

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



January 2005

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DIARY DATES

10th January
- Fly tying evening
(including supper)

24th January
- David Moore talks
about the reservoir
(including supper)

7th February
Cookery Demonstration

23rd February
- Tackle auction

6th March
- Litter pick-up

21st March
- Annual dinner

All meetings with the exception of the tackle auction, are held at the Empingham Cricket Club, start 7.30 pm with free food being provided (either sandwiches or bangers & mash).



After the 2003 disaster, this season was in stark contrast with the fish putting on weight well and ending up in plum condition. This should get them through the winter. Towards the close the fish were still feeding on Daphnia in addition to the hordes of fry: Melton angler Ted Kuzniar collecting some fine Rainbows up to 6lb plus. Club member Malcolm Marshall from Edith Weston took some lovely limits of rainbows towards the close and commented on their superb condition. He used mainly boobies on an intermediate line.

With such a wet early autumn there is plenty of water in the source rivers and coming into the lake via the feeders that the lake is nearing top level.

Rutland fur & feather

This was a good day with perfect weather and a good turn out. Some 109 fish were caught by 67 anglers. The fish were quite clearly in local pockets and as ex-

John Wadham's Fishing Report

pected, most productive places were both sides of Whitwell Creek and the Harbour wall. One of the best catches was taken on buzzers amid the fry bashers. Just goes to show that this always remains their staple diet and no doubt makes a change from the array of humungous patterns thrown at them during the autumn!

Winner was Pete Andrews with 6 fish for 15lb 1oz with Mick Loy RWFF member a close second with 6 fish for 14lb 10 oz. Best fish was a mint conditioned Rainbow of 4lb 8oz caught by RWFF member Steve Crowson. Copy of the full results available from JW.

Many Browns were also caught. Some of these must have sore jaws by now having probably been caught X number of times! While the catch per rod seemed a bit low this was compensated for by the quality of the fish with a number of 3lb+ specimens recorded.

RWFF forum of experts

This was an informative evening with some interesting discussion on tackle & tactics. We would like to thank John

Maitland, Curly, Nigel Savage and Charles Bowers for giving us the benefit of their substantial knowledge and experience. Also Paul Wild for his chairmanship. The evening would not have been complete without the appetising "bangers & mash". The club would like to thank Nigel & Gary for organising this and the ladies for cooking and serving it up.

Club trophies

Winners of the annual club "best fish of the season" trophies are:-

Best Brown	Senior
	Roger McCarthy
	6lb 9oz
Best rainbow	Senior
	John Wadham
	5lb 0oz
Best rainbow	Junior
	Luke Shevlin
	4lb 10oz
Best Brown	Junior
	Tom Cooper
	2lb 5oz

If any one has weighed in something bigger for the above trophies please contact JW on 01572 771092 or 07762 607630 a.s.a.p.

The presentation will be at the Dinner function in late March

Luke also caught a 5lb+ Brown during the season from a boat up at Lax Hill on black buzzer out with Charles Bowers.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES - John Maitland, Chairman RWFF



By the time you read this all the festivities and the shortest day will be well behind us. It is always good when one can see the evenings really opening out in late January and start looking forward to the new season. After all, Ravensthorpe's opening will then only be a month or so away.

Looking back I think we can take comfort from the resurgence of quality rainbows on our home water. Ergasilus was not a prevalent factor in 2004 and I trust that it will now remain at an insignificant level, as it has on other waters. In my lengthy experience of reservoirs I have seen several major parasitic infections, often starting at intense levels and after a year or two vanishing or becoming no problem. For instance, Chew Valley was wiped out by tapeworm a few years after it opened in 1957 but bounced back to give super sport a few years later. Here, the relatively heavy stockings of brownies in the last two seasons should carry over for several years to come, with some growing on to be real clouters. Going by some of the huge browns caught last November the reservoir record may well be raised before long. One thing which we all hope for is that the trout should come into the banks all through the season again. Also that fly hatches should pick up to past levels so as to lead to consistently good surface sport and evening rises. Rutland Water is not the only reservoir where these hatches have diminished in recent years; a recent magazine article about Bewl made just the same point.

I will be going into hospital shortly but hope that I will be mobile enough for bank fishing before too much of the season is past.

Fly tying evening

Please note that this will now be held on the evening of January 10th 2005 – not as previously advised. This is to replace the cookery evening which has had to be postponed due to our chef deciding to take advantage of the long Xmas break to go skiing leaving us with too short a time to arrange an alternative. We will however endeavour to arrange for the ever-popular cookery evening on February 7th. Both events will be held at the Cricket Club, Exton Road, Empingham at 7.30pm

For the fly tying, there will be at least four fly dressers showing off their skills, tying patterns ranging from tiny buzzers to pike lures! This is also a good excuse for members to get together for a natter.

Food - either sandwiches or bangers & mash - will be provided in the interval at about 2100hrs.

David Moore Monday 24th February 2005 – Cricket Club, Empingham - 7.30pm

This is your chance to put to David your views of the 2004 season and any ideas or suggestions for the future management of our beloved fishery.

This was very well attended last year and we were given a frank and interesting survey of what was a bit of a disaster compared with 2004.

Tackle Shop Opening Dates - Rutland water

The shop will re-open for business on Sunday January 16th – 0930hrs to 1530hrs

RWFF COMPETITIONS

For the 2004 season, Dan Perks and Lin Walters made valiant attempts to revitalise our competition programme. They sent out a questionnaire to determine exactly what the membership wanted from the comps., and how they could be improved. There were a few ideas and the best of these were incorporated into the programme. The season got off to a good start and then went steadily down hill in terms of match attendance. This was in spite of the organisers constantly chasing and chivvying people. For those who turned up, there was generally good fishing followed by an excellent subsidised meal. As a result of the unrewarding hassle, Dan and Lin have stepped down from doing the comps for next year.

There are a few positives coming out of the year. The extra bank match was popular and the evening meals were very popular. Having reviewed the situation, the committee have decided that the competition programme for 2005 will be re-vamped and the key components are as follows:-

- The competitions will be reduced from 8 to 5. These will be:- the **John Wadham Trophy**, a mid June, Wednesday evening bank match; The **Cutting Trophy**, a Sunday, day bank match held in April; The **Hanby Cup**, a pairs boat match held on a Sunday in early June; A **Loch Style** held on a Sunday in September; The **Oliver Cup**, a Wednesday evening boat match held in early July.
- Each match will be organised by a different individual
- There will be a prize for the winners only
- There will be a subsidised meal at the end of day matches
- A deposit will be required upon registering, where boats have to be hired

We believe that the revised programme will better meet the needs of the members but unless it is supported the future of the competitions are in question. Those who do attend enjoy themselves and if you have never tried, then you are missing out. As we get into next season we will publish details of how you can apply for the various competitions.

Annual Subscriptions

The good news is that the recent AGM agreed to leave the annual subscription unchanged. The bad news is that it is now due for 2005.

Enclosed with this newsletter is your renewal form. If you write out your cheque now, whilst you are thinking about it, it will save you being pestered and save our secretary time and effort in chasing you and make our treasurer a happy man.

Experts Forum Monday December 6th

One of our most popular winter evening events is being run again this year. We assemble a panel of fly fishing experts and throw questions at them. We try to choose people with a wide range of different expertise and this can result in lively discussion and not always total agreement! What is not in doubt is that these are very entertaining sessions

Our panel this year consists of Charles Bowers, John Maitland, Nigel Savage and John Wadham. As usual Paul Wild will do his best to keep them all in order.

Following many requests, there will be a free bangers and mash supper served at the interval.

Hinckley Shield bank fishing competition Rutland Water – October 9th

A consistent team performance from Greenwell Persuaders saw them retain the Hinckley Shield after an absorbing bank fishing competition involving seven teams of six anglers on an in-form Rutland Water. The Persuaders had a total of 30 fish for 54lb 4oz, 7lb ahead of runners-up Rutland Water FF who had 23 fish for 47lb 4oz, with Grafham Water FFA in third place just behind with 23 fish for 45lb 12oz. Top individual rod on the day was Mark Brinkman of Grafham Water FFA with seven fish for 14lb 8oz from Whitwell Creek on small suspender minkies and black nymphs on a floating line.

Greenwells Persuaders were led home by a captain's performance from Graham Willis who took six fish for 14lb from the Mound on humungus-type patterns. A feature of the match was the number of brownies taken and, with only the first two to be kept to weigh in, many anglers were forced to put back large numbers of browns.

One angler in Whitwell Creek returned no less than nine, while Mike Gunnell of RWFF was forced to return one specimen estimated at between 5 and 6lb in the seven he returned. Top rod for RWFF was Leon Smith who took six fish for 13lb 4oz, mainly from the blue pipes on red holographic daiwl bachs, again on a floater.

1	Greenwell Persuaders	30 fish	54lb 4oz	2	Rutland Water FF	23 fish	47lb 4oz
3	Grafham Water FA	23 fish	45lb 12oz	4	East Midlands	16 fish	31lb 4oz
5	Draycote FF	10 fish	20lb 12oz	6	Leicester FF B	9 fish	20lb 8 oz
7	Leicester FF A	9 fish	16lb 12oz				

Rod average for the 42 competitors was a highly creditable 2.86 with an average weight of 2lb per fish.

Association of Major Flyfishing Clubs 2004 - Group One - End of season report

There was a three-way tie at the top of Group One of the Association of Major Flyfishing Clubs after a hard-fought final match at Chew Valley Lake. In the tightest finish in years, three teams notched up 23pts for the season – Rutland Water FF, Fish Hawks and Soldier Palmers A - but the result was settled on a count back of weights over the whole six rounds of matches. This resulted in Fish Hawks taking first place with 291lb, Soldier Palmers came second just 2lb 12 oz behind with 288lb 4oz, and Rutland Water FF third with 274lb 15oz.

The final Group One league table looked like this with just one point separating the top four teams:

1	Solder Palmers A	23 pts	2	Fish Hawks	23pts
3	Rutland Water FF	23pts	4	Grafham Water FA	22pts
5	Bewl Bridge FF 'A'	19 pts	6	Queen Mother FF	16pts - relegated

The final round, the Association match on October 2 on a coloured and windy Chew, was won by Rutland Water Fly Fishers with 16 fish for 36lb 4 oz, thanks largely to an eight fish bag weighing 14lb 15oz from new recruit Charles Bowers, and a four fish bag for 12lb 4 oz from the old stalwart himself, Sean "Captain Chaos" Cutting.

Charles, of RW Lodge fame, took his fish on a DI-7 and orange blobs while Sean went after the bigger specimens, taking the best rainbow of the match at 4lb 11oz on a daiwl bach from the Stratford end of the lake. The final results on the day looked like this:

1	Rutland Water FF	16 fish	36 lb 4oz	6pts	2	Fish Hawks	18 fish	33lb 9oz	5pts
3	Queen Mother	15 fish	32lb 12oz	4pts	4	Grafham Water FA	15 fish	30lb 4oz	3pts
5	Bewl Bridge FF A	11 fish	23lb 15oz	2pts	6	Soldier Palmers A	10 fish	22lb 6oz	1pts

Top rod on the day was Chris Bobby, fishing for Grafham Water FA, whose eight fish bag of 17lb 14oz included 3lb 8 oz of time bonus. Queen Mother FF confirmed their status as prime relegation candidates for Division Two next season, and will be replaced by Hanningfield, victors in Division Two, who were promoted. Bring them on!