

Matchgroup roar back from the dead for AT league semis place

FROM zeros to fight-back heroes – that was Maver MK (Matchgroup) in the Castle Ashby AT winter league.

Having crashed to last place in both the first two of six rounds, they came all the way back to win the final leg AND grab second spot overall!

And that was the important one as, with Starlets so far ahead they would still have won the series had they stayed away from Sunday's match, it was the squad which finished runners-up (from among a cluster of four) which also goes through to the semis and a shot at the big money AT final.

MK read it just right, ignoring bream on a bitter-cold day and going after small stuff from the off.

■ MAGGOT feeder brought Marc Bull (pictured right) a real surprise on a private stretch of Ouse near Buckingham as he caught this wild 2lb brownie.

■ AND Mike Sando fished maggot feeder on the Ouzel, Sunday afternoon, to net a 4lb chub, which brightened his day no end.

Bite-less on Mill Road cut in the morning, he'd had his seat-box cover 'stolen' by a passing dog and endured frozen fingers after 'losing' a glove which he found – when he got home. He'd had it all the time...it having got 'velcroed' to the inside of his hood!

■ ALSO pictured (by Grabowski) is a centimetre long 'demon shrimp' – note the orange-red feelers at the front – which was making headlines (Citizen angling November 29) after being found by the EA in the cut at Stoke Bruerne and Blisworth.

An Eastern European invader, it thrives on fish eggs, tiny fish fry and their food. The best way to help impede its spread through our canals, lakes and rivers is to check, clean and thoroughly DRY your nets between trips.

For more about the invasive alien species visit <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/news/index.cfm?id=97>

■ ALMOST fishless the day before at Calverton Road, Gary Britton

won DATS' Christmas match on the main, Sunday, with a 9-1-0 net which included a 5lb+ tench. Chris Malia had a 4lb chub in his 6-7 and John Harvey a 2-13 perch in his 3-7.

■ IT was equally hard for White Hart Dagenham on Toombes' and Brush Mill where a 4-6 bream helped Jimmy Ryan to 5-3 as Martin Searle had 4-1 and Mike Elsom 1-5 of bits.

■ ROACH and perch totalling 5-10 put Mick Goodridge top of Towcester's broadwater Tove do. Grenville Read had 5lb and Andy Jones 4-4.

■ CALVERT fished Cottage Hall Farm in the frost. Derek Bishop had two carp for 13-2 and Barry Smith 6-10.

■ TOWCESTER vets' midweeker on the Navvi cut fell to John Balhatchett wit 2lb. Gerald Green had 1-4 and Mick Reed 0-14.

■ FIXTURES: Sat, Olney Xmas match 01234 240061; Jan 1 MKAA 'hangover Ouse open and, Jan 13, start of MKAA teams of 4 winter league 07703 556788.



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)