

RIVERSIDE MEADOWS 18TH JANUARY 2012

FROZEN OUT – SO ANOTHER VENUE CHANGE

Due to the canal being frozen over and even the Ouse at Calverton Road also covered in ice we had to make a late venue change and as other river venues have had quite a lot of pressure of late we went to Newport's riverside. 19 brave souls made the match and while the river is still in dire need of some extra water and colour all were happy to give this a go.

Now, as organisers go, we all need help from time to time and again Mick Heffron came to the fore and pegged it out late tues afternoon – thanks again Mick. With everyone away I was off home to get some urgent jobs done but returned to help weigh in with Dave Adams and get a couple of snaps in to boot! On my return I met Steve Emmerton who had come for a look-see being unable to fish due to a fall a few days earlier which I am pleased to report is mending well. He gave me the information that I needed to save my legs and I decided to go downstream to check out how things were going. On the way, 3 anglers who had no luck were already packing up but on reaching John (Half a mo) Harvey he latched into a perch of about half a pound and this was my first photo opportunity. Moving on, Mick Heffron was 'pleasure' fishing on the end peg to be drawn and was admitting to 4-5lbs so I stayed there to start weighing in and hopefully learn a thing or two! Mick had one more perch before the all out and photo opportunity 2 arose when his catch moved the scales to over 7lbs.

The only other angler to stake a claim for the podium was Nigel Steel who had admitted to a 3lb chub and some bits so it may just be tight at the top. John Harvey ended up with 4lbs 12ozs which was a very creditable weight from that swim. Swiftly moving up to the other section, it had been very hard going with many only weighing ounces or just over a pound. Then it was up to the match winner – Nigel Steel. On his own admission he did not like the look of his swim one bit (wish I had a pound for every time I've heard this from match winners past) but decided to give it an hour. Six fish in the first 10 minutes got his enthusiasm up and running and a change to stick float brought him his first chub. Careful feeding with bronze maggots brought him a decent perch of about 11/2lbs and two more followed it to the net before another late chub boosted him way above everyone else.

Barry Witteridge grafted his way to the section win with a hard earned 2lbs 8ozs but that was about it for the day. So, it was almost a traffic light bait day – Nigel fishing bronze maggot and Mick fishing red maggot – only green to go then. In the 70's when I fished with Leighton Buzzard I dyed maggots green and had reasonable success with them on smaller rivers so I may just give this another go – well nothing ventured nothing gained as the saying goes. Next week sees us back on Riverside so let's hope we get some rain between now and then.

1 st	Nigel Steel (Pictured below)	10lbs 10ozs
2 nd	Mick Heffron (Pictured below)	7lbs 3ozs
A section	Barry Witteridge	2lbs 8ozs
B section	John Harvey	4lbs 12ozs

Roachman



Nigel with his 10lbs 10ozs catch



Mick with his 7lbs 3ozs catch