

Get out while the getting's good!

GET out and give your maggots a dangle! With temperatures rising through the week, THIS could be a red-hot weekend...

And with the weather ahead set to be distinctly 'changeable', it could also be your best opportunity for good sport on running water before the river season closes on March 14.

● **DOUR** was the word for most matches the weekend just gone, but Osprey had a ball – travelling to an Essex carp puddle to do it.

Steve Potter fished feeder bread for 145lb as Tony Winnick netted 107lb and Craig Gubbins 75lb.

● **PRACTISING** by 'bass fishing' on a Wii in the freeze obviously gave Tom Griffiths an edge as, first time back on the bank he topped White Hart Flore's do with 42-12 of corn carp. Robin Wickham came close with 41-12 and Glen Tilson had 35lb.

● **IN** the Meadowlands teams of 3 third round Mark 'drawbags' Jennings (Inbetweeners) drew another fine peg to win with 37-4. Jason Shirley (Baillies) had 33-8 and Gaz Davis (Tussies) 24-12. Chilton Baits and Scone Zone lead with 41 points apiece.

● **DURING** the freeze a group claiming Eastern European origins were found making fishing holes through the ice in the middle of Wellingborough Nene's Brightwell Lake.

Concerned for the men's safety, and wanting to protect their fish, club officials called police who eventually persuaded them to come ashore.

But instead of nicking them for attempted theft (stillwater fish belong to the landowner) the officers let them go without charge.

Club chairman Brian Crowhurst said: "All they were interested in was defusing the situation."

A-ma-zing! When will cops realise fish can be worth thousands of pounds – and start treating their theft, or attempted theft, seriously?

Would I have been simply sent on my way had I been nabbed jemmying a locked freezer in Tesco's frozen fish section? Same difference.

● **THE** Stony Stratford Ouse Sunday league match was won with 20-9 of perch to 3lb, and there was a 6-13 chub... though another section was won with a single minnow!

Further downstream Richard Clifton boosted Newport's chub

● **AND FINALLY:** Paul Malin is henceforth known as 'Tsunami' after doing a header into a freezing Dog Lane lake in Daventry's do. 'Friends' say he did a perfect forward roll, with tuck, off his box, "worthy of a 9.5 score." The lad dried out and fished on.

record with a 7-2. And 'somewhere' on the Ouse, town's Jamie Cartwright had perch of 4-3, 3-4 and 3-2 on worm.

● **CASTLE** Ashby Sunday: Grendon, Doug Scott 71-8, Dick Rogers 25-12, Richard Dunkley 20-8; Brickyard, Frank Pizmenti & Phil Gimbit both 12lb, Rob Chamberlin 11-9; Scotland, Ian Smith 15-12, Gary West 10-4, Keith Bishop 9-13.

● **LOCO AC:** Willow lake, Paul Baxter 24-1, Dave Battison 15-8, Dave Smart 11-4. **MAKINS** pole-only individual league 4th round: Mick Martin 14-5, Terry Phillips 13-10. Gaz Stanley, who now tops the table, 12-1.

● **CASTLE:** Canon's bottom pond, Geoff Lewis 8-14, Alan Clarke 7-5, Dave Cantrell 7-4. **DAVENTRY:** silverfish individual league 4th round, Dog Lane, Dick Ashby 6-15, Carl Hulley 4-1-4, Gil Corns 3-14.

● **TOWCESTER:** Tove, Pat Jacquest 5-12, Grenville Read 3-7, Brian Wright 3-6. **OLNEY:** Ouse, pike & perch match, Rob Mynard 5-9, Jack Panter 4-12, Ian Rawlins 4-7.

● **RUSHDEN** Angling: Woodford weir, Nene, Paul Moore 4-8, Neil Dickins 2-11, Gary Winkle 1-14. **NENE:** Flore canal, Brian Beard 4-7, Baz Eaton 3-12, Paul Minney 3-3.

● **LITTLE** Harrowden: Oundle Nene, Jim Broadbent 4-6, John Hanson 3-6, Dave Chamberlain

2-10. **FLORE & Brockhall** teams of 3: local cut, Buster Matthews (Melbourne Arms) 2-15-14, Rob Rawlins (Regulars) 2-0-1, Jim Tanser (Dolphin Boys) 1-15-4. Bits 'n Bobs now lead league.

● **TOWCESTER** Vets: Gayton arm Grenville Read 2-12, John Balhatchett 2-2, Tosh Saunders 1-9. **STANWICK** fish of the week, Andrew Bazley's 18-4 common, Elsons.

● **FIXTURES:** Tomorrow (Saturday) British pike champs qualifier Newport pits 07952 812527. March 4 charity pike open Mount Farm pit MK 01908 374400 ■



■ **HARD-as-nails** early season trouters braved numbing winds for Ringstead's opening, Saturday. Newport Pagnell's Mick Watts had the biggest rainbow, 16-4, as 33 rods shared 214 trout.

Sister water Elinor opens tomorrow, and come May 20 is to host the televised Airflo world bankfishing masters open final. Visit www.iainbarrflyfishing.co.uk for details of the qualifiers.



■ **WHILE** youngsters cowered indoors, town's Martin Wright, 69, piked his way through the recent freeze. His top fish were a Hollowell 21 and this 22-8 from the Nene near Rushden & Diamonds' ground.