**Competitions Watten Charity Event Saturday 10th May 2014**

On a drab Saturday morning Davie MacGregor and myself headed north to contest the charity event on loch Watten. This competition has replaced the Federation competition after the federation folded in 2012. The charity event is hosted by the Thurso branch of the British Legion.

On the way up, just passed Helmsdale, we hit some serious harr blowing in from the North Sea. This was a real pea soup job and at times there was only a few yards visibility. The fear was that the fog would have engulfed Watten making fishing difficult. Thankfully by the time we reached Thurso the mist had lifted. After some craic, coffee, tea and biscuits we registered and headed off to the loch. The reports from the loch were not good as 3 local boats were out on the previous day and only had one trout between them.

We were drawn in a boat from the Watten end and when we got there, a bitter east wind was blowing in a typical Caithness welcome. Now last year the trout were down deep and in these conditions, we along with most other teams, put on our sinkers and fished down. After an hour or so and with only one follow, we went shallower but again without success. Half way down the north shore and back out in deeper water Davie, at long last hooked and landed a cracking trout about 1½lb, we were up and running. Looking around at other boats we failed to see one single trout getting landed which suggested we were not the only team struggling. I had another few follows, Davie didn’t get another touch and at the whistle we still only had the one fish. Watten has won again.

Back at the weigh in there was not too many fish to count. There was some success and Proteus from Inverness won with seven trout. They were fishing shallow, with glass intermediates behind the island which was the total opposite of what we expected. Our good friend Alex Spence from Invergordon and fishing for the Lairg A.C. had the biggest trout at 2¼lb. Totally humbled but having enjoyed our day, Davie and I came back down the road with our tails between our legs wondering when we will find an answer to Watten, maybe next year. Finally I would like to thank Alex Dempster for all his hard work in bringing this event together and the legion for their hospitality. No doubt, and if we invited, Loch Achonachie will be back again next year.

Lewis Ross Competitions Secretary