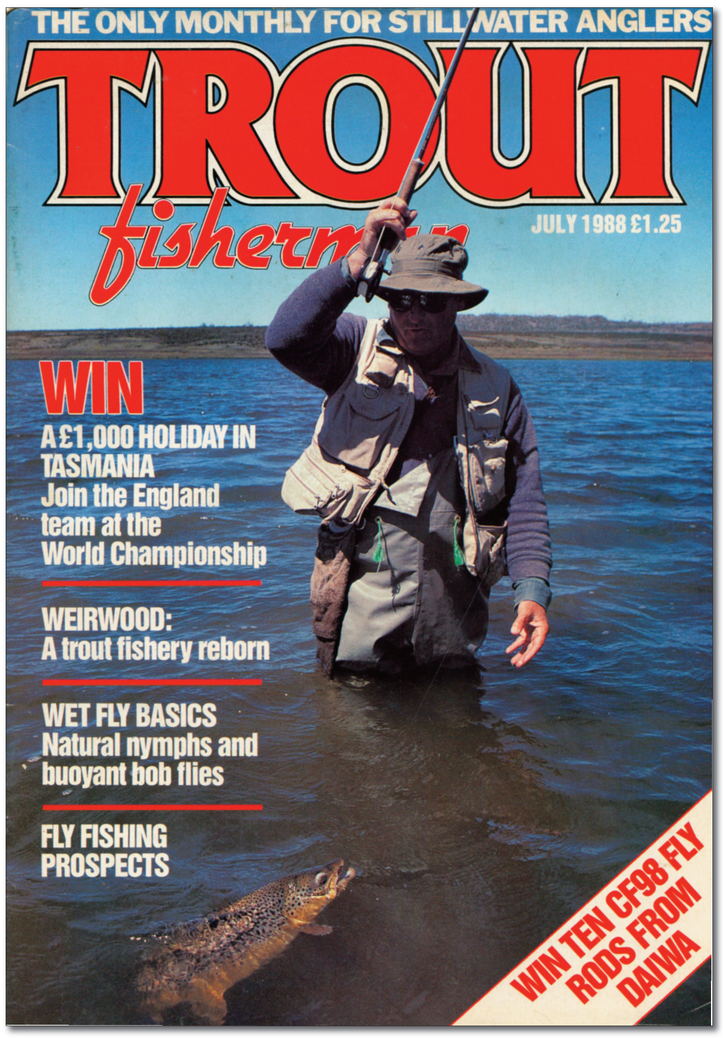
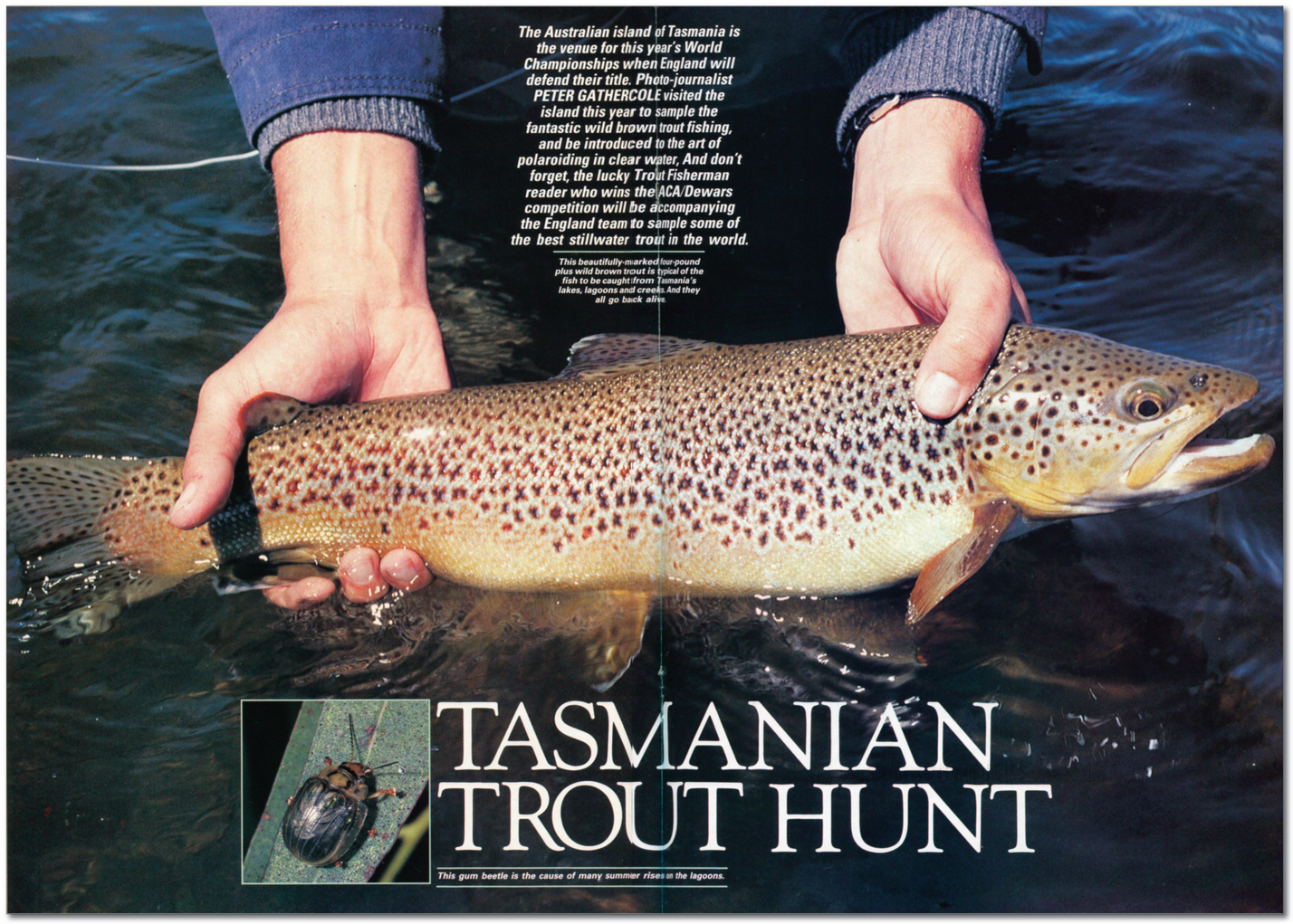
1988

World Fly Fishing Championships

Tasmania, Australia - 26th November-3rd December 1988



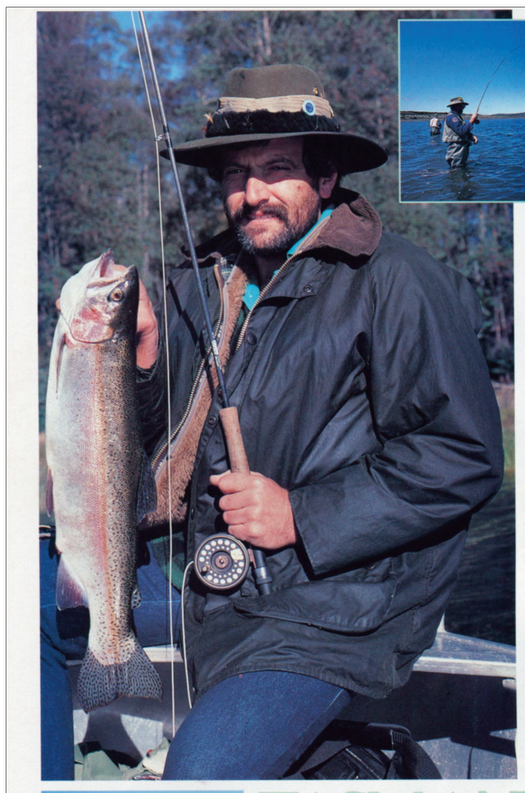


The Australian island of Tasmania is the venue for this year's World Championships when England will defend their title. Photo-journalist PETER GATHERCOLE visited the island this year to sample the fantastic wild brown trout fishing, and be introduced to the art of polaroiding in clear water, And don't forget, the lucky Trout Fisherman reader who wins the ACA/Dewars competition will be accompanying the England team to sample some of the best stillwater trout in the world.

This beautifully-marked four-pound plus wild brown trout is typical of the fish to be caught from Tasmania's lakes, lagoons and creeks. And they all go back alive.

This gum beetle is the cause of many summer rises on the lagoons.

TASMANIAN TROUT HUNT





Dr Rob Sloane playing a fine O'Dells brown trout hooked on a dry Red Tag.

CATCH a 10lb trout! That was the boast of the Tasmanian tourist industry some years ago, keen to boost the number of anglers visiting the island state. It seemed almost too good to be true. But it was no idle boast, for giant lakes, such as Gordon and Pedder, formed as part of the hydro-electric system, offered fish of that size and much, much more. Indeed, during its heyday Pedder trout averaged 10lb with fish in the teens common and twenty pounders not unheard of.

Like, I'm sure, many other trout anglers in Britain, it was these spectacularly-sized fish which whetted my appetite for Tasmanian trout fishing; after all what angler doesn't dream of catching a double-figure brown trout on the fly?

I was a little disappointed, therefore, on a recent trip 'down under' to learn that these heady days are past. Pedder trout now average a more sedate 3lb, but one important lesson I did learn was that trout should never be judged merely by size, and part of my lesson was to involve some of the most intriguing trout fishing I have found anywhere.

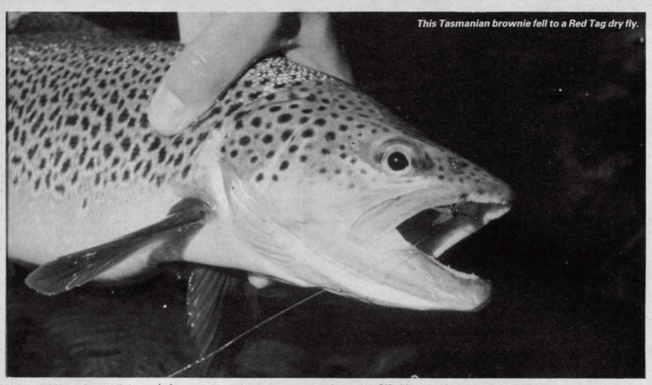
Trudging towards the water's edge in chest waders two sizes too big and with a mind of their own a borrowed coat, plus a left ear badly sunburned, I must have made a sad and pathetic sight. I had hoped my first taste of fishing Tasmania



TASMANIAN TROUT HUNT

Above: Perth angler Andrew Fink with a 6½lb rainbow taken on a beetle pattern in an early-morning boat session on Dee Lagoon.

Left: Tackling-up at Howes Bay Lagoon ready for the morning's sport.



This Tasmanian brownie fell to a Red Tag dry fly.

style would have been a little more elegant, but with only my three companions and the occasional wallaby as onlookers it didn't seem to matter too much. In any case a brief but longing gaze at the lagoon stretching ahead dispelled any thoughts other than those of fish.

With a wide, cloudless sky, the clear waters took on a wonderful cobalt blue, but with a breeze strong enough to give each wave an edge of contrasting white foam; ideal conditions so I was told. Ideal that is for a very specialised form of trout fishing polaroiding.

On the face of it polaroiding for trout is nothing special or new, merely involving spotting fish feeding subsurface by using a pair of polaroid glasses to eliminate surface glare, thereby increasing underwater vision. This though was something just a little different.

Firstly it was far from the clear "still" water which I was used to, and here I would even class chalkstreams as still for although a current is flowing, the actual surface remains quite smooth and glassy. Although the water in these Tasmanian lagoons was very clear there was a brisk surface chop. And instead of being perched high on a bank, the Taswegian polaroider — Tasmania inhabitants are known as Taswegians actually wades deep thereby reducing his effective height and at the same time his ability to look into the water for any distance.

There is nothing perverse in this, simply that the waters where this style of fishing takes place are very shallow with an average depth of about three feet.

Due to distance and terrain, for this is a vast area of moorland known as the Western plateau, a boat is impractical, so the most effective technique is for the angler to wade, covering as much water and fish as his waders will allow. With the aid of polaroid glasses and a brimmed hat the water is constantly scanned for signs of a cruising fish.

Once the fish is spotted, the fly, either dry or nymph, is cast quickly and accurately to cover the fish. Tackle is nothing special being merely an 8-9ft dry fly rod rated AFTM 5-6, coupled with a floating line. Now that all sounds very easy, and indeed it is if you have the experience.

Top tutors

I was fortunate that my tutors were two of the method's greatest exponents, Jim Allen and Dr Rob Sloane. Jim, owner of a string of tackle shops in Australia, is one of the country's most respected trout and big-game anglers, with an enviable list of double-figure trout and world records under his belt, while Rob is Commissioner of Inland Fisheries, as well as author of the best-selling 'The Truth About Trout'

With anglers of this pedigree offering to show me the ropes I could hardly fail. Even so this introduction was to prove one of the most frustrating yet exciting day's trouting ever at least for me.

At first I didn't fish at all, happy to watch the two at work. The lagoon we were to fish was known as O'Dell's, one of literally thousands of lakes and tarns high and exposed 3,500 feet up on the Western Central plateau. During the months of September and October the area becomes one great flood plain, with fish cruising over the submerged grassland feeding on nymphs and drowned insects in literally a few inches of water

During Summer when I was fishing, the water recedes back into shrinking tarns and creeks which are the arteries of the system, providing a network for fish to repopulate the area each Spring.

As we began to wade I cursed my extra large waders which were quite happy to remain stuck firmly in the bottom silt as I tried to walk. Eventually I got round the problem by hitching them up with one hand until we got onto a more solid section. Even so, it was difficult not to lose balance. Following Rob who is over six feet tall, I found the waves lapping my chest, the only good thing being that the air trapped in the waders made me a little bouyant and wading less tiring.

With the surface so disturbed spotting fish was not going to be easy, but Jim told me that these were ideal conditions for polaroiding the clear shallow lagoons; in calm conditions the trout simply become too wary to swim within the anglers' window of vision.

As the two anglers worked along the edge of a submerged weed bed their heads moved constantly from side to side scanning a wide arc for the signs that meant fish. No casts were made. The fly, a dry Red Tag, was held between finger and thumb in anticiption, primed with floatant.

Suddenly Jim spotted a fish, a single accurate cast and the neb of a good fish engulfed the fly with no hesitation. Lifting firmly but gently on the light tippet, the rod arched and bucked before the fish made off behind a singing reel. The fight was long, hard but apart from some impressive runs, not too spectacular — par for a large brown. Once on a short line the fish wallowed and crashed as Jim coaxed it toward an outstretched hand.

Beaten, a superb cock brown of over five pounds lay still as the now-sodden Red Tag was removed; and what a fish it was. Its deep, heavily-spotted flanks were contrasted by a rich golden belly even the fins were bright golden yellow, edged with white. Seconds later saw the great fish slide away with a flick of the tail, and Jim changing his fly for a crisp dry one.

Once that first fish had been taken more followed over the next couple of hours. All were good-sized browns in the three to 5lb plus class, of a condition it would be difficult to better. Rob must have read my mind because three quarters of the way across O'Dell's he asked if I would like a cast.

With the quality of the fish the answer was an easy one, if only I could have said the same for the fishing! It was only now that I realised just how good Rob and Jim were. The greatest challenge was actually spotting the fish in the first place, and with a surface broken by a brisk chop it was none too easy. With me peering into apparently fishless water Rob would shout "There it is, fish! I could see nothing.

After a few abortive attempts I was forced to ask exactly what he was looking for. I quickly realised that my mistake was to be looking for a fish shape in the first place. Instead it was movement, a shadow or shape which altered its position as it appeared, then disappeared, then reappeared again in the window created as each wave flattened off.

Once tuned in, I began to see the "fish" which Rob pointed out so emphatically, to the extent that I even managed to cast to them? Unfortunately this, too, was a problem as the breeze was strong and gusting making it difficult to turn over a dry fly accurately to a fish cruising two or three feet down.

Once I got that under control, Rob was kind enough to tell me that I was casting over the fish. Being so low to the water's surface, the refractive index of the water causes the fish to appear much further away that it really is, in the same way that a perfectly-straight stick appears to bend away sharply when submerged. You would think that with all this tuition I would get it right eventually, but fate, in the form of Jim Allen, still had another trick up its sleeve.

I managed to spot a fish at exactly the same time as Rob, and quickly pitching a cast firmly across my body was pleased to see a superb brown rise to within a couple of inches of my dry Red Tag. My heart was in my mouth as I watched the fish slowly eye my offering.

As this point Jim made a short cast and to my disbelieving eye the fish deserted my fly, cruised off to my right and picked up his brown nymph on the run!

Obviously height is a premium, for the taller you are the easier it is to look down into the water and the further you can see in front. This is particularly important as the further you can see, the more time you have to get the fly in the trout's path.

The fact that the fish were cruising close to the lake bed made it more difficult, which meant that even the experts made mistakes at times, casting to small clumps of weeds. But gradually I managed to get the hang of it, to spot the moving glimmer or dark shadow accompanying a fish and when I did actually spot and hook a trout all by myself the feeling was one of satisfaction.

Though for me polaroiding was the cream of Tasmanian trouting, the waters in the Western and Central plateau's offer trout fishing as diverse as you will find anywhere. From small creeks to giant lakes such as Fergus, Arthurs, Bronte and Dee lagoon where our party, along with Perth anglers Andrew Fink and Owen Nuttridge, took some wonderful browns and rainbows which were feeding on a small, beautiful insect known as the Gum Beetle.

These beetles, as their name suggests, come from the surrounding Eucalyptus or Gum trees, and the trout are quick to take advantage of a sudden fall. Imitating the insect is done with a pre-shaped ball of cork or plastic foam stuck to a hook then painted the bright green iridescent green of the natural. The combination not only floats superbly, but fishes right in the surface film, as does the real beetle.

Incidently Andrew and Owen, along with Rob Sloane, make up part of the committee administering the 1988 World Flyfishing Championship, which is to be fished in Tasmania during November This year England are fishing as defending champions for the first time, the venues being the aforementioned Bronte lagoon, plus Little Pine, and London Lakes, a lovely piece of water owned by Jason Garrett who has constructed a superb, log-built guest house on the shores.

The teams involved in this year's competition, which will include the U.S.A. for the first time, can be assured of trout befitting such wild spectacular country. For wild it should certainly be; November is springtime in Tasmania, and with the annual floods, plus the everpresent chance of snow, it is no place for the unprepared.

With the lagoons wide and over their banks the trout feed in the clear shallow water covering grassland. These "tailing" fish, known as such because they give away their position as their tails break the surface, are a prime target for anglers prepared both to spot and to cast accurately to fish.

Whilst these are not selective feeders, the fact that their heads are down as they grub for nymphs and drowned terrestrials, through tangle of grass and vegetation, makes pinpoint casting a must. This style of fishing entails carefully wading the margins, the same style which will be employed during this year's Championship, for unlike the '87 event fished in England, there will be no boats. So a pair of chest waders is a must.

Though there is nothing to stop you keeping the fish you catch in Tasmania, for me there was a real pleasure in watching large brown trout quickly regain their strength before powering off. On a long day's fishing where you are walking and trying to keep carried weight to a minimum, there is little point killing your fish. A photograph is enough to keep its memory fresh.

Most of the fish we caught during my week-long stay on the Island State were returned; most weren't even netted merely being brought to hand. So it is interesting to realise that the 1988 World Championship is to be a no-kill contest, points being given both per fish and for length. Some superb fish are bound to be caught and it is nice to think that after all the glory and trophy presenting, they at least will be around to fight another day.

In closing, it is difficult not to dwell on the natural beauty of Tasmania. Though it was late summer and the lakes reduced to a fraction of their spring levels, the clear blue sky and cool stiff breeze gave the impression of springtime on a Scottish highland tarn, an impression reinforced by the rolling hills and the typical moorland flora. Reality of the situation soon returns though as Rufous and Bennet's wallabies bound off pausing a few yards later to turn and watch, heads held high, ears pricked and mouths gently chewing as they ponder the disturbance.

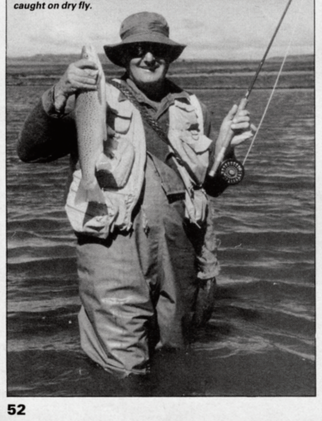
Overhead, Swamp Hawk, a species of Harrier cruise effortlessly over the terrain in search of prey, keeping a watchful eye for any frog or lizard unwise enough to break cover Even in the chilling breeze sheltered spots within rocky outcrops are haven to basking Tiger Snakes which, belying their extremely poisonous nature, and a further need for chest waders, slip gently away as you approach.

The combination of the wonderful flyfishing and the sheer beauty of the country prove an irrestible draw to anglers throughout the world and never more so than in 1988. Though the fishing will never be easy, the occasion will certainly be a challenge to all competitors. It will be interesting to see who finally rises to the occasion in this survival of the fittest!

The question is — can England do it again?

TASMANIAN TROUT HUNT

Australian angler and commissioner of inland fisheries Dr Rob Sloane with another beautiful Tasmanian brownie caught on dry fly.



AMERICAN FLYFISHERS TAKE ON THE WORLD

by Roger Mortimer

THE Yanks are coming . . . That's the spine-chilling message for other teams fishing this year's World Flyfishing Championships.

For the first time in the event's history an American team will be selected to contest the match — being held on some superb wild waters in the Central Highlands of Tasmania.

And their participation has been made possible by the organisers agreeing to allow fish to be returned.

"The USA have always held back from sending a team because they dislike the practice of killing fish," said a spokesman for the organisers.

"But now that obstacle is out of the way they're holding a series of eliminators to decide a five man team."

England boss Tony Pawson has welcomed the transatlantic flavour to the championships. He said: "I'm delighted that an American team have committed themselves.

● Turn to Page 2.

Americans face World

● Contd from Page 1.

"This completes the international flavour to the competition."

But Tony felt that the main threat to all-conquering England came from elsewhere.

"The Americans have some very good anglers but I'd expect our strongest opposition to come from the 'home' sides, Australia and New Zealand," he said.

"They showed very well during last year's match over here."

In addition to the American involvement, the event is also set to benefit from other welcome changes.

A sponsorship deal worth more than £12,000 from Scotch whisky distillers Dewar's, and a further £8,000 from the Australian government, has enabled the organisers to move away from a European venue for the first time.

And the quarry are going to be wild trout rather than hatchery raised rainbows.

Venues for the global clash are Tasmania's London and Arthur's lakes and the Bronte and Little Pine lagoons, with the competition taking place from November 26 to December 2.

BOB'S DRIFT

NEWS, VIEWS AND GOSSIP



Wild brownies world target

IT'S GOING to be the devil's own job winning the World Flyfishing Championship next month — it's in Tasmania!

It will be Spring 12,000 miles away. I'll be enjoying the weather — and worrying like mad about the result. As you'll recall, Australia and New Zealand came second and third respectively last year. But Tasmania's home territory for them.

They were way behind fishing our home waters. The gap will be narrowed for sure, and I know we're going to have to work hard to win.

Twenty countries will do battle again in this, Australia's Bicentennial Year. The fishing all takes place on three lakes, Bronte Lagoon, Little Pine Green and London Lakes . . . some of which are at an altitude of 3,500 feet!

Tasmania is one of the few places in the world where the competent angler can be sure of catching truly wild brown trout, and it is said that Tasmania is one of the finest unspoiled fishing areas in the world today. Brown trout were introduced to Tasmania from England in 1864 and soon spread through their river systems, unhindered in those early days by dams or weirs. Rainbow trout have also been introduced and are abundant in a number of waterways, but the wily old brown trout generally dominates most Tasmanian waters.

RESERVOIR expert Bob Church is all set for the World Flyfishing Championship . . . but he knows the problems he'll face stalking wild brown trout in the crystal waters of Tasmania.



● **WORLD Champion Brian Leadbetter collects the trophy in 1987. Can he keep it this year?**

Great team

The England team will be Geoff Clarkson as fishing manager and team captain, the experienced Dennis Buck, fourth last year in the individual; myself, bronze medallist last year; Brian Leadbetter, last year's winner and gold medallist; John Pawson, sixth last year; and Brian Thomas from Nottingham who was first reserve last year.

This is the eighth World Flyfishing Championship and it will be based on a catch-and-release system. The length of each fish will be recorded by each angler's controller, who is present at all times during the fishing session and the fish will be released immediately.

Flyfishing will be from the bank only and is by wading with chest waders. The method popularly used by Tasmanian and visiting anglers is called 'Polaroiding', where the angler very slowly wades up the breeze, scanning the shallow water for a resting or rising fish, and then he casts his fly to it.

The whole party will be staying at Bronte Park which was established by the Hydro-Electric Commission in the late 1940s as a construction village for the development of huge dams. Most of the homes — chalet type log cabins — were refurbished later on to make a sporting camp close to the ideal fishing grounds. The village is set in farm-like environment with various native animals providing attractions.

I am told there are at least two poisonous snakes and one deadly spider and with my luck, no doubt I shall be bumping into one of those. I will report on the trip later.

Although England won handsomely last year, they will be going into this one as the underdogs. This style of fishing has never been experienced by the team. But because they are all good trout fishers, if the draw is kind, we are in with a chance.

9/10/87

ENGLAND BID FOR SECOND WORLD WIN

HIGH-FLYING England are looking to hold on to their World Fly Fishing Champions' tag when they jet out to Tasmania for the big match in two weeks' time.

But they're going to have a tough battle on their hands with 17 other countries — including the debut of the powerful Americans — all bidding for the Dewar's sponsored title from November 26 until December 2.

England — victorious on their home soil last year — are hoping for a repeat performance in the wild highlands surrounding Tasmania's Little Pine Lagoon, Bronte Lagoon and London Lakes.

They'll be fishing for wild brown and rainbow trout descended from an original British stock over 100 years ago.

The strong British contingent includes sides from Wales and Scotland.

If the event runs to form, Italy look likely to provide the main challenge to the British spearhead. In the seven previous events they've topped the list four times — including 1986 — and they'll be hoping to snatch their crown back.

Other challengers include: host nation Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and West Germany.

ENGLAND have named an almost unchanged line-up from the one that secured the gold medal position last year. The one newcomer is Nottingham's Brian Thomas — reserve last year — who takes over from Chris Ogbourne who's had to stand down because of work.

Current world champion Brian Leadbetter retains his place along with Bob Church, Dennis Buck from Southport, and Winchester's John Pawson. Dorking's Geoff Clarkson will also travel with the party as the non-fishing manager.

WALES' challenge comes from Trevor Hirons (Maesycreigau), Brian Davies (Llandysul), Ray Jones (Llandysul), Alun Jones (Glanaman) and skipper Moc Morgan (Pontrhydfendigaid). **SCOTLAND'S** faith has been put in John Miller form Edinburgh, David Biggart (Aberfoyle), Sandy Forgan (Dundee), Ian Wilson (Cupar) and George Mackenzie (Alexandria). The Scot's non fishing manager is Edinburgh's Donald Webster.

9/4/87

Challenge for England

STEVE WINDSOR looks at our World Championship prospects

IT'S just 134 years since the first trout reached Australia, having travelled as ova from the Itchen, Test, Wey, and the Wyc at High Wycombe on the 90 day boat trip from the UK. Quite a few of those fish went on to Tasmania where they've formed the basis for the challenging sport that Peter Gathercole wrote about last month. No doubt that the fishing will be quite unlike anything previously encountered in the World Championships, and according to Peter a unique combination of skill and luck will be necessary for the eventual champion.

There will be no drifting over a tight shoal of stockies and very little searching the water. Those superb browns and 'bows will either come to you or they won't and no amount of skill will influence that factor until the competitor casts to the fish. Then casting skills, fish spotting and choice of fly will take on a new significance — though I can't help feeling that all this is only a fairer and more testing version of the Avington heat in last year's championships.

● AND talking of that, there certainly seems to be a very high foot-in-mouth ratio in the Antipodes. First there were the amazing revelations of Rob Sloane, the Tasmanian ace apparently misreported by an over-zealous local newspaper reporter

Then Rob sent us his painfully-accurate and well-informed assessment of the UK stockie-bashing scene that had been printed in an Australian angling journal and put us in our place a little.

But the latest delight comes from another newspaper clipping from Tasmania. A Mr Spencer Logue of the organising committee has pronounced on the championship. It goes like this:

"It will be the first time the championships have been held outside Europe and competitors will fish for wild trout rather than the hatchery-bred fish that were normally caught," Mr Logue said. "From the time they are born they are fed surface pellets so you only have to cast a dry fly to them to get a take — it's not a very exciting form of fly fishing' he said."

Obviously Mr Logue has discovered the reason for the string of giant Grafham rainbows that are falling to dry fly they all came from hatcheries

● INCIDENTALLY the World Championships have been fished for wild fish before in Spain in 1982 and in Poland in 1985, while most of the other venues featured a mixture of stockies and wildies

● THE same article thanked Dewar's for their sponsorship — a deal greatly sewn-up by English connections, especially Edward Lincoln and that doyen of international angling Tony Pawson. To see the superb opportunity that Dewar's are offering our readers turn to the facing page.

● BAD news for British hopes is that Chris Ogborne is unavailable to fish the Championships and is replaced by Brian Thomas. Superb angler that Brian is, even he would admit that this is a little like losing Gooch from the England Test line up — plus a hidden factor that physical height is invaluable on the World Championship venues when wading deep and trying to spot fish. Oggie is a giant of six feet and a lot . Chris has had some bad luck lately, failing to qualify for both the National and the Benson and Hedges.

● THE American squad will be led by Bob Johns — the Yanks do things in style. They're stopping off for some yellowfin tuna fishing in Hawaii on the way quite a way to limber up.

● SOMETIMES you can understand why we spent a few hundred years fighting the Spanish. British and other competitors will be rallying to the spirit of Drake on his Armada anniversary after the latest rule changes imposed by CIPM (Confederation International de la Peche a la Mouche) President, Sur Diaz. Many member countries are looking to revise the changes which include an upper hook size limit of an 11 (an unusual size to say the least), and the idea that competitors must fish dry fly for at least half the event.

Apart from establishing just what an 11 is (a size 12 will vary from manufacturer to manufacturer), hooks as large as size two, and rarely smaller than six, are standard practice on the 1989 Finnish venues to ride the boiling streams which contain few small natural insects. Apparently too, the rules do not specify long shank or standard shank, which will at least offer a get out.

It's doubtful that the Australian venues were chosen with dry fly in mind.

But then the Spaniards aren't going to Tas., and have offered to hold the contest in Spain, saying it's too expensive to go to Tasmania. The dictatorial Diaz has even refused to let a self-financed group run by Rafael de Madariaga Giraldo take part as Spain's representatives. They'll travel out, none-the-less, with the English party.

● NATIONS taking part as I write are: Australia, Belgium, Canada, England, France Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Norway, New Zealand, Scotland, USA, Wales and West Germany, with a couple more entries still likely

● AS A follow up to the World Championships, the first ever Commonwealth Championships will be held on London Lakes immediately after the World Championships. Six countries have entered, with the Scots resting their World Championship squad perhaps in deference to a 4am start the morning after the prize-giving party.

Competitors should find large trout cruising the shallows in the early dawn, their backs out of the water.

After the celebrations, how many gluey-eyed anglers will give a Castlemaine XXXX as to where their flies, or the fish are. If there's one sport we shouldn't compete with the Commonwealth at, it's drinking. In future, when the World Championships are in a Commonwealth country the event will be held there, or if they're in another country, as in 1989, the event will be held over two days on the Test and a neighbouring water

● Tony Pawson was delighted to receive an OBE in the Birthday Honours list. Tony attributes the honour directly to his involement with the 1987 UK World Fly Fishing Championships. With typical modesty he sees it as a tribute to the many people who helped with the organisation and to fly fishing in general.



See you at the Game Fair

THIS year's Game Fair is at historic *Floors Castle*, Kelso, on the banks of the river Tweed on July 22, 23 and 24, which includes a Sunday. Trout Fisherman magazine will be there on Fisherman's Row. So come along and meet the staff.

There are other attractions, too. *Jack Simpson* will be demonstrating rod building and repair, including the art of split-cane. If you have a broken rod, bring it along for Jack's advice. Or for a valuation on a vintage rod.

Scots competition angler and flytyer *Brian Peterson* will also be making guest appearances on the stand twice a day.

Take out a subscription on the stand and you'll receive a bottle of Hawker's Sloe Gin, plus the chance of free weekend's fishing with *Brian Leadbetter* at Grafham Water.

If you think your knowledge of trout waters is good, then have a go at our Name the Water competition. Prizes include a limited edition print from *Charles Jardine* . . . a sculpture from *David Hughes* and a year's free subscription plus a bottle of sloe gin. We will also be selling the flies tied for the Benson and Hedges competition.

Elsewhere, there will be the usual wide range of trade stands and displays with casting demonstrations, gun-dog competitions, clay-pigeon shooting, falconry and archery. There's even the chance to salmon fish the Tweed's Couch Wynd pool for £5 for 15 minutes. And you keep what you catch.

Floors Castle, seat of the Duke of Roxburghe, is off the A6089 at Kelso. Easy access from the A1 at Berwick. Admission is £5.50 for adults, children free under 14. The Castle will also be open, although an admission charge will be made.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP GRAPEVINE

How the UK teams are preparing for Tasmania in 1988 and Finland in 1989

TASMANIA · AUSTRALIA 1988

TONY PAWSON and **Bill Burleigh** organised a fund raising event at Cadmore Lake, Tenbury Wells, in late August. In a very friendly, catch-and-release competition, **Brian Leadbetter** was top rod, and everyone enjoyed a good day's fishing, followed by a splendid dinner and auction. A substantial sum was raised towards the England team's travel expenses to Tasmania.

● England's participation in the Dewar's Challenge, held at Cobbinshaw Loch on 21 September, with a top prize of £1,000 to the winning National Team, was not as successful as in the Internationals of recent years! They finished fourth behind Scotland, Wales and the Trout Fisherman team.

● Work has already started on England's preparation for the **1989 World Flyfishing Championship** in **Finland.**

Geoff Clarkson and **Brian Leadbetter** fished the competition venues — the **Kuusinki** and **Kitka** rivers in north east Finland — in early July, exactly a year before the championship.

Geoff and Brian caught brown trout, grayling and whitefish (better known to us powan or gwyniad), but so far they are not letting on how.

They did bring back some tall stories about vast clouds of vicious midges, fierce mother bears, herds of reindeer, treks throughs virgin forest to fast-flowing rivers, and migratory brown trout averaging 6lb in weight. They **did** discover an effective midge repellant, and they **did not** actually meet bears or migratory brown trout.

● Meanwhile the process to select the England team to fish in Finland is moving forward, with a two-day get-together fishing the Maelor Angling Club beat of the Welsh Dee near Ruabon in late September The World Championship is a very friendly affair: the fishing on the Dee was arranged via Moc Morgan, the Welsh Captain. Wales hope to host the 1990 World Flyfishing Championship, and if so one session would be on this stretch of the Dee, so the get-together should show England what is in store for them in 1990.

● The England team for the World Flyfishing Championship to be held in Tasmania wish to thank the following individuals and organisations for all their help and generosity in raising funds for our participation in the event.

Bill Burleigh; Laurie Charteris, The Horseshoes, Blunham; **Bob Church and Co; Confederation of English Flyfishers; John Dewar and Sons Ltd; Drennan International; Dunlop Footwear; Heron Anglers; Hooked,** Hereford; **David Hughes; Hygena; Charles Jardine; Sid Knight; Leeda Tackle; Masterline; MFI Furniture Centres; Mustad Hooks; National Anglers Council; National Federation of Anglers; Optix Cormorants; Orvis UK; Partridge of Redditch; Tony Pawson OBE; Salmon and Trout Association; Richard Sattin,** Principal Film Co; **Sports Council; Mal Storey,** Kidderminster; **Roger Thorn,** Rutland Water; **Jim Warren,** Grafham Water· **John Weston,** Cadmore Lake; and **Stuart Williams,** Bridgnorth.

● England team members are delighted to hear that Noel Jetson, the well known Tasmanian fishing guide, will be looking after the England team during their full stay in Tasmania. Noel, who is a keen supporter of catch-and-release, the basis of the World Championship, is the originator of several of Tasmania's favourite fly patterns. He has already sent his 'top twelve' flies to Geoff Clarkson so the team members are busy tying! They were reassured to find that such traditional patterns as Mallard and Claret and Red Tags featured amongst the top 12.

● The Championship will be fished on three lakes in the Central Highlands of Tasmania, at altitudes between 2,500 feet and 3,500 feet. The quarry will be relatively large, wild brown trout, and a few large rainbows, neither of which are very numerous. Feeding patterns of Tasmanian trout are very different from those of our own trout. In November the lake margins are still flooded, so you find trout "fossicking" along the bottom in a few inches of water There are huge hatches of tiny, black caenis, with trout feeding quietly on them in the shallows at dawn.

● Because identical conditions do not exist in England, the team is not carrying out a comprehensive practice programme here. Instead, they have had only a two-day session — one at Dever Springs,and one at Avington to obtain some additional experience of casting to individual, large trout, in crystal clear water. They leave early for Tasmania, to practice there, with the help of Noel Jetson, for a full eight days prior to the Championship.

● The team — Bob Church, Brian Leadbetter, Dennis Buck, John Pawson and Brian Thomas met in London, two weeks before departure, for a final briefing/discussion session. That meeting was followed by a now traditional event, started by Captain Geoff Clarkson, of a pre-Championship Dinner at the Flyfishers Club for team members and their ladies. To quote Geoff Clarkson: "Fishing at this level is a very time consuming past-time. The least we can do is show our partners how much we appreciate their tolerance and their support."

● Wales, meanwhile, have chosen Moc Morgan, Alun Jones, Trevor Hirons, Brian Davies and Raymond Jones. Team captain Moc Morgan said that this year's team was selected on the basis of those who could afford to go.

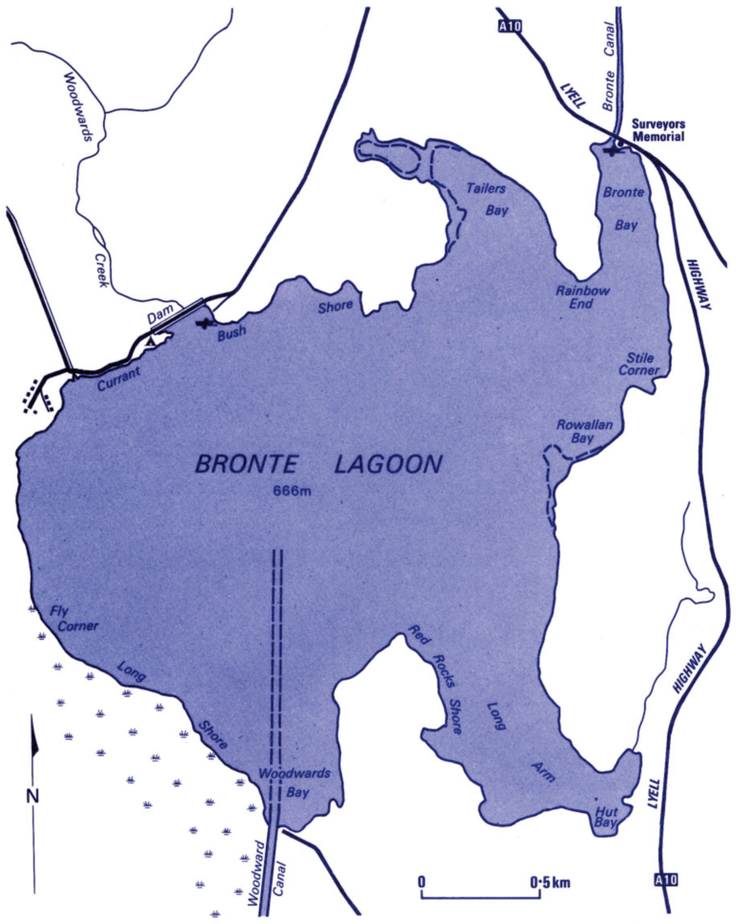
● Scotland's team consists of David Biggart, John Miller, Sandy Forgan, Ian Wilson, George Mackenzie with Donald Westwater, non-fishing captain.

● The contest runs from November 26 to December 2. The 15 other competitors are: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, USA and West Germany.



The Welsh team, and their mascot Richard Davies (centre) join Sports Minister Colin Moynihan (third left) and Anthony Oscroft of Championship sponsors Dewar's (third right) for a farewell picture.

DEWAR'S WORLD FLY FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP
TASMANIA - 1988



Dewar's VIIIth WORLD FLY FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP
TASMANIA · AUSTRALIA · 1988

Day . . . . . .

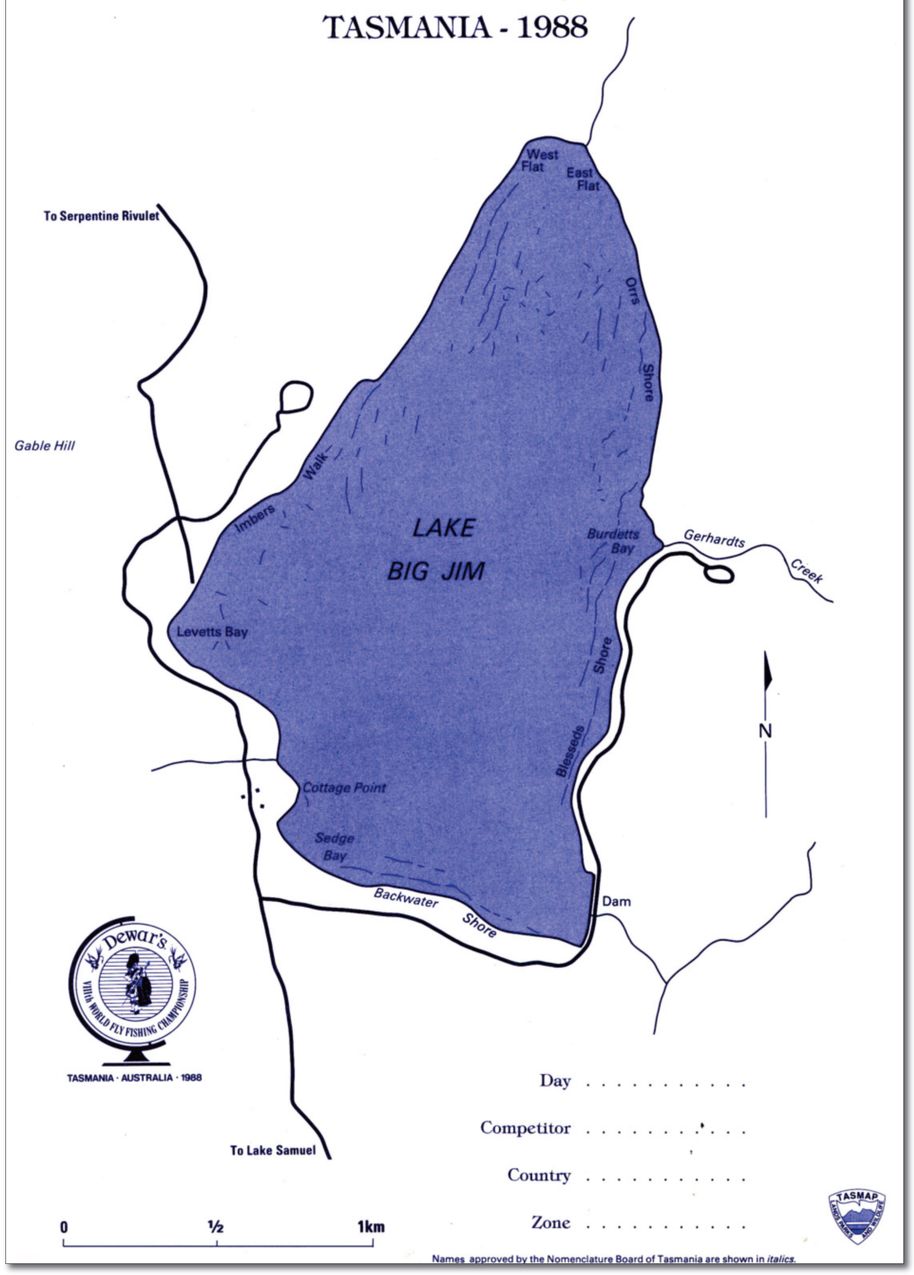
Competitor . . . . . .

Country . . . . . .

Zone . . . . . .

TASMAP

DEWAR'S WORLD FLY FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP
TASMANIA - 1988



Dewar's VIIIth WORLD FLY FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP
TASMANIA · AUSTRALIA · 1988

Day . . . . . .

Competitor . . . . . .

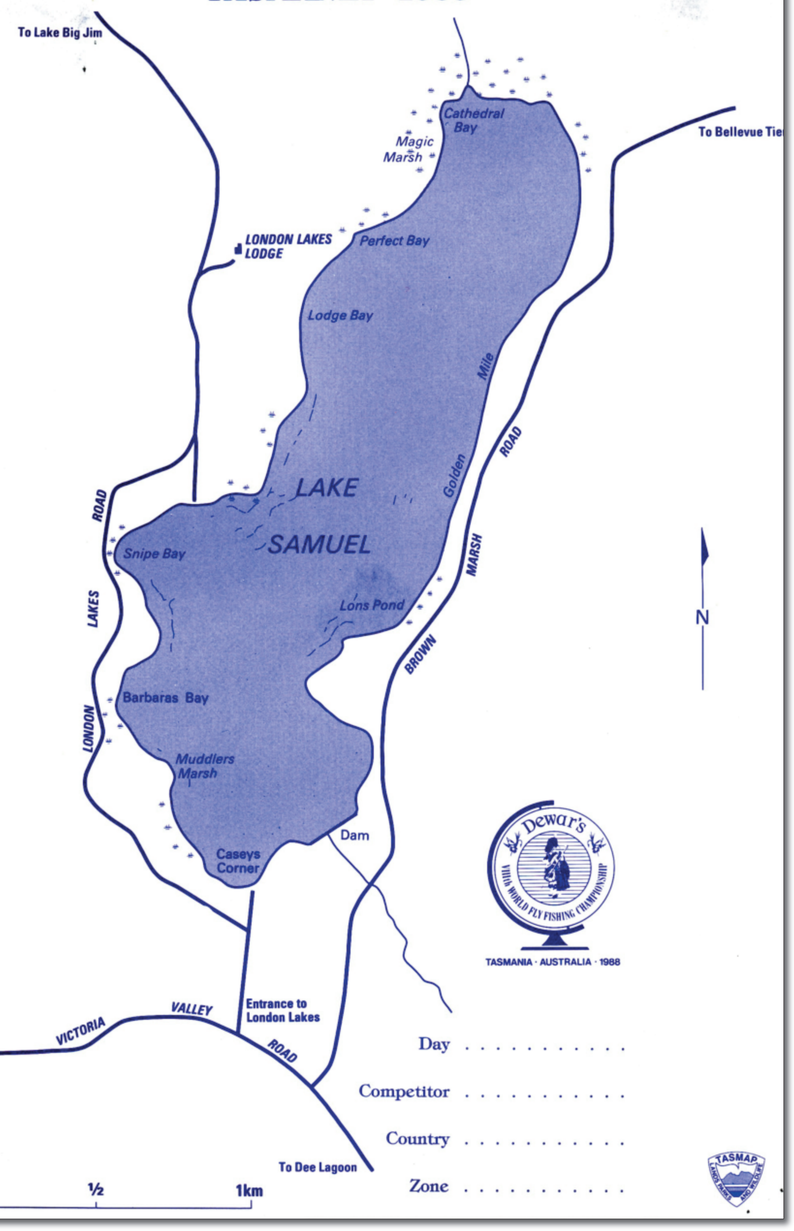
Country . . . . . .

Zone . . . . . .

TASMAP

Names approved by the Nomenclature Board of Tasmania are shown in *italics*.

DEWAR'S WORLD FLY FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP
TASMANIA - 1988



Dewar's VIIIth WORLD FLY FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP
TASMANIA · AUSTRALIA · 1988

Day . . . . . .

Competitor . . . . . .

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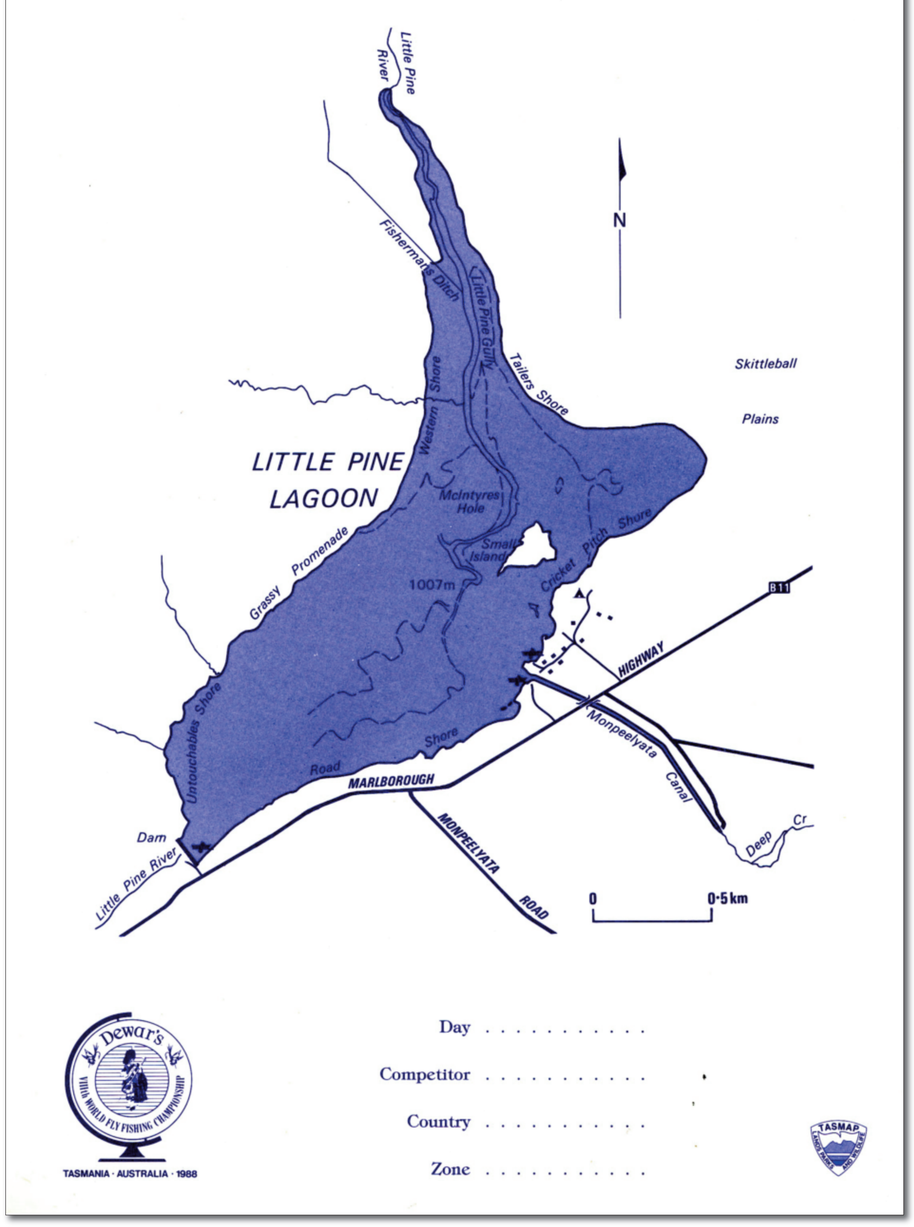
TASMAP

DEWAR'S WORLD FLY FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP
TASMANIA - 1988



Dewar's VIIIth WORLD FLY FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP
TASMANIA · AUSTRALIA · 1988

Day . . . . . .

Competitor . . . . . .

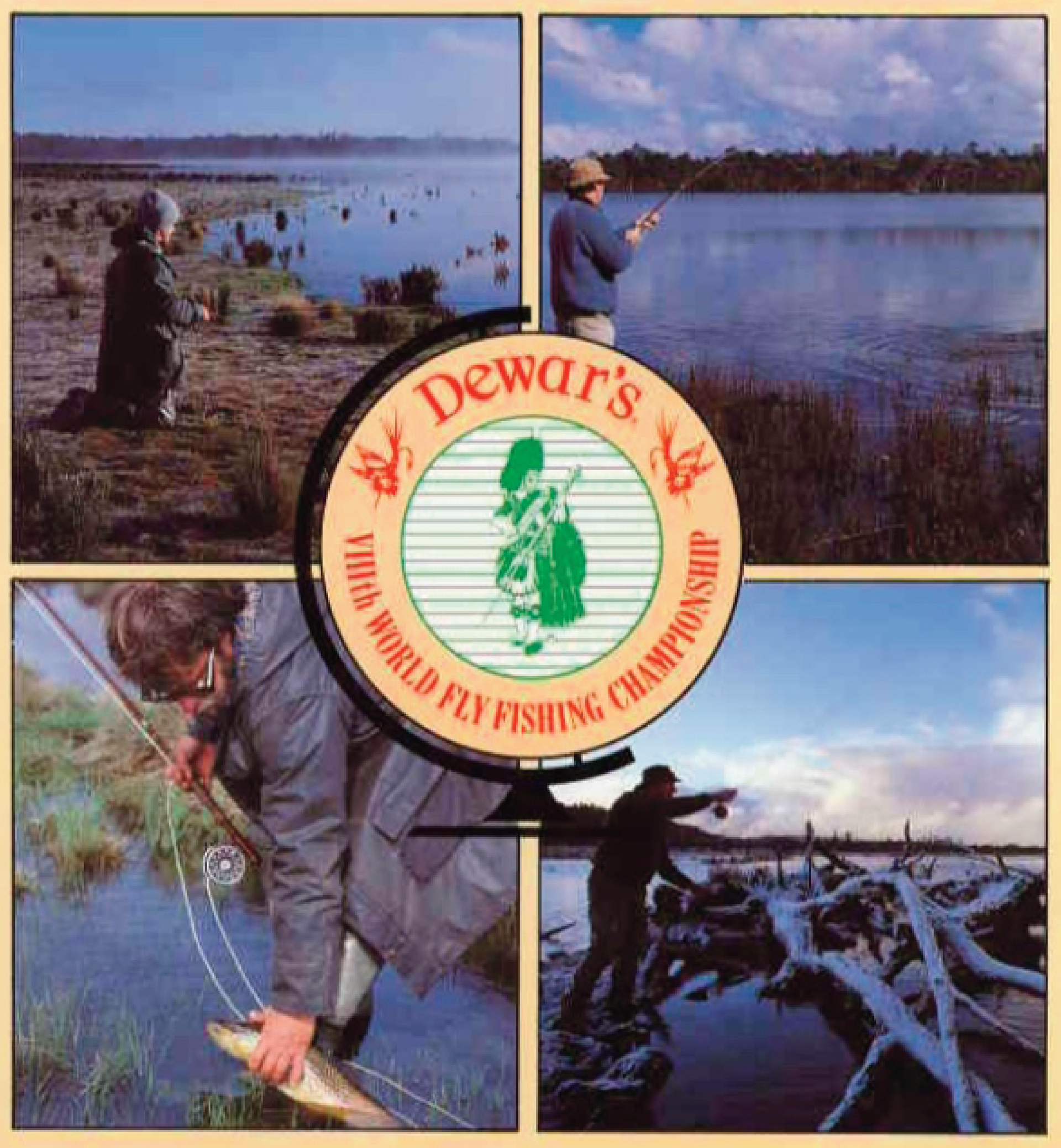
Country . . . . . .

Zone . . . . . .

TASMAP

Dewar's
VIIIth WORLD FLYFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP 1988
TASMANIA · AUSTRALIA

Sponsored by Dewar's White Label Scotch Whisky



JOHN DEWAR SPONSORS OF THE VIIIth WORLD FLY FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP



Competitive fly fishing began in earnest in 1880 with the first national championship at Loch Leven.

Thirty six years earlier, the foundations of a different competitive venture were being laid by an enterprising young Scot called John Dewar.

His sons continued to build the Dewar's name around the world and today, this fine Scotch whisky commands respect internationally.

Here in Australasia, where the accent is on energy and accomplishment, Dewar's White Label is as keenly appreciated as the fishing.

Dewar's - the superb quality of which never varies-is rapidly becoming the most talked about Scotch whisky in angling.

DEWAR'S NEVER VARIES.

Foreword by the Premier of Tasmania



Robin Gray
PREMIER OF TASMANIA.

Welcome to the World Fly Fishing Championships and to Tasmania, home of some of the best trout fishing waters in the world.

Trout were first introduced into Tasmania 124 years ago after eggs, packed in moss and ice, were sent to the State aboard the sailing ship 'Norfolk'.

It was an experiment which has paid immense dividends over the years.

The first brown trout from those eggs were released into the Plenty River at the Salmon Ponds, near New Norfolk.

Within a few years they had spread through many of the State's rivers and lakes, and in so doing provided the beginnings of what has become a world famous fishery.

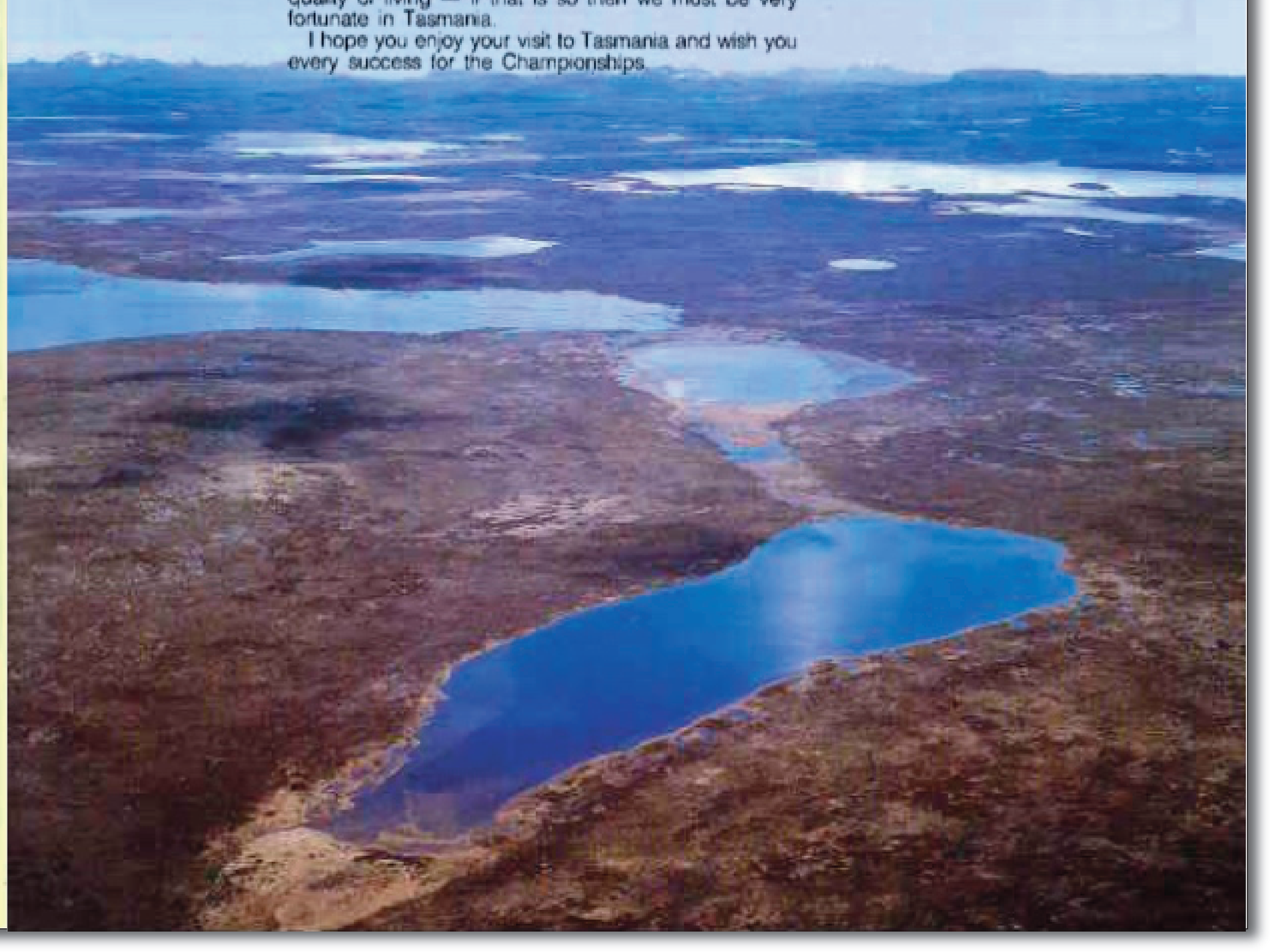
In fact anglers from Europe, the United Kingdom and North America have travelled to Tasmania to pit their skills against the wily descendants of the first trout released into our waters.

Today, many people use trout fishing as an excuse to holiday in Tasmania.

And what better excuse could you need, because trout fishing can take you to all regions of the State, thereby enabling you the opportunity of engaging in a favourite pastime while at the same time enjoying the scenery, lifestyle and hospitality of Australia's friendliest State.

There is a saying that the quality of fishing reflects the quality of living — if that is so then we must be very fortunate in Tasmania.

I hope you enjoy your visit to Tasmania and wish you every success for the Championships.



Come and fish and stay in the heart of the world's greatest wild brown trout fishery!



COMPLEAT ANGLER LODGE
GREAT LAKE HWY, HADDENS BAY, MIENA TASMANIA (002) 59-8179
- Specialises in private fishermen's accommodation
- Motel style lodgings
- Family lodges
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- Guiding services can be arranged



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AUSTRALIA'S LEADING MAIL ORDER HOUSE



5 QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK YOURSELF BEFORE YOU SHOP ANYWHERE ELSE!

DO YOU WANT
1. THE BEST QUALITY TACKLE AT THE BEST AVAILABLE PRICE?
2. A MONEY BACK GUARANTEE ON EVERY ITEM YOU PURCHASE?
3. SOUND ADVICE FROM PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY USE THE GEAR?
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Welcome to Competitors

On behalf of the Organising Committee of the V111th World Fly Fishing Championship we welcome fly fishers from around the world to Tasmania, in this, Australia's Bicentennial Year.

Previous World Championships have been held in Luxemburg (1981), Spain (1982,1984) Italy (1983), Poland (1985), Belgium (1986) and England (1987). Never before have our European friends been asked to travel so far to participate in a World Fly Fishing Championship.

But the response has been overwhelming and we are delighted that eighteen countries have indicated their intention to compete in the 1988 event.

Our guests in Tasmania's Central Highlands will include teams from Australia, Belgium, Canada, England, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Scotland, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America, Wales and West Germany. Switzerland and the United States of America are participating in the World Championship for the first time, and this is only the second year that Australia, Canada and New Zealand have taken part.

We look forward to the 26th November and to the start of what is sure to be a challenging and memorable World Fly Fishing Championship.

Spencer Logue, Chairman Organising Committee
Dr. Robert Sloane, Commissioner of Inland Fisheries

Itinerary

SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER
- 4.00pm Teams assemble at the Sheraton Hobart Hotel
- 5.15pm Buses depart for Government House
- 5.30pm Official reception — Government House
- 7.00pm Pre-dinner drinks at Sheraton Hobart Hotel
- 7.30pm Welcome dinner — Sheraton Hobart Hotel

SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER
- 9.00am Depart Sheraton Hobart Hotel for Salmon Ponds
- 10.00am Arrive Salmon Ponds for morning tea and inspection
- 11.00am Depart Salmon Ponds for Bronte Park
- 12.30pm Arrive Bronte Park Highland Village — settle into accommodation
- 1.00pm Light lunch at Bronte Park
- 3.00pm Welcome barbecue at London Lakes
- 7.00pm Return to Bronte Park
- Night at Bronte Park

MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER — OFFICIAL PRACTICE DAY
- 7.30am Breakfast at Bronte Park
- Practice fishing at Bronte Lagoon — cut lunch
- 4.00pm Captain's meeting at Bronte Park
- 6.00pm Dinner at Bronte Park
- Night at Bronte Park

TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER — WEDNESDAY 30 NOVEMBER — THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER — COMPETITION DAYS
- Accommodation at Bronte Park Highland Village

LONDON LAKES
- 4.30am Depart Bronte Park
- 4.50am Arrive London Lakes — allocation of controllers — Dewars and coffee
- 5.30am Fishing commences
- 8.30am Break for London Lakes barbecue breakfast
- 10.00am Fishing session continues after re-allocation of controllers
- 1.00pm Session finishes — return to Bronte Park
- 1.30pm Lunch at Bronte Park
- Free afternoon at Bronte Park
- 6.00pm Dinner at Bronte Park
- Night at Bronte Park

LITTLE PINE LAGOON
- 7.30am Breakfast at Bronte Park
- 8.45am Depart Bronte Park for Little Pine Lagoon
- 9.30am Arrive at Little Pine Lagoon — allocation of controllers
- 10.00am Fishing commences — cut lunch provided
- 4.00pm Fishing finishes
- 4.30pm Dinner at Great Lake
- 7.00pm Return to Bronte Park

BRONTE LAGOON
- 7.30am Breakfast at Bronte Park
- Free morning at Bronte Park
- 12.00noon Lunch at Bronte Park
- 1.45pm Depart Bronte Park for Bronte Lagoon — allocation of controllers
- 2.30pm Fishing commences — cut tea provided
- 8.30pm Fishing finishes — return to Bronte Park
- Night at Bronte Park

FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER
- 7.30am Breakfast at Bronte Park
- Free morning at Bronte Park or inspection of Inland Fisheries Commission Research Station at Great Lake
- 11.00am Official announcement of results and presentation of prizes
- 12.00noon Farewell barbecue, entertainment and festivities until late.
- Night at Bronte Park

SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER
- 6.00am First coach departs for early flights out of Hobart Airport
- 7.30am Breakfast at Bronte Park
- 9.00am Remaining coaches depart for Hobart

Looking Back to England 1987
by Tony Pawson

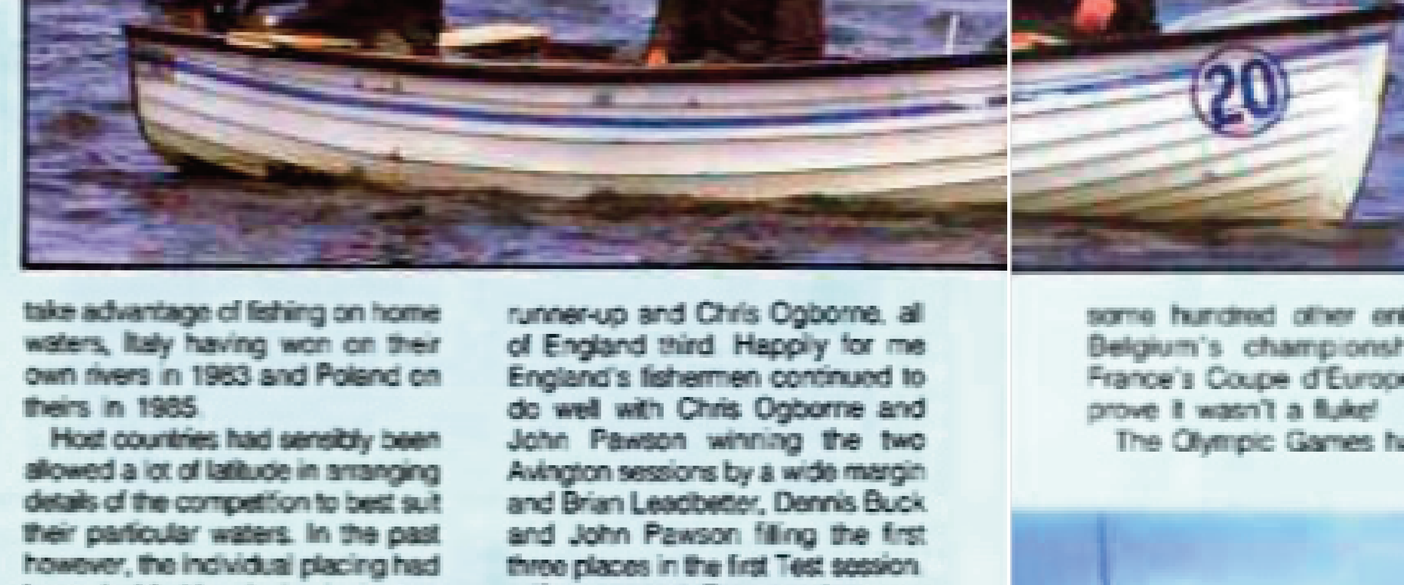
The VIIth World Fly Fishing Championship in England in May 1987 saw this entertaining event become a genuine world championship with 21 nations taking part and two more sending observers. Previously 13 had been the highest number of countries participating and they had been exclusively European. So the advent of teams from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Kenya and Zambia finally justified the world title, and added a new dimension to the event.

The Australian contingent certainly gave it new flavour and a new character with John Sautelle Snr. making a special mark! The media loved him too because he gave them such excellent copy, though they were never quite sure when he was being serious and when they were having their legs pulled by a man who claimed to ride to his fishing on a kangaroo with his tackle in its pouch. Happily the Australians also provided excellent copy from their fishing skills.

It was a particular pleasure to me that two teams new to the event, and having come so far to compete, should finish second and third with Australia the runners-up and New Zealand close behind. It was very appropriate too that Australia should win the special prize towards travel expenses—the 1,000 pound donated by Dewar's to the best team other than the host nation—seeing that travel had been so costly for them.

Australia's was a particularly impressive performance as the format was new to them and as the team event was based on the loch-style fishing traditional to British home international fishing for over fifty years, but not very familiar to Australians. The two stocked reservoir lakes on which the team championship was fished were the five-mile long Rutland Water and the more compact Grafham Water.

England had for the first time made a detailed selection from their most consistent anglers all of whom specialised in loch-style boat fishing (as indeed did the Welsh, Scottish and Irish teams). They had also been selected long enough in advance to be able to practice together and between them they had developed an entirely new method which they called fishing the static fly on the drift. So successful was this in the two day event that England won by a wide margin, only the third country to take advantage of fishing on home waters, Italy having won on their own rivers in 1983 and Poland on theirs in 1985.



Host countries had sensibly been allowed a lot of latitude in arranging details of the competition to best suit their particular waters. In the past however, the individual placing had been decided by placing in the two day team event as is now standard practice. We wanted to ensure that who ever won the individual world championship was an all-round angler equally as good at river dry fly fishing, as bank fishing of small still waters, and as at boat fishing on large lakes. So we had arranged for the top 32 anglers in the team event to fish on later at Avington Lakes on the River Test.

The winner of the best angler award in the team event was Brian Leadbetter with John Pawson as runner-up and Chris Ogborne, all of England third. Happily for me England's fishermen continued to do well with Chris Ogborne and John Pawson winning the two Avington sessions by a wide margin and Brian Leadbetter, Dennis Buck and John Pawson filling the first three places in the first Test session.

The second Test session was won by the New Zealander Dave McLellan who finished fifth overall, the only person to split the England team of five. Dave also won one of the Findlater inter-Continental prizes for the leading angler from the various continents involved. Brian Leadbetter won the individual championship with a near perfect performance finishing first in three of his four sessions and third in the other. Brian also won the two following European events at Weiswampach and Dreux from some hundred other entrants in Belgium's championship and France's Coupe d'Europe just to prove it wasn't a fluke!

The Olympic Games has given up any pretence of being confined to amateurs or of the participating being more important than the winning. For me however, the essence of the world fly fishing championship does remain in the excitement of participating rather than in the result. It was for that reason also that we had an extended competition so that all the overseas teams could sample the whole variety of our fishing. So it was another pleasure for me that the highest placed European team (other than British) was fifth placed Poland.

In 1985 we had enjoyed learning the 'rolled nymph' technique on their delightful San River, badly as our team fished it. Poland then had no stocked lakes, no trout fishing from boats. In preparation for 1987 they stocked lakes, mastered the techniques involved and gave themselves a new facility to enjoy in fishing in Poland, as well as competing successfully. In England they also confirmed their skill on rivers with K. Sasula winning a special prize when the famous Mick Lunn judged him as technically the best dry fly fisherman when he finished as runner-up to Dave McLellan in the second Test session.

What mattered to us was that everyone who came should enjoy themselves. I hope they did and I am sure they will in Australia. Two further hopes of mine may be soon fulfilled. The first was for a properly organised American team to enter, following an observer coming to England last year. That should happen in Tasmania. The second is for Russian involvement.

The 1989 Championships are to be in Finland and keep in mind that the Finnish Championship rivers do indeed flow into Russia.



England's winning team in the 7th World Fly Fishing Championship. Denis Buck, Bob Church, Brian Leadbetter, John Pawson and Chris Ogborne.

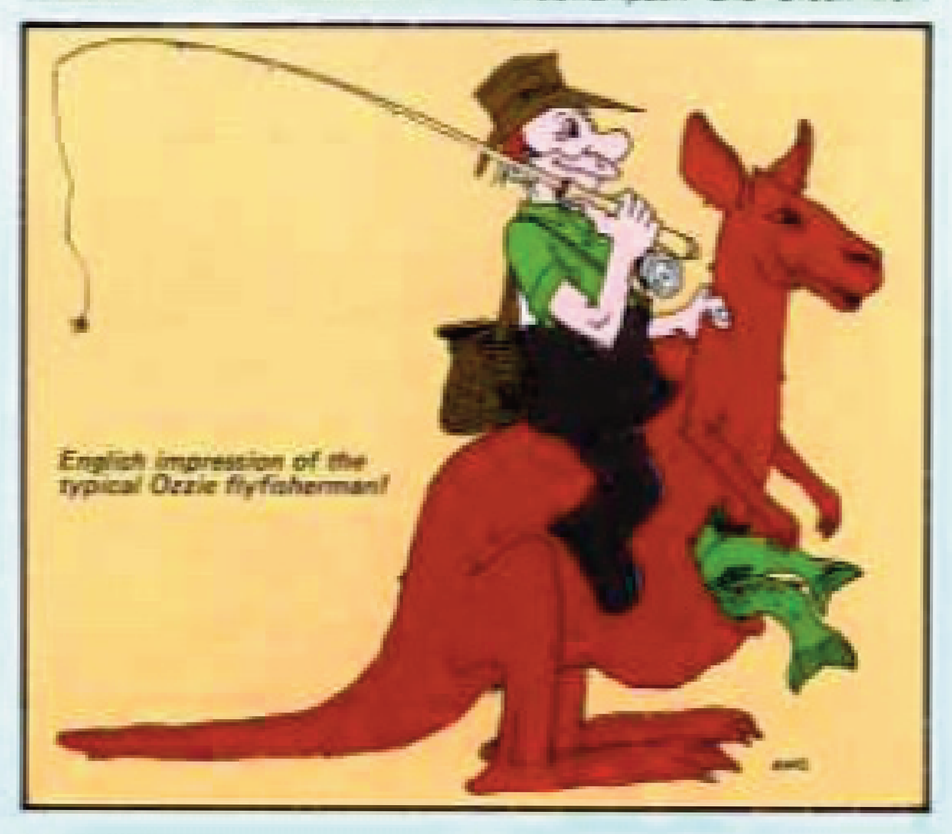
TEAM ORDER
VII W.F.F.C. ENGLAND 1987

1 ENGLAND 85,330
(B. Leadbetter 24,580 — J. Pawson 20,240 - C. Ogborne 16,210 - R. Church 13,385 — D. Buck 10,915)
2 AUSTRALIA 41,355
(J. Rumpf 11,610 - T. Piggott 11,095 - J Sautelle 9,920 - O. Nutridge 6,685 - A. Fink 2,045)
3 NEW ZEALAND 27,815
(T. Entwistle 10,365 - D. McLellan 9,005 - M. Oliver 4,525 - H. McDowell 4,530 - M. Scott 2,625)
4 WALES 23,235
(M. Morgan 8,960 - R. Jones 4,460 - T. Hixons 4,325 A. Jones 3,610 - L. Frasik 1,255)
5 POLAND 22,765
(A. Tondera 9,475 - A. Maleta 4,890 - K. Sasula 4,105 - H. Taiber 3,040 - L. Frasik 1,255)

6 FRANCE	21,830	15 NORWAY	12,455
7 FINLAND	21,555	16 WEST GERMANY	10,755
8 IRELAND	18,890	17 SPAIN	9,535
9 SCOTLAND	18,700	18 ROMANIA	7,355
10 CZECHOSLOVAKIA	17,960	19 KENYA	6,640
11 ITALY	17,525	20 ZAMBIA (2 ONLY FOR INDIVIDUAL)	4,125
12 LUXEMBOURG	17,365		
13 CANADA	16,920	21 AUSTRIA (2 ONLY FOR INDIVIDUAL)	555
14 BELGIUM	15,915		

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

1st B. Leadbetter (England)	5th D. McLellan (New Zeal.)
2nd C. Ogborne (England)	6th J. Pawson (England)
3rd R. Church (England)	7th T. Piggott (Australia)
4th B. Buck (England)	



English impression of the typical Ozzie flyfisherman!





Cast a line in our energy resource.

Anglers throughout the world travel hundreds of miles to find a quiet and rewarding fishing spot.

In Tasmania, we don't have to travel that far and usually our efforts are readily rewarded. Our lakes abound in trout. What's more, many lakes have camping and barbecue facilities provided to make that fishing trip even more enjoyable.

But we wouldn't be so lucky if it weren't for the HEC. Through the HEC and its power developments, we now have an abundant water resource.

PROUD TO BE TASMANIAN
HYDRO-ELECTRIC COMMISSION
ELECTRICITY AT YOUR SERVICE.

More to Fishing

It is well known that there is more to fishing than catching fish. Even the most competitive and single-minded of the world's leading anglers who have come to Tasmania accept that going fishing, considering tackle and tactics, sharing experiences, exchanging stories and simply being at the waterside, are all part of the magic that has puzzled non-anglers for decades.

Travelling to new places, against a backdrop of lakes, streams and other natural splendours, captivates the angler as much as the art of enticing fish.

What also surprises the non-angler is the variety of people who fish. They seem to be different from other sports enthusiasts. Perhaps anglers are reluctant to declare their interest until they meet another angler. Saying "yes" to the question "Do you fish" is to acknowledge membership of a special society with its own language and customs.

This is borne out in Scotland where the whisky company John Dewar & Sons knows that it has worked and lived among anglers for generations without knowing them! Scots do fish, and in remarkably large numbers. They have spread the gentle art around the world! Scottish anglers come from all walks of life and, according to the Guinness Book of Records, the Scottish Ellem Club, founded in 1830, is the oldest fishing club in the world!

Scotland staged the first-ever National Fly Fishing championship on Loch Leven in 1880 and the first International competition in 1928, also fished on Loch Leven. This contest began as a light-hearted challenge, lasted 14 hours and resulted in a winning bag of 73 trout weighing 56 lbs.

Dewar's recognised the merits of the sport and added a true touch of originality by participating in fly fishing for the first time in 1987.

The Dewar International Top Team Trophy and 1,000 Pound Travel Award for the best performance by an overseas team, sent a buzz of excitement around the World. Here was a trophy and a prize worth going for!

This generous prize was won by the Australians who had come furthest, and at greatest expense to take part in the seventh world event in England.

The next step, of course, was for Dewar's to sponsor the Eighth World Fly Fishing Championship in Tasmania.

Dewar's recognised fly fishing as a long term international venture. The company knew that angling would complement the image of their Dewar's "White Label" Scotch Whisky in the rest of the world — particularly the United States, Spain and Australia.

Behind this lies Dewar's Scottish origins and the superb reputation of Scotch Whisky around the world.

John Dewar, a carpenter by trade, set-up in business in Perth 126 years ago. Today his name is synonymous with fine Scotch Whisky.

Even by the standards of the Scotch Whisky industry, Dewar's impact on world markets is noteworthy. The company has received six Queen's Awards for export achievement. In the United States the brand is the number one Scotch Whisky.

Among the earliest appointed selling agents were those in Australia and South Africa.

Queen Victoria granted Her Royal Warrant to Dewar's at the height of Her reign and of the Empire's expansion in the 1880's.

Well over one hundred years later, all is well with the firm and the brand "that never varies".

At Dewar's blending and bottling plant at Inveralmond, near Perth, some 350,000 bottles are filled every working day.

John Dewar & Sons is part of one of the largest spirits companies in the world, the United Distillers Group, which already supports many sporting, cultural and social activities world-wide.

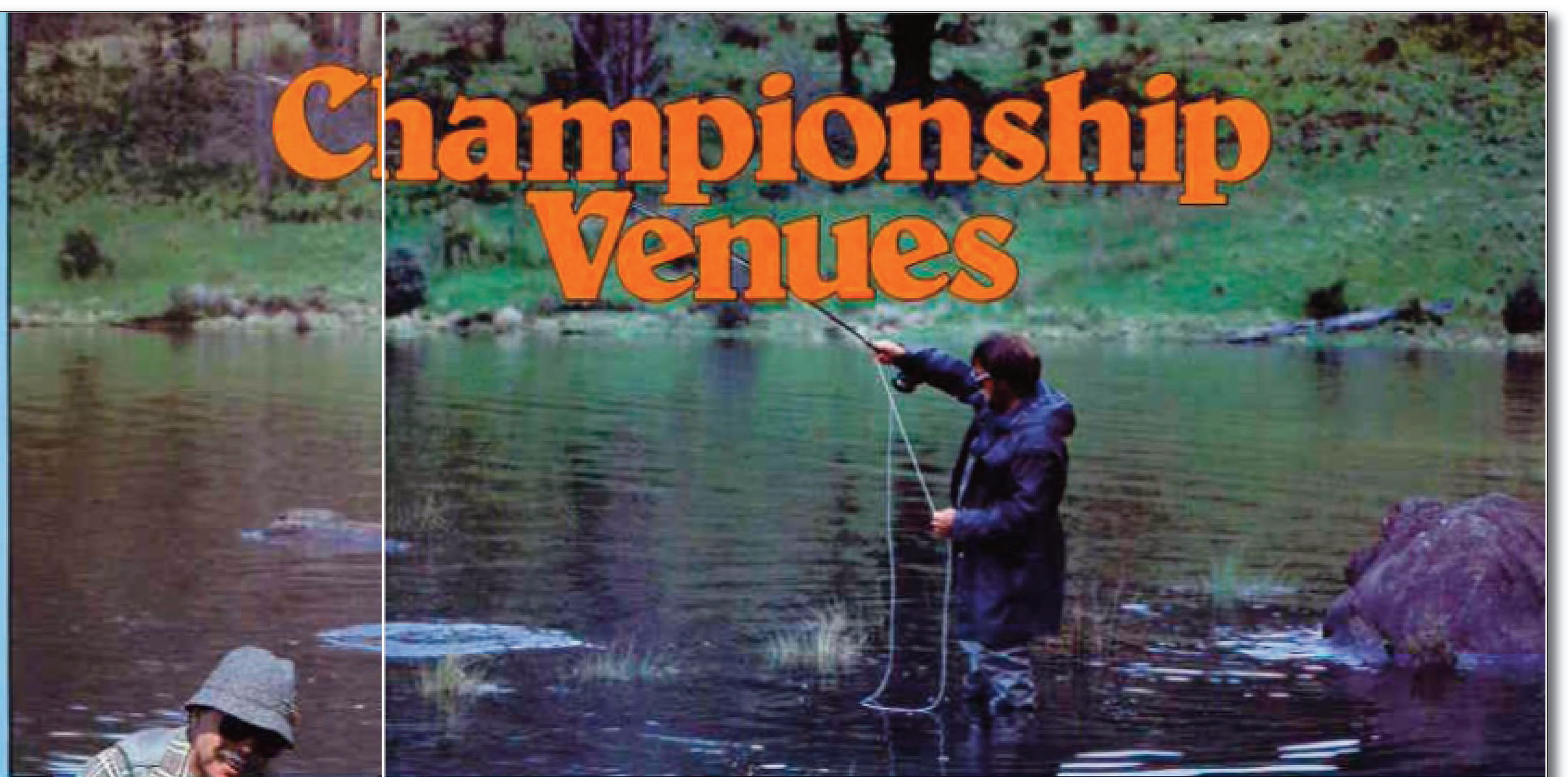
The decision to come into international fly fishing adds an exciting new dimension to its sports sponsorship. Fishing is now man's greatest single pastime and it is an honour to be where the action is this year — Tasmania.

The world champions, England, deserve a mention. Twelve thousand miles away from their abundant lakes and streams they have a fight on their hands. The locals start favourites on home water but the Finnish contingent — the 1989 hosts — could certainly spring some surprises.

Tony Oscroft — Managing Director of John Dewars — presenting John Sautelle Jnr. with the Dewar International Top Team Trophy at the 7th World Flyfishing Championship.



Championship Venues



Dr. Robert Sloane

Well known local angler and Commissioner of Inland Fisheries, Rob Sloane, introduces visiting anglers to the Tasmanian fly fishing scene, offers some general advice, reviews the three Championship venues and predicts fishing conditions on these waters.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Catching wild trout under Tasmanian conditions demands considerable skill and represents a substantial fly fishing challenge worthy of a World Championship.

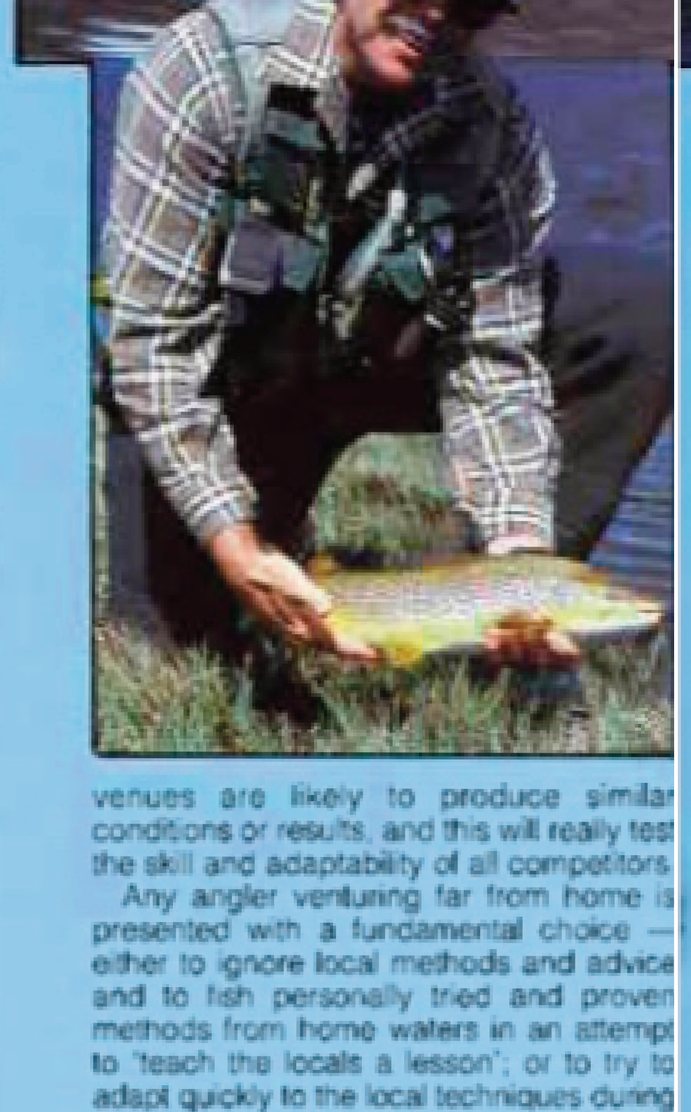
Little Pine Lagoon, Bronte Lagoon and London Lakes have been selected as being representative of midday, evening and early morning fly fishing conditions in the Tasmanian highlands at this time of year.

The nature of the competition pits each competitor against those fishing the same water at the same time. Knowing the fickle weather of this region and the temperamental nature of its trout, no two days or venues are likely to produce similar conditions or results, and this will really test the skill and adaptability of all competitors.



ABOVE: Classic polaroiding, Western Lakes. BELOW: Catch and release, brown trout. TOP RIGHT: Playing a trout at Bronte Lagoon. RIGHT: Little Pine, displaying fish.





Any angler venturing far from home is presented with a fundamental choice — either to ignore local methods and advice and to fish personally tried and proven methods from home waters in an attempt to 'teach the locals a lesson'; or to try to adapt quickly to the local techniques during the time available for practice under the guidance of the local team-guide.

After observing the Championship in England last year, and being a strong believer in the importance of confidence as an essential ingredient in successful fly fishing, I suggest that this is a clear choice in approach — it must be one or the other — if you are caught in between and in doubt, the odds are heavily against you.

So, what is so special about the Tasmanian approach? Well, many of the recognised experts rely heavily upon seeing the trout first, before accurately presenting an appropriate fly, rather than fishing the water 'blind' and luring an unseen fish to take the fly. Many Tasmanian anglers are particularly adept at identifying the cryptic signs of trout as they feed quietly in the shallows and normally they do not make a serious cast until a trout is actually seen.

In bright conditions polaroid sun-glasses are used to minimise reflected glare in order to detect fish cruising in the shallows. Some have taken this form of fly fishing to quite remarkable extremes and can polaroid trout in very marginal conditions.

On dull days local experts are skilled at recognising the subtle signs of a feeding trout and faultlessly interpreting its direction and speed of movement in order to make the required critical cast. The trout may momentarily display the back, dorsal fin or tail, or may leave a faint swirl or boil on the surface. When the water is rough and rippled such signs are very difficult to detect and interpret.

Having fished in a number of other countries and having guided many visiting anglers from all parts of the globe, I have concluded that visiting fly fishers encounter several fundamental dilemmas in coming to grips with Tasmanian trout. Most doubt the trout's particular liking for the shallows under certain conditions. They find it hard to believe that trout will fossick in the extreme margins, among sticks and logs, amidst tussocks and bushes, in backwaters, ditches and drains. Nor do they often appreciate how easily these wild fish are frightened from the shallows by the movement of the angler, the glint of a rod, the shadow of the line or the clumsy presentation of a fly.

The ability to see trout and interpret the signs of their movements correctly, and the ability to execute a fast, precise and delicate presentation without being detected, are without doubt fundamental to fly fishing success under Tasmanian conditions. These are some of the challenges offered by the 1988 World Championship.

If all this sounds a bit daunting, you may take heart in the method of selection of the Australian team. To minimise any local advantage the team is not entirely made up of local experts, but has been selected to comprise representatives from six Australian States, with team members coming from as far afield as Western Australia and New South Wales.

On the other hand, the team-guides assigned to visiting countries, and their helpers, are indeed hand-picked expert fly fishers familiar with local conditions and techniques. It will be their job to assist visiting teams in order to maximise the benefit of practice fishing.

These guides will also be encouraged to introduce visitors to other Tasmanian waters as the competition venues represent only a small part of the challenge offered by the Tasmanian trout.

BRONTE LAGOON

One of the best all round trout fisheries in Tasmania.

Bronte Lagoon forms part of the Tungatinah hydro-electric power scheme which harnesses water from six adjoining catchments on the Central Plateau between Great Lake and Lake St Clair. Bronte Lagoon was formed in 1953 by the construction of a small, ten metre rockfill dam.

The 1,390 acre lagoon is fed from two major sources — Pine Tier Dam diverts the flow of the Nive River through a pipeline and canal, and water from Laughing Jack Lagoon and the Clarence River is diverted by a weir and pipeline into the lagoon.

The shores of Bronte Lagoon are shallow and well grassed, providing an attractive fly fishing environment. A full level is anticipated at the time of the Championship and high water at this time of the year can produce superb sport on the fly. Under these conditions the trout will move right into the shallows, venturing into water only ankle deep. Here they scavenge among the flooded grass and tussock clumps in search of worms, beetle, spiders, grass-grubs and caterpillars drowned by the rising water.

When the margins are flooded it is a great mistake to wade carelessly or to fish the deeper water. The successful fly fisher will stalk quietly along the edges, peering for the faintest hint of a fish and patiently probing and searching each clear patch of water with the fly. The Bronte shallows are generally very clear, and stealth and caution are required to deceive the trout.

Although not large, generally less than 1.5kg, the Bronte fish are fierce fighters. This water holds a very extensive population of brown trout and also yields a good return of hard fighting rainbows. Both species are entirely maintained by natural recruitment despite an annual harvest of around 20,000 trout.

All competitors will fish Bronte Lagoon during the late afternoon and evening. If conditions are dull and overcast, trout will be in the shallows all day — if it is bright they will move into the margins as evening approaches. In either case the angler will find greatest reward in carefully fishing the margins (ankle to knee deep water) being very careful not to frighten the fish out. Look for rises, tails, bulges and faint swirls as the trout sneak about. A sudden bow-wave towards deeper water will indicate that a trout has been frightened and greater caution is needed.

Always carefully fish the shallows



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thoroughly first, before venturing to search the deeper water — and remember that during the late afternoon the fish will be moving into the margins as the light intensity falls — if you wade out deep the fish may move into the shallows behind you and you won't even know they are there!

If conditions are relatively calm on Bronte, I recommend the use of dry flies or floating nymphs. If the weather is more severe the larger wet fly patterns will be more productive. In dry flies I would recommend any small, nondescript black or brown patterns on size 12 and 14. The Black Spinner, Black Gnat, Coch-y-bondhu and Red Tag in these sizes are all effective on Bronte. Roughly-tied, buoyant seal's-fur nymphs in green, brown and fiery brown, on size 10 and 12, are ideal. Such nymphs can be treated with floatant and fished on the surface in the extreme margins. In wet flies I always favour the plain Rabbit Fur Fly, size 10, but other patterns such as the Black Matuka, Yeti, Mrs Simpson and Woolly Worm are also effective.

LITTLE PINE LAGOON
The Tasmanian fly fisher's Mecca.

The upper reaches of the Little Pine River form one of the most important catchments in the famous Western Lakes region. In 1954 the construction of a small, six metre concrete dam on the river created Little Pine Lagoon, a compact 540 acre water regarded by many as the best fly fishing lake in Tasmania.

This water is shallow and only the deep central river channel is unwadeable during summer. The grassy flats and lush weed beds create ideal conditions for the fly. Little Pine is famous for its "tailing" trout and prolific mayfly hatches and both these phenomena may be encountered during the Championship. The first week in December usually brings the start of the summer mayfly hatches on the Pine, though this is entirely dependent on the weather. The tailing fish are at their best during October and November and this activity will also be dependent on conditions.

Competitors will all fish Little Pine Lagoon through the middle of the day. The wild brown trout are usually active at this time and feed extensively on mayfly nymphs which are stimulated into activity during the warmest hours. If conditions are mild and relatively calm, an intensive mayfly hatch may occur, generally peaking between 12 noon and 2.00pm.

At first the trout will boil beneath the surface as the nymphs become active. As the hatch intensifies the fish will bulge at hatching nymphs and later snatch the duns as they flutter from the water. During the hatch most local fly fishers use a brown seal's-fur nymph initially, and then switch to a floating nymph or dry fly as the trout start taking off the top. Locally tied mayfly dun patterns are the most effective ones, but the March Brown and Hardy's Favourite are quite adequate. Nymphs and dries on size 10, 12 and 14 are recommended depending on the weather.

If conditions are overcast the trout will often tail in the shallows throughout the day at Little Pine Lagoon. The fish swim head down and tail up as they carefully search for tiny amphipods among the weeds. These fish are notoriously difficult to catch and are often referred to as 'untouchables'. The skilled angler will take a share of tailing fish by delicate and precise presentation of a suitable pattern — small amphipod or scud imitations on size 12 or 14 are effective at times and other favoured patterns include the Nymboet, Black Beetle and Fiery Brown Beetle (wets).

Little Pine is also a very good polaroiding water under blue sky conditions. By carefully wading the shallows the experienced polaroider will locate trout as they cruise across the weedy flats. A wide-brimmed hat and polaroid glasses are essential for this technique. The angler must wade quietly, but deliberately, and search for fish at the very limit of effective vision. When polaroiding, any of the beetle, nymph or dun patterns mentioned above can be effective, and in addition, both the dry Red Tag (size 12 or 14) and the wet Woolly Worm (size 10 or 12) work well. Little Pine Lagoon is a brown trout fishery and rainbow trout are very rare in this water. Browns of 1 to 1.5kg are typical but larger fish of 2kg are regularly encountered. Little Pine is never stocked and gains recruitment from the Little Pine River system. These trout are all wild and fight hard, so be warned — if you hook a trout in the shallows it will make a powerful run towards deeper water.

But those who know and love Little Pine will acknowledge that just as this water can really "turn it on" it can also "turn it off". The greater altitude, 1,000 metres above sea level, and the exposed nature of the lake basin may lead to extremely harsh fishing conditions in inclement weather. There is really no effective natural shelter along the lake shore at all, so anglers must be well prepared against wind and cold.

LONDON LAKES

London Lakes is a private wild brown trout habitat designed and developed solely for the enjoyment of fly fishers.

The London Lakes complex boasts 1,350 acres of superb water comprising two lakes, Lake Samuel and Lake Big Jim. These waters support a self sustaining wild trout population and the big browns average 1.5kg — fish up to 3kg may be encountered.

London Lakes will be fished as a dawn venue and these waters are relatively sheltered, light tackle is recommended as delicate fly presentation will be critical to success here. At first-light tailing fish can be expected in the extreme shallows and these provide challenging fly fishing. Even in breezy conditions calm edges can be found around both lakes and the trout often feed very close to shore in sheltered pockets.

Excessive wading is not encouraged at London Lakes as the trout are easily frightened from the shallows; generally thigh waders are quite adequate.

Skilled dry fly exponents will do well here as the tailing fish usually accept a carefully presented, small dry fly and early morning hatches of caddis, midges and mayflies are a regular feature at London Lakes. Prolific caenid hatches commence during late November and mild warm mornings bring dense clouds of these tiny mayflies. The large London Lakes browns can be extremely selective when surface feeding on midge or caenids, providing a challenge for the fly tyer and the accurate caster. Small caddis, midges and caenid imitations, sizes 12 to 14, are recommended.

The early morning tailers at London Lakes will also accept small wet beetles and nymphs, as described for Little Pine. Larger wets are only required in bad weather if trout are not apparent in the shallows.

It must be stressed that there is no need to wade and fish deep water at first light. Generally the trout will be in the extreme shallows and can be readily located as they display their broad backs and tails or as they leave gentle swirls and boils as they move. It is important to stand well back from the water at first and search the edges for any sign of movement. Great patience is required as the trout may only show intermittently — every few minutes or so — and they are very easily frightened by a misplaced cast.

So keep well back from the water at first and take advantage of any tailing fish. Only cast when you are sure of the exact position of the fish and its speed and direction of travel. Then present your fly delicately two or three feet in front — and let the trout do the rest. Don't venture into the deeper water to search for fish until the sun is on the water and all activity in the shallows has ceased.

The London Lakes brown trout are generally larger than those encountered at Bronte and Little Pine with fish of 2kg quite common, but the early morning conditions and the selective feeding habits of these trout demand light tackle, fine leaders and small flies. Playing and landing these fish amongst sticks and twigs consequently requires considerable skill and further enhances the challenge — don't be too hard on them or you will regret it!

SOME THOUGHTS ON TACKLE REQUIREMENTS

All venues are ideally suited for the use of an 8'6" or 9' No 6/7 rod coupled with a No. 6 or No. 7 floating fine and tapered leader of around 10 to 12 feet in length. Leader points should be between 1.5 and 3kg (3 to 6lb.) with 2kg (4 1/2 lb.) being perfect for most circumstances.

An intermediate or slow sinking line may be a handy standby if the weather turns bad. Similarly, a No. 7/8 rod equipped with a forward taper line may be useful at Little Pine if the angler is faced with fishing into a heavy wind.

Very warm and thoroughly waterproof clothing is essential, particularly for Little Pine Lagoon where the water is cooler and the weather can change rapidly. Chest waders are needed at Bronte and Little Pine, thigh waders are adequate at London Lakes. In case of very cold conditions all competitors should wear thermal underclothing and be equipped with a balaclava and gloves.

Polaroid sunglasses and a wide brimmed hat may also prove valuable, and suitable skin protection is essential to screen against sun and wind in bright conditions.

As each competitor will be free to move over a large area of shore it is important to carefully select flies, equipment and accessories in order to maximise mobility. The angler must carry all his or her fishing equipment but may leave one spare rod and reel, and any spare clothing, with the controller.

The catch and release rules require each angler to carry a landing net in order to deliver the live catch immediately to the controller for measurement. A portable landing net is thus essential.

TACKLE IMPORTATION

Tasmania enjoys a unique status in that its salmonid stocks are free of all viral diseases and free from any of the serious bacterial and parasitic diseases that afflict trout and salmon elsewhere.

With the Dewar's World Championship attracting fly fishers from points around the globe, extra care must be taken to eliminate any potential disease risks.

To this end, as a voluntary precaution, all visitors are asked to thoroughly clean, disinfect and dry their waders, landing nets, fishing clothing and other accessories before embarkation. Visitors are also asked to discard any fishing flies which have been previously used — only clean, newly-tied flies should be brought into Tasmania.

Fishing flies should be declared, but do not require special certification unless bird or animal skin or flesh is attached. Fly tying materials, particulary capes and furs with skin attached do require specific import approval. Preferably such items should not be imported, as special arrangements can be made to purchase necessary fly tying materials on arrival. To import skins and furs, they must first be fumigated or gamma-irradiated according to Australian Customs and Quarantine requirements and accompanied by appropriate certification.

BRONTE LAGOON

Status	public hydro-electric storage
Completed	1953
Surface Area	5.62 km² (1 388 acres)
Fully Supply Level	666m a.s.l. (2 185 ft)
Perimeter at Full Supply Level	11.5 km (7.1 miles)
Normal Operating Range	3.65 m (12 ft)
Species	brown trout and rainbow trout
Average Size	0.9 kg (2 lb)
Fishing Method	reserved for artificial lures and fly
Estimated Number of Anglers	(1986/87 season) — 3 500
Estimated Total Harvest	19 500 trout
Annual Stocking	nil

LITTLE PINE LAGOON

Status	public hydro-electric storage
Completed	1954
Surface Area	2.2 km² (543 acres)
Full Supply Level	1 007 m a.s.l. (3 303 ft)
Perimeter at Full Supply Level	9 km (5.6 miles)
Normal Operating Range	1.2 m (3.9 ft)
Species	brown trout
Average Size	0.9 kg (2 lb)
Fishing Method	reserved for fly fishing only
Estimated Number of Anglers	(1986/87 season) — 1 300
Estimated Total Harvest	5 900 trout
Annual Stocking	nil

LONDON LAKES

Status	private trout fishing development
Completed	1978
LAKE SAMUEL	
Surface Area	2.1 km² (508 acres)
Full Supply Level	745 m a.s.l. (2 437 ft)
Perimeter at Full Supply Level	6 km (2.7 miles)
Normal Operating Range	0.2 m (0.5 ft)
Maximum Depth	6.7 m (22 ft)
Species	brown trout
Average Size	1.6 kg (3½ lb)
Fishing Method	fly fishing only
Annual Stocking	nil
LAKE BIG JIM	
Surface Area	3.4 km² (840 acres)
Full Supply Level	750 m a.s.l. (2 460 ft)
Perimeter at Full Supply Level	7 km (4.3 miles)
Normal Operating Range	1.5 m (5 ft)
Maximum Depth	6.7 m (22 ft)
Species	brown trout
Average Size	1.4 kg (3 lb)
Fishing Method	fly fishing only
Annual Stocking	nil

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Championship Rules

In general terms the 1988 Championship will conform to the Rules for Fly Fishing Competition as provided to participating countries by the Commission Internationale de Pêche à la Mouche on behalf of the FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA PÊCHE SPORTIVE EN EAU DOUCE.

Some departures from the formal CIPM rules have been necessary to accommodate local fishing laws and conditions and these are detailed in the following outline.

VENUES
There will be three fly fishing venues for the VI11th World Fly Fishing Championship
Bronte Lagoon Little Pine Lagoon
London Lakes

FISHING HOURS
The Championship will be based on three (3) six (6) hour sessions.
- At LONDON LAKES the hours will be 5.30am to 8.30am and 10.00am to 1.00pm. The session will be split by a barbecue breakfast.
- At LITTLE PINE LAGOON the hours will be 10.00am to 4.00pm and a cut lunch will be provided to be eaten whilst fishing.
- At BRONTE LAGOON the hours will be 2.30pm to 8.30pm and a cut tea will be provided to be eaten whilst fishing.

These hours will permit competitors to experience early morning, midday and evening fishing in Tasmania.

A maximum of ten minutes of additional time will be permitted in order for a competitor to land a fish which has been hooked immediately prior to the close of a session.

PROTOCOL
One third of the competitors will fish each water on each day. This will reduce the number of anglers on any particular water at any time.

Over the three days of competition every competitor will thus fish each water, experiencing morning fishing on London Lakes, midday fishing at Little Pine Lagoon and evening fishing at Bronte Lagoon.

Morning fishing at London Lakes will be conducted on two waters, Lake Samuel and Lake Big Jim, with competitors fishing both waters during the morning.

DRAW
As each team comprises five (5) anglers, no more than two (2) anglers from any team will be drawn to fish any water on any day.

Each fishing venue will be divided into several zones and anglers will be allocated to zones by random draw. Anglers will be permitted to move freely within each zone to accommodate local fishing methods.

The draw for lakes fished on each day and for zones within lakes will be conducted by computer before the Championship using symbols for teams and numbers for individual competitors. At the captain's meeting there will be a random draw to allocate symbols to countries and numbers to individuals.

METHODS
- Only fly fishing will be permitted and only fly fishing within the normally accepted meaning of that word. Fly rods will be limited to a maximum length of 12 feet.
- Any tackle or artificial fly patterns in general fly fishing use are acceptable—there will be no limitations on the types or lengths of lines or leaders provided these are in accordance with normal fly fishing practice.
- Though CIPM rules specify 9'0" dry fly fishing, the variable weather conditions in Tasmania and the popular use of 'floating nymphs' (which cannot be categorised as 'wet' or 'dry' flies) make this rule impractical. Competitors must use their own judgement as to whether to fish dry fly, wet fly or floating nymphs—all methods will be effective according to prevailing weather conditions.
- Tasmanian fishing regulations permit the use of a maximum of two flies at one time and only flies with a single hook will be permitted. The use of two flies will be permitted on Bronte Lagoon and Little Pine Lagoon but the use of only a single fly will be permitted at London Lakes.
- A maximum hook size of 16mm and a maximum overall fly length of 24mm has been adopted for the 1988 Championship in accordance with CIPM rules.



- Competitors must carry all their fishing tackle including landing net, spare lines, reels, flies and associated equipment. Controllers may be expected to carry one spare rod and reel (not assembled), food and reasonable additional clothing on behalf of the competitor.

VALID CATCHES
- The only fish to count will be brown trout, rainbow trout and brook char, with a minimum acceptable size of 22cm fork length in accordance with local regulations. (Fork length is defined as the distance between the tip of the nob and the fork of the tail measured on a flat board).

The 1988 Championship will be based on catch and release fishing therefore —
- all competitors must carry a landing net;
- immediately a fish of legal size is netted the competitor must present the live fish to the controller for measurement and release;
- the fly must not be deliberately removed until the fish is delivered to the controller so that the controller can check the size of the fly and the hook placement in the fish;
- under no circumstances may the angler deliberately remove the fly from its purchase in the fish, or change the fly before presenting the fish to the controller—if this occurs the controller will disqualify the fish;
- deliberate foul hooking of fish will not be tolerated. Controllers will reject any fish not hooked in or around the mouth—fish hooked behind the head and gill region will not be accepted;
- controllers will measure each fish before release and record the length on a score card—at the end of each session controllers and competitors will sign their cards and hand them to the supervisor.

ALLOCATION OF POINTS
Points will be allocated according to the fork length of each fish captured (22cm), on the basis of 20 points per fish and 1 point per cm.

In the event of the accidental loss of a fish by a controller before measurement, the fish will be awarded the average number of points for all fish taken on that water on that day.

The competitor accruing the highest total number of points during a session on a particular water will be ranked in first place, i.e. no.1.

Any angler who catches nothing in a particular session shall be ranked according to the number of anglers taking part in any session plus one.

Points accrued on both waters at London Lakes will be combined in order to determine a rank for each competitor for the combined morning session.

As anglers will be split between three venues on three days, i.e. London Lakes, Little Pine Lagoon and Bronte Lagoon, each session will be regarded as an independent event with final Championship placings being decided by adding the rankings obtained by each competitor on each day.

Team placings will be decided by totalling the rank awarded to each member. The team with the lowest combined total of ranking will be declared the winner. In the event of a tie the total points scored will decide the winning team or individual.

TEAM CAPTAINS
Only the team captain may circulate in the competition zone and may give verbal advice or instruction to any member of his team whilst the competition is in progress. However, the captain must not physically, materially or in any other way, assist any team member once a session has commenced.

PROHIBITIONS
The following practices are forbidden —
- intentional foul-hooking;
- the use of any chemical flavours or attractants;
- the presentation of a dead or negligently treated fish to the controller;
- comparisons or team members communicating with competitors during a session (other than the team captain);
- assisting a competitor in any material or physical sense whilst a session is in progress;
- wading or approaching within a 30 metre radius of another competitor;
- assisting a competitor to net a fish.

CONTROLLERS
Nomination of a controller by random draw for each participant will be obligatory. Voluntary overseas controllers will be allocated to Australian team members during the competition.

The controller will accompany the competitor throughout the session that is not required to wade or stand in deep water—the competitor must net each fish and bring it immediately to the controller for measurement.

Each controller will be equipped with an appropriate net to receive and hold the catch, and a measuring device in order to perform the necessary measurement before releasing the fish. Each fish will be released immediately after measurement has been completed unless the controller is of the opinion that the fish is unlikely to survive after release.

The controller will record each valid catch and will note the capture of any invalid catches, and report any observed misconduct on the part of any competitor to the supervisor.

SUPERVISORS
Three supervisors will be allocated to each competition venue and will be responsible for briefing and supervising competitors and controllers.

Supervisors will be responsible for settling breaches of the rules or disputes and will report significant incidents to the Championship jury.

Any formal protests or complaints must be lodged with the jury, by the team captain, in writing within a reasonable time of the close of fishing.

OTHER RULES AND INTERPRETATIONS
Any other rules or interpretations of rules not given above will be resolved in accordance with the CIPM Fly Fishing Competition Rules as approved by affiliated countries.

Any disputes in relation to conduct or interpretation of rules will be resolved by the jury which will be convened according to CIPM rules.

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As CIPS rules only permit a country to have one body in membership, the invitation to stage the VI11th World Fly Fishing Championship was received by the Australian Fresh Water Fishermen's Assembly, the affiliated Australian group. The Assembly has passed the entire organisation of the 1988 event to the V11th WORLD FLY FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP INC.

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THE EXAMINER, Monday, November 28, 1988 — 5

It's 'tight lines' for world fly-fishing anglers



● World fly-fishing champion Brian Leadbetter, of Bedford, England, has a practice cast at London Lakes, in the Central Highlands.
Picture: PAUL SCAMBLER

Champion to defend title



The Dewar's eighth world fly fishing championship will be held in Tasmania tomorrow, Wednesday and Thursday. 80 competitors from 16 countries will fish in Bronte Lagoon, Little Pine Lagoon and London Lakes during the three days to decide team and individual champions. Reporter and fly fisherman MARTIN GILMOUR reports from the Central Highlands:

Like a British bulldog, England's fly-fishing team captain, Brian Leadbetter, jealously guards the world fly fishing crown he won last year.

Between him and a second title are 79 experienced international anglers all planning strategies for tomorrow's assault on three waters in Tasmania's Central Highlands.

The stage is set for the eighth world fly fishing championship, and most teams openly admit that the competition is more like a war.

During the next three days some reputations will be made and many more dented, but when the competition is over the mateship which binds anglers worldwide will return.

Leadbetter realises that most of the competitors rate him as the angler to beat. However, if a bookmaker was running the school, Tasmania's member of the Australian team, Jan Spencer, from Longford, would be ranked as equal favorite.

She has the advantage of local knowledge, and while most of the competitors have spent the past week practising in the highlands, Jan Spencer has 25 years head start on these waters.

Leadbetter, a 42-year-old engineer from Bedford, is quietly confident that the England team has the talent to again win the prestigious teams' trophy.

"Trout are trout no matter in which country they live. Apart from small local food variations they all feed the same and act the same," he said.

"Mind you, the browns we have caught so far have shown amazing fighting ability and they are certainly harder to catch.

"There is so much food in these lakes that the trout can afford to be fussy, which makes them a tougher prospect. Trout is English lakes are very hungry."

Leadbetter admits that many variables — and certainly some luck — will influence the championship result.

But as for wind and rain: "It's always like that in England, so wind and rain will suit us."

Leadbetter says his first priority is for England to perform well in the teams event.

"We all fish for the teams result, and help each other. If on the final day one of us has a chance for the individual trophy, then so be it."

Although Leadbetter obviously enjoys his fishing, it is a way of life more than a recreation.

He is part owner of one of England's best lakes, Grafham Water, where last year 23,000 anglers paid upward of $50 a day for the right to fish.

Tasmania's 35,000 anglers pay $26 a year to fish in about 4000 lakes and rivers.

"This is my first trip to Tasmania but I will certainly be back," Leadbetter said. "The quality of the waters and trout make it a paradise. English anglers would find it hard to believe what locals here take for granted."







England

Dennis Buck, Bob Church, Brian Leadbetter, John Pawson, Brian Thomas & Geoff Clarkson (captain).

CHAMPIONS!

Fly-fishers on top of world

ENGLAND'S fly-fishing heroes have beaten the rest of the world and completed a magnificent international 'double' for the second year running.

They retained the World Fly Fishing Team and Individual Championship with a glorious all-round performance against all the odds in the clear lakes of Tasmania.

BY ADRIAN CURTIS

And England's John Pawson created a slice of angling history as he stormed to the world individual title — following in the footsteps of father Tony who clinched the coveted trophy in 1984. It is the first time a father and son have won the same world title in a branch of the sport.

England's domination saw Brian Thomas land the runner-up spot and Angling Times columnist Bob Church finish fourth as they left host nation and clear favourites Australia standing.

Fished over three days on three venues — London Lakes, Little Pine and Bronte Lagoon — England's success in the eighth World Championships was never in doubt.

Faced with high winds and rain for much of the contest, England's decsion to wade and search every beat with a team of wetflies proved crucial.

Every member of the five-man outfit caught trout in each daily session of the tournament. With 20 points awarded for each trout caught and one point added per centimetre, England's catch rate put them in command from day one.

At the finish, they had taken 37 trout and amassed a remarkable tally of 2,133 points — more than double that of their nearest rivals France.

● Turn to Page 2

Story and pictures behind fly fishermen's success down-under

Salute to champions

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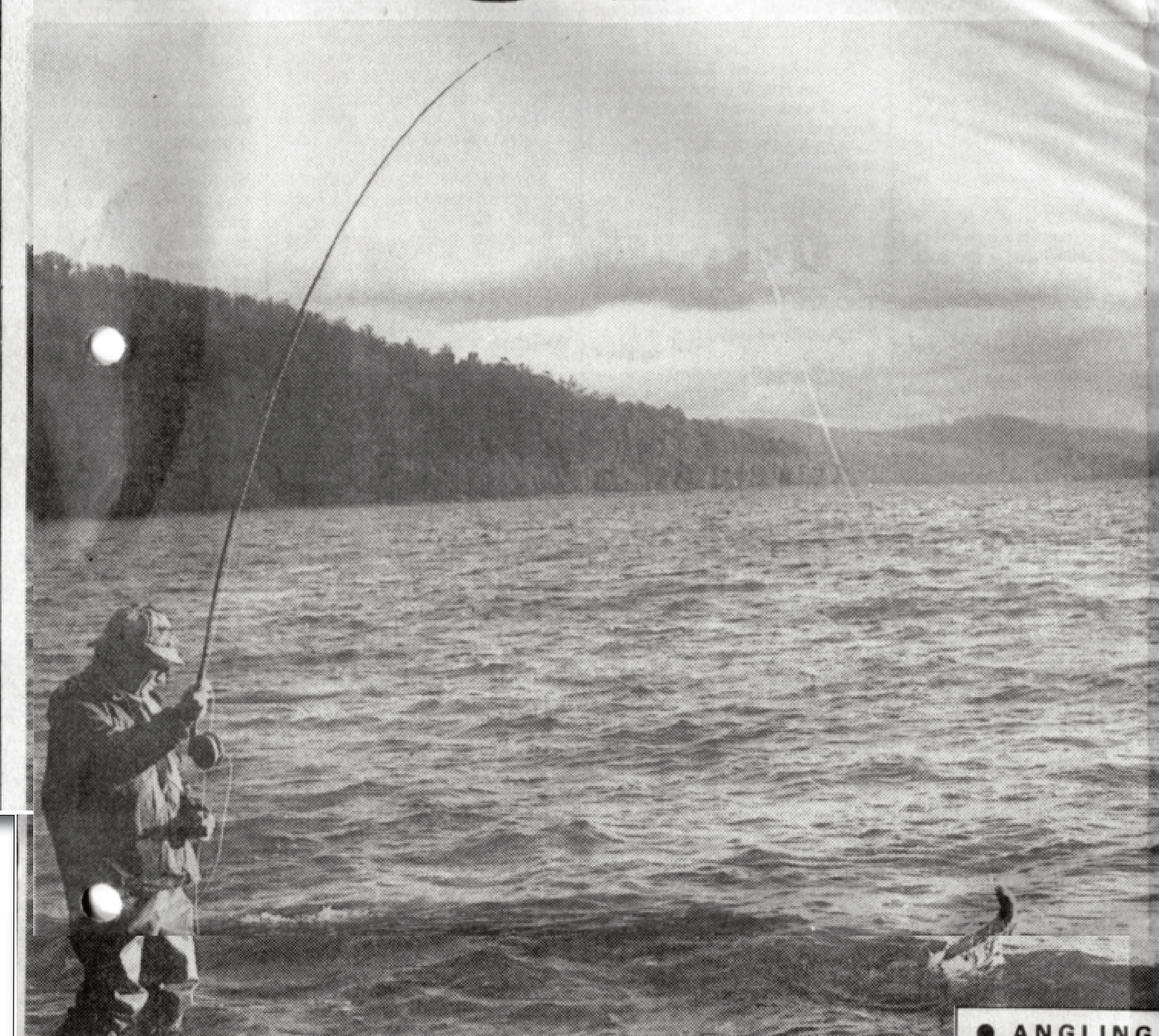
WORLDBEATERS

England victorious against all the odds

WE BRING you the full story of England's victorious fly fishing success in Tasmania in another fabulous Angling Times' news special.



● ANGLING Times' columnist Bob Church plays a leaping brown trout on his way to fourth place overall.

● BELOW: Bob Church admires a trout from Little Pine Lake.





● CAREFULLY does it ... England's Brian Thomas breaths a sigh of relief as a brown trout nestles gracefully in his net at Bronte Lagoon. It helped him to finish second in the individual stakes.

ENGLAND fly fishermen pulled off their greatest victory against all the odds when they won the world title for the second year running.

Faced with the clear and shallow lakes of Tasmania, England emerged triumphant after a resounding team performance left the opposition standing.

PICTURES BY PETER GATHERCOLE

The 8th World Flyfishing Championship, sponsored by Dewars White Label Whisky, saw 16 teams compete for the world crown on three venues — London Lakes, Little Pine and Bronte Lagoon.

All three were situated in Tasmania's central plateau and should have been perfect for polaroiding and spotting cruising trout in the shallow margins.

But rough winds and steady rain killed off these methods with high waves and the absence of visibly feeding fish making life difficult for everyone.

England's decision to wade and search every beat with a selection of wetflies proved crucial to their success. It had already become clear from the practice sessions that fish would be few and far between.

With the team competition calculated on a ranking system, it was imperative not to have a 'blank' as that would count as a last place and bring the overall rank score down dramatically.

Each of the 80 anglers in the 16 teams were split so that each of the five members fished each of the three venues over the three days.

DAY ONE

The first session at London Lakes saw the Australians take an early lead with John Rumpf landing four good fish including a 60 cm specimen estimated to weigh over six pounds.

With 20 points awarded for each fish and one point extra per centimetre, it gave him 261.5 points.

John Pawson kept England in contention with three fish for 195.5 points and Dennis Buck consolidated that with a single fish for 56.5 points.

The midday session on Little Pine proved the turning point. In practise fish had been hard to come by. Here the plan was simply to avoid a 'blank'. Brian Thomas produced the performance of the championship, taking four out of the nine fish taken by 26 anglers during the session. He registered 198 points.

In the evening session on Bronte Lagoon Bob Church took four fish and Brian Leadbetter one to give England first place with 729.5 points ahead of Australia with 523 and Wales 315.

DAY TWO

It began in the same fashion as the opening day with anglers facing windy conditions.

In the sheltered areas of London Lakes, fish could be seen 'tailing' in the shallow water around sunken trees.

But their activity went unnoticed by many anglers who often waded through the area — scaring them off in the process.

At the end of the session though, England's record of catching was intact with Brian Thomas and Brian Leadbetter taking a trout apiece.

Brian had drawn the Red Rock shore and seemed set for the title but he hadn't reckoned on the tenacity of John Pawson.

After the first few hours Brian was five trout to one up but John, using a Ketley's Allrounder with dark ginger hackle, along with a Bibio, amassed eight fish for a 692 point total — 71 ahead of Brian.

His eight fish catch was the best of the event. Brian finished with 11 fish overall — six on the last day — for 621 ranking points.

FINAL DAY

Although conditions eased slightly, the wind made the second part of the London Lakes' session a real test. Only three fish were taken, one of those by Bob Church.

As the afternoon wore on conditions improved slightly as the wind dropped and the sun broke through. The team competition was decided for sure on Bronte Lagoon where England's top two — John Pawson and Brian Thomas also battled it out for first and second place in the individual stakes.

Brian had drawn the Red Rock shore and seemed set for the title but he hadn't reckoned on the tenacity of John Pawson.

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Next week our star man Bob Church's views

RESULTS IN DETAIL

TEAMS: 1 England, 37 fish, 1393 cm, 32 rank score; **2 France,** 16, 625, 136; **3 Australia,** 15, 673.5, 150; **4 New Zealand,** 11, 459.5, 169; **5 Scotland,** 12, 465.5, 191; **6 Canada,** 11, 452.5, 192; **7 Wales,** 11, 466, 193; **8 Italy,** 11, 354, 208; **9 Finland,** 8, 367, 214; **10 Norway,** 9, 360, 215; **11 Spain,** 7, 306.5, 237; **12 USA,** 8, 305.5, 247; **13 Luxembourg,** 7, 304, 256; **14 Belgium,** 6, 228.4, 269; **15 West Germany,** 4, 169, 305; **16 Switzerland,** 2, 69, 358.

INDIVIDUAL: 1 J. Pawson, England, 692 points; **2 B. Thomas,** England, 621; **3 T. Piggott,** Australia, 363; **4 B. Church,** England, 340.5; **5 J. Rumpf,** Australia, 331; **6 R. Jones,** Wales, 315; **7 J. Dauchin,** France, 311.5; **8 S. Forgan,** Scotland, 289.5; **9 J. Guillemand,** France, 286; **10 V. Davighi,** Italy, 261; **11 R. Lanser,** Luxembourg, 244; **12 B. Leadbetter,** England, 242.5; **13 D. Buck,** England, 237; **14 W. Ungermann,** USA, 231.5; **15 P. Kettle,** Canada, 217.5; **16 P. Marinner,** Canada, 212; **17 T. Entwhistle,** New Zea-... Norway, 192.



● ENGLAND'S John Pawson shows off the silverware after becoming World Fly Fishing Champion.

Decisive tactics take title

ENGLAND stormed to victory in the World Fly Fishing Championships thanks to a combination of wetflies.

Wickhams Fancy, Bibio and the all-conquering Ketley's Allrounder helped the five-man outfit walk away with the title for the second year running.

The use of these flies in conditions more reminiscent to English reservoirs ensured victory.



● WORLDBEATERS ... Victorious England after their triumphant victory in Tasmania.

WORLD BEATERS

Glory for England in Tasmania as they retain the World Championship title.

Report and pictures: PETER GATHERCOLE

England's World Championship team for Tasmania had a special mission. Individual World Champion Brian Leadbetter, Bob Church, Dennis Buck, Brian Thomas, John Pawson and non-fishing captain Geoff Clarkson went 'down under' not only to defend a title, but to answer their critics. This they did in the most emphatic way possible, a repeat of their '87 victory and top placings for John Pawson and Brian Thomas.

England had gained their title on the waters of Grafham and Rutland. That win, where the team recorded over twice the points of their nearest rival, Australia, was put down by some to be merely a fluke aided by a distinct home advantage. Questions were also asked over the inclusion of Brian Thomas, a last minute substitute for Chris Ogborne.

Rather than be put off by these remarks, they only stood to put England on to a win even more impressive than before.

The clear shallow lakes of Tasmania's central plateau were the setting for this, the VIIIth World Flyfishing Championship fished under the auspices of CIPS and sponsored by Dewars.

The competition was to take place on three separate venues, those of London Lakes, Little Pine, and Bronte Lagoon over a three day period.

The intention was that each angler would fish each water in rotation.

Not only were different waters used, but time periods varied to give all anglers a taste of fishing various parts of the day. The idea was to give anglers the chance of different types of fishing — for instance **London Lakes** fished from 5.30am through to 1pm with a pause for breakfast, was intended to show anglers tailing fish, those which cruise in very shallow water with the tips of fins and tail breaking the surface.

Little Pine was fished from 10am to 4pm to include a dun hatch, maybe even polaroiding; and **Bronte Lagoon** 2.30pm, to 8.30 pm to cover the evening rise.

Fishing would be purely catch-and-release, each fish being measured by a controller allocated to each angler. Points would be awarded for each centimetre plus twenty points per fish.

With the superb wild trout of Tasmania, all seemed set for a wonderful competition. Unfortunately the weather decided not to play fair, lashing the venues with strong winds and rain for both the practice and competition days. With such inclement weather, the dun hatches failed to materialise; with no sun, polaroiding was a waste of time; and even the tailing fish were few and far between.

To England's credit they quickly switched from trying to master the local methods in such dreadful conditions, to standard loch and reservoir methods. If the weather persisted, the team plan was to continue to fish this style-covering the water with a team of wet flies in the hope of a take.

As events proved it was to be a well-made decision.

A second factor was that with conditions being so poor, fish were few and far between, particularly on what turned out to be the bogey water, Little Pine. As the team placings were to be decided on the ranking of the individual members throughout the three days, it was imperative not to blank in any session.

With the team having the lowest number of ranking points deemed the winner, a blank would see a team member fall into the high number placings and reduce the team's overall chances.

Of the 80 anglers from sixteen teams competing, 27 made the first early morning start at **London Lakes** to be greeted by overcast skies and showers. Drama ensued almost immediately as by an unfortunate error, caused by the misplacement of a beat marker, Australian competitor **Peter Horridge** fished and caught a trout from the beat of Belgian **Jackie Lemmer** during the first ten minutes.

Elsewhere drama was of a different kind. Australian **John Rumpf**, having drawn the sheltered flats at the top of **Big Jim**, one of two lakes in the London Lakes complex, was fast into fish. Fishing a dry Red Tag in the shallows, he took four good browns, including a specimen of 60cm and estimated at over six pounds, for 261.5 points.

England's **John Pawson,** not be outdone, picked up two fish from Big Jim having taken a single fish from Samuel at day break. John's 195.5 points was a much needed boost, as was **Dennis Buck's** single fish for 56.5 points. For France **Jean Louis Dauchin** took three good fish as did **Raymond Jones** of Wales and **Tony Entwistle** of New Zealand to keep their teams in the running.

With five teams there or there abouts, it was the session on the difficult **Little Pine** which was to prove the turning point. With the windswept 543 acre water having proved by far the hardest venue in practice, it was **Brian Thomas'** brief simply to do his best, but to avoid a blank at all costs.

A single fish was deemed a good performance on "The Pine" but Brian produced what many, including the new World Champion John Pawson, described as the performance of the Championships. Of only nine fish taken by 26 anglers Brian caught four, a remarkable achievement, particularly as he was drawn on the unfavoured and windswept road shore.

Although the fish were only small he still totalled 198 points, and with most of the competitors drawing a complete blank it was a wonderful morale boosting performance for the English camp.

But Brian wasn't the only English rod to take top rod on a venue. Over at **Bronte Lagoon, Bob Church** had drawn the right half of Woodwards bay and was quickly into fish. At close of play his four fish totalled 228.5 points putting him in second place overall just behind **John Rumpf. Brian Leadbetter** needed every minute of his six hour Bronte session as after having a disastrous time hooking and losing fish in Tailers Bay he finally landed a fish with only five minutes still on the clock.

Back at base the points were tallied and the computer readout posted up for everyone to see. With England in the lead on 729.5 points, Australia second on 523, and **Wales** third with 315 it became evident just how important Brian Thomas's performance on Little Pine had been.

Into day two and England still without a blank.

London Lakes on day two was much a repeat of the first. In the sheltered areas of Big Jim among fallen timber creating calm pockets, trout could be seen tailing right in the margins.

For some of the controllers, who were under strict instructions to say nothing, and let the angler spot his own fish, it was a frustrating time. Often the angler would fail to see the small but tell-tale signs of a fin or a tail tip breaking the surface, then merely wade right through spooking the fish. Samuel Lake being much more open to the full force of the strong cold blow made things particularly unpleasant for those drawn on the windward shore. As neither had a particularly good draw, Brian Leadbetter and Brian Thomas did well to catch a single fish apiece and keep the 100 per cent catch record intact.

Open and exposed to the elements, **Little Pine** was proving as difficult as ever with John Pawson and Bob Church fishing hard for one fish each. After a slow start, the team from the U.S.A., fishing the competition for the first time, came good with **Walter Ungermann** producing three fish.

Elsewhere, **Bronte,** the most productive water throughout practice and the championships, didn't fire for **Dennis Buck** who was finding the going difficult. But working his way round the point of Rowallan Bay, he still picked up a nice fish six minutes into the session.

France were faring a good deal better as **Jean Pierre Guillemaud** took three good fish on the team's top fly, a Possum Tail Nymph. That stated, Jean Pierre, otherwise known as "Piam" didn't have things all his own way hooking a losing a further eight fish.

Further round in the comparative shelter of Trailers Bay, Scotland's **Sandy Forgan** was having a go "loch style" bobbing an Orange Ke-He along the wave tops. It certainly proved effective picking up five nice browns.

In contrast Wales' **Moc Morgan,** fishing more into the bay itself, was finding some rather fit rainbows a bit of a handful. Of the four he hooked, only one came to the net.

As the penultimate day's fishing came to a close it was obvious the England had forged an all but unassailable lead. After a great start Wales had fallen back, but the French had come through with a powerful challenge for second place.

Conditions eased slightly for the final **London Lakes** session but results didn't match expectations. Unusually, **Samuel** produced the top catch, a fine brace to West Germany's **Gunter Stock**. No one else that morning caught more than one fish and even though **Bob Church** drew the 'flats' beat he could only manage one fish of 37cm, though to put it into perspective that was one of only three fish taken.

As the morning gave way to afternoon the clouds broke, and the sun even put in an appearance, a real bonus for those fishing **Little Pine.** After the previous two days almost anything would have been an improvement and **Terry Piggott** of Australia was quick to take advantage. Having seen how effective the wetfly had been for the English, he switched from his usual nymph and dry fly approach to fish an **Alexandra** and **Wickham's Fancy** on the dropper. Casting blind and working the team through the waves, Terry, a member of the last year's successful Australian team, picked up all three fish on the point fly. As he pointed out.

"With the difficult conditions, I realised the effective method and decided to become an honorary Pom!"

With the team competition well and truly decided in England's favour it was left to **Bronte Lagoon** to sort out the individual placings. Favourite for the title was **Brian Thomas** of England who had not only done well in his previous two sessions but had also drawn a very productive beat known as the Redrock shore where some of the best catches from Bronte had already been made.

It seemed that this prediction could only be fulfilled as he picked up three good rainbows, all measuring over 45cm. The effective fly which produced many of England's fish was a home tied **Fiery Brown.** Or at least that was the code-name. It was in fact an version of the **Allrounder,** tied with a fine wing of grey mallard flank, a gold body plus a hackle of soft dyed brown cock.

With **John Rumpf** and **John Pawson** on only one fish each, and Brian picking up three more good fish, the seal appeared set but that was without reckoning on the sheer tenacity of **John Pawson.**

Situated on the left side of Woodwards Bay, John waded out to the very extent of his chest waders. Bobbing along with water almost up to his armpits he began to hit fish again on the "Fiery Brown" but also on the Bibio. Takes came thick and fact, and as the final minutes of the competition slipped away, his total reached a magnificent eight fish, not only enough to ensure him the prize for top day rod of the Championship but enough too, to give him the title of World Flyfishing Champion.

In both points, and ranking, as well as total fish caught, England were clear winners, having taken 37 fish to second placed France's 16 and Australia's 15.

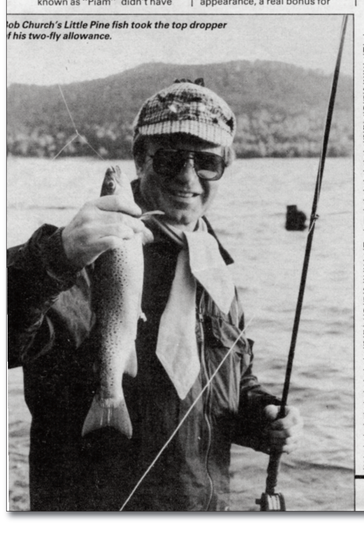
Finland is the venue for the IXth championship in 1989, and the question of course has got to be, can England take the title for a third year in succession?



England in a familiar pose — on top of the World. Back row: Brian Leadbetter, Brian Thomas, and Dennis Buck. Front row: non-fishing skipper Geoff Clarkson, World Champion John Pawson, and Bob Church.



Brian Thomas wades out of the newly-flooded margins of Bronte Lagoon with one of his six fish bag which left him hot favourite for the individual honours — until John Pawson took a hand . . .



Bob Church's Little Pine fish took the top dropper of his two-fly allowance.

Team Scores, VIIIth World Fishing Championship

Rank	Team's Score	Total Catch	Total Fish Length	Total Points	Team Code	Team Name
1	32	37	1393	2133	I	England
2	136	16	625	945	G	France
3	150	15	673.5	973.5	O	Australia
4	169	11	459.5	679.5	C	New Zealand
5	191	12	465.5	705.5	M	Scotland
6	192	11	452.5	672.5	J	Canada
7	193	11	466	686	D	Wales
8	208	11	354	610.5	H	Italy
9	214	8	367	527	P	Finland
10	215	9	360	540	L	Norway
11	237	7	306.5	446.5	F	Spain
12	247	8	305.5	465.5	N	USA
13	256	7	304	444	A	Luxembourg
14	269	6	228.5	348.5	E	Belgium
15	305	4	169	249	K	West Germany
16	358	2	69	109	B	Switzerland

Final Individual Scores

Rank	Team Name	Individual's Name	Code	Total Catch	Total Length	Total Points
1	England	John Pawson	I1	12	452	692
2	England	Brian Thomas	I5	11	401	621
3	Australia	Terry Piggott	O3	6	243	363
4	England	Bob Church	I2	6	220.5	340.5
5	Australia	John Rumpf	O1	5	231	331
6	Wales	Raymond Jones	D5	5	215	315
7	France	Jean L. Dauchin	G5	5	211.5	311.5
8	Scotland	Sandy Forgan	M1	5	189.5	289.5
9	France	J. P. Guillemaud	G1	5	186	286
10	Italy	V. Davighi	H2	5	161	261
11	Luxembourg	Remy Lanser	A2	4	164	244
12	England	B. Leadbetter	I3	4	162.5	242.5
13	England	Dennis Buck	I4	4	157	237
14	USA	W. Ungermann	N5	4	151.5	231.5
15	Canada	Phil Kettle	I3	4	137.5	217.5
16	Canada	Paul Marinner	J5	3	152	212
17	New Zealand	Tony Entwistle	C4	3	136	196
18	Canada	Martin Lamont	J4	3	134	194
19	Finland	Veli Autti	P1	3	133	193
20	Norway	Stein Silberg	L4	3	132	192

Final Individual Scores

Summary Rank	Team Name	Individual's Name	Code	Total Catch	Total Length	Total Points
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17	New Zealand	Tony Entwistle	C4	3	136	196
18	Canada	Martin Lamont	J4	3	134	194
19	Finland	Veli Autti	P1	3	133	193
20	Norway	Stein Silberg	L4	3	132	192
21	Spain	Maria Isabel Ramos	F5	3	122	182
22	Norway	Gunnvald Jakobsen	L5	3	119	179
23	Scotland	George MacKenzie	M3	3	114.5	174.5
24	New Zealand	Hugh McDowell	C5	3	109	169
25	France	Jacques Boyko	G2	3	105	165
26	Belgium	Albert Bigare	E3	3	104	164
27	Italy	Edoardo Ferrero	H5	3	66.5	163
28	Australia	Peter Horridge	O4	2	104.5	144.5
29	Wales	Trevor Hirons	D2	2	100	140
30	Finland	Pertti Kaira	P3	2	98	138
30	Finland	Juha Pusa	P4	2	98	138
32	Luxembourg	Jean Kaysen	A3	2	96.5	136.5
33	Australia	John Ploski	O2	2	95	135
34	New Zealand	Mike Oliver	C3	2	92.5	132.5
34	Wales	Moc Morgan	D1	2	92.5	132.5
36	Spain	Rafael de Madariaga Giraldo	F1	2	89	129
37	France	Robert Juillet	G3	2	86.5	126.5
38	New Zealand	Dave McLellan	C2	2	85.5	125.5
39	Scotland	Ian Wilson	M4	2	82	122
40	Italy	Roberto Capisano	H3	2	79.5	119.5
40	Scotland	David Biggart	M5	2	79.5	119.5
42	West Germany	Gunter Stock	K5	2	79	119
43	USA	Charles Gaines	N2	2	73	113
44	Norway	Tore Jakobsen	L3	2	56	96
45	USA	Jack Dennis	N3	1	56	76
46	Spain	Angel Rodriguez	F4	1	55.5	75.5
47	Belgium	Richard Franck	E1	1	54	74
48	Norway	Vidar Paulsen	L1	1	53	73
49	West Germany	Werner Spanier	K4	1	48	68
50	Italy	Mario Pinasco	H1	1	47	67
51	Luxembourg	Abbes Donven	A1	1	43.5	63.5
52	West Germany	Klaus Schreiber	K3	1	42	62
53	Spain	Enrique Fernandez	F2	1	40	60
54	Finland	Tuomas Hintsula	P5	1	38	58
55	Switzerland	Rene Wihelm	B1	1	37	57
56	Belgium	Jackie Lemmer	E2	1	36.5	56.5
56	New Zealand	Grenville Malcom	C1	1	36.5	56.5
58	France	Jean Rene Vidal	G4	1	36	56
59	Belgium	Marc Flennevaux	E4	1	34	54
60	Switzerland	Karl Wohnlich	B4	1	32	52
61	Wales	Alun Jones	D3	1	30.5	50.5
62	Canada	Jack Simpson	J1	1	29	49
63	Wales	Brian Davies	D4	1	28	48
64	USA	Skip Brittenham	N4	1	25	45
81	Australia	Jan Spencer	O5	0	0	0
81	Belgium	Albert Charlier	E5	0	0	0
81	Canada	Andre Girard	J2	0	0	0
81	Finland	Kauko Tsupukka	P2	0	0	0
81	Italy	Carlo Lucchetta	H4	0	0	0
81	Luxembourg	Daniel Pierrot	A4	0	0	0
81	Luxembourg	Gaston Meyer	A5	0	0	0
81	Norway	Steinar Goberg Olsen	L2	0	0	0
81	Scotland	John Miller	M2	0	0	0
81	Spain	Vincente Rodriguez	F3	0	0	0
81	Switzerland	Rolf Weiersmuller	B2	0	0	0
81	Switzerland	Hilmar Marti	B3	0	0	0
81	Switzerland	Tom Beovarik	B5	0	0	0
81	USA	Bob Johns	N1	0	0	0
81	West Germany	Andreas Knof	K1	0	0	0
81	West Germany	Georg Porta	K2	0	0	0

1. England 37 fish 1393.0 cms *total fish length* 32 rank score
2. France 16 fish 625.0 cms 136 rank score
3. Australia 15 fish 673.5 cms 150 rank score
4. New Zealand 11 fish 459.5 cms 169 rank score
5. Scotland 12 fish 465.5 cms 191 rank score
6. Canada 11 fish 452.5 cms 192 rank score
7. Wales 11 fish 367.0 cms 193 rank score
8. Italy 11 fish 354.0 cms 208 rank score
9. Finland 8 fish 367.0cms 214 rank score
10. Norway 9 fish 360.0 cms 215 rank score
11. Spain 7 fish 306.5 cms 237 rank score
12. USA 8 fish 306.5 cms 247 rank score
13. Luxembourng 7 fish 304.0 cms 256 rank score
14. Belgium 6 fish 228.5 cms 269 rank score
15. West Germany 4 fish 169.0 cms 305 rank score
16. Switzerland 2 fish 69.0 cms 358 rank score

Individuals:

1. John Pawson *(England)* 692 pts
2. Brian Thomas *(England)* 621 pts
3. Terry Piggott *(Australia)* 363 pts
4. Bob Church *(England)* 340 pts
5. John Rumpf *(Australia)* 331 pts
6. Raymond Jones *(Wales)* 315 pts
7. Jean L Dauchin *(France)* 311 pts
8. Sandy Forgan *(Scotland)* 289 pts

John follows father to world fishing title

By MARTIN GILMOUR

John Pawson caught his first salmon on a fly at the age of seven. Now, the 28-year-old Briton is the world fly-fishing champion following this week's championship in Tasmania's Central Highlands.

His victory also capped off a unique father-son double. His father, Mr Tony Pawson, won the 1984 title in Spain.

John, a sales representative for a printing firm, was a surprise winner of this year's Dewar's Eighth World Fly-Fishing title after being in sixth place before the final session.

He landed eight fish and hooked and lost the "five biggest trout" in a sensational performance at Bronte Lagoon.

"When I got to Bronte, it felt really fishy and after getting the first five fish and hearing that Brian Thomas had caught five I knew England had wrapped up the team trophy," John said yesterday.

But John said it wasn't until that stage that he also realised he was in contention for the individual title.

"Brian is a really close friend and I would have loved him to win. I decided to just relax in the last hour and if I caught fish and won, then so be it," he said.

"When I hooked the last fish at 8.25 pm with five minutes to go I gave myself a good chance."

John and the England team paid special tribute to their Tasmanian guides for the past two weeks, Noel and Lois Jetson, of Cressy.

"What we achieved would not have been possible without the Jetsons' help. They gave us advice without trying to change our style of fishing and with the rest of the team there was a great pool of knowledge," he said.

John also said that his success was a reflection of his father's advice and teachings over many years.

The most impressive aspect of the English team was that there professional approach in difficult conditions.

While many people may say that fishing a wet fly "blind" in rough water is based on luck, the fact that England caught 37 fish compared with France's next best of 16 and Australia's 15 shows there was more to it.

The team's calculated and deliberate bid to retain their 1987 world title in a foreign country proved successful.

● More pictures: Page 38



ABOVE: World champion John Pawson fishes at London Lakes, watched by his controller David Imbar, of Brisbane.

RIGHT: John ties a fly to his rod before trying his luck at London Lakes.

Pictures: PAUL SCAMBLER

20 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT TROUT CHAMPION JOHN PAWSON

1 JOHN caught his first fish, a brown trout, when he was just four-years-old. It took a worm in Shropshire's River Onny.

2 JOHN (28) is single and has a 'very understanding girl-friend'. He works as a salesman for a colour printers who give him plenty of time off for fishing.

3 HIS headmaster stopped him from fishing his first national qualifier for the England team. John was told loyalty to the school's football team for whom he played, was more important and he was even more disappointed when his dad Tony took the spare place and qualified for the team.

4 AS a seven-year-old he caught his first salmon. The 10-pounder came from Scotland's River Brora after John was told he was fishing the wrong area. Even the ghillie had given up hope and was asleep on the bank when John made the inaugural catch.

5 HE became hooked on competition fishing while fishing the England qualifier as an 18-year-old. During the match he lost a 5 lb trout at the net which would have given him a place in the team. "In that split second I experienced the total hope and despair that only matches can give".

6 HIS favourite food at the moment is anything Chinese, especially cripsy aromatic duck. Because of an allergy which can result in violent reactions John steers well clear of nuts.



● DAD Tony — "still has enthusiasm of a kid".

7 HIS first match for England was a home international they won in Ireland when he was 23-years-old. Full of glee John, who finished third, rang up his father but in true one upmanship Tony won the World Cup on the same day.

8 JOHN was born in Farnborough, Kent, and has a degree in geography from Southampton University.

9 EVERY year since he was eight John and Tony have taken a holiday in Scotland fishing lochs for brown trout. Short lining from boats has become his favourite method of fishing.

10 ALONG with Brian Leadbetter and Brian Thomas he has had an amazing run of success in the European Fly Fishing Championship, winning the last five events. Individually he has finished third once and second three times.

11 THE Bibio is his favourite pattern, giving him great success in Scottish lochs, early season forays on Bewl Water and in the World Championship.

12 JOHN prefers fishing clear water trout and salmon streams while his home water Bewl in Kent is his favourite reservoir.



● WORLD champ — John Pawson (right) receives the Dewars trophy at this year's World Championships in Tasmania.

13 HE won the world title with just five minutes to spare, taking a couple of fish to edge in front of Brian Thomas. It was so close that neither knew who had won until the official result was announced.

14 ALASKA will be his holiday destination next year. He tries to fish as many countries as possible for the experience.

15 NEXT to fishing American footbail is his favourite sport and it's one of the few things he watches on television.

16 THE Angling Times/Bob Church Classic is the competiton John would most like to win. He may take a complete break from match fishing in a few years and return fresh to the challenge of competitions.

17 IF he wasn't who he is, John would most like to be Noel Jetson — Tasmania's top fishing guide who he met during the world championship. "I've met a few millionaires in my time, but Neol was the happiest, most content person I have ever come across".

18 TASMANIA, a fishing paradise according to John, is the place he would most like to live — if he could move his job and home town of Farnborough there!

19 HE caught his biggest fish just before the World Championships. It was 16 lb 4 oz rainbow trout which took a size 14 brown nymph in Hampshire's Avington Lakes.

20 IF his life depended on picking the winner of a fly fishing competition, John would choose Brian Leadbetter or Chris Ogborne to fish for him. Outside of competitions the angler he most respects is his father, Tony, because "At his age he still has the enthusiasm of a kid when he's out fishing".



● BOB Church — John wants to win his Angling Times sponsored classic.



● BRIAN Leadbetter — John would put his money on him winning a fly fishing contest.

TRIUMPH IN TASMANIA

BOB CHURCH looks back at three glorious weeks 'down under' when England repeated their World Championship triumph.

WHILE retaining the World Team Fly Fishing Championship had to be the biggest thrill of our trip to Tasmania, there were many other delightful memories. The trip, remember, lasted for three weeks. There was little point in going all that way to the opposite side of the world for just a few days. So as well as the task ahead, which was to retain the World crown in a completely different set of circumstances and conditions, there was plenty of time for exploring this beautiful unspoilt island., The trip, in fact, turned out to be the sort of adventure that I shall never forget. Even if at times it was almost like a military operation, and left me exhausted, and, by now hopefully, in a super fit physical condition.

Fly fishermen in this country would find the plentiful wild trout fishing of Tasmania totally enjoyable. The main expense is the return flight. A national fishing licence costs £13 a season, and that enables you to fish anywhere (except London Lakes which are privately run by Jason Garrett from his superb country lodge).

Tasmania has 3,000 lakes of varying sizes, up to giants like Great Lake, some 20 miles long, and Pedder, the consistent 25lb-plus specimen brown trout water.

On top of that the sea trout fishing, with fish to 20lb, remains virtually untouched on a number of first-class rivers. From what I learned on my trip all this fishing has never been pushed as a tourist trade attraction. Those who know about it and fish there regularly are keen Aussie fly fishers from the mainland.

> ***"Through the competition the only rise I cast at was to a platypus which gave the impression it was nymphing".*** **Dennis Buck.**

With chief fisheries officer Rob Sloane keeping a watchful eye on the way the future of the sport develops in Tasmania — the locals can sleep peacefully. He is a young enthusiastic man who clearly knows his job inside out. I now realise why he had a little go in **Trout Fisherman** at our 'plastic' trout fishing when comparisons were made after his visit here.

During the championships I met most of the island's fishing guides, and these characters really look after you in style. We had Noel Jetson and his wife Lois, assisted by Craig Little, to look after the England team. They did a great job, taking us everywhere in their four wheel drive Toyota land cruisers. These vehicles are a must if you are to get to the best remote fishing places. Noel had the amazing ability to produce barbeque steaks, lamb or pork outlets and numerous cups of tea miles from civilisation.



Back-packing, four-wheel drives or even a helicopter is needed to reach the remote Western Lakes system where the polaroiding method is used to find feeding fish.

Trout of course are not native to Tasmania but the environment there suits them better than almost anywhere else in the world. After a few failed attempts, trout and salmon ova were transported by the clipper sailing ship *Norfolk*. The ova were packed into pine boxes with perforated holes along the top, bottom and sides. These allowed water from packed ice to flow as it melted into the boxes and percolate through the moss covered ova.

It was Francis Francis, the naturalist and writer, who sent 2,000 brown trout ova from the Thames tributary the Wey, while Frank Buckland sent another 1,000 Itchen stock. The main cargo of the experiment was made up from 100,000 Atlantic salmon ova and on January 21, 1864 *'Norfolk'* sailed from London.

After 91 days the eggs arrived at the salmon ponds in Tasmania and on May 4 the first young trout emerged. At the final count, 300 trout survived into breeding stock.

Rainbows followed from California in 1893 and the rest is history. The trout thrived and bred naturally everywhere they were introduced in Tasmania. Atlantic salmon never did establish reproducing

> ***"Pine Lagoon on competition day was like home from home — Rutland on April 1 in a force eight"*** **John Pawson.**

populations. But today more than a century later, every water course in Tasmania holds wild cunning trout.

Catch-and-release was practised for the first time in this Championship.

The organisers of the world event provided each competitor with a controller who carried a measuring tray. Once a fish was hooked, it was netted, then carried to the bank. While in the mesh of the net it was unhooked, laid in the tray, and measured in centimetres from its nose to the fork of the tail. A quick nod of agreement between controller and angler, and the fish, recorded as caught, was returned to fight another day. It all worked very well.

Where the fishing was concerned the normal local method of dry fly fishing usually with a size 12 or 14 Red Tag and 4 lb leader was failing for us. So we turned to the English wet fly tactics with great success.

It wasn't until we had some free days following the competition that we did well with the dry fly, for tailing trout, also while polaroiding, and while river fishing.

The trout that are 'tailing' are easily spotted as they forage in the very shallow marginal waters. The main tactic for success is stealth. If you just stand very still these trout will virtually swim a rod length from you. One careless movement though and they are gone. I found a Black Pennell Nymph would tempt these fish. Really you needed to be at the lake at first light to get the best action with tailing trout.

Noel took us to the isolated Western Lakes on the last day. It was sunny, ideal for the polaroiding technique we had heard so much about from expert Jim Allen. The method can get into your blood I imagine, for Jim seemed to love it more than anything else. At his bar Jim's photo looks down on you, and he displays a brace of double figure browns caught in one day on the Western lakes with this method.

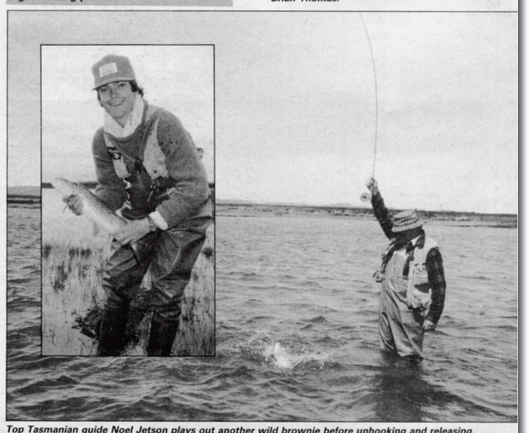
Noel at last did some fishing and soon he spotted two fish. He flicked his Red Tag with deadly accuracy into one of their paths and hooked a good brown which he released. He found another fish for our new World Champion John Pawson, who caught it, and proudly announced to the rest of us. "I've now done the lot". He had, too.

● **More pictures on page 40.**



Inset: New World Champion John Pawson cast to this 'tailing' 4lb brownie on Little Pine Lagoon during practise.

This magnificent 3¼lb rainbow came from Bronte Lagoon during practise on a rare sunny afternoon when gum beetles started a rise for Brian Thomas.



Top Tasmanian guide Noel Jetson plays out another wild brownie before unhooking and releasing.

28 Angling Times, Wednesday, December 28, 1988

Angling Times

PRAISE FOR THE WORLD CHAMPS

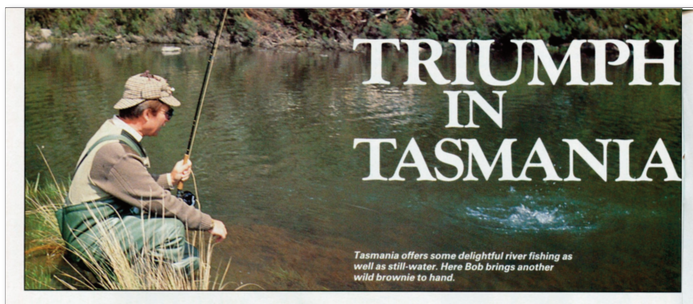
SPORTS Minister Colin Moynihan has sent a personal letter of congratulations to the all-conquering England Fly-fishers.

The team who recently retained the World Championship and individual title through John Pawson on the lakes of Tasmania, welcomed the Ministerial salute.

Efforts

The letter, which was sent to manager Tony Pawson and personally signed, read: "I was delighted to learn the team's efforts were successful both in the team and individual events and once again England are World Champions.

"Many congratulations on the team's magnificent achievements." 28/12/87



TRIUMPH IN TASMANIA

Tasmania offers some delightful river fishing as well as still-water. Here Bob brings another wild brownie to hand.

Continued from page 35



A beautiful brace of Tasmanian browns.

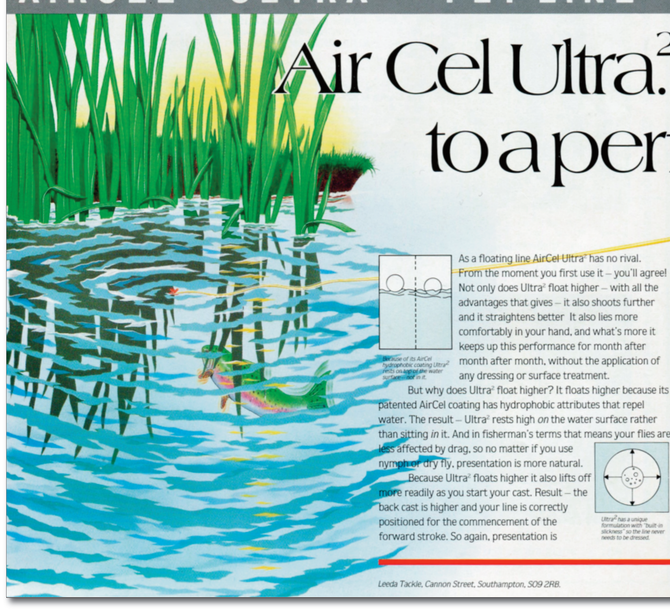


Guide Noel Jetson with a typical lake brown trout.

AIRCEL • ULTRA² • FLY LINE

AIRCEL • ULTRA² • FLY LINE

Air Cel Ultra.² The direct line to a perfect catch.



As a floating line AirCel Ultra² has no rival. From the moment you first use it – you'll agree! Not only does Ultra² float higher – with all the advantages that gives – it also shoots further and it straightens better It also lies more comfortably in your hand, and what's more it keeps up this performance for month after month after month, without the application of any dressing or surface treatment.

But why does Ultra² float higher? It floats higher because its patented AirCel coating has hydrophobic attributes that repel water. The result – Ultra² rests high *on* the water surface rather than sitting *in* it. And in fisherman's terms that means your flies are less affected by drag, so no matter if you use nymph or dry fly, presentation is more natural.

Because Ultra² floats higher it also lifts off more readily as you start your cast. Result – the back cast is higher and your line is correctly positioned for the commencement of the forward stroke. So again, presentation is improved. As a further benefit you can change direction more easily, and so cover rising fish more quickly.

The Ultra² coating creates less friction through the rod rings so what with the higher back cast and the better forward cast you can see why Ultra² shoots further for less effort. You'll be amazed: the difference is uncanny!

Ultra² is scientifically moderated 'stretch' cushions the shock of smash-takes, enabling you to fish much finer than is possible with an unyielding, non-stretch line. Yet all the time hooking is firm and positive. The core and coating are chemically compatible so any short-term spool memory is quickly killed.

AirCel Ultra² lies straight, to put you in direct contact with your flies. The direct line for a perfect catch.

Colour – Buckskin tan, in double-taper and weight-forward profiles.



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At the forefront of fine fly fishing. LEEDA

IN a special Bob's Drift, our columnist Bob Church reflects on England's super World Flyfishing victory in Tasmania. Read the inside stories from Britain's top trout columnist.

BOB'S DRIFT NEWS, VIEWS AND GOSSIP

WE SILENCE CRITICS

Now England ready for a hat-trick

ENGLAND confirmed their domination of international flyfishing by taking the coveted World Crown in the most alien of surroundings.

It sounds dramatic and it most certainly was. I have never before been involved in such an exciting and thoroughly testing competition, and to come out on top was thrilling.

The whole team felt as high as Tasmania's 3,000 ft Central Plateau, where we achieved the amazing feat.

Our victorious team learned their skills on the homely surroundings of England's reservoirs — but Tasmania is world's apart.

The climate, lakes and even the trout are far removed from anything we would find at Grafham or Rutland, but accepting new challenges is what trout fishing is all about.

It was said in some quarters that although we won handsomely in England a year ago, we wouldn't fare nearly so well in Tasmania where the trout are wild and cagey rather than stocked, gullible rainbows.

We certainly made the cynics eat their words, and I can reveal that the whole team is confident of completing a hat-trick in the World Championship in Finland next Summer.

We firmly believe our experience and versatility will stand us in good stead whether we fish lakes, reservoirs or rivers.

Tasmania provided three testing venues. They were Bronte Lagoon, which at 2,000 acres is a little bigger than Grafham Water, Little Pine Lagoon (1,000 acres) and London Lakes, two lakes in similar size.

Each angler had about 400 metres to himself, and we discovered that the trick was to keep on the move. By casting then walking a couple of paces no angler was in the same spot long enough to frighten the fish.

You can get away with casting time and again into a shoal on some reservoirs, but these wild browns and rainbows soon wised up to such static tactics.

In five days of practise we had caught around 100 fish evenly shared among us. There were browns to 4 lb and rainbows to 3½ lb.

These lakes are hardly fished and with so many anglers in action the trout soon retreated to deep water. The result was that each day was harder than the last and towards the end of the competition it was almost impossible to tempt fish from some stretches.

Our carefully chosen ploy of English wet fly tactics ensured that no English angler blanked. The subsequent bonus points enabled us to more than double the tally of nearest rivals France, and leave the other 15 teams green with envy.

The water of these lakes is usually crystal clear and normal tactics are quiet wading, with polarised glasses to spot fish.

However, with wet and windy weather (the only thing that reminded us of home) these tactics were impossible so that's where the wet fly approach came in.

I believe we should stick with the same team in Finland. We've proved we're tops at home and abroad — so why change?

Let's experiment here

THERE are a lot of wise trout in Tasmania — those that were caught in the championship and returned.

I was most impressed with how the catch-£and-release system worked. Each angler had an official with him who carried a simple measuring device — a tray marked out in centimetres.

Netted trout were held gently against the tray while still in the mesh. A nose to tail measurement was taken and the fish were slipped back.

The system went without a hitch, although whether it will work in England remains to be seen.

Tasmania's wild trout are particularly hardy, but whether stocked rainbows, particularly large ones in small stillwaters, could stand the strain is debatable.

I feel we should experiment in England and find out whether catch-and-release is viable. If it works it is preferable to the mass slaughter that can occur in competitions.

JOHN TAKES HIS CHANCE WELL

TOP marks to John Pawson. By winning the World Individual title he has proved what most of us already know — that he is a superb angler.

I say 'most of us' because John's selection was criticised in some quarters. It was said he was too young and lacked the experience to succeed at world level.

I'm delighted that he has well and truly buried that criticism.

He took his chance on Bronte Lagoon where he was drawn on the same beat as a top Australian who knew the venue better than John.

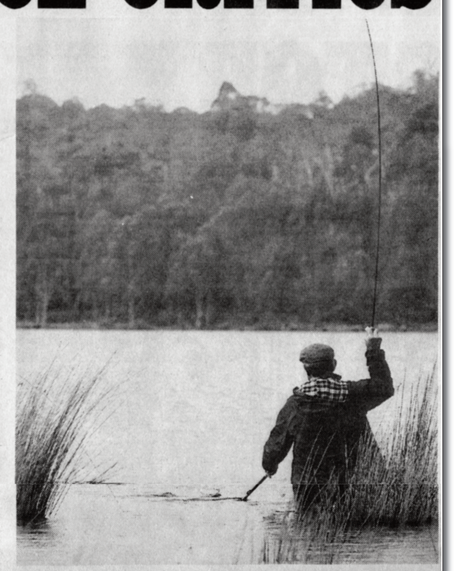
John netted eight fish to the Aussie's one. Need I say more?

Brian Thomas is also worthy of the highest praise. He was kept out of the team by Chris Ogborne last year, and didn't grumble.

But when his chance came this time he took it superbly, finishing runner-up. That's exactly the attitude and ability that has put us on top of the world.



● **CATCH-and-release — England's Brian Thomas has a World Championship brownie measured by controller Howard Scrivenor.**



● **ENGLAND on top — Team member Brian Thomas guides another Bronte Lagoon trout to his net as England head for victory.**

TASMANIA'S REALLY THE PLACE FOR ME

WILD and wonderful — that's Tasmania.

Although I've travelled extensively I've never seen a place like it. I thoroughly recommend it for a holiday, even if you are not an angler.

The air is exhilarating, the scenery breathtaking, the flowers beautiful and the wildlife fascinating.

I'm not after a job on TV's holiday programmes, but I reckon they should give Tasmania a try.

Our guide Noel Jetson is a man of nature. He has his own log cabin high on the plateau where he has a golden touch with animals.

After a day's fishing he would barbecue steaks for us and have wild possums coming into the cabin to take bread from his hands.

We also saw four breeds of wallaby, wombats and deadly poisonous tiger snakes which are 4 ft long. If one of them decides to sink its fangs into your legs you had better be wearing tough waders.

The plateau is just about the last unspoilt wilderness in the world, bu the pure air does carry one nasty problem.

Even though it wasn't sunny I suffered painful ultra violet burns. Huge water blisters appeared on the back of my hands and when the blisters burst they left raw flesh.

However, the pure air, which blows straight from the Antarctic, does wonders for the flowers which are incredibly colourful.

Incidently, the locals are more like Norfolk or Fenland folk than Aussies. Their accent is remarkably similar.

The gruelling flight to Tasmania took over 30 hours, but if you make it you won't be disappointed.