

# LAKELANDS & inland WATERWAYS

# HOW TO WIN THE World Pairs 2013

**€60,000**  
TOTAL PRIZE FUND  
INCLUDING DAIWA INDIVIDUALS

Fishing the Lakelands & Inland Waterways World Pairs Angling Championship this month? Irish silver medallist Willie Wheeler provides an insight into the venues.

I'm going to try and explain my approach to fishing some of the likely venues in this year's World Pairs festival. As you will probably know, this is the richest festival now running in Ireland and it's certainly worth winning! Hopefully with my help you will put more fish in your nets and get your hands on some of that cash.

I have been fishing Irish festivals since I was 15 years old, many moons ago! I won my first – the Erne Easter festival – at the age of 16, and since then I have won almost 40 festivals in Ireland, including the Guinness Classic in Enniskillen, the Portumna on the Shannon, the Belturbet in Co Cavan, the Clones in Co Monaghan and the Keshcarrigan in Co Leitrim. This, coupled with my international experience, which led to a World Championship silver medal in 2008, will hopefully help you all catch a few more fish.

## THE UPPER ERNE SECTIONS

These are the river sections, such as Crom Estate and maybe Enniskillen town depending on conditions.

My approach here is simple – bream are a bonus,



All of Willie's experience showed with a silver medal in the World Champs!

so don't even think about them! The main species are hybrids, roach and perch.

Firstly I'll take you through the bait I would use. Groundbait is brown crumb with Sonubaits Silver Crush and Sensas Gros Gardons with Cobra molasses. I mix one bag of each groundbait, a kilo of brown crumb and half a bag of molasses, which makes a dark brown mix when water is added.

As the Erne is clear I like the colour quite dark; some anglers use really black mixes, but I'm not a fan! I use the same mix for both feeder and pole, but the feeder mix would be drier.

Each day I'd take three pints of casters, two pints of red maggots (one pint dead), a kilo of worm and two pints of hemp. This would be the same for each day's fishing for this match, but I'd take four pints of casters to the Cavan and Leitrim sections.

Now to the fishing. These sections will be on running water, so the float will be a factor. Always set up a pole, look for shelves, snags and suchlike. Then the feeder rod, and check again as zebra mussels are prevalent here. If it's snaggy and conditions allow, set up a slider or bolo too. Ball in on the pole line with 10 or so balls packed with casters, dead maggots and hemp, then cup in two or three

**TOP PAIR PRIZE €16,000**

## World Pairs – September 9th to 13th

Winning pair receives a total of **€16,000**. Also a crystal trophy plus Daiwa tackle each. Second-place pair receives a total of

**€7,000**, plus a crystal plate each.

Third-place pair receives a total of **€3,500**, plus a crystal plate each.

Fourth to 10th places receive **€500** each pair.



Feel Alive.



balls packed with chopped worms.

Loose feed over this with mixed hemp, casters and chopped worms if the river is moving slowly up to 2g pace; if it's moving faster feed small hard balls with casters and hemp, and now and again cupping in a ball with chopped worms. I like to cup the worm in to give greater accuracy as most sections will be 12 feet-plus deep.

On the feeder line always start on a large feeder, casting in and out constantly for the first 15 minutes to build up a base for fish to feed over. I like to empty my feeder halfway down a couple of times after this to get a few particles flying around and hopefully draw fish into the peg. Pack the feeder with chopped worms, casters and dead maggots.

Depending on how many bites I'm getting I normally leave the large feeder on for the first hour, then switch to a medium version, but if I'm getting one a chuck then the large feeder will stay on longer! Kevin Leach feeders are my favourite.

## LOWER LOUGH ERNE SECTIONS

These are likely to include Killadeas, Airport at Rossahilly and Boa Island.

In my view, this is the easiest section of the match to approach; all you need normally are two feeder rods capable of chucking a large 40g to 50g feeder 40 to 50 metres. I use Preston Dutch Master 12ft 8in rods as they are perfect for this.

Again my approach is simple. Same mix as before and start on a large feeder, constantly chucking in and out for the first 15 to 20 minutes, or until you get your first bite. Each feeder will be full of worms, casters, dead maggots and corn. I like corn on the lower lough, it's a big venue full of fish and corn seems to work well here, standing out on the bottom and hybrids love it!



Willie with a typical catch – anglers should expect plenty of bites in Ireland!

You can be aggressive – it's a big place with large shoals of fish!

Bream will feature at some point of the week on this section, but don't sit it out for them! Catch what's in front of you. If the bream want to feed they'll soon shift the other fish and let you know they are there. Don't be afraid of large hooks, I start on a size 12 to a 0.18mm hooklength and if I'm bagging I will soon up this to a size 10 to 0.20mm hooklength. I have had large roach and hybrids on a single maggot on a size 10 in the past – that's when you know you're baggin'!

## CAVAN AND LEITRIM SECTIONS

Likely to be Brackley, Eoinish and Garadice.

These sections are a little different. My feeder mix stays the same but I prepare a drier mix as these lakes are shallower. Approach these venues for roach and hybrids; the stamp of fish

is normally smaller, with roach averaging 4oz to 8oz and hybrids up to 1lb. If conditions are windy you can target skimmers and bream here.

Normally look for a drop-off further out, sometimes up to 60 metres, and attack with chopped worms and casters. When targeting skimmers and bream don't chop the worms too fine, 1in to 2in pieces are best as you don't want little roach spoiling the party! On this line feed about a pint of worm and casters through the feeder in the first 20 minutes, then leave it alone for at least an hour into the match as large fish like time to settle over the bait. Hook baits for bream are normally three or four dead maggots, large pieces of dendrabaena worm, or they can't resist redworms.

The next feeder line is past the pole line between 20 to 30 metres, where I would expect to catch most of my fish if they are not on the pole line. Here groundbait

is used dry with plenty of casters through the feeder. Again, don't sit and wait for bites, keep chucking in and out and if you're struggling try feeding crushed casters and empty your feeder a few times as it settles. Normally this will result in a hybrid dragging your rod in!

Hook baits will be two or three maggots, double caster or a dendrabaena head; this line is all about putting fish in your net as fast as you can, so if you're catching on maggot stay on it and switch to single baits on a larger hook. This way you won't miss bites and the bait won't fold over the point of the hook, resulting in lost fish!

Now the pole line – I don't fish whips unless conditions are perfect, the reason being that you have much better presentation on a shorter line and if you miss a bite you drop the rig straight down again. Groundbait on these lakes will be two parts Sensas Lake, one Surface and one Gros Gardons. When mixed it's light, but with the Gardons in it will carry plenty of bait. Again, ball it in with 10 or so balls, the first five soft to create a cloud and the next five firmer carrying plenty of casters, hemp, worms and dead maggots. After the initial feed I normally loose feed casters and worm mixed, fishing double maggot on a size 16 to a 0.12mm hooklength and switching to a worm head or double caster to get a bigger stamp of fish.

If conditions are calm a longer line is better – about five feet from tip to float; this way you won't spook the fish by having the pole above them. Strung-out rigs are a must, if you stop catching on a normal bulk rig then switch to a lighter, strung-out-shot rig. Just recently I did this and had 20kg of hybrids in two hours when I thought the fish had gone! Normally rigs from 0.3g to 1.5g will cover everything as the lakes average six to eight feet deep.



### RIVER SHANNON AT CARRICK-ON-SHANNON

The mud flats at Carrick is a place I have only fished a few times but there are usually plenty of fish to be caught. From my experience there are a couple of lines to fish.

Pole line – plumb up and see where the shelf is and fish at the bottom of the shelf for larger roach, perch and hybrids. Here I like to fish with light rigs considering the depth, normally 3g to 6g rigs depending on conditions. It is normally 20 feet-plus deep over the shelf. If the fishing is more difficult feed on top of the shelf to catch smaller roach and hybrids; normally the fish on top of the shelf average 3oz. However, it is possible to catch 10kg to 12kg of them in five hours.

The Shannon is a place I don't ball in at the start, instead I use a very sticky mix packed with casters and hemp and keep plopping in small balls regularly on these lines. There can be a few 'crocodiles' in the Shannon and I feel they come to the noise of a bombardment, so I feed like this.

The groundbait is Sensas Gros Gardons and River, two kilos of each, then I add one kilo of Terre de Riviere, a heavy soil, to add weight to the mix.

Feeder line – don't fish too far out, 25 to 30 metres. Check for snags to find a clear spot. There are bream on a few pegs, but normally I will fish for roach and hybrids and if bream turn up it's a bonus! Again the Shannon is a big river with large shoals of fish, so don't be shy with feeding! I have sometimes fed six pints of casters through the feeder and a kilo of worms, but normally four pints is ample.

I will always fish the feeder on this section for the first hour before going on to the pole line, which gives me time to feed both swims properly. If I'm bagging on the feeder I will stay on it and continually plop small balls on the pole line. I normally fish with a large feeder all day on this section unless the fishing is very hard. My feeder mix will be Gros Gardons and Sonubaits Silver Crush.

Ireland is a fantastic fishing venue with probably

the best natural angling in Europe. I hope everyone who makes the effort to travel here will experience the good fishing. There will be a big Irish welcome... usually including some Guinness!

More importantly, my advice is to fish to your strengths and do what you as an angler have confidence in! Any advice here is from my own personal experience and everyone is different.

I won't be fishing the match this year as I have taken the plunge into tackle dealing and need to run my shop in Ballyconnell that week in support of the match. We are located right next to the location for the Cavan draws and will have bait and tackle to hand daily should you need it. I'll also be running the Sunday Open Match for Cavan and Leitrim so I look forward to meeting you all, and please feel free to call into the shop or contact me if you'd like any help or advice. **mf**

### Contact details

You can visit Willie at Willie Wheeler's Angling Centre, Ballyconnell, Co Cavan, e-mail him at [wwac@mail.com](mailto:wwac@mail.com) or contact him via Facebook.

For more information check out [www.worldpairsangling.com](http://www.worldpairsangling.com), see Facebook or follow them on Twitter @worldpairs or drop the organisers a line at [info@worldpairsangling.com](mailto:info@worldpairsangling.com) now!  
Tel: Kevin Locke 07736129627

### Draw Locations

- Ballyconnell for Cavan
- Enniskillen for Fermanagh
- Ballinamore for Leitrim 1
- Carrick-on-Shannon for Leitrim 2

