



# St. Michael



# FLYFISHERS



**AVON SPRINGS**  
**17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**  
**Match Report**



A White Minkie  
that took the  
largest fish of  
the day at  
9lb 14oz



# DAY CAPTAIN'S MATCH REPORT

**A**fter the shock of a very early start (*for me anyway*).

And having been promised by the weather forecast earlier in the week, a bright, dry day, loading the car in patchy rain was a bit of a disappointing start to the day.

The drive down to Durrington was no different with the windscreen wipers needed to clear the screen all the way. However, this was very quickly forgotten when I arrived in Durrington, met up with a cheery bunch of friends at the CAFÉ METRO where we enjoyed a full English breakfast before setting off to Avon Springs to tackle up for a day's fishing.

As always, Avon Springs which is a favourite of many did not disappoint, it is well managed by Barry and always kept in top condition. As everyone present was quite familiar with the fishery my captains briefing was kept short with a mention of the trophy that would be awarded today in memory of **Eddie Kevin** and **Godfrey**, the trophy was won at the end of the day by **Steve Price** with the winning bag of 16lb 5oz.

I took a little time to reiterate how it was important to follow the rules of the day to make sure everybody had a chance to fish any hot spots, also to remind members that the social side of day is almost as important as the fishing. I had spoken to Barry who asked me to say that there was possibility of a brownie or Pike that might have washed into the lakes from the river due to recent flooding and asked us to return any brown trout to the lakes and kill any pike that we caught.



Fishing commenced about 15 minutes later than planned with three 40-minute sessions in designated zones. followed by free roaming until lunchtime at 12 30pm. By lunchtime most of our members had caught fish with one or two even bagging up. It was decided that the final weigh in would be at 3.30pm and after lunch it was back to fishing in earnest. The water was clear, and in some areas, it was possible to spot and cast to a passing fish. Fish were coming to the net steadily as the morning progressed, some finding it easier than others. During the day I had a couple of trips around the lakes to ask how everyone was doing and if successful what fly they were using. It seemed the most popular was the Blue Flash Damsel along with Hares Ear, Dawsons Olive, and even a Snake pattern. Joe had great success with his Copper Damsel fly which he generously shared with fellow members and that had accounted for his 4 fish bag and another eight or so on the day. I was pleased to see some nice and quite large fish being caught as I walked around. How nice it was to see Brian Maguire back with us at the waters edge after a long layoff due to surgery.

It turned out that there were a few pike taken and despatched along with a few Perch that were returned, but no brownie was caught. Bob Fulton had a fish on that broke his line, escaping with his fly. Later he hooked and landed a Pike of about 4-5lb and found this was the fish that broke him earlier so was able to save his fly. (see Photo in gallery section)

There were some good size fish landed, I heard shouts from Brian Bloom as he netted his biggest fish of "I think it's a double" it didn't quite make it at 8lb 6oz, but it was a super fish anyway. Colin Bateman hooked into a fish that took all his concentration and skill and by the time he had it in the net he had attracted a small crowd who witnessed what we all felt sure was a double, but it missed the target by just 2oz. but he was compensated with the prize for the biggest fish of the day.

As happens at most venues it was a good day for most but one or two struggled to bag up, Dave Cross who most unusually ended up blanking, however he was saved from a complete blank with a small jack pike. (*we all know how that feels Dave!*), Personally,

I did struggle, but managed to bag up in the end, every one of my four fish falling to a different fly, my last on that Copper Damsel that was kindly given to me by Joe. This fish was taken as I was winding in my last cast of the day to go and help with the weighing in.

Finally, I am pleased to add that everyone **was** on their best behavior and did follow the rule of catch and move. Thank you everyone.

*Bill Berloth* Day Captain



# HON SECRETARY REPORT

**As you will see from Bill's report, we had a good day at Avon Springs.**

We were delighted to see Brian Maguire back fishing after an absence of almost two years following his surgery. We sat him in one place, told him he did not have to move, and were pleased he caught a couple of fish. I must compliment all those who attended for abiding by the rules for the day. Thank you guys it was good to see.

**Next up Holbury Lakes on March 16<sup>th</sup>.**

With 4 lakes stocked with Rainbow and Blues. It is a lovely fishery with plenty of room, and we have exclusive use. Willow lake is probably the most challenging due to the amount of tree coverage along the banks, but here under the overhanging branches bigger fish tend to lurk. Normally all the lakes are crystal clear so you can see your quarry. The River Dunn, a tributary of the Test runs all around the lakes, so if you bag up we are allowed to fish it, catch and release, barbless flies only. Mainly Browns in there. We have 17 members who have paid a deposit for this outing, it would be good to have a few more. I will be emailing the final arrangements the week before with the attendees etc.

This time tea, coffee and biscuits will be available on arrival at the hut, then at 10am breakfast rolls will be served in the lodge which is situated between the lakes.

Looking forward to seeing you at Holbury.

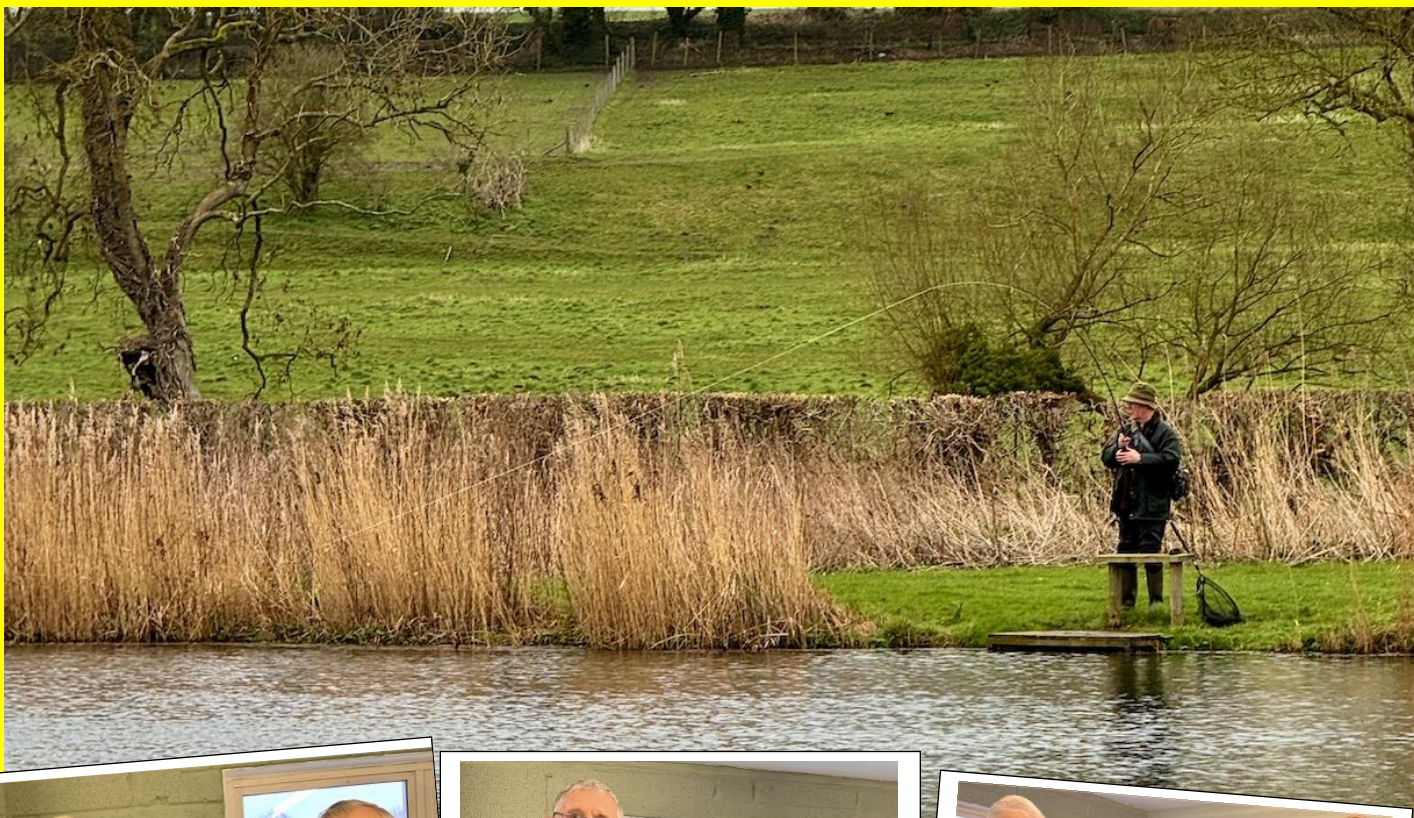
**Michael Littlestone** Hon Secretary



This Priest was found on the bank at Avon Springs. If you lost it, please let Michael know. If no one claims it, it will go into the next raffle.







## Avon Springs Results and Winners

### **STEVE PRICE:**

The best Bag  
4 Fish at 16lb 5 oz  
Wins the Memorial Trophy and a box of flies.

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### **COLIN BATEMAN**

Best fish of the day: at 9lb 14oz  
Wins a box of flies.

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### **Lucky Draw Raffle**

#### **TOM SMITH:**

Travel expenses £40.00

#### **BOB FULTON**

Day Ticket to Avon Springs

Several members then won other prizes in the raffle that had been kindly donated.

**Total Number of anglers 16**  
**Total number of fish caught 41**



# SEASONAL HATCH CHART

FLY COLOR GUIDE: **GREEN** IN THE SPRING | **YELLOW** IN THE SUMMER | **RED & BLACK** IN AUTUMN & WINTER

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
HATCH TIMES		WARMEST PART OF DAY	WARMEST PART OF DAY	WARMEST PART OF DAY	WARMEST PART OF DAY	EVENING	DUSK & DAWN	EARLY MORNING	DUSK	MIDDAY	MIDDAY	
MIDGES												
MAYFLY												
CADDIS												
STONEFLY												
TERRESTRIAL												
EGG												

## GALLERY



## A LITTLE TIP

### Matching the Hatch!

If you can, establishing what insects are in or on the water is always worthwhile.

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If you can see what the most abundant insect on the river or lake is, that's normally a good indication of what your quarry is eating. However, this is not always the case as it could be at a time of the year when the trout are feeding on fry or small fish, or possibly being selective, perhaps picking out a certain insect sometimes even at a stage of its life cycle for instance an emerging fly. That said, if you can match the hatch and discover what the trout are eating and try to copy it, you will certainly do much better. *(On this page I added a chart that I found on the internet, it may help you with this).*

Size of fly is important at times and although often a favourite type of fishing is dry fly fishing, you must also consider subsurface for trout, especially if you're a numbers man. At least two-thirds of the diet of trout is taken under the water, not on it. Even if you prefer dry fly fishing like me, knowing what nymphs, larvae, pupa, and crustaceans are available beneath the surface will help you decide on your chosen fly selection.



# GALLERY



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

