



St. Michael



FLYFISHERS

AVON SPRINGS
28th JANUARY 2023
Match Report & AGM Summary



DAY CAPTAIN'S MATCH REPORT

Weather: -On arrival 2°C, by midday 6°C low cloud and overcast all day with little or no wind

Condition of Lakes: Gin clear in both main lake and smaller top lake, no fish moving on the top until mid-morning when there were many rises in the center of the main lake.

Preferred line: - Intermediate / sink tip with fish around 2 – 3 feet down.

I have started the first Day captains report of 2023 in this format as it helps to quickly get a feel of what it was like on the day. Anne-Marie once again pulled out the stops with a wonderful tasty full English, thanks Anne-Marie.

We left the lodge at 9.30 having explained that as this was this first outing with 20 anglers, we decided to use a slightly different format. Rather than have a timed move from zone 1 to 3 we would each start in a different zone i.e., 7 in zone 1 and zone 2 and 6 in 3, but after catching the first fish, you were able to move to another zone without waiting for a timed hooter. When you caught on the next zone you then had to move to the final zone. If you caught in each of the zones you could fish in either of the two other zones. I was a little apprehensive initially about this, however as I caught my first three fish in reasonably quick succession in just over an hour, I did not have much time waiting around, which in the cold was a bonus. Unfortunately, I was the only one to achieve this ☹. My fourth fish however took a further 3 hours.

This day was unusual for Avon Springs as the weather and conditions were perfect and Barry usually stocks it very well for us. I did hear that it was stocked on Friday evening, which may account for the fact that most visible fish in the main lake were shoaling in a figure of eight in the center. As it was cold and we have had heavy frosts the ground was still frozen in places, most people opted for intermediates as I did, or sinking tips. I found that most fish I caught were in mid water and when I managed to get to the fish shoaling in the center, they either took it quickly on the drop or very soon after so I estimated they were just a few feet down. My chosen fly which netted me a personal best for Avon and my first three fish was a black Damsel with a red tail and Goldhead bead, generally fished at a medium jerky retrieve. See image below of my Personal Best at Avon of 11lb 14oz, a beautiful healthy specimen, which fought hard although all my fish did.

I did lose a couple of fish when I tried a slower figure of eight retrieve, but I imagined this was due to not engaging the barb sufficiently with such light takes. It was strange days fishing as in addition to catching my PB I also caught my smallest fish at Avon of just 2lb 2oz, my total bag weight was 19lb 5oz. Others also caught on a variety of Damsel variants including yellow and red heads. I was sorry to find after my 4 fish only Steve Argent caught 3 for a bag weight of 8lb 10oz, which came in second for the day. The next biggest fish was caught by Colin Bateman at 4lb 0oz. So overall as a club we did

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DAY CAPTAIN'S MATCH REPORT continued

not have a big catch just 22 fish with several blanks, total weight just 69lb 5oz. I think a number of members did struggle with the cold and grey weather although it did not rain. One point I forget to mention at the AGM is that I have negotiated a permanent discount with Sportfish / Farlowes of 10% using the discount code, easy to remember of “ **SMFF** “ depending on the amount you spend this raises to 15% with a voucher posted to you. So please make use of this as the more we spend I will hopefully be able to get them to increase it to 15% next year. Link is <https://www.sportfish.co.uk>

**Next outing will be at Albury,
Weston Lake.**

February 26th

**Which hopefully will present
better fishing, hope to see you
all there.**

Joe Tufo Day Captain



My Personal Best at Avon, coming in at 11lb 14oz

Latest News from Farmoor

Some of you have asked how it is that I know what's been going on at Farmoor, well I am pleased to report that fishing from boats has now resumed, and I can reveal that my very good friend Alan Carleton (*who has fished with us as a guest many times*) has been the source of my information.

Alan has been on a one-man crusade on behalf of boat fishermen, especially those who are disabled, cannot fish from the bank and who rely solely on the wheely-boat for a day's fishing. He has been arguing with the powers that be at Thames Water Authority that if it was safe for the sailing club members to use the pontoons then the same should apply to fishermen who also help support the social activities on Farmoor.

Alan's success in his campaign has led to removing the restriction placed on Fishermen using the pontoon...

Well done, Alan.

If you wish to fish Farmoor you should ALWAYS check with the rangers on 07747 640707. before you set out.





Avon Springs Results and Winners

Joe Tufo:

The best Bag & best Fish of the day
3 Fish at 18lb 3 oz

*(Joe also had the biggest fish of the day @ 11lb 12oz but club rules do not allow both prizes to be presented to one member).

Steve Argent:

*Was awarded Best Bag: at 8lb 10oz

Both win £10.00

Lucky Draw Raffle

Bill Berloth:

Travel expenses £40.00

Dave Cross

Day Ticket to Avon Springs

Other prizes were won by
Michael Littlestone.

Geoff Brooks.

Iain Laws

We are grateful for the generous
donations by members of raffle prizes

Total Number of anglers 19
Total number of fish caught 22

Our very best wishes go to **Bez Sahami, Terry Burgess and Brian Maguire.** Wishing them a speedy recovery from their recent operations. Bez is recovering from a heart bypass operation, Terry recovering from a hip replacement and Brian a knee replacement.
We hope to see you back again soon fitter and stronger than ever.

GALLERY

Avon Springs



A LITTLE TIP

Fly Line Care

When out fly fishing we all stand on the line or let it drop into the mud. Gradually a layer of dirt builds up on the line and dramatically reduces its efficiency. the line becomes much harder to cast and possibly even starts to sink.

The answer is very simple. After every 6 or so outings treat the line to a cleaner and conditioner. Simply pour some on a soft cloth and rub onto the line. You will be surprised at how filthy the cloth will become. Repeat and then buff the line. Try casting and it will be as if the line is turbo charged. Get into the habit of cleaning your lines often. It helps prolong their life, keeps them supple and vastly improves casting distances. Try it, you will be amazed at the results.



Not sure what to do with all those cash gifts from the family at Christmas ? Well! Have a look at these fine items that can be found on the internet.

Fly Rod.	A Chris Clemes Split Cane Fly rod.	Prices from £1550.00
Fly Reel.	An Able Sdf	Prices from £ 750.00
Fly line backing.	RIO 2-Tone Gel Spun Backing	Price from £ 139.99
Fly Line.	RIO InTouch VersiTip II Fly Line	Price from. £. 189.99

Or just stick to a Bowmore 52-Year-Old 1965 whisky

A bargain at **£42,999**

GALLERY



Summer & Winter shots of Avon Springs



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



St Michael Fly Fishers 34th AGM

Chairman's Report for season 2022

As I am standing down as chairman of this wonderful fishing club, I would like to take this opportunity to thank ALL the members of the committee who it has been my pleasure to work with over the past years, with special thanks to Michael our secretary who works extremely hard to make sure that every outing arranged runs efficiently and that each venue delivers value for money and is enjoyed by all.

Also special thanks to Tom whose hard work on the finances ensures that we are in a good financial position going into the next year and for his presentation of the accounts that make it easy for us to understand. It is easy for us to sometimes take for granted the effort and hard work all the members of your committee put in.

As I said I am stepping down. This is due to both business and domestic pressures which mean I cannot give the time and attention needed to the role of Chairman, however having seen the names of those new and existing committee member that are stepping up, I know I leave the future of the club in excellent hands.

Vic Holloway *Chairman 2022*

AGM SECRETARY'S REPORT DEC 2022

Following two difficult years where the Pandemic severely affected our fishing this year saw us achieve our full programme of nine outings, including today.

We returned to Lechlade at last, but despite having it exclusively 26 of us only managed 25 fish, of which ten were doubles, and as the price for this year is £95 + breakfast we think is becoming too expensive.

With our membership steadily increasing, currently 32 full members, 3 associate, and another 4 keen to join this coming season, we are well on the way to reaching our target of 40. Attendances this year averaged 23 up from 17 last year which was great. If it had not been for some confusion where a change of dates from those published at the beginning of the year it could well have been more.

Just a few facts, and figures. not including today. 8 official outings accounting for 457 fish caught weighing 1,547 lbs of which our last outing to John O 'Gaunt produced 107 of these, weighing 331 lbs with 27 anglers, a truly great November day out. The best fish so far this season was 18lb 12ozs at Lechlade to Bez. We all enjoyed our Anniversary Day at Rockbourne with the 25-attending catching 92 fish including 3 doubles, and recording the highest weight at any venue of 364 lbs.

As the hot dry Summer prevented us fishing a reservoir in September we went back to Chalk Springs, after an absence of 6 years. now under new management we were warmly welcomed and had some good sport.

If I have but one regret, it was not being able to have the couple of mid-week social outings promised. However, we most certainly will this year.

Our fixture list next season is now finalised and was going to be presented during this AGM for your approval. However, as the December outing was cancelled the list has been published on the membership forms already sent to everyone. We have added two new venues for the club, being Albury, and Manningford, and going back to Dever Springs. As many of you know, Duncton Mill, which so many of us have enjoyed has changed hands, at this present time we are unsure of the situation going forward, so does not appear on our fixture list at the moment. Let's see what happens.

In closing this report, Vic is standing down as Chairman, and my thanks go to him for his advice, and help during this past year when needed. To Bill for the fantastic newsletters he produces every month, and for the incessant, but kindly reminders if he is waiting for me to send him anything. Finally, my thanks to all those members who acted as day captains, assisted at the weigh ins, and helped to clear up afterwards.

Michael Littlestone *Hon Secretary*

St Michael Fly Fishers 34th AGM

Treasurer's Report for season 2022

Introduction

This will be the fifth year that I have had the honour to report on the state of the accounts for the club. This report covers the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022. The books are, of course, open for inspection and are available.

Compilation of Accounts

Again, this year has, in the most, been steady from an accounting perspective and again nearly all membership transactions have used the BACS system of payments and the willingness of fisheries to accept internet and card payments has meant that real time records can continue to be maintained with easier reconciliation. I thank you all for your support in this. Having said that I continue to be prepared to accept all forms of payment that suit your individual wishes. I can again report that the assistance we have received from NatWest is commendable.

We balanced the books for the year to date finishing up with a small excess of income over expenditure. This excess is being used in part to fund the AGM costs and for payments made for fishing in December which of course we have carried over. These figures show that we have achieved what we set out to do a couple of years ago. That is to maintain a reasonable balance at the bank and at the same time balance the income over the year with the expenditure giving us the ability to provide subsidies and advance payments where this indicates a buffer against rising prices.

We started the year on an even keel and we have finished this period with a slightly raised amount at Bank. We have only two small creditors and we are holding deposits and payments against the cancelled December AGM. The figures are comparable with last year's so the club can be said to be balanced in its dealing and able to hold its own.

A balance sheet showing the position on 31st December 2022 has been produced and is available to members.

Into the Future

As we planned the programme for 2023, we as a club, have been able to continue to support meets in the same way, bearing in mind fishery costs are rising and we have been lucky to have been able, to keep the costs down for the time being and provide subsidies for a number of meets. We have also, where required by the fisheries, paid deposits to hold prices at today's level. We are holding the subscription as last year but increased the draw prize to reflect the cost of travel to a venue.

I would like to thank you all, again, for your cooperation and support over this past year and this, being my report, I commend it to you.

Tom Smith Hon Treasurer; St Michael Fly Fishers

CLUB TROPHY WINNERS FOR 2022 ARE:



Michael Littlestone:
Presented with the Presidents trophy for
outstanding services to the Club.



Dave Haskins:
Best Bag at Rockbourne anniversary outing 25lbs



Brian Bloom:
**Littlestone Memorial Trophy, in memory of Kevin,
Eddie & Godfrey.**
Best bag at Avon springs Dec 2021 at 12lbs 10oz



Dave Broome:
Best bag at Lechlade Feb 2022 at 39lbs

From the Editor.

My grateful thanks to Joe Tufo for another year of great photo's that have made my job of assembling the pages of the Match Report over the past year much easier. I include Tom & Summer here as they have also contributed to some of the photographs showed over the past year.

A special thank you to Michael Littlestone for spotting my many mistakes when proof-reading the report. Also, the many Day-Captains who have supplied their version of the match day's events. Without the help of the many I would not be able to produce our match report.

Bill Berloth

**Winners who were not present to
receive their trophies were:**

Bez Sahami:

Best fish of the season at Lechlade
18lbs 12oz

Carl Bolding & Llyod Simpson:

Winners John O'Gaunt pairs
Combined weight 22lb 9oz