

MKAA VETERANS
RIVER OUZEL RIVERSIDE MEADOWS
20TH FEBRUARY 2013

The Rolling Stones summed up today with one of their songs:

YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU WANT

Having made the decision to wait until Monday before confirming this weeks venue and taking into account the not so favourable forecast which would have made fishing the canal at Mill Rd both limited and unfair I was pleased to receive good news from John Harvey that the river was well within its banks and despite boiling and swirling it should be good by Wednesday and then after an even better report Tuesday afternoon hopes were high that we would at last get a good days fishing. Upon arrival however the trees either side of the footbridge have now been removed and the river was up and running harder than ever which the more experienced members put down to excess water being let out of Willen and Cauldaccott lakes. For Ken Mott, today's pegger outter this then became a bit of a nightmare but he did as good a job as was possible in the conditions and we all hoped for a draw with a bit of slack water as this was going to be harder than we wanted it to be but would still be fairer than the canal.

As I have never drawn my own peg on these matches it is always left to whoever felt brave enough and today I was handed the one swim I did not fancy one bit – the one above the footbridge which is not that good on the best of days and was both fast and boiling on its entire length – ah well head down and do the best you can day then. The wind, coming from behind us was as the forecast predicted with the wind chill factor it was more like minus 10 and at least 3 anglers went back to their vehicles for more clothing whilst many others set up their umbrellas in an attempt to stem the chill as much as possible. As for the fishing it was predictably hard and those with that bit of slack were in the hunt for podium places. After 2 hours 3 were clearly in the lead but then as is often the case it's the quiet ones you have to be aware of and Dave Ridgeway was working hard despite losing hook lengths and leads to a multitude of rubbish (that we all seemed to find) to steadily put fish in the net and take the honours of the day. Pegged on the straight where in better conditions bream are often caught, Paul Hamilton and Roy Heffron were on a near head to head making the most of the calmer water in front of them whilst Bruce Harvey on the peg above the weir hoped for more perch after an early one but had to change tactics and target the roach to increase his weight. As for the rest it was early bath or get home quick to try and warm up! The results speak for themselves and congratulations to Dave for a good win:

1 st	Dave Ridgeway	2lbs 12ozs	Perch, roach, dace and small chublets lead & single maggot
2 nd	Paul Hamilton	2lbs 6ozs	Roach to pole fished maggot
3 rd	Roy Heffron	2lbs 1oz	Roach to pole fished maggot

Next week it's back to Alders but as I am away on holiday in Devon, Terry Lancaster has kindly offered to run this one and I wish you all many tight lines. All the best then – when I come back I'll only have 2 matches to run before handing over the reins to the brave four taking on the job.

Roachman