



## West Wilts Fly Fishers Guild

Meeting Wednesday 13<sup>TH</sup> September 2023 7.30pm at Leigh Park Hotel, B on A

### **Present:**

Jon Jonik, Roger Henderson, Malcolm Bond, Gerry Barnes, Colin Burbedge, Robert Eadie, Tim Pullen, Neil Soni, Ray Buckley-Humphries, Richard Cripps, Simon Steel, Andy Greatwood

### **1) Apologies:**

Robin Sewell, Gordon Morse, David Little John DeCesare, Paul Runnygard-Hunt, Ron Jones, Russell Bond, Nick Ridout

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

Accepted without amendment. No matters arising.

### **3) Review of the Coarse Fishing Week in July**

The Coarse fishing introductory session on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July was postponed due to heavy rain throughout the days before as well as being forecast throughout the evening of the 26<sup>th</sup> and because few members had confirmed they would be taking part. The river had risen, become very heavily coloured with much faster flow – so far from ideal for novices.

Nevertheless, some hardy members did take advantage of the temporary change in the rules during the week and, coarse fished beats 1 down to 11, reporting some interesting and encouraging catches. So, the coarse week did achieve one of the objectives which was to find out what coarse fish – species, weights and numbers those beats hold.

Malcolm B proposed that a coarse week will be organised for early July 2024. Members will be given outline details early in 2024.

Malcolm and Kevin B were thanked for organising the week and the preparation for the introductory session on Wed 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **4) 2023 Programme updates:**

#### **i) October meeting guest speaker – Trevor Harrap – The Avon Roach Project**

Jon said Trevor was one of the driving forces behind the very successful re-introduction of Roach into the Hampshire Avon, a project which might have elements applicable to the reintroduction of grayling on The Somerset Frome.

#### **ii) November meeting guest speaker Sue Everett and review of River Frome season.**

Sue is a highly qualified ecologist with specialist expertise in the problems faced by rivers, in particular The Somerset Frome – she is an active member of The Friends of The Somerset Frome.

Roger will be asking members for catch returns for the Frome so they can be collated into his report.

### **5) Forthcoming activities:**

#### **i) ‘Grand Raffle’**

Tickets now on sale at meetings – £1 each - three prizes - £100, £75 & £25. Gerry B was thanked for preparing the raffle boards. The raffle will be drawn at our Dinner on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November. If any member who can't make the October and November meetings and would like some tickets, please email Jon [jfjonik@gmail.com](mailto:jfjonik@gmail.com) and he will record your number's and sort out payment.

#### **ii) Christmas Hamper competition Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November**

Gerry B offered to organise this year's competition which has a hamper as first prize for the heaviest total weight.

**iii) Annual Dinner Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November.**

17/18 members and their partners so far have confirmed they will be attending. A further email will be sent to members with the Menu etc asking for members to book places and make their menu selection. The Guild subsidy remains at £10 per person.

**6) Website update**

There is now a buy/swop/sell area for members who have surplus tackle. Please send photos of items with descriptions to Jon – [jfjonik@gmail.com](mailto:jfjonik@gmail.com) making it clear if you have a selling price in mind or if you will accept offers or indeed if you are offering something free to a good home or as donation to Guild funds.

Simon S was thanked for his work on the website and for uploading new material for members.

If you are considering wading on The Frome please read the new wading advice on our website (password – Fish)

**7) Open-Forum**

**i) Membership**

The Committee closed the membership earlier in the year with a view to assessing the fishing pressure on the most popular and accessible fly-fishing stretch - beats 3 Kingfisher to beat 9 Pomeroy. Anecdotally it appears that when most members fly-fish at Tellisford they start at beat 9 and work their way upstream to beat 3 hoping that these beats have not just been fished a little earlier by another member.

This was an initial discussion, as the game season draws to an end. Members are encouraged to come to the Rivers Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November to share their views.

The view so far is that fishing pressure this year has been light although that may in part be due to some exceptional weather conditions not conducive to fly-fishing – prolonged extreme heat early summer, followed by heavy rain and a very high river in July, then followed by extreme heat again in September. The committee will then decide if the membership should be re-opened for 2024.

**ii) Activity suggestions for the remainder of the season**

A range of venues was suggested for a bank-fishing day inc Bushyleaze, Holbury and Woolaston Court. It was agreed to hold a midweek bank session in October. The Guild will subsidise the day at £10 per member.

**AOB**

i) **News Roundup** . The July to October edition will be circulated very soon - thanks to Robert

ii) **'Photography Competition'** for judging at our Dinner on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November. Please send entries to Roger – [rogerhenderson@hotmail.com](mailto:rogerhenderson@hotmail.com).. See previous years entries on our website.

iii) **Trophies** – for heaviest Rainbow Trout, heaviest stocked Brown Trout and heaviest wild river Brown Trout. Please send photos with something to show scale or other form of corroboration to Roger - email above.

**The meeting closed at 9.30pm**

**Next meeting – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 7.30pm at Leigh Park Hotel, B-on-A**

**NB for new members - Leigh Park Hotel bar is card only (no cash accepted)**

