

Billy Hawkins with the 4lb 1½ oz ballan wrasse that won him the Big Fish award.

Pictures: Neil Lindsay, Wadebridge.

No Great Whites but plenty of big fish at village contest

NO Great White sharks appeared but there were plenty of other prime specimens pulled from the waters off Port Isaac when the village staged its "Big Fish" competition.

The contest was open to shore, rock and boat fishermen – and women – of all ages and abilities and attracted a strong entry from the village and surrounding area.

The aim was to raise funds for Port Isaac 2000, the village's Millennium project, and as one of the organisers, Denise Randell, explained later, the event was such a success that there is talk of making it an annual feature.

The competition was judged by George Steer and the prizes were presented by Roy Speakman. The overall winner of the Big Fish was Billy "No Bass" Hawkins whose catch lived up to his nickname but still managed to earn him the award for the biggest wrasse of the day.

The prize for the biggest pollack award went to Ian Honey, biggest dogfish to Phil Slack, biggest gurnard to Rob Gerrish and biggest mackerel to Bob Monk.

The junior section of the contest was won by seven-year-old Ben Andrews with a mackerel and a special award was given to young

Matthew Cotton for his conger eel.

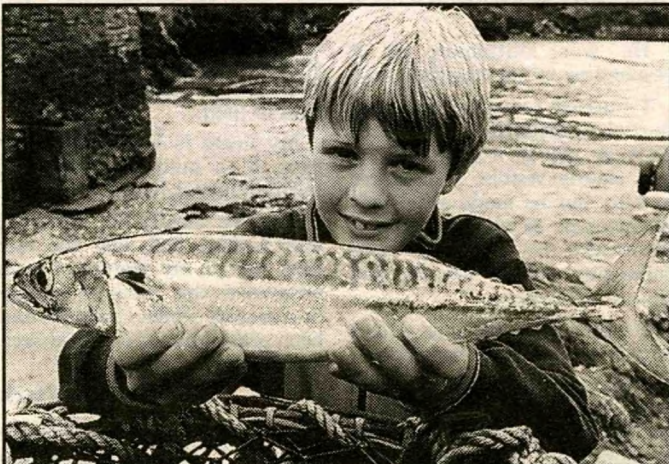
Denise Randell said that, despite the recent disappointment of the refusal of a grant from the Lottery Millennium Fund, because it is oversubscribed, the Port Isaac 2000 project is pressing ahead to make up any financial shortfall.

The aim is to provide the village with a clock tower, which will be mounted on the fish sheds beside the harbour. So far, about £3,000 has been raised, out of which commemorative mugs have been bought for local children, and further events in aid of the project are planned.

These include a curry evening and singalong at the Port Isaac Pottery on November 13 and an evening of cajun music in the village hall on December 4.

"We are going all out on the fundraising from now on as we are determined the project will succeed," said Denise Randell. "We are getting a lot of donations from members of the public and these are very welcome – we have also received contributions from a lot of second home owners who are keen to take a part in village life."

Anyone who would like to make a donation to Port Isaac 2000 or who would like to help in any way can contact Denise Randell at Secrets in Fore Street, telephone 01208 880862.



Ben Andrews (7) won the junior section of the contest with this 1lb 1½ oz mackerel.