

*Booking a Thai doesn't always mean ordering a meal. For Steve it is...*

# Making a date with monsters!

**IMAGINE catching fish to almost 300lb...in water so warm you dive in to pose with your haul!**

With most of us freezing on frost-bitten local waters, that was the lot of town's Steve Bull – fresh back from Gillhams' lake in sunny Thailand.

And, in what to many must sound like fantasy land, he bagged redbtail cats to 65lb, Siamese cats to 90lb...and arapaima to 290lb – the latter equivalent to almost 21 stone!

A hell of a trip, and one beating the Grand Union in January every whichway.

● Back home persistent flooding has kept most people off the rivers in recent weeks – but not Jim Martin and Jan Cebula.

They've used a score or more years of rivercraft to wrinkle decent fish out of the Nene in and around town.

Once a successful match angler but now better known for catching Cornish sharks, Jim netted floodwater perch to 2-13 and bream to 5-8 while Jan had a dozen winter slabs to 6-12.

● Osprey and Lakeside near Towcester were in fine form for the club's Sunday match as Tony Winnock fished popped-up bread to tie with Mick Darke (on meat) on 116-4. Ian Millin had 105lb.

● A Meadowlands open went to Jim Hipkiss with 74-10 as Geoff Ringer netted 58-8 and Mick Bull 52-4.

● White Hart Flore's Barby Banks do saw Tom Griffiths top on 70-8 (22 carp) followed by Dave Chapman (45) and Dick Spring 26lb.



■ **MEGA KIPPER: Steve Bull (centre) 'basking' with 290lb Thai arapaima – a fish weighing at least half as much again as himself!**

● Top Bishops Bowl's pairs league opener weight fell to Jim Redgrave with 65-2. Dameon Green had 37-10 and Justin Ashby 29-2. Redgrave and Jim Murfitt were top pair.

● Chris Garrett did the Castle Ashby double, winning on the Brickyard, Saturday, with 40-4 and again on Grendon, Sunday, with 33-4. Andy Jones had 21-14 in the first match and Ian Hutton 21-8 – with Keith Garrett (33-4) second on Sunday and Mick Hewlett on 28-12.

● The county vets midweeker on a dour Canons bottom saw Bob Spencer win, again, with 14-2 followed by John Lewis 10-8 and Alf Gillard 10-6.

● Dace dominated Towcester's Tove do as Graham Martin had 4-10, Mick Goodridge 4-6 and bro Les 3-8.

● Grim was the word for Nene's Stoke bottom lock league round as Tom Boyce Jnr (MB Floats) won with 3-10 a shade ahead of Browning Black's Nigel Miller 3-9. Browning Red's Craig Bennett had 2-15.

Black were top on the day but, with two legs to go, are one point adrift of Red overall.

● Flore & Brockhall's silverfish teams of three opener on Barby Mill was another struggle. Ray Ayres (Dolphin Boys) had 2-5 with Tony Ward 2-3 and Ian Bolton (both out for The Awkwards) 1-7-8. Awkwards tied with Dolphins for top team slot ■



■ **And again, this time with 90lb Siamese cat**

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](mailto:angling@intermediauk.com) (click link to email)