

# Big perch bonanza on the 'Union

**G**RAND really is the word for the local Grand Union – now getting so hot for big perch that it is beginning to rival the Ouse!

Helping prove the point 'town's Andy White, among others, had a brilliant midweek worm-on-lead canal catch, near Stoke, topped by a 3lb stripey (pictured).

And reporting through Carpin Capers, Towcester's Emlyn Hughes resurrected an ancient swingtip (can you still buy those?) to net some 20lb of the prickly predators topped by fish of 3-2 and 2-15.

Matchmen are also regularly getting a share of big stripeys, and Sunday's Banbury Lane Nene canal league round was won with 16-6 of perch to 3lb – with three other double-figure bags and six weights topping 9lb overall.

Drought-inspired boat traffic reduction is producing clear water conditions making it easier for perch to pack on weight chomping small fish... so perhaps a canal 4 is only a cast away?

● STEVE Ringer made England's world feeder-fishing championships last year, coming home with a silver medal. Now he AND brother Phil have been picked for this year's event in Belgium.

So let's hear it: Cry victory for England, 'town – and the brothers Ringer!

● TRIPPING all the way to Arans lake in Essex paid off for Osprey as the top three totalled over 300lb. Tony Winnick had 123lb, Craig Gubbings 104-11 and Lol Sommers 75-3.

● ICE breaking was the norm in Sunday's pole-only Makins pairs league second round. But Paul Hubbard still had 71lb of carp followed by John Smalley 49-6 and Richard Kendrick 37-8. John Smith and Ian Hayes top the 16 team table, 7 points, with Richard Hull and Ian Wheatley on 22.

● SIX method carp for 59-4 put Steve Shakespeare top in Sunday's Castle Ashby Grendon do with Grant Howie 49-6 and Dick Rogers 33-12.

Mick Hewlett won Saturday's Brickyard sweep, 22-6, as Pete Lovell had 21-4 and Bob Reed 18-8. The Grendon midweek fell to Mark Morgan 36-4 with Phil Wintle 33-12 and Nigel Baxter 30-6.

● CHILTERN Baits and Scone Zone are leading Meadowlands' teams-of-three. 'Zone's Paul Garner topped Sunday's second round with 45-4 ahead of 'Baits' Mark Griffiths 42lb and Ringer Baits' Steve Ringer 37-14. Top teams on day: 'Baits 10 points, Hooters 11, 'Zone 17. League top three: 'Baits 25, 'Zones and Hooters both on 30.

● NEWPORT's teams-of-three starter on the Ouzel, Riverside, went to



■ BRISTLING with defiance! Andy White's 3lb canal perch is a cracker in anyone's book.

Gary Britton with 22-7 of six metre whip caster roach. Kevin Osborne had 17lb of bream. Team Caster lead the league. A vets' match on the section midweek had been won with 19-3 of bream and bits.

● WOLVERTON Ouse: Fred Kingslake managed 11 chub for 40lb midweek. STONY Ouse: White Hart match won with 26-6 of bream and featured a 3-11-4 perch. STANWICK: Andy Bazely had carp to 18-12 from Elsons. OLNEY Ouse: Shaun Mynard had six pike to 14-10 for 44lb.

● PERCH bags – and dry nets – decided Nene's canal league Banbury Lane fifth round. John Talbott (Nene Red) won with 16-6 with Andy Pettit (Browning Gold) 14-15 as Matt Collerson ('Horse') and Bas Eaton (Nene Black) tied on 11-7. Nene Red were top team with 27-10 as SPRO made 24-14. SPRO lead the league by two points.

● WHITE Hart Flore, Spring Pools: Rob Wickham 37lb, Dave Griffiths 36-12 and his nephew Trevor 32lb. CASTLE Vets, Canons: Bob Spencer 21lb of carp and bits, Tom Newbury, 15-12, Ron Collins 12-8.

● FINEDON, Ravely drain, Ramsey: hordes of tiny roach, rudd and perch featured. Simon Higgs 12-8, Steve Amos 8-12, Barry Lawrence 7-8. Top 11 totalled 70lb. OLNEY, Ouse: Dave Partridge 7-12, Nigel Porter 4-1, Les Wallace 2-4.

● TOWCESTER, Castletorpe canal: Graham Martin 5-7, Mick Goodridge 4lb, Darren Pannell 3-1. LITTLE Harrowden, Nene backwater, Oundle: Dave Chamberlain 4-15, Ken Taylor 4-1, Mick Dudley 2-13.

● AND FINALLY: Flore & Brockhall canal knock-up, drynets all round. Four characters have now totalled 32 match hours in a week without a bite. Send medals or medication – your choice – care of Rob Rawlins...

● FIXTURES. Feb 12, Olney Ouse charity open 01234 240061.



■ KARL Cook deadbaited to tempt this superbly marked 21-4 pike from Bishops Bowl's Greenhill lake.

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)