



Hamilton Regional Championships Report September 2020

Waihou River

Ollie Bassett has won his first SFFNZ regional competition by taking out the Hamilton Regional Championships which concluded today. 14 anglers competed in the two-day event held on the beautiful Waihou River, which was the first river competition of the season to be completed following the disruption caused by COVID-19. Amongst the entrants were several who were fishing their first river competitions, including three female anglers. All good signs for the future.

There may have been a few new faces but for most of the weekend it was the more familiar ones which were dominating the top of the leaderboard. Following the conclusion of Sunday's third session though, Ollie emerged as a clear winner with Billy Thrupp finishing second and Tim Anderson rounding out the top three.

19 year old Ollie, who represented NZ at the Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championships in Turangi earlier this year, said he was overjoyed to win his first regional competition. "It feels fantastic and I'm incredibly happy. I had a really good session on the Saturday afternoon which put me in a good position but I knew I had to back that up with another good session today (Sunday) if I was to have a chance of winning. The weather forecast for today made me a bit nervous to be honest but it all worked out in the end. It's hard to know what to say really but it just feels very special."

Co-organiser Tim Rich said it had been a really good weekend and satisfying to complete the event despite Sunday's wind and rain. "It was great to see so many newcomers fishing their first river competitions," said Tim. "And the whole weekend was fished in a really good spirit by all the competitors. "I'd like to say thank you to all those helped put on the event. My co-organiser Rachel McNae did a wonderful job and thanks also to Chris Young who marked out all the beats, and to Chris and Nick Langdon for helping out with the scoring. "And a big thank you again to the landowners whose land we accessed in order to fish the competition because without their continued support we couldn't hold these events."



