

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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JUNE NEWSLETTER 2000

Dear Member

Fishing Report

Weather wise June carried on where May left off! What ever happened to Summer 2000? Remember those lovely settled spells in January. In fact, on four occasions this month, it was cooler than in January. Midsummer day June 21st 2000 - 12deg. C - fresh westerly wind. January 1st 2000 - 12deg. C light southerly. Which would you prefer? The Pike were pulling well then and the chub were up on the surface in the canals! No sign of them since! Enough doom and gloom!

Back to the lake. The fishing has been very patchy as a result of the ever - changing wind direction. The very calm weather experienced one day in May resulted in a very dense algal bloom that rendered a good deal of the lake unfishable. This was almost certainly caused by the very large influx of flood water in the Spring which, inevitably, at that time of year contains a very high level of nutrients washed in off the land. The strong Westerly wind the following day soon put paid to that. Next day it had completely disappeared: with only the minimum of impact on the fishing.

The mega fall of rain which flooded vast areas of the North of England also brought the lake level back up to full with a consequent drop in temperature and a temporary lull in sport. The North Arm was discoloured by flood water as far East as the Finches and in the South Arm as far East as Berrybuts.

Some very large fish have been caught.

Andre Sales from France took a splendid 10lb 14oz Rainbow from the point of the Old Hall. The fish was caught on a small Montana very close in. Apparently the fish did not dispute hard for its liberty and was in the net in a couple of minutes. An hour before that the Secretary was on hand to photograph Brian Moore's P.B. 8lb 2oz rainbow taken from the point of the Stones on a Diawl Bach. This fish, measuring 26ins, was in good nick and put up quite a struggle.

Quite a number of 8lb plus fish have been caught including an 8lb 10oz rainbow from Manton Bay and an 8lb 10oz Brown from Stockie Bay. A 9lb 9oz fish was caught from the South Arm on a hare's ear. This is one of the great joys of Rutland. These are "wild" fish.

A number of anglers have been broken by unseen monsters. Tom Pattenden was one of these unfortunate souls. While fishing near the Transformer, he hooked what was almost certainly a "double", on a hares ear CDC on the dropper, only for it to break away during in the battle. He covered the fish as it wandered slowly up a wind lane well within range and it made a beeline for his offering. It was the largest fish he had seen and covered since the lake opened.

So, be ready for them with stouter tackle and preferably with a large arbour reel capable of taking at least.150 M of backing. Then you are also equipped for e.g. bone fishing or salmon in a large river. You never know what you are going to meet next. That is the essence of Rutland.

It is interesting that many of the larger fish are on some diet other than buzzer. Snails and larger fry seem to be the most common food item. One 5lb fish caught near the Transformer positively rattled with snails!

The hordes of needle fry have attracted a lot of fish and anglers to the bank between Normanton Church and the Dam. Isn't it funny! What ever the fish are feeding on in Rutland they soon become impossible and no more so than when they are on needle fry. However Tommy Graham had a very good week here, fishing "on the swing" with two diawl bachs. Try these fry feeders with a "distracter" (no such word - I know) like a palmer or muddler whipped past their noses. The Secretary and others have turned one or two heads with this method.

Remember - while they are feeding and you can't catch them they are putting on weight. Roll on October!

The perch have also been having a bonanza on these fry. So look carefully to see what species you are casting at. Even they are about as easy to catch as the trout!

Fishing Report (Contd.)

Best patterns – for the trout of course - seem to be Diawl Bachs with a red holographic rib & Hares Ears/buzzer/ sedge pupae imitations either sub surface when they are not showing and in CDC form when they start moving. The rising fish have been very hard to interest once they get preoccupied : although, some good fish have been hooked and lost.

The insect hatches have been enough to drive one into the car to shelter from the whining throng. A sponge soaked in fairy liquid is a useful addition to motoring spares. This can be applied to the windscreen to improve your vision of the road ahead when you are clear of the “clouds”. These hordes have resembled thick fog with the taller trees appearing to resemble smoking chimneys. The main hatches have been buzzers, sedges, caenis and buzzer again in that order. A few damsels have been seen.

There are plenty of fish in the shallows at the moment. But some of the rises forms here are very indistinct – just two inches of back slowly easing through the surface film. The Secretary met one angler who “hadn’t seen a fish all afternoon”. When the Secretary pointed out a movement there was still some doubt until the offending fish was covered and came to a palmer “on a motorbike”. So, keep your eyes and ears peeled. Quite often you can hear them moving without actually seeing them. The sound they make resembles a click. This often happens when they are on corixa or “tomato seeds” (red water mites). These latter are a useless food item and appear to pass through the fish undigested. However, something small & red can take them.

The fish are feeding through the day at the moment. So, you evening fisherman need to get on them before they get totally preoccupied on the aforementioned “ blizzard” of insects. Best chance of a take is just as they start to move or at the death when the big buzzers appear.

For those not in the know. The diawl bach is simply tied. Pheasant tail or furnace cock hackle fibres for the tail and for the beard. Peacock body ribbed with red holographic tinsel. Best size is 12 or 14. A hot scarlet or orange head adds a bit of spice. It seems to resemble most things. Best fished slowly but not necessarily too deep.

Competition News

Congratulations to Dave Shipman for becoming Commonwealth champion by being 6th 9th 1st and 2nd respectively in each heat. England won with 268 points. Anglian offered their thanks to local anglers who had volunteered as boatmen.

Well done Leon Smith for winning the qualifying heat at Grafham in torrential rain for the £5000 four water match with 8 fish for 26lb 5oz plus 4lb time bonus. Gordon Bloodworth was third with 8 fish for 26lb 2oz plus 7lb time bonus.

The annual Pro/Am was won by the evidently in form Dave Shipman with 17 fish for 34lb 3oz. Dave also had the best fish of 3lb 12oz. The match was fished to an 8 fish limit followed by C&R in perfect conditions with a fish per rod average of 6.

Tuesday Boat League

Leon Smith won the end of May heat with Barry Vaughan a close second.

In the following week Gordon Bloodworth won easily with 7 fish for 13lb 11¾oz from Barnsdale Creek

William Ilsey scored a maximum to win the third week match and a free boat and goes into third place behind the leader Leon Smith and runner up Barry Vaughan.

All the above competition news has been obtained by the secretary by reading around and keeping his ear to the ground. How about some of you sending him news of your achievements? Come on, don’t be shy!

Club Competitions – see also attached news sheet from Sean Cutting**Wadham Trophy**

This was fished in near perfect conditions for evening fishing with a light wind. Fish were caught fairly widely. Congratulations to the winner Iain Barr. He fished mainly in the East Creek/Pontoon Bay Area and caught on Diawl Bach & various buzzers. Dick Stephen caught his on the point of the Old Hall. Leon Smith caught fish just over the barrier beyond the sailing club. On the same day a Norfolk angler took a 7lb 2oz rainbow from here. Roger McCarthy didn’t help his chances by sportingly returning a Brown!

Commiseration to those who struggled to find fish. But, that’s Rutland all over.

Results:-	1	Iain Barr	8 fish	17lb 11oz
	2	Dick Stephen	4 fish	8lb 5oz
	3	Leon Smith	4 fish	7lb 12oz
Best fish		Iain Barr	Brown	3lb 4oz
		Dick Stephen	Rainbow	3lb 4oz

Club Competition News (Contd.)

Hanby Cup – Sunday 18th June

This was fished under a blistering sun but with a fresh Southerly wind. Most fish were taken from Normanton and the South Arm.

1	Graham Pearson & Mike Barratt	16 fish	30lb 12oz
2	Mike Netherclift & Sean Cutting	16 Fish	27lb 15oz
3	Ian Fixter & Jay Tyson	14 fish	24lb 9½oz
Best Fish	Paul Buck	Brown	4lb 9oz

RWFF - Juniors Evening - Thursday 20th July 2000 – Rutland Water

Andy Flitcroft who is organising the event is still in looking for boatmen for this very important event in the RWFF calendar. Three people have so far volunteered. We cannot afford to lose this opportunity to get youngsters into the sport. 30 boats have been booked. So far 17 juniors have put their names on the list.

They will start turning up from about 2.30pm. The secretary will be there from 2.00pm. This is a good chance to give the early arrivals some casting instruction. So any help with this would be appreciated. They set out to fish from boats at 5.00pm to be back to weigh in at 1000pm. We hope to be able to fish in the boats on a one to one basis.

A lot of work goes into the organisation of this event. This has ensured its success each year.

Please, if you can help on the night and prevent disappointment to the boys and girls who represent the future of our sport, please contact Andy at work on 01733 465054 or at home on 01780 754004.

There are all sorts of valuable prizes. Contact Andy for details.

Ladies Day - Sunday 18th June – Rutland Water

This was a great success although we did not have a full house. However on a one to three basis we were able to give the girls more individual attention. We discussed tackle then went out to try casting on the grass. After lunch it was onto the harbour wall for “ the real thing”. Fish were seen chasing needle fry right up to the wall and hopes were high. They proved obdurate however. Eventually one of the ladies shouted “ I’ve got one” and after a hectic fight the secretary was able to net a lovely 3½lb Rainbow for Jackie Glin from Oxfordshire. What was especially nice was that the fish was admired by all present. Photos were obtained. The end of a great day and just as memorable as one’s best fishing days.

RWFF Website

Gary Legge is pleased with how the site is running and has had much favourable comment on the information it provides. The following facilities are now available:-

- 1 Accessing “what’s new” gives plenty of report information. There is a message board facility where members can post information, discuss a relevant topic or merely pass the time of day with other club members etc
- 2 There is a growing Photo Board and more photos would be welcome - prints only please. Gary would like more of these, especially of Rutland in the early days either e.mailed or posted – with captions
- 3 There is a facility on the site for selling second hand tackle. Club members just have to e.mail Gary for the details and the items will be listed on the site for three months or a request for remove sent.
- 4 There is also a facility for members to buy fly fishing books and videos on line. On the home page, members just need to click on the fly fishing books text and they will be directed straight to the list of books and videos that can be purchased there and then. This very useful function takes the stress out of shopping around and goods are available at very competitive prices. Well worth a look!

Wishing you all tight lines

Yours Sincerely

John Wadham Hon. Secretary