

West Midlands Police Fly-Fishing section

More competition success for West Mids

On a cold, wintry un-spring like day in April, West Midlands Police Fly-Fishing section once again won the regional qualifier at windswept Draycote Water, Warwickshire, earning the right to represent the Midlands area at the PSUK Nationals in 2014.

The same team who won in 2012; Steve Owen (captain), Roy Taylor, Chris Howkins and Kevin Pearson, took the title outright with a total of 57 lb of fish in tough fishing conditions. Despite there being a slightly depleted field this year due to the unseasonal weather, competitors from the other forces in the region still provided stiff opposition, with some notable catches from individuals; however, West Mids 'A' team faced were up to the test and acquitted themselves well by winning by a clear 15 lb margin to thwart the threat from West Mercia. The two-man West Mids 'B team' also put in a fine performance to clinch 3rd position.

The team had spent the previous day at the water practising for the event in harsh, freezing conditions that echoed last year's wintry event, but the time was well spent and the knowledge gained was used to great effect on the competition day proper.

The following day saw slightly better weather and conditions were a little more tolerable, but unsurprisingly the proposed earlier finish time was not met with any opposition! At the end of the competition, after catches were weighed and recorded, anglers thawed out their frostbitten fingers around cups of hot drinks and listened intently as the results were announced by organiser Steve Owen. West Mids were the clear winners, but good individual performances were congratulated and in the spirit of good sportsmanship that prevails on these occasions, everyone was applauded for their efforts and participation in the event.

The final results were as follows:

- 1) West Midlands 'A' (27 fish for 56 lb 9 oz)
- 2) West Mercia (17 fish for 41 lb 6 oz)
- 3) West Midlands 'B' (11 fish for 27lb 13 oz)

West Mids now go on to compete in the 2014 PSUK National Fly-Fishing Championships at a venue to be decided later this year.

Kevin Pearson
Chair
WMP Fly-Fishing Section

14.4.13

**PSUK TEAM QUALIFIER DRAYCOTE 2013
RESULTS**

WINNERS	TEAM	FISH CAUGHT	FISH WEIGHT	BONUS WEIGHT	TOTAL WEIGHT
1st	West Mid A Team	27	34.9	22	56.9
2 ND	West Mercia A Team	17	29.6	12	41.6
3 RD	West Mids B Team	11	19.13	8	27.13
*****	TOP RODS	*****	*****	*****	*****
1 ST	John Goodwyn Staffs	11	9	14	23
2 ND	Dave Morgan West Mercia	8	10.11	10	20.11