



Talking Carp

Magazine

Issue 74
April 2022



Inside This Month-

THE ONE AND ONLY MR ADAM PENNING JOINS US

Plus... Brian Skoyles, Keith Moors, Julian Cundiff



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Hello and welcome.... To issue 74. ▣

This month we bring you a bit of a “bait special” as we chat with Jules on the subject and discuss all things bait, Richard Handel dedicates his piece in this issue to the subject and we also have special guest Brian Skoyles with a great piece on bait and bait application....

And on top of that we bring you even more articles, reviews and catch reports.... All in your FREE ONLINE CARP MAGAZINE!

As always it is cover to cover jam packed and brought to you for your reading pleasure...

So, what about the shows? Wasn't it good to see them back? Did you go? What did you think? Let us know at the usual address... tell us what you thought about the shows.

Keep those emails coming.. the catch reports and the articles. We are the magazine written by the angler... for the angler...

Remember you can email us anytime at

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Team Talking Carp

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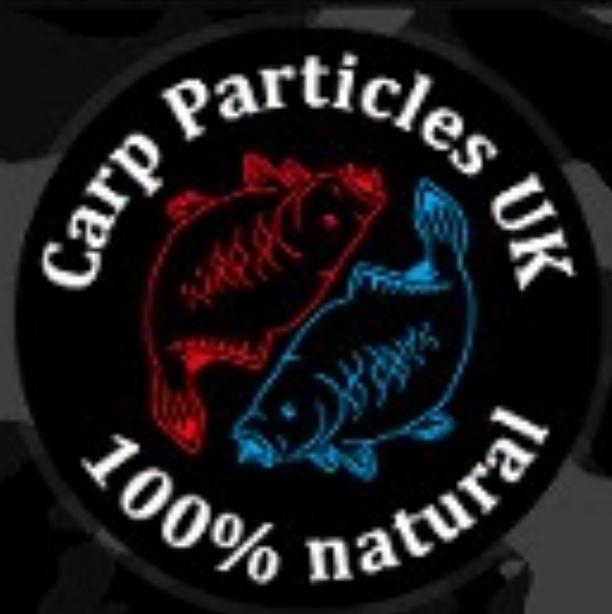
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“Carp Tutorials... What’s that all about...?!”



Interview with Adam Penning by Mark Carper

It's not every day you become the "Lucky Charm" for a well-known Carp Angler, but that was the case when I was recently on a phone call with a certain Mr. Penning, when mid-conversation he calmly announced "oh, I've got a take...!!" .., and that was that.... It had to be my influence, right..?!

A Carp Angler for over thirty-seven years, Adam has been at the forefront of Carp Angling and product development for many of those. He is one of only a handful of UK Anglers that makes one hundred percent of his living from Carp Angling and its associated arms, such as Product Development, Tutorials, TV and of course he is also a very accomplished writer and published author with his book '**Rolling in the Deep**', an honest and entertaining account that details a colourful life interwoven with lifelong obsession and he has plenty of anecdotes to tell, alongside tales of pursuing those Carp.

Unsurprisingly, Adam has done countless interviews, both on Paper, Podcast and Video and his passion for the sport still burns strongly within him, which was so noticeable during our conversation...

He has a wealth of knowledge and information and has influenced many anglers and how they fish through his Articles, Videos, Social Media and Tutorials and his straight talking and sense of humour is evident for all to see.

He is part of **JRC**, where he also represents **Greys Rods**, **Penn Reels** and **Berkley Lines** as all these brands are part of the same JRC stable. Prior to this he has been with Prologic, Drennan/ESP and in his early days, he was with Korda, so he knows a thing or two about Carp Products and the Carp Industry. He is also part of the **Team at Sticky Baits** and **Carp Life Products**.

As I started the interview, one thing was very apparent, Adam is not doing what he does for the "Look At Me..!" factor or the "Celebrity Status" and

he definitely isn't 'self-Indulgent', in fact, he is the complete opposite and at one point, I actually felt like I was being interviewed, or at least he made me question my own journey and reasons why I chase the Carp.... here's what he had to say...

TC: Adam, Mr. Penning Sir, many thanks for taking the time out to do this interview and welcome to the pages of Talking Carp Magazine... Being on the phone when you had that first Carp from your new water, I feel as though we are good fishing buddies now and I'm glad I could help...!! HaHaHa

AP: Thanks for asking me for an interview and for bringing me the lucky bite. I was 6 nights into a new ticket which started last November and as many will know, getting that first bite is often the hardest part. As it happened, I got my second bite the very next morning. It's so much more straight forward when you know what they like!

TC: I think it is safe to say that you are a "Fairly" accomplished Carp Angler, Author, Product Developer, Tutor, Guide, and your face has appeared on numerous TV and video productions over the years. Add to that the names of the companies you have been associated with and that must put you well and truly in the 'Celebrity Carp Angler' section of the sport...! Is that how you see it...?

AP: No, I definitely don't see it like that, and I cringe at the reference. We are just carp anglers, lucky to do what we do. I'm just a guy that loves carp fishing and everything that goes with it. (I nearly said 'I'm just a normal guy' but I'm definitely not that)

TC: "Normal" in carp Fishing, does it even exist...?! Anyway, tell us about you, the person and what drives your very evident passion for Carp Angling...?

AP: The passion comes from the fish themselves. Watching them in the water, the bite, the fight, inspecting the tiny details when they are laying on the mat, along with everything else that goes with it; the birdsong, the fauna, the sunrises and sunsets. What is not to like?!

I'm a married family man, we have a 7-year-old son and we live in semi-rural Suffolk.

TC: How have you kept that passion going over so many years and when did you do your first Tutorial...?

AP: You can't 'keep passion going' - it's either there or it isn't - you can't fake or manufacture it. The thing is the public quickly see through any facade. There are a few out there who film regularly but you can see their heart isn't really in it and they'd probably rather be watching the football. People intuitively know when they are watching someone genuine who has passion and belief in what they are talking about. I think mine comes from loving carp of all sizes. If you catch a fifteen pounder and the first emotional response is one of disappointment



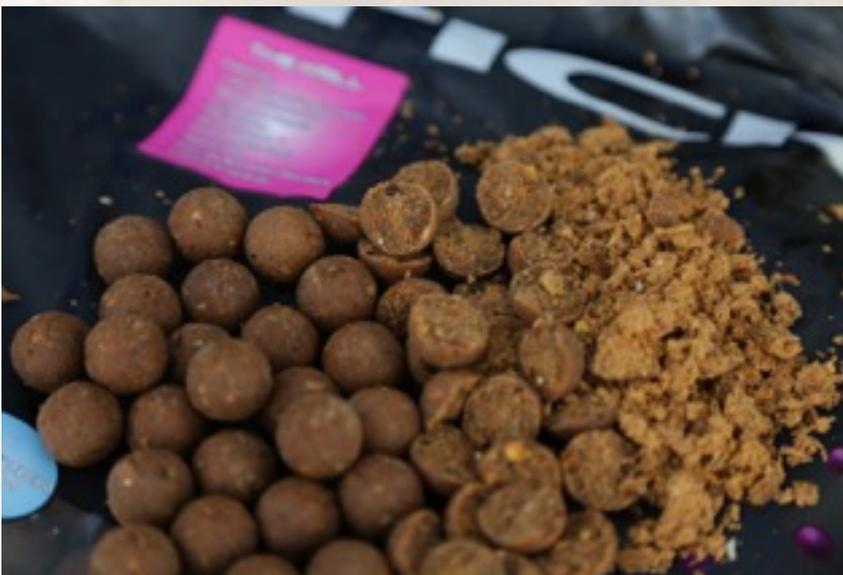
'...all eyes on the water'

, then your overriding takeaway from this pursuit is going to be one of continual disappointment because we aren't all catching whackers constantly.

I get a massive buzz regardless of the size (although obviously, a real monster buzzes even more!) and because of this, all my carp catching experiences are positive and joyous. I look at a mid-double on the mat and still, after all these years, think 'that is a good-sized fish'. Keep it in perspective - don't obsess over big fish and get to the point that anything less is a failure of some sort; if you do then you won't last long. To answer your other question, I started doing tutorials in 2012, so I am in my tenth year.

TC: From speaking with you, I can hear the passion you have and just how genuine it is, like you say, you still have a Buzz and even talking about it, that is evident.

Before we delve in to the world of Carp Tutorials, during an earlier conversation we had, you asked me a really simple question but it made me think long and hard for the honest answer and that was, "if you couldn't take a camera Carp Fishing, would you still fish..?" ...That really did give me food for thought and if I am honest, I would say "maybe", but I would learn more towards a "No"...



Unquestionable quality

...you then asked, "if you could take a camera and photograph the Carp, but you could never show those pictures to anyone, would you still fish...?".

This was an easy answer

“Yes, absolutely...!” as for me, Carp Fishing is about me and no one else...But... I have sponsors that expect ‘pictures’ so at this stage I feel the pictures are needed regardless....

So, I’m going to throw these back at you, how do you answer those two questions, given the here and now of your living being based around catching Carp and/or teaching others how to...?

...and what if your fishing, but not working, how do you answer then...?

AP: As an angling journalist, I take pictures of pretty much everything. However, I also have tickets for strict no publicity waters and I like to keep those for my own fishing as it were. I do feel that as soon as you publish an image, it loses a tiny bit of what makes it special. It’s almost like posting a picture of your wife half naked - some things are rich because they are private and nobody else gets to see them. If I wasn’t a journalist then I’d definitely pass the camera test - that isn’t to say I would stop taking pictures, it’s just a periodic sanity check you can ask yourself to ensure you are still doing it for the ‘right’ reasons.

TC: I’d never thought about my fishing that way before, but that question made me think and kind of gave me a grounding point of why I actually fish..!

Given the fact you make your living from Carp Angling, I guess if you are not actually doing it, you are talking about it or writing about it etc. what do you do to relax, given most people fish for that reason or at least for an escape from work etc. How do you manage the Work / Life balance we all strive for when most people’s idea of relaxation is what you do all the time...?

AP: Fishing is not relaxing for me - it is eminently tiring but also very enriching because I choose to throw myself into it and practice a super concentrated version of it every time I

go. So, when I am not fishing, I need to relax and catch up on sleep. Family time is everything and we spend a lot of time doing bike rides, playing tennis, walking the dog and all sorts of other things too. I do both to the max whether it's fishing or super saturated family time and I'm lucky to say that life is wonderful. I also do some work with mental health charities and work regularly 'behind the scenes' on social media, talking with people who are really struggling. I'm no expert by any means but I have got personal experience of it and talking really helps a lot of people.

I keep my own mental health in check by having a positive life, a good diet and a keep fit regime. I've been doing Joe Wicks HIIT for two years now; half an hour every day I am at home. I have been known to do it behind the bivvy on the unhooking mat too! I can honestly say I feel and look better now than I did twenty years ago. These things are so important to a good state of overall wellbeing - health is wealth as they say.



Epic returner!

TC: Right, now I feel completely lazy HaHaHa.. If nothing else this interview has so far opened my eyes to get me invigorated about why I fish and to get active..!!

Do you ever feel 'under pressure' to fish and/or catch and how do you deal with it...?

AP: **I'm very fortunate in that because I've been doing it so long, it wouldn't matter if I didn't catch a carp for months on end. I don't have anything to 'prove' as it were and luckily, I have a big back catalogue. I do feel for the youngsters trying to get noticed - it must be very competitive and many must feel that they are only as good as their last Instagram post. The pressure to keep it going must be significant and I am fortunate that I am not part of that.**

Sometimes when filming there is pressure - specifically if it's a film where you need a fish to make the film. That's something I have been dealing with since 1999, so I cope with it ok but the 'curse of the camera' is real and anyone who thinks it is easy to go and catch fish for a camera from tricky lakes, not just once but consistently over years and decades is deluding themselves - it can be very challenging but I love it too!

TC: You touched on the "getting notice" theme there, so what advice do you have to the youngsters that are trying to get in the spotlight...?

AP: **I get a lot of messages from people wanting to**



simple angling is my main approach

'breakthrough'. Commonly, people want to get a bait deal or free tackle and for some reason they think that only by getting those FIRST can they then go on to catch lots of big carp! It's amazing really - a bit like Beckham only starting to perform and score goals once people had agreed to start sponsoring him!

My advice is generally that if you are doing your fishing with a view to getting sponsored then you are probably doing it for the wrong reasons and won't last long. I'm

not being hypocritical either - I have never sought any kind of platform. In fact, I only started writing because the editor of Catchmore Carp, Jim Foster, persuaded me to have a go at it. I certainly had no dream or ambition to be 'well known' or sponsored, I just wanted to go carp fishing!

TC: Sound advice and not just for the youngsters either really. Anyone wanting to get noticed should take note... There's time for me yet...!

Right then, let's delve into the world of the Carp Angling Tutorial. First off, who are your tutorials aimed at...?



38 winter common on maggots and crumb

AP: **They are aimed at anyone who wants to learn and improve. It could be someone who's just started out, or someone who's been doing it longer than me. The key is a willingness to learn and an open mind - I have both and as a result I often still pick up stuff from people I am on the bank with. On the other side of the coin are those that say, 'I've been doing it twenty years - what could he teach me?' - that closed off, blinkered attitude will create an insular and self-absorbed angling outlook that will ultimately be far less enriching than it otherwise could have been.**

TC: What prior knowledge and gear would I need to book a tutorial with you...?

AP: **Just your usual gear and no prior knowledge required whatsoever!**

TC: Can you run me through a brief timeline of what I could expect on a tutorial...?

AP: **Each session is tailored to covering what the client needs and as such, all are slightly different. My remit revolves entirely around**



An unknown 40 from 2006

focusing on whatever the client wants to address and making sure that by the end of the session, as a bare minimum, they have got everything they came for. Ensuring they have had fun too is also vital.

TC: With the birth of internet, not until 1983 (1st January is the Official Birthday of TCP/IP Protocols apparently) and YouTube not kicking off until February 2005, we both remember Carp Angling before the onslaught of 'Social Media' but how do you think the knowledge base that is now readily available has impacted Carp Angling and specifically, Carp Anglers and has this had a noticeable impact on the Tutorials you do, isn't everyone already an expert, in the same way we are all now 'Doctors' thanks to Google...?!

AP: **One of the key things I troubleshoot almost weekly, that I didn't have come up much ten years ago, is the confusion of the carp angler. This is the result of over exposure to a flood of media information. In some ways it's good but if that information leads to the real objective being obfuscated by a lack of clarity, then we have a real issue.**

This is something people approach me about regularly, either because they have identified it themselves, or because I have diagnosed it as being a key part of the problem.



uber special from many moons ago

TC: I often hear high profile anglers talk about 'mindset' and

something that Julian Cundiff talked about was “percentages” in terms of mindset and commitment in angling and that many Carp Anglers are “70%’ers”, which I totally understand, in fact right now, I’m more of a 50%’er.... Do you feel that mindset plays a big part in catching Carp, and can a tutorial help get the mindset right...?

AP: The percentages thing originally came from Terry Hearn, although plenty of us have plagiarised it since, including myself because it is so appropriate. Mindset is vital to succeed at a good level in anything including sport / recreational activities. Focus, attitude, expectations, diligence and staying power are all part of this package. It is something we often cover during a tutorial.

TC: I can kind of guess the answer to this, given how you have already spoken about Tailoring a Tutorial to an individual, but I will ask it anyway... What could I expect to have gained at the end of the tutorial session with you...?

AP: Whatever your original ‘checklist’ comprised of! Not everyone comes with one, but most have a list of things that they feel they need to cover. Of course, a lot of other stuff comes up through the process too.

TC: Do you do your Tutorials on waters you know well and fish regularly, you know, from the Bailiffs Swim or a sectioned off piece of water or do you use ‘new to you’ venues...?

AP: Never on a sectioned or reserved off bit of water. What would be the good in that?! I have done them on a wide range of venues, both in the UK and abroad. More recently I have done them closer to home to keep the mileage down and the lake is always picked according to what the client has told me they need to cover. As you can imagine - sometimes it is quite site specific.

TC: I suppose an obvious question, is what qualifies someone to deliver a tutorial... Is it the number of fish they have caught, the size, the waters they fish or is it about length of service, the variety of waters etc.

AP: **Great question. Firstly, it has nothing to do with the fish you have or haven't caught. The most important thing is the ability to be able to clearly communicate. There are plenty of great anglers out there, but I know many would struggle to clearly transfer information in a concise, patient, and digestible manner. If you cannot do this - and do it well - then you are not going to be good at your job! Experience is**



51.14 margin beast

also a vital element, I mean if you were having golf lessons, would you rather have them with a teenager who's been playing for two years or with the seasoned pro who could cover every eventuality because they have 'lived it' in every sense?

TC: Well, there's no doubting your credentials or the fact you have "lived it", your depth and range of knowledge is clear to see, but can that be put across in one tutorial or is there even a need to and do you get 'repeat' customers wanting to know more...?

AP: **I do get repeat business and a lot of referrals too. On some occasions there are things that have arisen since, that they want to come back and cover. On others it might be a tune up just to check that everything we covered has been correctly (and continually) applied in their angling.**



A recent beast at 54.6

TC: Do you do discount for friends, you know, like your fishing buddies... like we are...?! (HaHaHa)

AP: **No!**

TC: Oh well, no harm in asking I guess...!! Adam, thanks so much for taking the time out to speak with me and I now have a head full of further questions, so perhaps we can pick this up again at some point and talk about the other things you do in the world of Carp Angling...?

So there you have it, a dive in to the world of the Carp Tutorial with one of the industries long serving anglers that has passion to spare. I feel inspired just talking to Adam and to be honest, we talked a lot more and, in more detail, but we will keep that for another time.

If you want a no-nonsense attitude and a full-on lesson in Carp Angling, no matter what your experience, Adam certainly ticks those boxes, hell, he even had me thinking about why I Carp fish and what I want from it after 41 years and I was just itching to ask him all sorts of technical questions and opinion on the latest fads, from Rigs to Tech and everything in between...!



The fish from the interview

'Quick Fire' questions...
.....which do you prefer...

Commons or Mirrors..? - Commons - big black ones!

Day Sessions or Overnighters or Longer Sessions..? - Generally longer sessions

Small or Big Waters..? - Tough one - small just edges it because I love watching them

Remote Locations or Full Facilities..? - Remote Locations

UK or Outside...(If outside, name the country) - UK

Spring / Summer / Autumn / Winter fishing..? - Spring is by far my favourite season

Bottom or Surface..? - Love my surface fishing!

Close In or Long Range..? - Close as I can!

If you could only fish one more session, where would it be..? - Anywhere where I could watch big carp, close, in clear water

What was your most memorable Fish you caught and why? - My first forty because it was an unknown fish (to the general public) and took me a couple of years very hard graft to catch it

Instagram: @adam_penning

Twitter: @Adam_Penning / @askpenners

JRC - <https://jrc-fishing.co.uk/>

Sticky Baits - <https://stickybaits.com/>

CarpLife Products - <https://www.carplife.uk.com/>

Greys - <https://greysfishing.co.uk/>

Berkley - <https://berkley-fishing.co.uk/>

Penn - <https://penn-fishing.co.uk/>



Looking Back Part 2



by Keith Moors

Let the graft begin...

In order to control the biomass in our lake we need to remove the "unwanted" fish. In our case this is a shoal of rudd and the smaller carp plus a very small number of young Silure catfish. During our early years we carried out drain downs, mainly because we suffered from the dreaded poisson chats and we needed to try to eradicate this pest. If you've ever fished a lake containing these spiny little darlings you'll know just how much they can affect your fishing. Now, just the physical difference between the poisson chats and rudd alone makes a massive difference to how to control them so I need to explain.

The poisson chats are a plague and breed so quickly that, even a handful in the lake one year will result in thousands the following year and they, pretty much, eat everything in front of them, from live natural food to boilies, to worms and even other small fish. They don't grow very large but they can ruin your angling plans. We used to see enormous black shadows of their fry on the surface and nicknamed them "chat balls". To have any chance of getting on top of them we needed to know that, at the end of a drain down, we had not missed a single one and the only way to do that is to totally empty the lake and let the mud dry. In all honesty, our first five vidanges were not quite good enough and the second year after a drain down the poisson chats were back. In fact, we eventually discovered that the adult poisson chat were getting back into the lake by swimming against the flow of a trickle of water which percolated through a coypu burrow in our dam wall.

Our local river, into which our lake drains, teems with them and they, like most other fish, swim against a gentle current. In our case the trickle of water running through the burrow was perfect for them and it wasn't until the vidange of 2011 that we found this out and dried the lakebed properly as well. We totally sealed off the burrow and inspected every lakebed puddle, every day for six weeks and it was a total success. We eradicated the little blighters from our lake, we haven't seen a single one since and the growth rates of our carp went through the roof.

In 2021 we faced a slightly different problem. Our "nuisance" fish were rudd and small carp and they need controlling in a different way to the poisson chats. Rudd spawn with sticky eggs which adhere to strands of weed and possibly then attach to the feathers of ducks and other waterfowl. This lends them to be transported to bodies of water which have never held fish previously so we will never, ever, be able to totally prevent rudd from being introduced to our lake. We are therefore faced with the need to accept this but to control their numbers by netting rather than totally drying the lake. After all, there's absolutely no point in subjecting the large carp to the stress of being manhandled and moved to our stock pond, in an attempt to eradicate the rudd, when we know that they are likely to be reintroduced anyway.

I'll just add here that the poisson chats build small scrapes as nests and lay their eggs within this hollow before guarding them so there is much less chance of them being transported. However, we opted for a "belt and braces" approach by adding American largemouth bass as an additional predator to our perch.

Another brief explanation here, poisson chats are actually American "spiney catfish" and, in America their main predator is the largemouth bass so it seemed sensible to add the one predator that enjoys taking one home for dinner, should a straggler ever manage to get back into our lake. Now, the fact that we don't need to totally empty the lake gives us



a benefit because it removes the stress of having to catch and temporarily move all of the large carp. During past vidanges we had to catch every carp, perch and bass and transfer them to our stock pond while we cleaned and dried the lakebed. It was tough

and stressful but, in 2011, our biggest carp was a scraper fifty and not in large numbers. To catch and move the current stock would put some very big fish at risk because, at the end of the drain down we would then need to pump the stock pond empty and catch all of the fish again in order to carry them back to the lake. In order to control the rudd we just need to lower the water level so that we are able to wade around the deep end of the lake while we pull our seine net around that remaining area of water.

In order to carry out this work, in early November 2021 we began to lower the water level. Luckily, when the lake was formed, 300+ years ago, the genius who designed it had a sliding gate valve built into the dam wall along with a fish trap to stop the wanted fish from escaping. The reason that the lake was constructed all those years ago was, originally, to use as a breeding pond so that very small fish could be grown on for two years before the local peasants would drain it and store the fish that had grown on, as food to supplement the times of poor crops. The gate would then be shut and the lake would be allowed to refill and the previous year's fry left alone to repeat the cycle again. Now we could use this facility to our advantage to get the water level down for our netting operation.

In early November we cracked open the gate and watched the first rush of water going through the fish trap. It was necessary for me to monitor the amount of water escaping and adjust the gate to control how fast the



water level dropped. It is essential that it drops slowly in order that the fish are not dragged towards the gate and damaged in the fish trap. This being my seventh vidange I have learned by previous mistakes and we can now be fairly accurate and this allows us to aim at a specific date to reach the desired level. This date needs to be during a weekend so that my daughter Sharon and my grandson Lewis are

here to do the donkey work. At 73 years old I still consider myself fit enough to help pull the net and I normally row the boat out to drop the net around the water area but doing a lot of wading while pulling the net is above my pay grade and supervision puts less strain on my heart. I will just add here that, since my heart attack I am on fairly strong blood thinners and they don't mix easily with severe cold conditions. Anyway, the day for the hard work arrived and the three of us donned our fetching chest waders and headed out across the mud, not that there was as much mud as there used to be but I'll deal with that later.

With the net gathered on the boat I headed out and round the remaining water while Sharon secured the float line to one side of the lake. In fairness, if you lay the net on the boat correctly, it's not too hard to get it set in a semicircle. Then comes the heavy work and with just three of us it can really get heavy. Our net is 1" mesh and is two meters deep so, once the water has been lowered to about six feet deep, at its deepest, we have found that it's most effective to slowly pull the float line and allow the lead line to follow on. We had the net made with a lead line rather than weights in order to try to reduce the likelihood of it digging into the silt. At the start of the netting, it is "fairly" simple to pull it but we need to watch the line of floats for signs of some of them sinking. This alerts us to obstacles such as sunken sticks and branches which have caught in the net and stopped it from moving. The only way to clear these is to wade out to that spot and untangle them manually. Generally, that's my job, in a wet suit, and it doesn't need to happen too often before I'm shattered. Anyway, as the loop of the net begins to reduce, we very soon begin to feel the thump of groups of fish panicking and hitting the net as they try to escape. I'm sure that quite a few carp escape by pushing under the net, and we see huge bow waves as they power away in the shallow water. On the



other hand, quite a few of the bass simply jump the float line and we've all been hit in the chest by three and four pounders, which certainly comes as a surprise. I'm fairly confident that most of the rudd remain trapped by the net, partly because of the large numbers that we remove but also because I just think that they are too small, and not strong enough, to push under the lead line.

As the circle of the net reduced, we began to see groups of, obviously, big fish fighting to get free and, in order to avoid them getting damaged, we stopped pulling the net and waded out to these groups. It was fairly easy to lift a few from each group and simply slide them over the float line and back into the lake. We weren't trying to trap the big carp so there's no point in dragging them all the way to the bank. Once we'd lifted a few from each group the rest would, generally swim away from the net and that would allow us to pull the net a little further again, before repeating the exercise. Gradually, bit by bit, we closed the net and got the remaining fish corralled into a small, shallow area. By now, most of the bigger carp had already been released and we were down to releasing the perch and bass as well as placing the small carp into a floating cage. Once all of that was complete, we needed to transfer the small carp to our stock pond and then deal with the rudd. Just to give you an idea of the work load we

moved 85 carp to our stock pond. Most of these were around 7lbs to 10lbs with two mid doubles but, amazingly, or even strangely, all of the other carp in the net were over 30lbs. I'm struggling to understand why we appear to have this gap in our stock and I can only think that our policy of moving doubles when they get caught, has resulted in those fish, which would now be twenties, being moved to the stock pond before they became twenties. This also explains how the anglers, that we did have during 2021,



jokingly complained that the lake was full of nuisance thirties. Can't wait for it to be full of nuisance forties.

With the small carp carried up to our stock pond and the perch and bass released we were faced with a net bulging with small rudd. Now I say "small" and the majority were 4oz or so but there were also several much larger with the biggest over 4lbs so we needed to find a new home for these specimens but I'm afraid I have to admit that nobody was interested in the smaller rudd. We have done a rough weighing as we've worked and it works out that the total rudd removed added up to just over 2500 lbs which is way above what I expected and finally explains why the known carp were well down in weight.

I will say again that I have been involved in many netting operations over the years and it never results in all of the fish being caught so I wouldn't be surprised if there remain a handful of small carp in the main lake. If any do get caught, we will remove them as they are caught but, whatever way you look at it, there are one hell of a lot less to worry about. With a netting operation, the small perch and bass escape by diving through the 1" mesh and that just leaves us to lift the bigger perch and bass over the net. It was impressive to see about 50 perch of 2lbs or bigger but it was mind blowing to see 200 plus, huge bass of 4lbs to 7lbs in size. I'm sure any small rudd that did escape are in for a tough time this winter.

My biomass targets have always been around 500lbs per acre so you can see that just the rudd wiped out 5 acres for us. In total, with the rudd and the small carp, we have reduced the biomass by over 3000lbs. That is going to make a fantastic difference next year. I should add here, a very brief explanation of why we need to reduce the numbers of fish. Every single lake can only support a certain weight of cyprinids, for example 500 ten pounders



or ten fifty pounders but it can't support both so if you want the big carp to maintain their weight or keep growing, that biomass must be managed and our vidanges enable us to carry out that management.

Unfortunately, there was no possibility to weigh and photograph each fish and with just three of us to carry out all of the work but I'm impressed with how well we did. Young Emma did take a few snaps from the dam wall and I've cropped some of the clearer ones but I don't have a clue which fish is shown in each photo. However, we did lift about 150 big carp over the net and some were truly mind blowing. The fish that we caught and recognized included Half Lin, Round Scale, Horseshoe Scale, Bob's Fish, Galileo, Moorsey's, Locky and, wait for it, The Long Common. Now we also know that Patch and Nemo have been caught during the last few weeks so I'm sure there are more surprises to come. All of the fish looked in mint condition but, obviously, not swollen with eggs so, even though we kept saying things like "look at the size of this" I remained aware that they had more to come in the spring and the reduction in biomass will mean that they will continue grow even faster.

Keith



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Talking Point

*with
Julian Cundiff*



TALKING POINT...

Bait.

with Julian Cundiff & Brian Dixon

B.D. Welcome back, and as this issue is a bait special, we thought we would have a chat over that very subject.... **Bait.**

From the humble maggot and worm to the world of complex carp baits, liquids and additives, we open the door to a whole new world which can become a bit of a rabbit hole for some.

So, let's go back to the early days, when you first turned your hand to predominantly fishing for carp, how soon did you start to realise your bait could be such an important factor of your carp fishing.

J.C.. In my early years 1976 and 1977 I was your typical maggot, worm, bread flake fan for non-predatory species and those served me well . They all caught fish on their day with none being any worse or any better than any other over time. However, that all changed in 1978 when an older school pal Dominick Atkinson ('Domers ' as we called him) started to use sweetcorn and it absolutely revolutionised our tench, roach and bream fishing wherever we used it. I would say it was 5:1 more effective than anything else and that was the first time I twigged bait was the key (no pun intended ala Nashbait Key) and that for multiple and consistent catches you HAD to get something they wanted and would keep wanting.

B.D.. Obviously back then we didn't have tackle shops with shelves and shelves of prebagged boilies with a greater range of flavours than your local Indian takeaway available to buy off the shelf, and carp baits became an experimental playground for many. Was this something you



My typical starting point. Single mesh bag

immersed yourself into by choice or necessity?

J.C To be fair I didn't experiment too much with ingredients prior to the boilie revolution in 1984 as until then I was definitely a specialist angler not an out and out carp angler. In 1983 when carp became 'one' of my target species I realised that corn was nonselective, so I ground cat and dog biscuits and bound it with fish paste from aquatic pet shops. I didn't boil

it but just made it stiff enough to mould round the hook shank. It worked but in all honesty no better than luncheon meat and cheese for carp.

B.D.. What would you consider to be some of the more unusual flavours or ingredients you have personally tried? I can hold my hands up and say I have used a lot of kitchen cupboard ingredients in my time... I think we've all used Nesquik milkshake powder at some time, then there's Marmite, or beef stock cubes, jams and marmalades, Andrews Liver Salts was another one, and then there was Mums spice rack... I dread to think of how many times I got a gentle clip around the ear when mum opened her spice rack to empty jars....

J.C.. As I said because I only made 'specials' briefly there was not much cupboard raiding going on. I did fry the fish paste in a frying pan like we did with the luncheon meat but in all honesty I kept it simple. I remember trying some of mum's cake essences, but they were not ground breakers.



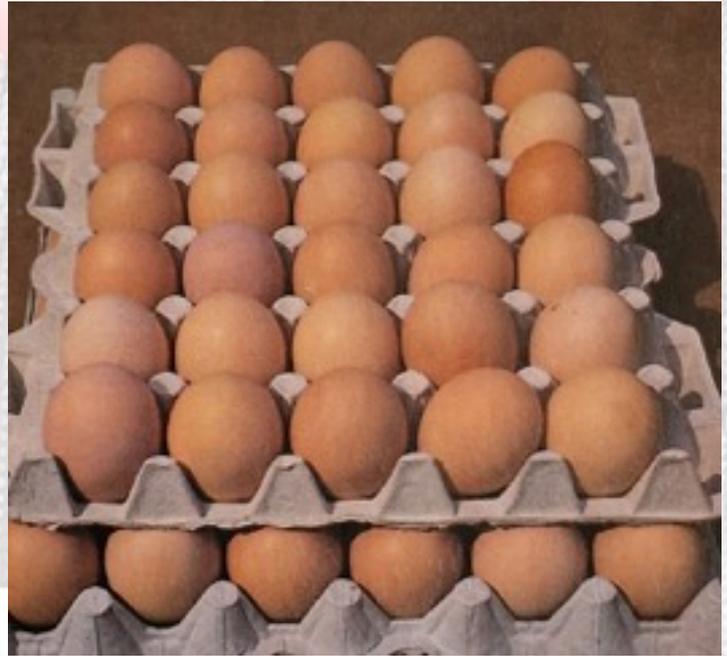
Find what they want and will keep wanting

doorstep, right to garden shed rollers who are still trying to find the next big secret to unlocking the perfect carp bait. Could the industry possibly evolve anymore?

J.C. Absolutely the industry will keep evolving as it has to. The major players **HAVE** to bring out new baits as a significant percentage of the public believe new is better. At one time that was probably true but nowadays it's just appeasing the customer. Every year baits change **NOT** because bait companies want to mess with a winning combination but because ingredients and additives simply become unavailable due to scarcity and legislation affecting their makeup / composition. Many of the classic flavours like Chocolate Malt and Pukka Salmon were almost syrup like in composition, you'd hardly recognise them now. Not that they are being cut just that the required additives are not available. I can see major players bait getting pricier due to regulations and garage operations getting less 'consistent'.

B.D. Move forward a few years and what started out as a hobby for some soon became a full time business, and bait in itself became an industry. Looking at today's media and there are hundreds upon hundreds of options available to the modern carp angler, from the bigger companies who can supply all you need, readymade, in bags and bottles delivered to your

Egg prices are going through the roof and the smaller firms cannot absorb it without something giving.



The price of eggs is escalating too

B.D. Which brings me to the next point. We have seen moves lately regarding regulations of bait ingredients, and companies having to declare the make up of the bait, but is it being adhered to enough? I know the bigger companies have invested thousands upon thousands of pounds to follow the new rules and regulations but still we see people throwing “Big Billy’s Big Carp Baits” into lakes by the bucketload... is there a way this could be monitored and policed properly do you think?

J.C. I think Nutrabaits were the first to put ingredients on theirs but now MOST major players do too. Of course the smaller firms won't. They can't afford to, they probably don't want you to know what's in them in I guess most operate well away from the glare of legislation and the taxman. You certainly can't police it but if you are getting bait at four quid a kilo what do you expect? More fool you to be honest.....

B.D. Bait application.... And here’s a subject that seems to be very much misunderstood in fishing. All too often lakes are submitted to an onslaught of daily spodding from all angles when it is completely unnecessary, resulting in lakes shutting down and carp not feeding when a simple small bag, or even a single hookbait would be a far better option. At the end of the day surely the whole purpose of a bait is simply to entice a bite from a fish?



J.C. My view is whatever is working then the starting point for most of you is to duplicate it. On some waters that will be spodding / spombing and fishing over it but NOT all waters. You need to decide what works best for you in the time you have available taking into account the going method, weather conditions, angler pressure and so on. I hate generalising but I do think that many anglers put in too much bait inaccurately for the time they have. A small solid bag, mesh bag or single with a

If lots of bait is working then pile it in... accurately. Tools of the trade stringer is OFTEN the best way to get a quick bite. Ask yourself before adding free offerings.....

A) Do I think it will draw carp into my swim?

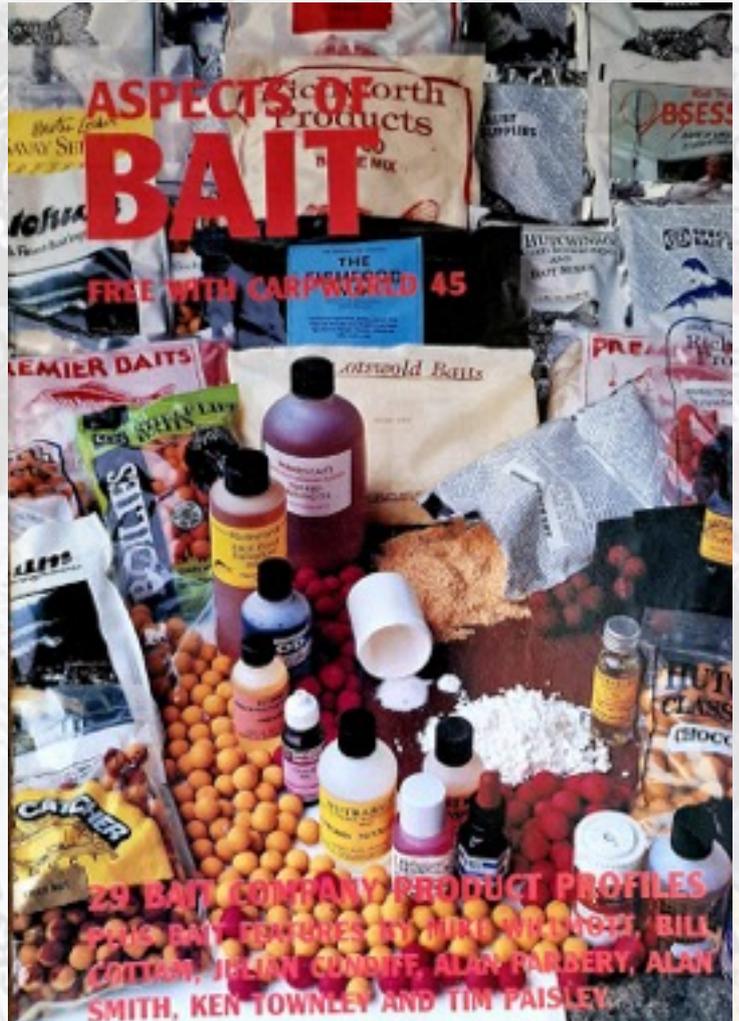
B) Will it make them pick up my hookbait?
Really???

B.D. So, it would be fair to say properly presented baits will have far better chance of nicking a bite than an hour of "filling it in"?

J.C.. All baits whether stand alone or over feed should be presented properly. Pin sharp hook, no chance of tangling and constructed to match the water topography and rig mechanics.

B.D.. Seasonal baits.... Without getting too technical, we do see adverts for baits which are better in Spring/Summer/ Autumn/ Winter and so on. Over the years is this something you've come across, or are you happy with your chosen bait all the year round?

J.C.. I think MOST of us are missing a trick. The great Rod Hutchinson had such an understanding of carp that he knew that JUST one bait would NEVER be the optimum choice for carp. Time of year, water temperature, water pH, depth, time of day the lot. Rod never stuck to one bait all year round NOT because he wanted to flog us lots of different baits but because he knew carp. We are not Rod Hutchinson! For me I tend to feed boilie May to October in quantity and because I am targeting certain waters I keep to one feed and mess about with hookbaits and feeding scenarios. At the moment that is Nashbait Scopex Squid, but I have



In the eighties and nineties interest in carp baits exploded



But we are not Rod !

campaign angled with Nutrabaits Enervite, Enervite Gold, BFM and Biollix, also Nashbait Monster Squid, Key and Scopex Squid.

In the colder months I tend to use Flaked or crumbed versions of my summer bait or smaller quantities of a birdseed based mix like Amber Strawberry etc.

B.D. If you could pass on one single piece of advice regarding bait to our readers, what would it be?

J.C. Unless you have total confidence in your bait from years of consistently catching carp with it on different waters at different times of year let others do the hard work for you. Find out IF a bait is going in the water in quantity AND catching and if so there's your bait. They are baiting up for you thank you very much. You can work your edge with angling ability, baiting scenarios, accuracy, presentation but don't p@%s into the wind



Less is often more in the spring

for no good reason. Be it Cell, Krill, Scopex Squid or whatever if they are having it crack on. Simple but very very solid advice.

B.D. Well, that concludes another chat with Jules, and we hope he has given you some food for thought (pun intended!)

J.C. Thanks guys, enjoy the issue and have a great spring. Remember less is more when it comes to bait so sit on your catapult, Spomb, Bushwhacker or boat.

B.D. Remember you can find Jules across all his media platforms, where he will continue to share his carp wisdom, and happily answer any questions you may have.

Have a great month everyone.

Facebook
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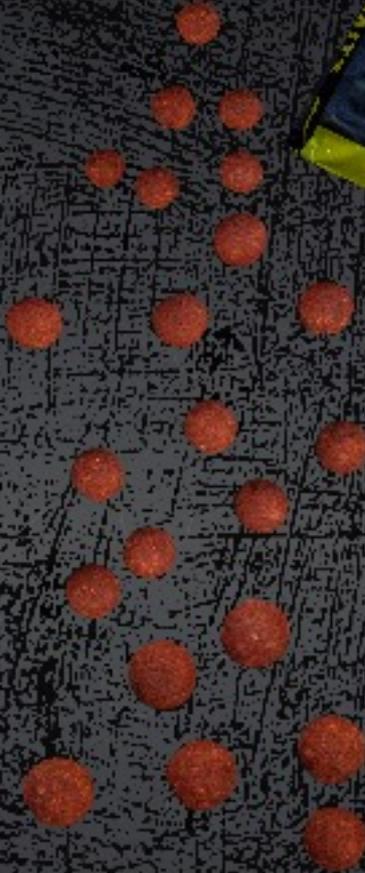
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Bait Application

by Brian Skoyles



I wouldn't class myself as particularly active on social media, but I do follow the posts on a few of the better carp groups. On a fairly regular basis you see posts along the lines of what's a good bait for winter, or what's the best bait for so an so water, or I'm going to France what bait should I take? My carp fishing exploits go back over fifty years, so I've seen the "best baits" come and go many times. Luncheon meat, sweetcorn, peanuts, pastes, tigers, hemp, dozens of different boilies from flavoured semolina, to HNV, to fishmeals, birdfoods, glugs, dips, pop-ups, wafers, in every colour of the rainbow, take you pick, there's lots to choose from. These days, turning up at the lake with a shed load of quality bait is not difficult ... Using it properly has always been the hard bit.

No angler will get it right 100% of the time, but the consistently successful anglers gets it right more often than not. So how do you go about becoming one of those consistent, successful, anglers. I suggest it's a combination of advanced research, and an understanding of how conditions affect fish behaviour on the day.

Having top of the range gear, the best bait and the going rig counts for nothing if you use them badly.

.....

Things to find out before you go ... "Doing the research" ...

Many years ago (relax, that's the "old codger" bit out of the way) it wasn't always easy to get information on the waters you intended to target. A combination of "secret squirrel" amongst carpers and a lack of places to look could make information gathering a long and tedious process. You could look in club books etc for basic information, visit local tackle shops (remember them) and talk to the experienced anglers in them, but often it came down to searching old newspapers followed by regular visits to the lake. A long process of trial and error, usually resulting in plenty of blank sessions.



Collecting my order of Trigga Ice freezer baits, my go to bait for many years.

have some idea of the following before I fish any venue.

How things have changed. With social media, there is no excuse for not arriving at a venue reasonably clued up. That doesn't mean you go on facebook and ask how many wraps you should fish from peg 6, and should it be a pink, or yellow pop-up on a Spinning Ronnie.

My research tends to focus on the following, and I like to

Stock density ... Basically the more fish in a lake the less food there is for each individual fish. A basic law of survival, the more a water is overstocked the more the fish have to compete for food. From a baiting up viewpoint this means there will be more chance of your free baits being found and feeding spells lasting longer but it's not that simple.

Stock Experience ... The fish can "wise up" and gradually over the years of being caught learn that sometimes coming across large piles of bait lying on the bottom, is not always an easy meal. If the water has popular trendy methods such as spodding tight to a marker or using a bait boat for example, then the fish can become wary of tight patches of bait and a light scattering of bait becomes more effective. If everyone is fishing tight to the far margins, then an open water rod can score. If you can it's better to start a trend



Code, a great go anywhere for a quick session bait.

than slavishly follow it.

Angling Pressure ... Can have a huge influence on fish behaviour. Picture a popular, heavily stocked, day ticket water. Every peg contains a keen carper. In theory the lake has loads of fish in it, so they must be hungry, but an hour before dusk, the spomb bombardment starts, and the fish have a plentiful supply of food for their tea. Many of the anglers have not caught overnight, so out comes the spombs again, that's their breakfast sorted as well. The fish are also well aware of loads of bankside activity, leads crashing in from time to time and lines all over the place. They need to feed but have plenty of food to go at and can afford to be cautious. So, in theory, what should be a dead easy venue, becomes much harder. In contrast, a lake with low stock levels but a lot less angling pressure can be easier to target where you have a chance to set traps for relaxed fish. It then becomes more about walking the lake, finding the fish and recognising potential feeding situations as opposed to competing in the bucket race for the one empty swim.

Lake behaviour ... With a bit of research, you can usually get an idea on how a lake fishes in various conditions, and at different times of the year.. Some lakes fish well in winter, others seem to shut down almost completely. Some are great surface waters, other less so. Zigs work well on some, are ignored on others. Personally, I see no point in targeting



I bag my freezer baits up in 1 kilo bags, ready for a quick grab and go.

a particular lake if it's history suggests the conditions are totally wrong for that fishery, or it doesn't suit my style of angling. Especially in winter I would rather lower my sights and get a run or two, than fish a water that hasn't done a fish for months. On some the fish follow the

wind, less so on others. There will be silty areas, weedbeds, islands and bars which should affect where you chose to fish, what tactics you use and just as importantly how you feed the swim. If possible, and it's a local venue, check its ok, then visit the lake, it cannot do any harm to have a look round.



For heavily stocked relatively naive fish, a mix of boilies can do no harm and might be an advantage.

Lake rules ... I must admit this is an area that has caused me problems over the years. I have fished waters with various bait restrictions that I don't understand or agree with, and it does affect my confidence. The choice is, make the most of it, or don't go to that venue. The owners will have a lot invested in their lake and stock, so have every right to write the rules. There are usually some very good alternatives that are allowed, and if the water contains quality fish, that I'd like to catch, I will happily modify my approach. Boilies is a classic example. More than once I've had carp anglers tell me they won't fish a certain water because boilies are banned. What about Sweet Corn, Luncheon Meat, Peperami, raw prawns etc?



I like to mix my pellets to give a range of breakdown times.

Previous Weather ...

Even if I'm not fishing I keep an eye on the weather. What has happened over the previous few days can have a huge effect on where the fish might be and how the fish will feed on the days you are actually fishing. Carp often follow a new wind, but gradually back off



There are some very good alternatives to boilies.

one that has been from the same direction for several days. It's the start of a wet spell after days of hot weather which might increase the feeding response. It's been hot and sunny for several days so are the fish more likely to be up in the water. Days of heavy frosts overnight and the lake has had a lid on it for most of the previous week, but your trip coincided with a milder spell and the ice is thawing, giving you clear spots to fish. Do you still use the minimum free bait or even just a single hook-bait as the water will still be very cold?



My go to liquids to add to French Mix.

Weather Forecast ...

What weather is coming your way is just as important as what has previous just gone. I firmly believe that fish have some sort of inbuilt sense and instinctively react to weather changes. More than once, particularly when winter carping, I've had a good day, then the following few days the weather has got a lot colder, and the lake has frozen over. It's almost as if



"Sludged Up" Trigga a brilliant single or with a pva bag. Just put a few Trigga readies in a pot and pour over Trigga liquid. Leave until the liquid has partially evaporated.

they are stocking up before conditions deteriorate. It's summer and you're there for a few days, Is it better to move into a swim before the wind starts hacking in or get set-up for it to go calm then start blowing away from you?

.....

On the day ...

Armed with knowledge about my chosen venue, my carefully selected baits, and my weather app, I arrive at the lake, have a look round and select my swim. It's decision time ... What happens next?

Conditions ... I'm rarely in a rush to start, and I certainly don't rush to throw loads of bait in. A short while just watching or fishing singles or bags, cannot do any harm and it gives you time to assess the conditions and make an informed decision for the rest of the session. You might have fish actively feeding in your swim on arrival and loads of activity with the spombs etc can spook fish before you've even got hook-baits in the water. A lot can depend on the length of the session and how long you are prepared to allow for spooked fish to return to your swim. On a water heavily stocked with naive fish the opposite can apply and the splash of the spomb acts as a dinner gong and attract fish to you!

Heavy, Light, Not at all

...

There is no definitive answer to how much bait should be introduced, so it has to be gut feeling when you are actually there. Just because you've taken it with you, doesn't mean you have to throw it all in the water. My baiting plans normally involve a mix of must use on the day



French mix one of the best particle combinations I've ever used. Especially if you add a couple of tins of evaporated milk and some Trigga booster to the soak.

freezer baits (I never refreeze baits) and others that can keep for another day. Unless I'm there for several days I rarely bait heavy at the start. I usually start with a light scattering in the warmer months and in really cold water no free bait at all, relying on a high attract hook-bait and a small pva bag. Not pointing the finger, but in my opinion there is a lot of rubbish talked about bait quantities. The number of comments you see, like "I put out ten kilos", makes me smile. I don't even know that many sponsored anglers that do that on a routine basis. Lightly topping up after a take is an option that I use a lot unless I'm fishing for very spooky fish, in which case I will not recast a rod if I've had a take during usual bite time.

Tight or Spread ... No species of fish I've ever fished for feeds heavily none stop. I firmly believe that most of the time you are fishing for grazers rather than scoffers, so most of the time I prefer to lightly scatter bait rather than concentrate large quantities in a tight area. Certainly, on some waters, tight spodding or excessive bait boat use has been shown to work well to start with, but gradually loses its effectiveness. To me a spread of baits over a wide area encourages a more normal feeding response that remains effective for a much longer period, particularly on pressured waters. It's also much easier to keep a swim topped up when just scattering bait, as it causes a lot less disturbance. My routine baiting equipment features, catty's, a throwing stick and a spomb, which gives me loads of options on how the bait is distributed in my swim.



A mix of shapes and sizes can help fool more wary carp.



Chops and maggots can be great if silver fish are not an issue.



Sometimes all you need is a pva bag.

Brasenose one, a lake that has seen everything, but some stunning fish. Try to be different especially with baiting up times.

Prebait or Educate ... Looking back, I reckon I've wasted, a lot of time and money on various prebaiting campaigns. These days I never prebait, but I do try to educate What's the difference?

Basically when, and how often you do it. Today we have a range of superb baits to pick from, there is no need to wean the fish onto them, they will be attracted to them and eat them from the off. Spending a lot of time giving them random free feeds, particularly early in the season before the water has really warmed up, is a pointless exercise, unless you are a tuftie or a coot. On the other hand, using the same top quality food bait trip after trip so they get to come across your chosen bait regularly can really pay dividends, they will soon get to recognise it as a valuable food source and eat it confidently. If it's not interfering with other anglers I also like to scatter a few baits in likely areas at the end of each trip. The more they see your bait, the more they will begin to accept it as a viable food source and eat it confidently.

Basically, pick a good bait, and stick with it, give it time to work its magic. I've been on the same bait for the last ten years or so, Nutrabaits Triggga Ice, and it will be the same this year. I know fish like it, and I have total confidence in it. It takes one of the variables out of the equation. Chopping and changing, highly flavoured, brightly coloured baits can be ok on heavily pressured day ticket water, where they see so many

different baits every day, but nowhere near as effective as a long term quality bait on your syndicate water.

.....
Over the years I've read many scientific papers relating to the lake environment, fish behaviour etc. Whether through lack of effort or lack of intellect, much of it has gone way over my head. I have been fishing for well over 60 years (sorry, the "Old Codgers" back) so hopefully in that time I've learnt the odd thing that comes in useful and helps me catch a few more fish than I otherwise might have done. Not so much, words of wisdom, not necessarily based on science, and on the day not always true, but they are some of the general basics that guide my fishing and help me to decide on what to do and when to do it ... I guess we all have our own personal list, here's a few of mine.

Face the wind in summer, turn your back on it winter. In the warmer months it's not unusual for carp to follow the wind, as food gets stirred up along the margin, but as the water cools this behaviour can change and they back off the windward margin, finding comfort zones in less disturbed water. In really cold conditions the fish will often settle in one area of the lake and rarely move from it regardless of the wind.



The colder the water gets the more cautious I am about putting lots of bait in. I think it's generally accepted that carp

A Brasenose common caught on a small bit of black foam at range on a 12ft zig.



The stunning Ashmead, cunning fish that don't like pressure. I like to set small bait traps and wait.

slow down as the temperature falls. Therefore, the quantities of food they require becomes less, the feeding spells become shorter and less intense. The greater the quantity of free bait they have access to, the less chance there is of them finding your hook-bait.

In spring don't be fooled by the weather,

the water will still be cold, be careful not to put too much in.

Bankside conditions do not always equate to water conditions. It might be nice and warm in the early spring sun, but underwater conditions haven't changed much. Carry on fishing and baiting as you would in winter until you have confirmation that the fish are active.

In autumn the first heavy frosts can stop action in its tracks, bait accordingly.

The conventional wisdom, pile the bait in, fill your boots as the fish are feeding up for winter, works to a certain extent, but there comes a point that mantra fall apart. The first sustained hard frosts can kill the fishing stone dead, often for a period of weeks. The carp need time to

Ashmead's "Opel" caught by setting a trap on a patrol route along the margin.



acclimatise, and it's very easy to over feed.

Varying levels of DO (Dissolved Oxygen) have a significant effect on when and how the carp will feed. Like us fish need reasonable levels of oxygen to feel comfortable. Obviously fish get theirs from the water they live in, dissolved oxygen. The problem is, the levels can vary widely, with things like temperature, weed growth, wind action, rain, decaying vegetation/algae all potential issues. Having some understanding of DO issues can help in decisions on where you fish and how you use bait. A great read can be found at ...

www.bruno-broughton.co.uk click on downloads, and then De-Oxygenation (Practical self help for fishery owners and managers). As a start, in hotter weather, weed gives off oxygen during the day, but absorbs it at night. So fish move into weedbeds during the day, and move out to feed during the night, often making early morning and late evenings good times to get takes, but daytime action on the deck very slow.

If the fish are on or near the top there's little point in putting loads of bait on the bottom. During spells of hot settled weather,

bottom feeding can be limited to very short spells, so bait accordingly.



Scattered Trigga Ice Freezer bait introduced twenty four hours before, and a washed out hookbait for this Etang Saussaie Mirror

Don't be in a rush to put bait out. Watch, wait, then decide. I'm fairly certain that it was Rod Hutchinson, that regularly used the phrase ... "You can't take it out once you've put it in". It still holds good today, especially on pressured waters that see a lot of bait every day.

Bait up well before a possible feeding spell, and not at the same time as everyone else. Evening can be a good time for a take or two, but often chances are ruined as around the lake an arial bombardment takes place, as a lot of anglers get sorted for the night. I like to do my baiting up earlier, so my swim is quiet and peaceful, whilst all the disturbance is going on around the lake.

Think twice before baiting up on top of feeding fish. If I have been lucky enough to move into a swim and find feeding fish, heavy bubbling topping etc. why spook them. Just get a hookbait in the water as quietly as you can, you can always bait up later. The same goes for feature finding, looking for clear spots etc.

Don't disturb the swim in the morning. On several of the waters I fish summer bite time is usually during the morning. When doing an overnighter, I rarely touch the rods in the morning. I have a brew, watch and wait, the traps are set why alert the fish to your presence.

Brian Skoyles







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Autumn Gem



by Scott Geezer Grant

With the Summer now over it was into Autumn, a great season for catching the big girls as they pack on the weight ready for their Winter slumber. I had planned a session but wasn't sure where I was going to fish. I walk The Dell a couple of times a week when I'm on earlies, and because of my love for the place, I decided I would start the week over there and see what happens. If nothing happened after a couple of nights I would wrap up and go over Bayeswater for the remainder of the week.

I turned up on a Sunday afternoon, there were a couple of anglers on, but they were all packing up. I had a walk around had a chat to the lads and with very little to go on I decided to fish the Bailiff swim, it's been good to me in the past, nothings been out so I haven't got anything to go by. My plan was to start off in the bailiffs and move if I see fish showing elsewhere. Early evening, I was all set up the rods were on the dance floor and now it was a waiting game. I fished 2 nights and with absolutely nothing to show for it I decided I would be wrapping up and venturing over Bayeswater. On my final morning a fellow member turned up and went

in the swim next door to me. I know him and said I would be packing up in a few hours' time and heading off.

What happened next changed everything for me. An hour after he turned up, I decided to walk down to him to see how he was and have a general chat. Just whilst we were both standing chatting, he started to stumble and if I hadn't grabbed him, he would of fell down the bank smashing his head on the swim. It was all a bit hairy I can tell you, and my first thoughts were he's having a heart attack!! Now I've dealt with the exact same situation at work and brought the bloke back to life twice, so I was more than capable of looking after this fella and giving him the care, he needs. The worse thing was there was no one else about to help.

I had got him stabilised and out of the blue a van comes through the gates and it's his best mate, I was relieved, I asked him to call an ambulance as I didn't have my phone with me, the ambulance was called and after they checked him out, they said he needed to take the next few weeks easy, luckily it wasn't a heart attack just exhaustion and overheating.



This really did affect me to the point I couldn't even pack up, I just sat there thinking what would have happened if I hadn't of gone down to him at that exact moment? Would he still be alive or would he be floating in the lake? I am a great believer that things happen for a reason, sometimes it's clear why and others it's not so clear. What made me go down to him at that exact moment I don't know but I'm so glad I did, he's a top bloke.

I decided to stay and access my situation the next day, but when I woke up to motionless rods I decided to go home and just forget that this session ever happened. It affected me for a good few days after and I didn't go back over The Dell until the second week of November.

I could only fish a 48hr session

as I was diving a mate of mines lake, to remove snags etc. I arrived after work it was early afternoon and there were only a couple of anglers on. After a good walk around the lake, I was drawn to the Airfield bank, and as I stood there watching the water a fish showed itself, it was only a subtle show but that was enough for me.

I dropped a bucket in the swim then went back down to the car park to get my van. The ground was of hard standing and as it wasn't muddy, I was allowed to drive to the swim, I unloaded my gear then took my van back to the car park. Once back in the swim the first thing I done was got the house up and everything sorted. The lake is still very weedy and especially down this end. I made a few casts with the marker and found 3 clearish areas in amongst the weed. On this trip I had decided to use a different flavour bait from the A2 stable, I decided to go with the Banoffee, a proven bait but one I hadn't used yet. I was also using my trusted chillie hemp and a few handfuls of dead maggots added to the mix, along with crushed boilies. I fished

chod rigs on all 3 rods as for me this particular rig can be presented over any bottom or debris and is always fishing. On the business end it was the super strong, super sharp, Sharp Tackle hooks, that I have 100% confidence in, so with all the tools at my disposal it comes down to watercraft. Something that I have been trying to perfect for the last 40 years!!!

With everything sorted it was time to sit back watch the water and chill. The wind was westerly coming straight down at me, it wasn't cold either quite mild to be honest, even the water temperature was 8.2 degrees. Just as darkness fell a couple of fish showed two swims up to my right!! Had the fish moved? do I move? I was asking myself all these questions but decided to stay put as chasing the fish around the lake is really not my cup of tea.

I was more than happy with the areas I had found and was sure if the fish were down here (which they clearly are) they would visit one of the baited areas.

After a lovely dinner I went to sleep early as I was absolutely knackered. I woke up early Friday morning just before first light, getting all excited for nothing, this time of the year I find the fish show on darkness and in the early hours. The fish don't seem to show on first light as they do in the spring and summer months. Mid-morning and another angler a mate of mine Andy turned up and went two swims to my right. I told him a couple of fish showed out in front of that swim last night to which his face lit up. I left him to get his gear and get set up whilst I sat about just watching and listening.



Later that evening just on darkness Andy popped down for a cuppa and as we both sat there watching the water a unit of a fish crashed over my right-hand rod, I was gobsmacked and boy did it give me a lift, the heart was racing like you wouldn't believe. I started to believe in myself that I had made the right decision to stay put. It was the only fish I saw out in front of me. A little while later a couple of fish showed in the same area in front of Andy so the fish were definitely down here and loving the weed. Surely it can't be long before one of us banks a chunk. Andy departed to have some dinner I stayed watching the water until my hunger couldn't take it anymore. I done some dinner a banging homemade chillie washed down with a cold bottle of the finest, I then chilled out on the bed chair.

My mate Dan phoned me asking what time I would be over to his lake in the morning. We discussed the plan and I said I would be packing up early doors then heading over to his lake Creedance. It's a lovely little lake pretty much square in shape with 4 swims 1 in each corner. He rents the lake out by either a week-by-week basis or weekends. Its roughly 4 acres in size with a healthy stock of fish.

There are cabins in each swim for you to stay in so there's no need to take your bivvy, he also supplies unhooking mats, nets and slings.

So the plan had been set which meant I only had tonight to catch one of the big girls. I stayed up



watching the water until well after midnight, then it was time to get some sleep. I drifted off pretty quick and woke up just after 0700 o'clock. I sat there having my first morning coffee when Dan called me again just to make sure I was going to his lake, I said I would be packing up shortly and heading over to him. An hour later and I started to get things packed up, just as I was in the midst of it the right-hand rod burst into life, I was straight down on the rod and the fish was already taking line, this was one angry fish. After about 5 minutes of playing, it the fish weeded me in a huge weed bed. I put the rod down and gave Ben a call as I need to go out in the boat. Five or so minutes later Ben, Jake and a few of the other boys turned up. I jumped in the boat life jacket on and net to hand. Ben is excellent in the boat so I felt confident the fish would be sulking in the net soon. I wound down pulling ourselves towards where the fish was buried. As we got above the fish it was still locked up solid. Ben grabbed the braid and gently lifted the fish, I felt the fish kick then bolt out the weed into open water, I played the fish for a few more minutes before it hit the surface and as it did Ben looked at me and said "Geeze that's a good fish" a

minute or so later and Ben done the honours with the net and the fish was mine. Ben peered in the net and said "Geeze its Buster and it looks like it could be 40lb!! As you can imagine a smile took over my face and a big "Get In There!" was shouted out.

We secured the fish so it was safe, then made our way slowly back to



the bank. All the boys were cheering which made it even better. Once on the bank I got everything sorted, the digital scales were zeroed, the mat was doused down with water then it was time to get my prize. With the fish in the sling, I used a landing pole & myself & Ben lifted the fish the scales settled on a reading of 41lb exactly. I was chuffed to bits the lads took a few photos whilst I was on the bank then just before the fish was treated and returned, I had some water shots done which came out pukka.

After the fish was returned, I sat down put the kettle on and after a strong cup of tea got the rod rebaited and back out on the spot. I was now in a bit of a dilemma. Do I

pack up and go to Dans lake today, or do I fish another night hoping for another chunk? I gave Dan a call and after I explained my situation, we both agreed I would fish another night and go over to his lake first thing in the morning. I unpacked the bits I had packed away and it was game on. I spent the rest of the day watching the water, looking for any signs. It wasn't until darkness fell that I saw the first fish show, it was further to my right and between my swim and Andy's swim. Again, just like the previous night I sat up until the early hours and the only fish I did see was a lot further out, but they wasn't the bigger fish. Had the fish done the off who knows and that's the beauty of fishing you just never know.





It was a quiet night and when I woke up in the morning the sun was already up and the rods were motionless. I started the dreaded pack up and after a couple of hours I was driving out the gate and on my way to Dans lake, which isn't far away as its only in Dagenham.

I spent the afternoon and the following day diving his lake and boy did I remove some snags. A photo says a thousand words and when you look at what I pulled out he was a very happy lake owner. His fish are now living in a snag free

lake. I did fish one night but no fish graced my net. One thing I did have was a good night's sleep.

My next trip out won't be for a few weeks which will be the middle of December. Where do I go and do I bank anything? All will be revealed in Mays's issue. 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

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

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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





TIPS FOR FISHING ABROAD

A misty, overcast day at a lake. In the foreground, several fishing rods are set up on stands, their lines extending into the water. The water is calm, reflecting the grey sky and the distant, foggy shoreline. The overall atmosphere is quiet and serene.

BY ANDY MURRAY

Hi all. Having spent the last month or two attending shows and speaking with Anglers whilst on the DT stand, sorting tackle and bait, getting work organized, it's time to focus on regular fishing again, as well as finalizing trips abroad. Even though it's a bit early for the big pit, I have been itching to get out night fishing again. As I write this, I have done two sessions and no carp to show for it, but back in the rhythm now. As I'm planning my first trip abroad this month, I thought it might be a good idea to run through some of my planning that I go through for fishing abroad, and in doing so cover some of those items which you might need for your own foreign fishing trips this year

My own first fishing trip to France was back in the early nineties, looking back, I am surprised how little tackle we took along. Of course, it was down to the type of waters we were fishing back then, they weren't typically much larger than UK waters, just slightly bigger carp. It was probably by the Mid 90's that I started to take fishing abroad more seriously and change and improve on the amount of tackle I might need to take on some of those really big French waters. So, I thought I would run through

my main items of Bait, tackle and equipment I class as standard now for my foreign fishing along with a few tips as well.

Arranging travel

I know its stating the obvious, I always make sure my van is travel worthy, servicing up to date, oil, water, adblue etc. I have a folder I keep all my travel documents in, Logbook, Driver's license, Green card insurance, whilst it's not compulsory, I always have full Insurance cover and breakdown insurance. Vaccine updates, any other extra docs related to Covid, do your own research, don't rely on social media experts as to what you can get away with. The other thing to be aware of is rules to do with the countries you travel though, most require, Hi-Viz vests, spare bulbs, warning triangle. You can buy a European travel kit that contains all these. We always have a first aid kit as well, which has come in handy on more than one occasion.

Bait

Firstly, I'm aware of the many questions on social media about not being able to take bait abroad,



own, and will continue to do so unless I'm made aware of any issues about taking bait abroad. We didn't have any trouble last year. As much as I think social media is good for obtaining info, it does allow all and sundry to voice their opinion, valid or not! I do not know personally of any single person having their bait taken from them at customs in France. So, for the time being I will continue to take my own bait. Once you are abroad, your options for more bait may be limited, as to supply and also the quality. You may not need it, but you need to take plenty just in case you find yourself in a position where the carp are really feeding. Do your homework if you can on what is needed for a week, then

take a bit more. This will depend on the time of year as well, early season the carp may not be feeding so hard, whereas spring onwards you will definitely need more. I would say a good rule of thumb is 30-40k of boilies and the same of particle per week. If you are fishing a large water, you may well need a lot more.

This is because you may have to feed hard for a few days to draw the carp in, this will mean wading through lots of nuisance fish for this to happen, they also will eat a lot of bait. We were fishing in Hungary a few years ago in May and we went through 200 kilos of bait in one week! What's more we could have put more in as well. What can be a good idea is to take a good amount of prepared particle and then take some spare sacks, large pan and stove etc. You can then soak and cook on the bank while you are there. When it comes to boilies, I would generally prefer to fish fresh boilies, but I am happy to use ready-mades if that's the only option. I have used a number

of baits over the years, and it does depend on the quality of bait one is using. Most good company's ready-mades are ok to use. I am more than happy to use readymade baits from DT, as they are of the highest quality. Having said that, if I am abroad for a week or ten days, I will generally take mostly frozen boilies, with some ready-mades as back-up, but the fresh baits do need keeping an eye on, once thawed they can deteriorate pretty quickly, especially fishmeal type baits. I have found by packing in cardboard boxes frozen boilies are fine for a few days, even in the summer. What I will usually do by the middle of the week though is use net bags to start to air dry them, it's important to start to air-dry them before they start to deteriorate though, if the baits have started to smell vinegary, it will be too late to save them, whereas a bit of white around the baits is not an issue.

My preferred bait mix is boilies and tigers, purely

on a nuisance species basis, but and it's a big but, it depends on the water I'm going to fish, if I feel I will need to create more of a feeding area, then I will take along smaller particles as well, such as Hemp, Red Band, Maize etc. To my mind this is still the best way to create a feeding area, is to have multiple types of small baits. The main point is to take more than you think you will need. You can always bring dried baits and uncooked particles home with you, or give them away to locals and make some new friends for future trips. When I take particles, they can be too bulky to keep frozen and keep cool, and they can deteriorate very quickly once they get warm, more than boilies sometimes, a lot of anglers don't realise this, if they get warm,





they can ferment very quickly and go off. I tend to prepare my particles a week or so before and then I put them into large sealed buckets and cover them with a saline solution once they have been prepared, only just strong enough to suspend the particles for a few weeks, I don't want them preserving indefinitely, as I want them to be active, and just delay the process of delaying them decomposing too much. When I first did this, it was a bit trial and error to get the mix just right. I have found the best type of salt to use is a form of butcher's salt. It can be bought from major suppliers and is not too expensive, with it I make a form of brine which keeps the particles in great form for my trip whatever the weather. I find around

500g to 12 litres of water is about the right strength for a few weeks. When you dissolve the salt, do it with a small amount of warm water so it disperses properly, then mix with a larger amount of cold water, then pour over the cooled particles, they should keep

nicely for around 3-4 weeks, a final point is that I feel the salt adds attraction to the bait.

Tackle.

Bigger carp in bigger waters means you will need stronger tackle, I know that seems obvious, but I get surprised how little anglers take along with them on these trips. So, certainly bigger hooks, size fours, even two's. Stronger line and a couple of spare spools of line as well, 15lb to 18lb is my preferred choice. I have on occasion found myself replacing a whole spool of line a couple of times during the week due to marks and abrasions that occur, especially when fishing



etc. if using them. Having gone to all the expense of getting out there, I like to make sure I am short of nothing. If you are fishing smaller waters you may be okay with smaller rods and reels, but on bigger waters, Longer, beefier rods and large reels are a must, especially when fishing at range, not necessarily for casting but for line pick up and playing carp from a distance.

at range. When boat fishing at range, I would rather fish braid if possible due to its lack of stretch and also the fact it doesn't lay on the bottom so much, so spare spools of braid as well. What I will do when winding in, is let the line run through my fingers so I can feel for any kinks or cuts. I know it's a pain but the next carp may be a monster...I take Plenty of spare bits and pieces, especially things like leads, a number of sizes from 4-6 oz. When boat fishing and having 200 yards of line out, heavier leads may be needed to hold, so grippers and square leads are better for this, I also make sure I have plenty of spare hooklinks, PVA bags

Boats and accessories.

I remember going to a lake in the mid 90's, we were casting out and spodding, so were really limited as to where we could fish in the lake



in the lake, which was sizeable. A Dutch guy turned up, watching him use a boat, echo sounder and illuminated marker poles was a real lesson, one which I took note of from that day onwards. So firstly boats.

A good inflatable dingy is essential, a hard bottomed boat even better. I have recently bought a smaller one-man dinghy as it is more maneuverable in tighter areas. The bigger two-man dinghy catches the wind too easily as well. Along with a decent boat, an electric motor, an echo sounder as well as a good battery. This is backed up with a remote-controlled boat as well for placing hookbaits in between using the larger boat for searching out those spots and heavier baiting during the days. When I first started fishing from boats it has to be said I wasn't very good at it. It is a real skill, like all forms of fishing, it needs to be learned, all

aspects, big boats, baitboats etc. from the big boat, once I find the depth I am looking for, I go over the spots several times looking for a better feeding spot within that space, paying real attention to what the sounder is showing, a prodding stick is a real help here, or even better a viewing scope or bucket, then the marker is placed at the back of that spot. When I first started using boats and finding a spot to fish, I used H-Blocks for markers, which are ok. Then I moved onto illuminated marker poles, which are far superior, especially when fishing at real range. H blocks as I have said are ok but if you hook them up while playing a carp it can be a problem,



whereas the marker poles simply bend over and the line slides over them. There are a lot more makes of marker pole about now, so a set isn't as expensive as it was. The other thing about marker poles they are easier to get baits back to during the night. If you are going to go out in a boat, pleaseee... make sure you wear a life jacket, I am often surprised how many don't, 200 meters out and with clothing on, you don't stand much of a chance if you end up in the water...one last point about using boats, if you go out in the dark to net a fish, do not go alone without letting someone else know what you are doing, in the pitch black of the French countryside you can soon become disorientated as to where you are, also make sure there is a flashing light on showing from your swim for getting back. Baitboats are useful and safer for getting rigs back easily during the day or night, with a small top-up of bait if needed and for putting a hookbait to showing carp quickly and safer at night.

Power

Having enough power is a

must, especially with the number of accessories we take now, most rely on having access to a charging point near to where you are staying. If you have a number of batteries, they require some charging during a week-long session, especially if you are catching. A good quality portable leisure battery for the boat. If you see the picture of the battery I use, you will see it has more than 2 terminals, this is important if you are using a Sonar, as the smaller clips from the Sonar go on the smaller terminals, and the larger clips for the motor go on the larger terminals, there is less chance of a short and things coming loose this way. To trickle charge the big





reliable due to local power supplies, many a time we have left batteries on charge and several hours later, found they have not been charging or due to a power outage and the charger has turned off! I take my own generator so I can keep all the batteries charged. It doesn't have to be a huge generator, we had an older large generator which was a 2-man job to carry it, it was also hellish noisy. I upgraded to a smaller, quieter Generator, if you see the picture of the generator I use now, it cost £200 from Machine Mart and it's also pretty quiet as well. Nothing worse than being in the peace and quiet of the French countryside

battery, I take a foldable solar panel, it doesn't put loads of charge in the big battery, but over a week or so it can make a difference. Always make sure you have plenty of reserve in the boat battery, going out low powered is just asking for trouble. For the smaller boat batteries, use Lithium Batteries if you can as they last much longer, and have spares. For recharging all batteries, you will need more direct power. Which as I have said, is ok if you are on a lake that has charging points but even these cannot be

and have a huge machine going most of the day! A lot of smaller items now are powered by USB, I take a separate powerpack that will last a full week and is great for charging all the small items and I can recharge that from the Generator if needed. I always look at refining the things I am using and look for improvements constantly. Power is really important for a lot of accessories these days so don't find yourself short. Nothing worse than finally getting a feeding

session going and then you don't have the power to keep getting to the carp. It becomes a routine during the day, such as prepping bait, cleaning the boats, charging batteries etc. All of this can be full on, especially if you are catching at night and getting a bit short of sleep.

So, there you have it, a few tips that might help you on your next trip abroad, feel free to contact me

if you have any questions at all. By the time you read this, we will be setting off on our next French adventure, I'll let you know how I get on.

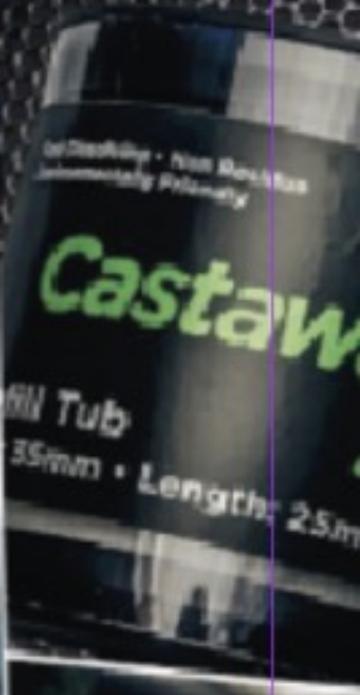
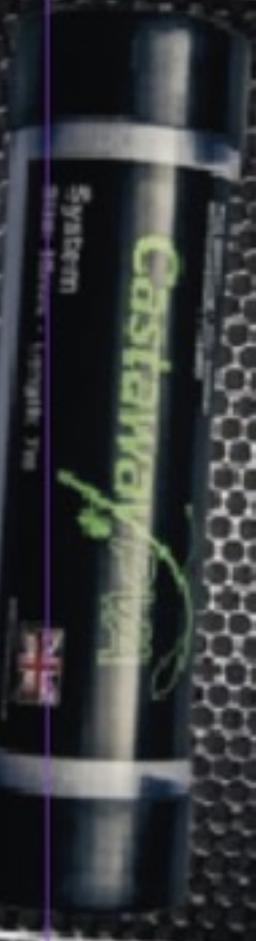
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Bait Soaks and Dips



by Richard Handel

Bait soaks or dips are a key feature in my carp fishing. It is one of the best ways to make your hook bait stand out from your freebies, it also helps your hook bait to stand out from other baits on the lake.

My preference for hook baits that I am going to soak, is always shelf life bait as I don't have to worry about keeping them in the fridge or freeze all the time. I can even take them out of my bait bucket and I soak them in bulk. I will soak a kilo bag at a time over a period of months before I start to use them.

When I first got my hands on a bottle of Finamino, I was very impressed with the smell and taste. I instantly grabbed a bag of shelf life Catalyst boilies, which don't really need a boost however, it's nice to

have your hook bait stand out from the rest of your freebies (as I have said before), I had already been doing for the past year with the Catalyst Food Dip.

It has certainly helped my catch rate, in the harder months.

I have found over the years, by testing different ways, that the best way to get your boilies really soaked, is to freeze them and then add the liquid when the boilies start to defrost. I repeat this process five times. This is the main reason I use shelf life boilies, as I know this will not affect the make up of the bait and degrade it in any way.

These I keep in

the fridge until the bag is half empty and then I start the process with another bag - same dip or another nice new one from the Spotted Fin Range.

Theirs have so many options that you can give you the edge over other anglers.





This is an account of one of those nights where it paid off

With the nights drawing in and Autumn well underway, I have returned to the Meadow Lake for a quick night. The first swim I stopped at, I instantly spotted a couple of fish roll - choice made. With no one opposite me, in fact other than) a day angler in the day bay behind me (about 4 swims down), I was the

only one on here!

It was looking very moody and any minute it would rain. I quickly checked my notes for the number of wraps and got the Rod's on the spots. I then spombed out 5 loads over each area, just of Catalyst boilies. I didn't fancy any Bream, well not to many anyway.

The first take came around 22.15 (as I was dosing off), the

right hand rod gave a couple of bleeps, paused, then a single bleep. I was up and by the rod's in a flash. There was another single bleep and the bobbin pulled up tight to the buzzer. I pulled into a very heavy lump, which I needed to get past the overhanging tree to my right. Lucky the fish did not kite that much and I was easily able to get the fish under the rod tip and under control. Now the long battle to get the

fish up off the bottom and into the net started. There were a couple of moments when I thought the fish was off around the point to my left. It was quite straight forward and the beast was in the net.

Now that will do me. 30lb 5oz of stunning Common and another fish on the Finamino bait soak.

The second take also came from this rod and there was no mucking around this time. This fish was flying across the lake and in the right direction - well away from the snag. With an all to quick fight, a Common around the 16lb mark

was in the net and quickly returned to its home.

The third take happened just like the one before, it absolutely ripped the line off the reel and I was onto another hard fighting Meadow Lake carp. It did have me in the tree for just one scary moment but I was way to quick. I had the rod tip under the water, the moment I felt it touch the branches and all was OK. The fish was

under control again and safely under my rod tip for the next few minutes until a slipped it over the cord.

Just over the twenty pound mark by 5ozs. This turned out to be my last fish of the night - pretty happy with that.

What a pleasant morning and time to head home.

Until next time

Richard





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ARMOURY TACKLEBOX

What's in your armoury?

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The Junior Carp Hunters – Ron & Ted....
In our own words.....

We decided to try a new water last month, it was called Mill Barn Coarse Fishery in Great Wakering. It had 5 lakes and after speaking to Graham the owner he suggested that we fish the reservoir. We used crushed boilies, and sweet corn, and we also used some new bait that we got from Seasoned Baits called Custard! (Ted - it didn't taste like custard!!!!)

We used our dads new bait boat, and it was interesting to see how deep the lake was and we had fish in the spots we were fishing!

After an hour Ted had a screaming run but unfortunately it came off....

Ted - I decided to get my dad to help me tie up a solid bag with all

the different bait in it! I then launched it to where I thought I was going to catch from, I then sat in my chair and mixed up some more Bait and Custard!

Ron - not a lot more happened after that, we made a funny video thanking Steve and Roddy Clips for our new hoodies, I spent about half an hour with my dad's boat driving it around my swim and all the fish were all up in the water, so my dad asked me what

I should do, and I said that I wanted to try to use a Zig Rig, I had never used one before and we sat down and tied one up and it was taller than my dad!!!! I found it difficult to cast

out at first but with a bit of practice it went out ok in the end!

We tried lots of different areas in our swim, but nothing seemed to work, at about 3oclock I suggested to my dad that we should move, so we packed up and moved to a different part of the lake, the move was fun because we sat in the back of the truck while my dad drove us round to the new swim!!



We got the rods back out and then I had another play with the bait boat to see how deep the water was, where I was fishing it was around 15 feet, and Teddy was fishing in around 6 feet under an overhanging tree!

I climbed a tree to see if I could find any fish, but the water was very rough due to the wind!!

We started to pack everything away when out of the blue Teddies left-hand Rod burst into life.

Ted - I struck into the fish and it really put up a good fight! It took me 10 minutes to get the fish near the net, Ronnie netted the fish for me, and I was so happy because it meant that we hadn't blanked!! The fish was around 8lb, and I got lots of photos with it!!

Ron - shortly after

that we packed up and drove home! We celebrated the fish with a McDonald's on the way home!!

Thank you to Graham for having us and we look forward to going back soon!!

The week after that we attended "The Big One" Carp Show at Farnborough!

We got up very early and set off on our journey.

When we got there, we had to get a shuttle bus because we were parked so far away!

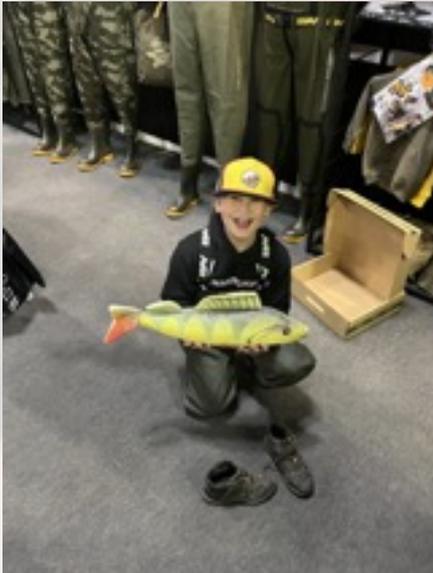
Ted - I loved it on the bus! And it was on an airfield, and I saw loads

of jets!!!

We got into the show, and it was massive!

Ted - the first thing I got was a cuddly toy carp! And then on the next stand I got some free samples of bait for me and Ron! I smelt loads of different baits and was asking loads of questions about the bait! Some of them stunk so bad!





Ron - we met Alan Blair and we had our photo taken with him and he gave us a signed photo which is now on my desk next to my computer!

Ted - and my one is on my table next to my fish tank, thanks Alan!

We sampled waffles at the “**Fink Food**” stand and they were delicious!

We then had to go back to the car because we had too much stuff for dad to carry so we got back on the bus, dropped off our new stuff and headed back to the show!

Ron - I really wanted to get a feeder rod and we found one for sale on one of the stands and we got the rod and a reel, dad suggested that we needed to get some bits of tackle for the feeder rod, and we went to the “Total Fishing Tackle” stand and a man helped us with all what we needed!

Ted - I really wanted to get waders and, on the way round we stopped at the Vass stand. The people were very helpful, and I told them





we were the Junior Carp Hunters and they followed us on Instagram and I even got a photo of me in the waders holding my cuddly carp! We also got to meet **Ali Hamidi** and he told me it was his dog's birthday, I told him about my dog and then we had a photo with him, and he followed us on Instagram!!

Ron - we met loads of famous anglers throughout the day and had loads of photos! We also done a pretend interview with **Rob Hughes!**

We left at around 3 o'clock as I had cricket training at 5, it was such a great day, and we can't wait to go back next year!!

The week after the carp show we visited a lake that isn't open yet, but we were granted permission to fish it, I really wanted to use my feeder rod and Ted wanted to fish the other lake for one of the big ones!

My dad helped me set the feeder rod up, I used ground bait and seasoned baits corn dust as my ground bait and a small 6mm wafter from Dynamite Baits that I got from the carp show as my hook bait.

I cast close to an overhanging tree and tightened my line; I didn't have to wait long and out of nowhere my rod bent right round and my dad shouted out "hit it, Ron!" Shortly after I landed my first ever fish on a feeder rod and it was a small common around 5lb!



was fighting very hard! I had to do it on my own because my dad was helping Teddy with his fish!

Once Teds fish was returned, they ran over to me, and Ted helped net the fish!

It was an

18.11lb Mirror!

Ted - I cast the carp rod back out and I put it on my bite alarm, after about 2 minutes it ripped off again!!! And it took loads of line straight away!

My dad got in the water with me, and I played it in the water because that's what I really wanted to do! It took me 15

minutes to get the fish in the net!

Ronnie netted the fish for me, and my dad told me it looked like a 20 pounder! I jumped out of the water and done my Cristiano Ronaldo celebration!!! We weighed it and

it was a **21.05lb** Mirror! I had photos with the fish in the water and then we returned it!

We didn't catch any more from the carp lake, but we caught 5 or 6 more on the match lake throughout the day!

We had such a great time and can't wait to

Ted - I really wanted to have a go on the feeder rod so I told Ron that we could swap rods! I cast out to a different spot to Ron and sat in my chair watching the rod! It nearly fell out of the rod rest!!! I caught a common that was bigger than Ronnie's one, but while my dad was helping me, the carp rod ripped off!

Ron - I struck into fish and it felt big! And it





return to the lake!!!

We have loved our fishing during March and have lots to look forward to in the next month!

Ronnie - To round of a good month my mum got an email to say that I have been nominated to be part of the Essex cricket primary talent pool! So, summer will be taken up with plenty

of fishing and plenty of cricket!!

Very exciting times ahead!

Tight lines and wet nets!!

Ron n Ted





It's always good to hear that the boys are enjoying their Carp Fishing and great that they are still keen to be our writers. This month is a big month for the lads as they get the chance to not just meet with but get to fish with the Welsh Ladies Carp Team and a the REME Carpers, when they visit Wales for the weekend...and best of all, they get to fish with

*me too... let's hope they both manage a new PB ahead of their Summer Sessions..!!!!
– Mark Carper*

*Junior Team Members of;
Seasoned Baits - <https://www.seasonedbaits.co.uk/>
Roddy Clips - <https://www.rodyclips.co.uk/>
Monster Particles - <https://monsterparticles.com/>*

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Don't forget, if you are a Junior Carp Angler and have a story to tell or want to see your latest catch in the magazine, drop me an email at m.galli@talkingcarp.co.uk

or contact me via Instagram: @mark_carper257

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Reviews

Featuring -

Katran coated Braid by Mark Carper

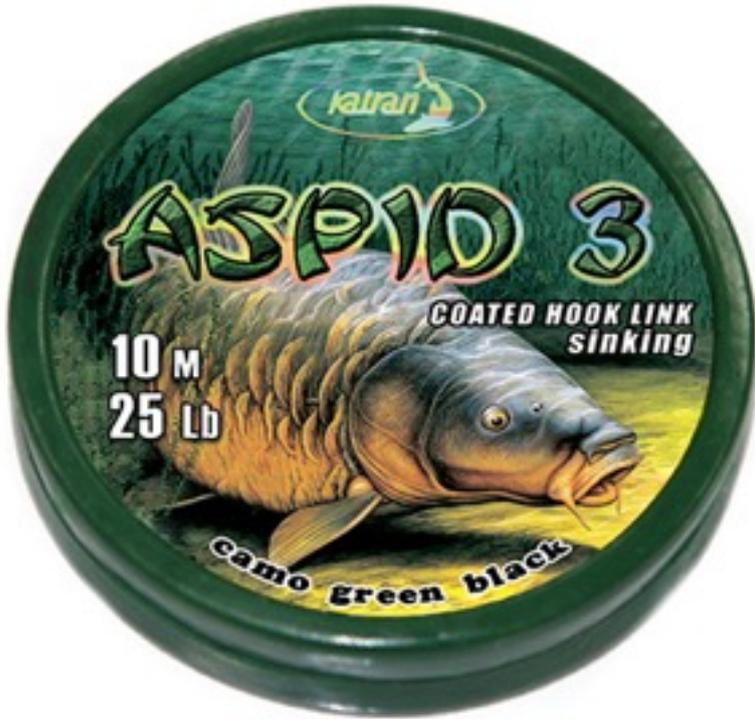
Katran Multi Tool by Mark Carper

Katran Zigrig by Mark Carper

Nash Heated Blanket by Chasing Scales

Wolf Icon QI Bite Alarms by James Dixon

Artificial Baits have their place By Anthony
Wood



Review of Katran coated Braid by Mark Carper



Last month, I reviewed all the 'UN-COATED' Braid Hook Links that Katran produce, and if you read that piece (of course you did..?!), you will recall they offer no less than thirty-six variants... well, this month is about their '**COATED BRAID**' Hook Links and they 'only' offer **sixteen** variants in this...!

As with the last review, I will start with 'MY' usual or "favoured" rigs and what I use to construct these and then I will cover the full range of the Coated Braids, and yes, I have tied rigs with all of them (that's the beauty of being Sponsored and being a Katran Expert), but I have a clear favourite and it makes sense to start there....

My Usual Rigs

As I said last month, I use four different rigs for my Carp Fishing, with my favoured approach being the Spinner or "Ronnie" rig and obviously, I don't use any Braid for that, although that's not to say you can't, but it would certainly hinder the 'Auto-Reset' properties of the rig..!

My Next favoured is the good old '**Multi-Rig**', a simple no nonsense rig that has landed me many carp over the years, either used on the deck or with Wafter or Pop-Up. However, I do tend to lean towards a '**Coated Braid**' for this one but have often had success with uncoated braid too...

I like a 'Chod', especially if I do not really know the water or what lies beneath and I'm being lazy in my approach, or I am 'chucking' at showing fish from the off.... I find this rig can cover a multitude of bottoms as it finds its own "settling point".

An adaptation of the Chod or vice-versa is the ever reliable 'Helicopter' Rig and I like an Uncoated Braid for this, and finally...

...The 'Combi-Rig'...I absolutely love using this rig and have landed so many carp with it and it seems that every hook hold is solid, and the carp is "nailed" as they say...!!!

But if I had to choose just one rig for the rest of my Carping Days, it would most certainly be the “**Multi-Rig**” and for good reason...!

This rig is so simple to tie, allows easy Hook changes and gives a multitude of presentation options for your chosen Hook Bait. Now, I'm not going to get in to the 'Mechanics' of the rig as people such and Mr. Julian Cundiff or the likes of Oli Davies are much better qualified for that, but I will say that for me, Katran make the perfect Coated Braid to construct this rig, no matter how you use it.

Hamelion – Soft Coated Braid Hook Link

My “Go To” Coated Braid is without doubt, the **HAMELION** and here's why;

It is superb Fast Sinking and the Removeable coating Strips with ease, even with just your fingernail, but it does not 'split' when knotted or 'kink' at or near the knot...!

If you need to strip and small section to create a 'Hinge' for example, again you can do this super easy, and you can even remove the little loose section without damaging the surrounding coating.

I use the 25lb breaking strain version almost exclusively, but the 15lb version is constructed and coated in the exact same way and the 'Core' on both is put together



using two different materials, one being a Fluoropolymer and the other being premium Dyneema Fibre, giving a low diameter but very supple and strong Inner Core and the Coating gives just the right amount of 'Stiffness' for the perfect Multi-Rig....I would describe the coating as a cross between 'Semi-Stiff & Soft' and similar to that of Korda N-Trap Soft in 20lb but just very, very slightly stiffer... and it definitely Strips better than the Korda..!

I find that I can use it as an eight-to-ten-inch Hook Link, without an 'Anti-Tangle' Rubber at the swivel too and I like this as I feel the rig presentation is minimal and neat. For those that like something a little 'Stiffer' (!) Then you can up the game to the Aspids or even the Karakurt (my second favourite), and I will come on to those later....

Finally, the unusual camouflage colours and patterns of the Hamelion, break up the line of the Hook Link and make it virtually invisible under any water conditions and on any kind of bottom.

All the Rest...

HAMELION;

I have already covered, and this is available in 20m Spools of either 15lb or 25lb Breaking Strain. I would also state that both the coating and the Inner Core have excellent 'Abrasion Resistant' properties too.

COBRA:

Now, this is a little different in the fact that although it is classed as "Sinking", it actually has a "Floating Core" and it is the coating that gives it the sinking properties. Again, the coating is easily removable, and the Inner Core is made from Fluoropolymer and a premium Dyneema.



The **COBRA** was primarily designed for rigs that require a Popped-Up hook bait and regular hook link set-up, like the properties of a 'Combi-Rig' but out of one Hook Link material. The floating Inner core allows the hook bait to move as naturally as possible, especially on a balanced set-up. The Dark Brown colour makes this hook link practically invisible. Cobra is available in 20m Spools of either 15lb or 25lb Breaking Strain

GURZA:

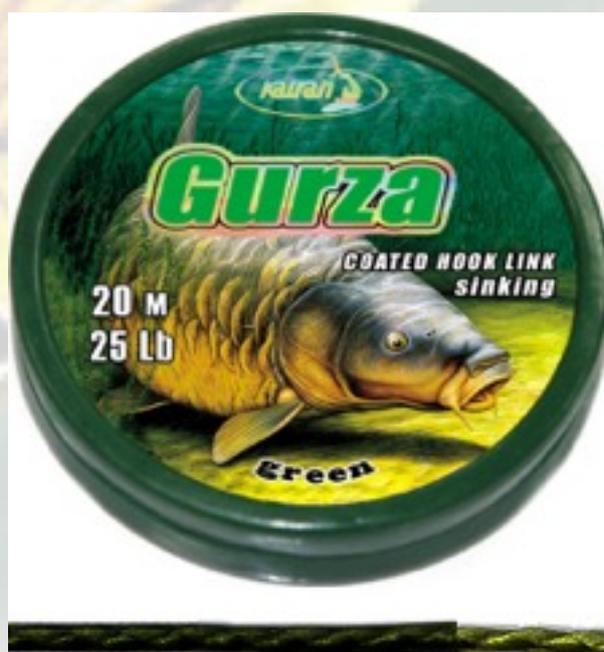
This is another fast-sinking hook link material but with a 'Stiff' removable outer coating. Again, it is very easy to strip the coating, and this reveals a 'very soft' inner braid which will allow you to tie numerous types of rigs to suit your chosen hook bait and presentation.

The green colour of the GURZA makes it most suited to venues which have weed growth or heavy vegetation and the stiffness of the coating comes into play by allowing the GURZA to sit on top of any vegetation rather than disappearing in. This is available in 20m Spools of either 15lb or 25lb Breaking Strain

TARANTUL:

Almost black in colour and with a semi-stiff outer coating the TARANTUL is very well suited for use when fishing in heavy silt or soft lake beds.

Fished using a PVA nugget is the key here and this ensures your chosen rig will settle rather than sink into the silted lakebed. The TARANTUL has a tightly woven inner braid core which is made up of Fluoropolymers and Dyneema offering strength and suppleness. It can be used to create the perfect 'Stiff Rig' or even a 'Stiff Hinged' Rig and is available on a 20m spool in 15lb or 25lb Breaking Strain.



KARAKURT:

This is my 'Second Favourite' of the Katran Coated Braids and with a combination of KELVAR and TUALON braid fibres, KARAKURT is one of the "Flagship" braids from Katran.



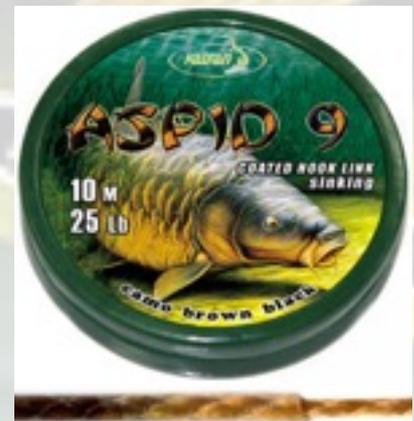
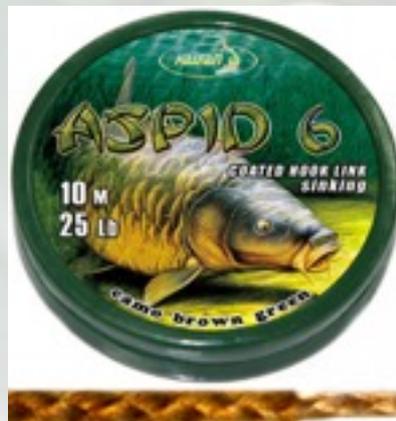
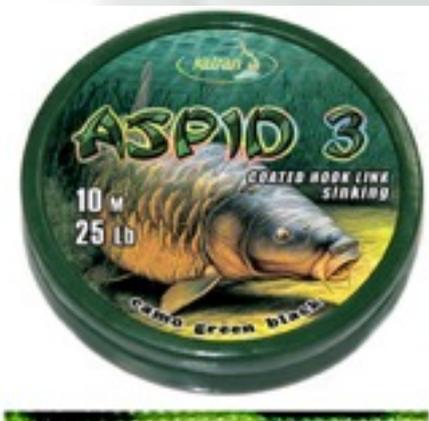
The Braid Fibres used in the construction of this Super Strong Sinking allows it to have a very diameter per Breaking Strain and is a class leader over all it's peers. Classed as a 'Semi-Stiff' Hook Link Karakurt is another

The Green/Black camo colouring helps disguise the rig on the majority of venues.

ASPID 3, 6 and 9

Yep, that's correct, there are three versions of the ASPID, and each is supplied in a 10m length, and all are 25lb Breaking Strain and they are all classed as 'Semi-Stiff' but the reason for the different number is simply to identify the colour of the coating..!

- 3 – Green/Black Camo Mix
- 6 – Brown/Green Camo Mix
- 9 – Brown/Black Camo Mix



This is another Fast-Sinking Hook Link with an easily removeable coating. The unusual camouflage colours make it virtually invisible in the right setting and as with others in the range, the Inner core is a mix of the very durable Fluoropolymer and DYNEEMA fibre and, in line with the other coated Braids in the Katran range, it has excellent knot strength, and the coating does not break-up when tightening the knots. It is also highly resistive to abrasion on shells and rocks thus allowing you to use it with many rig combinations.

I have recently started incorporating both Aspid 3 and 6 just for their 'Camo' capabilities on certain waters and I carry it as a matter of course now in my Tackle Bag.

Manta & Manta Green

There are two versions of the MANTA, but they also only differ in terms of Colour...Manta is Brown and...Manta Green is Blue...No of course it isn't it is unsurprisingly 'Green'...!!!

This Coated Braid does differ from all the others in the range though as it is only available in a high Breaking Strain of 45lb and makes it particularly suitable for very Stoney, Shell Strewn or Snaggy bottoms due to the use of an innovative Dyneema fibre and Tualon materials. It is supplied in spools of 10m.



With a Flexible 'Semi-Stiff' coating and the usage of Tualon fibres this Coated Braid is a must for the toughest of water conditions.

Conclusion

...and there you have it, all sixteen 'Coated Braids' produced by Katran Fishing Line, so there must be one (or two) that will suit your needs...?!

For ease of comparison and not meant as a direct 'Head-to-Head' I would say that all the Braids above sit somewhere between the Korda N-Trap Soft and the Korda Hybrid 'Stiff Coated', with the offerings from Katran going from slightly 'Softer' to slightly 'Stiffer' than the Korda ones.

There is a great selection of Colours and Breaking Strains and the quality of each one is the same as everything that Katran produce, and that is they are of the Highest Quality, meaning total reliability and confidence in the product.

If you would like further information about a product in this review, or indeed anything from the Katran Stable, then drop me a message on either my Instagram or directly on my email and I will be happy to help.

All the products are available to order via Roddy Clips and will be on their website very soon, but for now, simply drop me or Steve at Roddy Clips a message for further information and prices.

Instagram: @mark_carper257 / @talkingcarp.magazine

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

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BY YOUR SIDE

MULTI TOOL

Katran 5 in 1



**Multi-Tool and Splicing / Baiting
Needles from Katran – Review**
by Mark Carper

www.katran.co.uk

I know, what can you say about a Baiting Needle... Aside from the obvious of "it does the job"..?!

Well, I can tell you that they are all very well-made items and that the 'Gated' versions do not feel cheap and flimsy and the bit that keeps the Gate attached has never let me down, but then I guess if you use it for the purpose it was made for, it should work as expected...!!

Katran offers three versions of the 'Baiting Needle' with two of them being gated and suitable for 'Splicing Braid' and one, the 'Red One' being designed for attaching boilies etc, to the hair....

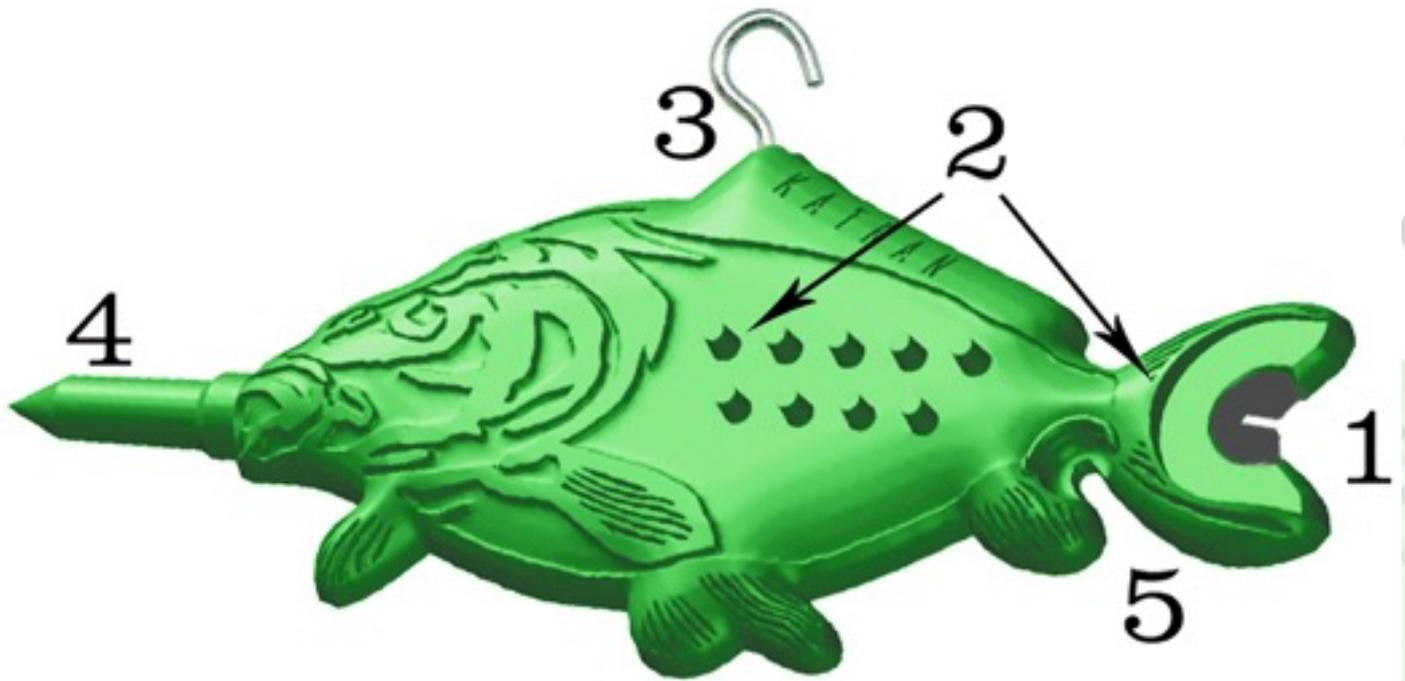
...however, they also have a very clever little tool aptly named the '**Multi-Tool 5 in 1**' and it this one I will tell you about first...

Katran Multi-Tool 5 in 1

This high-quality plastic tool might look a bit 'gimmicky', and if I'm honest, that is exactly what I thought of it the first time I saw it...!!

Having used this little 5 in 1 Tool though, I can assure you that it is far from it and each part of the Tool is cleverly designed to do a specific job...I wouldn't be without it now, in fact I always carry three...two for use and one spare in case I lose one...





If you look at the numbered picture of the Tool, most of the parts are obvious, for example, you have the **Stripper (1)** for taking the coating off or splitting the coating on Coated Braid...(I'm sure there's a review about the Katran Coated Braid somewhere...!)

Then you have the **Metal Hook (3)** for, yes, you've guessed it, Tightening Knots onto Hooks.

This leads us on nicely to the **Cylindrical Tip (4)** which is for tightening or even making a Loops on a hair etc. and is safer to use when tightening down a Loop Knot in Mono than the Metal Hook.

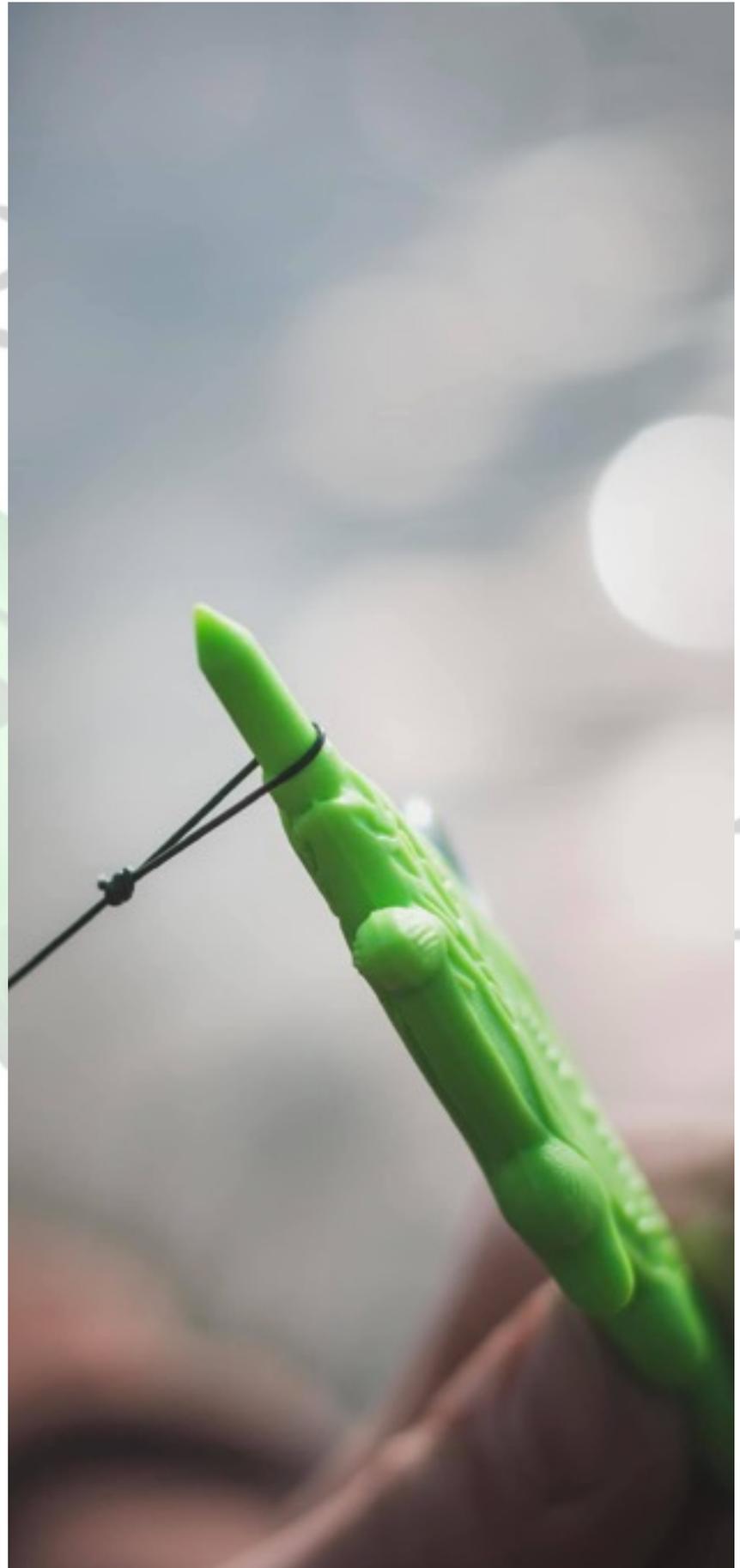
So, that just leaves 2 and 5 and these are not so obvious, until they are pointed out...

2 is not a 'grippy' bit (which is what I first thought), but it is a very clever **Pin Rule** and is designed to allow you to measure out the length of the 'Hair' easily and consistently to suit your baiting needs...!!

...and believe it or not, there are nine separate measurements, in 2mm increments from 12mm to 28mm...Clever...!!!

Finally, the fifth function of the multi-tool and it happens to also be number 5 on the picture, is a special **Socket** used to tighten your line securely down on a swivel. Again, I was unsure about this but now use it religiously as it stops pinching the line when you use a hook type tool and it stops crushing the line on to the swivel if you use a Loop Tool for example. It holds the swivel perfectly and allows you to really tighten down without fear of deforming the swivel eye... Amazing...!!

....and there you have it, the brilliant **Katran 5 in 1 Multi-Tool**...with all five features of the tool being very cleverly thought-out and put together in one quality made small tool and something that should grace every Carp Anglers Tackle Box.



Needles

Not much can be said about these three offerings that I haven't already said...they are quality made and used correctly should last a lifetime...

Micro Needle

The Micro Boilie Needle is perfectly round and has no captive latch which will aid you when attempting to mount small baits onto the hair without splitting them. At 5cm long, the needle can be used to attach even the biggest 'Snowman' to the hair in one go..!



Fine Gated Needle

Primarily for 'Splicing' thin Lead Core, but could be used to attach small soft baits, such as corn on the hair so that the hook part does not tear the corn when being withdrawn as the gate can be closed.

Most of us have faced the problem of finding a thin but strong needle to make a loop on a thin Lead Core end and this Gated Needle has been specifically designed to take away those frustrations and allow you to complete the job quickly and easily.



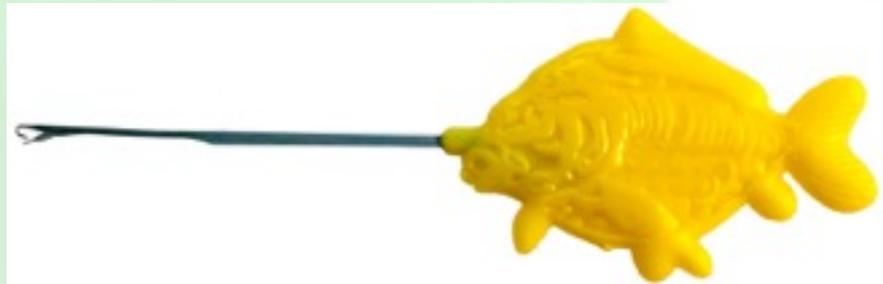
As a bonus, the 'Carp Tail' of the handle can be used to facilitate tightening the loop too...!

Universal Gated Needle

The big brother of the Fine Needle, again this can be used for Splicing Loops but into the heavier duty Lead Core and is still suitable for attaching those softer baits to hairs... but the more robust needle and gate are also well suited to pulling Hook Links through those small PVA Mesh 'Sticks' and in keeping with the other needles, the length is 5cm with the overall tool length being 10cm.

Finally...

As I have already stated, all the tools are well constructed



and robust and the handles on each one is purposely made from high coloured plastic for two reasons, the first being, you can quickly identify the tool you need in your tackle box and the second is in case the inevitable happens and you drop it on the bank...they are very easily spotted....!!!

So, there you have it, four purpose designed and high-quality Tools to aid your rig making and Hook baiting.

you would like further information; drop me a message and I will answer any questions you may have. This, along with other Katran Products is available to order from Roddy Clips.

Instagram: @mark_carper257 / @talkingcarp.magazine

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

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*Katran ZigRig - Copolymer Line -
Review by Mark Carper*

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.

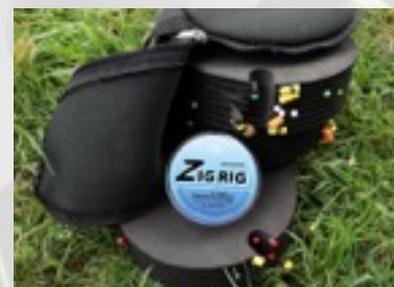
For surface fishing I tend to use the Loop-to-Loop method to join it to my mainline and use about 6ft of the ZigRig Line after the Surface Controller and I tie it direct to my chosen hook. If you leave it to ‘sit on the surface’ it works very well and doesn’t appear to give the Carp too much concern....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

If you would like further information, drop me a message and I will answer any questions you may have. This, along with other Katran Products is available to order from Roddy Clips.

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Nash Heated Blanket



**Review by Chasing
Scales**

Firstly you may think it's a little late in the year to be doing a review on a heated blanket...but then again you could say the same about its release date.

Maybe Nash thought it was wise to let us endure a cold harsh winter without this option to make us feel it was more needed, or maybe it was the ongoing issues of obtaining stock which seem to be plaguing the industry and others of late, but let's not go down that road.

The heated blanket/bag or bed chair accessories are something that I feel is a bit late to the fishing game, seeing these options have been around for years in regards to home and camping comforts, but they appear to have taken the Carp World by storm in these past few months, with brands such as New Direction, Avid, Solar and Nash dabbling with them.

I personally had a blanket off Amazon which plugged into a USB Power Pack, although not the size of a bed chair it was good to stuff down the bottom and keep the feet toasty if anything.

Then when Nash released their Heated Blanket, with an amazing piece of advertising feature Dan Yeomans, I was set on getting one. Having a scope 4-fold Bed, I opted for the Scope version obviously...!



The blanket is lightweight, well made and a perfect fit, which is important for us Carpers that want everything perfect... I have not fully tested every setting of the Blanket yet, but the functions I have used worked well. I have included information from the Nash website, and I am not doing nor was this meant to be a 'technical' review. However, I am going to give an honest first time User Review on its usage....

Taking this out for the first time in early March when the temperatures had risen, wasn't what I purchased it for, but it definitely took nothing away from it, I must say the blanket warms up quick and to a lovely temperature, not afraid to admit I've used an electric blanket at home from time to time and this was probably better. The Peach Skin Fleece is nice and comfy, albeit does make moving in the Sleep System a tad harder.

Despite the session being a blank, I did get a run in the early hours, which was the perfect chance to turn the blanket back on to warm me up after re-casting the rod. Once again, it was quick to heat up and I was soon nice and toasty again.

The blanket isn't without its flaws, or should I say flaw. The only main issue I encountered was the 'Cigarette Lighter' Plug power method. In this age of USB, Contactless and whatever else is doing the job these days, I felt this was a slightly outdated method, and leaves you with not many options other than the PowaPacs Atom Pro or the Ridgemonkey Power Pack...neither of which I have (although



I am sure many do).

However, a quick scan on Amazon for an adapter for my PowaPacs ION and I was up and running. I'm no tech expert so there could be a perfectly good reason for using this type of connection, and it didn't cause too much hassle to be honest.

In my opinion this is a good investment, even though I myself don't get too cold on the bank, but the feet do and this definitely helped, it also made fishing that bit more comfortable but added little to no weight to my gear.

There will be some who say.. "Toughen Up", or "Man Up", or "What has become of Carp Fishing?!" and to be honest, that's fine, they don't need to buy one!

If guesting in a bramble bush in the pouring rain is your idea of Carp Fishing, good for you...!!

For those of you who do feel the cold a touch or fancy a little bit of luxury...grab one...!!!

All the best...Chasing Scales
Instagram: @
chasingscalescarp



Tech Specs....

Mode 1 Timed Heating

Fast warm up and then slowly reducing heat over a 2-hour period before automatically switching off.

Mode 2 Rapid Heating

Rapid Heating constantly heats the Blanket at 35 Watts
Guide Run time 14 hours*

Mode 3 Sleeping Mode High

Sleeping Mode High constantly heats the Blanket at 31 Watts
Guide run time 16.5 hours*

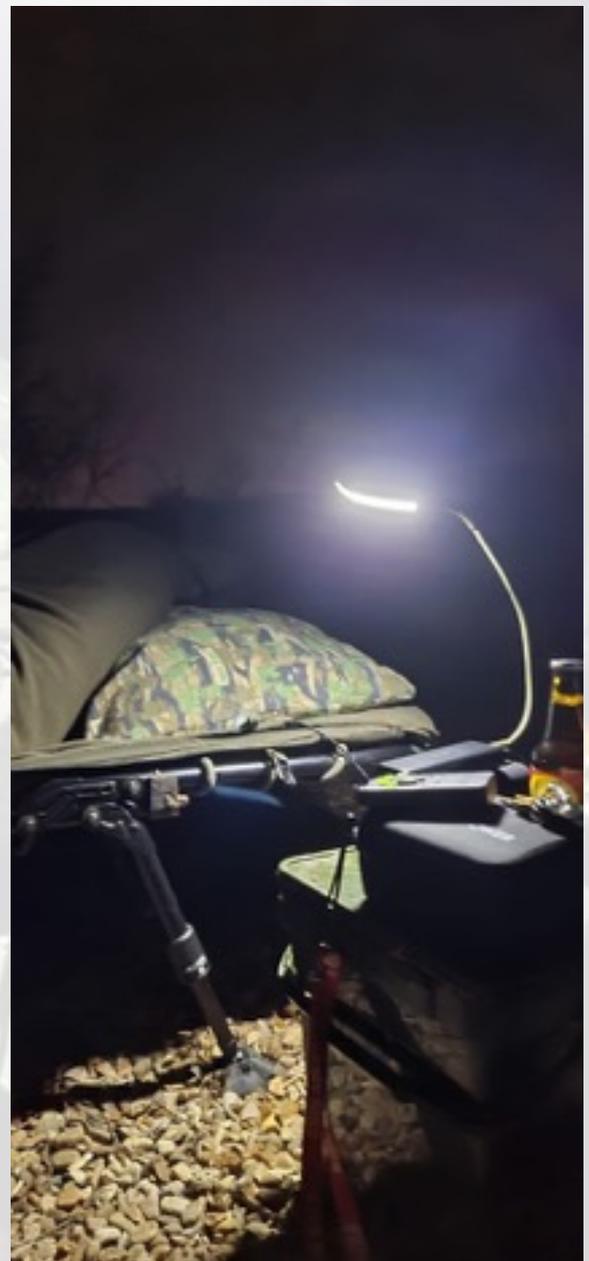
Mode 4 Sleeping Mode Low

Sleeping Mode Low constantly heats the Blanket at 29 Watts
Guide run time 17 hours*

* Using a fully charged 77,580mA/h
Power Pack

Heated Blankets combine brilliantly with Indulgence **Mattress Sheets**, which quickly secure over the top of the blanket using the same toggle and elastic system. These Mattress Sheets allow you to keep the Heated Blanket on a Sleep System clean and protected and offer the comfort of a snag free smooth nylon surface favoured by many Carpers.

**REGISTER YOUR HEATED BLANKET
AND EXTEND ITS WARRANTY TO 24
MONTHS**





CARBON BAIT

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Wolf ICON Qi Bite Alarms –



**Review
by
James
Dixon**

I genuinely feel that they outperform and have more worthwhile features than any other alarm that's currently on the market. I use these alarms myself and they've never skipped a beat.

The thing I like most about Wolf, is that as a brand they are trying to innovate and push our hobby to the next level by combining technology with convenience. This has been seen with the Cube 200 Head Torch that utilises a motion sensor, the Mozzi Zappa that's taken the market by storm, purely because it "does exactly what it says on the tin" and it zaps them in numbers and then there's the X-Spods, which have earned a reputation for themselves, with videos on social media of them being ran over by cars and forklift trucks and being perfectly functional afterwards!

The X-Spods use 4 quarters that use magnets to seal but are versatile enough to deliver slop mixes and neat liquids directly to your swim....but that's for another review..!!

The Icon Qi Bite Alarms have also raised the bar in regard to functions and practicality.



Aesthetically, I think they're a stunning looking bit of kit, regardless of how I've seen them set up on pods, singles or stage stands etc. I use mine with Wolf's X1K rods and a set of Shimano Ultegra XTD 14,000 reels. The minimalist black everywhere with subtle signage and details looks classy but modern. I think the 1k carbon looks stunning against the black reels and black alarms.

It is a set up that's a pleasure to use, and yes, I know everyone says the fish don't see your gear, but when I enjoy using it and get excited to get it set up, I don't see that as a bad thing at all. It sounds daft but when I enjoy using my gear, I have more motivation to get out on the bank and essentially put more fish in the net.

The fact that I can change the colour of the LED's and 'Nightlights' to Seven different colours is a lovely little touch and something I'm impressed with. There's Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Green, White, Blue, and Red and as each alarm is customised individually, it means that I could rock the Red, White, and Blue for a change or set all three Alarms the same.

My three Alarms are paired to the receiver in the first Three of the Twelve available wireless channels.

Other products can be linked and set up as a channel too. The new Bivvy Light can be linked and will illuminate inside the Bivvy when you get a run. That's a huge helping hand when scrambling around trying to find your Headtorch or the Door Zipper on the Bivvy at bite time in the pitch black.



Adjustments are made through the Hubb Receiver, meaning you can adjust the Tone, Volume, and Sensitivity all from the comfort of your Bivvy or even your Bed Chair...!

When the weather changes in the middle of the night this is ideal. If the wind gets up, I can turn the Sensitivity down to stop false bleeps from the wind and if it starts lashing down with rain, I can turn the Volume up. In terms of Volume, even in the most extreme conditions I have no need to worry as the output through the Piezo Speakers is crazy loud, something that may not be required often but is very reassuring to have all the same.

There is another convenient little detail that has been considered with the design of the Hubb Receiver and that is the handy little Flick-Out-Stand, which is perfect for placing the unit safely on a Bivvy Table or on top of your Carryall..... I like to hang my receiver in the Bivvy on a lanyard and so I don't lose it in my pocket, but the stand does come in very handy.

The Hubb Receiver has a 2km range (in direct line of sight) which as you will know, should never be applied in any fishing situation, but it does help to guarantee that under normal circumstances the receiver will have a perfectly strong connection with my Qi alarms.



Time and Date can be set on the Receiver along with Seven colour options for the Backlit Screen.

There is an event history feature too, that logs which alarm was triggered and at what time which, although sounds a bit of a 'gimmick', is an awesome little feature to look back on when your mate asks "when did you have that screamer...?".

Another feature of the Hubb receiver is the simple Battery Indicator. It fills me with confidence knowing exactly how much juice I've got left in the AA Batteries (which can be bought almost anywhere these days) but with an estimated 1000 hours of standby time, I haven't been battery shopping yet, and it looks like it's going to be a while before I need to...!

Other nice little features help eliminate a pet hate of mine, which is when people in the swim next door are adjusting their Spools, clipping Bobbins on etc. and making too much Beep, Beep noise with their Alarms...

I don't have to be one of "those" Anglers as the Qi have an easy-to-use **Mute Button** located on the side of each Alarm, which once pressed, will Mute all output for Thirty Seconds.

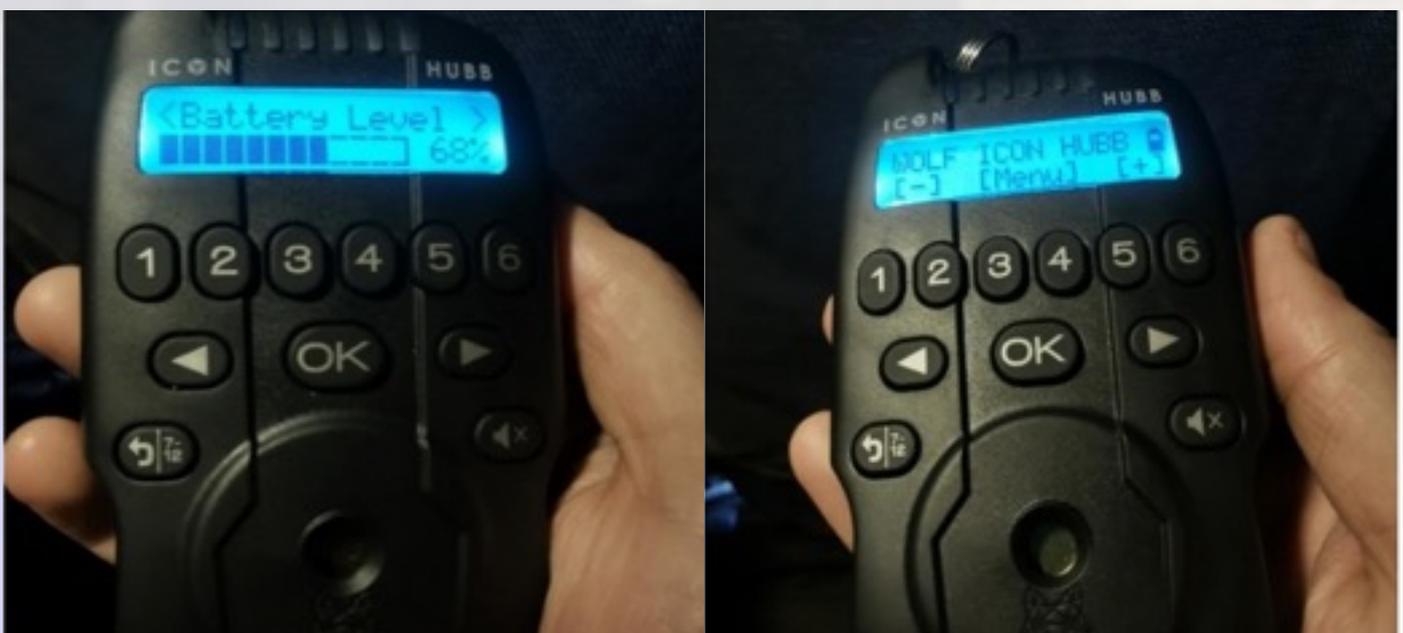


Alternatively, I can press the 'Global Mute' on the Hubb Receiver which will then Mute all Three Alarms for thirty Seconds also.... It could just be me being grumpy, but I wish all alarms had this feature.... Or, I wish more anglers had the etiquette to consider this...!

The Alarms themselves combine use of a 'Roller Wheel' and a 'Vibration' Detection System, which means they can be incredibly sensitive which I feel I benefit from a lot as I do a lot of "Locked Up" fishing to features and a fair amount of Zig Fishing too and it is where fishing for single beeps plays a big part in my angling.

These types of situations are where I need the Icon Qi Alarm to do the job every time and detect the slightest movements instantly and have it registered through the receiver so I can get on that rod as soon as possible.

In sessions in the middle of winter I generally start my sessions fishing at range and fishing for liners. Using Zigs or Single Hook Baits set up Heli-style to help guarantee presentation and re-casting regularly. If I get a "liner", I know to come back 20yds on my recast, trying to cover as much water as possible until I find the fish. Using tight lines and having the Sensitivity set very high, allows me to pick up the smallest of indications and can help build a picture of where the fish are in my head.



The Alarms come supplied with protective covers/cases to give full protection when in transit and when fitted, the Alarm will turn off and when you remove the cover, it will Power back on. You can also turn them On and Off manually as required.

Yet another great feature is the 'Automatic Nightlights'.

The Alarm detects Low-Light levels and switches on the inbuilt Nightlights, and unsurprisingly, when it gets Light, it switches them back off...!!

They look amazing and can be easily spotted in the dark sat underneath my rods. Again, simple but clever. I can hold the button on the right-hand side of the receiver and the Six LED's at the top of the Hubb make a bright little torch too.... Genius....!

There are just too many features for me to list and initially, even I did honestly think "Why does there need to be this many functions?" and "I bet you need a degree to operate them" but that genuinely couldn't be further from the truth.

After sitting down for just fifteen-minutes on the sofa and having a "play" with them, I was ready to hit the bank and put them to the test. I was and still am impressed at how user friendly this kit is. The longer I've used these alarms the more I've realised how handy all these features really are.

But, if you're worried that there's too much that could go wrong, then a 3+1 year Warranty when registered should put your mind at ease. I've never been more confident sat behind my rods since I've had my Qi's on the Buzz Bars. These **UK made** Bite Alarms really are a top quality bit of kit and you really do get what you pay for.

James Dixon

Instagram: @North.East.Carp.Guy

Wolf: <https://www.wolfint.co.uk/>





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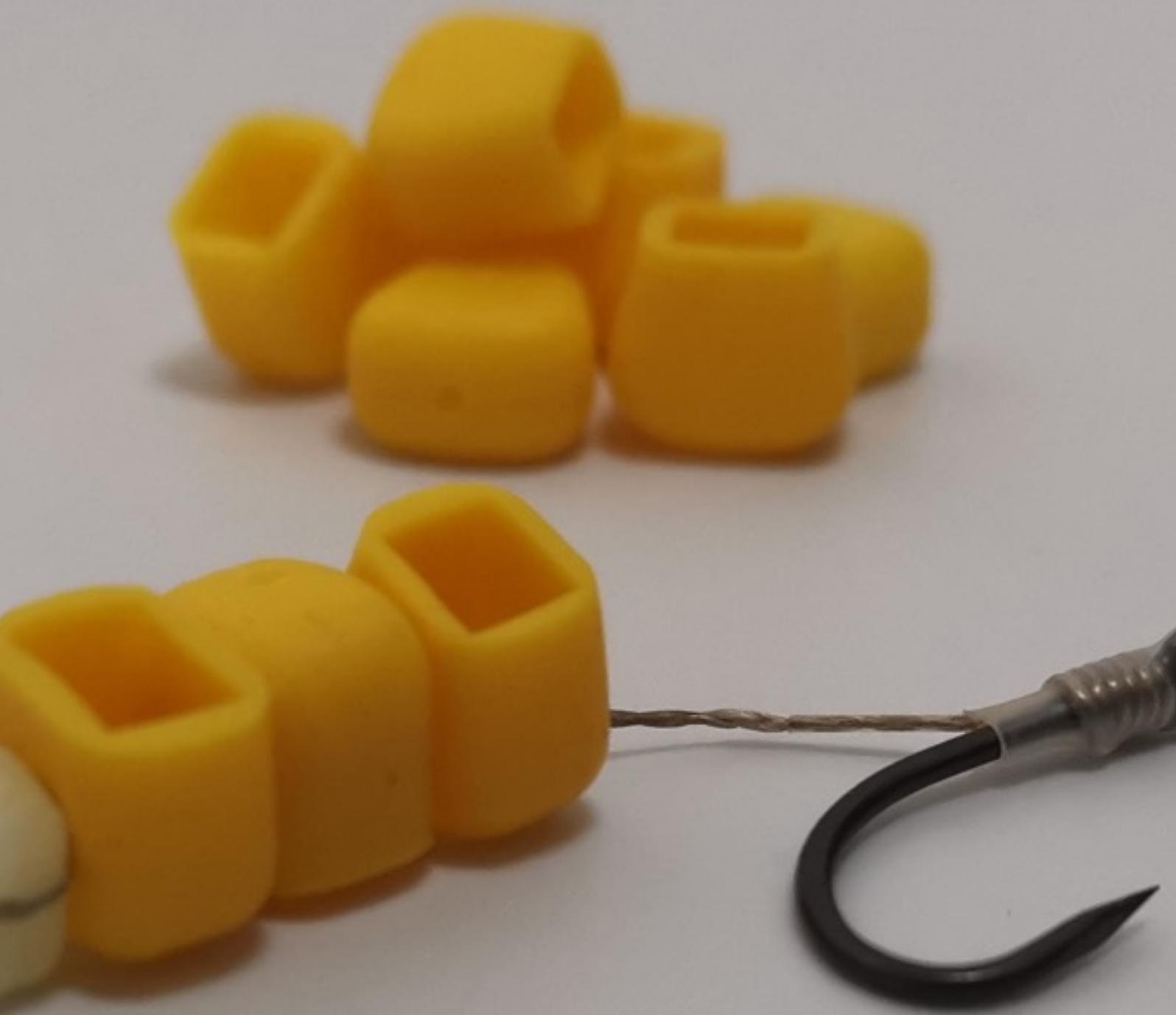
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**Artificial Baits Have Their
Place.**

By Anthony Wood

Artificial baits have a place in our angling and there is a huge range to choose from. One company that I have been using for years is Enterprise Tackle and the first product that I used from them is their MeatMate, which is a simple yet extremely effective way to mount luncheon meat or other soft bait such as strawberry, etc on to a hair rig.

I have used several of their products but recently I have been experimenting with a couple of their products in particular. The first product is the “Buoyant Sweetcorn Hair Stops” which are as the name suggests a great replacement for the standard hair stop. Why should you choose these over standard hair stops that are ten a penny though (these sweetcorn hair stops have an RRP of £2.60 for 20)?



The first advantage over normal hair stops is that the sweetcorn hair stops are buoyant which helps to counteract the weight of the hook. Secondly, they are a nice bright attraction point (there is even a glow in the dark option which can glow for up to 8 hours!!) which the carp can focus in on as an extra attraction to your hook bait.

They are extremely easy to use, simply place the sweetcorn stop in the hair loop with the groove facing upwards, pull the hair tight so that the line from the hair goes into the groove and make sure that the bait is also tight up against the underside of the sweetcorn hair stop.

The second of the Enterprise Tackle products that I absolutely love is the "Corn Skins" which are available in white or yellow. These are an absolutely brilliant invention and can be used in so many ways, the design is the soft outer skin of sweetcorn but with a hollow inner that can be filled with a variety of goodies such as luncheon meat, cheese, bread, paste or any other number of fish attracting goodies.

The corn skins are great value at £2.30 for 10 and you can hair rig a couple of them or side hook them or even nick the hook through the top or hair rig a single corn skin and hide the hair stop inside. There are probably lots of other ways to present these fantastic little baits but these are my favourite ways.

To find out more about these or any of the many products that Enterprise Tackle do you can find the products on their website www.enterprisetackle.co.uk or why not give their Facebook page a follow and see some of the beautiful fish caught on their products www.facebook.com/enterprisetackle.





Catch Reports

Featuring -

D.T. Baits
Castaway PVA
Deception Angling
Seasoned Baits
Royal Artillery Carpers

Plus all of your catches !!!

Simon Ursell



Well, the preparation certainly paid off. This enabled me time to lead around and find a good spot, and use my watercraft. New to team CarbonBaits I tried the Buckwheat, Hemp and maize particle, added ProbaitsUk Squid and

orange boillie chops and went about baiting up before getting the rods out, a good hour after. Bargain tackle and dips end tackle with Slyfish stripper for the rig components, topped off on the business end with a ProbaitsUk Squid and orange bollie and Indian Spice pop up. This old original Mirror 35 yrs plus, that weighed in at 21lb 6oz in February 2021, now a lovely 25lb 8oz, goes to show even the Old weary ones are thriving at Caerphilly Castle. It is no doubt due to the efforts the club and its members are putting in, and I'm very proud to be a part of. She could simply not resist the temptation.

Well, was not expecting this.

Big thank you to my wife for the short notice escapade lol but when you get a call saying fancy a night sesh, you just can't say no!!

24lb on the nose, enticed by CarbonBaits Particles, and ProbaitsUk Squid & Orange boilies chopped and mixed in, simple rig with components from @bargaintackleanddips and @Slyfish,witj the deadly Indian Spice Pop up from ProbaitsUk



Sarah Davey



2022 and off the mark, February due to motherly duties I couldn't grace the bank with my time and most spare time spent being a taxi mum.

12th March I was recovering with woman flu (much worser than the usual man flu). I needed time outdoors I had spent that last month working my socks

off. A last minute overnight trip it was.

As soon as we pulled up we noticed an old favourite peg was free called Donks Bar, the water looked pretty calm at this side of the lake and quite windy at the opposite.

Within 10 minutes a liner on my 1st rod to the point but nothing else, I had a feeling and said to Craig (The husband) I'm going to get one tonight, but nothing not another knock.

5.30am my 1st rod screamed off, now I'm a bit of a Miranda (her off tele) character so if you'd have filmed it, you'd have been in stitches, blind as a bat without my specs, I couldn't find them they'd fallen off the chair I put them on, couldn't find my light because you couldn't see, the alarms really taking off now. I ran out picked my rod up and my socks were drenched (yep guessed, I couldn't see my trainers without my glasses) husband to the rescue glasses, headtorch and trainers in tow.

The carp put up a good fight then took an aggressive turn to my left straight towards a snag, luckily managed to get this under control pretty quickly.

Weighed in at 18lb beautiful fish.

2022 I'm ready for you !!!

Christian Whitehall



Estate Lake Adventures.

I had been looking forward to this session. Spending time with great friends, and just what you need to de-stress with life in general. Arriving at the lake on a dreary Monday morning with rain in the air. And after meeting up with the other couple of friends on for the next 5 days. We picked our respective swims and began the task of setting up. The venue was the estate lake part of Arrow Meadow Fisheries exclusive hire venues



Christian Whitehall

I settled into the swim called Rapscallions, fishing PVA bags over the next four days I managed to have six fish from 13lb up to 20lb. The conditions certainly weren't favourable for end of Feb beginning of March. With cold temps and continued periods of rain running into the lake. But had a great time away with my friends and the dog Willow. Using EVG baits Diablo Pop ups, coupled with PVA bag stems / bag braid with curve shank hooks from Poltergeist tackle, which helped secure all the fish for me.





Dan Winfield

Team manager Dan Winfield took advantage of a short day session managing three bites. His go to favourite chods and Zinger popups casting to showing fish proved a great tactic.

Rick Golder

Consultant Rick Golder banked this chunky 31lbs 2oz mirror on a recent trip. Pukka fish Peach and Sour cream proved to much to resist.





Rob Ellis

Customer Rob Eliss has had a great run from recently utilising the Cold Water Green Beast range.

This is one of a number of good fish that have visited him on the bank recently.



Mel Rumbles

Long term customer Mel Rumbles headed over the pond to Brittany lakes in France.





Harry Roe

Customer Harry Roe with a boxy looking mirror from a recent trip. Harry used home rolled Cold Water Green Beast utilising our bait additive range which can be found on our website, to bag a quick bite.

Luke Howard

Man of the moment Luke Howards amazing run of form isn't showing any signs of slowing down. With the recent sunny weather Luke opted for a zig soaked in our fantastic Supa Fruit bait spray to see him land yet another fish



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Castaway PVA

Andy Hyden - 26lb 04oz



Jay Elliot



Castaway PVA

Derek 'The Don' Ritchie - 32lb 06oz



Jamie Sutton - Mid 20



Deception

Angling

Ben Wells



Matt Bush



Deception

Angling

Daniel Powell



Spencer Cooper



Seasoned Baits Team Member



Jake Parsons - Catch Report



I caught my PB Mirror 'TWICE' in 12 days...!!

On the evening of the 18th February 2022, after completing a day session elsewhere, I arrived at my local Club Lake where I met up with friends that were already fishing and I planned to fish just for the night with them.

I set my gear up in the next swim from them and as I wasn't expecting to catch in just one night (especially in the Winter months), I didn't worry too much about rod placement etc. I choose to use a Seasoned Baits 'Pink Washed-Out Pop-Up' presented in a Solid PVA Bag, and I proceeded to cast my rods at different distances across the lake.

Around thirty minutes later, my right-hand rod screamed off....

...On lifting into the fish, I instantly knew it was possibly one of the Lakes bigger residents as it had that tell-tale sign of moving slowly and not doing very much at all...!!! After a few lunges and stripping a bit of line on a couple of the more energetic runs, it finally appeared on the surface just a few metres in front of me...

Staring out at an old looking, Wrinkly Mirror, we just knew it was the 'Mug'. This is a fish I have spent three years chasing through many a cold night, storms and even heatwaves, in the hope that one day I would get my hands on this proper old Carp....

Once the Carp submitted to the inevitable, my friend quickly slipped the net under the incredible fish, pulling the net cord up as fast as he could to secure the capture and we could then clearly identify it as the one I had waited so long for... "The Mug Was Finally Mine...!"

After getting some great pictures of this amazing 'Old Warrior' looking Carp and weighing it in at 25lb 6oz I happily watched it swim back to the depths.... But that's not the end of this story....

.... Twelve days later, on the 2nd March 2022, I returned to the Lake for a short session and I intended on fishing a similar way to the previous visit, seeing how that had worked so well... but for some reason and with a change of mind, I chose instead to put the rods on a baited spot with around 30/40 Seasoned Baits 'Bug Bites' boilies and instead of the Pink Pop-Up, I went for a "Match the Hatch" approach....

.... Unbelievably, this completely different approach managed to land me the exact same fish for the second time in just twelve days, after a three year wait... I genuinely could not believe my eyes or my luck, but I have the further pictures to prove it...!!!!

One thing was for certain though, The Carp approved of the Seasoned Baits I was using, no matter how I presented them...!!!

All the Best

Seasoned Baits: <https://www.seasonedbaits.co.uk/>

**Seasoned Baits
Team Member**



**Tom Goyne -
Catch Report**



I fished for 48 hours on Linear B1 and due to the difficult conditions, I only managed the one bite... But it was very welcomed, and it gave me a new Personal Best Mirror...!!

The Carp was almost a 'Leather', which would have also been a PB for that too, but I'll take my new PB Mirror all day long. Weighing in at 24lb 2oz, it apparently couldn't resist the Seasoned Baits Yellow 'Waffer' I presented on a 'Ronnie' Rig... which sounds a bit odd I know, as usually you would use a Pop-Up, but this method has had some great success for a mate... who got the idea from a mate etc. etc. and everyone has been catching...!!!

I baited the area sparingly with 15mm 'Bug Bites', also from Seasoned Baits but unfortunately, that was it for my session, even after trying 'Zigs' and Solid Bags too.



Royal Regiment of Artillery (RA)

Royal Artillery Carp Group – Catch Report



The Royal Artillery Carp Group (colloquially known as "The Gunners"), headed to Linear Fisheries in March to hold their Qualification Event (QE) Number Three, where they had a lake exclusive of Brasenose 1, although the lake was shared with the REME Carpers too.

As usual with Linear Fisheries and Brasenose 1, the fishing can be very difficult at times, and this match was no exception with only a handful of fish being caught over the 48-hour period.

All the lads gave it their best effort but unfortunately only three of the fourteen taking part managed to land Carp....

Kingy - 24lb 12oz Mirror
Kingy - 30lb 12oz Mirror
Kingy - 27lb 8oz Mirror
Kingy - 19lb 14oz Mirror
Kingy - 25lb Common

Rimmer - 28lb 4oz Common
Rimmer - 25lb 9oz Common

Ryan - 22lb Mirror





Match Result:

1st - Bdr King - Total 127lb 14oz

2nd. - Lbdr Rimmer - Total 53lb 13oz

3rd - Sgt Salisbury - Total 22lb

Biggest Fish - Bdr King 30lb 12oz

Follow them on Instagram: @
ra.carpers

**Talking Carp Magazine –
Well done to those that
caught and there were some
cracking fish too...!!!
If any of the other British
Forces Carp Teams would
like to have their catch
reports included in the
magazine, email them to
m.galli@talkingcarp.co.uk**







Only Three Places Left.....

The Anglo German Carp Fest will be held at Baylakes France this year for a week. Dates are from the 22nd October 2022 on Baylakes 1 and 2. Price per angler will be 300euros and each angler must take the meal deal at a reduced rate of 130euros per angler.

At this year's event you can use bait boats or rowing boats for the match its entirely up to you. The chosen British charity this year will be Scotties little soldiers which helps children who lost their serving parent or parents.

This year our main sponsors will be Black label Baits, Forge tackle and Magnet baits, however we also have other very good sponsors like such as, Century, Custom Angling Solutions, Ehman's, Carp Tackle Pound Shop, Hilton Fisheries to name just a few.

Come along and enjoy this great relaxed event and see if you can get your name on the big Trophy or the biggest fish Trophy and walk away with your own 1,2,3 place or biggest fish trophy.

Das Anglo German Carp Fest findet dieses Jahr eine Woche lang in Baylakes/ Frankreich statt. Die Termine sind ab dem 22.ten Oktober an Baylakes 1 und 2. Der Preis pro Angler beträgt 300 Euro und jeder Angler muss das Essenpaket zu einem ermäßigten Preis von 130 Euro beziehen.

Bei der diesjährigen Veranstaltung können Futterboote oder auch Schlauchboote für das Match verwendet werden; die Wahl liegt ganz bei ihnen.

Die ausgewählte britische Wohltätigkeitsorganisation in diesem Jahr wird "Scotties Little Soldiers" sein, die die Kinder unterstützt die ihre Eltern als Berufssoldaten verloren haben. In diesem Jahr haben wir erneut viele Sponsoren für dieses tolle Projekt gewinnen können!!

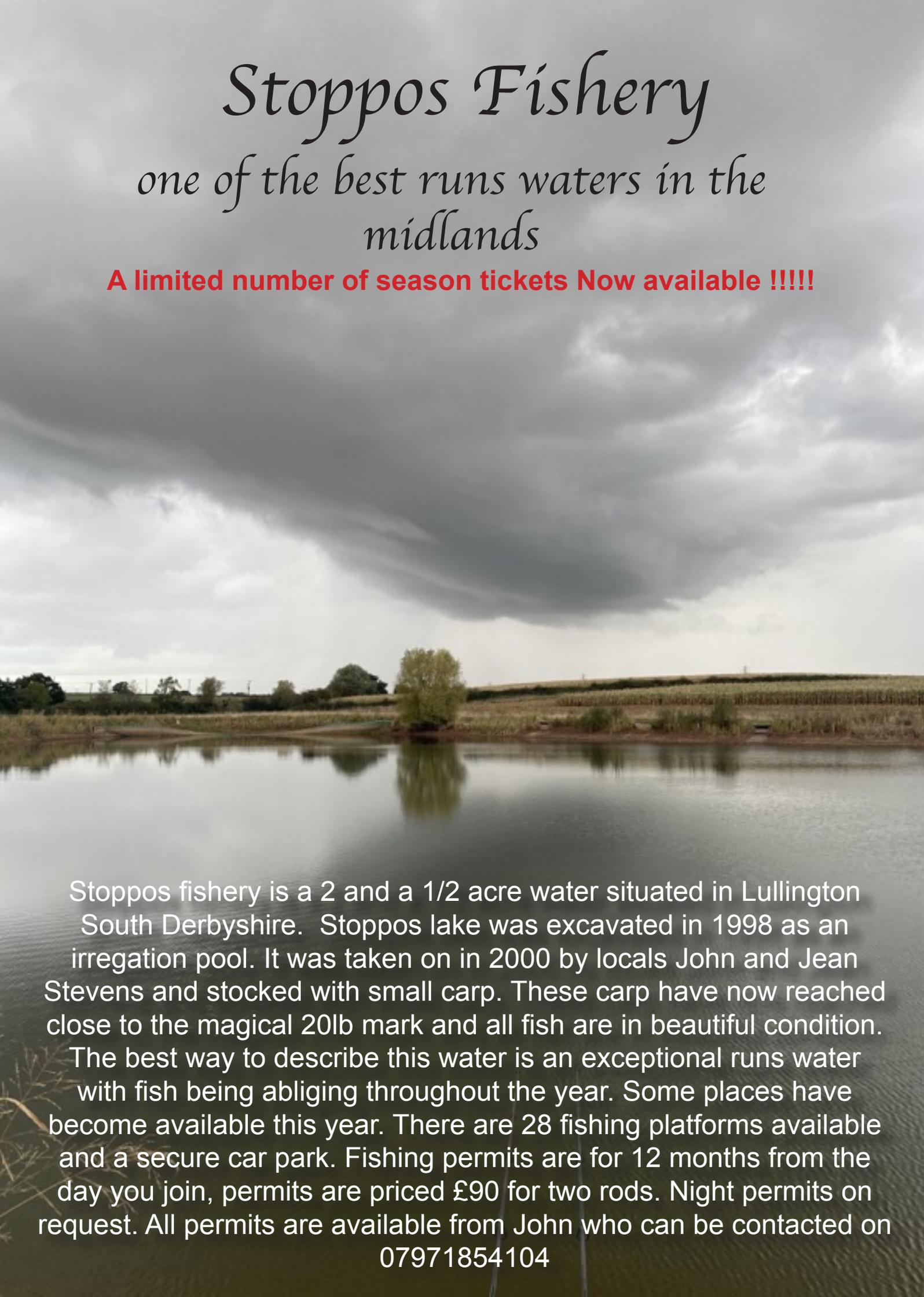
Unsere Hauptsponsoren werden "Black Label Baits", "Forge Tackle," und "Magnet Baits" sein, aber wir haben auch andere Sponsoren wie Century, Custom Angling Solutions, Ehmann's, Carp Tackle Pound Shop, Hilton fisheries, um nur einige davon zu nennen. Kommen Sie vorbei und geniessen Sie dieses tolle und spannende Event und sehen Sie, ob es Ihr Name ist, der es auf die grosse Trophäe oder die grösste Fisch Trophäe schafft! Versuchen Sie dabei zu sein, um mit einem 1, 2 oder 3 Platz und Ihre eigene Fisch Trophäe nach Hause gehen zu können!!

anglogermancarpfest1@gmail.com

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Le Lees Carp Fishery - France



Now France has opened up !!! come on guys & girls take advantage of our deal....

We have decided to extend our deal into this year 2022. With a chance of winning yourselves a free trip. So get booking at just £150 per person per week, including an evening meal and just a £50 pp deposit required to secure any date this year.

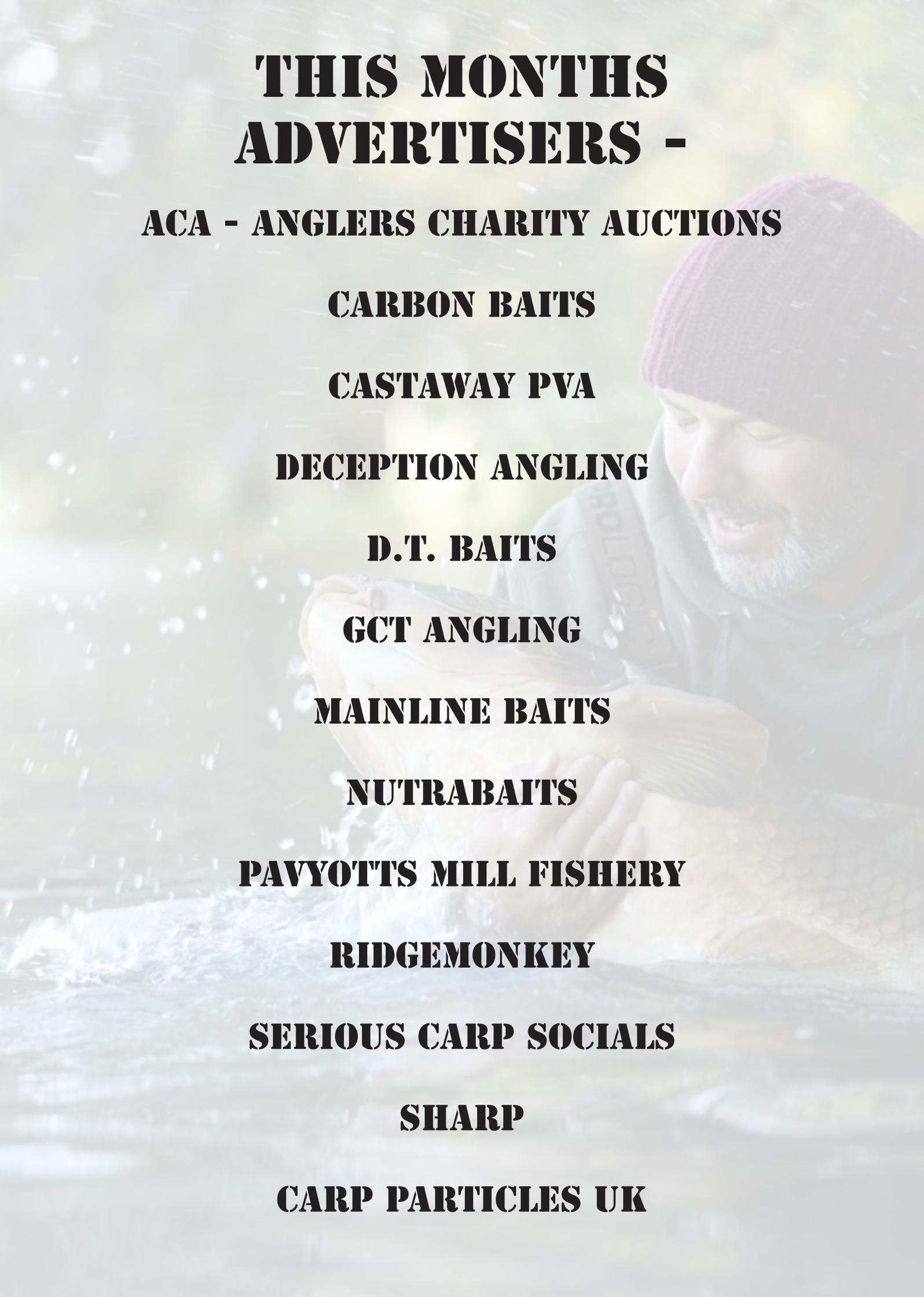
We are just 3hrs from Caen, 2hrs from St Malo, 1 1/2 hrs from Roscoff.

Win A FREE weeks fishing. Anyone who books a week with us at just £150pp and catches one of these 2 amazing carp (2 tone or Hald moon) will win their next trip for free.(Drive and survive)

Thankyou Matt and Tracie



Le Lees Carp Fishery

A man with a beard, wearing a red beanie and a dark jacket, is holding a large fish. He is looking down at the fish with a smile. The background is a snowy, outdoor setting with falling snow. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

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Thanks for reading

**Send your articles and catch reports by the
28th April 2022 for next months magazine**

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mark@talkingcarp.co.uk

m.galli@talkingcarp.co.uk



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

'The Talking Carp Team'

Brian Dixon

Mark Faulkner

Dave Harnick Snr

Mark Galli



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

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

- DANNY FAIRBRASS

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