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*The English Police
Fly Fishing Association*

2012 Secretary's Report

Presented by Malcolm Naylor

2012 was in many ways a very successful year for the EPFFA. Having taken over the role from Mick Cartledge on a temporary basis, I officially took over the Secretary's role following my election at last years AGM.

The 2012 season began on 27th April 2012 with the English Boat Championships which were held at Blithfield Reservoir. This was a very cold and wet venue and fish were hard to find.

This event was won by Kelvin Brown, Norfolk who had 6 fish for 13lb 2oz. The other places went to Lee Tones, Leicestershire, Chris Webster, Cheshire and Martin Barret, Wiltshire. Well done to those anglers and they will be representing England in the European Championships in 2013.

On 14th June the National Championships were held at the Lake of Menteith. It was great to see the Scots being beaten in their own back yard by an English team! Well done to the team from Cheshire which included, Richard Hood, Dave Allan, Anton Duerdon and Mick Cooper.

Also that month the River Section attended the National River Championships on the River Dee at Llangollen where conditions were described as very difficult. Unfortunately the team consisting of Colin Alexander, Roy Blackman, Kevin Weller and Henryk Pycz came last and won the wooden fish! Lets hope we can pass the wooden fish on to one of the other teams this June – same venue.

In September the Home Internationals were held at Lynn Brenig and once again England triumphed against the home nation and more importantly beat the Scots who were firm favourites to conquer all in their path. The gold medals were brought home to England.

The event was however slightly tarnished following a number of mishaps and a breakdown in communications which I take full responsibility for.

This was my first event as an England Team member and I was fully focused and concentrated on the fishing - nothing else; until it was too late.

My arrival at the hotel was a little delayed and questions were asked in my absence about arrangements for the event. To be honest the organization and circulation of information to competitors failed dramatically and I accept responsibility for this failure.

It subsequently transpired that an angler, who had correctly qualified to represent England through his regional event, was incorrectly advised that he was ineligible to participate in the event. This angler left the reservoir prior to me discovering the mistake and he did not compete. The angler concerned has been contacted by us and offered our unreserved apologies.

I can put my hand on my heart and categorically state that this will never happen again, it spoilt a tremendous occasion for a lot of people and with some prior communication could have been easily avoided.

The angler has been invited to join the team at the 2013 Home Internationals as our guest as a good will gesture.

No one other than myself was to blame for this error and I hope that measures that are now in place will prevent any future repetition of this. I hope that in all future events we will overcome this by the introduction of a Team Manager (possibly the Sec who will be responsible for obtaining the results for regional qualifiers and ensuring those eligible to fish are contacted and invited and the submission of team sheets to the organisers / hosts) and secondly by the official appointment of a Team Captain (identified by the committee - responsible for team tactics etc and based upon local knowledge, previous performances etc etc)

On 12/13th November 2012 the River Championships were again held on the River Itchin and organized by Colin Alexander for the second year in succession. On this occasion 19 anglers from all around the country attended and competed. Although the weather and river weren't the best, we did manage to catch some fish - one or two more than the previous year!

The top 6 rods were ;

- 1 Colin Alexander 6 fish totaling 136cm,
- 2 Chris Lee 3 fish - 86cm,
- 3 Martin Barrett 3 fish - 85cm,
- 4 Malcolm Naylor 2 fish - 39cm
- 5 Brian Todd 1 fish - 28cm.
- 6 Kevin Weller 1 fish - 27cm

The top four will represent England in the National Championships in May 2013 at the River Dee in Llangollen.

May I take the opportunity to formally thank Colin for his sterling efforts in arranging the last two events so well and the support shown by the members in attending these events. I have made provisional enquiries to hold the 2013 event on the River Eden in Cumbria and once finalized I will circulate the information throughout the Association.

As you will all know, England are hosting the European Championships next month and I would like to thank Calum and everyone who has contributed to the organization of this event to make it a success. Lets hope for a safe event with good weather and catches of fish for everyone.

At this time I would like to thank all the officials, committee, Regional Reps and members for the support and kind thoughts they have given during the last 2-3 months when I have been undergoing personal medical problems. Your friendship and positive vibes have all helped me during these difficult times and my wife and I both greatly appreciate this.

Finally I would like to express my condolences to the family and friends of the late Mike Wellman who died recently after a struggle with Cancer. He was always very friendly, kind, warm hearted and I will always remember him for his very smart, immaculate turn out. He was a true Gentleman and will be sadly missed.

Malcolm Naylor