



October 2014

Dear Federation members and patrons,

Junior Boat and Shore Festival

This took place at the St Dennis Working mans Club on Friday 17th October 2014 with 44 persons present.

The main sponsor of prizes for the Festival, Mrs Margaret Lowe of Lowen- Chy Hobbies, St Austell was unable to attend to present the prizes and in her absence, Mr Robert Bennetto, also of Lowen-Chy Hobbies, duly presented the prizes.

The Juniors were warmly applauded on collecting their prizes and the Chairman , Mr Jim Taylor, thanked Mrs Lowe and Mr Bennetto for their continued support in sponsoring the Juniors.

General & Extraordinary General Meetings held at the St Dennis Working Mans Club on Friday the 17th October 2014

Twenty four Persons were present representing 13 clubs and four Executive, Clubs present were :-

Camborne AA, ECC Ports SAC, Grenville Arms SAC, Looe SAC, Mawnan AA, Mounts Bay AS, Padstow & District SAC, Redruth SAA, St Columb SAC, Truro City SAC, St Mawes SAC, Western Excavation SAC, Personal & Life members.

the minutes are included in this month's Shockleader

Specimen Fish Committee Meeting

This will be held at the St Dennis Working Mans Club on Wednesday 19th November starting at 19.30hours sharp.

Will all club Recorders make an effort to attend and bring your clubs scales for checking against the County weights.

Clubs wishing to put proposals for consideration at the Specimen Fish meeting should send them to

Mr Simon Toms

230 Treffery Road

Truro, TR1 1UF

email st0467@googlemail.com

2015 Annual General Meeting

This will be held at the St Dennis Working Mans Club on Saturday 24th 2015 with a 2pm start.

A reminder that any proposals for the AGM must be in my hands by the 26th November 2014.

A nomination form will be sent to each club so that you the clubs can register your preferred candidate to stand for office or agree with those officers who at the present time are willing again to stand for office.

Remember, unless the form is returned your clubs views remain unknown.

At the present time all the officers are prepared to stand for office apart from two positions. Mr Andy Butler, the present Boat Recorder and Mr David Cains, the present Treasurer, will not be seeking re-election for 2015.

Both men have preformed their duties excellently and their two positions must be filled in order that the Federation functions as an organistion.

Return of Cups and Trophies

Will all members who have cups and trophies awarded in 2014 please contact myself on 07814989707 to arrange there return.

They were presented in a clean condition, please let me have them back in a clean condition at the very latest at the 2015 AGM thus ensuring they can be sent to the engravers in good time.

I thank you for your anticipated co-operation in this matter.

The Irish Bass Festival

Mr Robin Bradley, Personal Member of the CFSA, frequently writes articles innthe Bass Anglers Sportfishing Society's newsletter, nad included with this Shockleader is his account of the Irish Bass Festival, in which he fished.

2014 Knockout League Final

With no fish over the minimum weight caught on the first leg, the second leg was fished at Crinnis Beach, St Austell, and again lots of fish were caught but only two over the minimum weight.

Raleigh SAC - Whiting 01.03.04lb = 71.91%

Mevagissey SAC - Flounder 01.03.08lb = 60.97%

Congratulations to Raleigh SACwho win the 2014 21st Anniversary Cup by the narrowest of margins of 10.94%, commiserations to runners up , Mevagissey SAC, and many thanks to the eight teams who entered the competition.

The competition is the only inter club competition in the Federation and would all clubs please consider entering a team/teams for 2015

St Columb Open Bass Championship fished 27th/28th Sept

1. Mark Coleman (St Columb SAC) 07.307.00lb, £300 + £59 pool
2. Roy Silburn (no club) 05.09.14lb, Tackle
3. Ed Schliffke (Padstow & Dis) 04.13.14lb, Tackle + £39 pool
4. Steve Retallick (Camborne AA) 04.08.09lb, Tackle + £20 pool
5. Ed Gummow (Cubert SAC) 04.03.13lb, Tackle
6. Duncan Randoll (Padstow & Dis) 04.02.00lb, Tackle
7. Thomas John (Grenville SAC) 03.13.07lb, Tackle
8. Nish Rule (no club) 03.10.10lb, Tackle

Entry was 126 Seniors + 3 Juniors, no Juniors weighed fish .

12 fish were brought to the scales over the minimum weight of 3lb

The host club would like to thank the 1st prize sponsor, Mr Roly Martin, proprietor of the 'Cod End fish & chips', 9 Cliff road, Newquay, for his generosity

Tintagel SAC Open Bass Competition fished 11th/12th October 2014

1. Simon Toms (Truro City SAC) 10.02.04lb, £250
2. Marcus May (Tintagel SAC) 06.13.00lb, Tackle
3. John Smith (Cubert SAC) 06.02.12lb, Tackle
4. Spencer Gray (Camborne AA) 05.04.08lb, Tackle
5. Rick Buck (Camborne AA) 05.06.14lb, Tackle
6. Ron Davey (Cubert SAC) 05.04.08lb, Tackle
7. Ed Gummow (Cubert SAC) 04.11.11lb, Tackle
8. Chris Gamble (Padstow & Dis) 04.02.12lb, Tackle

Western Morning News Final

Please note this will be fished on the 22nd/23rd November, fishing from 4pm on the 22nd and weigh in at the St Dennis Working Mans Club between 7.30pm and 8pm on the 23rd November.

2015 CFSA Xmas Shore Competition

Please note this will be fished on the 6th/7th December, the competition has again attracted a sponsorship of £100 towards the prize money.

All the entry monies received are paid back in prizes and the entries should be sent to the CFSA Treasurer, Mr David Cains by the 1st of December.

Fishing from 4pm on the 6th and the weigh in at the St Dennis Working Mans Club between 7.30pm and 8pm on the 7th December.

Mawnan AA Open Flounder Competition

This will be fished on the 20th/21st December, the last club open of the year and is also a Western Morning News Qualifier for 2015

fullm details are included with this Shockleader.

Loe Bar - Gunwalloe End

With Winter upon us this will again become a popular fishing mark and a reminder to all who fish here, please park with consideration, do not park across gateways or block any access to fields.

The locked gate at the top of the lane must not be removed or damaged in any way. We do not want a repeat of past incidents when the farmer incurred damage to his property.

Be Warned access to any fishing mark is always under pressure of closure if not treated with respect.

CFSA Diary Dates 2014

19th November - Specimen Fish Meeting

22nd/23rd November - WMN Final.

6th/7th December - Xmas Shore Competition.

CFSA Diary Dates 2015

24th January - AGM, St Dennis Working Mans Club, 2pm start

Club Diary Dates 2014

28th November Camborne AA Xmas Shore Competition - Guests welcome, contact Ralph for details - 07814989707

20th/21st Dec - Mawnan Flounder Competition.(2015 WMN Qualifier)

Until the next Shockleader, happy and safe fishing
Regards



Ralph

MAWNAN ANGLING CLUB 2 DAY OPEN
SHORE FLOUNDER COMPETITION

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 20th/21st DECEMBER 2014
WESTERN MORNING NEWS, QUALIFER FOR 2015

1ST PRIZE £250
PLUS 7 OTHER PRIZES OF CHRISTMAS FARE
AND JUNIOR PRIZE

SIGN ON

SATURDAY ONLY – ST.COLUMB ROUNDABOUT 8:30-9:00AM
SATURDAY ONLY – COUNTY ANGLER (CAMBORNE) 9am-2pm
SATURDAY ONLY TERMINAL TACKLE PENRYN 9AM-4:30pm
SAT ONLY- MILLPOOL CAR PARK LOOE 9am-10am

WEIGH IN SATURDAY
MILLPOOL CAR PARK LOOE 5PM-6PM
PENRYN QUAY 5PM-6PM

WEIGH IN SUNDAY 21st AT THE LEMON ARMS MYLOR
BRIDGE (MAIN ST)
7.30 – 8PM

ENTRY FEE £5.00 SENIOR, JUNIORS £2.50
OPTIONAL POOL
OPTIONAL WESTERN MORNING NEWS, QUALIFER FOR 2015

C.F.S.A. ONE DAY COMP RULES APPLY
Maximum 1 Prize per Angler.

The Irish Bass Festival – Broaden Your Horizons

by

Robin Bradley

No matter how content we are with our fishing, once in a while it pays to look around, whether it's new methods, new baits or new areas. It's important not to stagnate and you never know what you're missing if you don't try new things now and again. As much as I love my home patch in Cornwall, I can't help being drawn by the promise of catching bass in new areas so I couldn't resist the chance to catch a few on the gorgeous ground they have on the Copper coast in Ireland.



So Mick Larkin, Gary Dunstan and I made the pilgrimage to the Emerald Isle last year. We were based in Tramore for the 2013 Irish Bass Festival. This was the first lure only, catch and release competition I had fished. I have been plugging since the nineties, and have caught a fair few fish including some half-decent ones, but there has been such an explosion of tackle developments in recent years that I knew I had a lot to learn if I wanted to be up to date with current practices in lure fishing. In addition I knew nothing of the marks in Ireland and how they fished so this would be a steep learning curve. It's difficult to go back to being the 'newbie' but it's all in the name of personal development.

What I found in Ireland were a group of dedicated, keen and extremely knowledgeable and capable lure anglers based around the Absolute Fishing shop in Tramore. You can't help but learn from these guys and they freely share their experience, particularly around the bewildering range of plugs and soft plastics on the market (and how to use them). By the time we left, our knowledge of lure fishing had increased considerably, despite the fact that none of us actually caught a single fish! However,

the conditions were tough and you can see the potential of the ground and accounts of some of the fish taken by local anglers bear this out.

The beauty of these festivals is meeting up with other anglers and sharing knowledge and experience. This in itself makes the trip worthwhile. One particular local angler I met up with was Morgan Walsh. For someone who has only been lure fishing for 2 years he has become a very knowledgeable and capable angler with several double figure bass to his credit already.

Morg very kindly offered to put me up for a week's fishing. As things worked out it wasn't until late November that I managed to take up his offer. Unfortunately the bass gods weren't smiling on us then either. The trip coincided with the Herring run and we could see groups of boats out in the bay chasing them, no doubt with the bass in attendance (and not inshore!). Nonetheless I had a great time and learned more about the area and lure fishing in general and plans were hatched for Morg to come over to Cornwall to fish the Cornish Lure Festival, run by Ben Field from 'Art of fishing' in Wadebridge, the following year.

It's amazing how soon things come round and in no time at all there was Morg outside my house having travelled through the night catching the evening ferry from Rosslare. No time for sleeping, Morg had caught a glimpse of the Cornish coast on his way down and couldn't wait to wet a line. As I felt the chances of catching were not high (time of day!) and considering Morg's lack of sleep, I opted for a quick plug down at one of my local marks. Alas, no joy but at least Morg had sampled Cornish bass fishing.

Over the next few days we fished a lot. Although the fish were not there in numbers there did appear to be the odd good fish around. I was pleased that I was able to put Morg on fish and that he was able to catch his first Cornish bass. Although this was only a schoolie he did hit some better fish including a real 'pig' (Irish for a big double!) which he lost at his feet. I had done my best to lower Morg's expectations as the fishing in Cornwall is (generally) no match for his local Copper coast and Cian (from Absolute Fishing in Tramore) had told him to bring a book if he went bass fishing over here! Yet here he was encountering a seriously big fish in the Duchy.

We also talked a lot. It's great to see how anglers from another area think about their fishing. I gained a lot from this; more so than Morg I think, as my experience is more inclined towards bait fishing.

The following night we met up with some of the lads from BASS who had also made the trip over to fish the Festival. It was a bit like an unofficial BASS fish-in and after a quick meet-up and introductions, Steve Pitts, Steve Richardson, Rob Pope, Mick, myself and the two Irish lads Morgan and Tom Lodge headed off for the mark. It looked like a scene from the 'Magnificent Seven' as we made our way down the road to the mark in full plugging gear!



The fishing was slow (apart from me breaking my rod tip when landing a schoolie!) but what the heck; here we were in Ireland, fishing a superb coastline in the company of some top anglers and thoroughly nice guys. We had a good laugh round the jetboil and I learned a lot just talking to them. Mick had moved down to his hotspot and was having a go with the Hogs. We had decided to use these in view of advice from the Irish lads and our success on soft plastics the previous evening. I don't think Mick knew too much about it when the fish jolted him from his gentle semi-slumber but boy did the fish go when it realised all was not well! I ran the ten yards or so over to him to help him land it to find a, by now, rather excited angler! The fish made several runs from side to side before I managed to get the lip gripper in and lift it onto dry land. I'll never forget what happened next. Mick put the rod down, cupped his hands to his mouth and started making loud, and very authentic, donkey noises! In little time the others were hurriedly making their way over the rocks. Tom said he half expected to see an Irishman giving donkey rides come walking out of the gloom! As I understand it a donkey equates to a big bass in Ireland, while a pig means a seriously big bass; so Mick hopes to perfect his pig impersonation before next year's festival!

One tale I really can't miss out relates to the most amazing kindness and hospitality I've ever experienced. The following day we had been fishing at our first mark for an hour or so. Suddenly Tom disappears, climbs up the cliff and reappears with pizza and cake, individually wrapped for each of us! His

wife Kay had made them herself and driven out to the coast and delivered them. But don't put your orders in just yet; Tom says this 'on mark food delivery service' will be limited to just Mick and myself next year!

On to the second mark of the night and Mick decides to do a spot of acrobatics on the path down! Despite giving Morg quite a scare he escaped with just a sore knee

The fishing was slow so Tom decided to try further down. What a decisive move this was. Soon after, he landed a nice bass on a Filish crazy sandeel (yellow and white I think). Being fishless, I decided to follow his lead. I was standing on a large boulder casting a Hog (Watermelon and pearl) onto clean sand with just a tiny wave lazily breaking at the edge. I wound the lure in with a slow, steady retrieve. About ten yards out I had a good hit, followed by an almighty splash, only to find that nothing was attached to my line. Undeterred, I repeated the exercise and, at roughly the same place on the next cast, I had another really good hit but this time the fish was on. It took me over to the left and all I could do was jump off the rock onto the sand and run after it. Yes, it was still on; I managed to steer it onto the sandy ground behind me. A nice fish of 61cm. It wasn't going to win

the festival but it gave a good scrap and put any doubts about whether Hogs worked firmly to bed. I couldn't help but remember how I used to avoid sandy beaches at night in calm conditions when bait fishing, thinking the fish just weren't there. I should have taken note of Don Kelley who said all his best catches on clean ground were in calm conditions on dark nights when he was tagging bass in Wales.

Tom caught another fish, which I think was around the mid 60's and a new personal best. Handshakes all round!

As the tide started to flood, I flicked a White Hog out into a shallow gully which was surrounded by some high rocks. Same slow retrieve and it wasn't long before I had a definite take, not as fierce as the last one but enough to know a fish had hit it. After a short fight and a few dodgy moments a 67cm bass lay on the rocks - thanks to Tom's help. Again I knew this was not a competition winner since Mick had already entered his fish but I was chuffed to be able to register two nice fish. How different to last year when all three of our party blanked!

At one stage we thought Mick had won it. How good would that have been! But another visitor, from Wales, had landed a 78cm fish (again on a hog). Still, joint second prize in the Irish Bass Festival is a hell of a result - well done Mick. Roll on next year! So it does pay to widen your horizons; when I look back to just over a year ago I'm amazed at just how much I've learned about bass fishing, and about Ireland. Can't wait to go back during the peak time for bassing; hopefully that will be another story to tell!

Morg sets great store by the phase of the moon and his best fish have all come in the early part of the month around the first quarter of the moon. The new moon also seems to be a very good time; my own observations suggest that the dark nights and smaller spring tides of the new moon are very good, as are the building tides leading up to springs.

Coming from a background of rough ground legering, I tend to favour calm conditions. While these can be very productive for plugging as well, this does mean that my opportunities to fish are limited by the prevailing Atlantic swell. No problem says Morg, the bigger the better! And then of course you need the right sort of plug to cope with the rough conditions – Morg's favourite being the Zonk which really bites into the surf. As one who tended to limit myself to the tried and trusted old faithfuls such as the Jointed Thunderstick, I can now confirm I have eaten my hat and become a regular 'tackle tart' when it comes to plugs (thanks Morg!) and other items of lure fishing equipment (thanks Cian!).

One last thing we chewed over was daytime fishing. I was from the 'dawn and dusk' school and had no confidence fishing in the middle of the day. Some of Morg's best catches have come during bright sunshine during the day. When you're in the middle of a fishing festival you may as well maximise your chances, even if it means going out at times you normally wouldn't e.g. during the day. The key factor here though is the sea state; in rough conditions your chances of catching are significantly improved. As it turned out I caught the fish (61cm) which gave me third prize in the Festival at 12.00 midday and Morg caught his joint winning fish (65cm) at 1.00 pm in bright sunshine in a swell that was forecast at 4-5 feet – point proven!

As you can imagine Morg was over the moon (I was quite pleased as well!). As the news filtered through to his mates back home, I think a few people's perceptions of bassing over here changed (don't get too carried away though lads!) and I think a few more are planning on making the trip over for next year's festival.

A couple of weeks later and Mick ('special one') Larkin and I were travelling in the opposite direction to fish this year's (2014) Irish Bass Festival. We both agree this was one of the best holidays we've had for ages and will remember for a long time; a good laugh, a good drink and good fishing! We can't speak highly enough of the hospitality and kindness extended to us by everyone we met. A special thanks to Morgan of course for looking after us so well and putting us on the fish.

Our first excursion involved some deep wading over some decidedly uneven ground. I think Mick wished he had acquired a wading staff sooner as he surveyed a bad case of 'barnacle rash' obtained during one of his several attempts at 'sleeping with the fishes'!

The next notable occurrence was our encounter with some Irish bullocks as we made our way down to our chosen venue for the evening. Now I'm not partial to bullocks (if you get my meaning!) but the sight of grown men doing an Irish jig around the

field to avoid them was very amusing!

As mentioned above, the conditions were tough, with blazing hot sunshine, flat calm conditions and gin clear water. The consensus seemed to be to concentrate on night fishing. Adapting to the conditions is critical during these mid-summer festivals. I couldn't help but smile to myself when I remembered that it was only a few years ago that lure anglers wouldn't have considered fishing after dark. It is now widely practiced and new patterns are emerging. For example, despite the old adage of 'dusk is best' some anglers (see Rod Lugg's blog 'Senkos in the dark' on the BASS blog) will not fish until full darkness and avoid the actual period around dusk – one to check out next year perhaps?

Then there was the choice of lure. Shallow diver or surface plug? weighted or unweighted soft plastic? We all have our individual thoughts on this. Mick showed the way when he landed three nice fish on a Savage Gear Sandeel Slug. I have caught fish by waking surface plugs in calm conditions in the past, but it seemed that the more subtle action of soft plastics was the key tonight. Not having any Sandeel Slugs, I opted for a 5.5 inch Swimsenko (green). Although I have caught a few small bass on Hogs (Senko type plastic lures resembling a lug-worm and made by the Hawg Wild Lure company) before, I considered these opportunistic catches and really wanted to prove I could catch on weedless and weightless soft plastics by design. I opted for the Swimsenko this time because I felt the greater action imparted by its paddle tail would be important.

I lobbed out the lure as far as I could and retrieved it with a slow, steady wind. As the lure got near to the shore (15-20 yards out), I noticed a plucking sensation, not much but enough to make me think there might be sometime having a go at the lure - a small Pollack maybe? I kept winding – there it was again. After three blank trips to Ireland, could this finally be my first Irish bass? Gently now – yep, there it was again and I lifted the rod to find a



pleasing bend in it. Morg was desperate for me not to lose this fish and sure enough as he lifted it onto dry land the night air was filled with the sounds only a happy bass angler would understand and appreciate- result!!!!

WEST CORNWALL ANGLING

ALEXANDRA RD. PENZANCE - JUST OFF THE PROMENADE

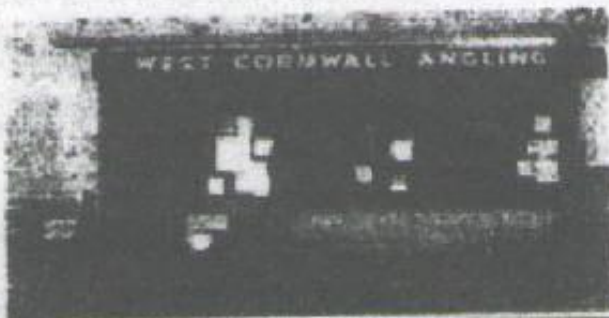
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