

GU CANAL DEANS ROAD 30TH NOV 2011

ALLS WELL THAT ENDS WELL

With the river at Riverside Meadows still unable to accommodate all the members we opted to go to the canal at Deans Rd. With British Waterways shutting off Cosgrove lock for major repairs this was a huge gamble as this severely restricted any boat traffic and with no boat movement comes clear water! The canal was also lower than normal so it was down to getting a reasonable draw – nothing changes there then! Apart from the normally highly favoured end pegs this match could have been won from anywhere that fish were prepared to feed and anglers adapting to the less than ideal conditions.

Pegged 4 to the right of the entrance, Rupert (Buffy) Ash got the ideal start with a good skimmer on his first cast and must have thought that this was going to be his day but then nothing else for over an hour before he landed a reasonable perch. Another hour later and another perch which turned the scales at 1lb 8ozs joined the others and he was definitely in contention. All his fish fell to red maggot. Meanwhile, for the most it was small fish – mainly perch that fed. Mick Heffron on the end peg 30 never had a bite until a boat that had been moored on the Galleon basin came through after 2 hours into the match and it was then a fish a chuck. On the other end peg, Pete (drawbag) Whatley experienced the same format but fishing worm tempted some better perch. Charlie Lancaster and John Harvey on pegs 2 & 3 respectfully got instant results on bread punch be it small fish but at least they were catching. Likewise, Dave McClellan on the butterfly bush caught from the off but again small fish. The summer hot pegs on the big bush failed to impress those drawn there and disappointment was evident.

One more boat came through and put a bit of colour in for a while but for most it made no difference. Considering the conditions, weights were not as bad as feared all-be-it mainly from the expected pegs but then this goes to prove that if you have the lucky draw hand you will always have a head start.

At the all out it was Mick Heffron who dominated this match with Pete Whatley off the pace but catching enough for runner up position. Performance of the day must go to Rupert Ash who only fell short by a few ounces from 2nd place and 1ounce off a section win. Fish of the day goes to John (Roachman) Hewison who managed a fine 1lb 4oz roach which accepted his caster offering from a less than favourable peg.

1 st	Mick Heffron	5lbs 8ozs
2 nd	Pete Whatley	3lbs 15ozs
A section (Equal)	Charlie Lancaster and John Harvey	3lbs 8ozs
B section (Equal)	Dave McClellan and Kevin Osborne	2lbs 11ozs

So, next week we are back at Cosgrove and hopefully the lock repairs will be completed and both water levels and boat movement will help us to have an enjoyable match.

Roachman