**West Wilts Fly Fishers Guild**

**Wednesday 13th October 2021 7.30pm Leigh Park Hotel, B-on-A**

**Present:**

Jon Jonik (President & interim Treasurer), Roger Henderson (Secretary), Gerry Barnes, Colin Burbedge, Robert Eadie, Simon Steel, Jonathan Owens,Malcolm Bond, Tim Pullen, Peter Marshall-Bailey, Maurice Dyer, David Edwards, Bryan Hussey, Richard Cripps, Elliot McBryde, Robin Sewell, Kathryn Sewell (guest), Elliot McBryde (guest).

1. **Apologies:** Paul Marchant, Mick Marchant,David Little,John De Cesare,Charles Freemantle, Russell Bond.
2. **Minutes of August Guild meeting and Matters Arising.**

Accepted without amendment. No matters arising.

1. **November mtg Wed 13th November - ‘Review of the Season on the River Frome**

Roger asked members to send to him their Angler Returns for The River Frome by the end of October as the data is a critical part of his report. At the meeting we will plan the 2022 season including stocking, bank management sessions and improving access & the river habitat. Roger has been in contact with the EA re the possibility of stocking grayling and received a positive response. Members will be asked for their views on this.

1. **The BIG Raffle**

Gerry launched two raffles; both to be drawn at our 40th Anniversary Dinner on Friday 26th November – one for substantial ‘angling related’ (to be decided) prizes and one for smaller table prizes donated on the night by guests. Tickets for both raffles are £1 each.

1. **Forthcoming activities:**
2. **Christmas Hamper competition Sun 21st November at Manningford Fishery**

Approx 20 members will be taking part which means it will be an excellent social gathering. Jon has circulated an email with details. A Christmas hamper value approx £60 will presented for the heaviest 4 fish bag.

The order in which members signed up will be used to allocate initial fishing positions with the rule that after catching two fish in any spot members must move to another spot to allow others the opportunity to catch there.

All those who have notified Jon that they will be coming will be contacted during the week before to confirm the arrangements.

1. **40th Anniversary Dinner Friday 26th November.**

To-date Jon has received 20 confirmations i.e. payment of £23 per person. More members indicated that they would be attending. Jon emphasised that payment of the £23 was required to confirm booking. It is hoped numbers will be around 25/30

1. **Planning our 2022 programme**

Member were asked for suggestions. Fly-tying sessions for all levels of ability/experience in January February and a Tackle Auction have already been suggested.

If members have suggestions for guest speakers please let Roger know with contact details.

**AOB**

1. The meeting supported the issuing of a single fishing ticket to Owen & Alana who live in the house where we are able to park at the bottom of Vagg’s Hill and that we should give them a thankyou gift (as we did for the landowners when we fished The Mole in Devon) for their hospitality over the year.
2. Although members who won trophies for the 2020 season were only presented with them in August they will need to be returned at the November meeting - our last gathering of 2021 (unless members make other arrangements with Roger) to be engraved and presented again in the New Year.

**Next Mtg Wednesday 10th November**

**Part 2**

**Guest speaker- Richard Cripps**

**Subject – Hedgerows:**

This was a thoroughly engrossing hands-on, interactive 90 minutes, packed with fascinating nuggets about the trees etc that comprise our hedgerows and how our for-bears exploited the special qualities each tree/shrub had to help them manage their farms and feed their families.

Richard stressed how vital it was that farmers stop flaying hedgerows in the autumn which destroys the fruit – berries etc wildlife depends on to survive the winter.

We are very grateful to Richard.