

MKAA VETERANS – R/OUSE – STONY MAIN 9TH NOVEMBER 2011

WOW – WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT

For today's foray we returned to the river at Stony Stratford. Following a good report from the match on Brushmill/Hollands and Toombs last Sunday then there were hopes of a good day. However with no rain and therefore little colour or flow there was the obvious trepidation. The first thing we noted when pegging out was that a number of trees had been felled, some still had to be cut up and removed, lots of branches were to be removed and some pegs inaccessible. Never the less, 30 pegs were in and it was all down to the draw. Before this though we had to celebrate not one but two 70th birthdays – Ken (Chippy) Carpenter and John Whetherall – as usual for significant birthdays cake was provided and enjoyed by those who were allowed or had the inclination at that time of day!!

This venue has been in good form this year despite the poor conditions and lack of rain with the dominant species being perch. Now for a while the numbers of big perch have been absent from catches suspicions were that these may have been targeted by persons who like to supplement their diet shall we say. Today proved that this may be partly true but in light of the following report then maybe the perch have been busy on the crayfish!

Just after the starting whistle, the tree fellers arrived and John Whetherall had to move on account of the next tree on the fellers list being in his area – much to his annoyance (and that goes to anyone who may have been drawn there). There were early reports from the anglers who opted out of this venue that perch seemed to be the only fish worth going for with Ken Mott and Pete Whatley setting the pace around the A5 bridge, Nigel Steele (on his first outing with the group was fishing his favoured waggler with bronze maggot), Mick Reynolds, John Hewison and Alan Ford on the straight, Barry Witteridge below the big bay and Charlie Lancaster on the early pegs also in contention. After 2 hours, it was as if some-one had thrown a switch and you could not even get the crayfish to bite in a lot of areas. As always though there are the exceptions and those who were able to carry on catching made the final frame. Without a doubt it was a perch day with most falling to worm, worm & maggot cocktail or just single maggot accounting for the vast majority of catches. The only exception was Barry Witteridge who had caught two chub about a pound and a bit each. As the results came in it was clear that Pete Whatley had enjoyed a tremendous day and easily romped home the winner after weighing in the best catch of the year so far, with Ken Mott leading the chasing pack. Next week we should be on Riverside but as the conditions on the venue are bad in the extreme, we are chancing the current weather conditions and venturing to the canal again – this time to Willowbridge Marina and Mill Road. Let's hope our hopes come to fruition.

1 st	Pete Whatley	17lbs 12ozs
2 nd	Ken Mott	10lbs 12ozs
A Section	Barry Witteridge	9lbs 12ozs
B Section	Nigel Steele	7lbs 9ozs

Roachman