



After his first appearance in Preston Innovations Team England colours, Steve Ringer tells WRITeANGLE magazine about the experience...

Some people seem to thrive on pressure. Take Steve Ringer: Fish O Mania finals, Parkdean Masters, magazine articles, filming DVDs, he's certainly been there, done that. So how would he fare on the World Championships circuit? When Tommy Pickering announced that Steve was in the squad for the inaugural feeder fishing World Champs, it was no surprise. Now we would get a chance to see how the extra pressure of representing your country would affect him. "There is an expectation to do well, as you're English and everyone knows the English are very good in World Championships. For me, I know I've been picked on my ability, so that helps me to take it in my stride. Obviously, I was very nervous, and I had the extra pressure of



drawing the downstream end peg. There were a lot of people saying how easy it would be for me. The result from my peg on day two showed that it wasn't an easy peg to fish.

I often watch everything that is going on around me in a match. On the next peg, Theo Leijrik was catching very well, but I know it doesn't really matter what others are doing. The time to worry about the other anglers

is when you start catching yourself. I had to get myself in the zone and focus on the water. It is easy when you're getting bites; a lot harder when you are not catching."

Tactics

"I feel we tried to do a bit too much and fish in an English style. We tried to keep four lines going and it was a massive downfall.

Our groundbait mix was not right, either. We were using a brown mix with fishmeal in, like you would expect for carp and carassio.

Most of the other teams, certainly the ones who were catching lots of carp, were using a yellow mix. You wouldn't think the colour of the groundbait would have such an effect on the amount of bites you get. It shows that in hotter countries, you have to think a bit different and the teams who have experience of those countries have a big advantage.

I would say the other teams were not as good as us technically, but they knew how to fish in those conditions.

We learned a lot from the performances on day one and went in to day two knowing we could improve. My second in section from day one set me up with the chance of an individual medal and Tommy gave me free reign to go for it. When I didn't get a bite for the first hour of the second day, I knew it would be a bottle job. I had seen Theo keep plugging away to win the match on day one, so knew the fish would come if I stuck to one line.



It is at times like that when you realise how important a good runner is. Adam Wakelin helped to take the pressure off by letting me bounce ideas off him. He even changed the subject away from fishing, which

helped me get back in the zone.

I went on to win the section after two good spells of catching carassio, which are pretty much the same as F1s. That gave me 3 points for the two days and the silver medal.

The job was to get a team medal, but I faced more pressure than I have ever felt when fishing a match, so my individual silver feels brilliant."

Carassio are similar to F1s

