

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



November 2002

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DIARY DATES

December 3rd 2002
Forum of "experts"

January 14th 2003
David Moore

January 28th 2003
Matt Hayes of Sky
television fame

February 11th
2003 Fly tying eve-
ning & prize giving
and "sausage &
mash"

March 4th 2003
Tackle Auction -
note that this is at
the *Victoria Hall*.

March 9th 2003
Litter Pick up &
raffle in aid of
RACS - Fishing
lodge

March 25th 2003
Pre-season Dinner

All meetings are held at
the **Empingham Cricket
Club** unless otherwise
stated and start at
7.30pm



As usual November has come up trumps and has provided some of the best fishing of the season for boat and bank angler alike. Some lovely silver Rainbows are being caught. The fish seem to be feeding quite freely. The main diet seems to be snails, fry, zebra mussels & now according to one boat angler Daphnia. Some great fish have been caught with Terry Humphries taking a 6lb 2oz Rainbow from the bank near Normanton Church on a brown minkie. Like others he has been doing very well in the boat sometimes near the bank sometimes in the middle of the lake catching rainbows up to 5¾lb mainly on the rudder with slow sink or intermediate lines. Fish have been caught in a number of places around the bank. Favoured spots have been between the Lodge &

John Wadham's Fishing Report

East Creek, Normanton Church, Whitwell Creek and Old Hall Bay.

Trevor Ashby has caught some fine fish in Barnhill Creek and Carrott Creek with fish up to 5lb. In many cases the fish are coming onto the freshly flooded land to look for worms, fry etc.

Best patterns seem to be minkies fished in conjunction with a Diawl Bach on floating & intermediate lines.

This mild November and the big rise in water level may have helped the fish back onto the feed. This must be the quickest the reservoir has filled up: now almost to high water mark, as I write. To judge by the flooded state of local feeders to the lake this will almost certainly have added to AWS pumped water ex the Nene & Welland.

These rivers seem to have been in flood since late October, and, as any frustrated coarse angler will confirm, have been inaccessible.

All bodes well for a good Fur & feather on December 1st - details from the

Fishing Lodge on 01780 686441. Lets hope for quiet mild overcast weather with gentle breezes

The larger fish seem in many cases to be showing little sign of the parasites and are in perfect condition.

The hope is that as the water temperature drops so the Ergasilus will loosen its grip.

The other AWS waters Grafham, Pitsford & Ravensthorpe are also fishing well.

Dan Perks one of our members from Langham had a great day at Pitsford taking a personal best 10lb 11oz rainbow from the bank at Duffers Reach on the Brixworth side of the main lake.

He caught the fish on an Olive Booby on a slow sink line in conjunction with an 8lb "Uncle Jacks" leader. The fish, which was in superb "silvery condition", gave Dan a tremendous battle.

Stop Press—Last week the rod average of 3.3 at Rutland was the highest recorded Winter catch!

WE'VE ALL GOT A PART TO PLAY Gary Legge

The potential threat from the antis is growing. I'm not wishing to spread alarm and despondency, but since starting the club's website I have received and detected on average about 20 viruses a month. Fortunately, I have 2 lots of up to date anti-virus software and have been able to deal with them. I'm not sure who originates these viruses or why this particular site's address is the only one targeted that I run. It's quite possible that the problem is nothing to do with the anti-angling brigade, but who knows.

This tactic is just one of many ways that the angling community is open to attack and we need a strategy to deal with all forms of attack from the antis. Why do we need a strategy? Well it's to meet the long-term objectives of course. Why do we need objectives? Well, it's obvious isn't it, or just maybe it isn't! Excuse the management speak for a moment, but I'm half way through completing a Masters degree in Business Administration, therefore, I may as well try and put at least a little of what I've studied to some use.

As far as Game angling is concerned there is one overriding objective and that has to be securing the long-term future of our sport. It's no good whatsoever encouraging youngsters and beginners to Game angling if all that's going to happen is that the "antis" get their way and the sport is banned in total. That's why we need a strategy. For our purposes this means pursuing a series of actions to effectively counter the threats that are emerging to the affect the viability of our sport.

At organizational level, within the sport, there is already wide-ranging work going on to sell the sport to others, promote it, raise public awareness, conserve stocks and protect the environment etc. However, it's not good enough just to leave it to committees and dedicated individuals, which brings me to the point of this brief article. The only way that the future of our sport can be secured is with the assistance of all of us. This doesn't just mean renewing your subscription to an Association that claims to fight the good fight on your behalf, but means taking an active stance yourself.

So what can we do? Quite simply, we need to win the hearts and minds of the non-angling public. What do we tell the public who in all innocence might ask if we think our sport is cruel, how do we change the thinking of the ignorant to that of the educated and so on. It's difficult, but a grass-roots level we can be a part of that process. Clearly, some just won't be persuaded, so don't bother. The people we are interested in influencing are the uneducated majority; those that have no real axe to grind either way, but may be adversely influenced by PETA campaigns showing an altered picture of a dog with a hook in it's mouth etc. These emotive tactics work, but we can do our part to counteract them, based on real data, not inaccurate information. Keep the facts of your argument short and simple, that way they are better remembered.

To take this theme to its conclusion what facts can we use to point out to the angling-uneducated why our sport is of great benefit to the environment and why it must survive? Paul Knight recently wrote an excellent article in Trout and Salmon and the points raised make a good start for influencing those yet to be convinced of the worth of our sport:

1. There are 3.3 million anglers in Great Britain, over 12, which is over 7% of the population.
2. It is estimated that the angling trade employs more than 20,000 people and anglers spend about £3.5 billion a year.
3. Rod licence fees contribute £13.5 million a year towards aquatic conservation.
4. Angling is a legal sport and anglers are the only group with a long-term history of fighting water pollution and preventing lifeless waterways.
5. Good anglers are the eyes and ears of waterside wildlife. What's good for fish is good for all other wildlife.
6. Emotive arguments about possible pain that fish might feel are illogical. Firstly, if pain was experienced it is unlikely that a fish would tear off in the opposite direction to the drag. Also, a fish use's its mouth to crush and feed on items of food in a manner that for mammals would be unthinkable due to our pain receptors.
7. Angling has a social role to play in so much as it can contribute to ethnic inclusion, keep kids out of trouble and provide an obvious legal distraction.
8. Anglers in the pursuit of their sport do not cause riots or public disorder, unlike some majority sports fans.
9. There is no country in the world where angling is prohibited by law.
10. Our sport is regulated by legislation and bylaws for the good of the environment and wildlife, as well as the individual.

So when confronted with ill-founded accusations or genuine questions, remember that angling benefits the environment, has strong social value, greatly benefits the economy and has shown that emotive arguments about cruelty are unfounded. We can enhance this by the example we set to others. For example, treat captured fish with respect. Do not drag them up the bank, prior to dispatching them half-heartedly with the nearest stick, examples of which I have seen recently. **Try and remember a few of these facts for the next time you are put on the spot and this way we can all play our part.**

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES - John Maitland, Chairman RWFF



The Club's ACM took place on the evening of 12th November. This was our first use of the Empingham Cricket Club as a venue for meetings and I think we were all impressed by the pleasant ambience - and the very reasonable price of beer! Perhaps because of this the meeting was unusually well attended by 27 members, which led to some lively discussion.

Among the routine items of business was the election of half the officers and committee members. Two of the latter did not wish to be re-elected. One of these was John Harrison who has been on the Committee almost since the Club formed nearly 25 years ago. In my time as Chairman John has been invaluable since he has such recollection of past business that he frequently advised against proposals that have failed in the past; just the curb a chairman needs! After a long spell as treasurer he has remained as auditor of the accounts and has always been ready to volunteer for the many and various duties which fall to Committee members. Dick Stephen has been on the Committee a shorter time, four years, and has been invaluable for practical work - making the Rutland Horseshoe Trophies and the branding iron for seat boards, repairing the latter each winter etc. He has also been an active and imaginative Committee member; the fact that Matt Hayes is speaking to us later this winter is entirely due to Dick. Many thanks to you both John and Dick. To fill the two empty places the ACM voted in Nigel Millner and Roy Taylor; welcome aboard to both.

With the season fizzling out, albeit with some decent bank catches recently reported, we can only hope for a better year in 2003. David Moore will be speaking to us in January on the outlook, including the impact of Ergasilus (which is apparently fairly widespread and has existed in a reservoir in the Southeast for some 10 years). At the recent meeting of the Rutland Water Users panel we heard that the winter population of cormorants, at 170, is lower than for some years.

FORUM OF EXPERTS

**Tuesday 3rd December at the
Empingham Cricket Club, 7.30pm**

Even if you are a very experienced fly fisher, there will be a wrinkle or two that you will pick up from our panel of Rutland experts. If like the majority of us, you are always on the lookout for how to find and catch that elusive big one, then you can't afford to miss our expert panel. This year's experts, giving their views and insights are Ron Oldroyd, Tom Pattenden, Andy Flitcroft & Stuart Young.

They will all be kept in order by Paul Wild who will act as chairman for the night. This is a fun evening and the first meeting of our Winter Programme. So why not join us at our new venue (Empingham Cricket Club) and discover why you've not been catching as well as you should or could be.

PRIZE WINNERS REMINDER

The presentation to this year's winners will, as usual, take place in February. In order that we can arrange to get them engraved, would all last year's winners please get their trophies back to the Fishing Lodge, the Mill Street Tackle Shop, Oakham, John Wadham or any committee member as soon as possible.

Full details of this year's winners will be given in the next newsletter.