



# St. Michael



# FLYFISHERS

Chalk Springs

MATCH REPORT 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023





# DAY CAPTAIN'S MATCH REPORT

It was a cool, almost chilly, morning as we drove down over the South Downs to foregather at Chalk Springs fishery for 8 am. We spent a few minutes tackling up and then along with bacon rolls and tea/coffee provided by Dan in charge at the fishery, we had a quick chat to layout the format for the day and off we went for a prompt start.

There was a slight mist on the lakes which added to the drama of the day but as the sun rose and broke into the valley it was warm and pleasant fishing. Generally, gin clear water with fly hatching in the sunlight, red admiral butterflies and dragonflies moving about (and a kingfisher) all led to a wide selection of flies being used; as ever the blue flash damsels but red flash with a hot head, gold ribbed hare's ears, tiny little spiders etc all took fish.

The numbers were down for this meet, but, with the blessing of the gods, we were allowed to have sole use of the fishery. So, with small enthusiastic numbers, we only had one rule which was free roaming but change lakes on catching a fish.

The first fish were taken very quickly as we quietly broke the water for the first time. It then sort of became quite quiet and we had to work for the next. However, we kept going and by the time we came to midday it appeared we all had a few fish and were taking our time saving one or two for the afternoon session.

We stopped for lunch about 1pm, plenty of chat and stories. We held a minute's silence with thoughts of world events, especially in the Middle East. We drew the raffle at this point as it was anticipated that as individuals bagged up, they would like to leave for, what is, for some, quite a long drive. We were fortunate that, in spite of our numbers, the fishery donated a prize ticket for the draw. We aimed to finish about 3pm but all bar a few had finished by then just one of our number left to stalk and play quietly in the peaceful surrounds.

A brilliant day's fishing, fish there to see and catch, not necessarily easy but, with patience and thought, coming to the net. The statistics speak for themselves, at 3pm, formal weigh in time, the 11 of us had 41 fish and a total weight of 93lb5oz. All the fish, bar one, were in the range of 2lb-2lb 8oz. The single exception, just to show they are there, was 7lb 8 oz. So, with grateful thanks to Dan and the fishery staff we departed.

As we look forward, the next meet will be to John o' Gaunt's on 28<sup>th</sup> October. This, being the moved excursion from June, should be a well-attended day with cooler water! However, our esteemed Hon Sec will no doubt be coordinating the details in due course.

Tight Lines

*Tom Smith* Day captain

NEXT OUTING

**John O'Gaunt**

**28th OCTOBER**

NOT SHOWN ON YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP CARDS

## SECRETARYS REPORT OCTOBER 2023

Despite a rather poor attendance at **Chalk Springs** those attending had a good day. See Toms report.

So, we return to John O Gaunt this Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October following the cancelled-on site visit last June. I shall be emailing everyone this week to check who is coming. Those who came in June and had already paid will of course not have to pay anything this time apart from breakfast, and the raffle if you want to participate.

Finally, your committee will meet very soon to discuss next season, which leads me to ask, bearing in mind the ever-increasing costs of outings, if we should perhaps consider fewer venues, and organising some midweek social ones for those who would like to attend. Let us have your thoughts please.

I look forward to seeing you at JOG.

**Michael Littlestone** Hon Sec.

During our break for lunch a minute's silence was held in thought for the terrible trouble that has fallen upon the innocent population of both Israel and the Gaza Strip.

Our hearts go out to the innocent people on both sides.







## CHALK SPRINGS Results and Winners

### Bill Berloth:

With the best Bag of the day with  
**4 Fish at 15lb 0 oz**

Bill also caught the biggest fish of the day,  
a lovely Rainbow of 7lb 8oz that he had been following  
up and down South Lake on and off all day. It finally  
succumbed to a green & black Nomad

winning him a **£10** note

### Lucky Draw Raffle

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#### Chris Rasmussen-Clark

Day Ticket to Chalk Springs

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#### Bill Berloth

£40 Travel expenses

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#### Dave Cross & Don Garner

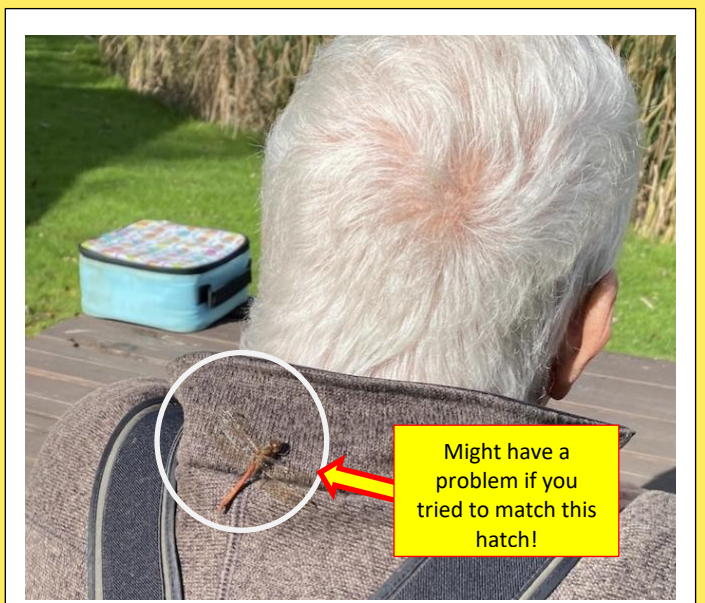
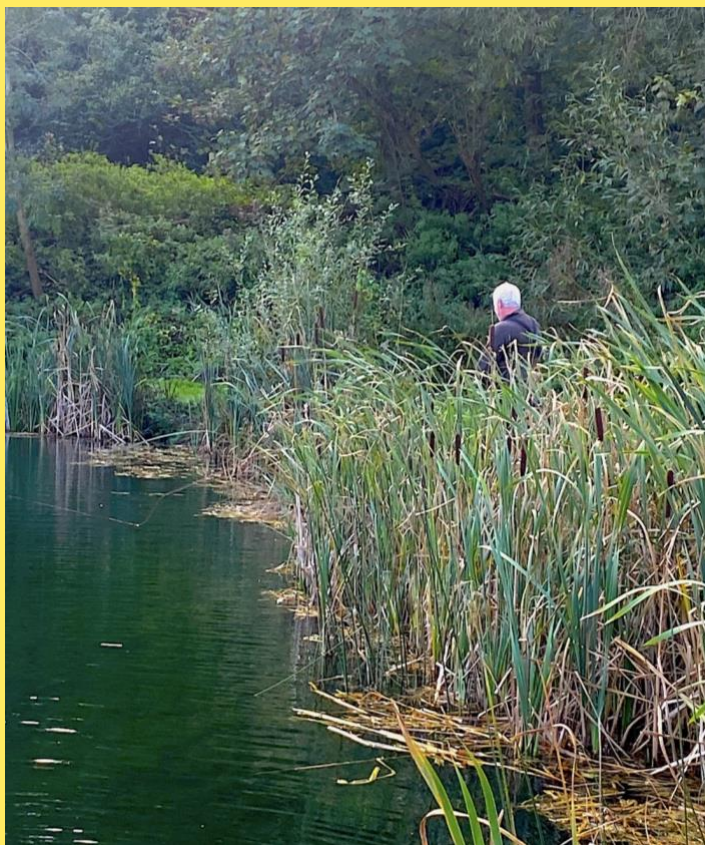
Each won a bottle of wine kindly  
donated for the raffle.

**Total Number of anglers 12**

**Total number of fish caught 44**



# GALLERY



## A Little Tip:

### How Long Does Tippet Material Last?

Following Joe's experience with losing two fish to a brittle leader at Chalk Springs he has asked me to share some information with you about how long you should keep hold of your leader and tippet before replacing it.

**The following information is taken from the Orvis web site.**

This is a difficult question to answer, as there are so many variables aside from time to consider.

UV exposure, temperature, humidity, chemicals (*DEET*, *sunscreen*), etc. The one factor that many people fail to consider is *heat*, especially the kind that is generated in a car boot midsummer. Extreme temperatures can, over time, break down the material quickly, even though it is not exposed to UV.

You should store excess leaders and tippet in the house not your fly vest, preferably in a cool place; some people even keep them in the freezer. Your fly vest or bag is actually the worst place to store leader and tippet. In reality you should take what you need to fish that day or on that trip and leave everything else at home.

In general, fluorocarbon is going to last longer than nylon, because fluorocarbon is impervious to UV; it can, however, get milky with prolonged exposure, which makes it more visible to the fish. As a rule of thumb, it is suggested you replace material every two years unless it shows signs of degradation—then you should chuck it immediately.”

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A final note on fluorocarbon that all fishermen should know. It takes around **4,000 years** to break down naturally. While even monofilament line takes several hundred years to break down and should by no means be thrown on the ground as litter, fluorocarbon should always be packed away and disposed of responsibly.

Please avoid leaving it on the ground for the next few millennia.

**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.

