



# St. Michael Fly Fishers

## John O'Gaunt

### Match Report June 2020

#### DAY CAPTAINS REPORT

I know we were delighted to be able to go fishing again when some of the lockdown measures were eased in May, and as we had already booked John O Gaunt for 13<sup>th</sup> June we decided, if we could get close to the minimum of 20 anglers to attend we would go ahead, with what would be just the second outing of the year. Well we surpassed that figure, and 22 of us, including two guests came along.

We could not have picked a better day weather wise, dry, warm, and a gentle breeze. Socially distanced we all met at 9am for a 9.40 start. The fishery was divided into four zones, and everyone had a 40 minute session in each of the zones till 12.20, and then free roaming till 1pm when we stopped for lunch. Free roaming resumed after lunch till the weigh in.

To say the fishing was good is an understatement, not only did 17 catch their limit, quite a few before lunch, the average size of the fish was in excess of 3lbs with a three fish over 5lbs, and a few more over 4lbs. Speaking to Keith the owner he told me the fish farms, having had to keep fish fed during the lockdown, they had grown on more than usual, and consequently when they starting to supply the fisheries again he was getting a fair amount of bigger fish than normal.

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## End of day results

**Brian Bloom & Peter Burdett:** Won the **John Fuller Pairs trophy** with a combined weight of 29lb 9oz and were each presented with a bottle of wine.

**Tom Smith & Dave Martin:** Runners up with a combined weight of 28lb 8oz and were each presented with a bottle of wine.

**Michael Littlestone & Bez Sahami:** Third place with a combined weight of 26lb 13oz they were not presented with anything!

**Peter Burdett:** Top individual weight of 16lb 11oz, won a day ticket for John O Gaunt.

**Dave Martin:** Biggest fish of 5lb 10oz won, a line cutter.

**Brian Bloom:** Smallest fish at 2lb 3ozs, won a priest.

**Total No of anglers 22 Total number of fish caught 78**

## DAY CAPTAINS REPORT Continued

Back to the fishing the old Blue Flash Damsel accounted for a lot of fish, and Buzzers, Black and Green, Hares Ears , Pheasant tails etc all worked.

Come the weigh in at around 3pm, again socially distanced, we all waited to see which pair had won the Pairs Competition, it was pretty close, it looked as though Tom Smith, and his partner new member Dave Martin with a combined weight of 28lbs 8ozs had it, but we were waiting for Brian Bloom to weigh in, Peter Burdett had already weighed in with 16lbs 11ozs, then along came Brian with his 4 fish weighing in at 12lbs 14ozs, their combined weight 29lbs 9ozs thus beating Tom and Dave by 1lb 1 oz. The prizes and final results can be seen on the website under the members tab.

All in all a excellent day with 78 fish brought to the scales, weighing 262lbs 14ozs

A special mention to Tom our esteemed Treasurer for supplying all the sanitizer hand wash, and roll of paper towel which everyone used , and his help at the weigh in, and ensuring every time someone weighed in spraying the scales with anti Covid disinfectant. Tom has also expressed his thanks to everyone for paying their dues in advance. Not only does this save him a lot of time, he does not have to deal with cash and cheques on the day. We hope going forward we will continue with this practice.

*Michael Littlestone* Day Captain.





## A Little Tip

Stillwater trout are often highly pressured. Every day they'll see hundreds and hundreds of flies zipping past them at a variety of speeds. This can make them wary and although they'll often follow your fly, getting them to take it isn't always as easy as it might first appear.

Varying the retrieve speed you use - both on different retrieves and within the same retrieve can make all the difference. Don't just keep doing one foot strips at the same speed all day, or figure eight retrieve on every cast.

Try some really slow retrieves, try some normal strip retrieves, try roly polying at breakneck speed and see if you get a hit. Add pauses to your retrieve and stop for a second or two to let your fly drop before recommencing.

You'll almost certainly get extra pulls as a result.

## SECRETARYS REPORT

We were pleased to welcome new member Dave Martin at John O Gaunt, and meet Malcolm Greenhalgh, and Dave Haskins, and his wife Lynne, Malcolm, and Dave wish to join the club, and Lynne would fish with us from time to time. We look forward to seeing them again.

Thinking about September we are of the opinion that rather going to a reservoir, which doesn't suit everyone, and bearing in mind we won't have had many outings so far this year we are looking at a venue which is spring fed. We have two options on the table, Manningford, and Rockbourne. We are in touch with both venues, and will be able to confirm which soon, and let you know.

We extend our best wishes to Ian Smith who has been unwell recently, not Covid related, we wish him a speedy recovery.

Other than that I trust you, and your immediate families are keeping well, and look forward to seeing you all in September.

Kindest Regards

*Michael Littlestone* Hon Secretary









To see all the photos of the day in more detail visit the SMFF web site.