



WWW.DTBAITS.CO.UK



WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

D.T.Baits Click Here

Hello and welcome.

Can you believe it is May already? What a great month to be an angler... the lakes are definitely alive now, with wildlife all around you. The fauna is in bloom... and most importantly, the carp are finally on a hard feed.

Do remember though, its not all boilies and pellets ... as this time of year is a great time to get those zig rigs out. Spend your time watching the water, not a movie in the bivvy, and you will be amazed at how many carp will show in front of you. Even on the hardest of lakes... And with nature on a rampage right new, the insect world is teeming with new born creatures...and that means the carp will be on a hard feed in the upper layers to the surface. So get off your ass and throw a zig out... it could mean the difference between a blank and a bonus carp.

This month we bring you another packed carp magazine.. as we chat with Jules, Joe Turnbull does his new monthly piece...and we also bring you part 2 of Dave Charleys African Adventure... carp fishing in Mozambique !!! who knew?

Have a great month and we look forward to more zig caught catch reports.

Until next month, tight lines.

Team Talking Carp

brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk mark@talkingcarp.co.uk mark.galli@talkingcarp.co.uk

Inside This Month Cover shot - Steve Briggs

ARTICLES - from page 6

Page 6 - Talking Point... with Jules and Brian

Page 17 - Joe Turnbulls - a month in the life of

Page 24 - What got you into fishing by UKfisherwoman

Page 30 - A birthday suprise by Scott Geezer Grant

Page 40 - Steve Briggs interview by Mark Carper

Page 65- Tales of a Journeyman pt3 by Rod Bird

Page 79 - Perseverance by Dan Winfield

Page 90 - A summer solstice by John morgan

Page 102 - Boulders and Trees by Richard Handel

Page 108 - No April's Fool by A.J. Spooner

Page 116 - An African Adventure pt 2 by Dave Charley

Reviews - from page 125

Anthony Wood - The ultimate travel rod

CATCH REPORTS - from page 130





Take a Friend Fishing More Opportunity Than Ever for Angling Success

Take a Friend Fishing with National Fishing Month from:

Saturday 29th of July to Sunday 3rd of September 2023

Take a Friend Fishing offers more opportunity than ever to get out fishing with a friend during our extended Easter and Summer campaigns in 2023.

Take a Friend Fishing continues to grow in 2023 with bigger campaigns, more weekends, and more opportunity for you to go fishing and create those long-lasting friendships and memories.

Half terms, National and family holidays all provide opportunities for us to unwind, be with friends and interact with the environment around us. Taking a friend or family member on a fishing trip is a great way to spend time outdoors. Escaping modern life to build friendships, create lasting memories and just enjoy some time next to the water, is the ultimate in relaxation.

Get Involved with Angling This Summer

To make the most of Take a Friend Fishing and National Fishing Month events during the summer holidays, between Saturday 29th of July and Sunday 3rd of September (inclusive), existing fishing licence holders can register for a FREE one-day fishing licence from the Environment Agency at www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk and introduce a friend to fishing.

With the pressures of modern life, physical health and mental wellbeing are more important than ever. The experience of a fishing trip together with a work colleague, family member, partner or just a mate, offers the ideal opportunity to unwind and recharge your battery, whilst being active at the same time.

Getting outside in the countryside is a great way to be together with family and friends and angling is the perfect fit for staying active outdoors, especially if you are staying in England or Wales this summer. There are many fisheries near to where you live that are perfect to visit for a catch-up with a friend during a quick Take a Friend Fishing trip together. Find out about where you can fish safely at www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/#faqs

Registering for a free one-day fishing licence couldn't be easier...

Simply visit www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/register-free-friend-fishing-licence/ select the date of your fishing trip, enter some basic information about you and your friend, and away you go!

The free fishing licence will be sent with a confirmation email, so please remember to have your fishing licence and both people's email addresses plus a few other details handy when you pre-register to Take a Friend Fishing.

Take a Friend Fishing is an initiative run by <u>Angling Trades Association</u> in association with the <u>Environment Agency</u> and supported by <u>Angling Trust</u>, <u>Canal & River Trust</u> and many other angling organisations. Take a Friend Fishing opens up the world of angling to people from all age groups and communities, giving the opportunity for anglers and non-anglers alike, at all levels of ability, the chance to get into fishing or back into fishing after time away.

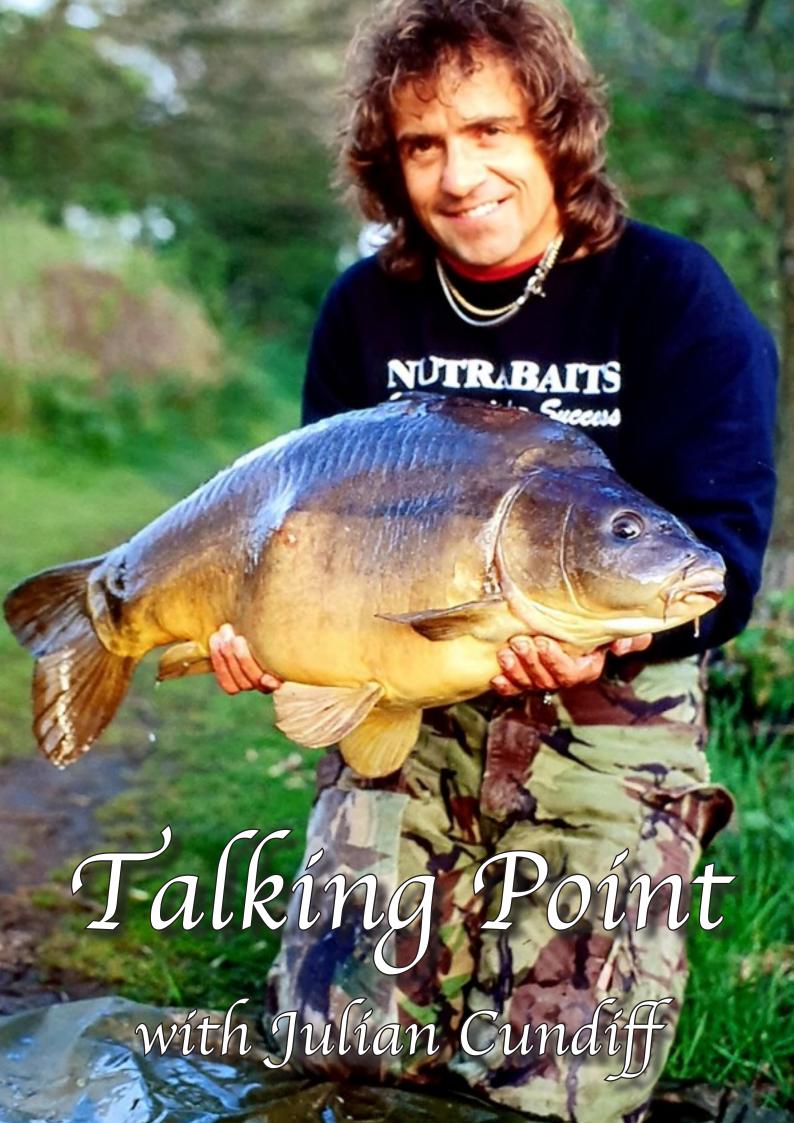
In 2022 over 6,000 people registered to take part in Take a Friend Fishing. Now Take a Friend Fishing is back with an extended programme that gives the biggest window of opportunity yet to anglers, non-anglers and those thinking about reconnecting with the pastime they once enjoyed.

This year, we want even more people to get their backside bankside and Take a Friend Fishing to show them just how easy it is to get into angling and experience the benefits of time out in nature. To relax and engage with nature and the outdoors is a rewarding experience especially with a friend. With a free one-day fishing licence from the Environment Agency worth £6.50 (coarse and non-migratory trout) or £12.60 (salmon and sea trout).

Social Media

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TakeAFriendFishingTAFF

Instagram: www.instagram.com/taff ata



TALKING POINT...

Balancing work, hobbies and home life

with Julian Cundiff & Brian Dixon

Hello and welcome to Talking Point with Jules and Bri for issue 87... And here we are in the middle of May.

This month we will have a chat about how you managed to balance your work, angling, hobbies and home life. It's something that a lot of people struggle with, and I used to be the same myself, but it's just a case of finding a happy, albeit busy, medium don't you think? Now we know you may be retired from working a 9-5 but preretirement, what exactly was it you did for work? The job that paid the bills.

Jules: And welcome back my friend, funnily enough I hung up my court boots on March 9th, 2018, so it's as near damn five years ago... where did the time go (you'll soon find out). So, let's go back in time a bit. At school I was never a gifted student and although I was O level, maybe average A level ability at Selby Grammar School my interests were really fishing, KISS, motorbikes and girls. I had no idea about a career and the school kind of directed me to not bother with university and go get a job. I wasn't getting my hair cut to join the police, the bank looked boring but an admin job at Selby court working with lots of girls close to home sounded spot on! I started right at the bottom (no pun intended)in 1980, showed a flair for





Even working twenty hour days at times I could smile

organisation, hard work and understanding the law so got sent to Manchester to do my Court Clerk exams and by 1986 was a fully qualified Legal Advisor. A Legal Advisor advises the magistrates on the law, makes legal findings, runs the court and it was the best job ever 1986 to 2018.

Bri: But even that wasn't really a standard day to day job, was it? As you progressed through the years you moved from court to court? Further training and more learning to do?

Jules: To start with it was 9-5 but once I got shipped off to Manchester to do my exams (on a full salary, full expenses and no tuition fees) it did change a bit. Pre that I could leave home at 8.45 am and be home by 5.15 pm.....perfect for fishing especially living with mum and dad and spending the money of mum and dad (the best parents you could ever hope for). For a while I worked at Selby court three / four days a week and one day at York which was brilliant for mid week overnighters. However, the better I got at the job the more I got pushed up the food chain and the greater my powers / responsibilities and the longer the days. I started to take courts in Leeds, Scarborough, Bradford, Northallerton, Pickering (as well as





Selby and York). Check out a map and you will see it's a HUGE geographical area. I adored the job, and the long hours didn't bother me, but I was definitely balancing a lot of balls at once!

Bri: and finally, the time came to hang up your gown? Was it a long term plan to retire when

you did or was it more a case of you had enough and decided to call it a day?

Jules: I started work at 17 and fully intended to retire at 50. Not only did I pay my pension to the max but from 1989 onwards I had a second income from carp fishing. This was writing, royalties, editorial fees, filming fees, consultancies and so on. However, the economic

crash of 2008 killed off any chance of that with escalating house prices and so on. Instead, I decided it would be at 55 (in 2018). By 2012/13 mid-week overnighters were almost impossible because of the geographical nature of the courts I covered. I was now a Civil Servant which was incredibly corporate (great pension though), and it was a whole different







Being thanked for my service to court by Yorks dignitaries

world. I was not going to let this sully the great times I had so gave work a whole years notice of my impending retirement. All the years of graft and treating staff and colleagues as I wanted to be tret myself meant they were more like family and friends than work colleagues. Heck I even did a retirement / farewell tour of my courts, had five leaving do's and at the final one had over 200

people in York Court saying goodbye to me. Zero regrets, best job ever.

Bri: now, apart from your daily job you still managed to find the time to go fishing, particularly when progressed to carp fishing and the tench and pike sessions started becoming regular over nighters, and then of course came the article writing, the editing, the filming and videos, the meetings and the talks. Then you would slip in gigs, days out, girlfriends, and the list just goes on... Time management must have been a nightmare and I presume you really had to be quite strict with yourself at times?

Jules: You're absolutely right with that list Brian and a whole lot more as well. Add to that running my own home, my family commitments and more and I genuinely think I was the best 'multi tasker' ever. I certainly can't name anyone who did all that AND a full time job too. A prize to anyone who can name one. I guess great parents, a fantastic boss who led by example, grafters like Tim, Nashy and co made it

second nature to just get on with it. Yes organisation, bloody hard work but most importantly loving what I did / do saw me through. I kind of giggle now / raise my eyebrows when people who ONLY work in the industry complain about workload / burnout etc.... yee gods!

Bri: and then the time came...

Retirement! Now most would

think that being retired you

can kick back and lounge



As a youngster I was more interested in KISS than schoolwork. I still am. Thank you Mr
Francis and Duff

around all day...but nothing could be further from the truth for you, could it? You seem as busy as ever?

Jules: I definitely do more 'things 'now I'm retired from court but



Family first...Amsterdam 2023

by and large I'm only doing the ****
I want to! I've never been one to
lounge about and to me life is to be
seized, enjoyed and savored. As Gene
Simmons from KISS says, 'every day
above ground is a good one'.

Bri: so, the one big question I do have, is how has the retirement affected your fishing? Whereas before your session would have been meticulously planned from leaving work to arriving back in time for work the very next day without





I'm only doing what i want to

late!! Can you now take a more relaxed approach or do you still have a disciplined mindset and game plan to work to?

Jules: In pure fish
CATCHING terms I've
never caught so many
and compared to when
I worked at court, I
catch probably five
times as many which
is crazy (and proves you

should never base ability PURELY on catch rate). Planning wise I'm as meticulous as ever but carp fishing has to fit in around my life does

not consume it. There are things I have to do that come first (family, health, fishing industry commitments) and there are things after that which I fit AROUND my fishing (the gym, bike riding, seeing friends, shopping, house maintenance etc). So usually, I can go whenever I want to, which sounds relaxing but by and large I give it 100% effort to catch them. I simply can't 'have a go '. It's my best effort or I get ****** off with myself!

Bri: One more thing that did cross my mind regarding your fishing, preretirement you were holding down a full time job, and editing, and fishing for results for the cameras... Constantly under pressure.



Exercise will do you good.
Outside my old school



Did you ever feel the pressure and question yourself over whether it was something you wanted to keep doing?

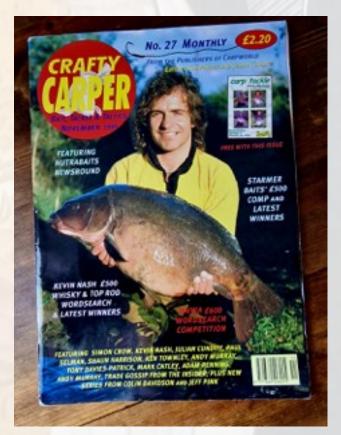
Jules: Gotta corrects you there mate I've NEVER fished for results for the camera ...ever.

There was always pressure / an obligation to deliver WORK by a certain date but to catch a carp for the feature / camera / film crew NEVER. I'd like to think the work I delivered from the early nineties was pretty much '



Tim was a tough but inspirational taskmaster

real world 'stuff and I made sure that the readership of Carpworld,



Of course I felt a pressure to deliver work

Angling Times, Crafty, Carp Fisher etc knew my predicament (full time job / mid-week overnighters / a life outside carp) and I think it resonated? I did it / I do it because I love it and as soon as I don't.... I won't! Did I occasionally think ' I hope I catch one '? Course I did but no more than anyone who puts in a certain degree of effort. I miss my court job and in all honesty if my fishing commitments ended AT THE MOMENT I'd miss them!

Bri: And now you are fully retired, has your angling changed much? You





I'm still as keen as ever

still seem as busy as ever?

Jules: I guess I fish more but I'm equally as keen as I was in 1993, 2003 and 2013. Back in the day I'd average two overnighters a week and a full day every other week so probably 36 hours a week angling? Nowadays I do a similar amount but at places and MORE importantly at the best

times to get a bite. Fishing smarter as I get older.

Bri: I have to say, none of us are getting any younger, and sometimes I have been guilty of missing the occasional opportunity to go fishing or go to walk a lake, or just take a day for myself as I found it hard to get

motivated. Yet here you are, still pounding the miles on your bikes, fishing on a regular basis, taking time for both family and fun. Is there any secret to keeping yourself so motivated? If so... I think I need to hear it!!

Jules: I'm not sure there's a secret mate it's just who I am I guess? If you love what you do then it's never hard work. At court I'd often be up at 5.30 am and home at 8 pm, which is some hours, but I adored the job. A good 50% of my angling contributions are free of charge but I enjoy it so that's not hard



Litter picking in Bury. Whatever the commitment I enjoy it



work either. Nash shop days, my pieces for Ology, Total, Carp Fisher Revisited, IYCF, Carpfeed etc not hard work. Cycling 70 miles, travelling 150 miles to a gig? Effort yes, hard work no! How to keep motivated?

Only do what you enjoy unless you positively have to do it anyway. You are what you eat and drink.

Exercise makes you feel better.

Do it for you not for others?

Balance

Be real about your potential.

Be honest with yourself and don't use others as YOUR excuse.

Surround yourself with positive people / situations.

Avoid negative people / situations.

Bri: Well, I think we will wrap it up there for this month as I have more questions for you on this subject!

Remember folks Jules can be followed and reached on his social media pages, and has some great tips, advice and help out there if you are struggling with your own angling right now.

Jules: Really enjoyed that mate and I look forward next month to looking at the changes I've made (or not made) in bait, rigs, tackle, tactics and waters.

Julian Cundiff

Facebook Julian Cundiff Angling /
Julian P Cundiff
Instagram julescundiff1
Twitter @juliancundiff



What do you mean my hairs too long for the police



Julian Cundiff Angling

To keep upto date with Jules and interact with him, follow him on social media on the platforms listed below

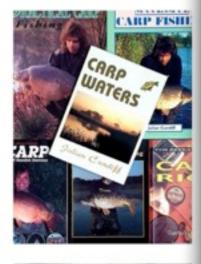




























April

Unfortunately, but fortunately for me I still work and as much as anyone else, I'd love to not have to. Since I was a young fella in my 20's I've had a passion for angling and spent lots and lots of my life wasting away the hours trying to catch all species of fish. Truth be told, I probably spent too much time bank side and not enough time earning money especially in those younger years but hindsight they say, is the most wonderful thing. There's a life lesson there for any younger chaps that may be reading this in that it is extremely rare for anyone to earn good money from angling alone. Although I think that that we should all get something back from the sport, especially if you put so much into it, free hooks and line don't pay the bills. As the years go by and the sport grows, opportunities to work in the trade become more and more available. Photographers, Cinematographers, video editors and such like are what companies look for so if you want to get a job in the trade, perhaps look down that kind of avenue. Although saying that, companies also need accounts departments and such like so its

not all bank side work. They say life is what you make it and I have tried my hardest to make something of my angling but it's not all plain sailing.

Most that follow me in anyway will know that I love keeping fit, mainly so that I can continue to push 80 - 100 kilos of tackle around the venues and at 53 I'm not getting any younger. Running, bike work and weights is something I do a lot and I love the buzz you get from it. In April I covered a mere 30 miles in walking and 20 in running 20 on the bike which is plenty of cardio for me. I'm not a marathon man by any







means but that does the job and also since covid I've got used to training at home so I set up my own small gym type thing with some metal trestles in my garage. A good selection of weights and weighted and I'm good to go.

Fishing days always have a place in my calendar of course so I often work my fishing around my work and my work around my fishing, picking the best days to go. This month I had a few trips booked in, one of which was a birthday bash that I was invited to (thanks Matt) it's always nice to get invites

to these kind of occasions. Matts a really nice bloke that owns a local garage to me, it was his 40th Birthday so celebrated it in style with a 48hr session booked at Berners Hall fisheries in Essex. There was a small barbeque and around 12 anglers in attendance. Some caught and some didn't, but it was really special to see Matt catch a few for his celebrations. Sadly. I blanked but I didn't get a choice of swim and ended up in an area totally devoid of any carp but it is what it is and the time was enjoyed by all.

A few days after that and I had a week's filming lined up with Ridgemonkey up at RH Fisheries Monument 2 which is a fishery that I'd never seen or visited. In fact the only time I ever saw it was when Matt Hayes and his trusty side kick Mick Brown visited it when it first opened way back in 2002 for the filming of their series Record Breaking fish I believe. The filming I was attending was for was a new series we have planned, this one hopefully going out some time next year. It's called The Aperoach and follows several of the sponsored anglers (including yours truly) as they tackle a myriad of different fisheries and angling situations





up and down the country as well as abroad. The first of which has already been filmed and will be going out pretty much at any time. The week we filmed recently turned into a very tricky session with diabolical weather, a freezing cold north easterly wind followed by cold nights and warm but high-pressure

days. Yes, it was the worse weather for catching carp and everyone on the lake struggled however we did OK in the end. You'll just have to wait until next year to see the outcome, but it'll be good I can tell you that.

Back from filming and straight back into training as a few days on the bank

and I'd missed out on any kind of work outs. I can't quite explain it either but if I don't train or miss my training days, I don't quite feel the same. I've loads more energy when I train and always feel pretty good ready for work and of course more trudging the banks looking for carp. I also had some

work to catch up on so once that was out of the way I got myself ready for the next carping session.

This month was to be really busy as I'd had another session booked in at Churchwood fisheries in Essex.
The fishery belongs to my good



TalkingCarp



friend Steven Sands, and it's situated in his back garden. There are three lakes there with the biggest only at around one and half acres but contains some lovely carp over thirty pounds and it's the main one called Churchwood. The other lake called Jenkins is

a smaller lake and also contains

some lovely carp but we decided that it would be nice to get on the larger one especially as the weather was looking pretty good. My mate (clever Trevor) decided to join me as Steve was to be held up in hospital for a small operation so would be out of order for a short while. The third

lake on the complex is known as the Cat lake and contains, yes you've guessed it catfish but that's not really my bag. I've had some fairly big cats up to fifty pounds in the UK and larger ones abroad, but they really don't light my fire like carp do.

Trev met me at the lake in the evening

and we had the rods out by around 4.30pm. Food done and with the evenings now a lot lighter we sat and chewed the fat for a while as the rods sat motionless. We decided eventually to call it in and hit the sack as we'd both had a busy day at work. Trev's an AA man



TalkingCarp



the newly growing pads so fortunately it wasn't too much of an issue and soon after and a lovely fully scaled carp was sat in my net. I went on to have another the next morning and Trev also had a lovely big thirty pound mirror in the middle of the next night.

Next month I have another busy one, until then get angling and remember, you are worth more than you think.

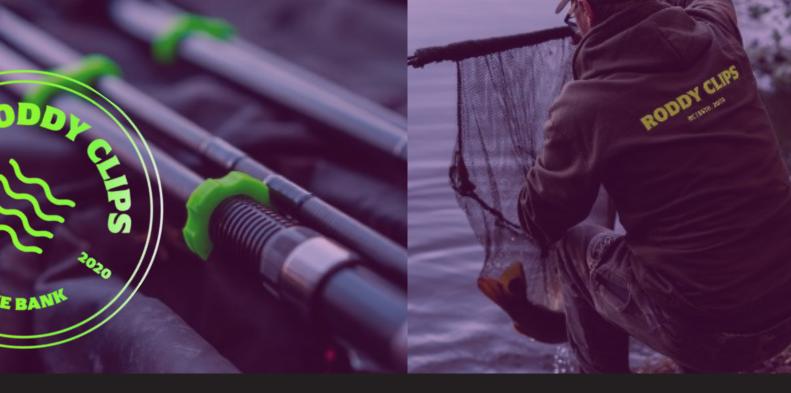
and has been working with them for well over 20 years and was on a

night shift previously so was shattered and I'd made and fitted a big job also. My head hit the pillow but for the life of me I couldn't get to sleep but just before dawn and I remember hearing a single bleep then the crack of my bobbin smacking the blank before line peeling from my spool and the Delkim alarm screaming. Clambering out of the bag to pick up the rod, I battled with a rather angry carp that decided to take me through some of

JT



TalkingCarp

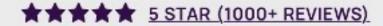


COMMON COURTS KATRAN PRODUCTS LICENTUM GIGUNE COMMON CONTROLL COMMON C



WWW.RODDYCLIPS.CO.UK

SHOP NOW





"What got you into fishing?"

Bet that's something you've been asked too many times to count.

We all have different stories and reasons as to why we got into the sport...

For me it goes back to COVID-19 lockdown. I had just come out of a terrible relationship and was forced to stay at home and not go to work. A lot of time to be sat with your own thoughts. Being someone with no hobbies nor having hardly any friends at the time, this was hard. I can imagine a lot of you can relate. The time spent being indoors doing nothing continuously really took a toll on me and I was heavily drinking day in day out...

One day in April 2021 my new partner and a friend suggested I go with them while they go fishing for a few hours. stating "it's a nicer place to drink than your bedroom" which I agreed with and went along with them.

Quickly getting bored I decided to give it a go myself - after seeing them so intrigued in a little plastic stick poking out of the water...

Within 20 minutes I had caught a mixture of 6 tiny little roach and rudd. Next thing I knew I had put down the can and I was the one now intrigued in this little plastic stick.

I had adrenaline pumping through me and was the most excited and proud I had been of myself (little did I know these feelings would be tripled in the near future)

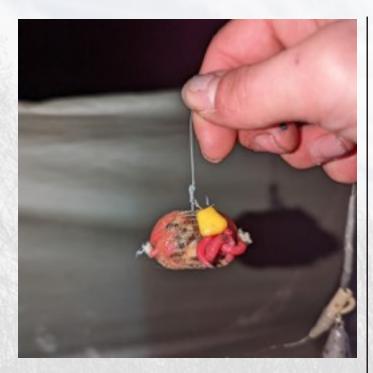
I still drank for a while but it suddenly went from me spending my last spare change on a 4 pack to every last bit of fishing tackle I needed so I could get THAT feeling again...

Not even to mention how peaceful it is being bankside and how it completely clears the mind.

I remember not long after, asking my partner - "how do I get the big ones?" That was the beginning of the never ending obsession...

I then went on to buy my first ever rod from Argos - a Matt Hayes orange telescopic float rod set. Which came with a little tackle box, hooks, split shots & floats. I felt like a proper fisherwoman!





Starting off at little lakes my partner and friends knew about as kids and had been to on holidays, I started to catch the "big" ones. Using tiny hooks and little pieces of bread catching carp the same size of your hands but oh did it make me feel good. Not knowing what the next one is going to look like... dark? light? common? mirror?

I instantly knew i had started to fall in love with fishing but also in that moment knew that it was the carp I was most intrigued in!

With it being mid summer at the time it was surface fishing season -weather up to 35c.

I quickly went from using a float and split shot mid water, to using a

free lined hook on the surface. Now this was a completely different ball game, watching them come to the surface for the bait, hoping it would take YOURS.

The excitement was insane and I will forever love surface fishing.

I surfaced fished for a while but I now had two rods, second being a Leeda 10ft float rod - another pack with a mini tackle starter kit. I still use this rod to this day!

While being out on the bank and starting to watch YouTube videos, I'd began to see and realise there was SO many different ways you can catch carp and it only became more intriguing.

Being someone who suffers with ADHD the idea of having so many ways to do something and never





ending tactics to explore. This was something I took a liking too.

So the next thing I did was buy a rod pod and some cheap alarms and learn how to set up a lead and rig - This is how I actually am going to get the BIG ones.

It took me AGES to be able to set myself up to fish but we got there in the end. I was constantly making myself prouder and prouder by what I was learning, and was able to do what I wasn't before.

One purchase led to another and I'm now here with a full carp set up which I itch to get out and use weekly.

May 2021 was the start of the UKfisherwoman social media



accounts!

After being completely ignored on the bank by other anglers and only asking my partner how's he getting on and if he's had anything it was made very clear to me that it wasn't "normal" to see a female angler and it was proved to me that

it's a very male dominated sport. I mean, do you see any female fishing clothing brands?

My aim was and still is to hopefully help change the stereotype on fishing and prove that woman can do it just as well as men. Normalise female angling.

I didn't ever think it would



grow into what it has but I'm so thankful for everyone who has supported and followed the UKFW journey so far!

Not only did fishing save me from a very dark version of myself but it has also helped and is continuing to help my mental health MASSIVELY.

I could sit here and write a whole 4 page article about how fishing helps my mental health but I won't bore you with all that emotional stuff.

Not a thought is in my mind when bankside other than thinking about my next bite, what the next catch will be, will my tactic work, will it be a PB...





Fishing gives me the peace I tried to find in that can.

It's only been two years and I'm still VERY new to it all but I'll be doing this until the day I physically cannot. From being someone who had nothing to do with their day, nothing to be excited about, nothing to look forward to. Fishing has truly changed my life. Forever thanking those who introduced me to the amazing sport. Here's to many more years of angling! Tight lines and wet nets,

Current PB - 20.05lbs @ukfisherwoman: Instagram

Facebook

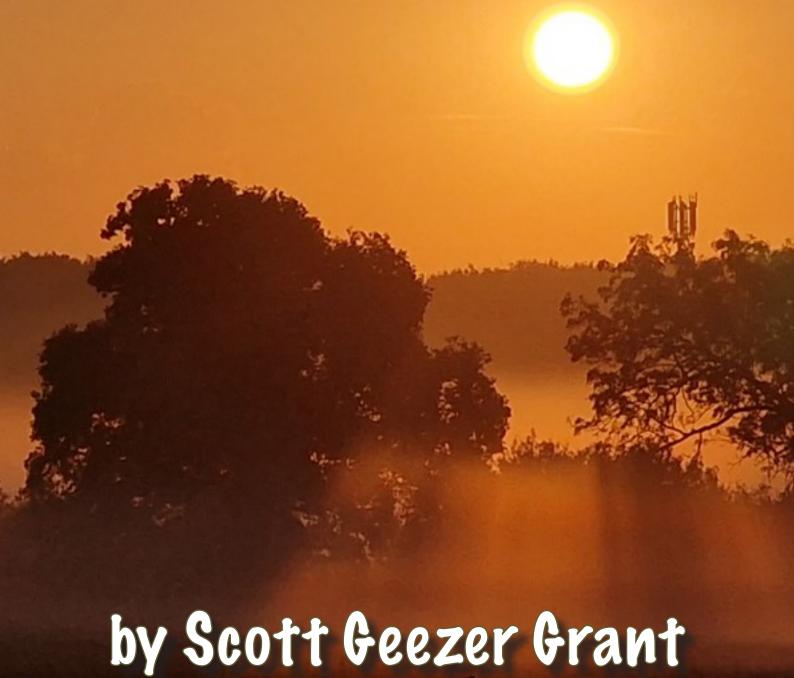
Carmen

Tiktok





The Pell What a Birthday Surprise



Well after being back at work, all I could think about was when I could next get back over lake, and hopefully carry on from where I left off. I managed to swap a few shifts around which gave me 4 nights on the bank. I made sure I visited the lake on a regular basis and kept the areas topped up with bait.

As I mentioned previously other anglers began to take notice and from what I gather a couple have fished the swim but have not really caught anything, but that is one thing you have no control over unfortunately. But I know sooner or later someone will have a big hit if they see where I am fishing and fish them particular areas, as the fish are clearing the bait up and getting big in the process

It was the beginning of the second week of September and my session was nearing, I made sure my bait was prepared and that all my gear was charged and ready to go. I arrived around midday and once through the gate I stopped off at the matt/net shack then made my way down the road bank towards the White Bag. I have been introducing bait for a good few weeks now and the areas are super clean mind you I have introduced in excess of 280 kilos, and I have brought at least 20 kilos of bait on this trip so all told it will be 300 kilos of bait.

Matt was in the White Bag but was packing up and moving down to the G Spot on the lodge bank. Which was great news for me, I didn't even bother walking around the lake, this is the swim I was going to fish and I had 100% confidence I would bag a couple of fish, hopefully one of the A Team.

A couple of hours later I had everything set up and the only thing left was to get the rods on their chosen spots. The weather was mild with South/South Westerly winds and the pressure was 1003 but creeping up to 1010 over the next few days. Before I done anything else I grabbed my bag from the van and went for a lovely shower, which always makes me feel better rather than sitting there feeling all sweaty and getting bitten by the gnats.



An hour or so later I was back at the swim, I kept the same bait arrangement as the previous session, 2 rods were fished on pop ups and the other was fished with a wafter. Again, the bait I was going to be introducing and fishing over was the same, Monster tuna crushed, monster tuna in mixed sizes, Chillie hemp with added Krill mix and pellets soaked in glug. End tackle again was the same size 2 chod hooks & size 4 curves on the wafter rig. These particular hooks I have been using for years now and they have never let me down, and I have had a lot of big fish and PBs, confidence is not only in your bait but also in the end tackle you use and I have 100% confidence in both.

With the rods baited they were dispatched one by one until they were all on the dance floor. It was then time for a lovely cup of tea. I sat and watched the water and to be honest I only saw the odd fish. Activity wise was very poor and not was I was expecting. Come 10pm and I was ready for my bed, and I was fully expecting to be woken up at some point during the night with a fish. I woke up and checked my phone it was 05:58 and I hadn't had a single bleep!! I got up got dressed and put the kettle on, over the next 2 hours a few fished showed over the baited areas but nothing materialised. As the day unfolded the lake looked lifeless and come 5pm I was winding the rods in and going for a shower.

I was back at the swim by 6pm and the rods with fresh hook baits went



back out to the same spots with a generous helping of bait. Surely tonight the fish will feed down on my spots. But again I woke the following morning to motionless rods, the only good thing is that I have had two nights good sleep. Again fish showed over the spots but nothing, just when I thought I had sussed the lake it throws a massive curve ball at ya! The rain then started and boy did the heavens open up, this lake doesn't fish well in the rain for some reason.

Later that evening at 6pm I rebaited all the rods, at least the bait has kept going in and surely sooner or later the fish will get on it. That night around midnight the rain was still coming down and it took me no time at all to get to sleep. Just after 03:00 oclock the right hand rod was away I jumped out the bag and ran straight into the mozzi net of the bivvy!! I was still half asleep. I quickly unzipped the door and lifted the rod, the fish just kept taking line until I had it under control and it was only 5 minutes later



a plump common was laying in the net. The digitals recorded a weight of 18lb 15oz and after a couple of self takes the fish was treated and returned. Now its game on with the rain finally gone the fish have gone on the feed. I rebaited the rod and got it straight back out on the spot. I jumped back in the bag and grabbed a couple of hours kip.

I woke up at 06:00 oclock the kettle went on and I got dressed. The fish started to show but this time they were showing further out to where





my baits were. At 07:00 oclock the rain started again which to be honest didn't feel me with confidence. After checking the weather app it said the rain was in for the day at least until 5pm. I checked the weather app an hour later and it was now saying possible thunder

storms from midday!!

Just after 09:00 a fish showed over the middle rod which lit my fire big time and I was poised ready to strike the rod. Well, that lasted 10 or so minutes then the adrenalin just sank in me. Midday arrived and again the rain came down but this time it was in biblical proportions proper pelted down. Come 5pm the rain had eased considerably and was stopping so I wound the rods in and went for a shower. I chatted to the lads for a while before making my way back to my swim. The rods were rebaited and dispatched to their chosen spots, with the rods done it was time to get my dinner on the mighty home made chillie. I sat watching the water eating my dinner washing it down with a lovely cold cider. Come 1030 pm I was ready for my bed and it didn't take me long to get asleep, but only to be woken in the early hours busting for a piss!! Nothing new there. I got straight back in the bag and went back to sleep only to be woken at 05:30 with 2 bleeps on the left hand rod, I jumped up and went down to the rods, the bobbin was tight up against the rod, I lifted the rod and the fish was on, it just accelerated as fast as it could I managed to control it after a few seconds, the fish fought hard like they all do and wasn't giving up easy, I kept the pressure on and after a few hairy moment the fish went in the net first time. I peered in the net and this one was a lovely scaley banger, Yesss finally one of the bigger fish. I secured the fish in the net and gave Jake a call and 10 minutes later both Jake and Ben came





down. On the scales she went 31lb 7oz, Jake took great pics the fish was then treated and returned. They left for work and I got the rod rebaited and back out on the spot.

The conditions are

perfect low pressure the wind has switched to a West/North Westerly but there are more thunder storms due again from midday. Well come 1pm and the rain did arrive but only for about 10 minutes which was good. Just before 3pm I got a take on the right-hand rod, as soon as I lifted into the fish, I knew from the onset it was a goodun, It fought so hard and weeded me numerous times, and just when I thought I had it beaten, it found the mother of all weed beds 10ft from the bank just to the right of my swim. The fish was locked up solid so I put the rod back in the rest loosened the clutch slightly then put my waders on. 30 minutes passed and the fish had not moved, I gave it another 10 minutes then grabbed the rod and waded out very gingerly as the bank just drops away to 8 odd foot I got a couple foot in and with the butt in my hand I lifted as hard as I possibly could without snapping up, I didn't know if the fish was still on, then I felt the fish

kick and managed to gain a little line, and with a little pressure applied she popped up and was engulfed in the net, boy that was knackering I can tell you. It turned out to be the only Leather carp in the lake weighing in at 30lb 7oz.



TalkingCarp

Another angler Henry had turned up and obliged with my phone and took cracking shots, thanks mate much appreciated. The fish was then treated and returned and then the heavens opened up and it pelted down. I wound my other rods in and went for a shower, all the commotion with the fish I had just caught I felt it better that the swim was rested for a while. A couple of hours later I was back at my swim, the rods were rebaited and put back out on their spots with a generous helping of the finest bait.

On darkness a couple of fish showed themselves and 2 of the shows were over the left hand rod. At 20:40 the left hand rod ignited it took me by surprised and shite the life out of me, I went down to the rods and lifted into another good fish, it felt heavy and was just plodding about, it was dark and I couldn't see much but I just keep the pressure on and the fish was behaving itself nicely, 10 minutes later I had the fish in the net and when I turned my head torch on I was gobsmacked, it was like a donkey it was huge and I didn't recognise the fish at all but one thing was for sure this was big. I secured the net and gave Ben a call, 5 minutes later both Ben and Jake were at my swim. With a little help from the lads the fish was in the mat and when I unfolded the net Ben said "It's the Birthday Fish" last out in July at 37lb!!! well it is certainly a lot bigger than that now.



TalkingCarp



With the sling zeroed I hoisted the fish up and Jake read out a weight of 46lb 15oz the biggest weight this fish has ever been. I was totally blown away this is now the 3rd 40lber I have had from here at their biggest weights absolutely mental. Jake once again obliged with my phone whilst Ben sorted the lighting out. With the photos complete the fish was treated then returned. I was on cloud 9 and it felt like I was just floating what a feeling, I've always said hard work equals rewards, and I was certainly being rewarded. The boys left and I wasted no time it getting the rod back out.

Come midnight I was still awake I was simply buzzing my tits off. I did manage to get to sleep in the early hours and was woken at 0430 with a take on the middle rod, I went down to the rods and as soon as I lifted the rod the fish just took line when it stopped I started to reel and the hook pulled!!!!

I was gutted. I checked the rig all was good and the hook was still razor sharp, but its just one of them things that happens from time to time. I got the rod back out then stuck the kettle on as there was no way I was getting back to sleep. Bang on first light a fish showed on the other side a lot further then I was fishing and that's the only fish I saw all morning.



Come 10 oclock I started packing everything down and was all packed and leaving the lake at midday. Again, another successful session banking 4 fish to 46lb 15oz, my god what a session. Unfortunately, I can't get back over for a good few weeks due to work and family commitments but I'm sure someone will take advantage of my hard graft. I would like to thank the following companies for their products of which I use in my fishing.

www.a2baits.co.uk www.sharptackle.co.uk www.castaway-pva.co.uk In the Margin Particles (Facebook)

If you would like more information on becoming a member of The Dell contact Michael Prior on 07768-124462 he will be more than happy to help.

The Monster Tuna boilie range along with pop ups, dips etc is readily available at your local stockist, or visit the A2 baits website for the full bait range. www.a2baits.co.uk

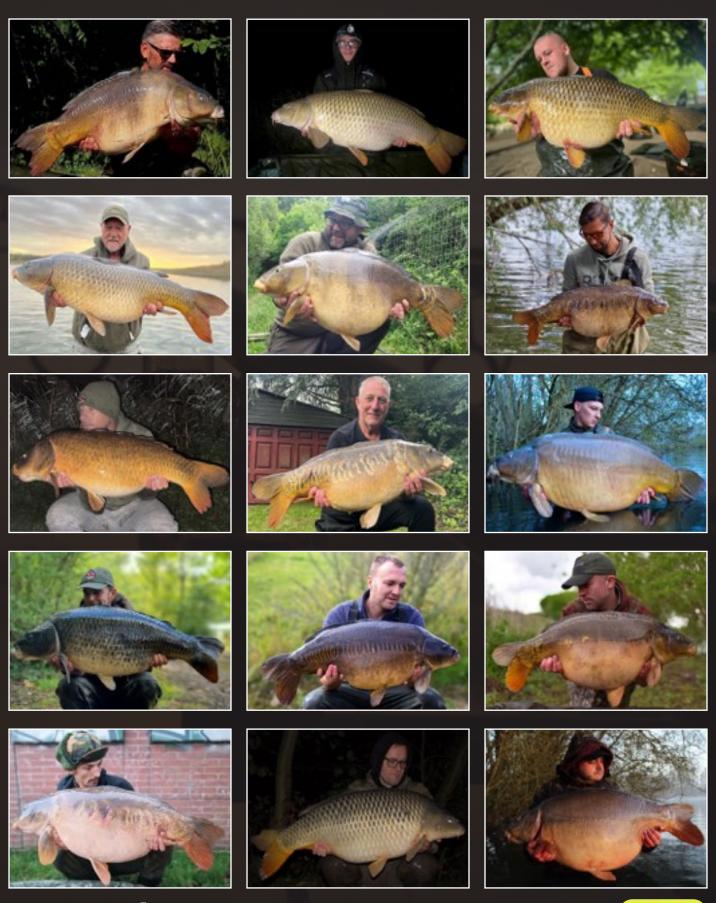
For the sharpest, strongest hooks that don't cost a fortune, plus an array of end tackle have a look at www.sharptackle.co.uk

If you want to order the best chillie hemp by a country mile have a look at "In the margin particles" on Facebook, or call Matt on 07739-961966. For all your PVA needs head over to the brand-new Castaway website. Where you will find an array of PVA products that can help you in your fishing. www.castaway-pva.co.uk

Stay safe and remember its only fishing.
Scott "Geezer" Grant



TalkingCarp



Just as sharp
Just a strong
Just as reliable
Just better value





Cast your mind back to July 2022 and Issue 77 of the magazine and you will recall a certain Mr. Steve Briggs, not only gracing the cover but also giving us an insight on how Lac de Saint-Cassien was back in the early days and how that compares to now....

Well, Mr. Briggs is back... but this time, it's all about the UK, which is a little ironic considering we discussed this when we met in Holland at the incredible Carp Den Bosch back in January this year...!

I know that Steve has been asked on hundreds of occasions bout his UK fishing in all types of formats from Vlog and Blog, Podcast to Nash TV and he has been interviewed and written about too... However, that wasn't going and stop me, so no apologies if you think you've heard it all before...

TC: Mr. Briggs, Steve, it was great to catch up in Holland and as it was my first experience of the show, I was seriously impressed by the sheer scale of the place and the number of exhibitors... how was it for you and how many of those shows have you done...?

SB: It was really good to be back at the show, it used to be Zwolle of course but has now moved on to Den Bosch where the halls are even bigger and offer more space for everyone. I think the attendance was actually down a little bit on previous shows but that stands to reason with everything just trying to get back to normal after the last few years of upheaval, but it was still incredible and such a huge carp fishing event. I've done loads of these shows, I really can't count how many but it does go back to where it all started and I was at the very first one many years ago and it's quite amazing to see how it has grown over the years but it just shows the continuing growth and popularity of carp fishing across the world. I love the shows (this one in particular) as we meet up with so many people that we just don't get to see anywhere else, old friends and acquaintances that have gone different ways somehow all seem to



end up coming together and that's a great thing - long may it last!

TC: Firstly, thanks again, for taking the time out to do this interview and I am looking forward to getting to grips with the fishing you do within the UK, especially your 2022 year, which seemed to be a good one for you... but just quickly, I guess we must mention the amazing Carp you had, many of which were PB's too from waters in, now let's see...

...Germany (two PB's if memory serves me correct...!), Bosnia, Spain (on the Ebro), and France

...So, take us through those Steve, type of waters and weights...

SB: 2022 was actually a good year all-round and I had some brilliant times and great results on the continent as well as at home. Secret

Garden was the first trip in February and it was a good one starting with a lovely 44lb fully scaled mirror and just continuing right through with good fish most days, just a lovely place to fish. Bosnia was a drive and a half but I was keen to get back there to Lake Pelagicevo and try for one of the big ones. I'd caught a couple of 50's the year before but I really wanted to get at least a 60 plus if possible. I was getting action from the start, a lot of smaller fish and grass carp but gradually the bigger ones started to turn up. It was right at the end of the week when I hooked into something that gave me an immense battle for well over half an hour. It had





to be a big one and sure enough it was the target weight at 60lb 12oz.

Germany was fantastic, it's a country we really like and especially seeing our friends Meik and Simone Pyka. Meik took me to a lake where I'd caught my very first German carp while the girls stayed back at the house. It's only a low stock lake and not easy but absolutely stunning with no other anglers on while we were there! I had four takes, the first was lost but followed by a 38lb mirror and 41lb common but then I managed to hook in to one of the biggest fish in the lake, a superb mirror of 64lb which was a new German PB and the cause of much celebration!

A couple of days later we were going for an afternoon meal at a restaurant but had a couple of hours to spare and Meik suggested a quick stalking session on a lake that we'd been given permission to fish. So we literally turned up with one rod each and some bread rolls for bait. It was trickier than expected but with time running out I hooked in to one! I was expecting a mid double or something so I was amazed when this big two-tone mirror rolled in to the net. As it turned out it was the biggest fish in the lake and just a bit down it weight at 44lb but a new surface PB for me.



A week at Echo Pool in France came about by chance when they had a cancellation and offered us the place at short notice as they had no time to fill it. It's a lovely little lake that holds some really big carp and withoutsounding blasé I expected to catch

TalkingCarp

one of them. We'd been twice before and caught a fish called Barrel both times and I just thought that I'd catch him again - and sure enough I did at just over 70lb. The lake had been fishing really slow but the fish were active and I gave them plenty of food which is a tactic that's worked for me before and once again it caught me plenty of good fish including a few other 50's and 40's.

I'm starting to find it harder to find countries with the chance of a fifty but Spain was one of those where it had yet to happen, albeit it's a tough ask at the best of times. Three weeks in December gave us a proper go at the River Ebro, the aim really was to get a river 40, while a 50 would just be a dream, but sometimes dreams do come true. We fished three different sections from Riba Roja to Mequinenza and on the last section I did manage a lovely wild common of 50lb 4oz to make it fifties from sixteen countries.

TC: I also understand that Joan had a few good results of her own, especially from the Ebro, so what was that...?

SB: Yes, Joan doesn't actually fish as much as me but when she

does, she does seem to have some amazing results. She's had 60's from Cassien and Rainbow as well as 50's from Austria, Croatia and Italy and UK 40's so she's no stranger to catching good fish and has a real talent for picking out the better ones.



TalkingCarp



She'd never seen the River Ebro before but was really keen to have a trip there as both previous trips for me I'd just gone alone. Big fish aren't easy to come by on there and Ditch Ballard of Ebro Mad Cats said that no 20kg fish had been out for some time but Joan's very first run and indeed Ebro carp was a cracking wild

Ebro common of 44lb 12oz! It gave her a great battle and she really thought it was going to pull her in a couple of times but there was only going to be one winner!

TC: I am also sure that you had a no less than four UK 'Forties' too, so where were they from and to give some perspective on your UK angling, how much time did you spend on UK waters in 2022, given the amount of travel outside the UK that you also did...?

SB: I really enjoyed my UK fishing last year but the hardest thing is to make the time for fishing at home and away. Really since Covid I've made a concerted effort to fish at home more and it's rejuvenated my enthusiasm for it.



TalkingCarp

Over the last couple of years much of my attention had been focussed on Kingsmead Island Lake on the Colne Valley, the attraction was that you can use boats and it's a big lake with some really nice carp. I'd caught the biggun, "Roids" the year before but there were others to catch and so I started the year again on there. First session back and I managed to get on the fish and caught five, topped by a lovely 41lb 12oz chunk and for a while I carried on as normal and generally catching some other good fish up to 38lb. It was when rumours filtered through that the big common had died that my thoughts changed. That was one of my targets and with that gone I couldn't see many other reasons to stay on there, but the great thing is that on the same ticket is K1, which holds some amazing fish and so my attentions turned to there. The fishing is different, no boats just casting or in many cases use of the Bushwhacker pole but I really felt at home there immediately and everyone was really friendly. It took me a little time to get in tune with the fishing but using a mobile approach looking closely for signs I found that I could actually drop baits on to feeding fish with the Bushwhacker and get fast results! First time I had a fish called Floppy Tail at 43lb 8oz and a 25lb mirror literally within a few minutes of being in the swim. I carried on with those tactics and caught a few other nice fish including two more cracking linear mirrors over 40lb as the year moved on. It was actually the River Ebro trip that brought a halt to it all as almost four weeks away really diverted my attention and when we got back it was proper full on winter with icy lakes and more dormant fish. But I really enjoyed every minute and I can't wait to get back down there and hopefully carry on where I left off!

TC: It does seem that you and Henry both had a very good 2022 in terms of the Carp you banked, so did you get an opportunity to fish together at all and compare notes, so to speak...?

SB: I've got a lot of time for Henry he's a great bloke and a really good angler! We're in contact most





weeks about all sorts of things connected with Nash business and indeed often about upcoming fishing trips, we do share info on various things but as yet we've not fished together. That's not unusual in our walk of life really the Nash team is big and we all have our own things going on, I see more of Oli Davies seeing that he is a bailiff on the lakes I fish in the UK but even then we do our own fishing and I'm either on my own or fishing with Joan normally. Henry had some amazing results in 2022 and some stunning carp from a variety of venues and indeed countries and he somehow combined that with doing a

great job, hopefully he can keep it going this year and I'm sure at some stage we'll be on the bank together.

TC: In your last interview with me, you mentioned places like Brooklands and Farlows and that you grew up in and around the Darenth Valley, so tell us a little about the UK venues you fish now; are you on any Private/Syndicate waters and do you still fish 'day-tickets' especially in the past year...?

SB: Yes, I've got very fond memories of my days in the Darenth Valley and fishing places like Brooklands. I fish a variety of UK waters now and really anywhere that grabs my attention. My main focus over the last couple of years has definitely been on the Horton complex after Oli Davies convinced me to have a walk around with



him after not seeing the lakes for probably 25 years even though they are just four miles from where we live! I have a group ticket that gives me access to several good waters such as the Island Lake and Kingsmead 1 and others such as Horton Church which I've yet to have a go at. All of these are syndicate lakes controlled by RK Leisure and really high class waters, not surprisingly they are tickets that are in great demand and so there are waiting lists but best of all is that for much of the time the lakes aren't what I'd call busy.

The other main waters that I've fished in recent years are on the Thorney Weir complex even closer to home. There are three lakes at Thorney Weir (five if you include two Lizard lakes) and I've fished them all. These are day ticket lakes that are open to everyone and as such vary greatly in how busy they are and who is fishing them at any given time. Dave Vaughan runs these lakes really well and I like that they still have a wild/natural feel about them rather than being too manicured and on top of that they all hold some fantastic proper old scaly Colne Valley carp! When I'm at home I go out bike riding most days and the route tends to take me around the Thorney Weir lakes, so I'm always keeping my eye on what's happening.

TC: Do you get 'invites' to fish waters that say, us mere mortals would not get access to...?



SB: I do get a lot of invites to fish waters and they are always gratefully received. I have to be a little careful what I say but the offers generally are from waters just starting up or ones



that need publicity but many, if not all of them are nice waters and the only thing that prevents me from going is just time - there just isn't enough time in the year to do all of the fishing abroad, on my local waters and then to fish these other waters too. Most years I will have a couple of days at the Sitch, the Avenue or Acton Burnell in Shropshire, which really comes from meeting Rob Hales at Cassien in 1987 and staying friends with since, these are invites that normally don't happen but it's what comes of building up friendships and relationships over many years and many of the waters I fish around the world come about through being friends with people for many years. Offers do come out of the blue at times and one that springs to mind was a syndicate lake in southern Austria when a new owner just invited me because he liked what I'd done over the years and I ended up catching some of the best looking fish you could ever imagine - and to over 70lb!

TC: Do you have a favourite or preferred UK venue...?

SB: My favourite UK venue of all time was undoubtedly The Mere and when I stopped fishing there it took a long time before I really got back in to my UK fishing, I just literally couldn't find anywhere that motivated me in the same way and fishing abroad was the only thing that gave me anywhere near the same buzz. Fast forward to today and Kingsmead is probably my favourite water at the moment, I still love the little lake at Thorney Weir but I caught most of those, whereas Kingsmead has a big stock of very nice big carp that I've only just scratched the surface with, including some nice big commons and those are my main driving force at the moment but there are so many nice carp in there that I'd been very happy to catch.

TC: Obviously, people will say that being part of the Nash Tackle set up, gives you an advantage and opportunity to catch bigger carp, but is that true, is being part of Nash really an advantage or does it bring more



pressure to catch the bigger Carp...?

SB: There are always pros and cons to any situation in fishing and life in general. Being part of the Nash team is brilliant and I wouldn't swap it for anything. There are advantages that come with that of course and one is having access to good bait and more of it than perhaps many people do but people always use the term 'free bait' which is not true it comes as part of an allowance which is effectively part of my wages that comes every year and I have to work and earn that allowance - you don't get anything for nothing in this life!

Other than that I wouldn't say that being with Nash gives me the opportunity to catch bigger fish as such, we organise all of our own fishing trips and, do the groundwork and pay for them all ourselves, but we exclusively use Nash Tackle and Bait when on those trips and it just so happens that we have the faith in what we use that it will catch the fish whether it may be big or small fish at any given time. Having confidence in what I use is what helps me to be consistent in catching big fish around the world and I never have to look anywhere else for the right kit or bait because Nash really have just about everything I need.

I very rarely feel under pressure to produce big fish, or any fish, I just do what I do naturally and most times the fish come. I always look to do my best anyway and one guy came up to me at the Den Bosch show and said that he'd watched me over many years and that I was consistently one of the hardest working anglers that he knew! I never feel that I'm pushing out of my comfort zone but I always want to do as well as I can in my own fishing and that in turn works well for Nash too.





Filming the blogs and writing articles such as this are all things that I actually enjoy doing and not to be unkind but to be blunt, anyone who feels constantly under pressure to produce is perhaps not really up to it and won't last the distance!

TC: We started off by mentioning what a great 2022 you had and that you have once again been well travelled, so how do you keep your motivation to fish in the UK, given that the Carp across Europe are bigger and the restrictions on waters, especially Public Access are far less...?

SB: I often get asked about my motivation and what keeps it going and I can only answer that by saying that it's always there and I can't see a time where that would be any different, I simply love going fishing and catching fish and I've yet to find anything that I enjoy more so I can't see it changing. I think the variety is what keeps it fresh, we do love the travelling away to new venues in new countries but my UK fishing is very important to me too and to the people looking on too. I always feel that catching big carp abroad is given much more relevance if I am also catching carp that mean something in the UK too.

I must admit that it was the space and freedom that really attracted me to fishing abroad in the first place, being let loose on Cassien with virtually no rules, few anglers and big fish in wide expanses of water was such a breath of fresh air after the rules and restrictions of my local waters, where you had to be looking over your shoulder all the time. But UK fishing is still in me and something I'm drawn to year after year and the UK waters I'm fishing now aren't what I'd call restricting and within reason I can fish quite happily how I want to - I'd say they have sensible rules and not ones that diminish the enjoyment and I'm happy enough with that.

TC: Are you bored with twenties and thirties after catching forty plus carp on a regular basis, do the smaller Carp become a bit like Bream, a bit of a nuisance...?





SB: HaHaHa.. good question and one that does crop up now and then. No I never get bored with catching any size of fish, especially when it comes to UK fishing, there will always be that side of carp fishing where it's only the big ones that are important and the smaller fish are frowned upon, you see it

on social media all the time and of course we all want to catch the bigger fish, otherwise we'd be down the streams catching minnows but you can't fish for as many years as I have without enjoying most of the fish you catch.

I'm as guilty as anyone of showing more big fish when possible as that's how things work and it's a fact of life that a big fish will get more 'likes' than a small one for instance but that's not a reflection of how I feel just how the business works. There are times when fish get put back without pics or much of a glance, fishing Lake Zajarki in Croatia I was literally catching so many 20's and 30's that it was impossible to photograph them and get the rod back out fast enough, so many were just unhooked in the net and released but that's just the situation at the time.

Over the last few years in the UK, I think I've photographed every carp that I've caught ranging from 10lb up to 57lb, they won't all get used and people won't see all of them but they are all special and memorable to me. Having said that a bream will always be a bream, though!

TC: Having landed your first ever Carp in March 1973, do you still get a 'buzz' from catching now, or is that limited to when you land the big fish...?



SB: That first carp in March 1973 almost seems like a different person in a different lifetime now but I still remember most things about that capture like it was yesterday. I don't always remember everything about each capture now in such vivid detail but I still get that buzz every time the alarm sounds. Joan will say that I've calmed down which is a good thing as there were times when I'd literally jump through the bivvy door when I got a run such was my excitement level. Of course I'm always aiming towards the bigger fish in any venue that I fish and yes, most times the biggest fish do give me the biggest buzz but I'd still get a buzz from watching a float dip under and reeling in a Gudgeon from a little stream.

TC: If memory serves me correct, your current UK Personal Best is Fifty-Nine pounds and ounces, so, is there a pressure to land a sixty and if so, what are you doing to achieve that, or is a UK PB not a factor in your fishing anymore...?

SB: Yes, my UK PB is 59lb 2oz and a fish I was really pleased to catch. It came from a one-off social trip with friends to Elphicks North Lake in Kent, we had a great time and I caught that huge mirror along with a few others all on zig rigs, which is not one of my favoured methods but it certainly was the go-to method on that trip.

I don't feel any real need to fish for a sixty although having said that I did start fishing the Island Lake because the biggun had been caught at 60lb on at least a couple of occasions but I wasn't disappointed when the needle stopped at 57lb for me. If the chance came around for a 60lb carp in a water I wanted to fish then I probably would go for it but there are so many PB opportunities in the varied fishing I do and as we've already mentioned I did break at least four carp PB's last year so everything has a time and a place. At the moment if I have a driving force it's more for the 50's from different countries, the Spanish one from the Ebro made sixteen countries and I'm the only one in the world to have done that and



there's not many chances in life to be the only person in the world to do something, so I'm proud of that!

TC: I know that people say since the 2020 pandemic and subsequent Lockdowns etc, Carp Angling has changed but do you agree with that and what if anything is the biggest change in the UK Carp scene you have seen in the past say, ten years...?

SB: The pandemic and lockdowns etc. did change everything in some way. I always like to see positives in any situation and the big positive for me was that it all pushed me back in to UK fishing more with the travel bans and I rediscovered my enthusiasm for that. Apart from that I don't know that it really changed carp fishing as such, there has of course been a gradual and constant change in carp fishing, it still continues to become more popular and there are more improvements and technical additions continuously coming in to our sport. As a rule people don't like change and you always see people berating new inventions but that's been going on for all the years I've been carp fishing and you can't turn back time however much some people would like to. The thing is that there are plenty of other new or better items that don't get the attention such as new rods, reels, bivvies that the vast majority of carp anglers must have, not to mention readily available bait for everyone. You can't pick

and choose - or actually you can, in reality people can fish however they want but how many of today's carp anglers would even still go fishing if they had the old gear, doing winters under



TalkingCarp

45" brollies and spending hours in the kitchen rolling 100 baits for the weekend? - anyway I think I'm going off track here a bit so I'll leave that one there.

TC: Do you feel that Carp Angling or at least Carp Anglers have gone soft... by that I mean is it more like 'Camping with Fishing Tackle' as opposed to 'Fishing with a Shelter' now and do you see that as a detraction from what the sport/hobby is about or was it inevitable, like the use of Bait Boats, and Baiting Poles and Drones etc..?

SB: You must have read my mind ha ha. I started answering this question in the previous one - ok I'll carry on then. I don't think that carp anglers have particularly gone more soft - although there is an element of that, but I just think that there are a lot more anglers fishing now that wouldn't be fishing if there weren't all the modern comforts.

It doesn't stop good anglers being good anglers, I still see Dave Lane sleeping out under the stars unless it's raining and look at Alan Blair, he has access to mountains of gear but is at his happiest just wandering around with a rod and a small bag of bits.

The new inventions or additions such as bait boats, drones, baiting poles etc. all have a purpose and I use all of them at different times - if I think they will help, but at the end of the day you still have to find fish, decide on tactics, on how much bait and where to put it and no amount of technology will make you a better angler.

As I said earlier people hate change and I've seen people berating the baiting poles (not that they are particularly new) but anyone who's actually used one will know that they are more tricky than they appear and getting the best out of them takes a lot of practice but getting that presentation right and especially catching a fish when you know you've got it right makes all that effort worthwhile in my books.



An interview with....



TC: Do you think that Tackle Companies have encouraged the 'Camping' approach or is it just a response to a market demand and what anglers want... Back in the 80's and 90's and even the up to the mid 2000's, did you crave for a 'Fan' in your bivvy or room to stand up...? HaHaHa

SB: I think the tackle companies cater for a demand and they only supply items that sell - if they don't sell they soon get dropped!

There was always a natural need for more comfortable things for us and the fish. We used to use double covers on our Argos bed chairs with sponge in between to try and make them more bearable and plastic sheets as brolly covers before they were 'invented' and of course it was carp anglers who started using foam sections as mats for the fish before companies started producing them and then they became compulsory items in fishery rules!

Going back in time we just used what we had available to us then and in the 1980's I would've thought I'd gone to heaven if I'd been given a Titan T1 with groundsheet and an Indulgence Sleep System instead of the bone chilling, back aching, draughty rubbish that I once had to use!

Many things come from the actual spread of carp fishing, I remember the first time I saw someone use a gazebo, it was at a competition in Romania and I had this tiny but very 'carpy' bivvy and I laughed when these two guys were setting up this great big thing, but the laugh was on me when I was roasting in the 40 degree heat and they were relaxing in the shade drinking beers!

TC: I have to admit, that after years of sleeping on a 'Ratchet' Sun Lounger, which by the way are now referred to as 'Retro' and fetch upwards of £100 second-hand, with a Velcro 'wrap' on my Brolly and a plastic 'groundsheet' I would not now swap my Nash Tackle MF60 with Heated Blanket, which sits nicely in my 'Block House' with room for my 'Moon Chair' and 'Bank Life' Tables and Storage.. just so I didn't look like I



was camping.... and that's just for a day session...!!!!

So, my question to you is; what is the one bit of kit you couldn't now live without that you didn't have a ten years ago...?

SB: There are so many bits of kit that I couldn't do without now that it's hard to pin it down to one or two. I've spoken at length about the bivvies and bed chairs and they are important to me. I use bait boats occasionally and Bushwhackers but would manage without them if I had to. If I honestly had to say the item that has made the most difference in the last few years it's the motorised barrow, again not particularly new but I've only used one since Nash brought them out and it's enabled me to fish much more effectively. I used to think nothing of carrying all my gear for a session up the banks of Harefield or around Darenth Tip Lake but I do have a lot more gear now and it is more bulky but I am an angler who wants to move if I feel I'm not on the fish there's absolutely no doubt that the Trax Evo Barrow has helped me to move and catch fish where I might not have moved otherwise.

TC: ...anyway, now I digress.. getting back to your UK Angling, do



you have any notable differences in the gear you use over here compared to your European fishing in terms of Rods, Reels, Line etc...?

SB: As a rule there is a big difference



in the gear I use for home or away fishing. It's one of the biggest problems I have sorting out and changing everything around, unloading the van etc. every time I swap from one to the other.

Take our most recent trip to the Ebro, we had the inflatable boat, echo sounders, electric engines, Titan T3 bivvy, big cooker, bivvy heater, reels loaded with heavy braid, lead weights between 6oz and 10oz, tiger nuts and 24mm boilies for bait, size 4 and 2 hooks.

Back home and if I want to go to Kingsmead for two or three nights, I need a different set of rods and reels, the Trax Evo Barrow, Titan T1 bivvy, Bushwhacker Pole and spare sections, smaller cooking bag and cooker etc. 2oz to 4oz leads, size 8 to size 5 hooks, 12mm to 15mm boilies!!

So, it's not very often I can do a quick turn around when coming back home after a long trip away, I need a different set of gear and just getting it all unloaded and swapped around from the van takes me days - two fishing vans would be the ideal answer but I can't see that happening any time soon.



TC: ... and what about Rigs and Hook Patterns and Presentation...?

SB: The actual rigs and baits themselves are a lot more constant, yes, I change sizes and breaking strains, things like that



but in recent years I have stuck largely to the Slip D rig with a Long Shank Twister hook and to Scopex Squid boilies. They are things that I think are important not to mess about with too much, I have confidence in them and they work for me anywhere in the world, so some things do remain constant. There are always various rules to consider but the items and baits I use generally fit in to those ok. There are variants such as hook barbs.

RK Leisure has a barb only rule which I prefer to be honest but for Echo Pool they have strict rules that only allow short shank, beaked hooks that are also barbless. They were happy when I showed them the barbless Claw pattern and using them all week, I didn't lose a single fish, landing twelve carp and three catfish.

So I can be adaptable when needed but I prefer to stick my old faithful Slip D when possible. I never seem to have more than two or three rigs tied up in advance, I wish I could have hundreds of them ready to go but I never seem to have the time for that.

TC:.. and obviously, Bait, given that UK waters have so many Bait Bans from Nuts to Naturals to Plastic to Pheromones (that last one was a joke.. although I guess they would be banned...!!!)

SB: HaHa... love it.... There are so many good baits around now people really don't know how lucky they are, but I do feel that Scopex Squid is the best that I've ever used. Don't get me wrong I've used plenty of other good baits but none have worked so well on so many different waters as Scopex Squid has - I've simply never taken it anywhere that it hasn't worked! I do use the particles too. I've always loved using hemp and use that in conjunction with pellet as ground bait to fish the boilies over but Tiger Nuts have so many uses too. It was interesting on the Ebro that on the Riba Roja stretch all of our carp came on tiger nuts fished over tigers and maize. I tried one rod with a boilie and caught a catfish straight away! A week



later we went down to Mequinenza and the Tigers didn't produce nearly as well, instead it was the 24mm Scopex Squid that the carp really wanted and I only had three cats in two weeks on them?! It just shows that you can never be too fixed in your ideas and tactics as sometimes you need to tweak things. Otherwise I like to fish as simply as possible, on the Ebro I was boosting the Scopex Squid hook baits with the booster spray but that is quite unusual for me, I do tend to use baits straight out of the bag as they come and just the same as what's available to everyone else, I don't get mine specially made or anything like that and that's why I can feel comfortable telling people what works when they ask because it's all stuff that's off the shelf for them too.

TC: Slightly diversifying again, although I don't recall the publication (sorry), I do recall that many years back you were a Magazine Editor with or for, the great Mr. Paisley... So, with the demise of numerous printed publications over the years, where do you see the written word in the next five years... will it be gone and replaced with Podcasts and Videos, in fact it now seems that every podcast has a video too, so I'm not even sure what they are anymore, a Vodcast perhaps...?!

...and with virtually all Manufactures and even Tackle Shops releasing videos, some that I personally feel are attempting more to get a 'Comedy Award', we will lose this type of interview, one where the written word is used to convey a story or message, I mean, even we are 'online' and can link to video etc. so we are "in between" I guess...?

SB: I started writing for magazines back in the late 1980's I think the old CAA mag was the first that I had something published in. I started writing for Angling Publications as they paid regularly whereas Big Carp stopped paying after a while. The link became closer with Tim Paisley over time and I won't say that I was the best writer out there but I was good with the English language and written word, grammar etc. So that led on to me becoming editor of what was to be a new title 'International Carper' it made sense as



I was the main angler in the company who had knowledge of the European scene and it was a tough but enjoyable job. The biggest problem with producing a magazine on continental fishing was that 90% of English people going abroad go to fish commercial waters of one type or another but 90% of the readers wanted to read stuff about the wild adventures to the big public waters and of course I understood that but out of the 10% that fished those waters only a few wanted to write for the mag or wanted to give away the waters they were fishing, so material was actually very hard to come by and I remember various times waiting on deadline day at the post box for an article or two to come through and somehow a mag was always produced!

Eventually after a disagreement with the management I stepped down as editor and Martin Ford took over. I remember telling him how difficult it was and he just smirked as if to say "I won't have any problem" but a short time later International Carper was placed into the back section of Carpworld before disappearing altogether. I'm amazed how fondly people remember the mag and it is something I look back on fondly too.

I think it's a real shame



TalkingCarp

what's happened to the magazine industry and for me, it's a loss for carp fishing. I'm not one for living in the past and I fully embrace the video scene and enjoy making them for my own channel (Steve Briggs YouTube) and Nash TV. But the monthly mags and of course Carp Talk were a big part of carp fishing for the majority of us. I know we still have some quality mags in the shape of Carpology and Total Carp to name a couple and hopefully they can last out but just the other day I heard from my good friend Przemek in Poland. His magazine is the biggest in Poland and I've written for that for 15 years, which is how I gain access to many Polish waters! All of the other Polish mags had fallen by the wayside and he told me at the end of the year that his magazine will also cease being printed and will go online. I guess it's all part of progress and nothing lasts forever but carp fishing is poorer for that I feel.

TC: ...and one final question, what's the chances of Joan doing an interview with me, will you put a good word in for me...?

SB: Yes I'm sure that Joan would be up for doing something, it might have to be dictated to me but I only have to put pictures up of her or feature her in a video and she gets far more of a positive reaction than I do, so why not? People really do want to hear from her and hear about her and so I think it's possible for sure.

TC: Steve, as always, it's been a real pleasure to chat with you and hopefully we can get you back to tell us about some of the European and further afield trips you have done over the years. I know you have caught 50lb Carp from at least sixteen different Countries, which is amazing considering some people don't even fish sixteen different venues... and, you have won the World Carp Cup not once, but twice, so you must have plenty of stories about that...?

SB: Yes, I suppose it's time to wrap this up before I get too carried away, the word count is up to nearly 6000 words now and I definitely need a cup of tea! I've really enjoyed all of this, so thanks for the



opportunity Mark it's much appreciated! Of course, one of the plus points of being in carp fishing for coming up to 50 years is that I've done a lot of things and have plenty of stories to tell. There are lots more UK stories from the past and hopefully in the future too, but like you say the 50's from different countries has been an ongoing thing for more than half of my life and yes, two World Carp Cup wins - competitions aren't my biggest motivation but when you get involved in something on such a large scale it is impressive to say the least and when you win them it is quite amazing! There are lots of stories from those that are funny, serious and interesting so maybe that is something for another time, they are all memories stored away so you only need to say the word! Thanks Mark.

TC: Once again, thank you Steve and I look forward to hearing about 2023 in due course and no doubt another fifty from another country..!!!

Instagram: @briggsy.steve

https://www.nashtackle.co.uk/en/

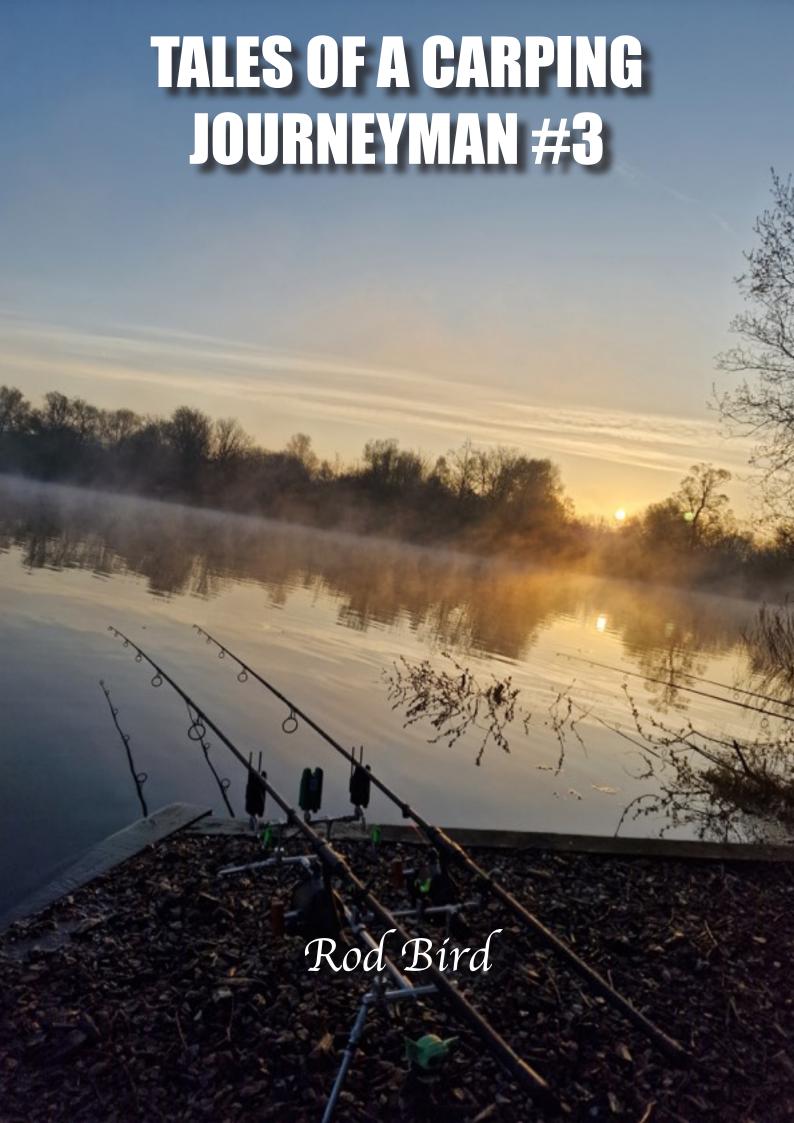






www.seasonedbaits.co.uk





The Forces Carp Classic UK

After missing last year's event it was time for me and Dicky Barton, my long-time fishing partner to take part in the Forces Carp Classic UK event at the iconic RK Leisure Wrasbury complex. The event was to be fished on both the North and South lakes, and we could not wait. The planning for the event started weeks before we were due to set off, trying not to over think things, but we did as usual, we were so excited. After hours of research and looking through our notebooks, we came up with a direction and plan.....

The Forces Carp Classic UK is run by Russ Marsh and Tim Grey, two good friends of ours that we served alongside in the Army. Russ and Tim have been doing the FCC events for 15 years now and they do a fantastic job, their work ethic is legendary, in fact they now get involved with helping to run the World Carp Classic, no mean feat. There are 2 events every year, the FCC UK, always at Wraysbury North and South Lakes and the FCC held at the Abbve Lakes Complex in France, this October will see the 15 Year Anniversary,

we cannot wait for that one either.
The FCC events raise money for
2 great charities, Great Ormand
Street Hospital and BLESMA (The
Limbless Veterans Association)
....for more details on the events
check out the web pages and social
media......back to the story

The event was to take place 5th to 9th of April and it's a pairs event, you can also team up with another pair to become a Team, we paired up with our Carp4Kids colleagues Miranda Brown and Shell Tarling.

I left my house in Norton near

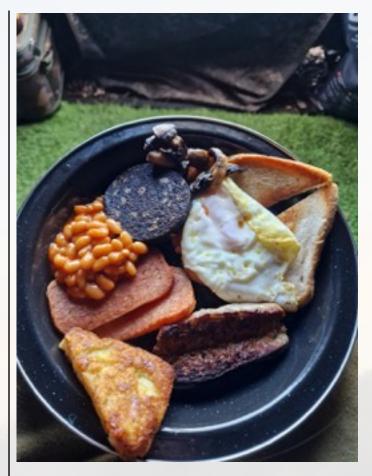


TalkingCarp

Stockton on Tees and got on with a five-and-a-half-hour drive down to Wraysbury, with the rest of the competitors driving from right across the country. The drive was easy as I was so ready for this event, Wraysbury owes me a fish, it really does. On arrival we booked in and had a walk around the fantastic complex, excitement levels were off the scale, it took a good 3 hours to walk round. I'm over meticulous with grading each swim, I feel sorry for the gang who walked round with me, but it needs to be right.

After walking round and a quick team meeting, we went to the wonderful clubhouse where we had a Hog Roast and a talk from Simon Crow, which was very interesting. A few beers later (yeah right!) it was time to crash before the draw in the morning.

The morning soon arrived, and we had a competitor's photo taken, then the draw.....I hate draws I really do, as it determines your chances. We came out quite far down the draw, it's horrible as you score off your favored swims one at a time, when we were called out we had little choice so picked our best



of the rest pegs, it was North Lake Peg 28 "Secret Reedy" which had been the winning peg a few years back at the BCAC, with Miranda and Shell coming out after us and selecting North Lake Peg 13 "Long Chuck". Nothing to do now but head to our chosen pegs, and so it began....

...On arrival in the swim, we had a forty mile an hour wind straight into our peg...! "That's good" I hear you say, but no, it definitely wasn't good, it was freezing, and we could see the carp lunking at the far end of the lake in the slack water. Dicky



decided to fish the reeds in the corner, we had a few marks to work on out there after our research, so he got on with leading around, clipping up then spodding.

I decided to fish towards the 'Pea Island' and found a nice clear spot one rod length from it, and one just to the left of it between the Pea Island and the Main Island, so I got the Spod Rod out and started to get some bait in. We knew there was little chance of a carp with this wind and then the rain started..... deep joy...!! After a quiet 24hrs I switched one rod into the mouth of the bay near Dicky as we decided that that would be the best place for a bite, we really needed the weather to change......and it did, hailstones and a stronger wind...!!!!!!

48hrs in and a pattern was starting to take shape, but not in our swim, or indeed our half of the lake, no fish landed at the end of the wind, and several taken at the top end of the lake in the slack water. But we kept at it, introducing bait, and checking rigs etc., ready for when the wind would either die down or switch. After a visit from Miranda, she noted how cold our swim was, it didn't cheer us up when she said

everyone up there is in T-shirts and shorts and we were wrapped up like a right couple of kippers. Eventually, the wind did die down on the last afternoon, which spurred us into checking our spots and getting fresh baits on. I even tried a "far out for a big trout" 'Choddy' though the gap in the islands after pulling out of the Bay. I felt I had more chance there, spodding was hard at about thirty wraps, still with a reasonable wind, but not as bad as it had been.

Fishing competitions is hard work when you're not on the fish, even with about eighty years' experience





between us, we were struggling to keep up the hard work, but we did. Morning came with some glorious sunshine and no wind, at last our real chance of a bite, but the 12:00 hooter went, with not even one show in our swim. We never let these things get us down though, we always walk away knowing we had done our best to catch, hey, if the fish aren't there you can't catch them...!

Knowing we contributed to the charities and met up with many of our friends and enjoyed a few beers and told a few tales to make us all laugh and remembering fallen comrades helps us all with our mental health, job done. Guess what, Wraysbury still owes me!

I need an April Carp!

On my return from Wraysbury I unpacked and turned my gear around, re-packed the van ready for whatever was next. I had nothing planned until the 21st of the month, which was a Carp4Kids Academy Fundraiser match at Linear Brasenose 2, but once again a match with a draw, what if I get a bad peg? I hadn't caught a carp this month, I can't wait until

then for chance of catching an April carp! I think I mentioned in an earlier piece that I try to catch a carp every month of the year, May to November is not too bad, but January to April can be quite hard and with December being really unpredictable it's not easy to do, it's just a way of motivating myself to get out there when I could just sit in the warm house and watch a bit of telly.

Another little target I set myself is to catch a carp over 50lb every year, that's really hard to do, but I've managed it for about the last ten years, but with no trips into Europe until next month, that one is still hanging over me.....who would be me eh?





Good old 'Charlies'

After a few days at home licking my wounds, I decided to have a walk around Charlies, my local water and see what's going on. There were a few anglers on there, after a couple of brews and a mooch about I saw a group of carp milling around in peg 1, so I made the dreaded call to my ever-understanding better half Janet and informed here I'd be doing an overnighter.

I nipped back home to sort some food out, twenty minutes tops, back to the car park and got my barrow out and took off the gear I wouldn't really need, and got myself down to peg 1, there was a guy fully set up on there, he must have gone down the back path as I was just leaving past the swims, what's the chances, oh well, Peg 2 it is.

I know Peg 2 intimately as I was only there a few weeks ago, so I got my Distance Sticks set up, clipped up and got my rods out.. The good old barbless Ronnie Rigs with Karper Ltd 15mmTutti Frutti Ultra-Fluro Pop-Ups

where cast onto the clear area in front of the Reed Island spot I had found previously. I then got the Spod Rod set up and with the left-over mix from Wraysbury, which consisted of Karper Ltd crushed Sweetcornz boilies, Sweetcornz Pellets, Sweetcorn, Hemp, Sweetcorn Energizer Syrup and Hemp Oil with a couple of handfuls of Sweetcornz Micro Pellets, I put it to work with ten Spods over the rigs, which were literally two feet apart.

I was just setting my bivvy up when the right hand Delkim gave a little Two Beep drop back, a quick check of the rod tip and nothing was happening, so I returned to setting my home up, and once again my right hand alarm was informing me





of some interest, a little drop back again, yep that's enough for me, so I lifted the rod up nice and steady and reeled down until I felt resistance, wow that was quick...! I proceeded to play, then land a nice lively Mirror of about 16lb, what a start, that will do...

home, April carp in the bag! Only joking, whilst the carp sulked in the landing net, I put a new Pop-Up on after clipping up and got it back on the spot, Three Spods over the top, job done, the trap was re-set. One of the bailiffs came round just as I was about to do a selfie, he took over and took a lovely picture for me, the carp in Charlies are so beautiful with big scales and clean mouths, it's incredible for a Park Lake.

I managed to set up my home and had a brew and some dinner before getting some more Spod mix out there. I spent the next hour making up some rigs for the Carp4Kids fundraiser match.

I use Terminal Tackle UK for all my rig components, they are top notch and never let me down, and cost a lot less than some other brands out there, have a look at their web site. I cannot recommend them enough, the hooks are incredible, in fact a couple of guys took a real interest in my rigs and proceeded to order some stuff straight away, give them a go.

I spent the night landing a further Nine Carp during the hours of darkness and I was going to say,

"nothing special", but that would be wrong, they are all special, just not very big. But at six in the morning, as the sun was just hitting the left hand ICI Cooling Tower my left hand rod was away at a crazy rate of knots, no grey area, one toner, I nearly chucked my coffee all over the place..... I lifted into a better carp, it fought like mad,



TalkingCarp



I managed to land the beautiful Scaly Carp known as 'The Christmas Fish', he's just over 17lb, but a named and much sought after resident of this little gem of a Lake where some of these carp are over Thirty years old.

I managed a nice selfie and with no Spod mix left I decided to refresh the rig, clip it up once more and cast it out, I then started to pack way, well happy but very tired. Time to get home and sort my gear out again.....

The Carp4Kids Academy Fundraiser

Having not fished at Linear for about five years and that one being the only time I'd fished it, I had to do a lot of research, which to be honest was quite easy, there were lots of vids on YouTube to watch whilst having my morning brew every day. Once again it was over a five-hour drive to get there and was looking forward to heading down south again where the weather is better, nice warm and sunny (it's grim up north), but little did I know the weather gods had taken hold of things and given

them a right shake up, it was to be very cold, wet and windy, but hey-ho I'd packed an extra two teabags so I'd be warm enough.

On arrival I met up with Dicky
Barton, Miranda Brown, Shell
Tarling and John Glasscoe who are
all part of the Carp4Kids Academy,
and the first job was to peg the
lake. Luckily Miranda had already





sorted the map out for the pegs so it wasn't as much of a chore as it might have been and within a couple of hours, we had it all sorted. I made the most of the time walking the lake and spoke to any anglers who were on and gleaned some interesting information from them.

The event was to be a 'Mixed Pairs'. I didn't know my partner who was Penny Gidlow, one of the girls involved with the England Carp Team and she wasn't turning up until the draw at 08:30 the following morning. After pegging the lake there were a few of the anglers who had turned up, about fifteen of us started to drink tea and behave ourselves..... yeah right, the beer, cider and several shots were flowing with a BBQ getting fired up, it wasn't going to be a quite night, but that's what its all about at event like this, we were all there to give to the Academy so there was no pressure.....

The morning soon came with a slight fog, not on the lake, which was Brasenose 2, the fog was in my head, "Damn you Beer and Cider..!", you'd think at my age I would have learned by now. I was

up before 06:00 and after a quick brew I had another walk round the lake grading each swim, looking at wind direction mostly as there was a cold wind and had a feeling the carp would sit at the back of it. I walked round twice to get back just in time for the draw.

Penny was there so we had a twominute chinwag before the dreaded time came, where would we be fishing for the two nights. We came out quite far down the draw with sixteen pairs fishing and managed to get about my eighth choice swim





my first three choices came and went with the first three pairs picking them and I started to get that sinking feeling of dread, "I'm running out of decent pegs here", but it was what it was, we managed to get pegs 4 and 5 at the bottom of the bowl, right where the freezing wind was pushing, yet again scuppered by the draw, but you know me by now, I wouldn't let this get me down and we had a couple of hours before we could get the Marker Rods out so had a nice leisurely set up.

11:00 came and so did our Marker Rods... it didn't take long to find the old road that runs through the lake, between 18 and 23 wraps, down with a crack so we decided to give it a go and proceeded to get the bait out there. Once again the same Karper Ltd mix that I love was fired out, about thirty Spods over two spots two-feet apart, now at this point we knew there was little or no chance of catching due to the wind, but we would work at it until something happened or we saw fish in our swim in a different area.

12:00 came and the rods were ready to go out. I decided on Ronnie Rigs made with Terminal

Tackle UK end tackle once again, hey why change something that isn't broken...?! The Ronnies were loaded with Karper Ltd 15mm Ultra-Fluro Tutti Frutti Pop-Ups, with the rods in, which took a few casts to get spot on, it was time for a brew and a catch up with Penny.

Her rods went out well, so we were both happy with what we had done, but there was still that niggle of us being in a bad spot for the wind direction.

A very wet and windy night soon came and went, with not a single





touch, time for a chinwag after breakfast and we both agreed that we were doing nothing wrong so would stick to the Spods and wait for the wind to change, it had been a very cold night and neither of us had heard anything during those silent dark hours. I found it hard to sit on my hands and around 10:00 I saw a fish dolphin at distance, straight in front of me, then another, at about forty wraps, but my boundary was thirty-eight wraps...!

I decided to take my left rod in and get a 'Zig' out there, a proven tactic on Brasenose 2, but with the high wind I was struggling to get passed thirty-three warps, so roamed around with that rod for a few hours, to no avail, Penny had tried Solid Bags on her spot as a few fish had been caught up the lake on that tactic.

At 13:00 there was a break for a BBQ, cooked by Lee Perrett a good friend of hours, and it was awesome, the sun had come out, and dare I say the wind had changed, it was hard to sit there knowing that the whole situation could now be in our favour. The break was supposed to be from 13:00 to

17:00, but after a few words from everyone it was agreed that the fishing would commence at 15:00, so much for a fun match with no pressure, yeah right, we all had our fishing heads on, not that mine ever comes off.....

On return to the swim there were a few quick captures in the middle of the lake a few pegs up from us, then a triple take the next but one swim up, and we could now see literally 100's of carp sipping a hatch off the top, almost straight in front of me, but once again out of our water, I did send a cheeky Zig out there lol, well you would wouldn't you??!





Early evening saw the carp activity increase as did the captures straight across from me on the Beach swim, with some fantastic long range Zig casting, 9ft Zigs at thirty odd wraps, it was incredible to watch, but slightly frustrating as the carp were probably forty wraps from me. The evening turning into night with no activity, we decided to refresh the baits and get some more Spod mix on the spots. At 01:30 penny had a run, with a large angry carp, but it snagged her up, she was shouting to me, but unfortunately the only thing that wakes me up is a beep on my alarms, she had a hell of a battle with the fish but she lost it in the snag, she recast and got some more Spod out....

...I awoke to a glorious morning, now I could have sat on my hands and just let the match disappear, but decided with six hours to go, to try something a little different, I got two x Terminal Tackle UK 'Fused Booms' and made a couple of Stiff Boom Ronnies up with my favourite 'Advance Curve Hooks', and put two 12mm Karper Ltd Yellow Spicy Nut (SN) Pop-Ups on them. I decided to Spod some mix out before sending the rig out and did

so with around fifteen Spods over the top of my original spots, then cast out my rods. the first went out perfectly in line with my distant tree line marker, my second got the good old encouraging crack as the lead hit the road. I unclipped it and put the bail arm over, holding the rod in my right hand and tightening the slack line with my other hand to sink it, I couldn't believe how quickly it was sinking, then I realised, I was actually into a fish, it must have seen it on the drop, what's the chances...had the fished moved in...?!!





... I played the fish and landed it with ease, it was a beautiful scaly Mirror. I left it in the net whilst I got a fresh rig and re-clipped the rod and cast it out, with another five Spods over the top. I called the Marshals, and they came and weighed the fish, she was just over 17lb, by no means a monster, but it put us on the score sheet with about five hours still to go, and a blank saver. Unfortunately, nothing else happened and the 12:00 hooter soon went off, match over. Had I just "sat on my hands", I would have never caught that Carp, so once again it just goes to show that keeping at it and working the swim to the best of your ability will help you catch more carp. We raised over £2800 for The

We raised over £2800 for The Carp4Kids Academy, which at the end of the day is what it was all about, everyone had a great time and we all agreed that the event would happen again next year and I for one cannot wait.

I would like to thank Tania Williams who ran the event whilst we fished it, and Barney Ward who marshalled the event. Barney is one of our Carp4Kids Ambassadors and is proving to be a wonderful young prospect.

So, there you have it, that was April

done and dusted. Not a prolific month but we had some crazy weather with high winds, hot and cold spells with quick temperature changes.

I'm looking forward to May, with a trip to Bay Lake in France (could get my 50lb+ carp for the year out of the way!) and a Karper Ltd Social at Norton Disney Pettitt's Lake, wish me luck, I'll be back next month with all the details.

Rod

Facebook: Rod Bird Carp Angler

Instagram: @carprod66
TikTok: @carprod66
YouTube: @carprod66

Karper LTD: https://www.karper.

co.uk/

Terminal Tackle UK: https://www.

terminaltackle.uk/

Future Carping: https://www.

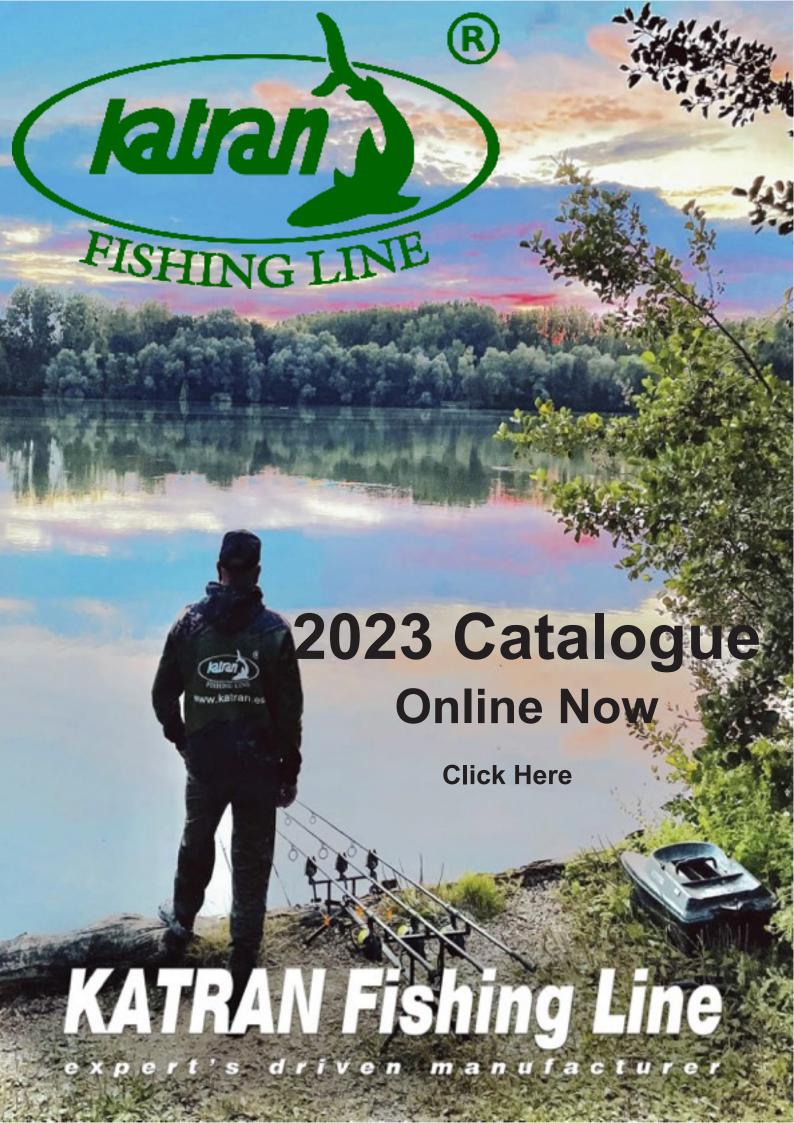
futurecarping.co.uk

The Carp4Kids Academy:

Facebook: The Carp4Kids Academy

Email: carp4ourkids@gmail.com







Having finally obtained my ticket for a lake we'll call "The park lake". I was itching to get started. I had originally logged interest in joining the club back in 2015. Unbeknown to me I hadn't actually been added to the list, however a few friends mentioned that the list was now open and one of them offered to propose me.

The park lake is a beautiful large body of water situated in established pine forest and heathland. It's lined with massive rhododendrons bushes which in the warmer months come into full bloom offering mesmerising bursts of deep purple. It's a vibrant place and popular with runners, cyclists, families and dog walkers alike.

The club that oversees the rights to fishing on there is a bit of a throwback to bygone eras. They like to keep to traditions and any new members or anyone wanting to renew tickets must do so in person at allotted dates. It was during one of those membership sessions that I met a number of the committee and a few of the bailiffs that look after the lakes. In fact, it was

the head bailiff for the park lake that took one look at me walking towards them to sign up and shouted "Jesus it's the incredible hulk". The banter didn't stop there and pretty soon I found myself thinking, what a top bunch of lads.

After being read the riot act by the chairman who is a gnarly, no nonsense character he warmed up a bit and began asking about my fishing. I explained I was predominantly a carp angler but I also loved targeting other species from time to time. This prompted him to beckon over the club treasurer. It turned out he was also a bailiff on the park lake and a wealth of knowledge. I'd had an idea that the lake had some very special old strains of fish but by the time he'd finished talking about the



TalkingCarp



stock I was left salivating. He offered to walk me round and give me a better understanding of the lake and a few weeks we did just that.

By mid-June I was now chomping at the bit and ready to get started on there. I'd walked it a number of times prior and watched as the lake and its surroundings slowly began to take on its stunning summer form. I picked a period that fell over my birthday for my first trip, using it as a good excuse to get three nights on the bank.

Parking on a nearby housing estate I took the long and arduous journey in sweltering heat with a fully laden barrow to an area the head bailiff referred to as Ibiza beach. This was a large sandy area and popular with the locals as I was about to find

out. Once there I was met with what can only be described as a scene from an American coming of age movie. There were sporadic groups of youngsters all over the place, towels strewn everywhere, music blaring and the faint aroma of something herbal. Welcome to Ibiza beach! This is probably most people's idea of hell and it wasn't exactly ideal but sometimes you have to overlook and overcome

obstacles, especially given the possible rewards. I stopped in a number of swims watching the water and walked the length of this area. There were people in the water swimming, creating merry hell and a lot of disturbance. The lake has a boat club on it and I felt sorry for them, people paid a considerable amount of money to be part of that club but were now hindered by people in the water. I sat in a swim and watched the sail boats for a while and noticed they were sticking to a large open area and noticed a safety boat, a small speed boat whizzing up and down monitoring the sailors. In the wake of me. I set up in that the safety boat, I watched a carp breach the water all the way to the wrist of its tail. That was enough for swim and



waited for the whistle blast which signalled the end of that session. Once the boats had gone, I aimed my marker rod at the route the speed boat had taken and cast out. Wallop, the lead crashed down and upon dragging it back towards me it felt like it was gliding along glass. A few more casts in other

areas and I was happy I'd found my spots. At that time, I was using a "test" bait from DT baits comprised of crustacean meal and baited the area with a liberal scattering using a throwing stick. I plonked the rods out and sat back in anticipation. Anticipation that the masses of delinquents

behind me would eventually bugger off and anticipation for the night ahead and the rods bursting into life. That night didn't exactly go to plan. I was plagued by bream of all shaped and sizes, then there were the cray fish! Come the morning I was sat having a coffee and procrastinating when my wonderful wife called.

She was planning on popping down to see me and wanted to know if I needed anything? I don't think ten kilos of N-blend was the answer she was expecting. Regardless she humped my bait all the way from the car to my swim and sat with me for a few hours.



TalkingCarp

That evening was the polar opposite from the one previous. I finally got into the carp and then some. I managed eleven bites landing eight including some "characters". One of them had a face only a mother could love and the

body wasn't much better. It got worse when I rolled it over and found it didn't even have an eye on that side. Regardless I was happy that I'd got away from the bream and crays and got on some carp. It's worth mentioning that both the crays and bream were kept at bay by the N-blend, no doubt because of the insane amount of tiger nut in it.

The last night was much the same





I managed another four fish one of them being an ancient looking common but the lions share being stockies, some of which are insane looking things. The future is most definitely bright.

Over the remainder of the summer and autumn I continued my run of form having multiple hits of fish each outing but again they were mostly made up of stockies. I had even started targeting other swims

> in the hope of finding some better fish but they just seemed to follow me.

At the end of autumn, myself and a friend decided we would do the winter on there and began a baiting campaign using DT's



Cold Water Green Beast. Between us we visited the lake every few days making sure the bait continued going in. It paid off too as I continued to have fish and on one occasion, we got together for a social which saw me have four and my friend managed two as well. But they still weren't of the stamp I'd hoped for.

At that point I'd grown a bit despondent and although close friends kept saying "the better ones would come it's a matter of time" I was starting to lose patience. I look back now and I didn't know how good I had it as a short time after that I tore a disk in my back having been involved in an accident at work. I was crippled with pain, unable to walk properly or sit up straight let alone get

out for a night's fishing.
Those three months felt
like the longest ever!
After months of seeing a
chiropractor and intensive
physio I managed to get
out for a few hours here
and there, I targeted
another one of the clubs'
lakes nearer home which
saw me have some really
stunning carp but my head

and my heart were back at the park lake. I was chomping at the bit to get back there and continue trying to get into the better fish.

Around early spring I made a slight change to my approach. I had previously been using presharpened hooks and tackle from a company I won't name. Although my landing ratio was better than my loss ratio it still didn't sit well with me and it wasn't a regular problem I'd ever had before. I found the hooks were far too soft at the tip and seemed to bur on every fish, meaning I'd go through a pack of hooks in one session. There were always one or two that were damaged in the pack as well. Needless to say, it was time for a





change and luckily, I was offered a position on the PB products team. I've used lots of their bits over the years and have always been mega impressed so it was a no brainer when given the opportunity. With some new tackle in my armoury and my back in a much better place it was time to head back to the park. I managed a handful of nights over a few weeks but once again I could only manage to catch the smaller fish. That being said the hook holds I was now getting since using the PB anti-eject hooks were a real confidence booster each fish was nailed slap bang in the bottom lip about an inch back. Things were different this time my resolve was stronger and a night on the bank and a wet net was a far better prospect then being stuck at home unable to get out. I had a lot of time

to make up for!

That bring us up to date. As I write this, I have just returned from two nights on the park lake. On my previous sessions as mention I'd started using PB products anti-eject hooks coupled with jelly wire. I'd picked up a few fish using a slip D wafter rig so I went in with that on two of my rods and a Ronnie rig using the same components on the third. This one was sitting on slightly dirtier substrate so I wanted it to just sit above it.

The first night was very eventful my first fish was an astoundingly beautiful scaly low twenty, if I'd come away that trip with only that fish to show for my efforts, I'd have been happy. It didn't end there though, I managed two more

stockies through the night which had taken its toll as I'm not the best on broken sleep. The following dawn my phone alarm started blaring out a racket, I wasn't in the mood or ready



to get up and instead opted for the snooze button, something I never usually do. Having seen to that I was out cold again the sleeping bag pulled up over my head to block out the growing light. What felt like only seconds later I was abruptly woken up to the alarm again, or so I first thought but I quickly realised it wasn't my phone letting out a racket it was the welcome sound of my right hand Delkim. I bolted out of bed and over to the rod snatching it from off the buzz bar. "Ah another stockie" I said to myself. I played it all the way in down my righthand margin certain it was another scamp until a big boil hit the surface a rod length out followed by the flank of a rather deep and chunky looking common. My pulse began to race and my legs started to buckle. I knew exactly what fish it

was and it definitely wasn't a stockie and definitely wasn't small. I walked backwards bringing it closer to the net cord before swooping forward and scooping it up. The immense feeling of relief hit me like a heavy weight punch. After

countless stockies and smaller fish there she was a stunning chunky common and a PB common at that.

I wanted to write this for anyone out there struggling whether that's physically, mentally or any other way. You might be struggling to get time on the bank because of work or family commitments, struggling with a long blank spell or finding it hard to get the buzz for it. Ride it out it's just a short blip in time. You have to believe it will come good eventually. The most important thing is appreciating and enjoying the journey.

Thanks for reading,

Dan Winfield



TalkingCarp

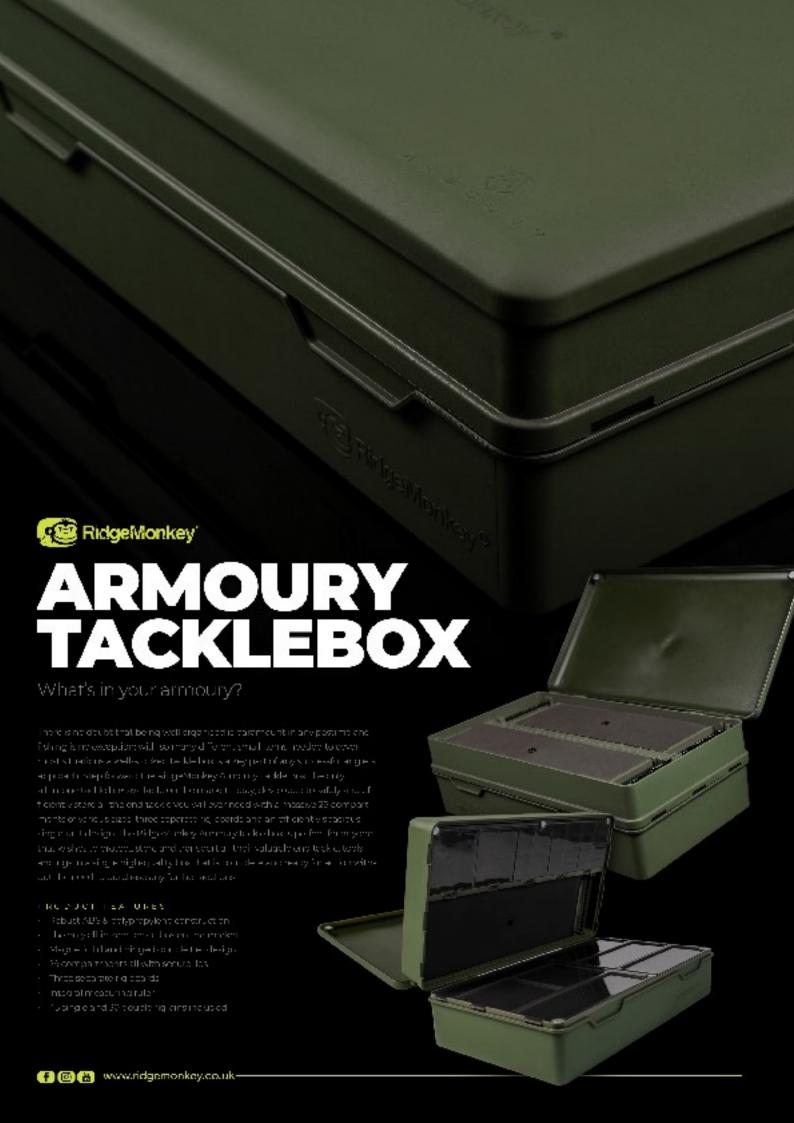


for the great outdoors.

AFBare Droppsck Winter Clothing Range Available in Small to XXXL. Black and Green colours available Nine garments within the range.

RIDGE MONKEN SIGCKIS SIII







Straight to the point.





Serendipity

Serendipity is an unplanned fortunate discovery. The occurrence and development of events by chance. In a happy or beneficial way.

That's exactly how I found myself sat, by what might be described as an old farm pool. Somewhere deep in the heart of the Midlands. Not a million miles from where I grew up as a child but at a pool that until a chance phone call a few weeks earlier, I never knew existed. The Pool was, and still is very much hush hush. It was from a good friend Mike who I had first met fishing down at Carp Society's Horseshoe Lake in Lechlade that I first heard about the Pool. He had got himself a new syndicate ticket elsewhere so was dropping his ticket.

Was I interested in having his place? he asked

I arranged to meet up with the owner, Mike and a few of the other members over a Barbecue one lovely early Summers evening and have a walk round. A rundown of roughly what the Pool held in terms of stock (approximately 40 - 60 Carp averaging around the low 20lb

mark with a Big Mirror and an even larger Common) The reassurance of no silly rules and the fact it seemed an altogether thoroughly lovely place to fish. I was soon handing over my cash. The fact that it was rarely fished and held a stunning thirty pound Common very much helped to seal the deal. The pool itself is no more than a handful of acres in size and a basic oval shape. As you drive in it has shallow water immediately to your left at the slightly wider end. Along both lengths of the pool there are a few overhanging trees and a variety of reeds, sedges and bushes. The opposite end was slightly deeper and holds a large set of Lily pads. A beautiful little pool very much left to its own devices with the odd gap in the Bankside vegetation to poke you rods through. Lovely stuff indeed

Seasonal Shenanigan's

My first trip coincided with the annual Carps seasonal Shenanigan's at my other Syndicate waters. With the Farm pool being relatively small the fish seemed to have got their spawning activities out the way before most other lakes had even started. As a result, a



mid-June evening saw me having a wander round the banks for the first time with the actual intention of fishing. I was the only person there and the fish seemed in a very relaxed mood. They were clearly evident at both ends of the pool cruising around in the early evening sunshine.

After a good while doing nothing but watching, I decided to set up along the middle of the near side road bank. Pretty much bang in the centre of the Pool. Casting both rods towards the shallows to my left which held a small amount of weed and with what looked like approximately half the Pools stock. Being uncertain on how to approach my first session I opted for a very simple self-prepared particle mix which I spodded out a rod length my side of the weed and put two Wafters straight over the top.

I drifted off that evening to a very pleasant sleep. It was reasonably short lived with one of my Delk's breaking the silence not long after midnight. The take was ferocious, followed by a prolonged battle. The fish would come three quarters of the way in only to then burst back

off on another almighty run. This went on for a good twenty minutes or so until I finally netted what turned out to be a very lean and angry male Common Carp.

My first fish from the Pool at a shade under 18lb. I topped the spot up with a few more spoms and settled down to see what the rest of the night held.

The morning arrived with no more action. The single fish seemed to have signalled the end of the swim. I watched for several hours at first light for any signs of feeding but my spot looked dead. Strangely one bite seemed to have totally killed the area.

With time quickly running out before I was due off I put a few handfuls of bait in the margins to my right, not far from the lily pads. I'd keep an eye on it and see if any fish came to investigate. I'd seen quite a few carp cruising this area yesterday evening.

After my morning cup of tea I crept back to check the margin spot and unbelievably there were already Carp with their heads down and tails up, feeding away happily. The importance here, I kept telling myself, was not to mess this opportunity up!





I had to wait until the fish drifted off back before I could very carefully position my hook bait in the right area.

It wasn't long before the fish came back, this time with an extra guest. I now had four Carp literally tearing up the bottom not two feet from the bank. My rod was lying on the deck, I was intently watching for signs of a bite when the clutch on my reel tore off and a fish was hooked. An amazing close in battle had me slipping the net under another lovely Common Carp, this time just over the 20lb mark.

I was hugely pleased with my first session but a little concerned at how my main area had died after one bite. Food for thought....

Summer Solstice

I was back a week later for a short overnight session. Whilst fish up and down the Country were still up to no good, my little slice of paradise was still open for angling.

I sat and watched the Pool again without rushing in, although my time was short it was important to get my location right. Again, the fish seemed pretty much spread out evenly at both ends. The weed in the shallows and the pads in the deeper water seemed to offer the Carp cover and they were shoaled up there accordingly. I'd only glimpsed the odd fish in the central section and they always seemed to be travelling towards one form of cover or the other.

I decided to try the opposite end to last week, going with the same approach of a bed of particles in a tight area with two Wafters over the top and seeing how the fish





responded with a little extra water over their heads.

The result was exactly the same, a blistering take around 2.30am which had the reel spinning with what seemed like impossible speed. These fish were clearly not caught often and fought like their lives depended on it. Swatting the midges and mosquitoes away in the head torch lit darkness I netted a beautiful chunky Common of 22lbs and a few ounces. One fish, one bite and it killed the swim once again.

That night was the Summer Solstice. I got some beautiful photos of the sun rising on the longest day of the year in the early morning light, a truly stunning sunrise.

I was away early and left pondering a change of

approach. I needed to turn water into wine, I needed to turn one bite into many.

A New Plan of Action

I couldn't keep away, three days later and after a hard day at work I arrived, armed with a new plan of action.... But First was to try and find the bulk of the fish.

Having seen a few cruising along the end of the pads I set up on the right hand bank with plenty of open water between my rods and the lilies. I didn't want to hook a fish in the dark just to lose it amongst the stems. I'd been set up for about an hour when a fish boshed out at the opposite end in the shallows. No problems, it's just one. Bosh again, definitely a different fish than the first one. Followed by another, and another



TalkingCarp



I Frantically threw my gear onto my barrow and before long I was plotting back up in the middle of the road bank, in the same spot I had fished my first session. But this time I had a new approach.

Pop ups sat on stiff hinge rigs on both of my rods. I spread around a kilo of matching freebies in a half tennis court sized area as I wanted to give the fish room to feed but more importantly, I didn't want to spook the shoal if I was lucky enough to get a bite.

Just past midnight and I had my first enquiry, an incredibly hard fighting Mirror at 17lb A change of tactics had still produced a bite but could I follow it up.... I needn't have worried, not

long after first light I was away again, this time I was paid a visit by a very slimline common of 16 and a half pounds.

I put the rod back out and put the kettle on for my morning cup of tea. I had barely put the mug to my lips

when the left hand rod was bursting off again. I lifted into the fish as my right hand rod also received a take. The second bite was so ferocious that it was actually lifting the rod clear of my alarms. I decided to leave that steam train to its own devices while I concentrated on the fish I was already playing.

All went well and a short time later, after extracting the second fish from the weedy shallows I was left looking at two bulging landing nets. The first was my biggest fish from the pool so far, a Mirror at just over 25lbs and the ballistic take turned out to be a Common of 22 lbs and 12 ounces.

It was soon time to pack away and ponder my latest session, four bites in a trip. It was clear the spread boilie approach had worked far better than the tight spodding. Although the fish obviously loved bait they were easily put off feeding if something spooked them. Without doubt switching methods and being flexible in my thinking had paid dividends.

Side-tracked

I'd purchased the ticket with the intention of fishing there predominantly in the colder months. After my first few trips I was really beginning to enjoy myself there. It was all work overnighters and great fun. I popped back the next week with the knowledge it would be my last session until at least

the Autumn. I still had plans elsewhere and didn't want to get entirely sidetracked by the intimacy and enjoyment of fishing this lovely little water. I had already ended up doing a few more nights than I had originally planned.

After the usual watching of the water I set up close to the pads having seen next to nothing in the shallows. I opted for pop ups on each rod again with a spread of boilies after last week's success.

Nothing occurred throughout the hours of darkness, daylight was beginning to creep in when my right hand rod burst into life. Another line stripping take followed by a great tussle up and down the margins saw me holding up a low twenty common for a few photos before I was once again packing the gear away to head off to work. The fish were very evident in and around the weedy shallows at the opposite end of the pool as I left. I'd either missed the fish the previous evening or they had moved off the pads area in the night. There was every possibility my line pressure had pushed them away. Fishing



TalkingCarp

four sessions in a reasonable short space of time may have well put these normally very unpressured fish on edge. It was information that I'd tuck away. It was all helping build a greater picture of the Pool and the Carps behaviour. They certainly liked bait but at the same time were easily put on edge.

Autumn's last Knockings

I returned to the Pool in Early
November after an absence of
around four months. It was to be a
daytime session only, in-between
school runs. The banks were
now leaf strewn from the trees
surrounding the pool and the water
was starting to clear as the seasons
were well and truly changing. I was
sticking with my stiff hinge approach
but had some new pop ups and
boilies in my armoury, all lovingly
supplied by Handcraft Baits.
I had decided I was going to

I had decided I was going to fish off my barrow and stay very mobile. I'd move with the fish if the need arose after seeing previously how often they were easily spooked. I opted for a spot on the road bank towards the lilies after seeing a mirror show not twenty yards from the bank. I positioned a rod followed by a light scattering of boilies in that area. The other rod went tight to the pads followed by another few pouches of boilies. Not long after I arrived a good friend Lee turned up to fish for a 24 hr session. He set up to my left in the centre of the road bank and cast towards the shallower water. This was the first time I'd actually seen anyone else at the Pool whilst I was fishing. After he'd set up we met up In between our respective pegs for a good old chat and a catch up. He'd just made us both a lovely cup of tea when my left hand rod, positioned over the early morning show, absolutely tore off with a typically blistering take that I'd now come to expect from the fish in this Pool. The fight took place almost entirely in my left hand margin, the fish repeatedly aiming



TalkingCarp

towards a few overhanging branches that were dipping into water. Its power was unreal and after its umpteenth time of boring towards sanctuary I managed to coax it towards the waiting landing net which Lee had kindly manned for me.

I couldn't see exactly which fish it was and asked him if it was a mirror, fully expecting to have caught the early morning acrobat. He stepped aside and said "no mate, it's a Common, a Bloody Big Common as well....."

This now explained the power of the fish, a deep plodding perseverance which you only get from big Carp.

12 ounces. Not that it mattered in the slightest. A more exceptional example of a Common Carp would be hard to find, a perfectly proportioned body with huge paddle like fins. It's easy to see how she generated so much power. I'd only been there an hour. A massive thankyou to Lee for the assistance with the weighting and the photos.

She swung the needle on the

Rubens to a very healthy 32 lb and

There is only one thing better than catching a Carp, and that's catching carp with good friends.

Before long both rods were back out fishing. Several hours later and I had another heart stopping run, this time on the right hand rod up against the dying lily pads. A much shorter scrap and once again Lee netted a spritely looking Upper Double Common.

During the morning I had noticed several fish regularly visiting a spot in the margins a bit to my right. Leaving them well alone to start with, I started to drop a bit of bait in from time to time. I was hoping to build their confidence before dropping a rig in amongst them. With the fish well and truly feeding away I managed to drop a bright pop up in the centre of the spot whilst they were distracted.



TalkingCarp

It may seem a little crude, but I knew these fish loved a boilie and they weren't rig shy. It got an almost instant reaction. Within seconds a Common homed straight in on the bait, only to eject it without moving the rig or the lead. I couldn't believe it, in such close proximity I watched it spit the hook out, gently fan its fins and back away from the area. I didn't have long to remain shocked as it was replaced almost instantly by a chunky little mirror who looked as surprised as me when it lifted its head to find it had made the mistake the Common hadn't only seconds later. After netting it at the first attempt I guessed the Mirror at a weight of around 18-20 lb Three bites from three different spots, you had to work hard for your rewards from this Pool.

One Last Chance

After catching the Big
Common I decided to go
back six days later for one
last day trip. I'd seen a big
old Mirror in the margins
from time to time whilst
watching the other fish
feed on my marginal spots.
I wanted to see if I could
continue my lucky streak

and snag that big Old Mirror. As I pulled up I was met almost instantly by a fish launching itself clear of the water to the left of the road bank. I flicked two rods in the area of the show with a few baits around each and sat back to wait. After several hours of no more activity it was clear my leads had spooked the fish out of the area. I decided on a new plan of action based on my previous success around the margins. Walking the circumference of the pool, I dropped bait in any likely looking marginal spots. I put only the essential kit I needed onto my barrow and packed the rest away. I was going to slowly lap the lake then return to my barrow if I found any evidence of any feeding fish.

Success on my second lap. I found





the area close to the Pads. I returned for my gear and once the coast was clear I carefully lowered my rig onto the spot, followed by a handful of bait. The returning fish soon started to feed and it wasn't long before a hooped over rod tip informed me I was in. A good scrap later and I netted a typically chunky common at 22lb.

I blew my next opportunity in the shallows by spooking a small group of three fish.

With the afternoon wearing on it was with more hope than expectation that I placed a handful of bait under a small snag in one of the corners, i had never actually seen any fish in this area before and in reality the snag only held the slimmest chances of holding carp. A cup of tea and another lap, the bait under the snag had gone.... With no action on any other of my marginal areas I quickly put around ten grains of corn out and sat back to watch. It didn't take long and three fish crept into the area, they briefly fed before drifting off again. I flicked a bit more bait out, took several quiet steps away from the peg before running full pelt for my gear. I had one last chance....

Making doubly sure the carp were currently elsewhere I dropped my rig onto the spot, slacked my clutch right off and sank my line out of view to await their return. What looked like the same few fish ghosted back onto the spot, they seemed to be hanging over the bait rather than feeding and I was worried they had spotted my trap. One must have taken a mouthful though as my line whipped up tight and I was in. A short heavy plodding battle under the rod tip and I bundled the fish into the waiting landing net.

It was bloody massive, it was a mirror, my one final chance had produced the Pools Big Mirror. When you're lucky, sometimes you get real lucky.

She weighed exactly 29lb and looked as stunning as could be with a huge hoover of a mouth.

Packing away all my gear I bid the Pool a fond farewell and couldn't stop smiling to myself all the way on the drive back home.

What a fantastic few sessions id had on a Pool I never knew existed all by a matter of chance. Happy Days indeed.





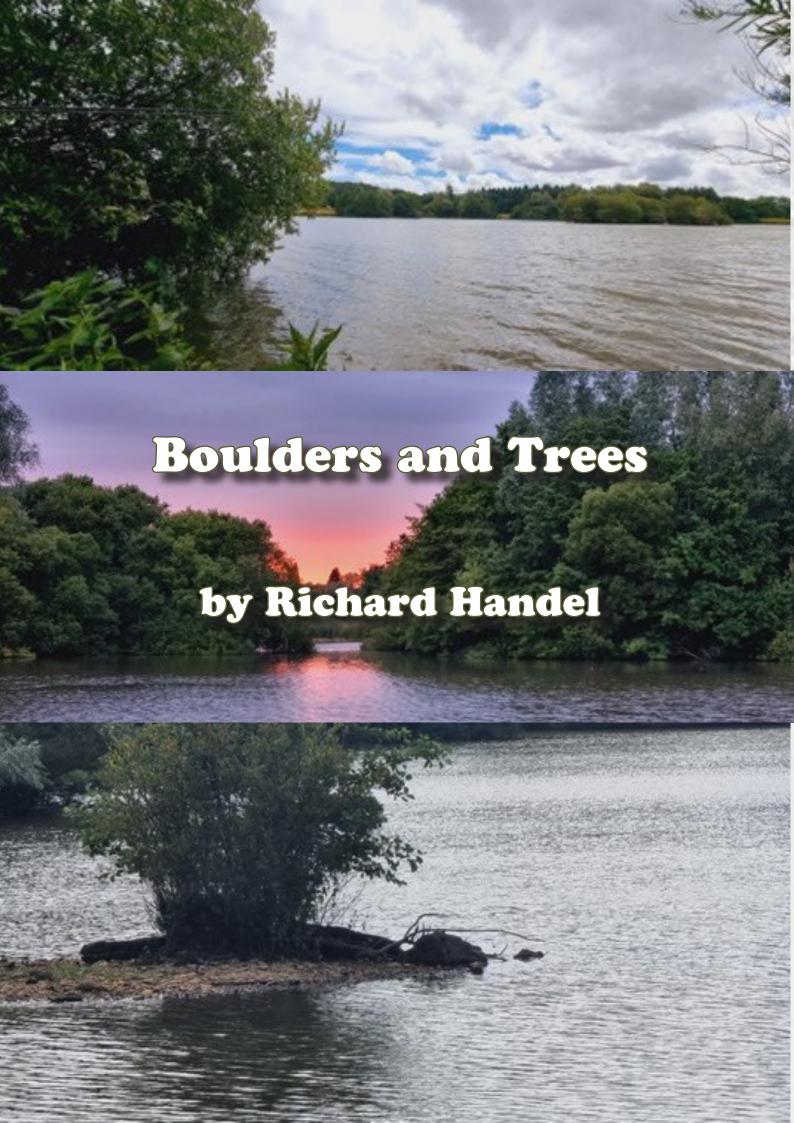
OUT NOW

WWW.BECEPTIONANGLING:88:UK
THE NEW EXTENDED RANGE









More Ramblings

My main syndicate water is an old World War II airfield, hence why I'm always referring to it as the Airfield Lake. It was then dug out for gravel and then filled in with Blitz rubble but no bombs apparently! This is good news for us anglers as we need to wade out a lot, to avoid getting the carp snagged up. The lake suffers a lot in the summer months as it's pretty shallow and the water evaporates quite quickly.

Boulders! The place is littered with these. Some are extremely large and the carp know exactly where they are and will kite hard to run the line underneath them, resulting in a cut-off. The only way to combat this is by keeping your rod as

high as possible on the bank. This is also more important when you have to wade out to net the carp, which is also quite the common practice. Over the years, I've learnt where a lot of boulders are and have managed to combat this issue in the swims I fish. However, the carp always have a surprise up their (metaphoric) sleeves. They are very cunning creatures.

Dead trees are also a problematic feature of this lake, the carp are fully aware of the locations. They will bolt off in the opposite direction, mostly open water, then kite back once they have gained enough ground on you to make it to the trees. The way around this is getting in your waders, beat them to the snags, or even getting onto a shallow bar and head them off.

2-foot bars are mostly in the top part which is the bigger expanse of the complex. These also have their own issues as the carp like to go over the top of them, run left or right, hoping the line picks up a boulder on the way or they can bump the hook out. When I first fished here, it was extremely hard to understand what was happening and get my head around the fact you actually lost carp. This was something I rarely did over the proceedings years of fishing other waters. On here, it could happen 3 times in a row, this was something I'd not experienced before and was quite souldestroying at first, but now I've become customized to it. I still get that horrible feeling and it is certainly frustrating, but as long as I don't get cut off

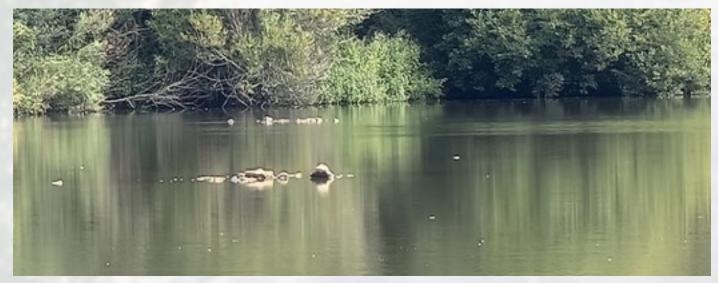


and the rig comes back, I can now get over it faster. Getting cut off is and always will be, gut-reaching. I don't like leaving the carp trailing line. Waders are an absolute must on here and for some swims, they are the first thing I put on before picking up the rod! In some swims, you feel like you are going for a walk to be able to net the carp, in other swims you can get away with wellies unless you fancy getting wet feet (but that's not for me anymore).

This is one of the reasons why I absolutely love this lake - it's not straightforward. You have to outwit the carp to first pick your hook bait up and then work your way around the above obstacles in the hope you get the carp in the net. I could fish this lake all year long, unfortunately, it closes for 5 months each vear over the winter. Upon my return, I have to battle against the natural food all over again and there's the other phenomenon that they start spawning in late April/early May and randomly do this

a couple of days at a time over the period of just over a month. You can arrive there and there will not be a single sign of them about to spawn and by 2am they are fully at it until 8 or 9am. They simply just stop, they also spawn at different times depending on which part of the complex they are in, I've never known a place like it in all my years of fishing.

I hope you have enjoyed an insight into Airfield Lake and the joy to fish here. I've not even mentioned the wildlife life and the





Swimming Deer From deer, badgers, foxes, and the Nightjars on the heath above the lake. This is one of the most beautiful venues I've ever fished and is so relaxing. Good for the mind and soul. This lake certainly holds a monster or two, but it's a battle from start to finish. The whole of the west bank, which is nearly a mile long, is all out of bounds. It's a labor of love and I will get there at some point in time, there's no rush, as I'm not sure what I would do if I cracked this nut. I've never stayed

on the same water for more than 5 years regardless of success. I get completely bored with the view and the surroundings, but this place has gotten under my skin. I've been fishing here for 7 years and there is not a hit of dislike, which I get with other waters and I feel it's time to move on. It's likely to be my last session on the School Lake as that's become boring already. I come through the gate here and it feels like home. shame I can't bring the family. It's a credit to the estate manager for leaving the lake to run as wild as possible.

All the car parks are in the wood, you never see a parked car or those dreaded white vans, sorry folks.

Most swims just look out into open water and if there's a swim opposite you, it's about a quarter of a mile away.

Stunning

Once again I hope you have enjoyed my ramblings.

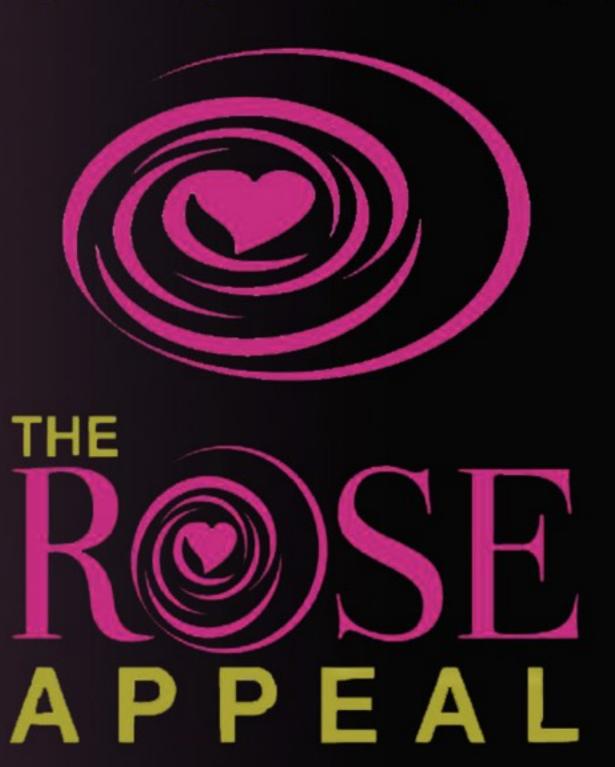
Until next time

Be lucky

Richard



ANGLERS CHARITY AUCTIONS





ACA Bank Buddy

Waterproof Wireless Speaker has been designed and built with outdoor

adventure's in mind,

A Great addition to your kit.

Product features include

Bluetooth connectivity

Hands Free Call Facility

Two Way Control

Aux Input

Built in FM Radio

Shock Proof

Only £27.99

Visit www.acaproducts.co.uk







On a recent social at Berners Hall Fishery, the DT Baits team with some customers fished what can only be described as a weekend full of biblical weather.

Knowing our first day was going to be a washout from the beginning, it was decided as a group that we would do the draw the night before, giving us the opportunity to go straight to our swims and set up as we wished.

I had been drawn out on peg 1, it was a peg I've never fished before but remember from our previous social back in September that it did a few bites.

Being in peg 1 meant it was one of the closest to the car park, so as soon as I pulled up, I headed straight up a very muddy bank and set up the bivvy. At least that gave me shelter to bring the rest of the gear up and keep it as dry as possible and apart from myself the plan worked almost perfectly.

Next it was to start fishing and although the wind and heavy rain was coming directly into my swim, I was confident that if I could find a spot, get the rods

fishing then I had an opportunity, especially with the low pressure. Managing to find a spot around 21 wraps I baited up with some salted maize from Carp Particles, which I had enhanced with DT Baits N Blend DNA liquid. Being aware of various forms of weed on the lake bed I decided to fish 2 rods with a Hinge Stiff rig and the final on a chod all fished heli style. My hook bait of choice was a Banana Pop Up from our Cult range, my thinking was to match the maize that I was offering as freebies as much as possible.





All 3 rods were now in place and it was time to have a brew and try to get warm and dry. Thankfully a good friend Danny had joined me for a brew so it was all made and ready when I got in the bivvy. Perched watching through the smallest of holes in the door to not get even wetter we watched the water in anticipation, but sadly it wasn't to be whilst he was there and he left, joking that as soon as he had left my rods would go off. Now it wasn't quite as immediate as he had said, but a few hours later the rain stopped and it cleared for a while. I took this opportunity to catch up with James who was fishing in swim 2 and it seemed as we had a quick break in the rain the carp wanted to

play.

My left rod had a couple of bleeps and with that I was playing my first of the session. What happened next pretty much set the tone of the weekend, just as James was helping me net

the carp his rod went off too. He rushed to get his rod whilst I made sure my carp was safe and secure, I then joined him to net his first Carp of the session. Still no rain so Brad took some epic photos before we slipped my 25lb and James 27lb fish back.

With that the rain started again and whilst the easiest option would have been to leave the rod and stay dry, it had forecasted that this rain was in at least until 9pm. So, I put back on the wet t shirt and waders and pushed myself through the horrific conditions.

The rest of the evening was quiet, but it gave Fenton and I ample



TalkingCarp

opportunity to chat about all things DT and the year ahead. The night went by pretty much the same apart from odd bleeps on the middle rod, it was clear this was due to weed, so my plan was to move that rod and reset it at first light.

However come sunrise, yes that's right sun and no rain..... the carp had other plans. Once again, my left had rod went off and this time it was more than a couple of bleeps which got me excited for something a bit bigger, James trotted over to help and this time before he could even net my carp, his rod went off. With mine secured in the sling, I went and helped him. No sooner as he had landed that one, another one of his rods went off. It was kicking off and proof that no matter

the conditions it is always worth persevering and getting the rods back out.

Just as we were about to start photographing the carp, my left-hand rod went into action. Although this one was a mid-double, the one still sulking in the sling was an upper 20. Better still it was only 8am on the second day and that was now 6 fish in James and my swim whilst others were only able to pick off 1 here and there.

It was clear they were in the area and whilst maize will attract the smaller fish, the big ones are never far behind. So, before anything else I used this time to reset all 3 rods and put them back out on the spots. Photos were taken and after an hour or so, my right rod went off again, this was a wicked common with a very noticeable scale pattern, but sadly at 22 lb we still hadn't got through to the big carp. Once again James's rod went off and for the first time this weekend, I thought



TalkingCarp

to myself, I'm going to be a bit selfish and get my rod back out before I help him. Straight out and now helping James, the same rod I had literally just put back in position went off again. This bite was a one toner and played very differently, could it be? Had I finally got through to the big girls and perhaps beat my PB?

Bobbie was on hand to help net, but it was clear once it took its first roll, I had to get this in the net, Bobbie understood and gave the netting duties to James. This mega mirror was now in the net and I couldn't believe the morning both James and I were having. Even my mates who I was texting trying to explain

what was going on, said April Fools. Peering into the net I knew it had beaten my previous PB of 30lb.08oz but didn't want to believe it could go over 40lb like others thought. Now buzzing and dazed, I secured her in the sling and got my rod back out, other team members chuckled and being confident there was more to be caught, I said its OK if that one goes again Bobbie can have that one.

We sorted James out and got his photos done and it was now judgement time for mine. Brand new scales which I had only received 3 days earlier for my 42nd birthday was at the ready. I was too shocked to read the needle as it



TalkingCarp

spun round and as they confirmed 42lb, I was in complete amazement. I'd not only beaten my PB, I had well and truly smashed it.

This certainly wasn't no April fools and within 24 hours of setting up in which can only be described as a mud bath and unforgiving weather. I had caught 5 fish to 42lb and James was on 4 fish to 30lb 6oz. We still had 48 hours left to top up our tally, but we were fully aware the wind and pressure were due to change that evening. Who would be crowned top rod?

After about an hour James hooked into something which was either a very wise carp that knew the snags or it was the big cat. Either way it had snagged him up and even after various attempts to tease it out, it wasn't to be.

Then after another quiet spell, remember the rod I promised to give to Bobbie if it went off, well as if by chance he was back in my swim and was straight on the rod after a couple of bleeps. It was a very strange sensation? I was excited he was playing it

but the anticipation just in case it was another big one was worrying. It was OK, the carp showed himself and was yet another scaly pristine carp, but being a high double it made both of us happy. This may have scuppered my chances of top rod, but young Bobby's enthusiasm, passion and smile whilst fishing is infectious. Strangely since the previous social we have formed a likable bond and sometimes it's about more than just your results when the future of the sport is involved.

So now it was back to the challenge of Top Rod. I was still 1 up on James and now the wind had changed, pressure was rising and we were going into a night where temperatures were dropping dramatically and tomorrow was forecast for bright sun.





The complete opposite to what we had seen so far, would this have a huge significance on the final result?

The morning certainly started differently with Vinnie who was further down the lake, having 3 runs in the space of an hour. Was my suspicion correct and the fish were now moving down, should I change tact now or sit on it and wait. So many questions running through my head, but with that James was in and whilst it meant he was now back level, perhaps just perhaps the carp were still in the area. So, like previous days I would sit on my hands and wait.

Now mid-morning and still no carp, so I baited up and changed hook bait on 2 of the rods and the 3rd I moved over to a zig. It was now about making something happen as it was clear the carp had moved down with Peder landing another fish further down the lake.

Whilst it was quiet, we made the most of the time on the bank getting content for socials and making some short product videos. Obviously not saying too much until it's released but I got to do one with Bobbie about his favourite current spod mix. Earlier on I mentioned Bobbie passion etc. I can't wait for you all to see this video and see for yourselves his love for the sport.



The rest of the day went by and it was annoyingly as expected with the sun and high pressure turning the carp right off. one caught that day.

We went into another cold night with optimism between James



and I still high. One of us had to win top rod.

The morning came by and as with the previous night's no body caught in darkness. Now it was down to the final few hours whilst packing up. Both James and I left the rods right until the last minute and further cementing the rivalry and friendship that had been created over the past 72 hours, we both reeled in our last rod at the same time.

Although it was a draw for us two. For me there was one clear winner from this weekend and that was DT Baits. Not only seeing the passion and desire each angler has to catch on their products, but more so seeing the impressive figures from what was caught.

27 carp caught 20 anglers 8 blanks 4 x 40s 7 x 30s 11 x 20s 5 doubles

Total weight 756.12

Biggest fish 44.5

Biggest angler weight 132.12

Having had my best session on the lake since I've been fishing it. I certainly can't wait to come back and more so, get back on the Bank with the team to enjoy our next social oh and have a rematch with James.

Tight lines

A.J.





An African Adventure . . . a story of a fishery, where no fishery has been before - Part Two



I had the sensation of being like an over excited kid on Christmas eve . . . the baby carp had finally arrived, the fishery was being built and life was rather rosy! I would nip down the road to feed the fish over my lunch hour, and after seeing them finally coming up and munching after 4 days, it was like discovering another cherry on a birthday cake. It was on the fifth day however that I observed something not entirely 'ideal' upon my daily, midday visit.

As I approached the pond, there was a sudden disturbance amongst the reeds, immediately followed by a loud commotion at the water's surface. What the blooming Norah Batty was that I thought?! I quickly scanned the water to see what was occurring, and half way across the pool surfaced a rather large Nile Monitor Lizard! A flick of its massive tail and it disappeared again in a flash. Thankfully I saw it resurface at the opposite bank and scurry out of the vicinity. What an incredible creature. Unfortunately, just not really what you want in a pond full of baby carp. These reptiles are one of the largest lizards in the world and grow to over 5ft in length. It's another species with a seemly insatiable appetite, eating almost anything in its way, including fish and even small crocodiles!

That evening we discussed all things predation-proof, as Piet had also clocked eyes on some small kingfishers and a Black-headed Heron, the latter of which was 'kindly asked to leave' by Piet shouting some choice words in its direction. The next day we purchased some fencing materials, and line to stretch across the pond, and got busy trying to



protect our aquatic livestock. I also put together a floating feed structure, so the pellets wouldn't drift all over the place.

Welcome to the mundane world of fish farming!

An African Adventure



Whilst we encountered some early challenges with the grow-out pond, things were running rather smoothly in the creation of the two fishing dams. The excavators were busy building up the walls, and daily progress was there to see. Over one weekend I watched a YouTube video by Fox International at Old Mill Lakes, and was inspired by the venue and particularly its islands.

Southern Africa is full of dams, most of which are generally quite plain in design. They are literally dammed up at one end and the low lying land behind it is flooded. Not many sites are chosen with undulating topography, hence why isn't often you find bodies of water with islands in around this part of the world. I shared the video with Piet and the guys at the farm, and they were enthused by the idea & agreed that some islands must be built into the venue.

These features would not only create safe havens for a diverse variety of birds and wildlife, they would also increase the amount of marginal area in the dam, the area where land meets water, where terrestrial and aquatic communities meet. These zonal edges, also known as ecotones, are often the most important part of the environment due to the greater diversity and abundance of species present. This richness is greater if a thriving population of plants is present, that provides habitat for not only fish, but an array of invertebrates (snails, shrimp, water fleas etc.), all of which carp love to feed on.

The dams were completed over the next couple of months, and they were joined together with one wall between them.

The first dam was just over 12 acres and the second one, which was destined to be the carp venue, finished up with 8.5 acres of surface area. The 12 acre dam had a land spit extending out into the middle of the water with an expanded round area at its end . . . slightly phallic I know! The carp dam had five islands dotted around, and both bodies of water had deep channels in places where the excavators had moved earth to elevate the banks. Although pretty barren in its infancy, the dream was becoming a reality.





As the water started to fill both dams, it was now the time to start the process of trying to develop thriving aquatic ecosystems. I had already done this with the grow-out pond, but now this was on a much larger scale! The plan was to leave the carp

dam without fish in for at least a year, allowing the ecosystem to flourish, so when we did stock our carp into the dam, they would have a habitat to thrive in.

I would collect as many freshwater mussels and snails from any of the production ponds at work when they were drained down. Then in my lunch hour I would drive with a bucket full of goodies to the dams, and start populating one corner at a time. I would visit a couple of local rivers searching for molluscs and shrimp. I found a shrimp fisherman who was catching a larger species than the tiny Caridina nilotica shrimps I had previously caught, so luckily I ended up buying 500 after a couple of visits.

Over a period of around four to five months I managed to populate the carp dam with two species of mussels, five varieties of snails and two types of shrimp. Literally tens of thousands of these 'carp food' items went in, along with native macrophytes, lilies and marginal plants, that would provide habitat and shelter for these little critters to conquer. I think I had become slightly obsessed enhancing the dam's ecosystem, as these trips to the rivers were a two-hour round journey, often after a day's work! However, I simply loved exploring and submerging myself (literally) into the surrounding nature, and it gave me an excellent opportunity to observe the different trees and plants growing at the various water's I would visit.



An African Adventure

Up until this point we hadn't decided exactly what we wanted to achieve fishing-wise with the first, larger dam. As the venue had two dams, it would give us an opportunity to provide different fishing scenarios, rather than just specimen carp angling. During my regular river visits I had seen several fishermen catch a few random Tigerfish with their throw nets, although they would quickly die once dumped into the bottom of their wooden boats. As I wrote before, I had experienced the thrill catching these incredible indigenous predators at the massive dam some 3 hours' drive away. These fish put on impressive aerial displays once hooked, and can reach over 20lbs in weight, making them one of the most coveted freshwater game fish in the world.

It was obvious now what we wanted to do with the first dam! This dam was perfectly set up for the roving angler as all areas were accessible from the bank and the extended island protruding into the middle of the water. Clusters of reeds had popped up around the dam, so there were features all around, ideal for throwing a lure to. There are literally hundreds of thousands of Nile Tilapia on-site at the farm, so these could be stocked for the pleasure angler, as well as becoming the main feed source for Tigerfish, ideal! I also needed some predators in the carp dam to ensure it never became over run with baby carp. Now I just had to figure out a way to successfully transport them alive and kicking!

I hadn't found any literature or information online about transporting Tigerfish, nor could I find any projects that had actually stocked Tigers. This was certainly going to be a challenge, but nothing ventured, nothing gained. I had a network of local fishermen from three different river systems, and if anyone managed to catch one, the instructions were to leave it in a bucket of water, in the shade, and message me asap. Between us someone would go and collect these toothy predators. It's important to understand at this point that these fish were destined for the cooking pot, so we were trying to 'save' these fish, by stocking them into our dams.







Local river fishermen Daily scenes along the rivers

On the 7th August 2021 we managed to release the first live Tigerfish into the dam, a moment of great relief and satisfaction, especially since a couple of earlier efforts had failed somewhat miserably. It wasn't a monster by any means, but it was a start. One down, ideally another 299 to go!





Our first baby Tiger What dreams, or nightmares, are made of!

Based in the Southern hemisphere our weather patterns are the opposite to Europe's, and as September and October rolled in, the temperatures were beginning to rise. The warmer summer months are the growing seasons for fish and plants alike, so in early October we began planting indigenous trees around the bare banks of the dams. The planting was tough work, digging holes in clay rich soil, in the African heat, is not for the faint hearted. As I also wrote previously, there simply aren't garden nurseries around here selling native trees, so we had already been



germinating seeds and rearing saplings for this phase of the project.

Our vision was to create a rich green oasis, replicating what we observed growing along the river banks and local ponds. These would provide well needed shade for anglers and create a natural habitat for the abundant species of birds already visiting the dams. This would obviously take some time, but by planting only native trees, we knew they were in their perfect environment to prosper. We also had access to chicken manure from the farm, so we were confident we had a great growing combination.



Marking where to plant Sycamore Fig trees Barren banks to plant up

In late November I received an early Christmas present in the shape of 32 juvenile common carp. These weren't just any old common carp, but had been bred from a female fish that had reached an almost unheard of 5kgs in 18 months. I'm not joking, as crazy as those figures sound. My original batch of carp were mostly mirrors, and I'd been keen to supplement the stock, so when these became available I jumped at the chance to take some, especially considering their genetic makeup!







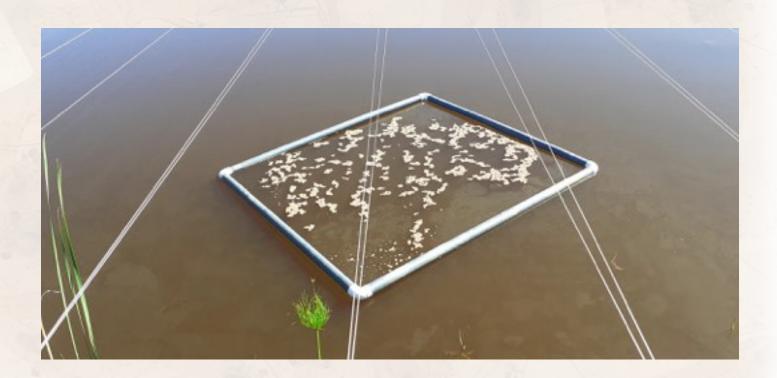
Like peas in a pod, baby common carp with enormous potential



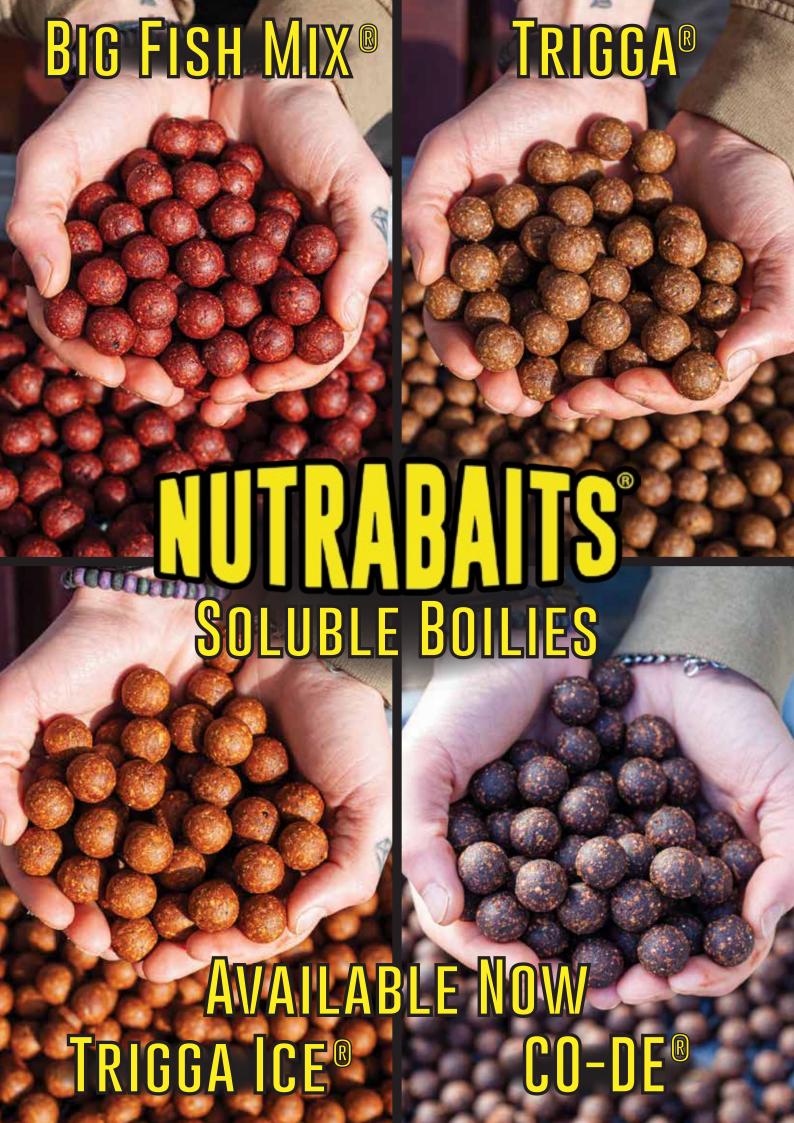
2021 turned into 2022, and with every new year brings excitement and expectations. However, things were not looking great on the Tigerfish front, and something had to change drastically. Over a six-month period of trying to successfully stock Tigers into the dams, we had reached a pitiful total of just 30 fish. At this rate it would take us 5 years to reached our target of 300 fish!

A new plan had to be put in action if this was ever going to happen, and after much discussions and pondering, we formed an elaborate scheme that, if conducted properly, could solve our problem almost overnight. Jan 15th would be our D-day. . .

Part three of the African Adventure to follow soon.









Reviews

Featuring -

THE ULTIMATE TRAVEL FISHING BOD

BY ANTHONY WOOD



Is this the ultimate travel fishing rod? Let's have a closer look at the Infinite Ultimate Limited Edition fishing rod from Rigged & Ready Travel Fishing Rods.

When you are travelling, walking a long distance or if you want to stalk then the emphasis becomes how "compact" you can get your kit as you don't want to be carrying everything and the kitchen sink with you.

Travel rods are a great way to reduce the amount of kit you carry, you quite often need two or three different types of rods to cover the various situations you might want to fish.

One of the great things about Rigged & Ready is that not only do you get a 2 year guarantee on the rod, you also get 5 years parts replacement!!

Why do I love this rod? There are 25 (yes you read that right) ways that you can set this rod up. There are 6 bait cast max options, 6 bait cast

mini options, 6 spin max options, 6 spin mini options and there is even a #6 weight fly rod option for if you would like to try fly fishing for carp.

Whether you want to float fish for carp, method fish for carp or ledger for carp this travel rod will let you set it up. There is even a 160g tip which will allow you to cast weights of up to 5.6oz quite easily.





Six and eight foot rods are becoming very popular in carp fishing and with various lengths up to 8ft 10" this rod falls nicely into that category.

I've had this rod for a few months now and it has caught me carp up to 10lb so far and handled them with ease. I'm confident that this rod can quite easily handle a 20lb+ carp.

The only problem with this rod is that it is a limited edition range and once they have sold out on the website then that is it.

There are some really fantastic rods that Rigged & Ready produce and I should know I have most of them Iol. If however, you would like to get this rod then I would advise getting it sooner rather than later.

https://riggedandready.net/collections/all-rods/products/infinite-ultimate-25-in-1-baitcast-spin-fly-travel-fishing-rod-limited-edition-25-fishing-rod-options-max-280cm-9-2-min-107cm-3-6-cast-spin-micro-trigger-7-tips-3-handles



TalkingCarp



www.gctangling.co.uk

















Gatch

Reports

Featuring -

DT Baits
Castaway PVA
Deception Angling

Trish Whitworth



Trish Whitworth fished on Frant Lakes and caught this one on a Crafty Catcher 15mm boilie, Korda basix wide gape hair rig size 8.

Craig Williams



Craig Williams with a near fully scaled mirror at 20lb from Hurlston hall

Matt Scoffham



Matt Scoffham fished for a few hours on Hurlston Hall Fishery and landed "Eli" at 22lb 3oz. Matt was using Size 8 RidgeMonkey Curve Shank on a Slip D with white kicker, coated braid, fashioned at the end to allow movement with a HFBaits washed out pink Cherry Bomb wafter.



carpsocials.com

The Best carp fishing events at amazing venues. Join us for the next carp event.

For Bookings & Info Please Visit carpsocials.com

























M & B Contour Map Fishing Showing you today where to Fish tomorrow www.contourmapfishing.co.uk







Jack Golden had a red letter day on a recent session at Churgate lakes in Essex. He managed multiple fish up to 26lbs. Jack fished a 12mm N-blend and corn topper in conjunction with a small PVA bag of N-blend pellet to keep the bites coming.

DT's newest team member Joe McCafferty with an awesome leathery character of 33lbs 12oz.
Joe scattered a

Joe scattered a good amount of Crustazia freebies to an area off the back of some weed, before landing a hinged stiff rig amongst them with a white N-blend pop up attached.







Team member Tom
Hussey with a gravel
pit pearler caught
using a special
edition monkey
climber white Oily
chicken and scopex
pop up over a bed
of N-blend and tiger
nuts.

Customer Tony
Wignall managed
this lovely clean
mirror from a
local day ticket.
He fished the
fisheries CLG
house boilies
and matching
DNA liquid which
is a custom bait
made by DT for
Houchins fishery.





Adam Honeysett



lan Potts





Derek 'The Don' Ritchie



Bruce Hough





Spencer Cooper



the morning carper NEW P.B.





Damian Wheway



Barry O'Connor





Visit www.carbonbaits.co.uk for all of your particle needs !!!

New Deals added all the time

www.
pavyottsmillfishery.
co.uk



For Bookings Call Anita on -07913 953844



Pavyotts Mill is a superb 10 acre dedicated Carp fishing complex, comprising of 3 lakes which are well stocked to an impressive 50lb plus

Etang St Pierremont Champagne-Ardenne, France



Visit https://www.etangstpierremont.com

Since purchasing the lake in July 2018, the work has been ongoing, five years ago upon purchasing the complex, after being greeted with complaints from day one about brown water from the village bore hole and a non-working gas boiler we set to work.

After replacing gas boilers with electric water heaters, we then set about installing our own water purification system and am pleased to say that we now have quality clear English standard drinking water.

Last year we introduced fibre broadband and the lake is now completely covered by fast Wi-Fi, air conditioning is more than effective as is the heating in the three bedroomed guests accommodation.

Throughout covid we like every other lake in France struggled but survived moving guests to the following years at our own expense and are pleased with the outcome, year after year our returning guests return complimenting us on how the establishment has improved over the years since we took over.

This year the lake now has a full time Bailiff who is an excellent cook, two freshly cooked hot meals a day with baguettes at lunchtime delivered to the bankside has received very positive feedback, as has the covered pool table and charcoal BBQ which has enabled groups to socialize in the evenings.

As for the fishing during covid weed did appear and eventually got the better of us, thanks to Ben at Gills & Scales and his incredible specialist weed removal boat the weed with roots was successfully removed last September, some weed is inevitable but we now know who to call sooner rather than later should it re appear!

The current lake record is **64.5 lbs** this incredible fish has not been out for eighteen months, there are now multiple fish in there mid 50's, at the time of writing this groups are currently hooking out nineteen fish a week, people wish they could stay and several groups did last year when the following week from theirs was un sold.

This years plan is to completely re-roof and floor the lakeside house eating area and in the winter of 23/24 install electric power points around the lake and net the lake to reduce bio mass.

Our website is updated regularly with a live booking calendar Enquiries and bookings can be requested through the website or by calling **07774747237**

THIS MONTHS ADVERTISERS -

ACA - ANGLERS CHARITY AUCTIONS CARBON BAITS

DECEPTION ANGLING

D.T. BAITS

GCT ANGLING

KATRAN

MAINLINE BAITS

RIDGEMONKEY

RODDY CLIPS

SEASONED BAITS

SERIOUS CARP SOCIALS

Thanks for reading

Send your articles and catch reports by the 28th May 2023 for next months magazine

brian.dixon@talking earp.eo.uk mark@talkingearp.eo.uk m.galli@talkingearp.eo.uk



THE CARP MAGAZINE FOR CARP ANGLERS WRITTEN BY YOU !!!!!!

'The Talking Carp Team'

Brian Dixon
Mark Faulkner
Mark Galli
Dave Harnick Snr



"Smart Liquid forms an essential part of my angling approach summer and winter. I use it on boilies, pellets, groundbait and particles because I have proven in my tank that the fish go crazy for it in cold and warm water.

They feed sooner, harder and longer when it's in the water massively increasing the chance of a pick up. I literally would not fish without it now. Look out for Thinking Tackle On Demand at Embryo Broom this summer, I smash the lake and have this mega mirror called 'Bullion' all using the Smart Liquid!"

- DANNY FAIRBRASS

FISH SMARTER NOT HARDER!

Water is the catalyst to **SMART LIQUID** infiltrating its underwater environment; throughout the lakebed and bottom substrate horizontally then climbing vertically, impregnating the water column with advanced amino's, palatants and highly stimulatory trace elements!

Due to Smart Liquids unique formulation, it's impossible to overload - simply add as required.









