

The Fly Dressers' Guild 2023 AGM

Secretary's Report

This year has seen the usual blend of total peace and quiet with periods of frantic activity.

The renewal of the insurance went smoothly but then the illness of our treasurer Stephen Millington meant we had difficulties changing our mandate at Barclays bank to add our new treasurer, John Butler and two other signatories to the account. This should have been a simple process however their incompetence meant that it took almost six months to finish off. Hopefully they will be more professional in the future.

Our membership seem on the whole to be contented although there were a few issues in late summer and autumn with the Guild Fly-Tying Awards programme. We were unaware that David Taylor was unwell and clearly had been for some time. As his obituary in *Flydresser* stated, he was quite a private person. His circumstances meant he didn't always respond promptly and occasionally not at all. This left some members a bit disgruntled however, once the circumstances had been explained they were mollified and I can report that I have finally got caught up (unless you know different!) and all outstanding Guild awards certificates have gone out. While I'm happy to continue in this role short term I really need someone to take on the responsibility for maintaining the high standards we set and hope to keep achieving.

I am also looking after the fly-tying competition and while entries are not flooding in, traditionally it has been rather "lastminute.com", with most arriving with just a few days to spare. Of those that have arrived, a number have done so without completed entry forms and in some cases, with only the person's membership number on the box, no name or contact details. The rules clearly state that a completed entry form must accompany each entry, to facilitate the administration of the competition. In future any entries that are sent in without a completed entry form will be disqualified.

I hope our idea of holding the AGM at the BFFI this year proves popular with our members and I urge as many as possible to take an interest and maybe offer suggestions or help with the running of our organisation. I feel it is important that no one holds office for so long that they become stale and jaded and while I have no intention of resigning this year, thought must be given to succession for several of our roles.

My thanks to all the committee members who have fulfilled their roles so well this year, helping the Guild to continue despite all current events and financial troubles being stacked against it.

I look forwards to 2023 with hope and expectation that the Guild will continue and grow with a view to regaining our pre-pandemic numbers and helping branches to restart their programmes.

Chris Reeves
February 2023