

RUTLAND WATER FLY FISHERS



September 2002

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John Wadham's Fishing Report

August was a month of mixed fortunes for bank and boat anglers alike. For some unknown reason the fish seem to leave the banks in mid July and hopefully return in September. But so far they have not put in an appearance around the banks. This year, in contrast to 2001, when we had cold windy weather, it was calm throughout August and all of September, so far. This can encourage the production of algae. In early September last year the weather turned very cold with even some night ground frosts and a prolonged spell of quite strong northerly winds and almost wintry showers. The fish soon responded and they could readily be caught with daddies, olives and fry imitations: that was after a very long spell when there did not seem to be any fish in the lake! The bank fishing has been poor, mainly because the fish seem to be hanging around in the middle of the main basin.

The boats are catching at the moment and some quality fish have been caught but the main catch seems to be stockies up to 2¾lb and some rather lean but very silvery seasoned fish. They are near the surface and seem quite willing to have a go at surface fished patterns; one angler catching some 3lb fish on a surface striped booby. However, for whatever reason, the fish do not appear to be eating anything at all. So why can they be caught? Is it aggression or what? Any answers?

There have been reports of distressed fish in the margins in the Old Hall/ Green Bank area. These are almost certainly some of the recently stocked fish which often hang around the margins. This sometimes occurs when fish are introduced into the lake after a long road trip in water which is probably colder than the lake water. So the temperature change can slow up their metabolism and they can become quite lethargic – as we all do on hot days!

In a recent match, an 8lb 2oz Brown was caught. This was arguably the best fish of the season and was in very good nick. However the smaller brownies and the earlier stockies don't appear to have put on as much weight as one

would hope and did not appear to have fed for some time. Following this match, the fish guts

were examined and they appeared to be quite normal except that the fish did not appear to have eaten for some considerable time as the stomach was tight and even the lower gut was empty.

There could be many reasons for this. But it seems to be a natural problem associated with the "brown" algae present in the lake. AWS is at present looking into any possible causes. The same phenomenon occurred last year. But quickly dispersed at the onset of the colder weather and all those "vanished" silvery fish turned up in October and November and gave some excellent sport. There was a good "hatch" of Perch fry which allowed the larger fish to regain condition. When the zoo plankton which includes daphnia, eventually does break down this brown algae, the bank fishing should improve. There are plenty of fry in the margins despite the paucity of weed beds. One wonders whether the later and longer lasting autumns have conspired to extend the feeding period into December. Last year there was a good hatch of buzzers on 31st December and fish could caught on dries.

In the old days when the season closed at the end of September, think what we would have been missing when the period September to December last year was the most productive part of the season especially for the bank angler.

One could theorise forever on the apparent demise of the midsummer bank fishing but as in fishing itself, if we had all the answers we would empty the lake by the end of July! Rutland stocking is now approaching the 100,000 mark: and the total season's catch is 43,380 from 12,596 returns. We have said it before that the mid-summer stockies always seem to do the bunk. But will no doubt reappear later on.

Grafham

The growth rate of the Rainbows in Grafham has been prodigious this season which is very unusual for a lake that has been open for thirty-six years. Some of the early stockies are now approaching 5lb. However, even here, the fishing has slowed up considerably. There is at present a very dense green algae. However, as soon as the Daphnia returns and gets to work on it the sooner the fish will be catchable. Then you will have to practice your "into wind" casting. The average fish caught from the bank appears to weigh around 3lb 3oz. This could no doubt be near to 5lb by Xmas at the present rate of growth. Next year could then start with five pounders as, in 2001 when the Daphnia were still around at the New Year!

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES - John Maitland, Chairman RWFF



A successful club like RWFF depends on its Committee to keep it moving ahead. Through my time as Chairman I have been fortunate to work with some most excellent committee members, Now, and well in advance of the AGM, I have been warned that two intend to retire: one after many years of splendid service cites the inevitability of old age (I'm getting to know the feeling); the other due to medical problems. No doubt our Secretaries will be canvassing for replacements but it would be grand if volunteers were to come forward. Duties are not arduous - mainly four evening meetings plus occasional door duty at Club evenings and helping at events like the tackle auction. Living within reasonable range of Oakham / the Lodge is a help. If anyone would like to talk about coming on board please give me a ring.

Why should two local reservoirs be so different? Rutland seems deep in the doldrums, plagued with brown algae (which seems to put the fish off) and the fish apparently dormant. Yet at Grafham where there has been a lot of green algae the fish have been stuffing on masses-of-snail -and roach fry both in deep water and near the bank. Even when visibly feeding they are not easy to deceive but after casting at many trout the occasional one will take a Diawl Bach, an olive-green buzzer (Dick Stephen) or a pearl thorax grey nymph (me). My last two boat catches have been topped by rainbows of 4lb 6oz and 5lb 2oz - marvelous fish. Rutland is just as heavily stocked as Grafham but in late summer seems in recent years to go totally dour. Any ideas why?

Competition Report – August/September 2002

from our Competition Captain, Sean Cutting.

What a busy period this has now become. If you ever decide to enter that wonderful Walter Mitty world of Competition Fishing please take note not to book a holiday in September, as there is no time between matches to have one! One should go more towards the soothing arms of a masseuse mid week (*so I am told*) instead, to relax those oh so tired back, shoulder and arm muscles, let alone the posterior that has to put up with such narrow boat seats for days on end of practice, but that is another tale best left off these hallowed pages.

What are the plus's I hear people ask of Competition fishing, well there are certainly many. I like to think you can split these plus's into thirds. The first third and foremost good bit for me is that you get to mix and fish with some great anglers from all over. A friend of mine and ex Captain of the Irish World Cup Team, John O'Hare from Kenmare in Co Kerry once said "*what sport could you go out on a boat with a complete stranger, but 20 minutes later have a friend for life*"! How true. Take the last five days of competition at Rutland in the Hardy Greys International Final. I was out the first day with a Dabblers team member from Dublin and on the second day the secretary of Edinburgh Trout Anglers. Think about it, what a great choice to have to make, do I now fish in Scotland or Ireland next holiday?



Tom McNeill from Edinburgh



Martin McQuaid from Dublin

The second third is the wonderful places and scenery you get to visit in the different rounds fished. For example the Greys Team RWFF's made it through the heats to fish the final of the Guide Loch Style Championship a couple of weeks ago. Where did this take place, but up near Settle in North Lancashire at Stocks Reservoir. All four team members trying to catch fish in the mountains of this great county had great fun. Before someone points out mountains are big tall things, to me they were bigger than the ones we have in Rutland and nearby Cambridgeshire Fens!

The third and probably most important third is the pull and that can happen at any time of the match. Hopefully more often than your partner, but that is where the competition bit comes in and you are back full circle to whom you share the day with. If your partner is catching more often than yourself, then maybe there is something to be learnt from him or her. I have never once come off the water without learning something new, whether it is a method, a pattern or just simply remembering how to relax and re-focus at what I am doing. But at the end of the day you perhaps can relax and share a drink or two with friends, just as we at RWFF's have found a comradely with the lads from Bewl as this happy photograph taken at the Hardy final shows.



Bill Rankin and Pete Thomason from Bewl

May I take this opportunity to suggest to those who haven't, that you should enter the RWFF's Club Competitions next season? There will be forms and timetables printed in the Newsletters early next year around the mid February time, so send in your post dated cheques and secure that place!

The only club match this month to be held at Rutland Water was the Loch Style on September 8th. Twenty anglers took part with only 44 fish being taken; Rutland with the Brown Algae does not fish well! The winners were Stuart Young & Sean Cutting with 13 fish for 23lbs 5oz. Second place went to Pete Ling & John Innes, 7 fish for 16lbs 10oz and third place to Kevin Taylor & Mike Gunnell with 8 fish for 16lbs 2oz. Chris at The Horse and Panniers, North Luffenham prepared a fine after match meal. The after match meal is an event in itself, worth entering the club matches just for the food afterwards!

Other news this month has been the Hardy Greys and I have enclosed a photograph of RWFF's club member and Captain of the winning team, Graham Pearson. Shame that Silver Plate shines so much!



Kevin Taylor & Mike Gunnell



Pete Ling & John Innes

From the back left we have the Marketing Director of Audi, next to him is Ian McCormack, Sales Director of Hardy Greys and Chris Ogborne, Event Manager is on the right. Middle row is Rob Sosbe, Julian Hubbard, and Rob Edmunds. Front row: Lee Henfrey, Graham Pearson and Ron Gent. Congratulations to Graham for keeping the plate with a local home team.



Greys Team RWFF's came in 8th place, just ahead of the Belgium team and the Team Loop from Scandinavia, but behind both ACA Masterline and Bewl. Local team Greenwell Persuaders finished a well-placed fifth position with Mark McCloud and Luke Shevlin in the team.

Hot off the press news is that next year the event will be called the Anglian, following Anglian Waters announcement that they will be sponsoring the six-man team event. More information about this event as it happens. I will end by saying that the last couple of matches are fast approaching, so may I take time to thank all the staff of Rutland Water, Grahnam and Pitsford for their help and assistance this season and may I be the first plonker to wish them a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

RUTLAND OBSERVATIONS — musings of a regular Rutland angler

August for me is the time for dog walking rather than boat fishing, due to the lack of reachable fish. My favourite spot is the 'transformer' on the Hambleton peninsular with the view of Burley and Barnsdale —magnificent at 6 am! This view is only marred by litter :- cans, packaging, cigarette cartons and disposable barbeques which appear to build around the parking areas. However, there does not appear to be any waste disposal facilities in this area, so maybe Anglia Water or the Council could make the above provision for the people also as known as the 'younger generation', who sit with their stereos blasting out, disposing of their empties etc. out of the windows of their immaculately painted and 'well shod' Fiesta's and Novas! - or maybe re-educate them with serious fines.

I have also seen 3 coot and a moorhen dead, with nylon around their feet. I recently released a teal from discarded nylon! Possibly certain anglers also need to be re-educated in the ways of the countryside.

Tom Pattenden.



Qualifiers for the EYFFA England Team 2003

RUTLAND'S CLEAN SWEEP AT YOUTH NATIONAL

James Hunt was the winner, Luke Lavelle came second with Luke Shevlin, third, at the recent English Youth Fly Fishing Association championship. Charles Bowers was also placed and will join the other in the 2003 England Youth Team. At Rutland we can pride ourselves on having the cream of the young anglers!

LAST KNOCKINGS - A WRY LOOK AT GOINGS ON AT RUTLAND



The fishing always used to pick up in August with dries, palmers, and suspenders all working well but not this year, its been that hard that I'm beginning to wonder if AWS are dosing the water with Viagra. Indeed if it wasn't for the ubiquitous Diawl Bach there would have been very few fish caught at all as the fish have gone on a summer hunger strike. Whilst practising for the Hardy's Final at Rutland Graham Pearson had 3 blanks in a row. Some might say that it was just the reservoir getting its revenge on him for taking so many overwintered fish from Manton earlier in the year, still he did manage 3 on the day of the match.



It's a different story at Grafham though where the fish continue to feed and gain weight and have witnessed the summer migration of John Wadham (and the Wadmobile with the delightful pink curtains), I think he's caught more fish there this year than at Rutland. Grafham Water Flyfishers may be thinking of putting together a transfer bid although I don't think we could put a price on him. At Grafham the fish have been feeding hard on fry and Nigel Savage was almost tempted to reacquaint himself with his trout tackle. Instead he has recently taken up the ancient art of mole catching and has been seen with his arm down a hole in the grassy banks outside the lodge on several occasions. There was some talk of changing the name of the restaurant to 'The Tickled Mole'!



In response to a number of queries about the photo of Stuart Young in the last newsletter and his ethnic origin, no there was not a fault with the camera or the scanner he really is that colour. He suffers from an affliction caused by early retirement, overwintering in South Africa and too much time spent out on a boat fishing - something to which I'm sure a lot of us aspire.



Those two young muppets, the Barr twins, protégé's of John Wadham and Brian Thomas have been introducing the fashion of body piercing into the flyfishing world. Whilst out practising for the TFE0 individual match at Grafham they managed to hook each other three times each and returned to the jetty bloodstained with a number of competition doubles stuck in heads, ears and hands. Unperturbed the next day Iain won the match for the second year in succession which is a remarkable achievement although he will probably have told you so himself by the time you get this newsletter. However I don't think that he's qualified for too many competitions in September so there will be plenty of time to test drive his new Lexus car.

THE INFORMER