

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

Chairman

Mr. J. Maitland
7 St Albans Close
Oakham
Rutland
LE15 6EW

Secretary

Mr. J. Wadham
6 Mendip Road
Oakham
Rutland
LE15 6NN

Treasurer

Mr. P. Wild
35 Tennyson way
Stamford
Lincs
PE9 2GZ

Tel 01572 756650

Tel 01572 771092

Tel 01780 757853

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 1998

Dear Member

Bank Fishing Report

Wow!. We are now enjoying some of the best bank fishing this reservoir has seen since the back end bonanza of the 1989 season. There are evidently more 5lb plus Rainbows in the lake now than at any time since its inception in 1997. Many of these fish are falling to light fishing methods. They may be found anywhere so beware. The secretary has already had two reel emptyings! Some of these 5lb fish are the large April stockies which appeared to have increased their weight by at least a quarter. This is mainly due to the absence of any prolonged spell of hot weather as we all know too well!. The fish have therefore been able to feed right through the "dog days" uninterrupted. The present condition of the fish is the perfect testimony to that. They are all beautifully silver. Mark you the fish have had little pressure from the bank recently with such a cool summer with so many strong Westerly winds which have kept the water well mixed.

The new "brand" of stockies recently introduced are the best fish ever stocked into the lake. These fish go straight onto surface feeding unlike their Hanningfield counterparts which appear to live off their fat for the first few weeks and do not rise much. They are good scrappers and are silver even after a few days. They take a dry very freely and have helped cover any blanks.

The trout's diet is very mixed at the moment. Corixa is the main food item. There have been some tremendous hatches of green or black buzzers in the evenings on the few occasion when there has not been a gale!. They have not always been easy to catch, however, due to their having spent most of the day gorging on Corixa. Other important food items have been Sticklebacks, Daphnia, Buzzers and Daddy longlegs. The secretary lost a 6lb plus fish which took a daddy just a rods length away and after a few "boshes" wandered off to "Kingdom come" then gave a gentle shake and was gone! A number of very large fish bigger than that have been lost. As some of these are the 1998 early season stock fish it is possible that their mouths are still rather hard.

The most recent fish photographed by the secretary was a 6lb 2oz Rainbow taken in the Finches shallows by Bob Garratt on a tiny Hare's ear. The fish gave him a long fight. Sir John Conant also got among the "cros" taking a fine 6lb Rainbow from the Point of the Old Hall. Dick Stephen is there again. This time with a 6lb 4oz rainbow from Burley Reach. The fish which was caught on one of John Maitland's green and black lures was in perfect condition gave Dick a long but uneventful battle - not even taking out any backing. Perhaps these fish have been charging about feeding so hard this summer that they are now knackered! Funny how John's flies seem to work better for the recipient than the donor!

The best fish of the season so far is a near 8lb Rainbow caught by well known local angler Harry Furniss on a floating fry.

Many anglers are still catching career best Rainbows. There have been a few Browns taken. Sooner or later they will show up. However, if the warm Autumn weather continues - Ha! Ha! - they may not show until November which time (October 29th) they are out of season.

These big fish have been caught at all times of day but morning and evening have generally been best. They are also widely distributed around the lake. 5lb plus fish have been caught from Barnhill Creek, The Finches, The Transformer, Tim Appleton's, Burley and Sykes and no doubt other locations unbeknownst to the Secretary.

It is very interesting and one supposes quite logical that, when some fish are cornered by anglers, their feeding gradually reduces to a few minutes at either end of the day. The most productive time at the moment is evenings from about 4pm. However in some places e.g. The Dam and Old Hall bay, they are moving from dawn till dusk but only seem to pull between four and six pm. This possibly coincides with the Buzzer hatch.

It is quite clear however that many of the larger fish have taken to grazing on sticklebacks and green buzzers in the hours of darkness only a few feet off the bank. This is borne out by the large number of well digested sticklebacks and buzzer shucks found in the morning caught fish. This probably why early morning fishing has proved by and large to be unprofitable. So don't go romping out into the lake cover the margin first- especially early morning and late evening.

Another point. You fish droppers at your peril. On some evenings and indeed dull mornings parts of the reservoir resemble a fish farm with many fish moving very close - so there is a more than even chance of a second fish taking the "spare" fly and costing you the fish of a lifetime. Either fish one fly which is much safer or use much thicker "string". 10lb is not too thick. However it seems that the more they move the harder they are to catch. So it is best to be in at the start of the rise before they get "podged". Don't wait for them to move. Try fishing just below the surface with buzzers or small flies as soon as you get there. Isn't it strange how the stockies can become quite impossible. Then along comes a visiting "croc" whose been hiding away in the depths all day and sips in your fly and carries on - to the end of your backing!

At the moment you need at least 100m of it. Check your joints to the back end of your fly line. Recently some unfortunate angler lost an entire fly line plus a few metres of backing. At some time, his reel must have done an overrun and the backing got trapped in between the spool and the reel frame.

So what are the best patterns? Take your pick! They seem to have been caught on all manner of things. Minkies, C-de-C, Small wet flies e.g. Wickham's, Greenwell's, Silver Invicta, Diawl Bach, Floating Fry, Black & Green Tadpoles, G.R.H.E., Daddy Long Legs, Buzzers & Pheasant tails. Their willingness to accept such a catholic array of fly patterns is a sure indicator of the present high quality of the fishing.

Most of the fish have been caught in the top nine inches of the water. So some degree of greasing up or other buoyancy aid will bring the best results.

A very popular food item at the moment is the bloodworm which lies on the surface curled up like a "Chelsea bun". This is fairly easily imitated either by greasing up a standard pattern or using a red shipman's, C -de -C or Ethafoam suspender type. It is well worth tying the tail as far round as you can but not too much that you mask the hook point. The tail of red "flexstreme" should if possible be pointing back up the underside of the hook shank towards the eye. The secretary took 6 fish in almost as many casts when all other attempts at interesting them failed.

So all this talk of good fishing - where are they? They are almost everywhere but as always with R some places produce more than others. The best places have been from Tim Appleton's to Carrot Creek - yes the whole stretch! Burley, and on the South side Green Bank, Old Hall point, Old Hall corner, Barn Hill Creek, Sykes Lane from the corner of Whitwell Creek to the Dam, The dam at both ends when the wind has permitted, Sailing Club Bay, New Zealand Point. Well - there's a choice covering all directions of wind save for the dreaded Westerly Gale

The weather has gone from one extreme to the other. Now we have a period of hot flat calms with light Easterly winds. This has drawn a lot of fish out of the Arms into the main body of the lake. The Dam Wall should now fish very well.

The back end of this season promises to be a bonanza. Although it would be hard to improve on the present level of sport.

There is quite a lot of algae around at the moment so it is favourite to fish with the wind at your back.

Boat fishing

Two record fish for the season have been taken from the boats since the last newsletter. The best being an 11lb 11oz Brown caught by Rutland regular boat angler Mike Barratt. The fish was taken on a sinking line and a Tube Fly.

The best Rainbow of the season submitted for the club Trophy is a 7lb 11 fish caught by Graham Pearson boat fishing on the rudder in the North Arm. The fish which was caught on a gold & silver tube took 70 yard of backing on it's first run and had to be followed in the boat. This is Graham's personal career best and is the second best Rainbow from Rutland this season.

One or two boat anglers have had fun dapping daddie longlegs. Well worth a try at the moment. One angler found the artificial more effective than the natural. Must be a good imitation to achieve with choosy Rutland rainbows!

There seems to be a plethora of fish in the main basin of the lake. Numerous boat anglers bagging up in matches with hours of time bonuses!

Another career best Rainbow- a fish of 7lb 21/2oz taken from a boat by Kevin Taylor. The fish was caught from a drifting boat off the Normanton bank on a size 10 silver Invicta being fished "behind" a wakening Silver Invicta Mini-Muddler on a 6lb B.S. Ashima leader. The fish gave Kevin a tremendous battle doing a 360 degree circuit of the boat. Luckily, boat partner Rick Haynes was able to get the drogue out in time. He was drifting past a bank angler at the time/. Kevin would like to acknowledge the courtesy shown by the gentleman concerned.

Events

The Tuesday night boat league

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----------|
| 1) | Leon Smith | 47 points |
| 2) | Sean Cutting | 46 points |
| 3) | Howard Evans | 29 points |
| 4) | Gordon Bloodworth | 28 points |

Congratulations to the winner Leon Smith. All the above are R.W.F.F. members

Association of Major Clubs Match - fourth round - Rutland Water

There was a convincing win for R.W.F.F. in this event - results as follows

- | | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---------|------|---------|
| 1) | R.W.F.F. | 31 fish | 71lb | 101/2oz |
| 2) | Mid Northants T.F.A. | 26 fish | 51lb | 4oz |
| 3) | Bristol Reservoirs | 26 fish | 46lb | 91/2oz |
| 4) | Royal Navy Marines | 19 fish | 34lb | 3oz |
| 5) | East Midlands T.F.A. | 19 fish | 33lb | 11/2oz |

As you can see, R.W.F.F. won by a comfortable margin of some 20lb thanks largely to Graham Pearson and Dave Doherty who both caught their limit of fish early thus giving them a very good time bonus.

The surface fishing from the boats is still very good indeed. Witness the results of the recent House of Hardy and Major Club events both of which have to be fished to international rules

Bailiffs Pairs Competition Saturday October 3rd 1998

This looks to be a very popular event. So if you want to fish you'd better look sharp and contact the lodge on 01780 686441. So popular is this event that we have struggled to make up a team for the Association of Major Clubs event at Hanningfield Water on Sunday 4th October. Even the secretary who can't even steer a boat without grounding it has been "volunteered" for the event!

Club Competition Results

Did you spot the “deliberate” mistake in the July newsletter?

The second set of results described under the heading “Club Competitions” on page 4 should have read “The Roger Thom Trophy” not “The R.W.F.F. Pro/Am”. My apologies to all concerned.

R.W.F.F Pro/Am - Rutland Water

- 1) Kevin Taylor & Richard Walden 31lb 5oz
- 2) Mike Ellis & Mike Netherclift 29lb 10oz
- 3) Rob Landless & Roger Milner 28lb 8oz

Congratulations to the winners Kevin Taylor and Richard Walden.

This was a very close fought contest with 22 competitors catching an amazing 133 fish for an average of 6.05 fish per rod

General

It seems that a number of our members do submit their catch returns as Gordon Bloodworth and Ken Merridan both won a mid - week boat in the draw. However it seems that many are still not putting returns in. That is a pity with the fishing so good as it is at the moment. The day ticket holders are apparently much better at submitting returns.

Fly Tying with “Clevor” Trevor -Autumn / Winter 1998

Trevor Ashby better known to some as “Clevor” Trevor of Sky T.V. fame is running a series of one day fly tying courses for beginners and the more experienced fly dressers on the following Sundays.

Rutland Water	27 September	Beginners	Rutland Water	15 November	Beginners
Grafham Water	11 October	Beginners	“ “	22 November	“ “
Rutland Water	25 October	Beginners	“ “	29 November	Experienced
“ “	1 November	Experienced	Pitsford Water	6th December	Experienced
Pitsford Water	8 November	Beginners			

The cost is £20 - 00 per person to include all tying materials and tools plus light refreshments and of course Trevor’s vast knowledge of the subject. To book your place please contact the Lodge of your choice or contact A.W.S. on the following numbers

- Rutland Water 01780 686441
- Grafham Water 01480 810531
- Pitsford Water 01604 781350

Rutland Water Users Panel.

The next meeting is on October 27th 1998. So if there is anything you would like brought up at the meeting please contact either your Chairman or Secretary as soon as possible as any requests from us must be in by 6th October.

It behoves the secretary on behalf of all trout fisherman who come to the “Big R” to thank Jon Marshall and his staff for providing us with the very best trout fishing you could find anywhere! It would however be nice to see more of his staff around the bank so that we could thank them personally!

Have a great back end

Yours sincerely

John Wadham - Hon Secretary