

**RIVERS INTERNATIONAL**  
**RIVER TAY SCOTLAND 29/ 06/2012**

This year Scotland hosted the Rivers International on the massive River Tay in Perthshire. The England team consisted of Phil Dixon (captain) Mike Dixon, John Tyzack, Tony Baldwin, Terry Philips, Scott Nellins (reserve) and manager Mike Tinnion.

Apart from various individual sorties the whole squad practiced for a weekend on the Tay in mid May. With large hatches of Olive Uprights and Grannom, the fishing was superb with fish rising everywhere. It was never going to last ! And by late June the hatches had tailed off and the monsoons had arrived.

Match week arrived and with it, flood warnings for Perthshire. Brilliant !

Initial practice showed the catches of 10 to 12 fish in an hour and a half were just a happy memory. Someone asked "What would you take catch-wise match day ?" I replied half-joking "A fish per angler per session". As it was to prove, not a half bad target.

Match day and after heavy rain the Tay is in flood and just down the road the Scottish Game Fair is abandoned, but anglers are made of sterner stuff. A normal river in flood is quite spectacular. The Tay is awesome, with a sweeping majesty that demands respect in low water, now it was a snarling brute of a river.

It was to prove a real test, just how hard was brought home to me when watching Phil Dixon cheering after catching a trout with 2 minutes to go in his first session.

At lunch time after 2 sessions, it became obvious beating the blank was good, anything else was great, and anything like Tony Baldwin's 5 brill.

Wales were leading, with England 7 placing points behind, and then a good gap to Ireland and Scotland. All to play for.

After a brief respite, the heavens opened again and the river that had peaked out started to rise again, but here and there in the eddies odd trout started to rise. Wales built on their morning's work and, it must be said, fished superbly to take the Geoff Clarkson Trophy and the match, with Allen Hughes of Wales the Top Individual and winner of the Moc Morgan Trophy, our own John Tyzack taking the Mike Childs Trophy for the biggest fish, and Phil Dixon in 2<sup>nd</sup> place individually.

Team England (with 3 new river caps) finished with a very credible silver, with Scotland in bronze, and Ireland in fourth.

All said and done, the real winner was the sport of fly-fishing, with the whole match fished to the highest standards of sportsmanship and fair play. Long may it last !

So next year it moves on to the Taff, where England will fish to wrestle Gold from the Welsh on home ground.

For a full set of results please see the I.F.F.A. website.

Yours Mike Tinnion. T.E.F.F. RIVERS MANAGER,