

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 1995

Dear Member

20 October 1995

Hopefully this newsletter should reach you in time to remind you that the A.G.M. will be held on Tuesday 7th November in the small downstairs room at the Victoria Hall at 7.30p.m. It is hoped that as many people will attend as possible as there several important issues to decide ,not least the election of a new Chairman. I will elaborate on this later

Back to the bankfishing, Rutland fished well during September but the first half of October has been disappointing in terms of numbers of fish caught although most of those caught have been above 2lb. Since the last newsletter the dam fished very well in the hot weather at the end of August but only for those prepared to get up early with most of the sport over by 11a.m., black buzzers , minkies and floating fry all caught fish. There was a short period when the Mound fished well and Stockie Bay has also seen some good fish caught as has the deep water in front of the Monument. It was not possible to fish from Barnesdale to the Finches for most of August and September due to weed growth although the strong winds at the end of September may have changed this. One of the suprise hotspots this year has been the small point on the Oakham side of Armley Wood where a lot of good fish have been taken although you will have had to have got up early to beat Andre' the Frenchman to this spot . There have been fish caught from both Carrot Creek and what remains of the Barnhill Creek although not perhaps as many as one would expect at the backend of the season, there have been some nice fish taken from in front of Inman's spinney when the wind has been right Bob Garrett and one or two others kept quiet about this spot for a while. The low water has reduced the fish holding properties of Ernies Point and the Normanton bank has been very quiet all season. The only other area that has seen much activity has been from New Zealand Point down to the Sailing Club Bay which has produced quite a lot of fish in the 2-4lb bracket to both boat and bank angler. One of the first anglers to find these was Stan Webster, he managed 6 between 2 and 3lb one Saturday morning on small deer hair fry in early September. The bank fishing has not been easy and although the weed is no longer a problem it certainly restricted ones options in August & September. It was good to see John Marshall acknowledge the problem of the weed and although this year the weedcutter only spent two days on the water he has provisionally booked it for two weeks next year should the weed recur. Recently most fish have been caught on one of two flies , the floating fry or the minkie and most season ticket holders that I know seldom fish anything else at this time of year. The biggest rainbow trout reported and witnessed by a club member so far was the one caught by Nigel Savage in the Hanby Cup which weighed 5lb 6oz just 1oz heavier than one that I caught of the bank from Yellowstone Creek on a deerhair fry , Nigel has also had a brown trout of 6lb 4oz so far these are the leading contenders for the trophies so if you catch a big one get it witnessed by a bailiff and let me know by the end of the season.

During August and early September it was still possible to catch fish loch style from the boats and suspenders and hoppers were among the most successful flies. After the middle of September it appeared that most of the fish remaining in the lake were feeding on perch fry within 100 yards of the bank and the most successful way of catching them was on the rudder with the gold/silver tubes or waggies , one of the most successful anglers during this period was Graham Pearson who has had several days when he and his boat partner landed more than 30 lb of trout between them (without buying second tickets). The rudder anglers seemed to do best in windy conditions using Wet Cel 2 OR Hi Di lines although it has to be said that they have struggled to catch more than one or two since early October.

Nobody really knows whether the fish have just switched off, moved to deeper water or all been caught, but out of the 120,000 stocked I doubt whether 10,000 remain in the lake . As I write the total catch returns for the season are 36,113 fish of which 663 were browns from 10,938 returns giving an average of 3.3. However working on the assumptions that 40% of anglers put in returns and that those who don't catch 70% as much as those that do put in returns the rod average calculation comes out at 2.71. This would mean that a total of 74,000 fish have been caught theoretically leaving 46,000 fish in the lake before allowing for wastage from pike , cormorants etc. There are still a number of season ticket holders who do not put in returns and this may distort the statistics but it is obvious that not all trout stocked are being caught by anglers or overwintering , more than a few thousand are going missing and are probably being eaten. There is however little financial sense in having a large head of fish in the reservoir through the winter months given the high mortality rate from cormorants , pike , lack of daphnia etc. although it results in relatively few over wintered fish. The stocking of larger fish through the year has resulted in a number of 2-4 lb rainbows that should be in a better position to survive the winter than last year when most anglers catches consisted of recent stockfish up until the end of the season and hopefully next year there should be a few more 5-6lb rainbows about. A.W.S. have not said anything about next years stocking policy but the stocking of larger fish has been a success this year and will probably be continued , it has also been confirmed that the policy on season tickets will remain unchanged although they are likely to be priced to encourage greater sales of the 4 water ticket.

One or two club members have been having trouble with their vehicles recently Nigel Savage managed to lock himself out of his car on the morning of the Wadham trophy providing much entertainment to anglers at the Lodge. The Wadham-mobile is no more , and John is very lucky still to be with us after writing off his vehicle and fishing rods in a nasty accident on the A46, fortunately John escaped injury.

Competition News

There have been some notable successes by club members this year , several club members fishing for the Cormorants team made it through to the Benson & Hedges International Final at Rutland and finished 3rd. Mike Ellis and Graham Wright won the Orvis Pairs competition (and a new rod each)at Rutland in July with 19 trout between them , Graham did particularly well with 13 fish taken from along the dam on orange tinheads. The Masterline Challenge was won by new member Mike Gunnell with 6 fish on a hard day, Gordon Bloodworth and Mike Ellis were also in the top ten.

Keith Landless finished 3rd individual in the European Championship at Rutland and also picked up a silver team medal , other local anglers did less well , Richard Hearth and Tony Curtis struggled although if rumours are to be believed Tony took gold in the post match drinking competition , he was last seen heading in the direction of Normanton Church for 'a walk'. He had obviously recovered in time for the Autumn International in September where he was part of the winning English team in Scotland. The club's only representative in the English National Final at Kielder was Trevor Bellamy who missed out on qualifying by 10 oz ,a creditable performance given that as a reserve he didn't get any opportunity to practice.

It seems likely that the club team will be fishing in the Group B of the Major Clubs League after finishing 5th on the day in the final match at Grafham but with 2 teams being relegated as the League splits into 4 divisions to accommodate 2 more clubs this was always likely and will hopefully mean that we get to fish some different venues and beat some other teams.

On 20th September 6 anglers represented R.W.F.F. in the Partridge Invitation match at Bewl , we finished 10th out of 17 teams on the day, Gordon Bloodworth was the top Rutland angler and one of the few to catch his limit of 6, Leon Smith caught 5 ,myself 4 Gary Spooner contributed 2. Sean Cutting and Barry Vaughan had one apiece which is unusual , we normally expect more from Sean!

After shaking of his poor early season form Gordon was also top rod in a match against the army held on September 17th narrowly beating Stan Webster , both caught their fish from Berrybutts to the Sailing Club, although not a serious match it was good to see the R.W.F.F. team beat the army by a convincing margin.

Club Competitions

The loch style trophy was as popular as ever with 36 anglers competing on a day when most people struggled to catch 2 or 3 fish , one angler who knew what he was doing was Iain Barr who extracted 9 on a combination of hares ears and hares ear suspenders , Iain caught most of his fish in the main basin near Stockie Bay and together with his boat partner Brian Thomas's 4 fish they took top position with 16lb 12oz ahead of Gordon Bloodworth and Dave Ellis who stuck it out down the South arm and caught 9 trout weighing 13lb 8oz. In third spot were two up and coming young competition anglers Martin Landless and James Warbrick-Smith who managed 9 trout for 13lb 7oz beating Les Beels and Graham Wright by 1lb.

The R.W.F.F. Pro-Am Competition was a great success and all the credit for this must go to Sean Cutting who succeeded in getting 40 anglers to participate which must be a record. The lake fished well with fish being caught on floating lines over most of the reservoir I have included a copy of the results sheet for your information , top pair was Leon Smith and Craig Barr with 16 fish for 23lb2oz exactly the same weight as Richard Hearth and Mike Netherclift but with 1 more fish , Paul Miller and Graham Wight were the third pair. It was interesting to note that the 5 Kingfishers managed 6 more fish than the Cormorants B & H team. Craig will be fishing as a "professional" next year while it seems likely that Gordon and Brian may join the amateur ranks!

The Wadham Trophy was a bit of a washout Sean Cutting was the only angler to catch although Nigel Savage caught a small rainbow but didn't think it worth weighing in. Roger McCarthy and John Marshall were awarded 2nd and 3rd prizes for being the only other anglers to return for the weigh-in.

Annual General Meeting

As mentioned earlier the A.G.M. will be held on Tuesday 7th November at the Victoria Hall , I have included an agenda for your attention. Eddie Hein has indicated that he will not be seeking re-election and after 10 years on the Committee has decided to call it a day. Eddie is one of the old school of loch style angling and for several years was the club competition secretary which as Sean will tell you is a lot of hassle for little thanks. Although he never sought the job of Chairman he has taken the responsibility very seriously and has always added a certain gravitas to club meetings. Hopefully more members will put themselves forward to contribute to the successful running of the club. So far two nominations have been received for Eddie's replacement:

Chris Churm
Proposed: Gordon Bloodworth
Seconded: Eddie Hein

John Wadham
Proposed: Sean Cutting
Seconded: Paul Wild

It is still open to members to nominate further candidates at the A.G.M. It is not that often that we have an election so get there early to be sure of a seat.

John Harrison , one of the unsung heroes of the club has also indicated that he would like to step down as Treasurer but would be prepared to assist someone while they learned what is required. It would probably suit someone who is able to visit the bank regularly.

The Committee Members up for re-election are those in Group B; Brian Thomas, Sean Cutting, John Dodds and Gordon Bloodworth

One final reminder would all members who won trophies last year please return them to Richard Hearth at Rods and Reels in Oakham or leave them at the fishing lodge by the end of the season so that they can be engraved in time for the A.G.M.

Paul Wild
Secretary