

# Really big tench starting to feed in the spring sunshine

**E**ASTER is almost here and – whatever the weather does – the sunshine of recent weeks has been getting big tench on the move!

And just to help prove it Paul Hyams has already bagged the magnificent 10-8 pictured, from Linford lakes while carp fishing (photo courtesy of *Carp Talk's* Steve Sharp).

The species is already beginning to move on several other local waters, and those with PROVEN potential to do a 10lb tinca, or bigger, include Caldecotte, Mount Farm and Bradwell.

● IT was another fish-packed outing for Osprey AC when they hit Lakeside, near Towcester, for a match which went to Barry Hatch with 135lb of carp on poled meat down the edge as Lol Summers had 108lb and Mark Brown 9lb.

That win put Summers top of the club's winter series table with 43 points, ahead of Matt Grant 42 and Brown 41.

● THE first of Towcester's Bairstows Sunday opens went to Myles Phillips, five carp for 29-12 ahead of Dave Martin, two for 21-7. Darren Panell had 3-8 of silvers.

● FIRST time on Furzton Graham Collins bagged a 24-10

common, midweek, on pop-up white boilie, and Wappenham Water, also an MKAA water, produced carp to 20-4.

● A DATS, Beacon and Linford interclub on the latter's Boatyard cut saw DATS fill the frame with Rus Nash 8-10 (including a 3lb tench) Mark Haynes 4-12 and Pete Watley 3-12.

● TERRY '10 minute' (that's how little time he needs to set up) Valentine showed the other old geezers how in the Vets' Cosgrove and Bailey's cut match. Using whip and a few pinkies he caught 139 fish for 5-4-12. Ian Greenwood had 4-1 and Roy Ash 4lb.

● **AND FINALLY:** fishing this Easter? The boat traffic will probably be less than last year. That's the good news.

The bad is that British Waterways is so short of water it has been intermittently closing locks for weeks now... its reserves as low as in the benchmark drought year of '76.

Then, really oldies can recall, the cut was so low we sat on the dried out 'shelf' to fish what was left of the boat-run in the middle.

So far – by careful management and sucking huge volumes of water from the desperately low Tove and Ouse at Stoke and Wolverton – BW have held the local level at six inches below normal.

But with their reservoirs and groundwater resources close to an all-time low until we get weeks of prolonged, heavy rain – be that spring, summer or whenever – it is only likely to go down.

Only time will tell what the long term effects on fish in cut and reservoirs will be. Why didn't BW didn't close more locks months ago? It's academic. Most of the water has already gone.

● **FIXTURES:** Sunday, Towcester Bairstows open 01327 353263. Tomorrow and Saturday, Alders' Easter open Festival 07860 235655. April 15, MKAA canal league teams of four starts 07703 556788.



● **Lucky carper Paul Hyams with 10-8 tench**



● **Better times: junior national on 'normal level' Manor Fields cut**

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