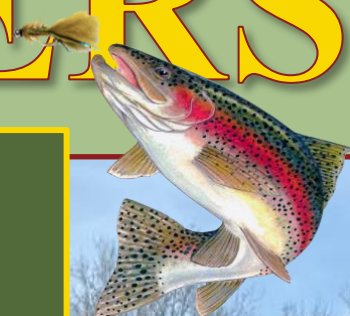
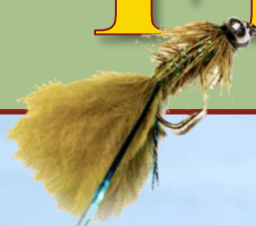




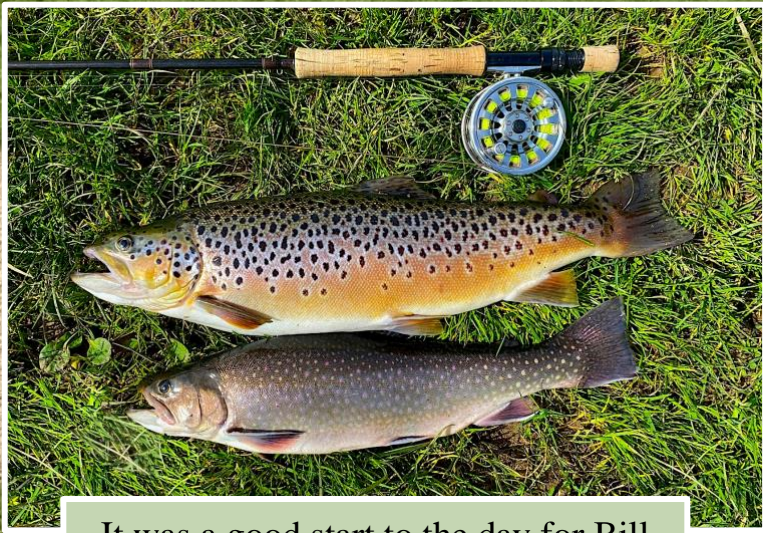
St. Michael



FLYFISHERS



ROCKBOURNE
MATCH REPORT 13th April 2024



It was a good start to the day for Bill with full finned Brown and Sparctic.

Chris, with the largest Brown of the day. A lovely fish of 6lb 6oz taken from Longacre.



DAY CAPTAIN'S MATCH REPORT

We eagerly arrived at Rockbourne Fishery. During tackle-up we discussed the weather (*it was misty*) and whether we should be using dark flies or flashy. In the event the sun came out and it was a beautiful warm day. After a bacon butty, tea, and coffee we were ready to go. There were 21 anglers, one arriving late by choice, and with the fishery divided into 5 areas there was ample room around each lake.

It was soon obvious that there were plenty of fish with many rises seen on all lakes. We had been warned the banks would be muddy after all the rain, but the lakes were not overfilled although the water was not as clear as usual. Fish were soon being landed. Usual favourites such as Damsel, Montana, GRHE, Buzzers and Dark flies of various sizes were fooling fish of all sizes. Fishing stopped at 1.00pm for an hour to rest the lakes and to allow us to take refreshments.

A number of large fish were caught on Alder and Longwater Lakes and in the afternoon those of us who had bagged up watched a number of "anglers" struggling to land their catch. Probably the most notable was a tired secretary casually casting a form of blood worm and while he watched others catching, a 9lb rainbow took him by surprise and proceeded to give him a run-a-round for many minutes. Even the fishery staff were excited.

At the end of the day 74 fish had been caught with a total weight of 298lbs 15oz. The biggest fish was caught by Geoff Brooks (9lb 8oz) and the heaviest bag was caught by Brian Maguire (21lb 10oz). Only a few Browns came out, but 8 lovely Sparctic's that put up quite a fight were caught.

A raffle was held at the end of the day.

P.S. Two senior members of the committee forgot to collect their own big fish and took someone else's fish home instead of their own.

They were PEBBLE and TIMS MOTH silly boys.

Iain Laws Day Captain

SECRETARYS REPORT APRIL 2024

Yet another great day at Rockbourne (*see Iain Laws Day Captain's report*), and our thanks to him for acting as Day Captain.

I must also say thanks to Simeon, and his team for looking after us so well, and for filling in and recording every fish caught on our weigh in sheet. It meant we did not have to do our own weigh-in scales which saved a lot of time at the end of the day. When you see the results sheet attached, I have transposed from our weigh in sheet every fish recorded, and from which lake. It makes interesting reading.

Next up Lakedown on 11th May. As Jamie Daltry has given us exclusive use, we must have a minimum of 20 rods so I am asking you now to let me know if you will be attending, please. Just a short email YES or NO.

Over that weekend the M25 will be closed again in both directions this time between Junctions 9 A243 Leatherhead and Junction10 A3 to Wisley. However, the normal route from the North London and the Home Counties is via the M25 east towards the Dartford Crossing which is not affected. From the south it looks as though you may be able to get on at Junc 9 but I am not sure. You need to check.

Michael Littlestone Hon Sec.





Rockbourn Results and Winners

Brian Maguire:

With the best Bag of the day 4 Fish at 21lb 10 oz.
Winning a Trophy and a Box of flies.

Geoff Brooks:

Best fish of the day a Fish at 9lb 8oz won a Box of flies.

Lou Fine:

Was awarded a belated prize (a box of flies) for his winning top weight at Holbury of 12lb 0oz.

Lucky Draw Raffle

Terry Burgess:

Day Ticket to Rockbourn

Chris Rasmussen Clark:

£40 Travel expenses

Other members won prizes kindly donated for the raffle.

Total Number of anglers 21

Total number of fish caught 74

GALLERY



GALLERY



A LITTLE TIP

Start Close

On rivers and stillwaters, when fishing from the bank, always fish the close water first. Trout often feed in the margins around structure. This can be close to rocks near bankside vegetation, under overhanging trees and beside and above weed beds. All which supply food and cover for the trout.

A regular mistake is to cast over fish in the excitement of making a long cast. **Think first!** A lot of the time fish are caught with quite short casts such as the roll cast. On occasions, you may need to cast long, but often short casts will catch the fish. It's also a lot easier to set the hook with a well-timed lift, especially when fishing a dry fly, stalking bug, or an emerger pattern.

A long cast however can be a must on larger rivers and larger stillwater trout fisheries, especially if they are busy and fish are being returned on catch and release tickets. Trout soon learn where the safer water is, this is when casts like the double haul and slipping line tactics can really be an advantage.



GALLERY



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

