

## Go Fishing & Fish O Mania 16 - Cudmore Fisheries - Staffordshire - 18th July 2009

Posted by pblake80 at 7:35 pm, July 19th 2009.

An early start to the Day - I picked up **Garry Somerfield** at 5.25am but we were minus **Olly Wagg** Who unfortunately had to work The journey to Cudmore was good an uneventful apart from Waving my Glasses at a van driver who pulled out in front of me. We stop on the M6 Services north of Coventry for a full English breakfast and arrived at Cudmore at 8:45am. Gates open just after 9am so we had to queue an got talking to a young guy that turns out only travelled 1732miles less than us to get there - yep only 6 miles.

Once in we made a bee line for the manufacturer's tents. I Garry got up close & personal with **Des Shipp** to see his rig tying techniques, whilst I had a personal Coaching Session from **Alan Scotthorne** (5 times World Champ) on how to hold a Pole properly. **Des Shipp** also offered us to have a fish - We were all a little reluctant to embarrass ourselves. We joined in a demo by Steve Ringer on the Pellet Wagglers, quite amusing as he was answering a question regarding the set-up which he said was tangle proof - only for it of course to tangle as he pulled it round to show the questioner.

I had a lesson from **Alex Bones** on how to use the new Guru Feeders/methods. But couldn't buy any! We did manage to get some freebie Sonu baits (6mm Expanders) - we made two trips to get two bags each! Once we had down the rounds and even stopped to listen to **Matt Hayes** doing a teach-in which was a blatant sales pitch we left him to it - we made our way to the arena for the Main event.

We viewed the last of the set -up and the 1<sup>st</sup> hour from behind pegs 6 & 7 but it was clear that the action was going to be over the other side.

So we made our way round there but by way of the Celebrity and Women's Match down behind the Lodge. Witnessed the **Page 3 Girls** setting up and witnessed **Du'aine Ladejo** nearly having his right eye taken out by **Geoff Ringer** casting a feeder!! .

Back at the arenas we watched **Matt Hall** from the end of peg 16. I noticed that somebody was fishing in the dead area by the aerator - so we went to investigate - it was **Neil Machin** (2006 Champ) doing pieces for Sky Television. We were fortunate to stand right behind him and watch his technique - I'm not saying anymore but Both **Garry** & I picked up some useful tips. **Neil** was quite approachable and I had quite a conversation with me as he wanted to know how it was going on the other side of the lake. My reward - he almost knocked my block off with the pole as he forgot I was there. We did get quite a rhythm going ducking & diving.

We spent the last two hours behind Peg 15, comparing the different styles of the main contenders - **Matt Hall** (16) and **Mark Tullett** (15). Looked a bit like me when getting the fish in close standing up with the op Kit at 45 degrees behind him... We watched in anticipation as he got into a lump but we feared it was foul hooked - he lost it after 0 minutes and I have never heard a 'Nobody like to see that' just a instant ohh! from everybody watching - (watching the TV coverage later he confirmed it was foul hooked as he was talking to **Keith Arthur** and **Tommy Pickering** via Radio in the Studio)

Lesson learned is that we should have taken something to sit on (an unhooking mat would have done) as my calf muscle and back were aching for the last hour - could sit on the grass as it was still very damp. We noted that nobody got anything done in the Margins of note - Probably due the heavy rain the day before running off the steep slopes.

At the end **Matt** took the obligatory swim, and brushed by me as we made our way to the Presentation (see picture in Gallery).

A quick Exit - slowed up fore a mile as we queued at the 1<sup>st</sup> Set of traffic lights. But we just got on the M25 at J21a and we came to a stand still - A quick check on the Traffic Radio we realised we were going to be here for some while as a Mini-Bus had crashed in to the central reservation between J22/23 and the Motorway was closed - We were delayed by 1 and quarter hours. We did amuse ourselves or I did by devouring a bag of Opal Fruits! - **Garry** Amused himself by having a go t an idiot that tied going down the hard shoulder but was blocked by a cone lorry that saw him coming and moved over. The Old git got out walked down the queue leaving his car running in the hard shoulder. When he returned **Garry** wound the window down and said "It's a queue" the Old boy them proceed to tell us leas than we already knew - and when **Garry** told him he was not allowed to drive down the Hard Shoulder he said he knew - But ! He did not get in front of me when we got going!

Got home at 1020pm - a long day but not bad as I'm now on first Name terms with a 5 Times World Champion and a former Fish O winner, Oh and I picked up a few tips along the Way.

Are we going next year - Only as Competitors!