

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
Mr. J. Maitland 7 St Albans Close Oakham Rutland LE15 6EW Tel 01572 756650	Mr. J. Wadham 6 Mendip Road Oakham Rutland LE15 6NN Tel 01572 771092	Mr. P. Wild 35 Tennyson way Stamford Lincs PE9 2GZ Tel 01780 757853

Website www.bigwig.net/rwff
E.mail rwff@bigwig.net

APRIL/MAY NEWSLETTER 2001

Dear member

Welcome to all our new members who have recently joined the club.

Fishing Report

After the promising warmth of the first few days of April the weather moved into typical early season mode with every form of precipitation. The meagre rise in air temperature has managed only to raise the marginal temp in the lake from 6degC to 9degC. Last year we started at 11degC and slumped to 9degC by mid month. Better to start cold. Then there is only one way and that is up.

Despite the gloomy weather the part of the lake open for bank fishing has really produced very well. We have been fortunate in having Southerly or Northerly winds, which meant that one bank, was always available for fishing. There is at present no change to the bank available. This stretches from East Creek West of the Lodge right round to the Monument on Sykes Lane. Then, from the head of Whitwell Creek to the Ditch feeder at the head of Dickensons Bay. Maps available from secretary or fishing lodge. However this could change at any time. So watch this space!

The lake is now at top level which helps bank fisherman as at most points you can fish straight into deep water.

So where they are at the moment? There are very few places, which haven't produced. Best places however have been Cardiac Hill, The Mound, Whitwell Car Park frontage, either end of the Dam, Fantasy, Three (Two) Trees (Normanton), Either side of Normanton Church and east Creek. Fishing into wind or in flat calms has been most productive.

This late rise in water level has benefitted the pike population. They like to spawn in grass. This late rise has invited some huge "queens" into the margins to look for "consorts". A number of these fish have been caught by bank anglers on all manner of patterns. Andy Flitcroft took the best one reported. A fine 44 inch specimen of 32lb on a size six minkie in the margins of Barnsdale Bay. The fish which when hooked sauntered off and remained some 50 yards away took Andy some 40 minutes to land. Photos were obtained. Jim Clements took one of 26lb 10oz on a tube fly from a boat off Stockie bay. The secretary took a P.B. specimen of about 25lb – his scale only goes down to 23lb and it hit that with a bump. The fish was 42" long and was caught from the bank at the head of Whitwell Creek. The fish, which took about ten minutes to bring to net, was taken on a size 10 black buzzer on the top dropper of a 7lb leader on a 5-weight rod. The fish, which was netted by Dave Rix, was handled very carefully, photographed and quickly returned to the water.

Lew Carlin also joined in the fun with a 15lb specimen from the bank at Sykes Lane taken on a bloodworm pattern.

So, if the trout suddenly go off, look out for "Esox"

Of course these are out of season gravid fish and certainly, in my record book, get a mention in the "comments column" only. Had it been before March 14th that would have been very different!

It is ironic that one spent much time winter fishing for them with massive minkies with limited success. Perhaps we should scale down a bit!

I know one shouldn't broadcast one's views on the rights and wrongs of close seasons, but here was a case in point where any thing but careful handling could have caused these fish considerable distress. Would you go duck shooting when the birds are nesting? Give the poor devils a rest.

Fishing Report (Contd)

These large Pike, I suspect graze mainly on their own kind as they patrol or linger in the margins. The nuisance fish are those up to ten pounds which plunge headlong into shoals of unsuspecting stockies. This is I think borne out by the few numbers of small fish taken by anglers. In 1981, when there seemed to be a plethora of these, you were quite likely to lose half a dozen to these “toothy critters” in a day. In June that year, one pike caught from the green bank, was found to contain two small fry and a cricket ball size bunch of large black buzzers! Pike have been seen “heading and tailing” in a number of places around the bank this year. So when you cover that massive “Brownie” with your tiny CDC it could be the pike of a lifetime! At Grafham in 1971 we had to fish baby dolls on wire traces. The rainbows and browns were quite unfazed by the wire trace! The best bag in a day between three of us was 48 Pike and 11 trout all on flies fished on “Alasticum” wire traces.

Back to the trout! Despite all this talk of pike in the margins the fish are coming quite close. There is a rise to a tiny buzzer from about 4.00 pm onwards. The mornings have been less productive. Don't cast directly to these rising fish as they are see-sawing. I.e. rising to the surface and then returning to the bottom. So keep those nymphs well down even when they are moving.

The main buzzer hatch is of a tiny “khaki” job of about size 20. However, some larger examples are now showing up in the evening. You will find these in them when you carefully examine their stomach contents at home - while she's not watching! It is worth putting the contents through a sieve - after the broccoli of course!

The diet also includes Daphnia and some caddis cases. A number of fish have contained a large number of stones some the size of ten pence piece. One contained some 66 pebbles, which weighed 3oz in total. No, I did not put them there to improve the weight although I am sure it would look very iffy at a weigh in! The fish looked 2½lb not 2lb 11 oz!

Best patterns for the bank anglers apart from a variety of lures are Diawl Bach, Bloodworms, and all sorts of sizes and colours of buzzers.

Some fine overwintered specimens have been caught and lost. The best fish so far reported was a 7lb 6oz specimen caught from Fantasy Island on a Diawl Bach fished on a 4lb leader. It took nearly half an hour to land. This one had been feeding on Perch fry. So should we get out our minkies? Some immense Rainbows have been reported to be patrolling the margins.

The ospreys have been seen around the lake and the swifts arrived on the 23rd so we are getting there! With these icy blasts, they must have thought they had flown too far North!

Boats

Well, to quote a well known source “they are knocking hell out of the fish with some bagging up in as many casts”

Odds and Sods match Sunday 21st April.

In this match in, which a number of club members took part, some 714 fish were taken by 74 anglers giving a catch per rod of 9.65! This was a ten fish limit and time bonus affair. The two highest placed club members were Martin Introna 4th and Iain Barr 5th. New club member Mark Macleod caught the best fish a Rainbow of 3lb 14oz on a viva variant. Congratulations to them.

Most have been catching with sinking lines. Most favoured spots are hard to pinpoint exactly. But Sykes, Normanton, and Three (two) Trees to the Dam seem to be most productive. Some have been back to the lodge within the hour to weigh in.

The two days of the Trout Fisherman European Open fished to international rules gave a fish per rod of 7.4 and 4.7 respectively. So still fishing pretty well - with some larger overwintered fish now being brought to the scales

House of Hardy Monday 30th April.

F & M

Leicestershire and Northamptonshire have been declared disease free areas. So, let's hope the downward trend continues. Obviously we are all rooting for our farmers. However, it would be lovely to get onto the peninsula again.

Lets hope that this virus is aware of Election Day and votes to disperse then!

I will try and keep you posted as to developments. Meanwhile the status quo remains in place. Keep in touch with the fishing lodge on 01780 686441 for any changes.

Stocking 2001

The seasonal stocking is going ahead as planned so that when the rest of the banks open for fishing we should be due for a bonanza. So far some 37,250 fish have been stocked which is commensurate with last years total at this time. This years stockies are silvering up very quickly and, if we haven't caught them all - for some reason they are almost giving themselves up at the moment - should make for some very good mid-season fishing. They reckon that while you cannot catch the fish they are feeding and growing. So all those fish up the arms must be fattening up nicely.

Leicester Fly Fishing Show March 2001

Congratulations to junior member Luke Lavelle for being the overall winner of the casting accuracy competition held in the hall.

Club competitions

Sean has been struggling to obtain competitors for this years club and major club events. You should have received application forms in previous letters. Please endeavour to get these back to Sean as soon as possible so that the correct number of boats can be booked. . For new members the list of club competitions is enclosed. Application forms for those who have lost theirs or for new members wanting to fish are available from Sean or the Secretary.

Illustrated talk by George Geiger Thursday 10th may 2000 at the Victoria Hall at 7.30pm

This will be a special club meeting when we will be welcoming this well known leading Florida fishing Guide. This will be a great evening especially for the increasing number of us who travel to the Caribbean to fish. The Secretary has been there. The thing he most lacked was local knowledge. Here is an opportunity to enlarge on that. See the enclosed poster for full details. Our thanks again to Sean Cutting for setting this up.

Ravensthorpe Double

One of our members Andy Earland got among the "cross" at Ravensthorpe taking two huge fish in successive casts weighing 8lb 10oz and 9lb 2oz.

Prospects

With the fish silvering up so quickly, the water clearing and the imminent arrival of the larger buzzers we can look forward to some interesting surface fishing given some reasonable weather!

Late Extra

Good News - The bank from The Sailing Club to Gibbett Gorse is now available for fishing

Wishing you all tight lines and to all those involved some fine warm weather hopefully to bring a speedy end to the F&M crisis.

Yours sincerely

John Wadham