

'Snow-go' for all but the brave...

WHAT a white-out THAT was with snow – and much of the Nene, Ouse and Tove iced over bank to bank – causing wholesale match cancellations and leisure anglers to stay home.

But one brave crew did meet the elements head-on, working up an unusual sweat with some really heavy-duty ice breaking.

And by the time the final whistle blew most entrants in the individual pole league third round, on Makins, probably wished they hadn't bothered as Dave Chapman won with an 8-14 carp followed by England veterans team manager – 'town's Joe Roberts – with 7-8 of perch, and John Smalley 4-3.

Particularly pleased was Andy Inglesant who, thanks to the skewed results, shot into the league lead with 12 points.. leaving Richard Hull and Rob Middleton (1 and 2 ounces respectively on the day) now joint second on 13 points.

For those with a warped sense of humour there is now a clip on YouTube of league organiser Wayne Sharman – all six-foot-six of him – wading around up to his chest breaking the ice.

● ANOTHER who braved Sunday's weather was Jake Stratton and he got just reward when, after a fish-less morning on Olney's Ouse, he shifted upstream to Newport.

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

● IN slightly easier conditions, midweek, MK Vets fished the Stony Ouse where Roy Ash had 7-13 of stripeys and roach. John Harvey had 2-9 and Dave Ridgeway 11b.



■ **WHAT a difference a week can make? Pre the snow, Liam Edwards netted this brilliantly marked 19lb pike from the Woodford Nene. Photo by Hodge.**



■ **Just HOW gullible can some fish be? Ask Roger Stratton (above) who has just caught probably the most stupid one around!**

Just before the snow he had this 15-10 pike (pictured by Ron Bull) from Olney's Ouse for the second time in a couple of weeks...

That made him 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 if they're having a bad spell, like me) but its latest captor said: "Pike can be pretty stupid at times.

"I remember when a 20 was being caught every weekend at Newport Pagnell. It came out so many times I stopped going there... it was embarrassing to be seen with it." Don't worry Roger – that fish probably felt the same about you!

● 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.

● DAYS earlier Terry Lancaster took first in a Heyford fishery open with 4-0-2 of roach and perch, ahead of John Hewison 2-5-4 and Ian Wills 11b.

● WHITE Hart Flore's Tom Griffiths is boasting he had 100lb+ of bass, Sunday... without putting too much emphasis on the fact that the catch was achieved in his lounge – on a *wii*. "It's not the same as real fishing, but I just couldn't face all that ice and snow," he said.

● **AND FINALLY:** Just how gormless can some anglers be? Try this pair!

Fishing without tickets – poaching – John Lewis AC's canal marina in Milton Keynes, Friday afternoon, the one who could push mobile phone buttons in the right order rang a radio station asking for a request for him and his mate.

The DJ cheerfully read their names and where they were fishing out on air. Then... a club bailiff, listening on his car radio and not recognising their names,

went straight round and nabbed the clowns red handed.

Don't know what record they requested, but I reckon the theme from The Muppets would have been about right!

And... Nene secretary Neil Stafford tells how one 'town outfit recently held an un-booked match on his club's canal and, phoning in their results to this column... were then surprised, after publication, to be chased for peg fees. Oh dear.

● **FIXTURES.** Sunday, weather permitting, Olney Ouse charity 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)