

# Chris Ward – Custom Thread Art

## Fishing and Golf; two pursuits followed with passion by those who enjoy the open air.

One may view the other as chasing a white ball around some grass with a bent stick, whilst the others view is of those using a stick, a piece of string and a bent pin wasting time in all weathers, trying to catch fish. For this International Pairs World Championship the two have become entwined through the use of threads.

Chris Ward has enjoyed his passion for fishing since childhood and on taking early retirement in the late 1990's, developed two areas of this passion. Firstly as a custom rod builder, building high quality rods for the dedicated and discerning anglers who enjoy having their rods personally built for them. Secondly Chris qualified as a licensed angling coach specialising in fresh water angling and seashore angling. Over the last three years sea angling coaching has taken him to Saudi Arabia working with young Saudi nationals in competitive shore angling.

Let us return to that entwined thread linking our two sports. As a teenager Chris built the first of many fishing rods when the standard thread colours were black, dark green or maroon. Over the years he has always found an interest in working with coloured threads and more especially with metallic threads. In 1997 Chris attended the National seminar of the Rodcrafters Association of America (now merged with Custom Rod Builders Guild) in the U.S.A. This event enhanced the use of thread to include 'wrapping'; this is when threads are placed in sequence around the rod to make patterns, and 'weaving' that allows images to be woven directly onto the fishing rod. Visiting the U.S.A. annually for National Conclaves, Chris has worked with some of the most gifted craftsmen of both processes, as well as introducing some of his own skills to the events. In August 2007 Chris has been invited to attend the National Conclave and is nominated a 'Legend of Rod Building' for this event. When Chris is discussing the build and final finishes to be included on a clients fishing rod he offers them the inclusion of wrapped thread patterns or woven images. This



can greatly add to the ownership of the fishing rod as it has been personalised specifically for the client. Meeting and talking with golfers, Chris was acutely aware of the passion the game holds for them. Equally the passion experienced when choosing or selecting a particular brand or style of golf club was not too dissimilar to the passion expressed when selecting a fishing rod. Working with some old golf clubs Chris soon realised that wrapping or weaving thread worked just as well on a golf club as it did on a fishing rod. The performance of the club appears not to be adversely affected enabling golfers to enjoy the same unique personalisation of their sports equipment.

During late 2006, Chris met with Ross Honey to talk through their common interest in fishing. Needless to say the talk drifted into golf and the International Pairs Championship. From that day Chris worked on a briefing to create the International Pairs logo as a woven image on the pair of presentation golf clubs for the 2007 World Champions.

With the use of custom thread art, selected clubs in a set of golf clubs, can be customised adding uniqueness and ownership to the set of clubs. Alternatively golf clubs can be customised as a presentation gift or trophy.

If you would like more information contact Chris at his web site [www.rodcraftsman.com](http://www.rodcraftsman.com)

