

# Rutland Water Fly Fishers



[www.rwff.org.uk](http://www.rwff.org.uk)

January 2010 Newsletter

Following the relatively dry and fairly warm October we had, the water level has continued to fall in November and December exposing more weed beds.

However the periodic strong winds conspired to clear much of this cover. This has reduced the hiding places for the sticklebacks and Corixa considerably.

It did not stop the fish feeding but meant that you had to look for weed beds to find them.

## Rutland Fishing Update ...

The number of fish caught may have suffered the normal seasonal decline but some monster Rainbows and Browns have been turning up caught from places as far apart as Normanton and Armley Wood.

Mick Lacey led the field with a 9lb 3oz specimen Rainbow taken on one of his "specials" within a few metres of the bank between Carrot Creek and Armley Wood. It was a very "deep fish"

and gave him a good scrap.

Richard Cross caught a 9lb 6oz Brown from Carrot Creek. This was safely returned to the water.

With the reduced weed beds the fish have been grazing more on snails and the gradually blooming daphnia. If this does really bloom up then the fish should winter well: with the Corixa and snails also available.

More fish are now being caught sub-surface on Minkie's and Diawl Bach's. Dries are still working. Roy Taylor found fish on the cardiac bank ready to take hoppers, daddies etc despite not seeing fish on the surface.

Very few Daddies appeared this season. This may in part have been



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contain only sticklebacks and snails.

November was characterised by gale force winds which finally cleared the weed beds thus removing most of the cover and consequently, all of a sudden, as in 1998 & 1999 the fish departed the margins.

However, in those years, they re-appeared in the following season. When they come again in April 2010 we will no doubt be casting to many large overwintered fish with tiny dries on thicker than normal string!

Malcolm Shepherd (above left) caught a splendid 5lb 8oz Rainbow from Barnhill Point, whilst Roy Taylor (bottom right) went Pike fishing for miniature, but dare we say fin perfect fish ...!!!

It would be nice to have some quieter weather to end with during which we should see some movement as in December 2008 which was a very cold but relatively quiet month. Let's hope we can grab the last of the "autumn" wine before the close.

due to the September/October drought. However the odd day they appeared the fish fed on them avidly and some good fish were taken on a suitable pattern. But these seemed perversely to



### **Rutland Water Fur & Feather – Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup>**

This was fished in very difficult conditions with early heavy rain and a moderate SSW wind giving way to a strong WSW wind. This curtailed what promised to be good day. Most fish were caught where the wind allowed. This was mainly between East Creek and Normanton Church.



specimen near Normanton church. Some others were caught including a 5lb specimen from Carrot Creek point.

An excellent meal was provided by Neil and his team at the Lodge.

John Seaton thanked all those who helped on the day. On behalf of the assembled company John Wadham thanked John Seaton for his effort on the day.

This was followed by the prize giving. After this John Wadham publicly thanked the Fisheries and Recreation team of Anglian Water for providing what was arguably the best season for a decade.

During the course of the match a relative newcomer to the sport Matt Bell from Magdalene College, Cambridge, not a competitor, decided to have a go in the harbour and caught a 7lb 3oz mint conditioned Rainbow on a booby on a sunk line.

Not a bad start to your Reservoir career!

### **Rutland & Grafham Tackle Shop opening hours ...**

The shop will be open 0900 – 1500 daily except Mondays & Tuesdays (closed for lunch at 1230-1300). It will be closed for the Christmas period 24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> December inclusive & 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> January inclusive.

The opening hours could be subject to change at short notice. So it may pay you to check with the lodge before setting off.

43 Anglers took part and caught some 35 fish. Rob Edmunds was the winner with a six fish limit for 14lb 11oz taken on a green fritz tadpole with eyes. RWFF members Dan Perks and Matt Gregory took 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> place respectively.

Some good Browns were caught; Graham Pearson taking a 7lb 13oz



## **RWFF Specimen Fish weighed in and witnessed during 2009**

- Trout Fisherman Shield Best Brown (Adult) Phil Brown 6lb 3oz
- Trout & Salmon Shield Best Rainbow (Adult) Barry Vaughan 6lb 3oz
- Mike Ellis Trophy Best Rainbow (Junior) Nic Mather 4lb 10oz
- Fario Trophy Best Brown (Junior) none recorded

Although most people return their browns some tremendous fish were recorded. As more than one sporting member said "it was catching the fish that mattered most".

If anyone has been omitted please let John Wadham know.

Presentation of all trophies will be at the RWFF Pre-season Dinner on March 25th. More details in the next newsletter.

### **Orvis Discount Offer ...**



The Orvis shop located at 5 St Mary's Street, Stamford are offering RWFF members 10% Discount on their goods on production of your current membership card.

For more details, please contact: Martha Thomson on 01780-484999.

## **WINTER PROGRAMME 2010**

All functions, except the pre-season dinner & litter pick, will be held at the Empingham Cricket Club and commence at 1930 hours.

### **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January – Jake Williams and David Moore**



Jake Williams, (above) our new Recreation & Access Manager will be telling us about the future plans for our beloved fishery.

David Moore is now a director of the Angling Trust and Fish Legal. He is also Chairman of the Environment Agency – Anglian Regional Fisheries Ecology and Recreation Consultative Committee (of which JW is a member).

David's talk will be entitled "Representing anglers and the future of our sport"

# Winter Sale Now On At Orvis Stamford



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They will be sharing the first part of the evening. The second half will be in the form of a forum shared with Jon Marshall & John Seaton.

If you care about the future of Rutland Water and of angling in general these are the two people most qualified to foretell the future for us.

There will be food in the interval at about 2100. This will, no doubt, be a lively, interesting and stimulating evening – not to be missed.

### **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January - Fly Tying Evening.**

A great opportunity for, even us hardened fly tiers, to learn something new and just as importantly to learn about how to fish the patterns on offer.

You can wander from table to ta-

ble to watch the experts in action. And have a good natter without feeling you are interrupting a lone speaker

Supper served at 2100 hours will be something and mash or sandwiches. Either way we are promised good food!

### **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Salt-water fly Fishing in the UK**



Peter Gathercole famous photographer of all things fishy and much else together with John Wilshaw first editor of Trout Fisherman will bring a wealth of experience in this now very popular sport.

As you will find out, there is great fishing to be had on your very own doorstep: much of which is still totally unexploited!

### **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March - Rob Waddington**

Rob will be giving us the benefit of his experiences of his world wide fishing trips.

- Giant sturgeon Fishing in the Fraser River



- Atlantic Salmon Fishing in the rivers Rynda, Kharlovka and East Litza in the North Kola Peninsula in Arctic Russia
- Atlantic Salmon Fishing in the Miramichi River

Some active fun pics of Rutland water Fly fishing "Not too serious" to quote Rob.

The above programme, I am afraid, may be subject to alterations. So please read your newsletter and visit our website: [www.rwff.org.uk](http://www.rwff.org.uk) regularly for updates ... The next 16 page format RWFF newsletter is planned for early February 2010.

### **Trout Water Lure Fishing - by Kev Taylor**

Have you noticed that every October a number of new faces start to appear at Rutland, Grafham & Pitsford? Sometimes it seems like a busload has just been dropped off! Since Anglian Water has allowed Pike and Zander Fishing on their waters with lures & dead baits of 18cm or more, predator anglers have been arriving in droves to take advantage of the potential that our trout reservoirs offer.

I first started predator fishing with lures on Anglian waters 4 years ago at Rutland, in the hope of catching a monster pike. Stories of huge pike up the 32lb caught on Minkie's & similar large flies spurred me into grabbing my lure rods and introducing Esox to the latest lures in metal & plastic.

It makes a great change towards the end of the traditional fly fishing season to approach the reservoirs with different tackle and after bigger fish with serious teeth!

On Rutland last year, we headed down the South Arm and towards the weed beds that exist in the Hideaway Bay /Bunds area. Drifting in traditional loch style with a drogue, Andy Surgey (below) and I, both members of the Lure Anglers Society (LAS), covered large areas of the water, until we started to get a few hits to the lures.

Andy has a habit of snaffling any new lures that the LAS are sent to review and it was on such a new jointed plug that Andy hooked into a 17lb pike, which really put up a good scrap. Who said pike don't fight very well! Usually when you





find 1 pike, there are often a few more in the area, but not today.

After many more drifts & no more fish, we decided to try for a few Zander around the tower in the main basin. Now it's very deep in this area 60 to 80 feet I seem to remember fishery manager John Marshall telling me years ago, so how would we tackle this? Well, both Andy & I are used to jigging for Zander in drains, rivers and canals in up to say 15ft of water, but not 60ft!

So with large rubber shads & 21 gram lead jig heads we set about catching our first Stillwater Zander. Andy was again soon into action, hitting delicate bites within 1 ft of the bottom of the reservoir. He took 3 small Zander in total, the best went 5lb, but Andy was well pleased.

Next stop Barnsdale, I just fancied this sheltered bay as I have seen many pike here in the past and I was not to be disappointed. On my 2<sup>nd</sup> cast, my big silver spoon was nailed by a fine perfect pike of 13lb.

Pike from clear water often have brilliant bright colouring, as this one did and I suspect it was the first time it had ever been caught! Despite trying several other areas in the North Arm, no further predators were caught that day.

Last year I also visited Pitsford to fish a Lure Anglers Society match & as my boat partner damaged his foot the night before, I found myself fishing on my own – Billy no mates – for a day! It was interesting as we had 10 other boats out, never on my own really and there were stories that a 30lb pike had been taken by a local angler on

dead bait, which proved to be true!

I did a tour of the water, tried jigging at the tower by the dam – nothing. Then fishing large jerkbaits for pike in Brixworth Bay got a hit but no fish, until I caught a 3lb jack by the boats on my way back to the pontoon!

Now this year, a mad keen Zandering mate of mine Dave Marrs was counting the days until our boat outing at Grafham in mid October. John Mees was his usual coy self when I asked how the predator fishing had been, but he did say that Zander to 16lb had already been caught in the first week!

Scanning the water from the pontoon, we could see most of the boats had decided on the North Tower area, so we headed off towards the dam. On route we took

a detour to the Inlet area and Dave was soon picking up both baitfish and predators on his fish finder. Out went our rubber shads on 21 gram jig heads, dropping well over 50ft to the lake bed.

Thankfully the day was quite calm – rare for Grafham – and we soon got into the jigging mode, allowing our lures to rise & fall within 2ft of the bottom. After an almighty thump, a decent Zander had taken my lure on the fall and using a 20lb braided line meant that I could feel every head shake, all the way up to the surface.

My heart was racing as my 1<sup>st</sup> Grafham Zander slid over the rim of the landing net. After a quick photo, the fish which weighed 8lb 4oz was safely returned and it was Dave who got the next hit, but he lost it. Next drift I hit another





Zander, which seemed to be fighting in a similar manner to my first fish, but half way up – it came off! Ah well, or something like that I muttered, as we went around again and again and again, but nothing.

We watched the fish finder on the way over to the dam, seeing lots of fish and settled on a drift right next to the tower. Another boat was anchored just off the dam, with piker's dead baiting but they had not caught anything. This area proved very quiet, so we returned to the Inlet along with several other boats who had by now caught the odd Zander or two. We caught nothing more that day, but the banter made up for it !

Predator fishing the large trout waters with lures is not always easy, but you know the huge Pike & Zander are in there and that's

what keeps you coming back year after year. Lure fishing is not so far removed from fly fishing, if you think about it – both are methods using artificial baits to fool fish into taking them. Why not give it a go – you know you want to!

### **A Fishy Tale by Roy Taylor**

Recently my brother Fred and his wife were over on holiday from Perth, Western Australia and staying with us. He has always fancied himself a 'bit of a fisherman' in that he sea fishes from a boat off the North West coast of Australia using very heavy tackle and landing some large specimens including shark and Groper.

Anyway, we decide to do a bit of fly-fishing together. Now, he had previously fly fished in Tasmania and done rather well in what transpired to be the stock pond!!!

That was some years ago, and to get him started again it was necessary for him to have a couple of casting lessons. John W duly sorted him out and off we went to Stocky bay. I thought this rather appropriate given his previous, and given the quality of the fishing at this time (last week in October), was sure of success.

The fish duly obliged and came to a mixture of floating fry and dries, but those that actually took the fly, as distinct to just swirling at it, had it pulled away from them or straightened and we didn't actually get one on the bank.

Not to be deterred, the next day we went to Grafham and had a cracking day in a boat with Fred hooking and loosing a number of good fish either through breakage, hook straightening, poor hook hold or the fly coming off, and finally finishing with one right at the end of the day.

Two days later we were back on Rutland at Carrot Creek and much the same sort of performance ensued with several fish lost, and flies lost or straightened.

Towards the end of the day when Fred was getting more takes than anyone else, he started to get quite frustrated at not being able to connect with them, he had slowed down the strike and by now had started to realise that a 5 weight rod is not the same as a boat rod for sea fishing.

Late in the day he was fishing a

one eyed Spondoolie just over the weed beds when he got an almighty take and tightened on to it, and the fish was briefly on before it ran and smashes him on 10lb copolymer as he was trying to hold it.

Obviously a good fish he was very disappointed not to land it and we went home with him telling me all about how big it was etc. (*all the fish that got away were big*). Next day we were back out on a boat at Grafham and we had another fantastic day with it all finally coming together for him and he landed a number of fish, all on dries the largest 5lb.5oz and honour was duly restored.

The sequel to this tale is that some 10 days later I was fishing Barnhill front, (just around the corner from where Fred had lost his fish), and down the bank from John Maitland, when John, hooked a good sized fish on a worm fly just as it was getting dark.

After playing it for some time he successfully landed it and can you guess what was embedded in the top of its head.

My one eyed Spondoolie together with a short length of copolymer. John kept the fish although I did try to claim it on Fred's behalf but I did get my fly back!

The fish later weight in at 4lb 8oz. so he was right in that it was a 'big one'. When I emailed him to tell him the news he was very modest in saying, 'Well I told you it was big and so were some of the others

that got away?'

What a great time. Fred, I look forward to your return.

### **Chavender on the Fly by JW**

One well known angler said to me that you will only catch the smaller chub on the fly.

Practically all the 5lb+ chub taken by JW from rivers and canals all over the UK have been on the fly. The main benefit of this method is that you can cast a fly much further. You can also fish upstream to Chavender or Chevin – now of course known as Chub - which Izaak Walton described as "the fearfullest of fish".

You have already surveyed your chosen stretch of river the previous day, and have now crept up to the bank keeping out of sight. Clumping along the bank or careless wading is a no no.

You are now "in the river". Firstly, keep down and always cast a "snaky" line upstream.

In deeper swims "dump cast" the lure so that it drops quickly to get to deeper lying fish. To assist, casting leaders should be tapered.

It will be almost entirely roll casting in canopied watercourses. So, if you are not used to it, get some practice in somewhere before you start.

Some reservoir trout anglers would do well to adopt a little stealth when approaching the water to get

the best results. Nowhere was this borne out so well when a gentleman, fishing on Barnhill Point recently, was standing up bold as brass on the bank and couldn't understand why the less experienced ex-coarse angler next to him was having a ball. He was kneeling down!

Chub are not nylon shy. 9.75lb - 0.21mm diameter "Power" line leader, length up 12 feet for deeper swims, is quite OK. For upstream fishing a leader insert of hi-viz reel backing should be tied in between the fly line and the leader. This is to act as a sight "bob" and soaks up grease better than nylon and doesn't leave a drag "wake".

With the sinking patterns cast upstream and retrieve the line and watch for the slightest movement on the orange insert: just as you would when nymphing for trout off the Old Hall Point for instance. When the take comes count two and hit!

With the dries, the same "snaky line", count as much as you like and hit!

Dries are generally more effective in the warmer months, and sub-surface patterns as the two depicted are ideal in Autumn & Winter.

Always use barbless or de-barbed hooks. It is much easier to release fish in the water without even handling them.

These patterns work equally well in canals and ponds where the lure

should be fished in a pull & drop retrieve: most takes coming on the drop. However, the dry should be fished on a very slow figure of eight retrieve to give a slight "wake".

### Tackle

- Rod: 10' AFTM 5
- Line: D/T 5 – Olive Green to "melt" into the canopy
- Leader – 9.75lb (0.21mm) "Power" Line
- Insert – 12" Hot Orange Reel Backing
- Net - ample - latex type – These are catch & release friendly and don't catch up on every bush, briar or nettle ..

The best patterns I have found are:

### Black & Green Lure



- Hook: 8 to 12 L/S Kamasan B200 or Drennan Wet Fly Supreme if you can get them
- Body: Dubbed Black Marabou or wool
- Rib: 30 amp copper wire
- Tail: Generous plume of black marabou
- Weight: Gold/Silver/Copper bead – weight according to



depth to be fished

- Head: Phosphor Yellow Paint – retains colour when dirty!

## Cray Fish



- Hook: Kamasan B830 Classic Long Lure
- Body: Dark olive fritz
- Back & Tail: Dark brown mink
- Antennae: Two black cock hackle stems
- Eyes: Bead chain
- Signals: Hot orange Zonker

This JW pattern was used with great success by Charles Jardine in a Norfolk trout fishery where crayfish proliferate.

Not only Chub but Carp, Perch, Roach, Pike and Bream and of course trout all love it. This was borne out after finding crayfish carapaces in the landing net regurgitated by all these species

## Fly Tying - Fly of the Month

by John Maitland

### “Red Head Pearly PT Palmer”

This is a slight variation of a pattern I got last summer from Ray Jenkins, one of the Grafham Water

Bailiffs'. I found it an effective dropper on a washing line rig whether near to the surface or deep down on several waters!

- Hook: 10 or 12 Competition heavyweight or similar, i.e. Kamasan B175
- Thread: UTC waxed Fluro Orange tying thread
- Head: Very prominent “bead” created out of tying thread. Coat with Hard as Nails or a tiny drop of Superglue After application the Fluorescent Orange will go a “Hot Red” colour!
- Hackle: Red-Brown natural soft cock; palmered over the body
- Body: 3 or 4 fibres of Cock Pheasant Tail
- Rib 1: Use 4 even turns of Fine Pearl Tinsel
- Rib 2: use 3 or 4 even turns of fine copper wire to secure the palmered hackle
- Tail: Use 2 short strands of Pearl Crystal Flash



Fished well down in a friendly match at Draycote in August, it gave me an individual win on the day of appalling weather and quite poor and meagre catches.

When I gave it to my boat partner he caught his only fish of the day.

This pattern is certainly worth a try next season (2010), if the usual suspects are not working.

At first I used the Pearl rib to secure the palmered hackle, but it was far too vulnerable to Trout Teeth!

I therefore wound the Pearl over the Pheasant Tail body, winding in the opposite direction. Then the Copper Wire rib secures the Hackle and reinforces the Pearl Mylar.

### Late News ...

On Thursday 10 December 2009 at about 3.50pm, Roy Taylor was fishing along Cardiac Hill bank using a grey Minkie on a floating line when he hooked and landed a large brown trout.

The fish was a cock with a large kype, humped back and very deep body in excellent condition and weight in at 10lb. 2oz. give or take an ounce (as it was weighed in the net).

When hooked the fish ran out onto the backing and put up a deep and dogged fight lasting just over 10 minutes, and when brought to the net (a small clip on type) was difficult to actually get in.

A passing day ticket holder Mark Addington helped out with the weigh-in, initially using his scales that went to only 9lb.

These immediately bottomed out

and Roy had to use his to complete the task. The fish was then successfully returned to the water to recuperate and took a further five to ten minutes to swim off unharmed.

Something to look forward to for the new season perhaps!!!

### End of Season Boat Outing by England International Mike Barrett

This year the boats at Rutland were made available up to the 29th November, although the weather was cold and windy I managed to get out on the 24th with Graham Pearson.

Fishing on the rudder from New Zealand point down past the yacht club, using a DI-5 sweep with a "Friendly Tube Fly" I hooked into a good solid fish in peak condition, which was eventually brought to the boat, a brown trout weighing 7lb 14oz, photographed and returned none the worse for its experience.

I ended up with 5 Rainbows and 4 Browns. Graham had 6 Browns and 2 Rainbows and we were back in the lodge for 3pm not a bad day for the end of November. Roll on 2010 ...



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