

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 1995

Dear Member

26 November 1995

Winter Meetings

Hopefully this newsletter should reach you in time to remind you that the fishing tackle auction will be held on Tuesday 12th December at the Victoria Hall at 7.30p.m. Members are reminded that the room will be open from 6.30p.m. and those wishing to sell tackle should try and get there early to ensure that all items can be booked in for prompt start. Last year all of the items for sale were provided by only 17 members, hopefully this year there will be greater participation.

On Tuesday 19th December there is to be an additional meeting in the downstairs room at the Victoria Hall. Tim Appleton has requested to address members of the Club on his plans to introduce ospreys from Scotland to Rutland Water, it has been suggested that Rutland could support up to 5 pairs of ospreys. Tim Appleton will make a short presentation to members and ask for their views, one of the reasons for their introduction is to frighten off the ever increasing numbers of cormorants. I am sure that the subject of cormorants will come up in the debate and it promises to be a lively discussion. The second half of the evening will be a social event with members able to discuss his proposals over a drink and a sandwich, refreshments will be provided.

Other meetings planned are as follows:

| | <u>Date</u> | <u>Speaker</u> | <u>Subject</u> |
|---------|---------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Fishing | January 9th | Peter Lapsley | Knots & Wrinkles-Stillwater Trout |
| | January 23rd | Taff Price | Flyfishing the Zambesi for Tigerfish |
| | February 6th | N/A | Club Competition meeting |
| | February 13th | TBA | Trout cooking / smoking demonstration |
| | February 27th | Chris Elliot | Taxidermy (stuffing fish !) |
| | March 12th | Peter O Reilly | Trout Fishing in Ireland |

All of the speakers come highly recommended by other clubs , following the success of last years trout cooking demonstration we have decided to repeat the event and hopefully there will be something about trout smoking this year , members are again encouraged to bring along wives, girlfriends etc. to make the evening a success. Peter O Reilly's visit is to be sponsored by the Irish Tourist Board for whom he works and promises to be an excellent evening, definitely one not to miss, he plans to talk about lough fishing on Conn and Corrib but I am sure he will invite questions about any aspect of fishing in the Emerald Isle.

Annual General Meeting

For those not able to attend the A.G.M. I shall summarize the salient features : John Wadham was elected as Chairman, John Harrison agreed to remain as Treasurer for one last year but is hoping to redistribute some of his workload and a replacement is still being sought, it was agreed that concessionary subscriptions of £3.00 should apply to juniors and students in full time education. An amendment was made to Sean Cutting's motion with regard to team selection so that next those who qualified through the Oliver Cup in 1995 are entitled to fish for RWFF in the B & H competition for next year only. Following the business part of the meeting John Wadham presented the trophies for Club competitions and biggest fish caught by members during the season (if rumours are to be believed Nigel Savage is planning an extension to his mantelpiece !)

Subscriptions

Members are reminded that subscriptions are due before the end of the year, last year John Harrison had to spend a lot of time chasing members for their money so get your chequebook out and send your cheque to John at the address on the top of this newsletter **NOW** or alternatively you can pay him at the auction. I have included a membership renewal form so there really are no excuses.

Catch Return Analysis

As an accountant I find it hard to resist a closer look at the catch return statistics which give an indication of how the fishery performs so with the help of Nigel Savage at the lodge I have constructed a model on a spreadsheet from which the following graphs were prepared, making the following assumptions:

1. 40% of anglers put in catch returns
2. Anglers that don't put in returns catch 70% as much as those that do
3. 1% of fish stocked are lost through stress etc after stocking.
4. Cormorant predation varies from 6% to 1% of trout head per week (higher at beginning and end of season)
5. Loss to pike predation remains constant at 0.5% of trout head per week.
6. Anglers put in returns promptly.

I must stress the high degree of uncertainty that is incorporated in the model of trout stock in the lake but it certainly makes for interesting reading. The reported catch return target of 3.00 is achieved on 13 out of 31 weeks yet the average for the season is 3.25 because of the high number of fish taken in April. It can also be seen that number of anglers visiting tails off as does the rod average in October and that July and August were not good months for the fishery in terms of angler visits perhaps because of the hot weather, weed growth and anglers going on holiday. The good buzzer fishing at the end of May shows as a high rod average before the fish get started on the pinfry in June. The total number of trout eaten by cormorants I estimated to be about 20,000, at a meeting with AWS it was revealed that 17 % of all trout on catch returns had been marked by cormorants. Whilst on the subject of cormorants it has come to my attention that they do not like paracetamol and anglers at other fisheries have been lacing sprats etc. and feeding them to the cormorants with deadly consequences! I hope that you find the graphs of some interest.

See you at the auction

Paul Wild
Secretary