



Spring International  
Lough Lein, Ireland  
27th May 2016



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**Spring International  
Lough Lein, Ireland  
27th May 2016**

The IFFA Home Countries Spring International was fished at Lough Lein, Ireland on Friday 27th May with England coming out on top with 18 trout. The week started off with a good breeze but as the practice days headed towards match day it gradually became brighter and the wind dropped away day by day. On match day competitors were chasing the ripple in a mixture of sun and cloud. Towards the end of match day the breeze and catch rates picked up. The match was fished to a four fish kill and would have been followed by catch and release had any competitor been able to catch more than four trout. The minimum size of takeable trout was set at 10 inches measured to the fork of the tail.

The teams had been finding 10 inch trout hard to find during the practice sessions and as they returned to the shore after the match it was the same story with a total of 52 trout being brought to the scales by the four countries. England were first to the scales and their 18 trout for 4.111kg was good enough to secure first place. This was an excellent team performance by England with nine rods in the top 20.

Ireland were next to the scales and recorded 8 trout for 1.780kg which put them in fourth place. Scotland followed and their 13 trout 2.788kg was just edged out of the second spot by Wales who also had 13 trout but with a heavier weight of 3.302kg.



photo: England's Captain Nick Dunn receiving the team trophy from IFFA President John Behan



photo: Alan Steven receiving the Brown Bowl

The top individual rod and winner of the Brown Bowl was Alan Steven of Scotland with 4 trout for 0.907kg. Alan also collected the Phoenix Silver Salver as Scotland's top rod.

Top rod for England was John Horsey with 3 trout for 0.711kg. Ireland's top rod was Noel Shiels with 2 trout for 0.536kg and top rod for Wales was Peter Thurnall with 2 trout for 0.607kg.

The heaviest fish of the day went to the scales at 0.430kg and was caught by Marco Orsi of Wales

**Alan Steven - Brown Bowl**

I was drawn with Joe Gilroy of Ireland and lost the toss but as he hadn't been able to practice that week he gave the boat to me. Initially we went to Gaureen Bay where I set up with a four fly cast of a connemara black, clan chief muddler and two

snatchers on a cortland blue. We started off in a light ripple and bright sky but after 20 minutes we had a flat calm. I had one small fish there that didn't measure and we moved down to Victoria Bay where I had been getting keepers out in the middle during the practice days. I changed my set up to diawl bachs and a leven spider and around 11am I took my first keeper. I had plenty of offers there, most of which were from perch, and caught 6 trout which were just short of the mark.



Photo: Alan at the scales

We stayed in Victoria Bay and I probably had about 14 trout that were all close to the mark but didn't quite measure. Joe varied his tactics and had a couple of trout that didn't measure. There had been about 14 boats in Victoria Bay when we started there but that number gradually dropped away to about 5 and with most of them returning later we stuck it out there. My four trout were all caught between 11am and 4pm and were taken steadily throughout the day. It was a patience game but I had a great day with my boat partner.

Mick Tait - 7th

I was drawn with Marco Orsi of Wales and won the toss. We went to Victoria Bay and I set up with four diawl bachs on a cortland blue. In the first hour I picked up 2 that were just short of the mark and when control of the boat changed about noon we initially stayed where we were. Around 1pm we bounced around the islands and then we headed for the Hen and Chicken area but on route we met up with Ally Middlemass who told us that area wasn't fishing.



We headed back to the Victoria Bay/Mahony's area and I picked up 2 small fish in the first 10 minutes there. About 5pm Marco picked up a good fish that turned out to be the heaviest fish of the day and I got a keeper as well. Shortly after that the wind picked up and I changed to a fast glass and got my second keeper on the leven spider. I had one more small fish and that was the end of my day.



Ronnie Glass - 13th

I was drawn with Ian Donaldson of England who won the toss. He took me to he burn mouth at Elephant Rock but we didn't do anything there and moved over to the hotel area. I had one that didn't measure on diawl bachs fished on a cortland blue and we moved from there to Prism Rock. I had 3 small trout there before moving to Victoria Bay.

I picked up 2 keepers at Victoria Bay and Ian picked up a nice trout on a buzzer under a dry. We had more small fish and perch but nothing else that would measure.

Spring International Lough Lein, Ireland 27th May 2016			
Position	Country	Fish	Kilos
1st	England	18	4.111
2nd	Wales	13	3.302
3rd	Scotland	13	2.788
4th	Ireland	8	1.780





Back Row: John Behan(IFFA President, Mick Tait, Allan Smith (captain), Donald McGregor, Andrew Morgan, Kevin McCabe, Gus Shepherd(manager), George MacKenzie(international secretary), Ian Campbell(IFFA Secretary)

Middle Row: Ronnie Glass, Alan Steven, Frank Watt, Andy Dunn

Front Row: Alan Brock, Allan Gamble, Ally Middlemass, Wullie Leach, Ray Anderson

2016 Spring International 27th May 2016 - Lough Lein, Ireland Individual Scottish Positions (full result can be viewed at <a href="http://www.iffa.net">www.iffa.net</a> )			
Position	Competitor	Fish	Kilos
1st	Alan Steven	4	0.907
7th	Mick Tait	2	0.467
13	Ronnie Glass	2	0.422
21st	Donald McGregor	1	0.224
25th	Frank Watt	1	0.206
28th	Ray Anderson	1	0.195
29th	Allan Smith	1	0.188
31st	Kevin McCabe	1	0.179
34th=	Alan Brock	0	
34th=	Andy Dunn	0	
34th=	Allan Gamble	0	
34th=	Wullie Leach	0	
34th=	Ally Middlemass	0	
34th=	Andrew Morgan	0	

# **Autumn International Llandegfedd, Wales 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016**

Scotland came from behind to take the gold medal in the Autumn International at Llandegfedd on 23rd September 2016. Ireland had netted 37 fish and looked to be heading for first place but the 35 fish caught by the Scottish team had a heavier weight and they took the first spot by 1lb 2.5ozs more than Ireland who had to settle for the silver medal.

The practice days were generally bright with very light winds and the fishing at Llandegfedd was challenging throughout the week. On the Tuesday there was a mix of light cloud and sun and the teams had some success. There was more cloud on the Wednesday which helped all four countries to increase their catch rates and identify the areas and tactics that might work on match day. Thursday was far brighter than the first two days and the trout proved to be elusive and it was with some trepidation that the weather forecasts for the Friday were being closely monitored.

Match day started off on the bright side with a light wind which gradually increased as the day progressed. At the off the boats split with a good number heading towards the dam to drift from there out to the open water with others heading over to the far bank and the remainder going to the bottom end to drift across the mouth of the cages bay and from the deeper water onto the monkey pole shore. Cloud cover eventually arrived around 3pm.

The managers were watching the match closely and they could see that it was not going to take a great number of fish to win and that it was going to be close. As the boats returned to the jetty at 6pm the managers quizzed their teams to find out how each of their anglers and their respective boat partners had done. Gus Shepherd, the Scottish Team Manager, counted in 35 trout and as he was aware that Wales had 26 trout and that England had 30 he was hopeful of success. However when he heard that Ireland had 37 trout the hopes of the Scottish team took a dip.

England were first to the scales with a total of 30 fish. The match was fished on a partial catch and release basis with competitors retaining their first three fish and an allowance of 2lbs being given for each returned fish. With 25 fish retained and 5 fish returned their weight was 47lbs 4ozs which was later to put them in third place. The top rod for England was Philip Thompson with 7 trout for 12lbs 5.5ozs.



photo: Scottish Team Captain Campbell Morgan receives the winners trophies from IFFA President John Behan



photo: Andrew Duncan of Ireland receiving the Brown Bowl from IFFA President John Behan

Ireland were next to the scales and with 28 fish retained and 7 fish returned their total weight for their 37 trout was 57lbs 15ozs which earned them the silver medal. There were three excellent individual bags for Ireland with Andrew Duncan winning the Brown Bowl as the top individual with 7 trout for 12lbs 9.5ozs.

Ireland's Tommy O'Loughlin was close behind Andrew with his 6 trout for 10lbs 1.25oz and their Basil Shields also did well with 5 trout for 7lbs 13.5ozs. The average weight of Ireland's retained trout was 1lb 6.8ozs.

Scotland were third to the scales and when their third angler, Peter Auchterlonie, weighed in the heaviest trout of the day at 2lbs 1.5ozs the Scottish hopes of overhauling Ireland were raised. Peter was followed quickly by Alan Gilbert who had 6 trout for 10lbs 14.25ozs and their eighth man, Stuart McLean, weighed in with 5 trout for 7lbs 10.25ozs. Next up was Stuart Marklow with 6 trout for 11lbs 3.75ozs which earned him the Silver Salver as Scotland's top rod.



photo: Stuart Marklow receiving the Silver Salver



This gave Scotland a running total of 44lbs 14.5ozs and with 5 anglers still to come to the scales it looked like Ireland's total of 57lbs 15ozs could be within sight. When the tenth man, Derek Purves, weighed in 5 trout for 9lbs 6oz to put Scotland on 54lbs 4.5ozs it was looking good for a Scottish victory. Ben Robertson was next up with 1 trout for 1lbs 5.5ozs to edge them closer at 55lbs 10ozs and when Grant Sutherland put his one trout for 1lbs 15.75ozs on the scales the Scottish total was 57lbs 9.75ozs. Last man in, Mick Thomson, sealed the gold medal with one trout for 1lb 7.75ozs to put Scotland on 59lbs 1.5ozs.



photo left  
England's Top Rod Philip Thompson

Wales were fourth to the scales and their 26 fish for 38lbs 13ozs put them in fourth place. Top rod for Wales was Tery Llewelyn with 6 fish for 10lbs 13.5ozs.

photo right  
Top Rod for Wales  
Terry Llewelyn



Autumn International Llandegfedd 23rd September 2016 (full result can be viewed at <a href="http://www.iffa.net">www.iffa.net</a> )				
Position	Country	Fish	Lbs	Ozs
1st	Scotland	35	59	1.5
2nd	Ireland	37	57	15
3rd	England	30	47	4
4th	Wales	26	38	13



Peter Auchterlonie receiving the trophy for the heaviest fish



Stuart, Campbell and Peter with Team Manager  
Gus Shepherd



Manager and Captain Gus Shepherd and Campbell  
Morgan

### Stuart Marklow - Phoenix Silver Salver 3rd overall

I was drawn with Phil Thompson of England and we agreed to start at the middle of the dam. It was a touch bright so I set up with a 12ft slow tip with a buscuit on the tail and two diawl bachs above.

I took my first fish in the first half hour and the second followed shortly after. Both took a dial bach. We repeated drifts from the dam wall out past the tower until about 1pm and I picked up my other four fish there all of which were on the diawl bachs. We moved over to The Gabions and had a couple of swirls before going back to the dam about 5pm. I dropped two after 5pm.

Phil changed to a 12ft tip after I caught my first two and he soon went 3 to 2 up. Then it was 4 to 3 for me and then 4 all. I went 6 to 4 up before Phil levelled it again at 6 all. Phil picked up his last fish with 10 minutes to go and it finished 7 to 6 for him.

### Alan Gilbert 4th Overall

I was drawn with Craig Barr of England who won the toss and opted to start at the dam.

I set up with a cat booby and black hopper on a Rio midge tip. Craig took a fish within five minutes of starting and I got one straight after on the booby. About 30 minutes later I picked up a second on the booby.

At noon we moved to cages bay and drifted over to the north shore. When the sun came out I swapped the booby for a pennel and picked up my third. We went back to the dam at 2pm and fished out towards the resmix. I picked up my fourth fish near the resmix and about 50 yards beyond it I cast to a riser and took my fifth. I got my 6th fish about 5.20pm near to the tower.



### Derek Purves 7th Overall

I was drawn with Lewis Rumble of Wales. We agreed where to go and headed for the area where a blue boat was moored and drifted from there over towards the monkey pole shore.

I started off with a cat booby, diawl bachs and a hopper on 6ft fast tip. I only touched one fish in that area before we moved over to The Gabions to try there. We didn't do anything there and moved over to near the cages where I picked up one after 5 minutes on the cat booby.

I picked up another about 5 minutes later on a diawl bach. We kept repeating the drift and about the third time down I had a double shooter but lost one of them. We moved over to the middle and I picked up one straight away on the diawl bach. From there we back to The Gabions where I cast to a jumping fish and locked up on the cat booby for my fifth. We kept repeating the drift and about the third time down I had a double shooter but lost one of them. We moved over to the middle and I picked up one straight away on the diawl bach. From there we back to The Gabions where I cast to a jumping fish and locked up on the cat booby for my fifth.





Stuart McLean  
9th Overall

I was drawn with John Pearn of England. I lost the toss and John took me to the area where the blue boat was moored for a drift over to the monkey pole shore.

I set up with a pseudo cat, diawl bach and a mini biscuit booby. John picked up a fish about halfway through our drifts there but I didn't get a fish in those first two hours.

At noon we moved to the dam and drifted to the left of the resmix. Straight away I got one on the pseudo cat. Ten minutes later I picked up my second. We spent the rest of the day drifting out from the dam wall about as far as the resmix.

I picked up steadily throughout the afternoon with my other three fish coming from that area. I had switched to a floater and I got the last of those three about 5.4pm.



Neil Anderson  
10th Overall

I was drawn with Robbie Marshall of Ireland. We agreed where to go and I set up with a pseudo cat and hoppers on a Rio midge tip.

We started off at the blue boat drifting towards the monkey pole shore and we had one chance each there. I picked up my first around 11.30am about 100 yards from the shore on a hopper. We repeated the drift and I picked up another 2. We worked that area for most of the day and I dropped one. Around 5.15pm we moved over to The Gabions and we both picked up a fish with 15 minutes to go.



Team Scotland - Gold Medal Winners Autumn International Llandegfedd 2016

top row: John Behan(IFFA President), Grant Sutherland, Derek Purves, John Buchanan, Stuart McLean, Peter Auchterlonie, Stuart Marklow, Graeme Lynch, Neil Anderson, Gus Shepherd(Manager), Ian Campbell(IFFA Secretary)

front row: George Mackenzie(International Secretary), Alan Gilbert, Campbell Morgan(Captain), Ronnie Gilbert, Gary Ormiston, Ben Robertson, Mick Thomson

Scottish Individual Positions Autumn International 2016 Llandegfedd					
Position		Club	Fish	Lbs	Ozs
3rd	Stuart Marklow	Loanhead & District AC	6	11	3.75
4th	Alan Gilbert	SPRAA FFS West	6	10	14.25
7th	Derek Purves	Bank of Scotland East AC	5	9	6.00
9th	Stuart McLean	East Kilbride AC	5	7	10.25
10th	Neil Anderson	Monikie AC	4	6	8.50
20th	Campbell Morgan (captain)	Strathleven FF	3	3	11.50
21st	Peter Auchterlonie	Menteith Ospreys	2	3	10.75
31st	Grant Sutherland	Perth RASC	1	1	15.75
38th=	Mick Thomson	Butcher Boy AC	1	1	7.75
43rd	Ben Robertson	West Lothian FD	1	1	5.50
46th=	Ronnie Gilbert	Menteith Ospreys	1	1	3.50
49th=	John Buchanan	Newton Mearns FF	0		
49th=	Graeme Lynch	Beith St Inans AC	0		
49th=	Gary Ormiston	Shell Mossmorran AC	0		