

As cold, fast, flush continues to put small silvers off their feed...

# Could it be a time for river records?

**J**UST seven days of river season to go – and following an awful winter it looks like being the ultimate in 'big fish or bust' shoot-outs!

Cold water pouring out of super-full underground aquifers is keeping flow rates up... and water temperatures down around 3 degrees.

Consequently, generally only the odd chub and maybe a big perch or two are likely to bite, with small silvers 'disappearing' and river matches producing more blanks than vasectomy patients.

A league round on Olney's prolific Ouse typified the syndrome, Sunday, when 32 pegs produced 14 blanks – as local Paul Caton included a 6-14-8 chub in his winning 8-5. Earlier in the week Jan Cebula had a 6-12 and Shaun Mynard a PB 6-11.

● THE Ouzel produced several chub to rovers, led by a 5-14 and 5-2 brace back of Willen lake, and on the Ouse I had a 4-5 on flake... the only rod among half a dozen in a row to get a bite.



■ **FLYBOY** David Shayer included this 10-7 in a 12 fish bag at Elinor where the week saw 122 rods land 469 trout



■ **BETTER** than candles on a birthday cake – and no fire risk!

Jeremy Collins (above) celebrated his 40th, accompanied by two mates, trotting for grayling on the Wye and the Dee.

They had four over 2lb, Jem (pictured) taking the biggest at 2-12

● **BUT** there's an exception to most rules and, as the majority struggled the previous Sunday, Bill McDonald netted some 240 fish – mainly DACE to 12 ounces – for 48lb on the Ouzel near Newport, only stopping when he ran out of maggot!

● **COTTON Club's** Ringstead shallows Nene do saw three chub caught as Marcus Annable weighed 3-10, John

Armstrong 1-12 and Phil Barber 1-8.

*The lads had already been right down before that dismal result, popular member Tony Pickering having been killed while cycling to work during the week – a tragedy involving a 52 year old who lived for his family, his fishing and his work.*

● Towcester's A508 Tove sweep saw John Broughton win with a 2-4 chub and roach duo... Mick Goodridge next on three minnows – for a claimed 0-0-8.

● **MAKINS'** A league penultimate round: it's all about second place, Lee Farmer (66-11 on day) being unbeatable. Andy Edgington 35lb (all roach), Les Twaites 29-12.

● **CASTLE** Ashby: midweek Scotland /Brickyard, Kev Taylor 44-4, Gary Millward 37-10, Tom Cole 26-2; Saturday, Brickyard, Paul Hardman 22-10, Courtney Hewlett 19-12,

Chris Garratt 13-10; Sunday, Grendon, Dick Rogers 66lb, Alan West 44-12, Keith Bishop 22-12.

● **WHITE** Hart Flore, Spring Pools: Dick Spriggs 34lb, Pete Scott and Steve Starmer both 33lb.

● **NENE**, Weedon cut: Nick Bradshaw 10-15 (perch to 3lb), Les Ramsden 7-9, Tom Boyce 6-4.

● **FLORE & Brockhall**, local pond: Rob 'legend in his own teabreak' Rawlins 7-13, Gareth Abrahams 4-7, Steve Smith 3lb.

● **COUNTY** vets, Canons, midweek: Bob Spencer 7lb, Tom Newby 2-14, Glen Tilson 1-10.

● **CASTLE**, Canons, silverfish: Spencer 5-14, Stuart Cheetham 4-12, Fred Prior 4-8 ■