

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



May (2) 2002

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Put in those catch returns

Please get your catch returns in as soon as you can. It is quite hard to determine the quality of the fishing without them. Our RWFF fishing report is dependent on accurate reports. Also AWS have asked us to tell you that they could consider banning offenders. So come on chaps lets get them in!

Single boat angler alert

Even if you have a mobile, you will only be allowed out on the water if the weather and forecast is favourable. So to save disappointment, you should check with the fishing lodge, before coming, to find out if the weather is ok.

Rutland's 25 year old record finally goes to RWFF member



Mike Burnside from near Darlington, landed his record 14lb 4³/₄oz rainbow on Sunday 19th May. Mike travels down from the North East most Sundays to fish and as he says 'if you're going to fish you may as well go to the best place'. He caught the monster on a lure, off the Sticks at the end of the South Arm. It fought for about 30 mins., did not show itself until it was alongside so of course Mike thought he was into a big pike. In the event it took two

of them to lift it out because his net handle wouldn't take the weight. No doubt we would all like to have such a problem!! Well done Mike!



John Wadham's Fishing Report

May started off with a cold blast from the North East. This dampened sport initially but the warmer weather that followed soon put the fish back on the feed. In fact it was the cue for some long awaited surface movement. This is still however confined to the evenings and dull days. The fish are apparently

feeding just within range of the bank angler over the deeper areas but are coming into quite shallow water later in the evening. So don't give it up too early. There seems to be quite a good movement from about 8.30pm to 9.30pm. This seems to coincide with the hatch of the larger black/olive buzzers; but thankfully this now occurs in shallower water. They come very close even-

tually. The length of this movement varies with your location but is somewhat curtailed on the colder windier

evenings. Best methods still include deep nymphs in the day time at "full stretch": although you can now dispense with the real "heavies".

It is curious how the fish will readily take something like a GRHE or a wet fly or a damself nymph when they are on the buzzer. When they get "impossible" smaller CDC patterns will take some fish.

There seems to be no fish harder to catch than *cont.*

fishing report cont - than preoccupied stockies! However if a brown or an overwintered rainbow, no matter how large they are, come along to join these stockies they seem quite ready to take. So stick at them!

Talking of hatches at Rutland: there seems to be an increasing number of May flies to be seen around the water. John Seaton tells me that some have been seen in the harbour.

The "Jubilee" 18lb Rainbow eventually turned up a week after it was introduced. It was caught from the bank on a black buzzer by Tony Gray, a season ticket holder from Sheffield.

The best fish submitted for the club trophy for the best Rainbow is the 7lb 10oz fish taken from the Poplars point in Whitwell Creek by Malcolm Janik from Spilsby. The fish, which took a sparkler on an intermediate line, gave Malcolm some very anxious moments as it headed for the boat moorings on the other side!

Its stomach contained some foul

unmentionables and some of the biggest brown buzzers I have ever seen.

Boat fishing

The buzzer hatch is in full swing at the moment with plenty of limit bags to be caught. Best methods are black, brown or olive buzzers fished on floating lines on the calmer days. The fish are now much higher in the water and on the dull days only a few feet down. On the rough days it pays to fish somewhat deeper with intermediate or slow sink lines and the lure of your choice.

Best places at the time of writing are Cardiac Hill to Whitwell front, The Finches, Tim Appletons in the north Arm and Green Bank, The Bunds & Lax Hill area in the South.

The main hatch is a small olive buzzer over 6-8ft of water in the day time and then as the light fails the larger examples are hatching nearer the bank.

The fish are quite surface active on the dull days and last thing at night and can be caught with dries, CDC & hoppers.

As you will know some tremendous overwintered fish including the reservoir record rainbow have been caught; mainly in the South Arm and mainly on buzzers. I photographed a perfect

specimen of 8lb 8½oz with a bloom right to the tip of the tail. It was taken on a buzzer near the bunds. It would have made a good shaving mirror if you could have preserved the sheen! It took the captor 20 minutes to boat the fish. Have we all got big enough landing nets? How will it fish over the holiday? Well! Given quiet weather this could be the cream of the season. This period has almost always offered the best fishing since the reservoir opened.

Nick White from Cliphsham and Colin O'Dell from Gloucestershire were out with Dave Doherty and had the time of their lives at the top of the South Arm near the bunds. Nick's bag of fish weighed 26lb 5oz including Rainbows of 6lb & 7lb. Well done, Dave, great guiding!

The East Midlands police had a great match with 36 anglers taking 144 fish with the winning team taking 27 fish for 50lb 4oz.

England Odds & Sods eliminator gave a rod average of 8.95 fish. Winner was Paul Miller and second Stuart Young. Third was Martin Introna

And that folks is how it is fishing! Wow!

Jubilee Weekend - Rutland Water - May 4/5th 2002

Incredibly, 800 people turned up to fish over the two days. While it was cold, the wind strong as it was from the North - East, meant that there was plenty of fishable bank. Had it been a Westerly of the same strength it would have been a cheek by jowl affair with much of the lake unfishable.

Sponsored by AWS and Trout Fisherman magazine some 250 fished from boats and 350 from the bank over the two days. Plenty of fish were caught but there were clearly some hot spots with one angler fishing into the teeth of the wind *calching* caught and released some 30 fish from near Normanton Church.

There were about two hundred beginners which kept JW, Curly and AWS staff very busy. It was nice to see so many family groups having a go at casting. There were however some near misses by more experienced anglers. In one case the fly bounced off the angler's polaroids and ended up in her chin! Moral - always wear eye protection. The writer would be pleased to demonstrate how an embedded fly can be removed with minimal damage to the recipient! Anywhere near the eyes: straight to hospital casualty!

The £5000 fish did not get caught on the day but two of the tagged £100 fish were taken from the boats near Normanton Church. One of the "goldies" was seen swimming round in small circles in the Harbour but despite all attempts it refused to give itself up!

Mike Loy of Peterborough was one of our club members to win a £100 voucher for the best fish.

Congratulations to RWFF junior member, Matthew Newton of Scopwick near Lincoln for winning the junior prize. Lawrence Ball from the R.Gwash fish farm supplied the big rainbow - estimated at 18lb but it eluded capture on the day.

The Charity Auction on the Saturday was conducted Jeff Dale. His skills and the generosity of the donors realised £3000 for the Air Ambulance, R.A.C.S and Water Aid.

Many local people and businesses associated with Rutland water supported the event

The flies generously donated by anglers and selected from the AWS fly cabinet realised almost £300.

RWFF 's clean sweep at the 'Major Clubs' Spring Match

All Group Round One Venue - Chew Valley
Lake,
Saturday 27th April 2002

Best Bag Sean Cutting (RWFF) 12lbs 10oz
Best Fish Paul Wild (RWFF) 4lb 3oz

Rutland Water FF. had a supreme performance at the Spring Association Match. Fished on Chew Valley lake on Saturday 27th April. Their team performance was 20 lbs better than any other team with Sean Cutting having the heaviest bag and Paul Wild the largest fish, they dominated the individual honors.

Reports from anglers who had practiced the day before suggested that Chew had switched off. Earlier in the week with soft balmy soft balmy sprung like weather for the Hardy' Regional Heats the reservoir had fished very well. A total change in the weather to cold, wet and very windy had badly affected the fishing. Expectations were not high.

The Match Day continued cold and showery with the occasional sunny periods. However much reduced wind speed from the North West, gave tolerable fishing conditions and in the event the fishing was much better than anyone had dared to hope. Group one averaged 4.3, group two 3.7 and group three 2.7 fish per angler. Three anglers in group one and one angler in group two caught their limits. Only two anglers blanked.

Three areas were heavily fished. Between Denny Island and the North Shore. From the middle of the lake drifting over the Sunken Island onto Denny Island. Later in the day a small number of boats joined a couple of beats which had been fishing all day off Nunnery Point.

Too many anglers assumed that the weather demanded sinking lines and pulled lines. Sean Cutting's limit came to a floating line and a black nymph mid two black buzzers. His buzzers were not tied to sink quickly and he reckoned that he caught his fish within the top two/three feet. Paul Wild's largest fish was also caught on a floater and a black nymph. Indeed in the last two hours of the day reports were coming in of anglers catching on dries.

This was the first time we have fished an Association Match at Chew. The support from the staff was excellent, as was the post match meal. Our thanks to all at Chew Valley Lake.

Peter Firth

RWFF Team Qualify for England Finals

The Greys Team RWFF has qualified for the England Finals of the hardy Greys Championship 2002 at Rutland Water on Wednesday the 31st July. The team consists of Sean Cutting (capt.) Kevin Taylor, Steve Crowson, Paul Wild, Mike Gunnell and Andrew Flitcroft.

Presentation to RACS – Wednesday May 8th 2002

Our sponsored litter pick - up day and club auction realised £150 for RACS. This comprised £100 sponsorship ex AWS for the litter pick up and £50 which was Jeff Dale's fee for the Club Auction held on March 5th which he generously asked to be donated to a charity of the clubs choice. Photo in next issue.

Ladies Days: Rutland - Saturday 29th June & Grafham - Saturday 6th July

These are great days out and your chance to introduce your better halves to the sport.

AWS have teamed up with the English Ladies Fly fishing Association to provide expert tuition.

Boatmen are needed to take the ladies out so if you want to fish or can help out as a boat "person", contact Sue Noble at the Rutland Fishing Lodge on 01780 686441 and Tracy Rathbone at Grafham on 01480 810531.

The cost on the day of £20 will include an introduction to fly fishing along with fly casting instruction, tackle talk, fly - tying etc. There will also be an opportunity for a few hours fishing from bank or boat and a buffet lunch.

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RWFF Juniors evening - Summer 2002 -

This is an early warning of the event so that we can get as many, preferably experienced, boatmen as possible to make a show of it. It has been a great success in previous seasons. So if you can help as a boatman or know some youngster, preferably over the age of twelve, who might be interested please contact Andy Flitcroft on 01572 770703 or at the office on 01733 465329. At the beginners courses JW has been canvassing for boatmen & juniors.

Thanks to the sponsorship we receive from AWS and the tackle trade, this is a wonderful opportunity to get youngsters into the sport. There will be plenty of prizes. The day normally starts with casting tuition from 2.00pm. Then we all go out in a boat from 5.00pm to 9.30pm hopefully, on a one to one basis.

Date and full details to announced.

John Wadham Trophy Friday May 31st 2002

This is a fun evening bank match fished to reservoir rules. There will be an eight fish limit and no time bonus. There is a change to last year as the match will start and finish at the lodge. Enter by booking in at the fishing lodge in person from 5.00pm. Your name will be entered on the competitors' list. Fishing starts at 6.00pm. Only those on the list will be eligible to weigh in at the lodge between 10.15 & 10.30pm.

The bar will remain open till 11.00pm: so you can drown your sorrows or celebrate according to your success! In view of the late finish, there will not be food after this event. At the moment, the evening is the best part of the day on the bank so we should all catch some fish.