England convincingly won the Bank International at Garnffrew Fishery in South Wales by a record margin with a tremendously consistent team performance over 2 sessions. The team consisted of Simon Robinson as captain with team members Terry Phillips, Dean Appleby, Phil Dixon, Jim Tuck and Mark Harrison, with Andy Taylor as reserve and Alan Jenkins as team manager.

The team arrived well in advance of official practice and set out to try various tactics to establish the best methods for the competition. The team was made up of experienced small water anglers and the best methods were quickly established. The team were very impressed with the quality of the fish and the fishing at Garnffrew and although some pegs were better than others it was clear that fish could be taken from every peg on the lake which is ideal for a team event.

Although fish were taken on dries and nymphs after 2 days of practice it was clear the best methods were olive or black lures fished on intermediate lines, a white lure or egg fly fished under an indicator fly and a zonker fished on D3 on deeper pegs. During official practice the team concentrated on other methods whilst occasionally ‘testing’ the agreed tactics to ensure they were still working. After official practice it was clear that no better methods had been found so the team tactics and the 3 rods carrying the agreed methods were set for the match. Andy Taylor as reserve would move between pegs and keep all the team updated on scores and successful methods, a vital job on the day.

England got off to a fantastic start with the lure and indicator rods accounting for most of the early fish and at lunch time they had established a commanding lead. Dean Appleby and Terry Phillips had both taken 11 fish including early 5 fish pegs. Simon Robinson and Phil Dixon had taken 7 fish, Jim Tuck 6 fish and Mark Harrison 5 fish.

The England team continued with the same tactics after dinner and with Andy Taylor continuing to keep team members informed, also won the afternoon session with Terry Phillips taking another 8 fish and Dean Appleby taking 6 fish to again take the first two individual spots.

Terry Phillips and Dean Appleby tied as top individual with an incredible score of 3 place points with Terry taking the individual title on fish numbers. England finished with 5 of the top 8 anglers to final record a winning margin of 25 fish and 70 place points - a very impressive team performance.

Results

Team
1st England - Total placings - 88 (76 fish)
2nd Scotland - Total Placings - 158 (51 fish)
3rd Wales - Total Placings - 163 (50 fish)
4th Ireland - Total Placings - 194 (41 fish)

Individual
1st - Terry Phillips - England - Total placings - 3 (19 fish)
2nd - Dean Appleby - England - Total placings - 3 (17 fish)
3rd - Stephen Corsar - Scotland - Total placings - 9 (13 fish)
4th - Brian Kerr - Ireland - Total placings - 10 (14 fish)
5th - Matthew Jones - Wales - Total placings - 12 (13 fish)
6th - Simon Robinson - England - Total placings - 12 (12 fish)
7th - Phil Dixon - England - Total placings - 14 (12 fish)
8th - Jim Tuck - England - Total placings - 14 (11 fish)