

EURO 08 or BELLA ITALIA

by Philipp Sicher e Jaroslav Vecko

It was a perfect game – a team full of ideas, no fouls and some fantastic goals! We are not speaking about the Euro 08 in football, we speak about the Organisation of the “1. European Rodmakers Gathering” in Sansepolcro, Italy. It was the IBRA (Italian Bamboo Rodmakers Association) planning and organizing – after the 1. Swiss Gathering in Sarnen in 2006 and the 1. German Gathering in Waischenfeld in 2007- this important event with much confidence and commitment at the end of May this year.

More than hundred enthusiastic participants, rodmakers, family members and friends from all over the world – Brazil, South Africa, USA, and most parts of Europe – came their long way down to Tuscany in Italy to see, what’s new in the world of Bamboo Rodmaking.

But let’s start at the roots – this may be in the history of rodmaking or at our grass *Arundinaria* (new *Pseudosasa*) *amabilis*. Hoagy B. Carmichael told in an amusing story about his time in meetings with Everett Garrison in the Seventies and what a big effort it was to complete the film and finally “the Book”.

also with the brought original rods and tools of Garrison. One of these pieces of jewelry. – a micrometer - he gave as present to the IBRA.



Garrison's own micrometer!

A lot of important facts on *Arundinaria amabilis*, or the experience on trade with China, misunderstandings and related problems, were reported by Andy Royer.



Gabriele Gori and Hoagy Carmichael

He awakened much interest and enthusiasm



Andy Royer

Technical and theoretical knowledge of high quality by using computer programs was presented by Larry Tusoni (USA)-“RodDNA” program, the version 1.3 - and after him



Larry Tusoni

by Nils Kulle from Sweden speaking about his experience with the program "Arc-Taper".



Nils Kulle

A speciality, namely the manufacturing of a precisely planning form in wood for quad-rods, was explained in detail by Marzio Giglio from Italy.

An interesting presentation was shown by Philipp Sicher, Switzerland, and Christian Strixner, Germany. In a team work they demonstrated the effects on the action of a rod by different types of hollow building.



Marzio Giglio

On the base of the taper of a Garrison 209E they presented the system "hollow fluting" built by Winston, the « Magic Star», the principle of Sgurd Vangen and the "scalloping" procedure as Powell did, compared with a identical conventional solid built rod. But what a lucky coincidence! Hoagy Carmichael had precisely this Rod of Everett Garrison brought to Italy. The direct comparison with "the Original" was exciting!

Some conclusions:

- ⇒ Long rods produce more saving of weight
- ⇒ The area of the ferrules and grip has to be build solid
- ⇒ Glue, if carefully applied, is no problem in the hollowed part
- ⇒ The action of the rod is changed – try out!!
- ⇒ Weight saving is significant (fluting 15,5% - Magic Star 12,2% - scalloping 7,2% less than solid)
- ⇒ The interpretations of the influence on the action varies from rodmaker to rodmaker (faster – slower ...)

In different forums or books we can find very different interpretations. Most of them tend to say that rods have a loss of stiffness which can be (has to be) compensated by adjusting the taper by 3 – 5%.

But the rods are build, stand ready for casting ... take them ... cast them ... tell your opinion!



Philipp Sicher's lecture

A real highlight was presented by Alberto Poratelli and Gabriele Gori, both from Italy, with the the "Streamlined Bamboo Ferrule". The slight new form of bamboo ferrule amazed a large number of experienced rodmakers. Will it break? The experience will tell! For sure, this is one of the great innovations in Rodmaking in the last years.



G. Gori's and A. Poratelli's lecture (M. Borriero translates)

Also the social and sporting parts of the event were not too short. Already on Friday the "Bamboo only" day was on program. It was held traditionally at the Alto Tevere.

In a most beautiful Tuscany weather, groups of 3-5 persons, guided by a local expert, fished at the headwaters of Tiber for grayling and trout.



The AltoTevere tailwater

Even if they were not of the same size as the fishes in the attractive Seatrout fishing in Denmark, presented by Rolf Baginski, many nice trout and graylings found their way to the fly ...

A lot of time, and this has been appreciated by participants particularly, remained for expert discussions and tests of countless magnificent rods,



Rods made by: Parker Holden, Garrison e Carmichael: three generations of rodmakers.

Hoagy Carmichael signed the "bible" of bamboo Rodmaking, Terenzio Zandri was once more present with silklines and Leen Huisman showed next to his fine rods his Titan-Reels
 The last day, Sunday, the end - finally a raffle. First price: a "European Bamboo Rod", built by the German rodmaker Rolf Baginski, the Italian Gabriele Gori and the Swiss Philipp Sicher.
 It was our German friend Ralf Grewe who was the lucky winner!

This was the end of a successful, of friendship oriented event, which will find its continuation at the end of September 2009 in Sarnen in Switzerland with the "2. European Rodmakers Gathering".

Grazie mille!!



First European Bamboo Rodmakers Gathering's attendees

Sansepolcro 23/24/25 maggio 2008

BAMBOO DAY



ITALIAN BAMBOO RODMAKERS ASSOCIATION

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