



## ST MICHAEL FLYFISHERS

### MARCH NEWSLETTER



16 members, and 10 guests took part in our first outing of the season to Lechlade, thus ensuring we had exclusivity. It was good to see some past members, Dave Wightman, Lou Fine, who was so determined to get among the fish he decided to fall in, and David Holding, whilst not fishing I believe acted as Geoff Brooks' gillie for the day. In addition Andrew Coles from Orvis, and 3 of his chums from The Liars fishing club (**What a great name**) David Gould a friend of Bill Berloth, Han Kuilderd a good friend of Derek, and last but by no means least Steve Robinson from the John Lewis club. To all of you thanks for coming, and I trust you all enjoyed your day.

I left Steve Robinson's name till last, as during breakfast he told us the John Lewis club are sponsoring a Fishing For Forces day on Sat July 11<sup>th</sup> at Meon Springs, and SMFF members are invited to attend this charity day. Full details, and costs will be known shortly, but as a rough guide to the day it will be bacon butties etc on arrival, a luncheon with wine, a raffle, and an auction. More importantly our chance to give something back to those who fought so bravely, and were badly injured in the line of duty. I believe we are the only club being invited, and I am sure once we know the details we will be happy support this very worthy cause.

Our thanks to Joe Tufo for taking on the role of Day Captain, and his excellent report is attached, as are the final results. **Ah** I hear certain members saying, why are there no decimal pound weights. Well your committee is proposing a different way of awarding the trophy for the overall season's weight, in as much we will introduce a points based handicap system thus giving more members the opportunity of winning this one trophy. The following remain unchanged. Most number of fish in a season, Biggest Fish, Best Bag at any venue, and The Pairs Trophy. Prizes at each outing will remain the same, Biggest bag, Biggest fish, and the Secret Weight.

**NEXT OUTING.** Avon Springs Sat 21<sup>st</sup> March. It looks like a good number of members, and one guest attending. Still room for 2 or 3 more. Final details will be sent out on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Tight Lines

*Michael Littlestone*

Hon Secretary

## Joe's Day Captain Report

Welcome to our first Captains report of the year for our visit to Lechlade on February 28th 2014

The day started bright, dry and early at 7.30! The weather was 50 shades of Grey but hearts minds and expectations were high, however the temperature was a balmy 8°C. We were also pleased to welcome three guests from Orvis to our first start of the year, hopefully they had a great day and may become future members.

I gave the team talk at 8.15 and explained that we would work to a zonal system (it seems to work in football!) to try to ensure that everyone had a crack at the hot spots ie catch one fish in a zone and move to the next zone to catch the next and also with an emphasis on moving back from the water after catching the fish to allow it a chance to recover. This worked well as most people by Breakfast time and 3 zones had caught at least one fish, with the exception of me! The fly that had been most described as successful was a white Cats Whiskers, even though I had tried and failed with three different variants of said fly. The possible reason for my lack of success I found was pointed out by Peter Burdett who promptly put Kevin Doherty to rights with the advice to fish deep and very slow which promptly got Kevin his first fish of 8lbs on Zone 1 with a medium sized cats whisker. I

feel with hindsight (O to be a time travelling fly fisherman), I struggled as I was fishing floating line with about 16 feet of Orvis fluorocarbon leader whereas the most successful by that time had been using either slow intermediates or sinking tip lines. We stopped at 10.30 for a hearty well prepared and welcomed breakfast by the excellent cooks of Lechlade.



This allowed the water to calm

down and recover. During breakfast we all participated in a great raffle, once again organised by the generous Geoff Brooks who provided a continuous stream of welcome and innovative prizes.

After breakfast at 11.30, we allowed the slow starters with no fish to head out first, me included. I promptly went to zone one and caught a 7lb rainbow on a black and green fished very slowly on a figure of eight retrieve having let the fly sink for at least 6-7 seconds. Strange how peoples perception of **seconds** varies so much, two anglers, not to be named suggested 20 seconds or longer! With a depth of approximately 10 feet in most of the water this resulted in many weed trawls as it only typically needs 1 second per foot for a fluorocarbon leader as it is already denser than water plus the goldhead on the fly. The other challenge, which was better suited to a sinking tip is to keep the retrieve slow otherwise you are pulling the fly back up through the water. In this interactive age the Orvis Tome on sinking rates is worth a read click:-

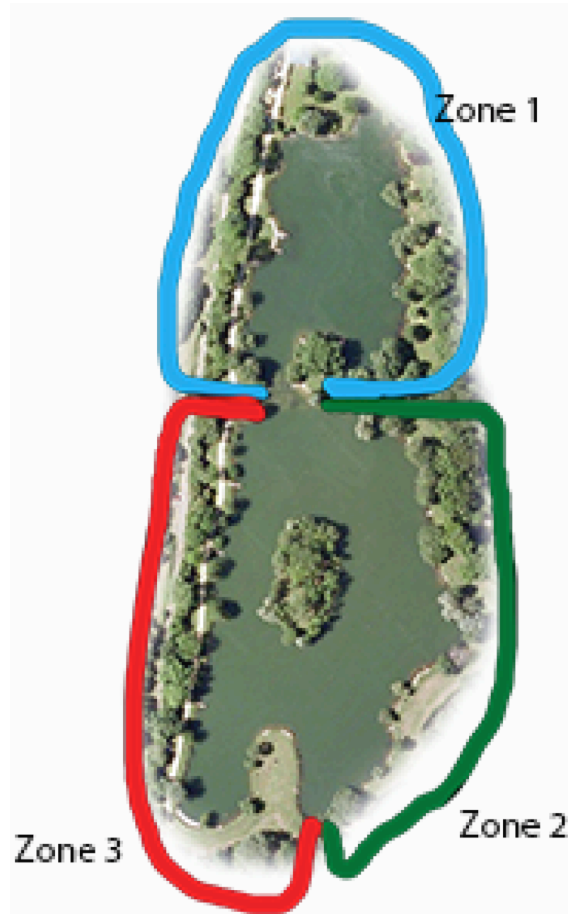
<https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=4AWpR-p474cC&pg=PA26&lpg=PA26&dq=orvis+lines+sinking+rates&source=bl&ots=N5AWwK6lfG&sig=rFMcKrZBwJZ2momXdfdshRCN5e8&hl=en&sa=X&ei=Mh74Vla3Hcmf7gbSq4D4CA&ved=0CF8Q6AEwBg#v=onepage&q=orvis%20lines%20sinking%20rates&f=false>

I then promptly moved to north side of Zone 2 opposite the pull ferry and once again using a slow retrieved goldhead black and green managed to pull in another 7lb rainbow that fought very well.

I continued back to zone 1, but unfortunately was unsuccessful in adding to my tally by then 2pm a few anglers had caught three rainbows but the best fish seen by me was by far Geoff Brooks 10lb well proportioned Brownie.

All images are seen in our attached gallery and slideshow.

A few of us chose to try the boats after 1pm and apart from Bez catching a rainbow in zone 1 it did not prove to be as productive as the bank fishing. We have found in the past that the boats can sometimes help to get the fish to move in from the centre of the lakes to the margins, where the bank anglers can have better success. The day finished with a trumpet of the hooter at 4



pm with **everyone** having caught at least one fish. The best bag went to Martin Eastment with four fish for 33lb 11oz.

He was closely followed by George Wilding, David Broome and Bob Fulton who also bagged up with four fish. The best fish for the day should have been Martins but as we cannot award two prizes to the same angler

Geoff Brooks was presented with the best fish prize for his 10lb rainbow. In an effort to spread out the prizes we tried a secret weight prize, to avoid all the myriad of questions from members trying to get a head start on what it was likely to be, I asked my assistant Emy (responsible for our wonderful new website) to pick a weight and write it on the back of a card that she placed in a thick envelope and sealed this turned out to be 12lbs and was won by Han Kuilderd with a weight of 12lb 3 oz. We hope you enjoy this new presentation of our newsletter in an interactive manner and the new video slideshow that makes it easier to view all the pictures. Grateful for any **sensible suggestions**, gags, material and images that are a per pro to our new website



We are next off to Avon Springs on March 21st we look forward to seeing you all there.

NB Picture above courtesy of Geoff Brooks