

The last match of the winter series run by Bob Fitzjohn on the Old Nene at March proved, if there was every any doubt, that this venue is very special, year after year it continues to produce outstanding winter action. Anglers travel from all over the country to fish the five or six matches run each year once winter sets in. Sunday saw the match fished in summer like conditions reflected in the massive weights taken, particularly from the hot pegs above the By-Pass Bridge, always good for tench but never quite as good as we saw at the weekend. Match winner Simon Nickless made a 250 mile round trip to fish but it proved to be an action packed day for the Midlander as he bagged a cracking 48lb 15oz net of fish to top the impressive line up of anglers. Simon drew peg 45 at the top end of the By Pass section and caught four tench, five good skimmers and rudd to 3lb on the pole fishing pinkie over a bed of casters. Runner up was Huntingdon rod Graham Welton, the RAF man also found the tench and rudd willing to feed, Graham caught on the pole fished down the middle on a chopped worm and caster approach for 39lb 10oz. Third was Ben Jackson on 37lb 2oz followed by Steve Joy with 30lb 8oz. the list of big weights goes on and on with 18lb the lowest section winning weight, that's how good the fishing was, a fitting way to end the season for sure.



The Twenty Foot Drain has proved to be a happy hunting ground for Allsorts AC, they are regulars to the venue at this time of year and on Sunday they fished their final match of their winter campaign, no big weights this time but still some consistent sport. Top rod was Steve Stones on 6lb 5oz, he caught small roach and perch on the pole with pinkie. Paul Dotchin was runner up with a similar catch weighing 6lb 1oz followed by Pete Molesworth with 5lb 14oz, a net of perch taken close on worm.

Pleasure catches were just as good, some big pike were taken from the Twenty Foot

and Forty Foot drains and several were also caught from the River Welland and River Folly, both all but forgotten waters.

The warm weather saw tench on the feed on the Ramsey AS water at the top end of the Forty Foot on the "Narrows" section which saw Paul Kilby bagging up on a chopped worm and caster approach, netting 18 big tench to 5lb along with skimmers and bream, to round off a great days sport, his wife caught well over 100 quality roach to 6oz on a three metre whip.

A few barbel have been taken along with chub to 5lb from the upper stretches of the River Nene above Peterborough, so well worth a trip out before the close.

As if to prove a point the tench showed again on the Narrows for Sundays Ramsey AS club match which saw Andrew Kilby taking the honours with eight tench taken on worm and caster from peg 9 weighing in 33lb 12 ½ oz. Runner up with five tench and a few perch was John Hazelden on 17lb 15 ½ oz with Paul Kilby third netting four tench for 15lb 1oz.

Both Oak and the Yew pool on the Decoy Lakes complex were used in the latest Over 55's match on Friday, out in front was the in form Jay Richardson, he drew peg 14 and fished the pole with pellet for a match winning 81lb 14oz. Another in form angler is Gus Gausden, he came second with 73lb 8oz, followed by Tom Wilson with 67lb 14oz.

Sundays JVAC match was on the Oak Pool with Huntingdon rod Will Hadley topping the list from peg 10 with a cracking 102lb 5oz. Will fed pellet and alternated pellet and sweetcorn on the hook. Kevin Peacock took the runner up spot with 73lb 8oz followed by Gus Gausden on 70lb 8oz.

In the Cock Inn match fished on the Four Island Pool at Decoy it was Brian Faulkner out in front from peg 5 with a net of small carp taken on white maggot for 40lb 12oz. Runner up on peg 10 was Pete Sanderson, he fished the feeder close to the rushes, again on maggot for 32lb followed by Chris Shortland in third place with 29lb 4oz

Deeping St James AC held their last Cup match of the river season on their stretch of the River Nene at Wansford which is always the Non Cup Winners Cup. With the river still carrying extra water and colour which was disappointing as a day or two later and they would have caught it in prime condition. It was good to see the cup won not by default, but by an outright win with the first two anglers both eligible. Deeping angler Ron Needham took the honours with 5lb 5oz from peg 21 his catch included a superb chub of 4lb 3oz which he took on a float fished worm tipped with a maggot. Mel

Saggers who has been having a good run of catches recently, was once again pushed in to second place with mainly roach for 4lb 15 ½ oz from peg 18. In third place was Hugh Mannall with 4lb 11 ½ oz.

The Tydd Gote Open match on Wednesday did not fish as well as expected, top rod with a net of small roach taken on the pole with pinkie was Don Green on 4lb 6oz. It was close at the top though, Andy Greenwood was next on 4lb 5 ½ oz, followed by Mick Asker on 4lb 4oz.

John Taylor has made a name for himself over the years as one of the better small fish anglers around the area but on Saturday in the Whittlesey match fished at the Carrot Wash on Bevills Leam he went a long way to proving, if indeed proof were needed, that he is also a very competent all round angler. Drawing the favoured tench peg he fished for them right from the whistle, he took his first tench after 30 minutes on the chopped worm and caster approach catching at regular intervals to finish with thirteen tench and one bream for a weight of 52lb 11oz. In second place on the far end peg Mel Saggers caught well all match to finish with 7lb 7oz of all small fish caught on the pole with pinkie over groundbait. John Hudson took third place with perch weighing 4lb 14oz.

Once again George Bates showed those fishing the Haddon Lodge match on Sunday how it should be done as he ran out a clear winner taking a mixed bag on maggot and sweetcorn for 27lb 9oz. Alan Forrest came second on 17lb 3oz followed by Martin Harwood with 16lb 10oz.

Kingfisher Lake on the Townsend Fishery complex saw some improved catches and as spring seems to have arrived I think we can expect to see even better weights over the next few weeks. Top rod from peg one was Rickie James, he fished a groundbait feeder to the island with red maggot on the hook, netting 44lb 8oz. Venue regular Steve Sharpe came in second with 32lb 4oz, all caught on the long pole with pellet, followed by Ricky Young with 27lb 12oz, he caught on both the pole and feeder again on pellet.

As many of you may be aware the Environment Agency bailiffs have been out and about over the past couple of weeks, checking rod licences and also looking at the spacing of rods along the bank pike anglers tend to practice. You may not know that it's an offence to have rods spread further apart than

three metres and in fact several anglers were caught out at the weekend in an organised pike event on a fenland drain and cautions were issued. Licences for the new season start on 1st April and are available now on line from the Environment Agency web site or in person at Post Offices around the area. Please make sure you get one before you fish on or after the 1st April as they will be out again checking stillwaters right across the area, even on the smallest of private waters you still have to get one.