

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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MAY 2000 NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

A warm welcome to the many new members who have recently joined the club. We look forward to meeting you on the bank or boat.

Fishing Report

Well, what can one say about April 2000 that has not already been said?

It was the wettest since records began and on two occasions record low temperatures were recorded. Snow was lying on two mornings and the rainfall in some areas was more than three times the national average. The very cold wind accompanied by the blizzard that occurred on April 3rd caused considerable mortality among the local farmers lambs. A number died of Hypothermia - very hard in these tough agricultural times. No doubt the silage producers will benefit from a good grass crop.

Needless to say the huge influx of cold water and the persistent icy blasts have conspired to make for difficult fishing. However in the warmth of the last few days there has been an up turn in sport and fish have at last started to show a little in the evenings.

The diet is still predominately daphnia and tiny inimitable buzzers with the odd corixa and bloodworm. The problem with daphnia feeders is that they feed on the lee shores – to which the wind is blowing. This makes for hard work but you increase your chances of a fish. This was amply borne out by the fact that during the relatively calm weather of the Easter period after the Southwesterlies, the North shores fished very well. The south arm and the main basin still seemed to be the most productive with some overwintered fish being caught. Terry Humphries – the wall man - has now moved to New Zealand point to wreak havoc by taking a well conditioned 6lb Rainbow from the East side of NZ point on a buzzer on a very short leader. The fish's stomach contained tiny buzzers and daphnia in sequence. Terry suggested that the constant change of wind determined that the fish were on daphnia in an incoming wind and buzzer in a following wind.

As you can imagine, the lake is now up to over spill. The water came up the final 9ins in only a few days. This last few inches represents the largest volume of water needed to top up the lake and equates to many millions of gallons.

Needless to say, after all that rain, the banks and rocks are very slippery. So do take care especially where the bank is overhung. I.e. the Mound, the points just West of Armley Wood, Yellowstone & No wading etc.

As you would expect with a daphnia diet, lures have been very successful. Black, white and of course orange e.g. Dawson's Olive. This is a lure with an olive body and orange marabou tail. Olive – I ask you! I thought they hatched out later on. Apparently though, according to the fish, there has been quite a hatch of "Dawsons" already!

Fishing Report(Contd)

However, plenty can be caught with buzzers. Size 10 or 12 Black seeming to be most effective with the copper version for really deep fishing. As with all buzzer imitations, these must be tied as slim as possible so they will get down to the fish. A good hook for these is the Drennan shrimp hook.

As I write, fish are starting to move a little in the evening: but as you might expect have proved difficult to interest after a day's feeding. However, day fishing during gentleman's hours i.e. eight till five was the best time. Although, recently, there has been an early morning pull.

One novice to the big R was fishing without success on the Old Hall point. Five minutes advice and a little coaching from the secretary resulted in him catching, unaided, more than the rest of us put together! This comprised three rainbows and a brown, which he returned to the water – as he said “I don't want to fill my freezer too quickly”. His success was for us, worth all the limits in the world. A little help is worth a lot of pity! Although it was perhaps us onlookers who needed the pity!

The beginner's days are a great success and the secretary has been lucky enough to be asked to help out. The novice's joy of finally getting it all together is worth all the effort. On these days, which are featured in “Hooked”, the Harbour wall is closed to fishing during the afternoons between 1.00 pm and 5.00pm. Check with the lodge.

The best brown by a club member this season is the lovely silver 5lb 8oz specimen caught by Ken Merridan from the bank near the sailing club on a size 14 black buzzer. It contained numerous 4” perch fry. Size matters!

General

Unusually, the boats have fared very well right from the off and have done particularly well lately. With the fish standing off due to the continued influxes of cold water the boats have recently had the lions share of the fish.

Best spots have been Dickensons, Sykes, New Zealand Point, Hambleton Wood & Old Hall Bay However the bank fisherman casting into the wind at say Yellowstone, Sykes, Old Hall Point, Cardiac Hill & the Mound have also done reasonably well and I am glad to say that some fish are now returning to the upwind banks.

Nick Evans from Ramsey took a fine rainbow of 6lb near the Normanton Church on a white lure.

A lot of the overwintered fish are still "eggy" but at last some “ firm” specimens are being caught.

These mainly from offshore wind banks

The Daphnia bloom appears to be gradually declining and the fish are now eating a tiny buzzer. There is an odd larger insect about and some have been found in the fish: but the real hatch has not yet got under way.

This season's stock fish, which comprise only females and Triploids, are some of the fairest ever put into the lake and are very strong fish and are “silvering” up very quickly. For those who don't know, “Triploids” are sexless fish. The theory being that, what they eat goes into body building, rather than “egg production”. So, hopefully, the “eggy” fish population should reduce and perhaps overwinter better.

Water Industries Game Fishing Competition (WIGFIC) - Bank Competition – Rutland Water - Saturday 6th May 2000

Please note that this is on the SATURDAY 6TH and NOT on FRIDAY 5TH - as shown in your season ticket. The bank is closed to fishing until 4pm on the day.

RWFF Specimen Fish Trophies – Season 2000

Winners so far:-

Trout Fisherman Trophy	Best Brown	No takers
Trout & Salmon Trophy	Best Rainbow	8lb 7oz	Graham Pearson
“Fario” Trophy	Best Brown (Junior)	No takers
Mike Ellis	Best Rainbow (Junior)	3lb 11oz	Paul Abbott

RWFF Specimen Fish Trophies(Contd)

Congratulations to Paul Abbott who took his rainbow of 3lb 11oz from a boat in Dickensons Bay on a sparkler “booby” fished on a DI.7 line on Sunday 23rd April

Last season no junior member submitted a Brown Trout for the Junior “Fario” Trophy. Should there be no fish submitted this season then the trophy will be awarded to the Junior angler – under 18 - who, in the opinion of the committee, has achieved the most success in other fields of the sport at Rutland & elsewhere.

Specimen fish forms are located in a holder adjacent to our notice board in the garage in the Fishing Lodge. No need to send me your catch return just the form duly signed by a member of AWS staff or private witness.

If the forms have run out please let the secretary know.

Bob Church - Northampton Town Football Club Match – Rutland – Sunday 16th April.

114 Anglers caught 555 fish with a rod average of 4.6

1	Kevin Garn with	8	fish	27lb 4 ³ / ₄ oz
2	John Emerson	8	fish	26lb 15 ¹ / ₄ oz
3	Dave Doherty	8	fish	26lb 6 ³ / ₄ oz
4	Tony Plant	Best Fish		8lb 10 ³ / ₄ oz

The above weights include time bonuses

Congratulations to Dave Doherty for achieving third place against a field of 114 anglers.

Commonwealth Championship

My apologies to those who may have considered volunteering as boatmen for this event by giving you the wrong dialling code for the Bob Church Factory. It should read 01604 (**not 01664**) and the number 627052.

One club member has kindly offered his services. However, Bob still needs another 10 boatmen. So, if you can help out then please contact him or the fishing lodge. There are substantial prizes e.g. Rods & reels etc for the top boats and the possibility of an invite to fish in the country of the contestants origin. E.g. New Zealand, Canada, Australia. Full details from Bob Church.

Association of Major Clubs Association Match – Rutland Water – Wednesday 19th April 2000

Most fish were caught in the South Arm around Hambleton Wood, Yellowstone & Old Hall.

1	Bewl “A”	25 fish	59lb 9oz
2	Grafham Water FF	25 Fish	56lb 14oz
3	Rutland Water FF	21fish	52lb 14oz

Congratulations to our team for coming third in group 1.

Further details in next news letter.

Tuesday Boat League 2000

This commences Tuesday 16th May 2000 – details from the Fishing Lodge on 01780 686441.

Club Competitions – 2000

Wadham Trophy – Bank Match - Friday June 2nd

Oliver Cup – Individual Boat Competition to International Rules - First Leg - Sunday June 4th

Hanby Cup – Any Method Boat Competition – Sunday June 18th

Please get your forms back to Sean Cutting as soon as possible. If you have lost them please contact the secretary for a replacement

Open Day For The Disabled

AWS will not be holding this event this year. They would however like to extend their thanks to those who in the past have helped to make this such a worthwhile occasion.

Next RWFF Committee Meeting – Wednesday 12th July 2000 – 7.30pm

This will be held at the fishing Lodge on the Wednesday – not Tuesday – so as to avoid clashing with the Tuesday boat league event. Minutes of the previous meeting to follow shortly.

Juniors Evening Thursday July 20th July 2000

Twenty boats have been booked. For further details and application forms please contact Andy Flitcroft on 01780 754004(Home) or 01733 465004(Office).

In order to avoid disappointment, boatmen are urgently required for this event. If you can help, please contact Andy as soon as possible.

Thwart Boards.

Our thanks to John Maitland and Dick Stephen for their work in repairing the boards for the new season. The income from these has been very important in maintaining the club's financial stability.

Litter Pick Up Day - in aid of The Rutland Accident Care Scheme (RACS)

The presentation of the cheque to Dr Gray took place on Friday 30th March at the Fishing Lodge. Also present were Jon Marshall, John Seaton, John Maitland & John Wadham. Dr Gray expressed his gratitude for the important contribution made by AWS and RWFF to supporting this scheme. This was reported in the local press

The Last Word.

The Ospreys have arrived in company with the more common migrants. I.e. The cuckoo, nightingale, swallows and martins and at last the odd swifts. With the icy blasts that greeted them, some of these migrants might well have thought they had gone too far North!

To hear the willow warblers and the nightingales in Hambleton Wood amid a carpet of bluebells must make this one of the most idyllic places to fish.

The icing on the cake will be the first genuine evening rise!

Latest report – where's it at?

Due to the continuing daphnia diet, the shores with the wind coming in are still tending to be most productive. Boats fishing 150m off these banks doing best. So, remember where the wind was the day before and try there first. Best times on the bank generally are dawn to 1000am and 6.00pm to 9.15pm. Fish on the dam and elsewhere are now finding some larger buzzers. So, given some warm settled weather the hatch will get under way all over the lake. Lets hope, unlike last year they hatch within range of the bank.

Tight lines

John Wadham Hon.Secretary