



Issue 20 October 2017



Inside your favourite Carp Mag this month

Scott geezer grant

Gary milky lowe

Alby Smith

Ethan Carper

Keith Moors

Plus Reviews, Catch Reports and Foreign Section



Hello...Welcome

Enjoy issue 20 of Talking Carp... Your monthly FREE to read carp magazine, The first magazine to say written by carp anglers for carp anglers!!!! and it really is. And with NO subscription necessary.

The success of your magazine is down to you... so we promise to publish as many...if not all of the articles, catch reports and pictures that you send in to us. We do not just publish established carp anglers, we publish ALL carp anglers..... so come on have a go. Even the Talking carp team have had a go this month where we review Etang ST Pierremont in France.

Keep those likes, those shares and those retweets going too guys. We appreciate every single one.

We are going from strength to strength with your help and we have numerous new ideas that are soon to be unveiled to make your read even better. Look out for announcements on our webpage !!!!!

Enjoy....

Team Talking Carp

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This months Running order -
ARTICLES -

The Black Lagoon Part 1 by Scott Geezer Grant

Make your time count by Albie Smith

The park lake by Gary milky Lowe

So what is Brooms cross fishery all about by Ethan Carper

Social or Fishing, Why Choose by Shev & The Talking Carp Team

Cherry Lakes by Tom Nixon-Taylor

Living The Dream by Keith Moors

REVIEWS -

Ridge Monkey Goodies by Scott Grant

Taska's Dreamlina Bed & Kryston No-Tangle by Gary 'Milky' Lowe

Catch Reports -

Andrew Collett, Celeste, Christopher Whyborn, Francis Donovan, Joe Beaverstock, Kam Cassidy Hughes, Northern Banx, Ryan Singer

Talking Foreign -

Etang St. Pierremont, , Abbey Lakes, Carp Gran Canaria
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The Black Lagoon

Part 1

**by
Scott
'Geezer'
Grant**



The Black Lagoon Part 1

by Scott Geezer Grant

Back in May I was asked by a friend if I fancied fishing a lake up in Stansted called the Black Lagoon, I've heard of the lake but never fished it... what with work, family and my syndicate tickets time is very limited.

Anyway I said I would give it some thought and if I could find a couple of free days midweek I would.

Since the beginning of June,

I haven't fished at all due to getting the house rendered and a complete transformation of my garden, big projects that took a massive chunk of my time up, all whilst still going to work to pay the bills.

As the work was coming to an end I needed a few days fishing in good company and somewhere quiet.



I messaged the owner of the Black Lagoon and asked if he had any availability, he replied and said midweek is free first week of September, great if I could book a couple of swims for myself and my good Essex/Northern mate Steve Filtness (Filthbag as he's known) that would be very much appreciated. It turns out myself and the owner had contact way back when I was writing my column Secret World of the Essex Boys in Carp Talk.

As I had done a good job back then he was now inviting me to come and fish his water. I took him up on his offer and booked to fish 3 nights, I looked through the photos of the lake and stock on their Facebook page and was pleasantly surprised at some of the stunning fish and also the fact that's its an old estate lake, to give you a bit more of an idea The Black Lagoon is a 3.5-acre estate lake with 7 swims located in Mountfitchet, Essex. The lake is around 200 years old but parts



gave the Lordship of Stansted to his Nephew Robert Greno, who built his Castle that was destroyed by an Army sent by King John following the signing of the Magna Carta. It was around this time that the Stansted Manor was built using the stones of the Castle and its believed that this is when the earliest parts of the lake were dug, since then there have been various Manors built on the sight of the field behind the non-fishing bank of the lake. One hall was a Tudor style

are believed to date back to Tudor times, the owners estimate there to be around 70-80 Carp stocked in the lake but more are being discovered frequently.

The land in which the lake is dug has been used by Man for over 2000 years, the remains of a Roman Villa are situated near St Mary's church (which is visible from the far end of the lake). Following the Norman Conquest William I



building that was built near the Church Swim. The owners do not know the exact date of construction but the Architectural design suggests that it was built for Queen Elizabeth I. This Hall burned down and a new Jacobean style Hall was built on the grounds. In 1791 Humphrey Repton published a 'Red Book of Design' for Stansted and he stated that something had to be done about the state of the Manor and its grounds including





the Lake. It was his design that made the lake into the shape of the fish using the island as an eye, it was then further extended in 1870 when the clay was dug from the lake to build the Stansted Manor that stands today.... History lesson over, and as you can imagine your fishing a lake that has true English heritage.

After walking the lake, we decided to fish the first part as it was more open and more sociable. Steve opted for a



it didn't look that weedy, but from the boat it was a different perspective. I came across areas where you could clearly see the fish had been feeding, as you are allowed to take a bare lead and drop this from the boat (without a rig attached) then clip up and cast your rod, this is what we done.

swim called Snowdrops and I opted for the swim named Little mans. I started the arduous task of borrowing my gear to the swim and getting camp all set up, it took me forever but once sorted the kettle went on before getting the rods sorted. As your allowed to use the onsite boat, I took advantage of this and donned my life jacket (a must when going out in a boat, no matter how deep the lake is). From the bank,



Steve's rod were done first and to be honest he had some pukka areas in front of him, and whilst I was out in the boat an area in front of him was clouding up,



on closer inspection I could see fish feeding. What a spectacle and something we rarely get to see out in open water, with Steve's rods sorted it was time for me to have a look out in front of my swim. There were two areas that really stood out and these were the two I decided to fish.

As your allowed to use bait boats I dispatched 2 kilos of boilies and a generous helping

of HOB Blitz over each rod, as the owner said a lot of bait works... I then put another kilo over each rod with the throwing stick. With the rods finally out and everything sorted it was time to relax and take in the atmosphere.

It was around 17:00hrs that the owner paid us a visit, we sat chatting and it was interesting listening to the hard work he and his wife have put into the



lake, It really is a full time job but the rewards are fruitful. Ian left around 21:00hrs and myself and Steve decided to retire to our beds, as soon as my head hit the pillow I was out like a light.

I was woken with two bleeps on my left hand rod, looking at my phone it was 06:00 o'clock, I put the kettle on and watched the water for signs of activity, just

as I was laying there enjoying my morning coffee my left hand rod ripped off, I jumped out my bed and lifted into a feisty fish, after the bugger weeded me up a couple of time I slid the net under a small common of around 8lb, with the fish returned I sent the rod back out with another helping of a couple of kilos of the Nut Job and the blitz, as the day wore on the weather was up and down, one minute light rain then sunshine





then rain again!!

Steve's rods remained motionless, which was surprising considering he had fish feeding hard in front of him, but hey... that's fishing...maybe they sensed he's a tight f***er lol. He's a good lad really... he made us both bacon and sausage rolls and even used his gas!! I must admit I was a bit taken aback as it's the first time in 5 years that he has not only

cooked but used his gas!!, but I could get used to it.

Later that afternoon the owners Ian and Catherine turned up with their son Alfie, as we were sat there chatting my right-hand rod went into melt down, I lifted the rod and the fish weeded me almost instantly. I kept the pressure on and after a couple of minutes the fish was free and once it realised this it went mental taking me all over the

place, from the way the fish was acting I knew this was a much better fish. The fight lasted about 10 minutes before Steve slid the net under a nice looking common, the fish are really dark and not your usual stamp of common. The fish was lifted onto the mat and as I unfolded the net I could see the fish was a 20lber, and what was even more pleasing was the owners didn't recognise the fish at all!!! A weight of 22lb was read

out, Steve done the honours with the camera, then she was treated and returned.

I wasted no time in getting the rod back out to the area with a generous helping of bait, when I am baiting an area I will often use a mixture of different size boilies, as the fish have to suck at different rates to eat them, which in turn creates confusion, giving my wafter hookbait a



again wasn't being kind to us and decided to rain yet again! As time was getting on and the evening drawing in I cooked us Curry and rice bank style. If I'm totally honest all I done was put 4 bags of uncle bens boil in the bag rice in the pot, then heated up the curry my Mrs had cooked the previous morning, which is always banging, credit where credit is due... she is a very good cook.

Just as we finished dinner and was thinking of what pudding to have my right-hand rod was away, was this an even better fish then the last one, could it be the biggest fish in the lake?... all will be

revealed in part 2. For more information on lake rules etc visit The Black Lagoon Facebook page.

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

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If you're out on the bank stay safe and remember its only fishing.

All the best

Geezer



TalkingCarp



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Make Your Time Count by Alby Smith

So, this month I've only been able to get out twice, yet probably the best two sessions for a long time!

I was fishing with my pal Ryan leaving very late we decided to fish local and keep it simple. So, after checking google we decided on Chad Lakes, we got the kit in the car and set off late in the day. When we arrived, we got the rods out and setup by 530 pm.

I set about 2 separate spots feeding Nut365 chops on both just short of the island on the right and in the channel between the island. After about an hour I lost a fish from the right-hand side due to a hook pull.... with it being such a late setup, we set about getting the dinner cooked and resetting the rods. I was using a combination of solid bags and snow man

rigs, the solid bags were filled with Hinders pellets and a piece of fake corn dipped in hinders betalin. On the snow man rig a 18mm nut365 whittled down with a Northern Special pop up and a little mesh bag...

Just after settling down for bed Ryan called me over and told me he had just lost one, with fish in the area I topped up with 4-6 baits over the top of both spots. It wasn't long before my left-hand rod screamed into action, echoing across lake. It was a

tense fight with many snags and shallow water to contend with, I took it slow and managed to get her in. A big sigh of relief knowing this meant I had just christened my new Delks, with a big grin on my face I lifted the scales and it swung round to 14lb, the weight didn't matter with such an achievement completed already and a stunning looking fish in the net I was made up.

Getting the rods set back up, again using Hinders pellets which





and a piece of fake corn dipped in hindes betalin. On the snow man rig a 18mm nut365 whittled down with a Northern Special pop up and a little mesh bag...

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Getting the rods set back up, again using Hindes pellets which were oozing oils and goodness, I cast out, hit the clip, lowered it down and with a thud

I was sure it was a bite. Not long after I was awoken by Ryan calling me over, he had bagged one for himself in the middle of the night... cold and wet we bumped fists and the warmth of joy kicked in. With the scales, the cam and the mat in hand it was a pukka common that tipped the scales to 16lb.

Just as 5 o'clock ticked round my left-hand rod kicked in to action again this time a low figure common slipped over the cord and with everything reset I tried to get my head down for half an hour or so. It must have only been about 20 mins and I got another call from Ryan, so I made my way over camera ready still bleary eyed to see Ryan lifting this pearl of a mirror that tipped the scales at 14lb.

Now wide awake, Ryan got his rods back out and came over to my swim and we got the breakfast on. Halfway through breakfast we both started to feel the chill in the air and knew the rain was due to pay a visit. After an hour of non-stop raining we started to pack away. With not much happening between our swims we made a joint decision to leave.

It had been a couple of weeks before I got back out again this time I had a little time to prepare. I had gone to get my bait from Hindes on the Thursday as I had my two daughters coming over for the weekend. After dropping them both off on Sunday evening I made my way down to my local venue.... Franklins. Realizing the weather was starting to turn I took it slow. I had a good look around



the deeper part of the lake starting at the muddy double where I was greeted by Stuart who had been fishing there from earlier that day. After a long chat I got to a peg known as the narrows and after another chat with my good friend Lea Ockwell he gave me some spot on advice for this swim. After a short lead around I found a lovely clear spot around 40yds, perfect size for two rods. I got to work putting bait out over the spot starting to count while casting out spod mix consisting

of nut365 10mm, chops, nut 365 glug and the majority of the mix being hemp. With the wind howling down from the right I got to the count of 8 spombs and heard a CRACK. I looked out and splosh... the spomb had snapped off. After retying and lending a spomb from Stuart I got a further 15 spombs over the spot followed by both rods, then adding 5 more spombs over the top. I sat back and glazed down at my watch and did a double take realizing it was gone 23.30 already. I settled

down in to my bag and got some sleep. I was abruptly awoken by an almighty scream from my alarm in the early hours around 4:30am. I stumbled out my bivvy half asleep and reached out for my rod. With the alarm still singing I leant back, tightened the clutch and the fight commenced, a grueling 20-30 mins through weed beds, snags and missing the net twice I finally got her in.... BUZZING!! I took a look inside the net and saw an absolute chunk, still dazed I got the scales and mat set out. I called Stuart to help me out. The scales went up and swung round to 20 ½ lb..... this is my first 20 + from this venue getting

closer to my goal of 30lb, proving I had reached a milestone in the quest to 30+lb from Franklins. Once sunrise crept in and after realizing I had to pop to the shop for a new spomb, I pulled both rods in and made my way out. After getting back and setting up the spomb rod again I got back to work putting some more spod mix out, followed by the rods.

Not long after I got my lunch on, my right-

hand rod rattled in to action and I wasted no time getting straight to it. With my burgers now smelling done I battled with the fish for a good 15 minutes before I caught the flash of a tail... another 5 minutes passed before she finally greeted the back of the net. Excited and worn out, I once again called over to Stuart to help me. I lifted her up for some photos and then weighed her. She showed a healthy weight of 19 1/2lb



on the scales. Shortly after slipping her back the weather took a turn for the worse with the rain relentlessly coming down. I waited for a break in the clouds, packed up and made my way home. I have to say a massive thanks to Lea for the info on the swim which he is always happy to do, and Stuart for the help and the carpy photos. It's been almost a week since my last outing, realizing I had no time to wet a line my partner

knew I was desperate to get out and with my birthday soon approaching, she had planned a surprise trip to a venue I've wanted to fish for a while....

All will be revealed in the next issue.



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The Park Lake

After a good session on the syndicate work picked up so I knew I would not be able to get there the following week so I thought I would do a few overnights on the local park lake that is within walking distance of my house, so easy to bait up and keep an eye on it. I was going to do Monday Tuesday and Thursday night I would have to pack up by 9 in the morning has had a lot to do in the day, so about midday Sunday I loaded the car and set off to the lake, and as the lake was a park lake that was surrounded by factory units on one side and a college on the other side it's always going to be noisy and busy with people walking round all day and into the night, I parked the car in the college carpark and went for a walk round the lake. It is only 9 acres and only has 18 swims so it doesn't take long to walk the whole lake. After a few laps I settled for swim 18 that was in the far corner of the lake which had loads of water that no one could get near to as it had a big spit running down the left hand side and there was trees all the way down the left hand side all the way down to where they feed the ducks which was about 180 yards away.

Most people that fish this swim use a boat and boat it right down to the end. I was going to fish the swim differently to most and was going to fish just over the weed bed about 50 yards out and bait it heavily and see what happened. I started to set up and a couple of other members came down and said they were going to set up on 17 which was next to me but they fished the other side of the spit and into the main body of the lake, at least I had some company for the night. I carried on setting up and soon had everything ready, just needed to tie some new rigs, I was going to start off with my normal bottom bait rig which consisted of a size 6 Nash barbless fang twister which I love for bottom baits and that was tied to some Kryston Merlin in 15lb which was coated in the new Kryston No Tangle gel that stiffened the braid up for the cast but then once in the water the gel dissolved and the braid was back to its suppleness which I want, the bait I was going to be using is my every faithful Mainline Cell the normal round ones I would bait up with, but in three different sizes... 18mm 15mm and 10mm just to confuse them plus over the top of that

The Park Lake
by
Gary Milky
Lowe



would use some spod mix to get them grubbing around, this also keeps them in the area longer and it's harder to pick up the smaller items. I would also mix it up again with the hookbait by using a small dumbbell hook bait with a yellow Mainline topper on to for sight.

Once all three rigs were done and ready to go out it was time to get them in the water, I knew where two rods were going, and that was about 50 yards out in the middle just over the back of the weed, so I was going to do them first as I didn't know where the third rod will go yet, so the first rod was cast to the left, with just the lead on to find the back of the weed then clipped up, reeled back in and then measured out on the distance sticks so I could spod after the rods were out, and once this was done I clipped the rig on and cast it out to the spot, then the rod was left so the line could sink. While this was happening, I started to spod out the bait, I was going to give them a bit of bait to begin with as I knew I was going to be doing a few overnights this week so after about 25 spods of spod mix and then 20 of boilie over the area as I was going to be putting two rods quite close together. The second rod was cast about 15ft to the right of the other rod and then left on the ground so the line could sink on that one.

Now what do i do with the third rod? Well on the right there is trees overhanging all the way down that side with gaps in them so you could go

and bait up from there if you wanted, the only problem with these gaps is that the public walk along that bank and stop and look out from there so you don't really want to be putting baits in the open spots, so I sat there looking and thinking what to do when I see a fish jump near a willow that was about 140-150 yards down so that was the third rod sorted, but the only problem was getting bait there so I thought I would get one of the lads to look after my rods as I didn't want to leave them on their own and I would walk round and bait up through the trees. On this rod, I would only be putting boilie as I could get particle there, so after a little chat I was off round there to bait up. 15mins later I was back and ready to sort that rod out. What rig was going I going to use? Would I use my normal bottom bait rig or go for my other favourite rig... a chod, both rigs would get there without tangling but I couldn't really be sure what the bottom was like so I thought I would use the chod just so I know that the rig and bait would be sitting well if there is any chod on the bottom, a few casts later and the bait finally clipped the branches of the willow and I was happy.



Now all rods were in the area and the baiting was done I could finally sit back and relax, I put the kettle on and watched the water for any signs of fish I didn't see anything for a good few hours. I finally see one about 10yards behind the two rods that were behind the weed bed which filled me with confidence, while watching the water I also was watching all the people down where they feed the birds. I couldn't believe how much bread that gets thrown in here! Each person would come down with at least a loaf of bread and it would all be thrown in no wonder a lot of fish get caught down there, a few members come down that evening for a chat and we see quite a few fish that evening so I was happy that I was in the right place. It was soon dark and I had not eaten anything yet so I done a quick pot noodle and got in the bag ready for the night.

During the night all I got was bloody swans going through my lines so was not happy as I had to do the two rods behind the weed twice in the night so that was them rods knackered, so I sat there in the morning thinking that the night had been messed up when I see a fish over the two rods that were behind the weed so maybe I was still in with a chance, and while drinking a cuppa and chatting to the lads in the next swim I had a one toner and yes, you guessed it the bloody swans again... that's enough now I started to pack up as I had work today, so I packed up and left knowing I would be back tonight said good bye to lads and said I would see them later and hoped I could get back in the same swim. All day long all I could think about is getting back in that swim and as soon as I had finished I would be back.

I managed to get down earlier than I thought, I didn't have to load the car as I had left it in there that morning, so I raced down the lake hoping that swim 18 was vacant. I ran down that path hoping and was relieved that as I looked down the path that went to swim 18... it was empty so I asked the lads in 17 for a bucket and placed it in the swim then went back and loaded the barrow and rushed back to the swim, unloaded the barrow and got the rods ready. The two rods were cast back on the same spot but this time the rod tips were placed under the water so the swans could not catch my lines as they came through the channel from my left so that's

those rods sorted then the other rod was going back near the willow, and again it took a few casts to get there but I was happy with the last cast I wasn't going to put any more bait out because I had put loads in the night before and nothing happened, after all the rods were set up I sat back and sorted all the rest of the gear out Once that's done I put the kettle on and sat at the front of the swim watching the water, tonight seemed to be the night of the dog walker as I had loads of dogs running down into my swim but that's what you get on a park lake I was sitting there and in my mind i was thinking shall i put just a few baits out in case they have been feeding today. I got up and got the Taska mrc throwing stick out and just scattered some cell over all three rods.. now i was happy.



That evening I had a fair few visitors to the swim asking how I was getting on so the kettle was on quite a bit, so it was quite a good social that evening. Once everyone had gone, it was time to do something to eat. I had my Taska grill pan on me so I done some sausage sandwiches with some good old tommy sauce and settled down for the evening and chill out listening to the radio, as the sun started to go down I saw my first fish and it was near the rod that was on the willow, over a period of about an hour I saw fish all over the bay, and they seem to be getting closer to me as they started off down the far end and have now started showing near

my two rods that are over the back of the weed, so I was well confident for that evening and night if they decided to feed. I climbed into the bag about ten o'clock still hearing the odd fish jump but it seemed like they were along way down again. I didn't have to wait long for a bite and it came to the middle rod that was just over the back of the weed. I was on the rod quick as I didn't want it to get in any of the other weed beds as I picked the rod up it went solid so I kept pressure on as it was a barbless hook, and as soon as you take the pressure of it could slip the hook, but after a few minutes I could feel the fish moving and then she shot off to my right and was really scrapping when it went solid again so steady pressure and she was on the move again, now I was gaining line I just had the big weed that was in front of the swim, luckily the fish stayed high as it came over it and was going from left to right in front of me then it went on a run straight into the big weedbed! I kept steady pressure on again and I could see a piece of the weedbed moving towards me. I hoped that the fish was still on now as it had been about half an hour since I had the take... well slowly the weed came towards me all I had to do was scoop the weed up in the net.

Well what seemed like ages I finally scooped the weed up now it was time to see if the fish was still in the weed, after a few minutes I could see the rig and there was no fish attached. I was gutted it had slipped the hook. Let's hope I have another chance in the night. I tied a new rig and put it back on the spot and got back in my bag thinking of what could have been. I soon nodded off and when I woke up again it was getting light. Had I missed my chance for the night? I hope not. I put the kettle on and watched the sun come up I saw a couple of fish showing right down were they feed the ducks so I hope they have not moved back down there ready for the people to feed the ducks. Time passed and nothing happened and it was soon time to pack up. I knew I couldn't get back down the lake now till Thursday night so I thought I would put some more bait out ready for when and if I could get back in the same swim, well as I was leaving the lads in the next swim said they were going to do the last night they had in swim 18 as I had seen fish there, well I wasn't going to be fish there for the next day I didn't care so off I went, wished them luck

That evening I took a walk down the lake just to see what was going on and it was quite busy, as I was talking to the lads we could see fish jumping right over were I had baited and the lads said they had there rods on them, after a while I left them and went home thinking to myself that I hope the fish were still there tomorrow, the lads said that they would be gone by mid-day so I thought that's it, I am going to be there for when they leave,

I knew that a few of my mate were coming down and that they would go on swim 1 as that were they had been concentrating on lately, at least I had someone to do my photos if i get one, Well the following day I was there at mid-day and true to their words they were packing up. I had a chat and found out that one of them had a 24lb mirror in the night so they were defiantly down here still. After they had gone I started to set up the weather was totally different to the other two days, it was overcast and windy so really good conditions, all the rods were placed in the same spots as the other nights and a scattering of Cell over all rods. I sat down with a brew, just then another member turned up and was going in the next swim so a quick chat and he was off to set up. The two mates had set up in swim one now so it looked like it was going to be another busy night. As the evening went on the weather looked better and better it had started to rain so I retired to the brolly and sat there watch the water drinking tea, I see the odd fish jumping but way down by where they feed the ducks but there always there and I don't use a boat so out of my range.



It was dark and getting late when I finally got in the bag and again I was awoken not long later by a screamer. I was on it really quick again this time it didn't weed me up, it fought hard but stayed high in the water so after 5mins or so I netted a lovely scaly mirror. Not a massive fish but all welcome. On the scales, she went 16lb 4 oz a quick scan of the fish as they are all tagged and it was confirmed it had a tag so a quick jog down of the number and she was sent on her way, I was happy that what I had down had worked so a new rig and the rod was back on the spot and I climbed back in to the bag, and fell back into a deep sleep really happy that I had one. Just before light I was away again... this time it was a totally different fight. It stayed low and weeded me up and again. I kept the pressure on and she slowly came out the next obstacle was the big weed bed in front of me where I had lost the fish the night before and yes bang on it, found it, so slow pressure and it was on its move again and now she was up and down in front of me and as it reached the surface I could see it was a decent common for here and in the net, she went. As I looked into the net it was indeed a good one, so I left here in the net and



went into the next swim to get the other angler to do some pics and weigh her. As I did I could see he had a fish as well so we sorted that one out first and it was a small common of 14lb, after we returned we went to sort mine out, we weighed her and on the scales, she went 28lb. That will do and she was also chipped. A few photos and she was slipped back, rod was put back out and kettle on, and we sat there chatting and it seemed like it had been a good night for all of us and my two mates had had fish too. Both had caught. Richard had a 29 and Faz had a 24 so that weather that turned up defiantly turned them on. Well it was soon time to pack up and off home I went one happy chap but I was still thinking of the syndicate so next time your read something off me it will be back on there.....

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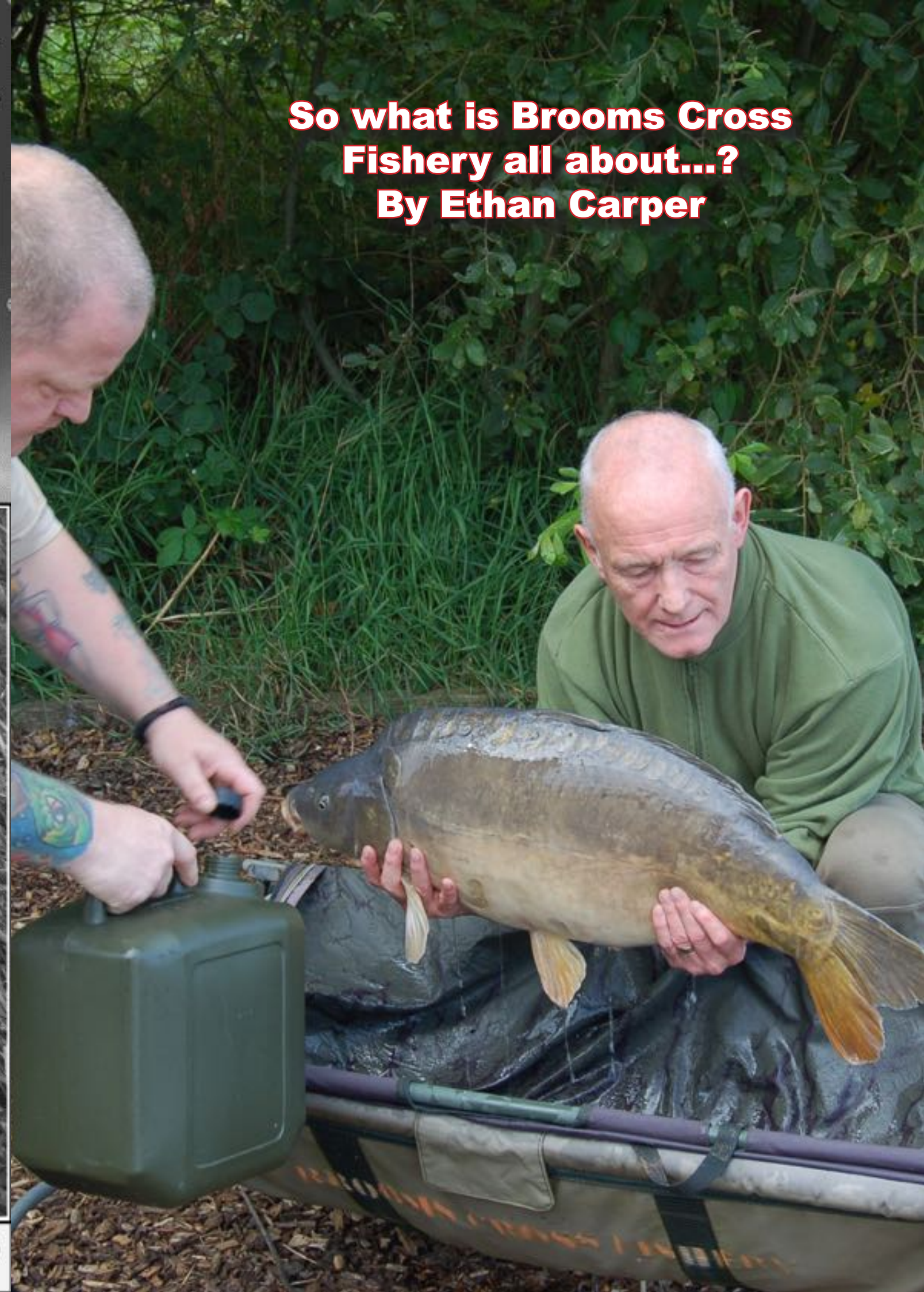
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**So what is Brooms Cross
Fishery all about...?
By Ethan Carper**



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A few weeks back, from the 21st to the 23rd August, I had the great opportunity to go and fish Brooms Cross Fishery in Thornton, Liverpool. It is a two hour and twenty-minute journey for me and my dad on a good day but as usual, our fishing trips wouldn't be 'normal' without some type of disaster and the M6 was not kind to us so it took three and half hours to get there, even using the Toll road from the Midlands

The 48-hour session had been arranged by Brain Dixon, the Editor of this very magazine and was an opportunity for my dad and me to meet him in person for the first time and spend some time fishing a venue new to us.

We didn't know too much about Brooms Cross but had read their website (www.broomscrossfishery.co.uk) and followed

them on Facebook too and have to say, they update their page regular with not just the 'big' Carp but most of the catches from the place on a daily basis. I was excited to be going and it is always good to get on a new venue, especially one that has shown to produce some nice fish on a regular basis and there was the hope that my UK PB (25.10lb) might fall as I am keen to beat it after smashing my French one recently. (Story to come)

Brooms Cross is certainly a place that could it happen and expectations were high as we arrived at the place even if it was one and half hours later than we had hoped.

My dad had remained relatively calm for most of the journey, which for anyone that has read my last three-part

story, is something of a miracle for him...!

We found the place easily and could not believe how rural it was considering we were only 7 miles from the centre of Liverpool. The thing to note about Brooms Cross that makes it different from most 'Day Ticket' waters, is that before you can fish the place, you need to register and pay a one-off registration fee of £30.00 and then you must 'book' before you arrive to fish. Now to some, this will seem a bit odd, given that it is not a syndicate as such and you do not pay the fee every year but when you understand the reason behind it, it makes perfect sense.

One thing I didn't mention is that Brian is also apart time bailiff on the water and is one of several that the

owner and developer of the fishery, Rob, has on site twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week all year round. The significance of this was that I had the opportunity to spend a bit of time chatting with Rob and some of the bailiffs about why the fishery was operated this way. It is quite simple really, it allows the Fishery to control who is on their water and also means that if there are any issues, they know who the person or people are, like I said,

it makes perfect sense! Rob told my dad and me all about how he designed the lakes, dug them out from the original fields and established them by planting all the reeds, trees and water vegetation to develop in to what it is today. He gave us the guided tour and you could tell by just speaking to him and Stevie, who was one of the other bailiffs on during our session, how passionate they are about the place and the fish that are in

it. Rob stocked the fish and then let them settle for twelve months before any angling took place. To Rob, the fishery and the fish are his life and he wants it to be the best it can be. Rob can actually recognise and tell you the stocked weight of every fish in the place and what weights they have been out at... amazing...!!

You may think that you could just give false details when you register and no one would ever know





but once you have entered your details via their website you have to have to then take photo ID AND your valid EA Rod Licence to the fishery and pay your £30.00.

I feel that all fisheries should make you show a valid Rod Licence but that's just my opinion....!!

Once you are registered with the Fishery, you can then pre-book your lake AND swim. You cannot just 'turn up' and fish. This is done to control access to the water and to give increased

security to those that are fishing as well as to protect the Fishery and the stock. The fact that you can book your actual swim is great as me and my dad like to try and get on a double swim or at least next to each other so being able to book them in advance works well for us.

There are three waters that make up the fishery, Owl Tree Pond, which was the 'course' pool but has now been turned in to a Cat Fish specimen pool (I will be steering clear of that one!!) and Upper and

Lower Alt. The name 'Alt' is because the River Alt runs through the Alt Valley which the fishery overlooks and the Upper and Lower is as simple...The 'Upper Alt' lake is on higher ground than the 'Lower' Alt lake. Both the Upper and Lower Alt are the Specimen Carp Pools with Upper Alt doing a 30+ just as I was writing.

To 'Book On' is as simple as calling the Fishery on 07740 082025 between 10:00 and 20:00 hours or you can turn up in person and speak to the bailiff in charge. All the prices and full booking details are on the website and Rob is looking to introduce an automated online booking system in the future to make booking even easier. You can also book the 'whole' of either Upper or Lower Alt so you have

exclusive use for you and your friends.

So, we arrived, met the guys from the Fishery and Brian and started to get set up. Also fishing with us for the two days was a regular at Brooms Cross, Jim Rawding and Rich Shaw from Pallatrax was also there, in fact Rich had been on the road for about six days at various fisheries, promoting the Pallatrax Brand. Jim, or 'Tidy Jim' as his friends call him, due to the fact that he is 'very, very organised' when he is fishing, in fact, the inside of his Bivvy was 'immaculate' and there was a place for everything and everything was in its place....Jim even takes the laces out of his boots at night (so he can get them on quicker if he gets a take) AND folds them up and places them just under his bedchair

so he knows where they are..... I've not seen anyone do that before....!!

Brian had already sorted swim allocation on Upper Alt and as we were the last of the group to arrive, we were given the worst swims...!! Only kidding, all the swims have a good amount of water to go at and we had the choice of swim 5 and 6. Swim 5 is part of the double swim with 4 and 6 is just behind 5. It sounds odd but if you look at the layout of Upper Alt, you will see that you actually fish 'out' from the middle of the lake (take a look at the website under the heading of 'Specimen Carp' and you will see what I mean). Jim was on 4 so my dad decided he would have 5 leaving me on 6 just behind him.

All the swims are

barked and 'roomy' for your bivvy and each one has a Landing Net, Cradle and Weigh Station Bar already provided by the fishery. They do not allow you to take your own Net and sling to try and prevent the introduction of diseases such as KHV etc.

Also, when you catch a fish, no matter what time of the day or night, you have to ring the on-site bailiff and he will come and weigh the fish using the fisheries own scales. This is how Rob and the guys keep an accurate record of the fish and their weights. They will also photograph the fish for you so no need to mess about with self-portrait stuff, unless you really want to.

From each swim, you fish out towards the far bank where no one is allowed to fish so

you never have anyone opposite you. On the far bank to the right-hand side of every swim is a 'Marker Post' and this shows you the boundary of the water from your swim. I have not seen this before but it works really well and you avoid conflicts of whose 'bit of water it is'. I had a bay, reeds and some weed beds in front of me and my dad had reeds to go at on the far bank. The water level was very low

when we were there due to the hot spell but Rob was sorting that out by pumping from the natural water source he has on site. The only effect the low water had was it made netting a little difficult as there was a bit of drop from the side of the swim but it was fine for me as my dad would be 'netting' anyway..!

Fishing had been slow due to the weather and it did not get much

better over the 48 hours we were there really. Jim was Top Rod with four fish to 27lb and I took an 18.6lb Mirror, which, although not one of the 'biggies' I was after, was a nice fish and welcomed on my first visit to the place. Brian and Rich did not catch but to be fair, they spent a lot of their time 'working' with Pallatrax business and not so much time fishing. My dad also blanked but



he had no excuse!!! He did however get to net five carp as he was the 'gillie' for me and Jim (I know Gillie is a Scottish term and don't know what the English equivalent is other than maybe 'lucky' but Gillie sounds nicer) anyway, he blanked and that was that.

I was especially pleased with my fish as it was caught on my 15th birthday and I proudly announced to everyone in the

morning that this was the case and that was my first fish at the age of 15. My dad then took pleasure in telling me that the fish was caught at 02:30 and I was not born until 03:06 so technically, I was still only 14 when I caught it..!!

My fish fell to an RG Baits Vita-Lac enhanced hook bait with a small PVA Mesh Bag of Vita-Lac pellets, sprayed with the matching Bait Spray

with a dozen or so Vita-Lac freebies spread over the top every hour or so. You can use Bait Boats at Brooms Cross but I chose not to as the cast was easy and getting freebies out was not an issue. Jim used his boat as he was tight to the reeds on the far side from peg 4 and the boat meant less risk of getting snagged in the reeds but allowed him to get very close.



I used a size 6 'Circle' Hook from Mosquito Angling (www.mosquitoangling.co.uk) attached to 20cm of their 'Hamelion' coated braid tied using the 'Multi-Rig' and 60cm of 'Comodo' Chain Core Leader with a 2oz lead on a safety lead clip. My main line is also from Mosquito Angling and is their new Synapse, 'Wild Carp' at 15.5lb breaking strain. As I said, the fishing had been a little slow the week before and during our visit and unsurprisingly and in keeping with our 'run of luck' the following week it started to fish well and has continued to do so and has recently produced a 30.1lb Mirror Carp to Ryan Taylor out of Upper Alt. The fish, known as "Big Deal" not only came out at it's best weight, it won Ryan the "catch a thirty and win a free session" competition that Rob had set up.

Ryan gets a free 48 hour session on the lake of his choice...well done Ryan and great angling.

Brooms Cross Fishery regularly produces PB's for people and I am hoping that on my next visit, hopefully before I head off to France again at the end October, I can

person there. The path is behind the swims so you do not even see anyone walking past, which again adds to the feeling that you are alone. The space in the swims is great and you have plenty of water to go at with your two rods. Some of the swims have hard ground and we did have to use a hammer



catch mine...!!

The set-up and management of Brooms Cross is fantastic and the swim layout makes it feel like you are the only

to put the bank sticks and bivvy pegs in, which is something my dad does not like to do if he can avoid it but 'Tidy Jim' did not complain about the noise,



especially when he was tucking in to the Chinese Take-Away we had ordered..LoL

The main entrance gate is locked at 20:00 every day but you can get off in an emergency as there is a bailiff on-site all the time. If you sort it for before 20:00, there are some local takeaways that will deliver to the Fishery too, hence our Chinese.

The fact the gate is locked, there is a bailiff always around and "Kaiser" the resident German Shepherd is on patrol, makes the whole place feel safe and secure and add to this the on-site shop that sells tackle and bait, the 'porta-loo' toilet and the friendly and helpful guys that run the place, you have a fishery worth going to. At £55.00 for 48

hours over a weekend and a chance of taking a nice upper twenty (or possibly a 30 now) this place is well worth a visit. Your session runs from 18:00 to 18:00 so you can even drop on after work and there is no need to be up early to be off the lake as with some places

For us, the journey was well worth it and as a bonus, I also got to meet the main man

himself from Pallatrax, Mr Simon Pomeroy and his wife and tell them about taking my PB French Common the week before using the Pallatrax "Hydrated Mussel" on a Multi-Rig fished over the top of Hooked On Baits (HOB) 'R9' particle. I also got some freebies in the form of a pack of Pallatrax 'Gripz' Hooks and a selection of 'Stonze' weights.

We are looking forward to our return to the venue and a chance to fish with Brian and

Jim again. Big thanks to Rob and Stevie from Brooms Cross for making me feel welcome and for all their advice, which paid off for me...next time, the 30 is going to be mine...!!!

Keep an eye out in issue 21 as my dad, who is known on Facebook as 'Mark Carper' is writing his first piece for Talking Carp about the French Commercial Fishery we go to and will be doing a review of our new 'Pods' from

Summit Tackle and the line measure device from Distance Keeper...they should be good as I have given him some tips of how to do an article... HaHaHa...!!

"Get your Backside, Bankside"

Ethan Carper



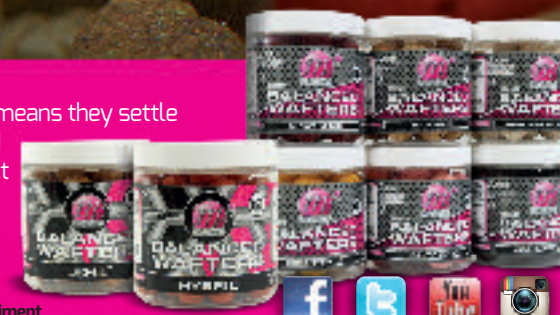
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Social or Fishing ??? Why choose.... By Shev

The Talking Carp Team
visit Etang St Pierremont
In France

Etang Saint Pierremont, Champagne-Ardenne, France

Carp Fishing France
– Is it more about the
social or the fishing?

September 2017 –
the dates had been
booked off work for
nearly a year and
after a few weeks of
research and debate
our destination was
set – **Faulk** (Mark
Faukner), **Smiffy**
(Ady Smith) & **Shev**
(Andy Shorthouse)
were off to Etang Saint
Pierremont.

We'd been twice before
back in 2014 and 2015.
In 2014 the target
had been simple – a
French 30lb each, the
venue delivered and
although a tough week
we had landed 13 carp
between us with a few
thirties apiece. In 2015
we returned, this time
the target had been
a 40lb each. We had

The Talking Carp Team

51

learnt a lot about the
venue the previous
year and again it
delivered. Fishing
our own swims we all
landed a forty pounder,
numerous thirties, a
total of 33 carp. Shev
had landed the largest
in the lake – a mirror
carp at 47.3lb – we had
all achieved personal
best mirror carp.

A different approach
to the trip had been
agreed prior to the day
of travel. To make the
most of the social side
of carp fishing and to
keep up the team spirit
of the trip we were
going to work together
– baiting up the swims
we knew to produce
and then alternate the
fish between us – that
way we were all set to
catch a similar number
of fish – but what we
were to land was in the
lap of the Carp Gods.

Time to set the **weekly
targets – beat the 33
carp from two years**

ago and to include a
forty and five thirties
each.

A few weeks before
setting off **Buff (Dave
Rowlands)** – a none
fisherman had decided
to join us for the
week – in charge of
photography and most
probably – ale!

Saturday September
16th was finally here,
we'd all travelled down
in a hire van, crossed
the tunnel, brief stop at
the local supermarket
to pick up those
essentials and arrived
at our destinations
by early after-noon.
Bivvy's up, rods in and
time to sit back and
settle down for some
food and just before
the rain arrived.

The tactics were to
be simple – bait up
the known spots with
whole and crushed
boilie, fishing a single
boilie hookbait on a KD
rig with a 4inch 25mm

CASTAWAY PVA mesh stick containing crushed boilie inside
The bait of choice?
Mainline Cell fresh baits 15mm and 18mm mixed and the New Mainline prototype (LINK) 18mm baits.

Shev had celebrated his 40th earlier in the year so he was gifted first fish, to then decide the running order Faulk and Smiffy would draw cards with the highest card winning, best of 3 of course.... Faulk lost both meaning Smiffy would follow Shev then Faulk. Buff would be given every seventh fish – would he get the bug??

By midday the next day (less than 24 hours in) we had completed one full rotation – Shev had taken the first forty – a 40.6 mirror, five high thirties and a 29.14 completed the first seven fish. Buff had now had his first



taste – a 39lb common (a fish that would've beaten both Smiffy and Shev's pb commons).

A number a wet and changeable days followed, pressure slowly increasing but

the fish kept coming, Faulk taking the second forty a 41.14 mirror taken early Monday evening. Earlier that morning Smiffy had also landed his first ever Grass Carp at 26.10lb.



another forty – another mirror at 43.12.

Late on the final night, Shev was yet again on the rods and hooked into another fish, he knew straight away that it was a good fish, could it finally be that 40lb common he had been craving all week, but as it came into the light by the net it was yet another mirror. This was not just any mirror though, we had seen this fish before – two years ago when Shev had landed it at 47.3. After a few minutes of nervous tension by the net the fish was in



Wednesday morning saw the next forty on the bank, Shev again, this time a 46.11 mirror and then came the change in weather – pressure had risen and the sun had begun to shine but that didn't stop Smiffy taking a new pb common at 33.15 early that evening.

Not only that but we'd already now surpassed our previous record of 33 fish in the week. Time for a new target – could we really do fifty fish?? "Lets go for it!"

A steady flow of bites continued through the following days and more upper twenties and thirties were landed with Thursday giving Shev yet





and it was over to the scales. Up went the weight – 50.7lb! Shev's first fifty and a fish of a lifetime!

3am – Saturday 23rd September – Smiffy landed the final fish of the week – another good mirror at 34.9lb.

What were the final results? Had we achieved all our targets? Fifty three fish, all over 20lb, twenty seven 30's,

four 40's and a 50. Smashed it! Personal best fish for Shev and Smiffy, another 40 for Faulk and a great introduction for Buff who landed a high 30 common and mirror.

So, now you know what Etang Saint Pierremont has to offer for the fishing. But what makes it such a social friendly base? The lake itself can comfortably take three anglers, you can fish together or

independently, albeit six lines in the water is enough for the venue.

You have exclusive use of the lake, which itself is in a peaceful and secluded location. Supplies are no more than a few minutes away and on site is a static 3 bedroomed caravan which is again for the exclusive use of the anglers whilst you're there. This provides a comfortable cooking and dining


space, valuable shower facilities and a TV / lounge area. If you're looking for a comfortable base and wanting to catch guaranteed big fish over 30lb with the chance of a 50 then you won't go far wrong choosing Etang Saint Pierremont.

couple of classic box sets, plugged in the xbox and bivvied up as a group and you will have read the above results. So – get the social right and maybe the fishing takes care of itself!!
Shev

Back to the question then – Is it more about the Social or Fishing? This had been our third visit, our focus this time had been team work and a social break – we cooked and ate together, enjoyed a few beers, smashed a



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Cherry lakes by Tom Nixon- Taylor

On a drizzly Monday, at around half-past seven, I headed down to Gloucestershire for a week, fishing at Cherry Lakes fishery. Sadly, due to a crash on the motorway, a two-and-a-half-hour trip turned into a five-hour trip, but never the less I arrived at the fishery at around mid-day. I was kindly greeted by the fishery's bailiff, who showed me and my grandparents to our chalet/swim. I was surprised to see that the far margin, where the fish like to feed was around one hundred and fifty yards away, which sadly meant I was unable to cast this far, and that I would have to use my bait boat. I soon positioned two of my rods on the far margin, as tight to the trees as possible and my last rod was positioned at around eighty yards on top of a plateau, which was four feet on top, coming up from

eight feet. All three rods where baited with white peaches and cream wafers tipped with fake corn, fished on blowback rigs. The rods where fished over a bed of fifteen and eighteen-millimetre boilies, crushed boilie, pellet and corn. I added a bit of water and flavouring to the mix to make it more attractive and to help it to become stodgier. I started with just a handful of bait over each rod because I didn't know what bait was left over from the angler who left before I came. The first night went by with no action

apart from the odd liner here and there. The following morning was action less, until around lunch time when my left-hand rod, which was fished over to the far margin, started to scream off. After steady battle of around twenty minutes I had a mid-twenty mirror in the net, which was a good way to open my account on the fishery. I rebaited the rod and re positioned it over to the far margin and it wasn't long till it was off again and after a long fight, through weed bed, after weed bed I had another mid twenty





mirror in the net, this time it took the reubons round to twenty four pound and ounces. Much to my surprise, all was quiet for the rest of the day and following night in fact, until early the following morning, when one of my delks gave out one or two bleeps. I scampered out of my bed, and hit the rod, not even thinking that it could have been a liner, but gladly there was something attached at the other end, and it was moving at some speed. It soon

stripped thirty yards of line off my reel. The fish slowly started to kite left and was getting very close to the guys water next door to me. I somehow managed to persuade it to kite in the opposite direction and stay out in front of me, and after around ten minutes I was holding a fine example of a common, which was ounces shy of thirty pound.

By around mid-day, the temperatures had gotten up into the low twenty's and the air

pressure had gone up dramatically. I was really surprised to then hear my rod, which was fished on top of the plateau, to be screaming off. The fish came in as easy as a bream would and I was not expecting another mid twenty mirror to be sat in my net. All the fish which I caught where in amazing condition, which is a great testament to the fishery owner and bailiff which seem to know what they are doing regarding the welfare of the fish and

complex. The complex consists of a few lakes with cherry lake being the biggest and having the biggest fish in. All the lakes are fished from wooden chalets, which was a completely new experience to me. The third day was surprisingly quiet and was hot like the day before, and again around mid-day one of my rods was away. As soon as I lifted into the fish, I could tell that it was something special. Like most fish in weedy lakes, it

managed to find every weed bed in the lake, but I soon pulled it through. Somehow my rig tubing had shot up my mainline, around twenty feet and then got tangled, and I couldn't reel it through the rod eyes, and I couldn't net it either, so I had to hand line the fish in, and attempt to untangle the mess. I was unable to do this so I had to give the rod to my grandpa, who doesn't fish and get him to walk back, while I attempted to net the fish at full reach.

I ended up jumping in fully clothed to net the fish but when I got her in the net I could tell straight away that getting wet was more than worth it, as I peered into the folds of my landing net, I saw this big scaley mirror. The fish was much bigger than what I had caught previously that session, so I rang the fishery owner to come and help me with the pics. ***The big mirror sent the scales round to thirty-five pound eight ounces*** and was a new English

personal best mirror for myself, and I was pleased to hear that I was the first junior to get into the cherry lake thirty plus club.

A scrapper twenty common interrupted the evening that



followed, which was my first bite of the session in the hours of darkness. I awoke the next morning to mist covered lake and it looked bang on for a bite. Expectedly, one of my rods was away with the smallest fish of the session. The saying "good things come in small packages" was more than true with this fish. Even though it was only ten pound it was an absolute stunner.

Within the next few hours, I'd had another three small doubles, which weren't really what I was after but never the less it showed that my rigs were working properly. At around the same time that evening, as the one previous, my rod was off again. This fish knew what it was doing as it tried more than three times to get into the snags to the left

of my swim. Finally, it went in the net, and at twenty-eight pound and ounces, it was a lovely end to a very eventful day.

The second to last day started early, with a stunning linear, caught off the plateau. Surprisingly, as it was "carpy" conditions, this was the only fish of the day. But never the less I persevered and got all three rods back on the spots, for the finale night. At around half one in the morning, I was awoken to a screaming take,

so I staggered out of bed, still half asleep, and hit into the fish. The fish gave up a good account for itself and annoyingly wiped out my other two rods. Gladly I soon got her in the net. The fish was an absolute stunner of a mirror and size didn't matter this time.

I then attempted to reposition all three rods back out with the bait boat in the dark which is no easy task when fishing at mega long range. I sadly had no more fish that session but I didn't care



care because I'd had an amazing session landing twelve fish from a new water. Seven of them being over twenty pound and one mid thirty. I will be returning, to hopefully catch some more of Cherry Lakes stunners.

Happy Days

Tom.





IAN MACMILLAN

PROFILE

AKA	TING TONG
HEIGHT	5FT 10IN
AGE	46
UKPB	56LB 80Z
PLACE LAST SERIES	NA

CARP WARS 2 A STORM IS BREWING!

Here is the next contender
Announced by Talkning Carp
Magazine

The new series starts 19:30hrs
30th November 2017

Living the Dream

Chapter 14

By
Keith Moors

Chapter 14 - November 2016

It's now mid November 2016 as I begin to write this chapter in my book. Jan and I are about to celebrate our 49th anniversary of marriage and I am about to turn 68 years old. It wasn't my plan to continue working this long but, having found this way of life I have no intention of giving it up until I am, eventually, unable to walk the banks of this wonderful place.

Anyway, let's look back on 2016 and try to keep this chapter brief but informative. At the end of the winter Alan and I had completed the clearing and repairing work and, with a new shower fitted we planned for a nice easy start to the fishing season. We had some of the weed cutting equipment in place so that we could keep ahead of its growth rates and were confident that it wouldn't be as bad this year..... wrong!!!!

We were just beginning to see the telltale signs of a few strands of potamageton crispus and were readying the boat and cutter when the heavens opened. Our big problem was that just two days before the deluge our neighbouring farmer, Bruno, had used granular fertilizer (you know, the "growmore" type) on the one field that backs onto our lake. The torrential rain simply ran off of the field and washed the granules into our lake. It would have no danger to the fish because of the amount of constant water changes that we experience with the forest springs in full flow and our spillway shedding water at full rate. In fact, the spillway can drop the water level by nearly two feet (8 million gallons) in two days. However, what the fertilizer did effect was weed growth. I couldn't believe that, on the Monday there were a few strands of weed showing and, by the time the rain stopped and the water dropped, one week later, the lake was covered to the point where I was considering building goal posts and painting white lines. Our plans were scuppered. We now needed to put right the situation rather than prevent it and I needed to do some more research.

The rectification work started straight away and with Alan and I, plus boat, cutter and rake working flat out for 15 weeks, 5 days per week we eventually succeeded in getting rid of the offending potomageton only to be rewarded with a massive bloom in lemna minor (duck weed) which covered large swathes of the surface and stuck like glue to lines etc and made fishing uncomfortable to say the least. That was another area of research needed. We combated the duck weed bit by bit by making, what amounted to, large framed, fine mesh tennis rackets so that we could simply wade out and scoop the weed onto the bank. Tiring, long but successful Eventually.

Anyway, to get the weed details out of the way first, I found several things that will

help us for next year. One is that the potamageton can be controlled if it can be removed before it gets a chance to set turions (seed heads) and, after several conversations with aquatic workers in America, I discovered that they use a spray (not permitted in Europe) to kill off the weed when it first starts growing. It is allowed because it is a Diquat and not Paraquat. The latter is a systemic weed killer and travels down to the root of the plant and thereby remains locked into the lake bed and water with a very long "half-life" so is dangerous to all organisms living in the lake bed as well as to the fish when they eat these food items. The Diquat simply burns off the parts of the plant that it lands on (hence the reason why it has to be used more than once) and the plant can then regrow, but it doesn't get the chance to set seed heads. Apparently, this is done again when there are any signs of regrowth and their system is to use it three times in the first year, twice in the second year and then it's just a matter of patch-spraying from then on. Oh, how I wished that it was possible to use their systems. But wait, I found that there is actually a product out there that is allowed to be used across Europe. It is called "Weedtrine" and is very effective against virtually all sub-surface plants and also against duck weed. Result! But, there had to be a but, it is extremely expensive and would cost me £14,000.00 per application for my lake. That's not even worth considering but does give me a chance to contact the manufacturer in order to try to get a deal on a bulk purchase or on a more concentrated product that can be diluted. If nothing else we can use small amounts of it to control the duck weed as necessary so that's one step forward. Wish me luck.

Whatever the result of my research into weed killers (don't hold your breath) I am confident that we will be on top of the weed in 2017. We now know that we need to, at the very least, cut and rake the weed before it is beginning to show up and then again, whenever there is an empty swim or area of the lake, we need to keep cutting. We WILL defeat it.

A group of lads were fishing Moorland's for the first time and one of them was struggling to even buy a bite. Towards the end of the week, on 15th April 2016, his first take resulted in an epic battle with an obvious lump. One of his mates waded in and netted the fish and I heard him shout "it's a bloody whale". It was still in the net when I reached the swim and I immediately recognized the Half Lin.

She had already been banked, just a couple of weeks earlier, at 69lb 14oz so I was expecting our first seventy, at last. We used my tripod and scales in order that all records of big fish are made by using the same equipment so with baited breath we hung the sling onto the scale hook and watched the reading. The figure of 69lb 12oz shone out. "No way" was my first reaction and then, it can't have lost 2oz surely? I then noticed that the bottom of the sling was just, lightly touching another sling which was still in the cradle. I pushed the second sling down into the cradle and the reading immediately changed to 70lbs 5oz. We'd only bloody done it!!!! Oii, Oii!!!!!!

Now the last part of this tale didn't quite go to plan; because of his shock, the angler in question was a jibbering mess and was in no condition to hold a seventy pounder for a photo. In fact, I think it was his first carp over 40lbs. Anyway, I suggested that his friend held the carp, in the sling, in the lake for five minutes until we got everything prepared and the angler calmed down enough to hold her safely. With cameras ready, the cradle positioned for the best light and everyone in position, I asked his mates to lift her out and bring her to the cradle.

For some reason, I was looking away from the lake when I heard a simple, but devastating sentence, "she's gone". I went cold (god knows how the angler must have felt) and spun around to look at the lake, only to see his mates holding up an empty sling and a massive bow wave powering out from the swim. Apparently, in the excitement, nobody had checked the zips were closed properly. Another lesson learned.

The upshot of all this is that we don't actually have any photos of our first seventy but I'm sure there will be some more to come as she gets even bigger. However, we have added a photo of my good friend James Lewis holding her from when he caught her a few years ago, simply because the photo is, somehow, iconic. Luckily, one of his mates had a video camera running so he does, at least have some footage of the occasion.

Well please excuse me for making this blog somewhat disjointed but I have been fishing during the period that I am also writing this chapter. With that in mind I will break off from the "history" of the year to update you with current ongoing

As I type this it is the day after the 49th anniversary of my wedding to my beautiful wife. The season has ended and we are in the middle of numerous small repair/improvement jobs plus the constant leaf blowing to try to keep everything tidy. We are also in the middle of very early lambing with our small flock of mountain sheep so we have plenty to keep us occupied.

Anyway, three days ago I decided to put out some bait and fish over it to see if any of the carp were still feeding. The water temperature is holding at 8.5* so it looked reasonable. I boated out about 2kg over each spot and then cast onto those spots so that I could feel the lead down to make sure it wasn't landing in chod or very soft silt. I continue to use my favorite light leads on running rigs. That done it was a case of waiting and putting out fresh hook baits each morning.

Within 30mins of my first casts yesterday my right-hand rod was away and I landed a small common which I transferred to the stock pond. A bit later the middle rod ripped off and I banked another common of 34lb 10oz. Now, because of its shape and head size, I'm pretty confident that this fish was from the spawning in 2012 which makes it just over 4 years old. 8lb plus per year makes the future for these young fish look very bright indeed.

My lovely wife had decided that she didn't want to go out for a meal last night and had bought a very nice bottle of champagne so that we could settle back and enjoy our anniversary. Now I should explain that we actually made our vows to each other at 3pm English time and that was the time that Jan had planned for our first sip of champagne. At about 45 minutes before the set time, the remote in my pocket set about trying to vibrate its way out through the seams of my trousers. My initial comment as I trotted the 10 yards to my rods was "Jesus that one's off to the moon". The instant that I picked up the rod I knew immediately that this was a different ball game. The fish played me, went wherever it wanted to go, stayed deep and showed absolutely no sign of panic. As it neared the net for the umpteenth time I heard Jan shout "you've got seven minutes". As it happens that was just long enough to net the fish and as she slid in the net I saw the telltale scale pattern that allowed me to recognize her. Definitely one of the "A" team.

I weighed her, zipped her up in a recovery sling and lowered her into the deep water off of our deck in order to give me time to get my camera ready but, more importantly to join Jan for our toast to each other, bang on time for the "I do" moment all that time ago. With the first sip taken Jan then asked, "right, how big was she then?" My reply of "its Clover at 61lb 12oz" was met with a very genuine squeal of delight and another chink of glasses and a "well done love" which is what has always made my special captures even more special.

So, there we have it, my rods didn't go back out last evening but, this morning I have added another 2kg over each spot and my hook baits are once again positioned and the traps are set. It seems that baited spots can work just as well in cold conditions as in warm but you do have to stick with them and not start spraying bait all-round the swim. That just gives them free dinners anywhere they want to eat and doesn't bring them to your hook bait. I will continue to post and blog if any other worthy happenings happen.

I feel that I may have taken my eye off of the ball after the excitement of banking the sixty and should have at least put out some more bait that afternoon because I didn't have a bleep all day. However, I did put another couple of kg over each rod so was hoping for action today or tomorrow.

Well I don't believe it!!!

This morning I decided to put the rods out at first light. Put the right-hand rod out and felt the lead down onto a nice firm landing. Put the middle rod out, same effect. Pukka! Took two casts with the left rod and that was the shortest cast, and as I was setting the bale arm I heard a "crack". Looked down and the bobbin on the middle rod was holding tight to the alarm. Initially I thought the wind had caught the line but the ticking clutch was a clue. Lifted into a solid and energetic carp and, after a short

but strong fight a reasonable sized carp went into the net. Kneel down, get hold of the running lead, slide it up the line and cut the line when “whack” the right bobbin is bouncing against the alarm. Again I lift into another solid fight and eventually another, similar sized fish goes in the other net. Who says two nets are a waste of money?

Now I don't do brace shots and I certainly don't do 'waking' up my wife at silly o'clock on a Sunday morning to take fish photos so I just took a couple from my phone. Anyway the brace of mirrors went 43lbs 0oz and 44lbs 4oz. I'm more than happy with that. Oh and incidentally, all three spots have just had another 2kg on each.

All three rods recast and within 30 minutes I banked a 28.02 fully scaled.

Right, back to the history of the year.

After her 70lbs excursion to the bank the Half Lin spawned out and managed to avoid capture until 6th July and then again on 9th August when she was already 66lbs 3oz. She was caught again on 31st August but had only put on 2oz but, she has now avoided capture through the important growth months of September and October. In the past we have seen several fish put on the equivalent of 1lb per week over this period. IF she has repeated this feat she could easily be 75lbs as I type this but that won't mean anything until she is caught again.

Now Cut-Tail didn't get caught prior to spawning and her first capture of 2016 was on 21st June when she weighed 65lbs 9oz. When she was caught on 13th September she already weighed 69lbs 12oz. She, also, did not get banked again before the end of the season so, using similar criteria to the above, she could also be 75lbs as I type this.

Now, before I move on to some of the other, younger, fish, it is worth pointing out that both Half Lin and Cut-Tail are just 16 years old so their skeletal frame has probably just finished developing and they should now start “filling out” which is a frightening thought because Cut-Tail is already the full length of the monster cradles that we use. I would also add that ALL of the fish currently residing in our lake have been born in the lake since 1999. In the early years we added target fish for the anglers but each of those has gradually died off.

Clover is another of our sixties and is of similar age but went through a very lean spell, over the course of a couple of years about 3 or 4 years ago. She was our biggest carp for quite some time, prior to her “illness” years. She looked to be heading for 60lb before any of the others and got to 56lbs 14oz. She then spawned back to 48lbs but continued to drop right back to 42lbs and I admit that I was expecting to find her body at some stage. About 2 years ago I was asked to photograph a 48lb carp for someone and there she lay, fully recovered. I'm pleased to say that she has clawed her way back to 60lbs plus but I'm not sure that she will ever be the biggest in the lake again.

Now, my next fish is certainly one to watch;

The Peach is a very, very young fish that has been born in the lake much more recently than when we moved in in 2002. She first came to our notice in 2014 when we were suddenly made aware of a new, scraper fifty just before spawning. By spring this year (27th March) she was already a scraper sixty when she weighed 61lbs 4oz. When I have been able to examine her thoroughly her fins still have scalloped, concave shapes to the tips which shows that she hasn't yet reached an age where her fins are beginning to wear. This, plus the fact that her head is still very small compared to her body suggests that her skeleton is still growing and I am guessing that she is probably about ten years old so could be a massive fish for the future.

Now, without naming any, we have also seen some surprises this year. I say “without naming them” but, quite simply some of the young carp are growing so fast that it is almost embarrassing when someone, as has happened several times this year, banks an upper forty and asks me which fish it is. I'm sure they must wonder what I'm on when I stand there with a gormless look on my face and say that I don't have a clue. Anyway, the reason for adding this paragraph is as an indication that we could easily see these 7 or 8-year-old mirrors roar past the existing “A” team.

Now to elaborate on this last statement I need to explain my reasons for believing that the younger fish will overtake the older, but already huge fish so let me try to explain. When we bought the lake, it was stuffed to overflowing with Every species that you can think of plus millions of the dreaded poison chats. Now every catfish has a voracious appetite but the little spiny darlings, in their millions, eat every last scrap of food before anything else gets a look in. The fish that we inherited were pretty much emaciated from lack of nourishment and most were badly stunted so the drain downs allowed us to remove the excess stock and gradually, vidange by vidange get the biomass in line. This has meant that the carp that were born in here between 2000 and 2005 had massive competition for food in their early years. Those born between 2005 and 2011 would have a much better start but still had the poison chats to compete with every second year (one year clear of them before they returned the following year). The carp born since 2011, the year that we finally eradicated the bloody chats have been able to graze the natural food supplies as they wish and these are the fish to really watch for the future. In short, as every animal breeder will know, if you want your Great Dane, Race horse or whatever to be at its biggest and best, you have to give it the best start in life. That's what we are able to do now with our carp and it's beginning to show.

I will break off again briefly to say that the fish are still coming to the feed and this morning, (21st November 2016) I banked baby Half Lin at

45lbs 9oz. Funnily enough, this is one of those youngsters that I wrote about above. More bait needed I think.

Now what else happened in 2016? The year started with, what seemed like a never-ending loss of well-known entertainers and then deteriorated even further with "Brexit". Well that's covered that in enough detail so let's move on.

It is my hope that we can drain down our stock pond in 2017 and sell off all of the young fish that it currently holds. I'm hoping to sell them all as a bulk purchase and then use the stock pond as a proper growing on pond to see if we can generate some real surprises. I won't say anymore until we have progressed this further.

While typing this we have experienced 48 hours of violent winds which have removed the last of the leaves from the trees as well as some of the branches so that will keep me occupied for a while. As the wind dropped the torrential rain began and put about 12" of extra water (about 4 million gallons) into the lake so the stream is flowing strongly but the lake is colored and, I think the fish will not be quite so keen to feed until it begins to clear again. By then, I have a feeling that the water temperature will have dropped and feeding spells will be very short.

As I add this paragraph it is the eve of Christmas Eve. Since my last paragraphs the temperature dropped to below freezing and has held, with fog, at a maximum of 2 or 3 degrees. We have not had any more rain but the lake has had a thin covering of ice on several occasions and there have been no signs of feeding fish during December. The one, and very unexpected, benefit of this spell of cold water has been that the remaining weed growth has broken off at the lake bed. We now have rafts of weed stems floating on the surface and these will be flushed over the spillway with the next influx of rain. This is one thing that we haven't experienced during the previous three mild winters so will give us an even better chance to defeat the weed this coming spring.

The benefits of much less weed growth will be a massive increase in the captures of big fish because they won't have quite so much natural food available to them without needing to leave the security of a huge weed bed. This year it was easy to find them. Each of the bigger weed beds could be seen to be holding large numbers of large carp. As the swans flew over the weed beds the surface would erupt with spooked carp. By fishing tight to the weed or even in the weed, bites would come regularly but, often, the carp would dive into the dense beds and it was often difficult to extract them. Even when it was possible to get the fish free it often meant wading or a boat trip and the fish would be netted without the angler getting the pleasure of the fight. Now, for me, that is the most important, maybe even THE, reason that I fish for carp. I don't want a big fish that just waddles into the net. I don't want to have to wade or boat out to net every fish. I want to feel the strength of big, fit fish that power

off into the lake. I want to be shaking with excitement and anxiety by the time that kipper rolls into the net and that is what my target is for 2017 so that all of our customers can live that same experience.

With the weed beds gone the fish will be slightly more dependent on anglers' baits and will be less able to hide up in areas that are difficult to fish to. They will be more mobile so it may be more difficult to "hold" them in one swim for any length of time but this should mean that there will be more opportunities for more anglers around the lake as the shoals get moved about by captures. The one word of advice that I will give here, and this is from previous observations before the weed began to grow, is that every angler will need to be watching the lake for the slightest sign and that could be bubbles, mud, head and shouldering or even coots being spooked as the carp move.

I honestly believe that a good bed of quality bait will produce some very big carp during 2017 and that we are now more likely to see some anglers bank multiple captures of fifties, sixties and seventies.

Be lucky.

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TALKING - REVIEWS

Scott Grant reviews RidgeMonkey's new
Products - Dual Voltage Power Pack, Advanced
Boilie Crusher, Modular Bucket System, VRH300
USB Rechargeable Head-torch, Line Control Arm
& RM-Tec Mono Line

Plus

Gary Lowe reviews Kryston's No -Tangle Gel
&

Taska's Dreamlina Bed



Scott Grant Reviews -

Ridgemonkey Dual Voltage Power Pack.

I have been using the dual voltage power pack since the end of last year. It seems to last for ages with that I mean a few sessions before I need to recharge it back up to full power.

I only really use it to charge my phone, but obviously there is a multitude of uses.

There are twin 5v 2.1A USB ports plus a cigarette adaptor which you can run your DVD player from etc, which are protected by a rubber cover.

It has a lovely neoprene rubber case and is the size of an A5 book and weighs in at just 1275g basically 1.2 kilos, so its not a bulky item at all.

There is a 22ah battery encased within the Power pack which gives you around 16 full charges on your smart phone. The Vault comes complete with a protective neoprene carry case.

Before I got my hands on the Power pack I used to take a leisure battery to keep everything charged but thankfully now I don't have to.

This really is a great bit of kit and its not cheap, but in this day and age quality doesn't come cheap.

The RRP is £159:99



Ridgemonkey Advanced Boilie Crusher

Earlier this year I ordered the Advanced Boilie Crusher. I had seen it previously whilst in France with my good mate Dave Levy.

It's such a simple but affective product. I was a bit dubious at first of how fine and how quick it could crush my boilies.

Well I must say I was more them impressed, I crushed 5 kilos of boilies in under a minute.(with the aid of the 5KG hopper extension)

Once crushed I transferred them to a smaller Modular bucket and 5 kilos comes up to the ridge within the bucket perfect.

The Crusher is made from a robust ABS construction, has a see through lid and comes with a removable handle.

There are also extras you can purchase to make the product even better. There's the 5kg hopper extension plus an XL adaptor plate.

One bit of advice is please thaw your boilies out before trying to crush them. If you try and crush frozen boilies you will damage the product rendering it useless.

The boilie crusher comes in Full Kit which includes a 17lt modular bucket and RRP £44:75 or the boilie crusher on its own RRP £32:95 it comes complete with a drawstring bag.





Ridgemonkey Modular Bucket System

I have both the standard and XL version of the modular buckets.

Both buckets come complete with 2 freezer safe rectangle boxes with lids which fit snugly in the top and can be used for storing bait or used as a rig checker to see how your bait will be presented. The boxes also clip on the outside of the bucket giving you another option.

Both the modular buckets and the rectangular boxes can be stored safely within your freezer giving you another added benefit.

Before I'm fishing a session I will crush up 5 kilos of boilies then stick the bucket in the freezer until I'm leaving to go fishing.

The only gripe for me personally is that once the lid is firmly on it can be a bugger to get off, I simple use a towel or cloth to aid me.

Other then that both the standard and XL modular buckets really are a great bit of kit and have a multitude of uses.

Standard modular bucket is 17lts and RRP £16:99, XL modular bucket is 30lts and RRP £19:99



Ridgemonkey VRH300 USB Rechargeable Head-torch

The new VRH300 Head torch is definitely the best product I have used for a multitude of reasons.

I must have around half a dozen head-torches in my tackle bag all run on AAA batteries but now have all be banished to head torch heaven.

The new VRH300 can be put on either way, with this I mean there isn't a right way to wear it, unlike conventional head torches where you have to wear them a certain way. There is an on/off button located on both sides of the head-torch.

The torch is of a neoprene rubber and It's very comfortable to wear and also very light.

There are two lighting colours the conventional white which has 3 settings low, medium and high

Then the green has 2 settings low and medium.

There is a 4 light battery bar indicator with a test button so you can check the battery life at any point.

The USB charging port is located on the side and has a snug robber door for protection.

It takes around 4-5 hours to fully charge and this will give you around 90hrs torch time depending on setting.

I have used my VRH300 for 3 sessions now without recharging it and when tested it still has 2 bars left in it.

Within The VRH300 is a 2000mah lithium polymer battery which I am told is the best on the market.

The VRH300 RRP £44:49 not cheap but you will not need to buy anymore AAA batteries. There is also a hard case you can purchase seperately which will keep your VRH300 protected whilst in your fishing bag.

The VRH300 hardcase RRP £9:99.





Ridgemonkey Line Control Arm.

When I first saw this product I let out a hellulah.

Earlier this year I respooled my reels before a trip to France.

Once there I was boating my rods out which in turn puts twist in the line. After a week of this the line was completely useless and had to be changed again.

I used the Line Control Arm in June over my syndicate water and can honestly say its such a simple yet very effective product and a must for all bait boat/boat users in general.

You simply fit the Control Arm over the base of the spool with the bail arm open and the foam lined arm holds the line under just enough tension to come off the spool without the fear of it all birds nesting up on you.

The only gripe for me is that it would be much better if there was a diagram on the packaging showing you exactly how to fit it on your spool.

Trivial I know but that's my honest opinion.

If you are a bait boat/boat user this is a must and with a RRP £11:99 it wont break the bank and will save you having to respool your line every few months. A no brainier really.



Ridgemonkey RM-Tec Mono Line

Once back from France I took the opportunity to re-spool all my spools with the new RM-Tec line in green (my other set of rods in brown). The 15lb breaking strain is thick compared to other market branded lines at 0.38mm.

But once on the reels there are no gripes from me. On my syndicate I have to use tubing and if like me your eyesight isn't what it used to be threading a 12" length of tubing can be a nightmare.

With the RM-Tec I am now able to thread a metre long piece of tubing on without the aid of a tube threader which to be honest I don't think they do a metre long tube threader and can you imagine the nightmare you would have trying to use it!!

On my first trip out with the new line I caught on all rods and at no point did the line let me down.

The knot strength is superb and the line feels so strong even when I got caught up a tree the line held its own.

I am super impressed with the RM-Tec and if your in the market to re-spool your reels look no further.

RM-Tec comes in 1200m spools in green and brown with breaking strains of 12lb 0.35mm, 15lb 0.38mm and 18lb 0.42mm

The RRP £18:99 per spool.

There is also the RM-Tec Fluro which comes in 1000m spools in 15lb 0.33 and 20lb 0.37mm and RRP £24:99

The only gripe I have is that it would be so much better if there was a diagram on the packet showing anglers how to load the line correctly onto their spool as there seem to be so many different ways.

If you would like more information on all ridgemonkey products visit

www.ridgemonkey.co.uk



Gary Lowe Reviews - Kryston No Tangle - Anti Tangle Gel



No Tangle is a specially formulated gel hook length treatment that comes in a water-soluble gel base.

It will bond the filaments of Multi-Strand and stiffen all loose supple braids to prevent tangles. Once in water the gel dissolves similar to PVA allowing the hooklink to revert back to its original soft supple state. No smell no taste and non-toxic. For those who want to gain all the benefits that Multi-strand offers especially the open stranded version this product is essential. For tangle free presentation, or eliminating handling problems with Multi-strands No Tangle makes using and tying rigs a piece of cake. If you are an angler who has rough skin on your hands you may experience problems when handling Multi-strand and soft loose braids. For trouble free handling apply a small amount of No Tangle to the material, this will make tying knots and rigs problem free. The gel will set into a fine firm coating that substantially stiffens the hook length material into a solid line that in turn prevents the ultra fine filaments from catching or snagging on rough skin.

On Braids

No Tangle also stiffens super soft braids to prevent tangles. The larger diameter braids e.g. 25lb Silkworm, 25lb Super Nova and 25lb Merlin will stiffen up substantially more the lower diameter braids due to their higher content of fibres. The thicker and looser the braid is the stiffer it will become.

How do I use it?

Simply squeeze small amount of gel onto your index finger and using finger and thumb work the gel well into the fibres of the line. Once the line is sufficiently soaked dry your finger and thumb with a cloth.

Using pressure run dry finger and thumb down the line a few times to remove excess gel.

Allow 3-4 minutes for gel to cure.

The fibres of the Multi-stranded or supple braid will now have bonded together. This makes the hooklength substantially stiffer to give tangle free presentation. Prepare a few treated hook-links to take with you for your next session. When you land a fish or wind in for a recast simply change your hooklength for a treated one, it only takes a few seconds. Whilst you are waiting for a run in the confines of your bivvy run your fingers down the used hooklength a few times to make it dry then treat it with gel again ready to use again.

Taska's Dreamlina Bed Chair



Taska has released what we think might be the most feature-packed bedchairs ever, but is it any good? Surely there are only so many features that you can cram onto a bedchair before it starts looking like one of those boats with half a scrap heap on top? Well, Taska might just change your mind on that! Their new Dreamlina bed is bristling with clever little tweaks that have been dreamt up to make your bankside life easier and more comfortable! "GIMME": £229.99;



1. Adjustable head

Ever noticed how quickly your arm goes numb when propping your (surprisingly heavy) head up, watching the water from the warmth of the bag? Well, you can consign that to the dustbin of history with this clever feature. Simply use the handwheels to angle the head to your liking and recline in comfort... just try not to fall back to sleep, you might miss something!

2. Insulated mattress

The luxuriously thick memory-foam mattress is insulated to keep you toasty on cold nights, and can be easily removed from the frame and ATS webbing base. This allows you to give it an airing, even if that is only once every spring!

3. Strong, light frame

The rock-solid aluminium frame is super-strong, but light too, tipping the scales at a nimble 14.5kg. The frame has been designed to offer maximum support and yet fold down neatly for transit. What's more, it's powder coated in a carpy green colour to blend seamlessly with your surroundings!

4. Utility skirt

Taska has added a unique utility skirt to the side of the Dreamlina, which features a number of handily positioned pockets. They allow you to store all your essentials close to hand, and ensure that important stuff like keys, phone, receiver and head torch don't go missing just when you need them!

5. ATS Webbing Support

The ATS webbing system that the mattress sits on has been designed to provide extra lumbar support, spreading your weight across the sturdy frame to help you get the most comfortable night's sleep this side of your own bed. Bedchair life doesn't have to mean enduring a stiff back these days you know!

6. Legs!

The Dreamlina boasts eight legs, all of which are adjustable and feature Taska's unique mudfeet. Having four sets of legs means that not only is the bed more stable, it also helps to spread your weight more evenly, allowing you to move around without fear of tipping and ending up eating dirt in the dead of night! Storage

The Dreamlina's a good-sized bed, but it folds away nicely, and a quick-release buckle holds it



CATCH REPORTS

Featuring -

Northern Banx, Andrew Collett,
Celeste, Christopher Whyborn, Francis
Donovan, Joe Beaverstock, Kam
Cassidy Hughes & Ryan Singer

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Billy Egginton

I went down to a Local club water on the 06/09/17 for a 44hr session. After spending the first 24 hours fishless, I decided a rethink was needed. The right hand rod was moved to an area in between to weed beds on a patch of silt. I had seen fish amongst the weed the previous day so figured there was a chance they were using the gap between. After an hour or so I received a slow take on that rod, which resulted in a Bream. I flicked the rod back out the 30 yards and topped up the spot with about 4 handfuls of boilie. Less than an hour later the rod was away again, this time with a scaley mirror at 22.4lb using a Ronnie Rig and Natures Baits Scud

Danny Johnson

Catch Report from New Team Member Danny Johnson. I went to Carr Side Fishery for a 24hrs Session. I was using a Standard Hair Rig with the Crank Offset Hook. I managed to catch 4 Carp biggest being 19.7lb Common on 15mm Essential Cell, 18mm and Essential Cell Dissolvas my tactic was to Fish close to the margin over a bed of whole and chopped boilies and every fish I had I put at least 10 hole and chopped boilies back on the spot.



Mark Baxter

I visited a northwest venue on the 11th of September. Only having time for a day session set of at first light. Arrived at the fishery in the most awful rain and winds. Not the best sunbathing weather but good fishing conditions.

So I opted for fishing the coarse pool first as I seen a lot more activity there than the specimen one. The morning came and went and only having caught 1 small mirror I decided a move would be best. So I took refuge in the car and had a think of my next plan.

So the scopes were packed down and put in the back of the car. Quick drive round to check out the specimen pool now. Sat and waited to see for any signs. Noticed the wind hacking into the far right corner. So using my instinct I opted to at least fish one rod down there. Unknown of the state of the bottom I wanted something that would present itself well. So went for a solid bag. Inside went A 3 inch multi rig with northern banx choddy hook. Northern banx leader for fish safety and something for the bag to twist round and the rig was set and ready to go. Went for a 10mm Nash 4g squid pop up for bait. Inside the bag was some crushed up krill boilies some pellets and krill active mix.

Was around a 50 yard cast to get it to the spot I wanted to fish. A sandy area which is indicated on the lakes map on the notice board. So the bag went down with a nice thud on the bottom and i knew I was on the Money.

Time seemed to have stood still but only half an hour had passed and the rod was away. Line was stripping of the spool and the alarm was singing. So I bent into the fish. Immediately knew it was decent. Slow plodding and a heavy weight. Unable to stop the powerful runs it was making. After 10 mins of getting my arm pulled of the fish gasped for air. So net quickly to hand and the fish was mine. I was over the moon. Not only was it the first time at the fishery but the carp went all of 20lb. Couldn't believe it. Hard work and perseverance paid off. Sitting out in the rain watching had given me my reward.



Mark Tag Taggart

Mark has been back to Merrington Fishery and caught both these Carp on a basic bottom rig using Northern Banx Size 8 Curve Shank and Northern Baits Milky Amino. Caught at 1am and 4am in the morning. Fishing at 9 and 15 wraps on peg 5

Michael Doogan

Michael has been on a recent trip to France and was at Petit pretre for a 7 day Session. The Rig he had been using was a Blow Back Rig Using The Crank Offset Hook and Horizon Baits with these two in his arsenal he managed a 11 fish haul with the biggest Carp being 43lb...



Shaun Gough

After a very windy night the fish seam to have followed the wind. I have Had a few blank days but all kicked off just before dawn with a 25lb common falling to a size 6 Crank Offset DRig with a core wafter. Followed by a 34.8lb common on a 6 Curve Shank blowback snowman marine core topped with a bubble gum pop up.



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Celeste Harfleet-Diboll



Mousehole fishery 1st time going there 20.8.17

I had a fantastic day out fishing to a new lake I have never been to before called Mousehole fishery. I found all the people there: Owners, Water bailiffs and Locals were really friendly and welcoming of new people to their lake and a joyful atmosphere. I really enjoyed fishing and catching beating my previous PB of 21.10lb which now stands at 25.2lb. The food is truly amazing enjoyed what I got, they are not badly priced and having the mini hut open with a vending machine and drinks machine also having a microwave and fridge to use, as well as a charging area is very thoughtful for the fishers and was a great investment. I believe the swims are set out well and properly designed; they show the true nature of the place as well as looking out from them to see the lake and islands is quite miraculous. All three lakes have facilities near them which are handy for disabled people which make it easier to get to without going too far away from the fishing spot or fishing gear. The land is well secured with security cameras which will make a lot of people feel safe with all their gear and belongings. Overall I felt delighted being there and grateful for all the praises I received from everyone, for being a junior girl fisher aged 15



boillie and red and spicy one on each rod that I used to catch my fish on

My name is Celeste Harfleet-Diboll

I'm 15 from south London near to Bromley



I would like to say many thanks to everyone that I met that day and made me feel one of them.

I was in peg 1
The rig I used was made up of 8" Supernatural 18lb line with a Korda wide gape size 8 hook with an Urban nutcracker



Christopher Whyborn

I had been having a 7 week blank until 7 o'clock this morning when I got woken to the sound of a couple bleeps and a hopped round rod tip. Thinking it might be another bream I was happy to slip my net cord under this 23lb 8oz mirror from Yateley's South lake. I was using a nature's baits alpha dumbbell over broken boilies and a little particle. And deception angling end tackle secured the victory.



Francis Donovan
smashed his personal
best on Brooms Cross
with Measles at 26lb 4oz
from the Lower Alt lake.





I've recently been on a trip to Lac Desire¹ With my dad and a few friends. We arrived at the lake on the Friday evening and camped up on site ready for our 12pm start time. We had a little sneaky look around the lake Saturday morning and went back to our bivvies to draw swims. I drew peg 9/10 a double peg that I shared with my friend Riley. I fished the right side of the peg (10). I was really pleased with the swim as I had loads of weed in the shallows to my right and some big clear spots in front of a tree on the far bank. I decided to use a test bait boilie from Hydra bait (where I'm a junior team member) alongside particles and a few pellets. My rig was a 3oz drop off lead on a Pallatrax size 6 barbed hook attached to dark matter braided hook link.

It was a little slow to start but I managed a common of 24lb and a 16lb mirror so I was away. I was visiting my dad's swim, when he had a double take and we were both in. Lucky for me mine weighed in at a massive 47lb 3oz mirror that was a sort of pb (although on my dad's rods) and my dad had a 42lb 3oz mirror and we were both really pleased. I had another fish of 32lb8oz off my dad's rod but

have to say the fish just weren't playing ball at our end of the lake. We went to bed on Thursday night hoping for some action when at 5am I had a screaming run and battle a stunning mirror safely over the net, I ran shouting to my dad's bivvy that I'd just landed a massive common. He came running to lift the retainer to the mat and then he realised it was quite heavy. He couldn't quite believe I had played and landed what turned out to be my new pb 48lb 8oz common. I managed the two biggest fish of the week on a trip I'll never forget.

Joe Beaverstock





Kam Cassidy
Hughes



Kam Cassidy Hughes has been out on his local Warrington water, Long Barn Pool, recently and helped himself to these fine specimens on Sticky baits. Well done Kam !! Keep it up.

**Andrew Collett
with the Big Twin
43lb 8oz**



TalkingCarp



Ryan Singer has had a great month on his chosen waters.. Heres a few of his recent captures



TalkingCarp

Brooms Cross

Fishery

Specimen carp and coarse



Damien McLoughlin with 'Debbo' at 33lb6oz caught on CCMoore live system. A new P.B.



Sam Wall with a new P.B. 'The Bullet' at 30lb 4oz from the Upper.

specimen carp and coarse

TalkingCarp

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Brooms Cross Fishery

Specimen carp and coarse



Ryan Taylor With his first Brooms Cross 30 'Big Deal' at 30lb1oz from the Upper

Jake Sanderson with 'Little c' at 29lb 14oz from Upper Alt on the live system



Eric Fargher with 'Gillie' at 28lb 14oz from Upper Alt



'The Vessel' For Chris Dodd from the Upper 28lb 14oz Urban Baits



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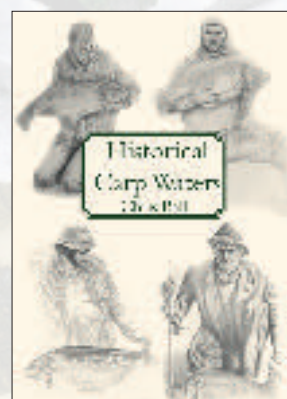
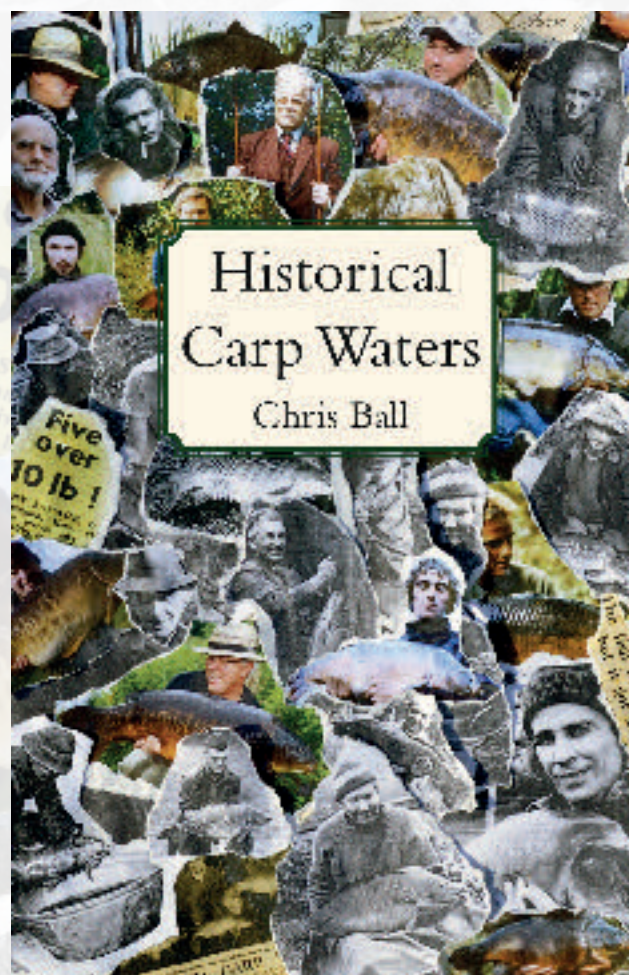
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Running to more than 400 pages and including several hundred photographs of the waters themselves and the anglers that fished them, including many that have never been published before, this book is a magnificent and comprehensive account of carp fishing history in the UK.

Featuring artwork from Adam Entwistle, David Blackaller and Tom O'Reilly which beautifully compliments the photography throughout the book.

Publication date: Oct-2017



Talking - Foreign !!!!

*Inside this month -
Etang St Pierremont -
France
Abbey Lakes - France
Ebro Fishing Dreams - Spain*

Lake For Sale

Etang St Pierremont

France



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Owners Accommodation comes fully furnished & consists of 1 large double bedroom, with faux leather double bed frame with 2 x double matching wardrobes & bedside tables, open plan kitchen/breakfast bar, complete with fridge/freezer, oven, hob, washing machine, dishwasher & lounge complete with wood burner, freeview t.v., 3 seater leather sofa, bathroom with underfloor heating, vanity unit & large corner shower. Outside open veranda overlooking the lake complete with wood burner & rattan double chair, 2 x single chairs with cushions & coffee table.

Anglers Accommodation is a lovely 6 berth mobile home with a double bedroom with en suite and 2 x twin rooms with separate toilet & shower room. Open Plan lounge/dining & kitchen area, all fully furnished, with decking veranda overlooking the lake.

We live in the UK and have a local couple & gardener who look after our property when we are not there and they also meet & greet our fisherman guests throughout the season. Our french couple are happy to continue this service if the new owners were interested. The anglers accommodation with exclusive use of lake is currently let out at £995 per week and can generate an income of potentially upto £30-£35k per annum & also the possibility to offer breakfast and evening meals & sell bait for additional income.

Please call Emma on 07990 581130 for further information



Etang St Pierremont

Our friends over at Etang St Pierremont have informed us that the fishing has been exceptional over the past month with over one hundred fish coming out to over 50lb, with numerous 40+ fish. This truly is a stunning lake located within an area of peace and tranquility.

Update!!!!!!

The Talking Carp team managed 53 fish in 1 week upto 50lb 7oz





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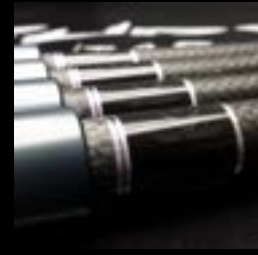
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Les ETANGS de l'ABBAYE - FRANCE



ABOVE - Roy Mortimer with
51lb from Kingfisher

RIGHT - Pete Townsend with
long common at 53lb 8oz



ABOVE - Tom Pardoe
with a 58lb from Fox





103lb



127lb



115lb





129lb



31lb



36lb



32lb



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Well, another great couple of months of carp captures from Presa de Chira Gran Canaria.

August and September with extreme heat and calimas which is temperatures of 40 plus and hot winds from the Sahara, having up to 25 carp a day on some day trips!! From commons to mirrors and those stunning wild scaley carp, all sizes to 39lb and amazing colors. We offer day excursions, 24hrs, any duration on the bank and 7/14 night holidays.

We like to keep our day trips small and personal, not too many lines in the water and for everyone to have a fair chance of catching. Our day trip clients receive either the Nash Scopes or the KNX rods, all relevant tackle and equipment, license, light lunch and refreshments, license, transport and our professional guides are with you all day.

We have been offering fishing holidays for over 15 years now, either on the bank with 24hrs fishing or with apartments or rural house with pool, so you can come as a family, a couple or even just the lads!! We can even combine a beach holiday with a fishing holiday, the choice is yours! Looking forward to Rob Maylin arriving in October for a week's holiday and of course some fishing!!

Tight lines from Dave and Ali and the team at Carpgrancanaria.







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Thankyou for reading and your
continued support

Please send your articles and catch reports by
the 20th October for next months magazine

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YOU !!!!!!!

‘The Talking Carp Team’

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