The Fly Dressers’ Guild

45th John Watts Trophy – 29th August 2020

**Information and Competition Rules**

# Introduction

After months of assuming our John Watts competition would be cancelled this year I am really glad to confirm that we can continue & hold the competition on our annual weekend date. We will obviously have to adhere to Government & fishery Covid 19 guidelines & as a result of this we will not be arranging after competition catering.

The competition is contested by teams of four members. Originally, the teams were organised and put forward exclusively by Branches, but the event has now been opened up to individual Guild members as well. All competitors must be paid up members of the Guild.

The competition is fished from boats to fishery rules (with certain exceptions), the winners being the team landing the most fish on the day. In the event of a tie in the number of fish landed, the team with the heaviest weight of fish will be the winners.

The first and second teams plus the anglers with the heaviest bag and the heaviest fish on the day will be presented with trophies, which they can hold for a year. We are holding the after competition buffet & award ceremony at the Draycote restaurant.

This is intended to be a friendly competition that allows Guild members to get together for a day’s fishing and meet members from other Branches and other parts of the country, or renew acquaintances made in previous years.

# Venue, date, cost and entry details

The 45th John Watts Trophy Competition will be fished at Draycote resovoir on the 29th August 2020...

The cost of entry is £**160.00 per team of four** or **£40.00 per team member**.

The number of entries is restricted to 20 teams of four. To enter the competition, please complete the entry form (available on [www.flydressersguild.org](http://www.flydressersguild.org) or from the Fishing Competition Secretary) and return it with the corresponding payment as per the instructions on the form.

Entries must be received by **1st of August 2020** at the latest and will be accepted on a first come first served basis. No entry will be accepted unless accompanied by the full team fee and a fully completed entry form.

Each Branch may enter up to a maximum of 2 teams of 4 members. Branches entering two teams must submit a separate entry form and cheque for each team.

Members who do not belong to a Branch (or who are not part of an official Branch team) are encouraged to form their own teams of four or enter the competition as pairs. Members’ teams can be composed of Branch and/ or non-Branch members. Where feasible, teams of two will be paired up into teams of four on a first come, first served basis.

Team members may be changed up to the time of the competition. No refunds will be given unless it is for a full team and notice is given at least six weeks prior to the competition date.

All competitors must be in possession of a valid EA rod license, and be a paid up member of The Fly Dressers’ Guild at the time of the event. This includes any last minute substitutes – arrangements can be made for them to join the Guild before the start of the competition if necessary.

The competition is fly-only to fishery rules with certain exceptions – the detailed rules for the competition are set out at the end of this document and must be read and observed by all entrants.

# Trophy holders

Will holders of the annual trophies from last year please return them to Lee Hooper, 10 Mill Lane, Bishopstrow, Warminster, Wilts. BA12 9HJ in good order and no later than the 1st August 2019 or confirm that they will bring them to Draycote Water on the day.

# Competition rules

1. All competitors – including last minute substitutes - must be **paid up members of the Guild** (or must join the Guild as fully paid up members before the start of the competition). All competitors must also be in possession of a **valid EA rod licence**.
2. All competitors – including last minute substitutes – must read **these rules and Draycote's fishery rules (including their catch & release rules)** before the start of the competition, and confirm that they have done so on registration
3. All competitors must register with the Guild Officials at the lodge by **8:45 am** to collect their boat numbers and advise of any team changes. Substitutes are allowed and can be made on the day.
4. It is intended to get all boats away by **9:30 am**.
5. Boats must have two persons on board before they can leave the jetty.
6. Once fully manned, the boats may leave the jetty but must stay inside the designated start area until the start signal is given.
7. The match will finish at **5:30 pm** and all boats must be inside the designated start area by this time. Any boats returning after the finish time will be disqualified.
8. All boats are automatically surrendered at the finish of the competition.
9. Fishing will be to Grafham’s fishery rules (including their catch & release rules) **except** that:

The total catch limit for the day will be 12 trout per team member, of which the **first 4 trout** are to be killed and presented at the weigh-in.

The **next 8 trout** caught are to be carefully released, the total number of released trout to be recorded on the boat card, which should be signed off by your boat partner at the end of the competition and be presented at the weigh-in. Such trout will be deemed to weigh 2lbs each.

**NO electronic aids**, including GPS, fish finders and mobile phones are allowed.

1. **Only 1 brown trout** may be killed, if caught within the first 4 fish. All other brown trout must be released and – if caught within the first 4 fish limit – do not count towards an angler’s bag.
2. Please note that after killing the first 4 fish, catch and release rules apply, and **NO buoyant flies** (e.g. boobies) are to be used. Only **barbless or crushed barb hooks** are allowed.
3. **STANDING IN BOATS TO FISH OR CAST IS NOT ALLOWED.**
4. The first person named in the boat draw has the engine and control of the boat to start with, unless mutually agreed. Normal practice is to then alternate positions every 2 hours unless mutually agreed to remain in the same positions, in which case control of the boat will alternate every two hours despite the same person remaining at the engine.
5. Boats may drift or anchor. **Trolling or beaching of boats** is not allowed.

15) Please remember to bring Landing nets & drogues. I know I forgot to mention this last year as they are supplied at Grafham but not at Draycote.

16) In the unlikely event of a boat breaking down, please signal by holding up an oar, using the safety flare provided or contact the lodge by telephone, assistance will then be provided.

17) The use of radios or mobile phones for any purpose other than to summon assistance is not allowed.

18)Teams must bring their trout to the scales when called and Captains must verify that the correct number of trout and their weight are entered on the result sheet.

19)The winning team will be the team recording the MOST trout, being those brought to the scales plus those recorded as caught and returned. In the event of a tie on numbers, the team with the heaviest weight recorded at the weigh-in will be the winners.

20)The Top Rod will be the person recording the MOST trout, being those brought to the scales plus those recorded as caught and returned. In the event of a tie on numbers, the person with the heaviest weight recorded at the weigh-in will be the Top Rod.

21)The winner of the heaviest fish will be the person recording the heaviest fish … In the event of a tie the trophy will be awarded jointly

COMPLAINTS MUST BE MADE TO THE GUILD OFFICIALS WITHIN 10 MINUTES OF THE LAST TEAM WEIGHING-IN.

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