

# **MKAA VETERANS – GU CANAL GALLEON/SUICIDE BRIDGE**

**21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2011**

## **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

When you have spent a lifetime working, bringing up a family and fitting all the requirements that life throws at you it's nice to know that friends along the way rally round to share in your happiness. I can remember my dad saying that his goal was to reach three score years and ten (70 for those not of our era) and this benchmark was reached today by Roy Ash. Roy and his brother Rupert turn up week in week out rain wind or shine never 'venue picking' and enjoy the banter and group camaraderie that goes with the weekly outing of this ever increasing number of veteran anglers. Of course in true veterans style there is only one way to celebrate and that is with the traditional birthday cake as in the picture below.

Now for the grim bit – the match. Well all I can say is that following practicing for and the actual London Winter League match, last Sunday's Galleon AC's Christmas match – (quite a dire event with only one angler breaking the pound weight and many others drinking more cups of tea than getting bites!), together with the very poor weather conditions, the stage was set for a truly uninspiring match. Despite this a reasonable 22 arrived ready to try and outfox the fish. (No, this was not a joke from a Christmas cracker)

As has been the norm now for quite some time, end pegs seem to dominate the majority of competitions – with one exception - peg 1 where John Harvey found himself near to some workmen doing something to the iron bridge, water being pumped into the canal from the river at an alarming rate and a huge diesel oil slick presumably from a boat's bilge clear out which not only made him feel ill but 3 others as well. The straight not surprisingly fished very hard and it was left to the remainder of the match on the basin and suicide bridge areas to come up with the goods. Now I had thought that the suicide area could well produce today but it was just like the rest – hard going in fact out of 6 anglers only Mick Reynolds with 13 ounces bothered the scalesman. Way out in front was Gordon Metcalf on end peg 27 past the waterfall who had a fair day with a skimmer, roach and gudgeon catch on the punch for 2lbs 6ozs which obviously kept him busy for most of the time. In the basin where 3 of the 4 pegs could be got in due to boats that are totally ignoring the 48 hour limit, Alan Ford and Paul Chapman found the going tough but both managed to break the pound mark whilst on the straight, Jack Wilson and Bob Gale both managed to snare a single perch each which propelled them up the points ladder. So for a completely uninspiring breakdown:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Gordon Metcalf	2lbs 6ozs
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Paul Chapman	1lbs 6ozs
A Section	Jack Wilson	1lbs 3ozs
B section	Alan Ford	1lb

Next week we are on the Toombes and first part of the main which could end up just as bad as this match for most – but we will be as ever full of enthusiasm (or Christmas cheer or beer)!!  
Tight lines all

**Roachman**

Birthday boy Roy Ash pictured below

