

Ogilvie back with a bang in top European fishing event

Craig Ogilvie took a two-year break from competitive sea angling but last weekend he celebrated his best every finish in what is claimed to be Europe's biggest beach fishing event, beating hundreds of competitors who fished on beaches near Hull last weekend.

The self-employed joiner from North Berwick claimed 13th position in the two-day Paul Roggeman European Open Beach Championship which attracted anglers from all over the United Kingdom including those from as far afield as Weston-Super-Mare, Southampton, Eastbourne, Pontypool and Carrickfergus.

And it could have been a whole lot better had some of the fish the East Lothian man landed, particularly on the first day, had been several centimetres bigger.

Furthermore, Ogilvie landed a sizeable dogfish tempted on his second cast on Day 2, his friend and fishing buddy, Barry McEwan, splashing his way into the surf to ensure it ended up on the beach.

But one glance at the rules for the competition founded in 1994 by the late Paul Roggeman indicated that dogfish do not count.

Ogilvie came home with a variety of prizes including waders

and clothing, but the winner, Phippen Moore from Sigglesworth in Yorkshire's East Riding, pocketed a sizeable cash sum for his bag of 4,690grammes (10.33lb) all caught on the second day after not scoring on the first.

Ogilvie's fish was 1,855grammes (4.8lb) and his friend McEwan from Port Seton, who fished for Scotland in the World Championships in Sicily last year, finished 36th despite a good Day One when he landed 880grammes (1.94lb) of fish and was pipped for one of the many prizes on offer, but had a poor second day with only 285grammes (0.62lb).

Ogilvie, who is recently back in competitive angling after a two-year break, said: "It was a last minute decision for Barry and I to go down and we hired a caravan. Barry was 22nd on Day One and we both thought: 'Here we go'. I caught fish but they were undersized, around 34cm and that was one cm under the limit.

"On day two, it was mid-tide when the rod went boom, and that was against all the local knowledge who said that mid-tide was not the best time to catch.

"Barry waded in again to help get the fish onshore and it was around 4lb which was enough to get me into the prizes."

Both men used worm bait on light lines – 20lb braid and a 100lb shock leader – as the fish were around 200 yards offshore. Indeed, Ogilvie waded out 60 yards before casting and the 46-year-old admitted: "I can only cast about 140 yards, but wading helped get me to where the fish were."

Only 176 of the field in the 30th anniversary of the competition were listed on the official scorechart and Ogilvie said: "I'm really chuffed. There were some super-stars in the field and I came 13th, that's a result.

"I've had a 15th on one day previously, but not a top 20 place overall and my fish was seventh on the second day."

PICTURE: Craig Ogilvie receives his prize. Picture courtesy of ***Sea Angling Adventures***



PICTURE: Barry McEwan who waded into the sea to make sure Craig landed his fish. Picture ***Nigel Duncan***