

Castle Ashby AT winter league starts out tight as a drum...

So - no change there, then!

THIS year's Castle Ashby winter league kicked-off in exactly the same way as last year's finished - nail-bitingly tight at the top!

Sunday's opening round saw Black Horse and Royal Mail tie on points - 'Horse ahead on a countback - with RAF on a stealth mission just two points behind them in the AT league series.

All top weights came from the Brickyard as 'Ashby Youth's Frank Pizamenti had 78-10 ahead of Oakwood's Mick Hales on 48-10 - the latter's team-mate Mick Sheppard eight ounces short of that in third - and 'Youth's Keith Garratt on 40-12.

Teams: 'Horse and Royal Mail both 52 points, RAF 50, Oakwood 39, Browning 37, 'Youth 36, Milton Keynes 35, 'Ashby A Team 34.

● TEAM Ringer missed qualifying for the upcoming world club feeder-fishing champs, finishing third from five on the Trent. Perhaps there was so little interest in the British eliminator because UK finalists have to 'self fund' their Belarus championship trip.

● GLOBETROTTER Mike Green is back from British Columbia - having had the angling 'rush' of a lifetime catching sturgeon to 350lb from the Fraser River. He said: "I've caught some big fish, but never anything quite like these."

● EVER dreamed of being the England boss? Well the top-job is up for grabs - but don't envisage a Premier League life-style. This is managing the England lure-fishing squad, with the successful candidate probably having to be 'self-funding', rather than picking up a mega-bucks contract.

The Angling Trust is looking for a live-wire to lead the Team England Lure squad into the next world championships, set to be held in this country next autumn.

And the national body's wish-list includes 'a vision' of that man or woman taking Team England to world top

spot...having 'spotted' the necessary talent along the way.

Application closing date is November 3. Go to www.anglingtrust.net/vacancies to find out more.



■ MIKE Green (left) with a 350lb white sturgeon from British Columbia's Fraser River

● WHITE Hart Flore oldies midweek, Barby Banks: Ted Adams 121-5, Tom Griffiths 101-8, Mick Howkins 69-8; WHF club, Sunday, 'Banks: Mark Griffiths 107-8, Paul Jackson 69-8, Dave Chapman 64lb.

● FLORE & Brockhall, Barby Banks: Terry Smith 37lb, Bert Isle 23lb, Tony Ward 21lb.

● TOWCESTER/Nene, Furzton: John Balhatchett 14-10, Mick Goodridge 12-1, Brian Beard 10-11.

● NEWPORT Ouse open: Kevin Osborne 10-15, Alan Carr 10-1, Don King 9-6.

● CARPIN Capers' regular Chris Lyon took time out from matches to go carping and netted a 25lb common from 'Ashby's Scotland pond. Stanwick's best-of-week was Tom Farrar's 25.

● FIXTURES: Sunday, Towcester open (Castletorpe cut) 01908 563617; Tues Oct 17 Olney Ouse 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 click link to angling@intermediauk.com