

Tagging along 'just to keep mate company'...

# Lead to **73 lb** 5-hour CANAL catch!

**S**EVENTY THREE pounds! Yes you read that right – 73lb – to one man in five hours on the canal...and not a carp in sight!

And in making what is almost certainly the biggest reported local Grand Union catch of all time – Alan West landed some 70lb of that in just THREE frantic hours.

Yet the veteran had started the trip with few expectations, only going to Nene's Yardley section to keep travelling companion Ron Coles company.

A regular behind Webster Tackle's Irthlingborough counter, Alan said: "I stopped fishing canals four years ago, and now spend all my time on commercials."

Feeding chopped worm and caster, he fished worm fragments on a 16 and had a couple of pounds of small fish in two hours...and then the biggies just 'switched on'.

He landed 38lb of perch – best 3-0-8 – before bream to 4lb moved in to give him another 33lb, and a 73lb total.

He said: "I didn't know canal perch could go like that. It was unreal. I was using a number 8 hollow elastic and a puller, and still had a job to get the biggest ones off the bottom."

Ron had 17lb, mainly skimmers, fishing a few yards further along the bank: a good catch by any standards but one which left him totally in the shade that day.

● A FEW carp and some really chunky bream have been showing at Stanwick with Harry Boulton getting slabs to 8lb.

● THE Ouse at Stony saw a 6-12 chub landed on Christmas Eve.

● KINGS Arms, Wold Farm: Chris

Chapman 52lb, Paul Brand 45lb, Dave Ross 32-8.

● CASTLE Ashby Brickyard opens: Sat, Keith Garratt 34-4, Mick Hewlett 24-12, Chris Garratt 17-10; Sun, Courtney Hewlett 24-12, Keith 17-12, Mick 14-4.

● WHITE Hart Flore, Waterloo: John Berry 18-6 (2 carp), Kevin Hyde 7-12, Dave Chapman 6-12.

● TOWCESTER, Silverlake, silverfish: Phil Gimbert 16-2, Dave Martin 11lb (inc a 3-8 chub), Gerald Green and George Cooke both 7-4.

● KINGFISHER AC, Stony Ouse: Keith Harrison 11-2, Steve Chilton 7-9, Jeff Duguid.

● NENE, Yardley cut: Chris Howard 6-4, Brian Harris 3-4, Dave Mawby 2-11.

● FLORE & Brockhall Barby Marshes silverfish: Bob Prowse 6lb (and the £50 golden peg pot), Rob Rawlins and Jim Tanser both 5-13.

● FIXTURES: Jan 11, MKAA winter league teams of 4, 07703 556788; Feb 28, Full-time trouting restarts at Ringstead.

**Happy  
New Year**

■ **PROBABLY** the biggest local canal haul of all time – Alan West with just part of his five hour 73lb catch

