

Sam gets big carp season off to flying start with a Willen 39-10!

BLISTERING bouncing boilies! What a stunning fish – and this leviathan's capture has REALLY lit the local carping season's blue touchpaper...

Just six ounces shy of 40lb at 39-10, Willen's largest publicised capture – so far – adds almost TWO clear pounds to MKAA's carp record, a 37-13 from Caldecotte two years back (which had upstaged a 35-8 from Furzton two years before that).

And for captor Sam Willis (superb picture by Jason Partlow) banking it Sunday morning came as just reward for 'sticking out' a miserable week of bitter winds and frosts on wide-open Willen's 150 acres.

While so many other carpers were waiting for warmer weather to start their campaigns, he and Jason fished four unproductive days before the latter gave it best.

Sam fished on, and Jason said: "He kept moving swims as the wind changed direction, and ended up in the one where he had started."

The biggie, hooked in a four foot deep swim, apart the weekend saw Sam also net a 24-2, a 10 and an 8.

A 'known' fish the 39-10 is thought to have put on, despite the harsh winter, some two pounds since last summer.

And as a number of other known fish were larger than it back then, the odds on a Willen 40 some time soon are probably better than ever before...

■ Much smaller carp were on the munch when Osprey fished Lakeside (Greens Norton). Mark Wilson won with 179lb on corn and meat as Loll Summers had 94lb and Tony Winnock 93-8.

■ Following the slight lift in temperatures, Alders also started to produce as Colin Fosdyke – pictured right with part of his catch – won with 88lb ahead of Matt Grant 47lb and Gary Thorpe 20lb.

■ Over on the cut at Cosgrove weights were understandably lower in an MKAA get-together, but still reasonable given the weather and an armada of boats. John Harvey won with two good perch and bits for 5-3 followed by Lee Jones 5-1 and Mick Hefferon 4-3.

■ Days earlier the midweek vets' do, held on the same stretch and chilled by bitter winds and frosts, had seen Harvey top again, this time with 2-13 – despite inadvertently giving everyone else an hour's start by turning up late. Ernie Sattler had 2-8 and John Hewison 2-5.

■ Towcester found themselves right out of their comfort zone, Saturday, against Finedon on Peatling Pools in a Supercup first round...and were trashed by seven sections to one.



● Sam Willis with dayticket water Willen's 39-10. Picture by Jason Partlow

■ A new six-match spring individual open series kicks off Sunday on Towcester's Wappenham Water, moves to Bairstows lake the following week and then continues to alternate between the two after that. Call 07915 613862.

■ Fixtures: Sunday, MKAA teams of 4 (canal) starts, 07703 556788; April 24, DATS AGM, 7.30pm, Stony Football Club; May 1, Olney AGM, Two Brewers, written propositions in by April 12.



● Colin Fosdyke

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)