

Suzuki National Boat League Final

SUZUKI
MARINE

A last minute replacement won the prestigious Suzuki National Boat League Final at Poole in blustery conditions.



The finalists (left to right, back row: Roy, Bill, Richard, Mick, Steve, Tompkin and Simon; front row: Alan, Benney and Paul)



1st Place Richard Day

Quick Replacement

The Suzuki National Boat League final was supposed to be made up of the top eight in the league and two wild card entries this year, as it happened with one of the wild card entries and two of the top eight unable to attend it allowed 11th placed Richard Day from the Warren Angling Club to make up the numbers. He was only informed he was fishing two days before the final but he certainly made a name for himself when he got there. The full list of finalists was Steve Daley (Salisbury Anchor SAC), Bill Boynes (Southampton SAC), Vaughan Harding (Portsmouth Powerboat & Ski Club), Simon Pearson (South Cumbria SSA), Ray Barron (Warren AC), Alan Taylor (Blackpool SAC), Mick League (Trilley SAC), Paul Pearson (South Cumbria SSA), Richard Day (Warren AC) and wild card entry Darryl Daggler from Devon. Both Steve Daley and Bill Boynes have qualified for all four finals proving great consistency at club level.

Random Harvest

Andy Adams had offered his boat 'Random Harvest' for the final and Bob Walton of Sea Angling Poole prepared a beef package of squid, herring mackerel and half a pound of roach for each of the anglers. The wind was due to increase as the day went on but it was already quite choppy so we left the harbour for the Southampton Rough, which was to be our first mark. When the boat drew was made Richard was drawn of number 10 to be the cabin, but he proceeded to take the competition by the scruff of the neck, landing a string of sizeable poit and a large-bellied wrasse in the first hour of the competition. His teammate Ray Barron was suffering at the stern, catching plenty of fish but mostly under the 25cm size minimum the competition was being fished to.

Lobster Time

After the run of poit the fishing went dead, so Andy moved the boat out a mile or so but apart from a few dogfish mackerel, one whiting for Bill and a 3lb lobster for Richard, the fishing wasn't too good and the wind had picked up to a good force five. Andy decided to move into Poole punch to find a bit of shelter. The



4th Place Steve Daley

match was split into two sessions with the anglers moving round five places after two and a half hours to give them each a change. There was still half an hour of the first session to go when they got to the Patch. More poit and a couple of cuckoo-wrasse were caught then Ray found the gullfish. He pulled in two boats he had to change to number nine spot, which saw him fishing under the boat.

Half Time

At the mid point of the match Richard was on 41 points, with Ray on 30 and Bill on 25. Bill moved to the stern of the boat and pulled himself right into contention with six garfish over the next hour or so. Ray found another four using the roof to avoid effect from a difficult spot, but Richard just kept his nose in front with two gags, while Alan Taylor, Paul Pearson and Darryl struggled to cope with the hilly bottom. Simon, Steve, Mick and Vaughan look closer



Supporter of 'Random Harvest' Andy Adams

orders and things began to look very interesting as Andy decided it was time to head for shelter of the harbour where we would try for pollack, wrasse, bays and flounder on the drift.

Pollack Power

There was quite a bit of weed in the harbour but after a few drifts close to Brownsea Island Steve and Ray both caught pollack. So when it was time for a move to the last mark to drift for bass or flatfish the scores couldn't have been closer with Ray on 46 points, Bill on 47 points and Richard on 48 points. Whoever caught another fish in the difficult conditions would probably win.

The competition was total as we drifted close to the quay and at the end of the second drift Richard picked up a small bass giving him the edge. On the very last drift things could still change, but our gings picked up the only bass but this one came off. As no one else managed



Victorious team's good fortune wrasse

to get one he ran out a clear and deserved winner with 54 points made up of 14 poit, two garfish, a bass, wrasse, cuckoo-wrasse and a bass. Bill Boynes, who has qualified for all four of the finals, finished in second place with 47 points and double European Champion Ray Barron came third on 46 points.

Hot Food

The Marina Club provided one of their special hot meals for anyone after the match, and League Organiser Jim Whippy gave out NSA certificates and prizes to all the finalists. Richard will collect his prize at the London Boat Show in January. The prize consists of a fabulous Suzuki 75hp 4-stroke outboard and the superb new Lowrance LMS-520i sonar/GPS colour chart plotter to help him find the best marks. Watch out for details on next year's league in BFM and make sure your weekly entry your club, the league is run by Boat Fishing Monthly in conjunction with the NSA.



2nd Place Bill Boynes



3rd Place Ray Barron



Andy with a better view for Richard

www.ocqueteau.co.uk

Excel
strand
50300

OCQUETEAU

A range of leisure boats from 4.8m to 9m

NEW and USED craft always in stock all year round.
Package promotions, Boat only deals, electronics...

Ocqueteau UK Ltd, Unit 2, Essex Marina, Withsea Island, Essex SS4 2HF
Tel: 01702 257 950 Email: sales@ocqueteau.co.uk