

October 12th 2019

Day Captain: Vic Holloway

St Michael Fly Fishers

Match Report

DUNCTON MILL



DAY CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Well despite the dire forecast of rain, rain and more rain, the legend of The South Downs rain shadow did us proud. The weather for the day held good, with only a few outbreaks of the lightest drizzle, and the lightest of breezes blowing the lightest of ripples across Rosies Lake. That is until just after three when the end of the day was sounded when the heavens started to open – what more could we have asked for!

As for the fishing, well as always Duncton is not the easiest of places to take trout, and with Martin informing us that the individual limit for the day was five fish, apparently the trout had not been feeding well across the summer and has lost weight. The fishy omens were not set well. However, proceedings soon took matters into their own hands when Iain Laws landed a superb Brown Trout from Rosies Lake, on I think a Damsel. What with this and members starting to trickle from Birch [having caught their two trout before having to move onto a different lake [day captains rule for day] the mornings tally was clearly amounting.

On the day prospective member Steve Frost joined us, along with a guest of Joe's Brian Quearney – both of whom took their fair share of fish, and have since reported that they both thoroughly enjoyed the day, both Steve, and Brian wish to become members, so welcome both of you.

Come the usual excellent breakfast that Caroline has always served, most members seemed happy with the way things were proceeding, this being backed up by the news that the planned sale of Duncton Mill had fallen through and that Martin and Caroline will still be in residence until next Summer at least, cheered us all still further.

For the second half of the day we reverted to the usual free roaming style, with the proviso that members who had taken two fish from a single lake earlier give it a wide berth until later in the session.

Congratulations to David on this point - having taken two fish from both Rosies and Alder lakes in the morning session, he persisted in fishing Coot Lake this despite there being little sign of trout feeding. He duly took a rainbow, explained to Geoff quite how to tackle them, Geoff going on to land two further trout from the same lake – a fine example of quite what our club is about I think.



On a similar note, our other guest for the day Brian braved a cast or two in Alder Lake – despite the gin clear and extremely weedy conditions he duly hooked a fish only to lose it at the net – clearly a new member with some considerable trouting skills up his sleeve!!

Having pulled the leg of Bez in the morning regarding his past exploits at taking specimen brownies from Duncton, he went and did it again just to prove me right. In his usual casual way, with a wry smile, he brushed past me with his landing net bulging with a superb brownie taken from Birch Lake! Well done Bez, the legend lives on. From my view I will call him Mr. Brownie from now on.

The day finished with us amounting sixty odd trout, and with the club being able to show off our casting skills – Geoff having kindly arranged to set up a knock the cans off the table casting. Despite the rain falling cats and dogs most of us had a bash, with Alan Butler clearing the table. Well done, and thanks again for the all your efforts Geoff, a great idea, and one that ended the day perfectly.

Oh and congratulations to Iain, with his big brownie of 5lb 4ozs in the bag, he won the biggest weight for the day with 4 fish for 10lb 4ozs, does this signal that Mr Brownie has a rival in the brown trout stakes? Well perhaps not, as Bez's Brown weighed 6lb 7ozs.

Vic Holloway Day Captain

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Following our lengthy summer break 9 of us turned out on September 21st for the reservoir venue, originally meant to be at Ravensthorpe, but hastily transferred to Pitsford as the former was suffering from very low water, and an algae problem. We were told it was fishing it's head off, well it didn't. The day was the last hot one of the summer, very sunny, and a stiff breeze. Of the nine anglers, six of us didn't touch a fish all day. Brian Bloom, my boat partner, caught a lovely 4lb Rainbow early on, but that was it. Just Peter Burdett, and Dave Broome managed a few fish close in to the dam wall at the far end of the fishery, a lovely 5lb Brown to Peter. Anyway it was a nice day out, and as they say, there's no such thing as a bad day's fishing.

Moving on, Duncton Mill saw a good turnout of 21, and Vic's day captain's report within this newsletter says it all. The final results of the day can be found under the members section of our website, which is password protected. If anyone doesn't remember it, email me and I will advise.

Membership: We have had some five enquiries from our flyer that had been left at various fisheries. I have been in touch with everyone, and invited them to attend one of our outings. To this end Steve Frost came to Duncton, and has decided to join. I hope others may come to Meon Springs. In addition a guest of Joe's, Brian Quearney, also came to Duncton, and also wishes to join. A warm welcome to both.

Tackle for sale: We still have several items of Kevin's, and Godfrey's wife has given me some of his. All being well we will bring this along to Avon Springs in December. I will e mail a list to everyone well in advance with an idea of prices.

TROPHIES: WILL ANYONE HOLDING ONE PLEASE BRING IT TO MEON SPRINGS, OR ARRANGE TO GET IT BACK TO ME SO THEY CAN BE ENGRAVED IN TIME FOR THE AGM.

Last, but by no means least we need to book our venues for next year, and at least one, or two new ones would be good. If you have any ideas I would be pleased to hear from you.

The bankers are Lechlade in Feb, Duncton Mill in March, Avon Springs in April, A reservoir in May ?, John O Gaunt in June. That leaves September open, and weather dependent, October could be Duncton again, do we want to go there twice? November to be decided, and finally our AGM in December at Avon Springs which seems to be popular with all of us.

One other thought, would you like a midweek outing, probably a Wednesday, Barn Elms is a possibility, but I would need to book it early. **Your comments would be welcome please.**

I look forward to seeing you all at Meon Springs on 16th November.

Michael Littlestone Club Secretary



Thinking that the were leaving SMFF presented Martin & Caroline with gift's to thank them for their support over the past years



End of day results

Winner Best bag of the day

Iain Laws 4 fish for 10lbs 4 oz

Biggest Fish Bez Shahmi 6lbs 7oz

Travel expenses: won by Dave Broome

Iain Laws: Was presented with his travel expenses from April at Avon Springs

Number of anglers 21
Number of fish caught 62

GALLERY



Thanks once again to Joe Tufo for the photo's taken on the day.