



## John Wadham's Fishing Report

### Apologies

May I apologise for not sending out a December newsletter. This was partly due to trying to avoid clashing with the Christmas mail chaos!

You will see that there have been changes in the format.

Sean Cutting has been instrumental in setting things up for us. For which we are all very grateful.

Both Roy Taylor and John Wadham have been educated in computer skills by Sean and Malcolm Shepherd and they have solved many of our problems. We both now feel more computer literate!

JW.

### The Season

Right through the season the lake has remained remarkably clear despite the very hot summer with the level dropping off quickly in September and October. Then holding its level. With such a welcome wet November and all pumps running the lake is rising rapidly and should soon reach top level. This will give the margins time to re-colonise before next season.

It was quite evident that the early stocked fish up to the end of May prospered on the wealth of insects, pin fry & daphnia. This was reflected in the catch returns for the first two months. The fish stocked from.

There was a short spell in the heat of July when strong Easterly winds brought fish up to the dam face during a thermo cline tilt. Unfortunately there was nobody there to take advantage of this brief carnage.

Make a note of this for future seasons. All the fish in the lake, including the coarse fish, appeared here as they did at Grafham in 1976 in similar conditions.

August in contrast was wet and cool with much welcome rain – not for school holidays though! However, it did little to help the bank fishing.

September in contrast was warm and sunny. Following the wet August vast quantities of daddies appeared early and attracted fish to the surface. Even then, only some of the fish were interested in them preferring instead to eat hard back Shield Bugs!

The offshore wind fishing in this period was superb – especially New Zealand

point through to Gibbet Gorse.

The water temp was abnormally high right through the autumn.

The persistent strong South West wind reduced catches as we had only rare opportunities to fish the bank between Old Hall and Inman's Spinney where there were always fish to be had when the wind allowed.

For some reason, with odd exceptions, the better fish which fed on fry in mid water remained out of range of the bank fisherman during this period and continued to chase the fry around the mid-lake structures rather than coming inshore.

During this period the boats did well with some fine fish caught including some monster double figure Browns. Funny how these show up after the end of the official season! Their absence inshore may perhaps be due to the absence of Corixa and paucity of weed beds.

This was highlighted by the poor result in the Fur & Feather. However, the dreaded strong westerly didn't help of course!

The event was won by Peter Andrews from Oasby

near Grantham. He also caught the best fish - a 4lb 10oz Rainbow.

The fish seldom showed near the surface. However Hoppers or CDC fished static or "on a motorbike" were guaranteed to attract attention.

In fact, most of the in-shore caught fish had empty stomachs; except for stones & weed bits. These stones may be gizzard stones defecated by geese as they were often accompanied by a black substance – presumably goose poop.

The North Arm continues to be an enigma for no obvious reason. However, Tim Appleton's and Burley were never famous as 'stockie' bashing venues. Perhaps the absence of fish here could be due the reduced over-wintering stock.

### Mitigation Works Rutland Water

As you may be aware these works have been approved.

At the forum on November 30th John Maitland outlined the proposals and impact of the scheme and discussed RWFF involvement.

## Water Aid Friday May 18<sup>th</sup> 2007

This might seem a long way off but in order to ensure that RWFF has the maximum input I should be grateful if anyone interested please can you contact John W.

Let us hope for better weather. John Wadham will be contacting other Fly Fishing clubs who have agreed to swell numbers if we are struggling.

## Club Membership

In order to drum up membership JW will be addressing the beginners' courses throughout the coming season and telling them what's on offer from RWFF.

If you know any who is interested in joining the club, application forms can be downloaded from the website, obtained from the Rutland Water tackle shop or from JW

## Trevor Ashby—Thursday January 11<sup>th</sup> —Cricket Club, Empingham

"Clevor Trevor" as he is known in Sky TV circles will be coming to give us the benefit of what seems to be his boundless knowledge on fly tying and fishing. Trevor has been steeped in the tackle trade for many years.



Trevor has also done much to promote the interests of the disabled anglers through his involvement with the English Disabled Anglers and raising some £100+ from the Fur & Feather raffle.

Video assistance will be provided on the evening so that his efforts can be displayed on a large screen for all to see. A 'Bangers and Mash' supper will be provided at 2100hours

## Match Charity Donation Rutland Water

During the year anglers taking part in matches donated their catch to support charity: £500 going to the Air Ambulance and £500 to Water Aid.

## AWS Tackle shop - Normanton

The tackle shop will re-open for business after the Christmas and New Year holidays on Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup> 2007. The winter period opening hours will be: 9.00 – 3.30 daily

## Subject: Lure Anglers Society Grafham Water - Sat 4th November 2006

As we all enthusiastically crowded around the map of Grafham Water, Senior Warden John Mees set the scene, for our day afloat chasing predators with lures. Stories of monster pike and just a sight of the elusive Zander had our 13 members at fever pitch, as we settled into our boats. On arrival at that well known predator land mark - the Draw off tower, made famous by the likes of Mick Brown and Matt Hayes, some boats were already anchored into position. As a seasoned trout angler, I prefer to cover as much water as possible, so out went the drogue, on a light westerly breeze and my boat partner Andy Surgey settled down to catch his 1st Grafham Zander.

As we drifted 75 yards past the tower, my 8 inch Perch Replicant was grabbed by a creature from the depths of the green water, putting a very healthy bend in my Jerk bait rod. As I did my best to bring Mrs Pike under control, Andy got the landing net ready to cradle the large predator. At first sight I thought it was a reasonable double with attitude, but as she came closer to the boat, Andy pointed out that I was crap at judging weights and that was a personal best that I was casually playing with. As the net slipped under the pike's considerable girth, I sighed openly with great relief. My predator season had barely begun and already I had a new 25lb 9oz pike personal best.

We tried the tower near the dam and Gaynes Cove, which was pleasantly out of the strengthening wind, but no predators wanted to play with our wide assortment of plastic, wood and metal. So off back to our Theatre of Dreams, in the hope of turning up a large Zed for Andy, to make our day. There were still boats anchored around the draw off tower, so out went the drogue again and we settled down for a long drift towards Hedge End. Andy had a few hits to his favourite 9 inch Professor Nickel spoon and my Replicant persuaded another smaller esox to follow it back to our boat, but nothing to replicate the earlier excitement. We learnt while afloat, that our mate Mark from deepest Essex had landed another exotic on lures, this time a Brown Trout of over 7lb - makes a change from a brace of bream, I suppose.

We were greeted by Senior Warden John Mees on our return to the boat dock, in his usual jovial Brummie style and I was delighted to learn that my Pike was the largest predator confirmed at Grafham this season. But pikers can be a secretive lot, so who knows what lurks in the depths of Grafham Water.

I joined the Lure Anglers' Society over 3 years ago and what a great bunch of enthusiasts they are. They are keen on catching anything on lures - not only Pike, Perch and the much prized Zander, but Chub as well. We have several Matches and Fish-Ins each year, all over the country - so there is something for every lure angler of whatever ability. Why not give it a go! Our Membership Secretary Bob Tweedle can be contacted on 0116 - 2914776 or check out the new website at your leisure - [www.lureanglers.co.uk](http://www.lureanglers.co.uk).

Kev Taylor



An alternative piece penned by a friend ...

## Huge Trout Angler Landed during Grafham Water Match

A specimen over-wintered Trout Angler has been landed during the Lure Angling Society Championships at world-famous Grafham Water. The 16 and a half-stone angler from the Orvis Team Rutland match squad was brought to the boat by a 25lb 9 oz pike, carefully unhooked and, after a reviving two bottles of red wine, allowed to go free to fight another day.

"He didn't really put up much of a fight until he saw the boat," said the Pike, "but then he went mad, kicking and thrashing around, and making all sorts of odd sounds." (No change there then - Ed!)

"As you can see from the photo, the poor thing didn't appear to have any eyes," added the Pike, "and seemed to be blowing a lot for air. But once we'd got a couple of bottles of red wine inside him, you really couldn't tell any difference."

The Trout Angler, which was identified as a Kevin Taylor from Market Deeping, is believed to be the largest ever landed in the Lure Fishing Championships at the famous reservoir. How the Trout Angler had managed to travel all the way to Grafham from its usual haunts out in the middle of Rutland Water still remains a mystery.

## Membership renewals

Forms are included with this letter. If you have already renewed please ignore the notice. Membership books that will be in a slightly different format will be sent out to paid up members as soon as they are available from the printers.

## RWFF Newsletters on Line

If you wish to receive your newsletters and any other communications on line please fill in the details of your email address on your renewal form.

## Cookery Evening with Ron Oldroyd - Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007

This has always been a popular function and ladies are particularly welcome to come along. The culinary delights prepared by Barnsdale's Chef, James Butterfill will definitely be both very mouth-watering and delicious.

Members and Guests will be able to test the chef's skills and mini tasters will be available after each presentation. After the actual cooking you will have the chance to "grill" the Chef about his offerings. There is a promise of several exquisite wines to accompany the tasting, so this will be an evening not to miss!!!



Our thanks must go to Ron Oldroyd and Sean Cutting for organising this event.

**Please note that the Cookery Evening, as with the Tackle Auction will be held at The Barn at Barnsdale Lodge Hotel - 7.30pm start**

## Late news on the fishing

The show isn't quite over for the bank fishermen as proved by Roy Taylor and Malcolm Shepherd who had quite a bonanza on December 29th. They caught 8 Rainbows and three browns between them. They fished Diawl Bach's and other small offerings close in between the Blue Pipes and Fantasy Island in a South East wind. What a pity we could not have had those conditions for the F & F. However, as soon as the wind got up and veered, the fish disappeared. Other neighbouring anglers also caught some fish. The best was Malcolm's mint conditioned Rainbow between 6 & 7lb caught on a Diawl Bach almost under the rod top. The fish was safely returned after an epic battle. Sadly we do not have a picture of this beauty. Golden rule when fishing catch & release: always carry a camera even if it is only a throw-away "cheapo" job!

Also, it is worth taking a weighing scale. The fish can always be weighed in the net then the weight of the net subtracted. We coarse fishermen do it!

Well done chaps! Let's hope the rest of the stock has a good winter.

3lb plus Rainbow caught from the bank on 30th December 2007 exhibiting cormorant damage.

Obviously **NO** fish is too big for them!



## February Newsletter

The next newsletter will be published in the first week in February to keep you up to date with forthcoming club activities and report on past events.

# Rutland Water Fly Fishers and Ron Oldroyd



proudly present a

## Cookery Evening

at The Barn at Barnsdale Lodge on Thursday the 25th of  
January 2007 - with proceedings starting at 7.30pm

A veritable feast of different dishes will be presented for you to 'taste test' by Barnsdale Lodge's own Chef James Butterfill.

To accompany this culinary evening there will be several wines to sample that will compliment the food that has been prepared and presented.

This event will be free to all RWFF Members with guests and non members @ £3 per head.

*As at all RWFF functions, the purchase of a  
£1 raffle ticket will be expected ...*