

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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June 1999 Newsletter

Dear Member,

June was a month of ups and downs with some tremendous catches from both bank and boat with the phenomenal buzzer hatches continuing well into the month. Then, just like hawthorn hatch, it came to an abrupt halt.

It was quite clear that the fish were getting more and more selective. The fish were also wising up to the pressure. The result was that, as often happens this time of year, the boat fisherman were getting the lions share of the fish (more of that anon) and the fish only visited the bank for short feeding spells.

When the fish did finally come in they proved mighty difficult. However the ridiculous approach still worked as was confirmed by one member to whom the secretary gave a damsel nymph with strict instructions that it be fished greased up!

There were some days when the fish were around the banks for a full eight hours. In one case, a line up of some five good men and true could only put four fish on the bank in that period. The greatest problem was that accurate casting was needed to be in with a chance. With the fish feeding at the casting limit this was hard to achieve. So a rise or pull tended to be a matter of luck. If a fish did move close then there was a better than even chance of a result.

Gary Chewter and his friend Kevin from County Durham showed us all how to do it with a black tadpole in the bright sun. They had a great week catching some fine fish. They say "if you can't imitate the action imitate the colour" Yes, it really does work. The secretary succeeded with it - greased up of course!

Dick Stephen was quite right in suggesting that it is the movement of the nymph that is the hardest thing to copy. At least the damsel, tadpole or any nymph tied with a mobile material does go some way towards this.

When the sedge first appeared early in the month, the fish were found to contain a few samples. But these tended to be outnumbered by a smaller buzzer.

The diet is now more varied with Daphnia now on the menu. P. Wild and N.D Goodson soon had their limit in the Hanby Cup in the main basin fishing deep. It was so easy that they changed to fishing in front of the boat. The Daphnia bloom in the harbour has to be seen to be appreciated.

Rob Holloway wrote in to tell us about a very interesting and productive day he had near Stockie Bay on Sunday 20th June. He was mighty pleased to have caught eight rainbows up to 3½lb - plus three Browns - all returned. During this hectic three and a half hour spell he also played and landed a Pike of about 19lb on a damsel nymph - not greased up! The fish took most of his backing and during the battle was closely followed by its mate. His fish were caught on damsels and a white "Fritz" lure and were found to be feeding on "pin" fry. It is a little worrying that, as the Cormorants have apparently cleared out the coarse fish, there now seems nothing to act as a buffer against the pike predation. To judge by the number of damaged fish, the Pike have turned on the Trout. As witnessed last back end, a seven pound rainbow is no match for a hungry pike.

Fishing Report(Contd.)

Many years ago, following the example of Clive Loveland who took a 39lb Pike from Knipton Reservoir on a Pike live bait, we thought we would try it on our local water in Nottingham. Result - a 7lb Pike on a 4lb Pike live bait! So it seems that the sky is the limit!

Graham Pearson reports having caught numerous pike this season up to 20lb on the tubes.

The algae which appeared in mid month as brought the fishing from boat and bank virtually to a standstill. This seriously affected the result of the Ladies Home International which was fished in a heat wave. The Daphnia has now put paid to the algae and the water is now beautifully clear.

As if to frustrate all theories the Dam and Fantasy Island suddenly produced limits on Sunday 27th June - the hottest day of the year! The wind was south easterly so presumably the water in the Fantasy end of the Dam was just that much cooler. Most of the fish were taken on the Buzzer.

Other parts are producing but as mentioned earlier on a rather hit and miss basis.

Best fish from the bank since Lewis Carlin's eleven pounder is the 9lb 8oz Brown caught from Whitwell Creek by Keith Landless of Skipton on a buzzer on a floating line.

Most productive area for bank fishing at the moment seems to be East of a line drawn from Whitwell Creek to the Normanton Three Trees to include Fantasy Island and the Dam with some fish chasing fry here.

Two generations of fry have returned to the boat dock - no doubt to graze on the clouds of daphnia. The only predators appearing to take an interest in them so far being a shoal of Perch. No doubt some mighty trout will soon put in an appearance.

An angler known affectionately at the Lodge as the "wall man" took a beautiful 5lb 2½oz Rainbow from the harbour wall on a "swimming" damsel nymph - what do damsels normally do? apart from get distressed now and then! This fish seemed to prefer to join the fry in grazing on the Daphnia. This is the "wall man's" first season's trout fishing. Good on yer cobber!

While on the subject of the harbour, the recent discovery of a 15lb 14oz distressed Brown swimming feebly round the boat dock raised a few eyebrows and made ones 10ft AFTM 5 tackle look very inadequate. You could need plenty of backing if you encountered one of these monsters. The fish was outwardly in very good nick measuring only 29" with a girth of 19" - looking more like a carp in shape.

It is good to report that, with cooler weather, the fishing has improved considerably as borne out by the result of the Hanby Cup - given elsewhere in this letter. However most of the fish were taken deep on fast sinking lines.

But, on the same evening, Nathan Clayton and "Curly" caught them on dries at Tim Appleton's - so there is still some surface movement.

There are still fish to be caught from the bank. Stuart Ross from Radcliffe took a lovely 5 pounder from the Finches at mid day on Sunday also on a dry fly.

Boat Fishing

England won the Home International with 81 fish fore 227lb 1oz. In contrast to the ladies event this was fished in perfect overcast conditions with a light wind. The bulk of the fish coming from the top of the South arm where plenty of 3-4lb fish were taken.

The best boat fishing is to be had at the top of both arms although, as hinted at earlier, the main basin seems to be filling up with daphnia feeders.

The best method at the tops of the arms has been to keep on the move searching for fish and, when you can creep up on them, present your dries as accurately as possible. The fish seem at the moment to be well spread out and not always right at the top of the arms It seemed as if one could tell which individuals were takers. Those that move more than once seem more vulnerable as they give one some idea of their direction. It is fair to assume that the single risers are see-sawing .i.e. rising to take the hatching nymph and returning to the bottom. So when you cast at them they are looking the wrong way!

Boat Fishing (Contd.)

Dries in the form of CDCs have been the most useful patterns on the dull days with deeper fished buzzer nymphs more effective on the bright days. On these bright days there seems only to be an evening rise: but on the dull days they are continually on the move.

Typical of the quality of the fishing was Nigel Savages 2 hour spell in the top of the North Arm which produced 6 fish for some 22lb with the best fish a 5lb 6oz in superb condition.

We are grateful to Dave Doherty known to many as "Curly" who has had countless 4-5lb fish from this area for the foregoing information.

However the secretary did venture out to confirm his report but as always when he goes out in a boat the wind changes and puts them down! They did however move long enough for him and Ted Cornish to bag a few and to see how many fish there were up there. There is an expression in common use and it goes as follows "Should have been here Thursday" - not much good for the weekend fisherman!. I think it ought to read "should have been here tomorrow"!

Don't forget to observe the 50m limit from the Nature Reserve bank when "up the arms" as any transgression could get the powers that be "up in arms"

Congratulations to former RWFF member Wendy Miller member for achieving the individual winning weight in the Ladies Home International by a huge margin by catching nine fish for 17lb 10oz in near impossible conditions. She with Jane Percy were almost entirely instrumental in England's win. Not surprisingly she was exhausted after wielding an 11ft rod and a fast sinking line all day. England Team caught 24 fish for 49lb 6oz which works out at 1.7 fish per rod which reflected the temporary slump in the fishing.

House of Hardy Eliminator

Congratulations to R.W.F.F. "A" Team for winning through to the final at Rutland in July

Tuesday night Boat League

Congratulations to Tony Shields from Harby for winning the event twice in succession. He is now the clear leader so far.

Odds and Sods - First Eliminator Sunday - 16th May - Rutland Water

Well done to Graham Pearson for winning this event.

Club Competitions

The Wadham Bank Trophy - Friday June 4th 1999

Results:-

1st	Iain Barr	8 Fish	16lb 6¾oz
2nd	Dan Perks	4 Fish	9lb 15oz
3rd	Nathan Clayton	5 fish	9lb 1¼oz

Thirteen fished and caught 29 fish weighing 55lb 3¼oz. Not a bad result on such a cold, almost wintry evening with the minimum of fish seen. Congratulations to Iain Barr for doing so well in such rotten conditions

On the same night and following day Nathan Clayton - England Youth Team Manager and Ian Barr did a 24 Hour bank & boat "fish in" in aid of the E.Y.F.A. They have so far raised some £500 and when all sponsorship moneys have been received hope to exceed £1000.

Iain caught 18 fish and Nathan 13. All fish were returned. Interestingly, fish were hard to tempt from the bank at night although a movement was seen at 0200 hours!

Oliver Cup 1st Round - Rutland Water - Sunday June 13th 1999

The Hanby Cup - Rutland Water - Sunday June 27th 1999

Please see attached results sheet for the above matches as submitted by our hard working competition secretary Sean Cutting

Juniors News

House of Hardy Eliminator

Congratulations to the R.W.F.F. Youth Team Competitor - Roo Burrows - who caught the best fish of the day - a Rainbow of 4lb 9oz and won himself a House of Hardy Fleece Jacket and well done the rest of you for taking part on a difficult day.

Thanks for all the hard work by Andy Flitcroft in managing to put a team together.

World Youth Fly Fishing Eliminator Saturday/Sunday 24th/ 25th April 1999

A brilliant win was achieved by R.W.F.F junior member Jonathan Tomlinson which puts him back in the world team giving him his third "cap".

The match was held to "F.I.P.S. - Mouche" catch and release rules. This system gives 100 points for every fish caught over 30cm plus 20 points for every cm length of fish.

On Saturday Jonathan caught 18 fish and Sunday 12 fish.

The World Championships are to be held in Ireland in August on three different Loughs.

We wish him the best of luck.

15 year old Matthew Tolliday got in on the boat fishing action in the South Arm by taking a perfect Rainbow of 4lb 14½oz on a Diawl -Bach on a floating line. This fish helped him to third place in the Tuesday Night Boat league match on June 22nd and is arguably the second largest Rainbow caught by a Junior R.W.F.F. member and makes him runner up to Paul Abbott's fish of 5lb 8oz reported in the April/May issue.

Juniors Evening - Thursday 15th July 1999.

See enclosed poster for details. We are still looking for boatmen to help out so the boys and girls will not be disappointed. The event starts at about 2.00 pm with casting instruction & then out in a boat from 5.00pm to 10.00pm for a quick weigh in and prize giving. Andy Flitcroft has put in a lot of work on this. So the more that can come the better. So far we have about 23 children and but alas only 17 boatmen. As it is on a one to one we need an equal number of boatmen and competitors. It is a great fun evening and has been a great success each year. Names to Andy Flitcroft on 01780 754004 (Home) or 01733 465779 at work (E.M.A.P.)

Rutland Water - Open Day For the Disabled - Saturday June 5th 1999

In the absence of any other club member the Secretary and Len Francis were kept very busy. We set up targets for people to aim at using fly tackle and a piece of orange wool. To see how much joy hitting the targets gave to parents and the disabled alike made for a very enjoyable event. We have never been called darling so often. A very rewarding day. While appreciating that not everyone can come and help out, I hope all those who did not attend had as much fun as we did on the day. Our thanks to members who offered apologies and sadly could not make it on the day. We were very lucky with the weather as the rain came just after everyone had gone.

Round and About - briefly!

Grafham

Boat anglers seem to be having a bonanza on the dries fished in front of the boat with two locals catching 32 fish drifting the boils in the middle of the top end of the lake.

Pitsford

Boat anglers are enjoying the best of the sport but, in contrast with Grafham, sinking lines & lures have been most effective during the day. There have been odd evening rises.

Ravensthorpe

The same deep fishing seems to apply here as at Pitsford as the fish have moved into deeper water with Damsels, Corixa and Diawl Bach being the most effective patterns.

Tight Lines!

Yours sincerely

John Wadham - Hon. Secretary