

Ask yourself - is upper Ouse on for a NINE lb-plus chub?

EVER upwards – an ounce or two at a time. That is the reported top weights of Upper Ouse chub...but just how big CAN they grow?

Recent years have seen the river produce upper 6s, then 7s, and a couple of 8s (five years apart from Adams and Whittings) and now – to the amazement of those who thought the bubble had already burst – an 8-8 from a Vauxhall stretch well downstream of the city.

But, this season alone, a handful of city anglers well-used to catching big chub have hooked into 'monsters' which escaped after being seen to be rubbadubs rather than barbel.

So just how big – even dining on a larder of protein-packed red signal crays – can the species grow in local rivers?

Is one pushing nine possible or, almost unthinkably, even bigger?

The odds are millions to one against as, to have reached 8lb any chub already has to be one of only a tiny number of survivors from a whole generation...with precious little time left to swim let alone put on weight.

Watch this space!

■ STILL increasing his tally of 6lb+ Ouse chub, GoneFishin-staffer Den Reid had a 6-3 Saturday, then dropped in on Adams for three to 4lb+ in under two hours.

■ HUNKY Ouse perch were on the move at Olney as Paul Hodgson had four two-pounders, Carpin Capers' Dougie three to two-and-a-half and a 4lb+ chub. Justin Gardner had a 2-8 strip.

■ STORM Doris had her day Thursday, and so did Ben Meyerhoff as he braved the gales on Black Horse for carp of 29lb, 21 and 15. Also reported through Water's edge were pike of 23lb and 15lb while Darren Mayes had a 29-10 mirror from Linford 1.

■ A happy angler had three 20lb+ carp from Furzton at the weekend.

■ MK Vats' midweeker on Alders saw Ernie Sattler with 85-14 followed by Paul Chapman 66-10 and John Robinson 61-15.

■ TOWCESTER Vets, Stony Main: George Mynard 16-9 of perch to 3lb, John Balhatchett 8-13 (inc a 4lb chub) Tosh Saunders 8-9.

■ OSPREY, Decoy: Colin Drage 85lb, Kevin Watkins 75lb, Mark Carter 64lb.

■ ALDERS open: Charlie Lancaster 92lb, Mick Wilson



● MK Vets' runner-up Paul Chapman with part of a 66-10 net



● JUST how BIG will Ouse chub grow? Gary Hickling with his 8-8!

88lb, Derek Smith 67lb.

■ OLNEY, Wilken Hospice Ouse open: Steve Bull 6-15-8 (a 3-6 tench and loads of tiny bleak), Chris

Roberts 2-8, Alan Lambert 2-1-8.

■ MK, Stone Park Ouse: Dave McClennan 5-5 (roach) Paul Chapman 3-14, Bob Gale 3-10, Steve Wright lost five good chub...

■ CALVERT, Ouse in Buckingham: Dave Lewis 4-2, John Weatherall 1-12, Austin Maddock 1-8.

■ FIXTURES: March 11 MKAA grand slam, Ouse, 01234 713144.

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)