DAN FOSS June 2013

Saturday morning began with one eye on the weather as high winds and heavy rain was forecast. All the troops loaded aboard the bus and we were of to Assynt for another gripping battle between LAAC, and Jimmy Mutch’s rest of the world select. The ROW team consists of Dingwall AC, Beauly AC and it was great to see them all on the bus. We arrived at the Assynt car park a little after 9:30 am and very quickly the teams scattered to the four corners, in search of the elusive Assynt brownies. The wind picked up as the day went on, making casting a bit of a challenge for those fishing the north side of the lochs and high banks on the south side meant little or no ripple.

Having seen Dave MacGregor at lunch time with only two keepers and me with three, the sentiment was shared that there was severe shortage of fish over the 9" limit. Some decent fish were seen that plucked at the fly but alas didn’t hook up. By late afternoon it was very damp with heavy drizzle and mist adding to the mix. A couple of competitors took the chance for a good lunch break, sharing cheese and red wine. Fully refreshed and ready to rock, they soon continued in the noble pursuit of trout. Some other intrepid heroes had walked a considerable distance in search of trout including two who returned with only one keeper, an injured hand and a broken rod. Eventually the cuckoo sounded and the time to make our way back to the bus for the weigh in had arrived (not quick enough for some!!). Rods and kit stowed way, some dry clothes on and a wee dram before the weigh in. I felt like a new man and looking around the gathered crowd, it is absolutely amazing what a good drop of malt whiskey will do for the soul. It soon it became apparent it was another hard fought victory for LAAC, with 23 fish for 8.7lbs against the ROW`s 13 fish for 3.9lbs.

Three rods were in the running for top rod. 3rd was Dave MacGregor with 6 fish for 2.04 lbs and by the narrowest of margins Neil MacRitchie beat Lewis Ross with a bag of 6 fish for 2.37lbs against his bag of 6 fish for 2.24 lbs. Neil also beat Dave for the biggest trout 10.4 ounces against 10.2, how close can you get. Weigh in complete we headed for Ullapool for the fish suppers which were absolutely delicious. Neil was presented with the Danfoss shield and the Achonachie Guaich for his valiant effort. Neil has certainly hit a rich vein of form just now adding Assynt to his heroics on Skye. Fed and watered the teams boarded up for the trip back to Conon Bridge. Oh nearly forgot, one special prize that gets awarded each year on this competition is the DREADED wooden spoon, given to the angler who has either failed to catch or who should have done a lot better. The winner of this illustrious prize, was none other than Ian Macphail, who gloriously blanked. Finally I would like to thank you to all for your continued support, Jimmy Mutch for organising the ROW team, the Ullapool chipper for the scoff and SPA coaches for delivering us home again, mostly intact.

Till the next time.

**Lewis Ross Competitions Secretary**