

FDG Fishing Comp secretary report 2021.

I started the year with some doubts as to the possibilities of holding big group fishing competitions obviously due to the ongoing Covid fears and restrictions but 2021 actually turned out to be a good year with our Guild fishing comps. Firstly our Elinor Bank competition held on the 18th April at Elinor Trout Fishery was a good start. Only 15 anglers entered but for most it was the first proper day out fishing for quite a while and just what the doctor ordered. The weather was kind and plenty of fish were caught despite some tricky fishing conditions. I received a lot of positive feedback about the enjoyment the day gave and I was especially happy to have won the top rod of the day, all on buzzers. We held off from trying to arrange any after competition catering but awarded the trophies and prizes in the fishery carpark.

Secondly we held our John Watts boat fishing competition at Draycote Water on 28th August. We had a fantastic turn out with 15 teams (60 anglers) who all enjoyed a great day out. Most anglers doing well with minkie or daddy patterns. We were able to offer our usual after competition meal and award ceremony. Very sadly, this was without John Watts himself who had passed away earlier in the year. I am excited about our new major change to the John Watts competition this year: moving forward to a catch and release competition, with fish being measured by length instead of killed and weighed. This has come about by general consensus of teams not wanting to catch and kill.

Thirdly we held our very first FDG fly fishing pike competition at Elinor Trout Fishery on 30th October. Knowing there are 30lb fish in there, it was a very exciting idea. We only had 5 entrants for the day and unfortunately no pike were caught. Crazy considering we regularly catch lots of pike on trout tackle. Just a case of being there on the wrong day I think, so we will definitely look at arranging it again this year.

I would like to sincerely thank all the members who have supported these competitions, Ed Foster at Elinor Trout Fishery and all the fishery and restaurant staff at Draycote Water for being very kind and helpful with arranging these fishing events. These fishing competitions are held to be more fun than competitive and are a great way to meet up and enjoy a day out with fellow Guild members. If you have any questions or would like to share any thoughts or ideas for future events please let me know.

Thank you,

Lee Hooper