



Issue 49
March 2020



Andrew Murray
Julian Cundiff
Russ Guise
Plus all of your catch reports

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Vader Bait
White Springs
Wyreside
plus all of your catches !!!!!!!!

Hello... and welcome to issue 49!!

Finally... we are here.. Spring is in the air!! The trees are starting to bud, daffodils are showing up everywhere, and judging by this months catch reports the fish are also starting to get on the munch. All in all it's a great time to be an angler, get out on the banks and enjoy nature as it is intended.

We have had some horrendous weather lately, and some pictures we have seen over the past few weeks of trees down, bivvies almost demolished, extremely high winds and storms have tested the sanity of some anglers...but as far as we know everyone still has all of their fingers and toes intact, and we haven't heard of any major injuries!! Remember guys, fishing is a fantastic hobby and a passion for some but please think on and be careful out there.

On a brighter note we attended the great Northern Angling Show 8 at the end of February for the weekend, and it was great to see the show go smoothly. Extremely well attended by both exhibitors and spectators. As always there was plenty to see and do for everyone, plenty on display to get hold of and once again Rob Hughes hosted the main stage brilliantly. The Carp Lab was as busy as ever, and seeing Julian Cundiff give every minute of his day to the public and answering everything that was fired at him tires us out just watching! The one thing that stood out for me (Brian) personally was Mark Holmes and his talks on bait were eye opening... so we are chasing him for some pieces for you guys. Watch this space.

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A chat with
Julian Cundiff



Mr. Cundiff tells me about his “Carp Conscience” and “Starting Points”...?

I have been fortunate to meet, with, speak with and even been privileged enough to actually interview several ‘well known’ anglers but spending time with Mr. Cundiff, is not only a pleasure, it is an absolute honour (for me, not him, just to be clear..!).

Amazingly, we have been fishing for pretty much the same number of years and started only a few years apart. One of us went on to become a ‘household’ name in the Carp Fishing world and one us did not....

...there are literally thousands of questions I could ask such a knowledgeable and ‘consistent’ Carp Angler as is Julian and there are pages and pages of interview that could be written but after watching the recent Korda Thinking Tackle Podcast (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntvpmCkfmow>), which featured Julian, it left me pondering a couple or three questions that I felt needed further exploration and detail.

Knowing how Julian has supported Talking Carp Magazine in the past, he actually did his first article for us back in Issue Number 3, in March 2016. In that article we delved into the history of the man, his writings and of course his Carp Angling since its start way back in 1986...I actually started in 1981...!! (if you want to have a read of that one, it is free to download from our website: <http://online.pubhtml5.com/kzxy/jfoc/#p=7>)

Anyway, I digress (again)..Knowing just how obliging he can be, I thought I would ask him for the detail of three points, for want of a better description, that he mentioned and briefly touched on in the Podcast...so, without further delay, here we go....

TC: Julian, once again, welcome back to Talking Carp and thank you from the team for giving me the chance to follow up on your very interesting 'Korda' Podcast.

I have to ask; how did that go down at Nash...?

JC: Nice to meet up with you again and thanks for the kind words on my Korda Podcast my friend. I must admit when Simon from Korda contacted me about doing it I was quite surprised as I've not been Korda backed since the nineties even though I would class Ali and many of its team as friends.

Obviously, I ran it past Kev and Alan who were more than happy and the rest as you say was 'podistory'...Around 30,000 views on YouTube alone so I guess it went down well.... hence you nailing me down for Talking Carp, I guess?

Toby and Simon at Korda Towers making life easy for me



TC: Wow 30,000 views in just 3 months, that's pretty impressive. In that very podcast, you mentioned about anglers that "Can't be arsed" and some that may "get confused or can't be bothered", in relation to them watching or reading information about Carp fishing but not applying it to 'their own practices' on the bank and you also mention about an element of luck when Carp fishing and that the more you "can be arsed" the luckier you can get...

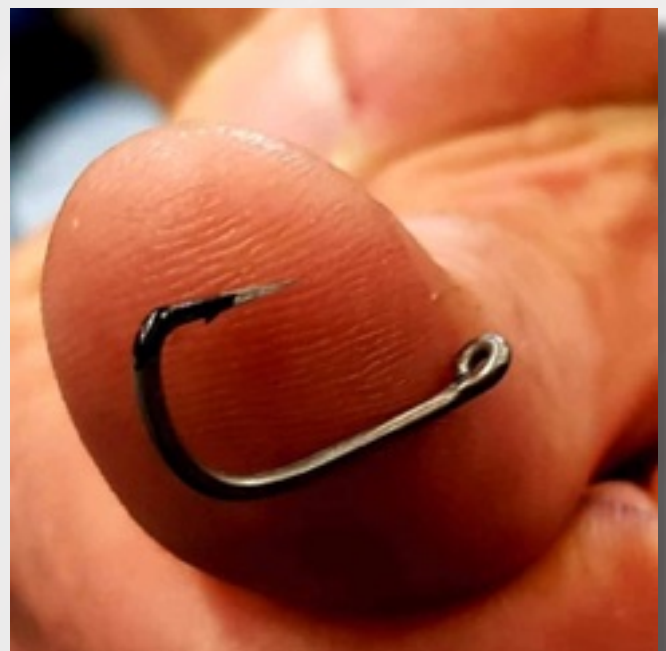
...you talk about baits and hooks/rigs that may "come in to fashion" from time to time but you then talk about "Starting Points" that you have developed and used over the past twenty years, and how you have also developed a "Carp Fishing Conscience"

....it is this terminology that I would like to pick up on and if I may, pick your brains about...

Firstly, what do you mean by the term 'Carp Fishing Conscience' and how did this develop for you...?

JC: "Carp Fishing Conscience" is a phrase I coined many years ago about not doing things half-arsed in blunt terms. We all have a conscience in life and how we deal, or don't deal with it defines us as individuals.

Finding a purse and handing it in. Treating others as we'd like to be treated ourselves and so on. My parents brought me up that if I do things wrong that conscience would nag at me until I did the right thing.



All a carp fishing conscience is, is that 'prod' I get to do it right or not do it at all. So, I can't use a hook that is 'sorta' sharp, leave a rod out that is not on the money, not get up early to look for fish and so on.

Does that make sense?

TC: Absolutely, so how did this life-learning get embedded into every Carp session...?

JC: How I developed it is quite simple really. Having worked fulltime from 1980 to 2018 and having a life outside of fishing, when I did get out there the limited time, I had meant I either gave it my all or my results suffered.

Believe me, time is the biggest edge of all, but I simply didn't have it so I either gave it 100% or felt guilty. Once I've given it my best shot catch or fail, I can live with whatever happens but packing up knowing I could and should have done more hurts....

TC: Should everyone have one...?



Once you've got it sorted not having to worry about the starting points makes carp fishing a lot easier

JC: Well, carp fishing is different things to different people and it certainly is not for me to tell people to have one or not Mark. All I would say is that if you are not happy with your results then usually the answer is within. It can't always be bad luck I guarantee you, that is a cop out!

If you are happy with your results crack on but if not, you need to be honest with yourself. Are you really giving it your best shot? If you accept there is more you should and could do, that's great and if you up your game then the carp fishing conscience has kicked in...Like I said, it's simple..!

TC: So that's the conscience sorted, so now I want to know about 'Starting Points'; what is a starting point for you and what does it encompass in your fishing...?

JC: I guess the best way to describe my starting point is the tackle, tactics and approach that 'experience' has taught me should work in the circumstances I find myself in at the venue.



I've been friends with Nashy well over thirty years so he was more than happy to see me on the Korda Podcast

Experience, knowledge and all that.

Having carp fished for over thirty-five years, although things do change, I have caught enough carp from enough waters in enough conditions to know what SHOULD work but of course, what I start with is only a starting point and I often have to 'fine tune' things to get it right.

By 'Fine Tuning', I may change the colour of the pop up or lengthen the distance from shot to loop on the Rig...

... or Increase or decrease the amount of feed I start with or fish singles rather than a bag, even maybe increase the strength of my mainline....

Think of F1 Racing where teams gather data over many years. They send the cars out on a base line setting (starting point) but weather, track and other factors will mean they will 'tweak' things around to find the sweet spot for driver and car. As an angler I know my base line settings for 90% of the time but have to fine tune to maximise my potential.



My friend Andy Little taught me during Willow Park days to give it 100%

TC: Can every Carp Angler develop their own 'Starting Points' and what should they be basing it on...?

JC: Every single angler born can develop it of course but it takes time. How long depends on a variety of things including the time you spend doing it and your own natural ability. No one is born a great angler but there sure are some who develop quicker than others (as there are in all sports and hobbies).

When I fished Willow Park in the late eighties John Raisons son would come and watch me carp fishing. I could see him soaking it in like a sponge and when he became a world class match angler I was not surprised in the least. Thank god he did not take up carp fishing !!

Starting points are based on what you see does and does not work and being able to recognise it. It is not based on size of carp but it sure as hell can be based on how many you catch.

The best way to become a good carp angler is to catch lots of them; nothing else can teach you more.... certainly not watching films or blogs! The more you catch the more confident you will be with tackle, rigs, baits and tactics. Flip flopping all over the place will confuse you and certainly won't teach you starting points.

If you've fished with five different bait companies' products and half a dozen rigs how can you know what does and does not work? Simple....you can't....!

Find a bait you are confident in and a rig that works and learn how to fine tune them. Many of the most successful carp anglers have just a rig or two and a bait or two they use regularly and fine tune them and NOT chuck the baby out with the bathwater.

TC: Carp Conscience and Starting Points...something for all anglers of all abilities I guess...?!

I for one will be having a rethink about how I approach my waters and especially the Public French ones that I fish..2019 was not a good year for me, but as I have said every January since 1981, "This is my year...!!"

Mr. Cundiff, once again, thank you for your time and input to the magazine and hopefully, we can get you to grace our pages again soon...?!!

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Over 200 miles from home a water I'd never fished before but starting points meant I just needed an hour or two to find feeding fish



*Possibly the last big edge as far as I am concerned. At times I've upped my catch rate 300% when the carp are not feeding avidly"
Julian P Cundiff

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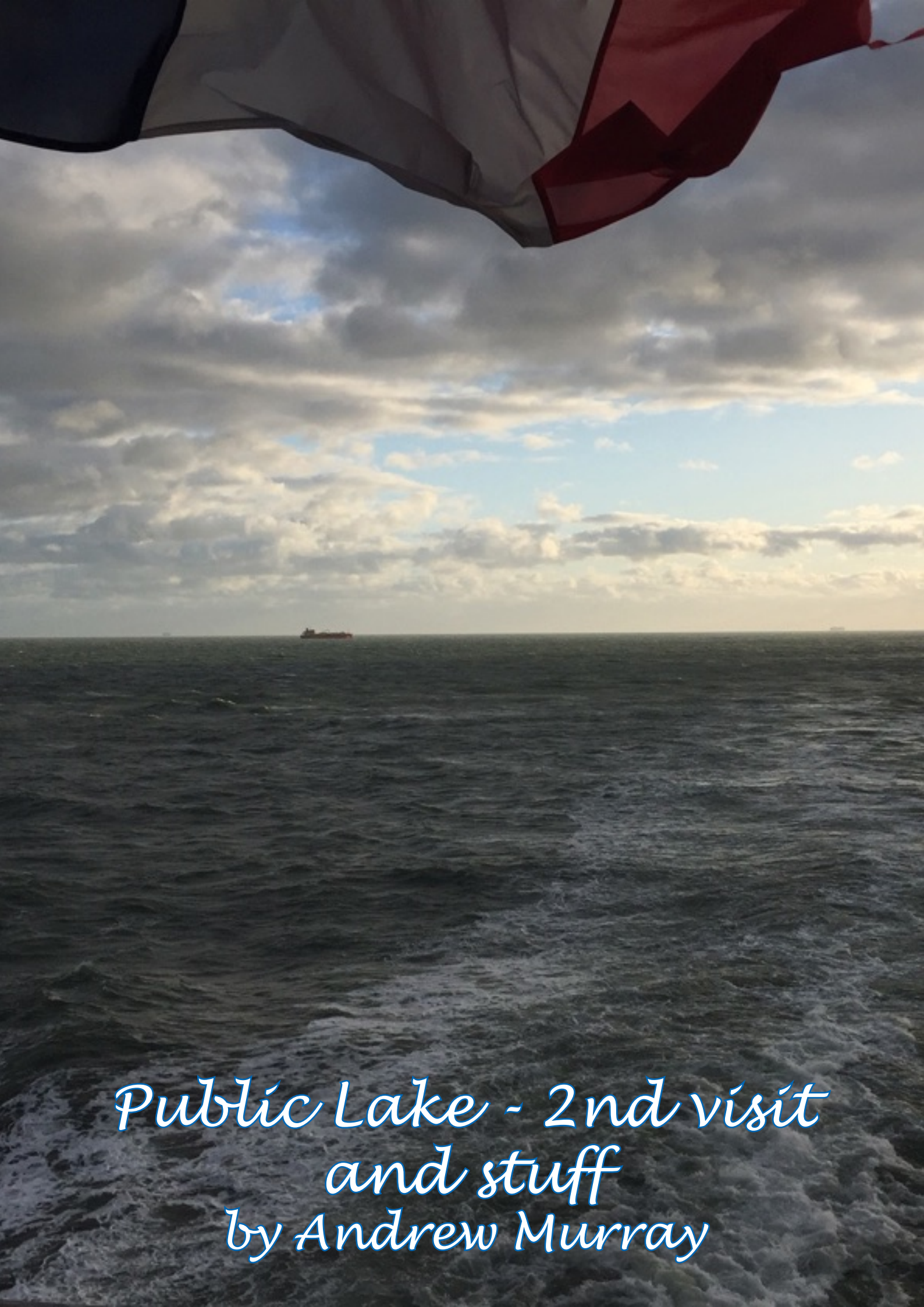
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A photograph of a body of water, likely a lake or sea, under a sky filled with scattered clouds. The water is dark and textured with small waves. In the distance, a small boat is visible on the horizon. At the top of the frame, a portion of a flag with white, grey, and red sections is visible, suggesting the photo was taken from a boat. The text is overlaid in the bottom right corner in a white, cursive font.

*Public Lake - 2nd visit
and stuff
by Andrew Murray*

Hi, welcome to this second piece about our Public Lake trip last year. This should have been completed and published back in January, but some family issues took precedent, which I'll come back to later as well as some other ramblings, so for those of you who have been waiting with baited breath (or not!), here we go: -

As I said at the end of the first article about this lake, we decided to return for another bash to see if we could catch bigger carp as our information was that they were in there. For the return trip Clint and I were accompanied by another friend Pete and my son Alex who has started having an annual fishing trip with the carp guys. Though he fishes mainly for

Predator fish, he enjoys the social aspect of a week-long session and the odd drink or two!! We sailed from Portsmouth again on the overnight ferry, one of the issues I have driving from the North is having to allow loads of time due to traffic issues on the Motorways. Having picked Clint up on route, it's a 300 mile journey, we did in effect arrive far too early at Portsmouth so headed for a local bar to kill a couple of hours, I only had a couple of pints as I had still to drive onto the ferry, Clint however decided to try and keep pace with Alex while drinking Stella, big mistake! So, he was well

on the way by the time we boarded the ferry. After some much-needed food we all had a few more pints (just to be sociable!) until midnight. Now I'm not one to tell tales of goings on whilst on trips...but I'll make an exception here. We had booked a cabin and settled down for a well-earned sleep, when I awoke in the morning our door was ajar, I panicked at first thinking we had been



robbed! What had happened was one of our group had decided to go to the loo in the night and suddenly found himself in the corridor, to make matters worse he couldn't remember which door he had come out of, or the number of our cabin! So apparently, he wandered the corridors for some time, until he found himself at reception, where they wrote down for him the cabin number. He then got back and climbed back into bed somehow, all this whilst wearing his t-shirt and undies only! I will leave you to draw your own conclusion who this was.

After a short drive from St Malo we arrived at the public lake, it was quite now, a few French anglers were in the process of packing up, one English angler was just pulling off

who had been there for a few days, he had a few carp up to 18 kilos. We also noticed that some parts of the lake had been sealed off access wise to vehicles, maybe this was because it was the end of summer or they were having a clamp down overall on access to the lake, as last time we were here it was party city on the island. Swim choice was definitely going to be a bit more limited than we had hoped for. Now the ideal thing would have been for us to all fish separately in different place all around the lake, even in the top part where access was a lot more difficult, to locate groups of carp.

In order to be social, which might seem a mistake we decided to fish together in a line to start with, I somehow ended up in the middle, Alex doubled up with Pete

on my right and Clint went to my left. We had put the cook tent in the middle, so it was reachable by everyone. There weren't many carp showing at all, but we knew we had the deepest part of the lake in front of us, which is why we started there. The thing is when there is a group of you it's unlikely all of you will catch, especially if the carp are not moving much. I just wasn't aware at that point it would be me being the bridesmaid! Last time we were here it was baking hot, this time the weather was very changeable, at first it rained a bit, then it poured it down, then it rained some more!

Do you remember what I said last time about making sure you have the correct paperwork and licenses? We hadn't been there an hour when the Garde de Peche turned up

handed. No doubt someone pulling off had made a call about a group of British anglers turning up. Anyway, as our paperwork was in order, they wished us well and left, but be warned, it's an easy way to lose all of your gear.

As I said, Alex fishes mainly for Predator fish, but he was hoping to nick the odd carp off Pete's rods if the opportunity arose, which it did. He bagged himself a new PB during the week. While he persistently fished for the predator fish during the days, it was hard work, he usually gets a few Pike and Perch when we go, but nothing doing on this trip. After our last trip we had changed tactics bait wise, last time I had been plagued by bream after using particles and pellets, this time we

had come with boilies and tigers only, I had also told Pete about our last trip and he had done the same bait wise. Pete was first to catch; he had a slightly deeper trough in front of him and that's where the carp seemed to be moving about. The weather was wet and windy all week, and we got used to paddling round in mud. I had thought that with a good wind on it might have pushed the fish down the lake, but they

stayed firmly in front of the Island. There is no doubt in my mind there were also a lot of carp in the other side of the lake, but I was not willing to leave the van in the car park and fish away from it. To be honest, none of us fancied barrowing the gear round there either. It was the second day I think, Pete had a clonker of a common at a bit over 40 pounds. He seemed to be getting a couple of bites a day, whereas





Clint and I were still on pest control, double hookbaits, tigers, I still caught Bream! I had put one rod long against the corner of the island which was around 200 metres away. On the second day it screamed off. I got the carp away from the island and the snags at the side, but there was still a lot of line to gain, then it started to kite towards Pete. We were far too slow getting into the boat and the carp decided to go over

Pete's rods, and eventually it went to ground and came off. I don't lose many carp but I have been having a play with a couple of different types of presentation over the last 12-18 months and I have to say I have felt at times it

has cost me carp on the bank, I'm going to cover this more in my next piece, which will be about planning and preparing for the year ahead. The other thing I should have really done, and this is something to work on in the future, is to have a plan in mind for getting into the boat a bit more sharpish when getting a carp on a long line. That was poor angling on my part, all in all, I need to work on my boat skills a bit more all-round as

we are doing more of this type of fishing now

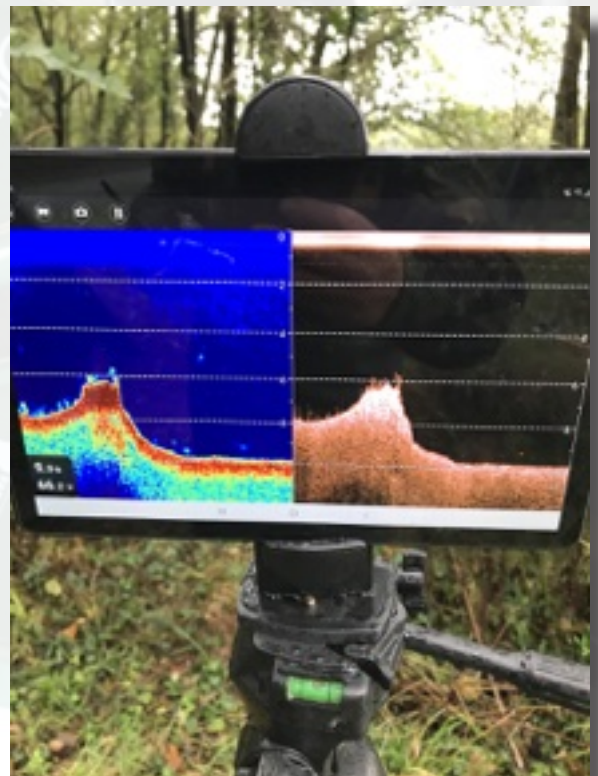
Anyway, I thought, at least I had a run, I'll keep persevering with that spot and catching bream on the others if needs must. However, the following day another angler turned up and set up bang opposite me, to be fair the island was his water, so that spot was lost. By Wednesday Clint had tired of the swim to my left and moved to Pete's right hoping to get in the action, which he promptly did, catching a very fine looking forty plus carp. I probably waited far too long to move, as I had the whole cook tent as well as my own bivvy and gear, it put me off moving. Anyway, the guys all mucked in and we made the move with a couple of days to go. Not that it paid off, I was still outside the area where the

carp seemed to be moving about. I think I knew deep down that I wasn't going to catch on this trip, not that I gave up, but I just wasn't feeling it. By Saturday the action had slowed off for everyone and it was time to start the pack down of the main stuff. All in all, we had a good week, some great food, a few drinks and some nice carp were caught (not by me). We did speak to a few French anglers this time and they did not seem to believe that there were not any bigger carp in there than we had seen on the bank. I suppose you could say the trip was a success because carp were caught and bigger than last time, I was disappointed with my own results, must try a bit harder next time, some of the things that occurred this year overall have

given me some food for thought about my fishing at home and the foreign trips for the future. I would say this has been my worst year in recent years for catching carp on foreign trips, maybe I was due a poor year results wise, maybe I was too easy going and lazy for my own good, maybe this, maybe that, a couple of other thoughts keep popping up but I'm keeping them to myself for now but will expand on some in future pieces.

For our future foreign angling sojourns, it's a great fall back lake for exploring that region and I am planning on going further south from there, as we have highlighted

another couple of lakes to fish over the next year or so. These are all public lakes and there are a lot of them all over France not just in this region, remember they are free to fish, all you need are the appropriate licenses for the area. The long-term plan and idea being that if I were to go over for a couple of weeks (or more), I have more than one lake to go at, if either the fishing is slow or the best swims are occupied. it also



helps making a few contacts along the way as well to keep up to date with what's happening. Its all part of the learning curve of carp fishing.

Given that it was only September when we went, I was looking forward to Autumn on the Pits when we got back. However, things didn't go to plan, we were in the process of selling our house and buying another, before I went to France I had spoken with our Solicitor and asked them to get a move on as things had been dragging on a bit. When we got back from France, I received a call saying we would be completing the following week! So, the fishing was out for a few weeks as we had to finish packing, move and then start with renovating the new house while we were living in it. That few

weeks turned into a few months. We moved Mid October and the following two months just flew by and we just about got the house done for Christmas. The new house is great, we downsized considerably in some areas, but a larger Garage, shed, greenhouse meant that the garage is just for most of my gear (and is heavily secured and alarmed!), lined out with shelves for all my stuff and the van backs right up to it. So, it's

a proper fishing hole now, perfect for when I got back out in the New Year. I started planning for getting out again, putting a number of pots of hookbaits to soak, fresh rigs tied up (after a change of thought for the coming year). Rods sorted. My overall plan was to have less luggage and my gear ready to go as I fished more from the van, which would enable me to be more mobile while fishing.

This is when things





went awry to a large degree. We had just about got the house sorted by early December, Sal (my wife), had been for a routing scan and had been called back for more tests. The upshot being that she was diagnosed with Breast Cancer just before Christmas, this came like a bolt out of the blue for both of us. This is the reason this piece is only just being written as I really didn't

feel up to writing this up over Christmas, and I also wanted to wait and see how things were going to pan out. Initial diagnosis said that surgery and Radiotherapy would be enough to overcome this. It's fair to say we were not overly alarmed and took it all quite calmly, having full faith in the Medical teams. But, as the date of the surgery loomed and she had more tests it became

apparent this was more a serious type of Cancer and would require a lot more treatment to overcome this, the word alone scares people including us, let alone having to deal with it personally. As I am writing this, Sal had surgery last week to remove two tumours which has left her poorly and in some pain. Dependent on more tests she will may or not need further surgery, after that it will be 18 weeks of Chemo and Drug treatment, then 3 weeks of radio therapy, then long term drug therapy, we had though that it would all be dealt with in a short period of time, now it looks as though the battle (as that's what is is), is going to be most of this year. Initially we had not told many people, just close family and friends, now it feels more right to talk a bit more openly about it, not to invoke

of any form of pity but to try and get back to some form of normality for all of us, hence me starting writing again, visiting some shows and think about getting back out on the bank. My first fishing trip is planned for mid-March, so we will have to see how that actually goes, that's just because I am uncomfortable with me going off and enjoying myself whilst Sal is at home suffering, she is more pragmatic than I am, no point both of us suffering she says (what a star!). I also have a trip to France booked and paid for in late April, Sal is adamant I should still go but I guess we have to see how her treatment goes before I would be happy leaving her for ten days or so at this time. It's a difficult thing watching someone I have lived with for 40 years going through hell and you

cannot take away one part of it, all I can do is be there...One of the things I have noticed is how kind people have been, I guess most people know someone who has had to deal with Cancer...

The thing about Carp Fishing, it becomes part of our lives and they become intertwined, so what happens in fishing becomes part of our lives and Vice-Versa. I have said many times that in the past I was much keener and more focused on catching carp and indeed at times only cared where would my next capture come from and very little else at the time. While I'm just happy to go fishing these days and not quite so intense about it all, I could not envisage a time when Carp Fishing would not be part of my life. Whilst I am making plans for

fishing this year, it is going to be impacted by my personal life and that's the way it should be as well, and I am more than willing to give up some (or more) of this year's fishing if it ultimately helps my family and supports my wife as she has to go through the treatments due and come out the other side. The Carp will still be there in the future and this applies to all of you, never put catching your next carp above the well-being of your family, you just never know what's around the corner.

Catch you next time, when I'm going to talk about plans and prep for the Spring and some tips that helped me put extra carp on the bank last Spring on the Pits. And to all of you, take care of yourselves and your family.

Andy



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

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

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

GAUNTSJANUARY 28TH 2020

ARRIVED 2PM: CHOSE MIDDLE ISLAND (ORANGE BANK)

- ① MIRROR APPROX 14-15 lb
- ② MIRROR 23lb 2oz
- ③ LOW DOUBLE MIRROR.
- ④ MIRROR 32:14
- ⑤ LEATHER? 34:14
- ⑥ MIRROR 21 lb
- ⑦ SCALEY MIRROR 26lb 4oz
- ⑧ MIRROR 21 1/2
- ⑨ MIRROR 24lb.
- ⑩ MIRROR 8-9 lb. 15H
- ⑪ MIRROR 28 1/2
- ⑫ MIRROR 23lb
- ⑬ Common 27lb 12oz
- ⑭ LINEAR MIRROR 26lb. (ORANGE COLOURINGS !!)
- ⑮ MIRROR APPROX 23-24 lb
- ⑯ MIRROR 26lb 4oz
LOST FISH !!
- ⑰ 30lb 4oz MIRROR
- ⑱ 24lb. MIRROR.
- ⑲ 22lb. 2oz MIRROR.
- ⑳ 30lb 6oz mirror
- ㉑ 21lb 8oz mirror
- ㉒ 22lb 10 mirror.
- ㉓ 33lb. MIRROR (TWO SCALES)
- ㉔ 22 lb 10 mirror.
- ㉕ 24 lb 6oz MIRROR
- ㉖ 31lb 4oz HALF FULLY SCALED
- ㉗ MID 20 MIRROR (NOT WEIGHED 25ISH)
- ㉘ 36lb 14oz MIRROR

- ㉙ 23ISH LINEAR
- ㉚ 32lb 4oz MIRROR
- ㉛ MID 20 (25-26 UNWEIGHED)
- ㉜ LOW 20 (23ISH)
- ㉝ 24:6 LINEAR.

**The Dark
Side**
by Russ Guise

	8x30+ - 36lb 14
5x	26 ^{lb} -30 ^{lb}
17x	20lb+
2x	DOUBLE
1x	SINGLE
	1 FISH LOST



I like my Winter fishing... in fact that's an understatement, I LOVE my Winter fishing ...!!! So much so that over the last eight or nine years I've begun to classify the 1st of November to end of March as my main yearly campaign period, no matter what lake I'm on, or it's previously perceived Winter form! To me a hard venue is a hard venue all year round and in the modern era where most venues are under far more pressure than they used to be, even ten years back, I find it easier to manipulate certain situations to my advantage during the colder months when many of the more "fair weather" fellas and ladies tend to dwindle in numbers and only occasionally venture out for the odd well planned, well equipped, not moving once setup kind of session... allowing me to have more choice of swims to actually fish for carp with far less pressure being put upon them, and even have the luxury of applying baits to multiple areas (and in different ways) on a regular basis. With the occasional trip to just walk round and pre

bait without actually fishing thrown in (common practise years ago but a luxury these days) allowing me to build up a regular food source in multiple areas, letting them feed without fear and hopefully actively begin to accept my pre bait/free bait as a safe easy food source option and even eventually actively search it out in the seemingly shorter feeding spells that occur in the colder months. And so back in March last year I decided I would be employing these tactics to just one of the three lakes on my syndicate ticket. To this end, by mid October, my freezer was full to the brim with 10mm, 12mm and 14mm Dave Mallin Products Brace Mix boilies along with some barrels and mishaps and a rather large quantity



of boilie chops and crumb, two pots of 12mm and 14mm pop ups were prepared (expertly and loving hand rolled by Dave Mallin's daughter to absolute perfection) and some washed out Fluoro pink and white were added to the bait bucket with a few special additives that I am confident with, for my cold weather carping (more on that in a later issue). The plan now being from my first session in November right the way through to my final visit around March time (depending on when the lake got really busy) I was going to fish or visit at least once every four or five days allowing me to introduce Brace Mix bait on a regular enough, but not too structured basis (I didn't want to create a Friday and Tuesday only

baiting pattern as this would pretty much mirror the Friday night fill it in mentality that occurs naturally by the weekend masses of angler) to the various areas I had pinpointed to fish the previous winter.

As you can imagine with the plan set with the lake holding probably 400 fish, 6 of which are probably 40lb plus one being over 50lb and somewhere in the region of 60 to 80 30lb plus fish (rough estimates) to go at my winter campaign plans had me rather excited!!!!!! In fact, I was absolutely buzzing by 1st November I was raring to go...

Then it rained...

Then rained some more...

It rained a little more after that and kept raining a little while longer as well and sometime in between all of that it rained too!!!!!!

The long story cut short is I only managed one three



night session before the venue flooded and the gates were closed for safety and access reasons. The initial closure was expected to last at least a few weeks, so I took myself off elsewhere to pass the time and needless to say by the time the syndicate opened again I was raring to go, then it rained... a lot!!! And it looked by the time I could get back into the swing of things it would be closing once more due to the high water levels which is exactly what it did. By now we were getting close to Christmas and my usual family session was in jeopardy, so plans were made to fish elsewhere once again until the water levels returned to normal. Christmas came and went, January arrived and still no syndicate, I began to realise it was not going to happen on the prebaiting front and by the time I was able to fish again (third week in January) all thoughts



of a dream winter campaign were well and truly sunk (well, flooded) and so it was in the last week of January I finally returned for my second session of Winter on the syndicate. In the run up to the session I knew I would have to do things differently to my previous prebait plan as I didn't think my mainly boilie approach was going to work without prebaiting and with any of chance of that was well and truly gone having only six weeks left until the lake would begin to get busy again. Therefore, a lot of things needed to be considered first on the list was bait and its application for the shortened winter period still available to me, second was the length of session and timing. On the bait front I knew from the previous winter that the majority of people would be favouring solid bags of mainly maggot, crumb etc and in all honesty I am only into





solid bags as a short session, buy a bite, approach mainly because if I have a few days at my disposal I like to get something going food bait wise, especially on lakes as well stocked as the one we are discussing and as I have said the boilie only plus crumb/ chopped boilie was too blatant without the luxury of the planned pre baiting campaign. So, something different was called for and by different, I mean **DIFFERENT!!!** As much as a difference as possible to anything else the other lads and ladies would be using and so with that in mind I began to think of ways to do the whole food signal, with minimal bait for multiple takes in one baited area approach for over a few days fishing without employing any of the methods I guessed that the other lads and ladies were using. So basically, I set about crossing off any bait items I **WOULDN'T** be using in my approach. First on

the list was sweet corn, almost everyone I knew was using it in some form of spod mix or PVA bag throughout the year. Second off the list was maggot, now anyone who knows me knows full well I love using maggots, they are without doubt the best carp baits I have ever used but my reason I crossed them off the possible list was quite simply the venue rules state that maggots can only be used in PVA bags or swim feeders and as such I could only mirror what others have done for the last few seasons and therefore only follow where others had lead. The rules state there is no spodding of maggots or castors so for this reason castors were removed from the equation too. Next off the list were whole boilies above 10mm in size (I had heard the odd person putting boilies in their swim via throwing stick during the hours of darkness previously)



my next choice of removal was what changed my whole approach... as soon as I made this choice it was like a light bulb moment as buzz of excitement began to build instantly I had a feeling I was on to something and that feeling was this... Now I always carry a selection of pellets with me in the van, I have trout pellet, halibut pellet, bloodworm pellet, high oil pellet, low oil pellet, elipse pellet, salmon, fry crumb, krill pellet, betaine pellet, match pellet and any others in sizes 2mm up to 14mm and conservatively any mix I use will have four or five colour combinations... this was when the revelation hit. It was the colour side of things that stood out and as I was considering what to remove from my baiting approach it suddenly became obvious that colour was THE most important thing anything that's wasn't black or dark was out from that moment on I knew how I was going to approach my remaking sessions on the syndicate, I had gone dark.

Not sure how many of you reading this will be familiar with that feeling we as anglers get from time to time when all the things we are doing or trying seem to just fall into place and suddenly we question why on earth we hadn't done things this





way previously. A sudden moment of clarity when we can see our best made plans working even before we get to use them this time that feeling was so strong the hairs on my arms and neck began to tingle in fact the ones on my neck began to stand up.

Funnily enough the next time I had that feeling was a few days later on my second walk round the lake. I'd spent a few days on the day ticket lakes before I realised that the syndicate was back open again and in preparation for my return to the syndicate I had decided to take the new (to me) dark baiting system to an easier lake to see what pressured fish made of it. Now bearing in mind it was mid January and it had been minus 3 to 5 for the preceding couple of days the 26 fish catch in a crazy thirty hour spell pretty much told me everything I needed to know about my new dark side theory but that is another article for another day. As I pulled up and parked the van in the far side carpark I was astonished to find only three other cars present so at least I should have plenty of swim choice, well you can imagine how chuffed I was when I found only one angler on the lake I wanted to fish. Up until this point I

swayed by other results as to swim choice had I known this previously) my first lap of the lake was to see which swims were actually fishable spending almost no time in any one swim I was just suited and booted (wellies and wet weather gear on as surprise, surprise it was raining) on a march to pinpoint three or four swims to spend a bit of time on looking for signs of fish. Now totally insignificantly my first lap was done anticlockwise from the carpark and this was a very uncomfortable lap indeed as the wind and the rain preceded to smash into my face for the first half of my initial lap the small umbrella I carry was useless at keeping me dry so on my second lap I decided to walk the other way round as three of the swims I actually fancied were

along the bank that would allow me to keep my eyes on the lake all the way along and I am so glad I did because as I was leaving the only other angler on the lake, after a quick chat, I actually saw a fish “nod” out to the left of his swim and had I have had the wind and the rain in my face I would have missed it when it rolled, I saw it but I heard nothing. Now by this time I was almost certain of the swim I would be going into but the next swim I walked into changed ALL of that as I have said before the hairs on my arms and neck simply stood up, yes I had seen a fish 60 yards to the left of this swim but it was way out of the water it commanded, even so right there and right then I KNEW where I was setting up.



Over the last 36 years or so I have been carp fishing, I have learned to trust my instincts and certainly to never ignore my gut feelings and on the rare occasion I get a feeling that strong I have learned to follow it without question. Because of the wet conditions and the fact it was forecast to rain 50% of my planned four day

session and drop to a feel like temperature of minus 5, I decided a full bivvy set up was needed and not just my preferred broly system. So this was set up first and the rest of the kit was delivered in two very light loads on the barrow because of how slippery the banks were but with the house up warm and dry I then looked at the rods and where to fish them (such were the strength of the feeling I had about the swim I was in no rush to start leading or casting the Deeper sonar about). I'd only fished this particular swim once previously and all my records showed was, I had caught well from two spots, one only 12 wraps ish out, 48 yards, but that others had done well fishing to the island margin approximately 90 yards away. As I said I was in no rush to get the baits out, so I brewed a tea... or six and just sat... sat there... and waited for them to tell me where... The feeling began to build, then it built some more and my attention was taken to four very specific areas of my chosen swim one area was ALL feeling no sign or previous knowledge; It was over by the island a place I had never fished

before; one area I had already known well enough a spot just off the trees a couple of rods out to my right and the last spot being a nine foot deep hole just off my rod tip to my left (not somewhere I would normally use in mid winter but hey ho, it felt like it might have a place in the armoury in the session later). Now I would love to tell you how I meticulously went about finding my spots with exact depths, temperature readings, bottom makeup, ranges etc but in reality, I made seven or eight casts with with a 2oz lead on my spod rod. The mid way to the island spot on my left took two casts, thud bump... second cast thud bump... happy with that. The right hand spot off the tree to my right all clear but soft at the bottom of the slope didn't bother





follows:

2mm High Betaine pellet
 3mm Black Pellet non breakdown / keeps shape
 3mm Black Pellet full breakdown high oil
 Crushed Hemp
 Whole Hemp Dynamite Baits
 3mm Pellets Dynamite Baits
 Brace Mix Crumb (Fine crumb)
 Whole Hemp Dynamite Jars
 Ground Dried insect meal
 Mole Hill Soil from around the lake plus track gravel
 Brace Mix liquid complex ½ Litre per 5 kilo finished mix

leading the hole to my left as any rig would be lowered in anyway and the remain casts were to access the island cove range so I could clip up efficiently the reason I didn't need to make multiple casts over these spots was purely and simply down to the fact that I made a few cast previously to these spots with the Deeper Chirp plus with all that done I was ready to go to the Dark side as I have already said I wanted to do different in a new way (ish) and then through the process of elimination I came up with the following baiting system which I'm calling the Dark Side and is as

All of the above mixed at least two hours prior to introducing via spomb/spod. The initial in the edge tests lead me to understand just how devastating this dark mix was going to be not only does it ooze food signal and have the potential to hold fish for extended periods of time it also has the elements of redistribution after ingestion (i.e they pass it out) which would reignite the swim after hooking/feeding occurs and the main point is NO ONE was using anything like it also on a plus... PLUS point the tufted and coots can't utilise it in any way a few dives after each spodding and they seemed to leave

me alone almost all session. The reason I took the time to find more than one area to possibly put my rigs in, stems from my match fishing days having multiple “lines” to go at so you can rest any productive live area you are fishing and catching from is a massive edge in my book. The idea being once you have had some from your main line/area you already have a backup baited area to go to so you can rebait and rest the main spot / line / area until its time to go back on it ie when the fish are confident after a period of free feed to accept it as a safe zone.

The other “spots” (we will call them that because it’s Carpy) also offer the chance to do something different for instance on longer sessions I often pick a spot right on the extreme edge of my swim area well away from any of my rig placement areas and introduce 14mm and 16mm boilies by throwing stick or catapult more often than not in good numbers 500 baits if well away from my rigs wouldn’t be uncommon purely to keep any bird life occupied and keep their specific disturbance off my baited rig areas. Incidentally on long sessions, three days plus, this area is often a good shout for one boilie only rod on the last night

as their will be washed out baits present and in my experience on the very, very tough lakes it often turns up the bigger, the one, the target fish; third day is the charm. I have even gone as far as having 16mm white baits (of poor quality, it makes no difference) in the van so that every bird can be kept occupied and away from my “dark” area by my throwing stick activities, this allows me to use my alternative areas within my swim to bait accordingly. On this specific session I chose to do the following, mid way to the island spot left of swim, I introduced 10 catapults of 10mm



Brace Mix boilies and nothing else every day regardless of if I used it or not. The tree to my right had a heavily liquid element of Dark mix, high volume of Brace Mix liquid three times a day, the last one being just on darkness. The boilie only spot was looked upon as a washed out prebaited spot whereas the high food liquid right hand rod was like a food signal only close to the snags to my right approach. All these spots were created so I could rest the main area should my plan come to fruition. Talking of main area, I had chosen an island margin cove area at 85 to 90 yards and my initial baiting was 10 or 12 large spomb's of the Dark Mix complex. I stated earlier having the privilege of a few nights ahead of me left that spot rig free for the first night and at very first light I placed



two rods, no more than 8 to 10 feet apart, with slow sinking pink pop ups/ wafers on a simple D rig style semi stiff hooklike with a 50p size dark pellet Brace Mix combo PVA bag "hitched" on to cover the hook point. On the cast the idea of the whole approach is being loads of food signal from the spombed dark mix with very little visual food source and by not fishing every single night I would be trying to capitalise on the sight feeding utilising bright Brace Mix soaked hookbaits and small PVA bags over a slightly wider spread of Dark Mix was I confident of a fish or two, honestly I don't know and I didn't have time to think about it because as the third hookbait hit the water the boilie only rod was away that resulted in a mirror of 14 or 15lb which straight away had me thinking "OH HELL!" I



HAVE NEVER BEEN SO HAPPY TO BE PROVED WRONG... my next 31 bites came from the "Dark Mix" area.

So you now know I had 32 bites and I could bore you with the session list as it transpired but personally I wouldn't want to read another "look what I caught" fish list article so I will just say this, I kept to my plan of using the "Dark Mix" with sight baits ie visual bags and hookbaits I rested my swim three nights out of eventual six night (got an extension from Michelle) never overdid things bait wise, kept up my alternative baited areas and in testament to the prebait/ aged bait theory my last two fish came from the tree to the right with the heavy liquid content and one off the boilie only area halfway out to the island the session ended in 33 fish to me and only one lost. The totals are a matter of record but the important thing to me is that it is this....

Despite every well made plan things out of your control can change

My entire winter plan was changed by rainfall but as

a result I was forced to reevaluate and remanipulate everything and anything and then in this case utilise a few new things (Brace Mix liquid and fine crumb being the big edge along with all the Dark matter items of feed I had already established as a winning combination) to maximise the potential of what I had on offer bait and time wise to make the most of the time I had left until Spring. So, I guess the moral of this story is we learn to adapt and overcome, we keep the faith in our ability to prevail then every now and again we won't be afraid to visit the Dark Side.

Until next time Take Only Photos
Leave Only Footprints.

Russ Guise.





**Winter success on Jenkins
by Scott Geezer Grant**

Two weeks later and I was back on the bank for some much-needed angling. As the syndicate hasn't really been fishing well, I decided to pay my old mate Steve Sands a visit over at his lakes Churchwood fisheries.

As I have caught most of the residents in Churchwood over the years I opted to fish Jenkins which always seems to fish well in the winter. I had 3 nights at my disposal, so fingers crossed it still holds its winter form. Even at this time of year I use a lot of bait and it works for me don't ask me why it just does so bait wise I had with me.....

5kg of crushed boilies, 4kg of mixed whole boilies, 5kg pellet, 5kg chillie hemp. It sounds a lot of bait, but I know the fish in here respond to bait so why change something that

isn't broke?

I arrived Sunday afternoon and the first thing to get sorted was the rods as my eyesight isn't what it used to be and with the night's drawing in early it was the sensible thing to do. I fished a fluoro pink nutjob pop up on my right and middle rod and white on my left-hand rod. They were all sent out in the boat loaded with bait. With the rods on the dance floor it was time to get the bivvy up and everything else sorted.

Just as it was getting dark, I had everything sorted, next thing was a well-earned cup of coffee.

It was quite mild for the time of year with no rain forecast so that was a bonus. Later in the

evening after a nice meal I settled down for the night. I woke the next morning bright and early but with the rods still motionless, maybe a change of colour was in order? I made my mind up that when I rebaited, I would change the pink to white on the right hand and middle rod, to see if it makes a difference. I made a brew and sat watching the water and the rain started, I couldn't believe it there was no rain forecast yesterday, what a difference a day makes. After a couple of hours, the rain stopped and at around midday I wound the rods in and made a





single change on each rod, before sending them back out to the same areas along with a boatful of bait.

A couple of hours later and the right hand rod gave a couple of bleeps, the line tightened and I immediately lifted the rod and the fish was on, I applied some pressure to steer the fish away from the snags which thankfully worked a treat, and after a few more minutes I slid the net under a chunky golden common. The change

worked which was a great result for me, the fish was secured and with the sling doused and zeroed it was time to weigh my prize. The needle settled on 25lb exactly what a result I was buzzing, Steve popped down and took some cracking photos as always then the fish was treated and returned, the fish are really coming on in both lakes and soon there will be 30lbbers galore.

The rod was rebaited and sent straight out

to the same area, again with plenty of freebies. Darkness was soon upon me and it was time to have a lay down and relax. After another cracking meal it was time to get my head down and hopefully, I will be rudely awoken by a lovely carp. It was just after midnight and a big fish crashed to my right which is where both my right hand and middle rod were, then another crashed, I sat up with anticipation to the point I got dressed and sat on my bed chair, with the activity the fish were clearly getting on the bait and I knew it wouldn't be long before one of the rods would be away. I sat up for over an hour and after the initial fish no more fish crashed so I got undressed and back into bed.

I woke the next morning bright and early sitting there



having a coffee when Neil and Lee turned up, they were going to fish Churchwood for a couple of nights, they both looked ready and raring to go so after a brief chat they went for a walk round. They were soon back getting their gear and barrowing it to their swims, an hour later as they were walking back to their cars the right-hand rod was away this time, I landed a feisty beautifully scaled mirror of 16lb. things were starting to come together nicely. Steve again was on hand

to do the photos and with the fish treated and returned the rod was put back out to the same spot again loaded with bait.

Neil and Lee went out to get some supplies and I had some much-

needed breakfast. The lads were back within a couple of hours and whilst Neil was getting stuff from his van I had two bleeps on my right hand rod, I watched the line and as it started to tighten I lifted the rod and the fish was on, the fish fought hard and tried in vain to snag me up but with pressure applied I managed to coax it out into open water, but it wasn't giving in easily and after another few minutes the fish was in the net, another golden common that fought like a demon!! The fish went 17lb which I was very happy with any



fish is welcome, the change has made such a big difference. As Neil walked past, he said "you got another one" to which I replied "yes mate a lovely plump 17lb common" its mad every time they walk away and come back, I get a take!!

After a few snaps the fish was treated and returned and the rod re-baited and sent back out to the same area. The fish seem to be getting on the bait and at this rate I could end up running out!!

Later in the evening a couple of fish crashed in the vicinity of the right-hand rod so I was sure I would get another take, the question was how long I would have to wait. I settled down

for the night and in the early hours the right hand rod was away again, I grabbed my headtorch lifted the rod and the fish was on, the line was grating and after a couple of minutes the fish was locked up solid, I put the rod down loosened the clutch hoping the fish would make its own way out of the snag. I called Nick and woke him up, I explained what had happened and that I may need to go out in the boat and needed his assistance as

going out in the boat at night without anyone knowing you're out there is a no no, safety first. Five minutes later Nick came down I lifted the rod again but the fish was locked up solid, so I handed Nick the rod put my life jacket on and went out in the boat, I felt the line down and with my headtorch on I could see the fish a foot below the surface swirly round, the line was caught up on some branches I managed to free it from the first branch and as



I moved up the line and started untangling the second branch the fish started to fight, I managed to get the line free and now had the tubing in my hand and just as I was about to net the fish the line went slack! I had been cut off!!!! I must admit I did throw a few choice words out and was really upset but these things happen in the fishing game and you just have to lick your wounds and get on with it. I got back to the bank Nick didn't say a lot as he knew how I was feeling. I thanked him for his help, and he went back to bed, I done no more than stripped a good few metres of line off the spool before re-rigging and getting the rod back out there. I checked my phone to see what the time was, and it was 02:38, I got back into bed and it took me ages to get to sleep. No more action

followed and come mid-morning I was packing up as I had to be back at work the next morning.

Another good session and more lessons learnt the fish seem to like the baiting strategy I use and trust me I will not be changing it. Next time I come back I will bring even more bait so there will be no chance of running out.

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

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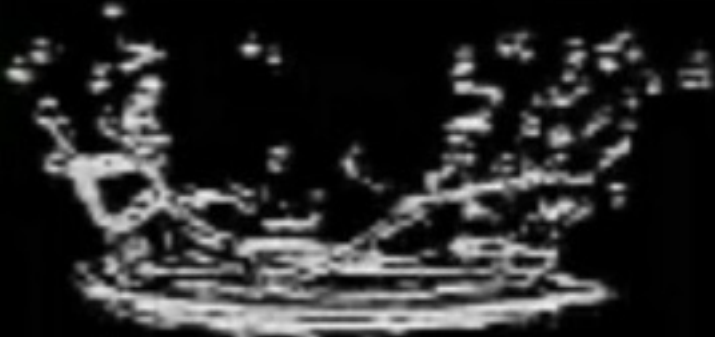
If you're out on the bank stay safe and wrap up warm.

This time of year, the fishing is going to be considerably harder, but the rewards are much greater.

All the best

Geezer





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**Before Storm
Ciara Success
by Richard
Handel**



After last week's success, I was incredibly keen (to say the least) to get back into the same swim. They were clearly held up in that area of the lake and it was only a matter of time before one of the big girls picked up a bite. I was planning on it being my bait. I managed to organize a friend to collect the kids from school on Friday, so my plan was to arrive at about 0930 Friday morning. However, as the week progressed, Saturday night looked horrendous with heavy rain and 60 mph wind, storm Ciara was coming and I'm not that stupid anymore, well sometimes maybe. So, with the goodness of my wife's heart, she let me go Thursday after she had got home. This would give me 2 nights on the lake and hopefully a better chance to get into that swim. I arrived at

around 18:45 and there was only one other member on the lake and nope he was not in that swim. I quickly set camp up and set about spomping out a good load of Classic Corn boilies and particle blend soaked in Classic Corn syrup, into the darkness onto my spots.

This is pretty simple on a moonlit night and using the horizon markers. You need you also need to have confidence in your casting skills. Once that was done getting both rods onto the area. One had a Classic Corn wafter and the other had a 12 mm 'pps' pop up which looks great. Just about 20 minutes, the left rod absolutely screamed



off and I was into a nice lump of a carp who plodded about and slipped into the Nsr50. I just couldn't believe it, what a start to a session!

Really an amazing carp.

The rod was back out on the spot, I just sat back and soaked up the feeling.

The second take of the trip happened just before 5am, it was freezing out there, there was frost everywhere. I slowly managed to get



overwhelmed with it all. I took the opportunity to bait up the swim again and rebait the other rod. This oddly hadn't produced a take and

another carp into the Nsr50, with no real issues. After a quick vid and some snaps, another lovely mirror was back home.

The time I had written this and tidied up, it was coming up to 6am and -2 outside (brrr). The third take of session happened just before 9am and this was a lot harder fighting carp. I'm glad it was daylight, as this helped me avoid that

horrendous snag to my right. Once that was avoided, it was pretty straight forward - play the carp out under the rod tip and then slip it into the Nsr.

I'm quite stunned at my results from this swim/session and I really need to keep my head together and not get to

that was the main one last week! The carp must have moved off to the right more.

The fourth take happened, just after 1015. To catch in daylight just makes life better, it was a





great help today. This fish was clearly intent on getting under the overhanging bushes and even found a big weed bed to my right twice! It was completely enveloped in weed when I managed to get the fish (and the weed) into the Nsr50, to my great relief.

I safely returned the fish and had a sip of my now cold coffee. I got the rod back out on the spot and sat back a soaked up

the moment. The fifth taken happened just after 3 pm and if it wasn't for another syndicate member talking to me at the time I would have not noticed as my remote was on low. That was lucky. I soon had another nice Common in the net.

With the rod back out, it was worth putting a few more spombs of bait out for the night. But before I even got the spomb cast out, the rods were off again!

Just unbelievable! I'm up to six fish and just can't believe how well my session is going. I've now managed to get the rest of the bait out into the swim for the night.

With a lovely bank of cloud coming over the lake tonight, it will certainly be a lot warmer. Just after 11 pm, I had a bream, it was similar to the size of the one I had last week. Somehow, this one managed to tangle up with my other line

and caused a wipe-out of both rods! I now need to redo both rods. It was gone midnight before I was back in the sack and getting my head down. I fell asleep listening to the rain, one of the light showers forecast over the course of the night. At 6 am, I had another bream. It was looking like the carp had moved off the spot. Dawn was just around the corner and with the activity, I received in the daylight hours yesterday you never can tell.

With only a few hours before I head home, I'm sitting on my bedchair writing this and reflecting on what an amazing session this has been. More importantly, a big thanks to my family for sorting things

out so I could get down the lake 24 hours earlier than normal. It resulted in these incredible captures. Otherwise, I would've arrived at 7 pm Friday night and only had bream. I could have completely missed out on all the action, it's amazing how luck can play a part on your fishing, some or even all of the time.

<https://youtu.be/A1tlo1tr3Cw>

Until next time

Richard

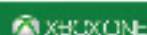




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The Pit Pond: A Trip Down Memory Lane



by Nathan Abbott

Another month gone and STILL no fishing for myself unfortunately, I really thought I would have at least made it out on the bank once or twice since the last issue, but as per, weekends have been very busy! However I am managing to make it out this coming weekend for a night at Carrs lake in Stockton, I've never fished these lakes before but I hear it's good for a few bites in the winter so I shall provide information on how it goes in next month's write up. So, for this month I wanted to take things way, way back, to where it all started for me and my fishing at the Pit Pond.

When I say way way back, I'm talking roughly 14 years ago, I was 13 years old and was just a typical fresh teenager who hung around on the streets with friends

and trekking through the denes getting absolutely caked in mud, cuts and bruises from various trips and falls scaling the overgrown muddy banks close to my home. The village I live in, Blackhall Colliery is right slap bang on the coast, as you head towards the beach banks just before you reach the cliff tops, if you head down the correct path there is a very small body of water what has always been known as the Pit Pond, the name I always guessed was reference to the old pit mines here on the coast line. We always passed the pond on our way to the cliff edges when we were probably up to no good starting fires or something similar! I had always noticed people now and then fishing in this pond, I never paid much attention for years, but

it was one day down here that set me on course to where I am now 14 years later absolutely obsessed with Carp fishing.

A friend of mine would now and then go down and fish the pond with a small bag of maggots and always seem to be catching small fish (at the time I had no idea what kind any of the fish were) and one day during the school holidays I went down with him and a few others to see what it was all about. After watching him for hours catching one after the other I really fancied a try myself, but I had no gear of my own, so that night I came up with a simple idea to mimic his set up, I came back down the next day with him armed with only a bamboo stick! I borrowed some of his line, a hook, and a small dumpy float

he put it all together for me and there I was with my own man made bamboo rod! Just throwing the bamboo stick as if I was casting a real fishing rod, the float only ended up about 6 feet Infront of me but i guess it was fishing!

Needless to say, I caught nothing, but I was determined to catch one of these small fish. This isn't your classic story of father teaching son how to fish, my dad didn't fish other than some boat sessions when he was a young kid. But I knew that my uncles where big on their sea fishing so I went to them asking if they had any spare old gear for me to lend, luckily one of my uncles had an old boat rod and a small reel with god knows how many years old line spooled onto it, but this is all I needed

to get myself on my way. I spent my week's pocket money on buying a small tub of shot, 2 weighted waggler floats, a packet of hooks and a pint of maggots. It was time to tackle the Pit Pond again!

So as soon as I was geared up I had my friend teach me how to organise a basic waggler set up, cast properly and plumb

my depth, once I had got a rough idea of these techniques I began to feel more confident I would catch one of these small mysterious fish. It was a red hot summers day and within the first 20 minutes of been back at the pond, I suddenly noticed these huge black shapes cruising across the surface, I couldn't believe my eyes I had never seen fish so big in a pond I



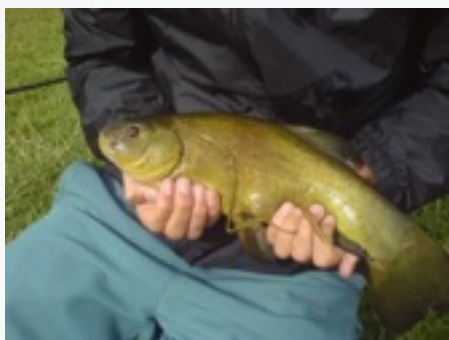
was just used to gold fish sized fish what you see in your average pond. This was probably my first sighting/encounter with Carp and I can remember clearly how amazed I was at the size of these fish, I asked my friend had he ever caught one of "them big ones" he told me he hadn't and that they hardly ever come out as they are extremely hard to catch, his exact words were "they are too hard to catch". Looking back, at the moment in time there

was roughly 9 carp in this small pond (I was clueless at the time, but the carp in here where roughly 8lb up to a 19lb common I once seen on the bank) it was extremely weedy and they never hardly budged as it was such a small pond and these carp had seen absolutely everything and the water was always gin clear these were certainly wary fish.

So as the months went on I kept on heading back down most days during the holidays,

I had become more and more interested in this new found hobby, I was enjoying the summer days catching a massive amount of small perch and roach on my killer red and white maggot combo (noted by this point I had started to learn what each species was.... Learning little and often!). Over the sessions I had noticed a few other people who I didn't know using sweetcorn on their hooks instead of maggots, and also feeding little hard brown pellets I was completely unaware at the time what pellets where so I asked out of curiosity, to be told that he was trying to catch these Carp that were apparently too hard to catch, he said to me that carp love sweetcorn and pellet in this pond, so I sat and watched for a few hours but unfortunately no carp where caught





on that occasion, I'd have to continue my wait to see one of these beasts in the flesh. It was coming towards the end of the 6 weeks summer holidays and I had already put some serious time down at the pond, you could say I was already hooked on it, and one damp foggy morning whilst fishing in my favourite spot near the shallow part of the pond my float slipped away and I struck into it expecting it to be another perch or roach.... But this was no perch or roach as it was like striking into a brick wall. I had hooked my first ever carp completely out of the blue! I never forget

the huge crash on the surface when I struck into it, then the fast and powerful pulling action it made as it darted towards the weed bed.

The battle lasted all but 10 maybe 15 seconds, I was absolutely clueless on how to go about fighting a carp at this point as all I had been pulling in was ounces worth of perch and roach. When the hook pulled I was in a way relived as I was just sat thinking to myself "how the hell can you control something like that" as I mentioned this is no father and son teaching experience, I was all on my own this session down the pond I had no guidance on how to handle a carp correctly once you hooked one. After sitting back a few more moments and thinking about what had just happened I became obsessed

with idea of catching one, I just needed to know how to properly land one. Then came weeks and weeks of watching carp crew on the tele, sky was a pretty new thing in our house at the time and it wasn't short of carp crew shows, I picked up bits and pieces from it and started to piece together how you correctly fight, land and care for the carp properly. As Christmas came around, I had asked my parents for one of the bog standard carp set ups from Argos, it's a case of you get what you pay for but for any new starter it's more than ideal.

So, from that summer I had become quite obsessed with fishing, got my first proper set up that very same Christmas and started to take hints and tips from others fishing the pond. And as the years

progressed, I started to venture out to proper course lakes, even got into feeder and pole fishing. I even fished a few matches here and there when I felt confident enough, although quick hit fishing I soon found wasn't really my thing, I preferred to just relax and fish at my own pace and not against the clock. I enjoyed my course fishing up until the age of about 22, when I was introduced into what I call "proper carp fishing" it didn't take me long to sell all of my course gear, seat boxes, pole, feeder rod, waggler rod, keepnets etc... Ever since 22 I've been completely fixated on this style of fishing as many of us are, year after year I find I get more and more joy out of it, it's something that I know I'll be doing my entire adult life.

I went many years

without fishing the Pit Pond, as it came to a point, I was confident enough to go and fish legitimate fishing lakes, you could say I had outgrown the pond and went on to bigger and better places. One important thing to note about the Pit Pond is that it is just a very small body of water where people over the years have just placed fish into it and they have thrived, this isn't owned by anyone, and has nothing to do with the environmental agency either. I can't say for sure where the fish came from or who put them there, but over the years there has been all kinds of species of fish in it, Carp, Perch, Tench, Roach, Bream, Chub, Goldfish, Rudd, a small jack pike once! And there was even whispers

that somebody dumped their 2 pet Terrapins in there! It literally had it all at one point and the fact that these fish all survived and thrived for years is remarkable. You had the odd idiots now and then dumping all kinds of rubbish into it and you did wonder how on earth do they survive? But they just did, year after year they were still there and in good numbers and always on the move on hot summers days, they seemed to be very healthy and happy fish.

I am not the only one to come out of the Pit Pond to still be fishing to this day. A few other





people I know still are fishing and if you were to ask them where did they first get the bug? The answer would be "The Pitty" as it's also known as. And it is still to this day home to the odd few fish, I pass it most days when I'm out for a run, I'll always stop for a couple of minutes and have a gaze to see what's what. Unfortunately, there is nowhere near as many residents as their used to be, you still see big shoals of perch, roach rudd etc. But September last year I seen my first sight of a carp in years just poking its head out of the thick bed of

weed that is still in there, not a massive one, maybe about 10lb? All I know is I am 100% going to have a couple of day sessions down there

this year to see if I can catch my first ever pit pond carp, as I left there about age 16 still not having caught one, plenty of tench, chub, perch, roach along the way.... But never one of them carp! I'm hoping to take my young Nephew down, just for a couple of hours now and then and see what he makes of catching the smaller species, he's always wanting to see my fishing photos after each trip so if I hope to get him interested fully the Pitty is the place to start him off! A future graduate of the Pit Pond perhaps?

It's good to never

forget where it all started, I sometimes think what else I would have devoted so many hours, days, and nights towards? All I know is I'm so glad what this little pond showed me and taught me over the years in fishing. For me it was the perfect introduction to fishing, it was all trial and error, and when I look back, I knew I 100% got the bug for it from the off as blank after blank I still kept heading down in all kinds of weather conditions. I watched many others come and go, buying new gear, blanking, getting bored then selling that gear, but I always kept going back. I knew back then this was going to be a major interest for me, and 14 years later I'm loving my fishing more than ever. And I have the Pit Pond to thank for that.

Nathan.

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RIDING THE STORM



KARL BRANDRETH

This session turned out to be a very interesting one. On Friday I was at work watching the weather, which didn't seem too bad, so I thought I'll still go and see what happens. I finished work at 3.30pm and made my way down to the lake. When I got there, I thought the lakes were closed, not a soul anywhere, so I grabbed my buckets and bivvy and headed up to the peg I wanted to fish. On arriving at my peg, I had a look at the water only to see a few carp nutting out at a distance. The lake was flat calm, like a mirror, and I could see a few feeding bubbles here and there.

I went back to my car to get the rest of my gear, got back on my peg and set my stall up. I set about making d-rigs on fluorocarbon, with double boilie bottom baits, and slung

out two single baits in the area where I saw the carp nutting out. Time was getting on, so I made my tea - chicken korma, and also a brew, then sat back to enjoy the surroundings. As I ate my tea, I made a few phone calls to my wife, and friends. My mate's dad turned up - Ian and set up near me. He came around for a brew and we sat together chatting about this and that. A little

later on my mate - Ian's son, Andy, turned up to fish. Once he'd set up we all sat chilling out.

At around 7pm they went off to their bivvies and, as they left, I got a blistering take on my right-hand rod. I ran out and lifted my rod to fight with a small carp. Even though it was small it was more than welcome, a lovely little common. I returned the carp back to its watery hole then recast my



I got my hot water bottle ready for bed, made my calls, then decided to get my head down to catch up on some well-deserved sleep.

At around half one, in the morning, my slumber was disturbed with another blistering run. I jumped out of my sleeping bag, ran across the peg, and made contact with a full fighting little mirror. I was happier with that, than blanking,

Photos were taken of the carp then I recast my rod again. I got back in my sleeping bag and returned to sleep.

The morning came quickly. I got up, made a hot coffee to refresh myself, and then made myself some bacon butties. I sat back taking in the morning sounds of the birds. My alarms stayed quiet throughout that morning, so I brought my rods in and went

for a walk around the lakes, checking cards etc.

No one else had caught around the lake so I felt I had done pretty well. The weather was getting windier and windier. I was getting a little

nervous as I looked at the trees swaying around me.

I got back to my peg to find that quite a few good trees had lost their branches on my peg, so I cleared the branches and got my rods back out.

After casting out Andy came around to tell he was moving from my left to my right.

The pegs to my right are dug out and very deep, at least 6 foot so, if any trees came down they would miss their bivvies.

That night as I tucked into my tea, my wife called to warn me it was going to be very windy. I said I was packing up early in the morning, as soon as I woke up.

That night I was woken by another take which turned out to be



another small mirror. I sorted the carp out, got my rod back out and went back to sleep. Whilst trying to sleep I could hear the wind whistling through the trees, gusting up to 70 mph. I was getting a bit worried by now and was praying for morning to arrive.

I woke up at 5am, looked outside, and it was bad. The storm was here. I downed a few coffees to wake up, watching the weather get worse by the minute.

I called to my mate a few pegs down and said I'm packing up to get out of this storm. We helped each other get our gear to our cars.

As I headed to my car for the second time, I heard a shout from across the lake. It was Ian. I immediately thought "oh no, a tree's

come down on him". Andy and I ran up the bank to Ian, to find a tree lying across his bivvy. I checked if Ian was ok. It had just missed him by inches. He was lucky, but his bivvy wasn't.

We helped him get his gear back to the car and then headed home. The lake emptied in a mass exodus. But, at least everyone got away safe and sound.

Sitting at home a couple of weeks later,

I got a call from my mate Milky inviting me to work on the stand for Wolf Int' at the Northern Angling Show. Of course, I said yes. It was the first time I'd worked at an angling show, so I was nervous.

I met up with Milky and the others, that were working on the stand, at the hotel the night before. We all got together and had tea, then chatted about things to come the next day.



Soon, we made our way to our rooms to get some rest in ready for the next day.

We turned up at the NAS, helped get a few things together on the stand, and awaited the mad rush.

The doors opened and the public came rushing in in search of bargains. It was mental.

For a long, long time I was on the rod section of the Wolf stand chatting to customers from all walks of life. The day came to an end and we returned to the hotel, to prepare for day two at the NAS. We woke up and met in the lobby. We made our way back to the

event and it started all over again.

As we entered the NAS to set up again, coffees were drunk, and then we waited. The doors opened; it was a mad rush again. People came up asking questions about rods etc. My mind was blown, and I was tired. It was nice to see my friends, and sons, at the show. I managed to chat to different stall holders, bouncing

ideas off each other. It was brilliant and I really enjoyed it. Given the opportunity I would, definitely, do more shows.

So, see you soon and always watch the weather. You never know, next time it could be your bivvy with a tree on it!

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The Small Lake

By James Quinton



If you were told you could fish a lake that held only 22 carp, full of scaley mirrors and odd shaped commons, would you say no??? I guess the icing on the cake was the fact the biggest mirror had been out a couple of months before hand at 43lb. Yep we were tempted!

I done a bit of homework as I knew someone that had fished it for a while. The makeup of the lake was oval in shape, no more than 5 acres in size and shallow, no more than 5ft in the deeper areas. the lakebed was covered in silkweed with a couple of silty gullies that were fishable. A few days before the first session we went down to have a little cast around and to put some bait in, which consisted of Proper Carp Baits Blackseal boilies which had

been glugged with the matching hook bait glug. We found the silt gully no more than a few wraps out, we used the catapult to put a few baits in each area. We carried on looking around the lake hoping to spot some activity but couldn't find any of the stock! We went home feeling positive and proceeded to get the rods ready and some rigs tied up which in this case was going to be trusty chods fished naked style using the range of Thinking Anglers tackle

to complete the set up.

As usual the day at work couldn't go quick enough! the shift finished and I grabbed the van keys and headed up the motor way. Merlyn was coming with me and we got our fast and lights set up, rods wrapped up and got the rods out. All rods had chods on and a mixture of white Blackseal pop ups and mulberry pops up too. The rods were settled, and lines were nice and slack. I remember



The small lake

it being quite windy that night and come morning our bobbins had remained motionless. We weren't deflated to be honest as we drank our first coffee of the day and we packed up ready for work.

the next session was a few nights later and we followed the same procedure as before. Chods re curved, hook points checked, hook baits on which were the same as last session and out they went with a few pouchfuls of boilies followed. A beer and Gin were drank and Merlyn sorted our dinner out for the night. We didn't hear any shows during the night and the same situation was had come the morning alarms. I made the coffee's and we packed up for work. I was happy with how the sessions were

going considering we hadn't caught anything. I felt we were learning every session.

my next sessions I was on my own as I had a few days off work and decided to make the most of it! It's surprising how nice it is to get to a lake and be able to set up in day light hours when your used to setting up in the dark! I had put some bait in my area. I was in no rush to get the rods out and took my time getting the rigs sorted and hook baits mounted. Hook points were sharpened, and baits mounted and out they went on my usual area. Rods settled the Delks and I sat back and just enjoyed the views. The weather was mild but there was a breeze pushing down to my left. I settled down for the

night. I woke up to a few bleeps, but nothing happened, maybe liners or could have been the wind.

I woke up in the morning and made a coffee and watched the water. It was nice to able to enjoy the sunrise and not pack up for work. I had a walk up the bank to see if I could see anything but after a while it was clear that not a lot was going on. I walked back under my brolly then suddenly had a bleep, that followed into a full on run! The fish just took line and was trying to get to the far end of the lake, but some sideward pressure and he started to turn and come back towards me. It was quite an interesting fight in shallow water and there were plumes of silt billowing from the lakebed as he plugged up and down

James Quinton

in front of me.

Suddenly he came to the surface and I could see the flanks of a mirror coming up and taking some gulps of air, I stretched my arm out and he slid over the cord! I couldn't believe it, my first fish from this low stock lake and I just stood there staring into the net.

I got the net secure and got the unhooking mat ready and the sack ready for weighing. I lifted the fish out onto the mat and unhooked him, I was staring at a lovely old mirror. I treated his mouth with propolis and hoisted him up, the digital scales read at just over 26lb, I was so happy and buzzing from this mirror. Sadly, I had to take some self takes but I got them done and returned this

beautiful carp.

I sent the pics to my mate and he confirmed the fish as one called floppy tail. I couldn't have been happier! I had another night ahead of me and repeated the same process as the day before. I went to sleep that night feeling happy and buzzing. I awoke the next day and watched the water. Time ticked past but nothing

else happened.

To be honest I wasn't surprised or disappointed, I had one of these stunning carp under my belt and couldn't wait to get back!

Work was busy and I had picked up a few extra shifts at work, so it was a week before we managed to get back out again. For some reason we decided to fish through storm



Dennis that was sweeping through the UK! Mild temps, low pressure, drizzly rain and 50 mph + winds, couldn't get any more carper! We decided to head down to Snake as I was due to walk it and check on members and to see what damage that might be caused come morning. We get set up in my old haunt called Gregs and fished some old spots. I used the throwing stick and put a spread of Blackseal bollies over the area. The fast and lights went up and Merlyn sorted out the bankside grub. A friend

of mine was fishing the point swim so a few texts were exchanged, and we wished each other luck. The night was very windy, and sleep was hard to get as you can imagine, I'm sure we were questioning why we were out fishing! Then my left hand rod let out a few bleeps then a steady run followed! I couldn't believe it, here I was rod in hand, howling wind almost being blown over but I'm playing an angry carp! A few runs were had, and I made line back and Merlyn was able

to net the fish on first attempt. We couldn't believe what had happened, we sacked the fish up in the deep margins and would sort the weighing out in the morning with pics. The morning came around a coffee was made. I texted Rob and it turned out he had caught too! you couldn't make it up, we both caught in this harsh storm. His was an old fish called 'Bullet Hole' weighing mid-20s. We were going to sort my one out then head over to Rob and do his pics for him.



We got ours ready for weighing and he weighed 18lb 7oz, I decided that we should call him Dennis as he was a new stocky and after all, it's a bailiffs right to name the new stockies hey!

Pics were taken and back he slid into the

depths. We went over to Rob and Merlyn took some great pics. The fish was returned, and everyone was well made up with how the night played out!

That puts us up to date so far. Will I blank the next 4 weeks? Will the missus out fish me? Find out next time! Feel free to follow my adventures on insta [james.quintas](https://www.instagram.com/james.quintas).

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Targeting bigger fish by Carl Milton

As a second article for Talking Carp I wanted to cover something I had to give a lot of thought to around 10 years ago. I moved onto a water with a target of catching a UK forty pounder. Having caught fish up to 39lb at the time, I needed to select somewhere that would give me a good chance of the magical 40. The water I selected had a reasonable head of 40's, but also a fair head of smaller fish. I managed to start catching consistently fairly quickly, but the fish I was catching were all doubles and 20's. Of course, this were most welcome, but not why I had gone there. I needed a change of approach. In the end I was lucky enough to catch several of the larger specimens, but it did require a few tweaks to my mind-set and technical approach. So



how do we go about selecting the larger fish?

The first thing is to select a water that definitely contains the size of fish that you are after. It sounds obvious to say, but there is no point sitting on a lake in the hope of a 30lber if it doesn't contain one. So, water selection and homework about the water is important. I meet many people these days who tell me they want to catch a fish of a certain weight, but don't fish the waters that contain those fish.

Targeting bigger fish may mean making sacrifices. You need to decide what you want from your fishing. If you want to try to single out the bigger ones you need to be prepared to accept having less runs and catching less fish. Blanks can be hard, but we can always learn something from every blank. Bigger fish can be solitary, so at times you may need to fish the other end of the lake to where the bulk of the shoal are. So, a decision has to be made whether you want lots of runs

or to target the larger specimens.

Big fish angling can play mind games with you. When I first started trying to target bigger fish, after every blank I would keep changing things. I came to realise this was not helping, as I didn't know what was or wasn't working. Find a rig and bait that you are happy and confident with and try not to keep changing for the sake of it. Sometimes in big fish angling you just have to accept blanks. If you do change things, change just one thing. For example, a different bait. That way you know what has and hasn't worked.

Doing your homework is a huge factor in catching big carp. We all see big carp in the magazines, but what we don't always hear is all the all the hard work

that went into catching that fish. The Angler has often spent a lot of time and hard work in the build up to that capture.

Observation is key in all elements of fishing. Watching a water and learning fishes patrol routes and feeding areas is very important. Especially so if you try to target a particular one or two fish. If you know where they are likely to be, half the battle is won. A pair of polaroid glasses and time spent watching a lake are excellent investments.

Homework can also be done away from the lake. When targeting a larger carp, you may be able to get information about previous captures from the internet, forums and magazines. Information can be gleaned on previous captures, times of year, bait, rigs and many other helpful pieces of information. This can also be done by politely and non-intrusively talking to other anglers. I may be a sad case, but I find keeping a log of previous captures helpful. I write down what I know about the



capture each time it is caught, such as time of year, location, weather, bait, etc. Any information can help. You will often find a pattern emerging. If for example you know your target fish is regularly caught in a certain month, then you could try to use your time to fish more in that month. If like me your time is limited, this knowledge helps use

what leisure time you have to best effect. Doing your background research can also help you learn about weather conditions, air pressure levels, moon phases, wind conditions and other environmental factors that you target fish is more often caught in. this again enables us to maximise our chances and where possible fish the more

favourable conditions. Trying to single out the bigger carp is not easy, but as with all things in life hard work pays off in the end. Be prepared to put up with the blanks and the golden rewards are there to be had. Tight lines and here's to the next monster.

Carl





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Midlands Carp Champs 2020

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

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

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

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

The format this year will be -

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

Midlands Carp Champs

85

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

Dates -

Q1 - 8th to 10th May

Q2 - 24 to 26th July

Q3 - 7th to 9th August

Final - 4th to 6th Sept

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

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

Midlandscarpchamps





Catch Reports

Featuring -

Vader Baits
Brooms Cross
White Springs
Plus much more



Scott Rowson

Scott has been out and had a few lately..... here are a couple of belters from a recent session. Keep up the great angling Scott.



Dave Tozer

reports in again this month, keeping it consistent. I fished somewhere new for me this



weekend, Newton's lake fishery in Preston. It's got some nice looking fish in it although I didn't get any of them Still I managed 3 runs and landed 2 fish the best being this 18lb mirror

All the runs came to the left hand rod which was a German rig on a longshank hook and fluorocarbon hooklink accompanied by a DNA Milky Malt wafter.

Harrison Winfield



On a cold wet day in the school holidays Harrison and his dad hit their local park lake for some much needed father and son time. The conditions weren't favourable but that didn't stop H managing to bag a lovely 13lb 8oz common.

H spent the first hour on the lake learning to hit the clip and feel the lead down before attaching a simple wafter rig with a sticky 12mm signature wafter and small castaway PVA mesh bag of pellet. He cast his rig to a patch of bubbles about 25 yards out in front of him and an hour later he'd bagged himself a lovely winter carp.

(Editor: Well done H... show your dad how it's done!)

Mark MacDonald

Mark reports in with a couple of stunners...the top photo was 23lb 3oz caught on Mainline Cell with a bed of spod mix from my local syndicate in Southport, the common was caught on A-force baits at Shimano Westmoor farm lake around 160 yards out with a clean bottom of the lake, absolute stunning Shimano lake thanks.



Jamie Block

I was fishing peg 3 on Cefn Mably lakes in Cardiff, I was told the fishing was very hard that day but I still went in confident knowing we had snow on the way and a lot of cold weather though the night, but that didn't stop the tor baits catching me a fish. Using a tor baits squido pop up on a Ronnie rig with a pva bag of tor baits crushed scopex and banana boilies. I ended up landing this stunning 23.2lb Scaly banger early morning.



Stuart Powell

First session of the year on a freezing cold January morning, had this little beauty at just over 20lbs caught on a Torbaits Tutti + wafter.





Stephen Pickering

Riley-jo Pickering
first time fishing
with his granddad
Stephen used 4ft
zigs black form
and caramel
cream bait source
over the top from
Spotted Fin. Going
to need a 2 man
bivvy now... new
fishing partner
right there!



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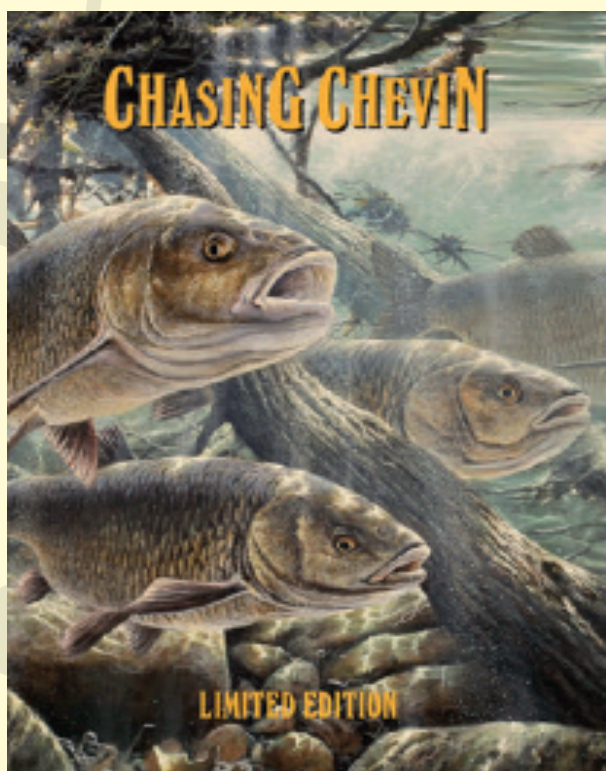
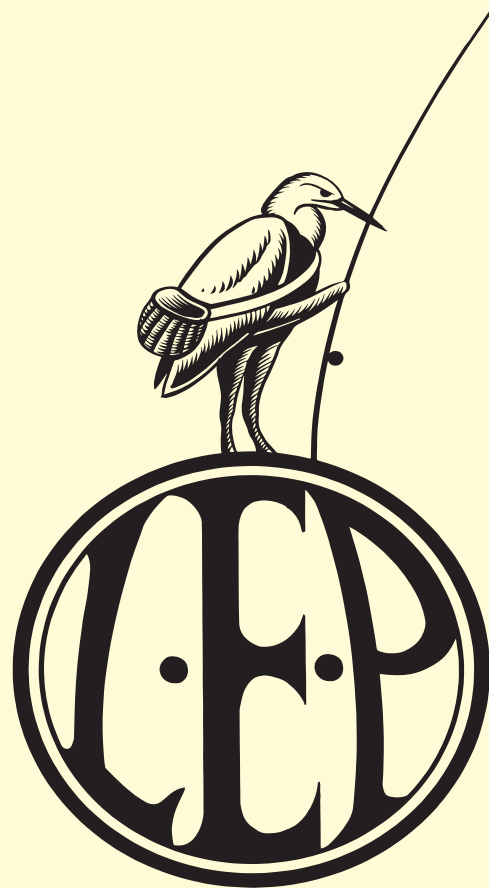
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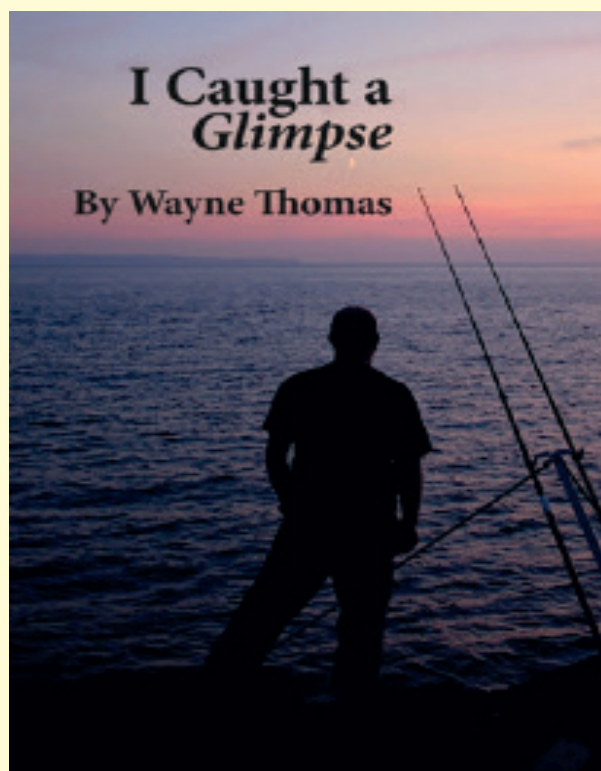


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By Various

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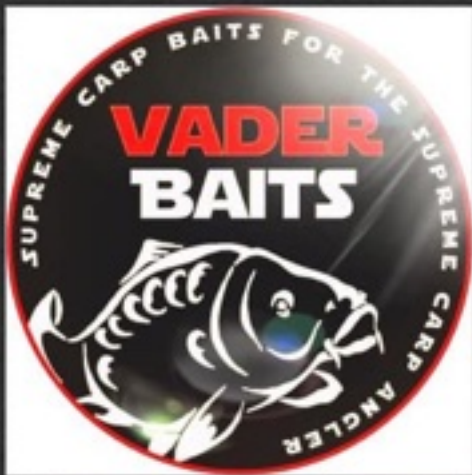
By Wayne Thomas

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**New team member Aaron took to the bank at his syndicate at the weekend for a session. Armed with maggots and white Le Nutz wafers he managed to bank himself this lovely looking mirror weighing it at 19lb 8oz
Good angling Aaron**

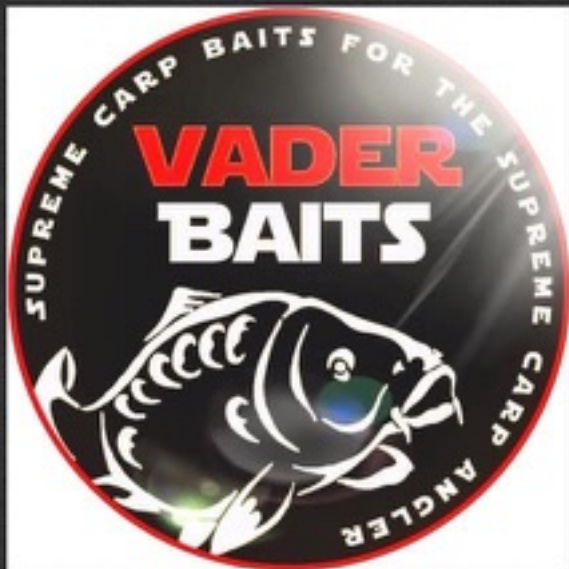


**Team member Adrian headed to Stafford Moor Fishery on a 24hr session on the back end of storm Dennis. Fishing solid bags with Le Nutz pellets and crushed Le Nutz boilie teamed up with a white Le Nutz pop up he managed to bag himself this beautiful carp weighing in at 19lb 14oz!
Great angling Adrian!**



Team member Carl headed out to fish Linbrook carp fishery at the weekend for a session with fellow team member Chris. Fishing 3 rods all on a pva bags. The first rod was tight to the margin, the second tight to the island and the third in open water.

**The first 24hrs went by without any action but they were woken up at 7.30 to a melting one toner resulting in a pristine 14lb 8oz common. Coming from his island spot the fish was tempted by a 14mm pink SaTaN pop up tipped with a yellow pop up, fake corn inside a pva bag of crushed SaTaN boilies and 2mm pellet with a splash of SaTaN glug
Great angling Carl**



Team member Carl headed to Linbrook Carp Fishery for a 24hr session at the weekend. With heavy rain and winds of up to 71mph he was in for a rough ride. He arrived at the lake at 2.30pm on Saturday and quickly got set up. Two of his rods went out in open water and the third under an overhanging tree in his left margin. At 8.30pm whilst cooking his tea his open water rod ripped off with a 1 tonner landing a nice 12lb8oz mirror. The fish was tempted on a stiff hinged Ronnie rig with a yellow 12mm Blackfudge pop up tipped with 7-10 SaTaN enhanced maggots fished inside a PVA bag of crushed Le Nutz boilies and micro pellet.

Good angling Carl

White Springs

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Andrew
Thomas with a
nice mirror peg
6



Bobby Lewis
on the pit 21lb
8oz





Anthony needs
with a stunning
mirror



Anthony needs
with Bailey
36lb 8oz



Callum Healy
with 34lb 4oz
mirror



Carys Anthony
on Jaden's
cabin



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Danny Hughes
with a 22lb
mirror on
Jadens cabin



Elliott graham
with a 24lb 8oz
mirror



Elliott graham
39lb 9oz
warrior





Daniel
Andrews
with a lovely
24lb common
caught on peg
6



Elliot graham
on peg 7.



Elliott graham
on peg 7

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Graeme
Andrews 22lb
3oz mirror



Jason
Campbell 30lb
2oz double D





ian andrews
with a 36lb
10oz common



jack jenkins
26lb 4oz mirror
from cabin 11



richard collins
on the pit



Simon Clayton
24lb mirror
megs corner



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Jeff Hendy on
peg 7
27lb 3oz



Kris Jenkins
with a 24lb
mirror from 8A



Leon Aubrey on
peg 9 with 36lb
10oz mirror



John howells
with a lovely
25lb mirror 3a



Justin davies
21lb 12oz
caught on
White springs
banana Boilies



leon Aubrey on
peg 9



White Springs

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Leon Aubrey
with a mirror
cabin 11



Martin
Mathews
sonny 37lb 8oz



Martin
Mathews with
Bruno 39lb 4oz



Mathew
Howells





martin
mathews with
a 26lb leather



Mathew
Howells on
peg 8

Wyreside



****Welcome back to w
from Wyres**

Well it seems those nasty storms have now b
being typed the sun is shining with a breezy
The pressure is hovering around the 1000 m

The lakes have had a trickle of maize this we
going to take advantage of this break in the v

Now for the heroes who decided to be mad n
mixed results and it seemed the fish picked t
munch. But feed they did and there are some
lake in the complex.

Members water "Bantons" has been the mos
been busy on there! Troy "the boy" de Blanke
was seen with a pot of those magic dynamite
Roy Heaton carried on his unbelievable run o
with 2 x low 20lbbers!!!!

Roy was seen putting a bit of bait out so cou
One thing is for sure the fish all look very hea
preparation for that horny time of year. New m
ticket to start so jumped at the chance by pa
season with a lump of a 25lb 2oz beauty. Fis
saw him land this stunning mirror during the
done Matt! The pike also were coming out w
12lb 8oz from deep bay.



www.wyresidelakes.co.uk

Fisheries

Friday day Wednesday
at the Lakes**

blown themselves out and as this report is
westerly wind blowing across the complex.
dark and it looks good for a bite!!!!.....

week to get the fish grubbing around so who's
weather and dust off those rods.

men and brave out the weather. There were
their moments as to when they would have a
the lovely specimens to show you from every

at consistent it seems, and it certainly has
er had a lovely upper double mirror and he
e hit n runs was this the bait of choice Troy?
of making Bantons look like a runs water

ld this be the secret to his success????
althy and have certainly started feeding in
member Matt Busby couldn't wait for his
ying on and got himself a flying start to the
hing out of Lunar over a spread of boilie
day which made for a lovely photo, well
hich saw Steve Eccles landing 3 fish up to



01524 792093

Wyreside



Jason Jackie took full advantage of an e keep saying that Foxes can seriously pr this with a beautiful 21lb 4oz beauty of a markings like allot of the Foxes fish. Gre again very soon !....

Popping over to S1 pike anglers were s braving the weather again Lee Vermiglio double figure fish. Hats off to you Lee!..

S2 has taken a slight dip in form but wit sticking it out in some torrential rain saw landing 3 of S2 residents of 14lb 8oz, 1 common. Well done lads some really go

Now onto "The Mighty" with still no carp gracing the bank, Lee Baker had some with a good one lost he still backed it up 3oz. Top dangling that man.

As we approach the weekend it's a low joining us on the banks.

Catch ya later Guys n Gals!!!

Fisheries

empty Foxes Lake on his arrival. We produce some stunners and he proved a mirror. Lovely yellow and black heat bit of angling Jason we will see you

till pulling out fish to low doubles but o continued his hot form with a lovely

h a change in the wind and seriously w Tom and Jerry (yes you read right) 7lb 8oz and a clonking 22lb 8oz ood angling in extreme conditions!!!!

o gracing the banks but the pike are still lovely results over a couple of sessions o with 4 landed up to an awesome 18lb

pressure one! So tight lines to all



01524 792093



Venue: Petit Pretre, France

Date: 17th to 24th October 2020

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



Amount Anglers: 16 2 rods per angler

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

BBQ, Raffle

Charity: Forces C.A.R.P.

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



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Facebook**

A photograph of a calm body of water, likely a pond or lake, surrounded by tall, slender trees. The water is very still, creating a clear reflection of the trees and the sky. The sky is bright and overcast. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

*Le Lees Carp Fishery -
Le Croísty*

Le Lees Carp Fishery

Welcome everyone to LE LEES Carp Fishery.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Le Lees Carp Fishery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Find us on Facebook for further information.

Matt, Tracie and Thai.



Le Lees Ca





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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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**Next month is the 50th Edition of
Talking Carp!!!!!! Make sure you
are part of it.**

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

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mark@talkingcarp.co.uk
m.galli@talkingcarp.co.uk**



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