



England  
Chris Howitt (captain), Martyn Adams, Paul Canning, Nigel Charlton, Tony Curtis, James Johnson, John Lindsey, Andy Linwood, Jeff Loud, Jeremy Lucas, Alan Maskell, Paul Miller, Clive Perkins & John White.

## ENGLAND VICTORY AT GRAFHAM

ALGAE-coloured water did not prevent an exceptionally-strong England team catching an impressive 119 trout in the Spring International at Grafham Water to leave their old adversaries, Wales, far behind with 86 trout. Ireland took bronze medal position leaving Scotland with the Wooden Spoon.

In practise England, under the captaincy of seasoned international Chris Howitt, developed a nymph and bright attractor fly combination presented on high-density lines to tempt fish which were lying close to the shoreline at depths of between four and 14 feet.

Given early calm conditions, the new technique of using buoyant fly patterns from drifting boats proved reasonably successful, though it was not until the wind blew up in the early afternoon that the English began to draw away from the field. Bright mini-lures and slim nymph patterns produced the best results using a fairly slow retrieve at constant depth. Many trout took 'on the hang' having followed the flies up from the depths and snatching at them as they were held.

Although nearly all the top individual places were held by English team members, it was Welshman *Russell Owen* who took top bag, with 16 trout for a little over 19lb in weight to win the coveted Brown Bowl. The heaviest trout of the day was a 3½lb rainbow caught by Scotsman Ronald Glass.

### THIS year's Spring International was the 70th time the four home nations have competed against each other.

For the first time in several years, it was fished on Cambridgeshire's Grafham Water. Everyone concerned had pre-match worries, for Grafham has had its problems recently, due to highly coloured water.

As it happened, the week before the match saw a turning point in the reservoir's fortunes. The water had cleared a little, and this was enough to start the fish feeding and taking well.

During practise, several big fish were caught, including an 8 lb 2 oz brownie and 5 lb 8 oz rainbow to England's Tony Curtis. Welshman Moc Morgan also had a near 6 lb rainbow, and the Scots and Irish all landed fish of 4 lb plus.

On match day, each pair of anglers had a boatman of the highest quality. All boatmen were past or current internationals themselves, a credit to organiser Derek Lloyd.

The general news from practise was that the points of the bays along the North shore were the best places over which to drift.

The wind was a very light South-Westerly, providing a good ripple, and making it ideal to fish the hot-spots. During the week there had been signs that the trout were beginning to come up in the water, but it was risky going for them.

As an observing boatman, I felt it was definitely going to be won on fast sinking lines and mini-lures. Although the water was not so coloured, visibility was still only nine inches.

I had a Scot, Ronald Glass, and an Irishman, Dermot O'Hara in my boat. I suppose I was the Englishman who completed the joke!

Ronald, who was streetwise to the fast sinking line approach I've explained many times in this column, did well. Dermot had only a medium sinker, and of course he struggled to catch throughout the day, boating just two fish.

But he finished up a wiser angler for future visits to English reservoirs in Spring. Ronald did well with eight fish, including the competition's heaviest fish — a 3 lb 12 oz rainbow.

His flies were a bright green Damsel Nymph, a Viva, and what he called the Scot's secret weapon — a fly with a fluorescent yellow marabou wing and white body. This fly stood out well in the coloured water and caught him four of his fish. *N 576/51*

### Happy

He won the trophy for the Scots' best bag and, of course, the event's best fish award. He was placed sixth overall, keeping his place for the next international. Ronald was a very happy Scotsman.

Throughout the course of the match, from what I saw happening in

the boats around me, England were going to win quite comfortably. All due credit to them for an excellent performance, in which newcomers did particularly well. *As Howitt*

England came out with a massive victory, taking 119 fish for 130 lb 7½ oz. Wales were second with 67 fish for 78 lb 13¾ oz, Ireland third with 66

fish for 70 lb 2½ oz, and the wooden spoon went to Scotland who took 54 fish for 59 lb 10½ oz.

The individual prize, known as the Brown Bowl, went to the youngest angler in the whole match, Russel Owen, from Wales, who with 16 fish for 19 lb 11 oz was an easy winner. His successful flies were Viva and a Concrete Bowl lure — again both were bright flies.

Just five years ago Russel was the captain of the Welsh Youth side, and his victory is a credit to their youth policy.

Second was Paul Miller, of England. He took 14 fish for 15 lb 8½ oz, with team-mate Jeremy Lucas third with 13 trout for 14 lb 13 oz.

There was a special cheer for fourth placed Verdon Edgar, of Ireland, who took 13 fish for 14 lb 12½ oz. Back home in Ireland Verdon only fishes for native brownies — and reservoir rainbow trout sport was totally alien to him.

Before the match, a special rule was implemented, stating that should the 16 fish double limit be broken, a scorecard system would come into play.

The boatman would run it, and every fish over the 16 would gain extra points — and the fish would be returned. Although it was not needed, the idea was well received and a move in the right direction.

To sum it up, it would appear that Grafham is now going to run into some form. It could well be worth a visit for some of that top of the water fishing for which the Cambridgeshire reservoir has become known over the years.

1. England	119 fish	130-7-8
2. Wales	67 fish	76-13-8
3. Ireland	66 fish	70-2-0
4. Scotland	54 fish	59-10-8



MATCHSCENE

# Jeremy plans for victory

MARK WILLIAMS  
reports from Rutland  
on the two big Ruddles  
Finals.

PRACTICE on Rutland paid off for England team qualifiers at the **Ruddles English National**, though the day saw a change in the weather pattern. After a week of bright sun and light breezes from the south and east, the wind strengthened and swung west bringing cloud before lunchtime. Rutland produced a test of pure angling skill and that was reflected in the results.

Top man in the field of 100 chasing 20 England places was **Jeremy Clarke**, who put nine fish for 13lb 5oz on the scales. With his practice partner **John Pawson**, he had stuck rigidly to a plan worked out over three days of practice. Rather than set off for Fantasy Island or the end of the North Arm with 80 per cent of the pack, he fished shallow water in the South Arm.

"We'd found most of our fish in five to seven feet of water during practice," he told *Trout Fisherman*. Anything deeper and we didn't get takes, so we stayed within a fairly small area in front of Blacks and Hideaway Bay, moving around almost every drift.

Bath and District angler **Jeremy** from Saltford, tempted a succession of fish on a sinker, using a size 10 Pheasant Tail Nymph with pearl thorax and peach tying silk head on both his droppers. Hooks were B175 Kamasans, and leader of Tectan 6.8lb. He picked up only a couple of trout on the Appetiser point fly. "The fish all took on the retrieve, and none on the hang," he said. "I lost two but otherwise it was plain sailing. They were confident takes."

Drifting alongside throughout the match was second-placed **John Pawson**, a fellow Bath and District member. Like **Jeremy**, he found the South Arm deserted.

"We had better shelter from the wind, the best of the conditions, and no pressure from other boats," he said. "I started fishing a floater but when **Jeremy** overtook me with his Wet Cel II, I changed lines to match."

**John**'s ten fish for 13lb 10z all came to his bottom two flies — a Green Buzzer with fluorescent head on the point, and a Hare's Ear on the middle dropper. Despite constantly swapping top dropper flies, the trout lurking in three to four feet of water seemed happier to stay down near the weed.

South West anglers continued their dominance down the table,



Brewery boss **Tony Ruddle** poses with the 20 qualifiers that will make up next year's two England teams.

Bristol Reservoir Fly Fisher **Lee Sennington** getting into third with nine rainbows for 10lb 7½oz, a catch almost matched by his boat partner **Paul Miller**, from Cormorant Fly Fishers.

The pairing decided on a few drifts around Normanton shore towards Fantasy Island at the off: "It was a joint decision to give the spot half an hour," said **Paul**. And it benefited them both. They fished floating lines and, remarkably in the bright conditions, got most takes on the top to Muddlers and palmered flies. "The four flies I used were the mini Muddler, a Butcher Soldier Palmer and Grenadier said **Lee**."

"The first fish came at about 11.30 as we drifted around 100 yards off the Normanton shore. The fish took right on top, and we saw most of the takes. The other half of the partnership, **Paul**, got fourth place with his eight fish for 9lb 7oz. Filling the gap in fourth was **Richard Cobbledick**, following in the footsteps of his brother **Robert** — the 1982 National and International Champion. **Richard** plumped for the North Arm after two days' practice and took seven trout for 9½lb on an intermediate line and nymphs.

**Richard** from Launceston, Cornwall told us: "I'm really chuffed, I've fished for a place four times now — and

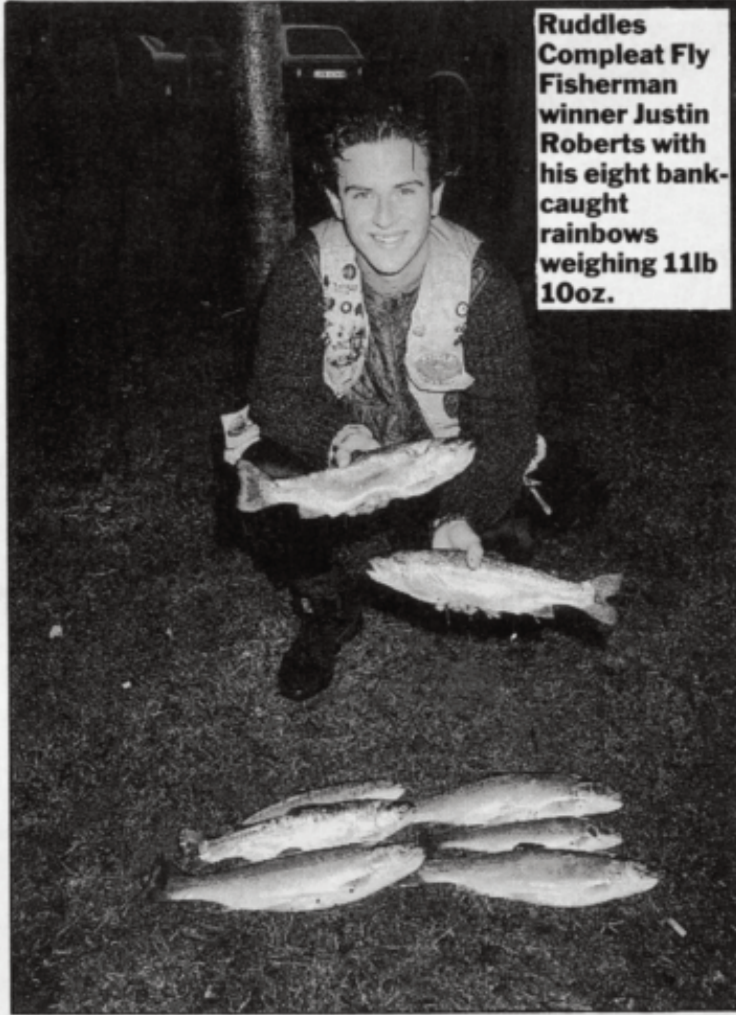
this is my first success. It has proven really tough to get through the South West eliminators," he said.

Top rainbow was **Paul Canning**'s 3½ pounder — a fish which took a Silver Sedge, then virtually netted itself! "It took very close to the boat and surfaced, so I just scooped it out. Perhaps it's as well it didn't wake up, because it was a very powerful-looking fish," he said.

One man with his heart in his mouth was **Mick Marshall**, from Sheffield, who weighed in five fish for 6lb 4oz. He pipped **Terry Oliver** by a half-ounce, although **Terry** took six fish, but it was enough to scrape 20th and a place in the England squad.

20 Qualifiers:  
1. **Jeremy Clarke**, 9 fish — 13lb 5oz; 2. **John Pawson**, 10 fish — 13lb 10z; 3. **Lee Sennington**, 9 fish — 10lb. 4. **Richard Cobbledick**, 7 fish — 9lb 8oz; 5. **Paul Miller**, 8 fish — 9lb 7oz; 6. **John Braithwaite**, 7 fish — 9lb 4oz; 7. **John Ielden**, 8 fish — 9lb 2oz; 8. **Peter Page**, 7 fish — 8lb 2½oz; 9. **Colin Crosby**, 6 fish — 7lb 12oz; 10. **Lester Booth**, 5 fish — 7lb 7oz; 11. **Simon Lehand**, 6 fish — 7lb 2oz; 12. **Lee Henfrey**, 5 fish — 7lb 2oz; 13. **Bob Church**, 6 fish — 7lb; 14. **Simon Gawesworth**, 6 fish — 6lb 13oz; 15. **Roger Grosvenor**, 5 fish — 6lb 12oz; 16. **Fred McMillan**, 5 fish — 5lb 9oz;

## Daddies score for Justin



Ruddles Compleat Fly Fisherman winner **Justin Roberts** with his eight bank-caught rainbows weighing 11lb 10oz.

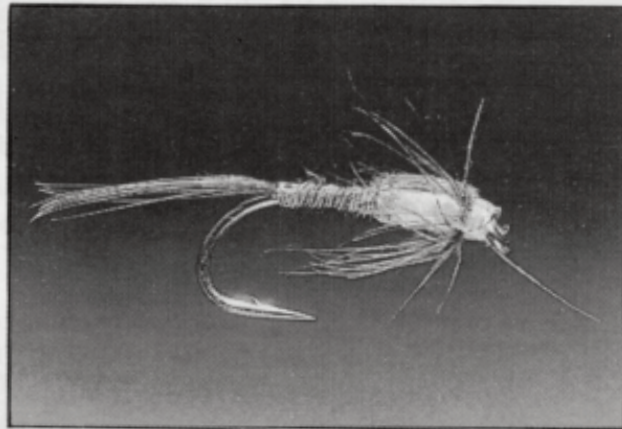
ORGANISERS were faced with a tough decision just minutes before the start of the **Ruddles Compleat Fly Fisherman Final**. Forecasts were for gale-force winds and an inch of rain in the afternoon, and in the end they opted for safety and cancelled the boat fishing on the day.

The 180 finalists were then faced with eight hours of grueling bank fishing without a break, and discovered that Rutland Water did not want to give up her fish in the changeable conditions. Fog, rain and high winds which veered 45 degrees made it tough going.

At the weigh-in, the Welsh had cause to celebrate. Once again, one of the Welsh team was first — though he was one of the very last to put his fish on the scales.

Seconds before the close, appropriately-named **Justin Roberts** tipped eight from the Green Bank on the South Arm. It was enough to trounce **Leicester's Bill McHarg** by a wide margin.

**Justin**, a 20-year-old from Portmadog, had started his day at Normanton but seeing little caught, set off for the shallow water and weedbeds at the other



Winner **Jeremy Clarke**'s Pheasant Tail Nymph.

17. **Alan Murphy**, 5 fish — 6lb 6½oz; 18. **Simon Hodges**, 5 fish — 6lb 5½oz; 19. **Paul Canning**, 3 fish — 5lb 5oz; 20. **Mick Marshall**, 5 fish — 6lb 4oz. Reserves:  
21. **Terry Oliver**, 6 fish — 6lb 3½oz; 22. **Chris Howitt**, 5 fish — 6lb 1½oz; 23. **Peter Giles**, 5 fish — 6lb 1½oz.

● This year's **Inter Services Championship**, sponsored by SERCO Ltd, was held at Rutland Water. The hard-fought match was dominated by sound pre-match planning that found localised shoals of feeding fish in both arms. Best catches came to the floating line with dry/emergers patterns. The three teams of 14 members returned 177 fish weighing 240lbs. Results were a popular win for the Royal Navy followed closely by RAF and Army.

● The annual **West of England Fly Fishing Championship**, held at Colliford Lake, on Bodmin Moor was won by **Eddie Chambers**, with four browns for 5½lb.



Above: Top man on the day was Bath & District member **Jeremy Clarke** with nine fish for 13lb 5oz.

Left: This 3½lb rainbow ensured qualification to the England team for Weald of Kent star **Paul Canning**.



Forecasts of strong gales meant the cancellation of the boat sessions for the **Ruddles Final**. So competitors had to ensure eight hours on the bank in wind, rain and fog.

landing, leaping a foot from the water to snap up the size 14 on the top dropper!"

**Bill**'s catch of six fish tipped the scales at 6lb 9oz, pipping the North-East's top man on the day **Ray Horn** from Morpeth. The Northumberland Badgers fisherman had taken a pitch right alongside **Justin Roberts** but his tactics resembled **Bill McHarg**'s. Like **Bill** he used a single pattern duplicated three times.

The choice was a Hare's Ear Buzzer ribbed with copper and with a jungle cock eye. It got its first success at 1 o'clock, the remaining fish which included two which came away and one which snapped him — fell steadily through the afternoon.

Best brown of the day was **Trevor Bellamy**'s 1lb 12oz fish, and the best rainbow of 2lb 7oz fell to **Mike Okopski**, from the West Country

The controversial decision to cancel the boat fishing turned out to be unnecessary with hindsight. The gales which hit both north and south of Rutland somehow avoided Leicestershire and, though winds gusted to 30 mph, it was evident the boats could have gone out.

"We had to make a decision based on the forecast, and did so almost entirely for reasons of safety," said one of the organisers, **Mike Childs**. "Had the boats been blown off in the afternoon, it would have made for a very unfair competition in any case. It was a tough decision to make, and I think all the anglers fishing understood why we had to make it."

1. **J. Roberts** 11lb 10oz; 2. **B. McHarg** 6lb 9oz; 3. **R. Horn** 5lb 15oz; 4. **T. Burn** 5lb ½oz; 5. **M. Okopski** 4lb 13oz; 6. **J. Hirst** 4lb 12oz; 7. **J. Newton** 4lb 10½oz; 8. **S. Skidmore** 4lb 7oz; 9. **J. Herrmann** 4lb 6oz; 10. **R. Hudson** 4lb 3oz.

### THE inventive minds of top-class competitive fly-fishers are easily leading the way in developing new fly patterns and methods.

For example, to use a dry fly on the large reservoirs was looked upon as a no-hope method, apart from on certain occasions, only a few years ago. Today it is a major tactic when such flies as dry emerger nymphs and floating hopper patterns take some massive catches.

The sunken Hi-D line method has also been developed with greater results by competition fly-fishers. Before all was revealed in this column, about eight years ago, I remember beating opponents in the same boat by as many as 16 trout to one — it was that devastating. Then I gave the secret of the method away and it is now in everyday use.

If it hadn't been for competition fishing, these two methods wouldn't have been developed to the fine art they are today.

### Rutland

This year's English National, fished at Rutland last week, also showed that plain old-fashioned intuition also plays a vital part in success.

I was drawn with **Colin Crosby**, a **Geordie** who had qualified on **Kielder Water**, that large, acid reservoir of the North-East. When I asked him to toss a coin



● SO you want to fish for England? It is a long haul up the competitive fishing ladder.

for right of boat captaincy, he said he preferred me to take the engine and go where I wanted. I was undecided.

"Let's just pull out of the creek and watch where everyone else heads for and then we will decide," I said.

Our first short, 150 yard drift was amazing. While the rest of the boats motored into the distance, **Colin** had a rainbow trout first cast and I also had one before we reached the bank. He had another on our second drift on the same spot.

As the wind was now South-

Westerly, I took the boat over to try a few drifts off the point of the peninsula. I had two brownies, which were under sized at 13 inches, while **Colin** had one, but I rose a fine rainbow of around 2½ lb, which missed my top dropper at the last split second.

### Increasing

The wind was increasing and veering into a full Westerly blow, but it was still sunny and bright. It

was now noon.

**Colin** had stuck to his floating line while I used a Wet Cell intermediate. We kept to this all day.

I noticed a good pack of boats doing a drift into the corner of the dam by Fantasy Island and again I let intuition play a part. Before we decided which arm to try, we just had to investigate how those boats were doing.

As we approached the boats — there were around 20 of them — I saw three rods bending as anglers played fish.

"Colin, our decision is made for us," I said. "We must stay here for the rest of the match." He nodded his agreement.

### Bad luck

We steadily caught fish, as did others, and by 5.20 I had six and **Colin** four. He then had the bad luck to catch his leader on the motor in the gusty, strong wind and was left with barely two metres of nylon. As he went to tie

up a new leader, which would have taken too much time, I advised him not to.

"Just tie on your favourite fly on that short leader and fish it single," I said. On went a **Soldier Muddler**, he cast out and as it hit the water it was taken by a fish of around 2 lb. I had hardly said "Well done", and with the clock nearing the time for us to motor in, when with his next cast he had another of about 1½ lb. With that, it was time to go.

I am pleased to say we both got in, qualifying to fish for England in Ireland on Lough Melvin next Spring.

In the match, 100 anglers caught 320 trout for 406 lb. This is just the kind of not-too-easy conditions everyone likes, for it makes things very fair.

Congratulations to **Jeremy Clarke**, of Bath, the new National Champion, and well done again to **John Pawson**, the runner-up. He is having a fabulous year after winning our Angling Times — **Bob Church** Classic in May.

1. <b>Jeremy Clarke</b>	9 fish	13-5-0
2. <b>John Pawson</b>	10 fish	13-1-0
3. <b>Lee Sennington</b>	9 fish	10-0-0
4. <b>Richard Cobbledick</b>	7 fish	9-8-0
5. <b>Paul Miller</b>	8 fish	9-7-0
6. <b>John Braithwaite</b>	7 fish	9-4-0
7. <b>John Ielden</b>	8 fish	9-2-0
8. <b>Peter Page</b>	7 fish	8-2-8
9. <b>Colin Crosby</b>	6 fish	7-12-0
10. <b>Lester Booth</b>	5 fish	7-7-0
11. <b>Simon Lehand</b>	6 fish	7-2-0
12. <b>Lee Henfrey</b>	5 fish	7-2-0
13. <b>Bob Church</b>	6 fish	7-0-0
14. <b>Simon Gawesworth</b>	6 fish	6-13-0
15. <b>Roger Grosvenor</b>	5 fish	6-12-0
16. <b>Fred McMillan</b>	5 fish	6-9-0
17. <b>Alan Murphy</b>	5 fish	6-6-8
18. <b>Simon Hodges</b>	5 fish	6-5-8
19. <b>Paul Canning</b>	3 fish	5-5-0
20. <b>Mick Marshall</b>	5 fish	6-4-0
Reserves		
21. <b>Terry Oliver</b>	6 fish	6-3-8
22. <b>Chris Howitt</b>	5 fish	6-1-8
22. <b>Peter Giles</b>	5 fish	6-1-8

Best Rainbow: 3-8-0 **Paul Canning**

100 anglers competed



# DOUBLE GLORY

Why are certain anglers so successful? In our series which attempts to find the answers, we interview some of the top names in the sport. This month Double National Champion MARTYN ADAMS of West Midlands.



Double Champion! Martyn Adams receives his trophies for winning the National Rivers Championship (above) and the English National Championship (below).

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**I**N LESS than two seasons West Midlands Association team man Martyn Adams has shot to stardom in the intensely-competitive world of international rules boat fishing. He won the Ruddles English National in 1990; the National River Championships last season; has fished for England and seems to finish in the top placings in almost every match he fishes. But 46-year-old Martyn isn't quite the newcomer to trout fishing which appearances might suggest — he's a top-quality angler with a temperament that's tailor-made for the cut-and-thrust of competition.

**M**Y FLY-fishing career began more than 30 years ago on the banks of the River Severn, although I wasn't after trout! In those days I used to fly-fish for chub from a small boat at Upton, and tie my own flies because the shop-bought ones were too expensive for a young lad.

My trout fishing career really began when I returned home after a four-year spell in the Navy, in 1964, and joined the Birmingham Anglers' Association. In those days the BAA had a lot of water, including some wonderful little trout rivers like the Monnow and the Lugg.

I spent a lot of time fishing for trout on those waters and the lessons I learned then have stood me in good stead for the river competitions which I fish today.

With the opening of Packington and then Draycote in the mid-Sixties, I was ideally placed for plenty of stillwater trout fishing, too. My father was also keen on trout fishing and we became regulars at these waters and Clywedog in Wales, all of which were in easy reach of Birmingham.

We travelled further afield, too, and I soon became familiar with Pitsford, Ravensthorpe and Eyebrook. One major water which I didn't fish often was Grafham. That was a bit too far to travel.

I enjoyed my trouting but I also played rugby. I've always loved the game and I still play regularly today. But in the early Seventies I decided to give up fishing and concentrate on rugby instead. I was also running my own business and I couldn't find the time to fit in all the things I like doing.

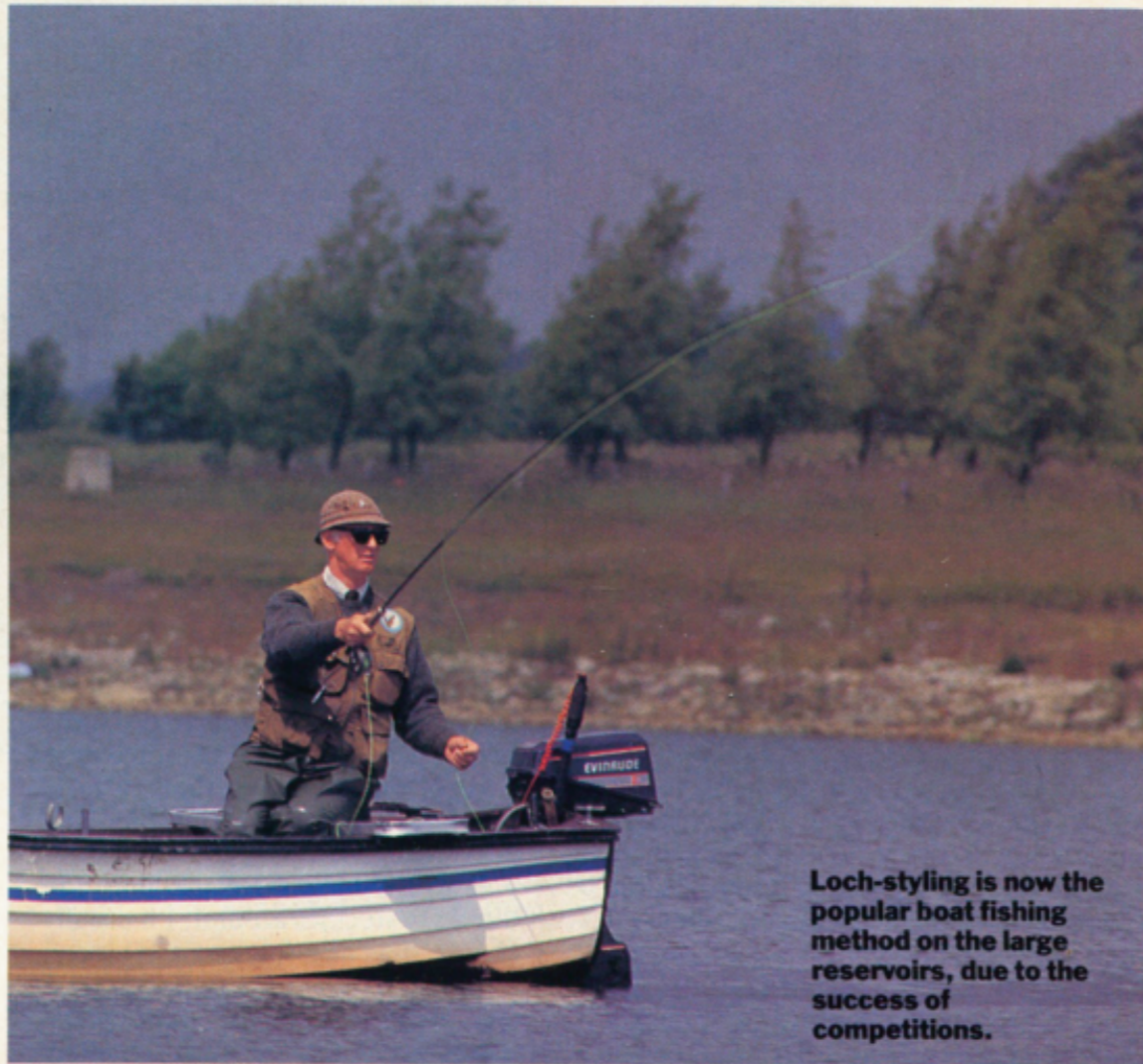
I didn't pick a rod up for 13 years and it was really by chance that I began fishing again but it wasn't long before the fishing but had bitten me again!

I started taking Trout Fisherman and Trout and Salmon magazines and noticed the number of boat fishing competitions

which had sprung up. I'm a very competitive person and the idea really appealed to me. I had a word with Brian Fargetter after my second competition, and he advised me to join a club if I was really serious. As a result I joined the West Midlands Association of Fly Fishers and my match fishing career began.

I know I've surprised a lot of people by my successes in a short time. To many people already on the circuit, I was a new face and a total beginner. What people don't realise is that I'd had plenty of boat fishing experience years ago on Packington, Draycote and Pitsford. A lot of this fishing was done from anchored boats, and I obviously had to revise my methods for competition work. But that was no major adjustment and one thing's for certain — the trout don't change. They just seem to get smaller!

**I**'M AN aggressively competitive person that's why I get so much enjoyment from playing rugby — and I'm sure this has helped me enormously in competitive fishing. I like the challenge of competition — angler against fish, angler against angler and team against team. I concentrate totally for every minute of every match, because I'm always aware that a single extra fish can make all the difference between qualifying or not



Loch-styling is now the popular boat fishing method on the large reservoirs, due to the success of competitions.

## FAVOURITE FLIES



**SILVER INVICTA**  
Hook: 10-12; Body: silver tinsel; Rib: fine silver wire; Tail: lime green (Glo Brite No 12); Hackle: Red Game; Throat: Blue Gallena.



**J. C. VIVA**  
Hook: 10; Body: black Anttron; Rib: pearl tinsel; Tail: green twinkle; Wing: black marabou; Cheeks: jungle cock.



**J. C. PHEASANT TAIL**  
Hook: 10 grub; Body: pheasant tail; Tail: as body; Throat: as body; Cheeks: jungle cock.



**MINI CAT**  
Hook: 12; Body: green fluorescent chenille; Rib: silver wire; Tail: as wing; Wing: white marabou.



**G.R. HARE'S EAR**  
Hook: 10-14; Body: Hare's Ear; Hackle: as above picked out; Tail: as above; Rib: gold tinsel.



**SOLDIER PALMER**  
Hook: 10-12; Body: fluorescent red wool; Tail: as body; Rib: silver tinsel; Hackle: palmered light/dark red game.

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qualifying for an important team final or the England squad.

It makes no difference to me whether the competition is for teams or individuals. I get an equal sense of achievement from both. Rugby taught me the importance of blending individual skills to the ultimate success of the team.

**L**IKE most competition anglers I most enjoy top-of-the-water tactics. You simply can't beat the thrill of casting to rising fish or seeing fish follow your flies and willing them to take.

But if you want to catch fish consistently in competitions, many of which are fished in the early season months when the fish are down deep, you have to master all the methods. I'm equally at home with sunk line fishing.

When the fish are feeding on top, I'm a great believer in traditionals like **Soldier Palmer**, **Pheasant Tail Nymph**, **Wickham's Fancy** and **Silver or Pearl Invictas**. I've been tying these patterns for years and I have a whole range of them in my box, many with different-coloured tags. The new fly-tying materials like flashabou have given the competition angler a whole new armoury. I'll happily tie the same pattern with half-a-dozen or more different-coloured tags.

I always fish four flies on both floater and sinker. This allows me to fish three of my favourite patterns, and have a gamble with something totally different. While exact fly choice can only be made on match day, I'll normally opt for **Pheasant Tail**, either **silver** or **Cove-type** on the point and a **Soldier Palmer**, or sometimes

**Muddler**, on the top dropper. The **Hare's Ear** is another favourite, as is the **Wickham's** and the **Peach doll**.

**M**Y LEADER set up for the floater doesn't vary a great deal. I needle-knot 18-inches of 15lb nylon to the fly line, with the top dropper 5ft from that and the remaining three flies at 4ft intervals. Leader strength is 5-6lb for the top two droppers, tapering to 4-5lb for the next dropper and point fly. Droppers are normally six inches to start with and I always use the old-fashioned blood knot, rather than the water knot. The nylon I use in rough conditions is Tom Saville's Tynex. Last season virtually every competition I fished was under rough conditions, and I like a nylon that makes the droppers stick out. I do carry spools of double-strength and sub-surface and use them on flat-calm days or when there's little wind. I've always caught fish on the Tom Saville line and see no reason to change.

My leader set-up for fishing sinking lines is much the same, again with four flies and similar distances between the droppers. On some days I might opt for nylon that's a little heavier, but that's about the only difference.

If I'm fishing the sunk line and there are stockies around, I'll usually choose flies like the **Cat's Whisker**, **Orange Palmers** (I always use at least one orange fly at the start of the season as it can be such a deadly colour), **Viva-type** flies and small **Minkies**. The Minkie has a mink-tail fur top with a black body, ribbed with silver wire. I've a great deal of confidence in this fly — I caught an 11lb 10oz rainbow at Draycote on it to win the Troutmasters last year



Martyn Adams caught three rainbows at last year's England National at Rutland, but failed to qualify for the England team.

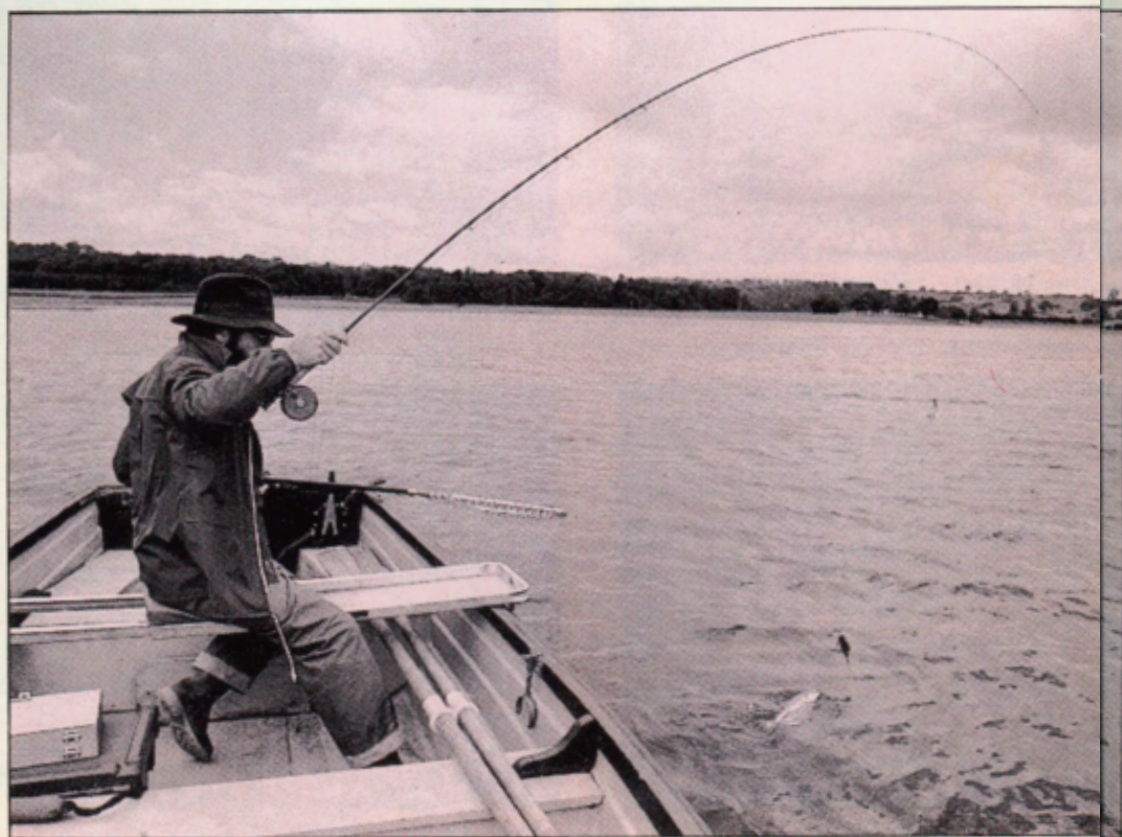
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Martyn Adams nets another rainbow at Bewl Water on his way to the '90 England National win.

**I** ALWAYS buy the best rods and the best lines and, for much of my boat work I use an eleven-foot Hardy de-Luxe. It's got a fair bit of poke and is ideal for both floating and sunk-line work. I prefer the longer rod, particularly in windy conditions. In very calm conditions, when I'm fishing the dry fly, I use an Orvis 10½-footer.

Like most competition men, I've got every line imaginable from floaters down to Hi-Ds, in weight-forward six, seven and eight. For river work I use double-taper lines. All my sinkers are Wet CIs, while the floaters and sink-tips are Tenry lines from Peter Cockwill.



Martyn's West Midlands team mate Dave Heseltine nets a rainbow in Rutland's North Arm.

Trout Fisherman February 1992

**I** NEVER miss a practise day before a big match. In my opinion they are almost as important as the match itself. I'm very fortunate in that, because of my business, I'm able to fish three or even four days a week, but I'd still never miss a practise session.

You can learn so much even if it's only the areas which are devoid of fish. You also pick up lots of useful information from fellow team members and other anglers. Just being around other anglers after a practise day is an important part of the match atmosphere and can build up your enthusiasm and excitement for the match itself.

On match day I always like to get to the venue well in advance, often more than two hours before the match. It gives me time to look at the conditions, assemble my tackle without having to rush and glean any last-minute pieces of information which might just be vital.

I discovered the importance of getting to the match early in the first competition I ever fished at Thornton reservoir. I didn't get there early enough and missed out on last-minute, vital bits of information. I made sure I never made the same mistake.

I got through to the England team by winning the National Final at Bewl in 1990. My success surprised a lot of people, after all I'd been competition fishing for only one year and nobody had ever heard of me. But I spent two days at the water practising. I had limits on both practise days and felt really confident. I ended the match with nine fish for just over 14lb those practise days had done wonders for my confidence!

A chance conversation during a practise session also helped me win the

National Rivers Championship last year. I'd gone to the River Wharfe, a week before the match, just to get the feel of the water. I just happened to get chatting to a local angler about how I still found that the old traditional patterns were as effective as ever.

While agreeing with me, the local angler was beside himself with indignation. The weekend before, an angler from London had apparently come up for a day's fishing, found the river well up and then proceeded to take no fewer than 13 fish on a sinking line and Peter Ross and Butcher! I'd read the article in Trout Fisherman by the winner of the previous year's match, Jim Oliver, and bought myself a fast-sinking line for river fishing.

On match day, I had seven fish before the river was hit by a flash-flood, which totally changed conditions for the all-important final session. That flash-flood nearly washed me away downriver! I'd waded out into the river and was comfortably fishing the far bank in chest waders when I heard this tremendous noise. But I took little notice of it. It was only the note of desperation in my controller's voice, urging me to get out of the river fast, which alerted me to what had happened. I tried to get back to the bank, and I got a soaking before I reached safety. If I'd waited another minute I'd have been washed downriver!

While I'd caught all my fish, up until then, on traditionals like the **Hare's Ear**, **Snipe** and **Purple** and **Water Hen Bloa**, I was now faced with a totally different set of conditions. I also knew that if I blanked in that final session my chance of winning the match would be gone. I managed to catch the fish that won me the match on — yes, you've guessed, a fast sinking line and Butcher!

## BOAT FISHING

### LOCATE FISH FIRST



**I** DON'T have any great variations on the tactics used by most of my fellow competition anglers. I'm not a great believer in magic methods which will transform an average angler into a world-beater. The most important factor in my success is locating the fish in the first place. If you're over fish, then you stand every chance of catching them, and they can often also be caught on a variety of methods.

Although, for example, I'll often fish mini-lures on a sunk line at the beginning of the season, I also fish teams of nymphs as well. I mark my fly-line so that when that mark appears in the top ring, with the rod held horizontally, a long pull and raising the rod to the vertical, will leave the top dropper exactly six inches below the surface. It's a tip from fellow England angler Tony Curtis, and allows you to hang those flies, tantalising, in the water.

I used it in the international match at Grafham, twitching a team of nymphs, and took three fish in the first 1½ hours. Then the wind blew up, the lure men took over and I caught only one more fish to finish well down the list! My basic flies for this nymph tactic would be a **Pheasant Tail**, **Black Nymph** and **Hare's Ear**, together with an attractor pattern.

I didn't get much chance to fish the dry fly last season. It was far too rough and conditions were better suited to pulling flies through the surface. But I used the tactic a lot the previous season when conditions were better, and had a lot of success with it. My basic patterns for this type of fishing, would be brown, ginger and black flies, together with the **Hare's Ear** which I tie as a buoyant dry.

But it all comes back to some basic facts of life, if you want to succeed in competitions. First you've got to find the fish, and then you've got to present the flies to them in a way which they find acceptable, not by a method which simply happens to suit you.

Get it right, and you can have a lot of fun and a lot of success!

●Martyn Adams was talking to Peter Maskell.

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1. Martyn Adams
2. Tony Pawson
3. John Lindsey
4. Ian Greenwood
5. John Pawson
6. Bob Preston
7. Simon Gawsworth
8. Ray Arkle
9. Jack Oliver
10. Graham White
11. Paul Page
12. A Hunt
13. John Horsey
14. I Warrlow
15. Colin Porter
16. Oliver Edwards
17. Jeremy Lucas
18. Jeff Load
19. Val Rowell
20. Tony Curtis
21. Dennis Buck
22. Chris Ogbourne
23. Paul Canning
24. Ray Burt
25. Brian Leadbetter
26. Leon Smith
27. Dave Pakes
28. Chris Howitt
29. Dave Grove
30. Ray Bell
30. Gordon Bloodworth
30. Graham Brooke
30. Brian Davies
30. Andy Donaldson
30. Dave Ealey
30. Ray Horn
30. Alan Jenkins
30. Jim Oliver
30. Dave Shipman
30. Andrew Short

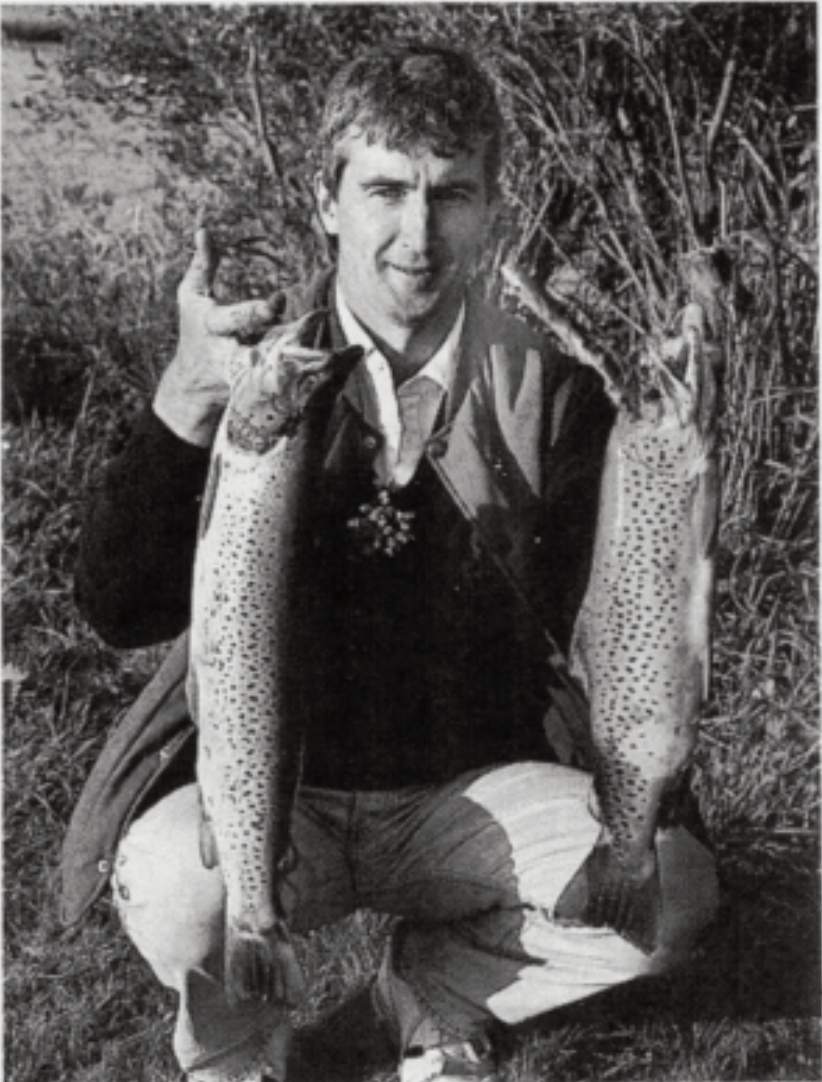




England  
Tony Curtis (captain), Victor Byrne, Eric Caisley, Nigel Charlton, Chris Churn, Mike Gunnell, Chris Howitt, Richard Kesek, John Ieldon, Jeremy Lucas, William McHarg, Paul Miller, Chris Ogborne & Leon Smith.



SCOTS GOSSIP



**Brown Bowl winner Eddie Brown with two Leven brownies for 7lb 13oz.**

Leven International shocker

THE AUTUMN International hosted by Loch Leven was beset by two problems the generally-poor form shown by the loch for much of the season, and a heatwave. Only four of the victorious English squad caught fish, and their total of seven fish for, 13½lb must be the lowest four nations tournament-winning catch for some years.

Only 19 fish were taken by the 56 anglers and this meant that there were 45 anglers who failed to catch a fish. Some anglers failed to catch a single fish in the three days, two of which were practice. Yet the quality of the fish has never been better and reports of big fish being hooked and lost were very frequent.

The Scots were not far adrift with five trout weighing 11lb 1oz, and this was down to three of the team. An exceptional performance was put up by Eddie Brown of Greenwells A.C. who followed up his 4lb 10oz fish in the practice day with one of 4lb 9oz in the actual match. Eddie coupled this with another trout to give him a total of 7lb 13oz and the coveted Brown Bowl.

Eddie used a Leven Spider variant on a sinking line off the point of St. Serf's, and his success capped a fine season. He had already qualified for next year's Scotland squad in this season's National Final.

Eddie's fly silver body black hackle and yellow fluorescent tail was retrieved quickly but most effective when only five feet down.

Top rod in the England team was Chris Howitt who, despite having a good match, lost three very good fish when they straightened his hooks. He took three for 4lb 13oz and with a little luck could have been weighing in double that number But it was

not to be. Chris used a Hi-D line and four identical size 12 silver-bodied flies, encased in white ethafoam, fished near the burn at Queich Mouth. Those with long memories will recall a similar congregation of fish in that area on previous Internationals.

Nigel Graham, from Pontardawe, was the in-form man for the Welsh, straight from his success in being top rod on second day in the B&H final at Grafham. He took two fish on Wet Cel 2 line on Soldier Muddler and Ace of Spades.

Top Irish rod Sam McGowan had two fish on Cat's Whisker and Dunkeld fished deep.

Another large trout caught was the 4lb 14oz specimen taken by the president of the Irish team. Two trout of similar size had been taken a few days before, while one of 4lb 15oz was boated on the day after the International by Mr Anderson of Innerleithen.

These catches illustrate the way Loch Leven fished for much of the year some fine large trout being taken by the fortunate few but baskets of the smaller browns scarce on the ground.

This victory puts England in a very commanding position in the International fly fishing circle. Of the last dozen matches they have won nine to Wales's two and Ireland's one. This was manager Mike Childs' last year and it is fitting that it was a victory.

Many competitors were critical of the fishery and claim that it was no longer fair for an International competition. Leven is unique and at its best one of the leading fisheries in the World. We can only hope that it will soon recover some of its former glory

RESULTS  
1. England, 7, 13lb 8oz; 2. Scotland, 5, 11lb 1oz; 3. Wales, 3, 6lb 5oz; 4. Ireland, 4, 5lb 4oz.

THE week of top-notch trout matches continued with the Autumn International on Scotland's traditional water, legendary Loch Leven.

But the whole trip turned out to be a nightmare for many top fly-fishers, who endured a two-day practice and their final match day without getting a single take from a trout.

This is demoralising, and better venues must be considered in future. I

imagine it must be the lowest catch rate on record for an international match, with 45 anglers out of the 56 competitors blanking. 18/9/91

The winning team was once again England. Four anglers caught and 10 blanked. It was team manager Mike Childs' last match in charge and his record will be difficult to follow.

His successful period covered 10 internationals, and during that time Eng-

land won eight gold and two silvers — a hard act to follow.

The top rod in the match was Scotsman, Eddie Brown, who caught two big fish totalling 7 lb 13 oz. His heaviest specimen scaled 4 lb 9 oz — a very fine, wild brown trout.

Result: 1 England, 7 fish, 13 lb 8 oz; 2 Scotland, 5 fish, 11 lb 1 oz; 3 Wales, 3 fish, 6 lb 5 oz; 4 Ireland, 4 fish, 5 lb 4 oz.

1. England	7 fish	13-8-0
2. Scotland	5 fish	11-1-0
3. Wales	3 fish	6-5-0
4. Ireland	4 fish	5-4-0