

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



November 2004

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DIARY DATES

6th December
- Panel discussion
(‘bangers & mash’)

10th January
- Cookery evening

24th January
- David Moore talks
about the reservoir

7th February
- Fly tying evening
(‘banger & mash’)

23rd February
- Tackle auction

6th March
- Litter pick-up

21st March
- Annual dinner

All meetings with the exception of the tackle auction, are held at the Empingham Cricket Club, start 7.30 pm with free food being provided (either sandwiches or bangers & mash).



Fishing Report - November 2004

With flows in the local rivers Nene & Welland so high, Anglian Water have been able to pump a great deal of water into the lake. Consequently, helped by inflow from the Gwash & North Brook the lake level has risen considerably which makes for much easier fishing in such places as the harbour wall that at one time was some ten feet above the water surface. Most of the action seems to be concentrated around the jetties in front of the Old Fishing Lodge in Whitwell Creek. The hordes of fry here have to be seen to be believed. Needless to say the fish are attacking them mercilessly almost grounding themselves in the process! However, a great many of these are Browns which when caught should, in no circumstances be removed from the water and should be carefully un-hooked within the landing net and released. There are some humungous Rainbows and Browns here. Some, dare one say are into double figures and can be clearly seen sizing things

John Wadham's Fishing Report

up from underneath the fry. No doubt looking for weak or injured specimens.

One angler was catching some good 3lb rainbows with a bog chain eyed cat's whisker.

Quite a number of fish were also caught on the opposite side of the creek into the wind, on the Whitwell Car Park frontage and “Belgrano” Bay

If only we had some weed beds! The fish then would be likely to be much more widely spread. So the rule at the moment seems to be to fish near any structures. Bet there are masses of fish among the yachts. They are quite safe there!

Not all the action is here. Boats reported catching rainbows close into the bank from Armley wood to the Finches and in the Normanton Church Bay

Fish were also reported to be chasing fry in open water as indicated by sky diving gulls descending on fry forced up to the surface by the marauding trout: this mainly between the Sailing Club & Inman's Spinney. Phil Clamp from Mansfield caught a superb Rainbow of 7lb 10oz in just these circumstances Fry aren't the only diet however. Some are still “grazing” on daphnia

The Rainbows are now in

marvellous condition. A far cry from those of sad looking creatures of 2003 and thus should be able to put on enough fat to get them through the winter.

Not only have mega fish been seen; they have also been caught.

John Cooke returned an estimated Brown of 15lb while boat fishing off New Zealand Point. Craig Barr caught a 13lb Brown from the Harbour Wall and Roger Gill caught his PB brown of about 12lb on October 30th These giant Browns are rather like Pheasants at the end of the season and can suddenly be seen everywhere.

So all those Browns that some were complaining about could, at their present rate of growth, be of the order of 4-5lb next year. Think what they will be like in 2008!

Forbidden Zones for bank anglers

Don't forget that in the South Arm, the bank from the sailing club to Gibbet Gorse is closed for the winter as is the bank from the barrier West of the Old Hall to the Green Bank and in the North Arm from the Transformer road end to Tim Appleton's and from Burley Reach to Dickenson's Road end inclusive.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES - John Maitland, Chairman RWFF



I recently attended a meeting of the Rutland Water Users panel. One interesting topic mentioned by David Moore involved the project to provide shallow-water habitat for wildfowl in the event of much greater draw-down of water level due to increased demands from new housing developments in the Anglian area. When this was first raised, over a year ago, it included proposals for major bund building which would have cut off important boat fishing areas, mainly in the south arm. John Wadham and I argued against this verbally and in writing and we heard some 6 months ago that these proposals had been dropped. Digging on-shore lagoons near the Nature Reserve may go ahead but does not affect fishing. It is now possible that action may be taken to:

- a) At Tim Appletons replace the outer fish-pond wall with a solid bund (to which bank anglers would hopefully have access)
- b) Build a bund across the far end of the Manton arm (about where the osprey buoys are I think).

Both would retain shallow water and reed-beds. If these proposals go ahead RWFF should be informed of details and involved in the consultation process.

At the recent AGM I gave notice that I intend to retire as Chairman in a year's time when I will have been 10 years in post. Also on a personal note, I hope to get into hospital to have my knee sorted out not later than January '05. The sooner the better, but I regret that I will then probably out of play for the rest of the winter programme.

North Arm Challenge

This produced a good result with 30 rods accounting for some 123 fish weighing 263lb 4oz. The bulk of the fish however, were caught East of an imaginary line drawn from Armley Wood across to Barnsdale point. The fish were caught mainly on the rudder. Odd fish were caught further up the arm towards Tim Appleton's.

Fur & Feather – Rutland Water Sunday 5th December 2004

Don't forget to book in for this event: details can be obtained from the Lodge on 01780 686441. This is a fun event with a meal afterwards. It is however a very good test of the fishery.

RWFF CUTTING TROPHY (2nd round)

The last of the club competitions for this season had a very disappointing turn out, particularly when you consider how well the reservoir is fishing at the moment.. Only 5 anglers took part. 23 fish were caught, all from the South Arm in a strong NW wind. Most were taken by drifting into NZ point using floating or intermediate lines, fry patterns, sparklers and nymphs.

Rod average—4.6

Winner	David Holroyd	8 fish	15lb 2ozs
Second	John Tatterfield	7 fish	13lb 6oz
Third	Lin Walters	3 fish	6lb 1oz

Overall winner from both rounds - Roy Taylor
Runner up - Lin Walters

RWFF COMPETITIONS

For the 2004 season, Dan Perks and Lin Walters made valiant attempts to revitalise our competition programme. They sent out a questionnaire to determine exactly what the membership wanted from the comps., and how they could be improved. There were a few ideas and the best of these were incorporated into the programme. The season got off to a good start and then went steadily down hill in terms of match attendance. This was in spite of the organisers constantly chasing and chivvying people. For those who turned up, there was generally good fishing followed by an excellent subsidised meal. As a result of the unrewarding hassle, Dan and Lin have stepped down from doing the comps for next year.

There are a few positives coming out of the year. The extra bank match was popular and the evening meals were very popular. Having reviewed the situation, the committee have decided that the competition programme for 2005 will be re-vamped and the key components are as follows:-

- The competitions will be reduced from 8 to 5. These will be:- the **John Wadham Trophy**, a mid June, Wednesday evening bank match; The **Cutting Trophy**, a Sunday, day bank match held in April; The **Hanby Cup**, a pairs boat match held on a Sunday in early June; A **Loch Style** held on a Sunday in September; The **Oliver Cup**, a Wednesday evening boat match held in early July.
- Each match will be organised by a different individual
- There will be a prize for the winners only
- There will be a subsidised meal at the end of day matches
- A deposit will be required upon registering, where boats have to be hired

We believe that the revised programme will better meet the needs of the members but unless it is supported the future of the competitions are in question. Those who do attend enjoy themselves and if you have never tried, then you are missing out. As we get into next season we will publish details of how you can apply for the various competitions.

Annual Subscriptions

The good news is that the recent AGM agreed to leave the annual subscription unchanged. The bad news is that it is now due for 2005.

Enclosed with this newsletter is your renewal form. If you write out your cheque now, whilst you are thinking about it, it will save you being pestered and save our secretary time and effort in chasing you and make our treasurer a happy man.

Experts Forum Monday December 6th

One of our most popular winter evening events is being run again this year. We assemble a panel of fly fishing experts and throw questions at them. We try to choose people with a wide range of different expertise and this can result in lively discussion and not always total agreement! What is not in doubt is that these are very entertaining sessions

Our panel this year consists of Charles Bowers, John Maitland, Nigel Savage and John Wadham. As usual Paul Wild will do his best to keep them all in order.

Following many requests, there will be a free bangers and mash supper served at the interval.

Hinckley Shield bank fishing competition Rutland Water – October 9th

A consistent team performance from Greenwell Persuaders saw them retain the Hinckley Shield after an absorbing bank fishing competition involving seven teams of six anglers on an in-form Rutland Water. The Persuaders had a total of 30 fish for 54lb 4oz, 7lb ahead of runners-up Rutland Water FF who had 23 fish for 47lb 4oz, with Grafham Water FFA in third place just behind with 23 fish for 45lb 12oz. Top individual rod on the day was Mark Brinkman of Grafham Water FFA with seven fish for 14lb 8oz from Whitwell Creek on small suspender minkies and black nymphs on a floating line.

Greenwells Persuaders were led home by a captain's performance from Graham Willis who took six fish for 14lb from the Mound on humungus-type patterns. A feature of the match was the number of brownies taken and, with only the first two to be kept to weigh in, many anglers were forced to put back large numbers of browns.

One angler in Whitwell Creek returned no less than nine, while Mike Gunnell of RWFF was forced to return one specimen estimated at between 5 and 6lb in the seven he returned. Top rod for RWFF was Leon Smith who took six fish for 13lb 4oz, mainly from the blue pipes on red holographic daiwl bachs, again on a floater.

1	Greenwell Persuaders	30 fish	54lb 4oz	2	Rutland Water FF	23 fish	47lb 4oz
3	Grafham Water FA	23 fish	45lb 12oz	4	East Midlands	16 fish	31lb 4oz
5	Draycote FF	10 fish	20lb 12oz	6	Leicester FF B	9 fish	20lb 8 oz
7	Leicester FF A	9 fish	16lb 12oz				

Rod average for the 42 competitors was a highly creditable 2.86 with an average weight of 2lb per fish.

Association of Major Flyfishing Clubs 2004 - Group One - End of season report

There was a three-way tie at the top of Group One of the Association of Major Flyfishing Clubs after a hard-fought final match at Chew Valley Lake. In the tightest finish in years, three teams notched up 23pts for the season – Rutland Water FF, Fish Hawks and Soldier Palmers A - but the result was settled on a count back of weights over the whole six rounds of matches. This resulted in Fish Hawks taking first place with 291lb, Soldier Palmers came second just 2lb 12 oz behind with 288lb 4oz, and Rutland Water FF third with 274lb 15oz.

The final Group One league table looked like this with just one point separating the top four teams:

1	Solder Palmers A	23 pts	2	Fish Hawks	23pts
3	Rutland Water FF	23pts	4	Grafham Water FA	22pts
5	Bewl Bridge FF 'A'	19 pts	6	Queen Mother FF	16pts - relegated

The final round, the Association match on October 2 on a coloured and windy Chew, was won by Rutland Water Fly Fishers with 16 fish for 36lb 4 oz, thanks largely to an eight fish bag weighing 14lb 15oz from new recruit Charles Bowers, and a four fish bag for 12lb 4 oz from the old stalwart himself, Sean "Captain Chaos" Cutting.

Charles, of RW Lodge fame, took his fish on a DI-7 and orange blobs while Sean went after the bigger specimens, taking the best rainbow of the match at 4lb 11oz on a daiwl bach from the Stratford end of the lake. The final results on the day looked like this:

1	Rutland Water FF	16 fish	36 lb 4oz	6pts	2	Fish Hawks	18 fish	33lb 9oz	5pts
3	Queen Mother	15 fish	32lb 12oz	4pts	4	Grafham Water FA	15 fish	30lb 4oz	3pts
5	Bewl Bridge FF A	11 fish	23lb 15oz	2pts	6	Soldier Palmers A	10 fish	22lb 6oz	1pts

Top rod on the day was Chris Bobby, fishing for Grafham Water FA, whose eight fish bag of 17lb 14oz included 3lb 8 oz of time bonus. Queen Mother FF confirmed their status as prime relegation candidates for Division Two next season, and will be replaced by Hanningfield, victors in Division Two, who were promoted. Bring them on!