



# MKAA VETERANS

## KEN BALL MEMORIAL

### FURZTON LAKE 25<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2010

With many of Ken's angling friends coming from various parts of the country - as far afield as Yorkshire and East Anglia, we are always hopeful that Furzton fishes well, does not disappoint and all return home happy. This year was no different and following the recent Match Fishing cup competition when the bream fed well, then all hopes were that there would be a repeat performance and some good catches. On reaching my peg just after the sluice on the hotel bank, there was a dead skimmer with its throat out - this could only be caused by either mink or otter so anglers beware we have yet another predator to contend with in our waters.

As always, the draw plays a huge part in this venue and when Joe Roberts (the Disabled and Veterans England Team Manager and once described by one of his many friends as one of the best feeder anglers in the country) pulled out peg 1 opposite the island on the far bank and Geoff Ringer wanted peg 6 but got peg 7 we had 2 very happy faces but 40 plus who were disappointed. Still, there was always the section to go for and it is always 'Head down' and get the most out of where you are. On the start whistle/shout depending where you were, the usual feeder bombardment started and with the ban on spodding, there were some seriously big feeders being employed but as the day progressed, there were realisations that the fish did not want a big bed of feed laying down and obviously some were regretting this initial action. On the pole line, there were initial fish to be caught but they rapidly disappeared and one was left to wonder what to do next.

Early walkers and mobile phone conversations confirmed that Joe Roberts was stamping his authority on the match and there were a few others who had a couple of bream early but then patiently waiting for more. One angler on the pole was doing well though. Steve Binge, a tackle dealer from East Anglia was catching fairly consistently when a tench rolled in his swim and a change of hook bait brought this what should have been beautiful fish to his net but he was alarmed at the awful state of the fish's mouth. This proved not to be a lone fish and he caught two more and all were in a similar condition. Now none of us like to see this and although it is quite common on commercial fisheries it is quite rare on our waters and I can only assume that this is due to long range fishing, big hooks and powerful strikes. Meanwhile, tentative action was seen around various areas, Bill Lovelock just before the sluice was quietly adding fish to his net and Gordon Metcalfe in the same area was admitting to 1 decent bream and 3 others. On the far bank, Geoff Ringer was unusually quiet whilst Dave Kent from Nottingham was also changing tactics after a good start on big reds to add to his tally whilst Paul Latter and John Harvey on the early pegs were having a head to head battle on adjoining pegs with Paul getting the better of John fishing the corn. On the point, Trevor Oakman was also getting some bream and on end peg 52, Ian Benton was happy that his long journey was being rewarded - again with bream. So, for the final outcome, here are today's results:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Joe Roberts	Peg 1	71lbs 4ozs (Bream on worm)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Paul Latter	Peg 4	35lbs 5ozs (14 Bream on corn).
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Trevor Oakman	Peg 49	34lbs 11ozs (Bream on various baits)
Section 1-13	Dave Kent	Peg 9	27lbs 12ozs (Bream on Maggot and Pinkie)
Section 14-26	Steve Binge	Peg 23	21lbs 4ozs (Tench, Roach and Perch Worm and caster)
Section 27-39	Bill Lovelock	Peg 32	20lbs 15ozs (Bream on secret squirrel bait)
Section 40- 52	Ian Benton	Peg 52	20lbs 8ozs (Bream - unknown bait)

So, in summary, the favoured far bank pegs proved yet again to be the area to draw, (well for some), cold rain water had possibly put the fish off from their prior to match feeding frenzy but there were still fish to be caught but not the expected quantity. Just for the record, for regular MKAA Vets attendees, the Ted Brown trophy started today, points are awarded for the top 15 to weigh in 15 for 1<sup>st</sup> - 1 for 15<sup>th</sup>. No weigh = no points. Be lucky, stay happy and live for the day. My grateful thanks to Ken Mott for pegging out, Terry Valentine for all his hard work before and after the match and all the helpers who gave such excellent support. PS £240.00 was raised on this match for Willen Hospice - so well done one and all.

*Roachman*