



# 30 YEARS



A case of history repeating it's self. The last time the club fished Avington was in October 2012 when we celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Our day captain *this* time was Geoff Brooks, the following is his account of the day.

## AVINGTON A GREAT WAY TO CELEBRATE



### Another milestone for St Michael Fly Fishers



**SPOOKING FISH.** Excited to be fishing at AVINGTON at last! Must be more than a dozen years since I fished here last and probably the longest journey for some of us - but mostly motorway to make it easier to arrive for our 8-30 start.

The weather man was spot on with a good weather forecast which managed to hold on until the rain arrived late afternoon .

The Fishing? Well Avington offers a fighting quarry! The fish don't give in easily – even the four to five pounders give a really good account of themselves.

As a Social venue it was the perfect place for us to go for our 30th Anniversary outing! A well-managed fishery – plenty of good food –attentive staff – providing a cheerful service; even the guy with the worst job – gutting our fish, 'Was on it ' as my Grandson says.

I stood next to Joe at one point as he netted a fish; then stood back and looked at it! " Got a humpback hasn't it "? He asked me. "Don't worry I replied – just tell the staff and they will change it for another one".

**Lake one** had a little colour in it, you can usually see the bottom; but the inlet was running hard and not much chance of spotting fish apart from the occasional one nearer the surface.

**Lake two** – the most favoured and proved most productive, with the deeper bottom end working to a retrieved fly, although our sleuths picked up quite a few close in and under the trees.

**Lake three** – Always a test of patience, and so it was today – with the fish hiding in the weed and playing 'catch me if you can'.

I didn't hear of any killer flies – with most of us looking in our boxes – For me, a small Yellow Dancer and a smaller still grey Damsel worked in the morning – after that I had a quiet walk! A great day to remember our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Angling and great to be there.



**Geoff Brooks** - Day Captain

## SECRETARY'S REPORT MAY 2018

Great to see 27 of us at Avington, virtually the whole club, and I am sure we all enjoyed the day. My thanks to Geoff for acting as day captain, and to all of you for supporting the raffle, and donating prizes. The final results will appear on our web site shortly, and will be found under the member's section. With the Avington team recording the weights for us I found it somewhat confusing in collating everyone's results, and apologise for any errors.

We bid a fond farewell to our Chairman Mike who is now living in Yorkshire, and perhaps he will let us know about his fishing experiences in that part of the world that we can publish on our web site. We were also delighted Kevin was able to join us, and managed to bag up.

During afternoon tea it was suggested some of us might like a midweek trip to Ravensthorpe in early July, and I will be sending an email to everyone about this.

On the membership front we have received an enquiry from a father, and son who saw our poster at Dever. All being well they will join us as our guests at Meon Springs in October with a view to becoming members next year.

Next outing on June 9<sup>th</sup> is the Pairs Competition at John O Gaunt, and although I will not be there, details will be advised shortly. Following that it's the Summer break till September when we go to Farmoor, so may I, on behalf of your Committee wish you, if you are going away, or just staying at home an enjoyable time, and look forward to seeing you all in September.

*Michael Littlestone*

## WHO WE ARE AND WHERE DID WE COME FROM.

**St Michael Fly Fishers Club** was first established by a group of Marks and Spencer staff who had a love of Fly Fishing. Today **St Michael Fly Fishers Club** is made up of a few founding Staff Members and Friends of Marks and Spencer and is proud that it has reached its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This milestone event for the club was celebrated by holding an Anniversary fishing and social event at Avington. "The great thing about reaching the 30<sup>th</sup> year is being able to look back over the many years remembering all the great days the members past and present have spent together fishing".

In the early years when we fished the Itchen, there was one occasion when one of our members having caught his very first salmon, was so pleased he decided to 'jump in' the river to celebrate sadly the Club was not allowed back to this Fishery for many years...! On another occasion a member tried for over two hours to catch a very large trout at Avington, exhausted he sat down, a friend walked by and asked what the problem was, the angler said that this particularly trout was simply impossible to catch, no one can catch it he said, his friend asked if he may try one cast, which was agreed, a small weighted fly gently sinks and the trout takes it, five minutes later an 18lb rainbow trout lay on the bank, to the amazement of the first angler. He concluded that it was not skill that caught the fish but the 'luck of the Irish' had blessed his friend, as he had originated from the Emerald Isle.

We have had so many amusing events to look back on as a club, bringing joy and comradeship to each of our members over the years. These days the Club fishes a number of still water fisheries and reservoirs that are selected to deliver a consistent, and challenging fishing experience. Its annual calendar of events includes enjoyable In-Club Competitions. In terms of fish caught, our Club records show our heaviest fish was a 20lb+ Rainbow from Avington, a 12lb 8oz brown from Chalk Springs and a 8lb 8oz brown from Bewl Water.

There are so many ways to add value to our wonderful sport with a group of friends, enjoying a full days fishing in the company of like minded anglers. Perhaps Fisheries should consider how to engage more with their Angling Club customers and make the "experience" of a 'Day Out' just that, adding value by offering cost effective breakfast and lunches with possible added casting, fly tying and water craft techniques tuition as part of the package or at an optional additional cost item for the day.

Among our concerns for the future are the loss of so many Fisheries, the reduction in size of fish at so called large fish waters and the lack of younger fly fishing enthusiast coming into the sport, these concerns shared by many I am sure.

The Clubs 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event at Avington more than met expectations with members catching some fine fish an enjoyable afternoon tea followed by a presentation of prizes for the biggest fish, the biggest bags of the day and the secret weight prize.

"This is a slightly amended version of a report from our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Match Report and was written by GEORGE WILDING our former late great Chairman "

NEXT OUTING

**John O'Gaunt**

9<sup>th</sup> June

Full details will follow in the secretary's briefing



## END OF DAY RESULTS AVINGTON 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY



**Biggest Bag** with 4 fish @ 22lbs 8oz  
**BOB FULTON** wins an Avington day ticket  
(by the way, Bob took top spot at Avington on our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)



**Biggest Fish @ 6lb 8oz**  
**TOM SMITH** WON A FLY PATCH (Bob Fulton also had the biggest fish but club rules say he can't take both prizes)



**Secret Weight @ 6lbs 2oz**  
**£20 Won by JUGGS** with a fish closest to the secret weight

**Total Number of Anglers 27**  
**Total Number of Fish 59**



# ANNIVERSARY GALLERY



This Photo was taken in October 2012 at our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There are still many familiar faces to be found

## Back to May 2018



Thanks to Joe for the anniversary photo's