

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2000

Dear Member

Fishing report

The period from mid July to late September proved unproductive for the bank fisherman but the boats fared better. It was very disappointing to us as anglers and to AWS as proprietors to see so few anglers fishing the banks. The main problem seemed to be the ever-changing wind direction and problems associated with algae. This occurred in May and brought fishing to a standstill for a week or so.

It was not all doom and gloom, however. Malcolm Janik did quite nicely from the bank thank you! He caught well at Sykes near the Monument and averaged 4 fish a visit. They were mainly taken on a black tadpole on an intermediate line, fished into the wind.

Well, there must be an enormous amount of fish left in the lake. This time last year the banks were pretty unproductive. But on September 26th someone blew a whistle and the fish went on a feeding spree and many of absentee giants showed up in October. Exactly the same thing happened this year. The fish had not apparently been feeding very much this year as indicated by the amount of mucus to be found in their stomachs. This has been confirmed by the capture of a number of very lean fish recently. So, if they are not feeding, how do you catch them? Stocking is still going ahead as planned but still the fish seem to do the bunk as soon as they enter the water. However these are now turning up on the banks, especially in the Sykes Lane area.

One member suggested that the secretary give you tips for the weeks ahead. A good idea in principle but knowing Rutland, it would be like trying to predict the weather two days ahead! However, it can safely be said that, fry, daddy longlegs, bloodworms, corixa and snails will feature in their diet even up to Christmas.

Suggested patterns would be Tadpoles, as already proved by Malcolm, floating fry, subsurface and suspender minkies, bloodworms and green buzzers. There have been dense hatches of these latter but not a fish to be seen taking them. Fish are now feeding on fry, mainly Perch but with the odd stickleback and roach and on caddis and corixa in some areas.

As I am sure you don't need telling this has been the wettest October since 1960!

The source rivers Welland and Nene have been carrying flood water for some time. Thus, pumping and natural inflow have brought the lake water level up at an "alarming" rate. One angler left his fishing bag at the waters edge only to leave the water for a break after a long fishing spell to find his bag partly submerged. For bank anglers this not normally good news as the littoral zone: i.e. that part of reservoir shoreline which has been exposed to what has in fact been a long dry period, is drowned. So, from a fishing standpoint the dry quiet October we hoped for to catch a little of what's left of what has been a difficult season for the bank angler has not materialised.

Recently, we enjoyed some tremendous sport from both bank and boat. As usual, though, the fish were quite local. Many places have produced fish. Good spots seem to have been: Sailing club, New Zealand Point, East Creek, Barnhill Creek, Carrott Creek, Transformer, Sykes Lane and the Lodge Bank for the bank angler. For the boat angler top of both arms, Barnsdale, Old Hall Bay.

Fishing Report (Contd.)

The absence of the prolific weed beds have meant that it has been harder to locate fish. Barnhill Creek seems to have the best growth. Whereas, East Creek, which was so good in 1999, is almost devoid of weed and has produced very little so far. While on the subject of East Creek, the Secretary has been asked by AWS staff to remind anglers that no fishing is permitted among the Sailing Club moorings. This followed an incident when a bank angler had to move to avoid a boat rudder fishing among the yachts. Abuse of this rule could cost us our right to fish this creek from the bank.

Best patterns have been minkies fished in a variety of styles from gold heads to suspenders, floating fry, black buzzer – yes, some grand fish have been taken on this old faithful, Black Tadpoles, hoppers and daddy longlegs. Surface fishing has been the most productive method.

Curiously, very many fish of all sizes have been hooked and lost. You will see very few fish moving, so put on a surface pattern to bring them up. You will be quite surprised what's about.

The wind plays a major part in end of season fishing and, with the water level still low; one of any strength can stir up the marginal mud and mar what promises to be a good day. So, flat calms or very light winds are ideal: preferably, with some sunshine to liven up the fry. Although, the recent dull days have been no more productive than the sunny ones.

There is often less wind at dawn and in our present weather situation the wind can often get up and veer. So plan your day with that in mind.

Some large fish have recently put in an appearance. The Secretary recently caught 5 Rainbows for 21lb 6oz which included a seven pounder. These, all on deep sunk minkie on 12lb Maxima leader.

Andy Mosley recently wiped the secretary's eye fishing minkies on 15lb B.S. So strength of leader does not seem to be a deterrent. Perhaps one should fish a little finer in clear water.

The best Brown – but not submitted for a trophy - was a 6lb fish caught by "curly" from the Harbour Wall.

So look out! You never know what's coming next! With the water now rising rapidly following the recent heavy rainfall get some fishing in as soon as you can. Look for any weed beds still showing and you can't go far wrong.

Full season summary in a subsequent newsletter.

Winter Bank League

This starts on 4th November for five weeks. There is a four fish limit. Fish from 0930 to 1330. Excellent prizes. Phone the lodge on 01780 686441 for details.

Don't forget that your season ticket runs until October 31st. However, Browns caught after 29th October must be returned to the water.

Winter Fishing Zones

These will be posted in the Fishing Lodge and round the banks. In the North Arm there is no fishing allowed West of a line drawn between the Transformer and Dickensons road end. In the South arm no fishing is allowed West of the barrier at the bottom of Hambleton Hill near the Old Hall or West of the Rutland Sailing Club.

1999 Trophy Winners

Can you please return your trophies either to Richard Hearth at the Rods and Reels Angling shop in Mill Street, Oakham, The Fishing Lodge or the Secretary as soon as possible after the end of the Season

Specimen Fish for 2000

Best Rainbow Trout & Salmon Shield - Adult	11lb 10oz	Paul Buck
Best Brown Trout Fisherman Trophy - Adult		None Submitted
Best Rainbow Mike Ellis Junior Trophy	4lb 6oz	Luke Shevlin
Best Brown "Fario" Junior Trophy		None submitted

Winter Programme 2000/2001

Tuesday November 7 th 2000	AGM
Tuesday December 5 th 2000	Forum - Fishing Lodge
Tuesday January 9 th 2001	David Arnold - Forster
Tuesday January 23 rd 2001	Fly tying & Prize Presentation - Fishing Lodge
Tuesday February 6 th 2001	Cooking Evening
Tuesday February 20 th 2001	Speaker - possibly Steve Parton
Tuesday March 6 th 2001	Tackle Auction
Tuesday March 20 th 2001	Pre-Season dinner- Possibly with Keith Arthur

All functions are at the Victoria Hall, High Street, Oakham - unless otherwise stated.

December 5th 2000 Forum of "experts"

This has always been an enjoyable evening with a good attendance. Not to be taken too seriously
Your panel will be Tom Pattenden, Sean Cutting, Henry Lowe and John Mees (Head Warden at Grafham)

Your Chairman will be Paul Wild – so it should be a riot!

This evening is a good opportunity to have a natter over a drink and discuss the ups and downs of the millennium season.

January 9th - David Arnold-Forster

David, who is the chief executive of English Nature, a keen shot and ardent game fisherman, will be coming to tell of his plans for the management of the environment at Rutland Water. If you care enough for the future of your sport you would be well advised to attend. The Secretary will be writing to the secretaries of other fly fishing clubs inviting their members to attend. So lets have a full house to show him how much we care about our sport and the environment at Rutland. An empty house would be disastrous for us in particular and angling in general. I am sure the subject of predatory birds will get an airing. Further details in next letter.

If you folks have got any other ideas for future Winter Programmes please contact any member of your committee.

Renewal of subscriptions – 2000/2001

If the juniors who joined at the Juniors Evening in July wish to continue as members they should renew their subscriptions after the AGM on 7th November.

The committee has proposed that, in view of the clubs healthy financial state, the subs should unchanged. This would be £3 – 00 for juniors & full time students. £12 – 00 for adults and £6 – 00 for OAP. This to be ratified at the AGM - after which subs will be payable.

Renewal notices will be sent out with the November newsletter. The attention of all members is drawn to rule 5(c) of the club constitution, which states that "subs should be paid by 31st December"

Late Extra

Rutland Record Rainbow Eclipsed.

Colin McClachlan from Duns in Berwickshire thought he would have a few casts before setting out in a boat for the day. He fished with a deer hair floating fry. The fish took 20 minutes to land. Remember that this is a fish that has grown on in the lake from a 2lb stockie. This fish smashes Dave Dakers record 13lb 8oz record fish caught in June 1993 on a black buzzer. The fish is to be set up and displayed in the Lodge. Mr McClachlan is not an RWFF club member.

Enclosures

- 1 Letter from Gordon Bloodworth,
- 2 Minutes of the 1999 AGM
- 3 The agenda for the 2000AGM.
- 4 For committee members your minutes of the previous meeting and Agenda for the meeting on November 14th.
- 5 Match results from our hard working Competition Secretary, Sean Cutting.
- 6 Information sheet for you to provide Gary Legge with details and photographs for a rogues gallery.

Hope you are able to take advantage of what's left of the season

See you at the AGM.

Yours sincerely

John Wadham - Hon. Secretary