

MKAA VETERANS CLATTECOTE RESERVOIR 29TH AUG 2012

BIG HOPES BUT LITTLE RETURNS

For this re-arranged fixture due to the relinquishment of Wappenham water and the suggestion that we make it a float only match brought the highest number of vets for this venue this year including some anglers of note. The weather forecast was not good but this obviously did not deter the entrants and there was some healthy banter before the draw. With carp only counting as a pound to deter the bagging waggler brigade all was set and we were off to find that the increasing wind was in our faces and we were hoping that the forecast rain did not materialise – WRONG we got it big time! Having drawn peg 6 which was the first time I had actually ever been that close to the dam wall I was surprised to find such a healthy depth and my hopes were high of a good weight. Match started, main swim fed followed by a couple of reserve swims and we were off. First put in and an indication that fish were there but off the bottom attacking the bait on the final drop – good news. Second put in and a small perch followed by another and then a small roach – then nothing. Oh dear – going through the bait armoury did nowt to improve things so a move to a reserve swim – nowt doing there try another which also produced nowt – back to the main line and a re-arranged depth to counter the increasing tow (which incidentally was going the wrong way – i.e. with the wind) and only one more little roach which fell off as I was swinging it in!! Now the rain started and it got colder and colder – wonderful. Up for a call of nature and enquiries as to what was happening elsewhere and it was clear that others were in the same position. Half way through and another call, (It's the cold that does for me) I went off to see everyone else. If I thought it was bad then to be told by some very good anglers that they were either biteless or only had one small fish meant that my then 12 fish were in the lead! Back for more then. By constantly changing bait, depths and shotting, this kept me occupied.

FATE LENDS A HELPING HAND TO GOLDENHAND

John Wetherall and Mick Reynolds on my left were heavily into banter and cries of 'I've just had another bite so I'm now in the lead with 3 fish and 2 bites' brought some much needed humour but the rain was now coming down much heavier and colder which prompted one or two to pack up early and even Mick Heffron on my right who had only had one fish after 4 hours said that he couldn't remember the last time he packed up early but today was definitely such an occasion. The normally highly productive areas failed to produce and the match was won from the end peg by Terry Lancaster – fresh back from winning team gold with England veterans in Portugal who had an unusual stroke of luck. Getting into a tangle he brought his kit back and dropped the rig down by the platform. Once untangled he lifted the rig and initially thought that it had snagged up – UNTIL the 'snag' fought back and up came a perch! Well the rest of the match was spent right by the platform with red maggot to take the honours – fate or what!! Richard Lattimer, taking a rare day off work put in his usual workman like performance to catch 2 skimmers long on caster with a good roach and perch for the best better fish catch and third and managing to winkle more small roach out over the last hour let me sneak into second. Unluckiest angler was Paul Barnes who had one carp but lost 4 (at a pound a-piece would have won the match) and a number of anglers also lost one or two. I cannot remember the venue ever fishing so poorly – even in the depths of winter you can break the ice and still get double figures so whether it was the full moon, the change in air pressure or some unknown factor this was without doubt a day to forget. Sa La Vie.

1 st	Terry Lancaster	3lbs 11ozs
2 nd	John Hewison	2lbs 14ozs
3 rd	Richard Lattimer	2lbs 13ozs

Tight Lines, warmer days and less cold rain please Mr weatherperson.

Terry Valentine presenting Ernie Sattler with the Ted Brown trophy for having the most points from the vets matches over the past year.



Cheers

Roachman