1987

World Fly Fishing Championships

Grafham Water, Rutland Water, River Test & Avington Trout Lakes, UK - 23rd-27th May 1987

Features editor BEVERLY ADAMS previews the National Westminster Bank-backed World Fly Fishing Championships

ENGLAND EXPECTS

Euro victory fills host country with confidence

A VICTORY in the European Open in France two weeks ago has left England full of confidence for the World Fly Fishing Championship next week.

But they face stiff opposition from from Scotland, Ireland and Wales – and from Italy, winners of four of the last six championships.

'England are really riding high after their win in France,' said World Championship organiser Tony Pawson. 'The loch-style methods of this country are obviously more suited to the home countries than those coming from overseas.

Tony Pawson

'Having said that, the Polish team, for example, has done quite a lot of practise in this country, so we have been fair,' added Tony.

The three man team who won in France were John Pawson and Brian Leadbetter, both selected for the England World team, and the World Championship reserve Brian Thomas.

The other three World team members are Dennis Buck, Bob Church and Chris Ogborne. Team captain is Geoff Clarkson who wouldn't normally get a chance to compete – but this year could be different.

'Captains don't usually fish, so I am suggesting we organise an informal captain's match at Rutland so they aren't left out of it,' said Tony.

Tony's involvement in the World Fly Fishing Championships began in 1982. Since then, England's best result was second in 1984, in Spain, when Tony won the individual trophy.

'I have fished four World Championships and also qualified for Belgium, but didn't fish,' said Tony.

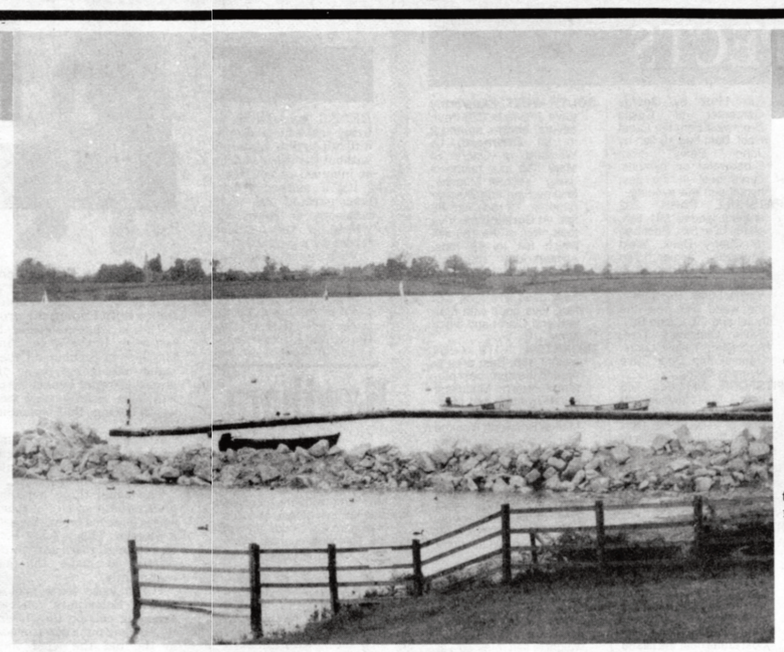
Problems

'I have always pushed for England to host the event, and this year sees the Championship with over 20 teams,' he said.

'It is all new ground for us and it hasn't all gone smoothly. The Rumanians first of all had problems getting Sterling and now they have had their visas blocked by Budapest. I am trying to get all that sorted out', said Tony.

The general election has also caused problems. 'We were hoping to have tea at the House of Commons after all the matches but we think we will have to scrap that idea now,' said Tony.

'Yorkshire TV were planning to do an hour long documentary on the championship but it looks as though they will have their film crews tied up with all the election fever,' said Tony.



Grafham Water – one of two venues for the World Fly Fishing team championship.

BIG EVENT'S PROGRAMME OF MATCHES

THE 7th World Fly Fishing Championship gets under way on Saturday, May 23, with the first leg of the team match at Rutland and Grafham.

The second leg is on the Sunday, and both matches are fished from 10am to 5pm. The team result will be announced at the Moat House Hotel, Northampton.

The individual championship will be fished at Avington Lakes and the River Test on May 26-27.

Spectators will be allowed to watch the team matches at the reservoirs, although all the action will be in boats. The individual competitions on a private stretch of the Test at Avington, a very small fishery, are not suitable for spectators.

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Record number of entries

ENGLAND plays host to the World Fly Fishing Championship for the first time this year when a record number of teams will compete.

Until this year, there have never been more than 13 teams taking part, but more than 20 are expected for the competition from May 23-27.

The team championship will be fished at Grafham and Rutland with the teams of five split between the two waters each day.

The result will be decided on total points based on numbers and weight of fish caught. The top 32 anglers then go on to the individual championship, alternating between Avington and the River Test.

David Swatland

The individual champion will be decided on results from all four venues.

David Swatland, chairman of the organising committee, last week said a big thank you to the Sports Council for their help and main sponsor National Westminster Bank.

'Our list of benefactors reads like a Who's Who of angling but were it not for the early response from the Sports Council and National Westminster Bank, we could not have gone ahead in the first place,' said David.

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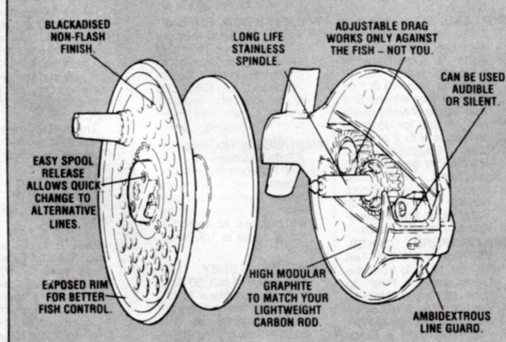

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Tony Pawson previews the world flyfishing championships

ENGLAND WILL BE GOING FOR GOLD

● TONY Pawson with the Individual World Championship he won back in Spain three years ago.

ENGLAND'S top flyfishermen are out to conquer the World at the weekend. The seventh World Flyfishing Championship comes to our shores for the first time when top trout anglers from all over the globe will descend on our showpiece waters.

Former World Champion Tony Pawson — the man who has organised the premier event — gives you his exclusive rundown on the four-day bonanza.

Country's finest trout fishing waters

WHATEVER the outcome, competitors will return home having seen the best trout waters England has to offer. Here are my views on the places they will be fishing.

● **GRAFHAM WATER** ... There's not much new to be said about Grafham, except that it's getting better and better. The 1,570 acre water, which opened to trout fishing in June 1966, has given 20 years of fantastic fishing.

Now that it has been privatised and taken on by ambitious Jim Warren the future looks brighter than ever. Jim has stocked with thousands of quality trout which could be feeding near the surface if it's mild, or near the bottom if the weekend brings cool weather.

Top wet flies for Grafham include: Silver Invicta, Wickham's Fancy, Appetizer, Viva, Ginger Quill, Mallard and Claret, Butcher, Dunkeld and Greenwell's Glory.

Best nymphs: Pheasant Tail, Black Buzzer, Green Buzzer, Brown Buzzer, and Green and Brown Nymph.

● **RUTLAND WATER** ... At 3,100 acres Rutland looks daunting to those who don't know it — but it's well into another fantastic season.

Because of its size it doesn't warm up until two or three weeks after other waters, so sinking line tactics are likely to be most effective.

Late May always sees a prolific hatch of Black Buzzers. If they are showing in numbers flies such as Black Pennell, Black Quill and Blae and Black will catch fish.

New owner Roger Thom has ensured that Rutland is full of quality brown and rainbow trout and some superb fish could well be caught during the championship.

● **AVINGTON LAKES** ... The rainbow trout record has been broken here many times and just two weeks ago Peter Stone landed a fantastic fish of 21 lb.

The main decision will be whether to use floating or sinking lines. Most of the trout are around 2½ lb and many traditional patterns attract them. Mayfly and Damselfly Nymphs could be among the best.

● **RIVER TEST** ... A mixture of wild and stocked trout will provide testing sport which could be favoured by the Europeans who are expert river anglers.

The individual match on the Test lasts three hours and because the championship is in the mayfly season, there could be spectacular catches on this wonderful chalk stream.

FACT FILE

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP: *Saturday and Sunday (May 23 and 24) ... Rutland Water and Grafham Water.* **INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP:** *Tuesday and Wednesday (May 26 and 27) ... Avington Lakes, Hampshire and the River Test, Kimbridge.* **OFFICIAL SPONSORS:** *National Westminster Bank Ltd.* **COMPETING TEAMS:** *England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Canada, Finland, France, West Germany, New Zealand, Kenya, Norway, Poland, Rumania, Italy, Spain, Luxembourg and Australia.* ● *Austria and Zambia are registered for the Individual Championship.*

TROUT CHAMP TITBITS

● **ANGLERS will be rewarded 100 points for each trout they weigh in, and an additional point per gram of weight, up to a maximum of 2,000 points per fish. In the team match half the competitors will fish Grafham on the first day and half Rutland. On the second day they will switch so that everybody fishes both venues.**

Scores at Grafham and Rutland will be added to scores at Avington and the Test for the individual championship.

● **TONY Pawson travelled to New Zealand, Australia and Canada to persuade teams to enter. He succeeded making this year's event the biggest yet.**

STAR-STUDDED SQUAD

ENGLAND must see off top class opposition from 18 other countries to grab the world crown for the first time. Here are the men on whom our hopes depend:

● **DENNIS BUCK (Southport, Merseyside),** was seventh in the individual World championship in Spain in 1984, and helped England to second spot in the team match ... He was England's second best performer two years ago in Poland — pipped only by myself. A regular in home international matches

● **BOB CHURCH (Northampton),** has fished in two World Championships. He is outstanding on Grafham Water, where his successes include the Midlands Final of the Benson and Hedges competition and the Midlands Federation title last year.

● **BRIAN LEADBETTER (Bedford),** won the indivudual section of the Benson and Hedges Club Championship at Rutland in 1984. Last year he won the Belgium Open on Lake Weiswampach after coming fifth the previous year.

● **CHRIS OGBOURNE (Bristol),** is a regular on Blagdon and Chew Reservoirs, but at home on any stillwater. He was National Champion in 1981 and won the Benson and Hedges Final at Bewl Water two years ago.

● **JOHN PAWSON (Winchester),** is at 26, the youngest team member, but already vastly experienced. He qualified for his first national final at 18, and came third in his first home international on Lough Conn, Ireland, in 1984.

He has finished 2nd, 3rd and 4th in European Opens and is particularly strong at Avington and on rivers.

● **BRIAN THOMAS (Nottingham),** is reserve. Brian has fished for England seven times. He was in the England World Cup team in 1982 and 1986, and was in the winning team of three in the European Open last season.

● **BOB MOREY (of Bedford)** is second reserve. He has fished in six internationals for England and won a team prize in last year's European Open in Belgium.

● ***Tony Pawson was talking to reporter Andrew Wilkinson.***

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WORLD FLYFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP 1987

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TEAM EVENTS
23·24 MAY 1987 GRAFHAM WATER & RUTLAND WATER
INDIVIDUAL EVENTS
26·27 MAY 1987 RIVER TEST & AVINGTON TROUT LAKES

Rutland Water

Grafham Water

River Test

Avington Trout Lakes

VIIth WORLD FLY FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP

Programme and Timetable of Events

May 21 — Arrival Day

Teams assemble at the Moat House Hotel, Northampton.

1300 hrs / 1900 hrs — Free practise at Rutland and Grafham.

2030 hrs — Dinner of Welcome. Moat House hotel.

2130 hrs — Draw for boats and boat partners for both days of the championship. Each competitor will fish one day at Grafham and one day at Rutland. Each team will have two members on one lake and three on the other, on each day.

May 22 — Practise Day

0815 hrs — Teams depart for Grafham and Rutland.

1530 hrs — Practise ends. Return to hotel.

1900 hrs — Opening Ceremony. Northampton Town Hall.

2100 hrs — Dinner at the Moat House hotel.

2200 hrs — Team Captains' meeting at hotel.

May 23 — Team Championship : Day 1

0715 hrs — Breakfast.

0800 hrs — Teams depart for Grafham and Rutland.

1000 hrs — Team Championship begins.

1700 hrs — Fishing ends. Weigh-in.

1800 hrs — Weigh-in completed.

2000 hrs — Dinner at Moat House hotel.

2130 hrs — Team Captains' meeting at hotel.

May 24 — Team Championship : Day 2

0715 hrs — Breakfast

0800 hrs — Depart for Grafham and Rutland.

1000 hrs — Team championship continues.

1700 hrs — Fishing ends. Weigh-in.

1800 hrs — Weigh-in completed.

1930 hrs — PUBLICATION OF TEAM RESULTS at MOAT HOUSE HOTEL. Press conference.

2030 hrs — Dinner and Presentation of Prizes.

May 25 — Departure Day

0800 hrs — Breakfast.

0900 hrs — Departure for Winchester (150 kilometers).

1200 hrs — Welcome at the Royal and Wessex hotels in Winchester.

1400 hrs — Buffet luncheon at the Mayfly Inn, River Test.

1530 hrs — Qualifiers for the **Individual Championship** taken to see the River Test and Avington Lakes. Sightseeing for all others, including a visit to the Izaak Walton Chapel in Winchester Cathedral.

1800 hrs — Complete draw for positions on River Test and at Avington Lakes. Royal Hotel.

1830 hrs — Civic Reception at Winchester Guildhall.

2030 hrs — Informal dinner in hotels.

2130 hrs — Team Captains' meeting. Royal Hotel.

May 26 — Individual Championship : Day 1

0730 hrs — Breakfast.

0900 hrs — Leading competitors depart for Kimbridge on the River Test or Avington Lakes.

0915 hrs onwards — All others depart for similar fishing. Venues to be announced.

1300 hrs — Lunch at Kimbridge hosted by Mr & Mrs Arthur Humbert and at Avington.

1600 hrs — Individual Competition ends. Weigh-in.

1700 hrs — Captains and Officials drinks at Chilcomb.

1730 hrs — Other fishing ends.

2000 hrs — Informal dinner at hotels.

2130 hrs — Team Captains' meeting. Royal Hotel.

May 27 — Individual Championship : Day 2

0730 hrs — Breakfast.

0900 hrs — Leading competitors depart for Kimbridge on the River Test and Avington Lakes.

0915 hrs — All others depart for similar fishing. Venues as Day 1.

1300 hrs — Lunch at Kimbridge Hosted by Mr & Mrs Humbert.

1600 hrs — Individual Competition ends. Weigh-in.

1700 hrs — Other fishing ends.

1900 hrs — RECEPTION AT GUILDHALL. ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS. PRESENTATION OF PRIZES.

2000 hrs — Celebration Buffet Dinner in Winchester Guildhall. Entertainment.

0100 hrs — Return to hotels.

.....CHAMPIONSHIP ENDS.....

May 28 — Departure Day and London Programme

Teams wishing to travel home immediately may decide their schedule and will be driven to their departure point.

Teams wishing to visit London are also invited for tea on the terrace of the House of Commons.

1000 hrs — Depart for London. Sightseeing.

1500 hrs — Tea on the terrace of the House of Commons overlooking the River Thames at Westminster.

1700 hrs — All depart. VIIth World Fly Fishing Championship ends.

CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

Mr J D Swalland (Chairman)
Mr J Betteridge (President, N.F.A.)
Mr T Bilson
Mr M Childs
Mr R Church
Mr R Clegg
Mr E Earl
Col J Ferguson
Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith MP
Mr Moc Morgan
Mr H A Pawson
Mr P Tomlinson

(NB: Other Committees — page 16.)

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As Patron of the Salmon and Trout Association and, in particular, Patron of the World Fly-fishing Championship, I take much pleasure in welcoming those who have come to take part in the competition.

Fishing is assuredly the most popular of sports and to its devotees the most enthralling; it can provide days, or perhaps even only a snatched hour, of relaxation in improbable, but often beautiful, places and no fisher should travel without a rod.

Of all the forms the sport can take, fly-fishing is pre-eminent. It calls for a deep understanding of fish and their habits, a knowledge of water conditions and much weather lore, great skill and, finally, infinite cunning.

I hope the Championship will bring together friends, old and new, sharing a common interest and that you will all go back to many days of enjoyment on your home waters.

ELIZABETH R
Queen Mother
Patron

May, 1987

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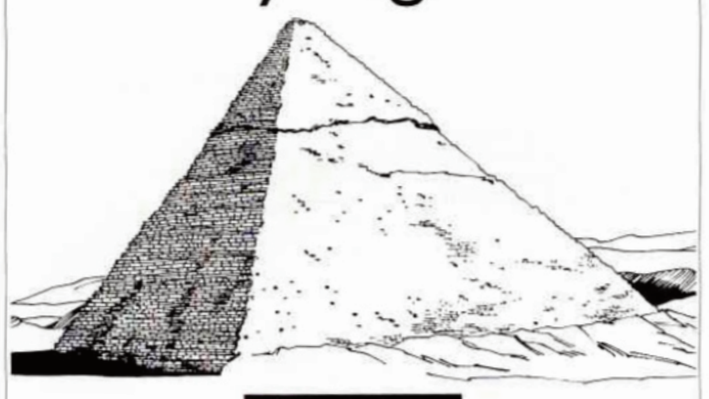

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VIIth WORLD FLY FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP

The British Fly Fishing Scene

Fly fishing championships have been a traditional part of the British fishing scene for more than a hundred years. The Ellem Club, according to the Guinness Book of Records, is the oldest fishing club in the world. It was established in 1830 — just before the West of Scotland Angling Club. On the border of England and Scotland, the Ellem Club was also the first known to have organised a trout fishing competition, which was held on the Whiteadder River in 1831 and has been held annually ever since.

Wet and Weary

As their record of that distant occasion has it: "At seven o'clock, the hour appointed for starting the competition, a spectator from an adjoining hill might trace hickory and casting lines flickering through the fog in many a glade . . . About four o'clock in the afternoon the competitors might be seen emerging wet and weary from the different valleys which surround the tavern."

Presumably a convivial evening was then spent at the tavern as the count of the 'well-stored baskets' was not finished until sunrise! We must hope the weigh-in is quicker in the World Championship, but that the friendly and convivial nature of the contest will survive.

The First National

One of the aims of the Ellem Club remains 'to encourage and promote angling in Scotland with an emphasis on loch fishing'. That emphasis has certainly survived as this world team championship is based on loch style fishing. It was also the Scots who developed this type of fishing, holding the first ever National Fly Fishing Championship on Loch Leven in 1860. Even before that event competition had become so popular that Leven's records for 1873 show 463 anglers taking part in 26 different club competitions with the most prestigious of them being the Loch Leven championship between nine selected experts. The favourite for that first National was the famous tackle maker from Perth, P. D. Malloch, who indeed caught the largest fish of the day, but finished second of the 32 entrants.

The first international competition was also fished on Leven in 1928. It arose out of a humorous challenge the previous year by R. H. Dodds and W. H. M. McCreath of the Ellem Club to any other pairs to take them on for the 'trout fishing championship of the world'. The contest lasted fourteen hours with Dodds and McCreath making good their boast by winning with a bag of 73 trout weighing 56lb. The interest aroused led to a challenge match in 1928 between Scotland and England each boasting teams of twenty with the late King George VI as England's captain elect, and W. H. McCreath as deputy.

The Scottish team piped to the boats at Grafham in 1977.

In a Leading article before the match the *Manchester Guardian* gave its opinion that the English team were impudent and absurd to take on the Scots on their own loch and might just as well stay south of the border and fish in the streets of Manchester. With such forecasting it was no surprise that England in fact won though by the narrowest of margins. In 1931 Wales and Ireland sent a combined team to fish alongside the Scots and the English. Having liked what they found the Welsh and Irish formally entered teams in 1932 and ever since the home internationals have continued between the four countries.

Loch Style Fishing

Until 1970 the official internationals were always fished in the Spring on Loch Leven. From 1971 two internationals have been fished each year, currently with teams of 14 per country. The venues change between the four countries, but the style of the competition remains the same, based on the best of traditional loch style fishing method. The rules and format of the team championship in this seventh world fly fishing championship has been kept close to this traditional pattern of international fishing in Britain and Ireland established for so many years.

WORLD FLY FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

			Individuals	Winners	Runners-Up
I	1981	Lake Echternach (Luxemburg)	C. Wittkamp (Hol)	Holland	Luxemburg
II	1982	Narcea River (Spain)	V. Diez y Diez (Spa)	Italy	Spain
III	1983	Sesia River (Italy)	S. Fernandez (Spa)	Italy	Belgium
IV	1984	Tormes River (Spain)	A. Pawson (Eng)	Italy	England
V	1985	San River (Poland)	L. Frasik (Pol)	Poland	Czechoslovakia
VI	1986	Ourthe River (Belgium)	S. Svoboda (Czech)	Italy	Belgium

DEWAR'S INTERNATIONAL TOP TEAM TROPHY + £1000 TRAVEL AWARD

It is highly appropriate that the Scottish firm of John Dewar & Sons should introduce a special trophy and prize for overseas teams competing in this year's world championship.

The championship is based on loch-style fishing, a sport developed by the Scots, and pursued with all the skill and enthusiasm accorded to that other great Scottish art: the distilling and blending of fine whisky.

The Scots also had the shrewdness to stage the first National Fly Fishing Championship on Loch Leven in 1880; their help in perpetuating this tradition is therefore particularly fitting.

Now, with the world championship to be held in Britain, Dewar's are making a special contribution: a trophy and a £1,000 travel award to be presented to the most successful overseas team, based on performance at Grafham and Rutland.

With England as host nation for the first time this year, the organisers considered it fair, and in keeping with the spirit of the championship, that the home countries of Scotland, Ireland and Wales should be recognised as international teams in their own right and thus qualify to compete. If by chance England should win the world championship, the Dewar trophy and travel prize will be awarded to the runners-up.

All being well, the scene will shift to Australia in 1988, where Dewar's is already much in evidence; and if the Aussies win the trophy this year, Dewar's could become the most talked about name in angling.

DEWAR'S NEVER VARIES.

Dewar's are also sponsoring a special post-championship match in aid of the ACA at Grafham on July 15. Tony Pawson, world champion in 1984, has agreed to captain "The Rest" in a four-sided match with England, a European team and ACA celebrities. The ACA is to run a special promotion for places in "The Rest". So non-famous anglers will have a chance to prove what they can do against the internationals and the celebrities to raise funds to fight pollution.

Winning A World Championship: Spain 1984

By Tony Pawson

You need a lot of luck to win a World Championship and I had more than my reasonable share in Spain in 1984. The Tormes River near Salamanca is noted as a dry fly trout river in which success usually depends on using very small flies and identifying exactly those on which the fish are feeding. But that May summer came late to Spain with the area covered in snow a few days before we arrived and the Tormes running high, coloured and cold. So in practice we found that sinking lines and size 10 flies, such as Black Pennells and Bibios, were more effective than dry flies or nymphs — with the trout lying deep and no natural rise. This type of wet fly fishing for trout on a stream with a good current was the method on which I had been weaned in boyhood, fishing in Scotland, Wales and Ireland, and practised for over fifty years. So I was fortunate to find conditions that suited me.

Helping the Washerwomen

Not so fortunate was one of our team of five. On the second practice day we had only a brief fishing period in the morning, taking it in so relaxed a fashion, as we had found out all we needed to know, that I spent some time helping the Spanish washerwomen who were working hard at the side of our pool. After lunch we were taken to see the running of the small bulls in a local corrida — as part of the generous hospitality we enjoyed in Spain, with friendship so much the main element of these championships. There, one of our team took an unfortunate fancy to become a matador and leapt lightly into the ring to join the locals, under the impression he could not come to much harm against small bulls with shaved horns. He was carried out with a broken ankle and a broken wrist. No credit to the bull — just a failure to notice it was ten feet down from the top of the wall to the corrida floor! Captain David Swatland then had to stop telling us how to fish and do it himself — with no little success as it turned out!

A Trout taken on third cast

It is always an anxious moment getting first sight of the water on which you are drawn to fish. In the first four hour period I was on one of the higher sectors well above the beats we had fished in practice. Happily the three hundred yards of river at my disposal embraced a delightful pool with a series of small streams angled across the head to join the main current by the far bank. There was equal success bobbing the dropper across the side currents or fishing slow and deep in the quieter water. With a trout taken with the third cast I was able to relax and enjoy myself from the start. Only one incident marred the pleasure. Having gone as deep as I could with chest waders on, to try and cover the far current, I netted a trout which was borderline for size. As it was too difficult to measure it accurately in midstream I headed back rather too fast for the bank. My toe struck a rock and I went headfirst into the icy water. The trout meanwhile had come out of the net and was still hooked on the tail fly while the dropper was caught in the mesh of the net. Not so easy to get it in again! Still, it gave the spectators a good laugh and it did finally prove to be 'valido' and worth the effort.

With eleven trout in that session it was a good start. My next draw, however, was not so promising. It was a long, featureless rush of water, which I had fished in practice without moving anything, while catching well above and below. However, another team member, Dennis Buck, had told me over lunch that he had done well with a fast sinking line. Right at the bottom of my beat there was one large, deep eddy and while the rest was still barren I coaxed five out of there (and lost a really large one I never saw) using a Hi-D line. My final draw for the four hours the following morning was in a sector where very few had been caught. Though I was then third, that left me with no expectation other than enjoying myself. It was my good fortune again that team mate Dennis' tip about the fast sinking line enabled me to catch seven more, some on fast sink, some on slow sink lines, which I used alternately.

An immense Trophy

Having no expectation of doing so well it was all the more pleasurable and surprising to find I had won. With Dennis coming 7th and Bob Church 13th we were also 2nd as a team. By a strange coincidence, my son John had qualified for the England team for the home international which was being fished on the same day on Lough Conn in Ireland. He phoned me that night to say he had come third out of 56 and England had won for the first time in Ireland. So my third piece of good fortune, as I had never done as well as that in home internationals myself, was to be able to maintain parental status by telling him he was talking to the world champion! Knowing my fishing too well he couldn't believe it — but I had difficulty in believing it too. I would still, were it not for a trophy so immense that it was only allowed on the plane because we strapped it into the seat reserved for our injured angler in a wheelchair at the back.

Tony Pawson, in euphoric mood, after winning the world championship in Spain in 1984. With him is Segismondo Fernandez, previous holder of the title.

What is he practising for? The future world champion joins in a dance display in trouser waders during a break in practice day in 1982, when the event was a salmon and trout contest on Spain's Narcea river.

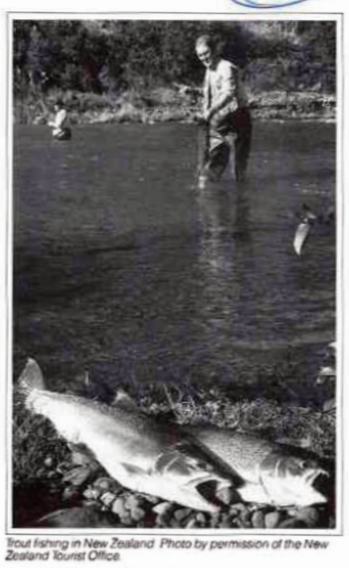
Welcome to the Teams and the Newcomers

The previous six world championships have been primarily European affairs, starting modestly with an event on Luxemburg's Lake Weiswampach in 1961 with few countries involved. Since then participation has grown steadily with several Eastern European countries sending teams to Poland in 1985. Last year in Belgium thirteen countries took part in an excellently organised championship on Belgium's Ourthe River. England first competed in Spain in 1982, Wales in Belgium in 1986.

Fishing a fast flowing Polish trout stream. Poland staged the championship in 1985. Photograph courtesy of Marek P. Krzemien

We extend a particularly warm welcome to teams from countries which have not been involved before, particularly those from outside Europe who have been prepared to make the long and costly trip to take part. Australia, New Zealand and Canada (whose Izaak Walton Fly Fishermen's Club organises their team), will be represented and there will be teams from Zambia and Kenya, (where the Kenya Fly Fishers Club is organising their entry). Only once has a team outside Europe participated before when the Americans entered an expatriate team in Spain in 1982. America will also be represented here, either to observe or to participate.

We are very glad to have teams from Scotland and Ireland for the first time, particularly as Scotland has led the way in international fly fishing, staging the first National competition in 1880, and the first ever international fly fishing competition against England on Loch Leven in 1928. Ireland joined in those home internationals in 1932 and it is therefore a particular pleasure to have an all-Ireland team participating here. Norway is another very welcome first time entrant.



Trout fishing in New Zealand. Photo by permission of the New Zealand Tourist Office.

Australia has offered to host the championship in 1988, their bi-centenary year. Appropriately one of the slogans for that special year is 'Go Fish Australia' and we hope that is what many of these teams will be doing. The Australian team has been organised jointly by Andrew Fink of the Western Australian Trout & Freshwater Angling Association and John Sautelle Senior, the doyen of Australian fly fishing, whose book 'Fishing for the Educated Trout' is a classic. Their venture has the blessing of the Australian Freshwater Fishing Assembly, which is effectively their governing body of game fishing.

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VII World Flyfishing Championship: Main Fishing Rules

Rules Applicable to All Venues

1. Fishing will be with artificial flies only. Hooks will measure not more than ⅝" (1.6 cms) overall, and the dressed fly will measure not more than ⅞" (2.4 cms) overall, i.e. from eye to end of tailwings etc. (except on River Test, where there is no limit to the size of fly or hook).

2. Fly lines and casts shall not be artificially weighted. Shooting heads and lead core lines are not permitted.

3. One rod, not more than 12ft (366 cms) in length, is to be used by each competitor, who may have with him while fishing one or more spare rods (length as before), which may not, however, be mounted i.e. no two sections of a spare rod may be joined, nor may a reel be attached.

4. Species which may be weighed in are Brown Trout (salmo trutta), Rainbow Trout (salmo gairdneri), or Brook Trout (salvelinus fontinalis), and any hybrids between these species.

5. Foul hooked fish may not be weighed in. A foul hooked fish shall be one which is hooked anywhere except within the mouth or externally in the lips. In case of doubt, the fish will be killed and the hook left in, for subsequent adjudication by officials.

6. Boatmen/controllers will be required to check regularly for compliance with the rules (e.g. hooks/fly sizes on each fish caught).

7. 100 points will be awarded for each qualifying fish weighed in, plus 1 point per grammme, up to a maximum of 2,000 points for weight i.e. maximum total points of 2,100 per fish.

8. Any competitor who believes another competitor is infringing any of these rules will notify his own boatman/controller, who will:
(a) immediately inform the other competitor of the nature of the complaint via that competitor's boatman/controller.
(b) report the incident to the jury (see below) within 30 minutes of the close of the competition session.

9. The jury shall consist of seven people appointed in accordance with FIPS-ED rules. The jury shall decide the appropriate penalty for any accepted complaint. If there is a drawn vote on any complaint, it will be dismissed.

10. If there is any conflict between the meaning of these rules in translation and the meaning in the English version, then the meaning in the English version shall be paramount.

Rules for Team Events at Rutland Water and Grafham Water

1. Half the competitors will fish Grafham Water and half Rutland Water on day one of the Championships. On the second day, each competitor will fish the water he/she did not fish on day one. Since fishing conditions can vary daily between Rutland Water and Grafham Water, despite the short distance between them, each team of five will be split as equally as possible, i.e. 3:2, by a draw between the two venues each day.

2. Fishing will be from boat only (unless storm conditions prevent this — see below). Boats may not land during the competition, except at the Fishing Lodge jetty, which is the start/finish point, except in case of force majeure (e.g. storm or breakdown of engine). Any such landing will be the subject of an official enquiry. Each boat will contain a boatman and two competitors, selected by a draw. The competitors will be from different teams.

3. Competitors will change ends every two hours, or as mutually agreed. The competitor in the stern of the boat shall have command of the boat and direct the boatman. No boatman may fish during the competition.

4. No fly shall be artificially weighted i.e. include any additional heavy material not normally used in the dressing (for example, ribbing is acceptable, but underbodies of copper, lead etc wire are not). Not more than three flies shall be mounted on a cast, and there must be a minimum 20" (508 cms) gap between flies, where joined to the cast.

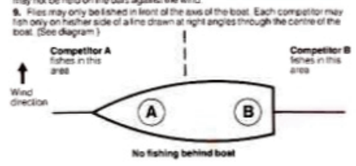
5. A fly hook may be single or double, provided that in the case of a double hook, the angle between the bends does not exceed 45°, and when viewed from the side, the bends lie one behind the other. Tandem flies are not permitted.

6. If storm conditions totally prevent the use of boats, the competition will be staged from the bank, with competitors selecting their fishing positions in conformity with the normal rules of the fishery. All other rules contained here will apply. If storm occurs after the beginning of the event, such as to create danger to boats, these will be recalled to the Fishing Lodge jetty. If sufficient time remains, the organisers will attempt to arrange the continuation of the competition from the banks. If this is possible, catches from boat and bank will be combined for the purposes of the competition. If not possible, the catch made from boats prior to the recall will be considered as the total catch for the competition.

7. The competition will start from the Fishing Lodge jetty at 13:00 am. Fishing will cease at 5:00 pm., and each boat must return immediately to the Fishing Lodge jetty.

8. Fishing may not take place while a boat is anchored, or aground. Only drogues which are fitted as standard equipment in boats may be used. Boats may not be held on the piers against the wind.

9. Flies may only be fished in front of the axis of the boat. Each competitor may fish only on his/her side of a line drawn at right angles through the centre of the boat. (See diagram.)



10. During the hours of the competition, no boat may encroach within 100 yards (91.5 metres) straight downwind of another boat from which competitors are fishing.

11. All fish caught must be killed. The catch of each competitor will be taken by the boatman, accompanied by the competitor if he/she so wishes, to the weighing-in point by latest 6:00 pm. Any catch not presented by this time will be disqualified.

12. The winning team will be the team whose members have been awarded in total the largest number of points, and so on, for each team position in the Championship. In the event of a tie for any places, the team with the largest number of fish weighed in will take the higher position. If there is still a tie, the team to take the higher position will be the team weighing in the single heaviest fish.

Rules for Individual Championships

1. In order to make the individual championships as fair as is possible, and to even out the possibility that some venues may fish very well on particular days, the individual championship will be decided on the basis of the position achieved by competitors, relative to other competitors at the same venue, on each of the four days of the individual championship.

2. The position of each competitor will be calculated on day one and day two (i.e. at Grafham and Rutland) according to the points he/she is awarded (e.g. 1st to 50th). The position of each competitor on each of those two days will be added together to give an "aggregate position" and the 32 anglers to proceed with the individual competition will be those 32 who have the smallest "aggregate position" numbers.

3. In the event of a tie for the 32nd place, the angler with the most points will take the 32nd position.

4. A draw amongst the 32 anglers will decide who fishes the Test and who Avington Lake on day three. On day four, competitors in the individual championships will fish the venues they did not fish on day three.

5. The position of each competitor will be calculated each day according to the points awarded, from 1st to 16th.

6. The positions achieved on each of the four days by each competitor in the individual championship will be added together to give an overall "aggregate position". The World Flyfishing Champion 1987 will be the competitor with the lowest "aggregate position" number and other positions in the individual Championships will be decided similarly.

Particular Rules for the River Test

1. The individual contest on the River Test will last for 3 hours, with one change of position occurring after 1½ hours. The sections of the Test to be fished by each individual will be decided by draw.

2. One dry (floating) fly only may be used, on a single hook. The fly must be fished upstream of the competitor. Wading is not permitted.

3. Any competitor hooking a fish during the permitted fishing period may continue to play it after the close of the fishing period, but must land it within a maximum of 10 minutes of the end of the fishing period.

4. A size limit to be announced later, will apply. The controller will measure each fish caught, and inform the competitor if it is undersized and must be returned. If the controller decides the fish is sizeable, there will be no penalty if it is subsequently officially adjudged undersized. If the controller decides the fish is undersized, and the competitor disagrees, the competitor may insist on it being killed. In this case the fish in question will be kept separately and if later officially adjudged undersized, the competitor will be penalised by an award of minus 200 points. There will be no bag limit for the duration of the competition.

5. The catch of each competitor will be taken by his controller, accompanied by the competitor if he/she so wishes, to the weighing in point within 20 minutes of the closing time of the competition. Any catch not presented by this time will be disqualified.

Particular Rules for Avington Lake

1. The Lakes will be divided into individual sections, and the competition day into fishing periods, changeover periods, and lunch break. The section to be fished by each individual, and for which he proceed to draw.

2. One fly only may be used on a single hook. The fly may be weighted.

3. Any competitor hooking a fish during a fishing period may continue to play it after the close of the fishing period, but must land it within a maximum of 10 minutes of the end of the fishing period.

4. All fish caught are to be killed. There will be no bag limit for the duration of the competition. Wading is not permitted.

5. The catch of each competitor will be taken by his controller, accompanied by the competitor if he/she so wishes, to the weighing in point within 20 minutes of the closing time of the competition. Any catch not presented by this time will be disqualified.

STOP PRESS

Post Championship Challenge! In addition to contributing their international trophy for the top overseas team this year, Dewar's have agreed to sponsor a special post championship match to raise funds for the ACA. This match will be billed England v ACA Celebrities v European Internationals v The Rest. See the angling press for details. "The Rest" will draw for places to give them the first chance in the history of these championships to show what they can do against world class competition.

The Championship Lakes and River

Glorious Grafham!

Bob Church has fished Grafham regularly since it opened in 1966 and still rates it the best still water in Britain.

The 1,500 acre Grafham Water trout fishery was opened for public trout fishing on a day or season permit basis in June 1966. The results in that first year were sensational, adding a new dimension to Midlands fishing. All fish caught by everyone who fished for the remainder of that year weighed from 3lbs up to 6½lbs, as the largest recorded. Yet these fish had only been stocked eighteen months earlier at 10 to 12 inches in length, and certainly less than one pound in weight.

The face is familiar. Bob Church — as ever with a fish — at Grafham.

So started the life of "Glorious Grafham" and a whole new breed of stillwater trout fly fishers began. Although there was quite a lot of stillwater fly fishing available in England at that time, none except perhaps Blagdon, had ever captured the imagination of the public as Grafham did. The stillwater trout boom began, and it has continued to grow until this day with many other fine waters opening all over England. We are lucky indeed that the politicians of all parties saw fit to allow trout fishing, sailing and bird watching on the many drinking water holding reservoirs. The system has worked very well and greatly enhanced trout fishing opportunities.

In the 20 years that have passed I have fished at Grafham regularly and still rate it as the best. 60,000 trout are stocked each year, 20,000 of these go in during early spring, this includes 8,000 browns and the rest evenly at regular intervals throughout the season. This produces the most consistent sport that can be found anywhere.

The trout feed mostly on chironomids from mid April until early June, then the rainbows begin to feed more on Daphnia. By July the Sedges arrive and finally by the beginning of September the Crane fly and the small fish fry of other coarse fish in the water. Each of these the trout feed on well.

Many trout are caught on large streamer flies, but the rules of the championship forbid their use as no hook size over 10 is permitted. This is to encourage more skilful methods of fishing.

At this stage it is difficult to predict whether it will be floating line, slow sink line or fast sink line tactics which will suit best on 23rd and 24th May 1987. It all depends on our very unpredictable English summer, and the temperature of the water — the colder the deeper the fish will be.

If we have a long prolonged cold spring and early summer the fish may be well down. Yet on the other hand a warm period during early to mid-May will certainly mean very good top fishing on a floater. During practice it is best to alter the techniques used to see which method works best and find the level at which the fish are feeding. A selection of flies which are usually more successful must include:

Wet Flies
Silver Invicta, Wickhams Fancy, Viva, Appetiser, Ginger Quill, Grenadier, Soldier Palmer, Mallard and Claret, Butcher, Dunkeld, Greenwells Glory and Whisky Fly.

Nymphs
Pheasant Tail, Black Buzzer, Green Buzzer, Brown Buzzer, Green and Brown Nymph. Dry flies are unnecessary at this time of year.

The Lure of Rutland

Rutland Water quickly established itself as one of England's premier stillwaters, patronised from the start by many thousands of boat and bank fly fishermen. The new Lessee, Roger Thorn, ably assisted by Nick Dolby, has further improved facilities and will be enhancing the Water's established reputation for big trout, and for interesting flyfishing for hard-fighting browns and rainbows.

A Rutland regular, Stuart Billam, pinpoints some hot spots and the patterns most likely to succeed on Rutland during world championship week.

Rutland Water, being one of the largest of our English Reservoirs, tends to be two to three weeks behind other waters for surface activity. This is due to its vast size and the time it takes the water to warm up. There is no appreciable surface feeding until late May as a rule and then usually only in certain locations. Unlike most other reservoirs the shallows are seldom the most productive areas. The upper reaches of both the North and South arms generally develop later in the season. I have noticed over the past few years that certain locations are more likely to produce early rising fish than others.

Firstly, the Old Hall Bay in the South Arm, is a relatively shallow bay that can be relied on to hold a good head of fish. The bay fishes well from the Old Hall down to the corner of Yellowstone. It is at its best in a gentle, prevailing South-West wind. Two other good spots in the South Arm are in the shelter of Lax Hill and Brown's Island.

Edward Kuzniar (above) with a 10lb 6oz brown caught from the bank at Rutland in April 1986.

The North Arm being narrower and deeper than the South Arm, tends to develop later still, but with the right conditions the odd fish or two can be caught two to three hundred yards either side of the transformer on the Hambledon Peninsula and the mouth of Dickenson's Bay.

I tend to ignore the trolling area in the early part of the season — unless I am absolutely desperate for fish! The bulk of stock fish are released here and tend to stay for some time. Places to fish are Sykes Lane down to Whitwell Creek and on the opposite bank from Normanton Church to the Yacht Club.

Now it has matured Rutland has developed on a definite fly life pattern. Late May is the time for prolific hatches of Black Buzzers, some times so prolific that the surface of the water become almost covered with them! Common sense will indicate what flies to fish. These will include such traditional wet flies as Black Quill, Bibe and Black, and Black Pennel, in sizes 10, 12

and 14. At times the fish become so preoccupied that more exact imitative patterns are needed to entice them. At other times flies with a touch of silver, such as Butcher, Bloody Butcher and Silver Invicta, will take their fair share of trout. Traditional killers, such as Soldier Palmer and Grenadier, do not seem as effective in the early season. Another good standby is the Hare's Ear, tied both as a winged wet fly and without wings as a nymph. I have noticed that for the last couple of seasons a lot of rising fish have been feeding in the surface film. In these conditions I find it necessary to grease my flies. But never grease your leader for traditional loch-style fishing. Fly wake does not scare fish, leader wake does. When no fish are showing small mini-lures such as the Viva and Black Lure work well fished on the point.

Avington Trout Lakes

Home of record rainbows

John Pawson plays a fish at Avington Trout Lakes. Photo by R. Westwood for Angler's Mail.)

Hampshire has many small lakes with clear water which make interesting trout fisheries. Avington has always had a special reputation among these as the home of large trout bred in its own fish farm. The U.K. rainbow record has been broken here many times by Alan Pearson, and in 1986 another noted big trout angler, Peter Cockwill, set a new record with a rainbow of 20½lb, though an even heavier one was caught a few weeks later in Scotland's Loch Awe.

Brown Trout, and various hybrids, like tigers and cheetahs, have also been stocked at Avington as have brook trout. It was at Avington too that the U.K. record brook trout (salvelinus fontinalis) was caught by Alan Pearson, weighing 5¼lb. A small carrier of the River Itchen flows around Avington's three lakes, which are also fed with the Itchen's clear chalkstream water. For much of the summer it is possible to spot and stalk trout and from June the considerable weed growth adds to the interest and the challenge. There are usually some large trout to be found at Avington, which are only likely to be caught if the fly can be presented just in front of their noses, as they rarely move far from their cruising path. Often, too, they are larger and deeper than appears to those unused to this fishery. For such trout it usually pays to use leaded flies.

Only one fly of limited size is allowed at Avington, but there are no restrictions on whether this is weighted. The general run of trout will average 2½lb, with the occasional fish in double figures. They may be caught on anything from small dry flies or nymphs to maximum size attractor flies. Mayfly and Damselfly Nymphs are two of the many successful patterns. For attractor flies, black and orange are good colours, but a whole range of traditional flies may also be productive. By the end of May floating lines are likely to prove best, though if it has been a cold Spring sunk line fishing will be as effective.

Set in pleasant parkland, Avington should appeal for its scenery as well as for the quality of its fish and fishing. The late Sam Holland developed the special strain of Avington trout by selective breeding, and this has been in demand worldwide. Barbara Holland still lives beside the lakes and with the Manager, Roy Ward, ensures the maintenance of the high standards set by Sam.

The Test

The most famous trout river in all England. An appreciation.

Arthur Humbert's River Test water at Kimbridge has been kindly loaned by him for the championship. This provides ideal dry fly fishing in one of the best stretches of the most famous trout river in England, with a mixture of wild and stocked trout, all well acclimatised to their natural environment.

The excellence of the Test is due to the purity and clarity of its waters which rise as constant-temperature springs from the chalk downs and flow southwards down to Southampton Water. The abundant fly life, and the chalkstream ambiance, allow for rapid growth and finely conditioned fish. Visitors will find that the Test valley scenery is verdant and richly green in May. Down its length there are attractive well-kept villages and many thatch-roofed houses in an area unspoiled by industry. Kimbridge itself lies between Stockbridge and Romsey.

Hampshire is a sporting County renowned for its superb fishing and pheasants. When Izaak Walton wrote his *Complear Angler* as long ago as 1653, he recorded that "Hampshire exceeds all England for swift, shallow, clear, pleasant brooks and store of trouts."

A stretch of the River Test above Kimbridge Farm House.

That is still true today, though a big river such as the Test at Kimbridge, is not shallow enough for wading. All the fishing will be from the bank and confined to upstream dry fly — the traditional, classical and successful method, which requires delicate and skilful fishing and a knowledge of fly life. The Test divides at Kimbridge and, apart from the main river, there are carriers and sidestreams which provide an attractive variety of fishing. Sizable brown trout and rainbows abound and there are grayling as well.

Integrated into the environment of Kimbridge is a fish farm so that it is noted for trout for the table as well as for its fishing. In late May there are usually big hatches of Mayflies. The chosen time should be the best for fishing, though the exact period is subject to seasonal variation, depending on the weather. Mayflies and 'spent' Mayflies are likely to be the most successful flies, or else the 'Kimbridge' Sedge, or a larger Brown Sedge. Even in a Mayfly rise trout can be selective and on occasions will ignore the larger flies in favour of size 16 Dark Olives or their like. With that luck, so necessary in fishing, the championship should coincide with the best of the trout fishing, and provide participants with a memorable day.

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Winchester

Trout Capital of England

Tony Pawson, organiser of the VII World Fly Fishing Championship and a long-standing resident, gives perspective to Winchester's claim to be the trout capital of England.

Winchester was the ancient capital of England in the days of King Alfred, whose statue is close to the Wessex Hotel, and is now the County Town of Hampshire. It has a fair claim, too, to be the Trout capital of England to this day. For Winchester has two of the most renowned trout rivers in the country, the Itchen and the Test, close to it. The Itchen indeed flows through its outskirts and many carrier streams crisscross the Town. Within a few miles also are several small lakes with clear chalkstream water and large trout. Avington Trout Lakes are only a few miles away and record rainbow and brook trout have been caught there.

But Winchester is also especially rich in fishing history. The 'Father of Angling', Izaak Walton, died in 7, The Close and is buried in Winchester Cathedral. Walton was 90 years old when he died in 1683. By then his famous book, '*The Compleat Angler*', had already run to several editions. For the fifth edition Charles Cotton added a second part entitled 'How to catch trout and grayling in a clear stream', and providing much advice on methods and flies which is still relevant today.

Winchester Cathedral is the longest Medieval Cathedral in Europe and the Silkstede Chapel is dedicated to Walton. His tomb is there as is a stained glass window donated by the fishermen of England and America in 1919. His figure is also on the Great Screen of the Cathedral, for he was a man who had contributed much to the religious and social life of England. The window has pictures of him fishing the Itchen by St Catherine's Hill, just outside the Town, and with Cotton on the Dove, Cotton's delightful river on the borders of Derbyshire and Staffordshire. The inscription includes the final words of his book, 'Go a' Angling. Study to be quiet.'

Walton himself was the epitome of the friendly fisherman, managing to survive England's Civil War as a friend of all parties despite his close connection with the king and the bishops. He was the very spirit of the friendship this championship should inspire and he would certainly have admired the winners. As he wrote: 'I envy not him that is richer or wears better clothes than I do. I envy only him that catches more fish than I do.' Of the shared pleasures of the fishing we all enjoy he wrote: 'Many that have forty times our wealth would give the greatest part of it to be healthy and cheerful like us who have eat and drunk, and laughed, and angled, and sung; and rose next day and cast away care, and sung, and laughed, and angled again; which are blessings rich men cannot purchase with all their money.'

Also in the Cathedral is a commemorative bust of Francis Francis, the leading fishing writer and authority in the country in the 19th century. Francis Francis played a part in starting Scotland's first National Fly Fishing Championship in 1880 and also in the successful stocking of brown trout to Tasmania. After years of failure that was achieved, despite the problems of a ninety day voyage before the age of refrigeration. The trout ova came from the Itchen, the River Wye (at the King's Pond) in Alton, and the River Wick (now called the Wye), at High Wycombe. From these eggs, taken out in boxes lined with charcoal and imbedded in moss and ice chips in the 56 tonne icehouse built aboard the clipper Norfolk, came all the original stockings of Australian rivers and later of New Zealand's South Island.

Francis Francis had close connections with the Royal Hotel, in which many of the participants will stay. It was from the Royal that he set out for the last fishing expedition, of which he wrote on his way to enjoy once more his favourite stretch of the Itchen near St Cross, itself an historic building providing hospitality to wayfarers. No wonder many of the most famous of English fishing writers, Halford the dry fly expert, Skues, the initiator of nymph fishing, and Lord Grey of Fallodon, the elegant author and politician, delighted to fish in the Winchester area, as did Izaak Walton and Francis Francis. In New Zealand's North Island the town of Turangi on the shores of Lake Taupo has a sign proclaiming it the 'Trout Capital of the World.' More modestly Winchester may lay just claim to being England's trout capital.

Among the city's many historic features is the famous Round Table used in legend by King Arthur and his Knights, but in fact crafted centuries later. The Table is still on display in the Great Hall. Also in Winchester is one of England's oldest and most prestigious Public Schools, Winchester College, whose fishing club enjoys the use of a long stretch of the Itchen. In its neat combination of ancient tradition and modern excellence the Town has much for the visitor to enjoy in addition to fishing.

Essential reading for the discerning angler

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Tony Pawson
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Tony Pawson, World Fly Fishing Champion in 1984, is Angling Correspondent on *The Observer*.

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England, England! Is this your year?

Left to right: Bob Morey (Standby reserve); John Pawson, Tony Pawson (Organiser of the VII World Championship); Bob Church; Brian Leadbetter, Geoffrey Clarkson (Captain); Brian Thomas (Reserve); Chris Ogborne and Dennis Buck at Rutland.

The England team selection was a joint effort between the World Fly Fishing Championship Committee, the Confederation of English Fly Fishers and the Salmon & Trout Association. The CEFF had responsibility for choosing two of the team of five, a sub-committee of the championship committee chose two more and the reserves, while the Salmon & Trout Association was required to nominate one team member and the captain. To ensure that all those selected had proved their competence in eliminators, and their consistency, there was a minimum requirement that all those chosen by whatever body must have already fished for England in at least two CEFF internationals, and must also had experience in river and small stillwater fishing.

Geoff Clarkson (Captain)
Geoff was England captain for the home international in May 1986. He made several appearances in home internationals and won the Grafham Trophy as top English rod on Loch Harray. He was also in the World Cup team in Poland in 1985 and in Belgium in 1986 when he was best English rod. In the Benson & Hedges British Club Competition Geoff holds the current record for the largest rainbow caught — one of over 7½lbs from Bewl Water.

Team Members

Dennis Buck
A frequent and consistent member of the England team in home internationals whose all-round experience is reflected in previous performances in the World Championship. Was 7th in Spain in 1984, helping England into second place, and was again a close second to Tony Pawson in the England team in Poland. He is also a Grafham trophy winner.

Bob Church
Internationally known for his writing on fishing as for his fishing success. A regular member of the England team wherever he has had the chance to qualify. Has fished twice before in the World Championship, finishing 13th on the Tormes river in 1984, when the England team had its best result. Has been outstanding as a Grafham fisherman, including winning the Midlands Final of the Benson & Hedges there and the all-Midlands all-comers Federation Final in 1986.

Brian Leadbetter
Has had a remarkable run of success in recent seasons, particularly on Grafham and Rutland. A frequent member of the England team he has also been the individual winner of the Benson & Hedges club championship at Rutland in 1984. Brian has also done well in Europe winning Belgium's Open European Championship on Lake Weiswampach last October after coming fifth the previous year.

Chris Ogborne
Another recent England captain and frequent international. Won the National Final in 1981 and was the individual winner of the Benson & Hedges Final at Bewl in 1985. Blagdon and Chew are his home lakes, but is at home on any as shown by captaining his club team, The Bristol Reservoirs Fly Fishers to successive victories in Finals at Chew and Grafham in the last two Benson & Hedges UK championships for which over three hundred clubs enter teams of six.

John Pawson
Qualified for his first National Final at the youngest allowed age of 16. Came 3rd in his first home international on Lough Conn in 1984, helping the Confederation to its first win in Ireland. Has been particularly consistent in European Opens, in which up to a hundred take part, coming 3rd in his first attempt at Dreux, then 4th and 2nd in the last two seasons at Weiswampach. Is an experienced Avington and river flyfisherman.

Reserve

Brian Thomas
Has fished seven times for England and is a Grafham trophy winner. Brian is the current England captain and was also in the first English World Cup team in 1982 and in 1986 in Belgium. He has also fished in European Opens and was in the winning team of three at Weiswampach last season.

Stand-by Reserve

Bob Morey
Another consistent England fisherman in six internationals. Bob is also another Grafham trophy winner who has been very successful at Grafham and Rutland. He was a member of the world championship team in Belgium and has also fished in European Opens, winning a team prize with John and Tony Pawson at Weiswampach, 1986.

England, England! Is this *your* year?

Welcome to famed Grafham Water, one of the largest and most picturesque reservoirs in the country. Situated close to the borders of Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire, the lake lies a few miles off the main A1 route.

Grafham Water covers 1570 acres and has some 8 miles of bank fishing. Its natural abundance of aquatic food produces very large trout, for instance a 12lb 6oz trout caught by a bank angler last season.

Since its opening in 1966 Grafham has gained the reputation as a premier top-of-the-water fishery and is the chosen venue for many flyfishing competitions including the first World Fly Fishing Championship to be held in the U.K.

During this the first year of my ownership anglers will witness many improvements at the Fishery and Lodge. The lodge will now incorporate a licensed bar and restaurant as well as a fully comprehensive tackle shop.

Regular attention to the views of anglers, will ensure that the fishery is managed for the benefit and enjoyment of the flyfisherman.

My best wishes and tight lines always.

Jim Warren

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Combined with all this is the fact that the overall cost of ownership is amongst the lowest for vehicles in its league, Freight Rover Sherpa – in front of the competition in every way.

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The Constitution of C.I.P.S.

Though many British anglers are aware of the existence of CIPS (the Confederation Internationale de la Peche Sportive), few seem to understand how it is constituted and how it works.

CIPS was founded in Rome in 1952 and is best described as the parent body of a group of related organisations whose operations it oversees and encourages.

The three main related groups are FIPS-ed (Federation Internationale de la Peche Sportive en Eau Douce), the body responsible for organising the world championship and promoting world championships in fresh water internationally on the basis of friendship and understanding as expressed through the Olympic ideal.

Next comes FIPS-M (Federation Internationale de la Peche Sportive en Mer), which performs the same function as FIPS-ed in salt water. The third group is FISL (Federation Internationale Sport du Lancer), which promotes casting internationally.

Three additional groups referred to as committees, promote youth activities, water protection and disseminate information.

All these groups are controlled by CIPS and discuss their activities at a CIPS conference held every two years.

During the VII World Fly Fishing Championship, the organisation principally involved is FIPS-ed. It is their officials, working in tandem with representatives from CIPS who have responsibility for the championship.

This brief account shows how the various factions within CIPS work together for the benefit of angling world wide.

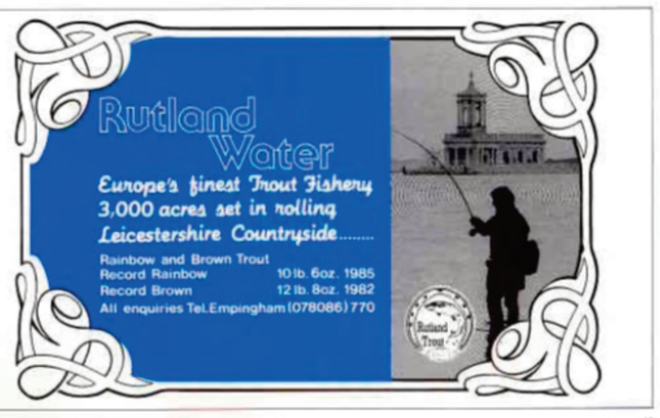
As CIPS rules at present only permit a country to have one body in membership the invitation to stage the championship came via the National Federation of Anglers, the English body in membership. The NFA has passed the whole organisation of the championship to the World Fly Fishing Championship Committee and the event is backed by both the Salmon & Trout Association, who have underwritten the championship, and the Confederation of English Fly Fishers. The chairman of the Salmon & Trout Association has been chairman of the World Championship committee on which all the bodies involved have been represented including the NFA, represented by its President, Joe Betteridge, the National Anglers' Council represented by its Director, Peter Tombleson, The Salmon & Trout Association, additionally represented by its Director, James Ferguson, and the Confederation of English Fly Fishers represented by its Chairman, Tom Bilson. The co-ordinator of the championship is Tony Pawson, the 1984 World Champion.

Jos Kleinbauer, President of FIPS-ed, (Federation Internationale De La Pêche Sportive En Eau Douce).

Additions to the Fishing Sub-Committee, chaired by Tom Bilson, were: P. Buckland-Large, V. Church, G. Clarkson, G. Denholm, P. Hawes, D. Lloyd, H. Lowe, Mrs M. Vaux and Mrs A. Voss Bark.

In addition, M. Childs chaired the Finance and Transport Committees with the assistance of J. Hedges and J. Parkman. The Publicity Committee was assisted by D. Wilson, E. C. Lincoln and P. Gathercole.

The Championship Committee is particularly indebted to The Sports Council and National Westminster Bank, whose support has been essential to the staging of this event.



Northampton - our host Town

Playing host to the team competition is the bustling market town of Northampton, famed for the manufacture of stylish quality footwear and for its ironstone industry. Northampton is renowned for its beautiful churches, attractive parks, open spaces and for its sports and recreational amenities — which include the huge Derngate complex where every conceivable recreational facility is provided for the people of the town and county. Northampton is ideally located for the championship, lying on the third point of a triangle, with Rutland at the apex and Grafham Water to the east, some 12 miles distant. During their four nights stay, competitors will enjoy the comforts and the fine English cuisine of the picturesque Moat House Hotel.

The official opening ceremony of the VIIth World Fly Fishing Championship will be staged at Northampton Town Hall on Friday May 22. The team competition prize giving dinner will be held at the Moat House on Sunday May 24. On Monday the whole contingent moves south to Winchester for the competition to determine the individual champion.

The Welsh House, Northampton. Better known, perhaps, as Viv Church's china shop.

Our Generous Benefactors — One and All!

Actions speak louder than words! In the case of our sponsors they were quick to act and their generous response makes them, in our eyes, benefactors of special distinction. We thank them all equally for helping to make the VII World Fly Fishing Championship a memorable event in the international angling calendar.

The Sports Council came early to our aid with a substantial grant to enable the costly process of planning and financing the championship to begin.

National Westminster Bank underlined their position as one of the nation's leading patrons of sport (as well as of the arts), by promptly opting to become our principal commercial sponsor, with a munificent donation to cover staging costs and expenses.

We are no less grateful to those who gave in kind, particularly the water authorities, Anglian and Southern, coupled with the names of Jim Warren, lessee of Grafham, Roger Thorn of Rutland, Barbara Holland of Avington and Arthur Humbert for the use of his River Test water at Kimbridge.

Our special thanks to Southern Water Authority for the European Open at Bewl Water on April 25 — as a prelude to the world championship. A special vote of thanks to our driver/guides, boatmen and controllers.

Many trophies and prizes have been contributed by tackle firms, notable among them being Bruce & Walker, who put up eight rods, Partridge of Redditch for their special cane rod, Leeda Tackle for their Dragonfly 100 reel, Bob Godfrey and Alan Pearson for the Vicarage Spinney Trophy, The Rod Box of Winchester, East Anglian Rod Company, Highland Flies of Singapore, Vivian Church, Farlows of Pall Mall and newcomers to fishing, John Dewar, for their Dewars International Overseas Top Team Award and Findlater, Mackie Todd for their trophies.

Receiving and transporting so large a group would have cost a small fortune but for the generosity of Volvo's UK Concessionaires, Kirkby Central Ltd and Freight Rover. We are truly indebted to them.

Hospitality is likewise a major expense, but again we have received lavish support from Ruddles, Whitbread, Dewars, Champagne Henriot, Dry Fly and our host hotels who assisted with low cost quality accommodation and contributed prizes for use at our discretion.

The social atmosphere of the championship and the manner in which competitors and organisers were received, is a tribute to timeless Civic style and a sense of occasion — as conveyed by Northampton and Winchester Town Councils. Their warm reception and hospitality will provide enduring memories.

So, with apologies to anyone inadvertently overlooked, here is the list of championship benefactors at the time of going to press.

Anglia Building Society (advertisement)
Anglian Water Authority (trophy/assistance)
Avery, W & T Ltd (weighing scales)
Avington Trout Fishery (fishing)
British Telecom (mobile communications)
Teddy Brookes of Matrix Financial Strategies (prize medallions)
Bruce & Walker (eight prize rods)
Ray Cannon (flies and old tackle exhibits)
Cave & Sons (advertisement/assistance)
Champagne Henriot (gifts of champagne)
Vivian Church (assistance)
John Dewar (trophy/travel award)
East Anglian Rod Company (a rod)
Farlows of Pall Mall (gift vouchers)
Findlater, Mackie Todd & Co (Dry Fly sherry and individual trophies)
Freight Rover (vehicles)
Gilders of Northampton (fishing tackle display)
Bob Godfrey and Alan Pearson (Vicarage Spinney Trophy)
Highland Flies (S) Pte. Ltd (Mayflies)
Mr & Mrs Arthur Humbert (hospitality at Kimbridge and River Test beats)
Jolcey Agricultural Services (translation services)
Kirkby Central Ltd (vehicles)
Leeda Tackle Ltd (Dragonfly 100 reel)
Leicester Fly Fishers (fishing videos)
Light Division Band (entertainment)
David Moore of Anglian Water (for site organisation)
National Westminster Bank (principal sponsors)
John (Nic) Nicholson (fly markers)
Northampton Town Council (hospitality)
Orvis UK (tackle)
Partridge of Redditch (special cane rod)
Piscators (Grafham Water Ltd) (facilities/fishing)
The Rod Box (tackle/fishing arrangements)
Royal Hotel, Winchester (trophy/assistance)
G Ruddle & Company PLC (assistance via British Open)
Rutland Water (facilities/fishing)
Grisham Smith (trophy)
Southern Water Authority (assistance via European Open, Bowl)
The Sports Council (grant-in-aid)
GB Textiles (team clothing)
Volvo Concessionaires (vehicles)
Richard Wheatley & Son (fly boxes)
Whitbread Westward Inns (drinks at Mayfly Inn)
Wilcon Homes Ltd (advertisement)
Winchester City Council (hospitality)
Women's Transport Service (F.A.N.Y.) (interpreters)

Charles Jardine

Prints of another commemorative picture by Charles Jardine are available on request from Tony Pawson, Manor House, Chilcomb, Hampshire.

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The new Hexagraph models are superior in so many ways to tubular rods —

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- *They shoot line with greater ease*
- *They dominate a fish in play*
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ALMOST PERFECT

Brian just four points off maximum best

BRIAN LEADBETTER led an English grand slam at the World Fly Fishing Championships by winning both days.

Brian had the team's top catch then clinched the individual title by winning on the River Test and finishing third at Avington.

This gave him just six penalty points, the minimum possible being four.

Brian tempted 11 fish from the River Test at Kimbridge using a Mayfly imitation and then caught a further ten fish at Avington using shrimp fly and corixa patterns.

Chris Ogborne was second with wins at Grafham and Avington, fifth at Rutland and sixth on the River Test to amass 13 penalty points.

England regular Bob Church was third on 15 points with second place on Avington and Grafham, fourth at Rutland and seventh on the Test. Dennis Buck made it four in a row for England with 21 points.

Dave McLellan of New Zealand was fifth with 21 penalty points, but an inferior fish points score.

Brian Leadbetter, 40 described the result as 'marvellous.' 'I didn't dream I would end up as champion, competing against the best in the world. I had just intended to be a helpful part of a successful team,' he said.

'Avington was the venue I was most worried about before the series started but once I had three wins I knew all I had to do was hold my own at Avington on the last day and the title would be mine,' he added.

Northampton's Bob Church bagged these trout to help England to the title

Only one hitch

THE matches attracted the largest number of countries to ever fish plus an American observer.

It is hoped the USA will enter a team soon, possibly in Australia next year.

Although organiser Tony Pawson was disappointed that British television did not film the event, thanks to the efforts of Norway's Thorbjorn Tufte, the Norwegian Television Service have covered the matches.

The only hitch came when competitors who were not in the individual championships got lost on the third day when arrangements had been made for them to fish on other venues.

The team contest was determined in the boats at Grafham and Rutland Reservoirs, with each member drawing for venue and fishing the other venue on the second day.

Once the team event had been settled, the best 32 individuals battled it out at Avington and the River Test.

How points worked

THE Championship was decided by a penalty point system, similar to that used in the coarse fishing World Championships.

This means the winner of any event was given one point, the runner-up two working down the placings.

Each fish was awarded 100 points plus one point for every gramme, up to a maximum of 2,000 points – a maximum of 2,100 points for each fish.

Cheers from the champs! England celebrate their World victory

Awash on Rutland during the team event

FULL RESULT

TEAMS

1. ENGLAND 85,330 pts
2. Australia 41,355
3. New Zealand 27,815

Others: Wales 23,235; Poland 22,765; France 21,830; Finland 21,555; Ireland 18,890; Scotland 18,700; Czechoslovakia 17,960; Italy 17,525; Luxembourg; 17,365; Canada 16,920; Belgium 15,915; Norway 12,455; West Germany 10,755; Spain 9,535; Rumania 7,355; Kenya 6,640.

Individuals

Day Three: (Avington) Chris Ogborne (England) 16,425; Bob Church (England) 12,115; G. Gaillard (France) 9,925; (Test) Brian Leadbetter (England) 9,970; Dennis Buck (England) 7,335; John Pawson (England) 6,690

Day Four (Avington) John Pawson (England) 17,390; R Capisano (Italy) 10,275; Brian Leadbetter (England) 10,210. River Test. Dave McLellan (New Zealand) 10,190; Krzysztof Sasula (Poland) 8,575; N Nichiotti (Italy) 7,685.

Overall: Brian Leadbetter (England) 6 penalty points; Chris Ogborne (England) 13; Bob Church (England) 15; Dennis Buckley (England) 21; Dave McLellan (New Zealand) 21.

6/6/87

ENGLAND WALK IT

Trout squad live up to their promise

● WE are the champions! England team members celebrate their stunning victory.

STORY by ANTHONY HAWKSWELL

WORLD BEATERS! England stormed to a record-breaking victory in the World Flyfishing Championship at the weekend.

Led by hero Brian Leadbetter — winner of both his matches — favourites England turned on the style by clinching the title for the first time in their history with the biggest-ever points tally.

They doubled the score of their nearest rivals Australia, and took the top four individual places.

Bedford engineer Brian led the rout which saw the home side total an amazing 85,330 points compared to the 41,355 of their visitors from the other side of the globe.

The thrilling victory broke the stranglehold of the all-conquering Italians — winners for four of the last five years. They didn't find the Leicestershire and Cambridgeshire stillwaters to their liking and finished well down in eighth place.

Under the guidance of stalwart Moc Morgan Wales finished in fourth behind Australia and New Zealand, while Ireland was seventh.

Aussies defy the odds

FAIR DINKUM! Plucky Australia battled against all the odds to finish runners-up.

The team from 'Down Under' had to borrow tackle from other competitors when they found theirs was totally unsuitable for the vagaries of Rutland and Grafham.

And they had to overcome the setback of their non-fishing skipper John Sautelle (senior) being rushed to Peterborough District Hospital with heart problems.

His son John (junior), who finished ninth in the points overall, said: "My father fell ill while he was in a boat at Rutland on Saturday.

"Fortunately he's okay and was due to be released from hospital earlier this week.

"At 77 years old I think he'd drunk just a little bit too much whisky and it got to him!

"We are absolutely delighted to have finished runners-up because the type of fishing required at Rutland and Grafham is totally alien to us.

"For many team members it was the first time they had ever fished from a boat or with sunken line. It was a tremendous experience."

And while England's stunning success can be put down to teamwork and planning the campaign together, the Aussies didn't even enjoy that privilege.

"Most of us live about 3,000 miles apart so the first time we saw each other was when we boarded the plane for England," said lawyer John.

● ANGLING Times' trout expert Bob Church took this catch from Rutland to help England to a sensational victory in the World Flyfishing Championship.

TWO-DAY FULL TEAM RESULTS

TEAM: 1 England, 85,330 pts; 2 Australia, 41,355; 3 New Zealand, 27,815; 4 Wales, 23,235; 5 Poland 22,765; 6 France, 21,830; 7 Ireland, 18,890; 8 Italy, 17,525; 9 Canada, 16,920; 10 Czechoslovakia, 16,280; 11 Belgium, 15,915; 12 Scotland, 14,460; 13 Finland, 13,270; 14 Norway, 12,455; 15 Luxembourg, 11,490; 16 West Germany, 10,755; 17 Rumania, 7,355; 18 Kenya, 6,640; 19 Spain, 5,590.

Individual points: 1 B. Leadbetter, England, 24,580; 2 J. Pawson, England, 20,240; 3 C. Ogborne, England, 16,210; 4 B. Church, England, 13,385; 5 J. Rumf, Australia, 11,610; 6 T. Piggott, Australia, 11,095; 7 D. Buck, England, 10,915; 8 T. Enwistle, New Zealand, 10,365; 9 J. Sautelle (junior), Australia, 9,920; 10 A. Tondera, Poland, 9,475.

England double?

CAN England make it a team and individual double?

Don't miss our report and picture special on the World Flyfishing Individual Championship . . . in next week's Angling Times.

World Flyfishing championship

FIRST WIN AS ENGLAND ROMP HOME

ENGLAND lived up to their top billing to lift the World crown in style for the first time at Rutland and Grafham.

Non-fishing skipper Geoff Clarkson and his men were red-hot favourites to win and make the most of home advantage, but it was the margin of victory which was so amazing.

They provided the top four points scorers in Brian Leadbetter, John Pawson, Chris Ogborne and Bob Church. The other team member, Dennis Buck, was just three places behind in seventh!

Bedford engineer Brian Leadbetter — winner of both his matches on the Leicestershire and Cambridgeshire waters — admitted: "It was an incredible team performance.

"We've put in a lot of hard work and intensive practice and it's paid dividends."

Brian went into the individual series — being fished this week on the River Test and Hampshire's Avington Fishery — in pole position following two brilliant displays.

On the first day at Rutland the 40-year-old took top place with 36 rainbows and then repeated the feat at neighbouring Grafham with a six-trout catch.

"I still can't believe it."

A former Benson and Hedges Champion on Rutland, Brian drew the North Arm on the first day and immediately knew he was in with a chance of a big catch.

"I had practised there a few days before with Bob Church and we had taken a lot of fish," he said.

"I couldn't believe it when all the other boats who had drawn the same area headed for Normanton Church. We went towards the transformers and had the area all to ourselves."

Drifting between 10 yards and 80 yards from the bank with a Peach Doll on a Peter Drennan size 12 Wetfly Supreme hook Brian picked off his matchwinning catch with ease.

And although conditions were much more difficult the following day at Grafham, Brian continued his incredible form by taking six trout to top the individual stakes once more and amass a total of 24,580 points.

"Conditions at Grafham were extremely difficult. The wind made fishing very awkward," added Brian, who fished a Peach Doll and Stickfly in Church Cove off the Sludge Lagoons.

Angling Times trout expert Bob Church described England's stunning victory as an 'annihilation'.

"The team selection process for the World Championship has come under fire from certain people, but this proves it is the right way to pick the side."

● BEDFORD engineer Brian Leadbetter got England off to a flying start in the World Flyfishing Championship with this 36 trout haul from Rutland.

England

Dennis Buck, Bob Church, Brian Leadbetter, Chris Ogborne, John Pawson, Geoff Clarkson (captain), Brian Thomas (reserve) & Bob Morey (stand-by reserve).

1. England	85,330 pts
2. Australia	41,355 pts
3. New Zealand	27,815 pts
4. Wales	23,235 pts
5. Poland	22,765 pts
6. France	21,830 pts
7. Ireland	18,890 pts
8. Italy	17,525 pts
9. Luxembourg	17,365 pts
10.Canada	16,920 pts
11.Belgium	15,915 pts
12.Norway	12,455 pts
13.West Germany	10,755 pts
14.Spain	9,535 pts
15.Rumania	7,355pts
16.Kenya	6,640 pts

Individuals:

1. Brian Leadbetter *(England)*	24,580 pts
2. John Pawson *(England)*	20,240 pts
3. Chris Ogborne *(England)*	16,210 pts
4. Bob Church *(England)*	13,385 pts
5. J. Ramf *(Australia)*	11,610 pts
6. T. Piggott *(Australia)*	11,095 pts
7. Dennis Buck *(England)*	10,915 pts
8. T. Entwhistle *(New Zealand)*	10,365 pts

DAZZLING ENGLAND

WORLD FLYFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP 1987

Home side thrash the world in both team and individual championship

Report: STEVE WINDSOR
Pictures: PETER GATHERCOLE

AS EXPECTED England crushed the opposition in the team section the World Championships, fished at Rutland and Grafham — but there was so much more to their victory than meets the eye.

For it was preparation and practise that characterised this England win, powerfully coached and controlled by non-fishing skipper Geoff Clarkson who first assembled his team more than a year ago for a look at the venues, then led them through more than a month's practise sessions at both venues prior to the event. So comprehensive was the resulting victory for the Anglian Water Trophy that we may have entered a new era in match fishing.

The great justification for all the preparation came for Geoff on day one at Rutland. Having thoroughly covered the water, his team discovered a vast pocket of fish down Rutland's unfanciedNorth Arm below Armley Wood. The English boat that found the fish had just two drifts and left them. As the boats set out at Rutland on that first day, just two boats set off down the North, with John Pawson and Brian Leadbetter in them, and the match was as good as won.

In the afterglow of success, Chris Ogborne who topped the first day Grafham weights, told me: "We should now reconsider our team approach to the home internationals in the light of this result."

Chris has every cause to be grateful to the team training, having had the chance to relearn his approach, and master new sinking line techniques that also brought him success in his Bristol team's Wimbleball B&H heat. Floating line fanatic Chris summed it up: "Let's just say that I'm in serious danger of enjoying sunk line fishing now".

Pooling of ideas in the powerful squad came up with a revolutionary technique, which relied on a virtually non-existent retrieve to fish a team of flies on a sunk line through exactly the right depth.

No actual retrieve was made after the cast, the line merely being taken up as the boat drifted in an attempt to hold the flies at the proper depth, before lifting. Takes were seen visually, not felt, and in mastering the system, England's outstanding angler was Brian Leadbetter, who to stay in touch with the shoals used no less than six different lines during his Rutland triumph. Brian topped his first day at Rutland, with no less than 36 fish taken on Church Fry, Peach Doll, and other patterns — closely followed by John Pawson with 31. Over at Grafham, Chris Ogborne took 17 trout on a Green Tag Stick and a White Sedge and Bob Church 12 on Zulu and a sparkle orange Baby Doll for England to claim all four top places. Dennis Buck took six fish at Grafham.

Brian then returned to his regular venue, and topped the rods at Grafham, too, with six fish the following day.

The result left England cruising out in front, and guaranteed all five of the team a place in the 32 man individual event. With all four days competition counting Brian was way out in front with just two penalty points, followed by Bob Church and Chris Ogborne on six, Australian John Rumpf and New Zealand's Tony Entwistle on eight and Dennis Buck on nine after he won his second day at Rutland. John Pawson had 17 points after slumping to 15th on Grafham.

The team placings for second and third brought some surprises. Australia had been hotly tipped to do well, but no one could have suspected their second place in the team competition — beating the other three home nations out of sight. This was in spite of losing their non-fishing skipper John Sautelle senior down to Peterborough Hospital with a spot of heart trouble. John recovered sufficiently to join his team in Winchester's Guild Hall on Wednesday night, but meanwhile his team were wreaking havoc with the form book.

One of their successful individuals was John Rumpf who told me:

"We had a lot of help from Alan Pearson and Peter Thomas, and in addition we had a fisheries expert in the team in the shape of our Tasmanian, Dr Rob Sloane. He had some pretty accurate ideas about the behaviour of stockies, and where to find them. I discovered when I fished with John Pawson that we had similar ideas to the English lads, and on our day at Rutland, I felt I really should have had more fish than John as I missed a lot of takes.

"We're all pretty good casters, which helped, but we've never fished from boats before, and most of our Australian fishing is visual, casting to fish seen. I didn't use Australian flies, having picked up on your patterns, like the Silver Invicta and the Church Fry. We also had to borrow long rods, as we had nothing over nine feet. Remember this is purely an invitational side put together through the auspices of our Freshwater Fisherman's Assembly."

Acting skipper John Sautelle junior added:

"It's been an advantage speaking the language. We've had to throw away a lot of our ideas about trout fishing, and the ability to adapt has been great strength. Of course we've read English books and magazines, including *Trout Fisherman*, but most of us were sceptical for instance about tetms of three flies. Now we know it works."

Third placed New Zealand drew a huge cheer when they announced: "If you have to be beaten it's nice to lose to the host country and one of our offshore islands . . ."

Best fish of the team championship was this superb 4½lb rainbow taken by Irish competitor Dick Willis at Grafham Water with one minute to go.

THE THINGS THEY SAID . . .

Brian Leadbetter, new World Champion . . .
"I've just remembered — there have been two World Champions from England, myself and Tony Pawson — and we qualified to fish for England for the first time on the same day, in the same boat, at Chew . . .

"I couldn't have done this without the help and support of the rest of the team, and we mustn't forget the part played by reserves Brian Thomas and Bob Morey."

Joe Betteridge, retiring President of the NFA, through whom the invitation from CIPS to host the event came. He handed it onto the Salmon and Trout Association and the Confederation . . .
"This is the best organised World Championship I've ever been involved with. The hospitality is superb, and I'm particularly proud to have been President when two English teams — coarse and fly — took both individual and team prizes at a World Championship."

Chris Ogborne, second overall . . .
"We said that we'd continue our close team ties into the individual — that's exactly what has happened, and to the end, we've shared flies and tactics . . ."

Dick Willis, 29th overall for Ireland . . .
"On Tuesday morning on the Test, I drove a Mayfly pattern into my finger. There was no time to stop so I left it in. Every time I cast the line caught on it, which was agonising. Moc Morgan removed it for me at lunchtime . . .

"I hooked a 4½lb rainbow with my very last cast at Grafham as Bob Church was about to start the motor. What a superb fish! I really wondered if I'd got a salmon."

Unnamed Irishman coming off the Test on Tuesday lunchtime . . .
"If the fishing's this good on the other side, I'm booking the next bus . . ."

Bob Church, third overall, commenting on his afternoon session on the Test . . .
"I had a gallery behind me on the lawn, and this brought out the showman in me, so I fished much better. I got a lovely near 3lb brown on a Grey Wulff."

Don McLellan, top overseas rod from New Zealand . . .
"The fellah on the next beat to me got his fly stuck in a tree. As I watched he walked across the water and fetched it. 'Who is this fellah?' I asked my ghillie, 'is it Bob Church?'

'No' said the ghillie,' it's God — he just thinks he's Bob Church . . .' "

David Swatland, Chairman of the Salmon and Trout Association . . .
"We are here because our wives have made it possible. Let us pay tribute to them, where would we be without them?

"Fishing," said a voice from the floor.

John Sautelle senior, from behind an oxygen mask on Saturday night . . .
"Get out there and beat those Pommie bastards . . ."

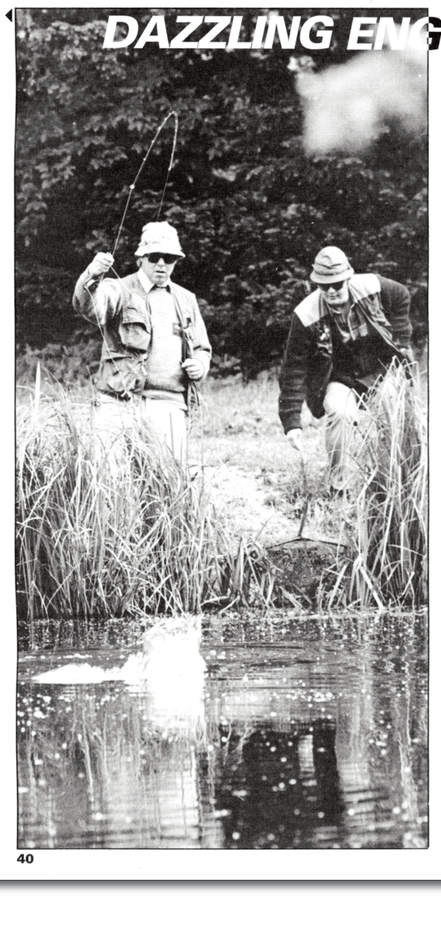
Brian Leadbetter . . .
"I've had 63 trout this week. Of those, I felt a pull from just seven . . ."

Moc Morgan . . .
"After seeing so many dead fish this week I hope the Welsh World Championship in four years time will be a no-kill contest."

England's John Pawson nets another stockie in F

nd's North Arm on his way to a second-place 31 fish.

Celebration time for the England squad as they collect the lion's share of the trophies at the Northampton aftermatch dinner, including the winning team's Anglian Trophy. (left to right) Bob Morey, Brian Thomas (both reserves), John Pawson, Geoff Clarkson (non-fishing captain), Chris Ogborne, Brian Leadbetter, Bob Church and Dennis Buck.



DAZZLING ENGLAND

AND SO to Winchester, an historic and traditional setting for angling, with 32 individuals poised to take on the Test at Kimbridge and Avington. Two sessions on two beats on the Test saw a large element of luck entering proceedings as competitors drew for position. At Avington a pegging and sessions system was in force.

On the Test, the mayfly were up, and on the Tuesday it was that man again, as Brian Leadbetter took 11 fish and first place on a variety of mayflies, including Charles Jardine patterns. The Silhouette Mayfly, Shadow Mayfly, Flyline Extended Body Mayfly and the Grey Wulff all scored for Brian, putting him in an almost unbeatable position. Brian had been working away from home and paid tribute to his hotel, the Crown at Everleigh, whose Avon beats had provided him with practise galore.

"I don't find dry fly too tough", he told me. "It's not unlike allowing fish to turn down with a top dropper on the reservoir."

Dennis Buck was second to Brian with eight fish, while John Pawson's nine brought him third on the Test beats. Over at Avington, Chris Ogborne pipped Bob Church by three fish. Throughout the contest, fish over 4½lb counted only as a maximum weight of 4½lb, and Bob's eight-pound-plus Avington rainbow was one victim.

Chris Ogborne had found a deadly fly, a Hare's Ear shrimp, and Brian took all his fish at Avington on it. But John Pawson was to excel on day two at Avington, with first place. Brian's fourth was inevitably enough for the championship. Over on the Test Chris Ogborne managed sixth, and Bob Church, who had a frustrating morning returning over 30 fish that were just under the 36cms rainbow limit, lifted his afternoon form for seventh spot.

What happened to the Aussies, widely fancied in the individuals for their river and visual fishing skills? Nineth placed John Sautelle junior commented:

"Strangely enough we were not too well prepared. I had just one Mayfly pattern, and I lost it early in the morning in a tree. Put it down to four hours sleep

Chris Ogborne on his way to another victory . . . this time at Avington when he took seven trout from the favoured deep hole on the first lake in the first 20-minute session of the individual championships. Chris was to finish second individual.

a night for 14 days, or to a slump after getting up for the team performance, but we just didn't put it together."

And so it was Brian Leadbetter's trophy. At the ceremony at the Winchester Guildhall he accepted the Findlaters Trophy, a limited edition split cane Partridge rod worth over £500, and Farlows tackle voucher. Chris Ogborne was second; Bob Church third, (Bob has kindly donated part of his prize for a Trout Fisherman contest); Dennis Buck was fourth, New Zealander Don McLellan fifth and John Pawson sixth.

Tributes were made to the many sponsors, the Sports Council; Nat West Bank; Findlaters; Dewars (whose Pipe Major Willie Cochran piped the event throughout); Volvo; Freight Rover; the Humberts who gave the Test beats; Mrs Holland at Avington; and innumerable other sponsors.

This was the week that World competition in fly fishing came of age. The next event will be in Tasmania in November 1988, for wild fish, and from the shore — a different kettle of fish.

Brian Leadbetter, the New World Flyfishing Champion, steals a kiss from the glamorous Luciana Lynch, commercial director for Findlater, as she presents Brian with the winner's Dry Fly Sherry Trophy.

Whoops . . . our Bob takes a tumble on the Test as he lands a three-pound brownie after a frustrating morning landing undersized rainbows from a deep hole.

Bob Church knows Avington from old, so he was able to winkle out this 8lb 6oz rainbow on an orange palmered nymph from a difficult swim to finish second behind Chris Ogborne.

RESULTS

Team championships (Points scored 100 per fish, one point per gram up to 2 kilos per fish.) 1. **England,** 85,330; 2. **Australia,** 41,350; 3. **New Zealand,** 27,815; 4. **Wales,** 23,235; 5. **Poland,** 22,765; 6. **France,** 21,830; 7. **Ireland,** 18,890; 8. **Italy,** 17,525; 9. **Canada,** 16,920; 10. **Czechoslovakia,** 16,280; 11. **Belgium,** 15,915; 12. **Scotland,** 14,460; 13. **Finland,** 13,270; 14. **Norway,** 12,455; 15. **Luxemburg,** 11,490; 16. **West Germany,** 10,755; 17. **Rumania,** 7,355; 18. **Kenya,** 6,640; 19 **Spain,** 5,590.

Individual Championships (Lowest score wins, one point for first, two for second etc, cut to 32 on day three.)
First: **Brian Leadbetter:** 1 + 1 + 1 + 4 = 7; Second: **Chris Ogborne:** 1 + 5 + 1 + 6 = 13; Third: **Bob Church:** 2 + 4 + 2 + 7 = 15; Fourth: **Dennis Buck:** 8 + 1 + 2 + 9 = 20; Fifth: **Don McLellan,** (N.Z.): 6 + 8 + 5 + 1 = 20; Sixth: **John Pawson,** 2 + 15 + 3 + 1 = 21; Seventh: **Tony Piggott** (Aus): 9 + 3 + 7 + 8 = 27; Eighth: **Moc Morgan** (Wales): 6 + 7 + 4 + 10 = 27 (fewer fish); Ninth: **John Sautelle** (Aus): 3 + 7 + 11 + 7 = 28; Tenth: **Tony Entwistle** (N.Z): 3 + 5 + 12 + 9 = 29; 11. **J. Gaillard** (France); 12. **A. Tondera** (Pol); 13. **John Ranupf** (Aus); 14. **R. Hanizet** (France); 15. **N. Capisano** (Italy); 16. **R. Lanser** (Lux); 17. **S. Suoboda** (Czech); 18. **V. Aulti** (Finland); 19. **J. Lemmer** (Belgium); 20. **J. Boyko** (France), **J. O'Malley** (Ireland); 22. **K. Sasula,** Poland; 23. **A. Meleta** (Poland); 24. **J. Miller** (Scot); 25. **M. Oliver** (N.Z); 26. **N. Nicchiotti** (Italy); 27. **P. Heirskanen** (Fin); 28. **G. Stock** (W. Germany); 29. **R. Willis** (Ireland); 30. **J. Eisner** (Czech); 31. **M. Lamout** (Ireland); 32. **R. Jones**(Wales).

■ **CELEBRATING . . . Six of the England squad that swept the board in the world championship reservoir section six at Rutland Water share the champagne. From left: Bob Moray, Bob Church, Geoff Clarkson (capt), Chris Ogborne, Brian Thomas and Dennis Buck.**

Brian is England's ace

ENGLAND followed up their domination of the World Fly Fishing Team Championships with an even more commanding performance when the individual series was held down south.

They took the top four places in the championships at Rutland and Grafham and, when the scene switched to the Test and Avington lakes, occupied five of the six leading places.

New Zealander David McLellan prevented a clean sweep by landing fifth place but no-one could stop Brian Leadbetter of Bedford stealing the show — winning his match on the Test to make it a hat-trick of victories and then coming third at Avington.

He had taken 52 trout in the early contests — including 36 in one session at Rutland — with fish falling to a peach baby doll on the northern reservoirs and a leaded nymph at Avington.

Northampton's Bob Church, who was in fourth spot after the reservoir contest, also kept up the pressure to finish third overall.

As expected, mayfly played a big part in catches on the Test and McLellan tied his successful patterns in his hotel just before the match.

This was England's first win in the championship which have been running for seven years although Tony Pawson, father of John who did so well this time, was the individual champion in Spain two years ago.

Manager was Tom Bilson from Moulton who is now retiring from the position.

Results: **Test** — D McLellan (New Zealand) 10,190 points, K Sasula (Poland) 8575, N Nichiotti (Italy) 7685; **Avington** — John Pawson 17,390, R Capisana (Italy) 10,275, Brian Leadbetter 10,210.

Overall points: Brian Leadbetter 6, Chris Ogborne 13, Bob Church 15, Dennis Buck 20, David McLellan 20, John Pawson 21.

TOP OF THE WORLD

England's triumph in the 1987 world championships was not unexpected, but the margin by which they won was spectacular.

***PETER GATHERCOLE** reports*

MIRRORING THE INCREASE in British competitive fly-fishing, it seemed appropriate that the seventh World Flyfishing Championship, which was fished on English waters, should see the largest number of teams entering in the event's history.

Twenty-one nations took part from places as diverse as Zambia and Norway as well as the more traditional European countries. Other notable first-timers included Australia, New Zealand and Canada, making 1987 a truly international year.

The competition was divided into two sections. The first, the team event, was to be fished over May 23 and 24 from boats on Rutland and Grafham Water. Due to the large number of anglers, each five-man team was also divided into two, so that three would fish one water on the first day and two the other, swapping over on day two. If that sounds complicated the execution went without a hitch — particularly from England's point of view. Obviously as home team England were favourites to take the title, though few could have predicted their huge margin of success.

Day one saw Chris Ogborne, Bob Church and Dennis Buck fishing Grafham, with Brian Leadbetter and John Pawson on Rutland. Fishing conditions were favourable with a good wave and overcast skies, though early-morning drizzle made the 10am start less than comfortable. At Rutland boats concentrated around the known "hotspots" including the Normanton shore, and by early afternoon catches were being reported as "steady", with plenty of three- and four-fish bags. Grafham, due in part to coloured water, was proving a harder proposition, though catches were still fair.

Top boat carried England's Bob Church and Ireland's Dick Willis, who boated 21 fish between them, including the best fish so far — a 4 lb rainbow taken by Dick Willis. Most of the fish, including the "last cast" big one, came from the shallows off the Sludge Lagoon.

New world champion Brian Leadbetter receives the Dry Fly trophy from Luciana Lynch, marketing director of Findlaters.

Back at Rutland, away from the throng the eventual winners on day one had slipped off to the bottom of the North Arm. Pre-match practice had found large concentrations of fish on the peninsula shore of the arm and here Brian Leadbetter's and John Pawson's boats could be found steadily picking up fish. Using a combination of Peach Baby Doll and Old Nick fished on lines ranging between lead impregnated and intermediate, (Brian changed lines six times during the day!) Brian and John produced a superb team performance, taking 36 and 31 fish respectively. With Chris Ogborne on 17, Bob Church on 12 and Dennis Buck with six at Grafham, England were to take an all-but-unassailable 32,000-point lead into day two.

As could be expected, day two was more difficult. With news of the big catches at Rutland filtering through, the bottom of the North Arm was besieged. Conditions were still good if a little rougher, but catches dropped considerably, Dennis Buck taking first place at Rutland with 12 fish and the ever-consistent Brian Leadbetter grabbing similar position with six fish at Grafham.

With England members taking the top places on both days victory was assured, though no one could have predicted the massive 40,000-point margin, just as few would have forecast that second place would go to the popular Australians, who fished tremendously in a style not familiar to them before the championship. Not to be outdone, New Zealand pipped Wales for third place, with the Poles coming fifth.

So to the individual stage of the competition, in which the top 32 anglers over the team days went through to fish on Avington and the River Test. With all five of the England team through to the individuals it meant Chris Ogborne and Bob Church on Avington, with Dennis Buck, Brian Leadbetter and John Pawson on the Test. Fishing on the Test was due to the kindness of Mr and Mrs Arthur Humbert of the Kimbridge fisheries and, with the beginnings of the Mayfly season in progress, sport was assured.

At Avington, with its clear water and big fish, leaded nymphs were very much the order of the day. To make it fair, the three lakes were split into mini beats and rotated every 20 minutes. Chris Ogborne drew bottom beat of the first lake and took an early lead, landing seven fish, including a 14 lb brace on a leaded Hare's Ear nymph. After losing three good fish in this period, Bob Church's fortune changed before lunch, when he took 10 fish, best 8 lb 6 oz, to give him second place to Chris's 13-fish first.

At Kimbridge, England were faring almost as well. Among an early hatch of Mayfly the irrepressible Brian Leadbetter was well on his way to an 11-fish total taken on Shadow Mayfly, Silhouette Mayfly and Grey Wulff — an effort which was to give him first place yet again! Dennis Buck and John Pawson, in second and third places, did well enough to keep themselves right up there in the rankings. It was interesting to note that with fish coming well to the Mayfly many anglers used flies which were simply too small. As Mick Lunn, headkeeper of the prestigious Houghton Club, commented, "Once they've tasted the Mayfly you're wasting your time with small flies."

Even though Brian Leadbetter had taken first spot three times, the title of world champion was still to be secured. Chris Ogborne, in second place, was still in with a slim chance, though it meant Brian coming lower than fifth on the final day. After a slow start, due in part to a bad draw, Brian took fish consistently in all but the last two sessions at Avington. John Pawson, on the other hand, drew well, and was soon amassing a fine bag, though Dennis Buck, like Brian, was finding it hard going.

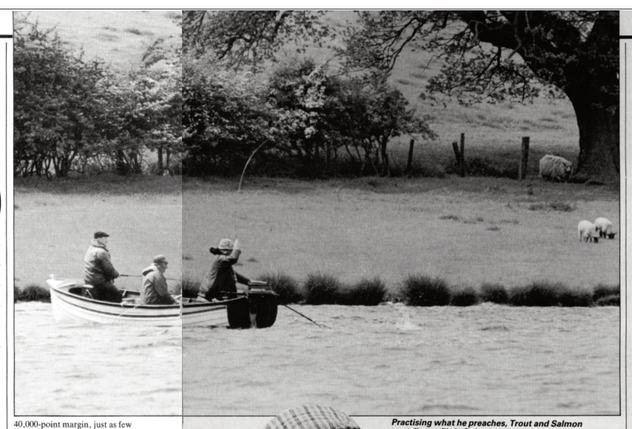
The Test, too, was causing the odd problem, particularly for Bob Church, who had the misfortune to draw a beat where the water was deep and held an inordinate number of small fish. Fishing dry, he took 30 fish in the morning session, all of which failed to beat the measure and had to be returned. Chris Ogborne fared better, fishing his morning in front of the marquee and landing four keepable fish.

As the afternoon session progressed, the final result unfolded. Chris Ogborne could produce only two more fish, though Bob Church after a blank morning landed five takeable fish including a brownie, a rainbow and three grayling to assure him of third spot overall. At Avington, Brian Leadbetter had secured the championship title. By casting a leaded Shrimp to cruising fish he brought his catch up to ten fish for third place on the day, being beaten only by Roberto Capisano of Italy and his own team member John Pawson, whose 13 fish made him the clear leader.

So there you have it. Obvious favourites, it's true, but England still did a magnificent job to produce such a resounding victory. Not only did they take the overall team title, but in the individuals they held first, second, third, fourth and sixth places with a five-man team. The only man to break the run was New Zealander David McLellan, who put up a superb performance in his first ever World Championship.

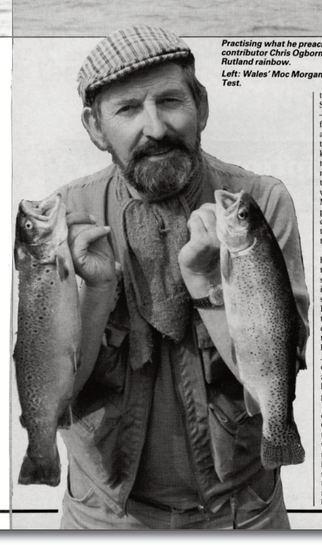
Congratulations, too, should go to Terry Piggott of Australia in sixth spot and Wales's own Moc Morgan, who managed an admirable eighth. But England weren't the only winners, for along with Australia and New Zealand, who came second and third, the sport of trout fishing came out on top. Even in competition the feeling of camaraderie among the teams, couriers, officials — in fact all those involved — was a credit.

Next year the competition will travel to the other side of the world — to Tasmania. It will be Australia's bicentenary so competitors can be assured of an extra special event as well as some fantastic trout fishing. It would perhaps be too much to ask for the English team to repeat their incredible performance, but it goes without saying that they will certainly give it their best.



Practising what he preaches, Trout and Salmon contributor Chris Ogborne slips the net under another Rutland rainbow.

Left: Wales' Moc Morgan with a mixed brace from the Test.



Results

Team event

1. England 85,330 pts. (B. Leadbetter 24,580; J. Pawson 20,240; C. Ogborne 16,210; R. Church 13,385; D. Buck 10,915); 2. Australia 41,355 pts; 3. New Zealand 27,815 pts; 4. Wales 23,235 pts; 5. Poland 22,765 pts; 6. France 21,830 pts; 7. Finland 21,555 pts; 8. Ireland 18,890 pts; 9. Scotland 18,700 pts; 10. Czechoslovakia 17,960 pts.

Individual event

1. B. Leadbetter (England); 2. C. Ogborne (England); 3. R. Church (England); 4. D. Buck (England); 5. D. McLellan (New Zealand); 6. J. Pawson (England); 7. T. Piggott (Australia); 8. M. Morgan (Wales); 9. J. Sautelle (Australia); 10. T. Entwistle (New Zealand).

● *ABOVE — Glory Boys! England's all conquering team proudly show off their hard-won silverware. In the picture are (from left): Dennis Buck, Bob Church, Brian Leadbetter, John Pawson and Chris Ogborne.*

20 things you never knew about ...

BRIAN LEADBETTER

1 WORLD champ Brian is a mean darts player . . . he once partnered top international Bob Anderson in a local competition and got as far as the semi-finals before being knocked out by Bob's fellow international Mike Gregory and partner.

2 THE Bedford-born angler is an engineer and spends his time repairing hangar doors at American air bases in the UK.

3 HIS favourite fly pattern is the Soldier Palmer.

4 HIS best-ever rainbow trout weighed 9½ lb and came from Kingfisher Lake, Deanshanger, Bucks.

5 THE 40-year-old fly fishing fanatic has a Virgo star sign and was born on September 15, 1946.

6 HE once partnered actor/comedian Bernard Cribbins in a fly fishing competition and they have since become great personal friends.

7 THE nature of his work means he spends a lot of time away from home and for the last two years he has lived in a pub — the Crown Hotel — at Everleigh, Wiltshire.

8 BRIAN hates selfishness in fly fishing. he doesn't like anglers who try and butt in on other anglers who've found some fish.

9 HIS best-ever brown trout weighed 5 lb 1 oz and came from his favourite venue — Grafham Water in Cambs.

10 HIS favourite style of fishing is loch style fly fishing and he loves Lough Conn in Ireland.

11 HIS ambition is to catch a good salmon and he likes to fish the River Tweed in Scotland.

12 DESPITE being on top of the fly fishing world, Brian hates to eat trout and gives his catches away to friends or charities.

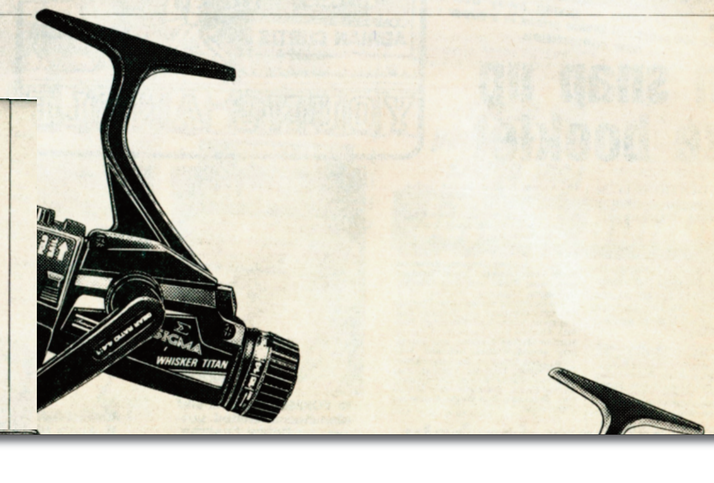
13 HE has been married for 21 years to wife Eileen and they have one daughter.

14 HIS World Championship victory has given him the most satisfaction during his angling career . . . and amazingly it was his first-ever World Championship.

BRIAN Leadbetter shot to fishing fame following his stunning success in last month's World Flyfishing Championship.

But what is the man, who won both his matches as England became number one in the world and then took the coveted World Flyfishing individual crown, really like?

● *JUST CHAMPION! Trout fishing ace Brian Leadbetter holds aloft the World Individual Flyfishing Championship trophy.*



ball player during his younger years playing centre-forward to United Counties League standards in Bedfordshire.

16 HE once challenged fellow England star Bob Church to a butter eating competition . . . and lost. Both consumed over ½ lb!

17 AFTER his World Championship success he offered his fly fishing waistcoat for auction at a charity fund raising event and it fetched £150!

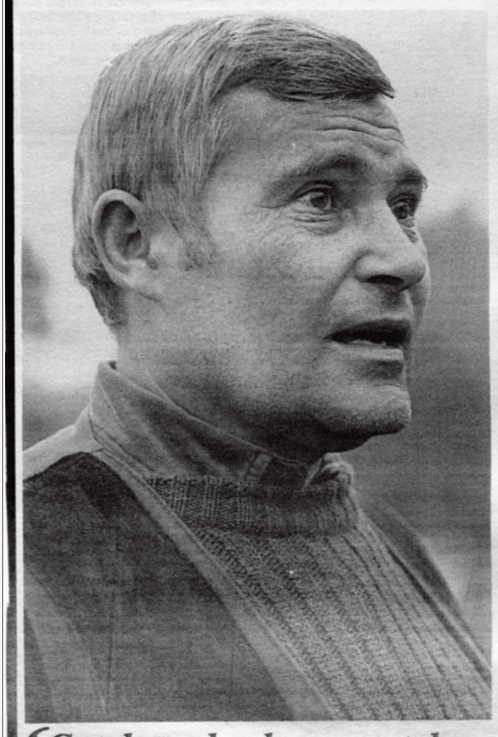
18 HIS first-ever trout weighed just 10 oz and was taken from Pitsford Water, Northants.

19 HE is also a mean coarse angler with pike to 27 lb. He once took three 20 lb carp from the same swim on the same day at a hard-fished water.

20 HIS fishing idols include the late Dick Walker and top fly angler Frank Sawyer.

Another exclusive interview

TIME FOR ... says



YOU'D think that Brian Leadbetter would be happy with his lot. Reigning World Flyfishing Champion and winner of two major European matches in the past year. Not bad for a chap who learned his trade as a coarse angler.

But everything's not rosy in the trout match garden as far as Brian is concerned. He has strong views on how events should be run and believes the sport needs a major rethink.

When he won the crown last year he hit 36 trout over the head. He didn't enjoy the "slaughter" but was conditioned by match rules to do it.

"It was obscene," recalls Brian. "Catching that many fish won me the world title but I had to kill the lot.

"To make matters worse I had to pose with a silly smile on my face with all those dead fish for the photogrpahers. Looking back, it took something away from the actual achievement of winning the trophy."

Simple answer

In Brian's view there's a simple answer to the problem, one which would not lead to any deterioration in trout fishing competitions.

"I want to see more catch-and-release matches," he said. "It would do the image of our sport a power of good.

"I don't think people have to kill their catch in competitions. A lot of the top flyfishers refuse to have their pictures taken with loads of dead fish lined up in front of them. I don't blame them.

"Catch-and-release is definitely the answer. It would help to protect the fish stocks for the locals who pay good money for their season and day tickets.

"I'm sure a lot of these anglers get annoyed if they've seen a match on their water and witnessed scores of fish being taken away.

"I personally do not eat trout and a lot of people I know are the same. It seems ridiculous when you have to give your catch away to friends and relations."

'Catch-and-release matches would help protect fish stocks' 25/5/88

with one of angling's leading personalities

A CHANGE

trout ace Brian Leadbetter

Brian pulls no punches when he's got something to say. His no-nonsense attitude is bound to make a few people in the trout world sit up and take notice.

Many of his friends and competitors at the top end of the trout match scene share his views but are afraid to upset the applecart.

"Whether people take my advice, which I know is good for the sport, is another matter.

"But things are moving in the right direction with several fisheries holding catch-and-release matches this year. At my own water, Grafham, we have a contest planned for September.

"I can see no reason why every fishery in the country can't do it this way."

Brian is modest about his success and reveals there are no hidden secrets behind his rise to the top.

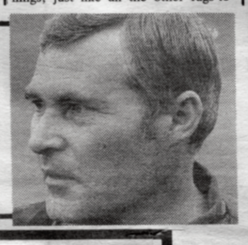
Mind you, the 41-year-old from Bedford believes that his coarse fishing background helped him achieve his trout fishing goals.

"The day before the last national on Rutland three years ago, I went to a lake near Bedford and caught three 20 lb-plus carp. People thought I was barmy to approach a big match like that," he says.

"I felt it was the best way to prepare. I just fancied doing a bit of carp fishing instead of practising on Rutland. It meant I was in the best frame of mind for the big day.

"Sometimes my best results are achieved by not practising on fisheries near the match day. It works for me but probably wouldn't for others.

'Things are moving in the right direction'



An audience with the Pope

Angling Times' editor Neil Pope tracks down World Flyfishing Champion Brian Leadbetter . . . and in a face-to-face interview discovers that the trout genius reckons it's time the match scene moved on . . .

"I still enjoy coarse fishing. In fact two years ago I went back to entering club events and opens, and won eight out of 13 matches."

So how did it all begin for Brian Leadbetter? He had humble beginnings, just like all the other rags-to-riches stories.

Brian remembers his grandad taking him on the back of his bike from his home to the Great Ouse a quarter-of-a-mile away. His passion for the sport grew from there.

"I had some great times in those early days. I've had some since. Coarse fishing teaches you much about fish habits and watercraft, and you never lose that knowledge.

"There's no doubt the things I learned in those early days helped me to become a good flyfisher."

His introduction to "spotties" came when Grafham Water opened 20 years ago. But this first foray into trout fishing was disastrous and would have deterred most anglers from continuing.

In the first season he caught nothing in five visits and then the next year, during the coarse close-season, he managed to land one.

Watching Brian in those early days, you wouldn't have pictured him as a world champion. But his will to win was ingrained in his personality and he was determined to master this new art.

"A guy called Ron Saint, who fished for England, was a big encouragement and he told me to get into competition fishing.

"I got through to my first national in 1978 and shared a boat with Tony Pawson." He's never looked back since.

Over the past few years he's developed a style that is both simple and effective.

"I've just been able to capitalise on the opportunities I've had. When you get on feeding fish you must make the most of it.

"A lot of flyfishermen get sidetracked. They look round and see a bending rod and panic. They try to copy others as opposed to doing their own thing.

"Remember you must treat trout as stocked fish. Don't credit them with too much intelligence.

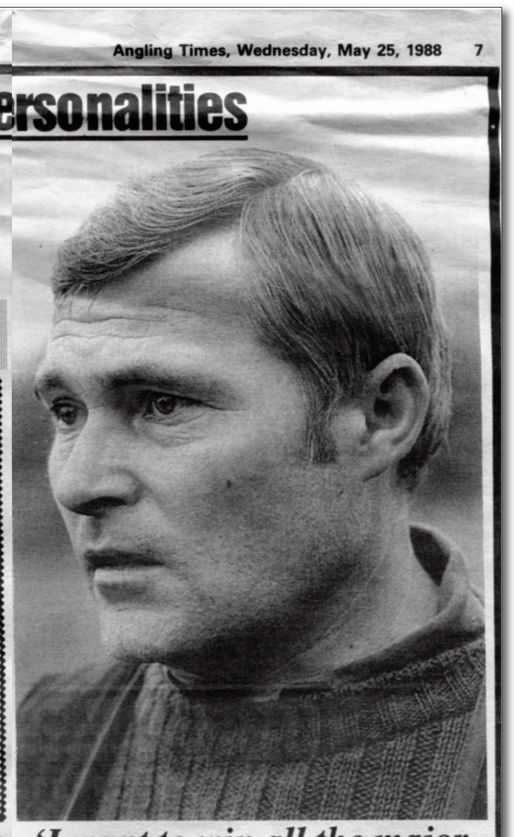
"I keep it simple. I don't believe in making life complicated. Presentation is much more important than choice of fly.

"Obviously there are other things to take into consideration and these come with experience. But far too many anglers make it difficult for themselves."

Brian has one ambition left in life . . . to win all his major trophies again . . . on a catch-and-release basis!

Will anyone out there stop him? We shall see.

'Coarse fishing has helped me to become a top flyfisher'



'I want to win all the major titles again' 25/5/88

Don't miss next week's face-to-face interview