



St. Michael



FLYFISHERS

ALBURY
MATCH REPORT 25th January 2025



2025 at ALBURY

Our first outing of the new year

I was very pleased to see that Albury was chosen as the kick off venue to our 2025 season. Pleased because it delivers on many fronts. For me it is a comfortable under an hour to drive (*my closest of the year*) a comfortable clean lodge and varied fishing opportunities that gave me a chance to experiment with some of my weird home tied fly's, that were tied up in my garage with my 12-year-old grandsons input on pattern, colour, material and size. My first fish taken on a copper damsel (*with thanks to Joe Tufo*) I sent off for a few of these following his recommendation.

Then a second fish on a blood worm and a third on a **Two-Legged, Barbie pink, Thingamabob** (*see pic for further detail*).

Anyway, that said Don Garner was Day Captain, what follows is his account of the day.

Bill Berloth editor.



DAY CAPTAIN'S MATCH REPORT

We were so lucky with the weather, considering how the weather has been of late, and that the days before we had suffered from **Storm Éowyn** and the day after the bad weather was back again.


Members met up at the lodge and following a social catch up with tea, coffee and biscuits 19 of us on our first 2025 outing to Albury drew for positions on the divided three sections of the fishery. These being the two Lodge lakes combined to make section one, and each bank of Weston the main lake making section two and three. We were to fish 30 minutes on each section was before we stopped for breakfast baps, kindly collected by Michael from a local café. Once on the lakes it did not take long before rods were bending, and fish being taken on a variety of fly's. With the old favorites Damsels being the most productive, as the day progressed the fishing became a bit more of a challenge.

We had some entertainment at lunch time, as a local shoot was taking over the fishery area for an hour, for their end of season shoot.

At the end of the day, it was nice to see that there had been some nice fish taken, noticeably Steve Price who caught an impressive spartic of 3lbs 15ozs, and other spartic to win best bag on the day. Tom Smith excelled by catching 1 spartic 2 rainbows and a nice brown of 3lbs.

In all I think it was a very successful day

Don Garner . Day Captain



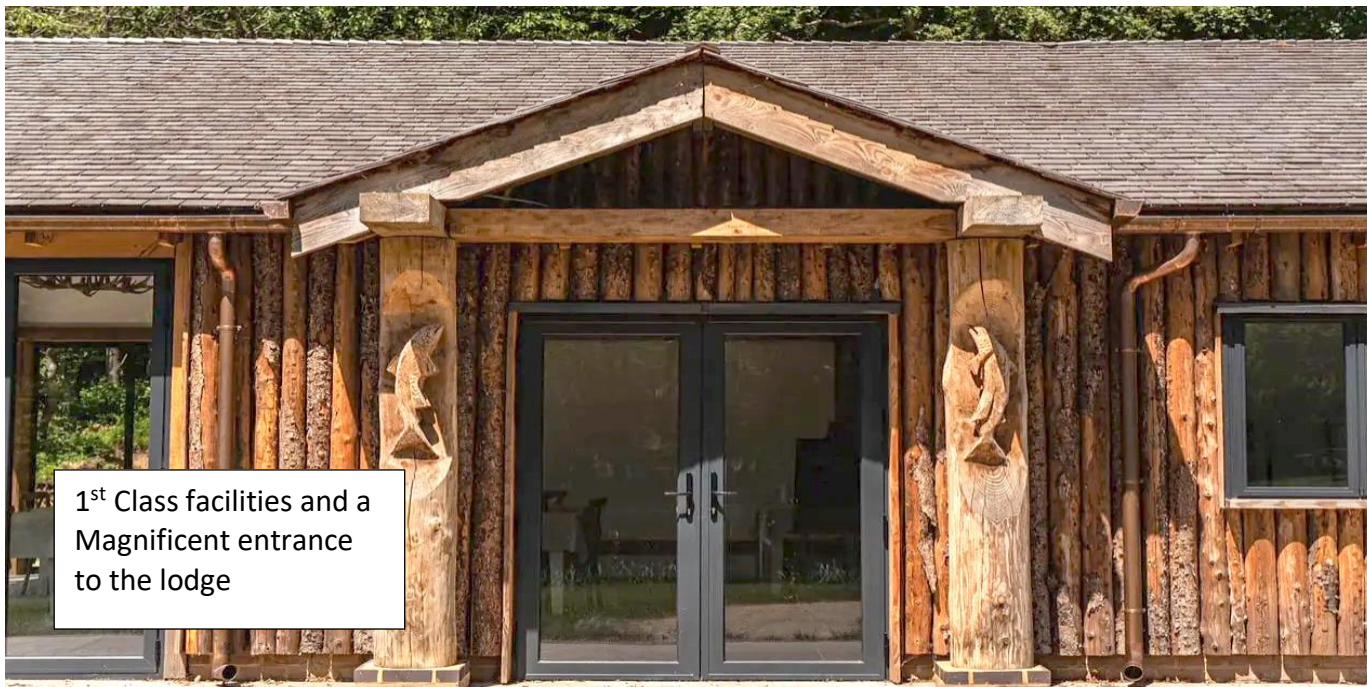
These fish were spotted in the top lake by the side of the bungalow. Easy to see but I think they must have been recently fed with pellets as they turned away from many of a multitude of fly's presented to them.

Very frustrating!

SECRETARYS REPORT JAN 2025

Sorry, but due to a few pressing issues NOT fishing related, my report will follow by email in a few days' time.

Michael Littlestone Hon Sec.



1st Class facilities and a Magnificent entrance to the lodge



ALBURY Results and Winners

Steve Price:

With the best Bag of the day

4 Fish at 10lb 15 oz

Also had the biggest fish a Spartic @ 3lb 10oz but could not win both prizes so:

Tom Smith

Took the prize for the next biggest fish

A Brown @ 3lb 0oz

Both Won a Box of Flies

Lucky Draw Raffle

Peter Burdett:

Day Ticket

Michael Littlestone:

£40 Travel expenses

Other members won prizes kindly donated for the raffle.

Total Number of anglers 19

Total number of fish caught 51

GALLERY



A little tip

Slowly, Slowly Catches Fishy:

The first, and often most effective, line of attack for many stillwater anglers is to start off with weighted lures. This can work at the start of the day as the fish are not yet used to angling pressure. They soon will be though, then a change of tact is called for. You could go over to nymphs and go down the natural approach, but lures are often still the most effective method when it's cold. So use unweighted ones, lures that utilize a lot of man-made materials like Fritz or Straggles, they are very light and water repellent, so they can be fished far-far slower than you'd think. A slow retrieve or even no retrieve at all – just let the fly fall enticingly through the water column – can keep the fish coming.

Don't Discount Dry Flies:

Many of us still associate dry fly fishing with late summer evenings and large hatches of flies, but they will often catch fish year-round. Midge especially will hatch in even the harshest of conditions. On most winter days the temperature rises significantly for these little flies to take their chances. Be mindful of the fact that they are small though, there is no need for large fly patterns, the 10's and 12's can stay firmly in the box. Look to fish slimline, CDC's patterns, like shuttlecock type. The best colour could be black and look to have them tied in 16's -18! When fishing small patterns, use a good copolymer in light breaking strain, 5lb and lower. It needs to be thin and limp to allow the fly to behave properly. A 'softish' rod will help when striking and playing fish on such light tippets.

GALLERY



GALLERY



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

