



PRESS RELEASE

AYRSTRIKE – BURNS FISHING COMPETITION 2008

Profession Angler's Association Coach John Rae and Scottish International Manager Chris Paton go through to final as competition reaches the half way mark!

I was a busy weekend for the Ayrstrike competition with two matches in two days. But the even though the tempo was hotting up as we reached the half way stage, the weather remained positively chilly and the fishing slow.

Despite it being an unknown quantity, rumour control was working overtime and hopes were high that Saturday's match at Barony College would throw up some good weights. Unfortunately yet again the weather took its toll, and with snow on high ground overnight and the now ubiquitous cold northerly wind the fish refused to feed. After an hour **Professional Angler's Association (Scotland) coach John Rae (54) from Wishaw** was pleased to see his float bury. His strike met with solid resistance and five minutes later a beautiful 3lb 1oz tench was in the net. Then, nothing! For the remainder of the match the entire field tried everything to tempt a bite but their efforts were in vain and John's tench remained the only fish caught, netting him that all important place in the final.

Sunday morning dawned cold and clear for the 8th Qualifier and Magiscroft Fisheries near Cumbernauld and the ground was crisp with frost. A beautiful day to be out and about, but not such a good one for coarse fishing. **Scotland International Manager Chris Paton (38) from Cambuslang** finished with 7 carp, 1 skimmer bream and 1 Ide for 3.470kg from peg 9 to clinch his place in the

final. All of Chris' fish came to his trusted groundbait feeder and hair rigged corn approach, with the exception of one carp which fell to red maggot on his first put in on the pole up in the water. Chris didn't have it all his own way however with Monklands angler and recently capped Scottish Internationalist Ian Whitson never far behind. Ian fished a really tidy match using long pole up in the water for the full five hours to net 2.750kg of Ide and skimmers for second place. One carp at any point during the day could have seen him go through ahead of Chris but it was not to be.

If you haven't yet qualified for the big money final, which will be held at Spring Water Fisheries, Ayr on Sun 25th May. you only have 8 more opportunities, so visit www.fishscotland.co.uk, or www.sfca.co.uk and follow the Ayrstrike links, or contact SFCA Chairman Gus Brindle at gus@gbmsscotland.fsnet.co.uk before its too late!.

Other results were:

Saturday:

1 st	John Rae	3lb 1oz
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Sunday:

1 st	Chris Paton	3.470kg
2 nd	Ian Whitson	2.750kg
3 rd	Jim Jones	1.910kg
4 th	James Woodrow	1.620kg
5 th	Kevin Murphy	1.570kg

There are still tickets available for all of the next three qualifiers which are shown below:

QUALIFIER	QUALIFIER 8	QUALIFIER 9/10	QUALIFIER 11
DATE	13 th April	19 th April	27 th April
VENUE	Magiscroft (Main Loch)	Broom (F1 Pond & Canal)	Dormont
FEES:			
Peg	£6.00	£5.00	£5.00
Optional Pools ⁽¹⁾	£10.00	£10.00	£10.00
TIMINGS:			
Draw	0930 hrs	0930 hrs	0930 hrs
Fish	1100 – 1600 hrs	1100 – 1600 hrs	1100 – 1600 hrs
Results	1630 hrs	1630 hrs	1630 hrs

Notes:

(1) Pools payouts will be: 1st = 50%, 2nd = 30%, 3rd = 20%

Note to Editors:

CONTACT INFORMATION

Issued on behalf of the Burns an' a' that! Festival. For further information please contact Jo Spry from Liz Hobbs Group on 08700 702 702 or Gus Brindle from SFCA on 0131 310 4767.

Burns an' a' that! Festival was established in 2002. In 2007 it attracted over 50,000 visitors to the range of events and activities and generated over £1m for the local economy.

The festival is managed by the Burns Festival Company, with the board of directors representing the principle funding partners, South Ayrshire Council, Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire, Visit Scotland and Event Scotland and including the Robert Burns World Federation who sit on the board in an advisory capacity.

Website address: www.burnsfestival.com