

As the drought continues, some are asking...

Just how low will Hollowell go?

HOW low will it go? That's the question some - who've shelled out well over a hundred quid to fish there this season - are asking about Hollowell reservoir.

And some are asking if owners Anglian Water will offer any kind of refund because there is now a fair bit less water for them to fish than they might have expected when buying their annual permits.

Carpin Capers' Dougie - NOT among those complaining - said: "I walked round it at the weekend, and reckon it is six to eight feet lower than normal for the time of year."

The 140 acre (when full) reservoir normally helps supply public drinking water, but notices on the site and AW's media office both explain that 'an ingress' of agricultural slug killer from neighbouring fields, last summer, led to its level being dropped to half of capacity in the hope that rains would refill it and dilute the pollutant to acceptable levels.

But there wasn't enough rain...and the reservoir is still out of the supply chain until such time as it does refill.

AW spokesman Nick Shelton said: "It can't be removed by the water treatment process, so dilution is seen as the answer."

The company - the major shareholder of which is currently a Canadian teachers' pension fund - insists Hollowell is currently at 75 per cent capacity and that when it comes to the question of refunding any unhappy anglers' fees, the answer is: "No. There is still plenty of water there, plenty of spaces to fish and plenty of people fishing."

● HELD on the Gloucester canal the Division 1 'national' - angling's Premier League - saw local regulars Maver Image second among 44 ten-man teams, with county sides Wellingborough Nene 29th and Browning Northants 30th. Neighbouring MK's Maver squad finish 18th...but would have been fifth had not one luck-less

man lost his keepnet - with 20+lb of bream in it - BEFORE the weigh-in.

● ROYAL Mail, Northampton, Peatling Parva: Andy Forbes 155-10, Andy Poole 128-14, Andy Pell 105-6.



Willards tackleshop staffer Sean Wilson shows the kind of small canal carp now 'coming through' in the new Bradwell area

● MEADOWLANDS, Tuesday: Wayne Sharman 131-12, Ritchie Watts 117-10, Pete Davis 113-6.

● CASTLE Ashby: Mick Hewlett 81-14, Keith Garratt 67-8, Bob Reed 51lb.

● TOWCESTER/Nene, Bairstows: Les Goodridge 4-8, bro Mick 4lb, George Cooke 3-6.

● FLORE & Brockhall, Barby Mill: Rob 'I'm a star' Rawlins 38lb, Terry Smith 14lb, Bert Isle 11lb.

● FIXTURES: FURZTON Festival: Wed Aug 26 vets (over 55s) open 01908 565446; Sat Aug 29 float-only and Mon 31st Frank Swan memorial, both 01908 313158.

● MK Citizen Cup: 60 pegs, Sept 20, Olney's Ouse, £20 ticket only, £500 first prize plus others all guaranteed by club, 01234 240061.

● COUNTY Cup (100+ pegs), Sep 27, Yardley to Cosgrove cut, 07711 086436 ■



ED Banks, 16, with a 15-pounder caught at Willowbrook. Pic by Hodge

Matches, catches, even rough patches? If there's a tale to tell call Trevor Johnson on 01908 270000 or 07801 183381 or angling@intermediauk.com (click link to email)