



Inside this Issue

Julian Cundiff shows us inside his tackle box

Joe Turnbull, Tom Simcox, Andy Murray, Geezer Grant + More

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Hello and welcome....

Issue 60! A lockdown special it seems.. as at the time of writing this we are once again under lockdown restrictions across the country. On the plus side we are still allowed to fish days only and we are happy to see so many anglers abiding with the new guidelines and still catching plenty of carp. Just goes to show, a little thought and planning and we can still enjoy our wonderful sport without lugging barrows around lakes and bivvying up for days on end. Simply choose a suitable venue, close to home, and make the most of the day.

This month we start a new series from our man in Belgium, Wies Ennekens, as he writes about his new venture on a monster Belgian water that has destroyed many a soul!!

Also we are joined by Jules who opens up his tackle box to us.... And it may not be what you expect!!

Add to that all our regular writers and pieces, articles, catch reports and reviews and you have plenty to read.

Remember, we are always looking for new and fresh writers so if **YOU have a tale to tell then simply get in touch and we will guide you to a full published piece.**

Email us at the usual addresses:-

****note: Fishery owners!! We will be going on the road as soon as restrictions and guidelines allow, so if you would like to have your fishery looked at by all our readers then please get in touch. Email**

Brian or Mark anytime.

brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk

mark@talkingcarp.co.uk

Team Talking Carp

Inside This Month -

Cover shot - Sophie the carp catching kid with her dad David Williams

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Wies Ennekens

Simplicity.

A pretty boring introduction on the year to come

As the first annual frost introduces its arrival, my thoughts, urges and fantasies go in overdrive. Winter for me, and I suppose with me many others as well, has always been the beginning of the fishing season for me. Even before the fallen leaves start to transition into hummus, my mind already wanders off to the season ahead.

Although the bank-time of many anglers has lowered or is nearly in-existent. The roaring tension and the anticipation for the upcoming spring is inevitably present. We all feel it, don't we? The thrill, you might even call it a lust, the "next-year-will-be-the-best-year-ever"-feeling. Somehow, I see it as an instinct, a system of survival if you may. It gives me an unstoppable boost of adrenalin

when I start planning the year to come. Where do I want to fish? What challenges will I tackle? Will I go for new waters? Will I chase a target fish?

Shall I learn some new techniques to improve my skills? What previous experiences can I take along to make next year better? What were the good/less good (to avoid the word bad) choices I made? An endless stream of questions ploughs through my brain as an elephant through a greenhouse. And if we don't ruminate too long, everything will be good, maybe even better than before. And finally, after a long period of thinking

and wondering, new adventures start to take shape.

I am well aware that wintertime is the least favourable time to start a new adventure. At least when it comes to catching carp. And yet, year in year out, I always fall for that same trap again.

Maybe because it gives me some slack. A time-frame in which success rates are always lower, so it kind of takes away some of my self-induced pressure.



A new year

The quest for more grandeur, higher difficulty, bigger challenges. As if it all isn't difficult enough. Somewhere I need this in life, not only in my fishing. I constantly need new challenges, new hopes and expectations. The same goes for my professional occupation, I always want to grow and try to shape the best possible "me". And luckily, I don't need anybody to congratulate me on this matter, since I only do it for my inner peace. You might call me restless, stubborn, jumpy. I wouldn't deny any of those accusations. Guilty as charged and loving it. In 2020, I started fishing a nearby river the Leie. The river is known as far from easy, many came, many left, only few

remained. I came, I blanked, I caught, I stayed. Not only have I caught on the river, but the river has also caught me as well. Her looks, her difficulty. I became an addict, the Leie is like decent "Made in Mexico"-methamphetamine; once you had some, you need more and more each time. She infects your nervous system in a way we all probably had before. That one special place. That one lake, river or canal that just grabs you by the balls, or the ovaries (since more and more women are discovering carp fishing, good thing by the way.). It has some attraction onto our deeper conscience. And once it has touched you, you can never be untouched.

A new year, a new start. At least that's how the saying goes.

No new start, just a small add-on, "a little extra" on the side. LOL, I wish it were that simple. I wish I could do with just a little extra. But as you will notice very soon, I can't. I can't because I set my mind on another hunting ground. But not only is it 160km more to the East in Belgium (near the border with Holland). It is also known as one of Belgium's hardest canals. Many came, many left, only few remained. You can probably already feel me; I will go, I will blank, I will (hopefully) catch, and see after a year whether I will stay or I will go. The first look upon this huge canal makes me feel small. Glaring over the water is impressive. With a total length of 130km and an average width of 100m, this Canal was baptized the Albert Canal in 1939.



New hunting ground: THE Albert Canal

The plan for 2021 is to fish these two public waters, one river, one canal. Not only do they differ in looks, size and history. They also differ in fish stock, fish size and the difficulty to catch them. Some say 12 fish per year is a success on the Albert Canal, others who cracked the code catch more than one fish per night if it all works out. The Leie on the other hand can produce multiple fish per night if you tackle it correct. If you have ever read

or heard about the Albert Canal before, you will know that not many carp anglers are very successful on this particular water. It has taken them years to perfect their style of fishing, baiting, finding and catching their fish. My respect for these anglers is sky-high. In my opinion, and in this style of fishing, only few become The Greatest. So to be honest, my expectations are rather low, but the hope is what makes me go

for it. The enthusiasm and excitement are what drives me. I have always been a huge fan of river and canal fishing. Ever since I started fishing for carp, these were the waters I was drawn to. The first impression is mostly rather robust, cold, monotonous. But if you dig a little deeper, look a little closer, magnificent beauty can be found along these stretches of water. You can find peace, tranquillity and loneliness. Strolls

along the banks of a canal are my therapy. It seems as if these banks have the power to temper my restlessness.

How about a small introduction to these waters?

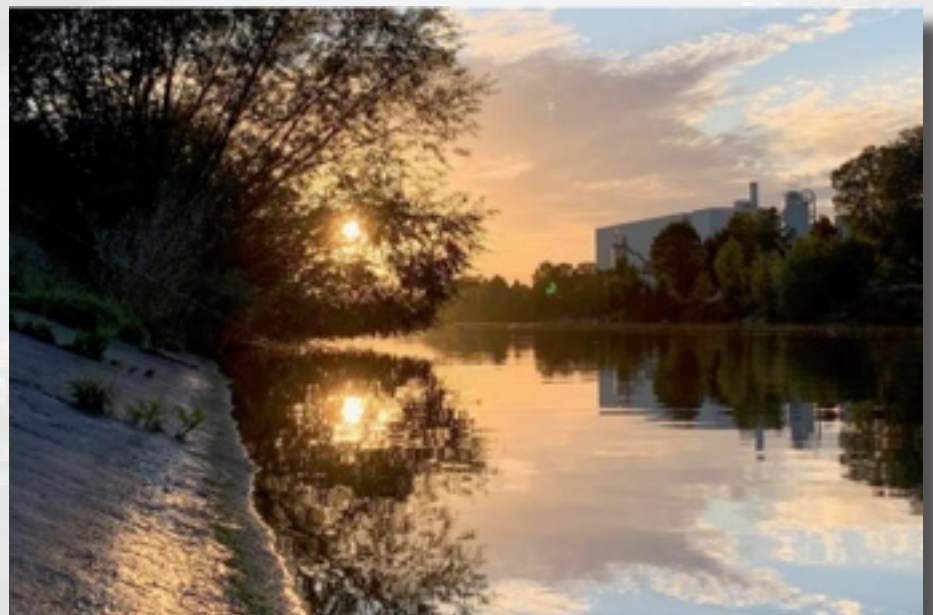
The Leie's mainly green banks meander through the western region of Belgium. She originates in France, flowing through the Leie Region and floods into the Schelde at Ghent. From the source in Lisbourg (FR) she covers 202km, from which 24km is the border between France and Belgium. 109km from her path are over Belgian territory.

The surroundings of the river are mainly meadows, except from the cities she connects, such as Kortrijk, Waregem and Ghent. Left and right from the flow you can find some beautiful cut off meanders which still

represent the original flow of the river before she was cast into a usable waterway for larger ships. With this transformation, the majority of the banks were reinforced. Either with big rocks or with concrete. Nevertheless, the Leie has a natural appeal, due to the green environment, the reeds, trees and bushes adjacent to the water. The towpath, mostly on both sides, pleases a lot of cyclists and hikers as they are forbidden to use by car. In totality the Leie has something to offer

for all kinds of anglers, be it urban, solitude, natural environment.

If we take a step back in history towards the beginning of the 19th century, it was the Leie which brought wealth to the region. Nicknamed The Golden River, she appeared to be the perfect river for retting flax. Due to the minerals and the current, the water was perfect for this industry. Thus, transforming a poor farming region into a wealthy pre-industrial haven. Due to the early



industrialization, this West Flemish part of Belgium is still known as the “Texas of Flanders”.

But there are always two sides to a medal. The retting of flax polluted the water immensely, thus leaving no chance for aquatic life in the river. In 1943 the retting was officially forbidden, and the river got the chance to revive, and slowly it did. And how...

Nearly every angler can now find his joy by catching the vastly increasing number of fish due to the amelioration of the water quality. Perch, bream, zander, tench and carp are now regularly pulling a bend in our beloved blanks. And although the river is frequently fished by many anglers, she is nevertheless easy. The increasing popularity due to larger carp

being caught, attracts a lot of carp anglers, but many of them give up when their dreams are shattered. Plagued by bream or tench and only catching small fish makes the switch to other waters very tempting. Many anglers disappear ever so soon. There is a very particular way of fishing on this river (call it a code if you want). But more on that later. Like all good things, it all comes with time and effort.

A good 160km more to the east, after a nearly two hour drive, I overlook the massive Albert Canal. It is humbling, the enormous amount of water connects the port of Antwerp with the industry of Liege. Built by an estimated 12.000 workers in a time-span of 9 years, it truly is an industrial masterpiece. With an average depth of 4m, you can imagine

the amount of mud and dirt that has been replaced. Reinforced with concrete, the banks look very similar along the canal. Despite it being called “a concrete crate, the surroundings vary from industrial sites to Natura2000 zones. The famous Zolder racing circuit can also be found along its path. Due to the discovery of coal in the Limburg region of Belgium. The Kempisch kanaal (must ring a bell) became too small for the amount of coal that had to be transported. So, on May 1st, 1930 the reigning King Albert pushed the first symbolic spade in the ground. Nine years later the canal was officially ready. Due to world war 2, it took until 1943 for the canal to be fully operational. The building of this canal made it possible to make the trip from Liege to Antwerp 11 (!)

days faster than it was before. Being nourished by the Maas (2nd bell?) a flow rate of 20m³/s is maintained. The Maas which is fed by precipitation can have a winter flow rate of 1000m³/s. How about

that. Luckily the Albert Canal has a height difference of 55M from Liege to Antwerp so the installation of 6 locks was realized and thus the flow rate is controlled. A steady flow rate of 20m³/s is maintained.

Being built, solely to serve the transportation of goods over water, this concrete canal does not have the many features a natural river has. These features make it possible for fish to rest, spawn, hide for predator fish. All in all, they make life for fish easier, safer. The lack of these places is one of the main reasons for the stock being so low. The amount of fish in this canal is unbelievably low. With 17,5kg/Ha. That's 2 pounds per acre. If we compare that to the Leie with 50kg/Ha that is divided by THREE...

As you can see this truly is a low stock difficult water. And I am stupid enough to try and tackle it :D



Just a small man on a BIG canal.



View from 1 of the locks on the Albert Canal.

I sincerely hope at least some of you reached this part of the introduction. I you have, hang on tight, there's more to come! So, one might wonder why this article is titled "A pretty boring introduction on the year to come"?

After 4 years of being a regular reader of Talking Carp and

appearing with a small article in the second issue. The relentless insistence of Brian finally paid off. The times he asked me to start writing again can hardly be put into numbers. But there once was a Team Dixon and always will be. As you may have noticed, I always have trouble to keep it short and sweet. I like elaborating, jumping

onto other subjects and most of all, I like stories. So, the story to come will be one with many aspects. Too many to fit into one article. So, Brian gave me the thumbs up to write my escapades on a monthly basis. Continuing my fishing on the Leie, starting a new adventure on the legendary Albert Canal. And this combined with experimenting

in creating my home-made bait.

Do not expect session-reports, catch-reports, how-to's as this is not how my cookie crumbles. The Interweb is filled to the brim with videos, tutorials and other visual content. Their lifespan is regrettably determined by the scrolling and swiping speed of their viewers. The enormous amount of time put into making this content is flabbergasting. But our high-speed society as it is today demanding new content on a regular basis. The making of this kind of content is not yet present in my wizards sleeve. I rather spend time on text to be honest. Time to write down the words, time to read them. Time to let them form a solid story. It demands patience and effort to produce and to consume it.

I rather like stories,

thoughts, emotions. Things people can relate to, what grabs them by the collar and hopefully, gives them a pleasant read. Add some experiences/ adventures to this and mingled into some words. Joined by some photos from the DSLR and the drone, the cocktail can be fun. I will not pretend to be a writer. I just like writing. Nor will I pretend to have more knowledge than any other angler, I just like fishing. You will never hear me say I am a photographer, I just like moody pictures. I will not make things more difficult than necessary, I just like simplicity.

You might call me a dreamer, an enthusiast, a stubborn man who likes to try and bite more off than I can chew. You will never hear me denying it. But to give you an insight in what

is about to come the following year, this boring introduction had to be written. You as a reader had to struggle through it. Thank you for the effort you have given it so far. It will never be this dull or pragmatic again. A few keywords for things to come; zippers, sleeping beauties, Filip IV(?), coffee, diesel brains, leaks, cursing, swearing, despair, hopes and expectations... And way more photos to accompany the story that is about to unfold... I hope you will enjoy, I certainly will whilst writing it.

Enjoy the banks!

Lectori Salutem

Wies Ennekens

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‘ Inside My Tackle Box ‘ Part 1

by Julian Cundiff



Many years ago, when I was features editor for the Carp Society's in-house magazine *Carp Fisher* one of the pieces I'd commission from 'faces' was the 'Inside My Tackle Box' one that ran for years. From Shaun Harrison to Zenon Bojko, Frank Warwick to Lee Jackson they all did us proud. Let me tell you very few had OCD boxes as I call them and often it was just Tupperware boxes crammed full of what many anglers from today would class as 'tat'. When I see the films and articles produced nowadays it seems to have done a 180 with the boxes looking like they've been produced in house for an ideal homes magazine.... All very impressive but a world away from mine I can assure you as you will see. Let me preface the piece by stating that I don't tie rigs on the bank and all my rigs are prepped at home. Be they surface or subsurface they are made during 'down' time and stored in

rig boxes and zig containers and are as clinical as anyones I would respectfully say. All this I read about not deciding what rig to use in advance and you should tie them up on the bank is time not being used wisely. That's time you should be watching the water, moving swims and such like NOT tying rigs in my opinion, bad prep guys. So, over the course of two issues, you will see both boxes I take, and neither is pretty, and neither is full of spools of hooklengths or hook patterns that most people never use anyway. So here we go with the first one my 'odds and sods' box as I call it, and all housed in the largest Nash box....



My lucky black rabbit given to me by mum in the nineties and still going strong. The Ferrari ear plugs that I've had to use on occasions when somebody fishing nearby is snoring like a warthog. My pal Duff Batty is definitely pole position for snoring but Frank Warwick has his moments I can tell you. Some Pinpoint gel to add to sharpened hook points on occasions. For most of my short sessions it's not necessary but one or two have such high (?) ph levels that even after a few hours they can 'orange' up unless treated. That said I've never had a hook snap due to rust anyway but belt and braces and all that eh. Finally, the good old electrical tape for marking my line when I 'clip up' ...In a world where 'wraps' are where it's at some of you will never need it. If you do Wilkinsons is the best as it's sticky and soft so ideal to wrap round dry mainline.



The good old spare leads compartment. Much of my fishing is with a lead clip and where appropriate in heavy weed and snags I would rather drop the lead than get the carp weeded up which can happen if the lead is not discharged. The lesser of two evils IMO and far safer than a carp towing the whole lot around.....



I don't smoke but my kettle is on a lot and I'm forever losing or misplacing my lighters to fire up the stove so it's three 'just in case'. That's a belt, braces and belt approach you'd say then. The ProMarker pen I use to fleck my hooklengths at home but occasionally bankside I will fleck leads, tubing and the like; and no, the smell does not seem to scare carp! The Gerber multi tool is my 'do it all' tool when it comes to bankside repairs and has got me sorted on many occasions. Bit like a Swiss Army knife for the carp anglerUnusually some PVA tape to which in all honesty I don't use very often but as one of my winter waters has a running leads only rule this is ideal for wrapping round the swivel and leader on long casts to keep the lead in place when using PVA sticks. The force of the cast coupled with the stick can push the lead backwards when it hits the water, but this little trick solves it without breaking any rules.



A small box full of hair stops for want of a better explanation. I don't use traditional hairs often preferring to mount my pop ups on bait screws but when I do it's good to have a variety of designs and colours to hand. As always very old and unless they get lost playing the fish always reused. Some Cling On putty for occasionally rubbing on tubing if leaders are banned and my 'used hook' tub. I never use a hook twice and generally haven't since the late eighties / early nineties. Once the carp is unhooked I snip off the hook and pop it in here. Hooks are never used again but the bait screws are. At the end of the session, I do the same and would never leave a hook / hooklength on inside my rod sleeve.



Another box of bits and pieces most of which I don't use TBH. The snapped off bait screws go in here to be used again and the 'lucky' 10p is what I found in the car park at Nashys in 2012 when I caught Decade at 49-06 so it has plenty of sentimental value. My Dinsmore AAA and AB soft cut shot I use to overshoot my pop ups (that's an article for another day Brian) and the 2mm ESP silicone tubing to cover my loop knot on my multi rig presentations. Needless to say, I reuse the shot and silicone like any good northerner.

The good old notebook where I make notes of things I need to do that come into mind when fishing. Reminding myself to top up certain things and so on. You modern carp tigers will of course use your phones for that I know! Nash Braid blades for cutting coated hooklengths like Skinlink. The kevlar inner of these hooklengths will ruin standard scissors so serrated blades are essential. The ESP scissors are perfect for trimming line, the tape when I clip up and so on.



Of course, the bright tape on all three pairs is so I don't lose them when I put them down.



Two small torches for packing up at dusk when I don't want to look like Cyclops with a head torch on. They come in useful as I can sleep with one in my pocket on overnights and when playing fish in the dark can pop the torch in my mouth a lot easier than fiddling about with a head torch. And before you ask I've had worse things in my mouth ha ha. Superglue for all manner of things including once sealing a bad cut up Spare Medicarp carp care gel in case I lose the one that I have with my unhooking mat, bowl and forceps in the case

the mat sits in. And a small alarm clock that I have kept from my nineties days of overnights at Three Lakes well before the days of relying on mobile phone alarms. That alarm definitely kept me my job many a time I can tell you!



Plenty of baiting needles for all occasions. From piercing baits to making leadcore leaders to getting thorns out of my body. A small screwdriver for taking the back off my R3 buzzers and replacing the battery midsession very occasionally. A Nash Pinpoint Finishing file for a last minute 'polish' of my hookpoints once I've taken the point protector off and an eye glass for revealing just how true that point is.

You cannot tell this via the naked eye or god forbid dragging it on your nail.... stop that!



A set of fine nose pliers that I use to crush the barbs down when barbs are not allowed on the water. I do have barbless hooks too but where permitted prefer to crush the barb flat and still keep the ultra-fine point the team at Rig It Tackle have produced for me. A set of Korda Krimps that I also use as wire cutters if I ever need to snip a hook in half for removal.... from carp or hand! A Drennan disgorgers to take out small hooks when surface fishing and long baiting needles for stringers and pulling the hooklength through sticks when using

elongated bags. Forceps for all manner of things and the yellow craft knife primarily for opening shot up off hooklengths to reuse it.

So, there you have it a warts and all look at my larger tackle box which I guarantee was not tidied up or even cleaned for this piece. Next issue I will look at my medium box where I keep end tackle stuff and that one is held together with stickers!

If you've enjoyed this then please feel free to add yourself to my FREE carp fishing instructional page at Julian Cundiff Angling on Facebook. It is simply instructional stuff on helping all abilities of anglers catch carp. Over 7000 already and it ain't no pay site either guys.

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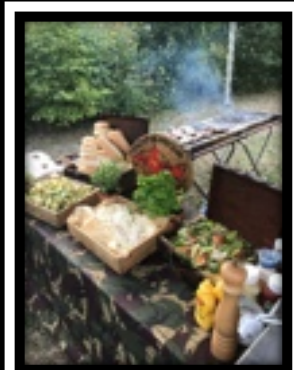
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INDICATION AND LINE SETTING – MY THOUGHTS



by Joe Turnbull

One of the most popular questions that gets asked in carp angling interviews is, 'what do you prefer? Slack or tight lines? It's a question that has baffled anglers minds and set online chat forums into melt down yet the answer has never really been given. I guess that there isn't really an answer to whether you should or shouldn't as it's a method that changes along with the anglers thinking and angling ability. At times however, removing or trying to make your main line invisible can very often create an opportunity to catch carp which would otherwise not exist. For many years I remember people commenting on why my indicators were not at the same height, as in, why weren't they level with the others. It was a question that used to really bug me

as I knew exactly why my indicators weren't level but the fact that I had to explain it to people, I found quite frustrating. It's quite a tricky subject to write about as it's a hands on type of topic but I'll try my best.

Distance for me is everything when it comes to line lay and this usually determines how your bobbins will sit. I'll give you two basic examples so that perhaps you can see it in your own minds eye and understand what I'm babbling on about. Let's say for instance I'm fishing two rods with one down my near margin and the other 30 yards out in open water. The water in front of me has no snags either left or right and the bottom is flat.

The way I look at it is like this, I want as

much of my line out of the way of any passing carp as possible and if that means fishing a slack line then so be it BUT that would only be the case if I were fishing the close in rod. If I were fishing further out like on the 30 yard rod then I would slacken off just enough so that as far as I knew the last say 10ft of line from the lead back toward me should be on the deck.



If I do so happen to swap over to a heavy bobbin, I'll still use the clip section on the bobbin.

Dont forget, sharp hooks mean more bites!



In most circumstances I'm not too worried about all of the line being on the bottom as this will definitely in each bite indication, except like I say if I'm fishing close in or a margin. Depending on how heavy your bobbins are, will determine how your bobbin will sit. These days I use very light

bobbins like stows because I've learnt that bite indication comes generally as either an out and out run or a complete drop back. Bites are always very obvious as are line bites. Now, the bobbin on the inside close rod will sit lower (at times on the floor) than the rod fished in open water

because I can afford to slacken that line right off but the open water rod will have it's bobbin sat fairly high, perhaps even near the blank. Another thing that I've found incredibly effective is when the clip is attached to the bobbins. After many years of using bobbins that had the line

running through them I finally twigged that by having the line clipped to them instead, indication would be far superior. I've been using a clipped bobbin for many years because I've found just how sensitive they can be and know exactly how they work and what to look for.

Obviously, seeing what happens next is the most important thing and this is where your bobbin comes into play. I used to use a heavy bobbin in every situation hoping that this would exaggerate my bite indication but if you think about it, the only way it would do that is if it were clipped tight to the line. The trouble with clipping a heavy bobbin to the line is that the weight wants to pull your line of the bottom and you would constantly will be peeling line off

the spool to set your bobbin with a drop. If you wanted to fish with a tight line direct to the lead then that's fine but personally I simply can't fish like that these days and my consistency tells me that I'm doing something right. It really doesn't matter about having a drop on your bobbin because when a fish takes line, your bobbin will be pulled forward and your alarm will sound. Having a drop on a bobbin stems from the old days when we had no alarms but a visual indication was what we were looking for. Whilst fishing at distance, anywhere over 70-80 yards, I would at one time again swap over to a heavier bobbin which would have a clip rather than a 'hanger' style line holder but the only difference I really found over the years was that the drop backs would

It doesn't really matter whether you have a drop or not except for close in fishing.



be more exaggerated so with this in mind I returned to using my light stow bobbins with a clip.

Also, all lead systems have a particular part to play and it is important to remember just how crucial at setting the hook, some are compared to others. If for example you're fishing with a standard lead clip, which many anglers do, just remember how much play there is in the swivel on the lead and the hook link swivel. Although there has to be a

certain amount of play in the leads swivel and clip set up for it to lay out our rig correctly. However take in-line lead sets ups for example and the way in which the hook link pulls into lead with no play in the swivel. This allows for an almost instant hooking effect when picked up by the carp. I'll always remember reading a section on in-line leads by Kevin Nash years ago with regards to these where he reckoned that their effectiveness at hooking, way out fished any other set up

but casting them were always a problem. They're great for most distances but anything over say 60yards and they start to get a bit concerning as ofetn the hook link can fold back on itself. Saying that, I have used them at distances over 60yards and find that by using a slightly stiffer hook link, you can get away with them but steer clear of braids.

Another thing that I've spoken about to the guys that I take out on tuitions is running rig lead set ups. I can't say that I've used one for many years but I did very well on semi-running set ups not so long ago. I find these can work incredibly well on

venues where the carp are used to picking up the hook link and using the weight of the lead to shake out the hook.

However, here's something you can try

ay home or on a field and it really opened my eyes when I was younger. Set up a rod and a alarm and a running rig set up like you would if your were fishing. Then walk the rig out and drop it say

20ft in front of the alarm (making sure you have a hook link attcached). Next pick up the hook link and pull it both left, right and forward. You'll notice just how sensive It is at registering the pick up, its unbelievable. Then set up a clip lead system and do the same but this time it won't be until

you actually move the lead, that



Stow style bobbins are my choice simply because of the clip and the sensitive indication that you get.

When was the last time you used a running set up You'll be surprised at how sensitive it is.



you get a registration. It's amazing how much you can mess about with the rig and not get one single bleep but do that with the running set up and you'll see. When you hear anglers talking about slack lining, the ones that tend to lean against the method argue that fishing slack lines leave us wide open to getting done, however, carp are doing us all the time.

Lastly It's also worth mentioning that a needle like hook point will undoubtedly get you more bites and a sharpened point is always very necessary. Checking your hook points on every single recast is a must and I make a point (pardon the pun) of checking them before and after every action. I guess of late this topic has been one that's been spoken about a lot but

personally, I've noticed that it makes a huge difference especially in winter when carp can be much slower at feeding and not quite so aggressive. So next time your out, have a good think about how you can improve on your bite indication by choosing the correct lead set up, indicator style and making sure your hooks are sharp.

You may be used to using a lead clip everywhere you go but believe me, that isn't always the correct choice.

Happy angling

JT



You can adjust this running set up into a semi-running set up by squeezing the swivel ring slightly.



CARBON BAIT

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Penn's Hall: My Capture of Bazz

by Tom Simcox

First of all, I'd like to the opportunity to give a big thank you to everyone who gave me such positive feedback on my last piece of writing for Talking Carp magazine, its greatly appreciated.

So, I begin my story on my capture of Bazz from the beginning and when I joined this fabulous syndicate Penn's Hall around 10 years ago, although in the beginning I didn't fish so seriously plus with my own little family coming along with work also just made it difficult. After a few years though I started to get back into it and took my fishing probably the most serious I'd ever taken it.

Bazz is a stunning warrier looking carp and seems to get most of the anglers' attention, although

there are plenty of stunning fish to go for, Bazz just seems to stand out. Whilst fishing Penn's I soon learnt that Bazz only seems to make an appearance two times a year at least that's how it Penns seemed. Whenever you got the news that Bazz had been caught I used to get this sickening feeling that another chance had gone begging, and that if he got caught again it meant another long wait until he popped up again. Bazz was named after a great angler and very well known angler who worked in Fosters of Birmingham, and a wonderful guy to add.

Penn's hall is a stunning little lake in Sutton Coldfield Birmingham, with 17 pegs to

choose from and all of them are as we call it carpy and you are really spoilt for choice, especially in the colder months when the carp don't show themselves, the place sure can catch you out. I fished the place hard the last few years whilst trying my best to catch Bazz, but it just didn't happen although I as more than happy to catch the lakes other residents, and they were more than worth it a great mixture of commons and mirrors to boot.

This year I chose to join another syndicate, again a Richard Foster



water by the name of Little Aston and I have also been to the Kevin Nash Church Lake. The first weekend back was family time after being away for a week, there was no way I would be fishing that weekend but what I did do is try to book on Little Aston, only to find out it was fully booked so I said to my brother Shaun aka Dave Little Aston is fully booked so Penn's it is... no problem he replied. On the morning of meeting him to go fishing he told me I'd catch Bazz... he had a feeling a feeling. I also had from fishing the Church, I even said to a guy who also fished Church with us that in one of Kevin's DVDs he had said when you're on a roll in fishing you have to milk it, although it was two weeks since that and I still had this feeling that my luck hadn't ran out yet.

When we got to the lake early that morning, we done our usual approach, of walking the bank to find them first. I must explain at this point that Penn's you can only fish from the one bank so there is also only one bank to walk when looking for the quarry of fish, and when we did notice a couple of carp it makes life a lot easier. We went on to choose peg 4 and peg 6, not only because we saw fish in these swims, but we have also caught from these pegs in the past, so confidence was good, and we were more than ready. In these chosen swims you have a huge reed bed that come to a point a quarter of the way across the lake from the opposite side of the bank. Also, there are over hanging trees that run all along the far bank. This is bait

boat or Bushwhacker zone. It doesn't matter how good a caster you are you just can't get underneath those trees. So, with my brother in peg 6 and myself in peg 4 it was down to location of rigs this wasn't a big problem as I explained earlier we know a bit about these pegs already.

So, my brother chooses to put his right hand rod on the corner of the reed bed where the reeds meet the overhanging trees, a bit further along the far bank his middle rod goes into an archway that the trees create, a really good and consistent spot and his left hand rod halfway out on a gravel bar. My three rods were also going into positions on peg 4 with no one else on the lake I could also put a lead in peg 3s water which I did to a small reed bed on

the opposite side of the bank, and my middle rod went to the opposite side of the reed bed where my brothers right hand rod was to. My left hand rod went to the point of the reed bed just over halfway.

As we sat down to relax and of course watch the water with the kettle on my brothers middle rod was away, and he landed a stunning mid double zip lin. I can't quite remember if it was a blow back rig or multi rig that he caught on, but I do remember however that it was Scopex Squid that the fish couldn't resist. My capture on the other hand came around an hour into the session. I had a little drop back on the bobbin and a couple of bleeps from the r3, so I picked the rod up and hit into the fish. The battle seemed ok



to start with just a steady bump on the Scope whilst gaining line back. It wasn't until I was ready to net the fish he suddenly knew where he was then it was game on! A battle at close quarters. I still hadn't seen the fish at this point. In actual fact I never saw the fish until he was in the net. Once the fight had ended and the fish was secure in the net I looked inside the net to see my capture and when I saw it as Bazz I had a massive grin on my face, with a shake of my head in a way of such amazement, especially with the feelings that me and my brother had felt before the session had begun. Wow! What a fish! Now Bazz would normally flirt with weights between 30 and 32lbs but on this occasion

he was under weight at 27 and a half lb. Did I care? Absolutely not. This fish was a number one target for some time now he was in my photo album. Bazz was caught by my usual method of chod claw multi rig with a 12mm Scopex Squid pop up with a mix of hemp, 12mm Scopex Squid freebies, Scopex Squid pellet, sweetcorn and Scopex Squid flake topped of with a good covering of Scopex Squid syrup... a deadly combo that carp find really hard to resist.

If anyone reading this article would like to know more about the lake or to get on the waiting list, please contact Richard Foster on 07305911180 thank you all for reading and hope you enjoy.

Tom Simcox

Nashtackle Nashbait brand ambassador

Founder of the Facebook group Nashtackle fanbase

Instagram tom.simcox.77



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A pile of round, brown, textured bait pellets, likely made of a natural material like wheat or corn, sitting in a field of green grass. The pellets are of various sizes and are piled together, with some showing small holes or indentations. The background is a soft-focus green field.

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LOCKDOWN PARADISE
PART 3
ANGELS DES LAC



SCOTT GEEZER GRANT

With the achievement of catching a 50lb common it was time to concentrate on Phil. After a chat it was time to get back out in the boat and find him some new areas, I even took his rigs out and lowered them down onto the spots sprinkling a little bait over the top. I was pulling all the stops out and trying my hardest to get him a fish. His rods were in the same depth of water I was fishing so if this doesn't work, I am all out of ideas. Zigs are banned and to be honest all my fish have come off the deck, Phil has the same bait, the same rigs as me, maybe the fish are there but just not feeding.

Come the afternoon Phil went for a lay down as he wasn't feeling too well and I sat in my swim watching the water catching up on my notes. An hour or so passed and the right-hand rod burst into life the fish immediately kited left heading for the overhanging branches, I tried to slow the fish down but he was having none of

it, I could feel the line pinging off the twigs underwater but after a few minutes the fish saw sense and came into open water it was a right old battle and after a few more minutes it was in the net. The fish turned out to be a real old character and probably older than me. On the scales he went 46lb and I am sure by now Phil wants to kill me!! He was in high spirits as always and took the photos and helped me return the fish back into his watery home. My bait had really taken a hammering and I needed to crush up some more Attirer and top my gorilla bucket up and give the boilies another douse of the food dip. With the bait done we both just chilled out as you do when you're on holiday in France. Come dinner time and chef Phil was in the





kitchen this time cooking up an old favourite of mine Sausage, mash, peas with real onion gravy. With dinner devoured it was time for a hot shower then see what the rest of the evening brings.

I retired to bed around 22:00 as I was so tired and with my current medication this is the effect it has, after a quick call to the Mrs it was lights out. I woke up in the early hours busting for a pee so after emptying my bladder I tried to get back to sleep but again the excitement

took over and the kettle went on. It was another hour before I laid down again and went off to sleep. I turned my alarm off and hopefully would be woken by my receiver. Well, that's exactly what happened just after first light my receiver went off lighting the bivvy up, I didn't know my head from my backside, I managed to get to the rods and it was the middle rod again, the fish done exactly what the last fish done trying to get under the canopy of trees on the left-hand side, again the line held firm and out of the blue Phil appeared to give me a hand. The fish turned out to be another character a wily old mirror weighing it at 46lb 8oz. what a great start to the day, well for me anyway, Phil wasn't bitter at all and was as happy for me as if he would have



caught it. With the photos complete it was time to sit and drink copious amounts of tea.

Lunch time was soon upon us and with another cracking day we opted for a bit of brunch, after which we spent the next few hours waterproofing Phil's bivvy and winter skin. I mentioned to him that if any of my rods go again, he can hit it, but he was having none of it "Its fishing Geeze" sometimes you

catch sometimes you don't that's fishing for ya!! It didn't make me feel any better though and I was hoping and praying his rods would go. I spent the next few hours sitting in shade relaxing. In the afternoon we were sitting outside the lodge and all of a sudden, we could hear someone speaking over a tannoy!! Phil looked at me I looked at him and said "what the hell is that" then Phil said there's a car behind the conifer trees over the back, I could

see someone there but it was too far away to work out who it was, I thought it was Jon Marc who owns the lake next door so I gave him a wave, then the car moved forward and it was the French Police!!! They were trying to get our attention for some reason. Phil then said "I bet they go round to the front gate" I said I hope not as I'm not letting them in. Low and behold a few minutes later police sirens were going off at the gate. I told Phil to stay with the rods and I will go down and speak to them to find out what they wanted. I couldn't understand a single word he was saying nor could



he understand me, so they radioed for officers that could speak English to attend. 10 minutes later another car arrived with 2 officers in situ, both officers spoke good English and one of them was good friends with the owner of the lake. It turned out they wanted to dive the lake the following week searching for something but they wouldn't tell me what that was. I called the owner and he said it was fine and the officer that spoke English had a set of keys so he could let himself in.

With the panic over I walked back down to the lodge where Phil was and he was on the phone, he ended the call and said "what did they want" I said "they wanted to see our fishing permits apparently it's a new thing with all this Covid and they will be back in an hour and if we haven't got them it's a 500 euro fine each and they will also confiscate our gear" his face was a picture and he replied with "Geeze we can be packed up and out of here in an hour" I burst out laughing and told him what they really wanted he called me some really nasty names of which I cannot print but it was so funny, I was laughing so much I had tears running

down my face.

Come the evening and with no more action I was wondering if I had been cleared out so I redone the rods topping the spots up with bait. I had a quick shower then started preparing the evenings meal which was a homemade curry courtesy of my Mrs, I say preparing all I had to do was heat it up and boil some Uncle Bens finest.

The rest of the evening flew by and before I knew it my bed was calling, it didn't take me long to get off to sleep, I must have been dreaming of going for a pee as I woke up in a sweat busting, I swear one day I will wet the bed whilst I'm fishing... it's got to be an old age thing as I was never like this in my younger days. I looked at the time and it was 03:00





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hour as
it's known.
It always
seems to
be around
this time,
I need a
pee. With
the ritual
completed
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and this
time I
actually
went
straight
back off

to sleep. A couple of hours later I had a single bleep on my left-hand rod, then a single bleep on my middle rod. I got up and went over to the rods with my headtorch on I checked both lines and they were fine, I stood there for the next 5 minutes and with nothing happening decided to jump back in the bag. I woke up again at just after 07:00 o'clock the lake looked beautiful, the mist was dancing across the water and it looked so good for a bite. The kettle went on and out of nowhere Phil appeared,

he had a quiet night with no sleep interruptions we sat chatting and I expressed how much I wanted him to catch. He was cool about it and said if it happens it happens, he wasn't that bothered to be fair and for him the getting away from work and life in general, spending it away in France on a beautiful lake doing what you want for a week was his tonic. I must admit this week has really given me the lift that I needed, being drugged up 24/7 does take its toll.

We sat at the table drinking more tea and just taking everything in, as I looked across to my far-left margin, I could see bubbles appearing, I grabbed my binoculars and could see a loom of bubbles, I walked over to my rods and lined them up and they were right over my middle rod, out of the blue my middle rod hooped over but never



came out the clip! I lifted the rod felt the fish for a second then nothing, I was gutted when I reeled the rod in the lead was gone. The hook was still sharp so I haven't a clue what the fish done, all's I know is that it done me good and proper. I changed the rig just for peace of mind then put the rod back out on the spot. It was just after 10:00 o'clock so there was still plenty of time for the fish to get their heads down. The weather was gorgeous with the thermometer reading 26oc it was going to be beer o'clock for Phil and a nice cold shandy for yours truly.

I sat in the shade watching the water and there were the odd bubbles coming up from both my left and middle rods. Phil was laid



out on the grass topping up his tan. Late afternoon when it started to cool down a bit my left-hand rod was away, I have had nothing all week on this particular rod so could it be the "Big Girl". I called Phil and literally begged him to hit the rod but he wouldn't, so I had no choice but to hit it myself. It turned out to be a mirror that I recognised but couldn't think where from, it

weighed in at 42lb. After looking through my photos it was a fish, I caught on Sunday but from a different spot and rod. How mad is that, this was my 14th fish of the trip and was a great weeks fishing a real red-letter session. As this was our last evening together, we had a beautiful dinner



Rib Eye steak with all the trimmings, it really was a lovely meal and to share it with a great mate made it even better.

I managed one more take in the early hours again from the middle rod, but the fish was only on for a few seconds before the line went slack!! The hook was sharp the lead was gone and the fish had won yet again. All in all, I had a brilliant trip and believe it or not Phil said the same, even though he didn't catch it was a week away that he desperately needed.

With all the gear packed into the van, I secured the lodge up and we left the lake locking the gates behind us. It took us roughly 4 hrs to reach Calais and I was home around 19:00.

Looking back over the week I banked a total of 14 fish, and dropped **3.6 x 30s to 39lb 8oz, 7 x 40s to 46lb 8oz and 1 x 50lb 2oz** and new lake record common. This for me was a red-letter session and one I will not forget.

If you would like to try the ready-made "Ronnie rigs" with the coloured kickers from sharp tackle visit their website for a pack of

4 hooks its £2:99 which isn't expensive at all.

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

www.galaxybaits.co.uk

www.sharptackle.co.uk

www.castaway-pva.co.uk

[In the Margin Particles \(Facebook\)](#)
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If you have any bait boat issues give Joe Jacobs a call on 07931-616997 or look him up on face book "Bait boat Solutions" the man is a magician when it comes to anything bait boat related.

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

For all your PVA needs head over to the brand-new [Castaway](#) website where you will find an array of PVA products that can help you in your fishing.

Let's hope that the Covid virus vanishes and the rest of 2021 brings everyone good health and plenty of chunks in the net. Stay safe and remember its only fishing.

Scott "Geezer" Grant



IN THE MARGIN PARTICLES

Taking particle preparation
to a whole new level!!



Time For A Reset!

By Andy Murray



Hi all, well, the start of this year turned as uncertain as last year ended very quickly indeed! Part of the problem with writing the monthly column is that I send it in 2 weeks before it goes to press, so it's difficult being topical sometimes as things seem to change so quickly. Having sent January's piece off, outlining current thoughts and plans, it was all change a few days later. Lord knows when things will change again!

I had mentioned I was struggling with my winter fishing but was hopeful I had learned enough to get amongst the carp shortly, that's not going to happen now on this lake. With them announcing they were going to close completely, even for day fishing, that scuppered my plans totally! Best plan now was to think about

where I am going to do my late winter fishing and hope things get sorted by the Spring a bit, although it could be a bit longer than that at this rate. It looks as if our planned expedition to Eastern Europe in late April is off as well. As I have a lot on workwise, which I'll come back to, I decided to have a couple of weeks break from fishing. This also gave me time to regroup a bit and have a look round for somewhere I can wet a line for the next several weeks.

Now it could be argued that my fishing is now work again so I have the license to travel and fish where I fancy, even night fish as it is work. Before you all start pointing the finger at me, I think that would be morally and ethically wrong to do just that. I have been vocal enough on

social media to those that do, so it would be very hypocritical of me to do so. So, for the time being I will abide by the rules and try and fish somewhere local and make the best of it. I have found a lake not too far away that has winter form and is reasonably quiet during the week. It has its plusses and minuses. It is a public park lake and has a huge footfall all the time. Access is pretty good. It is a good size and very open so good for photography and some short filming. I'll keep you posted. One thing though, I have got really used to fishing out of my van, so I take everything with me. As I am going to dig my barrow out I had better thin my tackle out a bit! I had an exploratory trip to see how this would go. It's a good job I had someone to help with the tackle, need a bit more

stripping down yet! So, although I know where I plan on fishing both in the short and long term this year, I am still going to have a few changes with my approach as mentioned previously. At the start of each year, I like to bring up something new and work with it for a while. This winter I have been watching some Youtube clips and read up on a few new things (for me!), they have probably been around for ages. My plan this year is to work more with PVA,

both with solid bags and mesh bags, at all different ranges and types of fillings. Also, to experiment more with softer hooklinks, enabled by the PVA tubes. Having spoken with David Crookes of Castaway a little while ago, I dropped him a line to see how things were with him. Anyway, to cut a long story short, I have joined the Castaway PVA team. The first goodie bag arrived a few days ago, and I am looking forward to getting out with the products to

use, as well as getting a few tips from the team, which I definitely need.

As I have mentioned previously (a lot!). At the end of the year, I like to assess what has worked for me the previous year, which I touched on in my previous piece here. Once full fishing recommences, it looks like the lakes are going to be just as busy this year as they were the last. So, it's going to be more important to have a few tricks up

my sleeve. Or is that what I need? Maybe I just need to fish a bit better all the time and not be so lazy once the rods are out. I certainly think the next few weeks fishing days only will test this theory.



I have gotten so used to fishing from my van, that going down to a barrow and enough gear for a six-hour session is like going back 30 years for me. So, rods tied with fresh rigs, a couple of buckets of baits and bits. A bag and a chair will complete the outfit, and it is a big and, instead of being sheltered and warm, brave the elements and fish. Do you know what, I am looking forward to it! It should certainly help me keep more active with the fishing, so I can try and work a bit harder.

For those that take an interest in my writing, for the past year as well as the regular pieces here, I have been doing a monthly blog on the Mainline Baits site. I started with Mainline in the early 90's so I have been with them for well over 25 years. Sadly, and it

was extremely sad day for me, this has now come to an end. These things happen.

As I said I am changing things up this year so I am looking at all my options out there and this will free me up to explore many more different avenues and tactics I have been looking at.

My work with Wolf is going well, the Social Media sites are all up and running and gaining traction. By the

time you read this, the first batch of the Icon alarms will have hit the shops. We have a clear plan of products to work on for the next 2 years. The issue

with building anything, is there are setbacks, things don't go to plan, then adjustments need making, its also about finding the right people for the right positions, it takes time and effort to get the whole machine moving and once its moving, it has to be kept moving at all costs. All that said, its great to see it starting to work now, and I am really excited to be part of it.



Going forward I will be doing a monthly blog on the new Wolf website. What I wanted to do was try and keep the articles separate to the ones on here, as they have merged a bit in the past, the Talking Carp team are really good and give me free reign here, for my general thoughts and comments.

Obviously, the Wolf blogs will feature more individual products and shots etc. as well as a diary type piece of whatever I am doing. What I thought would be good to do here, would be to cover off tips and suggestions for the coming weeks or months fishing from the time each piece is published. This may help some folks put a carp or two on the bank early

on in the year. So, my future articles will be a mixture of my usual rants and hopefully some helpful fishing tips.

Given that it will be mid-Feb by the time you read this I thought I would suggest a couple of things to try for late February leading into Early March. As I am sat typing this and looking out of the window it's -2 degrees, and heavy snow is forecast tomorrow! Which seems a far

cry from any early spring fishing. When I look back on past late winters fishing from this time of year onwards, there is no doubt that the carp, having had several weeks of constant cold temperatures will start to have a mooch about, and they are a bit more catchable all of a sudden. I think it's definitely important to keep bait to a minimum while fishing, but certainly leave a little bit for the carp to come across while you are



away, just so they have had a taste. I also like to use well flavoured, what could be classed as high attract, high leakage type baits as well, that are distinct and stand out. To go with this are highly visual and highly flavoured pop-

up or balanced Wafter type bait. I think this is one of the times of year when baits that have been glugged for ages seem to work better, it stops old smells from the lakebed contaminating them, so they stand out for longer. The

carp can also be a lot more active than one can imagine and cover a lot of water. This Common I caught last year early on, came from a group of carp that were lapping a 20-acre lake on a regular basis, what I found by getting up a tree was that during the day, they were only just under the surface as well. Just because it seems cold and dead, it isn't! Keep looking and watching.

When we see sudden changes in temperature, we will see the carp either start to visit shallow areas again that catch some sun, or where there has been a significant new warmer wind influence on an area. If I think they are about and I am not getting a bite, then it pays to be impatient and switch to Zigs. In fact, if I am fishing 2 rods in an area,



then one will be on a Zig anyway at the outset. The adjustable zigs are really good and once mastered are quite easy to use, as once I am in the right spot, it is quiet easily to alter the depth both up and down, in order to try and find the level the carp are at. These are ok up to 80-90 yards. For more distance I will go to a set Zig off the lead, but keep altering the depth I am fishing at, what I will do, is start a foot under the surface, leave for a while, if no action wind in, take a foot off the depth and cast out again. It is worth being fairly active with this method. If you get one bite, you will more likely get another, at a similar time and place each day for some time.

A good starting point for a Zig hookbait to use would be small bright pop-ups, topped

with three or four live Maggots.

It can be really cold still, so be prepared with the correct clothing and protection, so you can sit and watch for any sign at all. One little show can make all the difference, it can seem daunting and hard work, because although it's getting lighter it's

definitely still very cold, but any carp caught will have all their winter weight and colours.

One thing is for sure, they can't be caught while we are sat at home!

Be lucky and catch you next time.

Andy



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01-03-2021



LOCKDOWN
AGAIN
by Matt Allen

So, we have found ourselves in lockdown again and with restrictions around fishing.

I understand that lockdown and restrictions to our carp angling will not have a positive impact on many people's mental health. Some may feel anxious about the future. Some may feel low that they can't get out on the bank carp fishing or can't see friends and loved ones. This affects us all differently.

I was going to write this article about a different topic but given what I have seen and heard from many carp anglers, I wanted to write about a subject I have touched on before.

What is important at the moment is that we all do what we need to do to protect ourselves

and our families. But you yourself need to maintain the right mindset to be able to move through each day in a positive, productive manner. Firstly, cut out the negative noise, read or listen to what makes you happy and I'm guessing if you are reading this then carp fishing ranks high on that list. Don't listen to the radio or news if you feel that this impacts on your mood. Listen to a podcast. Carp Cogs (which I co-host with Reza O'Donnell) has some fantastic content with brilliant guests, aimed at carp anglers of all abilities. You also have the Carp Cast, DNA, Korda and Nash to name a few. I find that listening to a carp fishing podcast really helps

take my mind off the negative and helps me shake off those negative thoughts. Its really enjoyable visualising the carp fishing scenarios being discussed, putting yourself in that situation and listening to seasoned pro's at how they go about catching all these beautiful carp.

Carp Fishing
Magazines.

Read. Again, this is a fantastic distraction from the negativity that's out there. I read Talking Carp and my mum for Christmas



gifted me a year's subscription to Total Carp. So, I am going to be kept in Carpy content for weeks to come. Contact Brian or Mark from Talking Carp and try your hand at writing an article? I am not sponsored. I am not a professional carp angler. I have a laptop and a desire to tell a story. When I first contacted Brian about writing he just encouraged me to write. He and Mark will help with editing. Just give it a try, it's a fantastic outlet and one that can really distract you from the negatives out there. Also, writing is an outlet, and outlets can be very positive both for the writer and the recipients. So why not give it a go. You will be surprised at how rewarding you find the process, and someone out there will connect with the story you tell.

Get yourself regular exercise.

Now my names not Donald Trump and I'm not encouraging breeches in lockdown rules or going out on the streets raiding buildings in protest! But, at the point of writing this article you can fish, with restrictions, but you can. Please adhere to the rules so fishing can continue.

Get yourselves out.

There is no better remedy then fresh air and being in nature. This is why we fish surely? Go for a walk around your local lake. Enjoy

nature. You could look to do some pre baiting, I know my son is massively keen to try out his new throwing stick. I therefore went down the syndicate with both my boys had a walk around and took the boys to an area I really fancy. Then I allowed the boys to pre bait the swim for me. Not loads of boilees, just a few, meaning we will have to go back regularly. Once the baiting was complete,



we walked the lake and I have now decided as well as my pre baited area, there is 2 more areas I'm keen to look at. This will be done light and mobile after work of an evening. By getting down the lake I now have my mind on the mission ahead.

Take yourself a flask of coffee and just sit and admire the lake. Have a watch for shows and try and see if you can get any additional knowledge of the Carps behaviour. This could prove invaluable as the year moves on and is an advantage vs previous year. As I have discussed above, getting down the lake and walking around with my sons has definitely given me a greater insight into the carp's behaviour and areas they like to get in.

But please, do all this in line with guidance. Do some prep. Go and sort out your

gear. I'm going to re spall my reels after I have had a good read up on some of the lines on the market. I'm also going to get my sons to help me, they love it and it's a good time for them to learn a carp fishing activity.

Clear out and clean your tackle boxes. I know mine don't get that attention normally. I'm also going to start a project of making my garage more carp fishing friendly. By this I mean making my gear more accessible so can more easily go fishing light and mobile or scale up if required for longer sessions.

Do some of your prep work. For example, I'll be tying lots of rigs in preparation. I love tying rigs and playing with different types, knots etc. I can assure you that this will keep your mind busy. Just the other day I sat with my 11-year-old daughter and my 7-year-old

son. They were keen to help me tie some rigs, so we sat down and knocked a couple together. It's really rewarding doing this with your children and your wife enjoys it as the kids are distracted so she can crash on the sofa and watch TV. If you need to purchase some new gear have a shop around and try and support your local tackle shops. They are doing online orders and click and collects, don't forget them during this difficult time. I understand that money is tight at present, but we all love a carp shop and find it enjoyable.

I just wanted to pop that on paper. Stay safe all. Stay positive. I hope you all get plenty of chances to get out on the bank.

Big love

Matt Allen

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Talking Carp

Lockdown Blues

by Richard Handel



We find ourselves in yet another full lockdown. Which you could see coming our way from mid-December and it's predicted it could last into March.

This one I think is going to be a lot harder than the last one as it was all new and a bit of fun for some - sheds were be sorted, tackle was being stock checked (what was needed fixing, what was missing and what may be upgraded), making the garden look good and the weather was just perfect. You could sit outside and do your work, listen to the birds and get into the groove of home schooling. Home schooling did come as a shock for a lot of people (my family included). I found it easier then to unwind, as I was able to sit and relax in the garden. I was able to put aside all the other worries that come along with this worldwide pandemic.

This time around it's a lot harder, with the first lockdown when we had come out it, we were able to enjoyed the summer and when the tiers came in during the Autumn, we still had some freedoms (we were in tier 2), the kids were still in school. So, with some normality, you could try to put your worries into the back of you mind. Unfortunately, it all

came crashing back over Christmas and New Year and with the weather conditions not being another like how it was before - Winter. At the present, most days are more likely to be wet and windy and not the cold crisp, sunny Winter days. Even down South we did not avoid the snow, however, it was only a light dusting.

One positive, at least we could go fishing this time: but only locally. Which for most meant not on your syndicate. For me this meant, the new syndicate I had just joined in early December. This new syndicate was opened for me on the 1st of January, was this was a no go area and I was left with 3 local club lakes and a small part of a river. I feel lucky I have this opportunity, but the downside for me is that I'm pretty paranoid of catching and passing on the virus to my wife and kids. I've locked myself down from before Christmas and once we could get out onto the banks, I was looking for places that are angler free and with less possibilities for catching the virus. However, there are still some stupid people out there who don't quite understand that 2m is not 2ft and I'm sure that this is a major contribution to the virus being

transmitted.

The weather put pay to my river trip planning as it was flooded every other week and with the continuous rain, the river taking a few days to drop.

The lakes have posed a problem as most of the local ones to me are off the beaten track and they involve a few gates which can easily be the perfect place to pick up the virus. And therefore, you are relying on others to be as safety conscious or paranoid like myself. Which I know will not be the case.

So, home-schooling is back again, and the wife is working

from the front room again albeit a couple of days a week now, the broadband service is being its temperamental self, it's been hard going yet again. My free days are taken up considering with how the day's weather will be (mostly is shockingly bad) and can I go for a quick couple of hours. I've only managed to get out 3 times since before Christmas and we are now heading into February!

I shouldn't complain really considering the situation the NHS is in and how bad other people's situations are. But it's my mental health that affects me and that's where my focus needs to be right



now and keeping away from the possibility of picking up this evil virus.

I'm for ever hopefully that something may change by mid-February, in some shape or form, to help everyone start feeling that we are getting somewhere and that the end is insight and we can get out the other side. I'm sure things will never be the same, but we can adjust and adapt to changing times, move on and get back to work, school and be back on the banks.

This is in a purely selfish way for

myself to think, but that is how I keep my mental health under check and I'm sure many others will feel the same.

The thought of getting out on the bank again, will bring a lot of normality back into their lives and help them deal with the future much better.

Until next time

Stay safe.

Richard







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What's in your armoury?

There is no doubt that being well organised is paramount in any pursuit and fishing is no exception with something to hold small items needed to cover most situations as well as being able to store everything in a way that gives you peace of mind is what the RidgeMonkey Armoury Tacklebox is all about. It is only when you feel that you have everything in a way that you can rely on, that it does its job. At the end of the day you will also need with a massive 28 compartments or you can use three separating boards and an efficiently spaced design in a 12 design. The RidgeMonkey Armoury Tacklebox is perfect for anyone that wishes to maximise space and organisation. Your valuable and task oriented storage is designed in a high quality box that is made from heavy duty 10mm thick with a 10mm thick and heavy duty latching and

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- Magnetic latching hinge and cable design
- 28 compartments all with secure lids
- Three separating boards
- Internal measuring ruler
- 10 angled and 20 straight compartments

WINTER SUCCESS BY MATT WHALLEY



So, with my last trip of 2020 with a very good friend of mine on the cards, it was time to start planning the session at Spooky Pool in Cornwall.

This place has always been very special to me. Once upon a time it used to be part of my syndicate and I used to fish it a fair amount but with the owner deciding to open it up to the general public via a booking system, my time on here slowly dwindled off. When a date became available, I jumped at the chance and got it booked. I have unfinished business with this little, intimate, Cornish gem and I couldn't wait to get back on there.....

The Session

We arrived at the lake for 8am but for me I couldn't get set up as I had to head back to work. I quickly showed my friend the water and as he was my guest, I gave him first choice out of the two swims available. He opted to set up in the first swim just inside the entrance and I had the far end swim. For me, over the years that I have fished this venue, I have been lucky enough to catch from either end of the lake and I have also had some of its finest residents, including my current PB Ghosty and the queen of the lake 'The Big Girl' at 42lb 3oz but there were still a few other carp that I so wanted to catch. So, with choices made, I was happy and on that decision, I had to head off, leaving my friend to get accustomed with the lake.

My Return

Finally, with work sorted, it was time to head back and get set up. By this point, the weather decided to throw a proper Cornish storm at us

and the winds along with heavy rain were now lashing down. I arrived back at the lake and thought to myself (only briefly) “what am I doing!!” I knew I was about to get absolutely soaking wet while trying to get a bivvy set up in 40+ mph gusts but once I put on my Prologic Thermo Suit, I knew I would be ok.

I was finally set up and by this point, it was now about 1pm on the Friday afternoon. Did I have high expectations? No, I know what this lake is like and although it's only small, it is by far, not an easy water. With it being gin clear and low stocked, it's certainly not a runs water! If I could get one bite from my 48hr session that was ahead, I would know that I had done something right. What was to follow, absolutely blew me away.

My Approach/Baiting



The fish in this lake, regardless of the time of year, used to love a heavily baited area but with the lake now open to bookings and everyone prior to my visit putting in a fair amount of bait, I opted for a careful approach and let's just say it worked. A few handfuls of Mainline Baits Link



boilies were scattered around my chosen spot and a trimmed down Salty Squid Wafter was attached to my favorable D rig, with a size 4 curve shank hook coupled with Prologic's Spectrum Z Flourocarbon Hook-Link, a 4oz lead on a lead clip system and some heavy rig tubing. The Mainline I used and also have a lot of confidence in, is another Prologic product and it's their 18lb Density mono. If you are in the market for some new mainline, check it out, you will not be disappointed. Rods? Well let's just say I had some new ones, and I was hoping that the superstition of the new rod curse wasn't going to take control and thankfully my C3 Fulcrum Rods were well and truly christened and are now my 'Big Fish' rods...

The Result

So, as I mentioned, one bite from this tricky little venue in a 48hr

session, I would be more than happy with but I never imagined what was going to happen. The rods were finally out and fishing at around 2pm, the rain was pouring, and the wind was howling and unfortunately myself and my friend were both bivvy bound and talking to one another through our mobiles only. At around 4pm I had a single beep which drew my attention to the left hand rod. 'Go on' I said and with that it absolutely ripped off. The coat was quickly thrown on and a shout went out to Lee. 'Fish on mate' and with me shouting that, he headed down to my swim. After a spirited battle, a stunning 26lb+ common was slipped into the net. A few pics snapped, some Steri 7 fish care applied and it was time get her back into the lake. A slight rest in the sling at the waters edge and with a sudden kick of her tail, it was returned safely. I was absolutely buzzing, and the pressure was off. No matter what happened after this point, I knew I wasn't going home on a blank. With the rod re-done and back out on the spot, it was time to have a cup of tea and a call to the owner was on the cards. We had a good chat and he mentioned to me over the phone that 'The Big Lin' was going to get caught and that I was going to catch it. I joked and said, 'I would love to, and I would also love to catch the leather carp too'

Darkness fell and along with this came the cold. I was then about to get myself sorted and into my bag to warm up when the right-hand rod burst into action and the alarm was once again signalling a one toner. I picked the rod up, tightened down the clutch and began the fight. I couldn't believe it, the second take and it's still only the first day! With the net at the ready, I guided another carp in and you



couldn't write it, it was the leather that I so wanted to catch. The same process followed, pics, fish care, rest and return. Another 26lb+ carp landed. I messaged Jack (the owner) and told him, he was as chuffed as me and knowing we only talked about this one in the afternoon, could the 'Big Lin' really be next? Could we talk this one into the net and Jack's answer was yes! He said it again, "you will have it mate." I managed to get my head down and didn't wake up until the dawn's chorus woke me. Through the night was very quiet but at 8am and out of the blue the left-hand rod was away again. This fight was brutal, powerful dogged runs and my initial thought was, it was one of the big ghosties as it was fighting with power just like the 'Big Girl' did when I had her. As the fight went on, I began to think, could it be, it could be and with this she surfaced, I couldn't believe it, I was attached to the 'Big Lin' and now my heart began to beat a little



faster. I had so much confidence in the gear I was using, and I had nothing but time on my hands. Let her fight, get tired and I would win this battle... After what seemed an age, she was ready to give up. I was gently guiding her to the net and by this point my arms were getting slightly tired from the fight. A couple of more feet to go and over she went. 'Yes' I shouted, I just couldn't believe it. I left her to rest while I set up my camera. The weather was now in my favour and it was dry enough, so some decent self takes on the DSLR was in order. The scales were zeroed and checked twice and now it was time to see what she went. 39lb 10oz the scales settled on and a new PB mirror was now mine and in my honest opinion, the best carp I have ever caught. What a moment, what a session, what a place!! They say that effort equals rewards, I just think that I must have stood in something really good because the luck was definitely on my side for this trip and I genuinely think, to have another December session like this, is going to take some beating.....

Matt Whalley



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Reviews

Featuring -

D.T. Baits - Nordic Endeavour.

Nordic Endeavour.

Large low stocked lakes have broken many a competent angler.

For the ones that reap the rewards it can be up there as one of their finest angling accolades and earns them major kudos amongst their peers.

This week DT Baits Stalwart Peder Lichtenberg sheds some light on the Danish carp scene and the insane uphill battle he faces against the harsh elements, punishing terrain and low numbers of carp to catch his intended quarry.

Peder has been with DT baits for over 20 years. Based just north of the capital Copenhagen, Denmark he works in the tackle trade which sees him for the most part selling anything other than carp gear.

The carp scene is still very niche out there with a rough estimate of around 1000 carpers. Most anglers target other species such as sea trout and pike.

Peder has targeted carp for over 25 years and has been angling for 35 years.

Originally making his own baits as back then quality bait was hard to come by in Denmark.

He discovered DT baits after reading an article in a magazine. The interesting and unique products proved to-much for him to pass up.

He originally began with rolling his own baits using DT base



mixes and bait making products before moving on to using the pre-rolled baits and hasn't looked back since.

When asked what his favourite products are here is what Peder had to say.

"I don't use just one of the DT baits. I use whatever I feel will give me the best chances of a bite based on what I'm faced with. I will use the obvious baits when the water cools down, Cold Water Green Beast and the Supa Fruit pop ups. When I'm pre-baiting I've always done well with the N-Blend as it compliments the other components of the mix I use to draw in and hold fish in an area. To be fair most boilies will catch you fish but due to the limitations on my angling I want to give myself the best chance of a bite so quality is key.

I've done this for long enough to know good bait when I see it. You can spend the same money on two different companies bait. One will be made with cheap low grade ingredients to maximise their profits the other will be produced using high quality nutrient dense ingredients that promote the health and growth of carp... I know where I'd spend my money. What the bait contains counts!"

The Danish authorities see carp as an invasive species and there are no stocking programs for the large natural waters.

Waters that range on average between 300 to 800 acres.

Carp were originally brought to Denmark from Germany by monks in the early 16th century where they were transported in wet straw on horse and cart.



While there are syndicate waters out there the real duel in the crown is one of the stunning fish from the massive natural waters.

We put the question to Peder, where on earth do you start on such a vast expanse of water?

Here is how he approaches such an intimidating prospect.

“It’s nearly all done by boat even prebating. I look for the likely areas, deeper spots in the colder months, shallower areas in the warmer ones. Sometimes you get lucky and spot fish but this is rare. The last stocking of carp in these waters was back in the eighties so they are ancient and there aren’t many of them. Once I am happy with a spot I will continually pre-bait an area for a prolonged period of time. Returning to top up the spot every other day. When I’ve seen the spot has been regularly visited I will then get my gear together before heading to the spot to fish it. Because of the climate I’m limited to a window of a few months to try and get bites every season. For that reason I will do long stints on the bank sometimes weeks at a time. When the fish turn up it can be in numbers so you can have multiple bites. When this happens I take every opportunity to capitalise on it because they can drift away as quickly as they arrive.

This approach seems to work well. I’ve had a very good number of large fish over the years even by UK standards. A number of 40lb fish this season alone”.

Peder’s angling isn’t only concentrated on his waters in Denmark. He regularly takes a number of trips further into Europe targeting fish from lakes such as Rainbow, Gigantica and Les Gravieres to name a few.

The skills and dedication he’s honed on his home waters seem to lend themselves well to wherever he goes.

The results always seem the same, an ever-growing photo album of stunning big carp.

To follow Peder’s progress and to see more of his impressive captures head to his social media Insta: [peder_lichtenberg](#) FB: Peder Lichtenberg.

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John Doyle



Hamstead Heath- John Doyle



After a warm SW brought in temperatures of 10'c and 11'c on Tuesday and Wednesday, I knew I had to take a day off work as holiday. Arriving the Thursday morning to bright sunshine piercing through the winter leaves, and again a south westerly pushing towards the only feature on the pond, I knew I was in with a chance of a few old warrior pigs. I opted

to fish a spinner rig on a heli safe system as I knew this would help my rig settle of any debris/leaf matter on the lake bed. After wading out slightly, pass my swim, I managed to get 1 rod in place half a rod length of the dead and decaying willow, with a handful of chopped Pacific Tuna which I had coated in Krill Meal. I set my clutch to as tight as possible, as I knew these old weary fish would know every feature possible to try get rid of rigs. Before I could walk back to begin setting up my other rods, My ECU screamed off with my rod ripping round from its base. Luckily, with my waders already on I grabbed the rod and ran down the margins, bullying the fish the best I could away from the sunken snags. I ended my session that day with 4 fish up to 24lb, all within an hour of each other. You can say I was glad I took the day off!

Paul Carvill



After smashing the ice I spent a bit of time casting out single hook baits to different locations and after hitting one spot the bite came in a couple of minutes for the solo carp of the session a reasonable 16lb.



Marcus Bundock 31.6 caught on a bed of flaked Supa Fruit boilies presented with matching wafter. Awesome way to round off Christmas Day!



Nick Beal 22.11

Changing things up a little paid dividends and this beauty falling for a Supa Fruit pop up over a bed of Cold Water Green Beast



Stuart Williams with a handsome low 20 caught falling for Supa Fruit on a super cold day



Sleepy Bob managed to land the queen of the lake and the new lake record 48lb 12oz using big fish bait Fish, Blood & Fresh Orange. This low stocked water was the first time Sleepy Bob had fished it and first time using DT Baits.



Bulgarian angler Красимир Хамбарлийски (Krasimir Hambarliiski) 36.8 caught in freezing conditions using the legendary Oily Chicken



Ryan Ross is tearing his tricky syndicate apart at the moment and in 24 hours managed 34, 24.8 and 24.4 then on his next visit and after moving swims following a hard frost managed this 29.8 on a Cold Water Green Beast Pop Up over crumbed Supa Fruit



HAND SHARPENED HOOKS

THE POINT THAT MATTERS

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biggest edge.'**

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

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that they won't let me
down. The Hand sharpened
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**Simon Whittle using
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Younes Gonzales - 32lb - CO-DE

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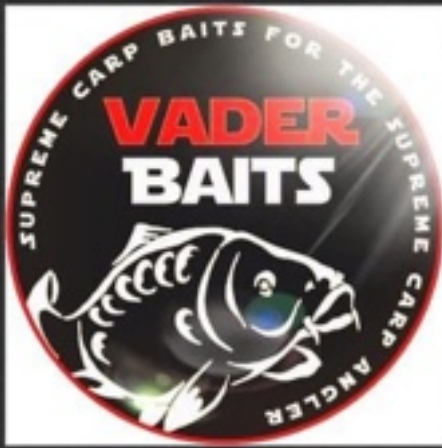
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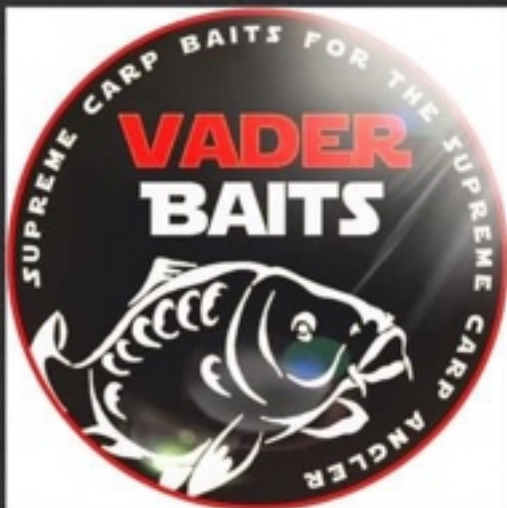


um and Tom took time out
lly wet a line and they were
ood few carp between them.
eather doesn't stop the hard
from feeding.

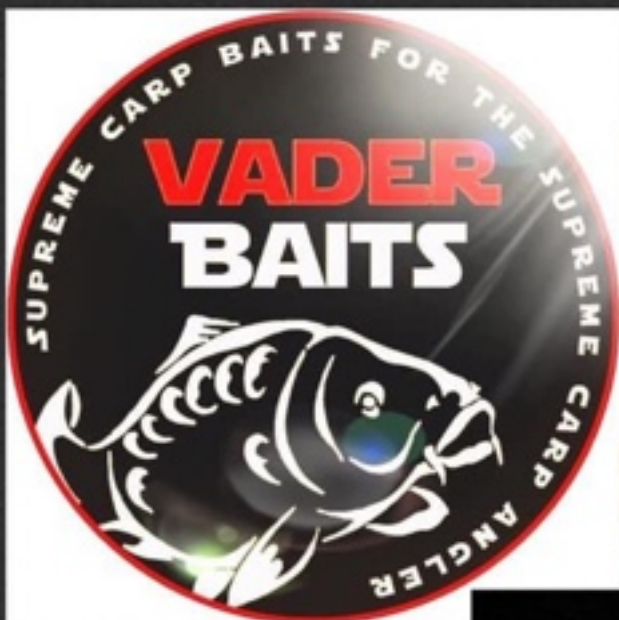




Matt took a friend Brodi fishing for a little tuition/refresher session back into carp angling. Matt chose a nice local lake close to him to show Brodi some basics and some good bait techniques and between them managed to bank 11 fish between them! Didn't take Brodi long to get amongst them bagging 5 and matt had 6 and was lucky getting the better of the fish with 3 between 14lb and 16lb 5oz.. The guys main bait winner this session was tutti frutti tuna paste wrapped around the lead weight with a 14mm le nutz wafers! The biggest of the session fell to a 16mm yellow Satan pop up on a 360 Ronnie rig... matt said they had a super session and think it won't be long before Brodi is bankside again!!



**Team member Aaron took to the bank for a 48 hour session on his syndicate. He was using party mix and Le Nutz pellet in a pva stick with an orange 12mm pop up under a tree in only 4ft of water and managed to bank this lovely 19lb carp!
Great angling Aaron**



Team member Phil headed to Stafford Moor fishery and fished out of a peg at the dam wall end. With little fish movement in his swim he spotted some fish show at range just within his swim boundary at around 70yds and put a yellow Le Nutz pop up on a Ronnie rig to the showing fish with a small bed of freebies around it where he picked up this 18lb mirror !Great angling Phil

Castaway PVA



Le Lees Carp Fishery

Welcome everyone to LE LEES Carp Fishery.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Le Lees Carp Fishery

Our price over the winter months (november 1st to march 31st) is 130 euros PPPW. 1st april to 31st october 150 euros.

We also do an evening meal at 70 euros pppw. Lake exclusive for upto 5 carpers with an evening meal is 750 euros pw.

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

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

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

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

Tight lines and may the carp gods bless you all.

Best wishes

Find us on Facebook for further information.

Matt, Tracie and Thai.



Le Lees Ca



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FOR CARP ANGLERS WRITTEN BY
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‘The Talking Carp Team’

Brian Dixon
Mark Faulkner
Dave Harnick Snr
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