

## **RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS**

Affiliated to Federation of Midland Fly Fishers(Anglia) & A.C.A.

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## **JULY NEWSLETTER 1996**

Dear Member

12 July 1996

There can be little doubt that Rutland Water is currently enjoying one of its best seasons for a few years, the later stocking and bigger stockfish seem to have improved sport for both bank and boat. After a long cold spring summer has finally arrived and the fish have at last moved up in the water. The low water temperature at the start of the season coupled with a cold April and May meant that the trout stayed deep and relatively close to the shore. This has been to the advantage of many bank anglers who have been catching well on most days in May and early June although it must be said that a lot of fish have been taken on lures instead of the more usual buzzers and nymphs. It has also had the effect of delaying the buzzer hatches which have been spread over a longer period than is usual. One fly that has caught a lot of fish this year is known as Dawson's olive, a cross between nymph and lure with goldhead, olive body and orange marabou tail described eloquently by Nigel Savage as "a runner bean with its arse on fire".

Usually by this time of the year the fish have deserted the banks for the deeper water but with the season about 3 weeks behind in terms of weed growth and insect life a lot of fish are still within 100 metres of the bank. Good bags of fish continue to be caught particularly from the top of the South arm, Graham Pearson and his partner took 24 fish for 59lbs from "the middle of the dam" (also known as the Bunds Wall!), Nigel Savage and Dave Doherty had 16 fish for 39lb 13oz and Stan Webster and Trevor Ashby had a similar bag of mended early season stock fish which have by now become a bit more streamlined. Most of the best fishing has come to anchored boats fishing buzzers, fraser nymphs and damsel nymphs although on days of lighter winds the loch style anglers have done well particularly on intermediate lines. There have been a few overwintered fish taken, Stan Webster took a 6lb rainbow on the day of the Hanby Cup and Dick Stephens tempted a 6lb 15oz brown on a brassie on the Stones, in June Dave Doherty and Barry Pond managed some good bags of fish from the top of the North arm including quite a few overwintered fish topped by a 6lb 4oz brown to Barry's rod.

For the first two months the fish have been fairly localized in the usual hotspots, more recently the fish have spread out a bit and due to the high level of stocking in June fish are now in most places Manton Bay and the Burley reaches have recently come to form although the bottom of the South arm from the bunds to Lax Hill has been the most consistent fish producer for the past month. There is no shortage of food in the reservoir as well as the usual buzzers and caddis there seem to be a lot of damsel nymphs about and a lot of corixae in the margins, the termination of the ferric dosing seems to have had a beneficial effect, daphnia appears more abundant Sykes Lane has been quiet all season, fish stocked there seem to head straight to Whitwell, the peninsula is a bit patchy although recently the Finches bank started to produce fish again as has Old Hall Bay. The Normanton bank is having another quiet season although this is a bank favoured by the cormorants early in the morning. It is strange that a lot of fish appear at the ends of the arms to be ignored by the cormorants in favour of those at Fantasy Island and the Fishing Lodge. As is usual Jon Marshall has bumped up the stock of fish in the reservoir with the onset of the boat fishing season, over 80,000 fish have been stocked already though few bank anglers can complain one has taken over 400 fish this season, obviously someone with a very big freezer!

The boils have recently started operating and will no doubt provide anglers with some easy fishing in the hot weather and usually have some input into the Tuesday Night League results although not yet. Club members have done well in these matches with David Ellis, Kevin Taylor and Dave Shipman among early winners. Jon Marshall is toying with the idea of letting boats stay out later on one or two special nights- more information from the lodge, although his thinking was prompted by the fishing in early June when the trout didn't come on until 9.15p.m. which didn't leave a lot of time for fishing when in Hideaway Bay. Anglers will have noticed that a lot of the willows around this bay have been cut down, I am informed that they have been coppiced to encourage more bird life and will grow back to provide a bit more shelter. The osprey project is underway although the committee is a bit perturbed about the siting of the osprey poles in Manton Bay we were led to believe they were to be sited on terra firma and would not infringe current fishing areas, the matter is to be raised with those responsible.

### **Competition News**

There have been a lot of matches recently and Rutland anglers have done pretty well

Paul Wild  
Secretary