



St. Michael



FLYFISHERS

Chalk Springs
MATCH REPORT 28th September 2024



Chalk Springs

Trout Fishery

DAY CAPTAIN'S MATCH REPORT

It was our second visit to this scenic venue in recent years, we had 17 attending two of which were members guests.

The day started with a complementary bacon and egg roll with croissants and orange juice or tea or coffee courtesy of the Club which went down well with everyone. We decided to split the venue into four zones, 40 minutes per zone and then we had 40 minutes free roaming before lunch at 12:30.

The weather was much appreciated sunshine compared to the recent rainy days leading up to the Saturday. The lakes were very clear as usual and lots of fish were visible from the start. It was a little challenging, but most people had caught at least one fish by lunchtime, myself included with just the one. However, Peter Burdette and Brian Bloom were the most productive.

Lunch was at the lodge between the south and west lake. After a bite, a cup of tea and an exchange of what flies to use (*Jo's Copper Damsels & and smaller patterns, Black Butcher seemed to be favoured*), we all ventured back for the second half. It was agreed that we'd finish about 4 pm for the weigh in, prizes and raffle.

The weather stayed good until the end of the day with most people catching their limit. There was a couple of large fish caught on the day, myself with the largest a super 9lb.6oz blue (*my last fish of the day* 🐟 *on a black minkie*) David Cross with a very nice 8lb 5oz Rainbow. Both of us winning a nice box of flies for best weight and biggest fish prizes.

The raffle was held with some nice prize's won. I think all in all we had a good day's sport, everyone enjoyed the fishing, and it was good to catch up with everyone after our summer break.

Tight lines and I hope to see you all at JOG.

Colin Bateman Day Captain.



SECRETARYS REPORT OCTOBER 2023

Great to be fishing again after the summer break, and as Colin said in his report we were blessed with nice weather and all enjoyed the day at Chalk Springs. We were delighted to welcome James Coper, a friend of Ludi Dent who very much enjoyed his day and will become a member. We look forward to seeing him again soon.

Talk about keeping in the family!

When we began to do the draw for the raffle I asked Don Garner's son Ben, who came as a guest that day, to draw the first ball, and he drew his own number winning the day ticket, and when he drew the next ball yes, you guessed it, it was his dads, who won the £40 travel expenses. **AMAZING!**

Up next is John O Gaunt on Sat 26th October

I look forward to seeing you at JOG. However, **please everyone**, when I send out the final details for each of our outings together with Tom's Day sheet, can I ask you to let me know **ASAP** if you will **not** be attending. We pay the fishery via bank transfer the Thursday before, and if you don't turn up, or at least let me know the day before it costs the club money. On another matter regarding JOG, we listened and took on board your comments about the breakfast portions so you can be assured this time it will be much better.

I can also confirm that our November 23rd outing will be at **Avon Springs**, and not **Dever Springs** as it is still closed. Further details in due course.

I look forward to seeing you all at JOG.

Kind Regards

Michael Littlestone Hon Sec.

A day at Farmoor July 24th 2024

Despite the awful weather earlier this year we did manage after a number of failed attempts to get *(although a small number of members)* a day on a reservoir.

The day was led by Tom Smith, this is a summary of the day's events.

We met as arranged around 8 am and having confirmed that our boats were ready, we paid individually, because of the differing available tickets, and collected our life jackets. Sadly, there was no chef in the café which meant no breakfast, so we missed out on a get-together at the start of the day as with normal meets.

The weather was fine, one could almost say perfect for this day's expedition. A little chilly in the breeze meant that we had a warm layer on but by the time the boats were out and we were fishing, off came the layers to a near perfect day, some breeze, some cloud, some sunshine

We almost had the reservoir to ourselves with only one or two other boats fishing, a couple of bank fishers and a small sailing class but by and large we could go where we wanted. But we needed to as we had to hunt for the fish. A tech aid identified fish down between 6 and 10 metres. While most of us were prepared for that, sinking lines appeared to be the order of the day and used by most. Of course, depending on the characteristics of the line, to get down to 8 or so meters is a long count and requires patience.

Invariably long leaders were used. In one case a ghost line was used with some success.

There was a bit of experimenting with which fly to use. In the end black snakes of differing sizes seemed to be the favourite but damsels, weighted or not, of various sorts caught fish on the way up and quite close to the surface.

Most of us fish on smaller lakes and a day on a big reservoir is a day-long experiment. One style of fishing, preferred by some, is to anchor up and fish one spot for a considerable time the boat moving round as the wind takes its fancy. This allows the fish to get used to the antics of the boat and occupants. Another, of course, is loch style, favoured in the midlands as well as the highland lochs. In this, by using a drogue or not depending on the weather conditions, the boat moves silently along. Sadly, these two styles don't really mix in the confines of some parts of the reservoir and the outboard is needed to move the drifting boat around the moored ones.

Continued, next column.

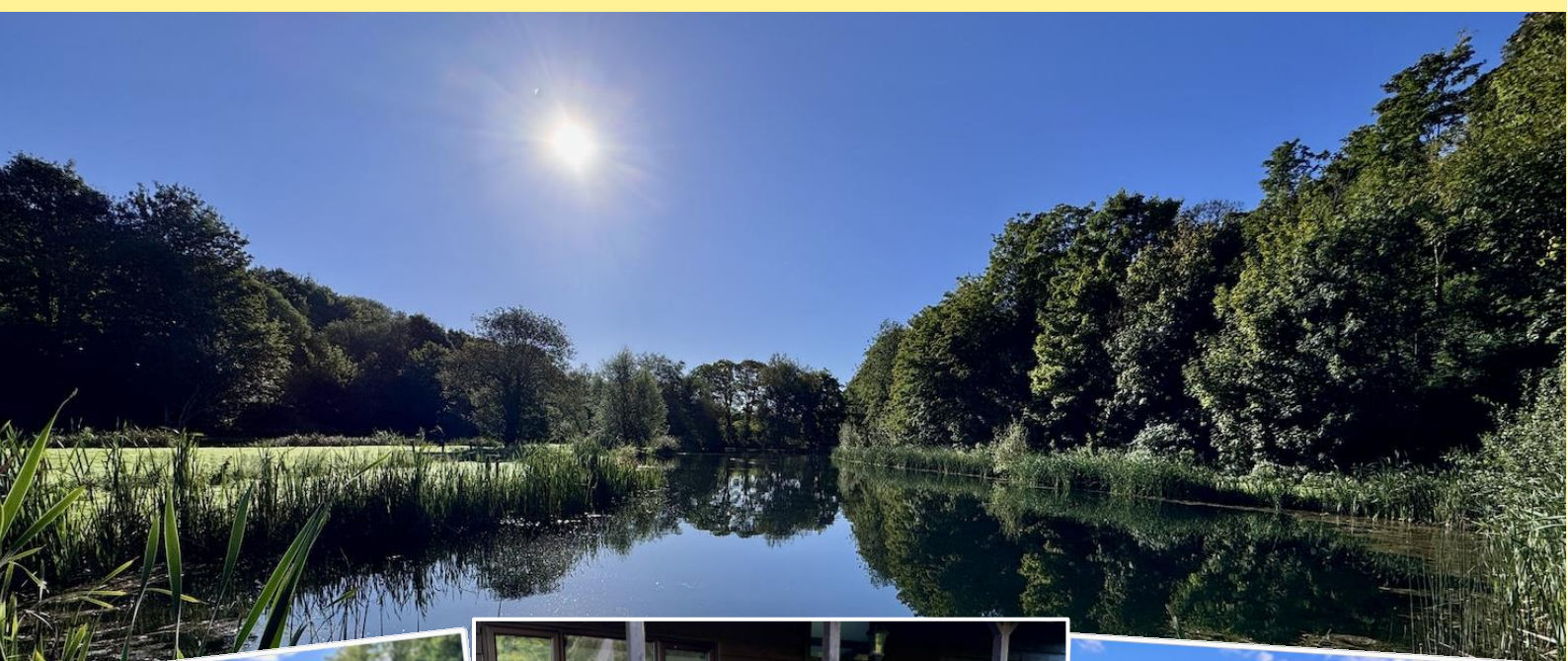
We all need to understand the different tactics and have a respect for the other boats and their crews!

I have hesitated to quote fish taken or brought to the boat or the one case of a real trophy fish being lost along with the fly, as not being a supporter of catch and release, (did you really catch 17 fish or the one stupid fish 17 times?) I understand that all those who caught fish to take did so.

All in all it appeared to be a successful social outing for the Club.

Tom Smith





CHALK SPRINGS Results and Winners

Colin Bateman:

With the best Bag of the day with

4 Fish at 16lb 6oz

Colin also caught the biggest fish of the day at 9lb 7oz but as Colin could not win both prizes,

Dave Cross:

Won a prize for his biggest fish at 8lb 5oz

Both winning a box of flies

Total Number of anglers 16

Total number of fish caught 46

Lucky Draw Raffle

Ben Garner

Day Ticket to Chalk Springs

Don Garner

£40 Travel expenses

Many other members won prizes kindly donated for the raffle.

GALLERY



Nice to see a buzzer working

A Little Tip For a visit to the Reservoirs

Fish more than one fly:

You never know which fly is going to work, so you need to find out just what does work on the day. You can increase your chances of success by fishing three or four flies at once, one to the point and one or more on droppers, often my chosen flies will consist of a bright attractive pattern such as a BLOB and some drab more naturalistic patterns such as buzzers, nymphs, crunchers or cormorants on the droppers. The trout may be drawn by the gaudiness of the attractor but end up taking one of the naturals. Fishing several flies at once will increase your catch rate.

Leave plenty of room between your flies:

If you're fishing several flies on the same leader ensure you leave plenty of room between them, as a general rule of thumb a gap of about 3 to 4 feet is recommended between each dropper, your top dropper can be tied four feet from the end of your fly line the second 3 or 4 foot below and the point fly 3 or 4 foot past that, this will give you a nice long leader with well-spaced flies. Some of the expert reservoir fishermen reckon fishing the flies any closer than this reduces your catch rate. If I'm fishing brightly coloured flies, then I like a four foot gap between them. I have also found fish can sometimes get spooked by two bright flies placed too close together.

Remember if you're fishing more than one fly leave a decent gap between each one.

Bill Berloth

GALLERY



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

