

MKAA VETERANS – St JAMES LAKE BRACKLEY

1ST AUGUST 2012

For this, our latest away venture we were all hoping that the resident shoals of roach, tench and bream would be as responsive as the information that had filtered through suggested. The weather was spot on and with 23 making the trip it was going to be an interesting day. As is now the case for most of these lake venues there were a large number of feeder boys at the ready and for the first time we were joined by Ian Greenhood's wife Valerie – the very first lady member of the veterans and no-one needed telling to watch their language!!

From past experience this venue, which has a huge stock of fish can be very frustrating as it has a habit of switching off and that leaves you wondering just what to do next. With a nice wind going straight down the lake and good colour too hopes were high for everyone as this venue can produce a winner from a vast majority of the pegs. As usual, thoughts were centered on who would get one of the end pegs. These fell to Ken Mott, Steve Chilton and Dick Peerless and when Steve Schubert drew me the last one, I had to apologise to Ernie who took it all in good heart and drew himself right on the button in the middle of the right hand bank! However, he had left his feeder at home and had decided to fish for roach on hemp for the duration – a very brave decision I thought. From the off, skimmers and bream were showing on the feeder but the pole was not producing as I had hoped even though the swim looked brilliant. A change to the short line produced a few quality roach but they tapered off and with nothing showing on the main line to any offering left me wondering what do you do next. I knew that someone was catching well by the regular chat and banter but being out of sight I had no idea who it was. Not for the first time here, the fish totally disappeared in the third hour and this was the same for most it was later revealed – apart from Mick Heffron who got a few skimmers on his pellet line and Steve Chilton who was doing well with small fish. Over the other side I saw Ken Mott net some fish but other than that there didn't seem to be an awful lot happening.

It was down to the weigh in to reveal just how the day panned out for everyone and it was a surprise to see that you needed over 5lbs to get in the top 15. On the right bank Steve Chilton led the way with an excellent catch on small fish and 1 stray bream. Alan Ford avoided being banjoed by team Greenhood and then we got to Steve Schubert who showed us all the way home with a splendid catch of bream on this his first time here and he also admitted that he had no bites during that third hour. Ernie found the same as me with the roach coming and going all match, Mick Heffron admitted to 4-5lbs and then weighed 8 plus!! Thanks to the pellet line finally coming to life for me in the last hour, then losing a big lump at the net which saw a switch to the tare and another 8 good roach coming to the net this was good enough for second – again – now 4 in a row – consistent or what? On the other bank it was the ever consistent Austin Maddock who used his secret squirrell bait to good effect for a level 10lbs to beat Ken Mott by just over a pound but good back up weights around the 8lbs mark must have kept many others hopeful of more to come. So, for today then;

1 st	Steve Schubert	35lbs exactly – bream to worm on feeder
2 nd	John Hewison	11lbs 2ozs – roach bream and skimmers to pellet, caster, hemp & tare
3 rd	Steve Chilton	10lbs 13ozs – roach, bream & skimmers to maggot
4 th	Austin Maddock	10lbs exactly – bream to feeder secret squirrell bait.

Next week sees us on the GU canal at Manorfields which will be very interesting as there is a Southern Canal Lge match there this Sunday and we will also be holding the very last pairs match.

Tight Lines

Roachman