

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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MAY NEWSLETTER 1998

Dear Member

Fishing Report - May 1998.

Rather less to report for the bank fisherman than in April. Well! It couldn't have gone on like that. We would have emptied the lake by the end of June!

However that's not to say that the fishing has been that bad. The first indicator of the temporary decline in the bank fishing was that the boats which had so far caught mainly stock fish and an odd large brown were now suddenly among the bigger over wintered fish.

The recent clear sunny weather has given rise to some dense algal blooms. This is most likely to be the result of the enormous amount of water running off fertile land during the April deluge when some 75 mm (3 ins in old money) fell during the Easter period and raised the water level to over spill. Also the nutrients provided by the decay of rotting vegetation on the recently flooded land were a contributory factor. The fish are not affected by the blooms. In fact it gives them a bit of cover and encouraged some larger fish to come into the banks again. This bloom has now all but dispersed but there is now a dense and extensive growth of "blanket" weed extending out as much as 50m in the very sheltered areas. This also gives the fish some much needed cover

The clear water prior to the bloom conspired to make fishing difficult. The heavy angling pressure, the unseasonably cold weather in April and the fact that a great deal of the buzzer hatch is occurring over "last year's reservoir which in some places can be as much as 200m offshore have naturally slowed things up. Another factor is that the fish have lost some of their interest in fry in favour of the much easier to catch buzzer which appear to be available to the fish only at the top of the South Arm! Although an angler on holiday took two five pounders off the point of the Old Hall on floating Fry. Don't forget the age old saw that "while you can't catch them they are growing". This was self evident from the stomach contents of fish taken at the top of the south arm. Some 200 large buzzer pupae were found in some of the fish. There was quite a lot of boat activity up at Gibbet Gorse about a week ago.

At the beginning of May the fish could be found on the lee shores i.e. where the wind was coming in. The most productive places being Gibbet Gorse, West of New Zealand point, Sailing Club Bay. The latter resembled a fish farm stock pond some evenings with too many fish to cast to! Next evening - nothing - typical Rutland. However some 10,000 fish were stocked on the 12th May. Where have they all gone? - amazing how they just disappear.

Just a reminder that Fantasy Island is now available for fishing. With many fish now grazing on daphnia then this should produce fish in incoming winds while they are on daphnia.

The best Rainbow taken by a club member this season was a perfect 6lb 4oz specimen caught from the bank of the point of Burley reach on an Arctic Fox lure of his own tying. You can well imagine what a battle he had with it in the shallows. Before you all rush over there to fish it was his only pull. What a pull!

May 1998 - Fishing report (Contd.)

Following a very close second is Lynn Walters with a 6lb 2oz Rainbow take from the Green Bank on a gold head damsel "nymph". The fish gave Lynn a long and dogged and nail biting fight. These big fry fed fish seem to be a bit slower than the slim buzzer/ snail fed fish. The secretary only having just enough backing for the first run of a 4 pound buzzer/snail feeder off the Stones. This is another place which resembled a fish farm stock pond some evenings. However ten good men and true did not put a single fish on the bank in some 50 man hours! Some wisecrack was heard to say when they were moving frantically and totally uncatchable that they eventually become impossible! Ha! Ha!

The North Arm is now producing some fish and good ones at that. Cardiac Hill, Dickenson's. Sykes Lane/Stockie Bay is also worth a go - although this has been rather hit & miss. Local regular John Jones taking a 7lb plus Brown from Stockie Bay on a Montana. Are you telling me that this fish had never seen one of them before? How did "Stockie Bay" get that name? Seems to be a bit of a misnomer as it is a good producer of large fish? The main reason was that in the old days it was one of the main stocking points or one of the places the stockies headed for as they did into Whitwell creek.

Congratulations to junior member 16 year old Jonathan Tomlinson for the capture of an 11lb 13oz Hanningfield over wintered rainbow. The fish caught from a boat near the cages was taken on a peach double on a Cortland No 6 fast sinker and gave him quite a battle for about ten minutes. The fish won him £250 - 00 and needless to say was best fish of the match. He is featured in the June issue of Trout Fisherman.

Best methods and patterns for bank fishing.

Black Buzzers/ Standard Pheasant Tails /Damsel Nymphs/Tadpoles. Minkies and floating fry are still effective and can get a few offers when they are on the Emerger's! Some have been taken with cul - de - canard when the weather has permitted - especially on the edge of the wind off the Dam at the Fantasy end and other off wind shores. It is quite well worth tossing one out and leaving it to fend for itself. It is surprising how often it will bring something up. Another method of finding fish, mainly in a wind, is to put out a palmer leave it for a minute or so then "put it on a motorbike" and stop when it is a few yards away. Often a fish will have followed it three feet down but not shown a wake. They will often seize it when the retrieve stops. If they just inspect it then just move it slightly to induce the take. But be warned. At that range you can be snapped very easily when the fish bolts. So keep the rod up and use some thicker string as at that speed they haven't time to see whether it is 6 or 8 lb leader. Also ensure that your leader is just the length that you can cast straight. Often fish will grab the fly on impact. Any bend in the leader will act as a belly and reduce hooking power.

Some good fish have been lost in the blanket weed so you use a dropper at your peril. The submerged thistles etc. have also claimed a few fish. The secretary lost a "portmanteau" at Berrybuts which took a size 16 "silly buzzer" (tied only half shank) but managed to snag the point fly on a thistle or other obstruction. It was about an 8 lb Rainbow. It jumped twice to show how big it was and then broke away. Ouch! This not an isolated incident however. Fish have been seen that make salt water tackle look very puny!

Best conditions

These are a near flat calm. Cloud cover is useful as it stops the temperature tumbling too quickly in the evening. Last night (May 26th) in a North East wind of less than 5mph, fish were moving fairly widely for at least two hours. The previous nights with a moderate wind only a few were seen and only for a very short time. Not even time for a change a fly. They seem to be gorging on buzzer & daphnia out in the lake during the day and then coming to feast on the abundance of buzzer "spinners" in the evening. A c-d-c. seems to be fairly effective but not the answer. Try a floating fry in desperation. It sometimes works if whipped past their noses. If any one has the answer it could be a six fish limit in six casts! That's how many fish there have been moving - but as usual not every night.

Boat Fishing

Some tremendous catches have been made from the boats. Mainly in the South arm. On a recent visit to hideaway bay at the top of the South Arm even the secretary and a friend from Sheffield cornered some good Rainbows including over wintered fish up to 4 lb. The hatches of buzzer up at the top of the South had to be seen to be believed. This was very reminiscent of June 1982 and to those who go back that far Hill Farm, Grafham in June 1975. They all seemed to be large samples which could have reasonably been imitated with a size 8! The fish were gorging on these even in the bright sunlight although none could be seen on the surface. It is often the case that when Rainbows are on the buzzer they are more easily caught on sunny days given that there is a hatch. This is mainly because they shun the bright light and take the buzzer deep and more confidently. We caught ten fish from 11 pulls on black buzzer and standard pheasant tails size 10 & 12 at anchor. Ideal depth of water to cover seemed to be 8 - 12 foot. Much more fun to see them move though - you then know where to fish!

The rudder men have also been in on the action and some great catches have been reported. Graham Pearson got among the big Browns taking a 7lb 11oz fish. This fish has been entered for the R.W.F.F. Trout Fisherman Shield for the best Brown taken by an adult club member so far this season. During his four day stint Graham also caught a 5lb Rainbow and other Browns of 6lb, 5lb 11oz, 5lb 9oz, 5lb 8oz, 5lb 8oz & 5lb 7oz. The fish were all taken on a "450 Kerboom" Shooting Head while fishing on the rudder in the Main Basin.

With many fish now on Daphnia, which evidently thrived on the recent algal bloom and with the winds remaining between West and North, the Normanton bank and main basin should be good. Orange lures on floaters and slime lines accounted for a good bag of 14 good Rainbows for Brian Rice and Tony Tibbert who, frustrated by the fickleness of the hundreds of "impossible" fish at the top of the south arm, decided at three o'clock to go where there were only odd ones moving. It might be a wrench to leave rising fish but this is so often a good bet as only the odd rise suggests that the insect hatch is sparse or the fish are feeding deeper and only occasionally taking things off the surface.

At the time of writing bank fishing has gone over to afternoon and evening sport between Inman's Spinney and the Green Bank, The boats still however are the best bet - catching in the main basin between Normanton and the 100m buoys off Fantasy or at the top of the South Arm. Many big Browns have been seen and have give some anglers quite a fright when they have followed right up to the boat.

Specimen Fish weighed in for the Club Trophies in 1998

Trout Fisherman Shield - Best Brown - Adult Member	G.Pearson	Brown	8lb 61/2oz
Trout and Salmon Shield -Best Rainbow - Adult Member	N.Savage	Rainbow	5lb 1oz
Mike Ellis Trophy - Best Rainbow - Junior member	No takers		
The "Fario" Shield - Best Brown - Junior Member	No takers		

So as to be fair to all contestants all fish must be weighed in at the lodge on their scales and witnessed by A.W.S staff.

Forms for your specimen catch are in a clear wall mounted office tray just to the right of our notice board in the courtesy building next to the lodge.

Details of captures will appear in relevant newsletters

Please be certain to return the form to the Secretary as soon as possible and NOT leave it in the box for collection "sometime"

If you catch a specimen which merits inclusion right on the deadline for the newsletter at the end of each month please ring the Secretary with details for publication.

Wadham Trophy Friday June 5th 1998.

This is an individual bank match fished from 6.00pm to 1000pm. Enter by booking in at the lodge in person or by phone between 9.00am and 5.45pm on the day on 01780 686441. Your name will be entered on the competitor list. Jon Marshall has kindly granted us an **8 fish limit**. But your weekly limit must not be exceeded. There is no time bonus. Only those on the list will be eligible to weigh in at the lodge between 1015 & 1030 pm. This was a great success last year with Lynn Walters taking an 8 fish limit. Remember that it is fished at the best time of day and is just a bit of fun. The bar in the lodge will be open so you can celebrate the winner or drown the sorrows of a blank. Either way you get a drink. Please come and weigh in even if you have only caught one fish. It could be the only one taken as in 1994!

Disabled International Friday 19th June & Saturday 20th June 1998

Disappointingly so far only two members Bob Garratt and Len Francis have put their names forward to help out on the days. Your help would be much appreciated in this type of event. They fish 1100 am to 5.00pm on the Friday and 1030 am to 4.30 pm on the Saturday. *There will be prizes for the Chillies and who will be free to take the boat out for the evening fishing after the match.* If you still feel you can help out on either day please contact Derek Lucas on 0116 278 5485 as soon as possible

Knotless Mesh Landing Nets

As from April 1st 1998 all landing nets have to be constructed from knotless mesh. So get re-meshed as soon as you can. The Environment Agency will be implementing this ruling. Knotless mesh nets are available locally from Rods & Reels Angling Centre Mill Street, Oakham and from the Fishing Lodge, Normanton.

Association of Major Clubs - Results of the association match fished at Rutland Water on 24th April

Division 2

			<u>R.W.F.F.</u>	<u>Individual Result</u>	
Mid - Northants T.F.A.	66lb	71/2oz	G.Bloodworth	8 Fish	21lb 5oz
Bristol Reservoirs	47lb	9oz	Rob Landless	6 Fish	11lb 10oz
R.W.F.F.	47lb	5oz	Keith Landless	5 Fish	10lb 71/2oz
East Midlands T.F.A.	41lb	01/2oz	Peter Cliff	2 Fish	3lb 141/2oz
Royal Navy	38lb	71/2oz			

Congratulations to Gordon Bloodworth for weighing in the top individual weight in the whole competition. The weather as Gordon described as containing all four seasons in one day. Interestingly, Gordon's winning catch came from the North Arm.

Thwart Board Income

This now amounts to about £206 - 00. This should represent some 412 boat fishing days. A clear orange notice has now been placed adjacent to the box to direct hirers to insert their 50p's! The new much sturdier units manufactured by Brian Thomas are a great success.

Visit to Wing W.T.W.

This sadly was a non - event as nobody turned up! Rather irritating for the works engineer Paul Dimbleby who stopped after time and offered to show us around the works. The secretary and others who visited the site in March found it most interesting.

English National Youth Final Sunday 19th July - Rutland Water**English International Youth Final Sunday 5th August 1998 - Rutland Water**

The organisers are still seeking boatmen both for both the above events. Please contact Mike Edey at home on 01733 203385 or Nathan Clayton at the Fishing Lodge on 01780 686441. Further details and application forms available from Mike Watts, 66 Northampton Road, Kettering, Northants NN15 7JX or call him on 01536 514381 or 0421561707. It is essential that we support these events as the participants are the next generation to support the angling lobby.

Open Day for Disabled people - Saturday June 6th 1998.

This is held at Whitwell Creek and things get under way by about 1100am. Last year we set up some hoops in the water in front of the Old Lodge (bless it!). And there seemed to quite a few who were able to show off their fly casting skills from a wheel chair! They get trips out on the in the Rutland Belle (Belgrano) and other craft. Any helpers would be welcome. Not only with the casting but helping out generally. E.g. helping folks boarding the excursion boats and wheeling people around the site.

Club Competitions**R.W.F.F. Pro- Am - Sunday 23rd August 1998 - Rutland Water**

Application form enclosed - Sean is looking for plenty of "amateurs" to make up the boat pairs. He has enough "pros" now. So contact him as soon as possible if you are interested on 01780 720833 so that he can make up the list in good time to ensure that enough boats are available..

Oliver Cup

Sean has so far only received half a dozen applications for this. So please contact him as soon as possible if you want to fish.

For those who have mislaid their Club Competition sheet and application forms for other events, they are enclosed again with this letter. As are the forms for the Loch Style Competition on Sunday 2nd August, both legs of the Oliver Cup and the Roger Thom Trophy

Hanby Cup - Sunday 21st June -

See enclosed 1998 club competitions list for details

Prospects

June will be soon upon us. This is generally speaking the most productive month for both bank and boat fishing. The sedge like every thing else could be early this year. Last year they went mad on it for the first ten days and then got gorged. So be in at the kill as soon as they start hatching There are odd ones about already. The Caenis is also hatching now. Don't give up when this happens. They may be hard at the time, But late evening, after they have finished with the spinners, there is almost invariably a hatch of small green buzzers at the death. So there is always a chance of a fish then. Try a pheasant tail with a lime green thorax three quarters greased up. They could hardly get gorged on something about size 22!

If I was taking a holiday bank fishing - as I did when at work - then the second or third week was usually a safe bet. If it is tough on the bank you can always go out in a boat. But as we all know Rutland is the ultimate "enigma" and it is different every year!

Juniors Evening - 1998

From Roger McCarthy

Please find enclosed application forms and posters. The application forms must be returned to Roger McCarthy as soon as possible. Please also note Roger's new telephone number 01664 567024. This was a great occasion last year thanks to the sponsorship of A.W.S. Trout Fisherman and Cochy - Bonddhu Books and a lot of hard work by Roger himself. Come on chaps lets give them an evening to remember. They are the future of our sport.

Late Extra

Graham Pearson takes 8lb 6 1/2 oz Rainbow from the top of the South arm on - yes- a size 12 Black Buzzer in front of a drifting boat. No! it was not a black tube on the rudder (sorry, Graham!). Well done indeed. It is his best Trout ever. The fish gave him a tremendous fight. He had to start up the motor and follow it in the boat so as not to run out of backing! This fish now leads the field in the race for the Trout Fisherman Shield for the best Brown.

Have a good June

Yours Sincerely

John Wadham - Hon. Secretary