

Tackle shop group's impromptu predator match on the cut...

Highlights the spread of canal Zs!

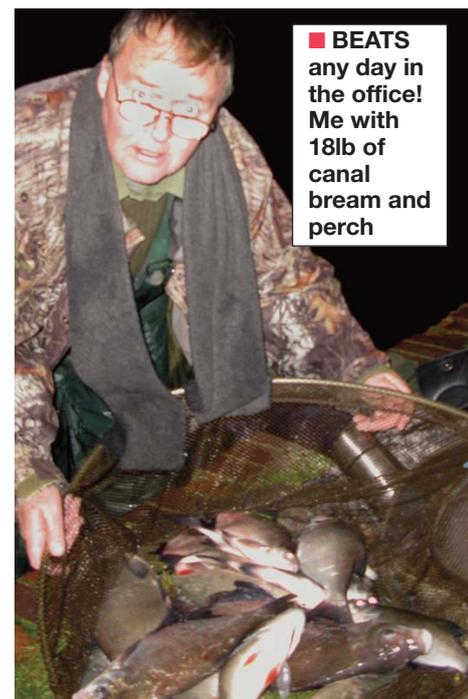
WHAT an eye-opener – an impromptu predator match below Stoke bottom lock was won with 45lb... 12lb of which was FOUR zander.

Along with other Gilders Tackle 'staff and friends', Grant Gibson fished wobbled deadbaits to net the 18-4 canal pike pictured, and a 10-14.

But, working his baits through the boat basin area, he also had four Zs of around 4lb each.

That means the voracious silverfish-munchers are present there in far greater numbers than most would have thought – with unfettered access to five miles of cut right through Grafton and Yardley to Cosgove lock and beyond.

And with the basin only 400 yards from an overshot into the Tove, if the alien species has not already made it into that river and then the Ouse... it probably soon will do.



■ **BEATS** any day in the office! Me with 18lb of canal bream and perch



■ **WOW!** Match winner Grant Gibson with 18-4 canal super-snapper (photo Pete Dixon)

most fisheries, the canal came into its own again. Thursday saw myself setting a new canal five-hour PB with 15 perch and bream for 18lb, 'tween Stoke and Grafton.

● And Sunday's Nene 40 peg canal winter league opener at Yardley saw Glen Morris (individual) with 14-

7 as Browning Black's Tom Graine had 8-14 and individual John Lewis 6-15. Browning Black were top team ahead of MB Floats and Browning Red.

● Meadowlands fished better than most with its individual league round going to James Hipkiss on 117-9. Neil Russell had

100lb and Ian Coxon 88-4.

● Castle Ashby's Saturday Brickyard match went to Mick Hewlett with 45lb followed by Chris Garrett 27-4 and Courtney Hewlett 25-14, but Sunday on Grendon was a cruel grueler with Steve Brookes top on 8-14 ahead of Mark Morgan 8-13 and Andy Jones 8-12.

● Glen Tilson won White Hart Flore's Spring Pools do with 36lb. John Berry netted 25lb and Tom Griffiths 24-8.

● FINEDON's Peatling Parva sweep was won by Sam Corteze, 21-7 inc a 7-10 stillwater barbel. Paul Brand had 7-8 and Dave Ross 4-3.

● On the Ringstead shallows Nene, Mick Dudley topped Little Harrowden's match with 13-15 of roach and dace. Martin Waterfield 8-14 and Nigel Roberts 8-2.

● Towcester's Castlethorpe canal match went to Darren Pannell, 7-3 of roach. Mark Read netted 4-4 and Les Goodridge 4lb.

● OLNEY, Ouse, Tuesday open: Nigel Bass a 4-3-8 tench, Mick Burrell 0-9, Pete Laughton 0-8-8.

● FLORE & Brockhall, Brockall bridge cut: Jim Tanser 1-8, Rob Rawlins and Gareth Abrahams tied on 1-4.

● **FIXTURES:** Sunday, Ringstead opens for piking, 01933 622960; Jan 26, Well'borough canal league starts – teams of 4 and individuals – 01933 389309 ■

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)