

## West Wilts Fly Fishers Guild

Rivers Meeting Thursday 2nd November 2017 7.30pm Shaw Hotel, Melksham

### Present:

Jon Jonik, Malcolm Bond, Roger Henderson, Gerry Barnes, Paul Runyard-Hunt

### Agenda:

#### 1. Apologies

Mike Harris, Charles Freemantle, Chris Winsor, George Cantello, Russell Bond

#### 2. Minutes of 2016 Rivers Meeting and matters arising

Accepted without amendment. No matters arising. Actions addressed below.

#### 3. River Mole/Yeo:

##### i) Returns 2017

Five members sent in angler returns. 30+ Brown Trout and 3 Sea Trout.

##### ii) Report

- Habitat improvement

Carried out on the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March, continuing the work carried out on The Yeo at Bish Mill in 2016. This will be continued in 2018.

- River Taw Association update

A summary of the update will be posted on The Guild website.

##### iii) Rental review

Further to discussions with members at the September and October Guild meetings an in-depth discussion took place to plan the best way forward for The Guild's future relationship with The Mole & Yeo. It is felt the rental of approx. £1,000 per annum, in total, cannot be justified given the small number of members who fish. A range of options were discussed to provide members with the opportunity to continue to fish the Mole, bearing in mind how few have done so over recent years. All of this is time sensitive as the lease renewal is due at the beginning of February 2018. Jon and Malcolm have developed a list of potentially interested individual anglers and angling associations in the South Molton area over recent months to look at joint funding and access options. Jon and Malcolm were thanked for their work and leading on this on behalf of members.

It was agreed we should renew the lease for another year but in cooperation with others, to reduce the cost to WWFFG.

Malcolm offered to manage the transition arrangement and this was accepted, with thanks. All communication and dialogue will be through Malcolm.

Malcolm will discuss proposals with Chris Winsor and then, over the next month, open-up discussions with all interested parties.

Jon and Malcolm will be visiting the land owners and farmers in December with Christmas gifts.

#### **4. River Frome:**

##### **i) Returns 2017**

Six members submitted angler returns making 14 fly-fishing visits and catching 2 brown trout (up to 14" ?), 11 rainbows, 11 chub and 2 perch all on fly.

##### **ii) Report**

- **Habitat improvement:**

In response to members requests for improved access significant work was carried out in The Spring all of which have been publicised to members as and when they were done - handrails and steps at 5 key points on beats 1 to 9 (Pomeroy), barbed wire sheathing, bank clearing and soft growth clearing on three occasions in The Summer.

- **Fly Monitoring:**

This continued through the year with good numbers of caddis, mayfly and olives indicating a good ecosystem and plenty of fish food. Gammarus etc also found.

- **Water Quality Monitoring:**

For phosphates and nitrates. Phosphates at very low levels but nitrates at high levels and reported to the Environment Agency and BART for follow-up.

- **Coarse Fishing**

Several members took part in either the coarse fishing week or the fly-fishing evening.

##### **iii) Season 2018**

- **Bank management planning:**

Bank clearing - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February to clear debris & rubbish deposited by flooding and remove trip hazards.

Further access improvements such as hand-posts at Pomeroy Wood

- **Stocking:**

Agreed same as 2017 - two stockings of 150 10"/12" rainbows - July and August subject to weather and river conditions. Approx. cost £675 for the two stockings.

- **Proposed rule change to encourage junior coarse anglers:**

It was agreed that to encourage young anglers members should be asked at the November meeting to agree a rule change so that youngsters under the supervision of a rivers member should be permitted to fish the currently 'fly-only' stretch from the packhorse bridge to The Flume when the coarse season overlaps with the fly season. Ease of access to the river and closeness to parking will make it easy for members to take young anglers coarse fishing. Coarse / Rivers members themselves would not be granted this permission.

#### **5. AOB : None**

**Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018**

