

MATCH  
scene

VICTORY  
FOR  
ENGLAND

New boys find Irish browns  
in Spring International

ENGLAND comfortably won the Spring International, held on beautiful Lough Owel in Co. Westmeath, despite having seven new caps in the team, *reports Paul Canning*. Their 51 fish weighing 52lb 12.2oz was nine fish ahead of second-placed Scotland with 43 fish for 43 lb 5.8 oz.

In practise, Lough Owel's 2,500 acres offered little shelter from a freezing east wind, which kept catches down and competitors guessing about the outcome. With boats spread far apart, and tight-lipped competitors reluctant to talk in the bar afterwards of poor catches, teams were all speculating on the outcome of match day

Low pressure, frosts at night, the incredible clarity of the water and the very rich bottom feed further conspired to push trout deep. By mid-May there should have been a good lake olive hatch on Lough Owel, but in the cold winds there was only a trickle to tempt the odd fish up. With lake olive nymphs active below the surface, the west side of the lake was favoured by many.

Floating lines proved to be far less successful than expected. Many of the competitors opted for pulling flies very fast under the surface, using a variety of traditional Irish flies, many heavily dressed and fished on various intermediates.

Many reported missing numbers of fish, as the fast and wary Lough Owel browns nipped at flies moved too fast. The England team opted for smaller, slimmer flies, fishing them more slowly and somewhat deeper than most, using WetCel ones, twos and sink tips. They also employed slow nymphing at depth which

caught a number of fish.

With incredibly clear water, anglers used the water colour as a guide to the ideal fishing depth. Where the colour changed from mid to dark green was judged to be a good depth, this was around eight to 12 feet.

Many in the England team were convinced that finer nylons had improved catches during practise. They also concentrated on fishing whatever calm water could be found, including Bog Bay and the Mount Murray end of the Lough where trout were feeding on midges.

**MATCH DAY**

ON match day, competitors generally favoured fishing the west side of the lake. Drifts were into the Pumphouse, the Frewin Shore, and the Corn Field. One of the few drifts off the east shore was out from Brabazon's Point and across the shallows.

Lady's Island and the surrounding shallows was a productive area but because it was near the boat launching point and easy to fish en route to other areas, it got too much attention.

Good areas too were patches of reeds on the west shore. Fish were shrimping among the old stems, often laying alongside the reeds which grew from a good depth. With an onshore wind though, anglers often had only moments in the best water before they were blown on. Engine noise and excessive drifting soon spooked fish away.

The freezing east wind that had plagued practise moderated in the afternoon to allow modest hatches of olives. Competitors fishing in the right areas discovered the trout responding to the hatching duns, and a switch to appropriate dries including green hoppers and CDC patterns brought valuable fish.

There were some very big fish on the move in the calm slicks. One was hooked by Bill Burleigh of England, who played it for ten minutes before it slipped the hook at the net.

Not surprisingly, successful patterns focused on Olive imitations. Two effective flies used by Drennan Team England were a twinkle-tailed Olive pattern and a hackled Hare's Ear. Other traditional flies that produced were the Black Pennells, simple Buzzers, Blae & Black, Dabblers, Bumbles, Sooty Olives, Olive Bumbles, Spring Favourite and the June Fly.

This was a memorable match, fished in a great spirit of friendship and excitement. As ever the Irish were wonderful hosts.

The England rods who finished in the top four and keep their places for the Autumn International are: Paul Canning, Clive Collier, Ed Foster and Richard Sandford. This match is to be hosted by Wales in September.

**RESULTS:**

1. England 51 fish, 52 lb 12.13oz; 2 Scotland 43 fish, 43lb 5.8oz;  
3. Ireland 36 fish, 38lb 3.2oz 4. Wales 33 fish, 32lb 11.8oz.  
Total trout caught: 163 fish, 167lb 1oz  
**Best catch:** Brendan Spillane, Ireland, 8 fish 8 lb 0.80oz.  
**Heaviest trout:** Mick McCormack, Ireland, 2lb 13oz.  
**Best English catch:** Ed Foster, 7 fish, for 7lb 7oz.  
**Best Irish catch:** Brendan Spillane, 8 fish, 8lb 0.8oz.  
**Best Scottish catch:** Craig Cowan, 6 fish, 5lb 15.2oz.  
**Best Welsh catch:** Russell Owen, 7 fish, 7lb 10.4oz.

**TWINKLE TAILED OLIVE**  
Devised by England team member Bill Burleigh, this fly is based on an old Loch Leven Olive pattern, the Budeigh.  
Tie the body short.  
**Hook:** Size 12-14 Kamasan B175  
**Tying silk:** Olive  
**Tail:** Olive Krystallflash, 2 strands  
**Rib:** Fine oval gold tinsel  
**Body:** Olive rabbit fur dubbing

**Hackle:** Medium olive or red game  
**Wing:** Bronze Mallard

**HACKLED HARE'S EAR**  
Despite its slim, sombre appearance a significant number of trout fell to this consistent fly.  
**Hook:** Sizes 12-14 Drennan Traditional Wet  
**Tying Silk:** Black  
**Rib:** Fine oval gold tinsel  
**Body:** Hare mask dubbing, dark  
**Hackle:** Red game cock, palmered sparsely

**Wing:** Hen pheasant tail, slim

**JOHNSTON**  
Another successful fly sourced from Peter O'Reilly's book "Trout & Salmon Flies of Ireland" It was originally tied by the Revd Derek Johnston for the duckfly hatch on Sheelin.  
**Hook:** Sizes 10-14 Kamasan B175  
**Tying Silk:** Black  
**Tag:** Orange seal's fur (small)  
**Rib:** Oval gold tinsel  
**Tail:** Golden pheasant topping

**Body:** Dark olive and brown olive seal's fur mixed in equal parts  
**Hackle:** Natural black hen - two turns  
**Wing:** Bronze Mallard

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England

Mike Perrin (captain), Robert Barden, Bob Berry, Bill Burleigh, Ray Burt, Paul Canning, Clive Collier, Ed Foster, Andrew Haskins, John Innes, Keith Nicholson, Stephen Peart, Mike Smith & Richard Stanford.

1. England	51 fish	52-12-4
2. Scotland	43 fish	43-5-8
3. Ireland	36 fish	38-3-4
4. Wales	33 fish	32-11-12

Full Results >>

International  
Fly Fishing Competition

Irish Trout Fly  
Fishing Association



ENGLAND — IRELAND  
SCOTLAND — WALES

on Lough Owel, Mullingar

Saturday, 11th May, 1996





England

Trevor Colclough, Brian Easterbrook, Oliver Edwards, David Grove & Jeremy Herrman.

1. Scotland	53 fih	2667 points	41 placings
2. Wales	46 fish	2355 points	49 placings
3. England	41 fish	2157 points	55 placings
4. Ireland	7 fish	321 points	76 placings

Full Results >>

Rivers National

Rivers Eamont & Eden

- 1. John Horsey
- 2. Stuart Crofts
- 3. Dennis Buck
- 4. Iain Barr
- 5. Simon Gawsworth
- 6. Andrew Ramsden
- 7. Alan Williams
- 8. Bob Greenwood
- 9. Peter Clark
- 10. David Calvert
- 11=Ken Booth
- 11=Andrew Elspin
- 13. Bob Preston
- 14. Simon Kidd
- 15. Trevor Colclough
- 16=Jim Hall
- 16=Graham Walker
- 18. Ray Burt
- 19. Mike Tinnion
- 20. Tony Curtis
- 21=Andrew Augustyn
- 21=Tim Burn
- 21=Bob Church
- 21=Martyn Dyer-Smith
- 21=Ross Dyer-Smith
- 21=Graham Edwin
- 21=Ken Hardy
- 21=Ian Lawson
- 21=K Muter
- 21=Jean Pierre Auge
- 21=Graham White
- 21=Graham Willis





MATCH  
scene

# CLASSIC ENCOUNTER

CERI JONES reports on the 1996 Airflo Classic  
Small Stillwater Championship staged at  
Gloucestershire's Bushyleaze Lake.



Winning team Ashima Packington (L to R. Malcolm Randle, Adrian Joyce and Ray Cramp) receive their trophy from Airflo group managing director Iain Burgess.

**T**HERE WAS PLENTY OF ACTION for the 57 anglers from England and Wales competing in the final of the Airflo Classic.

The standard of angling was high and the stage set for a very competitive and exciting match. The competition is pegged with each angler moving 10 pegs every 40 minutes. Only the first two fish are killed and weighed with all other fish released.

Conditions were good, much better than previous years. But while the sun was shining, there was a cold north-westerly blowing. Most anglers tackled up with intermediates and leaded patterns to get their flies down beneath the cold surface water to where, hopefully, the fish were.

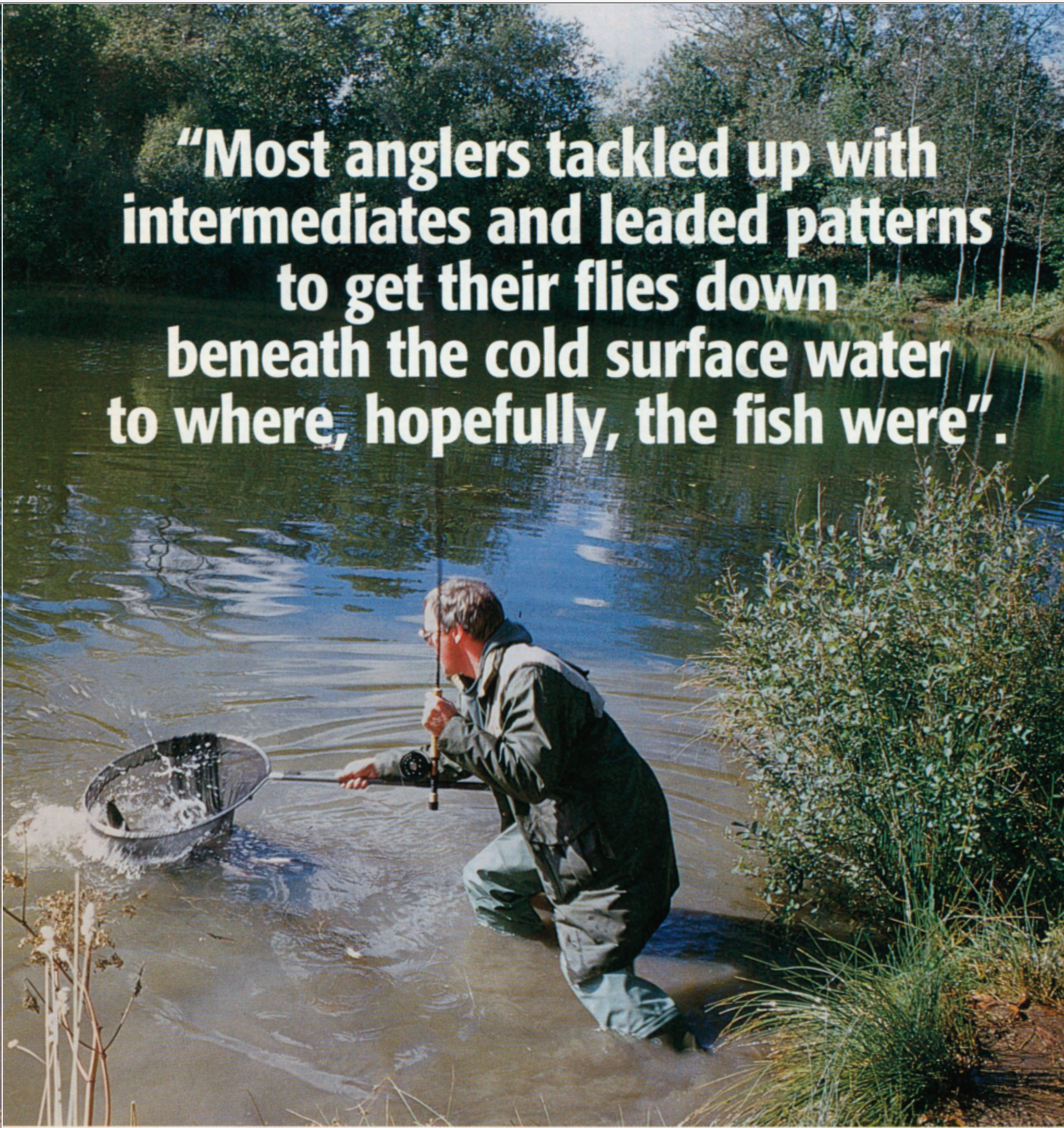
Pegs 10 to 18 were favoured by many, but with the wind blowing into them they did not produce fish. Instead, pegs one to three started well, with Ray Cramp (Packington) taking full advantage of his first session on peg two, with four rainbows. As sport slowed down at one end of the lake, at the top of Woodstock pool pegs 45 to 48 were hotting up.

Adam Garrett took two fish on peg 47 using an orange leadhead, increasing his total to four but was unlucky to lose a number of fish. The last change before lunch saw the height of the action with Blackburn angler Nigel Haigh moving onto peg 46, taking six rainbows, using an Olive Tadpole fished on a Mastery clear intermediate.

BELOW:  
Ashima Packington angler  
Adrian Joyce with 9lb 4ozs  
rainbow which he took on an  
olive tadpole and intermediate  
line on peg 47.



DECEMBER 1996 TROUT FISHERMAN



“Most anglers tackled up with intermediates and leaded patterns to get their flies down beneath the cold surface water to where, hopefully, the fish were”.

These fish added to his two previous and took him into the lead at lunch. Meanwhile next along from Nigel, peg 46 was still proving productive, this time for Ashima Packington angler Adrian Joyce. Adrian started where Adam Garrett left off by losing his first four fish but later went on to net a few with the largest going 9lb 4oz. Again the killing method was an olive leadhead and intermediate.

A one hour lunch break gave time for team members to get together and discuss tactics for the afternoon sessions. Sport slowed down in the

afternoon with just the odd fish being caught.

At the end of the match the team event was very close with any one of three teams in winning position. Third were the Neave team with 18 fish for 12 lb 3 oz (only first two fish were to be weighed by each angler). Second with 18 fish for 15lb 8oz was Lancashire Spartons, while the winners with 18 fish for 18lb 3oz were Ashima Packington. Their team consisted of Ray Cramp (seven fish), Malcolm Randle (three fish) and Adrian Joyce (eight fish).

Their winning formula for the

team was various leadheads, Fritz and leaded Damsels fished on floaters and intermediate lines. The team are invited to fish for England in the Generale des Eaux the unofficial European Championship.

#### INDIVIDUAL RESULT (TOP SIX)

1. Nigel Haigh, 11 fish;
2. John Neave, 10 fish;
3. Adrian Joyce, eight fish;
4. Peter Neave, eight fish;
5. Ray Cramp, seven fish;
6. Adam Garrett, seven fish.

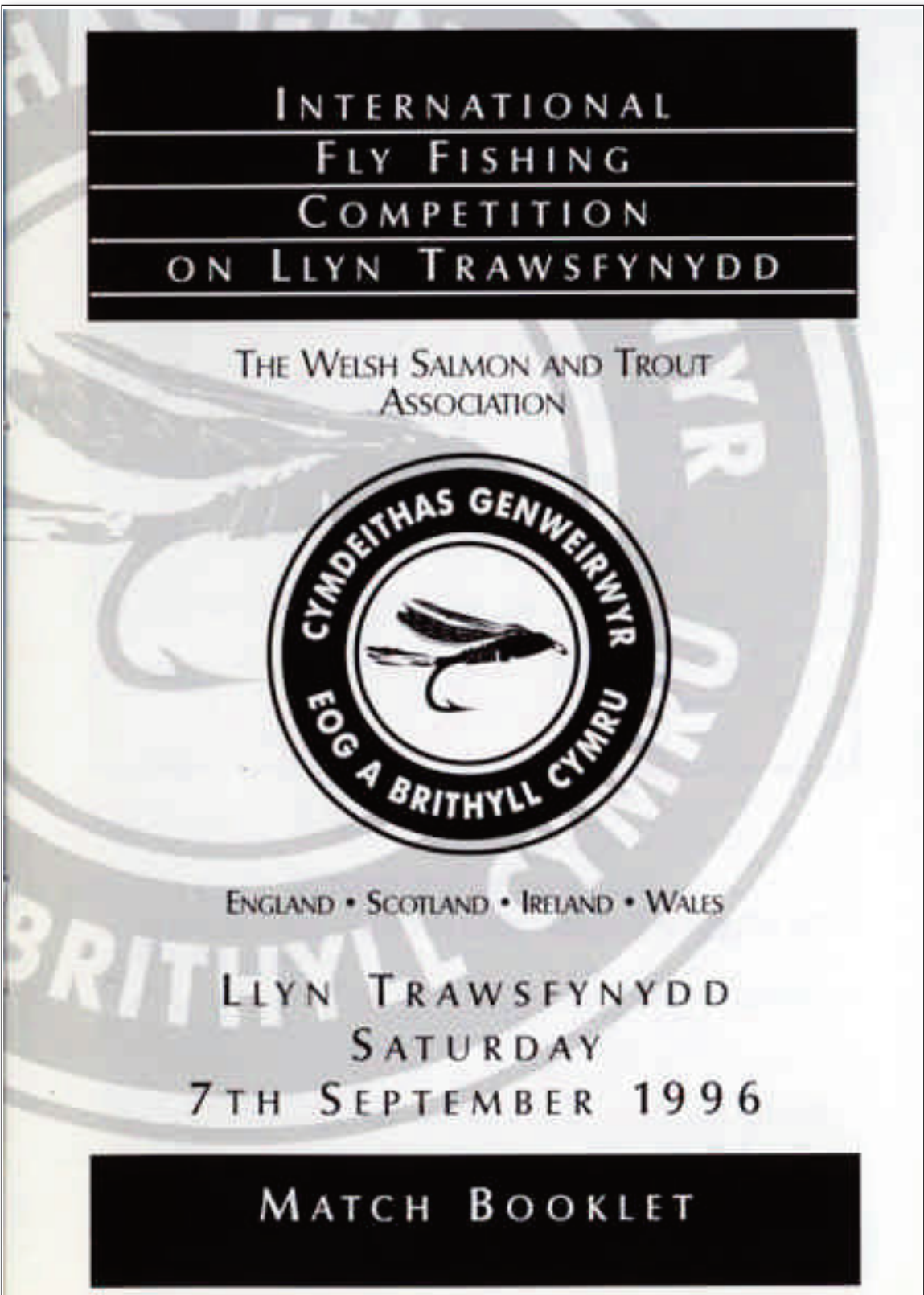
**ABOVE:**  
Top individual  
winner Nigel  
Haigh on his way  
to taking six fish  
on peg 46. His  
total for the day  
was 11.

- |                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| 1. Nigel Haigh       | 11 fish |
| 2. John Neave        | 10 fish |
| 3. Adrian Joyce      | 8 fish  |
| 4. Peter Neave       | 8 fish  |
| 5. Ray Cramp         | 7 fish  |
| 6. Adam Garrett      | 7 fish  |
| 7. Bruce Turnbull    |         |
| 8. Tony Dixon        |         |
| 9. Mark Sturgess     |         |
| 10. Nick Halstead    |         |
| 11. Cavan Greer      |         |
| 12. Paul Grevett     |         |
| 13. Andrew Hedger    |         |
| 14. Mark Damarall    |         |
| 15. Brian Mulholland |         |
| 16. Ronald Hibbert   |         |
| 17. John Martin      |         |
| 17. Dick Meadows     |         |
| 19. John Newton      |         |
| 20. Mike Symons      |         |
| 21. Tony Tullett     |         |
| 22. Carl Hoffman     |         |
| 23. Alan Heath       |         |
| 24. Nick Tomkins     |         |
| 25. Simon Kidd       |         |
| 26. John Pearn       |         |
| 27. Steve Hazeldine  |         |
| 28. O Hughes         |         |
| 29. Norman MacLeod   |         |
| 30. Tom Nelson       |         |
| 31. Derek Bell       |         |
| 32. Malcom Randle    |         |
| 32. Gerald Reed      |         |
| 34. Robert Seward    |         |
| 35. Tom Sanderson    |         |
| 36. K Mildren        |         |
| 37. Mark Miles       |         |
| 38. David Wortley    |         |
| 39. Wayne Davies     |         |
| 40. John Main        |         |
| 41. Dave Allen       |         |
| 42. John Rigby       |         |
| 43. Colin Bradley    |         |
| 44. Andy Cottam      |         |
| 45. Richard Nuttall  |         |
| 46. K Parker         |         |
| 47. Keith Bryant     |         |
| 47. Peter Harper     |         |
| 49. Paul Roach       |         |
| 50. Ken Hannaway     |         |
| 51. Richard Robinson |         |
| 52. Hugh Pennycuik   |         |
| 53. Paul Neave       |         |
| 53. Tom Robson       |         |
| 53. Donald Studholme |         |
| DNF Paul Fava        |         |





England  
Simon Hodges (captain), Paul Canning, Clive Collier, Martin Cottis, Ed Foster, John Lindsey, Jim Longmore, Shane Miller, Stephen Peart, Baz Reece, Dave Reynolds, Richard Sandford, Kevin Sellar & Graham Walker.



# Match Scene

## Close finish at Trawsfynydd

**Autumn Home International**  
**O**NE OF the closest finishes in recent years added excitement to the finale of the Autumn International at Llyn Trawsfynydd in Wales. Only 9lb and seven fish separated all four teams! Scotland were worthy winners. Having practised hard and working well as a team their 49 fish for 68lb 15½oz was six fish ahead of hosts Wales who weighed in 43 fish for 63lb 15½oz. England came in third with two more fish than Wales but their catch hit their scales at 62lb 3½oz. Ireland were fourth with 42 fish for 59lb 14oz.  
Top individual rod and winner of the coveted Brown Bowl

was Toby Bradshaw from Ireland, taking seven fish for 11lb 7½oz. He caught on a Golden Olive Bumble and Viva variants, fished on a WetCel II and Drennan 4lb Sub-surface nylon. Toby found flies pulled slowly to be most effective.  
In second place was Paul Canning of England with eight fish for 10lb 4½oz. He swapped lines ten times during the match to keep in touch with fish as conditions changed, catching on an AirCel Ultra 3 floater, a Stillwater Intermediate and a WetCel 1. Effective flies were Hare’s Ear variants, Mallard & Claret, Pearly Wickham’s and the Blac & Black. Other flies to feature in the match were variants of

the Diawl Bach and the Haul-a-Gwynt.  
Llyn Trawsfynydd is a 11,000 acre lake with many fish holding areas. Competitors found in practise that even the smallest ripple would often put rising fish down. Both pulling tactics and slow nymphing with small flies on intermediates were found to be effective for many. One of the keys to catching fish seemed to be to get the fishing level absolutely right. Despite the crystal clear water, a dark bottom made assessing the depth difficult and during practise competitors struggled to find the best line to use. Many opted to use a clear Stillwater.  
The Magnox Electric PLC sponsored the event, meeting

**Golden Olives, Brown Bowls, Trawsfynydd, victorious Scots - all ingredients of the Autumn International. PAUL CANNING reports.**

many of the costs of the match.  
**Team Result:** 1 Scotland, 49 fish for 68lb 15½oz; 2 Wales, 43 for 63lb 15½oz; 3 England, 45 for 62lb 3½oz; 4 Ireland, 42 for 59lb 14oz.  
**Top individual:** Toby Bradshaw, Ireland, 7 for 11lb 7½oz.  
**Heaviest trout:** Cyril Murray, Ireland, 2lb 11oz.

1. Scotland	49 fish	68-15-8
2. Wales	43 fish	63-15-4
3. England	45 fish	62-3-12
4. Ireland	42 fish	59-14-0

Full Results >>



English National

# BEWL PROVES A TOUGH TEST

THE ENGLISH Loch-Style Fly-Fishing Championships at Bewl Water proved to be a demanding test for the 103 finalists, writes Paul Canning. A blustery north-westerly wind during the previous few days had slowed sport and many found it hard to get to grips with Bewl’s trout in the bright sun and wind.

Winner Mike Tinnion, from Keswick in Cumbria, was the only competitor to get it right. His 12 fish bag weighing 16lb 9oz came mostly to a palmered Hare’s Ear variant fished on an intermediate line. He favoured the Chingley Wood area.

In second place with eight fish was Paul Miller from Peterborough. He got many of his eight fish on a Pearly Wickham’s at the top of Hook Straight. In third place was John Ielden from Haynes in Bedfordshire, with seven fish for 10lb 6½oz.

Qualifying bags came from many parts of the lake. Favoured areas included Chingley Corner, Ferry Point,

the Nose, Hook Straight, Seven Pound Creek, Hook House to Bryants Inlet, Bewl Straight and Dunsters Bay.

A wide range of flies took fish, including Hare’s Ear Nymphs, Slim Buzzers, Pearly Wickham’s, Soldier Muddlers, assorted dries, Cat’s Whisker variants and Green Nymphs.

The use of slow sink WetCel Stillwater and Fast Glass lines combined with a figure of eight or slow draw retrieve was the key for many competitors.

There were the usual stories of competitors qualifying to fish for England after years of trying. Paul Weiss was one. He took 20th place, catching four fish for 6lb 10½oz, squeezing Robert Dadd – whose five fish bag weighed only a half ounce less than Paul’s – into first reserve place!

Despite the tough conditions, there were only 10 blanks among the 102 competitors. A total of 294 fish for a combined weight of 426lb 4oz gave a rod average of 2.8 fish. The match was sponsored by Fulling Mill and Southern Water Services.



The Spring International Match qualifiers: Top row from left. Peter Page (Chairman of CEFF), John White, Glyn Whitbread, Mike Perrin, Iain Colclough, John Ielden, and Bob Church (boat team manager). Bottom row from left. Bob Huggett, Jeremy Clarke, Mike Tinnion (winner), Keith Nicholson, and Dave Fleming.

As usual the top 20 rods form the basis for the two England teams to fish next year’s Internationals to be held at Bewl Water (spring) and Loch Leven (autumn). The first 10

odd numbered qualifiers will fish the spring match, with the top four rods from the Autumn 1996 International (Paul Canning, Clive Collier, Jim Longmore and Graham Walker).

**Qualifiers:** 1. **Mike Tinnion** Keswick, 12 fish for 16lb 9 oz; 2. **Paul Miller**, Peterborough, 8 for 11lb 13oz; 3. **John Ielden**, Haynes, 7 for 10lb 6½oz; 4. **Nick Long**, Welton, 7 for 10lb 5½oz; 5. **David Fleming**, Sheppy, 7 for 9lb 14oz; 6. **Julian Hubbard**, Beauchamp, 7 for 9lb 10½oz; 7. **Iain Colclough**, Great Haywood, 5 for 9lb 2oz; 8. **Mick Massingham**, Carterton, 6 for 8lb 13½oz; 9. **Glyn Whitbread**, Rushden, 6 for 8lb 8½oz; 10. **Len Childs**, Swanscombe, 5 for 8lb ½oz; 11. **Jeremy Clarke**, Saltford, 5 for 8lb ½oz; 12. **Ron Neil**, Taunton, 5 for 7lb 12oz; 13. **John White**, Hurst Green, 5 for 7lb 10oz; 14. **Andrew Ramsden**, Keswick, 5 for 7lb 7½oz; 15. **Keith Nicholson**, Tunbridge Wells, 5 for 7lb ½oz; 16. **Ronnie Duke**, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 5 for 7lb ½oz; 17. **Bob Huggett**, Aylestone, 5 for 6lb 13½oz; 18. **Alan Williams**, Gloucester, 5 for 6lb 12oz; 19. **Mike Perrin**, Tewkesbury, 5 for 6lb 11oz; 20. **Paul Weiss**, Reading, 4 for 6lb 10½oz; 21. **Robert Dadd**, Bovey Tracy, 5 for 6lb 10oz; 22. **John Lindsey**, Grafham, 4 for 6lb 10oz. **Heaviest fish:** Dave Currie, 2lb 5oz.

1. Mike Tinnion	12 fish	16-9-0
2. Paul Miller	8 fish	11-13-0
3. John Ielden	7 fish	10-6-8
4. Nick Long	7 fish	10-5-8
5. David Fleming	7 fish	9-14-0
6. Julian Hubbard	7 fish	9-10-8
7. Ian Colclough	5 fish	9-2-0
8. Mick Massingham	6 fish	8-13-8
9. Glyn Whitbread	6 fish	8-8-8
10.Len Childs	5 fish	8-0-8
11.Jeremy Clarke	5 fish	8-0-8
12.Ron Neil	5 fish	7-12-0
13.John White	5 fish	7-10-0
14.Andew Ramsden	5 fish	7-7-8
15.Keith Nicholson	5 fish	7-0-8
16.Ronnie Duke	5 fish	7-0-8
17.Bob Huggett	5 fish	6-13-8
18.Alan Williams	5 fish	6-12-0
19.Mike Perrin	5 fish	6-11-0
20.Paul Weiss	4 fish	6-10-8
Reserves		
21.Robert Dadd	5 fish	6-10-0
22.John Lindsey	4 fish	6-10-0

Best Fish: 2-5-0 Dave Currie