

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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JANUARY 2001 NEWSLETTER

Dear member

Firstly, a happy new year to all our members and good fishing in 2001. Now that we are all over the excesses of the Christmas & New Year period we can look forward to lengthening days and hopefully some open weather.

As usual the weather had the last word at the end of the Winter Fishing. We were fortunate in having a very mild if rather blustery two months. The lake fished very well throughout this period. Many of the Winter ticket holders had a great time. Some have expressed worries about the impact of the winter angling pressure might have on fish stocks. Having had a winter ticket for a number of seasons it was quite clear that the angling impact on fish stocks is minimal as the number of rod hours is very small. This year especially with the C&R ticket in force. It is quite clear that there is a very good over winter stock. This was borne out by the results fur & feather which, despite being fished on a horrid day, recorded a fish a rod.

The large residue of fish reflects the poor mid season results when the fish did a bunk then turned up in quantity in November as lovely silver bars.

One interesting factor in November/December and for, that matter in October was the conspicuous absence of rising fish. In previous seasons they have been seen herding fry or rising to daddies or taking corixa in the margins. One factor may have been the heavy influx of cold flood water which dropped the reservoir temperature and put the weed beds out of reach of the bank. So you had to keep testing areas for the presence fish with a floating fry to see if anyone was at home!. As that gentleman from Scotland did on the Harbour wall in October and found a 14 pounder answering the door!

Grey minkies seemed to be the most effective pattern

Fur & Feather

This was, as usual, a very enjoyable event for all concerned. Some lovely fish were caught. As mentioned earlier a good proportion of these were the August/September/October stockies which went uncaught. The Secretary helped with the weigh in and was, by appearance at any rate, able to assess their chances of winter survival. As a result of the very mild weather, they looked pretty healthy and well fed.

Another indicator of the number of fish present was the amount of pulls some anglers had before putting a fish on the bank. Graham Herbert and Lee Henfrey took their 6 fish limits from East Creek. They also had innumerable pulls. Graham also had the best fish at 4lb 15½oz. One unfortunate had some 15 pulls but still only managed to bring one fish to net!

The honours for the largest fish caught went to Leon Smith who had a 15 minute battle with what he initially thought was the Brown Trout of a life time. It would have been but, after what seemed eternity, he netted a 21lb Pike. The fish was taken on a size 10 orange & green gold head fished on a floating line with an 8lb B.S. leader. Mercifully the fish was hooked right on the side of the mouth. Any further in and that would have been the demise of his orange & green lure! There is a lesson to be inferred from this capture in that Leon had a net big enough to deal with this monster. Remember that there will soon be a real possibility of a rainbow that size. We have already got to 14lb 3oz!

Forum of Experts at the Fishing Lodge on Tuesday 5th December

This was a very informal event enjoyed by the few who were present. The Secretary apologises for not repeating the venue in the December newsletter. It was however mentioned in "bold" in the October letter.

The panel included John Mee's head warden from Grafham, Tom Pattenden Sean Cutting & Henry Lowe. The meeting was "controlled" by Paul Wild. Interesting questions and answers were provided by audience and panel respectively on a range of topics ranging from fishing costs to rule bending and monitoring thereof by AWS, impact, favourable or otherwise, on the fishery of catch & release in matches. Predator fishing and the impact of Pike and Zander on trout fisheries. The secretary asked John Mee's whether Zander tickets might be considered at Grafham. This was taken on board and would be considered by AWS. John Mee's then went on to give details on how to catch Zander on lures. They seem to lie in about 35 to 40 foot of water and are best taken on lead line type tackle and lures e.g. "waggies" fished slowly and steadily. The best fish taken from Grafham so far was 12lb 6oz. The valve tower at Grafham seems to be the spot.

The secretary put John's very sound advice to the test and eventually managed to winkle a Zander or two out of a Fenland drain on a 5" minkie. This lure, which should be a tandem as zander appeared to take them tail first, may sound big but this is their staple fish food size. If you try for them in a drain, wait till sunset before covering them - but first find them! The pike have often gone off then and one has tended to call it a day. So now we just stay on a little longer.

Renewal of subscriptions

Time is marching on. Now that Christmas and the New Year are over please renew your subs as soon as you can. If you do not do it promptly it makes a lot of extra work for your secretary and treasurer. Thank you to all those who have already paid up

Rutland Water Stocking 2001

Jon Marshall has already has the 2001 fish stock ordered. Some very good new sources of fish have been located, many of which keep their fish in earth ponds. Thus assuring us of a stock of good healthy fish with full tails!

East Midlands Eliminator for the River Fly Fishing Championships

This will be held on the Welsh Dee on Sunday 25th February 2001 or if the River is out of order e.g. flooded – on Sunday 11th March. On the first date Grayling only will be eligible. However on 11th March Trout will also be eligible. There shall be no practice fishing on the beats for one week prior to the event.

The beats to be fished are:-

Sunbank & Flexys which lie some 2 miles downstream of Llangollen. This was formerly the Monsanto stretch but is now Maelor A.A. water. Total cost will be £22 – 00 plus £3 – 50 for “chicken & chips”. For further details and application forms please contact Tony Curtis on 01778 344730 or write to him at 36 Clare Road, Northborough, Peterborough. PE6 9DN

Visit by Mr David Arnold - Forster on Tuesday 9th January to the Victoria Hall, Oakham

We will be welcoming Mr Forster who is the Chief Executive of English Nature (Anglia) who will be telling us of his plans for the management of wildlife at Rutland Water Trout Fishery. If we care about our fishery it behoves as many of us as possible to attend and raise any points we think will affect our fishing in the future: bearing in mind that Mr Forster, like us, is a keen fly fisherman. There is of course the bar and refreshments for those who are unable to have their evening meal before the event. The Secretary has invited members of other clubs in the Anglia Federation and the press to attend. So let's hope we can fill the big room at the Victoria Hall.

Fly Tying Evening and Prize Giving - *The Fishing Lodge, Normanton* on Tuesday 23rd January 2001

The following have agreed to be your presenters at this event. Trevor Ashby, Bill McIlroy, Chairman, Dave Doherty (“Curly”) and the Secretary. Kevin Bucknall was unfortunately unable to attend. It is hoped that other members will join in the tying and show off their skills. Just a reminder that the following are the 2000 prize winners.

Best Brown	No takers
Best rainbow	Paul Buck
Wadham Trophy	Iain Barr
Loch Style	Sean Cutting & Dave Doherty
Hanby Cup	Graham Pearson & Mike Barratt
RWFF Pro/Am	Lin Walters & Andy Flitcroft
Roger Thom	Paul Wild
Oliver cup	Kevin Taylor
Rutland Horseshoe	Wait and see!

Hinckley Shield – Sunday 15th October 2000

The Rutland Ospreys certainly put their bank skills to good effect with 37 fish for 86lb 1½oz Lin's bag alone weighed an incredible 25lb 2oz

Congratulations to Dan Perks & Lin Walters for their impressive winning weight of

Rutland Fly Fair - Barnsdale Country Club – Sunday 4th February 2001 - 1000am - 4pm.
See enclosed poster – Two of our members – namely Kevin Bucknall and Trevor Ashby will be among the fly tyers.