

West Wilts Fly Fishers Guild

Meeting Wednesday 11th January 2023 7.30pm Leigh Park Hotel, B-on-A

Agenda:

Present:

Jon Jonik, Roger Henderson, Andy Greatwood, Gerry Barnes, David Edwards, Simon Steel, Tim Pullen, Peter Marshall-Bailey, Ron Jones, Ray Buckley-Humphries.

1) Apologies:

David Little, Colin Burbidge, John Sheppard, Paul Marchant, Mick Marchant, Neil Soni, John DeCesare, Malcolm Bond

2) Minutes of November Guild meeting and matters arising.

Accepted without amendment. No matters arising.

Robert and Colin were thanked for writing and compiling the 'Oct-Dec News Roundup' which was circulated to members just before Christmas; as ever an informative and entertaining read with plenty of fishing tips.

3) Review of Guild events:

- **Christmas Hamper Competition Sun 20th November**

Held at Manningford Fishery, this was a very successful Guild event. It was well attended and plenty of fish were caught throughout the day including some superb specimens. There is a full write-up with photos in the News Roundup but particular congratulations to Robin who won the Hamper with his 18lb 2oz total, Robert for his 11lb 2oz Rainbow which won him the Guild Rainbow trophy for 2022 and Gerry for his 3lb 10oz Brown Trout winning him the BT trophy for 2022.

David and Jon were thanked for organising the day. David was also thanked for providing the hamper.

Jon suggested that at future events we could take advantage of the onsite caterer and have hot food provided.

- **Guild Dinner Fri 25th November at Leigh Park Hotel**

This had been a superb evening. The hotel had put on an excellent meal and the service was very good. They had also transformed our usual meeting room with Christmas decorations. Robert and Mary were thanked for the Table Quiz which as always was an excellent ice-breaker and enlivened the entire evening.

The Hotel has been formally thanked for their hospitality.

We have already booked the room again for our 2023 dinner.

The Photo Competition was judged at the dinner and Peter Stone's 'Webmaster' was awarded 1st place, winning Peter the Photography Trophy for 2022. There was a very wide range of superb entries so particular congratulations to Peter, who also won in 2021.

The raffle was drawn – 1st Prize of a £100 Gary Evans voucher to Gerry Barnes, 2nd Prize of a £50 voucher to Robin Sewell and 3rd Prize of a £25 voucher to Tim Pullen.

Jon and Sarah were thanked for organising the evening and ensuring the room looked amazing.

4) Annual General Meeting Wed 8th February

Jon gave an overview of the Guild's financial position, which is sound, with a substantial balance in reserve of £5150. The accounts are now with the accountant for approval. Jon said the aim of reducing the reserve over recent years by subsidising some Guild events has been effective and is on-target. This will continue in 2023.

The accounts will be published in full for the AGM.

Jon asked members to consider joining the Committee but thanked those members who have taken on tasks this year, which has greatly helped the Committee.

5) River Frome bank management Sunday 19th February

Roger said the aim will be to pick up flotsam & jetsam washed down by winter floods, remove trip hazards and cut back overarching branches etc. Roger will email members with details about start times etc. He thanked those members who have already offered to help. All weather dependent because rain may make conditions too slippery for safe working.

6) 2023 Guild Programme

Jon and Roger are in contact with some potential speakers for meetings but have yet to get confirmations for specific dates. Any members with suggestions for speakers are asked to contact Jon or Roger, with contact details for the speaker.

Re Chew Boat Day – following supportive discussion at previous meetings it was agreed to hold this in April.

Further discussion about other social fishing events at the next meeting – Wed 8th Feb.

7) Membership renewal process

Jon outlined the renewal process and to simplify the admin he will bring the 2023 membership cards to the AGM on 8th February and will issue them to members who are renewing membership.

8) AOB

- i) Suggestions for social fishing days included - Hawkridge reservoir in Somerset, Wimbleball reservoir on Exmoor, Clatworthy reservoir in west Somerset and Sutton Bingham on Somerset & Dorset border. NB Sutton Bingham is reported to have developed a high carp population to the detriment of the trout fishing. To agree dates and venues at the meeting on 8th Feb.

Part 2

Fly-tying – with Andy Greatwood

The first of two fly-tying sessions. Andy started by taking us through the method to tie one of the flies he had tied for the Christmas Dinner raffle prize (photo in the Oct/Dec News Roundup). – a black fritz mini-lure.

Again we are very grateful to Andy for leading these sessions, generously providing the materials and passing on the knowledge he has gained from many years of creating flies which catch fish and how to fish them. It was also good to see Ray who brought along his fly tying equipment and was on hand to give advice.

Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 8th February 2023 - 7.30pm at Leigh Park Hotel, B-on-A