**West Wilts Fly Fishers Guild**

**Meeting Wednesday 8th June 2022 7.30pm Leigh Park Hotel, B-on-A**

**Present:**

Jon Jonik, John De Cesare, Roger Henderson, Neil Soni, Gerry Barnes, Ron Jones, Richard Cripps,

1. **Apologies:**

Malcolm Bond, Russell Bond, Tim Pullen, Bryan Hussey, David Little, Simon Steel.

1. **Minutes of May Guild meeting and Matters Arising:**

Accepted without amendment.

1. **2022 programme updates inc:**

1. **Chew Reservoir Boat-Day for The Chew Cup Wednesday 7th September**

Six boats have been reserved. To date Jon, Simon Steel and Peter Marshall-Bailey have confirmed. We will start with the traditional breakfast together in the Chew Lodge restaurant. To reserve a seat please email Jon - jon.jonik@gmail.com.

1. **Coarse fishing day on The Frome**

To be discussed at September meeting. The full stretch of our water from Tellisford Packhorse bridge down to Snarlton Farm will be included.

1. **Tackle Auction at our October meeting**

Members wishing to submit Lots are asked to send details - ideally with a photo - to Jonathan Owens – email jonathan.owens75@googlemail.com for cataloguing to go on our website and bring the Lot to the September meeting (no meeting July or August).

It was agreed that a minimum of 25% will go to Guild funds, but members may wish to donate up to the full 100% to the Guild.

1. **River Frome update inc:**
2. **Stocking Tues 31st May**

This went very well, and Roger thanked members who helped. Full write-up in the next News-Roundup.

Richard informed the meeting that putting large trout into any location will push out resident fish. Members will be asked to consider this when deciding stocking policy for 2023 at the November meeting when we review the 2022 season.

1. **Bank management – Thursday 26th May and Friday 3rd June**

Two sessions had been organised and it was possible to clear access points and footpath down to beat 12 beyond the flume. It was hot, hard work and Jon thanked members for helping. Beat 11 on the last straight to the flume still needs work so if any members are feeling energetic are invited to go down to clear the nettles, but not lone working please in case of accidents. Write-up and photos in next News-Roundup.

 iii) **Environment Agency visit Mon 6th June re: grayling introduction**

Roger and Jon met with our two local Environment Agency officers for them to make an initial assessment of the suitability of the beats downstream of the flume for introducing grayling. They were very positive as beat 12 appears to have the range of habitats required for the lifecycle of grayling – swift flow, areas of shall water and clean gravel, some deep runs & pools, ranunculus beds and even water lilies for juveniles to find cover. These are early days in the decision-making process but a new technique of taking core samples of the riverbed has been suggested as a next step. One or both of the EA officers has agreed to attend our ‘River Meeting’ on Wed 9th November, to give some background on the grayling re-introduction trials already underway, and answer members questions.

Roger offered to send to members the *Grayling Conservation Guide* produced by The Grayling Research Trust which he had been sent. Post meeting note – sent to John De C and Richard C.

Any member wishing to receive a copy please email Roger

1. **New Guild Website**

Jon thanked Simon and James for their work on the new website which has been designed for smartphone viewing. Access is simplified and it is easy to update. Some data from the old website will slowly be moved across and hopefully it will become a key communication tool for such things as arranging fishing trips.

1. **AOB**
2. It was raised again that we should consider affiliation with the Grayling Society. Jon will make enquiries.
3. Jon gave an update on membership enquiries received through the website. Three members have not renewed for the 2022 season. One coarse member Dave Dobson will not be renewing so we have only 4 Coarse fishing members. Jon has received several enquiries re Fly and Coarse membership. We have accepted Dan Perret’s and his 12-year-old son coarse fishing application subject to receiving their photo ids with their application. Good to see youngsters fishing with their fathers.

**Next meeting – Wednesday 14th September 2022 7.30pm at Leigh Park Hotel, B-on-A**

**NB no meeting in July and August**