

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

Chairman

Mr. J. Maitland
7 St Albans Close
Oakham
Rutland
LE15 6EW
Tel 01572 756650

Secretary

Mr. J. Wadham
6 Mendip Road
Oakham
Rutland
LE15 6NN
Tel 01572 771092

Treasurer

Mr. P. Wild
35 Tennyson way
Stamford
Lincs
PE9 2GZ
Tel 01780 757853

JUNE NEWSLETTER 1998

Fishing Report - June 1998

Bank and general fishing

The wet and sometimes very cold weather conspired to make June fishing a very hit and miss affair. If there is one thing Rutland Trout dislike it is regular wind changes. For example, on the 2nd June at 3pm it was South-westerly. By 3.10pm it was North Easterly. Exactly the same thing happened at other times during the month. This is frustrating for us and the fish. No wonder they are fit. They must travel miles to keep up with the wind changes!

Another feature of June was the very strong winds which on some occasions were near to gale force and the excessive rainfall which was sufficient to raise the source rivers for pumping. The influx brought the level back up to full by 20th. This influx of cold water slowed sport a little as per 1997.

It may have been noticed that fish appeared to be rising in a downwind direction. This was to some extent the result of the sudden wind change which had left a residual under current. This can also occur when a fish passes a food item then turns back to collect it. Try casting "behind" it. It quite often works.

The end of May saw fish onto the North Arm shallows for a week or so. As per usual they remained out of reach for most of the day. Consequently when they did come close enough they proved very finicky. Hopes were high as some very large fish were seen. At this time the rest of the North Arm was suddenly producing fish. Burley fished very well for a few days and some huge fish were seen and lost. In fact at one time the North Arm was the best bet and some tremendous fish were caught from Cardiac Hill and some monsters seen in Dickenson's. Bob Garratt had an encounter with one of these. The fish, a Rainbow estimated at 8lb +, took a small hares ear on the dropper. However during the battle curiosity got the better of a stockie with disastrous results. Need one say more! Moral - only use droppers where there are no stockies or dense weed beds in the area!

Following Bob Garratt's 6lb 4oz Rainbow from Burley whose name I omitted from the April newsletter, Dick Stephen took a splendid fish of 6lb 11 1/4 oz from the Dicko's corner of Burley on a size 14 green "hares ear" nymph on 12th June. The fish gave Dick about quarter of an hour of arm ache on his very light five weight set up. The fish took most of his backing as they usually do in the shallows.

However, there seemed to be plenty of large fish available in the South Arm. The Green Bank being the scene for the capture of a career best for Rob Landless - a Rainbow of 6lb 4oz taken on a tiny Black & Green. The fish which was in mint condition took most of Rob's backing and took ages to land. This fish in common with others had apparently come in to socialise with the stockies! The secretary had just this experience on the Stones. Having taken two 1lb 4oz stockies had a similar rise to the size 14 C-D-C given to him by our Chairman and within seconds had his reel drained to the last turn by his career best a Rainbow of 5lb 11 1/2oz. If this happens to you and you still have a few turns left on the reel, try dropping slack. It certainly works with Sea Trout and it can be tested on Rainbows. Or you could go for a swim! The secretary has done this on Cardiac Hill for a large Brown. Worth it for the fish of a life time! When you enter the water after 9pm you can see why the fish are on the surface in the evenings. It is quite cold further down! Moral - keep reels well backed up.

The Boat Harbour continues to produce some superb Browns and Rainbows which from time to time come in to graze on the abundance of fry round the boat dock. Dave Rix had the best fish a perfect specimen of 8lb 13oz. This fish leads the field for the Trout Fisherman Shield for the best Brown of the season.

The fish was taken in the evening on a Minkie and gave Dave quite a lot of trouble. It was photographed and weighed before being returned to the water. Needless to say Nigel Savage was among the Browns and came up with a lovely 7lb fish which was also returned. This made up for recent disasters when Nigel lost two "cros" in succession. The best an estimated 8lb Rainbow - ouch! A beginner took his first Rainbow here on a Minkie. A perfect over wintered 3lb 10oz specimen. Boy, was he pleased! What a way to start!

Fishing Report (Contd.)

Graham Pearson now leads the stakes for the best Rainbow of the season for the Trout & Salmon shield with a 7lb 11/2 oz Rainbow in mint condition. The fish was caught on a size 12 pheasant tail on a floating line in front of the boat in Hideaway Bay in the South Arm. The fish was the best in the house of Hardy heat on that day and won Graham a Hardy sweater. The fish took some 15 minutes to bring to the boat during which it made a very long powerful run taking nearly all Graham's backing causing him to have to follow it with the boat. The hook was found almost to be bent straight after the fight.

Two good hooks which experience has shown will not bend or snap are the Kamasan B200 l/s and the Drennan "Wet Fly Supreme" and "Traditional Wet". They have shallow cut small barbs and not too long points. These are of course heavy metal so you need plenty of buoyancy aids for dries

The next thing to look forward to is the damsel hatch which at present is an on and off affair. They like to hatch under warm clear sunny skies and need vegetation on which to transpose.

The weed is very extensive around the margins in some areas so, if you are coming from afar, bring a rake and rope with you. The weed is diurnal and therefore will soon reduce in extent on dull days and is less in the early morning. However it does help to make the fish more confident about coming in to the banks. So when these damsels do come in to hatch the fish should be close in to the weed and thus within range. But fish with strong leader as there some very large fish to caught.

As I write the top of the North Arm still has a good head of large fish. One angler taking four pounders in an afternoon on four different patterns. Keep changing the fly it often works and where you have weed in front of you the fish come very close. Therefore, short casting is more effective than trying to fish the horizon! The secretary having lined numerous fish just a few metres off the weed.

Best current places are the Finches, Transformer. Tim Appleton's, in front of the Lodge & Sailing Club Bay over the weed. There are also a good head of large fish in the North Arm shallows in the "Dead Elm" area. Although the excessive weed growth has limited access here to an odd spot. When the wind changes Burley and Dickenson's and the Green Bank/Stones and Old Hall in the South Arm should fish well when the wind allows. These areas will be well rested and the weed should have been cleared by the incoming winds. Fish were seen on Burley Reach on Tuesday morning but were very spooky in the shallow water over the weed. But hurry it could soon become weeded up if it gets sunny. Ha! Ha!

Best patterns for the bank fishing are, G.R.H.E., Palmers, Damsels, Suspenders of all shapes and sizes, CDC Shipman's and small Sedge patterns No harm in putting any of these on a motorbike! Sean Cutting soon put a limit of fish on the bank when he decided to "burn a bit of rubber" with a palmer on the Finches Point one evening. In view of the weed situation then fish most sub - surface nymphs greased or fish dry

Weed Clearance

Jon Marshall is arranging for a "posse" of his staff to make some attempt at making fishing spaces in the blanket weed at the more productive and worst affected areas. Areas to be targeted include Sailing Club bay, and from Tim Appleton's to Armley Wood. The prevailing SW wind has meant that these areas have been becalmed so that the weed got a hold. However, the windy North shores are relatively clear. These should be available for the rest of this week until the wind changes as no doubt it will. Don't forget that this weed is diurnal. So next day if it is sunny you may find that their gaps have to some extent filled in. Jon emphasised that for safety and other reasons chest waders will **not** be permitted

Boat Fishing

This continues at a very high level with the tops of both arms still producing some good fish .The secretary - he does go out in a boat occasionally - in common with others have found good fish at the top of the North Arm. These fish here appeared to be omnivorous. Stomach contents revealed, in order of importance, Corixa, Daphnia, Hog lice, Ostracods (tiny free swimming mussels), Bloodworms, Sedge pupae and more recently Damsel nymphs. Deep nymph fishing with two anchors - for stability - with damsels, metallic buzzers and pheasant tails on long leaders or surface fishing with Shipman's, Suspenders and CDC seem to be the best. tactics. It is not "a fish a throw". You will have to work for them. Which makes it so much more challenging therefore more interesting. The rudder men are still scoring here and there but fishing higher in the water is still more productive. Dave Doherty "Curly" took a 7lb fish from Manton bay on an orange suspender.

The best fishing has been between 10am & 2pm. This coincides with the Damsel hatch and may in part be due to the inordinately cold weather. Evening rises have been at a premium. The North Arm off Tim Appleton's in the "trench" has been the most reliable spot.

The Wadham Trophy - Friday June 5th

This was a great success. Some 11 members took part and 40 fish were caught on a dull evening with a cold Northerly wind. Congratulations to the winner Lin Walters with his "customary" 8 fish for 15lb 5oz. Second was Paul Wild with 7 fish for 9lb 8oz. Third was Dave Summers with 4 fish for 8lb 6oz. There were no blanks and everybody weighed in.

Congratulations to 12 year old Charles Bowers one of our Junior members who fished the match and caught his first Rainbow from the bank at Rutland. There are anglers who have had many visits before succeeding in opening their account. This really was quite an achievement. As they say "if you can catch at Rutland you can catch anywhere".

As nobody had hitherto submitted a fish for the trophy for the best Rainbow by a Junior member then Charles's 11lb 5oz fish is eligible for the prize.

Our thanks to Stephie for keeping the bar open at the lodge for the celebration drink.

"Career Bests" - The best indicator of the quality of the fishing is the number of members who have caught their career best Browns and Rainbows this season. Please let the secretary know of your achievements. A list, which will certainly make impressive reading and indicate to the rest of the angling world that we are masters of our water will eventually be sent to the Angling press. The Secretary knows of at least fifteen members (secretary included) who have achieved this in 1998.

English National Youth Final - Sunday 19th July 1998 & English International Youth Final - Sunday 5th August 1998 - Rutland Water.

The organisers are still seeking boatmen for both of these events. Their help is urgently needed. If you can help out please contact Mike Edey at home on 01733 203385 or at work on 01480 450771. Alternatively you can give your name to Nathan Clayton at the Fishing lodge on 01780 686441

Open day for the Disabled Saturday June 6th 1998.

We are very grateful to Jon Marshall for loaning R.W.F.F. their mobile courtesy caravan for the day. Nothing much happened until about 1230 when suddenly there was a queue to have a go with a fly rod. There were some very amusing incidents. One youngster was seen to the horror of the Recreation & Development Manager to be trying to catch the line on peoples back casts! Needless to say there was no fly attached. Some of our "moaning minnies" could learn something from the pleasure they gained just from having a go at casting. A very big thank you to the two members Lewis Carlin and Len Francis who managed to find the time to turn up and help out. We had about 50 "through our hands" during the afternoon. So a little more help would have been acceptable. To see them enjoying themselves and laughing their socks off when they got the line around their necks was worth all the limits in the world!

Disabled International Saturday/Sunday 19th/20th June

A big thank you from the organisers and A.W.S. to the club members who helped to make the event such a success.

Club Competitions - results

Oliver Cup - congratulations to Steve Crowson for winning the first leg with 8 fish for 15lb 1oz. (17lb 1oz including time bonus). Fourteen anglers took part and did very much better than last year catching 49 fish compared with 5 by 10 anglers in 1997. The rest of the results are enclosed.

Hanby Cup - Well done Graham Pearson and Mike Barrett for winning this event with a combined weight of 32lb 5oz. The best fish was a 4lb 4oz Rainbow caught by Ian Fixter. Rest of the results are enclosed.

Forthcoming Competitions

Roger Thom Trophy Sunday 12th July. The application form for this is enclosed again as Sean seems only to have a moderate response so far. So if you want to fish return your forms to Sean a.s.a.p.

Loch Style Competition - Sunday August 2nd 1998. As this is a pairs event Sean would like a sum of £24 - 00 to be forwarded to cover the cost of both anglers in the boat

R.W.F.F. Pro/Am Sunday 23rd August. Sean urgently requires some more "Pros" & "Ams" to make a "go" of the event.

Any queries re the above events please contact Sean on 01780 720833

Weighing of specimen fish for the Annual Specimen Fish Trophies.

Please note the is quite acceptable to have your fish weighed on the bank in the presence of a witness and then have the scales checked against those at the lodge. This means that a fish caught “at the death” can still be eligible. However a form, available at the Lodge, must be submitted with your claim.

Winter Programme 1998/99

At the Committee meeting on Tuesday July 7th the subject of winter events will be discussed in some depth. If you have any suggestions contact the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer or any other committee member as soon as you can. Its your club and your committee wants to give you best value for your subscriptions. This year, so as to save an administrative nightmare, application forms for membership renewal will be sent out immediately after the A.G.M which falls on November 10th 1998 at which the 1998/99 the fee will be decided. This will give you ample time for renewal before December 31st as per Rule 5(c) of the club constitution.

Juniors Evening - Thursday July 16th 1998

Have a good July and don't forget to bring that rake! You may then be able to fish untapped waters

Yours Sincerely

John Wadham - Hon. Secretary