

MKAA VETERANS GU CANAL BLACKHORSE/STANTON LO

13TH JUNE 2012

IT'S NOT ALWAYS AS IT SEEMS

This is the first time that we have ventured to this part of the canal which was found by TV and his mate Keith to have a good access and parking – a definite gem in today's environment where we are continually being forced away from the cut with many owner boaters taking over what limited parking is now available and housing encroaching ever more on previous open land. Having completed two dummy runs – one to actually find the venue and the other to attain that fact that we can still access this after the heavy rain we had on the Monday – the canal had definitely gained lots more water after the rain as the overshot was flowing well when on the Saturday the water level was 3 to 4 inches below!!

After a later start as a few members got lost Mick the punch Heffron duly completed the pegging out and the draw was made. No End peg Ern today and as his stand-in Austin also missing lots were hopeful of the available end pegs. One member who was not happy with his draw was the bream bagging machine Steve Chilton who seriously thought of just going home but then decided to give it a go. Just as well for him then as he dominated the match and took the honours and prime podium position with a good bream bag of over 15lbs.

With conflicting reports on what we could expect to catch we opted for 2 sections – one either side of the overshot and two pay-outs in each section to keep it on affair basis. On the right hand more favourable side it was very mixed fortunes with the first peg past the overshot failing to produce a single bite for Dave Ridgeway. Past Dave Barry Witteridge opted for his tried and tested small method feeder approach and got his rewards with a bream first put in! Past Barry it was dire for 2 pegs until Steve Chilton got his pellet to work efficiently and next door 'End peg' Mick Heffron was struggling for bites initially until the fish came to his feed and he caught steadily till the end of the match. Meanwhile, on the less favoured side, Paul Neave on the peg next to the overshot was fishing his usual tidy match with skimmers and a nice roach pushing the pound mark whilst Tony Richardson got a good skimmer first put in on the worm and Bill Carder on the end peg also got amongst the skimmers. Cold rain water obviously affected the venue today and it was a shame that it failed to fish to its full potential and many members struggled to come to terms with this change. Pulling on experience I opted for a red squatt approach and this paid dividends with a steady stream of roach/rudd and odd skimmer to end with the top weight on this section but not enough to beat the right hand section. So the final results were:

A section – 1 st	John Hewison	5lbs 7ozs 12drms
2 nd	Paul Neave	5lbs 2ozs 8drms
B section 1 st	Steve Chilton	15lbs 8ozs
2 nd	Mick Heffron	5lbs 12ozs 8drms

Furzton next week and it will be interesting to see if the roach and bream feed. I am expecting the best turn-out for some time here and the potential of some big guns arriving so watch this space. With the start of the new season this weekend and with rivers carrying extra water and colour it will also be interesting to see what gets caught.

Roachman