MKAA's squad retain their 'national' top 20 rating in 560 peg cut match

STILL among the nation's big boys – that's MKAA's Matchgroup after a nail-biting Division 1 national on the Trent and Mersey canal.

They finished 19th in the Angling Trust match, up against 55 other teams (many among the very best cut anglers in the land) on a tough venue.

And while top spot was their aim, MKAA's result was more than good enough as it was way clear of the bottom 10 relegation zone.

Ten went down but only four earned promotion from Division 2 – as the Trust apparently want to get Division 1 down to 50 teams.

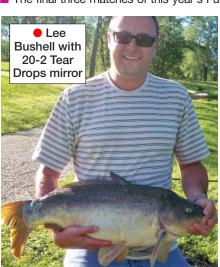
Odd that. As numbers are falling, surely it would make more sense to try and get everyone into one big prestigious 'national' – back to the days of the 'All-England' when the winners REALLY could claim 'national' glory?

Saturday's big match saw MKAA's James Mead 3rd in section with 2.540 kilo and Dave Tebbutt 5th in his with 1.43.

- Martin Burr had a 7lb tench (pictured by Tony Carter) and a two-pounder from Bradwell Lake, While Lee Bushell had a 20-2 mirror (pictured) and a 17lb common from Tear Drops.
- With MK Angling Centre still due to close Sept 30, Brian Haynes has started a 50 per cent off everything left in the shop (other than bait) sale.
- Osprey's Lakeside do (21 fished) raised £400 for Help the Heroes as the owner waived his venue fee.

Mark Wilson, Neil Riddy and Ian Millin were the winning team, ahead of Neil Fenner and Keith and Brenda Stent. Chris Lovelock was top individual with 110lb.

■ The final three matches of this year's Furzton Festival brought in

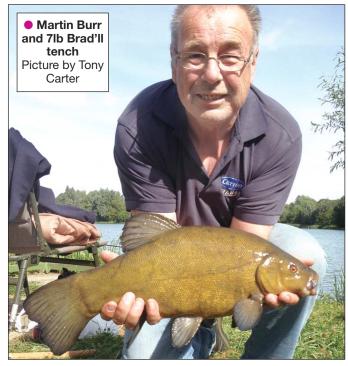


£155 which means that, overall, Willen Hospice is set to benefit by around £1,200.

On the Bletchley cut Lucas Worrell topped the juniors with 1-14 with Cameron Nesbitt on 1-10; Ladies, Furzton lake, Sophie Hill 14-7, Sam Simms and Sam Perkins both on 11lb; Mixed pairs, Tear Drops, Nuala and

Mark Gray 17-13, Debbie and Richard Clarkson 9lb.

- MK vets, Canons Ashby: Gary Britton 31-15, Paul Barnes 29-1, Austin Maddock 23-5.
- Newport open, Abbey pits: Paul Abbott 19lb (roach), John Hewison 14-9, Myles Philips 6-10.



- Towcester, Bairstows: Mick Boddily 19lb (3 carp), Steve Smith 12lb, Darren Pannell 6-8.
- Calvert, Claydon lake: Barry Witteridge 10-9, Jim Lewis 5-15, Ted Brown 4-12
- DATS, Stony Main, Ouse: Paul Chapman 10-9, Paul Hamilton 8-3-8, Ernie Sattler 4-10-8.
- MK Individual league 5th round, Newlands canal: 'End peg Ernie' 7-12, Kevin Osborne 5-4-12, Gary Britton 5lb.
- Linford, brickyard canal: Mick Hefferon 4-12, Eamon Burke 4-6, John Hough 2-2.
- Kingfishers, Simpson cut: Jeff Dougall 4lb, Colin Chart 3-1, Dick Peerless and Steve Chilton both 2-1.
- FIXTURES: This Saturday, MKAA junior teach-in, Linford lakes, 1pm, 01908 320007; Sept 15, MKAA 'clubs get-together', Furzton, call 07703 556788; Sept 22, Citizen cup, Olney's Ouse, guaranteed £500 top prize, 60 peg limit. Call 07795 124165 or email ronbull444@hotmail.com