



# St. Michael



# FLYFISHERS

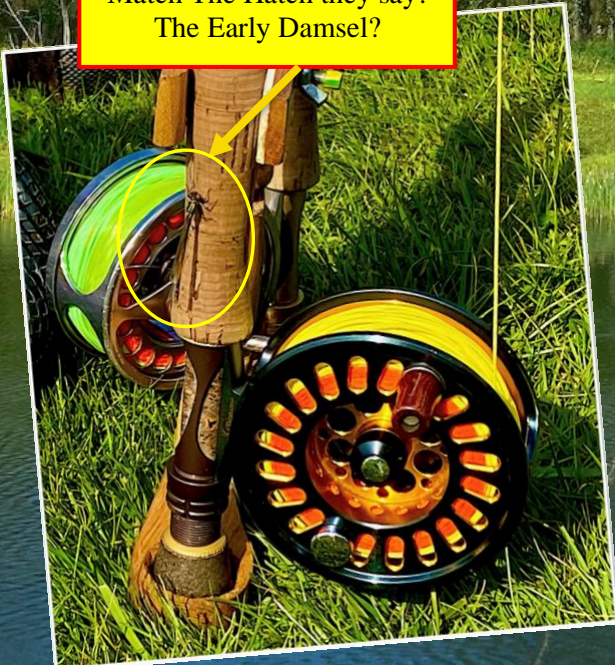


## ROCKBOURNE

MATCH REPORT 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023



Match The Hatch they say!  
The Early Damsel?







## DAY CAPTAIN'S MATCH REPORT

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April saw the club's return to Rockbourne Trout Fishery in the New Forest, Hampshire. The club's previous visit was in April 2022, which set a record in 2022 for the largest total weight caught in a day – 365lb from 92 fish at an average weight of 4lb per fish. Three doubles were caught that day, topped by a 13lb 14oz Rainbow caught early doors by Dave Haskins, and enough to give Dave top weight for the day. With overcast conditions and the fishery fishing well, some of us started the day wondering whether history would repeat itself...

The format for the day was more or less the same as last year – 5 groups rotating through the morning through five different zones – essentially one zone per lake with the exception of Oak and Pine which were combined into a single zone. The thinking was that everyone would get ample opportunity to fish each of the lakes and try something a little different.

Well, it wasn't long before the kind hand of history began to show itself, with Dave Haskins into a good fish before some of us had even cast a line. As I walked past, it seemed as if this long and well-proportioned fish had barely recognised it had been hooked, nonchalantly kiting left and paying scant regard to Dave's efforts to make an impression on it. I asked myself whether I should hang around to lend some moral support, conscious that I might be a little while, but thankfully wife Lynne then appeared with net to give Dave a hand. I wished Dave well and continued my walk round to my starting point on Pine and Oak.

As it turned out, that fish of 11lb 6oz was the second biggest of the day, but enough to give Dave once again top weight for the day. And it wasn't just Dave, nearly everyone seemed to be into an early fish. And so it continued through the morning, with majority catching 2, 3 or 4 fish before lunchtime.

And no one particular fly, fish falling to a range of different offerings. Damsel variations were certainly working. I started on a small gold-headed nymph, catching quickly on Oak, before then upping the ante and trying my luck with a dry on Spring. Even though a few fish were showing, surely this would be a little more challenging? Yes and no! I soon got a take, but the tippet broke at the fly. I then waited a bit longer, chasing sporadic rises before getting another take and this time lifting into clean air! After another 10 minutes or so it was third time lucky, a typical stockie of just under 4lb. But certainly very nice to get a fish on a dry before 10AM in the morning!

After lunch the fun continued, with the majority catching their 4 fish ticket well before the weigh-in at 3.30PM. In total, 82 fish were caught, so 10 shy of last year's haul, albeit with 2 fewer anglers contributing to the total. Total weight was 290lb, with four doubles to 11lb 9oz, Joe Tufo, Dave Martin and Colin Bateman with the other doubles. Steve Price managed a Spartic of 3lb 12oz, with Ian Smith and Colin each netting a brown.

Overall, I think the majority had a fantastic day. The fishery in my view is the prettiest we go to (just stunning through the Spring months), and offers the ability to get away from other anglers in a way that isn't possible at many venues. It's also a fishery that allows you to fish in your own particular way, and if you want to, to try different things. And for Dave Haskins, it's a fishery for catching big fish and collecting the top prize every year!

*Stephen Argent* Day Captain



## SECRETARYS REPORT MARCH 2023

Most certainly another good day at Rockbourne. My thanks to Steve Argent for acting as day captain, producing the zone sheets, and for his report contained in this newsletter.

It was good to see Ian Smith back with us following his illness, and delighted he caught a lovely Brown of 5lb 14ozs.

A special mention also to Alan Butler who will be turning 90 this year. Despite my best efforts to get him to stay in one place all day he kept moving around Alder and, was rewarded with two fish, the best being a cracking Rainbow of 8lb 7ozs. Well done you deserved it.

Moving on to **our next outing at Lakedown on Sat 27th May** we will be joined by Charles Jardine, whose Fishing for Schools project is something we are supporting this year. I sincerely hope we can have a really good turnout for this one as we will be presenting Charles with a cheque. Again, we have exclusive use of this stunning fishery, and if anyone would like to bring a guest, they will be more than welcome, just let me know. Final details will be emailed a week before with all the information for the day. Breakfast Rolls, afternoon tea, and cake on offer, plus sole use of the Micro-Brewery during lunch time, where I am given to understand our Chairman is sponsoring your first drink be it a beer, or a soft one.

I look forward to seeing you at Lakedown.

*Michael Littlestone* Hon Sec.







## Rockbourne Results and Winners

### **Dave Haskins:**

With the best Bag of the day **4 Fish at 23lb 2 oz.**  
Winning a Trophy and a Bottle of Wine.

### **Dave Martin:**

Best fish of the day 4 Fish at 11lb 9oz won a £10 note.

### **Ian Smith:**

With the best Brown at 5lb 14oz won a £10 note.

### **Steve Price:**

With the best Spartic at 3lb 12oz won a £10 note.

### **Lucky Draw Raffle**

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### **Bill Berloth:**

Day Ticket to Rockbourne

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### **Dave Martin:**

£40 Travel expenses

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**4 Other members won prizes kindly donated for the raffle**

**Total Number of anglers 23**

**Total number of fish caught 82**



# GALLERY





# GALLERY





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

