

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



February 2005

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DIARY DATES

7th February
- Cookery Demonstration at the Barnsdale Lodge Hotel

23rd February
- Tackle auction

6th March
- Litter pick-up

15th March
- Annual dinner

24th March
- Rutland opens

All meetings with the exception of the tackle auction, are normally held at the Empingham Cricket Club, start 7.30 pm with free food being provided (either sandwiches or bangers & mash).



Fishing & Club Events Report February 2005

Fly Tying evening Monday 10th January 2005

Our thanks to our fly dressers Roger McCarthy, Al Owen, Trevor Ashby & John Dracup who unselfishly gave us the benefit of their skills in fly tying & how to fish them. Patterns ranged from tiny nymphs to 6" pike lures on 5/0 hooks!

Tackle Auction – Wednesday – February 23rd 2005

Doors open 1800. Auction commences 1930 hours. All manner of kit is welcome. Please bring items for sale as early as possible so they can be booked in & given a lot number.

Litter Pick up day - Sunday March 6th 2005

The monies from this event will go to support the Rutland Ward, a palliative care unit at the Rutland Memorial Hospital where a number of our members have received much loving care.

A bacon sandwich and coffee at 9.00am will warm us up and see us on our way. We finish work at midday. AWS wardens will go round and

John Wadham's Fishing Report

collect up our bags. Equipment will be supplied: e.g. gloves, bags etc. Any sharps (syringes) found on the site during the event are not to be touched but marked and must be reported to the AWS wardens a.s.a.p.

This is a very important event and goes to show that we as anglers care a lot about our environment. So go tell the glad tidings! It is also a nice social event before the off on March 24th. So the more the merrier!

Water Aid challenge 24th June 2005 – Rutland Water

This is a very early request for help with this event.

Chris Evans & Paul Dumbleby will be running the event on behalf of Anglian Water and have asked us if we can, as last year, help out with the casting instruction, ghillying, setting up gear etc. The beginners taking part will be given the opportunity for instruction on the evening before (23rd): from 1600hours – 1800hours.

This will be casting & basics only. For this, we would need at least 6 volunteers. You don't need to be a qualified instructor. Quite a number will not be able to take up this offer so will need instruction on the day of the event so help will be needed for that.

Help will also be needed to set up the tackle on the 22nd June for the beginners wanting instruction the evening prior to the event (23rd June).

It is expected that ten teams may take up the option of ghillie ser-

vices. So a maximum of 20 gillies will be needed on the day – two per team. However better too many than too few!

This is a very prestigious event for all those taking part. Last year, we, as a club were thanked by all concerned for the effort we put into the event. We were also thanked by letter, in the press and with a Christmas card from the organisers.

This is our great opportunity to show to those who would seek to condemn our activities that we care enough to make a contribution to the welfare of the world rather than just filling our bags with fish.

So if you can help either with setting up gear, ghillying or instruction on either day please contact JW on 01572 771092, 07762 607630 or e.mail to john@ewadham.fsnet.co.uk.

The organisers need to know by May 1st. this will save any last minute panics in pairing up beginners and instructors or helpers. Further updates on the event will be published in subsequent newsletters.

On 23rd February Chris has agreed to address the club for a few minutes prior to the start of the tackle auction at the Vicky Hall. As much to tell us what Water Aid is all about and outline this years arrangements for the event on 24th June. If you need further info or want to register for the event please contact Chris Evans on e.mail: cevans@anglianwater.co.uk.

David Moore Talk—24th January 2005

33 members turned out to hear David Moore, the AWS Recreation and Access Manager, update us on Rutland Water, its fishing and future development. After the break for the excellent bangers and mash, he was joined by Jon Marshall and John Seaton for a general question session. As usual, this well attended evening was both interesting and informative and some of the key points made and question answered are outlined below.

Fishery Review— 2004 was a good year with a 3.5 catch rate with 55% of fish over 2lb and an increase in the 3lb fish. Increased stocking of browns to provide long term bigger fish. Catch rates at Ravensthorpe much higher than at other waters, definitely worth a try if Rutland is being difficult. A look at the zoo plankton and algae gives no evidence as to why the North Arm fished poorly. Cormorant damage recorded on returns was still only 2%.

2005 Policy— Brown stocking to be 13,000 this year compared to the 15,000 last year. Season permit options will be retained. England CEFF final to be held at Rutland in September. The tackle shop is now open and will be having an open day on Sunday 27th February. The waters open as follows: Ravensthorpe—4th March; Pitsford—11th March; Grafham—18th March; Rutland—24th March. Fishing at Pitsford, Grafham and Rutland before the 1st April is in the winter zones. Season ticket holders would be receiving a copy of Hooked, plus a letter with the permit and price arrangements in early February.

Reservoir Development— Water demand is rising in the Anglian area and can only be fulfilled by drawing extra water from Rutland. The Wing treatment works has been extended to cope but the planning permission to make the changes to the reservoir is dependant, amongst other things, upon providing suitable wetlands to maintain some duck species. This involves two new dams, one each at the bottom of the North and South Arms and the creation of 7 shallow lagoons. The main concerns expressed about the effects upon the fishing included: foot access to the North Arm dam when it became exposed; how close the boats could get to the dams; the osprey platforms would need to be relocated to the landward side of the dam; what would happen to the fish trapped behind the dam when the water dropped. Planning application will be made in March and it was suggested the RWFF should make further submissions of their requirements. Leaflets showing the proposed changes were available.

Questions

Q. Why were only Grafham boats cheaper at the weekends during July and August? **A.** It was an error as the cheaper boats should only have been available during the week.

Q. Why not substantially reduce the cost of boats during the quiet times as this would benefit everybody and increase the boat usage? **A.** Boat pricing is a balance and may well depend upon how well any offers are advertised. Weekdays during July/August will again be reduced to season ticket holders this year.

Q. The increased browns are ruining some of the competitions, why not reduce them? **A.** There will be less this year and are only 15% in any case. It is the same for everyone. There may be a case for putting the browns in one area, say, the North Arm and allowed to spread.

Q. Could more weed beds be planted at the lower levels to improve the bank angling in the summer? **A.** Weed beds are fickle. All reservoirs this year have been without weed. It is very erratic.

Q. What is the current state of the ergasilus investigation. **A.** Ongoing with Sterling University and will continue for the next two years. There was very little sign of it in 2004. We have adjusted the stocking and the catch and release policy and the take account of what we already know.

Q. Is there a connection between brown algae and ergasilus? **A.** There might be and this is part of the investigation.

Q. In early May there was a lot of scum formed after the pumping started. Do AWS monitor what they are pumping? Will algal blooms increase once the draw down increases? **A.** There is careful monitoring of river water upstream as well as in the reservoir and the first flood peak is usually allowed to pass. Pumping from the rivers is stopped if the phosphate and nitrate levels reach the strict parameters. Future blooms will depend upon nutrient control in the rivers as well as the pumping regime.

Q. Is there a connection between fresh water and daphnia? **A.** Possibly, the river nutrients encourage diatoms and the green algae on which the daphnia feed.

Q. Is there going to be any stocking of blue trout? **A.** It has been investigated but they are not widely available in suitable quantities. This could change over the next few years and will be kept under review.

Q. Are there any crawfish in the reservoir? **A.** There are plenty in the Gwash so they are probably in the reservoir but we don't know.

RWFF COMPETITIONS 2005

As previously discussed we have reduced and improved our competitions for this year. There will be a brand new one which will include a BBQ, half way through. All competitions, except the Loch Style, will be to reservoir rules without rudders. All boat matches will be pairs. No time bonuses will be given for any matches. All matches except the John Wadham trophy will have a subsidised meal. The dates and details of this year's matches is as follow:

Sunday 17th April – Cutting trophy – Bank match; 10.00 – 6.00; organiser— John Wadham

Sunday 29th May – Hanby Cup – Boat match; 10.00 – 6.00; organiser—Roy Taylor

Friday 3rd June – John Wadham Trophy – Evening Bank match; 6.00 –10.00; organiser– John Wadham

Sunday 3rd July – BBQ match – Afternoon / evening boat; 1.00 – 5.00 – BBQ - 6.00 – 9.00

Sunday 4th September – Loch Style – Boat match; 10.00 – 6.00

We will send out separate application forms nearer the time but it is important for catering and reserving boat that you let us know if you intend to compete. More importantly it is essential that people do join in otherwise the organisers will get fed up and there is a real danger of the competitions ceasing.

WIN £20 A MONTH

RWFF has agreed to hold a new monthly competition. From April to October this year, every month we will pay £10 for the best rainbow and £10 for the best brown trout caught by a member. To enter, the fish must be over 4lb and be weighed and photographed by the wardens.

COOKING UP A FEAST

Barnsdale Lodge Hotel has a cracking new top chef, Richard Caruthers. He has worked all over world and cooked for some of the best hotels and restaurants in this country and we've managed to persuade him to give us a cookery demonstration. The fare will include fish and venison and there's bound to be plenty of samples. Ladies are very welcome to join us at this event and it will only cost £1 if they are not a member.

The demonstration will start at 7.30 prompt, on Monday 7th February 2005

The hotel is the one located on the North side of the main A606 on the corner of Exton Road, Barnsdale. This is set to be an entertaining and informative evening which is only suitable for those who like to cook or eat food!

RWFF Trophy winners 2004

These are the winners for 2004. The trophies will be engraved and then presented at the dinner to be held at the Whipper Inn Hotel, Market Place, Oakham on March 15th

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| Trout & Salmon Shield - Best Rainbow (S) | | R. McKendrick | 6lb 14oz |
| Trout Fisherman Shield - Best Brown | (S) | Roger McCarthy | 6lb 9oz |
| Mike Ellis Trophy - Best Rainbow (J) | | Luke Shevlin | 4lb 10oz |
| Fario Trophy - Best Brown (J) | | Tom Cooper | 2lb 15oz |
| Cutting Trophy | | Graham Cooper | |
| Loch style trophy | Winner | Leon Smith & Barry Vaughan | |
| “ “ “ | Second | Bob Barr & Keith Jones | |
| “ “ “ | Best fish | No record | |
| Hanby Cup | | Mike Barrett & Graham Pearson | |
| Oliver Cup | | John Tattersfield | |
| Roger Thom Trophy | | John Tattersfield | |
| John Wadham Trophy | | Tom Cooper | |

If you know who caught the best fish in the Loch Style Trophy could you please give John Wadham a ring!

ANNUAL DINNER

This year we have booked the Whipper Inn in Oakham for our Annual Dinner on Tuesday 15th March. If you've not been, the Whipper Inn has a good reputation and can hold the sort of numbers we now regularly attract to our Dinner. If you've never been, you are missing an evening with good food and friendly company. In addition the club subsidises the cost of the meal and you are therefore getting excellent value as well. To ensure your place please return the booking form enclosed with this newsletter to Jon Marshall as soon as possible.

Annual Subscriptions

We know it's a bit boring and a bit of a pain to do it but at least it won't break the bank. If you've not paid your subs yet, please send the treasurer a cheque. Better still, come along to the cookery demonstration where Paul will happily and almost painlessly take your money. Cheques are preferable but at this stage he's even been known to take folding money!