

Pulling a red hot spot on the long pound, Browning ace is...

Swift by name and swift to win!

BROWNING Red's Andy Swift was quick off the mark when he drew a flier in Nene's latest canal league round – notching a runaway win with 20-9.

Eight good chopped-worm and caster perch and a 4-3 chub from Stoke's long pound put him way out front and helped his squad 'walk it' in the team stakes with 26-15.

MB Floats' Les Ramsden had 6-15 and Nene's Bas Eaton 5-10 as Irthlingborough made runners-up team spot with 10-11 ahead of Attleborough Sports on 9-6.

● What a way to finish the year – using your own home-made paste to bag a 7-2 Ouse chub!

That was Stewart Harris' top fish (shown below) in a magic evening trip which also saw him land four more topping 4lb on paste-wrapped boilies.

● A carp right on the final whistle helped Rus Coleman (pictured right) to top spot in Abington's Wold Farm match with 27lb – pipping Norman Westbrook on 25-6. Vince Battams had 14-13.

● Three anglers – Drew Adams, Trevor Griffiths and Tom Griffiths – tied for top spot on 22-8 in White hart Flore's Spring Pools sweep...with Tom far from pleased having lost the first three fish he'd hooked!

● Big perch and decent skimmers helped John Balhatchett to top spot with 11-14 when Towcester vets fished DATS' Cosgrove cut. Graham Martin had 5-11 and Tosh Saunders 4-7.

When the club fished its own section at Castlethorpe, Sunday, it was Darren Pannell's turn to win (5-12 of roach) as Grenville Read had 4-5 and John Broughton 4-2.

● CASTLE, Canons bottom, silverfish: Nick Antonacci 18-12, Jeff Rice ,15-10, Alf Gillard 13-12.

● OLNEY, Emberton Ouse: Pete Hawley 9-0-8, Neil Shearn 8-8, Les Wallis 4-5.



■ Russ Coleman topped Abington's match with 27lb of small carp

● FLORE & Brockhall, silverfish, Barby Mill: Gary Abrahams 6-8, Rob Rawlins 5-4, Ray Ayres 4-7.

● Here's a PRACTICAL New Year's resolution for all canal silverfish lovers: EAT zander – to try and minimise, or at least slow, their spread south.

In the latest two Nene canal matches (Banbury Lane and Stoke Bruerne long pound) no less than TWENTY-TWO of the toothy s m a l l - f i s h

guzzlers, averaging a pound apiece, were landed – mostly on baits intended for perch.

Weeks earlier the Canal & River Trust had stocked 750lb of silvers into the 'lane' stretch...so why were the Zs hungry enough to be chasing worms?

"I'm wondering just how many of those stock fish we have left," said Nene secretary Neil Stafford, which would seem to be a pretty reasonable question.

The Zs caught in the matches didn't get to swim off. And as they are an alien species that, as with red signal crays, is perfectly legal – and in line with advice from C&RT fisheries boss John Ellis who says: "They make very good eating."

So if you value your canal 'bits' fishing – bring on the frying pan in 2014!



■ OUSE BIGGIE: Stewart Harris with 7-2 chub.

Happy New Year to you all!