

# Mike's matchplan: spend first hour sat in warm caff

**SUNDAY** was a white-out wipe-out for most – but not for baggin machine Michael Buchwalder.

*Back hours earlier from the Canaries sunshine, at 5.30 next morning he was slithering his way north for the Hallcroft Feedermasters winter pairs...providing travelling companion Pete Patton with a three-and-a-half hour white-knuckle ride on the way!*

And there he fuelled the growing belief among local venue regulars that, with a rod in his hand, he becomes some sort of super-human baggin machine!

Drawing a totally un-rated peg he methodically amassed 14lb – mainly skimmers – for second place overall.

*But it was the way he did it that left locals gawping.*

"He suggested that when the match started we should feed our swims and go off to the cafe," said Pete, "where we sat drinking tea for a full hour before going back to our pegs.

"The locals couldn't believe it, but his plan worked a treat for him – though not for me – and even I'm beginning to wonder if they're right about him being some sort of fishing machine."

■ **GETTING out pre-snow** Stuart Hobbs (pictured right) raised his perch PB to 2lb. Dan Bull had a 5-10 chub from Olney's Ouse.

■ **NO ifs or buts:** The Butts river section – from immediately downstream of Bradwell Lake to the ruins of Stanton Lo church – is back on MKAA's ticket.

■ **NEW safety rules** for Furzton's C section (not The Point) mean no night-fishing or use of leads larger than swanshot. From now on it's free-line, float or feeder fishing with feeders weighing no more than 50 grms before addition of bait. The rest of the lake is unaffected.

■ **DESPITE** Sunday's blizzard Mark Carter and a clutch of Osprey lads trekked to Pidley Lake in Cambs where, after an hour, Jason Fulcher caught a small carp. At that point he was

declared the winner and everyone headed home as fast as conditions would allow...

■ **MK Vets, Alders, midweek:** Richard Lattimer 55-15, Ian Halliwell 54-6, Steve Dzialak 54-1.

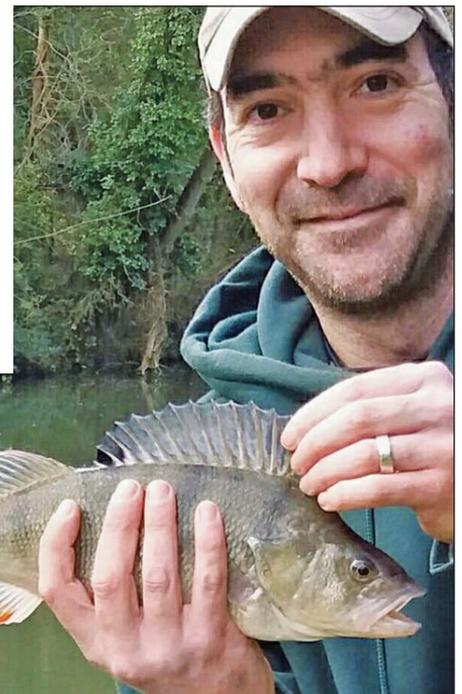
■ **OLNEY Ouse Tuesday open:** 13 totalled 129lb of silvers with lowest weight 7-14! Neil Shearn 13-13, Andy Webster 12-14, Alan Carr and Paul Caton both 11-14, then Saturday's open, fished on the same pegs, went to Pete Hawley 15-5, Steve Brooks 13-8, Jan Cebula 7-8...but 4th fell to just 1-6.

■ **TOWCESTER Vets, canal, Gayton Piggeries, midweek:** Gren Reed 1-7, Gerald Green 1-5, John Balhatchett 1-1.

■ **FIXTURES:** Dec 28 MKAA golden peg and Jan 1 hangover open, both on Ouse, 01234 713144; Jan 7 Newport pike open 07896 782715.



● **MIKE Buchwalder:** mere man – or unstoppable baggin machine?



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)