

## JUNIOR ANGLING FESTIVAL 2017



Early arrivals for the event were greeted with sunshine and blue skies but clusters of black clouds began to appear driven by a brisk westerly wind suggesting that the prospect of a shower could not be entirely discounted. In the event, however, the day remained dry throughout.

The registration officer became increasingly busy as the start time approached and with additions later in the afternoon, 56 young anglers were signed on, the highest achieved for this event.

Junior members of Castaways, D.O.E., Rodbenders and Stonehouse represented Plymouth clubs with welcome visitors from Honiton, West Bay and these three of a group from Lyme Regis.

However, there were a surprisingly large number of youngsters who were unattached, 32 in total, some of who were to have their first fishing experience. Others showed, during the course of the day, that they were competent young anglers and it seems that local clubs probably missed an ideal recruitment opportunity.



The wind/tide combination presented some difficulties for those float fishing on the seaward side of the pier in particular but nevertheless the general enthusiasm was plain to see.



Disappointingly, catches on the day were significantly less than in previous years. Garfish, one of the favourite target species, were entirely absent whilst Mackerel too were elusive with only 3 being caught.

Numbers of small Wrasse and Pollack were brought to the scales but only 9 of the former and 2 of the latter fulfilled the minimum length requirement.



Ayden Rawlins (Lyme Regis) and Brealand Wilson (unattached) caught two of the weighable Wrasse, 15.5 oz. and 1 lb. 5.25 oz. respectively.

However, by far the best catch of the day was the Thick Lipped Grey Mullet of 3 lb. 3 oz. hooked by another of the unattached youngsters, seven-year old Josh Johnson.



Alex Parker, speaking on behalf both the Wyvern Region of the Angling Trust and the Plymouth Federation of SACs, thanked everyone who had attended and hoped all had had an enjoyable day. He also thanked the local tackle dealers who had sponsored the event so generously. David and Simon Kingdom at Osborne & Cragg who had supplied the major prizes, RNLI Brixham, Kiddy Wholesale Ltd, Tom Worthy at Plymouth Angling Centre, Tony and Matt at South West Sea Baits, Martin Beer at Tatler Tackle and Rob. Hobbs at Rob's Tackle and Bait who had provided the "goody bags."

Andy Rye, Chairman of the Plymouth Federation, subsequently made the presentations and the full details are as follows:



Best Specimen of the Day  
Josh Johnson (U/A)  
(Thick Lip Mullet – 3 lb. 3 oz.)



Runner Up  
Marcus Holbrook (Stonehouse SAC)  
(Mackerel - 9.75 oz.)



3<sup>rd</sup> Best Specimen  
Bella Hayman (Rodbenders SAC)  
(Mackerel – 7.5 oz.)



4<sup>th</sup> Best Specimen  
Brealand Wilson (U/A)  
(Ballan Wrasse – 1 lb. 5.25 oz.)



5<sup>th</sup> Best Specimen  
Eden Lynham (West Bay SAC)  
(Ballan Wrasse – 1 lb. 2.25 oz.)



Winner, Under 12 (with no major prize)  
Ayden Rawlins (Lyme Regis)  
(Ballan Wrasse – 15.8 oz.)



Runner Up, Under 12  
Jack Squance (Honiton SAC)  
(Ballan Wrasse – 12.5 oz.)



Winners of the Team Competition  
Josh Johnson and Cain Blackmore



Rod/reel combos were also awarded to the four other youngest entrants Ellis Wilson (3), Albert Mills (3) (not shown), Alfie Gardener (4) and George Eaton (4)

The day was ended when the competitors gathered together and collectively expressed their thanks to all the event sponsors with a mass “Mount Batten Wave”, a resounding cheer accompanied by a vigorous waving and shaking of their goody bags!



*Brian Dennis  
Secretary  
P.F.S.A.C. & I.S.As*