

2012 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, BOHINJSKA BASTRICA, SLOVENIA.

This year's World Championship was held in Slovenia on 3 of the sectors used at the 2006 European Championships, along with new river and lake boat venues.

Sectors 1 and 2 were on the Sava Bohinjka River, Sector 3 the Kokra River, Sector 4 the Main Sava river and Sector 5 a river lake at Most na Soci.



Lake Bled Slovenia



2012 World Squad

This year's team selection comprised previous World team members who had a good balance of both River and lake boat experience. Additionally, Howard Croston had fished in the 2006 European Championship in Slovenia, and the opportunity was taken to take Scott Nellins as reserve who was England's top rod in the 2011 European Championship in Czech Republic.

The team selected was John Horsey, Simon Robinson, Howard Croston, Phil Dixon, John Tyzack with Scott Nellins as reserve,

Based at the "Millhouse", Za Pizem, Ribno, Bled on the Championship's Main Sava River our hosts Paul and Dorthe provided the ideal base for the Team to prepare for the forthcoming Championship at Bohinjka Bastrica. Our guide Rok Lustrik proposed a training schedule which as far as possible provided access to all the Competition Rivers and lake with similar waters to those that would be fished during the Championship. (Teams are banned from fishing on championship sectors for 60 days prior to the Championship).



John Horsey being coached by Rok during practice



A happy Scott Nellins during practice

The Sava Bohinjka River practices were more representative of the two Sava Bohinjka competition sectors. The river was fed from Lake Bohinj which provided a reasonably constant flow, and with team managing to practice above, between and below the competition beats both methods and fly patterns were successfully established.

The practice days on the main Sava River were dictated by the hydroelectric plant on the Sava Dolinka River which joined the Sava Bohinjka River at the top of one of the practice beats. The flow was much stronger and colder when generation was in progress.

However during the championship the start time in the morning was delayed by an hour to allow the river to settle at its high level for the day. Whilst fishing both above and below the championship beats provided satisfactory basic intelligence, it did not provide the variety of water that was to be encountered during the competition and some of the methods that proved successful for other teams.

The Kokra River was a small clear water tributary of the Main Sava, and during the practice session concern was expressed as to whether such a clear shallow tributary could sustain 28 anglers per session for 5 sessions. Whilst successful methods and flies were identified, the luck of the draw to provide a peg with somewhere for the fish to retreat to, was considered a must for success in the later sessions.

The Most na Soci lake was a hydroelectric reservoir formed below the confluence of the Rivers Soca and Idriška, which as a consequence had a strong current running through it following the course of the old river. We managed to get private practice boats on the river both above and below the competition area however whilst we managed to catch marble trout and chub, most of the intelligence we gained was from a morning's official practice in the competition area, where we were allocated 2 boats for 2 hours for two anglers in each boat, with only one allowed to fish at a time.

Sufficient time was allocated for fly tying to ensure everybody's match boxes had sufficient team flies, regular team meetings and reviewing the championship peg / sectors. Practices were generally between 9 and 1 o'clock, followed by a team meeting and look at a championship beat. Then a later practice between 4 and 8 o'clock followed by a final team meeting for the day, so that the championship timings of 9 – 12, 5 – 8 were included in the practice programme.

After 6 days practice the Championship commenced.



Phil Dixon on his way to 6th on the Kokra



Simon Robinson smiling with his 5th on the Sava

England got off to a good start, a 1st for Howard & John Horsey put the team 4th with 46 points. The 2nd session Howard maintained his performance with a 2nd place & Phil improved from an 8th to a 6th, however the team overall delivered 62 points in the session, dropping to 8th. The 3rd session saw Howard on the lake coming 4th place, continuing his 1st place overall for the 3rd consecutive session, and Phil maintaining his top 10 performance with another 6th. The team put in 61 points which pulled the team position down to 11th.

With the chances of a team medal fading away and Howard entering the last day and 2 final sessions in 1st place individually, the team knuckled down to support Howard and pull back the teams position. The 4th session saw pull back to a better than target score of 47 points, with John Tyzack producing a 1st on the hard Kokra River, and Simon & John Horsey delivering top 10 performances of 8th & 9th respectively. Howard unfortunately put in a 9th place dropping him down to 6th individually.

The last session was going to be difficult for all teams, so the top ten placing's of Simon, Phil, John Horsey & Howard, 5th, 8th, 10th & 10th placing's was a good achievement. Giving a session score of 58 placing's, pulled the team back into a final position of 7th and Howard to 4th place individually. Howard closely finishing 3 placing points behind the Bronze medallist.



JT powering back in his winning session on Kokra



Howard during one of his winning Bohinjka sessions

In summary:-

9th or better place on average for each session from all the team members would have put us in the medals as a Team. 4th place or better for an individual medal.

Our best Sector was the lake where the team achieved an overall 5th place over the 5 sessions, which included a 1st by John Horsey. On all the 4 river sectors we also achieved top 10 placing's of 2 x 8th's, a 9th & 10th, which included 1st's on Sectors 2 by Howard Croston & Sector 3 by John Tyzack. This however has to be benchmarked against the Czech Teams 1st, 2 x 2^{nds} & 4th team place's on the river Sectors and 3rd team place on the Lake.

Our top rod was Howard Croston 4th (5.2 av. placing's); Phil Dixon 28th (9.6 av. placing's); John Horsey 35th (10.8 av placing's); Simon Robinson 11.8th (11.8 av. placing's) & John Tyzack 94th (25.6 av. placing's).

1st Czech Republic 183 placing's, 2nd Italy 220 placing's, 3rd Spain 235 placing's.
7th England 273 placing's

1st David Arcay Fernandez (Spain), 2nd Valerio Santi Amantini (Italy), 3rd Tomas Adam (Czech Republic).

7th place overall in my opinion was a fair result for England fishing against 30 teams (16 of whom are regularly fishing these type of waters). If we had reasonable access to such waters to practice on, I believe we could expect to be consistently 4th / 5th. To improve above this level on a regular basis the team would need training in maximising the number of fish they caught from the number of available on their peg (as the Czech's consistently achieve).

4th place as an individual (especially after leading for 3 sessions) by Howard Croston was a brilliant performance; his 9th place on the Main Sava unfortunately took him out of the medals.



Paul Page
England World Team Captain / Manager
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