

1986

World Fly Fishing Championships

River Ourthe, La Rouch  -Houffalize, Belgium - 19th-20th September 1986



Loch Harray Training



England

Geoff Clarkson, Jim Collins, Bob Morey, Colin North & Brian Thomas

Pawson quits

TOP fly fisherman Tony Pawson has quit the England team to fish next year's World Championships in Belgium.

Tony faced automatic selection into the team following this year's match when he was England's top performer.

"But I've fished four years in succession, so I think the time has come for me to step down," he said.

Tony, who lives near Winchester, Hants, won the World Championship last year in Spain.

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WORLD FLY FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP

Brits slump on running water

NOT SURPRISINGLY perhaps, the English and Welsh stillwater men failed to adapt to the demands of this year's **World Fly Fishing Championship** venue, the River Ourthe in Belgium. They finished an undistinguished eighth, behind the Welsh in seventh, and the triumphant Italians in first. Home team Belgium were second; Czechslovakia third.

The Ourthe between La Rouch   and Houffalize in Belgian Luxembourg played host to 13 national teams, and the target fish in this catch-and-release event included trout, grayling, dace and chub.

There was one proviso — dace and chub counted one point per centimetre of length — trout and grayling scored an automatic 20 points, **plus a**



Guto Vink, the world champion caster from Belgium, congratulates Slavoj Svoboda on winning the World Champion Fly Fishing title.

point per centimetre.

Each angler had a steward in close attendance, and would take all fish to him for measuring before they were returned. Fish had to make a qualifying length — trout, chub, and dace must beat 22cms, with 28cms the target for grayling.

An angler killing a fish received 20 penalty points. This caused some concern to anglers such as Wales' **Moc Morgan**. "I had one very worrying moment when with the aid of a disgorger I had a difficult task to release the hook from deep in the throat of a very small trout. Mercifully I succeeded, and although the fish swam away, I wondered what his chances were of survival."

Each angler drew three different sections of the river, and, given the rules, most anglers concentrated their efforts on the trout and grayling.

The Italians will be an interesting team to watch next year on the very different venues of Rutland and Grafham. They are among the keenest teams, and carry a lot of tackle.

Their star was Angelo Ferrari, who won the Italian Championship at 16, finished third in the World Championships at 17 and at 19, finished second this year



Canoeists can be a problem in Belgium, too. Here practising competitors have to put up with canoes on the river Ourthe.

To his placing the Italians added 11th with Carlo Bertalmio; 16th with Franco Barbera, 22nd with Ubaldo Cerovetti; and 33rd with Maurizio Raffo.

Top individual though was the Czech, Slavoj Svoboda, from Znojmo. He owed his success to a grey nymph, fished with a very light leader and a floating line. He employed similar tactics to those used in Poland last year — a short upstream cast, and a dead drift, watching the line for takes.

Most of the competitors relied on recently stocked trout for the bulk of their points. Some heavy rain before the

event seemed to have put the grayling off — though **Geoff Clarkson**, top British angler (13th) did take five in the last session.

The meandering Ourthe proved to be a pleasant venue — though competitors had to get used to 40 or more spectators in some areas.

Other British anglers who featured in the top positions were **Brian Thomas**, 24th, and **Alun Jones** of Wales, 21st. The British teams did receive one trophy. Wales received a prize for the most popular team in the contest — they had brought "lots of fun and laughter into the contest"

1. Italy	61 pts
2. Belgium	71 pts
3. Czechoslovakia	73 pts
4. Poland	77 pts
5. Luxembourg	101pts
6. France	108 pts
7. Wales	127 pts
8. England	134 pts

12 teams competed

Individuals:

1. Slavoj Svoboda (Czechoslovakia)	17 fish	829 pts
2. Angelo Ferrari (Italy)	18 fish	782 pts
3. Andre Terrier (France)	18 fish	764 pts
4. Walter Jacobi (Belgium)	17 fish	733 pts
5. Leslaw Frasik (Poland)	15 fish	682 pts
6. Juha Pusa (Finland)	15 fish	678 pts