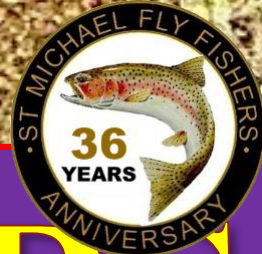




St. Michael



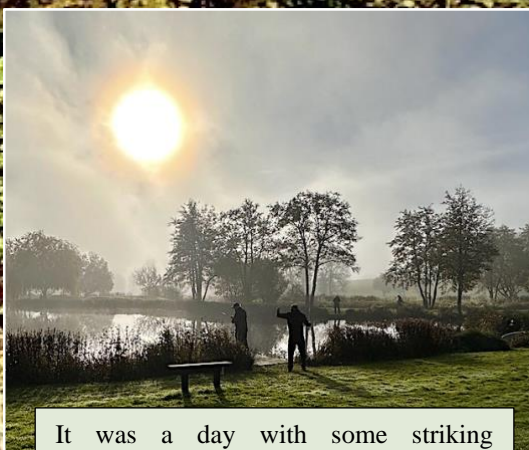
FLYFISHERS

DEVER SPRINGS

MATCH REPORT 11th November 2023



Joe seen here congratulating Peter Cockwill on the successful casting marathon he undertook at Syon Park where over £5000 was raised for **Fishing for Schools**. Peter also took time out to help Don Garners grandson Jack, and he gave Jack a gift at the end of the day.



It was a day with some striking atmospheric skies, as captured with some of Joe's great photography, that can be seen here and in the following pages.

Dever Springs
TROUT FISHERY



DAY CAPTAIN'S MATCH REPORT

Saturday 11th November saw the club's return to Dever Springs after a break of a few years. In fact, it was my first visit to Dever since I joined the club, even though it has become a favourite venue of mine in recent years. I've always enjoyed the challenge at Dever – never easy – but with the bonus of the potential to catch a truly memorable fish.

The weather at least was promising a wonderful day – the forecast had looked good and the early mist was lending a very atmospheric quality to proceedings. After a bit of chit chat and mince pies at the lodge things got underway a little after 9AM. The plan for the morning session was to rotate through 3 zones, with a break for breakfast after the second session and a chance to pay our respects on this Remembrance Day. The party of 23 included Don Garner's 16-year-old grandson, Jack, joining the club for the time, and keen to try his hand.

Things started promisingly, with early fish caught on Spring, and a few on Willow. Dever is one of those fisheries that can be a little peggy at times – with for example the bottom corner of Willow often seeing a lot of pressure. Certainly it pays to move around, and to keep changing things up if the fishing begins to slow. And as the mist lifted and the blue sky began to dominate, so the fishing did become more challenging. A few fish continued to be caught but generally perseverance was in order.

The fish that were caught were generally coming to lure patterns, but encouragingly fish on Spring Lake were also falling to Buzzers, Nymphs and Diawl Bachs. Late into the afternoon, and a personal highlight for me, Peter Cockwill picked out a smaller, spidery pattern from my fly box, a fly I had hitherto ignored – and demonstrated the benefit of fishing with very light patterns in the sub-surface. Within minutes a powerful fish had taken the fly and made a determined run out to the middle of the lake. I had line left of my spool, not much, but I was now at least holding the fish. Then seconds later my heart sank as the line slackened and the easy retrieve told me the fish had managed to free itself. But nevertheless, a clear illustration of the merits of using lighter patterns when the fish are active in the sub-surface layers.

By the weigh in at 3:30PM a total of 35 fish had been caught at an average of 5lb 7 oz per fish. The majority of fish were in the 4lb – 5lb bracket, with a sprinkling of larger fish and two doubles. Well done to Chris R-Clark for bagging 4 fish (the only angler to do so), and to Jack for catching his first fish with the club (which also happened to be bigger than his grandfather's fish, btw!). And well done to the prize winners – Peter Burdett for the biggest bag at 23lb 2oz for 3 fish, which included a lovely, upper single figure brown, and to David Brooke for the biggest fish of the day, a 12lb 8oz rainbow.

To close out, I think the club had a fantastic day. Yes, the fishing is probably more challenging than some of the other venues we visit, but personally I enjoy the challenge and I think we become better anglers for it. Peter Cockwill was also a fantastic host and made us all feel very welcome.

Tight lines

Stephen Argent. (Day Captain)



SECRETARYS REPORT November 2023

I am Sorry to say that there will be no Hon Secretary's Report in this issue. I have spoken to Michael who as you will know has undergone surgery. I am pleased to say he is doing very well and wishes to thank everyone for the good wishes, support, and concern that he has received.

Michael asked me to pass on his grateful thanks to Steve Argent for his excellent Day Captains Report and for stepping up and doing such a great job as Day Captain at Dever Springs.

Meon Springs, and our AGM on December 9th

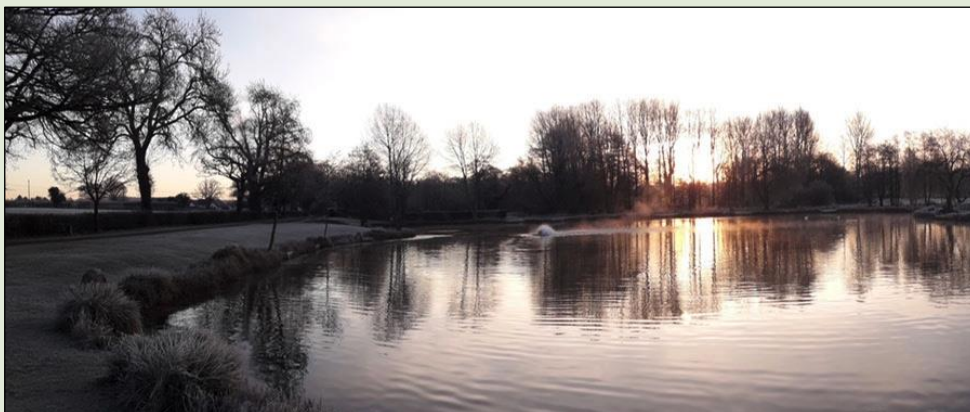
We will fish for The George Wilding Memorial trophy on the day for the first hour with a fly which we will provide. Full details of the day will follow later along with a copy of the proposed AGM agenda in good time before the 9th December.

Regards *Bill Berloth* Editor



Geoff Brookes paid a hospital visit to Michael Littlestone following Michaels recent procedure and was pleased to report that though still in a little pain Michael was on the road to recovery. No doubt his spirit cheered by the gift of spirits & Cheer given by Geoff on behalf of all SMFF club members.

Using the space normally reserved for Michael's report, I have shown more of Joe's atmospheric Photos. All these and others can be seen in **much clearer detail** on the **SMFF** web site. It is well worth a visit.



Proposed venues for 2024

Venues considered

Member Name :-

DATE 2024	Venue	Anticipated Cost	NOTES	Minimum Rods	Member view Yes / No if no what venue proposed
January 20th	Albury Weston	60+	Plus breakfast about £8. Able to also fish the Carp lake with barbless flies	15	
February 17th	Avon Springs	65+	Plus breakfast at new location assume £8-£10 no longer have use of on site catering other than tea and coffee	20	
March 16th	Coltsford Mill ?	60inc	includes full english breakfast fishery suitable for up to 18 rods very good facilities, reasonably priced	15	
April 13th	Rockbourne ?	90inc	Includes Breakfast roll consider a club subsidy would make it £80	20	
May 11th	Lakedown	55+	Plus breakfast approx £8	18	
June 15th	Reservoir TBC	£50+	plus breakfast on site approx £8 based on Farmoor choice subject to water temperature	no minimum, pairs	
September 28th	Chalk springs	£75inc	Includes a breakfast roll, our coice as it is spring fed and therefore should have good water temperatures	18	
October 26th	John O'Gaunts	£65+	Plus Breakfast about £10	20	
November 23rd	Dever Springs?	£90inc	not definate cost will not confirm till December	18	
December 14th	Meon Springs AGM	£65inc	able to use their meeting room FOC	20	

Notes

The above venues have been tentativeley booked subject to ratification at the December AGM, we would like your views on the above at least a full week before the AGM, we feel the venues selected offer a variety of both location and cost with one new venue at Coltsford Mill that will reduce the pressure on getting over 20 members to the event as this only requires 15-18 this is very good value for money, based on steep rising costs at fisheries this coming year.

We have highlighted the ones in yellow that we would like your confirmation of, the other venues have broadly been requested historically and have fished well, providing value for money. We have considered other venues such as Lechlade, but this is now £95 plus breakfast plus £25 if you wish to use a boat. This also requires a minimum of 25, which if we dont achieve would be a significant loss to the club!

We have not visited a reservoir this year but a number have indicated an interest in doing one, we have provisionally shown this as June 15th (subject to water conditions) this is a good time on the basis when water tempertaures are higher than normal, this year reached +20C in June we have a choice of Bewl, Ravensthorpe, Farmoor or Graffam. Please highlight Venue preferred or No if you do not wish to attend

Other comments you may wish to make about venue selection in general also if you would like a midweek event, but this is unlikely to be exclusive sole use, as unlikey to achieve minimum numbers

Dever Springs Results and Winners

1st Place: Peter Burdett

With a total 3 fish weight of 23 lb 2oz.

2nd Place: Dave Brooke

With the biggest fish weight of 12 lb 8oz.

Total Number of anglers 22
Total number of fish caught 35

(Geoff Brooks & Alan Martin Left early and did not record their catches, any fish they caught are not included in the above)

DAY SHEET - DEVER SPRINGS 11-Nov-23							
#	Name	No Fish	Fish 1	Fish 2	Fish 3	Fish 4	Total
1	Steve Argent	3	4.12	4.13	4.07		12.00
2	Colin Bateman	2	4.05(4)	4.07			8.08
3	Carl Bolding	2					
4	David Brooke	3	12.08	4.12	4.03		21.07
5	Geoff Brooks	2					
6	David Broome	2					
7	Peter Burdett	3	11.12				33.15
8	Alan Butler	1	4.15				23.02
9	Martin Eastment	2	5.06	5.10			10.15
10	David Cross	2	3.12	3.14			7.10
11	Lou Fine	2	9.10				9.10
12	Bob Fulton	0					
13	Summer DG	0					
14	Don Garner	2	8.12	6.01			14.13
15	Dave Haskins	2					8.17
16	Vic Holloway	2	4.08	5.00			9.08
17	Iain Laws	1	4.13				4.13
18	Alan Martin	1					
19	Steve Price	1	5.02				5.02
20	Chris R. Clark	4					18.08
21	Charlie Thomas	1	6.00				6.00
22	Joe Tufo	3	4.00	4.08	5.10		13.02

35 fish

7.41 190.08
Ann 5.02

Lucky Draw Raffle:

No record was kept of the prize winners, so no confirmation is available.

GALLERY



A Little Tip:

Fish the Hang

If you've ever fished a stillwater fly fishery with very clear water, you will know how many trout you can get following your fly to the bank without taking it. This is something that those of us who fish murkier stillwaters often miss.

Those following trout will often take the fly if you vary the retrieve halfway through the cast, but if that fails **Fishing the Hang** is the next best option.

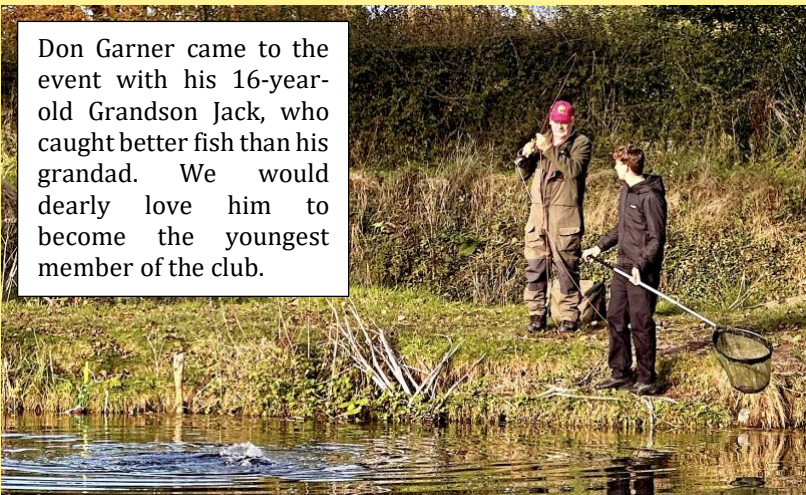
To do this, all you do is come to the end of your retrieve count to 10 stop while your flies drop to the bottom if anything is following it will often smash the flies as they “escape” to the lake bed or when you finally pull them slowly up through the water. **Hanging your flies at the end of the cast often results in a pull.**



GALLERY



The smallest fish of the day a lovely little Perch no more than 4 oz, possibly club record for the smallest fish on a fly as a St Michael event?



Don Garner came to the event with his 16-year-old Grandson Jack, who caught better fish than his grandad. We would dearly love him to become the youngest member of the club.



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

