



HERVEY BAY GAME FISHING CLUB's CLASSIC
8 – 11 November, 2012.

It went like this This Tournament has a lot of appeal and this year the committee decided to add extra sections (as has other Clubs done), in an endeavour to attract participation and for new members with other interests in Game Fishing into the fold.

At the Briefing in the impressive headquarters of Hervey Bay's *The Boat Club*, the 3 sections were explained and apart from the normal Game Fishing Tournament, the 2 other sections were obviously for smaller Boats wanting to compete and join in ? ! The great service of the Mother Ship *Tasman Venture* was a draw card for anyone in these 2 categories. The Inside Section was to be fished on 8 kg only within perimeters which did not include beyond the Bar, one *Boat A Salt Weapon*, was the only Entry inside and the other section was to be fished with 8kg Saltwater Fly only – no Entries were received, but it could have been a special event for anyone in that field, as it turned out.

Maybe the news of arrival of Balck Marlin in numbers kept most in the Main Event .. 8kg up to 100m depth and Heavy Tackle 15, 24, 37 and 60kg in waters deeper than that ! After the Briefing, everyone took off to Rooneys Point and congregated on the Mothership to load on Sleeping gear and necessary refreshments... weather conditions were good and we all knew that Sunday was doubtful as a full morning because of the predicted weather closing in on Saturday evening. It was a great gathering before the first day and re-acquaintances made as the Tournament was not held in 2011 because of the unavailability of the Fuel Barge.

Captain Lloyd made us very welcome in his Main Bridge Control onboard and we only added a temporary Table to spread back up Paperwork... we were pleased we did and we were able to operate continuously and comfortably!!! Carl delivered Tea and cakes and Lunch to us when he wasn't preparing Meals and Lunch packs for the Anglers.

Day 1... Start Fishing was at 0800 and apart from 2 small breaks of 3 mins and 8mins (possibly when they were crossing the Bar ? !) the Radio was never silent ! What a great effort from everyone involved in providing all necessary information back to Game Fish Base .. the co-operation was fantastic ! *Looking back*, I see that by;

1st Radio Sked there were ; 34 Strikes 27 Hu's and 19 T&R

2nd Radio Sked there were ; 79 strikes 72 Hu's and 45 T&R

3rd Radio Sked there were ; 50 strikes 42 HU's and 28 T&R

Of course we did not know that until the wee hours of the morning as it was a marathon to do the balance.

Day 2 ... Start Fishing was at 0700 and away we went again; the weather was holding nicely...

1st Radio Sked there were ; 73 Strikes 44 HU's and 25 T&R

2nd Radio Sked there were ; 67 Strikes 46 HU's and 32 T&R

3rd Radio Sked there were ; 37 Strikes 31 HU's and 16 T&R

as the numbers indicate, the weather was closing in on Saturday afternoon on the Coast and moving our way ; but the Coast of Frazer Island as it is renowned for , does provide a lot of shelter and remains fishable when other areas close down.

However, Rain and strong wind are an uncomfortable factor for small or open Boats and the outlook was not good by the forecast for Sunday Morning's term from 0700 to 1200 noon. In all such forecasted situations and feeling the conditions already, some remain as they have before and others side on ultimate safety and a dry Boat / Bed. Those that left for Urangan arrived safely by around 7 pm and the others remaining out, stayed at the 'Triangles', having moved down from Rooneys Point to 'Watoomba' and then on to 'Triangles'. The Squalls were not a hazard getting crews to the Mother Ship for the evening Meal and refreshments and so much excited talk... the Team on Bulldog T&R'd another 3 small Billfish on the way down from Rooneys and arrived wet cold ! but managed the paperwork like everyone to give us a bit more sleep !

Day 3 ... Start Fishing was at 0700 again and 5 Boats were in front of Mothership that anchored in 6m water at Watoomba. We were watching the weather and listening to the wind forecasted and rainfall already registered... much more than we were experiencing where we were and the Radio leapt into action as the Boats reached Rooneys again !
1st Radio Sked there were 10 Strikes 8 Hu's and 5 T&R

The action was short lived as the Marine Forecast was for Gale Force winds and the Fishing was called off and everyone headed for Home.

Midnight Blue came within a nose to catching Bulldogs score; who knows where that would have went if the Fishing continued to 1200 ! Maybe Bulldog's Bright Orange Antarctic Rainvests made from Trash Bags by Lloyd scared their fish off on the Morning ride.

The Teams only owed the 5 Tag Cards which were on board their boats fishing on Sunday morning ! and all Paperwork was in hand before time.....such was their efficiency overall; they were duly all congratulated at the Prizing at **The Boat Club!**

The Breakdown of Scores is as set out below.

Day1 ... 91 Fish .. 11 to the Ladies - 10 Black Marlin – 1 Spanish Mackerel
8 to the Juniors - 8 Black Marlin
72 to the Men - 66 Black Marlin – 3 YF Tuna : 2 Cobia : 1 Wahoo
84 Black Marlin
Day 2 ...72 Fish .. 7 to the Ladies - 7 Black Marlin
6 to the Juniors - 6 Black Marlin
59 to the Men - 57 Black Marlin 1 Sailfish : 1 Wahoo
70 Black Marlin
Day 3 ... 4 Fish .. 1 to the Lady - 1 Black Marlin
3 to the Men - 3 Black Marlin
4 Black Marlin

TOTALS 167 Fish 17 to the Ladies - 16 Black Marlin 1 – Spanish Mackerel
14 to the Juniors - 14 Black Marlin
137 to the Men -136 Black Marlin 1 Sailfish, 3 YF Tuna, 2 Cobia, 1 Wahoo

Strike rate was Phenomenal ! All agreed that with the action that took place, it was impossible to track a lot of the Strikes and had decided to record what they thought they could substantiate from actual fish on.

It is something like this; Day 1...163 Strikes 141 HU's 91 Fish 84 Black Marlin,3 YF Tuna
2 Cobia
1 Wahoo
1 Sp. Mackerel
Day 2 ..177 Strikes 121 HU's 73 Fish 71 Black Marlin,1 Sailfish
1 Wahoo
Day 3 .. 10 Strikes 8 HU's 4 Fish 4 Black Marlin.
Total 169 Black Marlin

Most Marlin on a Day **Black and Blue** 21 in Tournament 36
Bull Dog 19 in Tournament 22
Midnight Blue 11 in Tournament 20
Pickle 1 9 in Tournament 17
Salty 6 in Tournament 10

Note 1 ; where some entered Striped Marlin, these have not been separated;

Note 2; there are possibilities that there could be confusion, these scores are for Fish out there with their pin of "player on the field"

We think this is an Herculean Effort and full recognition to all that took part in its formation and execution.

Best Wishes, Albert and Pauline Threadingham.