

**Club matchmen struggle as they come...**

# Second to the 'black death'

**YOU** know it's going to be a bad day when you turn up to find a flock of cormorants decimating the fish in front of you.

That was Wellingborough lads' lot when they arrived for Sunday's aptly-named 'Frostbite Cup' on the Ringstead Nene.

Leading the way, club stalwart Ivor Griffiths went to peg-out and found a squadron of the 'black death' gorging on roach – 'herding' the fish hard up against the lock gate making, in clear water, an easy meal for the marauding avians.

The match result was a foregone conclusion after that: the eight nearest the lock caught...with the remaining 19 biteless.

Long pole and 'seed helped Paul Reynolds total 15-2 followed by Rob Healey on 10-8, Graham Prince 8-5, Jeff Rice 6-13 and Bob Eyles 5-12.

● ABINGTON also found sport patchy in minus temperatures on the Nene at Nine Arches where John Gamble had 12-13 on long whip and stick. Dave Clawley had 10-9 from an end peg with Paul Scrivener on 5-14.

● ON the Newport Pagnell Ouse a group of MK Vets found a monster shoal of roach and dace. The top four totalled over 75lb with winner Paul Chapman getting 29-15 on punch!

● JUST before the ice closed in John Maher (pictured) was having some nice perch from Castle Ashby lakes. He's been getting stripeys to more than 3lb, plus pike, from the venue all winter on jigs.

● ADAM Jenkins (pictured) got in just before Stanwick froze over to bag a 28-11 common.

● PETER Bean found a hole in Drayton's ice to net two carp to 18lb.

● WHITE Hart Flore broke the ice on Barby's little pond where Gary Muddiman had 21lb, Dave Chapman 19lb and John Berry 10lb.

● OLNEY Ouse, 'Spring Cup': Alan Lambert 2-3 (one perch on worm). No one else caught.

● TOWCESTER/Nene, canal, Castlethorpe – holes in the ice job: Tosh Saunders 1-11 (one perch), Mick Goodridge 0-8, Les Goodridge and Brian Ayliff both 0-2-8.

● A HANDFULL of Flore & Brockhall's hardiest and finest 'ice fished' the canal where two had a dozen tiny roach each before their swims died and they worked out it was best to pack up and go home.

● The Angling Trust has circulated a newspaper report on a university study apparently claiming that so many Londoners are on coke that 'by products' getting into the Thames are making its eels hyper! Could something similar account for local otters having a definite 'attitude'...? See MKAA facebook page for a link ■



■ JOHN Maher with yet another lure-caught 'Ashby perch



■ ADAM Jenkins had this 28-11 just before Stanwick iced-over