

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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MILLENNIUM NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2000

Dear Member

Firstly, a warm welcome to all new members who have joined us since the AGM.

If you have paid or renewed your subs, the 1999/2000 membership book will be enclosed. Existing members who have not paid by 31st January - the date of the next newsletter - will, regrettably, be deemed to have resigned their membership of the club.

Please note the change of dates of two of the Winter functions. The Tackle Auction will now be on Tuesday 8th February and Bill Rawlings will be coming on 22nd February.

The Secretary apologises to those who have had to alter their plans.

Hope you all had a suitably merry Christmas and Millennium celebration. Did you know that 1999 was the warmest year on record. The previous warmest being 1990. Global warming? Lets hope not.

Winter Fishing

This started off in fine fashion with some tremendous fish being caught. The best places being East Creek. Whitwell Creek, The Harbour & Sykes Lane to Whitwell. Occasionally fish were caught elsewhere.

As usual the weather played a large part in the fishing and with the wind between North and West a lot of the time some of the best spots were unfishable. E.g. the Harbour Wall and East Creek. Some good rises were seen here on the calm days although no insects could be seen. These calm days seemed to be the best times to fish as you could go where you wanted. However those stalwarts who fished into the wind off the corner of Whitwell Creek opposite the Old Lodge ("Bless it") had some very good days with some taking an 8 fish limit on one or two occasions.

The quality of the fish ranged from bars of silver to pewter coloured "egg sacs".

Perhaps it is as well that some of these fish were in spawn early this back end. They should therefore be well mended by April 1st. There are a lot more fish left than you think. Some of the rises referred to earlier would confirm this. The fish were not as widespread as in 1998 when you could catch in most places when the wind suited.

A very large Brown estimated to be in excess of 12lb was hooked just to the left of the Lodge and released without being handled. Where were the rest of them?

The Fur & Feather - Sunday 12th December. This was a great success despite the horrendous forecast which was enough to put anybody off. In relatively quiet weather with a moderate West North West wind 80 anglers caught some 77 fish. Some grand fish were caught. The three best fish weighed 8lb 15oz, 8lb 7½oz and 6lb 13oz. The bulk of the fish came from Whitwell Creek and were taken on Minkies. Warren Scott deserved to be the captor of the best fish having travelled from Newcastle for the day. The 8lb 7½oz fish was caught by local angler Keith Bone from Stamford.. The match was won by Steve Franklin from Nottingham who caught four fish for 19lb 1oz including a fish of 6lb 13oz - on a Pink lure - "something new" the fish must have thought.

The proceeds from the raffle raised £100 - 00 in aid of RACS - the Rutland Accident Care Scheme.

Jon Marshall thanked all those who contributed so much to the success of the day.

On behalf of all present, the RWFF Secretary John Wadham thanked Jon Marshall, his staff and Tickled Trout - for the "Hot Pot" and mince pies afterwards. Sorry about the brevity of the report!

Try this.....

If you are suffering from Trout fishing withdrawal symptoms why not try pike fishing with a “fly”. It gets you out of the house and you also get a good walk! This sojourn can be up to three miles each way or until you find the fish which seem to hunt in packs. The Secretary has tried it in many waters nation-wide and has found it universally successful.

There is a wealth of drains, rivers and pits within easy range of Rutland. Remember, however, that pike can be as fickle as buzzer feeding Manton rainbows but need a somewhat different approach.

The tackle is similar if rather heavier. Contrary to what you may read size 2 lures on a 9 floater or intermediate - with the head cut short for small waters - are quite adequate. Lures of this size will catch big fish. Witness the 37lb fish caught on a “booby” at Grafham. Up until 1964 this would have been a record Pike by any method. A 10lb fish on a 8 weight rod can be great fun. Experience has shown that Minkies are as good as anything and well imitate their staple diet of eels and lampreys. A multi-strand type wire trace is essential but should not be more than 9” in length and should be attached directly to the lure via a crimp not a link swivel. Pike’s teeth can smash them or open them up. 14lb BS nylon is a minimum leader strength. The main risk to the leader is during the casting of large lures or the fouling of snags. Check your traces regularly for wear & tear.

The secret is in finding the fish and then being there on a day when they are feeding! There is no simple answer to this. If there was, it would take away a lot of the anticipation of a good day. You will have a number of unexplained blank days but you are guaranteed a good walk!

The real magic is in the take which, if you keep out of sight, can quite often be observed.

The Secretary’s best out of a total of seventy two so far this season is a 12lb 6oz fish from the Nene at Fotheringhay on a size 4 Goldhead Minkie.

One advantage is that, during cold weather, the fly scores over spinning as you can achieve results with a very slow retrieve. The fish almost invariably “hit” the lure from the side. So the long tail which should be at least 4” is no deterrent to a firm hook hold: unless you catch them on a short taking day - just like rainbows really!

One of these “Mega” Minkies was tried in East Creek on the above tackle but only succeeded in attracting a Rainbow of about 2lb which slipped the hook. So perhaps we should try bigger Minkies for trout in future!

Calm conditions are best as their other food fish e.g. roach and skimmer bream tend to be near the surface then. Pike are more on their guard than stocked trout which have not been exposed to the traumas of predatory birds etc. and will not tolerate a clumsy approach or careless wading.

Have a go! You might be pleasantly surprised. You are not going to have your reel “drained” but it shortens the close season!

Fly Tying Evening & Prize Giving - *Fishing Lodge, Normanton* - Tuesday January 11th 2000.

Please note that this is at the **Lodge** and **not** at the Victoria Hall. All the rest of the meetings will be at the Victoria Hall.

This is a fun and socialising evening. I am sure the above fly tiers will be pleased to allow other club members present either to show off their skills or have a go at new patterns.

Those giving us the benefit of their skills will be The Chairman, Trevor Ashby, Dick Stephen, Sean Cutting & Kevin Taylor, Nigel Savage & Nathan Clayton.

The Chairman will be tying Salmon Flies & CDC, Trevor some of his own original patterns, Nigel & Nathan Floating Fry & River patterns respectively.

Dick will be discussing tackle maintenance. Sean Cutting & Kevin Taylor will be tying & exhibiting the best of Rutland patterns with the aid of a lap top.

Jon Marshall has arranged to keep the shop open at the Lodge just in case members might want to add to their kit in order to tie one of the patterns suggested by our illustrious group of fly tiers!

Prize Giving

Just a reminder to those who should if possible present themselves to receive their Prize/Trophy. They are:-

Roger McCarthy	Trout & Salmon Shield	Best Rainbow
Lewis Carlin	Trout Fisherman Shield	Best Brown
Mike Ellis Junior Trophy	Paul Abbott	Best Rainbow
“Fario” Shield	Matthew Tolliday	
John Wadham Trophy	Iain Barr	
Oliver Cup	Kevin Bucknall	
Loch Style Trophy	Sean Cutting & Dave Doherty	
Hanby Cup	Graham Pearson & Mike Barratt	
Roger Thom Trophy	Kevin Taylor	
Pro/Am	Mike Netherclift & Lin Walters	

Tuesday 25th January - Victoria Hall - Tony Cook MBE

Lecturer Tony Cook is well known as Decoy Man at Borough Fen Decoy from 1954. He was former curator at the Wild Fowl & Wetlands Trust at Peakirk. He pioneered shoreline flight netting for waders on the Wash with the late Rick Pilcher. He was chairman of the first Rutland Water Nature Reserve planning committee, a member of the Wash Barrage Ornithological working group & the Ferry Meadows Country Park management committee. He was awarded the MBE for conservation of water fowl. Who better then to give us an insight in the activities of fish eating birds. The Secretary warned Tony that he might be heckled a little on the subject of cormorants. He gave one the impression that he would be equal to this.

His wife, Anne Treadwell-Cook, has won many awards for her wonderful photography.

Tackle Auction- The Victoria Hall - Tuesday 8th February 2000 - 7.30pm - prompt!

See enclosed poster for details. Jeff Dale has kindly agreed to be our Auctioneer for the evening final details in next newsletter.

Bill Rawlings - Sea Trout Fishing in Ireland and elsewhere - Tuesday 22nd February 2000

Not many anglers have such a wide knowledge of fishing & fishery management in the Emerald Isle. This should be a very informative talk and will be of great benefit to a number of our members who regularly cross the Irish Sea. Further details in next letter.

Pre - Season Dinner & Speaker Evening with Taff Price - Victoria Hall - Tuesday 21st March 2000

As with all of Taff's visits to the club, this will no doubt be a very entertaining event. The Chef, Alan Brown will as always be giving us the benefit of his excellent cuisine in an ideal ambience at the Victoria Hall. Last year, members came from as far afield as Sheffield. Names to the Secretary/ Treasurer. The constraints of space limits us to 50 on a first come first served basis. Further details, including prices, in next newsletter.

The local press will be present at a number of our Winter functions.

Wishing you all a prosperous 2000 or, if you prefer Roman Numerals, MM

John Wadham Hon.Secretary