

When river seemed to have 'died' on oh-so-dour day...

Matchman lands 3-15 perch!

ROVING specimen hunters come and go in pursuit of monsters... but sometimes the biggest fish of all fall to pegged-down anglers just looking to win a match.

And that was the story in Nene's match on the club's Newton Blossomville Ouse when Dave Gibbins landed a 3-15 perch – among the largest properly recorded from the upper river this season!

Sunday's bitter winds, gin-clear water and low flow helped make it an otherwise totally forgettable event which Dave won with three perch for 4-10.

Laying on two-feet over-depth with worm on the pole, he initially thought he'd hooked a powerful tench – and was stunned to see an enormous bristling dorsal as the perch eventually came into view.

Second spot went to Pete Laughton on 2-15 with the visiting Towcester contingent's Mick Goodridge third on 0-14.

● **'MIGRANT' angler fish-theft may not be as bad as it was...but a major Angling Trust education initiative is being launched to reduce it throughout the Nene Valley as part of the £4.5 million Nenescape Project. Part-funded by a £2.8 million lottery grant, that also includes arts, bird-watching, boating and landscape aspects among others. Volunteer involvement will be crucial. See nenescape.org/contact-us**

● DRAYTON bailiff Mark Ryder's latest French trip saw him bank an 83lb mirror – his THIRD over 80lb in three years, best a staggering 95lb!

● RINGER pairs, Boddington (48 fished): Steve and Phil Ringer 2 points (128lb total), Lee Jepson and Chris Hill 3, Mark Dowry and Simon Chindler 4.

● MEADOWLANDS league third round: Pete 'blast from the past' Davies 117-15, Glen

Maxwell 80-6, Shane Desmond 74-10. Wayne Sharman still leads.

● CASTLE Ashby opens: midweek, Brickyard, Bob Reed 39lb, Ron Coles 37-12, Mick Hewlett 37lb; Sat., 'Yard, L l o y d Haynes 37-4, Chris Garratt 36lb, Ian Hutton 29-12; Sun., Scotland, S h a u n Smart 17-10, Steve Bull 13-1, Adey Stokes 12lb; Sun., Grendon, W a y n e Robinson 17-12, Chris Camplin and Keith Garratt both 10-6.

● FINEDON, Willowbrook Nene: Steve Amos 9lb, Roger Brain 8-4, Mark Clemmet 8-2.

● GLEBE, Ringstead Nene: Dave Haddon 9lb, Paul Latter 3-6, Geoff Green 2-8.

● CASTLE silverfish league, Canons: Nick Antonacci 8-10, Jeff Rice 8-3, Bob Spencer 7-3.

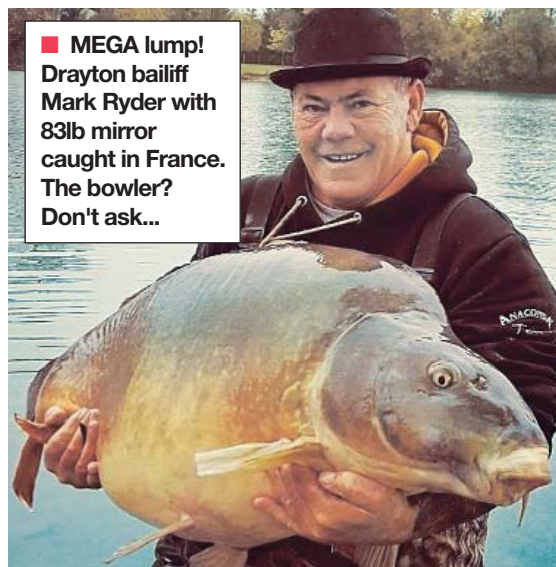
● FLORE & Brockhall, Hillview Farm: Steve Smith 6-13, Ray Ayres 5-7, Rob Rawlins 4-15.

● TOWCESTER Vets, Cosgrove canal: Les Goodridge 4-8, John Balhatchett 4lb (inc 1lb roach), Gren Reed 3-1.

● STANWICK's best of week was Mike Monroe's 21lb mirror, ahead of Ian Bradshaw's 20lb common ■



■ AWESOME fish! Dave Gibbins with 3-15 Ouse perch. Photo Mick Goodridge



■ MEGA lump! Drayton bailiff Mark Ryder with 83lb mirror caught in France. The bowler? Don't ask...