

GREYS BANK CHAMPIONSHIP 2012 – ELIMINATOR – MILLENNIUM LAKE RIB VALLEY – SATURDAY 21ST APRIL

MATCH REPORT

A Game of Two Halves, Lake and Weather Wise

The day started with fairly bright conditions and little wind but due to the colour in the water this did not put the fish off and the Lodge End, Golf Course Bank and the Nature Reserve End produced 46 fish in the first two 45 minute sessions with Lee Bartlett and Jeff Wilkinson making the most of their good peg draws netting 16 fish between them although Lee had one fish disqualified for killing three fish instead of the specified two. By lunch the catch rate had started to slow dramatically although the southern end of the Golf Course Bank and peg 10 on the Bridge at the south end of the lake were still producing fairly regularly and Lee and Jeff also had these pegs between them and took full advantage netting 4 & 5 fish each respectively on their final morning pegs giving Jeff (Razors to his mates) the lunchtime lead with 13 fish followed closely by Lee on 12 fish. Lee would have been sharing the lead but for the 1 fish disqualified. Steve Cullen had moved into 3rd place by lunch taking advantage of the only productive peg in the north east corner of the lake, known to the locals as 'the aquarium'. Steve caught 4 fish from this peg to give him a 7 fish total at lunch. He was closely followed by Charlie Abrahams who had also taken advantage of the productive S.W. corner of the Golf Course Bank and the Bridge peg on the Nature Reserve end, netting 5 fish from his two pegs in this area for a 6 fish total at lunch.

By lunch 70 fish had been caught in the morning session with 67 of these coming from either end and the Golf Course Bank and only 3 fish from the virtually barren Rib Bank on the east side of the lake which had produced well the previous week during a Rib Valley club match.

The afternoon was much harder. The sun had gone the breeze came and went and there was a couple of short heavy downpours and the fishing became much harder although both ends of the lake were still producing most of the fish. Lee Bartlett kept plugging away and managed 2 fish in his afternoon session after two barren pegs on the Rib Bank he picked up one fish from each of his last two pegs at the Lodge End for a 14 fish total and first place overall but poor Jeff Wilkinson had a nightmare afternoon session failing to catch a single fish and stayed on 13 fish but as everyone was struggling he hung onto 2nd place. Steve Cullen did well to pick up 3 fish from his first two pegs of the afternoon session and he finished 3rd with a 10 fish total. Charlie Abrahams caught two fish in the afternoon to finish 4th with an 8 fish total closely followed by John Pearn who took two fish off his first peg of the afternoon session for a 7 fish total and 5th place .

A total of 32 fish were caught in the afternoon, again only 3 of these coming from the Rib Bank.

The team event was a close thing between Tean Hanak UK, consisting of Steve Cullen, Lee Bartlett and John Emerson who won the event with a 28 fish total thanks to John Emerson who took his fourth fish and the final fish of the day from his last peg on the Golf Course Bank with only minutes of the match remaining. This gave them a 1 fish advantage over the Sonic Sports Pitsford Pirates, consisting of Charlie Abrahams, Jeff Wilkinson and Bart Framer who finished with a 27 fish total. Hanningfield & Rib Raiders, consisting of Dave Franklin, John Upcott and Roger Everett finished a distant 3rd with a 12 fish total.