



2010 Spring International 14th May 2010 Lough Conn

Scottish Team sponsored by The Lake of Menteith Fisheries BVG Airflow and Flyfish Europe

Spring International 2010

Lough Conn - Friday 14th May 2010

The Spring International was held over a 10am to 6pm session at Lough Conn on Friday 14th May. It was fished on a catch and release basis with the minimum size set at 30cm. 20 points plus 1 point per centimetre was awarded for each fish which made the mark with the measuring being done by the boatmen.

The fishing was hard on all the practice days with the wind being mainly from the North East or North West. It did swing round to the South for a short spell on the Thursday. The practice days were cold and only sporadic hatches of fly were seen in most areas. The mayfly hatches were more prolific in the Castlehill Bay area and there was a spell on Wednesday when there were good fish moving in the slicks when the wind eased. On competition day there was a strong wind from the North West and again it was cold and hatches were sporadic.

All four countries found it difficult and at the weigh-in there was only 7 trout separating them. Scotland took the gold medal with 20 fish with the host country Ireland taking silver with 18 fish. Wales were third with 17 fish and England were fourth with 13 fish. Top rod and winner of the Brown Bowl was Michael Roberts (Wales) who netted five trout.

Top rod for Scotland (2nd overall) and winner of the Phoenix Silver was Stephen Leask (Neilston FF) who had 4 fish. Stephen lost the toss to his boat partner and was taken to Victoria Bay which was to be his first time fishing there that week. However he knew from the reports from the other Scottish team members that trout had been getting caught there and he was happy to fish there for the duration of the competition. He had two trout on his first drift and picked up the other two in the afternoon. Stephen had been using a midge tip and the SSI and his fish came to a yellow dabbler and a white hackled invicta on a fast strip retrieve. Stephen said he was elated when he took his first fish and thought he was in dreamland when he took his second a short time later. It was then a matter of keeping his head down and working the area as hard as he could. Stephen also said that after he took his first two trout he was hoping that the same flies were working for the rest of the Scottish team.

Fourth overall was Jock Kettles (Change FF) who was second in the Scottish team. Jock had three trout which all fell to a golden olive bumble on the bob. He was using a slow glass line and slow pulls. He started off drifting onto Rinmore Point and worked down the west side past Cormorant Rocks to Poteen Island. Jock said he got his first trout in the first hour and that it was a relief to see it in the net.

Seventh overall was Davie McMillan (GFFC) who was third in the Scottish team. Davie had two trout one of which he took about 11am and the other about 3pm. His trout were taken on a red arsed green peter and a pearly claret dabbler on a midge tip and a fast glass line. Davie said that he won the toss and took his boat to Cloghans and was intent on staying there all day if his boat partner would agree to it. At 4pm his boat partner insisted on moving. This was Davie's first cap and he said that his first trout was the most important fish he had ever caught.

Stephen, Jock and Davie have secured carry forwards for 2011 and all three are hoping to be in the team going to Orkney.

There were three other team members, Jim Bonellie (Dunfermline Artisans AC), Kevin Neri (Raemoir TF) and Neil Duff (Leslie & Glenrothes) getting their first caps. Jim said that the competition was one that he would always remember and that the trout he caught was the best fish of his life. He found the practice days hard going and was impressed with the effort put in by the team and by the way they passed on their knowledge and advice. Neil said that the last six months had flown by with anticipation of Ireland. He found it hard going over the week and he was also impressed by the team effort and reports. Kevin had 5 x youth caps behind him and knew what to expect. He found the practice days very hard and to net a fish and be in a Scotland team that won gold was brilliant and there could be no better feeling.



John Buchanan receives the winners trophy on behalf of the team



Stephen Leask receiving the Phoenix Silver Salver

Winner	Scotland	20 fish	1105 points
second	Ireland	18 fish	978 points
third	Wales	17 fish	916 points
fourth	England	13 fish	704 points
	Total	68 fish	3703 points
Best Basket	Michael Roberts (Wales)	5 fish	266 points
Phoenix Silver Salver	Stephen Leask	4 fish	227 points

Overall Position	Name	Club	Fish	Points
2	Stephen Leask	Neilston FF	4	227
4	Jock Kettles	Change FF	3	168
7	Davie McMillan	GFFC	2	118
10	Steven Welsh	Dalbeattie AC	2	110
16	John Buchanan (captain)	Newton Mearns FF	2	104
18	David Mateer	Northern Constabulary	2	104
22	Bob Robertson	Bridge of Weir (Loch) AC	1	61
27	Sandy McConnachie	Orkney TFA	1	56
29	Kevin Neri	Raemoir TF	1	55
34	Jim Bonellie	Dunfermline Artisans AC	1	52
40	Brian Watt	Shetland AA	1	50
41=	Neil Duff	Leslie & Glenrothes AC	0	
41=	Erlend Hutchison	Orkney TFA	0	
41=	Ken Oliver	Strathgryfe AA	0	



Back Row: Ian Campbell(IFFA Secretary) George MacKenzie(International Secretary) Ken Oliver David Mateer Stephen Leask Erlend Hutchison Sandy McConnachie John Buchanan(captain) John Ross(manager) John Ball(IFFA President)
 Front Row: Neil Duff Jim Bonellie Davie McMillan Kevin Neri Brian Watt Bob Robertson Steven Welsh

**2010 Autumn International
 16th September 2010 - Llynn Trawsfynydd**

**Scottish Team sponsored by The Lake of Menteith Fisheries
 BVG Airflow and Flyfish Europe**

Winner	Scotland	60 fish	83lbs 0ozs
second	England	60 fish	82lbs 11ozs
third	Wales	57 fish	80lbs 7ozs
fourth	Ireland	58 fish	52lbs 4ozs
	Total	215 fish	298lbs 6ozs
Best Basket	Paul Shaw (England)	10 fish	14lbs 8ozs
Heaviest Fish	Peter Auchterlonie		2lbs 12ozs



Back Row: John Ball(IFFA President) Campbell Morgan Keith Logan Rab Maxwell Steven Nicoll Sandy McConnachie Andy McKay Peter Auchterlonie Ronnie Gilbert John Ross(Manager) Ian Campbell(IFFA Secretary)
Front Row: Andy Dunn Alan Porteous Mark Stephen Jock Kettles Nigel Burns Brian Kennedy

The Scottish Team travelled to Wales to contest the Home Countries Autumn International at Llynn Trawsfynydd and although they had finished a fairly distant third on the last visit there the team were confident of doing well on this occasion. With three National Champions and two Brown Bowl winners in the team along with three new caps and an experienced squad they were hopeful of continuing the team's fine run of success which had seen Gold Medals at Lough Conn in the Spring and at the Lake of Menteith the previous Autumn

The competition was fished over the 10am to 6pm session on Thursday 16th September 2010 on a partial catch and release basis. All brown trout were returned with an allowance of 1lb given for each one caught. The competitors were to retain four rainbow trout and thereafter the rainbows would be returned with an allowance of 1.5lbs. Retained rainbows were capped at 4lbs.

On the Monday the teams went out for practice in a strong and gusting westerly wind which made fishing in some parts of Trawsfynydd difficult. Just for good measure there was torrential rain throughout most of the day and by the end of the day almost everyone was soaked to the skin. The wind picked up overnight and on the Tuesday fishing was cancelled. On Wednesday the wind had dropped slightly and although stronger than on the Monday the competitors were able to go out for their final practice day. As expected the water level had risen between 9 and 12 inches and much of the water was coloured. During the practice days the main concentrations of fish were found in Walkers Bay through to Islyn Bay; from Cae Adda through Tyn Twll and at the Totem Pole. The Scottish Team were hopeful that the information they had gleaned from two days on the water would be enough but with the wind forecast to switch to the north on competition day they were concerned that local knowledge would be of greater importance given the limited practice that had been put in.

At the 2008 International at Traws, Steven Nicoll got the Scottish Team off to a flying start when he took a fish in the first ten minutes near to the boat jetty in Club Bay and the supporters on the bank watched in anticipation as Andy McKay started off in the same area this year but history was not to repeat itself. As the day wore on it looked to be close and any fish dropped or any fish taken in the last few minutes could easily mean the difference between a country taking Gold or Silver.

Andy McKay returned to Club Bay late in the day and in the last twenty minutes he took two fish one of which was right in front of the Scottish bus.

Andy McKay boats a fish in the last 20 minutes



As the boats returned to the jetty the team managers did a quick debrief with their competitors and all countries knew it was a very close finish with Scotland and England each having 60 fish, Wales having 57 fish and Ireland 38.



At the weigh-in England were first up and their 60 fish went to scales at 82lb 11oz. Ireland followed with their 38 fish going in at 52lb 4oz. They were followed by Scotland and Wales and such was the tension that not a smile could be seen on the competitor's faces as they waited for the official result.

England had returned 17 rainbows and 2 browns while Scotland had returned 7 rainbows and 2 browns and Wales 12 rainbows and 1 brown. As the weigh-in progressed it appeared that most of the rainbows that went to the scales were around 1lb 6oz and with 1lb 8oz being allowed for each one returned it looked like these extra few ounces could swing it for England

Wales were last to weigh-in and their individual fish appeared to be slightly heavier than those landed by the other countries. As their team members came up one by one it looked possible that the weight of their 57 fish could overhaul the weights of England and Scotland. Finally the result was announced that Scotland with a weight of 83lb had won the Gold medal by 5 ounces from England. Wales were third at 80lb 7oz and Ireland were fourth at 52lb 4oz.

The individual's competition for the Brown Bowl Trophy was also close with the top three only separated by three fish. The individual winner was Paul Shaw of England who had a superb day to catch 10 fish for 14lb 8oz, all of them rainbows. In second was Marco Orsi of Wales who had 9 rainbows for 13lb 7oz and third was Paddy Mounter of England with 8 rainbows for 11lb 8oz. England had four rods in the top six places with Nick Dunn taking 7 rainbows for 4th place and Chris Micallef in 6th place with 6 rainbows and a brown. The 5th spot was filled by Aled Dixon of Wales who had 6 rainbows.

The top rod for Ireland was Seamus Kelly who had 5 fish for 7lb and finished in 15th place.

*Paul Shaw receiving the Brown Bowl
from IFFA President John Ball*



Scottish new cap, Rab Maxwell, had the honour of fishing with the Brown Bowl winner and did extremely well to boat 4 rainbows and finish in 23rd place overall. At one point Rab was being beat 7 to 1 and just tried to keep his head down and to forget how well his boat partner was doing. As his boat partner, Paul Shaw, was doing well on a glass line, Rab changed up to a fast glass from a DI3 and took 2 rainbows on a fast pulled tequilla blob. He later changed to a booby and took his fourth fish with his first cast. Unfortunately the booby then had to come off.

Rab has enjoyed the experience of fishing for Scotland and right from the outset he got himself involved in fundraising. He was impressed by the way the team had been working together in the months leading up to the International and his only fear was that the strong winds would lead to the cancellation of the event.

photo: Rab Maxwell

Phoenix Silver Salver

Top rod for Scotland and winner of the Phoenix Silver Salver was Alan Porteous. Alan had 6 rainbows for 8lb 13oz which put him in 7th equal place overall. Alan had hoped to start in the hot water channel but for his first drift he was taken to the area between the power station and the bushes. There was nothing doing there so they moved to Bailey Bridge where he took a fish. They then moved over to the Tyn Twll area where Alan took one on a sparkler. From there they went back over to Walkers Bay and worked their way along to the farm. Alan started off with a DI5 sweep line but later changed to a fast glass and back to the DI5.

Alan Porteous receiving the Silver Salver



Alan knew the result was a close call but thought that they had lost out to England as he knew that like Scotland they had 60 fish. England had returned more fish which he thought would have swung it for them.

Alan's 7th place earned him a carryforward to one of the 2011 teams and was delighted to be told by Team Manager, John Ross, that he and his brother Kevin, who qualified for the 2011 teams from the National Championship, will be in the same team and that they will both be going to Orkney.



This was Brian Kennedy's first cap and it has long been his ambition to fish for Scotland. Having qualified in August 2009, Trawsfynydd was a long time coming. He enjoyed the practice sessions and was impressed with just how helpful everyone in the team was. On competition day he started off drifting between the power station and the bushes and very quickly drew a fish but unfortunately he ran out of room and it didn't take. It would have been a dream start. From there he moved over to the hot channel and finished up with 4 rainbows for 5lb 6oz pulling cormorants on a DI3. His 4 fish gave him a tie for 26th place with Team Captain Nigel Burns and Irishman Ger Linehan.



This was also Keith Logan's first cap and from the outset he was surprised by the level of commitment that was required. He found that there was a very professional approach to the organisation and that everything went like a well oiled machine. On competition day he had difficulty getting fish to stick and dropped fish at the net. He finished with one fish but when it is a close as this one was every fish was vital.

Heaviest Fish

The heaviest fish of the day was a rainbow of 2lb 12oz taken by Scotland's Peter Auchterlonie and on a day when the Gold was decided by a few ounces a fish of this size was greatly appreciated.

Peter had a good day and caught 4 rainbows for 6lb 9oz which put him in 18th place overall. His 18th place earned him a carryforward to the 2011 teams. Peter is the Scottish National Champion having just finished top rod in the Scottish National Trout Fly Fishing Championship at the end of August.

Photo: Peter Auchterlonie being presented with the trophy for the heaviest fish



Scottish Team Manager John Ross receives his Gold Medal from Team Captain Nigel Burns

Presentation of Prizes

At the Dinner and Presentation of Prizes following the competition the Scottish Team Captain Nigel Burns was presented with the Captains Badge and the winners trophy by the IFFA President John Ball.

Nigel thanked the IFFA and the local Welsh Committee for the efficient running of the event and also thanked the boatmen, the fishery staff and everyone else who had been involved in the event.

He praised the Scottish Team for their commitment and for all the hard work they had put in to win the International and on a personal note thanked them for the support they had given him.



On a day when the highest individual Scottish rod was placed 7th equal the overall strength of the Scottish Team was seen at its best. Although the Scottish rods did not feature at the top there were 12 of 14 team members in the top 32 and every team member caught fish.

The Scottish Spring and Autumn Teams have been raising funds through raffles and fishing days throughout the year to help with the cost of the Internationals. They wish to thank the Lake of Menteith Fishery Board for providing sponsorship and also wish to thank the Glasgow Angling Centre, BVG Airflow and Flyfish Europe for their support. The teams also extend their thanks to every organisation and individual who donated raffle prizes and took part in the fundraising events.

Overall Position		Club	Fish	Lbs	Ounces
7th eq	Alan Porteous	Dounreay FFA	6	8	13
9th	Ronnie Gilbert	Thack AC	7	8	12
11th	Jock Kettles	Change FF AC	5	8	8
12th	Andy McKay	Inverclyde FF	6	8	4
18th	Peter Auchterlonie	St Fillans & Lochearn AA	4	6	9
21st	Mark Stephen	Stewarton AC	4	5	10
23rd	Rab Maxwell	Clatto & Stratheden AC	4	5	8
26th eq	Nigel Burns	Crieff FF	4	5	6
26th eq	Brian Kennedy	Caley Liners FF	4	5	6
29th eq	Campbell Morgan	Strathleven FF	4	5	3
31st	Andy Dunn	Roche AC	4	5	0
32nd	Sandy McConnachie	OTFA	4	4	13
36th	Steven Nicoll	Thalassa AC	3	4	0
50th eq	Keith Logan	North Berwick AC	1	1	4
	Manager: John Ross				

