

# Out & About River Test One Fly event

## One chance only

The River Test One Fly event, held on the River Test and tributaries within a 10-mile radius of Stockbridge, Hampshire, is the ultimate challenge for fly-fishermen

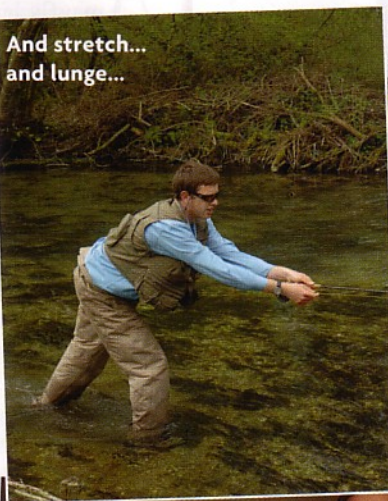
**T**HE River Test One Fly competition, organised by Fishing Breaks, is different from all other types of fishing contest. Instead of the contestants being allowed to use some 20–30 different flies, they must choose one fly for the day, and if they lose it, they're out.

Points are awarded for the size and number of fish caught, with bonus points given for retaining the fly at the end of the day. With a catch-and-release system in place, all of the fish were returned to the river unharmed.

The winning team, Trout & Salmon, comprised of Andrew Flitcroft, Spencer Tolly and pre-eminent fisherman Charles Jardine, and Howard Taylor walked away with the top individual points score having used a Pheasant Tail Nymph—clearly a winning combination.

*Photographs: Charlie Hopkinson.*

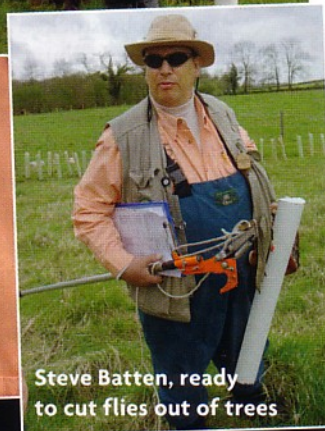
And stretch...  
and lunge...



Jon Bond, Ron Good, Eddie Wyvill,  
John Bailey and Tony King



Team COUNTRY LIFE—Jaques  
Cann, editor Mark Hedges and  
Bob Murdoch, who caught the  
biggest fish of the day

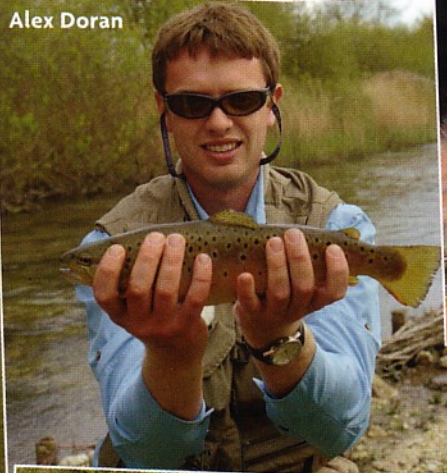


Steve Batten, ready  
to cut flies out of trees

Those pruning tips really  
paid off in retrieving  
a stray fly



Alex Doran



One fly only—  
but which one?

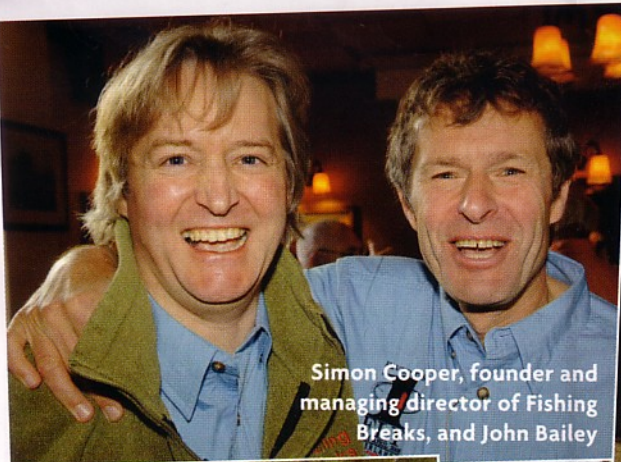


A couple of Borrowers  
join in the contest



Charles Jardine presents  
the award for the top  
estate, Whitchurch Fulling  
Mill, to Chas House

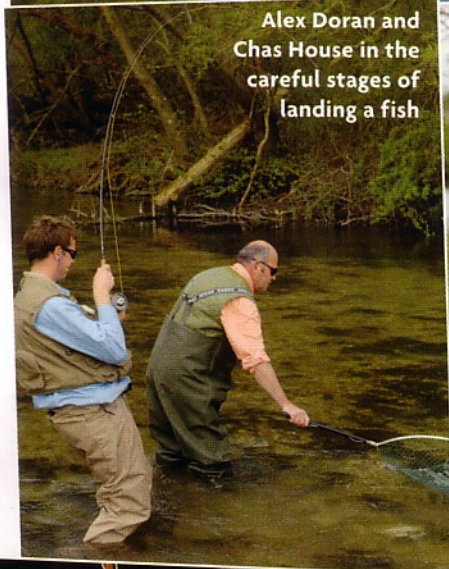




Simon Cooper, founder and managing director of Fishing Breaks, and John Bailey



A 50% pass mark is required to fish here



Alex Doran and Chas House in the careful stages of landing a fish



Charles Jardine, one of Britain's leading fishermen



John Bailey does Crouching Tiger



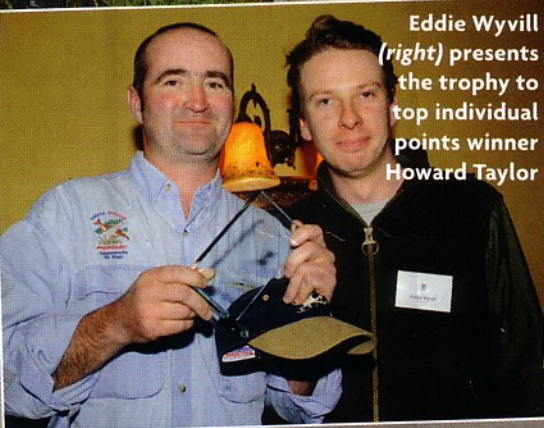
Contestant Jacques Cann with his guide Edward Porter



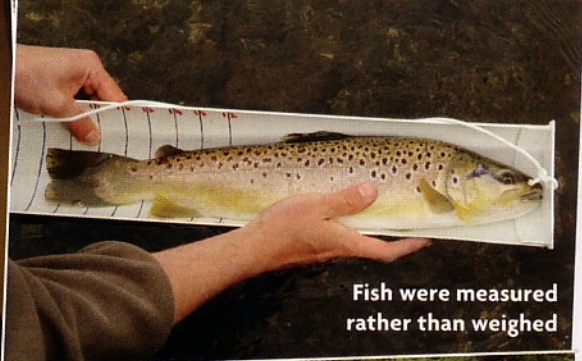
A few essentials



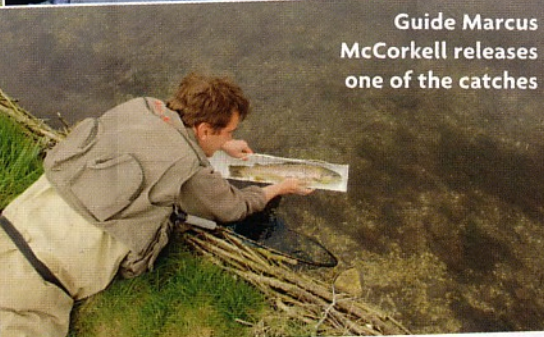
Jan Grimstone



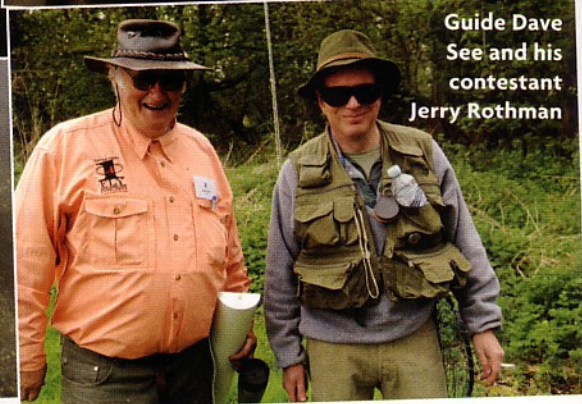
Eddie Wyvill (right) presents the trophy to top individual points winner Howard Taylor



Fish were measured rather than weighed



Guide Marcus McCorkell releases one of the catches



Guide Dave See and his contestant Jerry Rothman



Edited by Kate Green  
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## Country Mouse



## A fisherman's test

**A** PART from duffer's fortnight, during the mayfly hatch, when fish hurl themselves with *kamikaze* vigour at almost any suitable artificial imitation, fly-fishing is fascinatingly complicated. It's both an intellectual and an athletic challenge. First, the fisherman needs to know his insects, so that he puts the right fly on his line at the right time. Then, with the precision of a surgeon, he must cast his line so that the fly lands like featherdown on the water. If this artistry tempts a contrary trout, the fisherman needs the reflexes and nerves of a fencer to strike the hook home.

Last week, I took part in the inaugural One Fly event on the hallowed River Test (page 90). Compared to some of the legendary fisherman in the competition, I was an utter novice. Worse, the rules state you can use only one fly without changing it all day. If you lose it, snagged in a tree—more likely than not in my case—it's curtains. For me, disaster loomed with every swish of the rod. Fortunately, with the aid of my ghillie, Steve Batten, who waded the river, scrabbled and climbed several alders to retrieve wayward casts, I kept going all day and even caught some fish. Bravo to the organiser, Simon Cooper for finding a way of making fishing even more fiendishly difficult. **MH**