

English Police - v- English Fly Fishers Association  
Match Report

The inaugural event was held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Rutland Water and like the earlier match against the Tri Services in March, we hope to have this event on an annual basis in years to come.

The team was formed from the England team members who had attended the 5 Nations event in September and from some of those who, although had qualified as part of the England Team but could not attend that event and some last minute replacements from the membership.

As with the Tri Services match, I hope that the future teams will consist primarily of members who have qualified for the England team at the National Championships the previous year.

The weather was cold with bright spells but the wind was very strong and not far short of the limits for the fishery to call off the event. Thankfully we were able to fish and everyone returned to the harbour at the close of play, safe and well.

As expected, the methods were more or less the same as that of the Tri Services match the previous month, HiD lines pulling blobs and boobies at a fast rate of knots to keep up with them!

The boats headed off in every direction with 6 or 7 heading down to Dickensons and Road End. Drifting off Road End towards Dickenson, first cast – fish on, great feeling, right tactics, right position, everything spot on! The excitement was short lived – in fact very short lived, within seconds fish off – snapped clean off! Meanwhile, boat partner Mark Searle on his first cast, double hook up but only one to the boat!

What a start!

During the course of the day the wind picked up and dropped off several times and unfortunately for Mark, he got a regular, good old fashioned lashing with my cast as the wind played havoc with my casting.

Mark and myself hooked and lost more fish than we managed to land which was very frustrating and annoying, good solid takes and fighting fish were regularly throwing the hooks or spitting out the good old barbless hooks with some ease!!

The top England Police bag was John Comer who dispatched 2 fish and returned a further 6 for a total weight of 16lb 1oz.

The top overall bag was Peter Hartley (EFFA) who had a total weight of 17lb 3oz.

Well Done chaps.

The team prize was won by The EFFA who caught 86 fish with a total weight of 174lb 1oz.

The EPFFA had 82 fish for a total weight of 162lb 7oz.

After the event we all retired to the lodge for a presentation dinner and chat.

Although the wind caused some discomfort, the overall event was very enjoyable day and although the results didn't go our way, the match was fished in a very friendly and sporting manner with new friendships being made on both sides.

Thanks to everyone who supported the event.