

It's been a very good week for those anglers fishing the Decoy Lakes open matches as the fishery continues to produce some cracking sport on several of the lakes. In the Tuesday open fished on the Beastie pool it was tight at the top, Decoy regular Steve Dawkes taking the honours with a level 59lb from peg 20 on a pole and maggot approach fished in the margins. Next in Saturdays match, young Tom Edwards showed the strong field the way home putting 73lb 15oz to the scales, the Spalding rod drew peg 26 and fished the maggot over to the island his catch made up of barbel and a few carp. A close second was Steve Freeman on 69lb 11oz, then came Nigel Baxter with 63lb 10oz.

There was a huge turnout for the Sunday open, in fact one of the biggest for many months and saw organisers having to put anglers on both the Beastie Pool and the Oak. Top rod with an impressive 141lb 2oz net was Simon Dow, he was on the Oak Pool and alternated between the pole and straight lead with luncheon meat. John Whincup came in second fishing shallow with pellet putting 126lb 6oz to the scales followed by Nigel Baxter on 98lb 14oz.

In the Friday Over 55's at Decoy Gus Gausden topped the field on the Elm Pool, putting 129lb to the scales all carp taken on the pole with pellet. Runner up with 120lb 12oz was Bob McBeath, he was also on Elm and caught on the long pole with pellet. Third place went to Dave Thornton on 120lb 1oz.

Now that the Ramsey AS anglers have finished their fixtures on the fen drains they were quick to settle into the carp fishing routine at Decoy on the Horseshoe Pool. No big weights in this one but it was certainly tight at the top. In fact at the weigh in the top two could not be separated John Paine and Andrew Rayment having to share the spoils, both weighing in 50lb with maggot the best bait for both. In third place was Keith Rayment on 46lb, then came Andrew Kilby with 45lb and John Hazelden with 44lb. This week the club are on the Six Island Pool at Decoy.

The Sensas Challenge Final attracted teams from France and most of the better UK squads to fish the Great Ouse on the last full weekend of the season. Unfortunately the river was in poor form for practice sessions and the match itself, that left the anglers struggling for bites and also saw many areas all but void of fish. Its so disappointing to see International anglers hunting around their peg for a single fish just to avoid a blank, even the leading weights were not impressive to say the least. I think everyone knew it

had nothing to do with the local organisers, who I might add put in a lot of time and effort to get this prestigious match onto a Fenland water.

Perhaps the only bright spot of the weekend for locals was on Day One which saw Mark One rod Arnie Palmer topping the field with a net of bream weighing in at 17lb 12oz taken from Ten Mile Bank. On the second day Rob Perkins also found a few bream feeding and a bonus tench, putting 11lb 15oz to the scales. On the team front Maver Image saw off the challenge from France and the rest of the UK with 38points well clear of runners up Tri Cast Weston Team Wales on 52.

Top individuals over the two days were Rick Richards on four points, winning on weight followed by Huntingdon based Browning Hotrods star Will Freeman also on four points but recording a smaller weight.

JVAC fished both Four and Six Islands on Sunday with both pools producing some cracking action. Two anglers in form at the moment took the honours, on Four Islands Kevin Wilmot put a fine 133lb 4oz to the scales from peg 9 fishing shallow with maggot over to the island. Not far behind was Mick King on peg 5, he caught on pellet for 75lb and in third place was Steve Dawkes with 71lb 13oz.

It was just as good on Six Islands, Martin Freeman bagging 108lb 10oz from peg 2 fishing shallow with pellet to see off the challenge of Andy Gausden on peg 18, he put 91lb 3oz to the scales followed by Alan Warren with 84lb 10oz.

There is no stopping Stamford rod George Bates right now at the Haddon Lodge fishery, week after week he continually tops the prize list, in the latest match it was close but not quite good enough to dislodge him. George finished on 26lb 11oz, most fish falling to pellet. Pushing him all the way to the final whistle was Tony Moulds on 25lb 2oz and Richard Knight with 23lb 14oz.

Another club starting their spring campaign recently was the Conservative Club, they enjoyed some reasonable sport on the Willow pool at the Decoy complex. Out in front from fancied peg 25 on the point was Ian Bradshaw, he alternated between a feeder with banded pellet and the pole fished to the island to finish on 62lb 13oz. John Parnell came in second on peg 34, he fished a long pole with soft pellet for 59lb 8oz followed by Bob Barrett on 48lb 6oz.

Sensas Mark One rod John Taylor rounded off a cracking run of form throughout the winter months by yet again taking the honours in the Tydd Gote Wednesday open fished on the North Level drain. Fishing the pole with pinkie over groundbait John caught 300 small roach, skimmers and perch for a match winning 14lb 14oz. Phil Parnell came in second on a level 6lb followed by Len Shucksmith on 5lb 13oz and Ian Benton with 5lb 6 ½ oz.

At Buttonhole Fishery good weights were recorded right down the line on Sunday suggesting the venue is running into top form. Top rod from peg 20 was Marc Bradford he fished the long pole with banded 6ml pellet up in the water to weigh in 127lb 2oz. Ian Warby fished a waggler from peg 3 to record 81lb 10oz followed by Danny Button on peg 18 with 73lb 6oz.

On Townsend Lakes the Cuckoo Pool saw some big weights too as carp start to feed up, Brendan Strowgler putting the first three figure net of carp to the scales since the turn of the year, finishing with 107lb 7oz. Brendan alternated between the long pole with pellet and sweetcorn in the margins from peg 38. Runner up was Brian Arliss, he fished a short pole line just into the deep water for 36lb 3oz followed by Steven Hillman, he fished caster across to the far side and pellet down the middle for a level 64lb. This Sunday the action at Townsend Lakes switches to the Kingfisher Lake.

With the Horseshoe Lake at Wansford being recently restocked and some good reports of catches recently, Deeping St. James have decided to hold a sweepstake match here on Sunday, this was originally to go ahead on the following Sunday but this would have clashed with Mothers Day and with Peterborough United at Wembley on the same day moving it forward seemed the right thing to do. Please also note that the Wansford Fishery will be closed on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March for one day only for dog trials that are being held there.