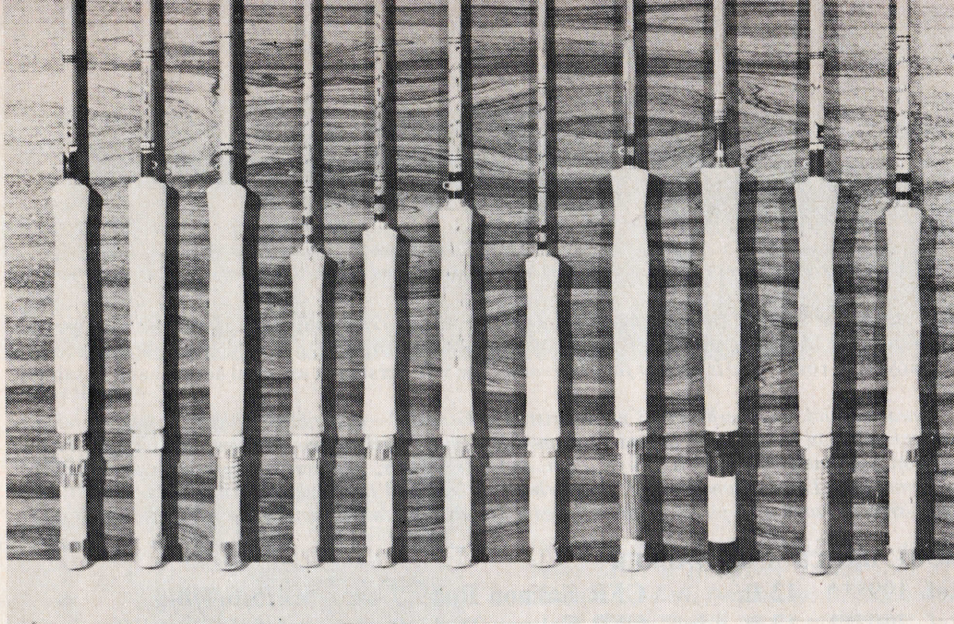


**A CHOICE  
OF TACKLE  
1976**

**Dermot Wilson**

NETHER WALLOP MILL





Left to right: Eighty-Eight, International, Fario Club, 6' 9" Wallop Brook, 7' 6" Wallop Brook, 8' 2" Wallop Brook, 6' 6" Wallop Brook 'Midge', 8' 5" Lightline, Sawyer Nymph, 9' 6" Scottie and C.C. Lightweight.

## CANE TROUT RODS

### Ref. 105\*\*\* Sharpe's 8 ft. 8 in. Eighty-Eight 5 oz. #5-6

This is Sharpe's very successful design for an outstandingly good dry-fly rod. We recommend it without reservation, though it's hardly inexpensive. (Sharpe's prices have risen *very* steeply, but of course so have many others.)

The 88 has a staggered ferrule for accuracy. Its action is positive but delicate, and it also has plenty of power. This makes it an ideal dry-fly rod for excellent 'presentation' on bigger rivers. For any stream larger than medium-size, we have no doubt in saying it's *as good a rod as money can buy*.

And it's a *first-rate wet-fly rod too*. It achieves with ease the distance people once thought called for a 9' or 9½' rod. It wasn't *made* for reservoirs, but has caught many trout in them. We ourselves prefer the type of handle on the Fario Club (which was incidentally designed by our partner Ian Rothés) to the cigar-shaped handle which the 88 *used* to have. So this year Harold Sharpe has kindly put our favourite handle on all Eighty-Eight rods.

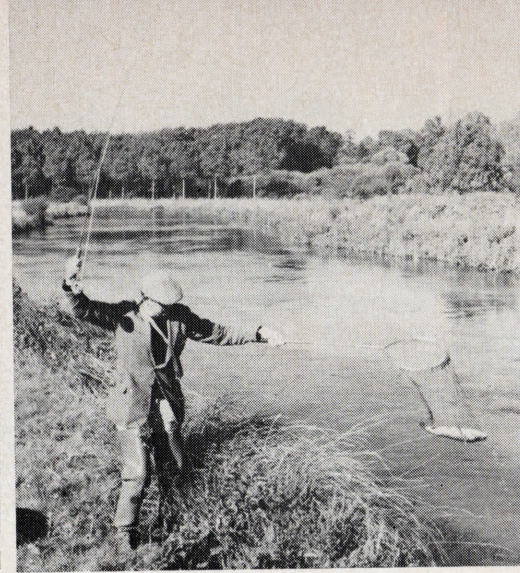
*Middle-to-butt action. Impregnated cane. Staggered ferrule for smooth accurate casting. Shaped handle (as on Fario Club) with nickel skeleton-screw reel-fitting. Dark wine tyings. Large-diameter tip ring, snake intermediates. We prefer a No. 6 line unless conditions are very calm (when a No. 5 will suffice). 2-piece, 1 top. Illustrated above.*

### Ref. 102\*\*\* Wilson/Sharpe 8 ft. 3 in. International 4¼ oz. #5-6

The 'International' was the very first rod we had made to our own specifications, and has continued every year to be one of our most popular cane rods, sometimes the most popular.

The idea behind it was to produce a light dry-fly rod (suitable for wet-fly too) which would 'bridge the gap' between small-river and big-river rods. Thus it's light and short and flexible enough for short casting on small-ish streams—yet has a reserve of power, rather more so than the Fario Club (next), for getting a good distance on larger rivers.

The name arose from its cosmopolitan pedigree. We were given the idea of the 'parabolic' action



Left: Charles Ritz (father of the Fario Club and many other rods) on our casting platform. Centre: Bobby Morrison lands a trout on his International. Right: Harold Sharpe at the Mill with his own favourite rod, the Eighty-Eight.

(and the continuous-taper handle as well) by our very good friend Charles Ritz in France. Several well-known American fishermen helped us to choose the blanks. And the staggered-ferrule principle was invented by England's Terry Thomas, though it has been mainly popularised by Charles Ritz.

The 'International', which is built in Scotland by Sharpe's from impregnated cane, now seems to justify its name—since it's had glowing reports from places as far away from Hampshire as Mexico and New Zealand. It was always supposed to be a 'best' rod, and Charles Ritz has called it 'as nice a cane rod as I've ever handled'.

*Powerful middle-to-butt action—to cast well into a wind. Staggered ferrule. Impregnated cane. Tyings: blue edged with gold. Lightweight housed butt-cap and sliding ring reel-fitting. Large-diameter tip ring, snake intermediates. No. 5 line for ultra-delicacy, but normally a No. 6. Continuous-taper handle. 2-piece, 1 top. Illustrated page 22.*

### Ref. 103\*\*\* 8ft. 5 in. Fario Club 4¼ oz. #5-6

Charles Ritz—famous hotelier, fisherman and rod-designer, and good friend—set out to design the best dry-fly rod in the world. When he'd created the Fario Club, he declared himself satisfied (a rare state of affairs with Charles). The rod is quite superb, needless to say. It's a fraction lighter than most dry-fly rods, and has the virtue of presenting a fly *very* delicately with a No. 5 line.

(Why Fario Club? That's the name of the small international trout-fishing club which Charles founded in Paris. It was pretty exclusive in the good old days. I use the past tense. The 'cercle' lost its claim to exclusivity when Charles inadvertently asked Dermot Wilson to join.)

Charles himself (who is never content with a *status quo*) has now designed some *glass* rods for the Garcia Company in America. Surprise, surprise. We've occasionally been asked whether we can get these for customers, because they aren't available here. The answer is yes (thanks to American contacts) but they take time and can cost between £50 and £70. Plenty of people maintain that the Fario Club is still Charles's best rod ever.

*Middle-to-butt action—smooth and accurate and delicate. Staggered ferrule, of course. Skeleton-screw reel-fitting. Light green tyings tipped with red. Large-diameter American-type tip ring, snake intermediates. Shaped handle. Charles himself recommends a No. 5 line for most conditions but a No. 6 for windy days. Now built by Sharpe's in impregnated cane. 2-piece, 1 top. Illustrated page 22.*





Dermot with two Wallop Brook rods—the 6½' Wallop Brook 'Midge' (on the left) and the 8' 2" Wallop Brook (on the right). He says he'd as soon use a Wallop Brook as any cane rod he knows.

## And here are some favourite rods

### THE 'WALLOP BROOK' SERIES

**Ref. 104\*\* 6 ft. 6 in. Wallop Brook 'Midge' 2¼ oz. # 3**

**Ref. 161\*\* 6 ft. 9 in. Wallop Brook 2¾ oz. #4**

**Ref. 188\*\* 7 ft. 6 in. Wallop Brook 3⅞ oz. #5**

**Ref. 162\*\* 8 ft. 2 in. Wallop Brook 4⅝ oz. #5-6**

We've really been absolutely overwhelmed and delighted by the reputation which the 'Wallop Brook' rods have gained for themselves. Clifford Constable of Bromley produced the original 6' 9" version for us in 1970, so as to fill a gap. We couldn't find any satisfactory small staggered-ferrule rod which would throw a *light* line with great accuracy.

So Cliff made one for us. It has a very delicate touch in delivering a fly, particularly with a double-taper No. 4 line. Or, for into-the-wind casting, it'll handle *up* to a forward-taper No. 6. It's obviously an excellent brook rod, but I myself also use it constantly on the Test and Itchen in preference to larger rods—because I think I gain in presentation far more than I may lose in distance. (I find that a forward-taper No. 5 line is a good all-round one.)

People immediately began falling in love with it—and that's hardly too strong a term. As an example, several champion American casters wrote to say that they preferred it to any other rod of its length. What is perhaps *most* pleasing is that many 'affluent' fishermen, who possess rods costing three times as much, now seldom use the more expensive ones. They've been equally complimentary

#### STAGGERED FERRULES

A staggered-ferrule rod isn't actually a rod that's been made by a drunken craftsman, though it's rather a nice thought. It's a rod with a top joint longer than the bottom joint—so as to give a completely uninterrupted action in the part of the rod that's most vital for accuracy. (The bottom joint has an extra-long rod stopper to protect the top of the rod when it's in its bag.) The staggered-ferrule principle has been made most famous by Charles Ritz.



Left: Mrs. Anne Voss Bark (owner of the Arundell Arms Hotel with its marvellous fishing) uses a 7½' Wallop Brook in the West Country. Right: Mr. Ernie Schwiebert from America, on the Test with a 6' 9" Wallop Brook.

about the 6' 9" Wallop Brook's 'bigger brothers'—such as the 7½' version. This has a little more 'reach' but is still extremely delicate.

The 8' 2" version, first introduced in 1974, is the 'biggest brother'. It's no longer a 'brook' rod—since it's long enough and powerful enough for most rivers except very large ones. It's as good a dry-fly rod as we know, and excellent for wet-fly work as well. It'll handle either a No. 5 or No. 6 line (the No. 5 for delicacy, the No. 6 for accuracy in windy conditions) and the action is as crisp and precise as that of the 6' 9" rod.

And now, new for 1976, there's the Wallop Brook 'Midge'—even more delicate than the original 6' 9" rod. Only a fraction over 2 oz., it handles a line which is probably lighter than any you've yet used—an AFTM No. 3 line. (These aren't easy to get—we suggest the one at Ref. 663 on page 68.) You can put down this line so lightly that you'll hardly see it touch the surface—and of course it'll deliver a fly like thistledown. The Wallop Brook 'Midge' is quite an experience.

*Hand-made throughout. Middle-to-butt action. Built-cane by Clifford Constable. Staggered ferrule (top joint longer than lower joint—for smoothness and accuracy). Lightweight housed butt-cap and sliding ring reel-fitting. Shaped handle. Large-diameter hard-chrome tip ring, snake intermediates. Black tyings (occasionally red when Cliff can't obtain black). 2-piece, 1 top. Illustrated page 22.*

**Ref. 195\*\*\* Sharpe's 9 ft. 6 in. Scottie 6½ oz. #6-7**

Let's say straightaway that the 9½' Sharpe's Scottie is patently heavier than any well-made equivalent in glass. (Cane is always heavier than glass, which is why we don't recommend cane rods of *over* 9' for beginners.) But it's by far the best cane rod of its length for many purposes.

First, it's an excellent sea-trout rod—being sturdy enough to handle big fish, and also being a good length for either night-fishing or drift-fishing on lochs. And second, its strong 'middle action' gives it more power than most cane rods. It'll get a good distance on reservoirs (though remember that you'll need practised muscles to use it for hours on end) and it'll handle summer salmon. A number of good salmon fishermen use it regularly for summer fishing. Finally, it's extremely durable.

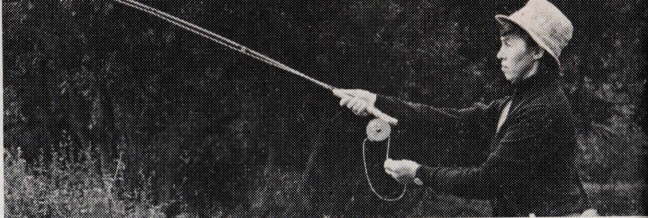
*Sturdy middle action. Sharpe's impregnated cane. Screw-grip reel-fitting. Large-diameter tip ring, snake intermediates. Wine tyings. Shaped handle. 2-piece, 1 top. Illustrated page 22.*

**PRICES.** One asterisk \* stands for 'inexpensive'. Two asterisks \*\* stand for 'medium priced'. Three asterisks \*\*\* stand for 'pretty expensive'. The actual prices are in our separate price-list.





*Left: Crispin is lucky enough to get a word or two of advice about nymph fishing from Frank Sawyer. Above: Renée uses a C.C. Lightweight—demonstrating that it's indeed very light for a 9' cane rod.*



**Ref. 113\*\*\* 8 ft. 10 in. Sawyer Nymph 5 oz. #4-5**

This is the rod which many fishermen may have read about in Frank Sawyer's splendid book 'Nymphs and the Trout'. Frank describes it there as 'the world's best nymph rod'. He developed it to meet certain specific requirements—to be quick on the strike, to be long enough for most waters—yet to handle a line as light as a No. 4.

It was built by Pezon et Michel, the famous French rod-makers. Then it became unobtainable for a little while, because Pezon et Michel were reorganising. But recently (thanks to the co-operation of Francois Michel) we've arranged for it to be made available again. Note: the rod has a considerably 'easier' and slower action than most, and shouldn't be expected to 'punch' a line into a wind.

It's expensive, but it has some unique advantages—particularly the fact that it's the *only cane rod of its length* which can be used satisfactorily with a No. 4 line. (Some people prefer a No. 5.) This can be a great asset for *light-line* fishing with dry and wet flies, as well as with nymphs.

*Easy middle-to-butt action. Built-cane by Pezon et Michel. Screw-grip reel-fitting. Wide-diameter American-type tip ring. Snake intermediates. Wine tyings. Shaped handle. Two joints (just under four feet each) plus separate 11-inch handle. One top. Illustrated page 22.*

**Ref. 189\*\* 9 ft. C.C. Lightweight 4 $\frac{7}{8}$  oz. #6**

9 foot is certainly at present the most popular length for an 'all-round' rod—because it's long enough to serve on still water (from bank or boat), yet not so long as to be difficult or awkward on many rivers.

**BUT** without practised casting muscles, a heavy cane rod of 9' or over (as opposed to a glass rod) can be pretty tiring to use—particularly for a beginner.

So several years ago we asked Clifford Constable to see if he couldn't produce a nine-foot cane rod light enough for beginners, and for fishermen who like light cane rods anyway. The final result

**WHAT'S 'IMPREGNATION'?**

Impregnation—described on p. 22 of *The Truth about Tackle* (see under Books)—is a process developed by Orvis in America. It's now also used by Sharpe's (with Orvis's permission) in this country. The details are kept as 'classified information' but the process consists basically of immersing cane rod-blanks in special resins. The cane becomes to all intents and purposes 'solid'—with no microscopic airholes. It's therefore all the stronger and more powerful. Smaller diameters of cane can be used to deliver any given amount of power. Last, but not least, impregnated rods don't need varnish to keep the water out. Even without varnish, they're completely waterproof.

**If you lose your price-list—which is annoyingly easy to do—please just ask us to send you another one. (No charge, naturally.)**

is the 9 ft. C.C. Lightweight—only 4 $\frac{7}{8}$  oz. It's actually lighter than many glass rods. We named it C.C. after Clifford Constable.

The lightness has been achieved by skilful tapering and light fittings—and not through sacrifice of casting power. The rod will achieve good distances on reservoirs, in addition to presenting a fly well on rivers. (It's quite frequently used on the Test.) And it won't be unhappy with sea trout, or even the occasional salmon. For those who want a light 9' rod *plus* the particular characteristics of cane—here is a rod to consider. Despite the reasonable price, the quality is unexceptionable. It's what we and our customers have come to expect from Cliff Constable—an absolutely first-class rod.

*Hand-made throughout. Middle-to-butt action. Built-cane by Clifford Constable. Lightweight housed butt-cap and sliding ring reel-fitting. Shaped handle. Agate butt-ring, large-diameter American-type tip-ring, snake intermediates. Black tyings (sometimes red if Cliff can't obtain black). Normally a No. 6 line (but a No. 7 forward-taper for maximum distance). 2-piece, 1 top. Illustrated page 22.*

**Ref. 165A\*\* 8 ft. 5 in. Partridge Lightline 4 $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. #4-5**

Here, as an alternative to the Sawyer Nymph, is a *British-built* cane rod for nymph-fishing or other delicate work. It has a slightly more 'positive' action than the Nymph, and it's rather shorter—but it's still a long-ish rod for the light lines it handles.

This model started life in 1975 as an 8' 7" rod and performed well. The revision to 8' 5", however, gives it a little added crispness and makes it even better. It's been built specially for us under the auspices of Messrs. Partridge of Redditch, who have some of the best craftsmen in the area at their disposal.

*Middle-to-butt action (for delicacy rather than sheer power). Staggered ferrule for accuracy. Skeleton-screw reel-fitting with rosewood reel seat. Large-diameter tip ring, snake intermediates. Wine tyings. Shaped handle. 2-piece, 1 top. Illustrated page 22.*

*Jim talks to Crispin about rods. Jim himself is firmly wedded to his Eight-Eight for river-fishing, but he tells Crispin about the great advantages that glass rods have for stillwater fishermen, and for boys as well.*





## If you're curious about rods and other tackle . . .

The ins-and-outs of flytackle can be pretty confusing. That's why Dermot wrote a very factual 55-page handbook about it, with plenty of diagrams, answering all the questions below. It isn't a catalogue and doesn't mention any manufacturers, but explains exactly *how* flytackle works.

The handbook is called 'The Truth about Tackle' and our reference number for it is Ref. 515. Each copy is accompanied by our leaflet 'Guide to Graphite'. Most of the questions and answers are also in Dermot's book 'Fishing the Dry Fly'—which you'll find on pages 121 and 122, under our Ref. 512. If you're interested in either the handbook or the book, simply order them by quoting the reference numbers we've mentioned. (The prices are of course in our price-list.)

### RODS

#### Cane and Glass

*Will it make any difference whether I use a cane or glass flyrod?*

*Will this affect my casting performance?*

*Should I stick to cane rods, then?*

*Am I likely to buy a rod made from inferior cane?*

*Am I likely to buy a rod made from inferior glass?*

#### Types of Rod

*Why are some rods more expensive than others?*

*How long a rod do I need?*

*How light can a good rod be?*

*Is it best to have a two-piece or three-piece rod?*

#### Fittings

*Which are the best ferrules?*

*Which type of rod-handle is the best?*

*Which is the most suitable reel-fitting?*

*Are some rod-rings better than others?*

*Do 'tyings' help to hold a cane rod together?*

#### Good Rods and Bad

*What is so 'skilful' about building a cane rod?*

*What is 'impregnation'?*

*Are hand-made cane rods always the best?*

*What is important in building a glass rod?*

*Can I have a rod specially made for me?*

*Can one tell anything by wagging a rod in a shop?*

#### Rod-Actions

*What are all these 'actions'—'tip action' and so on?*

*Which is the best action?*

*What do these different actions do?*

*How will these actions affect my casting?*

*Then why bother about butt-action rods?*

*Can you sum up the advantages of tip-action and butt-action rods?*

*How about 'dry-fly action' and 'wet-fly action'?*

*Where do 'powerful action' and 'supple action' and 'American action' come in?*

#### Buying a Rod

*What are your recommendations about rods?*

*Can I do with only one flyrod?*

*How can one tell whether a rod is well-made or not?*

### REELS

#### The Purpose of Reels

*Is the main job of a reel to 'balance' the rod?*

*What should I look for in choosing a reel?*

*If I fish different waters, do I need several reels?*

*How about spare spools?*

*How many spare spools?*

#### Types of Reel

*Should I have a reel with an 'exposed flange'?*

*Are 'multiplying' flyreels a good idea?*

*Are automatic flyreels useful?*

*Which type of reel should I have?*

*Should all reels have a drag?*

*Should reels have interchangeable right- and left-hand winds?*

#### Buying a Reel

*What makes some reels so much more expensive than others?*

*What are the signs of a good reel?*

### LINES

#### Tapers

*Why should a line be tapered at all?*

*Are 'level' lines out-of-date?*

*How many sorts of taper are there?*

*How do these tapers affect casting?*

*When should I use a double-taper line?*

*When should I use a forward-taper line?*

*How about a shooting head?*

*Is a shooting head always 30'?*

#### Weight of Line

*Why is the weight of a line so important?*

*How do I know the weight of a line?*

*What does WF-5-S mean?*

*How do I match a line to my rod?*

*Do you recommend cutting the tip of a line?*

#### Types of Line

*What is so 'revolutionary' about plastic lines?*

*What are the advantages of plastic lines?*

*Then why use a silk line?*

*Are plastic floating lines for dry-fly fishing only?*

*Which type of line makes the best shooting head?*

*Do plastic lines need any special care?*

*What is the best colour for a line?*

*What should I look for in buying a line?*

*How important is backing?*

### PRESENTATION, LEADERS AND SUNDRIES

*How does the leader help in presentation?*

*How do I choose the right leader?*

*What's the best way of judging flies?*

*Anything to say about bags and nets?*

*Which are the best waders?*

*Any advice on fishing coats?*

*How about flyboxes etc?*

*Does fly tackle need a lot of care?*



*The Colorado lands an Itchen trout*

SUPPLEMENT TO 'A CHOICE OF TACKLE 1976'

## Pezon et Michel cane rods

Pezon et Michel are the most famous makers of cane rods in the world—if we leave out Britain and America. Admittedly that's leaving out a lot. But it's equally true that for many years some of the world's best cane rods have come from the Pezon et Michel rod-works at Amboise in France.

Our own links with Pezon et Michel are long-standing. Our old friend Charles Ritz contributed an immense amount to their reputation. (He is no longer one of their consultants, but the stamp of his expertise remains on their rods.) Frank Sawyer is another good friend of ours who has worked closely with them—as have many French fishermen whom we know and respect.

While 'A Choice of Tackle 1976' was being written, Pezon et Michel were undergoing a 're-organisation'. Because we were uncertain of the outcome, we thought it wise not to list any Pezon et Michel rods—other than the 8' 10" Sawyer 'Nymph' rods, of which we'd secured ample supplies. But the re-organisation is now complete—just in time for this 'stop-press' supplement.

We're glad to be able to say, therefore, that we've decided to keep and recommend three first-rate rods from Pezon et Michel's PPP range (Perfect Progressive Power). These are of course in addition to the Sawyer 'Nymph' rod already in 'A Choice of Tackle'.

**Ref. 101\*\*\* 7 ft. 2 in. Supermarvel 3 $\frac{7}{8}$  oz. # 5**

**Ref. 109\*\*\* 7 ft. 7 in. Colorado 4 oz. # 5**

**Ref. 123\*\*\* 8 ft. 7 in. Longcast 6 $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. # 6/7**

*(Prices are in our separate price-list)*

All these three rods are 'luxury' rods. They're distinguished by their superb finish, as well as their efficiency. Their actions are just a trifle 'faster' than most similar British cane rods. (Thus the Supermarvel and Colorado are a *fraction* less flexible than our own 6' 9" and 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

P.T.O.



Wallop Brook rods respectively—but by the same token a fraction more powerful, and excellent into a wind.) The Longcast is an exceptional cane rod for its length, because it'll handle a No. 7 line and cast it a very long way.

*Fast-ish middle-to-butt actions. Staggered ferrules. Screw-grip reel-fittings. 27 cm. continuous-taper handles. Large-diameter hard-chrome tip rings, snake intermediates. Tyings: green tipped with red. Each rod comes in a well-made plastic rod-tube. Supermarvel is two-piece with one top. Colorado and Longcast are two-piece with two tops.*

**. . . also an excellent grilse, light salmon or sea-trout rod**

**Ref. 193\*\*\* 10 ft. 6 in. Grilse (2 tops) 10 $\frac{3}{4}$  oz. # 7**

**Ref. 193A\*\*\* 10 ft. 6 in. Grilse (1 top) 10 $\frac{3}{4}$  oz. # 7**

This is a very pleasant 'small' double-handed rod, flexible enough to be rather more delicate than most—and no strain to use. It has several useful purposes. First of all, it's obviously excellent for small streams and for summer salmon in summer conditions. Second, it's light and 'easy' enough for a boy or a fisherwoman to wield without effort. And third, it's a good boat-rod for those who like using two hands in order to gain a little extra length.

*Easy middle-to-butt action. Suction ferrule. Skeleton-screw reel-fitting. 65 cm. shaped handle. Large-diameter hard-chrome tip-ring, snake intermediates. Wine tyings. 2-piece, 1 or 2 tops (optional).*

#### **NOTE ON THE 'FARIO CLUB' ROD**



On page 23 of 'A Choice of Tackle 1976' we list a 'Fario Club' rod built by Sharpe's from impregnated cane. Until recently Sharpe's have been licenced by Pezon et Michel to make these rods. Now, however, Pezon et Michel will be marketing the 'original' French-built version of the Fario Club in Britain—and there'll be no more Aberdeen-built impregnated 'Fario Clubs'. (Sharpe's will be making a similar rod under the name of the Eighty-Five.) The rods we hold in stock are therefore the last of their type. After they're sold, the only 'genuine' Fario Club will be the rod made by Pezon et Michel.

#### **OTHER PEZON ET MICHEL RODS**

Because of Pezon et Michel's recent re-organisation, we're making them an exception to our usual rule of not offering any rods other than those we list. If you see any Pezon et Michel rods advertised which you'd like, but which we don't keep in stock, we can have them sent to you within 72 hours. The complete Pezon et Michel range is described in their new 30-page catalogue, which is printed in colour. If you'd care for a copy, please just send us 9p for the postage—and it'll be on its way to you by return.

**Derмот Wilson, Nether Wallop Mill, Stockbridge, Hants.**