

# **A very successful SEFF Pro-Am for 2011**

**by Ray French**

The South Eastern Flyfishing Federation staged a very successful Pro-Am boat fishing event at Bewl on Sunday 3rd July where over £200 was raised to help bolster the regions funds. The event took the form of 23 English flyfishing Internationals and National Qualifiers fishing with a less experienced angler to form a team pairing.

The match started at 10 am sharp to blue skies, wall to wall sun, only a slight ripple and a water temperature of around 20C. Not ideal flyfishing conditions. Most boats headed for the main bowl, Chingley Point and Metal Mickey (weather buoy), areas where, despite the temperatures, trout had been seen moving for several days, mostly gorging fry.

Many started on floating lines and fry representations, including Boobies, Pearly Cormorants and mini Cats Whiskers retrieved very slowly or left static.

Fish were caught steadily during the morning, not in great numbers but there was considerable interest in the flies, albeit the takes were tentative and often not converted. By lunchtime at 1pm a good bag was three fish to the boat with many boats woefully short of that.

I have to say that the lunchtime barbecue prepared by Chef Brian Beeney really did impress, with the Marinated Trout fillets and the Venison Burgers especially succulent. Together with the spicy sausages, pasta mix, seasoned new potatoes and all the trimmings, plus double cream and chocolate cake for dessert, it was was the best I have tasted for many years. Aided and abetted by wife Janet and daughter Claire who both helped with lunch and sold the raffle tickets, it was indeed a Beeney feast !!!

At 2pm, a slower, more bloated pool of contenders began the afternoon session. Fishing wise, the talk at lunch was of anglers outside the competition catching fish in the vicinity of the Tower deep, on big buzzers and fast sink lines. This changed the course of the competition, the Tower becoming the focal point of attention with a few boats deciding to gamble and go for the deep approach. The gamble paid off for those that did and two or three boats caught steadily, apparently takes were mostly at about 35ft. The ripple did increase a bit and one or two clouds crossed the sky bringing the surface trout in other areas on the feed for a while, but not for long and by close of play at 6pm most of us were, hot, sunburnt and ready to come ashore for a long glass of cool beer.

After the weigh and before the winner presentations match organiser Vince Brooks, who himself had worked extremely hard to get this event off the ground, thanked the Beeney's for their fantastic efforts, thanked Simon Hume-Kendall for two cases of wine and friends, anglers and local traders, for contributions to the raffle. Also a big thank you to his staff colleagues on duty, especially James and Adam, who got all the boats safely away and back twice !

I thought it was a thoroughly enjoyable day, well done to those that organised and those that entered.

## **The Results**

### **Best bag from the Professionals:**

Mick Dwyer 8 fish 21lb 7.5oz\*

### **Best bag from the Amateurs:**

Mike Shepherd 6 fish 10lb 9oz

### **Best boat Team:**

Mick Dwyer & Pat O'Neill 26lb 15oz

### **2nd boat Team:**

Simon Newman & Kevin Blackwell 26lb 1.5oz

### **3rd boat Team:**

Keith Nicholson & Andy Hope 19lb 7oz

### **Best fish:**

Mick Dwyer - Rainbow 5lb 7oz

\*with Time Bonus

## **The Facts**

46 Anglers caught 131 Rainbows for a rod average of 2.8.