

West Wilts Fly Fishers Guild
Meeting Wednesday 9th January 2019 - 7.30pm Shaw Hotel

Present:

Jon Jonik, Alan Kerr, Roger Henderson, John Sheppard, Tim Pullen, Robin Sewell, Gerry Barnes, Paul Runyngard-Hunt, Malcolm Bond, Neil Soni, Richard Cripps, Tom Barnard, Ray Buckley-Humphries, Colin Burbedge, Robert Eadie, David Little,

1. Apologies:

Ged West, Charles Freemantle, Russell Bond, Richard Arney, William Arney

Part 1

Guest Speaker - Ian Mock - Director of BART - Bristol Avon Rivers Trust.

Ian first talked to the Guild in November 2013 a year after BART was launched. Since then BART has grown to employ five staff and is involved in a wide range of environmental improvement projects in The Bristol Avon Catchment and wider. Ian emphasised that bringing our rivers up to the standard they should be is a long term goal and the problem is huge.

Education is therefore a key element so BART works with schools and any groups with an interest in rivers. BART also provides training and two of our Guild members (Roger and John) were on BART's first fly monitoring training course in 2015. In 2018 BART trained 40.

Ian's talk gave us an excellent insight into the scale of the problem and ideas how the Guild can get more involved in a practical way to improve and protect our rivers for future generations. The Committee will look at these and build on the work we are already doing e.g. fly-monitoring & water quality testing.

Any member wishing to get involved please let a member of the committee know.

NB: A fuller account of Ian's talk is in the NEWS section on our website.

www.westwiltsflyfishersguild.com

Part 2

1) Minutes of February Guild meeting and Matters Arising

Accepted without amendment. No matters arising.

2) 2019 programme:

i) Updates

The latest update of the Guild programme is on the website.

A speaker has yet to be confirmed for our May meeting.

Our Sept or Oct speaker will be a butterfly expert. Date to be confirmed

ii) Skittles evening Fri 12th April at The White Hart pub Atworth, Nr Melksham

Malcolm reported that 14 have so far signed up.

Please email Malcolm if you wish to add your name email is malbond1@btinternet.com

It is always a great evening with food etc. Spouses, partners, friends very welcome.

iii) Mill Farm Fishery , Worton Nr Devizes Wed 10th April - a social fishing day

Alan has been in touch with Mill Farm fishery to let them know approx. 10 members will be there. This a very relaxed fishing day so although a start time of 9.00am was agreed - start and finish when it suits you. Roger will email a reminder to all members with details. Please let Roger know if you are planning to come.

Email [.rogerhenderson@hotmail.com](mailto:rogerhenderson@hotmail.com)

Any new member not familiar with Mill Farm Worton their website is

<http://www.millfarmtroutlakes.co.uk>

This has location maps etc.

- iv) **Hawkrige reservoir, Somerset Wed 10th June - a social fishing day**
Jon has been in touch with the fishery, which is run by Wessex Water, and provisionally reserved 6 boats. The reservoir is only 32 acres so they are just rowing boats but feel free to bring an electric motor.
Visit Wessex Water website to find out more about Hawkrige reservoir including the wide range of trout species they stock it with. Please let Jon know if you wish to book a boat place. Email jfjonik@gmail.com

- v) **Chew Boat day Wed 10th July a competition day for the Chew Boat Cup**
Jon has been in-touch with Woodford Lodge and provisionally reserved 6 boats. Again if you wish to book a boat place please email Jon on above email address.

- vi) **Coarse fishing day on The Frome**
The meeting gave approval for a coarse fishing day to encourage 'under 16's' (accompanied by members). It will include the normally fly-only stretch from the packhorse bridge downstream to The Flume.
Paul R-Hunt kindly agreed to help organise.
Full details will follow.

3) **Membership renewals and subscriptions**

Members collected their membership cards. It is very important that members have these displayed when fishing on The Frome. This has been requested by the landowner because poachers / trespassers are an issue.

Thanks to Alan for doing all the membership admin, printing the photo ID cards and sealing them in waterproof clip-on pouches.

AOB

- i) A beaver has been spotted on The Frome just upstream of the packhorse bridge at Tellisford. It has been seen by coarse anglers climbing up out of the water and eating reeds. It had a distinctly wide tail so definitely not an otter that's gone vegan.

Meeting ended 10pm