

A bad moon rising plus two frosts make County Cup tough going...

But 'Horse still gallop through!

BLACK Horse are riding high – yet gain – galloping to a clear win in Sunday's County Cup and taking two top-three individual spots on the way.

Only Wellingborough A's Matt Stokes stopped them monopolising the winners' enclosure as he took top spot with 15-9 of silvers, mostly skimmers from the big bend on DATS' Navvi section.

Some 112 rods (14 teams of eight) fished on Towcester's and DATS' lengths, making it one of the biggest local canal matches of the year – but generally it was hard-going thanks, in part, to the first two frosts of the season.

With most of the better weights coming on the Navvi, Horse's Graham West had 9-10 with stable-mate Gary Snee on 9-7 and DATS' Paul Chapman 8-1.

'Horse totalled 84 points with Sensas Bennetts on 80, DATS 74, and Irthlingborough Black and Wellingborough A tied on 63.

● FROSTS aside, a full moon with up-coming lunar eclipse and yo-yoing temperatures may all have played a part in making the 'Cup tough going for many.

But, generally, this year, fishing for small silvers on the cut between Stoke and Castlethorpe hasn't been a patch on that of the previous few seasons.

Some point to rapid southwards spread of prolifically breeding zander, and could well be right if experience north of Braunston is any guide.

That is why the Canal & River Trust, backed by some clubs, has launched the Roach Restoration Appeal to fund removal of the alien species and bolster silverfish recruitment.

But, to make that work it needs the support of INDIVIDUAL anglers and small clubs. So please, do

your bit, cough a couple of quid now – the price of a pint of maggots or two...before it is too late!

To donate go to the CRT website homepage, click on 'Donate' and then 'Support a local appeal', or call 0303 040 4040. Or...if that doesn't work, call me on 07801 183381.



■ KING of the pond...Alex Grice with Stanwick 33-9

● THE brothers Grice have been doing the business at Stanwick with Alex (above) getting commons of 33-9 and 21 from Elsons and bro Sam netting a 26 and a 25-1 mirror. Gavin Simpson's 20-8 was the best from Mallard.

● SURFACE baits continue to score at Drayton which produced at least a score of different 20s, to 23, this week.

● WHITE Hart Flore, Tofts: Dave Griffiths 116lb, Dave Chapman 110, Tony Ward 86lb.

● CASTLE Ashby opens: Sat, Brickyard, Frank Pizamenti 48-4, Phil Wintle 39-12, Andy Jones 35-6; Sun, Grendon, Max Higgott 42-12, Mick Hewlett 38-8, Martin Harrington 30-6.

● FLORE & Brockhall, Barby Mill: Bert Isle 36lb, Steve Smith 26lb, Kelly Humphries 20lb.

● FIXTURES: Sunday, Towcester open, Castlethorpe canal, 01908 563617; Tuesday Oct 13, Olney Ouse open, 01234 240061 ■

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)