

Beat the frosts - don't go fishing until the afternoon

THROUGHOUT the week anglers across the city were cursed with thick frosts ruining their sport.

From carp puddles to canal, unwelcome crispy white coatings have been putting the mockers on most people's chances till mid-morning – sometimes later.

But while so many sat shivering and biteless, others – such as Richie Evans, pictured – have carried on catching by simply switching their fishing times.

Finishing work early on a job near Shefford, and with kit in his van, he put the theory to practical test on Maudlen fishery. And in just two hours he had banked four nice carp to 18lb...before heading back to MK for tea.

Nice stuff, and it beats having to get out of bed at 'silly o'clock'.

■ FROSTS or no frosts, a trio of MKAA bailiffs got among Bradwell lake's tench at the weekend. The biggest tinca fell to Jamie Arnold who bagged nine to 7-3 while his mother, Heidi, had five to 6lb and Helen Havers a brace to 7-2.

■ BROWNING sides dominated Sunday's MKAA 12 team spring league opener on the cut north of Stoke House.

Their Red crew pulled an end peg to come out on top with 42 points as their Gold mates made third on 37 and the Blacks fourth on 34. Ampthill Green prevented a clean sweep in runner's-up slot on 38.

Ampthill's Gary Spavins finished top individual with 6-11 of skimmers ahead of Browning men Ian Drage 5-12-8 and Gary Bennett 5-12.

There is a 'gentleman's agreement that those in the spring league do NOT practice the venue any later than the Wednesday before the match. Yes, well, the man caught apparently flouting that informal ruling, Friday,

finished last in section on Sunday...poetic justice?

■ ALDERS' open was another Trevor Price benefit as he won with 194-1 followed by Barry Mason 157-6, Michael Buchwalder 152-4 and Josh Blevin 104-5. Gary Thorpe, winner of the venue's Easter festival, is pictured below with part of his catch.

■ MK Vets failed to reach those heights in their midweek Alders pairs match. Paul Barnes and Pete Whatley won with 69-15. Ernie Sattler and Rupert Ash were best of the rest on 43-5 ahead of Barry Witteridge and Ian Greenwood 43-1.

■ TOWCESTER's Bairstows open went to John Balhatchett, two small carp and bits for 7-1. Brian Beard had 3-11 and Darren Pannell 2-9.

■ MKAA's AGM voted for a £1 increase on all season

tickets, putting this year's standard tackleshop-sold non-affiliated card up to £36. The cheapest (affiliated clubs' junior members aged 12 to 16 inclusive) is up from £13 to £14 a year.

Up for the first time in years, day tickets rise from £5 to £6 from June 1 with concession versions at £3.50.

■ STOP PRESS: One-time MKAA junior squad members Steve and Phil Ringer were part of the English team which has just won the European feeder championships in Belgium – with Steve individual Euro champ!



● Ricie Evans and 'afternoon' carp

