

Evening League 2017 *by Allan Bayman*

Well our evening league is over and this year has really been a case of those who could make the most of a good draw and those who had a string of duffers. The main title contenders this year have been Stan Kiddle and Andy Zneimer.

Andy Zneimer, a match novice, took the first series win from peg 38. This peg never used to be much good but the floating platform has made a huge difference. He fished this match and all the rest using his favorite tactic of method feeder.

Peg 23 at Frogmore was Andy's next peg although he didn't win it from here he was just 1oz behind Barrie Cowley for second place and added good points. Stan was on peg 4 and was a place behind.

Our third match saw good draws for both Stan and Andy with Stan on 54 and taking the win and Andy on 2 and taking 4th.

Back to Frogmore for match 4 and this time Andy had a very good draw with peg 19 and Stan had a weaker draw but in the right area on peg 24 and managed a good 4th whilst Andy blanked from peg 19.

Chris Smith took peg 2 for our next match at Riverside and the win but Stan had a nice draw with peg 30 and made a good plan which got him 4th place. Andy was on the rated peg 25 but only managed 13th but still went into the last match with a very good chance needing just 4th or better and above Stan to win the league. Allan Bayman, Steve Burfoot and Dave McGrath all fighting it out for the final podium place.

Andy continued to draw fliers pulling out peg 11, one of the best on the venue Stan was not far away on 9 a decent peg but not one with much form. With Dave McGrath unable to make the last match Steve on peg 20 would be against Allan on peg 6.

The match itself was disappointing with it fishing poorly compared to the great sport it had been producing. There were very few big carp and not many bream or silvers showing. The carp that did show were generally the smaller ones. You normally need around 40lb to win one of these matches and after an hour it looked unlikely anyone would be doing that, well certainly not at the car park end which looked to be fishing very poorly. Andy on 11 was getting some action for sure, on his feeder of course, and Stan was getting some small to mid size carp fishing long to the third island.

Peg 14 is known to be a big fish holding area so Neil was shocked when he could only find pastie sized carp there.

A lost fish early and then a pole top kit and short 4 lost to snag on the island ruined my long line so I came in close to pick up a few fish and started to enjoy

myself. Same could not be said for many who were having it very tough. The wind was howling from the carp park down to the bowl.

Roger Brown was picking up the odd bream and Steve Burfoot was getting the occasional carp as was Chris Smith but nobody was running away with it although Andy Z did look to be in the driving seat.

When the whistle went I think a lot were happy to have a tough match out of the way and the weigh-in showed only a few double figure weights and shockingly 3 DNW's !! Stan had 17lb 3oz which would be good enough for second , Roger bang on 16lb for 3rd, 6oz ahead of Steve who was 4th himself just 11oz ahead of Allan and on 13lb 3oz was Chris Smith. Nearly 10lb clear was Andy who not only won the match but managed to take the overall championship win. His second 1st place of the series gave him 380 points ahead of Stan's 370 (best four from six)

Dave McGrath kept his final podium position with Allan and Steve tied for 4th

Well done to Andy and all the winners, and just shows if you get the method right on the right peg you can compete and you don't have to have a pole !