

July/August & September.

Weather.

During the majority of this period, winds have blown between East and North West. This is very beneficial to bank fishermen as it opens up lots of available water.

July was a wet month with some 100 mm of rainfall in places.

Water level.

This moisture has meant that the water has remained at quite a high level. As time went on, the weather gradually dried up and there was little rainfall between mid-August and mid-September. This has now allowed the water level to drop by just over a metre. It won't be long now, before us less able bodied, will be able to wade in the water below the rock armour.

At the beginning of July, we had a short period when the winds blew between South West and North West which cooled things off. Following the hot weather, fish were drawn to the top of the arms: this was particularly noticeable for bank fishermen in the North Arm between Transformer and Tim Appleton's. The fish here appeared to graze ceaselessly on an abundance shrimps. At Tim Appleton's, the fish stuck rigidly to the highway code and motored along the highway in east to west whatever the wind direction. The problem with this is that, if you are on your own fishing here the fish come to you. If anybody decided to wade out on the road beyond you, which they are quite entitled to do, they would then have first bite of the cherry thus cutting off the run of fish marking the highway. The result of that is that the fish would turn around and go back. So, if you are thinking of fishing this spot, bear that in mind. Some of these fish, which averaged 3lb contained up to a hundred shrimps. As with any feeding frenzy, you needed to get on the fish when they started feeding in the morning. But lunchtime they became difficult and by 4 o'clock impossible! Not all bad news, as during this period, the fish put on a tremendous amount of weight.

Since the previous report, the weed has grown apace and at the time of writing has seriously limited bank fishing areas and in some areas extends as much as 200 m from the bank. The weed flourished due, almost entirely, to the clarity of the water engendered by the removal of algae by filtration by the quagga mussel. They don't remove all the algae, but have no doubt been some benefit in reducing Anglian Water's costs in water purification!

Boat fishing outside the extensive weed beds is pretty productive by most methods. One angler found that drifting over the top of the weed, fish could be raised to take a fly by casting into small gaps in the vegetation.

This clear water has made fishing very testing and a stealthy approach is called for. Recently, anglers, in both bank and boat have been having many inspections of their offerings by the fish. Imitations had to be very good indeed: as, also has the presentation. On a recent visit, your President had a dozen offers on size 14 floating dries without a single hook up. A change to a suspender type dry and a smaller pattern, resulted in subsequent offers being hooked.

Boats

Needless to say, with the high water temperature, rudder fishing has proved very productive, with some good catches. A recent example of this was achieved by Al Owen who took 16 silver rainbows on a pink snake in bright sun and a temperature of 25°C.

Diet

Throughout August and September, fish have fed almost exclusively on snails. These have either been migrating on the surface or resting on top of the weed. There doesn't appear to be a definitive answer to catching these snail feeders. However, if you carefully observe these

snails, when migrating, you will see that they are just below the surface with the open end upwards. Maybe, this is why suspender type dries have achieved better results.

When the weather heated up in July the bank fishing went into a further decline. After such a frenzied feeding period during the cool spring, the fish were quite clearly able to live off their fat. This was quite evident to judge by the condition of any fish caught from mid-August onwards.

Recently, a number of anglers have reported finding daphnia in the fish. This is good news and suggests that the quagga mussel hasn't consumed all species of algae.

Some of the larger browns are now quite clearly taking an interest in the fry around the weed beds. The best fish recorded recently weighed 13lb and was caught on a floating fly pattern.

RWFF - Competition results

Loch style

- 1 Dave Porter and John Batterson 30lb 3oz
- 2 Peter de Kremer and Mick Connor 22lb-10oz
- 3 Steve Ottridge and Mark Newton 17lb-8oz
- 4 Geoff Wanless and Neil Squires 15lb-13oz
- 5 Frank Daley and Peter Baker 10lb-5oz

Club championship

- 1 Chris Evans 17lb-11oz
- 2 Neil Squires 7lb-9oz
- 3 Gary Cooper 7lb-3oz
- 4 Peter Gover 7lb-2oz
- 5 Doug Skins 6lb-15oz
- 6 Graham Measures 6lb-9oz

John Maitland Memorial Trophy.

- 1 Invicta 45 fish
- 2 RWFF 41 fish
- 3 GWFFA 39 fish

Best fish - Charlie Abrahams Brown Trout 5lb 14oz

Water Aid - Thursday 9th September

Firstly, a big thankyou to our twelve volunteer ghillies for turning out for this event. We did very well in helping to raise £6,500 to bring the total to £223,000 for the charity. A number of nice silver Rainbows were caught. Congratulations to Roger Gill who was the most successful ghillie with 8 fish for 17lb 9oz.

Next year looks like a much larger event: so, I plan to involve all clubs affiliated to Anglian Water fisheries.

Our efforts have been well reported in the Rutland & Stamford Mercury & Rutland Times.

Photograph of ghillies attached.

Left to right John Lee, Martin Blakeston, Dave Porter, Dave Walker, Graham Pearson, Roger Gill, Mick Brooksby, Chris McCleod, Peter Gover, John Wadham & David Knap”

Results:-

Winning team	MWH Complete Novices	8 fish	Total weight 17 lb 9 oz
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Runner up team	MWH Pro Team	3 fish	Total weight 9 lb 8 ¾ oz
Winning expert	Andy Barnes (Savills 1)	4 fish	Total weight 8 lb 3 oz
Winning novice	Peter Beckford (MWH Complete Novices)	8 fish	17 lb 9 oz
Largest fish expert	Adam Ford (MWH Pro Team)	-	3 lb 14 oz
Largest fish novice	Nathan James (IWS 2)	-	3 lb 4 ½ oz

Invertebrate survey – Rutland Water

In conjunction with another ecologist Jayne Walker, I am carrying out this bank survey at Rutland Water. All safety measures etc have been put in place by arrangement with fishery staff. 8 points will be sampled regularly every two months in 2022. viz April, June, August and November. A test run was carried out in early October 2021 and some fascinating results were obtained. The main outcome of this is the disparity of the reservoir's ecology. This was mainly associated with the local and varied geology.

Results will be reported in a publication in 2023

Forward look.

The first winter function for the club will be the annual general meeting to be held at the cricket club on Thursday, November 11th.

We have a committee meeting prior to that date when, given no problems arising from Covid 19, an exciting winter programme of events will be planned and discussed. This will include an auction of the late Taff Bailey's fishing tackle to be held in aid of Cancer Research.

Finally.

All we need now, at Rutland, is a good strong wind to tidy up the weed beds and we should be able to enjoy what looks what promises be some of the most exciting autumn fishing.

Grafham

One experienced dam angler has commented that there is very little evidence of the Killer Shrimp. The water level is very high so maybe the rising water has come onto barren land so there is no food for the fish to feed on. Those that can cast a long way have been catching. Early morning and later in the evening are the best times, autumn and into winter always produces fantastic sport from the Dam so it's only a matter of time. Maybe, when the water drops, anglers will be able to employ the Grafham "shuffle"!

Predator fishing

Since the start on 1st September which marked the opening of predator fishing at Grafham, a large number of boats have been heading out with anglers keen to pursue the specimen Pike, Zander and Perch for which Grafham is famous. Pike to 30lb and Zander to 16lb are the best so far. Plenty of smaller Zander, Perch and Pike have fallen victim to the many visitors. It's also a great opportunity for trout anglers to try a different challenge.

John Wadham – President.