

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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JANUARY NEWSLETTER 1998

Dear Member,

Pat O Reilly - Tuesday 3rd February 1998

This evening we will be pleased to welcome Pat O'Reilly who will be travelling all the way from Pembroke shire in South Wales to talk to us about Sea Trout and Wild Brown Trout fishing. Pat is a well known and knowledgeable contributor to the Game Angling Press. Pat sent the Secretary some superb colour posters for us to display locally. These have been placed in various places in Oakham viz. The Library, the Post Office, Richard Hearth's Rods & Reels Angling shop on Mill Street, the window at the Victoria Hall and the Fishing Lodge. He has very generously asked that his fee be given to "LOROS" - The Leicestershire Organisation for the Relief Of Suffering. The club is grateful to our Chairman for kindly agreeing to put Pat and his wife up for the night. Maitland Hotel comes highly recommended!

Paul Canning Tuesday 17th February 1998.

Here's an interesting fellow who has fished all the large reservoirs regularly and what better grounding could one have in still water Trout fishing. Paul will be making some very useful comparisons between the larger lakes and how they fish at various times of year. This will, I am sure, be of great benefit to our matchmen and our wider ranging still water pleasure members. It will be interesting to see if Paul can dispel the myth that if you can catch them in the "Big R" then you can catch them anywhere! He is also travelling from afar.

Please support these fellows who promise to give us some very useful info on where and how.

Jon Beer Tuesday 20th January 1998

Sadly, this was the most poorly attended meeting in my term as secretary. Where were you you all? It was your loss. Those who did come enjoyed a gem of a talk full of great humour and fun and we all felt much involved. I just hope our speaker was not too disappointed that, one of - no! - the leading club of its kind in the UK could only muster a measly fifteen percent attendance! So, for the benefit of those who could not come, here is a summary of what was a most entertaining evening.

We got a jolly good insight into how to fish the headwaters of rivers which, if you think about it, are upstream of most pollution sources and therefore can offer some of the best wild brown trout fishing. It was clear from what Jon said that most landowners were quite happy for people to fish - in most cases free and sometimes for a small fee. Jon drew attention to what he described as "secretary's' gloom" - quote - "the river is not what it used to be", "all the fish have gone", "its polluted", "we are losing members" etc. I know the feeling! Jon was however quick to disprove all these theories and show that with a modicum of stealth you can open a few eyes and raise secretarial morale!

Jon Beer (Contd.)

This Secretary's maxim is "treat all fish as you would Chalk Stream Trout and you will catch a lot more". One area that came in for special mention was the Rivers Wye/Teme/Lugg catchments which contain a number of readily accessible waters and some very good fishing for next to nothing. He touched on fishing in Spain and the South of France all of which seemed to have rivers flowing in tree lined limestone gorges and full of big but very testing Browns in their crystal clear waters.

The evening had a quite remarkable finale:

Among other interesting paraphernalia, Jon had brought a tyreless bicycle and what appeared to be a folding bed. This had everyone guessing even when he had set up what must be the most complex and remarkable fly selector in the world. It would take a week and ten pages of A4 to describe it. This, to us showed that here was a very inventive angler! Heath Robinson you have just met your match! The Secretary took some photos of the apparatus which will be on display at future meetings and on our stand at the Leicester Fly Fishing show Friday 13th March.

Thanks Jon for a very entertaining evening! For further details on fishing in the UK and abroad contact Jon on Banbury - 01295 ?

Jon Beer mentioned fishing in Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides an hour by air from Glasgow. Gary Legge the RAF Cottesmore representative has some useful facts about fishing in this area.. All game fishermen pay £18 - 00 p/a to fish in over 200 lochs. Access to the South Uist estate can be had for £20 - 00 a day including boat. Best trout last year was one of 8lb caught from Loch Hosta. Salmon & Sea Trout season opens Feb. 1st and Brown Trout 15th March to late October. Best fishing is early and late season. Plenty of B & B, Hotel and camping facilities available. For further details contact Gary on 01572 768352

Finally, please don't vote with your feet. Just simply tell me or any other member of your committee what you would like in the way of evening or other entertainment and we will provide. You are the sub paying customer and we aim to please!

Winter Fishing - November / December 1997

Typically of Rutland, this proved to follow a totally different course from 1996! Normally, the fishing improves once the fishing pressure is off and they come closer as we approach the New Year. They did come in eventually but for a totally different reason. This was almost entirely due to the very rapid rise in the water level. Approximately 10 ft in 10 weeks!. This encouraged the fish to come in and graze in the newly flooded vegetation. This start of this close in feeding coincided with the Fur & Feather match on December 14th. The fish then were either feeding on fry which were sheltering in the now out of reach weed beds or grazing the margins for "slugs and snails and puppy dogs tails".

The fish were feeding hard at the close. A 11lb 14oz Rainbow caught by the Secretary on Dec. 31st contained among other things some 44 sticklebacks! The sticklebacks were also in the marginal vegetation so the Trout did not have to look very hard for their food. Nor did the bank angler have to cast far. 15 metres and you were beyond them. Some of the takes felt more akin to thistle tops. So - one soon learned to strike everything. Very risky to use droppers in these circumstances.

There is however one factor common to every Winter season. Rutland Water trout are not lovers of strong winds any more than we are. So therefore flat calm conditions have usually proved best - preferably in sunshine. This will encourage an insect hatch. Rainbows much prefer to graze on easy to catch buzzers rather than spend their limited energy resources on "fry bashing". Although sticklebacks are much easier to catch than roach fry.

One interesting phenomenon occurred in early December when strong cold Easterly winds arrived with temps just above freezing. This was the first really strong wind of the Autumn and curiously rather than cooling the water down, it actually raised the water temperature where the wind was behind you from 7 to 8.5 deg C. This water temp at 8 deg C is what you might expect at the beginning of May!

Winter Fishing (Contd.)

This occurred principally because the dormant unmixed warm summer water in the depths of the lake was mixed by the wind with the cool surface water. For fish this is dramatic rise in water temp and thereafter combined with the continuing rapid rise in water level got them feeding again. So, the golden rule at this time of year is fish with the wind behind you and only fish into the wind when its warm or fish happen to be there for other reasons. The big rise in water level in June of course had the opposite affect and virtually killed off sport as the water coming was very much colder than the lake water. In November, however, the water entering the lake would be about the same temp as the lake water and therefore unlikely to have much effect on their metabolism.

Fly patterns? Well, the following few patterns do best. Minkies, GRHE, tiny black buzzers (bigger in dirty water), bloodworms, tadpoles and anything else you fancy. Some have been caught on intermediate lines but floaters are ideal. Don't stop in one place. Keep moving along - they do! Don't forget to keep warm. Neoprene waders are worth every penny for wading comfort.

A.W.S. Tackle Sale at the Fishing Lodge, Rutland Water - Saturday 31st January to Sunday 8th February 1998

There are a lot of bargains to be had with large discounts on some rods, reels, lines and a vast amount of fly tying materials. The shop is open for business from 9.00am - 3.00pm daily including the sale period. Contact the Lodge on 01780 686441 for further details. Summary sale list is available.

Subs Reminder

The Treasurer tells me that only some 100 members have renewed so far. If you still want to receive all the benefits of club membership then get your subs into Paul as soon as possible. Unpaid up former members will find a final reminder with a renewal form enclosed. This has entailed a lot of extra admin. work. In 1998/99 renewal notices will be sent out in October so that in accordance with rule 5(c) of the club constitution subs shall be paid by December 31st. Paid up members for 1997/98 will find a membership card enclosed. Apologies for the delay in sending these out. Final details of events, starting dates etc. were not all to hand until after the New Year.

Fly Tying Evening - Tuesday January 6th 1998

This went very well with an average attendance although there seemed to be fewer than last year. This was an illusion. There were in fact forty five as in 1996 but as we were in the small room downstairs last year it then looked to be a lot of folks. Some very interesting patterns were tied. Our thanks to Trevor Ashby, John Maitland, Nigel Savage and Dave Doherty for "doing it for nothing". We all have our favourite patterns but there is always something new as we learned that night.

Dinner & Speaker Evening Tuesday March 17th 1997.

So far, the Secretary has received only three replies to the circular sent out in December. Where are all those who put their hands up in agreement at the A.G.M.? Please, if you are interested, either return the application form to the Secretary as soon as possible or telephone the Chairman, Secretary, or Treasurer a.s.a.p. so that the necessary catering arrangements can be made before it is too late. Otherwise the proposed function will be regarded as a "non starter" and disbanded. Details of the menu are enclosed. Seems very good value to me at £8 -00 per head including a raffle and a jolly good excuse to have a get together and a good natter before the kick off.

Rutland Water Perimeter Track.

Following our site meeting with Jon Marshall when improvements to Car Parking etc. were discussed - the following measures were proposed.

- 1 Warning signs for track users of the presence of motor vehicles at potential black spots e.g. Yellowstone Dip
- 2 Improve existing parking places - particularly at popular spots like Yellowstone Point and Hambleton Wood corner.
- 4 Increase number of parking places.
- 5 More regular maintenance of the track surface.
- 6 More regular servicing of toilets.
- 7 More 10 mph speed limit signs.
- 8 More monitoring of illegal track users.
- 9 Establish ownership of Transformer Car Parking area and negotiate repairs

It is hoped to complete a lot of this work prior to the start of the 1998 season

Litter Pick up day March 1998

This is planned for Sunday March 8th 1998 - poster enclosed. Proceeds will go towards supporting the Karen Ball Memorial Cancer Unit at the Rutland Memorial Hospital. The Karen Ball Fund supports the Palliative Care Unit at the Leicester Royal Infirmary. Do help out if you can - "Many hands make light work".

Visit to A.W.S. Wing Water Treatment Works

This is planned for 7.00pm on Wednesday May 6th 1998 and afterwards at the Cuckoo Pub for a pint - further details in next newsletter.

Season 1998

Rutland.

Following discussions with the various "powers that be" it has been decided not to open the season until Wednesday 1st April. Not as we had hoped - Saturday 28th March. We are now 95% full and the highest for at least 5 years. Just a few inches from over spill. This will enable us to fish from grassy banks rather than a muddy swamp as in 1997. With the fish still feeding in close it bodes very well for start on April 1st.

Pitsford - opens on Saturday 21st March - but only in the main basin below the causeway.
Wednesday 1st April - above the causeway will also be available.

Ravensthorpe - opens on Saturday 28th February - and will be stocked with lots of big fish up to 5lb. Full details are not yet to hand but the proposal to introduce catch and release at Ravensthorpe is bound to "raise some hackles" - if you will pardon the pun. This approach can lead to "spot hogging". Where one angler can fish in one place for the full fishing day and, even if he is getting a fish a throw, not be obliged to move until he is either fed up with catching or runs out of time or is a real angler and will go and look for some more testing fishing. For this and other reasons, many anglers are not in favour. It will be interesting to see how it works out. *Barbless hooks* will be required - more details on this and other matters relating to Ravensthorpe on 01604 781350.

Season 1998(Contd.)

Grafham - opens on 1st April. However they at the moment are at about 65% capacity and still about 10 ft down with still quite a large foreshore in front of the North end of the dam. The Great Ouse is still very full at the moment so hopefully they should be able to keep pumping and get up near top level for the open. From an angler's point of view, four foot below top level would be ideal so as to be able to fish beyond the "sterile" littoral zone and over the original "1966" reservoir catchments! The old lodge built in 1964 has at last been demolished and work is soon due to start on the new unit.

General

This season A.W. S. is running a "*kids go free*" feature at Rutland, Grafham, Pitsford, Ravensthorpe and their Coarse fisheries. This will be for the under 16s and will enable them to fish with a paying adult on a one to one basis. They will of course have to share the current adult catch limit.

On Sunday 15th March there is an open invitation to season ticket holders to call in at all of their fishing lodges, chat to the staff and discuss the prospects for the new season

Full details on opening dates and charges will appear in "Hooked" magazine in mid-February.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year

Your's sincerely

John Wadham - Hon.Secretary