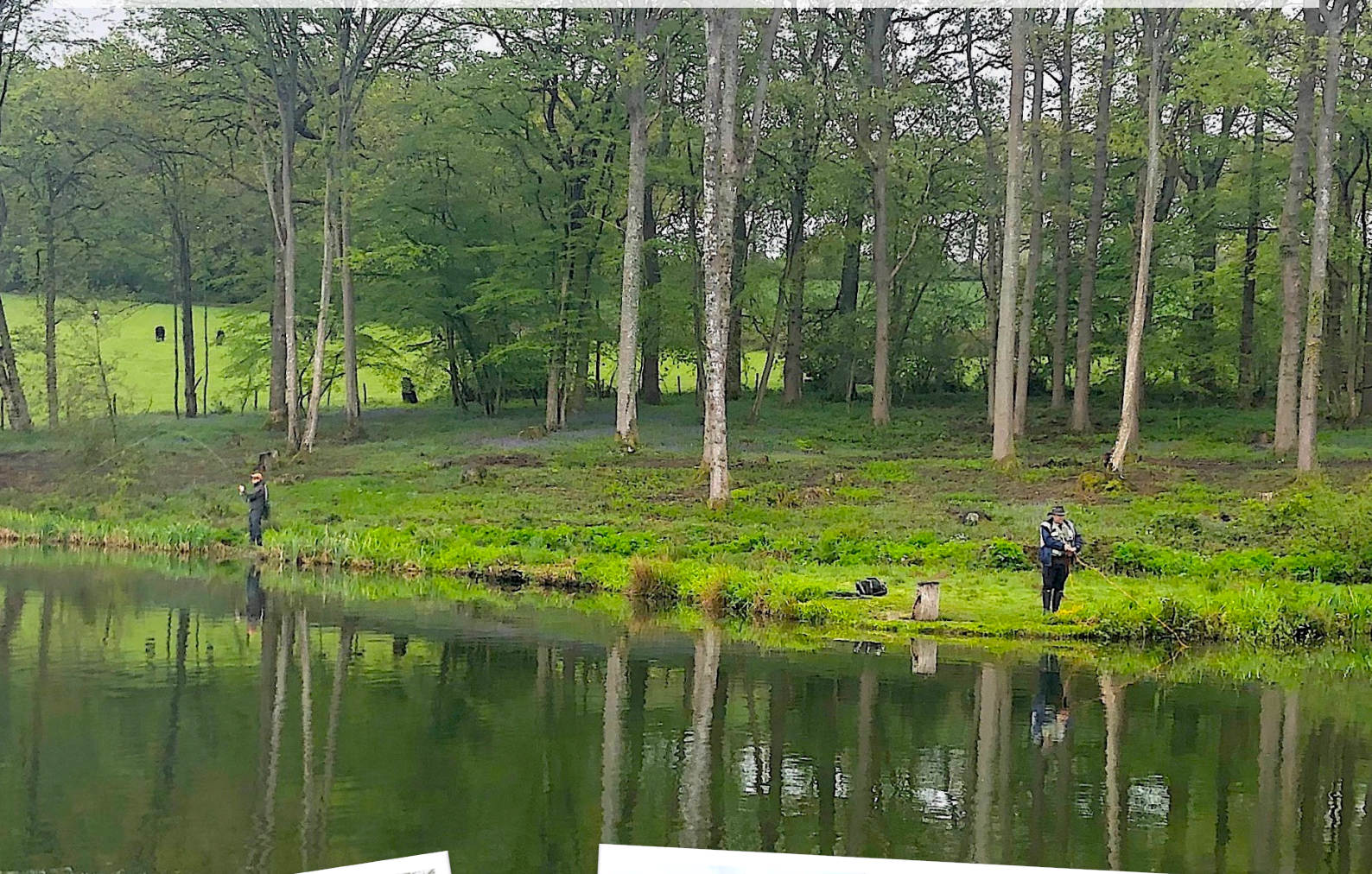




# St Michael

# FLYFISHERS

LAKEDOWN MATCH REPORT 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021



# DAY CAPTAIN'S MATCH REPORT

Their website says the following, and on this our first visit since many years ago I must agree.

*A truly beautiful place, so peaceful, just the gentle chirping of so many birds.*

*Lakedown Trout Fishery situated in the secluded Wealden valley with scenic views & no visible sign of habitation, originally designed & created in 1981 by Rock legend **Roger Daltrey**. Four spring-fed lakes totaling approximately 20 acres have an abundance of aquatic fly life "A visual assault on the senses. There can be no prettier fishery in this land. Spikes of bright yellow flag decorate the banks, which are thick with beds of rose bay willow herb, fox gloves & spotted orchid. A place where wild browns & rainbows live side by side"*

That said, 16 of turned up at 8am by which time the heaviest of the rain had eased allowing us to tackle up. Egg, and bacon baps with mugs of tea, and coffee were served, a briefing was given by **Ted** the bailiff who said the lakes were deep, on average 16 to 20 feet so suggesting intermediate lines would be best. I think many of us initially put on floaters. Anyway off we went. We had lakes 1 and 2 for our exclusive use, however we were welcome to try the other two lakes. I suggested we initially fished lakes 1, and 2 catch a couple of fish then if we wanted try the others it was fine.

It was slow going to begin with, but as we heeded Ted's advice of getting down to the fish was the answer most of us were soon catching. The faithful Blue Flash Damsel did the damage, but a Cats Whisker appeared to be the best, fished very deep, with a slowish retrieve. Despite a day of really heavy showers interspersed with very brief periods of sunshine a few members had bagged up 1pm when we stopped for lunch, others had a least caught one, or two. Those of us with fish still to catch moved off spreading themselves over the four lakes. By this time we had to contend with more very heavy showers, but fish were caught throughout the afternoon, and when we finally weighed in at 4pm nine of us had bagged up, three with 3 fish, two with 2, and 2 two with one. Nobody blanked.

The fish were in superb condition, and fought incredibly hard, I thought my last one was a really good one taking me a good few minutes to bring it to the net only to discover it was just 2lbs. We didn't see many fish coming to the surface. I expect the weather conditions played a part. I am sure had it been a warmer day and not so wet it would have been be a different story.

Having weighed in we retired to the lodge where we were very pleased to be able to welcome and spend time with **Rachael** who has taken on the role of our Website administrator, it is already very noticeable just how much of a difference **Rachael's** expertise has made.



A stunning sky over one of Lakedown's lakes

Tea and cake was made available, and the day's prizes were presented and the raffle was drawn.

On asking everyone if we should return to Lakedown next season, the answer was an emphatic **YES**.

Highlight of the day was **Steve Argent** being closely followed along the opposite side of lake two by a herd of young Bullocks, I, along with others were laughing our heads off. SO FUNNY !

*Michael Littlestone*

Day Captain



## Lakedown Results and Winners

### Colin Bateman:

Took the prize for top weight of 9lb 4oz.

### Geoff Brooks:

Took the prize for the best Rainbow of the day at 4lb 0oz

### Lucky Draw Raffle

**Michael Littlestone:** A day ticket for Lakedown

**Brian Bloom:** A pack of beers

**Bill Berloth, Rachael and A.N. Other:** A bottle of wine each.

**Total No of anglers 16**

**Total number of fish caught 51**

**Dave Haskins:** Collecting his prize for Being nearest to the secret weight at our match at Avon Springs



Picture 1: Steve Argent being watched by some of Lakedown's locals.

Pic. 2 & 3: Some sunny moments but dark clouds were never too far away.

Picture 4: A quite moment in the lodge.

## A Little Tip

### Don't stick to the floating line all day

On stillwaters, especially small or medium-sized ones, a floating line is the norm. You can easily catch fish all day using a floater, but if the fish go deep you'll need to use a weighted fly to reach them and you may struggle to keep your fly in the feeding zone or retrieve fast enough with only a floating line in your arsenal.

Most competition fly fishers use several lines and change them throughout the day depending on the conditions.

Most stillwaters, you'll be fine with a good floating line, an intermediate (which sinks very slowly) and a sinking line - maybe a Di3 or Di5 (which sink at 3-5 inches per second).

Buy a spare spool and take at least an intermediate line with you so you can swop the floater if conditions change. It will mean you'll get your flies into the feeding zone faster and you'll be able to use retrieves you couldn't with a floating line, which could be enough to catch you some extra fish.



Please visit the SMFF web site to see these and more of Joe's great photo's in more detail

