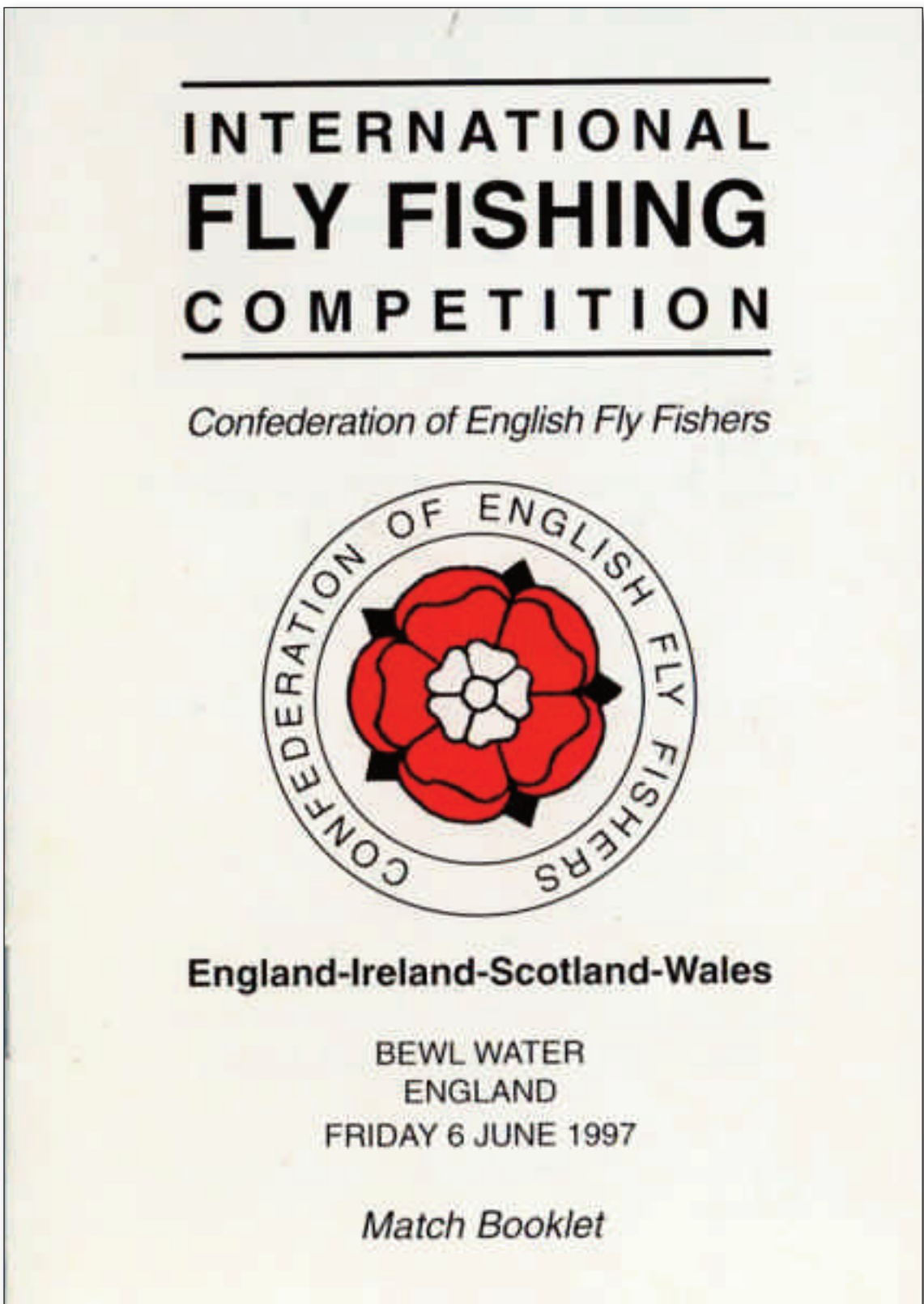


1997

Loch-style Home International - Spring  
Bewl Water - 6th June 1997



England  
Jeremy Clarke (captain), Paul Canning, Ian Colclough, Clive Collier, Dave Fleming, Robert Hugget, John Ieldon, Jim Longmore, Keith Nicholson, Mike Perrin, Mike Tinnion, Graham Walker, Glyn Whitbread & John White.







# VICTORIOUS ENGLAND



Boats motor to the best fishing areas at the start of the Spring International at Kent's Bewl Water which England won.

CORTLAND Team England won the Spring Home International, held at Bewl Water in Kent, when an impressive total of 379 fish were caught by the 56 competitors, reports Paul Canning. With a number of very-experienced local rods in the England squad, it was always going to be tough to beat a team with such a strong home advantage!

As it turned out, with nine rods finishing in the top 20, England's 125 fish for 215lb was comfortably ahead of Wales in second place with 105 fish for 180lb. Scotland took third spot with 89 fish for 162 lb, well ahead of Ireland who had 60 fish for 96lb.

Bewl Water was in top form for this international, fishing superbly both in practise and on match day. The fish here normally respond very well in early June to nymphs and dries but with a heavy daphnia bloom, many trout were taken on bright mini lures. The key to success was to judge the correct fishing depth, not easy as the wind and light levels kept varying, making fish move up and down in the water.

Hook Straight, The Nose, the Cages area, Ferry Point, the Gorse Bushes and Chingley all produced fish. Many competitors opted to fish Hook Straight because of good results in practise, but the Nose fished well on the day as a strong southerly wind sucked fish out of the main bowl.

Brown Bowl winner Stewart Barclay of Scotland was one to catch well at the Nose. He used a Hi-D line in combination with orange, black and pink mini-lures to take 12 fish by 12.53pm. His varied speed of retrieve seemed to be just what fish wanted. Stewart said, "I have to thank my partner on the day for my win. I favoured Hook Straight but having lost the toss, found myself fishing the Nose area. I am glad I was taken there!"

A few boats slipped away to take fish in quiet water. England's top rod Graham Walker was one, going straight to the undisturbed Chingley Corner to catch 12 fish by 1.30 on slowly-fished nymphs. Hywel Morgan was top rod for Wales. He was one of the more successful anglers in Hook Straight, catching 12 fish on deep-fished lures at Browns Inlet. Other rods struggled in this area to catch consistently

A bag limit of 12 fish was applied on match day, with a proportional bonus being awarded for free time remaining. And despite the high average catch of 6.7 fish per angler, only 11 competitors managed to finish before time! No blanks were recorded, apart from two competitors who were sadly disqualified for arriving back minutes late. Fortunately the bags of these two anglers would not have affected the final team positions.

It was agreed prior to the match that thwart boards



England's top rod Graham Walker takes another rainbow in practise.

would be allowed and one was made available to every competitor. This was a very good decision and undoubtedly made the day much more comfortable for many in the confines of Bewl's narrow boats. It is hoped that this sensible move might set a precedent for future Internationals where relevant.

This event was superbly organised from beginning to end, thanks to Howard Mackenzie and his hard-



"Have we won?" England team men Jeremy Clarke (left) and Paul Canning try to calculate the result.

working Bewl staff, Len Childs and the local boatmen.

Cortland Team England were joined for the three days of the event by John Mitchell, managing director of Normark Sport Ltd, the team's new sponsors. Each member has been given a set of Touchstone fishing clothing including jacket, water-proof trousers, fleeces and jumpers all carrying the Cortland Team England graphic.

## Results:

### Teams:

1. England 125 fish, 215lb 8.5oz
2. Wales 105 fish, 180lb 9oz
3. Scotland 89 fish, 162lb 9oz
4. Ireland 60 fish, 96lb 2.5oz

### Individuals (top 20)

1. Stewart Barclay, Scotland, 12 fish, 29lb 5.5oz
2. Graham Walker \* England, 12, 27lb 13oz
3. Hywel Morgan, Wales, 12, 27lb 12oz
4. John Jones, Wales, 12, 26lb 9.5oz
5. William Dewar, Scotland 12, 23lb 15.5oz
6. Sandy Nicholson, Scotland, 12, 23lb 1oz
7. Glyn Whitbread \* England, 12, 22lb 10oz
8. John White \* England, 12, 20lb 10.5oz

9. Paul Canning \* England, 12, 19lb 7oz
  10. Ian Colclough, England, 12, 19lb
  11. Dave Thomas, Wales, 12, 18lb 9.5oz
  12. John Ieldon, England, 11, 17lb 14.5oz
  13. Gwyndaf Evans, Wales, 11, 17lb 13.5oz
  14. Daniel Edwards, Wales, 10, 17lb 1oz
  15. Dave Flemming, England, 10, 17lb
  16. Mike Perrin, England, 11, 16lb 9oz
  11. Pat Carson, Ireland, 10, 16lb 7.5oz
  18. Clive Collier, England, 10, 16lb 7oz
  19. Eugene McArdle, Ireland, 11, 15lb 7.5oz
  20. Sam McGowan, Ireland, 10, 14lb 12.5oz
- \*re-qualified to fish for England in the Autumn international, Loch Leven Scotland.

## EUROPEAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

A TOTAL of 27 teams from 12 European nations were competing in the eighth year of the Championship. Conditions at Kent's Bewl Water were testing in the extreme, with light variable winds and patchy cloud cover throughout Sunday's match day. Most fish were taken on small imitative nymphs, and the winning anglers were those who followed the fish as they varied their feeding depth in the water

Despite a sterling effort from the top Belgian teams in third and fourth places, local knowledge proved the essential ingredient as the two Bewl squads took top honours. Best performances from other British squads came from GB Hardy who came a creditable fifth; GB Grahman in seventh; GB CEFF eighth, and GB Musto tenth. Ray Burt was top individual, taking six fish in both morning and afternoon sessions.

The Championship is fished in two legs this year, the second being in France in October when it will be decided

## TROUT NEWS 11

# HOME BANKER

## England's fly-fishers take glory at Bewl

By  
**JOHN PLUMMER**

ENGLAND'S great sporting Summer continued with victory in the oldest event in angling.

The fly-fishing Home International was first held on Loch Leven in 1932.

There have been few better performances since than this year's effort by Cortland Team England, who recorded a stunning rod average of NINE.

On home water at Bewl, Kent, their tactics proved spot on as they finished 35 lb clear of Wales.

Captain Jeremy Clarke said: "A lot of fish were feeding on daphnia, which were reacting to the sun and moving up and down the water.

"We learned in practice it was worth spending time changing lines to allow for this."

Delighted manager Bob Church added: "We had good advice from local experts and had six Bewl regulars in the team, which helped no end."

Scotland's Stewart Barclay had the consolation of lifting the Brown Bowl for best bag.



A DAMSEL Nymph tempted this cracking silver fish from Rutland Water. The 6 lb 10 oz rainbow was found to contain the remains of an eight-inch coarse fish when gutted. Ken Raynor, of Chapel St Leonards, Lincs, struck while boatfishing around Browns Island in the South Arm.

Result: 1 England, 125 fish for 215-8-8; 2 Wales, 105 for 180-9-0; 3 Scotland, 89 for 162-2-0; 4 Ireland, 60 for 96-2-8.

Best bag: Stewart Barclay, Scotland, 12

for 29-15-8. Heaviest trout: John White, England, 2-12-0.

Total wins: England 38; Scotland 21; Wales 16; Ireland 7.

1. England	125 fish	215-8-8
2. Wales	105 fish	180-9-0
3. Scotland	89 fish	162-2-0
4. Ireland	60 fish	60-2-8





England  
Stuart Crofts (captain), Iain Barr, Dennis Buck, Simon Gawesworth & John Horsey.



# RIVERS HOME INTERNATIONAL

Scotland's Paul Buchanan with the Mike Childs Trophy for the best fish of the competition.

WITH three wins in the last five River Internationals, Scotland were expected to do well again, but in this year's contest Wales and England were out in front on the Duke of Rutland's Haddon Hall Estate stretch of the Derbyshire Wye, writes JOHN BOON

Normally a dry fly-only water, permission was given for sunk fly in keeping with the International Fly Fishing Association rules. Not surprisingly, the venue gave a memorable day's sport with a total of 274 trout and grayling coming to 20 rods.

Every competitor was accompanied by a controller. Barbless hooks and knotless landing nets were used. Fish were measured in wetted guttering rulers and gently returned to water by the official controllers.

The match was fished on five beats in four 90-minute sessions with five competitors from each country drawing for morning and afternoon beats and start points. Success depended on placings in the sessions. By lunch time the England Team, sponsored by Ultimate Fishing Supplies, had established a lead of four placings and looked set for a home win. By mid afternoon, that lead was still intact.

But Wales persistence with the dropped or rolled nymph paid off right at the "finishing tape". On the last but one of the day's 80 score cards, the Welsh team drew 'level and won on the last card by two place points. It was an exciting and impressively skilful International which will be remembered particularly for the excellent spirit in which it was fished.

Sadly, it was marred by an incident which is becoming all too common in fishery car parks. The afternoon before the match, one of England's team cars was broken into, windows smashed and several thousand pounds worth of fishing and photographic equipment belonging to the team was stolen.

The way in which the England team rallied to fish the event with borrowed tackle was admirable.

The victorious Welsh team (back row) Gwilym Hughes, Tim Hughes (reserve), Adrian Jones, Mike Evans. (Front row) Adrian Nixon (capt), Carl Jones.

England's Simon Gawesworth with a good grayling.

**Results:** 1 Wales, 2 England, 3 Scotland, 4 Ireland.  
Best fish 44.6 cms grayling Paul Buchanan.  
**Top individual:** Carl Jones, Wales (2, 1 1, 1 placings).

1. Wales	73 fish 3707 points	43 placings
2. England	92 fish 4527 points	45 placings
3. Scotland	68 fish 3577 points	51 placings
4. Ireland	41 fish 2068 points	63 placings

[Full Results >>](#)

SEPTEMBER 1997 TROUT FISHERMAN





## ENGLISH NATIONAL RIVER CHAMPIONSHIP

CUMBRIA'S scenic rivers Greta and Derwent at Keswick in the Lake District were the venues for the 32 competitors, who caught a total of 89 brown trout, all measured and returned.

New National Rivers Champion is Neil Raistrick, pushing Bill McHarg and Ken Hardy into second and third places. The award for the largest fish was shared between Keith McAdam, from Keswick, and Jim Curry, from Lancaster, who both caught a fish of 40cm. Most successful patterns included Hare's Ears, Shrimps, Goldheads, plus the traditional small black spiders and partridge patterns.

The Keswick AA now holds a remarkable place in English competition flyfishing with four members representing England. They are Mike Timmon, 1996/7 National Loch Style Champion, Neil Raistrick, the new National Rivers Champion, Andrew Ramsden, currently a member of both National teams; and Keith McAdam, a new member of the 1997/8 Rivers team.



The new England 1998 rivers team (back row) Bill McHarg (2nd), Bob Greenwood (reserve), Ken Hardy (3rd), John Horsey (4th), Keith McAdam (5th). (Front row) Champion Neil Raistrick, Keswick.

TROUT FISHERMAN SEPTEMBER 1997

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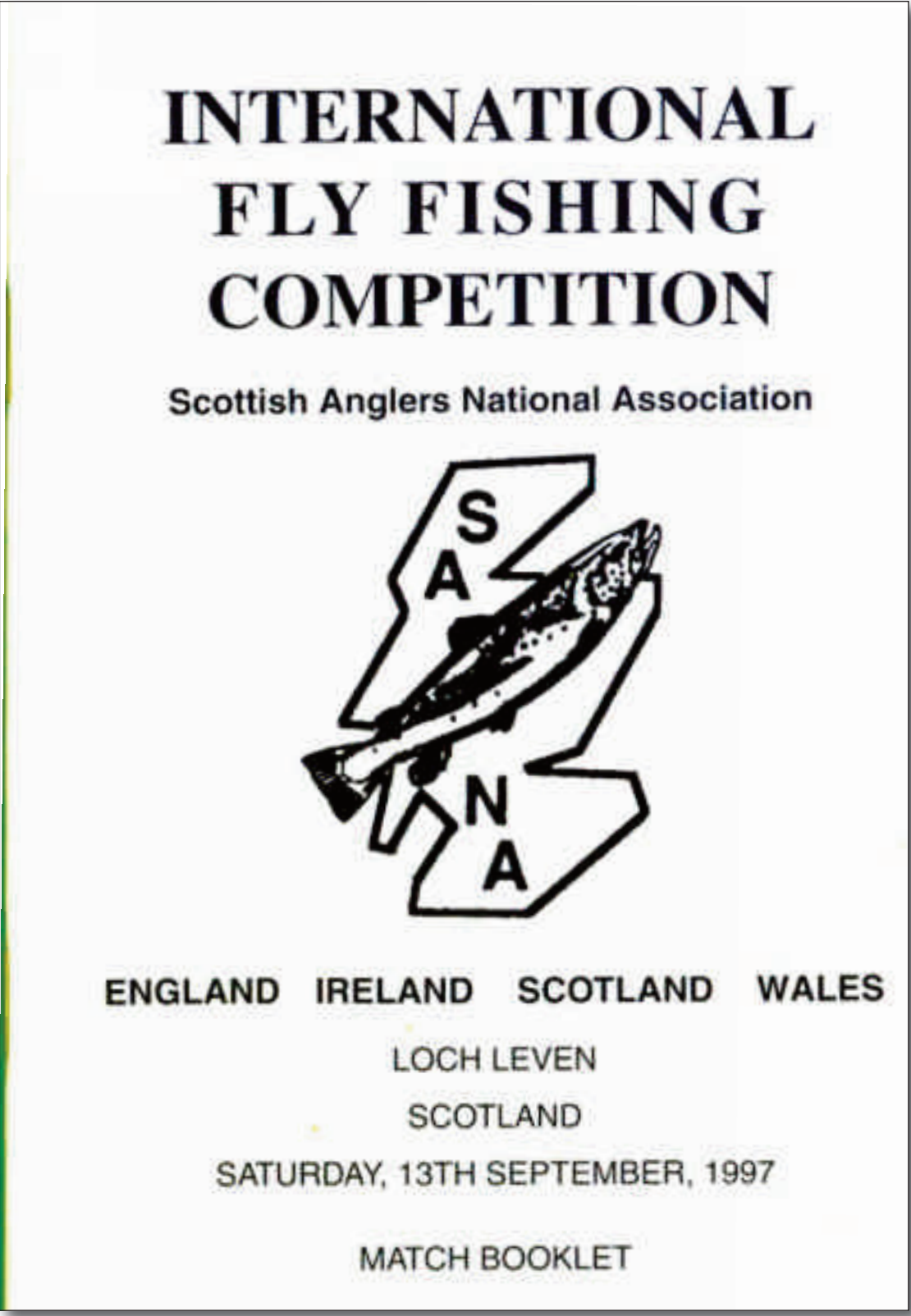
1. Neil Raistrick
2. Bill McHarg
3. Ken Hardy
4. John Horsey
5. Keith McAdam
6. Bob Greenwood
7. Simon Gawsworth
8. Andrew Ramsden
9. Jim Curry
10. Trevor Colclough
11. Andy Donaldson
12. Paul Davison
13. Stuart Crofts
14. Jim Johnson
15. Graham Willis
16. Dave Mee
17. Ray Burt
18. David Calvert
19. Andrew Dixon
20. Peter Clark
21. Robbie Bell
22. Tim Burn
23. Stephen Peart
24. Baz Reece
25. Mick Broadgate
26. Lloyd Vincent
27. Martin Introna
28. John Newton
29. Leon Smith
30. Geoff Clarkson
30. John Griffin
30. Bob Preston

## Airflo Classic - Individuals

### Packington

1. Andrew Szoradi
2. Kieran Clarke
3. Malcom Randle
4. Mark Damarall
5. Ian Buckley
6. Mark Miles
7. Ed Foster
- 8= John Pearn
- 8= Leigh Pond
10. Dave Franklin
11. Lawrence Wallin
12. Richard Nuttal
13. Paul Stretch
14. Nigel Haigh
- 15= Terry Clark
- 15= Tony Tullett
17. John Calvert
18. Simon Kidd
19. Phillip Longstaff
20. Andy Cottam
21. Bob Lawrence
22. Harold Pritchett
- 23= Derek Bolton
- 23= Adrian Joyce
25. Michael Laycock
26. Will Lear
27. D Arlotte
28. Norman Robson
29. Keith Bryant
30. Glen Moody
31. Geoffrey Race
- 32= Brian Austin
- 32= Tony Clyde
34. Nick Tomkins
- 35= William Barton
- 35= Paul Grevett
- 35= Ken Moore
- 39= Mark Kitchingham
- 39= Paul Knight
40. David Wortley
41. Mike Chapman
- 42= Janet Briggs
- 42= Robert Bryant
- 42= Jim Curry
- 42= Tony Curtis
- 42= Colin Grimes
- 42= Andrew Hedger
- 42= Wilton Jefferson
- 42= Alan Laurie
- 42= Francis O'Donnell
- 42= Keith Slater
- 42= Mike Symons





England  
Len Childs (captain), Paul Canning, Ronnie Duke, Julian Hubbard, Nikki Long, Mick Massingham, Paul Miller, Ron Neil, Andrew Ramsden, Graham Walker, Paul Weiss, Glyn Whitbread, John White & Alan Williams.

Match

SCENE

Continued

AUTUMN INTERNATIONAL

IRISH EYES ARE SMILING

IAN MUCKLE reports on the autumn International at an out-of-sorts Loch Leven.

**I**N spite of tremendous sport on Scotland's Loch Leven during early summer, the signs looked ominous for the Autumn International after three weeks of unusually hot weather. Water temperature had soared to 22 degrees, and an algal bloom had cut the visibility

Stressed trout were leaping from the water, while anglers with fish finders were reporting large numbers of trout retreating to the depths.

Practice produced few fish for any teams, although one of the Scottish totals would certainly have clinched the International had it been taken on the Saturday. However, those superb rainbows in the 6lb and over class were absent from catches, which consisted mainly of brown trout.

So it was that on a very-difficult match day, the four teams set out to do battle knowing that even a fish per rod would almost certainly ensure a win. In fact 11 trout weighing 17lb 12oz were enough to take the gold medals for the Irish. The other three teams each had nine fish, so it was all down to size of fish at the end of the day. Half the field blanked.

In the event, Wales took second with 15lb 11.6oz; England came third with 13lb 2.6oz; and home team Scotland were last with 12lb 8oz. A strong gusting wind made many favoured areas uncomfortable to fish, and the water was still coloured after the algal bloom. Most boats headed up to the north shore to fish the more sheltered drifts, such as Factor's Pier to Scart and North Queich Mouth to the North Buoy. However, Irishman Toby Bradshaw headed south and persevered in the waves off St Serf's Island to take two fish for 4lb 3.1oz on his Black Cat and win the Brown Bowl for the best basket – the second time he's done this in a Home International.

The heaviest trout was taken by Paul Miller, Cortland Team England, and weighed 2lb 15.25oz. Top English rod was Paul Canning. The other three England rods to requalify for the Spring 1998 International on Lough Arrow were Nikki Long, Paul Miller and Graham Walker.

Best basket for Wales came from David Williams with two for 4lb 2.75oz; and for Scotland, Sandy Sutherland with one for 2lb 14.3oz. The total number of fish weighed in was 38 for 59lb 2.25oz.

After the match, winning captain Robbie Marshall commented, "Obviously, I'm delighted for the lads. Loch Leven proved to be a difficult venue, but the fish were of good quality. We look forward to fishing it in 1999."

Welsh skipper Colin Welson said: "The fish were

**Irish captain Robbie Marshall.**

**Welsh captain Colin Welson.**

**England captain Len Childs.**

**Scottish captain Nigel Muckle.**

**Ireland team member Toby Bradshaw won the Brown Bowl for the best basket with two fish for 4lb 3.1oz.**

**A piper leads the teams out to start the first day's fishing.**

excellent, even if the loch was a bit difficult. I'm very proud of the team!"

Len Childs, leading the English squad, had this to say: "Loch Leven was a very good venue, and the rainbows especially were super. We will be back, but not tomorrow!"

Scottish captain Nigel Muckle was philosophical. "The result was disappointing, but the lads worked so hard for very little return, and I'm proud of them. It's just a real shame that we didn't see Leven at its best."

**AUTUMN HOME INTERNATIONAL**

**Loch Leven**

IRELAND won a dire match in which just 38 fish were caught and more than half the anglers blanked.

Toby Bradshaw led the way for the Irish with a brace of trout for 3-2-0, the best bag of the day.

England manager Bob Church described the match as 'one to forget'. He said: "A pea soup

algae was over the whole loch, cutting visibility down to a few inches."

**Result:** 1 Ireland, 11 for 17-12-0; 2 Wales, 9 for 15-11-6; 3 England, 9 for 13-2-6; 4 Scotland, 9 for 12-8-0.

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NOVEMBER 1997 TROUT FISHERMAN

TROUT FISHERMAN NOVEMBER 1997

1. Ireland	11 fish	17-12-0
2. Wales	9 fish	15-11-10
3. England	9 fish	13-2-10
4. Scotland	9 fish	12-8-0

Full Results >>



ENGLISH LOCH-STYLE CHAMPIONSHIP

# HOT SPORT AT GRAFHAM



Fish on! John Braithwaite and Ian Greenwood battle it out.

**G**RAFHAM WATER in Cambridgeshire turned on the heat for the English National, fished 24 hours earlier than planned in respect for the funeral of the Princess of Wales. A day of wind, waves and cloud created the ideal fishing conditions for loch-style fishing, and the fish duly responded.

This year's champion, Farnoor regular **Jim Longmore**, from Southall, Middlesex, found the Hi-D line the most productive. He realised early on that mini lures brought lots of plucks but few firm takes. But a combination of a lure on the bob, and a Hare's Ear and a Shellback on the droppers, produced a bag limit of 12 fish and a three-hour time bonus.

Second-placed **Chris Howitt**, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, worked a Viva and Stickfly on a slime intermediate line for his 12 fish, while a size 14 Silver Invicta on an intermediate line took a 3lb 15.5oz rainbow for Penrith angler **Andrew Dixon**.

Northampton nurse **Julie Emerson** became only the second lady in the 65-year history of home internationals to qualify for a place in the full England team. Julie, who works as a staff nurse on a renal dialysis unit, also celebrated her 11th wedding anniversary on the same day.

The rod average for the day was an impressive 8.3 with the top 43 anglers taking double-figure catches.



National winner Jim Longmore receives the trophy from Tom Bilson.



Hugs and kisses from Wendy Miller for qualifier Julie Emerson.



The two Cortland England teams for next year's Internationals.



**Qualifiers:** 1 **Jim Longmore**, Southall, 24lb 7.5oz, 2 **Chris Howitt**, Tunbridge Wells, 23lb 1oz, 3 **Chris Guthrie**, Tyne & Wear, 22lb 15.5oz, 4 **Dave Monks**, Bristol, 22lb, 5 **Brian Froggatt**, Rugby, 21lb 14oz, 6 **Trevor Bellamy**, Peterborough, 21lb 13oz, 7 **Nigel Nixon**, Leek, 21lb 12.5oz, 8 **Robert Sosbe**, Leicester, 21lb 10.5oz, 9 **Paul Wild**, Stamford, 21lb 6.5oz, 10 **Iain Barr**, Market Deeping, 21lb 6oz, 11 **Paul McLinden**, Coventry, 21lb 1oz, 12 **Andrew Ramsden**, Keswick, 20lb 14.5oz, 13 **Richard Meigh**, Stoke on Trent, 20lb 8oz, 14 **Andrew Dixon**, Penrith, 20lb 7.5oz, 15 **Mike Betts**, Sittingbourne, 20lb 3.5oz, 16 **Julie Emerson**, Northampton, 19lb 15.5oz, 17 **Keith Gollop**, Tiverton, 19lb 8.5oz, 18 **Daren Hoskin**, Bristol, 19lb 8oz, 19 **Martyn Adams**, Birmingham, 19lb 1oz, 20 **Hugh Frew**, Southborough, 18lb 13.5oz, 21 **Pat McLintic**, Aylesbury, 18lb 6.5oz, 22 **Ivan Blythe**, Reading, 18lb 5oz. These form next year's Cortland Team England squads for the home internationals on Lough Arrow and Lyn Trawsfynydd.

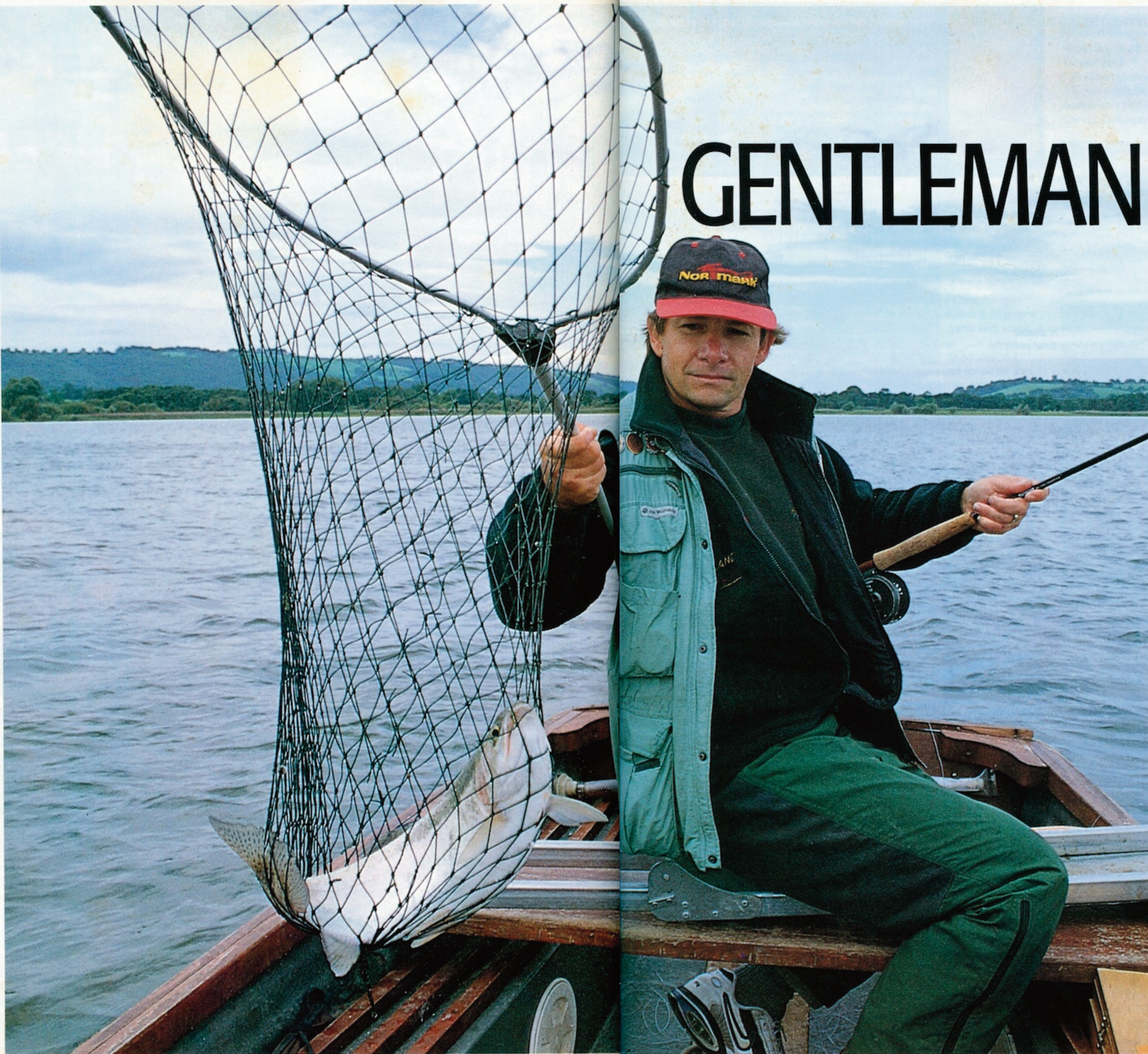
1. Jim Longmore	24-7-8
2. Chris Howitt	23-1-0
3. Chris Guthrie	22-15-8
4. Dave Monks	22-0-0
5. Brian Froggatt	21-14-0
6. Trevor Bellamy	21-13-0
7. Nigel Nixon	21-12-8
8. Robert Sosbe	21-10-8
9. Paul Wild	21-6-8
10. Iain Barr	21-6-0
11. Paul McLinden	21-1-0
12. Andrew Ramsden	20-14-8
13. Richard Meigh	20-8-0
14. Andrew Dixon	20-7-8
15. Mike Betts	20-3-8
16. Julie Emerson	19-15-8
17. Keith Gollop	19-8-8
18. Daren Hoskin	19-8-0
19. Martyn Adams	19-1-0
20. Hugh Frew	18-13-8
Reserves	
21. Pat McLintic	18-6-8
22. Ivan Blythe	18-5-0

Best Fish: 3-15-8 Andrew Dixon





**JIM LONGMORE** won the England National at Grafham Water last year. His competition achievements have all come in the last three years after entering the England eliminators. He failed in his first two attempts to qualify, but succeeded at the third. At his first International at Llyn Trawsfynydd in North Wales, he kept his place to fish his second International at Bewl Water. Last year he won the southern heat of the eliminators at Bewl to get into the National Final at Grafham, where he finished top rod to become the English Champion.



# GENTLEMAN JIM

In just three seasons, west London angler Jim Longmore has come from being a pleasure bank angler to National Champion. CERI JONES shares a boat with him at Chew to find out the reason for his success.

**Ceri: What do you do for a living, Jim?**  
**Jim:** I'm a sound operator for BBC outside broadcasts, which entails an awful lot of travelling, covering many football matches. I usually take a rod with me for when I've a few hours to spare. With the number of competitions around nowadays, it can be very difficult to fit them in with work.

**How long have you been fishing?**  
 I started flyfishing about 10 years ago although it seems only yesterday that I fished my first Benson and Hedges. The first trout I caught was at Barn Elms Reservoirs in west London, although my first serious trout fishing started on Queen Mother Reservoir.

**What club do you fish for?**  
 I fish for Queen Mother Fly Fishers which now is just a group of 15 mates. We were a club of more than 100 members at one time.

## How did you finish top rod at Grafham in the English National?

On practice day I managed to find fish around G buoy, as did many others. My set up was with a Hi-D line and mini lures, but later I switched to large nymphs which worked much better. I caught fish in many areas but found most were around 300 yards out from the bank.

I had a very successful practice day, which normally means a disastrous match. But luckily match day was a repeat of the practice.

On match day I was into fish on my first few casts. Within half an hour my boat partner and I had taken five fish between us, and they were still coming to the Shellback Hare's Ear. It worked so well on the middle dropper that I switched it to the point and caught quicker.

When I had finished with 12 fish by ten to three, I was so pleased that I offered my flies to my boat partner without thinking of the possible consequences. He accepted with gratitude. He was already on nine but the next took him under the boat where he lost it along with my flies.

I wasn't too upset for him, for it could have been a different story. I had the feeling that every one of my boat partner's fish was more than two pounds and his bag twice the size of mine. Fortunately the scales told a different story, but happily we both qualified.

I see today you've taken a few of the fish on your shellback hare's ear. Tell me more about the fly?

The Grafham match was the first time I used the fly for loch styling. I can't say I invented the fly, for I have seen it around used by other anglers. I tied up a leaded version two months earlier to fish Farmoor Reservoir, when I wanted a heavy point fly to get my Buzzers so I tied some unleaded versions for competition fishing. And it's caught me a lot of fish.

**What is your favourite style of fishing?**  
 Up until a few years ago most of my fishing was off the bank, but now I prefer to boat fish especially nymphing with a float line, but last season I had to use a sinking line all the time.

## What tackle do you use?

For loch-style competition fishing I use two 10ft sages RPL+. The lines are 7# sinkers and 6# floaters. I have a full range of Cortland lines - I believe they are the best lines available - plus an Airflo Di-7, Glass line and a Wet Cel Hi-D.

The nylon I've used for the last five years has been Drennan Sub-surface and Maxima Green, 4lb for dry fly and 5lb for pulling lures and nymphs. I'm also quite a fan of Diamond, a fluorocarbon-coated line which was originally marketed for coarse fishing. It's half the price of other fluorocarbons around. I've been broken a few times when using it, but certainly less than when using double strength lines.

## JIM'S TOP SIX RESERVOIR FAVOURITES



1. Nymph variant (works well at Bewl).



2. Mackay double (top all-round Bewl point fly).



3. Shellback Hare's Ear



4. Claret mini-lure (good fly for Farmoor daphnia feeders).



5. Flashback Diawl Bach (works well at Bewl and Trawsfynydd)

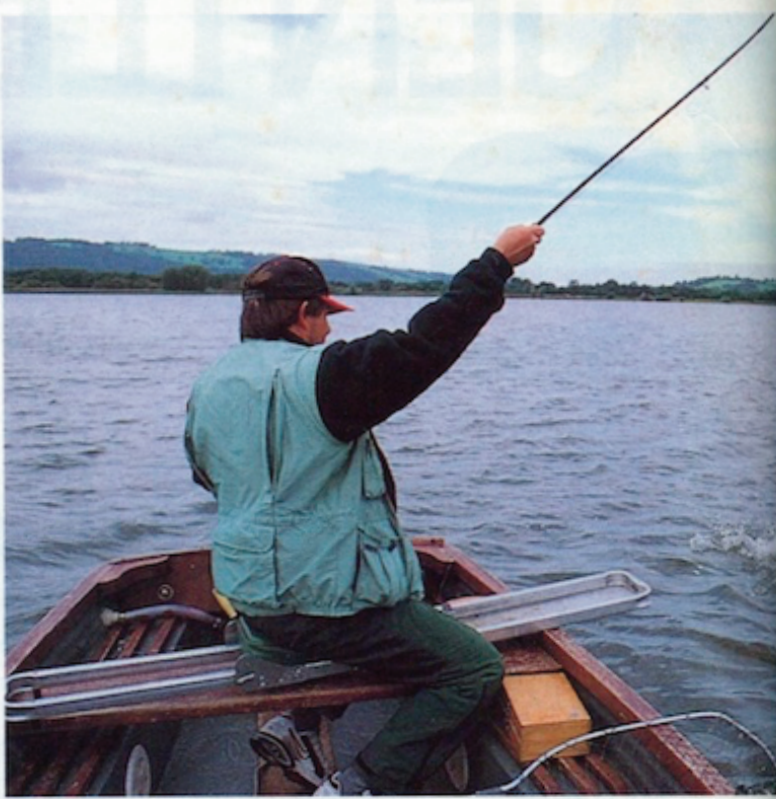


6. Coral mini booby (works well at Bewl)

## What method did you enjoy most success with last season?

It had to be with the fast-sinking Di-7 line. I'm not necessarily letting it fish too deep, maybe only eight to 10ft. I've put two markers on the line (pic right), which allows me to "hang" the flies twice, once at 20 ft and then again at 10ft. Some days you will catch trout at both depths, but generally "hanging" at 10ft produces most takes. The method works well in clear water at Grafham and Bewl.

When you are retrieving, you'll feel the marker come over your finger. So "hanging" the flies becomes automatic. I generally don't "hang" for more than 10 seconds, unless I'm getting a lot of takes.



Jim Longmore plays a rainbow at Chew hooked on the Shellback Hare's Ear.

## What is your local water?

You could say my local water is Bewl, although it's still 75 miles away from my home in West London. For the first couple of weeks of the season I fish the bank. Then I spend the rest of the season on a boat. I also used to fish Farmoor regularly a few years before I got into competition fishing. I'd like the time to fish there more often as the Farmoor fish were superb last season.

## What do you put your success down to?

Fly fishing is all about confidence. You've got to stick to what you feel is right. I'm a firm believer in doing the right thing with the wrong fly rather than the wrong thing with the right fly.

## What is your best fish to date?

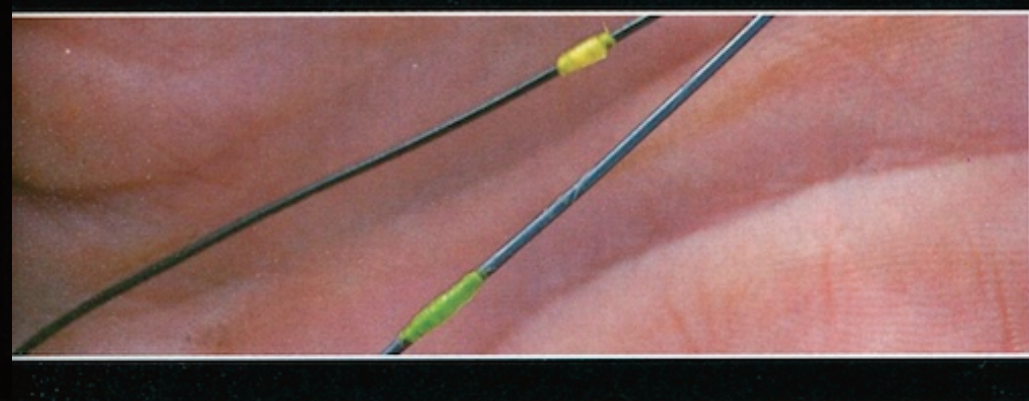
I've had a few big rainbows from small waters but my best fish has got to be the 11lb brown from Farmoor four years ago. I caught it from the bank on a Green Buzzer. Originally I thought it was a big stockie rainbow and played it quite casually. But it was a different story when I saw that I had hooked a resident brown.

## What anglers have helped you along the way?

Two guys I'd like to mention are Kevin Hart and Micky Bewick. I teamed up with them at Queen Mother Flyfishers, which Kevin started. He taught loch styling to many anglers in those early days. Micky works in a tackle shop and always picks up the local news and hot flies. They are both good friends of mine.

## What is your aim in the near future?

I have fished the English final of the Benson and Hedges on a number of occasions, but would like to get through to the International final of The Hardy. My main aim for the next few years is to stay in the England team and maybe one day win the Brown Bowl.



Well Jim, I see you've tackled up today with a floater and nymphs, while I've put on an intermediate and mini lures. Let's see which method will work best?

A warm south-westerly wind offers ideal drifting conditions for Chew, but our first two drifts along the Morton Bank draw a blank. So we motor over to Wick where things start to happen.

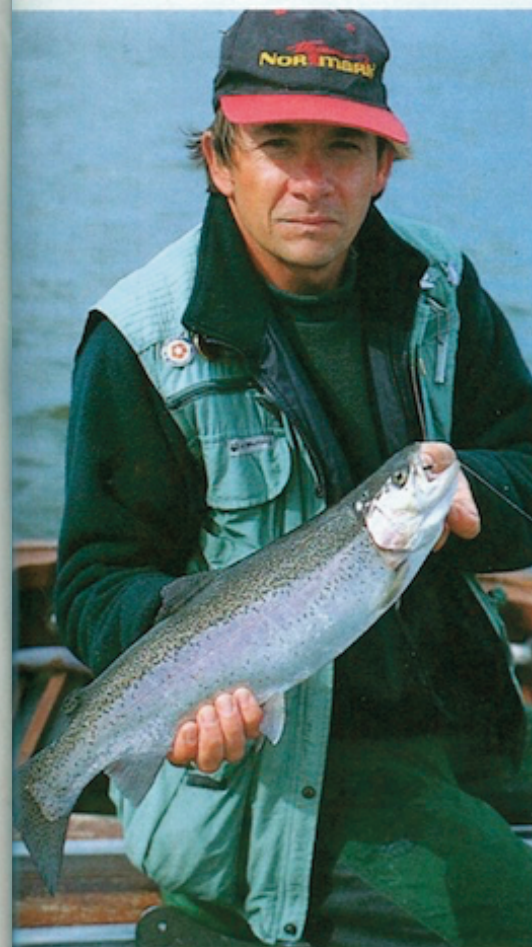
Jim takes a brace on his Shellback Hare's Ear, while I catch fish on the Viva. Spooning the trout as we motor back up the drift, I find them full of corixa, which proves that you don't always have to be specific to match the hatch.

During the next few drifts we take another six rainbows all around 2 1/2lb to 3lb in a fast and furious spell of action. Then things go quiet.

Motoring around looking for more feeding fish brings us to Villice, where we find trout fry feeding. Here the intermediate and Viva work better as the fish are taking a little deeper. Jim changes lines and once again that Shellback Hare's Ear does the business. So by the end of the day, it's honours even.



Jim Longmore dabbles his fly at the end of a cast.



## CHEW FACTFILE

**Telephone:**  
01275 332339  
**Opening Date:**  
March 26 1998  
**Tickets:**  
Day-ticket £11 (8 fish).  
 Boat for 2 (including day-tickets) £53

Jim shows the quality of Chew rainbows found at the end of last season.

## HOW TO TIE THE MACKAY

**Hook:** Size 10-12 double  
**Thread:** Black  
**Tail:** Black marabou  
**Rib:** Fine gold wire or oval gold tinsel  
**Body:** Hare's fur  
**Cheeks:** Fluorescent light orange and white floss.



1. Fix the hook in the vice and run the tying thread down to the bend. Catch in a pinch of black marabou plus two inches of fine gold wire. Take a small amount of hare fur and offer it up to the thread.



2. Using a pinch and twist method dub the fur on to the thread to form an even rope. Wind the rope to cover two thirds of the hook shank.



3. Wind the gold wire rib in evenly spaced turns. Take three inches of light orange fluorescent floss, fold it in three, and catch it in so that the two ends lie along either side of the body.



4. Add a small section of dubbed hare fur before adding the front cheeks of fluorescent white floss. These are added in exactly the same way as the orange cheeks.



5. Add a final small pinch of hare fur at the head and cast off the thread with a whip finish. Finally trim the cheeks to length.