

A man wearing a brown cap and jacket is smiling while holding a large, dark brown carp in a pond. The fish is the central focus, with its scales clearly visible. The background shows a calm body of water with some reeds and trees in the distance.

Talking Carp

Magazine

Issue 48
February 2020

Inside -

Simon Crow joins us for a chat,
Scott Grant, Simon Ursell,
Martyn Davies, Karl Brandreth
Plus catch reports reviews and much more



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Hello And welcome.

Well here we are, already into February, and things are moving along swimmingly. The show season is in full swing with plenty of new items on display to ogle at, and plan to purchase in the very near future.... Which brings us to this...

CHECK THIS OUT!!

Competition time!!

We will be in attendance ourselves around the mighty Northern Angling Show in Manchester on the weekend of Feb 22nd and 23rd. In fact, we are having a little N.A.S competition... Brian, Mark F and Mark G will be wearing hoodies or T shirts with the Talking Carp logo and website printed on.... Find one of us, have a picture taken with us, follow the @talkingcarp.magazine Instagram page and post a pic on your profile with the #talkingcarpmagazine and you could be in with a real chance of winning a super carpy bundle with items from Nash Tackle, RidgeMonkey, Korda Developments, Powapacs, Rig-It Tackle, The Squirrels Nuts, Castaway PVA and Tackle Shack Nuneaton all up for grabs. So, keep an eye out for us...

Also, this month we bring you our usual fantastic writers, plus Carl Milton joins in the mix and plenty of catch reports and a review or two.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you with fresh articles (**everybody is welcome here!!**) and catch reports, and any news you wish to get out there!

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Team Talking Carp

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Vader Bait

Wyreside

plus all of your catches !!!!!!!!

Carpr Baits - Putting more fish on the bank



This is an amazing bait dip that oozes flavour & attractors



PINEAPPLE

LIVER

KRILL

SCOPEX

Look out for exciting new products in 2020



Dips



Particles



Wafters



Boilies

An Interview with Mr. Simon Crow (Crowy)



With Mark Galli

I am sure that this man requires no introduction, but that's not going to stop me trying...

His name is synonymous with carp angling and not just here in the UK. Having fished all around the world, Simon has landed 50lb carp in no less than seven different countries and he's probably fished somewhere in the region of four hundred different waters...He's also landed a few carp over 80lb too...!

Back in 1996, this Yorkshire-based carp addict won the World Carp Cup with his fishing partner at the time, who also became a another fishing legend, Mr. Rob Hughes and, if memory serves me right, that was the first ever Global Carp Match, and a result which saw Angling Times run with the headline '**British Beef**'..!

Simon has gone on to catch six different UK 50's and is the only angler to have caught forties from four different Yorkshire waters..!! His social media following matches his impressive catch credentials with over 13.1k YouTube subscribers (He gained over 900 followers whilst I was working on this interview..!) with videos going back over the past twelve years, a Facebook following of over 105k, and an Instagram following of over 36k (and he only follows 661 people, although that will be 662 by the end of this interview..!).

He is also an author of two books, *The Adventures of a Carp Angler* and *Carp Fishing Advanced Tactics*, as well as the co-author alongside Rob Hughes of *Discover Carp Fishing* (published in 13 different languages) and *Strategic Carp Fishing*. He is also the former editor of *Carpworld* and *Carp-Talk* magazines and has been working in the angling industry since 1989 and still going strong with **Avid Carp** and **DNA Baits**.

As I said at the start, this man, Mr. Simon Crow, needs absolutely no introduction to carp anglers young or old, but I also said that wouldn't stop me trying...but now, let's hear from the man himself...

MG: *Mr. Crow, Simon seems so informal for a man of your standing in the carp world, let's quickly back track to how you got involved in not just fishing but carp fishing and what it was that got you 'hooked' initially (sorry about that...!) ...?*

SC: Just call me Crowy as I'm only an angler like everyone else. I started fishing like a lot of lads did of my generation, by going with my Dad. He was a pleasure angler and he used to take me to lots of local places close to where I lived at the time in Wolverhampton. I actually spent a lot of time with my Grandad Fred when I was younger as he used to come with us too. Dad used to go off on his own and leave me with Fred who spent hours with me fishing for Gudgeon and anything else that came along.

I caught my first carp in 1980 when by chance I hooked and landed one from Leighton's Pool in Codsall. That fish was so memorable to me as my reel fell off my rod right in the middle of the battle! I was only ten at the time and was fishing with an old school pal, both of us having cycled to the lake. In those days I used to float fish and put a rod out for a bigger specimen. I didn't officially become a 'carp angler' until 1986 when I bought a couple of bigger rods and two bite alarms. That was the start of the 'Carp Fever' for me...!!

18-years-old with my first UK twenty

MG: *So, "Crowy", when and how did carp angling become your Job...?*

SC: This is a long story as I used to work in a tackle shop in the late 1980s. I was friends with a lad called Richard Taylor at the time (former Wychwood brand



My first trip to France alongside Rob Hughes (centre) and Neil Bannister (right)



manager) and the two of us started making our own baits and selling it to a few mates. We then started selling it in the tackle shop and making a few quid. It paid for our own bait which in those days was quite expensive. The bait company was called Carp Balls UK.

While working in the shop one day a bloke walked in wearing a suit. I thought he was trying to sell us something as he had that very confident way about him. He'd just moved to the area as a trainee solicitor and wanted to know if there were any good carp waters in the Wolverhampton area. Something clicked between us and in return for sorting him out some fishing he said he'd take me to France.

Carp fishing across the Channel was still in its infancy but this lad had been a couple of times before. It was the perfect trade-off for me as I'd wanted to go to France since first seeing pictures of Rod Hutchinson



Rolling bait with Rob Hughes in preparation for our first trip to Chantecoq in France, 1991

in Angling Times with a Cassien biggie a couple of years earlier. The lad was none other than Rob Hughes!

We became great mates from that moment onwards. Rob ended up getting involved with the bait company as Rich had fallen in

love and his enthusiasm for making bait was dwindling. Rob and I, on the other hand, were addicted carp anglers with loads of ambition. Every spare minute we were on the phone and making plans about fishing. Once Rob came on board, he took the bait to loads of local shops and sold it to them. Within no time it was all around the Midlands region and we were selling ten times more.

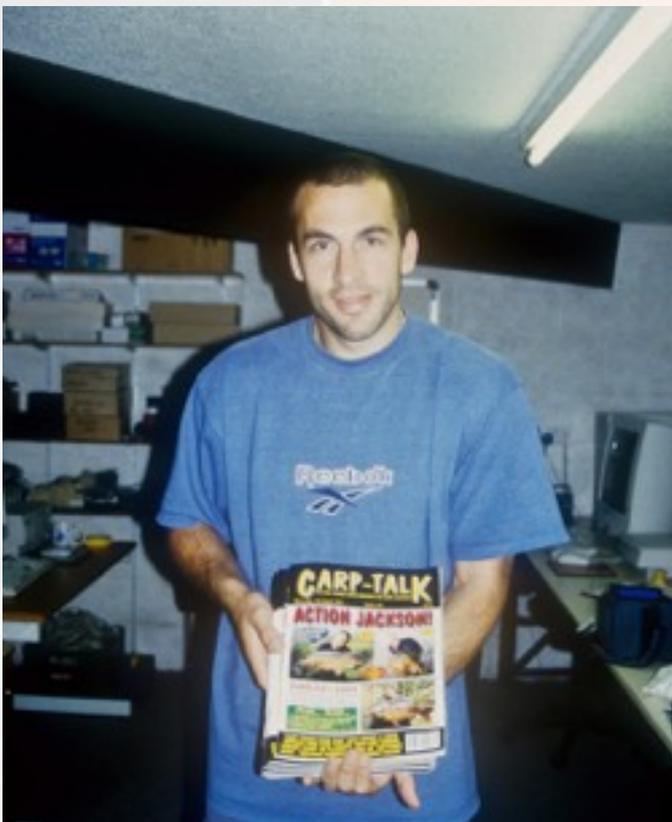
We then decided to market it wider but couldn't afford to put an advert in the only magazine at the time, Carpworld. Instead I decided to write some articles and mention the bait there. These got published and I got paid for writing them. This opened the door to a regular slot in the mag for us, reviewing day ticket waters around the country. Carpworld had been bi-monthly at the time and it was going monthly so required more content. This was at a time when the industry was just starting to grow, and angling consultants were new on the scene.

Kevin Nash was starting Nashbait and he had Jim Gibbinson as his senior consultant but wanted some younger anglers on his team.

He'd asked Tim Paisley (the editor of Carpworld) to contact us and see if we wanted to join him. We didn't need to think about it long as we were going to get free tackle and as much bait as we wanted, which meant no more making bait!

Two days later Rob announced that he'd sold Carp Balls UK to local angler Dave Ash which gave us some money out of it (Dave subsequently sold it to someone else and I believe it's still going today). This is when everything started to gather momentum for us.

In 1994 Carp-Talk started and we began writing weekly in there which gave us extra income. We were both students, so every bit of money helped. To be fair we were very different to traditional carp anglers back in those days. The sport was primarily about catching big target fish, getting two bites a year type of stuff. We came in from a different



I wrote in issue 1 of Carp-Talk in 1994, right the way through until its final issue in 2018

angle with our day ticket series. Back then everything was secret squirrel. There was a massive lack of information compared to today. That's where the day ticket series had its own niche. No-one knew anything about open access type waters other than the ones on their doorstep. We helped spread the word about day ticket waters, driving up and down the country every month to fish somewhere new.

We were the first to write about loads of the now household named venues, like Bluebell, Orchid, Borwick, Catch 22, etc. We

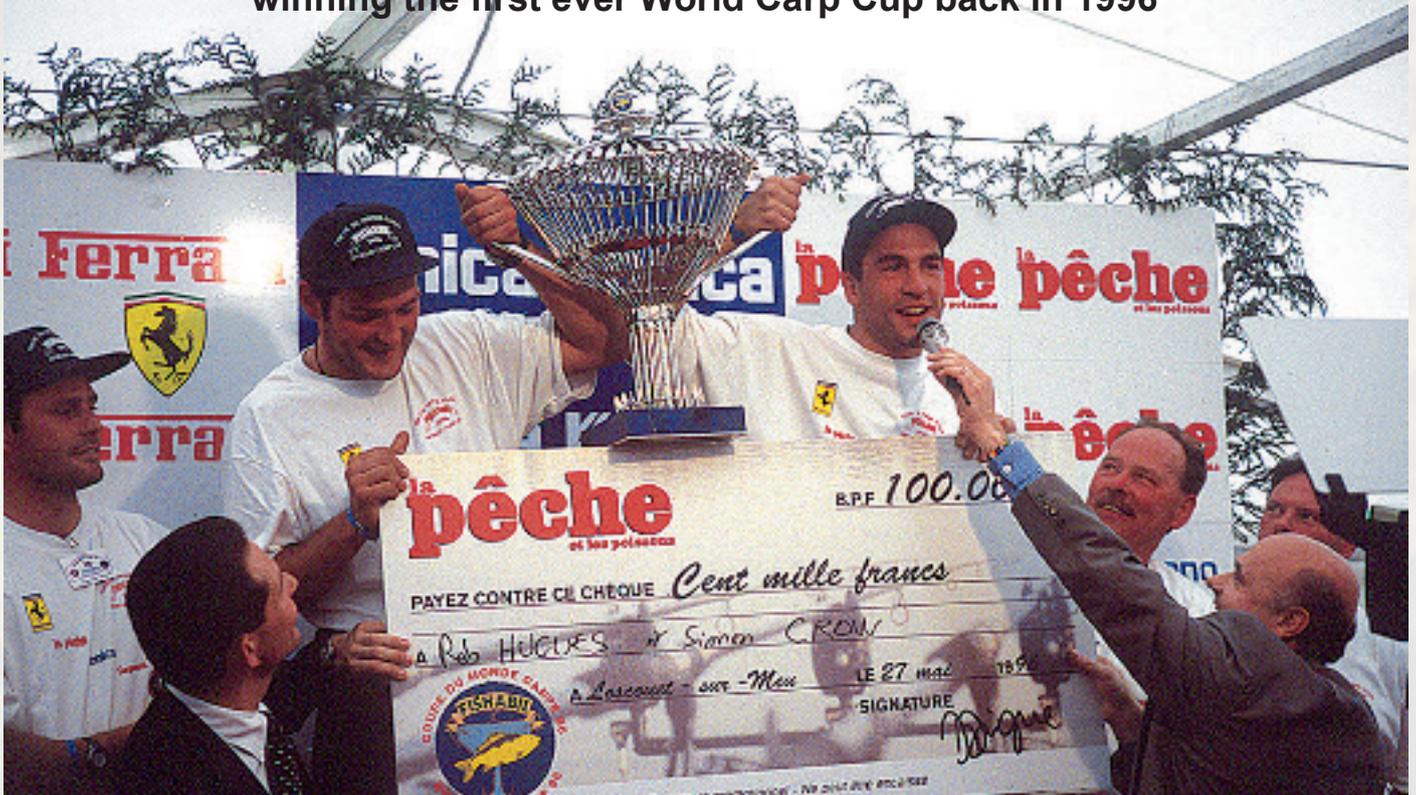
developed a short session style of fishing which was unheard of in those days. We caught from nearly every water we wrote about. Nashy saw this and entered us into a very heavily publicised event called the World Carp Cup which was to be held in France.

This was in 1996 at Fishabil, a great place to showcase carp fishing to the wider-public. The owner was very connected and publicised the event on TV all around the world.

Despite coming thirtieth in the draw of 50+ teams of two anglers, we managed to get the swim we wanted. We caught the first fish, biggest fish and most fish, romping to victory at the end of the 72-hour event. This promoted our names to the emerging global carp fishing market.

The next thing we were writing articles and making videos all around the world as carp fishing spread. It coincided with both of us finishing our

We caught the first fish, the most fish and the biggest fish on the way to winning the first ever World Carp Cup back in 1996



university degrees. Rob decided to turn his hand to organising carp matches in the UK while I gained a scholarship for a Master's Degree in Hull, where Carp-Talk was based. The next thing I was working in the office one day a week...and the rest, as they say...is history...



Me and Rob Hughes on the first UK trip to Lake Raduta in Romania with a 52lb 8oz, 1998

MG: What an amazing insight to your background and what a history you have.

Bringing things to the present time, what is your current role with Avid Carp and DNA Baits...?

SC: I'm a full-time carp angling consultant now. A large part of this involves fishing, writing articles and editing video blogs. I'm also at Avid most months for meetings in the office. Filming is a big part of my work, making the Vlogs which really isn't as easy as it looks because I'm not one of these whiz kids who's trained as a videographer. I've had to teach myself how to film and edit, and I'll admit my Vlogs aren't full of super graphics with an Oscar-rated finish to them.

What they are though is real "as-it-happens" stuff, and I'm proud of that fact because primarily I'm a carp angler. My job isn't just about Vlogging though. I also have to write articles for several mags each month, use social media platforms regularly, attend carp shows and communicate with other anglers. There are lots of other unseen bits I have to do too, such as being professional and representing the brands in the best way possible.

MG: How much of a commitment is working in the carp industry in your capacity and how does this impact on your family and social life...?

SC: It's a massive commitment because it's more than a 40-hour-a-week full-time job. It might sound like I'm a full-time carper but it's not quite that simple. I fish four days a week on average throughout the year. Of course, I have longer trips overseas, but I can't fish every day as you have to have a normal life too or you would get burnt out.

I have a very understanding girlfriend, two kids and a life outside of fishing. I enjoy running marathons and anyone who's ever run one will tell you it takes up a lot of time training. My girlfriend and I are both Good For Age runners too (marathon classification for automatic entry into the major marathons), which means we



have to follow training plans and specific pace times. I run six days a week most weeks, which isn't easy when you're on the fish!

MG: We often hear the term "Sponsored Angler" or "Team Member" and it seems the latter are always being advertised for on Social Media from Tackle and Bait companies but what do you see as the main differences between two roles, and is there any difference in terms of angling commitment...?

SC: There's no difference whatsoever when it comes to angling commitment. How long someone goes fishing is up to them. To my knowledge none of the leading brands tell anglers they need to go fishing X number of days/hours. Not even the paid anglers get told to fish 40 hours or whatever per week. The role of a carp consultant is wide and varied, and very much dependent on the company and individual.

With the greatest respect to the trade, it's fair to say everyone is different. Some guys have a gift of the gab when it comes to selling and catch the odd fish, while others are out and out carp catching machines that cannot sell on a one-to-one basis but instead sell through their association alone.

As for the different terms used to classify anglers, again every company is different. Everyone seems to have some sort of deal these days, but some get gear and bait at



Being inducted into the Carp Fishing Hall of Fame by carping historian Kevin Clifford

trade prices, others get a set amount of gear free per year, while others get unlimited supplies. It all depends what they can offer the company. It isn't just about catching fish either. A large part of it is how you handle yourself professionally.

MG: Do many carp anglers actually make their living from “just fishing” ...?

SC: I'd say no-one does. Terry Hearn is the most respected carper in the UK and even he has to do film work, talks, shows, etc, which are all a part of his work that take him away from the rods.

Putting a slide show together takes a lot of work, as does writing a book etc. Some of the films you see today can take hours and hours of work, most of which has to be done in an office. At a guess there are about a dozen or so UK anglers with a similar job spec to Terry. You then have the overseas guys too. Carp fishing is no longer just about the UK. It is a massive globalised industry.



Alongside one of my carping idols, the great Rod Hutchinson while having a float match on one of his stock ponds

MG: Sticking with the ‘sponsored angler/team member’ questioning for a minute, what impact has social media had on this and do you feel it has made things easier for anglers to get noticed or has it clouded the waters, so to speak...?

SC: Social media has had a massive impact on the world today. Carp anglers are now in contact with one another at the touch of a button. Information is so important in our industry, but it's always been like that. In the days when I was starting out you had to get yourself noticed but via a different means. There's a lot more anglers today than there were thirty years ago. That makes it harder to stand out, but I always say that if you want something enough, you'll work hard to make it happen. Ali Hamidi is the classic example of this. There are lots of anglers out there who are waiting for someone to knock on their door and say "Hi, you've been selected to be the next Terry Hearn!" Unfortunately, it doesn't work like that. Ali came into the industry at a time when it was starting to get very competitive. He opened doors, he made it happen for himself, and he's now one of the highest profile anglers in the world. That's what you've got to do, and it goes far wider than simply getting likes/followers on social media.



Acton's Bill the Common at 51lb 8oz back in 2011



A carp I'd wanted for a long while, a 50-pounder from the mighty Lac D'Orient in central France

MG: What do you feel about the number of pictures that get uploaded to social media by these anglers that normally would not even bother with a photograph of the Carp, but they use it to 'hash tag' everything known to carp fishing...?

SC: The modern world seems obsessed with how many followers people have. I must admit I'm very sceptical of how this judgement alone makes someone more worthy than another. For instance, who are the followers and why are they following that person?

There's a technique to working social media. The more you post and the more active you are, the more interaction you get, resulting in more followers. It's all about the algorithms, which you can also boost by spending money. It doesn't take long to see there are anglers posting pictures of the same fish on a daily basis to try and boost their following.

Of course, it gives them a good platform to influence people, but there needs to be substance in what they are posting, or it becomes superficial, but then you know that, which is why you're asking me this question!

Also, it's pretty obvious that girls holding carp get more attention than blokes. The more attractive she is, the more followers she gets. Is that a good basis for selling carp gear? I'm not so sure. The world is full of this kind of stuff these days.

I follow a lot of top Kenyan marathon runners on social media. Those guys run marathons in just over 2 hours, but they have nowhere near as many followers as girls with massive boobs who run marathons in 6 hours! As I say, I'm unsure about this trend of judging folk on how many followers they have. Instagram seems to be the current fashionable platform and the breeding ground for this, but nothing stands still with social media. I'm sure something will take its place sooner or later.



Carp don't come much better than this 60-pounder from the Forest Lake in Austria

My favourite capture, the Nostell Fish at 43lb 6oz from Yorkshire's Nostell Priory estate



MG: (Note to Self, Instagram - Marathon Runners with Massive Boobs) ... Obviously, being in the position you are, you have to generate publicity for the companies. That said; when you do post pictures etc. how much attention do you personally give to the number of 'likes' you get...?

SC: The number of likes is of course important but as I said earlier, this obsession everyone seems to have with likes is very superficial. This year I caught the legendary Wood Common from Spitfire Pool, one of the UK's finest carp. I didn't get as many likes for that fish as I did a fully scaled mirror I caught from Acton Burnell. We could debate about that all day long and not know why it happened. I plugged the bait and gear I used to catch both fish in those posts, but I hardly got any feedback about it. A short while later, I posted a piece about the Benchmark X Bedchair from Avid. That post hardly got any likes in comparison with

those fish captures. However, I got loads of personal messages from anglers telling me they were going to buy one of those bedchairs off the back of that post. Those beds aren't cheap either, only two people need to buy one and you've generated a grand in revenue. From a business point of view which is the most important, the likes or the selling? As I said earlier, there is a lot more to being a carp consultant than just getting likes/followers.



My current biggest UK carp, the Four-By-Four from Church Lake, weighing 56lb 12oz

MG: Obviously, over the years since you started carp fishing, things have changed but are they all for the better and what do you see as the biggest changes outside of social media...?

SC: Without a doubt the biggest change is in the availability of big fish. There are so many big carp around today it's crazy. Almost every day I

see pictures of anglers holding whackers I don't recognise. The UK is now blessed with a growing number of carp fisheries which contain these carp. The good thing is these venues come in all shapes and sizes too. If you like busy day ticket waters you can fish them, and if you prefer much quieter waters you can access these too.

There is a choice for all and this is absolutely great to see. It's one of the reasons why whenever I see an oldie posting something negative about the modern-day carp scene, I scroll on by... You don't have to be a part of this if you don't like it. There are plenty of syndicate waters about where you can be left alone in whatever time zone you want to be.



My biggest floater caught carp to date, Arnie from Manton's Old Lake weighing 45lb 12oz

MG: What advice do you have for those younger anglers, or indeed, some of the older ones out there that want to get noticed and get a deal with a company...?

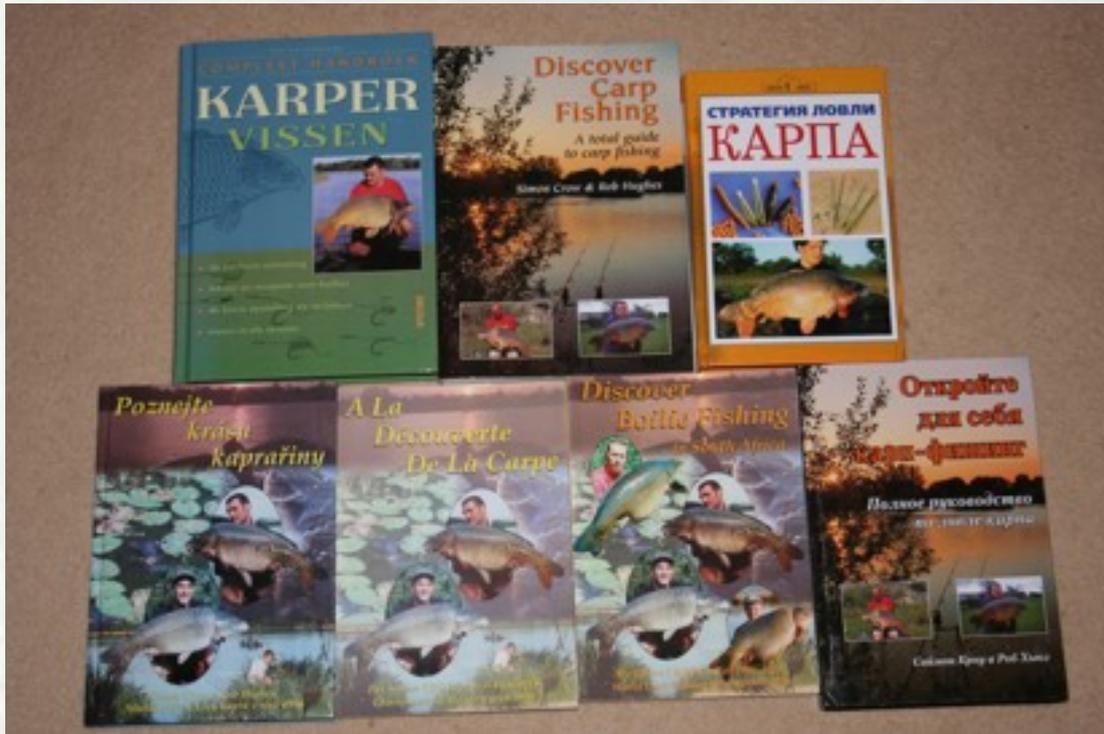
SC: Be different to the rest and make yourself stand out from the crowd, but in all honesty this isn't going to get you anywhere if you aren't addicted to carp fishing for all of the right reasons and you aren't prepared to make things happen for yourself.

MG: Obviously, writing has played a big part in your life as a carp angler, with the publication of four books and your time as Carp-Talk editor, but do you feel the written word is on the demise because of the social media platforms we have...?

SC: I'm not sure if the written word will ever lose its place. However, on social media there is no-one checking the facts that go out. You can write whatever you want and delete the comments of anyone trying to correct your posts, which allows for the spreading of so much fake news.



If I had to fish somewhere for the last time, it would be Cassien in the South of France because it has everything you could wish for



Back in the days of Carp-Talk we had to be as factually correct as we could with everything that we wrote. We kept records of all sorts of captures, but since the mag ended I've seen loads of different 'records' claimed.

This is where the written word is losing its value. It's very hard to regulate it though. Whilst everyone has a say, there is always going to be a mismatch of information available.

MG: It has been great speaking with you and thank you from all at Talking Carp for taking the time to chat with me. There are loads more questions I have for you, but hopefully, we can do that later in the year and you can give our readers an insight to your fishing around the world...?

Finally, as with all my interviews, I have some quick-fire questions for you.... Which do you prefer...?

- **Commons or Mirrors...?**

This is a hard one to answer as I like them both. I suppose the mirrors just edge it, especially linears as there is something special about those carp.

- **Day sessions or overnights or longer sessions...?**

Longer sessions are something I rarely used to do as I was mostly an overnight angler until last year, but these days I love nothing more than settling down for a few days. You can learn so much about a swim the longer you're in it.

- **Small or big waters...?**

Small as they are much harder. On big waters generally all you have to do is find the fish, whereas on small venues they are generally very spooky, going round and round for days before they trip up.



The unmistakable Kitch from Northey Park weighing 47lb 12oz

- **Remote locations or full facilities...?**

I can be sociable and enjoy commercial venues, but I think most carp anglers want to be on a venue full of monsters all by themselves.

- **UK or outside...?**

I go through little phases on this, one-year loving UK carp fishing more than travelling. UK carp fishing is great, but the world is a big place and there are lots of adventures to be had outside so I'd choose the overseas stuff.

- **Spring, summer, autumn or winter fishing...?**

I love them all if I'm honest; they all have something special about them. After a long warm summer with busy banks I'm ready for the quietness that comes with winter.



The amazing Wood Common from Spitfire Pool at a lake record 53lb 4oz

- **Bottom or surface...?**

Surface fishing is my number one favourite method. Nothing beats finding the fish up close and then watching them take the hookbait; the adrenaline rush is incredible.

- **Close in or long range...?**

Up close and personal where even small carp look like monsters!

- **If you could only fish one more session, where would it be..?**

I'd probably go back to Cassien in the south of France, where the climate and fishing are in their own special place.

- **What is the most memorable fish you've caught so far and why?**

This is very hard as I've had lots of great memories in my career. It's not only about weight for me so I'm not going to choose one of my biggest or most famous carp. Instead I'll go with the one which has the most meaning to me, the Nostell Fish from Yorkshire's Nostell Priory estate. It was a mega old fish that lived in a day-only 20-acre estate lake with about 15 other carp. The venue was 50 miles from my home, and when I eventually caught it, the great fish had gone almost two years without capture. It was such a satisfying moment, after all of the driving I'd done, hours walking the banks, and time spent fishing. Plus, it was up north in Yorkshire where home-grown forties are very rare indeed.

Facebook: **Simon Crow**

Instagram: **carpmancrow**

YouTube: **Simon Crow Carp Fishing TV**

Avid Carp: www.avidcarp.com

DNA Baits: www.dnabaits.com

Instagram: **mark_carper257**



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After seeing the shocking images regarding the plastic pollution in our seas and waterways on BBC Blue Planet II, we at Rig Marole, as like many other anglers thought we should do something to ease the problem. Even though it will only be a small contribution, we feel any difference is the right way to go. Therefore we looked at the most common used plastic item in carp fishing end tackle, which is the lead clip. Our lead clips are actually made from metal due to their unique design however most are plastic.

Fortunately, for us we have a great contact who supplies the NHS with biodegradable implants such as pins, screws and plates for surgery all of which break down inside the human body once they have done their job. With the information on the material used it gave us the idea to utilise this product for our lead clips. The outcome being they are strong enough withstand any angling usage but once in the water are of less danger to wildlife due to being totally biodegradable and eco- friendly. With testing, we believe they should start to break down in freshwater after approximately 8 months.

The material used is different to most thermoplastic polymers in that it is derived from renewable resources such as corn starch or sugar cane. Most plastics, by contrast, are derived from the polymerization of non-renewable petroleum reserves. Plastics that are derived from biomass are known as "bioplastics." Available from Spring 2020, in the same design as our existing free fall lead clips, with the addition of a semi fixed lead clip. RRP £4.99.

Freak of Nature
by Scott Geezer Grant



I did manage a two-night session at the end of August over at Bayeswater spending the first night in swim 6, but come morning the fish moved up to the other end so I done no more than loaded the barrow and fished my last night in swim 1. Even though I worked my socks off, the fish had other ideas and with no pressure they just went where there were no lines and as much as I wanted to catch one of them I wasn't prepared to chase them all round the lake, fishing is about chilling out and being at one with nature, not getting stressed out well it is for me anyway. Work was very busy as usual and I was progressing more in my scuba diving and had dives planned in September so I could attain my Ocean Divers License, I have already been on a couple of dives

and learning all the time from my instructor and all round legend Darren Gibbs, the man is unbelievable and if I can be half the diver he is I will be a happy man, for him its effortless and his knowledge is phenomenal. Scuba is starting to take over my life and all I can say is that if you haven't tried it give it a go its literally another world.

I did manage to get out for a 48hr session over on the Dell, a lake close to my heart way back in 2005 I got involved in creating the lake working alongside the owner Mick "Mad Dog" Prior and "The Big Man" Peter Breeze who suddenly passed away in 2015 R.I.P.

mate, over the last 15 years the lake has really come on. All the trees have grown nicely, I remember when me and Pete were planting them, they were like sticks!!!

The fish have also attained biblical proportions with the lake home to some 300 fish with 2 x 50lbs, at least 8x 40lbs and shedloads of 30lbbers. I fished the lake and took my eldest daughter Megan with me most of the time and over a 10-month period we caught everything that swam in the lake. This year however the lake has



suffered a terrible blow losing some 180 fish including a few of the A Team. With that all said there are still some stunners to fish for and with knowing exactly what ones perished I went up there to fish for a couple of nights to see if I could snare one.

My mate Chris was already fishing along the main bank and after having a look round I decided to go into the swim called the white bag which was next to him after all we were meant to be having a social. With all the gear at the swim it didn't take me long to get the bivvy up and

get everything sorted. I know the weed has been heavy but after spending 20 minutes with the marker rod I found 3 lovely areas in front of a wall of weed that went across the whole of the swim in 12ft of water. Rig wise I decided to go with 3 chods and spodded a few kilos of mixed sized boilies over the top, along with a few spods of particles. Chris had banked a couple of fish over the past couple of nights nothing big but a fish is a fish.

Just as the sun started to set the fish started to show and there were a few out in front of



me but the majority of fish were in front of the island swim, which is on the other side of the lake. It was relaxing just sitting there chatting and every now and then a fish would crash out. When it got dark the gnats had dinner on their mind with me being the food. It was back in the bivvy and after some dinner it was an early night. I was up before first light and as expected the fish started to show again out in front with the majority still in front of the island. After a bit of breakfast Chris went up to have a shower





and left his sounder box with me. An hour later a few bleeps let out of his receiver, I thought he was back so I walked up to his swim but he wasn't there and I looked down at his rods and his middle rod was away, I jumped down and started playing the fish and with the fish under control and only 40 yards out I just kept playing hoping that Chris would come back, as I looked round and with the fish ready for the net Chris was there I shouted to him to take the rod but he said no "Net it

Geeze", with the fish in the net he gave me a hand and we put the fish in the cradle and got it up on the bank. As I peeled the net away a lovely mirror maybe mid 20 with a few sparkly scales, result!! Well not really as it doesn't count for me or Chris, but the Fishery Manager Jake wanted a few pics of the fish which to be honest was a bit uncomfortable but with Chris banging on at me a couple of snaps were taken then she was treated and returned. The fish actually went 27lb 12oz and I vowed

I would catch the fish on my own terms next time. The rest of day was spent chilling out and having a good catch up with mates, no more fish graced the bank and the following morning saw me packing up and heading home. The next day I was back at work planning my next possible trip, my fishing hasn't been as full on as other years simply because Scuba now plays a big part. Mick the owner of the Dell asked me to dive the Dell but until I am qualified, I will not be diving anywhere, so the sooner it happens the sooner I can start diving lakes. I had the odd rest day off work but not enough to go fishing so I used the days to go diving, there's plenty of diving lakes about mainly all over in Kent. After completing my pool test, lectures and examines the only



thing left for me to do was to go down to 20metres with my instructor to attain my license. I kept going to the pool each week practising until the big day arrived.

The middle of September I had 2 rest days together so I planned to go back to the Dell and settle the score, this time I was fishing for me and with that in mind I had a lap of the lake before getting any gear out the car. There were a couple of anglers fishing and a couple

of fish had been out up to mid-thirty so I was hoping this was going to be a bonanza session. I opted for a swim known as Wardy's a couple of fish had already been showing out in front and I know the swim, the plateau starts to shelve off from the left-hand side giving me

the option of shallow or deeper water. Before I unloaded the barrow, I grabbed the marker to see if I could find some clearish areas and get a drop as you could clearly see banks of weed everywhere. I managed to find a clearish area on top of the plateau and another area at the bottom.

Again, I was going to fish chod rigs with white nutjob pop ups and a mixture of nutjob boilies scattered all across the rods, along with a liberal amount of chilli hemp. With the rods out on the dance floor the house went up and the rest of the gear sorted. Later that





evening I got a call from my brother in law asking who was over and what swims were free as he was coming over the following morning. That evening was very quiet and every now a fish would crash to break the silence. The next morning, I was up bright and early ready for action, the morning passed and the bobbins lay motionless, around midday my brother in law turned up and went into the swim next to me called

the Deeps, it had done fish over the past couple of weeks and we were both hoping it would continue. Early afternoon saw me packing up slowly with defeat clearly staring me in the face, as always the rods were laid on the floor whilst I packed my buzzers and rod rests away, everything was loaded on the barrow and as I walked slowly down to the rods the middle rod just went into meltdown!! I honestly pooped myself then

grabbed the rod and the fish was on, it weeded me up a few times and after 10 minutes Martin done the honours with the net and he said "It's a nice mirror Geeze", I bit the line and with the rod out of the way and the cradle doused down with water I started to break the net down ready to transfer the fish into the cradle.

As I started to unpeel the net and remove the vast amount of weed, I recognised the fish and

couldn't believe my eyes!! It was the same fish I caught on Chris rod a couple of weeks back!! Now that is spooky. Stix was summoned from the point to come and do the photos and they turned out pukka, the fish had obviously been on the munch as the needle swung round to 28lb 4oz. I must admit I was so happy and as they say a photo says a thousand words. I went home a very happy angler.

I didn't have any

time to go fishing after this session and concentrated on getting my Scuba qualification and on the 4th October, I passed my Ocean Divers course and attained my license, so currently I can dive down to 20 metres. The weight has been lifted it didn't take me long 2 ½ months all in all, it was a lot of hard work with lectures and exams but all worth it and a massive thanks to Brynn for the pool training, Kevin for taking us for the lectures and Darren Gibbs and Maria Steer

for the open water exams and for all their time and effort and most of all their belief in us Thank You.

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

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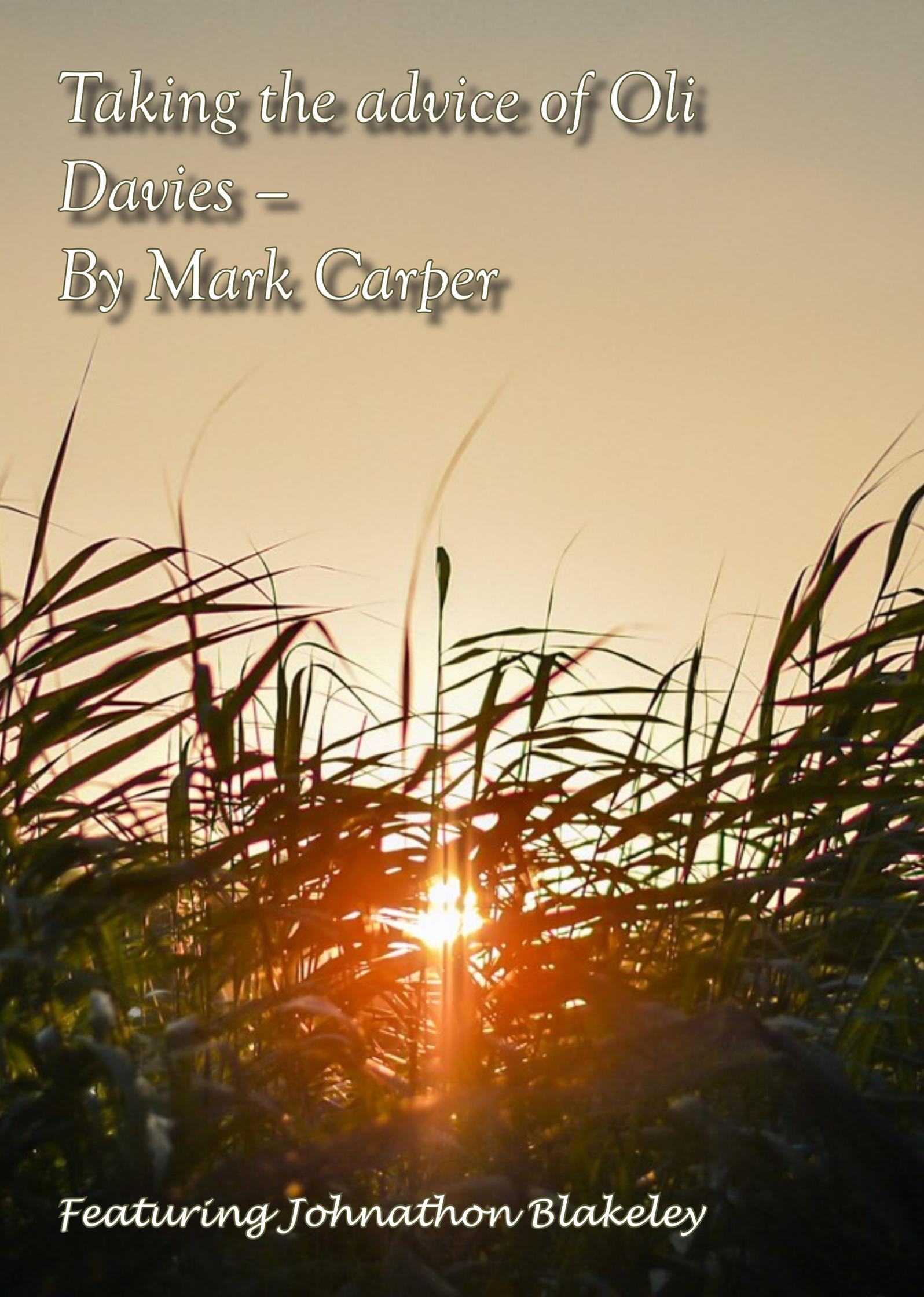
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*Taking the advice of Oli
Davies –
By Mark Carper*

Featuring Johnathon Blakeley

In our January 2020 issue, we featured a 'Top Tips' piece from Mr. Oli Davies, about taking a good 'Catch Shot'. Those of you that follow Oli, will know all too well the ability he has when it comes to getting a great photograph and that was the focus (pardon the pun..!) of the article...How to set that shot up so the 'Catch is the Focus' and not your bivvy..!!

In that piece, we used a few photographs from a young lad, Johnathon Blakeley, as he has really impressed us with his Instagram photographs and we felt they were worthy of being placed in the article, however, we did not use them all and since then he has also landed a new Personal Best Mirror Carp, weighing in at 19lb 4oz.

All of the pictures Johnathon takes are 'Self-Takes' and I thought I would show off a few more, including his PB, as they encompass everything that Oli mentioned, from Set-up, to Background to Lighting and more (if you did not read the piece in issue 47, it is well worth it).

Johnathon pays as much attention to detail in his pictures, as he does in his fishing, and why not as after all, the catch only last moments, but the pictures last a life-time, so why not make them the best you can..?!!

I for one will be looking to replicate his efforts and the advice from Oli when I next have the chance for a 'Catch Shot'...which may be some time, given my recent performance on the bank....but my 'Rod Shots' are coming on nicely...!!

The advice Oli gave can be used when you are taking a picture for someone else too and judging by the number of poor pictures that adorn Social Media of anglers and the catches, there are plenty out there can improve, with only a little extra effort.

For me, a camera and tripod are as important as any of my other fishing gear and there are so many useful bits of kit and apps about, there really is no excuse for a poor shot of that catch...!!

So, here are a few of the pictures that Johnathon has taken, which all mimic what Oli mentioned...you will notice that Johnathon makes the carp the centre of attention and not what is around him...

This is his new PB....



A few of those 'Arty' Scale and Fin Shots that seem to be very popular, especially on Instagram....

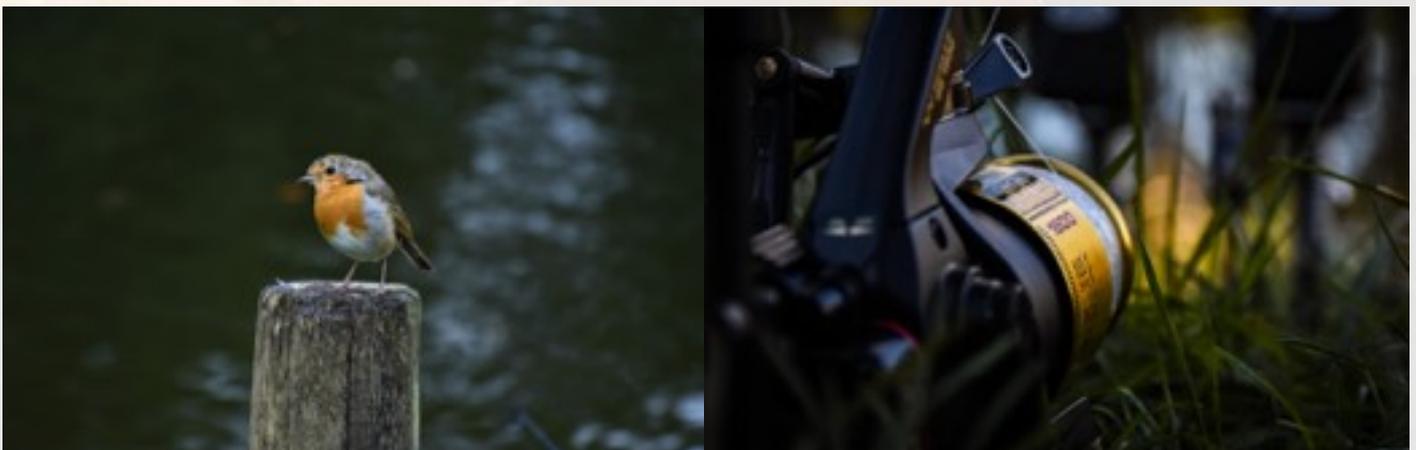


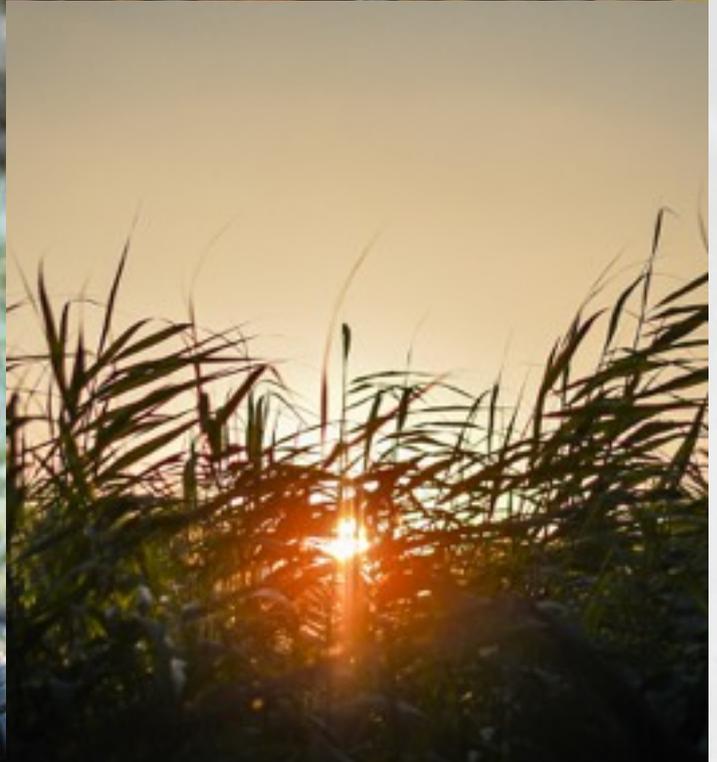
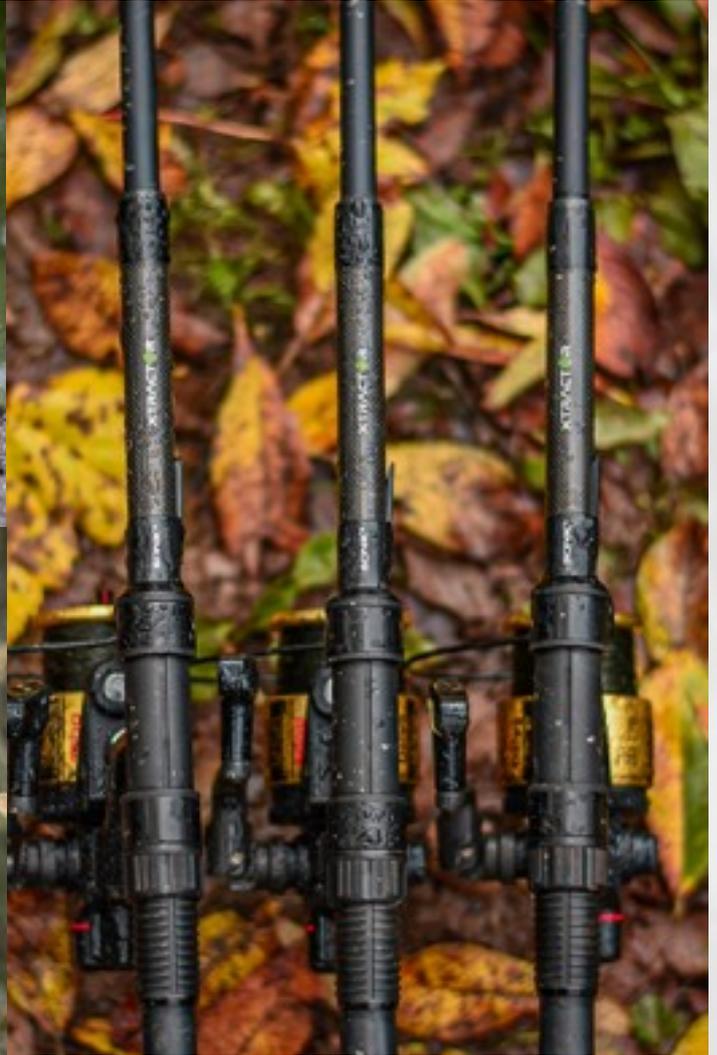


Some more nice 'Catch Shots'



...and some of those all too familiar "I'm currently blanking" shots... the ones I get plenty of practice at.... although these are a bit more creative than mine...





If these pictures and the piece from Oli in the last issue inspire you to get creative with your own catch shots, why not send them in to us so we can showcase them for you...?

It doesn't have to be a PB or Lake Record to get in our Catch Report section...

You can send your catch reports and pictures to us at: <https://www.cognitofoms.com/TalkingCarp1/CatchReportForm>

Mark Carper

Instagram: **the_olicle**

Instagram: **johnathon_blakeley**

Instagram: **mark_carper257**

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Battling the waves of life

By Simon Ursell



Where to start? Well at the beginning I suppose lol, some of the boys from work asked me if I fancied going fishing with them, I've never done this before so the adventuress nature loving boy in me came back, wondering about all the possibilities of what I could catch, as I had no idea, plus the fun of just being out and having a laugh with the boys. But it was awesome, I had great time, it was enjoyable being with the boys and learning something new, rigs and bait mainly then the fun of casting then how to apply the rigs then learning how to strike when the alarms went. It was fun at the ponds and lakes we went to over a couple of years, these included Warren Mill, and Dyffryn Springs, I have a few pictures of those times but new to fishing I had no or real regard for the fish as it was more of I'm off fishing rod reel and matt, safety of the fish was not really my first thought but definitely knew how to tie rigs right and not use death rigs.

In 2010 my Wife Kelly and I had our first child, a son who we named Tobias. So as many of you may know balancing home life with work life can be tricky, then add a baby into the mix is even harder, as first time parents we had no idea of how demanding and tiring things will become and what sleep deprivation really was.. But with help from family and friends we ploughed on and had a loving home and we were a family, at the time I was a keen rider, fell in love with riding especially in the Welsh mountains just to be out not thinking, just riding! Loved my motorbikes and even had a few, went out on rides with the boys and I even started to repair them as a pastime in the garage, It took me a whole year to repair a ZZR600 as I would put the baby camera on Tobias while he slept in his crib and sneak into the garage with the monitor to do whatever I could on the bike (Sorry Kel lol) by doing this, I was then always on hand to help my wife with Tobias if need be I also started to sell them on, so fishing kind of took a back seat.

I eventually sold all my fishing gear later that year, as work and family life was my main focus, even with ride outs with the boys slowly starting to stop, as family came first and fuel money was replaced for nappy packs, again my choice as my focus was with my family, while all this was going

on I did not think of myself and I collapsed one day with exhaustion, I had in my mind that I am the man of the family, I have to do it all and be strong. So, after that little wakeup call and remembering to look after myself, because what good am I to the family if I'm not around, not just financially but emotionally, with love and support.

The biggest focus for me was to be a great role model and teaching Tobias values and about life, so then life changed for me I'm now not just a husband, a friend and a lover, I'm now a father and a teacher, one of the biggest parts of my sons life and mine, but little did I know that the pressure was building as again like many of us do, I did not think about myself and my own wellbeing, Kelly could see this as I was just focused on family life (I had to get it right I'm the man of the house I cannot fail), I became more angrier than usual, frustrated and what patience I had was gone, purely because I had no release, no me time, So she mentioned to me about doing a hobby again (But I could not ride with a then five year old on the back of my bike lol)

So I got back into Fishing, then as the confidence grew I went to Acorn fishery in Bristol with the boys. Acorn was the place that starting to get me more into fishing, I say fishing as I had never heard of an angler before and certainly did not class myself as one at that point in time. However, Acorn was a place where I had the opportunity to capture large carp, and the thought of this was something I was wishing for. On my first session, I awoke to my alarms screaming and in a mad panic and my heart in my mouth I rushed outside to grab the rod, this feeling of excitement and adrenaline was amazing. I hit into the rod and I was in, this felt like nothing I had ever had before and could feel my legs shaking while I tried to compose myself and



concentrate. It was about 04:30 in the morning I was two pegs away from the lads so could not get their attention or shout so I done the best I could, I had it, it was mine It got about a rod length away from me and I could still not see it then snap!!!!!! My rig (hair rig on braid) had gone along with the fish, I have never felt so happy and sad at the same time I remember



running up to the boys shouting I had one but lost it, but at about 5am they were not too impressed with the wake up lol. Later that day My alarm went again I caught a lovely little common. No bigger than 5lbs but to me it was 50lbs I was so chuffed catching it, a few hours later I was walking back from the toilets and a guy driving a tractor onsite stopped and asked how I was doing, so I told him the story of the one that got away, then about the small common carp. His words were “ah you caught a pasty”, I had no idea at the time what he was on about, but then realised the resemblance and why he had said it, but not to look like a total nobby I laughed and just agreed with him. I then found out that this person I spoke to was in fact Mark Bartlett, but again at the time I had no idea. Later on in that trip Me and my Mate David we watching the water having a chat and just to the left of us this big old common just breached its back and tail out of the water, me and Dave just looked at each other as if to say did that really just happen? It was the biggest carp I had ever seen! Lovely golden brown, at that point the rods came in and we tried everything we could to catch it, but to no avail....

So life moved on, and again I was out fishing when I could juggling home life and work we were then blessed with a beautiful daughter who we named Blossom, so my fishing time stopped as my priority was looking

after the family as best as I could, as that was my “job” juggling this and struggles and pressures with work took its toll on me without me realising it, I was working then home, that’s it, I work shifts plus I was trying to be there for my wife to rest as concerned for her well-being also, so I was having about a seventeen to nineteen hour day and about five hours sleep. I remember being in work one day and something had got to me, and I just broke down, I could not work I had to just leave, I remember leaving and walking out and getting in the car, upset that had walked out as I’ve never done anything like that before and was worried about the consequences of that. I remember driving home (Looking back now I was in no fit state to do this and do not recommend this at all) I was crying uncontrollably I phoned my wife to try and speak to her (Voice dialling and hands free) but I made no sense, I knew what I was trying to say but could not say it.

I just remember saying doctors and then hanging up, I got to my Gp and I remember seeing the receptionist and just passing out, I came to and my wife was there with Blossom barely five months old, I think. I said to her take her away I did not want her to see me like this. The doctor was also there and helped me onto the bed in her office so we could talk, I was emotionally unstable.... everything came out, the pressures, my love life, my struggles and my mouth started to droop to one side and I felt like I was passing out, the doctor reassured me and after calming me down,



we talked about my issues, how I was feeling and we came to an agreement that I would be referred to the mental health unit, for the crisis team to see me, I had no idea that I was suffering from clinical depression and anxiety, even though I had on occasions thought about suicide, but never planned anything. I started



mindfulness courses and maybe start taking tablets to help. The mindfulness courses helped and helped me focus more on being in the present and not let my mind wonder, focus more with home life. I was off work for a while as I could not cope with my feelings of letdown embarrassment, failure and shame, again the anxiety holding me down just thinking about work and the people there. I started taking Citalapram to help me with Anxiety and depression I was taking the maximum dosage for my age, but found this too much and just felt like a zombie, so after a few weeks of trial and error we found a dosage that works for me, so with this help and other measures

in place, I started to get out more and started fishing again, this helped me no end as I felt alone at home and useless, fishing also helped me socialise as again this is something I struggle with, I was able to get out think about things and also not, just to be in the present helped.

I Joined Caerphilly District Angling Association, a local fishing club by me, this gave me a sense of purpose and I made friends, also just talking to the lads about anything and everything, enjoying a cuppa on the bank really benefited me and helped with my recovery, I was amazed that how many people do suffer with depression and anxiety since opening up and talking about it and surprised of how common it is, so with help from the club and its members mostly Ron Hamblin and Andrew Riste with advice of what to use, how to read the water (Watercraft) and techniques with casting, rigs, clipping up, feeling the lead down and using distance sticks, I really got into Angling! Yes, angling as I now classed myself as one, buying the correct equipment and fish care products I really started to get out and enjoy it more, so with my new skills and drive I went to a fishing complex called Cefn Mably Lakes. It's here I met Johnathan Calli, I said



to him I'm new to angling and have never been to the complex before, fair play to him he helped me out loads, gave me good advice on all the lakes (Even went a few times with my son) but still I was not catching even though I bought the best brand baits there were, John then introduced me to ProbaitsUk, a bait

made by Martin Cronin at the Birch Fishery St Brides in Newport.

I booked in for a 24hr session on the Carp Lake, I used ProbaitsUk Squid and Orange bollies and soon started having liners and then bites, as it just all came together using the knowledge gained, and I had a total of eleven carp starting off with six to nine pounds. The night came in and I remember waking up to both alarms going. I jumped out of my bivvy with my head torch on and it was completely white as the fog had rolled in. This was amazing experience although a bit scary at first as I could not see the edge of the lake, plus I could not see the fish, just playing the one while I had to lift the bail arm on the other reel and let it take the line, what an experience! I landed the two of them after a few panicked moments lol, so that night I had beat my PB a few times with my last one of about eleven pounds, of course I took photos and took to social media (Facebook) to share my success and the support I had from my new fishing family was emotional and comforting, what an achievement!! I did this, a month later about April time, I went back to Cefn Mably and fished the lodge lake, I fished peg one set up my new bivvy and done a 48hr, again John helping me with advice, I used ProbaitsUk again after my success previously, this time baiting up areas and using pva sticks with crushed boilies in. On the last day I had cast my line just out in front of me about thirty yards and I had a bit of a screamer, a lovely 15lb I think, scaly, well happy and my confidence grew in my abilities. Then I cast out

again to the left not realising that my line had caught a tip of a branch, John was looking out from the shop window and seen it, he came over (Obviously) took the mick out of me and I managed to just flick it off, as I did the line just went!!! My reel spinning frantically, wow! I'm in here I thought, John came down and grabbed the net to help me and after a bit of time as I did



not want to lose it she was sulking in the net, WOW a 20lb scaly! My first 20lber!! I just beamed with pride, I had some pictures taken and a few of the lads from the shop came out to have a look and we slipped her back in, I will always remember that moment, and again took to social media to share my joy and achievement.

I sent the pictures over to Martin, to show him achievement and fair play what a gent, I think he was more pleased than me with the result and over time we got talking and sharing stories and tactics, to this day I still use ProbaitsUk and I now even help him with a clothing line, this has again helped me as I'm meeting new people and a sense of happiness when the reviews from the other anglers are received from the clothing products.

Carrying on through the year, I went to other places to catch, Castle view a small pond apart of the Caerphilly Angling Club waters close to the castle, this was a small water great for beginners and children or simply to just pleasure fish, here Tobias had help from one of the club members Moose, now this is not his birth name it is nickname but it's the only name to this day I know him by lol, he taught Tobias how to float fish and attach a maggot, for this I will be forever grateful as it was one of the most

memorable times while fishing, to see him cast play the fish and reel them in was brilliant his face lit up with enjoyment, I can still hear his laughter. I even took Blossom down that summer and my wife came with me, we had a lovely picnic and Blossom caught her first silver, again another moment I will always cherish, just doing this continued to help me through my process of healing.

Later that year I entered a competition, to fish with two well-known anglers, Russ Guise and Mark Wozencroft, in their first ever Russ vs. Wuzzy fish off, this was a charity event to help raise money for The Alzheimer's Society, to my amazement I won! I was off to fish Linier Fisheries part of team Russ, I've never been that far before on my own never mind to have a go on a new lake, here comes the anxiety, panic attacks and depression... Will I be ok, will they like me, what if I'm not good enough, is my gear good, what if I embarrass myself. I worked myself up to a point where I was afraid to go. Well, let me tell you something they were just as nuts as me, what a lovely bunch of people, from all walks of life, genuine and very welcoming. I had food and drink with them on the bank chatted to early hours of the morning and of course Team Russ came away with the first win! What a great time I had, to this day I don't think they know how much they helped me overcome a lot of



my issues, but I'm very grateful to everyone of them for accepting me, for who I am and allowing me to be just that! I'm still in contact with them all to this day in fact I manage their Instagram page and was asked to be their official photographer, Wow! What an honour and what a feeling to part of something truly special, this year they had another event and Linear, a big thank you to Liner Fisheries for continuing to allow this, as it helped a great cause raising money for MS society, Ian Russell and Les Bowers joined the team this year and Frank Warwick continuing to be the patron, and of course not to mention the incredible talents of the bank side master chef himself Jason Sandiford AKA ChefukCarp, with his culinary delights!! This year was also a great success raising £2676 for the charity.

I guess, after all this and reflecting, I have come a long way, I still struggle daily but focus on positivity as I do have my down days, and like those of you that suffer like me it is not something you can explain, but with the counselling I have had help from my loved ones, especially my wife, my doctor, mindfulness courses that I've been to, it is helping, I'm currently reading books on self help for the first time, I've never read a book in my life lol...

Sorry If I have missed anyone out, it's been a challenge to write this, but thank you for your help and support...

Just remember it's ok, to not be ok, it's ok to have down days, just remember they are just that! A day...
Ride the waves
as anglers we all know the calm comes after the storm.

Best wishes
Simon.





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A Red Letter Session (ish)

A photograph of a red letter session setup in a field at sunset. A circular red letter sign is mounted on a pole in the foreground, with a red letter 'S' hanging from it. The background shows a field of tall grasses and a body of water reflecting the sunset sky.

Karl Brandreth

Well, this session took me to Shropshire, again, to RH Fisheries Monument 1. Upon my arrival at the gates, I was greeted by lots of anglers waiting patiently to get on to the complex and catch a PB. The bailiff turned up at 6.45am, unlocked the gates, and we all made our way to the carpark. I went into the shop to pay, and pick up some bait, and made my way around to peg 7 with my gear. I was setting up my bivvy and gear, when I noticed carp nutting out in my swim. The guys opposite were spodding out loads of bait so, I thought I would go the opposite way and sling out two single baits which were a piece of red foam with 5 maggots tied on top on a d-rig. I wrapped up my rods to 16 1/2 wraps and cast out.

I got the rest of my

gear in order and sorted myself out to settle down for the weekend. The kettle was filled, and on, for a nice brew. I sat back relaxing in my surroundings, made a few phone calls to my wife and friends, and at about 11am my right rod rattled off. I picked up the rod and felt something heavy pull back. I played the fish up and down the margins but hadn't seen it yet. I kept fighting, and fighting, then up came this massive mirror - it was huge!!

Then, just as the lips of the mirror touched the cord of the net, the hook pulled straight out.

The lead came flying past my head and all I could see was a huge tail getting farther away from me.

I quickly got the rod ready to cast out again. I had just put the kettle on when, 45 mins later, the same rod ripped off again. I jumped up, shaking like a leaf. I picked up the rod to be met with another heavy, and fast, carp. This carp was not stopping for anything





I'd already cast 65 yards, but the carp took off another 50 yards to my left. I thought I was going to wipe out the other anglers lines but there was nothing I could do; I just couldn't stop it. Then, PING the hook pulled out, again!!

Oh my god, I thought. But, as I found out later, that was a big carp. There's only one carp that fights like that, and it's a 40. I couldn't believe it. Ahh well, try again.

I reset both my rods,

wrapped up again, and cast out. I sat back pondering why my hook pulled out twice, but everything seemed fine. I checked and checked again. Later, around 1.30pm, my right-hand rod ripped off, again. This time I got the carp in the net. It turned out to be an 18lb mirror and that was me, off the mark. I took some photos and slipped it back, pretty chuffed with myself. I sighed with relief to have got one in the net. I got the rod wrapped up and back on the spot

then moved my left rod over, closer to the spot I'd caught the carp from. Half an hour later my left rod ripped off. I grabbed the rod and felt a decent size weight on the other end. It came to the margins and beat me up for my effort. It passed over the cord of the net and lay there sulking in the mesh. The angler, from the next peg, came to take the photos and we weighed it in at 31lb 15oz.

It was a new PB common for me, so I was over the moon. I got the rod sorted out again and slung the single bait back on the spot. It went quiet for a couple of hours as I sat watching the world go by and reading Talking Carp magazine. I was enjoying the peace and quiet with a brew when, at 3.45pm, my right-hand rod tore off

and I got the carp into the net. It was a 16lb mirror. I removed the hook, applied some first aid to the hook hold, and put it back into its watery home. On recasting the rod, a few carp nudded out for the last time before darkness came. I sat back after a busy day catching and losing carp. I sat down for some tea, still pondering why I lost those fish, but I guess I'll never know. After calls to my wife, and friends I settled down to a good night's sleep.

I woke up the next morning and stood in my peg, with a nice hot coffee, staring across the lake. Not a ripple to be seen. No fish topping or nutting out like the day before. I thought, this was strange. The day went by with not even a liner, but I had heard that the guy across from me had

had a few carp, up to 38lb. It seemed to me that they had moved across to the other side of the lake. So, while it was quiet, I put out 3 spods of bait to try and tempt them back. It got to 2pm when I decided to recast my rods with fresh bait on, and figured I'd be sat on my hands until the bell chimed telling us to go home.

However, at 3.40pm, while I'm stood talking to two guys in my peg, my right-hand rod went into meltdown. I

grabbed the rod and, again, I'm playing an angry carp. I managed to get the carp over the cord, and she was mine. The two guys helped me with weighing the carp and photos before I put it back into the clear depths. It weighed 18lb. Another lovely carp for my efforts. I recast my rod and packed down my gear, ready for the off. My rods lay on the deck, motionless. Not a liner, or a run, came to me before I packed my barrow.



Then it was time to bring my rods in and go home. It was a good weekend and I've booked back on Monument 1 on the 30th January, to hopefully catch another PB.

My next session was on my local lake, which I'd decided to fish up in the shallows, and try my luck up there. The first night I had a run from a trailing fish

in which I managed to free the fish and get myself two leads from it. I lost the fish in the process. The original hook pulled out as it reached the cord of my net, but at least the fish was free of trailing line and leads.

The next day Brian Dixon and his mate, Pete, turned up for a weekend there. As they are new members I was happy to give a little information on

the lake, the pegs and some features, its history and its inhabitants as all good bailiffs do.

Anyway, that weekend no fish were caught by anyone, so Sunday morning I packed up and went home for a nice bath and shave after blanking.

Until next time tight lines

Karl



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A Trip Of A Lifetime by Kevin Beaumont



As ever when booking our family holiday, the first thing I do is check out what fishing is to be had, with the news the wife and daughter were wanting to return to Koh Samui (Thailand). I instantly got searching about and with the dates falling on my Birthday looked at booking something quite special. After searching around I came across Fishing Park Samui which is located in the Namuang region of the Island. I was travelling with the family so was looking for a step above my

typical fishing trip which generally ends up in a bivvy roughing it on super noodles and warm bottled water while being eaten alive for a few days or a week in France.

On the 25th July we arrived at a Fishing Park Samui and were greeted by great staff who all speak good English offering us drinks and cold flannels which were greatly welcomed in 36c and humidity well above 90%, the lake upon the complex approx. 3.5 Acres containing Mekong

Catfish, Amazon Arapaima, Redtail Catfish, Siamese Black Carp, Alligator Gar etc etc with Luxurious lake side accommodation and pool side town houses alongside a swim up bar really made our stay one to remember for the whole family.

After being welcomed and checked in we were taken to our lodge by the lake where we would spend the next 2 nights for my Birthday the Room a luxury 5-star lodge looking over the lake with a nice little touch of a freshly made Birthday cake on the bed. Anyway, now I've set the scene and gave a little insight to the complex I'll get into the fishing.

We arrived mid afternoon so decided to leave the fishing on the first day and get some rest ready for





a full 12 hours the next day and I'm very glad I did.

At 3am I was awoken by what sounded like trees falling into the water, peering through the curtains across the lake which was now just beginning to become visible from the sun rise it was clear to see there was a lot of fish activity and there was no chance I was going back to sleep as I was bouncing off the walls like a kid in a sweet shop, Whack there it was again this time twice as loud as it

was 6ft in front of my veranda. There were huge tails of arapaima several feet out of the water glistening in the morning sun with flicks of strong iridescent red and blues slapping the water stunning both frogs and small fish before engulfing them down to what sounded like an Alligator snapping on the surface.

At 0600 hours I went for breakfast and met my 2 guides for the day Kyaw and Maung, after breakfast overlooking the lake and seeing a lot of

activity we went back to our veranda with the rods, reels, alarms, a few kg of bait and a lot of excitement to see what was lurking in the murky depths. Taking out with me a bottle of the ever faithful KMG liquid carp food from Rod Hutchinson I decided to soak some KMG bottom baits for a few weeks before going and opted to put a good few glugs of the liquid into a method mix made out of pellet, boilie, bread crumb, maize and chopped fish, It was safe to say this stuff stunk and my 2 guides were getting just as excited as I was as they had never seen such liquids and believed the fish would react instantly to the strong krill and fish meal.

Rig wise I asked to tie a few rigs up which consisted of 300lb braid tied knotless



knot to a size 1 thick gauged straight point to a 300lb rated swivel and a 2oz inline lead fished running style to 65lb mono ,the setup was a bit crude to say the least however I had as box of bits with me should I need to refine throughout the session and didn't want to look the smart arse changing their setup etc. I fished both rods as method feeders clamping the mix around the lead and as I had a full 12 hours ahead of

me I measured out 11 wraps to assure I was consistently hitting the same spot and hopefully the fish would gain confidence throughout the day with the constant bait going in.

I Put both rods out at 11 wraps on what felt like a solid clay bottom just to the right of some float fauna sort of cabbage looking with roots about 6" long just floating in the water, after placing the rods on the pod and setting

the bait runner on the Shimano longcasts and opting to fish slack lines I sat back with great anticipation , approx. 10 minutes in my right had rod gave 2 bleeps followed by the bobbin smashing off the underside of the rod and the reel began to melt line off to a single toner , I picked up the rod slowly engaged the bait runner and took contact with the fish to which I was met with a violent thud as it nearly lifted me off my feet, I

adjusted the bait runner and starting to get into my groove playing the fish as to what expect I wasn't really gaining any line but it wasn't really taking any line either just wallowing from left to right I decided to tighten up the clutch and give it a little more strain and this thing took off like an Exocet missile leaping out of the water shaking its head I'm sure previous to this when it was wallowing it forgot it was hooked , I could clearly see it was a arapaima well over 6ft long and now my

size 1 looked so small nestled in the scissors of this monster. After 30 minutes in 38c heat and many buckets of water over myself and the reel to cool the clutch down and aid the grease from melting under the spool my guides entered the water and netted this thing of beauty. Composing myself and banging on my patio doors to wake my wife and daughter who were still asleep oblivious to any of this the guides unhooked the fish in the water and hold the fish over an aerator to aid the

fishes recovery before release, I entered the water and lifted the fish from the net to be told by the guides the fish was approx. 120lb based on length and girth and this was just a baby !!!!!!! , holding the fish up for pics and admiring its beauty my other rod also sprung into life resulting in a 20lb alligator gar again such a prehistoric looking fish but with beautiful markings and so much power in the warm water.

This is now 0745hrs in the morning and I've already had a 120lb



arapaima and a 20lb alligator gar the temps are soaring around 38c and there is fish showing all over the areas around 11 wraps , again placing the rods on the same spot it didn't take long for them both to tear into life resulting in Amazon Red tail to approx. 40lbs followed by a small Mekong catfish to around 35lb the next 12 hours continued pretty much the same with continues sport

coming off the same spot with the only lull in action when we reeled in the rods for a drink and some food. Whilst I enjoyed the rest of the days fishing my wife and daughter where on the complex in the swim up pool bar area and also enjoying beauty therapy and Spa treatments. The day finished with Amazon Arapaima to 220 lb, Amazon Red tail to 65lb, Mekong to 50lb, Alligator Gar to

40lb and Pacu to 25lb landing a total of 19 fish with a handful lost throughout the day, Needless to say by 1900hrs on an evening my back feels like I've spent 12 hours on the scrum machine and I'm aching like never before but I enjoyed every minute of it, the staff were amazing throughout , the guides are top class and they will do everything for you if you let them but



me wanting to fish myself like I do back home gave the lads a day off sharing a few beers some dinner and angling stories in my best broken Thai I could offer only using them to land the fish or aid in holding up 200lb

plus arapaima , these lads are a great asset to the fishery and make sure clients leave happy with a few fish on the bank. If anybody gets the chance to get out there, I strongly recommend it as it contains

some stunning fish and the facilities to accommodate the family are amazing.

Thanks for reading Kevin.



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The image shows three hand-drawn PUA (Pickup Artist) bags, which are small, clear plastic bags filled with a mixture of brown and red beads. The bags are held by a hand, with the fingers visible in the background. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, white font with a blue outline.

**My simple,
successful
solid PUA bags**

Martyn Davies

So something I have started to use more and more over the last 6-8 months is solid PVA bags. This allows me to be more effective, versatile and mobile in my approach to ultimately wanting to put extra fish on the mat. As with all of my carp fishing I don't like to over-complicate but more along the lines of keeping things simple and opting for the less is more approach so with that in mind read on below about some of my thinking and reasoning behind why I've chosen to incorporate this method into my carp fishing.

When & Why?

The beauty of solid PVA bags is that they have so many advantages and can be used all year round so whether that's in the depths of winter or the scorching summer you can guarantee using this method there's always a chance of a bite or two.

When it comes to the makeup of the lake and when I would or wouldn't fish solid bags, personally I just wouldn't fish them in heavily weeded lakes unless there were obvious clear areas. I've often heard or seen comments about casting bags into the weed and it's not to say that it wouldn't work but I just wouldn't be comfortable sitting behind the rods wondering how presented and visible the contents of the bag actually are. Although, sparser low lying weed wouldn't be a problem, again the same for silt and dependant on just how soft the silt is this would determine how often I would want to recast to ensure I have fresh bags of attraction on the spot. They are also great for laying traps in the margins knowing your rig is tangle free leaving it prime for a bite and also for extra stealth they can be put in a bait spoon and lowered underneath bushes, branches and up to snags.

Having a handful of solid bags prepared the night before your session can really work in your favour too because if you see signs of feeding or showing fish a ready-made solid bag can be cast onto them within minutes and that parcel of bait will be just the mouthful Mr Carp needs to put him on the mat. Another benefit of using solid bags is with each bag that is cast out you aren't sacrificing or leaving kg's of bait behind so if the



carp start to show themselves at the other end of the lake you are more inclined to be motivated and move rather than play the bait and wait game which sometimes doesn't always work in our favour. Solid bags are a great way of staying active on the bank, getting the most out of your session and if anything, like myself having this set-up on one of your three rods gives you the option to use it as a

rover exploring and covering a lot of water and any features of your swim such as reeds, islands and snags.

One last thought is with the ever increasing popularity of day ticket fisheries and the sheer amount of bait the lakes receive on a daily basis opting for the solid bag approach could be beneficial at the start of your session and could get you a quick bite under your belt as you can never be too sure just how much bait has been put in by the previous departed angler, so rather than choosing to reach for the spod, why not think about reaching for a solid bag as its always worth at least giving it a period of time to gauge the feeding activity in your swim.

The Set-Up.

The rig doesn't come much more simpler than a sharp hook and a knotless knot, but the hooking potential is increased by the use of a piece of steamed down shrink tubing just over the eye of the hook to help it flip over and grip the carp's mouth. Dependant on the size of bag you have chosen it is extremely





I opt for a Wide Gape hook when I'm tying my rigs as I have the upmost confidence in this pattern as it's versatile and a great all-rounder for bottom baits or pop-ups meaning I'm not having to pre-tie double the amount of rigs. They have an in-turned eye which when coupled with that short piece of shrink tubing I just mentioned it aids that perfect flip. Size wise I would normally use a size 6 for rounded 14mm pop-ups and a Size 8 for fishing with the 10mm wafers as the hook to bait size are complimentary and well balanced.

Moving onto the hooklength a coated braid is definitely a no no as this will hinder the mechanics and effectiveness of the whole set-up so when the rig is tied it will be short around 3-3.5" in length and tucked in inside the solid bag meaning it needs to be constructed with a supple braid in 15-18lb. The short hooklink offers just enough to be sucked into the carp's mouth but then instantly sets the hook from the weight of the lead once it has committed to hoovering up the bag and your rig.

My lead arrangement is an inline flat pear and I favour either a 2.5oz or 3oz dependant on distance I'm wanting to fish as when you pair this with the contents of the bag you will get a slightly heavier casting weight. Now you have a few options here on what to use behind the lead such as a short leadcore leader, bag stems or as I do it with Rig Tubing. With venues up and down the country having different rules on leaders it's pretty safe to say that Rig Tubing can be used everywhere. I personally use this for a number of reasons, 1. There's not a fishery I know that



doesn't allow it meaning your don't have to chop and change from venue to venue 2. It protects the mainline from any abrasion in battle but more importantly protects the fish 3. You can easily convert back to a lead clip set-up without the need to painstakingly rethread the tubing!

Choice of Hookbait.

I always like to keep them on the smaller side and use nothing bigger than say a 14mm bait as it has to fit easily into the corner of the bag. I don't tend to choose bright hookbaits over dull or one colour over another as I usually find myself chopping and changing throughout the session trying to figure out what the carp are favouring. Something that I very much recommend when bites are hard to come by or start slowing down, don't be afraid to change it up!

9 times out of 10 I will start off and reach for a Waffer such as Bait-Tech's The Juice hookbaits in 10mm. Being dumbbell in shape they fit neatly into the bag, balance critically against the hook and sit pretty amongst the pellets – Picture it as the pellets are the cake and the hookbait is the cherry! Once the bag has melted the slightly larger visual stand out hookbait gives the carp something to hone in on and ensures that when they Hoover up the contents of the bag that the hookbait goes in with it. Job done!

The Bag Contents.

As I mentioned I like to keep things really simple and this is no different for the content of my solid bags. I like to use an 80% combination of pellets such as the NEW Bait-Tech Bloodworm Spod & PVA



Micro Pellet Mix because as the name suggests these are the perfect blend of sizes for PVA bag use, 2mm Krill Pellets and then the remaining 20% of Bait-Tech Salmon Fry Crumb. I opt for this ratio as I want the contents of my bag to reach the lakebed and stay in that mouthful sized pile rather than using other bag mixes that could float up and disappear. The Salmon Fry Crumb is also great for absorbing any PVA friendly oil I choose to squirt into the bag with a syringe just before casting out giving them that extra little edge over just dry contents, drawing the carp down through the layers as the oil plumes to the surface making that mouthful irresistible.

Using such small sized pellets allow you to compact the bag down nice and tight when it comes to sealing the bag. Working the contents into all the little nooks and crannies means it will leave you with a bag that is solid and uniformed in shape, more aerodynamic so being able to add extra yards and most importantly allowing you to be very accurate with your cast.

Hopefully some of the above will get you thinking about your own fishing, tying some rigs, filling some bags and put you on the road to giving solid bags a bash the next time you are out!

Good luck!

Martyn



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**THE YEAR AHEAD
BY NATHAN ABBOTT**

The year ahead

Looking on back at 2019, It was without a doubt my best year to date on the fishing front. From my first trip to France back in March, to the many new lakes in the UK I've had a crack at and catching along the way, 2019 is going to take some beating in terms of results but I'll be sure to give it a good try. It's been very quiet since my Cromwell trip, I've made it on the bank once since November, was hoping to get a lot more winter sessions in but unfortunately other plans have sprouted up on the weekends and I've just been too busy. But now weekends are starting to free up again so I shall be getting back out more often and I cannot wait.

I managed a Friday night in early

January, it was quiet as expected, but was just good to be back out again, it wasn't your ordinary January night, very very mild conditions it didn't feel like a winters night at all so at least I didn't blank and freeze to death overnight. I still think our big chill is on its way however, so if I can manage one or two more nights before it arrives, I think I'll be in with a chance of a winter carp. I kept my tactics simple, a rod with a small PVA bag loaded with maggot, Krill powder and 2mm Krill pellets, hook bait was a small piece of yellow foam with a maggot clip wedged into the top of it, it looked absolutely bang on when I tested it in the margins. The other rod was just the same rig but longer with just a few spods

of maggot around it. Catterick doesn't give up its fish easy especially on Copley lake, not to mention with it being winter, but speaking to Nel the bailiff she said Copley had been fishing the best out of the 4 lakes. But as mentioned, nothing came out that night. Try again.

So, what's in store for 2020? Well, after a couple of months thinking about it, I really want to do something that's really going to motivate me like last year's little challenge, I'd say I got some very good results on many different lakes, I'd say it was a success. And after the slight disappointment of not been able to fish Bluebell Lakes back in October, I've decided I'm going to make 3 separate trips

Nathan Abbott

to Bluebell, once in spring, summer and then autumn. A minimum of 4 nights each time, and the goal is that I want to get my first UK 40. To some it seems like a tall order, if you know anything about Bluebell you know it's by no means easy, but I managed my first 30 last year so what's to say I can't nick a 40 this year if I really assert myself? Kingfisher and Swan will be my go to lakes, it's a mega popular venue as many know so I'll be using holidays at work to go during the week, hopefully I get lucky and it's not too full but with what I learnt last year is to not get too worried if your left with minimal swim choice, I've made things happen in the past with what's left in front of me, I'm confident I can do it again.

As I always say, catching a new PB isn't the most important thing to me, but if you've seen some of the fish that Kingfisher and Swan have you'll understand why I want one of them, incredible creatures some of the best looking ones you'll ever see in my opinion. I've spent a lot of time last few weeks looking through all the catch reports from years gone by, as much information as my brain can stomach is a good start. My first trip will be Wednesday the 29th of April for 4 nights, according to the site this seems to be a very productive time late April, so seems to be a good time to start. How to tackle is something I'll look at from now until then, I've got a pretty

good idea of what I think I'll need to be doing, but once your there plans almost certainly change, so keeping a bit of an open mind is needed but I'm sure I will be totally organised for any situation, closer to the time I will run through my baits, rigs things like that. It's a shame I'm a 3 and a half hour drive away from Bluebell or else I would be there most weekends, so every decision I make has to pretty much count if I want to use my time there to maximum effect. The more and more I look into it I get more excited it's a fantastic place and I just can't wait to get back down.

In the meantime, between the 3 planned trips, I'll mostly be just focusing on my local Catterick this year

again, as there is still plenty target fish to be had for me, I'll have the odd social now and then at different lakes as usual, it's always nice to catch up with friends having a BBQ and a few drinks on them hot summers nights you just cannot beat them. I hate to do it, but I do sort of wish my life away through the winter I'm really not a fan of the season one little bit. I always say people are missing a few screws upstairs if they love winter but it's each to their own haha spring summer and autumn nights and mornings are what does it for me, I don't shy away from winter fishing, I still brave the elements but there's not much appeal to me about early dark nights and freezing cold pitch black mornings. Granted, the fish look 10x better than they do in the other months, if it weren't for this

fact, I'd 100% be a fair weather angler! I think I only fished Catterick 5 times last year, due to trotting all over the UK year trying new venues, but I'm looking forward to sinking my teeth back into the place this coming year, and my big trips back down to Bluebell especially. And also, without forgetting... Our planned trip back to France in August to fish Val Dore. The four of us have a lake exclusive on lake 3 and I cannot wait for another weeks social over in France, not to mention the road trip along the way. Again, I'll do a full write up on this trip when I'm back and hopefully I've got plenty to talk about.

As for February I'll be heading down to the Northern Angling Show in Manchester, funny

thing is its still 2 and a half hours south for me to get to.... Its barely feels like a "Northern" show for me! But it's a great day out and little road trip. Hoping to meet some of the faces behind Talking Carp as I've heard they will be attending this year's event. And hope meet some of the other people who feature in it!

And as for 2020....let's see what's in store.

Nathan







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**Winter Club
Lake Fishing
by
Richard Handel**

I'm sure you will all agree that fishing club lakes can be hard going in the Summer months. This is due to the volume of anglers on the bank, which is why those who can join syndicate waters as they have fewer members. However, there is a hidden secret out there, club waters are becoming increasingly quiet over the Winter months. If you can find the right one, they can be completely void of anglers in those cold bleak Winter days. If you're after some action and not particularly bothered about the size of the Carp and you are just after some action, to boost your confidence, over what can be a very bleak time on some syndicate lakes, then these are a perfect opportunity which could be overlooked and they could be just on your

doorstep.

Which is what I have decided to do this Winter. I will document my exploits over the coming months.

My first month was more of an exploration trip, in the hope of gaining plenty of knowledge before Winter properly sets in. This would have to involve fishing as many swims as possible over the first few weeks and doing a considerable amount of watching the water to gain an understanding of where the fish prefer to hang about. In the dead pads was my first area, which is approximately a third of the lake and clearly, they were down here. I also needed to know if they

were by the island, which is at the far end of the lake. Unfortunately, you couldn't really see both at the same time. This meant I needed to fish up there at some point before December. I couldn't assume it would fish the same has it had done 15 years ago when I last fished here. As I would only be doing Winter days for just over 5 hours, I need to do my homework work. The two weeks of November when I started my membership, turned





out to be very fruitful and produced a few double figured Carp. In all honesty, I had absolutely no idea of the stock level. I was quite astounded that when I arrived at 9ish on every day trip, there where carp always showing and continued over the 5 hours I was there. I was straight on the fish each time and bagged a total of 13 carp including 3 doubles.

With steady action, it's going to be hard to move into a different area, but I need to explore other options before Winter really

sets in. All my action has been from casting across to the far bank in between the dying pads, not a heavy padded area which did surprise me at first. It was probably due to the angler pressure the main padded area all Summer long. I also think the island will have the same influence.

I have also been exploring fishing off the pads, I'm sure the Carp

will feel safer feeding there, I've not had much success with that so far. In December I will be exploring other areas and dropping baits in the margins, with the view of moving swim more - this is dependent on the weather, I never like moving in the rain, but sometimes you just have to make that extra effort to bag a fish.

December

This month has been pretty good to me despite the horrendous weather, I've managed



weather has certainly played its part when it was fine, I needed to be finishing off all the gardens I work on before Christmas. This only left me a few dry days, which I have found are clearly the most productive. It's been so valuable this month from cat ice to flooded swims. With a little effort, still very productive and will me being only able to fish up until the 20th due to the school holidays, I was very happy with my results.

January

With the kids only



started back on the 6th January, the wife's and my birthday and some gardening work to catch up on, it was going to be a busy month to fit fishing in and I do like my Perch and Pike fishing, we shall see how things progress.

I have snuck out in between all the storms a couple of times, as I've been sent some new bait from Spotted

Fin to test out before its release at the NAS show. I've had some amazing results (not quite cracking the 20lber mark but very close) with 3 x 19lbers and a handful of doubles over 4 short 4 hrs sessions. I was a bit limited in the areas I could fish due to maintenance work taking place, but I'm never going to moan about that.

Now, I understand it's not everyone cup of tea. The hardcore anglers out there would probably not dream of doing this, but the older



I get the more I realized that it's all about the joy of fishing (the take, fight, etc), it's not all about size. As you pass 55 (as I did this year), it dawns on you that you probably have fewer years to fish than you have already done. So, I decided that it's going to be about enjoyment

and sometimes sitting in a bivvy on a hard water over the Winter months, has started to feel a bit crazy in the wrong weather conditions.

So why not give your local club a go over the Winter? You'll find them void of anglers and the ability to catch

plenty of Carp. You will realize that its great fun and brings you full circle back to why you enjoy fishing some much.

Until next time

Richard



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Dream Session
By Adam Ulph

It was the single bleep that awoke me. I had been dozing for about an hour, getting up at half 2 in the morning, to pack the car and drive the 30 minutes or so to the lake wasn't for everyone, but for me a chance of a few hours release from the pressures of modern life. A chance to escape the day to day life of an Operations Manager in his mid-thirties, a father of 2 with a mortgage to pay. Aiming to be home by half 9 or so it gave me a small window of opportunity to land a fish or two, which as I had found after a few sessions seemed to feed in the hour or so before and after dawn. Picking the right time was paramount as I didn't have the time spare to camp out for a few days, so these

quick hit and run type sessions were all the time I could afford. The thrill of the chase was more important to me than the size of the fish, at least in this time of my carp fishing journey.

While I was only here for a few hours, I preferred the comfort of a bedchair. I turned my head to see the rod blanks and reels reflecting the green glow of the latch light on the alarm, along with the faint glow of the isotopes in the bobbins in the half light. The bobbin slowly sank back down to its normal position. A liner, not a run this time but at least an indication I was on or at least near the fish. The latch light went off and calmness returned.

Dawn was well on its way, the world slowly awakening to another bright and sunny July day and I realised how much sound was present, birds in chorus and something that I hoped was family of Muntjac in the undergrowth behind me. I reached down for the enamel mug of strong coffee I had made on arrival, one that was chipped and dented and looked like it brewed a thousand cups of teas and the odd coffee in its time. Of course, it was now cold, but I drank it down anyway.

I swung my legs down to sit upright to survey the swim. I could make out the outline of the bed of reeds, a haven for the carp in this lake, lay not far out in front of me.

Fishing tight to these was the order of the day but extricating the carp out of them was a challenge. The air was still, but the reeds were parting in places, indicating that at least something below the surface was passing through, a dead giveaway that I was in the right place and it wasn't the wind playing tricks. I lay back down.

It has felt like only seconds but was more like an hour later that I was woken from the half sleep/half dream state yet again. Brought kicking back from playing a monster carp from the deep waters of a snag ridden foreign river. Reality returned to vision of a small familiar lake in rural Norfolk, but it was real

this time when the bobbin rose the rod blank and made its way purposely to the head of the alarm, the spool of the reel slowly ticking away line, it was no liner this time and even given the slow, measured bleeps from the alarm, I still scrambled from the bedchair like it had been a screaming one toner!

I could have written about an epic duel with a monster leviathan from the deep, but that would purely have been an embellishment of what was quite a lazy affair of an initial first run... steering my quarry from the reedline passed by without event. While the carp made purposeful runs, I never had to give up line, completely

opposite to the turbo lean commons of barely a double that tore off in the shallow water I had been catching up until now. This felt different. The water boiled, debris and a cloud of silt bloomed to the surface when the carp changed direction. This carried on for a few minutes, the carp testing me and I responding, knowing that I had hooked something larger than I had before, gripping onto the to the rod like a vice, in hindsight I'm surprised I didn't crush it. I would gain line and the fish would take it back in defiance. This went on again for a few moments, when the fish first surfaced and rolled for the first time, and I finally saw what I had hooked. I recognised it instantly,

the dislodged scales on its flank giving it away as one of the larger Commons in this small club water. In hindsight I shouldn't have attempted to net it at this point, it wasn't ready but inexperience was evident as when it caught sight of the mesh of the net it surged to the left along the margin and headlong towards the roots of an old tree that looked like it was clinging desperately to the bank, its roots sprawling out into the water. Known for coming in quite easily but becoming demonic at the sight of the net I should have known better. I held on, the fish bore on, I held on not being able to afford any line; the carp yet bored on and I held my breath. Would the line part, entangle on a

root or another unseen hazard meaning this fish would evade me. Thankfully it turned and come out unscathed, away from danger.

This last chance to escape had obviously tired the fish, a last desperate bid to deny me a photo opportunity and obligatory 'the one that got away' tale, its efforts had taken its toll and I was able to net my prize. Parting the folds of the net and confirmation that it was the carp in question- a small to some, but sizeable 16lb 2oz Common to me, dwarfing the small scaley mirrors of a few pounds and of course the

wiry lean commons. On to a few photos and of course the release, back into what was now the post dawn light. The carp swimming away strongly back to fight another day, sunbeams streaming into the margin around the fish as it made its way back into the deeper water.

It was then of course time to light the stove, and where had that coffee mug gone?

Best Wishes
Adam



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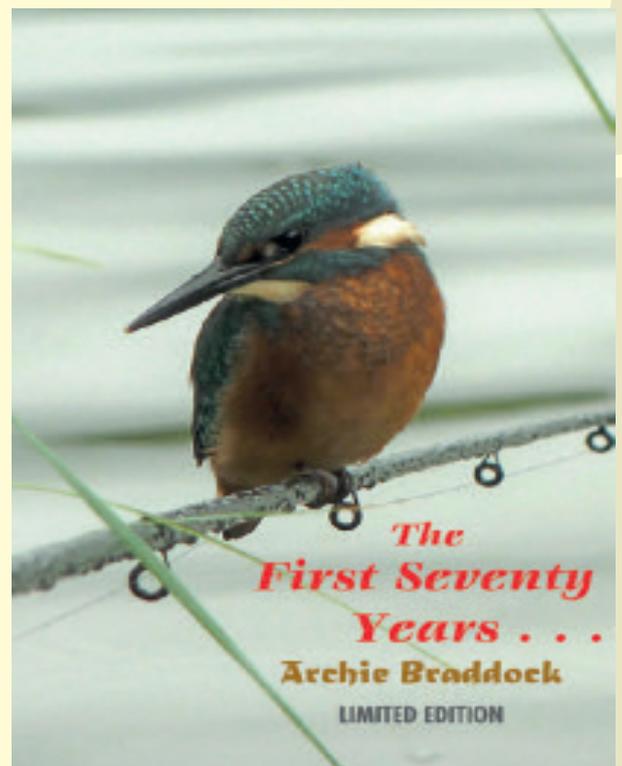


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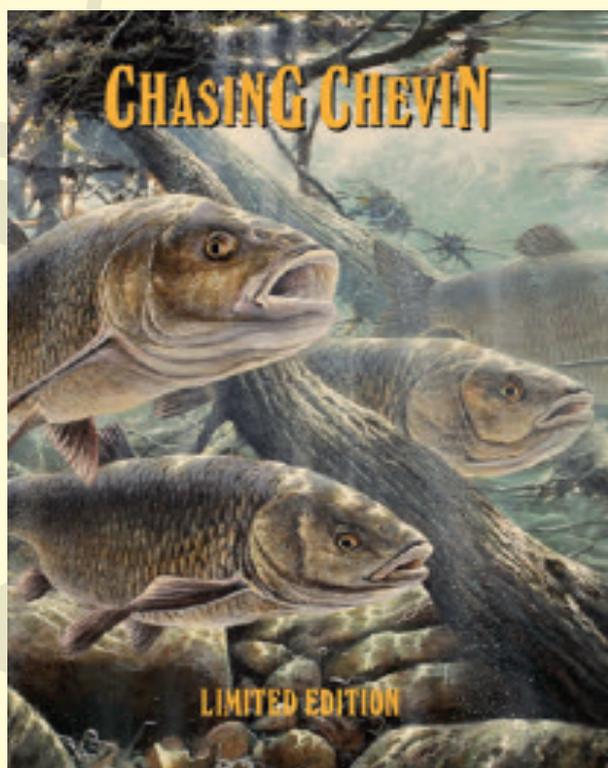
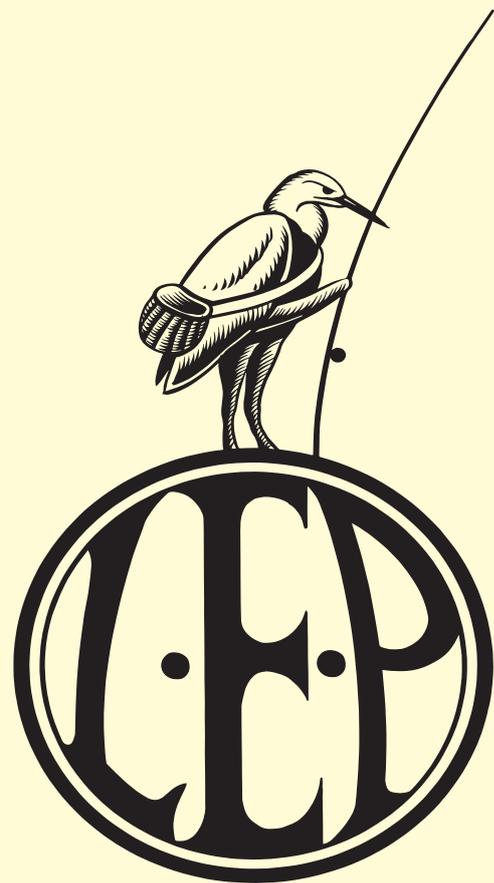
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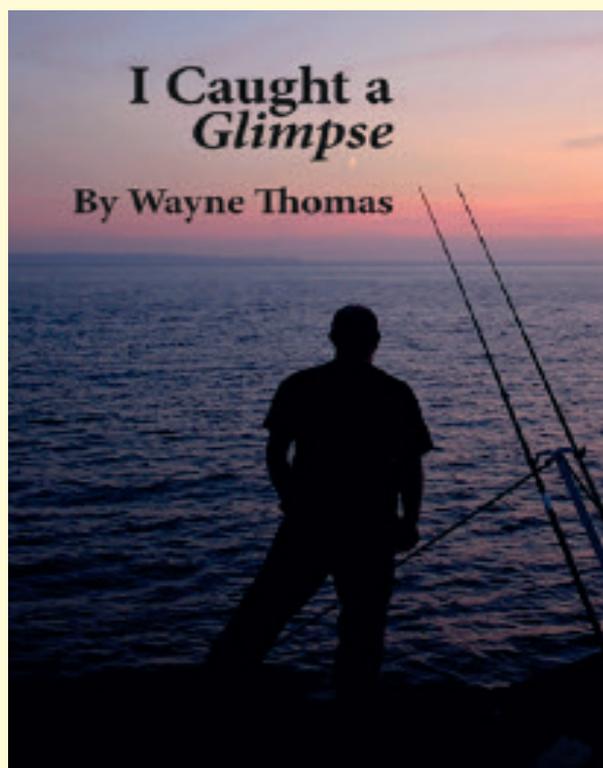


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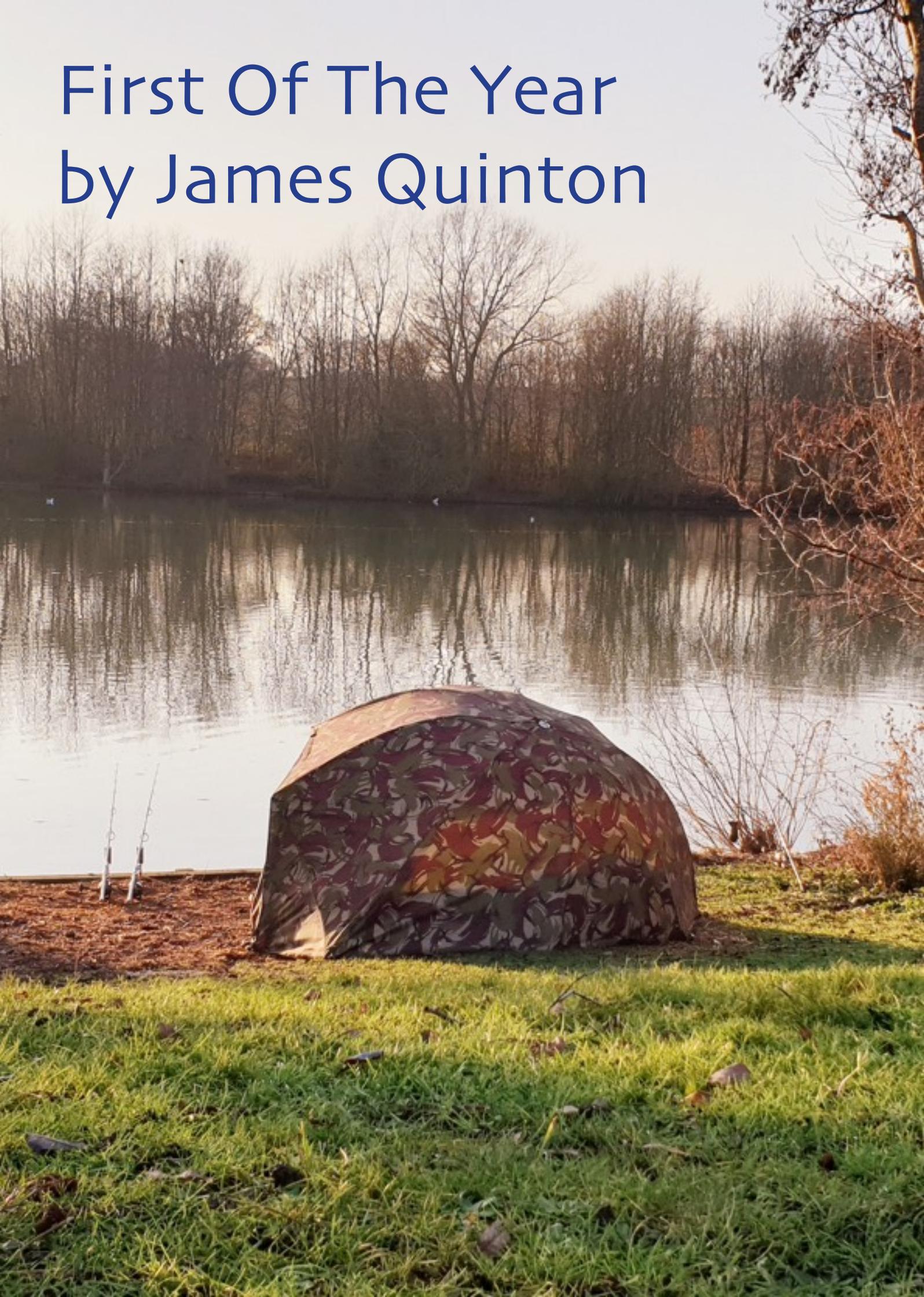
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First Of The Year by James Quinton



As I type, we are nearly into Feb and the Brentwood carp show has reached us. We went on the Saturday and had an awesome time. It was very busy, but we got to talk to who we planned to and we picked up some lovely bits and had a great conversation with Oz Holness and picked his book up. I also picked up our new bait we shall be using, and that's going to be the Proper Carp Baits range, we opted for the Black Seal which has an amazing aroma of garlic and blue cheese. We had a great talk with Johnny Mac and walked away with a lot of bait and tubs of popups and bottom baits glugs etc.

So, have I fished this year yet? You bet I have! Have I caught this year yet? Yep I have also managed that! It's rare for my mat to get wet with a

fish and for the van to smell fishy! I've managed five nights this year and managed to bag three fish.

The first sessions of the year was a two night session early in January. It was abit windy, but the temps were nice and mild for the time of the year. I think a lot of us has been lucky with the winter so far! I went to a local water which holds quite a few fish and stood a good chance of catching. I do think that's important for the winter, it's great to carry on with our hard waters during the winter, building up the blanks for that special fish and I am a believer that it only takes that one fish to make your winter. But it is also nice to catch sometimes! I turned up in the morning and had a walk around, I wasn't in a rush to get

rods out for a change, I had plenty of day light left and just enjoyed having a walk around and looking for signs of carp. I saw a few signs in the middle area of the pond so that was my mind made up! I unloaded the van and barrowed the gear into a swim that gave me plenty of water to cover. I put the bedchair up and got the rods ready. A quick lead around and I found a slightly deeper area that I was happy with. All the rods were wrapped up and a white pop up went on one rod and a natural colour pop up on the other. The chods were fired out and as my fluoro was sinking I got the carbon throwing stick out and got a nice spread of bait out around the area. Once the line had sunk, the rods were placed on the Delkims and the fast and light was chucked up, that was



me settled for the session.

As always, I had some beer with me and toasted the lake. The shows continued and then suddenly a few bleeps, a few more and the lined tightened. I picked the rod up and a few thuds on the other end confirmed I was into a carp. Considering it was January it gave a good account of itself. Before long a small angry common was in the net, YES, the first fish of 2020! I placed him on the mat and although he was only

around 7lb it didn't matter, I took a quick pic of him just because he was the first one and slipped him back. A fresh rig and white hook bait went out in the same area. I cooked my dinner and chilled out for the evening. Nothing else happened for the rest of the night.

I awoke to a lovely morning and quiet Delks! Nothing was showing so I just left the rods out. I had a coffee then re done the rods with fresh hook baits and back out they went. I decided to put a bit more bait out with

the stick and watched for more signs. It didn't take long and they started showing again in the same area, no move needed I stayed where I was. A few hours passed and one of the rods screamed off! After a short battle the hook lost hold and the line went slack.

I was gutted to be honest two fish in one session would have been a lovely start to the year! I checked my hook out and it was burred over, maybe the course of the loss. The last night went by quietly so I had a good night's sleep!

A week later I went to another water for a night but that resulted in a blank. I also had a night at Snake. I really love every night I do down there, I still get a buzz when I walk those banks, the same banks that have had Terry's footsteps on as well as Nashys and Damien

Clark's! I won't be fishing it as much as my attention is going to be elsewhere, but I will be doing work parties and continue to bailiff this amazing water.

My next session was my birthday weekend! This would be the first year I've actually been able to fish my birthday with thanks to Merlyn! we headed to Suffolk water park the day before (23rd) so we could have the day and the night there. There wasn't going to be any complicated rig or tactics on this session, just nice and

simple German rigs and dumbbell wafers! After a catch up with Nick who helps runs the place the place we got to our swims and unloaded the van. For those who have never been to Suffolk water park, it's a lovely place that features a few lakes including a match lake and an easier carp lake. There's also a cafe that does an amazing breakfast shower facilities and a tackle shop stocked with essentials. We got the bedchairs up and readied our rods. After a cast around it was clear that the bottom

was pretty flat with no defining features. A few spods were put put out on our areas and out went the German rigs and wafers. Brollies were put up and we were fishing! My mate Alex came down for the day as it was a birthday session (cheers mate!). He opted to fish margins where the lake was being fed with pellets but sadly, he blanked the day, but was nice to have a mate there for the occasion. He went home which left me and Merlyn on the lake. We settled down and I sat in her swim net door while we watched some Cypography. I went to my swim and settled down. Suddenly my right hand rod ripped off with a proper screamer! I was led a right merry dance and thought I'd hooked into one the bigger ones of the lake. I turned to Merlyn and said I think this could be a biggun.



You can imagine my surprise then when a small scaley mirror rolled over the net cord! We got him on the mat, and she laughed at me for thinking I had one of the better ones! We treated him with Propolis and got a few snaps of him and slipped him back, I settled for the night happy to of bagged one.

I had a few liners during the night and woke on my birthday by the lake, honestly

that's a great feeling. I messaged Merlyn to see if she was up and wanted a coffee. She was and did so on went the kettle. Suddenly my left hand rod gave a few bleeps and pulled up tight. I lifted into it and had a few slow thuds. Maybe this will be better! She made a few runs and lunges and around 10 mins later she was in the net! I turned to Merlyn and said I think this is a 20! On the mat she went and indeed was a scraper 20! Happy birthday! We treated

her up with Propolis and Merlyn got some snaps, she was then slipped back, and I couldn't believe I had a fish on my birthday let alone a 20, was proper over the moon!!

The morning we went back to Inworth and done abit of pre baiting. We will be doing some time on there after a talk and we will face the track and difficulties, It would be boring if there wasn't an element of challenging environment and draw backs. Hopefully you will join us on this journey.

Tight lines

James and Merlyn

Thanks to

Taylor's lead lounge

Thinking Anglers

Proper carp baits.





Small Water Success
by Carl Milton

I'm honoured to have been invited by Brian to write a series of articles for Talking Carp. I wanted to start off with a few instructional pieces. I'm an angler with many years' experience and a love of writing. I'm really keen on teaching and developing other anglers too. I have a passion for improving both mental and technical aspects of other's angling. To start with I aim to cover some tips on smaller waters.

Growing up in the East Sussex countryside, the majority of the waters within easy reach of home were small. My first venture into fishing was aged 5, with my Dad on a small farm pond. I then progressed to other club and day ticket waters, but all were less than 10 acres. In recent years I've fished further afield on some

larger waters. But it has certainly made me realise that there is an art to fishing smaller waters.

Much has been written about large waters but not so much about small waters. There is sometimes an assumption that small waters can be easier. In my experience the opposite is true. The popular small waters often see more concentrated angling pressure and are often harder as a result. Think about the likes of Redmire, Ashleigh Pool and Sutton. This article

details some hints that may assist those fishing small waters.

Location on a large water is a key issue but can be equally important on a small lake. Everything you would do on a large lake, simply downsize for the smaller venues. Watching the water is key. Subtle bubbling can be a real give away. Recently on a very tough smaller venue in Kent, I arrived to a busy lake. I had a good look around and spotted a few subtle bubbles that everyone else had not seen, and



within 20 minutes of casting out had a 44lb 4oz mirror on the bank. Careful plumbing is also incredibly important. Small lakes often have spots within spots. So, finding small hard spots, or sometimes even patches of silt within a hard spot can be very crucial. I've known a few feet be the difference between a red letter day and a blank. Precision is key in such scenarios. A classic example of this occurred a few years ago on a small water I know. A new chap was fishing and had blanked all weekend. A friend of mine arrived who knows the water well. He showed him a harder spot 1 foot away from the original spot he had been fishing, and within hours he had caught. Many of the lakes I have fished are silty. So hard spots where the fish have cleared the silt through

feeding can be vital. But sometimes fish wise up to these hard spots and finding a siltier spot within the hard spot can also score.

Getting to know the venue is also essential, no matter what the size of the water. With small waters especially, I do a lot of work finding out the timing of feeding spells. Asking others politely (without being too intrusive) for information, previous capture information and again watching when signs of feeding

occur, can all provide vital clues. With large waters I find feeding spells vary more and can be dependent on wind direction, water temperature and many other factors. Smaller lakes on the whole are less influenced by this and tend to have more of a pattern. Once you know when they are likely to feed, then you can use your time more specifically to fish those spells.

Stealth is another key factor. With a small lake the fish are never far away, and a careful



quiet approach always out fishes a noisy clumsy one. How many times have I seen an angler turn up and the first thing that they do is thud their gear down in the peg right by the water's edge? The next thing I often see is the bivvy going up and pegs hammered in with mallets, before even a rod is in the water.

Such approaches can still catch, but fishing is a percentages thing. Stack as many odds in your favour to help you catch. So why not set up well back from the water's edge.

Get the rods out first in as quieter fashion as you can, after all we are there to catch fish and not camp. Subtle things like screw in pegs rather than ones requiring a mallet make less

disturbance. If you are allowed to visit the venue and plumb before fishing, this is always time well spent. If you know the topography, the areas of weed and suchlike, it is much easier to get a bait in position with minimal casting, and hence creates far less disturbance.

A tip we can take from match fishing is scaling down if it is safe to do so. Small water fish are generally more pressured and see rigs more often as there is

less space to escape than on a larger water. So, rigs are important. Why not use a slightly smaller hook or thinner diameter hook link material. Always make sure it is safe to do this. It is pointless scaling down next to snags if your end tackle is not strong enough to land the fish. So be safe and think of the fish's welfare. However, if it is safe, scaling down a little can be enough to buy an extra bite.

On smaller waters I've



also often found fish follow the sun. It might sound obvious, but carp are cold blooded creatures and love the sun's warmth. One winter I helped net a small venue I was fishing to help remove some of the silver fish. Initially we took the net through an area which was the easiest to access with the net

but didn't get any sun. We got just a handful of fish. Once we'd all warmed ourselves up with a cuppa, we tried again netting the area that gets the most sun in the winter. On this second occasion we had almost all the lakes stock in the net. This really brought home to me the importance of finding the areas that

get the most sun. Small waters provide a different challenge to their larger relatives but can be just as hard if not harder. But with the right approach they can provide fantastic sport. Thanks for reading. Enjoy your fishing and tight lines.

Carl





**Merrington Fishery
by Jason Kennerly**

I've recently started on a new lake for the winter and early spring months. This year I've decided to venture further afield and have a few venues in mind one for the winter and early spring months and another summer into autumn.

The first of which is Merrington. So far down at Merrington carp fishery I've done two sessions since the year started and it's already looking bright. I took a drive down to the venue to try and gain a little knowledge and spot any signs the day before my first session. That 1 hour 20 minute drive proved to be so important after meeting with Ben the bailiff there he explained the lake and the fish stock and then I went for a few laps, no signs and it looked quite bleak to be honest there was a biting wind blowing down into the furthest pegs of the lake 7 and 8. Merrington is about 8 acres with 15 pegs. As I set off on a second lap a fish showed right tight to one of the islands to the left on peg 2. It looked a good fish as well, so I made a mental note and carried on... no more signs the whole time I was there.

I returned the next day about 11am its 12 noon till 12 noon at Merrington so I knew time was important as light would fade quickly. I had a walk to down to speak with a few anglers who were coming off a quick look around. A guy called Matt in peg 3 said he'd heard a show in the night to his right. I remembered the show the day previous and my mind was made up I made camp in peg 2. My plan was simple there is 3 islands in Merrington all of which are scattered in front of my chosen peg the wind was on my back and the fish I had seen were close to one of the islands in abit of slack water. I say fish that I had seen because on taking the gear to the peg I saw another show. I was now confident if I kept it simple with not much disturbance, I could sneak a bite or two. So, I made 3 spinner rigs up with barbless size 6 Kamakuras hooks yellow rig kickers and a simple as it gets, Korda hybrid lead clip set up a 2.5oz flat pear lead with quite a long section of tungsten tubing and a flying

back lead to keep everything pinned down. The only tweak I made to the setup is I cut the tail rubber down slightly I wanted to drop the lead as fast as possible fishing close to the islands with a few snaggy branches. I didn't know if these were also present under the water and didn't want to take any chances.

I made 3 casts, no more, one to the showing fish it couldn't have landed any better and 2 more to the other 2 small islands. I back leaded my right hand and middle rod as I didn't have much room to the left if that rod went. DNA baits milky malt wafers soaked in the Korda wonderberry goo was my chosen hookbait normally. I wouldn't use a wafer on a spinner set up but watching another angler use it to great success I've decided to put in my armoury and so far, it has proven the right decision.

The first take came at 1.50am to the left rod where I had seen the fish that previous day and earlier when bringing the gear to the swim. After quite a hard fight I landed my first Merrington fish it went 23lb. I was made up to be honest my first trip on and I was into the fish. The rest of the night passed with no more action but on first light I was making a cup of tea and as I looked out to the left hand spot a real chunk came out, it looked big I knew I had a rod there and I was super confident in the rig and hookbait just then the bobbin pulled up tight right against the alarm and stayed there only 3 or 4 bleeps on the alarm. Then the rod



tip slowly started to pull over and the reel began to tick as it moved off slowly. I leant into the fish and a very sluggish battle with a quite docile lump of a carp is the only way I can describe it unfolded. The fish was within netting reach in a matter of minutes and then it woke up and that's when the two back leaded rods proved worthwhile I knew it was big and it gave me a deep heavy slow battle under the rod tips every plod felt like I had a sack of king Edward's on the other end, suddenly it just popped up on the surface just as Ben (the bailiff) was doing his laps and was on the back of my swim. I scooped it first time to my relief. Ben looked at me and asked my PB, so I told him UK just under 33. He let out a smile and said not any more... he knew the fish, it was last out at 34lb, and looked bigger. Ben was great he gave me a hand with the pics and weighing the fish he even went and grabbed his set of Rubens so we could get an accurate weight 37lb 4oz... a new PB and a second Merrington carp on my first 24 hours. Speaking with Ben since he has confirmed it was actually a Male fish probably one of his biggest males and in fact was only about 11 and a half years old a fish which seems to have a big weight ahead of it and surely one to watch for the future. Since I have done another 24 hours at Merrington I have had no fish, but it wasn't the best conditions and if we catch every time it would be called catching and not fishing, I suppose. I'm back out soon on Merrington and look forward to the 3 months I have planned on there.





Midlands Carp Champs 2020

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

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

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

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

The format this year will be -

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

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

Dates -

Q1 - 8th to 10th May

Q2 - 24 to 26th July

Q3 - 7th to 9th August

Final - 4th to 6th Sept

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

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

Midlandscarpchamps





Reviews

Featuring -

The Grizzlyman
G7 Suit

by Clint Walker

GRIZZLYMAN[®]



by Clint Walker

G7

As I write this, it's approaching Christmas, and it appears that each of the mainstream angling companies have bought out a range of 'carpy' clothing with the associated 'carpy' price tag; i.e. with £100 added on. It's ridiculous isn't it? Just because it's green (or camo) with a natty logo on, the price automatically increases and those loyal to the brand must pay it. I'm sick of being ripped off and having spent eight years in HM Forces, I like to think I know a thing about cold weather clothing so I won't pay it, I'd rather get value for money rather than perceived 'carpiness'.

I mentioned it to a friend recently (in truth, I'd also seen a few mentions of the company in Talking Carp already) and he sent me a link to a relatively new UK brand, GrizzlymanUK, and suggested I take a look at the clothing range on offer as I was in the market for a new winter suit. My old salopettes had begun to fall apart after seven years and my jacket, a US import, had served me well, but was starting to fail; it was definitely time for something new!

It's difficult to review clothing. I could dress it up (geddit?) as an all singing, all dancing item of bankside fashion which would instantly make you more attractive to the fairer sex, something which sported a funky logo and would make you the envy of all your mates, (a logo makes ALL the difference) or I could just be honest and tell you that the Gorka7 suit appears to be bombproof, waterproof, windproof and practical...which it is. I selected the Gorka7 as it seemed to best provide for my winter fishing, so got in touch with the company to find out more. My sizes were requested, and a couple of days later, my suit was delivered first class.



I'm always dubious whenever I order off the internet, especially if I haven't 'tyre kicked' the item first, but the two piece suit fitted perfectly and felt comfortable. Of course, I hadn't got any thermals or layers beneath it when I stood before the mirror, but I could tell it was roomy enough for any additional winter clobber beneath and couldn't wait to get out and try it outside. My first outing was up onto the moors high above my Staffordshire base. I live near the highest village in the UK, and have worked as a firefighter in winds of almost ninety miles an hour during winter as we'd sought to recover blown over vehicles and dealt with accidents caused by freezing weather, so knew that in December, it would be suitably uncomfortable 'on the tops'.

The Gorka7 features layered cotton material and as I climbed the gritstone outcrops of The Roaches, I noted that I wasn't drenched in sweat as the breathable membrane did it's stuff, nor could I feel the wind which blasted across the moorland as the thermal barrier kept out the cold. The padded leggings are supplied with a detachable pair of braces which I chose not to use, but they didn't slip down due to being securely belted through extra wide loops, and they didn't ride up over my boots either as the integral stirrups held them down. The leggings also feature reinforced pads at the knees, 'dusters' to cover the elasticated ankle, and a zip fastening backed by double buttons at the fly. Like the jacket,

they have both a breathable and thermal layer to protect from the cold. It's worth noting that the buttons are huge on the Gorka7, specifically designed to be easy to use with cold, wet hands or gloves...



The jacket has reinforced shoulder pads to ease the pressure when carrying a rucksack or even holding a weapon to the shoulder, there is no zip to fail, instead the jacket is fastened with the same securely stitched extra big buttons, which are covered within a wind flap, the bonnet style hood is adjustable, as is the waist cord to keep the jacket snug about the wearer. There are six external pockets and another hidden inside, and elasticated cuffs prevent water egress too. It's not green though, instead the suit is finished in a sandstone/grey outer layer which looks good and is comprised of 'silent' material, so the suit appeals not just to the angler, but to the shooter, hunter or stalker too!

After a couple of hours on the moors, the weather hadn't bothered me at all, unlike others who struggled past holding scarves to their face and pulling wet clothing off as they approached their waiting cars. I'd sat watching the world go by from atop the rocky bluffs, fully exposed to the biting winds, and hadn't felt any of it, so it was time for something else. I went home and grabbed my Air Arms 410 and sloped off into some nearby woodland to see if the drippy moisture of the trees could penetrate the suit as I looked for some pigeons. By now, it was heading towards the cooler hours of the evening, the wind had dropped, but the rain still splattered down from the tops of the fleshy leaved rhododendrons and as I sat patiently on a log waiting for a target, I still felt warm and comfortable, and had plenty of room within the suit to bring up my rifle quickly should a target be spotted. So far, so good...



The real test though is what I bought it for, winter fishing. Sitting for long periods, often in rain or snow with a windchill factor to consider, the suit has to be good to combat UK weather. Fortunately, the Gorka7 is a derivative of Finnish Army issue clothing, constructed in Belarus and designed for wintery Eastern European conditions. Although the suit is rated down to -5 degrees, the reality is that windchill often takes temperatures below this, even in the UK, so it has to perform. I used it first at Rudyard Lake, a 166 acres reservoir where the wind howls across the surface on it's way up the valley and wore it as I lure fished from a floating jetty, some way from the bank and fully exposed to the weather. It rained hard too, and as I stood for hours in the deluge, the only time I felt the rain was when I turned to face into the onslaught and cover a different area with my lure. Even then, it was only my exposed face that got wet... Other anglers however, retired soaked...

After a few hours in the rain, my next venture was to yet another reservoir, high up on the moors in search of pike. Before dawn, the temperature was sub-zero, and at the venue it was even lower as I drilled my



banksticks into the frozen ground and set up my stall for a day on the bank. I spent eight hours in my chair, drinking tea and eating beans, but all day, I was snug and dry as the clouds closed in and the rain came down again, the suit protecting me from the very worst of the December conditions. As far as I'm concerned, the suit lives up to its promises, it's well made, warm, weatherproof and ideal for winter angling. I can't find fault with it, and if you know me, you'll know I usually fish twice a week whatever the weather, so I need something that will do the job. The only thing I think I've not mentioned so far is the cost of the Gorka7. For something of such quality, I'd normally expect to pay anything between £200-£350, but one of the best things about this suit is that it currently retails at just £95 for the whole thing! Can you afford to be cold this winter? No, you can't. Get the suit, get out and go fishing!

Find more details about the Gorka7 and a whole range of purposely designed 'carp tax' free outdoor goods at www.grizzlyman.uk You won't be disappointed!



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Catch Reports

Featuring -

Vader Baits
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Plus much more



Lee Rimmer

Todber Manor Big Hayes

A fantastic 48hr session resulting in 3 cracking carp up to 28.8lb. These all fell to solid bags Nash scopex squid with a scopex squid waffer. My favourite shot of the session was taken by my wife just as the sun was coming up behind me



Alan Beacher

2020's got off to a flyer for me with this banger of a mirror carp at 14lb 14oz from my winter ticket, a popular day ticket water which has great winter form. Falling to Rod Hutchinsons Coconut Crunch 15ml popup using carp online curved shank size 6 hooks has done the business. After the success I had last year, I'm really looking forward to the next 12 months, and most of all, really enjoying my fishing. Tight lines and good luck to you all this forthcoming season.



Karl Brandreth

Just done another PB by 4oz with this 33lb 4oz mirror which fell to maggots, single baits sling out did the trick for me. At monument fisheries.

Liam Poulton

On a recent winter 24hrs on my first time at Farlows I had scouted the lake for any signs of fish. I saw fizzing and 1 show in the 3 hours I was walking around. I was set on a swim in the corner opposite of the car park. There was only me and one other on, probably due to the huge winds and torrential rain. I didn't take a bucket with me to reserve my swim thinking I'll be fine... just my luck, someone turns up sits on the swim and leading around! Around 45 mins had past and he hadn't left the swim so I set up in the car park hoping I could cast across from this side... he's probably disturbed the swim now anyway. Another 45 mins past and I had my rods and bank sticks set up, looked up and he was gone... I waited to see if he came back, I didn't want to be an arsehole if he had just gone to get his kit. A little while later I ran around there with my net and bucket to reserve the swim. The rest of my kit was on the barrow. Get around there, set up and chuck a solid bag out and retreat to the bivvy for the winds and heavy rain to batter me. My Aqua Atom is taking a beating, my Delkims are creating their own beat and my receiver constantly vibrating, I knew I was sleeping that night. 2am came and the wind had died down, now was the time to go for a call of nature, I peel myself out of the warm not putting my wet gear on as I thought I would only be popping out. I take a pee and see my bobbin is right up against the alarm... I thought I may as well reel in and take a look and chuck it out again. As I'm reeling in, I felt a slight 'donk' all I could think is... 'BLOODY BREAM!' I'm swearing to myself that I've just got out the bivvy and now the rain is coming in again all for a bream. With no resistance at all I brought the fish in to the bank and rolled over was this huge bar of gold!!!! I couldn't believe it. In huge excitement I netted it, stepped back and admired the chunk on the mat! I rush to get the camera set up again

forgetting to get my wet gear on, take some photos whilst rolling around in the mud. 29lb 2oz it went!! I was buzzing, I knew I was fishing for one bite on a cold, wet, windy winter session and this was it! I slip it back and climb into the bivvy, freezing cold and soaking wet! It was all worth it!





Andy Christopher with a 20lb 9oz Lower Alt beauty



Louis Lyons with a 31lb 4oz beast by the name of Big Deal from Upper Alt lake



Jake Sanderson with MoonScale at 26lb 11oz from Lower Alt lake



Dave Morrow with The Vessel at 29lb 8oz from Upper Alt



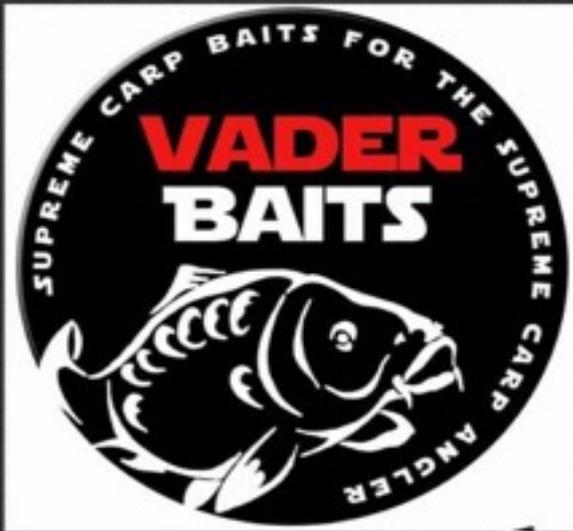
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**Team member Adrian headed to his local yesterday and managed to bag himself 6 carp at low doubles. All the fish were caught on a Le Nutz pop up teamed up with Le Nutz pellet and matching glug!
Good angling Adrian**



**Team member Dan got out for a very quick session today arriving at his local club water around 9.30am and leaving at 1.30pm. With freezing conditions Dan dug deep and managed to bag himself a 14lb ghost common. He tempted the fish by a Le Nutz boilie with around 10 matching freebies over the top!
Good angling Dan**



Team member Robert headed to Avalon fishery on Sunday. On arrival there was not many signs of movement on the water, so he set up in a nice spot in the corner of the lake positioning 1 rod to a bush to his left and the other to the island. The only run came from his left hand rod producing a 17lb 6oz ghostie which was tempted by a single Le Nutz boilie! Great angling Robert



**Team member Tim headed to a local lake Whitemore for a quick overnight session on Saturday night. With a disappointing night and a fish spitting the hook out right at the bank he was determined to bag one and on Sunday morning after a re-baiting using a SaTaN boilie tipped with a pink Grafter pop up on both rods at around 11am the rod screamed into life and he opened his 2020 season of with a 11lb 3oz common !
Good angling Tim**

White Springs

GARNSWLLT RD
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SA4 8QG
TEL: (01792) 885699



Arjen Landa
30lb 2oz
mirror



Elliott Greyham
with Bailey
37lb 6oz





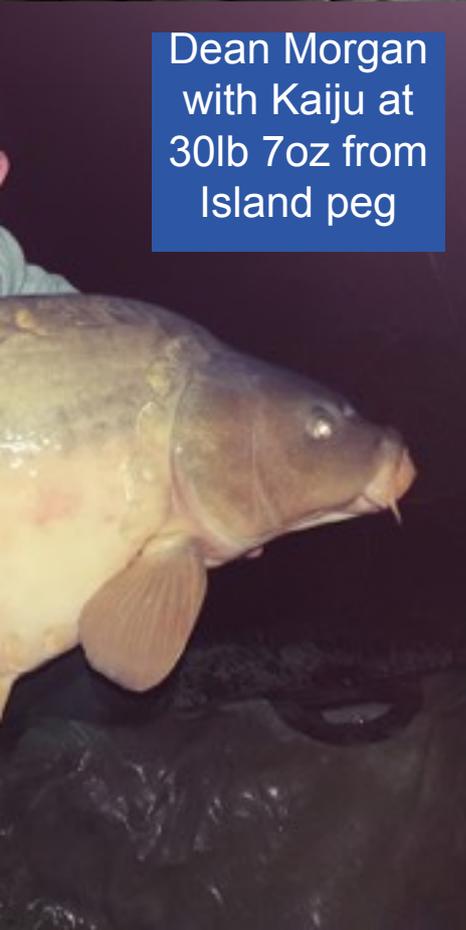
Callum yeo
with a new pb
21lb 2oz



Carwyn
hayward 20lb
7oz from Pit



Dean Morgan
with Kaiju at
30lb 7oz from
Island peg



Chris Meredith
28lb
common



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Jamie Davies
13lb 8oz F1
from Jadens
cabin



Kris Jenkins
26lb
Ghosty



Kris Jenkins
21lb Zip
Linnear





Johnathan
Foot 30lb 4oz
common from
8A



Justin Davies
with a nice
18lb 6oz mirror
from Pit



Kris Jenkins
20lb Scaly
mirror



White Springs

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Sam
Chambers 33lb
4oz



Martin
Mathews with
a 27lb





Martin
mathews with
a stunning 21lb
mirror



Neil Jinx
Jenkins with
Cheryl 35lb
8oz from 9a



Paul Thomas
Chunk 33lb
peg 6



White Springs

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Ryan Brown
with Bruno
40lb



Sonny
Thompson
with a 21lb 8oz
mirror from 8A



Richard Collins
19lb mirror





Venue: Petit Pretre, France
Date: 17th to 24th October 2020

Price: £150 includes Hoodie & Surprise.
 Each angler must take one food package
 Breakfast = €45, Dinner = €95, Both = €140

Amount Anglers: 16 2 rods per angler

Prizes: 1st, 2nd & 3rd place, plus biggest fish from each lake

BBQ, Raffle

Charity: Forces C.A.R.P.

Carp Angling Recovery Programme which assists veterans with their long term recovery from physical and mental injuries through carp angling. Also Germany donation made each year.



Anglo German Carp Fest • email: anglogermancarpfest@gmail.com
Petit Pretre • email: petitpretrefishing@gmail.com



Talking Carp Competition at the Northern Angling Show

We have a very special and easy to enter competition for those attending the fantastic 'Northern Angling Show' on the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd February 2020.

All you have to do, to be in with a chance of winning a 'Carpy' Prize Bundle is get a 'selfie' with one of the Team from Talking Carp Magazine, then follow @talkingcarp.magazine on Instagram and post the picture on your profile with #talkingcarpmagazine

You will spot one of the Team easily enough as we will all be wearing 'Talking Carp Magazine' Hoodies or T-Shirts and at least one of us will be there on both days all day...!

A winner will be selected at random after the closing date of Friday, 6th March 2020 and they will be notified via Instagram.

The 'Prize Bundle' contains items from Ridge Monkey, Korda, Powapacs, Right-Tackle, The Squirrels Nuts, Castaway PVA and few others too...but the best bit is you also get a page to show off your 'Carpy' Pics in the April Edition of the Magazine which happens to be our 50th Issue.

So, if you are visiting the Northern Angling Show in 2020, make sure you keep a look out for the guys from the best Free Online Carp Magazine... 'Talking Carp' and have your camera ready...!!





*Le Lees Carp Fishery -
Le Croisty*

Le Lees Carp Fishery

Welcome everyone to LE LEES Carp Fishery.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Le Lees Carp Fishery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Find us on Facebook for further information.

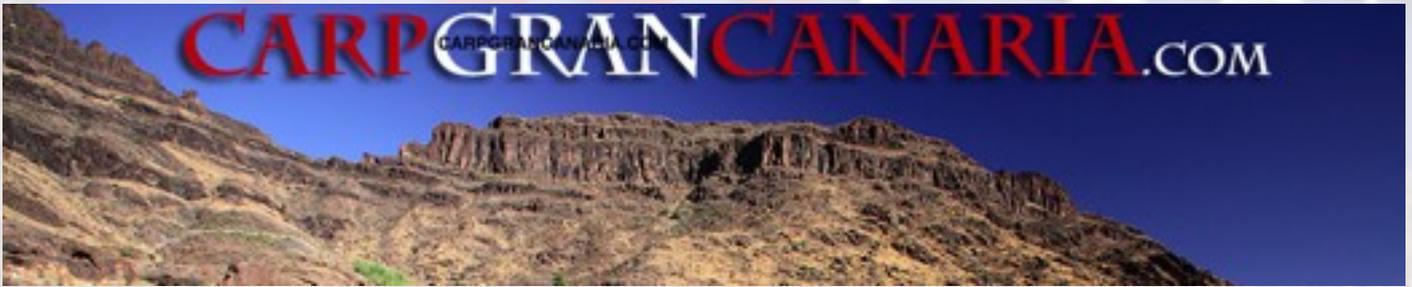
Matt, Tracie and Thai.



Le Lees Ca



rp Fishery



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

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

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

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

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

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

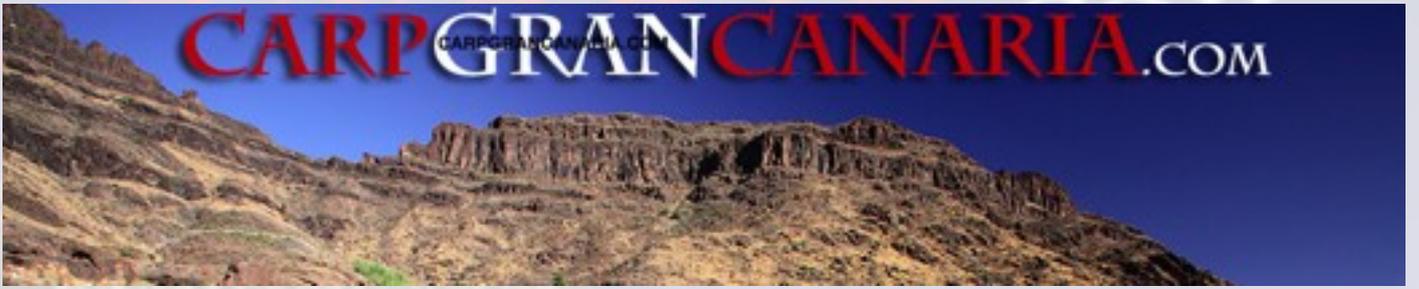
We also offer tailor made holidays for you, maybe a weeks fishing and a week on the beach!!!

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

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



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**Coming in next months edition -
Jules returns ! Plus the Talking
Carp crew are at NAS.**

**Please send your articles and catch reports
by the 28th February 2020 for next months
magazine**

**brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk
buggy@talkingcarp.co.uk
m.galli@talkingcarp.co.uk**



**The Carp magazine
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