

# Rutland Water Fly Fishers



[www.rwff.org.uk](http://www.rwff.org.uk) February 2011 Newsletter

**The Lake ...** No more frozen up rod rings!

At last the severest winter weather in met history came to an end in early January with a rise in temperature over three days of about 15°C!

This was followed by a good fall of rain which brought the source rivers Nene and Welland into flood by the middle of the month.

This should enable An-

## **Rutland Fishing Update ...**

glian Water Services to get all pumps going and hopefully get the lake up to top level as soon as possible.

I am sure that Jamie Weston at Horn Mill fish farm will be very pleased to see this rainfall. This will hopefully recharge the local aquifers upon which the flow through his farm depends. The recharge of the groundwater takes

several months following rain. So, hopefully, if we get more heavy rain this will get him and many other fish farmers through the summer.

It was gratifying to note that at last the water level in Rutland was gradually rising and by 15th January had already come up 6 inches. This represents a considerable volume of water and prospects look good for re-colonisation of the exposed areas: just in the nick of time. But no! As I write a stubborn area of high pressure has taken root again!

As bank fishermen we can only hope that the severe winter weather hasn't had to serious an impact on the bank side ecology. Even following the drawdown in 2009 the more mobile fauna e.g. Corixa, Sticklebacks



**Chairman:** John Maitland, 7 St Albans Close, Oakham, LE15 6EW. Tel: 01572 756650 **Treasurer:** Paul Wild, 33 Kelthorpe Close, Ketton, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 3RS. Tel: 01780 720308 or e-mail: [paulwild1@sky.com](mailto:paulwild1@sky.com) **Minute Secretary:** Roy Taylor, 4 Tolethorpe Close, Oakham, LE15 6GF. Tel: 01572 723496 or e-mail: [roy\\_taylor\\_home@hotmail.com](mailto:roy_taylor_home@hotmail.com). **Secretary:** John Wadham, 6 Mendip Road, Oakham, LE15 6NN. Tel: 01572 771092 e-mail: [john@ewadham.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:john@ewadham.fsnet.co.uk)



and *Daphnia* soon re-colonised the margins and Caddis could be found under the stones right at the waters edge. So let's hope the same holds the 2011.

The Lake remained frozen to a considerable degree throughout December. It was the arms that were frozen for most of this period west of a line drawn from Barnsdale Road End to Gibbet Gorse. This is the most extensive freeze up of the lake since February 1987 when the Lake was totally frozen to depth of 6 inches.



The photograph above shows Nigel & Max Woolnough son & grandson of the late Hector of Pitsford fame off the right hand side of the harbour wall at Normanton. They must be mad, but they caught!

As the autumn gales drove most of the weed beds onto the bank this left very little cover for the fish and very little inclination for them to enter the icy margins. However there were certain places that offered cover: the Harbour, Hambleton Wood Stumps, deeper water and any bank side obstructions.

The picture to the left shows Hambleton Wood in ideal conditions with the right-hand wind along the bank giving the water and tinge of colour. Examination of the stumps revealed the presence of corixa, caddis and sticklebacks. As you will see from the picture, the stumps are very close to the bank.

If you cast more than 10 meters you

were in fact lining fish. So the technique was the stand back from the waters edge and cast so the head of your fly line fell just the other side of the stumps. Best set up was floating fry on the point with a "bits" dropper.

Cast out, retrieve and allow flies to dawdle near the stump. Most offers came to the floating fry: but some to red bits.

It was noticeable that the fish fed for a very short period of time between 2 and 4 pm. JW had as many as 15 offers during this period: but only on each occasion brought two or three fish to the net. Lots of fun despite, on numerous occasions, having difficulty getting the line through the rings due to icing!

Roy Taylor finished the season on a high taking three fish from the bank at Cardiac Hill on the last day all on a "Yellow Dancer" gold head lure, as shown above right.

The tying instructions are:

- Hook: Size 8 Kamasan B175
- Thread: Black U TC
- Head: Gold/Silver 4mm bead.
- Body: Multi-coloured Rainbow flash or "lure flash" mobile multi-max
- Tail: White Marabou
- Hackle: Yellow hen
- Rib: Fine Silver Wire, 4 turns

### **David Moore & John Seaton**

On 13th of January 2011 we were all very fortunate to have David and John join us as our speakers for the evening.



David gave us a talk about the future of our sport and the organisations in which he is involved and John talked about Rutland fishing.

The Regional Fisheries, Ecology & Recreation Advisory Committee (RFERAC), the Angling Development Board and the Angling Trust.

### **RFERAC**

David is chairman of this group which advises the Environment Agency on many matters relating to their work; but is due to be disbanded shortly as a DEFRA "economy".

He gave details of issues being addressed by RFERAC and outlined how the gap would be filled following its dispersal. David quipped that this would give him more time for fishing!

He went on to give details of the importance of its relationship with the Environment Agency and how the work of this organisation would be greatly missed.

## **The Angling Trust**

David said that this organisation of which he is a director was set up to raise the profile of angling. He gave details of the staff and their duties. Also details of membership numbers and said that it was a very important to increase the number of individual members.

He outlined where the £25 subscription money was spent and suggested that 45% of the income was spent on Fish Legal and that legal advice had been given to some 180 clubs.

He outlined details of a letter sent to the minister regarding the impact of cormorants on inland watercourses and hoped that the new incumbent would regard this in a favourable light.

He said that some of the money would be invested in checking up on the number of fish removed from watercourses illegally for human consumption and other purposes.

The Trust had also brought some 60 cases of pollution and other water infringements.

For further information on the business of the Angling Trust and an update on their activities either read their autumn/winter newsletter 2010 or visit their website [www.anglingtrust.net](http://www.anglingtrust.net)

## **The Angling Development Board**

The ADB is a private limited company run by board members of which David is chairman.

It is sport based and strives to highlight angling as an important healthy and competitive sport and to be taken seriously by Sport England. A great deal of effort has been put in to overcome the negative perceptions of angling as an easy-going pastime. It was important to make pathways for talented anglers and in particular youth.

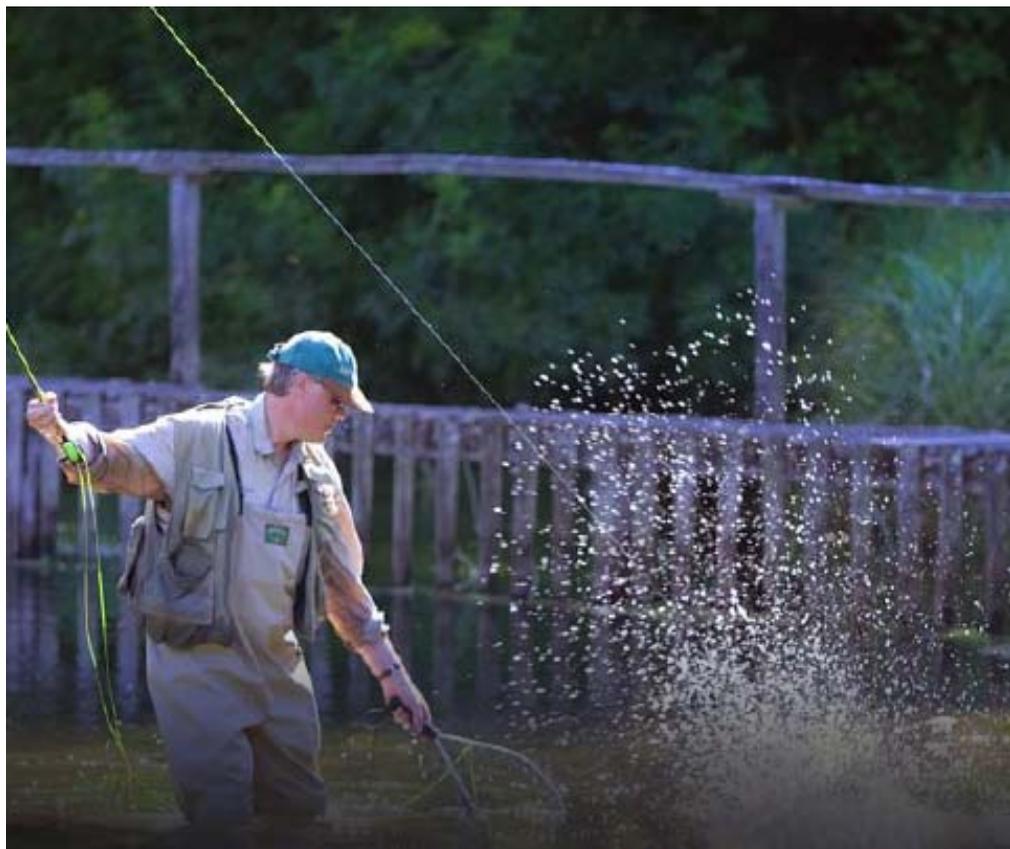
David emphasised the commercial importance of competitive angling to the management of the larger public trout fisheries.

He showed us profiles of how the senior, youth and ladies positions in the fly fishing world were made up. He outlined the progress of youth teams through the seniors and gave some idea of age limitation.

He said it was very important to develop youth training skills and showed pictures of some youngsters who had already achieved accolades in this direction. He outlined numerous constraints that occurred. E.g. travel costs, cost of fishing, time available and coaching available. He said it was essential to get coaches in place for competition fishing.

It was made clear that those ex-athletes, e.g. footballers etc who had come to the end of the playing careers could very easily take up this sport and still be fishing and making a contribution into their 70s.

After much discussion with Sport England, great progress had been



**VISIT OUR  
ORVIS STAMFORD  
STORE FOR OUR  
NEW SEASON STOCK.**

**ORVIS®**

**ROD AND TACKLE**

**ORVIS STAMFORD | 5 ST. MARY'S STREET | STAMFORD | LINCOLNSHIRE  
PE9 2DE | TEL: 01780 484999**

made to get them on side and take us seriously!

Quite clearly a huge amount of work has been done to achieve this.

David outlined the 2011 talent plans.

For further information on the activities of the ADB either read the newsletter or visit their website at [www.anglingdevelopmentboard.org.uk](http://www.anglingdevelopmentboard.org.uk)

### **John Seaton**

We were very grateful to John Seaton to take time out from his very busy work schedule to give the benefit of his knowledge on the management Rutland Water.

John gave us and in depth look at the highlights of the 2010 season. He was proud to announce the early-season capture of a Brown trout of 13lb 8 oz. and a rainbow trout of 13lb 6 oz.

Some 37,000 plus fish had been recorded from catch returns during the 2010 season.

The early fish averaged around two pounds plus. Thereafter, following problems associated with the drought and consequent reduction of water flow through fish farms the stock fish size declined.

This was caused by the necessity to reduce the volume of food given to the fish to avoid possible fouling of the water through their sites. John added, though, that

that despite the smaller size more fish had been stocked as compensation.

John attributed the good fishing in the North arm to an improvement in the food available in this part of the lake.

It was interesting to learn that fish stocked by the transformer were caught in the main basin the following day. This is a distance of about 3 1/2 miles overnight! However, this season, quite clearly a great many of the fish chose to remain in the North arm giving us some of the best fishing in this part of the lake since September 2001.

John highlighted problems associated with works being carried out in the South arm in the Manton area which had led to the colouring up of water during wind or following heavy rain. It was thought that this could be one reason for the lack of fish in this area during the season.

The buzzer fishing in the spring was some of the best for many years; although the hatches occurred well offshore which made for patchy bank fishing during this period. The main basin, however, had not been as productive as usual possibly due to the absence or certainly lower volume of daphnia.

One area of the main basin that did fish was alongside the marker buoys just off the dam. Despite the drawdown in 2009 it was interesting how the caddis,

# RWFF Pre Season Dinner - March 24<sup>th</sup>

The Noel at Whitwell – 7.30pm - \*£19.00 per person



- A) Garden Pea Soup  
B) Oriental Duck Salad, Hoi Sin Dressing  
C) Cajun Spiced Tiger Prawn Kebab, Sweet Chili Dipping Sauce  
~~~  
D) Slow Roasted Shoulder of Lamb, Fresh Mash, Red Wine Reduction, Seasonal Vegetables  
E) Duo of Sea Bass & Salmon, Buttered New Potatoes, White Wine Cream  
F) Mediterranean Vegetable & Goats Cheese Samosa, Garlic & Basil Potatoes, Mixed Salad  
~~~  
G) Sticky Toffee Pudding, Butterscotch Sauce, Vanilla Ice Cream  
H) White & Dark Chocolate Truffle Cake, Raspberry Compote  
J) Selection of Dairy Ice Creams  
~~~  
Fresh Coffee or Tea

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)   
Pudding G)  H)  J)

**Please return a form for each individual booking to:** John Wadham, 6 Mendip Road, Oakham, LE15 6NN. Tel: 01572 771092. \*All cheques to be made payable to RWFF. The closing date for all bookings received will be Monday 21<sup>st</sup> of March, with no exceptions.



## *Valentine's Special*

*Saturday 12th Feb. 2011*



**Three course meal, coffee and a glass of Bubbly  
Only £25.00 per person**

Book early to avoid disappointment.



the noel

Main street, Whitwell, Rutland LE15 8BW

TELEPHONE : 01780 460347

email : [info@thenoel.co.uk](mailto:info@thenoel.co.uk)  
[www.thenoel.co.uk](http://www.thenoel.co.uk)

corixa, snails and sticklebacks had re-colonised the margins.

All stock fish had now been ordered for the 2011 season and his aim was to achieve 3.5 fish per rod during the season and the lake restocked to maintain this. He added that the stock numbers for 2011 would equate to that in 2010.

John said that 45% of the fish stocked had been recovered. At Grafham it was thought that this figure was in fact nearer 50% but in any case was a very good return.

New boats have been ordered to replace some of those which had been in use for over 30 years. One member quipped that the redundant boats might be used to decorate the Oakham roundabouts as the one at the junction of the bypass!

John said that he was proud to work for Anglian Water Services and had tremendous support from this function and congratulated John Marshall as a tireless worker for anglers.

He told us that the new assistant, Andy, had been set on to replace Alan Dalton who was now a plumber. He added that there had been 73 applications for this job!

John had been working with the police on security at the car parks; especially at Sykes Lane where there had been problems with break-ins. He emphasised the importance of not leaving any equipment in your vehicle on view. Cameras were now in place here and at other sites.

So make sure you don't drive out the wrong way or you will be seen!

On the subject of catch returns John would like a better and more punctual response as he had to collate a months return from some anglers retrospectively which made nonsense of the figures. He added that catch & release numbers were included as part of the rod average.

He said it would be nice to have more support for all matches and also for the Tuesday Boat League which is a great way into the sport.

### **Questions**

One question was asked about the quality of fishing in the North Arm and John replied that during one match 47 boats out of 60 went up the North arm.

### **Angling Development Board**

David said that some 180 projects were in hand at the moment and that he was very pleased with the progress so far and emphasised that age was not a limiting factor.

Following in-depth discussions with other members of the ADB he had convinced them that competition fly fishing can be seen as a very serious contender in the sports arena and made parallels with other sports e.g. cricket.

### **Proposed Juniors Evening**

David said it was essential that schools be involved in this and that for a function in July we

should be getting things started straight away. RWFF had already set up committee to discuss this and would hope to hold the event in mid July at the beginning of the school holidays. David said that ADB could help us when the new local member is in place.

### **Dikerogammarus villosus**

John outlined the very intensive bio security measures in place to prevent the spread of this to other watercourses from Grafham. David outlined the risk to other fauna and was concerned that it could have an impact on the remarkable buzzer hatches at Grafham. He also alluded to the presence of this shrimp in Cardiff Bay and in an adjacent reservoir at Port Talbot.

### **Bunds Signage**

It was thought that there might be a danger of boats grounding on the submerged bunds and it is hoped that warning signs could be erected on these bunds to prevent this happening. John said there would almost certainly be 50 meters exclusion zone.

### **Low Water Levels**

Concern was expressed as to how boats might get out of the harbour when the future predicted draw down of the reservoir occurs following increased water usage.

John Seaton said that as there was a considerable depth outside the harbour. They will be able to clear a channel to get boats 'in & out'. He said that he had already been in touch with contractors who could carry out this work.

### **Winter Programme for 2011 ...**

This year we plan to put together another series of interesting and popular meetings with a varied selection of topics and speakers.

### **Thursday February 10 — Forum of Experts**

We have invited four experts for this forum viz: -

- Peter de Kremer
- Rob Edmunds
- Nigel Savage
- Graham Pearson

This is a very informal evening and hopefully will give rise to much discussion on topics that interest us whether it be on river fishing, pike fishing, reservoir ecology, or flies and how to fish them. I think you will agree that the above named are very well versed in the art and will give as a very interesting evening.

Food again will be served at 21:00 hours. And thereafter we can continue to grill our experts!

### **Thursday February 24 - Philip White**

Many of you will have met Philip at the game fair or other sporting or angling events. He is a singularly skilled fly dresser and an APGAI fly tying instructor.

You may have seen him at the Game Fair fly tying or talking about his experiences in river management. His knowledge on Grayling and their habits will be of great interest to many of our members.



Philip used to manage the River Wye fishery on the Duke of Rutland's Haddon estate in Derbyshire. He also has had a great deal of experience in the tackle trade as manager at Lathkill Tackle in Darley Dale near Matlock.

So there is not much he doesn't know about our sport.

Philip will speak for just over one hour and then we will take a food break after which Philip will be tying some of his favourite patterns with a video link which should arouse considerable interest.

We last met Philip as a speaker in 2000 and he received a tremendous reception. Yes, on that occasion the secretary was actually complimented on obtaining such an interesting speaker.

### **Sunday, March 6 - Litter Pick**

A recent visit to the transformer car park suggests that once again we will be performing a very useful

function in clearing up the mess left by others. We will meet at the Fishing Lodge at about 9 am for a butty & coffee/tea. See poster.

### **Thursday, March 10**

We have decided this winter to include an additional meeting. We hope to have a talk on the ecology of our beloved Rutland Water. This I am quite certain will be of great interest to all of us. Typical will be the unanswered question "why did the North arm suddenly start fishing". "Why are the buzzers hatch- es more prolific some years than others".

All details on this and other matters in the early March newsletter.

### **Thursday, March 24 - Pre-Season Dinner - Noel Arms**

As in previous years, this promises to be a very affable occasion. This is an ideal ambience with us all in one open room. We are also very fortunate in that Claire and Mark, despite these straitened, times has given us a very good 4 course dinner at £19 per head.

Attached to the menu is an application form with your choice of meal on it. There should be something to suit all tastes. All details are on our website, including a menu & a printable booking form

Please be certain to get this back to JW as soon as possible. Closing date for receipt of cheques is Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March. No applications will be considered after this date. This will give JW time to draft the individual name & menu selection

tags and to give the Noel Arms time to prepare the meals for us.

### **Prize Winners for the RWFF 2010 Season**

- Trout and Salmon Trophy Peter De Kremer.
- Trout Fisherman Trophy Brian Bonner.
- John Wadham Trophy Paul Wild.
- Sean Cutting Trophy Hilary Tomlinson
- Hanby Cup Mike Barrett & Graham Pearson

If you want to receive your trophy please attend the dinner!

### **Juniors Evening**

Around the middle of July RWFF are proposing to run a juniors evening much on the lines as previous events which were a great success.

A sub-committee has been formed to ensure that the event runs smoothly. It will involve a considerable amount of organising. Therefore, we need as much help as possible and try and make this event a success.

As David said in his talk on 13 January is absolutely essential that we try and get youth back into the sport. This of course is only the first step.

If you as members know anybody who can help; whether they are club members, school sports instructors, or anybody involved in youth and sport please contact JW.

### **RWFF's Winter & Summer Programme for 2011**

- Thursday, February 10th, Forum of experts
- Thursday, February 24th, Philip White Fly dresser, Fly Fisher and river keeper
- Sunday, March 6th, Litter Pick - Fishing Lodge
- Thursday, March 10th, Speaker - TBA
- Thursday, March 24th Pre-season dinner - the Noel Arms Whitwell
- Friday, May 13th Wadham trophy - evening bank match
- Friday, June 3rd Cutting trophy-evening bank match
- Sunday, June 26th, Hanby Cup
- Sunday, September 25th Loch Style trophy

### **Water Aid 2011.**

This will be held over the three-day period from September 7 to the 9th. I know it's a long way off but please put this date in your diary as we need all the help we can get. All volunteers will be very welcome.

We are very pleased to welcome a new member onto our committee in the person of Chris Evans.

As I'm sure you are all aware he has been a leading light in the management and setting up of Water Aid events on behalf Anglian Water. He's a keen and skilled angler and has been very supportive of club events and a regular rod in the Tuesday boat league.

As we were three members short of

a quorum, I am sure we will find plenty for Chris to do. He has already made some constructive suggestions on various aspects of the club management

### **“Early Days” by John Maitland**

I caught my first trout aged six with help from my grandfather, from the Chew brook a mile above where the reservoir is now -on a worm.

Next year Christmas 1940 a plain split cane 9 foot fly Rod with brass reel and level fly line arrived from a friendly Lossiemouth farmer.

In summer 1941 I taught myself to fly-cast on the River Windrush catching dace, small chub and even Grayling but no trout.

Later in the war we lived some time with my grandfather and in the school holidays I had some access to Litton reservoir higher up the Chew; then reserved for directors and VIPs; small schoolboys were a bit unusual. I hooked some trout, mostly brownies, from the bank but usually got too excited and held too hard for wartime gut and poor knots.

In 1950 my father retired from the RAF and next year I joined up. Home was now in East Harptree above the Chew valley and Litton and Blagdon saw more of me. At that time the reservoirs were stocked with 6 to 8 inch trout and we were very pleased with a 11/2lb fish, though there were some much bigger ones.

I remember reading a report in the field that the years catch from Blagdon was some 2000 fish averaging 1lb. 6oz.; how different from now, though Rod pressure was very light.

Nylon had become available before the war ended but only in 40 inch lengths and it was a great relief when spools appeared. Quality was very variable and we still relied on the blood knot so breakages resulted.

Lines were oil dressed silk: greased to float and un-greased for slow sink, and needed continuous attention; drying and re-greasing before the evening rise and drying when one got home or they rotted.

I still used my 1940 nine footer but in 1952 after reading Ivens, bought split cane sections to make 10½ foot fly Rod. This took a number three kingfisher line and with a left shoulder breeze it was possible to get the whole 30 yards out. I was young and fit but the effort of wielding that 8oz Rod would cripple modern muscles tuned to carbon fibre. I caught my first salmon on that Rod 1955.

Reservoir flies were mostly traditional; Mallard and Claret, Peter Ross, Dunkeld and the like. The only buzzer pattern was Bell's Blagdon Buzzer: Black with a Gold rib and usually in a size 10.

At Blagdon on a summer evening the worm fly was standard on the tail with something like a grenadier (*then with a scarlet not orange*



*body*) on the dropper. No doubt this gave an impression of a red pupa or bloodworm.

From 1955 to 1958 I was stationed near St Andrews where fishing at Cameron reservoir cost two and sixpence a day for local rate payers which we counted as. It was stocked with small Browns which grew to about two pounds. There was often an intense evening rise, clearly to buzzer, and the locals caught on size 16 flies like the Kingfisher Butcher.

I experimented with more accurate buzzer imitations but only occasionally got it right. No one considered using dry fly for another 20 years or so.

In 1957 Chew Valley opened. Stocking was still with small trout but growth rate was fantastic as were the hatches, particularly of

sedge flies. Three and four pounders became common but most were still caught on traditional flies or black tandems which probably represented the many leeches on which the trout feasted.

In 1958 I went overseas to Arabia where bigger, toothier sea fish became the quarry; but on returning after two years found that the reservoirs had not changed a lot. But in the 1960s change came fast as synthetic floating and sinking lines appeared.

In the late 1960s I was flying from near Bath and developed quite a few effective buzzer patterns for Chew and Blagdon. Cane then gave way to glass-fibre which led in turn to carbon fibre.

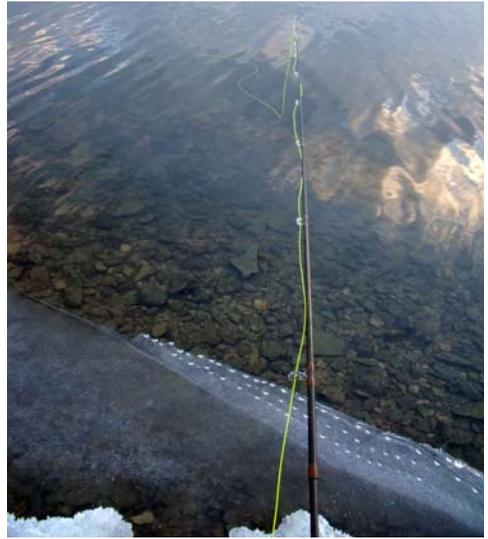
Much was done and published about the buzzer and other still-water patterns and evolution to the

present really got going. I only wish we still had evening rises of the 50s and 60s.

### 2011 Membership Renewals

Members are reminded that their 2011 subscriptions are now due. Renewal forms were sent out with the December 2010 newsletter and as at the time, slightly fewer than 50% have been returned. Given the problems we have encountered with the post over this same period that seems pretty good. If however, you are one of the members that put the form carefully to one side just prior to Christmas and have forgotten about it with all the other activities, can I remind all that subscriptions are **due before 28th February?**

If you cannot find the form, don't worry, subscriptions can be sent by cheque with an accompanying letter, or alternatively renewed via the RWFF website.



If you do not intend to renew the subscription this year, can I ask that you notify Paul Wild the Treasurer, or at least one of the other committee members.

### To end on ... more winter shots from around Rutland Water...

The photograph on the left page shows Manton Bay & Lax Hill, plus all the way across to the Bunds being virtually frozen over by the middle of November.

Above shows the ice at the edge of the water at Hambleton Wood frontage again in November.

The one to the left shows Nigel Woolnough sporting a very fine specimen red woolly hat, visible to all 'search & rescue' helicopters for miles around! Let's hope this was our 'White Winter' over and done with and that the temperatures now get back up to normal and not down to the minus 16-19 degrees as they were prior to Christmas!





**printondemand**  
-worldwide.com

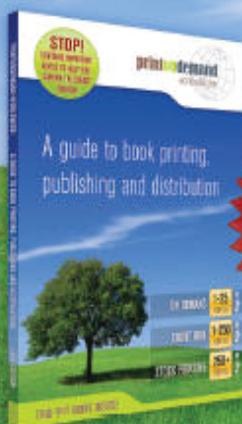


# BOOK PRINTING

Get an instant online quote!

[www.printondemand-worldwide.com](http://www.printondemand-worldwide.com)

- ✓ Photo Quality Mono Printing
- ✓ Affordable Colour Printing
- ✓ Strong Environmental Policy
- ✓ UK, USA & AUS Production
- ✓ Full Distribution Service
- ✓ Online Ordering System



Contact us to obtain your FREE copy of our Guide to Book Printing, Publishing and Distribution

ON DEMAND

**1-25**  
COPIES

SHORT RUN

**1-250**  
COPIES

STOCK PRINTING

**250+**  
COPIES

Telephone Printondemand-worldwide on 01733 237867 for more information, or visit our website [www.printondemand-worldwide.com](http://www.printondemand-worldwide.com)