

LARGE TROUT FOR 2005

Gert Buchert	Germany	13 lbs 04 oz (TR)
Reuben Hewitt	Nth Ireland	8 lbs 02 oz (DB)
Peter Mussle	Germany	7 lbs 00 oz (TR)
Hans Peter Haller	Germany	5 lbs 02 oz (TR)
John Weir	Ireland	5 lbs 00 oz (F)
Gert Buchert	Germany	5 lbs 00 oz (TR)
Mussle Party	Germany	5 lbs 00 oz *(TR)
Hans Peter Haller	Germany	5 lbs 00 oz (TR)
John Weir	Ireland	4 lbs 00 oz (F)
Gert Buchert	Germany	4 lbs 00 oz (TR)
Manfred Peprotka	Germany	4 lbs 00 oz (TR)
Mussle Party	Germany	4 lbs 00 oz *(TR)
Michael Canney	Ireland	3 lbs 12 oz (F)
Jeffrey Herbert	England	3 lbs 06 oz (D)
Terry Callana	Ireland	3 lbs 06 oz (F)
Michael Canney	Ireland	3 lbs 05 oz (D)
Joseph Boyce	Ireland	48 cm 3 lbs 05 oz (F)
Michael Canney	Ireland	3 lbs 04 oz (F)
Michael Canney	Ireland	3 lbs 03 oz (F)

TR = Trolling; DB = Dead Bait; D = Dapping
F = Fly Fishing

* Party member's name not recorded.

LARGE PIKE 2005

Ben Vermanen	Holland	85 cm (F)
Rudi Kolbe	Austria	85 cm
John Vlaanderen	Holland	85 cm
Nam Hoon Boots	Holland	85 cm
Jeff Herbert	England	85 cm
Jeff Herbert	England	85 cm
Ferry Hoogabher	Holland	86 cm (F)
Peter Muessle	Germany	86 cm
Reuben Hewitt	Nth Ireland	86 cm
Tim van der Kaap	Holland	86 cm
Johnny Bartley	Nth Ireland	86 cm
Paul Malpaard	Holland	87 cm
Lorraine Storey	Nth Ireland	87 cm
Jeff Herbert	England	87 cm
Bart Bullinga	Holland	87 cm
Bart Bullinga	Holland	87 cm
Johnny Bartley	Nth Ireland	87 cm
Peter Luftensteiner	Austria	87 cm
Patrick van de Wijgerd	Holland	87 cm
Reuben Hewitt	Nth Ireland	87 cm
Reuben Hewitt	Nth Ireland	87 cm
Paul Malpaard	Holland	87 cm
Johnny Bartley	Nth Ireland	87 cm
Lorraine Storey	Nth Ireland	88 cm
Reuben Hewitt	Nth Ireland	88 cm
Reuben Hewitt	Nth Ireland	88 cm
Paul Prendergast	U.S.A.	89 cm
Paul Malpaard	Holland	89 cm
Johnny Bartley	Nth Ireland	89 cm
Michael Canney	Ireland	89 cm
Joan Germain	France	89 cm
Reuben Hewitt	Nth Ireland	89 cm
Bart Bullinga	Holland	90 cm
Rudi Kolbe	Austria	90 cm
John Vlaanderen	Holland	90 cm
Johnny Bartley	Nth Ireland	90 cm
Herman Buchberger	Austria	90 cm
Michael Canney	Ireland	90 cm
Bertus Rozemeijer	Holland	90 cm

Jeff Herbert	England	90 cm
Henk van Scherpenzeel	Holland	91 cm
Michael Canney	Ireland	91 cm
Ruud Smit	Holland	91 cm
Peter Loch	Austria	91 cm
Siebren Oostwoud	Denmark	91 cm
Paul Malpaard	Holland	91 cm
Moniek Prakkea	Holland	92 cm
Michael Canney	Ireland	92 cm
Ron Stoorvogel	Holland	92 cm
Jean Yves	France	92 cm
Bart Bullinga	Holland	92 cm
Peter Loch	Austria	92 cm
Hans Smit	Holland	92 cm
Jeff Herbert	England	92 cm
John Vlaanderen	Holland	92 cm
Siebren Oostwoud	Denmark	93 cm
Gunter Verwinen	Belgium	93 cm
Ben Vermanen	Holland	94 cm
Peter Loch	Austria	94 cm
Ron Stoorvogel	Holland	94 cm
Jean Yves	France	95 cm
Lorraine Storey	Nth Ireland	96 cm
John Vlaanderen	Holland	96 cm
Michael Canney	Ireland	97 cm
Peter Luftensteiner	Austria	97 cm
Robert Storey	Nth Ireland	97 cm
Herman Buchberger	Austria	97 cm
Peter Loch	Austria	97 cm
Michael Canney	Ireland	98 cm
Michael Canney	Ireland	98 cm
Werner Vanloock	Belgium	99 cm
Michael Canney	Ireland	99 cm
Herman Buchberger	Austria	99 cm
Robert Storey	Nth Ireland	100 cm
Bernhart Karf	Germany	100 cm
Johnny Bartley	Nth Ireland	100 cm
Johnny Bartley	Nth Ireland	100 cm
Moniek Prakkea	Holland	101 cm
Hans Smit	Holland	101 cm
Ben Vermanen	Holland	101 cm
John Vlaanderen	Holland	101 cm
Ron Stoorvogel	Holland	102 cm
Rudi Kolbe	Austria	102 cm
Ben Vermanen	Holland	102 cm
Werner Vanloock	Belgium	102 cm
Moniek Prakkea	Holland	102 cm
Herman Buchberger	Austria	103 cm
Michael Canney	Ireland	103 cm
John Vlaanderen	Holland	103 cm (F)
John Vlaanderen	Holland	103 cm
Paul Prendergast	U.S.A.	104 cm
Gunter Verwinen	Belgium	104 cm
Joan Kalf	France	104 cm
Johnny Bartley	Nth Ireland	104 cm
Hilbert van der Kapp	Holland	105 cm
Bertus Rozemeijer	Holland	106 cm
Jani Himanco	Finland	106 cm
Ron Stoorvogel	Holland	106 cm
Joan Kalf	France	106 cm
Nam Hoon Boots	Holland	106 cm
Peter Loch	Austria	106 cm
Werner Vanloock	Belgium	107 cm
Bertus Rozemeijer	Holland	108 cm
Michael Canney	Ireland	109 cm
John Vlaanderen	Holland	109 cm
Michael Canney	Ireland	110 cm

(F) = Fly Fishing

Pike Catch Up Again

As reported in last years newsletter the number of pike caught in 2004 was down by 232 from the previous years total of 586 fish. I am glad to be able to report that this years total of 495 pike has shown a welcome recovery. The number of large pike (85 cm and over) at 106 is a new record at Portarra Lodge and the boating of 33 fish of 1 meter +, more than double the figure of 2004, created a new record also.

March Piking for Belgians

As already stated on several occasions early season on Lough Corrib is not the best time for Pike fishing. However should anglers wish to come at this time of year they can find good fishing on the Moycullen lakes – namely Ross & Ballyquirke lakes. This year, towards the end of March, two anglers from Belgium, Roger Derwael & Erik van Aerde, came for pike fishing and I put out a boat & engine on Ross lake. Both men had previously been on Ross Lake and their local knowledge resulted in them boating a total of 59 pike in 4 days fishing. The big pike on Ross Lake are not as plentiful as on Corrib and the biggest of the 59 was just under 10 lbs.



John Vlaanderen, Holland with a 103 cm pike caught on the FLY

PORTARRA LODGE
LAKESHORE ACCOMMODATION & ANGLING CENTRE
TULLYKYNE, MOYCULLEN, CO. GALWAY, IRELAND
INTL: Tel: 353 - 91 - 555051 FAX: 353 - 91 - 555052
E-mail: portarralodge@eircom.net
www.portarralodge.com

PORTARRA LODGE NEWSLETTER 2005.

Bertus Rozemeijer visits Portarra Lodge

August 20th saw the arrival at the Lodge of a Dutch couple for a few days fishing. The reservation was made via the internet. On their arrival the surname sounded familiar and after a few questions I then found out to both my great pleasure & surprise, that it



Moniek Prakkea with her 101 cm Corrib Pike

was the famous Dutch angler Rozemeijer that I was talking to. Bertus was accompanied by his partner Moniek Prakkea. Wondering what Moniek would do when the men were out fishing I was quickly informed that the lady was a keen angler. This fact was proven the following day when Moniek boated 3 pike up to 101 cm before either of the men even got a strike. However at the end of the day it was the “man himself” who took the honours with two beautiful pike of 106 & 108 cm. They both used Jerk Bait Rods and fished Sliders & Lures. Their 3 days fishing resulted in 25 fish been boated measured, some of them photographed



Bertus Rozemeijer with a 108 cm Pike.

and all of them released back into the lake. Of the 25 fish caught six were 90 cm and over. It was a great honour for me to be a guide to such a famous fisherman. Bertus & Moniek will be back next year and together we will concentrate on Fly Fishing for those famous fighting Corrib Pike.

DROGUES & ANCHORS

The use of drogues and anchors while trout fishing on Lough Corrib is a very recent phenomenon and one that we really can do without. A drogue can be best described as a type of underwater parachute that slows down a drifting boat to a crawl. We all know what an anchor is. All this practise came about with the introduction of Buzzer Fishing. In order to carry out this type of fishing a boat has to be almost at a stand-still as the Buzzers are fished deep and retrieved very slowly as natural Buzzers are almost stationary in the water. Buzzer Fishing was first introduced, as far as I am aware, by anglers fishing the reservoirs in England and where anglers were mainly fishing from the shore. It is a very good method of catching trout in calm conditions where the Wet Fly would be useless in the absence of any wind. In such calm conditions however the angler has to contend both with the light factor and with the fact that the boat is not moving. The “light factor” necessitates the application of Fullers Earth, or other similar agent, after every 5th cast or so, in order to make the leader less visible to the trout. In windy conditions the above factors do not come into play and when an anchor or drogue is used to slow down or stop the drifting boat, the Buzzer Fishing can be rightly

described as lethal at killing trout. The huge amount of trout taken by those people can only justify and give great credibility to the rumours that a large number of those fish are sold. That is when fishing is changed into catching and greed comes into the sport. Such Buzzer Fishing can be somewhat justified on the “put & take” fisheries where stocks are replenished by using hatchery reared trout – usually Rainbow Trout. Lough Corrib is not such a “put & take” fishery. Actually it is the largest “Wild Brown Trout” fishery in Europe and the continued use of anchors & drogues will decimate its stock of indigenous fish. I trust you have noticed the I omitted “by anglers” in the last sentence as people who use either or both of those objects CANNOT BE DESCRIBED AS ANGLERS by me and very many more. Contrary to what is “ballyhooded” by such people very few trout are released and I can bear witness to this having observed those people in action. As one very prominent and concerned angler said “members of the Buzzer Brigade are never seen or active at Club Level NOR do they assist in anyway what-so-ever in the running of the Trout Hatchery at Oughterard. The same cannot be said for competitions.” The use of Anchors & Drogues should be BANNED on the Great Western Lakes and thereby restore honour and dignity into the great sport of angling.

“There are those who love angling and there are those who love the lake”. Lets all try and belong to the latter category.”

The Canney Family wish you all a Merry Christmas & Peace, Health & Happiness in 2006 when we hope to see you again.

PLEASE SHOW THIS NEWSLETTER TO YOUR FRIENDS AND/OR GIVE THEM OUR WEBSITE ADDRESS

BART IS BACK

On the top of page No. 3 of last year's newsletter there was an article on the 12 Dutchmen who encountered very bad weather on their fishing trip. In concluding that article I mentioned how my good friend Bart Bullinga suffered a very severe brain haemorrhage. Well the good news is that Bart has made a wonderful recovery and was able to come to Portarra Lodge again this September. It was with great pleasure that I and my wife Maire invited Bart and his wife Christine to be our guests for a week at Portarra Lodge and they both really enjoyed their time with us. On their trip they were accompanied by their good friends Paul and

Ingrid Malepaard. Bart still has some recovering to do and we all hope and pray that by next year he will have made as near a 100% recovery as possible. I didn't have to worry too long about Bart's angling ability for on day one he landed 5 pike for the mornings fishing, his friend Paul boated 2 and the Gillie(myself) blanked. However in certain circles it is said that a good gillie makes sure that it is the guests who catch the fish and on that occasion I believed it to be true. While the men fished the ladies toured Connemara, Clare, Galway City etc and had such a wonderful time that they are coming again with the fishermen next year.



Bart Bullinga with his 1st Corrib Pike on his return to Portarra after his illness

Anglers 20 year running Oughterard Trout Hatchery

2005 marked the 20th anniversary of the anglers, mainly from the Oughterard, Collinamuck, Moycullen & Tullykyne Clubs, running the trout hatchery on the Owenriff River at Oughterard. All down through those years, once the hatchery work was completed, those taking part were treated to a "night out" (dinner & drinks) my our dear friend Sven Kapp. Sven is of Swiss origion and now living in Oughterard for 30 years or so. Saturday 19th November was the date for the "night out" this year and it being the 20th year of running the Hatchery - we made it a special night. However Sven, our guest of honour,



Sven Kapp (2nd R) and the Hatchery team of 20 yrs. (From L.) Joe Donnollon, Tommy Tuck, John Gibbons & Gerry Molloy at the presentation of the Black Bog Oak Sculpture to Sven.

was struck down by a "Tummy Bug" on the night and was unable to attend. We were so disappointed as we had a special presentation for Sven. After the dinner special mention was made of John Gill and Joseph Donnollon who led the new hatchery team 20 years ago. Both men had served with the then Inland Fisheries Trust and as a result had top class knowledge of how to operate and run a Hatchery. Sadly John Gill passed away some 5 years after the team was in operation, but his partner for many years Joe Donnollon is still with us and very active in the running of the Hatchery to this day. Four of the original team, who have given "unbroken service" over the last 20 years, were present on the night - They are Joe Donnollon, John Gibbons, Gerry Molloy and Tommy Tuck. A Special presentation was made to Joe on the night - an amalgam of photos, both recent and old & put together by Tommy Tuck, encompassing as much as possible of the history of Joe himself and this now famous hatchery. As already stated Sven Kapp was unable to attend due to sudden illness and at his own request the honours fell to me to present Joe Donnollon with a bottle of "HAITI Black Run", which Sven purchased specially while in the Caribbean. In Sven's own words - "we all know how Joe loves the Rum". John Gibbons, on behalf of the Hatchery Committee & workers, gave details of the continued work carried out all those years by the anglers, on a voluntary basis, to make Lough Corrib the best Wild Brown Fishery in Europe, if not in the World. Great praise is due to the men who get up morning after morning at 6 am to be down at the river at 7 am. to lift and reset the net AND back again at 3 pm to repeat the process until the required number of both hen & cock fish, to seed the hatchery trays with ova, are captured and transferred to the holding ponds on the hatchery site. Those men also forfeit three to four Saturdays or Sundays to assist in the stripping of the fish and for nine weeks (approx) the ova need to be tended to until the fry hatch out. Some three weeks later the fry are collected by the various angling clubs around the lake to be released. The location & method of releasing the fry is of the utmost importance as it is the culmination of all of this great voluntary work. One can judge the cost of running the hatchery today when 20 years ago the State Agency - the Western Regional Fishery Board - was asking for a sum of £3000.00 to just net & strip the trout. After the hen fish were stripped this year we had 424,000 ova in the hatchery trays. Taking into account the hatching-out success rate of approx 87% we should have in the region of 370,000 fry for release into the Corrib system in early 2006.

Within a few days Sven had recovered from his illness & was lured back to the Corrib Hotel under the pretext of having a photo taken with the Hatchery team. When the anglers presentation was made, Sven was so overcome with shock he had to sit down and sometime later, having gathered his thoughts, he thanked the anglers from the bottom of his heart. The Black Bog Oak sculpture dates back some 5,000 yrs. The top portion coming from the local Owenriff River area and the bottom portion from Lough Currane, Kerry.



Stripping the trout at the Oughterard Hatchery

Airport Collection

From talking to visitors from Mainland Europe it appears that having to drive a car in Ireland is such a great worry for many people that they choose not to come here. For that reason we at Portarra Lodge have decided to provide an Airport Collection service for such people. Collection at Galway Airport is free for groups of 4 people or more. Collection at Shannon or Knock - special rates, depending on size of group and duration of stay, are available on request. For those people having to use Dublin Airport they can avail of a very good Coach (Bus) service from the Airport to Galway City. The Lodge will arrange to collect you in Galway - for groups of 4 people or more this service is also free. Also for those flying into Dublin Airport, and who wish to avail of the Coach Service it is advisable to check the timetable of the Coaches on www.citylink.ie before booking the flight

Bar-B-Que

Last years Bar-B-Que for Peter Mussle and friends was such a tremendous success that it just had to be repeated this year. The weather was not the best and we were very lucky with the evening we choose and the 20 plus group really enjoyed eating the lamb on the "spit" accompanied with salad and wine. Peter is a great lover of wine and this was bourne out by the selection he provided.

Failing to finish off the lamb at the 1st attempt we had another Bar-B-Que the following evening and as the weather was a little on the damp side, a taste of "liquid sunshine", we had it indoors in the large Hay Shed. It was our 1st attempt at an indoor Bar-B-Que and it worked out very well indeed - so from now on we at Portarra Lodge don't have to depend on the weather. As you can see from the chart of Large Trout, Peter's party caught some nice fish



Bar-B-Que - Lamb on the Spit

REUBEN & JOHNNY - TWO GREAT MATES

Reuben Hewitt and Johnny Bartley are what can only be described as two great fishing mates. Usually when two lads are out fishing and one catches a fish there is a certain calmness in the boat. Not so with those gents. When ones catches a fish, especially a good one, the captor laughs and jibes at the other. If that is not bad enough, should the fish be then lost, the other almost dies laughing. A few harsh words, not to be printed, are often exchanged and they are once again "great mates". I personally witnessed many of those occasions and one in particular comes to mind when I was pike fishing in the same vicinity as the two of them. All of a sudden I heard Reuben laughing out loud. I said to the people in my boat "Oh Reuben is in a good fish". A few minutes later I heard Johnny roaring laughing and I informed the people with me "Reuben has lost the fish". They couldnt understand how I knew this as we were a good distance away from them. I explained how I knew. Reuben & Johnny paid two visits to Portarra Lodge this year. Their 1st trip was towards the end of May and as the May Fly Fishing was not so good at the time we decided to go Piking instead. It was a beautiful warm day and not the best for any form of angling. In the afternoon Johnny got a "take" on the

dead bait, and Reuben, being the gentleman he is and on instruction, starting his reeling in his dead bait lest he would interfere with Johnny. In doing so a



Johnny & Reuben with "Mixed Bag"

lovely trout of 8 lbs 02 oz took his bait. The excitement, coupled with tention, in the boat was unbelievable until the trout was netted. Thankfully Johnny landed his pike of 12 lbs 04 oz - it softened the blow somewhat as the bold Reuben was not at all short of heaping praise on himself. Their 2nd visit in September created a pike angling record. The two lads boated 11 pike in an afternoons fishing and all the fish were in the "double figures" from 86 cm to 104 cm.

Finnish Delegation

Following my visit to Finland in June 2004, which was reported in last years newsletter, a large group from Finland, representing tourism & angling interests, came to Portarra Lodge at the end of April on a fact finding mission - to find out more about our fishing and how we cater for our angling guests. Their visit was also reported on by Andy Nicholson of www.anglingnews.net and Paul Bourke of the Central Fisheries Board www.cfb.ie. The

Group was led by Sirpa Glad-Staf (formerly of Rapala Lures) and now owner/manager of "Highlight Holidays" Travel Agency in Finland. The group really enjoyed their time at the Lodge and most went out on the Lough in search of the famous Corrib wild brown trout. Some, not all, were successful and we also had a case of beginners luck. The group was also treated to a "top-class" nights entertainment of Traditional Irish Music - the trio of musicians was led by my good angling friend and famous fiddle player, John Weir, who is now living in Ennis, Co. Clare.

The Group's visit was so

successful that Sirpa organised a return trip to Portarra Lodge at the start of September and on this occasion brought along an angling film crew. Their goal was to witness and film the now famous Corrib Fighting Pike. What makes fishing so interesting is that it is so unpredictable. However on this occasion I am glad to report that Lough Corrib played its part and surrendered a beautiful well conditioned Pike of 106 cm. The fish would weigh somewhere in the region of 24 to 25 lbs. The playing of the fish was filmed in detail by both over & under water cameras. The resultant film was shown on Finnish National T.V. On 14th October.

MAY FLY

Although the weather was not very good for "The Dap" this year, and the uncertainty of the supply of Natutal Fly, the number of fish caught by anglers at Portarra Lodge was up on last year. This was mainly due to the catch by Ueli Seiler & Max Eschler from Switzerland. Ueli fished for 2 weeks and Max was with him for the 1st week and he was then joined by Bernhard Stegmayer for the 2nd week. The trio boated 75 trout and retained just a few. Those anglers return every trout under 40 cm.(16 inches) - 10 cm longer than the present legal limit. The uncertainty of the May Fly Hatch is of great concern to the anglers as it clearly demonstrates that there is something radically wrong with the natural ecosystem of the food chain. As stated in last years newsletter - Political Will is needed to protect the water quality of our rivers & lakes. It is up to the people to exert pressure on those who are entrusted to protect our environment.

EXTRA CHARGE FOR ROD CASES

As a result of numerous complaints from overseas anglers, regarding the extra charge imposed by some Airlines on Rod Cases, we at Portarra Lodge have decided to counteract this by having a good selection of fishing rods available, free of charge, to our repeat Guests. We will supply Dapping Rods, Trolling Rods, Spinning Rods, Pike Dead-bait Rods and Fly Casting Rods both 11 Ft.(335 cm) and 9 Ft (275 cm). Guests may prefer to bring their own fishing reels, lines and life-jackets. Of course the supply of rods etc is subject to availability so guests wishing to have gear supplied to them by the Lodge should notify me as soon as possible for confirmation.