

Rutland Water Fly Fishers



www.rwff.org.uk

October 2013 Newsletter

The Lake ...

The water level in Rutland is now at the lowest point since the 31st of March 2012!

This has been beneficial and has considerably assisted work on the marginal stoning.

Despite all predictions, the hoped for the arrival of the fish into the well weeded margins has not

yet taken place. There could be a number of reasons for this.

At the time of writing the water in the lake is crystal clear and even a glimmer of sun through a dank sky puts the fish down.

Secondly, the water temperature at 16C is still artificially high for the time of year: more akin to early September. This

may well have driven a number of the fish to the boils.

The apparent absence of fish in the margins doesn't, however, mean there are no fish left in the lake!

This was clearly highlighted by the results of the Anglian Water Airflo International Final match when some 1413 fish were caught. This included a



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number of large Browns which were returned to the water safely as only one fish is allowed in a limit catch.

These are the results:

The winners were Seighford Sharks (photograph above) with 83 fish for 234lb 15/1/2oz

- Rod Average 5.35
- Total weight of fish caught 3638lb 10 5/8oz. Average fish weight 2lb 9oz. Average bag weight 13lb 12½oz

During this match the bulk of the fish were taken in the South Arm.

They had two perfect dank overcast days with a moderate wind. These are ideal conditions at the moment.

It is not all doom and gloom from the bank either, as, last week Graham Bayliss caught an estimated 7lb Brownie and four or five Rainbows from the bank at Sykes Lane on black & green taddy.

Graham commented that there were good numbers of fish moving at first light. JW confirmed the need for cloud cover by taking 5 fish for 15lb from the bank in torrential rain and a south-easterly gale on 16th October.

It was interesting to note that for those who were fishing on the bank early in October the fish pulled best between 09.30 and 1100.

With this very clear water it has proved important to keep out of sight of the fish as one would in any other form of the sport.

Sit down on the bank or just in the water's edge - to prevent snarling up

the line on sand and stones, and progressively fish the water from 5 meters outwards.

Recently your secretary caught some lovely fish on the Normanton shore within a few metres of the bank and some of the fish were seen to be passing under the rod tip in less than a foot water.

So, when you arrive at the water's edge don't go into "hippo mode". This happened to somebody the other day who was fishing close in and there was quite an exchange of verbal's, understandably!

Best patterns without any doubt from the bank have been dries of any sort whether floating Fry, daddy longlegs either wet or dry. Most small dries have been effective including Shipman's, Bob bits and hoppers.

As these fish do not appear to be feeding much it is appropriate to give your fly, whatever it be, a bit of life.

All methods are worth trying from Harley Davidson speed to walking pace! Offers with a stationary fly are much more likely to result in a hook up, provided that you are not too quick on the strike.

Remember, to employ much lighter gear – say #5 when fishing close up.

This will help prevent you being snapped off on the take as the fish bolt when hooked in this crystal clear water.

Also, with the clear water, it pays to keep on the move as you are really only likely to get one offer from each spot. Small is beautiful and 14 to 16

size patterns have proved most effective.

This was borne out by the sight of a fish in the region of 10lb in weight "visiting" a 14 claret bobs bits some 15 yards from the angler. One waited in anticipation for the line to go, only to look up and scan the water to see the fly was still there. Scary!

Another peculiarity, is that many of the fish have empty stomachs and are quite slim and don't appear to have fed for a considerable length of time to judge by the knarled up condition of their stomachs. These are mainly the semi-gravid females.

The larger more seasoned fish appear to contain mostly snails and a few Corixa and a certain amount of Canadian pond weed. Not a very nourishing diet.

A trip out in the boat up to the top of the South arm and locally around the weed beds in the top of the North arm is still proving very productive with some fine fish being caught.

As you can imagine with their apparent non-feeding status they have been caught on a range of patterns by a range of methods.

A recent 5 pound brownie taken by Paul Friend contained a small Zander. Imitate that!

Rutland Water Stoning

Rutland Water Fly Fishers recently held a meeting with John Marshall and John Seaton to talk about the work being carried out to repair and secure the banks. Both John's pointed out appropriate access points that had been marked on a map of the reservoir site.



Soon after this meeting, flag markers were posted at some 30 popular fishing spots around the perimeter of the lake.

These access points are in the process of construction and examples of them can be seen in the above photograph recently taken at Stockie Bay.

Since our meeting a great deal of reparation work has been carried out: including levelling out of all the clay bank below the stonework, removing all obstructions including original rock foundations, harrowing and re-seeding the bank side and filling in all base trenches.

A perfect example, as pictured top right is Yellowstone point. The clay here has been rolled out, tamped down and with the aid of hot sun and low water, formed excellent base to

stand on for fishing.

So hard it is the clay layer that it is difficult even to get a landing net pole into this substrate. Also highlighted at Yellowstone is the new drop-off that this provides. This will be a huge benefit to bank fishing in the future.

Also of particular benefit to us bank fishermen has been the removal of the withies from the Sykes Lane bank, see the photograph bottom right.

This stoning contract quite clearly had to be carried out. Unfortunately conditions were less than ideal with a full reservoir and having to work in water during 2012, the wettest year on record. This clearly hampered progress on the contract. However, with the low water level this summer, work has gone ahead apace and the contract is now nearing completion.



We would like to acknowledge the co-operation and prompt action taken by Anglian Water Fisheries and the Recreation staff in expediting all of the additional works in providing access points over the stonework for all bank anglers.

With the recent rainfall river levels will no doubt start to rise and no doubt pumping will soon commence.

It would be worth you taking a tour of the bank to see what they've actually done before the water level rises.



Water Aid 2013

A big thank you to all RWFF members who helped out as boatmen this year.

This event takes considerable logistical skill to put on and as the organisers said, without you the event couldn't have gone ahead. A big thank you also from Anglian Water.

Results

86 anglers caught 79 fish for a total weight of 200 lbs 7 oz. giving a rod average of 0.9.

This was quite a good result as the lake at the time was not fishing too well despite what appeared to be good conditions on the day.

An excellent meal afterwards was provided at the Edith Weston village

hall with prizes presented as shown in the photograph on the right ... Best Novice.

This year's event raised around the £14,000 mark for the charity bringing the total for 12 events to around £178,000.

Water Aid does wonderful work in undeveloped countries to assist local populations to tap underground water supplies and supply them with sanitation.

A very happy smile indeed from boat number 29 as shown below from the day. This photograph tells more about the day than words ever will do ... and it is the boat partner who is doing all of the smiling!





From the Chairman

I have just looked back at the minutes of committee meetings and the AGM in 1996, the year in which I took over as RWFF chairman.

To me it seems an age ago with names I recognise but some which I cannot now put faces to. I'm afraid that the memory lapses of old age are taking effect! Since that time there have been many changes in our club events.

Our programme of boat matches has fallen away: probably overtaken by the increase of major competitions. In 1996 we held only one bank match the John Wadham shield but five separate boat events.

The Oliver cup was a two leg boat

match with the second leg fished at Grafham.

Then there were: the Hanby cup, pairs match to reservoir rules; the Roger Thom trophy, a two leg bank and boat match; the RWFF pro-am match; and finally the Loch style pairs competition.

The last was fished much as it is today but when Dick Stephen and I won it in 1996 there were about a dozen boats out. I wish we could manage such attendance now.

But, while some activities have declined, others remain unchanged and yet some are much improved.

We were active in the Association of Major Fly Fishing clubs then as now. In fact, I took over as organiser for RWFF

just before becoming chairman and found it caused a lot of worry and telephoning to ensure a full team at each match.

So, I know how much work Mike Gunnell has to put into it and I'm delighted at his success in organising our team. To come first again in division one is splendid to add to our record of two firsts and a close second in the previous three years.

One aspect in which the club's record has soared is in Youth activities, mainly thanks to new keen committee members.

The main youth day, attracting 80 young people last year and 77 this, has been quite outstanding and I hope it continues to prosper. We

must encourage more youngsters into our sport and hopefully attract more into our club.

The balance of our membership now tends too much towards grey hair, or even white!

One thing that my time as chairman has brought home to me is that the success of club like ours is very dependent upon the quality and keenness of its committee members.

Looking back over 17 years, I can state that committee has never been stronger than it is now. The new blood recently transfused into the committee has been instrumental in the advances in things like the youth programme and administrative improvements.





RWFF's



Members Evening THURSDAY 12th DECEMBER



Rob Waddington's 'Fishing Adventures'

Empingham Cricket Club

Starting Prompt at 7:30 pm

Full details in our Newsletters & Website

www.rwff.org.uk

My thanks to all committee members past and present.

Finally, I can say that I have, mostly, enjoyed my time as chairman and now hope for a few more years as just a Rutland fly fisher.

I hope to see you at the forthcoming AGM and beyond that on the bank or the boat dock in seasons to come.

Association of Major Clubs Competition from Mike Gunnell

This was a great effort at Rutland on Saturday to win the final match of the Major Clubs season and win our third Group One title in the last four years – and the year we didn't win, were second by just one point!

The results for all four divisions on the final Saturday were:

- 1. RWFF 46-07 5pts

- 2. Fish Hawks 31-12 4pts
- 3. S. Palmers 30-10 3pts
- 4. Bewl Water 19-04 2pts
- 5. Grafham 18-01 1pt.

For the 2013 season:

- 1. RWFF 23 pts - 449-03
- 2. S. Palmers 20 pts - 432-01
- 3. Grafham 19 pts - 432-11
- 4. Fish Hawks 16 pts - 386-01
- 5. Bewl Water 12 pts - 367-14

Unfortunately Bewl Water were relegated to Group 2, with Queen Mother joining us from Group 2

Our top rod on the day and top rod in the match overall was Mike Barrett, (see photograph, bottom right page) a last minute 'stand-in' for Graham Pearson who had a stiff neck and shoulder, and what a 'super-sub' Mike turned out to be.

Mike took 6 fish down the bottom of the South Arm on a DI3 40ft Expert



line, and four flies, a cat's whisker booby on the point, two hoppers and a black blob on the top dropper, drifting across the mouth of Manton Bay. Four fish took the 'cat' and two the blob.

Our second best rod was Paul Wild who took four fish for 12-14, with a best fish of 5-05, the second biggest of the match, while Al Owen had five fish for 9-13 and Ron Gent had three fish for 8-04. A great overall result and with a weight of 46-07, we were more than 14lb clear of second-placed Fish Hawks.

Solider Palmers were third, Bewl fourth and Grafham, who had been tied in first place with us on 18 points going into the last match, finished in last place with just 1pt.

So a superb and very consistent performance which saw us take one first place, three seconds and two thirds in the six rounds of this year's competition., the 25th in the AMFC's history, Everyone who took part this year will receive a celebratory medal to commemorate the last 25 years and I'll be sending them out later this month.



Specimen Fish

There have been a number of large fish caught this season but regrettably few of these have been reported either to the secretary or Peter de Kremer.

Those eligible for the trophies so far are Al Owen with his 10 lb 5 oz rainbow, Gary West with a 5 lb 6 oz brownie and for the Junior trophies Graham Hayward with his 5lb 8oz rainbow and a 4lb 8oz Brown.

As the back end of the season approaches no doubt we will get reports of some giants, at present in the middle of the lake who will hopefully visit the margins and munch their way through some corixa and sticklebacks.

Gary West (photograph above) recorded a brown trout caught on Wednesday, the 9th of October on a tube fly in the Manton Bay area; it was weighed by the warden, Simon, at 5lb 6oz.

As an aside, he had a good afternoon in the top end of the south arm.



On the big Rainbow front, season ticket holder and RWFF member Steve Crowder from London, had a cracking bag of 8 fish on Wednesday October 9th, which included a 6lb 11oz Rainbow.

Local guide and instructor Malcolm March from Edith Weston landed a 6lb 5oz Rainbow in superb condition whilst boat fishing in front of the Fishing Lodge in very adverse conditions last Friday, with very strong North Easterly winds, coupled with showers.

Pete Gover had four good fish (a total of nine for the day) to my seven (total weight 20lb, including the brown and a 3lb rainbow).

Mike Burnside got among the good fish and weighed in a Rainbow at exactly 6lb. Mike is a RWFF member and a regular visitor to Rutland Water, travelling all the way down from County Durham for a number of seasons.

Site Security

You will all have seen the signs around the Lake saying "leave it on show expect it to go".

Unfortunately one club member despite leaving the minimum amount of kit in the front of his vehicle, someone, who felt that might be something more useful hidden therein smashed the near side passenger door window and somehow managed to locate his camera and other bits & bobs which were well out of sight: one thought.

The police were informed at once and their advice was as, the sign

says don't leave anything on view. They also said that if you observe any suspect vehicles or suspicious activity relating to any vehicle report this to the police on 101 immediately as they are very keen to apprehend these villains.

Don't leave it until the following day. Following this incident, it was good, next day, to observe a patrol car visiting the site of the incident which occurred on the grass verge at the Normanton end of the dam.

Also, more warning signs have since been erected here and other vulnerable sites.

Apparently, this is not the first incident of this kind at this point. Perhaps they prefer it here as it is cheaper than going into the car parks!

You have been warned! So, chaps keep your eyes and ears open. Also report any such incidents to the fishing lodge immediately after contacting the police.

Autumn Pairs Match - Saturday 12th October 2013

Fortunately heavy overnight rain and strong gusts of wind relented just before the start of this popular match.

Good numbers of fish were caught with boats spread out on the reservoir with the bottom of the South Arm, Fishing Lodge frontage, the Main Basin and the North shore of the North Arm producing fish.

Mark Haycock and Graham Pearson fished the Main Basin to take the rudder section. Top rods in the non rudder section were Alistair Beaumont & Dave Morris who fished Manton Bay.

Rudder section – rod average 3.81

- 1st Graham Pearson & Mark Haycock
16 fish for 47lb 6oz
- 2nd Keith Jones & Cameron Neil
12 fish for 34lb 15oz
- 3rd Steve Crowder & Dave Porter
9 fish for 26lb 14oz
- 4th Dan Perks & Rob Teasdale
10 fish for 24lb 13oz

Biggest fish went to Mark Haycock 6lb 14oz Brown. The biggest Rainbow Keith Jones (England) 4lb 2½oz.

Congratulations to those club members who featured in this event and did so well!

Winter Programme.

A comprehensive programme of events is planned for this winter including fly tying evenings, talks and of course the dinner in March.

The first of these club members evenings will be Rob Waddington on the

12th of December starting promptly at 7.30pm.

Well-known Rutland coach and guide will be giving us the benefit of his fishing experiences world wide: but not excluding Rutland Water.

Some members will no doubt be familiar with some of the locations he has visited and a little advice on how to fish these places, accommodation and how to get there, will be on offer during this great evening with Rob.

Without a doubt, this is essential viewing if you want to find affordable fishing overseas.

Rob (below) is looking out for anyone interested in a Salmon fishing trip to Yokanga, Kola, Russia in 2014. If you are interested in fantastic Salmon fishing and traveling with Rob out to Russia in 2014, please contact him as soon as possible on his landline: 01572 722422 or his mobile: 07711-182853.



Some 'Fishy' Sayings ...

- "I had a strong taste for angling, and would sit for any number of hours on the bank of a river or pond watching the float." –Charles Darwin
- "Thousands have lived without love, not one without water." – W.H. Auden
- A bad day of fishing is better than a good day of work. ~ Author Unknown
- May the holes in your net be no larger than the fish in it. ~ Irish Blessing
- There are two types of fisherman - those who fish for sport and those who fish for fish. ~ Author Unknown
- Somebody just back of you while you are fishing is as bad as someone looking over your shoulder while you write a letter to your girl. ~ Ernest Hemingway
- Give a man a fish and he has food for a day; teach him how to fish and you can get rid of him for the entire weekend. ~ Zenna Schaffer
- There's a fine line between fishing and just standing on the shore like an idiot. ~ Steven Wright
- The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope. ~ John Buchan
- Fishing is a... discipline in the equality of men - for all men are equal before fish. ~ Herbert Hoover
- Last year I went fishing with Salvador Dali. He was using a dotted line. He caught every other fish. ~ Steven Wright
- You must lose a fly to catch a trout. ~ George Herbert
- Men and fish are alike. They both get into trouble when they open their mouths. ~ Author Unknown
- Give a man a fish, and you'll feed him for a day; give him a religion, and he'll starve to death while praying for a fish. ~ Author Unknown
- The fishing was good; it was the catching that was bad. ~ A.K. Best
- Nothing makes a fish bigger than almost being caught. ~ Author Unknown

Last but not least my favourite saying.

- My biggest worry is that my wife (*when I'm dead*) will sell my fishing gear for what I said I paid for it. ~ Koos Brandt

RWFF Annual General Meeting

This will be held at the Empingham Cricket Club on Thursday 14th November at 7.30pm.

Tight lines until the next newsletter.



RWFF's



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

THURSDAY 14th NOVEMBER

Empingham Cricket Club
Starting Prompt at 7:30 pm

Full details in our Newsletters & Website

www.rwff.org.uk

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