

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2000

Dear Member

Fishing Report

I am sure that you will not need reminding that this season finished amid floods and hurricanes. On that dreaded Monday, the 30th October, the secretary was "lucky" enough to be able to photograph the waves breaking over the dam wall and spraying Empingham village (see photo in Rutland Times w/e 3rd November) and the Sykes Monument poplars almost bending down to ground level. This was an awesome sight and one, which we hope, won't be repeated. However, it did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the fish for the perch fry on which they are, as I write, gorging themselves.

The Reservoir is now up to about 87% full and is approximately 30 ins below top level. This represents a rise of about four foot since mid October. Obviously this shock rise in water level and the resulting drop in water temperature slowed things up a bit: but the fish continued to feed. However places like the North Arm shallows were unproductive as at the end of October you were standing some 40 m from where you were fishing a fortnight before!

Wherever there was a weed bed close to the bank in deep water the feeding zone just remained within reach of the bank angler. Notable spots were Stockie Bay, the transformer road end, Barnhill & Carrot creeks, Whitwell Creek & Ernies Point, the head of East Creek and off the harbour wall.

Towards the end of October Jon Marshall obtained some 800 large rainbows and these were stocked at various places around the bank. A number of these have been caught. It will be interesting to see how they survive the winter. Certainly, they will be cormorant proof and should provide a few extra large overwintered fish.

Winter Fishing

All things considered, this has proved surprisingly productive with many 4lb silver fish being caught. One angler on the c& r winter ticket, taking 14 from stockie bay up to 5½lb. The same places as previously mentioned are still fishing well with the fish full of perch fry.

Fish are being caught on most patterns fished fairly slowly, not too deep and not far out.

Black Taddies, Minkies and Pheasant tails, Diawl Bachs and black buzzers being the most useful patterns. Trevor Ashby has had some superb fish on Diawl Bach

Des Welch and partner fishing in a boat off the Normanton Three Trees bank caught Rainbows which had been feeding on trout eggs. Presumably those being shed by the Browns attempting to spawn. The secretary had this experience in 1995 near Armley Wood. This reminds one of the Rainbows of the North West United States which depend on the eggs issuing from the spawning Sockeye salmon.

It does appear that the seasons are getting later. It is such a pity that a great many of the stock fish introduced in July, August and September have waited until now to put in an appearance. But the one great merit of this is that the fish are in "mint" condition and with no bank pressure are close in.

Fishing Report(Contd.)

In previous seasons, the nearer to 31st December you got the more vague seemed to be the memory of those large fish. They can be quite gullible having forgotten about all that metal work that was flung at them during the season. So don't give up yet. There is still time to beat that 14lb 3oz fish taken from the Harbour Wall in October.

Our members have been getting among the big rainbows. With Mr Wardle from Spilsby nabbing a 6lb 8oz specimen. Simon Smith bagging one of 6lb 15oz, and John Conant catching one from the point of the pontoon Bay of 5lb 1oz on a black tadpole

Junior News

Congratulations to 17 year old John Franks from Pocklington in Yorkshire who has caught a big fish from East Creek before the big Stockies went in!

Let John tell his story. "Breaking up for half-term on Friday at 12.40pm I rushed home and tied a vast collection of fry imitations ranging from size 10 to size four long shank and including floating fry and gold head minkies. I started fishing at midday Saturday from Whitwell creek up towards Barnsdale. Strong winds made casting difficult but I managed sufficient distance and caught two 2lb 6oz fish on a Diawl Bach before deciding to return to the Lodge Frontage until dark. My parents picked me up and dropped me off to the lodge while they went in to the B&B to check in and unpack.

I had heard rumours of fish holding in Pontoon Bay and East Creek. I went to the Point at the mouth of East Creek and with the light failing rapidly hooked a small stockie on a size 4 Grey Minkie with a silver tinsel body. By this time it was nearly dark I decided to have a couple more casts before returning to the Lodge for my lift.

Casting the full line I let the fly sink for 5 seconds before commencing the "roly poly" retrieve. I had a pull and hit a fish, which screamed off into the dusk taking 30 yards of backing. After about a five minute battle the fish surfaced and I was able to slip the net under what proved to be a perfect Rainbow which tipped the scales at 5lb 5oz. On Sunday I returned to East Creek and caught my eight fish limit of rainbows quite quickly which weighed in at 14lb 2oz: the best fish weighing 3lb 1oz. I also saw a lovely Brownie of about 4½lb surface. I covered it and had it on only to lose it after a few seconds. We travelled back to Yorkshire that evening feeling mighty chuffed"

As a post script John made the following observation "The constant criticism of the fishery must be an underlying process as the fishing I experienced was magnificent and the Wardens at Rutland deserve more credit as does the RWFF Chairman – Well done!"

Congratulations to John Franks,, as this catch makes him the winner of the RWFF Mike Ellis Trophy for the best rainbow of the 2000 season.

John Franks mum, Sheila, is also a dab hand with a rod. She has been fishing for just four years and has already won two Troutmasters awards at Yorkshire fisheries. Firstly, with a 3lb 10oz rainbow from Fewston Reservoir and then with a 7½lb fish from Wansford.

Congratulations to 12 year old Luke Shevlin, from nearby Normanton, on the capture of a 2lb 5oz Brownie. He caught the fish in the company of Nigel Savage from a boat at the mouth of Carrot Creek. The fish was taken on a brown minkie. This fish wins him the "Fario" Trophy for the best Brown by a junior member for the 2000 season. Why "Fario" you may ask. Well, it is Latin for "brown" and was presented to the club by the present secretary in 1990.

This followed the capture of a rainbow of 4lb 6oz which he had previously submitted in August for the Mike Ellis Trophy for the best rainbow.

Well done Luke for coming third out of 76 in the England Youth Eliminator fished at Grafham on 9th July 2000 – just after his twelfth birthday! He caught 6 fish for 14lb 11oz. What a way to start your match fishing career in your first season! He will therefore be fishing at Trwsfynnydd in 2001 with the other ten who qualified. We all wish him the best of luck.

Matthew Tolliday from nearby Whissendine is there again. This time, with a superb rainbow of 4lb 9oz. He deserved this fish as he fished off the Harbour Wall in a gale! He took it on a minkie.

Junior membership renewal 2000/2001

Don't forget that you need to return the renewal form if you wish to continue membership for next year

Winter Programme – 2000/2001

Tuesday 5th December – Forum of “experts”

John Mees (Head Warden at Grafham), Sean Cutting, Tom Pattenden, Henry Lowe & Paul Wild to chair the evening - should be a riot! Not to be taken too seriously!

Tuesday 9th January David Arnold – Forster –English Nature

This will be a very informative evening as David Arnold Forster who is the chief executive of English Nature will be outlining his plans for the Wildlife Management at Rutland Water Trout Fishery. He is a keen shot and an ardent fly fisher. It essential that we listen carefully to what he has to say as it will affect us all. A low turn out might suggest that we did not care. So give it your best shot and come along. In order to ensure that he gets a good hearing the secretary has written to all the neighbouring clubs inviting their members to attend upon payment of a raffle on the door on the night. This promises to one of the club's most important meetings in the history of the fishery. So, it behoves as many of us as possible to attend. There will be refreshments.

Tuesday January 23rd Fly Tying Evening & Prize Giving Fishing Lodge, Normanton.

Your presenters will hopefully be Bill McIlroy, J.W.(Pike Flies), Chairman Salmon/Bonefish, Curly (Dave Doherty)

Further details of the undermentioned in the next newsletter

Tuesday February 6th Jim Meikle – Cooking evening – Ladies welcome

Tuesday February 20th - Steve Parton – Float Tubing & tarpon etc.

Sunday March 4th Litter pick up day in aid of RACS

Tuesday 6th March Tackle Auction

Tuesday 20th March Pre-Season Dinner - Speaker to be arranged

N.B. Competition meeting scrapped due to lack of support

Senior Prize Winners

<u>Best Rainbow</u>	Paul Buck	<u>Roger Thom</u> Paul Wild
<u>Wadham Trophy</u>	Iain Barr	<u>Oliver Cup</u>
<u>Loch Style</u>	Sean Cutting & Dave Doherty	
<u>Hanby Cup</u>	Graham Pearson & Mike Barratt	
<u>RWFF Pro/Am</u>	Lin Walters & Andrew Flitcroft	
<u>Best Brown</u>	Trout Fisherman Trophy – no takers - Committee to decide on merit	

Full details in next letter

Association of Major Clubs Competition

Secretary apologises for not including the final results in the October letter. We won the Autumn match at Bewl Water. Not only were we the top team on the day but resoundingly beat the Bewl “A” team by 17lb. This final flourish brought RWFF back up to 2nd in group 1 league and well up from fifth place and near relegation in 1999.

Fur & Feather bank matches

Pitsford – December 3rd

Rutland – December 10th

Grafham – December 17th

See enclosed poster for Rutland Water

Sale & Get Together – Saturday November 25th – See enclosed AWS handout.

Trevor Ashby's Fly Tying courses – see enclosed poster

Trevor has made an attempt on the “land speed record” for the greatest number of flies tied in a given time. He set an unofficial world record when he tied 79 different flies in two hours during a sponsored fly tie at the Cuckoo Inn at Wing. Trevor's efforts raised £360 - 00 which will be donated to the English Disabled Fly Fishers Team. The World Championships being held at Eyebrook in 2002.

Trevor will be staging another sponsored record attempt next June when he will aim to tie 90 different flies in two hours! The local paper headline above it for an article on a quite different subject reads “Ladies lose to Ashby”. Rutland Ladies 0 - Ashby 3 – local football results actually!

Winter League

This has proved to be a popular event with some great catches with 23 taking part in the first event. Terry Humphries took second place with 4 fish for 13lb 14oz.

Gary Legge's “Rogues gallery”

Hope you have managed to send Gary some details of your achievements accompanied by photos. If you haven't got around to it please give it your best shot. If you have lost your form, let the Secretary know and you will be sent a replacement.

Annual Trout Fishery Review – 16th November 2000

Your committee, via Sean Cutting and Kevin Taylor have put views aired by club members during the season and at our AGM to AWS at a very constructive Confederation meeting.

Friends of Lough Sheelin

Many of you will have read about environmental problems at this Irish Lough. If you are interested in lending your support to the Lough Sheelin Trout Protection Association (LSTPA) and preserving and improving one of the finest wild brown trout fisheries in Europe then your support will be most welcome. For further details contact Vaughan Ruckley on 0131 667 8678 or E.mail him at ruckley@msn.com or write to him at: 1 Mayfield Terrace, Edinburgh, EH9 1RU.

Wishing you all the compliments of the season and a “croc” before the New Year – season ends on 31st December. Don't forget your £10 – 00 four fish winter day ticket is for the full day.

Next newsletter early in the New Year

Yours sincerely

John Wadham

Hon. Secretary