

Furzton is launch pad for 'Irish style' festival fishing in the city

FURZTON came up trumps at the weekend – fishing in form for a brand-new three-day 'Irish style' festival set to become a regular part of the local scene.

Twenty-pound roach nets were part of the scene as were bags of skimmers and, in a few cases, some carp too, despite rapidly plummeting temperatures.

And, with entrants coming from as far afield as Manchester and Nottingham, a re-run has already been booked for the last weekend of March.

Top rod was James Place with a 56lb three-day total ahead of Mark Harris on 40-7. Richard Lattimer had 39-8 – 27lb of which was a day-two all-roach net on the pole...and could have helped him to top spot had he not lost a double-figure carp first cast on day-one.

Principal organiser Pete Patton (right) made fourth with 38-6 as Alan Holl finished fifth on 37-15.

■ **ALDERS'** Pines Lake carp were on the munch for the venue's midweeker as Pete Archer had 215lb, Terry Lancaster 146lb and Keith Ashby 140lb.

■ **AND** Arrans in Essex was on fine form for Osprey as the club filled their boots – yet again – with 15 of their 19 rods topping the ton!

Steve Richards won with 247-6, ahead of Kevin Watkins 239-12 and Gareth Price 211-5.



● **WAYNE** Tungate's pic of his mate with 24lb Stony Ouse pike



● **PETE** Patton with cracking 25lb+ 'practice net' of Furzton roach. Shades of the Emerald Isle, or what...

■ **BUT** as the week went on and thermometer readings headed for zero, sport on most other waters took a dive, and Stony Main was uncharacteristically dour for the MKAA golden peg do as Steve Chilton

won with 5-14 followed by Paul Hack on 2-13 and Scott Tapp 2-3.

■ **MK VETS'** midweeker on Manor Fields cut had seen Bob Gale top with 5-12 followed by Ernie Sattler 4-8 and Martin Cunniffe 4-3. Their previous week's Canons Ashby outing had gone to Dave Cantrell with 15-14, with Cunniffe on 11-8 and Steve Dzialak 10lb.

■ **TOWCESTER'S** Baron Hesketh open on a desperately low and clear Tove saw Les Goodridge

needing only 2-4 of small silvers to win with brother Mick second on 1-3. Their previous week's match – on the Broadwater section – had been won by Dave Gibbins with 6lb of roach, perch and dace as Darren Pannell had 5-5-8 and Graham Martin 4-10.

■ **KING'S** Arms had a grim outing on the canal at Manor Fields, Sunday, as Steve Parker amassed 11 roach and a gudgeon for 1-7 ahead of Brian Harmer 0-14-8 and Steve Bence 0-5.

■ **SUNDAY'S** Olney Ouse Bedford league round saw small fish dominating for a change as Graham Coles had 9lb, Pete Hawley 8-1 and Pete Kyle 7-11.

■ **FIXTURES:** Sat, Olney Ouse Royal British Legion open, 01234 240061.

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