

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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NOVEMBER 1998 NEWSLETTER

Firstly, a very warm welcome to the new members who joined us at the A.G.M.

The first social meeting of the Winter will be a forum of "Experts" which will be held at the **Fishing Lodge**, Normanton at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8th December (**not** the 12th as previously stated). The Secretary apologises for any inconvenience this may have caused. It is hoped that you will join in so as not to make it too serious or just four folks waffling. Your hosts will John Maitland, John Wadham, Brian Thomas & Iain Barr.

This line up equates approximately to at least 160 years of angling experience in most spheres of the sport. J.W. however pleads ignorance on the subject of match fishing! However, the rest of the team will easily make up for that!

Fishing report

Bank

November 1998 will go down in the annals of the Rutland Water Fishery record as being the month of the monsters. Where were they all season? Putting on some incredible amount of weight during a very cold Summer I guess. One thought that 1999 would be the year of the 6 pounder. However in view of some of the recent sightings and captures it may well be more likely the year of the ten pounder.

I kid you not! A fish of this size was taken from Stockie Bay point and another fish half as big again was seen following it round. The Secretary lost a fish of that size on the dam on a daddy longlegs after along battle in which the fish spent most of its time at the extremity of the backing. Other anglers have had similar experiences at Sykes and Mowmires. These fish may be well hooked at the start of the battle but after a long struggle sometimes as much as 20 minutes the hook hold gives way.

Dick Stephen had the misfortune to be run out of backing by a large fish near Fantasy Island with the resultant sickening "ping" as the line came up short on the reel spindle. Moral - top up your reels. It is not only the first run. Some fish have gone that distance at a second attempt. Once that is over it is just a matter of patience and arm ache. Beware! The takes are good and steady until you "hit" them. Remember, most large wild fish have seen it all before and even before they lay hold they know they are making a mistake! As many of these fish take at very close range at this time of year (due to the absence of angling "hippos") the most dangerous time is that moment when you make contact and the fish bolts. This first panic stricken dash can cover 100m in one movement - a lot faster than you can run. So if you know you are into a "croc" get out onto the bank so that if a fish rushes towards the bank you can run away from it and join John Griffin's sheep in an attempt to keep in touch! Much better to be able to keep the fish on the reel rather than have miles of rather iffy kinky backing lying about just waiting to tangle round some boot, reel handle or rock and then that sickening crack as the winner takes all!

Unless you are fishing with very thick string, use very light tackle no more than A.F.T.M. 6 and fish small patterns - say 10 or 12. The smaller your hook the better the penetration and likelihood of a good hold. Also the lighter (not finer) the tackle the less chance there is of being snapped on the take.

The best hooks for the job are the Drennan series Special Wet, Shrimp hook (for Bloodworms/ Buzzers etc.) and in the long shank - the Anglian Tackle Shops B200.

A useful unit seems to be a Bloodworm/Buzzer/Pheasant Tail or Hares Ear Dropper and an attractor on the point. Sometimes they like it pulled, at others fished slow figure of eight or even static.

Fishing Report (Contd.)

A Fishy Story

One sunny afternoon, the Secretary visited Fantasy Island at 3.00 pm. The first cast taffled up. So a new leader had to be erected. The next cast went straight and an adjustment of his footing must have aroused a Rainbow and a 5lb 14oz fish which took the bloodworm dropper was a eventually landed after a long struggle. It is a fact these larger fish travel around in small pods or pairs. So with that in mind despite being chuffed to bits with the present success a further cast was made. A tightening on the line indicated a firm take and something took off at a speed one dare not estimate and again a sighting of the reel spindle was anticipated! All you can do is hope that the fish runs out of steam, turns right or left - mercifully it turned left and then returned nice and steady. After a great deal of arm ache a career best Rainbow of 7lb 6oz was safely in the net. This fish took a tiny Black & Green Tadpole on 6lb Fluorocarbon leader. Amazingly, this fish exhibited the result of a recent encounter with a Pike which must have been of prodigious proportions as the teeth marks were some eleven inches apart. While on this subject, the number Pike damaged fish caught is showing an alarming increase.

You can not run away from a fish on Fantasy, The Dam or the Harbour Wall. So, if you can, while playing a fish, pay the loose line and backing into the water provided there is not a wind driving into the rocks to tangle it up further. However, be warned, those rocks are all very slippery especially when wet. So the safest route is over the top. Even these are slippery when wet (as are the rocks on the Western face of the Harbour Wall) Studded boots could be a positive advantage.

Some anglers notably John Dracup and Lewis Carlin and Ruggles Fisher have had some grand fish. Some on white Minkies on floating lines and others on Boobies with intermediate/sunk lines.

Lewis has recently taken some tremendous Rainbows of 6lb 9oz, 5lb 8oz & 5lb 8oz. The six pounder was caught on a Minkie from Lewis's "special spot" on Sykes and drained the reel on the first run. It was his first cast of the day. Funny how often this happens. However, after a run like that in such clear water the rest of the shoal may have been spooked so it may pay to move a little further along the bank and cover fresh water.

You will have to experiment on what is the best method on the day. Sometimes there has been a rise to a tiny buzzer. It seems so incongruous that these huge fish should be interested in such tiny tit bits. They must be very tasty.

The main diet is still almost unchanged viz. Corixa, Bloodworms, Sticklebacks, Perch Fry, Dog Ends and recently, copious quantities of daphnia.

The secretary and others have found the "Fulling Mill" - Fluorocarbon on the black spool - available at the lodge to be a great asset to fishing. The 6lb with a dropper has been tested to destruction but has not yet been found wanting in the toughest circumstances. This nylon has good "wind knot" (some of which occur in flat calms!) strength. If you have this knotty problem your Secretary is quite prepared to help you sort it out before next season's ten pounders go on the rampage.

There have been many other angling feats. Vic Winterton caught his career best Rainbow of exactly 7lb from the bank at the Transformer Road End. The fish which gave Vic many anxious moments was caught on a "Quasi Modo" Muddler -Vic's own design - fished on a rather risky 5lb B.S. leader. The fish was caught immediately after those violent thunderstorms on 23rd October.

The best fish ever weighed and photographed by the Secretary was a superbly conditioned totally unblemished Rainbow of 8lb 10oz caught by Ken Merridan from the Mowmires reach some 200 m west of Fantasy Island on a tiny Tadpole. The fish gave a very strong but rather uneventful fight. It was Ken's career best. When cleaned it turned out to be a female with a roe weighing 1lb 4oz.

A number of these fish are quite gravid. Cock Rainbows have suddenly appeared. These fish look very good when first caught but soon lose their shine. Many of the fish in the Sykes Lane/Fantasy end of the lake appear to be there for spawning. Hence the gravid hen/cock Rainbows and a plethora of huge Browns "on the wing".

Fishing Report (Contd.)

Where have these Browns been all season? Some of the rainbows seen jumping were well into double figures. Some of these Browns have been caught. Jon Marshall had an estimated nine pounder off Fantasy Island. The secretary took a career best of 7lb 14oz here. These were of course returned to the water.

So, if you want perfect rainbows then try around the Peninsula, Barnsdale or Whitwell as most of the fish here seem to be "Triploids". Fish which are "sexless" and stay beautifully silver long after capture.

The third largest fish of the season was a career best mint conditioned Rainbow of 9lb 12oz taken on a White Minkie by local angler Rick Broome from the bank adjacent to the Tree in the Water near the Transformer. So it shows you that could meet these giants anywhere.

To show how ubiquitous these big fish are, the Secretary recently caught a career best Rainbow of 7lb 7oz at Yellowstone. The fish was a perfectly conditioned and totally unmarked "Triploid" (neither male nor female), with a full silver tail flush. The fish took off on a trail blazing run and again had to be followed. However after that it came quietly. The gut, in common with a lot of other Triploids, contained a large quantity of natural pink fat which would have been sufficient to get it through the hardest winter. The stomach contained a foul smelling soup of decaying perch fry - fishy indigestion perhaps! Also its heart had adhered to the body cavity. So perhaps the fish was nearing the end of its days. It was 24" long and had a girth of 16". It was caught on a mini tadpole with a sparkler tail. It was so bitterly cold that the captor had difficulty in feeling the rod and line while playing the fish!

If anyone catches a monster and you know that the Secretary is fishing nearby. Go and find him. He always carries a camera and will be pleased to oblige with a few frames. The secretary was lucky on this occasion as there was an angler nearby to do the honours for him. Rainbows must be photographed a.s.a.p. after capture as they can quickly lose their shine. You should also be certain to place a tape measure alongside the fish to give a idea of size. Without it you could easily say that the fish depicted was ten pounds not the real figure of 3lb!

Another ten pounder, the best fish of the year, has been taken from the bank. This time it was a superbly conditioned specimen of 10lb 5oz. It was caught by 19 year old Neil McRobert's from Stamford on a size 12 Black Buzzer from the former "Pontoon Bay" at Normanton. Other big fish came from this area at the same time. A 6 pounder being caught from the Harbour Wall in front of the Lodge.

Junior member Charles Bowers has got among the good fish. He took a lovely 4lb 9oz Rainbow from the Peninsula Road End near Half Moon Spinney on a size 12 G.R.H.E. on 6lb B.S. leader.

The fish gave him quite a fight. He has also caught quite a few fish with an "obscene" looking pink tadpole. Now that shows imagination. I don't suppose the Rutland rainbows have seen many of those! He also did very well in the second leg of the Oliver Cup at Grafham, fishing against the adult club members and catching the best Rainbow on the day.

Trophy Winners 1998

The Trout & Salmon Shield for the best Rainbow	8lb	1oz	Malcolm Janik
The Trout Fisherman Trophy for the best Brown	11lb	11oz	Mike Barratt
The Mike Ellis Junior Trophy for the Best Rainbow	2lb	11oz	Michael Wild
The "Fario" Junior Trophy for the best Brown	No Takers		
The Wadham Trophy	Lin Walters		
The Oliver Cup	Steve Crowson		
Rutland Pro/Am	Kevin Taylor & Richard Walden		
Oliver Cup	Steve Crowson		
Loch Style Competition	Paul Wild & Kevin Taylor		
The Roger Thom Trophy.	Sean Cutting		
The Hanby Cup	Graham Pearson & Mike Barratt		

Trophy Winners 1998 (Contd.)

These and the rest of the prizes will be presented at the Fly Tying Evening on Tuesday January 12th 1999
Congratulations to the winners. Don't forget to turn up to receive your prize!

Last seasons winners are asked to get the trophies back to the Fishing Lodge or Rods & Reels Angling Centre, Mill Street, Oakham as soon as possible so that Richard Hearth can get on with the engraving.

Boat Fishing

A few remaining boats ventured out but were often frustrated by the weather. However some good catches were taken on the rudder. Apparently there were still a lot of large Rainbows up the Arms so they are not all down at Fantasy, Sykes and Normanton. Some very large Browns were also encountered.

All the boats are now off the water for refurbishment and cleaning

The 1998 Annual General Meeting.

This was an efficiently run affair. There was unanimous agreement that the subs should remain unchanged for 1998/99. There was quite a good attendance.

Roger McCarthy had expressed a wish not to be considered for re-election. The Chairman gave an appraisal of Roger McCarthy's ten years career as a committee member with the club. He paid tribute to his work in encouraging youth into the sport and for organising the events and sponsorship for them. Also for his hard work in setting up and manning our stand at the annual Leicester FF. Show . He said that this was an outstanding effort, all present agreed and warm applause was offered. The chairman then went on to welcome the two new committee members who were elected.

Firstly, Kevin Taylor comes in for Roger McCarthy. He was formerly Secretary of the Barclays Bank Branch Fly Fishing club and is therefore well versed in club management matters and has already shown a tremendous willingness to help in club events besides being a very skilled match angler.

The Chairman went on to thank D.Doherty who had said that he did not wish to stand for re- election. Sean Cutting was elected in his place. Sean, whose job as club captain is onerous, time consuming and at times a frustrating has already been a great asset to the club effort. Welcome to you both.

Future Organisation of Junior Events

The committee is seeking someone to take on the mantle of helping in organising the junior events: I know Roger's efforts will be a hard act to follow. However, if there is anyone in the Club or you know of anyone outside the club who could help out then please contact any officer of the club. Whoever volunteers for the job will have the full backing of the committee and Anglian Water plus Trout Fisherman, Ryobi Masterline as sponsors.

Officers and committee members' telephone numbers are given at the end of this letter. Please keep them for future reference.

Association of Major Fly Fishing Clubs - A report from John Maitland

The last group 2 match was fished at Pitsford on 27th September. In a close result R.W.F.F. did well to come second to East Midlands. Our Results were as follows:-

K.Taylor (Capt.)	3 Fish	4lb 14oz	A. Flitcroft	4 Fish	6lb 10 oz
G.Bloodworth	8 Fish	14lb 6oz	P.Wild	3 Fish	5lb 3oz
M.Gilbert	1 Fish	1lb 13oz	S Crowson	3 Fish	4lb 3oz

Results on the day	Weight	League to date	Points
1 East Midlands	40lb 14oz	R.W.F.F.	19
2 R.W.F.F.	37lb 1oz	Mid Northants	19
3 Mid - Northants	35lb 5oz	Bristol Resrs.	14
4 Bristol Resrs.	32lb 7oz	East Midlands	13
5 RN/RM.	31lb 1oz	RM./RN	10

Most importantly, Mid - Northants were in third place so that after this match we and Mid - Northants were equal at the top of Group 2 with 19 points each. All was to play for in the Association match.

This was fished at Hanningfield on 3rd October. The fish were on daphnia and very catchable provided that one got the depth and lure right. For example, a coral booby on a Fast Glass line did well for one of the Fish Hawks who caught the heaviest fish well over 6lb. There were many 6 fish limit bags. Steve had one including a 4lb 8oz specimen for our team. All the other team members contacted enough fish to have bagged up if only they had stayed on the hook.

Association match Hanningfield - 3rd October 1998

J.Maitland (Capt.)	5 Fish 3.68 KG	Paul Buck	4 Fish 5.20 Kg
Dick Stephen	4 Fish 3.14 Kg	Steve Crowson	5 Fish 7.46 Kg

The vital result is that we came third in Group 2 behind Bristol Reservoirs and RN/RM. teams but Mid Northants were last. So, R.W.F.F. received the Anglian Water Challenge Trophy and should be promoted to Group 1 for next season.

As club organiser for the A.M.F.C. I would like to thank and congratulate all 21 club members who put their names forward and fished in the 1998 matches. Three years experience has shown me that if one only has small pool of volunteers it is not always easy to select teams with the right mix of experienced and novice competition anglers to bring the latter on (the aim of the A.M.F.C) and to do well for our club. Having got into Group 1, I sincerely hope that we can stay there but this will require a good response when volunteers are called for in the Spring of 1999.

Users Panel Meeting - 27th October 1998 - attended by the R.W.F.F. Chairman & Secretary

Among other things, the following points were discussed.

- 1 The poor state of the Peninsula Perimeter Track
- 2 The state of the Transformer Car park. (There is uncertainty who is responsible for this.)

We met the new Recreation Manager, Mr Justin Boughey, who receives a copy of our newsletter, so is fully conversant with our needs.

Winter Programme - 1998/1999.

Tuesday	Jan 12th	Fly Tying Evening & Prize Giving. The following club members will be giving us the benefit of their skills - Trevor Ashby, Andy Flitcroft, Iain Barr, Sean Cutting, Brian Lloyd and just for a joke J.Wadham. More details in the next newsletter
Tuesday	Jan 26th	Video Evening - Dick Stephen is looking for the best ones. If you know of any that are especially good and would appeal to R.W.F.F members please contact him on 01572 770416.
Tuesday	Feb 2nd	Christopher Robinson on fishing abroad at a price most of us might afford. He has promised that it will definitely <i>not</i> be a sales pitch for his travel company!

Winter Programme (Contd.)

Tuesday Feb. 9th Competition Meeting.

Tuesday Feb. 16th Tackle Auction - Jeff Dale has again very kindly agreed to be our Auctioneer for the evening. It has been agreed by the committee that unsold items with a reserve will only be charged a £1- 00 flat rate commission whatever their value

Monday Mar 1st Cooking Evening with Jim Meikle from the Falcon Hotel at Whittlesey. Jim comes highly recommended by a number of our club members who presumably have tasted his cuisine. We hope that ladies will attend this one.

Wednesday Mar 24th - Dinner & Speaker Evening - Bob James of "A Passion for Angling" fame has agreed to come and speak at this event. Note that this is on a **Wednesday**.

Bob Feetham, the owner of Rutland Times has very kindly agreed to come or send a representative to all these and cover our Winter functions for his Paper - and the club!

Rutland Water Christmas Fur & Feather Bank Match - Sunday 13th December 1998

Entrance fee is £6 - 50 + plus the cost of your day ticket. Those already in possession of the £75 - 00 "Winter Brace" ticket will not be required to purchase a day ticket for the event. The match will be followed by "Hot - Pot and Crusty Bread" at the Lodge. Don't forget to bring something for a prize. Book in advance on 01780 686441. Fishing is from 0800 hours to 1600 hours and the weigh in is from 1600 hours. This is a great fun event and, as you can see from the fishing report above, promises to be a bonanza. Don't forget that you can buy a 4 fish "evening" ticket which is available for the full day for £9 - 00. Or of course the £15 - 00 - 8 fish ticket.

With the present Rainbow Trout average size at an incredible 3lb 9oz an 8 fish catch could weigh as much as 28lb 8oz!

Best Bag	18lb Turkey
Second Prize	Joint of beef
Third prize	Gammon Joint

A last word

A comprehensive review of the 1998 season will appear in January Newsletter. Figures to be included in this will be supplied by Nigel Savage from the Lodge records.

As a result of some recent high speed Rainbow runs the Secretary has had to replace the sprockets/ pawls on two of his reels! Have you checked yours? Moral - Buy better reels!

You have heard some fishy tales from me lets hear some from you!

Well, if this fishing goes on till December all standing records will be broken. A 12 pound Rainbow is now a distinct possibility. So watch this space.

Telephone Numbers of Club Committee**Members**

Roll on the Fur & Feather!

Yours Sincerely

John Wadham

Vice Chairman - Jon Marshall	01780 686441
Sean Cutting	01780 720833
John Dodds	01778 440213
Andrew Flitcroft	01780 754004
John Harrison	01572 722580
Brian Lloyd	01664 562947
Dick Stephen	01572 770416
Kevin Taylor	01778 342423
Brian Thomas	0115 911 9257

Season review

Cormorants effect on environment

V. Good start

Whitwell & harbour

Then big stocks @ Trans went to Whitwell

Now doubled in size

Burley & Tim Appleton's good

North Arm most productive

Lake level maintained

Good Buzzer in May & Sept

Bloodworm explosion

Windy & Cold summer

Wet spring and early summer and Autumn helped maintain level

Main diets Corixa, stickle backs

Green, black & brown buzzer

Early season Roach fry all mild winter