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Hello ... and welcome.

Here we are at issue 45 already...where has the time gone? But we are not complaining, as we continue to bring you the online magazine you have come to enjoy so much every month. Its great getting feedback from our readers, so keep that up!!

Whilst we have your attention... If there is something you would like to see in future issues of Talking Carp let us know and we will endeavour to make it happen for you. Its as easy as that.

Keep those articles, stories and catch reports coming... each issue is made by the angler, for the angler... in other words this magazine is all down to you guys. Great work everyone.

Since we last appeared on your smart devices screens the clocks have gone back, and the colder months are here now. Cold... dark... long nights... short days. Please remember to wrap up warm, take a spare set of clothes to keep in the car, use your overwraps, recharge all your electricals regularly and carry spare batteries... but most importantly we feel... keep in contact with your family and friends, just to let them know you are safe and sound at least. They do worry about us when we disappear for days on end at this time of the year!

Enjoy your fishing and catch you next month. Team Talking Carp.

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White Springs
plus all your catches !!!!!!!!

Cover shot -Mike McMahon





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What is significant about February 22nd to the 23rd 2020....?

Not sure..? Well, I have the perfect man to answer that question...Mr. Nick Maddix..!!

Who...? I hear many of you ask...

Nick 'Reedy' Maddix, the very man behind the event on that specific date and the man that has been running the event for the past seven years....

Nick is the Owner and the Organiser of the 'Northern Angling Show' (NAS), which on the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd February 2020, will be opening its doors for show number eight..!!

"Reedy" as he is also known to his friends, is a man of many talents and not only is he the driving force behind the massive Northern Angling Show, a Carp Angler, and an ex-employee of Nash Tackle, he is also qualified in Fishery Management, has his hand in the world of 'Music Labels' and, if his 'brotherreed' Instagram page is anything to go by, a bit of a Party Animal too... so, how did it all begin...

MG: Nick, welcome to the pages of Talking Carp for the first time and thanks for taking the time to speak with me.... let's start off with you giving us an insight in to how you got started in the angling game and specifically your Carp Angling...



NM: Thank you for inviting me to the pages of TC Mark. Like many, my angling started as a young boy fishing with my Dad, initially he fished for the carp and once the traps were set he would teach my sister and I to float fish. As I grew up and worked my way through thousands of Roach, Rudd, Bleak, Perch, Bream & Tench I naturally wanted to catch something bigger – preferably one of these 'monsters' I'd seen my old man catch. From a young age my summer holidays off school were spent fishing a local pit for weeks on end not catching very much at all. Eventually, as I learnt more about carp fishing and cobbled together a half decent 'carp setup' the results started to come, and I realised just how much I enjoyed carp fishing. As soon as I was old enough to night fish on my own or with friends, I would ask my parents to be drop me off at various day tickets for the weekends and it all stemmed from there really.

MG: Where did the idea for an Angling Show "Up North" come from and how did that then progress into the amazing Northern Angling Show...?

NM: The credit for the original concept of the show goes to Lee Spence and Jamie Clossick, both Northern Anglers themselves that noticed a gap in the market for an angling show anywhere North of Essex!

Jamie was one of the Nash Consultants I looked after at the time and he asked on the off chance if I might be interested in joining them. Shortly after that, I found moving myself 'Up North' to work full time on the show – quite a lifestyle change but a decision I'm glad I made.

The three of us have our strengths that make it work, Jamie is well connected in the angling industry and really helped get the event off the ground in the early stages. Lee has a massive knowledge in



launching, managing and promoting events that cater for thousands of people and I'm quite simply – organised and a perfectionist.

The one thing we have in common is a passion for fishing, so we all know what makes a good show – with this in mind we try to make the event a 'day out' rather than something to do for an hour or two.

MG: Is the NAS the main stay of your focus throughout the year...?

NM: Yes, the show is very much my main focus of the year although I do work on some other projects during the quieter periods now. The NAS is a 'seasonal' operation where Autumn / Winter is mega busy, and the summers are fairly quiet.

As mentioned above, Lee comes from the events industry and owns a brand called Kaluki Musik which I'm involved with. Kaluki's busiest period is during my 'quiet time' with the NAS so I work alongside Lee on that for the bulk of the summer then have less involvement when

I need to focus on the NAS. It's a really good balance, I love music and the club / festival scene as well as fishing so managing to find jobs where I can be involved in both is a real blessing!







MG: Tell us a little bit of the history of the NAS, as year on year it just seems to grow and grow and is attracting the biggest names both in terms exhibitors ...?

NM: As mentioned earlier, Jamie and Lee had the idea originally, but they were struggling getting brands on board initially. During my time at Nash I'd exhibited at almost every show in Europe and met the relevant people at different companies which was a real steppingstone in the early days.

That said the first few years were a struggle; we knew we could pull off a good show in the North but getting manufacturers / brands to believe us was a different story. Slowly but surely, we gained the trust of the trade in our first few years and as the exhibitor list grew so did the attendance.







MG: How much time goes in to planning and marketing the NAS, can you give us an idea of when planning for the 2020 show started and how many people are involved to put the event on...?

NM: As soon as the dust settles, I make a start on the next one but once the dates and venue are in place there's a bit of a quiet period, the brands are focused on their summer projects and in general aren't ready to plan the next years' events. With that in mind no matter how much I try and get done in advance my workload has a massive increase from September onwards when the manufacturers' attention turns to planning the following year.

The vast majority of the work falls into a 5/6-month period with the final 6-8 weeks being ridiculously busy. After Christmas I pretty much say goodbye to the outside world and spend all day every day in the office – 7am starts and 2/3am finishes for 8/10 weeks!!



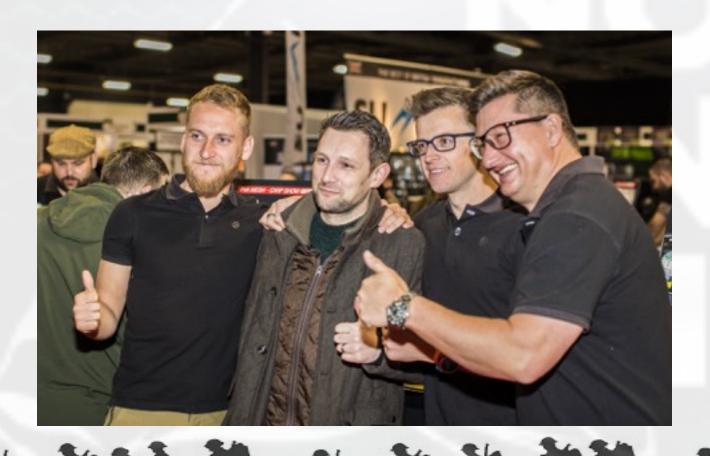


MG: How many visitors does the show now attract and has that also grown year on year ...?

NM: Our record attendance is just short of 17k visitors and it's grown consistently since the launch - I think our first event had approx. 4000 visitors which wasn't a bad start, but nowhere near the numbers we knew were possible.

20k is the figure I would really like to achieve; at the rate the event is growing I wouldn't be surprised if we manage it in the next couple of years...!

MG: How do you decide who to invite on to the stage and do those people choose their own subjects to discuss...?

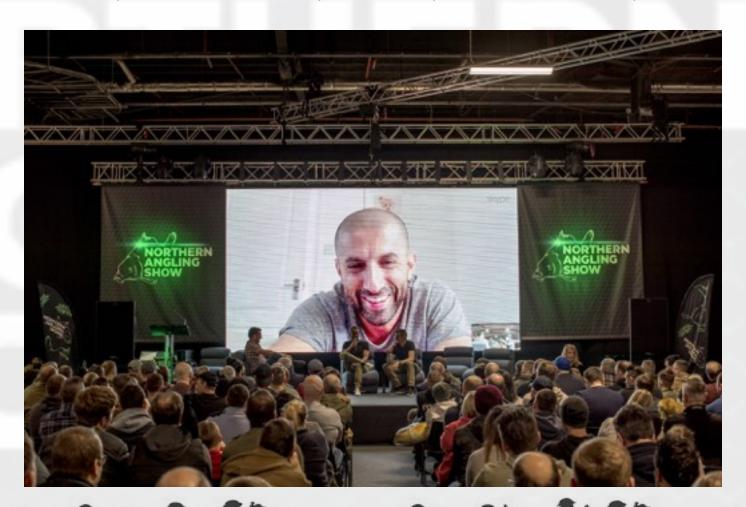




NM: The stage guests are a different kettle of fish (excuse the pun) to the exhibitors – being anglers ourselves we know who visitors want to see and we simply do our best to get them to the event in some capacity.

Generally, we want guests that have something interesting or unique to talk about and will be a draw for visitors. If someone has had an unbelievable season / capture or has released a new series / film / book etc. then they make the short list but anyone that's particularly 'popular' for whatever reason goes into the pot.

Once we have a list of potential speakers, we contact them and see if they're up for it – some are keen, others not so much. I won't name names but there are a few guests we'd like at the show that are proving incredibly hard to catch – they're like wily old commons that just



won't take the hook bait yet, but watch this space;)

In terms of what the guests speak about if there's something in particular we feel would be interesting we'll suggest a topic but on the whole we leave it down to them - this helps to keep it fresh as everyone has their own stories and experiences to share so you get a completely different presentation from each guest.

MG: What are your plans for the NAS in the coming years...?

NM: We're at a point now where we have one of, if not the strongest line up of carp brands at any UK show but we know there's more to angling than just carp.

Our plans for the future are to bring in more disciplines of angling including sea, game and in particular this year - predator brands. It's a tough game as we know the visitors want different styles of angling but convincing the brands to attend isn't easy - there's a massive amount of work for exhibitors at the show that goes into planning / attending as well as the cost of hosting a stand, staff, food,

accommodation etc.



I'm really pleased to have Rapala and a few others on board this year as I'm hoping it's the start of things to come as we push into other markets and make the show even bigger!



MG: Do you have any plans to organise a show anywhere else in the UK or Abroad perhaps...?

NM: At the moment we don't have plans to do another angling show, there isn't really room for another one in the UK and the brands simply don't have the resources to attend them all. In addition to ours and two or three others in the UK there are 30+ shows to attend across Europe as well so there's only so many they can physically attend.

I think adding another to the UK would simply dilute the existing shows – my stance is that it's better to have less but larger and higher quality events than lots of smaller / half-hearted ones.

MG: Can you give us an insight into who will be guesting at the 2020 show...?

NM: Not sure when this will be released so can't say too much just yet, keep an eye on our social media pages though.;)





MG: In terms of your own Carp Angling, how often do you get on the bank...?

NM: Not as much as I used to in recent years but that's only down to myself and how my angling preferences have changed, I guess.

Having lived in Essex before moving North the fishing on offer was considerably different, all of a sudden, I went from having hundreds of forties and fifties on my doorstep to a handful (if any) in the surrounding area.

I guess during the period I lived near Manchester my interest in going fishing dwindled, especially as my summers were now spent organising / attending music events with Kaluki...... Weekends in Ibiza or Mosquito filled bivvy..... easy choice if you ask me!





MG: When you do get chance to fish, what type of waters do you fish, are you on any syndicates...?

NM: As mentioned above my angling in the UK really ground to a halt the last few years however that recently changed. I've moved back to Bedfordshire where I'm originally from so I've got some decent waters on my doorstep again, I've done the syndicate thing in Essex and whilst they can hold some amazing fish the whole 'rat race' side of angling just isn't for me.

I'd rather fish somewhere with a lesser stock but not see another angler for the duration of my session – not because I'm anti-social, just because I enjoy being able to do my own thing on my own terms whilst fishing for the slightly more 'unknown.'

In the few months I've been back down this way I've done more nights and had more fish than I have in the past few years put together! I'm buzzing to get the next show finished and start a proper spring campaign on a couple of places I've been fishing – watch this space;)

MG: What was your time like with Nash Tackle and was it a difficult decision to leave...?

NM: My time at Nash was amazing! I worked there from the age of 17 and I'll always look back on those days with fond memories. Alan Blair, Tom Forman and I were all friends before we started working there - Tom was the first to join, followed by me a year later and Alan shortly after that. Not only did we all get a job working for one of the leading brands in the industry, we all had a job where we got to work with our mates which made for some lovely times! I got to meet loads of great people over the years too who are still some of my closest friends today.



Leaving Nash was fairly straight forward but at the same time quite daunting. As Alan and I were good friends as well as colleagues we had an open discussion about how it wasn't really what I wanted to do at the time and that Nash needed someone that was fully dedicated to the role. It was around this time that Jamie and Lee invited me to get involved with the show, so it made sense for me to try something different which benefited all parties overall.

Leaving Nash was on extremely good terms and I was very fortunate to have an offer from Kevin whereby should my future plans not work out - I would always be welcome back at Nash, so it was really nice to walk away with no hard feelings on either side.

MG: So, what's next for you now and in the future...?

NM: What's next for me....? Well, in the short term I'm now full steam ahead with NAS 8, for such a small team it's a mammoth task







to organise the planning, logistics, promotion and day to day running of the business itself so I'm pretty tied up until February now. Aside from that my real dream would be to organise a festival / large scale music event as well as the NAS, it would be a huge challenge but as Del Trotter once said – "he who dares Rodney, he who dares...."

MG: Finally, how did you get the "reedy" nickname.

NM: HaHa, I've been asked this one a few times but it's really not that interesting I'm afraid!

It comes from my first day at Shuttleworth College where I studied fishery management. One of the tutors was walking us round the grounds and stopped the group by one of the lakes to pick up a reed. He proceeded to split the reed down the centre and told us how to differentiate between a 'Harsh' and 'Common' reed....

....Me being a cocky little so and so decided to stop at the next set of reeds and imitate exactly what he had just told us to which one of the lads on the course responded "Alright Reed Boy...!" and by the end of the day it was "Reedy" and now 15 years later it's what I'm known as by the majority of my friends!

'Quick Fire' questions..which do you prefer...

- Commons or Mirrors..? Can I say BIG Commons?
- Day Sessions or Overnighters or Longer Sessions..?
 Longer Sessions





- Small or Big Waters .. ? Big Waters
- **Remote Locations or Full Facilities..?** Remote Locations
- UK or Outside...(If outside, name the country) Outside -France
- Spring / Summer / Autumn / Winter fishing..? Spring / Summer
- Bottom or Surface..? Bottom
- Close In or Long Range..? Long Range
- If you could only fish one more session, where would it be.. Rainbow Lake - France
- What was your most memorable Fish you caught and why?

The Scar from Graviers in France, besides being the biggest carp I'm

likely to ever catch at over 92lb+, Jamie and Lee were both with me on the trip, so it was great to share the experience with good friends!







MG: "Reedy", it has been an absolute pleasure talking with you and myself and the rest of the guys here at Talking Carp, wish you all the success for the future of the Northern Angling Show. I look forward to doing a Post-event write up in our March issue and would encourage anyone that has not been to a NAS to get along there in February 2020.

Also, as you know, I fancy myself as a bit of an 'Angling Celebrity' with plenty to say, and have long wanted a chance to get on stage at the NAS and so a big thank you for the offer of 'sweeping up' on the Sunday evening, I look forward to it..!!!

Mark Carper

Got a story to tell, fancy being interviewed, got a product to be reviewed....get in touch...

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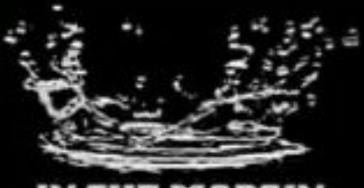
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After my last session I enlisted in a scuba diving course, it's something I have always wanted to do but never gone through with it. As I am not getting any younger, I decided to take the plunge to see how I would cope. I called one of the instructors at the Thurrock Aqualung Club and booked a try dive. They hold lessons on a Friday evening at the local pool, so come 20:00 I was ready and raring to go. Bryn the instructor kitted me up and gave me a briefing before we entered the pool, once in the pool I took to it like a duck to water. Bryn is an exceptional instructor and gave me nothing but confidence. After the lesson I went to the local club with them and found out more about the British Sub Aqua Club BSAC. I got home around 23:00 and the first

thing I did was pay my yearly subscription online and sign up, to say I was excited was an understatement. Going forward I will be swapping my shifts at work to make the Friday evening class and who knows in 3 months' time I could be a qualified Ocean diver.

As for fishing it would be 6 weeks before I could get back over the lake due to work and family commitments, which is a long time. So, come the end of June after finishing my last early shift it was straight home get the car loaded

have a quick shower then down to the lake like a rally driver. The weather was not very favourable with the hottest weekend forecast this year and temperatures reaching over 30 degrees I was dreading it if I'm totally honest. I arrived at the lake around 16:00 and once parked I grabbed my brolly and started my lap of the lake. Swims 1, 4, and 3 were taken so that gave me 6 swims to choose from, the wind was blowing east/north east and when I checked the weather app it was going to turn South easterly tomorrow and it was going to be





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quite strong. I headed through the gate and made my way down to the snags in swim 9. Just before I got to the swim, I checked the snags and could see a couple of fish basking in the sun. I got to the swim and looked across to the snags opposite and again could see a few more fish so that was my mind made up.

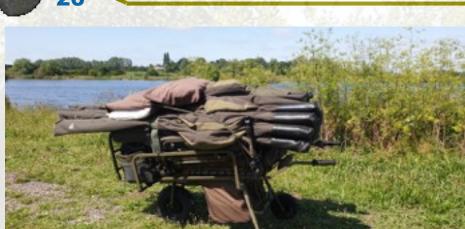
I set my brolly up in the shade of a large tree then made my way back to my car to get the rest of my gear. I set my new electric barrow up that came a few weeks back and this was its maiden voyage. With the kit on board it was so easy barrowing the gear, and even after 2 barrowloads I was as fresh as a daisy, the barrow is simply awesome and for anyone who doubts them all's I can say is that this will transform

my fishing and my health. I will be writing a review on the barrow in 6 months' time with all the pros and cons.

With all the gear at the swim I set about putting everything where it needed to go and then it was time to get the rods sorted. The bay was really weedy, but I found a clearish channel between me and the snags so that's where the first rod was placed







I fished a Skunk pop over a few kilos of freebies. The left-hand rod was placed at the bottom of a snag again in a clearish area. I then cast a couple of rods out in the main water and they were both on zigs, that way I have all basis covered.

Well now it was time to chill have something to eat and watch the water. Max turned up and went into swim 8 to my left and also took the boat that was in my swim so he could put his rods out. Before I knew it, the sun was setting, and the air started to cool down. An hour or so later

I was ready for bed and once I laid down, I went out like a light. Just before first light I got a screaming take on one of the zig rods and I mean screaming, I jumped out the cover donned the waders and ran down to the rods, the spool was still spinning when I lifted the rod I could feel the fish lunging then everything went solid!!

I kept the pressure on hoping the fish would bolt out the weed, but it didn't, I went to get the boat and realized Max had it in 8 so that was out the question and being so early no one else was awake. I put

the rod down loosened line off and sat watching the tip with the line in my hand. Nothing happened for what seemed like ages. I went back to my swim grabbed my life jacket then went down and took the boat from Max, once back at the swim I grabbed my rod and slowly pulled myself towards the fish, but all the while I couldn't feel any signs that the fish was still on. Once above the fish I grabbed my line and applied pressure and after a few attempts it gave way and up came my zig minus 3ft of it!!!!

As you can imagine I was not impressed but that's fishing, I went back to my swim and tied a fresh zig then it was a case of casting back out to the same area where I lost the fish. With the rod back out I stuck the kettle on for my first coffee of



the day, as the sun came up a few fish showed out in front of the main swim which was great to see. You could feel the warmth in the air, and it was going to be a scorcher of a day, the wind had turned and was blowing right into my swim. I spent most of the day watching the fish in the snags and from what I could see when the fish came from over the back of the snags, they were dropping down out of sight in the clearish area I was fishing, they then reappeared

at the entrance to the snags. My thoughts were to just keep trickling in the bait as the fish were definitely swimming over it. Mid-afternoon and the temperature soared to 27oc degrees, luckily for me I was set up in the shade and I had a strong east/south easterly wind blowing straight into me so in all fairness it didn't feel as hot as it was.

As I was chained to the snags, I wasn't aware of any other anglers turning up, that's the beauty of

fishing the snags it's like your there all on your own which is nice sometimes. Late afternoon I decided to recast the rods and freshen the baited areas up then it was a case of a nice bit of home cooked food then relax until I couldn't keep my eyes open anymore. I drifted off to sleep quite early and the next thing I knew was the alarm going off I had a good night's sleep though. The kettle went on while I emptied the bladder then I got dressed and sat with





my coffee watching and listening. I just love watching the water before the sun comes up for me it's a great time to see showing/ feeding fish. It's a massive confidence boost if they start showing over your baited areas as your halfway there. Just as I was on my second cup of coffee the right hand rod burst into life, I already had the waders on in readiness I was on the rod and as I lifted it the fish took line, but I knew from the onset it wasn't a big fish and after only a few minutes a lovely plump mirror was engulfed in the net. As I said it wasn't a big fish but one of the stockies weighing in at 18lb. a very pretty fish and I'm sure if they keep growing as they are, they will look awesome at 30lb or bigger.

Just as I had finished

weighing and treating the fish a friend of Gary's walked round into the swim, which was perfect timing as the nice gentleman took a couple of photos for me then she was treated and returned. He was fishing a couple of nights and was having a walk round. He left after about 10

minutes and as soon as he did, I went about getting the rod rebaited and back out to the same area. I scattered a few handfuls of bait to keep the fish interested and hopefully one of the A Team get their head down. It was only still early, and it felt more humid than it did yesterday I checked

my phone and it was already 18oc degrees and it was only 07:00am!! As the morning wore on it got hotter and hotter but again due to the position my brolly was in shade it felt quite nice when the wind started to get up.

I have had a much





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better season this year even though everything went wrong in Spring, well what I mean is that I thought I had the lake sussed only for the lake to do the complete opposite!! but to have another fish and not blank speaks volumes, blanking is a learning curve and sometimes you need to make the small changes which can make the biggest differences. Despite

what anglers think and say Bayeswater is a lake like no other and at times drives you insane, but on the other hand I love the constant challenge and I just love being there.

This certainly is a place where dreams are made and hearts are broken.

As the day wore on the temperature got hotter and hotter to an eye watering 32oc degrees,







now I for one would never be fishing in this sort of heat but my fridge like swim made it quite comfortable so when I was in the swim it didn't feel that hot but when I walked to the open water my god it was unbearable. Since the stockie had spooked the fish out of the snags they didn't return and the fish that were evident were on the other side of snaggy island. Come late afternoon I

decided I'd had enough and as I was back to work in the morning it was time for me to pack up and make the pleasant journey of barrowing my gear back to the car with minimal effort. I'm hoping to be back over in the next four weeks to have another go.

I would like to thank the following companies for their products of which I use in my fishing.

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So as previously mentioned last month, my new venue challenge is now over. It had been a fantastic 5 months traveling god knows how many miles to the 6 different lakes I fished, coming out of it with a total of 9 fish (including a new PB of 33.2lb!) from 6 new lakes is to me, a pretty good crack at the challenge I set out on, blanking at only my last venue Emmotlands.

So now I am looking ahead to my big yearly social with my friend Carl, we were originally set out to fish 4 nights at Bluebell Lakes, but unfortunately we have had to change venue now as the complex has a charity match on hosted by ESP's Kev Hewitt, all for a good cause however and I'm sure it be a brilliant event for all involved if I had known about it sooner I would have looked into

entering myself. But with only Kingfisher, Bluebell and Swan left available, and it been an incredibly pressured venue, we decided not to take the risk of the almost 4 hour drive down to be left disappointed if we couldn't get a decent sociable peg.

So, enter PLAN B. We have now got ourselves booked onto Cromwell lakes at Newark, only 2 and a half hours drive for us. and an incredible stock of big fish. Neither of us have fished here before so it's going to be a new experience for both of us, but that's not just it, as we are only fishing Cromwell Wednesday until the Friday, the lake is then already booked for the weekend so we will be packing up the Friday morning and heading to the A1 pits just a short drive down the road from there for the

remaining 2 nights. So, another two new venues in the space of 4 days! However, I won't include these on my new venue challenge as this is a dedicated social and I'm happy with how my challenge went and don't feel the need to add to it personally. So, as I write this it is currently Friday the 25th of October and we are due to fish next Wednesday until the Sunday, so my November write up will have the entirety of the session on how it went. Wish me luck!

As for last year's
Bluebell Lake trip, it
was only the second
time I had been, and
it was Mallard that
we prefer to fish as
it seems to have the
biggest stock of fish,
the "runs water" of the
complex as I've been
told by many. But make
no mistake, this is no
runs water by any



means as I found the previous year. It is a huge amount of water in front of you, your watercraft really has to be on point on this lake I found, large expanses of shallows and then sudden drop offs, weed beds etc, and the first time I fished it I was abit under gunned and wasn't nowhere near as clued up as I am today. Don't get me wrong, if you're on the fish and your rigs are presented well with a good helping of free bait around your pretty much nailed on for a couple of hits, but you know how it is, the luxury of been able to move onto showing fish isn't always there with it been such a busy place. My first trip was a total blank for 3 solid days, the lake was packed, and the fish were just at the complete opposite end of the lake. For 3 solid days and nights the fish crashed and

boshed in an area that must have covered more than 8/10 pegs down the other end of the lake we could only look on helplessly and pray they would move down to us at some point, but it just didn't happen.

However, I didn't let this put me off going back, so last October we went mid-week. Wednesday Thursday and Friday. The lake was a lot more quiet, fantastic! We had the opportunity to have a good walk around and not dash into a

swim not knowing the pros and cons of it. We eventually got chatting to two guys who were just about to pack up and they had had some fish between them, midway through the conversation the guy on the right hand side of the double peg got an absolute screamer, resulting in a lovely 22lb common. So that sealed it, fish have been feeding here last 2 days and still are obviously here, time to unload. I'd been given abit of advice as to where the fish had been picking baits





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up, he had them in 3 separate areas just casting solid bags to whatever showed in front, but as the hours went by the shows didn't happen, so I settled on a gravel area 17.5 wraps straight out in front of me and I baited hard with maize hemp and boilie.

The first night resulted in two fish for me, absolute screamers the pair of them, they came within an hour's spell 9pm and just after 10pm. 15lb and 19.4lb absolute beauty fish they were. So already coming back had paid off, I didn't let a hard blank the previous

year put me off. I came back this year with much more knowledge now in my fishing, my watercraft was so much better than year before, reading the lakebed and hitting complete accuracy was now second nature as I had practiced and practiced on my local water for the winter months when it was all quiet. It's certainly seemed to paid off. Second day/night and I had another take on the night roughly same time as the first time last night. This felt much, much bigger. Big slow and deep lunges every now and then this was no small fish, after about 5 minutes the fish went absolutely rock solid in weed about 9 wraps out in front I was in total panic and worry as I know this lake does hold upper 30's and even 40's. Anyway, after about 15 maybe even 20 minutes





the line eventually pulled slack, it had come off, a long winded rant of disappointment soon followed as you can image haha! But I got my rod straight back out with a fresh 18mm cell tipped with fake corn. Next morning came with no more action, my Friend Carl so far had been unlucky enough to lose fish on both the first and second night so the main priority was to get him a fish for the last night at least so we could both go home with smiles on our faces.

Late evening approached and our spots were primed and ready for the night ahead we were confident as after speaking to others around the lake fish



had been coming out all over so we thought the 9pm bite time would serve us well and we've both had bites each night after this time. BBQ on and a few beers to go with it the setting was perfect for a social, sun was setting directly in front of us on a mild October evening, this is what a good social is all about at the end of the day, just been out there on nights like these. It was this session that made me really love this complex

as its just absolutely stunning.

The morning came and unfortunately, we did not get lucky through the night, we couldn't figure out why the settings for a bite were exactly the same as the two previous nights. But it just didn't happen this time. Time to pack up, I felt gutted for my mate Carl I, but as many other anglers he just took it on the chin and looked ahead to the next session. For me, I was just over the



moon of had just 3 bites with 2 fish from such a massive body of water, I'd never caught a fish from a lake any bigger than 4/5 acres as that's all there is my way that far up north. So, I left with a sense of massive achievement that I got my watercraft, rigs, baits all correct for them 3 takes, I could have maybe done better, we call can when you look back at a session. We never really felt the need to move as we were getting runs at the same times on the first two nights, nobody had nothing during the day so we know we just had to wait it out until the night for bite time, plus the fish were always in our area mid evening so we knew we would get some action from as early as the first evening. But I was happy with the result non the less. Bluebell 2018

complete.

So as gutted as I am not to return this year in 2019, I'm more than happy with our plan B that is Cromwell lakes and A1 pits, both challenging waters and another adventure for our

books. I've started to come up with an idea for my 2020 challenge and I will explain all at the end

of my Cromwell and A1 write up.

Enjoy your Autumn fishing everyone who's reading, have at em.

Nathan.











As I had a good result on my last outing I couldn't wait to get the rods back out. I wanted to get back on the syndicate as I knew the big common was due out and it loves the cold weather, but the weather had different ideas... it went really cold compared to what it had been at night but was warm during the day. I made a few calls and the syndicate was really busy, so I was going to go some were easier. I knew of a day ticket water that fished well even when it goes cold, so that's where I would go for two nights. The lake was about 15 acres in size with two big islands in the middle with a few bars that run in between the two islands. The depths run from 4ft down to 9ft at its deepest, there is also a very good head of fish in there which always helps.

The weekend was spent sorting the gear out and bait. It had warmed up a little, so I was going to take more bait just in case they were on the feed. I was going to take 8 tubs of munch baits dead reds. I would also take a 10 kilo munch baits cream seed but might not use it as these fish seem to like small bits and bobs. On the Monday I was up bright and early for the long trip... 120 mile till I get there!! Once the car was loaded and I had made a brew I was off. I wanted to get there before it got light, the traffic was good to me on the day and I was there a good half hour before it got light. I parked the car in the car park, there was only a few cars already in there, so I chance of a good swim. I set off for a walk around the lake. The first angler I came to was playing a fish so I stopped

and watched him net it and it looked like a good twenty. After a few snaps for him and he slipped it back and a had a chat with him for a few minutes and it turned out that that fish was his 6th of the night so it looked like there was a few fish held up in the middle of the lake.

I carried on around the lake and now I was in the swim that was directly opposite the angler that had the fish, this swim was in between the two main islands and the angler was casting onto the main bar that runs between both of them, the bar was wide enough that we could both fish on it but still be a good 60 yards from each other. I sat there as the sun come up sitting on the edge of the swim and I counted 8 fish jump on the bar in front of me so that was it. I was



going to set up in this swim. I rushed back to get my gear. I loaded the barrow and rushed back to the swim in case someone turned up, the first thing I was going to do was try and get a quick bite. I had two solid bags made up, so I tied them on to my rods and cast them both out on to the bar and placed them on the floor while I sorted out my buzzers. I just put the second rod on the buzzer wen the line pulled out my hands and I was in. The rod had only been out for less than 5 mins ... this was a good start because I had hooked this fish in shallow water. There was only really one way it could go and that's away from my so it tore line of my reel at a rate of knots, so after slowing the fish down I finally had it under control but because it had gone along the bar the line had picked up



some dead weed and that had gone over the carps head which made it a bit easier to get in so after a few minutes I had it under the rod tip. The only problem now was that it was deep margins, so it took a further few minutes to finally land it. I looked into the net and it looked like a good scaley twenty-pound mirror.

Well after sorting the mat and camera gear out I slipped it back then tied another solid bag up and cast it back out on to the bar. This time I managed to get

the rod on the buzzer and the bobbins on, then it was time to get the house set up as the weather didn't look to good. The house was up and sorted and just in time as it started to chuck it down so I fired up the kettle for a cuppa till it stopped then I could find some proper spots and get some bait out there. While I was drinking my brew, I was watching a few fish crashing out just abit further than where my baits are... about 130 yards out. The rain finally stopped so I could now sort out my





spots and get some bait out there. After baiting up, the right had rod gave a few bleeps. As I looked at the rod the bobbin had lifted to the top of the rod but that was it. I looked at the line and I could see it lifting out the water, the fish was kiting right so I picked the rod up and lent into the fish. It soon woke up and tore across the bar again picking up some dead weed on its way which slowed it down and I managed to get it close in and that's

where the weed fell of its head and that is when it started to fight. It was going from left to right and using the depths in the margins, after a few minutes I

slipped the net under it. It was another scaley 20lber. I took few pictures and I slipped her back. I left that rod in and reeled the other in because I was going to sort my spots out and bait up.

I got the marker rod out and started to cast around on the bar where the fish had showed and I found a nice clear patch around 10 ft wide with dead weed ether side so I thought that would do so I clipped the marker

rod up and used the range sticks so I could get the spod the same distance. I also clipped the rods up at the same distance. Once this was all done I started to spod the dead reds out there. I wasn't going to put the whole lot in to begin with. I thought because of the amount of fish I had seen out there and the amount that is in the lake, I would put half in then if a big shoal did come across my area it would keep them there, but first I





would tie up two new solid bags and cast them out on the spot. Once I had done this and set the bobbins I began to start spodding. After what felt like forever I had put out what I wanted and cleaned everything and sat back down for a brew and something to eat as I was starving. I really enjoyed my ham and mushroom toastie done on the ridge monkey. As I was eating and drinking I was watching the area I had baited for any signs of fish. A few had showed where the bloke on the other side had his baits, but he hadn't had any more since I saw the one that morning a few more people had turned up on the lake so that activity should keep the fish moving around.

I had decided to tie up a few more solid



bags ready for when I get any action. I was using small pellets in the bag and the bags were only mouthful size so not too big. I had done about 8 solid bags and I thought that would be enough, when the bailiff came around. We chatted for about half an hour and I learned that most of the fish have been coming out in the afternoon when the sun was on the water and it warmed up a little this filled me with confidence as the sun had just started to come out, and as I was fishing in quite

shallow water it would be the warmest place so I couldn't wait for the action to start. The afternoon came and went, and the buzzers stayed silent, a few fish had showed but I think the bulk of the fish had done the off. It soon got dark and the gates were locked so no one else can get in during darkness and I still had not had a bleep. I thought I had messed it up with the bait when while I was cooking my lovely curry that my wife had made the left-hand rod went into meltdown. I dropped everything and I was





into a hard fighting fish that was in no hurry to come in. I managed to turn my cooker off while I was playing the fish so not to burn my food. Well this fish didn't want to come in it fought like a demon and I managed to get it near the net and in the torch light I could see it wasn't a massive fish, probably a low double at best, but in the net it went and I was right it was a small one so I unhooked it and let it go but that was another fish to the tally and just as I was attaching a new bag to that rod the other one was away. This was a different fight; it was slow and steady and kept low in the water which made me think this was a good fish. They go to mid thirty in here so one of those would be nice in the winter. After a good old tussle I managed to get the fish in the edge and keep it away from

the other lines and then when it popped up in the torch light it came up side first and I could see that I had foul hooked it and I was right it was a really good fish and looked nice and black in its winter colours. I landed it and unhooked it and let it swim off gutted that I had foul hooked a good 20 and it was so close to my hook bait and I didn't hook it in the mouth. Two new bags tied up and cast back on to the spots. At least I knew that the fish were on the spot.

Kettle fired up as I needed a nice hot brew to warm my hands up as it had turned quite chilli but no were near as cold as last week as drunk my tea i was wondering if I had done the right thing in coming here. I had still had two nights to go so if the fish still carried on feeding I was in for a good session. It was

getting quite late, so I decided to hit the sack. I was soon asleep, and you guessed it, I slept like a log with not a single bleep. I woke up to a single bleep just as it was getting light but that's all it was... a bleep. I could see the hot breath in the cold air. so it wasn't warm. I fired up the kettle for a nice brew that should warm me up well as I sat there watching the water 3 more people turned up opposite me and started to cast out on to the bar now they were casting nowhere near me so that was good. The good thing about them being there it would force the fish my side hopefully as my traps were already set. The sun was just coming up over the trees opposite me and the right-hand rod signaled 3 bleeps then tore off. I was up and on it after a few seconds it fell off and as I was reeling that





reeling that rod in and not happy that it had fell of the other rod burst into life. This fight was like the one last night that I had foul hooked. I was hoping that it wasn't the case and after a few minutes it surfaced and thank god it wasn't it was hooked in the mouth and it looked a good fish, a good mid twenty, a few more gulps of air and she was mine. It was another fish that had a few scales on the side and in its winter colours. On the scales it went 25lb 6 oz. I was well chuffed with that and a few self takes she was slipped back to her home. Well just as slipped that fish back the bailiff came through the trees into my swim he asked how I was getting on. we chatted about what I had caught and then I told him about the one I had foul hooked and we had a few laughs about how big it was. I

made him a brew and we spoke about the fish that was in there and how many had been out then he went on his way.

After he had gone I attached a new solid bag and cast it back on the spot and redone the other rod. I was thinking that I might put another few spods over the top of the others it might just kick start them into feeding. As I was doing this an angler turned up in my swim and asked where I was fishing to as he

was going in the next swim to me. I thought what the hell the whole lake and he wants to go in the next swim to me, but that's what you have to put up with on a day ticket lake. It turns out that the lads on the other side had told him I was having a few and to get over near me which you can't blame him for, at the end of the day your there to catch fish. He turned out to be a nice bloke and we had a good chat about the lake and things. Just as he was going next





A change of Plan

door one of my rods melted off and I was into another fish. At first it tore off then it charged towards me, so I had to reel in fast to catch up, when I did it was only a few yards from the bank. The angler who had turned up, whose name was Andy, netted it first time and we both looked down and the fish looked around the scraper twenty mark so with everything still ready from the last fish I had a few snaps and slipped her back. I attached another solid bag and cast it back on the spot and sat down. Andy had gone back to set up. He had decided to miss one swim then set up that with give us both more room to play fish without catching each other's lines which I thought was a good idea.

The morning had started off well and I thought the action

would continue but how wrong was I? As the afternoon went on I had no further action on the rods, but the fish seemed to be on the other side of the bar and were not coming my way. I think i was just nicking the odd fish when they moved my side then went back the other side of the bar. The sun started to go down and it looked like some of the fish have move nearer to my side which I was pleased about as it would be nice to have a few more fish before I go home. Well into the dark I could hear the fish crashing out on top of the bar, but I couldn't actually see where, so I wasn't sure if they were on my side or not. I could just hope they were near me. As the evening went on I started to get a few liners which made me think they could be on me or I could be too far, and they

have come close in. I didn't have to wait long to find out... the lefthand rod was away, and I was into another carp. It was the same old fight like most of the others.. shot off and picked up dead weed which in the end slowed the fish down and made it easy to get in after a few minutes. I had the fish in the net after a quick look it was another mid double. This is good fishing for the winter. I didn't take a picture I just slipped it back, re attached another solid bag, clipped it up to the right distance using the range sticks then cast it back on the spot.

Well after my belly was full and I had drunk my tea I decided to climb into the sack and warm myself up and listen to the radio for a while. I must have drifted off because the next thing I knew a buzzer was screaming at me, so a



quick scramble to the rods and I was attached to another hard fighting fish that was going mad. This fish didn't pick up any weed on the way in, so it was going mad in the deep margins, going up and down and using the depth of the lake to its full advantage. After a few gulps of air, it was finally in the net. No wonder it was going mad, it was a torpedo looking double so a quick look and it was slipped back. Good job I had pre tied the solid bags as I was getting through them and it makes it a lot easier in the night. I attached a new one and cast it back out on the spot and got back into the bag as it was bloody freezing, the temperature must have really dropped during the night. I soon drifted off and I woke up just as it was getting light the water was flat calm

and I could see a few fish crashing out down to my left where I had a bait. That rod soon melted off. I picked the rod up and the fish had kited to the left and again after a while it picked up weed so it was just a case of pumping the fish back and once it was in the deeper water in front of me Andy turned up and first time netted it for me. It looked like a 20 common to me, so I had a quick picture and slipped her back. I clipped the rod up and attached another bag and cast it back on the spot. I didn't have long left at the lake as I had to be off the lake by 10 so I had a couple of hours to see if i could catch another one. During that time, I thought I would break down all my gear and iust leave the rods out. The sun was out so if I didn't catch anything else the sun would dry my mats and net,

so I didn't have to put wet stuff in my car. It wasn't to be as I didn't get any more action on both rods so at 9.30 I reeled both rods in and made my way back to the car. On the way back I was thinking if I could have done anything better to get more bites. I suppose I could have put less bait in at first, but I'll never know. It was a brilliant session for this time of year so I can't complain.

Once the car was loaded it was the long trek home. On the way home I started to think about the next session I was going on and I can't wait. It's an old estate lake set in the Welsh hills, so I am really looking forward to that.

Until next month, tight lines.

Milky







If you follow any of my social media, you will know my fishing has changed over the past year, especially as I've gone from every weekend on my recently departed syndicate to cramming in evening's and or work overnighters on busy club waters. Two very different scenarios although keeping the same mind-set of being motivated and mobile which is therefore the key of my approach.

My work overnighters as far as preparations go is all about being organised and scaling down my gear, as in the weight and quantity of what I am taking. Literally the less I need to carry the better as mentally it puts me in a better headspace to get on my toes and I am more likely to do so without having to move everything plus the kitchen sink.

Being lightweight and mobile it means I can spend plenty of time looking for signs of carp on arrival. Essentially what I'm trying to do on an overnighter is locate fish, this isn't bait and wait, it's me finding them, not them finding my spots. Location is key to any success, so don't be fooled into thinking the rods need to be in the water quickly to make the most of a

short session. I'll walk the banks, watching the water and looking for any signs, so get ready and use your hunting instincts. I'll look under bushes, round the margins, and anywhere that I think carp will patrol to give myself the best possible chance of a bite.

Heavily glugged boilies such as the Bait-Tech Triple-N are my go to bait







for a number of reasons. Firstly, because they are super absorbent meaning the liquid I soak them in prior to my sessions disperses over the short time I am fishing leaking maximum attraction. They are easily digested by fish so they are quickly on the lookout for more and being shelf-life baits it's also a massive advantage, as a bag or two can easily be stored for any last minute visits to the lake.

Obviously the quickest way to catch on a short session is being able to put a rig on fish that I've seen on my travels but it goes without saying the rig should be up for the job and certainly don't just make do because sometimes we can be tempted to simply use what was left on from the last session. Think about what you are fishing over. I use a Slip-D rig for bottom, snowman, wafter baits on cleaner lakebeds, Hinge Stiff Rigs for my pop-ups on choddier bottoms and a simple uncoated short knotless knot rig inside solid PVA bags. With short sessions you may only have time to get one bite, so it is vitally important that you fish efficiently and effectively. Don't leave anything to chance.

One last tip is don't forget the

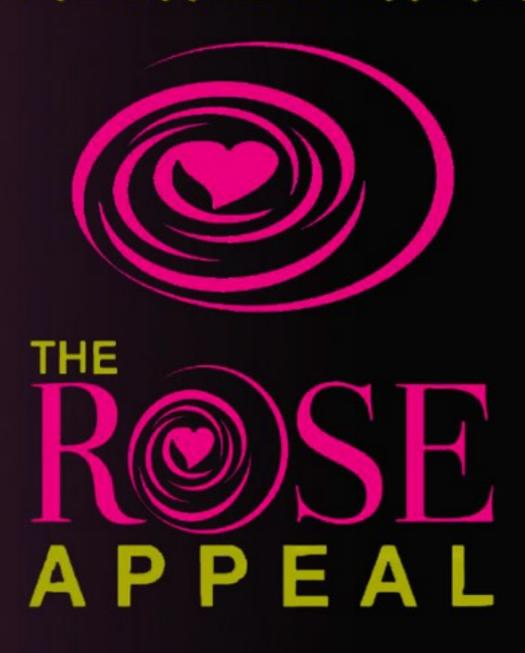
surface fishing kit. In reality there's pretty much nothing to carry, it can be left rigged up and is always ready to go. Carp certainly don't need a lot of encouragement to soak up any bursts of sunshine so you can have some really exciting visual fishing very quickly and often nick yourself a bonus fish. Well worth thinking about.







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by Karl Brandreth



This time out on the bank I was at Monument 1, RH Fisheries in Shropshire, with Dean and a mate of mine. I was on peg 4 and Dean on peg 3. I thought we would be in for a lump or two, but the weather had other plans.

We arrived at 06.15 on Saturday at the main gate, waiting for Tom to come and open up. The lane was packed with cars and both lakes were fully booked so you can only imagine what it was like with 30 odd guys all waiting to get in. We were like children at Disneyland.

Tom turned up a little after 06.30 and we all parked up in the car park and then headed off to the shop to pay our day tickets.

Once paid, we made our way to our pegs and set our stalls up

ready for the weekend ahead.

I set up my gear and observed the other anglers whilst making rigs and assisting Dean with a few bits and bats. The rigs I made were fluorocarbon d-rigs with the Taska end tackle. I got my buckets out and started to prep' my spod mix and hook baits that I had bought from the shop at Monument. (You can only put free bait out from the fishery, but you can use your own hook baits).

It got to about 2pm with not even a bleep on my alarms so I decided to re-do my hook baits and get some spod mix out to see if I could draw them down.

There was hemp oil in my mix in the hope that it might entice them feed.

The weather was sunny and warm the first day, which wasn't ideal, and the carp just weren't feeding. We sat there all day chewing the fat and having a bit of a laugh. There were carp drifting around the lake like submarines,





but they were just not interested in food. It was now teatime, the day had passed quickly and soon we were sat in the dark.

That night as I lay in my bed, I listened to carp fishing around the lake. Some were quite close to my area, but my eyes closed, and I drifted off to sleep. As quick as I fell asleep the morning arrived and the weather had changed completely. It was now apparent that autumn was here. It was absolutely chucking it down, the wind had started to get up, but not in our favour, and leaves were falling. I made breakfast and some brews for me and Dean then. once we had eaten, we both decided to change baits and get some more spod mix out. The spod is the new Spider Spod from Wolf - and it is brilliant. Anyway, we got the

bait out, sat back and watched it rain - on and off. Hard. All day. The weather was not helping at all, but we kept at it. Sunday went quick and, as far as I was aware, there were no carp caught that weekend. Before we knew it, it was time to pack up. Two lads came past us with their

gear. I enquired as to how they got on - they had caught a 30lber and two 20's, I couldn't believe it. I can only put it down to the fact that they were at the back of the wind. We hung on till last knockings, when Tom rings the bell, then we packed up and went home.





The following weekend I got down to my local lake in Cheshire, early on Friday, but the good pegs were already taken. I had a walk around and could see fish moving and fizzing down the deeper end, so I jumped in there. But the weather had other ideas and it rained and rained. I've never seen so much rain. I set up my gear, got my rods out, and sat back watching carp related videos on Youtube. I kept one eye on the water for any signs.

I donned my
waterproofs and
decided a change in
bait was on the cards.
I cracked on with rebaiting and got the
rods back out,

After a re-cast, and getting comfy, I realised that my mate was further down the bank, so I reeled in and went for a chat.

He had caught 3 carp, to 19lb, and told me he was leaving in the morning. I returned to my peg, got the rods back out and saw the night through. I

struggled to sleep due to the sound of the heavy rain on my bivvy

I woke up the next day and, with a break in the rain, I quickly moved



A Change in the Weather

my gear to the peg my mate had occupied.

Once I had set up my gear, again, I got my rods out feeling more confident that I would catch.

As the day went on it got wetter and wetter so I just sat back enjoying the countryside and wildlife.

The rain would not let up so, as it got to night-time, and with not a single bleep, I rang my wife and retired to my bed. I slept through a second night of pounding rain.

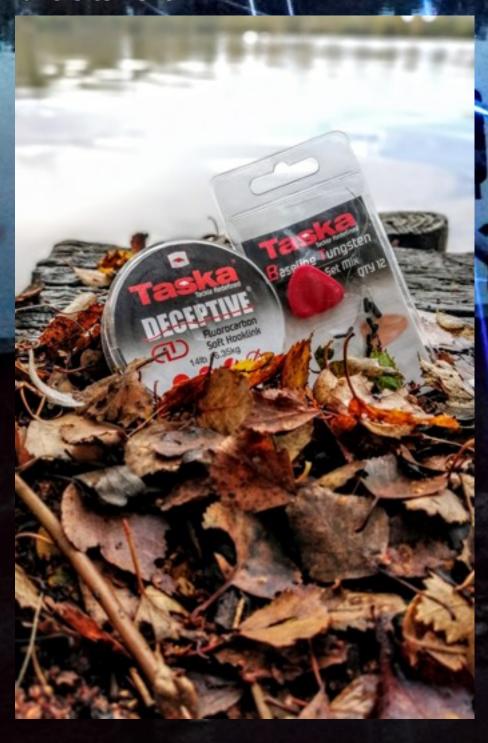
On the last morning I decided to have a couple of brews before packing up to go home.

After two weekends of blanks, and awful weather, I took a

weekend off from fishing.

A couple of weeks later I returned to my other local lake for a quick over nighter. The lake sits next

door to the one I normally fish. It has a bigger head of fish and is shallower with more water to go at.



Karl Brandreth

I made my way down to the lake and when I got there it was empty. No one was on - very strange. I jumped into peg six, got my gear set up and cast out my rods. Being a brew monster, myself, I got the kettle on and had a couple of brews and then watched "The Challenge". Halfway through my left hand rod burst into life. I couldn't believe what happened next. I got the fish in and it

was a 23lb 6oz common! It fell to **Munch Baits - Bio Marine topped** with Cream Seed, as a snowman, on Ronnie rig. The lake is stuffed with smaller carp so to catch a 20, on my first run, is pretty rare. Then it went bad. I caught a bream, every half hour till 1am. I brought my left rod in for the night to get some sleep, I woke up early and got my rods back out on the same spot. Pete,

one of the bailiffs, joined me for the morning and neither of us had a bleep all morning. By 2pm it was time for me to pack up and make my way home. It just goes to show that you might not catch every time you go fishing. Now the winter is coming I will either be on Monument, again, or my local lake. Tight lines everyone. Until next time.

Karl.







After not knowing if the trip was going to go ahead or not due to my mate Ant being on tour still (he's in the British Forces), eventually the green light was given, and we were good to go but we only had six days to prepare....

The fire was burning now, and full preparation mode was in full swing with bait ordered and prepared, because straight out the bag is not the one for us...we like to do our own prep.

In the early hours of the Sunday morning, we set off to try and ensure we would get most of the day at the first venue to give us the best chance of being on fish for the first night.

Music was sorted, Monsters were purchased, and we just cruised down and arrived at the 'Tunnel' with no issues and pretty much got straight on to the train...!

From Calais it was only two hours to the first location we intended to fish. It was a canal that we had fished in January on a little three-night recce in preparation for this trip.

Arriving with no hassle, we immediately saw carp in one of the stretches but that was it just the one and we thought it best to keep looking.

The next stretch

along is one of the bigger ones and we remembered it being very barren in January and now in September nothing much has changed. As we moved on to the next stretch. which was much clearer, literally 'tap water clear' we saw a nice common drift out of the weed and once we saw that one they seemed to be popping out everywhere and, all of them were middouble to low twenties so we decided if we didn't find anything more promising in the next few stretches we would return to here



My Belgium trip of a lifetime

and try our best to get a bite on the first night. As we got half way down the next stretch. where we knew the bigger fish resided, we met three other anglers and although we probably could have fished that stretch it would have been wrong of us to set up anywhere along there when there is so much more water we could fish....angling etiquette is really important, no matter where you are fishing...

After a good walk and look round, we decided to return to the spot

where we had spotted all the commons and got the rods out pretty smoothly. The fish didn't seem too spooked by us setting up and they did not move off us too much either.

By now, it was late afternoon and the anticipation was building as we were almost fully set up and ready to sit back and soak in the atmosphere of the beautiful surroundings we were in.

After only a couple of hours of us actually

fishing and Ants' rod was away, tearing up the canal through the massive wall of weed that ran through the middle of the whole stretch and he was in to the first Belgian carp of the trip!!

After what seemingly felt like ages of one minute gaining a little bit of line and then just as quickly losing it, we could see, sat below a colossal ball of weed was a big 'scaly mirror'....we stripped weed away until finally we could get the net under her, the moment was electric we couldn't believe it had happened so soon and it was a 'proper one' sat sulking in the net...!

Shortly after Ant got the rod back out it was away again, tearing through the weed like his mate did, this time we could see it was another big mirror but a totally different shape.





With a big sloping head, it was a proper creature and the buzz we were already on was even stronger now and considering we had only seen small commons up to now made it even more incredible that Ant had caught two big mirrors, it all seemed crazy...!

We went into the night on a massive high and not too long after dark I had my first bite and I was instantly connected to my first fish of the trip....

.... As with Ants' fish, this one was straight into the weed and after some heart wrenching moments and having to get the boat out, Ant had the net under her, and the panic was over.

I had bagged myself a mirror too, but it was hard to tell what it looked like in the torch light so the excitement of seeing my prize in the morning was very real.

Not long after putting that rod back out it was away again this time a single beep was enough to know there was one on the end, but this time much less drama and it pretty much popped up and came in along the top of the weed. Once it was in the net. we could see it was another mirror and a bit bigger than the last, but still couldn't really tell the full size of it or what it would look like in the light.

Dawn broke and as I was full of anticipation and excitement to see my quarry, I was already sat on the canal tow path where my slings were and as soon as it was light enough to see clearly, we got the first one out.

It was a mega dark one with skin like marble! I was buzzing at that moment and the thought that we had both smashed it on the first night was an incredible feeling.

When we got my second carp out, which we knew was a bit









bigger than the first, it turned out to be bigger than we had first thought and this fish was also jet black and absolutely solid.

We were made up to have caught the stamp of carp we had considering we thought we were only going to get mid-double commons. To get these under our belts early on was a real surprise, a nice surprise though and a real boot to our trip so early on.

In less than eighteen hours of fishing, we had landed two thirties and two twenties, from a Belgian canal. It was an unreal feeling for sure!

Having had such a result in such a short time, we thought we would maximise our time on the next water and decided to cut our stay on the canal a day short.

We decided to make the move onto some very special public lakes and after packing away at the canal and a very uneventful journey, we arrived at a water that we had fished the previous Autumn.

After doing what was a 'monumental' walk of the mass of water in front of us, we found an area that we thought the carp would pass through and it allowed us to cover two lakes at once but essentially still fish together.

We went back to the van and loaded the barrows ready for a big push with three nights worth of gear to our chosen spots, and, as we got close, we could see there were now two guys sat in there...disaster...!! After speaking to them we found that they were local anglers and they had been prebaiting these spots for several weeks. After a brief chat, we carried on with the barrows to our second spot which was about the same distance again but at least once we got there it was still empty, and we were good to go.



The marker rods were deployed, and it didn't take too long to find a few spots in front of us.

My spot was quite close in and was a large, probably the size of a family car, smooth silt area with big walls of weed all around it.

Ants' spots were slightly different and much harder, gravely type areas where we had seen a huge amount of fizzing and quite a few fish had shown themselves in the area. It made sense to target them.

We went into our first night feeling quite confident of a bite.... but we had no idea what was about to happen.....

We let the night set in and enjoyed a BBQ and a 'few beers' and decided we should go to sleep earlyish so as to be up nice and



early and slightly more refreshed after all the driving and the busy night before.

Not long after midnight, one of my rods was away....and it was flying up the lake from the take.

Ant was straight on with his waders and into the water and shortly after, he had scooped up a lovely dark common, which just sat chilling in the net.

I got that rod straight back out and an hour or so later it was away again...!! At this point we knew what had to be done and again, Ant was straight back out there and there was another one in the net, this time a mirror and amazingly, it was one that we had had the pleasure of photographing for another angler on the previous trip so we knew this one was a bit special.

We now couldn't wait till to morning to see her properly in the daylight. After catapulting another kilo or so of boilie out onto the spot, the rod went back out again and we tried to grab some sleep.



After only an hour or so, that same rod was going again, this time it felt a much bigger fish and with daylight appearing on the horizon, we could see as it approached the net, it was bigger fish than the others...

As we unhooked her and put her in a sling alongside her mates, I knew sleep wasn't happening anymore and as I stood there it wasn't quite sinking in what had just happened. As I looked down at three full slings of very special carp from an exceptionally special place, I could not believe what had happened...!

Morning fully broke and we hoisted the first one out to get some pictures. This was a lovely high twenty, chestnut brown common and I was absolutely made up to have caught one let alone three and couldn't wait to get the next one out....

Number two was a fish we recognised as we had previously met it and knew it was named "Black Eve" by the locals. It was a 'crusty' black low thirty mirror and was an absolutely stunning looking carp.

After returning her it was time to see the big one and as we lifted her out, we could tell it was a fair bit bigger than the others.

This one was a big framed fish with huge wrinkly, leathery flanks. I couldn't believe that I was holding an upper

> thirty for the camera and we were only on our second night of the trip.

With all the excitement and pictures over and the fish returned safe and well, the





spot seemed to have gone quiet and with no signs or indications of any more carp, I decided another big hit of bait was needed.

My bait of choice was Munch Baits 'Bio Marine' in both 14mm and 18mm and to fish Yellow 14mm Bio Pop-Ups over the top on Size 4 Long Shank Hooks, connected to Hinge Rigs.

After baiting up the spot the rod went back out, and a few hours had passed and as we

chatted to a local angler the rod was away again. This time it was a very long common and it turned out to be a very cool carp with withered down fins and hump on its head and the craziest

dorsal I had ever seen. The chap we were speaking with us told us this fish was known as "The Tourist" which at that moment, rounded it all off nicely for me with a fitting name for a fish that, as a tourist myself, i had just caught...!!

Ant decided on a change of tactic and found a spot further out in the lake, again a spot with fairly firm silt surrounded by weed and he presented a couple of rigs on top followed by some bait.

Not too long after he caught two bream and that was it, he had a move on his mind and went and found some spots on a lake only twenty or so yards behind where we were fishing.

He moved all of his gear to the new swim but had left his rods until last and out of the blue one of them was tearing away, in a split second he was on the rod and was doing battle with his first carp from this lake. This time it was me in the



My Belgium trip of a lifetime

waders and I edged my way down a small reed lined spit as he coaxed the carp through vast amounts of weed.... After only a short battle, I had eyes on the prize and scooped her up, but we didn't know what had just rolled over the net cord.... we didn't realise it was such a big carp...!

It wasn't until we got this fish on the mat that we realised just what Ant had caught....
he had caught a real
'dinosaur of a carp'
and it was much bigger
than either of us had
anticipated.

Pulling the scales round to just over the 40lb mark, this fish had crazy scales down its flanks and pecks bigger than our hands... it was a proper carp and the fire was truly alive once again....

We went into that night

deep in conversation about a particular fish we knew resided in this lake which also happened to be biggest one too. We figured that after our luck so far, it wasn't unreasonable to consider that may be, just may be our luck would hold for the lake record...but which one of use could it happen too...??!!!

In the middle of the night Ants' rod ripped







off yet again and this time, I was totally unaware...! Eventually, he managed to wake me and in a crazy daze I did my best to get back in the water and up the reedy spit as before.

Ant had said he had a feeling it was "the one", and it was clear to see that at this point, the fish was in absolute control of Ant. We had been told this is how she fights, so was this

just wishful thinking and his imagination running wild or could this actually be the fish we had spoken about and probably dreamed about too....

....by the time I was as far up the spit as I could get, he had eventually gained control and was guiding a true heavy weight towards the waiting net. As it came closer, we could see a huge ball of weed

at the last moment a massive head popped through the mass of weed and I scooped the lot pulling the net up quickly to make sure she was in there. After peeling out all the green stuff there lay a massive black unit of a carp and the Queen of the Lake...!!

This fish looked prehistoric, and it moved the scales well past the 40lb mark





My Belgium trip of a lifetime

it was unreal and we could not wait until the morning....

Once the sun had risen, we got the carp out for our first proper look, and it was a crazy looking old carp and the one known as "Arrow Tail" and really needs to be seen in the flesh to be truly appreciated.

With such an amazing catch, we felt we had pretty much done what we wanted to do here and with having three nights planned for these lakes we decided to cut a night off our stay and move onto a big industrial canal where we were going to meet our Belgian friend.

With the gear all packed away and us still talking about the amazing session so far, we realised we had a few hours to kill before we needed to

meet up with our mate, so we headed to a Park Lake which was on the way.

Once we arrived, we found quite a lot of carp straight away but, as is typical, once we had rigs in place, we found these fish were clearly pressured and were well versed to destroying an angler's presentation and getting away with eating everything but your hook bait...!

Ant did manage to trick one of them and it put up a really strong fight and turned out to be

a pristine mid-twenty common.

After a few hours, we wrapped it up here and headed to meet our friend. The canal we arrived at was massive and much bigger than anything we had fished so far. It was an exciting prospect but we couldn't help but feel that with the time we had, the chance of a bite was very slim.... we fished the night and nothing really happened other than being wiped put by drifting carrier bags and being cut off by the dreaded crayfish...!





We decided to pull off here and move to another canal which was much more intimate and where we could try and find fish again.

On arrival, we did see a few carp and we got the rods out just as it turned dark. During the night Ant again managed to catch another lovely common and all I had to show for my efforts was a big 'rat' that took a liking to my hook bait and another crayfish cut off.

properly for ready for the trip home.

We didn't see as many fish this time and the conditions were completely different, but the fishing right now didn't matter too much as we had done what we wanted to do in real style and for us we just reflected on what had been a trip of a lifetime. We sat back and chilled out for the rest of the evening....not really fussed as to whether we caught or not but as first light broke, Ant

had his last bite of the trip and landed yet another lovely common and I got to practice my 'Netting Skills' once again..!!!

Arriving back home, we reflected on what was an amazing and probably, once in a lifetime, one-thousand-mile Belgian adventure...!

All the Best

Sam Whittaker

We had one final night left so we returned to where we started as it was on the way back to the Tunnel and would give us a chance to sort out our gear and get it packed







I had 48 hours ahead of me to try and snatch a bite off my local syndicate. Conditions could not have been any better as low pressure front was set to arrive for the days ahead, some big winds and a few rain showers. After a quick lap of the lake I knew where I wanted to be for the first night. A swim which margins held plenty of Lillie pads down my right and left hand margin.

Eventually after feeling around for some harder spots in the clay I found one. Just next to the pads in 7 foot of water was a nice hard spot amongst the soft clay. The rig choice was a withy pool rig with a 50/50 fruit-tella balanced wafter. I chose the fruit-fella because of the orange smoke that it releases in the water. I believe this helps the carp get drawn into the bait and

get you that bite.

Also, the past few days it had been raining and the water clarity had gone like a chocolate milkshake, a really thick brown colour.

I put a few fruit-tella boilies and boilie chops

over the top and hoped this would draw the carp out of the pads. I was awoken by alarm screaming off i jumped out of bed and hit into it, it took me straight through the pads. I kept steady side pressure on it and it slowly eased itself





toward the back of my net. The fish was just over 11lb. I put the rod back on the spot straight away and put a few more chops around it. This fish gave me confidence that the spot was working. I got into bed and watched the sun rise and fell back asleep. I was absolutely knackered only getting a few

hours' sleep in the night. I was awoken again by a slow but steady take I got out of bed and the fish had already took me through the pads and the pressure was on. I kept steady pressure on the fish and eased it out of the pads. The fish felt slow and heavy I took my time

and made my way

onto the stage we're my net was. I see the length of the fish and that it was a common and I shouted it's the big common it's the big common! The fish went under the boards below me again and again and I could feel my line grating against the wood. I managed to get it back in front of me and I could see I





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had a PB and a lake record on the end of my line. I grabbed the net and tried to get the fish in, but the pole had parted from the splitter the fish kicked off and went again. Finally, it was tired and ready to be landed. I used my arm as the pole and my hand holding the splitter and reached out as far as I could and managed to lift it

up over the fish. Yes! I shouted.

I pushed the pole back into the splitter and rolled the net and seen the length of it. I knew I had something special here and I couldn't wait to get it out on the mat and get a proper close look.

The fish came in at 28lb on the dot and it

turned out to be the lake record and a 25+ year old original!

A memory that will live with me forever!

Ben











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Stick mixes are a very successful way for fishing (for carp) from margins to long range.

But how do you define a stick mix? Personally, I think it's any micro ingredient - be it bread, boilies, particles (refined down to crumb) but in layman's terms it's a ground bait mix which can be made up into a Pva stick. This to some degree is nothing new. Just altered the mix enough to remove or override the water content, so the Pva will not melt.

I have been spicing up Pva Bags since the late great Duncan Kay sold large ones that you could cut down to the size you wished. One of my best tricks was not to remove the air, cast the bag near an overhanging tree and with the wind in the right direction it would drift under the tree. This accounted for a fair few fish for me back in the early 80's.

I have digressed a bit here; as long as you can get the mix dry or enough oil not to melt the Pva, the world is your oyster! I have tried many combinations for a stick mix, in fact think I may well have forgotten more than I care to remember over the past couple of years. With the emergence of top quality ingredients, which are now available in their own right, it's really opened up the combinations you can create yourself all over again. I personally use Spotted Fin products, as their catalogue of ingredients is like a sweetie shop to me. There are plenty of choices for the raw dry products and a bucket load of choices for additives and oil etc.

I have also come to the conclusion that as the stick mix revolution is well and truly out there in the carp world, you have to make your mix stand out from the rest. There is no point in my opinion, to scrimp on cost as you need to have your mix a cut above the rest. We all





spend bucket loads on reels, bivvies and rods, we should also be concerned with top quality ingredients. If you see me on the bank, you will notice that a fair bit of my kit is over 10 years old (still in top condition), I just funnel all my spare cash at tackle and bait.

One thing I will say, I find that once I have the perfect dry mix combination, I make up a load, but I don't add any liquid, this can be done at a later date. This way it gives you the opportunity up swap things around a bit more with your stick mix. It all helps to outwit the carp and gives you an edge over other anglers. It also gives you the ability to find which oil/liquid additive the fish prefer.

My favourite stick mix is -

Betaine HCL, Green Lipped Mussel Extract, Catalyst - Active Stick Mix, Catalyst Food Dip, Minamino's.

Step -1 - Put Green Lipped Mussel Extract to a bowl





Step -2 - Add Betaine HCL to the mixture



Step - 3 - Mix together and get rid of any lumps, if needed





Step - 4 - I personally like the Catalyst active stick mix but they have so many other choices, it's worth a play about. I know I will be over this season!



Step - 5 - Yep, you guessed it, mix it all together.







Step - 6 & 7 - Time for some liquids, I like to use the catalyst food dip and Minomino's but the choice from the range is overwhelming with options.



Step - 8 - Mix it into a nice sticky constancy but not too wet. You can add more liquid if you would like after you have made up the bags - this makes life easier.







Step - 9 - I find it best to add the mix to a pot, then you can easily make up the bags by pushing the tube into the mix using the opposite end that you have tied a knot in. If you



like, you can spice your mix up even more with crushed or even ground down boilie, which I like to soak in Betafin & Minaminos first.

I have even been known to add micro pellets or even more ingredients. If I do add micro pellets, I like the stick mix to be more of an attraction than a food source. This is also why I like tiny bags, as they have the advantage of being able to be fished at range.

Another great ingredient that I sometimes add for a bit of extra humph is Milled Halibut pellet.





If you make up the base mix for the stick mix first, you can easily add other ingredients and liquids as and when you with wish. This can depend on the whether or not you wish to give yourself another edge of other anglers. It all depends on what takes your fancy but remember what works on one lake can easily work on another or not as the case may be.

As far as I am concerned, there is no maximum size for a stick, just the limitation on the ability to cast it out or drop them in the margin. It's most certainly worth thinking about for future options.





Another option this mix can be used for (that I have found very successful) is a large bag dropped in the margins. This method has served me very well over the past few years, on short day sessions which I do do quite often, being a house husband!

And don't forget the old fashion way, is another great way to catch carp and it's helped me bank a couple of 30's in the early part of last year. You can add this mix to the bottom of a pva bag and then add crushed, whole boilies or just the mix itself and you can add as much neat liquid as possible. This is a great way to get added attraction into the lake. I have been working this method over the past 30 ish years of my fishing and it has caught me some fantastic fish on some many lakes.

I hope this has helped and you will get back from fishing the experiences I have.

Until next time

Richard









Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone at Talking Carp for giving me another opportunity to write for the magazine. I'm nothing but humbled by it all, and I hope you all enjoyed my last article...?!

In this article I'll be delving into the unknown. It is something I've had on my agenda for a few years now, but I wanted to gain more 'Carping' experience before I tackled it head on.

The place in question, is an urban half-acre abandoned pool. A very small pool that was previously owned by a Hotel who have now released all responsibilities for the water. They were so determined to forget about it, and have it forgotten, they even erected a sixfoot-tall fence all the way round, which to me, just confirmed their intentions to let it be.

The water, which for the purpose of this write-up I shall call "The Secret Pool" is heavily overgrown, and rarely visited and it is also fairly hard to access, although the mass of litter around the place would lead you to believe otherwise...!

This is a water that in normal circumstances I would not look

twice at, mainly due the size and its sketchy location, however... since learning about this water some five years ago, every now and again I hear of dark old brutes and stunning bars of gold being rewarded to anglers willing to sacrifice the comfort, confidence and luxury of fishing your average Day Ticket for this rough, challenging pool which is well off the beaten track...

The mystery of the place alone was initially enough to lure me in to at least take a look, which was something I had done prior to this recent visit, however this time I was bringing with me something I didn't have back then...

No, not my Polarised Glasses, but essential experience that is second to none in our world of all things Carpy, "Watercraft"...!

With this skill, learned during numerous fishing trips to various waters since learning of the "Secret Pool", I was not simply looking at a body of water but instead, a secluded habitat for the fish to hopefully thrive given the right conditions....and that would be my next discovery about this pool....

On this visit, I didn't expect to see

The Secret Pool

too much due to the weather conditions and the low air pressure but, my initial walk round of this intimate little venue had lots to show and tell me well before I would even make a grab for my Marker Rod.

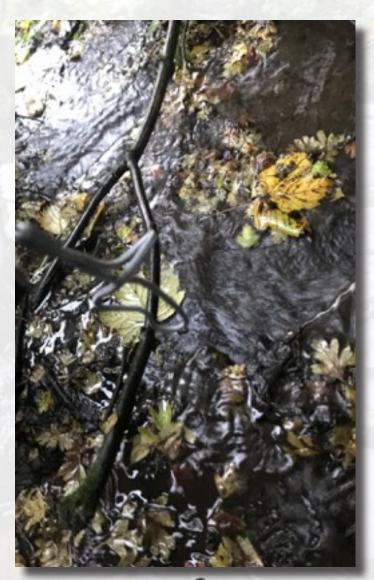
Squeezing between a gap in the fence I was immediately greeted by a small bed of Lily Pads at the water's edge. They sat just in front of a what I would describe as a very vague, mud ridden, man-made swim. The swim or lack of it, was no concern to me though as my focus and attention was drawn to a show of bubbles rising just beyond the said Lily Pads.

As I stood there, the Lily Pads made side to side movements, which were clearly due to fish, even though at this stage I had no idea of what type they were. They could easily have been 'Silvers' or even the odd 'Tinca', but those bubbles and that movement was enough to fill me with hope. So far so good...!!

As I made my way around the tree lined bank, I decided that climbing the trees would get me a better perspective of the water. Now, I'm not saying that is the only way but for me it was the most obvious. All

I would say, is if you are tempted to climb a tree to get a view of a water, please take care and ensure every movement is safe and secure, we all know of the tragic events that can happen if you do not take extra care..!!

For me, I felt I needed to go up and from the heights of a large Oak Tree, I could see movement underneath a bush on the opposite bank.







Having spent five minutes or so trying to make out exactly what this disturbance in the water was, it became obvious that there was only one way to really find out. Carefully climbing back down on to 'terra firma' I took a very quiet walk around to the bush I had seen from up high, hoping to catch sight of a nice lump, however what I did see was something I did not expect on this type of small water, Carp Fry, and hundreds of them at that...!

I quickly made my way back to my car having remembered I had some 'Nash Riser Pellets' stuffed in a bucket from an earlier Summer session.

Typically, and as if on command, by the time I got back to the spot, the fish had disappeared. It may have been my hurrying away that could have startled them, but I knew what I had seen and in went a small handful of the Nash Floaters and WOW...The water erupted with loads of tiny Carp fighting for and engulfing the pellets...Not what I was expecting but a very good sign nonetheless...!!

Over the years, I had heard 'rumours' about this little known water having double-figure Pike lurking in its' depths and even a 30lb+ Catfish, and this concerned me regarding the stock of

Carp or lack of it but this eruption was evidence enough that the Carp aren't just in there and

surviving, they are positively thriving and growing to a size large enough to survive into the cold weather.

It appeared that the Carp stock levels were self-sustainable, even given rumours of such predators in such a small water like this. Very good news for this campaign of mine. With this knowledge I was happy to head home and begin thinking how to approach it with rod and line.

Work commitments prevented me from fishing for another week, but I found



a small gap in my schedule to spend a few hours on the water, albeit only an overnighter fitted in between finishing work at 18:00 and starting again 06:00 the following morning. I felt positive and hoped this was all I would need... with this in mind I knew it would be best if I prebaited a little just to give me a better chance of the fish finding my bait, so I primed a few spots I had seen with a very simple mix



consisting of Hemp, Corn and Nash Scopex Squid Boilie Flake and Crumb. Nash Scopex Squid is a flavour I truly believe will work on almost any water, and at any time of the year, so it's my "go to" for confidence and that's exactly what I needed on a water like this.

I chose not to add full boilies as the fish here probably hadn't seen too many boilies and I couldn't see the fish taking them confidently, so I hoped that the flake and crumb would be enough to make them curious and give them a taste of what was to come...!

My intention for the first few hours was to simply get an idea of the lakebed and what substrate I was going to be fishing over, but the light was fading fairly fast and I did not have the time to fully utilise the Marker Float setup. However, within a few casts I understood the majority of the lake was heavy deep silt and, given the tree lined margins, lots of leaves, more so for the fact that the trees had already begun their 'shed' mid-autumn.

Due to not being able to get a full understanding of the lakebed, and the fact it was practically dark, I chose to fish the margins just yards

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from where I saw the eruption of fry a week prior. This also gave me the advantage of being able to lower my lead into the water without embedding it in the silt and therefore limit the risk of impeding the presentation of my Multi-Rig. I went with the Multi-Rig for its reset properties, should I have an aborted pickup, and to allow my Nash Scopex Squid Cultured Pop-Up to sit above the heavy silt. Also, when the outer layer of that hook bait begins to break down, it would hopefully leave an intriguing pile of bait between the silt and my hook.

On my second rod I went right back to basics, utilising a simple hair rig, with double corn, a small Nash 'Hook Kicker' and a small piece of rig tubing keeping the hair tight to the shank. When fishing with corn I prefer to keep the hair close the shank of the hook, as I believe if a fish picks up the rig, the low weight of the corn is easy to eject, therefore a short hair maximises 'pricking' potential...or at least that is my theory..!!

Both rigs were carefully placed on their spots with a 3.5oz lead attached, and a short four to fiveinch hook link. If I did have a pickup, I wanted the fish to come into contact with that sharp hook point and heavy lead as fast as possible...! The lead was attached via 'Bank Tackle' lead clips with the Tail Rubber only just pushed over the shank of the clip. The overgrown banks of this pool grow out into the water around almost the entire perimeter of the pool. So, a 'Snaggy Margin' screamed for lead clips!







I then placed a small handful of my mix, now with added Scopex Squid Syrup for maximum attraction, around each of the rigs and scattered some along the margins in both directions leading to my hook bait

Rods on the buzzers, slack lines and bobbins clipped up I began digging into my Chicken that I had picked up on the way to the pool from the KFC that was literally around the corner.

It was then, after everything was sorted and I had time to contemplate my setup and actions, that the Self-Doubt started creeping in...!

I was confident with my rigs, and

with my chosen spots, even my Hook Bait and my freebies, however, on this type of water it is hard to have one hundred percent confidence when you have so little information and are fishing literally the unknown. It was time "to phone a friend", someone who also knows this location and had fished the

Secret Pool before me.

I explained my approach and my reasons for this, and I got the response I really needed. The tactics I had opted to employ were not far from my friends' approach on his visit. Heavy leads, short rigs, simple natures freebies and margin fishing. It was after he sent me a photo of a cracking 17.5lb Common he had caught that my confidence was soon at an all-time high, and not because it confirmed decent Carp were resident here, although that did help, but because he had it just two weeks prior to my visit...!

After an hour-long conversation, and my faith restored, I rebaited my







spots, checked my hook points, placed the rigs back in and got my head down for some rest, after all I did have work at 06:00 in the morning. Fortunately, where I work wasn't too far from the pool which meant providing I was packed away by 05:30 there would be no drama.

At around 04:00, I was awoken by my right-hand alarm screaming and line peeling off the reel...

....It took me a few seconds to gather my composure after being woken so abruptly, get my head torch on and settle my nerves.... The fight was on and just as I began to see colour in the water, BANG, my line snapped...! Gutted is an understatement...My 18lb mainline was clean cut...!!

Whether this was Mussels on the lakebed, a sharp rock embedded in the margin shelf, or one of numerous other explanations, I will never know. The only thing I could think about at the time was "what could I have done differently to prevent this...?"

Naturally as anglers, when things like this happen, we doubt everything and sometimes over complicate our angling because of such mishaps. As I was up and fully awake, I began packing my gear away in readiness to head off to work. Although I was huffing and puffing and cussing to myself, I still had a 'Buzz' that I've never quite felt before. As I arrived at work my mindset completely changed, in fact, I thought to myself, "I'm doing EVERYTHING Right...!!"

My location was correct, the fish picked up my rig with my selected hook bait, the hook set, and the fish was well and truly on.... I just needed some 'luck' and another few hours....

I knew for sure that my intention and focus had definitely shifted, from wanting to unlock the mystery of this water, I now wanted to retrieve the fish that got away. Bring on the next session at 'The Secret Pool'.

To Be Continued....

Jordan Davidson

Instagram - @jdcarpfishing





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Mark Carper

This year has seen three of my very good friends, all of whom are serving soldiers with the British Army and guys that I have personally fished with both in the UK and France, catch their New Personal Best Carp....

When a mate has a new PB, it's as good as catching it yourself, or at least it is for me anyway. When Tom Goyne had his last PB, I was actually fishing with him and I netted the fish and twelve weeks later, he's gone and done it again...here's his (tail) of how it all happened....

Stanwick Lakes – Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME)

Carpers

Qualifying Event (QE) 1 - By LCPL **Tom Goyne**

Tuesday 15th to Thursday 17th October 2019.

The REME Carp Team QE's are 'Pairs Events' due to the fact that the purpose to the QE's and the reason for the name (Qualifying Event) is to 'Qualify' to represent the Corps during the annual Army Championships event in a pair, even though it is only the top five anglers that get selected from the QE's which means the pairing you choose to fish for the QE's in the first place may not qualify as a pair, but as individuals..!

For this event, I teamed up with the (in)famous Staff Sargent Carl Hartley or Carlos as he is known to his mates...and this was the first event we had fished together as our normal 'pairs' were unable to attend due to work commitments, which can often happen, given the jobs we do.

After finishing second overall in the REME Carp Team for the 2019 season and representing my Corps at the annual Inter-Corps Carp Championships at Baden Hall in September this year, unusually, I was going into this event, the first QE for the 2020 season selection, with my confidence low.

This was due in part to a prolonged blanking spell and the fact that the last time I fished Mallard Lake on the Stanwick Fisheries site, I lost four carp in the heavy weed...something your 'mates' don't let you forget too

The story of three PB's

easily...! That said, I tried hard not to show the other lads fishing the event my concerns.

After walking the lake with Carlos, we came up with our swim choices and the order we wanted them, which of course all depended on how we did in the dreaded draw.

I have yet to have a good draw at any QE and true to form another poor draw saw us coming fourth out of the five pairs.

Despite this, we managed to get our third choice of swim which in itself gave my confidence a little boost and we were both relatively happy with our choice.

Once the draw had finished, we loaded our barrows and made our way to the swims, where we promptly had a 'lead about' in our respective swims looking for those all-important clear spots amongst the weed.

Since our last QE on this water, the owners had brought in a machine and removed around fifty ton of weed, but despite this, the lake still had large amounts of blanket weed, although it was not a thick and the majority was floating surface weed.

Having find several spots we 'clipped-up' to our favoured ones and awaited the 12:00 start.

During this down time, we discussed how best to tackle this water and agreed to moderately bait one spot each with our 'Spods' and then leave the spot for a few hours to rest. Our theory behind this decision was that if the Carp moved on to the baited areas, they would feed with confidence as we would not have rigs and lines in the baited area.

This choice of tactic meant that when 12:00 arrived, we only cast out one rod each, which actually then made us feel as if we were at a disadvantage from the off, but we stuck to the plan and resisted the temptation to cast on to the spodded area.



Mark Carper

The rod I did cast out, was to a spot on the edge of a weed bed to the left of my swim. My preferred method for this approach was a Castaway PVA, Solid Bag loaded with crushed RG Baits, 'The Formula Robin Red + Plum' boilie and Spotted Fin 'Classic Corn' Pellet. Both of which had been soaking in hemp oil for a week or so...!

My "Go to Rig of Choice" as they say in the trade, was a German Rig with an 8mm washed-out Pop-Up, balanced with Duo Tackle Rig Putty, to make it sit an 'inch' off the lakebed. The rig was attached to my mainline via an In-line Drop Off Lead due to the weed.

After a couple of hours or so, the alarm screamed off with that unmistakeable 'Delkim Warble', and the rod pulled round to the left with the reel giving line quicker than I had hoped, having set the clutch a little tighter than normal to attempt to stop a run straight in to the weed bed I was on the edge of.

Initially the Carp mad off in to clear water but typically turned back in to the weed, albeit only an small patch but I knew it would make netting difficult and my fishing partner was nowhere in sight..!!

Shouting out for him to give me assistance, he appeared in a swim on the opposite side of the lake, but with the speed of a thousand Gazelles, a pace I didn't even know he was capable of, let alone seen him move at before, he was back in the swim with the net at the ready...!!! After a 10-minute 'low fuss battle' a very nice 16lb 8oz Mirror was safely in the net. First fish of the match to us..!!

After re-spodding on to our 'rested' spots and just before dark, we each cast our second rod out in the hope that any feeding fish from earlier, would confidently move back in and we would bag a one or two during the night. We felt, we had taken our theory and turned it in to an excellent and well executed plan.....However, the theory, nor the tactic paid off and we never had so much as a 'liner' from those rods..



The story of three PB's

Not wanting to only fish one rod again each for the next twelve to sixteen hours, as we felt we were putting ourselves at a disadvantage, I opted to go back to basics and found a nice margin spot that was clear of weed and had a nice big over hanging branch.

A couple of 'Rig Free' casts allowed me to clip up to the spot, nice and close to the overhang and Wednesday morning I began to feed the margin little and often with my Spod.

Throughout the day I regularly re-cast with one of my Castaway PVA Solid bags to the spot and just before sunset, I did the same, but this time I added a bit of glug to the bag too.

At 02:00, I was awoken by the sound of my Delkim RX going absolutely mental.....

.....The margin rod was away with line being stripped off the reel like it was connected to a DeWalt drill......

...In my moment of blind-panic, I put on my shoes and ran for my rod, and in the process I neglected the fact I wasn't wearing any trousers and I forgot my head touch...!

However, that was not going to stop me from hitting this fish to check the run and begin the challenge of landing it.

When I was playing the first Carp, my thoughts had turned to the loss of four fish in the weed on the previous visit to this water but after a no drama netting, I had renewed confidence and began the attempt to get this one under control.

Feeling that I would likely need some help if it balled up in the weed again, I gave Carlos a shout but soon realised that by the dulcet tones of his snoring, waking the dead was not an option..!





Stood in the pitch black in only my boots and boxers and taking deep breaths due to being freezing cold, my adrenaline was pumping and I was "in the zone", man verses Carp..!!!

Putting up a good account of itself, every time I thought it was done it would try and make off for the snags to the left of my swim, but after what seemed like an age but turned out to be only about fifteen minutes, in the pitch black I somehow managed to get it over the net cord in the net.....in the words of a famous angler, "get in the Net....WICKED...!!!"

Resting the Carp in the edge, I went to fetch my head torch and for the first time I could see is was very nice Common with superb Dark Scales and, it looked a good size too, possibly bigger than anything I had caught out of here and that meant, as my last Carp from the complex was my new PB, this could be a new PB...??

Waiting until first light, I weighed the fish and was delighted when the scales hit 24lb 2oz and confirmed I had indeed landed a new Personal Best...!

That would be the final action for me and for us as a pair, with Carlos unfortunately blanking. The first QE out of the way, and I managed to finish in 'Joint Top Spot' thanks to my new PB..?!!





The story of three PB's

Just before Tom had that success, **Stuart Abbot** had a session to remember too...

Stuart is no slouch when it comes to Carp Fishing and had this stunning new Personal Best and one of the 'A Team' from his current syndicate water, West Stow Country Park.

Stuart is limited to fishing 'overnighters' (quick ones, as they say..!!) and the odd weekend but he has used the limited time wisely and spent hours walking the lake looking for those tell tale signs....

Stuart told me;

"After conducting several laps of the water, I settled on a swim in the center of the lake where fish had been showing. Opting to stay off the gravel, I baited heavily with Spotted Fin 'Smokey Jack' 15mm Boilies both chopped and whole and matching pellets, all glugged with the Smokey Jack Liquid.

The following morning, I had two runs consisting of a mid-20 and a new PB of 41lb 5oz Mirror Carp known simply as 'George', who obviously

could not resist
the bed of bait I
had laid down and
tripped-up on a
well-placed nine
inch 'Carpaddict'
Blowback Rig,
consisting of a
Hand Sharpened
(by me) Size 4
Hook connected via
Gardner Skin Link
Coated Braid."



Mark Carper

Stuarts success was preceded by, **Carl Hartley**, who had both an amazing and bizarre session on Day Ticket water, that saw him land his new PB twice in five minutes....

'Carlos', who also has very limited time to fish due to him being a serving soldier and mainly his fishing consists of being part of the REME Carpers events, managed to get a twenty-four session in on Broadlands Lakes, in Southampton. He dropped on 'Main Lake' in a peg that was towards the middle of the 'Large Island' and settled in...

He recalls the events to me....

"...fishing about a foot to the island, I presented a good old 'Ronnie Rig' using a Size 6 Rig-It Tackle, R3 Hook, attached to eight inches of their 15lb 'Skin-Tech', Semi-Stiff Coated Braid Hook Link....

.... The Hook Bait was a Yellow RG Baits, 'Seven 'till Eleven' Pop-Up and was fished over the top of a good helping of RG Baits 'The Formula'.'

With his second rod on a spot mid-channel and after not much happening for the first six or seven hours, Carlos was contemplating a change of spots, when his island rod, dropped back and then line starting peeling from the reel....

"I've had Carp from here before but never had a take like that, but when I connected to the fish, it just seemed to give up and actually came in without too much drama. At that point, I thought it was going to be a smallish Carp, that was until I got a first glimpse at it and I immediately knew it was one of the two biggest Carp in the Lake..!!"

Carlos went on to tell me, "I was delighted and when it took the scales to 29lb on the dot, I was even more delighted as it was a new PB for me. The bailiff came over and confirmed the weight and informed me that I had caught the Carp known as 'Fury', a stunning looking Dark Common."



The story of three PB's

You can imagine his joy at such a capture, but what happened next is bordering on the unbelievable and even the ridiculous...

"Once the pictures were done and the fish had been returned, I stood up, turned around and as I was 'high fiving' my mate, my second rod started giving line... I immediately picked it up and again connected to a fish... and as before, it gave a very subdued fight..! After literally only 2 minutes, and with the bailiff still stood in the swim, my mate slipped the net under another 'lump'...

...On getting the fish to the unhooking mat, we just stood and looked on in silence, until the bailiff said that I had just landed 'Fury' again...! I could not believe it, but sure enough it was the exact carp I had just returned. Not foul hooked as I thought it might be, Fury had simply swum away from the bank and picked up my second rig, what are the chances of that...??!!!"





Mark Carper



His PB Carp twice in only five minutes, what are the chances of that..??!

For me, sharing in the success of my friends is as good as me getting a new PB, which to be fair, I am long overdue having not beat my UK one for either Mirror or Common for some time. In fact, both came in 1999 but to be honest, I have fished very few waters since then that hold Carp over 45lb. However, I did manage to beat my French PB for both Mirror and Common last year in the same day while fishing 'Tall Trees' at Les Etangs De L'Ecurie.

If you have a PB or just a good catch report to share, go to our website www.talkingcarp.co.uk and simply click the catch report link.

Alternatively, contact use via Facebook or **@talkingcarp.magazine** on Instagram and follow our page too.

You can also follow my 'Talking Carp' Journey on Instagram by following @mark_carper257

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www.spottedfin.com

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www.stanwicklakesfisheries.com

www.broadlands-lake.co.uk



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Well I'm back! After my little stint last year regaling you with some of the funnier parts of my carp angling life, I thought it only fitting to see if I could have another go, and the truth be known, I really enjoy it and I've missed it a lot!! So, where do I begin? Firstly, I've now made the move to the Norfolk and Suffolk border and with this came a new set of challenges. I moved Camps again and not for the first time in twenty years but just as tedious non the less. The challenge of the ever-foreboding battle against hay fever!! Now if you suffer with this weakness you will feel my pain. Secondly finding my feet in a new role that actually sees me working with a different service all

together in the RAF, this brings its own set of nuances but that's a different article altogether. Then the most important challenge, a new water! After looking around and putting the feelers out I was told about the West Stow Syndicate. This is part of NS Fisheries that run a number of waters in the area.

This then brings me to the first walk round. Now, having fished day ticket waters exclusively for a few years it's nice to be back on a lake that has a very healthy stock of known big fish. I love this part the "recce". I'm a firm believer that this is the most important part, the walking, the feature finding and watching, it all gets

the juices flowing or as I would say the addiction kicks in. Then there's the first session anticipation, the first time you cast into a water containing several fish that can not only beat your PB but smash it! Now, I know the whole PB thing isn't for everybody but the honour of holding the biggest fish you have ever caught is an amazing feeling and I would be doing the Fishery owner the misjustice of not weighing it.

The first session was spent mainly walking the lake and looking for showing fish, it didn't take long and actually ended up being the exact opposite they were showing everywhere!! Now, one of the rules



of this syndicate is that you cannot bucket swims, so three laps of the 18 acres with the barrow later and I had decided on a swim. This is where I regale you of stories of the elusive biggun I caught straight from the off in the corner nobody fishes on a method nobody on the lake uses on a prototype bait I can't tell you about. Well

the truth be known I blanked hard! For the first 8 sessions even with fish showing on me it just didn't happen. Then I suddenly realised that for some reason my go to KISS (Keep it Simple Stupid) method had been completely abandoned without even realising. I was chasing the fish around like an idiot using baits and rigs

I hadn't used and wasn't confident in just because??? That's when it clicked back in, I had a massive clear out of all the random crap I bought and went back to it, cleansed and ready armed with the Spotted Fin Smokey Jack, pellets and a Dot Spod.

Now this approach unlike what a lot of Anglers would have



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you believe isn't
new, it's just good
old-fashioned carp
angling, finding them,
feeding them, and then
of course, catching
them. Now, this is
where my sessions
started to be a lot more
productive. I think
sometimes it's hard
to truly realise how
little bait 30 boilies
actually is, so with
this in mind and the

weed now getting up, I found two clear spots and deposited a 17L bucket over the two. Yeah that's right, I said two, and I'll explain why due to the way the Stow is pegged, some swims are long and tight, and I had noticed myself almost forcing the third rod into the swim. I know you could argue that it gives you more

chances but, not if you are cutting your other rods off! The Stow, many years ago was a match style fishery with a lot of pegs. Over the years this has been reduced so the swim doesn't always naturally point at the water you have, so my theory is, by concentrating on two rods I'm actually maximising my



chances.

The fish capture came in the form of a lovely mirror off the closest baited spot and as luck would have it a second run came off the same spot. Nothing massive but it was all the proof I needed that my method worked - I justneeded to stop doubting myself. Due to work and actually having things to do that are not fishing, the next few short overnight work sessions weren't productive but, the confidence was back!! Now spending more time on the lake, I started building up a picture of shows, captures, and even other anglers' routines and how they were getting on. The Stow is what I would describe as a proper carp lake.

You have silt, gravel, weed, bays and not forgetting BIRD life! I decided that the next trip was going to be a 24hr session, this was so I could get a real feel for the lake during the day and I had noticed that bite times had become quite regular at that time of year. This meant that if I was fishing from six in the evening and leaving at seven in the morning then no matter how hard I fished I wasn't going to catch if they weren't feeding until nine in the morning.

Finally! The session came along, I got to the lake and only saw two cars, so I knew I had a good shot at getting on the fish. In no time at all I found them cruising between the island.

Rather than chase them around - which I have done before, rapidly realising all it gets you on this lake is sunburnt and thirsty - I had a good lead around to confirm my spots. Now, without giving too much away, they weren't on the gravel. After baiting the spots with two rods on the same wraps but 2 rod lengths apart, confidence was high.

The night passed, the fish continued to roll and show along the same line, and low and behold at 07:00 that morning my rod was away, and I was in. I was now hooked into what turned out to be my first proper Stow carp. Now, I will probably repeat myself during these pieces but, these carp scrap like nothing I have



played before.

After what seemed an eternity, she was in the net, 29lb of stunning mirror carp. The self takes are coming along and I'm finally getting to grips with fishing on my own, off a barrow, something I haven't had to do for a long time. Unfortunately, I went on to lose a fish

an hour later.

The session came to an end and I was one happy carp angler - finally managed to get into a few fish and confidence was now high. I will leave it there for this piece and I'll pick up on the start of the next session where the plan truly came together....!!!!!

To be continued

Tight Lines...

Stuart Abbott

Instagram @ thecarpaddict



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Another month down and here we are. Best time of the year. Autumn!! The leaves are on the floor and are a stunning shade of brown. The trees are becoming naked and everything looks so different to what it did a few weeks ago. But here is the argument. Do carp still have that big prewinter feed up? Or have the baits we use got so good nutritionally that they don't need to have that big feed up anymore? Years ago, we used to get so excited at this thought, but do we still now? There's a thought for us all to contemplate.

How has my month gone? Well me and the missus went to Wales for our holiday which was very much needed! Such a stunning place and ate and saw so much stunning scenery. Yes, we got some fishing

in... sea fishing but was still fishing. We caught some dogfish and whiting, and I will admit that being on a boat did make me feel.... well sick!

Just before we went away, I managed to get some nights in with Jamie. We stayed local and a bit of pre baiting and we were ready to go! I got there first and got my rods out. Off an overhanging tree. Both rods went out with tidy little chods. Manila pop ups on both rods. I really love this rig and will use it when I can, there was a lot of low laying weed and eel grass, so I knew I was presented nicely. Jamie turned up and got his rods out on a nice clear area...a few beers were drinking, and we sat there talking about old times and where our next adventures will be!

Early morning Jamie

had a lovely common ...not massive but bit of a character and nice and dark. I sorted the pics out and we slid him back. Happy that one of us caught we packed up. Before leaving i put some more bait out ready for my next session. The next session rolled round and got out of work early and headed straight to the lake! It felt good for it. The weather was overcast, and it felt a touch cooler. I put some more bait out with the throwing stick. I put on fresh rigs at work whilst on my break and mounted the bait on the bait screw, these screws do make mounting pop ups much easier and quicker. Rods were already clipped up and i put the rods out on the same spot.

Everything was sorted so I just chilled out on the bedchair watching

The best time of the year

the bats fly around and sun going down. Around half 9 my right hand rod went off. I picked into it, but it didn't feel like a carp. It was evident I had a tench on! Just as in was getting it in the net the other rod ripped off! I picked up the rod and line were instantly taken! This is more like it. After a bit of a fight a lovely look mirror came up ready for the net. I reached out and the...one more dive for freedom! She

found freedom and she was gone! I was gutted, but guess that happens sometimes, we have all been there! I sorted the tench out that was still in the net. Rods back out I sat on the bedchair feeling deflated. All the prebaiting and that could have been my only chance of one of the hard to catch carp in here.

I was back down the following week. A few days previous me and

Merlyn were down pre baiting and she wanted to practice some casting feature finding. The lake was empty so why not. If they want to get involved let them! The sport needs more woman in it. Her casting is improving and I'm looking forward to a few planned sessions we are planning on some day ticket waters for her. I got the rods out, again the faithful chod rigs and Manila pop ups were being used. I like





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to fish my chods naked if the water isn't too snaggy, i feel i can get a better line lay and put blobs of putty up the line to help it sink as well. I will explain how I set them up next time! I know we have all seen one, and I think at some point we will start seeing them used more again now we have better hook designs and terminal tackle items for them. The evening passed quietly, the bats were

flying around, carp were boshing out and foxes barking in the background. Around 03:30 my left hand rod screamed into action and I was out of that bag! The rod took a nice curve and the feeling of a nice size carp on the end. Deep lunges were had in the attempt of freeing itself but to non-avail, the hybrid tackle chod hook really is a good strong sharp hook from the packet. Before

long a lovely looking mirror popped up, her head covered in weed from a weed bed she found. In the net she went...YES! what a relief! I placed her on the mat and unhooked her and slipped her in the sack. The morning was just around the corner. Safely secured I placed the sack in the deep margins, away from any weed. The morning was here, and it was raining! Gary



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The best time of the year

was in the swim next door and he kindly done the pics. She was a beautiful stockie around 26lb and she's been christened with the name 'Ginn's'. I treated her mouth and a couple of sores with the korda Propolis, this stuff is amazing and should be used by everyone!

After that session we were off on our holiday! It was such an amazing time, but we were both glad to be back. Merlyn

was really missing the Sphynx's as it was the first time, we were both away from the little devil's! I managed to get back out at a local club water in Hatfield Peveril and I'm starting to quiet like it up there. So might finish of the year on the there. I have a few places in mind to consider...one of them being Ardleigh reservoir. Jamie keeps trying to get me up at St Ives too and there's also hope that i can get back on

Cleverley mere. In the meantime, I've got some socials with friends and the missus...so hope you will join me on those journeys.

Tight lines

James.

Thanks goes to

Taylors lead lounge Sticky baits Hybrid tackle Jamie Avery Gary Payne







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Mike 'SPUG' Redfern

"A story of sunsets, steaks and silly underpants"



Every angler sometime or another has a red letter session, the moons align, and you just can't put a foot wrong. I managed to get a few days off work after speaking with a good friend of mine and arranged a session on this particular lake I had fished once before thanks to said friend.

We arrived and had a walk around finding signs of feeding fish in two areas. Spots chosen and rods rigged up. From what I understand it's a water dominated by boilies and my reckoning sticks and catapults were key but I'm not one for abiding by the rules so I bought out the spomb and mix of crushed and whole Carp Company Icelandic Red Caviar and Cranberry boilies, pellet and maize and for hook baits 16mm Icelandic Red hard hookers with a heavy

sprinkle of Carp Company Antarctic Krill powder to give a paste like coating, topped off with a 12mm Icelandic Red white pop up snowman style on a simple line aligner, my go to rig.

It took no longer than 15 minutes after casting out and spombing a load of mix out to get the first bite, a lovely 16.02 mirror. I had spare rods clipped up to the spots ready to go, so put one straight back on the spot which crazily started stripping line from the spool while setting the indicator which was a 14.05 mirror. I never knew the true magnitude of what was going to happen.

In the first hour I had three fish including a scaley 27.00 mirror. The next bite was later in the afternoon off the baited spot again and this time a sizeable mirror was laying in the net. I weighed it at 30.10 totally gobsmacked with how quickly the first day had unravelled.

Going into the night full of confidence I was surprised when nothing happened, thinking they had completely moved on I baited up with the mix and put fresh hook baits on. In the next 30 minutes all hell broke loose. I had moved both rods to the baited spot fishing tight to each other when one rod melted off, it felt quite a decent fish staying low. As the fish came over the cord. I could hear my alarm bursting into life and the other rod was away, after a short spirited fight I had what looked like a low 20 in the net. I put the third rod back on the spot and before I had the chance to put some more mix out it was





away again, they were literally lining up wanting their picture taken. This fish rucked it was proper heart in the mouth stuff, clearly a better fish and when I finally netted it, I thought it was a near 40, I was jumping around chuffed as anything. When I finally got them all unhooked, photographed and weighed my guesstimates were slightly off but

at 19.00, 16.08 and 33.10 no complaints were heard from my swim especially as I had 24hrs left on the bank.

I spoke to a few regulars who all said days and nights are very quiet with little to no signs of anything feeding. I decided to rest the swim during the day and

night and just get up early and get the rods out and fish 6pm till dark then reel in for a good night's kip.

The next bite was at 7pm and after thinking it was a tench (typical) it turned out to be an absolute beast of carp at 32.12 I literally was giggling to myself for the whole evening as I just couldn't believe the session I was having.

Another load of bait went out on the spot before dark ready for the morning and I retired for the night after a few celebratory glasses of scotch.

I set my alarm for 4am and put the rods on the spot, made a brew and watched the sun rise. Shortly after 8 am I had a slow take on the left hand rod and after a



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fair scrap a lovely mid 20 was in the net. Not one to waste a feeding opportunity I clipped up and got the rod back out and topped up with a few spombfulls of mix. Before I could get the fish out the right hand rod was away and I landed another mid double, so I quickly got the rod set up again, but it wasn't needed as the re-cast rod was ripping, another three

bites in the space of 20 minutes. This was clearly a better fish. slow meaningful head bangs and kiting on a tight line. When the fish surfaced around 30 yards out, I saw the head on it and I really wish I hadn't, it was massive, and I knew it. The fish then decided it wasn't going to be subdued easily and went on a mad run, the line flicked of its dorsal on several occasions

and I was praying the hook held strong. As it came up and got a gulp of air, I could see the length and there was no mistaking it was one of the A-Team It just had to be. Well on the first time of asking he went in the net and another three fish in the bag.

I weighed the first two at 24.10 and 17.04 respectively. I had to get my mate round to

help with the big lad and we held him up on the scales and the needle settled on 44.04, I swear to god the goose bumps ran over my whole body it almost brought a tear to my eye.

A session that couldn't have gone any better and





what a way to end with one of the big lads. The more Icelandic Red I put in the more they fed so a big thanks to the Carp Company lads for the bait

Ready for round two.... As previously mentioned, I sorted out some more time off work as the fish were obviously on the feed.

I headed down to the lake and started to look around for any signs.

There was only one other angler (midweek) and typically he was set up in the swim I had the big hit from a week previous but I'm not one to just set up in a swim just because of previous form.

I found some signs of fish in a different area and decided to

set up there but keep everything relatively packed up in case the chance of a move showed itself.

At around 7pm that evening when I was expecting bites, my spots looked lifeless, completely dead. I had a little walk up the bank and saw the swim I was in previously had been vacated so I wound in and went for a quick walk to see if I could see any life signs

before the light faded. As I walked into the swim, I could already see a few bubbles breaking the surface. That was enough for me, I placed a bucket down and hastily collected my gear from the other swim.

Rods and a little bait out I set up camp and got some dinner on. The following morning as soon as the sun peered through the trees, I heard my alarm



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burst into life and a small pretty mirror of 13lb was succumbed to the ice reds. A couple of snaps and I slipped him back and feeling quite confident of another bite I wasn't surprised when the other rod was away, Deja vu?? A very dogged fight and eventually a long mirror hit the spreader block and a stunning coloured 30.02 mirror was in the net. Pleased as punch.

I baited up with another load of mix and tied up some more rigs and PVA bags. I put the rods back out at 4pm and sat and watched. **Bubbles** and shows started around 6pm but no bites. I thought something had to be wrong, so I wound in and found a fair bit of silt clinging to the hook. I was fishing snowman's but when I tested them in the edge they were sinking

very quickly, and I think with the heavy lead (5oz) I reckon the hookbaits were being pulled too deeply into the silted even though I was getting a decent drop. I dropped down to a 2oz lead still on a lead clip and critically balanced the hookbait by drilling and adding a bit of cork. Clipped up and recast I felt much better and only an hour later the line pulled up tight and out of the clip and it was away.

A huge smirk on my face while playing this one which was quickly replaced with utter panic when the fish came to the surface it was a whale! Quickly bundled in the net I peered into the mesh and saw some huge scales on the wrist of a massive tail. I could not believe my luck it was easily mid-30. Unhooked, photo'd and weighed 38.10 mind blowing stuff.

I was contemplating





retiring (as if) at this point as I don't think I'd ever have such a couple of sessions ever again. I baited up again and left the rods out for the night. No bites again through the night and the morning was cooler and lifeless. I baited up through the day and had a walk around as nothing else seemed to be happening in that swim, but I found no other signs so stayed put.

4pm the rods went back out and at 5:30 a stunning mid double mirror picked up my rig and another fish were recorded. The strains in this lake are crazy, short and fat, lean and scaley and some Italian looking monsters too.



This one was a grey looking scaley lean mirror and fought like a demon. Soon after putting that one back the other rod was away, and another lumpy fish was in the bag. Lovely clean mirror with a huge apple slice scale on both sides and at 34.10 I was amazed at the stamp of the fish I was catching. There's a lot of 30s in the lake but way more 20s and teens so I was just very lucky that the fish

I was catching were the bigger ones. More bait went out and got everything ready for the morning.

Alarm set for 5am I cast out and made a brew. I love that dark blue tinge as the night is disappearing and the daylight appearing when you can start to see everything around the lake. I saw the line pick up and the indicator slowly rise making





the alarm sounding a very positive but single bleep. The next 10 minutes was constant up and down movements on the indicators and alarms. clearly fish bumping into the lines feeding and grubbing around. Then a huge boil over the spot and the alarm one toned, I picked up the rod almost scared as it was going so fast. It went on a 20 yard run then dug its head in weed which thankfully worked in my favour as it just came

in like a dog on a lead. A huge ball of weed surfaced and I bundled the lot into the net. After removing all the weed I couldn't quite believe what I had caught. A fish that was previously caught at 49 the second biggest in the lake I mean when your lucks in your lucks in. I sacked her

up temporarily while I sorted my nerves I wound in the rods as I was packing up anyway. Grabbed the extra mat from the van and called my mate round. We weighed her and even though the weight was irrelevant she was down in weight at 42.08 most likely from successful spawning and the heat probably didn't help, she was in amazing condition which was amazing to see. I got in the lake for some water shots which came out

great and she swam off strongly. A true red letter couple of weeks for me.

Again, special thanks to the boys at carp company for the magic they create.

Rigs were simple size 4 curves from hybrid tackle line aligner and simple lead clips with fluorocarbon leaders.

Be lucky (like me)

Chaz





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Catch Reports

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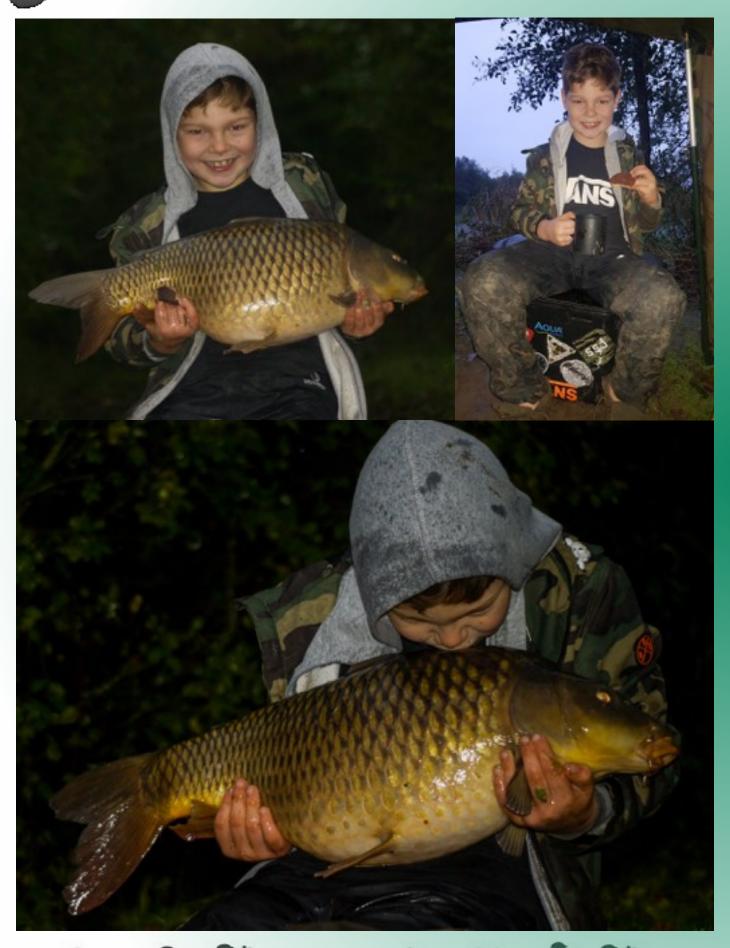


Jason Sandiford

Super Chef Jason Sandiford smashed his personal best recently whilst taking a break from cooking at the Russ vs Wuzy charity weekend... and after plopping a rod out into the margins, it was away!!!! A new P.B of 35 and a half pounds!! Congratulations Jase from all at Talking Carp. Go to www.chefukcarp.co.uk if you are looking for someone to give your social a real treat!!!



Catch Reports





Junior Catch Report

I have never met Callum Whittaker, the star of this little report, or his dad, Sam, who sent the report in, but I did edit Sam's Article about his Belgium Trip that appears in this month's Mag along with pictures of the amazing carp he and his mate caught but, when I saw these pictures of Callum with a super little common that he caught in horrendously wet and muddy conditions on his 'Birthday', it made me think about why we do this 'hobby' and why I myself started my lad carp fishing when he was just five years old...

The smile says it all, and makes you think why the hobby gets so obsessive and on occasion, makes some people so aggressive and jealous, especially when it comes to Social Media.

I have seen some of the comments made by so called 'grown ups' about pictures that the younger anglers post of gear, rigs and carp and the sarcastic and 'childish' comments left in reply to their questions....

A picture like this should make us all re-think what carp angling is about and why we actually do it...!!

This is the Catch Report his dad sent in....

"We arrived just after first light and didn't have much to go on in all honestly but after checking the weather, a new wind was due, so we opted to set up on the end of the fresh 'Southerly'.

The night seemed to set in quickly and had been uneventful apart from a Tench but at 01:00 a rod on the baited spot was tearing away with a nice common on the end for Callum...!!

He was fishing a firmer area amongst soft silt in around fifteen feet of water with a Bio-Marine matching Pop-Up on a Size 4 Hinge Rig over a good offering of hemp, corn and boilies.

It was a nice way to start his birthday...!"

Happy (belated) Birthday Callum from all at Talking Carp Magazine and keep at it. I look forward to editing your very own session report in the future.

Mark Carper

Instagram: mark_carper257
Email: m.galli@talkingcarp.co.uk







Alan Beacher

I had a gut feeling that the next session was going to be something special with such prime fishing conditions, and I was right. This beautiful 15lb 3oz mirror carp followed by a 20lb 5oz mirror carp which was my first 20 from this stretch of the canal. Buzzing with this 20! I've worked hard for it. It's been a special year on this hard canal giving me 50+ fish including carp, tench, bream and Barbel. All caught on

Rod Hutchinsons baits which I rate highly. Hope you've had success in your fishing too and made happy memories. Tight Lines!





Autumn has finally arrived, and it started with a bang. Check the autumn colours out on this scaly mirror carp weighing 16lb 1oz from the local canal. Falling to the Rod Hutchinson Coconut Crunch popup once again and my version of the multi-rig. Why change anything when it's working for you. Hope you caught a banger this weekend.



James Winnington

Packing up on a Saturday and the left rod beeped I saw the line moving so hit the rod and knew it was a good fish.

After a hours fight including my mate in a boat I ended up with this lovely Cheshire 30 at 31lb 4oz.





Adam Walker

Hi guys, After getting all sorted the night before, i was all set to join my brother on the lake we had previously fished a few

times before. My brother being Lucky to land 22lb common a few weeks previous. I arrived on the lake, it was 4am. The rain was constant, it had rained nonstop from late Friday, and it was not giving any sign of stopping any time soon. After a few Laps i decided to have a quick brew, (thanks to my big brother) while having my brew around 40-50 yards to my brothers left i heard this almighty bosh. So, me being me i was straight down having a nose about. It was not long before it boshed again. Then 2 rod lengths away from that another bosh, That was it, I raced to the car and quickly loaded the bivvy and rods on the barrow, this rain was not giving in, after finally getting all 3 rods and the gear set up, i was completely soaked through. But who cares them rods were out? I had found my clear spots and they were all baited up, with a good mixture of chopped and whole 16mm -14mm Krill and Bloodworm boilies. The ducks and coots were a pain, they were constantly diving on my bait, but i persisted and kept the bait little but often going in, it was a really quiet day action wise, the odd liner here and there, but with the coots we couldn't be 100% sure if they were fish. Going into late afternoon early evening, there were signs of fish activity over 2 of my margin spots, 1 in 4ft of water the over in the bowl with drops between 9 - 10 ft, it was clear they were mooching in and around that channel, and at around 3:40 ish my brother had an absolute 1 toner, only to snag him up and lose it.

Then just over an hour later , my left hand rod that was in 4ft of water in a little one yard gap between two weed beds roared off, if my brothers take was good this one was even better , straight off one toner and this fish darted for the weed bed, after a little battle , she was in the net , all 26lb of pure stunning common carp , And this was more of a Buzz for me ,A new PB for myself , this 3 acre low stock venue , approx 50 carp stock wise ,And to have 1 in the net on I was fully on cloud 9 , only my 4th session on here and losing fish on two occasions ,and not having any luck on one occasion , i was well and truly on cloud 9 to have one in the net, and to turn out to be a new PB made this even more special.

Caught on single 16mm hookbait inside an Embossed PVA bag from the Godman PVA Range, with a few crushed boilies inside, fished over a mixture of whole and chopped 16mm and 14mm krill and bloodworm boilies.

To be honest I'm still over the moon now.





Dan Winfield

After a long overdue social with his good friend, Dan Winfield managed this 31lb mirror carp. The bite came at 9am the following morning. The fish fell to a simple claw rig fished with a Sticky baits' krill 20mm



bottom bait and matching trimmed down 15mm pink Sticky baits pop up. Dan scatter baited 30 matching free offerings.





Fishing duo Jack and George had a fantastic day session on their Essex members lake landing 8 cats in total 2 x 20lb+ 3 x 30lb+ 3 x 40lb+ largest being 47lb using Carpr Baits Scopex boilies and matching Scopex boilie pellets in PVA bags.





Catch Reports



Jay White

Jay was rewarded with gem of a fish, not the biggest but who cares when it looks like this. This weighed in at 18lb 6oz and fell for Carpr Baits Krill Pop Up over a bed of matching boilies and boilie pellets





Josh Skipworth

Wow, where do I start with this one? I was looking at this lake for quite some time thinking about how I should go about fishing if. As I was walking around, I met a guy that is very well known in the carp industry. I had a chat with me and he pointed me in the right direction,



baiting up a handful of boilie 10 baits at a time once a day for a week definitely got them going on a spot, with one rod I carefully placed a bottom bait rig onto a little clear spot fishing only one rod. This bite came at 1.30am and it was for sure something special. 33lb 6oz Mirror. My New PB.







Chewy

WHAT A RESULT!!!!! It is hard to think I've just slipped my 7th fish now back from this most challenging water but really didn't expect it to go next morning again after yet another move with the 8th fish so soon. One off the most wanted prizes in there... still down in weight but really not relevant if I'm honest.

What a creature, scales like medallions... the BIG **FULLY!!!** At 41lb 3 falling to the combo of tigers and **Natural Impact and really** putting the 10ft xk3 stalking rod through its paces. Chewy.

Successful Bait - Natural **Impact**

www.carpcompany.com



Colin Nash

Colin "Gaylord"
Nash with a couple of
Horton Church Lake
fish. Dumpy one is
30lb and the long one
is "Fingers" at 43lb.

Successful Bait - Icelandic Red















Consultant **James mac** is back from France and he's managed to bag his second 80+ fish and a new personal best at 82lb 2oz a fish known as THE MIGHTY MIGGSY

Not content with the big girl he also went on to land a further 10 fish 3x40s to 47lb 6x30s to 39lb 1x20 29lb

The more bait James introduced into his swim the better the fishing seemed to be with most mornings resulting in double takes at bite time.

Here's a few pics of the fish James caught including the epic pics of Miggsy

Successful Bait- Big beds of crushed/chopped nut mix, seed the weed bollies and pellet fishing 2 rods tight on the spot.

Successful Bait- Carp Company Nut mix











Fantastic week on Orchid lakes, Oxfordshire, 18 th to the 24 of August, Produced 10 carp including a brace of thirty's, at 34 lb mirror known fish Wuzys, & the fish with no name at 35lb 8oz.

5 carp over 20+ with 3 mid doubles, every single one was in absolute prestige condition, with some real old characters.

All fish came of the Carp Company, Icelandic reds 18 mm caviar and cranberry, snowman presentation, soaked in the caviar and cranberry glug.

Tactics was keeping consistent with bait applications and consistent with bait placement, which basically had a massive part of producing me at least 1 to 2 carp every day on what normally proves to be a difficult water.

Matthew Grinham



Well where to start!! I had managed to get a couple of nights down the pond (after persuading the Mrs) so prior to my trip I was deep in thought about what Carp Company bait to start on as I have recently jumped on board. After a discussion with consultant Chewy about the situation I'm facing all he could say was OPM!!!!

I went off armed with this amazing sweet smelling bait. I got down in the evening and managed to get into a swim that has done me a couple of bites this season and I set straight to work with a little weed rake to make a few channels for line lay and set my traps before dark. What a shout it was, it did not take too long before the action started. I was woken up at 5.30am to a screaming alarm, a short but hard battle and it was in the net! Not wanting to miss bite time I unhooked it quick and slipped it in the retainer, before I could even get a fresh bait on the rig another rod went into meltdown and I managed to manoeuvre it around the retainer and bundle it in the net, the result being 2 cracking commons at 19lb8oz, 29lb8oz. It was a perfect start. With temperatures set to hit 30+ I decided to give the swim a rest during the day and clear a bit more weed, evening came around again and the rods went back out on the spots. Anticipating being woken up around the same time with another bite I decided to get up a bit earlier and get the kettle on! Whilst drinking my second coffee, bang on cue I received a very slow take. It was a very slow moving fish, covered in weed and it waddled in towards the net, one big scoop it was in. As I started peeling the weed off of it I realised this was quite a bit bigger than the others and I was greeted by a jaw dropping common that went 41lb on the scales!! This was my second 40+ this season and to say I was buzzing was an understatement! 12mm OPM pop-ups fished low to the deck over crushed OPM mixed with 2+6mm pellets soaked in a generous amount of golden corn oil doing the trick.

Not a bad way to open my account on Carp Company baits!! Successful Bait- OPM and Carp Company Golden Corn Oil

Scott Peppiatt







Karl Brandreth

These two mid double carp were caught using Taska end tackle gear and Munch Baits bio marine double 16mm hard on the bottom with no freebies





Martin Rich

One from our friends across the pond!!! Caught during a very windy, stormy session using a snowman setup.





<u>Lee</u> <u>Perrett</u>

27lb 12oz
Caught on Nash
citrus boilie.
Never been caught
before.





Ronnie Ingleby

Done a 60hr session on north lake at Elphicks and broke my pb twice, firstly with a 36lb common them landed a 45 lb mirror, both caught on SE-BAITS Impact pink popups



Michael Peers

I've been in search for an unnamed 30lb carp for years since my son passed away so I could name it Kieran after him. I thought that the search had ended with this hard fighting mirror weighing in at 31lb 4oz at this time of year. There was a good chance, it's not been out over 30 yet only to find out the next day it had been out in the spring at 30lb 4oz.... so close but still the hunt continues.

I'd got to the lake quite late for me usually early in the morning but afternoon it was I watched the lake for about half hour and didn't see much to go on only bird life feeding over a spot that I've had fish off before so after a handful of free offerings over the spot I put two rods out one on a naked chod and one on a snowman bottom bait and just before midnight the naked chod was the one that produced the possible end to my search

Fishing to me has been a very personal thing fishing on my own and keeping me self to my self-helping me repair mentally it's only in the last 5 years that I've been sharing my captures and it's been great to open up and fish with other people even teaching others the things I've learnt on my journey

Thanks Mike





Nick Haynes

4 fish on a day session in the middle of October all fell to Baitworks Scent from Heaven yellow barrel wafters over a few handfuls of sweet corn and solid bags with pellet soaked in pickle stick power mist sherbet.









Ryan **Salisbury**

Orion Carp Baits Field Tester, Alex Freer and Gareth Tucker done a quick day session at their local water. Armed with Orion Baits N-Factor and Rigel 7's Hook Baits with a small PVA mesh of N-Factor goodies they managed to land 11 carp. Biggest 4 being 23lb, 20lb, 19lb and 18lb backed up with some low doubles.



Ben & Kaya Temple

Catch report Team X Stream Kaya & Ben after a double run. Kaya was on his 2nd lesson and he has shown some top angling skills today, when the rod went running Kaya fought a really good fight back. It wasn't easy for the 7 year old reeling it in. He felt the fight off this fish, saying its hard its and it made him sweat.

Top angling Kaya & Ben C using mainline bait and Viper Tackle size 8 Curve shank hook.



Ethan Welch

Catch report Team X Stream Ethan Welch, a 13 year old, who had this fish on a single strawberry crush boilie on a standard hair rig, using a 2 oz inline lead fishing out in the middle of the lake. He is the newest member and I can tell this young man will be showing us some more fishing in the future.

Well done Ethan, great angling.

Jonathon Blakeley



Catch report Team X Stream Jonathon Blakeley had a great session on the bank catching this beauty after switching tactics.

A nice reward after changing to a balanced hookbait, made up with a sticky baits krill pop up topped with fake corn, weighted with some lead wire to critically balance the bait. This was used on a simple blow back rig placed tight to an island after seeing one top I used 5 or 6 krill bottom baits tight around the hookbait. Also, a couple crushed up which seem to do the trick!

Well done Jonathan great angling and beautiful catch



Mart Tsang

Catch report Team X Stream Mart Tsang had had not fished for a few years. He decides to get the gear out learn a few new tricks and decided to put his skills to the test 1 afternoon while having lunch near Sefton park.

He heard about the beauties some people from the team have landed, so he hit the bank fishing.

It was the afternoon which, I was been interviewed by a local newspaper called The Echo

We got talking about how fishing is taking off, so much in Liverpool and this beauty sent the alarms screaming.

Making a good days interview showing people why Liverpool parks are getting people involved in fishing more thanks to X stream fishing and the community anglers coming together.

Michael Fitz

Catch report Team X Stream Michael Fitz hasn't had a bad session on a trip visiting 1 of the Shimano lakes. He was hoping to come across some of the bigger carp, which can be as good looking like this mirror. Well done mate great angling





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Chris

Team member Chris is over the moon with catching a new Pb! Chris done a 36hr session at Todber Manor. He was casting the rod tight to the far margin with 18mm SaTaN boilies hard on the bottom with a standard hair rig with a handful of freebies around the spot. He managed to catch a lovely 22lb mirror and later in the afternoon his rod rattled off to this stunning mirror which brought him his new Pb of 30lbs!!!

Congratulations on your Pb Chris!!



<u>Paul</u>

Team member Paul fished the Lisa's Army event at the weekend at Todber Manor. Paul's action came late on in the event after feeding his swim with roughly a kilo of mixed boilies teamed up with a kilo of particle mix and numerous rig changes. He finally managed to bag himself a nice 16lb 2oz mirror in the last 5 minutes of the match. The fish fell to a 12mm yellow SaTaN pop up on a small Ronnie rig. Good angling Paul



Tim

Team member Tim headed to Linbrook Fishery for the Vader Baits social.

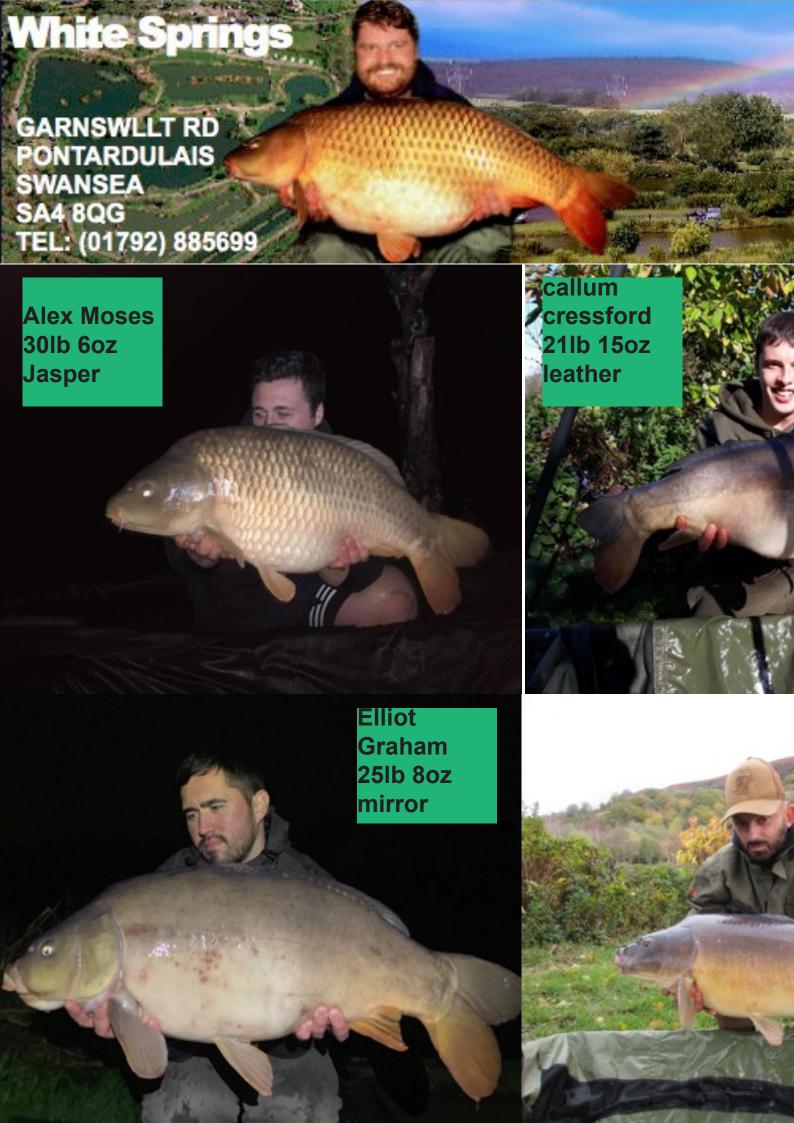
The lake proved to be fishing very hard with no action on the Friday and Saturday with only a few liners to keep him on his toes. He reset his rods on the Saturday night and got his head down. At 5am on Sunday morning his alarms sounded and was into a fish on his right hand rod and after a short fight he landed a lovely mirror weighing in at 18lb 5oz and setting a new PB for himself. The fish was tempted by a 18mm hardened Krilla boilie teamed with a pink Grafter pop up trimmed to balance his snowman rig teamed up with a solid pva bag of pellets and a few Krilla boilies over the top!

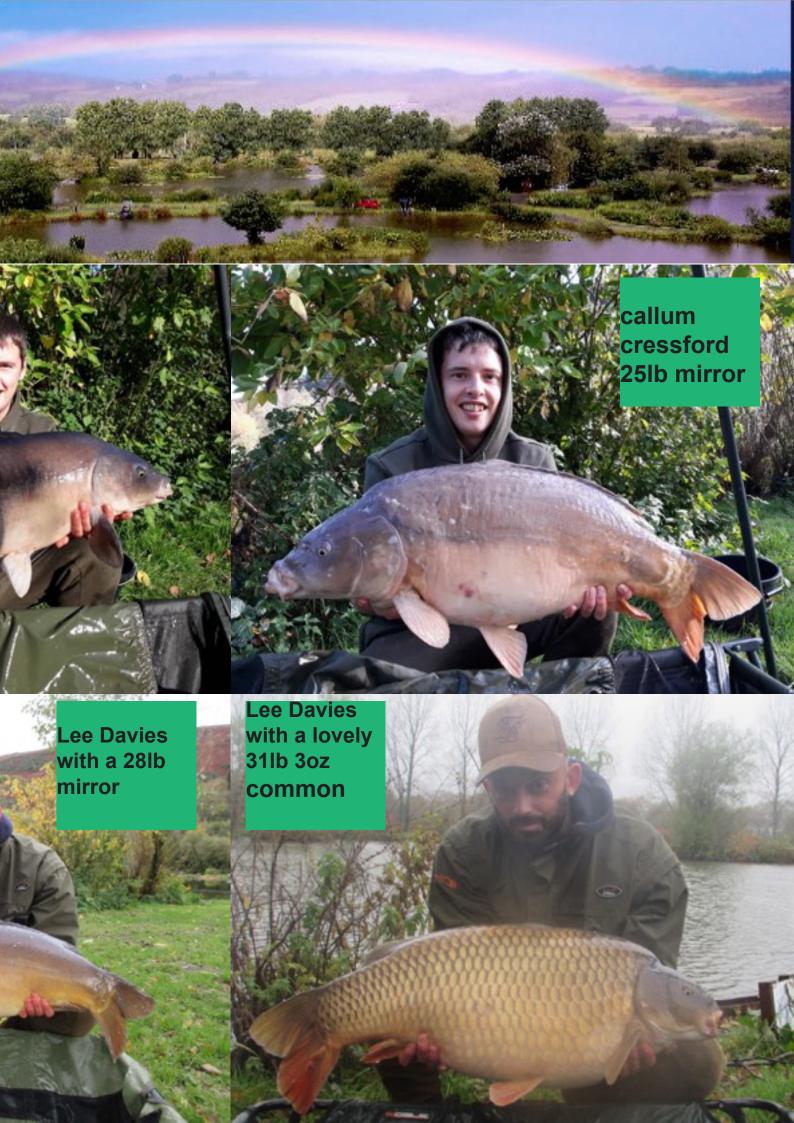
Great angling Tim and congratulation on the new PB!

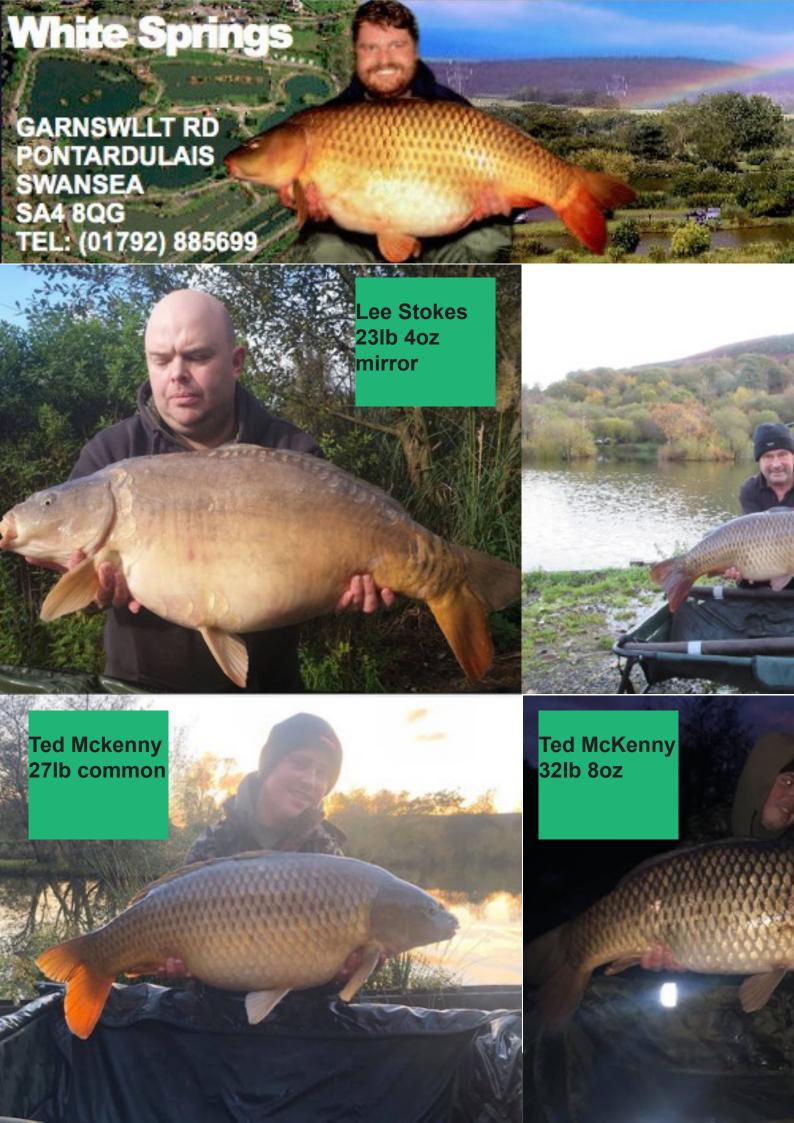


Tomus

Team member Tomus represented Vader Baits at the Lisa's Army event at the weekend. With an uneventful first days fishing he reset his rods at 6am the next morning and by 9am he was into his first fish landing this lovely common weighing in at 15lb on the nose. The fish was tempted by a 14mm SaTaN boilie with a trimmed down SaTaN pop up fished as a snowman! Great angling Tomus











Well,we are now 8months into 2019 and what a fantastic few months it has been. The biggest out of Lake Chira this year so far is a 47lber along with many other 40s,43 and 45 many upper 30s and 30s, the fish have definitely got bigger and still as beautiful as ever and the great fight of the Canary Carp as always is truly amazing!!

Many holidays with the guys either staying on the bank 24hrs a day or having one of our accommodations, either apartments or a beautiful Canary House with pool that van sleep up to 6 persons, great for fishing the days, cooling off in the pool with a few cold ones and bbq!!! something for everyone, either with the lads or bring the family.

You can also book any duration short break on the bank or with accommodation.

If you are coming to Gran Canaria on a holiday,we offer day excursions either carp or bass fishing and we have a separate day trip area where we offer an all inclusive day including your pick up and drop off from your hotel or meeting point, a guided mountain drive, 2 rod Nash set up with all relevant tackle and equipment, bait, end tackle ,license, light lunch and refreshments and you are fully guided ,8hours of fishing in the beautiful mountains ,peace and tranquil and some of those stunning Chira carp!!

We do have the odd weeks left for 2019 and we are already booking for 2020. We do have our offer on for a minimum of 4 anglers we offer a free apartment for the duration of your holiday.

So if you want to turn your dreams into reality and see what everyone is talking about and catch some of the famous Lake Chira carp ,look no further and contact Ali or Dave at Carpgrancanaria.com,info@costadelcarping.com or 0034637939680 Facebook,Instagram,message or Whatsapp.

We also offer tailor made holidays for you, maybe a weeks fishing and a week on the beach!!!

不多

Non fishing partners are catered for and groups are welcome. Tight lines

Dave, Ali, Joe and the team at carpgrancanaria.com.





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'Raw Krill liquid' is exactly that, raw Krill in a bottle. Packed with nutrient-rich properties, combined with an individual aroma, salty taste and distinctive colour. Being naturally PVA friendly the applications are endless, can be applied over particles/pellets/groundbaits, added to recipes or even used neat in solid PVA bag approaches.

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This beautifully foul concoction is a delicate blend of heat fermented chillies, short chain fatty acids, powerful esters and unique flavour compounds. Designed to generate a powerful aroma and provide an array of feeding triggers that will disperse at different levels and rates. Incredibly pungent and very, very hot. Available in 500ml bottles

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in water FACT. With this simple rule of thumb we have developed the first SOLUBLE liquid hemp. Manufactured solely from premium Hemp Seeds using an undisclosed method, it contains the same amino acid profile and nutritional properties as any other pure hemp product. An extremely dense liquid and completely water soluble yet PVA friendly for unlimited applications.

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Thankyou for reading and as always your continued support

Please send your articles and catch reports by the 28th November 2019 for next months magazine

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The Carp magazine for Carp anglers written by YOU !!!!!!!

"The Talking Carp Team"

Brian Dixon
Mark Faulkner
Dave Harnick Snr
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