

# River Drowes Salmon Workshops

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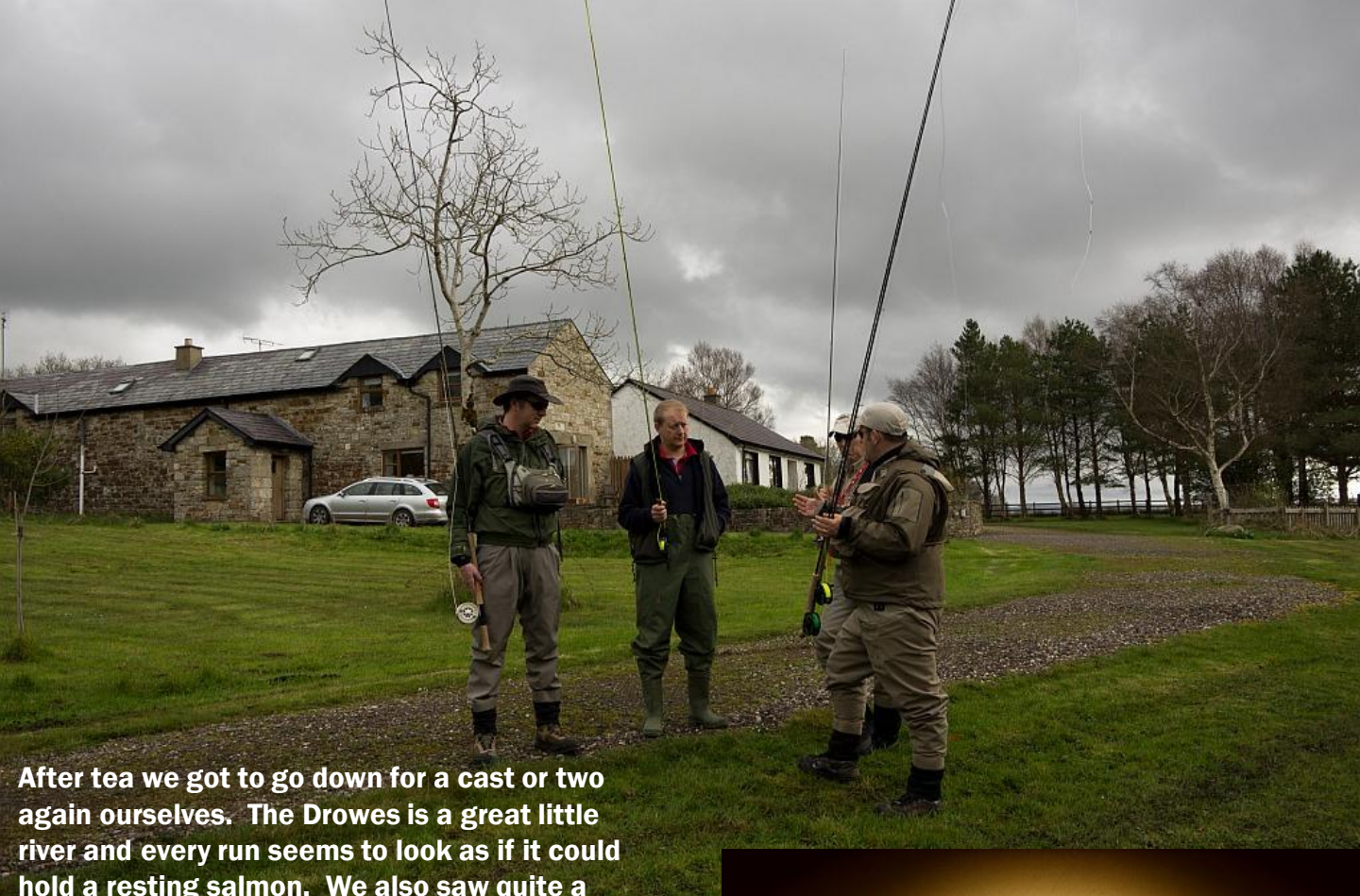
**Travelled up last Friday evening to the River Drowes with: Mackenzie Pro Team member Maurice Cahill, Denis O Toole (AM Angling Fly Tying Ace) and my pal Kuba Stander, who writes fishing articles and takes superb photos. It was late in the evening when we got there but we were full of anticipation as Denis had informed us of the fantastic reputation of this spring fishery. We couldn't believe our eyes when we parked at the house where we were to be staying for two nights. It was awesome, and the river was within casting distance right outside the front door! A short walk to our left was mighty Lough Melvin. We had a walk down to famous pool called the eel weir pool where we were going to do some of our casting workshops on Saturday. It was time to go for a bite to eat in Bundoran and then back to the house for a chat about all things salmon fishing. We all got up at first light on Saturday morning and headed off down for a cast.**

**The closest I got to a fish was a smolt of about 1/2lb in weight. Nevertheless I think we were all in awe of all the lovely fly runs at this upper part of the river, right from where we were staying all the way down to the Four Masters Bridge.**

**We arrived back up the accommodation around 8am and met up with Shane Gallaher who owns and manages the fishery. He was really busy with a lot of customers coming and going from the office. Nevertheless he went out of his way to spend some time with us and I must say he is as nice a guy as you could hope to meet. Around 9am Maurice and I met up with some of the course participants and did some casting with single handed rods. We then went downriver across the bridge at the eel weir and did some more casting with double handed rods and switch rods. The guys picked up all the techniques very quickly which was excellent.**

**We went back up the house at lunch time for a snack and a cup of tea. After lunch Denis tied up some flies and gave all the lads one or two each. As usual they were of the highest standard. The guys all headed off to do some fishing and I spent some time casting with Stephen from Strabane who travelled to the fishery with my good pal Finbar. Finbar had just caught the first salmon from the Mourne a day or two earlier.**





After tea we got to go down for a cast or two again ourselves. The Drowes is a great little river and every run seems to look as if it could hold a resting salmon. We also saw quite a few nice trout rising here and there. None of us hooked into any fish but a few were seen. When we got back up to the house one of the lads that Denis had given an Editor Fly to was waiting for us with his friends. He was grinning from ear to ear and as expected he had caught. It was a nice fresh fish of 7lbs he told us and it was his first springer from the river on fly.

Overall it was clear on the way home Sunday that the Drowes a super salmon fishery with awesome facilities. I still can't get over the miles of timber walkway along the banks. We were so thrilled with the hospitality shown to us by Shane and his team and the friendliness of all the course participants as well as the other anglers were met along the river. The other fascinating thing for us was how reasonably priced the fishing was. Day permits were only €25 and a weeks fishing with accommodation was approximately €250. Now that is super value for money.





