



## West Wilts Fly Fishers Guild

Meeting Wednesday 14<sup>TH</sup> June 2023 7.30pm at Leigh Park Hotel, B on A

### **Present:**

John De Cesare (Chairing), Jon Jonik, Malcolm Bond, Roger Henderson, Gerry Barnes, Colin Burbedge, David Edwards, Tim Pullen, Kevin Barber, Gordon Morse, David Little, Neil Soni, Ray Buckley-Humphries, Andy Greatwood, Quentin Lillis, James Moore, Robin Sewell, Simon Steele,

Guest – Nick Ridout

### **1) Apologies:**

Bryan Hussey, Paul Runnygard-Hunt, Ron Jones, Russell Bond.

John opened the meeting welcoming Nick Ridout -prospective new member and thanking Robert & Colin for the May 'News Roundup' of Guild activities and general early season information. As ever it is an excellent read and it is appreciated that it takes a lot of effort to produce.

### **2) Minutes of April Guild meeting and matters arising.**

Accepted without amendment. No matters arising.

### **3) Updates since April meeting:**

#### **i) Chew Reservoir Boat-Day Wed 19<sup>th</sup> April for 'The Chew Cup'**

There is write-up with photos in the May edition of the News Roundup.

14 members took part and the day started with an excellent breakfast together in Woodford Lodge restaurant. But fishing conditions were very hard and the fish difficult to find – only 7 rainbows were caught (by 6 members).

Colin Burbedge won the Chew Boat Trophy with his 4lb 7oz rainbow. It is a Guild rule that the winner of a Guild event trophy is ineligible for the bottle of wine for the heaviest Rainbow, so Andy Greatwood was presented with the bottle of wine for his 4lb 4oz rainbow. Congratulations to Colin & Andy.

Jon was thanked for organising the day.

#### **ii) May meeting at Mill Farm fishery Wed 10<sup>th</sup> May.**

This was a very successful event with members fishing from mid-afternoon into the early evening, when we all stopped for Gerry Barnes' filleting and 'Hot- Smoking' demonstration & tasting, followed by Robin Sewell's explanation of 'Cold-Smoking' & tasting. We would like to thank Gerry and Robin for fascinating and very tasty introductions to both smoking methods. The next edition of our News Roundup will include photos, technical info, tips and recipes for any members who would like to have a go at hot or cold smoking. Everyone was very appreciative of the preparation Gerry and Robin had done for us – the smoked trout – whether hot or cold smoked was delicious.

Plenty of fish were caught including a 10lb 4 oz specimen by Roger during the afternoon and there was a lot of activity on buzzers towards 7pm.

### **1) River Frome update inc:**

#### **i) Bank management session Tues 16<sup>th</sup> May**

Roger thanked those members who had come down to help on 16<sup>th</sup> May and/or 12<sup>th</sup> June – Paul R-H, Jon J,

James M, Gordon M, David E, Robin S. The most popular access points and footpath are clear of nettles and brambles down to beat 9 Pomeroy Wood. The stretch of bank to beat 12 still needs more work so if any members would like to help clear access to this beat, please contact Roger.

#### **ii) Stocking Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

Roger thanked members who had come down – Paul R-H, Robin S, Gordon M and David E. who gave up half a day and also did some more bank clearing either before or after the stocking. The photo in the next edition of the News Roundup shows why we need five of us to do the stocking safely.

We are reducing our stocking this year - 50 rainbows (a reduction of 75%), in order to reduce the pressure on native fish. Salisbury AC, in common with other angling clubs, has adopted a similar policy.

Roger will email members with details about where the rainbows were stocked and informed members that they are 'for-the-plate' so to take one for dinner. The rainbows cost £7 each so please catch them!

Members are asked to keep a record of all catches on 'fly' for the returns in October.

## 2) Coarse Fishing week Monday 24<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July.

This will be an 'all-methods' week with the opportunity to coarse fish our complete stretch including from beat 1 at The Packhorse Bridge. Normally beats 1 to 10 (down to The Flume) can only be coarse-fished from October 15<sup>th</sup> (i.e., after the close of the fly-season).

Malcolm Bond, who is coordinating the week, including the tutoring sessions on Wed 26<sup>th</sup> July, outlined the range of coarse fishing methods which could be used and encouraged members to take part. Malcolm will email all members with details for the week. He asked that members let him know the coarse fishing techniques they would be interested in learning more about on Wed 26<sup>th</sup> July.

This was followed by a presentation by Kevin Barber on the wide range of coarse fishing tackle, techniques and baits appropriate for fishing The Frome, depending on the species being targeted. It was very generous of Kevin to share his expertise and to bring along his kit and he was thanked for a thoroughly engrossing and informative talk. Kevin will be with us on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July to assist anyone wanting tuition.

## 3) AOB

- i) Members voted unanimously to approve Nick Ridout's membership and Nick was welcomed to The Guild.

Note – The Committee has decided to close the membership for 2022 and will assess how the increase in membership this year affects the fishing pressure on The Frome. We will then decide at the 2024 AGM if the membership book should be reopened.

- ii) Reminder of **The Photography Competition** – the theme is 'The Countryside'. Members can send multiple entries if the subject matter is different. Look on the website to see entries for past years to see the wide range of subjects covered.

Please email entries to Roger - [rogerhenderson@hotmail.com](mailto:rogerhenderson@hotmail.com)

**The meeting closed at 10pm**

**Next meeting – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 7.30pm at Leigh Park Hotel, B-on-A**

