

Iconic tench water gets stock boost

SYWELL reservoir – once a nationally renowned big tench heaven – has just been stocked with 2,000 tiny tincas courtesy of the Environment Agency.

And that boost, along with other moves, could help put the once iconic county fishery on the road back to its glory days.

It has produced huge tench, into double figures, in recent times... but their numbers have been declining year on year over the past decade.

Why the species has been failing to successfully breed and maintain a flourishing population remains a mystery, but artificial reefs intended to aid fry survival are among recent tricks tried.

Stocking the 70 acre water with four-inch fish from the EA's Calverton fish farm came after a Tenchfishers regional group used detailed catch records to demonstrate the depth of the decline, and group organiser Dave Watson said: "The EA is to be congratulated."

EA fisheries officer Andy Beal said: "We are looking to do some detailed survey work in the early spring and are involved in various habitat improvements. We could be adding some more fish next year."

● AFTER three years of trying (the previous two events were frozen off) the Ringers' annual pairs Boddington match finally happened on Friday – but had to include Clattercote because both BW reservoirs are so appallingly low.

Neil Russell and Steve Daley scored a perfect 12 points, ahead of 'Snowy' Ashington and Andy Morrison, 10, with Wayne Shepherd and Adam Weyman on 7. Ed Warren was top individual with 56lb of carp. Ashington had 46-12 and Russell 35lb.

● BISHOPS Bowl's midweek open saw Steve Hatt win with 40-5 of carp as Andy Pell netted 31-6 of small carp and skimmers with Mick Wheeler on 20-14.

● CASTLE Ashby sport went downhill during the week in line with the deteriorating weather. Nigel Baxter won Wednesday with 17 bream for 39-12 ahead of Grant Howie 16-10 and Mick Hewlett 16-4.

Saturday on the Brickyard Pete Lovell had 16-4, Joe Roberts 9-7 and Paul Hardman 7-6. Back on Grendon next day Ian Pretty won with 25-6 followed by Mick Waddenham 22-4 and Mick Wheeler 18lb. Same venue, Monday, Roger Clutton bagged 19-6 of bream, Ian Smith 9-14 and Howie 8-14.

● WHAT a way to start the year! Keith Ford stormed Sunday's MKAA 'hang-over' open – on the Stony Ouse – banking a mighty 6-13 chub in the process... and lost an even BIGGER one. With a five-pounder and some perch he totalled 16-8. Kevin Osborne had 11-12 of perch to 2lb, Paul Hamilton 10-10 of bream and Ernie Sattler 8-12 of roach.



■ **LOOKING like a gold bar, this sunlit 18lb Grendon common fell to Tom Boulton as Trinity lake came alive – with more than 50 carp to 23lbs caught over the break. Machinery lake's pike are feeding, too.**



■ **WILLARDS Tackle, New Bradwell, boss Tim Ray lure-fished Newport's Ouse to land a superb perch brace of 3-10 (pictured) and 3-7.**

● ON Towcester's Tove, Mick Goodridge netted a dozen perch to 2-8 for around 20lb.

● WAPPENHAM Water, Bob Whittaker had seven carp to 15lb. OLNEY Ouse, Ian Rawlings had a 15-1 pike.

● CARPIN Capers' Dougie says that both the Leaps and Britannia backwater stretches of the Nene in town are producing double-figure roach nets.

● STANWICK: Lee Walters five carp to 20lb from Swan, Mark Redwood a 22 from Elsons.

● WHITE Hart Flore: Barby Banks, Trevor Griffiths 12lb, Alan Barnes 6lb, Dave Griffiths 5-8. NENE: Blisworth cut, Sunday, Dave Gibbins 9-10. Brian Beard 5-15, Bas Eaton 4-6. NENE midweek open: Stoke pound, Ian Wing 8-5 – four chub and a 2lb perch. Nigel Miller 6-11, Martin Lane 6-7.

● CASTLE open: Canons bottom pond, Alan Clarke 9-12, Stuart Cheetham 8-1, Nick Antonacci 7-15. TOWCESTER: Huckerby's, Graham Martin 8lb, Wayne Robinson 5-7, George Cooke 4-7.

● WINDMILL: Waterloo Farm, Alan Aird a 1-8 crucian. No one else caught! FLORE & Brockhall, local cut, Gareth Abraham 0-10, Paul Humphries 0-9, Rob Rawlins & Ray Ayres both 0-8...

● FIXTURES: Sunday: Towcester Tove open 01327 353263; also start Flore & Brockhall teams of 3 canal league 01327 342127. Jan 15 Olney Ouse open 01234 240061.

Matches, catches, even rough patches? If there's a tale to tell call Trevor Johnson on 01908 270000 (office) or 07801 183381 or angling@intermediauk.com (click link to email)