

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



October 2003

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AGM DATE CHANGE

Please note this year's AGM will be held on Monday 17th November 2003 at the Empingham Cricket Club.

All our future winter programme meetings will be held on a **Monday** rather than the usual Tuesday.

David Moore,
AWS, 7.30pm Mon
1st December 2003
Empingham CC

David and his team will give the latest info and answer questions about Rutland Water

**Fur & Feather
Sunday December 7th**
This is a bank fishing event not to be missed. The fishing has always been good given reasonable weather and there is an excellent meal afterwards. Contact the Fishing Lodge on 01780 686441 for details and book yourself a place as soon as possible.



John Wadham's Fishing Report

October has proved to be a month of wall to wall sunshine. Warm to start with then unusually cold to end. This colder weather has undoubtedly galvanised the fish into feeding again. However, this feeding frenzy appears to be occurring right down the middle of the lake and sometimes very deep down. The boats are having a great time out there. Most methods seem to be effective but two are outstanding. Al Owen has been doing very well fishing nymphs on the "bung". Rudder fishing has also been very productive with some good limit bags being taken right down the middle of the lake. Two fellows from the Emerald Isle appeared very despondent about the fishery when greeted by the staff after toiling very hard on the water for little reward on the first day of their holiday at Rutland. Then they met this nice helpful warden who put them right. Next day two very jolly paddies were seen striding triumphantly off the boat jetty with bulging bags of fish. Quite simply they had been fishing too deep on that occasion. Two morals. One: "it's not what you use: but how you use it". Secondly always ask. "A little help is worth a lot of pity". This is not a fable but a true story

from October 2003. I am sure we have all had this problem from time to time. Remember, it is the bad days that make the good days seem twice as good. If we caught our limits every day we would soon take up golf and get really frustrated! One possible reason for the fry - their main diet at present - being out in the middle of the lake may well be due to the absence of marginal weed beds or other cover. The low water level following the extended drought has exposed many of the weed beds and other fry holding structures. The water is crystal clear and, no doubt therefore, they find safety in depth. Even the grebes and gulls and are finding the fry out in the middle. So look for these busy bodies and you should catch. The best level to fish seems to be three to five feet. Ideal for Di 3 or slower sinking lines either in front of the boat or on the rudder.

With such good boat fishing it might pay to contact the fishing lodge rather than turning up "on spec". Also with the lake level still falling boatman may have problems getting out of the harbour. They hope to keep the boats available to the end of November. Numerous limits were caught last week to give an average of 3 fish per return. Most productive area seems to be along the shoreline of the south arm on a variety of methods from floaters to Di 8. Remember that no boats are

allowed beyond the Sailing limits after 31st October

Bank fishing

Well, this is still a bit of a struggle but there is a glimmer of light on the horizon. Funny that - because that is your best chance: dawn and dusk. With the water so clear and with no cover they, like the fry, seem unwilling to come too close inshore. This might suggest that fishing into slightly coloured water where the wind is blowing in could be more productive in the clear light of day. Nigel Savage reported fish caught very close into the shoreline between the three trees and the Finches point in a North Easterly.

As I write one or two fish are being caught of the point of Barnhill Creek by brave men fishing into a North East wind - dirty water here perhaps? Some anglers have been catching in the Whitwell/Belgrano area. Roy Taylor has had one or two nice fish here on small nymphs fished on a "washing" line.

Winter bank fishing restrictions

These come into force on November 1st. "No go" areas are: in the South Arm: West of the Sailing Club itself and West of the barrier west of the Old Hall. The one which leads to the Stones/Green Bank.

And in the North Arm - Dickensons Bay & Burley Reach and Transformer to Tim Appletons. Dicksos Road End is available. The best late season fishing is quite often to be had between the Mound and the Dam on the north side and Normanton bank on the South side. These have been the most consistent areas over the past few years. Cont...

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Best Rainbow of the season – RWFF - Trout & Salmon Trophy

Despite all the apparent doom and gloom about the fishing, club members have caught some great fish this season. Trevor Ashby leads the field for the Trophy. On 20th May he caught an 8lb 2oz fish from the bank at Cardiac Hill on a size 12 Olive Buzzer fished on 8lb Maxima leader. It was a superb specimen and Trevor's lifetime PB Trout. He felt a gentle take and after two long runs the fish fought doggedly close in but refused to come to the net. Tess was there to see fair play! As if that wasn't enough Trevor then went on to take an 8lb 7oz fish from Eye Brook.

Best Brown of the season - RWFF - Trout Fisherman Trophy

Charles Bowers is now in line with a fish of 5lb 3½oz. The fish was a "hard" full bodied cock fish and looked well fed on Perch fry. Charles took the fish on a Gold & Silver "Friendly" tube fished on a Wet Cell 4 Hi D on the rudder midway between the Harbour Wall and Inman's Spinney. This was part of a ten fish catch shared with Andy Wells "Friendly" is a basic silver tinsel light weight tube tied with an ethafoam back and red head. Now available in the shop! The rest of the prize-winners will be featured in the next newsletter. The presentation will be held at the Dinner in late March. So you can keep your trophies for a lot longer.

Pike fishing

This has been quite good up to press with some large fish being taken. Ken Merridan caught the best fish of the season which weighed 26½lb. The fish took very close to the boat on about the last cast of the day. Ken caught the fish on one of his beautifully tied "mega" pike "flies" fished on a floating line. One boat pairing caught fish to 19lb 15oz. The South Arm seems most productive but North Arm for the bigger fish. The pike fishing closes on November 9th.

Catch & Release

This facility has now been reinstated at Rutland Water. Those wishing to take advantage of it must buy the appropriate permit @ £13 – 00. Those anglers who have purchased a "catch & kill" permit cannot return fish even after the limit has been reached. Gold & Blue Season Tickets can now be fully used at Rutland.

Grafham Rudder Match – Grafham Water

RWFF members showed their superior skills in this method by taking first and second places: with the best two fish per boat counting.

1	Paul & Dawn Turner (RWFF) - Grantham	6lb 9oz
2	Ziggy Lesiakowski & Tony Shields (RWFF) - Rutland	6lb 8oz
3	Clive Morgan & Mr Geoghan (Grafham)	6lb 3½oz

Best brown that week was caught by a certain C.Flemming - Jones. Haven't we heard that name before somewhere? Yes, he is related to the late David Flemming-Jones former manager there. In 2002, this family happened by chance to be on the same holiday as JEM & JW at La Tortuga in Cuba.

Best Rainbow of the season caught by a junior member – Mike Ellis Trophy

Richard Baines - 3lb ¾ oz - caught on the Juniors evening 22nd August

Best Brown of the season caught by a junior member- Fario Trophy.

No one has submitted one. It will therefore be offered to the junior member who in the opinion of the committee has achieved the most success in the 2003 season

Autumn Pairs – Rutland Water

Anglers came from far and wide to fish in this event. 54 anglers recorded 201 fish.

Jon Marshall and his brother in law Pete Bell took the rudder category with Pete catching the best fish in the match a Rainbow of 5lb 12oz with Graham Pearson & Harry Palmer coming second. Graham took the best brown at 5lb 3oz.

Mark & David Haycock won the non-rudder category with Willie Wilson & Alan Smith coming second.

Best Rainbow in this group was caught by John Innes - 4lb 1½oz. John was also winner of the RWFF Oliver Cup. Best Brown 5lb 6oz was caught by Lindsey Barrie.

George Moore Memorial Rudder Match Sunday 29th October

This proved to be a very interesting day with some tremendous fish caught. Ken Merridan - yes that man again - caught the best fish-a corker of a Rainbow of 5lb 9¾oz. It was taken on a tube on a wet-cel two from the Stockie Bay area. This was a solid fish and in prime condition and had, like the rest of the fish taken, been grazing on Perch fry up to 3". Paul Shaw caught the best Brown, a superb fish of 4lb 7oz on a Di 8 - 30 ft down! This was also full of Perch fry.

Results:- The best two fish per boat to count.

1	Ken Merridan & Paul Friend	8lb 9oz
2	Paul Shaw & Ian Donaldson	8lb 6oz
3	Graham Pearson & Mike Barratt	7lb 0¾oz

In all, 28 anglers caught 107 fish - with many over 3lb.

The most gratifying thing about the whole event, apart from the rod average of nearly four fish, was the apparently much improved condition of the fish: many more of them having food, mostly perch fry, in their stomachs.

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

David and his staff have agreed to come and address the club. I am sure I speak for all members when I say how much we care about our pond and its future.

It therefore behoves as many of us as possible to attend. Many members have expressed their views on the present state of the fishery to the Chairman and John Wadham. This therefore is your great opportunity to express your views to those in charge, ask questions about the 2003 season or even offer suggestions for the 2004 season.

Charles Bowers Leads International Team to Victory

The Youth International fly fishing championship took place at Carron Valley Reservoir this past August. Charles led the winning English team against Ireland, Scotland and Wales. All the teams consisted of youths between the ages of 12—17 years old with 14 team members from each country. Most impressive of all was the fact that 5 of the English team were our members and regulars at Rutland. They were:- Charles Bowers; James Hunt; Luke Lavelle; Matthew Newton; Luke Shevlin.

Clearly Loch Carron has a very different sort of fish stock when you note the James had the best catch of the five with 3 fish for 2lb 15ozs!

So congratulations to all five of our superb youngsters who fully deserve their gold medals. They are a credit to the club and many of our members who have played a part in their development.

Extra Money for Competitions and Catering at Meetings

The Committee are recommending an increase in subscriptions at this year's AGM. They are determined to re-invigorate the competition programme and increase the attraction of our winter programme meetings. There will be better prizes for the competitions and we will provide a supper at all our meetings to be held at the Empingham Cricket Club. It should also be noted that our subscriptions have been frozen for many years and are currently lower than other equivalent clubs, many of whom have larger memberships.

A Fishy Tale

by Roy Taylor

This is a story about my first visit to Grafham Water with a friend Barry that took place many years ago now and finished up as a disaster. At the lodge we had a coffee then tackled up, both full of anticipation as we motored out of the boat dock and headed for the far side of the lake. The wind was a strong southwesterly blowing over the old lodge and as we approached Sanctuary bay with Barry on the outboard engine it suddenly burst into flames caused by a leaking carburetor and there was an immediate panic as in those days there was no extinguisher on board. (Extinguishers now fitted).

The flames were some two-three foot high and our first priority was to remove tackle to the bows and try to disconnect the fuel supply. Moving the tackle was easy but uncoupling the fuel was a different matter because of the heat from the flames so we tried to cool things down by throwing water onto the engine/petrol tank. The flames became much more intense to the extent that we thought the boat might sink and were seriously considering abandoning ship when the fire burnt itself out. By this time we were getting close to the bank and looking at a long row back as the engine was badly damaged and holding an oar upright was not an option as no one had seen the fire. With two pairs of oars on board we started the long row back. Fortunately midway the rescue boat came to our assistance and we were towed into dock.

Back at the lodge we obtained a replacement boat and again sallied forth only this time trying to stay under the wind by going to Village creek. No problem there and after fishing unsuccessfully for some time we tried to start the motor. It would not start and Barry who was still on the engine started to get more than a bit upset. With only one set of oars in the boat he started the row back. At this point it should be explained that Barry is an ex RM Commando who regarded himself to be 'fit as a butchers dog'- his words and not mine. With me in the stem it resembled a speedboat as we traveled back.

Unfortunately, doing this one of the oars sheared and Barry finished up in the bows in a heap. It did nothing for his now temper when he discovered an expensive pair of designer sunglasses in his back pocket had disintegrated leaving fragments of glass in his buttocks. To say he was not a happy man is an understatement and we now had only one oar.

When we eventually got back to the lodge Barry had calmed down and started to see the funny side of the episode and after explaining to the staff we obtained a third boat and sat off the harbour fishing for the remainder of the day without success.

There are a number of lessons that come from this fiasco. The first; always wear a life jacket in case you have to swim for it (now compulsory on all Anglia Waters). Next, check to see the boat has an extinguisher and know how to use it *before* leaving the dock and do not throw water on a petrol fire, and finally check the number and condition of the oars and try not to lose your temper in difficult circumstances which is easier said than done. The sequel to the story is that Barry wrote a light hearted letter to Anglia Water and we got a free days fishing when we did rather better than on this occasion.

Fishing with Anglian Water until 31 December

- tackle sale at all three fishing lodges – starts 29 November with 20% off most stock
- autumn sporting permit – catch & release with one fish limit all waters 1 November to 31 December £80
- boats subject to water conditions
- full day permits for those wanting to make the most of the excellent winter fishing on offer – from shop or hut
- half day permits now valid all day – from shop or vendor hut
- pike fishing from the bank at Pitsford to 31 December
- pike fishing boat to end November at Pitsford, Ravensthorpe and Grafham subject to water conditions
- bank leagues at Rutland, Pitsford and Grafham to end November
- Fur and Feather tickets now available
 Grafham 23 November (best brace) Pitsford 30 November Rutland 7 December

Pitsford - 01604 780351

8.30 to 15.00 - 7 days Nov.

9.00 to 14.30 Friday to Sunday inclusive Dec. to end Feb. Closed 12 Dec. – 22 Jan.

Rutland - 01780 686441 8.30 to 15.00 - 7 days Nov. 9.00 to 15.30 - 7 days to 18 Dec. Christmas shopping special - 10.00 to 14.00 20 – 22 Dec. inclusive closed 23 Dec. to 9 Jan. inclusive 9.00 to 15.30 - 7 days 10 Jan. to end Feb.

Grafham - 01480 81053 18.30 to 15.00 - Tuesday to Sunday inclusive November 9.00 to 15.30 - Tuesday to Sunday inclusive December to end February. Closed 20 Dec. to 9 Jan. inclusive. With Christmas coming gift vouchers make an ideal present.

LAST KNOCKINGS - A WRY LOOK AT GOINGS ON AT RUTLAND



The Ergasilus parasite has well and truly kicked in again and it would appear that AWS's strategy of hoping that it would go away of its own accord needs a rethink, still we should not forget how many over wintered fish were caught in April and May this year and hopefully there will be similar amount about next year providing the November/December brigade don't get at them first. Still there are several plus sides to these "challenging" times for the bank angler. You can be pretty sure of finding a spot on the bank to fish these days whatever direction the wind is, the Hambleton Peninsula track doesn't seem to wearing out quite as much as usual and your freezer doesn't seem to get quite so clogged up with trout these days. I don't think that I am alone in wishing I had fished a bit more often in the first 3 months of the season. In fact in the past couple of months some of the fishing terminology has been redefined for the Rutland Bank angler:

Its fishing well – somewhere, somehow more than 1 fish has been caught

Challenging fishing – you probably won't catch anything but the exercise will do you good

Hotspot – someone caught one there yesterday

Good Area – someone caught one there last week

Looks promising – a fish has been seen rising in the general vicinity and it was probably a trout

Crowded Bank – More than one angler on that mile of shoreline

Bag Check – to check the mesh isn't so large that the trout slide through the holes



As the water cools maybe the fish will find it easier to breathe and regain their appetites, I am sure that when they do we will witness the reappearance of the Wadmobile, last sighted at Grafham. AWS are doing their bit in the research program into the problem, 50 trout heads are being sent to Stirling University every month, imagine opening that parcel first thing in the morning; apparently fish head stew is proving very popular with the impoverished students although some of them are looking a bit thin.....



Its usual for John Wadham to comment of the unusual bird life around the lake but this season saw the reappearance of the "Werrington Warbler" (latin name *Leonicus Smithicus*) blown in from Peru where it had been harassing the Condors to Rutland for the trout season before migrating south to Mozambique in the winter. Often seen on the boats usually on Tuesdays, instantly recognisable due to its full head of plumage and its distinct song, whistle or humming which can only be described as unique, some believe that it's a technique that it uses to distract the trout while presenting its flies on the water or maybe just to wind up its boat partner.



Recently a beginner spent several hours fishing on the harbour wall to no avail however his girlfriend had the right idea she didn't bother with the rod but with just the landing net she managed to get herself a trout so maybe now is the time to invest in a slightly longer landing net pole. Perhaps it was the pheromones in which case I think there may be rush of bank anglers going for sex change ops next season maybe there'll be a free one with each season ticket purchased.

THE INFORMER