

STONEY AND FRIENDS 20th Yateley Fish-in 2016



£12,100+ raised over the weekend

£500,000+ raised in total for Macmillan

As a special anniversary for Stoney and Friends – the 20th annual event at Yateley, the event generated even more interest than usual, with a few individuals pledging to carry out “hair-raising” (erasing) events of their own to coincide with the weekend.

In addition to this, 2016 was the year Stoney and Friends were able to confirm they had raised in accumulation over £500,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

In respect of “hair-erasing”, Julie Isaacs pledged to have her hair shaved to a No1 whilst Drennan Cup Chaser, Gardner Rep and all round self-respected specialist angler Mike Lyddon pledged to make homeless the 1000’s of insects and bugs living in his face foliage prior to the infamous Stoney Raffle.

Julie Isaacs started the proceedings with her husband Chris cutting off then clipping her hair live on Facebook on the Wednesday evening. Please see the Stoney and Friends Facebook page for the video. This deed raised £480 and set the tone for the weekend. In appreciation of this brave deed, Allan Stone presented Julie with bottle of fizz.



On the Thursday Allan Stone was joined by fellow committee members/friends Graham Platter, Chris Isaacs, Julie Isaacs, and Mike Lyddon to prepare for the deluge of anglers due at the crack of dawn on Friday. By 06.00 most of the anglers had arrived and were swapping healthy if not polite banter in the car park, the type you expect from people who have known each other for years but only occasionally see each other. Eventually, after the bio-security and fish care kit checks, Allan let them loose to choose their swims and join the syndicate members already on the lakes but who had paid to be part of the fish-in. Dan Ibbott from Yateley Angling Centre, having moved from the North Lake to the Car Park, and having never fished the Car Park Lake before didn't take long to break his PB with a 43lb Mirror Carp known as Paddy – an amazing feat with so many anglers on the lake and the social atmosphere of the event meaning the usual peace and tranquillity of the venue was not intact.

Over on the North Lake, Mark 9mm Willerton, had an amazing weekend's fishing. Admittedly he had been on the lake for a few days prior to the event, and by all accounts had fed the fish more maggots than most use in a life time, but fair play, this resulted in a hit of over 20 fish including two 40's – something never done before. At one stage it was felt every fish in the lake was sitting waiting to crawl up his rod, but Lee Graves proved otherwise by expertly fooling "The Scattered Lin" at 37lb on the nose.

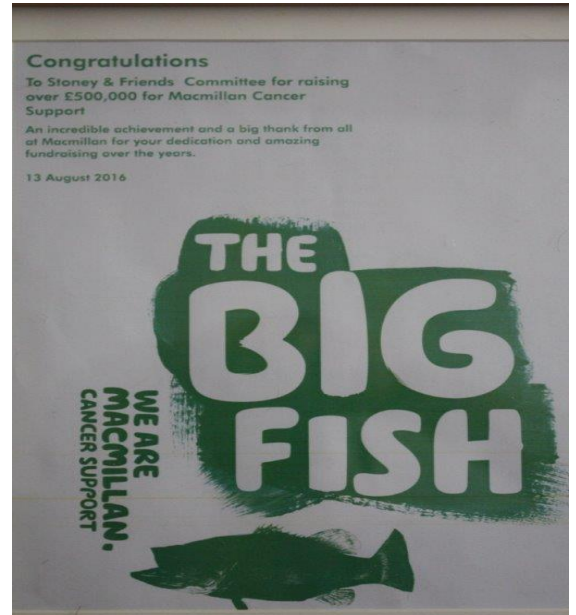
Not only did Lee show his angling prowess, but he was also one of the top fund raisers (through a sponsored weight loss via Just Giving) and can be seen below collecting a token of appreciation for this from Allan Stone.



During the day on Saturday, Stoney and Friends Committee had their AGM. We were joined as usual by Judy from Macmillan and Rob Moon the Area Manager for the South East (see above). Rob made a nice speech acknowledging the £500,000 we had raised, highlighting our "unusualness" as a committee by only having two ladies on it (now three since Saturday) and presented us with a certificate of congratulations. He also pointed out that the funds we had raised equated to training and employing a Macmillan Nurse for 10 years – something everyone involved in should be extremely proud of.

Once the AGM was complete, the committee members drifted off, some to fish, some home, and Allan and Tug Wilson to continue working for the cause by walking round the four lakes collecting sponsorship and selling raffle tickets.

Back to the fishing, Lance Andrews-Mason and his son Harry were not their usual “hauling” self’s but not surprisingly the only fish they managed, a Jack of about a pound did fall to Harry, outdoing his Dad again. For the first time they brought their dog with them who clearly decided that they needed a lesson in paying attention to their rods.



Harry as always, along with Lance, puts a lot of effort into raising sponsorship for the event and yet again he was one of the top fund raisers. In recognition of this Allan Stone awarded Harry a gift of our appreciation (see below).



As with every Stoney and Friends Yateley Fish-in, one of the highlights is the raffle that closes the event on the Sunday afternoon. This year however, before the raffle could commence, the “freeing” of insects/bugs from Mike Lyddon’s facial foliage had to occur first. This was schedule to occur at 12.00 but in normal fashion, especially where either Stoney or Lyddon are involved, and where guaranteed when both involved, was delayed until nearer 13.00.

Despite the gruesome two-some being friends for over 20 years, Allan clearly was going to show Mike no mercy. The video was rolling and being broadcast live on Facebook for all to enjoy. Once Stoney had decided that trying to stop Mike breathing wasn’t going to work, he moved on to making him look stupid (as if Mike needed any help!!) A job half done.

Mike had been extremely active in promoting his shave for Macmillan and as a result had raised a very healthy amount in sponsorship. Appreciating the effort of going above and beyond is not limited to just the attendees so Mike's effort was rewarded by the Committee. This also shows the finished look and improvement to Mr Lyddon – you never know someone other than his mother may love him now!!



As usual, the event was rounded off with a brief speech by our secretary Tug Wilson who made a point of not only thanking our sponsors who without their would be no raffle, but also Martin Gardener for generously donating the venue yet again, and obviously every who attended and made the event such a great success. Without Martin's generosity in donating the venue, and

without his syndicate members supporting his donation, this event would not take place and thus Macmillan and Stoney and Friends would lose our largest annual revenue event so it can't be stressed enough how grateful we are to Martin.



Allan presented the final gift of appreciation to Vince Scully for his fundraising efforts.



Vince Scully and Stoney



Michael Owen and Stoney

Lastly, and while not directly related to the Yateley Fish-in, Michael Owen visited on the Sunday to present Stoney and Friends with £750 which he had raised through getting every contributor to Tel's Tale book to sign the book and then by auctioning it. Michael is a regular contributor to Stoney and Friends and we are grateful for his efforts.

Our Sponsors for this event were:

Yateley Angling Centre. Gardner Tackle. Korda.

Drennan. Fox International. Sticky Baits.

Trakker. CC.Moore. Gold Label Tackle. Atomic.

Mpress / Calm Productions. Enterprise Tackle.

Hinders. The Tackle Box. Keith Williams.

Uxbridge Rovers AC. Copdock Mill. Richworth.

Bait Box. 5 Star Baits. Grant & Stone Plumbers.

Johnson Ross. Tacklefanatics. Vince Scully.