



MKAA VETERANS

Dateline: 28th July 2010

Venue: Furzton Lake

CELEBRATION DAY

We are told that things generally come in 3's and today was no exception. For a start, we were back at Furzton Lake which is always a firm favourite but this time the match was to be a float only one at the suggestion of one member last year who then discovered that he was on holiday arranged by higher authority! Secondly, it was also one of our favourite 'Pairs' competitions and last but by no means least a day of celebration in the form of Ted Brown's 80th birthday. Now special birthdays also include cake before the draw – this is not for the faint-hearted especially at 7am! Ted Brown is well known in MK circles for his weight lifting achievements and it was not until he gave me a résumé of his life that I fully appreciated just what he has achieved after a very sorry start and the love and dedication of his mother that he should not only survive but flourish. Ted, (for those who do not know) is the holder of British, Commonwealth and World Weight Lifting titles and still competes today – and inspiration to one and all – Congratulations Ted – our very own Captain Fantastic.

Now for the fishing – just as the last pairs match, no-one knew who they were drawn with until the results were in as everyone was given a number, these were placed in 2 wellington boots and one from each was then drawn (gloves not provided)! As this was a first (float only) it was going to be a very interesting competition and would bring back pre feeder skills for quite a number of those gathered. Excellent pegging by Mick Reynolds gave us all a good distance apart and all that was left was for the fish to show! Right from the start, Ernie Sattler was in full flow from his peg in the trees on the hotel bank, and not to be outdone, Bruce Harvey started netting skimmers from his peg closer to the first car park. Meanwhile, the shallows point and beyond the overshot were proving to be a tougher nut to crack with only odd fish showing. As the day progressed, there was little or no change to the earlier format and it was a huge disappointment for many and left a lot of us wondering if all this 'Spod Feeding' tactics have driven the fish further out – a possibility along with the dreaded 'Black Plague Cormorant' population which I think are taking its toll on fish stocks much more than we fully realise. I personally found the condition of many of the roach I caught, marked with scars from such attacks very upsetting and one such cormo even surfaced within 30 metres from me during the match which left me in no doubt as to why bites were few and far between.

So, for the results, as the scales went along, it was interesting to see just how many skimmers (Mick Reynolds had the best at about 2lbs) had shown and were all taken on red maggot! Individually, Ernie (Sack-up) Sattler won with 13lbs exactly with Bruce Harvey not that far behind on 10lbs 9ozs. In A section, John Hewison had 8lbs 14ozs and Mick (waggler king) Harnett led B section with 6lbs 9ozs. As for the pairs, Gordon Metcalf discovered that he was drawn with Ernie and produced an excellent 5lbs14ozs back –up weight for them to romp home with an 18lbs 14oz total ahead of Mick Harnett and John Hewison (15lbs 7ozs) who just had the edge over Bruce Harvey and Henry Snell who had a combined weight of 13lbs 9ozs. Following on behind these were a string of close weights.

Before the start, there was a motion passed that no spodding be allowed in all vets matches. I would also like to personally thank Ken Mott, Steve Emmerton, Austin Maddock and Mick Heffron for their continued support in running these matches. Next week sees a return to Lodge Lake and I fear that with no rain to give some much needed colour to the water, then weights will again come from the inevitable feeder from the noted pegs – lucky charms at the ready?

Finally we would all like to thank Trevor Johnson for accepting his early start invitation to take some press photographs of Ted's celebration cake cutting (and he didn't need an early call!!)

Tight lines

Roachman

