



Talking Carp

Magazine

Issue 86
April 2023



Marc Voosen
Interview

Scott Grant
The Dell

Tamas Skaczal
8 days in Eden



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Hello and welcome to issue 86.

This month we bring you sunshine, blue skies and buds on the trees as we welcome in Spring 2023... and about time too I think!!

This month we bring you another jam packed carp fishing magazine, as we talk to Jules about the good, the bad and the ugly of modern day media. We return to The Dell with Scott Geezer Grant for more of his Essex adventures. Talking Carp regulars Andy Murray and Richard Handel bring you two thought provoking pieces, and we even have a great piece from Tamas as he tells you of his recent trip to the magnificent Gilhams Fishery in Thailand... a venue on most anglers bucket list no doubt.

Remember... we are always looking for fresh new stories, articles, hints and tips to fill the pages of YOUR carp angling magazine. So if you have a story to tell, or some tales you would like to share, and catch reports of your latest trophies then please feel free to drop us an email at the usual emails. Have yourselves a great month, and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Tight lines and happy fishing

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Take a Friend Fishing More Opportunity Than Ever for Angling Success

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

**Saturday 29th of July to Sunday 3rd of September
2023**

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

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

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

Get Involved with Angling This Summer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Social Media

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TakeAFriendFishingTAFF

Instagram: www.instagram.com/taff_ata

Talking Point



with Julian Cundiff

TALKING POINT...

Spring Time

with Julian Cundiff & Brian Dixon

Hello and welcome.... To Springtime!

The clocks have gone forward, daffodils are a common sight roadside and the weather is finally due to improve.

All this can only mean one thing.... A new fishing season, new waters to be explored and new campaigns are under way.

Now the one thing that has changed in recent years is the amount of information available at the touch of a button. Long gone are the days where you had to wait a few years on a waiting list to gain access to a new and exciting water, and spending time talking to other members, getting your face known, putting in the hard work and the man hours. Today, a quick look on the internet will give you all the information to get started on 99% of the UK's waters. (There are still one or two hidden gems!)

Now while some may say it's all too easy these days to get the information... Let's flip the coin on that. Someone, somewhere has gone to a lot of trouble to film, write, edit and publish this information. As you, yourself, have spent countless hours, days, months and years sharing your knowledge how do you feel about that?

Jules: Cheers Brian, it may well be spring (in theory) but believe me it's still flipping cold round here. I judge water temperatures by how long it takes my (properly used) PVA foam nuggets to hit the surface when using them with my multi rig. I'm still having to wait around 30 - 45 seconds for them to pop up so yup it's still cold but I'm catching regularly so I can live with that . To be honest it can stay like this for a bit longer as it keeps the ' fair weather carpers ' inside (they've got it right I think at times).



: To be honest I don't mind at all... after all six books in , hundreds if not thousands of articles written I can hardly complain that it's all too easy can I ? I'm part of the problem in that sense...not that there is one ! I guess when Kevin Maddocks wrote and released Carp Fever many old school carp anglers could say the same thing ? KM is making it too easy...as was Rod, Andy and co. And to that comment I'd simply yawn loudly! Welcome to the modern world, do it on your own terms and avoid looking at or thinking about stuff that riles you especially when you have no control over it !

Bri: one thing most of us media guys seem to be guilty of is working from the bank. Whether it's writing, editing, taking pictures or trying to organise future media and so on... Even I have to hold my hands up to this one. Has it effected my fishing sometimes? Absolutely! Should I have been watching the water instead of a laptop or phone screen? Absolutely! But did it give me a chance to catch up on media work...yes it did. but at what cost? Question is

though, are you as guilty as the rest of us or do you actually switch off when you get on the banks?

Jules : I can honestly say that 99% of the time it does not affect my carp fishing....because I don't do it. Other than filming the ' Practical Carping ' and ' Let's Go Carp Fishing with..' video's (yes VIDEOS) in the mid to late nineties for Kevin Maddocks company and an unreleased winter carp fishing film with Andy Little and Tim Paisley I've never filmed on the bank....or been filmed. I did two bankside interviews on the bank but other than that nope. I've never handwritten or used a laptop to write an article on the bank (and remember I've been producing articles from 1982 to 2023) which will amaze many. Being on the bank is my escape and although I have commitments to Nash, Rig It Tackle, Total Carp, CARPology, Carp Fisher Revisited, Carpfeed, Improve Your Coarse Fishing, Talking Carp, Carp Dream Association etc the words are not produced bankside now or then! I may well do a short social media post for Facebook, Instagram or Twitter but ONLY when the rods are out and I'm not thinking of moving. I guess it does impact slightly on my fishing but at a minimal level that I'm happy to live with. Carp fishing is MY escape not a job or a chore hence almost forty years in I love it just as much. You show me any others that have and STILL produce the content I do and are still as keen ? Good luck with that!





Bri : One habit I have picked up recently, is when I'm travelling to a fishing session when I'm alone in my car. Where I used to play my favourite albums or

playlists to get me hyped up for some much needed banktime, I now find myself listening to fishing podcasts whilst I'm driving. I've heard some great ones in my time, that really got me thinking... for example I was listening to Joe Turnbull on one journey and he was talking rigs and gave a link to a YouTube video on the rig.... And I only went and had a go at making it, fishing it, and caught on it... good bit of fun! And then I've heard others that just baffled my head when some anglers really try and big themselves up. I know you've done some, and they have been very enjoyable.. would you like to do more? And what about you... do you actually listen to other podcasts?

Jules: I love podcasts and over the course of a week probably listen / view around twenty all in. Some are probably thirty minutes maximum whilst others nearer ninety and often a lot more. I'd guess that maybe 10% are carp fishing related whilst the rest are



bodybuilding, music, KISS, professional wrestling, the criminal underworld or F1. Not that carp fishing ones are not good but yee gods I work in the industry, I fish a lot and I need to



escape from it at times. When I see a guest or subject that tweaks my interest of course I'm on it. Hassan, Simon, Rich and co have so many good guests BUT I'm a carp angler not podcast fanatic. The same goes for YouTube too, there's only so much fishing I want to see on the screen. I guess being older, hell old I choose the print medium rather than the television medium.

Bri : I've seen a real rising trend lately of "live from the bank" on media platforms such as TikTok and Facebook... and it amazes me sometimes. The host will sit and talk for hours on end with people commenting on the live feed...and it's going down really well with the public. Even to the point of the excitement of a "live " run happening on camera gets everyone excited. What's your thoughts

on this? Maybe you could do a "live feed" from one of your sessions for the public.



Jules: I can see why it's popular and once again it's not my thing. I just don't feel I'm doing myself justice if I'm concentrating on that rather than my fishing ; hence I'm a



Cactus Jack vs Vader WCW Saturday Night: Foley Is Pod
FOLEY is POD · 686 views · 3 hours ago

bloody awful social angler. As I said before bankside is my escape and no matter what time of year, no matter how slow it was being glued to interacting with others kind of defeats why I go in the first place ? Part of me would love to film a ' fly on the wall ' piece so people could understand the effort I put in to make it look easy but another part of it says that would feel like work ! I guess those employed full time in the industry do it as part of their job but thankfully Nash like what I do and allow me to do it that way (cheers Henry ...)

Bri: I kind of knew the answer to that one as I was asking the question haha. Another thing that we have touched upon in the past is bankside filming. Now to some it may seem like someone will rock up, press record on the camera and start bagging up... But we both know the countless time and effort that goes into bankside filming. From the initial phone call of booking a lake and some pegs ... To getting a crew together... The time and effort put into preparation and then fishing, the number of times you may have to do something over and over again because the sun went behind a cloud, or it starts to rain, or your rod goes off mid sentence... And don't even get me started on the amount of gear that is then used to get the one perfect shot... to the final edit and release of the bankside film...but even with that all taken into account it still gives a real buzz when the final edit hits media and is watched by the public. It all becomes worthwhile then don't you think?

Jules : I'm sure it does



Live or media employee filming it definitely impacts on concentration, effort and quite frankly my enjoyment of why I go in the first place. The films that Henry, Jacob, Alan, Oli, Cypography, Joe Morgan and others produce are incredible but as you say the time, effort, editing and expense is huge. I felt / feel that way about what I produce in print and I'm sure they feel that way about what they produce for films.

Bri : All in all, as far as modern media is concerned, whether is blogging, live feeds, YouTube videos etc, I can see it as a great way to source information, and a great way of spreading information. Education is paramount in this sport as we do improve it all the time. ... And what better way to learn? But not when you are sat in your bivvy with your head in your phone! Save it for when you're home, or at work... when you're on the bank, enjoy the time. Make memories, take pictures, catch fish...then go home and watch your videos I say.

Jules: I guess it's whatever your carp fishing is to you. I honestly can't give it 100% if I'm watching my phone all the time but that's me and what I want from my carp fishing. For many it's a social with mates, a getaway from work / wife / kids and if a film etc is all part of it so good on you. That said if you're results are not all you want them to be I guarantee you won't catch any less by watching the water more. My distraction is the audible



podcast as I can listen and still watch the water whilst doing it. Interviews like the ones Rich and Hassan do are perfect for this so that's my secret pleasure !

Bri : As for the likes of yourself Jules, who will continue to bring you regular content from the bank and still manage to catch fish regularly, so anyone can keep an eye on his pages as they're all free and he's very easy to contact if you have a question for him, or something you may be struggling with... and on that note we will wrap it up there this month.. Happy fishing everyone!

Jules: Thanks Brian I've always said I will keep producing content and as long as I want to and as long as people want it. Yes those that support me get my absolute best efforts at a level I'd treat full time employment but it DOESN'T feel like a ' proper ' job so I give it my all in a way I feel happy. Over and above what is required usually but that's good parents, good role models and watching the likes of Tim, Nashy, Alan and co do. There's three that never shirked or did half a job ! As ever feel free to contact me anytime you want....as long as I'm not on the bank of course. Most of my work is done on the treadmill or stationary bike at home...and I'm not joking.

Have a great month.

Jules

Facebook Julian P Cundiff /
Julian Cundiff Angling

Instagram julescundiff1

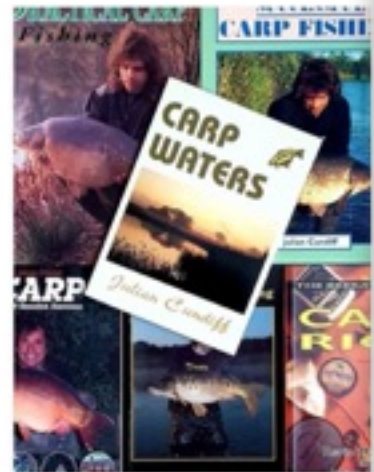
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TalkingCarp

Julian Cundiff Angling

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



Julian Cundiff Angling

Julescundiff1

@Juliancundiff

Spring fishing by Andy Murray



Hi all, in my last article I spoke about the main rigs I used for most of my carp fishing, the plan being to follow up on a piece about bait and application for the early part of the year. However, I had a month off from writing as we had a major holiday planned for some much needed R&R, ticking one of our bucket lists trips off.

When my wife was struggling with the Chemo a couple of years ago, we made a list of things to do once she was in remission and we could all travel freely again. One of those things was to travel to the Pacific to see the Whales close up. It's hard to believe that three weeks ago we were sailing in the Pacific Ocean. We had a great holiday though, on the Pacific coast of Mexico and we got to see the Whales really close up as we had planned, it's fantastic sight to see a 40 ton Whale breach right in front of the boat, then see another couple of Whales swim under the boat, mother and baby as well. It was also great to spend time on the beach, chill out, read and feel the sun on our bodies, lots of nice food, and more than a few cocktails! All in all, a trip worth waiting for...I am back in the groove now with work and very much looking forward to getting out on the bank again on a regular basis.

It's been a funny old winter, but whatever seems to have been causing my lethargy from fishing seems to have disappeared now. All my gear is sorted, the downsizing of tackle I completed in the Autumn has made things much easier for sorting out my gear. Bait is made up in the freezer, pellets mixed, bottles of glug mixed up. I thought I would talk through my baiting approach for the first part of the year and a bit about the use of bait in general.

I joined the Key Baits team last summer and spent the next few months trying different things from the range in order to get the feel of what I was going to use on a more permanent basis. I started using the All Seasons Mix (ASM), which I am going to continue with this year, it catches so many carp. Whilst I was doing that, at the same time looking at the different variations of Pop-ups, Wafers, hard Hook-baits etc. There are so many to look at, which is the same with most companies these days, we all seem to be taking more and more pots of hookbaits fishing, more than we need most of the time I think. I remember when the choice was much more straightforward, a bottom bait or a pop-up. It certainly used much



less space in the tackle bag. It's also the same with the choice of size and type of boilies as well, 8, 10, 12, 15, 18, 20mm and more, as well as different types of dumbbells. Most companies have some form of matching pellet as well. Then you can chop, crumb, blend etc. it's no wonder newer anglers to the sport can get confused at times.

So here are a few thoughts that may be of help to some anglers. I see anglers mixing up concoctions to bait up with, not realising, that the more additives they put in, the more they are likely to put the carp

off feeding. I explain it like this to newcomers-if you are eating chicken, you might have Stuffing, Pork, you might have Apple Sauce, Beef, you might have Horseradish, Chips- Mayonnaise or ketchup etc. What you wouldn't do is put all of these on one dish would you? It's the same with making boilies, some additives go well with some base mixes, but more additives doesn't necessarily mean better bait, it can work the other way and the bait can become unpalatable. Try to stick to proven recipes rather than taking a kitchen sink approach, thinking more is better. Let's start with a basic boilie approach, so I'll start by saying if I was fishing a smaller water or a syndicate water on a regular basis. I would pre-bait on a very regular basis with one size of boilie and then fish with that, as the carp got a taste for eating the free bait, then they become more catchable when fishing. Going back to my very early days carp fishing in the late 80's and 90's I used to reckon about 60 * 4 egg mixes would start to produce results above what other anglers were achieving. As my confidence

grew in this approach, I started using more bait which increased the lock I was looking for. This approach worked on most waters I fished and became even more effective when I teamed up with others in both making bait and putting it in, some of the results were outstanding! So, if I was fishing one water on a regular basis I would be looking to let the carp get a good taste of the bait before I fished with it, and/or as I was fishing on a regular basis, I would bait as I leave, or make extra trips just to put bait in, some waters I fished in the past, where pre-baiting was frowned upon, or I didn't want others to know what I was doing, I would creep on in the dark hours with a bucket or two of bait just to put some bait in safe areas, ssshhhh...don't tell anyone... The more applying bait works, the less I feel the need for tricks and traps to catch carp...However...

As I am fishing much larger day ticket waters these days, fished by a lot of anglers, then I have to look for a different approach that will trip up the carp. Now, and this is a big now, different approaches are called for on different waters and at different times of year. There are times to fish with very little bait and times to fish with plenty of bait. You will only learn this by trial and error, it does help if others will part with some info about this and will no doubt save a few blanks. As I mostly fish on my own, then I have to formulate my own opinions. But it is always worth having a chat with others, just a general chat, if info is offered, it can be a big help.

The following points are how I look generally at bait application



throughout the early part of the Spring into the summer, this is the period from the carp starting to move around the lake after winter up to the carp Spawning, after that I class it as summer fishing. Generally, at the start of the spring I will not tend to use much bait if any, on some waters I will start with a single

hookbait and see how it goes for a little while, it does depend on the amount of carp I think are about. Most of the time I do want some attraction in the area I am fishing, this is best achieved by heavy liquids and fine chops/crumb, or dissolving pellets, or a combination of all three. The reason for this, especially on busy day ticket waters is that I may be fishing over other anglers bait, so I start off with single or a small bag, then lightly with bait and then increase feeding bait as and when I get bites, which isn't all the time, it is a fine line though and can often go wrong. Sometimes just starting with a small bag packed with pellets and liquid is enough to start as opposed to a single hookbait. When I do feel the need for a bit of attraction around the hookbait, I don't want to overdo it, you can see the picture with the scoop of bait, this is how much bait I would want around my hookbait to start with, just enough to create some attraction, without too much food around. This is a mixture of crushed ASM boilies, some of the matching ASM dissolving pellets, these are new from Key Baits, the pellets dissolve quite quickly, which I like, the other thing I add is a mixture of Hemp oil and the Hydro Liver, which is a really great additive. This is quite a potent mix and not a lot is needed at any one time. Here's the thing, you must consider how deep the water is where you are fishing, and how often to top up the spot you are fishing. The carp pictured in this article was caught in 18 foot of water, so a little



more feed may be needed to create some attraction around the hookbait. In shallower water, less is needed. If smaller species are present, then more topping up the swim will be needed on a regular basis. Even though I am only feeding a small amount at a time, over a couple of days I will use a few kilos of bait, I'm just not putting it all in at once. The other thing about topping up with this type of bait on a regular basis is that I am creating a 'smell' through the water column, this is especially useful when Zig fishing, which should always be on the cards at this time of the year. I would usually have 2 rods on one baited area, one on the hard deck

and one on a Zig, then all that's needed is the odd Spod of bait that will keep smell through the column from the lake bed to the surface. I remember a couple of years ago at Trent View an angler near me was fishing all three rods on adjustable Zigs, for bait he was using pellet slop, as he said at the time "just to get some smell in the water", a good description I think, and it was definitely working for him on that session.

As for the rig and hookbait for Spring fishing, Zigs apart, unless I am using a PVA bag, at this time of year I would prefer to use a pop-up, as the lake bed will have a lot of decaying matter left from the winter, and it can be easy for hookbaits to get absorbed or covered by this. With a pop-up on it will stand clear, I will mostly opt to use a Stiff Hinged Rig with a small pop-up, usually a neutral colour to start with as well, the 12mm ASM matching pop-ups are perfect for this, I might switch to a brighter attractor type hookbait such as the Pubchucker Specials if no bites were forthcoming. The carp featured in this article was caught last week at Trent View using the tactics I have just talked about, all on the hard deck, though I do feel I should have worked a bit harder with the Zigs, I had three carp that session, including a brace of 25lb carp, which I think is really good for my first trip of the year. Just enough bait in the swim all the time to tempt a few carp over a two day period, whilst results in general around the lake were still patchy. As I am putting the finishing touches to this article I am planning my first trip to the A1 Pits of the year on Sunday, talk about excited...I'll let you know how I get on.

Catch you next time.
Andy





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An aerial photograph of a wide river, likely the River Mersey, with a small boat in the center. The river reflects the sky and the surrounding landscape. In the background, there is a line of trees and a city skyline, including a prominent bridge and industrial buildings. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

*TALES FROM A CARPING
JOURNEYMAN #2
- Rod Bird*

Return to the Park Lake

After an 18-month gap from my last visit to Charltons Ponds in Billingham near Stockton on Tees I was actually quite excited as I'd walked round it a few times in the last month and was amazed at the changes to then place. All the swims had been upgraded and re-barked and were looking clean and tidy, but more importantly, unused. The water is around 12 acres on the banks of the ICI where Bladerunner was filmed in the 80's and it's not a glamorous location but it's a little hidden gem.

The carp in there only go to mid 20's, but it's about 5 minutes from my house, so with a short break in the weather with low pressure on the way and the lake having just defrosted, I planned a 48hr trip.

It's a proper 'Park Lake' with dog walkers etc. constantly going around and the swims are actually on the paths so you just can't tuck yourself away, so if it's a quite time you're after this is not the place for you.

A quick check of my Members Only Rule Book noting the 2-rod rule, barbless hooks only, no floating baits due to it being a bird sanctuary and no bait boats, I started to get my gear together. The fancied swims are a fair walk from the car park so I got my trusty Carp Porter Fatboy MK2 out of hibernation and checked the batteries etc.

I've got a **Barrow Conversions UK** 'Power Kit' for it with the rear wheels and the extended handles, it's now a Rolls Royce of Carp Barrows and makes my life so much easier than lugging my tackle about 700 meters to any of the 2 top swims.

My baiting strategy was going to be crushed **Karper LTD** Sweetcornz Boilies, Hemp and Maize with hemp oil, Sweetcornz Pellets with the Sweetcorn Energizer Syrup all in one Spod mix, with my ever-reliant Karper LTD 'Tutti Frutti Ultra-Fluro Pop-Ups' fished Ronnie style, simples!

So on the first Thursday in March just on first light I walked round the lake a few times, and with nothing showing I opted for Peg 2 out of 21 pegs,



the wind was heading in there and there was a bit of slack water in peg 1 against the far margin so I was hoping that no one was going to go into that peg so I would have plenty of water to myself, but looking at all the pegs and their lack of obvious use I was confident it was the right strategy.

I knew a few spots in front of me one at 16 wraps and one at 23.5 wraps (I keep a note every time I go fishing so on my return I've got a starting point) so I wrapped my Marker Rod up and with just a lead I started to investigate the water in

front of me..... my 16 wrap mark was full of stinking dead weed and didn't feel too good to me, so after about half an hour on there I re-wrapped the Marker Rod and tried the longer spot... It's normally like the surface of the moon out there and there's a good 8 foot gap between the reed beds and a little summer only island, as it's basically a circle of reeds that the carp use as a thoroughfare from the "No Fishing Zone" into the main body of the lake, but to be honest I was struggling with the wind, a good 40mph straight at me, but let's face it that's the norm nowadays when you get low pressure, I could probably get my rigs and bait to the spot but it was a bit hit and miss really, so I slowly dragged the lead back to me and I found a tiny gravel spot at 18.75 wraps.

I brought it in and re-cast about 8 times to check I had the right skyline marker, which was quite easy really as it was one of the 100ft cooling towers from the ICI, spot one sorted, but no way could I get 2 rods on



there.....

... I turned my attention to my second rod and cast an unclipped lead out to Peg 1's margin where there is a prominent tree that leans out over the water that used to do a few bites, so it was aimed at that.

It went down with a thump, "hell yeah"....!! I clipped up and reeled it back in, 3 more casts to confirm the thump and it felt sweet as a nut, so I counted the wraps, what's the chances 18.75 wraps again!, give or take an inch or 2, but not an issue as the clear area is quite large so I could get away with a few inches, so only one Spod Rod needed "whoop, whoop."

Seeing that I'd thrashed the water to a foam with the Marker Lead I decided to get the Spodding done straight away, clipping it up at 18.5 wraps just allowing for the drop back on the cast of the lead, just for starters, I put ten Spods of my mix on each spot.

That done I set my bivvy up, organised my gear and got a brew on....!!! After a sip of my first brew, I was just tucking into some Fig Rolls (the king of biscuits) when everything changed for me, but not in a fishing sense.

The Phone Call

.... I received a call from my Doctor to inform me that I now had Type 2 Diabetes and that I need to go to the Medical Centre for more tests as soon as possible...! I informed her that I was fishing and that I could pack up straight away, but God bless her, she said there wasn't that much of a rush and could go the following afternoon, cool, I could still fish the rest of the day and night into tomorrow lunchtime... Is it just us Carp Anglers who think





like this? I also asked her if I could finish my Fig Rolls and although she wasn't too happy about this question, she saw the funny side and didn't actually say I couldn't finish them, so I did, well you would wouldn't you!..... Back to the fishing.....

After my brew and biscuits, I got my rigs out. The Peg 1 rig went out fine and hit the clip perfectly, my Tower Spot rig

was a little more troublesome and took three casts to get right as the spot was really small, a right pain as I had to change my PVA mesh bag every cast, but you know me by now, if it isn't right it won't so, so I persevered and got there in the end. The rest of the day was quiet with no shows or touches, but the wind was slowing down and I felt quietly confident. I saw a couple of Coots spook as the sun was starting to drop and I thought "yep, you guys have just seen a carp".

Just on dusk my Tower rod was away, nothing special really, about 12lbs, but it was March Carp which I very happily put back and reset the rod with five Spods of mix over the top and within the hour it was away again...! Again nothing to write home about (hang on a minute....I'm doing that now lol) and once again I slipped it back re-cast with a further Five Spods over the top.

I was starting to worry about my Peg 1 rod and decided to bring it in and on retrieval I noticed that it was wrapped around my lead clip and there was a bit of Maize on the hook point..?! I change the Pop-Up and recast it, once again it went down with a thump, and put Five Spods of mix over the top of this one too....

...Two hours later that rod was away with a better Carp this time of around



16lb. I was so glad that I had investigated the dormant rod earlier, if I hadn't that fish would never have been caught, just proving the fine margin between success and failure. It was turning into a good session for the time of year.

Without boring you to death I had eight takes and landed all eight Carp with the biggest at around 18lb and all were during the hours of darkness, as soon as the sun came up the runs

stopped! With no chance of a snooze after a busy night, due to all the dog walkers etc. round the lake, I thought it was time to pack up, so there the session ended. In summery Charltons doesn't hold many big Carp with around five or six twenties, but that's not what it's all about.

Whether I'm fishing for doubles or massive fifties my mindset is the same, work hard, fish accurately and above all if you feel something isn't quite right.....change it.

Due to the call from the Doctor the next few weeks were taken up sorting the issue out and to be honest the meds aren't quite right yet but we are getting there and I've got more holes in my fingers than a blind pike angler, but as soon as I felt I had a balance in my eating I was off to Westmoor Farm Fisheries, known as S&R Fisheries in Lincoln for the Carp4Kids Academy meeting, where we would sort out which pegs we would be using in August for the Carp4Kids event, and no, I can't explain why that would take four days to do.....but after the peg check and with three days and twenty-three hours left I thought I'd get my rods out!

To be honest, five of us didn't touch a carp during this time, so first blank of the year it was. I guess the Carp just weren't interested in eating,

so let's brush over that and let me tell you about the Carp4Kids Academy instead.

The Carp4Kids Academy

I got involved last August when I was asked if I could attend the Academy as a tutor. I have my Angling Coach Certificates, and I'm pretty confident talking in front of a group of people, and with 40 years of angling experience I thought I would give it a go and try to put something back into the sport that I love.

The Carp4Kids Academy encourages young Carp Anglers between the ages of 6 and 16 to become Ambassadors of our sport, teaching them about the ethics and tactics of our chosen way of fishing, from Fish Care, Watercraft, Rig Tying, Bait Types, Casting, Feature Finding, Bait Application and Spodding, but it's much more than that, we are 100% into inclusion, some of our students have social issues with shyness, or have been bullied etc, we ensure that ALL our students feel part of the experience and more importantly enjoy the five days with us along with their parents who are there too and they also enjoy the time with, hey your never to old to learn...!



Facebook Twitter Instagram



Carp4Kids Academy
7th to 11th August 2023

carp4ourkids@gmail.com

S&R Fishery



We teach in small groups, depending on age and experience and balance our lessons towards each angler's level of understanding. In the kids eyes the best parts are whilst being taught the rods are out, so many of the lessons are interrupted with a run or two, but that's what it's all about really, last year during the five days over eighty Carp were caught and every single student had multiple captures.

The food is included also and there's plenty of time each day to be with their parents who fish along side them in the swims, and every night is free. The daily lessons last around four hours with plenty of breaks, and we have guest speakers during the event, last year it was Julian Cundiff who the kids loved, this year we have someone very special also lined up, but I'm not letting the cat out of the bag just yet.

The event this year is from **7th to 11th of August** and once again we will be at the fantastic **S&R Fisheries Sandpit Lake** in Lincolnshire. The facilities there are perfect for the event. We ensure that all the kids enjoy themselves and learn so much and leave the event with increased confidence and a better knowledge of their sport.





There are still a couple of places left for this years event, if you would like to get involved please contact via email on carp4ourkids@gmail.com for more details, but be quick as the event is very popular with several returning students from last year.

So, what have I got on next month then, well it's going to be a hectic

time with The **Forces Carp Classic UK** at Wraysbury both the North and South Lakes and I'm in the middle of prep for that one and cannot wait as it owes me a fish, trust me. At the end of this month I've got a **Carp4Kids Fundraiser** in the form of a **Mixed Pairs match at Linear Fisheries B2** and this event is being run by none other than Miranda Brown who is also one of our Tutors at Carp4Kids, so if you would like to know more or get involved in this event message Miranda on Facebook ***miranda.brown.967***

Right, I need to get my gear sorted out for Wraysbury, so tight lines and I'll get back to you next month.

Rod Bird

Facebook: RodBirdCarpAngler

Instagram: @carprod66

TikTok: @carprod66

YouTube: @carprod66

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

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

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

The Carp4Kids Academy:

Facebook: The Carp4Kids Academy

Email: carp4ourkids@gmail.com



A serene sunset scene over a calm body of water. The sky is painted with soft hues of orange, pink, and purple, which are reflected in the still water. A dense line of green trees forms the horizon. In the foreground, on a gravelly shore, three fishing rods are propped up on a stand to the left, and a brown fishing net lies on the ground to the right. A large tree with green leaves is on the far right, partially framing the scene.

The Dell Home grown Magic

by Scott Geezer Grant

After a magical session I still had a few days off from work, I arrived home and the first thing was to get everything charged up, then prepare the bait. Once that was all done, I sorted my clothes bag out then had a shower. The Mrs seemed pleased to see me home but I told her it was going to be brief as I am going back over the lake tomorrow. She was absolutely fine with this and even started to prepare my meals, she really is a keeper.

When everything was sorted, I loaded the van back up ready for the morning. I was up early doors and arrived at the lake just after 10:00 oclock. Once through the gate I stopped off and had a cup of tea with the lads before grabbing a mat, sling & net and making my way down the road bank to the White Bag. Weather wise there was not a wind as such but a gentle breeze, but on checking the weather the wind is due to go East/ North Easterly and pretty strong, pressure was 1022 and rising to 1025, and the temperature was going to be between 22oc-24oc with 15oc at night. I was hoping that the bait would keep the fish in the baited area, as they do like to move on a new wind.

I sat in the swim just watching the water and it was not long before I saw a fish show over the middle rod spot, this gave me confidence that the fish were still here. I wasted no time and started unloading the van and getting the house up and everything sorted. I was keeping the same rigs on the same spots and the bait was also the same. Monster Tuna in mixed sizes, crushed boilies, pellets and Chillie hemp.





With everything complete, it was time to get the rods out to their spots, with the rods out it was time to sit back and relax. My good mate Chris turned up and went into the G Spot swim on the lodge bank and to be honest with the wind changing that is a good shout. Dan was in Bailiffs a swim he has been fishing most of the year.

As it got dark the temperature started to drop and the worrying thing for me was that I did not see any fish showing. Just after 11pm my head hit the pillow and I was out like a light, moments later the left-hand rod was away I scrambled to get out the bag and out of the bivvy, I stepped down to the rods and the fish was still taking braid, I lifted the rod and the fish felt like a decent one, but only because it had already weeded me up. I managed to keep the pressure on and the fish came out but only to find another weed bed, then it went completely solid. I kept a tight line then put the rod back in the rest and loosened the clutch enough for the fish to take braid. It was some 35 minutes later that the alarm signalled and the fish started to take braid, I grabbed the rod and walked backwards keeping the rod as high as I could, my arms were aching like fook, but after all this work the last thing I wanted to do was loose the fish. It must have been some 15 minutes later the fish was now in front of me engulfed in a massive ball of weed, I ended up netting the whole lot. I started to pull the weed out and laying amongst it all was a very pretty scaley





stockie. The fish weighed in at 18lb 11oz and after a few self takes the fish was treated and returned. I rebaited the rod and got it straight back on the spot, I had a big grin on my face and was pleased as punch.

It was 02:00 oclock before I managed to get to sleep

and I did not wake up until 06:00 oclock, the kettle went straight on and I sat watching the water, fish started to show over two of the rods I must have seen at least a dozen shows, and was a little shocked that none of the rods went. Then just after 10:00 oclock the left-hand rod produced another stockie of 20lb 3oz. Mark one of the bailiffs came round and done the photos, they came out pukka cheers mate. The bait was really taking hold and I was kind of hoping that a few of the real big girls would get involved. Lee who was fishing the airfield went home as his back was playing up.

The wind started to get a lot stronger and in the back of my mind I kept thinking the bigger fish had moved. I checked in on both Dan and Chris but as yet none of them had caught, so whatever I was doing was working. Another Angler who was also fishing was Kevin he was in the point and he had banked one of the known fish called "Maria" at 39lb plus, he only took a few self takes as he thought it was a fish he had already caught, but on looking at the photos after he had put her back, it turns out it was a similar fish. So, the bigger fish were about, it was just a case of keep the bait going in and they will come.

Later in the afternoon I wound the rods in and went for a shower and had a social with Chris, I always find it beneficial to rest the swim even if its only for a few hours, it helps. I was back at the swim some 4 hrs later and the first port of call was to get the rods out then have some dinner. I sat

there watching the water well into darkness and boy did they put on a show there was fish showing over all rods, I can't remember the last time I heard the fish crashing out like that, they were really going for it. Come 11pm and I was ready to get some shut



eye. I was having a lovely sleep when my receiver blasted out the right-hand rod was away, I exited the bivvy and lifted the rod the fish gave a good account of itself and luckily for me came in like a dream with no weed beds involved, it was a lovely 18lb 2oz stockie. The wind had turned Northernly and was coming straight at me and it felt quite chilly. Whenever I have fished this swim in previous years the fish always switch off when a Northernly wind hits, and I am hoping it won't be the case this time. I took a couple of self takes and released the fish, it was 05:00 o'clock, I got the rod rebaited and back out on the spot then put the kettle on as I might as well stay up the sun will be coming up soon. Bang on 06:00 o'clock the middle rod burst into life producing a home grown common of 19lb 8oz happy days, self takes again were taken the fish was then treated and returned. With the rod back out it was time to get the kettle on. Just before 10:00 o'clock the right-hand rod was away again this time producing another home grown common of 14lb 11oz, I took a couple of mat shots before getting the rod straight back out there. It would seem the smaller fish have moved into the areas big time and are troughing their heads off.



Chris came up for a chat and after seeing a few fish show out in front of the airfield bank and the fact that I had banked five fish he decided he was going to move in there, Tony turned

up and decided to go into Wardy's two swims down to my left. So, there was now definitely more pressure down this end. It seems the fish switch off after 10:00 o'clock so come midday I wound the rods in made up some new rigs, went for a shower and basically just dossed about until late afternoon when the rods went back out.

I cooked me and Chris a lovely well stacked burger with all the trimmings for dinner then got the rods back out. We sat there chatting and drinking ice cold cider it was just like old times. Chris went back to his swim a little while later and come 10pm I was more than ready for my bed. I felt absolutely knackered when in fact I have done fook all!! I am sure most anglers can relate to this. I woke up at 05:00 o'clock without a fish, which felt strange. It seems of late I cannot catch any more than five fish from this swim. Tony had banked an upper 20lber from the swim next door and that was the only fish caught through the night.

Come 10:00 o'clock and with the rods still laying dormant and the fish not showing anywhere near than what they have been I done exactly the same as yesterday, rested the swim for the day. I did not get the rods back out until 7pm then had some dinner before settling down for my last night. It was another early one for me and at 02:10 I was rudely awoken by the left-hand rod the fish fought like fook and weeded me up a few times, but with constant pressure the fish was finally netted. It turned out to be a lovely common of 22lb 8oz and another home-grown fish. With the self takes complete the fish was treated and returned and the rod was straight back out on the spot. I jumped back in the bag for some much-needed sleep. A couple of hours later I was woken again by the sound of a singing receiver this time it was the right-



hand rod, the fish weeded me almost instantly and even when I applied pressure the fish was just not budging. I put the rod back in the rest and loosened the clutch enough that if the fish wanted to take braid it could. I stuck the kettle on and got dressed then text Ben & Jake stating that I needed to go out in the boat as I



had a fish weeded. Just after 06:00 oclock Jake turned up with the boat, I grabbed my life jacket jumped in the boat with the rod and made my way to the weeded fish, even when we got above the fish it still was not budging and there were bits of weed popping up all around the boat. The fish was burying itself as far as it could in the mother of all weed beds. Jake grabbed the braid and with a little persuasion the fish finally popped up to the surface, but then proceeded to go absolutely mental. It was at least 5 minutes before Jake done the honours with the net. I honestly thought it was going to be one of the known big fish but in fact it turned out to be another common of 21lb 10oz. Ben took some cracking photos then the fish was treated and returned and the rod was put straight back out. That incidentally was the last fish of the session but what another when, is the question, but I am sure it will happen.



Just before midday I started packing down and drove out the gate a couple of hours later with a big dirty grin on my face. Looking at my shifts I only have to go back to work for the next 7 days then I have 4 days off, and you can guess where that will be. But the question is, do I get back in the same swim and does the baiting strategy keep catching, all will be revealed in the next issue of Talking Carp, so stayed tuned.

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

www.a2baits.co.uk

www.sharptackle.co.uk

www.castaway-pva.co.uk

In the Margin Particles (Facebook)

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

The Monster Tuna boilie range along with pop ups, dips etc is readily available at your local stockist, or visit the A2 baits website for the full bait range. www.a2baits.co.uk

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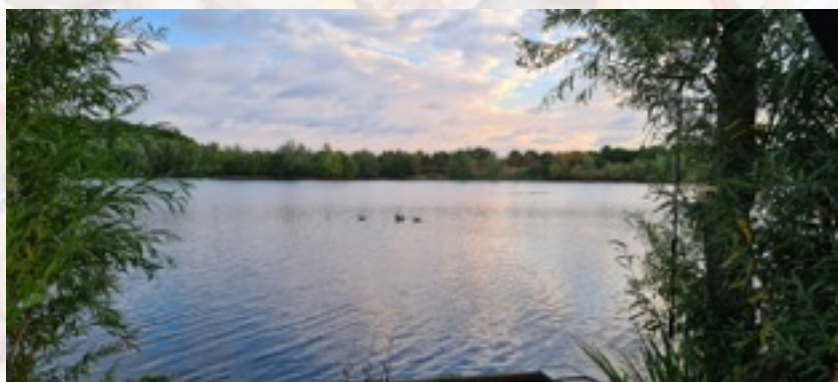
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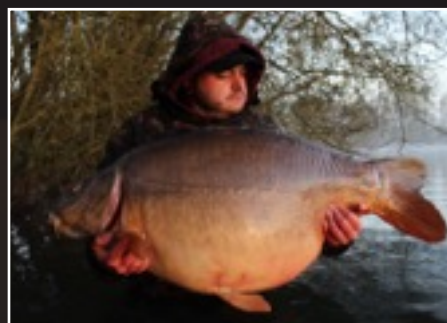
For all your PVA needs head over to the brand-new Castaway website.

Where you will find an array of PVA products that can help you in your fishing. www.castaway-pva.co.uk

Stay safe and remember its only fishing.

Scott "Geezer" Grant





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**“It’s just another Hook...
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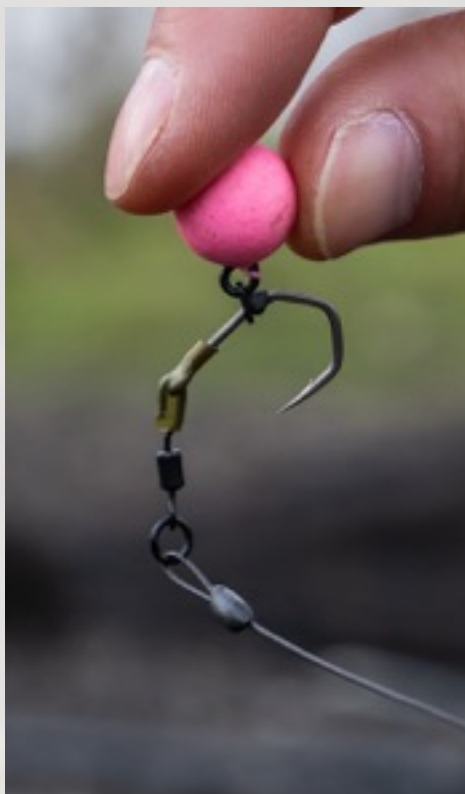
**Interview with Marc Voosen from Nash
Tackle**

Having done many interviews with 'famous' Carp Anglers over the years, I have always looked for a slightly unusual discussion topic and have deliberately not asked about Bait, Rigs and Tactics that they deploy in their fishing as this has been heard a million times, well lots anyway... But whilst I was at Carp Den Bosch over in the Netherlands in January this year, I wondered on to the Nash Tackle stand to say hello to a few of the guys and I found myself in front of none other than Mr. Marc Voosen so I took the opportunity to ask him a few questions and this time, it just had to be about the tackle and specifically 'Hooks' and more specifically, the 'Claw'...!!

The reason for this as back in issue 73 of March 2022, I did a review of a hook called the 'Hex' which was one of several copies I had seen that looked similar the Nash Tackle 'Pinpoint Claw'... if you read the review, you will know that the hook performed brilliantly and that pattern is now my exclusive hook... Also, in that same review I mentioned Mr. Voosen and I gave a brief outline of how back in 2018'ish the 'Claw' was born and with it came the usual negative comments about the appearance and weakness, as is to be expected on such a radical change of hook shape, which were clearly not substantiated given there are something like five copies of that pattern hook available in the UK alone.... But was it all plain sailing and where did that pattern come from and why 'Pinpoint' and who is Marc Voosen and what does he do for Nash...????!!

TC: Mr. Voosen, thank you so much for taking the time to speak with me and forgive the barrage of questions about Hooks and the lack of questions about your Carping, but it isn't often I get the chance to meet the person that designed a bit of the end tackle that does catch and land me those carp I chase....

MV: Hi Mark. Nice to meet you and thank you very much for the opportunity to answer your questions. You are very polite as I think it is fair to say that there are also much more interesting people to speak about their fishing. My expertise is hooks and I catch a couple on the on the side...



TC: HaHa... Very modest on both counts.. and I have seen some of the Carp you catch “on the side” as you put it and they are pretty impressive...!!

Anyway, let’s start off with an easy question, what is it you do for Nash Tackle and how long have you been doing it...?

MV: Nash is such a dynamic place and organisation and as such your field of work is never strictly defined and the opportunity to add your input or have influence in other fields happens nearly every day.

Recently, I have become a full-time member of the Product Development Team at Nash but prior to this, I was responsible for managing and overseeing the Nash Tackle brand in Germany.

As part of that role, I developed the team both in front of and behind the scenes, took care of the brand recognition, kept a watchful an eye on sales (even though that is far from my expertise) a one or two other things as the need arose.

But Nash being Nash, I always had a dabble in product ideas and also a bit of development, especially when it came to products and their usability/ functionality on the continent.

I started with Nash back in 2017 and it came about as I had my own brand at that time called “Pinpoint-Hooks”.

TC: Tell me about ‘Pinpoint’ and how that became part of Nash Tackle...?

MV: Funnily enough, developing a product range was originally my first job for Nash but that was before I officially started working for them....

...by 2016 I had made a bit of a name for myself selling 'Hand Sharpened Hooks' and 'Sharpening Tools' under the brand "Pinpoint-Hooks".

The 'Claw'



Because of the quality and success of the Pinpoint name, this led to a meeting with Kevin and Alan and the rest as they say, "is history...!!!"

We had a meeting and I left with the task of developing a new range of hooks exclusively for Nash Tackle.

This then later turned into a job offer for the full-time position of Germany "Brand Manager" and which as I have mentioned, has now transitioned into a full-time "Product Development" role, so as you can see, it all went kind of full-circle....!

TC: Did you completely re-vamp/re-design the full Nash Tackle Hook range then...?

MV: I did and at the same time, I didn't.... Let me explain...

.... During my time selling Hand Sharpened hooks, I had sharpened literally thousands of Nash Hooks as well as thousands from several other manufacturers too and after a while, I became a bit of a "nerd"...! to such a degree that I could tell which hooks came from the same factory, by the nature of the coating, the size of barb, the way the eyes were bent etc. regardless of the 'Brand' on the hook packet..!

During the meeting with Kevin and Alan, I straight up told them what I liked and disliked about the Nash Hook range and we came up with an idea how to redo the range and one thing was clear, we did not want to lose existing patterns that were successful and the ones that everybody already associated with the Nash Tackle brand which included the Twister and the Fang X.

What we did want to achieve though, was to keep these ‘known’ patterns, add ‘new’ patterns to the range and at the same time bring the whole range up to date with a nice “makeover”.

Plus, I wanted the whole range to be much sharper and more “uniform” and I knew just the right maker to realise this project.

TC: My interest and I guess because I have come to use it more and more is in the ‘Claw’ so let’s go back to the start of that journey... when was the idea thought of and why that distinctive but at the time very unusual and more so, ‘untried’ shape...?

MV: Looking back, the Claw could have easily been binned...!

I remember the exact moment Alan and I sat on a couch in the office, discussing the range and the obvious need of a wide gape pattern. During a visit, the maker we planned to work with, had shown me this specific pattern and its physical abilities, which left a lasting impression with me.

The tests they were able to run clearly showed that the “kink” in the bend helped to reduce the movement of the hook by compressing the flesh. Less movement means less damage, less damage leads to less hook pulls....

... still, I was afraid to pull the trigger and run with this design, even though I was convinced of it’s benefits as I did not want to mess up my first job for Nash Tackle.





In fishing, like everywhere else, being “ahead of your time” or just “being too different to the norm” is a real thing when it comes to design. In the end it was Alan who (not for the first time) was brave enough to invest into a concept that was sceptically watched by many.

I remember when it first launched and was slated and criticised by lots of people for lots of reasons, with many saying it “looked weak”, and these were the same people that had not touched the hook let alone fished with one...!!!

Ironically, it then went on to be copied by many after it’s success became undeniable...!

TC: ...and what was the R&D process, did you just sketch a shape and get a few hooks made to test or (and I am sure this is nearer the mark) was there a whole load of design parameters that needed to be met, measured, and tested fully before the very first packet of the Claws’ hit the shelves...?

MV: To a degree that is what I did. With the maker I had brought to the table, I had a strong partner with tons of experience when it came to making hooks. This maker has been in the business for decades and makes hooks for every kind of fishing you can imagine, so at least I had somebody I could run ideas to and in the final stages I put the whole range past them to get their feedback.

I had a clear concept in mind for the initial launch of the range. I wanted to achieve a uniformity that wasn’t available in the industry at that time. What I mean, is that every hook in say a ‘Size 6’ for example, has the same length point as the other patterns in that same size.



They needed to have the same wire diameter and eye size (apart from the Chod) across all patterns and all sizes. In theory this should result in a nice clean look of the range, make changes easier to apply to all sizes and/or patterns if needed and would put us into a position to collect data for future development, which was another key aspect.

The issue at that point was and partially still is, that you can't just get a couple of hooks sampled to play around and test. Around 2016 our deal with this maker was that all patterns had to be worked on with the help of drawings. Everything could be tweaked and adjusted on paper but to get a physical sample meant that you had to place an order of tens of thousands of hooks...for EACH size and pattern!

What this lead to was me sitting over sets of drawings for nights on end, questioning everything, double and triple checking every measurement and dimension to the point where I had to let go and say that "I THINK we are good"...!

TC: WOW... That's a big decision to make when the sample run is in the thousands and not just 'tens' or 'Hundreds'.. so, did it instantly pay off, had you got it right first time...?

MV: Like I mentioned before, it cost me a lot of sleepless nights and countless times where I checked everything again and again, but as with every project you come to a point where you must find an end and move on to the next stage.

In retrospect I would say it was a mix of hard work and luck that lead to an

exceptional range of hooks that was nearly flawless. Even so, we readjusted minor things on certain patterns.

This was partially because things, (the Hooks), look and act differently in real life than they do on paper and also, the manufacturer had actually made one or two mistakes too.

We adjusted these “on the run” so to speak, which meant with the next order, the changes and tweaks were made and probably the consumer did not even notice that it had to be done...?!!

Now that the Pinpoint Hook range is complete and I can say that it is probably ‘the’ most thought through Hook range on the market...!!!

Could we change things?Yes of course we probably could....
Would it be better? That is now more a personal preference than factual I think...

Moving forward, my life has become an awful lot easier since we now do not have to go “all in” anymore with samples as we can now order in the “hundreds”, rather than the “thousands”, which is something that would have made the job so much easier a couple of years back...!

TC: I want to keep focus on the Claw for now simply because it was such a change from anything we had seen before so what types of fishing were considered during its development as UK Carping is quite different from the European Carping, especially in terms of waters and Carp size, so



how do you design a hook that fits all.. or don't you...?

MV: This is a discussion of epic proportions and there is no clear answer. For one, there are different possible approaches. Many companies have more than one range of hooks. There is a regular and a stronger and maybe even a third, an extra strong version of their hooks or certain patterns.

My personal view is that first you should build a range that suits most....

With fish getting bigger in the UK for various reasons that I do not want to discuss, I felt no real need to differentiate too much. Forties and even fifties are now a much more common size fish in the UK and my belief is that your 'End Tackle' should always be capable of landing the biggest fish in the lake.

Yes, in Europe fish tend to still grow bigger and the fishing can be more savage but when it comes to components, such as the hook and its physical abilities will rarely be the weak link in your chain.

Don't get me wrong, hooks can bend or break but given that the quality is on point, these should be freakishly rare occasions. For example, I have only bent a Carp Hook once in my whole life, and this was caused by pulling directly on the Snag Leader from a boat as the hook had buried itself in a snag on the bottom.....

Once you established a range of hooks that suits 90% of anglers, you can look at the remaining fringe markets of hardcore river anglers, people who fish places like "Rainbow Lake" or whoever else feels the need for more than the standard out there.



My personal belief is that often, anglers like the sense of security that an extra strong pattern gives them, more than actually needing it, but don't get me wrong as it's always better to be safe than sorry!

Commercially however, a range that suits most, makes the most sense to start with...!

TC: ...and again, specifically about the Claw, what was the initial reactions from the people that tested the hooks or was it simply a case that if the great Mr. Blair liked it, it was job done...??!!!

MV: I think hooks are a delicate and quite personal thing. Apart from alarms and bait, they are probably one of the most personal choices out there. Unlike alarms, where you might have made factual experiences like an alarm dying in the rain etc. the reason why people believe in certain hooks is mostly much more irrational.



On one occasion they lost a fish or they landed another one etc.

The belief that some people put in certain patterns, brands etc. is kind funny to me but don't get me wrong, I was once one of those people...!

There were times where I might have gone home instead of tying a rig with a size 6 when I felt I would have needed a size 4 but after years of testing patterns and going against what I liked for the sake of getting real fishing feedback, I still have preferences but would fish most patters from the Nash Tackle range. All I personally care for now is sharpness and proportional size to the bait I am using.

So, when the Claw first hit the market, you can imagine that the wind of scepticism it had to face was gigantic. Simply for the fact that there was nobody apart from a selected few within Nash that had been able to gain trust in it and collect positive experiences.

Still, we were confident that pure curiosity would lead to people trying and testing the hook and I just knew that this would be all it needed to turn many of them into fans of this pattern.

TC: Compared to the whole Hook range, let's get to the point.... It appears that within the Pinpoint range, only the Claw has the 'In-Turned' or 'Beaked' point, so what was the thinking behind that and was a straight point ever considered...?

MV: For one, a straight point will always have a slightly better chance to grab hold in a fish's mouth in the first place. That is physics and can not really be argued but, the benefit of a 'Beaked Point' is obviously that once it has penetrated into flesh, it is less likely to come out again... Barbless or not.

Because we have Barbs that secure a hook in place once buried in the mouth of the fish, a straight point would always be my first choice to hook a fish but in the end, there is room for both.

A better hooking ability or supreme hook holds, what do you want? ... and of course other circumstances as mentioned before. Flow, nuisance fish or just having to retrieve your rig over



gravel that can make you choose a beaked point.

With the Claw, it is also about physics. Because of it's big 'gape' it is slightly "weaker" for pressure applied from the point "outwards" than a hook with a smaller gape, so for this reason a straight point could not be applied without upping the wire size to compensate. However, this would result in a hook that a) does not match the range and b) have completely different characteristics overall.

Thankfully, Nash are in the position where the maker we are working with can simulate all these factors to ensure that a new pattern will always fall within the parameters needed for even the biggest fish.

TC: ...and what about the 'Shank Length' and the 'Eyes', does the hook length play a substantial part in how the hook works and is the internal eye diameter the same across the Claw range...?

MV: Again, it is all about physics. You can not change anything on a hook without changing its performance under pressure and even if the hook is perfectly balanced, it could fail in a weird situation.

Shank length is a whole separate topic, but personally believe that it can help you hook more fish due to the hook being "bulky" once it is in a fishes mouth. A downside is the leverage it can apply. You tend to loose small fish with longer shanks due to the hectic movements these fish present





when you play them. When fishing for bigger fish however they are my go-to hooks....!

I mentioned bending hooks before but to give your readers a more graphic example, I would like to use this one.....

..... If you grab a teaspoon at both ends, it is incredibly simple to bend.... But.....

Try bending the same spoon when you grab it in the middle; There is less leverage and the same material can suddenly withstand the applied pressure... although don't try it with your best teaspoons please...!

It is the same with a hook. Most hook bends or breaks come from hooks that did not penetrate deep enough and there are numerous reasons for this including the angle that the hook grabbed hold or it hitting 'bone/Cartilage' etc.

If a hook does not penetrate so the 'Barb' enters the flesh, the likelihood of it bending rises exponentially. A hook that buried itself deep into a fishes mouth so the gape is filled and the pressure on the hook moves from the point to the bend, will not fail in 99.9% of cases.

Now, when it comes to eye size, I tried to achieve the same thing as in wire size and have them the same all through the range initially.

Every Size 6 in the range has got the same size of eye. Same goes obviously for all the other sizes.

The exception though are the “Chod” Hooks as these have slightly larger eyes for the use of “thick” monofilaments as used in Chod Rigs, Stiff Rigs or Coated Hook Link materials on Multi Rigs etc.

TC: The whole of the Nash Tackle Pinpoint Hook range offers both a Barbless and Micro-Barbed option, so in terms of the latter, how critical is the size and position of the Barb...?

MV: My answer must be split into two parts here.

Like I mentioned above, a Beaked Point is far superior when used in a ‘Barbless’ version. This is down to simple physics and not my just personal view.

Straight Point in, Straight point out, is easy to understand. But a Beaked Point that has penetrated has a slightly better chance to remain where it is just for the fact that it’s way out is not linear.

The size of the ‘Barb’ is of course also very important; The bigger it is, the better... at least in theory.

A big Barb will keep a hook in place once it has had a chance to penetrate, but if it is too big, it may not and there is of course also the factor of the size of wound it will cause.

With the help of our supplier, we were able to get our hands on some tests they had been conducted previously and to cut a long story short, there are pro’s and con’s for both.

There are scenarios where a Barbless Hook can cause more damage and there are scenarios where the Micro-Barbed Hook can cause more damage compared to the Barbless version of the same hook and it is all based on angle, pressure applied, penetration depth etc. etc.

Therefore, a general ban of one or the other does not really make sense and I



happily fish both but prefer a Micro-Barb where allowed.

TC: Let's talk about 'Size' and does it really matter!!! and obviously, what I mean by that is 'usually' we see hook sizes in 2, being the largest

and then 4, 6, 8 and the smallest at a size 10, at least in Carp Fishing terms, but Nash have dropped a 1, a 5 and a 7 in there... what was the thinking behind that and is the wire gauge the same throughout and just the hook gets smaller or is there more to it...?

MV: If you are lucky enough to carry a decent size, you will insist that of course it matters :-D

To be honest, I find it quite interesting how the tides have turned when it comes to hooks. I remember very well when the a size 6 was the “norm” and in the UK, downscaling to a size 8 was not unusual.

But whether it has to do with the fish getting bigger or people just realising, that yet again physics matter, you now see hooks in sizes 4 to 2 being used quite regularly in the UK.

Size 1 is obviously not for everyone but since there is a demand, we try to please the angler that feels that their fishing requires this size and strength....

The “in between” sizes had been in the Nash range before my time so I cannot really answer this point but we kept it alive. In the end I am very pragmatic.

I will not lose my sleep if I run out of size 5 Hooks and have to use a 4 instead...! Again, as I have said previously, Hooks are a very personal thing.

The 'Wire Gauge' in the Pinpoint range adjusts to the hook size and decreases ever so slightly with every size you go down. This is simply to keep the hooks balanced in their physical features and to

TC: Speaking of Sharpness... The Pinpoint range is referred to as "Sticky Sharp" straight from the packet so how is this achieved and what tips do you have to maintain that sharpness, is it best to store the hooks in the packet or should we be looking at Hook Boxes etc.

MV: For the longest time, I feel that hooks including Carp Fishing hooks had a certain level of sharpness which primarily was down to the machines being used to produce the Hooks, but also with the acceptable failure range in that production process.

Don't forget, hooks are a mass produced item and a machine can produce hundreds of thousands day and wherever mass production is being carried out, efficiency is key and there is only a very small level of rejects being tolerated. In fact, you will aim at zero if you can.

To cut a long story short, hooks could have been sharper years ago but they would have been much more expensive due to many being destroyed in the process of sharpening with the quality of machines being used and around 2010 the machines got better and now the makers can produce better quality/sharpness with



less rejects.

Still, it comes at a price that every company has to factor in and you have to keep in mind that these hook manufacturers are not interested in Carp Fishing and our obsession with sharpness. They make millions of pounds selling hooks to other fishing industries and most of them do not require the level of sharpness a Carp rig requires. The Carp Fishing industry is just a tiny fraction of their business and the focus on maximum sharpness that leads to rejects during production is tiresome for them....

Personally, I carry my Hooks in the pack they come in and I do sharpen them before fishing. I am not a big 'prepper' but if I was, I would still touch them up and store them in a box afterwards. Also, once you have sharpened your Hook, you should apply some sort of 'corrosion protection' (grease, permanent marker etc.), of which Nash Tackle, as part of the Pinpoint range happen to sell in the form of the 'Hook & TT Marker Pens and the 'Pinpoint Grease'.

TC: What was the thinking behind the 'Flota Claw', does making the hook thinner/lighter still preserve the strength and was it really necessary...?

MV: The Floater Claw is a prime example of using technology/simulation to be able to sell a product that is elite in its use but still safe regarding the physics it has to withstand.....

The smaller bend that will "fill up" with flesh quicker aids the thinner wire and in turn, the thinner wire results in a lighter hook that let's your chosen Floater Bait 'Float' that little bit longer.... and a 'floater' that stays on the surface for longer results in less recasts and therefore (in theory anyway..!) more bites, which leads to a better user experience because of more fish on the bank. Stretchy Monofilament and Lighter TC Rods which are usually used for Floater Fishing help to make the overall set up safe and during testing of the "Flota Claw" not one hook opened.

Would I suggest using a Size 10 Floater Claw on a 3.5lbtc rod fished with Braid in a Hook and Hold situation? Definitely NOT!

TC: How do you feel when you see hooks with a similar 'pattern' being sold by other companies... does it annoy you because they have done none of the development etc. or are pleased because you know you must have done something amazing if everyone wants to mimic it....?

MV: To be honest Mark, it is what it is. Commercially, there is nothing wrong with jumping the bandwagon and unless you have very strict patents and copyright, it is difficult to stop.

If anything, it gives you faith in your abilities and your eye for a useful innovation or concept and I guess that the smaller companies are unable to invest in a guy, sitting in Germany drawing hooks, so it is easier to let the big companies do it and follow their footsteps... if it works...!!!

TC: ...and I must ask, which Hook Pattern do you favour...?

MV: There is a simple hierarchy I tend to follow;

When the bottom allows it, I prefer a Straight Point because of reasons already mentioned, i.e. better hooking abilities and the 'Twister Long Shank' is my first choice under these circumstances but only if I fish for bigger fish (which is usually all I do).

If I fish rivers or there are many nuisance fish that might move my rig around, I swap over to the Claw.

On my Pop-Up Presentations, it is the 'Chod Twister', just because it is a tad easier to sharpen than the Chod Claw...!



TC: Marc, thank you so much for taking the time to answer my questions and I have learnt a great deal in the process, in that not only are the Nash Tackle Pinpoint Hooks designed with an insight and intensive purpose, they have been tested both in theory and in practice before they even see a retailer, so we as Carp Anglers can have total confidence that at least the Hook is up to the job...!

You are also an authority on all things “Hook” (not sure that even makes any sense..?!) and you should be called “Dr. Hook” or maybe “Captain Hook”...or... and I think you will like this, “The Hook Doctor”... or perhaps I should end it here and hope that we can chat again at some ‘point’ (oh dear..!)..?

I wish you luck and hope you settle into your new role at Nash Tackle and I look forward to hearing about the products you develop in the future...! “.....have I mentioned to you about a few ideas I have and how do you become a consultant for Na..... Marc, ... Marc...typical....!”

Instagram: @marc_voosen / @officialnashtackle

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The Biggest Secret In Carp Fishing

Brett Blair

It all begins with the new year for me with the old closed season being no more, I now look at the new year as being the start of the season and its such a perfect time to begin. Going back we used to think the winter was a waste of time, nothing but long cold nights and blanks galore, so the rods were hung up until the spring, but due to ever more busy banks during the warmer months the winter began to become more appealing, one thing that became ever more apparent in my personal fishing was the need for solitude, there's nothing quite like an empty lake all to yourself.

Closing the gate behind me the outside world now long forgotten I begin my hunt for the carp, finding them will be key, I will not consider settling into a swim until I have at least some idea I'm on fish, of course its venue specific more heavily stocked lakes require less searching ,the syndicate I'm currently fishing I would class as a medium stocked lake, its around 15 acres in size holding around 120 carp to the low 30lb mark ,so finding them is a must they are likely to be in several large shoals so choosing the wrong swim will put you quite a way from any fish at all.

Leaving the van in the car park I walk the lake watching the water but visiting every swim, there are a few climbable trees around the lake but nothing to see here. Its February and cold but quite still ,just one that's all I need to see ,three laps later I see one, only out the corner of my eye or was it a coot, nothing pops up so it must of been a carp, quite close in, probably only a few feet from the bank around to my right in the next swim, a corner swim. Ok I can't park the van there so the bivvy will be going up.

Setting up as far back as possible the plan is simple three rods short, its deep there 7 to 10ft at 2 rod lengths. During the colder months I fish nothing more than a small pva solid bags or mesh, it doesn't matter I fish a mixture of 2mm pellets from various company's, the hook bait is irrelevant as long as its a wafter or a critically balanced bait, I just want my hookbait to be the first thing sticking out the pile of pellets (normally fake corn should the venue allow it) my theory on this method is simple I'm providing one mouthful nothing else simply putting the bait in front of the fish, curiosity does the rest add a good sharp hook and your in business.

Fishing over no bait has its advantages ,for a start you never feel tied to a swim, there's a tendency to stay put if you've put bait and lets face it money into the swim, so the move is always on if I see one show else where on the lake, I'm off like a rat up a drainpipe, and all I've invested is time which of course is never wasted when your fishing. Keeping my gear organised enables me to move quickly should I feel the need to, again I can not stress enough ,to see just one show is all you need in winter that one show quite often provides weeks of fishing and more importantly catching , where there's one there's more.

No moving just yet though I'm confident I'm on a few fish for now so once the rods are out I go about setting up the camp, keeping as much stuff in my van as possible should I need to move, of course all this is good and well on an empty lake, not so easy on a busy day ticket venue but don't rule it out its amazing how fast you can catch one when there in front of you.

And that's exactly what happened next, the left hand rod steadily takes off, I'm in the process of

wrestling the bedchair through the bivvy door as the take happens, its always the same isn't it ?

After a short battle I have landed my prize, all that walking paid off. a bite within minutes of getting the rods in. Its an upper double and very welcome too ,a quick photo and I slip it back in the next swim, hopefully he won't tell his mates



what happened. Darkness quickly comes around this time of year and its not long before I'm tucked up in bed, dozing off in the early evening its not the one but I was shattered ,it was probably 3 laps of the lake that did it.

Its not often your asleep for long in a bivvy but you sleep even less when you've done everything right before hand, that left hand rod is away again, just before midnight a low double mirror finds itself in the bottom of my net , I find it strange no matter how tired ,dazed and confused you are from being woken in the middle of the night you always seem to pick the correct rod up its almost subconscious, not once in 30 years have I ever picked up the wrong rod. The night goes quiet, at first light I'm up ,a quick coffee and I'm winding in, not many anglers would be looking to move after two bites in February but I know there gone, perhaps there was only a few there to start with, so I plan to spend the morning looking for action else where ,if I find nothing then at least I can return to this swim knowing there were fish here before. Many more laps later I head back to my swim for a brew, slightly dejected I have



seen nothing all morning and no clue where to go, I'm stuck, it looks like my second night might have to be in this swim but I'm definitely not feeling it ,its funny how you just know but you do .

Sipping my coffee. Bosh ! One comes out almost tail walking, right up the top end of the lake, the chance of me seeing it was slim but I just happened to be looking that way at that exact moment, when your lucks in its in. Quickly stuff's being thrown in the van ,trying not to rush but I'm rushing, even thinking to myself calm down you silly fool, its just a fish but carp fishing does that to you, it lights a fire that wont go out, like a child

I'm practically running to the van ,what on earth am I doing the lakes empty, not a sole has even stepped foot on the place since I locked that gate behind me.

Arriving at the swim the same process begins again, the fish I had seen bosh out hadn't been all that far out, and the margins deep here again about 9ft right in the edge. Its bright sunshine and high pressure so I opt for a no camp set up ,no bivvy ,no bedchair just 3 rods and the bear essentials at least until nightfall ,its so tempting to go setting up all the gear, loads do it they don't even look around the lake. People have a swim in mind and that's it that's where there fishing, catch or not, each to there own I suppose

,carp fishing is lots of different things for different people ,personally I like catching carp so that's my first priority all the camping bit can come later.

Three rods out one left, one right and the middle rod just out in front at the bottom

of the shelf not 100 % sure ,but roughly where I saw the fish bosh out earlier. Each rod on a small mesh bag and fake corn as the hookbait. Within minutes the middle rods away ,ripping line this time. I'm in. Third bite in less than 24hrs ,It's a tough battle for a winter fish and its a good one, not one of the lakes bigger residents but still a mid twenty in mid winter I'm certainly not complaining.

The afternoon goes quickly, before long I'm into my 2nd night, the bivvy is up on dusk, its cold and still. The water temperature a chilly 4°C, I'm now hoping its not going to freeze , that's one downside to winter night fishing, breaking ice to retrieve your gear is not fun.



A strange slow take starts taking line, very slowly ,as I approach the rods its still taking line but so slowly, I've never seen the like, its now 11.30pm. I stand looking at the rod in disbelief do I pick it up ? I decide to, how odd

its gone solid straight away ,I'm snagged. Reluctantly I turn my head torch on, its ice. I'm frozen in. A huge sheet of ice has formed just in front of me, now the winds picked up, and its slowly moving the ice out towards the middle of the lake. I manage to break free with no tackle loss but all three rods must come in, hopefully that wind gets up later and breaks up the ice but as for now I'm camping, the rods are lent up on the bivvy. I prep three more bags in case the conditions improve.

At 3.30 am a call of nature gets me out of my bed, looking across the lake the ice has gone, its slowly drifting off on a very slight breeze but far enough away for me to get my rods back out on there margin spots, no sooner have I climbed back in bed that middle rod is away again, not slowly this time its screaming. Its my 4th bite, after what seemed an age of a fight, I have landed it, but I'm freezing cold now, I'm chilled to the bone. Going back

a few years we used to have to sleep in 10 layers of clothes to keep warm ,or those Teddy bear suits, what ever happen to those ? But since bedchairs and sleep systems have vastly improved we now sleep in not so much clothing, which is great, until you actually catch one then the lack of clothing quickly becomes apparent. Peering into the net I can see a mid double common has taken a liking to my offering. I slip it back and get the kettle on before putting the rod back out, even my gas had frozen, you never got that with a Colman but quite often you could kiss goodbye to your eyebrows. All too soon its the morning and time for me to pack up. Still not one other angler has come through those gates, yet the bites are there to be had. So, carp fishing's biggest secret is winter

fishing is brilliant ! Empty lakes and bites galore if your willing to put in the effort, just don't tell everybody.

Get those rods out

Brett





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Mixing it up



By Richard Handel

I always stick to the same freebies for a period of time, depending on my thoughts on what the carp are feeding on and which area of the lake I'm fishing and the makeup of the bottom.

But do you switch around your hook baits as much as I do?

I always start each season or session off with two colours one on each rod, normally with the predominant colour/flavour from the previous year. However, if things aren't producing the goods, I will switch about, with various colours and combinations until I get a carp. Then, I will stick to that one for a bit, not getting too fixated on one colour or even one flavour or wafter, pop-up, bottom bait etc. I happily mix and match, trying different

combinations.

If I'm using a snowman setup, I will switch around the pop-up until I get a bite, and then I may just only use the specific pop-up on the other rod to see if it's the colour that's attracted the carp.

Catalyst & PPS

It's not always about the colour, it may be about the flavour or even the type of bottom bait.

The other month, I was trying out the above and switched over to a yellow pop up and because of the windy conditions I left it out there for over 48 hours and it finally paid off. What I learned from that was the yellow pop-up had washed out, but still smelt perfect, this got me thinking that I need to try white pop-ups next time one on a snowman and one just a straightforward 12mm white pop-up.

White Catalyst

Which soon started to produce takes, the previous week, it was the Pink Pepper Squid out fishing my other combinations.

The white did result in a good run of carp topped off by this lovely





Winter Stunner

I don't like to carry buckets full of hook baits, but I do like to carry a combination of colours, flavours, different size hook baits that I'm feeling confident with at the present time, and a couple of different options in my car.

common.

Perfect

I also have found that mixing together flavours and colour combinations work well.

Playing around with sizes can trip up the carp and get the hook point in their mouths, producing a pick-up. One of my favourite combinations is a 12x15mm wafter with a 12mm pop up.

Multiple choice

I just put all the different options in one tub and keep it stocked up each week. I have a specific evening when I sort my kit out each week. I also keep a note of things I need to do on my phone each week as a checklist.

Pink & white

PPS & CC

The pink pepper squid and Classic Corn combination, this resulted in one of the best winters on my syndicate a few years back.





The pink and white was my latest addition to my assortment in the barrow, these being Catalyst flavour, which worked extremely well on here until I feel different and over to the Classic Corn range. However, a lot of people are starting to use Maize/Sweetcorn. I'm thinking along the lines of a different smell amongst the Corn etc, may well catch the carp out, or I may well completely change back. I will have to see how my results go over the next few weeks.

Multiple Options

I even switch about the size options during my trips, just trying to outwit the carp and this can pay off.

I feel that in trying to capture that lump amongst all the other carp in my syndicate water, I have to do something different and out of the ordinary (the other anglers wouldn't try).

When I started to fish the School Lake, Pink pop-ups were the carp's favourite I was told and sure enough, they were correct. But after my first winter day session success, one carp still alluded me and I needed to change things. I played around for a week and then the Masala wafters started to pick up more fish than the PPS. I had obviously found what I was looking for and changed all my rod's over to the Masala wafters and pop-ups, sure enough, it finally came my way.



Stunning Mirror

I'm informed that there's is a much bigger one that is still alluded me and I will be back again this coming winter. Armed with the knowledge that this could be the year that it trips up for a completely different hook bait to the popular pink colour. I hope this article has made you think a little bit more about hook baits, it's certainly worth thinking out the box a lot more and heading away from what everyone else is using. We all know carp wise up to

things, you just need to be ahead of others.

Until next time

Be lucky

Richard





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Off to France we go...
by Reece Ward



And so it began, travels on my first overseas trip, angling for the greatest fish on the planet. My favourite of the Cyprinid family.

CARP!

Armed with a great deal of research, anticipation and bucket loads of confidence, we set sail across the channel, to the mecca of carp angling, France!

Nothing could deter me, my heart was set. I was going to catch them and that was that!

The journey to the desired location was something less than desirable, however. Arriving at 2:30am at Folkestone Eurotunnel, 3 hours early for the train. After all the rigmarole, prepping, trial running the car for sufficient space, hours of rig tying, the 4.5 hour drive and standard, "why do you go carp fishing in winter? You must be mad." from the English guy at customs. We were away, so we thought.

3 cars away from boarding the train we're told that, although the train wasn't at maximum capacity,

it had overloaded on weight. Heart breaking.

A further 1 hour & 10 minutes pass, at 6:20am we finally board the next available outbound for Calais. Sweet, sweet Calais.

My first touch on French soil since a school trip back in the early 90's. Paradise. The land of the big'uns! Windows open and I'm overwhelmed by the smell of French bread and Noix De Jambon. I'm convinced it was placebo playing games with my nasal passages, but it certainly felt justifiable at the time.

The venue of choice, Vallee Lake 2, Normandy.

I'd heard many stories about this place and every one brought nothing but intrigue. A post - war gravel pit, 24 acres in size with tree lined margins and deep, deep water. Located in a stunning setting nestled in the 'Vallee de la Bresle' in the heart of the rolling Normandy countryside, flourishing in natural lake side vegetation with spectacular views of the local valley hills and countryside. In excess of 500 carp to 65lb+, grass carp over 70lb, silver carp and sturgeon in excess of 90lb.

This place sounded like a little slice of heaven and I wanted a bite, in every aspect of the words!

On arrival we were greeted by Mark, A polite, well-mannered English fella, ladened with knowledge that he was happy to divulge. Trying my best to listen I couldn't take my eyes off the lake. 4 crashes in the matter of minutes. This was going to be special.

Loaded up with the sites particle mix, pellet and our own supply of Trent Baits SAS Squid freezer baits, we made the journey to peg 5 & 6.

All three rods out in a very likely looking area with an obvious abundance of carp, bivvy up and the first beer can cracked. That was it, we'd arrived. All that was left to do was slide the net under one of the wonderful creatures that reside in this unbelievable venue.

Beers were sank, night fell and absolutely shattered, my head hit the pillow, hard. Little did I know I'd be awoken just before daybreak by the sound of a screaming

bite alarm. The first of the trip, a 36lb 10oz mirror, I was off the mark and it was more than welcome. Despite the look on my face! Sadly, only moments before the photo was taken I'd lost another fish that felt considerably bigger, hook pull at the net. I was utterly wounded, in fact, I still am. My fault, I was tired and I tried to bully the fish in. Mistakes are often made when you're lacking z's.

Prior to the trip I'd spooled up with the Slackliner hybrid fluoro carbon from Pole Position Tackle Technology, I'd tied up all new rigs comprised of nothing but Pole Position components. But, I'd been lazy due to fatigue. I hadn't changed my rigs, which probably supported the hook pull. School boy error.





Adjustments were made, Strongbow size 4's, kickback boom filament and tungsten anti tangle sleeves all from Pole Position Tackle Technology combined to create the ultimate waffer rig. It paid dividends!

Over the course of the following days, between us we'd managed to land an impressive haul of carp, the biggest weighing 50lb 2oz, all of which were landed using nothing other than the "GRADE" Prospecto landing net (a very well-engineered piece of kit sporting a built in flotation system) and cradled beautifully in the GRADE compact mat. Safe as houses!

At this point it's worth noting that despite the two most popular,

sought after swims on the lake we're occupied, they were NOT producing. Weather conditions were not on their side. But that didn't matter to us.

Pleased as punch with ourselves we decided it was time to sample the liquid treats from the local French vineyards (probably not our wisest move, but hey, "we're on holiday"). 5 bottles later saw us stumbling the short journey into the local village for a well-earned kebab, like a bunch of true Brits.

The Kebab was fantastic by the way, not that I remember eating it. Another night fell and once again, my head hit the pillow, EVEN HARDER.

Awoken by the sun beating through the bivvy, surrounded by my half-hearted effort at getting into bed, rubbish scattered all over the floor, one kicked over tackle box and a not so appetising empty wine bottle. I was quickly, thankfully reminded that I'd been wise enough to take my rods out the night before. No carp caught, no carp lost.



Double dose of paracetamol, a cheese and ham baguette and a litre of fresh pressed fruit juice later, it was game time.

I'd had my heart set on a 50lber for my first French trip and so far I'd only managed a 46lb common. I was happy but it wasn't surpassing my target. A slightly different approach brimmed my confidence beaker and had me convinced that illusive 50 was just around the corner.

The next indication of a fish rattled through the bite alarm speaker at an impressive rate. A complete one toner. No way was this a 50+ it felt heavy but it was stripping

line, I'd resigned myself to the fact it'd be a smaller carp based purely on the way it fought at range. Typically, a BIG carp comes in like a breezeblock being dragged across the sand, this didn't do that, it was erratic, lively and full of beans! A 45 minute game of tug of war had given me more confidence, confidence and anxiety, if I'm honest. I had no doubt in the tackle I was using more doubt in my ability as the battle drew longer.

Finally, this behemoth rolled over and kissed the spreader block. Holy sh*t. This was special. Had I done a 50? I must have it was huge and it was an absolute pearler of a linear. A carp you'd typically see in an old English pit, a scaley warrior of a mirror, full of character. It totally





homeward bound journey.

The following morning was to be the final morning and only an hour before packing down another unruly mirror carp weighing 49lb 5oz graced me with its presence. What a way to finish the trip.

blew my mind. I tucked it in the retention sling and attempted a lift in the water on my own with the Reuben's.

0-60 in a second, it had bottomed them out. Pure elation, a flood of emotion overcame me, I'd done it. This was definitely 50+ no question about it.

Despite initially spinning the scales 360, I hadn't zero'd my sling...Weighed again and sling zero'd the scores on the doors were 57lb 12oz. An absolute peach of a success. Proper result. I'd came what I set out to do and I was content enough for the

Id honestly say, anyone looking for a French getaway with some stunning carp set in a very desirable location, only 90 minutes from Calais. Make sure you take a look at Vallee Lakes, Normandy. I'll be sure to make a return trip next year. For anyone wanting to try out a new tackle company, get in touch with Pole Position Tackle Technology, their hooks are designed specifically by themselves and are





own innovative little personal touch with NO compromise on quality.

I hope you all enjoyed my little piece of personal angling history. It was a trip I'll never ever forget.

Much love,

made by Gamaktsu, the world's leading hook manufacturer! They are super strong and #SharpAsFck. The hooklink materials and other end tackle components are up there with the best in the business. The GRADE products that Pole Position do are also top drawer, from the compact mat, the retention sling, the prospecto landing net, clear view buckets, bait buckets, luggage, you name it. It's worth every penny. Everything has its

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Brocard large lake trip 2023



by Dave Smalley

After visiting this venue last year and really liking the rawness and its stock of stunning carp, I could not wait to get back.

The lakes are situated in the picturesque champagne region of France it isn't like some of the French lakes and has ruggedness that makes you feel like you're fishing a wild lake, it's far from some of the more manicured lakes that I have been to in the past. With established tree lined banks and a small island close to one of the banks it's a wonderful place to spend a week. The lake bed is thick with heavy silt with depths from 2ft to 5ft (from what I have found in the areas I have fished)

On this trip I was joined by my friends Matt and Luke Wilson.

We booked pegs 10 & 9, I opted for peg 9.

The forecast was a split week really, the first and last few days hitting 18 degrees. However the middle 48 hours saw the temperature drop below freezing point.

The trip started really well with 3 fish in the first 36 hours! They fell to my trusted pop up D-rig in conjunction with DT baits cold water pink wafers and orange & peach pop ups, part of DT's cult



classic range.

When the cold weather kicked in and the temperatures plummeted it had the expected effect and in that 48 we had two bites only resulting in two lost fish!

The last two night saw the temperatures rise and the action begin again. I made the most of this opportunity and managed 5 stunning mirrors, all gracing my net. Once again all fell to DT baits cult classic peach & orange pop ups. The last 3 days saw me switch all rods over to pop up rigs matched with the orange & peach pop ups.

Feed bait for this trip was my my trusted DT baits Cold Water Green Beast & Supa Fruit combination. Mixed with a selection of pellets & salt. Each rod had a liberal helping of

boilies, crumb, pellets & salt my go to mix when fishing at this time of year.

Anyone fishing a heavily silted venue take a look at the orange & peach pop ups from Dt baits developments. They stand up really well on silty venues, and still hold their flavours & colour after 24 hours with out any issues.

Lastly well done to Luke & matt on both

having pb's and feeling the addiction of big European trips. It's not just the fishing it's the build up, the travel, the anticipation of a big fat carp rolling over the net too!!

Big thanks to the hospitality from Franck & Mark at Brocard.

Tight lines
Till next time

Dave Smalley



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A scenic landscape photograph of a lake with a large mountain in the background and houses on the shore. The mountain has a prominent, flat-topped peak. The lake reflects the sky and the surrounding greenery. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, suggesting a late afternoon or early morning setting. The foreground is framed by lush green foliage, including trees and bushes.

EIGHT DAYS IN EDEN

Written and photos by: Tamás Skaczal

Translated by: Andrea Bánátné Skaczal

I set off to Thailand alone and with limited English knowledge on the 16th of November, 2021 – I must admit I was very excited. My plane departed from Budapest, and then in Doha I changed plane to Phuket. I had two folders full of certifications with me hoping that everything went smoothly and I could get to my final destination, Gillhams Fishing Resort.

After landing on the 17th of November I had to stay in a quarantine hotel for a night until I received the result of my Covid test. On the morning of 18th of November the taxi driver of Gillhams came to pick me up and take me to the province of Krabi. We passed through amazing places, the landscape was dotted with palm trees, rainforests and beautiful mountains. As we were heading towards the end of our two-hour journey, I got more and more excited. When we arrived the huge iron gate opened and I entered the Garden of Eden. I was received by Sean Gillham himself. After going through the necessary administration he informed me about the schedule of fishing: the time window is between 7 a.m. to

7 p.m. My fishing started next day, so I decided to look around. As I was walking around and breathing the warm and vaporous tropical air I felt I became one with nature. I understood why it is so important to take care of this wondrous planet. While I was wandering around the complex I bumped into a few fishing stands and talked to the anglers. Everybody was from England, I was the only Hungarian. Everyone was very helpful. When I arrived back to my room the daily limit of my trip waited for me in front of the door: I was about to fish for six days, this meant 6 kg (13,23 lbs) from the boilie with the secret recipe and six packets of halibut pellet. Then my guide, Kyle McKellar arrived. He asked what my target fish was. I said I was mainly interested in Siamese Carp, but I am eager to catch any species. He informed me that I got one of the best spots on the lake, and we talked through everything.

On the 19th of November I got up at 6 a.m. and I was very excited. I took a few packets of boilies and pellets and went to place number 1. Kyle had already been waiting for me with the equipment (it is provided here for the anglers),



showed me how to use it and finally put a black whistle in my hand. "When you get a bite you strike, whistle, shout place number one – and I will be here immediately to help you" He did the balling in previously, and showed me where to throw the baited gear. I put boilie and yellow, tik-tak shaped wafers bait next to the hook and threw in about 10-14 meters from the shore. Water was 6-7 meters deep there. On the other rod I baited frozen fish and threw it to the bankside floating plant. Fishing finally have started! I was waiting excitedly... While I was thinking, a Hungarian vizsla (a traditional Hungarian dog breed) sat

next to me!

Then in a few minutes I already had a bite. The silence was disturbed by full line pull on the helicopter rig – I must add that 80 lbs multifilament is well-tried here because of the enormous size of the fish! I hooked up, whistled, and shouted the number of my place. We have to act like this on every single occasion, otherwise we cannot get help and we might lose our dream fish... I didn't know yet what was on the hook, I only felt the strong pulling.

On the sound of my whistle Kyle rushed back to me and jumped into the water with a huge landing net. It was so huge that two men could easily fit into it. After a big fight my first fish, an Amazonas Redtail Catfish came into the surface. I was very happy; I have only seen such a beautiful fish in Jeremy Wade's film so far. When the fish was in the net I jumped into the water and Kyle took pictures of me with my phone. After the photoshoot we let the beautiful Redtail back into the water, I rebated the rig and threw it back into the feed area.

A biteless period came after. Kyle returned after 1-2 hours, took out



kept on throwing the balls. As the float reached the rig depth the food started to dissolve from the swimfeeder and fell on the bait. I waited and watched the float. Suddenly it disappeared under the water, I felt a strong pull and I immediately hooked it. I knew

my fish-baited rig and put on a robust float rig. It resembled a bit of a carping rig. He also brought stick pellet, which was a special granulated pellet. This is a well-tried feed here. Kyle prepared it properly, made some balls (five or six pieces), and stuffed it into the feeder. He warned me that it should always be stuffed hard into the feeder.

When we were ready with everything Kyle started to throw the balls into the water in hand-throwing distance. After the fourth ball he told me to throw the rig to the same area. The float was set to midwater, to 1,5-meter depth, and as I threw to the designated area he

and felt that this fish is much bigger than the previous one. It aimed open water with enormous strength and a demanding yet intoxicating play began.

Finally, after half an hour I managed to direct it back in front of me. I felt that it slowly let go and swam toward the surface. Suddenly I got a glimpse of the first Giant carp of my life! I was very happy and excited. Kyle jumped into the water again and helped the exhausted fish into the net easily. I made it, it was in the net! Kyle took out the hook from the fish's mouth and I put the rig aside. Fortunately, the



weighed 22,06 lbs (10 kg), we let it back into the water after we took some quick and safe pictures. I rebaited the hook with fish, threw it back to the plants again, and at 18:20 a bigger Amazonas Redtail picked it up... This was my first catfish above 44,09 lbs (20 kg). I finished my day with this fish.

neighboring angler's wife was walking in my direction and helped taking pictures of my first Giant carp, which exceeded 72,75 lbs (33 kg). When we were done with the photos we sterilized the mouth, pectoral and caudal fin of the fish. It is a necessary protocol when you catch a carp.

Afterwards, I rebaited the float rig with a single boilie, stuffed a ball into the swimfeeder, and threw it back to the baited area. My first day was successful, I caught four more Giant carp above 77,16 lbs (35 kg) with this technique! The last one even exceeded 88,18 lbs (40 kg). I was pleased and exhausted. In the evening I threw back the fish rig next to the plants and soon I had a take: it was a fresh-water ray. It

I started the second day in the same way: one rod in the bottom, one in midwater. After a few hours, I still haven't had any bites. I decided to change the yellow, tik-tak wafers-shaped bait as I noticed that I hadn't had any bites with this colour bait for two days. So I put on a white pop-up next to the boilie, poured pellet and boilie into a PVA bag, and threw this bait back into the pre-baited area.

Whilst I was waiting I continued fishing with the float rig. This turned out to be much more successful: only after ten minutes, the third throwing aroused the interest of a large Giant carp! Just as the float reached the rig depth the fish took

it and literally wanted to pull out the rod from my hand. I hooked, whistled, and shouted. Kyle arrived and watched me playing the fish. I felt it was a much bigger piece. After 30-40 minutes Kyle got it in the net from the water and told me this carp was over 99,2 lbs (kg). I was blissfully happy; I broke my own record on the second day. We took some pictures in a rush.

Then I had a bite again from the bottom, I managed to drive a

similar-sized carp into the keepnet. We took some pictures with trouble but with joy, sterilized the fish, and let it back into the deep water. After all these I rested a bit, ate, and called some of my friends to share my experience. I only had a few hours left from the day, but I could still fish out a large Pacu and an Amazonas Redtail.

When I took my place on the third day I realized that Kyle had a day off and Chris Pache was doing his

duties but he was just as helpful as Kyle. He left me alone to help others, but I was constantly whistling and shouting my place number. I caught at least 15 fish from different species: Carp, Catfish, Pacu. I got lots of smaller and bigger fish with a Giant carp exceeding 110,23 lb (50 kg) and an Amazonas Redtail of 59,52 lb (27 kg)

My fourth day started on the 22nd of November. I rushed to my place to start the pre-baiting. Kyle returned, but Chris spent a lot of time with me too as this day was not boring either. At 7:05 all the rig was in its baited area.



The lake was in deathly silence. Then, in the blink of an eye, there was a bite in the midwater rig. After a short play, my first fish was an Alligator Gar. Chris helped me pull it to the shore. He was surprised that I caught it with boilie. This day was a real blessing for me as I could catch a lot of Giant carp including a real Methuselah which was over 116,84 lbs (55 kg). I could also catch a Chinese Black Carp. All the other anglers and guides were celebrating with me, they were more delighted with this catch than with a Giant carp. It is a real sensation around here, but I believe it is a curiosity at home as well. Besides these, I also caught numerous Redtails too.

On the fifth morning I hurried to my place on the shore again. Initially, I caught three or four carp below 44,09 lbs (20 kg) and a Redtail. But I had a feeling that a sensational catch is waiting for me

this day. I continued the tiresome fishing with the float rig, but it did not work. There were more fish from the bottom, but these were smaller in size. I ran out of the stick pellet, so I asked Chris for some more. In five minutes he prepared the substance for me, I made some balls and started to feed a new area. When I finished I put some into the groundbait feeder and bait on the hook and set the rig for one meter.

After throwing in it set into work and started to sway as the feed was dissolving. After securing the





baitrunner I put the rod down and a fish immediately started to pull it... A robust Methuselah hooked up. At the end of a fifty-minutes-long play Chris was waiting in the water to net it. When it appeared on the surface Chris told: "It is an enormous fish". I could only comprehend how much this sentence meant on this lake when I was standing above the Carp. When I jumped into the water to take a picture of us we measured the Giant carp several times and it turned out that it was almost 154,3 lbs (kg)!

When we let the fish back into the water I took out my rigs and decided to finish fishing for the day. But as there was only a short day left from my angling I threw back both rigs. I only had a few

remaining hours but I managed to catch two Giant carp with 77,16-99,21 lbs (35-45 kg). After the last fish, I was just sitting and chatting with Chris and Kyle.

Frankly speaking, on the last day I was constantly feeding (almost every hour), I fed everything I had left, and it was successful. I caught lots of Carp, all were 44,09-66,14-88,18 lbs (20-30-40 kg). I managed to catch two more Pacuses with 26,46-33,07 lbs (12-15 kg), and obviously, the beautiful Redtail did not stay away. I used one boilie combined with white plastic corn, this was effective so far. I hang on the bite indicator, set the baitrunner, and threw the second rig into the water.

I threw a few, but there was no reaction from the fish. As I was standing on the concrete stand with the rod in my hand I realized that the biggest Black Carp of the lake was swimming at the surface by the plants next to me, with its 3-meter length and 220,46 lbs (100 kg). My body started to tingle so I quickly

threw the float rig 50 cm in front of it. I stuffed the swimfeeder; boilie and pellet were in my pocket. I threw in the rig again and threw a handful of boilie and pellet on the float so that the Carp hear that something is streaming above him. The water was boiling around the float. I wasn't lazy; I threw in again and threw boilie and pellet on the float too. The baitrunner was off, and then, just in a second, the float was underwater and the fish was pulling the line. I let him take it. I sized up the situation and struck – the fish was so enormous that it had the power to break my rig. The water rumbled and then there was silence. We felt each other's presence for ten seconds. Several people hurried to me, they told me they had never seen something like that on this lake before. I was happy and sad at the same time, but I could at least feel the fish for a short time.

I set back in my chair and called my friend János, who fished here a few times. He told me several times that he felt he had left something in the lake;

he also got in touch with the biggest Mekong, the "Big Boy". I understood everything: this lake always gives you things for a short time just to make sure you return. I thanked the conversation and finished fishing. I left my spot calmly and in silence because I got the carp I was only dreaming of. As I walked back slowly to my bungalow I admired the huge fireflies in the dark. It was a perfect closure. At dinner, we discussed the happenings of the last day with my new friends. The next morning I packed my bag and gave my leftover packet of pellet to my new neighbour. My flight took off in the evening from Phuket Airport, so my new fishing buddy's Dean Peters, Paul Stanbridge and I decided to go to Krabi to take



pictures and buy presents. I am glad that I explored both seaside bays during my trip and that I spent eight days in the Garden of Eden. After shopping, we drank a beer on the terrace, watched the water and we just knew that we will return here. There was unbroken silence, nobody whistled, as if the lake was saying goodbye to us. We set still and sad in the taxi, the only thing that gave us some comfort was that we can soon meet our families and share our wonderful experience with them.

Special thanks to Gillhams Fishing Resort for doing everything to make my dream come true. Thanks to my family, my wife, my child, and all my friends who rejoiced with me for my success.

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Many thanks for reading

Tamas



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Reviews

Featuring -

**KATRAN FANTOM FLUOROCARBON LINE
AND ZIGRIG COPOLYMER LINE -
MARK CARPER**

****** TRAKKER ARMOLIFE 'POWERFLO TAP' ****
REVIEW BY MARK CARPER**



**KATRAN – Fantom Fluorocarbon Line
and ZigRig Copolymer Line –
Review by Mark Carper**

Katran Fishing Line Company is Europe's Premium Manufacturer of, yes, you've guessed it, Fishing Line and Hook Links....!!!

Their International presence and Team of Professional Anglers, Experts are responsible for Designing, Testing and Approving, Top Quality products with unique and specialist characteristics, all made from High-Quality Innovative Materials.... and amazingly, here in the UK, they are hardly heard of or indeed known...

...even more amazingly, I am one of the UK 'Experts' and I have been using their Line for around six years now.

That Time of Year Again...

As we move 'slowly' into Spring and head hopefully into a hot Summer, although just warm will do, most Carp Anglers start to turn their attention to the use of Chod and Ronnie Rigs to combat the presence of weed in their chosen water and of course, a good number will start back on the 'Zigs' as the Carp seek warmth in the Upper layers of the waters....

...Fortunately, **Katran** has the perfect lines to help with these approaches and having first-hand experience of their full range, I thought I'd give you a bit of info about them...

Fantom – Fluorocarbon Hook Link

The **FANTOM** is their flagship Fluorocarbon line. Made using only 100% Premium Japanese manufactured Fluorocarbon, Fantom sinks four-times faster than Mono and the technologies that are used ensure that Fantom is virtually invisible in all waters.



It is super Anti-Abrasive and has a superior Knot Strength too. It is equally effective in Carp fishing where stealth is required and for use in constructing the 'CHOD' rig or even to Crimp to make 'Booms' for the Ronnie Rig, as it is for use as a Leader for when you are Predator fishing... yes that's right, I did say 'Crimp'... I have tested the Katran Fantom .50 with the .60 crimps from several companies, including the 'Korda Krimps' of course and all have held perfectly and when I sat "Tested" I mean "Tested"....

Tested to Destruction

...In my own tests, I used a High-Quality 'Digital Force Gauge Push and Pull Measuring Instrument', so my testing of the Breaking Strains with each companies '(K)Crimp' was accurately measured and I can safely say that I have no concerns about crimping the Katran Fantom to construct my rigs with the average break coming in at around 26.4lb on the 29.73lb line and all the breaks were at the 'crimped point'. In comparison, I tested the same length of line, which was eight inches as that is my 'standard' hook link length and using a 'Figure Eight' knot, the Fantom broke fairly consistently at XXXXXX



This high-quality Fluorocarbon is available in no less than NINE, variations, from the thinnest at 0.20mm with a 5.66lb breaking strain up to the 0.50mm heavy weight with a breaking strain of 29.73lb, and the latter is the one I use for all my 'Ronnie Booms'...!!!

The .30 and .35 both make excellent Hook Links and give enough suppleness to the rig to make it very effective and a great alternative on venues that do not allow Braided Hook Links, or just to use something a bit different...

.....The .40 and .45 along with everything below these diameters, are easy to knot and even, doing a 'Figure 8 Loop' the knot is minimal and presents well, but has a great knot strength.

All diameters are sold on spools containing 30m of the line and each spool has a plastic retaining clip to help stop the line freefalling when you are measuring out the length you require.

The following Breaking Strains are available in the Fantom range;

5.66lb	0.20mm	7.78lb	0.23mm
9.36lb	0.25mm	11.35lb	0.28mm
12.62lb	0.30mm	16.57lb	0.35mm
19.33lb	0.40mm	24.13lb	0.45mm
29.73lb	0.50mm		



My Choice...

On a personal note, I use the .50mm as my go to “boom” section for a Ronnie presentation and have successfully landed Carp to 38lb on this rig and I also use the same diameter line to create my ‘Chods’ although I am not a huge user of this type of presentation, I have had good success whilst using it and find that the ‘curve’ is easy to create and retain in the Hook Link and it still has the softness to knot on to the swivel with ease. If I want a ‘stiffer’ Chod rig, I have used the .35mm or the .40mm, “Doubled-Over” to create a ‘Double-Stiff’ Chod (something that I was shown a few years back and have used with success on some tricky venues), however, you do need to match it with a hook size that will take the line ‘twice’ through the eye and I have found the Nash PinPoint range allow this with ease...!

Katran ZigRig – Copolymer Line

As the name suggests, this is a line that Katran has designed especially for Carp Fishing or more specifically for “ZIG” Fishing.

This ‘New Generation’, High-Quality Copolymer allows the line to combine a Low Diameter with High Breaking Strength and the Innovative technology of ‘High-Density Line Coating’ prevents it from scratches making it very Abrasion Resistant and suitable for even the toughest of venues.



This extremely transparent copolymer also delivers an Ultra-High Knot Strength, No Memory and 15% to 20% Stretch.

The 11.5lb version has a diameter of just 0.255mm, and the 16lb offering at only 0.309mm. Both are supplied in spools of 100m.

Not much else I can say about it really, except that I have used this line exclusively for a few years for both Zig and Surface fishing and have never had cause for concern, even with the hardest fighting Carp. It knots perfectly and I have used several different knots with it, including the 'Knot-Less Knot' to attach the Hook (with and without a hair), a 'Figure Eight' to create a Loop, a Palomar Knot for attaching to Swivels etc. and even multi-turn Grinners on occasion and the knot strength is always superb.

For surface fishing I tend to use the Loop-to-Loop method to join it to my mainline and use about 6ft or so of the ZigRig Line after the Surface Controller and I tie it direct to my chosen hook. If you leave it to 'sit on the surface' it works very well and doesn't appear to give the Carp too much concern.... although hooking them is another story...!!!

If you would like to ask about a product or want some recommendations, feel free to drop me a message on my Instagram @mark_carper257 and I will be happy to help.

Katran Products - <https://katran.eu/>
Fantom Fluorocarbon - <https://katran.eu/fantom>
ZigRig Line - <https://katran.eu/zig-rig>

Where to Buy in the UK - https://katran.eu/buy_online



******* Trakker Armolife
'PowerFlo Tap' *****
Review by Mark Carper**

“Gimmick or Not...??!”

After using the PowerFlo Tap for a week whilst ‘Camping’ in France... (I was actually Carp Fishing but I blanked, so camping seems more appropriate...!) I feel I am in a position to comment about how it performed as I have noticed that the majority of ‘Negativity’ surrounding this product is from people that neither own nor have actually tried the Tap... Which is typical of the ‘carp gear critics’ I guess...

About the Tap

Trakkers Armolife PowerFlo Tap is a USB Rechargeable, Water Tap that gives just about any water container a convenient ‘Button Press Dispenser’. Fitting a variety of water storage containers with three different sizes of EVA Collars which are included in the pack, you simply screw/push into place until seated and you’re good to go. The PowerFlo Tap also incorporates a Red LED which illuminates directly below the spout when the Tap is activated.

After putting the ‘Tap’ to the test at home, whilst mounted on a Ridgemonkey five-litre water carrier prior to my trip, I noted the following;



- I had to shorten the 'Tube' as it was too long to sit inside a Ridgemonkey five-litre water bottle without 'kinking' which restricted the flow of the water. Once cut to an appropriate length, the flow was unrestricted. The tube was left long enough to still work in the 15-litre water carrier
- In a 'Pour Test' it took 22 seconds to pour 500ml of water and 42 seconds to pour 1000ml
- For comparison, from start to finish, it took 14 seconds to pour 1000ml by hand, which excludes removing the cap and replacing it... very scientific I know...!!!!

In France, I used the Tap multiple times every day and pumped 15 Litres of water through it and the bonus was, it was directly from a Supermarket bought water container on which, with the use of one of the supplied foam adapters, the Tap sat perfectly and was more than stable although not a 'tight fit', which is not dissimilar to how it sits on the RM water Carrier too...!

In France, I used the Tap multiple times every day and pumped 15 Litres of water through it and the bonus



was, it was directly from a Supermarket bought water container on which, with the use of one of the supplied foam adapters, the Tap sat perfectly and was more than stable although not a 'tight fit', which is not dissimilar to how it sits on the RM water Carrier too...!

Fully charged prior to travelling the Tap lasted without issue and I never noticed a drop in performance from the first pour to the last.

It never failed to work, it didn't leak or drip and even though "it" didn't put a Carp on the bank for me, it was so convenient to use directly from my cooking table in my Block House it just made sense to use...!

Yes, of course I could have simply picked up the water container and poured it by hand to fill my Kettle or Mug... but would it have been as convenient...? Definitely not...!!!

For £19.99, and let's put that into some perspective first...

I Spent '£19.99' on something that I didn't really need, which in the grand scheme of Carp Fishing, is very little considering the gear sat on my Rod Pod, including the Pod itself is in excess of £4000.. and it turns out I used the Tap more than that kit...!!!



....it was a great little addition to allow me to be organised and was useful and a benefit for a longer session... had the water container been bigger, say 15-Litre instead of the 5-Litre, lifting to pour would have been more of an issue, especially filling the kettle and the 'PowerFlo Tap' would have been even more of a useful addition to my Bivvy...!!

The addition of the little 'Red LED' is a great idea and it was surprising just how useful that was... and yes, I could have used my Bivvy Light on a higher setting or my Head Torch, but the very fact the Tap has a light meant I didn't have to and that made it even more convenient.

"Should you rush out and get one...?" well, that's your call...

"Could I have managed without it....?" of course, I've done session carping for over forty years without it... but...

"Now I've got it, will I use it regularly...?" Definitely, but only when I'm set up for those longer sessions and hopefully 'Fishing' rather than Camping...!!

There is a 'Cheaper' version available online but, be warned... it does not fit any of the water containers from the 'usual' Carpy Manufacturers and seemingly, it will only fit the big Water Containers made for the Commercial Water Cooler Units... I know because I bought one of them to try too...!!!!

Specifications

- Dimensions - 130mm (L) x 68mm (W) x 130mm (H)
- Material - ABS
- Weight - Approx. 240g

This was not a "Paid Review" and is my honest opinion of the product. Trakker Armolife PowerFlo Tap: <https://www.trakkerproducts.com/uk/product/powerflo-tap>

Mark Carper Instagram: @mark_carper257



www.gctangling.co.uk



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DT Baits
Castaway PVA
Deception Angling
Nutra Baits
Brooms Cross Fishery



Recent DT convert Dan Meadows has had a handful of good fish since making the switch, this being the most prized at 51lbs 12oz from his Norfolk syndicate. Dan fished Cold Water Green to tempt the massive beaut.

Darren Wallace with a gnarly looking zig caught mirror. Darren doused a piece of black Zig foam in Cold Water Green Beast to bag this cracker.





Nine year old Louie Buckingham managed two fish on a recent day session on Churchgate lakes this being the biggest. Louie expertly cast his solid PVA bag to a spot next to an island. The PVA bag was filled with Cold Water Green Beast pellet and stick mix and his hook bait of choice was a take 4 yellow wafter.

Steve Fisk with yet another recent victim. This one was 30lbs on the nose and just like all the others Cold Water Green Beast was its downfall.





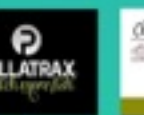
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Big Fish Mix and Trigga Ice did the job for Yaya Wild Fishing



Cameron Dodds with a 23lb mirror in sunny Scotland



Denise Haley with a stunning 21lb 120z Scale perfect mirror



Mark Watson The biggest of 4 from today at just over 20 to a mix of crumbed and whole 12mm Trigga freezer bait



Cameron Dodds with a 23lb mirror in sunny Scotland



Another Brooms Cross fishery A Team fish for Connor Heart and it's Courtesy Fish at 32lb 12oz.



The biggest out of Brooms Cross so far this year.. and a personal best for Connor Heart



Ross Vernon with one of 3 fish in a session, this being Captain Hook at 28lb 6oz from Brooms Cross fishery



Mark Scamp absolutely smashing his personal best on Brooms Cross fishery with Big Deal at 35lb 15oz.



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Thankyou Matt and Tracie



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Thanks for reading

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

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'The Talking Carp Team'

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Mark Faulkner
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