

# England stardom for town carpers?

**N**ORTHAMPTONSHIRE could soon be adding two more England 'caps' to its top angling talent stable!

Dynamic town duo Ash Taylor and Rob Julyan are up for England team trials – with chance of making the world carp fishing championships.

Team places would put them up alongside England feeder-team man Steve Ringer and former England flyfisher – and 'national treasure' – Bob Church.

On paper the pair are outsiders... just as they were when they won last year's £10,000 British Carp Angling Championships.

And they are never likely to have better odds as the first trial, in March, is on Drayton reservoir (water level permitting).

"It couldn't be better," said Taylor, "Drayton is on our doorsteps which is obviously an advantage. We'll be up against the best... but we are going to go for it!"

● BRITISH Waterways is so short of water it has finally started closing locks on the Grand Union Canal to boats until we get prolonged heavy rain – BE THAT spring, summer or whenever.

Locally the cut may not look as dire as in the '76 benchmark drought year. But BW reservoirs Drayton, Clattercote, Boddington and Tring are apparently as low as they were then, as is the underground water table.

To the south Tring Summit is closed for the duration, while to the north Foxton and 'Buckby locks are on restricted usage and under constant review.

In between, levels are being kept six inches down – for as long as there is water to maintain that level – to 'minimise water loss'.

Only time will tell what the long term effects on fish and fishing in both cut and reservoirs will be.

*Asking why on earth BW didn't close more locks months ago is now academic. They have all but run out of water.*

● WITH weekend temperatures down to minus 7 and frosts thicker than political spin, ice breaking was par for the course – even on some river sections – and catches predictably poor.

On the up-side only two from 39 drynetted in Meadowlands' teams-of-three opener as Steve Ringer (Ringers' Baits) won with 34-10, followed by Ian Bagg – 24lb for Tornados – and Jason Shirley (Baileys) 23-8. Scone Zone were top team, 13 points, with Ringers and Dynamite tied on 14.

● TREVOR Griffiths' 32lb apart, Spring Pools fished rubbish for White Hart Flore's pairs match. Griffiths, on the bottom lake and Alan Barnes 1-8 were the runaway winning duo. Vinny Atkinson was second on the bottom with 5lb as Tom Newbury won on the top with 2-12, followed by Barnes.



■ No Bull... it's not the local cut. Town's Steve Bull (left) bagged this 160lb Mekong cat – plus 4 others – for a total of 625lb during three days in Thailand.

● SHAWN Wright toughed out Stanwick's Roman lake deep freeze to net a 26-8 pike.

● LOCO's Bishops Bowl match saw Pete 'the rocket' Palmer with 33-8 as Roy Quale had 13lb and Tony Smith 9-4.

● BREAM dominated Castle Ashby's Grendon midweeker as Mick Waddham had 22-12, Grant Howie 20-8 and Alan West 18-8. Saturday's Brickyard sweep went to Chris Garrett 19-14 ahead of Mick Hewlett 12-4 and Keith Garrett 8-12.

● OSPREY: Decoy lake, Chris Young 22lb of carp and silvers, Mark Carter 21lb, Des Proud 10lb. OLNEY: Ouse open, Eddie Ford 9-10, Barry Glidewell 6-9-12, Mick Stanley 5-10 mostly dace, 36 fished.

● FINEDON: Waterloo Farm, Geoff Eade 11lb, Alan Eade 3-9, Joe Cunnington 3-8.

● NENE canal league: Yardley Gobion, Chris Howard (Irthlingborough Black) 7-5, John Talbot (Irth. Black 6-1, Chris Fowkes (Browning Red) 5-1 inc a 4lb chub. Teams: Irth. Black 17lb, Browning Gold 11-4 with Reds on 8-6.

● LITTLE Harrowden: Oundle cut, Nene, Jim Broadbent 4-7 all roach, John Hansen 4-1. Dave Chamberlain 3-12.

● TOWCESTER: Tove, Grenville Reed 2-14, Mick Goodridge 0-15, Darren Pannell 0-3-8... six roach. FLORE & Brockhall: Brockhall cut, Gareth Abrahams 1-4, Steve Smith 1-0, Rob Rawlins 0-4.

● FIXTURES. Sunday, Bishops Bowl pairs series starts, 01926 612379.



■ Mike Green and Bob Church had 10 pike on lures at Ringstead trout water. Mike (above) boated this 21 plus a 2-13 perch. This will be the water's last predator weekend this winter, call 01933 622960.

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](mailto:angling@intermediauk.com) (click link to email)