



England
Dave Mussell (captain), Bob Draper, Keith Jones, John Ketley, Roy Laver, Brian Leadbetter, Dave Lovelace, Jim Miller, David B. Porter, Alan Templeman, Brian Thomas, Stan W. Wood, Adrian Ashness (reserve) & Bill Budden (reserve).

INTERNATIONAL
FLY-FISHING

Just no
stopping
the Irish!

Report: JOHN CROSSMAN
Pictures: CLIVE NICHOLLS

THE IRISH stole a trick from the Welsh to win the spring International Fly-fishing Contest at Llyn Trawsfynydd in North Wales. Joe Barry, top weight for the Irish with 5 lb 5 oz out of a total of 20 lb 8 oz, caught his two fish on a favourite local fly, the 'Blackie'.

The same pattern had helped him take the best bag during a practice session, which partly explains why his team-mate Maurice Hanley was tying a few 'Blackies' a black, Palmer-style fly with jungle cock cheeks in the early hours on the day of the match.

Presumably the Irish team manager, Bill Newport, had given him special dispensation to stay up so late. The reward for Mr Hanley's diligence came in the form of a 3½ lb rainbow. This, plus a 13 oz fish, made him Ireland's second-best scorer.

At a time when parts of the Snowdonia National Park were out of bounds because of forest fires, the anglers did not set Trawsfynydd alight. The day was mostly bright, but a changeable breeze occasionally gave a good wave, so that the poor catches could not be blamed entirely on conditions. Before the contest, one of the most experienced members of the Welsh team was confiding that he

Leading a touch of informality to the traditional-style drifting that is the rule.



Flat out for Tyn Twll! Competitors waste no time at the start of the International at Trawsfynydd.

would 'settle for one fish' His pessimism was fully justified by subsequent events. Ireland had 13 fish, Wales nine, Scotland six, and England collected the 'wooden spoon' with a paltry four fish.

Earlier in the week the lake had fished well, judged simply in terms of returns, but success here is too closely linked with fish-release dates. In retrospect it would seem that the heavy fishing pressure to which the lake was subjected during a three-day period of restocking thinned the ranks of new fish considerably. Bait fishermen too, must have taken heavy toll, judged by the activity on match-day

among the young anglers crowded on the wall near the boat-moorings.

In such a lucky-dip contest the Irish team did well to win so emphatically. In terms of total weight, or fish caught, the result was the same. This success makes it two wins in a row for Ireland, so they are currently the team to beat. The Irish captain, Pat Day, led by example with four fish for 3 lb 9½ oz.

Ironically for England, an Englishman fishing as a reserve won the Brown Bowl for the best catch of the day. Adrian Ashness, president-elect of the International Fly Fishing Association, had two

rainbow trout for his winning 6 lb 15 oz. Both fish were taken on a Black Pennell in Tyn Twll Bay, an area which in practice had emerged as the most productive drift for large rainbows.

Most of the boatmen had the same idea at the start: 'Get to Tyn Twll first' The first boat to drift across the bay did in fact take a quick fish but not the quick three or four that had been expected to clinch the contest. Adrian Ashness joined the not-so-happy throng and persevered until his was the only boat remaining in the bay. Then he caught his fish.

Apart from winning the Brown Bowl and beating the English team on his own, Mr Ashness won a new trophy presented by the Welsh Salmon and Trout Association in memory of Emyr Lewis, for many years secretary of the Association. The trophy was for the heaviest trout in the match: 4 lb 1½ oz.

The best return by a Welsh angler was 6 lb 8 oz (two fish) by Jeremy Owen. Scotland's best was 2 lb 7½ oz by G. M. Mackenzie.

Result: Ireland 20 lb 8 oz (13 trout), Wales 15 lb 1½ oz (9), Scotland 7 lb 7 oz (6), England 5 lb 13 oz (4).

Future Internationals will be held at Loch Leven (August 23), Draycote Water (May 31, 1981), and Loch Leven (August 22, 1981).



The winning Irish team — plus 'strangers' in the persons of Trevor Hiron, International president, and Alistair Nicholl, secretary.

The Spring international fished on Llyn Trawsfynydd was, to a certain extent, marred by adverse conditions. The day was far too hot and sunny and what breeze there was was unable to create enough wave to help.

The lake, which produced anglers with thirty to forty fish apiece on the Monday when conditions were good, proved dour and deadly difficult. The long spell of hot weather has sent the water levels down and Home Bay, normally a guaranteed hot spot, was totally unproductive simply because it had become too shallow.

Trawsfynydd is stocked heavily weekly and the lake management had done everything they could to provide the ideal ground for an interesting match. Pre-match tactics and talk had centred more on what lines would be the most effective rather than the normal chatter about which flies. Pat Day, the Irish captain, said that there were so many fish about that if one failed to accept a certain pattern it mattered little as the next fish along probably would.

With the gun the boats raced off ten abreast for Ty'n Twll Bay, an area that had fished well the day before. All wanted to be the first there. The first boat in the bay the day previous had picked up four fish. The day before that the pole positioned boat took six. It was not to be so productive on match day.

The match day had started in bright, glaring conditions and it became hotter and hotter. Fortunately a solitary cloud appeared about mid afternoon to give the anglers a fleeting chance at the fish. Many had decided to go deep for the fish so it was surprising to find that most fish had been taken on floating lines. It was interesting to see that many in the Irish team did not know how to fish sinking lines and were seen seeking advice. As it turned out they didn't need anyone's help!

When the boats returned with their tired and roasted occupants it was obvious that catches by Trawsfynydd standards were going to be

poor. The teams had taken only 32 fish while the reserves had managed another eight. It was clear even before the weigh-in that the young Irish team had done well with Pat Day and Maurice Hanley doing particularly well. Most of their 13 fish had been taken from the top. The Irish are excellent boat anglers and one of them was rather critical of the practice of anglers standing in the boats to fish. He considered it bad manners and no doubt pressure will be brought to stop this happening again.

The Welsh team playing at home, did well up to expectations. They fielded a number of new faces in what is usually a very experienced side. Jeremy Owen from Deganwy, who did well in the east Welsh trials, continued his performance by taking the Gillie Farr Cup for the top Welsh rod.

Being their centenary year this is a most important season for the Scots. They had sent down an experienced advance party to size up Trawsfynydd before the match. Brian Peterson, top rod on Chew last year, Robert Veitch second in



Marooned on a limpid lake. The sun beats down on (left) Brian Peterson of Scotland and Brian Thomas of England. The winning Irish team included: Mike Ahern, Joe Barry, Feelin McMorro, Richard McCabe, Jim Fleming, Bill Newport, Sean Kelleher, Robin Syme, Sean McIntyre, John O'Brien, Maurice Hanley, Pat Day (captain), Sean Langan, Jimmy Black and the Rev Canon Gargan. With them is International President Trevor Hiron of Wales.



The boats race out for Ty'n Twll Bay, scene of much excitement in the practice days. Jeremy Owen of Deganwy in North Wales was top rod in the Welsh team. This brace scaled 6½lb.

the Chew match behind Brian and David Bell, one of their longest standing and most experienced anglers, all enjoyed fabulous fishing early in the week. But as the days before the match shortened so did their catches. All three came in without a fish on match day.

In team member J. Macdonald they certainly had the 'cleanest' man on the lake. By mid afternoon he had 'left' the boat for the water much to the dismay of his boatman Geraint Morgan. But Geraint had the sharpness of mind to ask the now very wet angler as he heaved him back to safety, if he had seen any fish down there during his swim!

Anglers falling in during matches is not an uncommon happening. In 1968 Colin Hughes fell in at Graftam and in 1976 it was the turn of International secretary Alistair Nicoll to be baptised in Sheelin's waters. There is of course a serious side. Having checked that this particular boat was without a good swimmer or life jackets, the time is obviously ripe to think about the safety aspects of the matches.

The wooden spoon was presented to England. The fact that one Welsh comic had written the score of the England versus Wales soccer international on the side of the weighing in van brought a few wry smiles. Yet England certainly had the man of the match in chairman Adrian Ashness. Fishing in the reserve boat Adrian took the best catch of the day, two fish totalling 6lb 15oz. His 4lb 1½oz fish was also the biggest caught. This brought him the Emyr Lewis Trophy being competed for for the first time. The trophy was presented by the Welsh Salmon

and Trout Association to retain evergreen the memory of the late Emyr Lewis whose contribution to angling in Wales was colossal. So it was a worthy trophy to a worthy winner. Adrian had fished with a Black Pennell tied on a small double hook. Could the double have been the answer to the many short taking fish. The Dunkeld and Alexandra both performed well although the very much fancied Green Peter failed to live up to his undesireable reputation.

Results

Ireland (captain Pat Day) total weight 13 fish for 20lb 8oz. P. Day (four fish) 3lb 9½oz; Rev Canon Gargan, nil; John O'Brien (2) 1lb 14½oz; Maurice Hanley (2) 4lb 5oz; Michael Ahern (1) 2lb 13½oz; Richard McCabe, nil; Feelin McMorro (1) 1lb 8oz; Sean Langan (1) 1lb 0½oz; James Black, nil; Sean Kelleher, nil; Jim Fleming, nil; Joe Barry (2) 5lb 5oz. Reserves: Sean McIntyre and Robin Syme, nil.

Wales (captain Jo Jobling) total weight nine fish for 15lb 1½oz. Gwynfor Jones (1) 2lb 7½oz; Ian Robb (2) 2lb 6½oz; Ron Jones, nil; Brian Ellis (1) 1lb 7oz; William Edwards, nil. Reserves: Tony Bevan, (2) 2lb 3oz; Gareth Thomas (1) 1lb 8½oz.

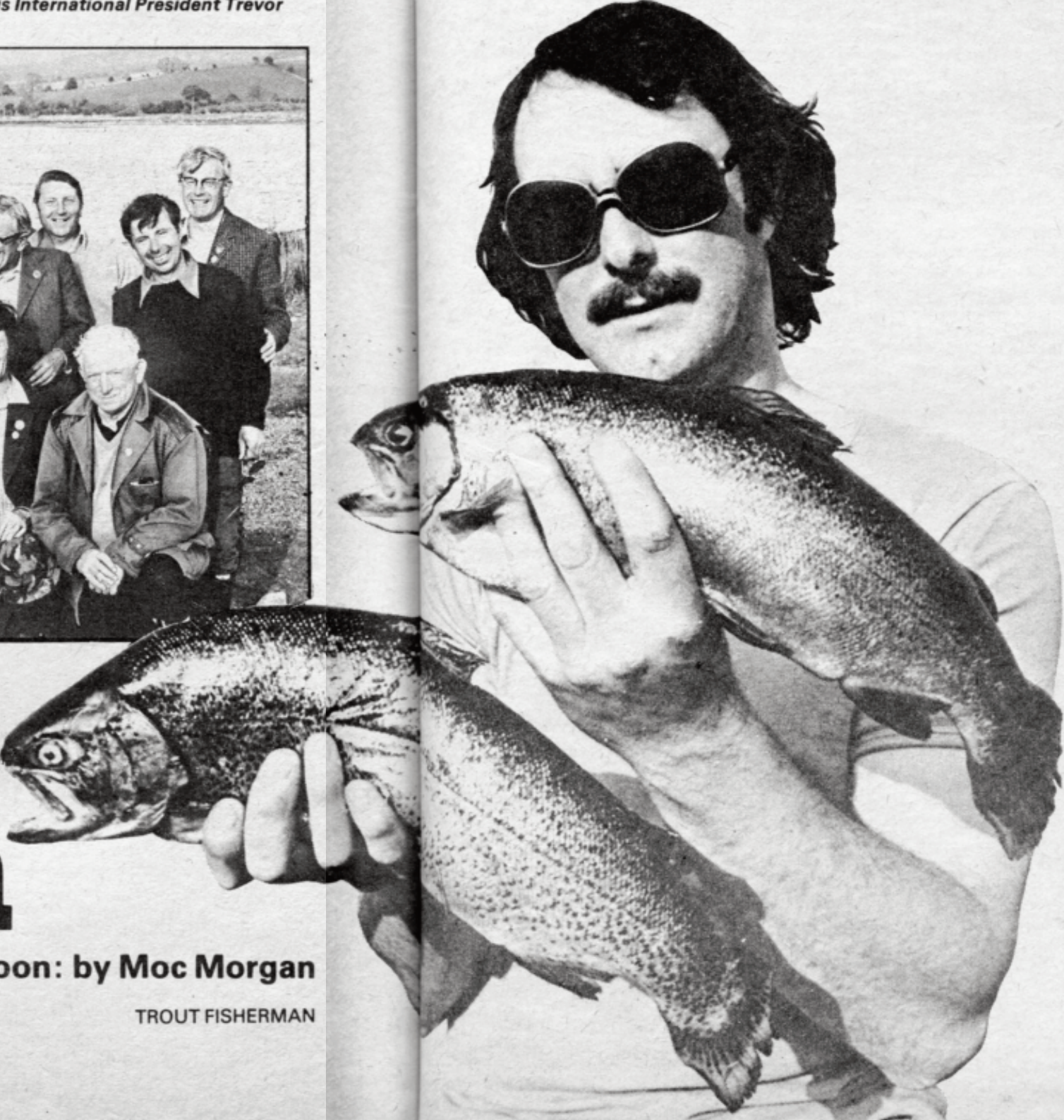
Scotland (captain A. Nicoll) six fish total weight 7lb 7oz. Alistair Nicoll, nil; Brian Peterson, nil; Robert Veitch, nil; John Stirling (1) 1lb 2½oz; David Bell, nil; Robert Martin (1) 11oz; G. M. Mackenzie (1) 2lb 7½oz; Ian Robb (2) 2lb 6½oz; John Finnin, nil; Harry Wilson, (1) 11½oz; J. Macdonald, nil; Robert Johnson, nil. Reserves: Ian Muckle, nil; George Dickson (2) 2lb 13½oz.

England (captain John Ketley) four fish total weight 5lb 13oz. Brian Thomas, nil; Bob Draper (1) 1lb 4oz; Alan Templeman, nil; Brian Leadbetter (1) 7oz; David Porter, nil; John Ketley, nil; Keith Jones, nil; Dave Lovelace, nil; Jim Miller, nil; Stan Wood, nil; Roy Laver (1) 1lb 0½oz; Dave Mussell (1) 2lb 1½oz. Reserves: Bill Budden (1) 1lb 0½oz; Adrian Ashness (2) 6lb 15oz.

Sun smiles
on the Irish

and England get the wooden spoon: by Moc Morgan

TROUT FISHERMAN



1. Ireland	13 fish	20-8-0
2. Wales	9 fish	15-1-8
3. Scotland	6 fish	7-7-0
4. England	4 fish	5-13-0



England
D. Allen, A. Ashness, Bill Budden, Bill Day, R. Draper, D. Hunt, R. Laver, D. Mussell, M. Parrott, L. Wilson, G. Wood & T. Woodcock.



INTERNATIONAL FLY-FISHING
Centenary win for England

IRELAND'S spell of supremacy in the 'Internationals' ended on a disappointing Loch Leven which, truth to tell, defeated all four competing countries. The winners, England, totalled 17 lb 13 oz (12 fish). Scotland was the host country in recognition of the centenary this year of The Scottish National Angling Clubs Association.

Fishing on the loch had shown improvement recently, but it was short-lived and a few of the contestants did not raise a single fish in three days of practice before the match. To make matters worse, there was barely a cloud in the sky as the four teams of 12 anglers assembled at the pier.

The only sign of confidence came from England's captain John Ketley who, when asked how he felt about the prospects, replied, "I just feel sorry for the other teams!"

England did at least manage to average a trout per rod, but the rest struggled, none more so than the Irish who had won the previous two Internationals but found the absence of fish near the surface too much of a handicap at Loch Leven.

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Cloud cover arrived soon after the start, accompanied by a stiff breeze from the north-west, and this temporarily raised spirits.

Result: England (12 trout) 17 lb 13 oz; Wales (7 trout) 13 lb 0 oz; Scotland (5 trout) 8 lb 7 oz; Ireland (5 trout) 7 lb 1 oz.

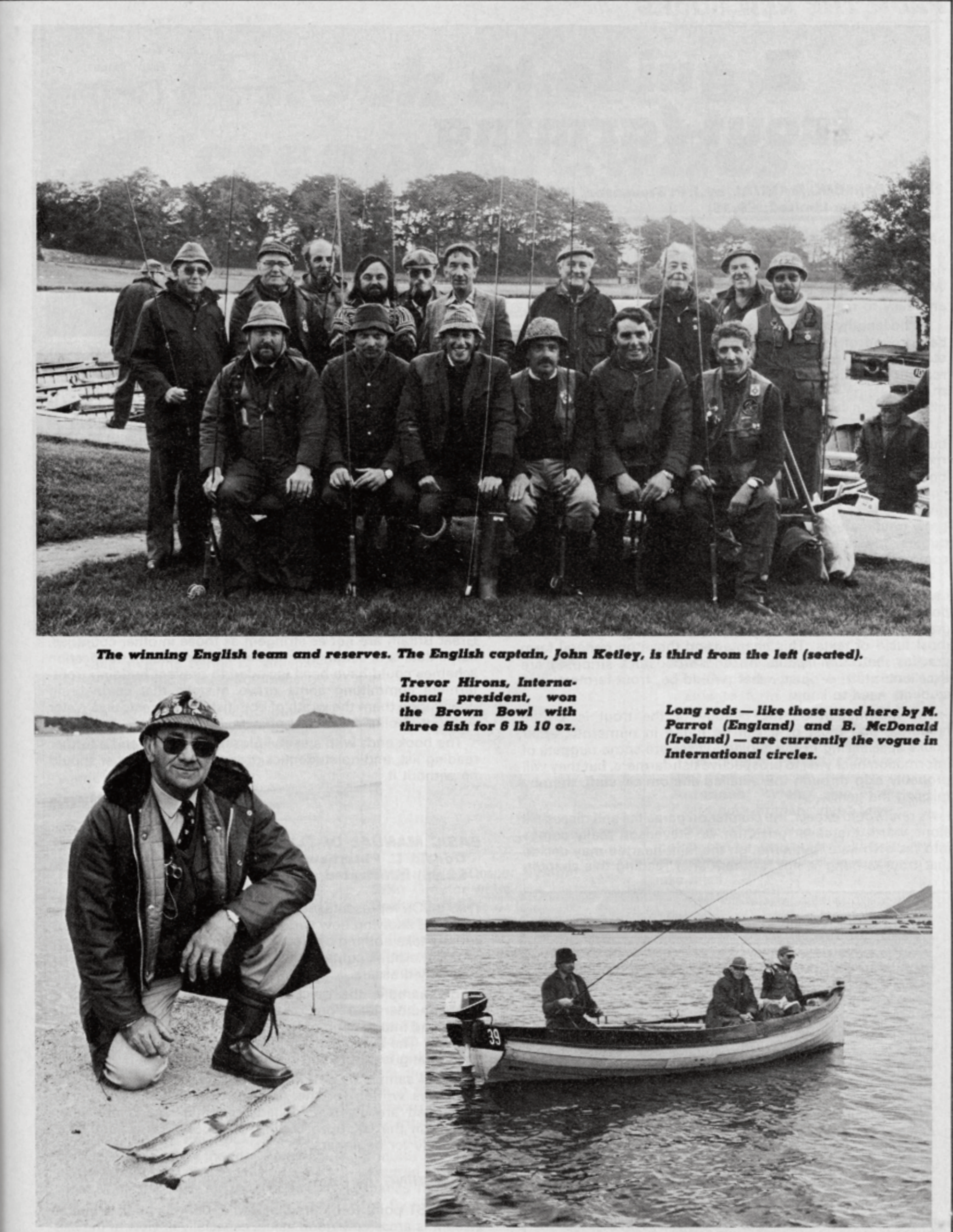
The Brown Bowl, awarded for the heaviest individual basket, was won by Welsh angler and International President, Trevor Hiron, with three trout for 6 lb 10 oz. The president also won the H. Emyr Lewis Memorial Trophy for the heaviest trout of the match 2 lb 14 oz. His boatman was Malcolm Thomson, Scottish ACA secretary, whose suggestion of a size 12 Brown Ke-He resulted in the capture of all three fish.

Best for England was Bill Day's 3 lb 7 oz (2 fish). R. Johnson had 3 lb 9 oz (2 fish) for Scotland, and Ireland's top weight was 2 lb 1 oz by Eamonn Neligan.

The 1981 Internationals are at Draycote on May 30 and a return to Loch Leven on August 22.

David Egan

Trout and Salmon
October, 1980



The winning English team and reserves. The English captain, John Ketley, is third from the left (seated).
Trevor Hiron, International president, won the Brown Bowl with three fish for 6 lb 10 oz.
Long rods — like those used here by M. Parrot (England) and B. McDonald (Ireland) — are currently the vogue in international circles.



EASY for England
Loch Leven fails to live up to its reputation says Mac Morgan

Whether you are for or against competitive angling, one thing seems certain, there is nothing that gives fairer picture of how a fishery is performing at a particular time. The autumn International on Loch Leven produced only 29 fish for 56 anglers who fished non-stop for eight hours. The result reveals how difficult it is to get fish on Loch Leven these days.

Anglers who have visited this fishery in the past will find it difficult to realise that the years of plenty of the late sixties have gone and that anglers there are learning to live with the lean years. Many regular anglers think that it is the disappearance of fly life that has resulted in this state of affairs. The fish are of superb quality, but they're difficult to bring to the net. It was interesting to listen to Will Stark, the veteran gillie of Loch Leven, and Bob Johnson a local angler who took the top bag in the Scottish team, say that if the fly life improved, the fishing would also improve with it. The fishery once produced for its anglers over 8,000 wild trout in one season, yet now the total fails to reach the 5,000 mark, and one realises that the fishery management has several problems which will certainly need a lot of solving.

Despite the fact that the loch is going through a bad patch, it still has a certain magic. There is only one Loch Leven. On the match day, the weather, which all contestants feared, improved as the day went on. The match started in a blaze of brilliant sunshine and all who knew the Loch thought that the sun was going to be a big spoilsport. But before the match was one hour old the clouds came and gave the contestants good conditions. The wind

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1. England	12 fish	17-13-0
2. Wales	7 fish	7-13-0
3. Scotland	5 fish	8-7-0
4. Ireland	5 fish	7-1-0

Left: The four top rods. From left to right: Bob Johnson from Scotland. His two fish scaled 3lb 9oz. Eamonn Neligan from Ireland with a 2lb 1oz Leven brownie. Wales's Mr Consistent Trevor Hiron took three for 6lb and Bill Day of England with a brace scaling 3lb 7oz.

Trevor Hiron of the Welsh team. He took the winning bag of three fish weighing 6lb 10oz. The successful fly was the Ke-He from the Orkney stable. Trevor used the brown version. He fished from the area known as the narrow neck, a shallow area of some two feet deep. He also had one fish on the Burleigh, a fly which for years has been a standby on the loch. The few flies I saw were considerably smaller than the one of yesteryear. The natural was introduced to the loch some 45 years ago. Some suggest that to introduce a new natural fly to the loch now would not be a bad idea, yet it is doubtful if such a course would be successful considering the 25,000 resident gull population, that gobble up the flies as they hatch.

The top rod in the successful English team was Bill Day who took his two fish on the Dunkeld fished three feet below the surface. A similar gold bodied fly gave E. Neligan the top rod of the Irish, his catch. The top rod for Scotland was the local angler Bob Johnson who found the Jungle Cock Alexandra working well for him. Bob was a gillie on the loch many years ago, when the half ton boats were powered by two thirteen foot oars. Life was hard for gillies in those days. Bob also found the Teal Blue and Silver a useful fly for him on Leven, especially as the trout were hitting perch fry. The victory in this match went deservedly to the English team in which eight of the members took fish. It was a team effort which was very reminiscent of the English team of the Sixties — a team that went for seven years without defeat.

It was perhaps in one way a disappointing result for Scotland in that they would dearly liked to have celebrated this International match which comes in the centenary year of the Scottish Association of Angling Clubs with a home victory.

The centenary celebrations have gone well, and all the visiting countries wished them well but fell short of giving them the much desired victory. Certainly this association must surely be the oldest in the British Isles, if not in the world.

So ends the 1980 international year. The results of the Spring and Autumn internationals are as follows.

Spring at Trawsfynydd: Ireland 20lbs 8oz, Wales 15lbs 1½oz, Scotland 7lb 7oz, England 5lb 13oz. Autumn at Loch Leven: England 17lb 13oz, Wales 13lbs, Scotland 8lb 7oz, Ireland 7lb 7oz. This gives Wales the largest total for the year of 28lbs 12oz.

All who have taken part in these two matches will recall the 1980 International Competitions as truly enjoyable events, and just as we all know that there is far more to fishing than fish, I would add that there's far more to International Competitions than just pounds and ounces. ■



Above: The Irish. Back row (left to right): J. Whitelaw, J. McGrath, D. Treacy, Sean Young, Wally MacKenna, John McCarthy, Thomas Carroll, Dick O'Mahony, Brian McDonald, Patrick Cotter, Eamonn Neligan, John Murphy. Front row (left to right): F. Donoghue, Dick Willis, Rory Harkin, Frank Guilfoyle, C. Sleator.

Left: The home team. Back row (left to right): Harry Wilson, John Finnen, Ian Muckle, Brian Peterson, John Stirling, George Dickson, John MacDonald. Front row (left to right) Ian Robb, Robert Veitch, Gerald Mackenzie, Alistair Nicoll, David Bell, Robert Martin, Robert Johnson.

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1. England	12 fish	17-13-0
2. Wales	7 fish	7-13-0
3. Scotland	5 fish	8-7-0
4. Ireland	5 fish	7-1-0

Mr Consistency

Northampton's Bob Draper has become the Mr Consistency of the English international fly fishing scene. so it brought few surprises when Bob carried off the English National championship fished at Draycote.

The competitors had to deal with all manner of weather conditions which ranged between flat calms to a gale and a glaring sun.

The Severn Trent Water Authority had tried to ensure that all 60 competitors were successful by injecting 3,000 fish during the week prior to the match. Nearly 1,000 of these were brown trout weighing up to 4lb.

A number of boats and engines had been borrowed to supplement the reservoir's normal fleet. Unfortunately there was a shortage of boatmen and some of these were unfamiliar with the engines but no complaints were made.

Despite the contrary weather 171 fish were taken and there were few blanks. The first sixteen weights will make up the balance of the England teams to fish in next season's internationals with four reserves.

Bob Draper's nine fish totalled 10¼lb. His fish were taken on Dunkeld, Wickham's Fancy, Bibio, Black Chenille and Grenadier. Bob commented that he missed only one fish and failed to rise many.

The results of the match, organised by the Severn and Trent division of the Federation of Midland Fly Fishers and sponsored by Masterline International were:

Results: 1 Bob Draper. 2 Brian Roberts, 8lb ½oz. 3 Robert Morey 7lb 4oz. 4 J. Deacon. 5 J. Braithwaite. 6 R. Haigh. 7 P. Thomas. 8 S. Wood. 9 D. Allen. 10 A. Amos. 11 K. Beech. 12 J. Hillier. 13 D. Prentice. 14 J. Greenwood. 15 J. Loud. 16 R. Webb. Reserves: H. A. Pawson, L. Gilbert, J. Dawson and I. Sleath.

The lowest qualifying weight was three fish for 3lb 12oz. Prizes for the first three anglers and the top three boatmen were flylines from Masterline International Ltd and were presented by Mrs Tallents, wife of the company's managing director Phillip Tallents.

Rough weather for English National

DESPITE choppy water, high winds, and problems with some of the borrowed boat-engines, the 60 competitors in the English Masterline National Final at Draycote Water averaged nearly three fish a rod.

The winner, Bob Draper (Anglia), a regular member of the English team, had nine fish for 10 lb 4 oz. B. Roberts (Leicester) took seven fish for 8 lb ½ oz, and R. Morey (Bedford) was third with seven fish for 7 lb 4 oz. The top 16 anglers will fish for England in international matches next season, the first match being at Draycote Water in May.

The Severn/Trent WA in the five days preceding the National put in

3,000 trout, including nearly 1,000 brown trout up to 4 lb. The best fish in the competition was a brown trout of 2 lb 11¼ oz caught by P. Young. Trophies were presented by Mrs Philip Tallents, wife of the managing director of Anglers Masterline, the sponsors. The Federation of Severn/Trent Fly Fishers organised the contest.

Qualifiers: R. Draper, B. Roberts, R. Morey, J. Deacon, J. Braithwaite, R. Haigh, P. Thomas, S. Wood, D. Allen, A. Amos, K. Beech, J. Hillier, D. Prentice, J. Greenwood, J. Loud, R. Webb. Reserves were: H. A. Pawson, L. Gilbert, J. Dawson, I. Sleath.

Brian Furzer

1. B Draper	9 fish	10-4-0
2. B Roberts	7 fish	8-0-8
3. R Morey	7 fish	7-4-0
4. J Deacon		
5. J Braithwaite		
6. R Haigh		
7. P Thomas		
8. S Wood		
9. D Allen		
10.A Amos		
11.K Beech		
12.J Hillier		
13.D Prentice		
14.J Greenwood		
15.J Loud		
16.R Webb		
Reserves		
17.H A Pawson		
18.L Gilbert		
19.J Dawson		
20.I Sleath		

60 anglers competed