

As first real floods of the winter ebb away, are you ready...

To do battle with river monsters?

ARE we about to see the year start with a AREAL flood-driven lift-off in river-monsters sport?

Floods surging down the Nene and Ouse during the festive break could be the long-awaited flush needed to encourage big fish to get their heads down for some extra-heavy duty winter feeding.

● One of the first to reap a reward was town lad Raphael Kyte, 15, who hit the Ouse with dad Patric just as it began coming over its banks.

Swimfeeder maggot in a four-foot deep 'spur' of floodwater, he fished well into the darkness before getting a long slow pull from a really powerful fish.

Eventually weighed-in at 12-11 the barbel, pictured, was his personal best AND his first-ever Ouse whiskers! Happy days for dad (two roach and a gudgeon) and the lad!

● Squeezing yet another gaggle of biggies into his 2013 tally, town specialist group's Jamie Cartwright fed a mass of lobs and maggots to hold a shoal of big Ouse perch. He netted fish of 4-1, 3-13, 3-6, 2-14 and 2-8. What a catch!

● Changes are ahead for Castle AA, one of town's larger and longer established clubs.

Declining usage, maybe due in part to the hike from the car park, means they dropped Green Farm lake at Lois Weedon on December 31 – though Castle season tickets remain valid there until May 31.

And Alan Davies is standing-down as club secretary at the annual meeting. Anyone wanting to know more about the job can contact him at ajd9496@yahoo.co.uk or on 01327 860543. Don't all rush at once...

● Meadowlands was in dour mood for the latest match there. Jamie Galloway had 57lb, Darren Cox 43lb and Adam Wakelin 33lb.

● A rod donated by Rugby Tackle was among Kevin Ross' prizes when he won Daventry's Dog Lane do with 47-3. Graham Cheney had 22-10 and Gill Corns 18-5.

● Top White Hart Flore rod at Barby Banks was Terry Adams with 36lb. Dick Spriggs

caught 32-8 and Vinny Atkinson 23lb.

● Reported through Willards Tackle, Sam Weir had two 20lb pike from Newport's Ouse before the floods came. Another angler had an 18 and a 14 from Bradwell canal.

● Friday's Towcester do on Astwell Mill fell to Mick

Goodridge with a tench and roach 8-13. Tosh Saunders had 4-6 and Darren Pannell 4-4. Two days later Goodridge won the club's silverfish Wappenham Water sweep, tying with Richard King on 6-8. Wayne Robinson had 4-8.



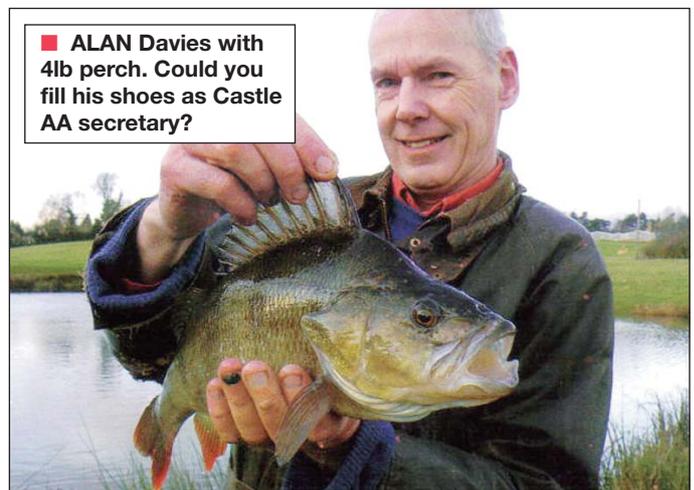
■ HAPPY LAD: Raphael Kyte with 12-11 PB Ouse barbel

● CASTLE, Jack Robinson memorial, Canons: Bob Spencer 7-12, Pat Neale 7-8, Nick Antonacci 5-12.

● FLORE & Brockhall, Flecknoe, silverfish: Gary Abrahams 8-1, Steve Smith 3-4, Rob Rawlins 0-11.

● NENE, Weedon cut: Dave Gibbins 7-8, John Balhatchett 3-1, Brian Beard 2-8.

● MATTHEW Toone memorial, Bugbrooke cut: Dave Gibbins 5-7, Ian Mills and Martin Garrett both 4-7 ■



■ ALAN Davies with 4lb perch. Could you fill his shoes as Castle AA secretary?

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)