

The 2014 Home International - Report

The 2014 Home Internationals were hosted by the EPFFA and held at Grafham Water and all four Home Nations were represented. Several competitors practiced on the water for the days leading up to the practice day and the fish were very hard to find and catch. Spirits among some competitors were rock bottom after a somewhat cold, wet and miserable practice day. The England team was however well organised by Gary Haskins (Capt.) and Dave Summers (V. Capt.) and team members were sent to all areas of the water in search of fish. Several areas were identified as possible holding areas for the fish and following a comprehensive de-brief' tactics for the match day were discussed.

The weather on match day started off as the practice day had finished, a cold north easterly breeze blowing across the water, with low cloud and mist preventing any sun from taking the chill off the air. Several boats immediately headed towards the A & G buoys and Dam whilst others headed off towards S & T buoys, the water tower and Sanctuary Bay areas. Those who ventured up to the dam saw bank anglers regularly catching fish very close to the bank using shrimp and PTN patterns however things weren't as easy for those in the boats.

The individual winner was Gary Haskins who I believe fished dry hoppers all day in the T bouy area. He despatched 3 fish and released a further 3 for a total weight of 11lb 11oz. The runner up was Gary Mann who had a similar catch but his fish were smaller, weighing in a total weight of 10lb 9oz. Mark Mathieson had the largest fish of the day, a Rainbow Trout weighing 4lb 5oz.

The winning team was England who despatched 29 fish, released a further 10 for a total weight of 78lb 4oz. The runners up were Scotland who despatched 24 fish and released a further 2 for a total weight of 53lb 2oz. Wales, for the 6th or 7th successive year collected the wooden spoon, despatching 18 fish, releasing one other for a total weight of 43lb 14oz. Although this is a somewhat embarrassing result for Wales, there is a glimmer of hope for the future for them. Congratulations go to Marion Davies, the only female competitor in the event, who showed the rest of the team, including her husband Simon, who walked the walk of shame to collect the wooden spoon for Wales, how to catch fish.

Marion despatched 3 fish and finished 11th overall in this event however she also finished 3rd overall in this year's National Championships at Rutland and her combined points gave her the coveted Gwilym Hughes Trophy. Well done Marion.



The English Team



The Scotland Team



Roy Blackman winner of the official's trophy



Gary Haskins, Heaviest Bag



The Individual Winner - Gary Haskins (England)



Marion Davies (Wales) receiving the Gwilym Hughes Trophy



Mark Mathieson (England) receiving his trophy for the largest fish