

Rutland Water Fly Fishers



www.rwff.org.uk

October 2009 Newsletter

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After what has been the driest September for many years with some areas recording no rainfall, the lake level is now about 4 meters or 13+ feet in old money below top level and is still falling!

This low level has exposed the weed beds and allowed us to fish "virgin water". We do not even need to wade, so in reality we are not damaging this fragile environment too much at all.

One disadvantage of

Rutland Fishing Update ...

the low water is that a strong wind or excessive wading can soon colour up the water. So keep out of the water and fish with wind at your back if the wind is strong.

The windy summer inhibited stratification which meant that the boils was not such an important habitat for the fish: although there was a spell when the fish congregated here in late July and early August and were caught in great numbers by the boat anglers.

One member reported having four fish on at once!

Autumn Bank Sport

Well! What a bonanza! This bank fishing now is arguably some of the best in the history of the fishery and certainly since the 1996 bumper season.

The tremendous growth of Canadian pondweed in the margins is now home to a plethora of food items; including Corixa, snails and ten spined stickle backs: not the three spined horrors with that pelvic girdle representing a thorn bush. See a photograph of this on the next page.

Also this species doesn't seem to be carrying that dreaded tape-worm, which led to the demise of many Browns back in the 1979 season.



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The three items shown above have been the main diet of both Rainbows and Browns over the last two months.

These sticklebacks have I suspect thrived in the absence of the perch.

Another interesting feature is the arrival of quite a number of the Great Sedges which have been seen flying around the lights at the fishing lodge; with some adults being found in the fishing boats. The photograph below gives some idea of the size of the pupae. These were taken from a 2lb fish caught in Carrot Creek on October 1st.



The result of this rich diet is that the fish are in absolute mint condition.

The fish are gorging at such a rate that they are rapidly putting on weight. The 2lb March stockies now average over 4lb. At the present rate of consumption these fish will exceed 5lb in weight by November. Even the recently introduced large stock fish should have plenty to eat to maintain their body weight. What a change from the impoverished ecology of 2002 – 2006!

The average sized Rainbow at the time of writing is 3lb 3oz!

One interesting fact is that quite a few don't dispute too hard for their liberty but then there is the one that takes 60 meters of backing in one mad headlong dash for freedom. Many of the fish seemed content to kite across the surface during the fight and appeared to be frightened of becoming weeded.

However apart from getting more positive offers than fry imitations, small flies e.g. bobs bits, CDC's etc are just as attractive to the fish and without a "gob full" of floating fry



these fish give much more value for your money: even 2lb fish taking backing.

In May we predicted five pounders. This will soon be a reality – and we haven't even seen the daddies yet. A big hatch of theses in 1998 brought up some real monsters from the depths in late October. Still no sign of daphnia and the water remains beautifully clear.

The result of having all this marginal weed is that the fish are so close in that a cast of more than 15 meters serves only to scare the fish. Sitting down keeps you out of sight, concentrating better on what you are doing and less tiring.

The fish have proved much bolder in cross winds alongside weed beds. You are then casting to travellers rather than residents. Spud bay produced a huge amount of fish in exactly these conditions in a north-easterly.

Some days you can only get offers and may only bring one out of ten to the net. Other days you may land six out of ten. The larger the fish the more determined the take. This is ideal as most of the stockies have a bosh shot at your fly. Also the stockies showed little interest in static patterns: but anything pulled beneath the surface seemed acceptable.

Some mornings the number of fish moving upwind has been almost unreal. However the more they move the harder they have proved to interest. This happened one morning on Barnhill Front and they



seemed impossible to interest.

However when Hilary Tomlinson arrived they appeared to switch on. She caught four in four chucks and showed us all up. Good on you gal! Did I hear pheromones mentioned?

The golden rule is to cast short. More than 15 meter and you are "lining" fish which in the gin clear water tends also to cause their mates to flee in all directions.

Get your reels well backed up. One angler had some 75 meters of backing taken by a Rainbow estimated to be over 7lb. The fish sadly came off some 15 meters from the net. Ouch!

Ted Kuzniar lost an estimated "double" off Ernie's Point in August when they first came on to fry. It took a damsel nymph but after a jump sounded into a weed bed.

Members' Best Fish

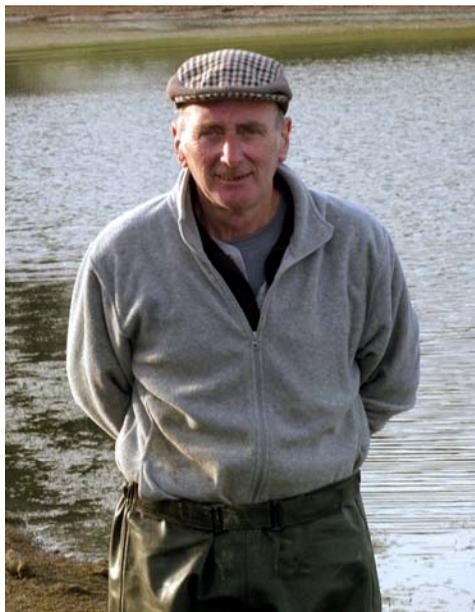
Dave Ellis took a 7lb 3oz cock

brown from the Green Bank on a floating fry where one day some giants of both species turned up with another member taking a 5lb plus Rainbow from here. Phil Brown took a 6lb 3oz Brown from the North Arm on a floating fry and is the best one weighed in for the club seasonal trophy.

Remember they are to be returned after the end of October. He also took a Rainbow of 5lb 2oz.

Peter de Kremer (see photograph below left) took a mint conditioned Rainbow of 7lb 2oz from Barnhill Creek on a floating fry pattern. The fish was caught a few metres from the bank and gave a good account of itself. It was returned to the water.

Mick Lacey (top right) took the best fish of the third week of September – a 5lb 8oz Rainbow from the bank on a floating fry.



There are still no specimen fish—either brown or rainbow - weighed in by junior members – don't worry too much about the size of fish. I am sure someone has caught a good Rainbow or Brown this year. If someone has weighed in a fish and has been omitted please contact JW a.s.a.p.

Specimen claim forms are available from the wardens' office, the fishing lodge shop or in a sleeve hanging in the back passage in the lodge.

Chairman John Maitland (see photograph on page 6) was bemused that he had not yet encountered a 4lb plus fish this season. However he soon put that right by catching a mint conditioned 5lb 8oz specimen on a floating fry with a metre or two of the bank.

Rutland Browns

This plethora of food has kept the

Rutland Water Fly Fishers

notice of

Annual General Meeting

to be held on the

12th November 2009

at the

Empingham Cricket Club

commencing at

7.30pm

This is a great opportunity to meet other members, discuss fishing matters and have "YOUR SAY" as to how the club moves forward into 2010 ... What would you like to see happen ...???

YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!



browns busy in the margins. Great news! These don't normally seem to turn up in November. Some grand specimens have been caught, with 5lb fish quite common. They are in peak condition and resemble sea trout and fight as hard as the Rainbows.

If you are going to return browns make sure you bully them in and ensure their well being by nursing them carefully and seeing them safely away from the margin or boat: especially in heavily weeded areas.

Best fly patterns

Most floating patterns whether fry, Corixa or snail imitations have attracted fish. However some fine specimens have also been caught on wets and sunken lures.

If you are not sure where the fish are, do a bank-side sweep with a floating fry imitation "on a motor-bike" and work your way along the bank until you get attention, remembering not to cast too far and be stripping before your lure hits the water so as to make contact with that fish that takes it on impact. A 10 ft 10lb minimum breaking strain leader is sufficient for this method which works best in a good cross wave.

Best spots are where you like fishing. Reports suggest that fish have been caught all around the banks – especially the Hambleton Peninsula. Both sides have fished well according to the wind direction with Spud Bay and Barnhill Point at one time resembling a fish farm at feeding time. It is so great to report that the north arm is the productive area at last!

Boats have been finding fish in the margins and around the weed beds at "Brown's Island" and Burley Reach and Tim Appleton's where some very large fish have been seen.

What ever you fish it must be on thicker than normal string. Even CDC's have been accepted on 8lb leader.

Hanby Cup 2009

A total of 6 boats took part in this 'rules of the water' competition, with 3 members, Alan Taylor, Wayne Windsor and Rob Teasdale taking part in a club competition for the first time. The day started with a light to moderate south-south westerly wind and slightly

overcast, ideal conditions one might think for a bit of top water fishing, however, this soon changed when the cloud cover disappeared and it became much brighter at much about the same time as the wind picked up to moderate. Later in the afternoon this changed again when heavy cloud cover returned with a light drizzle and a further increase in the wind speed to fresh. These changes in conditions meant regular changes in tactics for some.

From the start the boats seemed to divide almost equally between the two arms and the main basin, but as the day unfolded boats moved into the north arm, partly I suspect for protection from the wind, but also because of reports of an improvement in the fishing in this area. For some the fishing went off during the afternoon and they then moved back into the main basin and the south arm but the rest persevered.

While most anglers started on fast/slow glass and Di 3 lines, those that went out on floating lines tended to quickly change when they found fish were coming to the dry fly/floating fry but not actually taking it. One exception to this was our chairman John Maitland and his partner Rob Teasdale who fished dries off the transformer and took 3 nice rainbows. Those on sinking lines fished a mixture of Rudder/Northampton style reverting to pulling lures including Minkie's in between times.

Andy Wells did well doing the latter with a 'friendly tube' off weed beds along the Finches landing 4 good fish, 2 brown and 2 rainbows to 2lb. 9oz. in quick succession.

In the event, the clear winners by a considerable margin were Mike Barrett and Graham Pearson with a double bag limit of 16 fish for 37lb. 1oz. (best 3lb) and they won the trophy and £30. Half these fish were caught in the north arm and the remainder in the main basin just off Fantasy Island on the rudder/Northampton style.

Next in line were Jamie Weston and Phil Brown with 9 fish for 21lb. 14oz. (best fish of match 4lb. R/B caught by Phil) and they won £20. In 3rd place were 2 of our newcomers Alan Taylor and Wayne Windsor with 7 fish for 17lb. 11oz. (best 3lb. 4oz.) and they won £10. Our congratulations go to all the prize-winners who managed to do well despite the tricky conditions.



Lost a booby ...??? This nice specimen (above) came already attached to a Rutland resident ...!!!

Statistics ...

A total of 49 fish were caught by the 12 anglers taking part, giving a rod average of just over 4 fish at an average weight of 2lb. 6oz.

Thanks ...

My thanks to all those who took part, and also to John Seaton and other Anglian Water staff who as-

sisted the less able members on the boat dock as well as carrying out most of the 'weigh in'.

Courtesy please ...

This is just a plea from us bank anglers ...

Please give us some space if we are already fishing. A minority of boat anglers have been seen motoring up the side of weed beds within casting range of bank anglers then drifting back down wind over the water they had just "ruined".

RWFF have asked that instruction on this matter be also given to competitors in the pre-match briefings.

If you don't like what they are doing, contact the fishing lodge immediately with the boat number.

In a number of cases more "polite" bank anglers have chosen to move rather than get involved in a contretemps.

Rutland Water - Tuesday Night Boat League 2009

Congratulations to Phil Longstaff who was the final winner with 48 points with RWFF's Richard Cooper runner up with 42 points.

Annual General Meeting 2009

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting is to be held at the Empingham Cricket Club on Thursday 12th November 2009 commencing at 7.30pm.

We are looking for two new committee members. So, if you are interested in joining the committee or know someone who does,

please get your proposals in writing in to the Secretary a.s.a.p.

Details re proposals and amendments are given in your membership book under Annual General Meeting rule 9 ©.

Please attend this function. You might find something out about the fishing and be given a summary of the winter programme and enjoy a social drink and a chat in the interval or afterwards; if we endeavour to get through the business in good time.

Details of the winter programme in next newsletter – first function will be on January 14th 2010.

Take care when you removing your jumper ... Hornets about ...



This could only happen to JW ...!!!

Peter De Kremer - Bank Tales ...

Following on from the article I wrote in the last newsletter about dry fly fishing on the dam and Fantasy island, I thought it would be an idea to relate two incidents of interest.

The first concerns our secretary John Wadham who I was fishing with on fantasy island in the last week of June. As you will recall from

the last newsletter, interest in the fish was not a problem, but hooking them certainly was, with many fish rejecting the dry fly or being missed after proper takes, some of which were 'un-missable' head, dorsal fin, and tail rollovers.

After the umpteenth missed take, most of which we thought were due either to striking too quickly or too hard, J.W. said that he was going to cast out – there were lots of fish in the area – just put his rod down and if and when a fish rose to his fly he would count very slowly to three before picking it up and gently lifting.

The amazing thing was that within no more than two or three seconds of saying this and putting down the rod, a fish did indeed rise. Slowly, one – two – three – pick up rod – and yes the fish was on, although it did realise its mistake on the count of three but by then it was too late for the fish but not for John!

The next experiment was for him to hold the rod again and on the next take count slowly to six before lifting and no more than five minutes later this is exactly what happened with another fish being landed.

Moral of the story: don't be in too much of a hurry on your strike, it really was amazing how hook up rates improved.

The next anecdote concerns my son David who's working at the lodge both in the shop and as a warden.

As many of you know, the bank

fishing lake around the weed beds has been fabulous with carrot creek being particularly good.

On the day of the English national boat final, the weather decided to make fishing hard, with a dead flat calm and bright sun.

I fished carrot in the morning and caught two but it had become very difficult for me and other bank anglers with fish not interested in the usual floating fry, dry fly or Minkie combinations.

David had been advising a complete beginner over two or three days who had only ever caught two fish in his life to find the weed beds and especially to try carrot creek at some time.

In the middle of the day with the sun doing its worst and seemingly no fish interested, he went into carrot with a yellow/orange humongous and promptly caught four fish in four casts.

Maybe sometimes we over complicate things and get stuck in our ways!

Boat fishing has been excellent lately although not as easy as the banks.

In the A.W. Airflow International the heaviest bag on the second day was caught around the weed beds off Whitwell/Ernie's Point and Sailing Club Bay with the same angler catching his eight fish on the first day off Lax Hill weed beds again on dries.

Just as in the bank fishing, the best seems to be on the upwind side as near to the bank as possible. Sunny days are not a problem as long as there is little wind but the combination of both makes fishing pretty hard.

There are still fish out in open water of course, but interesting them is not easy, although Hywell Morgan caught six fish in the downwind slicks off the boils (although over 100metres away from them) on dry fly to catch his limit.

It just goes to show that even if there's not much food in open water, never ignore a wind lane, what little food there is will collect there and interest the fish.

Most of the food though is near the banks with masses of Corixae, snails and sticklebacks. This is where the big fish are with many being over four pounds.

Strangely the massive number of roach and perch fly are being ignored in favour of the sticklebacks – presumably they are easier for a trout to take them.

Hopefully with this amount of food in the margins, this bodes well for bank anglers right up to the end of the season.

Nic Mather — RWFF Junior Member

He caught this marvellous 4lb 10oz fish from the bank of Carrot Creek on an Orange Minkie - having tried all other means of attack. It gave him over ten minutes of arm ache.



The fish - a personal best - has been weighed in for the club's seasonal trophy for the best Rainbow by a junior member.

Major Clubs "end of season" report by Mike Gunnell

The 2009 season in the Association of Major Clubs Division One competition finished, not with a bang, but with a very disappointing whimper in the final Autumn Association match on a bleak, windy Chew Valley Lake where over two-thirds of the anglers taking part blanked.



In what was the worst result in AMFC history, only one angler out of 68 managed four fish, several caught two, some had one but the majority of those taking part in the four-man event that brought all four divisions together on Saturday October 3 caught nothing, thanks to a combination of very coloured water and a howling south westerly gale.

Boats at Rutland and Grafham on the same day were not allowed out, but the Chew management

decided the match was OK to go ahead. By the end, most of those taking part wished it hadn't been!

For the record, on the day the Division One match was won by Fish Hawks with four fish for 10lb 2oz, followed by Rutland Water FF with two fish for 3lb 10oz and Solider Palmers with one fish 1lb 15oz. Bewl and Hanningfield did not put teams in for the final round – perhaps they knew something we didn't!

For the season overall, Fish Hawks dominated most matches and deservedly ran out winners with 26pts, followed by Bewl with 20pts, RWFF with 15pts, Hanningfield with 14pts and Solider Palmers (relegated) 12pts.

- Fish Hawks 393-15 **26pts**
- Bewl Water 386-00 **20pts**
- RWFF 313-11 **15pts**
- Hanningfield 327-14 **14pts**
- Soldier Palmers 241-15 **12pts**

From an organiser's point of view, the season proved something of a 'logistical challenge' – which is putting it mildly - with plenty of anglers wanting to fish 'home' matches at Rutland or Pitsford, but very few prepared to travel to away venues, such as Bewl, Chew and Hanningfield.

Fly Tying - Fly of the Month

by John Maitland

"Simple Floating Fry"

At present various floating fry patterns are catching a lot of Rutland trout and should go on doing so for



several weeks while the 10-spine stickle-backs and other fry remain on the menu. This very simple and easily tied pattern works well.

- Hook: 2X longshank size 10 (H1A) matches present fry size but a larger hook may become appropriate soon!
- Thread: Stout White tying thread
- Body: Pearl Lite-Brite Dubbing. Varnish the shank first to stick dubbing onto shank
- Back: 3mm thick x 8mm wide White Plastazote, cut & shaped. Tie in at rear of shank & pull forward and tie off at the head
- Tail: Tuft of Pearly or Silver flash material, plus a few strands of Grey Mallard flank or White Hackle fibres

After tying squeeze the air out and test float in a glass of water. The tail-end should sit down a bit. If it doesn't trim some of the foam accordingly!

Remember that the weight of the leader will pull it down as well.

Trout sometimes prefer their Floating Fry static, sometimes a gently moved and for JW only, sometimes Roly-Polyed!

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