

County squad's pedigree as canal 'scratching' aces...

Puts 'boro on a Division 1 roll

RIDING high. That's Wellingborough Rafter coming oh-so close to a top-10 slot in one of the country's most prestigious matches – the Division 1 'national!

Saturday's 490 peg 49 team event, spread over some 20 miles of Shropshire Union canal, saw the county side finish on 306 points – just two short of tenth-place.

And had they been able to scrape just another 1.5 points per man, they would have been knocking on the door of a top-five finish!

A pretty good result: perhaps all those winter-league scratchers on the Foxton-Theddingworth cut length stood them in good stead?

'Local' rivals Milton Keynes were 37th on 213 points as Southport went top with 389.

● YOU don't always have to finish top to win the biggest pot – as Wayne Sharman proved in the Matrix Commercial league final round. He paid into the super-pool and finished second overall with 172-6...while 249lb winner Mark Casemore didn't...

And that saw Wayne trot off with £350 for his place PLUS £500 from the super-pool to total £850 while Mark had 'just' £500. Phil Canning won the series.

● CRANSLEY Hospice was a big winner, too, to the tune of £2,300 raised by 53 competitors in a Barby Banks charity match organised by Andy Pell. Great effort everyone. Dave Gibbs won with 135-8, Mick Wheeler netted 125lb and Jim Boyle 67lb.

● STANWICK's Elsons saw Dave Bishop banking a 40-2 common and Nathan Bartnick (top pic) a 36-4.

● MATCHMEN can catch the lumps too...as Phil Ringer (above) proved with a 28lb on a size-12 during a Barston practice session.

● WHITE Hart 'oldies', Tofts: Ron Collins 127-8, John Tee 104-13, Tom Griffiths 102-15.

● WHITE HART, Barby Mill: Dave Chapman 90-8, John Berry 68lb, Glen Tilson 54-8.

● CASTLE Ashby Brickyard open: Mark Moody 83lb,



■ OH what a cracker – Nathan Bartnick with Stanwick 36-4



■ MATCH-ace Phil Ringer with a 'practice' Barston 28

Mick Hewlett 28-8, Frank Pizamenti 28lb.

● MILL Lane, Meadowlands: Ken Andrews 72-11, Kelvin McInelly 47-8, Alan Byrnes 43-2.

● FINEDON, Waterloo: John Yorke 61-4, Pat Neale 43-12, Barry Lawrence 43-3.

● TOWCESTER Vets, Ifield Farm: John Balhatchett 51-6, Grenville Reid 31lb, Rob Aytill 23lb.

● FLORE & Brockhall, Napton: Terry Smith 49lb, Dave Westley 45lb, Bert Isle 38lb.

● GLEBE, Peatling Parva: Marcus Annable 39-4, John Armstrong 17-11, Russ Lay 13-8.

● COUNTY Vets, Canons: Len Keech 25-6, Dave Cantrell 19-12, 'Paddy' 16-10.

● NENE, silverfish, Stockton: John Balhatchett 18-2, Chris Howard 15-4, Mick Goodridge 14lb.

● **Fixtures:** Sunday: **Oundle sponsored £500 Nene open** 07842 920045; **Furzton Lake carp open** Sep 15-17, 01908 313158; Sep 17 **Citizen Cup Olney Ouse open** 01234 240061.