World Fly Fishing Championships
Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada - May 1993

It's the year of the young ones

'Awesome' stuff in cool Canada

At the moment, England must definitely rule the world at fly-fishing, as three recent events have proved beyond any doubt.

First, England won the Home Countries International, two weeks ago in Canada, won the World Fly Fishing Championships. They followed this by winning again in the Commonwealth event.

So, at stillwater fly-fishing, England are the best. Isn't it nice to say we are the best at a sport after the cricket and football nightmares?

I enjoyed my three weeks in Canada, flying into Vancouver before driving through magnificent scenery to Kamloops. This is the home of the famous strain of rainbow trout which has now found its way all over the world.

They have a saying in Canada - if something is different in any way, it's 'awesome'. Actually, that's how I would describe British Columbia. Its sheer size is awesome.

Our party - the England Commonwealth team of Dennis Buck, Chris Howitt, Dave Grove, Brian Thomas, Charles Jardine, Tony Pawson and myself, fished on several lakes around Kamloops and enjoyed some magnificent sport.

In all, we caught 530 trout topped by a 9 lb 8 oz rainbow and Eastern brook trout to 4 lb. Ninety nine per cent of fish caught were returned, and we used only one fly at the time: this is a local rule. Having said that, stillwaters seem to behave the same level over where trout are concerned.

Standard British tactics worked really well on all the Canadian lakes, and it was these that gave us the edge. I am very pleased to say that Wales also got in on the act by providing the individual World Champion in 23-year-old Russell Owen. In fly-fishing, what with Jeremy Herman and now Russell, it's the year of the young ones.

At every lake we visited, the bird life interested me almost as much as the fishing. Each day we had 200-300 binoculars with us, and we all enjoyed the bird life. The most dramatic, eerie, howling call was made by the Snowy Owl at every lake.

The rainbow and brookies have a main diet of shrimp or, as they call them, 'cucts' - plus chironomids very similar to ours.

They also moped on Damsel and Dragonflies in plenty, a type of Mayfly, and they always left the large sedge for last.

The fly patterns which worked best for us were:

- pupa (buzzer)
- Damsel Nymphs
- Black Leech
- A Welsh Nymph called Dai Bach

These were all that were needed to get seriously good catches.

I was happy to see that Welsh also got in on the act by providing the individual World Champion in 23-year-old Russell Owen. In fly-fishing, what with Jeremy Herman and now Russell, it's the year of the young ones.

A brave move gave us the winning bag

England

John Lindsey, Jeremy Lucas, Paul Ogborne, John Pawson, John Braithwaite (reserve) & Geoff Clarkson (manager).

1. England
2. Poland
3. Italy
4. Wales
5. Czechoslovakia
6. Sweden
7. France
8. Germany
9. Scotland
10. New Zealand

Individuals:
1. Russell Owen (Wales)
2. Franciszek Stojak (Poland)
4. John Buchanan (Scotland)
5. John Lindsey (England)
6. Chris Ogborne (England)

England

1. England
2. Poland
3. Italy
4. Wales
5. Czechoslovakia
6. Sweden
7. France
8. Germany
9. Scotland
10. New Zealand

Individuals:
1. Russell Owen (Wales)
2. Franciszek Stojak (Poland)
4. John Buchanan (Scotland)
5. John Lindsey (England)
6. Chris Ogborne (England)