

Caring matchman slips 20lb of skimmers back unweighed and STILL...

Goes on to win with almost 200lb!

MATCHMAN Pat Neal put 20lb of skimmers straight back unweighed – and STILL won the county vets' latest sweep with best part of 200lb!

Bagging up on carp from Canons top – and going on to win with 189-8 – he knew putting bream in the same nets as heavyweight brownfish would be bad for the silvers' safety, and slipped them straight back.

That was a gamble well taken as runner-up Alf Gill finished with just 53lb, with Dave Keech on 42-12.

Controlling club Castle is now asking clubs visiting Canons to make sure all members bring at least three keepnets with them in the interests of fish welfare.

Castle are likely to bring in a 'carp must be retained separately' rule. Club stalwart Bob Spencer said: "We have to, they have grown so big".

● LIFE can be tough at the top. Ringer bros Steve and Phil are in the 'world pairs champs' in Ireland – five matches, five days, five waters hundreds of miles apart. Now THAT is gruelling (and worth €10,000 to the winners). Good luck lads.

● WANT a few nice carp...just get down the cut. Early Saturday morning Steve sharp was 'north of Milton Keynes' landing the 23-12 'two tone' pictured, top, plus two others. "And I had time for a fast-food breakfast and to get back home before my wife woke up." Sounds magic.

● The same can be said for river weirpools like the MKAA Ouse one at Olney, where the Hewer family targeted big fish. Tom lost a good barbel before nephew Callum tried lob...and landed the pike pictured above, on 5lb line and size 14. He was well chuffed.

● TOWN's Chris Preston caught an 86lb blue on his first shark trip – qualifying for the Shark Angling Club of Great Britain – off Cornwall, while with Jim Martin who

makes regular sharking trips to the coast.

● STANWICK: Lee Fletcher had five carp to 24-7 from Mallard while Miranda Brown netted eight to 18-2 from Swan.

● WHITE Hart Flore, Tofts: Pete Scott 107lb, Terry Adams 68lb, Tony Ward 87lb.



■ HITTING the canal at daybreak paid off for Steve Sharp with three mirrors to 23-12



■ Young Callum Hewer with Ouse weirpool pike

● CASTLE Ashby: midweek Brickyard, Chris Prigmore 70-2, Frank Pizamenti 38-4, John Kent 26-2; Saturday, Mick Waddham 59-8, Simon Egan 37-8, Nigel Fowkes 42-4; Sunday Grendon, Richard Garrett 62-10, Geoff Jones 55-4, Mick Hewlett 54-14.

● FLORE & Brockhall, Barby Banks: Paul Humphries 26-10, Rob Rawlins 17-8, Bert Isles 17-4.

● POTTERSPURY, local lake: Colin Meakins 21lb, Mick Goodridge 18-4, Graham Martin 17-4.

● NEWPORT open, Ouse: Paul Abbott 19-7, Tony Sinfield 14-14, Pete Hawley 10-9.

● TOWCESTER, Wappenham Water: Paul Minney 14-10, Kevin Nightingale 14lb, Chris Howard 11-8 (all roach).

● FIXTURES: Sep 20, Newport Ouse open 07795 068428; Sept 21, 'Citizen' open Olney Ouse 01234 711393; Sept 26, 4pm draw for 36 hour charity pairs carp match, Furzton, MK, call GoneFishin 01908 313158 ■

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)