

Get ready for some action – the good times are all set to roll...

DON'T let the wind, rain and frosts get you down – all the signs are that better things are on the way!

The river season may look to be limping toward yet another whimpering finish but the good times could soon be rolling.

Forecasts of an early spring, a sunny Easter and a glorious summer to come have already got business booming in most local tackle shops with hordes of 'butterfly' anglers coming out of hibernation. And some of those already out fishing are catching well.

Linford Lakes – notably the Pines – has been fishing up a storm with Scott Walker, reporting through Great Linford Tackle, leading the way with the 32lb common pictured.

And 'AJ', reporting through GoneFishin, is still catching on maggots from the same venue with a leathery-mirror and a splendid koi, both going 20-10 – while Peter Purnell had a 26lb PB.

■ Predators are showing, too, with Bob Stones getting a 17-6 pike on deadbait from the Black Horse Cut – and, sadly, Roger Stratton and buddy have been catching zander to 4lb around Cosgrove locks...

■ Also on the cut, Willards' staffer Sean Wilson ducked this week's 'works outing' in favour of a solo session on MKAA's Bradwell cut length where he went into double figures with roach to 1-8 and perch to 2-8 – on red maggot while using boillie dust as cloud-bait.



● **HUGE:** Scott Walker with his 32lb common from Linford Lakes



● **HAPPY** lad: Bob Stones with 17-6 snapper from Black Horse canal stretch (picture by Rob Harriman)

■ On Olney's Ouse Paul Caton had chub to 4lb, but it is patchy. A man up from Sussex had a 4 pounder first cast...and nothing else during his three day visit!

■ OSPREY's Lakeside trip saw Ian Millin bag 120lb, carp on corn, with Rob Napper getting 79lb and Neil Fenner 72lb.

■ TACKLE Hub had a comfortable win in MKAA's Winter league – nine points clear of Ampthill overall despite finishing second in the final round, on Willowbridge marina canal, to the eventual runners up.

■ Top rod on the day was Ampthill's Stuart Kitley with 4-8 ahead of 'Hub's Ernie Sattler 4-2 and Olney's Kevin

Osborne 4-0-8. 'Hub's Roger Tebbutt and Chris Malia were top series individuals.

■ TOWCESTER Vets, Castlethorpe canal: Ron Collins 14-12 (big roach, and skimmers), Chris Howard 7-10, Tosh Saunders 6-4.

■ DATS, Navvi canal: Bob Gale 9-6, Kevin Osborne 7-6.

■ TOWCESTER, Castlethorpe cut: John Balhatchett 6-8, Brian Beard 5-10, Kevin Nightingale 4-11.

■ MK Vets, Tear Drops: Austin Maddock and Mick Reynolds tied, two bream each for 5-11, Ian Greenhood 2-11.

■ KINGFISHER, Mill Road cut (thick frost): Dell Rowland five bream 9-6, Dean Warren 3lb. The rest did not weigh.

■ FIXTURES: Saturday, MKAA Grand Slam, Stony Ouse, 07703 556788; Wednesday March 18 Towcester AGM town football supporters' club.

Matches, catches, even rough patches? If there's a tale to tell call Trevor Johnson on 07801 183381 or email angling@intermediauk.com (click link to email)