



Ludlow's Isla Rowntree, centre, with Maddi Smith, left, and Alison Kinloch



Ewan Grivell-Mellor makes the mud fly as he competes at Shrewsbury

Ace dace haul – anglers land their Quarry

THE SEVERN at Shrewsbury is in tremendous form at present and produced two superb match results, writes Malcolm Kelly.

The first of the December events showed that dace are packing into the Quarry length when Aidey Piggott (Degg's) took top spot with 43-9-0 at peg 56.

Like most of the many double-figure bags, Piggott's catch came to whip and maggot tactics.

Darren Frost (Tricast Weston) pressed hard, ending on 41-6-0 at peg 50.

Steve Maher (SM Floats) also beat the 40lbs mark with 40-12-0 at peg 55.

The contest held last Saturday surpassed even that standard, and the top two both smashed the long-standing venue match record.

Whip and maggot dominated again and the winner this time was Ian Ward (ABC Baits) with a terrific 52-11-0 at peg 42. Yet that gave him only three ounces to spare over Clive Wynn.

Wynn had 52-8-0 from peg 55, and was chased hard by Scott Geens (Preston Innovations) whose third-placed 47-15-0 came from peg 46.

If you fancy fishing dace for pleasure, day tickets are available in advance from Total Angling. Day tickets can be bought on the bank but cost more.

Entry to the open matches is again through Total Angling; call 01743 462699.

Fluctuating temperatures are not helping fish to settle into a regular feeding pattern, leading to some wide variations in match weights.

This was seen in the

ANGLING

Wednesday open at Boldings. Peg 13 on the Sycamore Pool yielded 47-9-0 to the maggot bait of Graham Palmer (Fitters) who netted carp to 6lbs.

Dave Brown (Maver) was on the other 'point' peg, number eight, and used maggot and bread to catch carp to 5lbs on his way to 28-9-0. At peg 47, 18-7-0 was enough to give third to Tony Foster (PI Boldings).

The Beech Pool was more consistent on Thursday when Dave Brown moved up to first. He was on peg 26, and found carp to 6lbs, putting 67-9-0 on the scales for victory.

Andy Williams (Vespe) finished one fish behind at peg 16 with 62-14-0 of carp to 5lbs. Phil Foster (PI Bold) took over third from brother Tony by scaling 51-9-0 at peg five.

On Saturday the top weight was 36-5-0 by Andy Kyte (Middle Severn Angling) on peg 23, working maggot to pick up carp to 5lbs. Opposite him on peg seven, Marshall Sherwood (PI Bold) had carp to 4lbs for 29-10-0 and second. Russ Allen (Oswestry) was third with 23-15-0 at peg 26.

Winner Ian is the class of the Field

CYCLO-CROSS

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CONSISTENT duo Ian Field and Hannah Payton both showed their class with impressive victories in the fifth and final round of the British Cycling National Trophy Cyclo-cross Series.

The stars of the sport descended on the Shrewsbury Sports Village for the second time this year on Sunday as Mid Shropshire Wheelers staged the event.

It followed the memorable weekend in January when the club's dedicated band of volunteers hosted the British National Championships.

Organiser Dave Mellor stressed that a tremendous team effort behind the scenes ensured that the latest high-profile cycling event to come to Shrewsbury proved another huge success.

He was pleased that a trio of Olympians took part in the elite men's race, with triple Olympian Liam Killeen, who finished as runner-up to Field, lining up against Grant Ferguson, who represented Team GB in mountain biking in Rio recently, and Nick Craig, who competed in Sydney.

Wonderful

Mellor said he received plenty of positive feedback from competitors, officials and spectators who enjoyed their quick return visit to the Sundorne venue.

He added: "It was a really good event, a stress-free day and we had a wonderful bunch of volunteers who helped make sure everything ran smoothly."

"The reaction from the riders was absolutely fantastic and the international commissaire was enthusing about the event."

"There were some really good races and Ian Field just blew everyone away in the senior race."

"He was incredible and has certainly laid down a marker for the National Championships in Bradford next month."

"But it was also very nice to see three Olympians competing in the same race in Shrewsbury – and that underlines the quality of the event."

"The course was muddy in parts after the rain that came on Saturday."

"Ian Field said he changed his bike every lap, whereas in Shrewsbury in January the riders were changing every half-lap. Changing every lap isn't too bad."

Field, who arrived as series leader, domi-



Wheel-to-wheel action in the men's veterans' event

nated the elite race to seal his third successive series triumph, finishing well clear of runner-up Killeen.

In the women's race, Payton prevailed in fine style, attacking early on the opening lap and never looking back to wrap up her series victory in style.

In the other races, Nick Craig won his fourth round of the series to secure the veterans 40-49 National Trophy Series, with the over-50s veterans race won by Pete Middleton, who also won the series overall.

In the veterans women's race, Maddi Smith took her third win of the series,

but it was Isla Rowntree, from Ludlow, who came out on top for the series. Smith finished second overall and Alison Kinloch third.

The junior men's race was won by Thomas Mein, with Sam Moses the overall victor of the series.

At under-16 boys level the race was won by Charlie Craig, clinching his first series title in the process.

Harriet Harnden completed a clean sweep of five round wins and the overall series title in the under-16 girls.

In the under-14 category, Joe Kiely won his second race of the series, but Finlay



It's a muddy day's work out on the course



Nicholas Scott (yellow) in the veterans' race

Pickering was the overall winner. In the under-14 girls, Anna Wadsworth won her first round of the series, but Millie Couzens kept her white jersey and took the overall honours.

Of the local entrants from Mid Shropshire Wheelers, Shrewsbury's Ewan Grivell-Mellor, 18, finished 28th in the elite men's race, coming eighth in the under-23 category.

Mid Shropshire Wheelers was also represented in the under-14s, with Wem youngster Ryan Greaves 31st in the boys race and Shrewsbury's Daphne Jones 18th in the girls event.

Close finish, but Haldron swoops at the Hawk Pool

THE Hawk Pool at Monkhall gave a good tight frame on Saturday when Leon Haldron (Sensas Strike) won by less than a pound with a weight of 88-12-0.

Haldron fished waggler and maggot at peg 13, to catch carp to 4lbs and F1s to 2lbs.

Callum Shepherd (Sensas Strike) went for a pellet approach at 16 metres to take a similar stamp of fish for his runner-up 87-15-0 at peg 18. Third went to Mitch Davidson (Monkhal/OAC) who had 75-11-0 on maggot at 13 metres at peg 10.

Individual winner of the first round of the Winter Pairs at Monkhall was Dave Parry (Decca AC) with a waggler and maggot catch of 115-5-0, which was made up with carp to 5lbs and F1s to 3lbs at peg 14 on the Hawk Pool.

Second and third also came from the Hawk, with Andy Welding (Sensas Strike) runner-up with another waggler and maggot based net. He was on peg one and weighed in 89-6-0 of carp to 4lbs and F1s to 3lbs. Third at peg 12 was Morgan Davidson (Monkhal/OAC) with 78-7-0 taken on maggot over pellet at 17.5 metres.

Dave Parry and Kev Hayes finished equal on points with Steve Owen and Paul Hemming. But with Hayes adding the top weight from the Lark Pool, 50-15-0 to the 115-4-0 by his partner, they took top pairs place with three points and an aggregate weight of 166-4-0.

Owen and Hemming finished on three points and

ANGLING

92-1-0, and third were Andy Welding and Ben Stanford on four points and 136-10-0.

Peg 29 at Aston Eyre benefited from the fish being shoaled up in front of the peg in the frosty weather and produced the winner on both days of the first weekend of the month.

The Saturday open saw Darren Cole (Excelsior) double the runner-up weight when he won with 43-4-0. Fellow Excelsior rod Jason Astle netted 20-2-0 for second at peg 12 and at peg 14 John Watkins (DBL) had 17-12-0 in third.

On Sunday Dave Oliver (DBL) drew 29 and won with 35-4-0, ahead of Rob McKee (Pole Pushers) on 23-2-0 at peg 14 and Mark Jones (Little Dawley) on 18-6-0 at peg 13.

On Sunday this week peg 14 brought the winner, Neil Kramer (DBL) recording 71-13-0 despite losing five good carp on the overflow.

Gordon Heritage (Excelsior) was on the next peg, 15 where 35-4-0 gave him second, just ahead of the 33-0-0 by Carl Hamer (Little Dawley) at peg 30.