

THE FEDERATION OF PENINSULA FLYFISHERS.



Supported by Snowbee UK.

NATIONAL FLY FISHING RIVERS FINAL

Sponsored by Snowbee UK Ltd

The River Dart Two Bridges Hotel 15th July 2012

The National Final of the Rivers competition took place on Sunday the 15th July. The competitors fished on the upper beats of the East & West Dart on the top of Dartmoor thanks to the Duchy of Cornwall and The West Country Rivers Trust without whose cooperation this event could not have taken place, also to Brian Hibbert and Peter Way who open normally private water to be used on practice days and match day respectively. The weather in the weeks leading up to the competition could hardly have been more testing with continual heavy rain and unusually low temperatures for the time of year but on the day the sun shone and the fishing excelled.

The competition format was for 1 day of fishing split up into 4 sessions, this was made possible because volunteer controllers gave up their free time to accompany each angler throughout the day ensuring safety and fair play, as a small thank you to these volunteers the sponsor, Snowbee UK Ltd made up a 'goody' bag with some items of tackle. The competitors were drawn into 4 groups of 8 anglers each group is then initially competing against the anglers in that group. The winner would be the angler who amasses the least number of points, 1 point for a 1st place down to 8 points for an 8th place, with anglers who failed to catch a fish in a session automatically getting 8 points. To make the competition fair competitors fished either the East or West Dart in the morning and then the other river in the afternoon.

The event is governed by International rules regarding flies and hooks, all of which are barbless. Anglers who catch a fish pass the fish to the controller who measure it in a wetted trough and then carefully return the fish to the water. The measurement of the fish is then recorded on a score card.

The fishing on the East & West Dart was amazing with 540 measurable fish caught, the number caught today was only slightly less than for the whole of the previous 12 months.



The eventual winner, Andy Croucher from the Southern Federation scored an unbeatable 4 points by winning each of the 4 sessions. In second & third places were Lewis Hendrie and Alex Bobba both from the local Peninsula Federation and competing in the same group. In 4th place was Andrew Scott from the Northern Federation and filling the final spot was Paul Lee again from the Southern Federation and in the same group as Lewis & Alex.

The prizes were donated by Snowbee UK Ltd and presented on the evening by Snowbee UK's Managing Director Russell Weston. The top 5 anglers will go on to represent England in next year's Home International against Ireland, Scotland & Wales. Our thanks also go to The Two Bridges Hotel who provided a wonderful venue and food.