World Fly Fishing Championships

Grafham Water, Rutland Water, River Test & Avington Trout Lakes, UK - 23rd-27th May 1987

ALMOST PERFECT

Brian just four points off maximum best

BRIAN LEADBETTER led an English grand slam at the World Fly Fishing Championships by winning both days.

Brian had the team's top catch then clinched the individual title by winning on the River Test and finishing third at Avington.

This gave him just six penalty points, the minimum possible being four.

Brian smoothed 11 fish from the River Test at Kimbridge using a Mayfly imitation and then caught a further ten fish at Avington using shrimp fly and orvis nymph patterns.

Chris Ogborne was second with nine at Grafham and Avington, fifth at Rutland and sixth on the River Test to amass 14 penalty points.

England regular Bob Church was third on 15 points with second place getter Geoff Clarkson of Grafham, fourth at Rutland and seventh on the Test. Dennis Buck made it four in a row for England with 21 points.

Dave McLellan of New Zealand was fifth with 21 penalty points, but an inferior fish points score.

Brian Leadbetter, 40 described the result as 'marvellous.' 'I didn't dream I would end up an champion, competing against the best in the world. I had just intended to be a helpful part of a successful team,' he said.

Avington was the toughest water, with almost before the series started but once I had three wins I knew all I had to do was hold my own at Avington on the last day and the title would be mine,' he added.

Northampton's Bob Church bagged these trout to help England to the title

How points worked

THE Championship was decided by a penalty point system, similar to that used in the coarse fishing World Championships.

This means the winner of any event was given one point, the runner-up two working down the placings.

Each fish was awarded 100 points plus one point for every gramme, up to a maximum of 2,000 points — a maximum of 2,100 points for each fish.

Cheers from the champs! England celebrate their World victory

Only one hitch

THE matches attracted the largest number of countries to ever fish plus an American observer.

It is hoped the USA will enter a team soon, possibly in Argentina next year.

Although organiser Tony Pawson was disappointed that British television did not film the event, thanks to the efforts of Norway's Thorbjorn Tufte, the Norwegian Television Service have covered the matches.

The only hitch came when competitors who were not in the individual championships got lost on the third day when arrangements had been made for them to fish on other venues.

The team contest was determined in the boats at Grafham and Rutland Reservoirs, with each member drawing for venue and fishing the other venue on the second day.

Once the team event had been settled, the best 32 individuals battled it out at Avington and the River Test.

Awash on Rutland during the team event

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FULL RESULT

TEAMS

1.	ENGLAND	85,330 pts
2.	Australia	41,355
3.	New Zealand	27,815

Others: Wales 23,235; Poland 22,765; France 21,830; Finland 21,555; Ireland 18,890; Holland 18,700; Czechoslovakia 17,260; Italy 17,525; Luxembourg; 17,365; Canada 16,920; Belgium 15,915; Norway 12,455; West Germany 12,375; Spain 9,535; Rumania 7,065; Kenya 6,640.

Individuals

Day Three: (Avington) Chris Ogborne (England) 16,425; Bob Church (England) 12,115; G. Gallian (France) 9,925; (Test) Brian Leadbetter (England) 9,970; Dennis Buck (England) 7,335; John Pawson (England) 6,960.

Day Four (Avington) John Pawson (England) 17,390; R Capisano (Italy) 10,275; Brian Leadbetter (England) 10,210; River Test: Dave McLellan (New Zealand) 10,190, Krzysztof Stasuk (Poland) 9,515, S. Mazzarolo (Italy) 7,585.

Overall: Brian Leadbetter (England) 6 penalty points; Chris Ogborne (England) 13; Bob Church (England) 15; Dennis Buckley (England) 21; Dave McLellan (New Zealand) 21.

ANGLER'S MAIL Week-ending June 6, 1987

England

Dennis Buck, Bob Church, Brian Leadbetter, Chris Ogborne, John Pawson, Geoff Clarkson (captain), Brian Thomas (reserve) & Bob Morey (stand-by reserve).

1. England	85,330 pts
2. Australia	41,355 pts
3. New Zealand	27,815 pts
4. Wales	23,235 pts
5. Poland	22,765 pts
6. France	21,830 pts
7. Ireland	18,890 pts
8. Italy	17,525 pts

Individuals:

1. Brian Leadbetter (England)	24,580 pts
2. John Pawson (England)	20,240 pts
3. Chris Ogborne (England)	16,210 pts
4. Bob Church (England)	13,385 pts
5. J. Rent (Australia)	11,610 pts
6. T. Piggott (Australia)	11,095 pts
7. Dennis Buck (England)	10,915 pts
8. T. Entwhistle (New Zealand)	10,365 pts

WORLD FLYFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP 1987

SPONSORED BY NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK

TEAM EVENTS
23-24 MAY: RIVER GRAFHAM WATER & RUTLAND WATER
INDIVIDUAL EVENTS
26-27 MAY: RIVER TEST & AVINGTON TROUT LAKES

ENGLAND

Trout squad live up to their promise

WE are the champions! England team members celebrate their stunning victory.

STORY by ANTHONY HAWKSWELL

WORLD BEATERS! England stormed to a record-breaking victory in the World Flyfishing Championship at the weekend.

They were the only side to qualify for all four matches in the two-day final at Grafham and Rutland Waters.

Bedford engineer Brian Leadbetter led the way with the home side total an amazing 85,330 points, comfortably ahead of runners-up Australia at the top of the globe.

The England team broke the record established at Grafham two years ago — winners for four days in a row. Only Poland (1967) but the Leicestershire and Cambridgeshire stillwaters have been the scene of victory with the biggest ever points tally.

Brian's success, the sum of their nearest rivals Australia and took the top four individual places.

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★ BEDFORD engineer Brian Leadbetter got England off to a flying start in the World Flyfishing Championship with this 5lb trout near Avington

DAZZLING

THE THINGS THEY SAID . . .

Brian Leadbetter, new World Champion . . . "I've just remembered — there have been two World Champions from England, myself and Tony Pawson — and we qualified to fish for England for the first time on the same day, in the same boats, at Chew.

"I couldn't have done this without the help and support of the rest of the team, and we mustn't forget the part played by our reserve, Brian Thomas, who was on hand throughout the championships.

Jon Batteridge, retiring President of the NFA, through whom the invitation from CIPS to host the event came. He handed it onto the Salmon and Trout Association — "This is the best organised World Championship I've ever been involved with. The hospitality is superb, and I'm particularly proud to have been President when the event was held in this country for the — track both individual and team prizes at a World Championship."

Chris Ogborne, second overall — "We said that we'll continue our close friendship, and I'm sure we will. It's exactly what has happened, and to the end we've shared flies and tactics.

Dick Willis, 28th overall he hoked . . . "On Tuesday morning on the Test, I hooked a fish and it jumped three times. There was no time to strip so I left it in. Every time I cast the line caught on it, which was annoying, but the fly wouldn't removed it for me at lunchtime."

Bob Church, third overall — "I started with my very best performance with my very last cast at Grafham as Bob Church was about to start the motor. What a superb fish! I really wondered if I'd got a salmon."

Tuesday lunchtime . . . "If the fishing's this good on the other side, I'm booking the next bus . . ."

Bob Church, third overall, commenting on the championships as a whole — "I've had a gallery behind me on the bank, and this brought out the showman in me, as I fished much better. I got a lovely rear rib brown on a Grey Wulff.

Dave McLellan, top overseas rod from New Zealand . . .

"The fellah on the next boat to me got his first rise in a line. As I watched he walked across the water and fetched it. 'Who is this guy?' I asked my gillie. 'He's the Pope!'"

"No' said the ghillie, 'it's God — he just thinks he's Bob Church . . .'

David Swetland, Chairman of the Salmon and Trout Association . . .

"We are here because our wives have made it possible. Let us pay tribute to them, where would we be without them?

"Finally, I add a word from the Queen.

Brian Leadbetter, from behind on oxygen mask on Saturday night . . .

"Get out there and beat those Pommie bastards."

Brian Leadbetter . . .

"I'm retiring after this week. Of those, I felt a pull from just seven.

Mac Morgan . . .

"I was saving so many dead fish this week I hope the Welsh World Championships in four years time will be a no-kill contest."

Celebration time for the England squad as they collect the lion's share of the trophies at the Championship prize-giving. Pictured including the winning team's Aquabrush Trophy (left to right) Bob Morey, Brian Thomas, Dennis Buck, Brian Leadbetter, Geoff Clarkson (non-fishing captain), Chris Ogborne, Brian Leadbetter, Bob Church and Dennis Buck.

England's John Pawson nets another stockie in Rutland's North Arm on his way to a second place 21 fish.

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TROUT FISHERMAN

TROUT FISHERMAN

ENGLAND

WORLD FLYFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP 1987

Home side thrash the world in both team and individual championships

Report: STEVE WINDSOR
Pictures: PETER GATHERCOLE

A EXPECTED England crushed the opposition in the Home Championships, fished at their very best in the end — but there was so much more to their victory than meets the eye.

For it was preparation and practice that characterised this England team, perfectly coached and controlled by manager Tony Pawson and Geoff Clarkson who first assembled his team more than a year ago for a look at the venues, then led them through more than a dozen practice sessions on both venues prior to the event. So comprehensive was the resulting victory for the Anglian Water Trophy that we may have seen the last ever in match fishing.

The great justification for all the preparation came for Geoff on day one at Rutland. Having practised assiduously, he and his team discovered a vast pocket of fish down Rutland's unfenced North Arm below Armley Wood. The English boat was the only one to head for the drifts and left them. As the boats set out at Rutland on that first day, just two boats set off down the North, with John Pawson and Chris Ogborne in them, and the match was as good as won.

It was a matter of success. Chris Ogborne who topped the first day Grafham weights, told me: "We should now reconsider our team approach to the home internationals in future."

Brian then returned to his regular venue, and topped the bank at Grafham, too, with six fish the following day.

Bob Church, England cruising out in front, and guaranteed all five of the team a place in the top ten individual event. With all four days competition counting Brian was way out in front with just two penalty points, followed by Bob Church with 15 points. Behind us, Australian John Rumpf and New Zealand's Tony Entwistle on eight and Dennis Buck on nine after he won his second Test match. Chris Ogborne had 17 points after slumping to 15th on Grafham.

The team placings for second and third brought some surprises. Poland had been hotly tipped to do well, but no one could have suspected their second place in the team championship — beating the other three home nations out of the frame. Their success was due to their non-fishing skipper John Saulelle senior down to Peterborough hospital with a spot of heart trouble. John had been fishing the Polish Open event in Wroclawek's Gould Hall on Wednesday night, but meanwhile his team were wreaking havoc with the form book.

The rise of the unexpected individuals was John Rumpf and Tony Entwistle.

They had a lot of help from Alan Pearson and Peter Thomson, and in addition we had a fisheries expert in the team in the shape of Dr Mike Seddon of Rob Sloane. He had some pretty accurate ideas about the behaviour of stockies, and where to find them. I discovered that Mike and Alan Pawson that we had similar ideas to the English lads, and on our day at Rutland, I felt I really should have had more fish than I did. Mike and Alan said: "We're all pretty good casters, which helped, but we've never fished from boats before, and most of our Australian fishing is visual. Mike Seddon's Australian Test team-mate Bob Wilkins of Grafham put up on your patterns, like the Silver Invicta and the Church Fry. We also had to borrow long rods from the lads, as we're used to 9ft rods. Remember this is purely an invitational side put together through the auspices of our Freshwater Fisherman's Association."

Following skipper John Saulelle into hospital . . .

It's been an advantage speaking the language. We've had to throw away a lot of our ideas about trout fishing, and start again from scratch with a great strength. Of course we've used English books and magazines, including Trout Fisherman, but most of us were brought up fishing reservoirs for fishers of three flies. Now we know it works.'

Third placed New Zealand drew a huge cheer when they announced: "If you have to be beaten it's nice to lose to the best coarse fishermen in the art of offshore sliding . . ."

Best fish of the team championship was this superb 4 lb rainbow taken by Brian Leadbetter on Rutland's North arm one minute to go.

Grafham Dick Willis at Grafham

Brian Leadbetter, the World Flyfishing Champion, steals a kiss from Miss World contestant Lusiana Lynch, commercial director for Miss World Productions Ltd at his stand at the Flyfishing Show.

Whoops . . . our Bob Church has just hooked himself in the bottom lip! A three pound brownie shot a frustrating morning landing specimen rainbows from a deep hole.

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DAZZLING ENGLAND

AND SO to Winchester, an ancient city with a cathedral setting for angling, with 32 individuals poised to take on the Test at Kimbridge and Avington. Two sessions on two beats on the Test, with the luxury of luck scoring proceedings as competitors drew for position. At Avington a pegging and sessions system was in force.

Day One, Tuesday, Avington up, and on the Tuesday it was that man again, as Brian Leadbetter took 11 fish and first place on a variety of mayflies, shrimp and orvis nymph patterns. The Silhouette Mayfly, Shadow Mayfly, Flyline Sedge and Grey Wulff and the Grey Wulff all scored for Brian, putting him in an almost unbeatable position. Brian had been working away from home for the previous week, at the Crown at Evenlode, and his Avon boats had provided him with practice galore.

"I don't find dry fly too difficult," he said, "but I'm still unlike allowing fish to turn down with a top dropper on the reservoir."

Dennis Buck was second to Brian with nine fish, and John Pawson's nine brought him third on the Test beats. Over at Avington, Chris Ogborne pipped Bob Church by three fish, 14 against 11, and Grafham star Chris Ogborne could only as a maximum weight of 4¼lb, and Bob's eight pound plus Avington rainbow was one to remember.

Chris Ogborne had found a deadly fly, a Hare's Ear shrimp, and Brian took all his fish at Avington on it. But John Pawson's nine fish put him in top two at Avington, with first place. Brian's fourth was Leicestershire Ian Hall, championship. Over on the Test Chris Ogborne managed sixth, and Bob Church, who had a frustrating morning returning over 30 fish that were just under the 36cms rainbow limit, lifted the afternoon form for seventh spot.

What happened to the Aussies, widely fancied in the individuals to their lever and Tony Entwistle, New Zealand, piloted John Saulelle junior commented:

"Interesting enough we were not too well prepared. I had just one Mayfly pattern, and I lost it early in the morning in a tree. Put it down to four hours sleep.

Chris Ogborne on his way to another victory . . . this time at Avington when he took seven trout from the favoured deep hole to finish in the first 20 minute session of the individual championships. Chris was to finish second individual.

TROUT FISHERMAN

a night for 14 days, or to a slump after getting up for the team performance, but we just had to be consistent."

And so it was Brian Leadbetter's trophy. At the ceremony at the Winchester Guildhall he accepted the Aquabrush Trophy (a first edition split cane Partridge rod worth over £500, and Farlows tackle voucher. Chris Ogborne was second, Bob Church third, and Dennis Buck fourth to take his prize for a Trout Fisherman contest; Dennis Buck was fourth, New Zealander Dave McLellan fifth and John Pawson sixth.

Tributes were made to the many sponsors, the Sports Council, Nat West Bank, Findlakes; Dawes (whose Pipe Dream rod was used by most of the event throughout); Volvo Freight Rower, the Humbers and Avon boat builders who gave the Test boats; Mrs Rutland at Avington; and, unfortunately unmentioned, Trout Fisherman.

This was the event that World competition in fly fishing came of age, and it will be back in the UK in Tasmania in November, 1988, for wild fish, and from the shore — a different kettle of fish.

Bob Church knows Avington from old, so he was able to winkle out this 6lb 4oz rainbow on an orange patterned nymph from a difficult swim to finish second behind Chris Ogborne.

TROUT FISHERMAN

RESULTS

Team championships (Points scored by each team's best four individuals in each section): 1. England, 85,330 pts; 2. Australia, 41,355; 3. New Zealand, 27,815; 4. Wales, 23,235; 5. Poland, 22,765; 6. France, 21,830; 7. Ireland, 18,890; 8. Italy, 17,525; 9. Canada, 16,920; 10. Czechoslovakia, 16,280; 11. Belgium, 15,915; 12. Luxembourg, 15,915; 13. Finland, 13,310; 14. Norway, 12,455; 15. Luxemburg, 11,490; 16. West Germany, 10,760; 17. Spain, 9,535; 18. Kenya, 6,640; 19. Eire, 5,585.

Individual Championships (Lowest score wins, one point for first, two for second etc. out of 32 competitors):

First: Brian Leadbetter, 6 + 1 + 1 + 4 = 7; Second: Chris Ogborne, 13 + 1 + 1 + 6 = 13; Third: Bob Church, 2 + 4 + 2 + 7 = 15; Fourth: Dennis Buck, 8 + 1 + 2 + 10 = 21; Fifth: Dick Willis (Scot), 25, M. Olver (N.Z), 26; N. Nicholotti (Italy), 27; John Rumpf (Aus), 28; J. Stasuk (W. Germany), 30; R. Willis (Ireland), 30; J. Elsner (Czech), 31; M. Lennon (Ireland), 32; M. Jones (Wales), 33; J. Saulelle (Australia), 35; J. Entwistle (New Zealand), 36; Dr. J. Seddon (Australia), 37; B. Thomas (Reserve), 38; R. Capisano (Italy), 39; G. Gallian (France), 40; J. Rent (Australia), 41; J. Saulelle (Poland), 42; T. Piggott (Aus), 43; J. Hall (England), 44; P. Thomson (Aus), 45; A. Pearson (Aus), 46; M. Seddon (Aus), 47; R. Sloane (Aus), 48; A. Hawksworth (Aus), 49; M. Hall (Aus), 50; A. Pawson (Aus), 51; M. Pawson (Aus), 52; M. Sloane (Aus), 53; M. Hall (Aus), 54; M. Hall (Aus), 55; A. Pawson (Aus), 56; M. Pawson (Aus), 57; M. Sloane (Aus), 58; M. Hall (Aus), 59; A. Pawson (Aus), 60; M. Pawson (Aus), 61; M. Sloane (Aus), 62; M. Hall (Aus), 63; A. Pawson (Aus), 64; M. Pawson (Aus), 65; M. Sloane (Aus),