

Talking Carp

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www.talkingcarp.co.uk

THE BEST ALARMS?



THE ANSWER'S
CRYSTAL CLEAR



Hello...

and welcome to the latest issue of Talking Carp magazine.

Thanks go out once again to all who keep this magazine, your magazine, a continued success. The writers, the contributors, the advertisers and the readers. We thank you all.

The carp world said goodbye to a real gent in Jan Porter recently. A man who always had time for others and was one who will truly be missed. R.I.P Jan.

We have another bumper magazine for you to read with articles from our usual crew, and hopefully a few hints and tips to be learnt along the way.

Keith Moors explains the underwater mechanics of light leads and free running tactics.

“Hookpull” continues his fascinating look into his ‘making your own bait’ series and includes a pic of a 42lb beast caught recently on his own bait.... Look out for that!

The weather has really improved as of late, and there seems to be a lot of carp getting caught right now, particularly on the zig rig, and in this month you can learn how to zig fish effectively with our new “Ask The Team” section as Paul “Hobbo” Hobbs goes through it step by step for you.

On that note, if you have any aspect of your angling you are struggling with or feel a little advice could strengthen your game then feel free to email your questions in and we will put one of our experts on it for you. Emails to the usual address.

Last month competition winners are announced in between these pages... is it YOU? Read through and find out!!

That’s it for this month, so enjoy the sunshine, enjoy your fishing and most of all.... enjoy life.

Until next month

Team Talking Carp.

Emails to brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk



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A chat with.....

By Scott "Geezer" Grant



A Chat With.... Michael Baker by Scott "Geezer" Grant.

This month I have something a little bit different for our readers. An exclusive interview with Michael Baker owner of Galaxy Baits formerly known as "Darenth Valley Baits"

SG: Micky where did it all start for you?

MB: It all started when I was only 4 years old in 1978. My Dad used to take me fishing over at Berwick Ponds, we would catch roach, bream, tench etc

SG: So when did your love of carp surface?

MB: That was in 1985 when I was 11 years old. I started fishing "Tit Lake" on the Hornchurch estate. My goal was to catch a 10lber but the best I managed was only an 8lb mirror.

SG: When did you start using Darenth Valley Baits?

MB: In 1996 my mate Danny Young took me into Essex Angling and we bought Marine & Seed mix with skunk oil. My first thoughts were can you smoke it!!! But that wasn't advisable lol. Danny still remains a great friend today and it seems strange that the company he introduced me to, I now own. Danny is still using the bait after all these years. Of late he has been catching plenty of fish over the Dagenham Chase.

SG: Did the bait catch you any fish?

MB: From the off the bait caught us loads of fish, which boosted my confidence to try other baits in the Darenth range.

SG: Did you ever experiment making your own bait?

MB: Funny enough I did! I used to use the Darenth Valley base mix but couldn't get the ingredients I wanted, to make it as good as the bait I was buying.

SG: How did it come about, where you managed to visit the factory where Darenth Valley baits were made?

MB: I was working in Barking in 1997 and went out to lunch. I was just walking about and stumbled across some units and there was a bloke standing outside having a fag. I asked the bloke what they were doing in there as I could smell something. The bloke said they were making bait!!

SG: What happened next?

MB: I had a smoke with the bloke and probed a bit more. I asked him what bait they were making and what the name of the company was. To my astonishment the bloke said they were making Skunk and Geranium and the company was Darenth Valley Baits.

SG: Did you think the bloke was winding you up?

MB: Yes, I couldn't believe the bait I had been buying from the shop and catching on was being made inside, totally mind blowing.

SG: How did you come to be good friends with the owners?

MB: I went inside and met the owner and workers and struck up an immediate relationship with them.

SG: How did the relationship evolve?

MB: I used to pick up ingredients for them and in return they would see me good with bait.

SG: How long did you help out at the factory before you got to actually helping them make the bait?

MB: At a guess I would say a couple of years, the relationship grew and they could see I had a passion for making bait. I started helping "Shaggy" the owner and Perry with the bait making, and also learnt a lot regarding what good ingredients you need to make proper bait.

SG: When did things change?

MB: In 1998 Shaggy was moving to new premises in Purfleet. I helped him move all the equipment from the old premises to the new one.

SG: Where were you fishing during this time?

MB: I was fishing Bardag at the back of the Chase lakes catching loads of fish on Specimen Seed mix with Skunk and Geranium oils. Aveley lakes was my main lake but was pretty tough, I used to make my own bait with dvb basemix bought from Essex angling formerly known as Essex archery, and had my first 20 (1997) it was also the year I met the Mrs.

SG: It's now 10 years later and in that time you became very close friends with Shaggy and Perry so what happened next? I used to visit shaggy regularly at his mums in Raydons road and have jams as we were both into our music, me a little more heavily as I was on tour with a band singing and playing guitar through 98, 99 and finished august 2000. Still play in rock bands today.

Perry would regularly visit me whist I was fishing in Dagenham and we'd chat for hours and hours.

The years from 2000-2007 I went fishing very little as was busy with the bands but managed a session on a lake in France called Maleon with some pals in 2005 where I had my first French 36lb mirror on of course Skunk & Plum which was my favourite for years and I still use it now from time to time as it smashes France and has banked carp to 78.06lb.

SG: So Mick how did acquire Darenth Valley Baits.

MB: In September 2007, as usual, I rang Shaggy up to arrange, when to pick my bait up from the factory. It was really weird when I think back now, as Shaggy just blurted it out “do you want to buy the company” As you can imagine I was speechless!!

SG: Did you take him up on his offer?

MB: Too right I did, I bit his arm off.

SG: So did you take over the premises as well?

MB: No, at the time I couldn't afford to rent the premises. Because we had such a good friendship, Shaggy let me pay the purchase price in instalments and also gave me all the equipment and machines, as I just didn't have that sort of money.

SG: What was the reason Shaggy gave the company up?

MB: He said he was just sick of making bait and not making anything out of it. It's a tough business and when you're working all hours for pittance it starts to take its toll

SG: Can you relate to how Shaggy was feeling way back then?

MB: At the time I didn't but I can relate to how he was feeling 100%. Its hard work, but making bait is in my blood and there is

and there is nothing more satisfying than making bait and hearing from anglers that are catching on it.

SG: When you took over the company where were you making bait?

MB: In 2008 A mate of mine, at that time, came in as an equal partner and we starting making the bait in a unit in his mums back garden in Harold Wood.

SG: How long were you at the unit for?

MB: We were there for about 2 years, and then the council forced us to move out as people were complaining about the smells coming from the garden.

SG: Where did you move the company to?

MB: My partner moved the company in 2010 to a unit in South Ockendon just behind Stubbers, whilst I was on a family holiday. **SG:** Did the company evolve?

SG: Did the company evolve?

MB: No!!! Quite the opposite, debts were mounting up. My partner wasn't helping with any repayments and it was all left to me. He also started to mess up customers' orders, which again was left for me to sort out.



SG: How long did this go on for?

MB: I had to bring the partnership to an end in 2012 or else watch the company I had been involved with for so many years go under.

If checked, on companies' house, both Galaxy Baits Ltd and Darent Valley Baits Ltd are both owned by Michael Baker so beware of the imitations on the market today.

SG: Did you manage to clear the debts?

MB: Yes, I did, it took a lot of hard work, I had a day job working for Plumbase, I was making bait in the evenings, with a group of fantastic mates, Jason Heapy (also helped build the factory), Glenn Thoms,



Joe Espin and of course lifelong friend Russell Briant that took care of logos, packaging and clothing and built a website and is now Galaxy Baits creative manager of all arts. I wouldn't be where I am today without the support from my good family and a great bunch of friends. I thank you all.

SG: When did you rename the company? And what made you pick the name Galaxy Baits?

MB: After I went alone, I decided to rename the company Galaxy as all the baits Shaggy put together had stood the test of time. I felt I owed it to the great man to carry on and put the company back on the map.

SG: Are you still working from the same premises today?



MB: Yes, I am, the warehouse has been transformed into a fully functioning bait factory over the past 4 years with a lot of help from a few of my good

mates and is capable of making 350kg+ per day. We steam all bottom baits and pop ups and wafers and have found that the catch rates increased as boiling does wash out vital attractors on the skin of the boilies. We also still use real egg as is evident in some of our mixes naturally.

SG: What baits are in your current range?

MB: I still make the all time greats Blackcurrant and Galaxsea oil (skunk oil)

The G which is the Skunk and Geranium, Galaxsea Plum, Blueberry etc,

We are concentrating on the most prolific baits but have a book full of winners to be released as and when we are happy, many lake records and PB's have been caught on these test baits including my French mirror PB of 57lb 12oz and Common of 41lb 12oz

Some of the mixes to be released are old DVB favourites

under different names and some will be brand new as mentioned above like Galaxy Bloodworm and Nut Job.



We can also make bespoke baits for anglers, where they either supply the additive ingredients, they would like added or we can supply them for a small charge, per kilo.

SG: So what is this medi-chlorian?

MB: Now this is amazing! This ingredient has been designed especially for fresh water fish, mainly carp. A close friend was having dinner with family friends and after exchanging occupations, in light chat, was gob smacked this person,



was CEO of the aqua cultural side of the massive company, that lead in aqua nutrition, in the world. After a 2-year design plan of listing materials and inclusion rates, the amazing ingredient was born and we named it Medi-Chlorian.

On test on a lake in France, the results were outstanding and we have all been blown away. Growth rates speedily and healthily, this has also been happening here in England and we will have results in the near future, after a few years of thorough testing on a fish farm.

Our website is very soon to be completely updated giving complete summary's of the results

and full accounts with blogs written by the lake owners themselves.

SG: Apart from the baits you already do are there any new baits coming out?

MB: Yes, we have a couple of baits the consultants are using at the moment, and will be looking at releasing one of the tested baits next spring. One bait in particular is already proving itself in the field, The Nut Job, our head consultant has banked both an English PB Common and French PB Common on the bait.

SG: You mentioned consultants; do you have any fieldtesters on board?

MB: We do indeed and at this present time we are looking for fieldtesters to join the Galaxy Team.

SG: What do anglers need to do if they want to become a fieldtester?

MB: Alls they need to do is either email me at galaxybaits@aol.co.uk or message me on face book detailing where they are currently fishing, and why they want to be part of the Galaxy Team. Fieldtesters get their bait at a reduced rate but they will be using a bait we are currently testing. If they want to use baits from our established range different rates apply.

The logo for Galaxy Baits is displayed in a black rectangular box. The word "GALAXY" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a bright green glow effect. Below it, the word "BAITS" is written in a larger, bold, white, sans-serif font, also with a bright green glow effect.

**GALAXY
BAITS**

SG: Micky thanks for taking the time to share the early days of Darenth Valley Baits and where Galaxy Baits has come from.



MB: No problem mate, it's been a pleasure, it's nice that anglers up and down the country will now know, that Darenth Valley Baits are still producing quality bait just under a new name.



For a full list of our prolific baits please visit website www.galaxybaits.co.uk

If you would like a comprehensive list of all our baits, please email us at galaxybaits@aol.co.uk

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It's All About The Memories by Emma Smith





My introduction to carp fishing was over 15 years ago by my partner – the delights of spending the night under a fox 60” oval broly with a re-covered sun lounger for a bed chair and a German styled sleep suit in the middle of February. No power packs for

bivvy heaters back then – just thick socks and a petrol stove to help try and keep you warm – I don’t think many girls can boast that for “first dates” material!

After a few sessions/dates in – our first holiday together was a week away the following summer – surrounded by fishable lakes of course! From as long as I can remember, all our holidays/breaks and birthdays have revolved around a fishing trip as this has been some of the only time we have managed to get on the bank between our work. As the years have rolled on, I have become a more confident angler, but I still keep in the forefront of my mind that every session is still a lesson.

I remember spending a few overnight sessions on my own one cold January a few years ago – just to a local club lake, but I was able to catch around 3-4 fish each night I went, with carp up to mid-20s every time – all with a good fight and all



showing signs of still eating healthily – for somebody who doesn't get much bank time, these nights were worth their weight in gold.

Due to work, I wasn't getting down the lakes till dark, making it tricky finding spots, so I opted to plumb for spots the mornings after setting up – this way I was able to take notes and put whatever bait I had left on a few different spots before I left the lake. I would always look for at least 3 or 4 spots around the whole lake – as it was a club ticket, you couldn't really pre-bait as such as chances were that somebody else would be in the swim when you next got chance to go – instead, I was taking time, finding a few spots in different swims and trickle feeding a little bit of bait on each – this worked best as it meant I could then have a choice of swims when I got there after work – within a couple of visits, I had a list of fishable spots from each swim on the lake - all spots written in my little black book – just a case of having to turn up, wrap up, clip up and cast

I am not the most organised person to meet – usually late wherever I go, so a “note-taker” whether it's a book and pen, or an app on your phone – can be so important, especially when you want to make the most of the very little bank time available – same goes with remembering and writing about the type of venue/lake as fishing styles can be dictated by the lake itself – there are many lakes where high stock levels of fish need baiting often throughout the session, to ensure the fish stay in your area and create competition feeding – other lakes with low stocking tend to require a slightly more subtle approach,



looking for a specific natural spot as opposed to making a feeding area. Making little changes to your fishing to suit the lake can be key in banking or blanking...

As far as the seasons go, I am a girl who likes her comforts and much prefers warm sunny days to that of grey, cold wet ones – my fishing however, I think I

have probably had more success where the weather has been drizzly or windy – one such memory was playing a 30lber in absolute torrential rain – the weather only stopped when I was leaving so at least I bagged a chunk and managed to pack up dry!

I like to see the change in seasons (which seems ever more difficult to ascertain where one ends and the other starts in recent years) – and especially being able to watch the behaviours in different animals as they wake-up for the new year ahead. Watching the fish and other animals around the lakes go through their silly season as the weather warms and their hormones take over - to the complete binge-out as the nights draw in and the windy weather cools temperatures down for the winter ahead.

It's obvious that our memories of events change as time goes on - you never remember quite how cold/hot/wet/windy, etc it was, just the session, the laughs, and (hopefully with any luck) the fish that graced the bank.



Usually for me, the memories of the capture are more about the environment at the time. I always try to remember this as much as possible (and write it down too so not to forget) –

My UK PB common was caught on a sunny, warm day – my rig was

placed in an 8ft marginal spot which had an overhanging tree sheltering it from the afternoon sun. Literally only a

rod length from my swim, I could watch the feeding bubbles easily before the fish slipped up from the freebies to the rig. First fish out for me from this spot was a clean 30lb mirror which beat me up a lit-



tle on the bank, so much so I needed a change of clothes – the common came less than an hour later on the same spot, again I was able to watch the feeding bubbles from my swim just before she slipped up – I had got my rod, re-rigged and



back out on the spot with some freebies consisting of mashed up pellet and boilies before finding some clean dry clothes to change into.

Sat on the grass putting my socks on I get a single bleep on my spot – I freeze, 1 sock on, 1 sock off, I sat watching the alarm, the indicator, the line, the rod tip – looking for any movement to jump on – nothing. I finish getting dressed whilst watching the water intently, looking for those feeding bubbles. I catch a glimpse of some fine, pin-prick bubbles right above my mark, and I find myself sitting beside my rods staring to my spot. 10 minutes pass and nothing – perhaps the bubbles were from Tench? Perhaps I had been done? Perhaps it was natural gases releasing from the lake bed? Whichever it was, I chose to come away from the rods and have a look through my camera of the 30lber I had. Literally less than 5 minutes and the rod goes into meltdown! I pick up the rod and the fish is already heading for the middle of the lake! I grab hold on to the spool to ease the speed of the line stripping of the reel, once the fish slows, I start to reel in and try and get back what line I can, directing the fish back to the bank. Jack gets the waders on and carefully enters the water with the landing net ready to perform his obligatory gillie duties for me but this fish was not coming in quietly! We play tug-of-war for around 10 minutes before it decides to kite left out of jacks reach to some marginal reeds – the encouraging words I get after this are “come on, it’s only a double – stop playing silly buggers and get control!” bloody strong doubles in this lake – I’m thinking I must look like a prize plum if anyone else is watching around the lake. I lean right over to get an angle on the line to strain the fish back my way, slowly the fish moves back around and start to head back out to the island

in the middle of the lake. Keeping control of the line, but unable to get hold to reel up any more, I start to walk back up the bank – I see Jack lunge forward with the net, then, my line goes slack – it's in the net! I breathe a sigh of relief then, I have a quick look around, hoping no one else has seen me play a double like it were a monster. I look over to Jack whose still in the water, grinning like a Cheshire cat – “I lied, it wasn't a double – it's the big common”! Jack had seen the common as it went round by the reeds, so not to worry me, he chooses not to tell me what I actually had on the other end – which, quite honestly I'm glad off! my UK PB common of 39lb on the dot. My UK PB mirror however, was in complete contrast – although only a month apart from each other - a sudden bout of cooler weather had forced fish to find refuge in the warmer, weedier spots of the lake – this time, fishing on my own – I was just able to get over the lake about an hour before dark, I plumbed around in a swim which had more weed in front of it than water. I quickly set up my spots and settled back for the evening, when Jack came over to spend night in the back of the bivvy. The spots primed with mashed pellets and boilies. Shortened rigs placed tight in little holes in the weed resulted in one going off as a 4am wake-up call this time producing my UK PB mirror at 42lb 1oz – I remember hearing the bleeps on the alarm, very slow, single bleeps. As I were playing the fish in – I stood there thinking “are there bream in this lake?” the take was so slow in reaction, almost as though the fish was half asleep itself – the rolling mist prevented me seeing anything further in front of me

than the rod itself so luckily the mirror didn't put up too much of a fight. Again, Jack with his obligatory gillie duties gets to wade out into the lake to net my prize.

Both of these captures were over 8 years ago, yet I remember back on them as though they were yesterday – always trying to keep these in mind – spurring me on to (hopefully) break their PB status

To me, it is more than just fishing – it is everything you see around you which are (sometimes) taken for granted all too easily.

As many anglers, naturalist and hippies alike would agree to the following sentiment

“Take nothing but memories, leave nothing but foot-prints...”



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GETTING IN TOUCH:

Food For Thought by Keith Moors



Having already written my “introduction” and “look how clever I am” articles I now offer you an article which I hope produces food for thought and, just maybe, a different way to fish for carp. Hopefully you will be able to read through this with an open mind.

I tend to scan the forums and Facebook threads and can't help but notice that the vast majority of “experts” suggest that it is necessary, essential or absolutely imperative that we should all use heavy (4 of 5 ounce) leads in order to hook the fish. These leads must also always be attached via a lead clip to make them “semi fixed” and to ensure that they are lost on the take. Many years ago, through the eighties and into the early nineties I also went down this route and I can remember having a conversation with Joe Taylor in J&K tackle Bicester, about it. The end of our conversation resulted in us deciding that we were getting less bites but hooking more fish. However, I still couldn't shake off the memories of tench fishing where the lead “needed to be free running” and fishing for cats on Claydon House where the accepted philosophy was that “if they felt any tension they would drop the

bait.” This latter statement related to a fish which was considered not to be the sharpest tool in the box?

To my chagrin I didn't experiment but allowed myself to be convinced by the magazine articles. However, several of us had been messing around with running rigs but only in the margins? I now ask myself “why?” but there you go. Anyway, in 1995 I was having a fair amount of success on Linear's Manor Farm lake and thirties were becoming slightly more common in my landing net. During a summer evening I found three thirties feeding close to the bank in the back bay. I crept round with my stalking rod, complete with 1 ounce lead on a run ring and, by laying in the grass, managed to present three grains of corn to them without disturbing them. All was going to plan until some heavy footed oaf walked up to where I was laying and asked “any luck mate?” I struggled to keep my calm but needless to say the carp and the intruder were both



from memory but were still feeding. I knew that I didn't have time to change rigs or go back for one of my other rods, as the fish were likely to have moved out of site by the time I got back, so I flicked out the light lead. Pure luck meant that it landed a couple of yards from the fish and towards the mouth of the bay, in the direction towards which they were heading. I lay the rod on the ground pulled off some line and sat back to see what happened. In fact, it was probably twenty minutes later that the rod lurched, the line pinged out of the clip and the reel began to tick. “Bugger me I've hooked one” I thought as I leaned on the fish. A short scrap later saw a 32lb scalley mirror go in the net. Job done I thought and walked confidently back to my bivvy. It still didn't immediately dawn on me what had happened and out went my 4 ounce leads on clips, with lengths of lead core (obviously attached with my own “Keith Moors Knot” lol) and back into the alarms went my rods with the line as tight as possible. I don't think I caught any more that session but I do remember, later, sitting in the living room with Jan and suddenly wondering whether



On the 5th November of the following year (1996) I banked my first ever English forty in the shape of "Popeye" at 40lb 2oz which happened to be the first ever reported Oxfordshire forty. My luck with the rig continued at Acton Burnell and produced several thirties as well as my next forty. By now I was so confident with the running rig that I even used to convert my method feeders to running by pulling a loop of braid through the middle and attaching a swivel to the top and that continued to work extremely well. Since then I have continued to use the running rigs and have continued to investigate some of the reasons why they work. These investigations have helped to prove that it doesn't need the heavy leads either.

that running rig would work on my "normal" rods. It had to be worth a go and the next session saw me fishing it but still with the lead core and heavy leads. I probably caught a few carp on that set up over the next few sessions but then came the next "step" in the evolution.

I was back on Manor and I was testing my rigs. I had lowered one of my "standard" rigs into the shallow bay to the side of my swim. I stood looking down at it, thinking, "that all looks good" when the realisation dawned. I'm six feet plus, the rig was in two feet of water and I could see every inch of it. Eight feet away from my eyes and I can see the bloody knots? And here I am expecting a big carp to "kiss" it without being spooked. Another change was needed but what that change should be was not immediately obvious.

Pure chance led me to read a fly fishing magazine which extolled the virtues of a new

phenomenon; fluorocarbon. Unfortunately, the only one that I could find, even half suitable to be used as a main line, at the time was one called "vanish" which, quite frankly was dire for tying to hooks or swivels so I had to use much heavier BS than I would have liked. However, it worked. I lowered one into the margins and all that could be seen was the lead and the bait fantastic for the confidence. In fact, I placed a length of the fluoro, along with a length of mono, in a bucket of water and carried it down to Peter Stone. I asked him to lift the line out of the bucket which he obliged and pulled out the mono. "And the other bit please mate" I chirped. When he fished around in the clear water and found the fluoro he was astonished and swore that he would be switching immediately for his tench fishing. Happy memories. Anyway, back on topic and on top of that it worked on the fish too.

I will try to give you some edited text in an attempt to help explain the reasons that this system works and the first point to explain why things act differently in water is that it is 800 times more dense than air so anything moving through water takes on a totally different dynamic

Firstly I will state

that I have found that all of these suggestions work far better when you are fishing slack lines with fluoro main line than with mono and I think it is the weight (sinking characteristics) of the fluoro that add to the other forces. I think that the neutral buoyancy of mono tends to reduce the effectiveness so please bear this in mind if you decide to try this for yourself. Right, now the technical bits and I will list out all of my component parts at the end of this article.

Any object moving within a liquid has a totally different dynamic than when that same object moves in air. The quick, simple proof of this is to stand on the edge of a lake with a garden cane. Point the cane out in front of you and “swish” it backwards and forwards. It moves easily and quickly. Now plunge the cane down into the water and try to swish it backwards and forwards. It moves much slower and is difficult to move. It even “vibrates” through the water. That lateral force working against the cane is “hydro-dynamic drag” (HDD) and that is a force which will work against any “blunt” object moving in water. I have written blunt because this force only works on the

side of your line or, in other words, when your line tries to move sideways. [I know it seems complicated but stick with me and it will become clear]. Now, there is an “opposite” force called “hydro-dynamic slip” (HDS). This is the force that yacht and ship designers use to get their vessels to move quickly through water and the same force that dolphins use for acceleration. The slip moves along the side of the vessel/dolphin/line and, once that object is under way the slip force in the water virtually lubricates and almost encourages the movement. Right, having got those down in type here is a brief example to illustrate how they show themselves. You could actually stand 10m or

so in front of a rifle placed and fired under water (there is a YouTube video of exactly this) and the bullet would be so effected by HDD that its velocity would drop so quickly that it wouldn't reach you or hurt you. However, if you were foolish enough to try this in front of a spear-gun, the HDS working along the length of the “arrow” would keep it flying fast and might just hurt a bit. “What has all this got to do with fishing!” I hear you ask. Well, in very simple terms, the HDD adds weight to your line when the fish tries to pull it sideways or lift it off of the lake bed, and it is this force that works to hook the fish. On the other hand, the HDS “encourages” it to travel lengthways and this



phenomenon means that you get good bite indication before the line is straight and tight. A little test that you can do to help prove these to yourselves is to cast out a float rod and allow the line to drift into an arc between rod tip and float. At this point the rod acts as the fish while the float is the bobbin. Pick up the rod and see how far you can move it before the float moves. I bet it isn't far plus I bet the line is still in an arc after the float has moved. Before anyone starts shouting "that's just surface tension", try the same exercise but sink the line and let it go slack so that it lays along the lake bed. Now move the rod and see how quickly the float dips. Even on these occasions it



is HDD that tries to stop your line moving sideways (or up) and HDS that allows it to slide towards you and thereby moves the float. Having got that out of the way we can now get back to using the lead simply to reach the fish so if you only need 1.5 ounces to get to where they are feeding, why use 5 ounces and, potentially, frighten the crap out of them with the splash? Also, by taking the length of line multiplied by its diameter we can get a basic picture of the drag force. Let's say we are fishing at 80m with a line of 0.35mm dia, this equates to an area equal to a 6" square parachute being pulled through the water. I don't have an equation to translate this into the force required but I bet it's at least equal to a four ounce lead and this would be partly because of the shape of the lead which, once moving, would be subject to slip rather than drag. If you have been able to read the above with an open mind and have managed to get your head around how it all works you should be able to accept that the line has more effect on the hooking than the lead weight. I will add here that, although I fish with slack line, I also fish with a fairly tight clutch and

my line pulled firmly into the rod clip. Once the fish has hooked itself and moved off I want the tension on the line to be sufficient to slow it down rather than allowing it to do four laps of the lake before I get out of bed. Now, here comes another benefit of using a light lead. During the bite, the lead only needs to be heavy enough to act as a guide for the line to run through during the initial stages. I believe that it is preferable for the lead to move and follow the track of the fish rather than form an anchor point which might mean that I am playing a fish, via the lead, when the fish is actually some distance at right angles to where the lead is. In fact, in the past, while using heavy leads, I have almost had to play the fish back to the lead before I was really, properly, directly in touch. This leads on to the benefit while playing the fish. With a light lead it doesn't have the same effect as a heavy lead while bouncing around as the carp shakes its head. I totally accept the benefit of "losing the lead" but, as a lake owner, I also worry about the eventual effect of all of these lost leads so my decision to use a light lead avoids the need to lose it while giving

me the best option to stay in direct touch with the carp.

Hopefully I have managed to explain my reasons for using light running leads without being too boring and here are the finer details.

My first forty was whilst using a three ounce lead and I now use 1.5 or 2 ounce leads and have continued to catch many more forty plus carp up to a PB of 66lb 8oz. The materials have continued to improve and each part of the equation has been amended until I now use big, sharp (size 2) hooks (my current preference is Solar 101) tied "D" rig style with Rig Marole CamH2o fluoro hook links and then through an Enterprise Snag Safe, run ring and onto Gardner Mirage main line.

I would hate anyone to dismiss this as only being suitable for my own shallow estate lake and, while it does work extremely well



here, I have used it successfully on gravel pits, in weedy conditions, and in heavy silt as well as the tried and tested hard spots over baited areas.

I will end by saying that this isn't an article to show how everyone should switch to light running rigs but more to say "try something different and don't assume that the gospel according to carp "experts" is the only (or even the best) way to go carp angling. Keep thinking outside of that box.

Be lucky.



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When It All Goes Right By Mark Wozencroft





It's been a while since I have put pen to paper so to speak but I didn't want to troll out the usual stuff that has been printed in the magazines so here goes... my fishing last year took me to various day ticket and circuit waters which let's be honest can be a bit of a nightmare at the best of times as you are not only competing against the carp but the rest of the crowd that fish these type of water. I have found out that there are two types of

anglers out there, ones that are polite and care about where they set their traps and then the others are catch at all costs and don't give a hoot where they are fishing or indeed if its within the boundaries of their chosen swim, so these have been the obstacles I have had to confront in my pursuit of my quarry but I have enjoyed my time on these waters as they bring their own challenges. My year started on the popular "Orchid Lake",

I had never fished it before but I knew it had a good reputation for its winter captures. I turned up on the Sunday thinking it might be quieter as most of the weekend anglers would be pulling off and after a circuit of the lake and with heavy fog covering the lake to be honest I really didn't see much, I stopped at a swim called the Top Dug Out where my friend Kev Hewitt was fishing and I was informed that most of the captures were

from the swim he was in and the Alamo. Kev said he was going in the morning and advised me to drop in after him as it had been doing fish. Well I decided that to get to the bit of water that was the hotspot then I would drop into the new middles which would give me access to the middle of the lake, I knew I would have to fish long to hopefully get a bite and the bailiff confirmed that to me a while later when he was on his travels. My thoughts were to fish singles for the first night as I didn't know how much bait was left out there from the previous angler and see if I could pinch a bite, anyway the night was quite uneventful other than a carp crash out over my rigs in the middle of the night so I was still hopeful come the morning, anyway Kev came around in the morning just before he was leaving and said for me to get my butt into the Dug Out and with a bit of persuasion I was soon pushing my gear round to the swim he had vacated, the wind was pushing into this bank, not that I'm really bothered about wind direction in the winter as in my opinion I don't think it makes a difference at this time of year, as its more about location as carp tend to shoal up and

rarely move unless there is a lot of pressure anglers wise. There was a definite distance they were getting caught at so who was I to go against the grain, so out went my rigs at twenty wraps and I decided that a bit of grub for the carp was in order so I made up a spod mix of boilie, corn and maggots. I like to fish a smaller sized bait in the colder months so 10mm boilies were the way forward with the same size pop ups on my favourite hinged rigs but instead of using a stiff boom section I was using a soft coated one as I was fishing over silt plus I like to use a large size 4 longshank hook with this as I feel the carp just can't get away with it and I knew it would sit nicely on the soft bottom. One thing I do like to do as well is sharpen every hook I use even if they feel sharp out of the packet

and to be super sure that my rigs were sitting pretty I would use a couple of pieces of PVA foam and make sure that every cast I hit the clip to kick out the rig before it hits the water. I see so many anglers not doing this in their fishing to eliminate tangles, think about it if the rig is powering through the water with the rig following the main line tangles are quite high even on stiff hook length materials. Try it in the margins you will see what I mean, anyway nothing happened during the day but in the middle of the night I had my first bite and I could tell it was a decent carp on the end and seeing as it was my first carp I did play it a bit gingerly but eventually it went over the cord of the net and when I lifted it out of the water I realised that it was something decent,



so when I hoisted it up on the scales I was really happy to find out I had caught a 33lb bar of gold common in its winter colours!! First blood to me then and I was over the moon.

Nothing happened for the rest of the night but I went to sleep with a big smile on my face. At first light I reset the traps and I put a few more spods of food out and almost immediately I could see carp showing in

thing I will say for the carp at Orchid they are really good lookers and the typical Oxford scaly stunners that anyone would be proud to catch, as I slipped back my prize my other rod roared off and I was soon latched into another hard fighting carp, when it was plodding in the margins I could see it was another lump of a common and at just over 30lb. I was walking on air, so the rods were dispatched

and my arms felt like they were falling out their sockets but nothing could take that huge grin off my face. Situations like this I like to feed little but often, sort of a match man style approach which to be honest didn't help when I was aching but I knew it had to be done to keep the carp interested. I must of gone through 5 kilo of boilie in that first 24 hours which is quite a lot in the winter but they wanted



the swim so my confidence was really high at this point so I put the kettle on to calm my nerves down a bit but the kettle had not finished boiling when a rod was away again and after a spirited fight I soon had another one smiling for the camera. One

again to the spots and a bit more bait was introduced via the spod rod and as I was putting that rod away I had another take and this kept on happening throughout the session and soon I was on ten carp, my back by this time was starting to ache

it so I gave it to them, and with only a few hours left I was sat on my chair drinking my coffee and I even cracked open a packet of hobnobs to celebrate my productive session but the carp other things on their minds and I was away again



probably know him better as the carpheadbanger as his video blogs are legendary and well worth watching! What I will say is that he must be the happiest carp angler that I have ever met and is always laughing, fair play to him he did some excellent footage of my experience on Orchid so check him out on all the usual social media sites including YouTube.

Well I'm going to finish there but look out for my next session on the bank where I fished a water a bit more local to me and it certainly threw up some surprises along the way as well as a few sessions on the infamous "Linear fisheries".

and this capture was the one that made my session as it was another scraper 30... but I found out it was a new thirty for the water and as such I had the honours to name it as is the custom on Orchid, so I named it "Wuzys" ..ok it's a bit vain but why not? I have seen it come out recently at 33lb so it seems like it might be one of the big ones in the future.

that only goes to show it's all about getting your location right and especially more so in the winter where they can be held up in certain areas of the lake.

The one thing I love about fishing is the friends you meet along the way that you wouldn't normally meet in real life, one of these people I met at Orchid was a guy call Phil, people will

So my session came to an end and I had caught a total of 13 carp and lost 2 whilst others on the lake were blanking but



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Session Fishing by Ethan Carper



I woke up at two in the morning, dreaming that my bite alarm was screaming off.... then I thought, why is my dad standing there saying, "It's your left hand rod that's going"and that's when it hit me, this wasn't a dream, my left hand rod was screaming off with a take...I was actually night fishing.....!!!!

It's all about 'bank time' and to maximise it, I night fish, well, I actually session fish for either 24 or 48 hours which obviously means I fish through the night and I love it.

The feeling of waking up and literally 'diving' out of the bivvy whilst trying to get your jacket and footwear on, especially in bad weather when it's normally your boots and then trying to clear your eyes and get yourself awake enough to pick up the rod and take control of the situation is brilliant and a real excitement rush. Fishing days and in daylight does not come close to what you experience in the dark, especially when you have been sound asleep just moments before.

Can you imagine that when your alarm clock goes off and you have dive out of

bed and start to put on your school clothes immediately and at the same time rush down stairs trying to get your shoes on so you can be out the front door within thirty seconds? Well that is what it is like the first few times you night fish, it was for me anyway.

The buzz of waking up to a screaming take and playing the fish in the dark is a little strange at first but you soon get used to it and it actually adds to the excitement of the catch. The first time I went night fishing was about four years ago and it rained all night. My dad was first to my rods and hit the fish and then I wandered out to play it if he could wake me without shouting....!! Now it's a bit different as I am used to session fishing and just get on with it. Apart from the obvious things, like feeling tired and the lack of light, playing a fish in the dark is more about the 'feel' and watching the rod tip to see changes in direction. You are more sensitive to when the fish lunges or turns and it is like you can feel every vibration along the line and through the rod. It sounds mad but it really does make you more alert and it has actually taught me to be calmer during the day when

I get a take and play a fish. If you can have the confidence to play a fish in the dark, you can easily do it during the day.

The whole experience of 'session' fishing is great and one that I am so glad I have the opportunity to do. I've even fished a few 'Socials' with both Team Beechwood Baits and Team Hardcore Carpers, which, if I didn't night fish I would not be able to do.

My dad has session fished for many years and once I went with him, there was no stopping me...although the extra kit he now needs to take does give him reason to moan more (not that he needs a reason).

We often do 'quick over-nighters' which means arriving at the water in the evening and packing up early morning. We do this on places that are busy during the day but quieter in the late evening and nights and we prefer this approach. It has proven successful on many waters and has given me the opportunity to bank numerous fish up to and including my PB of 16lb 3oz. The best single night session I have had so far produced seventeen takes and saw me



this means I do not have to fish with the volume 'up' on the alarms themselves. In fact, my new alarms, ATTS iW's do not have a speaker in the heads and you have to have the remote anyway which is great for me.

The other thing you need to be organised with is where you are fishing to. Casting to the edge of an island or reed bed is no problem in the day, but try that at night, even with a good torch and you can be in all sorts of trouble. Judging distance

is almost impossible when you cannot see the flight of the lead and hitting the same spot that you have lined up with a feature on the far bank is fine, if you can pick it out in the dark.

I always pick my spots during daylight and make sure that I count the 'wraps' so I can 'clip-up' before every cast. This makes sure I get the same distance every time and this is where 'feel' comes in to it also. Casting to the clip during the day is fairly easy as you can see the lead in the air and you kind of 'know when the line is close to the clip and you can get ready for it but in the dark you have to 'feel' the clip 'hit' and react

land sixteen Carp to 15lb. I hardly slept a wink and it was freezing. It was a cold wet November night and just as I got warmed up in my sleeping bag, I would get a 'take' and it went on like that from about 6pm through to 10am the next morning and I loved every second of it. I think the trick to it is being organised. You need to have everything inside your bivvy in the right place and you need to make sure that everything outside is at hand too.

I have a little 'organiser' that's hangs off the side of my bedchair that I keep my head torch and mobile phone in and then next to that, I have my table with

my baiting needles, scissors, boilie stops, PVA and some other rig bits I may need. At the foot of my bedchair, I keep my bait bag and tucked just underneath, my main tackle bag. Everything is to hand and I know exactly where it is so that I can easily locate it when needed. In the summer months when the nights are lighter and the sun is up early the night fishing is not too bad but in the winter months with the long nights and freezing cold and often very wet weather, although that can happen in the summer here too, being organised is very important.

My bite alarms have a remote receiver that also sits nicely in my organiser and



immediately so that you do not get the line 'springing' back at you and dropping you short of your chosen spot. I practice this with my eyes closed in daylight to get used to how different distances feel when they hit the clip and I then let the rod move forward without actually pointing the rod directly at the lead so that I do not risk 'cracking off'. You quickly learn the feel of the clip and how much to move the rod.

The other thing I do is pick a feature that is higher up, like the top of a tree or post that is going to be silhouetted at night against the sky. Again, I do this during the day and as the light fades, I make sure I can still see it.

With these two things sorted and counting the 'wraps', casting is fairly straight forward and I have had plenty of fish from the same spots throughout the hours of darkness.

Baiting is not easy but I tend to use PVA mesh bags with each cast and make sure I 'free-feed' throughout the day. I also use my spod rod in the same way as my other rods and simply 'clip-up'. I just make a note of the number of wraps for each rod...I now use the Fox Swim Mapper for this as it is easier than using a pen and paper or my phone note pad, plus it looks cool...!!

If you are organised and prepared it makes the fishing

much easier and the buzz of playing a carp in the dead of night is great, although I am not convinced that the bats will not one day fly in to me...they are so fast but I reckon there must be a deaf one out there somewhere and that will be the one that doesn't know I'm there...it is amazing how many places I have fished that have bats flying about...!!

Session fishing is the best way to maximise your 'bank time' or the way to avoid the 'crowds'. I am lucky that I fish a syndicate water and can come and go as I please but if you have never done a night, give it a go and I am sure you will love it.

STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...

I wrote this article over a week ago and just before I submitted it to Talking Carp today (9th May 2016). I did a 24-hour session on my Syndicate Water from 12:15, Saturday 7th to 13:30, Sunday 8th May.

At 02:42 on the Sunday, I had a take from a spot I had been fishing since arriving and after a twenty-minute fight, I netted a lovely 19lb 9oz Common Carp and my

NEW personal best. I followed all my advice from above and after a few photo's and 'high fives' with my Dad, I re-chucked to the same spot. nine and half wraps and in-line with a tall tree on the far bank.....

At 05:15 the same rod was off again and this time it was a lump and yet another NEW Personal Best. Another common carp but this time it weighed in at 25lb 10oz and it was the best feeling ever. What a wake up call and what a way to prove that hitting the same

spot works. The hassle at just after three in the morning, when I was tired and just wanting to get back in the bivvy, of putting the rod back out after standing counting wraps and 'clipping-up' didn't seem that appealing, especially considering I had just landed a new PB but I was there to fish and I did everything I needed to do and the result left me so happy. To put in a little effort for such a huge reward was well worth it and allowed me to be part of the 'Twenties Club'...!!!

So "Get Your Backside, Bankside" and give Night Fishing a go.

Ethan Carper



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So the two-week wait was finally over, I received my new holiday card at work and wasted no time in booking a week off ready to hit up a couple of the South East big fish waters in search of a new PB. First on the agenda was a 4-night session starting Friday morning and ending Tuesday evening on the famous 'Quarry', home to some of Essex's most prestige and sought after fish dating back some 40 odd years. With big Commons and Mirrors to over 40 plus, backed up by some stunning 30's and mid 20's it was the perfect water to kick off what would be an 9-night long session hunting chunks.

The second Venue I had planned to visit for the remainder of my time was none other than the 'home of the 30's' as its now known, and a water that has been very kind to me at times and beaten me up on other occasions. On Wednesday morning I would be heading up to 'Suffolk Water Park', again in search of some big fish and a new PB and returning on the Sunday evening.

So the prep began. As with any session I plan on doing, it always helps to try and look into the water to find

out as much as you can before going to fish it. Building up prior knowledge is a massive edge when faced with any challenge you're unfamiliar with, and as I had only fished this water once, a 48 in the winter and blanked this was no exception. I started by seeking some local advice and it appeared that 80% of the people I spoke to who had done well on the water, said they loved Krill flavoured boilies and were also partial to a nice helping of hemp. I decided to make a phone call to Jamie down at 'NEB' HQ and have a word with him about putting a twist on his famous 'Krill Punch' boilie.

Originally the 'Krill Punch' Jamie retails is a contrast bait, two colours red & light brown, with one flavour. Now, knowing how well the bait has done over the years I knew the base was there, but I wanted to tone it down a bit as another bit of advice I had been given was to avoid bright colours. I asked Jamie to knock me up a custom batch of the bait in one dark brown colour and add some extra Krill just for good measure. As always the boss man obliged and within a few days I was unpacking my order complete with some matching Wafers. So

the first bit of prep was complete and I had a bait that I had total confidence in that was tailored to the advice I had been given. Next I placed an order for 10 kilo of ready cooked hemp from 'Deep Blue Particle', a company I had recently joined and Jason had the delivery sent to me on the quick along with another special request.

I had asked for the juice that the hemp was cooked in to be sent to me as I had a plan up my sleeve. I received the order on the Friday a week before I was due to leave for the lake and on Monday I was out in the shed putting my plan I had concocted into action. I decided I was going to feed a boilie and hemp mix but wanted the boilie in the mix to be juiced up. I got a bucket and put 5 kilos of the 'Special Krill Punch' in it and I then added the juice that was used to cook the hemp along with a small helping of salt and a splash of hemp oil. This was then left to sit outside in the garage for 3 days. Come Thursday night the boilies had taken on a lot of the juice and was seriously soft although they hadn't swelled that much which was an added bonus. I drained the boilies and



mixed up the 5 kilo of krill punch with the 10 kilo of hemp I had taken out the freezer on Wednesday night to defrost and there I had it. The ultimate spod mix for the quarry. Well in my eyes anyway.

Thursday night came and I loaded the van with all the gear, grabbed a couple hours sleep and then it was time to make tracks. I arrived at the lake around 5am and it was still dark, so not wanting to disturb the anglers that were fishing, I left the head torch in the van and walked to the top of the stairs looking down on a swim called

Paul's. My friend Danny Beckwith was in the swim, and having kept in touch with him over the past couple days I knew it was doing fish. As I walked down the stairs and got closer to the swim I could see he had a retainer floating, meaning only one thing. His run of recent form had continued and he'd bagged his 4th carp of his 48-hour trip.

Prior knowledge is everything when approaching big waters like The Quarry. My other friend had taken 4 fish the previous weekend out of this swim and now Dan had done the

same and it was obvious that the fish had been holding here for a while. Once Dan awoke, I helped to do the pictures of a stunning 21lb common before slipping her back in the water and the waiting game commenced. Dan vacated the swim around 11ish and I quickly set about moving in behind him. Knowing the spots he was fishing I wrapped up at the same distances and prepped the rigs ready. Speaking with Dan he had done quite a bit of bait, 10 kilo of hemp in fact, so not wanting to overdo it, I decided not to put any bait out on the spots just a couple

of singles. I did however send one rod long to the corner of the island having seen a fish roll there whilst waiting for Dan to pack up. I clipped up to a nice hard spot near to where the fish rolled and I spodded 6/7 large spombs out consisting of the mix I had been prepping all week. The first day came to a close without me seeing any further fish but I was confident in the fact all the bites the swim had done where between 12 and 3am in the morning. The darkness started to set in and after dinner I settled in for the night hoping that the fish would play ball but un-

fortunately they didn't and I woke up to static rods much to my disappointment. Speaking with the bailiff in the morning whilst he was doing his rounds, it turned out that two fish came out on the opposite bank to me behind the island and one fish down in the shallows which meant that they must have moved off my swim during the night.

So, it was now time to go to work. I got a marker out on the area that I was fishing and much to my delight it was as I was told, 9-foot-deep, silt pulling back into gravel at 17.5 wraps. I got

the spomb clipped up and set about putting around 5 kilos of my hemp and boilie mix out on the area big enough for me to get two rods on the patch. The plan was to bait a big area and sit on it, time was on my side and I could afford to wait for the fish to move back onto me. There was no chance of a move as the lake had filled up by midday Saturday anyway so this was the next best option in my eyes so I redone the rods, fishing exactly the same as I did the night before.



One rod on a Krill Punch wafter fished on a blow back, one rod on a naked Chod rig fishing a test pop up from NEB, and the final rod which was going out to the island on a multi rig using another test pop up. I had total confidence in all three rigs and knew that if the fish moved in and found the hook baits I would be bent into one of the many precious carp that swim in this beautiful lake.

The day passed without a sighting of any fish but around 3.30pm the wind swung and instead of blowing over the top of the templest away to the opposite bank, it had now turned and was coming across from my right to left. Maybe the change in conditions would spring them into life as we were also due some rain during the evening as well so all I could do was to sit and wait. By 6.30pm I was re doing the rods again ready for the night. Having heavily baited during the morning I didn't want to put any more spombs out so I flicked a few loose boilies over the top with a throwing stick. It was time for dinner, I sat back eating my sweet and sour chicken and rice eagerly anticipating what the night would bring.



I was awoken by the delk beeping on the left hand rod around 3am, not a take but a liner, then another followed by another. After dozing back off around 5am I was awoken again, this time the middle rod and the stow reaching the top of the rod but then settling back down. To my amazement none of the rods went and before I

knew it light was upon us and again another blank night. I decided to wrap the two rods half a rod shorter than previous as there were obviously fish in the area grubbing around. As the sun was up I also changed my long range rod to an adjustable zig and spent the day raising and lowering it in different areas but again that didn't work.

I was starting to get a bit despondent, knowing that the swim had done 9 fish in the previous two weeks and yet the moment I had jumped in it had died. Again I was greeted by the bailiff during his round and told that a 29lb mirror had been out five swims down to my right and a 19lb common four swims down to my left. With no sighting and coming in to my third day it was certainly looking like I was up against it. Around lunch-time I caught sight of a fish showing off the corner of the other island down near The Point swim, and about half hour after that, a big Mirror came clean out four times in a row followed by a third fish top just off the opposite corner of the island that I was fishing.

They were slowly moving up into my area, but with all the swims taken there was no chance of a move so bait and wait was the only option. Again around 5pm I topped up the spots again with the mix and redone the rods ready for the 3rd night but this time range a small change to the rig. Instead of fishing a test pop up towards the island I decided to put on a reaper pop up I had that had been soaking up the amino cloud squid

and black pepper liquid for around 4 months now. Virtually glowing pink and leaking with attraction it just seemed to stick out for me as an obvious move having matched the hatch for a couple nights with no success. I was definitely praying that tonight was the night as conditions were spot on and the other anglers had started disappearing. With swims becoming open and only a few overnight lads ap-

pearing, tonight was shaping up to be the most promising night so far. Around 3am my left hand stow dropped off and then bounced back up and hit the rod, I was semi awake anyway having sat up most of the night listening to them crash out on the spots. I ran out and hit the rod but it didn't feel like anything was on. When I got the rig back to the bank it was a small Tench, not the illusive carp that I was hoping for.



Trying to lighten the mood after knowing we had blanked 3 nights already I stuck it in the retainer, redone the rod and went back to bed and at 6am I was woken up by my mate who was in the swim next to me. He said he had a chunk in the retainer and me still trying to lighten the mood told him that I had a massive Mirror languishing in my retainer too. At first light we went up and I did the snaps

for Phil, a new PB at 30.1oz fully scaled Mirror, an absolutely stunning fish and what a way to open the account after three hard nights I joked again saying "Come on let's do my snaps" and we walked into the swim and I reached for the retainer. Giggling to myself as I hoisted this tiny tinca out the water, I turned to Phil and he was laughing his head off, we did the snaps anyway and joked as we released the

Tench. As we walked back into Phils swim to have a celebratory cuppa, his rod whipped round and again he was into another carp. Already buzzing as he had done his PB after ten years, I reached for the net and positioned myself to slip it under the fish. Just as he got the second fish into the bank before I could scoop it up my rod was away. I passed him the net and slid along the bank to my swim,





by 10pm and the temperature dropped dramatically compared to the previous evenings. With the rods out on the spots and bait applied all we could do is sit back and wait.

To my disappointment I had nothing but a couple liners through the night and Phil's rods sat motionless. No fish shows were seen and it was almost like the lake had shut shop that night. Having to be off early doors there was nothing more we could do other than pack up at first light but having caught a few it made the task a lot easier. We left with smiles after four nights' graft and after dropping Phil home I went home to grab a quick shower ready for part 2... The Water Park was calling.

Thanks for reading

Lee England

I hit into what seemed a heavy fish and tried to turn it as it glided to the right virtually into Phil's water.

After a hairy fight, I guided the fish along my right hand margin in and out of the snags and slipped the net under my reward which turned out to be a stunning 22lb Quarry Common. A real old warrior of a fish with battle wounds up its flanks and even a missing peck. Phil's second fish turned out to be a 22.6lb triple Lin, again an absolutely stunning Quarry Mirror. After all the madness and commotion, the rods were quickly re-baited and out on the spots. The perfect start leading into our final full day and last night. Not wanting to start smashing a spomb out on the spots I stuck a few more handfuls of boilie out with the stick and sat back eating a ridgemon-

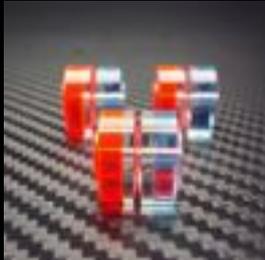
key and sipping my coffee with an inner feeling which can only be described as full accomplishment. After endlessly seeing fish show everywhere except where we were fishing, sticking to the baiting plans and ringing the changes rig wise had meant that we finally unlocked the code, and at that point nothing else mattered.

Spirits were high and although another uneventful day passed we were confident in a few more fish gracing the nets that night. As the sun set and the clouds disappeared we were greeted with crystal clear skies and





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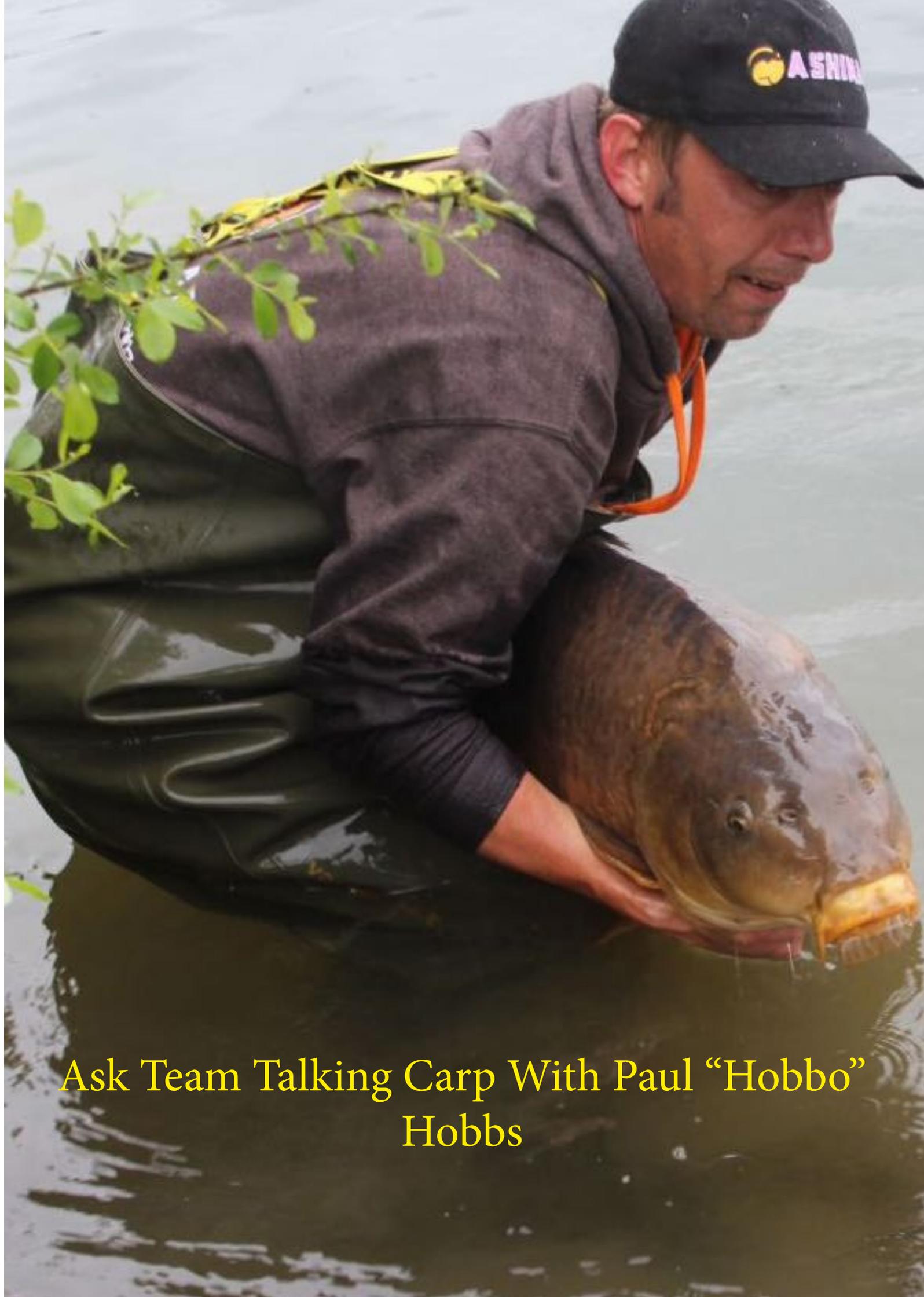
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D·A·M



Ask Team Talking Carp With Paul “Hobbo” Hobbs

Firstly,
an introduction to
our first panel
expert then its
question time.

Hello and welcome to Talking Carp's Q&A. It's an honour and a privilege to help you in all aspects of your fishing. I would like to give you a bit of background info on how I got to where I am and how I am a consultant for Ashima UK.

From my early days on the river Frome some 20 years ago, catching roach and rudd, and then fishing ponds during closed season. I got the carp bug seeing the monster shadows sunning themselves from the bank fishing with just a hook and bread. I used to pedal my bicycle to the lake with my rods strapped to the cross bar at any time and opportunity I could get.

Carp fever really caught me as I grew up and I was keen to learn and to improve on my angling ability so I attended the junior carp school at Horseshoe lake. I did this to grow all aspects of my fishing. I was lucky enough to be on the first fisherman's star also at

Horseshoe which I attended 2 years running. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to fish with Talking Carp's very own Martin Clark. The second year I teamed up with Mr T Hearn.

From here on the seed was starting to fully grow which made me want to catch the best looking carp on harder lakes and to try to push myself. This started to become a reality after passing my driving test which gave me the freedom I needed to get myself back to Horseshoe with gusto knowing there was some of the most beautiful fish in the country in this lake.

After my time on Horseshoe I fished on a syndicate lake. I really enjoyed watching, learning and trying to work out why the fish do this and that and where they would be in the lake. I relished trying to put pieces of the puzzle together which aided in all aspects of my fishing. After I was almost there on my syndicate I got the opportunity to become a bailiff on a lake in France at a venue that ticked all my boxes. I had fished there a few times previously and did very well and got on with the lake owner who could see that I loved to see carp

on the bank, whether it was mine or a fellow angler. I did a season in France and never stopped smiling even through the tough times. This is where I met Nick MacDonald. He could see that I put the extra 10% into my own fishing and to the customers fishing but most of all how intense I was in using the best end tackle to get the job done and how fussy I was about the sharpness and quality of the hooks I used. I knew of Ashima before I met Nick but with the opportunity that he had to bring Ashima back to the UK I jumped at the chance to work alongside him and to help build the brand. For me & Nick it's all about putting fish on the bank with reliable end tackle. We both have time to help out anglers, young and old. Nick's motto for Ashima is 'The Approachable Company'. Doing this section in Talking Carp is not a chore for me but an absolute pleasure because if I can put a smile on your face or (heaven forbid) help you land the fish of a life time then I can honestly say I would be as happy as you!
Right come on then let's get started!

We had a question emailed in about zig rig fishing

from @dean281 from Nottingham and his question is “Hi team, I see more and more carp getting caught on social media sites by way of zig rigs and zig fishing. It’s all quite new to me and I cannot get my head around it. Please help?”

The first part of zig fishing is to get the marker rod out and to find the depth of water on your spot or area where you will be casting your zig rig. For example- If the water is 10 feet deep i would start with the zig rig at 8 feet and 6 feet. If you



haven’t had a bite after 30 minutes or an hour and you feel the fish are not at that depth I would lower the zigs. I would wind them in and lower them by 6 inches. I would continue every 30 minutes to an hour until I had a bite. If this, still, was unsuccessful I may change the colours of my zig foam or hook bait. Now to touch on the rig itself, the right hook link material is es-

sential. I would use a pre stretched monofilament or dedicated floater zig line



with a breaking strain of 8, 10 or 12 lb. The breaking strain is down to personal preference and the lake you are fishing. NEVER use fluorocarbon as a hook link! As for hook size, 8s or 10s are ideal. The reason why smaller hooks are used is because normally these are the sharpest. Hook patterns I would tend to use are short shank and wide gape. In my



zig fishing I tend to use ‘Fox Zig Aligners’. I find these are excellent and easy to use to change the colours of my hook baits. Once the business end of your zig is tied to your chosen depth another very important compo-

nent is to use an anti-tangle sleeve. This will help to prevent any tangles in flight. I cannot stress enough that hitting the clip is also essential to help prevent your rig from tangling. As for lead



arrangement, I tend to use a lead clip. I find this helps to eject the lead if needed. It’s quite important to use the smallest lead that allows you to be able to cast to your chosen spot. For bait I would use a dedicated, specialist spod mix. Keep the bait going over the spot steadily, as and when you feel necessary. Once the bites start to come, an indication on the buzzers can be a bit twitchy. A tight line and high sensitivity on your buzzers will help a great deal.

I hope this advice helps you to keep ringing the dinner bell. Don’t forget to keep changing colours, hook baits and depths. Practice can make perfect so next time- Be lucky!
Paul

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Return To Farlows by Colin Taylor



After a 6 month break from my carp fishing to have a bit more family time I finally decided I was ready to get back doing what I love. My first trip didn't quite go as planned, I done a 72hrs session at Farlows with nothing which to be honest didn't faze me as it was just nice to be on the bank after a long time away. Having spent the following week as we all do thinking "I've got to get back out and get a fish under my belt" I decided to keep tabs on the catch reports via Facebook at Farlows and pick the timing and weather right where they were just starting to get on the munch. Bank holiday weekend as always on most day

tickets I knew would be busy but noticed fish where starting to get their heads down and have some munch, so the second trip was on for my return for a overnighter on the Sunday armed with two things that I rely on in my fishing my ACA (Anglers Charity Auctions) hoodie and my mainline hybrid boilies. I made sure to arrive nice and early to have a good walk round and find a few fish, having found the swim I was after, knowing a few already had been caught from there, as well as fish topping out when walking the lake, I knew this was swim I needed to get myself in. I finally got myself in the swim around 1:00pm, I was

frantically trying to get my rods out as quick as possible knowing time was against me with only a short trip planed, and I didn't really want to disturb the swim too much as the fish were clearly here, so I dropped down to 2oz leads for a quick lead about and found a nice silt gully running right through the swim between two weed beds either side. I opted to fish 2 stiff hinge rigs just set about 1 inch off bottom and one rod with a kd rig with a snowman. Having found the gully, I kept the baiting to a minimum to try and nick a quick bite, and with fish present already it wasn't long till I had my first run. Unfortunately, I had a hook pull

at the net, gutted to say the least and as you do I started to doubt myself, but it wasn't long until my luck changed and half an hour later my left rod rattled off and I had a lovely mid double dark common around 17lb in the net. First fish was done and I was back! The buzz I've missed was back too. I was

mid-morning my rod rattled off again with this being the hat-trick of commons at 23lb. Knowing I had to pack up today I was rushing about to get the rod back out to see if there was another chance to nick another one before the off and a couple of hours later I had another take which resulted in the

20hrs. I was a happy lad at this point just to be catching for me, I love just to catch stunning fish regardless of weight, it doesn't matter... just a bend in the rod is all I need and if a big girl comes along all the better. Frantically with a couple of hours left the rod ripped off again and unfortunately I lost this one to a hook pull but can't win em all and I thought that would be it for the trip, but there was one surprise left in stock for me... The middle rod rattle off with this carp fish fighting like stink I managed to get this fella in the net and what a stunner to finish the trip!! An apple sliced plated mirror and another mid twenty mirror was in the net! This was my final fish for the 24hr trip but what a great session of 5 carp to get myself back on my game



happy to nick just one quick bite but it wasn't long until I found myself in again and banked myself another common of just under 25lb's!! To be honest I would of been happy with that for a 'quick' trip but wasn't the end of the trip either. The evening fell and the fish seemed to move off to deeper water during the night, but as soon as first light came I could see the fish were back, and around

first mirror of the trip, another mid-double in the net and the 4th fish in



Farlows truly is one of the best day tickets in the country and can't wait for my next outing to maybe sneer one of the big girls. But for now I'm off concentrating on my training for the London to Brighton bike ride as I'm representing the ACA (Anglers Charity Auctions) in the event and we are currently raising money for a little boy called Finley to help him gain the use of his legs. If anybody is interested in helping or bidding on the auctions we run please visit our Facebook page Anglers Charity Auctions, we're a non-profit charity so what is raised goes direct to the causes we help and we always have fantastic auctions going, and even have our own clothes range from Navitas. If anybody would like to be part of something very special head over and have a look at us, everybody is welcome. Tight lines everyone and enjoy your fishing, much love,

Colin Taylor.



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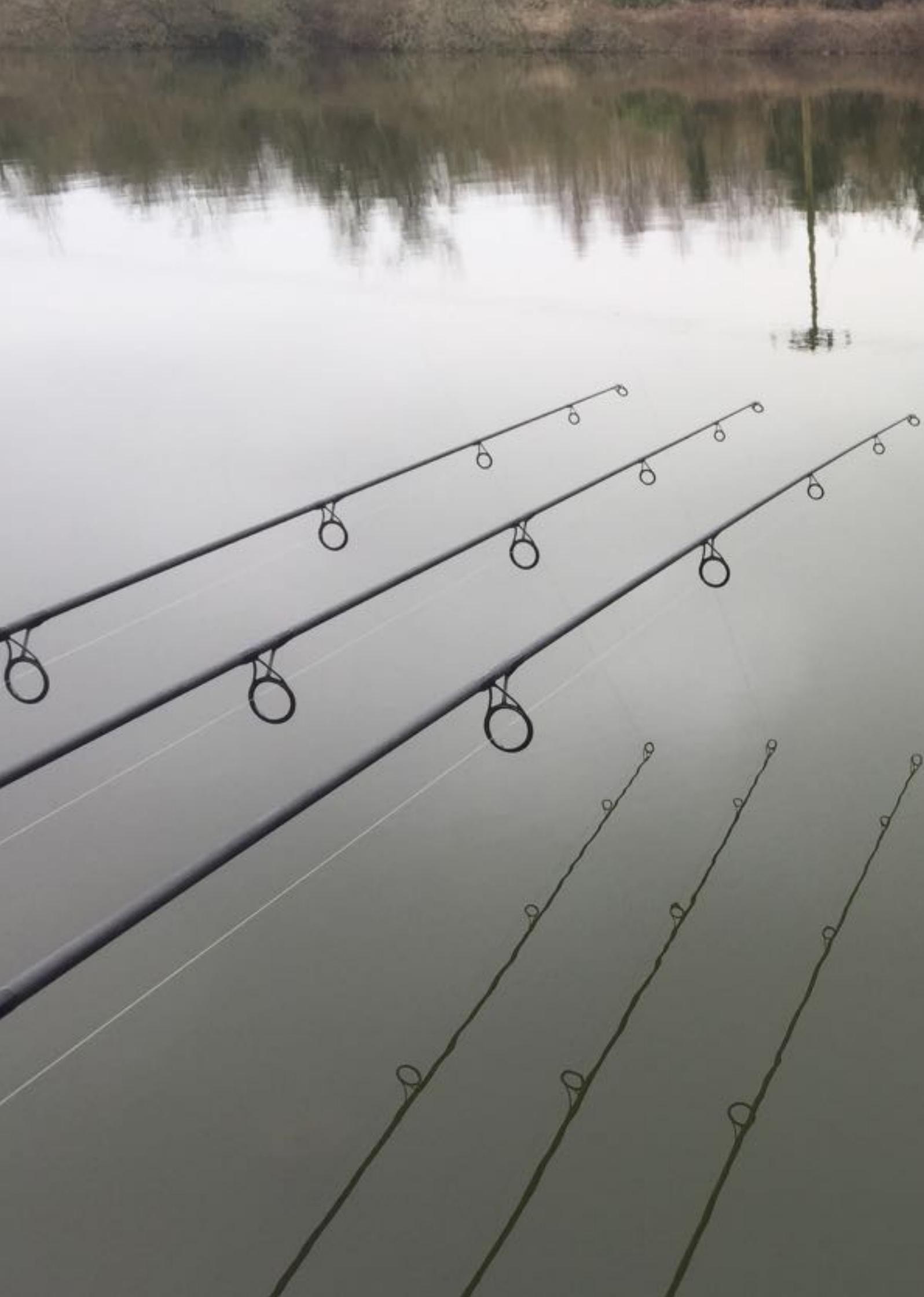
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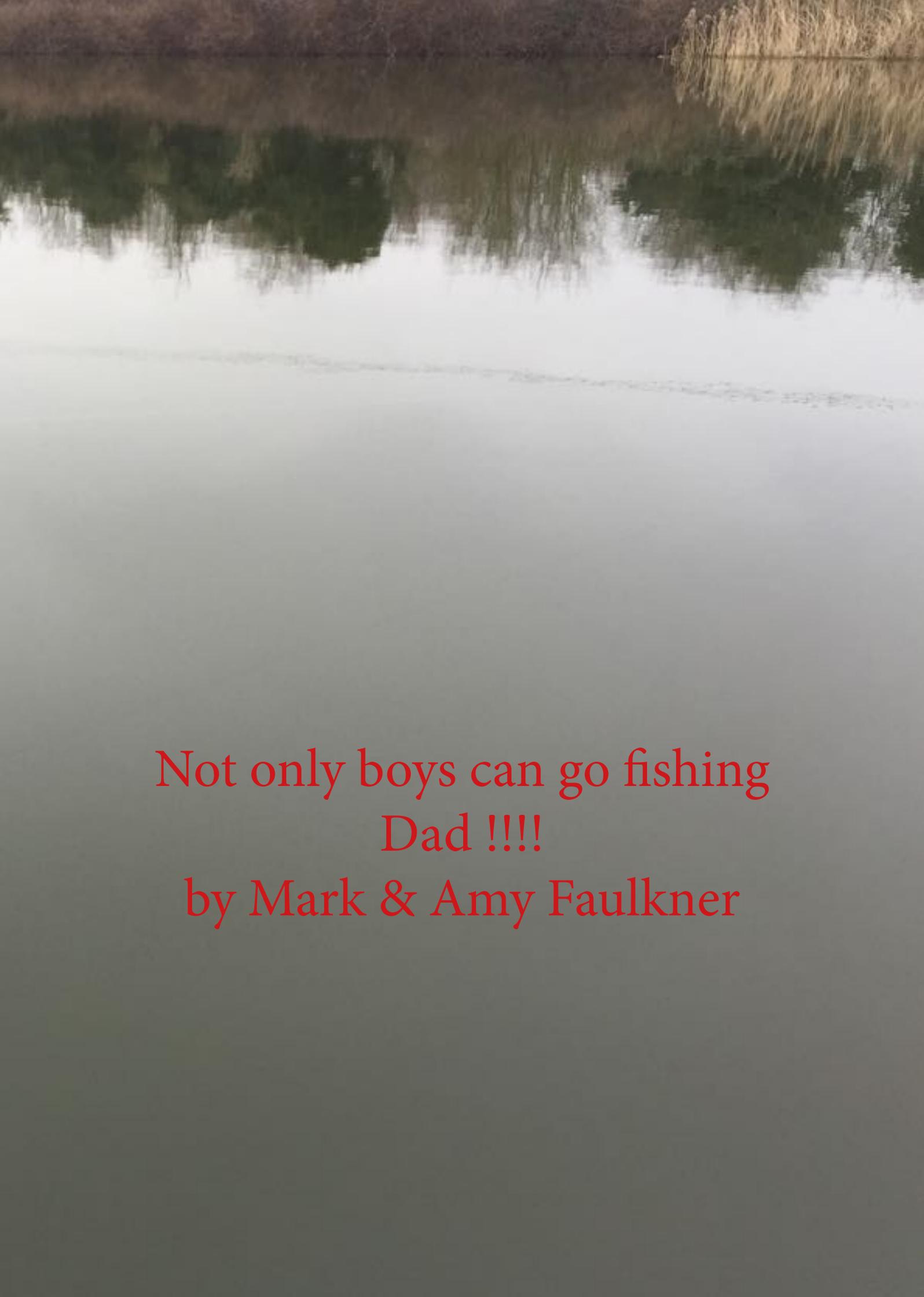


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A photograph of a body of water, likely a pond or lake, with reeds and their reflection. The water is calm, and the reeds are reflected in the water. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

Not only boys can go fishing
Dad !!!!
by Mark & Amy Faulkner

My daughter recently broke her leg at a trampoline park and whilst she was off school she came with me to Lee Whittakers house to collect my Natures Baits order. When I put the bait in the car she picked up the pot of Berry Bite pop up's and sniffed them. To my total surprise she said "ooh, they smell nice, why do the fish like sweets???" She then asked me why I never take her fishing but I take her brother. Now you can imagine my joy at hearing this so I told her I would take her the following day.

Next morning, I woke my daughter up asking her "do you still want to come???" her reply was priceless... "Yes, Dad, not only boys can go fishing you know."

My daughter is 10 years old. She has a brace on her broken leg and I was certain she would last 10 minutes.

We set off for my local lake, it was freezing outside and I had to scrape the windscreen of my car. I wrapped her up nice and warm and after a 30 minute drive we arrived. I loaded the barrow and set off on the long walk to my peg, my daughter hobbling behind. I set the 3 rods up and asked my daughter

where I should cast them for her. She pointed out 2 spots to me so I cast them for her. The left rod was baited with a Natures Bait Scud 14mm boilie with a 4 inch 25mm

wouldn't let go of the rod, but to my amazement she lobbed the weight up and over, it went about 10 yards but she was happy with that. I set up my underwater cam-



castaway PVA mesh stick full of crushed boilies. The middle rod was baited with an Alpha boilie again with PVA 25mm mesh stick. The 3rd rod I baited with a Natures Berry Bite pop up at her request. I showed her how to cast and she had a go herself. I was praying she

era system and let her watch for any carp. A couple of hours passed with nothing. The sun was trying to come out but it was still cold, around 3 degrees. Loads of roach kept passing the camera but not one carp.



4oz.... it took me years to get a fish of that size. I told her to crouch behind the unhooking cradle and showed her how to pick the fish up. This wasn't going to happen. I said to her hold our arms out and I will put the fish into your hands. What followed was hilarious. She started fidgeting whilst I took out the camera saying "ughh it's all slimy." I managed to take a picture then the fish moved. My daughter panicked and as she put it down I thought she was going to cry. BUT she just said lets put it back ad cast out again!!!

Then all of a sudden a single toner on the left rod, 110 yards away. I ran to the rod and struck into the fish. My daughters face was a picture. I took the fish away from a snag and shouted to her, "come on bring it in then." She rushed down to me with a big beam on her face and took the rod in her hand. The fish pulled and away went the smile for a second as I think she thought she was going to be pulled in. I showed her where to hold the rod and how to play the fish properly, all the time

holding the rod a bit to help her. She kept shouting "it's heavy I can't do it." After reassuring her she kept with it and 5 minutes later the fish surfaced greeted to the sound of "IT'S MASSIVE" from my daughter. I slipped the net under the fish and looked at her. She was now shaking with excitement. I collapsed the net and took the fish to the unhooking cradle, followed by my girl. We unhooked the fish and put it onto the scales. 25lb 4oz. Her first fish ever 25lb



We put the fish back and she said goodbye to it. I cast the rod back out to the same spot.

After around 30 minutes I was pouring myself a cup of tea when the right rod screamed off. Before I even had a chance to get up my daughter was off. Limping down the stairs and picked up the rod. She turned the handle and pulled into the fish. That for me was it. She had cast and hooked the fish herself. She played it and I landed it for her. The fish was nowhere near as big this only being 14lb. when we unhooked it we saw that

a pike had bitten a chunk out of it's tail. We treated the wound the best we could but she flatly refused to pick up the fish because of the wound. I agreed with her and we put it back.

The temperature dropped drastically over the next hour so I told her we had to leave. She became disappointed with this but I

promised I would take her with me again. We packed up and made the walk back, all the way I could see the grin on her face. What a great 5 hours enjoyed just me and my daughter.

As soon as we got home she had to show her mum and brother the size of her fish, rubbing it in to her brother that she had caught a bigger fish than him.



So it just goes to show dads don't know, girls like fishing too .
Until next time...
Mark.





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A black and white photograph of a lake with a boat's rigging visible on the right side. The water is calm with some ripples. In the background, there are trees and a shoreline. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

A Winter Wonderland
by Keith Desmond



I guess like most of us anglers, when we are out and about we tend to carry on our business day in day out with one eye open looking for for new places to fish, explore and generally broaden our horizons and this little scribble is the first part of hopefully a few more happy jottings about a lovely little place I've managed to stumble across.

Towards the end of last year I was starting to feel a little lost in my fishing, I had spent the summer fishing a local lake to me and had some really good times down there, but being only a little gem of a couple of acres and with a relatively low stock by the end of the year I'd had the best from it it must be said, I was still getting down there but every fish seemed to be a recapture and not being one to fish for the same fish time and time again it was time to move on however much I liked or didn't like as the case may be.

So one wintery afternoon I was in my van driving home from work, it was getting dark but out the corner of eye I spotted a little bit of water through some bare bushes we have at this time of year, as I followed the road round it seem to disappear but a bit further on

I found a gate with a number stapled to it, so with me being a curious type I jotted the number down anyway just in case I wished to pursue it further.

A few weeks later I was at home one evening, the missis was watching murder she wrote, as she does every night and just as I was about to slit me wrists or murder the dog I remembered about my little sighting, popped it up on google earth as we do and what I found was very intriguing to say the least, so after a little ponder to myself I decided to ring the number I had taken down and by the end of the phone call to a very pleasant fellow we'd arranged to meet down the lake the following Saturday. It soon rolled round and before long I found myself walking the banks with lake owner, what I'd found was a seven acre pit dug to make the roads of which surrounded it, however over the years the lake has matured into what I would call a carp anglers dream, with poke holes here and there, big overhangs to far margins, open water parts with Islands and coupled together with swims set out in such a way you'd never know anyone else was fishing and with a heathy stock of good looking carp it didn't take much

persuasion for me to sign on the dotted line it must be said, my ticket started on the 1st of March and I couldn't wait to get down and have a tinker about.

A few weeks pasts and as luck would happen I had a job cancelled at work on the 1st which meant I could go for a rare day session, with family and job commitments my fishing time is mainly limited to one or two short nights in the week and also depending on what I have on at work so a day session in the week is a bit of a rarity, I jumped at the chance to make it happen and took it with both hands.

My first session down there wasn't the best of days to go fishing weather wise, let alone a water I had no knowledge of, so the day was spent dragging a lead round, there was no one on so I could really froth it up without upsetting anyone, and by the end of the day I had a good idea of what most of the swims held and I had a plan sorted, with my fishing nowadays limited to short overnights in the week I tend to apply bait in an area and fish it a few days later, arriving at a lake on these wintery nights is a bit hit and miss at the best of times so I find just a little bait

regular on a few spots at least gives me a fighting chance if nothing else, so I decided to start popping a bit of bait in a area which seemed that it didn't get as much attention as the rest of the lake at this time of year, so with a good helping of bait dispatched and one last glance I was soon heading home thinking about when I would return.

With work a little being a little busy it was a week later when I returned, overnight conditions were said to be -1 and with no winds forecast it wasn't ideally the best conditions but at least it'd be a bit more bait in the area so would be a waste of time by any means and by morning I was proved right as my rods stayed motionless all night, I popped more bait out in the area before I left and once again left them to get on with it.. I few nights later I returned, I'd been at home, but the thought of them getting on the bait and polishing it off without me was a bit to much for me to bare so I soon found myself wandering round the banks in the dark once more, the rods were clipped up from the last session so all was quite painless getting the rods back out, I opted for simple balanced hinged rig but with a softer boom section,

the lakebed was pretty clean to be fair with just just a bit of fodder here and there at this time of year but opted for that approached as I'd feel a little more confident with one cast and gentle feel down to the spots, last thing I wanted to do was take half a dozen casts and scare any carp away that may have been in the area, with the rods baited and a nugget of foam in toe squeezed on ever so lightly I gently flicked them over.

It's worth mentioning not to full on lick and stick the foam at this time off year they sometimes can hang on for hours which I've found out the hard way in the past, so be careful in cold water, specially with the critically balances set ups we all love, a tiny little piece of foam which has clung on can end up standing your rig bolt upright all day if your not careful.

So with rods out I settled down for the night, all was quiet until around 10.30, I was on the phone to a friend when one of the rods burst into life, I jumped on it and soon enough my first carp from the water lay in my cradle, a small common of around 18 lb, certainly one not grumble it was a start and something to build on, I slipped him back and fired

the rod back out, my next take was at around 3.30 a little mirror being the culprit this time.

All was quiet for the rest of the session the temperature dropped considerably after the little mirror had paid a visit and to be fair seemed to kill the session and soon found myself packing up once more in the dark for work commitments, I was glowing inside though, it was a great start to my campaign and I couldn't have asked for more, with a little more bait in the area I was soon on my way.

The following Sunday I was back down, this time of year once I've sorted where I'm fishing I like to get the rigs sorted at home, I'm not one for fumbling about in the dark and just find it easier, with little check in the margins first, soon all three rods once again were laying pretty on the spots with not to much a painful effort, once they'd settled I packed my stuff up, something I do on my winter sessions, all my stuff is packed up ready for a quick getaway in the morning, not being a morning person at the best of times it this helps me no end as I'd only forget something, I've lost count of how many cameras, air dry bags and catapults I've left lying

around.

The next thing I know one of my rods is screaming for mercy, I must have drifted off on the bed hair without realising, I jumped down and grabbed the rod and with out to much bother had my third carp from the water. I had a lovely mid twenty common resting in my net and remember thinking you'll do nicely my friend, after a few snaps etc etc I soon had him on his way.

All was quiet for the rest of the session and once again I was packing up under head torch, a bit more good stuff on the spots and

once again I was dusting up the track on my departure.

The following Wednesday I had a choice, to sit there and watch the gunners bum out of Europe or go down the lake for the night, the latter won, the latter was always going to win..

And soon enough I found myself wandering round in the dark to my destination, once in there the first rod was baited up (fluffy) with the usual pop up, semi stiff hinged armed with c820s, fired over to its destination

and left to settle, I picked up the second rod (chilly), clipped on the rig, added a lead and casually walked back, I fired it over, as it hit the clip, fluffy was off flyer and was melting away like tomorrow wasn't coming, I picked the rod up and it ploughed to my right, but with a bit of steady pressure I had it under control, I turned round to get my



net and realised it was still in two pieces up the bank, it's not the first time this has happened and I'm sure it won't be the last but after a few benny hill moments and a bit of fumbling around I managed to get it sorted and with a bit of luck on my side it all ended well with a brute of a common lying in the onion bag for me to admire. With a few snaps sorted she then pulled the scales round to 28.7, a couple more admirational moments and I soon had her on her way. I was over the moon couldn't

quite believe it, possibly my quickest take in 20 odd years carping, one for the memory banks that's for sure.

All was quiet again until midnight when I was awoken by another melting run, this time the culprit being a beautiful mirror in its striking winter colours, which this time pulled the Reuben's round to 28.15 lb..

I later found out that fish was a known fish called "the apple" a little down on weight but that really didn't bother me at the time, with two good fish on the bank my effort was starting to pay off for me.

All was quiet for the rest of the session which to be fair was a godsend with work in the morning but a session I won't be forgetting anytime soon that for sure..

Can't wait to get back down.....

Thanks for reading my scribble, hopefully I'll be able to get amongst a few more and be able catch up with you soon.

Be lucky...

Keith

Richworth

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HARRY CHARRINGTON

ANGLING TIMES CARP ANGLER OF THE YEAR
& 48HR WORLD MATCH RECORD HOLDER



TYPE-R

RAPID RESPONSE





Making Your Boilie Paste by “Hookpull”



I finished off last time pointing you in the right direction to design your own base mix. When you have your mix sorted and you are happy with it the eggs and other additives are next, not as easy as you may think if you want to be accurate and consistent. Don't blow your mind away with the next couple of articles, it is not as complicated as it may first appear its just simple maths. First of all, oil, why add it? You don't have to but I do as do many others. Like you and I the fish benefit from eating it, the important thing is like most things in life the key is moderation, pellets are banned in a lot of commercial waters usually because of their high oil content. Adding oil not only benefits the fish it also helps us during production, using it helps with the rolling of the finished boilie. You do need to be careful with the oil content if using in spring and winter time when the water is really cold, I will suggest inclusion rates later. Too much oil in a bait in cold water can clog the bait stopping the flavour and smell from leaking out. I usually change the oil levels in my bait three times a year as the water temperature changes. The reason for this is that unless it is win-

terised the oil starts to solidify when cold turning it into a jelly like consistency. You must also consider the ingredients in your base mix, fishmeal for example already has a lot of natural oil in it as does some soya flour. If you are buying shop bought bait the oil level is out of your control and could be masking your bait in cold water, as you don't know what is in them its guess work! That is possibly why you hear about bait being a good winter bait or not working well in winter. Another reason to make your own!

I mentioned tweaking a bait to produce a protein level that is good for the fish. The level I personally try to attain is less than that used in the fish farming industry.

Let me explain why.

The protein level in the well known and commonly used trout pellets that both fish farmers and anglers use is often over 40%. You may have been to or heard of places where pellets are banned, this as I previously mentioned is because the oil level in some of the pellets is really high. They are produced to be affordable to the farmers to keep production costs down and also to optimise a fast growth rate for the fish so as to be sold as soon as possible. Usually

for your dinner. A lot of the course and carp pellets are lower at around 30% as they are made more for anglers and people that have fish ponds in their garden rather than farmers.

A common level that I come across centres around 30% proteins, some say more, some say less is okay, I am not a scientist neither do I pretend to be one so I do not know. What you must remember is that the carp are not totally dependent on our bait for food as the fish that are farmed are, that is why I am not concerned if my finished boilie is slightly less than what is considered by some to be the optimum level. The wild fish that we hunt are munching away on naturals all day and night if they choose to and if they are available to them. My opinion in your base mix is to aim for a 25% minimum and up to 35% protein, at that level we are giving the fish something back, the percentage will drop after the inclusion of the eggs, I will explain later why. Next time I will show you how you can easily raise the protein level if you find it is a bit on the low side. It would be very easy and much cheaper to produce bait that is high in carbohydrate but it would not be good for the fish long

term, my personal opinion is that a balanced diet is the best to try to achieve. Also, in time I believe that your catch rate would be adversely affected by using cheap inferior ingredients just to save a few pounds a year. When you make your own boilies you do not need to spend a lot to have a good quality finished bait.

The next bit now that you have the perfect powder mix that cannot fail to have your arms aching every time that you go fishing is the eggs. I will try to explain what effect the eggs have and why we use eggs.

The eggs are necessary to help bind the bait and skin it to help keep the pesky bream and tench at bay. As we all know it doesn't always work. When you add the eggs you change the protein level of your bait, you will reduce it, not by much though. You should allow for it but with experience it is quite easy to do this without doing the maths. Who likes doing maths? Well,,, unless Carol Vorderman is helping you

A word of warning, eggs do not like salt, it reduces the binding quality of the egg. So be careful if you add salt or MSG (monosodium glutamate) oops just given a little secret away there

As a general rule you will use about 9 eggs per kilo of dry mix, that will normally give you just under 1 1/2 kilo of finished bait. Obviously mixes are different and eggs are not all the same size it is only a guesstimate. As a guide I work on a large egg weighing 50 grams.

To the eggs, if you want to, you can add sweetener, colour and oil. I would suggest oil at up to 5ml per egg when the water temperature is at its highest, or in spring when the water is really cold after winter I often don't add any as it is in the powders that you are using in your base mix, especially fishmeal and nut based products. As I said flavours can be added to the eggs at this stage, I personally am not a massive fan of using flavours, by "flavours" I mean the shop bought bottle type from fishing tackle suppliers that are often synthetic. There is also a need for caution when using flavours that you know nothing about. A lot of them are made for the food industry, the type that you need are from manufacturing products that are heated so the flavour is not adversely affected when you boil your paste to make the boilie. The ones I used to buy were produced mainly for the manufacture of boiled sweets,

fruit flavours that went into boiled sweets. I bought bottles by the kilo direct from the manufacturer, it is often sold in weight rather than volume for some reason? A kilo is about a litre. I have bottles probably 20 years old and there is nothing wrong with them.

This brings me back to the aforementioned baiting and angling genius Fred Wilton in my previous article who was well known for saying "if you can smell it there is too much in" I personally rarely use additional flavours as my powder is usually the flavour that I want to achieve or natural products such as anchovy or shrimp paste from the Asian markets that you and I eat. On saying that I have done a lot in the past, lots of people use them and do very well with flavoured bait so by all means use them if you want to. The good thing about making your own bait is that it is your choice to use or not and at what level. What you can do if you do decide to use flavours is use one straight out of the bottle or mix 2 or 3 different flavours together to make your own unique flavour that only you in the world are using.

A very successful method is to use a single over flavoured hook bait, and I mean really over flavoured! Glugged for weeks or even months. The fish is not ever going to eat it, they pick it up with their mouth to investigate this “odd” thing on the bottom of the lake as you and I would pick something up with our hands purely out of curiosity.

The sweetener and colour are optional also. With regard to the sweetener you can add this in the form of bags of sugar rather than the bottled liquid that is sold by the bait ingredient suppliers, which will give you another kilo of base mix for a 50p bag of sugar. It does make the boilie more soluble so be careful how much you add.

Moving onto actually mixing powder to eggs is not as straight forward as you may initially think.

The most common mistake people make is adding “x” amount flavour and “x” amount oil to six eggs then adding the powder to make the paste.

It's not accurate! The six eggs that you used last time may be bigger or smaller than the six you are using this time so you will not use the same amount of powder to produce the finished boilie paste.

As you have put the same amount of “x's” in the paste it will have a stronger or weaker flavour and have a higher or lower concentrate of oil.

The accurate way to do it is by volume or weight. If for example it takes 12 eggs to reach a mark on a measuring jug, to the jug of eggs or in the mixer you can add your “x” amount of flavour and oil. It may take 11 eggs next time to reach the same mark or 13 but it will be as accurate as you can be. Doing that you are adding to the same volume of eggs not necessarily the same amount so you should use the same amount of base mix to form the paste. If you have 500 ml or 500 grams of eggs (9, 10 maybe 11 eggs) then add your “x” it will always be the same. These are only examples I do not know if 10 eggs is 500 ml so don't worry if it isn't. Now put your liquid in a bowl, I would recommend an electric mixer, got mine second hand off an auction

site on the internet (photo). At this point you can add additional powders/liquids if you want to that may change the colour or add a smell/flavour. The advantage of doing it at this point is that if you have for example 20k base mix in your bucket you may not want it all red or yellow, if you are experimenting you can add a flavour/smell and if it doesn't work you can try something else next time from your base mix. If for example when experimenting, you add 100 grams of seaweed to a kilo of base mix and have field day when you use it you can then add the seaweed to your bucket of base mix so you don't need to add it to every time you do a boilie mix. To have the same ratio you would have in your 20k base you would need to mix 100 grams of seaweed x 20 so that would be 2 kilo of seaweed.

That would be the same equation for anything that you add, that is why it is so important to work on percentages of a 1 kilo mix. You may have had 20 kilo then taken 1 kilo out leaving you 19 kilo, you would then simply multiply 100 grams by 19 so you would add 1.9 kilo. Hope you get my point! When you add your base mix to

the eggs you can add for example robin red to colour and spice it up a bit, Turmeric will do similar, or curry powder, belachan, seaweed, anything you like. But remember, do it by weight or if it is liquid use syringes without a needle or accurate measuring equipment that is available on line or from a chemist so that you can replicate it if it works and as I have said before, write it down.

Okay, eggs base mix and additives in the bowl, turn the mixer on and away you go. Mix it a bit wet first time as it is easy to add more powder, if it is too hard you will struggle to get the sausages out of the gun.

Next time I will explain how to work out your protein level and what effect adding the eggs to your base mix will have on your finished boilie.

Until next time, enjoy your fishing, love this time of the year.

Sharp Tackle



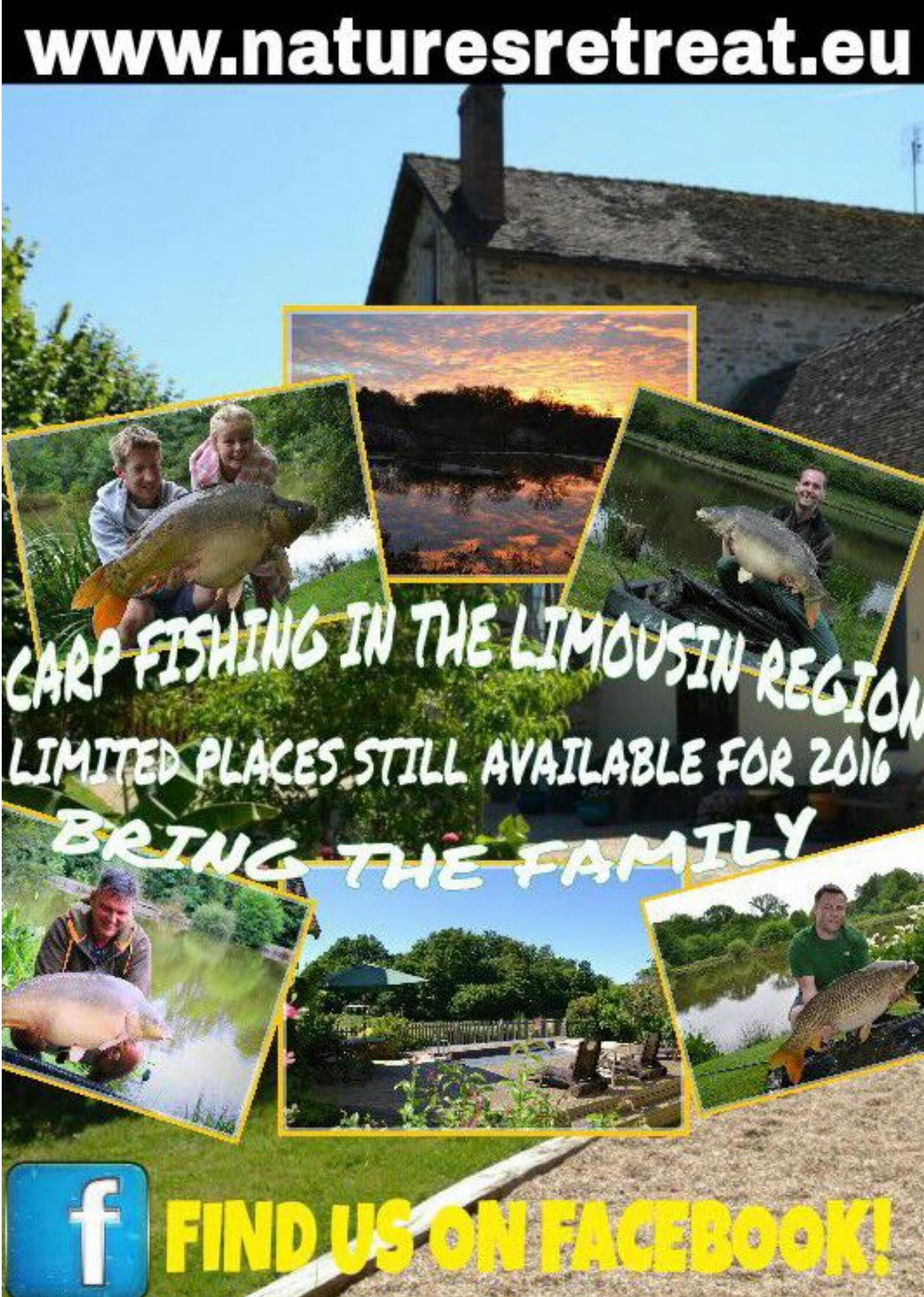
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Unusually Cold April by Gary May





April 6Th 2016

So on waking up on a cold and windy morning at 4am on my 39Th birthday hang-over free and no work to be done there was only one thing to do, a trip back to my new lake which I had joined in March.

Colchester, Essex was my destination so with the car packed and flask and snacks at the ready off I went.

Once at the venue with a few others already there it was time to pick my swim and I decided to head round to the left hand side and aim for a swim on the point. Barrow loaded, I headed off to the swim. With a wind that was unsure of what direction it wanted to head in I settled down in my swim for the day. Once the rods were set at around 70 yards I set up the spod rod and added a generous helping of Mark's Particles hemp and maize to my swim using the original spomb as not had much luck with a certain new type of device, then it was broolly up and coffee poured.

It wasn't long before I was up and out of my chair to strike in to what turned out to be my one and only fish for the day, As I'm reeling in I'm thinking I had hooked a bream or a smallish carp as there was no fight to it until

2-3 metres out when out of nowhere came a swirl that looked like a whirlpool, a flick of its tail and a shake of its head and it was off and I knew this was something special.... Kiting hard to the left then to the right it finally tired itself out and after a great encounter I had this beauty in my net.

Taking a step back and a few seconds to catch my breath I peered into the net and saw an amazing chunky common. The scales whizzed round to 28Ib 1Oz a new PB had been gifted to me on my birthday!!

April 16Th 2016. 10 days later and still over the moon with my new PB I found myself back at the same venue, Again the weather was up and down leaving me just as confused as the carp.

This time I was unable to get my previous swim which after my last visit and great result I felt I had to get, so off to the opposite side I went and set up shelter from the awful on and off wet weather. The day was going slow and no sign of anything



happening so around lunch time I decided to go for a zig rig between 5 and 6 foot in length with a tiny pink piece of foam soaked in bumble berry goo.

Still nothing was happening so I decided to bring one rod in and change to a longer hook link just for a change as I know that there's plenty of silt lying on the bottom so maybe my hook bait was barely visible. A new 8-inch hook link was sorted with size 8 hook, swivel and quick link swivel on a fresh loosely set lead clip which are all supplied by the guys at Bank tackle.

Time was ticking by and after a few hours since the last recast the rod loaded with the zig screamed off and on the end was a fish possessed. Unlike 10 days ago this time it felt like I had hooked a cruise ship... all I could do was wait and let her take her time and to slowly wear down. After a tremendous battle I had won the fight and I was slipping the net under this beast of a fish the weight I knew was big but not sure how big..... Surely not, not another PB already....or was it???

IT WAS!!! after help from the guy a few swims down to weigh her this lovely golden beast sent the dial round to 30Ib 15oz's a new PB and an

incredible result from a long, hard and very cold day.

April 27Th 2016

Beginning to think that winter was back and back for good I wondered if today was a good day or not to head back to Colchester once again, so after deciding it was a bad idea because of the forecast heavy hailstones, rain, wind and even snow I still packed up the car and off I went.

Arriving at the lake bang on 05:30 as per the rules there was line of cars waiting so I was not the only crazy one to brave the weather. All the well-known good swims had been chosen so I had to settle for a swim further down the right hand side which I wasn't feeling but I was there so I'd give it a go.

Watching fish coming out



round the lake for the other guys was a good sign and I was hopefully going

to get my turn.. This time both rods were at different distances, edging my bets I guess you could say. Both hook baits were wafers one Banoffee and the other Krill both topped with fake corn, one at 85 yards and the other closer at about 50 yards. The hours ticked by and not a sign, plenty of particle being launched out but still no action apart from the ducks attacking each other and a swan cleaning up the particle I had spilt.

One beep followed by two beeps on my ATT's and then a longer solid tone finally a take. I had finally got to lift in to a fish after waiting nearly all day, the Banoffee had lured yet another chunk to my net. My third big lump 21 days was in the net and weighing a nice 25Ib 13oz's

All three day sessions were long due to conditions being very cold and sometimes very wet, you wouldn't believe we was nearing May and the poor fish are struggling to work out where to be and what to do. Warmish days followed by minus temperatures at night is bar-my. Producing just the one fish per session was good enough for me though, with 3 great chunky beauties' and my personal best being broken twice is more than I could ask for in such a short time.



Have to mention the excellent quality of all my end tackle which is kindly supplied to me by the guys at www.banktackle.co.uk

Time to pack up my gear for a week now as it's a trip to Murphy's Lake in France next hoping for some great fishing and finally some warmer dryer weather.... here's hoping. stay positive and expect the unexpected.

Gary



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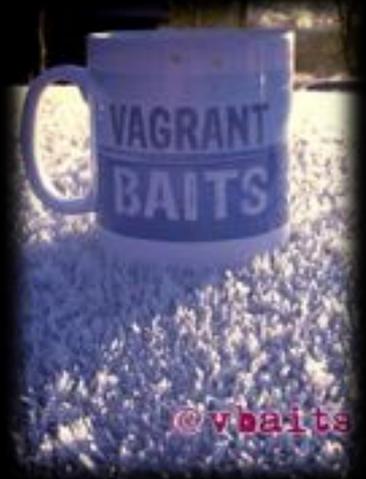


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Spring Fishing
by Matt Whalley



Now that the clocks have gone forward to British Summer Time, I think we can now safely say Spring is here. For me this is most definitely my favourite part of the fishing calendar before we start moving forward through the months ahead. Within this article I will give you an insight into how I approach spring and what baits, rigs tactics etc I will choose to use,

I know from personal experience (although I quite like winter fishing) when the clocks go forward, the quietness and long nights will slowly disappear, and the warmer temperatures and more activity with feeding fish are coming.

The bait

Bait is quite crucial now the

a blend of pre-digested fish meals, bird foods, milk proteins, spices, rosin, water snails and much much more! This boilie has been designed and carefully balanced with 36 separate ingredients including crayfish, GLM, and spicy crab. Plus, it has a secret aroma that have all been added at optimum levels for a great food source bait. This is a perfect bait for all year round use. With The Reaper being such a quality food source product and now the carp are starting to wake up, using this bait will defiantly give you an edge in your angling armoury.

Another good tactic I have always found at this time of year, is to start introducing a bit of spod mix into your swim. Don't go massively over the top as you have to remember, the carp are only now starting to be more active when it comes to feeding. Of course if you are getting take after take from the introduction of your spod mix along with your quality food source boilie, don't hesitate to top your swim up. Having a lot of smaller food particles in your swim will keep the carp staying and searching for the food



to make sure my catch rates are up at this peak time of the year.

Now let me begin. We have fished through winter and hopefully we have all had a few carp on the bank but we have all had those moments while sitting there, listening to nothing but the sound of wind and rain beating down on our bivvies and wishing for the better months to come, knowing the fish will be more active and in turn making our bite alarms scream into action.

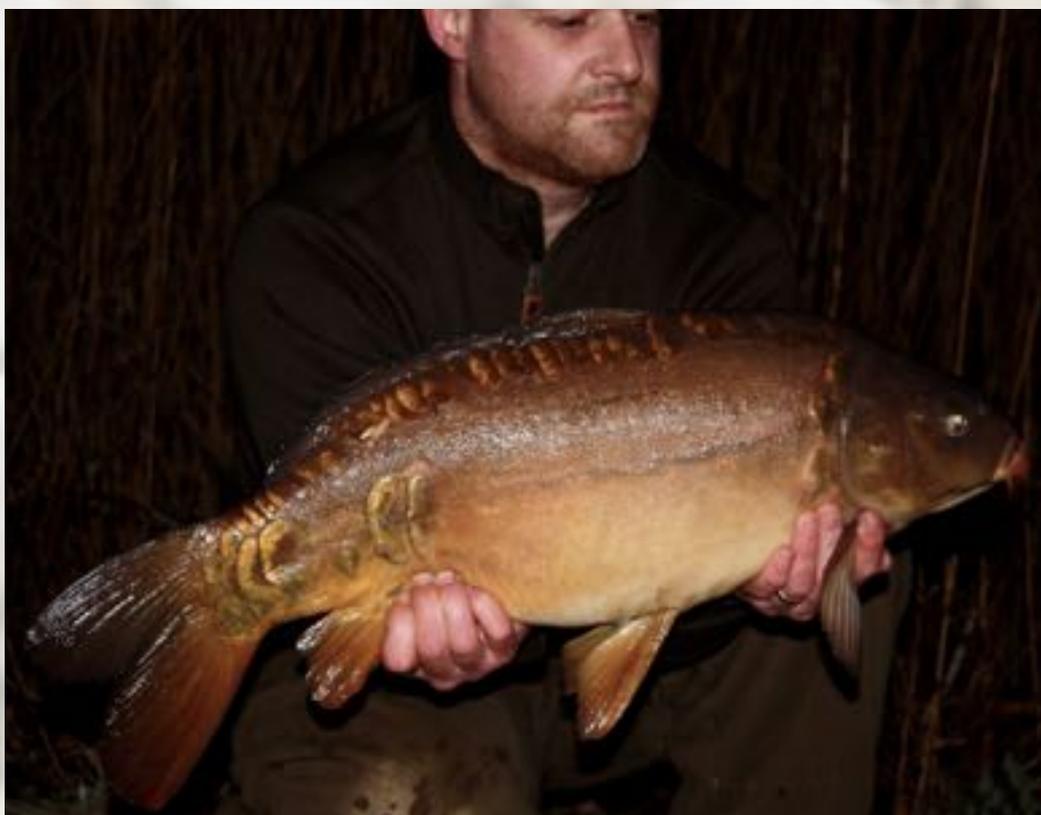
fish are waking up from their winter slumber. You really have to fish with something that will actively get the carp searching for food in your chosen swim. A high quality food source bait will help you no end. I know there are so many companies out there and everyone has their own personal choice but for me it has to be The Red Reaper from www.northeastbaits.com. The Reaper is an out and out big fish bait, which has proven itself time and time again with many big carp falling to this bait. With

signals they are receiving from each different particle within the mix. My personal favourite is the Natural mix from www.deepblueparticles.co.uk.

Within this mix there is Hemp, Bloodworm, Snails and Krill. Hemp alone is one of the best all-round fishing baits. It can be used on its own or in a ground bait. For me spodding hemp out with the added natural range, i know will leave a carpet of a quality bait and in turn keep the carp searching for this high protein all natural food source product.

The Rigs

For me at this time of the year it's nothing complicated. Just a straight forward combi-rig. I have a lot of faith in this rig and it has caught me many decent carp of the past couple of years. The combi part of the rig stands for "combination of two materials". This is often created with a stiffer boom section, in my case Hybrid



Tackles Disperse and a supple end section leading to the hair and hook. I tend to tie the two materials together by using an Albright Knot. This can be quite tricky at first but once you get the hang of it, it is a simple yet effective knot to tie. Next to go on is a small blob of putty. This protects the knot join but also aids in the rig mechanics for the hook holds. Leading up from this, an anti-tangle sleeve is slid onto the boom. This just allows for anti-tangle purposes and allows the rig to kick out and reset the majority of the time. I don't tend to go crazy and experiment with lots of different rigs. I tend to just keep it simple. The more complicated you make things, the less likely you are to get your catches on the bank

The leads

I am a big fan of inline leads

but over the last month I have changed to distance leads. There has been no specific reason for this just a personal thing I guess. My lead size I use now is a 4oz. My reasoning behind this, is that I feel once a carp has picked up the rig, the lead being quite heavy helps set the hook straight away! I used to use a lot smaller leads before someone once told me "why do you use such small leads, have you not tried bigger ones?"

He then went on to state that if I changed, my catch rate would be a lot better. So obviously with this I was listening. He then put a rig down with a 1oz, 2oz, 3oz and 4oz lead attached and told me to put my finger under the hook point and lift the lead. I kind of looked at him funny but proceeded to do so. In my mind even the weight of the smallest lead would set the hook in finger but I was surprised. I went on to pick up the 1oz and 2oz lead with ease. The 3oz lead was a lot harder but the 4oz lead I had absolutely no chance of picking up. The conclusion I came to after doing this was - If I can do that with the smaller leads then surely the carp can do the same. Which in turn results in more aborted takes and lost fish. Try it for yourselves and see what you think.

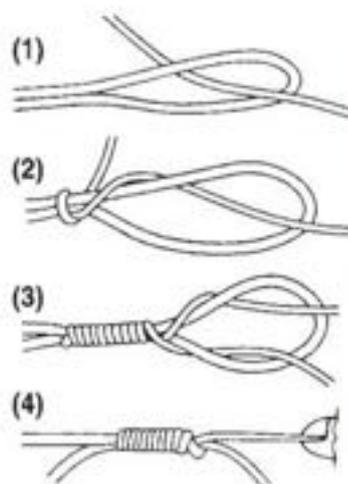
Zigs

As the water temperature starts to warm up don't disregard using the old faithful zigs. Sometimes this is overlooked as people tend to assume that this is a summer tactic only but you will be surprised that even in mid-winter zigs will still work. A simple but a most effective method.

So with spring in the air, I have put down a few of my tactics to how I will be approaching my chosen water. Whether you take onboard some of what I have written or choose to use this is some of you angling this spring, I wish you good luck and I hope you break your PB in the coming months ahead.

Tight Lines!

Matt Whalley



Albright Knot

This is one of the most reliable means of joining two lines that are of dissimilar diameter.

- (1) Create a loop in the heavier monofilament line. Pass about 10 inches of lighter line through the loop.
- (2) Take 12 tight wraps back around the heavier strands and the standing portion of the lighter line.
- (3) pass the tag end of the lighter line out through the loop on the opposite side of where it entered.
- (4) hold the two heavy mono strands securely as you alternately pull on the tag end and standing part of the lighter line to begin tightening the knot.
- (5) Seat the knot by pulling on the standing parts of both lines. Trim the tag ends.

Wyreside Lakes Fishery

Sunnyside Farm, Bay Horse, Lancaster, LA2 9DG. Tel: 01524 792093 email wyrresidelakes@btconnect.com

www.wyrresidelakes.co.uk

Wyreside Lakes is a family run business, situated in over 120 acres of farmland at the foot of the Bowland Fells in Dolphinholme -Lancashire. On the estate there are 7 fishing lakes - with a superb stocking of carp, mixed coarse and pike. The Birkin family have continually used the same British stockists over the last 23yrs and the experienced to novice angler alike has an opportunity to catch a wide selection of beautiful two tone mirrors, immaculate scaly commons and the occasional leather carp.



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

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



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

The Quiet Before The
Storm by Lewis Daynes





On the long Easter weekend. My other half was working nights so I had the chance to have a good long weekend fishing. I wasn't sure if I would brave the strong 50 mph winds or not. Then my other half persuaded me to get out there on to the bank. As I always say to others "you won't catch them on the sofa". So I headed down to my local syndicate and had a good walk around the lake. There is a bunch of reeds in the margin that the carp love to sit in. I could stand there for hours watching lumps just chilling in the reeds. I have tried to catch the carp in these reeds so many times, but they just sit there and laugh at you. They know your there but won't go on the "munch". So I carried on my wander round the water to find some activity. Lone behold I found a group of carp sitting in the main bowl on the lake so I knew I had to fish the point. As the carp were sitting high in the water I decided to put out a bright yellow zig with a hint of citric spray on the foam. Hoping to lure a quick bite. While my left hand rod had a zig on. I decided to "match the hatch" and fish a single bottom bait over a bed of the same Boilies on my other two rods. Unfortunately, I didn't hear that

perfect sound of the bite alarms scream straight away. So I kept adding 10 to 20 Boilies every half an hour and after a very long wait. At midnight my middle rod on a bottom bait went screaming off. In my opinion the best alarm clock you could have. Unfortunately, the fish didn't want to play ball and headed straight for a big bed of weed. Without hesitation I placed my rod on the floor with the bail arm off and let the fish sort himself out. Luckily after 10 minutes I picked up the rod and pulled into the fish hoping he was free. And he was. After a short battle a lovely mirror carp weighing at 17.2 lb went over the net cord. After pictures where taken, I slipped the lovely fish back to fight another day and got the rod back on the spot. Unfortunately, I didn't have any more action for the rest of the night and got some sleep. The next morning after reeling the rods in and a quick pop to the shop. I came back to see fish showing all over my swim. I placed one rod straight on the head of the last fish that "boshed out". Within half hour my bite alarms were melting to a screaming one toner. I hit my rod and was then bent into my next fish. I immediately knew this

was a better size fish as this fish was putting up a much better fight than the first. After this eventful battle. I finally got my first glimpse of this perfect bar of gold in the margin and saw it was nailed in the bottom lip. As I saw the golden common. My friend fishing in the next swim to me came along and grabbed the net and asked if I wanted a hand. At this point I made the statement of "you can net this fish for me as long as you don't knock it off". Luckily he done a perfect job and got the net under the beautiful fish and netted the fish perfectly for me. I then had to do the tradition and high five my mate as he netted the fish for me. I then looked in the net and instantly knew



this wasn't going to be an easy photo shoot as he was still so lively. After getting this immaculate common into the cradle. I found the Deception Angling SPC hook on a blow back style rig absolutely nailed in the bottom lip. After unhooking the fish, I wasn't going to be an easy photo shoot as he was still so lively. After getting this immaculate common into the cradle. I found the Deception Angling SPC hook on a blow back style rig absolutely nailed in the bottom lip. After unhooking the fish, I then proceeded with having a battle to keep the fish wet and safe in the cradle. As he flapped about, I tried to calm the fish and hope to have a nice shot with the fish. This beautiful golden common decided to beat me up before allowing



to hold still for some photos of him. I then finally got some perfect pictures with the beautiful specimen and slipped him back to his home.

As the bailiff then walked round he asked how I had got on and I showed him the pictures. He then followed to say that he was impressed and this fish hasn't been out in years. I was over the moon but this is not where the action ended. For the rest of the day, the sun was out and I relaxed and hoped for some more action that evening. Unwittingly knowing what that night had in store for me. As I mentioned earlier the 50 mph winds then turned and started forcing into my swim. After pinning the brolly down and falling asleep, I was rudely awoken to find my brolly flying away and the rain pour-

ing down on me as I laid in my bedchair. At this point I knew it was time to wave the white flag and get home. Lucky the rain stopped in time for me to quickly pack up and get my gear on the barrow. But then, as I neared the van with my gear. The weather decided it didn't want to play fair anymore. The rain then started to fall and the wind started to grow. Minutes later I got to my van and the rain was basically coming down vertically and unrelenting. After literally throwing my gear in the van and getting completely soaked. I was finally on the way home.

Lewis





Honeymoon On The Ebro by Kris and Emma Swordsmith



What an epic adventure that was but we can say it was one of the hardest bits of fishing we've had to do so far in our fishing careers with the Pyrenees mountains having a lot of snow melt coming down through the river, which made the water virtually freezing. With the river that sits around 12 foot at its lowest part and reaches to about 25 foot in depth at its deepest we also had to contend with the flow that it was pushing through at a fast pace, this happens because of the dam walls being open to allow the cold water to get past as well as creating electricity for the towns nearby by passing through the turbines further down river. This made fishing from the bank virtually impossible! This would of been the preferred method as we could of put a bed of bait out there and got the fish to come to us, but as the Ebro didn't decide to play ball we got on the boat and went hunting one end to the other, live baiting and trawling with spinners drifting up and down, back and forth... nothing would give? It became unbearable... the neck cramp kicked in after two full days and nights putting everything into it but still no sign. The 3rd day kicked in and was feeling a bit bat-

tered and disheartened, we decided to switch it up a bit and decided to fish for carp until it got dark and then go for the cats later in the night to see if they had a change of heart.

Around 6pm that day before it got dark and out the blue the right hand rod went off and Emma was into it!! First blood and she landed a common. The brummie duo where off the mark which seemed of a god send after the first couple of days, then it went quiet again so we got the rods in ready for the night looking for these Ebro cats. After anchoring up by the dam live bait was out and it got dark really dark! We couldn't even see the float so feeling the line was imperative. A couple of hours into dark and the furthest float from the boat stayed on surface but come closer to the boat as the flow was strong. Winds where high, it seemed as though it

got pushed to us but feeling the line could tell something was giving it ago so I wound in the slack and bang!! It's on!! With the first thoughts "Yeah, I can handle this, a cat isn't so bad" and with it being my first ever I wasn't ready for that first pull and it dragged me to other side of the boat so a bit more clutch allowed me to get back to my feet! It would pull and pull, went left round the boat, then right after about 20 mins it finally hit surface and I had landed my first cat... over the 100lb mark would of been nice but at 85lb I wasn't grumbling. Nothing else would give so back to the carp rods again for the rest of the night. 4th day kicked in and the wind had settled slightly so we attempted to fish from the bank with pellet. In and out the lines were as flow was still strong and a lot of weed was coming up the lines so we were having to reset





them all day. Half way through the day Emma landed her first cat at just under 60, then it rattled off again and I had my second cat, smaller than the first at around 30 but was more than welcome with how hard it's been. This cat had some spawning marks all over its head so now it looked as though we were contending with that also. We plugged away for the rest of the day and nothing else wanted a picture so back to the carp rods and set up for the night. We had been baiting up a couple of spots in the margin all week for the carp waiting for them to come in and look for food.

5th day still no carp for me, it was my turn on the rods and they just stayed quiet, nothing was happening, in fact nothing happened that day, we just plugged on looking for these fish. Night set in again and we went back up the dam to set up for the cats as it seemed to work previously. nothing for an hour, then a couple of nibbles on the float and under it went, Emma had a baby cat. It then went quite again so went back to the villa and spent the night in. A fresh head for the morning was needed and 6th day we were out again looking for another bite, still there was nothing. The Germans,

Spanish the Danish were all out looking too, nobody could find anything. The river was truly switched off the final night. We settled in and I was praying to the gods for a break as we were putting in the effort and very persistent... my target I kept low, I just wanted one cat and one carp and with cat already in the bag I was determined to get my first Ebro carp!! More bait went in and we spent most of the day fishing for carp, the night was here and you could hear carp after carp after carp jumping within centimeters of the bank so I knew something had to give.

I knew they were on the bait, splashing all over the rods and about 12pm the rod bleeped once. I thought it might be a lot of weed being pushed down river but then another bleep.. at this point I was stood over the rod waiting for the next bleep and it just belted off at that point, diving straight down in to a weed bed. It tried to get away but I wasn't going to let it go! After 2 mins it hit the surface and I had bagged my first Ebro carp! A 25lb cracking common!

The pressure was off and now the rods was Emmas, as we took it in turns on them, with me waiting days for

that bite yet Emma only had to wait 10 mins as the same rod belted of again.

Another 25lb common for Emma perfect way to end the trip. Nothing else happened from then, we had catfish rods out for the final



hours on the last day just before we packed up and set off home but nothing was to come though and off to the airport we went.

We would like to thank Paul Fagan and Debbie Fagan for their hospitality and guidance while we were there, it was second to none, and thanks to Scott Rowson for the contact made. A couple of new friends and we will be back next year for that 100lb catfish and my 30lb carp.

Until next time bcabca brummie duo out.



Scaling down the gear



How effort helped me to achieve my
PB by Josh Roberts

Where did my idea for writing this article begin? I was looking for a small water to fish, whilst my main club had its closed season.

I wanted somewhere that was not a 'runs water', but yet somewhere I would be able to get a few fish if I did it right. Also I wanted the water to be quiet and not full of other anglers. To start with I looked at some day ticket waters, however I quickly realised that the majority of the day ticket waters were very popular with other anglers and they were also fairly expensive.

So with this in mind the day ticket was out of the question. I started to think that maybe I should look a little closer to home. I remembered that I was also a member of another club which does not have a closed season. Therefore, I looked for nice water on the club that was relatively local and again not fished by many other anglers.

After looking for a short while I came across it, a relatively small 2-acre lake based on a local farm not too far from my house. The first thing I did was speak to some of my mates that are members of the same club and collect some information on the water. I wasn't necessarily asking for tips

on the water (I like to figure that out for myself) I was more interested in whether or not the place was what I wanted.

After gathering up some info on the water it all sounded good. The next step was to go and view the water myself and see if it lived up to my expectations and everything I had heard about the water. And it did, a nice and secluded lake that was quiet and I could tell it was not regularly fished by other anglers, although it was fished by the odd angler every now and again. With this in mind, it was definitely the place I was going to spend the next couple of months. Now to set the scene, the lake is roughly 1 mile from the car park this means that I would have to travel with all my gear for 1 mile across some bumpy and very muddy fields (this is where some of the effort comes into play). Considering the terrain and the relatively long journey I knew I would have to scale down my gear in fact I didn't even take my barrow, just the bare essentials that I would need to safely catch a fish. That consists of my rod bag (with my rods, weigh sling and my landing net inside), an unhooking mat, my chair and my rucksack.

So it was Monday I wasn't able to fish the lake until Friday. So this gave me four days of until I could go fishing, I began to think to myself how can I make my session on Friday easier? How can I make it more likely for me to catch on my first session?

That Monday night I was on Facebook and I saw an article in one of the carp magazines. To cut a long story short the article was about pre-baiting and how effective it can be. Now I had never done pre-baiting before this and if I'm honest at first I didn't think that it would make any difference to my chances. However, the more I thought about it and read into detail about it. I began to realise that it is in fact a great way to make the fish feel comfortable around your specific bait.

So on Tuesday night after college I went and did some pre-baiting. It had rained in the night before so the 1 mile walk across the muddy field was even worse. However, at least I only had my bucket of bait and not all my gear with me. Once I got to the lake I had a look round before I chucked any bait in. I didn't want to be baiting any areas that the fish would not be visiting because that would just be pointless

and let's face it a waste of money.

I saw a few fish showing in some particular areas of the lake, so that is where I baited up. Because of the time of year (it's early Spring) I knew the fish wouldn't be particularly hungry so I just

So I pre-baited Tuesday and Thursday. I hoped that this would have been enough to get the fish used to my bait within a short space of time. Friday came. I woke up excited and couldn't wait to get there. Once I got to the car park I then set up on my

X boilies spread around it. I hoped this feeding situation would pretty much exactly represent the pre-baiting I had previously done throughout the week. Therefore, the fish would be comfortable to take the bait as it would not be any different



wanted to put in enough to get the fish picking up a few of my baits and to get them comfortable around my particular bait. With this in mind I put in roughly four handfuls of boilies on the few spots that I baited up. Overall I would say I put in no more than half a kilo in total. Also I didn't just feed whole boilies I fed a mixture of chopped boilies and whole boilies. I think this is a good edge because it gives me more freedom with my hook bait as the carp will not be used to any particular size or shape of boilies.

1-mile journey to the lake. Due to the muddy and sloppy ground in some places it was quite hard trying to carry all my gear. However, all I had in the back of my mind was "it's worth it for a fish" Once I got to the lake I saw bubbling over the spot I had pre-baited; I was buzzing. I thought to myself "my effort could have paid off". Instantly I checked out my ever faithful D rig with a Natures Baits bloodworm X wafter and a small mesh bag of boilie crumb just to cover the hook point. Then a handful of the bloodworm

to the pre-baiting situation I had been putting the fish through, throughout the week. To start with nothing happened; the first few hours of my session were completely lifeless of fish. Then to my complete surprise I saw some lads pull up at the car park. From a distance I watched them lowed their barrows and set upon the 1-mile journey. As the lads got closer and closer to the lake; I had a bite on my left hand rod; not a run just a bleep. As the lads finally made it to the lake my left

hand rod tore off. It was a great take and as I struck into it I was very nervous, I thought to myself “make all the pre-baiting worth it and land this fish”. It fought hard and for its size it took quite a bit of line. However, after a couple of minutes of a good fight I managed to slip the net underneath at Golden, pristine Common carp. I WAS MADE UP.

Once the fish was in there I ensured it was secure in the net and in a nice deep part of the lake, so that it was safe to leave the fish in the net for a couple of minutes whilst I got my rod back on the spot. With full confidence I slipped on a new rig (exactly the same as the other, just a freshly tied one) and chucked it back onto the spot. Also I chucked in around two handfuls of the bloodworm X boilies around it.

Once I'd safely brought the fish to the Fox easy mat, I took a few self- photos and then weighed the fish. Having already weighed and zeroed the sling the fish weighed in at just over 14lb. It was a lovely fish to catch for my first fish from the lake.

A couple of hours passed by and if I'm honest at this point I was expecting to of had at least one more. At

this point I did what lots of us are carp anglers seem to do when The bites stop, I began to doubt myself and my rigs (let's face it from time to time we all doubt ourselves). But then I thought to myself “snap out of it I've already caught one fish this way I know it works”.

Now it was getting towards the end of the day and if I'm honest I was not extremely confident in catching another. But as always I stuck it out for as long as possible. To put a timescale on it, it was 4:30 and I had to leave at 6 o'clock so it really was last knockings. I decided to do one more cast on both rods keeping them in the same positions as they had been all day as I'd seen no reason to move them. Thoroughly checking both of the rigs I cast them both back out onto their previous spots and scattered at couple of handfuls of boilies around them both. At this stage I'd done all I could, I started to pack up all the stuff I didn't need for the rest of the session. Then I had a run on my right hand rod and I sprinted towards it and struck into it. NOTHING WAS THERE. A few swear words came out; I thought to myself “that's it I'm out of chances now”. Despite this, I checked the rig and it was okay, so

I cast the rod straight back out onto the same spot. As I slowly walked back to my chair drowning myself in self-pity, I couldn't believe it I had another run. However, this time it was on the left hand rod from the spot which produced that Beautiful common from earlier on in the session.



“This is my last chance; I have to land it” I thought to myself. Also, it felt like a really good fish, as you can imagine this did not help with my nerves. The fight lasted around 10 minutes and finally I managed to get the net underneath it. It was a beautiful common, I thought to myself this could be a new PB; I was filled with excite-

ment. Because I was going home soon I didn't bother recasting the rod I just unhooked the fish in the net and safely put my rod to one side. Now that there was no hook in the fish's mouth I folded the net down and ensured that all the fishes fins were flat against itself and safely brought it to the Fox easy Mat. Usually, I weigh

the fish after I have taken the photos, however this time I just couldn't wait, So I weighed it and I couldn't believe it, not only a new PB at 21.5lb; it was my first 20lb. NOW I WAS JUST BUZZING. Filled with adrenaline I did some self-photos and then checked the fish for any wounds on it that I could treat with the carp care Kit.



1.5lb common

It was now time to put in the fish back to its mysterious home and watch it swim away (my favourite part of every capture; watching the fish swim away). I took it to a deeper part of the lake around 15 yards from my rods and watched it gradually swim away. Now looking at the time I had left, I needed to pack my stuff up and set up on my 1-mile journey across the muddy fields to the car park. The journey didn't seem as bad as it did on the way there. I walked back with a huge Cheshire cat like smile on my face, I think it had got something to do with the new PB I'd just caught myself.

What a day I'd had. Let's face it it's not every day that you catch yourself a new PB, especially when it's your first time fishing the water. I've convinced that the capture of that fish was the effort that I put into the pre-baiting, the fact that I got the fish feeling comfortable around my boilies, I believe really helped me to catch both the fish. I think it goes to show that if you put in the effort for your fish then at some point, whether it's your 1st session or your 20th session you will at some point achieve success. Also, I think it's important that people aren't put off by Lakes that

are hard to get to because as I've proven I think that these lakes can sometimes be the best ones as they are generally not finished as often as the easier access lakes.

Effort = success.

A massive thanks to Brian Dixon for having me feature in this edition of Talking Carp. Also, another huge thanks to my bait team, Natures Baits.

Josh



The first fish; a 14lb common

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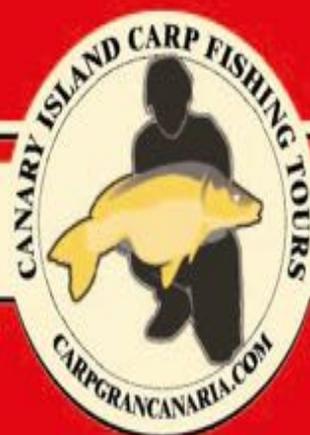
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Hardcore Carper Social by
Daz Womack

The day had arrived for our first Hardcore Carper social at Beedles lake, Leicester. It was all arranged by one of our promo team member's William who is a regular at the venue, it was only my second outing of the year so I was well up for it. I was up earlier than expected as always when I'm off fishing. I made myself a brew as I was sorting out my food bag. I started loading up the car supping my cuppa in between, I couldn't wait to get off... my journey was around 80 miles or there about, and most of the drive was down the M1 so it wasn't too bad anyway. I quickly drank the rest of my tea as I was eager to get off. I punched in the area code for Beedles lake that was it I was off. I soon got onto the M1 and I'd been driving for an hour or so when the satnav switched itself off as I'd forgotten to charge it the day before!! I had no power lead in the car and after a bit of a panic I drove into the first services I came to. Luckily I had some mobile data on the phone so I put in the area code and set off for the last 35 miles of my journey.

I finally arrived at the lake and pulled into the car park, my first impressions of the lake looked promising, the weather looked good, there

was a bit of a cold wind blowing from left to right and it looked good for a bite or two. I drove round the lake to see if any of the lads were there setting up. I drove as far as I could, looking at a few pegs on the way. I spoke to one angler and he was pike fishing so I really didn't have a lot to go on. I drove back to the car park and one of the Hardcore Carper lads rang me, they will be arriving at around dinner time...my pal who was travelling from Sheffield wasn't arriving till mid-morning either, so I decided to go in search of a peg.

I drove on to a spit, it was like an island with water at either side of it, anyway I pulled up to the first guy on there who was setting up. It was one of the five Hardcore Carper guys so I introduced myself to them and we all shook hands as we've only interacted through social media. Anyway the guy that had organised the social was coming the other way on his mountain bike as he was local. We shook hands as we greeted one another, I asked him where was a good peg as I had no idea about the lake. There was a few pegs available for me to drop into and we walked further down the spit. Matt, another Hard-

core Carper member, was setting up on the last peg called the point. We greeted each other and we spoke for an hour or so, then I decided to get on a peg before someone else jumps in. I chose a peg with a fair bit of open water in front of me. I asked Will for a few pointers, and he told me 25 wraps, around 100 yards, I took his advice on board.

I quickly got the bivvy up as there was a bit of fine rain coming down... the crib was up in no time. Time to sort the rods out! I got out the distance sticks and counted out 25 wraps, and with the line in the clip I whacked it out. I could feel the drop, it seemed to be sat in weed... I leaved around at that range, I was picking up a bit of weed which was stuck around the lead so I found a smooth spot which was around 20 wraps.

I decided to go with a choddy rig and I coupled this with a 16mm white Musselberry popup from Beechwood Baits. For the second rod I went with the same as the first rod, only difference is I used a stiff hinge rig with a fluoro pink popup. The 3rd rod was a simple blow back rig coupled with a 16mm Excelsior bottom bait and a mesh bag of boilie crumb,

also I put a handful of full of boilies over the top with a few chops. I spodded around 15 spods of particles and a few handfuls of maggots over my 2 long range rods. That the traps set, time for a well-earned cuppa and time to chillax.

A few hours had passed without any bleeps or signs of any fish activity so fingers crossed it all might kick off tonight. How wrong was I??!! The day light faded away quickly and the light had gone so I introduced a bit of bait. It was time to get the kettle on and settle down for the night ahead.

I was woken up a couple of times through the night to single bleeps but nothing materialised. The night passed with no further indications and I was up early that morning feeling worse for wear as I'd had a rubbish sleep.

The kettle was on and the cup was in hand thinking what was in store for me today... I left the rods till mid-morning as one of the locals said you get bites first thing. Nothing happened so I reeled in the rods and had a word with a few of the lads too see if they had better luck than I had but alas, there answer was same as mine. Nothing. Day 2 of our

48-hour social began I went back to my peg and put a bit more bait out, tied up some fresh popups but this time I trimmed them down a bit and out they went back out to the spots. On the margin rod I changed the bait and decided to go with a yellow corn stack from enterprise plastic baits.... the traps were set once again. I sat back and watched the water for any signs of fish movement hoping it was going to happen. I just needed one bite and I would have been one happy bunny.

Finding out from the bailiff it is not a runs water, with very low fish stock for the size of the lake, and one angler had been there for over two weeks for 4 fish, my hopes of catching a fish was looking slim as we only had 24 hours left.

The second day had flown by meaning time was quickly running out as we move into our last night. Fingers crossed it happens tonight!! I was praying to the carp gods now, it's been a hard couple of days. Maybe it was down to the temperatures as we are still getting cold nights and the winds were freezing, anyway it was that time again to settle in for the night. I was out for the count waking up around 7:30 on the last morning of

our trip the kettle was on and I was thinking if I should have moved or done that or what if anyway it was looking my blanking record was still intact. At least I got my backside bankside! You can't catch them sat at home can you? After all, it was nice to see some of the Hardcore Carper lads.

Anyway it's no good dwelling on the past, time to plan the next one. After a slow pack down, and leaving the rods till the very last minute praying for it to rip off but it didn't... I loaded up the car and said my farewells to the lads. I can't wait to do it all again, so until next time tight lines and be lucky!!

Daz Carper



EAST BAIT



SS

Report 6 – pre baiting with 10 kilo the night before his session in an area where he saw fish proved to be the one for NEB field Tester Simon Gailier, 3 fish on his day session the next day including this new pb common of 37lb made the effort worth it, all his fish falling to Red Reaper Foodsource pop ups.

Report 7 – NEB promo member Josh Newman managed to get off the mark fishing his low stock Res with this scale perfect mirror. Dirty Fruits pop ups fished over a bed of Natural one boilie did the business for young Josh.

Report 8 – NEB Field tester Frank Bowling managed his PB this week from Cromwell. A very respectable 29.12lb mirror fell fowl to a white natural one pop up fished over Red Reaper and Natural one.

Report 9 – NEB field tester Chris Deaton banked this impressive 49lb10oz common whilst fishing at 650 meters out into a 12,000 acre reservoir in france. 20mm Test Bait tipped with a single tiger nut and also a Corn Topper did the business.

Report 10 – NEB promo team member Phil Belton showing us the way with his new pb of 30.1lb banked from the quarry in essex, phil used Irish Nut wafers over large beds of chilli hemp and Irish Nut soaked in Hemp oil fished at range to the small island.

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Galaxy Baits competition winner Gary May with his prize.



Talking Carp Review time...

This month we take a look at a reel from a company name we all know, yet haven't seen for a while. The company of DAM is back folks!! And they are looking to take a slice of the carp market with a new brand name of MADcarp. They're not messing about either, let me tell you.

This month we got hold of the new flagship reels from DAM, the SLS DLX 970 FD and gave them a spin out to see if they lived up to the hype.



First impression out of the box was good. A nice matt black finish to the main body and two identical spools per reel. An oversize and extremely strong bail arm that won't bend or break and a nice rosewood effect handle.

Next up, time to spool up and get them on the bank. The DLX has an extremely super slow oscillation giving a fantastic line lay. I loaded up with a Fox line and found they don't take ridiculous amounts of line that will never see the day. I didn't have to mess about with washers to get the best line lay either!! Straight out of the box and loaded perfectly.

Bank test.... I found the front drag very quick to tighten down from a free running spool and carp fleeing across the lake to having that fish under my control in no time... Probably one of the most impressive drags I've ever used. In short, the reel ticked all my boxes easily and I'm sure they will stand the test of time with no worries. They look good. They performed beautifully and get two thumbs up from me!!



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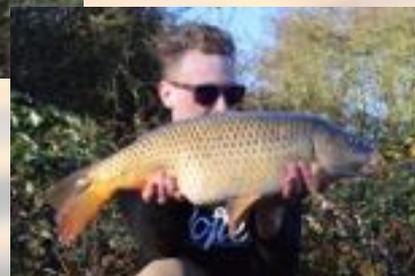
400m/0,35mm line capacity.



Catch Reports.....



On a recent visit at Thorney Weir I was privileged to land a cracking 26.12lb common carp. Hard conditions and a crowded lake didn't put them off the feed and the new DP2 boilies from Deep Carp Baits (Portugal) have done the job once again. A great venue, I'm sure I'll be back chasing a bigger one.



Sharp Tackle team member Andrew Roberts has been catching on a size 8 curve shank from Sharp Tackle with my new multi stiff rig fished with Crafty Catcher King Prawn.



Just done a 36 hr session at
Cuttle Mill resulting in 4

carp, biggest being 21lb 6 Oz mirror, 2x 19lb plus and 1 at 17 plus all caught on Natures Baits scud boilies and Natures Baits Berry Bite pop ups. A hinged stiff rig. Best regards

Andy Hyden.





I decided to go for a few hours at my local fishery. I ended up having 2 carp, caught on Natures Baits Alpha range boilies on a kd rig. Well pleased catching these 2 after only doing a few hours.



Anthony Garner utilising particles from Deep Blue Particles and Richworth Tutti Frutti to great effect on his Hybrid Tackle end gear and catching consistently and confidently wherever he goes.





A day out for Sharp Tackle team member Brad Nick resulted in these crackers weighing in at 28lb, 24lb and 21lb. Brad fished both a D-rig with a Sharp Tackle size 6 curve shank and a stiff hinge rig with a Sharp Tackle size 6 Choddy hook and Sharp Tackle Chod Filament and a little pink dumbbell on both, over a bed of boilies.





Hillside Fishery, just outside Burnley in Lancashire is certainly fishing well after receiving a huge extra stocking of carp from Pendle View when it shut its gates recently. Hillside Fishery now boasts a runs water in "Berts Pool" with over 200 carp to 28+ and a few cats to 45lb, and the old trout lake will be opening up as a proper specimen water later this year after some bankside work and will boast carp into the 30s and pike to mid-20s. Here's a couple from Berts pool on a recent short session, one caught on Galaxy Baits Nutjob boilie and plastic corn and the other on a hi vis zig rig. Ashima end products holding firm!! Both fish easily tamed on the new DAM D-Fender 2.75 t.c rods and DAM SLS DLX reels
Ring Albert on 07984 726127 or Dave on 07976 934648 for further information or to book on.





Team Kudos Tackle went to Linear fisheries Hardwick/Smiths lake recently and Emma Smith takes up the tale:-

We arrived later than planned as we didn't get there until 6pm, so most of the lake was already occupied, but we found a couple of swim fairly close to each other where we noticed some fish holding up in that area. Trying a variety of different tactics between us, it was clear that the best way of catching in this area was with zigs – Jamie Collet started the run of captures that evening on 6 foot zigs tipped in yellow, it was a quiet night but the fish were back on the bank come the morning, again on zigs up to 10foot. We finished our overnight social seeing a number of fish on the bank for all of us topped by Jamies capture of a hard fighting 28lb mirror

Many thanks
Kudos Tackle®

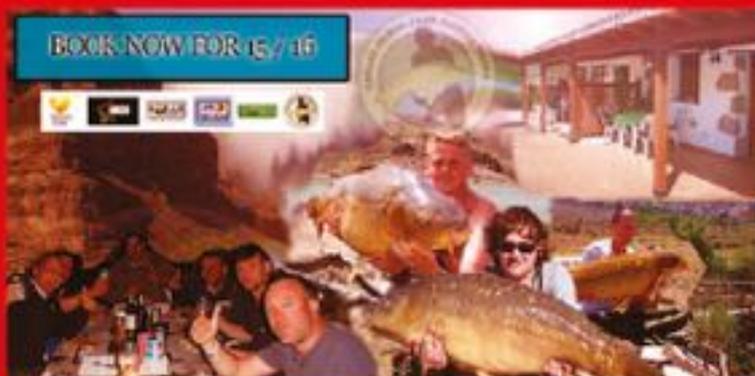


Having half day fishing on my local pond in Doncaster, only managed the one, first time using a chod, landing a lovely 15lb common carp, other than this not a beep on other two rods due to the up n down weather conditions and heavy frost. Paula



A new PB for Paula Feeney on a baking hot half day session, using the Urban Bait Nutcracker bottom bait landing this 18lb 9oz stunning common carp on my local pond in Doncaster.

BOOK NOW FOR 15/16



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