

Is 'ice-man' Jake's huge Ouse chub catch river's best ever?

PROBABLY the greatest Upper Great Ouse chub catch – ever! That was Jake Stratton's stunning haul.

Incredibly, as others shunned the partly iced-over river, Sunday before last, he netted SIXTEEN chub in an afternoon.

A Brushmill brace was followed by 14 more – eight of them in an hour – from Toombes.

He'd been trying to keep the catch quiet, but news that he'd included two 4s, two fives and fish of 6-3, 6-6 and 6-14 in his bread-on-the-lead session soon leaked out.

Pictured by Bill McDonald with the eight-fish-in-an-hour part of his catch, Jake said: "I was trying a slightly different way of fishing bread, and it worked."

You've got to hand it to 'ice-man' Jake – when others are 'feared to go out in the cold... he's there filling his net. The previous frost-bitten weekend he'd bagged up again, on Newport's Ouse, with fish to 5-11.

■ THANKS to Richard Clifton, Newport's chub record has been boosted by 3 ounces by his 7-2 at the weekend.

■ MANY coarse anglers staying home in the warm may be shocked to realise that trout flyfishers are already out on the banks. Newport man Mick Watts (pictured) is one of them – and landed Ringstead Grange's biggest opening day fish, Saturday, a 16-4 rainbow. Sister water Elinor opens Saturday.

■ TOOMBES' big chub kept their heads down in Sunday's MKAA winter league, apart from a 6-13 which boosted Ampthill Blue (AB) man Steve Wills' weight to 12-5. He finished second to GoneffFishin's (GF) Michael Buchwalder, 20-9 of perch to 3lb, as GF's Rob Dzialak had 4-2.

GF were top on the day with 20 points – taking the league lead on 59, with one round to go, and pushing MK Angling Centre into second with 54, ahead of AB on 45.

■ WHEN the ice went carp came out to play at Alders where Dave Proud won Sunday's open with 150lb followed by Richard Brain 128lb and Martin Green 73lb.

■ BACK on terra firma, Rob Mynard won Olney's dismal pike and perch match with 5-9 as junior Jack Panter had 4-12 and Ian Rawlins 4-7. A glutton for punishment the latter stayed on... to bank a 16-10 snapper, the club's best of season.

■ JAMES Lewis won Calvert's Claydon lake sweep with a tench and a bream for 8lb. Everyone else blanked.

■ TOWCESTER trounced Leighton Buzzard on their Tove as Pat Jaquest had two chub for 5-12 and Grenville Read one for 3-7. The visitor's Brian Wright was third, 3-6.

■ GRENVILLE Read won Towcester vets' Gayton arm canal midweeker with 2-12 of punch roach followed by John Ballhatchett 2-2 and Tosh Saunders 1-9.

■ FIXTURES: Saturday, British pike champs qualifier, Sherington pits, 07952 812527. March 4 Pete Hobson memorial pike open Mount Farm, tickets £10 from MK Angling Centre. March 10 MKAA Ouse Grandslam, call 07703 556788.



● Jake with part of his mega haul. Picture by Bill McDonald



● Mick Watts' 16-4 Ringstead rainbow

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