

XMAS MATCH – STONY MAIN 14TH DECEMBER 2011

BRR – WINTER HAS ARRIVED

This match has always drawn an above average attendance so allowances have to be made to accommodate this fact but in true tradition that nothing can be taken for granted our nominated pegger outer Terry Lancaster and I met the previous day to check out the venue and peg the match. Meeting on Stony bridge we were immediately met with **DISASTER** as the environment agency had decided to work on this stretch and were busy removing the large fallen tree and bush from the straight on Toombs meadow. This is the peg that produced 28lbs + on the MKAA xmas match and this work would obviously disperse the fish that had taken residence there. Speaking with the workers they informed us that they would complete work there the next day and then were moving to brushmill to remove the stump and fallen trees from the once productive chub peg areas – so, a quick decision had to be made taking into account the forecasted weather and where the match could be held and we agreed to keep everyone together and peg the main. Although a match had been held there on the previous Sunday, we had no option at this late stage and pegging was duly completed, and a good job we did this early as as we got back to our cars the heavens opened and this turned to snow – thick snow too. Not surprisingly, only 20 turned up and were not put off by what had been decided. Putting the draw back 1/2hour this gave everyone the chance to get to their pegs and get set up. In addition to this match we also held a pairs event and as funds had been carried forward from the proposed event the top 4 pairs would also be paid out.

I don't think anyone was taking this match for granted but it was hoped that with the small amount of rain we had on the Sunday some colour and flow might be present and the fish respond to this. The bread punch anglers were the first to catch, Paul Neave on the early pegs below stony bridge, Mick Reynolds on the manhole swim above the green pipe, John Harvey on the big bay below the green pipe, Paul Chapman on the peg below the A5D and Mick Heffron below the white post all catching but mainly very small fish. Pegged on the big bush below the A5D and with no-one around him, Bob Gale snared a couple of perch early on but then nothing so went for a walk (usual for Bob) to get an idea what was happening – returned and straight away landed a 3lb job ! Meanwhile, for the most fishing the punch sport dried up and then it was a case of just catching what they could. In another true tradition, Alan Ford, pegged at the top of the straight was just about to call it a day when he too landed a decent perch of around 3lbs and this settled him down and he just persevered with his worm jiggling method and took another 2 smaller samples. Meanwhile, Paul Chapman had also changed to worm and was getting odd perch to add to his estimated 3lbs of roach he had caught on the punch. Considering the conditions, 75% of the field caught which was good I think. **RESULTS** then

	1 st	Bob (Superstar) Gale	6lbs
	2 nd	Alan Ford	4lbs 15ozs
	3 rd	Paul Chapman	4lbs 14ozs
PAIRS:	1 st	Bob Gale & Mick Reynolds	8lbs 13ozs
	2 nd	Paul Chapman & Ian Greenhood	5lbs 12ozs
	3 rd	Alan Ford & Gordon Metcalf	4lbs 15ozs
	4 th	John Harvey and Roy Ash	3lbs 10ozs

Next week sees us at the Galleon which will be a challenge as they had their Xmas match there on Sunday and it was only 3 weeks ago that the London Winter Lge was fished there but at least temperture are forecast to improve so lets hope we all catch.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL AND GOOD LUCK, HEALTH AND HAPPINESS IN 2012
ROACHMAN

Below pictured from left to right is Alan Ford, Bob Gale & Paul Chapman

