

# Carp race is on for £10K jackpot

**BEN WEIR** reports

**T**HE big money British Carp Angling Championships is underway at popular venues around the country, and some whackers have already set the pace in winning hauls.

The opening two heats of the pairs contest, now in its 11th year and sponsored by Korda, have taken place and there are 14 more sell-outs leading to the £10,000 jackpot final at Broadlands Lakes, Hampshire.

North-easterly winds and cold rain greeted the competitors at both Farlows Lake, Iver, Buckinghamshire and Cuttle Mill, Wishaw, Warwickshire. The going was tough for virtually the whole 48 hours of the matches.

Cuttle Mill competitors fared best, with the top spot changing on several occasions.

Catches included two fine fish over 30 lb - a

mighty 34 lb 6 oz mirror to the rods of Jamie Simpson and a 30 lb 5 oz sample to Scott Day.

The Cuttle Mill match ended with local boys Mark Johnson and Rob Jennings first with 162 lb 14 oz, and Dan Gould and Adam Lowebridge (Ilkeston) second on 136 lb 12 oz.

That late 34 lb 6 oz mirror helped Jamie Simpson, with partner Jason Allaway, land the third qualifying spot with 117 lb 9 oz.

Quest Baits consultant Jamie told *Angler's Mail*: 'I have fished Cuttle Mill on a few occasions but have never done any lengthy sessions on there.

'For the big one I used Quest Baits Surf and Turf boilie to a silty patch at 25 yards.

'We got to the semis last year but the venue turned off. If it (Watermark Fisheries, Gloucestershire) fishes well this time then I am pretty confident we can make the final. Then it's

down to the luck of the draw,' added Jamie, from Nottingham.

Though an impressive catch, Jamie's biggie isn't the heaviest ever caught in the history of Carp Champs matches. Will O'Flynn holds that honour for banking Walthamstow Reservoir's Big Common at 40 lb-plus - twice!

Meanwhile, at Farlows, within earshot of the M25 motorway, the bigger carp hugged the islands and all three of the top placed qualifiers came from this area. Dan Farey and James Griffin (Cheltenham) were first with 89 lb 3 oz, Mark Jarvis and Jay Vaughan (Witney) second with 67 lb 10 oz and Dave Forward and Darren Stevens (Heathfield) third on 62 lb 13 oz.

■ Venue latests: 01753 630302 (Cuttle Mill) and 01827 872253 (Farlows). For more info on the competition visit [www.britishcarpchamps.co.uk](http://www.britishcarpchamps.co.uk)



**NICE ONE, PAL!** Jason Allaway (left) looks on delightedly after his fishing partner Jamie Simpson's 34 lb 6 oz mirror carp won them through the British Carp Champs qualifier at Cuttle Mill in the West Midlands.