

West Wilts Fly Fishers Guild

Meeting Wednesday 12th October 2022 7.30pm Leigh Park Hotel, B-on-A

Agenda:

Present:

Jon Jonik, Roger Henderson, Gerry Barnes, Peter Marshall-Bailey, David Edwards, David Little, Malcolm Bond, Tim Pullen, Robert Eadie, Colin Burbedge, Simon Steel, Ron Jones, Richard Arney, Bryan Hussey.

1) Apologies:

Neil Soni, Robin Sewell, Paul Marchant, Mick Marchant, Richard Cripps, John DeCesare, Russell Bond.

2) Minutes of September meeting and Matters Arising

AOB i)

Robin had asked if members familiar with fishing Chew could give some advice at a meeting prior to our 2023 Chew boat day.

Matters arising:

AOB i) The proposal to hold the Chew Boat Day in March/April when the fishing is likely to be better was discussed at length and there was agreement, we should aim to do this in 2023.

1) Grayling Society update.

Jon confirmed that the Guild is now affiliated to The Grayling Society with an annual fee of £56. Jon will forward a list to Simon of all the fishing organisations the Guild is affiliated to, so they can go on the website for members to access.

2) Guild Website.

Jon demonstrated the new website. There is now considerable content including past Newsletters (2015 to 2022 at present) which as well as forming a Guild archive are full of useful seasonal fishing tips.

It is hoped the website will become the centre of communications between members for such things as arranging fishing trips and as a 'market-place' for members to exchanging/sell surplus fishing gear – Simon will look at this possibility. The website will become the first port-of-call for Guild information such as minutes of meetings.

There are a number of links to other websites e.g., the EA river level data for Tellisford so members can check the river level and fishing conditions in real-time prior to a trip.

Jon, Roger & Simon will meet asap to discuss further improvements and so that Jon and Roger have administrator access to make updates.

3) Review of Chew Boat Day Wed 21st September

Jon gave a brief report of the day which started with an excellent breakfast enjoyed on the veranda. A full report is in the end of season News Roundup due out to members shortly. Chew Reservoir was exceptionally low and fishing areas were limited e.g., there was no water at the back of Denney Island - it was dry between Denny Island and the east shore. Ten members took part but as anticipated the fishing had been hard - the fish were difficult to find and only 12 were caught but they were a good size for Chew.

There was a tie for first place between Stan Jonik & Jon Jonik who both had three Rainbows totalling 10lb 8oz, so they share The Chew Boat Cup.

Richard Arney won the bottle of wine for the heaviest rainbow at 4lb 8oz.

Jon was thanked for organising the day.

4) November Rivers Meeting Wed 9th November.

This meeting is to review the 2022 season and plan for 2023 – stocking, bank work required, and any access improvements needed. Roger asked for Angler Returns to be sent in. The Angler return form on the website will be available as a Word doc as well as a PDF.

To send in by post – R. Henderson, 112 The Croft, Trowbridge, BA14 0RW.

It is hoped the members of the Environment Agency who made a preliminary visit in July will be present to answer member's questions about introducing grayling on our stretch of The Frome.

5) Forthcoming activities:

i) Christmas Hamper competition – Sunday 20th November at Manningford Fishery

David Edwards is organising this for us and so far, 14 members have put their names down.

ii) Annual Dinner Friday 25th November.

Jon is arranging and so far, 21+ have confirmed places. Roger will distribute the Menu. The Dinner is being subsidised at £10 per person so the cost will be £29.50pp.

Members were asked to support the raffles which will be drawn at The Dinner.

Roger asked members to send in photos for the Photo Competition also to be judged at the dinner.

6) Planning for 2023 – meetings and activities

Attendance at meetings since Covid restrictions were lifted has dropped slightly but it was agreed there are many reasons for this including some members still 'shielding'.

There were a lot of excellent suggestions for our 2023 programme. They included:

More social fishing days at venues such as – Avon Springs Fishery, Sutton Bingham, Bushyleaze lake, Lechlade (we have Guild Trophies for each of these) and John Of Gaunt Fishery near Stockbridge.

Fly-tying sessions January/ February 2023 (very popular in 2022).

Visiting speakers – Bristol Avon Rivers Trust, Wessex Water (update from previous talk)

Jon asked members to step forward to help with some of the organisation of the Guild and consider joining the committee. The Committee is currently short of a Treasurer and a Membership Secretary as well as someone to organise Guild social activities. If you would be willing to help please contact Jon – jfjonik@gmail.com

AOB

i) Coarse fishing on The Frome.

Robin's suggestion to hold this event in September when coarse fish are in prime condition was supported though it was pointed out that for evening fishing sunset will be around 7.20pm.

Malcolm proposed an introductory session early in the week then open access for the rest of the week with members being able to fish Tellisford packhorse bridge down to Snarlton Weir.

Next Mtg - Wednesday 9th November 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

