



*FIPS-Mouche*

*International Fly Fishing Federation*



## Presidential Report

### CIPS congress – Acapulco (MEX)

May 2022

#### CHAMPIONSHIPS

There were 2 FIPS-Mouche championships held in the year 2021, both postponed from the pandemic year 2020. All other events such as Euro, Youth and Ladies were postponed to either 2022 or 2023.

#### WFFC 2021 Finland

Championship was placed in a beautiful fly fishing area of Kuusamo where the same level event has been already held first in 1989, actually participants were staying in the identical hotel Scandic as at that time. The championship took into account the Covid restrictions and strictly followed General Covid Protocol. All participants were tested at the registration, some of them also at the end – all negatives. The opening and closing ceremony were held in square just in front of the hotel in a very friendly atmosphere. There were 4 anti-doping tests carried out during the last competition day, all results were negative. Participating countries were all from Europe, outside European members were unfortunately restricted due to pandemic. Host country appointed in compliance with competition rules a non-member Lithuania by wild card to take part in. The quality of accommodation, fishing as well as food were great. Due to covid restriction no socializing was allowed during the event.

In teams home Finland won, before France and Spain. In the individuals Heikki Kurtti (FIN) won Gold, silver Jari Heikkinen (FIN) and bronze David Arcay (SPA).

#### Masters 2021 Czech Republic

Due to the pandemic situation Masters (CZE) Championship (originally scheduled for May) was postponed to Sep/Oct2021. FIPS-Mouche Board was represented by Paul Vekemans and Stefan Allacker. The championship was held in Northern Moravia in Zabreh, participants were accommodated in wellness hotel Diana in Velke Losiny and competition ran on 2 rivers Morava (2 sectors), Desna (1 sector) and lake Zabreh. All participants were tested for Covid right upon their arrival at the hotel. Opening and closing ceremonies were simplified and held in the hotel with presence of local mayor and chairman of CRS. The quality of accommodation, fishing as well as food were great. Due to the pandemic restrictions symposium was not held.

In teams home Czech Republic won, before Italy and Spain. In individuals Karel Sklenar (CZE) won Gold, silver was Juan Bautista (SPA) and bronze Bret Bishop (USA).

After 2 years of cancelations or postponing we are pleased to inform you that in 2022 we are coming back to a normal full size competition year. The world event will be held in Spain (September), Euro together

with Ladies in Norway (July), Youth and Masters in Italy (July). We are especially glad to announce that we finally start off a new category Ladies, that we see with an event size potential roughly comparable with the Youth or Masters. 3 years ago we have introduced a new institution of the combined championships to achieve an overall bigger size of events, synergies in organization and to make them even more attractive for general public - this year there will be a premiere in this perspective...

## **NEW MEMBERS**

In 2021 at the WFFC held in Finland the host country federation appointed Lithuania by so called "Wild card" – allowing to participate once a lifetime to the non-member. Right after the championship Board has started an intensive communication with representatives of this federation to join us FIPS-Mouche. As result of this Lithuanian federation is now ready for approval.

## **BOARD**

FIPS-Mouche team has introduced a significant package of Competition rules changes that that were approved at General Assembly in Comano Terme Italy. In winter time Board was working on further update of the website mostly on sections About us (technical commission and complete IS team introduced), we have created a new section called HowTo, where the visitors can find compressed all relevant information on how to apply for event, how to apply for membership, organize championships, find an info about WADA or FAQ. The overall presentation of the championship data was rebuilt and allows a filtering of the records from the past years. Similar system of filtering and common user look and feel introduced also for the congresses files. Additionally Board ran internally a discussion about the nearest future of FIPS-Mouche by the end of the election term. Discussion was mostly focused on sponsorship, scoring system, membership base growth, attractive content providing...

At the end of this short report I would like to address my thank to all Board members, members of the Technical committee, team of International Supervisors, CIPS and other fly fishers for their valuable volunteer contributions they gave to move competitive fly fishing again a bit further. Thank you.

Tight lines.