

# Talking Carp

ISSUE 8 October 2016



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**Cover picture - Tony Strevens with a French Beast**

Hello and welcome to issue 8. We really are getting there now aren't we...

Going great guns and it is all thanks to you, the readers and the writers. We thank you for your kind words and comments we get for each and every issue and we really appreciate the retweets and likes and shares we get on the social media platforms. Great job guys... Keep those shares going!

Now, this month has seen the carp world properly rocked and we have seen the carp family split wholly in 2. It hasn't been pretty to watch, and to be fair it has been quite disturbing but that is one side of the story we will not get into. At the end of the day, a carp has been caught at a colossal weight of 70lb 4oz by an angler who paid his money and cast a rig out. Well done Tom Doherty...you will not beat that PB for a while!!

We have another great issue for you this month with plenty of stories, tales, tips and advice to pick up on. Last month's voucher winners are revealed inside.... Is it YOU?

And now... Autumn is upon us and the carp will start going on the hard feed very very soon so we wish you all the very best of luck in your fishing adventures and remember to keep those pictures and stories coming.

All the best...  
Team Talking Carp.

Email [brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk](mailto:brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk)

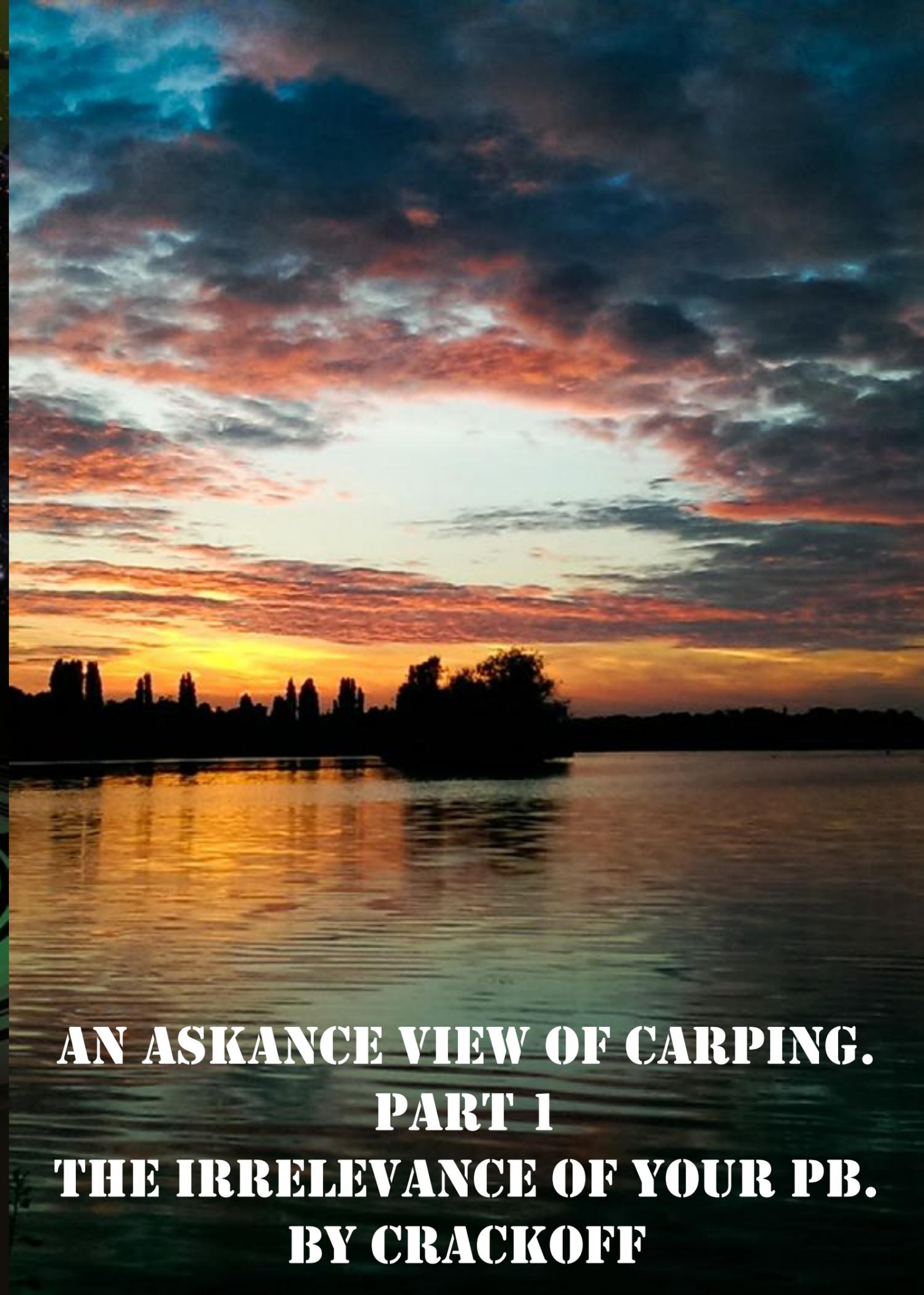


THE BEST ALARMS?



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**AN ASKANCE VIEW OF CARPING.  
PART 1  
THE IRRELEVANCE OF YOUR PB.  
BY CRACKOFF**

Many moons ago, I asked myself a question...

What is the point of having a PB?

At first the answer appears quite simple; it's a record of your Personal Biggest fish... but why? On its own, a simple weight of pounds and ounces means nothing.

Pounds and ounces are just a figure used to give us a guide, but that guide has nothing to do with merit, and everything to do with a postcode lottery.

For instance, who here has the better PB? One has a 20lb PB, and one has a 42lb PB? Taking those two figures at face value, the 42 has far more merit, and that's my point, all it is, is a weight that says nothing about the fish, the lake, the area, or the country, and least of all, it says nothing about the angler. Yet we would all as carp anglers feel that the angler with the 42lb carp

as his PB has far more knowledge and ability than the one with the 20lb PB. So, given the over simplified account above, which is the better angler? And more importantly, who has the better PB? Taking it a step further, if you fished around



deepest darkest Wales, you're 14 years old, can only spend the money you get from a paper round, and the only lake within peddle bike distance only holds fish to 22lb, has your PB of 20lb any less merit than someone who is 40 years old, drives everywhere, has plenty of money to join the best syndicates, and fishes a lake with 3 fifties in it, and has a PB

of 42lb? A little more information about the capture has changed everything; it's a lot more even now. So what happens if I were to elaborate more? The kid has been fishing for two years, and has taken his small lake apart in the last year,

catching 20 of the 25 carp that live there and there are only 2x20's and 3 lower doubles that he has left to catch out of there. The 40-year-old has fished this quite hard syndicate for the last ten years,

has been carping for 25 years, and his previous PB was 25lb before catching the 42, which came on his third visit to his syndicate, and he has only had one other bite from there. But he doesn't care, because that's where all his mates fish, and he can have a good jolly up on the bank around a BBQ whilst sinking some tins and singing late into the night



with his buddies. So now, which is the better angler? And more importantly, who has the better PB?

So, is it time to do away with the whole PB thing? Or maybe, just change our mind-set? See, after I had asked myself that question, and reasoned it through, I realised that my own personal catches were not really comparable to anything that 99.9% of anglers were doing. Chasing 30 carp around in 300 acres of water isn't something that the normal angler does, and when you're told by big names that a 20 out of there is like a 50 from any other water in Britain, it sort of skews your view a bit.

As a result, I changed how I thought of PB's. It was a simple change, and something I am glad I did, if for no other reason, than to be a bit more concise about my personal targets, and achievements. That simple change was to drop the "Biggest" from PB, and replace it with "Best". To some that may seem the same thing, but



if I told you that since 2007, my PB has been a 25lb carp from that 300 acre water, and that it cost me dearly in time and effort over three years of carping, was my first bite from the lake, and means more to me than any 40 or 50 I've ever had from anywhere else, then I'm sure you'll see what I mean. I have since had carp up to 39lb 12oz from the water, but that 25lb carp broke down a barrier, it made me believe that I could achieve my aims on the water, and that the carp in there were actually catchable. One thing that has come out of the original PB meaning is that it has taken a bit of the edge away from

the "Personal" part. Whenever PB's are mentioned, they are instantly measured against everyone else's PB, and nearly always in the manner described above, with none of the relevant information being asked for, or given. I know I still do it, unintentionally and subconsciously, but it still happens, and it still gives me an, all too often wrong, impression of someone. We all know there is a certain amount of snobbery in carp fishing... "My PB is bigger than your PB",

"Your PB doesn't count because it was from a mud puddle" etc. etc. etc. But what if your biggest carp happens to come from your one visit to that "mud puddle"??? should you simply say that you didn't catch it, just so you don't look like you are a regular visitor to stock ponds? What if the only water you have time, or transport to get to, is that mud puddle??? I know I've had times in my life when have had the choice of either fishing a stock pond, or not fishing at all... and I know I'd rather be

fishing than sat at home. But by simply changing the "Biggest" to the "Best" you can alleviate most of the snobbery involved around the PB question... I say "most" because there will always be one or two who will dissect everything, and find holes so they can feel better, and then, there's always me, because unless you PB is from a 300-acre lake, with just 30 carp in it, and you've had to do all the work yourself because there is no-one else there to help you, then your PB is rubbish, and mine is far superior.

Tight lines,  
and stop taking it all so seriously...

Crackoff,



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Winter Social by  
Scott "Geezer" Grant



**GALAXY  
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# Winter Social by Scott "Geezer" Grant

After my successful session on Churchwood I was looking forward to the winter social with lifelong friends Steve, Rob and Pete. We looked at a few lakes and settled on Bayeswater Day ticket lake.

Steve and Rob live up north in Yorkshire so for them it was a 3hr plus drive. We met up in a lay-by on the A12 then they followed us down to the lake.

As it was Sunday the weekly boot sale was on, but it wasn't a problem I just told the lady we were fishing the lake and she let us all straight through.

Once down at the lake we were all eager, like school kids on an outing, and from the moment we were out of our cars the banter started.

We had a walk around and settled on swims 9, 10, 11, 12. There were 4 other anglers on so social wise they were the only 4 swims together.

Steve picked 12, Rob 11 and Pete wanted 9 so that left me with 10, which to be honest any of them would have done me, it was a social not a competition. After a couple of hours, we were all set up and the only thing left to do was sort the rods.

Out in front I had depths to 10ft and I found a nice hard area no more than 10 wraps out. I fished 2 rods on the area and a 3rd

just down to my left in front of the reeds. Bait wise I was using the ever faithful Nut Job.

Rig wise was the 360 with components from Sharp Tackle a company whose products I have total faith in.

Once the baits were dipped I then cast them to the area and catapulted around 6 pouchfuls of mixed sized boilies

over the top of them. The left hand reed rod was fished medusa style with a big bunch of maggots.

With the rods sorted it was time to put the kettle on and severely take the piss out of the lads. It's at times like this when you really appreciate good friends. Mark the bailiff walked around and collected our money and told us that only a couple of fish had been out over the last week.

We were fishing for 3 nights which was plenty of time for us to catch up and hopefully have a few. The lake had been fishing quite well earlier on in the month but over the last week the temperature had really dropped. The first night was very quiet on the fish front, and after a superb curry my Mrs. had cooked up for us an early night was had by all. After a very cold night the morning was crisp and the fish were

showing, out in front. Steve Bugg the head bailiff came around and we chatted for ages, Steve has been at the lakes from the start and has a wealth of knowledge that he is always willing to share, a real top bloke and a credit to Bayeswater Fisheries.

No fish were caught that day and again the night was a cold one.

Even though we had a great laugh we were all saying it would be nice

for a fish to make an appearance, it wasn't until the afternoon of our final night that a fish did. I had just made a coffee for the lads and we were all sitting outside my bivvy when my right hand rod burst into life, it startled all of us but I was quickly on the rod and the fish was on, after a dogged battle and the fish wiping out Robs rods Steve slid the net under a nice plump mirror. She wasn't one of the A team but she was very welcome and at a respectable 23lb I was pleased as punch The Nut Job came good yet again. Buggy had just turned up for his afternoon rounds and assisted with the camera (Thanks Mate). After the photos she was treated then returned. The rod was rebaited, dipped then cast out to the area and a few pouchfuls of goodies were dispatched. That was the only fish caught but what a great social we had, lots of laughter and major amounts of banter.



Wednesday morning came and after the arduous task of packing up we said our goodbyes and made our way out of the gates and onto the motorway.

It was a few weeks later that my ticket on Bayeswater syndicate lake was starting and I couldn't wait to fish it. You will have to wait until next month to read all about it.

Good luck and if you're out on the bank take care and remember it's only fishing.

Scott "Geezer" Grant



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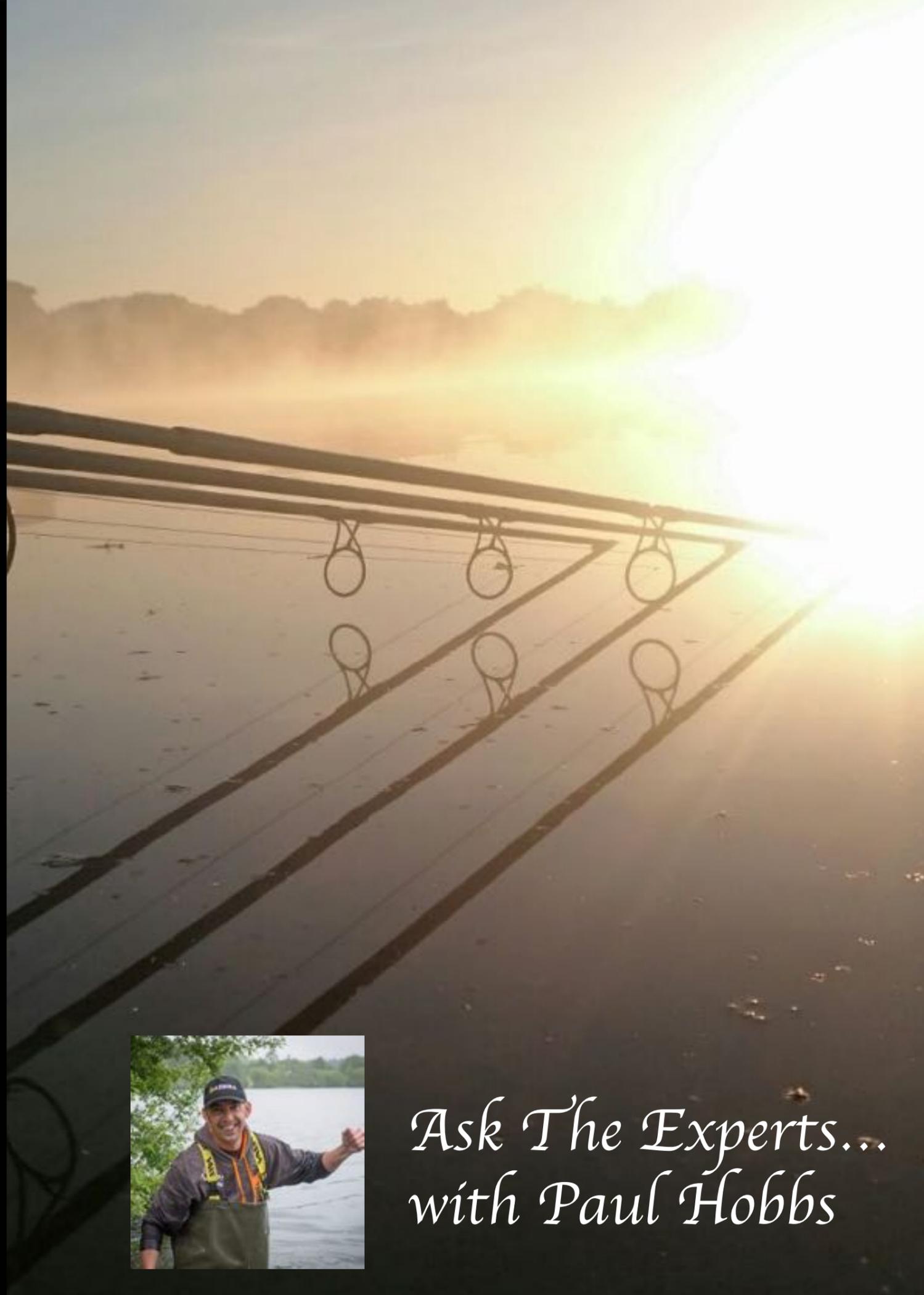
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Ask The Experts...  
with Paul Hobbs

Hello! As another month ticks by the nights will soon start to draw in followed by distinctive chilly mornings. This month's question comes in from @dezparsons01. He has asked about fishing a new water in Autumn and how to approach baiting and even where to fish.

I found myself in this situation last year. You cannot beat time on the bank and this is absolutely key, even if it's walking, looking or just keeping in touch with your new lake. It doesn't hurt to take a marker rod. I would be tempted to trickle some bait in in a westerly corner because this area is where the sun will hit the water first. A really good area to start with the warmth of the sun on the water in the morning. Most importantly on a new lake your eyes are your best asset. I tend to use a little note book, I will even draw a map of the swims i fish and I put my spots I am fishing each time. If I see fish show, even if they are not in my swim, I will mark down the area they were in. I will write down in my notebook if a fellow angler has had a fish or bite. I will also try to put a note of roughly where he is fishing too. This can pay dividends in the long run when fishing a new swim.

As far as bait and baiting approach, this is a truly difficult question to answer! As I don't know the lake you are fishing or its stock. For me I will fish for a bite at a time. If other anglers are really putting it in and catching this is when you know they are bait monsters! Stay mobile and try to get to as many swims as you can so that you can feel you are adding a few more pieces to the puzzle. Hopefully all your hard work in autumn and winter should pay you back in spades in the spring.

Thank you for your question.  
Keep them coming in...  
Until next time, be lucky.  
Paul "Hobbo" Hobbs



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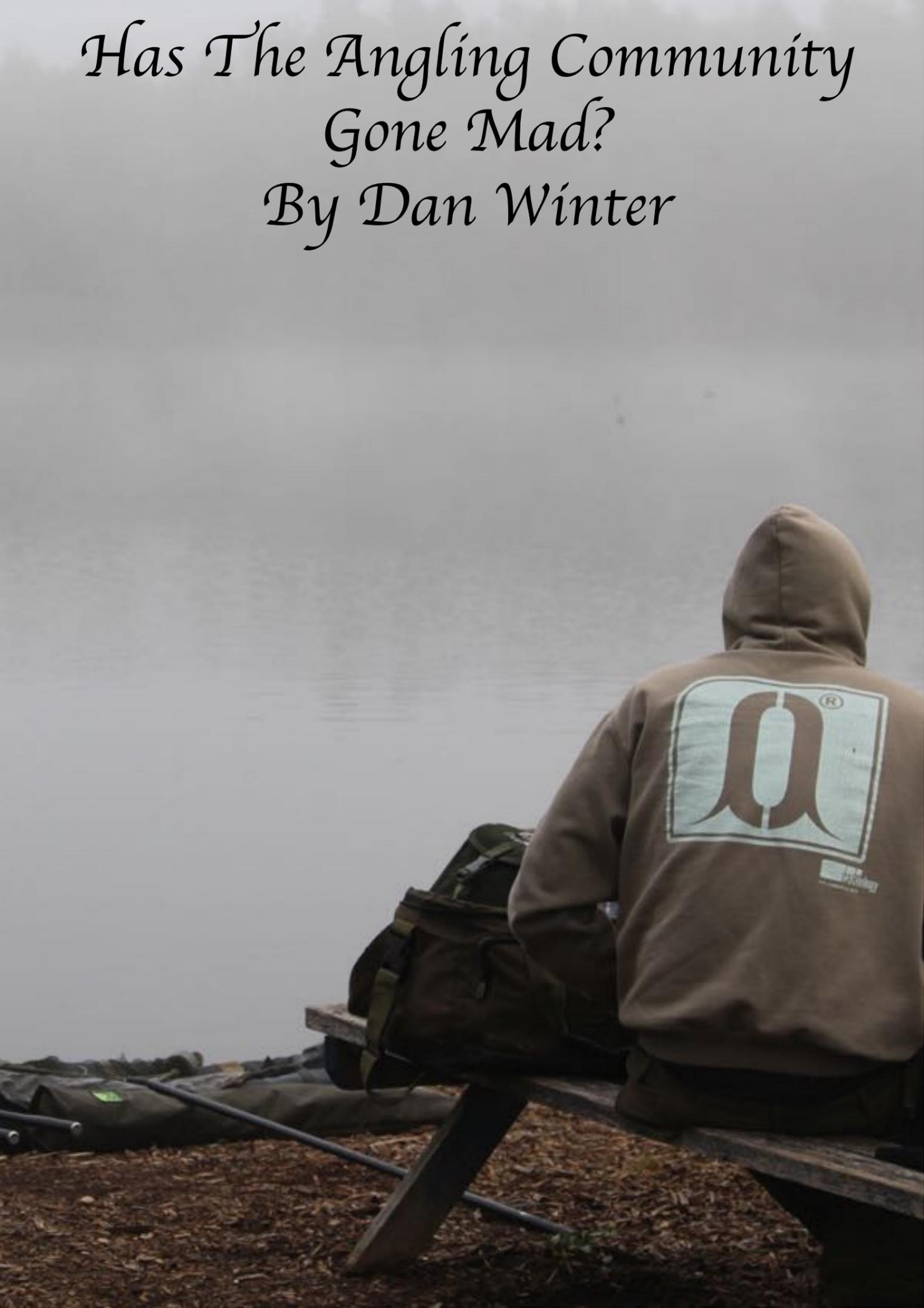
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The advertisement features a central logo for 'Bank Tackle' in a black oval, surrounded by colorful fishing floats (orange, yellow, red, green, white) and fishing hooks. Below the logo is the website URL. The middle section shows three anglers holding large carp fish, with various fishing tackle items like swivels, hooks, and lures arranged around them. At the bottom, there are social media icons for Facebook and Twitter, and a final call to action to visit the website.

# Has The Angling Community Gone Mad?

By Dan Winter



Well I don't know about the other articles this week; I imagine because I'm actually writing this a bit late due to a much needed a holiday! But allow me to be the first and by the sounds of it, the ONLY person in the angling community to congratulate Tom Doherty on his new UK record, a whopping 70lb! Who would have thought it!

The only thing I can't believe more than the size of that fish is how everyone's reacting. People are sending death threats to fellow angler over a fish? Come on, I know the fish is slightly controversial with its origin, but this is getting silly now. This is actually worse than that time a 10lb chub turned up in a lake and the course fishing community practically had a picket line outside the official office of records. Actually a guy I know quite well from my work with the angling trust, although given the

current situation I think I'll leave his name out, but he's a good guy and very knowledgeable and by the book.

Now I'm very much a traditionalist in the sense that I do prefer to catch the British born, natural, wild by nature, warrior carp. I think I speak for most carp anglers when I say we have the 'Passion for Angling' image of what carp fishing really means to us. There's something nostalgic about hiding ourselves in a quiet corner of a lake all to ourselves chasing carp. Carp that were naturally there, am I right? Well unfortunately boys and girls, that fishing scenario has been ruined, and we're all to blame I'm sorry to say.

Carp fishing has been sensationalised, marketed, shoved in front of the faces of millions and become a massive multi million-pound industry. An industry which I'm very much involved with, and get to watch the

seasons go by and the ever changing anglers that pass through this sport. It's all getting a little bit carried away. Now going back to the new record, personally if it's not a British bred, home grown, natural record, then to me It's not truly the British record. But ask yourself 'why there is a sudden influx of carp reaching super sizes?' Well as much as it pains me to say it, it's not just an increase in the quality and amount of bait going into our waters. Or the warming winters that have allowed our gravel pits to grow super amounts of weed providing a constant year round supply of food. Nope, I believe it's more down to DNA. And I don't mean the bait company! Years ago we had a phenomenal amount of fish smuggling, European fish put in our lakes, used in our hatcheries, and science has been well used in process of making fish larger than ever. It feels like it wasn't

that long ago a 40 or a 50 was considered the biggest carp in the country, and naturally speaking you'd be right. Although one of our previous 60's was originally a 'euro carp' and many anglers back then weren't happy about that. One of the more famous strains of carp the 'Simmo' wasn't exactly bred from a handpicked bunch of young fry from one of our previous giants like heather or black eye. Nope, they are genetically designed, selectively bred to grow fast and they are now everywhere. But it's not just simmos that are out there, there are many strains where that came from filtering through our lakes. But why? I bet you're wondering, why we persist on ruining our dream of catching naturally bred fish, under the mist of a sunny autumn morning wearing our woolly jumpers and braces. Money! That's why.

Money makes the world go around and this industry is literally bursting with it. We can't help ourselves can we? We have to go out and by all the latest gear, share it on Facebook, be signed by any no mark company that will have us. The idea of doing a quick overnighter without posting it on social media is almost as bad as not posting about you going to the gym. The carp fishing community is perpetually ruining the whole reason why most of us are out on the bank in the first place. My hat goes off to the underground anglers out there who do the time, still manage a life and a family, who get the great captures and still pay full price on their tackle, bait, and don't share photos on social media. In some ways me even writing this article makes me artificial, by spending my evening tapping away on a keyboard when I could actually be in the pub, or with my partner in bed

(don't worry, she'd only be watching EastEnders, don't get excited) but technically I'm just contributing to the problem. People shouldn't be going out of their way to send death threats to anglers that caught a fish, or was proud to catch a fish. At the end of the day we are fisherman, which means we go out to catch fish. I would place a hefty bet that most of you would have had your eyes light up at the idea of the free stuff and magazine time you'd get for catching that fish. We as anglers aren't here to question what is right and what is wrong with other peoples captures. It's for us to go and find a quiet spot on a lake, or river, and chase whatever fish it is you so desire to chase.

Moving on....

What's the best kind of music while you're fishing? A catchy one!

Sorry I'm terrible with jokes,

but I thought I'd lighten the mood after my rant. There is how ever some actual news on my part. I'll have to apologise since I just ranted about the state of fishing and plugging but since I'm quite keen on the development of products, I want to give you a quick bit off goss into a new product myself and Christian at BankBUG are bringing to you. We have two more products coming out that will both compliment your current set up. One of our newest products to be hitting the range will be a new addition to our backrests, adapting the already brilliant Rock Steady Backrest, and making a perfect add on to the system to support your rods in style and with more support. Baitcraft is also spreading its wings again with our new liquid robin red, one of the only company's in the country to be given what seems to be a fairly exclusive ingredient and now can be yours to

add to your boilies, your corn, pellet, pretty much whatever you choose. You can't go wrong with this stuff I promise you! Also for you Baitcraft lovers out there, we've finally done it! After many of you pestering us, and I mean pestering us, we have brought back the legendry winter bait 'Snowball' which will continue your success in the year right through the winter. If you have any doubt on the quality of the baits just speak to



our consultants like Sean Kelly, or Justin Grieg, they are both on Facebook and absolute carp catching machines. Last winter Sean took

apart the famous Abbey lakes complex in France on a winter stay you only read about it in magazines, and this year Justin has managed a whopping 40 30's! yes 40! Don't get me wrong he certainly has the waters at his disposal to do it, but there's having it, and doing it. Good luck in the next month with your fishing, and done forget to add find me on Facebook if you have any questions and I'll gladly answer.

'Gone fishing'  
Daniel Winter

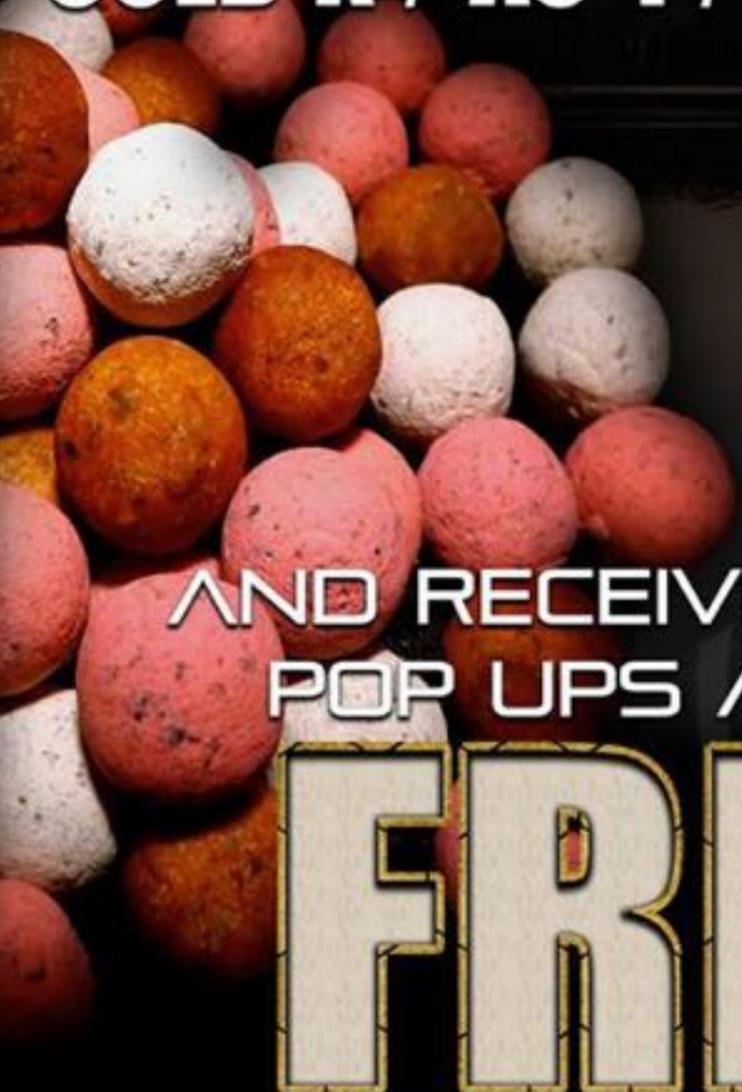
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Living The Dream  
part 2  
by Keith Moors

# Walking the walk

After the traumas of the move were over I decided to sit and diarise each step that we took towards our new life and this chapter and some of the others are taken from that diary and are therefore written in the present tense rather than the past.

It is now 21st December 2001 and I am sitting in a rented Gite on a farm in a village called Esbarres (pronounced Ezbar) in eastern Burgundy. We are about as ready as we could ever be in our adopted country, it is the shortest day of the year and our youngest daughter Sharon and her husband and daughter Bethany are due to be spending a week with us over the new year.

We actually completed, eventually, the sale of our house in England on 7th December, loaded up our Isuzu Trooper with our two Jack Russells, one Great Dane and a cat and headed off to deepest Kent to spend the night with Jan's Mum and to give ourselves time to say goodbye to her and Jan's brother and sister. I must admit that it also meant that we would escape any more gut-wrenching, tear jerking hugs from my wonderful daughters and grandchildren.



We had spent the evening of the 6th December in a restaurant just outside Bicester with our whole family. The meal was superb and the conversation somewhat convivial with many anecdotes about past times spent together.

However, as with all these wonderful get togethers, there came a time to leave and we all knew that the end of this evening would mark a massive change to our entire family. "Why oh why do I get us into these bloody situations?" - everything was going fine until my wife turned to say goodbye to our eldest daughter, Teresa. They both burst into tears and then both of our other daughters joined in so I also found it impossible to stop the tears from flowing. The farewell was absolutely horrendous and I did actually ask Jan if she would ever be able to forgive me for dragging her away from "her girls."

I have to say that, had she been strongly against the idea I would have given up there and then no matter what the financial implications. Between sobs she told me that it was only the farewells that were upsetting and as long as she was able to travel back to England for regular visits everything would be fine. After what Jan has done for me I would carry her back on my shoulders if necessary but could I face even more of those bloody farewells every year.

I am pleased to say that we had telephone calls from each of our girls the following morning and all of them said that they were now fine and it was only the act of saying goodbye that had caught them out and they were looking forward to visiting our new home in the new year.

On the house sale front our, the last two weeks in England were a nightmare. The man who was buying our house was an American lawyer who works for a large company in London and he was extremely fastidious. He was also one of those people who does everything at one speed - dead slow. As an example, he phoned on the Monday of the final week to ask if he could come round to make sure that water came out if he turned on the taps. Outrageous.

By contrast the purchase of our new French house was a doddle. Right from the very day that we agreed the price we were given the latest date that we would be able to move in and, in fact this improved as the process continued. I must admit that I was very lucky to have chosen a very efficient solicitor, based in London, who specialised in purchasing houses in France.

On top of this we chose an area of Burgundy controlled by a notaire called "Maitre de Serrazin" who was very aware of exactly how important it is for each individual to be settled into their new home as quickly as possible and with as little stress as possible. He went out of his way to clear up all the queries about night fishing, camping, building the lodge etc. and made our life so much easier. I heard from other people in similar circumstances that this was far from being the "norm" and some of their stories were horrendous.

During our final weeks in England the news of our plans obviously got round to our friends and the comments coming back to us ranged from "Why do you want to go and live in France?" to "I don't blame you, wish we were going". We were to find that, contrary to popular belief, the French people that we came into contact with were very friendly and welcoming. We were immediately invited to evening meals and dinners with our new neighbours and all of this helped to make us feel comfortable in our adopted home.

On 16th January 2002 we completed the purchase of our Burgundian property and officially became both French residents and British ex-pats. We had spent every spare moment of the few weeks leading up to this point visiting hardware stores and builders merchants to arrange a complete new kitchen for our house together with shower, toilets, lodge cooker, dishwasher and all number of other essentials to provide the basis for our planned angling holidays.

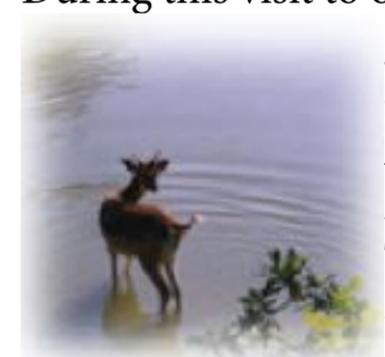
On 17th January 2002 we moved into our new home with a huge sigh of relief. The winter of 2001/2002 was reported as being the coldest for forty years and our lake had remained frozen over since 5th December and had just begun to thaw as we moved in. When we first moved out to France, we stayed in the village of Esbarres which is at least three miles from the river Saone but when the heavens opened in Germany the river rose so high that it broke its banks and flooded the fields for miles around and reached to Within a few yards of the bottom of our garden. The flood water then immediately froze to about two inches thick before the water slowly began to recede.

As you drove around the area it was possible to see huge sheets of ice sticking out from trees and hedges, in some places, two metres above the roads showing how deep the water had been.

On the first day following these floods our initial thought was what effect this surge of water would have had on our new property. Would the lake now be flowing through our kitchen? A hasty drive through the Burgundy countryside from Esbarres to Chalon-sur-Saone proved our fears to be groundless. The house forms part of the dam wall with spillway sluices to both sides and even high flood conditions simply results in the water escaping over these sluices more rapidly and leaves the house standing on its own island and remaining totally dry.

During this visit to our house we met one of the gendarmes who is involved in the control of the herd of deer that we acquired with the property. Altogether we bought 19 red deer which included one large mature stag and one young stag as well as seventeen hinds. The gendarme, Herve, and I sat on the dam wall and discussed the "famille de carpe" and even our lack of each others languages didn't stop the discussions delving into how carp feed, where and when they feed and even onto the natural food in the lake.

Apparently the natural food and the diversity of it was far greater than I expected. Apparently there are three different types of worm that live in the lake bed, three different types of mussels, shrimps, snails and, in early spring,



thousands of tadpoles. It was also interesting to hear that some of the "known" English anglers were also fast becoming household names in the French carp world and even more important was that the system of "carp fishers no kill" was growing rapidly.

*Grand Opening* We were now at a point where the "Moorland Fisheries" business was up and running. We opened on 1st May 2002 and I found that I needed to rethink my tactics to tackle this soft bottomed lake. I had spent my last few years fishing English gravel pits and the rigs and methods of fishing needed tweaking. My first lesson was that the fish had to be played much more gently. They had soft mouths from feeding over the blue clay bed and it was virtually impossible to force them to go in any direction other than the one that they wanted to go in. I experienced the horrors of losing every one of the first nine fish that I hooked and learned that a clutch set very lightly was absolutely essential.

Add to this that every one of them fought like demons and you understand that each capture could take some time to complete. Another challenge that appeared immediately was that these carp knew exactly where each and every bloodworm bed or other source of natural food was. They had so much on offer that they had no immediate need of man made hard round balls.

My target was to develop a fishery with big fish and also one which needed to be fished with some thought and with proper angling. I wanted to produce a lake which would leave the successful angler with a sense of achievement rather than that he had bought the fish.

I can see no benefit in fishing in a goldfish bowl situation.

Very early in that first season we realised that we would need to put in a massive amount of work during the winter in order to sort out the stock and further improve the condition of the lake.

To achieve this we planned a drain down and some restocking plus some planting to replicate a traditional English estate lake but with much bigger carp to target.

As the year continued commenting on the carp with many stating fights that they had instance Mark Canavan hooked a fish at one o'clock in the morning and after



we often heard anglers fighting strength of our that they were the hardest ever experienced. For

twenty minutes of struggle he sent his son, Dan, to wake me up because he was convinced that he had hooked one of the catfish.

I dressed and stood at his side when, some fifty minutes later, I slid the net under a 28.00 lb mirror. At the time it was Mark's personal best and he sat back on the grass moaning about how much his arm ached but also with a very satisfied look on his face.

We also had a group of six anglers who had already landed sixty carp between them when, on the Friday afternoon, one of them suggested that he might need some help with a leviathan that he was struggling to control. I stood at the back of the swim, some thirty minutes into the battle, when a mighty swirl was accompanied with a vicious "slap" at the surface of the lake. I suggested that it may be tricky to get this one into the landing net and when he asked what I meant I explained that I thought that it was probably one of our catfish. At that point the blood visibly drained from his face and a certain amount of panic appeared to set in as he stated in a tremble



"I've never even seen a catfish before". And then "How big do you think it is?" I tried to reassure him that it was not one of the really big ones but could be about fifty pounds. My guess proved to be spot on

when it eventually turned the scales at 51lb and another extremely happy and contented angler left for home the following day.

We had achieved our target start up date and, while our first year would never tear up any trees, we were already forming permanent and wonderful memories.

We had by now also fitted out the lodge and my wonderful wife amazed every batch of new anglers with her imaginative menus and superb cooking.

The beers and white wines were chilled, the red wine too easy to drink and my dream was beginning to become a reality. We spent our quiet weeks relaxing

under clear and deep hunting overhead and as kingfishers worked shore.



blue skies with birds of prey the regular flash of petrol blue back and forth along the lake

The temperatures were hotter than we expected and the need for a swimming pool became more and more apparent. The two years leading up to this point had been absolute hell but now we were able to experience a little sample of heaven.

An advertisement for Nature's Baits. At the top left is the logo for Nature's Baits, which consists of three red hexagons and the text "NATURES BAIT" and "WWW.NATURESBAITS.COM". To the right of the logo is a yellow and red banner that says "GET 5% OFF VOUCHER CODE YTOA-OCT". The central image is a large fish, likely a carp, with a red target symbol overlaid on it. The text "YOUR TARGET OUR AIM" is written in red across the target. Below the target, there is a list of offers: "BOILIES FROM £7.99 PER KG", "HOOK BAIT FROM £5.49", and "PLUS MANY MORE GREAT DEALS". At the bottom of the ad, there are social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram. Below these icons is the text "VISIT OUR SHOP.NATURESBAITS.COM". At the very bottom, there is a black banner with the text "VISIT, WWW.NATURESBAITS.COM" and "CALL 07990 553083" in yellow and red.



**Out And About...**  
at Brooms Cross  
Fishery by Brian Dixon.

When we first heard about this water on the grapevine we kept a close eye to see what would become of the gossip and hearsay we all get to listen to every-day on the internet and the social media... but just lately this particular fishery' name has cropped up again, and again, and again... so much so that we just had to meet! and soon!! So as soon as we had a free day myself and my partner in crime, Tidy Jim, arranged a visit to Liverpool. The home of Brooms Cross Fishery.

As I had already met Rob before I knew who I was dealing with, and we were greeted by Rob in the car park after we parked up. First impressions of the venue pleased me though as the first thing you see is the onsite shop of Mersey Bait and Tackle... so a quick butchers in there and we find a shop that is extremely well stocked with all the things an angler will need for a visit... plenty of end tackle, leads, bits and pieces, and shelf after shelf of bait, all the



top names you will know and heard of and all more than capable of landing you fish after fish at this venue. We also spotted a couple of shelves of pot noodles, biscuits and the other crap we tend to eat as anglers... so do not worry if you leave your bait bag, tackle bag or food bag at home.... Mersey Bait and Tackle have you covered.

Now, time to look at the lakes and a chat with Rob... This is what Rob has to stay. The Story So Far.

As you can imagine it is a dream coming true for us both... The partnership of Rob Townsend and Mike Thompson originally bought another plot of land just up the road, the original piece was bought in 2008 but plans came to a grinding halt when the land came under a compulsory purchase order in order to have a road built to go through it so after much negotiation it was swapped for another piece of land. Digging finally started in Jan 2011 and was dug out professionally, removing thousands of tons of soil and subsoil, and finally finished all the landscaping in April 2011.....

we then left the lakes to mature for 2 years and suddenly there was an excessive amount of natural food. Perfect and ready for the fish. As I had successfully qualified many courses at Sparsholt college, there was no way we were going in blind, and many many hours of phone calls, questions, feedback and more phone calls, the perfect strain of carp were sourced and bought. The fish went in December 2013 and we remained closed for 9 months to allow the fish to settle and get them fed up. We opened the gates in Sept 2014...



In Lower Alt lake the shocking even to us, were stocked in size 24lb and 2 at 26lb. smaller ones are well 6

going over 20lb in the averaging 23lb. The over 25lb... The 2 x Cut Tail both hit the the first year. Cut Tails

32 lb 12oz. In Upper Alt lake, we stocked it with 40 doubles and 30 x 20lb around the mid 20 mark and 10 over 25lb. In the first year the stock went to 40 fish over 20lb and out of that 40, 29 of them went over 25lb. 9 of them hitting the magical 30. Today the stocking stands at 30 doubles, 40 x 20s, and out of those 40 carp, 9 of them go over 30 (2 new 30s this year!) and out of the rest 20 over 25lb!! The growth has been tremendous in just 2 years!

It's been truly amazing and the rewards are there. We are constantly looking to improve with plans for a new on site office and a new fixed toilet block and shower due in 2017.

We have bailiffs on site 24 hours a day, who are willing to assist you in getting the most from your visit with great knowledge and are on call all through the night to help out with carp care, weighing and photography if you should find yourself with a personal best in your net....

fed up. We opened the And the rest is history.

growth was but in the best way. Fish groups. 6-8 lb, 16 to In the first year all the into double figures with

first year... And are now 16 to 24 have grown to 26lb... Muscles and magical 30 to 31 lb in highest weight so far is

The future is also looking fantastic for this venue with an ongoing breeding programme and handpicking the very biggest and best looking carp to grow on.

Thank you, Rob.....

We had to leave but plans were made for a return to fish it.... Soon! We were truly eager to wet a line here.

05:30 and Tidy Jim was already at my house, keen as hell to get going, so breakfast was made (I was bloody starving and going nowhere without food) and after a good old full English we packed the car and were on our way. The postcode for Cheshire Particles was first punched into the sat nav in order to pick up the freshest possible particle I could get, and away we went. What I should have done is pre order the bait to land at my house the day before we went then we could have missed the horrendous roadworks around Runcorn that greeted us and slowed us down to nothing.... time is ticking away and we want to get fishing!!! Anyhow, patience is a virtue... blah blah blah.... Get me fishing!! Finally got to Marks house, and picked up the bait, fresh as can be, and away we went.

Woohoo!! 08:45 and we are on Brooms Cross fishery car park. Now there's a couple of nice touches I really like about this place. Firstly, the fishery knows all about the dangers of disease transference and have wisely opted to supply you with nets, slings and cradles for the fish on every peg. Brilliant.... No wet kit to worry about. Secondly, there is a fishery Carp Porter barrow on site to help you move your kit. This was great as me and Tidy Jim were in the same car and had to leave our barrows at home. Thirdly, and one that could be the way forward for a lot of day ticket waters, all anglers who wish to fish here have to pay a minimal membership fee. It's a lifetime membership, a one-off small payment but it is a great way for the management to know who is who, who is onsite, and



helps to ensure the welfare of other anglers and secure the future of the fishery. So if you want to break the rules somewhere...

go elsewhere as you will be caught out on here.

It didn't take long to get the kit to the pegs, that barrow is a godsend! Now the pegs, hhhmmmm... the pegs are extremely spacious, and easily took Jims Tempest and my 2-man behemoth I tend to use these days and still had loads of space. The pegs are very clean and tidy and very well placed, with every angler having their own piece of water and features to fish to. As we set up we were visited by Rob and local bait guru Fred, (sorry Fred we didn't catch your last name) but he brought us a bag of something very special, a bait we know works extremely well in this water after doing a little homework on what's been catching... Fred's Specials. Nice one, let's have a look and smell. Wow, got it straight away but I am not going to tell you what it is right here for the moment but it's a flavour that every one of you has smelt in the past. It's been a massive winner up and down the country, and when you visit here, see them for yourself. So without further ado, the rods were made up, and a quick plop with the leads to find the spots and get our distances and by late morning the baited hooks were on and we were fishing.

Tactics were fairly simple to begin with for me, a short very stiff rig made up of Pallatrax Steamlink and a Sharp Tackle Crank hook on one, and a peeled back combi braid on the other. Simples. Bait on, a small bag of Cheshire Particles pva friendly particles and out they go. Alarms on, bobbins set, and the waiting begins. Jim on the other hand went full camouflage

and used his "weed effect" hooklink with just the hookbait sticking out of the end of the length of "weed" ... As always I thought Jim taking things too

far, to the extreme, over the top... and mocked him so.

And therein lies my lesson... **He who laughs last...**

just a couple of hours later Jim hits a single bleep and proceeded battle with a chunky fish. My expert netting skills came in handy as it plopped over the cord... 1-0 to Team Talking Carp!! And just to really rub salt into my now gaping "keep-your-mouth-shut-in-future" wound,



Itake a peek into the net and instantly recognise the fish! Tidy Jim has only gone and landed one of the known A team... a beautiful young fish at a cracking weight of....26lbs. The Eclipse!! Well done Jim!

Word got out quickly and we were surrounded by all, a great camaraderie on here. The pics were duly taken, the fish checked over one more time, and slid back into the water to fight another day. Winner, winner, toastie for dinner...



A cheeky little scamp decided to pull my string at silly a.m. and gave me a soaking as it poured down on me as I stood there bringing it in.... thanks for that, come back and see me when you're a bigger size!! 2-0 to Team Talking Carp. Unfortunately, that was it for the big carp as the trip finished as quickly as it had begun, which was a bit frustrating for me as I had seen so many more fish but they just weren't playing ball. What can you do?? Yes, you got it, plans made for a return to the venue as soon as we can... Watch this space!! So in short, if you're looking for a venue in the north of England that can offer you a clean and tidy venue, a very well stocked bait and bits tackle shop, a safe and secure fishing environment and most importantly a huge amount of extremely fast growing carp that are looking to drag you in then look no further. Until next time.... Wobbly bobbins to you all.

Brian.

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**PASSING THE TIME...by Rich Austin.**

Whilst on the bank we all like to relax at some stage or another, we start with the initial important things of watching the water, and walking around to see if we can spot any significant sign of fish activity. Once we have done that and are happy to plot up in our favored swim there is the art of setting up your swim, bivvy, bed, your buckets, kit bags etc, I have quite bad OCD and am meticulous with where all my items are, I think we are like that to some extent but some more than others that is for sure, I pretty much have the same bankside set up in (excluding rods and end tackle) whatever swim I'm in and at whatever lake I am at. I will continue to cast an eye over the water for the duration of my session whether it be a 24hr or a longer session, watching the water is the most important part of being on the bank, and it tells you a lot of what is going on so in between all your bankside

comforts scanning the lake in front of you is a must to keep up to date. There are only so many magazines and books you can read, as there are only so many films you can watch. I tend to get all set up, rods n bait out then crack on making rigs for the situation and bottom that I'm fishing, yes you can make rigs at home if you know 100% what the swims are like and the substrate on the bottom, but to make the same rig at home just to fill your rig wallet in my opinion is a mistake, you can be using the totally wrong rig for the bottom you are fishing, there is little point in fishing a very smelly silty choddy bottom with a single bottom bait in my eyes as the boilie will take on the stench of chod and debris a lot quicker than say if you had a short pop up or a choddy set up, so thought of what is beneath you makes a lot of difference. I of course have rigs set up for different situations

in the wallet to get me out of trouble or if I need a quick rig, but 99 times out of 100 ill be making the rigs as I go. Next to follow will be to make up either PVA bags or sticks depending on what I'm using on the session, I will make what I think will be enough to get me through to the next morning, there is nothing worse than running out of them after a take/fish in the night, firstly you don't want to be fumbling around for all the components when you got one eye open and its dark, wet or moisture in the air etc as we are dealing with PVA so any moisture on them can spell disaster and ruin the last 5 or 10 efforts and will also turn your mood and the next thing you'll be casting in to the trees and all sorts of knock on effects will ensue, so be prepared it will also allow you to break your next day up with some more bags/ticks to tie up when your 'camping' ha-ha. So you have done all your chores,

rigs, bait, nice cuppa tea, a cheeky little burger in the Ridge Monkey, read the latest fishing mags and perhaps a few chapters of a book, now what, sleep? bit nonproductive and educational isn't it..... Personally I always have a camera with me, and although I am not fantastic at it, I do love bankside photography, I love the outdoors, nature, wildlife, that's why we are on the bank right? I'm learning all the time, being on the bank is an education - because we love all those elements that make a fishing trip fun. I never stop learning about wildlife, their habits, their way of life, watching an army of ants carrying items way above their body weight is fantastic and fascinating. Watching the resident Heron stalking and fishing for its tea the way it's so stealthy in its approach, we can learn from this in our stalking work, watching how it uses shadows and shade on the water for cover is very clever.

Rats... well rats a very controversial animal/rodent/pest the biggest issue that I've ever had is eating some of my gear, I think we have all suffered this along the years at some stage if not, YOU WILL. I find a lot of people moan and whinge about some lakes rat population, but be under no illusion that a big part

sandwich in a bush for the birds or hedgehogs etc etc but it really isn't good at all the rats will usually get it first even in blatant daylight so always bag your food and rubbish and take it home. Rats spread various diseases including the fisherman's nightmare 'Weils Disease' people do die from it so it's not to be taken lightly, and by helping keep the rat population down we can do our bit. Always have a hand sanitizer with you on the bank and USE IT after touching foliage, picking things off the floor, having hands in lake water or touching



something that has had rat urine/feces on it so think folks ok, next time you drop your baiting needle on the floor then reach for a bit of food .....

1000 per 1 mm just think about that for one moment.... These amazing creatures will only live for 60-70 days. Throughout the seasons we get to see many many

about strewn around items like pieces of wood, overflow pipes etc they all look different throughout the year, dry and notchy through the summer months, ice and snow during winter months they take on so many characteristics and make for some cracking photography. We have all had a Robin come sit on our rods right? yeah for sure, I've always been told since I was a little boy that when a Robin comes to visit you that it is a sign from a relative who has passed away, when I was a young lad one of the elders would say "oh look that's your nan/grandad coming to check up on you" well if you believe in that side of things then that will be a warming comfort to you, I am not a strong believer personally but it harms nobody and is quite sweet and comforting and I have already said it to my young 5 year old daughter Scarlett who has been on a few fishing trips with me now and is



already being educated to the ways of the bankside, and all its surroundings whether be animal or floral she is being educated and that makes me a proud father.

A lot of pics other than fish that I see on social media for instance are of sunsets and sunrises, so I know I am not alone with my bankside ology, I see what pleases people, what

makes people happy and that they too enjoy not just the fish side of things but the exciting other elements and components of what bankside life brings us, we are fortunate/lucky that we have these things at our disposal, we can take or leave them, we have a choice in whether we want to surround ourselves with such beauty or we can sit on our arses at home playing computer games, watching childish 'reality' tv, well to me they're not reality, what we do is true reality, being outside and being as one with our surroundings having fun,

learning, and educating others.

I hope you have enjoyed this chapter until next time.....

Boooooooooooooom

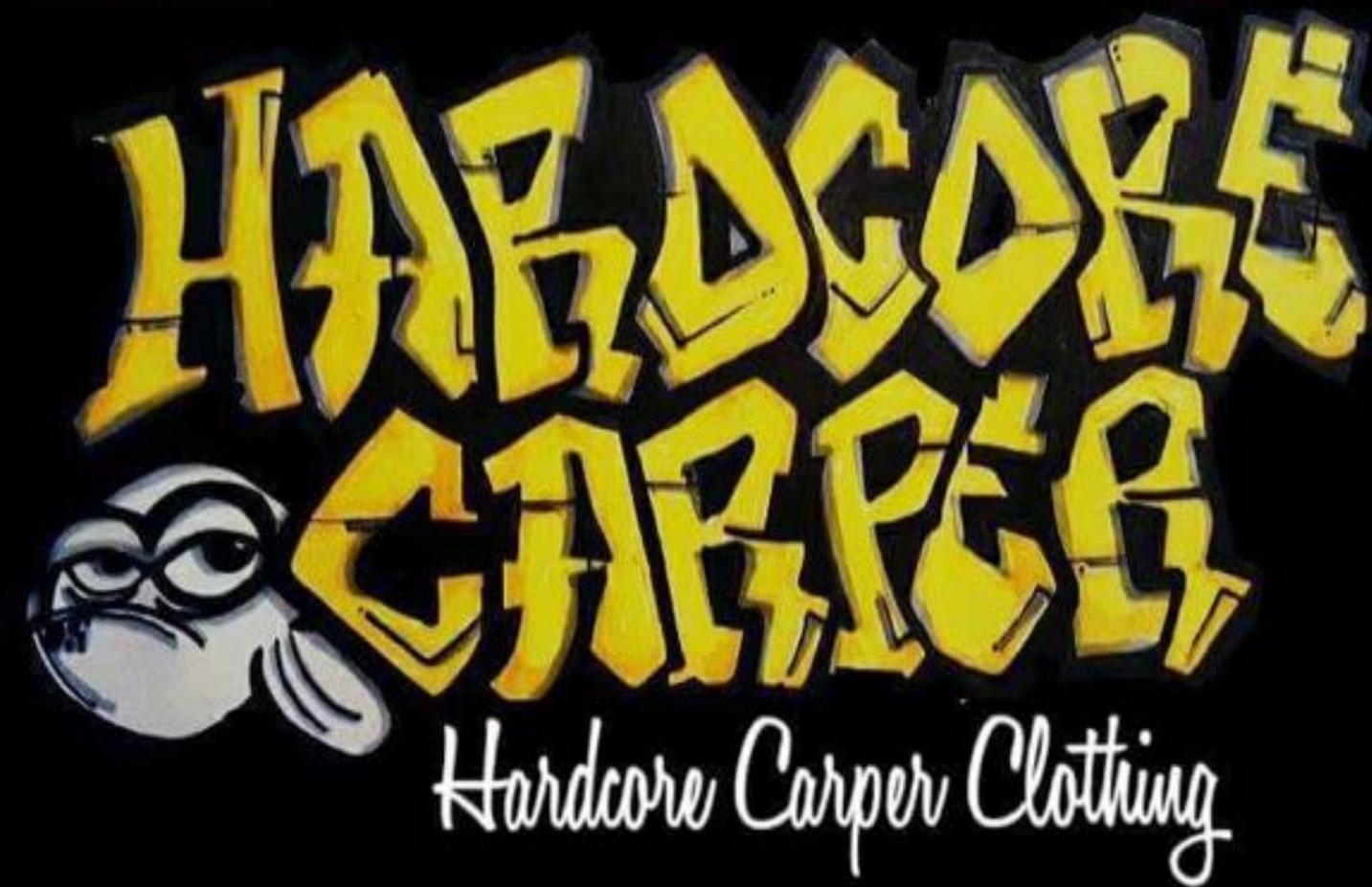
Rich Austin



Have you ever been watching the water when out of the corner of your eye you see a spider like creature dart across the surface of the lake, yes of course you have what a fascinating creature they are too, they are the Gerridae, or what most of us know them - as Water Striders or Pond Skaters, they do actually walk on water the ability to displace water is achieved by the 1000 micro hairs per mm!! dispersing the water

beautiful flowers, plants, shrubs n weeds on the bank, now I'm definitely no expert on flowers by any means, but I do appreciate these things on the bankside, the whole ecology of the lake sustaining so much diverse life intrigues me, stunning colours, whether it be various colours of Lilly pad flowers, yellow Primroses, Mizzles and the lovely yellow Iris, they certainly brighten up my surroundings. What





### HARDCORE CARPER CLOTHING

Our carp clothing as a distinctive logo of a graffiti style logo which has been designed and made by carp anglers for carp anglers. Whether it is for comfort or just to part of a recognisable exclusive club for the like-minded carpers of today. Hardcore carper clothing is a new company with a small range of products which we will be adding to as we start to get recognised. Our clothing and accessories are not only practical for wearing for hours on end beside the lakes, but are great for every day casual wear too. Our hardcore carper logo is instantly recognisable by all who enjoys carp fishing and is a great way to pin point like-minded every day carpers. We aim to give our customers a great service and invite any suggestions how to improve our range of products or services.

Many thanks HCC

## Rig Tying Made Simple by Stuart Mellors



**Step 1** Get chosen hook and slide some silicone down shank of hook



**Step 2** Get a quick changing flexi ring swivel size 11 or 12 and a set of pliers



**Step 3** After removing the ring part of the swivel you should have something like this



**Step 4** Attach the hook to the swivel by pushing the clip through the eye of the hook



**Step 5** Slide down the silicone so it covers the clip on the swivel and the eye of the hook



**Step 6** Thread a micro ring swivel onto the hook this is where the bait will be mounted later on



**Step 7** Thread a hook bead over point of hook and down shank of hook and position it where you want



**Step 8** Thread chosen coated braid through eye of swivel



**Step 9** Tie a figure of eight loop knot and moisten knot as you slowly tighten it down



**Step 10** Tie a figure of eight loop knot at other end for quick changing purposes and thread your chosen bait on to the micro swivel using floss and your rig is ready



*The only limitation is your imagination*



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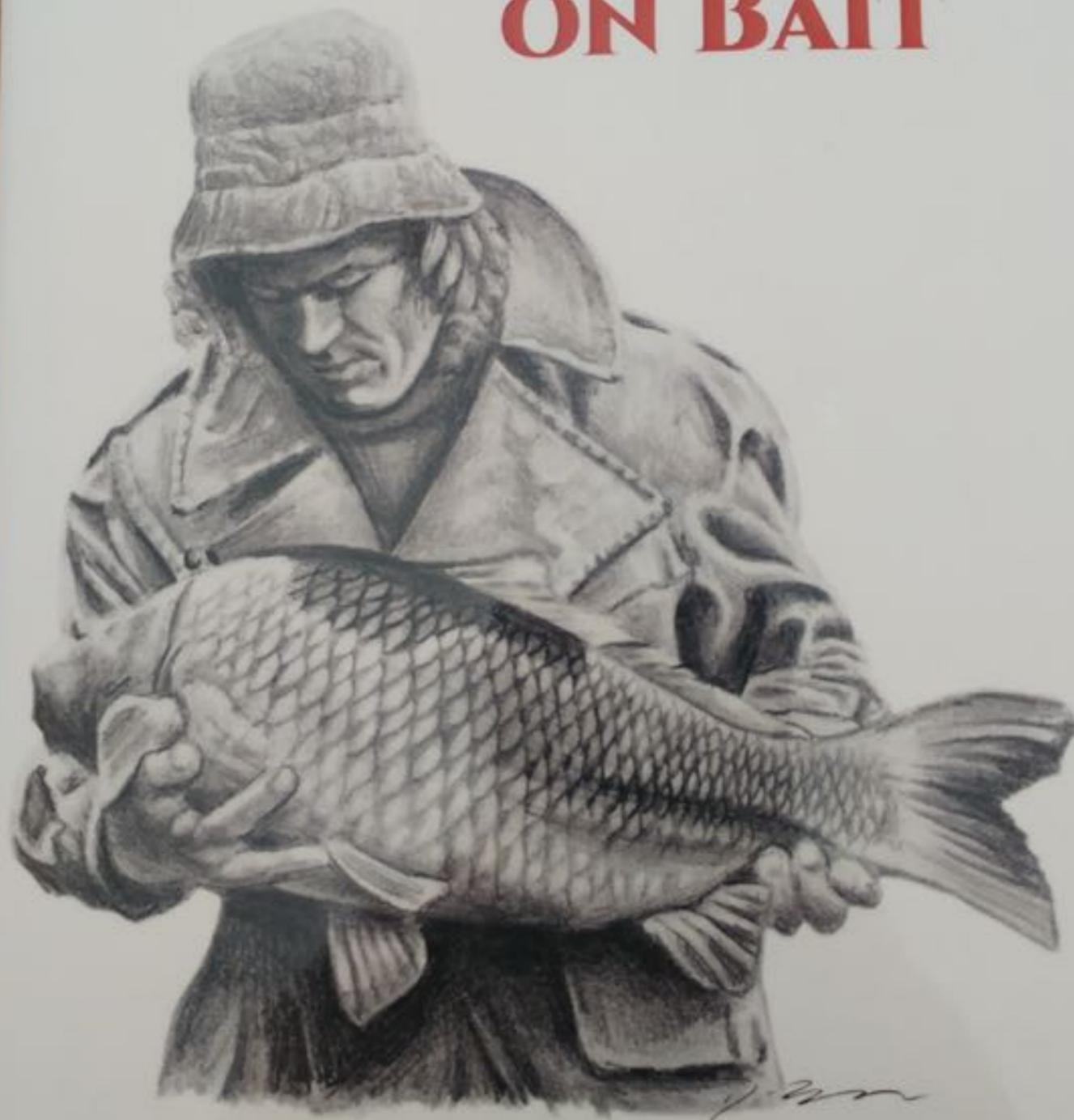


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**D·A·M**

# THOUGHTS ON BAIT



**ROD HUTCHINSON**



## INTRODUCTION

The idea for this book was born during a three hour drive across country from Louth to my home in the Midlands, on a very wet and windy Wednesday afternoon in April. I had spent several hours earlier that day sat with my angling hero Rod Hutchinson in his den, looking through his extensive collection of carp fishing photographs and discussing his angling career. We were agreeing on content to be included in the publication of a book by Rod to be entitled 'The Carpscene Years' and I cannot remember a more enjoyable afternoon. As we reviewed the original Carpscene magazines and photographs in front of us, Rod became more animated, enthusiastically telling me the stories behind some of the pictures in his own inimitable and hilarious way.

During our conversation and even more so whilst I was driving home, it occurred to me that not only was Rod one of the most talented and influential carp anglers we have ever seen but has also been an extraordinary pioneer of bait making, and the development of bait flavours. The more that I thought about it the more I realised that his analytical, intelligent and

Thoughts On Bait.

The latest book from Rod Hutchinson.

“Rod Hutchinson is an angling legend, being one of the most talented and influential carp anglers we have ever seen. With his analytical, intelligent and scientific approach to the development of bait, he is an extraordinary pioneer of baitmaking, and the development of bait flavours. THOUGHTS ON BAIT is a selection of Rods articles which are at least 20 years old now, but these pieces are still relevant today.”

So, when this dropped on my door I couldn't help but put all plans aside and sit

down with a brew and have a quick read. And so glad I did. Rod Hutchinson is the granddaddy of bait making, and it was his thinking that has probably given us access to 99% of what you are using today.

This book is a collection of his writings and findings from back in a time when if you wanted a bait to try and catch fish... you had to go out and get it yourself. So for anyone wanting to learn about how it all began, pick up a copy of this book. Anyone wanting to know more about the bait game, pick up this book. Anyone wanting a piece of carp angling history.... Pick up this book!! It even has the occasional never before seen pictures!

It's a great buy available directly from Little Egret Press and has a R.R.P of just £27.95.

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## Setting Your Targets by Joel Virgo



Having never written a fishing article before, it was hard to know where to start but the obvious place had to be where it all started for me. As a young lad, I would be taken along to the Thames by my Dad for a few hours, with a pint of maggots and swim feeder the only real tackle needed. Roach, perch and dace seemed to keep on coming, and I was kept happy (for a couple of hours at least) with the minimum of knowledge, but the maximum of enjoyment. This is one my earliest catch shots of an eel caught somewhere on the Thames. In a relatively short space of time I have moved on from using the simplest running maggot feeder rig, to modern day fishing tactics and carp rigs that I wouldn't even have associated with fishing back then.

I think that what you enjoy and are encouraged to do as a young child, you take

with you throughout life. I still enjoy catching eels today, and have had them to about 5lb without targeting them as such. My fear for the growing trend of young fishermen now is that the only appreciated fish will be carp, leading to the further decline of many silver species, as well as bream, tench and other undervalued fish that may only get the leftover bait. As well as just being unhooked in the net and in some cases even mistreated, I've seen specimen tench badly held deliberately and thrown back for being a nuisance fish for carp anglers, something which is probably becoming a lot more common than it used to be. I won't pretend to enjoy catching all fish, being woken in the middle of the night for a small carp, or having a small fish picking away at your surface fished bread is never fun, but if all it ever becomes about is size, then we are limiting what we are capable of

achieving and reducing the enjoyment involved. How many anglers have turned up to a lake and taken the approach of trying to catch one of every species in there? Surely there would be more satisfaction in doing that, than going for a personal best, and leaving with a few double figure carp under your belt, just like the last time, and the time before that. The other problem with becoming one track minded is that you often miss out on appreciating what is going on around you. The wildlife we have to keep us company on the bank is probably only enjoyed by a few people, and most animals seem



to be a lot more trusting of us once we let ourselves into their territory. I watched this Heron catching far better than I could, and it's pretty mesmerizing watching the cycle of nature happening around you. Being based in London, the rats and foxes seem to dominate proceedings, which admittedly can be more of a nuisance than anything else. Even so, it's not just outside the water where we should be looking. I've lost count of the number of times carp have been showing themselves in front of people whilst they are hiding under a shelter or glued to some form of technology. You have to question why you go fishing sometimes. Is it just to cast out and reel in a carp? because there are people you don't come out of their bank-side home other than to either cast their rigs out or reel a fish in. Often in summer I only fish night sessions and don't take any shelter with me,

opting to sleep under the stars, and whilst this has backfired a few times for obvious reasons, it fully keeps you alert of what is happening nearby. Your ears have to do at night, what your eyes do in the day, and again this increases your learning as



well as making the whole experience more fun. What we get out of every session will only ever be limited by our own efforts.

Fishing should be about setting yourself new and different targets:

- To fish at least 5 new lakes in a year; how many of us turn up at the same fishery and use the same techniques each time?
- Catching in the rain/snow/winter; Again how many anglers decide on their time spent fishing because of the weather,

possibly missing out on some of the best conditions for the sake of comfort.

- Catch from the top middle and bottom on the same day; It's very easy to chuck out 3 bottom bait rigs and sit there on your phone waiting for one of them to go.

I would say there are probably less than 5% of anglers who, when using 3 rods have one on the bottom, one on a zig and one on top. The benefit being, if one of them keeps producing then you can scrap your own challenge and change them all to the tactic producing if you like.

Do your homework on where it usually gets caught from, maybe a certain time of year, specific bait at the same time. This in itself will make you think more about how you approach your fishing.

There are so many more challenges that you can

knowledge in all things related to this great sport that we love. As long as we keep this at the forefront of our fishing, we won't lose that buzz that gets us back to that water each time. My challenge to you is to change to way you approach your fishing. Pick one of the targets mentioned and



- Target a specific fish in your most local lake, one you haven't caught before. Maybe there is a particularly nice looking carp that has always caught your eye.

set yourself that don't have to be based on size, and it's not something I can admit to having escaped completely myself. The other benefit to this is broadening your own

achieve it. Even if you discover it isn't for you, at least you can say you've attempted it, and there is always room for doing what other people aren't. Joel.

An advertisement for Nature's Baits. The main image shows a close-up of a carp's head, which is overlaid with a red target symbol. The text 'NATURES BAIT'S' is written in white on a black banner at the top, with the website 'WWW.NATURESBAITS.COM' below it. The text 'YOUR TARGET OUR AIM' is written in white on the target. At the bottom, there is a black banner with yellow and red text: 'GET 5% OFF VOUCHER CODE YTOA-OCT'. Below this are icons for Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram. To the right, there is a black box with white and red text: 'BOILIES FROM £7.99 PER KG HOOK BAIT'S FROM £5.49 PLUS MANY MORE GREAT DEALS VISIT OUR SHOP.NATURESBAITS.COM'. At the very bottom, there is a black banner with yellow and red text: 'VISIT, WWW.NATURESBAITS.COM CALL 07990 553083'.

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Smashing the P.B in Style by  
James Wenglorz.

Myself and 6 others arrived at the picturesque Ashmead in Somerset at around mid-day Friday, after a good walk around we had a draw for swims. I ended up coming out 4th and opted to fish an area known as New North. There were plenty of fish in the area so I wasted no time in getting the rods out and giving each spot a scattering of around 30 baits, these were a mix of Pallatrax crave & multiworm 18mm boilies.

I kept a constant eye on the baited areas and a few other liking looking spots just in case. At around 5pm I noticed a few fish bubbling behind me in an area known as the river, I had to get a bait on them so I opted to reel in the rod I thought was least likely to produce a bite! How wrong was I?! Just as I was walking over to my rod in goat willow to reel it in, I could see them fizzing right over the hook bait. I knelt down about 10 yards

from the spot and laid my sounder box next to me waiting for it to cry out. 2 minutes later the rod went into melt down and I was attached to an angry fish stripping line from me! The fish had ploughed straight through one of the many Goat willow weed beds, but being patient and keeping a constant pressure got me back in control and I managed to coax her out of the weed. After a further 5 minutes of plodding under the rod tip she was in the net. I recognised her as a fish named "Skeffs" one of the many stunning 30lb commons that reside in this fantastic fishery. On the scales she went 30lb 4oz, after a few photos I slipped her back and moved the same rod to where I saw the first set of fish bubbling in the river. Nothing occurred during the night, however at around 5am the same rod was away with a small common which I guessed to be

around the 5lb mark. The rest of the day went quietly and I was getting itchy feet as I felt the fish activity had died down. I reeled in and went for a quick walk around late in the afternoon and stopped for a quick look in an area known as Toms pond, it was now nearing dusk but there looked to be a few fish in the area. I wanted to give it the night in New north just in case but I had made my mind up that if it was free, I would move into Tom's first thing the next morning. Nothing else occurred during the night and I was up at 5:30 am sipping my first brew of the day. Half an hour later I reeled in the rods and went for a look around Tom's. There was plenty of bubbling so I went back to my swim, packed up and moved. I spent the next 5/6 hours baiting a few likely looking areas with the crave and multiworm, trying not to spook any fish. At around lunchtime Skeff the owner popped round for

a cup of tea, as we were just finishing off our 2nd cuppa, I saw what looked like a good fish cruising in the car park end of Tom's, no sooner had I mentioned this to Skeff a fish topped right near the island. Skeff mentioned that he thought Ashmead's largest resident "single scale" would be in Tom's and he left me to get the rods positioned. I had tied up a few fresh rigs earlier in the morning consisting of Pallatrax snag link in 30lb, fished on a blow back style rig attached to a Pallatrax size 4 hook. I all ways like to add around an inch of shrink tube to the hook as it really helps to achieve a better hook hold I also add a couple of blobs of the Pallatrax rig putty, which does two jobs - helps to pull the hook down into the mouth once sucked in and also keeps the rig nicely pinned to the lake bed. My hook baits as usual were a combination of Pallatrax Crave and

multiworm both standard 18mm bottom baits. I opted to fish my first rod in a clear area amongst weed near to where I had seen the fish show. My second rod was cast further along the island under a beautiful weeping willow around 15 yards from the bank, I scattered a mixture of baits in both flavours into the branches and around the hook bait. I had planned to fish my third rod a little bit further down the bank where I had seen a few fish feeding, no sooner had I lowered the rig in place my sounder box gave out a few beeps and then went into melt down!! I sprinted the 20 yards back to the 2nd rod as I picked up rod the fish give a few heavy lunges and then got stuck solid in a big weed bed. I could see plumes of bubbles coming from the middle of the pond and I knew the fish was still on, but I was going to need a boat. I popped the rod on the rest and ran round

to Trevor and Lee who kindly got me a boat in double quick time. Lee offered to row the boat out for me and after clearing a load of weed from the line I was in contact with the fish, I knew the hook hold would be good so I just had to be patient! After being towed around for the next 15 mins with Lee having to clear the weed from my line several times we managed to get a glimpse of the fish, the huge orange tail and starburst sales near the tail wrist had my knees shaking as I knew it could be Single scale. Lee did a great job getting us back to the far bank of Toms as he clung on to a big weeping willow so I could get some leverage to play the fish. After a few minutes of her plodding under the rod tip Lee slipped the net under her first time of asking. Peering into the net I could see her massive frame and the distinctive single scale on her left flank. Emotion then got the

better of me and the shout of "SINGLE!!!" echoed around Somerset! I sent a message to Skeff who was now back at home but was soon on his way back with the camera. We got her unhooked and weighed. The rig had done its job as she was absolutely nailed.

On the scales she went 53lb 12oz and smashed by English PB by over 12lb. After getting the pictures done and getting a soaking from Lee I got her back.

Needless to say the remaining rods were then reeled in and the obligatory bottle of red was opened followed by a few beers!

Big thanks to Lee for his sterling effort in the boat, also to Skeff for allowing me to fish this fantastic water and last but not least to Simon and Tini at Pallatrax for producing great bait and very reliable end tackle.

I'll be smiling for months!

Tight lines

James (THE YOT)



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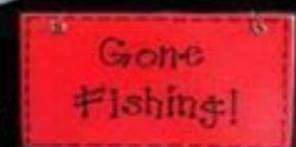
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## The Charity Carpers March by Tony Lewis.

The day has finally arrived, after nearly a year in the planning the Charity Carpers Match at Berners Hall is soon to be underway.

Will all the hard work of seeking out donations and pledges for fundraising, auctions and raffles pay dividends? The trepidation was killing, the fear that the event had to work and work well.

An early arrival was called for in order to welcome our fellow Carpers to our event. We needed a large lake as 21 anglers were booked on to compete for the Charity Carpers Vase, Berners Hall being 24 acres met this perfectly. After a brief introduction and explanation of the rules, anglers set off in various directions to find their ideal swim as the draw was to be based on watercraft.

Draw made and swims chosen. Now, to the vehicles to unload all of our gear, to last us for the 96-hour challenge ahead. As we made our way to

our home for the next few days, the talk turned to tactics. "What bait are you using?" "Chods or bottom baits"?

As the weather was good most decided to get feature finding to find the best clear spots, Berners is a weedy lake at this time of year. A short while later the lake turned from an air of tranquillity to a barrage of spombs crashing on the water's surface.

12 o'clock, rods in if you are ready. Less than an hour into the competition Tony's left hand rod screamed off and was into what seemed like a Berners Hall giant, after a 15-minute battle the fish was safely resting in the bottom of Tony's net, a catfish of 39 lbs.. bitter sweet as not counted for the competition.

Just as everyone was settling down for a well earned rest Dean Turners alarms echoed across the now silent lake. His prize fell to a Raspberry Shortcake Boilie topped off with a Toffee Choc

Nut pop up from Royalty Baits. A beautiful 22 lb 14 oz mirror.

With half an hour to go before midnight Tony Lewis was into his first carp, from swim 12, a small 11 lb oz pristine mirror. Not big but it's a start. At least it counted this time. Before dawn had broken Tony was in again, a short but fierce battle landed him a gorgeous apple sliced scaley mirror. Weighing in at 20 lbs. Just as Tony was slipping this beauty back, swim 11's Delks pinged off followed by Jason running down the bank to strike into his first run. Another stunner was soon slipped into the awaiting net, this time an immaculate 17 lb common.

An early morning wakeup call again for Tony as he had another run. A chunky common to compliment the two mirrors. An upper double topping the scales at 19lb. Tony was now stretching out a convincing lead by landing another mirror,

this time a mid-double mirror. Now time to finally eat breakfast. The next few hours saw the action cease until Dean guided a tough fighting mirror into his landing net. 11 lb 13 oz. That was the last beast landed as it was time for the BBQ and the all-important raffle. Who will win one of the three French trips up for grabs. (See Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/charitycarpers/> for raffle results)

After a great BBQ thanks to the meat donated by <https://thehungrycarper.com/> Tom was next to tame a carp a nice 12 lb 8 oz mirror. The fishing slowed as daytime turned to dusk, with just one more fish falling to Jason Tracy, 22lb hard fighting stunning common. It took several early morning cuppas for the competitors before the action began to stir up again. As John Daniel was tucking into his breakfast he noticed a bend in his rod followed by a blast of the alarms.

Let battle commence, John now happy with a 14 lb 10 oz mirror gracing the bank. This was soon followed up with another mirror for Jason Dewale in the next swim netting a pretty two tone large scaled mirror of 16lb. Another few hours' past with no action. This being due to the amount of spodding that was going on. As soon as the topping up of bait had come to a conclusion it seemed as though the carp knew it was feeding time. Tony's left hand rod roars off and shortly after he has another mirror in the net, no sooner has he placed her in the weighing sing the other rod goes off, this time a longer fight delivers yet another mirror, a fantastic double take. First was 16 lb followed by a 22 lber. Don't worry guys the first carp was put in a temporary sling in the edge of the lake whilst the second was being landed.

Photos taken and both fish gently returned to

the lake saw Jason strike into his third carp. Seems the carp do feed in large shoals here at Berners Hall. Jason landed a 15 lb mirror with scales running from front to back plus two scales on each side like big eyes. A definite one for the future.

Rob Greenwood in swim 14 was yet to catch until he landed the biggest carp of the competition so far, a dark brown old looking warrior of 25 lb 5 oz. The early hours of the next morning saw no more carp but three catfish, one to John Daniels a nice 36 lb 10 oz and two to Tony the first weighing in at 22 lb and the other was 55 lb plus. Tony landed another three carp, all mirrors 22lb, 13 lb 7 oz and 12 lb 10 oz.

The competition was brought to a close. The weights were checked and totalled. We have our winners.

1st Place - Tony Lewis

2nd Place – Jason Dewale

3rd Place – Rob Greenwood

Biggest Carp – Rob Greenwood

Most Funds Raised – Rob Greenwood



The presentation was set in motion, photos taken, hand-shakes all round then back to our swims for the thing us carpers hate most. Packing away. Charity Carpers would like to thank all those that competed in the event. Another great success thanks to the generosity of anglers and companies all coming

together...

Without the massive contribution from all our donors this event could not have been a success. Please take a look at our webpage for a full list of donors <http://charitycarpers.myfreesites.net/>

Also a special thank you to Brad Greening for the donation of your time to make the tuition prize a reality. For further information and to join Charity Carpers please see our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/charitycarpers/> Kidney Research UK which is the leading UK

charity funding research into the causes, treatment and prevention of kidney disease. Right now there are over three million people in Britain at risk of chronic kidney disease. There is no cure. With your help we can

save lives. For anyone that would like to donate to help us reach our £5K sponsorship target, here is our JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Tony-Lewis-Carping-4-Kidney-Research>

# Berners Hall Kidney Research Event 2016



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CATCH  
REPORTS

# Andy "HAULING" Hyden

From Cannock, Staffordshire

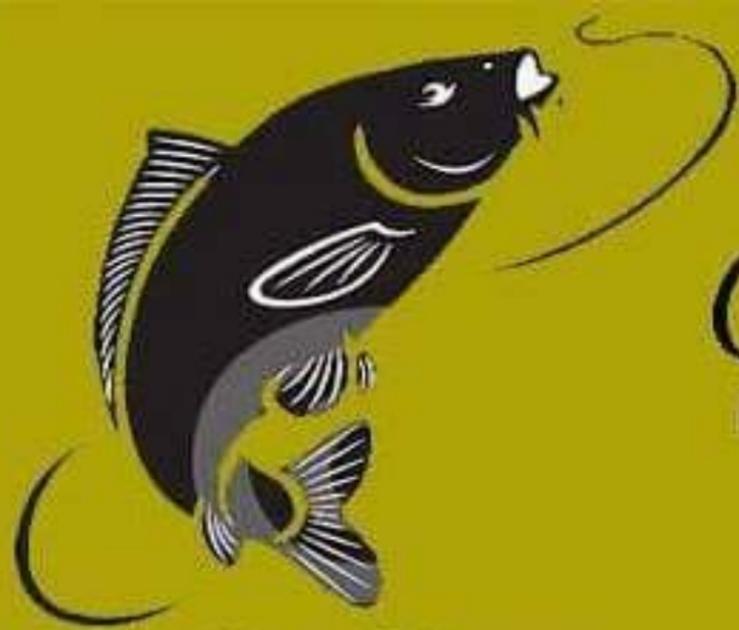
I decided to go to my local water for a 36hr session I didn't arrive until 7.30 fri night .I finished setting up at 9.30 and casted my rods out at 9.45. My alarm went of at 11 pm it was a common 17lb .then at 02.30 same.rod rips of a cat-fish 33lb 4oz .then it started to rain and didn't stop until sat afternoon the temp dropped and the carp switched off. So sat evening g I decided to bait a really and put 2 rods on it with a 1 hr 1 on my rods rips of a 18lb grassy then 40 mins later other rod on edge on baited area goes off a 21lb 6 oz common then temp drop again nothing until I started packing away at 9 am the my rod goes again a 23lb 9oz mirror.so I ended up having 4 carp and 1 catfish .all caught over a bed of naturesbaits alpha boilies and naturesbaits white ice wafers and alpha wafers over the top on a blow back rig. Pictures took on new camera brian let me know what you think trying to get used to it.  
cheers andy



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Wyreside Lakes is a family run business, situated in over 120 acres of farmland at the foot of the Bowland Fells in Dolphinholme -Lancashire. On the estate there are 7 fishing lakes - with a superb stocking of carp, mixed coarse and pike. The Birkin family have continually used the same British stockists over the last 23yrs and the experienced to novice angler alike has an opportunity to catch a wide selection of beautiful two tone mirrors, immaculate scaly commons and the occasional leather carp.



The Lakes were created from former poor agricultural land after extraction of sand and gravel by Tarmac Road stone Ltd. The first fish were introduced in 1984 (Mirror carp weighing up to 1.5 lbs) and they have thrived in the lakes, growing and breeding in a spectacular manner. The lakes are stocked annually in October/November with 3-5lbs mirrors and commons – then they are grown throughout the different lakes until they reach maturity. However, this November we introduced 70 new mirrors and commons into S2 between 12lbs & 15lbs so we are hoping for great results



The 7 lakes consist of 3 day / night waters, Sunnyside 1, Sunnyside 2 and River lakes. These lakes have carp up to 33lbs with an overall average of around 19lbs – there are also mixed coarse prevalent in these waters. There are also two membership waters Wyre and Bantons which boast carp currently up to 39lbs however the largest recorded weight was the mighty Paw Print at 42lbs 1oz. Non-members can fish these waters but there are strict times and rules that apply. There is also a mixed coarse water Fox's lake – this is an excellent runs water that produces carp up to 18lbs, Roach to 3lbs, Bream up to 10lbs & Perch up to 8lbs.

The estate also boasts a 4 star Campsite as well as a recreational centre with bar, restaurant and function room. This year a large on site tackle shop was completed offering bait and terminal tackle. On site there is also a laundry room and a modern toilet & shower block. The Fisherman's Restaurant serves food and there is also a takeaway service with food delivered to your swim! The bar & function room is the perfect for match meets and presentations and an excellent location for any type of event from weddings to birthday celebrations. All throughout the year there are various events held each week, from Karaoke /discos to themed nights and live entertainment. The estate is open 7 days a week and is closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day annually. Restaurant / café opening times may vary.



## Josephe Dubiard

My 32lb mirror pb I have been chasing a 30+ carp for the last year and managed to nick this stunner after a brace of 20s



## Tony Strevens



**\*\*Catch Report\*\***     **louis scott**

So today I went to Mill Farm fishery an ex quarry pit in Leicestershire. I had got to the lake at 8am expecting a very busy lake but to my suppose there were only a few cars parked up I went down to the first peg to check if my favourite peg was free and sure enough it was so I got round to it, the rain was hammering down so I managed to get my broly up before everything got soaked. If it my first Ronnie rig out on a UK bait company pro fruit pop up whilst u set up the next rod the first tore off and I caught a beautiful little 9lb common. At the left hand side of the peg the water come back up behind you so i went up there I was very close to my rods so I could hear the Alarms go I had a few liners on my left hand rod and thought nothing of it any way so I finished baiting up the spot about 5ft from my alarms any way I came back to the swim and noticed my bobbin suspended with the line tight my alarm had broke in the rain and was going weird the light was coming on but no sound I was gutted not that the alarms were expensive and there not the best but they should be able to withstand rain any ways I had another common. I then reeled in both rods and went to my baited spot that I had baited with mixers within a massive lily pad bed I lost one fish but they kept coming back I then hooked into a 12lb mirror and landed that I then carried on baiting the spot for a while eventually it came after an hour of waiting for the small carp to move a big shoal of fish came in some where huge defiantly upper doubles to high 20s I waited for them to get confident eventually I had them coming regularly for the bait I was shaking a lot as I new one ring move would ruin it. Then a massive common tilted up to feed I cast my pop just near its mouth it went to spook but didn't it turned back and snatched it jumped straight into the lilies I just let it run and kept the tension it lost its strength and I thought it had come of but it hadn't I got it's head up and scooped it with The net **it weighed 25lb a new PB for me I was buzzing.** I rang all my mates to tell them and I had my photos and packed up I moved to the top match lake with was full of carp up to 27lb and lots of koi so I moved up there and had another two of the top what an awesome day.     Louis.



**SHANE TOOTH**

I was sat at home on Friday evening tying some rigs it came to around 8pm when I said I'm going to do a quick over night session got to the lake a local Derbyshire butterfly reservoir had a little walk around seen the wind was blown in to the train bridge corner so stayed for a bit to see if I could see any signs of fish in the area seen a few crashing out there was 2 lads to the left who have been there for 24hrs continuing to do 48hrs they said they have had no signs or pick ups and only one fish has came out that day seen everyone was spodding so I did the opposite when for my throwing stick with naturesbaits alpha 18mm and naturesbaits alpha 14mm decided to fish around 30yards out as everyone else was casting around 100+yards scattered around 20 mixed naturesbaits alpha boilies on a spot left the spot for a while while I got set up tied a fresh rig when I got set up because I know the bottom is quite silty where I had chosen I was using 15lb braid hook length with a size 8 curved hook naturesbaits end zone simple hair rig with an 18mm naturesbaits alpha topped with a 12mm naturesbaits alpha pop up so snowman rig presentation since using these combined I have had good results with the naturesbaits alpha in fact since becoming a team member for naturesbaits safe to say naturesbaits alpha is the best bait I have used by far so got the rods in the water around 11pm that evening had no signs through the night until around 8am the rods screamed off I was in and what a result a cracking 22lb original common after this I had to pack up as work called



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Thankyou for reading

Please keep sending

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