

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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JULY NEWS LETTER 2000

Dear Member

Fishing report

As you would expect, the fishing slowed a little this month. However, some tremendous fish have been caught. The weather was unusually cold for early July. A ground frost was recorded in places on 5th and snow in the Alps! The most striking factor, as any holidaymaker will testify, was the unprecedented absence of sunshine. Wittering recording only 1.5 hours in the first ten days of July. When you think that there is the potential for a daily total of 13 hours, which makes this a very dull start to the month. However one man's meat is another man's poison as they say.

This dull cold weather encouraged some very good fish to come onto the Burley shallows. The Chairman and Secretary taking fish over 5lb on "tinies". The fish were feeding for about two hours in the mornings on Corixa & snails in the margins in less than a foot of water. This needed a kneeling approach and delicate accurate presentation. Tim Appleton's and The North Arm shallows also saw fish on Corixa & snails and some superb fish were caught with one group catching 15 fish in a morning averaging 3lb. CDC's, tiny nymphs and dries proving most effective.

The dreaded algal blooms have conspicuous by their absence but a recent brown bloom temporarily put fish off the feed. This is now rapidly declining and the fish are coming back on again.

Bank fisherman are getting a few in the Normanton/East Creek area and from the Normanton Three (Two) trees to the Dam. In the previous week, Sykes had been "alive" with fish. Then, next day, nothing! You know Rutland. "Here today. There to morrow". Cor! You should have been here Tuesday they were going mad! Perhaps "you should be there tomorrow" would be the ideal prediction!

Two anglers on a week's holiday caught some 50 fish from the bank in the New Zealand point area on pearly pheasant tails. These fish which ranged up to 5½lb were quite clearly on "pin fry". Although "nail" fry might have been more apposite as they seem to be growing so fast. This bodes well for the fry feeding in October.

"Little Charlie" Herron who fishes almost exclusively from the Old Hall Point has been consistently successful with these fry feeders. Charlie fishes with tadpoles. So you don't ask "what on?" but what colour! Charlie has manufactured a very clever socket device that enables him to cast well without putting any pressure on his very arthritic forearm – all the work being done by the upper arm. You will often find him on Old Hall Point and I am sure he would be pleased to demonstrate. The Secretary told him he ought to patent it. If you are driving back to Oakham after fishing on the Peninsula he would always be grateful for a lift. You know it is he, as he always seems to be weighed down by a bag full of fish!

Boat fishing

The boats have been doing well on the Corixa & snail feeders in the top of the South Arm. Most effective have been minkies on a floater!

The boils have, as usual at this time of year, been productive - deep fishing with lures - especially boobies - on Di7 lines on the “dangle” - being the most effective.

Sooner or later these fish will be entering the margins to graze on the prodigious hordes of fry. So lets hope there are some weed beds close in to give shelter to them and the Trout.

Don't worry. They are putting plenty of stockies in – 3,200 this week - with a large batch of fish due over the next few weeks. As per last year, the stockies are “doing the bunk” as soon as they are put in. We seldom catch a large quantity of fish in what are traditionally the “dog days” Look what happened in 1999. We caught an average sized fish of 4lb 5oz in October. So, as it has been said so often, “while you can't catch them they are growing”.

Letter from the Chairman.

“Back from Purgatory”

A total knee replacement in mid April meant no fishing for two months while other members benefited from the May buzzer hatches. But purgatory ended after seeing the surgeon on 12th of June. Although sessions by the reservoir had to be limited or else the knee swelled up. But I had a 2lb 9oz fish on the 13th June and a steady trickle of fine fish, almost all of which were over 2½lb in the next month. To start with, it was mostly in the evening : but more recently a morning after Corixa feeders.. For those four weeks almost all my fish came to dries. Easily my best fly was my favourite CDC shuttlecock. This is tied on a size 14 competition hook and will handle the biggest fish and the weight helps the fly cock and keeps the body below the surface. The short tuft tied over the hook eye is the tips of at least four natural grey C de C plumes. The tip of the body is 4 or 5 turns of fluorescent red thread and the remainder hares ear ribbed with fine pearl or twinkle. I find the fish prefer this static although an occasional tweak can help advertise. If there is much silk weed – as now – I use a single fly on a fine nylon I use 6.4 lb Rio as a final link. This fly will take buzzer feeders and in past seasons has done well in September & early October. Just now the morning Corixa feeders have gone off a bit: but Dick Stephen's little green nymphs are often on the menu – size 14 again. Dick uses olive died grey squirrel for the body but I mix hares ear with bright green seal's fur. Rib is olive twinkle. Dick stops there: but I add two short tail stubs of the twinkle and one turn of a tiny fawn hen hackle. In a two - day period I have had rainbows 3¾ & 5lb on this pattern both from water less than 1foot deep. The smaller fish ran over 70yards.

P.S. Kreinik Metallic's make some super pearl tinsels, some very fine and in various colours. The needlework shop on the left just before the level crossing on the way out of Oakham stocks them.

Tuesday Boat League

As usual RWFF members have stolen many of the honours in the league.

Well done to Andrew Wells who is a relative newcomer to the sport for taking first place in the end of June heat with 3fish for 5lb 13½oz. Dave Dakers was second and Chris Binley third.

Roger McCarthy won the first July heat with 2 fish for 3lb 8oz with Paul Turner taking the best rainbow at 3lb 7½oz.

Gordon Bloodworth won the second July heat with Leon Smith second and Mrs Frank (John's mum) third.

Robin Chapman won the third July heat with 6 fish for 10lb 2oz. Gordon Bloodworth came second and Paul Turner third

Tuesday Boat League (Contd.)

In the final July heat the lake fished much better as the results show. With 14 anglers catching 47 fish

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| Result | Dave Doherty | 8 fish | 14lb 3oz |
| | Paul Turner | 5 fish | 12lb 7oz & Best fish (again!) a Rainbow of 4lb 2oz |
| | Al Owen | 6 fish | 12lb 6oz |

Gordon Bloodworth & Leon Smith share top spot in the league with 39 points each

Barry Vaughan is second with 21 points

Andrew Wells third with 18 points

Juniors News**England Youth Fly Fishing Championships – Grafham Water - Saturday July 8th 2000.**

Congratulations to RWFF junior club members who took 3rd 4th and 5th places against a strong field.

Luke Shevlin who had just reached the qualifying age of 12 just before the event put into practice what he learned from Curly at Rutland and came third with 6 fish for 11lb 14oz

Simon Saxby from West Yorkshire came fourth with 4 fish for 7lb 15oz

Charles Bowers came fifth with 4 fish for 7lb 5oz

John Frank - Junior member from Pocklington in Yorkshire had a great weeks holiday fishing from the bank taking some good specimens among his 22 fish catch.

Congratulations to his Mum who came third in the Tuesday night boat league with 2 fish for 3lb 2oz.

Paul Abbott still leads the field for the best Rainbow of the season with a fish of 3lb 11oz. Still no taker for the best Brownie for the Fario trophy. In the event that no one submits a brown, the trophy will be awarded to the Junior member who in the opinion of the committee has achieved the most success during the 2000 season.

Juniors Evening – Thursday 20th July 2000

This year's event was a great success with some 31 juniors from all over the UK taking part.

They were sponsored by Anglian Water, Ryobi Masterline & EMAP magazines who provided generous "goodie bags". After the event, the Chairman of Rutland Water Fly Fishers, John Maitland gave away the prizes which included three rods and a reel for the respective winners. He went on to thank the sponsors, boatmen and all other helpers. He paid particular tribute to Andy Flitcroft from RWFF for all the hard work he had put into organising the event.

During the afternoon the boys and girls were given casting tuition by RWFF members and then were taken out boat fishing by club members from 5.00pm till 9.45pm.

On a hot still evening they did well to catch some 24 trout with an average weight of nearly 2lb.

They fished in two groups viz. Under 15s and over 15s.

There were prizes for the best weight and best fish in each junior category respectively and for best boatman.

The secretary took some photos and Sean Cutting has skilfully reproduced these on an A.4 sheet (enclosed)

Catch Returns

The Reservoir management is concerned that it is receiving too few catch returns to make a valid assessment of the progress of the fishery. Apparently some ticket holders have not submitted a single return this year. If you are a season ticket holder and go on holiday then you are requested to submit a nil return in advance. So come on chaps! Give it your best shot.

The best is yet to come!

Yours Sincerely

John Wadham Hon Secretary