

Nine solid blanks in a row were the run-up to flyfisher...

Mike boating life-time best perch

DON'T let the 'odd blank' – even nine in a row – put you off...they could just be the prelude to a REAL purple patch!

And that's how it was for globe-trotting veteran fly-fisher Mike Green when, no doubt getting desperate to have his string pulled, he headed for Grafham.

A life-time's best (so far) 4-8 perch (right) headed a catch of 15 stripeys, two small zander and a brace of pike which left him walking on water...and when he went back for more he netted perch to 3-6 – and a 23lb pike.

His next trip – his third in eight days – was to the River Test where, trotting casters for a change, he had over 80 fish: 30 roach to 2lb, 15 grayling, some 25 trout to 5lb, two 3lb chub...and four eels to 3lb.

Bob Church shared the trip – bagging his first ever 2lb river roach...and a 14lb carp.

● BETWEEN them Phil and Steve Ringer have won most things, but one still eludes them – the World Pairs title.

Fishing five days on five waters both sides of the Irish border, the pair finished as runners-up – for the second year in a row. Rob Wootton and Adam Waklin had had a big first-day catch which left everyone else playing catchup for the rest of the series.

● STANWICK lakes produced more than a dozen 20s over the past week, headed by Lee Smith's PB 28lb common. Two others also had PBs.

● CASTLE Ashby opens: Sat, Brickyard, Arma Jawad 87-6, Courtney Hewlett 74-10, Pete Gibson 29-4; Sun, Grendon, Andy Jones 23-12, Chris Garrett, 20-14, Bob Reed 17-10.

● MOBBS Miller, Decoy: Stuart Cheatham 77-12, Tony Glanfield 50lb, Dan Walker 42-4.

● ROYAL Oak, Barston: Terry Fowlkes 70lb, Wayne Sharman 59lb, Gaz Stanley 57-12.

● COUNTY vets: Sun, Rectory Farm, Pat Neil 64-8, Bob Spencer 35-8, Geoff Lewis 27-12; midweek Canons bottom, Spencer 41-8, John Lewis 34lb, Ian Hutton 30-4.

● TOWCESTER, Canons top: Paul Robinson 58lb, Les Goodridge and John Broughton both 42-8.

● NENE, Flecknoe: John Balhatchett 57-12, Simon Cordingley 55-4, Bob Eales 46-7.

● FINEDON, Peatling: John Sumpta 43-15, Dave Roberts 40-6, Gary Scott 27-4.

● DAVENTRY, Tofts: Carl Hulley 42lb, Graham Cheney 16lb, Sam Waddeson 12lb.

● TOWCESTER vets, Stockton: Simon Cordingley 37-10 of crucians, Chris 'Mr Crabtree' Howard 20-2 of roach on elderberries, George Mynards 15-13.

● ABINGTON, park lake: Norman Westbrook 28lb (inc 22-4 carp), Vince Batams 17-10, Andy Weatherley 10-4.



■ **HAPPY** man Mike Green with lifetime-best 4-8 perch



■ **JAMES** Cowan had this 23-15 common from Bishops Bowl

● FLORE & Brockhall, Barby Marshes: Rob 'the legend' Rawlins 21-12, Fred Johnson 15-8, Gerald Cash 10-4.

● MID Northants Trout Fishers, Draycote: Richard Webb 8 for 19-3, Pip Jeffes 6 for 16-3, Ian Pow 6 for 15-8.

● OLNEY, Citizen Cup, Ouse: big tench and perch dominated. Ernie Sattler took the £500 top slot with 9-2-8 – 8-2 of that ONE bream – Mick Stanley 8-12-8, Dave Tebbutt 7-12. One unlucky guy lost 4 tench! ■

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)