

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



May 2004

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DIARY DATES

Sun. 16th May
Roger Thom
Trophy

Fri. 28th May
John Wadham
Trophy

Sun. 13th June
Hanby Cup

Sun. 22nd June
Oliver Cup,
Round 1, Rutland

Sun. 26th Sept.
Oliver Cup,
Round 2 Graf-
ham

Sun. 5th Sept
Loch Style

Sun. 17th Oct.
Cutting Trophy
Round 2, boat



Rutland Bank Fishing w/e 07/05/04 - Due to all the recent heavy rain that coloured up the head of both arms - and there is evidently more to come - the lake remains at a very high level. This is very helpful to the bank fisherman especially on Fantasy Island where your back cast is above the dreaded rocks behind you. The surrounding land is now so saturated that you almost need waders to get to the waters edge in some places! With the wind continually switching, the fish now appear to be more widely distributed than last week.

However, the main basin is still the area to fish, with Normanton bank and Sykes & Stockie Bay producing fish. You can watch the boats especially off the Normanton bank taking a lot of fish all day. The diet is much the same with some good blooms of daphnia observed on the lee shores. On Friday morning there was a particularly dense bloom on the bank between Stockie bay and Whitwell Creek

Consequently many fish, including some well mended stockies, were caught here with the early starters taking their limits. According to their stomach contents the fish ap-

John Wadham's Fishing Report

peared to be grazing heavily on this rich "soup" and on inimitably tiny olive and green buzzers. The fish here were caught on all manner of patterns. However the fish are now finding imitative patterns more to their liking.

With the recent winds into the Fantasy end of the dam, this has proved a productive area this week. A number of anglers have taken their limit from here. Ted Kuzniar took a nice limit of well-mended stockies from Fantasy Island on buzzers. These were so silver that they really resembled over-wintered fish.

Old hall Point, one the most consistent locations this seasons is still producing a few fish. The over-wintered specimens are, however easy to identify. They are often slimmer than the stockies and often have a silver flush in a sharply pointed tail. Also their gut only contains a small amount of pink fat. Not the layers of white "blubber" normally found in stockies. The lack of surface movement may well be due to the stockies living off this wealth of body fat and taking ones flies more out of curiosity than to satisfy an appetite. Hence the many "bump" takes.

Most productive method has been to fish nymphs - especially dark buzzers on long leaders - in excess of 20ft if you can manage it. You may see odd fish rise but these seem to be coming up from

the bottom to select tit bits of the surface. As you can imagine if you cast at these fish they actually on their way back down again so won't see your fly!

However if you are patient you can bring fish up to a surface fly by skidding a palmer type pattern across the surface. Numerous rises and follows were achieved by this method on Wednesday evening.

Although there is a short-lived evening rise, it is still a little too cold for too much surface movement despite the dense clouds of small buzzers. Some insects are now showing, albeit briefly. This colder weather maintaining the relatively cold water is enjoyed by the trout as their optimum feeding water temperature is around 10-12degC. Lets hope for their sakes and ours that it stays cool and we don't have a repeat of last summers heat wave.

Wherever you fish, you have got to work a bit harder for your fish, which makes it a little more challenging and more rewarding. The fish are quite mobile at the moment and are moving up and down the bank. If the chaps either side of you are catching, be patient, they will soon come to you. Stockies, for some inexplicable reason, still seem very reluctant to stay in the North Arm.

Best bank catch reported was 4 fish for 14lb caught by fishery warden John O'Shea. His catch comprised three 3lb plus over-wintered rainbows and a 4lb plus brown all taken on black buzzer. A further visit to this spot produced a stockie and one 2lb over-wintered fish. His advice was "try a bit of quiet bank away from the madding crowd". Cont.....

Cont ... Boats—At last things seem to be stirring in the Lax Hill area with some nice 3lb + rainbows being caught. There are also plenty of fish to be had in front of the lodge. East Creek, Sailing club & Gibbett Gorse are also producing. There some pods of fish between the Normanton Church and the dam. Also, fish have been taken in Cardiac Hill and Barnsdale Bay area in the North Arm. Most have been caught pulling but with improved buzzer hatches and the imminent arrival of the big black buzzer - "Chironomus Rex" - as someone referred to it - nymph fishing is starting to prove productive

Specimen Fish—Recently some very large fish have been caught including a Rainbow of 8lb 13oz. The fish was caught from a boat off the Normanton Bank by Peter Mckie of Oldham, Lancs on a "woolly bugger" on a slow sink line. It was a lifetime best from the water for Peter and formed part of a 16 fish catch with his long time friend Tony Gallagher. One or two other fish between 3lb and 6lb have been caught. An angler from Bewl Water recently returned an estimated 7lb fish during a practice session.

Water Aid Charity Fund Raising Day – Rutland Water

Volunteers are being sought to help with the above event to be held at Rutland Water on Friday 25th June 2004. Most urgently needed are casting instructors – not necessarily qualified – and even more importantly boat men. We meet for a briefing at 0830 hours at the fishing lodge, Normanton. The match kicks off at 1000hrs and concludes at 1700hrs after which a meal will be served in the Lodge. There should be refreshments for all helpers and possibly a meal: but this cannot be guaranteed as there is the maximum number of 120 entrants which equates to the total seating capacity in the lodge. There will be a raffle at the evening presentation to which you will be welcome.

There are over 40 beginners taking part so any help you can offer will be much appreciated.

Names please to John Wadham on 01572 771092 (mobile 07762 607630), John Maitland on 01572 756650, Paul Wild on 01780 757853, Roy Kedge 01572 747431.

Notice for Key Holders

If you hold a car park / gate key and are also a season ticket holder, the bailiffs need to know. So that they can safely lock you in, would you please write clearly on you car park disk "K / H". This will ensure that the bailiffs can lock up at a reasonable time without having to go searching for you or leaving gates unlocked.

Tuesday Evening Boat League

This got under way on Tuesday 11th May. This is a fun competition and a great way to learn all about the art of boat fishing from your partner. Details of starting times etc from the fishing lodge on 01780 686441.

Anglian Water Fulling Mill International

During this recent event at Rutland there were 605 fish caught with a rod average of 5.93 with an average weight of 2lb 2¼oz.

Car Parking

We have been requested by Anglian Water not to obstruct the track or park on the right hand side of track at the entry to Stockie Bay field. Please use the car park provided.

"Today's Fly Fisher" Open

Congratulations to match team Guide Renegades comprising club members Phil Brown, Dave Doherty, Ron Oldroyd and Paul Shaw who helped team comprising club members Sean Cutting, Steve Crowson, Andrew Flitcroft, Mike Gunnell, David Lang and Kevin Taylor also made it through to the next round with 47 fish for 117lb. The rod average was a remarkable 7.4 fish per angler.

The Cutting Trophy -1st round bank fishing - Sunday 25th April 2004

The first club match of the season got off to a successful start with 13 members taking part. Although it was a bright sunny day with a light South to South East breeze. 34 fish were caught - mostly from the dam Wall and the Green Bank and mainly on floating and intermediate lines. The main diet on the day was buzzers with most of the fish around the 2½lb mark. The rod average was 2.6

1 st	Graham Cooper	7 fish	14lb 6oz
2 nd	Nigel Millner	6 Fish	12lb 4oz
3 rd	Roy Taylor	6 fish	11lb 2oz

Our thanks to Ron Oldroyd and his staff at the Horse & Panniers, North Luffenham for the excellent after match meal enjoyed by all.

Rutland Water Bank Fishing Report W/E 02/05/04

Recently, south facing shores have been most productive with Whitwell, Stockie bay, The Mound, Green Bank, Old Hall, Yellowstone fishing very well. However, as a result of the recent spell of winds between North and East and due to the daphnia diet fish are now to be found on the North facing banks. E.g. East Creek, New Zealand Point, Carrot Creek, Armley Wood. On Saturday boats found fish in the Carrot Creek Armley Wood area which is good news for bank fishermen as this has hitherto been unproductive.

The earlier stockies are silvering up very quickly and all the fish give a good account of themselves.

Some huge roach have been caught with many in the 1-2lb class.

Mr Hatton a former season ticket holder from Somerset caught a magnificent specimen of 3lb on a black buzzer. The fish was witnessed by many other anglers who said it was the biggest they had ever seen. It was weighed and photographed by John Wadham before being carefully returned to the water.

Diet—This seems to be mainly daphnia & tiny buzzers. Fish caught from the Old Hall point on Friday contained two or three large buzzers. This is good news and hopefully heralds the imminent arrival of the large buzzer hatch - "Chironomus Rex" - as someone was heard to classify it! For the bank fisherman this hatch can be a "last noggin" event so don't pack up too soon. One fish contained a tummy full of large bloodworms. These are all signs of the awakening of the buzzer ecosystem.



Its early season, the weather has calmed with a variable south / south westerly wind bringing the odd shower. The really good news is that The Stones is crawling with fish and every morning RWFF member, Gordon Bloodworth is to be found there catching his share and sometimes his limit. The fish are mainly stockies but have a good sprinkling of over wintered, nicely silvered fish mixed in with them. The photo shows Gordon with a 4lb 1oz specimen, caught on a buzzer. This rainbow was not only over wintered but was really fit, giving him a really good tussle before joining the rest in his bag.

During the recent calm spell when vegetable matter came to the surface it paid to fish the "scummiest" areas as the fish including vast shoals of Roach and Bream here were grazing on the tiny green larvae dropping out of the scum as it reached the surface. This fall-out of scum caused the water to become locally cloudy

with a great benefit to the angler. No doubt these coarse fish shoals will be of great benefit to the Osprey population. Still on the subject of the coarse fish, some fly stealing humungous Pike have been seen in the margins. They have come in to spawn, feed on their own offspring and to graze on the buzzer on which some very large fish - in excess of 20lb - have often been caught in the past. A number of over wintered fish in the two to 4lb class have been caught in various places around the lake.

Patterns— Buzzers in most colours, blood worms and pheasant tail nymphs, gold head hares ears and of course the dreaded "Black & Green" lure.

Methods— Deep fishing by day with intermediate lines and lures or with long leaders on floating lines and nymphs of your choice on the droppers and something heavy like a gold head on the point. During the last few evenings the fish, although not showing much have been quite near the surface so it then pays to put a lighter nymph or lure on the point. Black and Green is still the most effective pattern for this and fished quite quickly. On some days the fish have responded to a very slow retrieve.

Recently, early morning anglers have done well with some taking their limits before 8.00am.

The water is clearing now after the winter colour and therefore a more cautious approach will improve your catch.

Wildlife on Hambleton

If you're bored by the cussedness of the fish, pay a visit to Hambleton Wood. To view and take in the scent of the fishing outlay!

There are now seven ospreys at the water with one pair incubating eggs. They can often be seen feeding and helping themselves to the vast roach shoals. There is one nest on one of the stands in Manton Bay and the other near the Burley fish ponds. Please give these areas a wide berth. The Martins, Swallows and Swifts are all here and in company with the fish are ready for the imminent hatch of the big buzzer.

Caution On The Banks!

Many of the banks of the reservoir have been undermined by the winter wave action. Take care when standing close to the water. This high water level is ideal for the bank fisherman and wading has so far been necessary in only a few places.

LAST KNOCKINGS - A WRY LOOK AT GOINGS ON AT RUTLAND



Well lots of fish are being caught, freezers are full and we're all experts again, regular stockings ensure a constant supply of gullible stock fish making for a good rod average which is what its all about, or is it? Just how do you measure the quality of fishing, the silveriness of the fish, how hard they fight, how well they rise, how well the fish have grown, ease of capture, how much the season ticket holders complain! Difficult one to quantify or measure objectively.



Apparently its not going to be as hot a summer this year so you'd better book your holidays abroad, if it was going to be a scorcher I'm sure that David Moore's advanced weather forecasting system would have told us by now. According to Hooked "Last years hot summer meant that catch and release was suspended for most of the season", did he really know it was going to be a hot summer in February 2003 when the restriction on Catch & Release, ticket prices etc. were announced or did the AWS spin doctors write that bit.



When he's not been blowing up the fishing club computer (now replaced with an impressive Dell model thanks to thwart board receipts) John Wadham has been shopping and purchased a gleaming white new Wadmobile, he's just installed the carpets in the back and we're all now wondering what colour curtains he's going to go for this time (not pink again I hope). I think he's waiting for the puddles to dry out before taking it around the peninsular but I'm sure you'll see it soon.



When not busy at work in the Fishing Lodge (or FISHI LODGE according to the sign) shop young Phil (the Wanderer) Brown used to spend a lot of time fly fishing for both trout and pike but that's all changed recently and he's really got into gardening in a big way, I think the thing that persuaded him was that people were prepared to pay for his services. So if you need some help in the garden, Leylandii need lopping, hedges need honing, fences replacing, bushes trimmed etc. give Phil a call, I believe if you call the Lodge and ask for Bushcutter Man you will get through to him.



I'm sure that club members would like to congratulate John Seaton who recently completed 20 years service with AWS and Nigel Savage who celebrated his 50th birthday just before the start of the fishing season. Nigel invited all the fishery staff to his party in the teeming metropolis of Leicester; to hear some of the comments afterwards you would have thought they'd been abroad! By all accounts a good time was had by all and everyone was hard at work the next day, it was however probably a mistake to realign the buoys along the dam first thing the next morning.



You may have noticed that it has been a bit quieter around the banks so far this year; the reason for this is that Bob Garrett has been in hospital for some time. I am sure that all club members will join with me in wishing Bob a speedy recovery and hope to see him back on the banks soon. It's just not the same without him (although my fishing jumper doesn't seem to be as baggy as usual).

THE INFORMER