

# West Wilts Fly Fishers Guild

## Rivers Meeting 1st November 2018

### River Frome Report

#### Fly-Fishing Returns:

Based on catch returns by 4 members and 22 visits by the Guild River Keeper.

- 4 members made a total of 18 fly-fishing visits
- Fly-fishing catch returns – 3 brown trout, 12 rainbow trout, (plus 7 chub)
- Average approx. 1.0 game fish per visit (1.7 per visit in 2016, 0.2 in 2015, 1.3 in 2014)



Best Brown Trout on fly - this 15" specimen on Mayfly from beat 16 - Sand Bar

#### Coarse Fishing Returns:

- Catch returns by 2 members
- 30 Chub up to 4lbs, 12 Roach, 16 Dace and 1 Bream at 2lb.

Additional information from the Police Angling Club:

The Police Angling Club (PAC) which coarse fishes the opposite bank from Pomeroy Wood past Snarlton weir and down to Stowford Farm keep us informed about any Rainbow Trout or Brown Trout they catch. During their first match of the coarse season they reported "several trout caught at the top of our stretch (upstream to the Flume Pool), biggest a **3lb Brown Trout**, all returned".

#### Rule change this year for under 12's:

Some members have taken advantage of the new ruling to take youngsters coarse fishing from the Packhorse bridge downstream. Feedback has been very positive with youngsters - boys and girls new to fishing turned on by quick success consistently catching some perfectly conditioned roach, chub, dace and even the odd rainbow.

#### Bank management:

Sunday 18th Feb we cleared over-arching branches on beats 1 to 9 (Pomeroy). This was followed with work on 1<sup>st</sup> May to install steps and a handrail below Pomeroy Wood. The May newsletter showed photos to make members aware of the improved access.

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May plastic piping covers were put on the barbed wire at these same five access points.

## Stocking:

4th June - 150 10"/12" rainbows were stocked between beats 2 and 9.

22nd August - 100 12"/14" rainbows were stocked between beats 2 and 9.

At a total cost of approx. £700

Photos of the stockings were emailed to members.



22<sup>nd</sup> August 2018 at Pomeroy bend

A milli-second after the above photo it was off !

## Fishing conditions through the year:

2018 saw an exceptionally hot and dry summer consequently the Frome was low throughout the season. Despite this there were still deep runs along its length with some stretches that would challenge chest-waders, so there was ample water and shelter for fish. As can be seen in the photo the low water let light into the river encouraging healthy weed growth which is great for invertebrates. The photo also shows that although the Frome is troubled with algae growth due to an excess of nitrates there are also some relatively clean stretches.

Fly hatches:

- Grannom normally peak early April but this year there was no mass-hatch (unless I missed them) but a more protracted low-key one throughout the spring and early summer.
- Mayfly peaked around 22<sup>nd</sup> May and were in abundance through to early June.
- Olives were present in good numbers throughout the season

## River fly monitoring and Water quality sampling

This is conducted by the Guild as part of a national scheme to monitor invertebrates in our rivers. The results are submitted to the Environment Agency. Large numbers of caddis and mayfly nymphs were recorded this year.

The water quality testing measures levels of Phosphates and Nitrates. Negligible evidence has been found of Phosphates but Nitrate levels are still at the top end of the measuring scale and therefore far too high. Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) and the Environment Agency have been informed.

Thanks to John Sheppard for leading on this for The Guild.

## The Flume:

The Environment Agency repair work added an eel pass -



Eel Pass upstream of Flume



Eel pass downstream of Flume

Thank you to all those members who were able to lend a hand during the year with bank maintenance / access improvements / stocking etc. It is very much appreciated because it enables us to do more and in the case of stocking - safely.

Looking forward to the 2019 season...

Roger Henderson  
Frome River Keeper.