



## AVON SPRINGS

### AGM DEC 2019

- A pleasant start to the day with,
- A good breakfast in very comfortable surroundings.
- A chance to catch up with old friends.
- A shared fishing story or two.



## Day Captains Report

Having endured below freezing temperatures earlier in the week, and heavy rain two days later the gods smiled on us, and we had perfect fishing weather for this our last outing of the season. 22 of us enjoyed a hearty breakfast prior to starting fishing at 9.30. Guest, past Chairman Mike Stephens, having burst a tyre the previous evening managed to get to us around 11.30 so then we were 23.

We divided the fishery into three zones that we would each fish once for 35 minutes, catch just one fish from a zone, and move to your next zone when the hooter went. Within minutes fish were coming to the net from every zone, and to a variety of flies including Damsels, Cats Whiskers, Black, and green combinations etc etc.

From 11.15 it was free roaming, same rules, catch one fish from a zone, then move to another zone. Still fish kept coming, rods bending everywhere, and with blue skies appearing, it was actually getting quite warm. So it continued until weigh in time at 2.15. In fact many of us had caught our limit well before then, and weighed in.

Come the final weigh in we had caught 74 fish with a total weight of 292 lbs, amongst them two fish over 7lbs, five over 6lbs, and a few around 5lbs. There can be no doubt the stocking on the Wednesday ensured the fish were spread around the lakes, for this my sincere thanks to Barrie John, who once again did us proud with superb quality fighting trout.

Best bag of the day Bill Berloth with 4 fish weighing 21lbs, including one of 6lbs 1oz, and best fish of the day Brian Bloom 7lbs 6ozs. Well done to them both.

The final results sheet will available to view under the members section of our Web Site which will be published soon. My thanks to those who assisted me at the weigh in, which I always appreciate. We most certainly ended our season on a high.

Lets hope for an even better one in 2020.

*Michael Littlestone & Tom Smith*

## SECRETARIES REPORT

I started my report last year by saying it had been a season of highs, and lows. This year it has undoubtedly been one of highs.

I don't know if not having the league table has contributed towards it, but attendances are up from an average of 17 last year to 22 at each of the six lake outings this season. I have not included the two reservoir outings as many members don't like boat fishing, however 16 at Farmoor was a good turnout, but just 7 at Pitsford, as we had to move from the planned Ravensthorpe venue due to low water, and an algae problem. Fishing proved very difficult at both, but in the main most of us are not reservoir anglers, but just enjoy the odd day out in a boat. Maybe Bill would like to give us some tuition. He, and his boat partner had some 25 fish to the boat at Farmoor. You just have to keep moving to find them. However I would add Farmoor restocked the day after our outing. SHAME

Looking quickly at the six outings, Lechlade February with 28 anglers produced 42 fish, and I know some of the Croxley club did not weigh in. Best fish of the day 12lbs 15ozs. Dunton March 22 of us with 63 fish. Avon Springs April with 19, caught 64 fish, best one 7lbs 12ozs. John O Gaunt June with 20, 70 fish. Dunton in October, 21 members caught 62 fish with Bez, yet again becoming the Brownie expert with one of 6lb 7ozs. Finally Meon last month with 21 of us netting 80 fish, among which were 2 over 6lbs, 2 over 5, and quite a few 4 pounders. So all in all we weighed in some 400 fish way above the 296 last year. I hope we have offered you excellent value at all the venues this season, and will continue to do so next year.

Just five trophies were allocated for this season, which we will present later on this afternoon

The new raffle lucky draw raffle seems to be popular with a day ticket, travel expenses, and normally an additional third prize.

However I am aware, from the odd comment, that it would be appreciated to award the top weight of the day, and the best fish of the day with something. So starting today, other than when a trophy is awarded for either of the above, we Chancellor TOM and Fishery Secretary Michael (IF ELECTED TODAY ) will guarantee this will happen, so you had better vote for us

Now moving on to venues for next year, which is on the agenda, we feel, other than our favourites, we should have two new venues. We will welcome your views on those we have suggested when we come to this item shortly.

On the membership front we have gained 5 new ones, but sadly lost dear Kevin, Godfrey and Eddie. We miss them dearly.

Before I close my thanks to Geoff, as acting Chairman, for all he has done to steer us in a slightly different direction. Its working, and I find our outings are becoming far more social, and enjoyable. To Tom my sincere thanks for all your help, it has been very much appreciated, thank god all mobile calls are free these days. To Bill for his excellent newsletters, and if I am a bit late in sending him my secretaries report, don't I know it. Last but by no means last Joe for the many many conversations we have over the year about one thing, sorry thing or another. My thanks also go to all those who acted as Day Captains, and to all who helped at the weigh in's, all of which makes my task a little easier.

I look forward to yet another year as your secretary, and take this opportunity of wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas, and a good, but more importantly, a Healthy, and Happy New Year with very Tight Lines

*Michael Littlestone* Hon Secretary

### End of day results Avon Springs

**Best Bag: Bill Berloth 4 fish at 21 lbs**

**Biggest Fish: Brian Bloom 7lb 6oz**

**Lucky Draw.**

**Christmas Hamper Steve Frost**

**Avon Springs day ticket Joe Tufo**

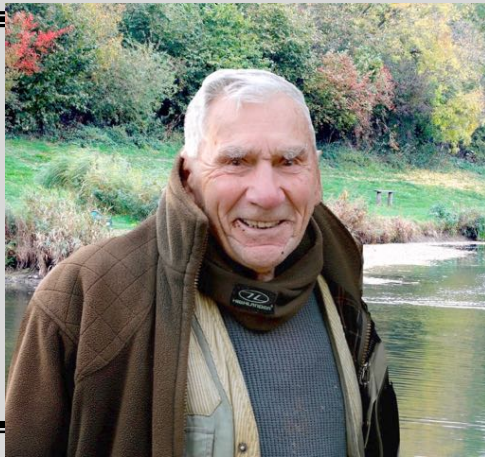
**£30 travel expenses Ian Kelly**

**Bottle of Wine Bill Berloth**

**Total number of anglers 23  
Total Number of fish caught 74**



## A St Michael Tribute to EDDIE EDWARDS



Words alone cannot express our love, and affection we had for dear Eddie.

Eddie's love of fishing led him to join St Michael Flyfishers many years ago.

In recognition of his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday we made him an `Honorary Life Member, as did Croxley Green Flyfishers, the other club he belonged to.

He regularly attended virtually all of our outings, and it was not until he was well into his 90's he decided to miss out those during the winter months. Every other time he would join us. Fiercely independent, and declining assistance, off he would slowly wander off to find a spot, and start fishing. If there was a bench to sit on he would use it, but if not would stand for hours, and when one asked, how are you doing Ed, he would say, always with a wry smile on his face, NOT BAD, NOT BAD missed a few takes, but I have got one, (pause) or two (pause), or three.

Despite having a few falls at home he still insisted on coming to our outing last October. We told him just stay in one place, don't move, but Eddie being Eddie moved off to another lake where he sat down, and fished for the next couple of hours.

How can we sum up our dear friend. He never swore, generous to a fault, honest, loved his food, adored animals, would always feed any dogs that were at the fishery, but most of importantly he was a friend to everyone of us.

We will all miss him terribly, and may his dear soul rest in peace.

With so much love from the Members of the

St Michael Fly Fishers.



## AGENDA

1. Welcome from the Chair.
2. Apologies of absence. Jugs, Rob Wise, John Ireland
3. Minutes of last AGM held at Avon Springs on Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 2018 previously circulated Dec 2018 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 our President Geoff Brooks
  - Chairman Vic Holloway To be formally elected
  - Vice Chairman Joe Tufo To be formally elected
  - Hon Secretary Michael Littlestone Prepared to stand again
  - Hon Treasurer Tom Smith Prepared to stand again
  - Committee Member Terry Burgess Prepared to stand again
  - Committee Member Martin Eastment. Prepared to stand again
9. Programme for 2020. To be agreed. See page 2
10. Any Other Business at the Chairman's discretion  
Afternoon tea will be served during the AGM.

## Chairman's report to the St Michael Fly Fishers Annual General Meeting December 2019

As club President my position is an **honorary** one and not an executive one, but I have obligations to be available as an advisor and support the club's activities. However being asked to take the Chair as an interim measure over the last 18 months has been an honour.

In the middle of 2018 I found the club to be a little static & the atmosphere stale, not unsurprising as we had lost our best chairman ever, followed by a deputy ready to leave! With the committee's firm support we have used the time since to update some of our procedures and added some other elements to take us forward, whilst all the time checking the membership for **their reaction**. So I will be able to stand down as this season ends with the hope that you will elect my successor into the Chair as the obvious choice to guide the high standards of this Club. I have spent my time **Looking back** as well as looking forward, some things to put right. We ditched the lengthy league tables, a time - consuming ounce perfect record of every fish that we encountered over the year in favour of **noting each outing on our website, and putting up trophies at some of them**. The club's trophies are now well distributed across all of our venues. We also took out the old style outing raffle where we waited along an endless 'ticket put backs' for cheap prizes that nobody wanted, choosing now instead to have a Quick Draw for 1 or 2 really worthwhile prizes, usually a Full Day complimentary day ticket and your day's travel expenses. We tried our hardest to leave a promotion leaflet at any and every fishery visited to attract new members and we also suffered two severe unexpected losses – our dear friends Kevin & Godfrey. We embarked on a bold scheme to enhance the club's financial position; with loyal support from members to form a Reserve Bond Fund, ensuring that the club now had a dedicated backer solely in place to protect the clubs interest. Thank you for your trust.

I am told by our **treasurer, and secretary** that we have had a good year as far as support and attendance is concerned, I hope that the day's have been enjoyable and that you will recommit to the people responsible, Michael for 'never missing a trick' with his organising (or apologising quickly if he does). To Joe for his enthusiasm and skill in taking the role (without a badge) of all of our promotion and recruiting efforts. You may not realise it fully but Bill Berloth is another talented and unsung hero of the club, never failing to step in with the quickest turnaround of any graphics on demand. Thank you Bill, I will get you on the committee 'one day'!

My final thanks to my committee club-mates who have seen us through our season smoothly, my thanks to Tom Smith our Treasurer who always amazes me with his calm demeanour, how can someone with so much on his mind at times never get rattled. I have been in your debt this last year.

Thanks to all who returned the survey to help us judge if we were going in the right direction.

My final thanks is of course to the members of this unique club; in fair weather and foul, as Kevin Costner said "If you build it, they will come" One of the most reliable group of friends I have come across!

**Looking forward.** We have updated the Formal Constitution of the Club, it was last reviewed in 2004 & needed to comply with various banking and formal requirements. The Secretary can supply copies if you wish to see our Statement.

**Looking forward again.** The last piece in my Jigsaw is that we find a volunteer to take on a job as important as any. Let me call him our Safety officer. The club lacks a positive attitude to our common safety for FIRST AID & Risk Management. I have the brief and requirements ready to help however, I do not have the man.

I hope that you will find favour as I have, and re- elect your committee and support our new Chairman. I hope that we will continue to satisfy our clubmates and find new members and new friends. I have an open encouragement from the committee to see if we can open up a route for new young members (and their Dad's to join this unique club), watch this space if you would like to help!

*Geoff Brooks* President St Michael Fly Fishers



# Treasurers Report 2019

I have the honour as Treasurer, to present the financial report for the 11 months January 2019 to November 2019. I intend this year not to produce a bedside book of this report rather a summary of a very successful year both for the fishing, as you have just heard, and for my part of the ship.

Because of certain events, which I will address shortly, I have decided, with your approval, to present the final accounts at the AGM in December rather than wait until after the AGM and complete the audit in January. The figures represent the club today and should give you a good view on the position and a good indication of how we manage our way through.

**The full financial report can be found under the Members Page on the SMFF web site.**

*Tom Smith* Hon Treasurer



## PRIVACY POLICY STATEMENT

Your privacy is important to us but as a member of St Michael Fly Fishers we do need to keep you informed of any membership activities, meets, events and general fishing matters. We therefore hold certain contact details for you so that we can achieve this.

The following details, which you have previously supplied, are, from a Club point of view, held only by the Secretary and Treasurer and will never be used for any purpose to which you have not formally agreed. Any bank details or other personal data are not retained. No personal data be forwarded without your written permission, other than as required under English law.

Details retained are:

- Name
- Address
- Email address
- Telephone number

Individually, you may, of course, hold contact details for colleagues on an informal basis and that is a matter for you and your colleagues.

Details of former colleagues, except in certain rare circumstances, are not retained. Where details are retained the individuals will be notified separately, in writing.

You will also be aware that we publish, in a restricted-access, members-only area on the website, details of meet results and a reminder of deposits paid for planned events. We also publish, on the website, photographs taken at our various venues along with the latest meet report which may contain names.

If you choose to allow us to continue to hold these contact details and use them to keep you informed as described and are also happy for us to publish the details described, you need do nothing.

If you do not wish us to hold these details or publish as described, please inform me as soon as possible in writing. Your request will be acknowledged.

For your records you may contact me for support in any Data Protection related matters, or indeed any Club matters, on the following: [liztom@btinternet.com](mailto:liztom@btinternet.com) or 077 9209 8167

with Best Wishes for the new season and Tight Lines,

*Tom Smith* Hon Treasurer      01 December 2019



# St Michael Fly Fishers CONSTITUTION

Under the agreed articles 1 to 18:

1. The name of the club shall be **ST MICHAEL FLY FISHERS**.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

2. Membership is open to written applications on recommendation of two current subscribing members. Membership will be confirmed by a majority decision of the committee accepting either a full or half year subscription depending on the joining date. No multiple nominations will be accepted. Proposers would be expected to introduce an applicant as a guest in the first instance.
3. No joining fee is required but annual subscriptions are non-returnable except by a unanimous committee decision.
4. Existing members of St Michael Fly Fishers are to be automatically accepted. Membership will initially be restricted to 40 members.
5. Junior members from 8 to 15 years are accepted with no fees or subscriptions being payable except, on a committee decision, to help towards fishery costs.
6. Membership is renewable each year on 1<sup>st</sup> February by committee invitation and written acceptance including the agreed fee for the forthcoming season. Membership returns not received and accepted by 1<sup>st</sup> March will, by unanimous committee decision, be voided and the available place offered to a waiting list applicant.
7. The club shall be incorporated with THE ANGLING TRUST.

## **OBJECTIVES**

8. In following the accepted ethics and sportsmanship of fly fishing in company of others and sharing and enjoying the experience and promoting harmony within the Club, the objectives of the club are:
  - To further the members interest in fly fishing,
  - To help towards the education of interested people,
  - To work with fisheries and assist with environmental projects related to the fishing community.

## **INSURANCE**

9. Subscribing members shall join the Club's defined Group Insurance scheme and accept that as sole recovery in any claim against the Club.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

10. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held after the last club meeting date for the season by way of 15 days' notice.
11. The AGM shall elect, by a majority show of hands, at least 4 members to form a committee. At the committee's discretion further members may be co-opted onto the committee and, subject to approval at an AGM, added to the committee as a full member. Committee members shall serve for one year and be eligible for re-election. The following appointments will be made:
  - Chairman,
  - Secretary,
  - Treasurer.
12. The AGM will receive officers' reports as follows:
  - Chairman's report,
  - Secretary's report. This will include the proposed activities and provisional costs for the forthcoming season to be discussed and approved by members,
  - Treasurer's report. The Treasurer will present the audited accounts for the past season as at 30 November. The Treasurer will provide a cash flow forecast for the forthcoming season.
13. The proposed annual subscription for the forthcoming season shall be presented for members' discussion and approval.

## **OFFICERS' DUTIES**

14. **CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN** (when appointed)
  - To organise and Chair the Annual General Meeting,
  - Direct the election of the committee,
  - Chair committee meetings,
  - Obtain approval for the season's activities,
  - Appeal for sponsorship,
  - Direct a season budget.

# St Michael Fly Fishers CONSTITUTION Con:

## 15. SECRETARY

- Maintain the Club records and minutes of the AGM and Committee meetings,
- Book venues,
- Organise each event with fishery management. These to include refreshment arrangements,
- Manage arrangements for monthly newsletters and communications with members,
- Organise lunch sponsors and Day Captains,
- Maintain any competition records and produce end of season results,
- Manage the Club trophies,
- In Liaison with Treasurer:
  - i. Confirm prize arrangements,
  - ii. Collect annual subscriptions and deposits,
  - iii. Arrange annual Liability Insurance,
- In Liaison with Day Captain:
  - i. Produce peg sheets where applicable,
  - ii. Produce weigh-in sheets,
  - iii. Produce instruction pack for Day Captain,
  - iv. Obtain end of day results sheets.

## 16. TREASURER

- Responsible for Club accounts and funds and any subsidy arrangements,
- Management of the Club bank account,
- Prepare and present the end of year accounts,
- Liaise with Club Secretary regarding cash flow,
- Collect meet fees with Day Captain,
- Collect subscriptions and deposits for the forthcoming season.

## 17. DAY CAPTAIN

- **BEFORE VENUE**
  - i. Confirm with Secretary arrangements for
    - 1. Day prizes,
    - 2. Format for the day,
    - 3. Costs,
    - 4. Attendance.
- **AT THE VENUE**
  - i. On Arrival
    - 1. Confirm fishery rules with the fishery manager,
    - 2. Confirm refreshment arrangements with fishery manager /sponsor,
    - 3. Conduct briefing for members attending.
  - ii. At refreshment break
    - 1. In conjunction with Treasurer assist with collection of meet fees,
    - 2. Co-opt a weighing assistant,
    - 3. Brief members on the arrangements for the remaining time (if necessary).
  - iii. At the End of the Day
    - 1. Record catch returns,
    - 2. Present day results,
    - 3. Liaise with Secretary over results and any "news".

## PROVENANCE

18. This 2019 version of the Constitution replaces that dated September 2004 and is approved by the Committee before presentation to the AGM on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

Signed on original

Hon Secretary on behalf of the members of St Michael Fly Fishers



# AND THE 2019 WINNERS ARE:



Bill Berloth was presented with the Presidents trophy for Services to the club



**THE LITTLESTONE ROSE BOWL. BEST BAG AT ANY VENUE.** At our first outing of the season last February at Lechlade they both managed to bag up with four fish each weighing 32lbs 6ozs. You have to share the



**THE SPECIAL AWARD TROPHY. BIGGEST FISH OF THE SEASON.** With a lovely Rainbow weighing 12lb 15ozs caught at



**THE JOHN FULLER PAIRS TROPHY.** John O Gaunt. With a combined weight of 23lbs 15ozs the top pair were Joe Tufo and his Guest PJ



**THE GEORGE WILDING MEMORIAL TROPHY.** With a magnificent fish of 6lbs 6ozs the trophy is awarded to Joe Tufo



**THE MEMBERS TROPHY**  
Awarded for the best bag at Duncton Mill last March with a 4 fish limit of 10lbs 1 oz including a Brown of 5lb 3oz **Terry Burgess.**

**THE MOST CONSISTENT TROPHY**  
Awarded for the best fish here at Avon Springs last April weighing 7lbs 11ozs. Again **Terry Burgess**

## Letter from a new Member

Dear Michael

I just wanted to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to fish with the club. I have enjoyed 3 sessions now and it has been a pleasure to join the club on a variety of waters. I have found the members very friendly and helpful, from just chatting over breakfast to dispensing fishing advice at the bankside and even passing on "guaranteed killing flies", the guys have been top fishing companions. It is obvious to me that the club is very well run and is centered around providing a great fishing experience for the members (and a good breakfast). All this and then I won the wonderful hamper in the raffle last Saturday, my only regret is that I didnt find St Michaels Flyfishers earlier.

Please pass on my sincere thanks to the committee for doing a great job. Once again thank you for inviting me to join the club, I'm really looking forward to next year.

Tight Lines and a Merry Christmas to all.





# GALLERY





To see the great photo's that Joe took on the day in more detail visit the Club Web site.