

# Winter league title race - can winning vets stand the pace?

**M**KAA's winter league looks to be all over bar the shouting – IF the older geezers can last out without falling off their zimmers...

Sunday saw MK Vets+one in storming form on gale-lashed Bletchley Boatyard to push Maver MK into second place on the day, beating the younger lads on weight by 18-6-12 to 15-6.

And with just one round to go, and that almost certain to also be on the cut unless by some miracle the river drops into a fishable state by then, the granddads' army and their nine point series lead are looking pretty hard to beat.

The match saw super-vet Ernie Sattler clock up yet another win, this time with 10-7 of skimmers and roach, as Maver's James Mead and Ian Bagshaw netted 7-9-12 and 7lb with vet Paul Chapman on 6-8-4.

Series to date:  
Vets 49, Maver 40;  
Olney ahead on weight of Kingfishers, both on 31; Ampthill 30.

■ Pike have been feeding well in the Grand Union of late. MKAA head coach Nuala Gray is pictured with a 16-pounder she landed from Bletchley Boatyard.

■ Dave Cripps, reporting through GoneFishin, braved the gales at Clattercote to land four double figure carp.

■ Secretive types seem to be quietly cashing in at Emberton Park where numbers of carpers have regularly been on the banks of late. Fish to at least 23lb are said to have been landed.

■ High winds and gales hampered Osprey on Arrans lake in Essex – but failed to stop them catching. Wayne Shepherd was top dog with 115-8 as Mick McMillan had 88-14.

■ Another Sunday, another Towcester sweep on Astwell Mill and another win for Mick Goodridge who had a tench and a rake of roach for 12-8. John 'the vicar' Broughton netted 6-8 and Tosh Saunders 6lb.

The club vets' outing to Dog Lane midweek went to George Cooke on 7-12 of skimmers with Saunders on 6-9 and Mick Reed 6-6.

■ Enduring what was probably some of the nastiest weather of the week, MK vets' hardest endured Bletchley boatyard on Wednesday where Steve Chilton won with 3-12 of skimmers and roach to finish just one ounce clear of Ian Greenhood. Ernie Sattler must have had an off day as he finished third on 3-3.

■ Calvert's Claydon lake do saw Derek Bishop win the golden peg with 0-1-8, and that was it – no one else weighed. Again.



Above: Nuala Gray & canal pike

■ If you've never actually tackled a 'river monster' why not talk with a man who does it all over the world? Presenter of the River Monster television series, Jeremy Wade, is doing a tour of one-night shows and the nearest to MK is set for a Kettering theatre on March 20. Go to [www.rivermonsters.tv](http://www.rivermonsters.tv) or call 01536 414141 for details. £16 a head.

■ FIXTURES: Sunday, Olney open, 01234 240061 – river level permitting!

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)