

# RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



February 2004

Website: [www.rutlandflyfishing.co.uk](http://www.rutlandflyfishing.co.uk)  
email: [rwffi@bigwig.net](mailto:rwffi@bigwig.net)

## DIARY DATES

24th February  
Tackle Auction  
Victoria Hall 6.00

7th March  
Litter Pick-up  
Fishing Lodge 9.00

Wednesday 10th  
March Annual Dinner.  
Noel Arms,  
Whitwell.

Opening dates for  
AWS Reservoirs  
2004

Ravensthorpe  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February  
Pitsford Friday 12<sup>th</sup>  
March  
Grafham Friday 19<sup>th</sup>  
March  
Rutland Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>  
April



## John Wadham's Fishing Report

Following well above average January rainfall, the lake is thankfully filling up rapidly and is now only some 30 ins below top level. Of course this last bit takes the longest to fill. The rain combined with pumping from the source rivers seems to have ensured that the lake could be near top level for the off.

With all the rain and strong winds the water is naturally quite coloured. This will settle as time goes on.

Extensive pruning of the willows has been carried out in Whitwell Creek, Willow Bay, round the front of the Mound and the Harbour. This should help our back casts in these very popular early season spots

Rather than me try to give details of the coming seasons activities, prices starting dates etc, "Hooked", which is due out on February 20<sup>th</sup> will furnish all we need to know for the 2004 season.

### Great news for Catch & Release – Rutland Water 2004!

The "Blue" C&R ticket has been extended to December 31<sup>st</sup>. C&R will be available at Rutland in April, May & October to December on this permit. The Gold permit also includes C&R in these months.

### Mike Huffer – Fly Tying evening – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February

This was an unqualified success and very well presented. An audience of 36 members were all ears and eyes as Mike tied some of the most useful patterns we might need for Rutland Water and other places. Questions were few, although JW asked the daftest one. "Was he wearing his grey jumper deliberately". The answer was yes and it proved to be the best possible backdrop for fly tying by projector!

We were given some extremely useful general hints on fly tying techniques and methods of presentation of each pattern. One of the most important things was not to crowd the eye of the hook during the tying process. Leave plenty of space to tie in the various stages. Cover your super glue buzzers with a layer of varnish to prevent the glue form becoming opaque with use.

When tying a Minkie or other long tailed lure, tying in a loop of stiff stout nylon above and behind the bend of the hook, will to some extent prevent the mink from catching up round the bend.

A ruse in presentation is to use something quite different when fish are preoccupied say, hares ear when on fry or perhaps something pink! "Blob" did someone say? Just to add to the fun he showed us one of the many "versions" of a hare's ear – a whole ear tied on a size 1/0 hook! Also a black spider two inches across – tarantula more like!

Two pairs of scissors - colour coded - to remind you which to cut wire with and which to use for fine work. If you must cut wire with them, cut well down in the "fork" of the scissors.

Mike's organised approach to fly dressing was a lesson to us all. A great idea was to have a bag of

materials for each pattern tied. This meant that your fly tying bench didn't become cluttered. Mick kindly donated a sample box of the flies tied on the night which will be offered as one of the raffle prizes at the dinner. They included :- Cruncher, Silver Invicta, a partridge spider pattern, a white minkie and a "spectral" nymph. This last would be a very good needle fry imitation

He gave us some interesting tips on food requirements of trout. It sounded as if that during the optimum feeding time, they would have to consume a few million buzzers a day to meet their needs. Lets hope they get the opportunity this season!

A big thank you is in order for Bob Barr, Roy Kedge and Nigel Millner for putting the technology in place so that Mike's efforts could be projected onto a very large screen supplied by Empingham CC.

### Tackle Auction Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Victoria Hall, Oakham.

Doors open at 6.00pm and guests are welcome. We need to get a prompt start to the bidding at 7.30pm. For those of you who don't know, the Vicky Hall is on the corner of High Street & Church Street. The bar will be open for the evening but prepared food will not be served.

**Note that this is on a Tuesday**

### Annual Dinner, Noel Arms, Whitwell.

Our speaker for the night will be Mel Parrott who has been much involved in fly fishing circles with the Federation and will no doubt have many tales to tell of his experiences.

It is essential that, to avoid disappointment, you should get your application forms and remittances to Jon Marshall as soon as possible. See enclosed poster for full details.

# Accessible Salt Water Fly Fishing

On a cold winters evening at the end of January, Ron Oldroyd's presentation to over 30 club members about fishing in exotic location, was a real treat. Ron, has extensive experience of salt water fly fishing from Alaska to Christmas Island; Bermuda to Barbados and latterly and extensively, Florida. He briefly discussed some of the more out of the way locations. They are clearly fantastic fishing spots but you will spend up to a week simply travelling and Alaska cost him £6,000 and Christmas Island £4000! This is serious money and out of the reach of most of us. In addition there are risks involved with some dodgy organised trips and Ron pleaded that we get in touch with him for some advice if you're feeling adventurous. An area, not fished by Ron, is Cuba, which at the moment is costing around £1500 for 2 weeks.

Ron's current favourite place for cost effective fishing is the east coast of Florida. 30 years ago, Florida was a fishing paradise and then it was nearly fished out. 9 years ago a netting ban of the bait fish came into force and now it is nearly back to its old self. Down the east coast is 150 miles of Inter-coastal Waterway, which is a salt water lagoon with about 6 inlets to the Atlantic. The tides rip through these inlets, making them a magnet for the fish. Because of Disney, there are abundant flights to Florida and as long as you avoid school holidays, by going on Teletext or the internet, extremely cheap flights can be found – Ron has just returned from a 2 weeks visit and the flight plus car hire, was £187, based on two travelling! Good times are mid January, late October, November and early December. September should be avoided unless you are up to casting in the hurricane season! His advice for accommodation was to hire a timeshare, which although not advertised, are readily available. He has had a 4\*, 2 bedroom (sleeping 4 to 6) apartment for as little as £350 a week. You do need a boat and unless you are experienced, the use of a guide. This is expensive. A guide with boat is costing £150 for a ½ day. After a couple of outings you should be in a position to branch out on your own, though you will still need a boat for the best fishing and these are not cheap and are best organised before you go. However Ron knows of a timeshare that includes the use of a boat in the price. No doubt a suitable pint in the right direction will elicit the name and contact details! A quick calculation will show that in a group of four, if you are flexible with your timing, a superb weeks fishing in Florida can be had for well under £1000 all in.

Ron then took us through all the seasons in Florida, looking at the different and often very strange species likely to take your fly. He has had 35 different species from the east coast. Most of them will give you a hell of a fight and of course the classic species is the bonefish. We had very detailed advice on how best to fish for them, depending on whether they are 'tailing' or 'cruising'. Ron has a very simple approach to tackle. He uses either an 8 or a 12, single weight rod and a simple reel. Lots of backing, 100M is regularly run off, and 9ft of 12 or 15lb fluorocarbon leader. It should be remembered that a rainbow trout travels at around 7 mph and a bonefish can hit 27 mph. As a result you have to strike and then let go immediately or else you'll be snapped regardless of the strength of the leader. It takes practice.

One of the things that clearly 'pulled Ron's string' metaphorically and actually, was that you are never quite sure what's going to take your fly. Apart from the bonefish, Ron's favourite fish are the jacks. Although not going very big, rarely into double figures, they pulled your arms out.

Those of us there on the night were treated to a huge range of tips and information on salt water fly fishing. There was a large array of flies on show as well as equipment and books. There were lots of questions from the floor and Ron demonstrated his vast knowledge and fund of useful tips for anyone thinking of trying out this exciting type of fishing. He repeated his offer to advise anyone thinking of following in his footsteps.

John Maitland, the club Chairman thanked Ron for his superb presentation and in particular his sincere offer to advise anyone who fancies trying tropical salt water fly fishing for the first time.