



Late spree by a tree

PAUL FREEMAN finished his season in style with a trip to Berkshire's River Loddon for this monstrous 8 lb 4 oz chub along with a 13 lb 8 oz barbel.

The local angler had endured a blank day but his luck changed when he decided to spend the evening in a swim with an overhanging tree on the far bank.

Paul revealed: 'It took me several attempts to get my bait where I wanted it and I thought I'd spooked all the fish in the river. But I didn't have to wait long and was into a good fish and eventually landed a monster barbel.'



Paul Freeman is a weekly Fox winner with this superb 8 lb 4 oz River Loddon chub

'I left the swim to recover for 30 minutes before recasting the bait to the same spot and within ten minutes the tip went round and I had the chub.'

As we round up the last of the river whoppers in this week's issue, Paul nets a weekly Fox Specimen Cup award of a Fox Evolution X Rig and Bait Carryall worth £79.99, plus a cheque for £50.

Six of the best!

Dr MARK EVERARD enjoyed some super river redfin action again during the season just finished. And as the term drew to a close he spent a day on a Bristol Avon tributary near his Wiltshire home for this bag of six 2 lb-plus roach.

Mark tempted these crackers scaling 2 lb 10 oz, 2 lb 8 oz, 2 lb 7 oz, 2 lb 5 oz, 2 lb 1 oz, 2 lb and 1 lb 14 oz, plus some smaller fish, when he feeder fished bread flake.



It's not often you see one 2 lb roach let alone SIX! Dr Redfin, Mark Everard, was very happy with this perfect half dozen specimens

SUPER student Adam Richards celebrates after winning the season-long Angler's Mail Kamasan Matchman of the Year title. The Billingham Teesside 20-year-old is the youngest ever winner of the competition



He's the youngest ever Matchman of the Year!

PAUL DENNIS reports

NORTH EAST student Adam Richards is the youngest ever winner of the *Angler's Mail* Kamasan Matchman of the Year title, after a nail biting final day of the season.

The Teesside 20-year-old, who is sponsored by Bag 'Em Baits, overtook long time leader Gary Skerritt in two matches on the penultimate weekend of the season, scoring seven points to move to 35 for the season, three ahead of Gary.

Adam Richards, Gary Skerritt and Andy Dargue were all in contention with just one scoring opportunity left, but none of the title hopefuls scored on a windy final Saturday of the season.

Boston-based Steve Winter had dropped out of the title picture, after failing to pick up points on the penultimate weekend, meaning that Adam had moved five points ahead of him - more than Steve could make up in one match.

The main focus was at Blundells Fishery in Cheshire, where the top two went head to head, after being drawn just two pegs away from each other.

There were many twists and turns before the title was finally settled, with winner Adam Richards picking up £2,000 and

the coveted *Angler's Mail* Kamasan Matchman of the Year trophy, and Gary Skerritt having the consolation of a £1,000 cheque to come from the 'free to enter' sponsors, Kamasan.

■ Read the full story in page 66.

IAN WELCH weekly advice

CARP: still feeding hard and with waters warming rapidly look out for chances off the surface.

PERCH: post-spawning fish will be looking to feed hard with lobs floatfished on the shallows likely to score.

SILVER BREAM: there's localised distribution of this species but if you are close to a fishery holding them pole fished red maggots will produce.

TIP! Increased water temperatures mean it's time to bring oil-rich halibut pellets into play both as loose feed and as hook baits, but be careful, and keep it light and tight to start with.



THIS WEEK'S FORECAST

It will be a fair bit colder this week, more like the temperatures that we'd expect for March, with highs of 11 degrees and lows of three. There will be some rain about and a chance of some sleet or snow in some parts of the country towards the weekend.

The wind will mainly be from the north-west. Best fishing dates according to www.noconstrike.co.uk are March 24, 25, 26 and 27.

Matchmail

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Angler's Mail
OUR EXPERTS

This week's Angler's Mail panel is...

SECTION EDITOR
Paul Dennis
020 31484164
e-mail: paul_dennis@ipcmedia.com

Denick Palmer
WEST MIDLANDS
07957 983161
e-mail: d.palmer4@btinternet.com

Ron Cousins
WALES
01291 420001 or 07831 242820
e-mail: ronandcarolinecousins@
dial.pipex.com

Tony Keeling
MIDLANDS
01785 257416
e-mail: tonykeeling.angling@
ntlworld.com

Ken Rolfe
ANGLIA
01371 874357
or 07764 958447

Dave Houghton
NORTH WEST
00353 71 9642743
or 00353 86 8054606
e-mail: dave@letterfine.com

Daren Starkey
NORTH EAST
01757 289116
e-mail: daren.starkey@
dsl.pipex.com

Andy Love
LONDON & WEST HOME COUNTIES
01932 341210

Andy Ashdown
SOUTH HOME COUNTIES
01797 280180
e-mail: fisheryidenwood@
tiscali.co.uk

Roger Baker
SOUTH WEST
01736 787455 07766 930909
e-mail: Rodger13@o2.co.uk

The student prince

KAMASAN
Matchman of the Year

IT'S TIME! Newly crowned Angler's Mail Kamasan Matchman of the Year Adam Richards gives the coveted trophy a big cuddle after tiring his swimming to perfection.

ADAM RICHARDS has become the youngest ever winner of the Angler's Mail Kamasan Matchman of the Year title after snatching victory on the last full weekend of the season.

The Teeside 20-year-old has been among the pack chasing leader Gary Skerritt since last summer, but he left it until this month to bag seven points in one weekend and roar into the lead.

None of the front runners scored on a windy final Saturday of the season at Blundells Fishery in Cheshire, meaning the coveted title and trophy was on its way to the North East town of Billingham.

University student Adam, who has just been signed by Maver Barnsley Blacks, was chauffeured the 140 miles to the final contest by his match-fishing father, who is his regular traveling companion to opens.

And the tension on 'Super Saturday' increased, as Adam drew just two pegs away from main rival and former winner Gary Skerritt (Pickering's Garbolino).

Adam endured a nail-biting start to the match when Gary looked like running away with the competition and wiping out his three-point lead.

But the difficult conditions kept them both out of the points winning places, and before long, out-going champ Neil Machin was fetching the famous trophy out of the back of his van and a few mischievous bystanders were calling for the customary ducking.

"Gary had a carp first chuck and then another second chuck and I thought "this is not good," said Adam, 'but that was it.

"Conditions were bad, as it was really windy, blowing into our faces and slightly across, and we couldn't fish to the bars where we wanted to be.

"Before long everyone was walking about, but I just sat there and wished it would finish.

"Gary ended up with 15 lb and I had 9 lb, but all the time I was thinking if he catches five or six in the last hour he could still do it, because 30 lb was second and second place would

“Gary had a carp first chuck, and then another second chuck, and I thought: 'this is not good.'”

Adam Richards



have been enough to beat me.

'I wasn't wishing for bad weather so I could hang on to my lead; I'd rather have been able to fish properly, because I knew I was never going to have a better chance to win it.

'I'd spent all the day before getting ready, and had even switched venues from Brookside to Blundells, which I had never fished before, when I knew Gary Skerritt was going there, so that we would be on the same venue for the last match.

'After the whistle, people came and shook my hand and said well done, and there was a bottle of champagne to go with the photos.

'I let my mum know and I think she rang everyone she knew as soon as she found out.

'A few people wanted to throw me in, but it's about 10 ft deep at Blundells so it was a bit too much, though I had been warned to take some spare clothes.'

Adam's dad, Steve, drove him home, which took until 9pm and then he went out with his friends to celebrate, getting in at 3.30am.

Adam was booked into a match at his nearest venue, Woodlands Lakes, at Thirsk, the next day, so he was off again at 8.30am to fish a 69-peg open, which he won with 60-0-0 but picked up no points as the season had ended.

'Woodlands is my usual venue and I scored 18 of my points there, so a lot of people congratulated me,' said Adam, who will be banking rather than spending his £2,000 cheque, as he is on a limited student budget.

'The past few years I've scored a few points in the competition and had some good results. Last year I had 28 points, which put me about 12th over all.

'But going into the final weekend I felt there was no pressure on me because it was down to everyone else to catch me. I didn't have a lot to do, so that made it a lot easier.'

Gary Skerritt was magnanimous in defeat, saying: 'I always knew that a dark horse could come up on the inside, but for it to happen so close to the end of the season was a bit of a gutter!'

Anyway, as I have won the title previously, it's a little bit easier to swallow. The harsh winter has put paid to me picking up any sort of a run and it was always going to be a tall order to hold on for so long with just 32 points!



ABOVE: A flying start by Adams closest rival, Gary Skerritt, had Adam asking for divine intervention



RIGHT: Gary won the head-to-head, but this 15lb net wasn't enough to get him the points he needed

Winner's dedication

WITH so much at stake there was a poignant end to the match, won by Barry Bush (Wallasey Tackle Box) from a relatively sheltered peg in a corner of the back Pine Lake.

Barry started with a feeder and tamed five small carp before switching to short pole at just four metres to find lots of small barbel on maggot, resulting in a top weight of 39-8-0.

'I'd like to dedicate this win to my mother and my 14-year-old daughter, both of who passed away within two days of each other just before Christmas as a result of cancer,' said Barry.

| KAMASAN MONEY WINNERS TOP TEN DECIDED BY PLACINGS | |
|---|---|
| (Please note, all results are subject to re-scrutiny) | |
| 35 ADAM RICHARDS (Garbolino Elton Bag'em Baits) £2,000 | 26 JAMIE HUGHES (Chester Tackle Locker) £450 |
| 32 GARY SKERRITT (Pickering's Garbolino) £1,000 | 25 TIM BELL (Langwith) £400 |
| 31 ANDY DARGUE (Team Browning Quaker) £800 | 25 KEITH MITCHELL (Selby) £350 |
| 30 STEVE WINTER (Garbolino Harrison's Lincs County) £600 | 24 JON ARTHUR (Shakespeare) £300 |
| | 24 RICHARD YATES (Ted Carter Southport) £250 |
| | 23 WILLIAM RAISON (Daiwa Dorking) £200 |



The fabulous Bag'em boys: Outgoing Angler's Mail Kamasan Matchman of the Year Neil Machin hands over the trophy to Adam Richards

| Angler's Mail Kamasan Matchman of the Year as at March 202009 | |
|--|---|
| 35 ADAM RICHARDS (Garbolino Elton Bag'em Baits). | GARY MUMBY (Hayfield); MARK TAYLOR (Shakespeare); GLEN THORNE (Bromages); SEAN ASHBY (Maver). |
| 32 GARY SKERRITT (Pickering's Garbolino). | 16 IAN BATES (Hirst Tackle); ROBIN CAVE (Oxford); JOHN CYROWSKI (Barlby Village Stores); MATT HERBERT (Drennan Oxford); PAUL HILLER (Daiwa Dorking); ANTHONY KING (Dynamite Middy); GLEN LAWRENCE (Maver Barnsley); ROLY MCENEANEY (Shakespeare); RICHARD YATES (Ted Carter Southport). |
| 31 ANDY DARGUE (Team Browning Quaker). | 15 STEVE ASHWORTH (Fox Match North West); PAUL BICK (Shakespeare); STEVE CLARK (Maver Image Van den Eynde); GARY MILLER (Van den Eynde Essex); STEVE HEMINGRAY (Daiwa Dorking); DENIS WHITE (Maver Barnsley). |
| 30 STEVE WINTER (Garbolino Harrison's Lincs County). | 14 PHIL AUSTIN (Barlby Village Stores); ANDREW BRADLEY (Gomersal); LEWIS BREEZE (Sensas North West); STEVE CARRIER (St. Helens); IAN DIXON (Preston Innovations Delcac); BEN FISK (Middy); DEREK GLADWIN (Preston Innovations Delcac); PAUL GLENFIELD (Browning Banbury Gunsmiths); JOFFE HEWITT (Sensas Mark One); ROGER HOLMES (Garbolino Elton); MATT MCDERMOTT (Maver); MATT SMITH (West Midlands); JAMIE WILDE (Barnsley); MATT HALL (Ultima); ANDY MOORS (Garbolino Bag'em Baits). |
| 26 JAMIE HUGHES (Chester Tackle Locker). | 21 SIMON PREECE (Mohmar); TREVOR ROBINSON (Mosella Garbolino); ROGER WAKENSHAW (Collingham). |
| 25 TIM BELL (Langwith); KEITH MITCHELL (Selby). | 20 JAMES DENT (Daiwa Cleveland Angling); CRAIG TURBITT (Wibsey Sensas). |
| 24 JON ARTHUR (Shakespeare); RICHARD YATES (Ted Carter Southport). | 19 EDDIE BRIDON (Team Browning Quaker); ADAM ROONEY (Kamasan Starlets). |
| 23 WILLIAM RAISON (Daiwa Dorking). | 18 ANDY BENNETT (Stalybridge); ANDY BILLINGTON (Drennan North West); ANTHONY FLINT (Farnborough Juniors); MARC JONES (Worms UK); WARREN MARTIN (Sensas Barford Tackle); DAVE POLLITT (Hirst Tackle); DES SHIPP (Daiwa Dorking); SIMON BESWICK (Todmorden). |
| 22 CHRIS HILL (Mosella). | 17 DAN ASHINGTON (Kamasan Starlets); JULIAN GRIFFIN (Beverley); ANDY MAY (Ultima Mosella); |