

Rutland Water Fly Fishers



www.rwff.org.uk

June 2009 Newsletter

Rutland Water feedback so far ... April

April started off with lovely warm weather with occasional night frosts. It was overall a calm month so that the surface and shallows warmed up quicker than the depths. This conspired to keep fish near the surface and well within range of the bank.

By the end of the month the marginal water temperature had reached 10 Deg C – about average for the time of year.



Rutland Fishing Update ...

One evening the marginal water temperature in the corner of Old Hall Bay was 14 deg C and on the point 9 Deg C. Guess where the fish were?

The photograph below shows the view across the South Arm from Old Hall to Manton/Lax Hill.

The ideal forecast website is "wind guru" which gives you the all important wind direction hour by hour and the per-

centage of expected cloud cover and chance of Rain.

To get to this website, all you have to do is go the home page of the RWFF and scroll down to the bottom of the page and there is a hyperlink straight to Wind Guru and another couple of weather sites.

If you had blinked you would have missed the buzzer hatch which sadly only lasted about a fortnight with larger specimens seen right from the first of the month. This was disappointing as all seemed set for a bonanza.

However this combined with this spring warming led to some of the best April rises for many years with fish caught on all manner of dries from Daddies to Bits.

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This did not mean the fish weren't feeding. They had much else to go at; especially Corixa and daphnia. These former are now here in abundance and offer the fish a 24/7/365 days a year food source.

The water remained clear throughout the month with masses of Corixa fanning out as one waded in.

There are other joys at Rutland apart from the excellent fishing. JW heard the first Grasshopper Warbler for many years at Berrybuts about mid-month.



The Ospreys are plentiful and can be seen most days. Some lucky anglers have observed successful fishing trips by these magnificent birds.

At the time of writing there were eight birds in residence. Nightingales have been singing their hearts out in Hambleton Wood, Gibbet Gorse and Barnsdale spinney. Red Kites are now also regular visitors. The now sadly rare cuckoo has been heard.

To get the most out of the place one hour spent on Old Hall Point early morning would be well re-

warded – even without seeing a fish! JW has spent many an idle moment sat on Bob Garratt's memorial bench looking towards Lax Hill as shown in the front page photo ... Who needs fish with a view like that? Worth a season ticket just to be there!

May

May opened more like the proverbial March lion and continued in that vein on and off for much of the month. With the water down, the margins coloured up quickly and limited fishing areas.

These strong winds are probably what put paid to the buzzer hatch. This happened mainly because the cold deeper water got mixed with the warmed April surface water. This former would normally be at least 3 deg's C colder than the upper layers.

The water level is just over a metre below top with the result that the water can get quite coloured in a strong wind. The safest places to fish therefore are the stony banks. E.g. Normanton, Sykes, the Dam, Fantasy Island and Stockie Bay.

These winds persisted on and off up to the Whit Bank holiday. Despite this unsettled weather, the fishing was pretty good with a number of the larger overwintered fish showing up for both boat & bank anglers.

Then we had a respite which provided marvellous evening rises. The water remains crystal clear with a good covering of lake bed vegetation. This clarity has enforced the



need for more careful presentation and best results are obtained with finer leaders and tiny nymphs and dries.

Fish caught recently in the Old Hall bay contained the following food items as shown above left.

Land beetles, flying ant, daddies, Corixa, tipulids (tiny olive green larvae), green & red bloodworms, 5 colours of buzzers including tiny emeralds, footballers, caddis, sedge pupae, odd large buzzers, black adult buzzers & snails. So, they won't starve on that diet!

You catch & release folks are missing all that! Stock fish introduced at the Transformer still turn right! A recent float tube match held out from here turned up a very little until they decided to paddle towards the Finches and they soon started catching: having blanked in the Tim Appleton's - North Arm Shallows and Burley area.

One of anglers commented on the silver fish he had caught. Were they Blue Trout? No! Just mint conditioned Rutland rainbows –

aren't we lucky!

It will be interesting to see whether the fish visit the shallower parts of the North Arm as the season progresses. The Corixa are back. So no excuses!

At the moment, the fish are mainly grazing on the hordes of tiny olive coloured larvae and Daphnia that are found where the wind is coming in. In the evening they are taking the sedge pupae. This has encouraged the larger overwintered fish into the margins.

Well known local farmer John Griffin took his personal best Rainbow: a perfect specimen of 6lb 4oz in mint condition from the bank in Old Hall Bay. The fish, taken on a tiny hare's ear in conjunction with a Muddler on the point was only landed after a hectic fight with reel shredding runs. John saw the fish following his lure towards the bank and lifted to hook the fish on the dropper.

The same evening Gordon Alleyne took an equally good looking 5 pounder from the Old Hall Point. JW had a 4lb 14oz Rainbow on a sedge pupa that took 50 meters of backing on its first scorching run. So back up your reels folks!

This will, I predict – a very dangerous thing to do at Rutland – be a fairly common occurrence with the fish growing at their present rate.

Although fish have been well spread, most favoured places have been Sailing Club, Normanton, The Dam, Stockie Bay Whitwell Creek &

Car Park, Dicko's Road End, The Finches –at last!, and Old Hall.

On the Odds & Sods first qualifying day on May11, Leon Smith & Barry Vaughan had a great catch from a boat in Manton Bay taking some twenty fish which included seven Browns – all returned - with the best about 4lb 12oz.

The best of the rest was a 6lb 3oz Rainbow which Barry caught by casting a green buzzer at it. Only one of the Rainbows was under 3lb. The total bag weighed around 60lb. All the fish were caught on various nymphs on a midge tip line. This is the best fish weighed in for the RWFF specimen fish trophy.

The event was unfortunately marred if that is the right word by the sudden death of RWFF member, David Hodgson from Ashington which is just north of Newcastle.

He apparently suffered heart failure whilst sitting in his car after the match. All of the club members who knew Davey, we are sure would like to send their respects and condolences to his daughter Scarlett and wife Sheila on their loss. Any donations should be made payable to the RNLI.

Please find opposite a poem by fellow RWFF member Mike Gunnell on behalf of the club with a photograph of David with a prime late season resident rainbow taken late last year from the place he loved the most, Manton!

Specimen Fish

If you get a specimen fish which

might be eligible for a club trophy as indicated inside the back page of your membership card, please be sure to fill in one of the catch return forms and return as soon as possible please.

These forms are located in the fishing lodge shop, wardens office or in the back passage in the lodge opposite the foot of the stairs.

Club member Gary West found the big fish boating near Gibbet Gorse taking a superb 5lb 6oz rainbow on a tube fly on a slow sinking line in bright but cloudy weather.

Steve Crowder who got best fish in the Wadham Trophy bank match joined in the big fish fun taking a 5lb 15oz Rainbow from boat in Manton Bay under sunny skies on a booby on a washing line set up!

Best Rainbow of the season so far is a magnificent 9lb 3oz fish taken Paul Barker from Leicester from a boat at the top of the South Arm on a black buzzer with red cheeks.

Towards the end of May the sedges appeared: caddis cases and the amber pupae featuring in their diet.



In Memory of Davey, the Gentleman Geordie

by Mike Gummell on behalf of RWFF

**'Tis hard to believe that our Davey is gone,
taken from amongst us while much too young,
Those Magnets attracted trout to his line
and put him in the frame, time after time.**

**Seven times did he win an England cap,
and skipper too, what a talented chap!
At Rutland and Grafham he'll be sorely missed,
we can't believe he's no more on the list.**

**So as we say this last farewell,
from all of us who knew him well.
Remember his charm, good manners and grace,
that irrepressible grin all over his face.
It's enough, thinking about it, to give you a lift,
our Gentleman Geordie, is still on the drift!**



Olives have been abundant on some days: although the fish seemed to show scant interest in them.

Recently, the evening rises have been prodigious with fish almost climbing up the bank. Not always to get at your fly though! If there is no one else fishing, start by standing back from the bank for your first few casts. If there is nothing showing, try dries. They will respond immediately if they are there. Dries seem to get more offers when there is just an odd fish showing.

Oh shucks!

A 3lb Rainbow taken from the Old Hall corner on a sedge pupa CDC by JW at dusk contained a vast quantity of buzzer shucks and a number of terrestrials.

The shucks had gathered in the corner by the shore in a Southerly wind. Then for about 20 minutes we had a North wind which blew these shucks back out into the lake. No wonder the fish proved



hard to tempt.

However, as per most evenings, the amber sedge pupa put in an appearance last thing. This was revealed by careful examination of the upper stomach contents of a fish caught the night before.

Painted Ladies

A great many of these beautiful butterflies have flown in from North Africa and could be seen racing over the surface of Rutland Water.



These fast flying creatures, which have migrated from North Africa, can be seen best to the lee of hedgerows; especially on higher ground. The last great immigration was in 1992.

Catch & Release

Your attention is drawn to the fishery rules numbers 14 – 23: and with particular reference to rule 15 regarding the use of “boobies”.

Please handle the fish carefully. In no circumstances should they be brought ashore and certainly not beached before returning them. Scales are very easily removed and this can damage the fish irreparably and expose the sores to fungal attack.

Most coarse fisheries now insist on unhooking mats. Unhook them in the water or in your landing net. Also, as a matter of courtesy, don't hog a spot knocking hell out of the fish while others around are struggling. Remember a little help is worth a lot of pity!

RWFF

Chairman wins Pitsford Match – with one fish!



Best Rainbow caught by a club member so far is the 12lb 2oz specimen from Pitsford caught by our Chairman on a green headed black Diawl Bach.

The fish was caught "with consummate skill" from a drifting boat just as he was stripping in prior to lifting the drogue for the return upwind for the next drift!

Needless to say he won the match by a huge margin!

Sorry! Only fish caught from Rutland Water are eligible for RWFF specimen trophies.

Water Aid 2009

JW says a big thank you to all those who have generously given up their

Friday to help as boatmen on the 12th June.

You should all have received an itinerary. Please contact JW if you haven't received one. Let's hope for fair weather!

Jamie's Angels ...

John Maitland's 12lb fish was one of these which turn up at Pitsford and Ravensthorpe. They are brought up by Jamie Weston with loving care at the hatchery.

I think you will agree that with all Jamie's stockies, they are perfect specimens in all respects and could easily be mistaken for over-wintered fish. See picture of John Maitland below left with his 12lb 2oz specimen from Pitsford

John Wadham Trophy - May 15th

A record seventeen members turned out for this for evening bank match - fished from 6pm – 9.30pm. During the day the wind switched from a recent spell of North Easterlies to Southerly.

This meant that most were fishing water recently rested. Conditions were ideal - with overcast skies and a gentle southerly.

Fish were caught very widely from Whitwell Creek right round via Normanton to New Zealand point and were caught on a variety of patterns from orange blobs to tiny spiders.

Many other fish were hooked and lost and members had plenty of

pulls besides.

Congratulations to Paul Wild – the winner with 8 fish for 16lb 2oz. Congratulations also to Steve Crowder who took the best Rainbow – an overwintered fish of 3lb 13oz. Quickest limit – taken from Whitwell Creek on an orange blob on an intermediate line - was weighed in by Richard Cooper by 7.50pm.

This was one of the most successful matches in the history of the event and at over four fish per rod



reflects the continuing high quality of the fishing at Rutland Water in 2009.

The totals were 75 fish caught by 15 anglers with the best bag at 16lbs 2oz by Paul Wild (above).

NAME	Number of Fish	Best Fish	Weight	Place
Paul Wild	8	3lb 2oz	16lb 2oz	1
Mick Stevens	8	2lb 8oz	15lb 15oz	2
Richard Cooper	8	2lb 8oz	15lb 11oz	3
Roy Taylor	7	2lb 10oz	14lb 13oz	4
Peter De Kremer	6	2lb 3oz	13lb 2oz	5
Ziggy Lesiakowski	6	2lb 15oz	13lb 1oz	6
Phil Brown	5	2lb 9oz	12lb 4oz	7
Matt Grgory	5	2lb 10oz	10lb 12oz	8
Steve Crowder	4	3lbs 13oz	10lb 11oz	9
Hilary Tomlinson	4	2lb 8oz	9lb 0oz	10
Jamie Weston	4	2lb 8oz	7lb 11oz	11
Dave Porter	3	2lb 10z	7lb 6oz	12
Lew Carlin	3	3lbs 1oz	6lb 10oz	13
Chris Evans	3	2lb 10oz	6lb 0oz	14
Malcolm March	1	2lb 0oz	2lb 0oz	15

Dogs off leads ...

This season there have been more than the usual number incidents involving dogs harrying sheep: and, in fact, a number of animals have already been killed.

This is not fair to farmers in these tough times. There are plenty of notices around the site. AWS will be taking a very firm line in the event of anyone seen walking their dog off the lead.

This includes us. So, if you must bring your dog fishing please keep it tethered. We need to be setting the example to those who don't seem to care.

So, if you see an offending owner with the dog off the lead, contact the lodge immediately on your mo-

bile on 01780 686441 or the AWS mobile number which may be found on page 9 of your season ticket.

If there is anything else you don't like the look of: don't wait till the next day or later. Ring now! They can then take the necessary swift action.

RWFF Notice Board

If you want to know what's happening at RWFF see our notice board on the east end of the Fishing Lodge which is kept up to date.

More dates for your diary – see notice board for posters

- Loch Style Trophy - Sunday 26th July 2009
- Hanby Cup - Sunday the 30th of August

Please contact Roy Taylor for details of both of these matches. Next newsletter mid-July ...

Nature Note—by Roy Taylor

In mid April this year when fishing the on the western point of Barnhill Creek I noticed two large eggs in the shallow water just off the point in about 9" water.

I recovered one of the eggs and could see that it was a swan's, but looking around me could see no apparent nest. After examining the egg, which was undamaged, I replaced it back against the undercut bank and continued fishing.

Some 10/15 minutes later a swan arrived and immediately started hissing and flapping it's wings at me and so I moved along the bank.

The swan then took up residence on what it clearly considered it's nest, comprising of a minor depression on the bank and almost adjacent to the waters edge with a tiny bit of vegetation on the water side.

I assumed that the eggs had been accidentally knocked into the water by the bird and carried on fishing.

Some time later I heard the swan hissing and flapping about again and when I glanced down towards it I could see that two large crows were confronting it.



One of the crows was distracting the bird while the other was pushing the egg I had earlier replaced on the bank, back towards the water.

I watched this going on for more than 20 minutes until eventually the crow got the egg back into the

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

Loch Style Trophy

SUNDAY 26th July 2009



**PAIRS BOAT MATCH FISHING to
INTERNATIONAL RULES**

Fishing: 0930 -1730

**Enter by booking at the Fishing lodge.
The Club has provisionally booked 10
boats. 8 Fish limit per angler & no time
bonus. Prizes for winners & runners up**

**For further details contact the organiser:
Roy Taylor on 01572 723496 or roy_taylor_home@hotmail.com**

water. During all this time the swan would not move away from the nest.

Clearly the crows could not break the egg to eat the contents, but what would they gain from pushing them into the water!!!

The bottom-line is that although I finished up with a couple of pulls, I did not manage to bank any fish.

Fly Tying - Fly of the Month

by John Maitland

“Black & Red Diawl Bach”

I was recently given this variant from an RAF friend; and it's proved to be very good.

- Hook: Medium weight (Kamasan B175) in sizes 10, 12 or 14
- Thread: Black (6/0), but can be varied i.e.: UTC Fire Orange
- Orange dyed Goose Biots or Tiny Jungle Cock
- Throat: Soft Black Cock Hackle Fibres
- Body: Peacock Herl
- Rib: Fine Red Holographic Tinsel, use 5 turns
- Tail: Soft Black Cock Hackle Fibres



Note 1: Both Herl and Holographic Tinsel are very delicate and can be shredded by a Trout's teeth very, very easily.

A stronger tying was suggested by another friend and used in the example pictured below left.

Try this ... Tie in the Tail, then tie in together the fine Red Holographic tinsel and the Peacock Herl at the hook shank.

Firstly wind the Red Holographic tinsel to create a solid body. Then after tying off either apply to the body a thin coat of brushable Superglue or varnish with Sally Hansen's 'Hard as Nails'.

Whilst the glue/varnish is still a little tacky, wind in using 5 even turns, the Peacock Herl and tie off at the head. With this method you have to leave the glue/varnish to dry absolutely thoroughly before moving to the next stage. It is a good idea to make a batch of these at the same time, saving time later ...

If you try and pick up the fly your Herl may/will become flattened and stuck to the body! You need the Herl to be as in the photograph, upright so to allow a fluid movement when it is in the water.

Tie in the Cheeks and add the Throat, whip finish the head and add a drop of varnish to finish it all off.

Note 2: Black may be going out of season now, so why not tie the same with natural red or dyed orange hackle fibres as they can work just as well ...!!!

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