

West Wilts Fly Fishers Guild

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 12th September 2018 at Shaw Hotel, Melksham

Part 1

Guest Speaker - Chris Tattersal of Wessex Water - '*River Restoration*'

Chris manages a team of eleven running 40 projects to "improve rivers" This started in 2015 and will conclude in 2020 with budget of £25million. It is a 'catchment approach'.

The topics he covered included the impact on the environment of existing and emerging pressures:

- High Phosphates, High nitrates
- High sedimentation caused by abstraction and reservoirs
- Flooding
- Ground water & low flow in rivers
- Habitat and ecology pressures - e.g. mitigating impact on eel migration
- Population growth and sewage discharge
- Climate change
- Emerging substances - Oestrogen, Ibuprofen etc in drinking water and in rivers
- DNA of invertebrates being altered and impact on food chain
- micro plastics
- changing balance of invertebrates and fly-life in rivers and how this can be rectified

Chris was thanked by members for his excellent presentation which generated a lot of interest.

Part 2

Present:

Malcolm Bond, Alan Kerr, Roger Henderson, John Dixon, John De Cesare, Richard Cripps, Ged West, Gerry Barnes, Richard Arney, William Arney, David Griffiths, David Little, Keith Johnston. Guest - Tom Barnard.

Apologies: Jon Jonik, John Sheppard, Charles Freemantle, Robert Eadie, Colin Burbedge, Russell Bond.

1) Minutes of April Guild meeting and matters arising.

Accepted without amendment

2) Feedback on Guild events including:

i) Chew Boat Cup Wed 6th June

Eleven members took part. Good weather but fishing wasn't easy - 12 rainbows caught in total, the most productive area was around the aerators. Richard Arney won The Chew Boat Cup with four fish for 10lbs. John Sheppard had the heaviest rainbow - 4lb 4oz. Thanks to Jon for organising. Tickets were subsidised by the Guild to a total cost of £110.

ii) Clatworthy reservoir social fishing day Wed 11th July

Five members took part, but disappointingly few fish were caught; probably due to it being another very hot, bright sunny day during a protracted heat-wave. The day also clashed with England's crucial match in the European Cup so members didn't fish after mid-afternoon. However there was agreement that Clatworthy is a very good venue and worth re-visiting.

3) Rivers Frome and Mole updates

River Frome - the river is still low though with reasonable flow and very fishable. Rainbows from the 2nd stocking on 22nd August of 100 at around 12" to 14", have been caught. Malcolm gave an update on a pollution incident on The Frome and suggested we invite Ian Mock of BART to talk to The Guild.

Members have taken advantage of the coarse fishing rule amendment to permit under 12's to coarse fish beats 1 to 9 and reported very successful outings.

River Mole - Malcolm reported that the Mole is low and he believes has only been lightly fished.

4) Forthcoming Guild activities :

i) Guild Dinner Fri 16th November at Shaw Hotel

Members were asked to put a note in diaries. Jon is liaising with the hotel and will circulate menus and costs to members as soon as they are available.

Malcolm asked members to support the Guild Raffle which will be drawn at The Guild Dinner. Thanks to Gerry for preparing the raffle boards - £1 tickets to win 'Veals of Bristol' fishing tackle vouchers of £100, £50 and £25

ii) Christmas hamper competition Manningford Fishery 2nd December

Alan confirmed details - members can start fishing from 9.00am with weigh-in at 3pm. Heaviest bag of fish will win the £50 Christmas Hamper. A box of crackers for the runner-up.

5) AOB

- i) Guild photo competition - members are reminded to submit entries. Please email to a member of the Committee.
- ii) New member application - Tom Barnard. Members voted unanimously to approve and Tom was welcomed to The Guild.

Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 10th October: Guest speaker - Peter Cockwill