

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 1996

Dear Member

22 October 1996

As we near the end of the season I'm sure a lot of us will be able to look back on 1996 as one of Rutland's better seasons there have certainly been more trout about this year particularly in the 2-4lb class. There have been several large brown trout taken, Mike Ellis managed a 5lb 2oz specimen in Manton Bay during a Tuesday Night League Match, Dave Shipman caught a 5lb 9oz fish from the top of the North Arm however both have been eclipsed by a specimen of 8lb 10oz taken from the harbour which ended Nigel Savage's big fish drought in early October and was part of a bag of 10 fish for 27lb caught between East Creek and the Dam, the browns were returned. On the rainbow front there have been few specimen fish although there have been plenty of fish in the 3-4 lb range the largest caught by a club member remains the 7lb 8oz fish caught by Graham Pearson in early April although several anglers have reported seeing or losing larger fish and John Wadham had a 5 pounder from the Transformer. Tom Ellis is leading the junior big fish list at the moment with a rainbow of 3lb 15oz taken on a days fishing with Dave Doherty, a prize he won on the junior evening, I have not had any nominations for the largest brown trout from a junior angler so if you have had a fish witnessed by a bailiff let me know.

Overall the bank angler has probably had a better season than the boat angler with consistent sport all the way through the season with a slight lull at the end of July. This season has heralded the return of the evening rise particularly during August and September, the most consistent bank fishing during the summer was to be found at the Mound or Dickenson's Bay. For fewer but better fish most bank anglers I know spent a lot of their time at the top of the North Arm fishing Tim Appleton's or the Burley Reaches where some very good bags were taken usually on damsels, hares ears or buzzers, to fish with droppers was asking for trouble. It was encouraging to see so many anglers on the banks in the evening, it was not uncommon to see twenty or more anglers in a line on Burley or the other side of the lake. I am sure the better fishing will have seen more day tickets sold to pay for the extra stockfish this year, 132,000 have been introduced this year which must be a record. Another interesting factor to this seasons sport has been the increased invertebrate life with the trout becoming gorged on green daphnia, Corixa or buzzers depending on whereabouts in the lake they were, the trout around the margins of the shallow ends of lake certainly developed a taste for Corixa which has never before formed such a significant part of their diet at Rutland. There are fish feeding on fry now but they seem to be confined to a few areas like the boat harbour or fishpond wall, others still are grazing on the clouds of daphnia in midwater in the middle of the arms, the brown trout seem to prefer the fry. The basin has had a very quiet year I don't know why but this year all of the trout seem to have headed straight up the arms, Manton Bay fished very well in August to the boats as did Dickenson's Bay. More recently fish have been concentrated between the Lodge and New Zealand Point although Spud Bay, Yellowstone and Old Hall Point have all had their moments in the last few weeks whilst Ernie's Point is having its quietest backend for a long while.

Last month John Marshall stopped the use of treble hooks following incidences of fish being found dead, the success of rudder fishing this season has seen a lot more anglers using this method, some have been fishing light with 6lb line resulting in a lot of snapped leaders and lost fish whilst there has been a degree of fish sorting by more experienced anglers returning the smaller fish in the hope of a big bag. Anglers have accepted this ruling and the use of double or single hooks does not seem to have detracted from the effectiveness of the method which invariably comes in for criticism because of its ability to sort out the better fish although were it not allowed there wouldn't be many boats taken out after mid-September. The recent pike fishing weekend proved to be successful and will have generated a bit more income which will help pay for next seasons stockfish

Club Competitions

The second leg of the Roger Thom on August 4th had twice as many entrants as the first with a whopping 6 competitors taking the trip to Pitsford which didn't quite live up to the enthusiasm generated at the competition meeting last spring. Winner on the day was Rob Landless with a good bag of eight trout for 18lb 15oz ahead of his brother who managed 6 for 12lb which just goes to show that the fish do bite well when there's a full moon!

The Loch Style Match on August 11th proved to be as popular as ever with 18 boats turning out in what should have been ideal conditions the trout decided otherwise and proved difficult for most anglers however John Maitland and Dick Stephens had the right method and extracted 16 for 30lb 2oz, most from the middle of the north arm on black buzzers. John Maitland had the best fish of the day with a 4lb 4oz rainbow. Dave Shipman and Martin Introna did well in the south arm with 15 fish weighing 29lb 7oz but couldn't manage the last one which would have given them the match. Stuart Ilsley and Dave Doherty were third with 6 fish each from Dickenson's Bay and Burley for 26lb 5oz ahead of Paul and Wendy Miller who had 12 for 20lb exactly. A lot of anglers struggled to sort out the right method and there were a lot of anglers with 2 or 3 fish. Roger McCarthy had one for 1lb 4oz, obviously one of his better days boat fishing!

Twenty eight anglers turned up for the Pro Am match on September 1st organised by Brian Thomas and most had a good days sport with most fish being taken by nymphs from Barnsdale and Dickenson's. The trophy was won by Keith Landless and new junior member J. Tomlinson who fished in Barnsdale Creek and caught 16 fish for 28lb 13oz, in second place was Paul Miller and young angler Craig Finch with 16 fish for 25lb 14oz from Dickenson's bay Richard Hearth and Bill Law came in third with 24lb 6oz. Dick Stephens and guest Al Owen from the RAF had a good bag also but were not awarded the trophy as Al was fishing as a guest to make up numbers. It was encouraging to see quite a few new members support this event, it is not a serious match but a fun day however it is accepted practice to turn up about an hour before the start so that the draw can be organised and anglers board boats, it also stops Brian Thomas pulling his hair out so please don't arrive at ten minutes to ten next year.

The only other trophies still in contention are the big fish trophies alternatively known as the 'not bloody Savage again' cups so please let me know if you nail a monster in the last week of the season.

Other Competitions

Most anglers had already been eliminated from most team competitions earlier in the year however Paul Miller made it to the International Final of the Benson and Hedges Competition and followed this up with second place in the English National Final at Bewl in September when most other local anglers that had got that far struggled. Well done, if there was a competition angler of the year award in the club Paul would have won it (and I know Wendy likes to see his name in print).

The Masterline Challenge was won by Dave Doherty with eleven fish from Manton Bay on a fly known as the South Arm buzzer using a "slime line", also in the prizes were Gordon Bloodworth, Tony Curtis, Leon Smith and Graham Pearson on a hard day when three or four fish was a good bag.

The Anglian Water Loch Style Championship was an excellent event with good bags of fish taken by a lot of competitors particularly those who went to the north arm, the best flies were black buzzers or mini "tube" flies on floaters or intermediate lines Keith Landless was unlucky not to win, he had 16 from Barnsdale (does he fish anywhere else?), Tony Curtis, Stan Webster and Mike Netherclift all broke double figures as well. It is a day that Gordon Bloodworth would rather forget after being 16-3 down to his boat partner at 3 'o'clock, but he managed another 4 for a respectable total and certainly one that those who travelled to the south arm would have been pleased with.

Dave Shipman found himself a richer man after taking 1st place in the second Hanningfield Masters competition when he won both sessions and managed a 10lb rainbow in the process mind you it is about time he won something this year. Behind him was Martin Introna who bounced back from his blow-out in the Anglia Final to take second place.

Annual General Meeting

You will find enclosed an agenda for the AGM on November 12th which will be held in the small downstairs room at the Victoria Hall in Oakham. All of the officers of the club are retiring from their present positions and we are looking for three or four new committee members particularly those that get involved with club events and do things, we have no shortage of committee members good at talking so if you would like to get more involved with the running of the club please join us, it does help if you live reasonably close and fish the water quite a bit.

Other News

I am sure that you are all aware of the angler who died after being stuck by lightning when fishing near the fishing lodge this must serve as a warning to be careful next summer and not just when boat fishing. On a sad note this season has seen the death of several club members: early in the year Don Freer and founder member Cecil Dobney who donated the Hanby Cup, during the summer John Weaver, Sam Healey and Geoff Robinson. I am sure they will be missed both at the waters edge and during the winter meetings by all who knew them.

You may not be aware but this shall be my last newsletter, I am sure that your relief is not as great as mine but I would like to thank those who have helped particularly John Harrison and prior to his leaving the committee Sean Cutting. On a lighter note I have created a few new awards for which there are no prizes and no correspondence will be entered into!

Unofficial Club Awards

Most Ridiculous Hat: awarded to Gordon Bloodworth for his neon pink baseball hat also nominated Sean Cutting's panama and Keith Landless fishing hat

Best Male Vocalist : awarded to Leon Smith

Worst Male Vocalist: see above

Best Dressed Angler : Nigel Savage always well turned out ready for the next Trout Fisherman photo opportunity

Fishy Story Teller : awarded to Bob Garrett for the 15th year in a row, this years highlight was the playing of a 15lb salmon by hand with his rod stuck up a tree, the bank would be a duller place without him.

Blanker of the Year: several nominations including Richard Hearth for the Anglian Water match and Iain Barr for the Bob Church Classic, Brian Thomas for the Oliver Cup match at Rutland, Dave Shipman in the Wychwood first leg but for consistency over most of the Tuesday Night Boat League it is awarded to Roger McCarthy

Bailiff of the Year: awarded to Carl Dracup for catching one of the local gurus trolling his buzzers once too often

Duck Award : to Iain Barr for his incessant quacking

Take a Friend Fishing Award jointly to Gordon Bloodworth and Martin Introna who may not share many things (like interpretation of B&H rules and fishing boats)

Stockie Basher of the Year : you 'll have to fill this one out yourself, too many nominations !

Invisible Angler Award: Barry Vaughan, not seen very much at all this year also nominated Chris Churm and Tom Saville, you picked a bad season to miss.

Footballer Of The Year : Jon Marshall, though he was only playing with his children for a short while he managed to sustain an injury that any Premier League player would be proud of, and right in the middle of the fishing season as well.

Bad Behaviour Award: to Bob Church who after leading an armada of 25 boats to Manton Bay had the temerity to suggest to 3 boats with local anglers who were fishing Northampton style (and had been there for two hours) that they go and fish somewhere less crowded, fortunately he only managed 2 that day and his team got stuffed by the RAF

Paul Wild

Secretary