

It was a big weekend on the match fishing scene with several prestigious events on our local waters. I was disappointed the River Nene was not included in this years Riverfest Qualifiers but we did get one match venue chosen which always produces the goods and that's the Old Nene through March town, with the match being fished last Saturday. I must say when match organiser Bob Fitzjohn gave me the result I was shocked to hear of so many anglers failing to turn up for the event, those pegs could comfortably have been sold to local anglers desperate for a chance at this event. The venue fished really well, out in front was Danny Mason, he put a fine 31lb 10oz to the scales to top a strong field. Drawn on one of the fancied pegs just on the boats at the bypass he fished a chopped worm and caster approach early in the match netting five tench and an eel then switched to a waggler fished over to the boats up in the water with maggot to take around 150 rudd to give him a section win and a crack at the all winners final. Colin Oakman from Huntingdon came in second from the same section he caught a tench on worm and a good net of roach and rudd for 20lb. Then came England International Steve Hemmingray on 19lb 3oz. Local RAF man Graham Welton made it through to the final thanks to a section win from below the by pass bridge.

Result: 1 D Mason, Bills Tackle, 31lb; 2 C Oakman, Browning Hotrods, 20lb; 3 S Hemmingray, Drennan, 19lb 3oz; 4 A Graham, Vauxhall, 15lb 13oz; jt 5 G Welton, Garbolino RAF and R Wright, Browning Hotrods, both 15lb 12oz.

Qualifiers: A S Hemmingray; B G Welton; C D Mason

Sensas Mark One had been riding high at the top of the East Midland Winter league, taking the first two rounds in style but they hit the buffers on Sunday fishing on the Old Nene at Benwick as they slipped up on the day and could only manage fourth place. Browning Hotrods stole the show topping a strong field with 25 points and that now moves them into contention for the league title at the half way stage. On the individual front Maver Image made it a one-two, John Weedon taking first place, he drew at the Halfpenny Toll end and caught a brace of tench, several eels and some roach and rudd for 18lb 6oz. Team mate Steve Fry came in second, he had four tench for 15lb 14oz from the same area.

Result; 1 J Weedon, Maver Image, 18lb 6oz; 2 S Joy, Maver Image, 15lb 14oz; 3 M Caldicote, Stanjay Gold, 11lb 12oz; 4 P Lamdin, Stanjay Silver, 10lb 13oz; 5 D Rawlings, Stanjay Silver, 10lb 4oz; 6 M Asker, Mark One, 9lb 9 ½ oz..

Teams: 1 Browning Hotrods, 25; 2 Stanjay Gold, 32; 3 Maver Image, 34; 4 Sensas Mark One White, 35; 5 Mark One Black, 39; 6 Stanjay Silver, 44

League: 1 Sensas Mark One White, 6pts; 2 Maver Image, 7; 3 Browning Hotrods, 8; 4 Stanjay Gold, 11; 5 Mark One Black, 14; 6 Stanjay Silver, 17.

On Sunday it was round one of the Guru/Bag Em Festival at Decoy Lakes run by March rod Barry Mason who got the series off to a flying start topping the field with 98lb 10oz. The local rod caught on a Method feeder early in the match from peg 21 before switching to a pellet waggler then the margins. Steve Freeman came second with 92lb 3oz followed by Andy Leathers on 82lb 1oz. This match is all about section points though, its too complicated to explain

but basically the section pegs can, and indeed are spread around the Beastie Pool, not all in a row.

Section winners were; Barry Mason; Steve Freeman; John Whincup and Andy Leathers

Horseshoe Lake on the Decoy complex has been one of the best lakes through out the summer and autumn, but as the colder weather sets in it starts to become much more difficult and so it proved on Sunday. Temperatures took a turn for the worse Saturday night and bites were at a premium in the early stages of the JVAC match although Mike Mitchell and Alan Warren found the fish willing to feed in some numbers in pegs 18 and 19 respectively. Mike eventually took the honours taking carp on the pole with pellet for 75lb 3oz. Alan was not too far behind, fishing similar tactics he put 61lb 14oz to the scales. Third place went to Chris Baldwin on peg 11, he caught on maggot and weighed in 58lb 13oz

The low numbers on the Cedar Pool were the hot pegs in the latest Decoy over 55's match, Steve Dawkes out in front from peg 5 with 81lb 1oz, all taken on the pole with red maggot. Dave Thornton came second just behind with 80lb 14oz again on maggot, followed by Shaun Best on 79lb 14oz.

A small but impressive line up on the Beastie Pool at Decoy for the Saturday open saw Rob Goodson taking the honours. He is well known at the fishery for his prowess on the feeder but this match saw him sticking to the pellet

waggler all day from peg 4 catching carp to double figures to finish on 108lb 6oz. Young Tom Edwards continues to impress, he came second with 91lb 1oz followed by John Whincup on 90lb 3oz.

It was a difficult day for all the anglers lining the banks of Haddon Lodge on Sunday, top rod with a modest 10lb 15oz was George Bates, all taken on red maggot. Martin Quelch came second on 6lb 4oz followed by Mick Goodman with 4lb 3oz.

Fenland Rods were over at Decoy Lakes on Sunday fishing the Yew Pool where a top end draw was crucial as the wind was blowing down that end. The clubs top angler Kev Lee went into the draw bag and out popped peg 15! He made no mistake netting 83lb 15oz on sweetcorn fished close in due to the strong wind and rounded off the day by winning £100 off the golden peg. Mac Campbell came in second on 40lb 1oz followed by Callum Judge with 33lb 12oz.

From the far end peg Jeff Tuttlebee continued his recent run of form in the Whittlesey club matches. His latest win came on the Whittlesey Dyke. He drew one of the fancied end pegs and finished up with a good net of roach and perch on the pole to weigh in 9lb 5oz.

At the other end of the match length Andy Bull caught a tench and an eel with a back up of smaller roach and perch to finish second with a weight of 8lb 9oz. Third place went to Mike Mohan who caught steadily all day to finish with 6lb 5oz.

Sunday saw the Deeping St James angling club move onto the River Nene after a summer spent on our local commercial waters. Fishing their own section of the river at Wansford it was David Norville who took the honours, he fished chopped worm over hemp seed from end peg 20 to take some quality perch then changed to hemp on the hook to catch roach to finish well ahead of the field with 13lb 5oz and 10 points to head the DILS series. In second place was Ramsey angler Steve Cox on peg 11 with 4lb 11oz and third place went to Paul Dotchin on peg 18 with 3lb 10oz.

Once again Factory Bank provided some cracking action for those fishing the Ramsey AS club match. Out in front with 13lb 12oz of small roach and perch was Ivan Steels, he caught on the whip with pinkie over groundbait. Second place went to Mick Arling with 13lb 2oz followed by Paul Kilby on 12lb 12 ½ oz.

Match anglers may have had a tough time of it at the weekend as the weather gradually sinks into winter mode, but for big fish anglers it was one of the better times. Pike anglers did well on the fenland drains with the Twenty Foot and Forty Foot waters producing some decent fish. Glassmore Bank was also in form with several small fish taken, a really good looking 19lb 7oz specimen was taken by city rod Gavin Stewart.

On the River Nene the forgotten barbel pegs just below Orton Lock sprang into life, in far from ideal conditions Paul Smith produced one of the best multiple catches of barbel ever recorded from the River Nene. He has spent a lot of time on the river when a many others have given up on it.

He regularly sends me pictures of his catches of big fish but his weekend catch of eleven barbel must surely go down as his best ever days fishing. Its almost unheard of to catch that many in a single day let alone a relatively short session.

Anglers Beware! There is a distinct possibility a bogus bailiff is operating in the Stamford Area, on Sunday an angler was asked to buy a day ticket whilst about to start fishing on the River Welland along the popular free water section at Water Street, Stamford. The gentleman was asked to pay £5 for a day's fishing, thankfully he was told in no uncertain terms that the fishing is free, so be on your guard and at the very least ask to see a bailiffs warrant card before parting with any money.

I have just received early notification of an innovative enforcement initiative taking place in this area in November targeting fisheries crime and involving the key enforcement agencies. The major initiative on fishery enforcement will take place across Fenland in November. Operation TRAVERSE will be launched on the 12th November and will be a joint partnership between the Angling Trust, Police, EA, CEFAS and two visiting fisheries enforcement officers from Poland. This is a clear demonstration of taking rural fishery crime seriously and clubs and fisheries should take any opportunity for providing support where needed. So reporting incidents of fishery crime remains the key to success.

BOB – WE ARE CERTAIN THE NAME OF QUELCH IS
WRONG BUT THAT IS WHAT THE MATCH ORGANISER
HAS SENT OVER TO US!!