

Jake braves a freezing blast for chub haul from the Ouse

THE big white-out wiped out fishing across the city as deep-freeze conditions iced the Ouse over bank to bank, with matches cancelled and pleasure anglers staying away.

But one man did brave Sunday's elements... and Jake Stratton got just reward when, after a fish-less spell at Olney, he shifted upstream to Newport's Ouse.

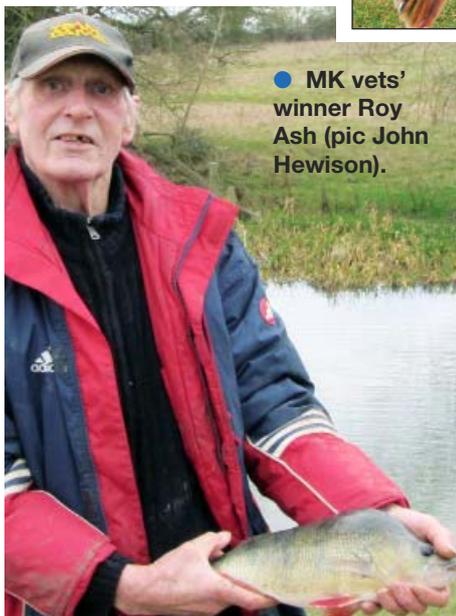
Dug in for the afternoon he found chub willing to take his maggot on the lead and bagged six – all the way up to 5-11.

■ JUST how gullible can some fish be? Ask Jake's granddad, Roger Stratton, who has had probably the most stupid one in town!

Just before the snow he had this 15-10 pike from Olney's river for the second time in a couple of weeks...

And in doing so he became the FIFTH angler to catch the distinctively marked essex in four months – during which time it has gained more than a pound!

No one likes to admit fish can be super-daft (especially



● MK vets' winner Roy Ash (pic John Hewison).



● Roger Stratton with his 'stupid' pike (pic Ron Bull).

if they're having a bad spell, like me) but Roger acknowledged: "Pike can be pretty stupid at times..."

"I remember when a 20 was being caught every weekend at Newport. It came out so many times I stopped going there... it was embarrassing to

be seen with it." Don't worry mate – the fish probably felt the same about you!

■ MIDWEEK, before the ice closed in completely, an unidentified angler was seen landing a 28lb mirror carp from the Tear Drops. Happy days.

■ AND 14 MK Vets, who've since cancelled their fixtures until things warm up a tad, fished Brush Mill where Roy Ash won with 7-13 of stripeys and roach. John Harvey had 2-9 and Dave Ridgeway 1lb.

■ TOWCESTER vets did their Wednesday thing on Gayton marina canal where Gerald Green had 2-11 of punch roach, Mick Read 2-1 and Andy Jones 1-9-8. A few days earlier the club's Emlyn Hughes netted some 20lb of perch to 3-9 from the cut near Stoke bottom lock.

■ DAYS earlier MK vets' Terry 'silver-hand' Lancaster and John Hewison took first and second in a Heyford fishery open with 4-0-2 and 2-5-4 of roach and perch.

■ FIXTURES: Sunday (ice permitting) Pete Hobson memorial pike match, Mount Farm, tickets £10 from MK Angling Centre.

■ AND FINALLY: if fish can be stupid, just how gormless can some ANGLERS be (don't all shout at once)? Try this pair!

Poaching John Lewis AC's Peartree Bridge marina on a Friday afternoon, the one who could push mobile phone buttons in the right order rang a local radio station asking for a request for him and his mate.

The DJ duly obliged, cheerfully giving out their names, what they were doing and where. So far so good...until a John Lewis bailiff, listening on his car radio and not recognising their names, went straight round and nabbed the clowns red handed.

Oh dear. What do you think the most suitable record would have been for dumb and dumber – I reckon the theme from The Muppets would have said it all...