



*FIPS-Mouche*

*International Fly Fishing Federation*



## Presidential Report

### General Assembly – Rome (ITA)

April 2023

#### CHAMPIONSHIPS

There were all 5 FIPS-Mouche championships held in the year 2022, 2 of them were postponed from the pandemic year 2021 namely Ladies and Euro, held as a combined event in Norway. The fact that last year we had 2 combined events clearly confirms a proper decision of FIPS-Mouche to introduce combined events and to make them more attractive as for the size for organizers on one hand and for a general public as well on the other one.

#### WFFC 2022 Spain

The championship was held in a beautiful region Asturias that has a long tradition in flyfishing. FIPS Mouche Board was represented by Paul Vekemans, Stefan Allacker and Edoardo Ferrero. The overall quality of food, meals and accommodation provided were on excellent level. Opening and closing ceremonies were perfectly organized and quite intensively attracted a general public. The target fish on river sectors was only wild fish, technically very difficult fishing in clear waters, whereas the lake was just stocked beforehand. The level of fishing conditions and quality were at the edge of the acceptance. Unfortunately no antidoping control was carried out due to the lack of logistic capacity of dedicated Spanish Agency for those days in spite of previous commitment (official statement with explanation of president Mr.J.L.Bruna per email sent afterwards).

In teams home Spain won, before France and Czech Republic. In the individuals Julien Daguillanes (FRA) won Gold, silver David Arcay (SPA) and bronze Ruben Santos (SPA).

#### Masters and Youth 2022 (combined) Italy

After 2 years our sport flyfishing community came back to the marvellous region of Trentino, well known from the previously successfully organized events in the past, providing us with its clear nature, beautiful environment, breath taking natural landscape and excellent flyfishing spots. Most of the teams were accommodated in main high quality hotel Carlo Magno Hotel Spa Resort but due to the room availability issue some teams had to be located in a smaller hotel Design Oberosler Hotel in Madonna di Campiglio. Traditionally food and beverages were provided in excellent quality and quantity. Categories Masters and Youth were organized as a combined event. FIPS-Mouche Board was represented by all its members. The fishing was very difficult due to weather conditions in midsummer (to make the event accessible for the youth during school holiday timeframe). The opening was held in the centre of Madonna do Campiglio as a huge festivity supported by big amount of the general public. The banquet was held on the top of the mountains with a beautiful view on the mountains, it was an excellent and memorable spot, however a

small drawback was that the event lasted too long for youth, who went to bed a bit later for their 1<sup>st</sup> competition day. Closing was held rather in a smaller community just behind the main hotel but in a great and friendly atmosphere, mood and spirit. We are happy to announce that we introduced for the very first time in a history of our event a CIPS Youth outreach program, dedicated to showcasing of the flyfishing art to the local kids during our event (in the afternoon time). The key idea was that the presentation (fly casting, fly tying and gear quiz) was done directly by the youth competitors with aim to be perceived by them more natural way. Unfortunately, the participation was very poor due the vacation time, maybe not ideal place chosen and perhaps also a lack of local publicity done on short notice. Anyway, we are very thankful to the staff from Comano Terme region (we still keep great personal contacts with from the previous events) and with their enormous support we achieved some participation. We took a lesson out of this premiere activity and strongly hope that CIPS will support this activity also in the future. Additionally, it is important to stress out that FIPSAS organized throughout a dedicated Italian agency an antidoping training session for all participants with aim to provide the general overview of knowledge and processes. We had 2 jury meetings (one rejected and second one ended up with a warning of captain involved) but no serious issues.

In the Youth category team of Spain took a gold, followed by Czechs a French. In individuals Carlos Delgado (SPA) won, silver took Sergio Hederero (SPA) and bronze went to Jan Wittner (CZE).

In the Masters category team title went to USA, silver to ITA and bronze has been taken by team BEL. In individuals gold won Bishop (USA), followed by silver Michael Twohig (IRE) and bronze was taken by Rene Koops (NED).

#### Euro and Ladies 2022 (combined) Norway

Euro and Ladies event were held as a combined event in Norway in a tandem of 2 villages Koopang and Rendalen. Board was represented by Paul Vekemans and Stefan Allacker. Opening and closing ceremonies were held with a civic participation. Typical local food was provided, some of participants were not quite satisfied with taste and quantity. Fishing was difficult but great, only wild fish in a target. Water level dropped quite dramatically prio the event and lot of beats became hard to fish. Controllers were very well instructed and very correct, sector judges did a correct job. There were 2 jury meetings, one of them rejected and the second one ended up with a disqualification of angler. During the medal ceremony there was a formal incident as a wrong national anthem was played – organizers promptly apologized to the effected team and corrected immediately. Championship showcased a success story in an introduction of ladies' category into our annual championship serial. Right at the 1<sup>st</sup> championship ever we achieved 9 teams present, which is considered to be very reasonable amount.

In the lady category team Czech ladies won very sovereign way before team of Finland and home team from Norway. In individuals' Czech ladies total dominated on the podium with all 3 top positions – gold went to Tereza Rutova, silver took Katerina Svagrova and bronze went to Marketa Prochazkova. The absolute dominancy of this team was underlined by the 4<sup>th</sup> place of Czech lady as well.

In the European championship the team gold was taken by France, silver went to Spain and bronze to Finland. In individuals gold won Luigi Brunelli (ITA) silver Jussi-Pekka Myllymaki (FIN) and bronze was taken by Jean Guillame (FRA).

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

In 2022 we have accepted only 1 new member namely from Lithuania (as applicant member) as a result of the newly introduced system of the wild card, that has been applied in 2021 at WFFC in Finland, when the

host federation appointed Lithuania as non-member to take part in and right after the following year, they applied and were accepted. Unfortunately, no further candidates foreseen.

## **BOARD**

Having expected a smaller number of delegates in Acapulco last year board decided not to push forward any rules/statutes changes. The significant set of rule changes is being expected to be submitted by Board for the upcoming GA 2023. On technical level the changes will be related to the participation fee limits update, title sponsors, rotation of rivers, water resistant scoring cards, fish butterflied while netting, minimal rod size restriction to avoid shuffling, sector closure time period to 30 days. Board was focused also on the introduction of the environmental measures such as ban of smoking, smokers must wear a cigarette butts collectors, requirement of the organizers to clean out the competition sectors beforehand, compulsory revisions of the sectors during and also after the event that non disposal remained there. Last year we have done a significant investment into the 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, fully customized admin panel and federation dynamic profiles popups were introduced. Additionally, Board ran internally a discussion about the future of FIPS-Mouche. Discussion was mostly focused on sponsorship, scoring system, membership base growth, environmental activities and attractive online content providing...

At the end of my report, I would like to address my thanks 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.