MKAA VETERANS – FURZTON LAKE 25th JULY 2012 RON'S RETURN BRIGHTENS UP A GRUELLING DAY

This week's fixture was the third 'Float Only' on this popular venue and a very healthy 29 members turned up including the very popular (and sadly missed of late) Ron Dorrill who has now recovered sufficiently from his heart op to come and make sure we were still behaving ourselves! With an unprecedented 9 short walkers we had to place these in the first 9 pegs as any further walking (especially as the grass had still not been cut) would have meant that some would not have made it. Additionally, Ernie had left the immediate pegs either side of the overshot out as he felt that with the school holidays in progress children would then use this area as playground – and so it proved with older ones walking and being a nuisance on the concrete ring around the water overshot. The water clarity either side of the overshot was totally different with some colour before but gin clear past the shot which made it very difficult for those pegged there and it made the anglers think hard about what tactics to use. In addition, bright sun and the almost total lack of wind and then what wind we did get came off our backs - from experience the worst case scenario we could have had.

Some fish were caught early in the match but for most it was grim – you know that the lake holds a vast amount of fish but if they don't want to feed then they won't. Alan Ford was the one angler who bucked this trend leaving one very frustrated me next him wondering just what was happening. Before the start fish were topping in front of him (and 4 other anglers over the match length) but they seemed to be in pockets and no matter what you tried they just would not budge which left me with the conclusion that those fish were feeding primarily from hatching flies of some sorts and that's what kept them where they were. Starting off on red maggot and then switching to caster Alan fished a very tidy match catching in spurts to completely dominate pole position. On peg 1 outside the hotel, Ken Carpenter was catching well but had a nightmare of a day with fouled rigs and lost fish which cost him his section, Mick Reynolds fished his usual good match but A section was won by Dave McClellan who after switching to the waggler caught 2 near pound roach and smaller samples to swell his net to 5lbs 14ozs. At the other end – C section – Barry Witteridge got off to a great start but like a good many others had to sit out nearly 4 hours waiting for the float to dip again whilst the best waggler angler I have known - Micky Harnett fished out at 40 to 50 yards to snare 2 bream and bits for an easy section win. In the middle, Ernie Sattler drew on experience and not only started but fished the whole match at 16 metres with maggot and pinkie to add to his pension pot with a very modest but hard fished for 3lbs 5ozs from that clear water area. Personally I was going no-where until with 45 minutes left the roach suddenly arrived on my pre baited hemp and tare line and I ended up catching 10 fish in that time and I honestly felt that another half an hour would have had Alan getting the jitters!! Sa La Vie and all that. In the Ted Brown trophy with 3 rounds left, the top positions are very interesting - Ernie Sattler leads with 340 points, Mick Reynolds has 318, Ian Greenhood follows with 284 and yours truly is hot on his heels with 283. I predict that Ernie will win this again, Mick to be runner up but I have Ian in my sights and am determined to grab that 3rd spot which will be the 3rd year in succession I have been there - Mmm will have to be known as the 'Nearly Man' Today then:

1st Alan Ford 10lbs exactly – pole fished red maggot and caster

2ND John Hewison 6lbs 14ozs - pole fished worm/red maggot/caster & tares

3rd Mick Harnett 6lbs 6ozs - waggler fished red maggot & worm Change of venue August 29th - Clattecote for Wappenham - float only match - lovely.

Tight Lines **Roachman**