

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS

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

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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2001

Dear member

Fishing Report

Sorry you did not get an August newsletter. From the bank fishing point of view there was nothing to report!

The ten weeks ending 27th August proved a very testing time for the bank fisherman. The boat fisherman having the lions share of the fish. The most consistent producer being the area around Brown's Island in the centre of the South Arm. However the quality of the fish while being acceptable did not in any way match the quality of the fish which suddenly turned up in the Old Hall Bay on Bank holiday Monday and were ready for anything!

These Old hall fish averaged over 3lb. They were preoccupied with the hordes of Perch fry in the margins and were very easily caught with anything vaguely representing fry - from cats whiskers to Taddies & Minkies. This bonanza lasted for about ten days and finished as dramatically as it started. Many of the fish caught had, to judge by their very slim profile, evidently not fed during the hot spells of July & August. Alan Bennett who travels from North Wales for the day had his lifetime best eight fish limit of 24lb all on black tadpole.

The continuous pressure by boats in the south arm meant that the North arm had a holiday. This was borne out when the Northwest wind arrived and made access to Burley a reality. This bank produced some of the best surface fishing seen here since the bonanza 1996 season. The fish averaged nearly three pounds. They could be caught from the bank without the need to wade. Some anglers who, one day were unable to go out in a boat due to the wind strength and had left their waders at home, were able to take a good bag here fishing only in wellies.

Burley inevitably came under a lot of pressure with the result that the fish moved off shore: but not before Geoff Allsop from Warsop took the best fish I have seen from the bank this season. A rainbow of 6lb 8oz.

Since this feeding frenzy the fish have been grazing on "small stuff". E.g. snails, olives, buzzer, corixa and odd fry. This makes for much sweeter fishing with daddies, hoppers, and other dries.

They have now taken to feeding on the lee shores from time to time. I.e. where the wind is blowing in. Battling against the wind might seem to some to be too much like hard work but the knack to casting into the wind is to keep a high back cast so the fly is delivered by gravity with a downward stroke.

Fishing Report (Contd.)

With such a prolonged drought the water is now some 2½ metres below top level. This does mean that some lee shores can get quite dirty in incoming winds so chose a stony or hard clay shore.

The reason for the fish being on the lee shore is that this is where after such a hot summer the cooler surface water in this exceptionally cold September is coming into the bank. The best wind in the Old Hall Bay during the perch fry blitz was south - westerly!

The hatch of olives, which occurred on September 19th, was a most wonderful sight to behold and seemed to bring up all the fish in the lake. Great to see this as it just showed how many fish there were left. Then, next day, hardly a sign of them and only a brief sighting of the fish which were no doubt hoping for another bumper feed. The fish were not a push over. Presentation had to be accurate and reasonably imitative – or as my neighbouring angler Andre suggested something quite different i.e. a “roly poly” tadpole.

As write, the fish are once more turning their attention to all forms of fry. However they can still be caught on dries of all sorts.

Morning seems to be the best time at present with the fish “going dead” after about 3pm.

There is quite often no need to wade. In fact Roger McCarthy was catching fish behind him the other day!

One or two of the larger 2000 fish are now turning up. Bob Garratt taking two over 5lb Rainbows from the bank in Old hall Bay. Stuart Young taking a 5lb plus fish from a boat just off the wall at Tim Appleton’s. Now that the water level has dropped sufficiently, this wall spot, which can be approached alongside the old stumps of the former “Lime Avenue” is accessible to the bank angler.

There are still some fish in the North Arm shallows despite the hammering.

There are other places! Phil Brown from the lodge took a good bag of fish from the centre Dam wall on daddies.

The best fish submitted by a club member for the Trout & Salmon Trophy is the 5lb 2oz rainbow caught from Tim Appleton’s by Andy Mosley from Mansfield on a Minkie. The fish finished up in a weed bed and after some worrying moments was landed accompanied by a ton of weed. Had he been fishing with anything less than 10lb BS that fish would certainly have been a “gonna”. So don’t fish too fine. The Secretary has had his share of fish on daddies all fished on a 10lb point

After the heavy rain on Sept 29th and the thunderstorms on 25th a remarkable phenomenon occurred in the form of a massive fall of thrips (corn mites) onto the water and gave the impression of a vast brown scum of an acre or more consisting of microscopic insects. The fry gathered in the margins to enjoy this feast. Any suggestions where these could have come from as they appeared to be confined to the top of the North arm?

Prospects

In the great daddy year of 1998 the best fishing was right at the end of October. Last year September was poor from the bank but October the best month overall. So some good fishing to come.

Boat prospects

Due to the presence of a brown alga in the South arm, which appears to have rendered the water the colour of black tea, the most productive area to fish seems to be the main basin and Barnsdale Bay. Best methods appear to be fishing daddies, hoppers, other dries & nymph patterns from drifting boats. Given a change of wind to the West then, no doubt the fish will return to corixa & fry feeding in the at the top of the South Arm in the bunds/cattle trough bay & Manton areas.

Wilcon Homes Charity Match – Rutland Water Saturday 21st September.

This produced a good result with the winning team taking 32 fish for 56lb 14oz. We applaud the cause to which this match was dedicated– “save the children fund” - for which they hoped to raise in excess of £30,000

RWFF Bank Match Saturday 20th October

Please return the attached tear off slip at the bottom of this letter to the secretary as soon as possible so that the Horse & Panniers Public House, North Luffenham can be given an idea of numbers. The meal will be subsidised by the club in the sum of £3 – 00 per head for a meal costing £6. The match will be fished from 9.00am to 4.00pm.

The prizes in tackle vouchers will be:-

Winning Weight	£20- 00
2 nd	£15 - 00
3 rd	£10 - 00
Best fish	£25 – 00

Our thanks to Andy Flitcroft for producing the enclosed poster

Winter Activities Questionnaire

Some seventeen replies were received out of 230 sent out. While appreciating that, for one reason or another, many people cannot always get to the winter meetings this represents a paltry 7½% return. However, many thanks to the few who managed to find time to return their forms: some were good enough to give order of preference and other suggestions. These will all be taken on board when planning future programmes.

Assessing the replies proved to be a very interesting exercise and gave one a reasonable idea of the members' needs.

Out of the 16 suggestions on the sheet, most in demand in order of popularity were:-

Forum of experts, reservoir fly fishing entomology, boat fishing tactics, tackle auction, fly tying evening, and dinner & speaker evening.

Your committee will discuss this in detail at the meeting on 16th October and hopefully come up with a programme to suit all tastes.

RWFF match programme 2001

Please find enclosed a summary the results of the club competitions of the 2001 season. Our thanks to Sean Cutting for all the work put into these matches to make them a success.

English Loch Style Final Rutland Water

Congratulations to Dave Shipman, Iain Barr & Dave Doherty for taking third, sixth & eighth places respectively.

Ladies Day Rutland Water 19th August 2001.

This was attended by nine ladies and proved a very enjoyable day with everyone entering into the spirit of the occasion. Quite a number of fish were caught, mostly around Browns Island, although the fish only showed for a short time. The secretary's lady Mrs Nelson from Hambleton was able to see her first trout jump out and land on her fly – a green CDC then take a dive under the boat almost followed by the rod. The fish was successfully netted. What a way to start!

Autumn Pairs Match Rutland - 6th October 2001

This is a reservoir rules match with a loch style/anchored boat and a rudder section. There are a few boats left so if you want to take part hurry up and contact the fishing lodge on 01780 686441. The cost is £37 – 00 including permit & evening meal. The match starts 8.30am to 5.00pm.

George Moore Memorial Trophy - Rudder Match.

- 1 Ziggy Leiakowski & Chris Healey
 - 2 Phil Brown & Charles Bowers(Junior member)
- Congratulations to the winners all of whom are club members

RWFF best fish awards 2001

So far the only fish submitted by a junior member is a Brown of 3lb 1oz by 13 year old Luke Shevlin. This is for the “Fario” Junior Trophy for the best brown of the season.

So come on you *juniors* catch a Rainbow for the Mike Ellis trophy and you *seniors* a Brown for the Trout Fisherman trophy. These latter can be weighed witnessed and returned if so desired and the accuracy of your scales verified against the lodge set. Details of the awards are in your club membership cards.

Presentation will be at a function in January the date of which you will be notified in due course. Please get the Trophies back to the Secretary, Fishing lodge or Rods & Reels angling centre in Mill Street, Oakham, preferably before the AGM on November 14th, so that they can be engraved for presentation in January.

Annual General Meeting – Tuesday November 13th 2001

Agenda & minutes in next newsletter
Please attend this if you can

Lets hope for a bumper October without gales, floods or foot & mouth!

Yours sincerely

John Wadham

Tear off here -----

RWFF Bank Match 20th October 2001

I should like to fish the RWFF bank match on Saturday 20th October.
I understand that the cost is £3 – 00 towards the meal costing £6 – 00 at The Horse & Panniers afterwards.
(See enclosed poster for details). This can be paid when booking in at the Lodge from 0800 hours.
The comfort limit for accommodation at the H&P is 24.
If you want the meal afterwards, you must return this slip to the RWFF secretary *as soon as possible – and certainly no later than 16th October* - so that catering arrangements can be put in place. If you forget, then a telephone call after 8.30pm may suffice.

Name..... Tel No.....