



St. Michael



FLYFISHERS



MANNINGFORD

MATCH REPORT 18th March 2023



DAY CAPTAIN'S MATCH REPORT

A cloudy day, rain showers and sunny periods were forecast for our visit to Manningford Fishery located adjacent to the Hampshire (Salisbury) Avon in the Vale of Pewsey just south of Manningford Bohune. Although one or two of us had fished these lakes before as individuals, it was a new group experience for St Michael Fly Fishers. With the fishery entrance gates opened at 8 am, our group of 17 fishers gathered to tackle up and enjoy a breakfast of sausage and bacon rolls, tea and coffee (the latter being available throughout the day) before the usual pre-fishing welcome and briefing. On this occasion, we were pleased to welcome Bill Howell representing Fishing For Forces as our guest for the day – more about Bill later. The day was to be spent on Manor Lake, with those lucky enough to catch their 4 fish limit having the opportunity to continue fishing on Squires Lake on a Catch and Release basis should they wish to do so.

The plan for the day was for everyone to start fishing on one of three pre-allocated zones around the lake, having caught a fish, to immediately be able move to any of the two other zones. With a second fish caught, fishing could continue on the remaining third zone with the fourth fish to be taken on any of the previously fished zones. A fairly basic “catch, move, repeat” scenario which has been recently used at other venues and appears to be popular in that it enables everyone to continue fishing without any time limitation on zone movement.

The slightly slow start to the fishing soon picked up as rods were seen bending at various points around the lake throughout the morning with many fish falling to the tried and tested Damsel patterns. Floating, ghost/midge tip and slow intermediate lines were proving effective with most, if not all, of the fish taken in the deeper areas of the lake. Occasional fish were seen to be rising but not enough, regrettably, to bring about a “hatch of dry flies”. Fortunately, the occasional heavy rain shower or two were short lived and did not appear to affect either the fish or our intrepid anglers.

Lunch was taken at 1pm in the comfort of the lodge at which time Bill Howell gave a detailed introduction to Fishing For Forces which he, as founder, had established to provide an opportunity for disabled or traumatised service personnel to experience the pleasure, enjoyment and other therapeutic benefits of fishing. It had been so successful that these opportunities had now been extended to serving personnel and veterans. Bill's passion for this work was very evident and his message to us was to ask if we could help by providing mentoring at the waterside. Although he provided the necessary equipment etc., he was also always grateful to receive donations of fishing kit which might be gathering dust at home and clearly not in use. He asked that anyone who could help to put their name and details on a list to be left with us. Geoff Brooks, our President, thanked Bill for his talk and indicated that he and the committee would look at ways for St Michael Fly Fishers to provide support to his worthy cause.

Fishing resumed at 2pm with the weigh-in timed for 3.30pm. Another heavy downpour slowed fishing down for half an hour or so but this did not stop a hardy few in continuing to add to their catch. At the weigh-in, it was great to note that everyone had caught, creating a very good total of 57 fish for 154lbs 10oz, with averages of 3.35 fish per person and 2lbs 11oz per fish. Heaviest bag was Joe Tufo with 15lbs 9oz including the heaviest fish, a cracking 8lbs 8oz Brown which earned him the Best Fish prize. Ian Kelly took the Best Rainbow prize with a fish of 8lbs 1oz. Details of other prizes, including the raffle, are recorded in the event results published separately.

In closing this report, it would be remis not to record our very grateful thanks to Malcolm and Fen for their work and preparations, including the provision of exceedingly large and tasty sausage and bacon breakfast rolls and the constant availability of tea and coffee throughout the day which all ensured that we had a very productive and enjoyable visit to Manningford Fishery.

Dave Martin (Day Captain)

NEXT OUTING
Rockbourne

22nd APRIL

AS SHOWN ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARDS

SECRETARYS REPORT MARCH 2023

Very little to say this month, other than it was good to have two new venues Albury in February, and Manningford in March, which I hope those attending enjoyed. They say, a change is as good as a rest, however it was disappointing that we struggled to reach the minimum numbers required for exclusive use of both these fisheries, which ended up costing the club money.

I don't know why some members are reluctant to try new venues, yes, I have heard comments like, I went there many years ago and it was rubbish. Well, that may have been the case then, but if we don't try we will never know. Both of these venues were reasonably priced with really good facilities. We were well looked after, and the overall results were good, as the final results sheets show, with some good fish caught at both.

Moving on to Rockbourne this coming April 22nd I will be sending everyone an email within the next week with a list of those whom have paid a deposit.

I need to know if all those are coming as we must have a minimum of 20 to guarantee exclusive use, and need to know if anyone else would like to come.

I urge everyone to support this outing where from past experience there are very big fish to be caught.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Michael Littlestone Hon Sec.





MANNINGFORD Results and Winners

Joe Tufo:

With the best Bag of the day **4 Fish at 15lb 9 oz.**
Winning a £10 note and a fly box. He also caught the biggest fish of the day, a Brown at 8lbs 8oz. However, club rules do not allow him to take a prize for both biggest bag and biggest fish.

Dave Martin:

For 2nd best bag of the day 4 Fish at 12lb 5oz with his biggest fish a Brown at 5lb 6oz. Was awarded a £10 note.

Ian Kelly:

With the best Rainbow at 8lb 1oz winning a Fly Box

Lucky Draw Raffle

DAVE CROSS:

Day Ticket to Manningford

Alan Butler:

£40 Travel expenses

Three other members won prizes kindly donated for the raffle

Total Number of anglers 17

Total number of fish caught 57

FISHING FOR FORCES

Taking the wounded to the water side

Since our launch in 2010 we have been privileged with the help of anglers, angling clubs and the generosity of the public to take over 2000 of our wounded serving and veterans of His Majesty's Armed Forces to the waterside.

The therapeutic effect is now recognised by the medical society, one specialist consultant ventured to say that for many suffering variations of stress and trauma that 'a day at the water side can be as effective as a week's medication'. A bold statement you may think but having experienced first-hand the psychological change in so many of our guest as the day progresses must be seen to be believed and fills one with an incredible feeling of pride.

What do we do?

We organise group events of up to 20 guests of HMAF with an equal number of skilled mentor/anglers introducing as many guests as possible to the therapeutic effect of angling as many regrettably will never play contact sports again.

As each year passes more and more requests arrive telling us we're making a small but respectable contribution to the recovery of those injured having served our country to protect our way of life. For those who have suffered wounds of all kinds (and we are aware that all wounds do not show) we organise events to cater for them with angler/instructors qualified in this respect and modified tackle if required.

Please join us and help make their day. Could your company sponsor an event? Are you an angler able to donate usable tackle, your time and skills or perhaps a member of the public simply wishing to support us and kindly donate funds to give them a therapeutic day at the waterside. Please do get in touch and I assure you that you will get as much from your donation as they do, and help us to achieve so much more.

My sincere thanks in advance.

Bill Howell (founder) Fishing For Forces



MESSAGE FROM GEOFF BROOKS

Manningford Trout Fishery in mid-March offered a pleasant venue, and a not unusual meeting place! The occasion; an opportunity in line with our ethos; to be more than 'Just a Fishing Club'

We were able to entertain **BILL HOWELL** the founder and organiser of **FISHING FOR FORCES**

Knowing that he is not only an avid angler himself. He is willing to donate work on two fronts. It is a wish to show our appreciation to those who strive to make our world a safer place to live in! It is also a way of doing just that in a practical way by taking our veterans for a stress busting day at the waterside!

Officially co-ordinated directly with our Services Organisations, Bill, takes groups for an introductory day on the water – handing them a Fly Rod!

How to then enjoy things. Is where volunteer mentor helpers come forward - Casting – watercraft – the great outdoors - managing a challenge - better still; beating it! without effort, we found nine members putting their hands up to find mid-week time. Bill has a further ambition to achieve – That his helpers get as much fun and satisfaction out of the day as his new anglers do!

Spare tackle to use or donate to boost funds are always welcomed - a club like ours should be proud to be involved!

Tight Lines New Boundaries *Geoff Brooks* PRESIDENT St Michael Fly Fishers

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM BILL HOWELL FOLLOWING OUR DAY AT MANNINGFORD

Hi Geoff,

I had a great time meeting all the members and enjoying the hospitality they showed to me. It was a genuine pleasure to be in their company. My thanks again for the introduction and the fish ticket, genuinely appreciated. All are welcome to apply to be mentors and this is a superb list and please advise me of the other three. I will write to them all thanking them for their support. I will give you a call to go through the list as my printer is not the best so may need to get some details from you again (not yours). So, my apologies in advance.

Speak soon.

Bill Howell (founder) Fishing For Forces



GALLERY

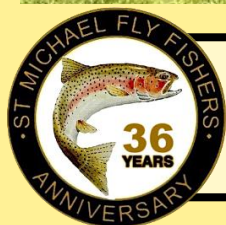
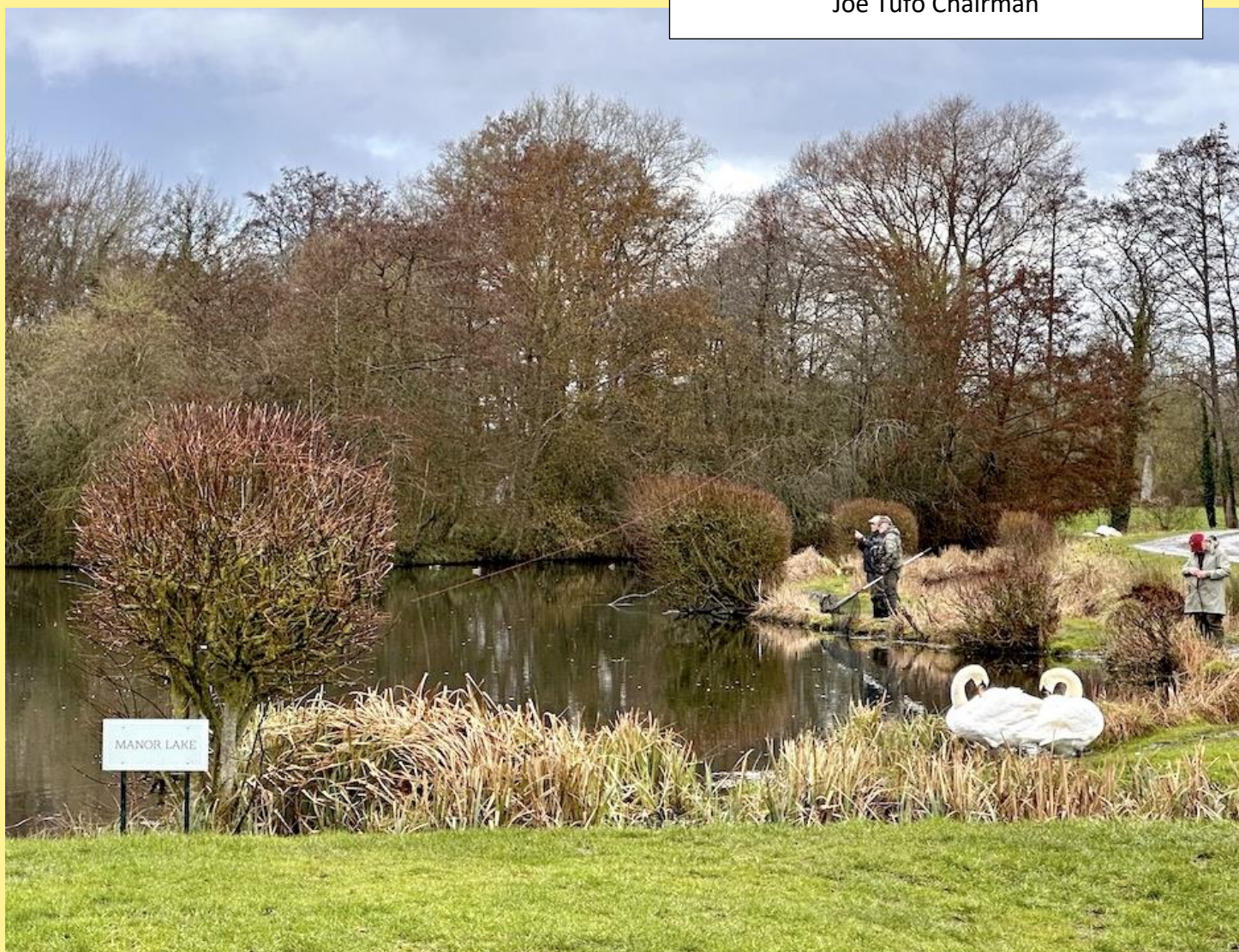


GALLERY



BRITAIN'S MOST WANTED ?

Our Club Officers. L-R
Michael Littlestone Hon Secretary.
Geoff Brooks President
Joe Tufo Chairman



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

