

West Wilts Fly Fishers Guild

Wednesday 14th November 2018 at Shaw Hotel, Melksham

Part 1

Present:

Jon Jonik, Roger Henderson, Ged West, Gerry Barnes, Richard Arney, William Arney, Alan Kerr, Tim Pullen

Apologies: David Little, Charles Freemantle, David Griffiths, John Sheppard,

1) Minutes of October Guild meeting and matters arising.

Accepted without amendment. No matters arising

2) Feedback from Rivers Meeting Thurs 1st November.

The Minutes of the meeting and The River Frome Report had been circulated to members.

Jon gave an overview of the main discussion points and outcomes of the meeting:

- i) The need to improve the parking at Tellisford. Currently there is room for 1 or at most 2 cars on the road at the bottom of Vagg's Hill. The Sleightholme family have kindly allowed us to park in the drive of the house whilst it remains unoccupied.
- ii) Roger will contact the Environment Agency to query whether the eel pass that has been installed at The Flume is fit for purpose.
- iii) Agreed to stock 12" to 14" rainbows in 2019
- iv) As no members have reported fishing our stretch of The Mole this season the meeting recommended that the rent is not renewed. This recommendation will be put to The Committee at the next meeting.
- v) In 2019 The Rivers Meeting will be incorporated into a Guild meeting - possibly the November meeting.

3) Feedback from Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership Annual Forum at Bath Guild Hall Wed 7th November.

Three members - Malcolm Bond, Richard Cripps and Roger Henderson were among the 100 attendees representing stake holders within the Bristol Avon Catchment e.g. Wild Trout Trust, The Rivers Trust, Natural England, the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group etc.

This was the first such forum by the BACP. Its purpose was to report on how the BACP is working with a wide range of partners including major players such as Councils, Wild-life Trusts, Water Authorities, Environment Agency etc. to meet its aims of flood, land and water management, enhancing habitat & fish migration and improving the recreational use of rivers and canals.

One of BACP's Priority Projects is - The Somerset Frome Partnership Project which aims to address poor river habitat and lack of access. Our stretch of The Frome at Tellisford is therefor included.

The BACP may hold another such Forum in 2019 to report on progress.

Anyone wishing to find out more please contact Roger, Malcolm or Richard.

4) Guild Dinner and Raffle Fri 16th November.

17 places have been booked. Jon and Sara have kindly taken on the task of preparing the room.

5) Christmas Hamper competition - Manningford Fishery Sun 2nd December.

Start from 9.00am onwards with the weigh-in at 3.00pm. Heaviest 3 fish bag wins the £50 hamper. Alan Kerr will circulate details. Members are asked to confirm with Alan if they will be taking part to ensure the fishery can cope with the numbers.

6) 2019 Programme.

Jon gave an outline of the 2019 Programme which is now in DRAFT form on the website. Any members with ideas for speakers or social fishing outings please let a member of The Committee know.

AOB

None

Part 2

DVD - 'Follow the Fly' - A Mayfly season in Ireland.

This was a fascinating and informative hour of armchair fly-fishing. And for several members the venues shown were a trip down memory-lane. Many thanks to Robert Eadie for obtaining it.

Meeting closed at 10.00pm

Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 9th January 2019