

Gales and wild Willen waves as Davey's farewell nets £4 grand!

WHAT should have been a real big roller of a match ended up wallowing in Willen's gale-lashed waves.

But – on the up-side...the 48 hour Dave McKnight memorial is expected to raise some £4,000 for Willen Hospice when all the sponsorship is in!

Hopes of 30lb carp and shoals of big bream being banked were dashed by winds which smashed at least two of the 44 entrants' bivvies.



● The late Dave McKnight on Willen in 2002

And there were blanks aplenty as the lake 'switched off' and Dave Wakeman won with a carp, a 10lb bream and a 3lb tench for 27lb. Rhys Mowatt had 25lb and Richard Morgan 7-15.

Perhaps that was in keeping with the spirit of the man they were remembering, as 'Davey' – who died last year and is pictured with a Willen North 24-pounder in 2002 – would tough it out 24/7 no matter what the conditions!

More than a decade ago he led the charge to tap Willen's carp potential, landing fish to 29-12 in the days before extensive stocking helped it become a place for 30s and 40s.

His angling skills apart, the weekend's turnout shows he was a man with friends and will be sadly missed.

■ Few escaped the wind in MKAA's spring league third round on Woughton Park canal, and judging by the amount of gear smashed or blown away on various venues, local tackle shops could be in for bumper sales!

Ian Bagshaw (Maver MK Black) made top spot with 8-5 as Browning Red's Alan Robinson had 8-2 and the

Gold crew's Paul Cowern 7-12-8.

Gold won on the day and lead the league, with one round to go, with 112 points, ahead of Red 92 and Maver MK 91.

■ Following a different kind of wind on 'anti-social media' sites over that 16lb Bradwell bream, Marc Bull sent in this selfie (below). How big do you reckon? All he will say for now is that it is a 'double from an MK water'.

■ MK vets' midweek Clattercote sweep saw Ernie Sattler with 26-13 as 'fishing gnome' Ken Mott had 12lb and Ted Brown 9-8.

■ Towcester's Bairstows match ended with Simon Cordingley on two carp for 16lb. Bob Eales had 11-8 and Brian Beard 6-8.

■ Linford, 'Morgan canal: Mick Hefferon 3-10, Steve Funnell 3-4, John Hough 2-8.

■ The canal zander electro-fishing boat survey (last week's column) found none from Peartree through to New Bradwell...and then produced 18 Zs up to 10 or 12 inches in the two miles to Cosgrove lock – fish which if left could have started breeding!

Steps may be taken to start reducing their numbers north of Cosgrove, come winter. Canal & River Trust national fisheries manager John Ellis says that under the Import of Live Fish Act, "It is an offence to return zander to the water if caught, therefore they must be killed."

■ **FIXTURES:** Saturday, Shearsby Valley Lakes, Bucko charity match and May 24, Tofts, Terrie Tapp memorial, call 07808 512917.



● Marc Bull and his 'MK double'. How big do you reckon?

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)