

'End peg' Ernie blazes his way to new canal roach benchmark

LOCAL ace Ernie Sattler's wheels where on fire Sunday – clocking up a CANAL roach net that must be something of an MK record!

A DATS' sweep on MKAA's Bletchley boatyard cut saw 'end peg' fishing caster for 15-11 of redfins – fish to 12 ounces – for a catch that would be a showstopper any time of year... letalone in deepest winter.

And Dave 'draw bag' MacLennan didn't do so bad, either, finishing with 12-14 of skimmers. Kevin Osborne had 8-0-8 of roach and Alan Ford 7-1-2.

■ Newport-based Den Reid isn't too bothered by the current weather. When temperatures drop he just thinks back to Spain last summer when he banked this 159lb cat, pictured, from the River Ebro.

■ Match-ace Mark Pollard and Sensas-Starbaits carping guru Mitch Smith (the latter pictured third from the left) were on hand to help with the launch of the Tackle Hub on Saturday.

Run by Pete Craddock and Karl Ruditis, the new tackle shop is in exactly the same place in Bletchley as MK Angling Centre used to be, and the opening of the revamped emporium attracted quite a crowd.

■ Environment Agency fisheries officers have stocked some 400 small barbel into the Ouse at Olney.

■ When Jake Stratton turned up to fish for Mount Farm's carp he found someone else already set up in his carefully pre-baited swim. But hey, who cares? He tried another spot and landed a 9-6 bream – a good winter fish.

■ Reported through Willards an un-named – so far – angler reckons that in five sessions he walked the canal from Fenny to Portway and, fishing deadbaits, had some 50 pike



● Happy lad. Den Reid with 11 stone+ Spanish 'lady'

between 8 and 14lbs. There is also word of a 20 from the Tinkers Bridge to Simpson length.

■ In recent days parts of the local cut were running so fast, because of floodwater coming in from the Tove, that the canal was flowing just like a river. And to prove it Gary Britton had a nice bream net from the Navvi... trotting a stick float!

■ Towcester's Astwell Mill match went to Mick Goodridge with 9-12 – despite his losing two good tench. Tosh Saunders had 4-14 and John 'the vicar' Broughton 3-10.

■ MK vets' midweeker on Bletchley boatyard saw Ernie' Sattler winning again, this time with 5-14. Paul Chapman

had 5lb and John Harvey 3-11.

■ It can be tough at the top... Derek Bishop and Barry Witteridge were joint winners of Calvert's Claydon lake do – catching a half-ounce roach each. The others blanked. Again. Tight lines sometime in the future, lads.

■ **FIXTURES:** Feb 16, Olney open, 01234 240061.



● Saturday's Tackle Hub opening

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 (click link to email)