

MKAA VETERANS - GU CANAL BLACKHORSE 17TH OCTOBER 2012

Today's title was going to be 'None but the Brave' due to the adverse weather forecast and low turn-out, but to be in line with the current James Bond revival and showing of all the films this week I have chosen: **NO-BODY DOES IT BETTER--- JAMES BOND?--- NO - ERNIE SATTLER!!**

For our latest outing, we returned to the canal at Blackhorse which last time gave some pretty good weights but with strong wind and rain forecasted only 15 decided that this was a good time to go fishing. Against (thankfully) the forecast, half the pegs were wind free and the other half with a reasonable chop on the water which when you consider the clarity with less boat movement was not going to be a bad thing but with strong winds for 3 days this meant that the leaves were now starting to fall and in 2 swims they were a bit of a nuisance but we had hoped that they would blow through and leave the anglers with just the wind to deal with - wrong (again I hear you cry!) part way through the match the wind changed direction and blew them straight back again. Oh dear - not good for the end three men but they persevered and stuck it out so good for them.

As for the match, the predicted pegs sort of came good but with a twist or two. First past the overshot was Rupert Ash who had two good skimmers and what looked like a very big Bream in the first 40 minutes, next door, Mick Reynolds, known for his bread punch weights (and today looked like this was to be the tactic) had a couple of skimmers but not much else. Gordon Metcalf half way on the straight locked into a couple of big skimmers and a big perch whilst Paul Neave on the end peg was doing the business on punch with some big roach (one pushing the pound mark) coming to the net. Meanwhile, to the left of the overshot Lol Harding on the first peg must have thought it was going to be his birthday but this was not to be - he struggled for a bite which surprised not only him but the rest of us. Further along, Robin Lett had some reasonable skimmers and Dick Peerless (one of the three affected by the mass of moving leaves) did his usual trick of getting a big bream on pinkie - something he does on a regular basis I might add. On the next 2 pegs to Dick leaves proved to be as big a pain and Ian Greenhood opted for a small feeder (now becoming part of a lot of peoples armoury) to get bait down but had only moderate success - this time!

Pegged in the favourable area to the right of the overshot (surprise surprise) Ernie Sattler and myself were head to head on small fish when out of the blue I latched into a tench which fell for a single pinkie on a 24! This then put me back into contention and as Tench seem to go in pairs I waited patiently for another but to no avail. Bank walkers were reporting that this was anyone's match with a few people on around four pounds. Only very small fish seemed to feed after we had a flurry of boats which clearly unsettled them. With an hour to go most were beginning to really struggle when Ernie latched into a big fish and despite a boat going through steered it clear and eventually into the landing net. With 20 minutes to go, he had another (proved my earlier point) and these two gave him the required weight to win on the day. Later on he confided that he had given up on the match being so far behind what he thought was being caught so just had some squatt practice and these two tench fell for a single squatt on a 22 with number three elastic - there you go then- never give up just change tactics!!(or your name!!)

1 st	Ernie Sattler	9lbs 13ozs	2 big tench plus bits - squatt, bread & pinkie
2 nd	Paul Neave	6lbs 4ozs	Roach to punch and pinkie
3 rd	John Hewison	5lbs 9ozs	1 tench plus bits - squatt, pinkie bread & caster.

Next week sees us returning to Heyford where we are hoping that the weed will have died off and fish more willing to feed than our last visit.

Tight Lines wherever you can fish with the recent rains causing flooding.

Roachman