

St. Michael

FLYFISHERS

John O'Gaunt
MATCH REPORT 26th October 2024



DAY CAPTAIN'S MATCH REPORT

John O'Gaunt – 26th October 2024

Our autumnal visit to this lovely fishery for our annual Pairs Competition started as usual, with a fine breakfast for 19 of us at the Crown Inn at Kings Somborne. This set us all up for the rest of the day and our compliments and grateful thanks must go to Jude and staff for such a grand breakfast.

The day started, as forecast, with cloud cover, very little wind and the prospect of sunny periods later in the day. The short period of heavy drizzle mid to late morning was not forecast but did not bother those who wisely wore their waterproof jackets from the outset! After the usual briefing, the 9 pairs made off to their allocated zones for the start of four 30-minute sessions followed by free roaming for those who wished/needed to top up their catch. The usual "catch one fish in each zone" and then move to the next allocated zone applied throughout the day. My grateful thanks go to Michael who was not paired and kindly took charge of the horn notification for each change of zone. Lunch was taken at leisure enabling everyone to take best advantage of the fishing.

From the outset, it was not long before rods were seen bending at various points on both lakes. Pods of fish were seen moving the surface water and the odd splashy rise suggested some feeding at the surface. There is no doubt that many of the fish fell to the charms of the damsel nymph in its various sizes, shapes and colours, but some were caught on lures and smaller nymph and bug patterns. Floating and midge/ghost tip lines were the dominant in use and there may well have been intermediate lines used as the early conditions on the large lake suggested that such a line might be successful.

By midday it was obvious that a number of us had enjoyed a very productive morning with some good fish and bag limits already achieved. As the day progressed and got brighter, the fish became more active and the water clarity on the smaller lake enabled individual fish to be spotted and targeted.

An "as required" weigh-in commenced in the early afternoon and the quality and condition of the fish quickly became apparent. All the fish were firm, fully finned and in excellent condition. It was good to see so many fish without bent or worn caudal fins and our compliments go to Keith, the Fishery Manager.

At the end of the weigh-in it was clear that we all had experienced a good day's fishing with a total of 66 fish recorded for a total weight of 198 lbs 5 oz, giving an average weight of 3.5lbs per fish and 3.5 fish per rod. The winning pairs team were Brian Bloom and Dave Cross with a combined weight of 28lbs 6oz, thus winning the Pair Trophy with each also receiving a medal, SMFF cap and bottle of wine.

Details of the other prizes and raffle winners are recorded in the Secretary's report.

Dave Martin (Day Captain)

SECRETARYS REPORT

Another excellent day at John O'Gaunt, see Dave Martins report in this Newsletter. My sincere thanks to Dave for all his help on the day, a great job as usual.

Congratulations to Dave Cross and Brian Bloom on winning the pairs competition. Yet again Mr Cross seems to be able to find the biggest fish 7lbs 12oz this time, and the second biggest of 8lb 5ozs at Chalk Springs the previous outing. (*SKILL or LUCK* 😞)?

It was good to see Dave Haskins out fishing again following his kidney transplant together with Lynne, and Andy Banting, his second outing with the club who had never been to JOG before.

Now moving on to our **November 23rd outing**, which is now at Avon Springs, not Dever Springs. The following had paid deposits for Dever which we have moved to Avon so if you are coming there is no need to let me know.

Messrs: Argent, Bateman, Berloth, Brooke, Broome, Butler, Cross, Fulton, Garner, Haskins, Laws, Littlestone, Maguire, Price, Rasmussen, Thomas, Tufo. E&OE

If you are not on this list and would like to come, then please let me know.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kindest Regards

Michael Littlestone Hon Sec.

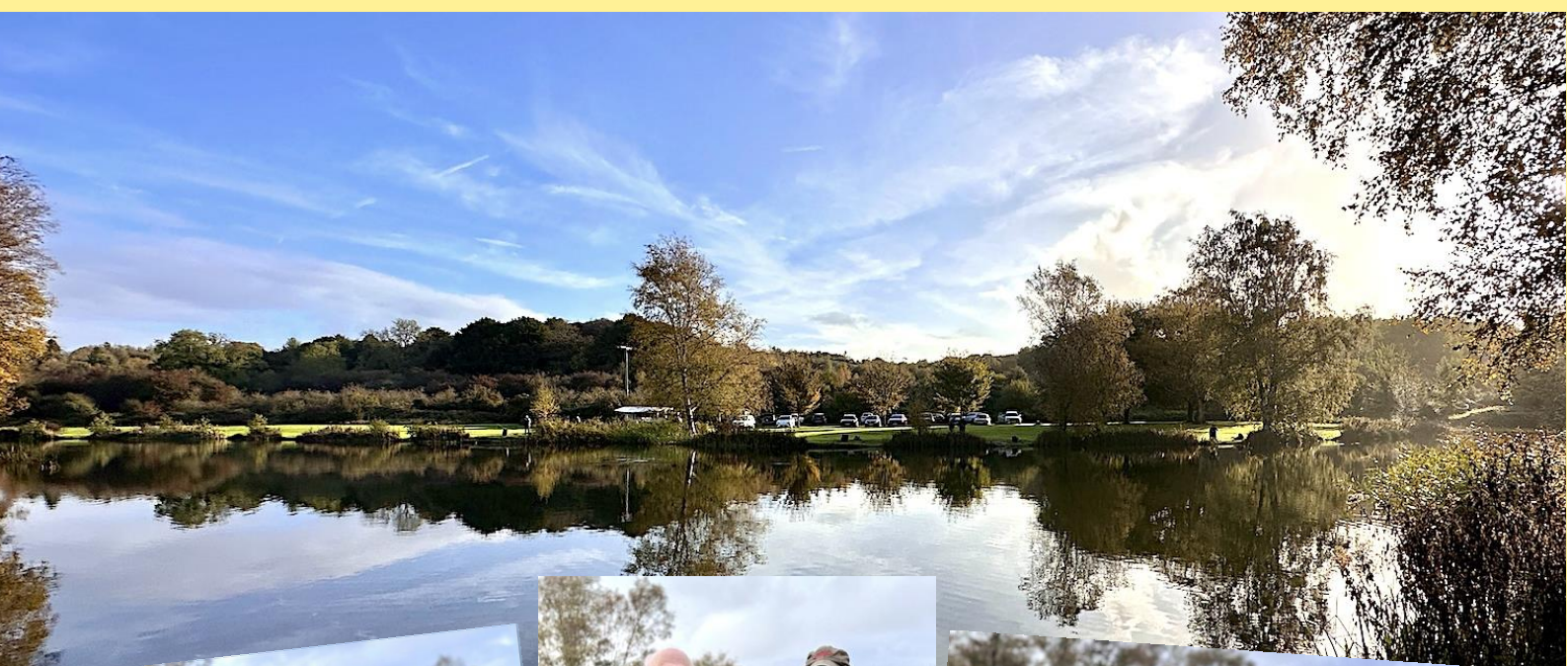
**JUST BEEN ADVISED DEVER IS
OPENING AGAIN NEXT YEAR: See side panel**

Dever Springs, the home of the English brown trout record at an astonishing 28lb 1oz, is reopening in 2025 as an exclusive, by invitation only, private fishery.

The two gin-clear lakes, beside the River Dever, have a storied history of double figure trout: browns, blues, brooks and rainbows reared on-site, a tradition that is continued today by newly appointed fishery manager Aaron Holt who is bringing back the famed Jurassic tank.

Available only through Fishing Breaks, with the number of days restricted to maintain the quality of the fishing, Dever Springs is offered for private parties of 10-20 people with lunch served in the newly refurbished Fishing Lodge with tackle and instruction provided for those who require it. It is open all year. Prices start at £245/head.





John O'Gaunt Results and Winners

John O'Gaunt Pairs Competition:

1st Place:

Caps, Wine, Medal & Trophy Winners:

Brian Bloom & Dave Cross:

With a combined weight of 28lb. 6oz.

2nd Place:

Don Garner & Dave Brooke:

With a combined weight of 26lb 13oz.

3rd Place:

Bob Fulton & Iain Laws:

With a combined weight of 24lb 11oz.

Dave Brooke:

For the 3rd best Individual Bag of the day.

4 Fish at 16lb 9oz

Bob Fulton:

With 2nd Biggest Fish: **at 6lb 4oz**

Both Winning & Box of flies.

DAVE CROSS HAD THE BEST INDIVIDUAL WEIGHT

AND THE BIGGEST FISH @ 7lb 12oz.

CLUB RULES ONLY ALLOW HIM TO WIN ONE PRIZE

ON THE DAY

Lucky Draw Raffle:

Joe Tufo

Day Ticket to John O'Gaunt

Peter Burdett:

Travel expenses £40.00

Several other prizes kindly donated to the raffle were won by members.

Total Number of anglers 19

Total number of fish caught 66

GALLERY



A Little Tip:

Reading the Water

It can pay to just sit and take your time and watch what is going on, to see what is happening. Reading water is easy once you start.

Knowing what to look for

Think about what trout like. It is good cover, which can be an overhanging tree, a stump an undercut bank, a rock where the current changes, a bolthole for safety.

Though not so important on small still waters one thing to keep in mind, trout food stuff tends to gather along seams or scum lines mostly caused by a difference in the current or wind directions, so remember to fish any apparent bubble lines. Most trout hold in or next to these seams or scum lines where in streams and rivers slower water meets faster water and makes food lanes. The best trout will hold where they can get the most food with the least effort, so watch out for the seams, scum lines and any safe cover areas and present your flies to these areas.

GALLERY



There was a very notable phenomenon that can be seen in this photo.

This was a circular area approximately 10m in diameter in the top end of Spring Lake which lasted for an hour during a rain shower. In this area there was a shoal of over 50 fish which were feasting on a massive buzzer rise. After talking to Keith, the Manager at John O'Gaunts he explained that there was a major spring outfall in that area and because the aquifers were saturated with so much heavy rain over the past few months the springs were causing the buzzer to rise and attract the large number of fish in that specific area. During the day, it was responsible for over a dozen large fish to be caught.

Joe Tufo



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

