

# Rutland Water Fly Fishers

[www.rwff.org.uk](http://www.rwff.org.uk)

February 2008 Newsletter



## Fishing Report



### Anglian Water Forum – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2008

This was the best attended meeting for some time with some 39 members present. Just shows how much we care about our fishery!

On the panel for this informal evening with the AWS staff were Jon Marshall, John Seaton and Nigel Savage with Nathan Clayton Senior Warden at Pitsford.

There were many points raised in quite a lively discussion.

### Buzzer Crash

There was much debate on the apparent crash in hatches of the larger buzzers at Rutland.

Nathan Clayton said that there had been excellent buzzer hatches at Pitsford in late May with trees resembling smoking chimneys.

It was however gratifying to note that the fish in Rutland took advantage of the dense hatches of sedge in June & July giving excellent bank sport. The good hatches of olives also

provided interesting boat fishing in the Manton Area.

### The North Arm

As usual the fishing in the North Arm came under scrutiny.

AWS and EA regularly monitor water quality and invertebrate populations here but have not found anything out of the ordinary.

### Fish Movements

The suggestion from a member of the audience to tag fish to check their movements when stocked was received with some enthusiasm by the panel.

In 2007 15,000 fish were stocked into the top of North arm. This equates to about 17% of the total fish stocked.

It was noted that fish travelled long distances from stocking points in a very short time. Browns stocked at the Transformer had reached Stockie bay two days later.

### Weed beds

John Seaton remarked on the apparent lack of weed beds within range of the bank angler: but said there was good growth from 75m off shore which was con-

firmed by members in the audience.

### Bank Erosion

Money has been made available to AWS to defend the banks against further erosion which would help bank fishing by reducing the turbidity experienced in strong winds and of course halt erosion.

In some places the bank had been eroded up to 30 m from the original margin.

### Fishing Boats v Sailing Boats

There was much talk on the subject of encounters between boat anglers and the sailing fraternity. John Seaton said that any apparent infringements should be reported to the fishing lodge a.s.a.p.

In any case one should note down the number on the sail and communicate with the fishing lodge. The wardens could then take the matter up with the Sailing Club Management.

### Match Fishing Infringements

Match anglers in boats who infringed AWS reservoir rules would be placed in a "sin bin" and be compelled to return to the fishing lodge for a

period during the match.

### Winter Fishing Restrictions

As the fishing opens on March 21<sup>st</sup> AWS is in discussion with Natural England (formerly English Nature) to try and negotiate lifting the winter restrictions for the 10 days prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>. will be informed as soon as a decision is made on this.

There followed much debate on these restrictions and there was some dismay among members as it was thought that angling was not likely to be any more obtrusive than other recreational activities. It was suggested that NE should be further consulted with a view to modifying these restrictions.

Any policy move on this would apparently be in the hands of Natural England and we would be notified of any changes.

### Rutland Water Stocking for 2008

Jon Marshall said that it was policy to assume minimum residual over wintering fish and to stock accordingly.

All the stock fish have now been ordered for the season. This will include

some browns.

Nathan Clayton said that at Pitsford there had apparently been little difference in the feeding pattern of the late maturing clone which had been stocked there for a number years compared with their triploid counter-parts elsewhere. However it was thought that females fed more eagerly than males in view of the need to ensure the well being of their gonads.

#### **New Pontoon – Rutland Water**

This newly designed unit will be in place for the next season. It will have various safety features built in. E.g. hand rail, a second cross tier to the main backbone. It will also be wider. So, all in all a great improvement.

#### **Boats fishing for early December.**

John Seaton would look into this but felt that they needed to get all the boats off the water. This would give their staff maximum time in the already foreshortened closed season to be able to get all the boats in order for the following season. The part-time staff finish at the end of November. It would therefore mean that full time staff would, as per the safety regulations, be required to remain on duty at the lodge thus delaying boat repairs.

#### **Ravensthorpe Bank Fishing Access**

Nathan Clayton said that plans were in hand to deal with the bank-side vegetation so as to open more fishing bank for the 2008 season.

#### **Post Match Catering**

Senior AWS recreation staff will be discussing this with the caterers.

#### **Charges for 2008**

Jon Marshall said that these would all be published in "Hooked" magazine due out shortly.

#### **Catch & Release**

There was some lively discussion on this matter. It was thought that more education in fish handling would be appropriate. The panel and audience were not in favour of unbridled C&R. Most were in favour of limiting the catch.

#### **Zander Catches**

Grafham Water appeared to be breeding very large Zeds. However some education of Zander handling was needed: as some dead specimens had been washed up on the banks after a day when a great many were caught. Nathan Clayton said that they had not yet reached Pitsford.

Nigel Savage said they appeared to be on the increase in Rutland but with such a depth of water were not likely to be accessible to the angler: although fish up to 8lb had been caught.

#### **Outlook for 2008**

It was thought that if the fish continued to graze

on the Daphnia at the present rate there should be greater number of "over-wintered" fish for next season. Therefore much to look forward to!

The evening finished with the telling of many anecdotes of the adventures of both angler and staff alike.

The chairman thanked the panel for their attendance and said that it had been a most constructive evening.

Our thanks to Nigel Millner for the excellent "Sos & Mash" in the interval.

#### **Apologies ... January Newsletter ...**

May I give my apologies (Sean) to Mairi McFarlane for not adding her name to the list of the 2008 England Ladies Team members who are also indeed members of RWFF. It was remise of me and I hope that this inclusion goes some way to help Roger have less sleepless nights ...!

#### **Fly Tying Evening – January 10<sup>th</sup> 2008**

We were very grateful to Trevor Ashby, Sean Cutting, Andy Wells and John Maitland who gave their services free for the event.

34 members attended this fascinating evening and all said how much they enjoyed not only the fly tying but the opportunity to meet up and have a chat about last season and what they were going to do in 2008. Some interesting patterns were presented and some very useful tying tips passed on: also some



very good advice on how to fish them. All very useful for the coming season!

Trevor tied various versions of the much used Diawl Bach. Peacock "Lite-Brite" seems to be a very good substitute for the peacock herl and is much more durable. He also tied some very useful "hopper" patterns.

Andy Wells tied the ever more popular Booby. This seems very effective whether used in conjunction with a "washing line" set up or as a



Andrew concentrates on a 'White Humongous'

bottom fished lure. Andy had a quite ingenious way of making up the "boobs". He took a piece of hollow car aerial put it in as a drill bit and bored Plastazote producing a three-quarter inch long solid cylinder.

This was then gathered up in a loop and applied just behind the eye of the hook having already put a material foundation on the hook shank. This stops it slipping around the hook when pressure is applied. This made a much more durable pair of "Boobs" and has accounted for many fish for him.

These have both been hot favourites for boat and bank anglers in recent seasons. Sean Cutting tied another great favourite "The cormorant".

This is a deadly and apparently universal fly. Sean tied his pattern very sparse with only a few

wisps of marabou. This is no doubt an escape from the grossly over-dressed flies of yesteryear.

John Maitland tied what must be one of the most effective salmon flies of recent years. It is his own shrimp pattern named the "Knappach" shrimp after a beat on the R. Dee in Scotland. Here, John sat in the fishing hut, tied some of examples this pattern, went down to the water and quickly grassed a brace of salmon on it. This pattern has had two features on it in Trout & Salmon and is much in demand. He also tied CDC's in the shuttlecock form and as an "F" fly. I.e. in the form of a wing. Both deadly patterns especially as emergers and very effective for the selective feeders.

## Forthcoming Events 2008

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February – 2008 – Charles Jardine

We will be welcoming the well-known angling writer, painter & broadcaster Charles Jardine. Last time he came, we had a full house and he gave us a great evening's entertainment. He will be giving us the benefit of his apparently boundless knowledge on the subject of grayling fishing and other associated riverbank tactics. This is an increasingly popular branch of the sport now taken up by a number of club members. Charles has also agreed to bring along some examples of his wonderful paintings that have graced many publications on the "gentle art".

### Quiz Night – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008

Nigel with much experience of such events will be organising this. In the past these proved popular events when we held them at the Crown Hotel, Oakham under the guidance of John Starkey our founding Chairman in the early eighties.

There will be different categories of questions including fishing, local knowledge etc. Ron Oldroyd has generously provided some excellent prizes including a mini fridge, hip flask, assorted polo/t shirts. Food will be served at about 2100 hours

### Tackle Auction – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March – Barnsdale Lodge Hotel

The auction will be held in the "Barn" at the above hotel site. This is the Hotel located on the North Side. This is an ideal venue and as always we will be well looked after by the management.

Jeff Dale has kindly agreed to be our auctioneer on the night.

### Annual Dinner & Prize Giving – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2008

This will be held at the Fox & Hounds at Exton with a four course meal & £18 – 00 including coffee – Please visit [www.rwff.org.uk](http://www.rwff.org.uk) to see a full menu and booking form.

### **Trophy Winners 2007**

The following members have submitted fish for the annual club trophies. However, sadly none have apparently been submitted by junior members.

However, if as a junior you have sent one in and it has been overlooked please let John Wadham know and an apology will be forthcoming.

If you want to receive your trophies come to the dinner on 27<sup>th</sup> March!

**Trout Fisherman Shield** Best Brown Adult  
Jamie Weston 6lb 5oz

**Trout & Salmon Shield** Best Rainbow Adult  
Jayne Alecock 5lb 6oz

**Loch Style**  
Jamie Weston & Phil Brown 6 Fish 19lb 11oz

**Cutting Trophy**  
Roy Taylor 5 Fish 10lb 1oz

**Wadham Trophy**  
Phil Brown 8 Fish 17lb 5oz

**Hanby Cup**—Cancelled

### **Litter pick up Day Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> 2008**

This will be carried out on the Sunday Morning from 0900 and the proceeds donated to the Rutland Memorial Hospital Trust.

The care received at this establishment by a number of our members including your Chairman, Secretary and many others has been of the highest order. Anything, therefore, we can do to keep this marvellous institution going should a great incentive for a good turn out on the day.

### **Annual Subscriptions**

Please get these into Paul Wild a.s.a.p.

More details of the above events and the summer programme in next newsletter on or around 28<sup>th</sup> February.

### **National Fishing Week Dates Announced**

'All encompassing' is the theme behind this year's National Fishing Week. That's the clear message from the organisers as the dates for the festival of fishing were confirmed as 19th - 27th July 2008.

"We want to embrace all disciplines of the sport, and to this end it was crucial that we secured the help of the Angling Development Board to achieve this", said Sean O'Driscoll, Chairman of the Angling Trades Association, one of the main sponsors of the event.

"I am pleased to confirm that the Environment Agency has also shown its willingness to get heavily involved once again, and following on from the great work by Neill Sellers over the past four years I am delighted to welcome the Get Hooked on Fishing team to project manage this years event," continued Sean.

Now in its 15th year, National Fishing Week has introduced tens of thousands of newcomers to the sport, and is recognised as critical to the sport's development and future.

Further details: Sean O'Driscoll 0778 8922976

### **Clever Osprey**

How about this for catching 'Double Handed' ...

Seeing this photograph makes you realise how fortunate we all are to share the same water as these magnificent creatures—what do you think ...





# Association of Major Clubs 2008

Interested in fishing with and against some of the best competition anglers around, in a relaxed friendly atmosphere on some of the country's top reservoirs? Then the 2008 series of Association of Major Clubs matches is just the thing for you!

RWFF is in Group One of the Major Clubs and last year we finished runners-up to overall winners, Bewl Bridge Flyfishers. This year we'd like to go one better, but we are up against some stiff competition from the likes of current Anglian/Fulling Mill champions, Soldier Palmers, and the top anglers from the Fish Hawks, Bewl, Chew and Hanningfield. The Major Clubs matches are always keenly contested but great fun with a meal after the match, so there's a great chance to socialise with some of the best competition anglers around.

You can fish in either the Spring or Autumn Association competition, plus three of the Group One matches. After-match meal costs are typically around £8 per person, plus your boat and day tickets fees. If you're interested in taking part, then please fill in the form below and return it to the address provided. More details on the website [www.rwff.org.uk](http://www.rwff.org.uk)

- |                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Fish Hawks 'A'</b>            | <b>Bristol Reservoirs F. C.</b> |
| <b>Soldier Palmers 'A'</b>       | <b>Bewl Bridge F. C. 'A'</b>    |
| <b>Rutland Water Fly Fishers</b> | <b>Hanningfield Water F. A.</b> |

<u>Date &amp; Venue</u>	Would like to fish	Possibly can fish
<b>Spring Association Match</b> Friday, 25 <sup>th</sup> April at Bewl Water	(    )	(    )
<b>Group 1 Match</b> Sunday, 29 <sup>th</sup> June at Hanningfield Reservoir	(    )	(    )
<b>Group 1 Match</b> Sunday, 17 <sup>th</sup> August at Pitsford	(    )	(    )
<b>Group 1 Match</b> Sunday, 7 <sup>th</sup> September at Chew Valley Lake	(    )	(    )
<b>Group 1 Match</b> Sunday, 21 <sup>st</sup> September at Rutland Water	(    )	(    )
<b>Autumn Association Match</b> Saturday, 4 <sup>th</sup> October at Rutland Water	(    )	(    )

Name: .....

Address: .....

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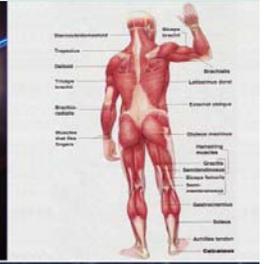
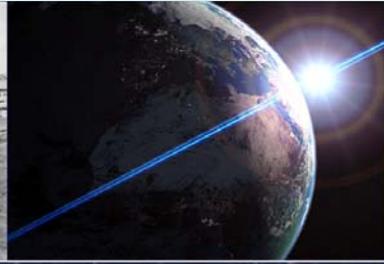
..... Post Code: .....

Tel Number: ..... E-Mail Address: .....

Please can you post this back as soon as possible to: - Mike Gunnell, 4 Hall Gardens, Polebrook, Nr Oundle, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE8 5LJ.



# RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



# Quiz Night

on:  
**Thursday  
21st February  
2008**

**starting time:  
7.30pm  
At Empingham  
Cricket Club**

**entry fee:  
FREE to  
RWFF Members**



# RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



Ralph Wortman pilots first airplane to land in McMinville

# Rutland Water Fly Fishers



proudly presents a



# Tackle Auction

**At the Barn at Barnsdale Lodge on Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2008. 'Booking In' of auction items from 6.00pm, with the auction proceedings starting at 7.30pm.**

**Jeff Dale has very kindly agreed again to be our Auctioneer on the evening.**

## 'Bring a Friend & Spend'

The evening will be free for RWFF members, with Guest and Non Members @ just £3 per person on the door.

As at all RWFF functions the purchase of a £1 raffle ticket will be expected!!!

# [WWW.RWFF.ORG.UK](http://WWW.RWFF.ORG.UK)

# Rutland Water Fly Fishers



proudly presents their annual



## Pre Season Dinner

**At the Fox & Hounds, Exton, Rutland.  
A fabulous 4 course dinner for £18. Menu  
and location details can be found on the  
RWFF website.**

**Members and Guest welcome, but numbers  
are limited to 45, so book early to avoid  
disappointment! The closing date for  
bookings will be the 24<sup>th</sup> March**

As at all RWFF functions the purchase of a £1 raffle  
ticket will be expected!!!

**WWW.RWFF.ORG.UK**

# RWFF Pre Season Dinner - March 27<sup>th</sup>

Fox and Hounds at Exton - 7.30pm - \*£18.00 per person



- A) Homemade Tomato soup with herb croutons
- B) Pate served with toasted ciabatta and chutney
- C) Avocado and prawn salad

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D) Traditional Roast Loin of Grasmere Farm Pork with apple sauce and crackling

E) Steak and Ale pie

F) Fillet of Seabass with lemon butter

G) Porcini mushroom risotto with shavings of parmesan

Main courses served with a selection of vegetables and potatoes

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H) Lemon Meringue Pie

J) Crème Brulee

K) Sticky Ginger Sponge with ginger wine sauce

ooo

Coffee

Name: .....  
Address: .....

Post Code: .....

Telephone: .....

Email: .....

Dietary needs? If you have a dietary need, please say below, i.e. Gluten or Dairy Free

Menu Choice: Please tick your choice

Starter A)  B)  C)

Main D)  E)  F)  G)

Pudding H)  J)  K)

**Please return this form for each individual booking to:** S. Cutting, Mevell House, 7 North Luffenham Road, South Luffenham, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 8NP. \*All cheques to be made payable to RWFF. The closing date for all bookings received will be Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March, with no exceptions.