

Catch of the Week.

There were a few eye brows raised when the Newman Cup challenge match between Deeping St James and Yaxley/Farcet/Holme AC was switched from the River Nene at Wansford onto the River Welland running through the Deepings. I am not really sure it was the right move looking at the weights recorded, but to be fair to match officials practice sessions on the River Nene had seen quite a few anglers without a single fish to their name. With a very clear river and an overnight frost with bright sunshine, it wasn't surprising that most anglers found the going difficult.

The winner on the day was Nick Preston (pictured below) on peg 26 just the peg he was dreading pulling out of the bag as on past form it had hardly



Nick Preston

produced a bite. Nick decided not to fish bread punch unlike the majority of the field, instead opted for a chopped worm and caster approach which in the end paid off handsomely as he caught three good perch along with some small fish to weigh a level 5lb and my catch of the week award. Not a big weight but a well thought out approach to a difficult swim on what turned out to be a hard days fishing for most. And I might add Nick is a very accomplished fly fisherman and spends the majority of the summer months fishing the likes of Rutland Water and Grafham, so is often not up to speed on the current form of our local waters.

In second place was Mike Smith who is a new member for Deeping on peg 23 who took an all roach catch for a level 4lb, unfortunately for Deeping he was not in the challenge team which was also the case for Deepings David Norville who was third on peg 24 with 2lb 6oz. Section winners were Rob Allen, Keith Rounding and Ivan Marriott. So weights as you can see were on the poor side, Deeping St James AC selected team weight was 5lb 12oz while Yaxley take a weight of 2lb 15 ½ oz into the return leg.

I have heard it said several times over the past few months that team fishing is dead, no excitement any more and the fishing on natural venues is as poor as it's ever been. Well I am very pleased to say that those that berated this season's winter league event could not be more wrong. Round five on the Old Nene at Benwick and Factory Bank at Ramsey had it all. Great fishing for most with the top six anglers all putting big double figure weights to the scales backed up with a string of consistent catches and a team event that is once again going to produce a fascinating, exciting finale.

Top individual from the prolific Factory Bank drain was Alistair Ogilvie, he drew fancied peg 1 and caught fish on the pole with groundbait and pinkie for 15lb 13oz. At the very next peg was runner up Dave Rawlings, he caught on the whip close in to finish on a level 15lb, followed by Martin Roper on 14lb 9oz. On the team front the star studded Stanjay Gold side put in a majestic performance to comfortably take the team event with 20 points. Sensas Mark One White put in a much improved team display coming second on 27 points and this now puts them back into contention for the runner up spot in the league, with Browning Hotrods coming third on 34 points. Stanjay's look to be home and dry with just one match to go but with three points separating the next three teams its going to be a nail biting finish in a couple of weeks time.

After a hard frost and the Old Nene at March on the by pass section clear and with little flow Allsorts AC anglers feared the worst and it looked like there were going to be a few dry nets. Thankfully though, and to everyone's surprise the fishing was remarkably good considering the conditions. You would expect all the leading weights to fall to the usual long pole approach but match winner Pete Molesworth Sn stole the show with a master class of waggler fishing with pinkies. Pete caught steadily all day to finish top with 5lb 12oz. Runner up on 5lb 7oz was Jamie Bird, he fished the pole down the middle in the deeper water with maggot over groundbait. Then came Ron Blackwell, he fished the whip to finish on 5lb 4oz. So in the end a very good, close result from what at first looked to be a very difficult venue.

For the second week running Mick King ran out a comfortable winner in the Friday over 55's match fished at Decoy Lakes. In the latest match on the Yew Pool he drew peg 14 and decided on a straight lead approach with hair rigged luncheon meat to weigh in 63lb 13oz. Pete Bass was not too far off the pace he fished a similar approach weighing in 52lb 1oz followed by Shaun Best with 51lb 14oz.

Sundays JVAC match was fished on the usually reliable Beastie Pool on the Decoy complex and for most it turned out to be a very difficult day with bites

at a premium. All the weights came from the 20's topped by Shaun Coaten who put 45lb 13oz to the scales from peg 23. Shaun fished the pole all day feeding small pellet and fishing a soft expander on the hook at full depth. Close by was Steve Dawkes, he fished maggot for 33lb 14oz followed by Gus Gausden with 29lb 9oz.

The Cock Inn angling club were joined by several of the lads from Hotpoint AC at the weekend on the Six Island Pool at Decoy Lakes. Unfortunately I think most anglers out fishing at the weekend found it tough going, there were several good catches but backing weights soon dropped off quite dramatically. The day called for a very light, delicate approach with light lines, small hooks and floats shotted right down to show the barest tip. Top rod on the day from peg 13 was Gary Sell with 52lb 2oz fished the long pole with double red maggot. Runner up was Chris Shortland from peg 4 with 40lb 14oz he fished close in on the bend with double red maggot, followed by Paul Newcomb from peg 6 with 28lb 4oz, he pole fished close in on maggot.



Gary Sell

Another angler in top form at present is George Scally, he made it two wins in a row by topping the Webbs AC match fished at Haddon Lodge, he put a very respectable 13lb 7oz of silvers to the scales all caught on the pole with red maggot. Alan Forest came in second fishing similar tactics to the winner to finish on a level 10lb followed by George Bates with 4lb 14oz.

Catching fish from the off Mark Chesters took a comfortable victory in the latest Whittlesey AA match fished on the top end of Whittlesey Dyke. Right from the off he started to build up a good weight using the whip and pinkie over groundbait taking several better samples for a match winning weight of 9lb 6oz. On the next peg was Dave White using the pole and pinkie over groundbait with loose fed hemp he took some decent sized roach for second place with a weight of 8lb 6oz. In third place was Andy Bull, he caught smaller fish using the pole and pinkie for 4lb 4oz.

There were some big fish taken in the latest Angling Trust Pike Qualifier fished on Ramsey St Marys at the weekend. Leading the way with one fish

going to the scales at 14lb 14oz was Terry Waple. Runner up Richard Moulds put two fish to the scales for 13lb 12oz, followed by Keith Rayment on 12lb 10oz and Kevin Eldred with 12lb 8oz.

In the latest Ramsey AS sweepstake fished on Factory Bank sport was very good indeed, the consistent Paul Kilby taking the honours with 14lb 2oz. Mick Arling came second on 12lb followed by Simon Wagstaff on 5lb 11oz. This week's match is the Ramsey Winter League at Factory Bank (Town end), draw 8am, fish 9-2pm.

Clear winner in the Saturday Decoy open match fished on the Beastie Lake from the hot pegs in the 20s was Steve Clarke, the Maver Image backed rod fished peg 25 on the long pole line with pellet at full depth taking mostly F1s for a comfortable victory putting 53lb 11oz to the scales. Runner up was Simon Dow on 31lb 7oz followed by Richard Linnell with 29lb 3oz.

Decoy Open

Yew Pool, Sun

1 R Anstee 137lb 8oz; 2 J Brooks 100lb 4oz; 3 M Carter 63lb 10oz.