

St Michael Fly Fishers MATCH REPORT

December 2017

Day captain Michael Littlestone

A cold winter sunrise over the water at LECHLADE

Cold Cold Cold !!

The expression Brass Monkeys came to mind as we put our rods up on a cold December morning. The day started with a few shocks to the system, My alarm ringing at 5.30am was the first, scraping ice from the car windscreen was the second and stepping out of a warm car at the fishery was the third. I was so pleased that I had packed my winter **fox-hat** (there is a joke in here for Kevin) and a few hand warmers, a few members who had poked fun of my **fox-hat** were soon asking how much it would cost to buy it from me. As the day was a no competition day there is no Day captain's report in this report.

Bill Berloth



End of day results LECHLADE

Winner: Best bag Martin Eastment
4 fish @ 42lb 12oz

Biggest Fish...
Brian Maguire & Martin Eastment who
both caught a fish of 13lb 2oz

Total number of anglers 22
With 31 fish taken

THE JUGS SHOWCASE

Congratulations are in order and though missing from the event and AGM Jugs was not to be forgotten. In his first full year with our club he managed a **HAT TRICK** taking the **LITTLESTONE ROSE BOWL** for the Best bag at any venue,

THE MEMBERS TROPHY for the top weight for the season.
HILTON CHALLENGE for the most fish caught during the season

If there were a prize for the sexiest knees he would have won that at well !!



Iain Laws presented with the prize for catching the fish closest to the secret weight



Martin Eastman presented with a prize for the biggest bag on the day at 42lbs 12oz.



Brian Maguire
THE SPECIAL AWARD TROPHY.
BIGGEST FISH OF THE SEASON.
He only managed to attend 2 outings plus of course today, but on our first event of the season here at Lechlade caught but one fish, a lovely rainbow of 12lb 13ozs.



Peter Burdett
THE MOST CONSISTENT ANGLER.
He attended every outing this season, and despite a handicap of 13lbs, and blanking at Avon Springs he consistently weighed in at every other venue.



Terry Burgess, and Bez Sahami.
THE JOHN FULLER PAIRS TROPHY.
This is the second season we fished for this at John O Gaunt. Won with a combined weight of 23lbs 13ozs



Bill Berloth
THE GEORGE WILDING MEMORIAL TROPHY.
Fished for at Meon Springs using the aptly named Consett Budgie, a type of fly George would have used. A superb 11lb 12oz Rainbow was tempted to take it from Bill's line.

Cormorant Control.



The Angling Trust wants to highlight the actual need for an increase in the total number of cormorants and goosanders permitted to be lawfully controlled throughout the UK to protect fisheries from predation by providing a realistic number to reinforce non-lethal protective techniques. We are now looking to expand this across the UK which is why we're now inviting recordings from England Scotland and Wales for the first time given the highly mobile nature of these birds.

Please help by visiting this page on the Angling Trust web site www.cormorantwatch.com/

AGM

AGENDA

29th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Of

The St Michael Fly Fishers LECHLADE 9th DECEMBER 2017

1. Welcome from the Chair.

2. Apologies of absence.

Jugs, Don Pope, Bob Smith, Ian Smith, David Toogood, Andy Nash, Geoff Brooks, Mike Stephens.

3. Minutes of last AGM held at Lechlade on Dec10th 2016 previously circulated Dec 2016 news letter
Matters Arising not covered by this agenda

4. Hon. Chairman's Report

5. Hon. Secretary's Report

6. Hon Treasurer's Report & Adoption of the provisional Accounts

7. Presentation of trophies

8. Election of Officers and Committee: - Presided over by Tim Small proprietor of Lechlade.

· Chairman Michael Stephens Prepared to stand again

· Vice Chairman Joe Tufo To be formally elected

· Hon Secretary Michael Littlestone Prepared to stand again

· Hon Treasurer Tom Smith To be formally elected

· General Members Kevin Doherty Prepared to stand again

To receive any notices of motion: -

a. Proposed by the Committee. Increase the annual subscription by £5 to £45

b. Proposed by the Committee. To increase the number of deposits required at the membership renewal stage to 6.

9. Programme for 2018. All venues have been booked, and confirmed.

10. Any Other Business at the Chairman's discretion

A late lunch will be served during the AGM.

Michael Littlestone HONORARY SECRETARY

Chairman's Report

Despite my best efforts to shake off the yoke of responsibility that comes with the office of Chairman I find myself still in harness at the end of this year. With Richard Harrison departing as both Treasurer

and Chair in waiting, the committee have had to rally round. Tom Smith stepped up and took on the role of Treasurer and I remained in post as Chair. This is a role I took on over 3 years ago. George Wilding approached me and asked if I fancied 'vice'. I eagerly agreed not realising he meant Vice Chair. After a couple of months I was promoted to Chair on a temporary basis and have been there ever since.

Overall a very reasonable season's fishing with Stephen Jug weighing in a very decent 118.46lb bag. Although the total number of fish was nine fewer than David Broome's 2016 count the overall weight was 10lb more. The lack of turnout at Bushyleaze meant this outing had to be cancelled as a club event which was disappointing but those that attended the 'unofficial' gathering enjoyed a good day.

It is unfortunate that some of our members and their families have been bedevilled with ill health over the past 12 months and I wish them all the very best for the coming year. This has had a small impact on our numbers at venues and this, added to poor turnout generally, has meant that to gain exclusivity of waters we have had to subsidise almost every outing this year. The effect of this is reflected in the balance sheet and has meant that we have been unable to effectively celebrate our 30th anniversary as a club. The Club will need to discuss how to reinvigorate the membership drive to gain a larger pool of members to help with numbers at events, and the stricter enforcement of deposit loss for no shows.

My thanks to the members of the committee who have enabled the Club to provide great fishing and great camaraderie over the past year and I sincerely hope that with the new proposed programme of venues for 2018 we will continue to do so.

Mike Stephens Chair 2017

SECRETARIES REPORT

We have had 8 competition events, plus of course today. Regrettably we had to cancel Bushyleaze last May due to lack of attendance, the first time in the club's history, other than for bad weather. Attendances have been poor with an average of just 17. This has meant the club has had to subsidise events fairly heavily this past year. More on this from our Treasurer in his report.

We weighed in a total of 1,174lbs not including today, with 320 fish brought to the scales. Last year it was 1,628 lbs, and 458 fish. Surely that tell a story.

The web site has been a success, however we should all make more use of it.

If you have tackle to sell, or want to let others know about your other experiences, fishing ones of course, send in an article, and we will publish it. How about 50 different ways to cook a trout? In all fairness, anything which will make the site more interesting. We are also in the process updating our Facebook Page, so if you use Facebook take a look, and comment on it.

I must thank Bill Berloth for his professional touch in publishing the monthly newsletter. What took me hours, he does in a fraction of the time.

Thanks to Joe also for the great photos, and to Emy now in Australia who uploads it all.

I have enjoyed being your secretary this past year, and thank you the members for your support in responding to my countless emails so promptly, helping at the weigh ins, and clearing up at the end of the day.

However, it will make my job a lot easier if you all make an effort to support the venues. We would like to have exclusivity at all our outings, but it's up to you to make this possible. I am sure we do not want to be at a venue sharing with others it will lose the camaraderie we experience now, and I fear the club could fold which I am sure we would all like to avoid. Yes, we need more members, and will endeavour to do this, but in the short term please try to come to as many venues as you are able. Many responded to our request to name your favourite fisheries, and from this we have decided to visit Avon Springs twice next year, and we have booked Avington next May. Decided not to have outings in July and August, and we will fish a reservoir in September.

I look forward to yet another year, and wish you all a very Happy Christmas, and a good, but more importantly a healthy New Year, and may your catches exceed your expectations.

Michael Littlestone.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The management of accounts for 2017 saw some turbulence; starting the year with Kevin Doherty who handed over to Richard Harrison. Richard left the club and I took over as acting Treasurer at Meon Springs in October and was duly elected Treasurer at the December AGM. We are all, of course, pleased to see Kevin back on the banks if not actually at the Bank!

Future reports will be made on a calendar basis for the period 1st January to 31st December. That being the case the report presented at the AGM is considered an interim report. The final audited report reflects the position of the Club as at 31 December 2017 and will be available to members during January. The interim report, however, contained sufficient information to give the Club some pointers as to how we should manage ourselves into and through 2018 and provided enough for meaningful debate by those members present during the AGM.

Summary The year to the AGM saw Income almost match expenditure showing a Bank balance slightly in excess of the balance at 1st January 2017. This lead was maintained even when the small number of creditors were taken into consideration.

Expenditure for December (AGM and meet), however, saw a planned for subsidy for the fishing with further expenditure for the AGM reducing the balance at Bank to slightly below that of 1st January 2017.

Income Income essentially comprises 3 elements, membership fees, meet fees and the raffle. Inspection of the accounts shows that it is important to ensure membership fees are paid on time, including any deposits. Deposits, of course, should be a considered commitment to attend a meet and these figures support our negotiations with the venues and where appropriate pay a deposit. Equally, continued support for the raffle provides the balance between making a meet pay for itself and the club providing a subsidy. Of course, on occasion the raffle also allows all those who buy a ticket to go home with a prize even if no fish are taken!

The meet fees are levied at a rate that should pay for the day and provide each of us with good value for money. The best examples this year were Duncton Mill, Avon Springs and Farmoor where we at least, after the raffle was taken into account, broke even or made a small profit which covered small subsidies at Chalk Springs and Meon Springs.

Expenditure The main expenditure is, of course, the cost of the venues and, where costed separately, breakfast. To be able to maintain meets at some of the best venues in the country and provide fishing at an acceptable cost to members the club has, of course, to provide a subsidy. The biggest subsidies this year have been for Lechlade (February and December AGM) and Dever Springs (November).

In addition to the meet costs are the actual running costs for the club. These remain quite modest. These are shown in the accounts as web services, badges, prizes and a relatively small amount for the calendars which were in the main paid for through contributions from Lechlade, Chalk Springs and Dever Springs to whom we express our thanks. A selection of interesting, worthwhile prizes is being carried over into the 2018 year.

Discussion We need to continue to provide for meets at attractive venues and provide us all with an enjoyable and varied fishing experience. We need to ensure that all meets are fully supported. To this end membership fees and deposit contributions are an essential part of making such arrangements; cash for negotiations and an indication of numbers. Ideas for venues, and indeed any other benefits, along with possible contacts, will be welcomed from any member.

Balance of Accounts. The balance of accounts is available to members.

Recommendation In making this report I recognise the efforts of everyone who, not only working on a meet day, works behind the scenes, in their own time and at some cost to themselves, to make this club a success. It is up to us all to support this work by making best effort to attend the meets so that we can continue with exclusive use at a venue and to encourage other to join the club.

I commend this report to the members.

Tom Smith

Treasurer

December 2017

GALLERY GALLERY GALLERY GALLERY GALLERY GALLERY GALLERY GALLERY GALLERY GALLERY
Thank you Joe for all the great photo's that you have taken this year.

