

## **MKAA VETERANS 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2013**

### **RIVER OUSE STONY MAIN**

#### **IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED – ETC, ETC ETC!!**

At long last we manage to actually get out to fish! Yes and despite my better judgement decided to fish the primary venue as opposed to the reserve venue on the canal as there were as many anglers for as against and if I have learned nothing more in match organising then it is that you cannot please everyone no matter how hard you try. However, the weather forecast (changes at least twice a day!) was far from favourable so good job the thermals had not been packed away and I thought that this would affect the attendance and so it proved.

11 hardy (or just silly depending on your view) souls lined up and thanks to an excellent pegging out job by Paul Chapman we were off like a pack of boys on an away day from school. Now the river was within its banks and near enough at normal level but the pace of the flow had to be seen to be believed. I don't know where the amount of water is coming from but this has been going on for some considerable time now so we could only use the lesser paced swims which was handy with the all-time low numbers. The one swim everyone had their eye on was Chapman's Island and the lucky angler on this was (believe it or believe it not) Paul Chapman – very appropriate. The forecasted strong wind wasn't evident to begin with – (this arrived with an hour to go) so nearly all of us were fairly comfortable. Pegged halfway down the straight on my favourite summer peg and hoping for a chub or two I was fortunate to find 3 roach for about 12ozs on double red fished under a 3 gram float held back and just off the stronger flow before the flow picked up substantially. These were the only fish to be caught in this area in the first 2 hours and a quick call to Paul by his mate Pete the wind –up Whatley on the peg to my right revealed that he had 6 small roach for about 3ozs and top in his area proved just how bad this day was going to be and the more anglers who had not had a bite so came for a walk confirmed that there must be a lot of salt or something in the water to turn the fish off feeding and I rued the decision not to fish the canal. On the double willows (what's left of them after being 'trimmed back') Nigel Steel made up a feeder rod after 2 hours and finding the biggest feeder in his box (one he uses on the river severn) set to to find a clear patch over behind the far willow and despite losing endless hook lengths, when he did find a clear spot he caught 4 perch – this gave him a substantial lead and one he would not relinquish. With an hour to go, he came up for a warm up and his beetroot red face told you just how cold that wind was, realising he was doing well, returned to catch 3 more to easily decimate the field. Pete W then set up a straight lead and caught 2 roach on the red maggot to break his duck and it appears that red maggot was indeed the only bait to catch today whereas most of us would have bet that the trusty punch would do the business. On the early pegs both Paul and Dave Mac had few more very small fish in the last half hour but all in all it was DIRE to say the least.

1 <sup>st</sup>	Nigel Steel	10lbs 4ozs 4drms – 7 perch feeder fished red maggot
2 <sup>nd</sup>	John Hewison	12ozs 8drms – 3 roach on red maggot
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dave McClellan	9ozs 15 small roach/dace on red maggot.

Now next week don't forget we have changed the venue from Cosgrove to Linford Boatyard so as to avoid the bloodworm matches there at present. Let's hope this weather improves and we can get out for some decent fishing before the river season ends!

*Roachman*