



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 – JULY 2009

Dear member,

Welcome to the July 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?

ANGLING TRUST

The Angling Trust is the new organisation formed by what used to be the old angling bodies such as the NFSA, NFA etc. The idea is that one governing body will be more efficient at promoting the sport of angling across all its factions. SAMF was an associate member of the old NFSA therefore it is right for us to discuss with AT how it views our federation and what it can do to support us. There is no doubt that our sport is diminishing with fewer members, matches etc. and if the AT, with its wider membership, can help us to increase the number of participants in sea angling matches then it can only be good for the sport.

There are two possibilities:

- We go completely into AT and therefore SAMF will no longer exist as such, however we have stressed that the SAMF committee should become the sea match organising committee within AT and our competitions should remain as they are and be self funding.
- We remain as an individual organisation and use the AT as a promotional tool to invite their members to fish our competitions. If this option were to be chosen it will then become every members responsibility to promote SAMF and help us to become a successful organisation once again.

If we continue as we are SAMF will disappear as an organisation in the near future. Too much reliance is placed on too few shoulders and the number of willing volunteers are dwindling fast.



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To find out more about the Angling Trust visit their web site at www.anglingtrust.net
Obviously there are a lot of questions to be answered before any decisions are made on this and we will consult with the membership and once we have more information.

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 with the best tides. The HQ is a pub called the 'Lookout Pub' where registration will be on Friday and the presentation, likely to be on Sunday morning. The HQ is just behind the venue we are fishing so it is very handy for the competition etc. Food will be served at the HQ. We tried to get a caravan park so that we could all be together but unfortunately the accommodation and price did not suit, therefore it is up to you to book your own accommodation. Contact Skegness information centre, either on the internet or phone Tony Kell on 07774258347.

Up to date I have 83 qualifiers and I know there is more to come in yet, and I am optimistic this is going to be a good competition. Please do your best to qualify or run qualifiers if you get the chance. I like to start getting the paperwork out round about September time but can take qualifiers up to early October so there is plenty of time left to get through.

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.

CHALLENGE MATCHES

Once again forming teams for these events has proved to be difficult You are all reminded that these competitions are open by application to all SAMF members. including those in Scotland, Ireland and Wales and are a great stepping stone and learning experience for those who have aspirations of an international career. If you would like further information regarding these events do not hesitate to contact either Darren on 01264 395445, mob 07971215876, e-mail – Darren.phillips@ntlworld.com or contact myself.

The event between SAMF, Belgium and Holland will be fished 4 - 6 Sep in the province Zeeland (in the south-west of the Netherlands. There will be two matches each of 4



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hours fished on a measure and return basis. The team for this event has already been selected: Tony O'Grady, Darren Phillips, Andy Dawkins, Owen Meek, Peter Jones, Michael Perfect, Chris Snow, Michael Groves, Steven Durrant, Andy Gallagher, David Ure, Ian Bowell, Julian Shambrook, Bob Gascoigne & Gary Forster. Good luck lads. The second event against the combined armed forces, fire and police services will be held in Felixstowe 30 Nov-1Dec. Again a 15 man team is required and applications for this event should be submitted to Darren by 1st September.

NATIONAL SEA LEAGUE

Due to lack of support the 2008 finals which should have been held at Blackpool were cancelled. In the short term John Amery has taken over the running of the event for this year only and as previously informed it will be his last duty for SAMF. Teams need to be thinking about a suitable successor which will be discussed at the meeting held during weekend of the event.

This year's final will be fished at Eastbourne on Saturday & Sunday, November 21st and 22nd. Fishing will be from 10am till 3pm each day. Headquarters will be Eastbourne Angling Association Clubhouse. We are allowing teams who qualified last year then saw the final cancelled to attend. We expect some 30 teams to be competing.

DAIWA PAIRS

A website has recently been produced dedicated to the Daiwa Irish Pairs and anything members needed to know about past and future events can be downloaded from www.irishpairs.co.uk

Invitations for this years event have been posted out to those on Nicks mailing list. Anyone who is not on his mailing list and is interested in going should contact Nick Haward by e-mail, nickhbuilding@aol.com and mark the message 'Pairs Enquiry' The recession and euro exchange have contributed to less numbers than usual going to the Pairs this year, but with 50+ pairs at present booked in it will still be a strong competition, anyone wanting to go can contact Nick by e-mail as above, or via me if you havn't got e-mail.

INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE.

Because we only had entrants from the NW and SW leagues there were not enough competitors to continue with this years event. It is looking like this competition is going to disappear of the calendar unless more interest is shown. If you are interested in running a league please contact Eddie Painter on 01308 425925, e-mail –

eddiechesilleague@hotmail.com

WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

No SAMF team had been entered in 2008 because of lack of applicants. Unfortunately this years championships, which are being hosted by Germany, clash with the UK Masters and SAMF had to withdraw our application



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As you can see from the above all is not well within our organisation, we are having a lot of problems and need new blood and more people on the ground organising events, otherwise we will slip into oblivion. There is a lot to think about and some serious decisions to be taken in the near future.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Regards

Andy Steele

SAMF Secretary