

Determined not to be frozen out - Mike hits the road big time...

To land a cracking big roach!

WHEN town specimen group's Mike Milton went after big roach, he didn't just go the extra mile - he did a 300 mile round trip!

With his preferred venue frozen hard he and a mate opted to head for a lake 'in East Anglia'.

And it paid off, with the highlight of his trip being a magnificent 2-13 roach.

He also netted a dozen or so smaller redfins, a bream of around 8lb, and lost a carp.

He fished triple maggot on a 16 to 3 inches of 4lb BS and feeder at around 40 yards. "I'd spent some time finding a gravel bed area, and fished over that," he said.

● Locally that was about the worst Sunday's angling conditions for decades as inches of snow - aided by heavy overnight rain - melted and poured into rivers to bring on the mother of floods.

And the cut from Stoke through to Cosgrove was actually over its banks - the highest I've seen it in 50 years. At Stoke bottom lock the intruding Tove helped it rise around two feet above normal, and at Grafton it was pouring over the towpath into fields behind.

● Olney's Graham Prince was one of the few to catch on the Ouse as he fished a backwater off a backwater of the main river to net a 4-4 chub... on single pinkie!

● Back on the cut, Nene's Blisworth 25 peg open saw everyone fishless after an hour... but there was a winner: Mick Martin with 2-9 - 2-7 of which was one perch. Bas Eaton had 1-14 and Dave Mawby 1-12.

● Castle Ashby, finally ice-free Sunday, hosted two opens. Grant Howie won on

Scotland with 45-12 of bream and roach on caster as Ian Drage netted 18-4 and Tome Cole 7-12. Chris Garrett topped the brickyard with 29-12 ahead of Dick Rogers 22-8 and John Kent 20-14.



■ OH WHAT a cracker! Mike Milton with the 2-13 winter roach he travelled 300 miles to catch

● At Bishops Bowl Shaun Smart won with 15-2 of skimmers and roach as Eric Lilliman had 9-2 and Rob Bassett 8-13. Lilliman and John Wapples won the pairs.

● The Lanes Baits second round Makins do went to Ian Hughes - 16-12 of roach. Ron Savage had 14-10 and Cliff Skyrne 13-3.

● Trevor Griffiths won White Hart Flore's Barby Mill outing with 7-5 of bits, with son Mark on 6-5 and John Berry 6-3.

● After breaking the ice on their cut Flore & Brockhall did better than on their previous outing. Gareth Abrahams and Jim Tanser tied on just 0-2 - with Rob Rawlins proud of his 0-1-8...

● FIXTURES: Sunday, Newport river open, 07718 392639. Feb 16, Elinor re-opens for troutng.



■ Stoke Bruerne canal - TWO FEET above normal - is all one with a raging river Tove (which is usually five feet below canal level behind the tree on the right) up SEVEN feet and pouring into the murky cut

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)