

VAC Match Section – Season 2011-12 Match Previews *by Allan Bayman*

Riverside Road. 12th of June – Championship match 1

OK, the first match of the season and will the open water fish as well as last time in the spring warm up match or will it be back to normal with the snaggy pegs producing the match winning carp? The warm up saw peg 22 dominate.



Smallford. 26th of June – Championship match 2

Big bream and tench sure to dominate but with big carp in there too and pockets of quality roach its hard to know the outcome. Normally the swims in the low numbers tend to dominate although Marlborough or big point are strong contenders. If the bream are showing expect a big weight to win. 80lb plus has been done here before in a match.

Marsworth – Grand Union Canal. 10th July – Championship match 3 – Evening Match

Our only late match of the main season. With the trees being trimmed who knows if the fish will stay or move to the areas where the far bank cover remains. Last years match was one with a gamble waiting for a carp. They're there but can they be relied upon to show. Traditional canal methods and roach tactics could be the order of the day. Last year saw a great bag of hemp caught roach nearly take the win here.



Frogmore – Match Lake. 24th July – Championship match 4.

Where will the fish be today? The roving carp of Frogmore could turn up anywhere The money would be on the shallow end of the lake but what will the water levels be like If we don't get some rain the deeper far end might be the best place for the carp.

Timberland – Baggers. 7th August – Championship match 5.

Lots of variety on Baggers Lake part of the multi lake Timberlands complex in Harlow. It might be situated in the unlikely setting of the middle of an industrial estate but its full of fish. Skimmers, rudd, roach and carp abound. There are also the occasional tench and perch. Expect a close hard fought match.

Manor Farm – Damsel Lake. 21st August - Championship match 6.

As short trip up the A1 sees us visiting Damsel Lake on the Manor Farm complex. This lake was previously a trout fishery for some of the year but has now gone fully coarse for 2011. Not one of our regular venues so should make a nice

change. Expect carp and bream to dominate. The carp average 8-10lb so come prepared to do battle with some beasts.

Frogmore – Match Lake. 4th September - Championship match 7.

Back to Frogmore again but this times its for charity mate ! Normally need 30-40lb to win and to get into the carp or bream.

Entire Farm – Main Lake. 18th September - Championship match 8.

You will ache after this match. This place is insane. No doubt that at least 200lb will be needed to win and maybe just maybe we might see 300lb go. This place has carp, lots of carp and lots of big carp and the are HUNGRY !! We normally weight in twice. Oh and there are a good number of double figure fish so bring the heavy gear ,a decent sized landing net and plenty of bait. Average weight last year was a net busting 110lb with 205lb needed to win. Normally peg 9 is the one to beat.



Alders Farm – Match Lake. 2nd October Championship match 9.

A lovely breakfast is available and a good idea as you might need lots of energy as this venue can be a real bagging water. 218lb plus was needed last year. Remember its fishery own pellet as feed which you buy on your way in. Expect big weights maybe 200lb again will be needed.

Tyler Common Fishery – Willow Lake. 16th October

Championship match 10.

Maybe not quite as prolific but frankly mad Ash Lake but there are still huge swarms of ravenous carp. I've seen weights approaching 250lb from here so limber up boys and girls this is likely to be bit of a race to the finish. Speed and efficiency will likely be the name of the game here.



Lakeside Farm. 30th October - Championship match 11.

Ah the beautiful roach go big in Lakeside. Will we see the clubs match roach record of 1lb 14oz fall. Nice to be there earlier in the year so may throw up some surprises. There are plenty of bream and carp in here so maybe we will get amongst them in the warmer weather. If not the good roach make a nice target.

River Ouse - Felmersham Islands. 13th November - Championship match 12.

Our sole river venue of the match calendar. Dust off your stick floats and float rods for something a bit different and a change to the commercial carp fisheries.

Frogmore – Match Lake. 27th November - Championship match 13.

With the winter weather approaching and water temps dropping will the deeper water of the far end now be the place to be ? Probably time to bring the thermals out though.

Riverside Road. 11th December - Championship match 14.

Ah the traditional pre Christmas riverside match. Good fun as we all know its likely to be tough but with a nice Riverside breakfast to start the day it's a good day out. They'll be a few lost big fish on roach gear for sure and the odd expletive and some laughs too but its all good fun. Wrap up warm though it was very cold last year.

