

St. Michael

FLY FISHERS



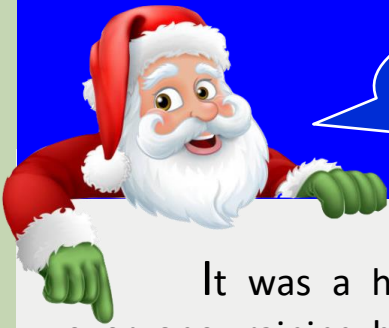
Meon Springs

MATCH REPORT & 2023 AGM SUMMARY

9th December 2023



MEON
SPRINGS



DAY CAPTAIN'S MATCH REPORT

It was a horrible start for everyone, raining hard, with plenty of big puddles and hidden Potholes on route as you got closer to our venue, Meon Springs. This was not our first time to this venue but a first for holding our annual AGM.

17 members attended the day plus Mike who due to his recent operation was not fishing. Unfortunately, our chairman Joe and David Cross were victims of the potholes, both having to call the RAC / Tyre replacements service. At 8.30 it was still miserable and raining, so we decided to have the AGM meeting followed by Breakfast rolls.

The AGM went well, Toms Treasurers report and the survey slides produced by Joe were warmly received by the members.

Fishing finally commenced at approx. 10.45. (the rain had stopped 😊) and the George Wilding Memorial Trophy was to fish for.

We were all given a Fly / Lure which had the colours of a fluffy budgie. The two pools were very coloured and banks muddy, however that fly worked well, (Or the stocking was plentiful) and we caught very

quickly. Well done Mike, a good choice of fly (LOL).

It was agreed to have free roaming with the rules of catch and move. As the day progressed everyone's rods were bending with a good average size fish coming out. One Brown trout and the rest all rainbows. Approx. 62 fish caught with couple over 4Lbs. All in all the weather held and we had a pleasant afternoons sport, the tea was flowing all day and most had caught their limit by 2pm.

For those that didn't have to shoot off we made our way over to the barn for the prize giving and the food provided by the club. Plenty of prizes on the raffle and a super spread that Meon made, all of us went home with a belly full.

Just to round off, thank you to everyone for being who we are and making this year's fishing with the club an enjoyable and a pleasurable experience.

Also thanks to Meon Springs who looked after us on the day.

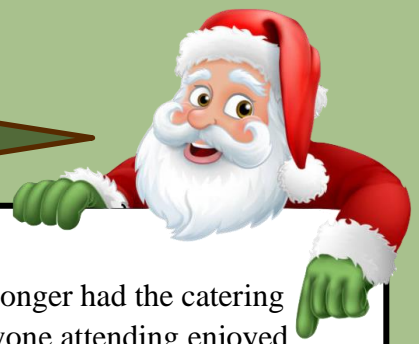
I close wishing a
Merry Xmas and **Happy New Year** to
us all.

All the best

Colin Bateman. Day captain

SECRETARYS REPORT

Meon Springs



We took the decision to hold our AGM at Meon Springs as Avon Springs no longer had the catering facilities for us. They certainly did us proud in every respect, and I know everyone attending enjoyed their day, apart from Joe, and Dave Cross who unfortunately suffered punctures, despite me having warned you about the risk the day before. SORRY GUYS.

When the AA guy came for the second time, he Jokingly said perhaps I should stay here for the day, however he was kind enough to check all the other cars, and declared they were all OK.

Following agreement on the venues for the coming year I am now in the process of confirming the dates with all the fisheries, and as soon as these are confirmed will be sending out the Membership Renewal Forms. Bearing in mind our first outing is on 20th January at Albury Weston Lake. it would be very much appreciated if you would return them latest first week of January, please. Please book a minimum of 3 venues, more if you want, bearing in mind deposits can be carried forward if you are unable to make a particular venue.

Mid-Week Social Outings. We took a show of hands on this, and the response was encouraging, around a dozen said they would interested. With this in mind I will propose dates, and venues very soon. If anyone would like to suggest a fishery, please let me know.

Dever Springs. Despite the cost being £95 + £8.50 for breakfast many would still like to go.

I have been able to secure the fishery exclusively for 18 rods, any more than that is too crowded. So just for this fishery we are asking for a deposit of £20 if you would like to attend, and the entire fishery will be pegged for the whole day which will ensure everyone can move around both lakes and be able to fish the so-called hot spots. We will be working out the pegging system in due course.

Finally, we really need to look for at least 5 new members for the coming year. Colin is going to step up the Facebook info, without advertising, and if you meet other anglers at fisheries, you visit then why not tell them about SMFF. They would be more than welcome to join us as a guest at one of our venues.

Suggest they look at our website to see what we are about. Any new member you bring along who joins the club, and renews the following year entitles you to a 50% reduction of your membership fee for that year. It's worth a shot.

I wish you all a good time over the Festive Season, and a Very Healthy and Happy New Year, And may you're fishing this coming year exceed your expectations.

With very best wishes

Michael Littlestone Hon Sec.

Geoff fished a different method to help him win the day.

I had wondered if the bigger fish we're deeper in the water, the bailiff thought most of the colour in the water was being carried in the top layers so it would be a bit clearer deeper down. I abandoned Michael's white/orange monster after my first fish and changed to my reservoir sink tip line to get down deeper, using a flash worm and counting down 15 -20 seconds. The takes were very gentle, the fish seemed to just suck the fly in, so you didn't get a sharp pull just a gradual tightening of the line and that was a time to strike. I managed top bag but only just.

Geoff Brooks.





Meon Springs Results and Winners

George Wilding Memorial Trophy

Brian Bloom:

For the best fish caught in the first hour
using the fly supplied by the club.

Geoff Brooks:

The best Bag of the day
4 Fish at 13lb 8 oz

Bob Fulton:

Biggest Fish of the day at 4lb 12oz

BOTH WIN £ 10.00

Total Number of anglers 17

Total number of fish caught 62

Lucky Draw Raffle

Vic Holloway:

Travel expenses £40.00

Martin Eastment:

Day Ticket to Meon Springs

Tom Smith:

£50 M&S Hamper voucher

Steve Price & Brian Quearney:

Manningford Day Tickets

Many other members won raffle
prizes.

Below is a copy of the AGENDA for the
35th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, held at
MEON SPRINGS. DECEMBER 9th 2023.



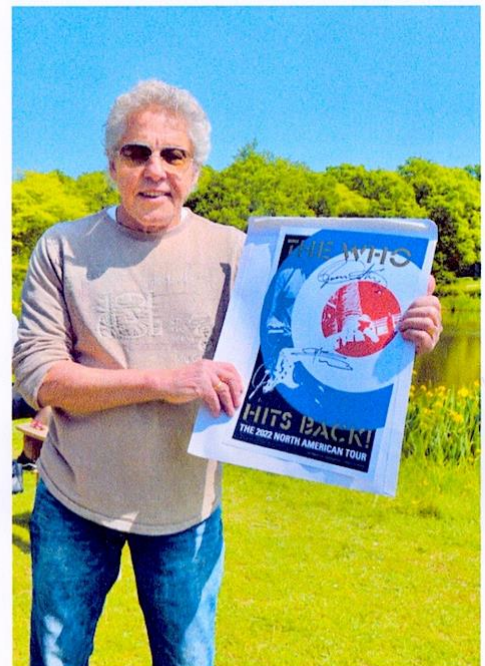
1. Welcome from the Chairman
 2. Apologies of absence. Summer DG, Lynne and Dave Haskins, David Toogood, Linda Foster, Dave Broome, Bez Sahami, Terry Burgess, Steve Argent, Dave Martin.
 3. Minutes of last AGM held at Avon Springs on Jan 28th, 2023, previously circulated in Jan 2023 Match Report. Matters Arising not covered by this agenda NONE.
 4. Hon. Chairman's Report, and Vice Chairmans report on social media and recruitment drive
 5. Hon. Secretary's Report
 6. Hon Treasurer's Report & Adoption of the provisional Accounts.
 7. Election of Officers and Committee: - Presided over by our President Geoff Brooks
- Chairman Joe Tufo:** Prepared to stand again. **Vice Chairman Colin Bateman:** Prepared to stand again.
Hon Secretary Michael Littlestone: Prepared to stand again. **Hon Treasurer Tom Smith:** Prepared to stand again.
Committee Member Terry Burgess: & **Committee Member Steve Argent:** Prepared to stand again.
8. Programme for 2024 taking into account the survey results to be ratified.
 9. Any Other Business at the Chairman's discretion
 10. Presentation of Trophies, and the days prizes



Chairmans Report (summary)

St. Michael Fly Fishers Chairman Joe Tufo welcomed the members to the AGM and address the attending members. The following is the content and summary of his report.

- Highlights of the year – Lakedown & Rockbourne
- Issues at Dever reduce the number attending to 18
- No German Beach towel mentality when trying to hold a swim in free roaming
- What's app mid week group
- Roger Daltrey's Poster Minimum reserve £300 with membership halved if sold by a member
- Holding membership fee at £45 for a fifth consecutive year
- New Members introduction membership halved if new member stays for at least a full year
- And Finally Newsletter – Website and Image Gallery www.smff.co.uk



Chairmans Report (summary) cont:



This chart shows the results of the recent survey carried out and returned to our chairman.

Member Names	Albury Weston	Avon springs	Coltsford Mill	Rockbourne	Lakedown	Reservoir TBC	Chalk Springs	John O'Gaunts	Dever Springs	Meon Springs	Comments
Omitted for Privacy	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Suggests venues Avington & Asport trout fishery
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	would like more weekday options and earlier starts.Farmoor
	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Thinks mid week nice but could clash for some . Farmoor
	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Suggests Manningford, Farmoor
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Mentioned midweek and Bushylease
	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Holbury/Coltsford Mill June/July Prefer no winter fishing
	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Thought Spring fed Spring fishery will fish well in June, no to Reservoir,
	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Dever too much pressure from our numbers. Farmoor
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	would like mid week. Need to be aware of cost. Bushylease in autumn
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Bushy Lease an option?
	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Moorsen Trout fishery
	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Budget £18 per event. Nov I have Remembrance events
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Suggested Farmoor for Reservoir
	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	Retiring due to health
	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Thanks for consultation and mentions days of reservoir fishing are past
	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	****
	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****
	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Concerned for smaller fish at JOG and Rockbourne, happy with reservoirs
	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Would love a mid week pos Wed
	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****
	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	****
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	****
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	****
	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Bushy Lease or Lechlade. Happy with mid week fishing. Farmoor
	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	My location dictates my choice of venue.
	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****
	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	"If not away. Best"
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	****
	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Those with a "no" are too far to drive
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Happy with Midweek events and reservoirs
Totals	20	23	18	23	17	16	19	23	20	24	
Summary of main comments											
Many wish for midweek events Farmoor and Bushylease requested											
Comments that some are too far away and drive too long											

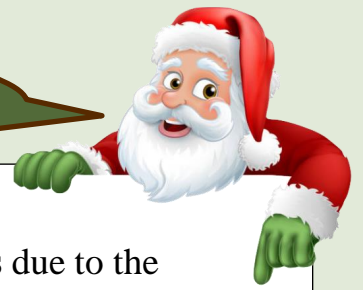
After analyzing the result of the survey, the dates, and venues for the coming 2024 season are shown below.

Summary of respondents

Total Number of respondents 26

Date 2024	Venue	No of interested members	Percentage	Minimum rods	Notes	Cost £
January 20th	Albury Weston	20	77	15	Plus breakfast about £8. Able to fish carp lake with barbless flies	60+
February 17th	Avon springs	23	88	20	Plus breakfast at new location assume £8-£10. no sight catering other than tea & coffee	65+
March 16th	Coltsford Mill	18	69	15	Includes a full English breakfast A bit small	60inc
April 13 th	Rockbourne	23	88	22	Includes breakfast roll, possibly a bit to easy to fish	90inc
May 11th	Lakedown	14	65	18	Some said was too far, breakfast £8	55+
June 15th	Reservoir Tbc	13	62	No min, pairs	Nay happy to do Reservoirs and suggest as a midweek	50+
September 28 th	Chalk springs	19	73	18	Preferred by some in June as spring fed	75inc
October 26 th	John O'Gaunts	23	88	20	Event rescheduled due high temps was too easy to fish	65+
November 23 rd	Dever Springs	20	77	18	Some mentioned fish had eggs in them and inedible	90inc
December 14th	Meon Springs AGM	24	92	20	No comments received	65inc

SMFF AGM: HON SECRETARY REPORT



We held nine outings this year kicking off in January at **Avon Springs** due to the scheduled trip, and our AGM being postponed last December as the fishery was frozen. Unusually it did not fish well with the 19 attendees only catching 22 fish weighing some 70lbs.

Then to **Albury** in February, our first club outing there, with the 17 attendees weighing in 60 fish at 137 lbs.

March took us to **Manningford**, again with 17 attendees catching 57 fish at 134lbs.

April to **Rockbourne**, 23 of us had 82 fish weighing 291 lbs with a few doubles.

May to **Lakedown**, where we were delighted to welcome Charles Jardine for the day as we were supporting his Fishing for Schools project. 49 fish were weighed in at 99 lbs.

June to **JOG**, but after an hours fishing it was evident due to the high water temperature, and seeing so many distressed fish we decided, after talking to Keith who kindly agreed to let us return later in the year at no cost, to pack up and go home.

September to **Holbury**, again for the majority our first time there as a club. The 20 attendees caught 51 fish at 143 lbs.

Mid October to **Chalk Springs** with just 14 anglers catching 41 fish at 94 lbs.

I believe having 2 outings just 2 weeks apart had a bearing on the poor attendance.

End October we returned to **JOG** with 21, everyone bagged up by lunchtime or before weighing in 261 lbs.

November saw us at **Dever Springs**, we had not been there for quite a while.

22 attended catching 35 fish weighing in at 190 lbs. including 2 doubles.

I am of the opinion we need to limit the number of anglers to 18 for the coming year, and have it pegged so everyone is moved around for the day. *(Some Facts 9 outings not including today).*

481 fish caught weighing a total 1,420 lbs.

Average attendance 19. Lowest **Chalk Springs** at 14, Highest 23, at **Rockbourne**.

Finally, my thanks to all those who have acted as Day Captains, those who have donated additional prizes for the raffle, and a special thank you to Tom, we speak all the time, and between us we do our utmost to ensure the smooth day to day running of the club throughout the year. We were both considering resigning, today,

NO NOT REALLY, just each getting a **RED HOTLINE TELEPHONE**, you know the one with the flashing red light which the guy in the White House has, but the club can't afford it, **SHAME!**

So, to each of ever one of you, here today, and those who can't be here I wish you a **VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS**, and **A HEALTHY NEW YEAR**. and look forward to seeing you at the water side next season.

Michael Littlestone HON SECRETARY

SMFF Hon Treasurer's Report



St. Michael Fly Fishers Treasurer Tom Smith address the attending members and presented a report on the Club finances from 1st January 2023 to 3rd December 2023.

As is fitting for the AGM Tom Smith, Hon Treasurer produced an interim report covering the period from 1 January 2023 to 3 December 2023. With the reporting year being the calendar year, this was an interim report and the final report, including the costings and accounts for the Meon AGM meet, will be produced in early January. The report indicated that at this time, as last year, there is a slight increase of income over expenditure. Tom indicated that the Club was achieving its aim of having a modest bank account with the ability to provide subsidies for certain meets providing a varied fishing experience. Tom reminded members that with the first meet being planned for January it was important that completed membership forms and dues were returned promptly.

The content and summary of the Annual Report will follow, however due to the confidential nature of the accounts this will not be available for online presentation.



SMFF Presidents Report

St. Michael Fly Fishers President Geoff Brooks address the attending members and presided over the election of the 2024 committee. With all existing committee members being prepared to stand Geoff proposed and accepted the agreement of the members for the existing committee to run for another year. Geoff closed his report reminding the members that the ethos of good will and harmony amongst its members has been the reason for the longevity of the club and by thanking the committee for their hard work and adding how "lucky the club was to have such a hard-working group of individuals".

Joe Tufo is seen here receiving his trophy. *(His wife will be delighted)*



2023 SEASONS PRIZES

Best Individual bag at Rockbourne in April with 23lb 2ozs: **Dave Haskins**

The Memorial Trophy remembering Kevin, Godfrey, and Eddie won at Avon Springs in January with 18lbs 3 ozs: **Joe Tufo**

John Fuller Pairs Trophy. JOG in October with a combined weight of 34lbs

Geoff Brooks and Lou Fine

Members Trophy for the best fish of the season at Dever in November with 12lb 8ozs: **Dave Brooke**

The George Wilding Memorial Trophy today here at Meon: **Brian Bloom**

GALLERY



Bill with a beautiful Brown taken on the George Wilding fly.



A Little Tip:

Having a difficult day?

Tried everything? Here are 3 little tips that might just help.

1- Lose the crowds:

One certain thing to turn the fish off is too much human presence. If your fishery gets a lot of human traffic in certain areas, try and look for the quieter spots. This might mean a slightly longer walk or a trickier cast, but it could also mean better catches once you find where the fish feel safer. Finding a spot where the fish are less disturbed can often bring instant action.

2 - Smaller, subtler flies:

Another way to keep takes coming with wary fish. To a trout, for example, the difference between a size 10 nymph and a size 14 or 16 is huge. Think about fly colour too; if the fish are suspicious, trying something subtle is often the best way to go.

3 - Or just annoy them:

Of course, there's an exception to every rule and another way to outfox a fish that shows little interest is to annoy it! A black streamer such as the classic Woolly Bugger throws a nice bold silhouette. Mind you, flies with kicking rubber legs are also a useful gamble at times, with an even higher annoyance factor!

I wish to thank those of you who have taken on the responsibility of being Day Captains at our various outings for sending me your Day Captains reports. My thanks go to Joe Tufo for the many great photo's, to be honest without these there would be no Match Report. My thanks also to Michael Littlestone who's diligents when proof-reading the report has allowed me to rectify my many mistakes.

Without the help of you all I would not be able to produce our match report.

I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year.

Bill Berloth

GALLERY



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

