

We have had some very big matches held in Peterborough over the past few years, including the Winter League finals, but last week we saw one of the biggest individual payouts to be seen in the city, with £5,000 going to the winner. It was no wonder then that the match, sponsored by R & J Pipework attracted a big local contingent along with some very good anglers from around the country to Decoy Lakes, Whittlesey. With most of the lakes on the Decoy complex in use those with a little extra room were always going to be in with a chance and so it turned out to be. Graham Dack drew peg 24 on the Elm Pool and put a massive 267lb to the scales to comfortably take the top spot and the huge pay out. Graham loose feed six pints of casters and fished a bunch of red maggots on the hook to take carp to 8lb and a few barbel. Runner up and best of the local anglers was Barry Mason from March, he drew peg 25 on the Willow Pool and after a slow start caught for the rest of the match on a small Method feeder to finish with 189lb 5oz and the consolation for missing out on the big cheque by going home with £1,000. Mark Goddard was third on 174lb 13oz, then came Holbeach match man Matt Arnold with 168lb 2oz.

One of the fens top matchmen Barry Mason ran a very successful charity match on Saturday. Decoy Lakes was the venue and with Barry's persuasive skills a whole host of prizes and a massive raffle ensured well over £1,000 was raised. Decoy Lakes were kind enough to peg the match over three lakes and I might add at very little cost so that a good days sport was ensured. Leading the way with a massive 224lb 11oz from peg 9 on the Yew Pool was Adam Major. In second place was Simon Godfrey with 223lb from the Oak Pool, then came Ray King on Willows with 184lb 1oz.

On Sunday JVAC fished two pools at Decoy, Lou's and Four Islands, with both waters fishing really well despite the hot, sunny weather. Topping the list from Lou's was Nick Carlton, he fished a small feeder on peg 10 to finish on 183lb 2oz.

Runner up from peg 6 was Mick King with 149lb, followed by Colin Fisher on 132lb 6oz. Over on Four Islands the clear winner with 120lb 11oz was Paul Irons, he fished the pole taking a net of barbel on red maggot. Jim Regan came in second from peg 10 weighing in 110lb 2oz, Gus Gausden was in third place on 105lb 5oz.

Hotpoint AC fished the in form Elm Pool and it didn't let them down, although the car park end was not a favourable draw as the better weights came from the top end of the lake. Leading the way with a net of big carp taken from the margins with paste was Paul Faulkner on peg 17, weighing in 175lb 15oz. I drew fancied peg 12 and made a bit of a mess of it. I struggled to catch well in the first half of the day and left it too late to fish into the margin and had to settle for the runner up spot with 149lb 10oz, despite having five nets in. In third place was Vincent Stapleton, he caught on the feeder with red maggot for 141lb 1oz.

Oak Pool at Decoy Lakes was the venue for the Over 55's match on Friday, Dave Rowell taking the honours with a net of carp taken up in the water on pellet for 142lb 15oz. Second place went to Mick King with 118lb, followed by Pete Holland with 103lb.

Yet another local club to help fill all the lakes at Decoy last weekend was Ramsey AS and leading the way in this match fished on the famous Beastie Pool was Andrew Rayment. Despite falling foul of the dreaded net rule he still topped the field with 110lb 8oz. Andrew drew peg 25 and caught carp and a big net of skimmers on maggot. Runner up was Vince Hull, he fished a small feeder with sweetcorn to weigh in 104lb 4oz, then came Andrew Wilding on 85lb 12oz and Keith Rayment with 78lb 12oz.

Webb's AC were back at Gedney Hill on Sunday to fish North View Fishery which saw Marcus Bailey once again topping the

field. He fished a small feeder tight over to the island to finish on 69lb 13oz. In second place with 61lb 15oz was Mick Linnell, then came Ray Strong on a level 63lb.

Float Fish Farm Fishery was once again producing some good sport for those fishing the regular Saturday open on the Two Islands Pool. Leading the way was Ted Rowe, he caught on peg 26 fishing a pellet waggler, slow sinking feeder and a few on the pole for 134lb 1oz. Runner up with 129lb 7oz was Andrew Wilding, he caught on the feeder and pellet waggler. Third place went to Tony Hudson with a level 79lb.

Haddon Lodge continued its much improved form in the latest match on the venue, out in front with 48lb 9oz was Martin Harwood, he fished shallow with 6ml pellets from peg 9. In second place weighing in 27lb 6oz was Lucio Melillo In another angler having success on pellet fished shallow. In third place was Cliff Fuller with 20lb 3oz.

The Match Catch open fished on Ferry Meadows saw city rod Paul Rayner take a comfortable victory from peg 105, weighing in 80lb 5oz of bream all taken on long range feeder tactics. Runner up was Rob Fry with 57lb 12 oz from peg 85, followed by Mark Renshaw on 55lb 13oz.

Peterborough & District Angling Association enjoyed a good turn out for the members match at Ferry Meadows on the High bank on Gunwade Lake on Sunday. Out in front from peg 28 was Graham Page with 15lb 13 oz. he caught on the feeder netting bream and skimmers. Roger Biddle came in second with a weight of 13lb catching bream and skimmers on the short feeder from peg 30. In third place was Richard Linnell from peg 37 fishing the long pole to catch skimmers and perch for a weight of 11lb 14oz.

The mid week Peterborough members match on the high bank saw weights a little lower due to the extremely hot weather.

Topping a small field was Roger Biddle with 7lb13oz who caught on a small feeder. Runner up was Jason Wilmer with 7lb 7oz , then came Mike Smith with 1lb 8oz

On the hottest day of the year so far with temperatures soaring over 30 degrees the Tuesday Club fished Orton upstream, no great weights were recorded but considering the conditions a very reasonable close match was enjoyed. Out in front was Robin Smith with 8lb 8oz made up of a decent bream and some skimmers. In second place was Mike Smith with 7lb 10 oz followed by Alan Jopling on 6lb 9oz.

In the Ramsey AS Thursday match fished on the Forty Foot drain along the Narrows Ray Myring took the honours with two tench and few small fish on worm for a level 8lb. Paul Kilby came in second with 6lb 4oz.

With the very hot temperatures last week and the River Nene running very low and clear at the moment barbel fishing has been hard work for all those trying their luck along the noted pegs upstream of Peterborough. Local bailiff along the Castor section Mark Smith put in a short stint hoping for a lucky fish but in the end managed to net three fish the biggest weighing in at 11lb 6oz. Multiple barbel catches far from normal on the Nene especially in the current conditions so one was good, three is exceptional. He caught all three fishing a glugged 12mm halibut with a maggot feeder full of pellets to give off a constant scent trail and fished over a bed of hemp.

Over the past few years it has been really difficult for many of our clubs up and down the country to attract youngsters into our sport. With so many indoor activities to occupy them, particularly computer games many found little time to venue out and discover what angling is all about. Thankfully though it does look as if the tide is turning and one of our local clubs, Tydd Gote AC look to have found the recipe for success. They

run fun days and include a slight competitive edge with the day including age group matches. On Saturday they ran yet another very successful junior event and for once the weather was kind to them, everyone enjoyed the day and with a vast array of fishing tackle given away thanks to generous sponsors as well as the club chipping in, you can see nothing but good things happening in the future for this forward thinking, progressive club in the fens.

Junior results

Biggest fish winner Barnaby Newman with 11lb 14oz Bream

Overall top 3

1st Barnaby Newman 3lb 13oz

2nd Sonny Lynn 3lb 9oz

3rd Arturs 2lb 8oz

Under 11 Winners

1st William Bates 1lb 4oz

2nd Bryn 1lb 2oz

3rd Brandon 15.5oz

Tydd Gote also have a huge fixture list throughout the season with popular matches run on Wednesday, Thursday evenings and sometimes two matches at weekends.

In the Wednesday match it was John Taylor running into top form with a very respectable 11 lb 10oz net of roach and skimmers. Runner up with 3lb 2oz was Andy Greenwood, then came Don Green with 2lb 2oz. In Sunday's club match Ray Groom took a net of roach and skimmers on the pole with pinkie over groundbait to finish on 9lb 4oz. Andrew Kilby came second with 7lb 6oz, just ahead of Paul Bondene on 7lb 4oz.