

# *English Fly Fishing Association*

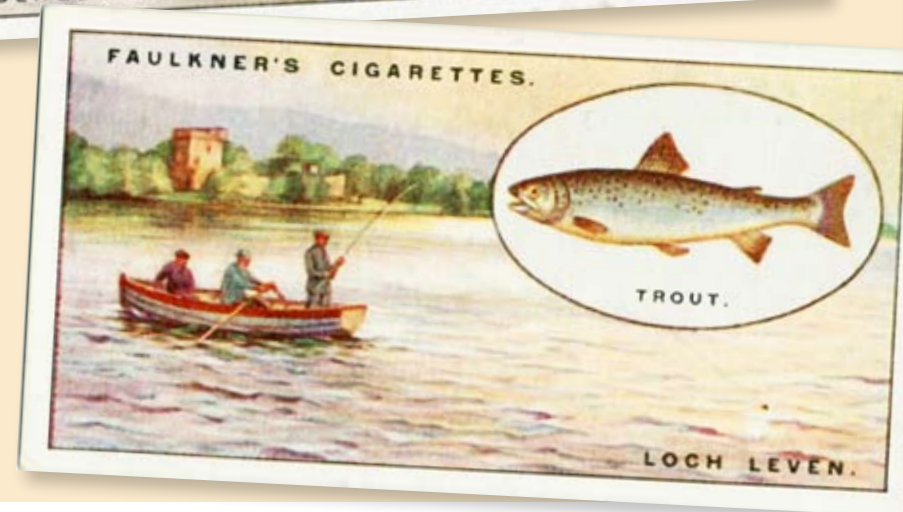
CELEBRATING NINETY YEARS 1928-2018





## Cigarette cards from the time of our inception

The tobacco company W. & F. Faulkner was founded in 1838 in the same year Victoria was crowned. They produced many sets of cigarette cards including, in 1929, this set of twenty five, just as the English competition scene was beginning.



Scottish competition fishing was already well established and this card explains a bit about Loch Leven



### Trout Fishing on Loch Leven, Kinross-shire.

A loch where two anglers can go out in a boat with a fair chance of each catching 20 trout averaging 1 lb. in a short day—such is Loch Leven. Its trout are naturally famous the world over. The loch is the scene every year of competitions between picked anglers of leading Scottish clubs, and the championship is always keenly contested. It involves great skill in working the flies, playing and netting the trout, sometimes two at once, without loss of time, and judgment in what is called the “drift”. It often happens that trout rise freely in one part in the morning and in another not till afternoon. It pays to note where the gulls are also taking the flies.

(front cover) The English team before the one-off ‘Friendly’ against Ireland in 1937. B.C. Hall is fifth from the right.

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We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this celebration of our ninetieth birthday.

# English Fly Fishing Association

## CELEBRATING NINETY YEARS 1928-2018

### History of the Association

The Association was inaugurated on 11 April 1928 as the *Wet Fly Trout Fishing Match between England and Scotland*. This was amended to the *Artificial Fly Trout Fishing Match* in 1929, again between England and Scotland.

The Association originated when four friends, R.H. Dodds, C. Short, R.K. Armstrong and W.R. McCreath, arranged a fishing holiday on Loch Leven in 1926 with a challenge as to which pair could catch the most fish. In the event C. Short failed to turn up and the Scottish boatman J. Todd took his place with R.H. Dodds and these two won the day.

This led to a challenge for the following year where R.H. Dodds and W.R. McCreath invited as many pairs as wished to fish in *The Trout Fishing Championship of the World*. The match lasted for fourteen hours with agreed rest periods for the contestants. The team of R.H. Dodds and W.R. McCreath won with 73 fish which was duly reported in the *Fishing Gazette* and other newspapers leading to a Scottish challenge for a team competition to be held in 1928.

Thus the first committee meeting was held on 11 April 1928 at The County Hotel, Newcastle on Tyne to make arrangements and select a team to represent England and was attended by J. Wood (Chairman), R.H. Dodds, R.K. Armstrong and W.R. McCreath.

*The Duke of York, the future George VI and elected the first captain.*



Twenty competitors and six reserves made up the team. The captain elect was keen angler HRH The Duke of York with other noteworthy names being P.M. Horsfall, Rev. M. Horsfall, J.J. Hardy, R.H. Dodds, R.K. Armstrong, C. Short, G. Waddell and S.O. Hanlon, with W.R. McCreath to take over as captain in the event of the Duke being unavailable to fish. Sadly there is no record of the Duke’s involvement.



*The County Hotel, scene of the first committee meeting in 1928.*

In 1932 Ireland and Wales entered teams into the competition and we became the *International Fly Fishing Competition (Loch Leven) English Team*. Matches were then fished annually until the War when no matches or competitions were held until 1950. In 1952 a further name change took place and we became the *English International Fly Fishing Association* and in 1973 the name became what it is today, *English Fly Fishing Association*. Involvement in the home Internationals ceased in 1970.

So the Association has existed for ninety years and is thriving. The membership is limited to seventy five and we are approaching that number with well over half being very active regularly attending our events. This publication celebrates the life of a unique organisation.



# The Committee and Members 2018

The English Fly Fishing Association is a unique angling organisation which has, throughout its history, strived to hold true to the traditions and sporting standards of serious but fair competitive fly fishing which were laid at its foundation. The Association has always sought to combine the camaraderie and skills of fly fishing with making new friends through sharing a boat in pursuit of trout. None of this could be achieved without the support, co-operation and like-mindedness of the teams representing the Professionals, Armed Forces, Police and all the other skilled anglers who have made up the occasional teams who fish with us. This book is a celebration of all those who have contributed to the continuing success of our Association over the past 90 years.

Our very special thanks go to one of our Members, Chris McLeod, who has used the days he has not been on the water to apply his special skills to research and produce this book. I know you will enjoy reading it and reflecting on the good times we have all shared.

John Gamon CBE, President

## Members in 2018 and the year they joined the Association

1956	J.B. Holtom	Warwickshire	1996	N.G. Dixon	Cambridgeshire
1968	J.H. Smith	Scotland	2000	R. J. Church	Northamptonshire
1969	N.P.L. Whipp	Gwynedd	2000	J. Duffield	Bedfordshire
1972	W.V. Church	Northamptonshire	2000	D.G. Price	Herefordshire
1978	R.O. Dickens	Northamptonshire	2000	M.G. Wortley	Dumfriesshire
1980	P.G. Beauchamp	Herefordshire	2001	T.E. Herd	Lancashire
1981	M. Radley Searle	Devon	2001	R. Kew	Leicestershire
1983	P.J. Hartley	Hertfordshire	2001	P.C. Proctor	Bedfordshire
1985	M.R.J. Parrott	Bedfordshire	2002	R. Dixon	Shropshire
1986	M.P. Heckler	Carmarthenshire	2003	J. Gamon	Buckinghamshire
1986	W.D. Scott	Merseyside	2003	C.D. McLeod	Lincolnshire
1987	J.R. Nicholson	Northamptonshire	2007	A. Linwood	Bedfordshire
1991	P. West	Leicestershire	2007	D. Morris	Yorkshire
1991	P.J. Norman	Herefordshire	2007	S. Ottridge	Rutland
1992	C.W.B. Jardine	Shropshire	2007	D. Moore	Northamptonshire
1993	R. Jenkins	Cambridgeshire	2008	M. Searle	Cambridgeshire
1993	J. Lindsey	Cambridgeshire	2011	P. de Kremer	Rutland
1993	R.D. McElroy	Cheshire	2011	R. Tutt	Cyprus
1993	I.M. Peberdy	Herefordshire	2012	J. Clarke	Cambridgeshire
1994	D.J.S Currall	Devon	2012	R. Storer	Cambridgeshire
1995	L. Aylott	Devon	2013	A. Sefton	Cambridgeshire
1995	D. Froggatt	Buckinghamshire	2013	M. Carr	Northamptonshire

## Officers

President	John Gamon
Vice-President	Peter Proctor
Immediate Past President	Chris McLeod
Secretary	David Moore
Treasurer	Peter Proctor

## Elected Committee Members

Patrick Beauchamp, Peter Hartley, Ray Jenkins (wardrobe),  
Steve Ottridge, Ian Peberdy, Ray Storer (results).  
Mel Parrott (co-opted)

Team Captain Ray Storer

# 1928-1939 1928

The wonderful picture below is of the first ever ‘official’ team, on 29 May 1928 at Loch Leven.

The twenty names gleaned from a press cutting are: W.R. McCreath (Captain), Reverend J. Adams, J.W. Armstrong, R.H. Armstrong, Dr J.H. Blayney, H.H. Chartress, J.G. Crossman, R.H. Dodds, N.E.B. Elgar, Sir F. Graham Bart, S.O. Hanlon, Reverend M. Horsfall, P.M. Horsfall, M.E. Meling, Colonel J.H. Openshaw, B. Pumphrey, C. Short, G. Waddell and Major A.W. Campbell- Skinner.

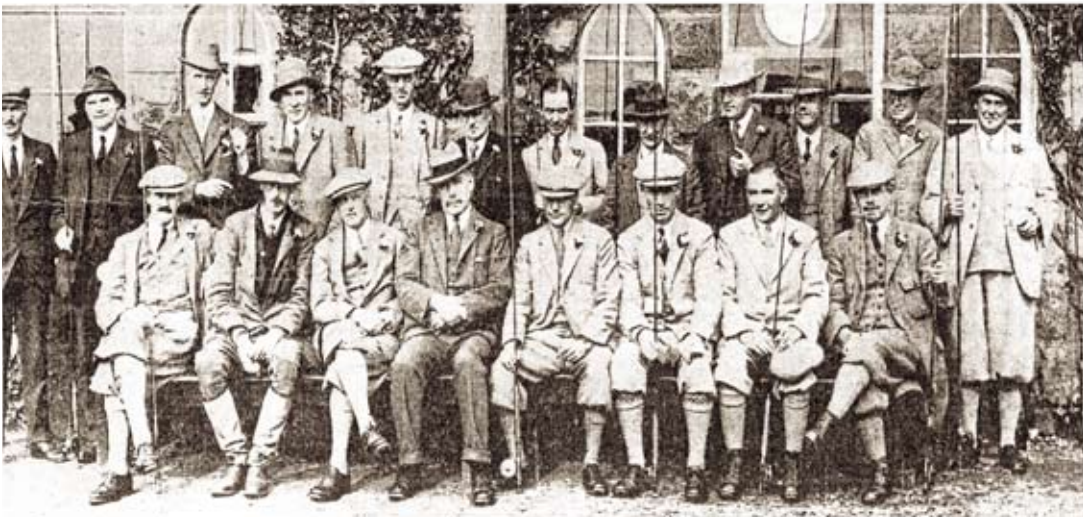
Reserves S. Bury, Major R.M. Gladstone, J.J. Hardy, A.E. Metcalfe-Gibson, G. Nicholls, J.S.E. Walker.

If rods in some old pictures look longer than we expect today it is because they could be up to 15 feet long until 1939. Also worth noting that Christian names were rarely used in the press until after the war, with initials only preferred.





These pictures appeared in a contemporary angling book — obviously a thick volume as is indicated by the last sentence below.  
Any information on its origin would be gratefully received.



THE SCOTTISH TEAM  
Mr. Thomas Knox  
(the Captain).  
Mr. D. Sheppard.  
Mr. J. B. Price.  
Mr. J. B. McVitie.  
Mr. D. Black.  
Mr. W. G. France.  
Mr. G. Scrimgeour.  
Mr. D. A. Fraser.  
Mr. D. N. Sloan.  
Mr. William Forrest.  
Mr. R. T. Mitchell.  
Mr. J. M. Johnstone.  
Capt A. D. Cameron.  
Mr. D. T. H.  
McQueen.  
Dr. Dickson.  
Mr. D. Campbell.  
Mr. G. Easson.  
Mr. A. Wutherspoon.  
Mr. J. Hart, and  
Mr. J. Dawson.

Below the picture of the Scottish team in 1928 was this caption (with possibly some words missing).

*'A trout angling match between England and Scotland, held on May 29 on Loch Leven, was the first one of its kind. The competitors hand picked fishermen from both countries, no fewer than 60 Scottish clubs having sent in recommendations to the match committee. There were 20 competitors on each side, two of the same team being in each boat, and the weather, following a long spell of very bad angling conditions, turned out much better for fishing than had been hoped for. Considering the local knowledge of the water the Scots team were expected to win, but the English anglers upset this opinion by beating the arrivals by the narrow margin of fifteen and a half ounces, the total catch of 137 trout weighing 101lbs 12oz. Further reference to the contest will be found on page 708.'*

## 1933

The England Team (*right*) before the 1933 International at Loch Leven, won by Ireland, with England runners up. The team plus two reserves was as follows:  
J.W. Armstrong (Captain), W. Ayre, T. Beach,  
R.H. Dodds, N. Elgar, S.E. Hanlon, P.M. Horsfall,  
W. McCreath, W.A. Mowill, G. Nichols,  
J.D. O'Hanlon, S. O'Hanlon, H.E. Roberts,  
C. Short, G. Waddell, E.A. Wawn.  
Reserves: Dr. Cairns, Lt.Col. Skinner.

## 1937

The England Team (*below*), with one member on the left sitting on a donkey, before the one-off 'Friendly' against Ireland. All matches from 1928 to 1970 were on Loch Leven except this extra one on Lough Melvin. Members can be seen wearing the Association tie. B.C. Hall is seated third from the right.



The boats set out on Loch Leven 25 May 1939.





International Results

Our Association, under various names, selected the England team from 1928 until 1971. The early records are incomplete but detailed from 1951 up to the Association’s resignation from the International scene. There was only one official match each year and these were always on Loch Leven. We also fished a *Friendly International* annually – see the panel opposite.

Following is a list of results from the ‘official’ International matches in those early years. And from 1951 we have a complete record of the team members, listed here in the order from first to last, followed in each case by the number of fish they caught. The average weight of fish (brown trout) in those days was barely above a pound, although occasional bigger fish were caught, as is demonstrated by the scores in 1954.

Winning countries 1928-1972:

1928	England	1956	England
1929	Scotland	1957	England
1930	England	1958	Scotland
1931	Scotland	1959	England
1932	Scotland	1960	England
1933	Ireland	1961	England
1934	Scotland	1962	England
1935	England	1963	England
1936	England	1964	England
1937	Scotland	1965	England
1938	Scotland	1966	Scotland
1939	England	1967	Wales
1940-49	No matches	1968	Wales
1950	England	1969	Scotland
1951	England	1970	Wales
1952	Ireland	1971	Spring, Wales
1953	Scotland		Autumn, England
1954	Scotland	1972	Wales, Spring
1955	Scotland	1972	Autumn, Scotland

1951

D.M. Reid 7  
B.C. Hall 6  
W.L.A. McCreath 5  
H.E. Armstrong 3  
D.A. Pattinson 3  
S. Taylor 3  
H. Thomas (c) 3  
Col. F. Ruddy 2  
J.G. Grahame 2  
J.S. Shaw 1  
A.E. Weaver 1  
Col. H.E. Roberts 0

1952

G.N. Cook 2  
W.L.A. McCreath 2  
Col. F. Ruddy 1  
H.E. Armstrong 1  
D.A. Pattinson 1  
B.C. Hall (c) 0  
H. Thomas 0  
Col. H.E. Roberts 0  
R.P. Davie 0  
D.M. Reid 0  
Dr. J. Thomas 0  
S. Taylor 0

1953

F. Moseley 4  
D.A. Pattinson 3  
H. Thomas 2  
S. Taylor 2  
W.L.A. McCreath 3  
H. Potter 2  
B.C. Hall 2  
Dr. J. Thomas 1  
J. Smith 1  
Col. H.E. Roberts (c) 1  
R.P. Davie 0  
A.E. Clyde Jacobs 0

1954

W.L.A. McCreath 12  
H. Thomas 9  
H. Potter 7  
J. Smith 13  
W. Smith 12  
H.E. Armstrong 9  
S. Taylor 10  
B.C. Hall 9  
F. Moseley 6  
R.P. Davie 10  
Col. F. Ruddy (c) 2  
D.A. Pattinson 1

1955

S. Taylor 9  
D.A. Pattinson 9  
W. Smith 7  
H. Thomas 8  
Col. F. Ruddy 8  
J. Smith 7  
B.C. Hall 5  
R.P. Davie 6  
H.E. Armstrong 5  
H. Potter 4  
F. Moseley 40  
J.S. Shaw (c) 0

1956

H. Potter 5  
W. Smith 5  
W. McCreath 4  
Col. F. Ruddy 3  
J. Smith 2  
F. Moseley 1  
S. Taylor 1  
H. Thomas 1  
E. Appleby 1  
H.E. Armstrong (c) 0  
B.C. Hall 0  
Dr. J. Thomas 0

1957

H. Thomas 16  
H. Potter 12  
W.L.A. McCreath 10  
D.A. Pattinson 10  
F. Ruddy (c) 8  
W. Smith 6  
B.C. Hall 6  
W.P. Milne 5  
J. Smith 3  
S. Taylor 3  
F. Moseley 1  
H.E. Armstrong 0

1958

Col. F. Ruddy 3  
W. Radley Searle 3  
J. Smith 3  
H. Thomas 3  
B.C. Hall 2  
W. Smith 3  
D.A. Pattinson 3  
F. Moseley 1  
S. Taylor (c) 1  
W.L.A. McCreath 2  
W.P. Milne 1  
H. Potter 0

1959

D.L. Turton 2  
W.P. Milne 2  
S. Taylor 1  
H. Thomas 1  
H.R. Mossop 1  
E.J. Stephenson 1  
W.L.A. McCreath (c) 0  
J. Smith 0  
W. Smith 0  
B.C. Hall 0  
W. Radley Searle 0  
H. Potter 0

1960

H. Thomas 9  
J. Smith 8  
B.C. Hall 5  
S. Taylor 5  
H.R. Mossop 5  
Dr. J.K. Thomas 5  
D.L. Turton 5  
W. Smith 4  
W.L.A. McCreath 4  
W.P. Milne (c) 4  
H. Potter 2  
E.W. Appleby 1

1961

H. Thomas 6  
C.P. Dean 4  
Dr. J.K. Thomas 4  
D.L. Turton 2  
J. Smith (c) 3  
H.R. Mossop 2  
G.W. Grant 2  
H.W. Bruce Jones 2  
S. Taylor 2  
B.C. Hall 1  
W.P. Milne 1  
D.A. Pattinson 1

1962

S. Taylor 18  
W.P. Milne 10  
C.P. Dean 10  
D.A. Pattinson 8  
G.W. Grant 8  
D.A. Turton 8  
J. Smith 7  
B.C. Hall 6  
H. Thomas 6  
H.R. Mossop 5  
Dr. G.K. Thomas (c) 5  
W.E. Sarginson 3

1963

G.W. Grant 8  
H.R. Mossop (c) 2  
H.W. Bruce Jones 1  
C.P. Dean 1  
D.L. Turton 1  
W.P. Milne 0  
B.C. Hall 0  
J. Smith 0  
H. Potter 0  
Dr. J.K. Thomas 0  
W.E. Sarginson 0  
D.A. Pattinson 0

1964

H.W. Bruce Jones 8  
W. Smith 6  
J. Smith 5  
C. Inwood 4  
D.L. Turton 3  
C.P. Dean 3  
W.P. Milne 2  
W. Radley Searle 2  
B.C. Hall (c) 1  
G.W. Grant 1  
S. Taylor 1  
H.R. Mossop 0

1965

W. Radley Searle (c) 4  
C.P. Dean 1  
W.P. Milne 1  
G.W. Grant 1  
E.W. Appleby 1  
H. Kingham 0  
W.E. Sarginson 0  
C. Inwood 0  
H.R. Mossop 0  
H.W. Bruce Jones 0  
D.L. Turton 0  
W.J. Jenkinson 0

1966

S. Taylor 22  
G.W. Grant (c) 18  
W.P. Milne 18  
H.R. Mossop 13  
J.B. Holtom 11  
D.J. Turton 10  
C. Inwood 7  
H.W. Bruce Jones 10  
F.R. Davy 9  
W. Radley Searle 5  
H. Hartley 4  
W.E. Rylands 3

1967

R.W. Beatty 11  
J.B. Holtom 11  
W. Radley Searle 8  
H.W. Bruce Jones (c) 8  
H.R. Mossop 8  
B.C. Hall 6  
G.W. Grant 7  
S. Taylor 4  
D.L. Turton 4  
W. Smith 4  
J. Smith 1  
F.R. Davy 1

1968

G.W. Grant 10  
S. Taylor 8  
H.R. Mossop 7  
J.W. Jenkinson 7  
H. Hartley 9  
J.B. Holtom (c) 6  
R.W. Beatty 6  
B.C. Hall 5  
J. Smith 5  
W. Radley Searle 4  
Wm. Smith 4  
H.W. Bruce Jones 2

1969

R.W. Beatty 3  
W. Radley Searle 2  
G.W. Grant 2  
B.C. Hall 1  
C. Inwood 1  
S. Taylor (c) 0  
H.R. Mossop 0  
H.W. Bruce Jones 0  
D.L. Turton 0  
W.P. Milne 0  
J.B. Holtom 0  
H. Hartley 0

1970

R.W. Beatty 6  
J.B. Holtom 3  
W.P. Milne 2  
J.W.G. Dodds 2  
W. Radley Searle 2  
W. Smith 2  
W.J. Jenkinson (c) 1  
B.C. Hall 0  
J.H. Smith 0  
J. Smith 0  
C. Inwood 0  
H. Hartley 0

*The Brown Bowl*  
This was first presented at Loch Leven in 1956, by John Brown of Scotland, as a trophy for the angler with the best individual basket. It was won that year by England’s Henry Potter with 5 trout for 6lb 15oz, who beat his boat partner William Smith by one ounce.

1971 Spring

R. Slater 5  
H. Hartley (c) 3  
A.G. Mounsden 2  
J. Smith 2  
W.P. Milne 2  
W. Radley Searle 2  
J.H. Smith 1  
R.W. Beatty 1  
W. Smith 1  
B.C. Hall 0  
G.W. Grant 0  
W. Jenkinson

1971 Autumn

W. Radley Searle 10  
G.W. Grant 8  
H.R. Mossop 7  
E.A. Glyde Jacobs 6  
J.B. Holtom 6  
G.C. Coop 4  
J.W.G. Dodds (c) 5  
B.C. Hall 4  
H. Hartley 4  
F. Moseley 4  
J. Smith 3  
W.P. Milne 3

1972 Spring

E.A. Clyde Jacobs (c) 0  
N. Chown 0  
W.P. Milne 0  
G.C. Coop 0  
G.W. Grant 0  
R. Slater 0  
W. Radley Searle 0  
F. Moseley 0  
D.L. Turton 0  
H.W. Bruce Jones 0  
H. Hartley 0  
A.G. Mounsden 0

1972 Autumn

H.W. Bruce Jones 3  
W.P. Milne 1  
D.L. Turton 1  
T. Bilson 1  
H. Hartley 1  
J. Smith 1  
E.A. Glyde Jacobs 1  
H.E. Mossor (c) 0  
G.W. Grant 0  
F. Moseley 0  
W. Radley Searle 0  
R. Slater 0

Official and Friendly Matches

Date	Venue	Captain	Results
Up to 1970,	there was only one ‘official’, four-nation International match annually. On Lough Melvin, in 1937, the first of the <i>Friendly Internationals</i> , sometimes referred to as <i>Unofficial Internationals</i> , was also held in Ireland (and all we know is that Ireland won the event). These <i>Friendly Internationals</i> continued from 1952. Between 1932 and 1969 the full International was always held on Loch Leven, but the venue was changed to Grafham Water in 1970.		
1952	Lough Leane	J.S. Shaw	I. S. E. W.
1953	Lough Corrib	S. Taylor	E. I. W. S.
1954	No match		
1955	Lough Corrib	S. Taylor	I. S. W. E.
1956	Lough Conn	B.C. Hall	S. I. W. E.
1957	Lough Conn	H. Thomas	I. E. S. W.
1958	Claerwen	W.P. Milne	I. E. W. S.
1959	Lough Conn	H. Potter	E. I. S. W.
1960	Lough Corrib	J. Smith	S. W. E./I.
1961	Lough Conn	S. Taylor	E. I. W. S.
1962	Lough Conn	H.R. Mossop	W. S. E. I.
1963	Lough Conn	A. Moores	W. E. I. S.
1964	Lough Conn	W.R. Searle	I. E. W. S.
1965	Trawsfynydd	B.C. Hall	E. W. I. S.
1966	Lough Conn	B.C. Hall	I. S. E. W.
1967	Lough Conn	H.R. Mossop	I. W. S. E.
1968	Grafham	B.C. Hall	E. W. S. I.
1969	Lough Conn	G.W. Grant	W. S. I. E.
1970	Grafham	J. Smith	S. E. W. I.

Here are some details of ‘*Friendly*’ matches:



# 1946- 1972

## B.C. Hall

B.C. Hall first fished in 1934 as a reserve, and then in every International (apart from 1965/6 when he only managed the 'unofficial' Autumn event) until 1972. An extraordinary and unique record. He was remarkably consistent, fishing three or four times a week and favouring his short line technique. Generally he was fairly quiet but if little was happening he was inclined to suddenly shout 'Come on up, you blue-nosed bastards'. Here he is when President in 1969 with Sidney Taylor, (Captain) and Bill Milne (Secretary) immediately before the *Friendly* on Grafham Water.



This line-up from the 1952 International, simply labelled 'The England Team', and noting the fact that 'Colonel Ruddy and Harold Armstrong are missing'. We know who fished and what they caught, but putting names to faces is tricky.

The team was G.N. Cook, W.L.A. McCreath, Col. F. Ruddy, H.E. Armstrong, D.A. Pattinson, Captain for the day B.C. Hall (*centre kneeling*), H. Thomas, Col. H.E. Roberts, R.P. Davie, D.M. Reid (*kneeling right*), Dr. J. Thomas and S. Taylor (*standing left*). J McMongle is in the picture – presumably a reserve (*standing third from left*), as is Jack Dodds (*standing right*). And could the young lad kneeling second left be a very young Smith twin?

Once more, photographed outside the Lodge at Loch Leven.



## 1956

Two pictures from a *Friendly International*, Lough Conn, 22 September.

The top picture is: *Standing (l to r)* John Holtom, H. Walker, J. McMongle, Bill Milne, E. Ossell, Cecil Dean, Henry Potter

*Seated (l to r)* Arthur Moores, Sidney Taylor, B.C. Hall, Henry Mossop, W. Atkinson.

And the lower picture is: *Standing (l to r)* John Holtom, Sidney Taylor, H. Walker, B.C. Hall (c), J. McMongle, Cecil Dean, Henry Mossop.

*Seated (l to r)* Arthur Moores, Bill Milne, E. Ossell, W. Atkinson, Henry Potter.

In those days our matches made it into the national papers.

At least Harold Armstrong was present for this one.





## 1963 Lough Conn

A gathering of team members.

*Standing (l to r)* George Grant, D. Turton, Tiny Osbaldeston, Harold Potter, Bill Radley Searle.

*Seated (l to r)* B.C. Hall, John Smith, Henry Mossop, Bill Milne, Arthur Moores.

## 1964

A post dinner picture of the International captains with B.C Hall leading England for the second time and notably David Fleming Jones, on the left, is the Welsh captain.



## 1967 Lough Conn

*Standing (l to r)* D. Turton, W. Jenkinson, Henry Mossop, George Grant, Harry Hartley, John Holtom, Bob Beatty.

*Kneeling (l to r)* William Smith, B.C. Hall, Joe Smith, Harold Bruce Jones (Captain), Unknown, Fred Davey, Bill Radley Searle.



## 1968

Two matches were fished this year, the first in Scotland on the regular venue of Loch Leven, and the second in England on the increasingly popular Grafham Water.

## Loch Leven

8 June

*Standing (l to r)* Harold Bruce Jones, F. Davey, J. Smith, George Grant, W. J. Jenkinson, Bill Radley Searle, Harry Hartley, Bob Beatty, Henry Mossop, Sidney Taylor.

*Seated (l to r)* William Smith, John Holtom (captain), B.C. Hall, Joe Smith.



*(above)* Loch Leven team captains in 1968 with John Holtom and John Little standing and, seated, Ireland's H. Abbott with doyen of Welsh fly fishing, Moc Morgan.



# 1968 Grafham Water

14 September

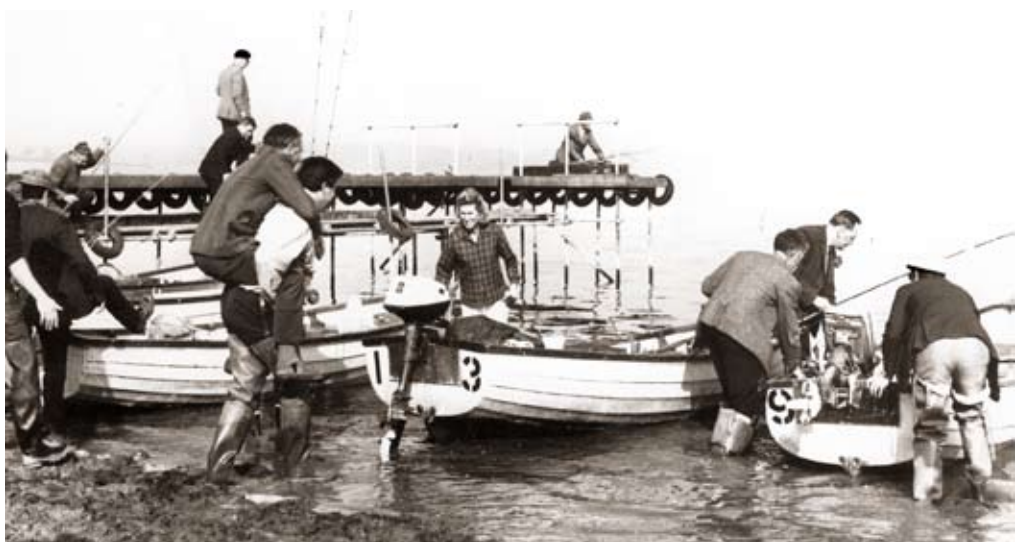
*Standing (l to r)* Sidney Taylor, Tom Bilson, Henry Mossop, Ted Webster, B.C. Hall, George Grant, Harry Hartley, D.L. Turton, F.R. Davey.

*Seated (l to r)* Bill Milne, Cyril Inwood, Bill Radley Searle, Bob Beatty, Harold Bruce Jones, John Holtom.

John Holtom was captain for both matches in 1968.



Mary Radley Searle in the water with John Holtom being given a lift, before the Autumn International at Grafham Water in 1968.



# 1969 Loch Leven

Saturday 7 June. Cyril Inwood is on the extreme left of this picture. He was a highly regarded angler of his day but, according to B.C. Hall, never found form with the England team and struggled to hold his place. This can be seen in the results. But the picture below shows him and Bob Beatty being presented with a prize by Ken Johnson for best boat, almost certainly in this match, when anglers from the same side fished together. Bob was top rod on a very tough day and Cyril scored as well.



B.C. Hall lifts out his motor at the end of the Leven match. Pairs were still from the same team, as can be seen here, with Sidney Taylor in the bow. Sidney, who was captain on the day, blanked and B.C. had just the one fish.



# 1970 Grafham Water

The Autumn Friendly, Grafham Water, 19 September.

*Standing (l to r)* D.L. Turton, Bill Radley Searle, George Grant, Henry Mossop, unknown, Bob Beatty, Harry Hartley.

*Seated (l to r)* Harold Bruce Jones, Bill Milne, B.C. Hall, Cyril Inwood, John Holtom, J.H. Deeley.

Pictures from Anglian Water's Grafham Water log book of the period. This is a three-foot square bound scrapbook with pictures and notes from the late sixties and early seventies and is kept at the Grafham Water Lodge.

It is interesting to note from these pictures that teams fished with their own members still, although each had a boatman and some of the boats had inboard engines. Why they're being pushed off the shore is probably because of low water levels, although the weather had not been particularly dry.



## Mary Radley Searle

Mary Radley Searle setting out all the International trophies. A very poor quality picture but it is still possible to see that the Captain's Badge wouldn't stay upright even then!

Mary had the distinction of fishing for Ireland as a full International, and England in the Ladies team.





## 1970 Loch Leven

Standing (l to r) Tony Moundsen, William Smith, John Holtom, Harry Hartley, Bob Beatty, Jack Dodds, Joe Smith, Ted Webster, Cyril Inwood.

Seated (l to r) W. J. Jenkinson (c), B.C. Hall, Bill Milne, Bill Radley Searle

Most International matches from 1928 to 1971 took place on Loch Leven, and there was only one annually. From 1971 there were two matches each year and other waters were fished. That first year the Spring match was on Lough Leane (or Lèin in Irish) and the Autumn on the Lake of Menteith.



## 1971 Lough Leane

Spring match, 5 June.  
This team came second to Wales and Robin Slater, on the extreme left, was top rod on the day with 5 fish for 7lbs 8oz.

It was a twelve aside match so, John Forster, both senior and junior, on the extreme right, must have been reserves as their weights are not recorded.

## 1971 Lake of Menteith

Autumn match 4 September.  
(A framed score sheet hangs in the Lake of Menteith Lodge.)

(l to r) Harry Hartley, Henry Mossop, B.C. Hall, Jack Dodds (Captain), Bill Milne, George Grant, Bill Radley Searle (overall top rod on the day), John Holtom, E. A. Clyde Jacobs, F. Moseley, Geoff Coop, Joe Smith.

ENGLAND			
Captain—Mr J. W. G. DODDS			
	No.	Lbs.	Oz.
Mr B. C. Hall	4	2	10
Mr W. P. Milne	3	1	11
Mr J. W. G. Dodds	5	3	2
Mr E. A. GLYDE JACOBS	6	3	6
2 Mr G. W. GRANT	8	4	7
3 Mr H. R. MOSSOP	7	4	5
1 Mr W. RADLEY SEARLE	10	5	8
Mr H. HARTLEY	4	2	7
Mr JOSEPH SMITH	3	2	1
Mr J. B. HOLTOM	6	3	5
Mr F. MOSELEY	4	2	4
Mr G. C. COOP	4	3	5
Total	64	138	17
Reserves—			
Mr J. DEELEY	1	1	
Mr E. W. WEBSTER	1	1	



## 1972 Llyn Alaw

3 June. Neither England nor Scotland caught a trout at Llyn Alaw in 1972 and therefore were both awarded fourth place. Only 3 were caught in the match and Wales won with 2 fish for 11lb 5oz. Tough day!

Standing (l to r) E. A. Clyde Jacobs (captain), A. G. Mounsden, Bill Radley Searle, B.C. Hall, Mr. Andrelos (reserve), Geoff Coop, Harry Hartley, Tom Bilson, F. Moseley.

Kneeling (l to r) D. L. Turton, George Grant, Robin Slater, Bill Milne, Harold Bruce Jones, Norman Chown. Ted Webster is missing.





# 1972- 1980

The match in 1972 was the last where our Association organised the team to represent England. Until then the England team had been selected from members of the *England Fly Fishing Association* but that practice ceased and a new system took over. England resigned from the Association in September 1972 and rejoined in 1974 although a 'President's Select' team took part in the International matches for 1973 and Spring 1974, with an 'England Select' team in Autumn 1974.

After a huge furore, a Confederation was established to select the team on merit based on a series of qualifying matches. With the formation of the *Confederation of English Fly Fishers* (CEFF), England teams were selected through eliminators organised by them from 1975 onwards.

During this time the EFFA was inactive and it was assumed that the Association would wither away to nothing. Far from it, as activities resumed with various events and matches starting in 1978 when Bob Beatty was appointed captain.

Many individuals who represented England during this period went on to join our Association, and many of our present members still compete in the Qualifiers now organised by the Angling Trust.

The International secretaries and captains pose on the banks of Grafham Water in 1977 - including Tom Bilson on the right.



Until 1970 there was only one International match held each year (with a break between 1940 and 1949), and they were all fished on Loch Leven (apart from 1937 when it was at Lough Melvin). In 1971 it was agreed that two matches be fished each year with the venues selected by rotation from each of the four home countries – this is still the practice. Each team is now made up of fourteen anglers. It was agreed in 1974 to have mixed pairings. So, prior to each match a draw is made for boat partners. The match, which is fished over a period of eight hours, is normally preceded by two practice days to give the visiting teams an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the water.

The 1980 team pose before the 1980 International on Loch Leven on 23 August, including Mel Parrott and Tom Bilson.



Grafham Water was opened in 1966 and Rutland Water ten years later. This had a tremendous impact on the fly fishing scene in England. Our Secretary David Moore was heavily involved in the development of both as recreational facilities.



(above) David Moore with the first stocking of trout from Horn Mill hatchery in 1975.

(centre) An interesting picture from 1977 where Tom Bilson poses with all the International trophies, including the B.C. Hall Trophy (who originally presented it to the Association during his presidency in 1968), which was donated back to the Association in 2000.

And this programme, also from 1977, lists the Trophies which include the Premier Trophy, the 'Graham Munro Hall Memorial Trophy' (presented by J.G. Munro Hall who was International Secretary in 1958 and an Association Honorary Life Member – although he is recorded as fishing for Scotland in 1959) and the Grahame Cup, presented by J.G. Grahame who was Association President from 1947- 50.



## The Smith twins

Two identical twins appear in many pictures of the sixties and seventies: William and Joe Smith. William lived into his 99th year and died in 2005, but brother Joe died thirty years earlier.





# 1980-1999

With no official role in the selection of the England team, the Association continued to fish purely socially, but determinedly maintaining the standards of the sport. Matches were arranged with various organisations — including the Confederation and, although there were lean years, membership built and thrived, as can be seen from these pictures taken over the last forty years.



11 June at Pitsford 1987. In 1986 the Bull's Head at Arthingworth challenged the Association to a match, fishing for the *Bull Trophy*. This continued for seven years and evolved into a Spring Members' Day, where the trophy is now awarded to the heaviest basket.

Pictured above are (l to r) Mike Rigby and Julian Davies, from the Bull, with Mel Parrott, Bill Radley Searle and Peter Hartley. The Bull won this one and Julian, fishing for them, was top rod, with our Peter only one ounce behind.

## The Blazer Badge

Throughout 1987, the present badge was designed and first embroidered. Bill Radley Searle was the man responsible and this is his drawing and instruction to the badge makers.

The two flies are based on the Kingfisher Butcher. Apparently, dressed on a 'wee double,' it did great execution for many years on Loch Leven but not, as one would think, as a tail fly but 'tripped through the waves as a bob fly'.



With the loss of the official status, a number of matches were arranged against various teams. The ProAm was first fished on 21 June 1978. The first of the matches versus the Confederation was in 1982, as was the first RAF match. Then in 1994 an event against the Royal Navy and Army was introduced. Alongside these were social days. Reg Wheeler (left) was a regular attendee.

After the withdrawal from International involvement, the qualifying match which had begun as the *English Trial Competition* and then the *English National Match*, became the *Annual Match* in 1973. This event took place, as part of what became known as the *Annual Weekend*, for many years on Chew reservoir.



(above) Mike Heckler receives the ACA Cup for the largest fish in the English National, in 1987, from Bill Radley Searle, who was President for ten years up to 1988. Mary Radley Searle and Anne Dickens are also in this picture.

(right) Viv Church weighs in his bag at Chew with Bill Radley Searle looking on and John Forster in the background. Viv was Match Angler of the year in 1985 and 1986.



(left) Norman Chown had the biggest trout of the season from Grafham in 1977 — until the last day when it was beaten by an ounce.

(above) Ray, Mel and Viv informally dressed, eating, drinking and smoking (!) in 1990.







Bill and Mary Radley Searle in 1988 and (below), in the same year, Robin Slater, Mel Parrott and Derek Lloyd enjoying a joke.



Nick Nicholson (left) and John Forster (right), both with good fish. (far right) Derek Lloyd, Phil Toner, John Moore (with Annual Match trophies, in 1988, when he was Match Angler of the Year for the second consecutive year), Mel Parrott, Mike Heckler and Reg Wheeler.



(above) The England team at Leven 22 August 1986, which included members Mike Childs, Tom Herd, Tom Bilson, Norman Chown and John Lindsey.



(right) The Association has spawned many smaller groups of friends who fish together in various guises. This is 'The Thirteen' on the steps of the old lodge at Pitsford in 1989. From the left back row Derek Lloyd, a guest, Viv Church, John Lindsey, Nick Nicholson, Tom Herd, Tony Dighton, Ray Jenkins, and in the front, Richard Hayes, Merv Matthews, John Moore, Mel Parrott and Frank Cutler.

(right) Mary Radley Searle.

Proof (below) that Viv can catch fish as he poses with Julian Davies, on the left, and another after the Bull Trophy match at Pitsford in 1988 - which the Association won!



Wine seems to have featured a lot over the years, and a glass or two at lunch is a popular tipple, as Derek Lloyd demonstrates (below left).

Tom Bilson at the Chew weigh-in 1989, with Richard Dickens recording the weights. He was beaten that year by Geoff Clarkson.







(top) Norman Chown wins the ACA Cup in 1990, presented to him by President Geoff Coop.

(above) Also in 1990, Tom Bilson won the Trentham Trophy, again presented by Geoff Coop who was President from 1988 to 1994.

(top centre) Richard Dickens takes matters into his own hands in 1990 and (top right) Mick Stevens being presented with one of his many trophies in 1990 by the then recreation manager at Anglian Water, David Moore. Behind them are Bob Broomhall (then landlord of the Wheatsheaf, Perry) and Derek Lloyd.



(above) Mel Parrott cleaned up in the Annual Match in 1986, which was only his second year of membership.

(left) Annual Dinner - 11 June 1995.  
(standing l to r) Harold Bruce Jones, John Forster, Geoff Coop, Tom Bilson, with Mary and Bill Radley Searle seated.



Mike Heckler with the Silver Salver for the heaviest basket in the RAF match which he won in 1989.  
All smiles at the Annual Dinner in 1990.



Spring Members' Day at Pitsford, May 1996.





# 2000-2018



(top left) Julian Davis wins the Spring Members' Day on Pitsford 2010.

(above) This would have been a good shot if everyone hadn't had their eyes closed! Jacky Jenkins does a tremendous amount for the Association and here she is being presented with a thank you by President John Gamon at Stocks in 2018.

(left) The all-important briefing which, here, is just before the 2018 ProAm at Grafham Water.



Our tie dates back to the 30s (there are a few in the 1939 pic) and our distinctive red shirts first made a big impression in 2008. Here are some memorable firsts – for our wardrobes.

(left) Members line up outside the Lake of Menteith old lodge in 2004 before the match against a 'Scottish Select' team, all looking very smart in new fleeces.

(below left) Then there was the introduction of the 'burgundy' waterproofs, which were given a thorough testing on their first day out – at Blagdon in 2017.

(below) And here is a magnificent display of Association ties and blazers before the 2014 dinner at the Stirling Highland Hotel, where we had just competed against a Scottish Select team.







(top) The EFFA team that fished against the Scottish Select at Rutland in 2002, and (left) the team against Scotland in 2006, on Grafham Water.

(bottom) Members enjoy an opening day bank session on Rutland Water.



Spring Members' Day at Pitsford 2007.



Outside Eaves Hall on the Annual Weekend at Stocks 2017.





(far left) John Gamon successfully passes his 'audition' in 2001 before becoming a member.

(left) Mel Parrott displaying essential items to take aboard at Stocks.

(below left) Graham Bodsworth and Alan Briggs discuss a successful dry fly.

(below centre) Mick Stevens and Andy Linwood discuss the finer points of 'Tanks' on the Annual Weekend at the wonderful Eaves Hall.

(below) The meals brought in by Gordon from the Ravensthorpe Chequers are a popular feature of our matches on Pitsford, although Peter de Kremer did once find this (garden) snail in his.



Two of our members received awards specifically related to their angling activities. Both were hugely successful in their professional lives as well as in their chosen sport.

### *Geoff Clarkson MBE*

The late Geoff Clarkson not only fished for England but steered them to nine consecutive victories as manager.



### *Bob Church MBE*

And Bob Church is still fishing after his record breaking competition career, where he has been described as 'Angler of the Millennium'.



Some memorable catches. (top row) A twelve pound Stocks fish for Ian Peberdy and a ten for Chris McLeod. Big fish specialist David Moore with a large Rutland Brown. Peter Hartley with North Esk salmon. Chris McLeod and Matt Willatt with a spectacular bag of Grafham Water winter trout of which the smallest was over 4lbs, and the largest 8lbs. (middle row) Charles Jardine with a good Grafham bag. John Maitland with a huge Pitsford rainbow. Derek Lloyd with a Grafham seven pound fish. Tony Smith with a seven pound Rutland brown. (bottom left) Jim Collins with his personal best Rutland brown and Viv Church with a buzzer caught pike.



## Opposition

We appreciate the teams that provide top-class opposition throughout the year. We have also had seven matches against Scottish Select teams starting with the *Millennium Match* in the year 2000, and here are the Scots, in 2009 (*below*) and 2013 (*right*).

Annually we compete against (*from left to right below*) the Police, Ben Dobson's Bowlanders, the Professionals in the ProAm match which Graham Pearson organised brilliantly for many years, the RAF, and the combined Army and Navy.



The Police with Callum



The Bowlanders with Ben



The Pros with Graham



The RAF with Paddy



The Army/Navy with Paul and George



## Loch Leven

As the venue for the first ever fly fishing match between England and Scotland, Loch Leven has a special place in the history of our Association.

Over the years the huge number of trout caught on fly from Loch Leven have in the past been spectacular for the size of the water. In 1929 it is recorded that 53,605 trout were taken at an average of 15 trout per acre. Considering that the average weight is close to the pound mark since records began in the 1870s, it is clear that the Loch can be a very productive fishery.

The lake was formed during the last Ice Age which retreated 10,000 years ago. Over thousands of years, the trout population became specially adapted to life in the loch.

Since the middle of the 19th century, the Loch Leven strain of brown trout has been transported to many regions that were formerly far beyond the range of any trout species such as Argentina, the Indian subcontinent, the Falkland Islands, North America, Australia and New Zealand.

*Sadly, someone has put a shed in front of the iconic old lodge.*



*The Association paid a nostalgic visit in 2023 with fourteen members attempting to catch one of the legendary brownies. Only four were caught, but one was a spectacular fish of five pound ten ounces for David Moore.*

*l to r: Chris McLeod, Ian Thomas, Mark Searle, Ray Storer, John Poote, Alan Briggs, Mike Carr, Gary How, David Moore, Ian Peberdy, Keith Gilchrist, Peter Hartley and Steve Harding, with Mel Parrott in the foreground*







In 2000 a match was fished on Loch Leven to celebrate the Millennium.  
The team was (*l to r*) Richard Dickens, Mike Heckler, Patrick Beauchamp, Peter Page, Viv Church, Geoff Clarkson, Norman Chown, Graham Dixon, Mel Parrott, John Forster, Mike Childs, Ray Jenkins, John Holtom, Peter Hartley, Peter Norman, Pat Taylor and David Froggatt.