

January Newsletter No.3/2009 courtesy of Capt Andy's

Good variety of fishing with all three marlin around

The two cyclones round Madagascar seem to be affecting the weather at the coast, with overcast days and varying winds, but the fishing continues good with all three species of marlin being caught as well as plenty of sailfish, both in the Pemba Channel and the Malindi/Watamu areas.

Last weekend saw a tournament sponsored by the Casino Malindi, a new fixture in our fishing calendar, and the first day ended with the experienced team of Phil Revett, Batian Craig and skipper Callum Looman on Tarka in the lead with a black and a striped marlin, two sail and some dorado ahead of the Simba team, with anglers Adam Ogden, Rob Hellier, Mtawali Zia and skipper Mark Allen, with a blue and a striped marlin. Boats were permitted to fish from either Watamu or Malindi, and with the points system heavily favouring marlin, the boats mainly fished the Rips. Seahorse, fished by Allan Hightower and Ray Ransom who each caught a striped marlin, were lying third, with Clueless fourth scoring eight sailfish.

Fishing slowed however on the Sunday, with the Centre Mlima area, where the marlin had been previously, showing no signs of life, but both Tarka and Simba searched further afield and added a marlin, the former a black and the latter a blue, while Seahorse added a sailfish from skipper Peter Ready. Clueless failed to score, and the other boats also found little the second day.

The final order was therefore the same as that on the first day, with the Tarka team claiming the first prize of three top of the range rods and reels, valued at over \$3000, while Adam Ogden took the Top Angler prize for his two marlin and a sailfish, with Ian Cripwol on Clueless getting the biggest billfish award, in this case as all the fish were tagged and released, for the first sailfish reported.

Prizes were awarded in the evening at the Casino Malindi with a good dinner and a very enjoyable party was had by all.

Fishing in the Pemba Channel mirrors that at Malindi, with plenty of sailfish close to shore but anglers choosing to run further out where the marlin are, and finding sail out there as well. Jasiri had a good run with a striped marlin daily for four days, while experienced German angler Helmut Harms tagged a stripey on Kamara II, estimated at 55kgs on 10kg line, a good piece of fishing, then next day, Christoph, Helmut's young son, had a blue of 80 kgs as well as a sail, and with a striped marlin as well the next day a good start to his angling career! A week ago it was very rough in the Channel, but has improved, and on those days boats which miss a marlin seem to have good catches of sailfish.

At Malindi, the Grubler group from Austria went out in Eclare and Snark, coming back with a striped marlin and sixteen sailfish total for the two boats. The Riaan Groeblar group from South Africa split between three boats for three days, with

Neptune in the Rips releasing a black and a blue marlin and three sail first day, while Tina and Snark totalled fifteen sail off Malindi. Next day Eclare found twenty-two sail and Tina ten, so happy anglers there.

Neptune then had another good day, with regulars Herbert and Monica Lewald from Austria, with a blue, a stripey and a sail – only the black marlin eluding them for a super grand slam!

Next weekend the Delamere Trophy will be fished from Kilifi, a good entry is expected and with plenty of action in the Rips we should see some good scores.