

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



July 2003

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“Golden Oldies” event at Rutland on July 16th.

According to statistics the average age of reservoir trout fisherman appears to be fifty years. So they should have a very good turn out! Details from the lodge on 01780 686441

RWFF Juniors Evening - Thursday July 31st

This event has had to be postponed to a date in late August and the format modified. You will be notified of this as soon as a date and format has been agreed. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Rutland Water Bird Fair – August 15th - 17th

This is an exciting event and the biggest of its kind in the EU and very well worth a visit.

All details of the event and tickets are available from the Bird Watching Centre, Eggleton, Oakham on 01572 770651.



June 2003 will go down in history as the second hottest June in recorded weather history. But it was quite overcast at times and with light winds made for excellent fishing from the bank but even better from the boats. It was also thundery. It has been said before but you must put your rod down as soon as there is any hint of thunder. Carbon rods are ideal if rather expensive lighting conductors!

I know that it has been well documented but the top of the South Arm has produced arguably some of the best nymph fishing in the history of the lake. Only this week some lads from North of the border had a bonanza taking some 186 fish in their stay. This is just about as good as it gets. As a result of the hotter weather, the bank fishing has inevitably slowed up. However, in the recent Easterly wind which lasted into the Water Aid Friday - before turning Westerly - huge numbers of fish were seen and caught from boats out from the dam and by the

John Wadham's Fishing Report

few bank anglers fishing the dam. The strong wind off the wall blew away some of the hotter surface water allowing cooler water to come to the surface. This phenomenon is known as a thermocline tilt.

This occurred in Grafham in July 1976 when almost the entire stock of the lake including the coarse fish appeared in the bowl of the dam in a strong north-easterly wind.

Dave Doherty made good use of this fact for his novices out on the Water Aid day with his protégés losing fish and getting plenty of rises. This was in an easterly wind out from the buoys off the dam. Boats have also done well in Hideaway, Cattle trough, and Manton Bays and along the Bunds. Fish were also seen travelling off New Zealand point which appeared to be travelling in that direction. What do these fish know that we don't?

The North Arm is still producing but only occasionally. This is bad luck for bank anglers as this is the one place we can access the shallows at the head of the Arm. Tim Appletons and Cardiac Hill are the most likely areas. Some good fish have been caught from

the bank however. Trevor Ashby caught his PB rainbow weighing 8lb 2oz from the bank in Carrot Creek. The fish, which was in mint condition, gave Trevor a fight to remember. Interestingly, it showed almost no sign of Ergasilus. It was taken on an olive buzzer from the steep side of the bay.

For many experienced anglers this has been one their best seasons at the lake. The fish have made much better condition this year. This was almost certainly due to the prolonged buzzer hatch. This should stand them in good stead to get through the “dog days”. I.e., the next six weeks. Lets hope the water does not get overheated. Last year it was overcast hot and still. These conditions are the dreaded end for the sensitive trout whose ideal feeding temperature is between 11 and 13 Deg C! So, some nice cooling fresh North or North-easterly winds should keep the water temperature down and hopefully provide some good Dam Wall and Sykes Lane fishing.

This great buzzer fishing has mostly been enjoyed by the boats in about 8 to 10 foot of water at the West end of the South Arm. Cont.

..cont..Earlier in the history of the lake, prior to the erosion, which, in some places has moved the banks back by as much as 25M, these buzzer feeders were in range of the bank angler. So, the non-eroded deep banks like Carrot Creek, Stockie Bay and Whitwell Creek have proved productive. This was suggested in the last letter and confirmed by Trevor and others! Stockie Bay, Sykes and the Seat opposite the Old Lodge have fished exceptionally well from the banks. This area does not colour up in in-coming winds.

Another good bank area at the moment seems to be between the Sailing Club and Gibbett Gorse. This is as close as we bank anglers can get to Manton Bay!

As I write, the fish are still in Stockie Bay and at the Sykes End of the Dam and coming into range when a ripple comes on. Here they seem to be on Daphnia and Tiny Olive Buzzers.

Their diet recently has been more varied with Red Water Mites, Ostracods - those free swimming tiny mussels about the size of daphnia but with a hard outer shell - caddis and more recently pin fry. GRHE & Diawlbach are still taking fish here. The tiny olive buzzer at present featuring in their diet seems to hatch over deep water and this is what may be keeping a lot of the fish out in the middle of the lake.

In these areas and top of the South arm dries have produced well even when they have only been showing spasmodically. Also effective have been a variety of lures.

One minute no sign of a fish then someone somewhere blows a whistle and up they come. This happened on Saturday. Nothing - then a pull a throw!

The sedge hatch is in full swing but as always the fish seem uninterested in them. You can catch them on dry sedge patterns but their stomachs almost invariably contain a tiny green buzzer, which hatches simultaneously.

Most effective general patterns at the moment appear to be the ubiquitous Diawlbach, olive buzzers and anything orange!

Letters from juniors -Charles Bowers - who now works in the Rutland shop - gives us his fishing life history—so far!

We would be very pleased to hear from any other junior member who wants to put his life on the line. We have very many other highly skilled juniors with enviable records. You may now be just over that age but we would be pleased to hear from you nonetheless. Assuming we receive some more of your life histories, we will attempt to publish monthly. So come on, don't be shy we are all ears and not to proud to learn from you!

A Young Fisherman's Personal View

My name is Charles Bowers and I started fly-fishing when I was about 7 years old. My grandpa took me to a small private lake at Tallington where he taught me the basics of casting: but, at that age, it was more a case of him running up the bank to cast for me and then going back to cast for himself. From that moment on I was hooked and would go most weekends and holidays from school with my casting improving each time I went.

Grandpa started me off with some of his old tackle which comprised an old fibre glass rod, and an old rimfly reel holding one of his cracked up fly lines. It was a struggle to cast. I only had a small selection of flies but still managed to catch as many fish as my granddad. So, that meant that I must have had a good teacher. He also made me take good care of my fishing kit: making sure that it was clean and tidy ready for the next outing.

It was all going fine until April 1999 when my grandpa and I went for a days fishing at Rutland Water. Everything was OK until we got home. We were unloading the car as normal when he collapsed. I later found out that my grandpa had died.

After that, all of us, including my mum and dad thought that I was going to give up my fishing. Even I did at times. I tried for the England team. Then, someone else who was a member at the Tallington lake fishery, where I had started my fishing career, helped me as my grandpa did. His name was Malcolm Paxton. Everything was going well again until December 1999 when Malcolm passed away very suddenly: but this time I was determined to go forward and the following year I tried again for the England Youth team and qualified taking fifth place with 4 fish.

That is where my competition fishing career started: but, it was not until the next year that I had some more success. That was in the Trout Fisherman European Open where, in the Rutland heat, I caught the biggest fish and qualified to go on to the final that year at Bewl Water in Kent. Also, that year, I was runner up in the RWFF pro/am competition. In the youth international that was held in Wales, the England team came third and I was second rod in this team.

In 2002 my dreams came true when I got a job in the Rutland Water tackle shop. I then went in for the Anglian Water employees' match held at Pitsford and won. Also, at Pitsford, I came fourth narrowly missing out on a place in the TFE0 final. I qualified for the England Youth team and was made Vice-captain of the team for the home international on Rutland Water where England took the gold medal.

My local paper entered me for a sports award where I came runner up out of 20 people in my category. Anglian Water and the Lincolnshire council also sponsor me.

Now, here we are in 2003, and in another new fishing season. For this season, I have been elected captain of the England team for the International in Scotland in August.

Finally, if anyone would like a day fishing or needs a boat partner on Rutland or Grafham, please give me a ring on 01775 724274

A DIFFERENT ANGLE from Gary Legge

After Gulf War 1, a Squadron Leader was quoted as saying that life in the Forces is a party, but every now and then someone has to do the clearing up. Sadly, in these times there seems to be more and more clearing up to do. Nevertheless, my 24-year party has presented some great chances to experience different types of fishing. This includes catching wild brownies in the Canadian Rockies during an adventure training trip, carp and catfish during a Cyprus tour, hunting sea-trout in the Falklands when I managed to get off a wind-swept mountain, fishing on Dartmoor during a tour as a Commando-trained signaller and, of course, the chance to live near the shores of Rutland as a result of a Cottesmore posting. But it is the wilds of the Outer Hebrides that I find myself drawn to annually. It's a place I originally learnt of through work and yearn to return to the moment I'm on the ferry home. The Islands really are an angler's paradise and the wilderness is something magical. If you ever get the chance to go and experience what the Hebs has on offer, don't hesitate for a moment. My next trip starts during the first week of June and I can't wait.

Service life also presents many other fishing opportunities besides access to unusual locations. For example, a military airfield can be a great source of fur and feather fly tying material, resulting from efforts made to mitigate flight safety risks. Some stations are also a great source of other fly-fishing materials. There is one station, not that far from here, where Amadou can be obtained by the wheelbarrow. Unfortunately, trying to convince the security staff that the reason why you are crawling around the woods, armed with a sharp knife, is legitimate may not be so easy. Get yourself a contact and you'll have a very useful source of fresh material and won't have to pay a fortune for the effort.

Ever heard of the name "Skerrit". In angling terms this is sometimes used to describe a small stockie and the phrase "Skerrit-monger" is a term of derision for those targeting a quick supply of small trout. RAF folklore has it that the nickname originated from a certain Flight Lieutenant Skerrit, who allegedly had an amazing ability to attract small trout, even when fishing the Bunds Wall during a buzzer hatch in May.

Service life has also given the chance to abuse some of my hard-earned training. Convincing a previous boss that our Consultancy Group needed a web design specialist enabled me to be in a position where others could also benefit. The Club's website continues to attract a great deal of interest, especially from those new to angling or new to the region. Unfortunately, time restrictions impact on how much it can be developed, but I am always open to realistic comments and criticism. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to email me with them using the club's email address. I am particularly interested in latest "hot-poop" fishing reports, amusing incidents, gossip and stories that have gone down in folklore.

Finally, my 24-year party comes to an end later this year. After some great, and occasionally difficult, times I have decided to leave the fold and set up a Residential Lettings agency in the area. With this comes an end to fishing alongside some of the best, if largely unrecognised, competition anglers in the country. However, if the transition is successful, this means that I don't have to re-locate to the dreaded M3 corridor to work in my background industry. Instead, my family and me will be able to live in the Rutland area that we have come to know and appreciate during the past 6 years.

During the past few months I have been able to draw many comparisons between setting up a business and fishing the "Big R" for the first time. Both are incredibly daunting and you can easily become overwhelmed with choice, lack of information or too much information. "Do you concentrate on this area or do you concentrate on that area". "If you go here and it's not working very well, is the grass greener over the other side". "I'll use this tactic because I think it's right, but what am I missing out on by not using that tactic". And so it goes on. What is important in both arenas is a source of accurate and credible advice and direction. For my part I hope to continue to make available good fishing advice through the website, which I'll have a lot more time for if things don't work out. However, as we all know, the staff at Rutland also continue to play their part. The advice they have given me over the last few fishing-years regarding "today's method and location" has been invaluable. To them my thanks and long may the service you provide continue. And if there should be a vacancy in another team for an ex-RAF Fishhawk

Tuesday night boat league

The current league points table looks like this:-

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Paul Wild | 37 points |
| Al Owen | 32 points |
| Graham Pearson | 25 points |
| Keith Jones | 23 points |

In last week's event, fish were seen all over the place but proved hard to tempt in the near flat calm conditions.

Paul's winning position was reinforced by his catch of 7 fish for 20lb 8oz earlier in June. This is a quite exceptional achievement and is a record for the event.

The new aerators, which have replaced the former "helixors" are now in use and should help to reduce the stratification in the lake and help the fish through any calm hot spells.

Even if its too late to win this year's competition it's a great opportunity, particularly for beginners, with a chance to partner some real experts for an evening's boat fishing. So come along.

Ladies Day Saturday June 28th

This was a great success with some eighteen ladies taking part. They enjoyed a very full day taking advantage of advice on all aspects of fly - fishing. The day was made possible with assistance from Sue Shaw of English Ladies, John Wadham from RWF and Dave Doherty and several wardens and staff at the fishing lodge and many others.

In the after noon the ladies put their new - found skills into practice and fished from boats. Most of the group caught fish. Alison Merryfield from Huntingdon who had fished for about a year without much success was delighted to hook three fish and take one.

Civil Service Sports Council Corporate day - Wednesday 4th June

This day was arranged by John Bell, Chairman of the CSSC. The event which took the form of a standard beginners course was run by Dave Doherty and John Wadham and produced a startling result.

The eight beginners caught some 21 fish, caught from the harbour wall on floating lines and a range of patterns.

Litter pick up presentation June 19th.

Following our litter pick up on 9th March, the sum of £100 was presented to Dr Tim Gray the founder and director of the Rutland Accident Care Scheme (RACS).

This organisation attends incidents all over Rutland and adjacent counties. Rutland Water has been able to make use of this very essential service. So, we were very pleased to be able to make this donation to RACS and thank AWS for their sponsorship. This event may be regarded as one of the most important club functions as it is useful, sets a good example for angling in general and is in aid of a very good cause. We wish Tim all success in the future.

Water Aid Challenge - Friday 27th June

This event run by Chris Evans and Paul Dimpleby for AWS was a great success with a substantial sum of money raised - £7,200. This exceeded that raised in 2002 for this cause.

"Water Aid" supplies expertise on management of water resources and sanitation for the "third world" enabling those nations to make the best use of their own water resources.

After the speeches, David Moore expressed his thanks to RWF members for their help in this and other events. He drew the assembled company's attention to our annual AWS sponsored litter pick up day in March which raises money for local charities.

John Wadham Trophy - May 30th

This very popular club event attracted a record turn out of twenty-two members on a hot, sultry, almost calm evening. Some members came 100 miles to fish! Don't we just love Rutland!

Results:-

| | | | |
|----|---------------------------|--------|----------|
| 1 | Iain Barr | 8 fish | 15lb 6oz |
| 2 | Paul Shaw | 8 fish | 15lb 4oz |
| 3 | Ziggy Leiakowski | 6 fish | 10lb 8oz |
| 4= | Nigel Heighton | 5 fish | 7lb 13oz |
| 4= | Martin Tomlinson (junior) | 4 fish | 7lb 13oz |

Congratulations to Iain Barr for winning it for the fourth time in a row. Iain took just 1 hour 20 minutes to complete his limit from Stockie Bay on Cruncher & Green Buzzer fished almost static.

Commiseration to Paul Shaw who finished 2oz behind Iain. He was fishless and then caught his limit in one hour between 8.45 and 9.45pm from Old Hall Point on GRHE & Diawlbach.

Bob Barr took the best fish: an overwintered specimen of 3lb 2oz

This result summed up the fishing at the time. Find them and they are really ready to pull! The fish were all in very good nick with a smattering of overwintered fish. There was tremendous buzzer hatch that evening. The trees on the Edith Weston to Manton road resembled smoking chimneys.

Those unable to find the trout caught some Roach, Bream and Perch to gladden the heart of any coarse angler! Mind you, they say trout are easier to catch than roach!