

Baggin' club in a world of their own as top six land half a tonne

AS most shivered while struggling for weekend bites, Osprey's top six bagged almost half a tonne of carp in the club's latest match.

Despite ice on the water they were in a world of their own on Arrans, in Essex, as Gareth Price led the way with 145-2, narrowly beating Tony Winnock's 144-8. Darren Cannock had 144-2, Julie Briscoe 136lb, Ian Warby 126, and Chris Lovelock 125lb...while the lowest weight of the match went 26lb.

■ NO – that was NOT a misprint in last week's column. Visitor Alan West, pictured, did catch 73lb in five hours on the canal...without a carp in sight!

And in making what is almost certainly the biggest reported local Grand Union catch of all time – he landed some 70lb of that in just THREE frantic hours.

Yet the veteran had started the trip with few expectations, only going to the Yardley Gobion section to keep a mate company.

He said: "I stopped fishing canals four years ago, and now spend all my time on commercials."

Feeding chopped worm and caster, he fished worm fragments on a 16 and had a couple of pounds of small fish in two hours...and then the biggies just 'switched on'.

He landed 38lb of perch – best 3-0-8 – before bream to 4lb moved in to give him another 33lb, and a 73lb total.

His mate had 17lb, mainly skimmers, fishing a few yards further along the bank: a good catch by any standards but one which left him totally in the shade that day.



● CATCH of a lifetime: Alan West with just part of his 73lb catch – from the CANAL!

- REPORTING through Great Linford Tackle Martin Stewart had carp of 27lb, 26 and 25 in a Saturday night on the Pine dayticket lake.
- MKAA 'hangover' open, Stony Ouse: Myles Phillips 13-2 (3 chub and bits), Paul Hamilton 10-4, Ernie Sattler 7-1.
- MK Vets Christmas Eve do, Riverside Ouzel, Newport: Ron Heffron 16-4, Roger Tebbutt 7-15, Nigel Steele 7-8.
- TOWCESTER, Astwell Mill: Mick Goodridge 6-9 (inc an unseasonal 2lb tench), Kevin Nightingale 4lb, Paul Keele 3-4.
- DATS, Navvi canal 'big bend': Dave McClennan



● JUST starting out: Millie aged 4 – and dad Pete from the Tackle Hub – was pleased as punch with her 13 roach to 6 ounces on bread from the cut

- 6-3, Colin Chart 3-3-8, Paul Hamilton 1-4-8 – thick white frost on the bank all day.
- CALVERT, Itter's pit: the turn of the year saw things looking up for this stoical crew...just. Dawn Green 0-10 (scooping the golden peg – again!) Barry Witteridge 0-3, John Weatherall 0-2.

■ FIXTURES: MKAA winter league starts Jan 11, call 0 7 7 0 3 556788.

Matches, catches, even rough patches? If there's a tale to tell call Trevor Johnson on 01908 270000 (office) or 07801 183381 or email angling@intermediauk.com (click link to email)