

# RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



January 2002

Website: [www.rutlandflyfishing.co.uk](http://www.rutlandflyfishing.co.uk)  
email: [rwff@bigwig.net](mailto:rwff@bigwig.net)

## DIARY DATES

*Please note that unless indicated otherwise, all meetings are held at 7.30 in the Victoria Hall, Oakham.*

**22nd January**—Fly tying evening with 5 experts plus prize giving

**5th February**—Charles Jardine talks about 'putting the fly back into fishing'

**19th February**—learn all about boat fishing from the experts

**3rd March**—Come along and tidy up before the start of the season—in aid of RACS

**11th March**—Tackle Auction—cash in that unused gear and get some new toys!

**8th March**—Leicester Fly Fishing Show—pop along and see John Maitland and Dick Stevens representing us again.

**19th March**—Annual dinner with top class speaker—it must be nearly time to get those fishing rods out!

**A**nd a very good New Year to all our members. We hope that 2002 will see you happy, healthy and with lots of fish.

Unfortunately we start the year with a cancellation.

**The wildlife talk on the 8th January has been cancelled**, as David Forster has undergone some urgent medical treatment. We have sent him our best wishes and look forward to hearing from him next year.

By now you should have paid your subscription, which has been kept at the same low level for many years. If you've paid you will receive your new membership card with the next newsletter. If its still on your 'to do' list, then this could be your final one! So come on, contact Paul Wild and pay up. Remember, we are all happy do this voluntarily but please don't make the job any harder. An easy way to pay is to come along to the fly tying evening on the 22nd January at 7.30 in the Victoria Hall at Oakham.



## John Wadham's Fishing Report

sundry "non fattening" items – and a little daphnia and odd corixa.

So what caused the fish to lose condition? Was

What happened to all those stockies that went in August & September? Well, that hoped for bumper October occurred in December when they turned up in quantity. Some places reporting a proliferation of fish in the 1½ - 3 lb bracket. But for some reason best known to themselves appeared not to have fed since they were introduced. They were very slim and but one has to say very silvery. Let's hope they survive the winter. If they do there will be a lot left for next year.

Given a severe winter these fish may go into "torpor" and cease to feed. In which case they may survive. Remember December/January 1981/82 – the coldest spell of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and February 1987 the coldest of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The fish then were in plum condition for the off and

pulled like hell despite an open day water temperature of 2 deg C. In Alaska the surface temp of their lakes is 0 deg C for at least 7 months! These produce some of the best rainbows in the world.

Most productive areas were Whitwell Creek where some fine fish up to 6 lb were caught. These larger fish were in very good nick. Perhaps they had the benefit of a summer feeding and were therefore able to make good weight. Also productive were the Mound, Barnhill Creek, Old Hall point and most productive of all Hambleton Wood, Armeley wood and Spud Bay where the writer et al quite often caught 6 fish limits. The huge proliferation of Roach, Bream & Perch Fry that hung around the harbour attracted a lot of fish and some good rainbows were caught here. Why was the bulk of the fry here? The trout's "diet" seemed to be sticks, stones, weed & other

there an unpleasant algae present in September? Why for instance did the perch fry feeding suddenly terminate after just the first week of that month. This is an important feeding time for the fish. Could it be due to the very late Autumn which appears to have affected the environment as a whole? Even now some trees are still hanging on to their leaves. Maybe the marginal lake temperature of 8deg. C in mid December was what might be expected in November. Perhaps it was the comparative absence of Daphnia or the apparent consumption of the corixa - an important Autumn food stuff for the trout - by the hordes of coarse fish. One could speculate endlessly on this matter. This is not criticism of the fishery but an interesting puzzle but not one that could be rectified by man or Anglian Water fishery staff!

The water marginal temp *cont.*

has now slumped to 4deg C. This has not affected their feeding habits. They were still pulling on the last day of the year despite icing of the rod rings: the fish in Barnhill Creek apparently feeding avidly on 2" roach fry! Most productive method on the windier days was to fish lures of any colour or size or floating fry on floating lines – although the latter got more offers than fish. However on the calm days, of which there were plenty, Pheasant tails, Diawl Bach, Buzzers of most colours and in the smaller sizes proved very effective. On these "flat" days there was often quite a prolonged rise and casting at or near these fish proved very productive. Some days you hooked 6 out of 6 other days none out of 10! The fish for some reason taking very short: but more positively than in October and November.

### Even you can learn to tie a fly

Come and see 4 experts tie the flies you've always wanted to see. If you're a newcomer to tying, then this is the place to start and if you regularly tie your own this could be your opportunity to learn some new wrinkles. Also on hand will be Dick Steven's with his unique knot testing equipment. You can scientifically test your knots, and perhaps explain some of those unexpected breaks you've been having. So come along at 7.30 to the Victoria Hall on Tuesday, 22nd January.

### 'Putting the fly back into fishing'

We will be welcoming Charles Jardine, the well known angling author, artist, fly fisherman and casting demonstrator. He is related to the famous Alex Jardine the founder of the famous "Jardine snap tackle" designed for Pike fishing.

In his talk with slides and much banter, he will be attempting to persuade us to "put the fly back into fly fishing". There are many who would agree with these sentiments. "Too much blob pulling and line towing" and not enough imitative fishing. He will also give us his personal view and update on the current activities surrounding the enjoyment of our sport. It should be a very rewarding evening so come along to the Victoria Hall at 7.30 on Tuesday 5th February

### RWFF PRIZE LIST PRESENTATIONS 22.02.02

#### SEASONAL TROPHIES

Trout & Salmon Shield	Best Rainbow	Mike Loy	91b 13oz
Mike Ellis Trophy	Best Rainbow (Junior)	Luke Shevlin	31b 13oz
Trout Fisherman Trophy	Best Brown	Brian Bonner	71b 8oz
"Fario" Trophy	Best Brown (Junior)	Luke Shevlin	21b 10oz

#### COMPETITION TROPHIES

Loch Style 1st	Leon Smith & Ken Richardson	381b 11oz
Loch Style 2nd	Kevin Taylor & Steve Crowson	321b 10oz
Loch Style Best Fish	Ken Richardson Rainbow	31b 9½oz
Hanby Cup	Sean Cutting & Mike Netherclift	261b 1oz
RWFF Pro/Am	Sean Cutting & Tony Shields	241b 4oz
Oliver Cup	Sean Cutting	
Roger Thorn	Kevin Taylor	251b 0oz
Wadharn Trophy	Iain Barr	71b 12oz

## Fur and Feather Meets Santa

This event is a very good test of the fishery's potential. This year quite a number of 6 fish limit bags were taken, some of which weighed between ten and eleven pounds. A number of these bags would have been in the order of twelve pounds but due to their slim profile, the winners 6 fish catch weighed only 10lb 12 ozs. Winner of the event was Rob Edmunds with 6 fish for 10lb 12oz, caught before noon! He had already won the Pitsford event 75 anglers caught 125 fish on a range of patterns from floating fry to tiny buzzers.

Lee Henfrey from Leicester FFA caught the best fish – a rainbow of 4lb 10oz. After the prize giving the assistant secretary thanked John Marshall on behalf of all present.

Rob Edmunds then went on to win at Grafham with 6 fish for 17lb 2oz - no "slimline" fish here apparently! Best fish in this event were 5lb 8oz and

5lb 5oz by Rob Edmunds and Pablo Mullins respectively. Congratulations to Rob for taking the "triple crown".



## Getting the best from your boat fishing.

It costs money, there's nowhere to hide when it rains and it seem like a lot of hassle. So why bother using a boat at Rutland when the banks can be so delightful. Well we've gathered a team of 4 local boat experts who will be on a panel to answer all your questions. What they don't know about boat fishing at Rutland is not worth knowing. So if you're experienced and want some insider tips or a boat novice, then come along to the Victoria Hall on Tuesday 19th February at 7.30.

**Fly fishing in the Mediterranean** On Tuesday, 11th December, we welcomed Nick Hart who came all the way from Minehead in Somerset. He gave us a fascinating talk on fly fishing in the Med. This was mainly boat fishing in the Ebro Delta area which is a two hour drive south of Barcelona. This is a conservation area where pylons have been driven to the sea - bed to protect the area from factory fish netting ships. Tackle comprised 7/9 rods and sinking & intermediate lines on system 2 type reels with as much backing as possible. Most large saltwater streamer lures tied on 2/0 to 4/0 barbless crystal hooks appeared to be effective. The lures should be fished on flexible wire traces. Best fishing seemed to be in July & August. You fish deep in the very hot weather and nearer the surface on the cooler overcast days. Sounds like Rutland to me!

For beach fishing flats boots and line trays were recommended due to the tremendous surf. There is no tidal movement but there is a constant wave that appeared to make surf fishing look rather dodgy!

However the boat fishing looked very rewarding. The main species fished for include bonito, dorado in the 6-8lb class and many other species plus mullet as bait fish. The river Ebro contains Zander, Mullet, Large Bass and some Trout: but is most famous for its catfish. Apparently the hordes of mullet are so dense they look like an area of black water. Think of it – no jet lag. There and back for a long weekend! With flights at very good value for money it looks a snip.

For more details please phone Nick on 01643 831101 or E.mail him on [nick@hartflyfishing.demon.co.uk](mailto:nick@hartflyfishing.demon.co.uk)