

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



June 2004

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DIARY DATES

Sun. 22nd June
Oliver Cup,
Round 1 Rutland

Fri. 25th June
Water Aid
Challenge

Sun. 13th June
Hanby Cup

Sun. 22nd June
Oliver Cup,
Round 1, Rutland

Fri. 20th August
Juniors Evening

Sun. 26th Sept.
Oliver Cup,
Round 2 Grafham

Sun. 5th Sept
Loch Style

Sun. 17th Oct.
Cutting Trophy
Round 2, boat



Fishing Report May 2004

May was a month of warm sunshine and numerous flat calms. Following a very wet April the lake remained at a very high level giving a good depth of water for the bank fisherman thus keeping the fish well inshore: therefore wading was almost unnecessary. Water temperature has now caught up to average at 16degC. Lets hope that this year it does not reach the dangerous level of 20degC at 4 metres -experienced in August 2003.

Early in the month, Old hall point fished well with some nice silvery fish caught. Since then the main basin has fished well all through the month with Stockie Bay to Whitwell Creek and the Fishing Lodge to Fantasy Island the most productive according to wind direction.

In mid month algae "hit" the South Arm and killed the fishing stone dead. It only lasted a few days then cleared and the fish were soon back on the feed.

For some hitherto unknown reason, the North Arm is still unproductive save perhaps Dickenson's Road End and just West of Armley Wood. JW has tried these spots regularly without result so far. However, the paucity of fish here has been made up for by the number of fish available East of a line drawn from the Sailing Club to The Seat at Whitwell Creek! The main diet throughout the month has been daphnia and small Olive Buzzers. Although there have been intermittent hatches of larger insects. On one occasion

John Wadham's Fishing Report

the water appeared brown in colour due to a daphnia bloom running out of Whitwell Creek towards the Dam. Those on this mark did very well. In the Army boat match one competitor fishing this area bagged up in the first hour as did the bank anglers. Yet those fishing close by in Stockie Bay failed to score. These localised colonies of daphnia could account for the periodic patchy nature of the fishing.

Evening rises have been at a premium - not only here but at other lakes in the UK. So perhaps we better judge our hatches by the number of buzzers on our car number plates at each site! However, on a recent evening visit to Normanton Three Trees bank, Danny Perks found more fish rising behind him than in front. He adjusted to the situation and had quite a bonanza!

Morning fishing has been best with some taking limits before 9.00am. Most effective patterns have been the dreaded Dawson's Olive and black and green lures: and for the more delicate approach Buzzers in various colours and Diawlbachs tied with a red holographic rib

Many outside coarse fish have been caught this a season. Leading the field was the 3lb 1oz roach taken from the bank at the Stones by former club member Malcolm Hatton, now living in Somerset. The fish, which brought gasps of amazement from all those present, made national headlines and was photographed by John Wadham before being lovingly returned to the water by its captor. Stuart Ross recently caught a double figure Carp from the bank in front of the Whitwell car park on a damsel nymph.

It is very gratifying to note that weed beds are at last appearing in the old familiar place, e.g. Old Hall corner, Transformer etc. John Wadham writes the weekly bank reports for AWS. So if you want to know where its at, give him a ring at home or on 07762 607630

Boats

They have done very well right through the month with some excellent catches: firstly from the main basin and then from the top of the South Arm. Catches included early well-mended stockies and some over-wintered fish. Yes! Even boat fishing was affected by the "48 hour" algae that appeared over the weekend of May 20th and reduced catches to a minimum.

The top of the South Arm is now at last fishing very well with some splendid bags of fish. Paul Wild had a great catch here including 7 Rainbows and one Brown for a total weight of 24lb. The best fish was the Brown weighing 6lb 1oz. This is the first brown Paul has killed this season.

His catch which included 4 over-wintered fish were boated between 1030 and 1330 hours. This followed on a similar catch he had earlier in the month, which included Rainbows to 4lb 5oz.

Best Brown of the season weighing 8lb 11oz has been caught by Phil Hill from South Normanton near Chesterfield. The fish which, took a black buzzer on his last cast of the day, was part of the best limit bag recorded this season comprising eight fish for 26lb 8oz. Al Owen has been getting in on the action in the top of the South Arm. He had the fright of his life when he observed a brown in the 15-20lb region wandering past his boat! Floating lines and black & olive buzzers have taken most of the honours and have generally out-fished lures.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES - John Maitland, Chairman RWFF



The season hardly seems to have begun before here we are coming into full summer. My own fishing has been a bit limited due to knee trouble but my string has been pulled a few times. Rutland I have found to be very patchy; bank places where one normally expects to find trout in Spring seem to have been quite empty while a few hotspots have been full of fish - at times! A recent boat day with Dick Stephen should have found fish on the Big Brown Buzzer of late May but we coincided with the start of a bloom of algae the colour of cow manure which totally turned the fish off; we struggled for one each. Thank goodness the water is now clear again. However, earlier in May at Pitsford I was fortunate to get a grand rainbow of 61b 6oz from a boat. It took a Diawl Bach fished on a floater and was either over-wintered or a very early stockie, a perfect fish.

I am glad to see that the new seat-board shelter seems to be working OK, provided that the boards are returned neatly. The chute into the money box has jammed a couple of times but Dick Stephen recently opened up the slot into the box and I hope that this will not happen again.

My future fishing is now split between salmon (mainly in Scotland) and the local reservoirs. Let us hope for better fly hatches and more surface feeding trout.

Tuesday Evening Boat League - 2004

This very popular series got under way on May 11th. This is a light-hearted event but a great way to learn about the sport without taking it too seriously.

This season, on some evenings, there has been as many as forty contestants.

The Cooper family are in the thick of it with junior member Richard taking best junior spot in the second round.

June 1st event. Paul Shaw won this leg with the Cooper family, Graham Tom and Gary respectively taking the next three spots if you please!

Roger Thom Trophy

This very successful match was fished on a very hot and sunny day with little or no wind. The twelve members who took part caught 74 fish mainly from the south Arm on floating line & buzzers. This gave a rod average of 6.1 fish.

Result:-

1	John Tattersfield	8 fish 15lb 15oz
2	Gary Cooper	8 fish 15lb 10½oz
3	Nigel Millner	8 fish 13lb 11oz

Water Aid – Challenge Friday 25th June 2004

Water Aid is a very well organised charity, run by the water undertakings to supply water resource and sanitation technology to underdeveloped countries.

In our endeavours to support this cause, we are doing pretty well for volunteers as boatmen and instructors for this event. However more would be welcome.

The briefing will be at 0830. So, please get there before that time.

The day before the event, Malcolm March and John Wadham will be assembling the outfits for the 40 beginners who will be taking part.

Provided enough volunteers are available, fishing will hopefully be on a one to one basis.

Further details available from Chris Evans at AWS who is co-ordinating the event on 01733 414163 or 07785 135597.



PAUL BAGS UP EARLY

Paul Wild, our treasurer, shows off his catch, before going for lunch. The terrific bag included 7 Rainbows and one Brown for a total weight of 24lb. The best fish was the Brown weighing 6lb 1oz. This is the first brown Paul has killed this season.

His catch which included 4 over-wintered fish were boated between 1030 and 1330 hours at the top of the South Arm, which at last appears to be producing.

RWFF Juniors evening Friday 20nd August 2004



This event has been a great success in previous seasons. We need experienced boatman who would be willing to spend a few hours in a boat helping a youngster take the first steps in our sport. To see the look on their faces when they catch their first trout is wonderful to behold. If you can help, please contact Andy Flitcroft on 01572 770703

We are also looking for youngsters, preferable aged over 12 who, accompanied by an adult, would like the opportunity to try out fly fishing. It costs £15 which includes lots of goodies. If you know anyone please get them or their parents to contact either Andy or the Fishing Lodge.

Thanks to the sponsorship we receive from AWS and the tackle trade, this is a wonderful opportunity to get youngsters into the sport. There will be plenty of prizes. The day starts with casting tuition from 2.00pm. Then we all go out in a boat from 4.00pm to 8.30pm to receive one to one tuition and catch that first fish. As last year, due to child protection issues, **only juniors accompanied by a parent/ carer/ adult sibling in a boat, supported by an experienced boatman, will be allowed to fish.** To comply with Health and Safety considerations, all boatmen will be briefed by John Wadham on their responsibilities and behaviour prior to fishing. This is for everyone's protection so please don't let it put you off from helping on this very enjoyable and worthwhile event. Boatmen should report at around 3 p.m. but it is important that you let Andy Flitcroft know that you are coming. It is a difficult job matching the numbers of youngsters to boatmen so an early phone call would be appreciated.

Graham Cooper (Tom's uncle) receives second prize in John Wadham Bank Trophy at Rutland Water



13 Year old Tom Cooper takes victory in John Wadham Bank Trophy at Rutland Water Tom receiving his trophy from John Wadham



RWFF - John Wadham Bank Trophy

14 members fished on a lovely overcast but warm summer evening. Congratulations to the youngest member of the club - 13-year-old Tom Cooper from Empingham who won the event. He caught 4 fish for 8lb 5oz on - yes - an orange blob on an intermediate line. He was fishing East of Normanton Church. With a Brown of 2lb 5oz he also shared the weight for the biggest fish with Danny Perks. This is only Tom's second season so his future looks bright - orange perhaps!

It is great to see skilled youngsters coming through. They are the future of our sport and should be encouraged. As may be seen from the results the Cooper family seem to be a pretty skilled bunch of fly fishers.

The competitors accounted for 28 fish weighing 49lb 4oz. The catch was a mixture of Browns and Rainbows and were caught mainly between the Sailing Club and Normanton Three (now two!) Trees.

Photos by arrangement with Anglian Water Services: as John Wadham managed to drop his camera just before the anglers returned for the weigh in!

NAME	No.	WGT.	BEST PLACE
Tom Cooper (Junior)	4	8lb 5oz	2lb 5oz 1
Graham Cooper	4	7lb 12oz	2lb 4oz 2
Lin Walters	5	7lb 4oz	2lb 0oz 3
Dan Perks	3	6lb 0oz	2lb 5oz 4
Martin Tomlinson	3	5lb 6oz	2lb 1oz 5
Luke Shevlin	2	3lb 5oz	1lb 9oz 6
Jamie Weston	2	3lb 4oz	1lb 12oz 7
Richard Cooper (Junior)	2	3lb 0oz	1lb 8oz 8
Hilary Tomlinson	1	2lb 0oz	2lb 0oz 9
Roger McCarthy	1	1lb 8oz	1lb 8oz 10
Nigel Millner	1	1lb 8oz	1lb 8oz 11
Totals	14 Anglers	28 Fish	49lb 4oz

LAST KNOCKINGS - A WRY LOOK AT GOINGS ON AT RUTLAND



Well I don't whether the ospreys are breeding this year but the osprey poles in Manton Bay certainly are, in fact a new perch has appeared almost exactly where "the sticks" used to be, either that or English Nature has decided to commemorate the spot where I was once fortunate enough to catch a 7lb rainbow, however there's no sign of the blue plaque yet. It would be nice to think that the fishery was consulted about its siting and location but I somehow doubt that is the case.



"Cast not a clout until May is out" is an old adage that still holds true. Roy Kedge will confirm it, on a recent warm, muggy, sunny early evening he was only wearing a thin short sleeved shirt and set off to the South Arm in the Tuesday Night League, 2 hours later he had convinced boat partner Al Owen to bring him in early before he developed hypothermia. The air had cooled, the easterly wind picked up, it was definitely a bit nippy and those lifejackets just don't keep you warm. Gallant Al abandoned his evenings fishing and brought Roy in early, apparently his chattering teeth were frightening the fish and his shivering was making the boat judder, yet only only a fortnight later Roy left his coat behind on the pontoon. It was cold though and I should know I was the only one wearing shorts!



Young Charles Bowers from the shop has been giving the Tuesday Night League a go this season and he came in with one of the more unusual catches a couple of weeks ago, a foul hooked 4lb+ eel, I somehow doubt that he was fishing dry flies but I bet it gave a good scrap. You don't walk around long with an eel of that quality for very long without being collared by "Crafty Cockney" Ken Meridan (who has obviously been missing his London diet); the eel was last seen heading home with Ken as a special treat for his wife. Apparently it's a long time since she's set eyes on such a specimen. Charles puts his ability down to thinking like a fish and only recently was to be seen sporting an orange blob in his lip - he feels their pain!



During spring and early summer when the fish are cooperative there is a bit of guiding work that goes on at Rutland that helps one or two locals with the cost of their season tickets and also hopefully gives a few beginners a taste of trout fishing. The secret of being a successful guide is knowing the water, years of experience helps, as does a network of contacts and an ability to read the water. So why does one of them have to phone up the Fishing Lodge to ask where the fish are every time he takes punters out?



Following the fly tying evening in the winter much interest has been taken in the buzzer cheeks and the different material used in their construction, we have moved on from the days of Globrite No 8 floss and entered the Biscuit age. Mick Huffer told us of his use of Krackawheat at the talk in the winter, since then people have been experimenting with many types of food packaging. Mini Cheddars are popular as are Hobnobs and Chicken Flavoured crisps. For the brown cheeks of the big black South Arm buzzers I think that you need to go for Barbecue Hula Hoops or maybe Chocolate Digestives. I have recently been quite impressed with wrapper from Somerfield Stem Ginger Cookies, which is a matt gold colour. It certainly makes shopping a new experience when your focus is not the product but the packaging.

THE INFORMER