

Following a trip to 'the palace' super-vet Bob Church will be...

# Gone fishing: by Royal Appointment

**ANGLING** star Bob Church is headed for a very special venue...though he won't be allowed to fish – rifle-toting men in bearskins will see to that!

But it will still be a great day in his life as, 'by royal appointment', the Northampton lad will be collecting his MBE awarded in HM The Queen's birthday honours list.

A national angling icon for way over half a century, 'Churchy' has been recognised for his services to the sport – a career including 28 years as an *Angling Times* columnist and raising tens of thousands for charity.

And that's not bad for a man who sprang to fame by horrifying the 'purists' of the late 1950s as he pioneered sunken-line fishing in stillwater troutling.

Turning the trout-world on its head, he went on to become part of England's international set-up, earning a clutch of gold medals...on top of being an all-round specimen hunter (co-founding Northampton Specialist Group) and becoming a successful tackle designer and wholesaler.

Six-months shy of his 80th birthday he still fishes whenever he can get out and recently finished 13th from 50 in a pro-am tournament.

He said: "I was absolutely shocked to be honoured, but I hope it will be seen as recognition for the sport as well as myself."

● ANOTHER golden oldie – Geoff Ringer – has finally proved what many have long suspected: he doesn't even need to catch a fish to take other folks' money.

Blanking in Sunday's Ferry Meadows open...he still won £50 in a sweepstake to predict the winning weight. So sad it was all £1 coins.

● RE-OPENING on the traditional June 16, Towcester's Astwell Mill saw Phil Roper and Chris Lowrie share 60lb of bream as Mike Sando (pictured) found some chunky tench.

● THE river season start saw Keith Millward land a 7-6 beam from Olney's Ouse while Adam Short had three for 16-2 and Mike Clarges a 6-5 tench. Veteran Kirk Farr had a 5-4 PB tinca next day, and Paul Andrews a 20-14 carp.

● OSPREY, Lakeside: Chris Lovelock 140lb, Pete Archer 137lb, Matt Grant 135lb.

● MEADOWLANDS, midweek: Chris Harrison, 113lb, Phil Croxford 99-12, Ritchie Watts 99-4.

● WHITE Hart Flore, Bishops Bowl: Pete Scott 73-8, Gary Muddiman 66lb, Dave Chapman 60lb.

● MILL Lane, Tunnel Farm: Steve Barron 58-6, Mark Whadhams 55-12, Alan Byrnes 52-3.

● CASTLE, Canons: Geoff Rice 68-12, Alf Gillard 47-8, Paul Neale 45-12.

● COUNTY Vets, midweek, Canons: Bob Spencer 54-12, Paul Lafflin 44-12, John Lewis 22lb.

● CASTLE Ashby open: Chris Garrett 36-12, Richard Dunkley 34-8, Mick Hewlett 26-12.

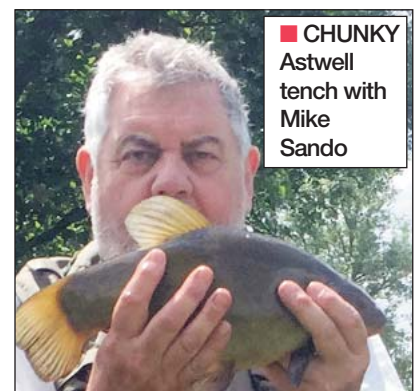
● FLORE & Brockhall, Barby Banks: Ken Cadd 15lb, Rob Rawlins and Tony Smith both 13-12.

● NENE, Yardley canal: Mick Goodridge 3-4, John Balhatchett 3-3, George Mynard 2-6.

● FIXTURES, June 28: angling come-and-try/tuition sessions at Barnwell Country Park; Sun July 5 Nene junior match Grafton canal, 01604 634115 ■



■ TOWN's golden oldie – Bob Church MBE



■ CHUNKY Astwell tench with Mike Sando