

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



January 2003

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DIARY DATES

January 14th
David Moore

January 28th
Matt Hayes of Sky
television fame

February 11th
Fly tying evening
& prize giving and
"sausage & mash"

March 4th
Tackle Auction -
note this is held at
the *Victoria Hall*.

March 9th
Litter Pick Up &
raffle in aid of
RACS - Fishing
lodge

March 25th 2003
Pre-season Dinner

NOTE All meetings are
held at the **Empingham
Cricket Club** unless oth-
erwise stated and start at
7.30pm

**Please note that
subscriptions
are now overdue**



John Wadham's Fishing Report

December carried on where November left off with the fish feeding freely on all manner of food items from fry to snails. Thanks to the very mild November the fish were able to put on weight and get back to their correct "shape" after along fast. This was borne out by the results of the **Fur & Feather** bank match at Rutland on December 3rd.

The winning weights came from the Harbour basin with Simon Robinson from Newcastle taking the top weight of 8 fish for 21lb 13oz. The Cooper brothers - Graham and Gary - both of whom are RWFF club members took 5th & 6th places with 8 fish for 16lb 5oz and 8 fish for 14lb 8oz respectively. Ray Wardell from Mansfield took the best fish 4lb 10oz - again from the Harbour. These fish were feeding freely on the hordes of fry here. The fish caught were with a few exceptions in very good nick.

Our seasonal white bearded friend from Lapland in the form of "Clevor" - perhaps on this occasion "Father" Trevor presented the prizes. The Christmas dinner served for the occasion was excellent. After this, Jon Marshall thanked all those who had

helped make the day such a success. On behalf of RWFF John Wadham thanked Jon Marshall and his staff for a great day!

After the match JW went through the guts bin in the gutting room at the lodge and was bucked up to find that practically all the fish contained some items of food. The largest food item found was a 5" Tommy Ruffe: quite a mouthful for a 2½lb fish!

It is so important that these fish feed so as to carry them through the winter.

Last year, the fish in December appeared to be eating "non fattening" items like sticks and stones. This year they seemed at least to be eating "live" food!

Environment Agency test nettings.

The aim was to determine whether the coarse fish were infested. Only two small jack pike and one roach were caught. I dare say that the coarse fish at this time of year were well down deep and out of the range of the net. The best haul of rainbows was between the lodge and Normanston Church. Most of the rainbows netted seemed in quite good nick. Some were taken away for examination. It was interesting that the largest quantity of fry caught in the nets was from the harbour - where they caught so well in the F&F.

The last fortnight

The season ended on a high note with fish being caught

right up to the last day. Some anglers having plenty of pulls and most of the fish within easy reach of the bank without the necessity to wade.

Some anglers reported good rises with some anglers doing well on dries!

In the last fortnight of the season 222 rods accounted for 682 fish (3.07 fish per return). This is as good as it gets and what you would expect in the peak of the season in May! A number of bags contained 4lb plus fish. No doubt the very mild Christmas weather played some part in this.

Congratulations to 14 year old Ross Davis from Evington who caught a lovely 6lb Rainbow. This comprised part of his four fish limit. The best 4 fish limit recorded was taken by Ross Milligan from West Bridgford and weighed 15lb 8oz.

This is all good news and should be seen as a positive plus for Rutland for the future. There is, to judge by the number of pulls anglers have been getting recently, perhaps far more fish left than in December 2001.

As you can well imagine after such a deluge, the lake is now full. This is quite a good thing, as it will allow the fauna to re-colonise the margins of the lake and encourage the fish to remain near the banks and hopefully get a good feed up for the next season.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES - John Maitland, Chairman RWFF



The 2002 season really is behind us now and has ended with the reservoir right up to the top level. We could do with a bit of dry weather now so that gardens can be put in order before March comes round and the new season opens. Meanwhile, tackle must be sorted out and fly boxes refilled. For me that means checking my bonefish flies for a trip to Cuba with Dick Stephen in March (before I get too geriatric).

I hope that 2003 will bring a super season for all RWFF members and wish you all very tight lines.

EXPERT FORUM

Sadly, only a few members attended this function which provided some interesting discussion on a range of subjects from the Caribbean to Rutland Water. Our thanks to the panel, Ron Oldroyd, Tom Pattenden, Andy Flitcroft and Stuart Taylor who generously gave of their knowledge and experience. They, and the audience, were kept in order by chairman for the night Paul Wild.

On behalf of Jon Marshall who was unable to attend the meeting, John Wadham gave a brief but optimistic appraisal of the current situation at the lake seen from the angler's perspective. He gave details of his findings after his foray into the guts bin at the lodge following the Fur & Feather.

The panel had mixed views on the benefits of catch & release and the inference was that they were not generally in favour of the system, feeling that more education in fish handling was needed in an attempt to reduce damage to fish.

The panel inevitably discussed the current situation at Rutland at length and many views were expressed about the apparent demise of the summer fishing.

Ron Oldroyd gave us some valuable info on getting the best deal for saltwater fishing in the Caribbean & Florida area and told us that since the ban on "bait" fish netting had been introduced, the fishing had improved considerably.

David Moore - Tues 14th January 2003 - 7.30pm

David who is the Recreation & Development Manager and Jon Marshall who is the Fishery Site Manager for AWS have kindly agreed to be "grilled" about Rutland 2002 and will be giving us an update on the present state of affairs and details of proposals for 2003.

As we are all, I am sure, concerned about the well being of our beloved fishery it behoves us to attend and voice the questions we have all wanted to ask.

We meet at the *Cricket Club at Empingham*. As previously stated Nigel Millner and Gary Cooper have made us most welcome in a very pleasant ambience. Plenty of parking space is available.

For those who don't have time to get home to eat, sandwiches will be served in the interval at about 9.00pm.

For those unable to attend the meeting John Wadham will be making notes which will be published in the next newsletter. But to hear it directly and to be able to ask your question, its best to be there. AWS will also soon be sending out an appraisal of the 2002 season.

Matt Hayes - Tues 28th January 2003 - 7.30pm

Matt, who hardly needs any introduction, is widely regarded as one of the best all-rounders in the angling world. He will be coming to give us the benefit of his knowledge of fishing world-wide. Probably best known for his TV programmes on Discovery channel for Sky Television, he has also starred in countless videos and written a book on coarse fishing and has a regular double page in the Angling Times. He is a keen fly fisherman, having fished all over the world from Alaska to the Caribbean.

This is certain to be a most entertaining and informative evening with lots of useful info for the travelling angler. He will be coming to us after a day fishing in the Fens.