

Garry Somerfield Summer Festival -Tylers Common 8th-10th July 2009

Posted by pblake80 at 4:51 pm, July 12th 2009.

Nine Lee Chapel Match Regulars took part in a 3 day Festival organised by Club Chairman Garry Somerfield. The Festival was centre on the three Match Lakes of Horseshoe, Ash & Willow at Tyler's Common.

Most of us normally fish 6 hour matches every 2 weeks or thereabouts. Therefore this Festival meant 3 seven hour matches in 3 days so many of us were grateful of two days off at the weekend to recover before going back to work.

Wednesday 8th July - Horseshoe Lake:

In 1st match of the festival Pegs will be drawn as draw in normal way but a coin was tossed to determine which end of the Lake to sue as there appeared to be some fish at the top end but the bottom had the better history. 'Tails' won and we fished the top pegs (45 down). For the Draw Gary produced Playing cards - (the type of which I will leave to your imagination but produced quite a response) apart from we used playing cards instead of discs. This caused a bit of excitement to some of the younger participants.

I drew the bottom end peg on the arm. Set up on the method and pole at 6 metres and the margins.

At the horn I was on the method but nothing doing - switched back to the 6m line on various baits - nothing, so came in the margins and fished for small Perch, Roach & Rudd on maggot.

About 2 hours in I noticed some movement to the left of the Right Island in front of me, so launched the Method with single 6mm Sonu pellet on the hair to 2" Middy Feeder Size 14 buried in the Bait. Plenty of knocks but no takes. - Changed over to two 6mm Sonu pellets on the hair and that worked. Started to pull in a few Carp, enough for 2nd place at the Midday weigh-in behind **Mason Mills** up on the other end peg on the point

After the break I continued on the method trying different positions around the Island - results the same consistent fish a chuck until the last hour when I came in the margins to my right which I had been feeding with Pellet /Maggots all day and the fish had moved in - I managed to prise out a 6lber from there.

At the weigh-in I was surprised to find most others had struggled to get the fish out the margins - they were there but not taking anything! During the weigh-in I was threatened with a swim if I was going to hit the Ton for the third time in succession - Luckily I had lost enough fish to just creep in under the ton at 94lb to avoid the swim but to win the match. **Paul Hyde** was 2nd and **Kev Keeling** 3rd.

Weather:

<http://www.wunderground.com/weatherstation/WXDailyHistory.asp?ID=IESSEXUP1&month=7&day=8&year=2009>

Thursday 9th July - Ash Lake

Being the winner of the previous days match and the current leader I was the last to walk off and no surprise to find myself in the middle of the South bank. I set up the same as The day before, and started on the method but as yesterday nothing doing, but immediately I had fish in the margins to my right coming straight in on the pellet and maggot mix.

After messing around for an hour, the only thing that would get them interested was double Red Maggot. I was also facing **Paul Hyde & Kev Keeling** who were also getting a fish a drop - **Paul** Using pellet shallow and **Kev** I believe was in the Margins but their fish were bigger than mine. **Mason Mills & Luke Hyde** to my left were having better size fish also.

The frantic catching remained constant all day and the final weigh -In **Kev Keeling** 'collapsed' in a heap to take a break after netting 221lb! -**Paul Hyde** was not far behind with 199lb and **Dean Peters** and further 17lb behind in 3rd with 182lb. I totalled 138lb to finish 7th. I had a moment of fatigue with 15 minutes to go and lost my top two which I had been fishing most of the day as it slipped through my wet hands as a good size fish snaffled up my bait - lesson learned here - always be prepared - small fish all day does not necessarily mean that they will all be the same.

I dropped to 3rd Place overall (14) in the Festival behind **Kev Keeling & Paul Hyde** (both on 18) - **Kev** Leading on total weight.

Footnote: On reflection in the evening I looked back at the day and the effort required to catch fish which were generally poor state around the mouth after being caught some many times. I feel that this is not fishing - when compared with the day before and the big weight I had at Monks where the Barbel had tougher mouths to withstand the rigours of this type of Match Fishing. I also note that a number of the other 'Anglers'

on the lake where using inappropriate rods for the size of fish - 6foot stiff Boat sea angling rods.

Weather:

<http://www.wunderground.com/weatherstation/WXDailyHistory.asp?ID=IESSEXUP1&month=7&day=9&year=2009>

Friday 9th July - Ash Lake

Another day another walk off but I was third last choice today and toyed with going to one of the remaining swims on the wets bank but decided to go in the Middle of the North bank. That left **Paul & Kev** the remaining swims of the West Bank.

I set up on the same tactics as the previous days and started the same on the method but plenty of roach / Rudd taps on the bait but no wrap rounds. - As the day before I had fish in the left margin straight away but struggled to winkle them out - Again Double red maggot was the only thing I could snare them with - but again mainly small fish. I played with this for the 1st 2 hours and then I noticed **Garry Somerfield** to my right was having success on the method at 6 metres out, so without further ado I went out there as well and stayed there all day as I was getting a fish a chuck - and of reasonable size. In fact **Garry & I** were matching each other and **Garry** enquired as to whether "this was a race or what?" - I replied "of course - you better get pick your pace up"

I was using the same method as on horseshoe but the downside is rebating loosing time but it was getting fish. At the midday weigh-in I was leading by a couple pounds form **Garry** whilst **Kev** was struggling to get a bite. My competition for the 3rd place overall - **Luke Hyde, Mason Mills** and **Dean Peters** were not too far behind and I will have to better my catch rate in the afternoon session to hold on but had an issue whether I would have enough method mix. I bit the bullet and introduced some Roach ground bait in what remained of my Voodoo mix.

The afternoon session was slow off the mark but as they got to home in on the new bait mix - it picked up. **Garry** was also struggling on the method and came into the margins but his catch rate dropped off. By contrast **Kev** was having a good afternoon and so was **Paul Hyde** who stuck to his guns fishing shallow on pellet and even tapping the water with his Pole. I had a bad last hour loosing 6 fish to hook pulls and a slow down in the catch rate as I tried to ration my method loading.

Those lost fish cost me the match as I was pipped for the win by **Paul Hyde** by two small fish (125lb 11ozs to 123lb). Which will also mean that **Paul was the overall Festival winner.**

It was a good job **Luke Hyde** has a bad morning session as he had the afternoon's best weight for a 3rd Place total of 98lb. so I was able to hold onto 3rd Place overall, but was surprised to learn that I had pinched 2nd place from **Kev** - the morning session here costing him that he did catch more weight than me overall (that double ton on Ash!)

Full Results breakdown on the Results page

Weather:

<http://www.wunderground.com/weatherstation/WXDailyHistory.asp?ID=IESSEXUP1&month=7&day=10&year=2009>

Many thanks to Garry for organising this event - Much appreciated