

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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JULY NEWSLETTER 1997

Dear Member,

Fishing Report July - 1997

After the wettest June on record, the water level in the Reservoir rose rapidly to be up 18 ins in a matter of days. The water is now up some 4 ft and has covered some of the thistles and other vegetation which flourished in the exposed margins. It will be interesting to see whether the fish go looking for food in this "jungle".

The Damsel hatch is well under way at the moment. There is, however, little interest being shown in them by the fish. However, a fish caught on Burley on 26th July contained adult Damsels plus a few sedge pupae. Although numerous adult damsels were seen in the bank side vegetation no nymphs were seen transposing nor were there any nymphs in the fish. Many other fish appeared empty - no doubt living off their fat following the sedge "spree".

Daphnia is now the main diet. This has meant very deep fishing with Hi D and other heavy artillery from a boat in the daytime or early morning bank sessions before the Daphnia goes down with the increasing daylight. This situation is borne out by the very poor match results. The events having to be fished during the "dead" period. Our very poor result in the Roger Thom Trophy confirming this. The upshot of all this was that the majority of the fish were to be found in the main basin. The most productive areas being Sykes Lane bank immediately in front of the car park and the section of bank from Fantasy Island up to Three (now Two) Trees.

Another possible reason for the presence of so many fish in the main basin was the large influx of relatively cold water entering the arms via the Guash and other feeders. In addition, there was the large volume of water entering via the A.W.S pumps and these two factors seems to have driven the fish down towards the dam. As I write the fishing has again returned to the doldrums for the second time. I suspect that this large influx of relatively cold water is partly responsible.

There is no doubt however, that the fish, for the first time since Rutland opened, went on a sedge pupa gorge. The fish being caught now appear to be in mint condition as a result of this. Rest assured, the fishing will pick up again and when it does, we could be in for a back end bonanza of mint conditioned fish. Remember, while you can't catch them they are growing!

These are the dog days at most fisheries and we should regard last years fishing in the hot weather as an exception to the norm. There is now a band of vegetation around the banks which might encourage the fish to come closer. The crystal clear water has also conspired to make for difficult presentation as the fish can get too good a look at our representations of their diet. So in order to fool them it may be worth fishing a bit quicker. At least then they have less time to look at it but may at least follow it. When they do this, then they can only see a small part of the dressing.

Useful bank fishing spots at the moment are the Point and the corner of the Old Hall Bay, Three Trees (Normanton), and The Mound. These are good daphnia traps where you can throw to travelling fish. Fishing direct into wind may not be any good as you would be casting into warm water at this time of year. Remember also the water is at its lowest temperature at about 8.00am This was clearly evident in the 1976 heat wave when most of the fish at Grafham were caught between 7.00 and 10.00am. At this time the water temp where the wind was coming in at Savages was 27deg c and where it was blowing off the Dam Wall was 20deg c. So guess where the fish were?

Therefore, the basic rule of hot weather fishing is to get the wind behind you and in cooler weather get it in your face. Remember to aim the line up high behind you when fishing into wind this will allow the line to gravitate downwards to the water. Always wear eye protection wherever you are fishing.

Boat Fishing.

This has, like the bank fishing, been hard at times although some prolific rises have been seen. The fish proving very difficult to interest. Contrary to common belief, it has not all been done with Hi-D lines at great depth. Nigel Savage doing as well as anybody taking five fish on the floater in his B &H heat. He fished nymphs on a 22ft leader. There has been very little daytime movement of fish mainly due to the daphnia and sedge pupae diet. Both of these food items only inviting the fish up to a sensible depth outside competition fishing times! The Boils have fished from time to time. The rudder men have also done well at times. Graham Pearson taking a 6lb 10oz Rainbow and Keith (Spud) Edwards's one of 5lb 1oz. Browns Island and the Main Basin appear still to be the most productive areas. Some good hatches of insects are occurring in the Tim Appleton's "trench" so perhaps this could be worth a try.

The new trial electric motor driven boat has met with great approval from those who have tried it. Quiet and environmentally friendly. Too easy to troll under power you might say!

Juniors Evening Thursday July 17th 1997.

The Secretary's great regret is that he could not make it on the day. Some thirty three juniors went out and accounted for 44 fish at a time when the Reservoir was "dead off". Quite an achievement! Thanks to the boatmen all had a great time and either caught or at least "felt" some fish. Fish were caught fairly widely but mostly in the main basin around Three Trees and the Lodge Frontage. Inevitably the weather had the last word in the form of a violent thunderstorm. The wiser boatmen landed their protégés and sought safe shelter. Despite the weather, several boats were back within an hour with their limits. Another drama occurred in the form of a "flea in the ear" for Tony Curtis who had to leave the water and go to hospital with a sedge fly (Natural) which sought shelter within his inner ear. A very painful and quite dangerous occurrence. This happened, as is the way of fishing, just when the fish were pulling. We hope he makes a full recovery. One Junior member Paul Abbot, English National Champion in 1996 was noticeable by his absence. He unfortunately sustained a broken leg at school. Nothing worse for an angler to miss out on such an event. We all wish him a speedy recovery and hope his antagonists rue the error of their ways. Such events could not run successfully without clearly thought out organisation. Our thanks to Roger McCarthy for all his hard work and to A.W.S. and Ryobi Masterline and Coch-y-Bondhu Books for their sponsorship. Thanks also for the time given by the boatmen. It was unfortunate that five of the promised volunteers did not turn up. However, Roger was able to commandeer enough hands to make it an unqualified success. While we were grateful for all help given, if you can't make it on the day, please let the organisers know so that no one is disappointed. Our Chairman thanked all parties for their involvement. Mike Watts gave a short summary of the activities of the English Youth National Events. Jon Marshall presented the prizes and "goodie bags". All in all a great evening. Lets see if we can get even more in 1998!

The results were as follows:-

Senior Group

Place	Name	Instructor	No of fish	Weight	Best fish
1	Jason Pack	Graham Pearson	4	10lb 3 3/4oz	3lb 1 7/8oz
2	Michael Wild	Paul Miller	4	6lb 6oz	2lb 3 3/4oz
3	Ben Golds	Tony Curtis	3	5lb 15oz	2lb 2oz

Junior Group:

Place	Name	Instructor	No	Weight	Best Fish
1	Aaron Monk	Barry Thompson	4	9lb 9 1/4oz	2lb 10 3/8oz
2	Tom Ellis	Steve Crowson	4	8lb 13 1/4oz	2lb 11 5/8oz
3	Matthew Hanford	Brian Thomas	4	7lb 11 3/4oz	2lb 12 7/8oz

A complete list of the results may be seen on the club notice board at the Fishing Lodge.

Triple "A" Army Outing - Rutland Sunday September 1997

The Army are still hoping for some guides to give them some idea "how the land lies" prior to their match in mid- September. The boat hire fee and supper afterwards will be met by the host team members. Sounds a good number to me .So if you are interested please contact Sean Cutting as soon as you can on 01780 720833

The Roger Thom Trophy Match - Sunday July 13th 1997.

This was by all accounts and to judge from the results a grueller. It needed only one fish for top spot and that was caught from the bank by Roger McCarthy. A well deserved win for all Roger's organisational work.

The results were as follows:-

1	R.McCarthy	1 Fish	2lb 11 3/4 oz
2	Dave Wainwright	1 Fish	2lb 8oz
3	Sean Cutting	1 Fish	1lb 14 1/2 oz

A complete set of results may be seen on the club notice board at the Fishing Lodge.

A "Smashing" Week's Fishing

The van was systematically loaded up for the first two days of the of the week which would be spent on an picturesque Oxfordshire stream. Because of the type of terrain, plenty of spare rods had been put in - just in case. Expectation was high as the river came into view. The bend at the bottom of the hill having been temporarily forgotten. As I rounded the bend, "crash" - over went the "Bisley" type fly tying cabinet onto- yes, you've guessed it, both sage rods. The supporting belt having snapped. It had to break the top of one and the butt of the other of course! - that's sod's law. However, I thought, that left two more rods. So the other sage, which I had recently repaired was unfurled and duly set up. First cast with this I got into a fish which immediately was lost the rod hitting the bridge with an almighty crack on the rebound. I carried on and two or three casts later got into another fish and yes, after a few seconds, that rod finished up as a three piece and the fish duly lost. Funny, how philosophical fisherman are. So, one rod left. A perfectly executed roll cast with the final rod delivered the fly to a fish which was duly landed. Phew! Success at last! Next cast, not so accurate and it caught an over hanging nettle. Not the stem just a leaf. No more than a gentle twitch to remove it resulted in a explosion with me holding a 4 piece two section rod! Luckily the fly was still attached which meant that I got all the other pieces back! Strange, I mused. Such events usually only came in threes!

So now on to the Sea Trout river. I arrived at this river to find it full of fish - well, I kept smacking myself to see if this really was a nightmare. No! There they were, lined up "three deep" like the Spithead Naval Review, the largest run of fish for 34 years, and no rod to attack them! 5.30pm on a Saturday - all shops closed until Monday. However, I approached a friend and was very kindly lent a rod - the lender not being informed of my recent disasters! I managed a small fish on this rod and felt much better. On Monday I acquired a new rod and with another angler we managed to account for four Sea Trout of 8lb 2oz, 8lb 0oz and 7lb 15oz and 5lb 10oz. A memorable catch, even for the most experienced angler. We arrived back at the van in high spirits the broken rods being more of a joke now. Lots of photos were taken. Anyway, we agreed on a dawn start the next day. We met at the usual place. I looked in the back of my van and, as Meldrew would have said "I don't believe it" - or words more appropriate to this situation. In the excitement of the previous day's catch I had left the new rod, all set up with reel, line, & net at the roadside. Well I hope the finder of this tackle who has not yet handed it in has a week like mine - without the fish. If he were to hand it in then all would be forgiven. Moral- keep all rods in tubes -out of reach of your Secretary - and never go fishing anywhere without a repair kit and if you aren't already, then get insured and read the small print on you policy carefully. So, total for the week. Eight Sea Trout and Four broken rods and one lost. Is this a record? It was however so gratifying to see the Sea Trout - some of which must have exceeded 12lb - back again after such along absence from the river and feeling that we had already had unforgettable sport, much of the rest of the week was spent photographing them "in situ". We wish the fish a safe poacher free passage to spawn. If you have any such anecdotes whether nightmares or pleasantries, the Secretary would be pleased to publish them.

The Oliver Cup - Second Round Sunday September 21st 1997- Grafham

Please find enclosed entry forms for the second leg at Grafham. Please be there in good time - preferably from 8.00am. The draw for partners will be at 9.00am. Fish 10.00am - 6.00pm to international rules. There will be an 8 fish limit but two Browns only per limit and a time bonus of 4oz per 1/4 hour. A buffet will not be provided but food and drinks are available at the Fishing Lodge as normal. It is a match in its own right with tackle vouchers for the day. Its results will be combined with the first round result and the Cup awarded to the overall winner.

The Rutland Pro - Am Competition Sunday August 31st 1997.

Please find entry form enclosed. Please return it with your remittance to Brian Thomas as soon as you can. Cheques should be drawn in favour of Rutland Water Fly Fishers.

The Grafham Open Loch Style Competition

Congratulations to Peter Cliff, one of our members for winning the event with 7lb 8oz . Gordon Bloodworth was runner up with 5lb 8oz. The result is all the greater achievement given the very difficult fishing conditions. The start of the match being delayed for an hour while a thunderstorm raged.

Specimen Fish Trophies.

I keep hearing unconfirmed reports of eligible specimens. If you want to enter them for the trophies then fill in one of the forms in the suggestion box next to our notice board at the Fishing Lodge and send it to the Secretary.

Wishing you all "Tight Lines"

Yours Sincerely John Wadham (Hon. Secretary)