

Report on the First Full International Fly Fishing Match

International Day on Loch Leven is now firmly established and is undoubtedly the big day of the year. For the last four years competitions have been confined to teams from England and Scotland but in 1932 it was thrown open to the other two countries. So on Wednesday 64 anglers assembled on the Loch to do battle with rod and line. A stiff north-wester was blowing but the chill of the morning had little effect on the spirits. Lieutenant Alexander saw to it that all arrangements were carried out with clockwork precision.

Youth and Age. There seems to be no certain age at which angling international ability matures or declines. Youth and grey hairs were equally represented. To outward appearances the younger members of the team looked upon the event seriously, while the older members saw humour in everything and were lively and loquacious.

The Irishmen. Naturally the teams were formed into cliques. The Irishmen were easily identified even without their emblems of green. They were boisterous and simply brimful of good humour and they created such a favourable impression that an Irish victory would have been very popularly received.

The Welshmen. The Taffies were quieter company, but nevertheless very friendly. Towering above them all was the stalwart figure of their captain, Lord Glan Usk, one of the most affable in the morning crowd. The Welshman showed an eagerness to start on their first bid for International honours.

The Englishmen. The English Team was captained by a fine old gentleman, Mr. O'Hanlan Manchester who had fished Loch Leven since 1881. His son was also in the team. Blood red roses of course distinguished the men from across the border and they also wore an international tie.

What of Scotland? In all this crowd where nationalism was rampant, the thistle was nowhere and the Scot's buttonholes were as bare as their baskets. The team was not lacking in high spirits.

Lunch Basket Comedy. Stores were shipped with careful ceremony. The boxes seemed rather heavy cargo but when remembered that the boats were to be absent for nine hours, rations had naturally to be generous. A diversion occurred when an Englishman found that his box was missing. A hurried search was made and it was eventually found in a Scotch boat.

At 9.30am prompt the oar broke water and there was a full throated roar of GOOD LUCK and TIGHT LINES as the contestants set out.

The Return. Animated scenes were witnessed when the boats returned and a large crowd surrounded the weighing scales. The outstanding performance of the day was that of J.B. Meldrum from Kinross with 20 trout weighing 12lbs 5ozs. A unique experience befell Mr. Hewetson of the Irish Team who landed three trout with one cast.

After the weights had been checked, Lady Montgomery handed the cup to Mr. Rutherford the winning captain and said that she was pleased to be present on what she considered a red letter day in the annals of Loch Leven. Each member of the winning team received a gold and enamel button hole medallion suitably engraved while the runners up received a similar badge in silver and enamel.

The International Dinner was a very happy social event held in the Green Hotel; the company numbered 65 including Lady Graham Montgomery.

Results: Total Catch 423 trout weighing 286lbs 9ozs.

- 1 Scotland 137 trout 88lbs 1ozs
- 2 Ireland 104 trout 74lbs 8ozs
- 3 England 103 trout 66lbs 14ozs
- 4 Wales 79 trout 57lbs 2ozs

From The Archives



1. Scotland	137 fish	88-1-0
2. Ireland	104 fish	74-8-0
3. England	103 fish	66-14-0
4. Wales	79 fish	57-2-0