

# Steve nets Thailand monsters on jetset Asian sunshine trip!

**If you are shivering bank-side in double thermals, spare a thought for Steve Bull – trying to reacclimatise to the UK after the heat of fishing in sunny Thailand.**

And what a trip that turned out to be with Steve (son of Olney's Ron) bagging up on foreign monsters as though there was no tomorrow.

Among a shedfull of big – and, to some, downright weird – fish captures were the exotic looking 65lb Amazon redbtail cat pictured right, Siamese catfish to 90lb or so, and a 290lb arapaima which, in terms of people... scaled almost 21 stone!

All were landed from the popular Brit-run Gillhams lake fishery. Apparently Steve visits relatives in Australia and

then calls in to Thailand on the way back as fishing is a lot cheaper there than in Oz.

Why doesn't really matter. It just has to beat Furzton in January!

■ But everything is relative – and back home MKAA's Bletchley boatyard section of the Grand Union was the hot-spot on Sunday as, despite the morning's mega-frost, the top four shared well over 40lb in the association's winter league opening round.

And that's not counting a 13-9 pike which Mark Haynes landed...on a single maggot fished on a size 20 to 1.75lb BS hooklength!

Maver MK's Steve Rose (*pictured right courtesy of Gonefishin's facebook page*) netted perch to 2-8 and a small shoal of roach on pinkie and punch for 12-3 with Ernie Sattler (MK Vets Plus 1) totalling 11-8-8 of caster roach.

'Young' Mark Haynes – the 'Plus 1' in the Vets Plus 1 – made third with 10-3-8 of skimmers despite the time lost on landing that big pike, with Olney's Kevin Osborne fourth on 9-6.

The vets were top team with 18 points followed by Maver 14 and Kingfishers 10.

■ Osprey were in baggin mode at Lakeside as Tony Winnock, fishing

popped-up bread, tied with meat-basher Mick Darke on 116-4. Ian Millin had 105lb on corn.

■ At the other end of the scale Linford didn't need scales for their 'Morgan section canal sweep. John Hough had seven small roach,

Roy Hefferon a small perch, and Mick Hefferon an even smaller one...

■ Dace dominated when Towcester braved the 'just-back-in-its-banks' Tove. Graham Martin won with 4-10 ahead of Mick Goodridge 4-6 and Les Goodridge 3-8.

■ On Itters pit John Weatherall topped Calvert's do with 1-14 as Derek Bishop had 12 ounces and Dave Lewis 4 ounces. Game



● It's a hard life! Steve Bull basking with 65lb redbtail cat in Thailand

bunch, week after week, those Calvert lads.

■ Towcester vets' midweek on the Gayton arm cut saw Tosh Saunders net 3-14, beating John Balhatchett 3-3 and Graham Martin 2-11.

■ Flooded off the Ouse, MK vets found little solace on the 'Morgan cut. Dave McLennan walked it with 2-7 and Ian Greenwood had 1-6. But John Weatherall topped his section with just 3 ounces. Grim, or what.

■ **FIXTURES:** Monday February 3, Beacon AC AGM 7.30pm, at the Inn in the Park, Mount Farm, Bletchley.



● Steve Rose with league match-winning 12-3 from frosty cut

**Matches, catches, even rough patches? If there's a tale to tell call Trevor Johnson on 01908 270000 (office) or 07801 183381 or email [angling@intermediauk.com](mailto:angling@intermediauk.com) (click link to email)**