

2009 Season Full Results and Reports

Full Club Championship Positions 2009: or [here for the Excel spreadsheet](#)

Position	Angler	Goose Green	Bradshaws no4	Bradshaws no6	Bradshaws no6	Goose Green	Bradshaws no8	Cudmore - Brewsters	Tatton Park	Cudmore - Suez	Partridge	Cudmore - 1	Total	Final total (with droppers)
1	Keith Standing	12	11	9	14	14	16	19	19	10	12	14	150	131
2	Mick Abdy	16	2	19	-	19	-	14	12	19	14	7	122	122
3	Phil Zahra	10	16	16	-	-	-	10	1	16	19	19	107	107
4	Billy Smith	6	3	14	12	1	12	16	16	14	8	8	110	106
5	Alan Hesling	8	19	12	16	6	14	7	14	6	9	5	116	105
6	Pete Ransome	14	14	6	8	10	11	9	1	9	10	-	92	91
7	Dave Zahra	11	9	8	19	-	-	6	11	-	11	16	91	91
8	Frank Coleman	9	5	-	9	11	10	-	-	11	16	10	81	81
9	Paul Pannett	7	-	1	10	9	19	11	-	-	10	11	78	78
10	Billy Barker	19	10	7	-	5	-	8	-	8	-	-	57	57
11	Lee Zahra	1	7	10	11	-	-	5	-	7	-	6	47	47
12	Chris Parry	-	12	-	-	-	-	12	1	12	1	-	38	38
13	Eddy Drake	-	-	-	-	7	9	4	-	-	5	12	37	37
14	Mark Corless	-	8	-	-	16	1	-	1	-	-	-	26	26
15	Ian Coleman	-	4	-	1	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	17
16	Alan Gaskell	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	1	-	-	4	13	13
17	Harry Morris	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9	9
18	John Crowther	1	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8
19	Keith Harrison	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	3
20	Norman Mears	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Note: Dropped points shown in red														

Match Report: 27 September 2009, Pool 1, Cudmore, Staffs

Showtime for Keith Standing and Mick Abdy who were going head-to-head for the club championship. With only two points separating the two, it was all to fish for. Most of the field started fishing across for the carp using method feeder tactics, but this was only producing sporadic fish, spread very thinly at Mick's end of the pool (he was on peg 19). Paul Pannett and match debutant Harry Morris were getting a few, and missing plenty, but the real action was starting to unfold towards the other end of the pool, where the double act of Phil and Dave Zahra were putting a few fish together on pegs 7 and 5, and also starting to catch on the pole on pellet or paste fairly close in, or down the margin. Keith Standing on peg 10 was also catching fairly regularly.

Usually at this venue, the last couple of hours can be the most productive, but today most of the afternoon margin grazers had a day off, and all the traps Mick set failed to deliver, apart from a hectic flurry of 4 or 5 fish in the last half hour. In the end the blind squirrel Phil Zahra did it again with 48lb of mainly carp, followed by Dave Zahra with a similar stamp of fish for a level 40lb to keep the winnings in the family. Keith Standing was third with 36lb, enough to clinch the championship, as defending 2008 champion Mick Abdy finished too far adrift with only 19lb. Congratulations to Keith, who finished only 9 points ahead.

Match Report: 06 September 2009, Willow Pool, Partridge Lakes, Warrington

Knockout Cup Final day at last!!!

Frank Coleman and Phil Zahra were able to contest the final at last, on a neutral venue, as neither had even seen it before, let alone fished it. The two drew opposite the island on separate sides of the pool, with Frank forging ahead on peg 17 with some pellet carp across to the stick-ups, which were only about 11m away. Four fish and a large chub later and he was flying, but so was Phil...

Phil's peg 8 was challenging to fish, being up to 16m across, but his Tri-Cast pole was certainly up to the task, as a steady precession of chub to 3lb started to hit his net with increasing regularity, all tight across to caster fished on the deck, in about 18 inches of water. Half way through he ran back to his van for a second keepnet, and to blag some more caster, and continued to hold the shoal for the full match. At the final whistle Phil weighted in about 60 chub for 119lb 12oz, with Frank a little adrift (100lb to be exact) with 19lb 12oz. This was still good for second spot in the frame, though, with Mick Abdy completing the frame with a level 14lb off peg 18.

Phil's catch came pretty close to the current SMAC match record (134lb from Bradshaws no 4 by Billy "splasher" Barker), and will surely win the trophy for the largest match weight of the season, along with the Knockout cup, of course. Congratulations were freely given at the weigh-in, for fishing a very tidy match in windy conditions that were far from ideal.

One match to go and there are still at least 6 anglers in with a shout of the overall Club Championship - defending champion Mick Abdy, Pete Ransome, Keith Standing, Alan Hesling, Match Sec Billy Smith and Phil "chubby" Zahra could all theoretically still win.

Photo montage of the knockout cup protagonists and parts of the winning catch:



Phil Zahra v Frank Coleman



Frank started well..... But Phil was also catching.....



.....fish like this chub were coming in every put-in..... Starting to look a little too smug.....



The blind squirrel with part of his nut haul.....

Match Report: 23rd August 2009, Suez Canal, Cudmore

Very windy for half the field, but thankfully no rain until after the match for this visit to Cudmore. It fished very hard for most of the match, but Mick Abdy on end peg 25 finished 20lb ahead of the pack with a level 51lb of carp, caught shallow on meat and bread right across up against the stickups. Phil Zahra was second with 31lb, again across with some fish up in the water. Match Sec Billy Smith was third with 26lb 13oz, mainly carp on bread, across, in the last couple of hours, uncasing out Chris Perry who tipped 25lb 10oz onto the scales. Frontrunners in the club championship Alan Hesling and Keith Standing both dropped points, meaning it looks poised to go right to the wire with only two matches left. The knockout cup semi-final was fished at last:

Billy Barker 8.00 v Frank Coleman 19.00

Pete Ransome 12.00 v Phil Zahra 31.00

Frank and Phil will fish off for the Knockout Cup trophy on the next match, a "neutral" venue at Partridge lakes, Warrington, a venue neither has fished

Match Report: 9th August 2009, Tatton Park, Knutsford

Hmmmm. The day started badly with a double-booked match length. It got worse with the hassles at the draw where we had to sort out pegs for people without chest waders and platforms. Worse was still to come. The lake was almost devoid of fish, nobody was catching. Out of 11, only Keith Standing was catching consistently on the tip, net roach to treble maggot coming from the off. Everyone else struggled for bites and there were 6 dry nets.

1st Keith Standing 6-04, peg 11 (roach, groundbait feeder, maggot)

2nd Billy Smith 1.09, peg 2 (roach, waggler, maggot)

3rd Alan Hesling 1-08, peg 10 (roach, groundbait feeder, maggot)

Match Report: 26 July 2009, Brewsters canal, Cudmore

Rain, rain, wind and more rain all day at the Staffordshire venue. Keith Standing on peg 23 went off like a house on fire, catching from the off, down the track on mainly red maggot. Odd fish were coming out all over the place, and half way through the match they came up in the water, and Billy Smith started to catch on the end peg, right across to the sedges fishing paste, but most fish were making it to the sanctuary of the reeds. At the next peg Mick Abdy was also starting to catch on paste, first at dead depth, then up in the water, tight across at 13m. At the whistle it was pretty tight, Keith being a good 3 fish ahead of Billy and Mick who completed the frame. The knockout cup wasn't fished again because Frank Coleman was a no-show.

The SMAC frame:

1st Keith Standing 38-11, peg 17 (carp, skimmers, bream down the track and across to maggot and pellet)

2nd Billy Smith 30-15, peg 23 (carp, tench in the margin and across, most to paste)

3rd Mick Abdy 29-11, peg 21 (carp, tench, skimmers down the track and across, most to paste)

Match Report: 12 July 2009, Bradshaws no 6, Bolton

Another slow one where carp were at a premium, but plenty of silver fish showed for those who targetted them. Fish were fizzing in many pegs but wouldn't properly get their heads down. Paul Pannett fished a tidy match off peg 4 to win his second match on the bounce with 2 chunky carp down the side to prawn, backed by a lot of smaller silvers on the long pole, mainly to pellet on the deck. Frank Coleman fished a very tidy and impressive match for second, catching from the off to weigh 20lb+ of silvers backed by a solitary carp, again to pellet and long pole. He was gutted that the knockout cup semi-final couldn't be fished (because Billy Barker was ill) and is hoping his rich vein of form carries on to Cudmore in a few weeks time when the semis will now be fished. Alan Hesling completed the frame (4 or 5 carp to the method, casting at will all over the lake), picking up more valuable championship points (not that he needs them), meaning it's very tight at the top of the club championship with about six anglers in close contention with five matches still to go.

The SMAC frame:

Paul Pannett 37.3.0 peg 4

Frank Coleman 20.14.0 peg 6

Alan Hesling 20.7.0 peg 12

Match Report: 21 June 2009, Bradshaws no 8, Bolton

This was an interesting match, reported a little later than usual as the chief SMAC match reporter (Mick Abdy) was off catfishing on the river Ebro in Spain. After a couple of hours it became apparent that to catch, you had to stop feeding! Many sussed this out half way through, with reasonable weights and a fairly tight finish resulting. History almost repeated itself and Keith Standing close to winning off the bonus peg, which would have netted about £12, the same as Mick Abdy picked up for winning off the bonus on the last match. There was a rumour circulating on the bank that Dave Zahra would buy everyone a drink out of his previous winnings when his cheque cleared....

The SMAC frame:

Paul Pannett 17.6.0 peg 1

Keith Standing 16.6.0 peg 17

Alan Hesling 13.2.0 peg 3

Match Report: 14 June 2009, Goose Green, Mottram St Andrew

Bites and fish were at a premium in the latest SMAC match at the popular Cheshire venue, and some would say the drawbag was kinder to some than others. Mick Abdy drew the flier, peg 1, and amazingly this also came out the drawbag as the bonus peg for the day. Exactly the same thing happened in April to Paul Pannett. All Mick had to do was win, and the princely sum of £12 would be his, Dave Zahra having emptied the coffers in style to the tune of £268 only a few weeks previously (and he still hasn't got the beers in). The pressure was on.....After dropping off a method-caught carp on the hour mark, a switch to up-in-the-water tactics at 13m+ brought only 4 carp for 21.06, but this was enough for pole position. Mark Corless was second

with 9lb 5oz of mainly small roach and a lone skimmer caught on squatt and 3.5m whip. Mark lost 3 unstoppable carp but tried to turn all of them! Keith Standing completed the frame with 7lb 13oz of groundbait feeder, maggot and pinkie-caught skimmers, after a lost bream that would have easily doubled his weight.

Match Report: 24 May 2009, Bradshaws no 6, Bolton

A little delayed in posting, but a red-letter day for Dave Zahra. Sixteen fished this match, re-arranged from a canal that nobody was really keen on. Dave had the added pressure of drawing the bonus peg, and was beaten into second place on the day by regular visitor Pete "the meat" Bryce on peg 4, who weighed 33.14 of carp on luncheon meat. However, as Dave came first in the club with 21.03 (2 carp and 5 or 6 bream off peg 12 on pole and paste, feeding pellet), as a result he picked up all the bonus peg money, a cool £268. Well done to an angler who has supported the club admirably over the past few seasons. Shame he didn't get the beers in at the recent June General meeting though, which all previous winners of the bonus peg have done.....

The consistent Alan Hesling was third off peg 2 with 19.01, method fished corn picking up carp backed with a few skimmers. Fourth was Keith Standing (peg 17) with 16.05 of groundbait feeder-caught skimmers on maggot. No pictures available as the match correspondent was unable to attend due to family commitments. It looks as though Alan Hesling is currently leading the club championship, although as the worst matches can be dropped, several anglers very close behind are still very much in contention and we're only a third of the way through the match calendar. Billy Barker, Mick Abdy, Pete Ransome, Keith Standing and a host of Zahra's are breathing down his neck, with several others also highly placed.

Match Report: 10 May 2009, Bradshaws no 6, Bolton

Again, the match section found themselves in Bolton, this time 15 fished on number 6, and it proved to be dominated by some sizeable carp. Billy Smith drew favoured peg 18 in one of the corners, then the same peg was drawn as the bonus peg, so it was game on! If Billy won the match, he'd be going home almost £250 richer.....but it didn't quite go according to plan! A string of decent double figure carp were repeatedly hooked and lost under a large tree, including one inches away from the net when all the hard work had been completed. Large chunks of meat close in on the pole were doing the damage, with Billy eventually weighing in three decent lumps and a few bits for 24-14 and fourth spot. Pete "the meat" Bryce, a constant framer at the venue, fished meat (what a surprise!) on peg 5 to record 26-01, including a carp 11lb 12oz on quite light gear (11m, small piece of luncheon meat hard on the deck). On peg 4, Phil Zahra had a brace of carp and a skimmer for second with 27-12, including the largest fish of the current match season, a mirror of 14.02, backed up by another lump of 13.02. Mick Abdy was picking up odd fish to the method feeder and maggot from peg 14, finally putting 29lb 8oz on the scales to finish in first position, including a couple of low doubles which fought well on light gear. Some "creative" casting helped locate the larger fish, when Billy Barker on the next peg decided to sneak off to the cafe for something to eat at lunchtime...

The Knockout cup wasn't fished, due to some anglers being away for this match.



Part of Mick Abdy's 29lb 8oz winning catch. Phil Zahra with his 14lb 2oz carp

Match Report: 26 April 2009, Bradshaws no 4, Bolton

This was a very peggy affair, with everyone wanting to be on the sunken trees in the middle of the match length. Nineteen fished, and eventual winner Marcus Nickson was into fish from the whistle, from his plumb draw on peg 6. Pellet up in the water on the waggler was doing the damage, but the snaggy peg was claiming much of the tackle, even on 10lb line straight through. Close by, on what has been called the Zahra bank, because various Zahras keep drawing the pegs again and again, were the double act of Dave and Phil, just for a change. Soft expanders or hard pellet fished shallow in the pole were doing the damage for Phil, but the carp had the last laugh in a broken pole....

A couple of pegs away, Alan Hesling had a longer chuck to get to the features, so method feeder with either corn or pellet was producing a string of decent carp. Marcus managed to finish in pole position with 67.03, and also lost almost as many fish off the hook. Alan Hesling was second with 42.07 and Phil Zahra third with a creditable 34.04, just ahead of regular framers Pete "the meat" Bryce and Pete Ransome who both put over 30lb on the scales from the edge of the stickups. There were also some notable catches of 20lb+ of silvers only, showing that you can have a decent day even when drawn off the fliers.

Away from the hot pegs, the battle for the knockout cup was on, with some close results at the death. The award for saying absolutely nothing, keeping a straight face and admitting to having caught even less went to Frank Coleman, who qualified at the expense of Mick Abdy. Phil Zahra beat match Secretary Billy Smith, and Billy Barker ounced out Dave Zahra. The final knockout of this round, between Norman Mears and Pete Ransome, is planned for the next match.



1st Marcus Nickson 67lb 3oz



2nd Alan Hesling 42lb 7oz



3rd Phil Zahra 34lb 4oz

Knockout cup results [here](#) if you've got Excel loaded, otherwise summarised below:

Dave Zahra (18.03) v Billy Barker (19.00)

Mick Abdy (5.12.8) v Frank Coleman (7.13)

Billy Smith (6.13.8) v Phil Zahra (34.04).

Semi-Final: Billy Barker v Frank Coleman

Phil Zahra v Pete Pansome or Norman Mears.

Match Report: 12 April 2009, Goose Green, Mottram St Andrew

This first match of the South Manchester match calendar for 2009 series saw 18 fish on a sunny and bright Easter Sunday. Paul Pannett drew the flier, peg 1, but the pressure was too much as he was also on the bonus peg, as most of the action unfolded across at the dam end of the lake. Billy Barker and Pete Ransome, drawn together on pegs 9 and 10, both started on pellet up in the water at 12 or 13 metres, and were into the odd carp from the off. Mick Abdy, the reigning club champion who'd drawn well on the island on peg 4, had a couple of early carp to 6lb to corn on the straight lead but the fish were spooked by goose activity around the island. Keith Standing on peg 2 was quietly adding the odd decent skimmer to double maggot on a light feeder rig cast short, but suffered biteless spells that got longer as the match progressed.

In the end Billy Barker was the clear winner with 37lb 13oz of carp to pellet up in the water, biggest fish 7.01, with Mick Abdy second, adrift with 24lb 5oz, all fish to either corn or meat, with Pete Ransome third with an up-in-the-water-pellet 12lb 4oz 4dr, narrowly edging out Keith Standing by 4 drams. Billy also picked up the Alan Cawley rosebowl trophy for the win (again), which is always contested on the first match of the season.



1st Billy Barker 37lb 13oz 2nd Mick Abdy 24lb 5oz 3rd Pete Ransome 12lb 4oz 4dr

The knockout cup was also run for members, if you've got Microsoft Excel loaded on your PC you can click [here](#) for the results, otherwise the next round on 26 April at Bradshaws no 4, Bolton, sees the following pairings in action who won through from the first round:

Dave Zahra v Billy Barker Mick Abdy v Frank Coleman
Pete Ransome v Norman Mears Billy Smith v Pete Zahra

2008 SMAC Club Championship Results and trophy winners:

Club champion: Mick Abdy

Runner-up: Pete Ransome

Best fish: Billy Barker, 11lb 7oz carp

Best match weight: Dave Zahra, Bradshaws Bolton, 48-00-00

Alan Cawley trophy: Billy Barker

Congratulations to all the above on what proved to be a very close result, with Mick and Pete almost tying for the championship.

Match Report: 28 September 2008, Rudyard Lake, Staffordshire

This match was a grueller, make no mistake!!!!

The last match of the SMAC season, with no runaway leader in the club championship, it was all up for grabs. We still don't know who the Club Champion is until all results have been ratified and tabulated by the Match Secretary.

It was a nice day at Rudyard, the sun was out, it was warm for late September, but only a shame the venue fished so poorly compared to recent weeks....

First place went to Pete Ransome with only 4lb 4oz, consisting mainly of a corn-caught bream "which was just hanging on and didn't give me a bite and I didn't deserve to catch it" and some small roach and perch on chopped worm from his top 2 pole line. Obviously a sneaky practice session with Mick Abdy last weekend provided all the necessary info for Pete and it paid off big-time. Shame it didn't for Mick who fished like a girl for 90% of the match and came nowhere. Second was visitor Chris Gabs with a level 4lb, maggot feeder at 30 yards for roach and skimmers. Third was Billy Barker, who was complaining so much about his peg at the start that the air was blue. He almost packed up! It was a little "tight and overgrown" as opposed to that drawn by the Match Secretary, which was described by one angler as being more like "the wide open expanses of Old Trafford." Billy, however, came through as the true professional and sneaked third place with 3lb of feedered bits, including a 1lb perch on the second or third chuck of the match. All fell to squat or maggot. There were a smattering of other high 2lb+ weights but on balance, it wasn't the best match SMAC have ever had.....roll on next season!!!!!!



1st Pete Ransome - 4lb 4oz 2nd Chris Gabs - 4lb 3rd Billy Barker - 3lb

Club championship final positions coming soon!!!!!!

Match Report: 07 September 2008, Bradshaws no 4 fishery, Bolton

This match was fished by 22 anglers, with a very nail-biting finish. Everybody wanted to be pegged on the stick-ups, so there were a lot of groans when pegs off the hotspots were pulled from the drawbag. Mick Abdy, drawn on peg 20 (also the bonus peg for the match), got off to a flyer with a few early pole and pellet fish, but it didn't last long as Billy Smith on the next peg soon started to get into his stride with a succession of method feeder-caught carp, but he was also struggling with lost fish. Pete Ransome was also netting quite a

few, as were anglers on the flyers, with Dave Zahra and visitor Alan Hesling from Salford enjoying a tight tussle on alternate pegs in the middle of the match length. Keith Standing and Phil Zahra were also catching well on the early pegs, picking up a few decent skimmers amongst the carp, but couldn't quite do enough to frame. It was neck and neck going into the last hour as torrential rain lashed the Bolton venue, and at the weigh-in, Match Secretary Billy Smith could not split the top 2, who both put an identical 48lb on the scales. Joint 1st: Dave Zahra - 48lb - carp, mainly pole and pellet
Alan Hesling (visitor) - 48lb - carp, method feeder, corn
3rd: Pete Norfolk (visitor) - 44lb - mainly carp - feeder and pole



Joint 1st: Dave Zahra - 48lb Joint 1st: Alan Hesling - 48lb 3rd: Pete Bryce - 44lb