# **ISSUE 6**

# Talking Carp AUGUST 2016

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### ENJOY

Editorial by Brian Dixon

Hello and welcome to the latest issue of Talking Carp. Firstly, we would like to thank everyone for their patience over the last couple of months as we, like hundreds if not thousands of companies worldwide, suffered at the hands of a server loss. We were lucky in that we got everything back online, even if it did take what seemed an awful long time, but some online companies were not so lucky.

Judging by the number of messages and emails we have received from you, the reader, we feel blessed in that you seemed to have missed us!! Well fear not, we are back.

Big news right now seems to be the Carp Society, and more to the point, the team of Tim Paisley, Derek Stritton and their colleagues taking back what was once the leading carp group in the UK before it was viciously raped and pillaged. The ever faithful team at the Anglers Charity Auctions are doing their hardest to help raise funds to fight this legal battle with some amazing auctions as always, so get yourselves onto the Anglers Charity Auctions Facebook page and see if you can't win yourself a very special prize...or two. We would like to wholeheartedly wish Tim and his team the best of luck with this, and know that Talking Carp are here to help out anyway they can should we be needed.

Summer is well and truly here, and I hope many of you are out there

fishing the zigs, or surface fishing... nailing a carp off the top really gets the heart pumping!! And for those struggling with fishing in lilies' during the summer, Paul "Hobbo" Hobbs answers the question in this very issue to help you catch those carp.

Keep those catch reports coming...Have a great month!!

Email brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk











ADVANGED

ACLUGY TACK

My adventures continue by mark Wozencroft So carrying on from my last piece I had decided to fish a water a bit more local to my home, it's a day ticket water and is getting really busy, one thing I don't personally like is the booking of swims but when needs must I suppose? I had been really lucky with this water as I had caught a 40lb mirror from there a few years previously when it was a bit quieter but with the influx of new stockings of some really nice carp the popularity of the water had risen, I did a few sessions on this water last year and like I said I was lucky enough to latch into some nice carp, two sessions stick in my mind which I will share with you.

I had a few days off available to me so I booked a swim that had been producing a few over the last few weeks and seemed to be the banker peg, a lot of anglers don't like to put a lot of bait in on this water so I thought I would think outside the box a bit and pile it in hoping that I might be in for a big hit if they came over my baited spot, I So I pulled one rod off the spot and put my left hand rod to a known hotspot and a few hours



had a few days on the bank so time would be on my side if they did just that, after depositing well over 10 kilos of boilie as this lake has a high head of bream so using pellet or any type of particle would be the kiss of death, knowing that it might take a while for the carp to come onto the bait it was time to put me

was time to put me feet up and play the waiting game, 24 hours later and not so much as a bleep I was getting concerned that I had gone in with the wrong tactics? later I wasn't disappointed when the rod went off and a low twenty was nestling at the bottom of my net, I always love it when the first one of the session hits the mat as it takes the pressure off myself as I think most of us question ourselves with various reasons why we haven't caught



anything, in the early hours the next day I caught a mid twenty mirror and as it was only a few minutes till daylight I decided to sack it up and wait for some better light, so I put the rod back out onto the spot and 15 minutes later myself and Mr Carp were smiling for the camera and was slid back to her watery home to fight another day, so back to the bivvy to light up the

20, things were certainly looking up for this session but mid camera session the kind photographer who was the last pictures noticed that it might be the same fish?!? I was very dubious as I had only put her back 5 minutes before but sure enough after I had returned her I checked the pictures on my camera and it certainly was the same carp!!! Well that's a first on me as it



stove for a well earned cup of tea and no sooner had I poured the hot water then off went the same rod again, after a short tussle that too was being hoisted up for the camera after weighting it and it was another mid was caught on the same spot on the same bait only literally 5 minutes after putting her back previously, I wonder how many times that has happened to other anglers? So now the baited spot had not produced a fish for 36 hours now and confidence was rock bottom about catching anything there and seeing as all my carp I had caught so far were on the new spot I decided to cut my loses and move all my rods, sometimes it's just not worth banging your head against a brick wall as it doesn't matter how much you try to work the swim it's not going to happen on this occasion and it only told me that the carp indeed didn't respond to beds of bait, we all make mistakes in our fishing but it's how you learn to get over it and come out with something positive to use on your next session or indeed in this case the session I was on.

That night I caught a 30lb common but the chap who did the pictures did not take the best so that was slightly disappointing so the lesson learnt there was always check the camera to see if they are taken properly as they were



out of focus, but the smile was back on my face again in the morning as I caught another 30 in the shape of a mirror and better photos were taken this time, so that session ended on a sweet and sour note but I learnt more about the feeding habits of the lake inhabitants and not to take anyone's word that the pics are fine. My next trip to the lake was a while later as I was fishing other lakes and family life got in the way but I managed to get back to the lake just before Christmas for another bash, not much had been out for a bit just the odd carp spread out and nothing to go on so I dropped into a swim I had never fished before but it had a few features

to fish to and I could always move as the lake was fairly quiet which I put down to the time of the year, the first 24 hours were uneventful but the sudden frost didn't help as it was the first one of the

year and it was quite heavy as most of the lake froze over but luckily not in front of me so I was able to rebait my rods by late morning and an hour later I had a slow pick up on my left hand rod and the bobbin just held at the top without taking line so had me thinking that maybe it was a bream again and when I picked up the rod I was really surprised to find something slightly bigger attached to the end, now this was leading me a merry dance up and down the margins and due to the colour of the water I didn't actually see it till it came to the surface and was shocked by the size of the common

wallowing ready to be netted, once she was in the net I broke the net down and carried the carp to the unhooking mat where everything was at hand to weight it, for the record it weighted a very respectable 36lb 2oz's and I was told then that it was a new 30 and with most waters these days they like to name them so that they can keep an eye on its weight gain in the future, it didn't take much thinking about the name to give it as it was named "Cheryl" after my daughter who passed away the month before and a fitting tribute to her as well. My next piece will cover my time fishing the Linear waters from Oxlease to St John's so till next time tight lines.

Mark





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### Step By Step Guide by Stuart Mellors

This month Stuart shows you how to tie the very effective combi rig. Some find it a little tricky but with these easy to follow close up shots anyone can make this rig.



# step 1 create a hair in soft braid, using an overhand loop and slide on your bait



step 2 tie a rig ring on using a overhand loop known and make sure opposite point of hook



step 3 use a knotless knot 6 times up shank of hook and 3 whips down then thought the eye



step 4 thread the braid section through loop in flouro and adjust what length of flexi section you want



step 5 make 6 turns around both arms of the loop whipping away from the hook eye



# step 6 now make 3 whips back up towards the hook eye over the previous whips



# step 7 bring braid back through the loop, the same side as it went in

step 8 moisten the knot and draw the hook and tag away from the loop, tightening the knot



# step 9 trim both tag ends,leaving a neat knot



step 10 add putty to the knot, I add me then I need helps the hook potential

step 11

tie a figure of eight knot for quick rig changing



# step 12 add a anti sleeve to help prevent tangles a day the rig ready to go



### step 13

attach rig to quick change swivel, spliced to the leadfree leader



step 14 all done with a pva bag and a nugget to stop hair tangling on cast

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Cluster by Scott "geezer" Grant Last winter I joined the team at Galaxy Baits (formerly known as Darenth Valley Baits).

I went down to their factory which is situated on the farm at Berwick Ponds Farm. I chatted to the owner Michael Baker who incidentally I have known for some 10 years or more. After a few hours chatting he offered me a consultancy with his company of which I was very privileged and honoured to accept. I joined the team there and then and had an idea for a bait I have been wanting to do for a long time. We talked for hours about certain baits, ingredients etc. Micky has a wealth of knowledge regarding bait and it was great just listening to what he was saying. The following weekend I met Micky at the factory and we put the bait together. The bait was made on a nut base mix something that Micky has also been wanting to do for some time. When it comes to flavour levels etc Micky was bang on the ball. He made the first batch of mixed sizes and once steamed they were left to dry overnight.

The very next day I was back down the factory and the bait was ready for bagging. It looked and smelt awesome, I even tasted it and couldn't believe how much goodness was within the bait. As for a name for the bait we both agreed on "The Nut Job" very fitting for an awesome bait.

I loaded up with 10 kilos of

based, this creates a column as water and oil separate which in turn puts more attraction in the area you are fishing.

My first session was planned for the Christmas period as I was just so busy at work



both 18mm and 14mm, plus matching pop ups and my winter dip.

I have used dips consistently over the last 10 years and especially in the winter they can be deadly.

My winter dip consists of 90% food based and 10% oil

time was of the essence. The 18th couldn't come quick enough and when it did I was loading the car like a maniac. I arrived at The Dell around 07:00 there were a few anglers on and the wind was a mild south westerly but would be getting stronger day by day. I had a walk round and decided to go in a swim on the airfield bank. The other banks were pretty busy and there was nobody on this bank, plus the wind was blowing into my right hand

still very weedy and I managed to find a lovely area in between 2 very large weed beds that was nice and clear. That was the middle rod sorted, once the rod was clipped up I dispatched 2 kilos of boiling to the area.



The then baited with a white fished on a lead were left to soak in the dip for

### corner.

I wasted no time and once back at the car the barrow was loaded and the first of many trips was started. With the bivvy up and the gear all sorted it was time to have a feel about with the marker rod. The lake was minutes then cast out to the area.

The left rod was fished a rod length off the area to the left again on a cleaner area, again the same principles were applied and the rod cast out. I decided to fish my right hand rod just off a

weed bed no more than 20ft from the bank. With everything sorted it was time to sit back take in the atmosphere with a large cup of coffee in hand. The Dell is a wonderful place dear to my heart, a place where dreams come true as the fish have just piled on the weight. All the hard work that has been put into the place is thanks to my late mate the mighty Peter Breeze or Big Guy as I used to call him.

He made the Dell what it is and he was the proudest fishery manager I've ever known. I hope you're having a great time fishing the big lake in the sky x. Sorry for the sentiments but I miss him so much as does all the people that knew him especially his lady Tracy. The wind started to pick up and with a predicted night temperature of 11c it was looking bang on for a lump or two. The night started

drawing in and I made for an early bed.

The wind really started to pick up and the bivvy was shaking like a goodun. I drifted off to sleeps listening to the waves lapping at the front of the swim, and at around 05:30 my receiver exploded into life. I scrambled out the bag and lifted the middle rod, the fish



was strong taking line at every opportunity, once under control the fish just plodded about. After a 10-minute battle I slid the net under a large common.

I secured the net and when I looked up a couple of my mates that were fishing were standing there cheering! I got the camera gear, scales etc sorted then retrieved the fish. On the scales a weight of 42lb exactly was read out and I was grinning from ear to ear. This is now my new PB English common a fish known as "Cluster". The lads took some great photos of which I am extremely grateful for, it was so nice to share the moment with my mates, it's times like this that are truly magical. The fish was in immaculate condition (as are all the fish in here) with the photos complete and after a couple of water shots she was treated and released back into her humble abode. After recasting the rod, I just sat and stared at the lake then shouted up into the sky "That was is for you Big Man"

The rest of the day I was in a daze a fish of that stature at Christmas just blew me away, not forgetting it was the first fish on the new bait, a double bonus.

The next day the wind got even stronger and was now up to 25mph, which let me tell you is bloody strong. The rods got wiped out a few times with moving weed beds, but you've got to be in it to win it as they say. On my last night in the early evening I managed to land one of the lakes babies at 15lb, a stunning fish that also craved the bait. My final morning came around and packing up



didn't seem that bad at all, even after 3 barrow loads of gear I kid you not. Well I hope you have enjoyed reading my winter session on the Dell, my next instalment is on a very exclusive day ticket water in the heart of Brentwood. Be lucky if you're out on the bank, and remember "Effort equals rewards" All the best Geezer.





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# LIVE BLOG from Moorland fishery by Keith Moors

Ryan, Max, Rich and the two Marks exclusive week with an invitation for me to fish. Brilliant!!!! As usual I didn't take part in the draw and waited for the lads to pick swims. I had been wondering, for a couple of weeks,

out and at 2am the immediately in front of me, massive weed same rod rattled off and this fight was in beds to both left and right and the weed a different league. in front of me Waders on and out covering at least the to meet it in the darkest of nights far half of the arm. I decided to fish one you can imagine. rod into a small hole Once I had broken in the weed to my away some of the weed I got a fleeting left and the other

whether some carp were holding up under the weed down the Southern Arm but we hadn't seen very much evidence to suggest that they

were. As the lads chose, Mark - 1st Pontoon, Max - Oaks, Mark - Pampas, Rich - Dog Leg and Ryan - Boneyard, it left the whole of the arm devoid of anglers so I decided to see

what, if anything, was happening down there.

I set up in Snag Bay with a small clearing two tight to the area of weed in front of **me. As evening went** on I saw a fair bit of activity along the forest bank area and was quietly **confident. At 1am** the LH rod took off and produced a **mirror of 34.03** which i managed to play and land from **the bank. Bait waded back**  glimpse of a good sized carp. As an example of the density of this weed! l was able to lay my rod on top of

it while I broke away the clumps hanging round my line. Another few sessions of cutting weed and she began to tire enough that I could lead her out of the weed and into the small clearing where she used every inch of it to show me who was boss. Eventually netted and weighed in at 47.10 and



**"Blackscale" looks** to be well on the way back to full con**dition.** 

3am and the middle rod is away which turned out to be a beautiful fully scaled mirror at 30.02. Having watched the fish showing regu-

larly about three quarters of the way across I decided, after breakfast to reposition all three rods into the holes that the carp had made while rolling. I knew that every take would

mean a wading excursion so it was no surprise when, at 1pm, the LH rod produced number four. At 27lb it was my smallest so far but was a beautiful plated mirror so I can put up with a few of those. Just as I was beginning to think that the fish were no longer in front of me, and just as I was about to wind in for dinner, the LH rod **burst into life again.** Immediately obvious that it was another **good fish so waders** on again and, once extracted from the weed it proved to be a common. On the pic's for this blog. Some of the other lads are now beginning to get among some fish with Rich's 39.08 mirror the biggest so far. Mark has moved from Pampas to Rocky Bay in an attempt to extract a few from the weed



Ieft so that will also be an interesting exercise. At the same time that Mark was photographing his first fish, and new PB, at 46.13 last evening my LH rod

bed

to

my

photograph my own fish if they are below 45lb because I simply don't use the pictures. I much prefer to see customers with the forties but in this case Ryan came down and took some

scales she showed

perfect. Generally, I

42.05 and was

absolutely scale

no longer

that Mark was photographing his first fish, and new PB, at 46.13 last evening my LH rod absolutely screamed off and, on a tight clutch, it sounded like the speed of a small fish. Waders on, slowly walk across to where it was buried in the weed and, sure enough, up **pops a small mirror.** Quick check weigh **and 21.12 was its number.** 

Baits back out before dark and a verv quiet, and quite cold, night was punctuated by a much slower take at 3am. Yet again it needed a trip in the waders to extract it but the fight was obviously from a bigger fish. **Eventually she gave** in and, even in the misty night, I could see another common which looked about the same as my previous one. (A break from typing at this point as my rod has rattled off again). **Right it's now 8am** and I've just finished clearing out a mountain of floating weed, courtesy of a 39.05 mirror which I hooked at about 6am. It properly ripped out about ten square yards of weed so I had to spend an hour or so clearing that to stop it blowing back and forth through the swim and causing

me all sorts of line lay/unwanted bleeps. Anyway, back to the **3am fish. I was right** with my estimation and at 43.06 it was just over one pound heavier than the previous common. Now Monday morning and eight carp so far is more than satisfying.

8.30am and I received a message from Rich in Dog Leg to say that he had just banked a new PB at 47.04. Pukka! They're on the feed now. Mark, in **Rocky Bay** also had two pickups just before breakfast and,

smaller was a common of 18lb which now resides in our stock pond. It also appears that Ryan had a mid-thirty and Steve an upper twenty so everyone has caught with approx 15 carp so far this week. Today (Monday 20th) has been extremely



unfortunately lost the bigger of the two to a snap off which I think was not getting in the lake quick enough. The

quiet with no signs of carp anywhere along the Southern Arm since breakfast. Both Mark (Rocky Bay) and I feel that that the pressure of both of us fishing the arm has moved them out. Especially as there has been only Mark in 1st Pontoon fishing the main bowl. That leaves one hell of a lot of water for them to hide in. I decided that a move was on the cards when the into 1st Pontoon or Pampas both Marks decided that they had changed their minds and were moving to Middles and **Pampas. That being** the case, there is a much better spread of anglers to push **the fish around so I** have decided to sit tight and see if a



other Mark from 1st Pontoon informed us that he was also going to move into **Stumps. As soon as** I said OK I will move move back up here. 7.30pm and I had a liner on my RH rod. I put that down to a bass swimming into the line where

it hangs down from the rod tip. One hour later and the RH (yes that's right, the right hand) rod is away for the first time this week and a common of exactly 33.00 lbs is the culprit. Fish number nine. Just got that rod repositioned and climbed out of my waders when, blow me down, my middle rod rips off. Much more powerful fight this time and carp number ten turns out to be a very lightly scaled mirror of 38.03.

Well that was the night of the three's. 33.00, 38.03 & 33.03 at 5.30am this morning. Again that was on my RH rod and I hadn't even had time to get out of my waders when the bobbin on my middle rod pulled up tight and sat there. The line pinged out of the clip and the reel ticked a couple of times before I leant into another heavy fish. On the bank it turned out to be the Scar Fish at 41.09. My fourth forty and

one very happy angler.

Max had a 42.10 last night and Rich had a 46.04 so quite an eventful night around the lake with Mark (Middles) banking a 24.08 and Mark (Pampas) a 37.00 but losing another big fish to a snapped hook link. Looking at his rigs immediately solved the problem because he has been using a curved hook with an in turned eye tied to fluoro hook link. The angle of the eye simply guillotines the line.

**This morning Rich** was in another state of shock with another PB in the shape of a 42.14 common. But there was still more to come. While Mark in Middles banked a 37.00 mirror Rich matched it exactly. I had to settle for a 26.06 as my thirteenth of the week and then received a call from Ryan asking for my help in weighing a huge fish for **Rich. When I arrived** 

in Dog Leg Ryan was holding the net and **Rich simply didn't** know what day it was. I looked down into the net and was confronted by the sight of a hippo nestling there. A couple of checks and I was pretty sure which fish he had. All of the necessary zeroing etc and we hung the sling on the tripod mounted scales and watched. Cut Tail lit up the screen at 65lb 9oz and Rich dissolved into a gibbering mess. What a fantastic moment and to have the pleasure to be able to share it is very special indeed. Photos done and dinner over, I am now back in my swim and waiting to see if tonight brings any successes for any of us. I went to bed last night without any signs of fish in front of me. At about midnight I heard a good fish crash out to my right and at about 1am my middle rod let rip.

Amazingly I was able to land this one from the bank and it was obviously another good common. On the scales she showed 44.02 so making a hat trick of forty pound commons for me.

At about 3am I heard another fish crash out, followed by another and then the unmistakable spawning splashes. As soon as the liners started I wound in and slept until about 6.30. I walked up to check what was happening in the main bowl to be greeted by a beaming Ryan and a "forty" in the net. Happily, there are no signs of spawning in the bowl and Ryan's forty turned out to be The Peach at 53.04 so another happy start to the day. He also had a 38.12 and Rich had a 36 and 28 as well as Steve with a 38. The numbers are adding up nicely now.

With carp continuing to spawn down the arm I packed up and moved to stumps so as to leave all the weedy swims for the carp to thrash about in. I decided to continue with my baiting methods of wading out and putting a large amount of chopped boilies, over each hook bait, every time they were positioned. In short that was at least twice a day plus after each fish so I have already used close to 30kg of bait. Anyway my wading methods changed somewhat when I discovered that I couldn't even get half way across the arm in chesties. Swimming shorts it was then. I set off with a bucket of bait plus two marker canes and, literally, stumbled into a rock-hard hollow which was about 18" deeper than the surrounding area and had obviously been cleared by the

carp. That'll do for

one rod so I marked it with a cane behind it and filled it up with bait. **Back out with** another rod and, hey presto, a similar clearing to my left. **Happy days!** Another cane and another bucket of bait. I couldn't find anything for my middle rod so decided to place it on the hard shoulder of the forest bank with another bucket of bait around it. Sit back and wait time. Nothing happened for me all day Wednesday but the liners started on dusk. By early morning I could hear the fish spawning in the distance but none of them were near me so I fished on. A couple more fish had come out in the main bowl but just twenties and thirties with the biggest at 38lbs. The night was quiet, apart from the distant spawners, and then at 6.00am my middle rod heralded another liner but the bobbin

just held at the top. I rolled out of bed to reposition it just as the clip made that wonderful "ping" as the line pulled out. I leant into my fifteenth carp and knew it wasn't going to break any records but put up a spirited fight. On the scales she weighed 31.11 so I certainly can't complain. At the same time, Rich was playing his eleventh fish which turned out to be a low twenty. **Breakfast done rods** 

back on the spots and let's see what "big fish Thursday" brings...

I fished through the day and into the night with no more signs but at 3am my middle rod ripped off and I banked another big mirror at 43.13. Beautiful fish and fairly typical Royale.

It takes a fair time to reposition the hook baits and

wading across and back whilst trying not to drown is even more difficult in the darkest of nights. So it was that I had climbed out, stripped off and was drying off ready to get back into bed when my **RH rod ripped off. I** can distinctly remember

session as a member of the EU? LOL. Some other fish had also been landed during the night with a 47lb mirror the biggest to Steve but Friday proved to be

was :-41 carp including 12 forties, 1 fifty and the sixty at 65.09. Well angled everyone and I'm already looking forward to fishing



saying "Jesus!" out loud before climbing back into my wet shorts and playing another common to the net. At 36.06 she was another stunner but my fishing time was coming to an end so I began to gather my gear and prepare to stow it all away again. My final

very quiet on the fishing front and the atmosphere among some of the other anglers was also very low as the future for their businesses and private lives were giving cause for worry. The totals for our week, to six anglers with you again next year.

Keith.

# BANG TIDY!



### THE SYSTEM

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## Rod Hutchinson Big Kipper 2 review by Daniel Winter.

HUTCOMISON HUTCOMISON Kipper II Big Sleeping Bag Steeping Bag



As this is my first review, I suppose I better start off by telling you a little about myself!

Now, normally I don't write reviews as I head up the production line and design products at Bank BUG with my good friend and colleague Christian Cox (founder of Bank BUG).

It's through working closely with products that I have a slightly unnatural, if not bordering on insane, attention to detail when it comes to making products, and that crosses over when it comes to purchasing other products!

Being in a position in the industry for most outside seems like a 'job of a lifetime' and that we all swan around getting free gear and do write ups like this one. Well I can't speak for everyone in the fishing world but for me that's never been the case. I can't own or use anything that either does not suit my needs or is worth the price tag. Half of my gear I've bought is from eBay on the cheap! However, I do believe certain things are worth spending the extra money on. Rods and reels being the obvious things to make sure you have the very best of according to your budget of course. A good shelter is extremely important, and not forgetting a good bed! This brings me back to the whole reason I'm writing this article.

Rod Hutchinson for many is an all too familiar name, making quality gear for longer than some of you reading this article have been alive. My first bivvy was a Hutchy 2 man and that was nearly half my age when I got it at the age of 16!

This time round I've had my eye on the new Big Kipper 2. The original first caught my eye but unfortunately was too heavy for my overnight sessions, and having less upper body strength than



a new born lamb, it wasn't for me. But that hasn't stopped me being absolutely in love with it.

Thankfully a friend of mine, Gerrard Williams, who works up at Rod Hutchinson told me about the newest edition and after sending me a few pictures and bits of info, I finally found my new bed. I mean I just couldn't carry on fishing knowing that it existed and I wasn't sleeping on one.

Let's cut to the nitty gritty and talk about its main points.

Why did I pick it? Its long, it's light and waterproof. I'm tall, weak and not a fan of damp evenings in my bed from barrowing around in long grass after an April shower.

It only weighs 11 kilos as a standard bed! Which when you consider its longer and has 8 legs rather than 6 like its rivals, it is certainly built for comfort on the move!

### The cost

This is where for some of you it may let you down. It costs around £390 RRP but I have to say, it's worth every penny. Like I've mentioned before, I'm not one to splash out just for the fun of it. So when I do, it's only because I'm getting what I'm paying for. If you like, buy one, and if you don't like it, send it back, find me on Facebook and abuse me! that's how confident I am!

Is this bed for you? Well YES! I have to be honest I was sceptical when I saw how much bed you are getting for the weight. In fact, if you speak to Gerrard and ask him, he'll more than likely sigh and tell you about how I pestered him for months asking every little question you could ask. I wanted measurements, weights, materials, you name it, and I asked it. Even then I was typically unimpressed and assumed it wasn't going to be what I hoped. Thankfully I was proven wrong and as far as I'm concerned, I'm strolling round the lake looking down at everyone with lesser sleep systems. **Bad points?** Well it wouldn't be me if I couldn't find some faults and yes there are, but if anything this might show

you how picky I am.

For one the way the legs fold out can be a little fiddly, it takes me at least 20 seconds longer than my old bed to set up. It's very very long! Now as much as I love this being 6 feet tall and my feet don't touch the end, it does mean those of you with brolly systems or Compaq bivvies may struggle.

Last but not least, the summer skin on the sleep system is actually too warm! Which I suppose is a plus if you look at it that way. On a hot night you may need to sleep in your boxers but if you are too hot and dying in your sleeping bag, and the mosquitos are hovering above for any flesh poking out, it can leave you caught between a rock and a hard place!

Hopefully I haven't bored you to tears and right now your grabbing your phone to look for Rod Hutchinson's website to go get yourself one of these bad boys!

Check them out at www.rodhutchinson.co.uk

Daniel.





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The Campaign For Gertie Continues' by Rich Austin

So..... after failing to qualify for the semis of both the Erics Carp Cup and the British Carp Angling Championships this year I sat around sulking for a couple of weeks licking my wounds and gathering my thoughts on the upcoming season and my continued search for 'Gertie' who has eluded me for 2 full seasons, now into my third. 'Gertie' is my club water jewel, a fish that is 40 years old, has fluctuated in weight between low 30's up to 40lb. She hasn't been out since last winter so I'm keeping the faith and hoping that she graces my net before it's too late and she joins the carp gods.

I have made a few changes to my angling this season, I have moved on from 5\* Baits who accounted for many stunning fish for me and some special memories over the last few years, but I felt I wasn't able to utilise other products in my fishing that I wanted to introduce and add a different element to my angling. have been lucky enough to now utilise all the products I could ever need through CC Moore: the bait has always been top drawer as are all their products in a very big range that spans Pellets to Boilies to Particles to individual ingredients for tailoring to your own individual require-

#### ments.

My first session on my newly acquired CC Moore Live System Boilies was at the ever improving number one UK Day Ticket Venue - Farlows Lake in Iver, I've fished there for over 30 years and although I have other waters at my disposal the fish stocks and history are second to none which keep enticing me back time after time. I graced the banks of Farlows Lake 2 as number 1 was being heavily fished so I opted for a quieter corner away from all the lines and noise. I put out about 3kg of 15mm Live System spread across a line at 12.5 wraps where I would be fishing 3 rods. I decided to fish 3 differing rigs until I found the correct consistent and successful presentation. Rig 1 was a pink washed out 12mm Dairy Supreme pop up, rig 2 was a Snowman of 15mm 3 rigs working none more than another so I left 3 different rigs out. After topping up with another kilo I sat back and made a few more rigs which consisted of Rig Marole Skinfull attached to my new JP Precision hand sharpened size 6 Kranks.

My 2nd 24 hours saw a steady flow of silvers followed by a stunning high teen mirror which just shows the stamp of fish in these lakes, immaculate, well cared for wood carvings. I followed that with a couple lower teens, the big ones eluded me on this trip, but this session was about confidence in my new bait and it did its job, I was going back on my club water full of confidence. After a week off fishing to regroup and start thinking of my Club Water approach, I was getting itchy feet so I made a couple of after work trips to the lake to see what





would be awaiting me. I wasn't disappointed on either occasion, seeing fish on both trips. I made the walk round the lake twice. searching out fish from known spots and keeping an eagle eye over the rest of the lake as I did so. I saw carp in the snags that I like to fish in a swim known as Sanctuary, also in the back bay swim there were the usual residents. Moving on round to the car park swim which commands a good high view of the lake, if something is moving through this part of the water you will see it without doubt and it didn't let me down, 3 cruisers of a good size milling across the upper layers. I then made my way round to my Favourite swim known as ' The Bridge' this swim has everything I love in my fishing, Snags, Pads, Open Water, Overhanging Trees, Reeds, the lot. It is a very challenging swim with regards

to landing any fish that do manage to kite left into a retracted no fish no access bay, so a lot of side strain and calm playing skills are definitely needed for the sake of fish safety and my own sanity.

First trip armed with my trusty CC Moore Live System and the Pacific Tuna I was confident indeed, and after a short walk around the Back Bay swim and the Sanctuary were both occupied, so I headed round to The Bridge swim where a guy was luckily enough just loading his barrow. After a brief chat about his stint and what had come out, I wasn't feeling too optimistic with the guy telling me he had 3 Carp to low teens and 18 yes 18 Bream in

a 24hr session, well I did chuckle but also was a little apprehensive as I do seem to attract the slimy ones! So I settled down in the swim making light work deploying the Tempest in under a minute before putting out a light spread of bait over 3 spots. Now this is only a 2 rod water so priming 3 spots works for me, I build each one up as if I was fishing them all at once, just topping up every couple of hours with 30 or so boilies just to keep attraction going in and a little disturbance that most carp can't resist investigating. My first spot was left under trees to reeds, second was right of pads where I've seen fish patrolling, and third was to the right willow. All of which have produced for me in the past.

Time passed and it was soon getting towards dinner time so I told myself I would recast after dinner,



, I got out the Ridgemon-

key and cooked up Satay Chicken and Bombay potatoes that went down a treat followed by an ice cold Magners nothing better before recasting 2 rods tight up against trees and reeds.

It took me 5 attempts with the number 1 spot until I was happy to leave it for the night, I decided to move number 3 spot to number 2 for the night as it was an easy cast in the dark, and a known patrol route so hopefully being active at night would be forthcoming. It was long until spot 1 rattled off culminating in a lovely 15lb common. Rod back out on the spot 1st attempt so felt smug! Number 2 had a quick drop back and slow pull, oh no l thought please no, YEP bream, 4 in a row, I fed out about half a kilo over that rod hoping to feed the bream off before the big boys came in. A quiet night ensued, until 4am that is, when the number 2 spot melted off making me bolt

bare foot off the indulgence and on to my locked up rod just as it was starting to tilt the Fox alarms round. I it was a stunner a lovely



hit in to an already steaming train which took me straight in to the pads on the left, Noooo!! I kept my rod high, and walked back as far as I could, gaining some line and it came free with a huge bosh, tail whipping the water to a froth, it fought hard all the way to the net when it decided 4oz another of the big boys crossed off my list. Rod went back out with another half a kilo of Live System and Pacific Tuna. I didn't have to wait that long before the same

Common 27lb

rod roared off again, which culminated in an epic battle, 20minutes of pad battling, snag pulling, nail biting moments, I thought I was going to lose it a couple of times but it graced my net and I could breathe again. Once I composed myself and pulled the net out I knew it was a special

> fish known as the Big Common, unfortunately down in weight from a high of 35lb to 29lb 14oz but l couldn't care less, it was a target fish and

it wanted to play again, I managed to tame it once more and guide it across the spreader block. Yes, a special one at that... Boooooom. I finished the session off with 6 carp and 8 bream including the 2 largest common residents. I couldn't wait to get back and did a quick session the following week of which I banked 8 more carp 6 of which were stockies, and 2 originals which were stunning including another one off the list in an old mirror called Cluster! And yet Gertie still eludes me arghhhhhhh!!! My confidence is high at the moment, I've had some great sessions and my CC Moore bait products are working very well for me. Every cast was put out with my own stick mix made from CC Moore products, Freshwater Snails, Krill Micro mass, Crushed Tigers with added Milk Proteins for cloud. All were boosted with Live System Booster fished over Live System and Pacific Tuna Boilies. Bottom end was Rigmarole Skinfull and JPrecision Hooks.

Till next time..... Boooooooom!! Rich



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NATURES BAITS

# BLOODWORM-X

A Basic Guide To Stalking. By Jake Pinney

In this article I aim to give you, the reader, some of the knowledge I have gathered in my time stalking. I'm going to try keep it as entertaining as possible to do this I'm going to run you through a brilliant day I had where I had my still standing PB of 30lb 12oz. Whether you are someone who has done it for years and wants to see if you can improve yourself, or someone who knows how deadly stalking can be but doesn't know where to start, I hope I can point you in the right direction.

My personal choice of gear for those of who are looking at getting a little set up, let me just say unlike most writing for mags I'm not a sponsored angler, so my choice of tackle is not influenced in anyway. Although I have an account as a fieldtester for Solar bait I won't use something unless I think its quality. I carry 2 Nash scope rods with shimano baitrunners 6000st. a Nash dwarf 42inch telescopic net, a BIG padded unhooking mat (fish safety must not be forgotten when scaling down) and my rucksack with the least amount of stuff as possible.

When stalking keep it to basics of what you actually need to catch a carp, glasses are a must and

before leaving make sure you have a rod ready to go which just needs a bait and lead. A perfect example I can think of, I was going to have a day stalking so I prepped my rods the night before and made sure everything was spot on.

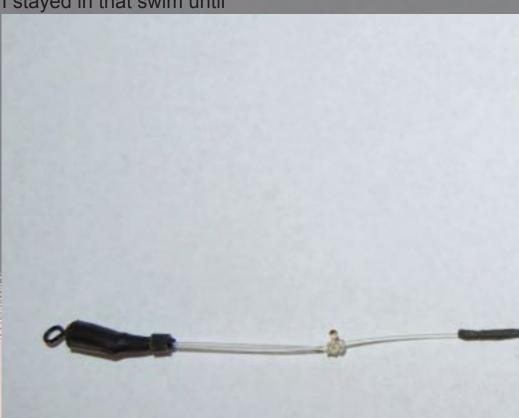
I got down the lake the following morning at 6am, spotted some fish feeding on a spot so I then waited for them to move off, I then got some bait out where they were and put a very basic bottom bait rig out onto a small gravel patch because they were feeding very confidently on and around it, I then had a 22lb 12oz mirror in the net by 6:30am.. that is how effective and quick stalking can be.

I stayed in that swim until

around 9-10am because there was still some fish there. But they started to come in and out not really looking like they were going to stop for a proper munch again, this is what made me move because of a similar experience on the same lake.

I'm going to try cut a long story short here, but keep in what I think are the vital bits of information that you might be able to use within your own fishing whether that's open water fishing or stalking in the edge.

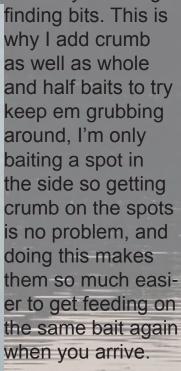
I was doing 48hours with brolly etc, and me being me I had to keep checking the nearby marginal spots during the day. I found a big mirror on its own... (30lb+ easy).



I got my rods in, put them on the sticks and left my gear so I could watch this big mirror's movements... This fish kept doing a set route around a small corner of the lake, so I baited a small spot with a handful of corn that this big fish was passing, after it went down once, every time it was passing the spot on its route it kept coming in and having a just mouthful from the silk weed that surrounds a gravel spot (approx. 2ft). Then after a little while a smaller common (14-18lb) came in a started feeding on the gravel confidently, I had to top the spot up every time the common came in and had a munch because it had most of it!. Then the big mirror come back round again while this small common was still there, the

mirror had its mouthful on the weed then literally a mouthful from the gravel and went on its route again, by this point it was getting dark so I grabbed the gear and set up so I could fish the spot without being right on top of it. After having a very quiet night they were both nowhere to be seen in the morning. Then this mirror came back at around 12:30pm coming in and just doing the same thing again, I tried everything shorter rig, smaller hooks, bigger hooks, balanced baits the lot, but this fish wasn't having any of it. I had work the next day and because I don't drive my lift was coming at around 6pm if my memory serves me well. I blanked but the information I gained from that blank has definitely helped me read when the fish will give

a quick bite, and when they will be very tricky but I'm sure would still give a bite. After a 22lb 12oz mirror I had in the morning the fish that were still there where showing the same kind of pattern as this big fish and eventually left at about 9am I knew they would probably be back within the next hour or so but I didn't want to wait. After quickly packing up from the first spot, I found some more fish moving around the zone of another spot I had dropped some bait onto the evening before hand, around 1kg of crumbed, halves and whole Seafood-takeaway boilie. The power of pre-baiting marginal spots can only be explained as brilliant, , because the fish in the area will probably be the same ones that have eaten your pre-bait and stayed all night



1776



it will still start feeding from the weed and as its confidence grows it will join the other fish on the gravel). My left hand rod I changed from the bottom bait to my faithful hinged stiff rig on it with a Solar Quench Popup with a quick dip in the marine 17, , this went into a hole in a weed bed the hole is made up of some gravel but with bit of silk/blanket weed in there. This weed bet is only about 6ft away from the spot I could see them feeding on and there used to be a clear tunnel in the weed bed you could see the fish move through.

I got some bait in after watching them coming in and out of the spot, looking like they were looking for a bit of grub by their body language, what I mean by that is they was coming in and stopping on the spot with their heads down picking at bits then moving out, when stalking their body language is something you will learn to be able to read over time. I don't claim to be the best at it I just try to think about what I have seen before. So moving on I managed to get the fish feeding by adding just whole and half baits glugged in the marine 17 from Solar. Whilst fishing I will only add a small amount of bait because it can make a bite a lot quicker, 2 handfuls will be

plenty enough to hold the fish and get a bit of competition going. After around 15mins I had a peek at the spot from behind a bush and seeing a good 4-5fish feeding, I knew I had to get a rod in there. What I done is purposely spooked them with a few half baits, I don't like to do this but I would rather spook them with bait the last thing you want to do is drop a rig into feeding fish as this can make them go and not come back. So after spooking them off I got my right hand rod with a choddy placed just onto weed beside the spot they were feeding on (Going back to the big mirror experience was my reasoning on doing this, because if a big fish comes in and there's competition I think



After about 15mins of the rods being out I checked the spot and the fish were back feeding again so I did the best thing you can possibly do whilst stalking and that's to sit well back and leave the spot alone, the urge to keep checking and watching is a big one but unless you have really good cover keep telling yourself NO. After about 30mins of waiting, my left hand rod screamed off and the fish was through 3 to 4 weed beds within seconds, I was just holding as tight as I dared to as the fish came back through with a little bit of weed covered on

Carp Fe



its head, it was slow, but after a quick head shake it got rid of that and was fighting hard once again, heading for every weed bed it could possibly could. After a good fight I netted it and knew it was a good fish

> long and chunky 30lb 12oz new pb for me happy days.

I gave this spot another hour or so until about 1pm then I left the lake because the fish had moved back out into open water.

Then I was back down the lake at about 4:30pm after being in the local tackle shop for a little while. I managed to find some fish fizzing and moving about the weed

about 15yards out. So I baited the spots in the side and got the rods on them checking every 20mins or so till about 6:30pm nothing was happening. I then ran out of bait! So I left one rod where it was because I thought something might come up and have a munch, I put the other rod a lot closer to where the fish were I could still see to odd bit of fizzing going on. My faithful hinged stiff rig with a Jacko-Pop up. I knew the bottom was a light weed but I have full confidence in putting my Hinge rig onto it because I have seen what it sits like on light weed from seeing it in the side, this rod then zipped away with a 26lb 6oz mirror at about 6:30pm perfect end to a perfect day.

I hope you have enjoyed reading this and taken enough information to try and stalk a carp or 2. Jake. PURCHASE

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The Boss Said I Could Go... by Ian Masters The boss said I could go so the request was made. As I am in a privileged position in having access to a very special body of water which I will, out of respect of the members just refer to it as the lake, I'm sure you all understand.

So the text was sent to see if the owners minded me fishing on Tuesday night, having had to turn away on the Thursday previous due to another angler casting into the same area I would have. Seeing as I don't have any other choice of area to fish I left and went to a pastie water across the road to get my Fix! This was sorted by a low double linear, very welcome given the day I had just had and topped off by not being able to fish. I am not at all bitter as I understand the situation from both sides. The text came through saying I could do the Tuesday night, so for the best part of two days all I could think about was 'am I gonna be able to get in the swim or was I off in search of the pasties again? Following the school run's completion and both kids delivered back home, the preloaded car was off again in hope that I could get the night in.

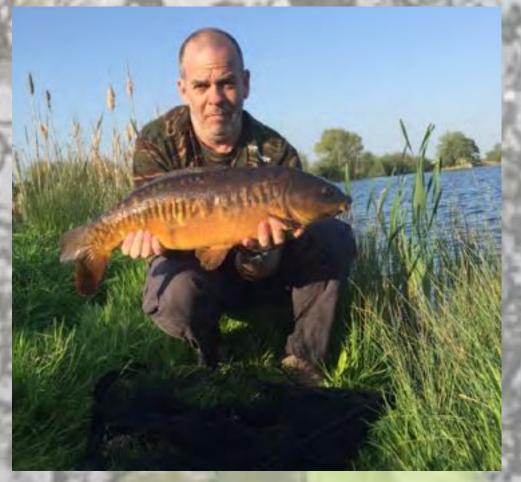
As I turned into the drive, I could see down the side of the lake that would be an issue and the first and concerning swim was va-

cant meaning I was able to fish! There was however another angler further down so a quick check with him to make sure he wasn't launching across, this was duly done and I made my way round to the swim. Due to it being an overnighter I had just a little more gear than normal, including the chesties as these are needed to get the baits out due to the overhang so two trips are needed and this was done with some speed. It has been a few weeks since I've last been in the swim and that spring had changed the drab browns to fresh, vibrant greens with even the odd sprinkling of colour as the spring flowers had come out and made an appearance. There is no better time to be at one

#### with nature.

Following recent sightings of the odd fish showing at short range in front of the swim, this had helped me to formulate a plan of attack as off with the 3oz leads and on go the 1oz flat pears, something different for me that's for sure and the snide rod was tied with an in-line flat square 4oz lead again very different for me.

The rigs for the main rods were still choddy's but the snide one had a hinge rig tied with absolute precision it almost seemed too good to use! However, it was going out there as the need to put one of the lakes residents was a far greater need.



There is one slight feature to my left in what can only be described as a crater type indent in the lake bed, it has got like this somehow and my thought could be fish and that's good enough for me to place a bait on it for the night along with 30/40 of the finest scattered quite closely to the hook bait. The rod straight out was just in some soft chod also 30/40 baits around the bait.

The last rod was on a gravelly/sandy area of to the right of the swim and, yet again, a light scattering of baits was sent out there via the catapult. It was still at no range, but an over arm throw would not be a closely grouped as it sent out via the catapult.

Now the last one.... It was hand delivered right on the very tip of a bush, via the chesties as I had previously cut away the branches underneath but not too many that it would affect the look of things as I wanted it to not draw attention from either the home owners or anglers watching me. Also to keep the bird life away from taking a liking to my bait I was able to drop 20 odd baits right over the top and done this by putting my hand under the water before opening my hand to allow the carp sweets to gently come to rest and nestle down there with my hook bait. So all the baits had been dispatched to their spots all that was required was Mr Carp to come along and do the business and



make me a happy man. After checking the forecast, there was no rain due over night or until around 10am the next day so a night under the stars was planned for later.

With the fish's dinner sorted, it was time for mine. So a bowl of chicken and pasta along with a coffee was placed down the front of the swim to watch the evening's Ariel entertainment. My hopes were high as the previous night there had been quite a few shows in this area, all witnessed while I was down visiting another member. Sure enough while I sat there I was blessed to see 6/7 clear sightings of our quarry and one in particular a large bodied mirror

clearly seen in the same area not 50 yards away and out almost completely, it's always nice to know they are active and in the area. So the evening drew to a close, and another few brews were made and

drank. Then, a night under the stars was in order, the supa brolly was close at hand though as the good old English weather can be quite unpredictable!

So, with the kettle filled and readied for the 5am alarm and obligatory brew or two to allow the sleep monster to become human once again. Everything in place and ready, including the folded down chesties all ready in case they were needed. After listening to the radio for a little while it wasn't long before the eyes started to get heavy and sleep was very close behind, never a sound sleeper when bankside, however it was a comfy night and I don't remember too much of it until I woke to the sound of the water chickens getting gobby with each other about 04:30am luckily this was only just before the alarm so not too much of an issue. With the sleep wiped from my eyes I lay there looking into the abyss with motionless bobbins without so much as a single bleep all night.

Only one thing to do at this point, yep its brew o'clock! But as I swung the legs around in readiness to light the stove, a single bleep followed by another few. The focus of my eyes was now fixed on the rods in front of me but the motionless indicators meant one of two things: either I was dreaming it all or it was the snide rod! The bleeps were now fairly regular, but not a "one tone" so I walked down to the rod to see what was occurring. On arrival I was meet with an old school Cardinal 155 going into melt down and the 2.25LB TC KM1 was nearly bent double as something had fancied the carp sweet I'd offered and was trying to get as far away and as quick as possible. Within a split second I had made the decision that I was not gonna get time to don the chesties so in I went! Up to the knees when Ding, my common sense reminded me that my phone was in my pocket a quick retreat to land place the phone on the deck then set about doing battle with an angry fish.

To set the scene, I needed to walk out in the water to just over my waist with a rod hooped round to the right and under the water up to the reel and every time I was able to gain a little line I was splashing the water! The battle lasted about 5 minutes and every time I gained a little bit and brought the fish closer, there was another twang as the line pinged off another of the underwater branches.

It was a proper heart in mouth experience but I was loving it all the same, saying over and over in my head "Don't come off "thankfully the gods were on my side now as I was getting near to netting something. I had not seen it still and it wasn't like I could look down into the water to see it as I was level with it!

Another problem just dawned on me. As I needed to go even further in in order to net the fish as I didn't have the clearance from the trees to lift the rod. This was done and the fish appeared on the surface. It was a lovely dark common and she went into the net first time! Result I had just had one of the most memorable 5/7 minutes of my fishing life, a real heart in mouth but so exciting moment that I was now victorious in. Once I had finished punching the air, I needed to get my quarry out on the bank for a look. I couldn't do it in the water properly as just no space, I made

my way out where everything was ready so a quick dismantle of the net and a threading of both me, a rod and a net with a fish in it back out onto dry land remembering not to stand on my phone in the process. Back on dry land I placed her on the mat, having unhooked and removed all other bits and bobs I took a step back to marvel in her splendour. She wasn't the monster of the deep and quite possibly one of the smaller of this lake's inhabitants. However at no time was I thinking damn its only small as every fish from this mecca is special. So I set about the numbers you need or want to know and the Ruben's settled at 19lb exactly, I was not in the slightest bothered by this as this fish if original could be 40 years old as some of the other residents are. That said it's all immaterial-I had caught another fish and what a fine looking fish it was..

After a few self-shots she was returned to her watery lair to tell her friends about her ordeal, my motto has long been Effort = Results! I think I worked well for this one.

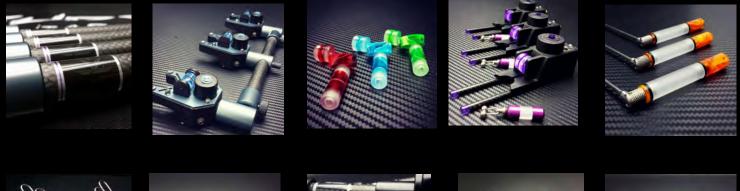
#### Tight Lines Ian







### The only limitation is your imagination





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Getting your mix right

Ales !

by "Hookpull"

I have previously mentioned trying to get the level of protein in your mix to finish at around 30%. I will try to explain how you can work out the approximate level of proteins in your finished mixed base mix powder by giving you a few examples. It is relatively straight forward until you try to ascertain a level for your finished rolled bait. It gets complicated when you try to factor in the eggs to your calculation. Not to worry though as you can get close enough for you to know that you are producing a good quality food source.

The protein level of the example below can be worked out as follows for 1 kilo of base mix :-

300 grams of A at 70 % protein, the calculation would be  $3 \times 7 = 21$ 300 grams of B at 20% protein  $3 \times 2 = 6$ 200 grams of C at 15% protein  $2 \times 1.5 = 3$ 150 grams of D at 10% protein  $1.5 \times 1 = 1.5$ 50 grams of E at 10% protein  $0.5 \times 1 = 0.5$ The protein level would be 21+6+3+1.5+0.5 = 32 so your level without allowing for the eggs in the base mix

would be 32% protein.

Another example could be:-400 grams of A at 30% protein  $4 \times 3 = 12$ 400 grams of B at 20% protein  $4 \times 2 = 8$ 100 grams of C at 10 % protein  $1 \times 1 = 1$ 100 Grams of D at 90% protein  $1 \times 9 = 9$ The protein level would be 12 + 8 + 1 + 9= 30%

In my previous article I said how you can raise the protein level of a mix that has worked out a bit low with the addition of a high protein ingredient, a milk based product or

blood plasma are two good options. I purposely added the 10% or 100 grams of the 90% high protein ingredient at the end to show how you can raise or tweak the level to raise it if needed. As you can see only a small amount was needed so it won't break the bank using it. Prior to the inclusion of the final ingredient the level was low at 21%, it was easily raised at relatively low cost with one final ingredient which could, for example, have been casein. When the mix had been rolled into boilies without the high protein ingredient the eggs would lower the level to below 20%, which I personally think is a bit too low. When



I do a boilie mix it is usually 100 large eggs, which gives me a touch less than 15k of boilies, or 150 egg mix that produces about 22k. After mixing with a hand blender in a sink bowl I put the eggs into 2 litre pop bottles using a funnel, I then know how much egg liquid mix I have so that I can then then add oil or any other liquid to my mixing bowl before putting the eggs back in to mix everything together. 100 eggs last time could be 200ml less or more than the 100 eggs this time, it is not always the same. Adding whatever you want to 1 litre of egg liquid will always be the same no matter how many eggs you have used. If it is August and the waautumn and early summer you may drop it to 2.5 ml per egg so that would be 40 x 2.5 ml so 100 ml of oil per 2 litre bottle, early spring you may do 1ml per egg so that would be 40ml or none. I know through experience how much oil etc I put in per 2 litre pop bottle as you will do after doing it a few times so it is easier than it may at first sound.

You don't need to do the maths you just know. You could simplify it for yourself and add X amount to 2 litres of egg for bait that will be used November to May, then x + half again

ter is at its warmest and you are working on 5ml of oil per egg and each egg you take to be 50 grams and a 2 litre bottle of egg mix weighs 2 kilo then you would add 200ml of oil per 2 litre bottle of eggs. If each egg is 50 grams that would be 40 eggs in a 2 litre bottle so 40 x 5ml of oil. In

June and July then x doubled August to October, just a guide line for you. Doing it this way you can get your mix the same every time no matter what the size of the egg.

You can confuse yourself even more if you want to by trying to allow for the addition of the eggs. When you add your eggs to the mix you change the protein and oil level as there are proteins and oil in the eggs. I will use an average protein level of 15% in an egg to make explaining it easier, the yolk is higher and the white of the egg is lower. To make 1 kilo finished bait if you use 6 eggs at 15% protein that is about 300 grams so that will be 700 grams of 30% protein base mix.

700 grams (mix) x 30% would be 7 x 3 = 21 300 grams (eggs) x 15% would be 3 x 1.5 = 4.5 Add them together so your finished boilie would be about 25.5 proteins, so your protein level has dropped 4.5%, in my mind that is acceptable. I have used the figures shown purely as an example to illustrate what effect the eggs have.

There would be no point in working out every bait that you do, if you have in your mind that you want a base mix of around 30% they will be having a good meal on you and you can feel happy that you are giving the carp something back, if your base mix is down to 25% then I think it is just acceptable as you boilies will be over 20% protein. I personally would not use one this low. I hope this has not been too much to try to take in but I think

that it is important that if you are making your own boilies that you get it right or as right as you can. You may need to read this article a few times or refer back to it but you will soon be able to carry on without it.

Basically what I am saying is that, in my opinion, get your base mix at 25% to 35% protein and forget the rest as you will confuse yourself for no reason. If you are at this level your rolled baits will be a good food source and will increase your chances of using it long term and continuing to get a few runs.

I was asked by someone to put a mix on here, I am happy to do this but I have always felt better catching on a mix that I have designed and made. On saying that there is nothing wrong in using a mix I suggest then tweaking a touch to what you like to use. I am going to keep it simple with a few ingredients as I don't want to make it too easy for you and give all of my hard earned secrets away (LOL)

50 grams of blood plasma (white) or blood powder (the powder will darken the boilie) 50 grams of milk powder 350 grams of Soya flour 350 grams of Semolina 200 grams CLO I have not used that mix but there is no reason why it would not catch fish, I have not worked out the protein level but if I was going to use it long term I would. As I explained previously it can be raised if necessary by dropping 50 or 100 grams of semo and adding the same amount of a high protein milk derived product. All of the ingredients are relatively bland in taste so will take on any flavour that you may like to add, it is also light in colour if you use the white blood plasma so it will take on any colour that you want to use. A different one could be:-50 grams of blood as above 400 grams of fish meal (LT94 would be my choice) 250 grams of Semolina 200 grams of Soya 100 grams of seaweed (I like the course kelp, it leaves large dark specks in the bait) Again I have not used this but it looks good to me, the protein level of this mix will

be higher than the other mix . The "problem" (probably the wrong word to use) with this mix is that the fishmeal and seaweed have a strong fishy smell so if you add flavours they will be masked by the fishy smell a bit, I really like seaweed in a mix like this, it smells like the sea. With this type of mix my favourite is to add Anchovy paste (50 gram to 1 litre of eggs) or shrimp paste, it stinks!!!! But believe me the fish like it. Fish sauce is something else to consider. This mix will be difficult to dye but I would imagine that you can do it if you feel the need to, I never have.

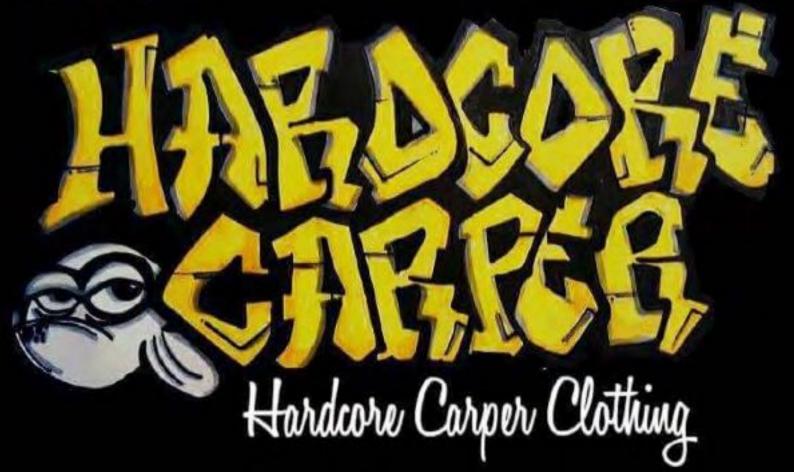
The ingredients are readily available from a few places online or your local supermarkets, don't ignore the Asian shops they have some brilliant ingredients there and don't have carp tax included. Before I finish this one I will add a floating bait mix I read about somewhere years ago and works really well. It's a floating cake mix, literally a sponge cake mix from the supermarket.

I fished somewhere early eighty's and did well on floaters, problem was the ducks and gulls would eat everything until they were stuffed, the problem was solved with the cake mix.

1 packet of sponge cake mix (Tesco, Asda etc), 30 grams of wheat gluten (this makes it tough and rubbery to stay on the hook) mix with 4 eggs and we used to dye it right red or green. Follow the instruction for cooking it and away you go, cheap as chips also happy days. The fish didn't know the difference in colour as they only see the silhouette of bait from below against the light sky so they only see dark grey/black, the gulls and ducks didn't go near red or green "stuff". Early May as I write this, had my fist session last week,,,,,, well happy!!!! 39lb 8oz mirror landed on my bait that nobody else in the world is using. Give it a go!!







#### HARDCORE CARPER CLOTHING

Our carp clothing as a distinctive logo of a graffiti style logo which has been designed and made by carp anglers for carp anglers. Whether it is for comfort or just to part of a recognisable exclusive club for the like-minded carpers of today. Hardcore carper clothing is a new company with a small range of products which we will be adding to as we start to get recognised. Our clothing and accessories are not only practical for wearing for hours on end beside the lakes, but are great for every day casual wear too. Our hardcore carper logo is instantly recognisable by all who enjoys carp fishing and is a great way to pin point like-minded every day carpers. We aim to give our customers a great service and invite any suggestions how to improve our range of products or services.

Many thanks HCC

## Ask The Experts with Paul "Hobbo" Hobbs



As the next issue of Talking Carp is upon us, a question has come in from Jim Rawding via email. Thank you so much for your question about tackling lilies. I hope my tips and hints can help!

The first thing to remember is that lilies can be an absolute magnet for carp. First and foremost, as an angler carp safety should be a priority because lilies can be a snag situation so I would always recommend the strongest mainline you can use. Low stretch lines will always help. Strong hooks and the use of the strongest hook link material is paramount.



As for how tight to fish to the lilies is up to you and your own angling ability but always stay on your rods, fish your clutches as tight as you feel comfortable and use good sturdy butt rests. If you are thinking of fishing as tight as you can this is fine but always remember the key elements above. Just a little tip from me that works if every fellow angler is fishing super tight why not think about dropping a little short, say half a rod length or even a rod length away. Tight lines are essential when snag fishing. I personally turn my sensitivity up on my buzzers, you will need to know what's going on at the business end. I like to put my tips slightly raised in the air. This will aid hooking and bring the fish up in the water with a tight clutch. There's no better feeling than the rod tip bending over, always try to be as accurate as you can and remember and remember do not stray too far from your rods.



I hope this all helps. Keep your questions coming in !!

Be lucky.

Paul.



many thanks Dave and Ali...

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Kind Regards

Dave and Ali Beecham

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fishing areas and have just acquired a gated area, so we can drive down to the waters edge for all clients who have Iking difficulties and they can fish.right at the waters edge.as there are no ready made swims.and other areas are not area is great.

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el of angler as we have other lakes on the island for the advanced angler with larger carp in,something new is our taking in several lakes on the island guided with Dave .

#### fishing partners

<u>e.</u>



Food delivery service on the bank if required.

### What a start to the year!!! By Andy Hyden

I have had a fantastic start to this year having caught over 70 carp. I have to do my fishing around my work like a lot of other anglers so my time on the bank is limited to 48 hr sessions or quick day sessions. Most of my fishing has been of 2 waters this year, both around 4 acres. I like to fish smaller lakes, I've fished big lakes but I prefer to get up close and personal. Both the lakes I fish are within 30 min drive from where I live, the 2 lakes are completely different styles of fishing, in the 1 lake bottom baits and surface fishing do very well and has various depths to 30 ft. The other lake, pop ups do the best on it and only has depths to 6ft. My first session was a 48hr on my local club water in the new year, and when I arrived I walked around the lake and decided to fish the big point which is on the edge of the deep hole which is 30 ft so first thing was to put some bait out while I was setting up. I've been using Naturesbaits Alpha range boilies, my first area I baited was 1 rod length out to the right. My second baited area was just to my left 20 yards out. My rods now on baited area, I finished setting up and was just about to put kettle on when the right hand rod rips off resulting a

nice upper double to start with, I recast back out on same spot and within 10 mins it rips off again with another mid double mirror. I put another kg of bait on the spot and cast the rod back out. 30 mins later it rips off again, this time with a nice 20lb 6 Oz mirror. I ended up having 11 carp on a 48 hr session in winter, using a kd rig as I try and keep my rigs simple. Bait wise I ended up using 7kg of Alpha.

rig. About an hour after my right hand rod goes off with a mid-double mirror. A recast with my rod back out on the spot produced nothing the for rest of the day until after midnight. Then I had another 4 carp through the night. The following day I had another 4 carp, and I ended up having 9 carp that session.... all caught on a stiff hinged rig with a pop up on using 5kg of bait. My third session was a 24 hr session on my local club



My second session was 2 weeks later a 48hr session on my local water again, I fished the same peg again the big point but this time I decided to put 1 rod on a stiff hinged rig on the same spot just 1 rod length out to the right. I baited up with the Alpha and put a Berry Bite pop up on my second rod on a blow back

water, and this time I decided to go on big point again, fishing the same spots as I previously fished because that had produced carp. Fishing both rods on bottom rigs kd style, it wasn't long before my left hand rod goes off and whilst playing the fish my rod hand rod goes off too. The next morning, I woke up to my alarm going off, and after playing the fish for about 10 minutes I managed to get it in the landing net... a beautiful common. I just started to pack away weighing 20lb plus! Again caught on Naturesbaits Berry Bite pop up on a stiff hinged rig. That was the only bite I had all day. The next weekend on my local water I did another



when my alarms go off again, this time for a mirror about 15lb..so I had 6 carp in 24hrs I was well chuffed with it. I used 5kg on this session.

A week later I decided to return to Cuttle mill again but just on a day session this time. I was in the draw and I decided to go on peg 12. After setting up I casted my right hand rod to about 15ft off a willow tree, and it didn't take long for my alarm to go ... it was one of the best fights I've had!! It took me everywhere but eventually I managed to land it, and was rewarded with a nice looking mirror 24hr session, I fished the deep hole and managed to bank 4 mid doubles all caught a kd rig on Alpha boilies.

Now in April I decided to have a day on my local club water with my surface rods now with the weather being warmer, and I decided to go on the trout bank where the water is shallower to the opposite side of the lake where I had been fishing on previous sessions. I kept putting the floating pellets out until I got the carp going in a close enough group, so I cast my surface rod out with a Naturesbaits white ice pop up on and instantly it rips off!!

After landing a mid-double mirror it took me about 40 mins to get em going with confidence again, after 5 mins I landed another mirror roughly mid double figures. I ended up having 2 more during that afternoon. It's was 3 weeks later before I could get to go again, I decided to book Friday off and do a full weekend until Sunday dinnertime. I decided to fish on the trout bank as the weather was warm on the Friday so I started on with my surface rod and managed to have a couple of mid doubles. By midmorning I put my bottom rods out had 3 more that day. I fished through the night and had 2 more carp. The next morning, I decided to get my surface rods out and had another 7 carp during the day until about 7 o'clock, then I had my dinner and put some bait out for the night. I didn't have a bite during the night until 4.30am when my left hand rods roars off thanks to a 19lb mirror. Then just before I was packing away my right hand rod goes off again with another high double. A fantastic weekends fishing with 16 carp in 48 hrs!! You don't get many sessions like that when the carp are heavily on the feed and I used 8kg of boilies on this session.

My last session was on my local club lake, I did a 48 hr session, I fished the trout bank again. The weather was heavy rain and windy all weekend but I managed to bag myself my first catfish which weighed in at 47lb 10oz, and

5 carp and 2 grass carp. All caught on Naturesbaits Alpha boilies. What a weekend it was!! The weather didn't look good for fishing but that was not the case as the carp were showing all over the place. A total of 8 fish using 5kg of alpha boilies

I can't believe the success I've had the start of this year hope the rest of the



year is as productive as the start.

I love carp fishing. I have limited time which makes it all the more enjoyable when I can get to go fishing and spending quality time on the bank. All the best and tight lines...Andy.





## MAD for it.







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D-A-M

Although I've not even wet a line for the carp since my last article that was printed in issue #2, I've still been busily thinking, pondering, reading, then pondering and thinking again (can you tell I don't get out to fish for carp much?) about the species that most of us love. Thanks to Brian and his Talking Carp publication I've had the chance to reach a far wider audience than I thought an advanced beginner like myself would deem possible.

Now I know I'm never going to become a carp catching machine but that's mainly due to logistics, yet I'll always give an honest option and advice when I can and anyone that's checked out my Facebook page will come across a variety of angling based articles I post each Wednesday solely through my eyes and ideas! In this piece I'm looking for your help in a continuation of my quest to catch a 20lb Scottish carp. As you read through it I will pose some questions, they may appear rhetorical but only you can answer that!

So feel free to search me out on Facebook and join me in on my Quest for a Twenty.

### The Quest for a Twenty - Part 2



## My Quest(ions) Continue

The Quest for a Twenty - Part Two: My Quest(ions) Continue

Having packed away the gear and removed the batteries from the alarms and the other electronic devices, I foolishly and prematurely called an end to my season. If someone had told me of the ultra-mild winter that we've had, I'd maybe have managed a few more trips to the loch. Each of my sessions is an event as I have to plan and book everything in advance. As it is I can only look in awe and wonder at the amount of fantastic carp being caught up and down the country at this time of year, except in Scotland!

Q – Where are the photos of this winter's Scottish carp? A - ???

It's now February and I've just woken up to the first 'proper' snow of the year, being ¼ mile from the coast and the salty sea-air has it's uses, I suppose! Since I closed the lid on my own season (and fishing storage space-see issue #2) I've had the distraction of writing fishing related articles for 3 different publications and my own Facebook page. However, with the madness of the festive period well and truly over (I work in the Retail sector) and with a new year budding it is time to restart my quest to catch carp!

With the relevant paperwork of a membership renewal form and the accompanying £50 cheque awaiting posting to the groups' secretary, I turned my attention to filling in my works holiday forms. For the last 2 seasons I've done all my 'carping' in sync with the lunar calendar, I book my time off work for each session to coincide either the Full or (my favourite) New Moon.

The organising of future events

Q – Do any of you use the lunar calendar in your fishing or believe in its effects? A - ???

As far as I can surmise there's enough that has already been written on this that completely contradicts the other's theory but having only just scratched the surface of this topic myself, it appears from the anecdotal evidence from other fields with a grounding in the natural world that seems to support a belief in the effects of the moon over such things. I've read about gardeners planting seeds at the 'First Quarter' phase of the moon and also noted were nocturnal drivers who spoke of several nights of zero wildlife seen on or near the roads but then on the 'Full Moon' it was as if every creature possible was active on that particular night. Although there's enough academics who accept the moon has a relationship with the tides of the oceans and other large bodies of water but nothing else. Now I'm certainly not well read in any way regarding the science behind either of these theories, I just read a bit about it, went fishing and caught fish; repeatedly! It's a case of something you either believe or you don't and I'm firmly in the believer camp and still do! So I was then delighted to receive my accepted holiday form back from work as this indicated that I was free for the 2nd and 4th weeks of March which was when the New and Full Moon were due to make an appearance.

#### March 2016: I have 8th-12th & 22nd-26th off!

With the time off now confirmed, several KG's of boilies, some crumb and Tigers still in the freezer and my new S.C.G. membership in my wallet I'm geared up for a 3rd season on the loch that has taken most of my spare time over the last 2 years.

My membership is up to date

Due to the multi-day sessions that I do I never want to be without anything, you can't just go to the nearest fishing shop for a new one, there just isn't a wealth of carp tackle stockists around and I usually buy everything through a select few mail-ordered outlets! However just to make sure I carried out a detailed check through the rod & net holdall, each tackle bag & box, pop-up & bait bags, food bag, my clothing & wash bag and finally the all to necessary 'Shit Kit'.It came as very little surprise that the only supplies I needed to replace and write down on my notepad are a couple of perishable bait liquids like the salmon oil and a liquid food that matched the boilies I use as well as a few of my own consumables- coffee, sugar and muesli. A new toothbrush and mouthwash would also need to be added to the wash bag and lastly and funnily enough a new notepad!

Q – Can you specifically target the bigger fish on a water? A – ???

Well, I've read it many, many times that due to the supposed crudeness of my preferred rig of choice - a hinged stiff rig, It's a 'big fish rig' but in my own experience that doesn't hold too much water because of a capture weighing just 10lb 4oz, that's the smallest of the carp I've taken using that rig.

Finding and studying the so called 'patrol routes' and habits of these bigger fish may work if I didn't live so damn far away from them! Is that even possible on a 12-acre water?

As far as bait is concerned my boilies are definitely liked by the Lanarkshire carp, so that's a good start! So is there anything that could be done to single out one of the larger fish or is it just a case of sticking to an already successful plan and hoping the next one is a 20lber that picks up the baited rig?

One thing's for sure, I'm angling in the right area of the loch because last year I saw 2 separate photos of anglers with the same 23lb+ Mirror carp taken in the same swim. Now there's no way of knowing where both baited rigs were picked up, they could have been 300+ yards apart but that swim is the next one up from my own favourite one on the loch. One looking back at these posts they were both put onto the internet just days after the Full Moon, do you believe now?

Q - Become a bank tramp?

A - ???

Although I live further away than most of the regulars I am able to spend several days at a time on the banks of the loch, so can I use these extended periods of bank time to succeed in my quest for a Biggie. I think there's 2 approaches to that one, stay mobile and hunt the fish or bait'n'wait? I know after a 72 hours' session I return home totally knackered and in need of a good rest. While on a session I rise very early, before dawn, and usually get just 5 or 6 hours' kip each night I'm certainly watching and listening to the water a fair bit. With a slow internet signal my phone is just a fancy watch and barometer and I don't take a T.V. or D.V.D. player fishing, my only distraction is a radio, so is it drowning out some audible hints to succeeding? It's only Radio5 Live and Talksport, it's not as If I'm blasting out the tunes and drowning out the tell-tale sounds of carp. Is my radio actually hindering me?Q - Am I being too greedy?

A - ???

Or am I simply being too adventurous with my ambitions? It took me 524 hours to catch my first ever carp and in the next 945 hours on the bank I've caught 10. Surely a 20lb fish is the next level up? Or is the obvious 'Instant Carper' in me shining through for all but me to see? I've previously mentioned in other articles about how I overthink things, is this one of those times? Is it a case of just shutting-up and shutting off this laptop, loading up the car and just go fishing?



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## Eden's Lake Jolly Up by Anthony Garner.

Hybrid field tester and Richworth field tester Anthony Garner took the opportunity to visit France for his first session when invited by the Hybrid team, and here's what he had to say. As soon as the Hybrid guys invited me to join them at Eden's Lake in France, I jumped at the chance. Having never been to France before, it was an experience I knew I had to grab. First off, it was a run up to Birmingham to meet up with fellow Team Hybrid member Tom Swinney, we packed the car with all the necessary tackle, bait and general stuff you always end up taking, then it was on with the crazy road trip with Tom, meeting up en route with the rest of the crew that were heading out. Soon after, a ferry trip from Dover to Calais then the real driving began. Due to torrential downpours, our main route was flooded, and we were diverted, leading to a 21hour drive to Edens, but as we were so tired out. we ended up booking a night in a hotel, grabbing a couple of beers and then a good nights sleep before finishing the trip the lake. Feeling much better in the morning, we headed to the lake, and met up with all the guys again. We met up with Dene and Karen the

owners before getting set



in our swims. A quick lead around with markers, and we had found our spots. After a quick bait up, the fish started showing further up the lake, and though I tried, I couldn't get my scopes far enough and had to settle where I was.

I cast out my ever faithful rigs, Blow-backs tied with a size 6 wide gape from Hybrid with a rig ring on the shank, with 25lb Konda hooklink with Richworth S-core hookbait and I didn't have to wait too long before it was proven to be a successful rig, as my alarm melted off at 12.30. I finally landed my first French carp, and it was a stunning Mirror, and at 26 lb 08 oz. I was buzzing, what a way to start. I quickly got the rod back out to the spot, then did the honours with the pictures. It was a boiling hot day so I made it quick and got her back in the water as soon as possible, but nothing more happened until 7.30 pm when the same rod went again,



this time producing a common of exactly the same weight.

In the morning I went off and did a bit of stalking, baiting little patches here and there before settling on a swim next to some snags, dropping two rods on the spots. I sat and relaxed for about 20 minutes, before the right rod bent around, fish on... During the fight the fish managed to snag me a bit, but by getting into the water up to my waist I managed to get a better angle and coaxed the carp out and after another good scrap, an 18 lb 4 oz. Zip Lin rolled over the net cord. Once again, Richworth S-Core proving to be its downfall, but all too soon it was time for me to head back to my swim. But it seemed my swim had died

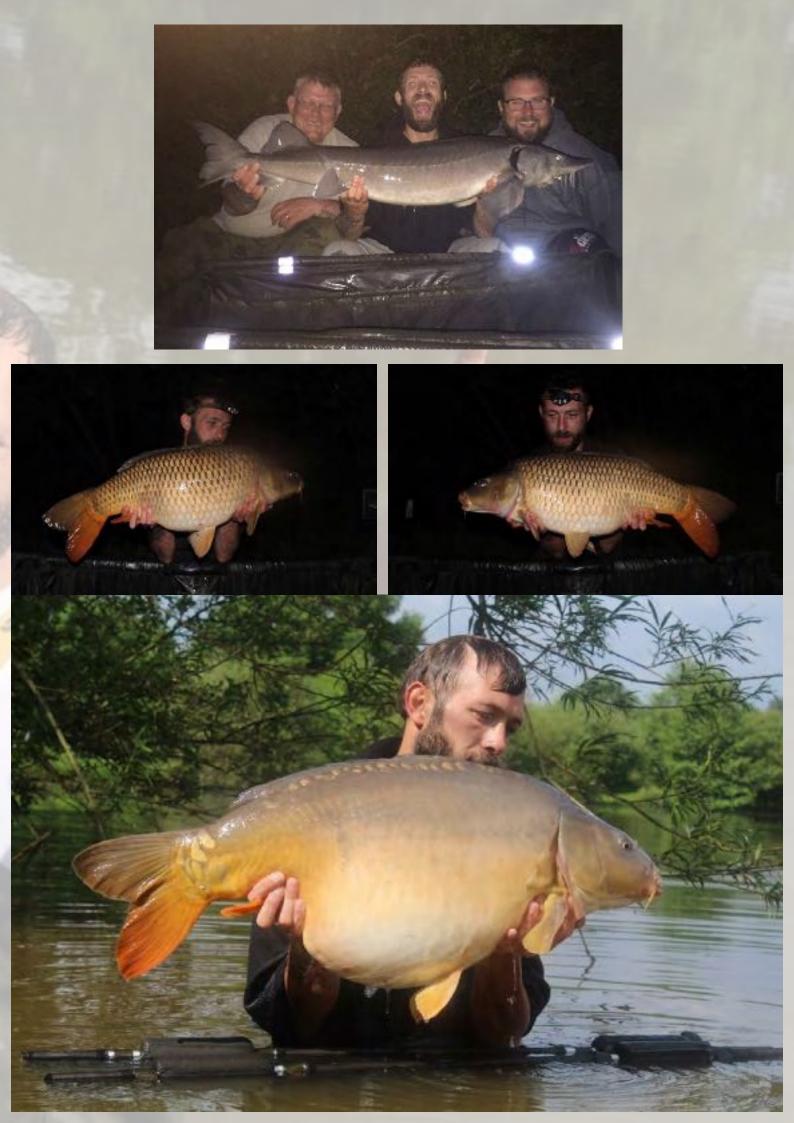
a death, and it was two more days before my next action when at 10am my left rod ripped off. An epic battle ensued with it tearing up and down, and I was struggling to gain line. This was a completely different fight to the others, more steady, and it felt bigger too. But after a battle royale, I finally managed to net it, and as it rolled over the cord, I knew it was a much bigger mirror. On the scales she went 32 lb 10 oz., my first ever 30 and I was blown away, just holding such a fine creature made me lose sleep with excitement that night, and when I did sleep I woke up with a big grin remembering that carp.

To top it all off, Bryann called me over to play and land a sturgeon, something I've wanted to feel for ages, so when he offered to let me have it, I grabbed the rod with glee. And what a fight it was, something I'll always remember, thanks Bryann.

Thanks to Team Hybrid for the invite and for being such good company through the session and to Dene and Karen, who were great hosts and run a great fishery, one I truly believe can make dreams come true. Thanks to team DBP for the best particles you can get and team Richworth for the great S-Core boilies that keep on catching.

Till next time, thanks for reading, much appreciated.





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earn To Fish Carp Academy by Steven Deare

A year ago today I decided that I was done with my current career and would give my attention to my passion for fishing. I have always enjoyed taking people fishing for the first time, more importantly I took as much satisfaction from their catches as I did my own. This passion however does not normally equate to creating a full time carp academy for kids but that is what I did despite every man and his largely negative dog telling me such fears as 'the uptake will not be good enough' or 'kids are not interested these days. Whilst I cannot say I am currently a full time Angling coach the thought of a constant and progressive academy for kids is something that is looking very achievable and that can only be good for our sport. With the ongoing support of my commercial partners Angling Direct and Baitcraft who supply the equipment and bait respectively, I hope to extend the academy into

different parts of the country. So look out for us around your way soon! The effort I have been putting into the academy for me was rewarded with a single letter from a father who had suddenly seen his 7-year-old son cast, play and land a fish all by himself. The recognition that his son could now share his interest in fishing was a picture that told a thousand words and you could feel the old fashioned bond of father and son igniting from the ember that had sparked.

Why had the father and son not felt they could join together in this pursuit before?

The reason for this lies in the choice of venue. I can guarantee that previously the venue would have been selected by Dad and the basis for this decision would be his

current fishing agenda and his son would be there to experience it with him. Now before the inevitable backlash there is nothing wrong with taking your son or daughter fishing whatever the venue or target but if you think back to your motivation

as a young angler I would imagine catching a bucket load of fish would have featured highly on the agenda. This is not necessarily what dad enjoys when it comes to his fishing.

That subtle difference in motivation is the biggest barrier we have to overcome if we want our great sport to continue onto the next generation. This is where Angling Trust qualified coaches come in, giving structured





and progressive learning in the correct environment for the young angler. Our young anglers don't need to know the frustrating side of specimen angling, that will come in time and then they can moan like the rest of us! If you belong to a club and would like to arrange an academy visit or maybe live in London, Essex or Kent and would like your son or daughter to get away from the TV screen then take a look at www. learntofish.co.uk and book one of our academy dates. **Tight lines** Steve Deare

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## Carping 4 Heroes 2016 Winning Team

SHI

Carping 4 Heroes by Ethan Carper

#### Hi Everyone

This is a change to my planned article, which was going to be about my first ever Carp Fishing trip to France but I thought this was more important to show how Carp fishing can make a massive impact on peoples lives.

Only a few weeks ago, I was invited to fish in the Carping 4 Heroes Charity match at Manor Farm Fisheries in Biggleswade (http:// manorfarmfishing.com/thelakes/).

I got asked to join the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Carp team as they had a few team members that could not make it. This was the first year that the Royal Navy & Royal Marines were entering a team and the team Captain was a quy called Lee Clarke who is a Royal Marine Commando. Lee communicated with us all prior to the match and he had to draft in a few other 'civvies' as the team was understrength due to deployments etc.

I felt really proud and excited to be asked to join such a great event and as the whole point was to raise money, I set up a Just Giving Page and my chosen Charity was Help for Heroes. The other two Charities that would benefit were Combat Stress and Forces CARP. All three are really valuable organisations and lots of people depend on the great work they do.

My dad would also be fishing alongside me due to my age and he was more than happy to be taking part.

The event took place over the weekend of the 22nd to 24th July 2016 and involved teams from the RAF, who were the current Champions, the Army, Ex-Military who had two teams entered, M.P.G.S, a Civilian team and of course, my team, the Royal Navy & Royal Marines.

During the course of the weekend, there were several events to raise more money, including an Auction and Raffle with some fantastic prizes donated by loads of companies all wanting to support a great cause. There was a BBQ on the Friday and Saturday and Live Music on the Friday Night...there was also plenty of Alcohol. I may have not learnt anything about fishing over the



weekend but I did learn that if you drink more than you can handle, you change in to a complete idiot...and people have to tell you to go to bed....and I thought I was the kid there...!! The whole weekend was great fun though and I met a guy called Bryan Skoyles who was giving tips and demonstrations about surface fishing, which was handy considering it was over 29 degrees all weekend and at times, it looked like you could walk across the lakes on the backs of the fish. Bryan had some great tips and really made me think about my surface fishing in the same way I think about fishing on the



bottom. It was great to chat with him and he is a really great person. I also got to hear him and Ian 'Chilly' Chillcott give their valuable opinions on all things 'Carpy' as they did a Q & A session on the Saturday afternoon.

My friends Mark and Liam were there from Carp Radio getting some interviews for their fantastic Radio show (http://www.carpradio. com/) and I met two great guys, Lee and Paul from 'Reality Carp Fishing' who spent the whole weekend walking round the event getting pictures and video, so watch out for their stuff on YouTube soon. The fishing was very tough due to the high temperatures all weekend and the fact that the fish were all on the top. In terms of a competition, it was fairly relaxed on the rules with the main ones being in keeping with the venue rules but you were limited to two kilos of bait per pair and only one rod each. The bait limit made no difference really as I think all the fish caught, which was about forty of the them, either took a bait off the surface or from a 'Zig'...I only put in about 1 kilo of boilies and did not have a bleep ... !!

I did manage one fish however, a Common of 10lb 12oz but quite a few anglers 'blanked'. To be honest though, no one really cared as it was about raising money, although the winning team trophy meant a lot and the RAF Team were determined to defend it. They got off to a flyer with one of their guys, getting the prize for first fish caught, which he did in only eleven minutes.

As I have said, it was the first time the Royal Navy & Royal Marines had entered a team and there was a real mixture of guys. Three were Royal Marine Commandos and they all fished for the Royal Navy & Royal

Marines Carp Teams, one guy was Royal Navy and couple more were ex-Royal Navy with the rest of the team being made up of us 'Civvies' and one guy that failed to arrive....and one that decided to go to Hull first, which made his journey of 2 hours turn in to one of six...but it gave us a laugh...!!! He is not mad, he put the wrong postcode in his satnay and didn't realise until he had travelled north for three hours. I arrived with my dad on the Friday about five in the evening and met with the team. They were a great bunch and we all had a laugh and got to know a bit about each other (I now have three Royal Marine Commandos as Friends on Facebook...now that's cool...!!)

We went through the usual match performance on the Saturday morning of drawing swims etc. and then at 11:00 we got on with the fishing..... I'm not going in to the detail of the fishing but...I am delighted to say....

My TEAM WON....!!!!!!

Yes, get in, the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Team, at their first attempt are now the Carping 4 Heroes 2016 Champions and I have a trophy to prove it!!! Not only did the team win, we had two guys that also won the following;

Individual Winner - Matt McKay (Royal Navy & Royal Marines) 65lb 03oz Biggest Fish - Matt McKay (Royal Navy & Royal Marines) 20lb 07oz Winning Pair - Steve Brown & Matt McKay (Royall Navy & Royal Marines) 117lb 13oz

Winning Team - Royal Navy & Royal Marines 177lb 8oz

What a fantastic event to be part of and the best bit, I get to do it again next year with the team as the Defending Champions.

The best part about this event is the fact it raised over £14,000 for the three charities and I actually raised the fifth highest amount, which I was really pleased about. I would like to thank all the people that sponsored me with their kind donations and a big thanks to Richard Foster of Fosters of Birmingham (http://www.fostersofbirmingham.co.uk/) and Aly, my dads boss, from Country Court Care Group Ltd for their kind donations on behalf of their companies. All of you that donated made this event worthwhile and I am very grateful for your support...and will be counting on it again next year.

To me, this shows the power of Fishing. Bringing people together for one aim and having fun doing it. I have met some really great people and have some great memories of the event and cannot wait to get back there next year. The money raised this year was the highest ever so far and special thanks has to go to a guy called Simon Bangert who is the event organiser and he worked so hard to make this all happen.

It made it more special for me to be on the winning

team but as the Carping 4 Heroes Facebook page says, the winners of the event were the beneficiaries, Help for Heroes, Combat Stress and Forces CARP who will benefit from the amazing fundraising efforts.

I hope after reading this, it inspires you to see what you can do for the charities, even if it is to just put a few coins in the tin the next time you see them collecting, I now I will.

Thanks all...my next article will be my France trip...!! Ethan.







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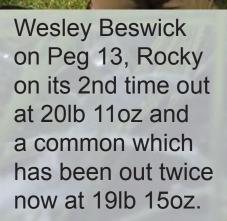
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Brad Saunders 20lb from the small bay at the side of peg 6

Peg 1, 18lb 15oz on Tuesday in hot heat! One of two doubles he had. Brett Wild









Dave Tozer with a lovely 22lb common out of Pad lake. First time on the bank for this beauty too.





19lb 7oz ghosty for Lewis Parkinson on a hot hot day!



Sam Moon with a 24lb 5oz from peg 6 in the scorching 30 degree heat !



Tom Ashton with Two Stripe, a brand new 30 at 30lb exactly and another common at 24lb 15oz, also had another in this session at 19lb 150z, all from Peg 3 on Pad Lake 15.07.16



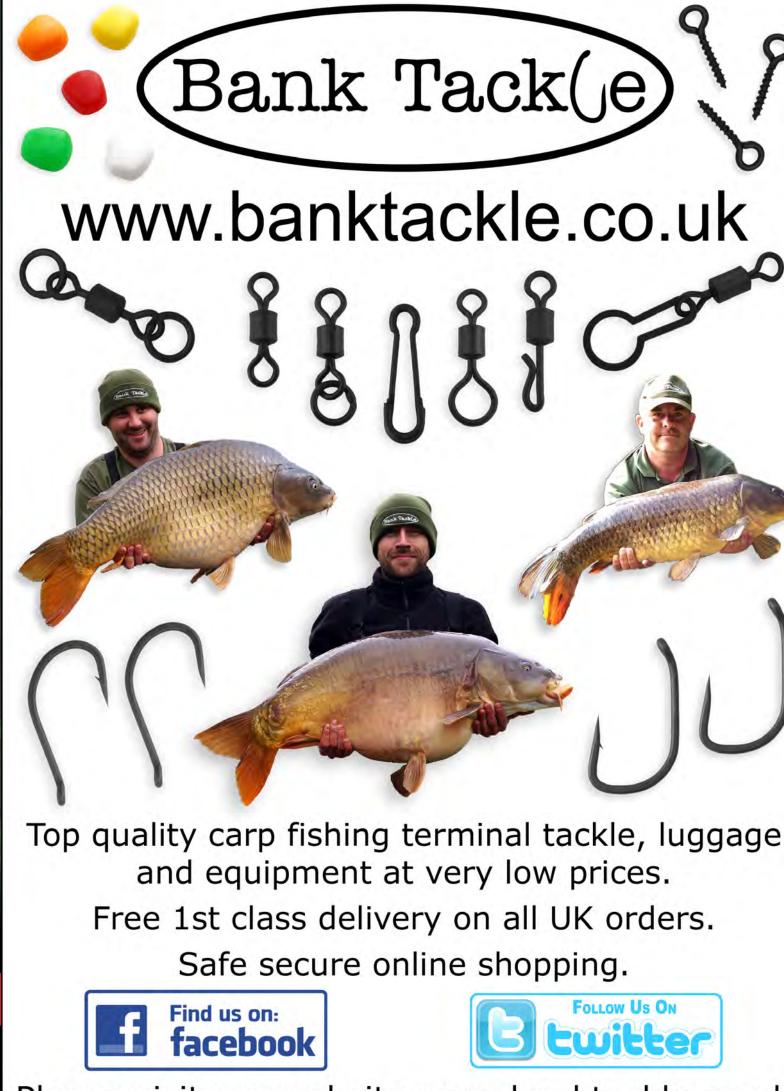


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All caught on Lanark loch, Scotland. It's a public loch but water is leased to the Scottish Carp group, all carp caught on hinge rigs popped up with Sticky Baits krill. I casted to showing fish and bang some Scottish beauties.

Regards Cameron





A last minute Sunday afternoon session. I caught these beauties at my local day ticket lake, using my own ground bait in a solid PVA bag with an artificial bait on the hook link (tiger nut). Fished over pre-soaked particle and 14mm cell boilies.

The rig I used was a 4inch Supernatural braid

hooklink, tied knotless knot to a size 6 crank hook. With a micro-ring swivel on the hook shank to mount the bait. This was semi fixed to a 2.5oz inline flat pair lead.

Thank you

**Charlene Moore** 











After 3 blanks I finally caught Kamara, fully spawned out at 37 lbs. A fish I've been after for 4 years, she fell to a green Mainline Indian spice pop up fished 6 inch of the bottom. location was Ladywood lakes, Mirfield.

> 36lb mirror caught on a Galaxy Baits peppered wafter and Sharp Tackle end tackle. A 56.8 sturgeon caught on the nut mix test bait from Galaxy Baits and end tackle from Sharp Tackle and a 43 mirror that has never been caught and lake record from a private lake in France. Daniel

#### CATCH REPORT BLUE POOL by Paula Marriot

Since joining the Pallatrax team I have had some great opportunities to fish beautiful venues that would otherwise be beyond my reach. This week we fished Advanced Angling's Blue Pool. A few weeks earlier I visited Gold Lake on the same complex and had caught my PB so I had high hopes for these few days.

Three of us drew straws and I had second choice of what swim I wanted. Terry Bell had picked Korda Corner, he was gunning for it and luckily for him had drawn the longest straw. That left the

Boss, Simon Pomeroy with the leftovers, arguably fitting since he is a pro and would most likely work a swim and catch a kipper. I'm sure that man could catch a fish in a desert!

I chucked out a bit of bait on the first morning, some of our 'Stick Mix' and a scattering of particle, I didn't want to overdo it though, these fish are high pressured. As a novice, I'm not 100% sure of how to approach these types of venues, so I take expert advice from my team-mates, there were 5 of us on the lake for these two days, at least 10 lines in the water at any one time. If I were a carp, I'd be extremely cautious when feeding.

er they were hiding out and come to investigate. Another few hours had passed, that was it...I had 14 hours left, it was time to pack up and move to the opposite bank.

I packed up and moved, my oppo followed a couple of hours after me. I think he feels like I need looking after, he is my 'fishing Dad' after all.

With my traps set and the darkness well and truly set in, I jumped in my wide-boy bed chair and closed my eyes. As a woman I do like to enjoy a little comfort on the bank, although there's no need for a hairdryer or make-up for me.

> At exactly 0318 those glorious bells rang, well, kind of. At first I wasn't sure, my bite alarm sounded very 'breamy', I'm sure you all know what I mean by that. As I pulled into my rod it felt like a lump of weed, heavy but no pull back at all, it took me a good thirty seconds to feel a pull on the line. By this time my oppo Rich Shaw was by my side with a landing net in hand. He's an old hat at this and always offers good advice, "keep a bend in that rod", "keep the rod tip up"... those gems that keep you calm and ensure that fish is well and truly 'in the bag'.

After a short fight, this 19lb Mirror was safe and secure,

caught on a Pallatrax 14mm yellow Flarze popup sprayed with Crave Overspray. No one else had a catch, which meant that this girl had outdone the lads and was super happy. Maybe next time fellas!

Thank-you to Simon Pomeroy for the opportunity, Smiffy for just being lovely, Terry for the excellent pictures and Rich for actually netting this catch. I had a brilliant time making memories with you guys.

The night came and went quickly and everyone had thus far blanked. The carp were visible but obviously not hungry. They had been spawning next door on Gold for the previous few days, a wonderful analogy I once heard was "even I sometimes fancy stopping for a Kit Kat during sex!", the Kit Kat of course being a nice Crave flavoured squab wrapped in the matching paste. Anyway, I digress, nobody had caught a thing!

It was now 3pm the afternoon before we had to vacate the lake. There was only one thing left, throw in all of my bait and hope that those kippers could smell my bacon (Squab) from wherev-









Had a week at Woodlake's log cabins. Shocking weather with just a few hours' sun twice in 7 days, however with severe storms, thunder & lightning, losing fish due to lighting & not picking my rods up, it turned out good in the end. Using Legacy Bait plum boilie on a simple hair rig, I managed to bank 17 carp & 4 tench, with the biggest carp a new PB!! A stunning 23.12 common. I even managed a double take, landing both at 19+ and 15lb common. A lovely 6.14 tench in there too. the last day proved extremely hard as I waited 15 hours for a run, however I got a stunning 21.12 common, and the best looking fish I had all week. I thought that was the end, but as I was packing away I noticed my middle rod tip bobbing about, I lifted the rod and another lovely 19+ common, but as my line had wrapped around the tip of the rod and I had not noticed, so definitely a lucky fish, lucky I didn't lose my set up. The best weeks fishing I've had since I started the sport 2 years ago

I used around 50 kilo spod mix and only fished the same 3 areas all week and they produced daily. One happy carping lady.

Paula

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foot of the Bowland Fells in Dolphinholme -Lancashire. On the estate there are 7 fishing

lakes - with a superb stocking of carp, mixed coarse and pike. The Birkin family have continually used the same British stockists over the last 23yrs and the experienced to novice angler alike has an opportunity to catch a wide selection of beautiful two tone mirrors, immaculate scaly commons and the occasional leather carp.



The 7 lakes consist of 3 day / night waters, Sunnyside 1, Sunnyside 2 and River lakes. These lakes have carp up to 33lbs with an overall average of around 19lbs – there are also mixed coarse prevalent in these waters. There are also two membership waters Wyre and Bantons which boast carp currently up to 39lbs however the largest recorded weight was the mighty Paw Print at 42lbs 1oz. Non-members can fish these waters but there are strict times and rules that apply. There is also a mixed coarse water Fox's lake – this is an excellent runs water that produces carp up to 18lbs, Roach to 3lbs, Bream up to 10lbs & Perch up to 8lbs.





The Lakes were created from former poor agricultural land after extraction of sand and gravel by Tarmac Road stone Ltd. The first fish were introduced in 1984 (Mirror carp weighing up to 1.5 lbs) and they have thrived in the lakes, growing and breeding in a spectacular manner. The lakes are stocked annually in October/November with 3-5lbs mirrors and commons – then they are grown throughout the different lakes until they reach maturity. However, this November we introduced 70 new mirrors and commons into S2 between 12lbs &15lbs so we are hoping for great results



The estate also boasts a 4 star Campsite as well as a recreational centre with bar, restaurant and function room. This year a large on site tackle shop was completed offering bait and terminal tackle. On site there is also a laundry room and a modern toilet & shower block. The Fisherman's Restaurant serves food and there is also a takeaway service with food delivered to your swim! The bar & function room is the perfect for match meets and presentations and an excellent location for any type of event from weddings to birthday celebrations. All throughout the year there are various events held each week, from Karaoke /discos to themed nights and live entertainment. The estate is open 7 days a week and is closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day annually. Restaurant / café opening times may vary.

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Thankyou for reading, The Talking Carp Team