

## Mercury Amatola Bass Classic 2013

The annual Amatola Bass Classic held at Wriggleswade Dam over the weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> March attracted some 83 boats with over 160 anglers competing to win a rigged bass boat worth close to R250 000!



Windy conditions and floating hyacinth, a noxious water weed, made conditions a bit more difficult than past tournaments however some quality fish still made the scales over the two days. Brett Edmunds from Stutterheim held the lead over day one with a fish which weighed in at 2.805kg and as he predicted tongue in cheek, the previous day, weighed the same as his new born daughter!

Brothers Brennand and Ryan Pickering, borrowed a boat for the competition and after trying to sink the boat on day one and not weighing any fish, they went into day 2 somewhat sceptical about catching fish let alone a winning fish. Mid-morning saw Ryan Pickering from East London throwing a black buzz bait in an area that had been heavily fished and he hooked and landed a fish of 3.45kg, ultimately winning himself a brand new boat. Rumours abounded at the final days weigh station of an even bigger fish which was yet to make the scales and Ryan's nervousness was showing. Luckily for him these rumours turned out to be false and Ryan was victorious.



Seen here with the major sponsors fltr: Richard Carroll (Sportcraft), Phillip Kingma (Mercury), Brennand Pickering (boat partner), Ryan Pickering (winner), Michael Carroll (Sportcraft) and Dean Barker (Escape Boating).

Competitions of this magnitude are not possible without the continued and loyal support of key sponsors.



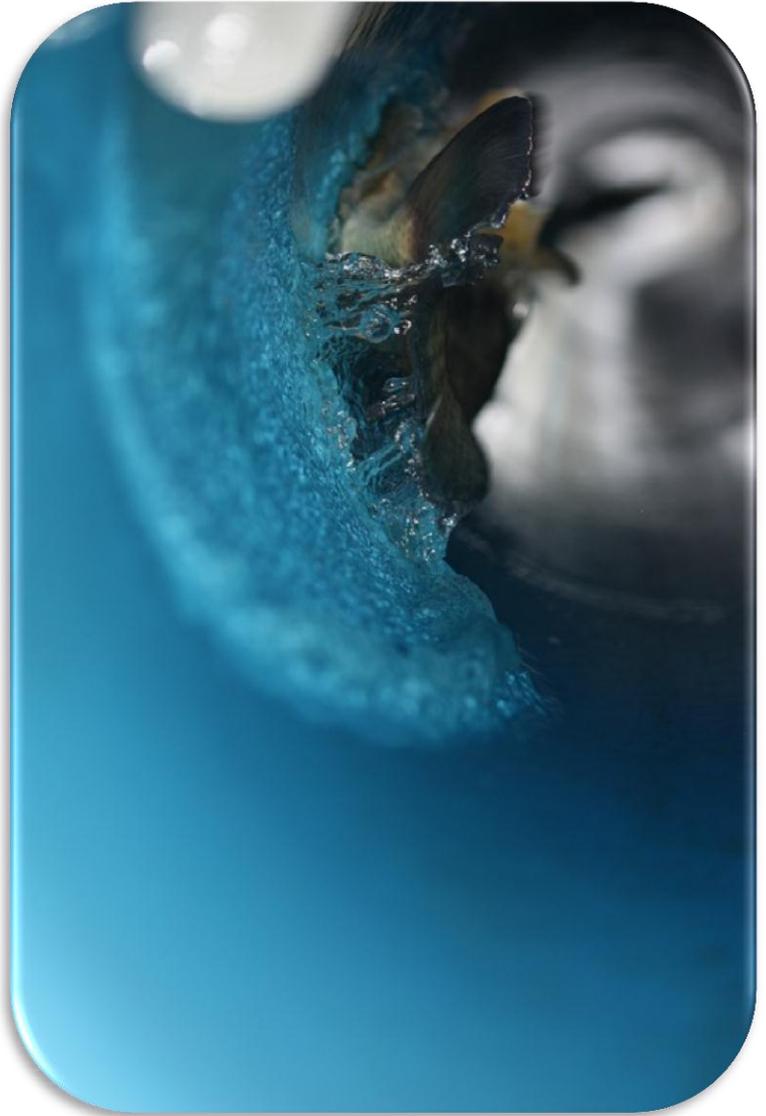
Ryan Pickering with his winning fish, his wife Tanya and their three young children.

This is a three fish bag comp, with the fish stats as follows:  
 Day 1 – 193 fish weighed with an average weight of 0.736kg  
 Day 2 – 123 fish weighed with an average weight of 0.663kg

**Individual and bag weights (prize winners):**

**Biggest fish:**

<u>Place</u>	<u>Weight (kg)</u>	<u>Name</u>
1st	3.450	RYAN PICKERING
2nd	2.805	BRETT EDMUNDS
3rd	2.325	STUART SIEBERT
4th	1.810	IAN VERSFELD
5th	1.510	JOHN WILLIAMS
6th	1.505	STEVEN VERSFELD
7th	1.435	CALVIN WESSELS
8th	1.425	STEVE WATSON
9th	1.420	MARK KLACKERS
10th	1.380	SAMPIE NIEWOUDT
11th	1.365	JONATHEN BEHNKE
12th	1.345	LEONARD POTGIETER
13th	1.335	CALEB DOVEY
14th	1.330	CHARLIE LEACH
15th	1.330	CARMEN JANNEKAR
16th	1.285	NIGEL MARITZ
17th	1.270	PAUL KEMP
18th	1.235	JOHN WILLIAMS
19th	1.205	EDGAR LEACH
20th	1.200	DARYN DU PREEZ
21st	1.195	QUENTIN LUCK
22nd	1.185	MARK GIBSON
23rd	1.185	BRESBY DU PREEZ
24th	1.180	NOEL SPARKS
25th	1.165	ALWYN WHITFIELD
26th	1.165	RICHARD WATSON
27th	1.155	BRETT EDMUNDS
28th	1.150	DONOVAN GREENWAY
29th	1.135	RICHARD WATSON
30th	1.125	DEAN BARKER



**Heaviest Bag:**

<u>Place</u>	<u>Weight (kg)</u>	<u>Name</u>
1st	5.270	EDGAR AND CHARLIE LEACH
2nd	5.200	CRAIG FRASER AND PIERRE VD MERWE
3rd	5.200	FREDDY STEYN AND DONOVAN GREENWAY
4th	5.195	RICHARD WATSON AND BEN VAN HUYSSTEEN
5th	5.140	ALWYN WHITFIELD AND PADDY WHELAN



**Ladies:**

<u>Place</u>	<u>Weight (kg)</u>	<u>Name</u>
1st	1.330	CARMEN JANNEKAR
2nd	1.105	BELINDA DOVEY
3rd	0.790	BARBARA SCHWARTZ



**Juniors:**

<u>Place</u>	<u>Weight (kg)</u>	<u>Name</u>
1st	1.335	CALEB DOVEY
2nd	0.950	DIAN COXEN
3rd	0.870	MORGAN HEIN



The smallest fish trophy, also known as the 5'th fish trophy, went to Justin Kieck with a fish of 0.305kg!



Hatfield's Shopfitters from KZN, Matthew and Carmen Jannekar, have supported the Amatola Classic for many years and religiously compete in the event. Their sponsorship is always dedicated to the Ladies and Junior prizes and they are to be commended for their continuity in this regard, especially since the youngsters are the future of our sport.



*The junior anglers who competed and received goody bags: back row fltr, Caleb Dovey, Morgan Hein, Brett McIntyre, Carmen Jannekar (sponsor); front row fltr, Daniel Dovey, Dian Coxen (who came second and look how small he is.....), Matthew Lentz and Matthew Tonkin. Absent from the picture is William Osner.*

We received some very good news at the Classic. Phillip Kingma from Rutherford's Marine (Mercury) advised those assembled that he had some bad news for the 2014 Amatola Classic.....MERCURY would be back on board as a main sponsor and that means that this event would continue (for another year at least) to offer the magnificent prizes to which anglers have become accustomed. Phillip got a resounding applause as can be imagined and we welcome Mercury back with open arms and gratitude for their dedication to our event in these difficult times, together with their East London agents, Sportcraft.



As is tradition at the Amatola Classic, the winner gets thrown off the end of the jetty for a swim in Wriggleswade dam and this year was no exception albeit that the organizer, Clinton Schwartz, somehow managed to also topple into the water, cell phone and all!



The organisers have dedicated this year's Classic to our friend, club member and fellow organizer, Mark Klackers, who lost his life whilst travelling home from the Classic on the Sunday evening. He will be remembered for his dedication and passion to the sport of bass fishing, his willingness to help others and his popular smile. Marky, may you rest in peace and may the fishing god's in the big blue waters take care of you from here onwards; you will be sorely missed by all who crossed your path.



Mark skippering his boat on the last day with fishing partner, Stuart Buchler.



Mark (right) receiving the prize for 9'th heaviest fish.

### Fisherman's Prayer

I pray that I may live to fish  
Until my dying day.  
And when it comes to my last cast,  
I then most humbly pray:  
When in the Lord's great landing net  
And peacefully asleep  
That in his mercy I be judged  
Big enough to keep.

Mark Klackers was a keeper and a good one too! His family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Credits for photographs: Jill Lentz, Lyndon Hall and Nicolette Scrooby.

**Clint Lentz**

Wriggleswade Bassmasters