

Orkney & SOB 2012 Report

Orkney Islands Sea Angling Association hosted the 2012 Scottish Open Boat Championships from Stromness on Thur, Fri and Sat last week, where 21 visiting anglers and 4 locals fished in very windy conditions. Well 3 days was the plan, but with ferries local and south being cancelled, Friday was not fished and the anglers could experience Stromness Spirit of the Sea Festival for a day instead.

3 boats carried the anglers into Scapa Flow on Thursday, Challenger owned by Malcolm Thomson and skippered by Michael Barnett, Crusader owned and skippered by Kenny Peace, and Welcome Home owned by OISAA and skippered by Ronnie Tait and crewed by Arthur Cook.

Boats steamed down to Stanger Head to try close in, then drifts over the wreck of James Barry for cod and ling before a move east to Hoxa Head. Catches were good here, but bigger fish were seen when a basking shark swam past. Nevi Skerry was then drifted by on the east and west sides before the long punch up Scapa back to Stromness and the welcome soup and refreshments.

On Saturday it was decided to fish a species hunt, where the greater the mix of species the better the points, and so best suiting Scapa Flows varied ground. Mackerel were plentiful next to the salmon cages at Green Head and fresh bait was presented above the big wrecks including Karlsruhe before drifts at The Barrel of Butter and back to finish at the Green Heads. Derek Yuille showed his skills on the day with 9 species caught.

Overall Winner – Derek Yuille from Halkirk with 1094 points

Overall second – Ali Campbell from Lanark with 960 points
& Overall third - John Nicolson from Lewis with 864 pts.

Heaviest fish – Dan Mackay from Inverness with a 9.5lb ling

2nd “ fish – Derek Firth from Kwill with 6.5lb ling

3rd “ fish – John Nicolson with 6lb ling.

Best local – Derek Firth who was 6th with 469 pts.

2nd -“ Paul Firth in 8th place.

Best senior angler – Dan Mackay with 522 pts.

Best specimen – Mark Duncan from Shetland with cuckoo wrasse at 70% of Scottish record.

Best Individual Basket – Howard Foster from Shetland who had double the second place in his group on Thursday.

556 fish caught in total over both days.

A big **thank you** to owners, skippers and crew of the boats for making this competition possible. Also to The Stromness hotel for providing excellent soup each day, and a great venue for prize giving and dinner. Thank you to Orkney Fisherman's Society who grand us shelter and space down the pier each day for the weigh-in. And thanks to the club helpers, from Roy and Dave the 'Excel' scorekeepers, to the 3 B's down the pier, not forgetting Eoin, Ken and Paul on prize giving night.