

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

Chairman

Mr. J. Maitland
St Albans Close
Oakham
Rutland
LE15 6EW

Secretary

Mr. E. J. Wadham
6 Mendip Road
Oakham
Rutland
LE15 6NN

Treasurer

Mr. P. Wild
35 Tennyson way
Stamford
Lincs
PE9 2GZ

Tel 01572 756650 Tel 01572 771092 Tel 01780 757853

NOVEMBER 1999 NEWSLETTER

Fishing Report

October must go down in history as the month of the monsters at Rutland - especially the last week. The figures for the month make staggering reading.

Over 9lb	3	fish	Over 6lb	28	Fish
Over 8lb	14	fish	Over 5lb	64	Fish
Over 7lb	19	fish	Over 4lb	233	Fish
Over 3lb	348	fish			

Nigel Savage & Phil Brown had a big bag of 12 fish for 40lb+ taken in a boat.

This as suggested in the last letter is undoubtedly the best ever month for large rainbows in the lake's history

You needed at least a six pounder to raise a few eyebrows. Many of our members got among the crocs.

The winner of the Trout & Salmon Trophy for the best Rainbow is Roger McCarthy with a magnificent 9lb 3oz specimen taken from an anchored boat in the sailing club bay. The fish was caught on a size 2 long shank "suspender" Minkie which he had tied up as an experiment the night before. Roger fished it very slowly. The fish made two powerful runs before circumnavigating the boat and the wrapping the leader around the propeller. The fish was netted by Nigel Savage after much panic. Roger was using a 10ft # 8 weight rod and 10lb leader. Roger had already submitted a dry fly caught 7lb Rainbow for this trophy earlier in the season.

Bob Garratt who only fished twice this season caught his best ever rainbow at exactly 9lb while fishing in a boat at the mouth of East Creek. This fish was also taken on a "Suspender" Minkie"

Next in line was Dick Stephen who took an immaculate 8lb 9/2oz Rainbow also, at the mouth of East Creek but from the bank. The fish took most of his backing and was landed by a neighbouring angler using JW's ample landing net.

Next is the Secretary who took his best ever Rainbow of 8lb 5oz on a twinkle Minkie near the small orange buoy in East Creek. The fish which was a Triploid luckily only managed to thrash on the surface for a short while before being netted in torrential rain and a gale.

Next in line is Andy Mosley's 8lb 1oz Rainbow caught from East Creek opposite the grey buoy. This was also taken on a Minkie at dawn and gave him many anxious moments. He need not have worried as the Secretary arrived in the nick of time to net this perfect specimen. The Secretary who is a keen coarse angler also took his personal best Chub of 6lb 0oz from East Creek corner on a size 8 Minkie on 10lb leader. The fish was enthusiastically photographed by other neighbouring anglers. This corner is well stocked with Pike. Dick Stephen left a Minkie in one and Malcolm Janik caught it the next day and the Minkie was returned to sender! Or shall we say loser? However, Malcolm also had pike problems here and lost several Minkies before moving. Malcolm did redeem himself by taking an immaculate 6lb 8oz fish from Whitwell Creek.

I am sure other members must have caught some great fish. I am sorry if they have not been included here. Please let me know of your success so that they can be included in the next issue. It was interesting that a number of the biggest fish were taken last thing in the evening.

Fishing Report (Contd.)

The average size of the fish worked out at 4lb 5oz for the last week of the season. Some of the larger fish appeared coloured and a bit battered. This may in part be due to grazing in dense weed beds in relative darkness and the diet of snails and fry to be found there. Some the fish are now looking a bit red and 'eggy'. You can soon tell if they are ripe by looking to see if the ovipositor next to the vent is exposed. However there are plenty of silver fish some of which have recently been caught around the peninsula.

Last year at this time the best fish were six pounders. This year it is 8 pounders. So, on that basis the best fish before the millennium could be a 12 pounder. Big fish have been seen at various places.

Favoured places are East Creek, Whitwell Creek, Barnsdale side of the Mound, Whitwell Creek to the Dam.

The large fish have been caught mainly on Minkies in a range of colours. More important than pattern was method and time of day.

Iain Barr had what must be one of the quickest limits when he took 8 fish for 27½lb - not quite up to the average of 4lb 5oz!. Great catch anyway!

Many huge fish have been lost in weed beds, round mooring ropes, tree roots or by sheer "rainbow power" and inadequate hooks. Lots of lessons learned about tackle maintenance. If fish have been on the fry all night, early morning is unlikely to be productive. The afternoon would then be best. Remember that, in terms of bulk, 6 perch fry probably equate to 10,000 buzzer pupae. So it is best to catch them when they first come on. Size does not appear to matter. While Gordon Bloodworth was boat fishing off the Mowmires bank he noticed a disturbance on the surface. He had a few casts at it without success. Motoring over to investigate he found a 13lb 2oz Brown which had just choked to death on a 12oz Perch! Even Curly's tandem Minkies must appear tiny compared with that!

In another incident, one of the Pike anglers caught and released an 11¾ Rainbow from a boat in the Sailing club bay. The fish had attempted to engulf the anglers bung but became entangled in the line. It was successfully extricated and released apparently none the worse for its venture. Another of 11½lb was caught on a 7 inch spoon. So lets up the size of our Minkies!

Many anglers have experienced a lot of "fluffy" takes: compared by our Chairman with an Italian sucking up spaghetti but not touching the fork! If this happens to you keep coming or gently speed up the retrieve. But beware the fish may take just as you lift off and run out of arm!

As always with Rutland, the fish make the rules and feeding times have fluctuated. So if you have the stamina keep that fly in there all day. With every chance of catching a ten pounder surely its worth the effort. Their diet now appears to be more varied as the perch fry are gradually retreat to deeper water. Snails, Corixa. Feathers and other surface items are now also on the menu.

So what are the best conditions. Ideally, quiet settled weather with light winds and some sunshine. Flat calm is good. This allows the perch fry to come to the surface hopefully pursued by the trout. Look out for the dab chicks which are on the same diet as the rainbows. They often feed together. The cormorants also have enjoyed the Perch fry bonanza: But definitely do not feed with the Trout!

You may also get a hatch of insects. This has already happened in various places and fish up to 4½ lb have been taken on dry fly. Curly recently taking a 6lb 13oz specimen from Sykes on a CDC.

The water is now very clear in places with most of the algae and weed beds having now died back. A little cover is therefore quite useful. Look for a shade of colour or what is left of the weed beds.

Theoretically the fish should be on the shores with the offshore wind on the basis that the warmer water should be welling up at your feet as the icy northerly blast conveys the cold water to the lee shore. This actually worked in practice and over the last week end a lot of fish were caught between Whitwell Creek and the Dam. One angler apparently losing an estimated ten pounder at the net! However if the weather warms up it might still be worth fishing into the wind as well.

New Committee Members

A warm welcome to our two new committee members Ken Merridan & Tom Pattenden elected at the AGM. These chaps are well known around the banks and will I am sure be a great asset to the club effort

Forum of Experts to be held at the Fishing Lodge on Tuesday 7th December at 7.30pm

This is the first of the Winter meetings. The "Panel" will comprise The Chairman, Trevor Ashby, Paul Wild, Graham Pearson & Nigel Savage. These chaps share a wealth of knowledge and experience. Jon Marshall regrets that he will be unable to attend as he is on a well deserved holiday.

Fly Tying Evening - Tuesday 11th January 2000 - The Fishing Lodge

The following have agreed to give us the benefit of their skills.

The Chairman, Trevor Ashby, Dick Stephen, Sean Cutting & Kevin Taylor, Nigel Savage & Nathan Clayton.

The rest of the Winter Programme is as follows:-

Tuesday 25 January - Tony Cook MBE on Fish eating Birds

Tuesday 1st February - Competition Meeting

Tuesday 8th February Bill Rawlings - Sea Trout fishing in Eire & Elsewhere

Tuesday 22nd February - Tackle Auction

Tuesday 7th March Philip White on Grayling Fishing & River management

Tuesday 21st March - Pre Season Dinner with Taff Price

All functions start at 7.30pm and are at the Victoria Hall unless otherwise stated

Trophies & Prizes

These will be presented at the Fly Tying Evening at the Victoria Hall on Tuesday 11th January.

So 1998 winners will you please hurry up and get them back to the Fishing Lodge or Rods and Reels Angling Centre at the South end of Mill Street, Oakham.

The 1999 Winners are as follows:-

Trout & Salmon Shield	Best Rainbow	Roger McCarthy	9lb 3oz
Trout Fisherman Shield	Best Brown	Lewis Carlin	11lb 10½oz
Mike Ellis Trophy	Best Rainbow	Paul Abbott	5lb 8oz
"Fario" Junior Trophy		Matthew Tolliday	

<u>The John Wadham Trophy</u>	1	Iain Barr
	2	Dan Perks
	3	Nathan Clayton

<u>Oliver Cup First Round</u>	1	Dan Perks
	2	Kevin Bucknall
	3	Richard Walden

<u>Oliver Cup Second Round</u>	1	Kevin Bucknall
	2	John Tattersfield
	3	Dan Perks

<u>Loch Style Trophy</u>	1	Sean Cutting & Dave Doherty
	2	Mike Netherclift & Mike Ellis
	3	Barry Vaughan & Leon Smith

<i>Best Fish</i>		Barry Vaughan
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<u>Hanby Cup</u>	1	Graham Pearson & Mike Barrett
	2	Paul Wild & Nigel Goodson
	3	John Tyson & Ian Fixter
<u>Roger Thom Trophy</u>	1	Kevin Taylor
	2	Gary Legge
	3	John Tattersfield
<u>RWFF Pro/Am</u>	1	Mike Netherclift & Lin Walters
	2	Gary Legge & Howard Evans
	3	Dave Wainwright & John Batter

Hardy International

Congratulations to the club team which made it through to the England Final. However, due to rule changes, we and the inclusion of a grand final or repechage we failed to “cut the mustard”. However we can be proud to have ended up 14th out of twenty teams with 13 fish against the winning team’s 25.

The Secretary apologises for the omission of the results of the Pro/Am & Roger Thom Trophy and the Hardy fished earlier in the year. Congratulations to all the winners.

Subscriptions

As you can see from the renewal form the subs have been fixed for yet another year. I would like to apologise to all those who have not received any of the newsletters. If you think one is overdue please to not hesitate to let me know and one will be forthcoming. Please return your forms as soon as possible to the treasurer. As per the constitution, *The Deadline Is December 31st*. Club books will go out to paid up members with the next issue.

Rutland Fur & Feather Sunday 12th December.

This was well subscribed last year and some tremendous fish were caught. Entrance is £7 - 50 + £10 - 00 permit for an eight fish limit for all entrants including Winter Ticket Holders. Entrance fee includes Hot pot & Crusty Roll and lots of banter! And of course donate a prize. E.g. bottle of wine, box of chocolates etc. Book in advance on 01780 686441. Register from 0730. Fish 8.00am to weigh in at 4.00pm. Any guesses for the identity of “Santa” this year? Despite what you may hear there are still plenty of fish left for this event.

Junior News

Luke Lavelle - aged 13 writes in to thank Gordon Bloodworth for the valuable advice he was given at the Juniors evening in July. He fished in the English Youth National and qualified for England Youth Team by catching four fish for 8lb 7oz on a Cat’s Whisker. He will jetting off to Ireland to fish for England in the International at Loch Owel. Well done Luke and all the rest of our successful junior members. Thank you Gordon and everyone else who helped to make the evening such a success. This surely highlights the importance of our Junior functions. So lets have plenty of support for them in the Millennium

As no Junior members submitted a Brown Trout for the “Fario” trophy the committee agreed that it should be awarded Matthew Tolliday from Whissendine for his success in winning a leg of the Tuesday Boat League and for twice catching the best fish - one of which was runner up for the Mike Ellis Trophy.

Hope you all have a healthy Winter.

Look forward to seeing you at the Lodge on December 7th

Yours Sincerely

John Wadham