

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



November 2003

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AGM HIGHLIGHTS

The Chairman reported the club in a healthy state with the membership holding steady.

There is still concern about the fishing. However, David Moore from AWS has agreed to come and answer questions at our first winter programme meet on Monday 1st December.

Our competition fishing has been in decline and Lin Walters and Dan perks have agreed to take on the task of injecting some new ideas and activity. Sean Cutting was thanked for his efforts and will now concentrate on the Majors and International activities. If you receive a questionnaire about competitions please fill it in and return it to help Lin and Dan provide what you, the members want.

In order to keep our finances sound and to put extra money into club activities, it was agreed to raise the subscription for the first time in 10 years.

Last year's winter programme was very successful and this year's looks equally good—so come along!



November has continued the dry theme. The water is almost down to the 1996 level when the Henry Lowe/John Wadham pair toured the margins of the lake prior to writing up the "Bank Fishers" guide. It is well worth a look around at the moment to check why one of your favourite spots was so productive. Was it a weed bed, tree roots etc? However be warned! There are some very sticky places around the banks. One or two people have already been "mired". So take care before wading – which should not be necessary anyway, as you will be fishing over virgin ground. A substantial fall of rain has at last arrived. This is essential at this time of year to top up the reservoirs; the much-depleted groundwater used for water supplies and ensures that rivers don't dry up next summer. There could easily be a serious water shortage next year if more rain does not materialise soon. Many of our rivers are at an all time low for November and some of

John Wadham's Fishing Report

them are looking decidedly stale.

So, to the fishing. November has seen 3.52 fish per rod. However the boats are mainly responsible for this figure! They still doing murder out in the middle of the lake and some tremendous fish have been caught. The best so far this month being a 7lb plus specimen taken by Paul Shaw from the shop on a tube. Some good limit bags have also taken: notably by Ken Meridan with 8 fish for 22lb all caught on a "Perch Fry Tube".

The rudder fisherman have had most success averaging 6 fish per visit. However on the calmer days more "gentle" methods have been fairly productive.

Also effective are yellowish "blobs" fished on Di3 in front of the boat even when fish have been showing and have been hard to tempt with dries or nymphs. Why are "blobs" apparently more palatable than insects? The main diet seems to be large perch fry, even over the deep water in the middle of the lake. There is just the odd buzzer in the smaller fish, which appear to be in much better nick than they were two months back.

It must be good at Rutland.

They have even been coming from Draycote to fish. There are now just twelve boats available up to November 30th when they come off for servicing. So, if you want one you should ring the lodge first on 01780 686441. Don't just come on spec. You may well be disappointed! The boats aren't having it all their own way however. Malcolm Janik from Spilsby took a superb 5lb 8oz Rainbow from the mouth of East Creek. The fish, which was caught on a pheasant tail dropper, was in quite good nick but gave Malcolm a rather disappointing fight. Malcolm has been catching quite well from the bank in various spots. There seemed to be some fish to be caught from the Armley Wood to the Finches Bank mainly on minkies and quite close in: although the fish here apparently had empty stomachs. There seems to be quite a lot of fish here but better size in the Normanton Area – East Creek area.

Bank fishing, as per usual at this time of year is best in the mornings. Cont...

Cont. A boat also reported seeing a good rise very close to the finches bank in the calm. A young beginner caught also fish from the bank in the mouth of East Creek fishing in an awkward incoming wind. I don't suppose he was casting too far. So think twice before wading. Also, keep on the move. With such clear water in the margins, if you hook a fish, which might be part of a shoal, the rest will soon spook. There is still no sign of the corixa, which are an integral part in the trout's autumn menu. Sorry it is such a brief summary of the fishing: but it is gratifying to note that they are at last coming into the banks in places.

Fur & Feather Sunday December 7th 2003

This is a great social occasion and everyone gets a prize and an opportunity to enter into the spirit of the sport. There is a meal afterwards and a chance to have a good old natter and reminisce on an up & down season.



Phone the lodge on 01780 686441 for more details. Even in the less productive bank fishing back ends, this has always been the ultimate test of the

fishing and often turns up some surprises, Malcolm's 5½lb Rainbow being a prime example.

John's fishing report suggests that the bank is finally coming into its own and it could prove to be quite a good day's fishing. Even if you don't bag up early, past experience tells us that people usually find this a terrific finale to the fishing season.

David Moore, AWS, Monday December 1st 2003 Empingham Cricket Club - 7.30pm

David Moore, the senior AWS representative has agreed to come and address the club on our first Winter programme evening. He is hoping to bring along an expert who can talk about the algae, as there is a belief in some quarters that this may be as much of a problem as the ergasilus.

Many members have expressed their views on the present state of the fishery to the Chairman and John Wadham. They have compiled a list of your issues and have forwarded them to David. He will be addressing these plus any questions or issues from the floor.

If you have any views or questions it is no use just moaning in the bar or sniping at the local staff. This is your great opportunity to get them off your chest and address those in charge. You may even have some good suggestions to offer for the 2004 season. So, we hope to see as many of you as possible and we will even lay on sandwiches just to stop you wasting away!

Subscription time—make a treasurer happy!

Yes folks, its that time of year again. Do yourself and us a favour and send back your subscription now, whilst you have the form to hand. If you put it aside to do later then you're bound to forget. We will then have to start pestering you and it costs us time and money. If you are coming to the first meeting on the 1st December, our treasurer Paul will be very happy to take you money. He has been known to smile on such occasions!