

# **RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS**

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

## **Chairman**

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Tel 01572 756650

## **Secretary**

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6 Mendip Road  
Oakham  
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LE15 6NN

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## **Treasurer**

Mr. P. Wild  
35 Tennyson way  
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## **MARCH NEWSLETTER 1997**

Dear Member,

### **Club Meeting Tuesday 4th March 1997**

Terry Griffiths who was due to talk to us was sadly unable to attend due to illness. Instead, Jon Marshall kindly agreed to step into the "breach" at the last minute. He gave us a very interesting talk on the history of Rutland Water from its inception to its present day status. The Cormorant hot potato was also touched on with particular regard to the anglers comments on the catch returns of which only about 35 % are received. Our attention was drawn to the French who took a more militant stance with some 5000 people lobbying the E.C. in Brussels. After the customary break Jon put his head on the block and was grilled regarding the new price regime which inevitably involved some heated exchanges. The overall view being that the reduction in the bag limit was perhaps too much too soon particularly for the four water ticket. However we should remember that the weight of your bag of six fish could equate to the weight of your eight fish bag of three years ago. Jon went on to discuss stocking for 1997. The fish stocked will include 24,000 2lb + fish and the rest of the rainbows @ about 11b 5oz. Plus 7,000 Browns @ 11b 12oz average, to a total of some 135,000 fish. **(Remember that the Browns are out of season until April 1st)**

### **Litter pick up day Tuesday 16th March 1997**

This was an unqualified success with some 40 "magnum" bin liners being filled during the morning. There were some gratifying remarks made by members of the public during the course of the clean up. Some interesting items were found including a pair of binoculars, a compass and a toilet seat! There were other rather less "pretty" items which shall remain anonymous. Some 15 club members some with their families, out of a membership of 150 and A.W.S. staff took part. A good proportion of the lake perimeter was covered. The club would like to thank Jon Marshall for organising the event and Jane Marshall for preparing the delicious bacon sandwiches which got us all off to a good start. The event was sponsored by A.W.S. to the tune of £100 - 00 and some £46 -00 was collected from the raffle drawn after the event. The money raised was in aid of the R.A.C.S. (Rutland Accident Care Scheme) and will be shortly presented with all due ceremony.

**Litter Pick up day(contd).**

The work force comprised the following personnel :-

John Maitland	John Dodds
Dick Stephen	Russell Hole
John Harrison	Paul Wild
Roger & Stuart McCarthy	Len, Collette and Anthony Francis
Steve Young	Jon and Jane Marshall
John Dracup	Nigel Savage
Kevin & Phil Taylor	Nathan Clayton
Brian Lloyd and niece Paula Ashling	Steve Marshall
John Wadham	

The club extends a warm hearted vote of thanks to all the helpers especially the youngsters but **not** to the cyclist, who, when in sight of one of our work force, tossed an empty pop can into the hedge bottom! In 1998 we intend to repeat the exercise and have had pledges of help from other water users. So let's make it an even bigger turn out next year!

This one event did much for the image of the club and is reported in the media.

**Questionnaire 1997**

Some nine more returned questionnaires have been received for which many thanks.

**Users Panel Meeting with A.W.S. March 16th 1997 held at the Sailing Club.**

A number of topics were discussed in a very cordial atmosphere which included the following which might be of interest to club members:-

Open Day for the disabled Saturday June 7th 1997 - helpers for this event would be very welcome and any assistance is always much appreciated by all concerned. We have asked A.W.S. if they could make some boats available for the day so that fisherman or other people can be taken out on the water either to fish or just for "trips round the bay" Jon Marshall has agreed to look into this and will provide tackle as necessary. Any volunteers please contact John Wadham. Further details will be found in the April Newsletter.

Litter Pick up day - R.W.F.F. chairman gave the panel details of the event which met with unanimous approval and immediately prompted pledges of help for 1998.

Windsurfing Regatta - this is due to be held on September 6th / 7th. So this will mean lots of craft on the water on those days.

### **Users Panel (contd).**

Cormorant numbers - there have recently been between 50 and 100 birds on the water but this number has increased following recent stocking - news travels fast! It was however thought that these could be returning breeders. Yes! I have spelt that word right.

### Winter Fishing

We were politely reminded by Tim Appleton that fishing is not permitted between the Transformer and Barnsdale Road End between October 30th and December 31st inclusive.

Birds Sighted - these included an American Redhead - a very rare visitor to these shores. The sand martins and wheatears are already arriving. The Nature Reserve have invested in an electric golf "buggy" to give the disabled better access to the site.

Water levels 1997 - It was thought that this could cause a few access problems for all water users should the drought continue. Perhaps we will be fishing the "boils" from the bank - amusing thought but unlikely. In due course Severn Trent Water will be drawing from the lake but we can only speculate at this stage what impact this will have on the water level.

### Other items discussed

- (a) Sleeper bridge across the dyke by the Finch's hedge to be levelled and fitted with a non slip surface
- (b) Move the "No fishing beyond this point" notice on Ernie's Point just a bit further into Whitwell Creek
- (c) Remove as much residual sheep netting as possible from all parts of the lake where it is a hazard to us or sailors / windsurfers
- (d) The Harbour wall at the Fishing lodge is being re - faced.
- (e) J.Wadham asked if the Armley Wood or the Carrot Creek Toilet could be re - located to the Finches Fisherman's Car Park. (No 51 on the J.W. numerical map).

### **Leicester Fly Fishing Show Friday March 14th 1997**

This year R.W.F.F. shared a stand with A.W.S. but were easily identified by our posters which were on a different background. There was some interest shown in our activities and the Junior section. The main rush of visitors was between 1300 and 1500 then a lull but the evening rush did not materialise - to the disappointment of some of the stand holders. The venue at the Parklands Leisure centre was a great improvement on the former sites. The Chairman, Roger McCarthy and the Secretary were on duty from 1000 am until 1000 pm. This a very long time to be on your pins and ready to deal with the public. It was a very enjoyable event and many interesting people were present. However standing for such a long time took its toll and some very leg weary folks dropped into bed that night. Next year therefore we would be very glad of some additional back up so that we can organise the event into two shifts of six hours. First shift to set up in the morning and the second shift to dismantle after the show. The club is very grateful to those who could spare the time for the event.

## **Prospects for the 1997 Season**

The water level in the Reservoir has only risen about one metre since the end of January which proved to be the driest on record. Consequently A.W.S. have only been able to pump at full blast for one period and that was at the end of February. Stocking is now well under way. The last consignment went in by the Transformer and within one hour were seen off the Finches bank and still heading east at full speed! No cormorants were seen in the vicinity but the secretary hung on a while to ensure the trout's well being - at least for the short term. Just wading a metre into the water revealed large numbers of Corixa. Some blood worms were found in the sludgy areas adjacent to the water's edge. While there, the temperature was checked and in the margins was found to be 10 deg C on the windy shore near the Old Hall and 8 deg c on the off wind shore between the Transformer and Armley Wood - a very important factor in deciding where to fish early in the season. These are the highest pre - season temperatures the secretary has recorded for many years. If you remember last year the only water pumped pre - season consisted mainly of snow melt water and was consequently very cold i.e. 4 deg C. So maybe the fish this year will not be so tightly bunched. With high water temps, not too much cormorant activity and the hope that the fish which were there on December 31st will have survived the cold January, it should be a bumper start on 28th March. Very important that we all put our returns in for the season especially those where Cormorant / Pike damage has been observed. Last year A.W.S. received a measly 35% catch return from anglers for the 1996 season. Come on chaps, lets set an example to those who don't care by raising that to at least what it used to be i.e. 55% !

**N.B. - Brown Trout are out of season until April 1st and must of course be returned to the water**

## **Boat Fishing Thwart Boards**

The thwart boards which were promised for the 1997 season are now branded and will be colour coded in time for the off. They are sturdy and well made. Our thanks are due to Brian Thomas's generosity in producing them, Dick Stephen's and the Chairman's branding skills and the secretary's limited painting ability. They will be available at the lodge on payment of at least 50p into a burglar proof honesty box made by Dick Stephen from quarter inch steel plate and wall mounted. We hope thereby to augment club funds.

## **English Youth Fly Fishing 1997**

The Thames Water Shield is being fished from the bank at Farmoor 2 reservoir near Oxford on Saturday May 3rd 1997.

The English Youth National Eliminator competition is being fished at Rutland Water on Sunday 20th July 1997 (Closing date for entries is 1st July 1997). The event is being sponsored by Anglian Water and the entry fee is £10 -00 or £5 -00 if you pay water or sewerage rates to A.W.S.

Further details for both these events and application forms are available from:-

MIKE WATTS.

66 Northampton Road

KETTERING

Northants

NN15 7JX

Tel No - 01536 514381

Grafham Water Charity Shield - This will be raising funds for the The English Youth fly fishing Association (E.Y.F.A.) and the English Ladies Fly Fishing Association. More details on these and other events in future newsletters.

### **R.W.F.F. Juniors Evening Thursday July 17th 1997**

We are looking for volunteers to act as boatmen for this event on a one to one basis. We had a very good turn out of 27 last year for which we were truly grateful. So if you can spare an evening on that day it would be much appreciated by Parents and Offspring alike. There may well be an even bigger number this year. All names of helpers to the Secretary or Roger McCarthy on 01664 67024.

### **Association of Major Clubs Competitions**

This Association was formed for the following reasons:-

- (a) To organise inter - club fly fishing between member clubs
- (b) To encourage wide participation by club members and
- (c) To promote the best principles and practices in competitive fishing.

To achieve these aims it is hoped that as many R.W.F.F. members as possible will take part and that we will be able to bring together experienced match men and those new to the competitive field. We fish in group 2 with Bewl Bridge "B", East midlands "A". Grafham Water and Mid - Northants clubs. In order to bring in as many individual members as possible, each member can only fish in three matches, of which only one can be an Association match. Teams are of four rods in the association matches and of six in the group matches. All are fished to International Rules. If you are in any way interested in taking part in any of these events, please complete the sheet attached to this newsletter and post it off NOW.

### **Next Newsletter.**

This will go out on or about April 28th 1997 - so please get anything you want publishing to the Secretary by 21st April.

Wishing you all "tight lines and screaming reels" for 1997

John Wadham - Hon. Secretary.