

Rivers may be dour but canal is yielding 'loads-a' big perch!

WITH 'winter' rolling rapidly downhill to its shortest day – and STILL no sign of a real river-flushing flood – it is the canal which is coming up trumps for big perch.

Last week Jez Scott had fish of 2-6 and 2-3 plus others in a single session at Wolverton, and that was just one 'stripey' net among many.

And this week, fishing north of the city, Towcester's Darren Emery had a 3lb canal perch on maggots first put-in.

But the real surprise was Richard Coles' fish (pictured by pal Tony Carter) from Linford's cut and estimated at two-and-a-half to three pounds.

However it was WHAT it was caught on, rather than its size, which was the eye-opener... with the fish taking a six-inch roach complete with treble-hook snap tackle and wire trace intended for a big toothy pike!

Big perch have big mouths, but Richard said: "I was amazed it had taken a fish that size. I've had bigger perch in the 30 years I've been fishing the local canal, using small spinners and small fish baits, but that's the first I've had on a pike bait and tackle."

■ A 2lb+ perch helped Steve Funnell to his second Linford canal win



● Karl Bean, pictured by Danni, with 27lb Furzton mirror.



● Richard Coles with canal near three-pounder – which swallowed a six-inch roach on pike gear. Picture by Tony Carter

on the trot, with 3-7. John Hough had 1-5 and Mick Heffron 0-9.

■ Fishing Furzton recently Karl Bean, pictured by Danni, bagged a 27lb mirror carp.

■ Osprey's Pidley lake, Cambs, do went to Loll Summers with 112-8 as Wayne Shepherd netted 65-14 and Lee Cox 49lb.

■ Rob Dzailak won Newport's Christmas match on Riverside with 19-9 – mainly perch. Myles Phillips had 7-10 and Dave Tebbutt 5-14.

■ MKAA's Stony Ouse fur and feather saw Steve Chilton include chub of 5-12 and 5lb in his Holland's Field 13-4 (from a 'new' swim). Keith Ford had 8-14 from Brushmill and Paul Abbott 8-11-8 from Toombes.

■ Smiles all round – for a change – for Calvert as they ALL caught on Buckingham's Woodfield Lake. Dave Ridgeway had

9-15, Austin Maddock 8-7 and Ted Brown 5-9.

■ MK vets' midweek sweep on the Cosgrove canal went to Alan Ford with 7-14 as Dave McLennan had 7-6 and Nigel Steele 4-3.

■ DATS' 'Navvi' do fell to Rus Nash on 5-1 as Steve Chilton had 4-13-8 and Gary Britton 4-4-8.

■ Towcester's Shutlanger/A508 Tove produced its latest in a string of disastrous results, Sunday (Mick Goodridge, 1-15, John Broughton 0-4, Graham Martin five minnows) and the club has moved all planned bookings on that length to its Broadwater, town, section.

■ Roadworks on the southern end of the A5 dual carriageway produced such horrendous traffic snarl-ups in Bletchley, Saturday, that MKAA's Boatyard junior Christmas match had to be reduced to two hours because of delays getting there. Lucas Worrell won with 0-9 ahead of Adam Dale 0-7.

■ **FIXTURES:** Saturday, Olney Christmas match 01234 240061; Sunday DATS Christmas Ouse match and January 1 MKAA 'hangover' Ouse open, both 07703 556788.