

Prebait.com to support Irish Team at 2010 World Club Team Championships

Back in July 2009 the East Belfast Coarse Angling Club qualified to represent Ireland in the 2010 World Club Championships which were scheduled to be held on the R Warta, Poznan, Poland in June. The club have fished in this event on two occasions on other locations, but this 2010 competition was likely to be the most challenging to arrange, get to and fish.

Current tackle requirements and airline restrictions mean that teams travelling from this part of the world have now to drive their gear overland at great cost and time.

The club selected an eight person squad with the team being Jimmy Douglas, John Barr, Alan Sharkey, Colin Martin and Michael Cormican. John Pollock would be the reserve and Robert Buick the manager. Michael's wife Louise would be the squad's official delegate.

The Warta was a wide fast river averaging about 3 to 4 metres deep. A reconnaissance visit by the manager in September 09 and May 2010 discovered that flat style floats of 15 to 30 gm capacity would be the main means of attacking the venue. International rules dictate that only floatfishing is allowed in competition so methods such as swimfeeder or ledger are prohibited. Given the experience of the team on their home water, the Lower Bann, such heavy style floats held no fear and given a decent draw and being able to sort out the bait and feeding patterns the club were confident of putting on a decent performance. **HOWEVER** two weeks before the competition and 8 days before the team was due to depart severe floods hit central Europe and Poland. The Warta was deemed unfishable and two still waters were prepared by the hosts as venues. A rowing course type lake and a 25m wide canal were named as the alternative venues. Even as this piece is written 6 days before departure which of the venues will be chosen is unknown. Obviously baits, floats,

elastics and tactics will have to be rapidly and radically rethought and if truth be known as a team we would have been much happier on a fast river than a still-water. Nevertheless whatever the final venue we will give it our best shot.

As mentioned earlier the logistics of sending an international team abroad is complex and expensive. The club has been extremely fortunate in receiving help from a variety of sources. Chiefly, the social fishing network, Prebait.com, stepped in to help the club with clothing and general expenses and the team will fish the event as **Prebait.com Team Belfast**.

We have also been grateful to the ferry company 'Stena' who generously stepped in to arrange transport of two vehicles and gear between Belfast to and Holland. The overland party will still have an each way journey of 1000 miles each way and we are grateful to John Pollock and Michael Cormican for their use of their van and people carrier respectively. **Radox Laboratories Ltd** assisted with additional costs in this area

From past matches on the new venue it seems a wide variety of baits will be needed from bloodworm to maggot and pinkie all featuring. A low feed groundbait/leam mix would seem to be needed. Irish Bait Services will assist the team in this area. Species of fish expected to be caught seems to be mainly silverfish such as roach, bleak, and nase (a type of chub) along with some skimmers and bream.

We will have about 4 - 5 days official practice on the venue before the actual two day competition which is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday the 12th and 13th June. Hopefully that will give us time to try and sort out tactics for this high profile, prestigious match. Close to thirty teams will be taking part in the event from far and wide and many full international anglers can be seen competing in the event for their respective clubs. The other UK clubs participating are a team from Scotlands (Monklands) and a team from England (Shakespeare, Redditch). This immediately gives us a target to be the best home nation team and anything above that will be a

bonus.

Hopefully on our return we can report on some good catches and a decent result.