



# MID NORTHANTS TROUT FISHERS ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER Spring AGM 2009

**The 2009 season is nearly with us**, and I for one am greatly looking forward to it. I had a good year last year and I am hopeful that 2009 will be even better.

This coming year will be my last as chairman of the club and I am looking forward to welcoming a new chairman at the AGM in March of 2010, sounds like a long way off, but it will soon be here. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be your chairman, but it is now time to hang up my boots and handover to someone with some fresh ideas - whoever that may be???

I am pleased to report that club membership continues to rise, most of the clubs I talk to seem to be losing members but thankfully we are bucking the trend.

I am also very proud of the fact that the club has 3 current members of the England team, namely Mark Haycock, Richard Slater and Gareth Headland, plus the current Lexus Open Champion - Richard Slater, who obviously had a great year in 2008. It should be hard to beat in 2009!!!

Our AGM will be held at our usual venue - Old Northamptonians Sports club on the Billing Road - on Thursday 12th March, 2009. I hope to see you all there on the night. As usual we have AWA giving a presentation of their plans for this season, with the chance for you to ask questions afterwards, so if you have any suggestions or gripes for AWA this will be the time to ask the questions.

**Tight Lines,**  
**Mike Philpott - Chairman, MNTFA.**

### **Powie's New Year Thoughts**

A Hooky New Year to you all. You should have received your competition entry form by now ( if you have not please let me know ) I have switched our trip at Draycote to September this year so we should enjoy some of their best fishing of the year, and the Eyebrook trip to July and hope we get some good top of the water sport.

To improve numbers at the Fun Day BBQ please enter with a partner, guest, friend or even a beginner. I will still pair up anyone who enters on their own. The regular band who attend the event will attest that it is one of the best events we have, half day fishing and plenty of food and drink, and good company. If you have not been try it this year.

Several times last year we had people not turn up on the day resulting in odd numbers and I am getting fed up fishing on my own. This year on the reminder letters that I send out I will include your partners name, so it will be up to you to ensure you are both available. Please let me know as early as possible if you are not attending so boats and food can be cancelled. It is embarrassing to have to cancel boats on the day and can result in the club still being charged.

The racing ducks are over wintering well, although their training is more like dancing on ice on the

pond at the moment, but once the thaw comes (When?) they will be raring to go on their first outing at Ravensthorpe.

Seamus Halliday has volunteered to organise the Friendly Inter Club League team this year and is looking for club members to enter. It is geared for club members of any standard who want to sample competition but in a more relaxed way than the major events. You fish with one of your own team members and the match is run in a very friendly way. I enjoyed my first trip to Foremark last year even if we did come second by a margin. Please support Seamus in these events.



**Looks Like a Police Line-up. MNTFA Club Team at Foremark. Barry Jones, Phil Cross, Powie, Colin Faulkner, Ashley Cooper, Terry Mitchell**

## Bev Perkins 1945 – 2009

Northampton Angling Legend Bev Perkins died peacefully early on 17<sup>th</sup> February in the care of Cynthia Spencer Hospice after several weeks of worsening illness. 2009 marked the fiftieth anniversary of his first fishing trip, and he will be sorely missed both on the banks, and at the fly-tying vice. A renowned fly tyer, Bev was generous to a fault, and was more than happy to rush off a few patterns for those who asked; many people have had the privilege of being invited into Bev's front room to watch him tie, and to learn some of his secrets.

The funeral will be held at the Counties Crematorium, Milton Malsor at 4.15pm on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. After the Service there will be a chance to reminisce over a sandwich and a drink at the Old Northamptonians Rugby Club. It was Bev's instruction that there be no flowers, but any donations in his memory will be gratefully received and split between Cynthia Spencer Hospice, and the Mid-Northants Trout Fishers Association, who are looking to set up a memorial bench on the banks of Pitsford Reservoir.

For any further information, please contact Richard Slater on 07712 009676 or on [rj.slater@btopenworld.com](mailto:rj.slater@btopenworld.com)

### Three Members of the MNTFA to Fish For England.

What an honour to fish for your Country! The MNTFA have three members of the Club who will fish for England this year.

Hats off to these gentlemen who have gone to great lengths to get to where they are in the sport. Not only has it cost them time and money but complete commitment to achieve an England Cap.

Mark Haycock has achieved 10 National Finals, and finally achieved his Goal with a 3<sup>rd</sup> Place position at Bewl Water. Mark will be fishing the Spring International at Chew Valley.

Richard Slater who not only won the Lexus European for the second time in 2008 was also successful with a 17 place at Bewl Water National Final. Richard will be fishing the Winter International at Menteith in Scotland.

Gareth Headland who fished for England Last Year in the Autumn International at Trawsfynydd in Wales was successful in a 3<sup>rd</sup> place at which assured him a Role-Over place in the Spring 09 International. Gareth will be with club colleague Mark Haycock at Chew in the Spring International.

**From all at the MNTFA we wish all three Great Guys the Best of Luck!!**



Gareth Headland



Richard Slater



Mark Haycock

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## Kev's New Season Notes

A brief look back on last season at Pitsford saw Anglian Water honour their agreement to stock an additional 1500 fish into Pitsford which had a great effect up to early September and a catch return for the year of over 3 per rod. The back end was a bit poor not only due to the lack of stockies but the fry time didn't seem to materialise nor the fish feed consistently. I am told that there were plenty of fish still in there so if they wintered well and a bit of decent weather we should be looking forward to a great start to the season. Anglian water have agreed to keep the catch return to similar levels as last year so the fishing through the year should be really good. They open the lodge on 7th Feb in preparation. Nathan Clayton and John Marshall are attending our AGM this year to update you on their thoughts for the new season.

Just to remind you of the opening dates for the Reservoirs

Ravensthorpe	Saturday 28th February
Pitsford	Saturday 7th March
Grafham	Saturday 14th March
Rutland	Wednesday 1st April

If you are down at the boat dock this year you will notice that there has been a new bench located in memory at Rob Allen by his close friends. We were all really shocked and saddened of Rob's death last year. He was a regular fisherman at Pitsford catching more than his share of large fish. He liked to fish the methods that were catching fish at the time and was well at home nymphing on the banks but also well known for his Northampton style rudder fishing with a deep sunk lure. He will be fondly remembered by many club members.

The AGM this year is on Thursday 12th March at the ON's and the agenda for this year is:

- Anglian Water presentation
- Apologies
- Matters arising
- Treasurers report
- Chairman's report
- Competition report and prize presentations
- Election of Officers
- AOB

If you have any items of AOB that you would like to raise or are interested or have nominations for the committee please let me know-details below.

Once again I am organising the Pitsford litter pick this year for Sunday 15th March. Your support is needed and demonstrates our commitment to be responsible users of the environment. It is not overwhelmed with litter as the paths are cleared on a regular basis however we do usually get a couple of sacks full each and it is surprising how much is down to fishermen. After a good look at the best spots we are then planning a few hours fishing. Inexperienced anglers will be more than welcome and we'll see if we can catch a few fish.

Kev Rowley  
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## Club Merchandise

Club Caps, Pins and Patches can be Purchased directly from Ashley Cooper – Caps £6, Pins £2.50 and Patches £5.00



Ashley Cooper (Membership Secretary)  
57 Station Road, Great Bowden,  
Market Harborough  
Leicestershire LE16 7HL  
Phone: 01858 462740

## Elinor & Ringstead Trout Fishery

Ed Foster's Elinor opened for the new season on Saturday Feb 21<sup>st</sup> and his Fathers Fishery opening a week earlier on Saturday the 14th. In the usual Foster way Elinor has had a Huge Stocking of Trout for the new Season over 2,200 with 60% over 2lb plus.

Contact Ed for boats etc : 01832 720786  
Web Address- [www.elinortf.co.uk](http://www.elinortf.co.uk)  
Email – [Elinortf@aol.com](mailto:Elinortf@aol.com)

# Peacock Tricks

By Bev Perkins

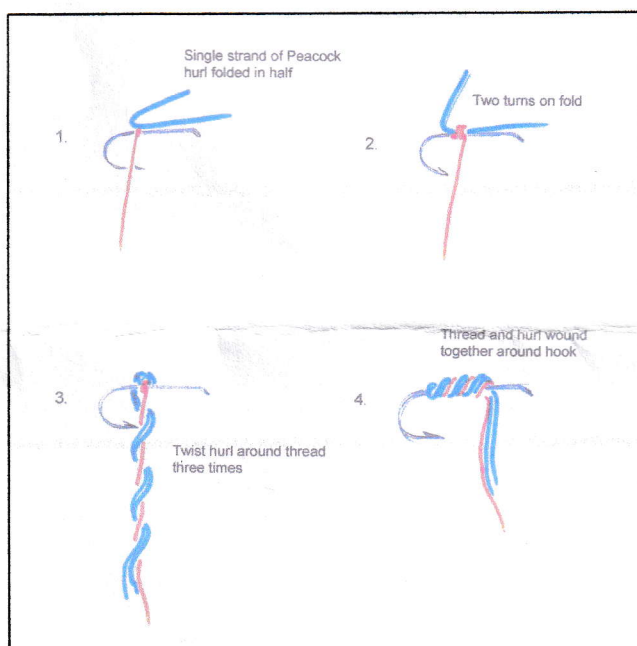
For a number of recent years one of the most popular flies has been the Daiwl Bach and one or two others tied up with peacock hurl. The only thing with peacock hurl is of course is that it is very fragile. So if one is tying a fly with just a single strand it can easily break in the tying and also get ripped to pieces by the trout's teeth. So I have come up with a very simple way of tying a thin yet strong body with hurl.

Take a single piece of peacock hurl and simply fold it in half and where the fold is I simply spin two turns of tying thread around. Pick up the two ends of the hurl and with the thread hanging vertically take a half a turn of peacock hurl around the hook passing the hurl on the eye side of the thread. Twist it around the thread three times and then wind thread and hurl to form the body.

You can gauge the thickness of the body by going up and down the shank, once for thin and three times for thicker. A trick that is simple and effective.



Bev at the Vice in Tying Room



In the last few years I have noticed that Quills that were once distinctive for Ginger and Blues are now not so. I don't know why this should be except perhaps the eyes used to come from Asia where the strong sunlight bleached the quill.

I have overcome this problem by placing six peacock eyes in the south facing front room window. My neighbours and everybody else thought they were just for decoration but what was really happening was that the sunlight was bleaching the quills for me. Any window will do provided that it gets at least 6 hours plus of sunlight. I don't know if it's just me but people seem not to use quill bodies for flies like we used to. To my mind nothing beats a nicely tied ginger quill when the buff buzzers are on. Also they make lovely segmented bodies for olives.

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