

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



May 2003

Website: www.rutlandflyfishing.co.uk
email: rwff@bigwig.net

Tuesday Boat League

This evening event started on 15th May. It is a great and inexpensive way to get to learn all about the sport, especially boat fishing. It is a friendly and very popular event. More details from the fishing lodge on 01780 686441

JW Trophy – Friday May 30th

This is a fun evening bank match fished to reservoir rules. There will be an eight fish limit with no time bonus. 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 6.00 pm. Only those who have booked in will be eligible to weigh in at the Lodge between 10.15 and 10.30 pm. The bar in the lodge will remain open until 11.00 p.m.: so you can drown your sorrows or celebrate according to your success. In view of the late finish of this event we regret that food will not be provided after the match.



Apart from being one of the best openings in the lake's history, April 2003 will be remembered for the weather. For most of the month it offered wall to wall sunshine with record temperatures peaking on the 17th at 27 deg c in places. Then, typical of April, on Easter Saturday the temperature slumped to 6 deg. C that temporarily put a damper on things. On the 18th, larger buzzers were hatching and on Sunday the 20th we saw only "tinies". The effect of the strong and icy blast of the Saturday was to mix the very warm surface water with the relatively cold deeper water. The water temp in the margins had reached 12 deg C before this: but took a tumble and has now recovered. Some 36,500 stockfish have now been introduced and distributed all around the lake. This included a bonus stocking of browns ranging up to 5lb in weight. As usual these have clubbed together and are easy pickings, so if you start catching them in quantity it is worth moving on to give them

John Wadham's Fishing Report

some time to settle. Stockies don't seem to like the North Arm! In order to attempt to overcome this, more fish have been introduced to this arm than the South. If you care to attend a stock delivery at the Transformer, watch how they invariably seem to make a beeline for Armley Wood and then on to the main basin. Do they know something we don't? Generally speaking therefore, the South Arm and Main basin have been the most productive areas. So far, the season's overall catch per return is 5.13. The current rate has dropped a little to 4.13. If this slaughter had carried on as it was i.e. 6.64 per return, the lake would have been cleaned out by June! The rainbows are silvering up nicely on a diet of buzzers of all colours, Daphnia, and in the case of the larger fish, roach fry. Even early in April some marvellous rises were observed. On one occasion fish could be seen rising as far as the eye and even binoculars could see! There was a dense mat of scum stretching in a line from the Stones out towards Lax Hill and it seemed that all the fish in this part of the lake had homed in on it. Some

quite large fish were seen and for those anglers who were lucky enough to be there, it was easy pickings. The fish were, to judge by their stomach contents sipping up tiny green and red midge larvae that were dropping out of the scum as it rose to the surface. There were rises on other evenings and on one occasion some good fish were seen off Burley Reach. Most productive places have been the Stones, Old Hall Point, Yellowstone, Dickensons, Belgrano Bay (west of the Whitwell main car park), Sykes Lane, Fantasy, Normanton and New Zealand Point. Strangely, there is little sign of fish in the North Arm Shallows - they must all have made their customary journey Eastwards towards the dam! Just recently, the bank fishing has declined a little: due mainly I suspect, to the unsettled weather and the dreaded Westerlies. Another factor is that the larger buzzers tend to hatch in 8-12 ft of water. So to get the best out of it, you might do well to try Carrott Creek, Whitwell Creek, the Harbour Wall or the dam: these places offering the deepest water from the cont

Cont. bank or to go afloat to the top of the South Arm!

For the boats, the most productive area, especially for overwintered fish, seems to be Manton Bay, Hideaway Bay and the Bunds. However there are plenty of mixed fish in the main basin.

Roger McCarthy and Al Owen took a very good bag of fish from a boat in Manton Bay. They fished buzzers on the bung taking 16 fish for 42lb. A great many of these were prime overwintered fish in the 2-4lb range. The North Notts. Police held a bank friendly that was won by a Mr Wilkinson with 8 fish for 24lb. These were taken from Old Hall Point and included Rainbows of 7lb 6oz and 5lb. Both these fish were in "mint" condition being full of body and full of fight with only slight evidence of "E" in the gills. The angler had his fingers burnt by the backing during the seven pounder's first express run that all but emptied his reel. Moral: keep plenty of backing on your reels – at least 75M – you never know "who" may take your offerings.

Terry Humphries recently had a bonanza from a boat taking 8 fish for 24lb 8oz. A limit, which Terry said, contained some of the best quality fish he had caught from the lake. The biggest fish were around the 4lb mark.

The water is now nice and clear and close to top level which is comfortable for fishing off the grassy banks.

The cuckoo was first heard here on 22nd April. The Ospreys as usual appeared at the end of March. The writer observed turtledoves near Grafham in April – quite early for this lovely but very unobtrusive bird.

The flora in Hambleton Wood has been a sight for sore eyes this spring. This is in no small measure due to the recent copicing.

The cowslips have flourished well in this dry warm April. There is a good stand of these surrounding the Ram Jam Inn roundabout on the A.1 and all around Grafham's banks

All methods have caught fish: but Buzzers have predominated with the main hatch being a small olive specimen.

Single GRHE with a red arse fished almost static solo or as top dropper from the bank has found the better fish.

To the astonishment of us all, many fish have overwintered very well despite their traumas of 2002. There is now arguably the largest overwintering stock in the lake for some years. The browns and, so far, the 2003 stockies are clear of Ergasilus. The very large overwintered fish appear to be little affected by "E" and seem only to be carrying a few specimens.

Our membership now stands at 200, which is a great vote of confidence in our fishery.

Our thanks are due to John Maitland & Dick Stephen who have constructed a dozen super new thwart boards for the boats. These are made of ash and should be very robust. While being a little heavier, they are many times stronger than their predecessors.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES - John Maitland, Chairman RWFF



It is great to hear that Rutland is producing some good catches and that many of the overwintered fish are in good nick, though some are thin even though 'hard' and with bright orange flesh.

My own trout season has got off to a slow start as my tin knee has been playing up after a bad night-time stumble over an ill lit step. That is why I haven't met many of you bank fishing regulars yet in 2003. However, before this trouble I had my string well and truly pulled (many times) in Cuba. Dick Stephen and I went to Cayo Largo for a week in late March and in spite of less than ideal weather caught a fair few bonefish with many over 51b. Dick had one over 81b and I hooked two in that class but lost both due to mangrove snags. One shot off in an irresistible 70 yard run slap into a solid wall of mangroves standing in a few inches of water; the other went straight through the one little dead bush standing on a flat which was otherwise clear for hundreds of yards. In both cases the 19lb Seagur fluorocarbon (super stuff) went at the knot. We both lost seriously big tarpon on the jump- ~try sticking your 4/0 hook into the side of a plastic bucket to experience the hooking problem - but were left with an adrenalin buzz which I've rarely experienced in over 60 years of fly fishing. However, we both did catch several baby tarpon in the 5 lb range. Permit we fished for but though we could see them they were too canny to take. These three species, with barracuda, jacks and various snappers provide a really varied fly-fishing experience which we can thoroughly recommend.

Warning from AWS

Take where you tread the banks near the water's edge. The strong winds of the winter and the recent persistent north easterlies have conspired to undermine the banks causing considerable erosion. In some places the banks are overhung by at least 2ft. Also "crevasses" have appeared near the water's edge. There are warning signs posted but look out for these hazards. Places worst affected are Inman's Spinney to Hambleton Wood, The Finches steep bank, West of Armley wood, from Armley Wood to Carrott Creek and The Mound.



Melton Mowbray fisherman and RWFF member, Roger McCarthy, with two of his 8 rainbows recently taken at Rutland.

Trevor Bows Out

Trevor Ashby retired from the AWS shop at Rutland Water on April 10th. His knowledge of the tackle trade was prodigious, as was his skill as a coarse and match angler. I am sure he will be much missed by all those with whom he served. He will also be missed by those who encountered his cheerful banter and wry humour. Welcome to fishing Trevor! It's great. No doubt we will be watching you to pick up a few hints on how you seem to locate those overwintered fish so regularly! Trevor, apart from appearing on Sky television as "Clevor Trevor" is also a very accomplished trumpet player and hopes to get back to playing again. We wish Trevor and Tess a very happy retirement.

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RWFF Juniors Evening 2003

This event is planned for late July this year. This is an early reminder of this very popular event. ***The hardest thing is getting enough boatmen.*** So, if you are a junior or know any juniors who are not necessarily club members and want to fish, please contact Andy Flitcroft on 01572 770703. If, also, you can help out as a boatman please also contact Andy on that number. If he is not in please leave your name address and telephone number on his answer phone. There will be plenty of prizes on offer. The event starts at 2.00 pm with casting tuition and from 5.00pm the juniors will be able to go out with a boatman and fish on a one to one basis and learn about the sport.

Full details will be appearing in subsequent newsletters.

David Moore answers questions asked by anglers and presented by RWFF

Catch & Release

The embargo on the catch & release facility was introduced as a precautionary move. AWS are keeping it under review and if they feel confident enough they will consider modifying or relaxing the rules on C&R during the season.

Life Cycle of Ergasilus

AWS don't yet know the details of the life cycle of Ergasilus in Rutland Water. It is one of the areas they are investigating as part of the R & D project commissioned with Stirling University.

Test nettings at Rutland

Coarse fish and trout will be monitored

Stock fish

These are being closely monitored prior to stocking

Nutrient values in Rutland

This has always been carried out and will continue

Test nettings of source rivers

EA have promised to carry out test nettings on the source rivers Welland & Nene at the intakes to Rutland but so far there has been no response to date.

The use of the boils

The "boils" act as a mixing system and are used dependant on water quality requirements to prevent stratification. Diffuser air tubes have now replaced the original helixors.

Information

AWS will be keeping us informed of their conclusions and especially any changes in stocking policy or other fishery management matters that result from the study.

Trout Survival

Based on last year, the trout survival rates do not appear to be noticeably affected by the parasite and the number of overwintered fish this year has been excellent.

Overwintering

One can only guess why they overwintered so well. Obviously there were a lot of fish left at the end of last season and even this would have given anglers a good start.

LAST KNOCKINGS - A WRY LOOK AT GOINGS ON AT RUTLAND



The season has got off to a flying start and now settled down a bit and is dependent upon the strength of the wind as much as anything. There have been quite a few lean skinny overwintered specimens seen around the fishing lodge so far this year but that's enough about Graham Pearson. At least this year there is no mystery surrounding whether a fish is a stockie or an overwintered one, a quick look at the gills tells you all you need to know. One or two anglers have gone to Eyebrook instead this year which means that there is bit more room for the rest of us, and the noise level has gone down a bit too but wait until Bob Garret gets his season ticket and it will be back to normal..



This year was unusual in that the boats got to fish a few days before the bank anglers, which made for a busy weekend and then a lot of boats lying idle in the harbour when the season started properly, maybe that's why Whitwell Creek wasso popular with the bank anglers early - at least there the fish had been safe from the boats. It was quite amazing how long it took the boats to catch their fish on the first weekend with many not returning until 5 or 6 o'clock in the evening obviously they must have all been targeting the overwintered specimens! Maybe next year AWS will let the banks anglers have first crack?



Imagine my surprise at turning on the TV the other evening to see John Wadham sitting on a stool fishing on Grafham harbour wall, not only that but he was swiftly followed by Iain Barr, Graham Pearson, David Shipman and several others all competing in the Bob Church Classic last Wednesday. I guess Anglia news are pulling out all the stops to stop people switching over to "The Simpsons"



A recent visit to the Lodge had a me a little concerned, on the side of a big red van parked near to the fishing boats was emblazoned "SEAL TRIPS". Have AWS come up with another money making wheeze, will Nigel be taking grockles on boat trips around Browns's island to view the basking seals? Whatever next, John Wadham taking parties to the Puffin colony in Manton Bay, Curly organising swimming with dolphins, rumour has it that a walrus has already been sighted (usually fishing the rudder!). I guess we will need to get worried when AWS twig that the really big tourist dollars will come with whale watching!

THE INFORMER