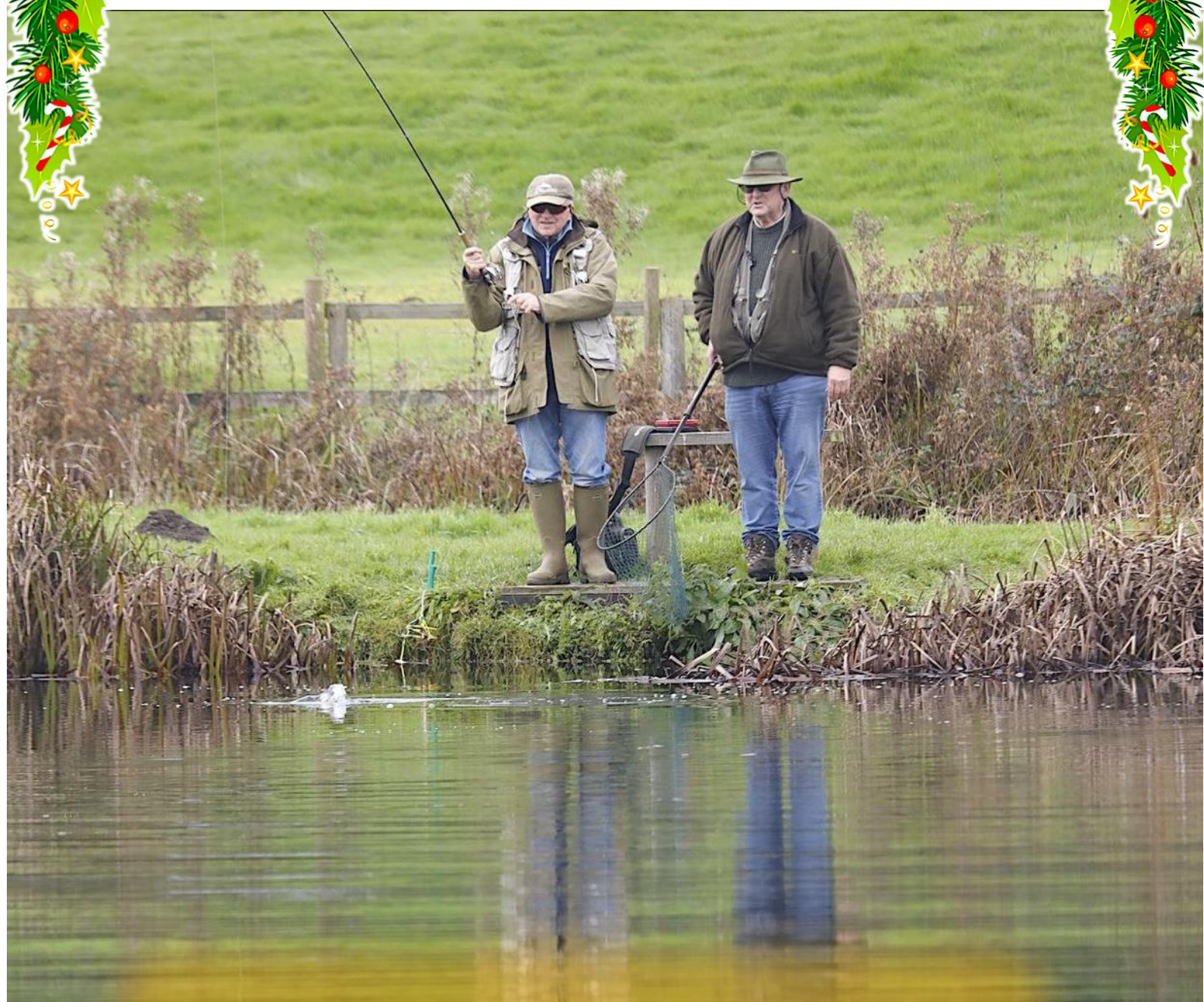


St Michael

FLYFISHERS



**AVON SPRINGS
MATCH AND AGM REPORT
DECEMBER 2021**



AVON SPRINGS DAY CAPTAINS' REPORT

With great expectation 23 of us arrived at Avon Springs for the last visit of the year. This is a fishery that ranks high on the list of favourites for many of the members and rarely if ever disappoints. Well managed and always immaculately clean and tidy it is a trip that we were all looking forward to.

With a drop in overnight temperatures it was not surprising to see some ice on the water first thing but with little wind the conditions looked favourable for a good day's fishing. To set us up for the day a full breakfast was served which was exceptional and well received. In advance Mike had requested the room to be well ventilated and masks to be worn and with encouragement to some this was observed. Thank you for everyone's co-operation in that regard. A vote of thanks was given to the chefs.

With nearly all present being familiar with the fishery yours truly gave a brief run-down of the 'rules' for the day, location sheets were dispersed to an eager and well fed bunch now hungry for a tug on their lines. With the fishery fishing consistently over most pegs in each zone and no more than 8 anglers in each zone decorum was observed, no running on the bankside was noted and the 9.30 horn sounded for the first of three 40minute sessions following which there would be free roaming.

It's fair to say that the fishing itself proved challenging to most. Maybe that change in temperature overnight had something to do with it. As they say, that's fishing. It can be a frustrating sport at times but if it was always easy where is the challenge? Joe Tufo had an 8 pounder early on with another of similar size but slightly larger by Brian Bloom. A couple of 5 pounders and a 4 pounder were brought to the scales. We extend a warm welcome to new member, **Charlie Thomas** who had a fish of 4lbs 8 ozs also the return of **Colin Mann** who was able to join us again after a long absence. As for the remaining 35 fish weighed in most were around the 2-3 pound mark and all in good condition. Your Day Captain was the only person lucky enough to land 4! On the fish front it perhaps did not match up to other days we have experienced but I heard no complaints.

With all weighed in, rods apart and tackle bags and fish in car boots it was back for more grub, prize giving for the day, the season and the AGM. The afternoon tea was great (I particularly liked the two tone sandwich selection). Removal of crusts was particularly welcomed by gummy members! Matching the quality of the breakfast the afternoons tea was also to be applauded.

This has nothing to do with the day itself, but I could not let it pass in this short report to reiterate the thanks of all members for the steadfast and tireless work undertaken by the Committee without who the Club would simply not function. I lay testament to the fact that I have already had 2 phone calls from Mr Littlestone reminding me that my report was overdue. You do a great job guys and you should be applauded by everyone who has the privileged to be a member of this Club.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, keep safe, stay positive in these trying times and I hope to see you all again fit and healthy in 2022.

Tight lines

Martin Eastment. Day Captain



Message from the PRESIDENT for 2022

Dear Members,

It was a great pleasure to find so many members who were able to attend our last outing and AGM.

What has been so obvious over the last year and showed again at our meeting, is the close understanding and rapport that exists between our members and their committee. To my mind this harmony does not happen by accident or any forced discipline, it is forged by friendship and trust built on a 34-year heritage under a relaxed atmosphere! That Harmony may well be our most cherished possession. The last two years have left us undamaged; Harmony has served us well.

May I send my best wishes to all members with the hope that we can continue to find that magical balance of friendship and fun – well into 2022

Geoff Brooks

December 2021

Chairman's Annual Review 2021.

Firstly, I'd like to personally thank all those members of the committee who have continued to support us by freely giving up their spare time to carry out the numerous tasks required to keep the club jogging along. It seems to me that during the past two crazy years, as a club we have come through really quite well, and its hugely down to the efforts of these members.

One of the most encouraging things to see this year is the way that we members have come together and heartily greeted friends, old and new at the start of a day's fishing. The warmth and friendship shared between us all is truly evident and a great reflection of our club's inherent friendship and spirit, long may this attitude prevail!

Continued

The past season's fishing has seen us visit old favourites and a new venue, which proved to be a great addition to our venue list. Along with the rejuvenated Rockbourne and Duncton Mill, we can happily add Lakedown to our future venue list.

Perhaps understandably attendance figures on some outings have not matched expectations, which, as we all know starts to stretch our ability to maintain our aim of attaining sole use of the fishery for the day. So on this front, I would ask all members to try to ensure that they come join us for as many outings across the season as possible. Also, we are keenly campaigning to attract new members – so if you know of a family member and friend who fancies trying their hand at flyfishing, please do pick a date and bring them along – you all know they will be very welcome.

Looking at the venue list for next season, I can see that we have a fine array of venues to visit across the season. Year 2022 will be our 35th Anniversary, and as a celebration we are planning a BBQ lunch during our trip to Rockbourne – personally I'm already looking forward to revisiting what is a truly lovely venue. However, not sitting on our laurels, we have three possible new venues which we'll be sending advance scouting parties to for future reference. If any member would like to suggest further possible additions, I can assure you that we'll be 'all ears'.

Finally, the committee have previously considered ways to enhance the social side of the club. Being relatively scattered in terms of where we live around London, it's perhaps asking a lot of members to attend a purely social event. Perhaps then, we could consider something during, or at the end of a day's outing or two? How would we feel for instance arranging a tackle auction to be held after a Spring/Summer trip? Or maybe stop fishing at lunch time and hold a BBQ [in addition to Rockbourne], with a return to fishing for those who wish a little later on? Views on this, and other suggestions are invited from all members please.

Kind regards,

Vic Holloway Chairman

AGM SECRETARY'S AGM REPORT DEC 2021

Yet another year when our fishing was somewhat affected by the pandemic. Once again our planned Lechlade outing in February was cancelled, that was two years running now, and we had to cancel Duncton Mill in March.

On the plus side we did manage 6 official club outings, including today, and 2 social ones. We also managed to get you some outside breakfast rolls with hot drinks when we were not allowed to go into the lodges, but since June we are hopefully back to our normal breakfast practice, COVID variants permitting.

Attendances were disappointingly down averaging just 17, however thanks to our excellent relationships with the fishery's we were able to have exclusive use, other than the 2 social ones. I really do hope next season will see more members attending as we strive to always have exclusive use of venues which makes our outings relaxed, and social. I am sure we don't want it any other way.

Just a few facts, and figures. not including today. 5 official outings accounting for 241 fish caught weighing 621 lbs of which our last outing to Meon Springs produced 62 of these, weighing 165 lbs with just 17 anglers, a truly great day. The best fish so far this season was 7lb 10oz at John O' Gaunt during the pairs competition.

The only new venue of the season was Lakedown on a rather wet day, but it truly is a beautiful fishery with three huge lakes. Again, with just 16 attending we were privileged to have the entire fishery to ourselves, apart from a couple of local anglers. I personally look forward to our visit in May next season. I know virtually everyone who attended last time wants to go again. We really need at least 20 members this time.

The two mid-week social outings were well attended, and I believe we should continue with this next season. I hope you agree.

Our fixture list next season is now almost finalised and will be presented during this AGM for your approval. We still are looking for one new venue, and your ideas will be welcome.

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The amount of extra work this year, to say the least, has been extremely challenging with all the chopping, and changing of venues, and trying to ensure we were at least able to give everyone a reasonable amount fishing. I have lost count of how many emails, and telephone calls I had to make, and must at this stage express my sincere thanks to Tom, we must have spoken virtually every day, often more than once, but between us managed to solve the queries over carried forward deposits, who were coming to venues, or not, and making sure we gave the fishery's the correct numbers for catering, especially as we now pay them the Thursday before the outing.

Finally, my thanks to all those members who acted as day captains, assisted at the weigh ins, and helped to clear up afterwards. If I have just one complaint to those who kindly offered to enter the weights etc on the weigh in sheet. PLEASE WHEN YOU ENTER THE FIGURES ON THE SHEET SOMETIMES YOUR WRITNG IS ILEGIBLE, OR YOU PUT THINGS IN THE WRONG COLUMNS, 😞😞 SO IF YOU SEE ANYTHING WRONG ON THE FINAL RESULTS SHEET DON'T BLAME ME. MAYBE YOU DO IT DELIBERATELY SO I WON'T ASK YOU AGAIN. HA HA.

So, to everyone here today, and those who were unable to join us I hope you have a good time over the festive season and look forward to seeing you all next year.

Michael Littlestone Hon Secretary.

Treasurers Report (A brief summary)

I am pleased to report that we have managed at the 2021 year end to show a small profit. As reported at the AGM, the final accounts will be prepared and ready for inspection at our February meeting at Lechlade. The final accounts will also be published in the members section on our web site.

I thank all the members for helping make my job as treasurer a little easier by using internet banking and their ongoing support of the raffle.

Tom Smith Treasurer

Nb. Financial details of the treasurer's report are available for inspection by SMFF members only and therefore not included in the match report.

AND THE WINNERS ARE?



The George Wilding Memorial Trophy awarded to Iain Laws
At Meon Springs where we all fished with the same fly for the first hour. With a fish of 5lb 10oz



The Pairs Trophy at John O Gaunt awarded to Bill Berloth & Joe Tufo
with a combined weight of 24lb 9oz



Special Award Cup awarded to Martin Eastman
With a bag of 15lb 8ozs at Rockbourne



For services to the SMFF Club an award of a Box of chocolates



The President's Trophy Awarded to Tom Smith
For his unwavering services to the Club and his excellent handling of the SMFF accounts



The Littlestone & Goodwin Rose Bowl is renamed the St Michael Memorial Trophy Awarded to Joe Tufo
In memory of Kevin, Godfrey, and Eddie this was won last April at Avon Springs with a bag of 12lb 6oz including a fish of 5lb 6oz.



End of Day Results Avon Springs December 2021



Best Bag of the day at 12lb 10oz:
Brian Bloom won a day ticket for John O Gaunt

Best Fish of the day @ 8lb 1oz:
Joe Tufo won a day ticket for Duncton Mill
Brian Bloom had a fish of 8lb 4oz but can't win two prizes

Raffle
Day Ticket for Avon Springs won by **Charlie Thomas**
Travel Expenses £30.00 won by **Dave Martin**
Christmas Hamper won by **Joe Tufo**
14 Other members won other prizes that had been kindly donated

GALLERY



GALLERY



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. Michael Littlestone who I thank 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.

MY THANKS TO YOU ALL

Bill Berloth