

# Coming 'back from the dead' - THAT'S canal matchfishing!

**C**ANAL matches are dead – so some say. But, for the second time in a row, MKAA's Grand Union spring league is one of the biggest events on the city calendar!

*Sunday's Boatyard to Mill Road opener pulled in 56 competitors (14 teams of four) and despite the post-Easter boat traffic and prowling zander, saw skimmers providing some decent weights.*

All that is in stark contrast to the local river-match scene which, typically winter-based, appears to be dying.

Drennan Oxford's Ian Young had top weight at 9-6, Black Horse Red's Ade Stokes 9-5, Browning Central's Mick Hodgetts 7-13 and Hotrods' Richard Durrance 7-12.

Top teams on the day: 'Horse Black 15, Browning Northants lack 22, Browning Central and Lakes Lane Lads both 25.

■ ON local lakes tiny Tear Drops saw Paul Ridgway (above) almost double his PB with a 32-10 common...while Paul Weeks had a 20-8. Dovecote produced a 4lb crucian and two guys joining the syndicate 'just' for bream...had several including specimens of 15-8 and 11-8.

On Linford Gary Maton had 20 slabs to 9-2 in daylight AND six

tench to 6-7. On Bradwell Steve Osgood had 18 bream to 9-4, Pete Crouch seven to 10-8 and bailiff Pete Seidler a well-deserved new PB of 8-3.

Furzton saw Dominik Rega with a 25lb common, Ryan Huish fish to 23-6, Gary Darker carp to 19-4 and Chris Denton at least eight to 19-4.



■ THIS Tear Drops 32-10 is Paul Ridgway's new PB and a real 'four hander' for the pic...the extra pair provided by his son Mitchell crouching behind him

■ ON the down-side probably barely human scumbags have started polluting Furzton's C section bushes again, coinciding with 'warmer' weather and party groups descending bank-side with some casual anglers...

*Please help MKAA's bailiffs trace the culprits. If they keep it up day ticket facilities will likely be withdrawn by the Parks Trust, then night*

*fishing and – if the nuisance isn't stopped – angling all together. It's in YOUR hands.*

■ EA enforcers rangers' city waters weekend tour saw more than 50 anglers checked and only five found without rod licences...none of the latter MKAA members.

■ TOVEVALLEY open, Lakeside: Paul Barnes 91lb, Dave Gibbins 49lb, Terry Davis 43lb.

■ MK Vets, Bradwell Lake: one bream each for the top three, Dick Peerless 8-10, Bob Gale 8-8 and Steve Chilton 7-4.

■ LINFORD, canal: Ron Dorrill 4-8, Nick Barker 4-2, John Hough 3-8.

■ TOWCESTER Vets, Flecknoe: John Balhatchett 42-12, Grenville Reid 32-10, Brian Aycliffe 29-12.



● DOMINIK Rega with fit-looking Furzton 25

## Date for Richard's funeral

● The funeral of former MKAA assistant head bailiff Richard Freeman (obituary, last week's column) has been arranged for Friday May 5 – at 4.15pm – at Crownhill's Oak Chapel. All who knew the man, a real gent, are welcome ■

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](mailto:angling@intermediauk.com) (click link to email)