

Round two of the Midland Winter league on the Great Ouse at Godmanchester and St Ives proved once again that practice matches and indeed practice in general can often be very misleading. On the previous weeks practice match it was clear with little or no flow and very few fish in some areas. On Sunday morning it was up and coloured and with a strong wind prospects looked grim. Thankfully it produced the goods with some very respectable weights recorded. None better than that taken by Simon Colclough he put a fine 15lb 14oz to the scales, a net of roach taken on bread punch from the Recreation Ground section at Godmanchester. Kevin Austin came in second with 15lb 2oz from St Ives followed by Alistair Ogilvie on 14lb 9oz. All three fished for Maver Image, which you would have thought, along with other leading weights would have been enough to give their team, Maver Image the top spot. But a very consistent Sensas Mark One team performance saw them make it two wins in a row and they now top the league with a perfect two point score.

**Result;** 1 Colclough, 15lb 14oz, 2 K Austin 15lb 12oz; 3 Alistair Ogilvie 14lb 9oz; 4 C Oakman 14lb 7oz; 5 W Freeman 14lb 3 ½ oz; 6 J Taylor 13lb 9oz.

**Teams:** 1 Sensas Mark One White 23; 2 Maver Image 25; 3 Browning Hotrods 30; 4 Stanjay Gold 33; 5 Stanjay Silver 39; 6 Sensas Mark One Black 51.

**League:** 1 Sensas Mark One White 2; 2 Maver Image 4; 3 Browning Hotrods 7; 4 Stanjay Gold 9; 5 Sensas Mark One Black 9; 5 Stanjay Silver 11.

The first winter March AC open match was fished on the Old Nene and saw the bypass section produce the winning weight. A good quality field was topped by local rod Dan

Hall, he caught a brace of tench and topped up with perch and skimmers for a fine 21lb 15oz. Second place from the fancied swimming pool section was Mick Burrell. He caught on bread punch fishing two pole lines through the day to record 18lb 6oz. Third place went to another March rod. Dan Mason, he weighed in 17lb 3oz.

What a week it has been for local rod Mick King, on Friday last he organised the Over 55's match on the Six Island Pool at Decoy and promptly took the honours from peg 8. Fishing the pole with pellet in the margins Mick caught well in the latter stages of the match to finish on 101lb. Close behind on peg 11 was Bob McBeath, he caught on meat close in for 100lb 9oz, followed by Keith Rayment on 91lb 9oz.

On Sunday he fished the JVAC match on a full Cedar Pool, again a slow start to the day, but a switch to a small maggot feeder did the trick in very rough conditions which saw him clear on 92lb. Second place went to Ernie Lowbridge with 82lb 5oz taken on the pole with pellet followed by Chris Saunders with 78lb 7oz.

Conditions were far from ideal for the latest Haddon Lodge match, fishery bailiff Cliff Fuller putting his vast knowledge of the venue to good use topping the field with a modest 18lb 15oz of small carp taken on a maggot feeder. Runner up was Lucio Melillo (Sn), he caught on the pole with maggot for 11lb 10oz, then came Tony Moulds with 11lb 7oz.

It turned out to be a very good day for me in the final Hotpoint match of the year fished on the Horseshoe Pool. I was lucky enough to draw in the low numbers which was sheltered somewhat from the stiff breeze. Once I had drawn peg 4 I was only going to fish one way, up in the water, feeding caster and fishing pellet on the hook. I finished top with 71lb 4oz, enough to take the top spot in the club handicap event as well which sees most of the field gaining a few pounds depending on the seasons past results. Runner up from peg 18 was Chris Shortland, fishing into a strong head wind all day he fished a small feeder with meat and pellet to finish on 67lb 3oz. Then came Paul Faulkner on peg 9, he caught on the pole close in and the feeder for 63lb 2oz. To round off a cracking day I scooped the pay out for guessing the top three anglers in any order ( I had to share it with two others I should mention)  
Result; K Wade, 71lb 4oz, C Shortland, 67lb 3oz, Paul Faulkner, 63lb 2oz.  
Handicap result. K Wade, Brian Faulkner (58lb 1oz + 11lb handicap), C Shortland.

It was a very rough and windy day down on the Decoy Lakes complex on Sunday, Fenland Rods fished the Oak Pool which saw the Lutkin family having a good day. Mel Lutkin came out on top with a level 57lb taken from peg 11 on a maggot feeder. His son Matthew drew next to him and caught 56lb 9oz followed by John Garner on 50lb

It was the last match of the summer series for Deeping St James anglers on Sunday when they fished a sweepstake

match on Skylark pool at Westwood Lakes near Boston. Conditions and a below par venue made it a disappointing day for some but Nigel Briggs managed to catch steadily throughout the match, fishing maggot over hemp and groundbait two thirds across. He caught carp and barbel for 54lb 4oz from peg 13 to take a comfortable victory. In second place on peg 19 was David Marzell with 35lb 6oz and third place went to Mick Linnell on peg 7 with 34lb 13oz.

The club now takes a short break and starts their winter season on the rivers with the first match on the River Nene at Wansford on November 2nd.

Whittlesey Dyke has been one of the top winter venues over the past few years and it looks as if it's running in to good form again judging by the Whittlesey clubs match on it recently. Catching from the off Jeff Tuttlebee won this one with a net of roach, rudd and perch using the pole with loose fed squat and hook pinkie for a winning weight of 8lb 1oz. Runner up was Mark Chesters who used similar tactics to finish with a weight of 5lb 14oz. Roger Biddle came in third with 5lb 3oz. This week's fixture will see the draw moved forward to 12.30pm.

The latest Yaxley, Farcet, Holme and DAC points match was fished at Raveley with Frank Bevilacqua finishing top. Bevilacqua relied on a bonus tench of 4lb 3 ½ oz which he caught on waggler-fished maggot an hour from the end. He then switched to worm, adding perch to his other fish to give him a total of 9lb 7 ½ oz. Paul Marriott took second place with a mixed bag for 6lb 13 ½ oz, with Mike Mahon third on 6lb 1 ½ oz.

Webb's AC were once again fishing the Buttonhole Fishery which saw Martin Harwood bagging his second victory at the venue, weighing in 110lb 3oz taken up in the water on pellet. Alan Coulson came second with 83lb 5oz followed by Dave Pearson with a level 76lb.

One venue you can always rely on through the winter months is Factory Bank and with extra water on it produced a cracking result for the Ramsey AS Terry Coakley match. Round two saw Adrian Wilding out in front, he caught perch on worm and a good net of roach on hemp seed for 20lb 2oz. Not far behind was Keith Rayment who had over 300 roach taken on the whip for 18lb 2oz. Then came Paul Kilby with 17lb 13oz, his catch included five big eels taken on worm.

I think one or two of the Cock Inn anglers will be pleased the summer series of matches has come to an end as since Gary Sell came back from his holidays he has not lost a match. On Sunday he rounded off the series with five straight wins topping the field with 57lb 12oz from the bay of doom, peg18 on the Willow Pool at Decoy Lakes. He fished maggots close in on the pole. Runner up was Steve Smith with 56lb from peg 25, all taken on the feeder with pellet. In third place was Bob Mills with 52lb 8oz from peg 24,

League positions; Steve Smith 1st, Gary Sell 2nd, Bob Mills 3<sup>rd</sup>

In the Wednesday Tydd Gote match fished on the Black Dyke Drain Andy Greenwood topped the field with 7lb 4oz,

his catch included a bonus tench and a net of roach. Runner up with 6lb 15oz was Pete Emery followed by John Young on 6lb.

On Sunday the club decided to use the same venue, Ray Groom taking the honours with a net of roach and skimmers for 7lb 17oz. Dave Sippitts came in second with 6lb 15oz followed by Colin Burton with 1lb 9oz.

In the recent Pike Match run by Tydd Gote AC at Church Lane Bridge only winning angler Paul Lenton managed to catch any fish he topped the field with a 25lb total with three pike, the biggest fish weighing 10lb all caught on roach dead bait. The next pike match for the club will be on Sunday 9th November, to book in contact Jamie Cooper on 01406 365160.

It looks like its going to be another very busy weekend on the match fishing scene, on Saturday there is a match on Float Fish Farm Fishery, those attending should enjoy a good days sport on the in form Horseshoe Pool.

While on Sunday anglers get to choose from the Decoy Lakes open, or if you prefer a big still water why not fish the Peterborough DAA match at Ferry Meadows. This one is a little different though as it's a float only affair. You can fish the pole or waggler but no feeder fishing of any kind. PDAA committee man Jason Wilmer is in charge and taking the booking and inquiries on 07717 379182. The draw will take place at the Water Sports Centre at 8.30am.

There is also an open match on the Old Nene at Benwick, it's a practice match for round three of the East Midland Winter League organised by match organiser Roy Whincup

he has advised me that anyone is most welcome to fish as it's not a team match. It should be very good as the venue has not been heavily fished and if we are lucky enough to keep the mild weather over the weekend then we can expect big perch and tench to show, maybe even a bream or two.