

Unseasonal 167lb of winter carp catch...

Lights up Max's Christmas match!

LOADS of carp 'down the edge' had Max Higgott all lit-up like a Christmas tree in Meadowlands fur and feather!

For he weighed in 167-12 – more than twice the runner-up's weight – in a catch more in keeping with the warm days of summer than gale-lashed December on the shortest day of the year.

Dave Pritchard must have been in reasonable cheer, too, as he bagged 76-8, with Simon Fry third on 58-4.

● CASTLE Ashby boss Mick Hewlett made it three wins out of three, Wednesday, as he netted 44-12 from the Brickyard – followed by Pete Gibson 38-14 and Courtney Hewlett 36-12.

Keeping the money in the family, Courtney then won Saturday's Brickyard do 47-4 and Sunday's Grendon match with 44-2. Frank Pizamenti had second on Saturday with 34-4 ahead of Hewlett senior 32lb, while John Kent was best-of-the-rest Sunday with 38-14 followed by Mick Whaddham 31-14.

● A 6-2 chub from the Wolverton Ouse was Rob Buckner's heaviest so far this winter. He's already had numerous 4s, which is a sign that good fish are coming through to replace the real biggies which must eventually fade away.

● AT Stanwick Craig Waddington netted a 26-4 common from Elsons and Alex Osborne a 21lb mirror from Swan.

● WHILE many rod have been staying indoors away from the winter weather on the banks...both Carpin Capers and Gilders have been doing a roaring trade over the past week with 'other halves' queuing up to buy tackle vouchers as Christmas presents. Could you be one of the lucky recipients?

● WHITE Hart Flore's Barby Banks sweep say John Berry win with 26-11 as Rob Whickham had 25lb and Gary Muddiman 22-11.

● TOWCESTER Vets' midweeker on Castlethorpe cut went to Chris Howard 8-3, with Graham Martin netting 147 fish – including 5 decent-sized rudd – for 5-11. John Balhatchett had 3-10.

● BUT Sunday's Towcester do on the same venue saw Paul Keal needing only 3-10 for top spot. Mick Goodridge had 3-2 and Chris Howard 2-10. Yet barely a mile further along the canal, at Cosgrove, Nigel Steel won a DATS clubmatch with 19lb of skimmers to 12 ounces.

● **FIXTURES: Sun (Dec 28) Towcester silverfish open, Silverlake, 01908 563617; Jan 1 hangover open, Stony Ouse, 07703 556788 ■**



■ CHRISTMAS came early for Rob Buckner with this 6-2 Wolverton Ouse chub

Happy Christmas - Go Fishing!

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)