



SEA ANGLERS MATCH FEDERATION

(FOUNDED 1980)

Associate members of the National Federation of Sea Anglers

Secretary: Andy Steele, 18 Town Lane, Much Hoole, Preston, PR4 4GJ

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MEMBERS NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2009

Dear member,

Welcome to the December newsletter.

There has been a lot going on behind the scenes within SAMF in the last few months, notably your committee has had a meeting with the new Angling Trust to see how we can benefit from joining forces with this new progressive organisation, more info below. On the whole we were impressed by what we heard and are waiting for them to come back to us with what they can do for us. SAMF is unique as an organisation but unfortunately membership numbers and entries to competitions are dwindling year on year. This year SAMF membership is down once again to 170 members, we have just had to cancel the Individual League final because of a lack of support, and we are struggling once again for applications to fish for the Challenge Match Teams. We cannot let this go on, to sit back and do nothing is not an option.

Furthermore I have just been notified by our Chairman, John Amery, that he will be standing down from all angling administration duties after our AGM in November. This is going to be a big loss to SAMF, how are we going to replace him?

MASTERS 2009 - SKEGNESS

This years Masters is being fished at Skegness on Friday and Saturday the 6th & 7th November. The matches are being fished in early evening, about 5pm start, to coincide More information and invite letters will be sent out in September.

On a point of order I have had feedback that members are going to boycott this Masters because it is being fished in darkness, going against what said at the AGM. This is not true, what was said at the AGM is that the questionnaire vote was split 50/50 for and against fishing in darkness. We agreed that we would be looking for more venues that would create interest and enable us to fish in daylight, however where the fishing will be poor in daylight, such as Skegness, we would take the expertise of the local organiser and fish in darkness as necessary. Don't forget last year was fished in daylight and I am expecting next year's final to be fished in daylight (not promising though!!!!) We will never please everyone on this issue and you will just have to trust that your committee will do the best it can.

AGM

CHALLENGE MATCHES

The annual challenge event contested by SAMF, Belgium and Holland was fished over the weekend of 3rd & 5 Sep 09. The SAMF Team comprised of: Ian Bowell, Andy Dawkins, Steve Durrant, Garrie Forster Andy Gallagher, Bob Gascgoine, Michael Groves, Peter Jones, Owen Meek, Tony O'Grady, Mike Perfect, Darren Phillips Julian Shambrook, Chris Snow and David Ure.



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This year it was the turn of Holland to host the event and the venue used for each of the matches was Zouterande in the province of Zeeland. The event was fished to CIPS-FIPS M rules as measure and return in 3 sections of 15 with all fish over 10cm to count.

1 point was allocated per centimetre and overall positions decided using the continental zone points system. Stewards were provided by the hosts.

The anglers arrived at the venue on the first day to find a Force 7 blowing along the beach carrying sand along with it. The sea was choppy but not too rough and still remained fairly clear. The first 2 hours of the match were in daylight and most anglers fished in close hoping for Bass and Flounders. Very light rigs and small hooks (6 & 8) were the order of the day. It was soon clear that the fishing was not going to be good. Reports of the odd Bass along with small Flounders began to trickle in. Once the sun began to set anglers began to fish further out for the chance of a Sole or Whiting.

Unfortunately very few Sole or any Whiting were caught and only 34 of the 45 competitors registered fish. At the end of Day 1 SAMF had won with 274 points followed by the Belgians with 336 and Holland on 367. Top angler on day 1 was Jackie Westijn from Belgium with 5 fish for 122 cm.

The second day saw us back at Zouternade but the wind had dropped significantly and was now off the right shoulder. As it was an all daylight match Bass and flounders were the expected target species. Based on our experiences from the previous night light tackle and small hooks fishing in close was once again to be the order of the day. A few Flounders were caught early on and then once the tide began to rise a few small Bass started to show. The best fish of the day was caught by SAMF angler Michael Groves who landed a 63cm Mullet. Top bag on the day was caught by Belgian angler Koen Timmerman who landed 4 bass for 144cm. The fishing was slightly better on Day 2 with 38 anglers recording fish. The Belgians emerged victorious on the day with 315 points followed by SAMF on 330 and Holland on 367.

The overall winners were SAMF on 604 points and Belgium were runners up on 651 with the hosts in third place 734. SAMF also had the bonus of the top individual angler who was Peter Jones with a section win on Day 1 and a 5th on Day 2 for a total of 15 points. This event is highly competitive and both the Belgians and Dutch are represented by their full National teams. If you have any aspirations of one day being able to fish for your country this event provides an ideal stepping stone and learning opportunity.

It is our turn to host the event in 2010, if you would like further information regarding these events do not hesitate to contact either Darren on 01264 395445, mob 07971215876, e-mail – dazsar@btinternet.com. Or contact myself.

NATIONAL SEA LEAGUE

DAIWA PAIRS

WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Regards

Andy Steele

SAMF Secretary