

MKAA VETERANS GU CANAL
MANORFIELDS 8TH AUGUST 2012

IT'S JUST NOT CRICKET IAN!!

For this latest venture out we found ourselves on the canal at Manorfields. Now as luck(?) has it there was a Southern Canal League match on there on the Sunday so justifiably there was quite a lot of doubt as to whether it would fish at all and to add to the excitement(?) I also included the very last pairs match to try and boost any enthusiasm. As everyone was there early (!!) we held the draw for pair's partners before the main draw so everyone knew who was with whom.

The one thing that shook me was the number of what seems permanently moored boats along this stretch which does cause a bit of a pegging nightmare but Ian Greenhood did a splendid job back tracking on his route to get the presumed number of pegs out. Everyone away and off we went to our pegs. With these boats taking up so much space I found myself between Ron Dorrill and Paul Neave in a not so good area but we had to make the best of it for our respective partners and eek as many fish as we could. Up in the favoured stretches, early action was swift with Robin Lett getting a good start and one of the best skimmer & bream anglers amongst us Steve Chilton was seen netting an early lump. Bank walkers told us that Didder Heffron and Alan Ford had got one bream apiece but otherwise Mick Reynolds and Dick Peerless were catching regularly to the left of the bridge but only small fish and that sort of news gives you a bit of a lift.

As the match progressed it was very clear we were well out of contention as further reports confirmed that the more favourable areas were giving anglers there plenty of interest. **Now for the comment of the day.** Having a bit of a mare day on the pole, Ian Greenhood had been watching Barry Witteridge on next peg trying his usual feeder tactics with as much a result as himself. Well in short, Ian also set up a feeder and on his first cast got a 2lb plus skimmer – **IT'S NOT CRICKET IAN!** It's not until the end of the match and the usual chat with others that events unfurl in full. To the left of the bridge small fish were dominant and on the right it was the end pegs that produced the best action. Robin Lett had indeed got some decent skimmers until he lost a good fish and they moved to Paul Hamilton (who pledged before the start he would only fish pellet) then in the last hour they moved next door to Artful Austin Maddock who needed no persuasion to make the most of their arrival!!. Meanwhile 4 pegs away from these 3 Steve Chilton and Steve Schubert were having their own little tussle with Chilts showing his class in the end. So for the results then:

1 st	Artful Austin Maddock	10lbs 14ozs
2 nd	Steve Chilton	7lbs 15ozs 8drms
A section	Paul Hamilton	7lbs 10ozs 4drms
B section	Mick Reynolds	5lbs 15ozs 4drms
PAIRS WINNERS	Austin Maddock and Dick Peerless.	

Next week it's away day to Heyford fisheries and let's hope it's a good one as it's the last qualifying round for the Ted Brown Trophy currently being contested between Ernie Sattler and Mick Reynolds who are a long way in front of the rest of us!!.

Roachman