



St. Michael



FLYFISHERS

HOLBURY MATCH REPORT
16th March 2024



HOLBURY LAKES
Trout Fishery



MUD, MUD, GLORIOUS MUD.

IF EVER THERE WAS A DAY FOR WELLIES THIS WAS IT.

Dave Cross was our Day Captain; the following is his account of the day.

DAY CAPTAIN'S MATCH REPORT

This was the club's second visit to Holbury Lane Lakes. Luckily those that came from east of the M25 appeared not to have any problems with the well-publicised closure.

Following so much rain over the last few weeks we were lucky with the weather on the day. The weather on arrival was sunny but chilled, however the lakes which are normally crystal clear had a lot of colour due to heavy overnight rain.

We were welcomed by the fishery manager George who had the kettle on for tea and coffee, plus biscuits. We all tackled up and after the briefing set off to fish the four lakes as zones for four forty-five minutes sessions. At ten thirty after fishing two zones we made our way to the lodge for a fine breakfast of sausage and bacon rolls, cooked by Rob Doyle of G.A.I.A. (*Rob is the guy who teaches the professional guides/gillies*). After breakfast we fished our remaining two zones before stopping for lunch back at the lodge.

After lunch we had free roaming until 3.30pm, finishing up at the hut for the weigh-in, prize draw and raffle.

Most members caught between 3 to 4 fish with some very nice blues, Lou Fine leading the way with two blues both 4lb 5oz among the biggest bag of the day with 4 fish and a total weight of 12lb 0oz. Iain Laws took the prize for the biggest fish of the day that came in at 5lb 14oz.

During the prize giving and raffle Alan Butler was presented with a bottle of bubbly, a belated celebration for his 90th birthday last year. It was great to see him out there fishing.

A special thanks to George and Rob for looking after us on the day. I look forward to seeing you all next month at Rockbourne, and hoping for some dryer weather.

Tight lines.

Dave Cross Day Captain





SECRETARYS REPORT

My thanks to Dave Cross for his Day Captains report included with this newsletter. It was a good day.

Moving on we return to Rockbourne on Saturday 13th April where again we have exclusive use of the entire fishery providing we have a minimum of 20 attending. Tom tells me 25 members have either paid deposits, or indicated they would attend. It would greatly help me if everyone could let me know if they are coming so we can be sure we reach the minimum required.

I am sure you will know by now Dever Springs is currently closed, and rumours abound as to what is happening. Assuming nothing changes we will need to find an alternative venue for November.

We could go back to Avon Springs which we know is good for that time of year, or perhaps you might like to suggest somewhere else. We do need to have an alternative and make a provisional booking for November ASAP. So your thoughts please.

Membership cards have been handed out to those who attended Avon Springs, and Holbury. I will have them at Rockbourne, so please ask me for them if you have not had yours yet.

Finally, we wish you all a very happy Easter enjoy whatever you are doing.

Look forward to seeing you at Rockbourne.

Kind Regards

Michael Littlestone Hon Sec.



HOLBURY Results and Winners

Lou Fine:

With the top weight of 12lb 0oz.

Wins a Box of Flies

Iain Laws:

The best fish of the day, at 5lb 14oz.

Wins a Box of Flies

Lucky Draw Raffle

Martin Eastment: 3 Fish Day Ticket to Holbury

Summer De Gaffham: 2 Fish Day Ticket to Holbury

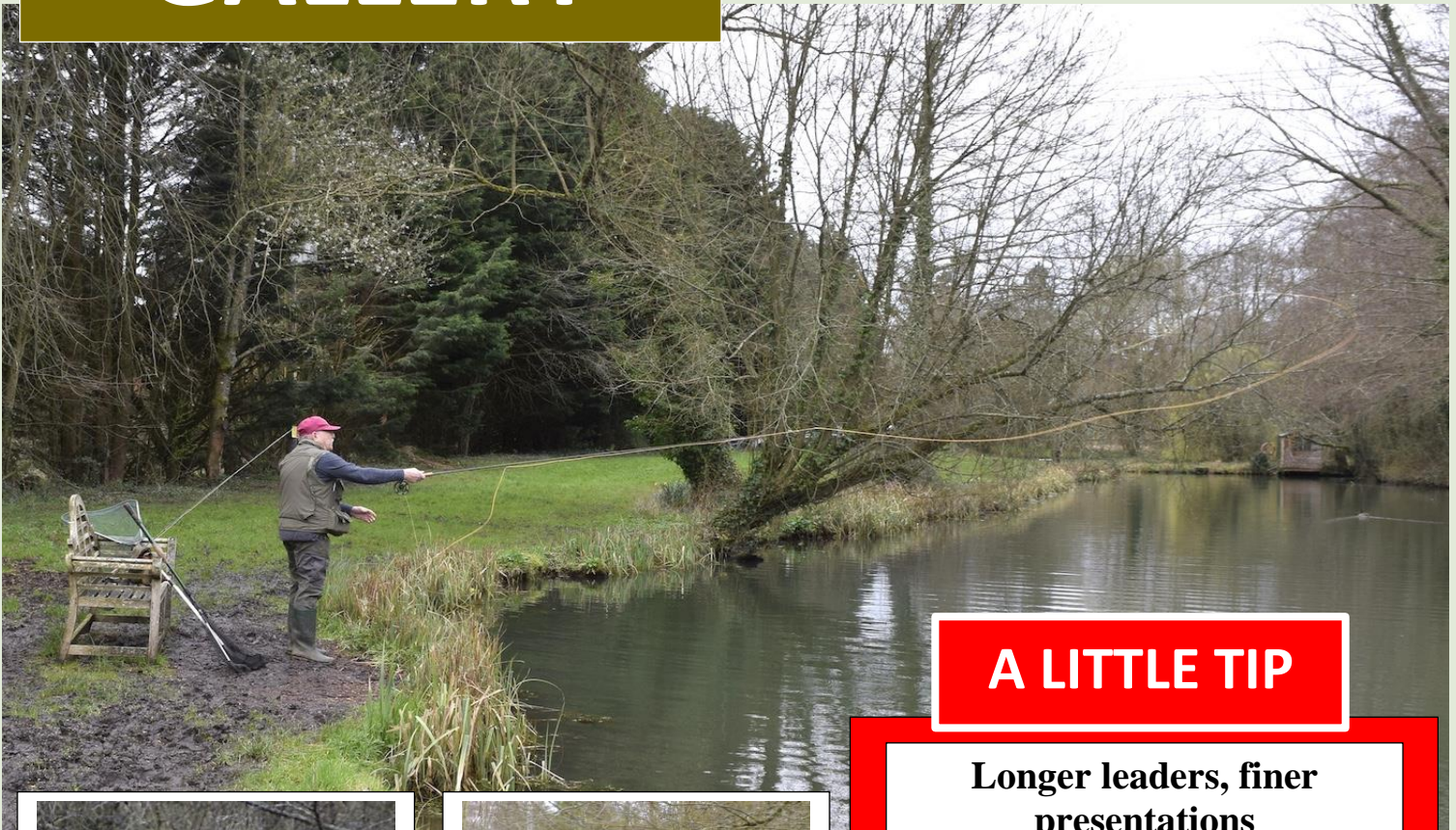
Alan Butler: £40.00 toward travel expences

Several other members won prizes that had been kindly donated.

Total Number of anglers 16

Total number of fish caught 54

GALLERY



A LITTLE TIP

Longer leaders, finer presentations

There are plenty of occasions when fish are easier to scare than you might think, especially when it's calm or the water is very clear. Two things can help you here: one is to use a longer, finer leader. If you were using just a rod's length, for example, try twelve or fifteen feet. Another smart move is to step down a size or two with your fly line. A five-weight, for instance, makes a great deal less impact on touchdown than a six or seven-weight.

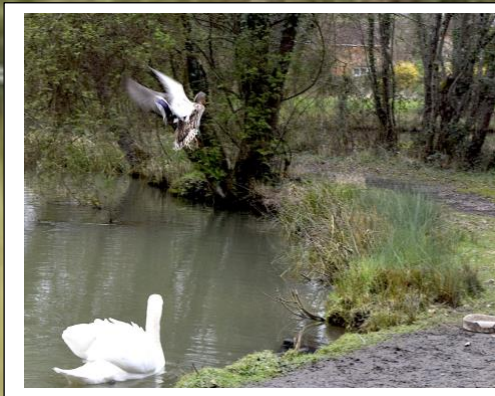
Stay focused!

When the fish are rising freely, it doesn't matter if you miss a take or four. On a day when chances are few and far between though, it's another story altogether! Be ready to strike decisively at all times, because fussy fish are often "one hit wonders".

Change your retrieve:

Altering the speed of your flies is one of the keyways to change your fortunes. It's easy to simply go through the motions when you're not catching, so don't get stuck in a rut. Experiment for better results, whether that means going painfully slow, or injecting some extra life.





My thanks to Tom Smith and Dave Cross for the photos.
You can see these in more detail on the SMFF web site.

