

Rutland Water Fly Fishers



www.rwff.org.uk

June 2010 Newsletter

The three winds of Rutland Bank Anglers

When the wind's twixt East and North, the Rutland banker goeth forth.

When the wind is in the West, the Rutland banker takes a rest.

When the wind's twixt South and West, the Southern banks will fish their best.

Following the prolonged drought the lake is now just over a metre below top level and in a week

Rutland Fishing Update ...

or two the rocky banks will be accessible without wading or fishing six foot above the water looking like a light-house!

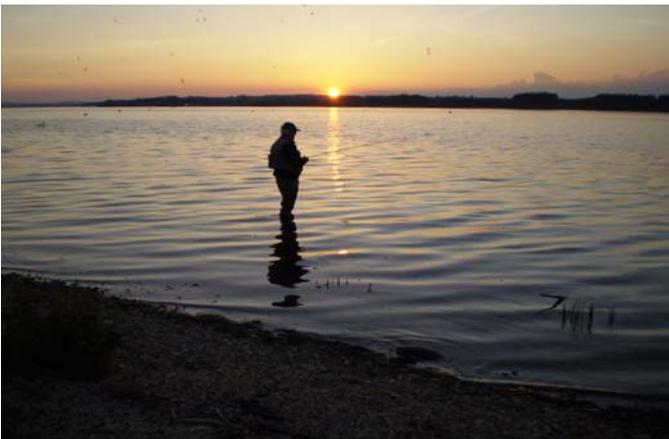
Most would agree that the first weeks of the season were very productive for the bank angler.

Theory, I know, but I think that as there was an abundance of tipulids (Crane fly larvae), Corixa, Snails, Damsels

and sticklebacks in the newly flooded margins, the fish fed freely on these until the buzzers started hatching in mid-April.

This hatch occurred mainly along the perimeter of last seasons' low water line some 60 to 100m from the bank: hence the trout's conspicuous absence from the margins and the fantastic sport enjoyed by the boat anglers. Two good bank anglers managed only five fish from the bank during the second week.

The icy blasts of early May also did little to encourage any feeding frenzy and surface activity was minimal. Many of the boats took fish on buzzers as much as 15 feet down on midge tip lines. For those who have been at it long



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enough; cast your mind back to Grafham in 1975. The 1974 season was a disaster with only stock fish available and westerly gales.

Then along came 1975. April & May were cold snowy and totally unproductive from the bank.

It was quite frustrating to watch the boats catching them two at a time seventy metres offshore!

Then, as if someone had been hiding the fish somewhere, the lake came to life and those lucky enough to be there had what could only be called a lifetime bonanza of overwintered Rainbows.

In the hill Farm shallows 100m of backing was needed for their reel shredding runs. They had grazed on a plethora of caddis and were very easily caught on simple pheasant tail nymphs.

So, I think we can look forward to some good sedge fishing for the bank angler. As per Grafham 1975 on 3rd June 2010 the first good rise of the season was seen all over Rutland with quite a few within range of the bank. The fish

were at this time mainly on small buzzer dries but a few sedge pupae were also eaten.

Even in the first week of June, the prolonged sloughing was still troublesome. Large mats or fragmented areas made bank fishing difficult on calm days. This has at last come to an end.

The Browns are in fine fettle and seemed to have wintered better than many of the Rainbows: which while lovely and silver are still a bit skinny. Two caught recently by JW in Old Hall Bay had tight stomachs similar to that you would find in a stale Sea Trout.

Some very large fish have been caught. A rainbow of 13lb 6oz was taken from a boat in the top of the south arm on a Diawl Bach fished on a floating line.

This is the largest Rainbow reported from the lake since club member Mick Burnside's 14lb 4oz fish caught from the Harbour Wall in 2002.

Club member Mike Barrett took a lovely 5lb 12oz Rainbow during a police match in May.

With the warmer weather there is at last evidence of the fish coming to the banks after what has seemed an eternity. Even the stockies are coming close enough to cove: with the Old Hall Bay, one evening, resembling a fish farm. One "unlucky" angler here caught his four fish limit in two casts!

There is plenty of food awaiting

them in the margins. Corixa in abundance and as the attached photo top left shows the caddis have crawled their way back into the shallow water. If you look carefully there are shrimps present: the first time for many years.

The fish are now rising near the banks most evenings generally after 2100. But on dull evenings much earlier. A lot of these are the early March stockies and in mint condition having grazed for weeks on buzzers 70 metres out!

Diet is mainly large buzzer pupae, Olive Buzzer Dries & Amber Sedge pupae and caddis. Dries are proving more successful in selecting the seasoned fish. Move it and you get stockies! All good fun!

With the water level falling, strong winds and heavy rain can colour up the margins. So best to fish where the wind has been offshore for some time. Normanton & Stockie Bay seem to be the places that remain quite clear. At the time of writing the fish seem quite ready to consider any thing in the way of food: one fish containing six different food items from tiny dries to caddis.

There has recently been an injection of large stockies and fish up to 6lb have been caught all around the lake: but mainly in Sailing Club Bay.

With the caddis now inshore the prospects look good for the next few weeks: given that we don't have a heat wave.

Wadham Trophy – Friday May 14th 2010

The match was fished under over-cast skies, a light South Westerly wind and slightly less cold conditions.

Fish were caught fairly widely mainly on Buzzer & Diawl Bach patterns. It was good to report that one angler - Dave Porter - caught on dry hoppers on floating lines.



The best bag and winner for the second successive season was Paul Wild (above with JW) with 5 fish for 9lb 5oz.

Best fish was a well conditioned Rainbow of 4lb 4oz caught by Gary Cooper (top left, next page) from the Cardiac Hill bank on a red holographic booby on a Di-7 line.

There were plenty of pulls for most with quite a number of fish hooked and lost. This was quite a good result at a time when bank fishing has been quite hard.



CUTTING TROPHY - FRIDAY June 4th 2010

The match was fished on a very warm humid summer evening with a light South-Easterly Breeze.

Congratulations to the winner Hilary Tomlinson who caught her eight fish match winning weight of 23lb 15oz from Sailing Club Bay.

Congratulations also to Jeremy Ball who was runner up in the Wadham Trophy for capturing the best fish: a rainbow of 4lb 13oz.

Most of fish came from Sailing Club Bay and were caught on a variety of patterns.

However, Roy Taylor caught five nice silver fish from the Normanton Blue Pipes. RWFF would like to thank Fishery Warden Mike Brooksby for helping with the weigh in and staying on till we were all off site.

The evening finished with a fish & chip supper delivered from Stamford by Sid's Place.

Our thanks to Warden Nigel Savage, who stayed late to lock up for us.

WADHAM TROPHY RESULTS MAY 14TH 2010

NAME	NUMBER OF FISH	BEST FISH	WEIGHT	PLACE
Paul Wild	5		9lb 5oz	1
Jeremy Ball	4		8lb 4oz	2
Gordon Alleyne	4		7lb 7oz	3
Dave Porter	3		6lb 3oz	4
Roy Taylor	3		6lb 2oz	5
Brian Bonner	3		5lb 12oz	6
Lew Carlin	3	3lb 4oz	5lb 10oz	7
Best Fish				
Gary Cooper	-	4lb 4oz	-	-
Totals	31	18 Anglers	62lb 1oz	-

NAME	No. OF FISH	BEST FISH	WEIGHT	PLACE
Hilary Tomlinson	8	3lb 11oz	23lb 15oz	1
Chris Evans	8	4lb 5oz	21lb 15oz	2
Jeremy Ball	8	4lb 13oz	21lb 6oz	3
Jamie Weston	8	2lb 6oz	16lb 15oz	4
Roy Taylor	5	3lb 1oz	12lb 15oz	5
Steve Crowder	3	2lb 9oz	6lb 5oz	6
Rob Teasdale	2	2lb 7oz	4lb 9oz	7
Brian Bonner	2	2lb 7oz	4lb 3oz	8
Peter Gover	2	1lb 15oz	3lb 14oz	9
Dave Porter	1	2lb 0oz	2lb 0oz	10
John Maitland	1 Bream	12oz	12oz	11
Totals				
11 Rods	47 Fish	4lb 13oz	117lb 7oz	

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John Maitland had the satisfaction of sedges transposing on his wading stick which bodes well for the bank anglers in the weeks to come.

HANBY CUP 2010

Held on the 13 June 2010 from 9.40am to 5.30pm, the competition was fished by 6 boats (11 anglers) in a very variable wind, which started with a light N.W. and changed several times during the day to finish on a slightly stronger W-S.W. with a mixture of cloud and sunshine to add to the confusion.

This made for difficult conditions for some and boats spread with some going into the south arm - Browns Island/Lax Hill area while others went to the bottom of the north arm off Tim Appleton's.

Methods also varied with Graham Pearson and Mike Barratt using the rudder and friendly tubes down the centre of the south arm (initially without much success), others used either buzzers or blobs to good effect.

Others using buzzers and dries elsewhere on the lake could not touch a fish no matter how hard they tried.

Despite all this, a good days fishing was had by all those participating and a total of 48 fish being caught for a rod average of 4.36 and an average weight on 2lb. 11/2 oz.

The eventual winners were Gra-

ham and Mike with 16 fish for 35lb. 81/2oz., with Mike also taking the prize for the best fish and they were presented with £40 and £10 respectively.

In second place were Neil Deakin and Martin Rowson also with 16 fish for 31lb. 7oz. all caught fishing with nymphs, they received a prize of £20; and in third place were Wayne Windsor and Alan Taylor who caught 7 fish for 15lb. 11 1/2 oz. although they did not receive a prize.

There were three blanks but I have been forbidden from disclosing details!

Thanks must also go the Wardens on duty that provided valuable assistance both on the landing stage and at the 'weigh in'.

Anglian Water - Water Aid Fly Fishing Challenge - RUTLAND WATER 8th/9th/10th September 2010

Introduction

This is our opportunity to show to the world and those who would chose to interfere in our recreation that we care more about the needs of underdeveloped countries rather than just filling our bags with fish.

Over the years we have helped to raise over £100,000 for this charity from this one event alone.

RWFF have also been awarded the Voluntary Action Rutland Trophy for our services to local charities.

In outline, the aim of Water Aid is

ANGLIAN WATER WATER AID FLY FISHING CHALLENGE SEPTEMBER 10TH 2010



WaterAid

“Lots of people used to die here from diarrhoea. Now the water is very pure and close for us to collect.”
— Malu Chelakawa, Botswana

WaterAid – water for life

WaterAid is dedicated to helping the world's poorest people gain access to life's most basic needs – water and sanitation. These, together with hygiene education, enable communities to take control of their own health and well-being.

WaterAid.org

WaterAid is a charity registered in England and Wales. No. 270804. Charitable No. 1092708. Registered office: 100, Broad Street, London, W1J 7BA. Tel: 020 7462 1000. Fax: 020 7462 1001. Email: info@wateraid.org

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ACT AS
BOATMEN - IF YOU CAN HELP**

**Contact John Wadham on 01572 771 092
or 07873 214116 or Malcolm March
01780 722466 or 07906 350748**

to show other countries how to make the best use of their water resources and teach them the basics of sanitation.

RWFF Involvement

We had a very good turn out last year and this year we will again be featured in the press.

At least **thirty** boatmen are needed on the Friday - but, the more the merrier.

As boatmen you will be going out with novices. Where possible they are trying to do this on a one to one basis.

On the Thursday, an area will be set aside for the casting clinic in the field below the main Normanton Car Park where casting volunteers should assemble.

You don't need to be a professional for the casting sessions. Just teach them the basics including safety aspects e.g. Eye protection, hat, life jackets & boat handling.

Tackle will be available from AWS on the day and for the casting clinic

The organisers want to avoid two novices going out in a boat together unaccompanied - **a recipe for disaster** - but at the same time we want to get them out on the water on the day. Only we can do this.

There will be a trophy presented to the most successful volunteer boatman. A meal will be provided after the match.

This has been a tremendous event in previous years and the organisers have been profuse with their thanks for our involvement.

Volunteers will be apprised of progress. A detailed itinerary will be sent out nearer to the event as soon as this is in place. Further details or alterations to the programme will appear in subsequent newsletters.

If you can help, please return the attached form to John Wadham at 6 Mendip Road, Oakham, Rutland. LE15 6NN or contact him on:- 01572 771092 or mobile 07873 214116 or email john@ewadham.fsnet.co.uk or contact Malcolm March on 01780 722466 & 07906 350748 or malcolm@mmarch.co.uk and Roy Taylor on 01572 723496.

Any sponsorship from companies for whom any members work would be very welcome: as would items for the auction sale and raffle prizes

Please note web page link:-

www.awwaffic.org

Wednesday September 8th

1100hrs Assemble fly fishing kits for novices which will take approximately 2 hours.

1300hrs Lunch for helpers in the Waterside Restaurant

1400hrs Make up fly box selections for novices, again will take approximately 3 hours.

Thursday September 9th

1500hrs Make up goodie bags,

Water Aid Fly Fishing Challenge



and



Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 8th/9th/10th September 2010

I can help on the following days:-

Wednesday September 8th

1000 - 1700 - Lunch provided

No. of helpers required Tick

Make up goodie bags/rods etc

6 ()

Thursday September 9th

1400 - 1930

Make up rods/fly boxes

6 ()

Casting clinic till 1930 hours

Friday September 10th

Boatmen needed.

30 ()

Parade at 0800am - Fish 1000am, - 1700pm with a meal afterwards.

Name & Address

.....

.....

.....

Post Code: Tel No: Mobile No:

E.mail :

approximately 2 hours.
1700hrs Casting clinic for novices. Ad lib
(Re-assemble kits for novices clinic on 12th)

Friday September 10th

0800hrs Assemble at the Fishing Lodge for group photograph & briefing.

0930hrs Briefing by AWS staff.

1000hrs Fishing

1700 hrs Weigh in

On Thursday 9th the casting clinics will be supervised by John Wadham and Malcolm March and held in the field west of the lodge below the Normanton car park. Style access is near the west end of the harbour wall.

For safety reasons the area will be cordoned off from the public.

It would be ideal if one boatman could pick up a pair of beginners at registration or at the casting evening and stay with them for the duration ushering them around.

Please get to the fishing lodge on time on 10th as a photographer will be present so that we get some press coverage - *it would help if we had a spare camera on hand – just in case!*

It might be a good idea to educate your protégés in boat handling including how to use the motor. That way you can sit in the middle, direct operations and duck as appropriate!

Life jackets will be available and

must be worn on the day.

There will be sufficient fishing kits for all novices who must wear hat & glasses, be in possession of rod licences and be aware of the fishery regulations and safety code.

For identification purposes we hope to be supplied with bright yellow AWS vests.

After the match, there will be a meal, presentation and tackle auction to which we are all invited.

A Tackle Auction will follow the meal and if any members have any quality items of tackle or other services to offer: these would be welcome and help swell funds for Water Aid.

Any problems? ... Please contact:

Malcolm March: 01780-722466

or mobile 07906 350748

John Wadham: 01572-771092

or mobile 07873 214116

Roy Taylor: 01572-723496

If you are unable to attend please let one of us know in good time.
E.J. Wadham.

“Try a Dry” by John Maitland

In this edition I have no “Fly of the Month” but will try to put the case for the dry fly on reservoirs since many I meet on the water seem to feel that the sub-surface lure or nymph is the only way to go, bank or boat.

To make my point: I qualified to fish for England twice in 1993 at

Bowl on size 16 dries for fish sipping a flat calm and in 1994 at Rutland on 16 & 18 to match an intense hatch of tiny buzzers.

Big fish too: my best Grafham Rainbow of 7lb 8oz and Rutland at 6lb 8oz were both on dry flies from boats while the biggest I've hooked, seen and lost was on a dry fly in Hideaway and estimated by my partner at 8 – 9 lb.

Once the fish are near the surface it is worth drying dries from boat or bank.

CdC, bits style emergers, hoppers and other imitative patterns all work. Good body colours include claret, orange, red, black, greenish and fiery brown in size 16 – 10. A light rub of gink keeps them floating.

Use co-polymer or similar leaders which need not be extra long, say 6 ft to the top dropper.

From the boat up to three flies but rarely more than two from the bank. In difficult conditions one fly well fished is better than tangled droppers. Degrease the leader thoroughly. Rutland clay from eroded banks mashed with washing liquid is ideal and free.

From a drifting boat cast only 15 yards of line as it is easier to see the flies and time reaction to takes: but keep loose line ready to cover fish further out. Give fish time to get their head down before tightening.

I generally fish flies static but a bit of movement attracts – so experiment. Only JW is an expert at the fast skated dry: I can't make it work!

In calms tiny flies pay off but in a big wave try bigger and bushier dressings.

While the dry fly demands less casting effort it requires intense concentration to spot rises and hook fish: but it is fascinating and effective.

Do give it a go if you are not a fan.

Newsletter Information ...

Following a committee meeting on 23rd March it was decided to include a 'Classified Advertisements' section in future newsletters initially as a trial.

The facility is designed for **non-commercial** advertisements (commercial ads. are at a much higher rate) for members only, and is primarily for the sale of fishing tackle and associate articles, although other items like holiday lets etc. will be considered.

Because there is a limit on how much space can be provided, advertisements should be up to a maximum of 4 lines (single column)/30 words at a cost of £5 for each item.

Written advertisements with payment can be handed to any members of the committee or by email.



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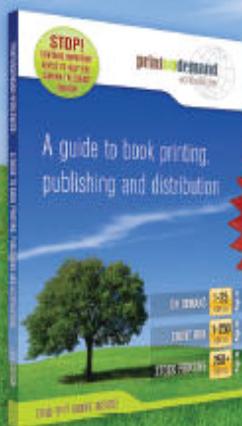


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