

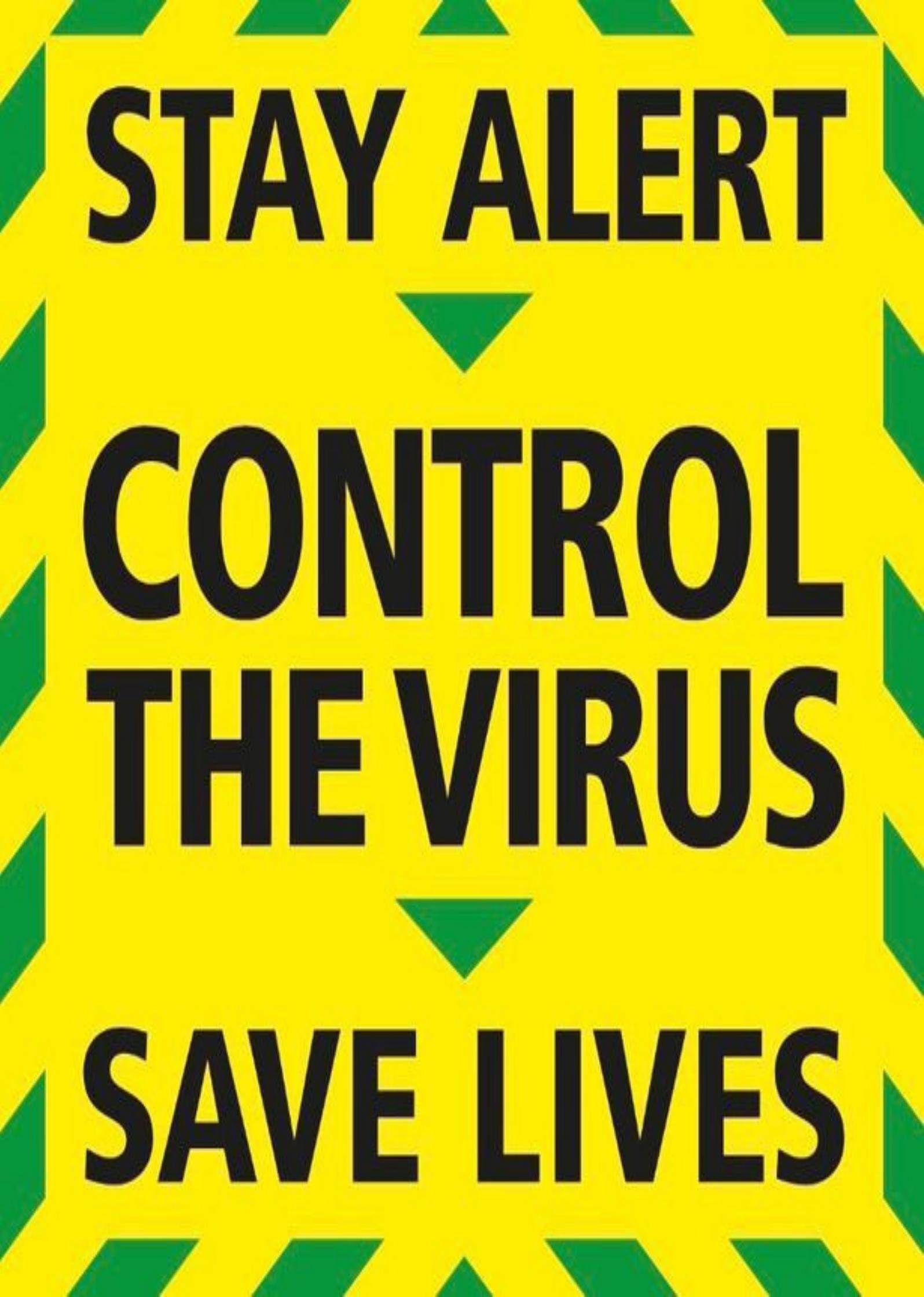
A smiling man with a bald head and a tan jacket is holding a large, dark-colored carp. The fish is the central focus, showing its scales, fins, and gills. The background is a lush green field of tall grass or reeds.

 *Talking
Carp*
Magazine

Issue 53
July 2020

Inside this Month..

**Andrew Murray, Andy Hyden,
Karl Brandreth & many more**



STAY ALERT

**CONTROL
THE VIRUS**

SAVE LIVES

Hello....and welcome to issue 53.

We have to say its good to see so many anglers back on the bank, catching fish and generally having a great time fishing again. We have even managed to get out and have ourselves some wet nets and slings, and although no records have been broken by us, its great to actually have a few. Confidence has been restored and all is well in the carp fishing world.

Anyway, what's in this months magazine?

We bring you the usual suspects with more tales from the banksides around thw world, and in this issue we have reviews from 3 currently very successful bait companies who give you a solid look into their products and could possibly help you put more fish on the bank so make sure you check those out!

We bring you more catch reports from around the country too....

And remember, if you wish to have a go at joining the ranks of our writers and fancy having a go yourself, please drop us an email. Everyone is welcome here and we will walk you through it step by step.

So, that's all for now.....keep those emails coming

brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk

mark@talkingcarp.co.uk

Team Talking Carp

www.talkingcarp.co.uk

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Rigs and Ramblings



by
Andrew Murray

Hi all, I hope you are getting out on the bank more regularly now and if you are, you are finding some bank space. I suppose this is when fishing a private syndicate can pay, as opposed to fishing Day ticket lakes but, as they say-you pays your money-you takes your chances. On my last couple of trips, I have struggled to find bankside space to fish where I really wanted, so I have been having to try my best where I could, which is never ideal. Still, it's been nice to get out and enjoy some time out on the bankside and get back into the fishing routine. I do occasionally think about joining a syndicate like I did many years ago, I suppose it depends what one wants from their fishing. The good syndicates are expensive these days, it's not that I'm tight, I just believe in getting value for money. Given that I travel abroad 2-3 times a year (in normal times), then I do the odd guest weekend elsewhere, so it means in effect I may only be fishing my regular water for half the year and maybe not at key times. Whereas with the day ticket water I just turn up and fish, it's a bit deeper than that for me as well. So, I guess it's not for me just yet.

What was noticeable about the

lockdown, it was a bit like the old close season days. The carp had time to swim around without any lines in the water for a good while, shoal up a bit and get ready for spawning, then they were bombarded on a huge scale. On a lot of lakes, it was easy pickings for a while if you were in the right place. Now that period has passed things have got a bit tougher, the bankside will get a bit quieter and maybe some fishing normality will return. I am still taking my sessions when I can, fitting them in between Sal's Chemo sessions, which are getting chalked off slowly but surely, only I more to go now, which should fit well with us all getting the lockdown reduced a bit more and we can start to see our families again on a more regular basis, which will be great news.

Last month I was talking about my baiting strategy for the year and trying to make it fit with the shorter sessions. I had left off talking about rigs as I really didn't have enough space to go into things in detail, although as you will see I think they fall together. I have never been big on the rig debate in most of my 30 odd years of carp fishing, sure, in the early years I tied up rigs like



the bent hook rig like most others, I even caught carp on it. Then spending hours making up my own version of the COG rig set-up, that I saw published in the 90's. I was reminded recently of a time when I showed some anglers the early version of the 360 rig, that was about 17 years ago, we were doing a bait and fishing demo at an open day and had a tank set-up with various rigs in it, one of them been the new version of the 360 rig, Chilly walked past and took it out, pointing out it wasn't for general viewing yet! Realistically though, did any of these new versions of rigs catch more carp? It always struck me that those who caught more carp but more effort into their fishing, it might be rigs, it might be bait, it might be location, it might be stealth and accuracy. What I

thought was that it was just the fact that those anglers just put more effort got better results. My own extra effort in the past was bait and bait application, which was probably why I never got into the big rig debates. I was used to giving carp a good helping

of bait before fishing for them, then they had the confidence to feed and became catchable, for me that was the key. The other thing I learned very quickly was spodding at range, so could put a bed of bait further than most. The reason for bringing this up is more recently I have started to think maybe I have not been getting the best from how I'm fishing at times and I do mean rigs, or as I like to call it, presenting a bait. This was brought about on a session I wrote about recently, I really felt I was in the right spot, the amount of bait right, but it took a while to get a couple of bites, bear with me I am going to come back to this point. Whilst I am continuing my experiments with the Method Feeder, which I want to see through a bit longer yet, although despite a good early start its not delivering

what I hoped for. I feel that there are times when I need to use a bottom bait more than my usual Stiff Hinged Rig pop-up. Now, the question is-do use a bottom bait directly or a wafter type hookbait? My thoughts are this-when I am fishing over a baited area, I want the hookbait to stand out, hence the reason for using a feeder, bag or soaked pop-up, so it's taken quickly, as the carp home in on it faster. However, I feel that there are times this is working against me, the carp are sussing this out as a point of danger. So maybe I should be using a hookbait that blends in more with my freebies and the lakebed? This would make sense with my current thoughts as to using less bait and wanting the carp to search the baits out a bit more. This constant thinking about this, or is it overthinking? Keeps the old grey cells turning over and no doubt at some point I will make my mind up a bit more. On a trip a few weeks ago, another angler set up next to me and proceeded to out a whole bucket of particle and pellet at around 80 yards or so,

he repeated this every morning. Completely the opposite of what I am trying to do, the difference being that he was going to 'give it 5 days or so!' He caught on the 4th day of doing this. There is no doubt that sitting on a bed of bait works-if you have the time, which I don't, hence my search for quicker methods of getting a bite.

Given that my average session is 48 hours, in normal circumstances I would expect carp to come past me at some point, as long as I have got my location something like correct. By normal I mean the lakes not rammed full. As well as that, on a 48 hour session, I would move after 24 hours if I was feeling that it wasn't going to happen, this year there has been little option getting



into prime swims or then moving to anywhere of note. So, for the rest of the year I am going to have a change or tactic rig wise and use a couple of options and go back to nicking bites and also adding to the baited area little and often. When in deep water over silk weed I am going to stay with the Stiff Rig pop-up, but in shallower clear areas I am going to start to use more wafers and bottom baits and/or with small bags of pellets on short rigs, the issue with these is casting range if the carp are not coming

in. I have attached a picture of the little bag rig I use, I should point out I think it's very important for the presentation to have the hooklink going through the centre of the bag and not just nick it on the side with the hook, I think it affects the presentation hugely. I think what I need to do is go back to being impatient a bit and being more active during a session. Trying to get more out of each session is maybe something we all need to work on a bit. But how to do it is getting more difficult with increasing





pressure on lakes, I'm not sure looking for solutions with a rig is the answer, let me give you an example from some years back-

I remember when I fished a well-known pit in Yorkshire many years ago. My sessions lasted an average of 6 hours or so and I could only fish days as getting a night permit was difficult, actually impossible for some, I could tell a real story here, but let's not rake over old coals heh? I could usually juggle one or two sessions a week in between work and family, I did manage to

make them work, although it did involve pulling a few strokes. Even though it was a sizeable water the carp stayed in one area for a while. If I couldn't go fishing for a few days, I would make sure I went and baited up in between fishing sessions, even if it meant travelling over in the dark to do so, I also found a couple of other anglers to put some bait in when I wasn't there. So by concentrating bait in an area for a few days we could get a lock from the carp, then when I turned up and fished single hook baits I would get a bite very quickly,

from the better carp as well. I think some of the regulars knew I was up to something but couldn't prove it or catch me at it. There were other things I did, but again, best leave it there heh? The point I'm making here is the extra effort that I put in reaped its rewards with carp on the bank, so the rigs were never an issue, they needed to be strong and reliable...period.

I realise this might not be any help to those of you reading this looking for some answers, what I'm hoping is that it will give you some food for thought. I find writing this down helps me think it out as well. On my last trip I definitely had carp in front of me but couldn't buy a bite on the first afternoon and night, now I was a guest at a Charity event and had never fished this water before, so didn't know what were some of the best tactics to be using and none were forthcoming either. The first 24 hours nothing occurred but I had seen my baited area slicking up occasionally, so I made the decision to continue putting the bait in, despite the very windy conditions. Over the course of the day, every couple of hours or so, I kept adding to the baited area a bit at a time. We had a break in the afternoon for a social, when I returned to

fish, I recast to the area, using a short rig and a little bag and had a take within an hour! I had 2 more carp that night as well from the same spot. Now, here's the thing... which worked? Adding more bait or changing my presentation, or both, or just putting a bit more effort in? maybe it was topping up the area occasionally? What I do know is that I felt much happier that I felt I was fishing more effectively. It has certainly spurred me on to follow this path for the rest of the year, we will see how it goes and in due course I'll let you know.

Review

Like most of you, I part with my hard earned wallet-filler for most of my tackle, whilst I have good tackle, some of it quite expensive, I don't change things much unless they either wear out or something better comes along and by better I don't mean newer or shinier. Given the cost of some items these days its scandalous what the companies charge for things. I do keep my eyes out though for anything that I think will either improve my fishing or time on the bank. So, I will put in the occasional review if after time I think it worth mentioning.

I have attached a picture of a Mosquito light that I recently purchased from Go Outdoors, I had seen them advertised on Amazon. I was a bit sceptical when I read the reviews, but it was inexpensive so I thought I would give it a go. It is rechargeable and last for approx. 2 nights. It has a light on for ordinary use, then a night glow which attracts bugs in the dark, then Zaps them when they touch the wire mesh. The first night I used it I was surprised by the amount of bodies it had collected by the morning, I normally sleep with my bivvy or van door open summer or winter and after a couple of days there are always a good selection of

bugs around inside the van. When I used this, there were none, it really seemed to attract anything that came in. it is supposed to keep a small room clear of bugs overnight. It wasn't expensive, but I'm sure with the addition of green colouring and an F, or a K, or any other tackle companies logo, it would double the price.

That's all for now, good fishing to you all and catch you next month.

Andy





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*Syndicate Life....
Living the Dream*

By Andy Hyden

I've been on my private syndicate and this is the start of my fourth year. It is based in the midlands and its 7 acres, low stocked with 55 to 60 fish and is a weedy lake filled with islands and various depths. The lake is stocked with some absolute stunners and the fish are only still young with plenty of growth still in them. I have had to change tactics over the years as I was regularly catching the smaller fish low 20s etc but the bigger fish seemed to be eluding me until I swapped a few things around and fished different methods and rigs but kept the same bait going in trying to get them to see it as a food source .

This year I decided to

change it completely just going with a solid pva setup with pellet and a dozen boilies scattered around. my swim as the lake has only just reopened after being shut for 6 weeks for spawning.

My first session back was a blank so a couple of weeks later I arrived back at the lake and did the usual thing, walk the lake for signs of showing or feeding fish.

2 anglers were on one end of the lake

so walked to other end with no anglers around at all and saw 3 fish bosh out within five minutes. The wind was hacking straight into the peg so that was it, I set up my 3 rods with castaway pva bags filled with pellet, I tied 3 small multi rigs up with a small 10mm naturbaits alpha pop up on all 3 rods and cast out then catapulted 6 or 7 naturbait alpha boilies over the top. Saturday morning at around 4am my left hand rod ripped off





the fish felt like it was on steroids, I think it took me every where for about 25 minutes. after an immense battle it finally slipped the net, a nice white water mirror 25lb +

I tied another bag and put back on the spot. At around 8.30 my middle rod screamed off, a nice 18 mirror which was 1 off the young stockies.

At around 2.30 the lake had gone very quiet with nothing been caught at the other end of the lake. Then out of the blue my right

hand rod went into meltdown. Another crazy fight after 10 mins he slipped over the net another 25lb+ common, so I ended up having 3 bites on a 36 hr session which on this low stocked lake was a bonus.

The following week I arrived to do a 72 hr session, The same tactics as previous week and on the same peg which I had seen a couple of fish bosh out, so after setting up

I made my castaway pva bags up with multi rigs on but this time I went with 3 different coloured pop ups on naturesbaits alpha, white ice and berry bite.

I cast my bags out and catapulted 6 or 7 boilies over the top and within an hour my right hand rod, which was



only 2 rod lengths out, went in melt down.

This carp wasn't happy being hooked at all and it must have taken at least 60 yards of line on its first run.

It got within a rod length out and it flat rodded me, the thing then went another

crazy run. It did this 4 times. When I finally got it near I knew it was 1 of the top 3 fish in here a fish called

Charlie and at a **new pb mirror uk weight for me of 38lb 15 oz**

She was still a bit spawned out so 2 days to go and a new uk pb mirror has graced my net.

I'm absolutely buzzing, this lake keeps giving if fished correctly. So that is fish number 50 out of the stock in here just a few more big girls to go at .





STRANGE TIMES

BY KARL BRANDRETH

Strange Times

In all my years off angling i have never seen the lakes like this before, i was patrolling the lakes whilst on lock down and I could see the bank surrounding the lakes ground back trying to take over, the animals were coming out more, foxes, badgers, different birds and other wildlife, the carp were moving around the lakes in places I had not seen them before because it was so quiet, there was nobody fishing the lakes and they were taking advantage of the COVID-19 situation.

I was cleaning the lakes paths and doing work on there getting ready for open day keeping myself busy while I'm on furlough, but then the day came for the anglers to get back on, even with public walking round. For the next few weeks ahead the place was to change again with

human life buzzing around the lakes, anglers filling every peg they could get on, myself and the other bailiffs are now busy checking on anglers membership cards and rod license also making sure they are safe whilst fishing. Now things are getting back to normal. I've been getting out fishing and doing my bailiff duties at the same time, my sessions have been good up to now with catching every time since the

lockdown was lifted. But as I thought they would, the carp are going back to normal, hard work, there were big catches from a few anglers at the start but now the carp are slowing down, getting harder to catch but that's nature.

My last few sessions were weird as I had set up on a peg called the hump, and my rods out one on the edge of lily pads and the other out in the middle, I struggled to catch until



Karl Brandreth



the second evening when I managed one small carp from out in the middle... it went round and straight into the lily pads but my Wolf rods didn't let me down getting it through. That was on a snowman style d-rig on a sample bait from Retro Baits. The last morning, I sat there pondering why? Why didn't I catch any more? I had a few brews and packed up to go home, but I got absolutely soaked and smashed it down.

So, the next session I went to the other end of the lake in shallower water with the weather getting hot again, I got to my swim, set my stall up and it was hot, my rod got flung out to where I know the carp come from over the next few days, it was red hot then! Thunder and lightning and a massive downpour, so that was it shorts off

and joggers back on, the temperature had dropped by 10c the last night the rain didn't stop it bounced on my bivvy like a tight drum. I didn't get any sleep and the motorway behind me got louder with the water on the road.

I managed to again sneak one carp out to save a blank session it was only small but more than welcome.

I packed my gear away and it was soaked again but this time a long walk in the rain to get to my car, I spent the next week drying my gear out again. On my last session I had got to the lake and there was a few guys on, I spoke to a few of them and one guy had 9 on his session, so I decided to jump in his peg once he'd gone home. I got my stall set up and sat and watched the water

Strange Times

while making new rigs, on one rod I'd put a d-rig and the other had a Ronnie on, both with bottom baits and just a three bait stringer. I wrapped up the rods to 10 wraps and cast out to where the fish came out, I thought I'm on them here plus they were all over my swim fizzing. I sat there with a brew watching and waiting, nothing came out through the day and at teatime I decided to re-cast and have my tea while I waited. The first night came and went, with only a



hand full of liners. The guy next door caught my attention, so I went over chatting to him about the fishing on there, then out of the blue my right-hand rod

just went into meltdown which resulted in a lovely 17lb 2oz common. A new rig had to be made and then got the bait on and slung it out back on the spot. I was chuffed with that and relieved that it took the pressure of me.



The kettle went on and made a brew then went to carry the chat with the guy next to me. We put the world to rights, chatted about this and that for about forty minutes, when the

Karl Brandreth



same rod let out another take. I ran over lifted the rod and made contact with a strong fish; it ran me all over the lake. I couldn't do anything with it...it took me ages to net it, but eventually it slid over the cord of the net and it was mine.

I weighed the carp and it was the same size as the last one 17lb but built like a bodybuilder it beat me up on the cradle, and I managed to get a picture and slip

it back into its watery home.

Then after getting the rod back out, it went all quiet but the temperature just hotter and hotter to a point where I was chasing the shade to stay cool, I then got my rods out of the water and went around the lakes to do my bailiff duties. I spent a good couple of hours going around chatting to other anglers and giving my swim a rest. On getting back to my peg I couldn't function

it was that hot, I was sweating in places I've never sweated before, it was horrible but I pulled myself together and got new bait on my hooks with new stringers and got them back out at 10 wraps and again spent the rest of the day following the shade about to not get burnt. The sun went down behind me and a breeze got up blowing right to me, so now I've cooled down a bit with all my peg in the shade and a breeze I could

Strange Times

get comfy and re-cast my rods hoping for another take that evening. Later on, that night I got my tea sorted with a brew and relaxed in the wind. I went to bed with not even a bleep on the rods and hoping I would be woken up with a screaming take.

I drifted off to sleep and the morning came around quick, waking up at 4am. I sat there watching the lake hoping for a fish before I go home but the carp had other ideas. Time to go home arrived quickly and it wasn't long before I was pushing my barrow to my car.

I got home and lay in the cold shower cooling down from the blistering heat, but all in all I really enjoyed fishing and not blanking even though it was hard going. I know on different pegs

around the lake recently a few guys have had some good sessions

.... So, something has changed, they just ain't behaving like they used to... but at least they are feeding.

Until next time tight line guys

Stay safe

Karl



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Blanking: The Elephant In The
Room
by Carl Milton

Most articles these days understandably focus on what people have caught or how to catch. However, it is rare to see pieces on not catching. It is the taboo topic. You may wonder why I'm bothering to write about not catching! It is my view that I learn more on a session when I blank, than I do when I catch. I hope to share some of the thought processes I go through upon blanking. This will hopefully get you thinking about those blank sessions and learning from them to improve your overall catch rate.

The first thing to say is that we all have blank sessions. No matter how good an angler, in carp fishing blanks are part and

parcel of the sport. We tend to only hear about people's fantastic catches. However especially on the low stock, highly pressured waters where many of the country's biggest carp reside, there are inevitably blanks along the way to success. So next time you have a blank session don't be too hard on yourself, you will be in good company, it happens to us all at some point.

We need to consider the reasons why blanks occur to learn from them. I split these reasons into 2 categories, those we can influence, and those we can't influence.

The key category is those that we can influence. The first of these is location.

It sounds obvious to say but if the fish are not in the area you are fishing, you will not catch them. So good watercraft, observation and knowledge of the water come into play here. Knowledge of the water is something that inevitably comes with time. So, a new water or one that I am not regularly in touch with, I am not too hard on myself if I blank. Provided I've looked hard for the fish and there were no signs. With time on a water patterns often emerge as to areas the fish favor. Even with location there are aspects we can't influence, particularly if you've found the fish but the venue is too busy to fish that area.

The next is hook bait. Unless the water is a



very bait dependent high stock water, the bait you use at the business end plays a big part in catching or not. If you put a blob of marzipan (which is something I really don't like) in front of me, whatever the circumstances I won't eat it. So, putting some thought into the hook bait is very important. Another element that falls partly into the hook bait category, and partly into location is the depth at which you fish at. Do you use a bottom bait, pop-up

or zig? Again, this can affect whether or not you catch. Another thing to consider is has the bait 'blown'? Especially on highly pressured waters, fish seem to wise up to a bait, and those anglers that change bait at the correct moment, tend to have better results.

Still thinking of bait, thought should be put into the amount, and type of loose feed used. This is a very tricky one, as we cannot influence what the angler before threw



into the swim. But sometimes over or under baiting can play a big part in not catching. The difference often between a good, and an excellent angler in my book is often as simple as knowing when to pile the bait in, and when not too.

The final factor that we as anglers can influence is rigs. There is no magic wonder rig that will catch fish in all circumstances. Choosing the

correct rig for the environment you are fishing is the important thing. Even then, as we have seen in the underwater footage available and observing fish in the margins, fish can 'get away with it'. So, we have to be realistic that at times no matter how good a rig we have, we may still blank.

The second category is things we cannot control. Sometimes it's reassuring to know we may have done everything within

our power to catch, but things beyond our control may have conspired to stop us catching.

The first of these factors is natural food. At times fish may be pre-occupied with certain natural food sources, and we have to accept the fish are not feeding on bait. Also, I believe especially in winter we have to accept that the fish may not have been feeding when we were at the lake. On a short session in the midst of winter, carp may not be feeding at that time. As time goes by, you may learn when they tend to feed, and be able to time your sessions to the feeding spells, but carp are wild creatures and feeding spells can vary.

Weather/moon phases play a part in captures too. We cannot influence these directly, however we can time our sessions where possible to the optimal times. If you are anything like me though and working full time with a young family, sometimes we have to accept we cannot always fish at the optimal times.

The final factor is other anglers and angling pressure. Once

you have chosen your water, you cannot influence other anglers and the amount of pressure the water receives.

If you are happy you have done all you can with the factors you can influence, and still blanked, rest easy knowing you have done your best. If you are fishing a hard water this will be the case at times and you need to develop a strong mindset to get

through these blanks, and not give up. I see many anglers fish these hard waters a handful of times and then 'throw the towel in' and return to easier waters. Some people are happy getting a bend in the rod, and there is nothing at all wrong with that. But if you want to fish for big fish consistently, you need to have a steely focus and stick to your guns to succeed. As you can see there are many variables in



catching or blanking, some that we can influence and some that we can't. When I leave a venue following a blank I try to think through how I have performed with the factors I can influence. Often on the drive home, I will think through what I can improve upon with these factors. This enables me to

learn from the blank and continuously improve my angling. I guess if it were easy, it would take a lot of the challenge and enjoyment out of it. The key message though is learning from each blank. Dividing my analysis into location, bait, rig and loose feed enables me to identify the factors I can learn

from and improve next time. Piecing together those jigsaw pieces and analytically thinking through each blank will make you a better angler and put more fish on the bank.

Take care of you and yours.

Carl



Back on the bank

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**Getting back on the bank
by James Quinton**

As I sit and type this up, I am sweating and dying in this heat wave we are currently having! Me and Merlyn were due to go out fishing tonight but have decided against it as it is just too hot and really it isn't fair on any fish, we might be lucky enough to catch. Hot weather isn't great to be having them on unhooking mats etc.

I hope everyone enjoyed Merlyn's article last month on her awesome new PB? Question is have I caught anything? Well the answer is a yes, see I told you I do catch..... sometimes! You might re-call me writing about a small lake near us that we had a few sessions over during the winter months. And it was here that I choose to do a few sessions. it

was really busy after lockdown, so we left it till it got a bit less busy, which wasn't too long as the lake decided to spawn.

Once the lake re opened we sorted out some sessions and enjoyed a couple of blanks sessions. It was nice just to be back down there. I had a couple of midweek nights sorted and made my way down there. Upon arriving I had a few laps to see what I could see. It doesn't take long to walk around but I

wasn't in a rush to set either. There were only two more anglers on the lake at this time. They seemed to be hiding in their bivvies and seemed to of missed all the stock held up in a weed bed. That will do I thought and proceeded to set up there. I got chatting to a guy the other end of the lake and he told me he had the big girl out at a spawned out weight of just under 39lb, top result! I The fish were still in the weed bed and I decided to have a bit of a read and chill out,



at this point it was mid-morning. At around half 12 the right delk let out a few bleeps and my bobbin was up tight, fish on!! Considering the weed the fish came through easily and then decided to wake up under the rod tip. A few minutes passed and a few last effort ditches and she came up gasping, net went up and in she went! YES, I thought to myself. Making sure she was safe I set up the mat and got plenty of water plenty and my trusty bottle of propolis. I lifted her up and thought to myself she was a bit of a chunk. On the scales she went just under 29lb and recognised her as the big common in there. She usually goes

33/34lb, but she was currently empty after spawning but who cares! She was on my mat! Luckily there was a guy just up from me that managed to get some lovely pics of her and once they were done and she was treated, I slipped her back. I was buzzing, the biggest common in there!!

Needless to say I blanked the rest of the trip but had a lovely session and was over the moon with the

common.

In the meantime we had a few sessions down snake and Merlyn got herself one of the really old mirrors in there called floppy tail at just under 28lb. She was buzzing as she really wanted one of the originals from there. She was using a trusty chod and a mulberry pop up from proper carp baits. The weed was up and there is loads of eel grass around currently so the long running chod gave





her the best option. She has a lot of confidence in this rig and looking at her previous captures you can see why!

I even managed one of the older cricket bat commons that lurk around in there. He went around 19/20lb, I didn't feel the need to weigh him, I was just so pleased to of caught him! My good friend Alex done the honours behind the lens and done an awesome job, cheers mate!!

We both fancied

abit of change of scenery and so head up to Bovi 1 near Chelmsford. There was only a couple of anglers on and we had a look around. We saw a few cruising around

where the wind was blowing into the margins near the car carp, sweat we thought and went as close as we could too them. This lake has no weed and a rather silty bottom, so I tied us up some multi rigs that were low lying and some light leads so we didn't plug in too much in the silt. Some free bait was put out and some special pop ups worked their way out to where we wanted



them. The day was fading, and we had a lovely veg curry the Merlyn made us. I went to my swim and got my head down. Around midnight my left hand delk gave way to a few bleeps then the unmistakable warble. I rushed out and had a very angry fish on the end! Honestly if I had lost it, I would have thought it was one of the bigger ones, my days did he fight hard! 15 mins later he was in my net and I had a

stunning low 20 male common in my net! Happy days, got him sacked up and a new hook was put on and back the rig went out. The night was quite but with the amount of liners we had I was surprised we didn't have another one! Merlyn got some lovely pics of the common and back he went. We will be returning there soon as it's a lovely little lake that doesn't get much pressure any more as sadly the big

common (40+) passed away.

Join us next month to see how we got on!

Best of luck out there James and Merlyn.

Thanks too

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Feeling That Donk
by Jay Khan



It's been a little while since my last written piece for this fantastic online magazine and I'm delighted to be putting words together for it again. What a year 2020 is proving to be I bet even Nostradamus had no visions of what's taken place to date. We still have six months remaining of the year and hopefully no further banana skins fingers crossed. I truly hope that you the readers did not lose any loved ones to COVID 19 and furthermore to any Key Workers, I truly hold you in the highest regard for the sacrifices made to literally keep societies functioning.

Probably one of the most often repeated life phrases passed to every generation is the statement,

“You will only appreciate what you have once you've lost it”

As an angling community could there be any better expression to define what we felt during the Lockdown period. We had our fishing lifestyles on tap! Trips across the channel, Carp shows scheduled in diaries, bucket lists of day tickets to check out, syndicate planning for the years ahead, copious amounts of new tackle releases and baits to avalanche our social media streams and those beloved trips to the tackle shop at the end of the month. This was our “normal” and we all love it to varying degrees even though at times it can come across as just one big circus and not about the actual hobby itself.

Then on the 23rd of March, our angling way of life ceased with those stern words “You must not go out”. A mass Lockdown that almost brought our industry to a standstill with months or even years ahead of uncertainty. Don't get me wrong I fully appreciate that we

are not out of the woods at this moment of writing but in March the fog was intense and bit by bit each segment of the fraternity was posting notices of closed, postponed or no further service. I think I'm not alone in sharing that it was a pretty unsettling time to be experiencing.

Out of everything that's involved with fishing I believe what we cherish most is simply being by the bank even in unfavorable fishing conditions. This very aspect had been taken away from us and there was nothing we could do but comply. How I started to regret every

time I had the opportunity to get out even if it was only a couple hours and I didn't due to laziness. Spring fishing is arguably the best season to up those PBs and it was going to evade us.

Fast forward to the present day and the feeling of gratitude towards my angling is in a different place. I have had plenty of conversations with the family about the many lessons that can be learnt from what we are experiencing but the one word that's plastered on the fridge and each bedroom is "Be Grateful". It's inevitable that as life returns to what we call



“normal” this concept will be forgotten somewhat but we just have to remind ourselves of the blessings and opportunities we have and value them deeply. When speaking to the Mrs about how much I missed my fishing I shared my intention to increase my attendance on the banks this year and thereafter going forward.

The next few days I found a mysterious pattern emerge with my fishing T-shirts having weird holes in them that I didn't recall having before. Maybe there was a new moth in town? Anyway, I digress, getting back to the fishing side of things I have made a very solid intention to

get out more consistently and put to work my fishing plans.

There are a number of waters on the to-do list and a large

number of goals I would like to achieve in the years to come.

When the Angling Trust confirmed we could once again send the leads flying it was a huge relief and as much as I wanted to load the van and head off it was not possible as I was still working full time. So, I set my sights on a few sessions with the initial one being a 1st time trip up to Linear Fisheries for 48 hours. With a constant eye on their FB feed it looked like every fish in the complex was waiting for a net to jump into, it was like they had missed us just as much we missed them!



The plan was to tackle Hardwick Smiths as the water required more of thoughtful approach

to it and the stamp of fish in there are super. As expected it was very busy, but a swim was available at the beginning of the Arm section and I set up for two days. With a couple of anglers to my right and one diagonally right opposite me, I took a while to decide my approach as I wanted to see how they were fishing first. Spombs and leading are par the course and it was no different that day, so with my section of water I didn't want to follow suit so instead searched the margins for any fish or feeding areas.

Fortunately, I was able to find a couple of carp cruising by around the margin 180 degrees from my swim and a small glowing area that had probably been fed on by those carp I had seen. My bait had

been soaking a few days previously, so I was very confident in depositing a few spoons of it along with corn and pellets. That was me done for the day, no spombing or leading for other open water spots. I was happy to put my 2 rods in this margin area just before dusk and anticipate a bite in the night or the following morning. The carp could have the day to eat and swim freely in my zone and interpret it as no angler in this section of water.

After a few hours of putting the bait out with a spoon, I checked to see if any progress had been made and was super happy to see through my polaroids



a carp troughing hard. Such a brilliant experience watching an idea work and seeing them eat the way they do. I could

literally sit and watch them for hours and hours. Witnessing this I walked back to my swim so chuffed, confident and excited about how the session was going to pan out.

Before sunset I topped up the spot and then got my two rods out over them and chilled back in anticipation. Casting the rods for the first time after what felt like an eternity was surreal and feeling that donk and seeing the tip bounce was sublime and enough to make a man release his goods. The Mrs had prepped me a chicken curry and I had some bits from Tesco's to enjoy alongside it. As the darkness came and all was serene on the lake I was truly in my element. It's not possible to express how much I soaked up the atmosphere and feelings of being out fishing again.

Surprisingly the only disturbance in the evening was sounds of carp thrashing around the lake and it intensified throughout the night.

My part of the water was fairly quiet but in one corner the odd horny rumble erupted now and then and I was pretty sure my session was going to be punctured flat.

Come first light the rods were reeled in and I was happy to accept that the spawning was going to intensify and better call the office and share this with them. The lake was closed off for the rest of the day so with a remaining 24 hours left I attempted to find a swim elsewhere on the complex but to no avail and did not fancy waiting somebody out in the glorious heat. So, from what looked at the beginning as very promising ended due to a carp sexathon. I will return soon as the complex is very well run, staff are super helpful and welcoming plus the fellow anglers are a decent bunch indeed.

So, with that trip bringing no fish my next session would be

at a water that opened on the traditional 16th June. I guess with any venue that opens after a break period the fishing is fast and furious initially but then slows down fairly quickly as they wise up. It was no different here as a couple of decent fish were caught in the first few days and with knowing the areas of the lake that produced the bites I set up there as well almost a week after the 16th.

Confidence was high, the weather was lovely, and the mood just felt good. I don't have many of those moments but when I do the fishing goes pretty well and in this session it certainly did. Due to the number of anglers that had fished the area I knew there would have been quite a bit of bait sent out so opted not to empty kilos into the water but rather fish singles. Luckily three lovely commons were caught through the night and one just after sunrise which was the best of the bunch.

Playing those fish after such a long absence was spiritual, exciting and uplifting along with netting them. It was epic to be fishing again, receiving bites, wetting the mat, holding the fish and trying to pose as if it's not giving you a hernia. Then the icing on the cake is returning them back with care and respect and appreciating these moments will always be magic. It is said fishing and being by nature aids mental health wellbeing, shame it has taken a Corona Lockdown to realise this.

Tight Lines!

Jay Khan

Facebook: Jay Khan

Instagram: Feelthadonk

Youtube: Feel The Donk
(coming soon)



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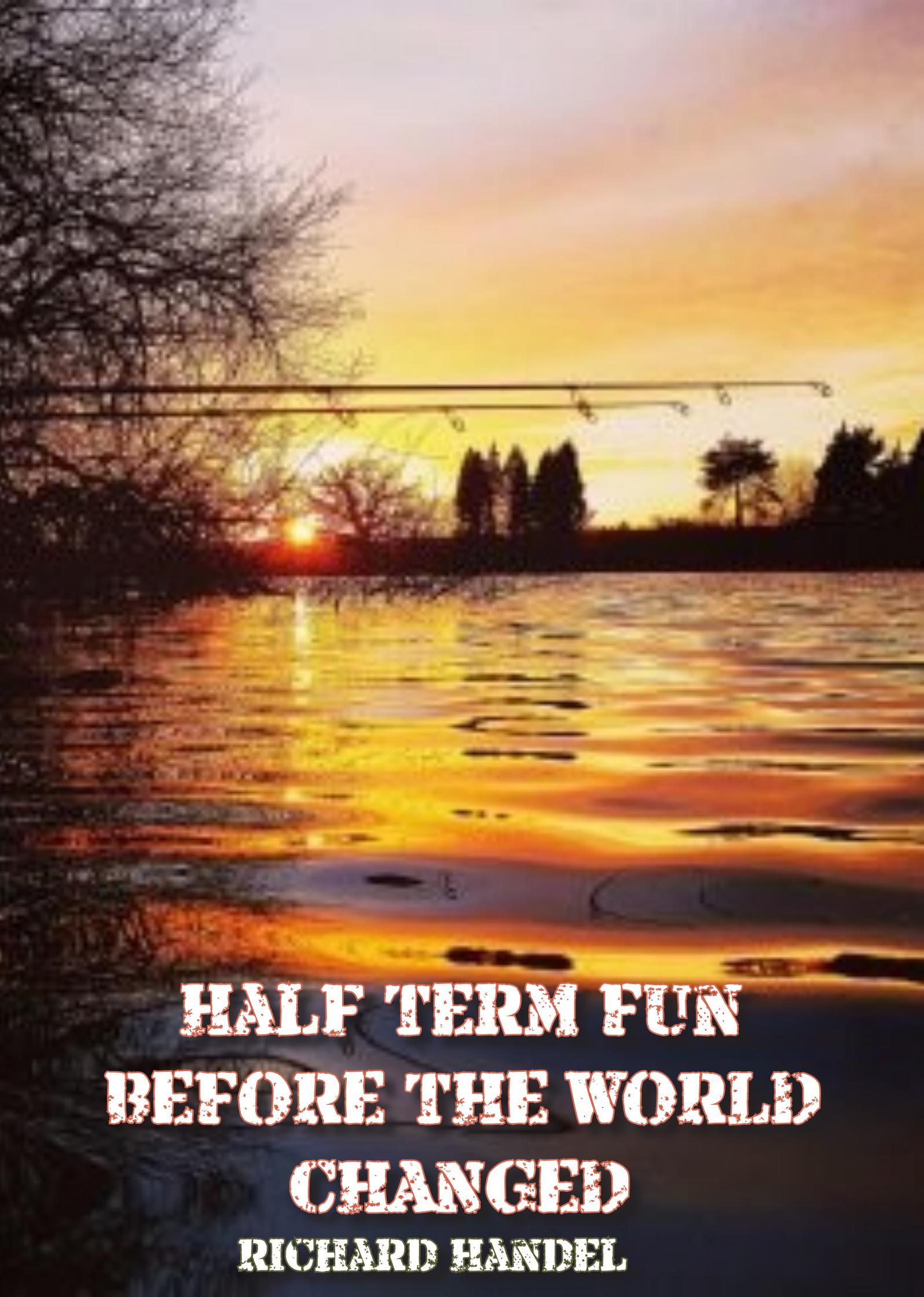


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**HALF TERM FUN
BEFORE THE WORLD
CHANGED
RICHARD HANDEL**

Location – Meadow Lake Hours – 119 Hrs (5 Nights)

The family was away, it's Half Term. I'm down the lake and all set up in the swamp swim again. It was a difficult choice, as the other swim I had in mind was nice, dry, clean and you didn't need to wade out, whereas this swim is horrendous. However, the underlying factor was that it was still producing Carp and I had utter confidence in that swim after the previous few weeks of being in here. I know that if I set up in any other swim in the lake (as I had the pick of them all), obviously not the ones underwater! I would spend the whole time wishing I was in there, so it just had to be done.

There was no real point in leading about. It was a case of spombing out 23 wraps 4 kilos of Classic Corn boilies and particle blend. Then casting the rods on to the spot with my hook baits, exactly as previous sessions and take it from there as the week goes on.

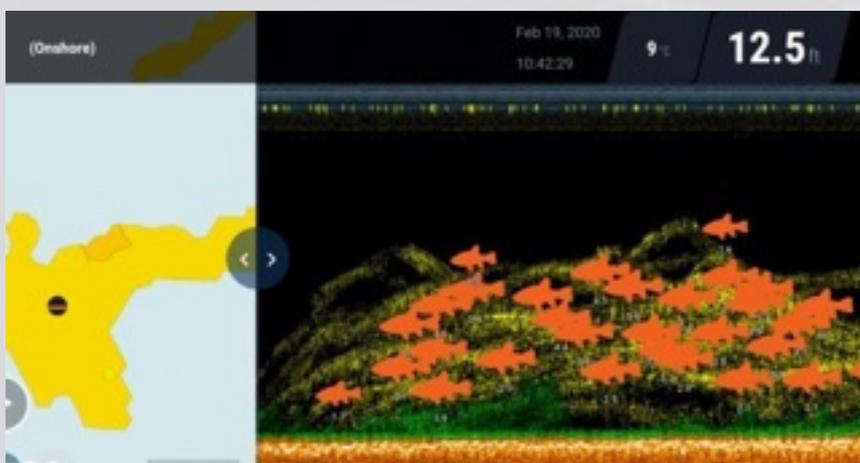
Within 20 minutes of the rods being out, I was into a Bream and once it was unhooked the wind picked up. It was a right struggle to get the bait back on the spot and had to redo it again once the wind had calmed down again. Eventually, the rain pushed away, and the sunshine arrived at the end of the day. There was still a good blow on the water, but the temperature was dropping, the pressure looked good and was rising over the course of the week.

My second take happened just after 23:00 hours and was definitely a Carp. I say was because halfway through pumping the fish in from my spot (which is certainly a few yards out and a few more once the waders are on), the hook pulled and from my close inspection afterward it was needle-sharp. Just one of those things. I just hope they haven't wised up to my change in rigs adjustments. We shall see. It's nice to get a take off the spot. With the rod back out and the blog updated, I was soon back on

the sack (getting some more shut-eye). I awoke to a lovely but still windy sunny day, there had been the odd heavy downpour overnight which woke me. Just before 08:30 the left-hand rod was off with another Carp, again, frustratingly, bumped the hook out. Two hook pulls are not very good news and I was at a bit of a loss to why. The rigs I had been using were no different from the nice new ones I put on. I soon changed them and got both rods back out again, I then topped up the swim with more bait. There clearly had been action on the baited area, albeit no carp on the bank. Let's hope I don't have to wait until the early hours to find out if I'm correct!

The day past by with no action. My friend Ian came for a coffee and a chat for a few hours in the afternoon, which was nice, as I've not seen him for some time. The weather was a mixture of heavy rain and sunshine today. I'm hoping that tonight I can put last night's problems behind me and move forward with a few carp in the net.

The night past in complete silence for me, I was fast off all night long – the fresh air must be working! If it wasn't for a friend calling, I would have still been asleep now. It was time for an adjustment with the rods, I didn't feel it was necessary to move swim, just move one rod into another area. As there is an incredible amount of water in front of me and only being able to fish with 2 rods does limit you. I rebaited and moved the right-hand rod to a different spot, I left the other rod where it was for just for one more night, as there is a bit of bait out there. Everything else is the same – rig, hook baits, etc. The weather is cloudy and an odd



rain shower, tomorrow afternoon onwards there is rain forecast, but light rain, so all looks great. Unfortunately, the pressure has gone up by 10mb which isn't helping. My fourth take of the trip happened at 15:50 Tuesday afternoon and

this time it wasn't a Bream! It also didn't fall off! After a very hard fight, avoiding the overhanging tree to my left, it was safely in the Nsr50 and wow, what an emotional fight that was after the last ones, I was just overwhelmed and relieved at the same time.

The rod was rebaited perfectly on the spot, I was feeling much more confident now.

There was not a single bleep again all night long and I need to definitely spend some time thinking my options over today; stay, move or go home. I'm going to give it until noontime before I make my mind up and weigh up the pros and cons. I never like to wake up after a blank night and go 'that's it I'm moving', I believe you have to be more calculated in what you do. I'll have a brew and a bite to eat (to feed the brain) because I don't want to make the wrong choice. It's now 13:00 hours Wednesday and I've decided to sit it out in this swim for another night or two. I decided this after looking around and hunting them down with the Deeper. It was clear that they were still in this swim. The issue with this swim is that it commands so much water, you could fish six rods and not cover half of it. The water in front of me goes into a sanctuary area, so unless you can cast 200 yards + they are safe from capture. Therefore, after a long search about and returning to my swim for a look, an incredible reading popped up on the Deeper.



This just had to be the place to be. They were drifting about, as I picked them up 3 times over an area, luckily, I have baited this area. I stuck both rods on it and fingers crossed that they pass this way again and fancy a feed. The bottom looks perfect and felt brilliant once I had passed the

marker rod over the area, as I like to do. The weather conditions are perfect – with the exception of the pressure, which is still high, but hey you can't have it all, I didn't pick this week, the schools do! My fifth take happened just before midnight on Wednesday after taking the decision to move my rods onto another spot. This paid off with the hard fighting Common, who just ripped off with no warning – I was a bit dazed at first, but it was on the rod and I was gaining ground. It was soon in the Nsr50, that was a nice result.

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I was well happy with that and as the rain started again, I quickly got the rod on the spot, well I hope so. The wind had picked up and was blowing very hard down the lake again, this definitely makes casting an issue and even more so in the dark. However, once I had tightened up the line, it was pointing in the right direction, heard it click and it felt right when it hit the bottom, that the best I could do. The next take was just before 0400 hours on the same rod as before, this also belted off like a train and did its best to get under a tree to my left.



Again, after a hard battle with the rod tip pushed deep into the water, I cleared the tree and set about playing the fish out under the rod tip. It soon slipped into the waiting Nsr50.

Very happy with that and not sure if I will get back to sleep tonight as very much over the moon. The rod was soon out again and looking like it was spot on. I settled down with my head on the pillow; I hadn't even closed my eyes before the right-hand rod was off this time and a very heavy fight ensued. I was convinced I hooked a monster, but it was just weed the Carp had picked up on the way in! But it was still another nice Common.

I was well happy with tonight's results – after the bad start with 2 lost fish, that was in the past. I had just banked the 4th one of the trip and that was pretty good going for February. Yet another carp on Spotted Fin Classic Corn boilies. I'm pretty much hooked on and have utter confidence in. I can't wait to get back on the Airfield lake in the middle of March with these babies. It just went past 0500 hours, I had better try and get some sleep, I need to be up early to rebait the swim unless I fancy getting soaked in the rain again.

What an incredible night that was. I managed a bit of sleep and got up at 0800 hours. I baited up the swim with the last of my bait and settled down to a day in the bivvy as the forecast is rained all day long. The next take happened right in the middle of a heavy wind and rainstorm but was successfully landed without any issues. I didn't weigh it as it was pouring down, just did a quick vid and got it back out there.

That will certainly do me, another one to the list of Carp who love the Classic Corn. I took this opportunity and got both rods in. After a quick trip to the box in the car park and collect a couple more bits, I then set about getting the rod ready for a recast when the wind and the rain starts in about half an hour. Unfortunately, the wind is now blowing directly into my swim from the NW and has a cold chill about it, it's due to swing around again to the SW as evening progress. The pressure has started to fall, which is nice, I do look at these things but as I generally only doights at the weekend and short days in the week (until the gardening

nseason really kicks in), I just go when I feel happy about the conditions as you really never know.

I had yet another Bream at about 17:30 and there was just enough light to get the fish back in the water and the rod out before the light was lost for my last night. The next take happened just after 20:30 on that very same rod, but this one was a Carp and a Mirror, it was one of the new stock fish and after I double-checked the weight, as it didn't look that big.

Happy with that, it certainly breaks up the Common run a bit! With that rod now out, I settled down to get some well-earned rest after last night's captures. I was hoping for the same tonight. The next take was a long wait, it happened just before first light on my last morning and I was dozing at the time, wondering if I will get another one before I pack up this morning. It absolutely belted off and made me jump.

What a lovely Common to grace my net again, there's actually now rain forecast today. This is handy as it would be nice to get things clean and tidy.

It's time, to sum up my trip – with a hard start and the thought of moving in my mind, lots of deep thinking happened and I stuck with this swim. It was certainly worth the effort as the rewards were brilliant and my trusty Deeper helped. The Classic Corn boilies did their job. It all came together and produced the goods again for me, by the time I get back on here, it will be March and in my book that's the start of Spring and Winter is over. Boy oh boy, what a Winter it's been.

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Until next time

Richard







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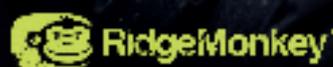
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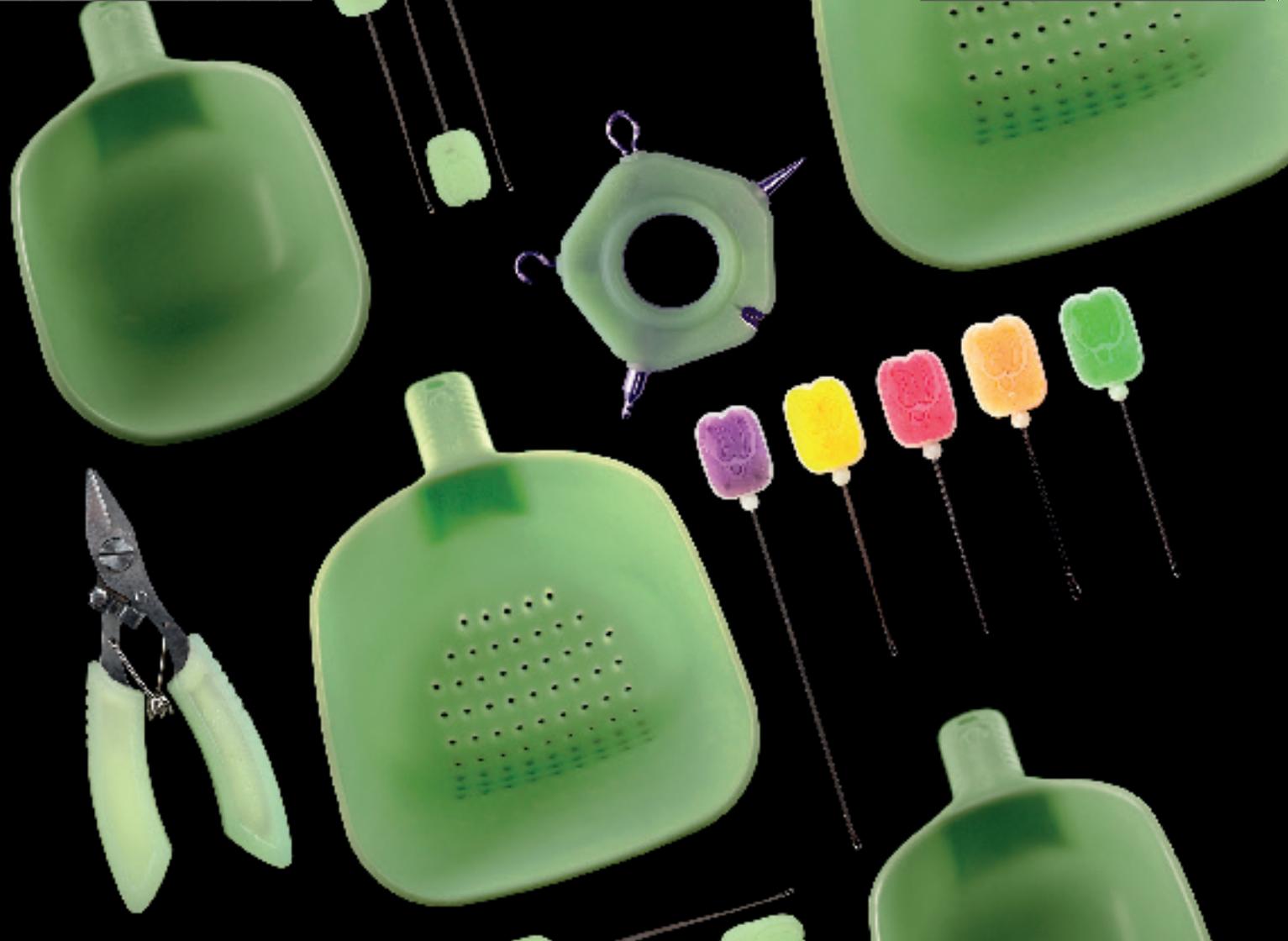
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Carp Fishing...so
much more than a
hobby

by Matthew Allen

I have a burning desire to talk about a sensitive, sometimes taboo subject. Even as I write this article I doubt whether I wish to carry on as I'm a secretive, private person. Only a few people are aware of what I'm about to write about.

But, I have noticed from social media just in the carp fishing world alone, mental health is prevalent. The amount of people discussing the issues associated with mental health is apparent for all to see.

I was recently sat on the lake of my new syndicate, not catching and I couldn't be happier. I feel that many aspects of carp fishing have a lot to offer from a managing and supporting mental health perspective and I'm keen to discuss my experiences and my

journey. I hope that I may help one person.

6-9 months ago, I got diagnosed with anxiety and depression, and I was in a really low place. But through many different aspects (my wife, my children, my manager, my friends, a CBT student called George), including carp fishing, I am in a really good place now and I wanted to share my story, especially as I have seen very recently another carp angler talk about the benefits of carp fishing and the carp fishing community, has on mental health.

My hope is that what I am about to write gives one-person help, hope, support ideas, has a positive effect in anyway.

I'm going to start by saying, I'm not a trained therapist in anyway, all that I'm

about to talk is about is my story, my opinion and this doesn't replace talking to experts, talking to your family, treatment, etc. I'm going to share how I feel carp fishing can help you, as it did for me.

I'm not a professional carp angler, I have no affiliation from any aspect of the carp fishing world, I actually work in Healthcare as an operating theatre department manager and deputy director of clinical services and I am trained as an Operating Department Practitioner (Anaesthetic Practitioner). My mental health has been particularly challenged during the Covid 19 global pandemic, yet my mindset has remained positive and this positivity has bridged across into my day to day work/life.

I'd like to discuss more about how I have done this and how my passion for carp fishing has been one of my big levelers, my distraction, my anxiety distractor, my movement away from worry.

The world has become a very negative place. Driving this is social media. I found myself, like most people logging onto Twitter or Facebook regularly, as you do, on my coffee breaks, in the evening, on the toilet, wherever possible. What I was reading, and viewing was deeply negative, would affect my mood, or would trigger a negative memory in my head from an anxiety or previous unpleasant memory. I was reading things on social media to help me shut out the negativity, to take my mind off work, the horrible things I had seen or the harrowing

conversations I had to have with staff. But all this negative crap was just making me spiral. It was adding to my low mood and making me more toxic and unpleasant to be around.

Change this. Change your social media, I did, and I don't miss anything. Carp fishing, I love it, and if you are reading this so do you. If you are reading this then you enjoy reading reviews, sharing stories, carp fishing pictures and words make you happy, help you relax. Then adopt this to your social media!

I stopped following the negative outlets. I

blocked the graphic images. I avoid the hate messages. I have swapped this for carp fishing. I read more carp fishing blogs, I look at carp fishing images, share stories, read reviews, just generally immerse myself in what gives me pleasure. That way when I have had a long day and I'm logging



onto social media, I'm viewing things that make me feel positive, stop me dwelling on negatives, stop me worrying, stop me overthinking.

I would much prefer to look at a beautiful linear and comment and say, 'well done, beautiful fish.' Or look at some of the bait reviews, the carp fishing viral streams are endless.

As part of my reading on social media I started reviewing different types of magazines or blogs in relation to rigs. I thought to myself that I really want to expand my rig armory, so I proceeded to buy myself some additional terminal tackle. Now all carp fisherman love shopping for carp tackle so my mood is lifted immediately by this. Who doesn't?

I then proceeded to start teaching myself different rigs. And I started really playing with all aspects, trying to adapt it to my fishing. I played with, the hair rig, spinner rig, blow back rig, multi rig, d rig, bo*!@*cks rig, KD rig. Nothing massively technical I'm sure you would all agree but the pleasure I was getting from tying these rigs, learning new knots, proving my mates wrong critically balancing 2 wafers, I was in carp tinker land heaven. I found myself one evening make a cup of tea

and treated myself to a massive bar of chocolate (reward yourself regularly). I started playing with my version of a d rig. I got so immersed in what I was doing, that an hour passed, my tea was cold and my chocolate untouched. I was shocked. Years gone



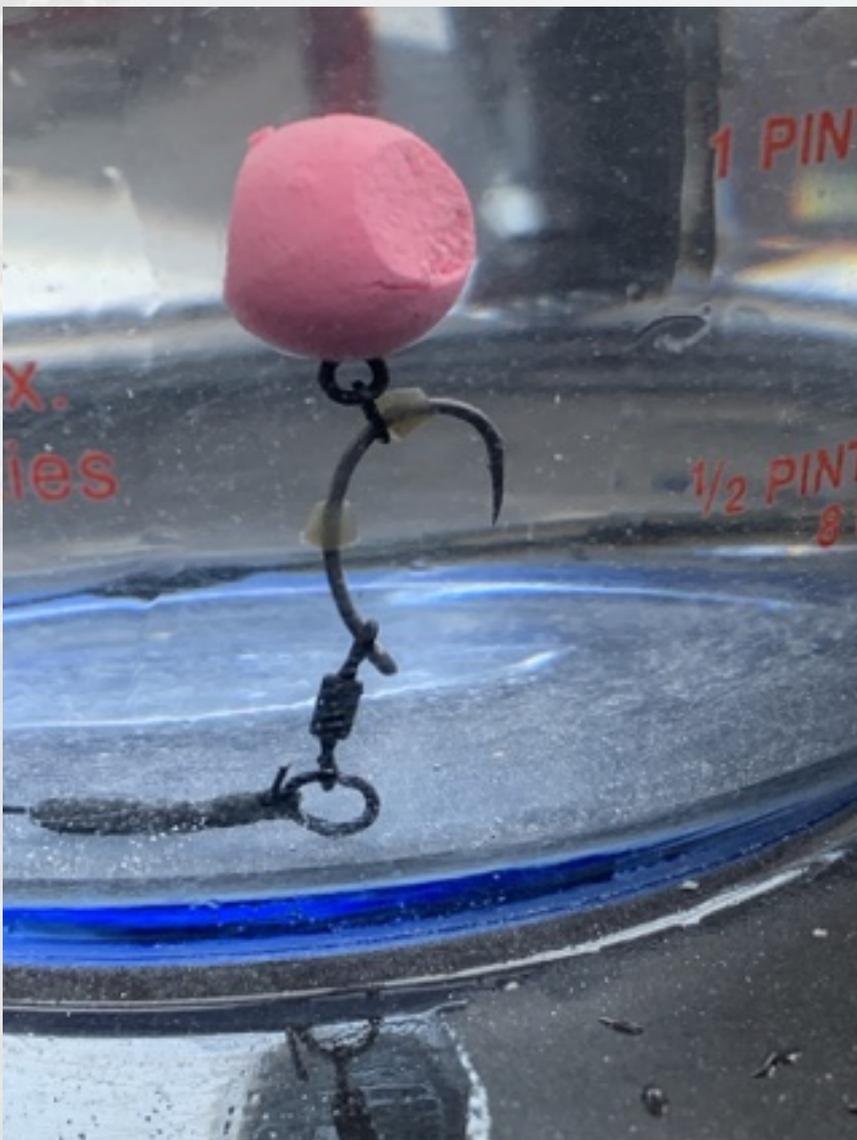
by I have not ventured into expanding my rig collection and skills because I didn't have the patience for it. Trust me; I was wound so tight that the tackle box would be out the window.

Now it dawned on me. Now I was getting pleasure from it

and it was blocking out the negativity. I wasn't dwelling in anxiety; I was doing a pleasure activity (I believe CBT call it a soothing activity). If any of you have seen the Sylvester Stallone version of Demolition Man, he is rehabilitated doing knitting and crochet. I'm tying rigs.

The distraction is fantastic. So calming. And when that bait and rig sat beautifully in my wife's large glass Pyrex dish, I was so happy. Achievement, tick. Happiness, tick. Sharing this with friends, big tick. Mood lift, you bet. Worrying about negative stuff? What negative stuff I'm concentrating on my carp rigs!

Yet again, by accident if honest, I have taken my love for carp fishing and used it to help my mood, block out worry and stop me living in anxiety. And I have loads of rigs to show for it. But another mood improving event came from this. My 7-year-old son was enjoying helping. So more rigs, more carp tackle shopping, more pleasure, but most of all, I was doing an activity with my son



that we were both passionate about and the mega buzz of pure pride and joy I was getting from watching him help construct these rigs by far outweighed any of my depressive or anxious tendencies. I was sending the photos to my dad, who got me into carp fishing, and I didn't even realize he couldn't tie a hair rig. So some chatting about rigs, going through his tackle box, more carp tackle shopping and more rig tying later, I'm again performing a positive activity that has also allowed me more time with my son and my father and the common denominator has been carp fishing passion.

Going back to media, I used to listen to the radio regularly and as I have discussed above, media currently is really negative. I found myself driving to

and from work listening to just negatives after negatives, not shutting my anxieties down, living in my worries.

I was driving to Manchester and found myself bored of the radio, thinking about work!!!! I pulled into a service and got a coffee and thought I would listen to a carp fishing podcast. This has been a revelation to me. I just listen to carp podcasts now and love them.

My favorite to listen

to is Julian Cundiff, but Korda, Nash and DNA have some great listening. I have found myself thinking about carp fishing to and from work, not worrying about what I'll walk into or driving home festering on the day. It clears my mind. I think about my fishing more, I laugh at Lee Mozza Morris's DNA intro, its perfect and I highly recommend you all do this.

CBT teaches you to let go of worry and have some alone time



to disperse the worry from your head. What better way than one of the podcasts I have listed, all enjoyable, and all take your mind to carp fishing, not the negative shit the radios love to bang on about and to be fair, I don't recognize most the music or artists on the radio these days anyway, so why listen when I can immerse myself in a light hearted bit of carp fishing chat.

The last thing I want to talk about is the most obvious. Get down the bank. Whether for a walk or to fish. I have spent lockdown walking around a local carp lake and recently my new syndicate. Allow yourself to appreciate nature, the birds and the trees. I picture myself in all the swims and start strategizing how I will catch all the beautiful carp. Pre baiting is currently in my

thoughts. I have been taking my sons along and they have greatly enjoyed carp hunting and firing pop ups at sunbathing carp. I can't wait to see my sons get that buzz from catching a carp soon and as I write this I have just returned from my 7-year-old catching 12 carp on rigs he helped tie. His face was brilliant and the whole family came down for a picnic to enjoy the experience.



Carp fishing has a lot to offer and I hope my very amateurish writings above have allowed you to understand how your hobby can be more to you.

Enjoy it, share it, read about it and spread some kindness. The world is toxic enough, but 99% of the carp fishing community love chatting carp, supporting each other and spreading some positive messages or gestures.

So please use your love of carp fishing to your advantage. Obviously not at the detriment of your family or work life.

Use it to take your mind off worries, reduce anxiety and to lift mood. I did, see what works for you.

I just want to

finish on thanking my Wife for her unwavering support and being my rock. I love you to the moon and back, my 3 children who give me so much joy, purpose and pleasure, my mum, my boss at work Heather, my deputy Addie and Kev and Zac.

Most of you will never

read this, except Kev and Zac as they carp fish, but I want you all to know you have participated in my journey, I'm forever grateful.

I hope to see you all on the bank some time and remember, ***please talk!***

All the best,

Matthew.



WARNING
MAY CONTAIN NUTS

A MODERN DAY CLASSIC

THE ALL-NEW NUT BASED CORN FLAVOURED BOILIE



12MM

15MM

20MM

12MM

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Reviews

Bait Special

CR Baits - John Flewin

Galaxy Baits - Scott Grant

Orion Baits - Ryan Salisbury



CR BAIT

Review

by John Flewin

WAFTERS

DUMBBELL



15MM ROUND



crbaits.co.uk

CR BAITs ... A RANGE REVIEW...

CR Baits has been around for a fair few years now and we have always stuck to the original ethos Make bait we want to use..

As anglers we are spoiled for choice when it comes to bait and with so many companies around its hard to stand out .. yet at CR we have created a range of baits that stick to a script. All the major bait types are covered and a liquid range and hookbait range to match Along side this we have a specials range that are indeed as the name suggest special..

THE BAITs

CR1

The original and most popular bait CR1 is a rich blend of creams and palatants with the finest caseinates, liver and yeast on a HNV milk base .. The old skool scopex and black pepper flavour pack really takes you back to the old tackle shop smell and with fish to over 90lb in Europe caught on CR1 it's a bait that has stood the test of time ..



CR2

Our target with the CR2 was to make a true fishmeal like no other..A blend of quality fishmeal along with krill meals and marine liquids and oils make this an unapologetic stinky fishmeal.. by adding liver and chilli we stepped it up a notch and with the blended fish flavour pack this is one that will take ya breath away



Nu-Trine

A blend of the finest nut meals with cream palatants and added crunch this bait is based on some of the finest nut recipes available. Now where we made it different is by adding a tangee squid flavour. This well balanced citrus and fish flavour compliments the nutty base and indeed creates a truly unique bait that the fish love .

As stated at the start we have a great range of matching liquids from food syrups to glugs to boost sprays to match the baits . Pop ups ,wafers hard hookers and some great pastels the baits have a hookbait to suit every situation ..

The syrups are based on the same food liquids and base mix ingredients that actually go into the bait .. like adding gravy to your roast dinner these liquids enhance the bait and add extra soluble attractors to the matching baits ..

LIQUIDS

We have 3 very special stand alone liquids that compliment the range .

The Amino C3 is a straightforward blend of 3 high amino food liquids that work well together and add that extra food quality to any bait.

Our sweet tiger nut liquid is an old classic original tiger nut slime with added sweetness and one that combined with our sweet nut stick mix is a great coating for bait or as a super attractive stick mix .

Choc'm' Liquid Cloud since release has gone crazy and it's easy to know why. Super sweet and creamy this liquid is incredibly versatile . From boosting baits to creating a high attract zig cloud and all in between.

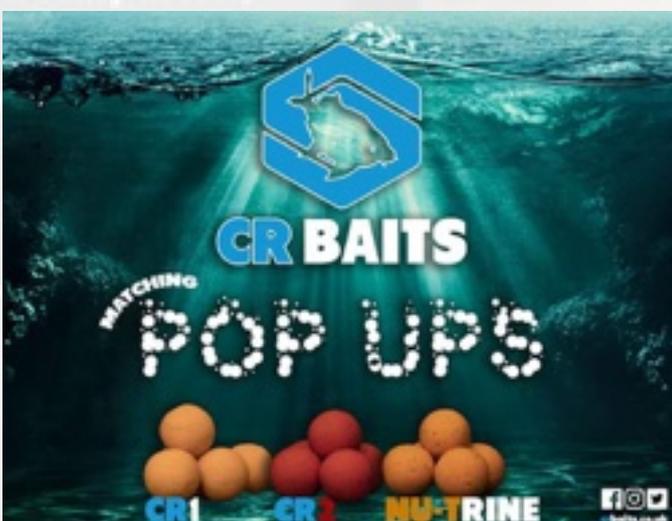


THE SPECIALS RANGE

This is a favourite of all. Four great flavour combos(Peach, Pineapple & N-Butyric, Chocomalt, Almond and Strawberry & Cream) and 3 great hookbait options create a great range in its own rights .

12mm ultra bouyant pop ups , midi wafers and mini wafers make incredible hookbaits in any situation. From bags to singles we have the bases covered and with spritz sprays to match the range it gives you a booster option for all your baits. Also we have our hi-vis high attract Top 10's fluoro pop ups in Toffee Creme and Acid Pear .

We have worked incredibly hard and believe in extensive testing and continuing to supply the best baits at a competitive price .. CR Is a passion and we pride ourselves on quality and offering a range of carp baits to suit everyone's fishing ..





CR BAIT

WHEN CONFIDENCE IS **CRUCIAL**



For More Information
CHECK US OUT AT

crbaits.co.uk   

**Freezer Fresh
for optimum
quality**

**Review by scott
'GEEZER' Grant**

**Pop-ups
Wafers
14/16/18mm
+DumbBells**



***GALAXY
BAITS***

HOME OF GALAXSEA OIL

***All products contain Medi-Chlorian
"Health Booster"
Exclusively created by Galaxy Baits***

Galaxy Baits **“formerly known as Darenth Valley Baits”**

Over the years I have used various baits. In my opinion there is no such thing as a wonder bait.

But there is such a thing as a quality bait, of which I have used over the past 5 years. A company now known as Galaxy Baits formerly known as “Darenth Valley Baits” that produce high protein quality bait, and even bespoke bait if that’s your preference.

Back in the 90s a lot of anglers from Essex and Kent used their infamous Skunk, a bait that simply took waters apart.

Micky purchased the company back in the year 2007, he used to work with Shaggy (the previous owner), from 1997 and has all the original recipes.

Micky re-released the Skunk last year under the Galaxy banner formerly known as “Darenth valley baits” who are the originators of the skunk oil and still are today, so beware of imitations.

I have only used the Skunk once and caught on it, the problem I have, is that there are so many baits to choose from.

5 years ago, I joined the team at Galaxy and for a few years previous, I have wanted to put my own bait together, but I didn’t know if the ingredients would go together and what amounts of each ingredient I would need.

Micky the owner sat down with me and we discussed what I wanted in a bait; Micky is way more experienced at this stuff than I am.

The bait was a nut-based bait, I wanted on an all seasons base mix, as I wanted to use the bait all year round.

Micky made the first batch and the finished product looked and smelt amazing.

It was late November 2015; I went up the Dell and fished a two-night session.

My first night using the new bait (which we named The Nutjob) I landed my first fish and a new PB Common known as "Cluster" at a weight of 42lb.

The bait worked from the off, I went on to catch another two fish an upper 20, and a low 30lber.

Ever since that faithful day I have religiously used the Nutjob and caught fish from all over the place.

In the range there are boilies in 22mm, 20mm, 18mm, 16mm, 14mm, Wafers, pop ups, boilie dip, food dip and plug.

There are 14 baits in the Galaxy range, black currant, blueberry, Plum, skunk, B1, B2, Attirer to name a few.





In 2018 I went to a lake in France and took a bait I had never used before called the Attirer, now the bait absolutely reeks but Micky swears by it and on my second night I caught the biggest fish in the lake and a new foreign PB 55lb 14oz. I returned to the lake 5 months later and caught the same fish again using the same bait!!!

Although I always use the Nutjob throughout the year, this summer I am going to try another of the baits, and one only a few have been using, with all of them having major success.

The bait is the Atlantic Salmon & Japanese Spider Crab, I really can't wait to use the bait and I know I will bank a few units along the way. Confidence is the key and if you are 100% confident in the bait you are using that's half the battle won.



Another plus side of using the bait is that you don't have to fill the place in to get the fish on it.

The fish will search out the bait as the ingredients are of the highest quality and it is now proven, that the actual wonder ingredient is driving the fish "health mad" this ingredient being the Medi-Chlorian, designed with nutritional scientists. This ingredient is in all baits across the Galaxy range as standard.

All the boilies in the range are also made with fresh eggs and steamed to perfection.

You will not find Galaxy Baits in the shops as Micky just wants to supply the anglers and not give the shops 100% mark-up, but give the saving to the angler.

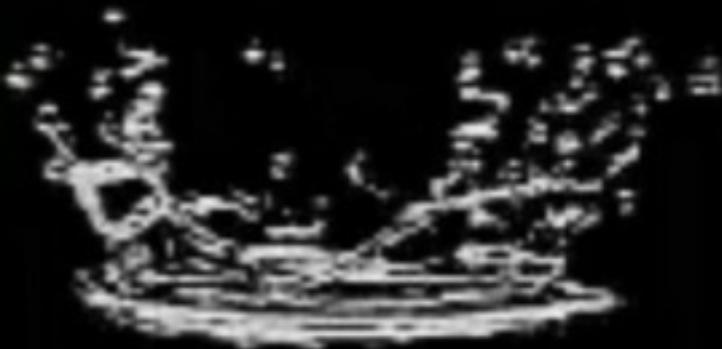


A kilo of bait will set you back £7:50 which is half the price of some of the baits in the tackle shop/or online.

The website is currently being revamped and should be up and running by the end of this year. It's going to be packed full of features so it's definitely one to look out for, meanwhile very soon there will be an album added to the Galaxy page on Facebook containing all of the information on the range.

If you would like to order any of the baits in the range contact Micky on 07798-606844.





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Taking particle preparation
to a whole new level!!



Nut Blizzard
8 Types of nut
Added hemp
Super cloudy
High in protein



<https://www.facebook.com/In-The-Margin>

Orion Carp Baits Review



By Ryan Salisbury

One of the biggest talking points between all anglers and has been for decades is the Boilie! Us Carp anglers are a funny breed when it comes to baits. We have the Pro Boilie tribe, Pro Particle tribe, Pellet tribe and a bit of everything tribe the list goes on. I've had many conversations with anglers regarding Boilie and baits and found if one particular bait has worked for them that's it "I'm not using anything else". If I had a pound for every time I've heard that phrase let's say I'd be sun bathing in the Caribbean right now.

The sense of anglers not willing or wanting to change or use something different is overwhelming. I believe the key factors of why carp anglers have this stance. Is because the pressure to catch and the actual cost of a session combined. It feels like a massive gamble to many to try a bait they've never used before. If they blank after using a bait for the first time. It's a easy get out of jail for them to just blame the bait. Nothing to do with blanking comes part and parcel with carp fishing. Nor is it the rig set up, approach or just that the carp weren't interested on that particular day.

I'm the angler who's forever changing looking for that extra edge over others. I've accepted blanking and yes I do question why all the time when I blank. But bait is never my excuse. I've been a bait field tester for a few

companies now. I've used a wide range of different boilies. Some have been amazing others not so good. But allowing myself to have the mindset to look down other avenues has given me the experience I have today and changed the way I look at bait especially the boilie.

Now by having a open mind and attitude has lead me to many opportunities and amazing baits. The opportunity arrived last summer



when I saw an ad for field testers wanted for a carp bait company called Orion Carp Baits. A South Yorkshire based company ran by Tony and Alan. After sending in my application and being accepted Tony personally called me and we talked about carp fishing for over an hour. After that phone call I knew I had made the right decision to leave my current company and move onto pastures new. They made me feel welcomed and a member of the Orion Carp Baits community. At the same time other field testers got in touch me and the community took me in and shared stories. I purchased the ALS Range and the N-Factor Range including their pop up range.

Now as previously mentioned anglers feel like they are taking a gamble and maybe I did for a bit. But all that doubt was smashed out the park when I had my rod in my local water for no longer than 10 minutes the bite alarm was screaming. With the ALS range I had banked 14 carp not including the Bream on my day session with a brand new Boilie. Since then I've not looked back and the results speak for themselves. Banking four 30's this winter which I have never done be in my angling career.

The quality of their bait is seen straight away from the moment you hold the bait in your hands. Firm enough for the throwing stick but soft at the time. Crumbles perfectly in your hands for crumb to add to your stick mixes or spod mix. The latest bait I've tested for them was the Crunch which has a little added extra of insects. This bait landed me four 30's back to back on the bank in February. That's not luck or just by chance the pulling power for the carp to pick up that hook bait every time in their winter trance is all the confidence I need.



They have great range and selection to cover all angles. I'm not paid by them nor get free bait. This is an honest view and credit is given when credit is due. Tony and Alan are great guys and love talking carp. They bend over backwards for their customers and can't do enough for you. If your looking for a change or that extra edge I can not recommend Orion Carp Baits enough.

Any enquires and more information jump over to their website
<https://www.orioncarpbaits.co.uk>

You can also find them on Facebook and Instagram.

Tight lines everyone



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Mike 'SPUG' Redfern

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Midlands Carp Champs 2020

Midlands Carp Champs is back again for our 4th year and due to growing support and popular demand we have given the format a little revamp for this year.

We pride ourselves on the way we have grown the competitions and our fundamental values of keeping the events friendly, cheap as possible to enter and above all ensuring the events are made enjoyable for every one who entered and follows us on our social media live videos.

We are also pleased to announce a new sole sponsorship deal with Tackle Addicts Tamworth a fantastic new local shop to us who will be supporting the events and offering our competitors exclusive deals and prizes for the final - we would like to thank shop owner Sean Chester for his generosity and support this year.

In addition our long affiliation with Alan Scholes and Chameleon Leads continues and We would like to thank Alan.

The format this year will be -

- 3 Qualifying Rounds
- 9 x Pegs (Single or Double) in each round
- Top 3 from each round will go into the 9 Peg Final

Midlands Carp Champs

93

- ENTRY FEE IS £220 Peg Peg
- PRIORITY | 2019 Competitors can purchase from 28th February for 5 days the tickets will then go to General Sale.
- All competitions will be 48 hours
- Registration from 8am
- Draw 10am
- Baiting / Markering from 11am
- Fish 12pm Fri to 12pm Sun

Dates -

Q1 - 3rd to 5th July

Q2 - 24 to 26th July

Q3 - 7th to 9th August

Final - 4th to 6th Sept

Prizes if full - 1st £1250, tackle voucher and trophie, 2nd - £750, tackle voucher and trophies, 3rd £400, Biggest fish - tackle voucher and trophy.

Any one wanting more information should contact us via our Facebook page -

Midlandscarpchamps





Catch Reports

Featuring -

Vader Baits

NutraBaits

Plus all of your catches !!!

Tia Francis



Simon Ursell



Took my brother on his first fishing experience also my nephew, and of course my son Tobias came, after a few lessons on casting and rig choice and of course using ProbaitsUk TT pop up it did not take long at all for the rod to melt off. My brothers face was pure excitement, he could feel the power with every shake of the head and lunge. After a lovely scrap the Carp was in the net a lovely 16lb common his first ever fish

I also had the pleasure of making Memories that day of watching my Nephew and son catching roach using ProbaitsUk Squid & Orange pellets, plus it be rude of me to not catch, along came my first leather weighing in at 10lb



Fin Brewin



Old mirror taken on a withy pool rig with a banana proper job pop up. Only 20 fish in the venue all look like this, rumoured to be leney's stocked in the 80's, unfortunately there is an otter in the area and a few are starting to show bite marks, hope to have a few more before they are wiped out



Kirk Worthing



Hi I'm Kirk Worthing. I recently had a really great session on Blackthorn fishery. I did a 48 session and caught a lovely 22lb mirror within an hour of the rods being in the water then followed that evening by a lovely 25lb 4oz mirror that beat me up all over the place. I actually got to name the fish which is a first and a real privilege as it beat me so badly I named it Kong. Then all was quiet until one hour before I left, I cast to a showing fish which resulted in a new pb and recapture of a fish known as The Warrior now weighing in at 38lb, so overall a spectacular end to my birthday weekend.



Paul Russell

Seneca river Baldwinsville NY

The river is running perfect and the spawn is officially over. The last 2 weeks it's been hard to get a fish over 25 lbs because the male carp have been so aggressive after they have spawned. All they want to do is eat you can get them on everything using any technique you want. Its great fun but you catch a ton of 15 to 24 lb fish.

The big post spawn female fish are now being caught with some consistency. A friend of mine caught 2 low 30 lb fish in an overnight session last weekend so the big girls are hungry and feeding.



Jack Howe



Fish was caught on a blow back rig with the unreleased bait I'm testing for Urban Bait called fully loaded on the hair tipped with a single white sweet corn over a bed of crushed of whole and chopped fully loaded boilies at 16 wraps out

Adie Smith



Adie took this 30lb+ Mirror from a water that rarely produces carp this big. This beast is his new U,K, PB, congratulations from all at Talking Carp.

Mark McDonald



A mid-afternoon take and the alarms screamed for a to this great fight from this fish, and finally landed at 17lb 5oz. A bed of chopped boilies and particle did the trick on the first time on the lake.



20lb 3oz common caught on a 18mm aforce bottom bait over a bed of particle the screaming run was some take great to part of the Carpopath's crew this was one of 5 fish I had over the 3 day stay

Wes and Sebastian Fagan



Father and son team Wes and Sebastian Fagan hit their local club water for a quick 24 hour session and was duly rewarded with these stunning commons. Dad Wes kicked things off with his 23lb and then, under dads watchful eye, 6 year old Sebastian went and hooked, played and landed his own 21lb on his new set up. Well done guys



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Vapour permeability: 6000 gr./m²/24 h.

Water resistance: 15000 mm.

For more information please visit our
website grizzlyman.uk

Or email us : info@grizzlyman.uk





Andy Lill - Nature identical flavours on particles and Enervite Gold base mix



Brian Hamilton - 27lb 2oz - Winter Berry Waffer



Craig Challinor - New PB 38lb - Trigga snowman topped with with a Pink Pepper pop up



Jake Legon - New PB 32.1lb - Cream Cajouser Bag & Stick Mix with a chopped pink pepper wafter



Left - Lee Bingham
- Trigga Freezer
16mm

Below - Lewis Clark
- Saffron & Cream Pop-Ups





Mick Thompson - Trigga and Cream Cajouser Pop-Ups



Mike Smith - Trigga and Trigga carpet feed Plum and Caproic 18mm Pop-Ups



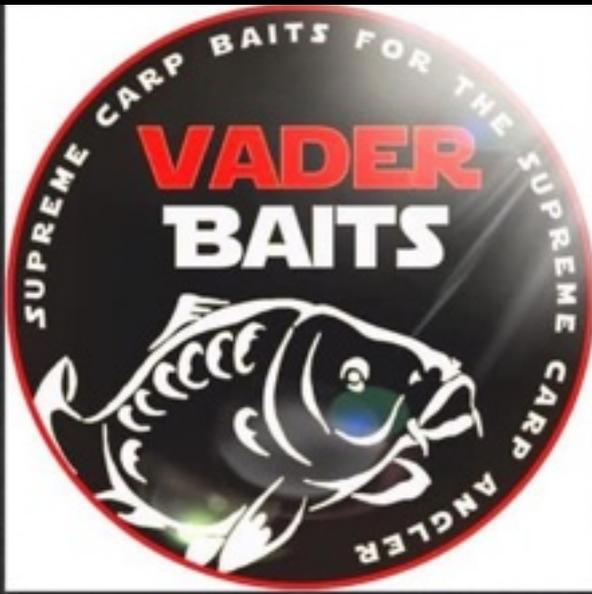
Pat Webb - 24lb 8oz - Cream Cajouser Bag & Stick Mix



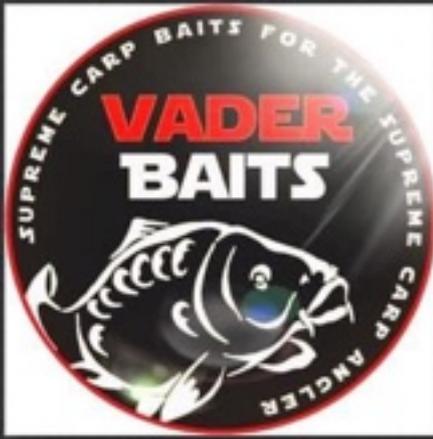
Sean Garfoot - 26lb - Trigga Freezer Bait and Pineapple & N-Butyric Pop-Ups



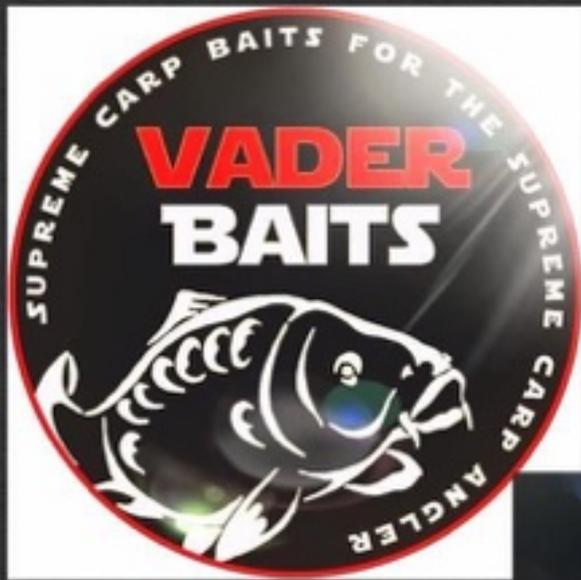
Younes Gonzales - Trigga Ice



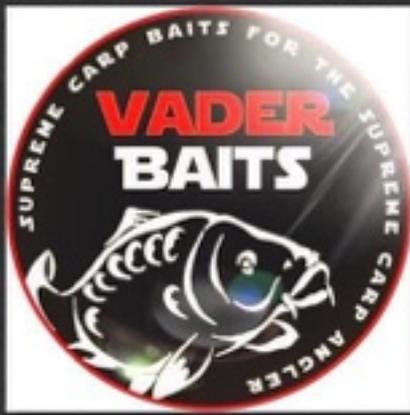
Team member Adrian fished our Vader Baits social at Stafford Moor Fishery! Adrian was lucky enough to win first place in the social with the two fish he caught. The fish came in at 23lb and 18lb 4oz. The fish were tempted by a solid bag, small white Le Nutz pop ups and Le Nutz pellets glugged in matching flavour.



Team member Chris headed to Follyfoot fishery for a 12 hour session which resulted in landing 5 fish. Biggest weighing in at 16lb. All the fish fell to white Crabalicious wafers with a handful of matching boilies over the top after every run!



Team member Luke headed out for a 3 night session at Summer Haze Fishery. He managed to land 8 fish the biggest going to 19lb 10oz. One of the fish landed was a beautiful ghosty! All the fish were tempted by a yellow Crabalicious pop up in a solid pva bag of micro pellet and matching boilies!



Team member Nathan headed to Festival Fisheries at the weekend for a 48hour session. His first fish that he landed was on Saturday evening...The fish weighed in at 13lb 10oz. The mirror fell to 2 14mm Grafter boilie and a 12mm yellow Grafter pop up fished as a snowman setup teamed up with a solid bag of mixed sized Blackfudge pellet and matching boilie crumb with a nice bed of 11mm Blackfudge pellet and Grafter boilies. The next bit of action came at 3.30am on Sunday morning resulting in a lovely 22lb 5oz mirror falling to 14mm Grafter boilies soaked in glug for 5 hours in a solid pva bag of mixed sized Blackfudge pellet and Grafter boilie crumb over a bed of 11mm Blackfudge pellet and matching Grafter boilies!

Le Lees Carp Fishery

Welcome everyone to LE LEES Carp Fishery.

We are a new venue officially opened in 2018. It is a family run venue, by myself, Matt, Tracie my partner and my son Thai.

Its been tough and we have been working hard to get the place ready for fishing this year. We purchased the place 3 yrs ago in a small rural village in brittany called Le Croisty.

With limited stock from a few pounds to 36lb. It is a 2 and a half acre lake, set in 6 acres of wood surrounded by fields. island in one corner with lilies in 2 corners,

The depths range from 7/8 feet around island gradually shallowing to around 2ft. We had the lake netted in 2016 and removed all the small roach, rudd and carp under 10lb. We put back over 80 carp from the netting in november that year and by february 2017 we introduced the new stock which ranged from 28lb to 48lb.

Our carp now go over 50lb. We estimate the lake has 150+ carp. We did not start this adventure to earn a ton of money, we started this for the love we have of fishing and to bring pleasure to others like minded.

We are a drive and survive venue for this year, with plans to introduce 5 small cabins as the venue grows. There is a caravan with cooker, water and toilet. We understand that fishing here in France can be very expensive, which is why we have priced our place to help make fishing here more affordable.

Le Lees Carp Fishery

Our price over the winter months (november 1st to march 31st) is 130 euros PPPW. 1st april to 31st october 150 euros. We also do an evening meal at 70 euros pppw.

Lake exclusive for upto 5 carpers with an evening meal is 750 euros pw.

Book a weekend from friday to sunday for 70 euros PP, or ask us for days to suite you and we will give you a great price.

At the moment we are doing a deal for any week this year (if booked before the end of February 2020 you will ge your fishing plus an evening meal for £150 per person).

A 50 euro PP deposit (non refundable) secures your booking.

Anymore info required, ferries, directions, reviews and more pics please visit our FB page.

Thank you for reading and we hope to see some of you on the bank landing some of our fantastic carp here in france.

Tight lines and may the carp gods bless you all. Best wishes

Find us on Facebook for further information.

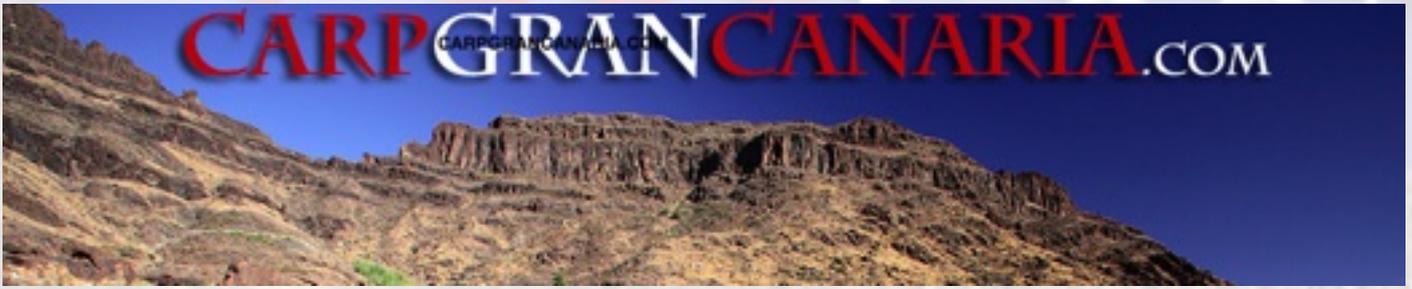
Matt, Tracie and Thai.



Le Lees Ca



rp Fishery



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

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

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

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

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

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

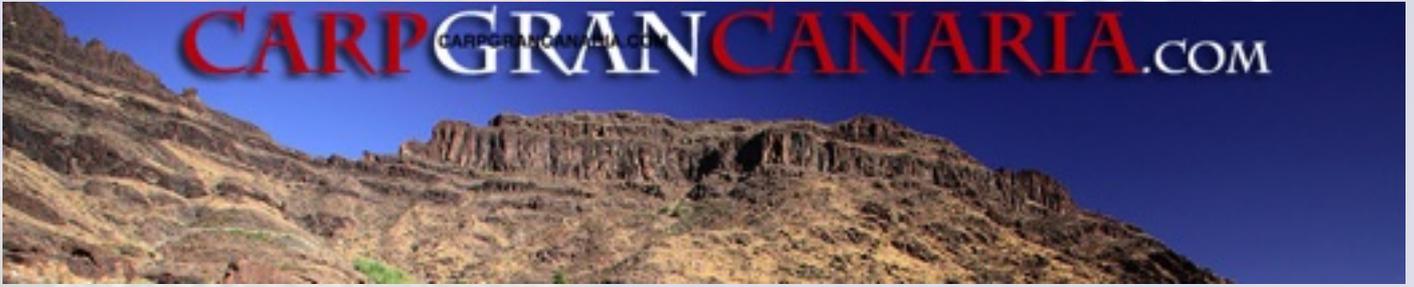
We also offer tailor made holidays for you, maybe a weeks fishing and a week on the beach!!!

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

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



BOOK WITH US FOR THE HOLIDAYS



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**Please send your articles and catch reports
by the 28th July 2020 for next months
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**brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk
mark@talkingcarp.co.uk
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