

Festival match is a great success despite two frosts - and fireworks!

SOME nice fish, a good crack all round, and another £1,300 for Willen Hospice – that was this year's 48-hour Furzton carp pairs do.

And that was despite the first two frosts of the season...and some visiting clowns launching big-bang fireworks horizontally across the lake on Saturday night!

Twenty pairs fished the GoneFishin-organised event – with Frank Norford and Matt Wallis taking top spot on 123-14. And, like all the other winners, the pair tossed their winnings straight into the Willen Hospice bucket.

Runners-up Jay Shute and Roger Martin had 70-4, Richard Purnell and Martin Tilley 46-12, and Sam Caton and Simon Hopkins 35-4.

GoneFishin's Richard Swan and Martin Tracey fished the event – Martin had the biggest fish of the match, a 23lb – but spent as much time running to weigh other people's catches as they did with lines in the water.

The only downside was when amateur pyrotechnicians turned up and started launching fireworks horizontally across the lake until stopped by police.

"One came straight across the lake, 'bounced' off the water and exploded in front of us, that was quite a scary moment," said Martin.

The associated Nash roadshow was big hit and a great source of raffle prizes.

"Passers-by were really supportive when they found out it was a charity match for Willen," said Richard, "one bloke was so enthusiastic he chucked a tenner in the hospice bucket. Quite touching that was."

■ NORTHAMPTONSHIRE's 112 peg county cup – fished on Towcester's Castlethorpe cut and DATS' Navvi – saw DATS' third among 14 teams with 74 points and their Paul Chapman fourth individual on 8-1 of silvers. Black Horse were top on 84 with Sensas Bennetts on 80. Top weight was 15-9.

■ AN angler testing the soon to be dayticket Black Horse

Lake netted 100lb plus of bream during one trial session.

■ WHEN two Drennan testers fished Furzton for the cameras, one got his pole out...and in a two-hour 'lunchbreak', bagged over 45lb of silvers.



■ AN early morning Stone Park Ouse trip saw one man landing a succession of chub and perch to 2lb...until one unhelpful dog-walker let his Staffy scoff the bloke's cheese paste (it had been 'fermenting' for three weeks) and another let her labs dive into his swim after supping the dirty water from his hempseed bucket.

"I hope their dogs got the trots, preferably all over the insides of their owners' cars on the way home," said the unhappy lad. I can understand that sentiment.

■ LINFORD, Morgan section cut: Ron Dorrill 4-1, Pete Whatley 3-7, Mick Hefferon 2-6.

■ CALVERT, Claydon Lake: Derek Bishop 1-4, Dave Lewis 1lb, John Weatherall 0-11.

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

■ SAD news: the funeral of Ron Hockley – long-time DATS member and anti-pollution campaigner – is to be held at 12.15pm on October 6 at Oakhill Chapel, MK Crem.

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