



Mid Northants Trout Fishers'  
Association

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2019

2019 has become a very sad year for the club, two of our stalwarts have passed away recently

Ashley Cooper of Great Bowden, our membership secretary died suddenly on 30th May 2019, aged 76 years. Much loved husband of Myra, father of Neil, father-in-law of Nela and Grandad of Ashley and papa of Jake and Zane.



Our Chairman Don Moore

Ashley Cooper 1942—- 2019

Just a few words regarding Ashley who past away in June this year,

I've known Ashley since joining the Mid Northants Trout Fishers, more than 40 years ago. We used to fish his favourite areas of Pitsford together, Brixworth Bay, the cliffs, the Holly bush and the Pines, when the bank fishing was great without all the wire we have today.

He also loved his boat fishing especially drifting on Pitsford water and Grafham water; he wasn't so keen on Rutland as he thought it was too big and difficult to find the fish.

He was always open with his fly choice and would give advice on fly tying techniques unless it was a competition and then he would keep them close to his chest.

He was a very active member of our club for over 40 years and became membership secretary some 20 years ago,

He brought the club into the 21st century by introducing computer technology and enabling online membership.

He was a great fly tyer and used to create some interesting patterns and variations on existing ones.

In the early days of the Kelmarsh show he would come along and demonstrate his tying skills which fascinated the watching public.

He was also a member of the English Fly Fishing Association which he was proud of.

His social life continued off the water from playing badminton, bowling with his wife Myra together with country and western dancing.

Anyone that new Ashley can vouch that he was quick witted with an very dry offbeat sense of humour.

We all liked Ashley and he will be sadly missed.

Don Moore (chairman)

## **Bob Church MBE** 26.3.1935 – 09.09.2019

Then on 5th September 2019 Bob Church MBE, our club Vice President sadly passed away. Bob was a world champion fly fisherman with a medal tally including team gold medals at the world fly fishing championships in 1987 and 1988 and European team gold in 1990.



The readers of Trout Fisherman magazine also voted Bob the Game Angler of the Millennium.

Don Moore, our Chairman, has the following memories of Bob:

I had the pleasure of attending Bobs funeral on Monday the 30th September and what an occasion it was, the church was full to the brim, I've never seen so many fellow fishermen under one roof and they came from far and wide. It shows what a poplar and well liked man he was.

Bob first took up fly fishing back in 1961 when he was given a rod by Roy Parker who was a painter and worked with Bob at Crocket & Jones the shoe makers; he made and fitted the heels on shoes. This was his first job on leaving school and he was reputed to be the highest paid employee as he was so quick at his job.

Roy also told me Bob was always late for work even though he lived directly over the road from the factory doors, he could never get to work on time.

Since the beginning Bob has played a prominent part in boosting the popularity of trout fishing, He has written for the national angling press and is the author of many best selling angling books.

He has won many trout fishing competitions and represented England at international level. He has also made several television films and videos.

Bob's medal tally includes team gold medals in the world fly fishing championships in 1987 and 1988 and European team gold in 1990.

He is regarded as one of England's leading anglers, and one of his best trout being a 16 3/4 lb rainbow from Avington.

Grafham water was his favourite and, back in 1966, when the water first opened, Bob was there at daybreak and on his first cast was into a 5lb rainbow followed by several other good fish.

Another nice thing about Bob was if you ever saw him at the water he would always share information on what was catching, I remember once I told him I was going to the Test and he offered to lend me all his river flies; that was the sort of man he was.

In 2015 he was awarded the MBE for his services to fishing and this made him and his family very proud.

Not only was fishing a great love, so was football as Bob was a avid follower of the Northampton Cobblers and a director for 10 years; he was appointed the club's president in 2006.

Bob joined our club the Mid Northants fly fishers back in 1963 or there about so I would go to say perhaps one of our longest members.

HE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED.

Don Moore (chairman)

## **Club Coaching Activities**

### **MNTFA Coaching Review**

Many thanks again to all members who have helped at our coaching events this year. The club has developed a coaching programme over the past 5 years which:

- Is available to the public (non-members) as well as club members
- Helps recruit new members
- Promotes game angling and introduces non-anglers, coarse and sea anglers to the sport
- Provides follow-up coaching for club members. About a quarter of our current members have received some tuition.
- Attracts funding from organisations like the Angling Trust.

### **Coaching provided:**

- Fly casting taster sessions for families and adults at events such as Spring into Fishing, Kelmarsh Country Show, Barnwell Family Day, Wellingborough AC Open Days and other events – fly casting, fly tying, water bugs.
- Monthly sessions at Pitsford Water (open to all, members and non-members) – fly casting, fly tying, tackle advice. Thanks to all the regulars who have turned out.
- Fly tying on request through the year (Monday evenings in Northampton)
- One to one / informal sessions (e.g. boat angling). Thanks to John Mills for delivering this.
- Water bug identification is popular with children and adults. Developed by one of our coaches Kev Rowley who is also county recorder for aquatic insects.
- Members also get involved at the Pitsford Tuesday Boat Club.

### **Who delivers it?**

- Club coaches and volunteers – we have some very experienced anglers who are keen to pass on their knowledge.

**Anyone interested in attending a members-only “intermediate level” boat fishing course in 2020 contact us below.** We are thinking

about organising a course for members who want to progress their knowledge and skills. Depending on demand this could help you transition to either:

- “Reservoir rules” fishing (like on our normal club match / social days)  
And / or
- International rules (competitions) like on the inter-club competitions

## Would you like to help as a volunteer next year?

Please contact Seumas Halliday 07794465607  
[seumashalliday@hotmail.com](mailto:seumashalliday@hotmail.com)

## 2019 CLUB COMPETITIONS

### 17th March 2019 Pitsford The Hector Woolnough Bank Shield

1st	Hank Needham	4 fish for 9lbs
2nd	Matt Collerson	6 fish for 8lb 13oz
3rd	Fraser Duffy Snr	4 fish for 8lbs 12oz

The biggest fish of 3.00lbs was caught by Matt Collerson and the smallest of 1lb 10oz by Barry Jones

### 7th April 2019- Ravensthorpe The Presidents Cup

The first boat match of the season. This competition is fished to a 2 fish limit where you take your first fish then select one other throughout the day.

26 members caught 141 fish with only 3 blanks an average of over 5 fish

1st	Richard Webb	9 Fish for 8lbs. 5oz
2nd	Hank Needham	6 fish for 7lbs 14oz
3rd	Ashley Cooper	14 fish for 5lbs 7oz

The biggest fish of 7lbs 14oz was caught by Hank Needham

The smallest of 1lb 11oz was caught by Paul Gayton





## 5th May 2019 at Pitsford The Bruce Richardson Trophy

This was our our first Pitsford boat match of the season. We were anticipating a difficult day as the previous days strong north wind made it challenging. Although staying from the north the wind dropped. Some anglers found it tricky but pleasingly, there were no blanks. 27 anglers caught 110 fish. We fished to a 4 fish limit and most anglers achieved the target. A new member triumphed on the day with a bag containing the biggest fish of the day; cracking brownie of 6lb 14oz.



1st	Matt Collerson	7 fish for 12lb 6oz
2nd	John Mills	5 fish for 11lbs
3rd	Les Yarnell	4 fish for 10lbs 15oz

The biggest fish of 3lbs 13oz was caught by Hank Needham  
The smallest fish of 1lb 5oz was caught by Terry Bayes

## 2nd June 2019 Grafham Jim Collins Trophy

Difficult day with eight blanks. Winning method was deep and dirty. D7's and snakes. 25 members caught 54 fish

1st	Mark Frost	5 fish for 10lbs 10oz
2nd	Pip Jeffs	4 fish for 10lbs 9oz
3rd	Pete Webb	4 fish for 10lbs 2oz

The biggest fish of 3lbs 1oz was caught by Pip Jeffs



## **23rd June 2019 Pitsford Julian Davies Pairs Trophy**

The Julian Davies pairs trophy was on pitsford reservoir. It wasn't easy and sinking lines proved to be the best method. 28 anglers caught 70 fish. This was a secret pairs match so you don't know how well you've done till the end.

28 members caught 70 fish a rod average of almost 4

1st	Richard Webb/Matt Collerson	9 fish for 21lb 8oz
2nd	Terry Bayes/Fraser Duffy Snr	7 fish for 14lb 2oz
3rd	Shane Tibbitts/Pete Webb	5 fish for 12lb 13oz

Fraser Duffy Snr had the biggest fish of 4lbs 2oz  
Grant Gibson had the smallest fish of 1lb 10oz



## **7th July 2019 Eyebrook Eric Goodman Trophy**

It was a tricky day with fish hard to find. 21 anglers caught 43 fish. The largest fish was 4lb 3oz and was caught by Terry Bayes. The match was fished to a 4 fish limited with only the 2 best weighed in.

21 members caught 43 fish

1st	Mark Frost	4 fish for 7lbs 11oz
2nd	Terry Bayes	2 fish for 6lbs 0oz
3rd	John Clarke	2 fish for 5lbs 2oz

Mark Frost won the heaviest two fish 7lbs 11oz

Terry Bayes had the biggest fish at 4lbs 3oz  
Fraser Duffy had the smallest fish at 1lb 10oz





## **28th July 2019 Draycote Chairman's Trophy**

16 members caught 61 fish an average of just under 4 fish, only 3 people blanked.

1st	Pip Jeffs	10 fish for 12lbs 1oz
2nd	Hank Needham	4 fish for 10lbs 9oz
3rd	Dennis Murphy	4 fish for 9lbs 11oz

The biggest fish was caught by Barry Jones at 3lbs 5oz  
The smallest fish was caught by Dave Anderson at 1lb 5oz

## **11th August 2019 Rutland Rutland Social**

The Saturday before the match had seen a storm blowing, it was still blowing on the Sunday if slightly reduced and producing some big waves. The boils had been switched off for the previous three weeks and only switched on the night before. Needless to say there were no fish in them. Fishing was hard as can be seen from the results. We came in at lunchtime for a nice buffet lunch. Twenty one anglers caught twenty four fish, a rod average of 1.14ish per rod; only four rods managed three fish. To say it was difficult was an understatement and to make it even better we all got a good soaking on the way in for lunch.

21 members caught 24 fish, 9 members blanked

As this was a social day no places were given.  
Terry Bayes had the biggest fish of 5lbs 8oz

Well done to Terry for trying this new date and venue. Despite the weather everyone enjoyed the day, especially the lunch, and most hoped that it would become a permanent fixture on the club competition programme.

## **15th September 2019 Draycote The Stanley Harrison Trophy**

18 anglers caught 80 fish an average of 4.44

1st	Barry Jones	10 fish for 11lb 5oz
2nd	Fraser Duffy Snr	11 fish for 10lbs 5oz
3rd	Hank Needham	4 fish for 10lbs 1oz

The biggest fish was caught by Richard Webb at 3lbs 4oz  
The smallest fish was caught by Mark Frost at 1lbs 9oz

## **Fur and Feather Shield Pitsford 6th October 2019**

### **22 members caught 76 fish**

1st Barry Jones 4 fish for 11lbs 2oz  
2nd Fraser Duffy 13 fish for 10lbs 6oz  
3rd Hank Needham 4 fish for 10lbs 3oz

The biggest fish of 4lbs 1oz was caught by Pip Jeffs

The smallest fish award was shared between Fraser Duffy Snr and Stuart Eggleton. Both caught a fish of 1lb 3oz

At one point during the day Fraser Duffy Snr had quite a tangle. Whilst he was unravelling it, Fraser Jnr hooked 3 fish in one cast, managing to land all three. These were quickly followed by two consecutive double hook ups and landing all four fish! Seven fish in the boat before Snr sorted out his tangle.

## **Winter Programme 2019/20**

At our new venue: The Yeoman of England, 31 High Street, Wootton  
Northampton NN4 6LP  
8:00pm to 10:00pm

1. 14th November DIY evening, come and show how you tie your "killer" fly or just have a chat. This is your evening to arrange as you wish.
2. 12th December 2019 Peter Hartley

Peter Hartley: Is the founder and principal instructor of 'The School of Fishing'. He is am a member of the Game Angling Instructors Association. He has had over forty years of fly fishing experience. He first fished Grafham Water in 1968 and Rutland Water on opening day in 1977. He has fished for salmon and sea trout all around the UK and have caught salmon on the fly in the rivers WYE, TWEED. BORDER ESK. TAY. ABERDEENSHIRE DEE.

DEVERON. SPEY and the BRORA.

He is a member of Grafham Water Fly Fishing Association, the English Fly Fishing Association and the the Fly Dressers Guild. He is a keen competition angler and after fishing in five CEFF National Finals, over an eight year period, in 2006 I qualified for a place in the England Lochstyle team for 2007. This team won the home international gold medal in the spring of 2007, on Rutland Water.

For the years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2012 Peter has been voted 'Match Angler of the Year' for the English Fly Fishing Association. Peter entered the world salmon fly tying championships, in Canada, in 2001. I won the silver medal for my tying, to a strict recipe, of The Silver Doctor. He has had experience in teaching all aspects of fly fishing and in the last two years alone, I have taught over 400 students to fly fish. A growing number of ladies and youngsters are coming forward for tuition. The majority are highly motivated and consequently learn rapidly.

3. 9th January 2020

Nigel Woulough - son of Hector who will talk about how fishing has changed over his Father's lifetime including specific flies, tackle and tactics that have been successful

4. 13th February 2020 Jeff Wilkinson - runs Razor Sharp Flies. He ties quality flies commercially to order and also supplies a limited range of fly tying materials prepared by himself. He is perhaps one of the most innovative and creative fly tyers and is also a successful angler on the competition scene and is a regular fisherman at Grafham and Farmoor.