

INTERNATIONAL
FLY FISHING ASSOCIATION

SPRING
INTERNATIONAL
MATCH

CONFEDERATION OF ENGLISH FLY FISHERS

England
Ireland, Scotland
Wales

On "Draycote Water"
Saturday 30th May 1981

LOCAL RULES

1. The match will be fished according to the match rules of the International Fly Fishing Association in conjunction with the following English National Rules.

2. Starting time 10 a.m., returning at 6 p.m. to the boat bay. The start and finish will be indicated with a maroon. Competitors and boatmen will have the starting line indicated to them on the day.

3. Maximum hook size $\frac{3}{8}$ inch overall length of iron, dressed length of fly not to exceed 15/16 inch. Up to and including 4 flies are permitted on a cast.

4. There must be no fishing from anchored boats. A single drogue per boat may be used. Do not encroach within 50 yds of any bank angler.

5. All competitors are requested to sit whilst fishing. Shooting heads are not permitted.

6. Thwart boards/cross seats are permitted and a number of these will be available.

7. APPROVED seats for handicapped anglers holding a certificate for medical reasons may be used. Boat partners of competitors using APPROVED seats have the option of using a similar seat. Anyone wishing to take advantage of this rule must give the match organizer 48 hours notice to obtain approval.

8. Trout only, size limit 12 inches overall.

9. Emergencies: if the referees boat can be seen please raise an oar, if the referees cannot be seen there will be a 'flare' on board the boat for emergency use only.

10. Anglers are reminded that there are many unwritten rules when Loch style fishing, please observe the courtesies of the boat.

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT: Mr Adrian Ashness, England

HONORARY SECRETARIES:
Scotland Alistair Nicoll, P.O. Box 84
51 Meadowsides, Dundee. DD1 9PQ
England Dave Mussell, 'Ferosa',
Whitsbury, Fordingbridge, Hants.
Ireland George A. Timmins, 26 St. Mar-
garets Road, Malahide, Co. Dublin
Wales Moc Morgan, Post Office, Ponta-
hydfendigaid, Ystrad Meurig. Wales

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY:
Alistair S. Nicoll

International Dinner
will be held at the Chesford Grange Hotel
after the match, at 8.30 p.m.
Ladies may attend.
Dress: Lounge suits or blazers.

ENGLAND

CAPTAIN: Mr BOB DRAPER

	No.	lbs.	ozs.
1. Bob Draper	12	11	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
2. Bill Day	9	8	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
3. Gordon Wood	2	1	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
4. Roy Laver	2	1	13 $\frac{3}{4}$
5. Brian Roberts	6	4	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
6. Bob Morey	5	3	15 $\frac{3}{4}$
7. Jim Deacon	7	5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
8. John Braithwaite	7	5	13 $\frac{3}{4}$
9. Bob Haigh	3	3	13
10. Pete Thomas	11	9	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
11. Stan Wood	7	6	— $\frac{1}{4}$
12. Dave Allen	3	2	15 $\frac{3}{4}$
TOTAL 74 65 14			

RESERVES:
13. Les Gilbert 3 3 —
14. Dave Mussell 18 15 12 $\frac{3}{4}$

1st

IRELAND

CAPTAIN: Mr CHRISTY DEACY

	No.	lbs.	ozs.
1. Christy Deacy	2	1	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
2. Joe Barry	14	12	7
3. Moss Hanley	4	2	15 $\frac{1}{4}$
4. Pat Day	4	3	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
5. Michael Aherne	2	1	7
6. Daniel O'Connell	1	—	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
7. Jim Stewart	4	3	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
8. Eoghan O'Sullivan	3	2	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
9. Dermot O'Hara	2	1	15
10. Cecil Marshall	4	3	5
11. Michael Walsh	2	1	14
12. Jerry Kennedy D. Smith	6	5	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
TOTAL 48 41 11			

RESERVES:
13. ~~David Smith~~ S. Moore 12 10 10
14. Ray McDwyer 8 6 14 $\frac{1}{2}$

4th

SCOTLAND

CAPTAIN: Mr JAMES G. FAULDS

	No.	lbs.	ozs.
1. James Faulds	5	4	13 $\frac{3}{4}$
2. George Dickson	12	9	— $\frac{1}{2}$
3. Gerald Mackenzie	4	3	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
4. Wm. R. Patrick	2	1	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
5. Brian Peterson	4	3	— $\frac{1}{4}$
6. Kenneth Macmillan	7	5	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
7. Douglas Stockdale	11	9	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
8. James Cleland	10	8	14
9. Alexander Reid	2	2	—
10. James Sidey	1	—	12 $\frac{1}{4}$
11. James Pirie	10	9	2
12. Alistair Nicoll	2	1	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
TOTAL 70 59 6			

RESERVES:
13. Andrew Menzies 2 1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
14. Robert Johnson 9 7 7

3rd

WALES

CAPTAIN: Mr MARK THOMAS

	No.	lbs.	ozs.
1. Mark Thomas	15	12	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
2. Jeremy Owen	3	3	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
3. Tony Bevan	8	7	9
4. Gareth Thomas	11	11	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
5. Brian Ellis	4	3	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
6. Gwynfor Jones	7	7	—
7. Merfyn Williams	3	2	8
8. Peter Medlicote	10	9	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
9. Ken Bowering	5	4	2
10. Trevor Jones	—	—	—
11. Emrys James	1	1	14
12. Jo Jobling	3	2	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
TOTAL 70 65 — $\frac{1}{4}$			

RESERVES:
13. Brian Dalimore 8 6 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
14. Mike Mathews 3 2 5

2nd

PAST RESULTS

Matches fished annually on Loch Leven from 1932 to 1970 inclusive, except for War period 1940 to 1949.

TOTAL RESULTS				
	Firsts	Seconds	Thirds	Fourths
England	15	8	7	3
Scotland	10	12	4	4
Ireland	2	5	5	18
Wales	3	5	14	8

1971 Killurney W. E. S. I.
Menteith E. W. S. I.
1972 Llyn Alaw W. I. S.&E.
Grafham S. I. E. W.
1973 Menteith W. S. I.
Corrib I. W. S.
1974 Menteith S. W. I.
Trawsfynydd S. W. I.
1975 Conn S. I. W. E.
Leven W. E. I. S.
1976 Sheelin W. E. I. S.
Trawsfynydd W. S. I. E.
1977 Grafham S. W. E. I.
Leven E. W. S. I.
1978 Corrib W. I. E. S.
Trawsfynydd W. E. I. S.
1979 Chew Valley S. W. E. I.
Conn I. E. S. W.
1980 Trawsfynydd I. W. S. E.
Leven E. W. S. I.
England did not compete in 1973 and 1974

TROPHIES

✓ 1. Graham Munro Hall Memorial Trophy (The Premier Award) is held by the winning team until the next International Match.

✓ 2. The B.C. Hall Trophy is held by the winning team until competed for again in England.

✓ 3. The Captains Badge is held by the winning captain until the next International Match.

✓ 4. The Brown Bowl is held by the angler with the best basket.

✓ 5. The Hilliard Williams Cup is competed for by Scotland and Ireland.

✓ 6. The Hastings Clay Cup is competed for by Ireland and Wales.

✓ 7. The Lowe-Hall Salver is competed for by Scotland and Wales.

✓ 8. The Grahame Cup is competed for by England and Scotland.

✓ 9. The 'Melvin Murderer' is competed for by England and Ireland.

✓ 10. The Rose Bowl is competed for by England and Wales.

✓ 11. The Laverty Cup is held by the Irish angler with the best basket.

✓ 12. The Gillie Farr Trophy is held by the Welsh angler with the best basket.

✓ 13. The Phoenix Salver is held by the Scots angler with the best basket.

✓ 14. The Grafham Trophy is held by the English angler with the best basket.

✓ 15. The H. Emyr Lewis Memorial Trophy is held by the angler with the heaviest trout.

✓ 16. The Spoon is held by the team with the lowest total.

✓ 17. The Mallet is held by the Chairman during his term of office.

BARNCRAFT, Sheepy Magna. Tamworth 880338



Captains - Bob Draper (England), Mark Thomas (Wales), Christy Deacy (Ireland) & James Faulds (Scotland).



England

(Rear) Bob Morey, Gordon Wood, John Braithwaite, Dave Mussell (Reserve), Les Gilbert (Reserve), Roy Laver, Adrian Ashness (IFFA President), Bob Haigh & Stan Wood. (Front) Pete Thomas, Dave Allen, Bill Day, Brian Roberts, Bob Draper (Captain), Jim Deacon & Tom Bilson (Team Manager).



Scotland

(Rear) James Sidey, William Patrick, Douglas Stockdale, Gerald Mackenzie, James Cleland, Alexander Reid, Ken Macmillan & Andrew Menzies (Reserve). (Front) James Pirie, Brian Peterson, James Faulds (Captain), George Dickson, Robert Johnson (Reserve) & Alistair Nicoll.



Wales

(Rear) Jo Jobling, Jeremy Owen, Gwynfor Jones, Trevor Jones, Peter Medlicote, Brian Ellis, Tony Bevan & Moc Morgan. (Front) Emrys Jones, Merfyn Williams, Mike Mathews (Reserve), Ken Bowring, Mark Thomas (Captain), Gareth Thomas & Brian Dalimore (Reserve).

ENGLAND—BY OUNCES!

AN ENGLISHMAN fishing as a reserve was the individual winner of the International Fly Fishing Association's spring match at Draycote Water. England won the team event, too, but it was a close thing: England had 74 fish, Wales and Scotland 70, Ireland trailed with 48 fish on a day when the fishing was perhaps too 'artificial' for their tastes and talents.

The Draycote management certainly ensured that there were fish for all — only one angler failed to catch — and the 'stockies' included a good head of pound-plus brown trout and plump 'brookies'. The drawback was that the new fish tended to hug the shoreline and Toft Shallows and this resulted in the boats crowding — with the inevitable result. After the first hour sport slackened, and by mid-afternoon the boats still on Toft Shallows were struggling, though elsewhere, out on the open water less gregarious anglers continued to take fish.

Conditions at the start were ideal for loch-style fishing — overcast and with a warm southerly breeze — but, fortunately for the obliging rainbows, the wind

became variable and sunshine made the fishing more challenging.

For the second successive International a reserve took the Brown Bowl for the best individual catch. David Mussell, secretary of the Confederation of English Fly Fishers, is a man who likes to add a splash of colour and sparkle to life. Putting on fireworks displays is his profession, which may explain partly why he favoured having no less than three Soldier Palmers on his cast. His bag of 18 trout totalling 15 lb 12½ oz was solid evidence in support of this uncomplicated approach to fly-selection.

"I enjoyed the match, but I would not like to fish an International every day," David said afterwards.

The winner cast short with a sinking line. Long casting increases line-sag and results in fish being lost, he contends. David stressed that the knowledge and expertise of his boatman, Gordon Griffiths, an ex-patriot Welshman, were important factors in his win. Gordon made sure that his boat was the first to reach the Toft shoreline and then, by

skillful and patient work on the oars, he contrived to make that first telling drift last one-and-a-quarter hour. By 12 am David Mussell had a dozen fish in the boat and his Irish boat-partner was also doing well.

Gordon Griffiths duly won the award for the most successful boatman, yet he must have had mixed feelings for the second heaviest individual catch was taken by the young Welsh captain, Mark Thomas, who had 15 fish for 12 lb 10½ oz. Mark had most of his fish on a 'Wokey', a fly named after his black cat, an uncomplaining poodle-like animal that has contributed materially to many of its owner's trout and salmon flies.

Bob Draper, England, was another captain to be top scorer for his team. He had 12 fish for 11 lb 10½ oz, but his real and evident pleasure was in England's splendid all-round effort that won the team trophy.

"I have fished with some good English teams, but this year we had an exceptional side who really worked hard to scrape home," he said.

Ireland will draw encouragement for the future from the excellent catch made by Joe Barry — 14 trout for 12 lb 7 oz and from the catches made by their reserves, Sam Moore (10 lb 10 oz) and Ray McDwyer (6 lb 14½ oz) who had 20 fish between them.

The achievements of the reserves generally will not doubt resurrect the contention that the 'reserves' system for the International should be changed. A section of opinion favours having teams of 14 with the best 12 weights to count.

Team results: England 65 lb 14½ oz (74 trout); Wales 65 lb ½ oz (70); Scotland 59 lb 6 oz (70); Ireland 41 lb 11 oz (48).

Left: The Welsh captain, Mark Thomas, with his catch of rainbows. These were taken on a sinking line, as were several of the heavier bags.

Below: It's enough to make Scotland's captain wince! Robert Johnson, Scottish reserve, with two fish on one cast.



Boats follow one another along the shore in Toft Shallows. At times boat-congestion was a problem here. One competitor likened the scene to 'the Spithead review'.



The English team, winners of the Graham Munro Hall trophy. The captain, Bob Draper, is the bearded angler in the front row. David Mussell, the individual winner, is the pipe-smoker (back row).



England: by a shortful

Anglers who have been connected with International competitions for the last couple of years will recall that there was a time when one of the events was known as the Friendly match. The reason for this was the hospitality of the Irish hosts, which made it rather difficult for any serious competition to take place, the organisation being geared to take the heat out of the event. In short fellowship and friendship was the all important ingredient and rightly so.

The last International fly fishing match at Draycote reminded me of those friendly events. To those who might disagree, how do you explain David Biggart of the Scottish party giving Joe Barry of the Irish team a fly mid way through the match? It was a Parmachene Belle, that colourful American pattern which was doing really well. And the fly worked for Joe Barry.

Again, the Welsh captain Mark Thomas, who had taken seven fish with a sinking line, lent a quick sinker to his boat partner, the Scottish captain Jimmy Faulds.

Such actions are not the stuff that we see in other ball bashing sports, and help to restore one's faith in the true brotherhood of angling which comes to the fore even in competition.

The total bag of 325 fish proved that there were plenty about. When Commander Dunn set the match off with an almighty bang at 10 am, all the boats raced hard for the North shore. The practice sessions had proved that, this the natural bank, was the favoured area. The competitors were worried that as the fish were feeding very close to the bank, that the expected Saturday crowd of bank anglers would hamper the boats and prevent them from drifting right up the bank. But as it turned out, bank anglers were few and far between and the competitors were able to pick

up trout within yards of the bank.

It was interesting to note the different approach adopted by the competitors from different countries. Some of the Irish competitors stuck to their short casts and bobbed the flies back to the boat and Sammy Moore's twelve fish were proof that the method worked.

Most of the English and Welsh team members stuck to sinking lines and the best bags fell to those using slow sinking lines. It could be that the type of line used is far more important than the fly pattern.

Draycote is not a vast reservoir and of its 600 or so acres it was interesting to note that all the boats except one were confined to the North bays.

In short thirty one boats were fishing in some hundred acres of water while the rest of the reservoir was fished by one boat. Mr Keeney of Rugby and his young lad were fishing from

the bank on the South shore, and they enjoyed good sport in the morning, and reckoned that a boat would have done well over there. Certainly it would have been able to drift where it wanted without fear of disturbing anyone else.

Eight hours is a long time for any competition, and in addition to good luck, angling competitors need a lot of true grit. A number of them came off the water suffering from acute headaches as a result of acute concentration. This type of angling competition is far more physically demanding than many people realise. Not only the constant casting demands physical fitness, but the long concentration tends to tire one. Often weather conditions add to the competitors discomfort.

At Draycote the opening spell of two hours was fished in good conditions of a stiff breeze and cloudy sky. Plenty of fish were moving and anglers hit fish early in the competition.

There's nothing like a few fish



A pair of proud Thomases, father and son, with their fish. Dad took the largest in the match. Mark the most for Wales.

in the boat to inject some confidence into an angler. Around mid-day the sun broke through and the wind died. The fish became more difficult and the boatmen had to work harder as they manoeuvred the boats around in a somewhat confined space to get a free drift. You can always spot the difference between the urgency of the angler when fish are moving and the man who more indifferently just goes through the motions.

Fortunately in mid-afternoon the weather reverted to what it had been for the first two hours and nets were wetted once again. The whole competition took on another look of urgency for the last two hours. In these competitions the opening spell and the final spell are all important and it's during these spells that matches are won or lost.

In the final analysis, top rod was Dave Mussell. He took 18

fish weighing 15 pounds 12½ ounces in the top bay, Toft Shallows. He used a slow sinking line and the unusual cast of three Soldier Palmers and a Dunkeld. He started off in grand style taking a fish on his fourth cast, and a dozen before dinner. Dave was in the reserve boat and therefore his total bag did not count towards the best bag of the match.

He follows Adrian Ashness the President of the International Fly Fishing Association in winning the Brown Bowl from the reserve boat. There was an initiative some years ago to do away with the reserves and include them in the team, thus making teams of fourteen with only the top twelve bags to count. Had that been adopted by the International Committee then England's victory would have been more pronounced.

In each competition you have at least one interesting boat and the boat of the match was undoubtedly that with Joe Barry and Douglas Stockdale. It was a boat of champions, Douglas being the Scottish

champion and Joe the Irish, in the last international. They started to catch fish. Doug took the first, followed by Joe, and they took fish for fish until the score stood at ten all. Doug then took two to make it twelve to ten, then Joe took four on the trot and ended two fish ahead. Both were fishing slow sinkers. Doug took nine of his fish on a Fitty special which is really a Ke He without the tippets, and Joe took his on a Soldier Palmer and the Parmachene Belle.

Mark Thomas the Welsh captain was the top rod in his team and he used a sinking line also. Mark had the unique distinction of having his father in his team. Gareth Thomas did not have the best results on practice day, and it was up to Mark to put him right. He did that so well that Gareth made it a Thomas' day by taking 11 fish to be second in the Welsh squad, and the best fish of the match, capturing the Emyr Lewis trophy.

In the final count it was England by a nose, however. Skipper Bob Draper topped his team's catches with 12 fish for 11 lb 10½ oz. England weighed in 65 lb 14½ oz. Wales 65 lb and a quarter of an ounce, Scotland 59 lb 6 oz, and Ireland 41 lb 11 oz.

England fished well at home, and go to Loch Leven next August on a hat trick. Bob Draper's captain is convinced they can succeed. So all eyes are already turned to the next match, but I'm sure that many will recall the Draycote match as that of the three F's: Fish, Friendship, and Fellowship.

Full results were as follows:

First England: 74 fish for 65 lb 14½ oz; second Wales 65 lb ½ oz; third Scotland 59 lb 6 oz; fourth Ireland 41 lb 11 oz.

England: Bob Draper Captain, 12 fish for 11 lb 10½ oz; Bill Day, 8 lb 11½ oz; Gordon Wood, 2 lb 13½ oz; Roy Laver, 2 for 1 lb 13½ oz; Brian Roberts, 6 lb 4 lb

7½ oz; Bob Morey, 5 lb 3 lb 15½ oz; Jim Deacon, 7 lb 5 lb 4½ oz; John Braithwaite, 7 for 5 lb 13½ oz; Bob Haigh, 3 lb 13 oz; Peter Thomas, 11 lb 9 lb 2½ oz; Stan Wood, 7 lb 6 lb ½ oz; Dave Allen, 3 lb 2 lb 15½ oz; Reserves — Les Gilbert, 3 lb 2 lb; Dave Mussell, 18 lb 15 lb 2½ oz.

Ireland: Christy Deacy, Captain, 12 lb 14½ oz; Joe Barry, 14 lb 12 lb 7 oz; Moss Hanley, 4 lb 2 lb 15½ oz; Pat Day, 4 lb 3 lb 5½ oz; Michael Ahern, 2 lb 1 lb 7 oz; Daniel O'Connell, 1 lb 12½ oz; Jim Stewart, 4 lb 3 lb 4½ oz; Eoghan O'Sullivan, 3 lb 2 lb 11½ oz; Dermot O'Hara, 2 lb 1 lb 15 oz; Cecil Marshall, 4 lb 3 lb 5 oz; Michael Walsh, 2 lb 1 lb 14 oz; David Smyth, 6 lb 5 lb 13½ oz; Reserves — Sam Moore, 12 lb 10 lb; Ray McDwyer, 8 lb 14½ oz.

Scotland: James Faulds, Captain, 5 lb 4 lb 13½ oz; George Dickson, 12 lb 9 lb ½ oz; Gerald Mackenzie, 4 lb 3 lb 8½ oz; William R. Patrick, 2 lb 1 lb 13½ oz; Brian Peterson, 4 lb 3 lb 8½ oz; Kenneth Macmillan, 7 lb 8½ oz; Douglas Stockdale, 11 lb 8 lb 15½ oz; James Cleland, 10 lb 2 lb 14½ oz; Alexander Reid, 2 lb 1 lb 6½ oz; Robert Johnson, 8 lb 7 lb 7 oz; Reserves — Andrew Menzies, 2 lb 1 lb 6½ oz; Robert Johnson, 8 lb 7 lb 7 oz.

Wales: Mark Thomas, Captain, 15 lb 12 lb 10½ oz; Jeremy Owen, 3 lb 3 lb 1½ oz; Tony Bevan, 8 lb 7 lb 2½ oz; Brian Ellis, 4 lb 3 lb 7½ oz; Gwynfor Jones, 7 lb 7 lb; Merlyn Williams, 3 lb 2 lb 8 oz; Peter Medicote, 10 lb 9 lb 14½ oz; Ken Bowering, 5 lb 4 lb 2 oz; Trevor Jones, 11 lb 8 lb 11½ oz; Emrys James, 1 lb 14½ oz; Jo Joblin, 3 lb 2 lb 7½ oz; Reserves — Brian Dalimore, 8 lb 5½ oz; Mike Mathews, 3 lb 2 lb 5 oz.



ENGLAND: Bob Morey, Gordon Wood, John Braithwaite, David Mussell, Les Gilbert, Roy Laver, Adrian Ashness, Bob Haigh, Stan Wood. Front row: Peter Thomas, Dave Allen, Bill Day, Brian Roberts, Bob Draper, Jim Deacon, Tom Bilson.



IRELAND: Cecil Marshall, Sam Moore, Bill Newport, Michael Walsh, Ray McDwyer, Joe Barry, Jim Jim, Eoghan O'Sullivan, Michael Ahern. Front row: Dermot O'Hara, Daniel O'Connell, Moss Hanley, Christy Deacy, Pat Day, David Smyth.



SCOTLAND: James Sidey, William Patrick, Douglas Stockdale, Gerald Mackenzie, James Cleland, Alexander Reid, Ken Macmillan, Andrew Menzies. Front row: James Pirie, Brian Peterson, James Faulds, George Dickson, Robert Johnson, Alistair Nicol.

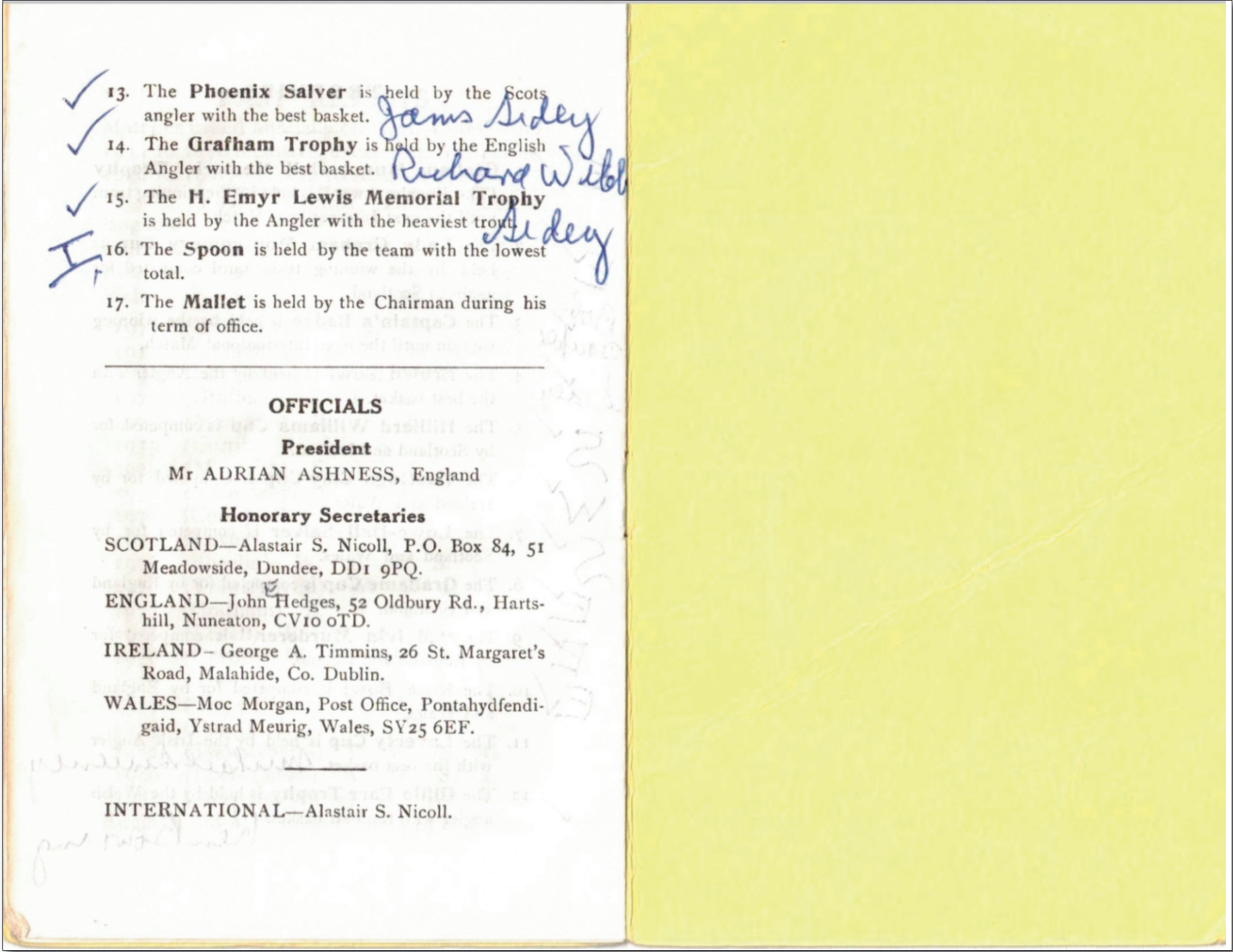
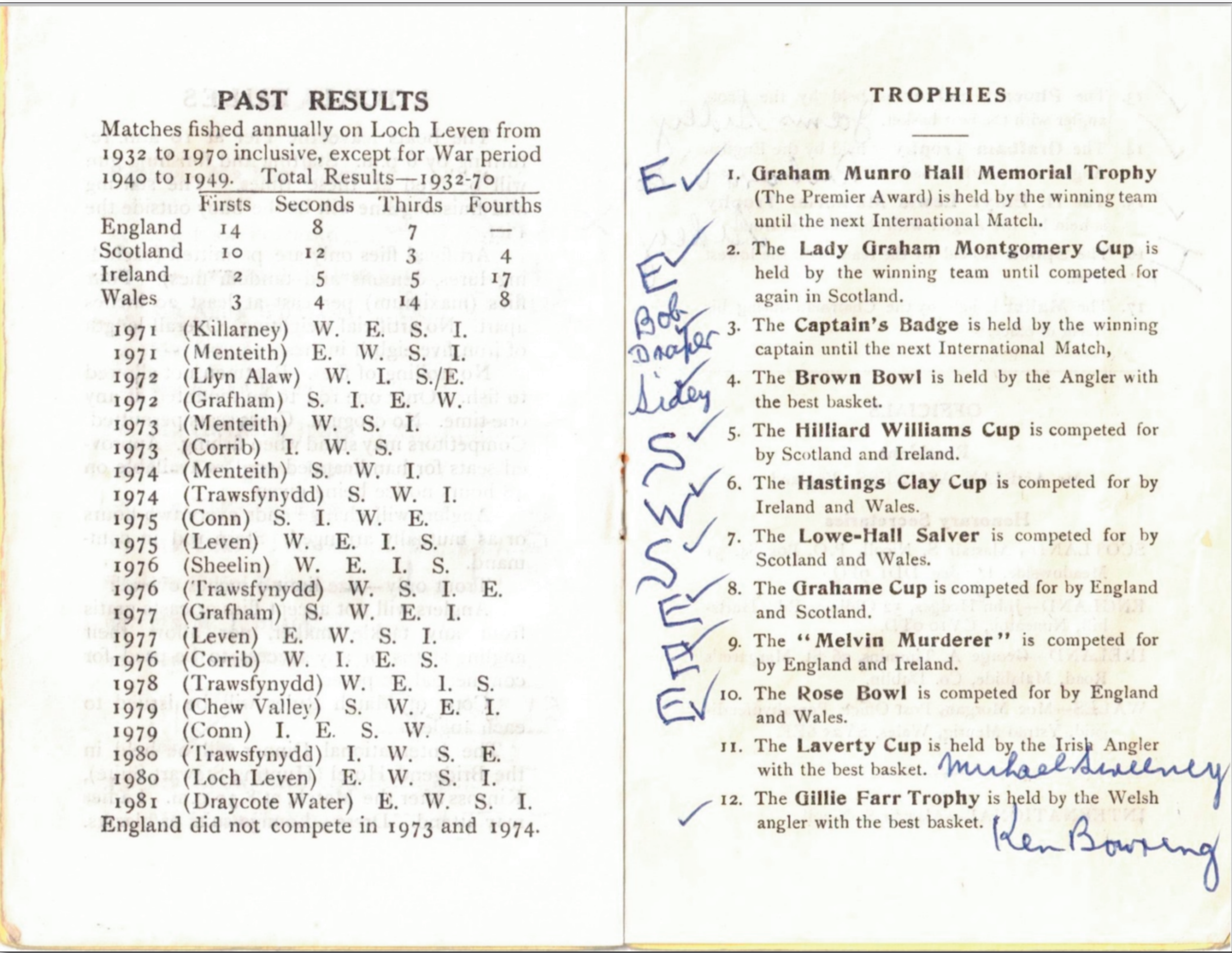
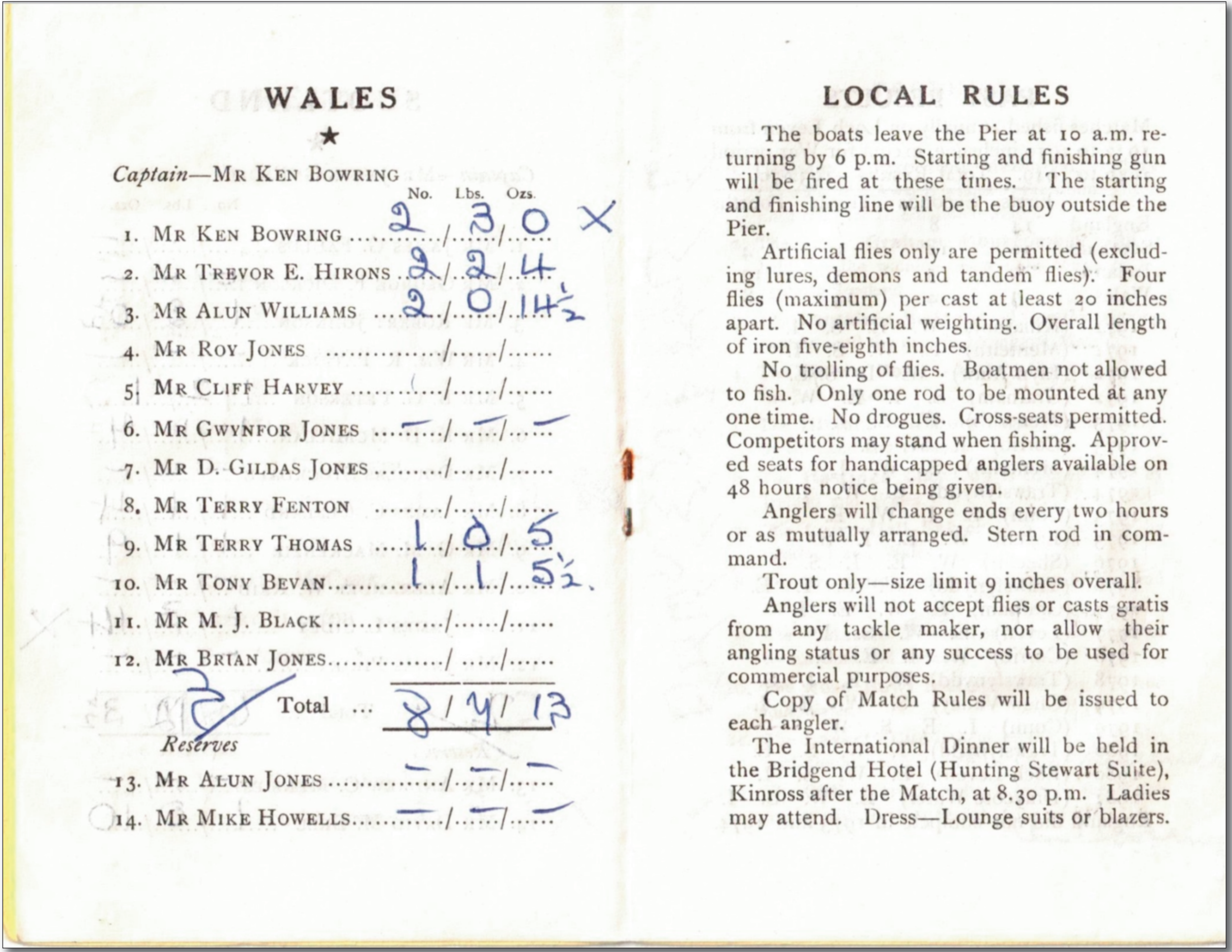
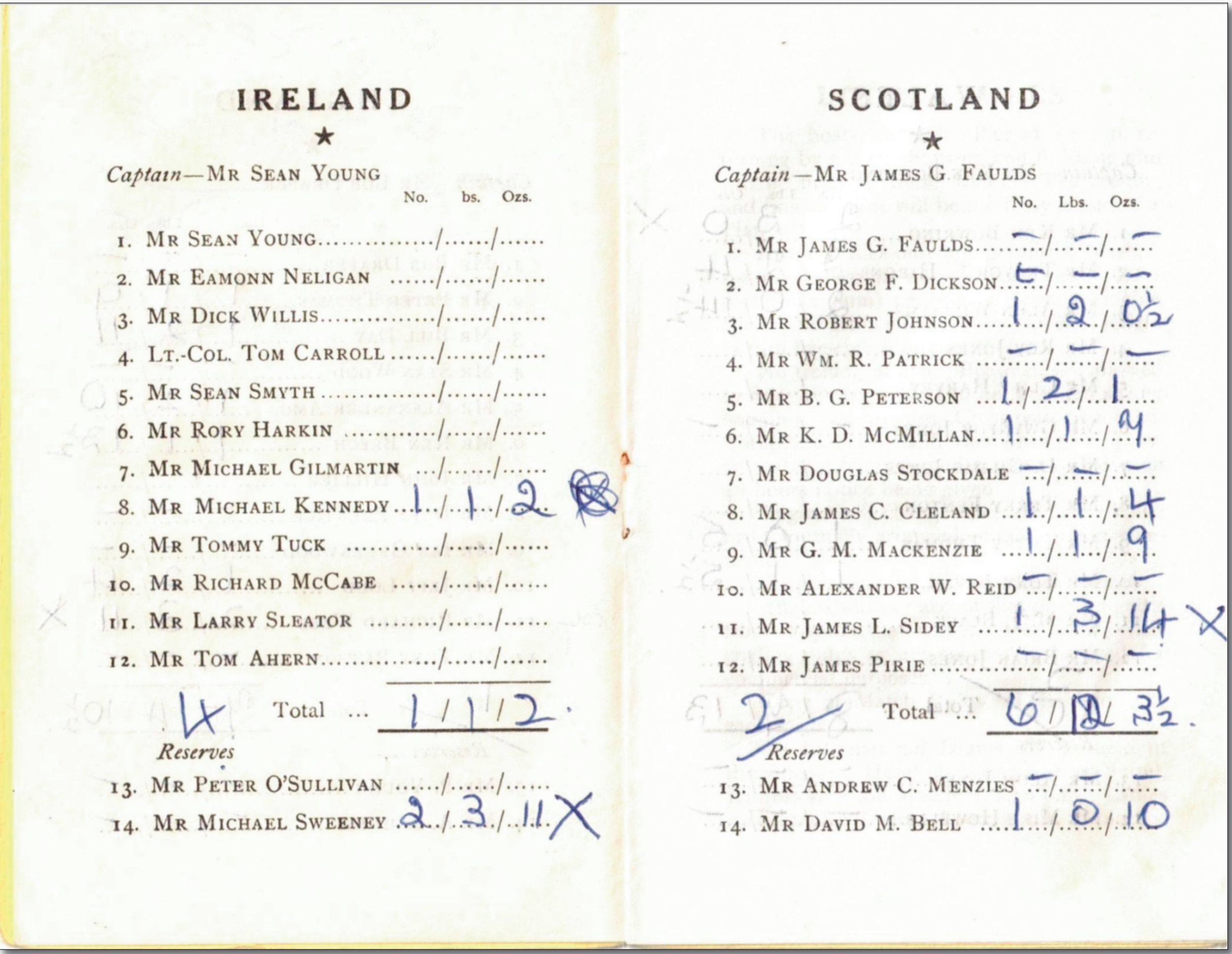
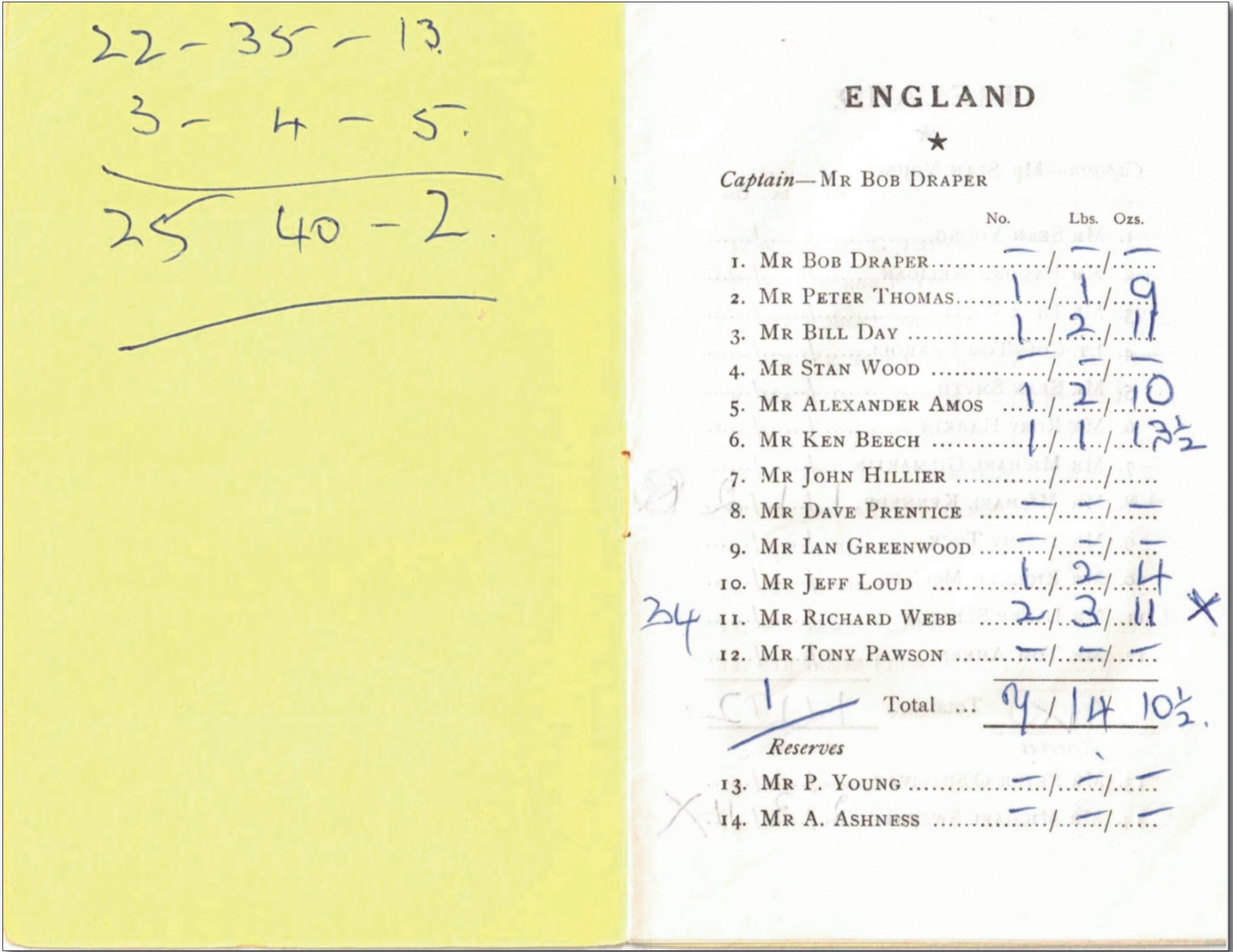


WALES: Jo Jobling, Jeremy Owen, Gwynfor Jones, Trevor Jones, Peter Medicote, Brian Ellis, Tony Bevan, Moss Morgan. Front row: Emrys Jones, Merlyn Williams, Mike Mathews, Ken Bowering, Mark Thomas, Gareth Thomas, Brian Dalimore.

England

Bob Draper (Captain), Bill Day, Gordon Wood, Roy Laver, Brian Roberts, Bob Morey, Jim Deacon, John Braithwaite, Bob Haigh, Pete Thomas, Stan Wood & Dave Allen. (Reserves) Les Gilbert & Dave Mussell.

1. England	74 fish	65-14-4
2. Wales	70 fish	65-0-4
3. Scotland	70 fish	59-6-0
4. Ireland	48 fish	41-11-0





Captains - (Front) Bob Draper (England), Ken Bowring (Wales), Sean Young (Ireland) & James Faulds (Scotland).
(Photocraft Photography)



England
(Rear) Tom Bilson (Team Manager), Adrian Ashness (Reserve & IFFA President), Jeff Loud, John Hillier, Richard Webb, Tony Pawson, Stan Wood & Bill Day. (Front) Peter Thomas, Peter Young (Reserve), Alex Amos, Bob Draper (Captain), Ian Greenwood, Ken Beech & Dave Prentice.
(Photocraft Photography)



Ireland
(Rear) Rory Harkness, Tommy Tuck, Michael Sweeney (Reserve), Sean Smith, Sean Young (Captain), Larry Sleator, Richard McCabe, Lt. Col. Tom Carroll & Peter O'Sullivan (Reserve).
(Front) Michael Gilmartin, Michael Kennedy, Tom Ahern, Dick Willis & Eamonn Nelligan.
(Photocraft Photography)



Scotland
(Rear) David Bell (Reserve), Andrew Menzies (Reserve), Gil Mackenzie, James Cleland, William Patrick, Ken McMillan, Alex Reid, George Dickson & James Faulds (Captain).
(Front) James Sidey, James Pirie, Douglas Stockdale & Robert Johnson.
(Photocraft Photography)



Wales
(Rear) Terry Thomas, Roy Jones, Dai Gildas Jones, Mike Black, Alun Jones (Reserve), Cliff Harvey, Tony Bevan, Mike Howells (Reserve) & Alan Williams.
(Front) Moe Morgan, Brian Jones, Terry Fenton, Ken Bowring (Captain), Trevor Hirons & Gwynfor Jones.
(Photocraft Photography)



Trevor Hirons did not allow a broken leg to stop his fishing for Wales. And he was one of only five competitors who could manage to catch a brace of trout.

ENGLAND MAKE IT A 'DOUBIE'

IN CONDITIONS which that international expert Trevor Hirons of Wales described as "crucial" England won the autumn International Fly Fishing competition at Loch Leven with a catch of 7 trout — 14 lb 10½ oz.

In bright sunny conditions more than half the rods returned blank, and the 12-man Irish team weighed in only one trout — 1 lb 2 oz, although reserve Michael Sweeney took two for 3 lb 11 oz which, of course, did not count for the competition.

The boats were piped out from the pier by young Duncan Biggart, from Aberfoyle, in a westerly breeze which produced a good ripple — but not good enough to overcome the strong sunlight; there was only the

occasional cloudy spell during the day. These were the conditions that had been experienced during the previous day's practice sessions, but on Saturday the sun was, if anything, hotter, and a number of competitors came in badly sunburnt.

One of the worst affected was Scottish angler Jim Sidey from Perth, but at the end of the day he was able to force a smile through cracked, burnt lips when he walked off with three trophies: the Brown Bowl for the heaviest catch, the Emyr Lewis Trophy for the biggest trout, and the Phoenix Salver for the best basket in the Scottish team — all with one fish, a beautiful 3 lb 14 oz Loch Leven trout. Jim took his fish on a size 14 single Healy

and Green while drifting near Green Isle, and it was in fact his only fish of the day.

And he'd put the successful cast on, not for the green-bodied fly the trout took, but for a Bloddy Butcher which was on the bob. But a fair summary of the loch's fishing conditions can be shown by the fact that on Thursday Jim had the heaviest basket in the Scottish team during their practice, came off blank on Friday — and had no take during the competition.

English team captain Bob Draper, delighted with his team's second successive win this year, admitted that after the practices on Thursday and Friday it had been impossible with so few fish being caught — or seen — to pick any particular area or fly. "It was very man for himself," he said.

Just how tough they make them in the valleys was shown by Trevor Hirons who insisted on fishing Loch Leven despite a broken leg encased in plaster!

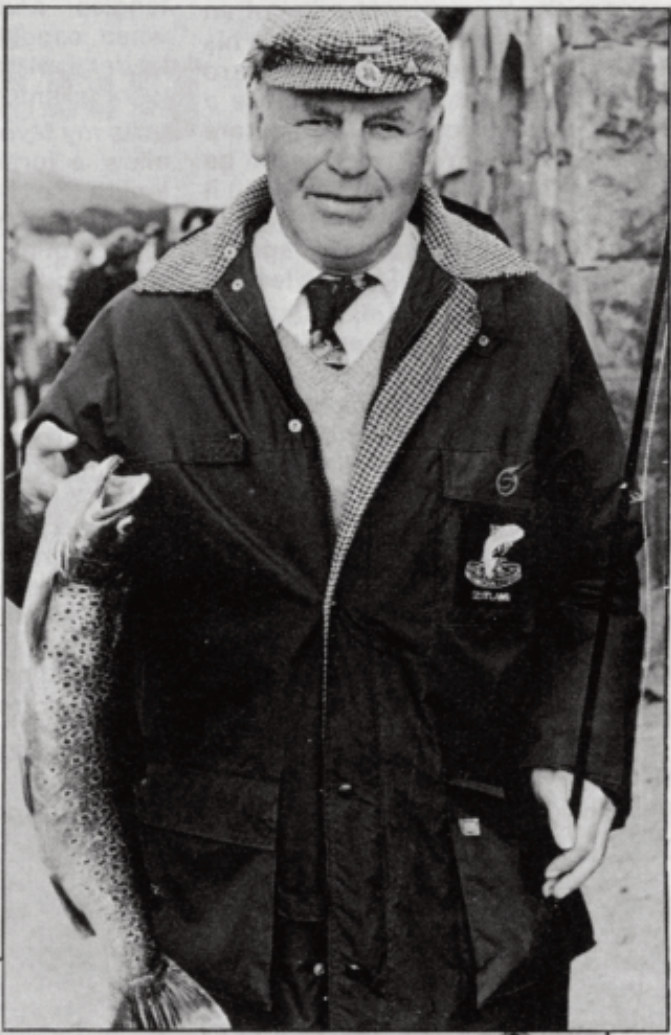
Trevor slipped on damp grass while fishing for sewin in the Teifi two weeks earlier and fractured his left leg, but decided that a little thing like that wouldn't stop his travelling to Kinross and fishing.

In fact with most of the Welsh team arrived at the start of the week but admitted that he did make one concession to his injured leg and the 10 lb plaster cast — he only fished the day sessions up to the International, and didn't go back out each evening with the rest of his team-mates. Despite his his two fish were a quarter of his team's catch.

During their practices the Irish team had had some success with Soldier Jimmers fished on the bob, and for much of the day some Irish team-members persisted with big flies as 10s in what was admittedly a good wade action — while the English, Scottish, and Welsh, favoured the more traditional sizes for Loch Leven in summer: small flies down to 16s.

And, as was proved, it was the small flies which were to bring success, although no one pattern could be

James Sidey holds the 3 lb 14 oz brown trout that won him three trophies, including the Brown Bowl for the best basket.



Piper Duncan Biggart pipes the boats out just before the start of the contest.



The winning English team. Front row (from left): Peter Thomas, P. Young (reserve), Alexander Amos, Bob Draper, Ian Greenwood, Ken Beech, and Dave Prentice. Back (from left): Tom Bilson (team manager), Adrian Ashness (reserve), Jeff Loud, John Hillier, Richard Webb, Tony Pawson, Stan Wood, and Bill Day.

No stopping Bob Draper's men on dour Loch Leven

ENGLAND'S HAT TRICK.... EN

The sun, which by its pitiful appearances has made it a poor one for the holiday maker proved to be the real spoilsport in the Autumn International fished on Loch Leven.

Leven's browns are sun-haters and the loch, famed the trout fishing world over produced only 25 fish for 56 of the best fly fishers in the United Kingdom in eight hours of relentless fishing.

Once again the English team came out on top achieving that elusive hat trick. The true magnitude of this achievement can only be fully appreciated when one takes a cold look at England's performances in past years. But there is no doubt that under new skipper Bob Draper from Northampton, the whole side has been given a large dose of the Botham spirit.

This is a very good English team and boasts the efficiency which was the hallmark of that old English team of the Sixties which was virtually unbeaten from 1960 to 1966.

The Scottish team, which had the obvious advantage of fishing at home, came second and were in debt to Perth's James Sidey with his match winning fish of 3 lb 14oz. The

Welsh, who had found second place in the three previous matches, slipped back a place despite taking more fish than did any of the other teams.

Unfortunately their fish averaged a pound each while those taken by the other teams averaged nearer the two pound mark. The Irish team which invariably end up being favourites for the wooden spoon took only one fish.

Unfortunately for them, Michael Sweeney who took two fish, was in their reserve boat and so his weight did not count.

One of the most successful anglers in the match was Michael Kennedy who took fish on every single day of the practice session and did not really deserve to be on the losing team. The Irish captain Sean Young explained that during the practice sessions his

team members said that they had taken fish during the first yard of the retrieve or just as the flies were being lifted off the water. Hence they had gone in for short casts thus making the most of the two hot areas. This seemingly sound Irish theory did not work out in practice.

The trout in Loch Leven are not really on the boil this season and they provide dour fishing at the best of times. Add

to this drawback the fact that of all fisheries that I know in the whole of the United Kingdom I know of none which fishes so badly when there's sun overhead. Fortunately the conditions, although bad on match day, were not so bad as they were on the practice sessions on Friday when only nine fish were taken by the forty boats out on the Loch. Some will argue that a fishery which does not give a fair catch on match day reduces the competition to a matter of pot luck. Again others would argue that if there were any complaints about the Spring International at Draycote Reservoir it was of too many fish. One thing is certain, the quality of the fish at Loch Leven today is superb and I doubt if there is any other fishery in the country that produces two pound wild brown trout. It is true that they are not caught with the regularity of previous years and that it would be good if the numbers caught could be increased.

There is no doubt that if fishing was reduced to the level of other ball bashing games the venue at Loch Leven would come in for serious consideration and some would rule it as unworthy of International status.

Ken Bowring, in his post Match dinner speech, expressed the hope that the Loch would quickly return to its

Results

England — Bob Draper (captain) nil. Peter Thomas (one fish) 11b 9oz. Bill Day (one fish) 2lb 11oz. Stan Wood (nil). Alex Amos (one) 2lb 10oz. Ken Beech (one) 1lb 13½oz. John Hillier, Dave Prentice, Ian Greenwood, Tony Pawson (all nil). Jeff Loud (one) 2lb 4oz. Richard Webb (two) 3lb 11oz. (Seven fish) 14lb 10½oz. Reserves: P. Young, Ashness, both nil. Total of seven fish for 14lb 10½oz.

Ireland — Michael Kennedy (one fish) 1lb 2oz. Sean Young (captain), Eamonn Neilligan, Dick Willis, Lt. Col. Tom Carroll, Sean Smyth, Rory Harkin, Michael Gilmartin, Tommy Tuck, Richard McCabe, Larry Sleator, Tom Ahern (all nil). Reserves: Peter O'Sullivan (nil), Michael Sweeney (two) 3lb 11oz. Total of one fish for 11b 2oz.

Scotland — James Faulds (captain) nil. George Dickson (nil). Robert Johnson (one) 2lb 0½oz. William Patrick (nil). B. Peterson (one) 2lb 10oz. K. D. McMillan (one) 1lb 7oz. Douglas Stockdale (nil). James Cleland (one) 1lb 4oz. G. M. Mackenzie (nil). James Sidey (one) 3lb 4oz.

former glory so that future generations of anglers would learn of the magic of the loch. The best trout of the match was taken by Jimmy Sidey of Perth as 3lbs 14ozs taken on a size twelve Green Heckham. Jimmy used an old floating line which after a few hours of fishing was virtually a slow sinker. He took the fish near the Green Island around two o'clock just as a cloud covered the sun. This fish won Jimmy the Brown Bowl, the premier trophy for the heaviest basket taken in the match and the Emyr Lewis Memorial Trophy for the heaviest trout taken. The top rod in the English team was Richard Webb.

Richard used a quick sinking line taking the first fish around 11.30am and the other around 3.00pm. The successful flies were Dunkeld and McCloud's Olive. His two fish weighed 3lb 10ozs. He shared the runner up spot with Michael Sweeney of the Irish team who had two trout also weighing 3lbs 11ozs. He was using a floating line and took them on the first drift in the morning. His fish were taken on the Soldier Palmer, a fly which without doubt is the number one favourite at Loch Leven these days.

The top rod in the Welsh team was their captain Ken Bowring of Cardiff, fishing a true captain's part he took two

James Pirie (nil). Reserves: Andrew Menzies (nil). David Bell (one) 10oz. Total of six fish for 12lb 3½oz.

Wales — Ken Bowring (captain) two fish for 3lb. Trevor Hirons (two) 2lb 4oz. Alun Williams (two) 14½oz. Roy Jones, Cliff Harvey, Gwynfor Jones, D. Gildas Jones, Terry Fenton, M. J. Black, Brian Jones (all nil). Reserves: Alun Jones, Mike Howells (both nil). Total of eight fish for 7lb 13oz.

fish in the late afternoon. He was using a sink tip line and it was the Dunkeld and the Red Yag that did the damage.

It would seem from experience of the teams in the International week that smaller flies are coming back into popularity with the trout and we could be once again moving to the days when the wee sixteen doubles were the top takers.

The stage is now set for the Spring International which will be the fifteenth celebration of the International Matches. The venue will be Llyn Trawsfynydd and no doubt all the teams will be at their very best to stop the triumphant march of Bob Draper and his merry men. ■

The top four rods, from left, Michael Sweeney 3lb 11oz, Ken Bowring 3lb, James Sidey 3lb 14oz, and Richard Webb 3lb 11oz.



THE TEAMS



ENGLAND: From left, Tom Bilson, Adrian Ashness, Jeff Loud, John Hillier, Richard Webb, Tony Pawson, Stan Wood, Bill Day; front row, Peter Thomas, Peter Young, Alex Amos, Bob Draper, Ian Greenwood, Ken Beech, Dave Prentice.



SCOTLAND: David Bell, Andrew Menzies, Gill Mackenzie, Jim Cleland, William Patrick, Ken McMillan, Alex Reid, George Dickson, Jimmy Faulds; front row, James Sidey, James Pirie, Douglas Stockdale, Robert Johnson.



WALES: Terry Thomas, Roy Jones, Dai Gildas Jones, Mike Black, Alun Jones, Cliff Harvey, Tony Bevan, Mike Howells, Alan Williams; front row, Mac Morgan, Brian Jones, Terry Fenton, Ken Bowring, Trevor Hirons, Gwynfor Jones.



IRELAND: Rory Harkin, Tommy Tuck, Michael Sweeney, Sean Smith, Sean Young, Larry Sleator, Richard McCabe, Col. Tom Carroll, Peter O'Sullivan; front row, Michael Gilmartin, Michael Kennedy, Tom Ahern, Dick Willis, Eamonn Neilligan.

ENGLAND 14lb 14½oz.... SCOTLAND 12lb 3½oz.... WALES 7lb 13oz.... IRELAND 11lb 2oz.... ENGLAND

England

Bob Draper (Captain), Peter Thomas, Bill Day, Stan Wood, Alexander Amos, Ken Beech, John Hillier, Dave Prentice, Ian Greenwood, Jeff Loud, Richard Webb & Tony Pawson. (Reserves) Peter Young & Adrian Ashness.

- | | | |
|-------------|--------|---------|
| 1. England | 7 fish | 14-10-8 |
| 2. Scotland | 6 fish | 12-3-8 |
| 3. Wales | 8 fish | 7-13-0 |
| 4. Ireland | 1 fish | 1-2-0 |

No stopping the South West

The English National Championships was held this year for the first time at Rutland Water.

Conditions were far from ideal with the breeze varying from light, to none at all through the day, and with only patchy cloud cover

The majority of the 62 competitors elected to fish at the far end of the South Arm, which is where the top weights came from. The South West area swept the board, enjoying their most successful year ever, and took all five top positions.

First place went to Chris Ogbourne, a Chew Valley and Blagdon regular in his first season of competitive angling. He scaled right down to size 16

and size 14 Mallard and Claret's Soldier Palmers, and buzzers. His catch was 10 fish for 13lbs, and his success earned him the championship cup, a plaque, and a fly rod.

The South West qualifiers also included a lady, Jeanette Long, the first female angler to reach the final, and one of the oldest ever finalists, Stan Pope, just 78, who took third place.

The other team qualifiers were David Loveless, Keynsham, 10 fish for 12lb 4oz; Stan Pope, Saltford, (8) 10lb 13oz; Jeff Loud, Westbury on Trim, Bristol, (8) 9lb 13oz; Steve Pope, Rickford, (7) 7lb 11oz; D. Pendlebury, V. Winterton, L. Hardman, J. Deacon, P. Suter, K. Beech, F. Northover, R. Shilliam, T. Oliver and G. Boulton who included a 4lb 2oz brown in his catch. Reserves, R. Draper, P. Thomas, D. Clark, B. Draper.



English National champion Chris Ogbourne displaying his winning catch, 10 fish for 13lb, and right, in action back home on the Bristol Reservoirs.

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------|---------|---------|
| 1. | C Ogborne | 10 fish | 13-0-0 |
| 2. | D Loveless | 10 fish | 12-4-0 |
| 3. | S Pope | 8 fish | 10-13-0 |
| 4. | J Loud | 8 fish | 9-13-0 |
| 5. | S Pope | 7 fish | 7-11-0 |
| 6. | D Pendlebury | | |
| 7. | V Winterton | | |
| 8. | L Hardman | | |
| 9. | J Deacon | | |
| 10. | P Suter | | |
| 11. | K Beech | | |
| 12. | F Northover | | |
| 13. | R Shilliam | | |
| 14. | T Oliver | | |
| 15. | G Boulton | | |

Reserves

- | | |
|-----|----------|
| 16. | R Draper |
| 17. | P Thomas |
| 18. | D Clark |
| 19. | B Draper |

62 anglers competed