

MKAA VETERANS
ALDERS FARM FISHERY 19TH DECEMBER 2012
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!

So, that's nearly another year over – time seems to gather momentum as you get older don't you think? For the last fixture of this year we returned to Alders Farm and the day got off to its usual great start with a magnificent breakfast. You can't beat a good breakie and at Alders that's what you can count on every time. With only 15 braving the less than favourable forecasted wet and windy conditions (a further 10 opting for a less lengthy spell at Beachhampton) Terry Lancaster dropped out to practice for a forthcoming league match on the silver lake so the draw was a made for pairs then the actual draw and we were off. Now in the winter months the fish are far less active and you have to make the required changes to your approach. A motto I remember from a training course many years ago was -- '**Fail to Prepare – Prepare to fail**' -- oh how true that is in many parts of life. As we were setting up, the cry came out 'I don't Believe it' from Barry on the next peg to me - What? Was asked – John Hewison is setting up a ledger rod came the reply – yes folks when you have to change you have to change! And I do have a past but gone are the league days when the ledger was an absolute must and now I prefer to fish the pole when I can.

Once November arrives you are allowed to use bread on the hook only and it's this bait that can be so devastating on a rock hard day. One angler who can wrinkle a few out on the right day is John Harvey and he made the most of a fair draw to totally dominate the day and show everyone else a clean pair of heels. Alternating between bread and popped up boilie on the lead to the island he just kept putting fish in the net. The first angler to catch was Mick Reynolds on peg 4, then Dave Mac on peg 5 and Paul Chapman on peg 8 but being able to observe almost everyone I knew that the quiet ones are the ones to be wary of and John was just too quiet and when questions were being asked as to how many people had caught I knew John was ahead by 2 fish.

As the day progressed and it started to rain the wind actually dropped a bit and still the odd fish were being caught. Now it never fails to amaze me how one angler can catch on one bait yet those around cannot but can on another and today was no exception. Barry and Ian were able to snare the odd carp on maggot yet I could only catch on bread – how do you explain that? With the match nearly ending the calls were still going out as to who had what and it was clear that Dave Mac and Paul Chapman were doing well with over 12 fish each and take out the less truthful 'exaggerated' replies I knew that John Harvey had got this well and truly sorted and so it proved at the weigh – in. As the weigh in commenced one set of scales decided to give up the ghost but with the help of Terry Lancaster the remaining set had to do everyone. So in the end, did 'John the Quiet' triumph? You bet he did!!

1 st	John Harvey	62lbs 8ozs
2 nd	Paul Chapman	44lbs 4ozs
3 rd	Dave MacClellan	37lbs 10ozs

Pairs result: 1st John Harvey and Robin Lett, 2nd Paul Chapman and Dave Mac,
3rd Charlie Lancaster and Mick Reynolds.

With no vets matches till next year I would like to take this opportunity to thank in particular Barry Witteridge and Mick Heffron for their help and support throughout the year – hope you all have a very Happy and enjoyable Christmas and Many Tight Lines in 2013.

Roachman