

## West Wilts Fly Fishers Guild

Meeting Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022 7.30pm Leigh Park Hotel, B-on-A

### Part 1

Guest Speaker -

Wiltshire Wildlife Water Team Projects Officer - Connor Stapleton-Goddard

Connor is conducting a study of the Dipper population on The By-Brook, which runs through Castle Combe and joins the Bristol Avon Nr Bathford. This was a fascinating talk during which he showed videos of Dippers diving into shallow water to feed on river invertebrates – caddis, shrimp and mayfly nymphs etc.

So far the study has identified around four breeding pairs. Catching the Dippers for ringing is, as we could guess - quite difficult. Connor was interested to learn that we regularly spot Dippers at Tellisford, on The Frome. He asked us to report sightings (details to follow).

One fascinating fact to emerge is that whilst Dippers live approx. 2 -3 yrs, Robins have managed 26yrs!

### Part 2

#### Agenda:

#### Present:

Jon Jonik, Roger Henderson, Neil Soni, Robin Sewell, Gerry Barnes, Richard Cripps, Peter Marshall-Bailey, David Edwards, David Little, Malcolm Bond, John DeCesare, Tim Pullen, Mick Marchant.

#### 1) Apologies:

Russell Bond, Ron Jones, Paul Marchant, Andy Greatwood

#### 2) Minutes of June Guild meeting and Matters Arising

Accepted without amendment.

Matters arising:

AOB item i) – Grayling Society affiliation.

Jon said they Committee was in favour. The Guild is already affiliated with 'Wild Fish' (Salmon & Trout Association), Fish Legal, Wild Trout Trust and Tor Rivers Association.

The cost of membership for the Guild would be £56 per annum. A vote was held, and all members present voted in support of The Guild joining The Grayling Association.

#### 3) Membership update and coarse membership application for approval

An application for Coarse Membership has been received. The Committee has approved it. It was put to the vote and the meeting voted unanimously in favour. There are now five Coarse members. The maximum number is capped at six.

#### 4) Chew Boat Day update

The new date after Wed 7<sup>th</sup> was cancelled by Bristol Water due to high winds, is Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Anyone wishing to take part please email Jon Jonik ASAP so that boats and breakfasts can be booked.

Roger will email all members on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### 5) October mtg Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 'Tackle Auction'

**Post meeting note - Auction POSTPONED to rearrange for 2023**

Members were thanked for contributions brought to the meeting. More Lots welcome – please email description and if possible, a photo, to Jonathan or to Roger and he will forward them to Jonathan. So a list can be compiled.

**6) November mtg Wed 10<sup>th</sup> November - 'Review of the Season on the River Frome**

Roger said the purpose of the meeting is to review the 2022 season and plan for 2023 – including agreeing our stocking policy and planning bank work sessions, any access improvements needed and habitat improvements.

Roger will send out reminders for Angler Returns for inclusion in the annual report.

**7) The BIG Raffle**

Jon gave an outline of the Big Raffle which will be 'drawn' at our Annual Dinner on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

After a general discussion about the prizes – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, it was agreed that vouchers for the tackle dealer 'Garry Evans' would be very acceptable and easy for members to redeem.

Gerry Barnes has kindly again agreed to prepare the raffle board for the Big Raffle and a board for the smaller raffle which we also have at our Annual Dinner, for the 'table' prizes donated by members on the night.

These will be available for our October meeting for members to buy tickets (normally £1 per ticket)

**8) Forthcoming activities:**

**i) Coarse fishing day on The Frome**

Malcolm suggested we hold this over a week in June/July 2023 starting with an introductory day/evening session with the rest of the week open to coarse fishing from beats 1 at The Packhorse Bridge down the entire length of our water. NB normally beats 1 to 10 can only be coarse fished from the end of the fly season i.e., 15<sup>th</sup> October.

**ii) Christmas Hamper competition (date to be agreed)**

Agreement that we should hold this at Manningford Fishery again.

David Edwards kindly offered to organise the event, including the 1<sup>st</sup> prize - The Hamper.

David will liaise with Malcolm Manningford Fishery Manager to find a suitable date in late November/early December.

**iii) Annual Dinner Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November.**

Our annual celebration. Information including menus etc will be circulated as soon as available from Leigh Park Hotel.

**AOB**

- i) The suggestion was made that we should consider holding a Chew boat day in March/ April as the fishing is better at this time. Agreed we should seek the views of members familiar with Chew and consider this for 2023.

**Next Mtg Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm at Leigh Park Hotel, B-on-A**

**NB – Leigh Park Hotel bar sales are now all by card – contactless etc NO CASH SALES**

