



**Issue 88**  
**June 2023**



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**Julian Cundiff**  
**Talking Point**

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**Scott Grant**  
**The Dell -**

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**Joe Turnbull**  
**May**

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# **Hello and welcome to Issue 88**

**And here we are.. the height of summer!! We are having some amazing weather and its good to see that lakes up and down the country have had some amazing spawning sessions. The future is definitely looking good for our sport that's for sure!!**

**Anyway, onto this issue and we are, as always, very proud to bring you fresh new content for another month of carp fishing goodness!**

**Jules and I chat about life after retirement, and how it may or may not have changed since hanging up his gown. Joe Turnbull continues with his new "A month in the life of..." Scott Geezer Grant carries on with his tales from The Dell.. will his good form continue? Read inside to find out. Add to that a spotlight on an up and coming Northwest water with some great potential for the future... Read an interview with Matt Scoffham as he talks about an adventure he is about to embark on as he takes on "The Great Rod Race" for charity... and so much more inside your FREE Talking Carp magazine.**

**As always keep those emails and catch reportsd coming in ready for the next issue.**

**Have a great month...**

***Team Talking Carp***

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## Take a Friend Fishing More Opportunity Than Ever for Angling Success

Take a Friend Fishing with *National Fishing Month* from:

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> of July to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of September  
2023**

Take a Friend Fishing offers more opportunity than ever to get out fishing with a friend during our extended Easter and Summer campaigns in 2023.

Take a Friend Fishing continues to grow in 2023 with bigger campaigns, more weekends, and more opportunity for you to go fishing and create those long-lasting friendships and memories.

Half terms, National and family holidays all provide opportunities for us to unwind, be with friends and interact with the environment around us. Taking a friend or family member on a fishing trip is a great way to spend time outdoors. Escaping modern life to build friendships, create lasting memories and just enjoy some time next to the water, is the ultimate in relaxation.

### Get Involved with Angling This Summer

To make the most of Take a Friend Fishing and National Fishing Month events during the summer holidays, between *Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> of July and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of September* (inclusive), existing fishing licence holders can register for a FREE one-day fishing licence from the Environment Agency at [www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk](http://www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk) and introduce a friend to fishing.

With the pressures of modern life, physical health and mental wellbeing are more important than ever. The experience of a fishing trip together with a work colleague, family member, partner or just a mate, offers the ideal opportunity to unwind and recharge your battery, whilst being active at the same time.

Getting outside in the countryside is a great way to be together with family and friends and angling is the perfect fit for staying active outdoors, especially if you are staying in England or Wales this summer. There are many fisheries near to where you live that are perfect to visit for a catch-up with a friend during a quick Take a Friend Fishing trip together. Find out about where you can fish safely at [www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/#faqs](http://www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/#faqs)

### ***Registering for a free one-day fishing licence couldn't be easier...***

Simply visit [www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/register-free-friend-fishing-licence/](http://www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/register-free-friend-fishing-licence/) select the date of your fishing trip, enter some basic information about you and your friend, and away you go!

The free fishing licence will be sent with a confirmation email, so please remember to have your fishing licence and both people's email addresses plus a few other details handy when you pre-register to Take a Friend Fishing.

Take a Friend Fishing is an initiative run by [Angling Trades Association](http://www.anglingtradesassociation.co.uk) in association with the [Environment Agency](http://www.environmentagency.gov.uk) and supported by [Angling Trust](http://www.anglingtrust.co.uk), [Canal & River Trust](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk) and many other angling organisations. Take a Friend Fishing opens up the world of angling to people from all age groups and communities, giving the opportunity for anglers and non-anglers alike, at all levels of ability, the chance to get into fishing or back into fishing after time away.

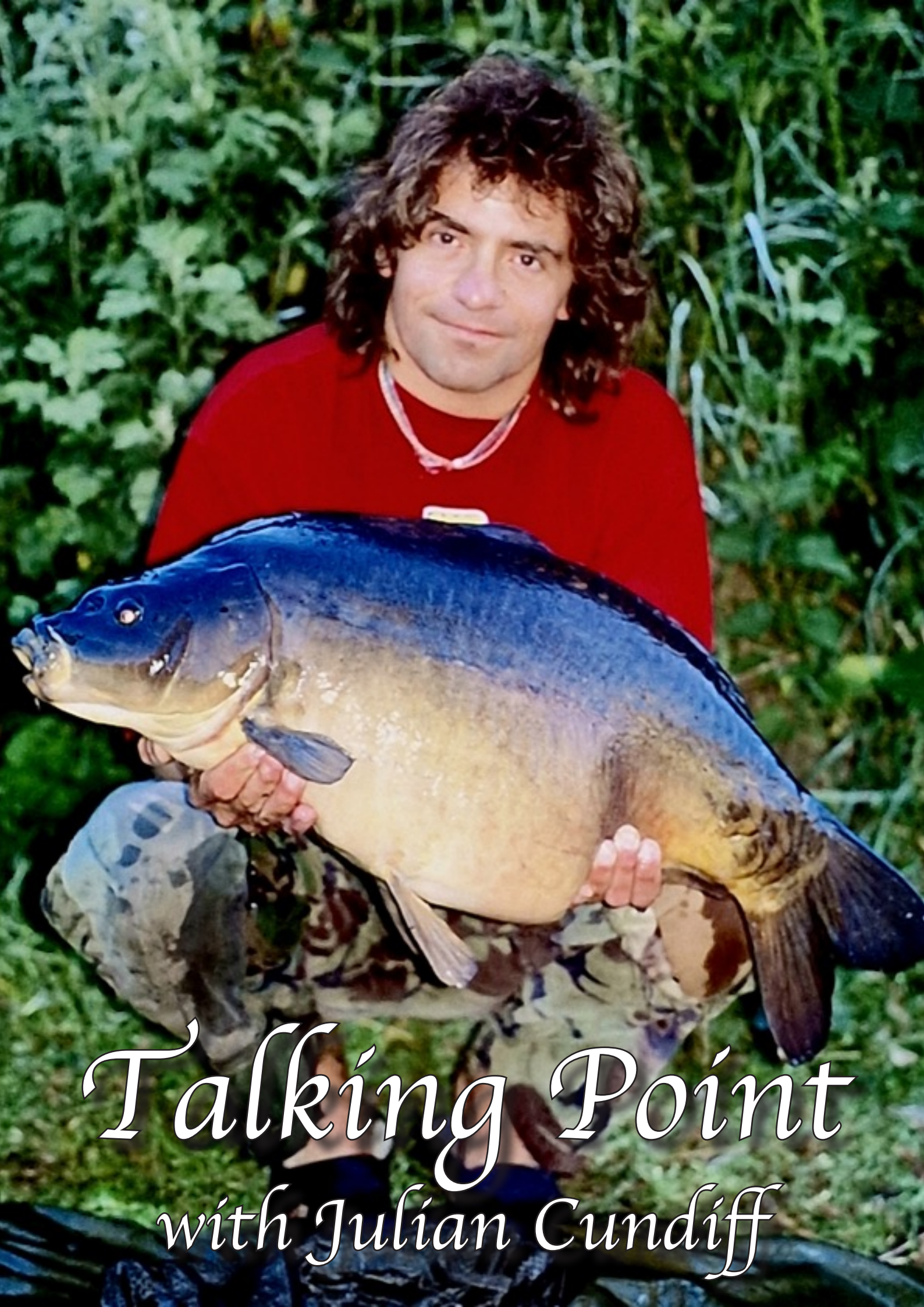
In 2022 over 6,000 people registered to take part in Take a Friend Fishing. Now Take a Friend Fishing is back with an extended programme that gives the biggest window of opportunity yet to anglers, non-anglers and those thinking about reconnecting with the pastime they once enjoyed.

This year, we want even more people to get their backside bankside and Take a Friend Fishing to show them just how easy it is to get into angling and experience the benefits of time out in nature. To relax and engage with nature and the outdoors is a rewarding experience especially with a friend. With a free one-day fishing licence from the Environment Agency worth £6.50 (coarse and non-migratory trout) or £12.60 (salmon and sea trout).

#### **Social Media**

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TakeAFriendFishingTAFF](https://www.facebook.com/TakeAFriendFishingTAFF)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/taff\\_ata](https://www.instagram.com/taff_ata)



*Talking Point*  
with Julian Cundiff

# TALKING POINT...

## Part 2:-

## *The retirement years.*

**with Julian Cundiff & Brian Dixon**

Welcome back Jules... I must say that was quite an informative chat last month regarding your fishing during your working years... so let's take a look at how things are going now. Let's talk about post-retirement carp fishing and how, if at all, it has changed for you.

Jules : **Thanks for that, funnily enough this has dropped at the right time for me ( gotta look on the bright side ) as I've just been sidelined with Covid. I'm pretty careful with hand washing and all that but two gigs, Silverstone, the gym etc is sooner or later catch me out. Such is life ....**

Bri : so, as we discussed in the last issue, your carp fishing was quite regimented, and your schedule was very tight, as in you had to squeeze in overnights between work, or on any days off you may have had. Now you have retired do you find yourself relaxing a little when it comes to your fishing or are you still meticulously planning your sessions?

Jules : **I think the big difference is that I pick and choose venues and times according to weather conditions, how a water's fishing and when I think bite time is. Pre 2018 the only way to get a feel / be consistent was to pick a water and fish it as often as possible in the hope that the stars would align occasionally. And when they did I'd**



fish it even harder (two or three nights in a row) to reap the benefits. So, when it comes to planning I probably plan even more if that makes sense (rather than going because that's the only time I had available). More relaxed? Possibly so but I guess that's an age thing. I do so much prep off the bank so that on it a lot of the guesswork / variables / points of failure are gone. I've caught enough carp and I'm almost always honest with myself that

if I give it my best and it don't happen that's life. There's always tomorrow.

Bri : looking at your fishing over the years to fishing now, it does seem a world apart? A wet, midweek overnight session on Motorway pond between work requires some serious planning and dedication as you are fishing nights only on a notoriously difficult water to now where you can turn up and fish day sessions on your local lakes. Was it an easy transition for you or did you find yourself having to adapt your angling to suit ?

Jules : **When you do something often it becomes the norm mate. I was so used to doing overnights ( 6 pm to 6 am as an average ) that it stopped hurting after a while and it was what it was. I knew it wasn't forever, I knew I was out at 55 and I was going to suffer 1986 to 2015 on my nights to benefit when I retired in 2018. One thing I am good**



at is compartmentalising things when things are outta my control. Sweat the stuff I can control and box the stuff I cannot control. So yes, it was tough (and you genuinely had to love your carp fishing to do it) but it was my choice. After all I could have left court and worked for Nash, Angling Publications and Carp Talk

on a number of occasions. That said it felt weird that March / April 2018 when I wasn't winding in at 6 am but instead fishing on. As I'd always known 7 - 11 am was such a great time to have the rods out especially with the bigger fish. I've checked my diaries for 2017 and 2018 and I caught around FIVE times more carp in 2018 than 2017. Believe me I hadn't got five times better and I hadn't fished five times as much I just happened to choose the right times at the right places . It did kind of feel strange like I was skiving a day off work, having a long weekend but around September / October six months in I ' got it ' .

Bri : How do you decide where to fish these days? Do you still have planned trips or do you occasionally wing it if it's a nice day and think to yourself "they'll be having it today...I'm definitely having a few!" so you change your plans around and go fishing?

Jules : **I guess it's down to a multitude of things Bri.**



Firstly, what tickets do I have?. In 2023 that's four syndicates, two restricted access clubs and guesties / day tickets. The calendar is marked up with commitments (Family, Nash, friends, ex work colleagues, gigs etc) and then I can see precisely how much free time I've got. This is split between fishing, writing, gym and bike riding and by and large they are flexible / interchangeable. So, within those four yes I will definitely flip flop / wing things. Some are easier than others as one is mainly a night water and over an hour away, so I tend to do 12 noon to 12 noon which means I need two free days in a row. Occasionally I get a writing commitment dropped on me or just don't feel it on water but by and large 80% of the time I keep to my plans.



Bri : Has the time come where you look out the window, at the rain and snow, the thunderstorms and/or high pressure and think “nope...not today”? Or are you still as keen as ever? Do you struggle to keep the same mindset that you have always had in years gone by?

Jules : I'm definitely as keen as ever but obviously I have more flexibility to play with. If it's a bright high pressure day I will get my bike ride in and fish that evening. If rains on the way I'll get there

early, get set up and do my bike ride another day. Because I have so many interests / commitments in life it never feels same old, same old so the passion still burns strong. As we get older other things have to take priority but that does not mean I am any less passionate about fishing. It's an important part of my life but not all my life.

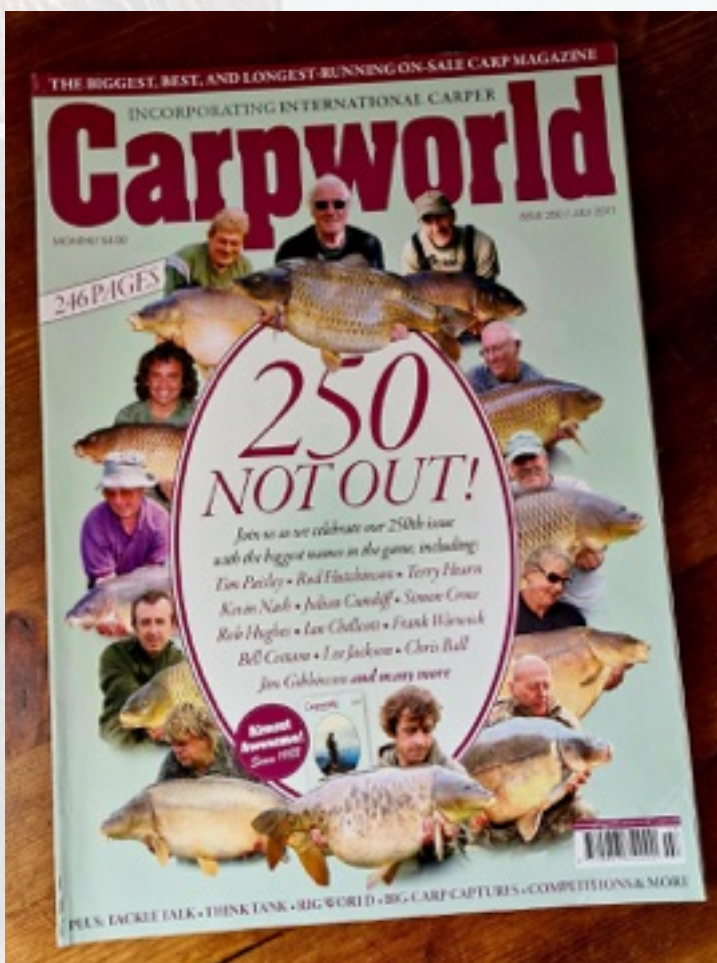
Bri : how about your baiting strategy now? Surely how you fished before is a world apart from how you fish now. As you seem to fish hit and run style these days, on multiple waters, how has your baiting changed, in both what you actually use and how you apply it?

Jules : **To be honest not massively different. Because I was not a session man and was fishing for bites on nights (I'm a poet and didn't know it) I was not a massive baiter. Nowadays as I'm trying to be wise with my time it is pretty much the same. Then it was Monster Squid or**

**Key and now it's Scopex Squid.**

**As the year progresses and the angler pressure decreases I tend to up my baiting which helps with multiple hits from late September onwards. I'm pretty sure that on most waters Scopex Squid, Tiger Nut Slush, Wormcell, pellets, Hi Viz / Cultured Hookbaits will catch me carp providing I use some commonsense. Flake, bags, soaked pellets etc....**

Bri : What about tools for the job? Is there anything in your armoury today that you use constantly





that you wish was around in years gone by as it definitely would have helped you somehow?

Jules : **I wish I'd tried Scope rods earlier as my accuracy up to 70 yards is definitely better with the 10 foot rods. The Bushwhacker makes short range QUIET bait**

**placement much easier and effective. A Powerbarrow would have been a godsend on overnights too. To be honest much of today's gear is a natural evolution of the gear from 1, 3, 5, 10 etc years ago. Everything is better but there genuinely are few 'groundbreakers'.....**

Bri : Just for fun... Here's one that I personally have been wanting to ask... as I know how you fish these days... I place three of your items in front of you.

- 1) Bushwhacker baiting pole. Great for presenting bait in tight situations with minimum disturbance
  - 2) Your barrow. You have been known to fish "off the barrow" and would move in the drop of a hat to get on the fish.
  - 3) Polarised glasses. The ultimate aid in helping you spot the fish...
- I'm now confiscating one for the rest of this year... which one are you giving up?



**Jules : Not hard at all... well maybe a bit. On the waters I'm currently fishing I'd give up my Powerbarrow. I couldn't give up the Bushwhacker as two of my waters have very nervous / cautious carp and casting / Spombing frightens them off. I couldn't get rid of my Polaroids ( Fortis Amber Lenses over prescription lenses / contact lenses ) as so much of my fishing is finding , predicting and ambushing them. Even on dyed waters you can see them much easier. MY barrow ( I presume you mean the Powerbarrow ) would have to be the one..... sadly. Two syndicates allow you to drive and drop, one has a good old Carp Porter on site ( I can just about push a nights gear but you can't half see what a difference a motor makes ) and the other I'd either borrow a barrow or slim down the gear. Tough one though....**

**Bri : Well, I think that wraps it up for another month so on that note we wish you all well and remember you can follow Jules on his media platforms, where you can gain help and advice, for free! Simply follow his pages...**

**Until next month...tight lines and wet nets.**

**Jules : Thanks mate, much appreciated. Hopefully by next time I will be lurgy free Bri.**

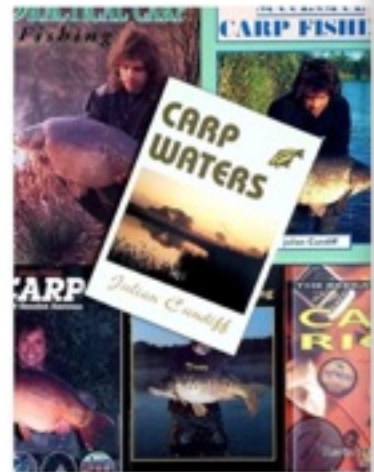
**Jules**

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# Julian Cundiff Angling

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



Julian Cundiff Angling

Julescundiff1

@Juliancundiff

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



**May** has always been a funny old month for me, not just for trying to catch carp but also work related. It might seem as though I'm constantly out on the bank but sadly not. Don't get me wrong, I fish a lot and as much as I possibly can but like the majority of us, I need money to actually go angling. Fuel, food and some day tickets all cost money and unfortunately there are no fuel or food sponsors about! Work for me always gets busy in May mainly because when the weather improves people then want windows and glass repaired. It always makes me wonder because they'll wait for months with leaky and draughty windows but as soon as it's easier to live with, they want it done. As you may have guessed, my trade is a glazier and I've been doing this for more years than I care to remember, and it can be a very active job. However, it pays the bills and that's all I can ask for but at times it can get tedious and the pressure can be a lot to handle and that's where my angling comes in. If I didn't have

angling as my outlet I think I'd have gone bonkers a long time ago, ha.

As things go, the start of May got off to a flyer after I managed a successful session which was only a few hours but as they say, ten minutes in the right place and all that. I had a job to do in the afternoon but had a good few hours to get the rods out before hand so decided to get to my club water for 6am. It doesn't open any earlier than that so up at 4.30am to get some food and bait sorted and by 5.15pm I was on the road. Coffee by my side and radio on, I love driving at that time of the morning especially at this time of year. Quiet roads and a high bright sun in the sky even at that time and it makes me feel good to be alive.





So I get to the gate and there's only one other guy there, a tench angler and after I get the barrow off the van we have brief chat about where he fancies going and it's the complete opposite end to where I was thinking so that's great. 6am comes around and we both go through the gate, wish each other luck and part ways. In only a few minutes I'm at my swim and it's a very intimate swim where it's really close quarter angling so being quiet is of utmost importance. Two baits literally lowered in tight on some overhanging trees one to the left and one to the right and a small handful of crumbed Cell over the top and its game on. A common mistake that many anglers make in May is putting too much bait in around now. Just because the water and weather has warmed up a bit

doesn't mean that they are on the feed. Now Tench, that's a whole different story, they absolutely love a bit of bait around now and at times I've not been able to get away from them.

I was just about to take a spoonful of my porridge and my left rod let out a single bleep. I looked up

and before I could swallow said porridge the bobbin was up to the top and the rod tip was being pulled downward such was the force of the take. Picking up the rod I instantly felt and very heavy solid weight through the rod tip as it made a proper crazy lunge for the snag to my left. Having to really put some side strain on the rod I seemed to stop it from getting into its snaggy lair and before long had it plodding up and down in front of me. Soon after, it was in the net and looking down into the mesh I could see its girth and recognised that it was indeed a nice looking chunk. Up on the scales and it went 34lb 12ozs and was a real solid lump of a common carp, one that I was really pleased with. Well, I didn't have much longer to play with and the job that I had booked in was

creeping up. That in mind I had a slow pack and made my way to work happy that I'd had a really nice fish but left itching for more.

My natural love to help people has always been strong and way back in February I was asked to attend a charity event to help raise awareness for mental health and wellbeing through angling. It's a great charity and is run by a really cracking bunch of lads all of whom are in the emergency services. You can follow them on Instagram and Facebook, and they have some great events up and down the country. They also have some great prizes so check them out and get booking onto their events. The one I attended was at St Johns on the linear fisheries complex which holds some really lovely carp well in excess of 40lb's and it was a great turn out. As you probably know the weather has been really odd recently and we definitely appear to be a month behind and with that in mind, that affected the fishing. It was ok and quite a few people still caught

including me, which was great for the event but lots of the fish were held up in one area and eventually one chap that fished really well won the event.

If you ever struggle with time to go angling, you have to sometimes make time and if that means going when you only have an hour spare, just go. I understand that some of you may think what's the point, but the point is that on so many occasions I've only had minimal time to go that I'm beginning to lose count at the amount of opportunities that have been successful. Get it done, until next month make the most of every day.

JT





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# *Diaries of an Average Carper*

## *By Dave Locke*

Way back in the early 1970s my good mate used to deliver farming equipment, this turned out a bit of a bonus for us as he discovered unknown and unfished ponds and lakes all over the south of England. We were given permission to fish a lake that had never seen an angler before as far as we knew, providing we only fished from the bank that was the opposite side of the farm house. The lake is about 50 yards across and 150 yards long and we discovered the bottom to be extremely silty and covered in bits of twigs and branches.

The first couple of times we fished there resulted in blanks although we had seen plenty of carp moving about, we were sure it was because we could present our baits properly, so we raked a few spots clean.

My spots were both ends of a small island where I had seen a lot of carp. John picked a couple of areas on the house side of the lake tight against a long reed bed.

The trouble was John had difficulty casting to his spots because back then we were still using freelined balls of paste. So, his solution to the problem was to cast a lead onto the house bank then walk around, put the paste on the hook and lower it onto his spot. Simples.

My swim was about 50 foot away from John with a lot of bushes in between us so I couldn't see what he was up to, but I could see him when he walked around the far side. I saw him put his bait on the hook and walk back. Then he appeared in my swim, Where's my rod he said? I had no clue what he was on about. His rod had been pulled into the lake and we could see the butt 30 yards out. Luckily the lake is only 3 to 4 foot deep so John waded out to retrieve his rod minus the carp which had shed the hook. Don't you reckon it would have been a good idea to open the bail arm before you went walkabout, I asked. There was no reply. Again I

watch him walk over the other-side and suddenly the devil whispered in my ear. I quickly walked down to John's swim wound his rod in and hid it behind a tree. The language I heard is unprintable in a sophisticated magazine like this so I will leave it to your imagination and what he called me when I finally owned up to my prank is definitely not nice. Again John cast out and went for his walkabout, unbelievably he forgot to open his bail arm and the rod got pulled in again, but this time the carp was still attached when he retrieved the rod, if my memory serves me right it's was 15lb and turned out to be the biggest carp we caught from that lake.....

People know me as an angelic saintly sort of chap ( sit and wait for pants to catch fire ) But I do occasionally like to play pranks on the un-suspecting. We took a couple of chaps fishing with us to the farm lake mentioned. One chap we didn't know that well and the other chap Brian was a good mate. Brian was a good angler and a nice bloke but he had one fault, he was frightened of the dark. He would never night fish unless he could pitch up right next to someone else. John and I came up with a devious

plan. We cast a line back and forth across the lake so it made a sort of pulley system and cut out a Casper the ghost shape out of a large bit of polythene attaching it to the pulley system. Brian and his mate were pitched up at the bottom end of the lake very near where we had to park our cars. We were in our usual spots mid-way up the lake. Just before midnight we sent our Casper out across the lake on the pulley thing. I have to admit it really did look spooky especially with John making whoooing type noises. We couldn't see the swim where Brian and co were fishing but suddenly we heard a lot of commotion a car door slam and a engine start up followed by a car being driven quite quickly along the farm track. At first light I walked down to Brian's swim and saw his brolly laying on its side and sleeping bag just thrown on the ground. Brians mate ( I've forgotten his name) was just waking up. Where's Brian I asked. Gawd knows he just suddenly got up and buggered off last night. Brian came back around 8am and told us he had seen a ghost and went to spend the night in a well light car park. We all laughed when we told the real truth, well except Brian that is. Strangely he never came back to that lake with us again .



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## **KATRAN Fishing Line**

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A photograph of a forest with sunlight filtering through the trees. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the upper right, casting long, golden rays of light through the dense canopy of bare, dark trees. The scene is misty or hazy, with the light creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere. The trees are mostly without leaves, their intricate branches silhouetted against the lighter sky and the sun's glow.

UK fisherwoman

# Another String to the Bow

by Barrie Scholes

When it comes to carp fishing we all have our favourite approach. Whether that be favourite rig or bait. We have tactics that we've built up confidence in through time on the bank, catching carp. Jules refers to them as starting points, and it's great to have these starting points. After all, embarking on any kind of campaign you need to start somewhere! There are so many variables when it comes to catching carp, be that weather conditions, time of year, different venues etc. The more you can narrow the variables down the better. So, if you know you have a rig and bait that work, well that just leaves the simple (?!) matter of putting it in front of some carp. Great!

However, there can be a problem with this approach. Now I'm all for keeping things simple with my fishing and sticking to what I know, and if it ain't bust then don't fix it. But there is one drawback to this philosophy. Stagnation! How do you improve as an angler, if you always fish in the same way?? After all, if carp anglers had never tried anything new then we'd all still be fishing floating crust in the edge, and the boilie or hair rig would never have been invented.

My starting point, when it comes to rigs, is the snowman rig. It comprises of a bottom bait topped with half a pop up, attached via a knotless knot hair rig, to a wide gape hook with a kicker and coated braid. I've caught lots of carp on this set up and have the upmost confidence in it. I like how I can add a bit of colour with the pop up topper, and that the buoyancy of the half pop up means the hook hangs below the bait when the carp takes it in to its mouth helping to hook it in the bottom lip. I also think that the shape of a snowman presentation is more difficult for the carp to eject than a standard round bottom bait would be on its own.

So why change? Well, the waters I fish tend to be light silt and weed free. Fishing over such a lake bed with the snowman rig has served





The main lesson I took away from that trip was how confident Ian was in the Ronnie rig. In particular bright little pop ups fished on a Ronnie with a mesh bag of pellet. And it was a tactic that managed to nick him a fish too, in very difficult winter conditions on a large gravel pit. So that was it. Going in to 2023

me well. However, trying new venues where weed is present such as blanket weed, or even different parts of the lakes I already fish, like by reed beds that are a lot more choddy, a snowman presentation might not be the one. A pop up presentation in such a situation would make more sense.

Now I've dabbled with pop ups before. But only really "dabbled", rather than giving them a good go. I've tried a Ronnie rig before and caught a couple on it and I've tried a stiff hinge too on rare occasions. But there's always been a niggle that I should get to grips with a bit more with pop ups. One trip in particle brought this home to me and it was in January this year. I was lucky enough to be chosen as the Trouble Shooter Client in Total Carp and spent a very enjoyable 24hrs fishing alongside Ian Russell.

I would give the Ronnie rig more of a go and see what all the fuss is about!

The first chance I got to give the Ronnie a go came in April. On a club lake I've been fishing for a couple of years now. I'd fished an



easier water in the winter catching a few on my usual tactics but I didn't try Ronnies then as winter isn't really the time to be messing about with your rigs and I'd done well the winter before on the snowman rig so didn't feel the need to change.

I was hoping to start on the lake in March but after 3 years of dodging it, covid finally caught me. It wiped me out for 3 weeks and after that, March was pretty much finished. So, I started in April. The first session was a blank, but I wasn't too disheartened. It was one of those "getting back it to the swing of things on the lake" kind of a session. The spring weather hadn't really arrived either and the lake was still yet to properly wake up from the winter. Before I packed up two guys turned up and put a drone out over the lake. I don't have a drone, mainly due to the fact I'm useless with anything that involves connecting to a smart phone! However, one thing that the drone showed, (which is what I'd suspected) was that the majority of carp were all sat in the reed beds sunning themselves. So, with this information in mind, I planned to be back next week to hopefully get a swim that would give me access to the reed lined margin where so



many of the lakes stock seemed to be inhabiting. Ideally peg 2.

After a busy week at work my next session soon came round and I was back at the lake for an overnighter. Although the lake is a club lake you still have to book on to do the night. When using the booking system, you can see how many anglers are already booked on each night. So, I try to plan my overnighters when the lake is less busy. On this occasion I arrived at the lake and there was only two other anglers on, and the best part was that neither of them were on peg 2. I was wanted to get in peg 2 as it gave good access to the reed bed opposite. It's not a peg I'd fished before, so I had a bit of a lead around and found it was quite choddy. But I was getting a firmer drop slightly to the right, so this is where I'd put my right hand rod. I clipped up and measured it round the wrap sticks so I could hit the spot in the night should I get any action. It was 12 wraps. I wasn't tight to the reeds. I didn't want to be too tight as I was night fishing so wanted to make sure I had time to get to the rod before a fish would have a chance of making it to the reeds. But

also, I suspected that once night came the fish would drift out of the reeds as the shallow water cools and hopefully be looking for a bit of food in the night. So out went the right hand rod on a Ronnie rig with mesh bag attached. I didn't put any bait out as I knew the carp were there already and I just wanted to put bait in front of them to ask a question and hopefully nick a bite. I could have gone with two Ronnies towards the reeds but decided instead to put the left rod in open water on a snowman rig over a couple of pouches of freebies, to edge my bets.

I must admit that as night fell, and I'd had some chips for tea on my Ridgemonkey I was starting to talk myself out of the Ronnie rig. It all seemed like a good plan in theory, but I was very tempted to reel it in and put a snowman out instead.



But I stuck to my guns and sat on my hands. The night passed without event until I was woken at 5am to a few stuttery type bleeps which then stopped. As I made my way out of the bivvy I was fully expecting the culprit to be a duck as they had been diving over the left rod the previous evening when I'd put some bait out. But to my surprise the light was on the right hand alarm and the swinger was hanging down. Through a still half asleep haze my brain finally twigged that I had a drop back on the Ronnie rig! I picked up the rod wound down and connected with a fish. It was freezing cold, and everything was covered in ice despite it being spring. My immediate thought was that it was a bream as it came

towards me fairly easily but then it turned and took some line. It was a carp! A couple of anglers had arrived in the swims either side of me and we had a chat while

with the first rays of sunshine illuminating the mist rising off the lake it made for a very atmospheric backdrop to what was a good battle with a carp. When it finally showed ready for netting I didn't think it looked that big. In the net it went and peering in I thought it might have gone twenty. But it seemed to get bigger and certainly felt heavy when lifting it out. On the mat it was clearly a twenty and the scales swung round to 26lb 8oz. My second biggest from the lake. I was absolutely thrilled. It's a result that certainly gave me confidence to persevere with the Ronnie rig! Since then, I've continued to use the Ronnie and me and my son had a good result on another club



lake landing 3 carp between us and my son even caught his first catfish, on a Ronnie too! I've been back on the club lake and managed another fish from the reed line again on a Ronnie with mesh bag. I had another fish on that session too but on my faithful snowman presentation to a marginal clear spot.

Now the moral of this article isn't that everyone should go out and start fishing Ronnies. Far from it. But changing tactics and having had some good results, it has opened my eyes a bit that although it's good to have go to tactics that

you are confident in, it's always worth trying something new. So, if you've always been meaning to try a certain new tactic, whether that be pop ups, solid bags, zig rigs are a good one that many people never try! Give them a go in 2023! Because you never know, they might just work! And then you'll have another string to your carp fishing bow.

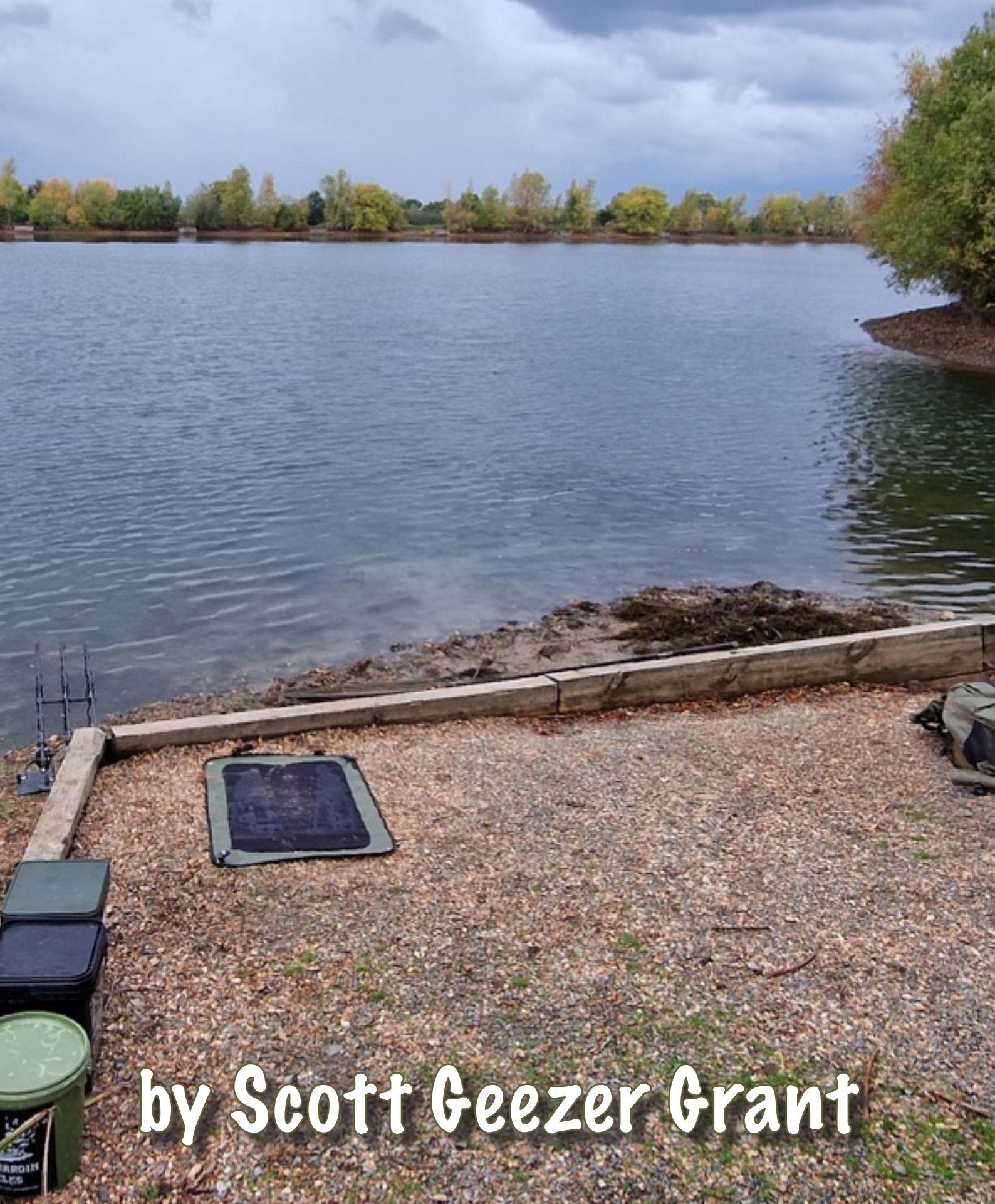
*Barrie*

Instagram: [barriescholes](#)





# The Dell Autumn Gem



by Scott Geezer Grant

It was some 6 weeks ago I last fished, and boy what a session it was banking a few more lumps and getting closer to my target fish. I had been keeping a keen eye on the lake over the weeks and a big hit was had, and yes, you've guessed it, it was from the swim I had been baiting heavily for weeks and consistently catching from. To make matters worse it was one of the anglers who had seen where I was fishing and had fished a few sessions whilst I was over there. But that is the risk you take when you go all out to bait like nobody else is, they jump on your hard graft.

Well, that's history now and I was back to hopefully pick up where I left off, I hadn't put any bait in the White Bag since my last session and after a walk around there was only 2 anglers on. Nothing of any stature had been out just two upper doubles so it was all to play for. I decided to fish in the Ramp, a swim I am familiar with. The weather was moody as you like and every time, I checked the weather app it changed, rain was forecast for later in the afternoon so I decided to get everything round to the swim and get set up before the rain arrived.

It was a Sunday afternoon and I had 4 nights in front of me, hopefully I can snare one of the big girls or even the one I really want. The Ramp had not been fished for ages due to the vast amounts of weed in front of it. With all my gear in the swim it was all set up within an hour. I then stuck the kettle on and sat watching the water for a bit. I was fishing all three rods on chods with size 2 hooks, bait wise I was using the awesome Monster Tuna in whole and crushed which I have been using all summer to great effect, the fish have responded well to the bait. I was also using chillie hemp a bait I never





leave home without.

I checked the spots I had fished in the past and two of them were covered in thick weed, but the third was fishable with only a light covering, so fishing a chod would be the perfect presentation. I managed to find two other spots and with the rods baited with different coloured pop ups the rods were dispatched to their chosen areas with a good helping of bait. With the rods out it was time to sit back and relax watching the water. I checked the weather which I seem to do constantly and the pressure was 1010 and rising over the next few days to 1015. Just after 5pm I heard the clap of thunder, the sky came over all black and I knew the rain would not be far away. Not long after the wind picked up it was a westerly, coming from my right to left, I couldn't believe how the weather had changed in an instant, it was pouring with rain which turned into hail stones coupled with strong winds, the

tornado winds only lasted an hour, but the rain kept falling well into the night.

After a lovely night's sleep, I woke up Monday morning to a different lake, the forecast was saying a daytime temperature of 17oc and it was a glorious morning. I sat in the swim with a t shirt and shorts drinking my morning coffee watching the water. A couple of fish showed and they were not far out at all 60 yards max. I decided to sacrifice one of the rods and I put it in the zone the fish had been showing in. The day flew past and before I knew it, I was rebaiting the rods just before dark. I like to top the areas up on a daily basis (but I will miss a day in between) but only when I am confident, I have applied enough bait to the spot. With the rods done, I heated my dinner up and washed it down with a lovely cold cider,

all whilst watching the water. I find in Autumn the fish always show on dark, and come winter they show between midnight and 3 o'clock in the morning.

As I sat eating my dinner, every now and then a fish would show and I could just make it out in the silhouette of darkness. I knew there were fish in the area which again filled me with confidence, whether they would feed is another thing, but I was trying my hardest to make that happen. I went to sleep just after midnight and was rudely awoken by a single bleep on the middle rod, it then beeped again so I jumped out the bag slid into my crocs and made my way to the rods. I looked at the bobbin and it was shaking!! Then it started to rise and then ping, out of the clip and the fish was on, I lifted the rod and the fish immediately sought sanctuary in a weed bed, great!! I put the rod back in the rest and loosened the clutch enough for the fish to take line. Ten or so minutes later the fish started to take line I lifted the rod and kept it as high as I could and started to gain on the fish, it was not fighting hard more of a plodding about that was until the fish was 20ft from the bank and bang!! It found another weed bed. Again, I had to put the rod back in the rest and wait, 20 minutes later and again the fish freed itself and after a few short minutes it was engulfed in the waiting net.



With the fish safely in the net I peered in and was met with a lovely dark mirror and my guesstimate was a low 30lber. I secured the net and checked the time it was just before 0700 o'clock.

With the fish safe I rebaited the rod and got it straight back out on the spot. I then gave Lee a call who was the only other angler fishing, he was airfield bank to my left. Ten minutes later Lee was at my swim and ready to witness the weighing and take some shots. The fish went 34lb 14oz and it was an Autumn cracker. Lee took great photos the fish was then treated and returned safely.

The fish were showing close in again just as the sun came up, the wind was South/South Westerly and again today's forecast is 17oc degrees and sunny. I spent the day in shorts and tee shirt and even though the fish were showing early this morning the rods remained motionless. To be honest I did not care I had banked an absolute gem of a fish and anything else would be a bonus. Just before it started to get dark it was a repeat of yesterday, and after a lovely night's sleep, I woke up Wednesday morning to a glorious sunrise, the wind had picked up and was now a 17mph westerly which is perfect for this swim. What was weird is the fish did not show at all, I sat there watching the water drinking tea after tea and I saw absolutely nothing. The day flew past and I had decided I was going to leave the rods where they were and not rebait them as I felt there was enough bait on each spot. My final night approached and the rain came down, just my luck one thing I hate is packing away wet gear it does my



head in. Again, a quiet night was had, I was up at 0700 oclock but the morning was unlike the previous mornings, it was gloomy and the rain was still coming down. On checking the app, it was due to stop at 10 oclock which would give me a couple of hours to try and get the bivvy dry. By lunchtime the temperature was 20oc which is mental for October, but the bivvy was dry by early afternoon where I packed up and said goodbye until next time.

I was more then pleased with the fish I had caught an absolute banger and another one ticked off the list.

In a few weeks' time I will be embarking on a social trip to a lake in Cambridge that holds some really big fish.

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



[www.a2baits.co.uk](http://www.a2baits.co.uk)

[www.sharptackle.co.uk](http://www.sharptackle.co.uk)

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In the Margin Particles (Facebook)

If you would like more information on becoming a member of The Dell contact Michael Prior on 07768-124462 he will be more than happy to help.

The Monster Tuna boilie range along with pop ups, dips etc is readily available at your local stockist, or visit the A2 baits website for the full bait range.

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For all your PVA needs head over to the brand-new Castaway website where you will find an array of PVA products that can help you in your fishing. [www.castaway-pva.co.uk](http://www.castaway-pva.co.uk)

Stay safe and remember its only fishing.

Scott "Geezer" Grant





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# TALES OF A CARPING JOURNEYMAN #3



*Rod Bird*

With the month of May upon us I was excited to say the least, I had a couple of things on and was well into the planning for my first ever trip to Bay Lakes in the Champagne Region of France, it was a trip that I'd jumped onto kind of last minute, but little did I know that this trip would turn into a bit of a nightmare.....

### Bay Lakes - France

The usual prep and fact finding was completed in a rush, but I felt as it was a small lake it would be easy to get some carp on the bank, and was secretly hoping for my first 50lb+ carp of the year, what could go wrong?

On the morning of the 5th of May I set off with the van packed, I was going to pick up Luke Berzins from Hull on the way, on arrival we put his gear in the van and was treated to a Bacon and Mushroom butty, things were looking good. After the quick stop we set off for the Tunnel, only a 5-hour drive, all went well and we managed to get onto an earlier train, but still had a couple of hours to pass till boarding time. The other members of the group soon arrived they were Rich and

Jamie Fowler and Matt Thompson, all from the Hull area also, and all members bar Jamie of the Karper Ltd Team, after a quick brew and bite to eat we were soon on the Train, Frog bound.

We had booked a hotel in Calaise for the night, so after a 10-minute drive we were at the hotel and 15 seconds later we were in the bar. With banter flying and private thoughts of massive carp going through all our heads the night soon passed and we were on the road at 8am en route to our destination, excitement high, especially with Luke as he had never fished in





France before, so the journey was going well. We stopped at a Service Station where I bumped into a lad I know, Sonny Fisher (yeah that's his real name, should have been a golfer!), what a small world we live in.

With the short break out of the way we continued our journey, with Lukes' excitement going through the roof, he was full of questions and predictions as we all were on our first French trip, I guess. With half an hour to go I got a tyre pressure warning on my dash, nothing too much to worry about

as this can happen as the tyres get hotter on the van, there was a loud ping then I felt the rear right end drop, so I screeched onto the hard shoulder.....

....Bugger a flat tyre...!!! "No worries" I thought as the ping was obviously a nail or screw hitting the wheel arch after ejecting from the tyre, so it was going to be just a little hole, now, with Mercedes Vito Tourers you don't get a spare wheel, you get a 'Green Slime' mixture, which you basically just put into the tyre by removing the valve, you even get an air compressor with the kit, within 10 minutes we would be up and running again.....oh how wrong was I.....!!!!!!



It just wasn't having it, so we were stranded on the side of the Toll Road, but after a few minutes of devastation the local Traffic Officer was with us, he cordoned off the area and tried to help us, my French is useless and Luke was the same, in the end he decided to call a tow truck to get us off the road, it arrived within 20 minutes, we still had plenty of time before we needed to get to the lake so I was very optimistic about things, but the tow truck took us to his yard and dumped us off..... nearly 300 Euros for 15 minutes, and not a tyre place in sight, the Tow Truck guy must have felt sorry for us as he soon had us on the back of the truck again and he took us to a local Tyre Shop, a bit like Kwikfit, all good, we could still make it to the lake on time.....

....I popped into the shop and with my pigeon French (a pigeon that doesn't know French) the guy at the shop soon knew what tyre I needed, he just laughed at me and said it would take two-weeks to get a tyre, as my van has 19inch AMG wheels on it, gutted, however after letting me on his computer I found some tyres that would fit and could have them within 3 or 4 days....

....Now, you will notice I said "tyres" and not just a "tyre", TAKE NOTE.....in France, both of the tyres on the same axle must be of the same make and tread, you can't just get one tyre done...!!!

With the tyres ordered, Rich who had already made it to the lake and had unpacked the other guys gear, came back to get us, what a diamond! So, we cross loaded my van into his and we were on our way at last to the lake, leaving my van at the garage.

On arrival at the lake the boys had already done the draw, with only 3 swims left we soon picked our



swims, feeling knackered from one hell of a day I decided on swim 1, next to the toilet and shower block, with Luke going in the next one up. We set our homes up and got on with the fishing.....at last!

At 01:30 on the Sunday morning my Delkim decided to wake me up.....I'm in, this will make up for yesterday. So I played and landed a small Catfish....bugger..! but hey ho, let's crack on, I got the rod back out and took a picture of the cat for some reason.

The next 24hrs was slow, with no action, no one on the lake was catching except Matt up the top corner, unfortunately Matt had to go home on the Monday morning, after landing 5 carp he was devastated to say the least, but where there is an opportunity I'll take it, we all had a meeting to see who was going to move and after about 15 minutes the boys decided that I could move up there. So I quickly packed up and borrowed Rich's van and moved round to Matt's peg. On arrival Matt showed me the marks he was fishing, but pointed out he hadn't had a bite for about 12 hours as the wind had switched, I felt a bit gutted, but still

thought I had a better chance in this swim. I helped Matt put his gear into Rich's van and said my farewell to him.

At 02:45 I had a run and landed a plump mid 20lb mirror carp, with the rain and the size of the carp I decided to put it straight back, not wanting to set up my self-take gear, and it was only a mid 20 anyway.... well I say mid 20 I didn't even bother weighing it, now that's not like me. I would live to regret that moment of laziness.

On the Tuesday morning I got a





also managed to get into a few fish each, both landing 50's, and I'd lost 2 carp, but was really struggling, I was so worried about my van just sitting outside the garage in an industrial estate, but Friday morning soon came and Rich (have a mentioned he is a diamond!) said he would take me to the garage at lunchtime. No sooner was I about to reel my rods in that I got another message from the garage, they had sent the wrong tyres and it could be another week.....my world just fell apart at that point.

message from the garage to say the tyres wouldn't turn up till the Wednesday or Thursday, so I said I would come down on the Friday to get them fitted, giving them a days grace, so I was booked in for 16:00 on the Friday, plenty of time to get them on and back to the lake to pack away on the Saturday morning.

I arranged for Luke to go back

The fishing picked up for Luke who managed 5 PB's including a 50 over the next few days, both Jamie and Rich





with the other boys and rearranged my tunnel ticket. I phoned the garage and managed to find one tyre that would fit, they weren't very happy about fitting one tyre but in the end I wore them down and they said they would fit it..... without prolonging this nightmare of a story I got the tyre fitted on the Saturday Morning and even managed to get an earlier Train. Moral of this story is **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A SPARE WHEEL FOR YOUR VEHICLE WHEN TRAVELING IN FRANCE.** Needless to say, I now have a spare fitted. I'm just going to put it down to experience and forget that trip ever happened!

## **Karper Social - Norton Disney**

Karper had arranged a team

Social at the fantastic Embryo Norton Disney Complex, Pettitt's Lake 26th to 28th of May, and as soon as it was announced I put my name down as I'd fished the complex a few times in the past, and always managed to bag one or two in the process. There was a bit of a nail biting couple of days as we got nearer to the event as two of the

lakes on the complex had started to spawn, but with less than 24 hours to the meeting it was announced that the cooler weather had stopped our much loved carp in their yearly love making and should be on the munch.....so it was on..!

I left the house at 05:30 on the Friday morning and after a quick "butty" stop at Weatherby Services, I was soon driving through the gates of the immaculate Norton Disney Complex.

I parked in the top car park and met up with Dicky Barton who had arrived a few minutes before me. We then met up with the rest of the guys who were down to fish. We had thirteen swims booked, which

is the whole of Pettitt's Lake and this lake holds the bigger carp in it, so it is by no means an easy water.

There were only eleven on the Friday, with two others arriving the following day, so after a bit of hand shaking and leg pulling we asked the Norton Disney guys if they would do the draw for us, which they were happy to do..... yep another draw, I hate draws! Being the Team Manager I was chosen to select the first number, great.... number 10, now this wasn't the peg number it was when I was in the draw, 11 numbers and I had 10....



figures...!!!

I watched the favoured pegs quickly disappear until my turn came, shock horror there was still a decent peg left, so I chose peg 6, almost in the middle of the lake with a fair bit of water, so not too bad even though I hadn't actually fished that peg before but I'd fished peg 5 next door and peg 2 straight across, so I had a rough idea of the bottom and what rigs work in these areas. There are also lake maps on a board on every lake with depths and boundaries so a quick check on that I noted that I had a 20-foot gully in front of me all the way to about one rod length from my 100 yard boundary, which was about 7 feet, hot weather they would be out there loving life in the shallower water.

I got my 13ft Sonik DominatorX Hybrid Spod and Marker rod out with a 4oz lead and checked the water in front of me... the 'gully' as expected was full of weed until a plateau became apparent at 24 wraps straight out towards peg 2 and... there was enough space for two rods... result... to my right, just off a sunken Island in front of me at 21 wraps towards peg 1 in 7 feet of



water I found a nice gravel patch..... so third rod sorted, let's get some bait out....

...My bait mix was Karper Ltd Sweetcorn 15mm boilies both whole and crushed, tinned Sweetcorn, Lake Pellet, Hemp and Sweetcorn Energizer Syrup and hemp oil, nice and easy.

I got my DominatorX's wrapped-up, one at just under 24 wraps and one just under 21 wraps to allow for the drop of the lead on the casting rods. The issue I had though was a 20mph cross wind,

not so much with the 21 wrap rod, I use the Wolf X-Spod, they open almost every time and cast true, so I put 20 Spods onto that mark, but I struggled with the 24 wrap rod, so I changed the X-Spod for an X-Spod Competition, it's slightly smaller and flies like a dream. I tend to use these for anything over 25 wraps usually, but with the larger X-Spod catching the wind and not being very accurate in the gusting cross wind I put the smaller one on, perfect, with about 30 Spods out to this mark it was time to get the rods ready.

I was using my Sonik Gravity XFW 13ft 3.5lb rods for this session as I knew that I may have to cast a long way on certain pegs. My trusty Daiwa Emblem 45 SCW QD'S loaded with Katran Crypton 17.5lb line which is only 0.331mm in diameter and casts like a dream because of the low stretch and attached to this was a shock leader and the end tackle, all supplied by Terminal Tackle UK consisted of a Leader with the Helisafe System on the bottom, a short 6" crimped Reset Boom with a size 4 Advanced Curve Barbless Hook fished Ronnie style and I then opted for a 4oz Arra lead to get everything out to the

spots.

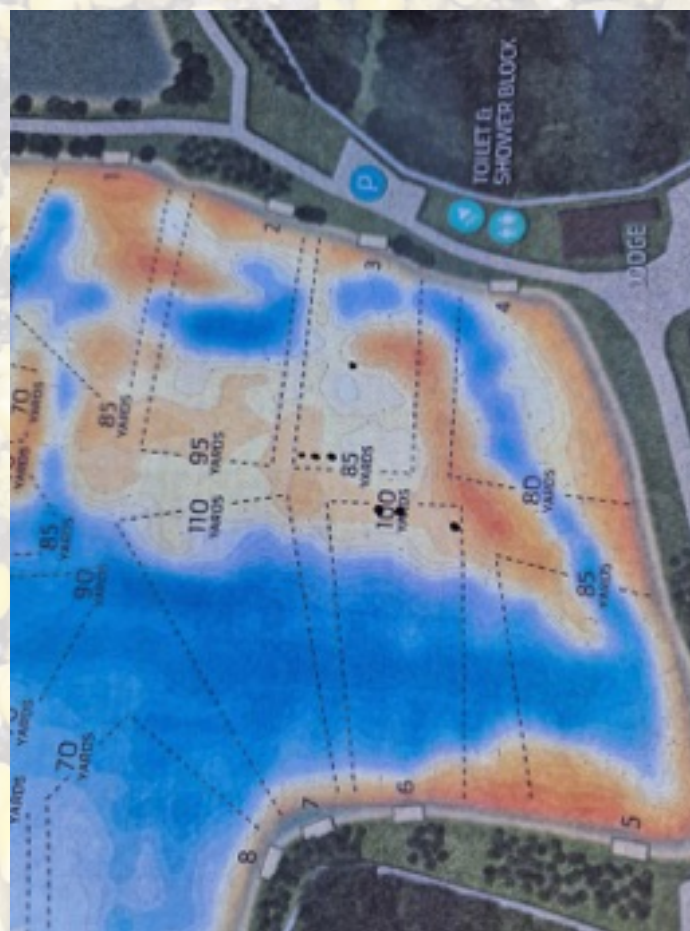
Hook Bait of choice was a Karper 12mm Ultra-Fluro "Yellow Spicy Nut" (SN) Pop-Up soaked in a trial gel that I am testing (it's working well so far). My choice of colour for the Hook Bait was based on the fact it has form on Norton Disney.... all nice and simple and easy to tie. All three rods were sent to their respective spots, and it was then time to sort my house out for the weekend and enjoy a well-deserved and somewhat obligatory brew...!!!

The fishing was slow for the first twenty-four hours with only a couple of carp being caught, and all from the other side of the lake. When the sun went down on the first evening it was freezing on our side of the lake, and we were wrapped up like John Snow going over the wall. Looking at the other bank they were in T-Shirts and there where carp lunking all over them, all we could do was watch.

It was arranged that we would stop fishing at 13:00 on Saturday afternoon and all gather in Ben Szyczak and Chris Michael's peg for a couple of beers and a chinwag. Knowing this was

happening, at 09:00 I got my Marker Rod out again and wrapped up to exactly 100 yards or 91.4 meters which is 25 wraps using 12ft spacing on my sticks (Even though I was using 13ft rods, the Sticks are set to 12ft for wraps).

On casting out towards peg 2, I was still on the plateau, so got my Spod Rod clipped up at just under 25 wraps and set about getting some bait on the mark ready for casting the rods to after the meeting. All went well really, fishing right on the edge of my swim boundary I knew I was still a few rod lengths short



from where the lunking fish had been the evening before, but I had to stay within my water. I used the same Spod mix as it has served me well in the past, and the same rigs and hook baits as I had 100% confidence in them. After the get together I got my rods out for the last night and it was noticeably warmer and the wind had died down, if there was ever going to be a chance this was it....

I sat up late with lots of brews, and slowly but surely the carp started to show on the far side, right in front of me at around 28/29 wraps, Peg 2 and 3 picked up a couple of carp,



all they needed to do was come a little closer and I just knew it was going to happen at some point, so I got everything ready just incase the carp gods decided to smile on me and I fired out another 10 Spods over the plateau mark, then tried to get my head down....

Now, there's nothing as disorientating as a one toner at dark o'clock in the middle of the night when you're snug as a bug in your bag, and luckily that didn't happen.....HaHaHa

Instead, I had a single beep on my middle rod, then another and by the time the second beep happened I was already up, with my (as Mark Cunnington author of the fantastic 'Syndicate' series of books would say) loosely tied trainers ready for a run in the middle of the night on, I was on the rod like a flash, but nothing was moving, no tip twitches, the slack line was still slack, so I had a quick call of nature and checked my watch, 01:30..... then all hell broke loose, as a one toner warbled away, the spool was set reasonably tight, but still the line was stripping off the reel.... I picked it up and cupped the spool, yep I was in...!!!

I turned my Katran W/B460 Pro Head Torch on to the 'Blue Light' setting which then makes the Katran Crypton Line "glow in the dark" which, as I have said before, is a game changer and allows you to not only see where the carp is going but also lets you see your other lines in the water... the two long rods were a foot apart, and remember it was my middle rod that had ripped off, no worries if the carp went right as I had a shorter rod out there, but sods law the carp kited left, I could easily see the direction and managed to pass my action rod under my left rod, no way I would have seen that with 'normal' mono on, jobs a good un.

The carp behaved itself until it got to the rod tips and with twenty feet of water it kept diving for the weed, but when it did this I just held the spool to turn it... I have so much confidence in the Advanced Curve Hooks and I knew if it was hooked it was never coming off...!

Eventually it started to slow down and rise to the top, there she is, I got my Solar A1 Bow-Lock 42inch Landing net (which I've put a deeper net on, come on Solar what were you thinking with a dumpy

short one you send with the net?) and landed my prize..... I was over the moon. I weighed her and popped her into the retainer and went and got Dicky after getting my bank lights sorted and all the gear to deal with the fish when being photographed. We quickly took some pictures and slipped her back, now she wasn't a monster by any means and there are carp 20lb heavier in Pettitt's but she was a respectable 23lb 7oz, and beautiful, to be honest every single carp I've had from the complex has been a peach and in great condition.



I put a new rig and bait on, wrapped up and cast the rod back onto the spot which took three casts until I was happy, and I put another 5 Spods out. It was around 03:00 when I slipped back into my bag, with a little grin on my face.

Morning soon came and it was time to pack away, to be honest I nearly paid for another 24hrs, I felt I was just getting to know the swim, but I had things happening on the Monday morning, so I did the right thing and headed home....

..and there you have it, May wasn't a great Month for me, but I worked hard and had a few good results, and I've caught a May carp so I'm still up and running, I still have that bitter taste in my mouth about the Bay Lakes trip but I have a chance to clear that as I'm off to Serene 2 in the Champagne Region early June, fingers crossed I have a better trip this time...

Catch up next month  
Rod

Facebook: Rod Bird Carp Angler

Instagram: @carprod66

TikTok: @carprod66

YouTube: @carprod66

Karper LTD: <https://www.karper.co.uk/>

Terminal Tackle UK: <https://www.terminaltackle.uk/>

Future Carping: <https://www.futurecarping.co.uk>

Katran Reviews: Mono Main Line:

<https://online.pubhtml5.com/kzxy/sbcw/index.html#p=81>

W/B460 Pro: <https://online.pubhtml5.com/kzxy/vvpc/index.html#p=74>

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# **THE GREAT ROD RACE CHALLENGE INTERVIEW**

**WITH BRIAN, MATT  
AND LEIGH**

Bri : So, I have been hearing on the grapevine that you are putting a “great rod race” style challenge together to raise awareness and money for a charity? Is that right?

Matt: yes Bri, in 2019 my mum Christine (or as she was known to her friends and family “Chris”) was going through treatment for cancer and in the September of 2019, I received the call to come visit and be with her as her life slowly left her. It was then I said to her that I would do something for charity that would do her proud. And it was her wish that I did something that I enjoyed rather than your standard marathon, bike ride etc. So, I decided that fishing was the only way.

Fast forward to this time last year, I was struggling mentally and was overcoming addiction with the stresses of work, the fishery and family life so it was time to put what time I had spare to some causes.

And what better way to raise money, through the art of Fishing and with your best friend, this is where Leigh comes in.

We got notified a few spaces had come available on a Pete Castle trip to Parco Del Brenta in Italy, so we quickly decided that a rod race there would be epic

The Rod Race To Parco was born.

Bri : What is the main charity you have chosen?

Matt: we’ve decided on two, firstly Macmillan Cancer Support following their amazing ongoing work and support of their staff throughout the UK. The second, Fishing The Mind, this following a social event by Mark the founder at Hurlston Hall Fishery. It was clear that his new charity was in need of a supporter to push him to the next level and he’s doing an amazing job despite him not having enough capital to take the charity full time yet. We can see what he does and if we can help get him there than it would be great.

Bri: So, tell us... how does this work? For those who may not be familiar with a great rod race style challenge, what is the aim of the challenge?

How does it work?

Matt: We aim to catch pound of fish per mile we travel, therefore, starting from Hurlston Hall Fishery we will need approximately 200lb to get us there.

Bri: Where are your target venues in this race? Where will you end up if you are successful?

Matt: We have had amazing support so far from Makins Fishery, Flaxland Fishery, Churchgate Lakes and Pegasus Lakes in France. But, with it being a rod race we may have to drop off somewhere to bag up before moving on. We have 2 weeks to get to Parco del Brenta. Leaving Hurlston Hall Fishery on 11th August and meeting Pete Castle and the rest of that trip there on 26th August. The Parco trip itself will purely be for us to unwind after the carnage we hope will follow.

Bri : How is the backing going? Are you getting plenty of support from the angling industry?

Matt: I have to say Bri, it's been great. We understand that certain people have their commitments to charities so we've had lots not be able to help but those that have been amazing.

Dave Levy, Pete Castle, Hassan



Khan, Catch, Gemini Tackle, CC Moore, Sunblesa, Jim Shelley, Cartoon Carper, Galaxy Tackle, Spring Pools Fishery, Mill Pools Fishery, Leyland Mill Fishery, Newton and the Willows AA, the list is immense.

Bri: we hear that even Matt Hayes and Mick Brown have given their blessing and allowed you to use the name “the Great Rod Race?”

Matt: Yes, I contacted Matt via twitter and he quickly responded with support and their blessing, what an honour hey?

Bri : so, when exactly is this event taking place? What and where is the starting date?

Matt: We are hosting a Launch day/night at Hurlston Hall Fishery on 11th August which in fact works well as its Leighs birthday. There we have a few DJs lined up, the chance to join up on the bank and fish Hurlston when we have our quota to move on. Tickets are limited to 100 but only £10. We're hoping for some special guests however we haven't had firm confirmations yet.

Bri: Where can people follow your progress? Do you have a Facebook page or website?

Matt: yes, we do, we have a website set up for information thanks to my friend Ross Munro, that's [www.rntp.co.uk](http://www.rntp.co.uk) where there is competitions and information on how to donate etc.

Bri: Is there any way people can support you along the way? We are sure there are people who would love to help out any way they can.

Matt : we are aiming to raise £10k in total, any help whether people buy tickets with a chance to win a 48hr session with Dave Levy, who will join us at Churchgate Lakes on Monday 14th August for 2 nights, this will be part of the race too. At only £10 a ticket it's an amazing way to donate money while having the chance to fish with myself and Leigh, oh and there's “Carp Angler of the Year” Dave Levy too.

Along with that we have a large competition with the chance to win loads of prizes.

We'd still welcome prizes and donations from anyone

Bri: well, it sounds like a great adventure, and a great way to raise some much needed money for charity. Can you see this becoming an annual event?

Matt: you never know, my amazing wife Sarah might have something to say on that.

Bri: Have you have already started raising funds with competitions and raffles? If so, how can the public get involved with it?

Matt: we've already raised over £4k from Carp matches and raffle tickets. We still have loads available so it would be nice to have a sell out

Bri: Well, I think that wraps it up for now. We wish you the very best of luck in this, and will be following your exploits... and who knows... maybe next year?

If you would like to get involved simply click on the website at [www.rtrp.co.uk](http://www.rtrp.co.uk) . Everyone is welcome... and there are some great prizes to be had!!

Kind regards,

Matt  
Hurlston Hall Fishery





Straight to the point.





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A photograph of a calm pond or lake. In the foreground, there are tall, green reeds or grasses. The water reflects the sky and the surrounding trees. The background is filled with a dense line of green trees under a soft, hazy sky. The overall mood is peaceful and natural.

**Fishery Spotlight.**  
**Talking Carp visits Hurlston**  
**Hall.**

Every now and again a fishery pops up on the radar, whether its under new management, or shifting from club or syndicate to day ticket, or even becoming available to the angling world for the very first time... and when we started hearing about such a fishery in our neck of the woods we decided to go and take a look.



Now one thing we have learned over the years, and seen ourselves is when any kind of advertising or feature is to be done on a lake, we have seen swims and areas roped off, fed to death and primed ready for a lot of action... which isn't fair on the everyday angler who has read the feature and gone to spend their hard earned money with unrealistic expectations.

So we decided to rock up as everyday anglers to see what you can expect when you arrive too.

We chose to fish a midweek 48 hour session, arriving Tuesday and leaving Thursday. As there was a party of 3 we chose our pegs together at the end of the lake to give us more options and more open water to play with. Pegs were chosen, rods were set up and cast out and bivvies up for a couple of days.

Now unfortunately for us the sun was high in the sky, the temperatures had rocketed and the fish had nothing more in mind than shoaling and basking in front of us. Now this may have scuppered the actual angling it did give us time to chat with Matt and a couple of his team about





on your right with the lake directly behind that. Beyond the lake is a chalet/holiday home type complex which you can see through the trees.

Onto the actual lake. The lake in itself is very picturesque as it has been here for some time and is really well established naturally with an abundance of trees, bushes, flora and fauna.

Wildlife is in abundance here too... and the early morning bird chorus is really quite something to hear ! Don't expect a lie in here... you wont get one as the birds will have you up to start the day very early on...haha.

So talking to Matt and his team, he tells us that the opportunity

the lake and his plans. It also gave us the opportunity to see the plentiful stock of carp that was milling around in front of us!! So, where has this lake appeared from?

Situated on the outskirts of Ormskirk, Lancashire, A quick Google and this lake was easy to find, and not a million miles from Talking Carp HQ.

Well, it turns out it is on the grounds of Hurlston Hall itself, and once you turn off the main road you drive down the lane and find the fishery car park





to take over the lake presented itself just a short time ago...and he jumped at the chance, and with all the papers signed he started working on bringing a new lease of life to the lake.

First things first were nettings of the lake as it was completely overrun with stunted silvers, the biomass was in a terrible state and the water was in danger of an algal/oxygen crash which would have killed the lake.

As we stood on the lake talking to a couple of regulars it became quite apparent that Matt and his team had got here just in time and turned it around beautifully. Once the lake was sorted, the water quality improved greatly and it was time for a stocking of carp to add to the original stock. The new carp settled in quickly

and started putting on weight straight away, but also this got the original stock moving around and competing for food too so it was a definite win-win for the lake, and also for the anglers fishing the water.

What can you expect when you fish at Hurlston Hall?

The rules are pure common sense, they are on a board on the side of the container for you to read, but feel free to ask any of the team if you are not sure and they will happily assist you.

The fishery provides quality mats and nets for all anglers to help protect their stock so **LEAVE YOURS AT HOME!!**





Carp with their heads down and tails up, feeding away happily. The importance here, I kept telling myself, was not to mess this opportunity up !

The lake is an entity in itself so the only people you come across are those fishing on the lake. There is a large metal container on site with plans to be a small shop for any necessities you may need such as tackle and bait.

Also on site is the main building which houses the kitchen and bailiff area. There is also a proper running water sink and flushable toilet for your use.

Food is available to order too... with a choice of hot sandwiches up to a full English in the mornings, and a choice of evening meals which can be ordered in advance.. its all cooked and brought to your peg hot. Perfect.

As with all new fisheries, changes are being made and work is being done, but Matt and his team make sure everything is planned that they can get on without affecting your fishing at all. Trees are getting trimmed, better bivvy pegs are being constructed, even though there is more than enough room for your bivvy now, they're all getting a major makeover.





Would we go back? Absolutely!  
Do we expect big things for  
this beautiful Northwest water?  
Absolutely.

They have their own Facebook  
page you can follow :-

[www.facebook.com/  
hurlstonhallfisheryofficial](https://www.facebook.com/hurlstonhallfisheryofficial)

At the end of the 48 hour session  
we packed up and came away.  
Garry and Louis had a couple  
of carp, and a few more were  
caught around the lake so the  
occasional ones were feeding  
but from what we saw we think  
the temperatures were possibly  
switching them onto something  
else soon...

or call them on 07513930416.

All in all, the general conclusion  
is we have found a really nice  
venue, which will become a  
very popular venue once word  
really gets out and the Hurlston  
carp starts hitting social media  
regularly.

The current lake record stands  
at 27lb 2oz with a common  
called Freddie... but we know  
that wont last long now.



# Deception

*Angling*



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*Light at the end of the  
tunnel*



*By Terry Bell*

For the last 3 winters, I have had a real "tunnel vision" about my fishing, stubbornly refusing to go off and target an easier or more heavily stocked venue. Instead, I have doggedly continued fishing my 140 acre syndicate lake through the coldest of conditions, even with the lake 80% frozen.

With depths of up to 30ft, the lake can take a bit longer to warm up than some and I have endured long blanks with not a bite to show for my efforts yet still I keep on.

This determined behaviour, which friends of mine have admired yet questioned in the past is all very well but it can be a bit soul destroying if I'm honest. I fish one overnigher a week so my time is limited and I have moved all over the lake in search of bites through those winter months, fishing the deeper water, the shallower areas, drop offs, up to south facing reed beds during milder conditions all to no avail.

Life is too short isn't it? I have to say, I have enjoyed the challenge though and I just love to be there angling for that bite that would make it all worth it.

The first bite of spring is a much anticipated and welcomed event but you just never quite know when it might be. All over social media, fish started to come out around the country as the lakes started to wake from the winter slumber yet the syndicate steadfastly refused to give up its prizes. As I say, the lake does take a bit longer to warm and so even with signs of new life and vegetation around the lake, it still wasn't ready.

I've long believed that the biggest catalyst for the fish to wake up is the increasing daylight hours, almost irrelevant of temperatures. The longer hours of daylight promote photosynthesis and therefore growth to all vegetation which in turn promotes insect life and this in turn kickstarts the whole cycle. Of course, the temperatures slowly rise and this further encourages the fish to start moving around the lake but they wouldn't do that if there wasn't any food there for them, because as we know, the only reason they stop eating in the colder months (and go torpid) is because there is no point in wasting energy swimming around looking for food that isn't there!

The light at the end of a very long, muddy, dark and cold tunnel is that my first bite of spring each year on this syndicate has been April and this year has been no different. On the 16th, I caught a mirror carp of 19lb 4oz on a white Crustazia pop up.

Unfortunately, a swan mussel clamped itself onto my hook after that first fish and very likely cost me more bites.

I had these white pop ups made for me because I have over the years found a lot of success with this colour, but none moreso than

the spring. It's long been said that bright or flouro hookbaits score well in the earlier part of the year and this could be in part due to the fact that in colder water a carps eyesight is reduced and so brighter baits are easier to spot.

On my next trip down which was the 25th April, I fished a match the hatch Crustazia pop up on one rod and a white one on the other rod. Both on multirigs and they were fished no more than a meter apart to a spot that has produced a lot of fish to me in the past. Crustazia boilies were scattered all over the area with the throwing stick and I went to bed. At 02.40 I had my first bite.



a 25lb 8oz common which took out the other rod.

I put the fish in the sling while I got the rods re wrapped out to their distances, recast them and topped up with a scattering of boilies, then at 03.20 after the rods had been out no more than 10 minutes, I had my second fish.

a mirror of 18lb 10oz.

Again, the rod was put back out with another scattering of freebies and I retired to my bed. this time I had to wait until 07.30 for the next bite.

a lovely zip linear of 22lb.

All 3 fish were caught on the white pop ups while the match the hatch ones not a meter away produced nothing.

I know what hookbaits I will be using next week!

Cheers

Terry



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# Reviews

*Featuring -*

**ON THE BANK COOKING UTENSILS  
BY ANTHONY WOOD**

**Katran comodo chaincore Leader  
By Mark Carper**



Katran **COMODO** – Chain Core Leader  
Review by Mark Carper

With many waters, especially in the UK banning the use of 'Lead Core' and some banning any form of 'Leader' at all, and yes, I know all the arguments both for and against the use of any form of leader, and some European Commercial Fisheries also introducing bans too, there is limited use for the Katran 'Comodo' product over here as the "lead" aspect doesn't seem to be the overwhelming reason for the ban, it's usually down to poor usage by the angler, the ill-informed angler at that..!!

Where there is opportunity to use a 'Braided Leader' however, the Comodo comes in to its' own and setup correctly can really assist you in presenting the hook bait in the best possible way and it has a big advantage over traditional Lead Core due to the amazing flexibility of the product..!!

On a personal note, I have used this on several occasions but usually when fishing on public waters in Europe and it does exactly what it was designed to do...!

Highly Flexible and Ultra-Heavy...that's the best way to describe 'Comodo Chain-Core' from Katran.

This 'Non' Lead product was designed to be extremely fast-sinking and hug the contours of any terrain thanks to its uniquely designed and patented 'Latten Brass' Core with a diameter of 0.9mm.



This inner 'Chain' is then covered in a material made from sixteen Tualon Microfibers, making it extremely durable and abrasion resistant in even the harshest of waters and has a Breaking Strain of 80lb...!

A 1m Length of Comodo weighs in at 0.20oz so, even though it sinks like a brick (or Lead..?! ) it will not hinder your casting ability too much either.

To Splice or not to Splice..?!

Personally, I am no 'expert' when it comes to splicing Braid, however, I'm equally not a novice either. The Comodo has to be one of the easiest Braids I have spliced though and if you pair it up with the 'Green' Needle from Katran, the one they designed specifically for 'splicing' then the job is even easier....!!

My Splicing Top Tip;

1. Use the correct sized 'Gated' Needle – To often people try to use a needle far too 'thick' for the task in hand... the finer the Needle the better, but it must be 'Gated'
2. Once I have removed the length of 'Inner core' required and smoothed the 'Outer' back out, I then 'wet' the outer Braid before attempting to insert the Splicing Needle. This holds the fibres together more and allows you to 'feel' your way in without pushing the needle straight out the other side..!



3. Slow and Gentle is the key – Holding the Braid tight against my finger, I insert the Needle with the 'Hook Facing Up' and not 'Flat'.. again, I find this allows me to find the centre of the Braid much easier...
4. Once inserted, slowly 'Push the Braid on to the Needle' do not try and push the needle through the braid.. Pushing the Braid allows it to 'Bunch' slightly, thus aiding the process...
5. Once at the desired exit position, place the loose end in to the 'Hook' and 'Close the Gate' (allow approximately 1.5cm of braid to extend past the hook..
6. Gently slide the 'Bunched Up Braid' on the needle towards the Hook (the Gate will close at this point anyway) and proceed to gently pull the Needle whilst holding the Braid close to where the Needle will exit...
7. Once the Needle is fully out, this is the time to adjust the size of the 'Loop' you require and then slowly tighten the Braid on to itself...
8. Repeat at the other end of the Leader and then you have a perfectly formed and super strong Braided Leader...Simple..!
9. Note: If you want to add a Swivel/Ring etc. You simply slide that on 'Before' you put the end of the Braid into the Hook (obvious I know, but



I thought I would mention it)

10. An alternative, if you want to add a Swivel 'After' you have formed the Loop, is to simply 'Loop the Braid through the Eye of the Swivel'

For those that do not want to make their own Spliced Chain Core Leaders, Katran supply a Pack of Three 'Ready-Mades' in 70cm Lengths – Check out their website details below.

So, there you have it, a superb Heavyweight, Flexible and Strong Chain Core Leader with No Lead in sight.

Used correctly, this type of Leader can really help with rig concealment and ensuring everything in the last metre or so, is pinned...but you must be mindful of how you use it and how you set up your lead etc....your main Line will break way before the Chain Core, so remember that and what the fish could be trailing.

Katran Fishing Line: <https://katran.eu/>

Instagram: @mark\_carper257 / @talkingcarp.magazine

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Reviews

No more struggle for cutlery or  
cooking utensils on the bank  
By Anthony Wood

When you are out on the bank, do you struggle with eating food cooking your food properly or do you always take too much with you?

The 'cooking and cutlery set' from TheNomadsKitchen is a fantastic piece of kit that you will wonder how you managed without for your cooking and eating whilst out on the bank.

I have been using this set for a while now and it actually goes with me on my fishing trips, my camping trips and on my boat. It is of a size that doesn't take up too much room in your fishing bag, camping backpack or other bag. You also have the option of using the carabiner to clip the carry case to the outside of your luggage meaning that you won't take any space up at all in your luggage.

TheNomadsKitchen covers the eating and drinking side of your bank side experience with 2 x forks, 2 x spoons, 2 x knives, 1 x bottle opener and



2 x metal straws which also includes a cleaning brush for the straws.

The cutlery and straws are made from high quality strong durable metal that will last you for ages as long as you look after it. They are secured in one side of a strong and sturdy hard shell carry case that will keep the cutlery safe and protected.

On the other side of the carry case you will find a spoonula, a spatula and a pair of tongs all made of robust and lasting materials that will help you with your cooking, steak turning, etc.

This is a very easy to clean well made and well thought out piece of kit. I highly recommend adding this to your cooking

<https://thenomadskitchens.com/products/cooking-cutlery-kit>





[www.gctangling.co.uk](http://www.gctangling.co.uk)



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# Catch Reports

*Featuring -*

DT Baits  
Nutrabaits  
Castaway PVA  
Deception Angling

# Jon Berry



**Jon Berry with a lake record and new pb using Weston baits 18mm NB3 Coconut , topped with NB3 dumbbell wafter**

# Charlie Hopper



**Charlie Hopper with a personal best 17lb from Cheste Lakes. Well done Charlie**

# Ryan Traynor



**Ryan Traynor with his new PB of 20lb 3oz mirror “Shelly” from peg 5  
“Donks Divit”**

# Carmen



**UKfisherwoman Carmen with a new personal best 21lb 8oz mirror.  
congratulations**



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**Bobbie Pettet with 3  
fish haul from local  
club lake using Take 4  
Wafers**



**Dan Winfield had  
a 26lb 15oz and a  
22lb 4oz on N Blend  
and Crustazia**



**James Radley had  
a 34lb and 38lb  
from a local lake  
on Supafruit and  
Crustazia**

**Jason Potter had  
8 fish including  
a hatrick of 40s  
on Mustang Lake  
using CWGB and  
Crustazia**





**Rory Mills with a 31lb  
Cambridgeshire pit  
beast on Oily chicken**

**Tonnie Mihajlovitj  
on Graviers ended  
with 20 carp up to  
64lb on the Cold  
Water Green Beast**





**Castaway PVA**

**Craig Colston**



**Scott 'Geezer' Grant**



**Castaway PVA**

**Tom Blackmore**



**Damian Wheway**





**Above - David Coquillat - Big Fish Mix**

**Below - Derek Pye - 35lb08oz - Big Fish Mix**





**Above - Jack Long - First time using nutrabaits - Cream Cajouser and Pineapple Pop Up**

**Below -Lee Bateman - Cream Cajouser**



# Deception

Angling

Spencer Cooper



the morning carper NEW P.B.



# Deception

*Angling*

Damian Wheway



Barry O'Connor





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# *Etang St Pierremont*

## *Champagne-Ardenne, France*



# Visit

**<https://www.etangstpierremon.com>**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our website is updated regularly with a live booking calendar

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

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**Thanks for reading**

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

**brian.dixon@talking carp.co.uk**

**mark@talkingcarp.co.uk**

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



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

*'The Talking Carp Team'*

Brian Dixon  
Mark Faulkner  
Mark Galli  
Dave Harnick Snr



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

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

*- DANNY FAIRBRASS*

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