

MKAA VETERANS – GU CANAL MILL ROAD 31 OCT 2012

WINTER MODE CANAL FISHING

Do you remember being told as a child that 'PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE'? Well, today proved to be just that for 'Awesome Austin' Maddock. Finding himself on peg 2 with no-one on 1 or 3 and on the bushes which has consistently given those lucky enough to draw them the best chance of victory on this stretch he must have wondered if lady luck had deserted him for after 3 hours he had not had a single indication – but as I've just stated patience pays off and in the last two hours with bream and some perch moving onto his chop worm and caster line he never put a foot wrong to take today's honours. Single and double red maggot was the preferred bait for these fish which just goes to show that you have to experiment but red maggot seems to be the in bait this year.

Meanwhile, for most of the rest of the 23 entrants today life was **GRIM**. Ernie (not end peg today – (oops) but found himself with 3 empty pegs to his left, saw some bream blows before the start so he started on the punch and had a large skimmer first put in but that proved to be a lone ranger and he was left to wonder what was to be like a good many of us – finding just 3 small perch to squat over the next 4 1/2 hours. Mick Heffron pegged just past the boat turn found 2 large skimmers early doors and then just 2 small perch over the same time period as our Ern. Up on the end pegs Steve Chilton once again worked his magic to catch 23 small perch for just 1lb 12ozs and only Gordon Metcalf on end peg managed any more than a couple of ounces.

Either side of the bridge was definitely the place to be and as these are mostly taken by the short walkers they had the best that today could offer. On the left, Steve Emerton was rewarded for his patience with a good skimmer on punch then a run of small roach and perch to give him 2lbs 10ozs but alas for Steve it was the right hand side of the bridge that was the place to be and Chalky White made the most of the action available fishing 3metres to hand for 8lbs and ½ oz of some good quality roach and perch but was left ruing the loss of a very big fish which he said would have beaten Austin's weight. Next door and also making the most of the hot spot was Jack Wilson who was fishing his last match for a while as he has to go into hospital for an operation and we all wish Jack who is a consistent attendee but rarely has the luck or rub of the draw a full and speedy recovery.

Boats prevented any more pegs in this area and after them it proved to be a dismal day with increasing wind and then rain which made many pack up early and head for the warmth of home. It is very difficult to gauge whether the canal will fish well or not at this time of year but it seems that fishing in general has not come up to expectations this season. Of course there are exceptions and we all live in hope that 'today will be our day' so to speak. At the moment the river is raging and with more rain in the forecast over the next few days we will once again have to keep an eye on it but with the next match on Stony Main and with no reserve venue it may be a late decision whether we fish or not. Today's results then are as follows:

1 st	Austin Maddock	11lbs 5ozs – Bream and perch to red maggot
2 nd	Chalky White	8lbs ½oz – Roach and perch to pinkie/maggot
3 rd	Jack Wilson	5lbs 7 1/2ozs – Roach & perch to pinkie over groundbait
4 th	Mick Heffron	3lbs 14 1/2ozs 2 skimmers to punch + 2 perch to pinkie

Wishing you tighter lines than I can manage at the moment – or a good draw!!

Roachman