

MKAA VETERANS
13TH MARCH 2013

SO, WHAT ELSE CAN GO WRONG?

In my early memories of competition fishing with Benson & District AS the added message on peg No 13 was 'You'll Be Lucky'. Are you superstitious? I am to a certain degree – favourite items of clothing worn on matches, certain items of tackle for certain venues etc etc but it doesn't rule everything.

Oh dear, my last day as the organiser for the vets fell on the 13th – well to begin with I fell ill on Sunday night with severe sickness and diarrhoea which carried on throughout Monday and Tuesday. Always in touch with my mentor and friend TV we had been watching the weather forecast, state of the river etc and agreed in the safest interest of all considering the venue of the day it would be best to cancel the match – (not that I would have been in any fit state to fish it anyway). Then the ultimate blow – Terry's phone goes on the blink and anyone who knows him will know that is DISASTER. Resorting to a mobile phone he was given a while back but never got to grips with he did his best to contact people and in true spirit some members actually thought of phoning beforehand to make sure all was well but then some didn't and I can only apologise for sending you out in what was supposed to be a dreadful day – stupid boy - the sun shone all morning and I forgot my usual stance in not believing weather forecaster predictions.

So, my 4 year stint as organiser for the vets comes to an unpredicted and unsatisfactory end which is really sad. I have enjoyed my stint but there have been times when it became a chore and a bind which puts the dampers on it and I have to be honest – affects your own fishing. For the main though it has been very enjoyable with some memorable matches and catches by a variety of anglers who may be advancing in years but they are certainly enjoy their fishing and this is the overall joy of fishing – there are no boundaries or limits and we all learn something sometime.

I have been very fortunate in receiving thanks from a number of the members but in all seriousness I could not have carried out the job as effectively without the help of others and wish to take this opportunity to thank in particular Barry Witteridge and Mick Hefferon who week in and week out have been more than supportive – thanks mates.

Finally, it is with enormous pride that I can tell you that Terry Lancaster and myself have been successful in our applications to fish the International England Veterans Trials to be held at Hayfield Fisheries Doncaster on the 23rd March so must now concentrate on getting well and then to prepare, practice and make sure everything is spot on for the day. Terry of course already has 3 medals (2 silvers and a gold) on the international stage at the World Veterans Championships but this is very much another part of a continuing learning curve for me which I am very much looking forward to.

Wishing you all the very best and sincerely hope your fishing will be as good as you hope for.

Tight Lines

Roachman