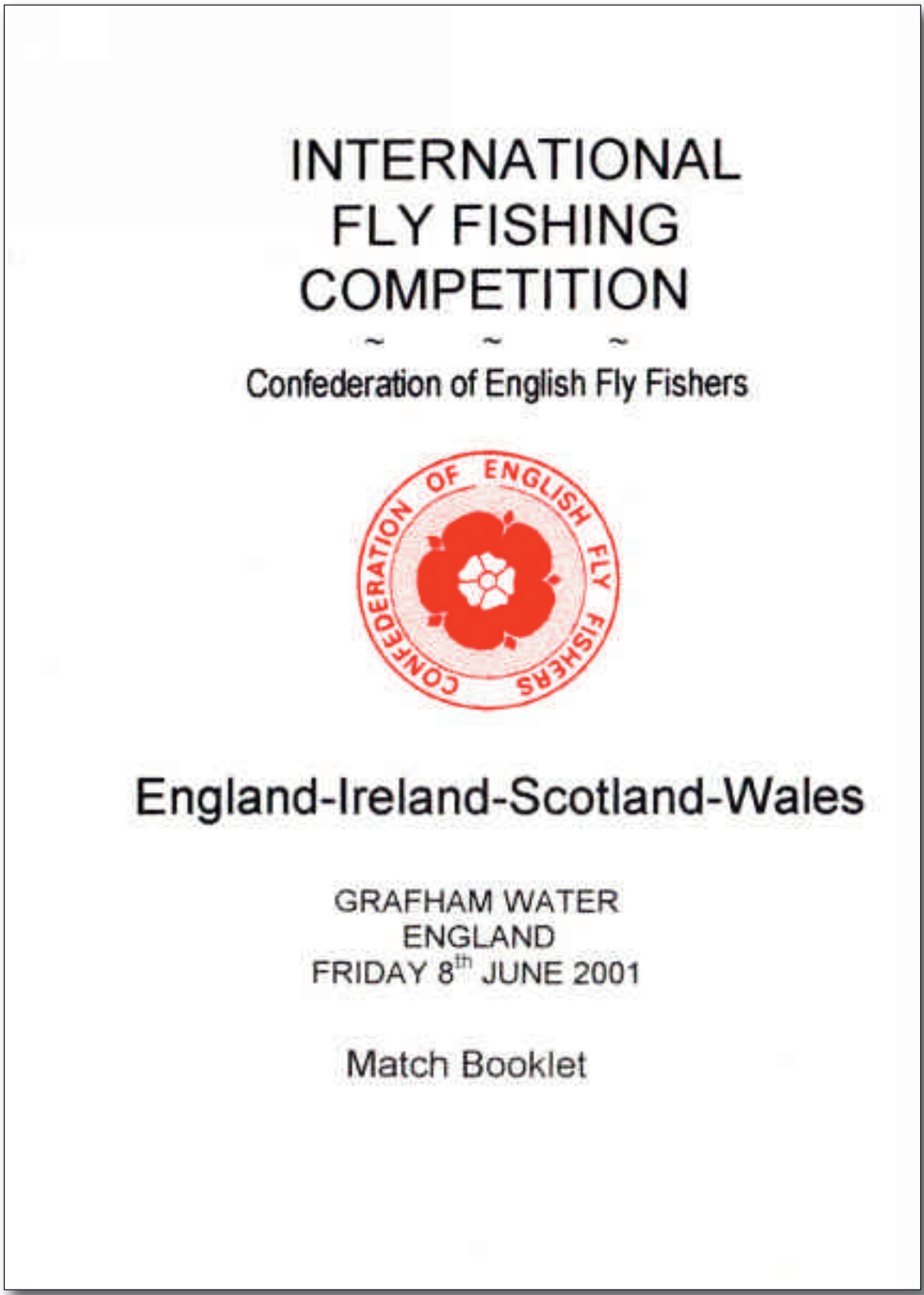




England
Martin Greatbach (captain), Neil Bailey, Iain Barr, Richard Cobbledick, Nigel Collis, Ron Gent, Lee Henfrey, John Henshall, Dave Heseltine, Dave Hodgson, John Horsey, Martin Introna, Graham Pearson & Tony Tullet.



Stories from the trout competition scene

Match News

Spring Home International
Grafham Water - June 8

Just the Blob

Scotland destroy opposition in new approach to match fishing

CLASSIC MALTS TEAM SCOTLAND demolished all before them to beat England by the biggest margin ever on a home water in this event.

They totally dominated, filling the top four individual places and beating the favourites by almost 60lb. Never before has a Scottish team ventured south and performed like this. The Welsh finished third but the Irish did not attend due to the foot and mouth crisis.

"It's absolutely fantastic," said jubilant Scottish competitor Ian Earle. "We felt we could win but never by such a margin. It was a true team performance, we all pulled together."

The top individual and winner of the coveted Brown Bowl was first-time international Hugh Law from Perth, with eight fish for 28lb 11oz. But because of local rules, all rainbows were capped at 4lb and although pleased for his team mate, second individual Ian Earle would have won the Brown Bowl if his 4lb 15oz rainbow had counted.

"I'm not bitter," said Ian. "Those were the rules of the match and we all had to abide by them. If those extra 15oz had counted I would have won. Nevertheless, I'm delighted for Hugh on his first ever cap."

Scotland highlighted three key areas during practice. Between Q and I Buoy, off E Buoy and between K and G Buoy. They stuck to these areas throughout the match and found that fish fed virtually non-stop. The team plan was clear. They all fished D-I-7 lines with Blob flies. In fact the whole match was almost entirely fished with Blobs. The Scots chose

Orange or Black Blobs to locate the daphnia feeders. As a variation, they fished a gold flash in the tail for extra attraction. The trout were in pods, not shoals, and varied from about 4ft down to right through the water column. Counting down through the depths was very important and they tried three casts at 10, 15 and 20 seconds but never more than 30. Long, steady pulls were interrupted with pauses and takes came when the flies started moving again or on the hang.

Scotland improved their approach to match fishing with greater pooling of information to form team tactics. After every practice session, each team member filled in a questionnaire about the session. The information was then compiled and analysed for any patterns emerging. It worked like a dream for them.

England team member John Horsey commented: "The Scots really did their homework and got on the feeding fish straight away. In the end these early fish were the difference between the teams."

During practice three of the England team went against the grain to find nymph-feeding fish in Gaynes Cove. This worked, with Nigel Collis, Dave Hodgson and Paul Davison weighing in some good resident fish. But come match day only Dave Hodgson returned, the rest opting for the daphnia feeders in open water. England's highest place individual, the in-form Lee Henfrey of ACA Masterline finished fifth and he, along with Martin Introna (8th), Dave Hodgson (9th) and the ever consistent John Horsey (18), are carried over to fish the Autumn International at Scotland's Loch Leven.



BELOW: Individual champion Hugh Law with Anglian Water's Senior Warden John Mees (right) and Fishery Manager Jon Marshall (left).



1. Scotland115 fish262-15-6

2. England90 fish206-12-2

3. Wales82 fish185-0-0

Ireland did not fish

Full Results >>

56 Trout Fisherman August 2001

Airflo Classic - Individuals

Elinor

AIRFLO SMALL STILLWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS, ELINOR

HAWKS SWOOP TO VICTORY

ELINOR Trout Fishery hosted the final of the Airflo Small Stillwater Championship, in which 75 anglers from around the country competed in very difficult conditions of rain and near gale-force winds. The anglers, who competed either as individuals or as teams of three, had already qualified to reach this stage.

The winning team on the day were the Northumbrian Hawks consisting of Simon Robinson (capt), Dave Parker and Steven Peart who managed to land a total of 14 fish on black/orange Tadpoles, Diawl Bachs, Magnets, and Ginger Hoppers. In second place were team K2 comprising Paul Golding, Tony Baldwin and Dennis Wall with 12 fish.

Both of these teams have now qualified to fish in the European Open which will take place next year over three legs in France, England and Belgium.

The individual event was won by newly-crowned Troutmaster champion Phil Dixon who landed eight fish using a green/black Fritz, sink-tip line and a slow retrieve.

The top five individuals are referred to the International Committee of the Confederation of English Fly-fishers for future points awards for World/European ranking.They are Phil Dixon, Derek Grabhan, Simon Saxby, Simon Robinson and Leigh Pond.

1. Phil Dixon
2=Derrick Grabham
2=Edwin Graham
4. Simon Robinson
5. Leigh Pond
6. Davey Parker
7. David Wortley
8=Oliver Gilman
8=Paul Golding
10.
11.Dennis Wall
12. Kyle Burns
13.Jonathan Powell
14.Dave Shore
15.Ian Buckley
16.Stephen Peart
17.Peter Page
18.John Hancock
19.Tony Baldwin
20.John Frank
21.Tim Batchelor
22.Dennis Symonds
23.Darren Grabham
24.Nick Dunn
25.Tony Slade
26.Martin Dixon
27.Julian Jones
28.David Broom
28.Vince Howley
29.Sean Burns
30.Simon Kidd
31.
32.Dave Franklin
33.James Miles
34.Stephen Branford
35.Darren Pond
36.Andrew Hedger
37.Craig Roper
38.Andy Cottam
39.Tony Curtis
40.Jerrn Dunn
41.Alan Tonge
42.Tim Gaunt-Baker
43.Ed Foster
44.Mike Symons
45.Lee Turner
46.Terry Sharpe
47=Richard Becksmith
47=Colin Clarke
48.Lawrence Crossley
49.John Pearn
50.Dave Evans
51.Phillip Taylor
52.Hywel Morgan
53.George Barbrook
54.Pablo Mulling
55.Dave Johns
56.Ken Logan
57=Terry Clark
57=Carole Findlay
57=Marc Hughes
57=Mark Miles
57=Steve Towler
57=Tony Williamson
64.Norman Sketchley
65.Hamid Makerechi
66.Larry Swatton
67.Trevor Cramphorn
68.Ray Malyon
69.Cheryl Spence
- 8 fish



England
Stephen Peart (captain), Vince Brooks, Mick Dwyer, Robert Edmunds, Nigel Evans, Ian Foreman, Lee Henfrey, Dave Hodgson, John Horsey, Mark Howard, Martin Introna, Dave Parker, Simon Robinson & Tony Wright.



**AUTUMN INTERNATIONAL
LOCH LEVEN**
Revenge for England

Following a humiliating defeat on home waters in the spring, England bounced back in style to take gold at Loch Leven – the home of loch-style competition flyfishing.

The Scots were widely tipped as favourites for this match and judging by their catches during the practice sessions, plus a host of local knowledge, they looked difficult to beat.

Prior to the match, Loch Leven had suffered from a brown algal bloom, so the levels had been dropped considerably in an attempt to flush the algae out.

During the middle of the season, water clarity on the Loch was reported to be at least nine feet, but during the event it was closer to two feet.

Thankfully, the algae was clearing and the fish were certainly up in the water, making floating lines and intermediates the best lines of attack.

One thing that became clear from the start of practice was the lack of rainbows. Throughout the season, the rainbows had featured heavily on the returns, but during the run-up for the match, very few were being caught.

It also meant that the small browns would be the main quarry and any country catching bigger fish would take some beating.

As the practice sessions progressed, the weather deteriorated and come match day, the three countries were faced with near gale-force winds, rain and plummeting air temperatures.

Amazingly, the fish still fed high in the water and England's tactics of fishing static or pulled dry flies, switching to teams of traditional wets during the wildest conditions, won the day. New Trout Fisherman tackle tester Martin Introna had devised a variation on the Hopper theme to incorporate plenty of pearl flash to enhance the pattern as a pulled dry. It certainly worked.

It was inevitably the wild browns that saved the day and only one rainbow came to the scales. Having landed plenty of quality browns during practise, Scotland's luck with the better fish deserted them on the day and it was England who profited from the capture of four quality fish.

The scoring system adopted for the International dictated that only six browns between 10ins and 17ins should be killed. After that, all fish of that size range would be returned and counted as 1lb in weight. Any fish over 17ins could be weighed in, but very few fish were taken of that size.

England's top rod was Nigel Evans, from Cornwall, fishing in his first Home International. At 5.30pm, he had just one small brown, but a move close to the Kelson Strip shoreline and a switch to a Dunkeld Double saw two 4lb browns in the boat, and the Grafham Trophy was secured.

In-form Davie Hodgson took the award for the biggest fish thanks to a fin-perfect 4lb 8oz brown trout.

England's grand slam was thwarted thanks to the efforts of Loch Leven's assistant fishery manager Michael Wilson, who fished a great match to take 12 browns for 12lb 4oz to deservedly take the Brown Bowl.

With Ireland not taking part due to the Foot and Mouth epidemic, it was Wales who took the Wooden Spoon, although the entire match was a close-run affair.

RESULTS
1st England 58 fish 48lb 7.5oz
2nd Scotland 66 Fish 40lb 4oz
3rd Wales 44 fish 35lb 9.25oz
Ireland did not fish
Best basket: Michael Wilson, Scotland, 12 fish, 9lb 0.25oz
Heaviest fish: Davie Hodgson, England, 4lb 8oz
Top four England carry-overs to the 2002 Spring International: Nigel Evans, Martin Introna, Simon Robinson, Robert Edmunds

1. England	58 fish	48-7-8
2. Scotland	66 fish	40-4-0
3. Wales	44 fish	35-9-4
Ireland did not fish		

Full Results >>