

The Tenchfishers and Environment Agency in...

Bid to rejuvenate iconic water

A WHOLE new lease of life is on the way for Sywell Reservoir – once the tench Mecca of the county, if not of the COUNTRY!

And it is being engineered principally by The Tenchfishers group, who're dead-set on returning the venue to its former glory as THE tench water.

As far back as the 70s its mega tench potential was being flagged-up with big fish caught by the likes of Bob Church...but more recently, for all sorts of reasons, catches went into decline, along with angling attendances.

Now the group – in close co-operation with the Environment Agency and a little help from friends – is trying to regenerate the county council-owned fishery, partly in memory of former member Dave Watson, who lived locally and died last year.

At the time of his passing he was right at the front of the restoration movement. "Dave loved Sywell," said Tenchfishers' chairman Ian Peacock, "and to mark that his family have contributed to the work now underway."

Tens of thousands of pounds are being invested: small tench from the EA's rod licence funded fish farm have been being 'drip-fed' into the water since 2012; also 2,000 six-ounce fish went in in February; and some pound-plus stockies are due in this winter – all with the aim of re-creating a sustainable stock which can take advantage of various habitat improvements.

A group fish-in over the weekend proved the venue is still home to at least a few crackers as Ade Holmes had a 10-3 – and two 8s were also landed.

● SAS, Waterloo: Tony Granfield 158lb, Jim Broadbent 125lb, Nick Wooding 107lb.

● OSPREY, Lakeside: Chris Lovelock 148lb, Ed Blane 107lb, Rob Napper 69lb.

● MILL Lane, Tofts: Kelvin McIlhinney 105-11, Steve Johnson 91-13, Alan Froggatt 66-8.

● WHITE Hart Flore, Barby Banks: Andy Sibley 91lb, Gary Muddiman 83lb, Tom Buck 66lb. WHF old geezers, Spring Pool, midweek: Trevor Griffiths 59-8, Tom Griffiths 26-12, Glen Tilson 19lb.

● TOWCESTER Vets, Bishops Bowl: John Balhatchett 73-12, Graham Martin 50-8, Tosh Saunders 32-8.

● GLEBE, Peatling Parva: Dave Jones 65-14, Paul Latter 63-11, Dave Haddon 61-12.

● FINEDON, Shearsby Valley: Dave Harvey 46lb, Jason Binder 44lb, Bill Boyne 25lb.

● CASTLE Ashby,



■ A REAL Sywell tench: The Tenchfishers' Ade Holmes with 10-3 caught Saturday

Grendon: Richard Dunkley 38-8, Mark Morgan 27-12, Bob Reid 25-14.

● FLORE & Brockhall, Hill View: Rob Rawlins (now needing a lie-down) 26lb, Dave Westley 18lb, Jim Tanser 17lb.

● NENE/Towcester, Heyford canal: Graham Martin 16lb (bream), John Balhatchett 9-8, Les Wallace 5lb.

● GET some in! The river season opens tomorrow (Friday) as does Towcester's revamped Astwell Mill ■



OLIVER's grin is bigger than his first fish caught during Abington AC's weekend teach-in

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