

44 **SPORT OF THE WORLD** PAGES KICK OFF HERE INCLUDING

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Last trance for Jimmy

HYPNOTIST HELPS WHITE

By Brian RADFORD

JIMMY WHITE is convinced hypnotism will win him the world snooker championship next May.

The game's best-loved ace is thrilled that just two weeks of hypnosis helped propel him to the semi-finals of the British Open last week, where he was pipped 9-7 by the in-form Matthew Stevens.

It ended a dismal run for White (*below*), who hadn't reached a ranking tournament semi-final for three years and won only two matches in the whole of last season.

So it was no surprise that the first hand he shook after the Stevens defeat was that of Don Macpherson — Mac the mindbender — who had regularly hypnotised him during the event.

Calm

White, who lost all of his six world finals, said: "Hypnosis works for me. It makes me calm and it's good for the nerves."

"It was a tough match against Matthew. A lot of good came out of it for me and I can't wait for the next tournament."

Macpherson said: "Jimmy is a fantastic subject. He goes into a very deep trance. We'll continue to meet during the build-up to next May."

"Jimmy has enormous talent and it's absurd that the world

title has eluded him. He understands the difference between winning and losing is all in the mind. As time goes on, he'll get mentally stronger."

White's sessions with Macpherson last up to an hour. During the British Open he had 'top-ups' in the dressing-room during intervals in his matches. The procedure is always the same. Macpherson counts to five and White drifts into a deep trance. It stays that way until Macpherson flicks his fingers to wake him.

While under the spell, Jimmy hears a soft yet commanding voice repeating: "You know what it takes to be a champion. Relax and let this feeling flow inside you."

"The rewards for all your hard work and hours of practice are becoming more and more available to you."

"See it, believe it, achieve it. Your skills are exceptional."

"Your potting is the best in the game. Remember that, and use it to gain the victory you deserve."

"Be 100 per cent committed to every shot. Be focused. Concentrate hard. When your opponent is playing, be calm, relax, breathe easily."

And as the session closes, Macpherson raises his voice, and orders: "On the count of five, you will awake, be feeling fresh, and totally confident. One, two, three, four, five!"

White blinks, smiles, and then whispers: "Thanks... I feel great!"



DRAINING CHAMP

MOST monster carp or barbel in our waters have been captured again and again — but the 39lb 6oz pike Rob Christen landed from a Fenland Drain rocked the big-fish boys.

They were sure these East Anglian waters couldn't hold pike of this size. Rob won't give away the exact location!

TOP SHORE: Dover's Southern



Breakwater — codling, whiting and pout.

TOP TIP: Fishing shallow for carp? Use clear plastic wagglers.
TOP BAIT: Lobworms are handy if rivers are rising or coloured.

Read Bob Nudd in *Angling Times*

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FISH OF THE WEEK

DUNCAN CHARMAN went fishing rather than see England win the Rugby World Cup on TV — and was delighted to catch a 4lb 4oz perch at a local Aldershot lake. Duncan, who wins a reel, said: "I listened to the rugby on my radio."