

# Freeze, flood and blizzard can't stop the die-hards!

**THAT** was probably the most miserable couple of weeks in the angling year that was but, as almost always, someone was out there catching!

One of the first was Phil Mapp who – hardly had it stopped snowing – was out doing his legendary 'hour after work' sessions on local rivers...and CATCHING.

*And while most were still clearing paths to their tackle sheds, he'd already banked a 5-pound chub from the Ouzel.*

■ ALMOST a week later, although the snow had mostly thawed, fishing prospects were hardly much better thanks to the canal and many lakes being iced over and the rivers loaded with salt-laden melt-water.

Frost on frost added to the misery, and when the DATS lads turned up for their Christmas match on Cosgrove cut, it seemed as though the weather gods were picking on them in particular.

True the surface-ice was slowly melting, but the clouds provided



● STEVE 'in the afternoon' Wright's 2-12 canal chub was enough to win DATS' Christmas sweep on its own.  
Photo Bob Gale



● IT had hardly stopped snowing before Phil Mapp was out catching on the Ouzel

rain which turned to sleet and then to snow before reverting back to rain.

*Pleasure angling it was not, and for most it was one-bite one-chance – IF they were lucky.*

First in was Steve Wright, landing a 2-12 canal chub, on bread, that was enough to win on its own. Kevin Osborne hooked a really big fish...and then lost it under the ice to finish third with an 0-11-8 perch, and John Hewison made second with an 0-13-8 stripy.

■ KINGFISHER's trip to the squidgy-banked Brushmill and Hollands Ouse at Stony saw Mircea Peredecu win with 5-7 as Austin Maddock had 3-15 and Keith Harrison 0-15.

■ CALVERTS' match – iced off of a stillwater on to the Buckingham Ouse – ended with Andy Franklin's 2-13 winning both the sweep and the golden peg pot. Ben Holdaway had 2-7 and Barry Witteridge 1-9.

■ TOWCESTER/Nene, canal, Blisworth: John Balhatchett 2-12, Pete Laughton 2-4, Tosh Saunders 2lb.

■ OSPREY/Mark Carter open, Pidley: Steve Carthy one small carp, the rest blanked.

■ FIXTURES: Dec 28 MKAA golden peg and Jan 1 hangoveropen, both on Ouse, 01234 713144; Jan 7 Newport pike open 07896 782715; Lakeside open, book on Tove Valley fb.

## Happy Christmas Everyone

### LOCAL tackle shop festive opening hours

All (Tackle Hub, Willards, GoneFishin, Waters Edge, Fishing Republic) closed Dec 25/26 and Jan 1. WE, FR and Willards open varying periods Sun Dec 24 and Dec 31. All are open Dec 27-30. Additional info on MKAA fb page.