

Thrilling And Scary Experience For Fynn Krause As His First Marlin Takes Off With "The Wireman"

TWO STRIPED marlin and five sailfish were caught in Mtwapa waters last Sunday during the annual Kilulu competition, fished out of The Moorings, and there were several other exciting encounters with billfish on that day and earlier in the week.

A lifetime first marlin for a delighted Stuart Thorpin, on his first ever deep sea fishing trip, and a wahoo of twelve kilos for Garry Thornton brought first place on board for John and Kenneth Rodwell's boat, Centa.

Stuart's striped marlin was hooked about ten miles from shore and took thirty minutes to bring to the boat, where it was set free to roam the ocean once more.

Walter Brun's boat, Baloo, took second place with two sailfish caught by Klaus Runge, and these fish were released back to the deep also.

In third place was Bob Brenden's Bado, adding to recent fabulous marlin successes with another one, a striped marlin caught by Fritz Kaestli and tagged and released at 7.45 a.m., which meant that it qualified as the heaviest fish since time replaces weight in the release scales.

A second marlin was hooked by Fritz's team mate, sixteen-year-old Alistair Barnes, and he was a very disappointed angler when the fish sent the lure back empty and was last seen taking the long route to the Seychelles.

Babo's sister ship, Mala, fished by Hans-Joachim Stanger, Harald, and Walter Brun, was fourth in the competition with a sailfish caught and released by Hans-Joachim.

Another sailfish brought James

Adcock's Vuma fifth place, this one caught by Adrian Batty of Pembrokehire, who had had a week of excellent successes on this boat, catching his first ever sailfish on his first day, Wednesday, and on Friday the biggest wahoo of the season weighed in at The Moorings, one of 19.2 kilos.

The species prize for sailfish went to the very popular Killif boat, Novita, fished by Claudio Borsato, Benj Bowles and his son, Brendan, who caught the sailfish, weighed in at 26.5 kilos.

This boat also caught a wahoo and two dorado.

The biggest non-billfish on the competition was a kingfish of fourteen kilos caught by Nigel Spencer who was fishing on his Sesse canoe, Tenges, with Neil Reed.

Another canoe-type boat, the stretch Yamaha canoe, Smuggler took two species prizes, the yellowfin tuna one for Len Fitzgerald and the Bonito prize for James Knight, with Adrian Hillier doing most of the smuggling.

An unusual feature of this event was the number of 'Small Fry' and Junior Anglers taking part, two four-year-olds included, and a whole boat load of under-seventeens.

This was Jicho, captained by Helmo Dahmen, who took his four-year-old son, Darius out for a short while and delivered him safely back on shore before heading out for the big ones with his team of Michael and Martin De Boom, aged twelve and eleven, and Felix and Fynn Krause, aged thirteen and sixteen.

Fynn had the thrilling experience of hooking his first ever marlin, which showed itself in two fine leaps above the waves, was brought to the boat in twenty minutes, and wireman Ali Sudl was just about to grab the bill when in a split second fun changed to near tragedy - somehow the leader snagged in Ali's glove, the fish plunged and Ali was pulled overboard, disappearing below the surface.

But he managed to strip off the glove and came up swimming strongly, to the great relief of all on board and of course himself.

Another marlin was lost by Catch 22, fished by Leon and Orit Manor and Karl Jennings, but they caught two dorado and some bonito.

And another boat with a Small Fry on board was Steve Davidson's Maple Leaf, fished by himself and the Sykes mother and daughter, young Nisha being the four-year-old, but with enough muscle to pull in the fish, getting a total weight of 9.8 kilos of bonitos, for which she won a species prize.

Even the sea creatures had their little ones on display, as one of the of the delights of the day was enormous numbers of spinner dolphins that some boats encountered, corkscrewing their way through the air, and one sweet sight was a baby one trying, really trying to get those twists right.

The Kilulu Competition was in aid of the charity by that name and many members of the organising committee had put in a lot of work to make the event the success it was, with Dick Chater doing the job of auctioneer and Master of Ceremonies.

The Hilton trophy was presented by Vince Hilton himself, back in our waters again and braving the waves in James Adcock's Sesse canoe, Samyue.

A large and happy crowd was present at The Moorings and the winddown from the competition was lively and enjoyable.

The other event of the week was a superb catch of a hefty black marlin of one hundred and forty six pounds caught by a French client on board the African Safari Club boat, Solitaire on Saturday.

This fish took a live bait not far from the reef, in only two hundred feet of water, in the area known as Red Reef, it jumped three times and then was not seen for an hour, staying still and exerting the pull of its weight, but it came up eventually and was gaffed two and a half hours after being hooked.

Two other African Safari Club boats caught billfish in the week, two sailfish apiece for Just Jane and Sea Lord.

An annual visitor from Scotland, Bill Black fished on Howland Lawrence-Brown's boat, Akipapa for five days, and caught five sailfish and a blue marlin, as well as yellowfin tuna, dorado and kawakawa.

And the Rodwell's Centa got a sailfish on Saturday and Lusitania's Uzwalia had one the same day too, while two black marlin were lost, one by Walter Brun and one by Paul Roesiter of Flycatcher.

But Paul was luckier this Tuesday, when his persistence paid off and he had an excellent catch of two sailfish.

It has been a great season for sailfish, and a very good one for marlin too, and, with the end of the season looming ahead Mtwapa anglers are hoping that the billfish will still be slicing the water in competition and on after that until as long as we can get out to the wide sea.

