



St. Michael

FLY FISHERS



Meon Springs

MATCH REPORT & 2024 AGM SUMMARY

14th December 2024



MEON
SPRINGS

DAY CAPTAIN'S MATCH REPORT



After missing our November outing to Avon Springs I am sure we were all looking forward to catching a few trout at Meon, as always it was a great pleasure to fish at this very beautiful venue. The weather was kind to us and in my conversation with Greg the Fishery manager before the match I was told that the fishery had been well stocked, and that he had put in 3 big fish to join the other big fish that were already in the water. As a result of that conversation I recommended that a 6-pound leader would be advisable. In retrospect I shouldn't have bothered!!!!

For the first hour we fished for the George Wilding Trophy and as usual at this match we fondly remembered George a good friend to many of us and one of the founder members of our club. The rule was that we all fished the same fly for one hour and the one with the heaviest fish would win the trophy. We were all presented with a fly selected by Michael. It is always interesting and sometimes surprising to see what fly Michael chooses. This year he succeeded on both counts, very interesting and surprising. The chosen fly, a Bloodworm Nymph was a great success with 20 of the 21 anglers succeeding to catch in the first hour, and who was the lone angler who failed to catch on that fly? Better luck next year Michael.

For anyone interested. www.troutfles.co.uk. Bloodworm Nymph 12/5 at £0.55 each.

The rest of the day proved just as successful and prolific with almost all of us catching our 4 fish however, the big fish never appeared. The trout were fin perfect and fought well but of the 79 fish caught 11 were below weight at under 2lb, those 11 fish were credited to the club.

From a personnel point of view my day was too successful I think I fished for no longer than 15 minutes for the whole match. Fish one, was caught on the Bloodworm Nymph on my second cast. Fish two, hooked and lost on the Bloodworm first cast. I changed to an intermediate line and a Damsel to try to get down deeper for a better fish. First cast, 3lb trout landed. Fish four, landed on first cast on the intermediate line and a horrible fly that I have never had a touch on before. The fish weighed 1.5lb.

Congratulations to James Cooper: George Wilding Trophy

Congratulations to Dave Brooke: Best bag.

Congratulations to Dave Broome and Peter Burdett: Best fish.

Special thank you to our Hon Secretary Michael Littlestone
and our Hon treasurer Tom Smith

Brian Bloom. Day captain



Meon Springs Results and Winners

George Wilding Memorial Trophy James Cooper:

For the best fish caught in the first hour using the fly supplied by the club.

NB Everyone apart from the Hon Secretary 😞 caught a fish on the Bloodworm Nymph used for the first hour

Dave Brooke:
The best Bag of the day
4 Fish at 14lb 4oz

Dave Broome & Peter Burdett:
Share Biggest Fish of the day at 4lb 0oz

All Winning a box of flies

Lucky Draw Raffle

Geoff Brooks:

Travel expenses £40.00

Ludi Dent

Day Ticket to Meon Springs

Tom Smith:

£50 M&S Hamper voucher

Many other members won raffle prizes kindly donated.

Total Number of anglers 21
Total number of fish caught 79

Below is a copy of the AGENDA for the
36th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, held at
MEON SPRINGS. DECEMBER 14th 2024.



1. Welcome from the Chairman
2. Apologies of absence. Summer DG, Lynne & Dave Haskins, Terry Burgess, Dave Martin, Bez Sahami, Ian Kelly & Bill Berloth.
3. Minutes of last AGM held at Meon Springs on Dec. 9th 2023, previously circulated in the Dec 2023 newsletter. Matters Arising not covered by this agenda, NONE
4. Hon. Chairman's Report, and Vice Chairmans report on social media and recruitment drive
5. Hon. Secretary's Report
6. Hon Treasurer's Report & Adoption of the provisional Accounts to 30th Nov 2024
7. Election of Officers and Committee: - Presided over by our President Geoff Brooks
 - Chairman Joe Tufo Prepared to stand again
 - Vice Chairman Colin Bateman Prepared to stand again
 - Hon Secretary Michael Littlestone Prepared to stand again
 - Hon Treasurer Tom Smith Prepared to stand again
 - Committee Member. Dave Cross Proposed M Littlestone Sec Joe Tufo
 - Committee Member Don Garner Proposed M Littlestone Sec Joe Tufo
8. Proposed venues for 2025 to be agreed.
9. Any Other Business. PROPOSAL To move our AGM to our first outing in January commencing 2026 thus being able to present a final Treasurers Report rather than a provisional one every December. Proposed Tom Smith Secoder M Littlestone.
10. Presentation of Trophies, and the days prizes. Then draw the raffle.

A full afternoon tea will be served during the AGM.



Chairmans Report (summary)

St. Michael Fly Fishers Chairman Joe Tufo welcomed the members to the 2024 AGM and address the attending members. The following is the content and summary of his report.

This year has been a problematic year through weather related issues Our First outing in January 20th had to be postponed as the lake at Albury had been frozen over. We were then fortunate to be able to reschedule the following week by which time all the ice had completely disappeared. This now seems the pattern ie short sharp changes but generally this year a lot wetter than 2023 when the high dry temperatures were the problem. We later in the year were also challenged by one of the frequent storms this time by Storm Bert that forced us to cancel our visit to Avon Springs a substitute for Dever that had changed to corporate day tickets only! These changes are only made possible by the hard diligent work of Mike Littlestone in being able to rapidly communicate the issues and then reschedule in time to get a minimum number of anglers, for Avon this required Mike to make over 20 phone calls to ensure people who may have missed the email or website notification did not show up.

The committee have strived in their selection of events for the 2025 season to make it as fair as possible for members in a variety of locations from Banbury in Oxford, Canterbury in Kent, Eastbourne in Sussex and many in Dorset and Hampshire to provide an equitable spread of venues that meet the criteria or minimum numbers usually at 20 for the larger venues but occasionally 15 for the smaller. Failure to meet these objectives can lead to our losing exclusive use or paying for the member shortfall. In the last year we have managed to achieve these objectives in all cases an ensured unimpeded fishing at the some of the best venues in the south of England.

Cont:

Chairmans Report (summary) cont:



To maintain the ability to have exclusive use we need to constantly refresh the membership of the club as our average age is presently over 72, to that end we need all members to help with introducing new members. This gives the member making the introduction a 50% reduction in their membership fee the full year following the introduction.

At the same time communication by younger generations has transformed dramatically in the past decade such that social media is becoming a huge part of daily communication. We therefore all need to help by frequently visiting the website at least once a month to ensure the search engines have the optimal number of hits. The stats I see each month are actually showing a monthly reduction in these visits. We also have a Facebook page and if you use Facebook, I hope you will also use this platform to visit our page and occasionally post to the page any content that may be appropriate. Finally, we have a What's App Group, which is very useful for short / quick communication even when we are out at an event and we are struggling to catch fish if a member has hit upon the correct pattern and water depth for the fish please post it. This is also useful as a check before attending an event or having to pull out through illness. Please let Colin Bateman or Mike Littlestone know you wish to join this group by texting him your name and number and he will get you added. Please be aware this is an open channel and only unoffensive content related to fishing should be posted on it. Mikes number is 07831 349089.

In addition to social media we will be printing off a batch of A5 flyers that will be handed out to members to post on local fisheries noticeboards, these have helped in the past. To maintain the present number of 36 we need at least 6 new members each year.

The coming year is a historical one for St Michael Fly Fishers as it will be our 40th anniversary year since our formation as part of Marks and Spencer Sports and Social club in 1985. We are planning a number of special events Prizes and subsidies for these most notably at Rockbourne in April. If you have any suggestions for this special anniversary year please let either myself or a member of the committee know. Wishing you Tight Lines for the festive season and a Happy New Year.

Joe Tufo Chairman

Next meeting January 25th 2026 Albury - Surrey



HONORARY SECRETARYS REPORT 2024

Only 8 events this year including today as we had to cancel the November one to Avon Springs at the last minute thanks to Storm Bert making it unsafe to fish.

I won't go into the finite details for each venue, but I will publish them in the next newsletter for your information. I will just mention a couple of them today.

Once again Rockbourne in April proved to very popular attracting 21 anglers weighing in a total bag of 299 lbs though surprisingly did not produce the biggest fish of the season on this occasion.

Having decided to move our Pairs competition at John O Gaunt to the Autumn last year, it once again proved to be right decision, we had great day with a total of 198 lbs weighed in with 19 in attendance.

On the subject of attendance 142 members including some guests attended this years venues, which was an average of 18 which meant in some cases we failed to meet the minimum number required for exclusive use, but thanks to our excellent relationships with the fisheries we were able not to incur additional costs, and in the event of non-attendance on the day, and having paid the fishery on the prior Thursday we took day tickets in lieu which in a few instances was a cost to the club.

We really do need to meet those minimum numbers to ensure exclusive use, so attracting new members is vital as are members bringing along a guest if they can from time to time.

When I see how short we are of numbers for a particular venue I have to phone all of those not down for that outing, it becomes very frustrating, and time consuming.

In closing my sincere thanks to all those for acting as Day Captains and helping at the weigh in. More than sincere thanks must go to Tom we must speak, and or email each other virtually every day, sometimes several times a day ensuring we both make sure we give you the members the best possible fishing days we can.

I wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and most importantly a Healthy and Good New Year with Tight Lines.

Michael Littlestone Hon Sec.

SMFF Hon Treasurer's Report



TREASURER'S REPORT AND ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Introduction

I again have the honour to report on the state of the accounts for the club and this report covers the period from 1st January 2024 to the 1st December 2024. As always, the books are open to scrutiny if you so wish. This was a bit of a mixed year with some gaps and I would like to thank you all for your support in paying on time. As we planned the programme for this year, we bore in mind rising fishery costs, where it was agreed with the fisheries, we paid deposits to hold prices at previous levels.

Compilation of Accounts

The use of internet banking both for your payments and the fisheries continues to work well but it would be helpful to note that I try and pay the fisheries in advance on the Thursday before the meet. If I could have your bank payments before that day it would help me. Of course, if you wish to pay by cash or cheque I am still perfectly happy to deal with these on the day. I thank you all for your support in this. I can again report that the assistance we have received from NatWest is commendable.

We balanced the books for the period finishing up with a small excess of income over expenditure and with no liabilities. Even though one of our planned subsidised meets didn't happen, in this age of ever rising costs, the figures are comparable with last year's so the club can be said to be balanced in its dealings and able to hold its own.

We continue to achieve what we have set out to do and that is maintain a reasonable balance at the bank with any surplus providing subsidies, where appropriate, for the more expensive venues giving us a wide fishing experience. We intend, again, to use the balance we have to pay deposits to help buffer any further rising prices. However, we are also in the position to provide subsidies for some meets to help bring down the costs to you all.

Into the Future

We have discussed the subscription level and decided, in view of other rising costs and the fact that we balance the running costs of the club, to leave the current level unchanged. I do not intend to list all those who have deposits at this time as these have largely disappeared with today's meet. Any unavoidable deposits remaining will be carried over to next year's membership fees.

I have one proposal to make with regard to the reporting year:

Starting this year, I propose that the balance sheet I present today should be considered final, covering the 11 months to date. The next will be for the 13 months from 1st December 2024 to 31st December 2025. With the finalised report to the AGM at a new date in January 2026.

SMFF Reserve Bond

You are aware that in the light of the state of the accounts a few years ago we established a Reserve Bond account with NatWest. We are all very grateful to the President for the personal support he has given to this scheme. I am able to report that from interest raised this year we are able to pay a membership subsidy to bond holders for the 2025 season. I am also aware, that since the scheme started, we have new members and current members who would like to review their bond holdings. I propose, therefore, that we have a 2025 issue starting on 1st January 2025 to run for 3 months to 31st March 2025. I would welcome expressions of interest from any member. The conditions of issue etc will be published on the Members section of the website in due course this month.

I would like to thank you all, again, for your cooperation and support over this past year and this, being my report, I commend it to you.

Tom Smith Hon Treasurer.



SMFF Presidents Report

St Michael President Geoff Brooks address the attending members and as requested by our Treasurer Tom Smith asked the Committee to offer a further opportunity for members to Join the **Bondholders Fund**, this by way of a further fund offer, targeting especially our newer members. Geoff gave details and information to those interested saying that he would have "Application forms" available at our January venue for those interested in taking up this opportunity. Geoff closed his report reminding the members that the ethos of good will and harmony amongst its members has been the reason for the longevity of the club and by thanking the committee for their hard work and adding "how lucky the club was to have such a hard-working group of individuals".

Geoff Brooks President SMFF

2024 SEASONS PRIZES

MEMORIAL TROPHY IN MEMORY OF KEVIN, GODFREY, AND EDDIE

Best Bag at Avon Springs Feb
Steve Price 16lbs 5ozs

ROCKBOURNE CUP

Best bag
Brian Maguire 21lbs 10ozs

JOHN O'GAUNT PAIRS COMPETITION

Brian Bloom and Dave Cross 28lbs 6ozs

BEST FISH OF THE SEASON

Also, at Avon Springs Feb Colin Bateman 9lb 14ozs

GEORGE WILDING TROPHY

Meon Springs Best fish using Blood Worm Nymph Fly
James Cooper

A Little Tip:

If you get some vouchers from the family for Christmas and don't know what to spend them on? Here are a couple of ideas found on the internet!



Shimano Limited Pro Trusty 90nd Ayu Rod. From Stylish Anglers Japan on eBay.

A Bargain at £6,930.00

MatchCatch Extreme

Outfit/Combos
Rod, Reel, Line, Flies.
3/4/5/6/7/8WT Fly Rod

**A Bargain at
£10,088.00**



**Thomas & Thomas
Old Bamboo Fly Fishing
Rod 3pcs**

**A Bargain at
£5,522.00**

Smith Mariet Mr-8b Marrayat Fly Reel

**A Bargain at
£84,559.07**



GALLERY



GALLERY



I wish to thank those of you who have taken on the responsibility of being Day Captains at our various outings and sending me your Day Captains reports. My thanks also go to Joe Tufo for the many great photo's he has taken. To be honest without these there would be no Match Report. My thanks also to Michael Littlestone who's diligent when proof-reading the report has allowed me to rectify my many mistakes. Without the help of you all I would not be able to produce our match report.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year.

Bill Berloth



My thanks to Joe for the photo's.
You can see these and others in more detail on the SMFF web site.

