



Match Report  
**September 2021**

# St. Michael Fly Fishers

## Farmoor

*A welcome  
return to  
fishing after  
our summer  
break.*

*A late  
change of  
venue and  
it was off  
to fish  
Farmoor  
Reservoir*



**It turned out to be a glorious day and  
for Joe, matched by a glorious trout  
that put up a terrific fight.**

*(See Joe's account of the day on page 3)*

*A Foggy drive through the Oxfordshire countryside.  
A hearty full English breakfast, a chance to catch up  
with some old friends, followed by a day's fishing.  
What a wonderful way to spend a day!*

## COMBINED MATCH & SECRETARIES REPORT

After a foggy but reportedly quiet drive, we assembled promptly at the reservoir as the gates opened, tackled up and had one of Debbie's breakfasts with all the chatter befitting a group who largely had not seen each other for some time - was John O Gaunt's that long ago?

A quick briefing on the day and under the careful eye of Mark, from the fishery staff, we donned our life jackets and collected a boat. The administration being eased as the COVID restrictions bit; Mark had the boats ready fuelled and washed down so it was just a matter of climbing in and setting off. We set off into the fog, bound, without compass, for the nether reaches of the pond.

We agreed to return for a break about 1pm, swap stories and tactics. At this time some fish had been caught, more lost. A variety of flies had been used. It was felt generally that a sinking line was not effective and the usual patterns of damsels, montanas, dawl bach, buzzers had all been tried.

The day had turned out to be glorious, hardly a ripple on the water under a very bright, blue sky. No sign of the earlier fog but some sign of fish who, it appeared, were not that far down and occasionally feeding off the top. So, promising for the afternoon, so promising in fact that we introduced a change in programme. We held the Draw at lunch time; Joe Tufo won first prize of a Day Ticket for Farmoor, in part donated by the fishery, Alan Carlton, the Bottle of Wine (delivered by water taxi) and Colin Bateman a reel with spare spools.

We agreed not to have a formal weigh in, rather allow members to fish until they were ready to leave. To this end returns cards were given to every boat to ensure the fishery knew what we had caught but more importantly to ensure no one was left on the water when the gates were locked later in the evening!

As far as returns are concerned shall we just say it was a pleasant day on the water with a few frustrations and a fair bit of experimenting but most of all a good reunion getting ready for the remainder of the year.

The next meeting is Duncton Mill on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2021 for which we have 15 members who have expressed an interest. Plenty of room for more! That meet will be followed, in November, by Meon Springs with our competition.

*Tom Smith* (Day captain, acting host and deliverer of wine on the water)

## Farmoor Results and Winners

### Lucky Draw Raffle

**Joe Tufo:** A day ticket for Farmoor      **Alan Carleton:** A bottle of wine

**Colin Bateman:** A reel with spare spools.

**N.B. Considered a friendly day out at Farmoor, no overall record of fish caught, or weights of fish were recorded**

Arrived to thick fog temperature about 16C the crew all enthusiastic and excited to get out amongst the fish. Colin and I headed towards the top right-hand corner of the reservoir to find the water alive with rising fish. Could not spot anything other than small midges rising from the water. Around 11.30 as the fog had cleared, I started to notice Caddis Flies on the boat and shortly thereafter a red Dragonfly which emerged near to the boat and then landed on it, unfortunately was not able to get the camera out quick enough. By then we were surrounded by fish rising and showing at depths from 1.5 to 6m. I then switched from my sinking line to a very slow inter and fishing two droppers hooked in a fish on the Montana with a centre bodied gold bead, the front-end gold head did nothing. This fish then proceeded to wrap itself 4 times around the buoy rope, if it was not for the quick help and co-operation of Colin in disconnecting us from the buoy, I would almost certainly have lost it with a dropper catching the rope. I shortly thereafter caught on a small black and gold buzzer emerger, which was a lot more co-operative than its predecessor. After noon we found with the bright sun the fishing and rises tapered off with a good breeze. Still persevering having spent most of the day on sinkers in the last few casts of the afternoon found after just two casts my best trout about 4lb, see photo which took a rubber legged brown Goldhead daddy. This fish went ballistic tail walking and jumping over 2 feet out of the water 4 or 5 times. This trout took over 10 minutes to land and generated a great deal of adrenaline as by then we had lost a few fish. My boat partner Colin managed to catch a nice trout on a "Fab" which I had never seen before. All in all, the day and weather was wonderful if a little challenging especially in the bright sunlight.





# GALLERY

As always, we are  
very grateful to Joe  
for suppling the  
photo's

