

Breaking the mould: will it be for better or for worse...

As County Cup goes 'commercial'

INTO the 21st Century! That's the Northamptonshire County Cup which is - for the first time in history - going 'commercial'.

Launched best part of 100 years ago (no one seems quite sure when) it is traditionally held on the Grand Union or the River Nene.

But this year's is set for 'carp puddle'-type 'commercials' with sections on Tofts, Barby Banks, Barby Mill and Spring Pools...meaning some could be fishing 25 to 30 miles away from teammates in the same match.

White Hart Flore put the idea to a gathering of teams which regularly fish the match, and following debate it went through. Now others have to work out how to handle the long distance logistics of such an event.

Set for September 28 with entries closing on August 3, it is open to teams of eight and interest should be registered with Chris Howard on 01604 414791.

● TOWN's Mike Green, who habitually roams the world with flyrod in hand, tried his luck at 'drop shotting' on Nene's Newton Blossomville Ouse to bag the fin-perfect 3lb summer perch pictured above as he and Dave Smart shared a dozen stripeys and pike.

Mike also had a 5lb eel and a 31-4 carp from friends' lakes (nice to have THOSE sort of friends) and a 6-14 River Ivel chub, all in the same week.

● FISHING Stanwick's Swan Lake as part of a group booking, Dave Bishop had 69 carp to 19lb and Rob Deeks 40 to 18lb.

● MEADOWLANDS open: Rob Cooksey 223-6, Jason Redgrave 168-12, Steve Daly 162-8.

● WHITE Hart Flore, Barby Banks: Trevor Griffiths 128-8, John Berry 92lb, Dale Gibson 87lb.

● FINEDON, Waterloo: Paul Brand 76-7, Barry Lawrence 47lb, Dave Roberts 45-7.

● CASTLE Ashby opens: Sunday, Grendon, Gary Millward 67-12, Keith Garratt 56-4, Mick Hewlett 49-8; Saturday, Brickyard, Darren Driver 39-10, Chris Prigmore 35-6, Garratt 31-14; Wednesday, Brickyard, Phil Wintle 53-4, Hewlett 39-6, Millward 24-8.

● BISHOPS Bowl, vets open: Mick Gibbs 65-12, Kevin Folwell 62-14, Dave Gibbs 57-10.

● COUNTY vets, Browns Farm: Nick Antonacci 57-12, Bob Spencer 56-2, Pat Neale 50-10.

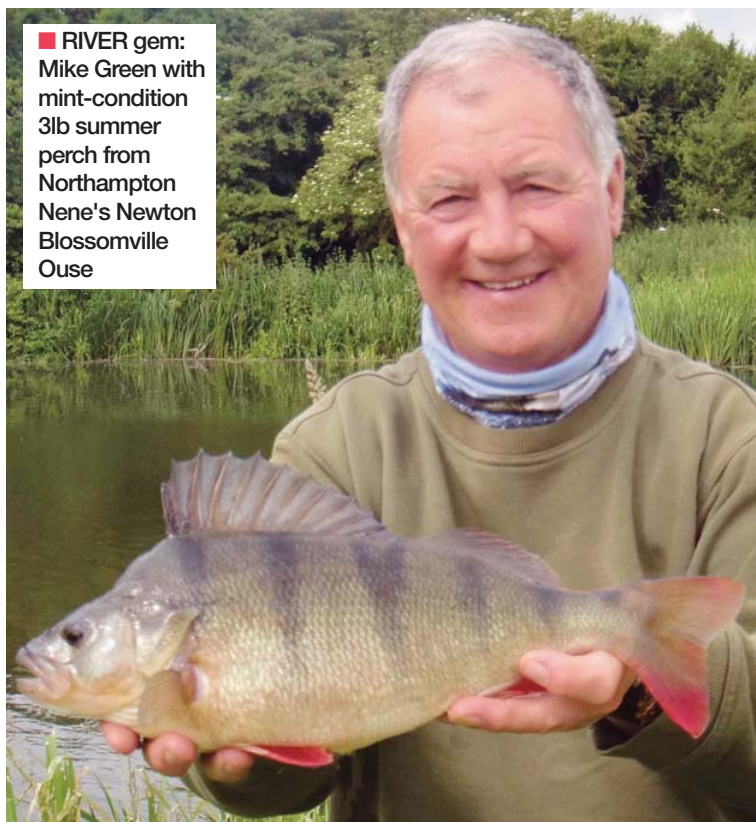
● TOWCESTER, Astwell Mill: John Broughton 30-6, 'Ferret' 12lb, Paul Minney 7-12.

● FLORE & Brockhall, Barby Marshes: Terry Smith 21-12, Ken Cadd 21-4, Brian Johnson 18lb.

● CASTLE, Crescent Lake, Brackmills: Nick Antonacci 15-12, Fred Prior 5-12, Jeff Lewis 5-2.

● TROUT: Elinor, 3.22 fish per rod, best 10-2; Ravensthorpe averaged 2.17 per rod with Town's Pat Flynn landing an 8-3; Ringstead, N'mpton lads Nick Wright and Barry Hall both had 14lb limits; Pitsford averaged 2.69 per rod.

● JULY 19, Bucko's charity open, The Riddings at Atherstone, 07808 512917 ■



■ RIVER gem:
Mike Green with
mint-condition
3lb summer
perch from
Northampton
Nene's Newton
Blossomville
Ouse



■ Sarah
Jackson's
fourth
ever
fishing trip
saw her
net this
10lb slab
from
Bishops
Bowl

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 (click link to email)