

# **RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS**

Affiliated to Federation of Midland Fly Fishers (Anglia) & A.C.A

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## **JANUARY 1997 NEWSLETTER**

Dear Member,

Firstly a reminder that the next club meeting will be held at the Victoria Hall, Oakham on Tuesday January 7th 1997, when we will be welcoming one of this country's foremost pioneers of bank fishing on the big waters Arthur Cove.

I have known Arthur who is a founder member of this club since my first visit to Grafham in 1967 and even on that first occasion learned a good deal about the vagaries of Reservoir trout fishing. Arthur is one who has always adopted the imitative approach to nymph fishing. Are there any members who have not at some time or other fished one of his pheasant tail nymphs whether the original or one of the many perversions now in use? Arthur would I am sure agree that it is not what you use but how you use it and he will no doubt enlighten us on that next week. For those of you who have not heard him before I can assure you that you will be well entertained.

On 21 January 1997 we will be delighted to welcome Marcus Warwick who will be giving us the benefit of his profound knowledge on all there is to know about rods and reels and an insight into their history and manufacture. As many of you will know Marcus has been in the trade for many years and many of his personally designed rods are in regular use at Rutland Water and other fisheries at home and abroad. Marcus' in depth knowledge of his subject has caused him to be invited to talk to fishing clubs nation wide. He lives in Uppingham and I think we can thus regard him as one of the "locals".

The Competition meeting will be held in the Victoria Hall on Tuesday 28th January at 7.30pm in one of the downstairs rooms. We need as many people as possible to attend this meeting as there a number of topics which need discussing including the possible election of a Club Captain. We are looking for someone who is well versed in the running of competitions and is prepared to offer their organisational skills as Club Captain.

The meeting will be chaired by the chairman and minutes taken by the Secretary.

Enclosed for your attention is the Questionnaire referred to in the previous newsletter accompanied by an explanatory note from the chairman.

## **Tackle Auction**

Last year members expressed fears that the Tackle Auction was running out of steam. This year however there were in fact twice the numbers of items submitted for sale. Some seventy two people attended - the numbers swollen by one or two guests. Total sales realised £897 - 00 from which R.W.F.F. received £176 - 70 in commissions. The lost property was sold in aid of the junior members and including donations realised £89 - 51. A big thank you is due to Jeff Dale whose professional conducting of the event ensured that the meeting finished in good time. He very generously donated his fee to the "Loros" hospice. The Chairman thanked the following helpers for their hard work in ensuring the smooth running of the event:-

John Dodds	Glyn Thomas
John Harrison	Brian Thomas
Jon Marshall	Alec Wood
Roger McCarthy	Paul Wild
Dick Stephen	

Glyn Thomas who retired as Club Auditor was presented with a bottle of his favourite tippie. The Club would like to thank him for his valuable contribution to the Club effort over the years.

The rest of the prizes were presented at this function including the prize for the best Rainbow caught by a junior member presented to Tom Ellis grandson of long serving former committee member Mick Ellis. Sadly there was no claimant for the Fario Trophy for the best Brown by a junior member. I know we tend to return Browns to the water but it takes only one fish to collect the trophy.

## **Winter Fishing**

This has offered the Sec. and all those who, have tried it some excellent surface and just sub-surface fishing for Rainbows which with only few exceptions have been in "mint" condition. Ted Kuzniar a former member of the club caught two superb fish of 4lb 14oz and 5lb 10oz in Whitwell Creek one morning in November. The sec and I am sure many other anglers would swap half a dozen of these beauties for all the double figure stockies in the world. The main diet has been Corixa, Damsels, large bloodworms, sticklebacks, beetles, and daphnia. The blizzard on the 13th November rather than putting a damper on things as suggested in the last newsletter seemed in fact to galvanise the fish into action especially on the calmer days. The bulk of the fish were to be found on south banks - especially the south bank of the North Arm. The results of the Fur and Feather match held on 15th December confirmed this. Some 65 Anglers accounted for 80 Rainbows with fish up to near 5lb being caught. Winner was Bill McHargh of Leics. F. F. with 6 fish for 13lb 10oz followed closely by Wyndham Davies of Grafham Water. F. F. with four corkers for 12lb 11oz and third was John Smith with three superb fish for 10lb 91/2oz. The weather on the day could not have been better with light a South Westerly wind and the mildest day for a month. Most of the fish were caught from the shallowest parts of the lake. Most fish were taken on Minkies, Damsel nymphs and Palmers. Those who took part were entertained to game pie and Mince pies and a hot punch at the lodge after the event. Our Chairman thanked Jon Marshall and his staff for organising the event and Deklan O'Connor for providing the excellent eats. The Sec. among others had some fifteen pulls and in common with others lost numerous others. A great day was had by all.

### **Pike Fishing**

This was quite successful with fish up to 27lb being caught. Most of the better fish coming from the top of the North Arm. There has been more evidence of Pike damage to Rainbows this season. This will be kept under review. One of the best fish taken at Grafham was not a Pike but a Brown of 19lb 12oz caught in the deep water off Hill Farm. Unfortunately the fish died but A.W.S. is having it set up and will in due course be on view at the Lodge there.

### **Other News.**

The Club has now bought a "Bubble Jet" colour printer which has saved the Sec. a lot of travelling around the country using other peoples printers! In order to improve his computer skills the Sec.- ably persuaded by Glyn Thomas is going back to school for a ten week course at Oakham Sixth Form College starting 7th January. We will keep you informed of our progress! I should like to thank Christine and Roger McCarthy for their invaluable help in my primary education and acting as my "help icon".

The Reservoir is still at a very low level still having only risen some 9" since the end of the season. Rain is desperately needed if the environment is not to be exposed to further frost following what has been the coldest December since 1981

The Rutland Water Users Panel Meeting with A.W.S. was held at the Nature Reserve building on 24th October 1996

Here are some of the points discussed-

The Harbour wall extension had been a success but it was hoped that that fishing from it would be prioritised for Disabled, Juniors and Beginners.

When the new water main is commissioned Severn Trent will be buying the water from Rutland but in the short term at least this will be in emergencies only which should allay any fears of any dramatic increase in the summer draw down in water level

No vehicular access to Berrybuts is being considered for the time being.

Concern was expressed by the Sailing Club that leaders with flies attached had been found in the rigging of moored yachts. I am sure club members were not guilty but please take it on board!

The Bird Watching fair held last August will be broadcast during February on B.B.C. 2 television.

The Osprey Translocation project was a moderate success with one bird being observed at Chichester Harbour. Of the Osprey chicks put down 4 died and six took wing. It was thought unlikely that they would come back and fish at Rutland Water.

The R.W.F.F. Meeting with Rutland Water staff was a cordial affair during which all representatives praised A.W.S. for providing excellent fishing. However it was agreed that a few more pre season stock fish could attract more long term custom but otherwise maintain the status quo. In due course Jon Marshall will be giving us a summary of the 1996 season and a preview of the 1997 season to come.

The Committee is proposing to organise a litter pick up day probably in March when the rubbish is more easily collected. Any volunteers would be welcome and we will try and arrange some refreshments for the "work force" Collection bags will be provided. In addition to being a very useful task it will be very good P.R. for the Club to be seen to be caring for the Environment.

The rest of the winter programme looks like this:-

Tuesday February 4th 1997	Charles Jardine	Flies and methods for still waters
Tuesday February 18th 1997	Fly Tying Evening	
Tuesday 4th March 1997	Terry Griffiths	
Friday March 1997	Leics.F.F. Show	New Venue to be notified to members

More details of these functions in subsequent newsletters.

The next Committee meeting will be held in the Victoria Hall on Tuesday 14th January at 7.30pm  
If you have anything to bring up please let me know a.s.a.p.

Don't forget to return your questionnaire to the Sec. as soon as you can.

The 1997 season starts on Good Friday March 28th - not long now!

More news of the winter fishing in the next letter.

Wishing you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Yours Sincerely

John Wadham - Hon. Secretary.