

PRESS RELEASE

## **SPAR BLOEMHOFDAM BONANZA 2007**

The seventh annual **Spar Bloemhofdam Bonanza** presented by **Eco-Care Trust** has been held from 27-29 April 2007.

The Bloemhofdam Bonanza started on 27 April with the **Tight Lines / Stywe Lyne Teams Fishing Bonanza** and has been held with great success. Teams consisted of four shore anglers and boat anglers per team respectively. Only carp as species has been allowed and the bags were restricted to four biggest carp per team. Good cash prizes to the value of R35 000 has been at stake with the winners in each category receiving R10 000 cash for the first prizes.

The **Fear no Fish A** team took the honours for the best shore team with a bag of 25,94 kg followed by the **Finding Willy** with a bag of 18,38kg, and **Confido Traders Virginia** with a bag of 16,72kg. The top Boat Team, **Ons Kan**, weighed a bag of 19,3 kg followed by the **Blou Bulle** with a bag of 19,2 kg, and in the third place **Fish o Holics** with 16,41kg. The most creative dressed team was the **Captain Hook Team** and the team with the most original name was the "**Nog vis nog Vrees**" Team.

The big **SPAR Bonanza** started the Saturday morning and continued until Sunday morning. Many good fish were caught during this individuals fishing tournament. The overall winner was Frikkie Coetzee who took top honours and won a **valuable property at Verlatenkraal at Bloemhof Dam** worth R400 000 with the compliments of **Verlatenkraal Leefstyl Landgoed!** His comment on the win was that it is 90% perseverance and 10% luck. He caught a barbell of 14,915kg and a carp of 4,830kg from the shore which gave him a total of 1518 points, just 25 points ahead of Pieter Espag who come second overall. Peter Espag took home a Ten Man canvass tent fully equip with camping accessories worth R15 000, sponsored by Klerksdorp Canvass & Mining Supplies.

The **Top Ten Boat Angler** was Stefan Olivier who caught a barbell of almost 24kg (1069 points). Stefan could regard him as very unlucky not to be the overall winner with such a huge barbell. He has not read the rules for the tournament and has not weighed a carp to comply with the two species rule, counting a carp and barbell points together to determine the overall winner. The second place for the Top Ten Boat category went to Drikus Lombaard with a barbell of 19,675kg (866 points) and the third place to Quintin Smit with a carp of 6,185kg (819 points).

The **Top Ten Shore Angler** was P Kirsten who won this category with a carp of 6,905 kg (893 points) with OJ Beukes second with a barbell of 15,450kg (850 points) and Dirk Lacock third with a barbell of 14,060kg (800 points).

The **Spar Ladies winner** was Elmari Elliot who caught the biggest carp for the tournament weighing 7,5kg (949 points), the second most points for an individual. She earned a Spar cash voucher of R4000 and a diamond to the value of R6000. T Pretorius came second with a barbell of 14,875 kg (830 points), followed by Santie Coetzee with a barbell of 13,375 kg (770 points). **Exel** sponsored the prizes in the Junior Division. The best junior in the boat division was Ruben Lewis who caught a barbell of 18,700kg (826 points). Janco Scheepers came second with a carp of 4,725 kg (678 points) and third Marius Smit with a carp of 4,465 kg (649 points).

The points were calculated with the Eco-Care Angling Points system that awards points in relation to the weight of a fish species and whether it has been caught from the shore or from a boat. The system has proved to be a reliable method to determine the best fish caught by an angler in a fishing tournament.

The Bonanza was attended by more than 1700 anglers coming from all over South Africa, receiving a goodie bag and ice with the compliments of SPAR, Pepsi and several other sponsors. The total attendance of the event was more than 5000 people. Unfortunately bad weather made it very difficult for everybody at the Bonanza. The weekend started with predictions of wind and icy weather. A strong wind prevails from Friday morning until Sunday and made it very difficult for the boat and shore anglers. Fortunately, no casualties have been reported. The capital inflow from the Bloemhof Bonanza towards Bloemhof and surrounding cities were gladly accepted by business and tourism industry.

Sincere thanks to all the participants and sponsors who made the event a huge success and helped to award the prize winners in all the different categories. All proceeds of the event will go to the Eco-Care Trust, an NGO working in the field of water conservation.

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