

POLICE SPORTS UK

Fly Fishing Section

Services Championships 2013

Match Report and Result

This year's event was hosted by British Police and fished at Grafham Water on Tuesday 11th June 2013. The event was organised by Calum Fraser, Secretary of the PSUK Fly Fishing Section.

The event attracted teams from the Ambulance Service, Police, RAF, Royal Navy & Marines and the Army. The eight man teams making a total of 40 competitors excluding officials and guests. However in 2014 this event will be moving to a four man team event in an attempt to attract more services and competitors.



British Police team 2013 at Grafham Water (Left to Right) Calum Fraser (Police Sport UK Fly Fishing Sec.) Dave Allen (Cheshire), Alan Hill (Police Scotland), hatless Gary Haskins(Avon & Somerset), Anton Duerden (Cheshire) Front Row Richard Hood (Cheshire), Stevie Bett Capt. (Police Scotland), Mike Cooper (Cheshire), Wynne Griffiths (Dyfed-Powys)

The practice days on the Sunday and Monday gave the participating teams the opportunity to identify a number of areas that were holding fish. The main areas being Valley Creek and the West Bank to the Nature Reserve, G - Buoy, the Dam from the Tower to the South Corner and Gayne's Cove. The conditions were good on each day although fishing could not to be described as easy probably due to a cold South Easterly wind.

The Competition morning started dull with a moderate wind that freshened throughout the day. Whilst the conditions looked near perfect there was a distinct lack of fly life and the absence of Swallows, Swifts and Martins.

At the start of the event the boats split into three groups heading for Valley Creek, the Dam and G - Buoy. The work put in on the practice days were rewarded with a steady catch rate in those area's with many methods bringing fish to the net.

The Facts and Figures:

The competition was conducted under International Loch Style Rules together with the following additional criteria:

- First three fish to be killed following which hooks to be de-barbed and no further use of boobies or floating patterns.
- Catch and release a further 12 fish - each credited as 2lb at the weigh in.
- Following the completion of the catch and release limit a time bonus to be implemented at 2lb per complete hour remaining.

The weigh in brought 103 fish to the scales with an average fish weight of 2.5lb and an average bag weight of 9lb.

Whilst most team members were able to catch their three fish none were able to complete the catch and return maximum and move onto time bonus. There were only two anglers who failed to record a catch.

The heaviest rainbow trout was 3lb 13oz caught by Dave Morton - Royal Navy and Marines. The best Brown trout was 1lb 13 caught by Phil Thomas - RAF.

The Overall Individual with the heaviest bag was Phil Thomas - RAF with a total weight (including bonus) of 24lb 7oz. In second place was Dave Allen - Police with a weight of 19lb 9oz and a close third Paul Calvert - Army with a weight of 19lb 7oz. Well done and good angling.

The team positions were as follows:

1. RAF (Fish Hawks) 93lb 13oz
2. Army (Soldier Palmers) 77lb 0oz
3. Police (Bobby Dabblers) 73lb 7oz
4. Ambulance Service (Wales) 65lb 3oz
5. Royal Navy & Marines 50lb 7oz

A presentation took place in the nearby Wheat Sheaf Inn following the match when the Chairman of the PSUK Fly Fishing Section Mr Ian Arundale presented the prizes and thanked all for their participation and in particular a big thanks to Calum Fraser for his hard work in organising the event.



Dave Allen (Police team) presented with his Runner up medal by Mr Arundale (Chair Police Sport UK Fly Fishing Section)

Dave who was top rod in the British team at Grafham will act as Captain for the Police team, supported by Anton Duerden as Vice Captain in 2014.

Report by
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