

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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Newsletter – July 2004

Dear member. This is an unconventional newsletter for August. I can only apologise and encourage any readers who are contemplating upgrading their computer software to get the right gear and expertise. I've had a two week computer nightmare that is continuing and at the moment I can only produce a newsletter in this format. Anyhow the good news is that my misfortunes should not affect the quality or contents of the fishing report and the other articles. Editor.

Chairman's Notes

It was sad to bid farewell to Bob Garratt, he was a good fisherman and great character who will be missed by all who knew him. However, his funeral was well attended by club members and Anglian Water staff and many reminiscences were exchanged over refreshments after the ceremony.

Returning from salmon fishing in Scotland (some success but the rain would fall in the wrong place for me) I fished a couple of matches involving RAF and ex-RAF teams here. Although I did not do as well as I should have, it was good to see that the rainbows were in great nick no doubt due to the daphnia which they were gorging on; fish over 5lb were caught on both days. If only they were doing more feeding close to the banks. Even in the late evening I have only managed the odd brownie on the past ten days.

Fishing Report – June / July

Weather wise the period from mid June to mid July resembled October with torrential downpours of rain interspersed with strong winds. This might not be holiday weather but quite clearly the fish have enjoyed it but have been quite reluctant to come into the margins except for short periods. This is surprising, as the water temp has not yet exceeded 18Deg C this season. This compares with the horrendous values – 20degC at 5 M experienced in 2003. So far the dreaded brown algae have not appeared in any quantity and the water at the moment is generally nice and clear and the water level about 1M down.

The Rainbows are in much better nick than this time last year and appear to be feeding quite freely on Daphnia, Buzzers, Hover flies and, unusually, sedge pupae. There have been isolated incidents of fish taking pin fry: but most of this activity has been well out from the banks. The best bank fishing time is still late evening. The most consistent places during this period and in fact right through the season have been the Old Hall point, Stockie Bay to Whitwell Creek and the Normanton Blue Pipes. The long expected large buzzer failed was very limited this year. Luckily the improved daphnia blooms have to some extent made up for this. At the moment the bank fishing is very slow. However one or two fish have been caught from Carrot Creek, Old Hall Point and Yellowstone. Every very time the wind blew from anywhere between North West and East, the Old hall point produced quite well with some good evening rises. These were however often terminated abruptly by an increase in wind. On Friday night JW spent one hour casting at stroppy rising fish on the Old Hall Point. A desperation change to a Black & Green tadpole produced a result when put in front of these risers: some which proved to be small Zander

apparently taking sedges and charging into pin fry! Mr Wardle from Whitwell had five fish from here one evening last week on buzzers.

The North Arm West of a line drawn from Armley Wood to Dickenson's Road End seems still to be an almost barren area for both bank and boats alike. Stock fish introduced at the Transformer seem to bunk off to the main basin as soon as they can!

During the period under review the boats have quite clearly had the best of it and some very good quality fish have been taken including a number of 5lb specimens. This week boat anglers have done very well in the "Brown's Island" area out from the Old Hall. Daren Watts and friend caught 16 superb fish on dries here during the middle of a hot day. With the water so much cooler this year perhaps like us they welcome a little warmth. Fish can also be taken deep. Quite a number of these fish contained Hover Flies.

PS if you want a change in bank fishing; then Grafham is producing well with six fish limits averaging 15lb. But you must have the wind behind you. Even so, this seems to be on a hit & miss basis. Of course the dreaded westerly seems to put them off totally. Paradoxically the bank-side Grafham fish seem to be on a starvation diet: their stomachs empty at the moment apart from a few terrestrials - mainly drones (Hover Flies) a regular part of their diet here in the sixties & seventies: whereas recently caught fish at R seem to be feeding reasonably well. The water at Grafham has dropped very quickly and is now down some 5ft and so should give the bank angler access to the "old reservoir" bed which is generally their main feeding area

Hanby Cup

This was a very successful day with 14 anglers taking part in a strong NW wind. Most of the fish were caught at the top of the South Arm on blobs and black lures with sinking lines. 63 fish were caught giving a rod average of 4.5 per rod

Results:-

1 Graham Pearson & Mike Barrett	16 fish	32lb 11oz
2 John Tattersfield & Martin Rowson	16 fish	29lb 6oz
3 Roy Taylor & Andrew Wells	13 fish	29lb 5½oz

Oliver Cup 1st Round

Only 7 anglers turned out for this one. In a moderate WNW wind most of the fish were caught in the main basin on floating lines with the bung supporting buzzers & Diawlbachs

14 fish were caught for a rod average of 2

Results

1 Martin Rowson	5 fish	8lb 5oz
2 John Tattersfield	4 fish	6lb 15oz
3 Lin Walters	2 fish	3lb 14oz

Water Aid Challenge -- Friday June 25th 2004

This was a great success with the event raising some £14,000 for the charity which is at present carrying out work in Malawi. Rutland Water Fly Fishers led by John Wadham supplied some twelve volunteers for the event. Their duties included making up 122 fly boxes for the "goodie bags" and three full boxes for the Auction. The day before they also made up some 38 fishing kits obtained from the various Anglian Water Fisheries for the novices to use. This job included loading reels with line and backing and making up leaders. They helped load up the 122 goodie bags

Rutland Water Fly Fishers also conducted a casting clinic for the 45 novices before they went out in the boats. Due to the large number of RWFF volunteers, they were able to carry it out on a three/four to one basis with most of the participants able to cast a tolerable line.

Before the prize giving, the organisers Chris Evans and Paul Dimbleby thanked Rutland Water Fly Fishers for their substantial contribution which ensured that every one got out on the water with a competent boatman. This was followed up by a thank a generous letter of thanks from the organisers

The following RWFF members acted as helpers:-

Tess & Trevor Ashby	Danny Perks	Brian Bonner	John Poyner
Lewis Carlin	Stuart Ross	Dave Doherty	Paul Shaw
John Maitland	Roy Taylor	Malcolm March	John Wadham
Roger McCarthy	Lin Walters		

Apologies were received from:-Rob Waddington who sadly took ill the day before.

Two other volunteers organised by Stuart Ross, Mike Conway from Liverpool and Derek Elms from Derby who were sadly delayed and unable to be present.

On 26th July, John Wadham was invited to AWS offices to put forward your comments and feed back on this year's event and suggestions for the event to be staged in 2005. A big thank you also from AWS recreation staff. Involvement in events of this type hopefully shows the public large that we are not just anglers on the take but are prepared to put something back into a sport that has given us so much pleasure.

If you want further details of the work of Water Aid please contact Chris Evans on 01733 414163 or 07885 135597.

Association of Major Flyfishing Clubs 2004

Group One

After four rounds, the Group One league table looks like this:

1	Solder Palmers	20 pts
2=	Rutland Water FF	16 pts
2=	Grafham Water FA	16 pts
4=	Fish Hawks	12 pts
4=	Bewl Bridge FF 'A'	12 pts
6	Queen Mother FF	7 pts

Many thanks to Mike Gunnell of MG Media for this report of the season so far

Rutland Water Fly Fishers lie in second place in the league with two matches remaining – as one wag remarked, with a good chance of avoiding relegation! The latest round was at Eyebrook on the 4th of July, the first time the venue has been used in the Major Clubs, and after a closely fought contest, Soldier Palmers pipped RWFF by less than 2lb, or one fish, to cement their place at the top of the league.

There was a consistent performance by the Rutland team, topped off by Steve Crowson's eight fish bag weighing 20lb 6oz – caught in the usual way, on an orange blob pulled, this time on a floating line! Steve was joint top rod overall with Al Ward of Soldier Palmers, who had exactly the same weight. Soldiers Palmers finished on 69lb 12oz to RWFF's 68lb.

The previous match at Grafham Water in June saw a win for RWFF with 64lb 3oz to the host club's 58lb12oz. Mike Gunnell was top rod overall with seven fish for 18lb 3 oz, including several 3lb-plus

fish, caught mainly on nymphs off the Seat and H buoy. Steve Crowson had an eight fish limit for 16lb 5 oz, to continue his excellent run of form this season.

The Bewl match in May saw a rather different result with RWFF bringing up the rear with a less than creditable 13 fish for 24lb 5 oz well behind the hosts, Bewl Bridge FF 'A' who weighed in 60lb 4oz. Most of the match was concentrated in a very small area in Tinker's Marsh at the eastern end of the reservoir, with up to 15 boats packed into an area about the size of Dickenson's Bay! Needless to say most of the RWFF team decided to avoid the crowds – and the fish!

The opening round of the season, the first Association match on Rutland Water back in April, was another closely fought affair with RWFF coming in third with a four man weight of 72lb 14oz. This was topped off by Mike Gunnell's 22lb 13oz eight fish limit from Fantasy Island, while Steve Crowson had 20lb 5 oz, Kevin Taylor 19lb 7oz and Mike Netherclift 10lb 5oz. However, Soldier Palmers again won the day with a total bag of 85lb 4 oz, with all four of their anglers taking eight fish limits with time bonus.

So with two matches to go – at Pitsford in August, and the final Association match at Chew in October – there is still everything to play for!

Juniors Evening

This is due to be held on Friday the 20th August. As usual, Andy Flitcroft is organising it and is anxiously awaiting your 'phone call, volunteering to help out on the day. You don't have to be a pro. – these are kids taking their first steps in flyfishing and just need a little support. So please give Andy a ring on 01572 770703.