

Andy wins on pinkie and punch on town-centre Nene...

With a bit of help from a fire crew!

FIGHTING fires – and helping matchmen with their nets snagged on the bottom – are all in a day's work for the fire and rescue service!

Vince Battams kept telling people he was on a red hot peg in Abington AC's Beckett's Park match on the town-centre Nene, but thought the joke had gone a bit far when a fire crew rolled up.

But though they were only there to fill their tanks from the river, they turned out to be a real day-saver for eventual winner Andy Weatherley who – trying to pull his keepnet up for the weigh-in, found it stuck on a river-bed snag.

Left to his own devices Andy would probably have torn his net and lost much of his catch, but the nice helpful fire people used a hooked pole to free it, allowing him to weigh 8-10...beating Vince by just two ounces.

"It could so easily have ended differently," said Vince, "as two minutes later they were off up the road, blue lights flashing, to answer a 999 call." Malcolm Bunyard had 3lb.

● THE Ringers' pairs do on a rock-hard Boddington saw Glen Maxwell and James Hipkiss win with 71lb, Kev Wright and Tom Challinworth had 60lb and Jason Shirley and Bas Byrd 18lb.

● The Wolverton Ouse was cold enough to shrivel a maggot within seconds when Dennis Walden (pictured) netted a 5-13 chub to win White Hart's match. Ray Goulding 5-8 and Barry Neal 4-7-8.

● AND a 2-9 perch, put Graham Clipson top of Olney's Weston Road Ouse do, with Paul Caton netting a 1-9 stripey and Pete Hawley 1-0-8 of bits.

● KINGS Arms, Decoy Lakes: Chris Evans 27-6, Keith Robinson 27-1, Roger Brain 26lb.

● WHITE Hart Flore, Barby Banks: Robin Wickham 11-11, Andy Sibley 5-7, Trevor Griffiths 0-7.

● JOHN Balhatchett MUST have smiled when he drew the peg, in Towcester's Tove do, which gave him a 17lb perch win back in November – but this time he failed to weigh.

Les Goodridge had 7-8 of perch, bro Mick 5-10 of roach and George Cooke 3lb.

● MKAA, Stony Ouse: Roger Tebbutt 9-2 (perch, roach and skimmers), Don King 6-8-8, Paul Hamilton 6-1-8.

● NENE, Blisworth tunnel canal: Brian Beard 7lb, Andy Kimpton 4-7, Bas Eaton 2-11.

● TOWCESTER Vets', Blisworth canal: Chris Howard 6-5 (skimmers) Grenville Reed 3-12, John Balhatchett 3-11.

● CASTLE, Canons ice-breaker: Bob Spencer 2-7, Dave Keech and Geoff Lewis both 2-3.

● TWENTY angling coaches gave up their

Sunday to learn more about teaching youngsters on a special Angling Trust course at Moulton College ■



■ FROSTY mornings don't always mean deep pits are the only option – Malc Bunyard with 8lb mirror pleasure session catch from shallow Abington Park Lake



■ ONE bite one 5-13 Ouse chub – a match winner for Dennis Walden

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)