

Town lads' monster Spanish cats!

HOT nights – and days – battling big cats! That was life on the Spanish Main (main River Ebro that is) for six town lads.

Nathan Farrell, Dave Chamberlain, Tony Granfield, Rob York, James Blanchard and Ian Bowler landed nine super moggies up to 172lb – with a further five escaping.

With the experience a quantum leap removed from their local haunts, will they go back again? "You bet. We've already booked for next year," said Dave.

● Sunday's Castle Ashby AT league opener saw Starlets blast off in devastating style leaving – yet again – six other sides wondering just what they have to do to catch up.

Starlets had 60 points, 'Ashby A 46 and Royal Mail Chiltern Baits 37. Maver MK got the wooden spoon on 32.

'Ashby A's Chris Garrett had boss weight, 62-5 of silverfish, ahead of 'Ashby Youth's Mick Whaddenham 46-8 (both on Scotland pond) with Starlets' Darren Bickerton on 36-1 ('brickyard).

● White Hart Flore reckon Tofts didn't fish well for them – but their top three still totalled more than 300lb as Dave Griffiths had 117lb, Dave Gibson 110lb and Terry Adams 90lb.

● CASTLE Ashby, Saturday, 'brickyard: Mick Hewlett 62-6, Keith Bishop 61-14, Doug Jamieson 54-4.

● GLEBE, Jubilee pools: Ian Beard 13lb, Paul Latter 8-1, Kelvin MacIlhinney 7-4.

● CASTLE points final, Crescent lake: Paul Lafflin 9-12, John Lewis 7-8, Jeff Rice 6-8. Series result: Alf Gillard 77, Rice 68, Lafflin 59.

● NENE winter open, Yardley cut: Tom Grainey 8-9, Norman Bradshaw 8-5, Derek Reeny 7-15.

● TOWCESTER open, Castletorpe cut: Mick Goodridge 7-8, Tosh Saunders 4-7-8, Paul Robinson 3-12-8.

● LITTLE Harrowden, Ringsted shallows, Nene: Jim Broadbent 7-5, Mick Dudley 7lb, Ken Taylor 6-4.

● FLORE & Brockhall, B'all bridge cut: Jim Tanser 5-4 (all hooked in the right end this week), Rob Rawlins 3-1, Steve Smith 2-14.

● FINEDON, Heyford Fishery: Steve Dunnell 1-9, Max Beck 1-7, Dave Ross/Nick Whitnell both 0-12-0. Oops.

● FIXTURES: Tuesday, Olney Ouse open 01234 240061; Oct 21 Bairstows open 07915



■ **SIX-foot-two Nathan Forrest is a biggish lad... but dwarfed by his 172lb Spanish cat!**

613862; Oct 20/21 Northampton Specimen Group carp open, Stanwick, 07565 420496.

RIP Gilders boss Julian Davies

Though battling a serious illness for almost a year, Gilders' co-proprietor Julian Davis was believed to be recovering when his sudden death Saturday morning left younger brother and co-business owner Tim, their families, and all in the firm's Wellingborough Road and Kettering shops, stunned.

"He'd been fishing Thursday and had eight trout at Grafham, so he was fishing right to the end – which is something," said Tim. "We thought he'd turned the corner, so this is a terrible shock despite his illness."

Julian, 62, took over the business from his late father, Ray, in the 70s and had, over several decades, become a popular member of the England Flyfishers Association and was widely respected in both the angling and shooting worlds.

A real all-rounder, he was at home whether after trout,

tench, salmon in Scotland, or on a North Sea 'shop outing'.

He will be missed by many, myself included ■



■ **Julian with a PB 10-3 Warickshire Avon barbel caught last November**

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