

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



February 2006

Website: www.rwff.org.uk



Fishing Report for January

So, the drought continues! We are lucky in having Rutland at 75% full and gradually filling; whereas, in South East England the situation is much more serious. Lets hope for some desperately needed rain to get the lake up to full by the end of March. This would help the margins to re-colonise. One farmer near Thorney Toll who records the figures said that rainfall was down by one third in 2005. It might encourage the Pike in the fens to take more notice of our offerings! Some drains are so low that in some cases almost no water has been pumped throughout the winter. Consequently they are becoming quite stale and in some cases the water has turned green.

John Maitland

Regrettably, John has had to go back into hospital for further surgery. He was

very grateful to have received the get-well card signed by all those present on January 26th. We all wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to having back to chair our meetings – no doubt more effectively than JW!

Level 2 course at Grafham 2005

Unfortunately John Innes has had to pull out due to illness – we wish him a speedy recovery. Ziggy Lesiakowski has taken his place and found it very rewarding.

Litter Pick up day – Sunday 5th March 2005

We had a very poor turn out for this in 2005. So, come on chaps, give us a hand to support our local hospital and do our good turn for the community and the image of angling.

Tackle Auction Thursday 9th March 2006

Please note that this will be held in the “Barn” at Barnsdale Lodge Hotel – where we held the cooking evening in 2004

Pre-season Dinner & Speaker Evening – Thursday 16th March – Please see enclosed “flyer”

The annual prizes will be presented at this function. So please get the trophies in to the Fishing Lodge, John Wadham’s home or better still bring them to the next meeting on February 9th. **not to the Tackle Auction please as this will not give sufficient time for engraving.**

Sunday 26th February “open house” day at Grafham –1000hrs – 1500hrs

We are all invited to meet AWS staff. Free casting tuition available for beginners

Opening days are:-

Ravensthorpe
Friday 3rd March
Pitsford
Friday 10th March
Grafham
Friday 17th March
Rutland
Saturday 1st April

Anglian Water - Water Aid – Fly fishing challenge Friday May 19th 2006

This year the event, as you can see, is much earlier. This is a good idea as this can be the best time for fishing especially for those who may have to fish from the bank and so should give a better catch per angler. If you are interested in helping please return the enclosed slip to John W or contact him on 01572 771092 or 07762 607630

Last years event raised over £18,000 net. This year with your help we could top the magic £20,000 mark!

Application forms and details of the event are available on line at www.awfffc.org

Any queries to Chris Evans on cevans@anglianwater.co.uk

Information about Water Aid is available on www.wateraid.co.uk

Three club members have already volunteered to help; Ziggy Lesiakowski, Roger McCarthy, Lew Carlin

David Moore & Tim Appleton – Thursday 26th January

This was one of the best-attended meetings of recent times. Some 42 came. Quite a turn out when you think that a high proportion of the membership live more than 40 miles away and it shows how much we care about our beloved Rutland Water.

Tim Appleton MBE

Tim gave us an enthralling talk to slides on the Osprey project. His mind was put at rest by the audience when he appeared to be concerned about their impact on the fishery. No need to worry. Most anglers put their kit down and look skywards. I wonder how many takes from trout have been missed when looking upwards! Apparently about 70% of the birds die on migration. It seems their route is a hazardous one. Apparently they are away for two years and in that time meet all sorts of hazards encountering everything from macho wildfowlers – who think it is big to bump off ospreys – to nets-men.

In 2001 one chick survived – the first for 150 years. Last year some 11 chicks were raised. Two Rutland males are now breeding in Wales. Apparently their southward migration was from Scandinavia. Hence their rather devious route which takes them through the Cornish peninsula on their way to Spain & North Africa.

David Moore

The mid-season bank fishing had proved very difficult. There had been quite a good response to the fishery assessment questionnaire sent out to anglers – two thirds had been returned. If you haven't sent yours in it is still not too late. He thanked club member Jim Watts for collating the returns. The average catch came out at 3.0 per return – although he said 3.5 – 3.7 would be more acceptable. The catch returns showed 57% of the fish to exceed 2lb

The North Arm mystery had been examined in depth- one explanation could be the lack of Daphnia in the spring and summer. However it was evidently present from mid October as anglers started catching some good Rainbows here then.

Tuition – there had been much demand for the courses.

He congratulated Luke Shevlin on his success in winning for England and Richard & Tom Cooper for their success in qualifying for the England youth team.

Pitsford apparently had a mid-summer bonanza followed by a fry bonanza on sticklebacks in the autumn - so perhaps we should spread our wings a bit

Season Tickets – these would go up in price by £10-00 right across the board.

Catch & release – in view of the decline in the Ergasilus problem, catch & release will be available except in July & August.

Also there will be an increase in the number of fish stocked in 2006. All details of the new season and much more besides will be in "Hooked" Magazine due out in mid-February.

Cormorants – the winter total was well down. However the peak in numbers occurs in August – up to nearly 800

Apparently most of the birds leave in September. During the summer ringing, the birds threw up mainly perch & roach fry consumed to feed their offspring. Tim suggested that we were all welcome to watch the ringing. There followed much discussion on this emotive subject.

Mitigation works

David outlined the proposals. Concern was expressed by members at the likely disturbance to wildlife during these operations compared with which, boat angling disturbance was likely to be minimal. Tim expressed the view that Rutland was constructed to supply water and was at the moment was not being exploited to its full extent. The reservoir was low at present due to the dry winter with almost nothing coming from the feeders and the rivers at too low a level for abstraction due to the lack of rainfall.

John Wadham asked if angler access to the proposed bunds was likely to be available in both arms. Especially as boat anglers stood to lose a very valuable part of the Manton Bay area. He stated that the outlet dam of Burley Fish Ponds bay at Tim Appleton's was already fished from at low water and hoped that access could be allowed to the proposed new structure at this point (Bund A) on the works plan. Should the application for the mitigation works be rejected, it would very likely go to public enquiry. Tim Appleton was not aware that we did not have access to within the white buoys area at the top of the South Arm.

For further information regarding the mitigation works and RWFF comments you can view the document at the Rutland District Council Offices.

David rounded off his presentation with a lovely photograph of the young Cooper brothers at their presentation.

Finally John Wadham thanked David & Tim for an interesting and informative evening. He went on to thank Sean Cutting for setting up the excellent new website – www.rwff.org.uk - This drew much deserved applause and endorsement from David Moore. The site is well worth a visit

Paul Procter Thursday January 12th 2006

Our thanks to Paul who was due to come on February 9th 2006. He stepped into the breach at three days notice, to replace Karl Humphries who was indisposed. We wish Karl a speedy recovery.

Paul who traveled here and back in a day from Ulverston in Cumbria gave us a very interesting and absorbing two-part talk to slides. Firstly, we were transported to Slovenia. The scenery with its wonderful bank-side wildflowers would have been enough in itself. But what joy to fish in such crystal limestone streams and rivers for wild trout & Grayling and the predatory Marble Trout (*Salmo Marmorata*) which can reach a weight of 47lb. They prey on smaller trout are very shy but caused problems by interbreeding with indigenous stock to produce some very unusual hybrids. The average grayling and seemed to be about one and a half pounds. Paul used 9" AFTM 4 gear and CDC less than size 16

Details of fishing in Slovenia are available by visiting the website – www.sloveniaflyfishing.com

The fishing was not too expensive at E40-60 per day – but the scenery was worth at least half of the cost. Best access to Slovenian destinations was via Italian airports and drive from there.

In the second half Paul returned to home waters under the heading Grayling through the year.

As you may imagine Paul has fished for Grayling all over the UK but, mainly in the North West and Yorkshire streams. Again Paul fished very light AFTM 3 and mainly with dries. He uses a pink "Klinkhammer" version easily seen in surface foam and a fluorescent yellow pattern in low light conditions. It was interesting to note that Grayling, instead of hanging in mid-water to feed, tended to rise from the stream-bed. So, the rise form often occurs well downstream of their lie. For sub surface fishing he uses wire bodied spider patterns. The depth at which you fish these is critical. They are best presented across the flow and slightly downstream with a good mend to control fishing speed. In autumn the Grayling often feast on aphids attached to leaves falling on the water. Aphids are tiny creatures and anything more than a size 22 in green and black would be oversize! To present these, a slack line upstream cast is essential; ideally, in conjunction with a bung to overcome the problem of phantom takes. At the other end of the scale, caddis patterns could be tied on hooks up to a size 6! All fishing should be done with neutral coloured lines and in winter take care not to cast your shadow across the river in the low sun level.

Paul thanked us for being such an attentive audience.

I am sure Paul would be pleased to give you details of fly patterns, fishing rights, travel & accommodation costs etc. Contact him at: paulprocter@btinternet.com or on 01229 580190 home or 05600 432694

Karl Humphries Thursday February 9th 7.30pm Empingham Cricket Club

Delayed from last month, Karl will be coming to give us the benefit of his experience, which is considerable, on the subject of Sea Trout fishing at which he is an acknowledged expert.

Karl has this season proved his skills in attacking this most worthy quarry by taking fish up to 16lb from the River Dovey in West Wales. He has also done well on the River Dee for Salmon

He will be tying some of his most effective patterns of fly with a visual aid that will project his efforts onto a large screen – as we did with Mick Huffer

Karl is one of the assessors for the AAPGAI qualification. John W was lucky enough to be assessed by Paul at the Bulth Wells seminar in November 2004. JW learned more in that session on the River Irfon than in many years of casting badly!

Karl also runs Dearnford Hall Trout fishery at Whitchurch in Shropshire. So, there is not much he doesn't know about fish

So, with Karl's wry sense of humor this will no doubt be an interesting, amusing and very informative evening.