

Stillwater International 2015 Match report

Departing Saturday 9th October and travelling to Ireland for the 6th Stillwater International were Mike Cordiner, Captain. Donald Forbes, Alan Hill, John Brown, Kevin Andrews, Grant Osler, John Johnstone as reserve, Alec Bowler Manager and Fraser Renwick Team Official.



L to R Back Grant Osler, Kevin Andrews, Alan Hill, John Brown
L to R front Donald Forbes, Mike Cordiner, John Johnstone and Alec Bowler

Ferry across from Cairnryan to Belfast saw team eventually arrive late Saturday night at our base LoughShore Hotel, Carrickfergus.

Sunday saw Team arrive for first look at Woodford Fishery, Match venue. Other teams had arrived and we enjoyed a full day practice. Manager Alec Bowler allowed team to use their own preferred methods. With light winds forecast for the next few days up to competition day tactics would always include fishing with indicator and searching out other methods. Speaking to locals and after one full day of practice observations were it was going to be a hard test and securing a method was essential.

Monday saw another full day practice with bright sunshine adding another test. Fish were far and few between but team started to see some trends and patterns for team fly box were being decided. Depth fished, fishing close to bank, type of retrieve, fly line used and nylon used all were developed. Some good fish were coming off. All 30 pegs had anglers on them and all our methods were being tested and protected.

Tuesday was half day practice giving the water a rest in the afternoon before competition day. Teams had 1 hour session on 6 pegs for practice and that was it no more fishing until Wednesday Competition day. Tuesday afternoon saw team fly box brought together in a very productive fly tying session, we were ready, no late night tying this year.

Wednesday Competition day saw an early breakfast and early start. Teams were greeted with a cold, flat calm water which confirmed our plans. Team walk to the fishery was followed by a poignant moment of silence in memory of Moc Morgan of Wales who passed away earlier in the year. Moc had been a strong promotor and sponsor of this event from inception.



Competition day



Anglers March

During Competition John Johnstone became the runner between anglers communicating what was working and what not. Alec and Fraser looked on as it took a while before we recorded our first fish, Grant Osler making sure it was netted successfully and measured 51.4 cms. Four 40 minutes pegs were fished by every angler in morning and afternoon. Match is scored on FIPS Mouche rules, points per fish and for every centimetre length of fish. All fish safely returned, barbless hooks being used.

Strategy was everyone was to target one fish in morning and one in afternoon. Five out of the six anglers caught in the morning with Alan Hill leading the way with 4 fish, 3 off one peg. Scotland had 9 fish in the morning and with only 1 blank it set us up for a testing afternoon. The feedback was that the information from John was essential to the team so his contribution in getting the information around everyone was key to success.

England got off to a fast start in afternoon, with eventual individual winner James Stevenson, into 2 fish quickly. It was going to be tight with every fish so valuable. Scotland were holding onto their fish and a single fish from Alan Hill on the last peg convinced the team we were onto a winner. However Ireland had a better afternoon but the morning lead was enough to see Scotland home.

The results were announced after what seemed a long wait and then it was official, Scotland first with 14 fish, England 13 fish, Ireland 12 fish and Wales 5 fish. John Brown had longest fish at 57.1 cms, top individual was James Stephenson followed by Alan Hill and Phil Dixon England.

Fewer blanks and a superb size of fish helped Scotland achieve it's 3rd Gold medal in 6 years at these Championships. Team plan sticking to flies in the team box ensured all team members contributed to result.



Full results are now on the SANA Website www.sana.org.uk

Team Scotland would like to thank all our sponsors, fisheries and anglers who contributed to finances of the team. In particular Lee Brodie at Brodies Angling & Outdoors for jackets, Stephen MacAveny at Daiwa for shirts, Bobby Quin and Base Gym , George Murray at New Haylie, Iona Allen at the Allandale tarn, Kingennie Resort, Raemoir Trout fishery, Dave Downie and all those that gave raffle prizes and bought tickets.

Next year we go back to Garnffrwd Fishery in South Wales. Provisional date is arrive Sunday 30th October.