



Issue 59
January 2021



Inside this month

*Andy Murray, Scott Grant, Matt Allen
plus more*

Click Here



ICON

TECHNOLOGY
BY
WOLF

A NEW RANGE OF LAKESIDE INTERCONNECTIVITY



WIDE TRANSMISSION
RANGE



RUMBLE
ALERT



HUBB
LINK



GLOBAL
MUTE



HIGH VISIBLTY
LEDs



LONG BATTERY
LIFE



VARIABLE
DETECTION SYSTEM



AN ICON IS BORN...



www.wolfint.co.uk



@wolfint_official



@wolfintofficial



WolfInternatio3

Hello ... and a happy new year to you all.

We ended 2020 on a high, as Talking Carp attended the annual Santa's Sack giveaway main prize of 2 anglers fishing 48 hours on Linear Fisheries with catering by Jason Sandiford the Chefukcarp. We would like to express our thanks to Chris Blunt at Linear Fisheries for his continued support with this event and to Jason for some outstanding catering. No fish were caught but the lake gave us some amazing memories, a fantastic sunset and sunrise and Jason cooked up meals fit for a king.

And talking of Santa's Sack, you will all be aware we have just run another giveaway in December with 12 more happy readers claiming more fantastic prizes and we would like to thank the following companies for taking part:-

www.thefishingbookstore.com www.vaderbaits.com

www.brooms�crossfishery.co.uk

www.carbonbaits.com www.castaway-pva.co.uk

www.wyresidelakes.co.uk

www.sharptackle.co.uk www.nutrabaits.net

www.ridgemonkey.co.uk

www.dtbaita.co.uk www.crystallakesleisure.co.uk

www.linear-fisheries.co.uk

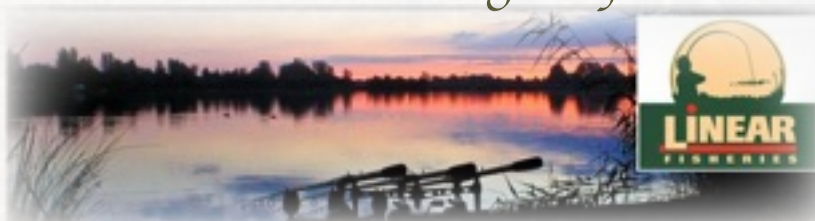
www.chefukcarp.co.uk

Looking forward to 2021 we have a couple of new features up our sleeve, and as always, we want to HEAR FROM YOU!!
Email us at the usual addresses: -

brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk

mark@talkingcarp.co.uk

Team Talking Carp



Inside This Month -

ARTICLES - from page 6

Page 6 - A poem - Imogen Allen

Page 9 - PMA and Achieving Dreams - Andy Murray

Page 16 - Lockdown Paradise part 2 - Scott Grant

Page 25 - A day out with my boys - Matthew Allen

Page 32 - Winter in Cheshire.- Karl Brandreth

Page 38 - Why Compare Yourself To Others - Richard Handel

Page 42 - Man With A Plan - Andy Gannon

Page 51 - A year on the Estate Lake (Part 4) – Viktor Tzikas

Page 64 - A New Syndicate - Ben Hutt

Page 69 - Tales from Belgium - Laeveren Jordy

Reviews - from page 82

The Nomad's Kitchen & Fjuka Baits by Anthony Woods

**CATCH REPORTS - from page 92
with all of your catches !!!!!!!**

D.T.Baits
Click Here

Visit dtbaits.co.uk
01376 502311



What's the secret of Supa Fruit's success?

Whey powder, calf milk replacer,
milk proteins - containing nine amino acids

Sweet Tiger Nut meal

Soft fruit attractant

Milk B+

29 years of precise
nutrition technology

P R E C I S E N U T R I T I O N T E C H N O L O G Y



THE REAL BEAUTY OF FISHING
A Poem by Imogen Allen



THE REAL BEAUTY OF FISHING

The first time I went fishing,
Things were not as I thought,
I tried to be eager and interested.
And even though I fought,
My imagination was hooked,
To another dimension.

We did not catch a thing,
Even though my dad claims to be the Carp King!
Not even a Perch appeared on the line,
And then I said to myself FINE!
I will never do this again!

I focused for a moment,
Glancing to the water,
Whose ripples pulled my mind in.
I listened to the silence and the calming hush of the waves.

The weather was kind,
Not a drop of sky water.
I lay back on my bed chair,
Looking to the towering trees,
And loving the cool breeze.
The colour of the leaves were red, orange, yellow, green,
And that is when I realized the real beauty of fishing,
It was relaxing with friends and family - I just wish I could do it now.

By Imogen Stephanie Allen Age: 11

If you do like my poem let me know
Although I do have to leave
I'll pull the ideas out of my sleeve
And give it another good old go

:)

Click here



Roddy Clips

www.rodyclips.co.uk

Happy New Year

This Month as a special treat we have teamed up with the legend that is 'Julian Cundiff' to bring you his Top 10 tips for bagging a Winter Carp.



Snag Ears



It's that time of year when the angler pressure is at it's least and although carp can be considerably harder to catch than the warmer months they are catchable.

So here's my Top 10 tips for bagging yourself a winter carp.

1. Make sure your water has a recent winter pedigree, you want genuine evidence that it will produce in even the worst of conditions.

So you either need the pictures or know whether to believe the person telling you it.. I'd like to see them catching now too...



It just needs to scream 'Eat me, here I am'

2. Be prepared to travel if the water is not on your doorstep. Better to fish less often at somewhere prolific than fish regularly at waters that have no winter pedigree.

3. Set yourself dates that you will stick to come what may...no excuses. Get them in your diary and use commonsense. Mid week is better than weekends to give yourself the best chance.

4. Until you absolutely know bite times to the minute try and fish at least twenty four hours at a time so you cover the whole spectrum.

5. Fish for a bite, NOT big hits!. You just need that one carp to trip up so small solid bags, small mesh bags and stringers are often the best way.

The number of carp feeding and the amount of feed they need will reduce, so sit on that spod, catapult or throwing stick.

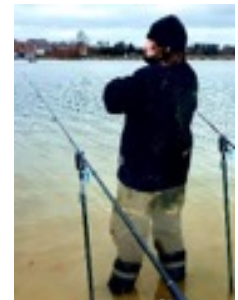
6. Be clinical. You get few second chances in the cold so pin sharp hooks, great knots, accurate casting and leaving nothing to chance is the order of the day.

7. Be vigilant. Whilst carp will be found in the usual haunts like reeds, snags, old weed beds nothing and I mean NOTHING beats seeing them and getting a bait on them.

Spend as much time looking and listening and walking.

8. You need to be inconspicuous and your bait conspicuous. Carp do not tolerate noise, visual end tackle and socials in the cold in a way they may in the warmth.

Ensure your hookbait via colour and smell is shouting, smelling and looking EAT ME.... HERE I AM...



Watching and waiting for a bite

9. Be realistic.. Once you accept it's not gonna be as prolific or nice as summer you will be able to get your head round catching them in the cold when the bulk of other anglers are sat at home because they don't have your drive to do it.

10. Don't suffer. Warm clothing, dry clothing...spare clothing. Proper boots that keep your feet warm. A hat, scarf and layer up.

The best shelter and bag you can afford and a hot water bottle is a godsend. Plenty of hot drinks, spare gas and decent food. Not junk food

See you out there.

Julian Cundiff

Julian Cundiff Angling

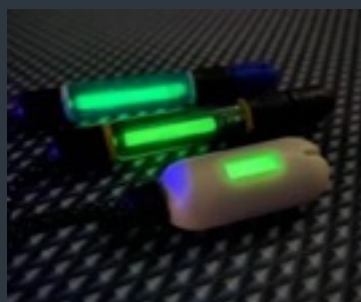
@juliancundiff

JulesCundiff1

O Rings



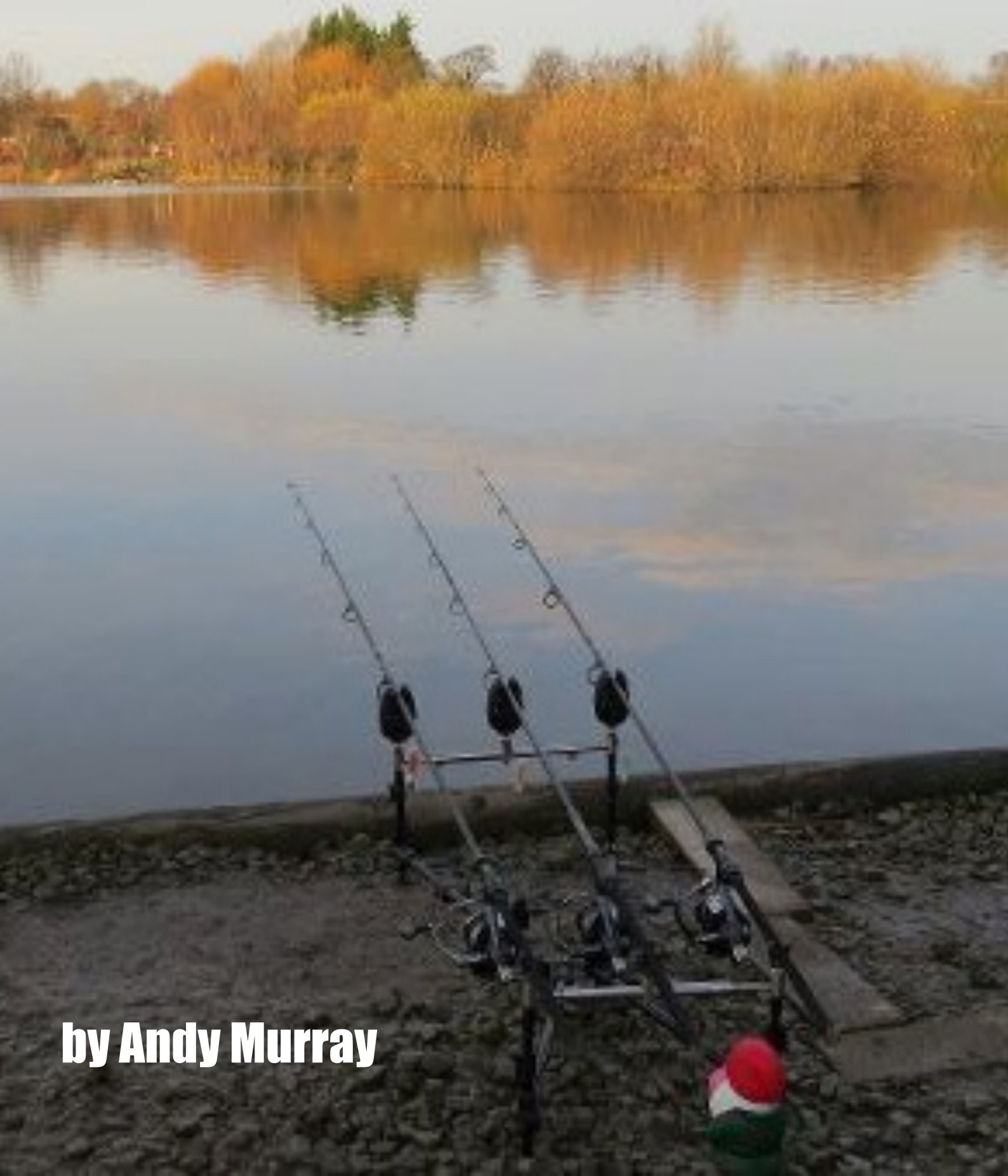
Night Topes



Talkin



PMA and Achieving Dreams



by Andy Murray

Hi all, I hope you had a Good Christmas and New Year, it's definitely being a strange one all-round hasn't it? Ours was quiet with just immediate family and very little socializing at all. Given the year we have had with Sal's Cancer treatment, it was just good to have a meal with the family, sit and play games with the grandsons, just appreciating the fact that we are all still here. I find myself in a bit of a reflective mood currently, although I usually I am at the start of a new year, though Sal says I'm just miserable because I can't go to the pub! As I am sat typing this up and thinking through a few things, it came to mind that it's exactly a year since Sal was diagnosed with Grade 3 Breast Cancer. She had been for a routine scan just before Christmas 2019 and been called back immediately for more in-depth tests, which meant biopsies. It was the day after Boxing day when we went back for the results, which confirmed the worst. We were still in a state of shock really and didn't know what to think, the NHS machine though was in full swing. On that return visit, surgery was already scheduled for February, then chemo, then radio therapy, the early parts of last year were taken up in a myriad of hospital

visits to get everything sorted for the avalanche of treatment she was about to undergo. The surgery went well, she started Chemo as lockdown started, which meant I then became her only carer. The reason for mentioning all this again is partly to do with looking back on the year and also planning for the future. Despite the issues the Pandemic has caused for all of us, with Family, work etc. We feel that this year has been a good year, why? Because she is still here and clear of Cancer. On many fronts we have a lot to be grateful for and it's worth reminding ourselves of that sometimes.

My current winter fishing which I mentioned last month is not going very well on the carp catching front. Although I am re-learning a lot about winter fishing. It's also proving a reminder why I usually stop fishing in late October or so and start again in late February, it isn't just the cold, it's the 16 hours of darkness and lack of movement that gets to me. I'm going to keep at it but I'm not feeling that I'm on top of what is happening really. I had expected the lake to be pretty quiet by December, on my last trip just about every swim was occupied, that's a lot of pressure on a lake



at any time of year. It also makes getting on carp much harder as well, on that trip I was really tempted to just go home as I had so little choice of where to fish. However, I set up and toughed it out for my two-day slot, unusually for me, I was relieved to pack up and head home, more usually I am wishing I can stay a bit longer. I am going to keep at it, in the hope of getting one of those winter carp. My last real decent winter carp was a few years ago, a big common from Swan.

It's usually during December/January I have a review of the years fishing and make plans for the following year. This is no exception, I have been having an overhaul of my tackle boxes and

bags, which I find quite therapeutic. It's amazing the amount of stuff we accrue isn't it? I always try to have a bit of a thin out of stuff as well as checking through my go to basic rigs and also tie up a number of fresh rigs and zigs, as I find I have put some back that have been used and just look old. I am also going to replace one or two items of

tackle in the coming weeks as well, a bit of retail therapy to treat myself. The other thing we are planning for now, are our trips abroad this coming year. As we missed out on so much this year, like many others. Hopefully, we can get some more trips and holidays in this year, Sal certainly deserves a good beach holiday this year, once she is back to full strength, though it's hard to guess when the current lock-down rules will ease. We had to cancel our planned trip to eastern Europe last Autumn, we have earmarked two weeks at the start of May for this adventure, I have attached a pic of a great Mirror I caught on our last trip to Hungary a couple of years ago. I'm also planning on taking Sal to France in the summer

as well for a week, as it's a long time since she went fishing with me, and finally, a trip in September or October to France again, though at this point I'm not sure where. I can see everywhere being busy as people catch up from trips missed in 2020.

On reviewing my catches overall for 2020, I think I have had a better year than the year before given that I have had to put up with so much; busier lakes, fishing less due to Sal's ongoing treatment through the summer, the lake being closed through lockdown and of course not getting abroad as much as I

planned. So, at first glance, it would appear that most of my tactics worked, as I seemed to be getting bites on a regular basis. That's how it seems on first look back anyway, though looking a bit more in depth I had some lengthy periods of not getting a bite at all in the summer. Looking back at my monthly Blogs on the Mainline site, it looks as if I caught carp every month of the year I fished in 2020, which looks impressive, but I think on a couple of occasions I was just plain lucky, I also didn't manage to get amongst the bigger carp, although I came close a couple of times. I realistically feel that I got it wrong



more than I got it right, and I am using those thoughts to help me plan for the coming year and not resting on my Laurels. My catch rates certainly improved once I adopted a change in both rigs and hookbait approach. I was also guilty of a bit of laziness at times as well, whenever I worked hard I felt I was fishing better, then I usually caught, not difficult is it.. If you do this type of review yourself, you really need to be honest with yourself, it's the only way you can work at improve your catches in the long run. One of the things I need to really work is my bag fishing this coming year, both close in and at really long range. Over the last few weeks I have been watching a few Vlogs on U-tube, this had given me some things to try and add into my fishing. I have already taken steps to work more on this and plan on covering this a bit in the coming months. You may remember early last year I had decided to resurrect using the method feeder. This turned out to be spectacularly unsuccessful to say the least, after a promising start it just faded out, that didn't stop me giving it a fair go though. So, I'll do the same with PVA bags this coming year and see how it goes, I do enjoy experimenting and trying something new, with the aim of

perfecting an approach.

My work with Wolf has taken up a lot more time than I envisaged, the new Website should be live by the time you read this. As opposed to the prototype Icon Qi alarms I have been testing for many months, I now have the first full production models to use, they really are first class, and should be available by late January/early February. Work has commenced on several other projects with Wolf that will take some time to come to fruition, but they are already looking really exciting. It will be great when we can finally get out to shows and events, and we will be able to exhibit these items to the Angling World, though that might still be a while. It's strange how things work out isn't it? When I first spoke with the Wolf team, I was just going to do a bit of consulting, as opposed to major involvement with the development of the product range amongst other things I am now doing. It's getting really full on now and I am really excited at the prospect of being involved with this for the future.

Going back to the theme of this piece. At the start of each year, I usually set myself 2 or 3 goals or

targets, not just for Carp-Fishing, but in other aspects of our lives as well. I am a great believer in the laws of attraction and self-searching and personal development, and planning of one's own future, why? Because it works! I constantly work on and develop an ongoing five-year financial plan for my family and business, but I also include some smaller aims for each year as part of this, sometimes they are achieved, sometimes they are not, that's how life works out, if you don't try, you will never succeed at all. Whilst we were forming last year's plans, Sal's diagnosis changed a lot of that as our primary goal became to see her through her treatment (goal achieved!). A couple of the other things I had in mind were to become involved in the fishing industry once again, and also to continue the growth of my Financial Planning business, to enable my daughter to be able to take over in a few years when I fully retire. All of these were achieved in what we keep saying has been a terrible year. So maybe it hasn't been

so bad after all.... I'm not saying this to brag, though it may sound like it. I do know and appreciate others have had tough years and may not feel so lucky. I am saying this to encourage others to chase their dreams and plans and not let 'stuff' get in the way. If every day you do one little thing towards attaining something you desire, you will succeed, however impossible or unlikely it may seem. Whatever your mind can conceive and believe, you can achieve.

Catch you next time.

Andy

www.wolfint.co.uk



**Freezer Fresh
for optimum
quality**

***GALAXY
BAITS***

NUTJOB

**14/16/18mm
+DumbBells**

**PoP-ups
Wafers**

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

LOCKDOWN PARADISE.....
PART 2
ANGELS DES LAC



BY SCOTT
GEEZER GRANT

After banking the 39lb I cooked us both a hearty breakfast, which sets us up for the day ahead. After having no action, it was time to go over in Phil's swim. First port of call was to change over all his rigs, then go out in the rowboat and find him some areas.

I couldn't make it out that one area on my side was on fire, surely all the fish cannot be held up there, or could they? With all his rods now re-rigged and boated out to nice clay areas it was a simple task of waiting for the fish to take the bait.

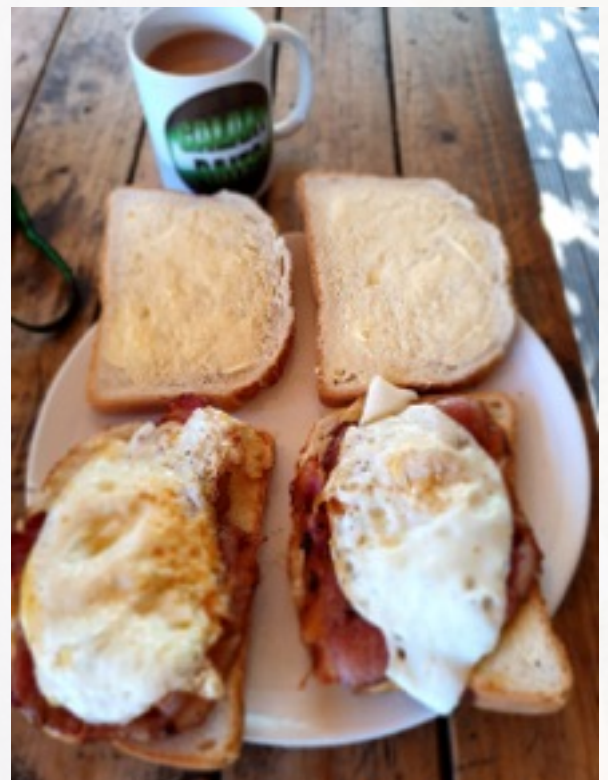
This took us most of the day and by the time all his rods were sorted it was late afternoon.

With the sun still warm we both decided that an afternoon kip was in order. After 40 minutes I got a single bleep on my left-hand rod, I got up and walked over to the rods, a few minutes passed and

nothing materialised, then out of the blue the middle rod was away a complete one toner!! I lifted the rod and whatever was attached wasn't stopping, the fish just kept taking line, heading straight for the overhanging snags in the far corner, after snagging me twice I eventually managed to get the fish out in open water and under some sort of control, 5 or so minutes later and I was steering the fish into the waiting net.

My target for every trip is a 50lb common and 50lb mirror it just keeps me working hard and not letting me slack. I peered into the net and honestly thought I had caught the big common, Phil done the

honours as usual and once unhooked the fish was hoisted up onto the scales the needle settled on 45lb 8oz and a new French PB common for me this was starting to become a red-letter session for me and I was savouring every moment, Phil took cracking photos as always and I really didn't want to let her go. I decided to rebait all my rods ready for the night ahead, the boat performed superbly definitely one





of my best purchases to date, especially as casting for me in my present condition is out of the question.

Phil cooked us a lovely dinner, which went down a treat then I had a lovely shower and spent the rest of the evening getting bitten to fook by the gnats!! As we sat chatting, I mentioned that I couldn't believe that Phil's rods hadn't had a take, it was quite baffling as the fish that

have showed have all been on his side and armed with the same bait and rigs as I am using, I just couldn't work it out. He was quite chilled about it as that's fishing for you as he put it, true it is but it doesn't make me feel any better I want us both to be catching and all I can do is help him to achieve that. Before we knew it, the time had flown by and it was now after midnight, we both retired to our

bivvies to get some sleep. It didn't take me long, my head hit the pillow and I was out like a light. I woke up and looked at my phone it was 03:05 and I was busting for a pee, I tried in vain to ignore it but in the end, I had to get up and relieve my bladder. Once back in the bag I couldn't get back to sleep so the kettle went on for a coffee. The excitement was still running through my veins

and all I kept thinking about was the big common. It was 05:00 o'clock before I got my head down again and I must have slept through my alarm because the next thing, my phone was ringing which woke me up and it was my Mrs! It was 08:30.

I couldn't believe the time, I jumped up and got dressed, I went over to the lodge where Phil was sitting drinking tea. It was still quite chilly and as the sun started to rise you could feel the warmth in the air. Phil had another blank night



and so did I.

I was still confident that he would nail one and when he does it's going to be one of the big girls. To be fair we have only been here 72hrs so still plenty of time left. Phil started to prepare the mornings breakfast and just after

09:00 o'clock the middle rod gave 2 bleeps,

I walked over to the

rods and the line was still in the clip as I watched the rod tip it gently started to hoop over, I grabbed the rod and lifted into a good fish, it didn't fight anywhere near as much as the previous fish it was just plodding about and after a few minutes the fish was laying in the bottom of the net. It was a fish I had caught a couple of years ago at 40lb and ounces but this time she looked a lot bigger, she was hoisted up and the needle settled on 46lb 2oz and a new PB common again this is just crazy!! I was like





a Cheshire cat, and couldn't stop smiling, Phil was on the buttons again taking superb photos and helping me no end.

With the fish returned and the rod back out Phil carried on with the breakfast whilst I made the tea. It was now quite warm, and the temperature was going to be in the high 20s so a bit of sunbathing/chilling out was the order of the

day. We both agreed as this was going to be the hottest day of the week, we would be having a lovely BBQ tonight, which is easy enough to do.

Phil's bait boat started to play up and as the auto pilot is an app, for some bizarre reason it came up on his iPad "cancelled refund pending" he really wasn't having a good trip, and this was just adding to salt to the wound. He's got the

ND boat, it's a nice little boat but I prefer an external auto pilot rather than an app. He was lucky as the lake on his side is smaller than my side so getting the rods back out on the spots wasn't hard at all. When we marked his spots earlier, he wrapped his rods so all he had to do when rebaiting was wrap the rod and send the boat out, when it hits the clip open the hatches.

We both dossed about for the day Phil donning his lary shorts and summer hat, having the cheeky ice-cold beer whilst I opted for a lovely shandy so refreshing, in the heat. Late evening around 19:00 the BBQ was lit, and we sat there gorging ourselves on burgers, chops, steaks we really had a feast. We finished the evening off playing cards before bed. I must

admit I had the best night's sleep so far and I didn't even wake up for a pee. Again, I slept through my alarm but was woken by a single bleep from my receiver, I looked at my phone and it was 08:15, I couldn't believe the time and jumped straight up got dressed and put the kettle on, I walked over to the rods but nothing more happened. Phil appeared and said "Geeze you were

snoring like a wild buffalo" I couldn't stop laughing and must have been so tired. I made us both a coffee and just as I took my first sip the middle rod was away,



I was on the rod in a flash the fish felt like another goodun staying deep but taking line, once under control the fish plodded about like it owned the place, the fish surfaced and I could see it was a good common, but was it the big one I wanted so badly, my old mukka was by my side and done the honours with the net, he looked inside and said "Geeze that is the biggest fish so far" I was breathless totally speechless. Again, the hook was buried I cannot emphasis enough the faith I have in these





hooks they are so strong and sharp it's ridiculous. With the tripod steadied the fish was lifted onto the scales I closed my eyes as I didn't want to see, all's I can remember is Phil

shouting "F@*! me it's only a 50lb common" I opened my eyes and to say I was full emotion is an

understatement the needle was idle at 50lb 2oz exactly what a fish and what an achievement the last 3 fish have all been PB commons one after the other for me topped

by the lakes biggest common and new lake record it doesn't get any better than this. Phil took some great photos and in the water the fish felt a lot lighter than on land trust me. With the fish treated and returned the rod was put back out with even more bait, then it was time for a celebratory cup of tea. I was on a massive high but at the same time felt bad for Phil as he was yet to catch.



If you would like to try the ready-made “Ronnie rigs” with the coloured kickers from sharp tackle visit their website for a pack of 4 hooks its £2:99 which isn't expensive at all.

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

www.galaxybaits.co.uk

www.sharptackle.co.uk

www.castaway-pva.co.uk

In the Margin Particles
(Facebook)

Carters Leads
(Facebook)

If you have any bait boat issues give Joe Jacobs a call on 07931-616997 or look him up on face book “Bait boat Solutions” the man is a magician when it comes to

anything bait boat related.

Carters Leads currently have an offer on, buy 50 leads up to 4oz for £37:50 which includes postage. Head over to their Facebook page for more information.

Hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year let's hope

that 2021 brings everyone good health and prosperity and plenty of chunks in the net.

Stay safe and remember its only fishing.

Scott “Geezer” Grant





We can cater for any social event you have coming up be it a barbecue on arrival for the social side of things or a one pot dish for the evening, breakfast, lunch we can do it all.

Let us take care of the catering whilst you take care of your event.

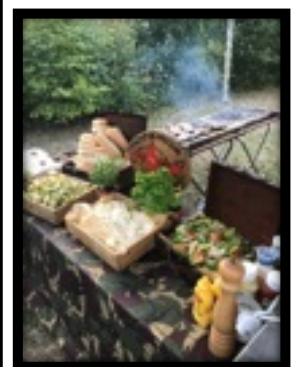
So if you require bankside catering at a higher level, then do not hesitate to contact us on the details below.

Jason Sandiford

W: www.chefukcarp.co.uk

E: chefukcarp@outlook.com

M: +447769586391



A day out with my boys



by Matthew Allen

I got home from work on a cold dark evening in November and sat down with my wife at the dining room table. While I ate my dinner, she sat next to me and we discussed the weekend plans, mainly that my daughter had dancing classes all day on zoom at home and that it would be difficult for our two sons, as my daughter needs a lot of space.

My wife then muttered the great immortal words that lead to a carp angler's nirvana, why don't you take the boys carp fishing. Ok, do not have to tell me twice.

I decided to go to one of my syndicate lakes and my preference was for the smaller lake, which is about 2.5 acres. I chose this lake as it is not often busy. Perfect for the boys. I can drive up behind the swim, perfect for

me. However, most importantly it has a good diverse stock. Therefore, I hoped that my sons would be able to see a couple of fish. Prep wise I made sure that we had a pint of maggots, so the boys could have the opportunity to enjoy the magic for catching small silvers on the float. I know we would be fishing for carp mainly, but I strongly believe in giving the boys some fishing variation and at the same time with the weather being cold, hopefully some action. I also proceeded to tie some rigs that I knew would be suitable for the type of water we were fishing. Taking young children fishing, I could not recommend this enough, so if you need to do any changes on the lake you are minimizing your time and focusing on the children. In addition, this allowed

me to have a few rigs ready to go, to minimize delays, and maximize our time as day light is short lived now.

The rigs were a mixture of coated braid, with a bait screw and spinner rigs with a stiff fluorocarbon boom. The bottom on the lake is very silty, so wafers and pop ups were the approach. Bait screws are a blessing because again you are minimizing your tinker time and maximizing bait in the water and focus on the children the boys can help put the bait on, as a bait screw is easier then flossing or hair rigging from a child's perspective.

The night before I said to the boys to wake me up if they were up before my alarm. I was not planning on going at dawn, as I did not want grumpy tired

boys. All clothes were laid out the night before, minimizing disturbance and minimizing forgetfulness. In the cold I recommend football socks and waterproof trousers for the youngsters, it really helps them stay warm. The morning came and both boys were up before me. Surprise surprise. Excitement and expectation was huge.

We got dressed, grabbed some food and made the 30 minute drive to the lake. When we arrived, we were the only ones there. Mist on the water, rabbits on the bank, the leaves a beautiful golden color. I was excited. I drove up to the swim and spaced myself with maximum amount of water to play with. There was no wind. The plan to start was to flick out the rods

on snowmen rigs, with small amounts of boilees around each bait, to the Island and Lilly pads I know produce carp from. The boys love catapulting boilees into the lake; it is a real scatter bait approach and if any carp breeders or lake owners want help feeding their carp, I know a couple of young chaps who would happily help introduce a few hundred kilo.

Rods positioned.

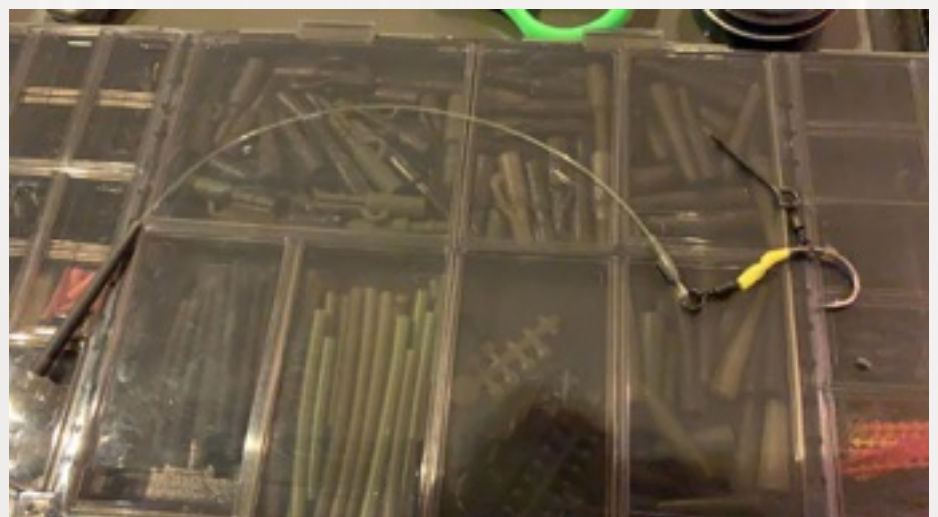
Random baits all over the swim

Coffee on the brew

We were away.

After my coffee had been consumed and under huge pressure from both boys, I set up the whip, so they could have a go at catching some small silvers. While setting up, I gave the side of the swim a good handful of maggots and casters.

To cut a long story short, the boys, with my help, caught roach and perch steadily all day. George my 7 year old was doing on it his own and was even helping bait the hook and unhook the fish. I loved helping him





unhook the fish because fish care is hugely important to me and I am proud to be sharing that with my sons. Both boys also really enjoyed releasing the fish, gently and safely. The astute readers among you will notice no carp yet!

It was now lunchtime and no carp action. I bought Georges rod in and changed the rig to

a spinner rig with a pop up, added a little PVA bag of maggots on and flicked it back out to the side of a nearby island. I had seen carp in the vicinity and it still looked good for a

bite!

While the boys had been catching small silvers and Perch, I had seen that to our right, in a corner of the lake, a few carp were showing regularly. I started flicking a few small pouches of boilies in the area. I converted to two spinners on my rods with pop ups and small pva mesh bags with boilies and maggots in, nothing large. I added

some goo to the PVA, to add to the appeal a curious carp might investigate. Then I flicked both rods out to where I saw the shows. One rod in the corner and one off to the side near some reeds. The sun had also been on the area of the lake a while now so I was confident carp were there.

Lunchtime came and toasted cheese and ham sandwiches were consumed along with more coffee. However, in classic carp style, as we were eating our food, George's rod locked up tight. I jumped up, simultaneously with two elated boys, sandwiches flying everywhere and the Robins getting well fed, and struck the rod. I made sure the carp was away from the island and in open water and handed the rod to George. Louis

quickly got the net. George then played the carp expertly in all by himself and the carp gave an amazing account of itself, plodding around in front of us for both boys to admire. Then when the carp signaled readiness to surrender, Louis expertly scooped the carp calmly into the net.

While unhooking the carp, George assisting, I observed that the hook hold was perfect, which is great from my perspective, gives me huge confidence that the rig is doing its job for when I am on the syndicate water with larger residents. We then did some photos, George handling the carp by himself, even managing a couple of monster carp kissing the carp shots 'like Spooner' he exclaimed professionally. 12.3lb common carp. Lovely. I then helped the boys

take the carp to the bank and release it from the sling, allowing the carp to recover and swim away on its own steam.

Shortly after, one of my rods went and sadly, the fish snagged me on an unknown snag on the bottom of the lake. In the process of working my way down the bank to get the right side of the snag I managed to drop my rod in the water while trying to pass it around a tree. My sons thought it was hilarious watching dad have to quickly strip and jump in the water to retrieve his rod. It was cold, I was soaked, but I managed to retrieve my rig, so

getting cold and wet was worth it as I did not leave lots of trailing line in the water and my boys got a comedy show at my expense!

I popped a fresh rig back out on the spot that did me the bite and quickly got another bite. I made sure this time I used all 6 foot 7 inches of me to get the carp up through the water layers. Once I was convinced I was snag free, I knelt down and little Louis positioned himself between my arms,



one hand on the rod, one on the reel, me in support. We gently played the fish in together and George, professionally, making sure he didn't bump off his brothers capture, netted another common carp at 10lb. George again helped with fish care, and even sprayed some antiseptic on a small flank graze. He helped unhook the fish caringly and Louis made sure 5 liters of lake water from my bucket was poured on the fish. As a quick side note, I highly recommend the ridge monkey collapsible buckets in the clear material. You can drop your rigs in before casting out and be confident/assured of the presentation (thanks Kev for the recommendation).

Going back to the common, Louis did not want to hold the

fish, he is currently just about happy to hold a roach, so we are working our way up to handling carp. Therefore, George expertly lifted the carp and Louis crept into the shot for a team photo.

The day quickly ended now as it started getting dark at 1530. George happily would stay all night but Louis is a little more sensitive and I do not wish to scare him off fishing before he has really got going, so we packed up and made our way home. A great day with some action, but it was spent carp fishing

with my sons in picturesque scenery.

I highly recommend everyone takes youngsters carp fishing, it is so rewarding. However, keep watching the water and keep your prep solid as being ready, visual and proactive, even with children, can turn a blank into bites.

Tight lines all
Matt





CARBON BAIT

WWW.CARBONBAITS.CO.UK

Winter in Cheshire
by Karl Brandreth



So on my session before Christmas, I finished work at 3pm and made my way down to the lake hoping it wasn't going to be full, anglers trying their luck before xmas, but I arrived at the lake at around 3.45pm and the rain had stopped just enough to let me set my stall up. I got my gear all ready had a few brews and a chat with the anglers and a friend of mine then set my rods up.

A week before a couple of anglers had spotted carp feeding in some Lillie pads so that's where I set up.

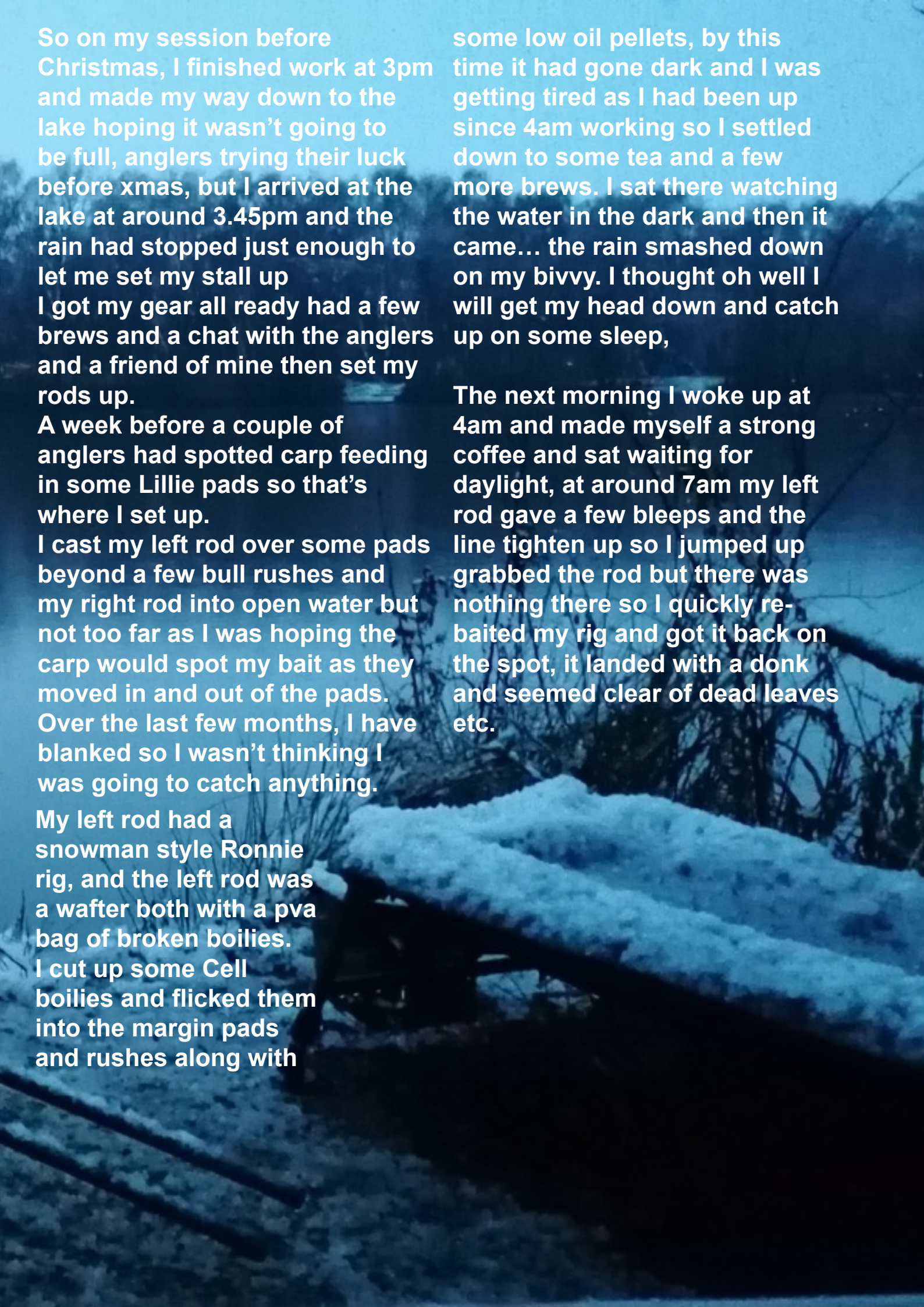
I cast my left rod over some pads beyond a few bull rushes and my right rod into open water but not too far as I was hoping the carp would spot my bait as they moved in and out of the pads.

Over the last few months, I have blanked so I wasn't thinking I was going to catch anything.

My left rod had a snowman style Ronnie rig, and the left rod was a wafter both with a pva bag of broken boilies. I cut up some Cell boilies and flicked them into the margin pads and rushes along with

some low oil pellets, by this time it had gone dark and I was getting tired as I had been up since 4am working so I settled down to some tea and a few more brews. I sat there watching the water in the dark and then it came... the rain smashed down on my bivvy. I thought oh well I will get my head down and catch up on some sleep,

The next morning I woke up at 4am and made myself a strong coffee and sat waiting for daylight, at around 7am my left rod gave a few bleeps and the line tighten up so I jumped up grabbed the rod but there was nothing there so I quickly re-baited my rig and got it back on the spot, it landed with a donk and seemed clear of dead leaves etc.



So that day I was on my bailiff duties and came across an angler who had had a PB common at 24lb. I shook his hand and continued on my way around the lakes, no one else had caught. I made my way back to my peg and baited my rods and cast them back out again, me and my mate stood there for a while having brews and chatting with passing anglers but with that the weather turned bad again and the heavens opened so with nothing else to do I got my tea on again on



the 2nd night and sat back watching carp videos till late, with the rain pounding on my bivvy it was hard to listen for anything boshing out in the lake, so I got myself in bed and settled down for the night.

The next morning, I woke up at around 4.30am and sat there looking into the dark when I decided to start packing up but the half way through getting my bags together when my left rod burst in to life and stripping line at speed. I jumped up grabbed the rod and connected to an angry carp, it shot through the pads and out into open water. I managed to get the carp into the net then I rang my mate in the next peg to come and take a picture and weigh the common. It weighed in at 17lb but most welcome as it was the first carp I caught in months on a wet and cold weekend. I got my rod out on the spot hoping that I might sneak another out before going home.

A couple of hours later I was in my car on my way home thinking about my next session. I got home, did my last week at work then had xmas with my wife and dogs.

My next session was on the same lake and peg I cast out to the same

spots as I was setting up, Again I heard a big bosh in the pads so that filled me with confidence, but this session was going to be extreme with wild winds, snow, ice and rain then more snow.

I sat back with the weather not to bad to start I spent the day watching the water for any signs of carp. There was 4 of us spread out over the lake. I was fishing to margin snags again but when it got to around 5pm the water just went still then the temperature dropped and was cold, it was time to get my head down and get warm. I then kept waking up hour after hour until it was 3am and the snow just started but it was hard. I sat and watch the snow for a few hours, had a few cups of coffee but with no interest on any rods,

I wound the rods in and went for a walk to see if anyone had caught any carp but no surprise no carp had come out anywhere on both lakes, so I made my way back to the peg and put the rods on the spot, The water was still so I could just watch and listen for any signs of carp, nothing showed or fizzed.... it was hard going, but I continued fishing, tea time soon came round again and I tucked into a nice curry and a hot brew but due to lack of sleep the night before I got my head down and I slept right through till 5am, I must have needed it.





I woke made a nice hot coffee put my heater on, then I looked at the lake in the dark and I thought "oh no" the lake had frozen solid! A lid all over the lake, a few of my mates text me to let me know they had nothing through the night, so I started to pack and I got to that point where I was packing up and I couldn't feel my hands.

I only had my rods out everything was away but then my head torch lit up a snowflake. I looked up and it started to throw it down with snow, snowflakes as big as my fist they were massive!

So I quickly got my rods in, filled my trolley but as quick I packed up everything was getting covered in snow, my bed chair, clothing and gear was soaking wet.

I ran to my car with my gear. I was soaked then got my gear in my car, the snow was crazy, it was coming down in sheets. I packed up early to go and look at another lake that I'm fishing next year with carp up to 38lb in and cats to near 60lb. So let's hope I can get amongst them and get a new PB or two.

So I'll say to you all now
Have a happy new year and PB's to you all.
Karl.



NUTRABAITS®

THE SECRETS RANGE

**UNLOCK THE CO-DE
TO YOUR WATER**

01-03-2021

Why Compare Yourself To Others?

By Richard Handel



I never understand why anglers compare themselves to others when they are catching carp and you are not. There are many factors to take into consideration.

Firstly, the amount of time the other angler has had to walk around the lake – even a quick 30 minutes every other night can give a person a lot of information about the water. If they can time it with the morning or evening show-time when the carp give themselves away. This knowledge gained can be used for

that one night a week trip they do and gets captures every time. Don't get me wrong and no disrespect to them. My point is, if you're only able to fish one night a week and don't have the luxury or means to take a walk like the other person can, you're clearly more likely to blank than the other person. Therefore, comparing yourself with them is pointless. Knowledge is a big factor in catching carp, but if you can only get eyes on the lake when you do you 1 night a week or fortnight etc,

it's going to be hard work and you will blank more than the person that takes those walks around.

You have to also consider when you arrive compared to others. If you're the first and get the opportunity to walk about at the right time every trip the fish are more likely to give themselves away. The anglers who arrive at last light and half the swims are taken, you will struggle, don't compare or worry that others are catching more. You can learn



from this and pick the area that's never fished, find that perfect spot and start to bait that area and I can say that if it's a quiet swim, the fish will go there, you never know, they may be there already!

Hot swims – are only hot because there is always someone in it. The likely hood of them catching is increased by the hours the swim is fished and the constant supply of bait. You need to create one of your own, keep it under your hat, and reap the rewards.

There's a good chance that even if people spot fish in your area, 80% of anglers will still go to the hot swim regardless, simply because it's free and there's a chance to fish there.

It's quite simple the anglers who live on the lake will gain more knowledge and more of an understanding than the once a month angler. Unfortunately, we can only go when we can and that

shouldn't affect the way we view these people or their abilities. Fishing can be compared to any sport, effort equals reward. Just like say golf, the more you go – the better you become. There will always be the exception to

the rule and you have to expect that as well. The point of my rumbling is... fish for yourself and only you, never compare, it's just pointless and will demotivate you. Enjoy fishing for what it is and remember why you started on this journey and relax enjoy the freedom, wildlife, nature, etc.



I only fish syndicates these days or if I fish a club lake it's only in Winter times. I just want to be free and at the moment with all that's going on in the world, it helps my mind and keeps mental health on the straight and narrow. Fishing is supposed to be relaxing and enjoyable if it's not then you are taking it way to seriously. Effort does equal reward, but enjoy it, it shouldn't

be a burden on your life. I used to think it was all about catching and to some respect it is, but it isn't; enjoy your surroundings. We should not forget how lucky we are, as a hobby (obsession) this takes us out onto the countryside and we see things that many don't. My best example is, how many people say to me that they have never seen a kingfisher or a shooting star, the list goes on.

I hope some people read this and understand it. Your fishing may improve, but it's good to remember it's not about them, it's about you.

Until my next rumblings!

Richard



Castaway PVA

System
Size: 3mm

Castaway PVA

White Foam Nuggets
4 Litres

Castaway

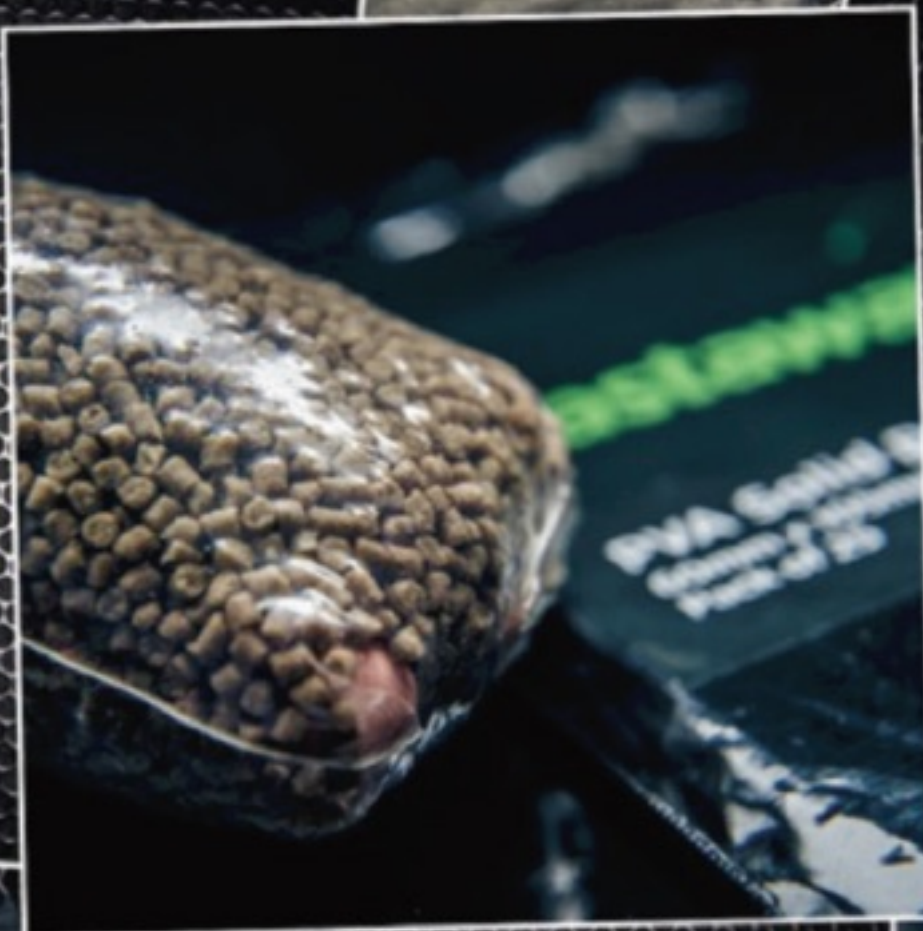
Slow Melting
Length:



www.castaway-pva.co.uk

System
Size: 3mm • Length: 7m

Castaway PVA



Not Dissolving • Non Residue
Environmentally Friendly

Castaway

Fill Tub
35mm • Length: 25m

Castaway PVA

PVA Solid Bags
30mm x 100mm
Pack of 25



Castaway PVA

Bait Floss
Length: 100m
Fluorescent Yellow

PVA Rig
Tub

www.castaway-pva.co.uk

Man With a
Plan.



Andy Gannon visits the mighty Graviers

With his syndicate and beloved canal swamped with angling pressure a trip to Luke Moffatt's The Gravers couldn't have come at a better time.

October saw our good friend, ground worker Andy Gannon from Southport, make the long awaited trip to the Prestigious The Gravers complex in the Dijon region of France.

In company with Andy was his good friends Ken and Andrew. The trip to the complex was booked based on Andy's previous sessions there which saw him have multiple captures ranging from 40lb to 60lb.

The Gravers is a lake steeped in carp angling history having been the home to the 2010 world record carp at 99lb. The then record carp known as The Scarfish

has since passed away but was succeeded by another colossal fish of 89lb known as The Brown fish. Luke Moffatt the owners' PB from the complex to this day, caught on the same bait Andy went armed with for his recent trip. The Brown fish also sadly passed away this spring. However, it isn't a surprise to learn that there are now other monsters that lurk in the lake's rich waters. No doubt this is testament to the fantastic fishery management.

When asked about the stock in the main lake Luke Moffatt the owner said, "There are so many fish over 50 now that apart from very distinctive fish, they would be difficult to keep track of". The ongoing future of this lake looks very bright.

Andy and his friends arrived at The Gravers on the Saturday and once they acquainted themselves with the venue, they took up place on the point swim, a spit of land giving all three anglers ample water.

A week away from the packed venues of the UK got Andy hungry to get started.

Having walked the 25 acre lake, he was surprised to find the margins devoid of any fish, even other species. Once back at his swim he devised a game plan. Andy opted to fish the right-hand side of the spit, they would call home for their stay. All four of Andy's rods were placed on an area in open water about the size of a tennis court. Each rod got a good helping of

DT Baits developments Cold Water Green Beast, glazed in the matching activator liquid. He finished up by using a throwing stick to spread a further 2 kg of bait amongst his spots to keep any fish in the area mobile.

His rig of choice across all four rods was a simple but effective snowman rig consisting of a Cold Water Green Beast hardened hook bait and pop up. That

was attached to a lead clip and 5oz lead.

The morning after his first night Andy awoke slightly concerned about his presentation. Through the night he'd had multiple bleeps from his alarms that never resulted in any runs.

He quickly came to the conclusion the pesky crays had moved in. With this in mind Andy bought the rods in for an inspection and while his assumptions

were right the Krays had been at his baits they were still more than holding up to the attention.

With renewed confidence in the hardened hook baits, he freshened up the rigs replacing the baits before boating them back out to his spots. Another 2KG of bait was spread over the area in anticipation.

That evening the lads sat watching the water. A number of fish could



be seen showing over the back of Andy's baited patch some distance away.

Faced with the decision to move his rods to where he'd seen the showing fish or stay put, Andy felt it was only a matter of time before the fish would move over his spots and opted to stick to the plan. A brave decision but would it pay off?

That night after a good meal and a few drinks with his friends, Andy turned in.

A quiet night gave way to the morning and after a good night's rest Andy sat with Ken and Andrew watching the water again.

With a hot cup of tea in his hands, he debated on if he'd made the right choice by not moving onto the showing fish the day before.

It wasn't long before

his thoughts were answered when one of his rods hesitantly came to life.

During an exclusive interview with DT Baits here is what Andy had to say.

"The take was slow to begin with, the bobbin creeping towards the blank of the rod. As I picked it up and wound down onto it, the fish seemed to plod off taking line as it did.

I shouted over to Andrew and told him it felt like a big fish. As if it wanted to prove a point it woke up and the fight began.

It kited around the spit and left of my swim, which saw me eventually playing it in the bay, which was Ken's water.

The fish gave a dogged fight, lunging and surging. I did manage at that point to get a brief look at her.

It left me thinking she

was a 60 possibly even a 70.

The fight continued in much the same way with pulsing runs before I got her to the surface a second time. I saw her suck in a huge gulp of air and thought it was job done she's ready for the net, but the fish had other ideas and burst off on another brutal run leaving a huge wake of water.

I remember thinking I can't do anything with it this feels seriously heavy.

After a few more bursting runs she began to slow down and allow me to gain line. Eventually she was finally ready for the net.

Andrew did the honours my heart in my throat as he struggled to bundle her in the net.

She was so long.
I said to the lads we'd need to call Luke, as he asks to be made aware of any captures over 60lbs.

We gave her an oxygen bath and time to recuperate after her epic fight while we waited.

With Luke having joined us to witness the weight we removed her hulking mass from the water placing her on the mat before attaching the sling to the scales.

Andrew had them facing towards him and he laughed aloud.
It's over 60 mate.....its bang on 85.

Blown away I could only utter the breathless words NO WAY.

Luke arrived a short time later and witnessed the weight. He recognised the fish from a double barb on its lip.

It was a fish known as The Swain Thing.

This capture eclipsed my previous PB of 72lb and the other captures from previous trips to this lake.

What an amazing place, Its has everything, great facilities, no crowds and what a stock of fish, it's absolute bliss"!

Although Andy didn't have any other bites that week, I can't help but think given the option to catch the fish of a lifetime prior to his trip he'd have ripped your arms off.

Congratulations Andy from all of us at DT baits on a very special capture.

It was also great to hear Ken managed a fish of 46lbs 8oz and Andrew bagged a 49lb mirror before the three

of them returned to Blighty.

Andy's monumental capture was taken on DT Baits Developments Cold Water Green Beast. Head to www.dtbaits.co.uk for more information and to see our extensive range of quality baits.

We'd like to say a big thank you to Luke Moffatt for taking the time to talk to us about The Graviers and its fantastic stock.

For lake inquiries head to www.lukemoffatt.com



ANGLERS CHARITY AUCTIONS



THE
ROSE
APPEAL

Anglers Charity Auctions ACA

ACA Thermal Trousers

100% Waterproof
Wind-proof &
Breathable
Fleece-lined.
Super stylish and very
comfortable outdoor
waterproofs.

This modern
Peachskin fabric is
essentially a hi-tech,
synthetic version

of traditional moleskin clothing. It is beautifully soft to the touch and ACA have combined it with a complimentary, lightweight Taslan-type synthetic shell on the seat & knees to produce a very elegant outdoor set.

Ideal for: Fishing, Shooting, Hunting, Walking, Working, Spectating, and loads of other outdoor activities.

Overtrouser features: with..

Elasticated Waistband & Press-stud Fastener. Velcro Adjuster to fit bottoms snug around boots. Reinforced Taslan to Knees and Seat. 2x Side Hand Pockets. 2x External Patch Pockets.

Available in Sizes:

Large, XL, 2XL, 3XL



Now available In association with NAVITAS !!!!!!!!!

check the ACA website for more information



Hoodies -
£24.99 +PP



T-Shirts
£14.99 +PP



NEW!!! Cargo Shorts -

Treated with anti-mosquito repellent and SPF 50
protection - amazing value at only £39.99 + PP



ACA Bank Buddy ONLY £27.99

The ACA Bank Buddy is a waterproof wireless speaker that has been designed and built with outdoor adventures in mind

A GREAT ADDITION TO YOUR KIT !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

PRODUCT FEATURES INCLUDE :

- Blue Tooth Connectivity
- Hands Free Call Facility
- Two Way Control
- AUX Input to play DVD'S etc
- Built In FM Radio
- Shock and Waterproof

Get Yours Now at <http://acaproducts.co.uk/?product=aca-bank-buddy>
 100% of all profits from the sale of Bank Buddy goes to Charity.

Talking Carp

*A year on the Estate Lake
(Part 4) ~
Viktor Tzikas*



A New Year

After an epic result to end November I was on a real high and hoping with steady baiting the results would carry on over the winter period. The fishing had slowed but I was seemingly picking one off a session from the hot spot. As we headed into December, I returned to my regular swim with high hopes of getting some action despite the cold weather, however it was not to be with the lake icing over in front of my eyes the following morning!



I'll over December pretty quick because the following weekend we

had some serious snow, and the lake was well and truly an ice rink. I did manage to trickle some bait into the marginal areas that were free of ice however I spent the month trying different areas free from the ice and blanking spectacularly! I managed 5 nights through December, maybe stupidly but this year I wanted to stick to one venue instead of heading to the local run's waters.

The New Year swung round quite quickly amidst the festive celebrations and the cold weather stuck around with the lake being 65% iced over come the first weekend of January, before a milder spell of weather arrived. It was the following Saturday when I was on the bank armed with my rods and a few bits for a day session. Arriving at first light I chatted to two members that had fished the night, unfortunately with no luck. I opted to fish the day's only bank with two rods cast tight to the island, this area is normally a real hotspot during the warmer months so it seemed sensible that the fish may be lurking in the undercut bank of the island now too. The third rod was dropped down to my right, on the concrete shelf of the dam outlet. There was a lot of debris that had been drawn

toward the dam but not through it, but I found a good clean drop. This rod was baited with a handful of half boilies with a snowman hook bait made up of a CSL bottom bait topped with a homemade 'BS' pop-up.

After only 20 minutes after putting the margin rod out (as a pure hopeful rod) that the bobbin pulled up and I was into a fish! After untangling the line from half a sunken bush, I kept the fish under control and after a short but spirited battle I had a mid-double in the net. I was happy to land my first fish of the year on my first session of the year and get off the mark. It indicated to me that the fish were now on the move searching for some food. I believe that due to the late feeding up to the end of November that once the lake got a lid on it in early December that the fish shut up shop and did month of not feeding much and were now getting hungry.

Two weeks later we had a nice milder spell of weather, so I was set for my first night of the year. I arrived to an empty lake and dumped my barrow in the deep bay before having a good walk. I knew a fish had been caught from the willow to the right hand side during the week, and I'd baited it the night

afterwards.

I decided to fish on the usual spots in this swim, one in the right hand margin close to the willow, one to the far bank and one to the dead lily pads to my left. I employed the same hook baits as my previous trip, Responsive Baits CSL pop-ups on the left and middle rod and a snowman on the right hand margin rod. Around an hour after casting out I had an aborted take on the margin rod and reeled in a few dead leaves on the hook. I re-baited with a CSL pop-up and carefully re-positioned it with minimal disturbance. It only took two hours



and the margin rod let out a few bleeps and was away with an angry fish attached. It took a while to get

the fish under control as it was intent on staying in the water where it was warmer! But after some careful playing it was in the net. I weighed it in at 17.06lb.

I made sure to get the rod back out before doing the pics as I knew there might be another chance if they were actively feeding on the area. I used exactly the same tactics and a handful of chops went in after the hook bait was positioned. It was a mere hour later when the bobbin slammed into the rod and another angry carp was victim to the CSL pop-ups. It was obvious that these fish hadn't been caught in a while as they fought like their lives depended on it. It led me on a merry dance through my other two lines, but I managed to untangle those and bundle it in the net. I got the photos sorted and weighed the fish, trying to be as quick as possible due to the quickly dropping temperatures. Again, it was another lovely fish with full winter colours.



For whatever reason I did not receive any action at all for the remainder of the session. I suspected this was due to how cold it got overnight and the cloud cover creeping in early morning to block out any of the sun's warmth.

As we came to the end of January, I'd managed 3 fish in two trips on the bank and was buzzing the year had got off to a good start with some nice fish. I was looking forward to February and what lay in store, but things didn't exactly go to plan! We had some really horrid weather and personal things cropped up and got in the way of the fishing. Over the entire month I only managed to fish for a few hours, where I cracked and packed up after being battered with cold wind and rain with no cover.

March started off with a bit of a mad one with snow, ice & sub-zero temperatures. It meant I didn't get out the first weekend of the month, but I spent that time sorting bait out and prepping all my kit to ensure I had everything I needed.

The weekend rolled around and with it some milder weather, I turned up after a sunny morning and spent a little while searching but only managed to spot one under the snaggy willow in the deep bay

so decided to plot up here. Over the next 3 hours I kept going back and watching the fish whilst hiding behind a tree trunk, it became evident they would not venture too far out the snags to feed though. I'd have expected a bite from the spot I was fishing but I knew I had to get my CSL hook bait closer, so as risky as it was, I donned the waders and shuffled along the marginal ledge to enable me to flick the rig right beneath the overhangs.

After positioning the rig and getting the rod on the rest and everything locked up tight, I went round and flicked a handful of broken boilies over the rig where the foam popped up and a trail deep into the snags, I must have only been watching 10 minutes when I saw a tail wafting about as a fish fed by my feet, I then watched two other fish drift in from near my baited spot. It was then I heard a single bleep and watched one of the fish as it seemed to act on edge. I realised what was going on and my sudden movement made the fish bolt so by the time I got to the rod it was fully bent round with the bobbin jammed in the alarm. Fish on, and my choice to make that extra effort to get a rod closer to the fish was well and truly validated. A proper hit and hold minute saw the fish

finally swim out into the open water and decide to stay there for the remainder of the fight. Before long I was slipping the net underneath a decent mid double fish. I recognised the fish from a previous capture, back in July the previous year caught off the surface. It went un-weighed then so when it took the scales to 15.13lb it knew it would have put on a couple ounces at least.

I'd had the rod out the water for a



little while now so decided to put a bit of particle over the area and some broken boilies to try and get the fish back out the snags and on the feed. I re-positioned the rod and whilst sitting in the bivvy checking the photos the tip bent round and I was up like a shot.

Unfortunately, it was just a bloody duck!! After a quick check of the hook point, I waded out and re-positioned the rod and topped up with a handful of broken boilies and a handful of particle and sat back awaiting the next bite. It didn't take long as about 15 minutes later the delkim let out a single bleep and the rod arched over in the rests. On it like a flash I was into a real stalemate, the fish was just trying to swim into the snags, and I was hanging on to a slight advantage by walking as far to my left as possible to try and shift the dynamics. Luckily it worked and the fish soon decided to head out in to open water where a short battle ensued. A corking mirror rolled into the net and I was buzzing, I quickly unhooked the fish, got the pics done and weighed it in at 17.09lb.

Unfortunately, there was no further chance on the snag rod and overnight the weather changed dramatically with a bit of rain and a strong Easterly wind pushing into the bay. The fish never returned to the snag, or at least, never fancied having a feed there. Still a good session though and at least I knew where to target them next time out.

I missed a weekend due to moving

house which I was gutted about as the weather was really good. I had a two nighter planned for the bank holiday weekend, arriving on the Thursday to capitalise on the quiet banks as I knew it would be busy come the Friday. A light Easterly breeze rocked the water gently into the deep bay as the sun poked its head out to give me brief glimpses into the shallower parts of the lake. After a lap of the lake, I only had one sighting of a fish right under a huge old oak tree in about a foot of water. I went back to my barrow but had one last peak in the snags I had my fish from previously. It's always those little urges that pay off as I glimpsed a tail flick by one of the branches before seeing 3 fish cruise through the snags. "That'll do for me" I thought, and I went and got the bucket. A handful of broken boilies and two of particle ensured the fish would get a free feed whilst I set up.

By the time I'd set up my kit the wind has started to pick up and the cloud cover was heavier, it had gotten colder but the fish were still in the snags. My other two rods were dispatched to two areas I had caught from last year before I got the snag rod sorted. The same process as before, wading to get

the rig right up close to the snags, same rig and a CSL pop-up gently flicked as I clung on to the nearest tree trunk to stop myself sliding into the depths. Once the rod was on the rests and locked up, I crept and introduced a handful of particle and handful of broken boilies in order to get them feeding again.

The whole afternoon seemed to drag on without a bite from the snag rod, I was having a peak regularly and seeing fish in the snags so was miffed as to why I couldn't get a run on the rod! Just on dusk, whilst I was contemplating when to reel it in for the night, the rod arched round, and I was holding on to a fish determined to get amongst the branches and roots of the snag. It was a proper stalemate as the fish rolled about an inch from the branches, then I felt a 'plink' on the line and it moved out into open water to give me the run around for the next 5 minutes. It tried its best to get back in the snags once more before changing tack and ploughing through my middle rod. By now the fish was tired and I managed to get it under control and find out a large twig was tangled on my line, which had in turn caught the line of the middle rod, thankfully my line was running freely on it, so I ended up

netting the fish and part of the twig fairly easily. Hook link un-clipped the fish was left in the net whilst I snapped the twig apart to free both lines.

A member of staff from the estate was about so I managed to get him to do some pics (however I shouldn't have bothered as they were shocking!) and we weighed the fish in at 23.14lb which was an epic start to the trip. It was a recapture of a fish I had in September and was slightly up in weight after the winter.

I opted not to recast the snag rod at all and just give the fish a bit of free food on the spot overnight. My middle rod was recast to the far bank and I was not really expecting anything overnight from either of the remaining rods until my delkim let out a splutter on the middle rod, it has only been in around 30 mins, so I was surprised to see the bobbin hanging tight, before dropping two inches and then rising an inch again. It pulled up tight, so I decided to hit it, but lifted in to thin air. I re-clipped the rod up and put some pva on the hook and got it back on the spot as quick as possible. There was something down there and I wanted to know

what. I followed the rig with 10 boilies in the throwing stick and got back in the house and put the kettle on.

No sooner than finishing my brew the middle rod was off on a flyer. I lifted into a powerful fish that kited to my right and then decided to make its bid for freedom by heading to the snag in my near margin. Somehow, I managed to get control with the fish about a foot from the snags and with the lead thankfully dropping off the fish rolled on the surface in the dim light of my head torch and I knew it was another decent fish. The fish gave me the run around, constantly trying to get into the snags but before long I had in under control and in the net. I took one look in the net and knew I had my second 20 of the session with another night to go. The fish was quickly unhooked and put in the sling whilst the camera was set up and the middle rod dispatched back on to the far bank spot in the hope of another fish. What an epic few hours it had been with two awesome fights from two awesome fish after a frustrating afternoon waiting for the inevitable bite on the snag rod.



The weather started to turn overnight with some cold temps and a horrid Easterly wind blowing into my swim. I was up at first light and with the kettle on set about re-positioning the snag rod. A fresh CSL pop up was tied on and the rig was soon dropped perfectly on the hard bottom underneath the overhanging branches of the willow. A handful of particle and a handful of crushed boilies was dropped on top and it was back to make the brew and wait. I'd hoped the free food overnight would have the fish confident in feeding on the spot again however the Easterly wind was still blowing strongly, and it looked a far cry from the warmth of the previous day. I didn't have to wait too long though as a few

hours later I watched the tip bend round, and a single bleep indicated a fish was on. Instantly I knew it was smaller than my previous two fish, but it did give a good account for itself. Weighing 15.04lb it was a good start to the day and a proper nice little fish too. Unfortunately, the remainder of my trip was a total write off. After this fish the wind got stronger and the clouds got darker. Around 3pm it started raining and it didn't stop until about 4am the following morning. I took a real

battering facing into the wind and spent the remainder of the time with the bivvy on lock down. I awoke to a waterlogged swim and almost being flooded by the drainage channel running behind me. Overall, not a bad month's fishing with 5 fish coming over 3 nights on the bank, two of which were 20s.

Until next time,
Take care.

Viktor







Straight to the point.





ARMOURY TACKLEBOX

What's in your armoury?

There is no doubt that being well organised is paramount in any pursuit and fishing is no exception. With something to hold your tackle, you need to cover most of your needs. It's a little bit like being a professional angler, you need a separate deep freeze for the single monkey, a freezer for the double, a freezer for the triple, and a freezer for the quadruple. The only difference is that you need a freezer for the quadruple, and a freezer for the quadruple. The RidgeMonkey Armoury Tacklebox is a professional angler's best friend. It's a little bit like being a professional angler, you need a separate deep freeze for the single monkey, a freezer for the double, a freezer for the triple, and a freezer for the quadruple. The only difference is that you need a freezer for the quadruple, and a freezer for the quadruple.

PRODUCT FEATURES

- Robust ABS & polypropylene construction
- Heavy-duty hinges and latches for security
- Magnetic latch and hinge for easy opening
- 20 compartments all with secure lids
- Three separating boards
- Internal measuring ruler
- 10 angle and 20 touch rig kits included



Embrace The Outdoors

Styled for the street constructed
for the great outdoors

As part of our new Winter Clothing Range
Available in Small to XXXL
Black and Green colours available
Nine garments within the range

AVAILABLE FROM 40M AT
RIDGEMONKEYS.CO.UK



A NEW SYNDICATE BY BEN HUTT



After acquiring a ticket close to my home in Didcot for one of the newly opened Embryo Angling Habitats waters, just after the first lockdown had lifted. I couldn't wait to head over and have a go. The two lakes in question lie in the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside known as Bakers & Homefield and both sit around 9 acres in size. I have had the odd session on Homefield, but the majority of my time has been spent on Bakers next door. A rectangular shaped gravel pit with depths to around 12ft in places and full of weed just the sort of place i enjoy fishing.

With the venue rules stating a Boilie and Pellet only approach

during the warmer months and the use of particle being allowed in the colder months. I have switched between the Sticky Baits Krill, Krill Active and Manilla in various formats. whole, chopped & crumbed, always making sure to add a few bloodworm pellets and krill powder into the mix and as the weather has cooled and the rules have allowed, I have been



adding a range of particles & liquids from the Barrs Angling range into the mix.

The fishing has involved a range of tactics from solid bags, wafers on d-rigs and my favourite go to rig the hinge stiff rig, all depending on what swim and spot I was targeting during that session. End tackle wise I place great faith in products from the Thinking Anglers & ESP Carpgear range and a big edge for me is the leads I have used for a number of years now from the guys over at Lakebed Leads these really help camouflage your rig into the

lakebed you're fishing over.

Numbers wise I've been lucky enough to manage six over 20lb with three of those being 25lb+ and the rest have all been mid to upper doubles averaging around 17lb-18lb the fish are certainly whacking the weight on quick and some have done over 10lb in the last two years, so the future looks

extremely bright for the venue.

I haven't set the world alight with my captures, but I've been luckily enough to get amongst a few of the bigger ones over on Bakers during my sessions so far and really enjoyed my time on a nice well-run syndicate.

Stay safe and enjoy your Fishing!
Ben



WARNING
MAY CONTAIN NUTS

A MODERN DAY CLASSIC

THE ALL-NEW NUT BASED CORN FLAVOURED BOILIE



12MM

15MM

20MM

12MM

S H E L F L I F E & F R O Z E N

SPOTTEDFIN

W W W . S P O T T E D F I N . C O M

Tales from Belgium



with Laeveren Jordy

Hi, my name is Laeveren Jordy, 24 years old and a Belgian carp angler. I live in the province of Antwerp, with my girlfriend Jasmin. I have been lucky enough to have turned my hobby into my job. I am working in one of Belgium's biggest fishing stores called Hengelsport Lemmens situated in Diest.

From my childhood, I have been fishing with the pole on small roach and bream. When I caught my first carp on a pole of 3 meters, with a crazy fight, I was sure that this is what I wanted to target next. The next day I drove with my parents to the fishing store and bought myself a spinning rod for carp.



Not so far from my home, there's a big sandpit where they allow a lot of recreation and also fishing. The first few weeks didn't go well, because

it's a completely different kind of fishery that I was used to. A little while later, a veteran in carp fishing saw that I wasn't doing so well, so he chose to take me under his wings. We were talking for hours, about different tactics, where to fish and how to start fishing on a new lake.

The first few years, I fished the sandpit all times possible. Because I didn't have a driver's license, and had to move by bike, I was fishing fast with my fishing gear in a biker's carry-all. The lesson he taught me is to be happy with every fish you catch, if it's big or small, it doesn't matter. This is now, after all these years, still the mindset I own.



During time, I saved up more money to upgrade my fishing gear, so I could target some of the bigger carps of the pit.

André, the veteran carp angler, took me to a big domain with 3 older city lakes. One was really small, and the others were kind of the same length, but bigger than the first one. The biggest lake was long and thin, full of obstacles with a great population of 30-pound carp. Also, there were rumors about a 50-pound carp.

The smallest lake held the biggest population of carp with a couple of fish around 20 pound, which made it relatively easy to fish. This made it possible for me to fish a new lake, with not too many other carp anglers nearby.

My first choice was the middle lake, with its 2 hectares and a small amount of 20, 30 and 40 pounders, it was a very interesting lake. But because of the great water quality the water held as well a 50- and 60-pound carp. This was only during a small period of time one of the biggest fish of the Benelux. A lot of bigger names in the fishing industry had their sessions on this lake, but not always with success.

The first year was more like a learning curve for me, because I hadn't had a fancy feeding boat to fish just underneath the good overhanging branches on the other side of the lake. After a lot of casting into the trees. The first bite I got was on a hot summer day during the evening hours. I walked around the lake with my polaroid sunglasses on and spotted a couple of nice carp, just calmly under some trees. I took a rod and reel, a little pink pop-up and some crunched boilies. The other rod was rigged up with a 20mm krill & octopus boilie, from the factory Dreambaits (later on more).

The rods were in position and I was enjoying some of the last sunbeams of the day. I'm just sitting down, and the rod went off before I even could blink my eyes. I take up the rod and start reeling in the fish. With the nerves running through my veins the drill goes easy and I see a really old character of a mirror carp through the surface. After a short but steady fight, the fish slides into the net.

I can remember this feeling like it was yesterday, a really good fish on a giants lake, 15.2kg. A fish that was in those days, my new personal best. The next few weeks I went back a couple of times and caught some of the smaller fish of the lake, all common carp. Later on, that year I've fished on a big sandpit where I've also caught some nice carp.



The upcoming year, the big fish lake will be my number one priority. Meanwhile I've saved enough to afford a little bait boat, so I could drop my rigs just underneath the overhanging threes. Also, I was lucky that my new school was in walking distance of the lake, so I could keep

my fishing spots baited for the weekend.

The first few sessions I've caught carp up to 14kg, but the really big fish are nowhere to be found. There is another holiday coming up, with a couple of days I can fish again. I'm starting a little feeding campaign with some krill & octopus boilies because a lot of bigger fish fell for these great boilies in the past.

When the weekend arrived, I took my gear and headed to the lake, putting my rods spot on with the bait boat and the waiting game began. The first bite I got was a pearl of a fish, a fully scaled fish that weighed 11.3kg. From the information of local fisherman, the biggest common of the lake swims together with this fish. After I've situated that rod again, it doesn't take long before I get another take. After the first headshakes I immediately feel it is a better fish, heavy and steady headshakes, with a fish that doesn't like to come up and stays close to the bottom. After 20 nerve wrecking minutes, the fish slides into the net. Yes! the biggest common of the lake! The fish weighs 19.3 kg and is the number 3 of the lake.



That year, I catch the first mirror of 15 kg, 5 times. At the end of the year, I caught 19 fish in between 8 and 19kg.

The second year on the big fish lake, I focus on 1 of the 2 big fish. More and more fisherman find their way onto the water, what makes it more difficult for me to keep fishing like I wanted to. Nonetheless, I keep on fishing and catch a couple of good 30 pounders. At the end of that year, the days get shorter and the peace returns to a lake that gives a certain charm for me. No signs of carp and a surface full of dying leaves. In the early morning, I make sure my rods are situated the right way and get back into my sleeping bag.

A little while after noon, I'm overseeing the lake when I get a couple of beeps and my rod just gets pulled to the right. With no doubt I run to the rod and make contact with the fish. Immediately I get a flashback to that fish of last year that was 19kg, but this one was even stronger... Could it be one of the giant fish of the lake? The fish doesn't take line but is just pulling line to the right, into the open lake. The fish is giving a couple head-butts under my fishing rod, but the first chance I get, I make her slide into my net. After that moment I was so happy that I gave a loud scream and think that a lot of people heard it. In my mind it's Bruto, the biggest mirror of the lake, but after a checkup, it's a fish called; de bleke (the pale one). It has already been caught that autumn on a weight of 25 kg.



I put the fish into a keeping bag and call a couple of friends, who were really interested and didn't take long to get to me. We carefully take the fish and clock the weight onto 25.2kg. A new personal best that will be definitely hard to break, but not impossible. After a few quick shots we release here into the natural habitat and I start dreaming about Bruto. This year he was caught on a record-breaking weight of 32 kg.

The lake enters into a closed season, that takes 2 months a year for the fish to have a resting period. In that year I catch different fish and again the pale one on 26.2 kg. Only this year, Bruto doesn't get caught.



The year 2014 arrived and this was the year I turned 18 years old, bought a little fishing van and was certain I wanted to catch my target. Because he didn't get caught last year, the chances would be bigger that he could be caught this year more than one time, so I wanted to be there for sure. I've spend hours, days and even the occasional nights at the lake. The approach I had was to feed different spots so I could change from one session to the other which resulted in a couple of beautiful mirror carp around 15kg. On the other hand, there's a risk that one of the spots you've baited can be occupied by other local fisherman. And to make the situation even worse is that you hear that your target has been caught on one of the other baited spots by a fellow fisherman.

After a couple of weeks with no fishing, I've started with feeding my spots again and had one-month time, before I had to work so a lot less fishing

time during that period. That month I've caught a lot of fish, but mostly the ones I've already caught before. On the 29th of June I decide to go and fish the night. I also choose to fish from the outside of the parking lot and change spots in the early morning.

That night I get a bite on one of my rod, but only a little mirror that wanted to play around. That resulted for me to change places to the other side of the lake where I got another spot. I put my 2 rods into position and snuggle back into my sleeping bag. During the whole day it went radio silent.. Until it started to rain softly. Out of the blue I get 2 beeps on my alarms and see my rod bending completely to the left. Before I even got a chance to get a decent contact, the fish had already swam into the branches. I put down the rod and a brief moment I wanted to take of my clothing to swim and try to free the fish in this way. Nonetheless the spool starts ticking again and the fish had swam away from the branches and the fight was back on again. Minutes felt like hours and it looked like the fish was playing me instead of the other way round.

The fish swam in the middle of the lake, sticking onto the bottom, while I got a couple of supporting walking people that wanted to see what was on the other end of my line. The first time I see the back of the fish, I see an enormous side with 4 scales on top, this is him, this is Bruto! The target I've been after for 3 years. After more than 30 minutes the victory is great, because I have one of the biggest mirrors of the Benelux in my net.



Immediately after my catch I call my father and a couple of fishing friends that can help me with this enormous catch. We take a weigh sling and put the fish in there to get a better look what the weight is. I make sure the tripod is ready and also my



camera. We put him up and the scale goes up to an astonishing 29 kg. It's not the heaviest he's been on, but nonetheless a great weight. It just shows that you can achieve anything you want, as long as you don't stop as things are getting a little harder.

A job in a fishing store called Hengelsport Lemmens.

When I attended college in Diest, I was looking for a job that I could earn a little money during my study period. A little while later I came across the fishing store, mainly because a good friend of mine worked there and I really liked it because it already was a hobby of mine. I didn't always had lessons on each day of the week, that allowed me to work there also during the week.

After one year of working there as a vacation worker, they asked me if I wanted to come and work in the fishing store full time. My choice was made very fast to work for one of the biggest fishing stores in Belgium. For the last 2.5 years I am the representative of the carp section of the store and am looking forward to the future.

Canal fishery.

After I've caught my target, I spend more time on smaller lakes and just having fun with some fellow fisherman friends. It was just enjoying the moment and catching fish of all lengths and weights. Only after that period I was in for a new challenge. One of the local canals that has been calling me for years is a canal called het kempisch kanaal. A very long and interesting canal with different kind of sluices, what makes it interesting that fish can travel a lot of km's in just a blink of the eye.

I made sure I was alright to fish the local lakes and canals, so I bought a big permit. This meant I could also fish during the night. It was only February when I started fishing the canal, searching fish while riding my bike and enjoying the early spring sun. I could search a lot of km's within a short period of time to get to know the area a little bit.

Because the canal wasn't as close to my house as the previous lake, it wouldn't be useful to keep on feeding different spots, because there were a lot of locals and it would be just a waste of time. Before I fished my first session on the canal, I made sure I arrived a couple of hours before I situated the rods. This so I could scout a little to see if I could find some fish.

This was definitely the right choice; I spotted a group of carp that were swimming closely in the shallow area. I grabbed my rods and situated them nearby of where I saw the group. However, that night went by without a single take, but before cleaning up I manage to catch a little common carp. I take a couple of shots for my first fish and pack my bags to head back home.

A few days later I repeated what I did the previous night and made sure the rods are on the same spot with the help of my baiting boat. Before it even got dark, I get my first take from a common carp that was 8 kg. I make sure the rod goes back in as soon as possible and put some krill & octopus boilies from Dreambaits on the spot. The night passed and again radio silent during the night. I kept wondering why I could only hook into 1 fish and then the fish stopped feeding.

After one week I take all my courage and drive back to the spot. Still on the same part of that canal. Instead of baiting the area with just one type of boilie, I put out a single hookbait and spread 2 kinds of boilies around the spot. A mix of krill and octopus and also Voodoo. With this kind of approach, I made sure the feeding spot is much larger so it would hopefully attract more fish, but also more takes. That night I did not caught 1, but 3 different carp with 2 beautiful mirror carp. With a few more sessions after that one, I close off the year with different beautiful fish.

After the period of fishing the Kempisch kanaal, I also fished a shorter period on one of the biggest canals of Belgium, called the albert canal. A completely different structure, that made it very difficult to find a drop of or so. With the help of my baiting boat with a depth sonar I was able to find a couple of nice spots for the next session. This time I did made a feeding spot that were baited with krill and octopus and again my new favorite

voodoo. After a week of pre-baiting the spot I arrived at the canal and situated my rods for the night.

Around four o'clock I get a full ringer on my left rod and quickly make sure I get a contact with the fish. After a quick fight the fish disappears in the net. A beautiful little mirror that already completed my session. I really didn't expect such a beautiful fish during the first night on such a magnificent canal. The rod goes back in and with a lot of confidence I snuggle back in for a couple hours of sleep. In the early morning I hear a couple of beeps but turn back around because I think it's from the current of the canal. Nonetheless the alarm starts screaming and a fish is on! The fish takes a couple of meters line and the fight starts. With the current, the fish can use this as a counterweight, so the fights here are extra intense. A little while later, the fish comes closer to the surface. The moment the fish broke through the surface I take my net and the fight is over! With a beautiful mirror carp this couldn't get any better. After that session I fished here a couple times, also with some great canal carp.



Rig choice

Throughout the years I haven't changed a lot on my end tackle and always chose to be simple but efficient. The more freckles on your end tackle, the more problems may occur. With the choice of a simple hooklink I am sure this will work. My all-time favorite will be the snowman-rig. This rig has achieved some big fish for me during the years.

As braided hooklink I use coretex matt weedy green 25lb from Fox. My favorite hook type will be the curve short, that normally is size 7 or 8. These two products will make sure you will have confidence in you end tackle rig. Only when I fish on a canal, I fish with a size 2 or 4. To make sure the fish will hook itself the right way I use a line aligner in combination with the tungsten anti tangle sleeves from the edge series from Fox.

Since the year 2020, I am part of the Fox international fishing team. I was fishing with fox for years before this, but it's still an honor to be fishing for a great brand like Fox international.



Together with Marc Lemmens we can go on a company visit to a brand that will innovate year after year.

Bait choice

As a young fisherman, I switched from fishing baits a lot. I mostly fished with freezer baits and the results were just great for shorter periods. I wanted to choose baits that I could fish with for longer period of times. This was very hard to find, because not every bait firm has an offer like this. After some searching and experiences from another fisherman, I came across Dreambaits. Some passionate fishermen that also made great boilies in different flavors and colors. During that period of time, they also made freezer baits.



Soon after I made the choice to fish with one brand, this was the right choice. I'm fishing for a couple of years now with the Dreambaits boilies and haven't regret that choice for a second. My 2 favorite boilies from Dreambaits are the Krill & octopus and Voodoo. These are two types I can use during a whole year of fishing. Another great flavor is the Choquita boilie. It is the most recent innovation from Dreambaits. A combination of chocolate and banana. In combination with a sweet boilie, it's also great for the carp because it's easily digestible. Maybe I'll add it to one of my favorites in the future.

JordyJasmienfishingteam



Since 2020, I am also together with my girlfriend Jasmin. She hadn't been fishing before she met me but quickly shares the fishing virus with me now. We have been on different trips now and are sharing our adventures on the Instagram page: JordyJasmienfishingteam. She is learning extremely quick and is great in what she is doing. This year she has already overcome her personal record 4 times. Her most recent record is a carp of 21kg during our trip in Germany. I am extremely proud of her and am looking forward to going on a lot of fishing trips together.



This is a short story of my life as a fisherman. Like a lot of carp fisherman will say: It's not a hobby, it's a lifestyle...

Keep it safe and enjoy life!
Jordy and Jasmien.

Facebook: Laeveren Jordy
Instagram: Jordyjasmienfishingteam

**1 SIZE 4 CURVE HOOK,
1 PIECE OF 25LB AQUASKIN HOOKLINK
3 PB COMMONS: 45lb 8oz, 46lb 2oz, 50lb 2oz**



**JUST AS SHARP
JUST AS STRONG
JUST AS RELIABLE
JUST BETTER VALUE**



www.sharptackle.co.uk



Reviews

Featuring -

**The Nomad's Kitchen & Fjuka
Baits by Anthony Woods**

The Nomad's Kitchen



Whether fishing, hiking, camping or any other outdoor activity where you are going to be cooking there has always been the age-old debate of whether you pack light and sacrifice some of your flavour for space or to pack more cooking stuff so that you can create great food even when out.

A few months back now I came across a company called The Nomad's Kitchen who have a couple of products that will help you with your cooking without taking up any extra space.

The first and main product is actually called the same as the company and that is "The Nomad's Kitchen", this really is a pocket-sized kitchen that contains all you need to help you create your culinary masterpieces.

The Nomad's Kitchen comes packed in a sturdy drop resistant case that can be packed into your fishing/camping bag if you have room or if you have no room left in your bag then you can clip the bag onto the outside of your bag.

Inside the kitchen case you will find a small yet usable chopping board, a foldable spork, a utility knife with several useful tools, a vial of cooking oil, a lighter, two large containers one of which contains salt and the other contains pepper as these are the most commonly used spices and finally six smaller containers that contain paprika, garlic, red chilli flakes, cumin, curry powder and mixed herbs.

"The Nomad's Kitchen" came about from a group of friends who when travelling struggled to find the spices and sometimes the basic tools (such as a chopping board, knife and spork) that could help them with their cooking on their travels. They started to develop their own little travel kits and eventually after much tinkering and changing of included items as well as a realisation that this kit would be of benefit to others as well "The





Nomad's Kitchen" came into being.

The Nomad's Kitchen is a really well put together cooking accessory although you could always use more spices and this is where the second product comes in which is the Nomad's Kitchens "Spice Rack".

The Spice Rack comes in a smaller case made from the same material as the Kitchen however it only contains the 8 containers that has the same spices in

it that the Kitchen has giving you even more spices to use on the longer trips.

There is the possibility of having the Spice Rack with empty containers so that you can fill them with spices of your choice, I for example love to make my own spice combinations for my cooking. If you fancy trying them a few of my favourite combinations are;

Chilli Con Carne

- 2tbsp Hot Chilli Powder
- 1tsp Cayenne Pepper
- 1tsp Sea Salt
- 1tsp Freshly Ground Pepper
- 1tsp Ground Cumin
- 1tsp Onion Powder
- Half a tsp Garlic Powder

Lemon-Pepper Salt Rub

- 2tbsp Finely Ground Black Peppercorn
- 3tbsp Lemon Zest Powder
- 1tbsp Sea Salt

Coffee-Paprika Salt

- 2tbsp Sea Salt



2tsp Paprika
1tsp Cayenne Pepper

Japanese Seasoning Salt

One and a Half Finely Crumbled Nori Sheets

2tbsp Lemon Zest Powder

1tbsp Sesame Seeds

1tbsp Sea Salt

1tbsp Ground Black Peppercorns

2tsp Ground Ginger

2tsp Ground Poppy Seeds

1tsp Cayenne Pepper



So that's my favourite spice mixes which I have added to the Nomad's Kitchen (I hope you like them) but I have to say that they have done a really good job with the selection of spices that they have included as standard in their products.

This is a perfect kit to accompany you on your fishing adventures if you like to cook something other than a pot noodle whilst you're on the bank. Not only do you have a selection of herbs and spices that will help you enhance the taste of your food, you also have useful tools such as the mini chopping board, spork and utility knife to help you prepare and eat your now delicious tasting bankside creations.

Although a simple idea, The Nomads Kitchen have really put some thought into putting this kit together and everything fits together really well to give you a versatile and usable product that is good value and practical.

You can get the products from their website www.thenomadskitchen.com and why not give their Facebook page a follow so that you can see any new updates or products that they bring out.

Fjuka Baits

By Anthony Wood



Reviews



Every now and then a bait comes along that makes you rethink the way you use your bait. One of the great things about this bait is something that Fjuka mention within the first paragraph on their website and that is “it’s time to say goodbye to bait drills, needles, bands and spikes” all of those fantastic things you stab yourself with when trying to bait your hook lol.



In all seriousness what attracted me to this bait was that it had been developed by none other than David Preston the guy behind tackle giants Preston Innovations, SonuBaits and Avid Carp. Using ‘newest and (in his words) greatest innovation of his career, Sensate™’ the Fjuka baits are literally bursting full of attractants that have 3000 times more taste and smell for the fish to find than a standard oil-based attractant.

The first time I tried them I didn’t really know what to expect from them and went to a water that in all honesty was difficult to fish and that mainly reacted to natural baits so I ended up blanking. However, I didn’t give up on the bait as you can’t tell from just one or two sessions how good or bad a bait is going to be.

So, what makes this bait stand out from others? Well firstly there is the fact that the bait starts to disperse its attractors as soon as it hits the water, the Sensate™ is also that fine that even as they sink to the bottom of the water you are fishing, they won’t sink into the lake bed, they will actually create a cloud of flavour all around your bait.

These pellets are absolutely ridiculous in the amount of ways that you can present the bait. Due to the unique formula of the bait, the Fjuka pellets are strong enough to hook directly and keep a good hook hold without needing any other aid to hold it on the hook. You can roll individual larger pellets (7mm Neeonz) into maggot, corn, worm or any other shape you can think of.

The smaller feed pellets are still a good size at 5mm and the black ones look very similar to hemp seed but with even more attraction. You can gently add them to a pellet feeder, combine them to make boilies, mix the colours, create an outer layer on a boilie, roll a bunch of them into a boilie shape, they really are so universal in the ways that you can use them.

They are attractive to most species so if you want to target carp with them and there are other species in the water you are fishing you may want to combine the Fjuka pellets into larger baits to help reduce the impact from the smaller species.

Made entirely from human food grade ingredients with added fluoro pigment these are responsibly sourced baits with no plastics, no gums, no waxes or resins and as long as you keep them sealed/resealed in their packaging they will stay hydrated and usable for 12 months from when you open them. The tubes that the Neeonz come in are also perfect for chucking into a bag and taking up little room.

I've had silver fish, carp and even a trout on them and I love the price of them as well because some bait such as boilies are starting to price out a lot of anglers from being able to use a decent bait. At £4.99 for a tube of Neeonz and a single bag of 2in1 bait costing only £1.99 the Fjuka range really does bring a quality bait



back into the hands of everyone, I mean some bread costs £2 and for £1.99 you get over 1000 5mm pellets that can be used as feed or hook bait!!

It's not very often you see an innovation that comes into the fishing industry that makes our hobby affordable for everyone so just for that alone I highly recommend giving Fjuka a try for yourself. I've looked on their various media



(www.facebook.com/fjukabait, www.instagram.com/fjukabait and their Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/573806513387378), the great thing is that you can see all the success stories but within the group they leave the failure sessions and help give people ideas on the best ways to use the bait.

As with all new baits to a water, don't expect it to work first time, if it does great but don't be disheartened if it doesn't as most fish will need to get used to a new food source.





Catch Reports

Featuring -

D.T. Baits

Nutrabaits

Vader Baits

Plus all of your catches !!!

Kristian Horlock



Kristian Horlock checks in with a winter monster!!

Kristian Horlock



Kristian Horlock



Well, what can I say after last week's two nights and ending up with a 45lb mirror and four other carp to 28lb I thought that was it this year, but I managed to get out for a night and really fancied a swim that had not been touched for a while.

And we're it was so mild I thought sod your winter tactics, (do the same as everyone else, catch the same as everyone else).

So, I put 2.5kg of cell, essential cell and iso sweet soaked in cell smart liquid over each rod. Armed with my APE-X size 4 curve shank hooks, rock bottom tungsten hook link and rock bottom putty also using 18lb rm etc line. after a day of lots of liners I decided to put a bit more bait over a rod under a tree about 3 rod lengths out, about another kilo and to my shock 15 minutes later it roared of.

And the fish flat rodded me for the first 80 yards of its run it was like stopping a tank and after a very long fight I got the upper hand and it rolled in front of me at this point my legs went... when I saw how big it was so one big scoop and it was mine. I knew it was big but when the scales went round to 59lb 8oz I was amazed, happy, over the moon no words can describe the feelings, after a few phone calls the owner and mate came down and did pics, I didn't sleep a wink that night I was too giddy.

The first light I had another two carp to 27lb to top of crazy session.

Aaron Sayers



Luke Pope





Alex Martin - French public water 46.0 SUPA fruit



Jamie Renwick - Managing to tempt this 32lb fish on a single N Blend pop up from his local water



James Radley - Is on fire at the moment destroying his local water, 30 common SUPA fruit



James Radley - Here he is again! doing it again with this 33lb 4oz gem of a common. Lovely fish falling victim to a trimmed down supa fruit wafter



Mark Twin - Tempted this awesome 62.12 on the legendary Cold Water Green Beast from a French venue



Peder Lichtenburg - DT Consultant from Denmark
50+ mirror tempting it on a 22mm n blend, more about
Denmark next issue



Ryan Ross - Tempting this 26lb, 40 year plus warrior from an Essex syndicate on a 12mm supa fruit pop up Mesh stick with supa fruit crumb with matching DNA liquid



Steve Nimmo - Tempted this beautiful 33.10 Berners Hall common on the nutty N Blend

RIG-IT
TACKLE



HAND SHARPENED HOOKS

THE POINT THAT MATTERS

**'It's a confidence thing for me!
Top quality products and
service to match. The
Sharpened Hooks are the
biggest edge.'**

**Andy Sargent using
Hand Sharpened R7s Hooks.**

**'I have ultimate confidence
in Rig-it products, knowing
that they won't let me
down. The Hand sharpened
hooks are second to none
and definitely landed me
more carp.'**

**Simon Whittle using
Hand Sharpened R3 Hooks.**

Full range of end tackle available



RIG-IT TACKLE
www.rigittackle.com

email: rigittackle@gmail.com tel: 0 7722 881823



Alfie Naylor - CO-DE



Derek Pye - 28lb04oz - CO-DE



Jairo Bocanegra - BFM



Luca Valentini



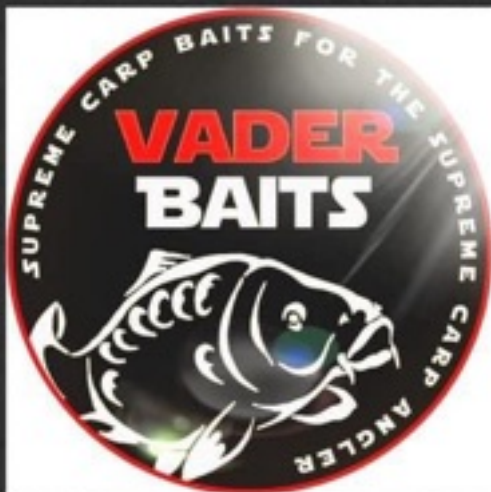
Neels Potgieter - South Africa



Rob Gainer - GOLD - 26lb12oz



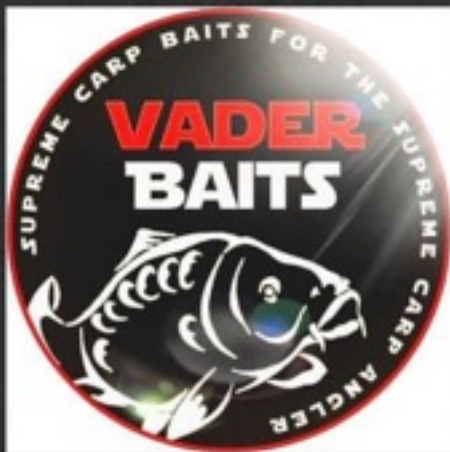
Luca Valentini - 55lb - Enervite Gold



Team member Andrew had a great weekend on Walton Lake. He arrived Friday morning and walked around the lake. He liked the look of swim 12 facing the island with a overhanging willow tree to the left! So, setting up he put the first rod tight to the island behind the overhanging willow on the Blackfudge boilie, putting the second rod tight to the island straight out in front on the Crabalicious boilie and putting the third rod out slightly right on some new bait Matt made. He sprinkled about 10 boilies around each spot all rods had a PVA bag of crushed boilie on them just to help presentation. It was quiet Friday and Saturday until around 1pm when his right hand rod sprang into life and he had a 10lb 6oz mirror.

Then just after 4pm the right hand rod screamed off and he had a 13lb 8oz mirror caught on Blackfudge!

Great angling Andrew



Matthew fished Walton over the weekend with a couple guys from the Vader Baits team. He bivvied up in peg 13 and with the wind running directly into his swim he was hopeful of a bite! It didn't take long for that to happen for him as his left hand rod screamed off, but the crafty carp got into a reedy snag and dropped the hook! 1-0 to the fish! Matt was testing a new hook bait and was happy to see that same left hand rod spring to life knowing what happened last time he fished tighter on the reel which worked and brought the score back to 1-1 after banking a cracking lite common which was very welcome and apparently a rarity to see from Walton! The bottom baits went quiet, so Matt stuck with the same spot but changed to small bags of crushed boilie, pellet, glug and a 14mm red SaTaN wafer as hook bait. His next run didn't take to long to happen and after doing the hard bit and playing the carp out of the reeds he lost the fish at the net. Devastated and now 2-1 to the carp ! So not to be deterred using the same tactics on the same spot Matt was relieved to see his rod scream off again and after a cracking little scrap slid the net under a beautiful linear mirror!! So, finished 2-2 on the day. Matt had a great little session with some of the team and Walton is a cracking little venue with some great bailiffs on!

Great angling Matt



**Team member Aaron spent the weekend at Walton with a few of the Vader Baits lads for a little session. During the weekend he landed this lovely 14lb carp. The fish was tempted by a 12mm orange pop up with a pva stick with Le Nutz, SaTaN and Krilla 2mm pellets over 14mm boilies chopped in half!
Great angling Aaron**

Castaway PVA



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.

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

43.4

THIS MONTHS ADVERTISERS -

ACA - ANGLERS CHARITY AUCTIONS

CARBON BAITTS

CASTAWAY PVA

CHEF UK CARP

D.T. BAITTS

MAINLINE BAITTS

NUTRABAITS

RIG IT TACKLE

RIDGEMONKEY

RODDY CLIPS

SHARP TACKLE

WOLFINT

Stay Safe Thanks for Reading

send your articles and catch reports by the
28th January 2021 for next months magazine

brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk

mark@talkingcarp.co.uk

m.galli@talkingcarp.co.uk



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

‘The Talking Carp Team’

Brian Dixon
Mark Faulkner
Dave Harnick Snr
Mark Galli

OUT
NOW



THE LINK UP!

Since we devised 'The Link' concept, countless prototypes have enabled us to 'lock-on' to what REALLY makes this fishmeal bait tick. In its final formula as an active, dedicated boilie, **The Link™** has now proven itself on the World's most demanding venues to the World's most demanding anglers and will be ready to prove itself as what your fishing has been missing. Imminently. **Isn't it time you linked-up with Mainline?**

BETTER BAIT THROUGH RESEARCH
WWW.MAINLINE-BAITS.COM

*The Link™ Boilies are supported by a full range of complementary Pop-Ups, Worms & Innovations. For more and, of course, the widest bait selection, visit us.