

A man wearing a tan baseball cap with a red and white logo and an olive green shirt is holding a large, golden-brown carp. The fish is being held in a pond with green foliage in the background. The man is looking down at the fish with a smile.

Talking Carp

zine

Issue 90
August 2023

Talking Point
Julian Cundiff

Monthly Column
Joe Turnbull

The Dell
Scott Grant

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Hello and welcome to Issue 90

We are flying through this year aren't we!! August already.. and probably the wettest summer we have had in a long time, so I imagine everyones bivvies are getting tested to the max!

Anyway, on to this issue...what do we have for you? We have a chat with Jules regarding fishing choices, influences and how certain people can bring out the best, or worst, in you.

Scott Grant recalls a Christmas session he's not likely to forget that ended with a present that Santa himself must have delivered.

Joe Turnbull continues his "A Month IN The Life Of..." series and makes for some very good reading.

Richard Handel looks at a subject that causes discussions amongst carp anglers everywhere... as he discusses "Hook Sharpening...the pros and cons." Plus more...much more..

More articles, more catch reports, more reviews... and still ALL FOR FREE!

We hope you enjoy this issue...and keep those emails rolling in.

Team Talking Carp

brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk

mark@talkingcarp.co.uk

markcarper@talkingcarp.co.uk

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Talking Point



with Julian Cundiff

TALKING POINT

Influence

with Julian Cundiff & Brian Dixon

Hello and welcome back to Talking Point with Jules and Bri... where we chat about life inside and outside the carp fishing world.

This month we are going to chat about something a little different... It may be hard to imagine for some, as you are still at the top of your game after decades of catching carp, by design, up and down the country... truly leading by example, but throughout the years we do, whether we are looking for it or not, get influenced by others.

Readers may be sitting there now disagreeing with my comment, thinking "I do my own thing" which is all well and good, and more power too you... but I bet a biscuit to a dollar that you're fishing boilies, on a hair rig from the comfort of your bedchair inside a bivvy.

So, lets look at the positives first... as you yourself have been around since the early days of carp fishing, who can you say had an early influence on you and your early fishing?

Jules: And welcome back my friend and thanks for the kind intro ; very humbling ! Having fished since 1976 and carp fished since the early / mid-eighties I've definitely seen lots of changes but by and large I think they've been good. It's far too easy to slip on your rose coloured glasses and think it was better then than now but that often misses out the big plusses of the modern era . Better tackle, waters, carp size, information and so on ...That said the one thing that I have



noted what I believe to be a step back / minus point is the **ACKNOWLEDGING** of your influences. Much as I hate the expression 'back in my day' you recognised and acknowledged / thanked your influences whether

you'd interacted with them personally or read / listened to their stuff. Nowadays forget it! The odd name drop for kudos, but a lot of people have very short memories ... Possibly it is a reflection of the modern world (carp fishing tends to be) but it's one of the few things that I think is a step back? Anyway, enough of that and who influenced my early fishing? Early influences? Easy Eric Hodson and my parents! Prior to 1976 I had no interest or knowledge about fishing, and it was purely a chance sighting of an 'old man' (he was probably fifty or less but when you're thirteen) sat next to a pond playing and landing a tench turned my world upside down. Something clicked, the bike ride became less important, and fishing became my world. Eric Hodson totally influenced my early years from 1976 to 1982 as he was literally the only person I knew who was an angler. My family didn't fish,



My family didn't fish, my existing friends didn't, and it was way before the internet and social media era. Had Eric Hodson not introduced me to fishing and been as tolerant as he was I doubt I'd be writing this! And without my parents none of this would have been possible. They accepted my new hobby, indulged my insane obsession with it and financed it. Be it buying me maggots and second hand gear or running me to Drax Pond, without them it would have been game over. Dad added (maybe mum told him to) Angling Times and Coarse Angler to their paper orders and even financed my Bennetts of Sheffield finance purchases. I'd repay it dad through a paper round, car cleaning and copying albums to tapes (whoops C60, C90 ...) and it taught me the value of money!



Bri: So, as you transcended from the coarse fishing, the specimen tench and pike, into the world of dedicated carp fishing, you must have found yourself in a whole new world?



Before you knew it, the eighties were in full flow. There was no internet, no Youtube, Facebook or Instagram... this was back when we had to research and read what little was available, and if we were lucky enough, we got to attend a talk show somewhere, and occasionally, if we were really



lucky...an introduction to a known "name". Exciting times indeed. Now this is a time when outside influences would change for us all. So, who stood out for you in this era. Who helped to shape the mind of early Julian Cundiff?

Jules: By 1978 / 1979 I had definitely moved from coarse fishing and match fishing to specimen hunting and that stayed that way till probably 1984 .

Carp were just another species (Uncle Eric referred to them as 'steam pigs' and persuaded me that they were uncatchable) and I devoted my efforts to tench, bream, eels and pike. Like today I was an avid reader so whoever

wrote regularly about them (especially in book form) influenced me. Tench it was Eric Hodson but the writings of Barrie Rickards and Des Taylor. Eels was John Sidley and Mick Bowles with Pike being Neville Fickling and Eddie Turner. Bream? Nobody really as they came along by accident fishing for tench ...

As I said earlier, carp fishing was something Eric Hodson steered me away from but catching my first double in 1983 or 1984 lit a fuse he couldn't put out. Yes there were carp articles in magazines (no more than articles on tench, bream, pike etc) but unless you were in the CAA or Carp Society there were no single species magazines



available. Borrowing a copy of Rod Hutchinson's 'The Carp Strikes Back' definitely inspired me to carp fish and then Kevin Maddocks' 'Carp Fever' taught me how to carp fish. Of course, these two were 'faces' I had no actual contact with but those two books, those

two men were huge eighties influences in a distant way. My biggest 'real' influence was of course Andy Little. Winning a competition in Coarse Fisherman meant I had a session at Willow Park with Andy in 1986 and it taught me that I was nowhere near as good as I thought I was! We are still friends and in real terms he was a massive influence when it mattered most.

Bri: And along came the nineties. Carp fishing was really taking off now. VHS videos were being filmed and produced, magazines were taking up more space on the newsagents shelves. Carp tackle and bait companies were popping up weekly. This is when Julian Cundiff reached the upper echelons of the carp industry if I remember correctly? This is a time when Kevin Nash and Tim Paisley started to play a big part in your life?

Jules: By the time the nineties



came along (I was twenty seven in 1990) I was definitely obsessed with carp fishing but not to the extent of neglecting work , family , motorbikes and girlfriends . Biased I may well be, but the nineties was the greatest decade in carp fishing! By then I'd been carp fishing



for over five years and although I was competent I was learning all the time. Every single article I read, book I read, slide show I watched, conference I attended had AN influence, but one man stands head and shoulders above anyone with how my carp fishing evolved both as an angler and as an influencer myself. That man was Tim Paisley and a bit like Eric Hodson and my parents had it not been for him you probably wouldn't be reading this. In 1987 he accepted and published my article ' Who's kidding Who? ' in Carp Fisher, appointed me as Features Editor for Carp Fisher and the rest they say is history. I started to mix with and be accepted by the ' names ' in carp fishing and soaked up their advice and inspiration like a carp sponge. Friendships were formed, opportunities came along, and I gratefully took the torch / baton they passed to me. No contest ... Tim Paisley!

Bri: So since you got into the carp fishing game, there has been some amazing positive influences that you have had the privilege of knowing... but is there anyone who you wished you could have known, but never got to? Anyone who you would love to have one

more conversation with perhaps?

Jules: You know what Brian (and I have thought hard about this) no one ! I've been blessed to meet, fish and often work with ALL my influences. KM, Rod, Nashy, Andy, Tim, Lee, Bally, Broxup ... I genuinely can't think of anyone I've missed out on. Yes I have been lucky, but I've worked at it. Working all hours, driving all over the country, not being a ****, being loyal and so on. Few survive the ups and downs I can tell you.

Bri: Of course, whilst there are positives for everything there is normally a negative, and over the years we have seen some very negative influences to the sport. The birth of the “catch at all costs” brigade, even to the point of fisticuffs on the bank, some seriously dubious rigging arrangements, stroke pulling that borders on

criminal activity and some horrible and very negative trolling now that we have the internet available to us. It is always a case of listen to what's out there but take a lot of it with a pinch of salt. You really need to be a fair bit wiser these days... be careful what you believe.

I bet this is something you also come across a fair bit across your media?

Jules: Absolutely Brian . I judge people not just on what they catch but more importantly who they are as





There are some highly successful and popular carp anglers I avoid like the plague for a multitude of reasons. However, anglers like Terry Hearn, Lee Jackson, Peter Springate, Brian Skoyles and co are both successful carp anglers and nice people too. I'm old enough to read between the lines, to

know the realities and pick those I respect for my own reasons. That does not make me right or wrong but it's from a place of educated, informed honesty not name checking people for kudos They were nice then; they are nice now and in ten years' time (God willing) I bet I can still say the same about them!

Bri: Well, that's it for another month as we wrap up this piece. Hopefully it has stirred a few memories for you Jules, as well as us "older generation" of anglers, and definitely makes for some very interesting reading for us all. Thanks again and we shall chat again soon.

Jules : Thanks Bri , great chat

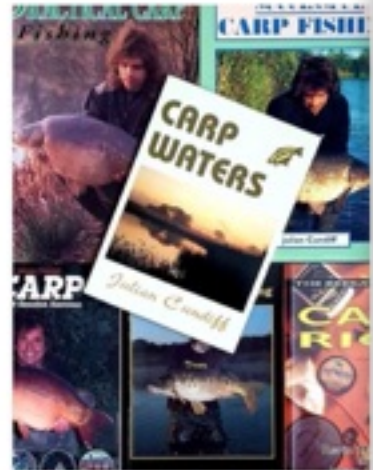
Jules

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Julian Cundiff Angling

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



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JOE TURNBULL'S - A MONTH IN THE LIFE OF...



Well, this month's heat wave has been almost unbearable with record temperatures reaching silly highs. At times I thought I was in another country such was the intense heat and dryness. I'm kidding of course, hasn't this month been absolutely dire! In fact, the majority of the summer has been pretty pants but to be fair but it's been ok for carp angling. The majority of carp across the country got their thing on and spawned fairly hard and once that was done, they then appeared to get on the munch which again was great as I did Ok on the carp catching front.

I had a fantastic day up at the Carp Society's new interactive show, The Festival of Carp where along side my team member and good mate Loz East fished the majority of the day. We both had a few fish between us which was nice for the paying punters to see. At one point I received a double take for two lucky chaps that just so happen to stop and ask a few questions about how I was fishing. The first I landed but the second slipped off as it went

into a thick weed bed. I got all my tackle back which I think is always a bonus when you lose a fish as there's nothing worse than losing a carp alongside all your end tackle. Entry fee was only a fiver and there was loads to see and do. Alongside us there were lots of other anglers in attendance like Terry Hearn, Tom Stokes and my good mate Frank Warwick just to name a few. There was also a small trade area where you could grab a bargain or two and with a rig and bait section manned by Julian Cundiff and rig connoisseur Mike Kavanagh made only for a great day. There was also a casting area where you could get straight up advice and tutoring on how to get the best out of your rods. It was a different kind of show compared to the usual as it wasn't





just to sell products but more to get people involved in angling. It was a fantastic day had by all and it is set to go ahead next year with few more additions to make it even better, so watch this space.

After that weekend I had another weekend booked in with my fishing pal John, where we met up at Essex Carp Syndicates The Sanctuary which is an 18-acre open expanse of water. He brought along his two kids Emilio and Demi who also fish from time to time. The weather was surprise surprise set to get blustery and wet on the first day so we spent quite a lot of the time stuck in the bivvys for most of the first day. A big wind was set to come in that night and into following morning and with carp showing and crashing in front of us since the

day we turned up, was a great sign. Deliberately setting up on the end of this big, we knew that it would only be a matter of time before one of us got a bite. I started with putting out around 3kg of Mainlines finest

Cell and Link boilies smothered in loads of Fruit Smart liquid. Alongside that I added about 3kg of Cell pellet to the mix. One great tip



I can give you and it's something I've done for ages is to use a mix of Fruit Smart liquid with Essential Cell stick mix liquid. These two liquids have a very similar make up in that they both have a similar base, so they go together very well. As well as that, they both have a similar flavour profile so work very well mixed with each other. As you probably know, the Smart liquid is a very active liquid in that it rises in around the water column, creating a very heavy cloud. This only enhances the overall baiting situation, and I honestly can't talk highly enough about this stuff. I decided to fish at range which was more or less in the swim opposite, but I found a nice spot on the upslope of the far bank on the shelf which was hard and at around 28 wraps. All three rods were placed fairly close to each other as wanted to try and keep the carp in one tight area. I've always found that at this time of the year carp are very active and always on the move. If you bait up in too wide an area you can often cause a group of carp to drift off and not feed on your spot. If you keep your baited area tight you



can very often keep the carp in a smaller vicinity. Fishing in this way makes for a much more productive session and easier for you to keep your accuracy on point.

All three rods were placed into the



baited area and just as I was about to put the kettle on the middle road was off. I shouted up to my mate John but it was so windy that he couldn't hear me, so I played the fish, landed it and left it in the net. I made my way up to my mate and told him I just landed a fish, so we all walked back with the kids to do the usual weighing and photographs. Up on the scales and it went just over 22lb and was a lovely chestnut coloured carp with a classic shape.

I decided to put the kettle on and finish making my tea and just as I sat back on my bed chair and took

a sip of my tea followed by a dunk of a biscuit, the left-hand rod gave out a bleep and subsequently the bobbin slammed up tight to the blank. I couldn't quite believe it as it was the second take in an hour. I picked up the rod and bent into what felt like a decent fish. I walked backwards slightly, and I could see my mate further up the bank in the next swim up. He just so happened to look up and see me with my rod in my hand and obviously playing a fish but just as I did so I noticed him run towards his rods where he was also into a fish. I laughed and carried on playing what I was connected to where I eventually



got in the net. This time it was nice common of 24lb, and I did some self takes with a little bit of video before slipping it back. The action continued pretty much like this for the rest of our 48hr session where I eventually landed a nice chunky common of 29.12 just shy of that magical 30lb mark. Once again, I got lots of this session on video where I'll add it to my next vlog which will be out on my YouTube channel soon so look out for that. Also, if you can follow and subscribe to my channel, that would be fantastic and very much appreciated. You can find my channel by just searching Joe's Carp Angle and there you'll find

what I've been up to regards my angling. Don't forget to follow all my socials for day-to-day updates of what I'm up to. I'll always reply to an messages that you care to send over.

Until next month, keep catchin em.

Catch me on Facebook and Instagram:-

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JT



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The background of the entire page is a photograph of a sunset. The sun is a bright, glowing orb on the left side of the horizon, casting a warm, golden light across the sky and reflecting on the water. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow. The water is calm, with gentle ripples. In the foreground, there are tall, thin reeds or grasses, some of which are in sharp focus, showing their feathery seed heads. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS THE DELL

by Scott Geezer Grant

After my social trip to Holme Fen it was back to work and was very busy especially as the Christmas period was fast approaching. My next planned trip was from Boxing day until New Years eve. It's always a great time to be on the bank and normally the weather is somewhat forgiving and you always have a chance of banking a good fish.

Every year I have a social with the lads, it's a special time with a full-on Christmas dinner. It nice spending time with your mates eating good food and sinking a few ciders along the way. The Christmas dinner was planned for the Friday as a couple of the lads were away fishing on the river.

I arrived at the lake around before first light, low and behold there was no one else in the car park. I parked up grabbed my bivvy from my van then made my way round to a swim known as The Ramp. It was still dark and with only my head torch to guide me I managed to get the bivvy set up, I then made my way back to my van to grab the rest of my gear. Just as I opened my van, Ben appeared he and Jake were up, we had a chat and a lovely cup of tea, before Jake kindly offered to drop my gear off with the aid of the quad and trailer. I wasted no time and loaded the trailer to the hilt.

Jake kindly dropped my gear off and by now it was light and to be honest it wasn't freezing cold. Today's weather was predicted to be 8oc with South/South Westerly winds with a pressure of 1020. A couple of hours





later I was all set up and ready to go. I checked my notes from previous sessions and knew exactly what areas to fish. Bait wise

I decided to fish with the awesome Creamy Toffee and I had brought 5kg of mixed sized boilies, 3kg crushed, 15lts of chillie hemp and a gallon of maggots. That should be enough bait for the session, but if I need more I'll go home and get it.

The rods were sent out to their spots with a generous helping of bait, now it was time to sit back have a lovely cup of tea with the Christmas songs playing in the back ground. I had my diesel heating with me so later this evening my bivvy is going to be lovely and warm. It was a very quiet afternoon and before I knew it darkness had set in. The fish remained elusive and the lake was very quiet. After a lovely hot meal, I laid down for a much-needed rest and ended up falling asleep, I woke up in the early hours for a leak then went back to bed. I finally woke up Tuesday morning just before light. I sat watching the water drinking my morning coffee and did not see a single fish show. I checked the weather app and there was some serious weather on its way, torrential rain with strong winds!! Something to look forward to, I guess. Matt turned up and went into The Deeps which is on the opposite bank to me. Just after 10 oclock I redone all the rods and was



now happier that there was a good drop of bait on all the areas. My Mrs turned up later in the afternoon for a coffee and chat, as the daylight hours



are so much shorter before I knew it, darkness had descended once again. I had a lovely hot meal and the heating was on, I must admit there is nothing more satisfying than laying on the bed with the heating on, it's just like being at home. Around 6pm the wind started to get a lot stronger the pressure was dropping and I was hoping the fish would feed at some point. At 10pm I got a couple of bleeps on my right-hand rod, I went down to the rods and there was a massive weed bed in the process of wiping all my rods out!! It took me ages to reel the rods in and get them back out on their spots, by the time I had finished and got into bed it was around midnight.



Wednesday morning, I was woken by a take on the middle rod, I played the fish ever so tentatively and yes it weeded me up on more than one occasion, but keeping the line tight and not giving the fish an inch worked in the end as a lovely scaley banger slid over the net cord. The fish went 29lb 4oz and was an absolute banger, Matt obliged with the photos (thanks mate) then the fish was treated and returned. Just as I got the rod rebaited and back out on the spot the heavens opened and the wind got a lot stronger. I checked the weather app and



it was stating it will be raining until 3pm, the pressure had dropped to 1012 and the daytime temperature was forecast to be 12oc. I sat in my bivvy looking out of my door (letterbox style) watching the water whilst the rain and wind came more or

less straight at me.

I looked at the photos that Matt had taken and could not be happier, I looked back through my photos of earlier in the year and came across a photo of a fish I had in July at 18lb 11oz and could not believe it was the same fish I had just banked!! That is a weight gain of 10lb plus in 5 months!! This place is really starting to get back to where it was, the fish are thriving and their weights are going through the roof. This is all down to the excellent management team that are on site. Massive credit to you guys you are doing a fantastic job.

Later in the afternoon as the wind and rain subsided, I managed to redo



the rods ready for the night ahead. It was around 6pm and I was just eating my dinner up when the rain came down and the wind returned, this time with a vengeance, my bivvy was rocking as the wind was coming straight at me. I was



lucky I put 12-inch pegs to hold it down otherwise I am sure I would have got blown away. After a sleepless night I woke up just after 0600 oclock, I put the kettle on for my morning coffee, I peered out the bivvy and there was a thick white foam all in front of me and over my rods. The wind had turned to a westerly which was a relief and the

rain had passed. Today was a very sad day for me as come midday I was reeling in as I had to attend my Aunts wake. The Management Team had given me special permission to leave the lake to attend of which I am grateful for. After a very tearful few hours I was back at the lake at 5pm and the first thing to do was get the rods back onto their spots with a generous helping of bait. The wind had calmed down considerably and was blowing West/South Westerly, this was far more bearable than having it coming straight at me. The pressure had dropped to 1007 and would be dropping further through the night. Tonight's temperature is forecast to be 6oc, but tomorrow it's going to be 13oc in the day and 10oc at night so a lot warmer than it has been, the only down side is that they have also forecast rain all day tomorrow and the wind is changing and coming straight at me again, one thing is for sure I will not let it wear me down, I will keep positive and hopefully be rewarded with one of the A Team.

After another restless night I woke up to the pitter patter of rain, the wind was 20mph coming straight at me and the pressure was 995. I had my morning coffee and was full of beans



as today is the lads Christmas dinner, and something I was so looking forward to it, the dinner was planned for 4pm so I had plenty of time. The rain was forecast to stop at midday and start again at 7pm, so my plan was to start packing some bits up and wait until this afternoon before packing the rest of my gear down.

Just after 1pm I was on the phone to Danny who was fishing in the bailiffs, when I got a drop back on the middle rod, I told him a I had to go and walked down to my rods. The bobbin dropped back again, I lifted the rod and the fish was on, the fish immediately gave a good account of itself and weeded me up, everything went solid so I kept the line tight and put the rod back in the rest, 35 minutes later the fish started to take line I grabbed the rod and kept it as high as I could and managed to get the fish high in the water as I didn't want it finding another weed bed. I was gaining line and everything seemed to be going well until the fish dived into another dense weed bed some 30 yards out, again everything went solid so the rod went back on the rest, 25 minutes later the fish started taking line I grabbed the rod again keeping it as high as I could and after a further few minutes a big common hit the surface, I kept my cool and guided the fish into the waiting net, and let out a massive sigh of relief, I peered into the net and was met with an old friend the mighty Cluster and she looked huge. I secured the fish in the net then called Danny who kindly came round along with his brother Brad. Five minutes later they were at my swim, I put my waders on and grabbed the cradle, I then



lifted the net straight into the cradle causing less stress for the fish. I grabbed my digitals and zeroed the sling. As I unfolded the net a huge common appeared and the lads could not believe how big she looked, I was gobsmacked. Once in the sling I used a pole, myself and Brad lifted her up whilst Dan read out the weight, 47lb 4oz I was shocked this is the biggest this fish has ever been and to top it all off its my new PB common, replacing my old PB common of 42lb which was this fish in 2015. Dan obliged with my phone and took cracking photos and lots of them, I was absolutely blown away. With the photos complete she was treated and returned and to be honest I did not want to let her go, its magical moments like these that I will cherish forever. I spent the next few hours packing up with a dirt big grin on my face, I felt like I was floating on a cloud. What a way to end 2022 with a scaley banger and an absolute unit of a common and new PB.

With all my gear packed away in the van I had a lovely shower then sat down to dinner with the lads washed down with a few ciders. As I always say it has been emotional. Massive respect to the chef Chrissy "Ballbag" and to all the lads for making it a fantastic year and a great Christmas.



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**Scott
"Geezer"
Grant**





TALES OF A CARPING JOURNEYMAN #6

Rod Bird



The Ex-Military Carp Championships 2023

After finishing at Cromwell Lake on the 3rd of July I had to work quickly to turn my gear around ready for the Ex-Military Carp Championships at the famous Yateley Sandhurst Lake on the 6th of July..... here we go again, so much to sort out and so little time to do it.

The Ex-Military Carp Group are a bunch of nearly 200 carp anglers who are veterans from our beloved Armed Forces, the group was formed to allow the said veterans to keep in touch, catch carp and more importantly to be part of a network of Ex-Military personnel and be able to talk to each other in our own language without upsetting any Snowflakes out there..... trust me

the banter is brutal!

We have monthly socials all over the country, these socials are very well attended, but it's the bragging rights of getting your name on the Ex-Military Champions Sheild that we all strive to achieve. During the yearly event we get the chance to fish some of the best waters in the UK, against some of the countries unknown top anglers, as most of us completed at least 22 years in the Services, so not only are we a bit long in the tooth, but we have been carp fishing all over Europe for decades, there's some wily old devils in the group.....!!!

I really wanted to win this competition; I'd got close at Jigsaw Lake four years ago fishing with Dicky Barton. We came second that year, behind Dale Diamond and Wayne Middleton, who beat us by a few pounds. Moving forward two years because of Covid, it saw me fishing with Dale, at Berners Hall Fishery as Dicky couldn't make the event, we actually won, but it was bitter sweet for me, as I didn't catch any carp, only a 90lb catfish, leaving Dale to haul us onto the top step..... well you wouldn't feel great about it either, yes I know it's

Rod Bird

35



but you really need to catch to feel part of it, if that makes sense, or is that just my mindset?

So after a quick turn around of the gear I was back in the good old Vito heading towards Yateley in deepest Hampshire, a good six hour drive for me....again....!

We had the chance to kip over at a local Scout Hut for the night, which would mean anyone driving a good distance could get down there and have a good nights sleep before the event, as time would be tight in the morning at the lake....

....the idea was sound and made sense, until the fire pit got lit, the pizzas were ordered and the beer started to flow along with the banter....you know how it

goes. 10:00 on 7th of July there was a row of vans parked along the road outside the Sandhurst Lake gate, I was parked right outside the Swan Valley Lake entrance, which brought back some fond memories from the days of old, but that nostalgic moment soon passed as the vans started to file into the carpark at Sandhurst, we were in.

After a detailed briefing from the Bailiff (Yawn) we had a very quick walk round the lake, I already had an idea where I wanted to fish and the walk round confirmed my options were sound, so I had 3 or 4 swims in mind that would do nicely, now it was time for the dreaded draw.....I love a draw, as you know.....NOT...!!

I could not believe it when our names came out first, I had chosen peg 31, The Pipes, before Dicky had even realised what had just happened, BOOM, get in there, second in the draw last week and first this week, the worm had definitely turned for me..... I really do love a draw at the moment, let's

have more...!

So, we barrowed our gear round and started leading around, I'd done so much research on this swim it was quite easy for me to find the hot spot between 17 and 22 wraps, the lead went down with a crack, yes! I could get both rods on there, no problem. Dicky was fishing on the left-hand side of the swim and found a few likely spots also, with an hour to go we set the base camp up and got some spod mix in, my usual Sweetcorn and Hemp with crushed and blended Sweetcorn Boillies from Karper Baits, a good glug of Hemp Oil and Sweetcorn Energiser Syrup, this was going to be a breeze. I got the rods clipped up, added a Ronnie Rig on one and a wafter D rig on the other, both with Sweetcorn Dispersion baits, one wafter and



one pop-up, and got the kettle on.

The hooter went off at 12pm..... within 2 minutes both my rods were on the dance floor (I hate that cliché) so forget that... my rigs landed where I wanted them too LOL. All there was left to do was sit back and wait for my rods to blast off..... Eighteen hours later I thought a change of tact may be needed!

The guys in the next Swin landed a 25lb 04oz Mirror at around 06:30 the following morning, we were happy for them..... really, I was gutted.

We'd noticed a few carp in the weed bed in front of me, when I say in the weed, I mean right in the middle of it, the weed bed was



about the size of my living room, so not too big, not too small, but enough to get 2 rods in, and I mean in! I changed to PVA bags, with a Multi-Rig, a Karper Ltd 12mm Sweetcorn Dispersion Wafter was placed onto the Terminal Tackle UK size 6 Advanced Wide Gape hook, and the bag was filled with Karper Ltd Pandemonium Sweetcorn Streamerz Micro Pellets and a test liquid syringed in just before casting, I was dubious about fishing into such dense weed, but the carp were 100% in there.....let's do this.

I cast both bags into the weed, and catapulted about 20 Sweetcorn Boillies onto the weed, one bag sat on top of the weed and dissolved about an inch into it, the other went down about 2 to 3 inches, wow it was thick, but I bit the bullet and left

them in situ....

...ten minutes later the left-hand rod, which was the one on top of the weed, ripped off, well when I say ripped off, it lunged violently then came to a stand still about one second later. I picked up the rod and could feel there was a carp on, with some steady pressure and

patience I managed to get the carp out of the weed, I slowly but surely started to get the fish coming, nice and steady, making sure the barbless hook always had some pressure on it. When the weed ball came towards the net, Dicky started to pull the weed gently away, YES, there was a carp attached, he slipped the net under her. I quickly clipped the rod back up, got another bag onto it and cast it back out onto the weed, with another 20 baits over the top. We called the marshals, and they weighed a stunning Sandhurst Mirror that pulled the scales round to 29lb 02oz, get in there, we were in second place as a couple of the lads 2 swims up had landed a Common at just over 32lb, let's do

this.

At around 19:00 my left-hand rod was away, and this time it was a screamer, the carp had shot out the back of the weed bed and was heading towards the middle of the lake. A hard battle commenced as I managed to turn her around, however, the only way to get this fish to me was to pull it back through the weed again, which I managed, there was a few scary moments, but I got her to the net, once again a massive ball of weed was around the carp, if it was still there. Dicky started to remove the weed and eventually we could see we had something special in the net. I got her unhooked and got the rod back out with the usual 20 freebies whilst Dicky tended

to the carp. The marshals were called again, and they weighed an incredible Mirror carp in at 35lb 12oz, I was over the moon, we were in the lead.

At around 22:00 we got news that Dale who was once again partnered with Wayne had just landed a 23lb 15oz Common, Dale, or Big D as we call him is probably the most consistent angler that I know, and when he starts to catch we all take note, I was worried, we were still in the lead, only four carp had been caught and we had two of them, this was going to be a long night! With the event finishing at 8am the following morning we were packing away early, my rods were on the deck at 07:45, I was just about to put my last bag onto the

barrow when I heard my left-hand clutch going berserk, I lifted the rod off the floor and started playing what felt like a smaller fish, it could even be a Tench! Anyway, without going into too much detail, 3 minutes later I landed another Sandhurst Carp, at 12lb on the nose, what an event that was.





team for the second year running, but this time I had actually caught something, it just makes it a bit more special, here's to next year.....could it be a hat trick?!!

So, with six carp being landed and us catching three of them, we had won the event, I also got the Largest Carp and the Smallest Carp. After the trophy presentation it was time to hit the road for the six hour trip home, but I had a smile on my face, yes I was on the winning



The Chance to Fish an Unfished Water in France!

When Mark Gooch and I got the chance to go and fish a water in France that had only been fished by a handful of anglers over the last few months, we jumped at the chance. The stock was unknown but thought to be around forty to fifty carp up to 60lb and a few large catfish to 90lb we could not wait to give it a go.

So on the 27th of July I packed the car for the unknown and headed all the way down to Christchurch next to Bournemouth, only a six and half hour drive this time, why do I



do it.....cause I can...!

I got to Marks around 17:00 expecting a quiet night before the ferry in the morning. Once again that went all wrong, we ended up meeting up with Max and Barney Ward and went to the local pub for a few draught Thatcher's Gold Ciders, then a meal with Marks family, then back to the pub for a few more ciders.....ouch!

We set off for the ferry about 06:00 as it was only in Poole about twenty minutes away, I thought it was a very foggy morning, but the fog was only in my head, once again, why do I do it, once again, 'cause I can

LOL...!

The four hour crossing went quite well apart from the wind and rain, but this was to be the standard for the week, who knew that July would be a wash out with the weather.....Global Warming.... where?

A quick two- and half-hour drive to the lake soon passed and we were standing on the banks of a water of only about 1 acre, with big Lily Pads and Weeping Willows, a bit like a French Redmire, it was stunning, excitement levels were through the roof.



The lake had never been mapped, so the first thing we did was to get the boat out with the Ray Marine Echo Sounder and the electric motor and set out armed with a prodding pole. An hour on the water told us all we needed to know, most of the bottom was a fine gravel and between 4.5ft and 6.5ft with a few silty spots around the over hanging trees, but this was still fishable due to the silt being a fine sand of a maximum of 3 to 4 inches, let's get this on.

The rain and wind were an issue, so we decided to get our waders and waterproofs on, who knew this was going to be the standard



dress code for the week, we set our bivvies up and got the rods ready to go. We were both going to be using a bait boat, mine was the V80 from Future Carpington with GPS and echo sounder, and Marks is a Cult Ranger, also fully loaded. Because we would be depositing our bait and rigs with bait boats, we were using 10ft rods, mine were the 10ft 3.5lb Sonik Insurgents and Marks the 10ft 3.25lb Sonik Xtractors, Mark had his trusty Sonik Tournos XD 8000 reels, and I was using my Daiwa Emblems. Rigs were dealers' choice as we had never fished the water, so there was a mixture really. I had chosen the left-hand side of the swim with a very





Lily Pad spot, within seconds it was obvious I had hooked into one of the big cats, it took me straight into the pads, flat rodded me about five times, then freight trained me all over the place, unfortunately it got off, we both looked at each other and at the same time said BRAID!

large Lily Growth attached to the far Island, prime spot with gravel all around the edge, and Mark had a smaller Lily Pad to fish to, and a couple of bushes that were right into the water. So, with extreme excitement we got the rods out, 3 each, we would be going for the cats at some point so we both also had the 4.5lb versions of our rods, but today was all about the carp.....so I thought.

First thing in the morning we changed all the spools on the rods to braid, we had them ready to go so it wasn't much of an issue but had to be done. We reset the rods and got the cat rods out, once again with 70lb braid and leaders. At around 09:00 I had my first carp, this time off the right-hand side of the Lily Pads, it was a stunning

Mark landed the first carp from the left-hand side of the bushes just on dark, it was a nice 29lb Mirror, YES, we were off the mark, this was going to be easy!

Around 22:30 I had a savage bite on my middle rod, fished towards the middle of the large





36lb 15oz Mirror, yes, I was well happy, I'm off the mark, let's keep going. Mark had a flurry of carp, with two in quick succession a 19lb Mirror followed by a 31lb 10oz Mirror which was stunning. We noted that the carp were well spawned out and could only guess at what weight they would make towards November. I then managed a 15lb 05oz Common which was great fun to be honest.

We then had a quiet spell for about 18 hours which saw us change a few things, I changed one of my rods to the good old solid bag and placed it between the Lily Pads and the

left hand margin, I got the prodding stick out to double check the bottom, crack, crack, nice spot. I changed my other 2 rigs to Multi-Rigs, the reasoning behind that was due to number of liners I was getting, I needed to know if I was getting done, and I generally believe that you catch more carp on Bottom Baits, rather than Pop-Ups. So, it was a busy day indeed, but the tactic worked and we started to pick up carp again.

Mark landed a 36lb 05oz Mirror and shortly after I landed 5lb Common! With the rods re-set we enjoyed the first bit of sunshine since we had arrived, there were socks, trainers,





and I managed a 36lb 10oz Mirror, after these we moved the rods back into a more comfortable area.

Over the next few days, we managed around another eight carp, however we landed one carp twice and another three times, which made us wonder about the stock levels, and the quiet spells between

and towels all over the swim trying to dry in the sun!

That evening I had a small cat followed by a slightly larger one, but nothing to write home about. Mark had a recapture of the 36bler, wow, the same day, that's incredible. I then managed a 21lb 10oz Mirror.

The night saw me getting smashed up again by a big cat. In the morning we decided to move a couple of rods, to the very back margin of the water, a bit dodgy with the Lily Pads and the island, but we knew if we were on the rods, it would be possible to land these fish. It worked and we both landed a carp each, Mark with a 37lb 08oz Mirror

activity. We had the feeling that there weren't as many carp in the lake as first thought, but it was truly pioneering stuff, and the 90lb cat was in there, alongside another large cat, hence the small ones, they were breeding....

I managed a carp on the last morning at just over 36lb, yet another repeat capture, so we'd





stunning fishery for sure.

It was a hell of a drive back home after a busy week, I got home at 04:30 this morning, Friday, and need to be in Lincoln on Sunday for the Carp4Kids Academy.....I

had two carp three times, but we had over twenty carp between us. We enjoyed the week, getting the chance to fish an unknown water is so exciting and I'd say we landed around 80% of the carp in there, so we had done brilliantly.

The anglers on a few weeks before us had a quieter time, which just goes to show the necessity to use good bait and we were once again using the Karper Ltd Sweetcorn Boillies, we also mixed in the RS Boillies, with a pigeon conditioner and pellet to back up the Boillies and of course the Energiser Syrups. Mark used the Terminal Tackle UK end tackle for the first time in anger and was so impressed he has now joined the team. What a fantastic week we had, and when the stock levels are upgraded it will become a

best get a move on...

...'Till next time, enjoy your fishing and remember, you've got to be in it to win it, I mean in the weed...!!
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Hook Sharpening



*by
Richard Handel*

Hook Sharpening

I've been asked a lot of times about hook sharpening and the pros and cons of it.



As I don't like spending money on numerous packs of hooks, I find it the best place to save and use the best of both options without taking it too far.

My kit



This may be confusing as you read but bear with me through my ramblings. There's a fine line between using the same hook, again and again, continuing to sharpen it, and reaching that point where it could be the reason you lost the lump of your dreams.

I get my hooks from Spotted Fin and using a new hook every time I catch a fish goes against my way of thinking. This comes from me starting to fish in the 80s when 'money was too tight the mention'! This is how I believe, The Combi Rig was developed, as you couldn't afford to waste hook link materials. Back then, we'd join them together to save money and we discovered the catch rates were going up and the hook hold was amazing. Anyway, this is another discussion for another day.

I've been sharpening hooks for years to save on money and I don't believe I've lost a carp by doing this. You can never be 100% sure how it happened unless you get a component part completely fail or the fish gets snagged up.

My approach is to touch up the hook every time I feel it's needed, all be it after a fish, checking it after each cast. I religiously check my hooks, that's all about confidence levels (mixed with a bit of OCD) or it could just be a routine I have gotten into over the years. Then comes a point where you should change to a new hook. For me, this depends on how much you have shaped it over time and more importantly how sharp you feel the hook is. This is a decision only you can make and the confidence you have in the hook brand and pattern you use.

I use Spotted Fin Turning Point Hooks on a Ronnie Rig, set up for all my fishing situations, and I can safely say, I have 100% confidence in these hooks. Mainly as they're the original JRC 360 pattern, which was purchased from JRC when they stopped doing their Connection Range some years ago. They're extremely durable in the first place, over time they will inevitably need a touch-up with a sharpener, but just go lightly and not go overboard.



I did a test some winters back, using the same hooks all winter long and just lightly touching them up. I had over 25 carp on them, with a few bream, and after multiple casts, I only changed them because I thought I'd better had. I was sure they would have come to a point when they could've cost me a fish. I didn't want to go that far but doing this, gave me a lot of confidence in these hooks and my ability to sharpen them correctly. People often ask "how do you know they are sharp and not blunt?" That's quite straightforward! If it sticks to your fingers with only a light pressure and holds it is fine, otherwise it blunt.

I like to use a pen Close inspection





Only use sparingly They break but still work



Get the angle correct, Take it slow with the heavy file

There are many brands of hook sharpening tools. I just happened upon Jag when they first came out and before that, I used a Swiss no6 pillar file, which is easily found on Amazon. It was the Jag hook holder that took my interest, I was using pliers before. The red and green files will break at some point - especially if you're a bit heavy-handed, but they still can be used to great effect, just take your time, you can even sort out a bird over hook point.

I personally take more of the top off the hook and less off the sides. As my test goes to show, if you really want, you can get away with not changing your hooks for some time and still keep them needle sharp. They are still in perfect fish catch capacity. It's really down to you and your own personal confidence in sharpening hooks, plus the trust you have in your hook pattern. I've proven to myself that changing hooks isn't always required.



Tips

- (1) Never go crazy with sharpening, take your time, only do what you need to do and the hook can be used multiple times.
- (2) Never go overboard and grind them down, a light touch-up will do the job
- (3) You know when they are sharp enough - they stick to your hands.
- (4) Think about the angle before you start
- (5) Take it nice a slow with the heavy files

I hope this helps you in your fishing and saves you a bit of cash.
Until my next ramblings

Be lucky

Richard



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The background image is a landscape photograph. On the left, a weeping willow tree's branches hang down towards the water. A string of small, round lights is strung across the lower half of the image, just above the water. The water is calm and reflects the sky and the lights. In the distance, a line of trees is visible under a soft, hazy sky, suggesting a misty or foggy morning or evening.

The Unexpected Journey

by Carl Hughes

After having the whole off winter of carp fishing. I fished a few matches as I kind of fell out with the carp game for some reason, maybe being on the bank week in week out I don't know but I decided to come back late spring and jump straight back onto Bolton brick pond but I wasn't feeling it. Even though I had a few fish, I just needed a new adventure.

A water came to mind, an old brick pond in South Yorkshire(I can't name due to respect for the locals). I was told about the lake by a few mates that it held a few old gems prior to covid about 4 years ago but I was hesitant to fish it due to its location.

One Friday after work my partner picked me up, I asked her to nip by the lake on way to school for my daughter. So, we went by. We were a bit hesitant to drive down to it.

Pulling up to the lake I was in shock at how beautiful it looked, I quickly had a look round and I saw a peg right at the bottom end of the lake where it closes up into a point and I saw fish straight away so it was home for the gear .

I loaded the car absolutely buzzing

for it excited and didn't know if there was any more carp in the lake other than that one I saw.

I got Sarah to take me to the lake and when we got into the car park there was nobody to be seen. I loaded the barrow ,I ran round to the peg. I saw a good friend, Mark, was fishing up to the island and he was sat talking to a fella George, fellow carp angler from my village. We had a quick chat then I was off to peg, as I approached the peg, I could see two heads sat in the peg, my heart sank, no way? I spoke to the lads they said they was going anyway... buzzing.





and it was red hot. My misses and kids popped by to see me for an hour. Just as they left, the right hand rod the one I put to the cut in the reeds. It ripped off. It was a double figure mirror which was stunning dark old mirror and not a mark on it. I was over the moon with this fish because it was a start on a new water an unknown water.

The peg was dug out from a high bank it was lovely down low away from the walkers.

I quickly got everything down in the peg and first thing first a rod was out, with a small 1.5oz lead on and a Trigga Ice pop on my old faithful multi rig. I flicked the rig into a cut in the reeds the drop was about 4ft deep but I knew it would be fishing.

I started setting my house up getting ready for the night when a chap from earlier George popped by. We got chatting for a while about all sort's especially bait, we both had an interest in bait. I got to know George over this period off fishing.

Was around two in the afternoon

I rang my partner, she was just leaving, I said I got one in net she was like I'll come back. It was nice for them to share the moment with me.

I was getting the rod ready to be put back out to the spot as I noticed some dark shadow's swimming towards the far reed line. I had a 3oz lead on I quickly changed it to 1oz so I wouldn't scare the fish that had just moved in. I left it a couple hours and nothing occurred just before I settled down for the evening and have some food. I scattered out 1 kilo off 12mm Trigga pineapple and 12mm BFM with some half 15ml BFM. I was laid chilling, watching X Files, and the right hand rod bursts into life. I lifted into the fish, a battle commenced in

the pitch black. I finally got my head torch on and it lit up a white fish, a ghostie, normally I wouldn't be too happy about this but I knew a little history on the lake and this fish dated back to the 80's. It went in the net, on the first time of asking. It looked mega old and nearly withered fins most of its dorsal fin gone, a proper old warrior a true crusty. To say the least I was buzzed two fish on the first night. I packed up early so I can get home for family time but before I left 3kg off boilie and half kg of tigers.

The following weekend was approaching fast and all I could think about was getting back on for a couple nights. Friday came I left work early. I was straight home loaded the car and put in a shovel to dig out the peg more to make it more comfortable.

I got down to lake and pulled into the car park and seen a bivvy, and another one, I was like nooo... I hope my pegs free. I loaded the barrow double fast and basically



ran to it and as I turned round the corner, I seen it was free. I scrambled down into the peg as it was dug out of a high banking. First things first i sprayed out a few kilo off bait. And made a decision instead of casting I was going to try and hand place the rig in to bay in the reeds. So, the waders on and the prodding stick out as I was unsure of the bottom and how deep it was. So off I ventured, it was very silty and it smelt awful but it was far better than casting. The rig was out and in a perfect spot with perfect line lay. Rod on the buzzer and the house up for the weekend. I got the other two rods out lovely. I was set.

I just finished my tea, a big fat lamb dinner. I was laid watching X Files (jeez Scully) and it was getting late



few oz and it was perfect condition. It was mint. Few stills and back she went. Got the middle rod back out with the same hook bait, a Trigga Ice corkie waffer on a d rig.

I settled down for the night. I woke up to a one toner. It was 4am, and the middle rod again.

but I couldn't settle. I felt a bit restless ,uneasy maybe. I don't know but it was so peaceful you could hear a pin drop.

Around 21.00 the rod was away. I instantly went to the right hand rod and noticed it was the middle rod that was away and a tense battle commenced, the fish kited hard right powering towards some far margin trees. I had to clamp down and put pressure on the fish. It finally turned and came towards me it then plodded around in front of me for a few minutes before popping up... it was a stunning common that rolled over the net cord.

Up on the scales it went 20lb and

After short battle a small mid double perfect common went in the net. A few stills of that fish and a few pults of bait to top up the spot. The rod wrapped up and back on the spot. An hour later the same rod was away! This fish headed straight into the reeds, a bit of pressure on it and it came out. It then plodding around for what felt like forever. I see a row of scales... it looked like a linear. It went over the net cord and I couldn't believe my eyes... what a fish. The incredible park lake Lin in perfect condition and proportions. It went up on the scales, not massive at 21lb an incredible fish.

I packed up absolutely buzzing, I was on a serious high and couldn't



whilst I got myself sorted. Up on the scales she went 28lb. I was over the moon, it was a mega looking fish. A proper old English long floppy tail big old with a perfect mouth. A few stills and back she went. I was like unsure if she was the big girl. My mate Mark came round just as I was putting it back, he asked for a look and confirmed it was the biggest fish in lake.

Boooom !!!

We sat had a couple coffees and a chat and I was in two minds whether to stay on or go home. I just chilled out rest of the day and evening. Whilst on face time to the wife the rod was off again! This time it was a tiny mirror about 10lb. Off the bed I went, knowing I was done on that lake which in hindsight I was happy about I wouldn't like to fish it during the highs of summer.

The crazy free fishing park lake I had to myself 90% of the time was over... onto the next chapter I go. Tight lines everyone

Carl.

wait to get back the following week.

I got the Friday off work as I had a hospital appointment that morning. I got to the lake later than I wanted to be. Back in the same peg and walked the right hand rod out and got the house up. I settled in for the weekend. I had a good sleep that night but woke up early 4am. I was stood with my cuppa and noticed the reeds parting and knocking and wasn't long before the right hand rod bobbin pulled up tight and the tip pulled round. I lifted into the fish, walked back to pull it away from reeds. This felt different, felt heavier. It then came towards me and plodded around for ten minutes solid. I see the fish, it looks big, it went over the net cord and I was in shock. It looked a 30lber... long with a belly on her. I put her in net out in water for a few minutes

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**WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR WASTE FISHING LINE
ON THE BANK.**

**Are you a coffee nut like me?
Then this is for you!!**

What to do with your waste fishing line on the bank.



By Anthony Wood

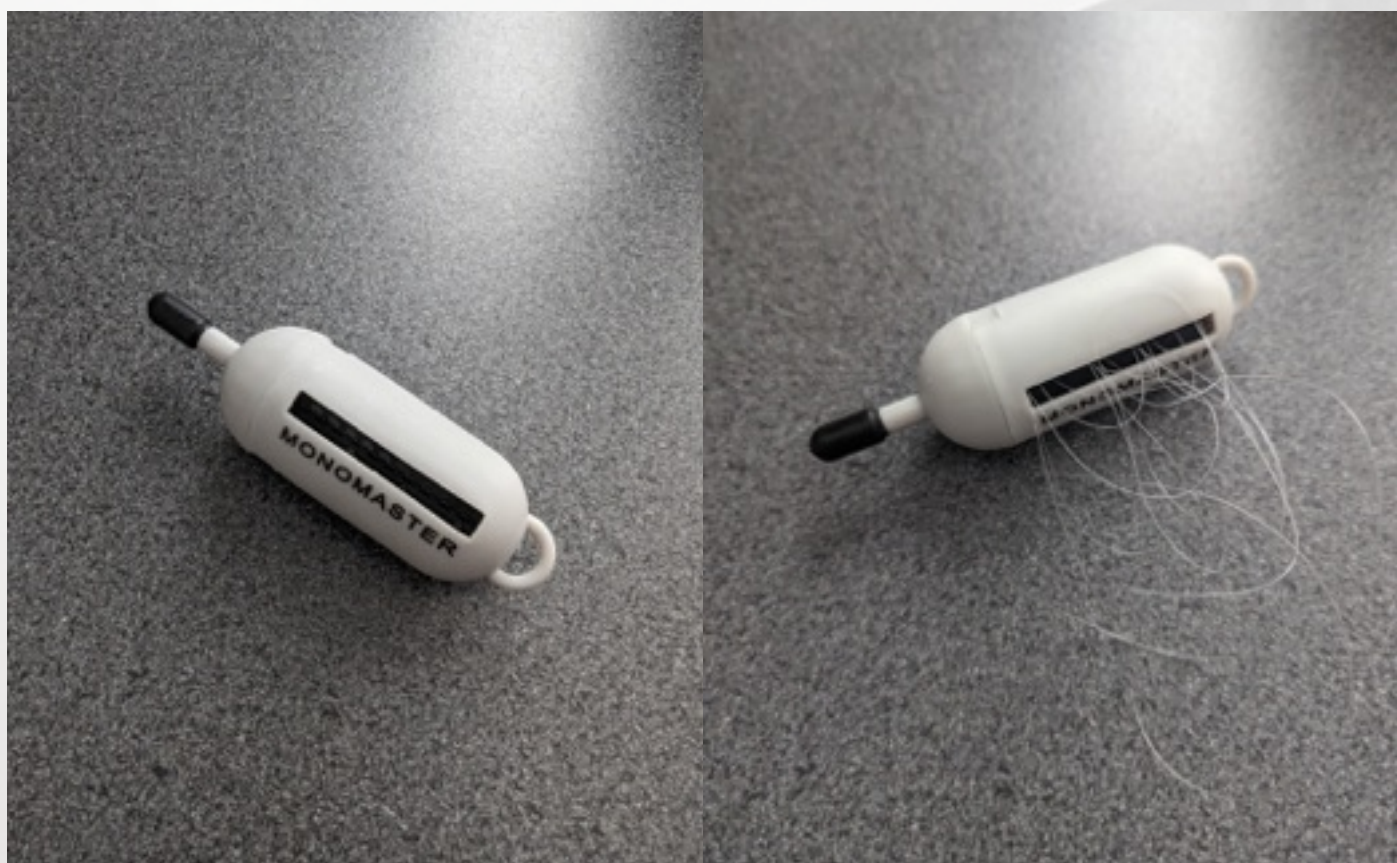
When I am sitting on the bank, I always end up with waste fishing line whether it is tail ends from rig making, discarded line from irresponsible anglers, line affected by abrasion or any number of other reasons.

The big question is what to do with it!!

As a responsible angler who respects the environment around me, I don't want to chuck it on the floor or in the lake as this causes hazards for birdlife, aquatic life and wildlife which as anglers we should be totally against.

I recently found a company called MonoMaster which is a simple yet brilliant device which acts sort of like the roller on a vacuum cleaner, you place your discarded fishing line in the slit on the MonoMaster and turn the inner roller until the line is inside and rolled around the inner roller.

The fishing line gets trapped around the inner roller and you can add a fair amount of line in there before you need to empty it.



To empty the MonoMaster, simply push the top gently to the side and you will then be able to pull the top off and clean the roller.

Take a pair of sharp scissors and start cutting through the line from the bottom of the roller to the top and then you can discard the cut line safely at home or save it up in a box and send it to Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme for them to reuse the line instead of it ending up in landfill.

I am really impressed with the MonoMaster, and it can be attached to a lanyard, zinger, dclip or it is even small enough just to fit in a pocket or your tackle box/bag.

The UK distributor for the MonoMaster is <https://stgeorgesporting.co.uk/> where you can purchase your own and start protecting the environment whilst out on the bank.

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**Are you a coffee nut like me?
Then this is for you!!**

By Anthony Wood

I don't know about you but when I'm out fishing, I still like to enjoy a good cup of coffee and don't want to compromise.

I've tried lots of different coffee machines whilst out on my travels, but I will be hard pressed to find something that beats the brilliant little Staresso Travel SP200 Mini which despite its name gives some big coffee hits.

Not only do I love drinking good coffee, I also use it within my carp fishing. Mixing coffee grounds in with groundbait, using hot or cold coffee as a boilie/bait soak or even the good old classic (which I believe the great Bob Nudd made famous) raw potato pieces soaked in concentrated coffee.

The Staresso travel sp200 mini is a fantastic bit of kit that you can brew hot or cold drinks with. Whether you like an espresso, a latte, americano or even a cheeky Irish coffee, the coffee made with this press really is delicious.

If you really want to, you could even use tea powder to make a (it's just not coffee!!) half decent cup of teapresso.



The build quality is really good and when it is all packed away it is only just bigger than a 500ml can of pop!! The travel mini is easy to clean and look after, just make sure to clean the filter reasonably quickly after use (as in don't leave it for hours or overnight) to prevent it getting clogged with dry coffee grounds.

Using the mini sp200 is really easy, simply add around 8-10g of fine coffee grounds into the filter (it's eco-friendly as there is no filters to throw away), screw into place having read the detailed instruction booklet included and then pour hot or cold water into the water holder.

Screw the cap on and then twist the silver lid slightly so that the pump handle pops up and then once you have the included cup in place simply start pumping the handle until you have a delicious cup of espresso which you can drink as is or add to milk, iced milk or various other combinations to create delicious tasting coffee right on the bank.

You can find the sp200 mini on the Staresso website www.staresso.com or via Amazon <https://amzn.to/3Cv3HGA>.

Well, I hope you found this product interesting, and I hope you enjoy some amazing coffee on your fishing trips if you get one.





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Mark McDonald



Birthday banger for Mark McDonald

Lovely Sunday afternoon. With the wind blowing in to me I spodded a nice area with a particle mix, then fished a Force wafter over the top. Then mid afternoon I got a screaming take and landed this gorgeous golden common carp at 22lb 3oz. I was made up... it was on my birthday!

**making fantastic memories here
Mid-afternoon catch. A common carp caught over a bed of particle and A Force bait. It's the first time my grandson, Ederson came along to enjoy a fishing trip. He loved to see a fish.**

Talking Carp: Hopefully another future angler in the making!



Peter Broomhead



report number 1
from a successful
French trip
46lb 2oz common
carp. Taken on the
last afternoon of
the trip.

Multi rig size 4
Nash fang Twister
with a pineapple
proper job pop
up. Fished over
a clear patch at
60yds over as bed
of lake pellet and
Nutrabaits BFM
boilies

Report number 2

A pb common for
Harry at 36lb 4oz,
and part of a catch
including four fish
over 30lb.

A multi rig with a
size 5 fang twister
with a condensed
milk proper job
pop up fished over
lake pellet at 80yds
towards a sunken
bush.

Great angling by 15
year old Harry!





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Matthew Charlesworth with a fantastic report from Q Lakes.

“After a weeks session on my members water and hardly anything to show for my efforts, I decided to have a quick overnight session on Q lake. I’ve had a membership on here for over a year and never fished it. I’ve always wanted to but couldn’t find the time. Long story short I booked my peg, turned up and got the rods in. After trying many methods on the deck, adjustable zigs, floaters, you name it I tried it. The air pressure was high and the fish were in the upper layers and didn’t want to know. The temperature was dropping and so we’re the fish. I put two solid bags out for the night and one rod on a pop up heli system with the old trusty Scent From Hell in pink going on all rods. Gave them a few freebies and the traps were set. Around 9.45 the full moon was present and my left rod was away. What a battle it was. I’m playing this fish for half an hour at least. It took out my other rods, taking me up and down the swim, literally mugging me off. I finally managed her to the net and what a sight to behold. I knew who she was straight away. Tammy! the big ghosty common. Tipped the needle to bang on 36lb and my new PB I am buzzing! I love this carp fishing malarkey.”



Another beauty from Matthew Charlesworth!

I set up on the end of westerly winds and baited with a handful of Baitworks Atlantic heat over the top of my favoured rigs with matching wafers to the free offerings. I pre baited with hemp the week prior to try and clear the spot a little more as it had low lying weed. I saw fish rolling around the area. I had 6 carp from the spot and the last one out was 'the pretty one' a beautiful linear.



Christopher Wilkinson reports in :-

Snagged me right up in the reeds but after a nice little fight pulled this beauty out weighing in just under 18lb.

Talking Carp : Nice hat... Go Pats!!



Lee Bartley with a trip he will never forget!

In 2022 I had my first fishing trip to Lac Luna with a group of friends. In my life I'd only done the odd bits of carp fishing over the years so you could say this was my first ever proper trip.

For the first 48 hours I was struggling watching all my friends catch outstanding fish, I was trying too hard .

So I took step back and went back to basics. I studied the swim I had chosen .

I found a spot and found the fish, I had never seen fish this big before more so I baited it up, brought my rods in for a while to give them confidence feeding there then after dinner I put them back out with a blowback rig and double corn .

12pm I was woken to my rods screaming off, and after a hard battle, landing a whopping 52lb mirror. To say I was buzzing wasn't the word. I had never seen a fish that big let alone held one, smashing my first ever pb for France. At dinner time we was taking around table about a mirror in the lake called Nemo, it had one pec, and the boys was saying how they would like to catch it and I turn around and said "I will catch that tonight, OU watch!" I was clearly just joking around... well I was woken to another screamer at 7 in morning and who was it? Nemo in my net breaking my pb at 53lb!! I couldn't believe it what an outstanding fish that made my trip. Both carp were caught on same tactics, a blow back rig and double corn. I finished off my trip with another cracking 45.5 just hours before leaving and I can say that well and truly give me the bug for carp fishing.



**“Si Fishes”
checks in with
us:-**

**Weather beaten
in the recent
strong winds I
finally caught
this carp on a
Trigga pineapple
bottom bait! I'd
fished all day
catching other
carp, bream and**

**my first catfish on Nash scopex squid boilies. It was the first time
testing out the Trigga so was glad to see this lovely carp come
along just before home time.**



**UKFisherwoman has been back on the banks and doing what she
does best... banking carp. Here are a couple more up to 21lb 6oz.
CC Moores Live System working well for Carmen.**



Ray Hunter with the bigger of his brace, Bris Fish at 34lb



Callum Rowlands with the bigger of his brace Courteys at 30lb 8oz

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our website is updated regularly with a live booking calendar

Enquiries and bookings can be requested through the website or by calling **07774747237**

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Thanks for reading

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

brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk

mark@talkingcarp.co.uk

markcarper@talkingcarp.co.uk



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

'The Talking Carp Team'

**Brian Dixon
Mark Faulkner
Mark Galli
Dave Harnick Snr**



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

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

- DANNY FAIRBRASS

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