

Rutland Water Fly Fishers



www.rwff.org.uk

October 2011 Newsletter

Despite some rainfall since the last publication in mid August the level in Rutland Water has continued to fall and is now some 4 meters down: but not as low as in 1996. This has left a littoral zone of up to 75 meters in the shallower parts of the Lake.

In 1996 during that very dry year the reservoir was down some 7 meters but was full by the end of January.

The biggest problem the summer was the persistence of the westerly wind which conspired to make for difficult bank fishing. However, it has not succeeded in removing all the weed beds.

As with all predictions of fishing at Rutland Water my forecast of fish visiting the weed beds had, by mid-August, come to almost nothing. Just occasionally fish were coming into the

weed beds and some good specimens were caught. These fish had been feeding on sticklebacks, snails and corixa as in 2009 and were in very good nick.

It was interesting to note that the earlier Brown stock fish had not put on the weight as expected. This may be to some extent due to the persistence of the brown algae as the browns tend to shun the warmer weather and prefer to feed at greater depths than the rainbows.

What Rutland Water really needs is a complete change of water. This will only be achieved by having four very wet months. Not only would it refresh the rivers and enable Anglian Water to pump but also just as importantly recharge the groundwater supplies. This would be a



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great help to Jamie at Horn Mill fish farm.

One fine early morning in October, I arrived at the waters edge (see photo below) just before dawn to see a seething mass of rising fish. By day break they had stopped – but the rise lasted long enough to see that they were mostly coarse fish with a few trout. By the time I had cast they had all disappeared. However undaunted I carried on despite being frozen to the marrow.

Then as so often happens after about 20 minutes a fish was safely netted and further offers received. Moral: “no fish moving does not necessarily mean no fish”. Also, the dry fly is the best search engine for testing the water. A little gentle or some-

times fast movement of the fly will attract their attention even more quickly.

At last!

Contrary to the August prediction, quality fish are now visiting the weed beds all around the lake to graze on the corixa, snails and small fry. The average size of fish visiting the weed beds is about 3½ pounds.

They are in mint condition having had a good summer on daphnia out in the main basin; but curiously contain only a few food items. The larger fish are taking very boldly and very close to the shore. So make sure you are using a light enough rod e.g. no more than a five weight to



avoid breaking off or having hooks straightened. There are very few fish showing. But that doesn't mean to say the not feeding. Some of the rises are very indistinct but a cast in their direction will usually bring a result. Some of the fish take it and bolt. Others you have to lift the rod but only a gently as this results in a panic stricken run for as much as 50 meters at high speed. So check your knots regularly.

The fish seem ready to consider anything floating. E.g. floating Fry, CDCs, bobs bits etc. As these fish are very close in it pays, as you would in any other form of fishing, to keep out of sight. Ideally sit down well back from the waters edge; unless of course the fish are more than say 20 meters away or you are fishing over a weed bed. Strictly no wading as this will tend to colour the water, drive the fish out and spoil it for your downwind neighbour.

“This back-end”, says he “could be arguably some of the best bank fishing; certainly since the 2009 bonanza”.

There are some very large fish being caught. Peter de Kremer recently taking three fish for over 17lb from a boat outside the weed beds. This included two 6 pounders!

A six pound rainbow was caught from the bank at the Mound. Club member Matt Gregory recently had two large Browns weighing 5 lbs 12oz. and 4 lbs 12oz. These



were taken on a large floating Fry. He also had an encounter at Tim Appleton's – see letter from Matt.

Rob Waddington took a five pound Brown from Armley Wood. Quite a rarity this, as this area of the Lake is not normally fishable and remains flat calm in the prevailing south-westerly wind.

Richard Cooper (above) has caught his personal best Rainbow weighing 6lb 2½oz on a lure from a boat in the main basin

Help for Heroes Pairs Match 13th August Rutland Water

Anglers of all ages fished; including members of the England youth team. The match was a great success & raised some £700 for the charity.



English Ladies F FA National

Club member Martha Thomson from Orvis won the event with 7 fish for 14lb 10oz. It was great to note that our Hilary Tomlinson qualified to fish in the team next year. Well done lass!

Youth Fly Fishing Day July 22, 2012

Malcolm March, Jeremy ball, Chris Evans and Matt Gregory are busy beavering away at the arrangements for next year's event which will be run on a much large scale and I am sure more efficiently than the 2011 event.

A lot of this work being outside the limited technological range of JW! In view of the amount of favourable feedback JW received for the 2011 event it was obviously worth repeating it.

Specimen fish for the 2011 Season Trophies – so far ...

- Best rainbow Adult David Moore 6lb 4¾oz (photo above top right)
- Best Brown Adult Douglas Oldfield 6lb 7¾oz
- Best Rainbow Junior. Graham Hayward 3lb 13oz
- Best Brown Junior Graham Hayward 2lb 7oz

Please remember that all Brown trout caught after 29th October must be returned back to the water alive. Rainbows are eligible for the trophies until the end of the 2011 season.

Congratulations to RWFF club member Mike Netherclift for raising £105: the largest amount of the sponsorship. Rutland Wardens donated £200 ex fish sales.

Autumn Pairs Match

Congratulations to Al Owen & Graham Pearson for achieving third place with 10 fish for 21lb 3oz.

Some fine specimens were caught in the match with club member Jim Watts taking the best rainbow of 4lb 14½oz.

In the non rudder section Richard Cooper & Keith Jones took 16 fish for a fantastic weight of 49lb 14¾oz by fishing along the weed beds. The haul included the best brown for Keith at 6lb 13oz and for Richard the best rainbow of 4lb 14½oz.



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Water Aid 2011

A very big thank you to all club members who acted as volunteer boatman for this event. Without your efforts nobody would have been able get out on the water. Our thanks to all those who helped prior to the event and especially Josie Porter who had the unenviable task of making up all the goodie bags.

We should congratulate Chris Evans & Paul Dimbleby who are standing down from the event. Their unstinting and entirely voluntary efforts have ensured the continued success of this event over the last ten years. The event will still be run again next year. Next is a report from Chris Evans at WaterAid.

WaterAid Fly Fishing Challenge 2011 bags over £16,000 for charity ...

Anglers from all over the country came together at Rutland Water on Friday the 9th September to fish for WaterAid and help provide safe water and sanitation to people in the developing world.

Ninety anglers from leading water industry companies took to the boats in near perfect weather conditions in the 10th WaterAid Fly Fishing challenge (awwaffic) hosted by Anglian Water.

Most of the boats took to the main basin drifting down towards the dam. Rods were bending early in the day and this continued resulting in the best catch in the history of the event. Over 230 fish were caught giving an average of 2.51

fish per rod. Although half of the anglers were novices, some experiencing fly fishing for the first time, most caught fish. Making a great contribution to the day were experts from Rutland Water Fly Fishers helping the teams catch fish on one of Europe's most challenging trout fisheries.

It was a close match but the top team emerged as Integrated Water Services Ltd 'Hookers' from Walsall captained by Jon Endall with 25 fish for 55lb 13oz. The best experienced individual was Gordon Inglis from Scottish Water WaterAid Fly Fishers with 8 fish for 18lb 12oz and the best novice angler was Jon Endall from Integrated Water Services Ltd 'Hookers' with 8 fish for 20lb 14oz.

Top instructor on the day was Al Owen from Rutland Water Fly Fishers. The sponsors for the event, teams entering and prizes donated for the raffle and auction have helped organisers Chris Evans and Paul Dimbleby raise this fantastic sum which takes the total donated to WaterAid from this event over the last 10 years to over £148,000. The full results can be found on the web site www.awwaffic.org and Facebook ([awwaffic](https://www.facebook.com/awwaffic)).

New Visitor at Rutland ...

A new shrimp has turned up at Rutland Water named Hemimysis Anomala – sometimes known as the 'Bloody Red Mysid'. An example is shown above right.

For more info about it visit Google. The trout obviously like it as they appear have been grazing on it around the Church Bay. Swarms of it can be seen around the lodge jetty on calm days.



Rutland Water Cormorants

The impact of cormorants on the trout population at Rutland Water is coming under close scrutiny. So if you want something doing about it is absolutely critical that you record all damaged fish on your catch returns; however slight the damage.

We all know how disappointing it is to catch a perfect mint conditioned fish only to turn it over and find a wound. However small the wound it quite clearly debilitates the fish. Even fish over 4lb are displaying injuries. Please also record any sightings of these birds, wherever you are to the Angling Trust at www.cormorantwatch.org.

We have all seen them at Rutland Water: have you all reported them to their website? Notify them a.s.a.p.! Every sighting will reinforce the national case. There are some 200 birds at Rutland at present. Anyone who hasn't seen one please inform the secretary!

Annual General Meeting

Please note the change of venue. Notice is given that this will be held on Thursday 10th November 2011 at 7.30pm in the Conference Room at the White Horse, Empingham.

Please, everybody make an effort to attend this function as the future of the club depends on decisions made at this meeting by you as the membership.

Rutland Water Fly Fishers finish as champions again! - The 2011 Division One Major Clubs Report

Rutland Water FF made it two Division One titles in two years, and three in the last four years, after winning the 2011 Association of Major Clubs competition in convincing style.

Three wins, two seconds and a fourth place in six matches saw RWFF finish top of league Division One with 25 points, two ahead of nearest challengers Bewl Bridge FCA.

Going into the last round, RWFF were five points ahead of their rivals and could not be caught, following a convincing penultimate round at Rutland Water where RWFF finished more than 35lb ahead of the next team (who happened to be Bewl again).

Overall the position for the 2011 season was as follows:

- Rutland Water FF 25pts
- Bewl Bridge FCA 23pts
- Fish Hawks 17pts
- Grafham Water FF 13pts
- Hanningfield FF 11pts

Over the six rounds of the 2011 competi-

tion, the team caught a total of 154 fish weighing a grand total of 338lb 8oz.

Looking back over the season, RWFF had a near perfect start with a second place in the opening round at Rutland in April, with Fish Hawks emerging as winners.

In the second round at Bewl in May, another second place result, thanks to a consistent team performance, saw RWFF in equal first place. But it was the next three rounds – at Grafham in June and July and Rutland in September – where we recorded three straight wins which clinched the 2011 title.

The final round on a sweltering October day at Hanningfield was something of an anti-climax with the title already in the bag, and the fourth place finish was the worst of the season. But it didn't matter, as the team only needed to turn up the claim the Division One trophy.

A big thank you to ALL the anglers who took part in this year's Major Clubs events: Mike Barrett, Sean Cutting, Peter Firth, Ron Gent, David Holroyd, David Lang, Al Owen, Graham Pearson, Martin Rowson, Sue Sissons, Paul Sissons, and Paul Wild.

If you would like to take part next year, then the entry form for the 2012 competition will be going out early in the New Year. All you have to do is pick the matches you fancy taking part in, fill in your details and send the form off.

The 2012 season will open with the Spring Association match at Chew Valley Lake at the end of April and will close at the beginning of October at Grafham Water with the Autumn Association match.



Rutland Water Fly Fishers

notice of

Annual General Meeting

to be held on the

10th November 2011

at the

The 'Conference Room' at

The White Horse

Empingham

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!



You can fish a total of four events, but only one of the Spring and Autumn Association matches. I look forward to hearing from you! Mike Gunnell, Major Clubs Organiser

Rutland Youth Fly Fishing Day: by Malcolm March

Following this year's restart of the Junior's day, as the photograph above shows, we have decided to build upon it by running an even "bigger and better" event next year on Sunday 22 July. It will be called the Rutland Youth Fly Fishing Day.

Jeremy Ball, Chris Evans, Matt Gregory and I have formed a sub-committee and have been working on the organisation of the day for some weeks, with me as the Event Manager. John Wadham is helping us as needed.

For any IT people, have a look on Face-

book at our new Rutland Youth Fly Fishing Day page and click on "like this" to receive on-going news. Or have a read or make a comment about the day on Fly fishing Forums. The more comments and enthusiasm displayed the better as it publicises and raises the profile of the event.

Our Aim is " To organise a day of fly fishing activities for young people aged 10 to 17 that introduces beginners to the sport and develops the skills of more experienced young anglers". It will be a morning of fly fishing activities followed by boat fishing in the afternoon.

Drawing on this years' experience, we have set ourselves the following objectives to achieve and they are:

- To make the day an enjoyable, friendly experience that develops the fly fishing skills and knowledge of all participants

- To ensure there will be a minimal competitive element
- To identify two ability groups, novice and experienced
- To break even on cost, with any surplus funds going to an appropriate charity

To raise the profile of Rutland Water Fly Fishers through its actions in bringing young people into the sport Anglian Water is very supportive, as always, and has made all boats available to us on 22 July. The price for participants will be £15, covering the morning's activities, fishing and the evening barbecue.

The crunch issue, as always, is boatmen and we are seeking these from across the country including parents of participants.

But again, as usual, we will be relying upon RWFF volunteers for the day to be a success.

If you are willing at this time to commit yourself as a boatman for a few hours during the afternoon of 22nd July, would you please send an E-mail to us at rutland-waterflyfishers@gmail.com or please telephone or speak to me (Malcolm March) on 01780 722466, giving your contact details. The earlier you can let us know the better.

Similarly, if you want application forms, please let any of the committee members listed on the front page know by e-mail or by telephone.

Participants will be allocated on a first come first served basis and already we have had 6 expressions of interest.



R.W.F.F. Loch-Style Match & Summer Boat Fishing Report

This year's loch-style match on Sunday 25th September was well supported with 18 anglers in (yet again) windy conditions.

The forecast was for south-west 8 to 11mph winds through the day, but although the first hour was fished in decent conditions, the wind then increased to 15 to 20mph making life very difficult, especially in the main basin which was the area most competitors went to as for weeks it had been easily the best part of the reservoir.

Overall, 26 fish were caught by 18 rods giving a rod average of 1.4.

The winning pair were Ron Gent and Graham Pearson with 8 fish for 16lb 9oz, second were Gordon Alleyne and Mike Netherclift with 5 fish for 13lbs 8oz. Gordon also caught 3 good fish on dries in the main basin before the wind got too strong, with another on dry fly at Manton in the afternoon.

Third were Jeremy Ball and Rob Teasdale with 3 fish for 9lb 10oz, Jeremy having the best fish of the competition at 4lb 5oz. Jeremy also had best fish at the RWFF Hanby Cup earlier this year.

The story this summer has of course been the wind and the constant disruption to boat fishing with many days being too windy to let the boats out.



It has been very rare we've had a gentle breeze with cloudy conditions, and the combination of intermittent brown algae which can appear overnight and the wind blowing has made fishing over the front of the boat difficult at times, although the wind has helped rudder fishermen bring in some excellent bags – especially from the main basin.

The South-arm / Manton area has held excellent fish all season but due to changeable conditions has fished very well one day only to be followed by a poor day the next.

I fished the day before the Major Clubs competition in July when the area around Brown's Island was alive with fish that would respond to both pulling and nymph tactics, but the next day brought a 90° change in wind direction and slightly coloured water due to algae.

This resulted in nymphs and buzzers working poorly, but some rods still did very well with the odd limit coming to pulling tactics.

To the left shows a picture taken earlier this month showing the lodge harbour at low water level, plus an Egret wading!

As far as I am aware this was one of the very few occasions when the majority of the boats headed straight down the arm from the off as most days have seen fishing pressure concentrated in the main basin, especially around the boils.

September brought some more settled

weather before the heat at the end of the month and at last the fish seemed to feed better, particularly from 4:30pm onwards with some excellent sedge and buzzer hatches.

Day by day the sedges gradually faded away to leave fish which were rising quite aggressively, now only rising gently to small green buzzers in very shallow water – particularly along the Normanton Bank / Fantasy Island areas.

David Moore, formerly of Anglian Water, who has given us such interesting talks at our winter meetings caught and released a large brown around 7lb+ along the Normanton Bank in the first week of October and I have heard of some good fry-feeders being spotted and caught near the Blue Pipes.

As I write this article on yet another day boats are not allowed out due to wind, it has recently seemed that some very good fish are coming in to the extensive weed beds and feeding on corixa and a few fry.

Competitors in both the Anglian Water Airflo International final and the Anglian Water Autumn Pairs match have found these fish in areas which have not been pressured for most of the season.

These were the first matches for a long while when it has not paid to fish the main basin and should be a sign of excellent fishing to come from both boat and bank this autumn. Report by Peter de Kremer.



The One That Only Just Got Away by Matt Gregory

Early October saw the levels low and the days bright and Autumnal. Lots of fish, including some of the less recently resident, fish moved into the copious weed-beds and sport was terrific. I was fortunate to land Brownies of 4lb 12oz and 5lb 10oz respectively.

In the search for somewhere different to try, and that hadn't seen angler pressure I pitched up at Appleton's at the top of the North Arm one evening.

In 2009 this area had provided some excellent back end sport, and in 2010 the other side at Burley Flats had produced the goods during the summer.

What greeted me was both encouraging and deflating, the old fish ponds dam was above the water line which meant that deep water could be cast into from the bank, but the weed-bed extended some 15 feet out from the bank over the whole area.

I tackled up regardless: a single black Minkie on a leader of 12 feet of 10lb fluorocarbon, and waded out into the weed off the dam.

No fish were showing and retrieves had to be fairly brisk in order to stay above the sub-surface weed and lifting off the water had to be quite far out to avoid the floating weed, the bottom was also muddy and slippery into the bargain: not the controlled or relaxed fishing I aim for.

On slowly lifting off after about 20 minutes a bow wave appeared behind the fly followed by a solid pull. The fish was 20 feet from the bank, 5 feet from surface weed and keen to get its head back into the submerged weed. The only option was to hit, hold and hope.

My rod was hooped right over and the fish came to the surface to thrash about, it was a good one and not keen on being hooked. To say I bullied it is an understatement, but I got its head up and it seemed beaten as I began to slide it over the weed. It happened, the hook pulled out and I was left with that familiar sinking feeling as the line went slack.

The fish however hadn't noticed yet, and lay on top of the weed some 10 feet from the bank.

Now I don't carry a landing net, not having a Catch & Release ticket every fish I catch has to come home with me so I don't see the point of one. I wish I did at that very moment though. The biggest rainbow I've got even close to landing was just lying on its side, perfectly still in the last of the sunshine supported by the weed.

Well I threw my rod behind me and the same with my waistcoat and carefully waded in after it. It was a big fish, and as I reached out to it thinking that somehow I

could grab it by the wrist of its tail I realised just how big as I was going to have difficulty getting my hand round it, even at the tail.

As soon as I touched this fish it of course shot off back into the reservoir. A rather half-hearted further half hour of fruitless casting saw me up-sticks to Hambleton Wood for the last 20 minutes of daylight.

My consolation prize, which turned out to weigh 4lb 4oz on my kitchen scales was a very small fish indeed in comparison. There are still some monsters lurking in there, but you need more luck than me to land them!

Winter programme.

This is in the making and full details will be published in the next newsletter. The first function will be on Thursday December 8th at the Empingham Cricket club at 7.30pm.

Please ladies and gentlemen put your thinking caps on and see if you can come up with

some useful suggestions that will keep us all amused.

Tim Mackrill from the Nature Reserve will be giving a presentation on "The ecology of Rutland Water"- most likely at one of the meetings in February.

Finally, thanks to all of you who have offered contributions of articles and photographs to this publication. Please keep them coming ...

The photograph on page 11 is looking from Hinman's Spinney towards Gibbets Gorse and Manton. Recent heavy winds make for great bow waves as shown in the photo at the top of page 14 and on the AGM poster! Whilst the photo below shows 'low tide' at Carrot Creek looking down towards Barnsdale Steep Bank (Cardiac Hill) in the South Arm.

The next issue is planned hopefully to be out sometime in early December.





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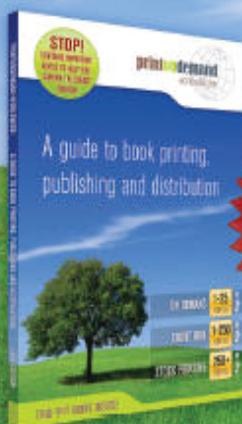


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