



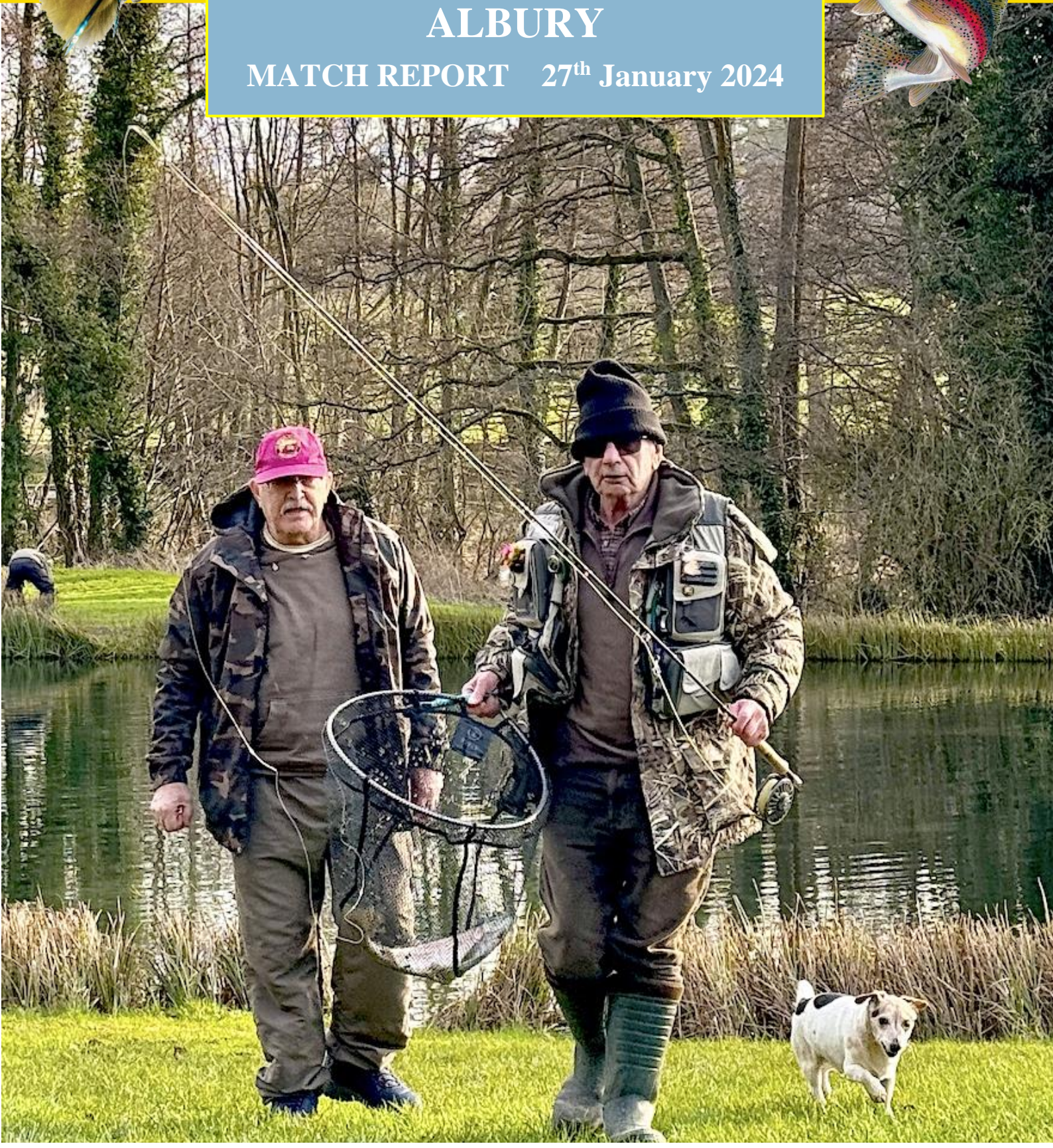
St. Michael



FLYFISHERS

ALBURY

MATCH REPORT 27th January 2024



DAY CAPTAIN'S MATCH REPORT

What a great day to start our 2024 fishing season, we arrived at Albury which is sited in a bit of a frost Hollow, when I left home it was +2C at Albury on arrival it had dropped to -3C what a difference 10 miles (as the crow flies) makes. After just a couple of hours it had risen to well over zero and by mid-afternoon it was 8-9C. Due to the low numbers for this event a number of things had to be improvised including catering as we only had 12, they could not provide food. This did not prove to be a major challenge as we had access to a large tea urn for coffees and a microwave for freshly cooked bacon in either crusty rolls or Croissants. Most commented that it was a nice change, for me I am looking forward to being catered for, as I had volunteered to do the cooking!

After a hearty assortment of fresh food we commenced the fishing with very little happening the first hour or so. With so few on the day we had free roaming from the start with the instruction to catch a fish and move at least 100ft, unfortunately those who had hearing impairments did not fully adopt this policy they unfortunately were excluded from any prizes, which this year have been upgraded.

First fish caught was by Iain Laws a wonderful specimen of a Spartic which is a cross between an Arctic Char and a Rainbow Trout (*see Gallery*), Iain and Geoff Brookes both caught a brace of these.

After fishing for a good hour, I had one on with such a light take that I failed to properly engage the hook and it came off, up until that point I have been using a variety of Blue Flash damsels varying in size mostly size 12 hooks but goldhead, yellow, blue and red. I also in desperation tried the old trusty Cats Whisker again on a size 12 hook, but to no avail. Then whilst speaking with Dave Brookes noticed he was doing very well, and it turned out he was using a "Kingfisher Copper Damsel" from Fulling Mill. This (*see Gallery*) is the female less colourful variant of the male Damsel which is blue, but this is a copper colour as in the name. On the second cast with the fish in mid water about 3 -4 foot down using my floating line with a long 12 ft leader "Bang" really heavy take unlike the first one I had lost. This really took me by surprise as the fish whist it put up a really good fight and bend in the rod was under 2lb in weight.

I then closely following the etiquette and our main rule of the day, moving a further 100ft along the south bank of the lake towards the hut, once again after no more than 10 minutes still using my favourite fly of 2024, it was hit by another rainbow. I continued back towards the main lodge and quickly bagged another with the same fly, "(if it ain't broke don't fixit)". I then decided that as a Pheasant shoot was due to come through at Noon I would pause for lunch and watch the shoot. At this point the temperature was around 9C so ate my sandwiches outside, amazing for mid-January, when you consider just a week after the lake had been frozen with over two inches of ice at -6C! The pheasant shoot was slow affair with just a few pheasants taken and by 12.40 we were able to get back onto the lake and resume. At that point just a few of us were struggling to catch and with David Brooke kindly providing a couple of the Kingfisher flies to Geoff Brooks, Geoff quickly bagged up for a commendable bag of 8lb 8oz including a brace of Spartics *see photos*. I paced myself with my favourite fly but could not avoid catching my fourth before 2pm. A few members left early which is fine but it's always essential that we report their catches back to the fishery and at Albury this also entails their posting the tickets with weight of fish in the box at the lodge.

Cont:

DAY CAPTAIN'S MATCH REPORT Cont:

By the end some had bagged up, and with 8lb 9oz Iain Laws was the winner with top weight. The prizes this season are much better than past years with a good quality fly box with at least 10 flies.

However, I was disappointed to note that at least 2 members did not abide by the rules for the day, in as much having caught a fish did not move and continued to fish in the same spot catching another one. Come on guys this is not on, and against the ethics, and sportsmanship of our club. Every member should have the opportunity to catch their limit, and by remaining in a so-called hot spot prevents this. In future any one not abiding by the Day Captains rules for the day will not have their catch recorded which is a step we really do not want to take. **DO WE!**

As an aside I have been asked to remind people that if we use the discount code **SMFF10** at **Sportfish** you will get a **10% discount** on all tackle outside sale prices.

The fly I used and was kindly introduced to by David Brooke was the **Kingfisher Copper Damsel**. I managed to locate these at the Helmsdale company for £1.45, Fulling mill and others were at £1.65, my goodness... fly inflation!! https://www.helmsdalecompany.com/?a=product&product_id=2790

Tight lines and I look forward to seeing you all at Avon Springs on February 17th, fortunately I won't be cooking for this event, and we will be well looked after by a café located by Mike Littlestone which is by the Tesco's on the way into Durrington Village. Mike will provide full details in due course.

Joe Tufo Day Captain

SECRETARYS REPORT JAN 2024

It was a shame no other members were able to join us at Albury, but having had to put the outing back a week as the lakes were frozen at least we had 12 there for the day, and our thanks to Cameron for still giving us exclusive use of the fishery for such a small number. We were surprised, but pleased to see Alan Martin following his course of treatment who came to see us during the day. We wish Alan well and hope to see him back fishing with us in the very near future. Sid as usual was happy licking some of the trout that were caught.

There are still some members to yet return their membership renewal forms. We hope you are re-joining and would ask you to send them back ASAP.

Next up Avon Springs on Sat Feb 17th. As most of you will know Anna Maria has retired now so we can't have breakfast there, so I have arranged with The Metro Café next to Tesco to provide us with full English. Final arrangements for the day will be emailed the week before.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 17th.

Michael Littlestone Hon Sec.



ALBURY Results and Winners

IAIN LAWS:

With the best Bag of the day

4 Fish at 8lb 9 oz

Won a Box of Flies

Lucky Draw Raffle

COLIN BATEMAN:

Day Ticket to MEON SPRINGS

DON GARNER:

£40 Travel expenses

Two other members won prizes
kindly donated for the raffle.

Total Number of anglers 13
Total number of fish caught 30

GALLERY



A little tip

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH.

A few ideas worth considering are:

1- Hit the depths. In bright or extreme weather, one of the main reasons you stop catching is sometimes that the fish have gone very deep. In such circumstances, one of the best tactics of all is to try the fast sink line and Booby fly combination- on its day, it can be a real life saver. Boobies (*if the fishery rules allow!*) on a fast sink line are brilliant when the trout are in the depths.

2- Comparing notes. With a friend or fishing partner can be another great way to beat the conditions. If things are not working, why not try two, radically different techniques? You're more likely to catch by using contrasting tactics and if one of you finds the winning formula, the other can follow suit (and buy the first beer later!).

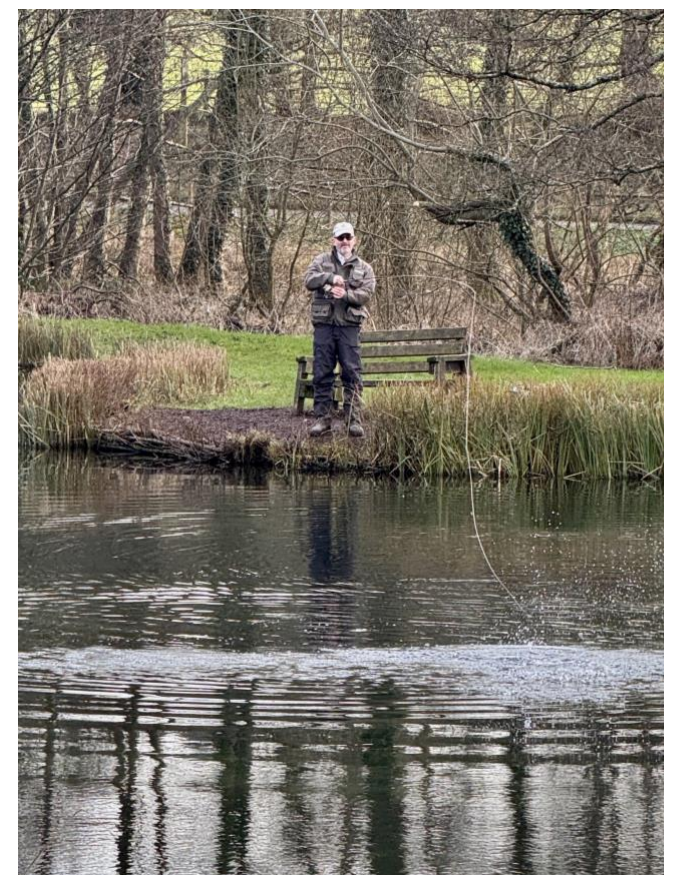
3 - Keep a diary! Whether it's an old-fashioned pen-and-paper or a digital blog, why not record your sessions? By noting times and tactics that are successful, you'll often see patterns emerge and seasonal lessons that will repeat year on year. Detailed records are much more accurate than the memory!



GALLERY



GALLERY



My thanks to Joe for the photo's.
You can see these and others in more detail on the SMFF web site.

