



Spring International
Lough Ennell, Ireland
24th May 2024



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Spring International, Lough Ennell, Ireland, 24th May 2024

The fly fishing teams of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales travelled to Mullingar, Ireland for the 2024 spring international where Ireland were hosting the match on Lough Ennell. Conditions varied throughout the week prior to match day with a mix of sun, cloud, rain, strong winds, soft winds and flat calm. As always seems to be the norm the wind strength and direction on match day was different to the practice days.

Trout were had to find during the practice days although all four countries appeared to have identified the same areas that they expected to be productive when it mattered although their thoughts differed on the fly dressings most likely to be successful. The fly life on Lough Ennell was excellent with a mix of mayflies, buttons, olives, buzzers and caenis although rises to them were sporadic. The trout were good quality and on match day the longest trout was measured at 55.5cms with a total of three being over 50cms and a further 20 being over 40cms. The match and practice days were entirely catch and release with only trout of 35cms and over being counted. Points were awarded for each centimetre of length with an additional 20cm for each fish.

All fishing had to take a break between 1.50pm and 2.10pm which gave the competitors the opportunity to discuss the situation and reset for the afternoon. It appeared to be very close at this point with no obvious leader. Come 6pm the boats were back in the harbour and the team managers collected the catch returns before reporting to the weigh-in.

England were first to report their catch which was 3 trout for 130.1cms for 191 points and were followed by Ireland with their catch which of 8 trout measuring a total of 342.2cms yielding 505 points. Scotland were next up and their 13 trout for 587.9cm and 851 points earned them the gold medal. Wales had 4 trout for 172cms and 253 points.

Lough Ennell - 24th May 2024				
		Fish	Cms	Points
1st	Scotland	13	587.9	851
2nd	Ireland	8	342.2	505
3rd	Wales	4	172.0	253
4th	England	3	130.1	191
		28		

The top individual rod and recipient of the Brown Bowl was a tie between Martin McCafferty of Scotland and Seamus O'Loughlin of Ireland who each had 2 trout measuring 93.5cm in total length earning 134 points. Martin and Seamus were the top rods for Scotland and Ireland. Top rod for England was Philip Shaw-Brown with two trout measuring 86.5cms in total and earning 127 points. Top rod for Wales was Graham Evans with one trout of 46cms earning 66 points.



Scottish Captain Sean McCaffrey receiving the captains award from IFFA President Paul Angell and IFFA Secretary Michael Callaghan



Martin McCafferty and Seamus O'Loughlin receiving the Brown Bowl from IFFA President Paul Angell and IFFA Secretary Michael Callaghan



Back row from left: Michael Callaghan (IFFA Secretary, Neil Cockburn, Derek Keenan (manager), Calum Clark, Sandy McConnachie, Wullie Simpson, Martin McCafferty, George Telford, Tyler Hay and Paul Angell (IFFA President)
 Front row: George Mackenzie (international secretary), Gregor Fleming, Kevin McCabe, Michael Ward, Sean McCaffrey (captain), Colin Macdonald, Peter Cameron and Ally Middlemass.

Scotland Team Individual Positions				
Pos		Fish	Cms	Points1
1=	Martin McCafferty	2	93.5	134
3	Neil Cockburn	2	92.0	132
4	Michael Ward	2	90.5	131
6	Tyler Hay	2	84.4	125
7	Sean McCaffrey	1	52.5	73
9	Calum Clark	1	47.5	68
11	Ally Middlemass	1	45.5	66
14	Gregor Fleming	1	43.0	63
20	Colin Macdonald	1	39.0	59
23=	Peter Cameron	0		
23=	Kevin McCabe	0		
23=	Sandy McConnachoe	0		
23=	Wullie Simpson	0		
23=	George Telford	0		

**Autumn International
Llyn Clywedog, Wales
12th September 2024**

At the Autumn International Fly Fishing Match held at Llyn Clywedog on Thursday 12th September 2024 the Scottish team, managed by by Derek Keenan and captained by Kevin McCabe, produced a historic victory after forging clear of England, Ireland and Wales. Scotland had taken the gold medals at the autumn match at the Lake of Menteith in September 2023 and at the spring match at Lough Ennell in May 2024 and the pressure was on to keep the run going at Llyn Clywedog and make it three in a row.

The weather hadn't been kind to the competitors during the practice days with a mixed bag of conditions. At times the sun was out for long periods sending the fish deeper only to be followed by torrential rain and hailstones that put the temperature into single figures. The wind blew up at times producing difficult squally conditions and on the day before the match the wind strength made it difficult to fish some areas. Russell Owen and his team at Llyn Clywedog kept the whole event running efficiently throughout the week with reliable boats and outboards and a good head of fish.

It took a team effort through the practice days and the match day to get the end result with Derek Keenan and Kevin McCabe orchestrating the practice sessions and debriefs. By match day however it was apparent that all four countries had identified the same areas and methods and a close match was expected. The match itself was fished to a two fish kill with 2lb being awarded for each returned fish.

The match got off to a perfect start for Scotland when their Joseph Wood was seen to be into a fish straight away just off of the pier area while most boats were only just heading to their chosen start points. Joseph caught steadily through the session and finished with 17 fish which put him in 10th overall in the individual standings.

At the end of the match, as the boats returned to the pier area, the competitors reported their catches to their team managers and when the Scotland management heard that Robert Reilly of Ireland had 26 fish and that Richard Denney of England had 22 fish their confidence was ebbing away. Confidence rose again when Scotland's Tyler Hay reported he had 27 fish closely followed by Thomas McMillan with 21 fish and then Ronnie Gilbert and Ben Robertson who had 20 each. When Michael Low came in and reported taking 35 fish it was apparent that Scotland were going to be hard to beat.

England were first to the scales and recorded 159 fish for 326lbs 13ozs which eventually put them in second place. Ireland went next and had 127 fish for 263lbs 9ozs which put them in third. Scotland weighed-in the gold medal score with 236 fish for 484lbs 11ozs. Wales were in fourth place with 105 fish for 219lbs 7ozs.

The winning margins of 77 fish and 157lbs 14ozs are the largest ever in the history of the internationals and the Scotland catch of 236 fish for 484lbs 11ozs is the also the largest ever.

The top individual rod overall was Michael Low of Scotland with 35 fish for 70lbs 4ozs. This is the largest individual catch since 1950 and is probably the largest ever. Top rod for Ireland was Robert Reilly with 26 fish. Top rod for England was Richard Denney with 22 fish and top rod for Wales was Nigel Worvell with 16 fish. This was an outstanding team effort from Scotland throughout the practice sessions and match day with six of the team finishing in the top ten individual standings.



Kevin McCabe receiving the Team trophy and captain's badge from Paul Angell IFFA President



Michael Low receiving the Brown Bowl from IFFA President Paul Angell

Autumn International 12th September, 2024 Llyn Clywedog				
Position				
		Fish		
1st	Scotland	236	484 lb	11 ozs
2nd	England	159	326 lbs	13 ozs
3rd	Ireland	127	263 lbs	9 ozs
4th	Wales	105	219 lbs	7 ozs



Michael Low top individual rod.

Michael was drawn with Richard Slater of England who won the toss and opted to head for the northern most end of the reservoir. Michael started with two boobies and a cormorant on a di7 and took a fish on his third cast. He picked away steadily and had 14 in the morning before it quietened down.

They stayed in the same area for the rest of the day and in the afternoon he changed to the bung and picked up a further 21 fish to finish on 35. Richard finished on 9.



Tyler Hay - 2nd overall

Tyler was drawn with Stephen Browne of Ireland and on winning the toss he opted to go to Bigger Bay. He started on a booby basher and picked up three there but finding it slow they moved to the cages area.

Tyler changed to the bung and picked away steadily in the cages area and picked up 24 there to give him 27 in total. Stephen finished on 15.



Ronnie Gilbert - 6th overall

Ronnie was drawn with Nigel Worvell of Wales. Nigel won the toss and took them to Bigger Bay. Ronnie set up with a di7 and had seven there before it slowed up.

They moved out to the open water where Ronnie changed to the bung and picked up another 13 to finish on 20.

Nigel finished on 16 and was the top rod for Wales



Thomas McMillan - 5th overall

Thomas was drawn with Donal Forrest of Ireland. Thomas won the toss and opted to go to Bigger Bay. He set up with the bung and took a fish on first cast. He had thirteen of his fish at Bigger.

After 2pm they moved to the jetty area. Thomas stayed on the bung and picked up another eight fish there to finish on 21. Donal finished on 5.



Ben Robertson - 7th overall

Ben was drawn with Joe Ferguson of Ireland and having won the toss he opted to start in the cages area. Ben started off on the booby basher and was taking fish steadily until it slowed down.

They stayed in the cages area and a change to the bung kept things going. At the end of the day Ben had twenty fish. Joe finished on six.



Back Row: Tyler Hay, Derek Keenan (manager), Peter Auchterlonie, Grant Sutherland, Martin McCafferty, Chris Mcallister, Derek Pozzi, Ben Robertson, Michael Low and Paul Angell (IFFA President)
 Front Row: Scott Aitken, Kevin Neri, Thomas McMillan, Kevin McCabe (captain), Ronnie Gilbert, Joseph Wood and George Mackenzie (International Secretary)

12th September 2024 Individual Scottish Positions (Full result can be found at www.iffa.net)				
overall position		Fish	Lbs	Ozs
1st	Michael Low	35	70	4
2nd	Tyler Hay	27	55	2
5th	Thomas McMillan	21	43	9
6th	Ronnie Gilbert	20	41	9
7th	Ben Robertson	20	40	10
10th	Joseph Wood	17	35	6
11th	Grant Sutherland	16	33	6
16th	Kevin Neri	14	30	1
18th	Scott Aitken	13	26	13
20th	Chris Mcallister	13	26	4
21st	Martin McCafferty	13	25	5
26th=	Peter Auchterlonie	10	21	4
26th=	Derek Pozzi	10	21	4
40th=	Kevin McCabe	7	13	14