

The now well established CCG Awards Scheme was introduced following a member's request for some sort of group recognition for some of the less well publicised captures and for fishes caught from harder venues. The committee also recognised that it was important to encourage all members regardless of experience or ability. The scheme is also a way of receiving feedback from the membership and as it is a photographic based 'competition' is a valuable source of material for the group's stands, newsletters, the website and of course *Whiskers*.

Digital photographs are fine as are standard prints or transparencies. Digital pictures may be used on the group's web site but they aren't always suitable for displays or the magazine. Digital images should preferably be taken at the highest possible quality and saved as Jpeg or Tiff formats (Some RAW formats are also acceptable). Hi resolution images should be burned to CD and posted with your application form.

You can now download an Award Scheme application form from the *Members Section* of the CCG web site. Digital photos can be submitted with an E-application but please do not email files bigger than 4Mb. E-applications should be emailed to Keith Lambert at keith@megamog.com every submitted capture is considered by committee members and judged on its merit. We look at the catch in relation to the type and size of the water as well as the nature of the capture. The size of the fish is always looked at in relation to the venue. The committee will review award criteria regularly as the national spread of catfish increases and their average weights rise.

The following awards are made depending on the merits of the capture:

1. The Catfish Conservation Group Certificate

This is usually presented to an angler who has captured their first ever catfish or who has been successful at one of the easier catfish venues. This award will be easily attainable.

2. The Catfish Conservation Group Bronze Pin

This is presented along with the certificate to an angler who has caught a fish that is considered to be of a reasonable weight in relation to the venue. This award should be within the reach of most members.

3. The Catfish Conservation Group Silver Pin

This is presented along with the certificate to an angler who has been especially successful, for example a multiple catch or a fish that is of a high weight in respect of the venue. The silver pin should be considered hard earned as there are unlikely to be too many awarded.


4. The Catfish Conservation Group Gold Pin

This is presented along with the certificate to an angler who has achieved something really special. For example a record fish from a difficult water or a large fish from a very hard or poorly stocked venue. The gold pin is the group's highest award and consequently it is unlikely that there will be many gold pins presented.

Awards will only be presented to current members of the Catfish Conservation Group; who have correctly completed an award claim form. All claims must be accompanied by photographic evidence. Witness details will be required with most claims. Claim forms are sent out regularly with copies of *Silurus* or can be collected at any CCG meeting. Alternatively they are available by post from any committee member, please enclose a SAE. Application forms can also be downloaded from the *Members Section* of the web site.

THE CCG AWARDS SCHEME

KEITH LAMBERT



CATFISH CONSERVATION GROUP

.....

Awarded to

.....

Achievement

.....

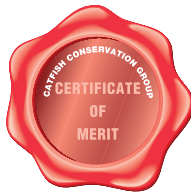
Weight

..... lbs	oz.
..... lbs	oz.
..... lbs	oz.

Signed

Dated

On behalf of Catfish Conservation Group



The committee representatives will judge the claim as objectively as possible and their decision should be considered as final.

Whilst the group is always interested in the capture of all species of catfish it regrets that awards can only be made for wels catfish – *Silurus glanis*.

Unfortunately, due to space restraints in the magazine, last year's award scheme details couldn't be published. They were however available on the Group's website.

The following awards were presented for the season 2006/7. Details of award winners for 2007/8 and will appear as usual in the next issue of *Whiskers*.

Certificates

Ben Clarke caught his first catfish from Pondwood Farm weighing in at 10lb 9oz. Karl Dean Lanfear also landed his first ever cat at Hazel Court Ponds quickly followed by his second!. The weights were 12lb 12oz and 12lb 10oz.

Bronze Awards

Stuart Palfry enjoyed a trip to Spain with his mates and bagged up with 16 fish in a week including five fish of over 100lb up to 153lb. Michael Mizon tackled Rio Lake at the Northey Park complex and landed a brace of double figure catfish to earn his Bronze Pin. Steve Foxley enjoyed some top catfishing at Crewe's premier cat water Lakemore Fisheries and was awarded two Bronze Pins for

Stuart Palfry cradles a long-whiskered Spanish whacker!



Barry Timms earned five group awards for fish such as this fine Rackley specimen.

separate braces of catfish. The weights were 17lb 9oz and 34lb 8oz followed by two more of 17lb 6oz and 33lb 7oz. Essex catter Gerry Chandler's first pins of the season were bronze for fabulous fish of 52lb and 58lb. The final Bronze award of the year went to Rackley Hills regular Barry Timms for a 37lb 6oz cat which took margin fished squid.

Silver Awards

Once again there were plenty of Silver Pins awarded to Group members last season. First up was Tom Stoodley for his 39lb 12 oz cat from Orchid Lakes. Gerry Chandler was on target again with another fine catfish of 66lb from His local Crowsheath water. Barry Timms attended the CCG Fish-in at Elphicks and was rewarded with a cracking cat of 42lb. Barry earned a further Silver Pin with a 42lb 8oz moggie from Rackley Hills Pit swiftly followed by another for a whacking 45 pounder. Buckinghamshire based member Noel Scally tackled the Willows Fishery and landed a fine cat of exactly 35lb which took a live perch presented on a Cat-O-Copter rig. Gerry Chandler continued his fine run of form with two more awards for cats of 65lb 8oz and 57lb 8oz. Finally, former CCG water Crackers Meadow returned a huge cat of 47lb 4oz for Laurence Arnold.

Gold Awards

Hot on the heels of his earlier success at Lakemore, Steve Foxley extended the Horsehoe Lake Record with a 41lb 7oz beauty. A new CCG Fish-in record was set by Simon Poole at 61lb 2oz from



Laurence Arnold enjoyed a fine season at Crackers Meadow that included this 47 pounder.

Crackers Meadow. Six days after landing his first ever catfish, Karl Dean Fear returned to Welsh catfish venue Hazel Court Ponds and captured a new lake record of 42lb 4oz! Not content with that, he fished again three weeks later and landed a brace of forties and another Lake record fish. The weights were 44lb 12oz and 42lb 12oz – Fine fishing indeed. Still on the trail of the megamogs was ‘Old hand’ Barry Timms. This time back at his usual haunt of Rackley Hills Pit; Barry earned the Group’s top award when he landed a trio of lovely cats weighing in at 29lb 5oz, 40lb 12oz and 43lb 4oz. It is believed that this is the first time in its long history that a brace of forty pounders have been taken at Rackley.

Simon Dunbar legered two halibut pellets at Berkshire’s Horton Boat Pool and captured a cracking 62 pounder. John Bull tackled tough venue Bassingbourn and struck gold with a cracking fish of 63lb. That man Chandler was at it again, this time with a monster cat of 70lb which was rewarded with a Gold Pin. Crackers Meadow hit the headlines once more when Laurence Arnold broke the Lake record with a 65lb 12oz whacker. – Looks like fish-in places at this top venue will be in short supply again!

Many congratulations to all our award winners and please keep those applications rolling in. Don’t forget to enclose photographs, without which we cannot process your award.



This 32lb cracker earned Simon Dunbar his gold pin.