



XVIIth FUNDRAISING AUCTION 2024

to be hosted online at

[Monnow Auction Online](https://www.flyfishing.co.uk/forums/)

Use this link or navigate to [Flyfishing.co.uk/forums](https://www.flyfishing.co.uk/forums/)
and find Charity Events and Fundraising section,
where there is a sub forum for the Monnow Auction.

from 2nd to 10th March 2024

Those who do not wish to register at

www.flyfishing.co.uk/forums/

can lodge a proxy bid

with the MRA Treasurer, Patrick Lloyd

Email: **treasurer@monnow.org**

Phone/Text/WhatsApp: **07768 366660**

(Proxy bids must be received by 9th March please)

A few notes on our 2024 MRA Auction:

- 1 Donors have been very generous again this year, giving us some fabulous lots. Please don't let them, or the Monnow trout, down by seeking to acquire a bargain. This is a charitable fundraising effort – let the size of your bids reflect your support.
- 2 The MRA Auction XVII will **close at 10 p.m. on Sunday 10th March**. Any bids posted after this time will not be counted.
- 3 The final (highest) bidder at the close will be responsible for payment as posted.
- 4 Payment should be made as soon as possible after the close. Either by direct transfer to the MRA bank - Account No. 02433069 Sort Code 30-00-03 or by a cheque made payable to the Monnow Rivers Association and sent to The Treasurer, Old Church Farmhouse, Penallt, Monmouth, NP25 4AW Please reference either transfer or cheque with relevant lot no(s)
- 5 On receipt of payment I will contact you with details of what happens next. Either I will send you a PM or email with details of how you redeem your lot (contact details for fishing, etc.) or I will ask for your address to allow me to post any physical lots.
- 6 Please be prompt with payment and don't expect me to perform instant miracles with delivery. The large number of lots will take some time to administer and will not be much fun without your cooperation.
- 7 Thank you all for your support – I hope that you enjoy some satisfying days on the River Monnow this season.

MONNOW AUCTION XVII – CATALOGUE OF LOTS

MRA Auction XVII Lot 1: A Day for 2 Rods on the Dorset Frome

LOT 1

A day's fishing on the "Home Beat" on the Dorset Frome for two people, on a day that suits both parties. To be taken by the end of 2024.

This is chalk stream paradise.

With a central fishing hut, alfresco dining area and bbq, making it a great beat to fly fish with friends, the fishing hut is next to a pretty bridge pool with plenty of room to relax and enjoy lunch with a glass of wine.

The "Home Beat" makes up a mile of exciting and challenging fly fishing; we also have half a mile of carrier north of the main beat, slightly wilder fishing suitable for those who love to wade.

A great variation of fishing, classic chalk stream features including riffles, pools, plenty of glides and overhanging trees, great sight fishing in crystal clear water.

The fishing is for totally wild Brown Trout and huge Grayling, for which the Frome is famous.

"We have had grayling to well over FOUR pounds on this beat, and a wild trout of over SEVEN pounds."

Kindly donated by John Aplin and Casterbridge Fisheries

MRA Auction XVII Lot 2: A Day for 2 Rods on the Arrow

LOT 2

One day for two rods on the river Arrow. The Arrow is a little gem that begins in the heart of the Radnorshire Forest flowing easterly before joining the Lugg below Leominster. Much of the water has a variety of deep pools and fast riffles and steady glides with relatively easy wading over gravel and bedrock. It is relatively lightly fished, which when combined with the abundance of flylife (and a good mayfly hatch to boot) it's easy to see why there have been some eye-popping catches including grayling well over 2lbs.

Kindly Donated by Tony Norman LAFA

MRA Auction XVII Lot 3: A Day's Fishing on the Little River Avon

LOT 3

A day's fishing on the Little River Avon, South Gloucestershire in the company of Alan Warner. A fabulous gem of a limestone-fed, small river – its clear waters are home to plenty of fly life – LDOs, small olives, BWO and Mayfly in season. It is a small river that meanders through the meadows with fast riffles and glides and plenty of *ranunculus* to test you. It requires stealth and accurate casting but the rewards can be more than worth it. A little treasure!

Kindly donated by Alan Warner.

MRA Auction XVII Lot 4: A Day on the Staffordshire Streams with Kris Kent

LOT 4

A hosted day on Staffordshire streams with Angling Trust Campaigns and Advocacy Manager and small streams fanatic, Kris Kent. Pork pie and beer included,

Kindly donated by Kris Kent

MRA Auction XVII Lot 5: A Day with Julian Erbsloeh, Fly Fishing for Pike

LOT 5

A day's river fly fishing for pike on the river Adur in Sussex, accompanied by Julian Erbsloeh.

"There is a decent chance of a good fish on the right day and I will throw a riverside picnic/bbq in as well.

Not for pussies, this is dirty business in a filthy river, climbing up and down muddy banks and walking for miles! None of that manicured banks shit, proper predator hunting.

I'll chuck in a few flies too!"

Julian has won the prestigious Hanak Grayling Festival on the Dee for the last two years and has successfully avoided making the English team for the past 5 years.

Kindly donated by Julian Erbsloeh

MRA Auction XVII Lot 6: An Accompanied Day on the Teme.

LOT 6

One accompanied day on Leintwardine Fishing Club waters on the river Teme. The Club was founded in 1848 and has 3 miles above and 6 miles below Leintwardine. Fly fishing for grayling and trout, the opportunity to fish this part of the Teme rarely comes along. Date to be agreed in 2024.

Kindly donated by Stephen Barnes

MRA Auction XVII Lot 7: Dryfly with Denny at Skenfrith

LOT 7

A day's fishing below the bridge at Skenfrith, guided by Robert Denny (aka crane fly), who knows the water better than most and will provide good company, sage advice and a pint at the Bell.

Kindly donated by Robert Denny and Russell Good

MRA Auction XVII Lot 8: A Session on a Secret Monnow Beat with Tigermoth

LOT 8

The infamous Tigermoth will be your guide for the outing and will take you to one of his favourite Monnowland haunts in search of some wonderful wild trout – a secret beat that's hardly ever fished but is noted for its large trout.

"Let's go for a day in May if we can, then you've real chance of connecting with a 2lb+ fish"

Kindly donated by Dave Smith (aka Tigermoth)

MRA Auction XVII Lot 9: A Guided Day with Lyn Davies – River Loughor or Towy.

LOT 9

An opportunity to enjoy some of the wonderful wild trout fishing in West Wales with Lyn Davis. Lyn is a highly accomplished angler and experienced guide/instructor. He has fished these rivers since childhood and knows them like the back of his hand. Expect to learn plenty and enjoy some great craic!

Kindly Donated by Lyn Davies

MRA Auction XVII Lot 10: A day fishing the Usk with Gareth Lewis.

LOT 10

A day's fishing with Gareth Lewis on the River Usk near Abergavenny. On behalf of the Gwent Angling Society, enjoy one of our flagship beats, offering superb dry fly fishing in beautiful surroundings and for wonderful trout. Lunch included.

Winning this lot will change the way you fish. The complexities of casting, presentation and probably catching will be revealed by a master of his art!

Donated by Gareth Lewis

MRA Auction XVII Lot 11: A Guided Day for 1 Rod on the Upper Monnow

LOT 11

A day on the Oldcastle beat of the Monnow, guided by Andrew Grenow. Just upstream of the Monnow Lodge beat, this lot is best taken before the end of June. Lightly fished and benignly neglected it can produce some surprises!

Kindly donated by Andrew Grenow

MRA Auction XVII Lot 12: A Day for 1 Rod on Garway beats

LOT 12

A day for 1 rod on Garway waters – now 6 beats of the main Monnow, as well as a wilderness stretch of the Dore.

“Some of the best wild trout fishing in the catchment.”

Donated by GFFC

MRA Auction XVII Lot 13: A Guided Day for 1 Rod on Garway beats

LOT 13

A day for 1 rod on Garway waters – now 6 beats of the main Monnow, as well as a wilderness stretch of the Dore.

Guided, or more accurately accompanied, by StJohn Millinczuk, GFFC Secretary, who knows the waters well and should be able to give you a chance of a great day's fishing.

“Some of the best wild trout fishing in the catchment.”

Donated by GFFC & StJohn Millinczuk

MRA Auction XVII Lot 14: A Day for 2 Rods on Private Middle Monnow Beat

LOT 14

A day for 2 rods on a rarely available private beat on the Middle Monnow. Not many anglers have fished here so there could be some nice surprises!

Kindly donated by Stephen Moore

MRA Auction XVII Lot 15: Day for 1 Rod on Lodge's Water

LOT 15

A day for one rod on one of the best and most varied middle beats of the Monnow - Charlie Lodge's water. The river here is extraordinary – the only section of the Monnow that's properly braided into multiple channels. With fast riffles and gentle glides, deep holes and a mixture of bedrock and gravel to wade there is some pure escapism to found on this magical and hard-to-get-onto stretch. Prolific fly hatches and trout up to 2lbs – this is one of the best examples of lightly fished private syndicate water on the middle Monnow that you are likely to ever fish. One of the 'Monnow Mafia' favourites – when we can get on it...

Kindly donated by Charlie Lodge

MRA Auction XVII Lot 16: Day for 1 Rod on Lodge's Water

LOT 16

A day for one rod on one of the best and most varied middle beats of the Monnow - Charlie Lodge's water. The river here is extraordinary – the only section of the Monnow that's properly braided into multiple channels. With fast riffles and gentle glides, deep holes and a mixture of bedrock and gravel to wade there is some pure escapism to found on this magical and hard-to-get-onto stretch. Prolific fly hatches and trout up to 2lbs – this is one of the best examples of lightly fished private syndicate water on the middle Monnow that you are likely to ever fish. One of the 'Monnow Mafia' favourites – when we can get on it...

Kindly donated by Charlie Lodge

MRA Auction XVII Lot 17: Day for 1 Rod on Ling's water (outside mayfly)

LOT 17

A day for one rod on one of the secretive middle beats of the Monnow – The Ling water. Lightly fished (no day tickets) and home to some rather 'special' fish – this is as good as Monnow fishing for wild brownies gets. Varied water with lots of prolific stretches - most people never get to see all of the water as the hatches can be extraordinary and the rising fish can keep you fixed in one stretch for hours. If the potential for a 'special' fish is your thing – this is the day's fishing you always wanted. Mouth-watering is the only way to describe it.

To be taken after 16th June 2024

Kindly donated by Chris Ling.

MRA Auction XVII Lot 18: Day for 1 Rod on Ling's Water (outside mayfly)

LOT 18

A day for one rod on one of the secretive middle beats of the Monnow – The Ling water. Lightly fished (no day tickets) and home to some rather 'special' fish – this is as good as Monnow fishing for wild brownies gets. Varied water with lots of prolific stretches - most people never get to see all of the water as the hatches can be extraordinary and the rising fish can keep you fixed in one stretch for hours. If the potential for a 'special' fish is your thing – this is the day's fishing you always wanted. Mouth-watering is the only way to describe it.

To be taken after 16th June 2024

Kindly donated by Chris Ling.

MRA Auction XVII Lot 19: Day for 1 Rod on Tregate water

LOT 19

A day for one rod on the Tregate water. Tregate Anglers' is one of the most famous old clubs on the Monnow. With 8 beats to choose from there is simply every type of fishing to be had for wild trout as well as grayling. The occasional marked stockie might still show in catches but the Club has ceased all stocking of farmed trout from 2024. As with most of the Monnow there are no day tickets so the chance to fish these beats comes very rarely and, as most of us can testify, when she is in form there are simply few finer. Each season produces a good number of very chunky wild fish!

A real chance of a Monnow red letter day!

Kindly donated by TAC

MRA Auction XVII Lot 20: Day for 1 Rod on Tregate water

LOT 20

A day for one rod on the Tregate water. Tregate Anglers' is one of the most famous old clubs on the Monnow. With 8 beats to choose from there is simply every type of fishing to be had for wild trout as well as grayling. The occasional marked stockie might still show in catches but the Club has ceased all stocking of farmed trout from 2024. As with most of the Monnow there are no day tickets so the chance to fish these beats comes very rarely and, as most of us can testify, when she is in form there are simply few finer. Each season produces a good number of very chunky wild fish!

A real chance of a Monnow red letter day!

Kindly donated by TAC

MRA Auction XVII Lot 21: A 2-Rod Day, Private Monnow Beat below Grosmont

LOT 21

A day for 2 rods on a very private beat below Grosmont. This 2 mile stretch probably represents the cream of the middle Monnow and is rarely available to non-family members. Some "significant" trout have been caught here!! Nuff said.

Donated by Janie Anderson & Lynne Earle

MRA Auction XVII Lot 22: Day for 2 Rods above Skenfrith

LOT 22

One day for two rods - River Monnow above Skenfrith.

Another delightfully secluded and highly private beat on the main river. Wild trout and grayling abound here, with some big brutes lurking in the shadows of this tree-lined stretch. An excellent piece of fishing, very rarely available and seldom even fished.

Kindly donated by Linda Fitzsimmons

MRA Auction XVII Lot 23: A Day for 1 or 2 Rods on the Monnow Lodge beat

LOT 23

A day for 1 or 2 rods on the Monnow Lodge beat – about three quarters of a mile of rarely fished water above the Honddu confluence. There are some surprisingly good fish here that have seldom seen an artificial fly. The winning bidder could be in for a great day.

Kindly donated by Cedric Matthison

MRA Auction XVII Lot 24: A Day on the Monnow with Jon Brett-Harris

LOT 24

A day on the Monnow hosted by Jon Harris, who will show you some of the finest fishing spots the middle river can offer. Jon has fished the Usk and Wye catchments for many seasons and considers the Monnow his home from home.

He writes passionately and entertainingly for the Fly Culture magazine as well as other publications.

Jon is also offering “a very fine lunch” for the winning bidder. To be taken at any time during the season, including prime mayfly.

Kindly donated by Jon ‘The Butler’ Harris

MRA Auction XVII Lot 25: A Day on the Usk with Keith White

LOT 25

A day fishing the Ty Mawr beat on the Usk with Keith White.

Some incredible hatches with plenty of leopard-spotted trout and more than the occasional lump. Keith is an experienced angler and a long time friend of the Monnow.

Kindly donated by Keith White & GAS

MRA Auction XVII Lot 26: Two Guest Tickets for MTAA Waters

Lot 26

Two guest tickets to fish the Mertyr Tydfill Angling Alliance waters. Choose from the Taff, Tarrel, Taf Fechan and 5 beats on the Usk.

South Wales fishing at its best.

Donated by MTAA

MRA Auction XVII Lot 27: Annual Membership of MTAA for 2024 Season

Lot 27

Annual membership for 2024 season of Merthyr Tydfil Angling Alliance. A whole season to enjoy fishing on waters on the Usk (5 beats), Taff, Tarrell and Taf Fechan. Along with access to several reservoirs and other stillwaters. <https://www.mtaa.co.uk/our-waters/rivers/>

Welsh fishing at its most special with some extremely large wild brown trout caught each year by canny anglers.

A wonderful opportunity to arrange your entire year's fishing.

Donated by MTAA Committee

MRA Auction XVII Lot 28: A Day's Barbel Fishing on the Wye with George Woodward

LOT 28

A day's barbel fishing on the Wye. The day to be arranged with George Woodward, who will decide venue based on prevailing river conditions. George will advise when it's best to go as the Wye can fluctuate quite a bit during the year (according to Sherlock) and these beats deserve to be fished at the best water height.

Some would say that it's worth a considerable sum just to spend the day with George, whose encyclopaedic knowledge of the Wye and its natural history is extraordinary.

Donated by George Woodward

MRA Auction XVI Lot 29: Barbel Fishing on the Wye with Rob Fox

LOT 29

A day on the Old Harp Fishery at Hoarwithy on the river Wye, trotting for barbel with Rob Fox, an experienced angler and entertaining companion.

Kindly donated by Rob Fox

MRA Auction XVI Lot 30: Pike Fishing Day on Chew with Jethro Binns

LOT 30

Jethro Binns of the legendary Fluff Chuckers has offered an introductory day to fly fishing for pike on the mighty Chew reservoir.

Check out the film Jethro produced with Orvis that showcased why fly fishing for pike has become such a popular pursuit in recent times.

<https://www.orvis.co.uk/blogs/explore-orvis/orvis-uk-s-short-film-taith>

You'll spend the day on the water with Jethro learning how to fool these apex predators. All tackle will be provided along with coffee and lunch. Your boat ticket will be included in the bid.

Kindly donated by Jethro Binns

MRA Auction XVI Lot 31: A Winter Grayling Day with Sam McCubbin Western

LOT 31

A day for one rod on the upper Wye or Severn for winter grayling, guided by Sam McCubbin Western.

Kindly donated by Sam McCubbin Western

MRA Auction XVI Lot 32: A Day's Coarse Fishing with Split Cane

LOT 32

A day's fishing with split cane, hosted by Neil Hotchin. Either fishing for barbel on a secluded stretch of the middle Severn near Bewdley or carp on an old estate lake near Droitwich. Winning bidder's choice.

Tackle provided as needed.

Donated by Neil Hotchin

MRA Auction XVII Lot 33: A Dozen Dry Flies Tied for the Monnow.

LOT 33

A dozen dry flies, tied by St.John Milinczuk specifically to catch trout on the Monnow. These flies work and may help you realise, when your usual choices fail, that trout can actually be caught on the river Monnow if you give them what they want. Several seasons of keen observation have honed these designs to deadly efficiency!

Donated by St.John Milinczuk

MRA Auction XVII Lot 34: Four Dozen Barbless Flies

LOT 34

Four dozen flies. Six of each pattern – all tied on barbless hooks.

- Blue Winged Olive Thorax #18
- Rusty Spinner #14
- Sedge Dark Dun CdC #14
- Elk Hair Olive Caddis #14
- Grey Wulff #14
- Pheasant Tail Nymph #16
- Gold Rib Hare's Ear Nymph #16
- Hare's Ear Dark Beadhead nymph #18

Donated by P

MRA Auction XVII Lot 35: A Dozen All Season River Flies from Gareth Lewis

Lot 35

A dozen 'All-Season' flies for river trout - complete with fly box:

- 2 x Chironomid (Midge) Emerger, size 16
- 2 x Olive Paradun, size 16
- 2 x March Brown CDC Emerger, size 14
- 2 x Snowshoe Rabbit Emerger, size 14
- 2 x 'It Oughta be Outlawed' (IOBO), size 16
- 2 x Monnow Mayfly, size 12

The box will cover your dry fly needs when emerging ephemeroptera are on the water and are my own go-to when fishing my home waters of the Usk, Monnow, and Ewenny, and any other trout stream in fact.

All patterns are tied using the highest quality materials, including Fulling Mill hooks/materials and Whiting Farms Genetic Dry Fly hackles.

Donated by Gareth Lewis

<http://www.garethlewisflyfishing.com/>

MRA Auction XVII Lot 36: Early Season Flies Tied by Dave Britain

LOT 36

Early season river flies tied by Dave Brittain:

- 3 x Jinglers
- 2 x Jingle Hammers
- 2 x Olive Klinkhammers
- 2 x CDC emergers
- 2 x DHE's
- 2 x CDC LDO's
- 2 x F Flies

A sometime coarse angler, Dave is also an accomplished river fisherman and a reliable tyer of flies that regularly catch fish.

All you need to have a successful early season in one box.

Kindly donated by Dave Brittain

MRA Auction XVII Lot 37: A Selection of Parachute Flies Tied by Dave Brittain

LOT 37

A selection of Parachutes and Klinkhammers tied by Dave Brittain.
Tied mainly on partridge hooks, these are river specials, sizes #14 to #18

Kindly donated by Dave Brittain.

MRA Auction XVII Lot 38: Six Mayflies by Dave Brittain

LOT 38

6 x Mr P Mayfly specials #10

A deadly selection – you too can be a duffer!

“All I can say is that one of these caught me my best Monnow trout in 2023” MrP

Kindly donated by Dave Brittain.

MRA Auction XVII Lot 39: A Selection of Dry Flies Tied by Terry Bromwell

LOT 39

A selection of Early Season dry flies from Terry Bromwell.

A once-upon-a-time captain of the gold medal winning Welsh Fly Fishing Team, Terry knows more than most about catching fish and the flies that work.

Kindly donated by Terry Bromwell

MRA Auction XVII Lot 40: Fly Tying Kit – Green Mean Catching Machine

LOT 40

The Green Mean Catching Machine lure - a great Icelandic pattern to use on those Autumn/Winter trips to the water.

Green Mean Catching Machine kit contains:

- Ahrex FW581 Barbless Hooks (10 each of sizes 8, 10 & 12)
- Semperfli Classic Black 8/0 Waxed Thread
- Ice Dubbing (Green)
- Grizzly Hackle (size #16)
- 3D Eyes (Gold/Black)
- Pre-Tied Sample Green Mean Catching Machine

Contained inside each kit is a leaflet which will direct you to a secret page on our website where a video can be accessed, showing full close-up tying instructions, details on the materials used and a brief history of the fly. There's also a bonus video on how to fish the green Mean Catching Machine lure/streamer.

Kindly donated by Richard Fieldhouse, Barbless Fly Company

MRA Auction XVII Lot 41: Fly Tying Kit – Griffith's Bling Gnat & Crazy Palmer

LOT 41

The kit is based around the Griffith's Gnat, but with a twist - this kit allows you to tie two different variants of the fly: a Griffith's Bling Gnat and a Crazy Palmer.

These small dry flies are perfect for targeting both Trout and Grayling on rivers and stillwaters and are some of the most successful patterns used throughout the year - the warmer the weather, the smaller the hook to be used.

Griffith's Bling Gnat & Crazy Palmer kit contains:

- AHREX FW503 hooks (10 each of sizes 16, 18 & 20)
- Semperfli Classic Black 12/0 Thread
- Grizzly Dry Fly Hackle
- Krystal Flash
- Ice Peacock Dubbing Mix
- Brown/Red Dubbing Mix
- Pre-Tied Sample Griffith's Gnat & Crazy Palmer

Contained inside each kit is a leaflet which will direct you to a secret page on our website where a video can be accessed, showing full close-up tying instructions, details on the materials used and a brief history of the fly. There's also a bonus video on how to fish the Griffith's Gnat and Crazy Palmer dry flies.

Kindly donated by Richard Fieldhouse, Barbless Fly Company

MRA Auction XVII Lot 42: A Superb Selection of Dry Flies from Simon Clarke

LOT 42

A selection of dry flies tied by Simon Clarke that will catch you fish from early season March Brown and Large Brook Dun hatches, Olive hatches though to the Mayfly. 5 patterns, 3 of each, 15 flies in total.

A current member of the England Fly Fishing Team for 2024 European Championships (Poland) and 5 Nations Championships (France) later this year. Simon's flies have the potential to massively improve your catch success.

Kindly Donated by Simon Clarke

MRA Auction XVII Lot 43: A3 Print – Tying of a Classic Salmon Fly

LOT 43

Tying of a Classic Salmon Fly - A3 Print by 'The Feather Mechanic' Gordon van der Spuy, the famed South African actor, artist, writer, fly tyer and fly fisherman. The print will be professionally backed.

Kindly donated by Simon Clarke

MRA Auction XVII Lot 44: Signed Copy of Wild Lakes of Wales and Selection of Flies.

LOT 44

Wild Lakes of Wales – An Anglers Guide is a book written by Ceri Thomas (of Garry Evans) and Alan Parfitt about fishing for wild trout on the upland lakes of Wales. Beautifully illustrated with breath-taking photography, the 194 page book profiles 50 wild day ticket lakes (llyns) with an image of a brown trout captured from each llyn by the authors. *Wild Lakes of Wales* delves into tactics and flies, with essays on trout and the Welsh lakes that they inhabit.

Signed by both authors, the book also includes 'Tales from the Hills' – a series of adventures and excursions undertaken by Ceri and Alan in search of Welsh wild trout.

If you fancy exploring the wild llynoed of Wales then this is your bible and tour guide all in one.

The lot also includes a selection of deadly wild brown trout flies, as featured in the book. These extremely effective patterns have been developed for stillwater brown trout fishing on upland waters by the authors, Ceri Thomas and Alan Parfitt.

Kindly donated by Ceri Thomas and Garry Evans Tackle

MRA Auction XVII Lot 45: Thirty Barbless Sub-surface Flies

LOT 45

Thirty sub-surface flies. Six each of 5 patterns – all tied on barbless hooks.

- Pheasant Tail Nymph #12
- Gold Rib Hare's Ear Nymph #12
- Alexandra wet #14
- Butcher wet #14
- Peter Ross wet #14

Perfect for anglers, living on the dark side, who consider it acceptable to plumb the depths.

Donated by P

MRA Auction XVII Lot 46: Three Tapered Dry Fly Leaders Tied by Matt Eastham

LOT 46

Pack of three tapered dry fly leaders hand tied by Trout & Salmon magazine writer, Matt Eastham. The leaders are tied to a formula Matt has fine-tuned over years of testing. They measure 11' long and terminate in a tippet ring which allows the addition of 2-4' of tippet, to give an overall leader length of 13-15'.

Matt subjects his leaders to a special heat treatment which greatly reduces memory and increases suppleness. The result is a superior dry fly leader, perfectly tailored to the stalking of large, wild brown trout.

Kindly donated by Matt Eastham

MRA Auction XVII Lot 47: A Hand-crafted Bamboo Flybox – Monnow Social

LOT 47

Professional craftsman-made, unique, high quality laminated bamboo wood and veneer fly box, measuring approx 119mm x 78mm x 34mm.

With laser-engraved map of Monnow Watering Holes and hard foam inserts to base and lid.

In a somewhat throwaway, plastic-dominated age, something to keep and treasure!

Kindly donated by Nick Reeves

MRA Auction XVII Lot 48: A Hand-crafted Bamboo Flybox – Monnow Valley

LOT 48

Professional craftsman-made, unique, high quality laminated bamboo wood and veneer fly box, measuring approx 119mm x 78mm x 34mm.

With laser-engraved map of the Monnow catchment and hard foam inserts to base and lid.

In a somewhat throwaway, plastic-dominated age, something to keep and treasure!

Kindly donated by Nick Reeves

MRA Auction XV Lot 49: Yew Wood Fly Tying Vice Stand

LOT 49

Solid Yew wood fly tying vice base fitted with custom solid aluminium vice stem mount, machined to accept a 10mm stem (very common).

Hard wax/oil polish finished and subtly laser engraved with a rising trout image.

Measures 165mm x 110mm and weighted with lead internally and weighs 2½lb

Donated by Nick Reeves

MRA Auction XVII Lot 50: 500g of Infamous Biltong by Simon Clarke

LOT 50

500g of the infamous biltong made by the great braai master himself, Simon Clarke.

This stuff is an important and delicious addition to your kit before venturing out into the bush (or the river).

First experienced by most of us at The Monnow Social, this is a perfect way to delay casting to a tricky trout sufficiently to succeed, especially if you've given up the weed.

Note: this biltong lot is handmade to order so please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

Kindly donated by Simon Clarke

MRA Auction XVII Lot 51: 500g of Infamous Biltong by Simon Clarke

LOT 51

500g of the infamous biltong made by the great braai master himself, Simon Clarke.

This stuff is an important and delicious addition to your kit before venturing out into the bush (or the river).

First experienced by most of us at The Monnow Social, this is a perfect way to delay casting to a tricky trout sufficiently to succeed, especially if you've given up the weed.

Note: this biltong lot is handmade to order so please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

Kindly donated by Simon Clarke

MRA Auction XVII Lot 52: A Meal for Two at the Bridge Inn, Kentchurch

LOT 52

A meal for two at the newly refreshed Bridge Inn at Kentchurch.

With its location by the river and reputation for excellent food, this is an ideal opportunity to end your day's fishing by either celebrating your success or indeed drowning your sorrows!

Kindly donated by Jamie at The Bridge

MRA Auction XVII Lot 53: Two 4 day VIP Tickets to 2000Trees Festival

LOT 53

Two 4 day VIP*** Tickets inc Thursday early entry for 2000Trees Music Festival 10th - 13th July 2024 at Upcote Farm, Nr Cheltenham, Glos.

The multi-award-winning 2000Trees festival is a 3 day extravaganza set in the stunning Cotswold Hills. You'll get 3 nights camping, a friendly, intimate atmosphere plus amazing food and locally produced ciders, ales & lagers. Described as one of the friendliest festivals you'll ever go to, it's perfect to attend with a group of mates or on your own, because you're guaranteed to make new friends.

Most of all 2000trees is about the music and we'll give over 130 of the best bands that the world has to offer.

Britain's Coolest Festival – **Kerrang! Magazine 2018**

The UK's coolest independent festival – **Total Guitar**

The 'anti mainstream festival' you should go to – **Metro**

It is, and always has been, a place where music is champion – **Upset**

See www.2000trees.co.uk for more details.

“The best weekend of your summer guaranteed”

***VIP status includes: - Backstage camping & access to our VIP backstage bar. - Chance to watch a band of your choice from the side of the stage. - Glass of bubbly on arrival. - Priority entrance, car parking. - Free 2000trees merchandise goody bag (T-Shirt, programme & loads of other goodies).

Kindly donated by Simon Maltas (via Neil Marfell)

MRA Auction XVII Lot 54: Two 4 day VIP tickets for ArcTanGent Music Festival

LOT 54

Two 4 day VIP*** tickets inc Thursday early entry for ArcTanGent Music Festival 14th – 17th August at Fernhill Farm, Nr Bristol.

ArcTanGent is a critically acclaimed, independent festival and since 2013 we've been delivering line-ups you won't find anywhere else on Earth.

Here is a quick list of some things you might want to know about us...

- We were winner of Best Small Festival at the UK Festival Awards 2018 and we were also shortlisted for the Best Line-up award.
- Our 90+ acts play across four alternating stages on a relatively compact site, so there is no chance of missing your favourite band.
- We have surely the friendliest and most chilled audience you'll find at any festival.
- Camping is included for the whole weekend or you can upgrade to several glamping options if you want to experience the festival in style.
- We put a huge amount of effort into sourcing the best food traders a festival can buy. And we promise you'll love our range of independent and local breweries.
- Every night ends with our infamous silent disco from 11pm to 3am. Trust us, this has to be seen to be believed!

Come and escape reality for a few days and join the ATG family.

Capacity is strictly limited to 5000. If you like it loud but friendly – this is the one for you! More details at www.arctangent.co.uk “The best bands you'll see this year”

***VIP status includes: - Backstage camping & access to our VIP backstage bar. - Chance to watch a band of your choice from the side of the stage. - Glass of bubbly on arrival. - Priority entrance, car parking. - Free merchandise goody bag (T-Shirt & programme).

Kindly donated by Simon Maltas (via Neil Marfell)

This auction is really important. It's our main annual event to raise funds to continue our work on Himalayan Balsam (& Mink) control on the Monnow and tributaries – we're aiming to be the first major catchment in UK to eradicate the wretched weed – after 13 years and over 14,500 hours work we're almost there and, with your help, we'll get it done.

Thanks for your support.