

Another Gold Medal performance from a Scottish Fly Fishing Team' at the Home Bank International fished at Garnffrwd Fishery, Llanelli, South Wales earlier this month. Scotland had selected it's team from the National final at New Haylie Fishery earlier this year and whilst there were 5 new CAPs for the Bank team, all the anglers were experienced competitors with three of the party having fished Garnffrwd 4 years earlier.

Team and officials travelled down on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October by cars and checked in to hotel Saturday night. After a social evening it was down to business at the fishery for 9.00am on Sunday.

Garnffrwd was proving to be an excellent venue again, fishing was tough in clear water and conditions played a big part. Early indications were that every fish would be important. Some big fish were being caught as well. First day practice we caught 33 fish on various methods. Further full day practice on Monday proved tougher fishing, 27 fish, however methods had been confirmed. Final practice on Tuesday identified the patterns to be tied up as all fishing stopped Tuesday lunchtime.

Flat calm on Competition day held no fears for Team Scotland and quickly all 6 anglers had fish. 2 scoring sessions morning and afternoon meant keeping a blank off our scoresheet was vital. Anglers receive 100 points per fish and 25 points per centimetre, no cap on length of fish. All Scotland Anglers caught both morning and afternoon and Scotland ran out comfortable winners.

Scotland retained the Founding Nations Trophy, with Scottish Anglers filling 4 of the top 6 placings. Neil Wyllie, 2016 National Champion finished top Scottish rod with 11 fish. Barry Quinn from Ireland took top overall individual rod with 15 fish. Longest fish was 58cms caught by Mark Regan from Ireland.

Manager Alec Bowler was full of praise for the team who stuck to methods found during practice and sticking to them. Richard McHattie as non fishing Captain played a crucial role in getting information around to the anglers as the conditions varied. Alec Bowler said ' Once again Scotland proves that it has some of the best small Stillwater anglers in UK. Our National Competition is producing strong winning teams'.

Team Scotland would like to thank all who supported us during the year. Particular thanks to George and Senga Murray at New Haylie Fishery for soft Shell jackets, Flybox, Reelsport and AB Upholstery for shirt sponsorship, SANA for their support, all anglers who attended or supported the fundraisers and all anglers who entered the 2016 national event.