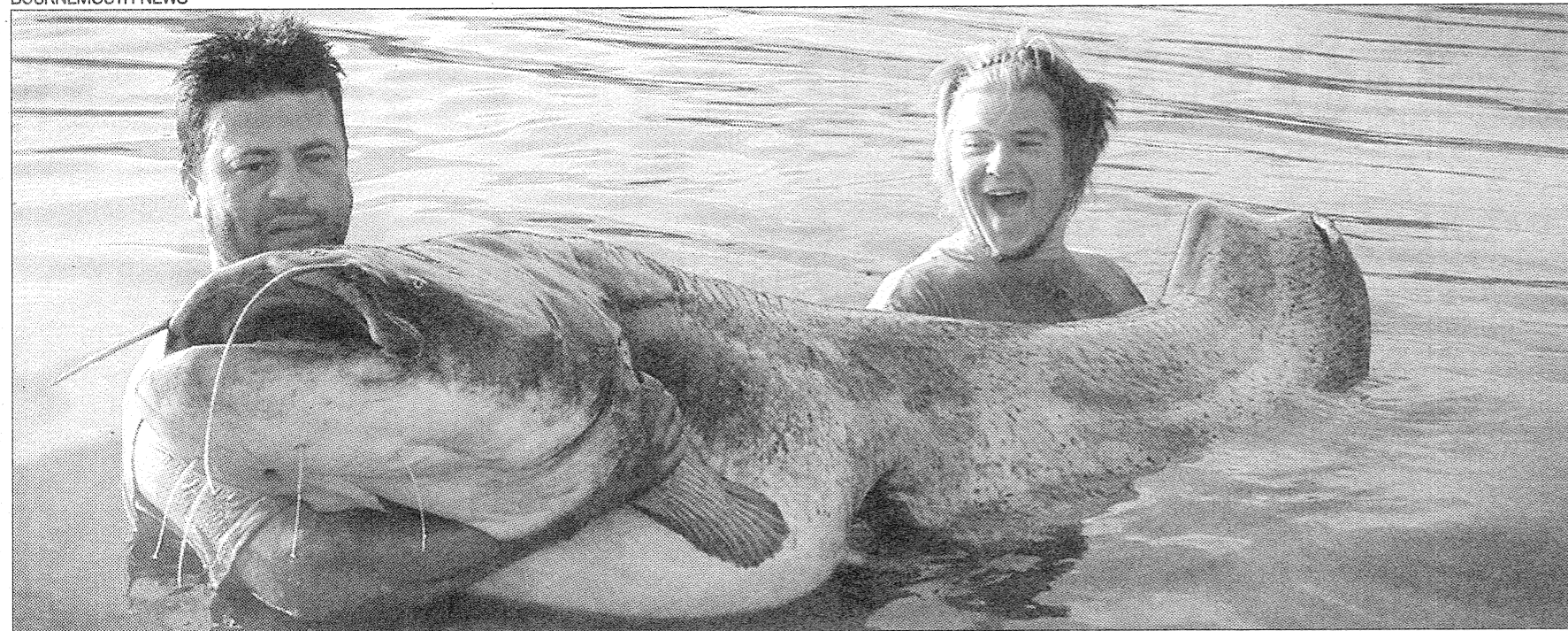


BOURNEMOUTH NEWS



Catch is off the scale

BRITISH anglers are celebrating after landing a giant catfish (a Correspondent writes). It took five men to land the fish, which weighed 15st, 1lb and 4oz (96kg) — the biggest fresh water fish caught by a British angler. The 7ft 7in (2.3m) female also broke the record for a Spanish catch as it was pulled out of a lake near Barcelona, to which it was later returned.

Duncan Rooke, 30, of Woking, Surrey, far left, said: "She took the line and just kept on going. When it ran out she dragged me off the bank and

on to the rocks but luckily I managed to stop myself." The anglers caught it on a fishing expedition to the River Ebro.

Stephen Buss, 30, of Bordon, Hampshire, left, who helped to land it, said: "We knew she was going to be big when the rod bent over double, but it was only when she surfaced that we realised she was a bit of a monster."

Simon Clarke, of the International Game Fishing Association, said: "The UK record for a fresh water fish is 130lb [9st] so this is easily the biggest caught by a British angler."