

When anglers unite!

Troutmasters has brought anglers together for 40 years, whether they be newcomers or world champions!





IF ever a competition brought the angling community together it's Troutmasters. Young, old, newcomer or champion match angler, this event has attracted them all. For many it was their first step on their journey into the world of competitions. For others, it actually became their competition world with the hunt for badges the main motivation.

Let's not forget the lasting friendships created at the finals too, it really has created a fly-fishing community like no other event. You've got to be in it to win it and this event has seen virtual newcomers lift the trophy as well as World Champions. It truly is the FA Cup of our great sport.

Here are some highlights from its 40-year history.



SUCCESS STORIES

Our first winner

Way back in 1979, a £12 bottle of French cognac brandy (supplied by A. Hardy, a long-established producer) and a badge was given to Eyebrook's Kenneth Shipton - our first-ever winner (bottom left). The monthly event gradually evolved to include an annual final and the format that we all know today.



Novices can win...

Matt Donovan hadn't even got a pair of waders when he won the trophy and £1000 in 1999. He had to roll his trousers up to wade out! Qualifying from Avon Springs, he'd only been fishing about six months. But he represents the very essence of this great competition by proving that, with a bit of determination and a small slice of luck, dreams can quite literally come true.



The oldest champ!

The 1982 final, the third Troutmasters event, saw 74-year-old Boleslaw Wilczek triumph at



“Singer Frankie Vaughan - an accomplished fly angler - attended the final and finished 9th out of the 26 finalists.”

TOP The 2018 finalists gather in readiness for our 40th celebration.

RIGHT Our current TM champion, Peter Crowe.

BELOW LEFT First winner, Kenneth Shipton.

BELOW The very first Troutmasters badge.

Patshull Park, taking 16 rainbows for 21lb 10z. He served with the free Polish, French and British air forces between 1939 and 1944. Singer Frankie Vaughan - an accomplished fly angler - attended and finished 9th out of the 26 finalists.



Top lady

Rita Clarke very nearly became then first woman to win the senior final, leading at the halfway stage in 2000 after a brilliant performance from the bank. Seasoned match angler Graham Pearson eventually won through, but he certainly felt the pressure - and Rita was inexperienced from the boat! Rita, who finished a very worthy fifth, qualified for the Grafham final from North Wales small water Llandegla - a mere puddle compared to a reservoir - and had never fished a large water before. She fished the water in front of her as if it was a small lake.



World's best!

Former World Champion Iain Barr had won everything there was to win on the competition scene - except Troutmasters. So, typically, he set his stall out to win the title. After a few false starts he finally nailed it



Flying the flag for the north east - 2019 champion Peter Crowe.

at Draycote in 2017. The relief on his face was a sight the editor Russell Hill will never forget. The fact that Troutmasters had eluded Iain was the source of much banter from Russell.



Double winners

Only two anglers have ever won the trophy twice - Campbell Baird (2003 and 2006) and Rob Edmunds (2004 and 2011). Both won their titles at Grafham after thorough practice sessions. Highly competitive, they sometimes employed 'unusual' methods to win - Rob using a push bike to move fast

when relocating bank areas and Campbell standing on a tackle box to gain height when casting! The latter was deemed illegal, but no one blamed him for trying!

North-eastern rule

One area breeds Troutmasters champions - the north east. Incredibly, eight of the last 10 winners hail from here, such is the dedication to stillwater fly-fishing in the area, as well as a healthy competition scene. Well-run waters are part of the success story with Northumbrian Water providing a quality service. Top small waters such as Thrunton Long Crag (which hosts our Junior Final) and Chatton amongst others are also a factor. >>

PASTMASTERS

Here they are! The past and present Troutmasters champions

SENIORS

2019 Peter Crowe, Draycote Water
2018 Anthony Meadows, Draycote Water
2017 Iain Barr, Draycote Water
2016 Brian Lillie, Grafham Water
2015 Steve Cochrane, Grafham Water
2014 Gareth Tilley, Grafham Water
2013 Jim Tuck, Grafham Water
2012 Chris McAlister, Grafham Water
2011 Rob Edmunds, Grafham Water
2010 Andrew Scott, Grafham Water
2009 Darren Booth, Grafham Water
2008 Dave Johns, Grafham Water
2007 Bob Forsythe, Grafham Water
2006 Campbell Baird - Grafham Water
2005 Derek Keenan, Grafham Water
2004 Rob Edmunds, Grafham Water
2003 Campbell Baird, Grafham Water
2002 Martin Dixon, Grafham Water
2001 Phil Dixon, Grafham Water
2000 Graham Pearson, Grafham Water
1999 Matt Donovan, Grafham Water
1998 Keith Bryant, Grafham Water
1997 William Sheppard
1996 David Downie, Pitsford Water
1995 Andrew Tamakloe, Draycote Water
1994 Ray Cramp, Draycote Water

1993 Dave Barker, Eyebrook Reservoir

1992 Nigel Haigh, Farmoor

1991 Daryl Cottrell, Thornton

1990 Ken Scott, Thornton

1989 Unknown

1988 Peter Wolfe

1987 Jim Nicholls, Packington

1986 Peter Highfield, Bishops Bowl

1985 John MacDonald, Patshull Park

1984 Howard Capper, Patshull Park

1983 John Dullaghan, Patshull Park

1982 Boleslaw Wilczek, Patshull Park

1981 Jeremy Vanstone, Church Hill

1980 Brian Jones

JUNIORS

2019 Sam Shepherd
2018 Harrison Douds
2017 Morgan Wyn Jones
2016 Kyle Tully
2015 Charlie Hix
2014 Robert Gibson
2013 James Foulcer
2012 Freddie Kent
2011 Freddie Kent
2010 Ashley Fenny
2009 Ashley Fenny/Tyler Hay

Double Junior winner Freddie Kent.



"What keeps bringing you back to Troutmasters?"

Regular competition finalists have their say



Malcolm Proudlock

First final
1984

Total no. finals
All of them

Troutmasters is for the everyday, grass roots trout angler – it's not designed for the elite competition guys, although they're most welcome when they do take part. What's not to like at the final? You meet friendly people, can gather fantastic tips off other finalists and receive great food free of charge. I've made many friends at the many Troutmasters Finals I've fished over the years and they've always kept in touch with me. It's a great experience and I hope it never stops. I'd encourage everyone to get involved.



Kasidit Leoviriyakit

First final
2006 at Grafham

Total no. finals
12 finals

The three main reasons why I love Troutmasters are fairness, friendship and finance.

Fairness – the Troutmasters final is the only UK competition that anglers have to fish in both bank and boat sessions. The scoring is point-based and you must do well in both sessions. The combination of bank and boat fishing drives 'competition' anglers out of their loch-style comfort zone. This gives everyone a fair chance, including weekend fishermen.

Friendship – The atmosphere is enjoyable. Most entrants are not too serious. You'll meet many talented anglers who are more keen to take part and make new friends than competing. During the past decade, many of them have become my true friends.

Finance – There is no fee to enter, no extra charge at fish-offs and it's free to fish the final. *Trout Fisherman* even gives you a free meal after the match. What more could you ask for!



Anthony Meadows

First final
2012 at Grafham

Total no. finals
7 finals

I love the Troutmasters as it's the biggest open competition in trout fishing but it has the feeling of a friendly, family-run event. In fact, former champion Dave Johns said that to me at last year's final. Troutmasters is family. We both agreed that we have made some great friends at Grafham and Draycote over the years and look forward to seeing them at the final and the practice weekend prior to it. Obviously winning in 2018 lives long in my memory. The fact that the lads who fish the final are not your regular competition anglers gives it a friendly feeling around the lodge.



Malcolm Proudlock and his many badges!

TAKE MY LIFE...NOT MY BADGE!

TROUTMASTERS co-ordinator Samantha Toombs has managed the event superbly for 14 years. In that time she has taken thousands of phone calls. Editor Russell Hill says he like to think that each one was to congratulate her on incredible organisational skills, but most calls are about badges!

Anglers or their partners have called in asking if they've won a badge, where their badge is, or even why they haven't won a badge! It seems that badges are the driving force behind Troutmasters – and there are more to win now than ever before.

The system, of course, is open to abuse. On occasion Troutmasters badges even appeared on eBay, one was priced at £21! Another caller said he'd bought one for £5 off eBay and wanted to buy more direct from the *TF* office! Go win them instead, please!

You have only to look at the jackets of TM finalists to see what the badges mean. They're a sign of achievement, commitment and provide recognition. Anglers are proud to wear them. Some anglers,



Malcolm Proudlock for example, are the epitome of what the event is all about. His fly vest is literally made of badges!

Enter now to become part of Troutmasters history and start your journey into competition fishing.



www.troutfisherman.co.uk

TROUTMASTERS

Highlights from past finals caught on camera



Charles Jardine at the 2018 Junior Final.



Our oldest-ever winner, Boleslaw Wilczek aged 74.



Former World Champ Iain Barr.



The TM Final team.



Jeff Prest & Peter Cockwill. Bemused!



Singer Frankie Vaughan in 1982.



2011 champion Rob Edmunds.



Draycote's Tom Bird directs anglers.



1988 champ Peter Wolfe & Bernard Cribbins (left).



Bob Church (centre) helped present prizes in 1981.



TROUTMASTERS TIMELINE

1979

Troutmasters launches after an idea from first editor John Wilshaw.

2008

Gold badges for those winning the most badges from different waters.

2009

The first Junior Troutmasters Final weekend at Stonebridge in Yorkshire.

2017

The Senior Troutmasters Final returns to Draycote after a 22-year absence.

2019

Launch of the Youth Troutmasters catering for 14 to 18-year-olds.

2019

40 years... The longest running national UK fly-fishing competition.

2020

Troutmasters to continue as part of *Trout & Salmon* after merging with *TF*.

www.troutfisherman.co.uk