

# VETERANS REPORT - CLATTERCOTE RESERVOIR - 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2011

## TO CARP OR NOT TO CARP THAT WILL ALWAYS BE THE QUESTION.

A surprisingly low number of 18 turned up for this away venue and with the wind in the north this gave us a comfortable day but I much prefer to have the wind in my face on lakes and resies. With the calm conditions, the great debate is always going to be 'Where are the fish and what tactics do I employ to get the best out of the swim?' As usual, the hardened group of carp and bream feeder anglers were convinced that it would be their day and so it proved for the odd few. The decent bream, with the odd exception failed to show and most caught small skimmers which meant a lot of fish for not a big weight.

With Ernie Sattler opting to fish at Packington Summers, everyone was hoping that it would be their day to get an end peg but for a change neither of these would not produce any of the top 3 weights. Instead, it was Ian Pretty who had a very rare day off work and would fish a flawless match mid way along the stretch to pick off carp throughout on either pellet or corn on method feeder for an excellent 52lbs 15ozs and an easy victory. Not that Ian had it all his own way as at one stage it was Ian 4 – Carp 4 but then a double figure job sought sanctuary in his keepnet and for everyone else it was then just a tussle for the minor placings. Now when Paul Barnes does not answer his mobile phone you have to accept the fact his amazing skill is at work and that he must be on a weight building mission – like today. Steadily, he built up a catch of bream and carp to claim the runner up spot amassing a decent 33lbs 10ozs. You just cannot keep a good angler down.

John Hewison opted for his usual approach of caster and groundbait to target the roach and duly filled the last in the frame with a creditable 20lbs 10ozs of lovely redfins. The water looked absolutely perfect – until you put a keepnet out and then you saw just how clear the water really was – boy, do we need some serious rain. With the clear conditions, there were a substantial number of Pike about and these duly kept the roach on the move so more than 2 swims were need to keep fish coming. Both Terry and Charlie Lancaster came prepared for the roach and despite catching well (as they do) carp temptation got the better of them and they both could only reflect on what might have been rather than making the frame. Mick Heffron endured the expected banter after last week but remained dry today. Next week sees us at Calvert AC's Claydon lake and there are only 5 more vacant places left in this limited peg venue. With only 5 more matches left, it is neck and neck between John Harvey and Ernie Sattler to claim the yearlong series and the Ted Brown Trophy. Excitement at the vets? You bet!!

So today the results were as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Ian Pretty	52lbs 15ozs
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Paul Barnes	33lbs 10ozs
3 <sup>rd</sup>	John Hewison	20lbs 10ozs

Strangest bait tactic heard today – slow sinking pre soaked dog biscuit wind up or fact? Now years ago, on the Oxford canal circuit, if asked what bait you caught on invariably the reply would be 'Slow sinking oxo cube on a 24 hook!' – honest!

*Roachman*