 3rd places will be awarded after each Match.
- As in previous seasons and in order to keep the day more of a social event, there will be a "choice of course" meal after each match at the **Horse & Panniers in North Luffenham**. The club has generously added £3 per person, per match to make up to the £6 necessary for this superb and freshly cooked food. We do need to have a minimum of 10 anglers per match meal to make it a success, so get your entries in fast!
- Due to high competition boat pressure again for 2003, the Club has provisionally booked boats for each Competition. Please will you fill in and send back your Match Slips as soon as you read this. If this does happen, then any spare boats we do not need that day can be released back to the lodge, so that other anglers who wish to fish on that day, may. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Fishing Seasons 2003

Anglian Water's popular reservoirs will be opening for the new fishing season and dates are as follows:

Rutland Water	Saturday 29 March (boats only, and in sailing limits until 1 April).
Ravensthorpe	Friday 28 February
Pitsford	Friday 14 March
Grafham	Saturday 22 March (winter zone east of the Lodge until 1 April)

Permit prices are mostly unchanged although there will be increases in most boat hiring charges.

The same popular range of six trout season permits will be available at last years prices (£160 to £649) all giving the opportunity to fish all of the four reservoirs.

These will be on sale at Pitsford, Grafham and Rutland fishing lodges from the 22 February. There are loyalty discounts for those renewing last year's season permits.

MATT HAYES VISITS RWFF

Matt, the well known TV broadcaster and contributor to all the main fishing publications, came to talk to us on a recent, blustery Tuesday evening. It was our best attended session for many years, with over 60 of us being enthralled by Matt's two and a half hour presentation, that zipped by.

Matt, a Birmingham boy who now lives some 60M from the river Severn in Gloucestershire, can't remember a time when he didn't fish. He's done it all but now wants to enjoy his fishing rather than simply chasing the big ones. He admitted to not being an expert at still water trout fishing but when asked what he does to relax he claims to like nothing better than to fly fish. He loves the freedom from all the gear, being able to wonder about in magnificent locations. In recent years he has become very involved with photography and we benefited from some superb and many unique slides, throughout his talk.

Matt is enthusiastic about both fly and lure fishing. He explained about the different approaches for lures for pike and zander. He likes to use a light spinning tackle set up with 20—30lb braid, using old fashioned spoons. Plugs are excellent though you have to have the right one for the depth the fish are at. They can be very successful, fished deep for zander. In the spring and autumn the pike are in the shallows and then surface lures are good. In recent years the use of jerk baits, a lure technique from the USA, has become more popular and is being continually perfected in this country. For the big pike, some of these can be up to 2 ft. long on 100lb lines! Matt is now convinced that lure fishing is more effective for pike than other methods. All his records have been on lures.

The next experience shared, was fly fishing in Lapland (Sweden). Shots of breathtaking scenery, classic unspoilt fly fishing rivers, midnight sunscapes, monster grayling, and elusive arctic char, alone made Matt's talk unforgettable. This is a must location for the adventurous trout fisher to try.

Cuba is clearly a passion with Matt, even his wife is Cuban. He's been involved in the fishing scene there for some 8 years and is currently developing new fly fisheries for the British. Cuba has much to offer and he recommends that you really must try and see something of the country even if its only the environs of Havana when you arrive. The range of salt water fish available to the lure and fly fishers is extensive and included, large mouth bass, tarpon (not really big—up to 30lb), bone fish, snook, permit (in April/May), jacks and a wide range of reef fish.

He recommended that you take 3 or 4 types of lure, but several of each as they tend to get beaten up. A heavy pike spinning set up is OK. For trolling you need at least 200 metres of 20 lb mono, not braid. It can be very exciting as you don't know what is going to be on the end of the line. Red headed lures are probably the best general lure across the world. Holographic lures work well and for some reason anything pink seems to outfish all other colours.

The Cuban mangrove swamps provide some of the finest salt water fishing in the world with the bone fish being the key target of the fly fisher. This skittish fish feeds on crustaceans and you must put your fly in front of the it which is difficult as they are hard to spot and can be lighting fast. Once hooked, don't try to stop the run which can be at 30mph stripping all of your 200M of line! For tarpon you'll need a good saltwater fly reel and a 10/12 weight line. Most important in this area, is a good guide who knows the local scene and weather.

If you can get to Cuba, go. Whether you can or not, if you get the chance, go and listen to Matt Hayes.