



5 minutes with

TOMMY PICKERING

You won't find a more popular or more decorated man in match fishing than Tommy Pickering. We grabbed the genial former World Champion for a quick chat about life, football, fishing and that disastrous double dry net

TOMMY FACTFILE

Name: Tommy Pickering
Age: 55
Lives: Doncaster
Occupation: Tackle consultant
Sponsors: Preston Innovations and Sonu Baits



UKM: Bad luck at Fish O' last month. Getting to the final is a hard task, so do you think there's another final left in you?

TP: Oh God yes! I'd hope I've got several more left in me. The big change in my fishing has been being able to concentrate more on what I want to do as opposed to being tied up with Barnsley and the England Ladies, so realistically if I could make another two finals in my lifetime that'd be brilliant.

UKM: You mentioned your fishing is now taking a different direction. Will you spill the beans?

TP: No problem. Next year sees the first World Feeder Champs and I think I've got a good shot at making the team. However, to do myself justice I'm going to need to start doing more different types of feederfishing on rivers and abroad on big festivals in Holland - the tip on commercials isn't enough. I'll still go to White Acres and fish the Fish O' qualifiers but my day-to-day fishing will change, all engineered around making this team for Italy in 2011.

UKM: Talking of the World Champs, it'll be 21



Tommy still loves his rivers and plans to fish them more in 2011.

UKM: years this September since you won the title. Hand on heart, do you think you could still fish for England?

TP: I've always thought and still do that I've got the ability and experience to fish at England level. I appreciate that any chance of making the main team has long gone, but with the Feeder Champs and the Veterans in a few years' time there are still plenty of opportunities to wear the three lions again.

UKM: You managed the England Ladies team very successfully. Is there any

UKM: more management in the pipeline?

TP: I'd still jump at the chance to coach and manage again as I love doing it and who knows, I might even play a part in the feeder team as a manager? What I do know is that at 55 years of age you need to start slowing down and taking a rest. I was clawing about everywhere with the ladies, with Barnsley, with Preston Innovations and fishing, and it takes its toll.

UKM: You ran a tackle shop for many years and started the first angling roadshows. Are you glad you're out of that game?

TP: A few years ago I actually looked for a shop to take over but nothing grabbed my fancy and I wouldn't say no to running a shop. I had mine for 15 years and they were great times, as were the roadshows, but I think the era of the show has now gone - which is a shame because I love being on stage and talking to people.

UKM: What's your favourite venue?

TP: White Acres. I love going there not just because it feels like a holiday but because the fishing and social side is brilliant.

UKM: What are your fishing strengths?

TP: Determination and the will to win whatever the situation I'm in. I can grind out a result if I need to, and I also like to think that I can read a match well and work out quickly what needs doing.

UKM: And your fishing weaknesses?

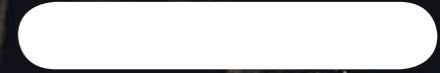
TP: I can't honestly think that I've got any. I'm sure other people will say I do come up short in certain areas, but I can't think of one!

UKM: What's been your biggest disappointment in fishing?

TP: That's easy - that double dry net at the World Champs in 1990. Coming off the back of win in 1989 it was a devastating blow that destroyed me as an angler for a good few years. Even now I look back on it and wince. I've never, ever felt as low as I did after that.

UKM: How does Tommy Pickering unwind when he's not fishing?

TP: I love all sports but football is my passion and I go to Leeds United with my lad regularly - we can't wait for Saturdays! I also love watching the cricket.



"NEXT YEAR SEES THE FIRST WORLD FEEDER CHAMPIONSHIPS AND I THINK I'VE GOT A GOOD SHOT AT MAKING THE TEAM"

Tommy Pickering