



*FIPS-Mouche*

*International Sport Fly Fishing Federation*



# Presidential Report

## General Assembly – Cape Town (RSA)

April 2024

### CHAMPIONSHIPS

There were all 5 FIPS-Mouche championships held in the year 2023, 2 of them (Ladies and Masters) were held as a combined event in Canada, World was held in Slovakia, Euro in Portugal and Youth was organized in Bosnia and Hercegovina.

#### WFFC 2023 Slovakia

The world championship was organized in beautiful regions Liptov, Orava and Horehronie that have a long tradition in fly fishing competition. Accommodation was traditionally provided in grand hotel Permon with excellent level of accommodation, food, beverages as well as desired after session wellness facilities.

Opening ceremony was held in main square of town Liptovský Mikuláš, that quite intensively attracted general public. Right after the team captains and FIPS-Mouche Rep's were invited by the mayor of the town for a short welcome drink. Ceremonial protocol was in compliance with standards but the interpreter was not at the standard level. There were accidentally some remaining banners from the previous event on the stage. The incoming team march from the bus stop till the town centre was led by local band and children dressed in folk dress. FIPS Mouche Board was represented by Mario Podmanik and Edoardo Ferrero. Buses were leaving on time as well the scoring sheets collecting to the resulting centre. Last session the scoring sheets were scanned and sent remotely to avoid a delay in final results production.

The 4 antidoping controls were professionally and seamlessly carried out – 2 in and 2 out of the competition (results unknown so far). Board delegates invited team captains for the send CM dedicated the brainstorming of new ideas to be included in rules or guidelines. It was a very productive meeting that resulted into about 7-8 interesting improvements to be followed by Board for the GA 2025.

In teams home France won, before Czech Republic and Spain. In the individuals Piere Kuntz (FRA) won Gold, silver David Arcay (SPA) and bronze Gregoire Juglaret (FRA).

#### Ladies and Masters 2023 (combined) Canada

After many years our sport flyfishing community came back to Canada to the marvellous British Columbia region Kamloops. Coast hotel in Kamloops was well equipped and provided accommodation and meals (in buffet form). Opening ceremony was in the centre for First Nation people (pow wow), closing held in the banquet room the hotel, unfortunately the background was already set up for the evening entertainment.

There were 2 jury meetings at Masters 1. 2 competitors were miss informed by the beat controller regarding the exact limits of the beats - jury decided on a rematch after the 3rd session a 2. concerning team captain gathering information during morning session on beats that would be fished in the afternoon

- jury decided on a “official warning” for the team captain and reduced to zero the result for that part of the rematch were the information was used. There was 1 Jury meeting held for Ladies, concerning the draw result from the prg as teams were fishing same beats in subsequent session. The problem arising as a result of having a rotation. Jury decided that draw for session 4 and 5 would be adapted manually to avoid the above. FIPS Mouche Board was represented by Paul Vekemans, Stefan Allacker and Edoardo Ferrero.

In the Ladies category team of Czech republic took a gold, followed by Canada and USA. In individuals Katerina Svagrova (CZE) won, silver took her team mate Eliska Markova (CZE) and bronze wen to Kathy Ruddick (CAN).

In the Masters category team title went to Spain, silver to USA and bronze has been taken by team France. In individuals gold won Pete Erickson (USA), followed by silver Mike Learmonth (CAN) and bronze was taken by Jordi Oliveras (SPA).

### Euro 2023 Portugal

The 27<sup>th</sup> European championship run in centre region of Portugal in Covilha - stunning environment of the serra de la Esterella national park, it's glacial valleys with big boulders, a windy Lago do Rossim and the technically demanding clear rivers Zezere, Alva and Paul. Opening ceremony was held in the townhouse (FIPS Mouche flag was presented during the week in the middle of the town square on), given the rainy weather and closing ceremony in a guest hotel in Covilha. Fishing was difficult on partly stocked fish despite low water levels. The stocked fish, good size, triggered uneven beats, regarding number of fish. Some spots held a lot of big fish, other spots were almost empty. FIPS Mouche Board was represented by Paul Vekemans and Stefan Allacker.

In the European championship the team gold was taken by France, silver went to Spain and bronze to Finland. In individuals gold won Lionel Fournier (FRA) silver Vincent Mathieu (BEL) and bronze was taken by Daniel Martin (SPA).

### Youth 2023 Bosnia and Herzegovina

20<sup>th</sup> Youth Championship was hosted SRSBiH in Bosna and Herzegovina in a marvellous flyfishing river Buna (4 sectors) with an endemic soft mouth trout and Mostar lake.

All meals were in provided in a buffet form, at the very beginning there were some complaints from teams, but after intervention of international organizer, the quality of food was improved. The opening parade was through the historic centre of Mostar, crossing world famous bridge was really nice. The presentation of the teams was in the town hall square with the participation of some local authorities. Unfortunately, the 40+ degree weather and the very long walk made it a tough day.

Due to high water levels in Lake Salakovac, for safety reasons, the organisers had to move the competition sector to Lake Mostar (Neretva dam). The controllers were students from local schools, they spoke English and carried out their duties correctly. The closing ceremony was in Blagaj at the “Ada” hotel at the swimming pool (with some celebration jumps in afterwards).

Captains were invited to a second meeting dedicated to a way how fly fishing youth activities are managed in their countries. The presentations by the captains of Team USA, Czech Republic, Poland and others were remarkable. A positive experience that should be repeated every year at all championships. FIPS Mouche Board was represented by Mario Podmanik and Edoardo Ferrero.

In the Youth championship the team gold was taken by USA, silver went to France and bronze to Slovakia. In individuals gold won Drew Bone (USA), silver Kage Kossler (USA) and bronze was taken by Tomas Novy (CZE).

## **NEW MEMBERS**

In 2023 Board received an application for ordinary membership from Iran Sport Fishing Association (ISFA), current member of FIPSeD, represented by Mr.Dr.Amir Mosadegh and early 2024 we obtained an application from Bulgarian Sport Fishing Federation (BSFF) to rejoin FIPS-Mouche back again. Both applications are eligible and Board recommends an approval by Member delegates.

## **BOARD**

Having expected a smaller size GA here in Cape town, last year board decided not to push forward any rules/statutes changes. We received one valid motion from CRS (CZE) including a set of rule changes, however the Board decided to postpone its approval for GA in 2025 with a bigger audience and mandate. A significant set of rule changes were approved at GA in 2023. On technical level the changes were related to increase of participation fee limits in each category (except for youth), title sponsors, rotation on rivers disallowed, water resistant scoring cards required, fish butterflied while netting banned, 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 remains. In the year 2023 there were just minor adaptations of the FIPS-Mouche website (dynamic linkage of the calendar with detailed listing, admin panel covers nominations of persons BM&IS for championships, subscription autoreplies, privacy statement, French version of CR, performance improvements with flexbox...). As for the future Board has decided to change a system of championship websites the way that from 2024 on, they will be incorporated under the fips-mouche.com domain and provided as a service to members, that is to be covered by increase of registration fee from 25 Euro to 30 Euro (after 7 years remained unchanged).

At the end of my report, I would like to take the opportunity to thank to Mr. Paul Vekemans for all his effort, views, knowledge and expertise of a passionate fly fisher, fly tyer, competitor, captain and above all FIPS-Mouche Official, he has been presenting on behalf of FIPS Mouche for more than past quarter century. Additionally, I would like to express my thank also to all Board members, members of the Technical commission, team of International Supervisors, CIPS and other fly fishers for their valuable voluntary contributions they provided to push a competitive fly fishing again a bit further.

Thank you and tight lines.

Mario Podmanik  
FIPS-Mouche President