SKYE ALL NIGHTER June 2013

**1st-LAAC-5 fish for 2lb 9oz. (Lewis Ross & Neil MacRitchie)**

**2nd Mambo & co 4 fish 2lb 4oz**

**3rd James the baker and co 3 fish 2lb 2oz**

Our team arrived on the island full of enthusiasm, looking forward to a nights fishing under the old man of Stoer. On arrival at the loch, there was a light variable wind blowing mainly from a north westerly direction. As we stepped out of the car the midge swarms descended and it soon became very apparent that that a strong smelly repellent was required. Hello’s said and instructions received, we were the second boat to leave Portree angling clubs new jetty. The cunning plan was to turn right once we were through the narrows.

The loch was exceptionally high for the time of year with just 3ft of concrete showing at the dam. The aim was to fish a piece of water that is around 4ft deep and thirty yards wide between the back of the island and shore. However, after carefully negotiating the narrows another boat had beaten us to it. Plan B was quickly put into motion and we motored down a couple of hundred yards along the North West shore and started fishing. On the very fist cast Neil MacRitchie hooked and landed a fish, which unfortunately was slightly under the 10" limit so it was carefully returned, The very next cast I hooked and would you believe it, lost a fish just round about the half pound a keeper!! Even though the first good fish waved a tail to both of us it was a very promising start to the evening.

Alas, there was no action for the next 55 minutes with nothing but splashes and follows. Just about on the hour we recorded our fist keeper but shortly afterwards we were in the doldrums, left stranded motionless in the dreaded flat calm. The boats were gathering in the middle of the loch in two and three’s, where a few stories and drams were swapped over as we all waited for the wind to pick up. Somewhere along the line we noticed that our first choice had been left totally unfished for sometime. Neil and I decided to head for it and it turned out to be a good decision. Three quarters of the way there we stopped for a cast after seeing a fish head and tail. The next 30 minutes added a further 3 fish to our bag which certainly put our tails up. Eventually, we moved on to our chosen spot and about 45 minutes later Neil struck again, adding another fish to the bag,

Now, these competitions can be quite tight and that last fish could turn out to prove very important at the weigh in. On landing back at the jetty we were summoned into the hut where lashings of mince and tatties were served up to the starved throng. Club chairman Neil Cameron then asked us all outside for the weigh in and a strong turnout meant that some good bags of fish were about to be weighed in. By the narrowest of margins LAAC picked up the honors with 5 fish for 2lb 9oz from Mambo and Co with 4 fish for 2lb 4oz. So there we have it, our boys came back Over the Skye Bridge on Saturday morning having done a good nights work with the Ian Urquhart memorial cup safely in the bag.

**Lewis Ross Competitions Secretary**