



St. Michael Fly Fishers

Avon Springs

Match Report December 2020

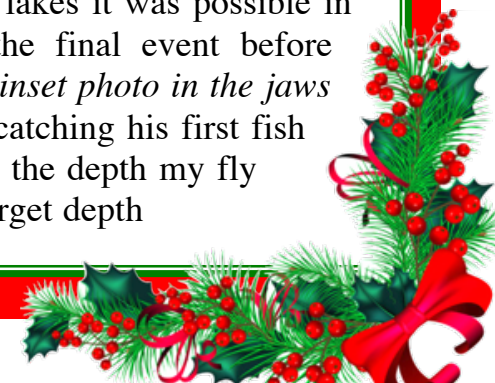
DAY CAPTAINS REPORT




12th December 2020.

The day, after a very grey December was spectacularly bright and not too cold, typically 6-10C with a light occasionally gusty breeze, just enough for a good ripple. Fish seemed to not be rising so were estimated to be towards the bottom half of the lakes, around a metre down. The fishery were great in providing hot bacon and sausage rolls, a welcome treat after a long drive. Members behaved well in socially distancing and wearing masks when not eating. In these exceptional and stressful times it was a small price to pay to be out and fishing again!

After starting at 9am, I began doing a bit of drone footage with some videos viewable on the website, we were as usual allocated to one of three zones the main lake as zone 1 and 3 and the top lake as Zone 2. The aim was to ensure we all fished each of the three zones in 40 minutes spells culminating with free roaming after noon and before a short lunch break at 1pm. As per usual the Damsel in its various guises fished very well with Brian Quearney being one of the first to catch a fish in zone 3 top lake. The water being gin clear in both lakes it was possible in between gusts of wind to see trout moving around, this being the final event before Christmas, I started off with a small Goldhead Twinkle Damsel, (*see inset photo in the jaws of one of my four fish*). I owe a small debt to Bob Fulton who after catching his first fish distracted me when arriving alongside my swim, caused me to forget the depth my fly was sinking to on zone 3. This led to my fly getting well below the target depth



End of day results



Joe Tufo won the day and will be awarded the SMFF Memorial Trophy in memory of Kevin, Eddie & Godfrey. He also won a pair of Orvis forceps.

Although Joe also had the biggest fish at **10lb 13oz**, club rules state that he could not win both prizes, therefore the prize for the biggest fish was awarded to **Steve Argent** with a fish of **10lb 7oz**. Steve received a fish decorated china mug.

Secret weight prize of £10 went to **Vic Holloway** closest to 7lb 6 ozs.

The raffle draw. First out of the hat a day ticket to Avon Springs was won by **Brian Quearney**.


Second **Iain Laws** £30 towards his days cost.

Eight other prizes kindly donated by members were also won.

Total No of anglers 20 Total number of fish caught 67

DAY CAPTAINS REPORT

Continued



I estimate it was over 2m down and taken on the drop by my best fish of the day a 10 lb 13oz bright red hued Rainbow Trout. Having only a 6lb fluorocarbon leader it took me over 20 minutes to get into the net.

Others all around me were also catching fish mostly at the top end of the main lake a significant hotspot, which must have accounted for over 20 fish during the course of the morning session.

The most common fly was the multi coloured variants of the Blue Flash Damsel, but some were caught on Hares ears, Cats whiskers and a few on buzzers. Most anglers were fishing on floating lines although a few were using either slow sinkers or sinking tips. During the course of the day 67 fish were caught by 20 anglers a spectacular return of 3.35 fish per angler which for Avon is very good. I finished the day with the largest fish and bag, of the members. Ed Komorowski as a guest on the day caught four good fish and a total bag of 20lb 8oz, largest being 8lb 8 oz. The second largest fish of the day and winner of best fish as I had won the best bag was Steve Argent with a fish of 10 lb 7oz and a 19lb 4oz bag.

Having completed the AGM in record time during the lunchbreak we went back out to fish until 3pm and many of those who had not bagged up, me included completed our fishing in beautiful surroundings and weather.

Joe Tufo Day Captain





A Little Tip

Watch the fly line at the tip

After and during your cast, always keep your rod tip down so it's just above the water surface. If you retrieve with your rod up in the air several feet above the water, any fish which takes your fly gently won't be felt because it will only move the slack line dangling beneath. Point your rod tip down all the water through the retrieve and keep a close eye on the line dangling just below the tip, it's your strike indicator.

If a fish takes the fly gently, you will often spot the line move outwards,

SECRETARYS REPORT

This year we have had to make many changes to the way that things have been run, with many and sometimes strange deviations from our normal way of doing things, among these was our AGM. For those of you that were unable to attend I would remind you that details of the Agenda, Secretary's Report, Chairman's Address and the SMFF Balance Sheet were circulated by email on the 1st of December. Should you require a copy of one or any of these documents please let me know.

I must thank everyone for their cooperation this year in observing the Covid rules, and keeping us safe during our outings, also for your continued support, and help with the weigh-ins, and being day captains at the few venues we have been able to attend.

We have 9 outings booked for the coming year. I just hope we can get back to some form of normal.

To all of you at this unprecedented time I wish you a very safe Merry Christmas and a COVID free Happy New Year.

Michael Littlestone Hon Secretary







To see all the photos of the day in more detail visit the SMFF web site.

