



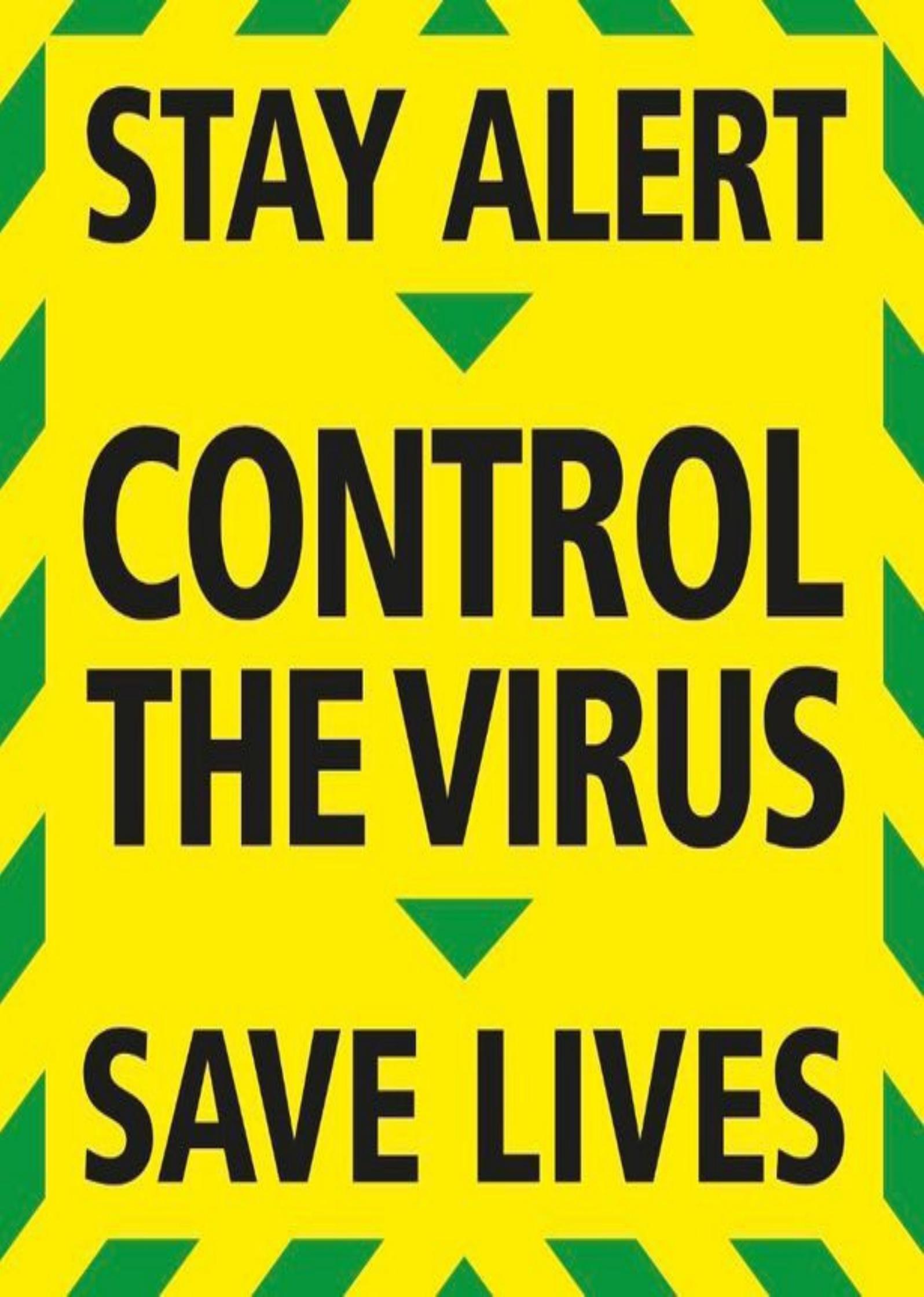
*Talking
Carp*
Magazine

*Issue 52
June 2020*



Featuring

**Joe Turnbull, Mark Holmes,
Clint walker, Wuzy & many more**



STAY ALERT

**CONTROL
THE VIRUS**

SAVE LIVES

Hello...and welcome.

Well, what a crazy couple of months that has been... its not over yet, but we are fishing again! So that's a start at least. It is great to see so many captures this past week or two, and some real beasts have graced the banks...and at top weights too!!

Which begs the question.... Did the break do them a world of good? The fish are in tip top condition... at their best weights... and now getting caught...and looking good!! Maybe going back to a closed season isn't such a silly idea at all? Think about that on your next break time...

Anyway, last months "carp behaving badly" picture gallery went down a storm...so if you have any more of those you would like to share....send them in! usual email addresses or website upload button.

This month we bring you our great rogues gallery of writers.. with more amazing articles, hints and tips and some amazing photography. Cover boy Joe Turnbull leads the way this month, along with more fantastic pieces from Holmesey, Handel, Milton, Geezer, Brandreth and so many more... and Merlyn Ginns does her first piece with ana amazing fish. We wish you all a great month... Stay Safe, Take Care.

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Vader Bait, Wyreside

plus all of your catches !!!!!!!!

THE CATCH

CARP & COARSE



OUT 30TH JUNE 2020



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A serene landscape of a lake at sunrise or sunset. The water is calm, reflecting the golden light of the sun. The sky is a soft, hazy yellow. In the background, a dense line of trees is visible. In the foreground, there are branches and leaves of trees, some in focus and some blurred, framing the scene.

**ME AND THE GUY THAT
WASN'T THERE.**

*By
Joe Turnbull*

This is a true strory.

It was one of those really warm summer evenings and the mozzies had kept me up all night. Try as I may (this was before the days of mozzie mesh) I could not get to sleep, tossing and turning every other 10 mins so eventually I decided to get up.

Standing there at 3am in the morning in just my pants as the breeze blew through my undercarrige was sheer bliss. After fifteen minutes or so I thought I'd wack the kettle on and make myself a brew. Just as I bent down to grab the kettle and start the stove, I heard a plop of a lead land not a million miles out in front of me, or at least it seemed like it was in that vicinity. I didn't see any head torch and thought that it was a bit strange that somene had turned up at just after 3am to set up but then again why not? This particular veneue was more or less pretty quiet and it was quite often that

you could do at least a few nights without seeing a soul. Anyway, I grabbed the water container and went on to fill the kettle up, somewhat bleary eyed and heavy headed. Understand that I was loving being and doing what I love most, but I actually sleep better bankside than I do at home so I was missing my sleep a bit and its not a regular thing for me to be sipping tea at 3.30am.

Just as the kettle had boiled I heard the sound of yet another plop of a lead which was definitley out in front of me. I looked up this time and caught sight of what looked like the dull light of a head torch, so realised that I wasn't alone. It was at around 4am and we'd had some nice low pressure with overcast cloudy skys so although the sunlight had begun to come up, It wasn't quite as bright as those usual light summer mornings. So by now my undercarrige had cooled somewhat, even if I did have about twenty stings on my arse and I was now sat on my bedchair sipping a cup of tea that I didn't really want when suddenly

I heard the scream of an alarm but it wasn't mine. I looked across to the other banksided and could just make out what looked like a guy playing a fish. Picking up the old trusty binoculars and pretending that they were night vision ones, and, while squinting my eyes a bit to try to make out the other bank I heard yet another alarm burst into life.

Placing the bins back down next to me, I'd noticed out of the corner of my eye, those large water ripples that you get when the stillness of the lake has been disturbed from afar so I was certain that the illusive angler somewhere over yonder had been into a bit of action.

Whilst I sat without a single bleep I decided to slip back into the bag as the mornings fresh air had a bit of a chill to it. The mist was really heavy and the sun was trying to break through but just as I was about to tuck my head into my pillow I heard a whistle. It was the kind of whistle coming

from someone that wanted a hand and being the kind of thoughtful person I am I presumed it was Mr Invisible. It was at this point where I thought, sod it so I reeled both rods in and decided to go around to double bubble guy to give him a hand. Maybe he'd whistled over for me to take take some pictures. All sorts of scenarios were going through my mind as I made my way round there but none the less I was rather intrigued to see what he'd caught. Making my way around, I get to where he should



have been but there was no one there? I walked up a bit further thinking that maybe I hadn't walked round far enough but still no one. Now I know I didn't get much sleep but had I imagined it all? What about the leads? The headtorch light? The water disturbance? **THE WHISTLE?**

By this time the light was well up and I could see the bank side below my feet and there were absolutely no signs of anyone in either of these swims.

I walked back around to my swim whilst scratching my head and thinking that I was truly losing my mind. Quickly casting the rods out as I had a few hours left of the morning and within minutes the left hand rod was off, I couldn't believe it! Happy days!

Not long after and a pristine common was in the net and after the self takes were promptly done and the fish returned safely I decided to pack up and head off

to work. Thinking about what happened during the night whilst packing up, I wondered what had gone on. Even if I'd had few beers might of explained some of it but there you go, just one of the weird things that happened to me over the years.

Until next time, be lucky and if you hear a whistle ignore it.

JT





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The Little Things Do Matter by Mark Holmes



Following on from his introductory article in the last issue, long time big carp angler MARK HOLMES writes candidly about trying to introduce the little things into your carp fishing...particularly bait placement.

These days we see so much carp hardware (tackle) that often the art of carp fishing is lost to the mechanics of carp fishing. That sentence will be lost on some of the younger end in carp fishing whilst trumpeted by the 'Old Git' brigade such as myself. However, if I said that an art is timeless and mechanisms fail then maybe there is a practical point. Well there is! Many years ago I wrote an article comparing the difference between art and mechanical carp fishing. In true Holmesy style, some thought I was talking nonsense whereas some loved it. As I get older I make no apologies for my writing style, as it defines not just who I am but what I say. However and it is a huge however, what the older carp anglers should realise is that you can only live in your time. Not for today's carp angler the talk of Matt Black Paint, Knitting needles, Washing up liquid bottle tops as indicators etc, etc. Here I believe clearly that in order to be applicable you have to be relevant to today's carp scene. That relevance comes from actually getting out on the bank not talking or waxing lyrically about the good old days. In truth most of the times the good old days were anything but good LOL. No for me I will stop writing, doing shows and talking about carp fishing when I am no longer doing it. That's why for me, I try not to 'hang out' with too many carp anglers of my age. Invariable we quickly get around to talking about how today's carp fishing has lost something. Well yes it has but it has also gained massively with the advancement of technology. However, not all technology is for me, as I believe it can affect my ability to fish effectively. So no bait boats, no deepers, no sonar kit, just myself and a lead and a huge slice of luck are the tools that hopefully will catch me big fish. In essence that seem quite ambiguous and it is. As the sands of time march on what I am realising is that often the things overlooked are indeed the difference between failure and success at this game. Now I have my detractors and that goes back

for decades. I get why as I'm opinionated but in all honesty those opinions are based on one thing and one thing only... catching carp. Where I lose patience with many carp writers is the rambles of food, drink, pals, socials, ambience and all sorts of stocking fillers as I call them, in articles. Now I get the story telling that some like I really do. The best exponent of this

Paint the inside of your spomb with Walnut Oil



is undoubtedly Chris Yates but some don't even come a close second and I switch off within two minutes of reading. If I see or read another kettle being boiled by a pile of twigs I will throw up! FFS it's 2020... get a stove, get it boiled and get it drunk. Now can you tell me how to catch a carp! Seriously you can understand my point. Basically there is a lack of

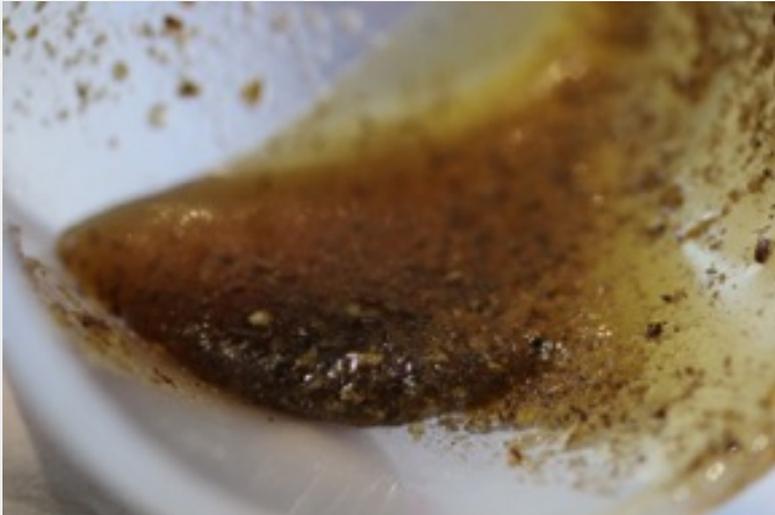
constructive help because far too many of today's names or today's wannabees don't realise this game, to me and thousands of others, is about catching not looking good. My carp fishing always has been about how I can try and be one step ahead ...not just of the carp but also of other anglers. That's what keeps me pushing myself, year after year, after year. However, consistently the majority of PM's I get via Social Media are not backslapping well-done cobblers...no! When you peel that back, it is always how can you help me to catch a carp?



The spomb does not leak the liquid through its edges...Job Done!

I love this because that is my attitude too. Some may think that is too cold or calculated but it's my philosophy. I like to catch carp; big carp and I like to help others do the same. I like it because it is also time

You can add powdered attraction to syrup liquids for added boost



time relative and that makes it fresh. It also keeps me fresh too. Often when other anglers see me on the bank, I can come across as aloof, stand off' ish or in layman's terms...a bit of a twat! LOL That's because all my thought is trying to work out how to catch that next big one. It is through this that I have become known as the Edge

Man as someone recently called me. Now all that means in real terms is I try to do the little things that make the difference between success and failure. One thing that has been at the forefront of my mind since my time fishing the Caravan Lake in Cambridgeshire quite a few years ago now is the placement of my hook bait. At this lake I was able to watch carp up close, some big ones too and see the behaviour of the larger specimens to coming across food...in essence anglers loose feed. Now don't get me wrong, carp behaviour changes from lake to lake so don't hammer me if what I'm about to write does not compare with your findings. As I have said many, many times all you get from me are my findings, my thoughts and my opinions based upon catching...not theorising. What I discovered was that often the larger carp would only feed off the main concentration of food while several of the smaller carp ate on the area where most food had been put. Now I coined these carp as 'shoal carp' and the larger ones as 'loner carp'. So what I want to write about is how do you catch the 'loners'. Now I'm just going to put a 'curveball' out there. Some 'loners' have one or two fish, not always carp either that DEFINITELY are samplers. Now a 'sampler ' is a fish that tries



The thick viscosity liquids are usually syrup based but don't have to be shhh...

out the food before the 'loner' eats it. I have mentioned they are not always same species as I have come across 'samplers' that are Bream and Tench. Indeed one fish that I caught, a large male carp, had a small tench of about 3lb that used to go around together all the time. This wasn't a small carp either as when I did catch it in 2009 now, it weighed 52lb 6oz a bloody big carp now but over 10 years ago! Strangely enough I caught it on a prawn, which is quite relevant. I do believe that dependant upon the time of year, naturals can be viewed differently by the 'sampler' and the 'loner'. Now how and where the hook bait is placed is not an exact science, as I cannot theorise as to what your venues' lakebed is made up of. However I can tell you not to fish on top of your loose feed. What you can learn here is also important. Try and observe how guys who get lots of runs fish on your venue. Are they baiting heavily? Is that concentrated or spaced out? Is it particle based or predominantly boilies? All of these questions can quickly be answered by a bit of simple interaction and personal observation. Now it's as old as the hills to tell you



This is the large male carp that Mark refers to that he caught on a natural. The famous black Eye at 52lb 6oz

not to do what everybody says but just try and think what would a 'loner' do? Often I see many anglers catching far more carp than me and they are really clever, accurate and skilled at it. However, I'm not fishing for bites I'm fishing for THE bite. Of course unless you visually fish then that's impossible but if you try and focus on 'loner' fishing then you will see maybe your catch rate go down but the size of your carp go up. As an aside I do smile when I see some anglers saying size doesn't matter to me. These are the very same people who when you see them doing promotions at shows etc always seem to show their largest fish!!! Anyway I am getting off the subject. Now one new edge I have found is to combine the use of liquids along with loose feed to 'trip' up 'loners'. I do smirk when I hear the self-elected elite talking about liquids as if they've been around for years and they have actively been using them.... REALLY?

No one used the phrase leaking from the bottom to the top until I first showed it. Now everyone's a liquid exponent. Their drinking glass showing various syrups sinking like a stone...Ahh well imitation is a form a flattery I suppose. But using a liquid away from a concentration of boilies and putting your hook bait only amongst it, has resulted in me catching many 'loners'. However when



A carp called Serge who 'craftily' hangs off the main food area when she's feeding



Mark Holmes certainly catches the Big Uns that's undeniable

doing this I find accuracy to be everything. And I mean Accuracy. You need to be able to fish it on the liquid. Now you can increase the chances of this by using more liquids. When I talk about liquids it's important to realise I am talking about using liquid as a stand-alone attractor here. Not something mixed with ground bait or some other carrier. No you need to spomb a liquid with a thick viscosity, syrup-like, that sinks straight to the bottom. I have found this is easier to achieve if less than six foot deep by a spomb. What you should do is paint the inside of the spomb with Walnut Oil. This does not coagulate at low temperatures and acts like a wheat germ tablet that encases the liquid but breaks on impact with the lakebed. Used

Used correctly it's devastating. It is also 'bird-free' as they quickly move off when faced with the prospect of no particle or boilie freebies. What tends to happen is the 'shoal' carp congregate around the freebies and the 'loner' is pulled in by the soluble attractor, sees the 'shoal' carp feeding on the concentrated area and picks up the isolated hook bait in amongst the soluble attraction. Everyone a coconut!! I could finish off this article by listing the number of big carp I have caught using this method but I am past that. Those who would doubt my tactics I have no problem



Huge carp like this UK 60+ need to be viewed as a 'stand-alone' target rather than just another carp in Holmesy's carping world

have no problem with. The question I would put to them though is how come I've been so lucky for all these years? Maybe I should buy a lottery ticket?

Next Time

Holmesy will be writing about his findings with Insects and how aquaculture study as helped him to keep the big uns' coming during the tough period after the carp have spawned.



This mid-30 is a 'Sampler' for a known Fifty. Not all 'Samplers' are small



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*Back on the bank... and carpy talk
by Andrew Murray*

Like most of you reading this no doubt, I was so glad to get back out on the bank again after the lockdown eased a bit. My first trip was down to my usual hunting ground, the A1 Pits at Newark, I didn't even mind that it was rammed with anglers, it was just so nice to be out again, once the rods were out it was out with a table full of food, some nice wine and I just enjoyed being there, the following morning, that first sunrise was pretty magical, it was like the old close season days. It is also pretty amazing how quite FB has become since then as well and how better natured everyone has become again. I think we all have learned a lot in this period about ourselves and some of our so-called friends in Social media, it has made me look at others in more detail before I accept friend

requests. Also, I have learned to scroll past comments instead of getting involved! I hope I have come out of this a more tolerant person, but I am not sure...

Over the last few weeks I have been going through old photos and slides, whilst I did have a large library of slides from days gone by, a lot were damaged in a flood and also some seem to have been mislaid with our move last Autumn. So, it has been a good sorting out period for me in lots of ways. Also, I have spent some time making sure plans are in place for the rest of the year. My carp fishing this year is fairly set out now, our April trip to Jurassik has been moved to early October. Our planned October trip to eastern Europe has been moved to next May, I have attached a

picture of a big carp I caught two years from Hungary, it's time we were back there. If an opportunity comes up for an extra trip somewhere at all, then I might venture abroad again this year, but nothing planned. My fishing throughout the summer is going to be focusing on extracting one of those biggies from the Pits, which have so far evaded me, as I am sat finishing this piece I have just heard the carp are now spawning on the big lake, so they will all be down in weight now, then following that things may settle down a bit. I'm hoping the lakes will quieten off in the next couple of weeks as people start to go back to work and also when the rivers open, the lakes will get a bit quieter in due course anyway I think. I have the occasional charity fishing event which I will be

attending as well. So, I think what's left of the year will fly by, that's if we don't get locked down again! Sal, my wife is 2/3 of the way through her Chemo and is doing well considering what they are pumping into her, now they have a lot of the medication sorted to counter the effects of the Chemotherapy. She has to still strictly shield due to infection for another 2 months yet, we are still missing our family though, like most I guess.

Getting back to the fishing on the Pits, it's certainly not the easiest of places to catch carp from, which I have said before, there are certainly lakes I could go to and no doubt get more runs and more carp on the bank, to me it's the challenge of getting a bite that I like, putting the jigsaw together as it were. I

fish for me and no one else, numbers and size used to matter, now I want to enjoy my time on the bank on my own terms. I'm not having a go at others who seek something more or different, each to their own. I'm just very comfortable

with what I do. All day ticket waters have their own challenges, they are mostly busy at peak times, since the lockdown was eased the Pits have been busy all the time, and sometimes just getting on the carp is difficult. There are also some



very good anglers fishing who have fished here for a lot of years and they do know the lakes well, and I'm sure a bit of swim saving goes on, but heh... that's life. I'm getting to know the 2 big lakes steadily though, learning the hot spots in several swims around the lakes, also when the carp are likely to be in the upper layers and when they are mid-water moving and through. Also, as I'm getting to know a few of the anglers

now, a bit of info gets passed on. One thing I do like is fishing from the Van though, just turn up and fish, it's going to kill me the first time I actually have to barrow my gear anywhere! This year so far, I have caught on 2 out of three trips I have had there, on the trip I didn't catch I did hook a carp at range, hooked on a zig at 130 yards, which then came adrift, a bite is a bite though. I hope I can continue this run for the rest of

the year; it would be impressively consistent on what is a difficult set of lakes.

One of the things I have spoken about in the past is about the challenge of tackling a new water. On the FB page for the Pits I see so many asking-which lake, what bait, what rig etc. I think you have to start by wetting a line, and take it from there, if you ask too many folk, you can end up with too many different opinions,





then end up been more confused. I would rather form my own thoughts as I go along. I have been carp fishing for over 30 years now and caught a lot of carp over that time, to me, once that buzzer sounds is what I go fishing for, that's when I know the jigsaw is starting to come together and then I have something to work on. You can't always control what size carp picks up your bait (I know some would disagree), unless you are fishing a lake full of big carp. Having said that I do think the amount of bait

used and rig efficiency can affect when you get a bite during your session, definitely on my last trip I felt I should have had a bite long before I actually got one. Ill elaborate on that a bit. In my book 'Catch Carp with Andy Murray', one of the things I wrote about was the window of opportunity. What is that? What is needed to catch carp? The right bait, in the right place at the right time, if all those three are right most rigs will work, to a point. To me location has to be the priority issue, not just on carp but on

carp that are willing to feed or are about to. Then you must get the spots right they are going to visit to feed. So, then you have to decide what and how much bait to use. So now I'm getting on the carp with a bit more regularity, this is the bit I am working harder on, working at creating the right feeding time an occasion. I see anglers putting huge amounts of bait in right from the start, convinced if the carp start feeding, they will have a big hit. They very rarely do, and they are cutting down their chances of even getting a bite on a short session. One of the things I covered in my last article was about changing my tactics for this year as I felt I hadn't been getting the best out of my baiting approach last year on a few occasions. So far this year my new approach is working

pretty well, the formulation was based upon watching others and speaking to people like Dale one of the Bailiffs about what he sees. It's also how I used to fish a lot 'in the old days', fishing for a bite at a time. What I want is enough 'smell' in the water to let the carp know there is food around without there been so much that I am reducing my chances of getting a bite. As a lot of anglers are using lots of particles, I had decided to use boilies only and heavily glug them with liquid additives for added 'flavour and smell'. I want the carp coming in on the scent and then eating one or two boilies and then getting a taste for them and looking a bit more keenly for

more. One thing I know about the bait I use, it does have that effect. You can see by the picture what additives I'm using. Once I have found my precise spot, I am just putting a few Spombs of boilies around the hook bait. As I'm using 15mm boilies, 4 spomb loads is 80-100 boilies! That's more than enough to set an area up that gives off a food signal. If I think carp have been about and I have not had a bite then I will put a couple more out, but that's all. I am fishing for one bite, once I get that one, I can add more. It does require accuracy with the Spod rod though, especially at range. These things become easier with practice.

The other thing I am

using more again is the Marker rod, especially when going into a swim I haven't fished before. Whilst its helpful to get a bit of info where the bars, plateaus or gravel beds might be, I need (not want), to check them out myself. Once I have found the right spot and have my rods and Spod rod clipped to the where I want onto a visual point, I can then use the distance sticks for recasting the baited rods if needed.

One of the things I see a lot is anglers just relying on how many wraps should they be on, without understanding the makeup of the area they are fishing.

If I get a bite, I want to know is on gravel, is it



in silt, is it in a crease at the bottom of a bar etc. I know its old school, but I think it is more than worth a bit of effort at the start of a session to have a good understanding of the area you are fishing. Given the lakes flooded big time this winter and are still up a bit,

even when Zig fishing, I want to be sure I am fishing the right depth, not a guess based on last year's fishing. On my trip last week, I was demonstrating using the Marker rod to another angler, it only took a couple of casts before he hit a

hundred yards and could feel the gravel spots immediately. Whilst it's nice to have the best tackle, you don't always need it. My spod rod is 8 years old and cost me £50, the Shimano spod reel is 6 years old now and works as well today as the day I bought it. I do prefer to use sinking braid for the marker rod, the Fox braid is ideal for this. One item I use which does help is a good marker float, I love the Marker floats from Rig-it Tackle. They are extra-long and carry the lead really well, making accuracy at distance very easy. They are bomb proof as well. I'm not going to go into how to use a marker at this point, there are plenty of tutorials on the subject. What I will say, is the more you use it and practice, the more it will give you

information on the area you are searching. On my last trip I found a plateau I had been told about at 120 yards, although the distance was slightly out, and due to excess flood water still in the lake, there was more water over it than usual, correct use of the marker rod helped me

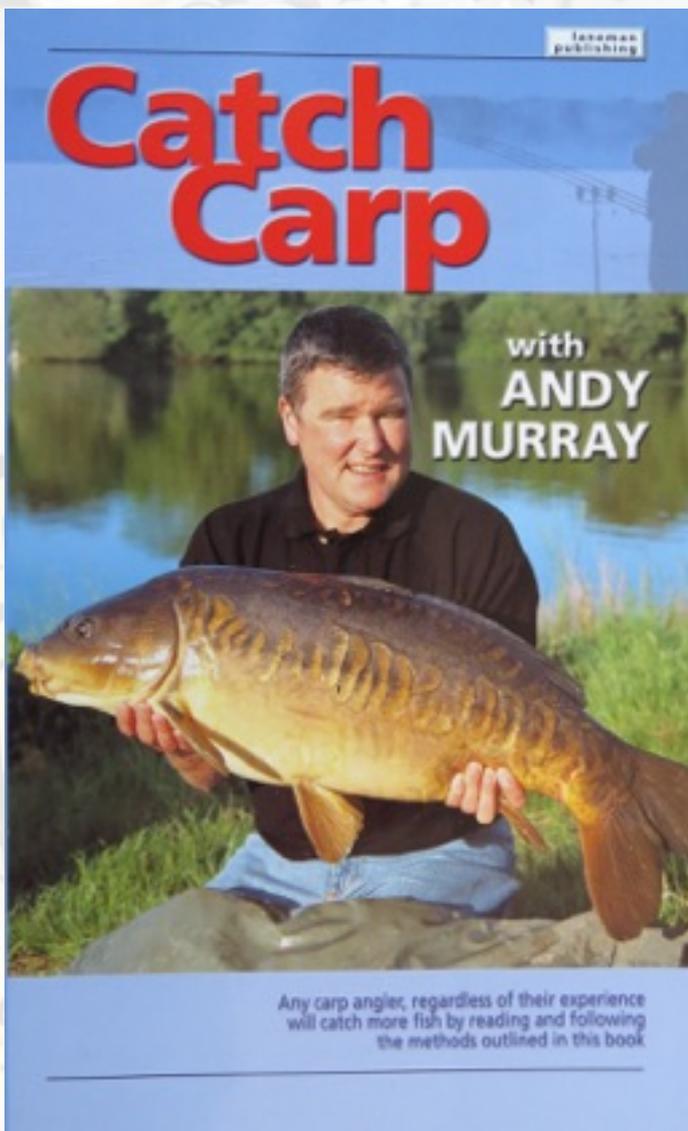
to set the depth for the Zig exactly. I really felt that carp would be getting over this type of area due to the heat of the sun and they were definitely getting into the upper layers. Back to the point I was trying to make, using the marker helped me find the right spot just on the edge of the plateau

where I runs on that rod, as well as an aborted take on the zig. Sadly, I had to leave then, the angler taking over had three carp from that very same spot as I showed him where I caught from. I have drifted off my point a bit as I was talking about presentation and how I felt I should have had caught a bit earlier in the session. I have run out of space this session, so we will have to pick it up again next month.

where I wanted to fish, as I didn't want the line going across the gravel and putting the carp off feeding.

Catch you next time round, happy fishing to you all.

Once I had isolated this spot and fed it for a day, the carp were starting to get on it, I then had two



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Just #bekind
by Clint Walker

Earlier this month, I witnessed an angler catch a lovely fish, a superbly scaled mirror with which he was understandably delighted. I took several complimentary images for him, and within the bounds of social distancing, congratulated him warmly as we watched it swim away back into the depths. He was pleased as punch and I'd enjoyed that brief interaction immensely. Next time I see him on the bank, we'll probably nod acknowledgement to each other and who knows, may even chat, encourage or exchange ideas in the future... exactly what angling interaction should be about...

Over the last eighteen

years, I've been fortunate enough to write regularly for many of the major angling publications, including both of the biggest weekly magazines and many of the monthlies too. I have a weekly angling newspaper column, contribute to a major fishing game across almost every platform you can think of and provide much of the content for a couple of well-known angling brands across social media in addition to freelance work wherever I can. I know I'm extremely fortunate, but why am I telling you? Well, because I know I'm very lucky, and I'd like to continue doing what I do, which means I have to behave appropriately, be nice to people and to use

a popular hashtag, #bekind but shouldn't we all be doing that anyway? It's a question I'd like to ask of every one of us. Do we do enough to encourage each other, or is it easier to discourage?

In truth, #bekind is a mantra I'd like to see adopted by every angler on the bank or at home and especially online. I've been an angler for almost forty years now, and one of the most exciting things I've watched develop is the internet, an eternal spring of knowledge, an opportunity to gather information from far and wide, share tips and tactics and make new friends within the angling community. Nothing has ever impacted angling in such a way, and I

doubt anything ever will again, BUT it sometimes comes at a terrible cost and I've grown to love and despise it in equal measure. The internet is here to stay, it will never go away, but I'd really like to see the way some people use it change...

Angling is at a crossroads. The trade might tell you that things are booming, with profits aplenty and retail doing well, but the huge decline in licence sales tells a different tale. Licence numbers are down at least forty percent since 2011, fourteen percent down since 2018 and this fall needs to be arrested otherwise anglers will die out! The requirement to introduce new anglers

to our pastime is paramount and the interweb is a fabulous tool to do just that, but it's a double-edged sword too. I've spoken to novice anglers who have tried angling, only to be horrified by the sheer amount of invective directed at them should they make an error, ask a simple question, or do something classified as without etiquette, resulting in them leaving angling for ever. Imagine a new angler, perhaps

thirteen years old, with the potential to spend thousands of pounds on his newfound hobby throughout his lifetime, or enjoy countless hours on the bank, only to decide never to fish again due to online ridicule? What a sad loss, and it could easily have been prevented with a bit of positivity...

I contributed to the biggest weekly carp magazine for nine years before it's unfortunate demise, (damn you, internet!)



compiling weekly catch reports from around the country, editing images and submitting copy supplied by you, the reader. During that period, I've looked at thousands of carpy images, all supplied with a weight given by the captor but with rare exception have I ever questioned the given statistics, and only then perhaps to clarify a possible type error or an obvious attempt to deceive. In general, most readers were an honest bunch, but if they were dishonest, it's almost impossible to tell from just a photograph as I wasn't there. That's my point; unless you were THERE, how can you possibly know? I'd have to question the camera used, the lens, the lighting, the

way the fish is held, the distance between camera and subject, photoshop and the accuracy of the scales used amongst dozens of other variables. You just cannot tell from an electronically generated image, so why argue about it?

I'm of the opinion that the vast majority of anglers are genuinely pleased to share their latest captures with others via the medium

of social media or here in Talking Carp. Online portals are easy to use and return quick positive feedback resulting in the well-documented release of dopamine to give a feeling of satisfaction or pleasure for the contributor; that's why we share our pictures, it's so others can say "well done" a salve to our narcissistic natures...everyone wants to be liked, so why do some anglers



go out of their way to upset everyone else? There is evidence of the 'little man' syndrome, an envy of others and a need for attention all combining to be revealed in an online outburst which does nothing useful for anyone and you've all seen it, you know exactly what I mean...

"I'd get some new scales mate" is THE passive/aggressive comment designed to instantly burst the bubble of the happy angler whilst misery troll sits in his bedroom at home (well, his mum's) in his pants, eating Pringles and looking at sticky pictures of Pamela Anderson on his bedroom wall wishing he could be as successful and popular as the rest of

the human race. This particular comment is often complimented by the immediate upload of the trolls' own picture with the caption; "...never 27lb that one, this one's 27lb mate, yours is about 15lb". How about the "Mat Police"?

We all know that we should be carrying an unhooking mat, there have been millions of words written about fish care, the manufacturers churn them out in their thousands, and all self-respecting anglers should carry them, but the fact is that some don't, and a snide comment is unlikely to encourage them to do so either. Another one I detest is the "Can you hold it any closer to the camera mate?" crack. Note the use of the word 'mate' to

indicate that this is in fact friendly advice but is in reality a thinly veiled attempt to belittle the captor and purvey the imagined photography and image taking expertise of the online angler.

In truth, I'd rather see the fish in detail, held out in all its finery, rather than some pale skinny oik in a bucket hat and ill-fitting shorts holding a blurry piscine that I can hardly see, but that's just me... You see where I'm going with this?

For years, in HM Forces and subsequently the Fire Service, I was always taught that to promote improvement or enjoyment, 'kiss, kick, kiss' was the mantra to be used. If you must highlight a perceived

failing (or 'educate' as I'm sure trolls prefer) imagine that instead of a sarcastic dig, the happy angler received a gentle nudge via private message? Something along the lines of; "Hi chum, what a cracking fish you've just posted online, it's an absolute belter! I did notice though that it says in the club rules that unhooking mats should be used in all images, and it isn't immediately obvious in your picture that the fish is over a suitable cradle. I'm just letting you know that committee contacted me last year as I hadn't included the mat in a catch shot, so might be something to think about? It is a smashing fish though, I wish I'd caught one that size, maybe you can show

me how if we meet on the bank?" Generally, such a prompt would be received as the well-intentioned assistance and compliment intended and may even preclude an exchange that results in a new Facebook friend, or you getting some useful information to improve your own chances of catching a similar specimen. What such a message does not do is promote ill feeling, or a tirade of expletives. It does not belittle, bully or burden, it doesn't cause resentment or confusion, it certainly won't allow other trolls a foothold on the social media bitching bandwagon, in fact it does the opposite, acknowledging the fine capture in a friendly way designed to encourage and

if needed, educate whilst embracing the fellowship of angling.

Don't get me wrong, some people are disingenuous, but only odd ones and we can all spot them pretty easily, including the one I sent a private message to last year after he sent in a clearly photoshopped image of himself for inclusion in a catch report page for which prizes were allocated. I was immediately suspicious, so politely asked where the capture had taken place to which he replied a club water. Unbeknown to him, I knew the membership secretary so placed a quick call to confirm he was a member, which revealed that he wasn't, as I suspected anyway as the

reflection in his sunglasses didn't concur with the location. It was a sharp spot to pick out the mirror image of his canoe when the alleged capture was from the banks of a canal and to notice that the dorsal fin of the perch was actually behind the captors chin (physically impossible), or indeed that the top of the captors head was outside the black frame of the iPhone image! I was instantly blocked online after I pointed out that it was an obviously fraudulent attempt to profit, but I'd already saved the image, and was able to compare it with one he posted online an hour later, with the errors I'd pointed out carefully corrected!

So, what exactly provoked my ire enough to write this? I've got fairly thick skin, almost twenty years in the media trade has guaranteed that, so I'm rarely bothered when someone tries to irritate me online. Last week though, after lockdown and overjoyed to be back on the bank after an enforced absence, I posted a picture on a club page purely to show prospective and new members what they could expect to catch from the water in question. There were no sponsor plugs or hashtags, just a nice picture of a fairly decent fish for all to enjoy, so I was surprised to be engaged by a covert troll. "How big mate?" (Note that

word 'mate' again) to which I replied that I'd had several bream between 2-4lbs and enjoyed my visit. "Oh, looks bigger when you hold it up like that, I've had fish to 8lbs from there". I awaited the picture that was sure to follow and wasn't disappointed; it followed seconds later with the caption; "This is a sixer, NOT held up for the camera!"

So what? I'm genuinely pleased for you sir, and you'll note I've made no reference to the fact that your fish isn't held over a mat, nor is the net you used suitable for the fish I know are in that lake, but hey, nobody's perfect. It's a fine fish indeed, and I'm sure many club members would be only too pleased to net it, but how does your

public comment reflect on both you and the club? What are you trying to achieve? To me, it demonstrates that this particular member is prone to snide remarks, so would I want to fish anywhere near him? Probably not. Is he a good advert for club membership?

Definitely not. Has he accomplished anything by passing that series of comments? Just ill feeling. I sent him a private message; "... can I just ask why you posted those comments?" His reply "what do you mean mate? (there's that word again) I'm just saying that's all" didn't

answer either query, so I probed further; "Was it an attempt to make me look daft or you look clever? How do you think those comments made us appear to others?" As I expected, during our exchange he retorted that I shouldn't be so precious, (he even added a LOL!)



firmly placing the emphasis back on ME for HIS comments! I understand the psychology behind the event, but others may not and that is where the problem lies... Now, in these trying times, people are more aware of mental health issues than ever before. The coronavirus lockdown has driven many to the brink of despair, losing income, jobs and in some cases even homes, so the pressure and strain that many find themselves under is rapidly becoming intolerable. There are many recorded instances of suicides after online abuse (indeed, I read this morning of a 22 year old Japanese WWW star taking her own life for that very reason) and every single one

of them is a tragedy that need never have happened. For some, fishing offers an outlet, a chance to unwind, an opportunity to think of something else just for a few hours away from the daily grind of stress and worry. Regardless

of the present situation though, online abuse, bullying and trolling always has an impact. That snide remark, that veiled attempt to be amusing (with the obligatory LOL added) or the blatant dick swing may just be the



one thing that tips someone over the edge and makes them decide to give up fishing forever, or heaven forbid, do something even worse... Most of us see this behaviour for what it is, a sad attempt to upset someone else or a misplaced effort at humour and nothing more. As a result, we are able to dismiss it, but every single one of us at some point has had a bad day, have lost money, a family member, been diagnosed with something life changing (or life ending) had a run in with someone in the preceding hour before The Troll engages, been called in to work unexpectedly, or told to not bother coming in at all and

that is the time when people are vulnerable. The mental resilience of some people may have been chipped away for a variety of reasons, and that is the moment when that one wisecrack may be enough to cause real damage. However, we all have another option. We can all #bekind to encourage, cheer or brighten another angler's day, and I'll tell you this; you'll gain far more satisfaction, friendship and knowledge if you do than if you sit behind a keyboard trolling... To finish, I fully expect that some of you may read this and think "...don't be soft" and I get that I really do, but there will be the odd one or two

who acknowledge that we can do more to protect the mental health of others, recognise perhaps that they themselves are guilty as charged, seek to make amends, and promote the brotherhood of anglers making it a better place for all. I hope that may be the case... if it is, then this was worth writing... Now, where are my Pringles? I'd better change that Pamela Anderson poster too; it's looking a bit tacky...

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Wuzy.....



In the forty years or so of fishing i have seen many things happen within the fishing industry and none more so than bait production?

There have been many fads but loads of innovation as well, myself personally i have been involved in bait in its many facets from making my own baits to bait factories that make it for me, even though it was very satisfying rolling my own bait its was always time consuming and unless you have that time available then its hard work juggling work and family life plus trying to stay on top of a baiting campaign where you are spending hours if not days making bait, in step the ready made source and generally they are consistent and more often or not good quality except for a few rouge elements that are looking for a quick buck but i wont go into that...

I have personally been involved in a few companies and had a big hand in development of base mixes and various other things that make a whole range viable, even though some of these projects were short lived for various reasons, they have made me the angler i am today where i will not compromise on the quality and usability of a chosen

bait.

My own fishing style dictates that i am a boilie angler and use them in various ways wether that be boil crumb or whole, but the main thing is total quality and digestibility plus giving something back to our quarry the carp, with this in mind and the path i have ended up on then the company that ticks all the boxed for me not just in quality but innovation is "Mad Baits", there is no compromise in any department from boilies to pop ups.

I like fishing for special fish through the year and then reverting onto day ticket waters in the winter so i need a bait that can be used all year round in full confidence that i am fishing effectively, Mad certainly tick all the boxes for me.



In this part i want to go through my water craft and application of bait in my fishing, many waters require a different approach but ultimately its all about three things for me.

1) Location should be first on everyones lips when you turn up at a lake whether its the first time on a water or one you have fished it for a long time, there are loads of things that i use from weather apps to using your eyes, one thing that i always do is keep an eye on the weather, which way is the wind blowing? air pressure? moon phases? are just a few things that make me chose the correct swim when i get to the lake, are the carp giving you any visible signs etc? leaping about, fizzing to subtle things like slight tail patterns under the surface all lead to a good or bad

session...

2) Spots most swims will have these but its down to you to find them? Features come in various forms from gravel to silt to weed, all of these will catch you carp but not all of them will catch you carp consistently and shows the difference between an average angler and a good angler, the marker rod is your best friend although i don't use it like most anglers do as i don't use it in the tradition way with a marker float, i would rather use just a bare lead and cast it out till i find a spot i'm happy with, the drop on the lead will give you a rough idea how deep it is and with practice its quite easy.

3) Bait application is very important put not enough in and you might catch one but will you get a hit of carp? probably not but put too much in then you could be killing your chances before you start, its the old saying you can put it in but you cant take it out!! a tough call but being a little cautious can pay dividends in the long run, but



again its down to experience and commitment to our wonderful sport to how many carp you see at the bottom of your net, practice makes perfect and its the same with fishing the more time you spend on the bank the more proficient you become at it.

Choice of water? what do you look for when you are looking to catch carp? Its no good rocking up to a vast 100 acre low stock pit and expect to catch from day one it takes a lot of dedication and time spent on the bank to crack the code on these type of waters, so if there are time restraints then i wouldn't recommend them but the rewards are amazing if you catch from these waters as they are normally harder to catch but when you do the feeling can be quite euphoric. On the other hand commercial waters have a place but also can have their drawbacks, they are always busy and most often than not you have no choice but to slot into a swim even though you might not be happy with whats on offer, these waters offer you a good chance of catching however busy they are and whatever time of the year near enough.

Syndicates are expensive and not

everyones cup of tea but offer you a few more comforts and normally have some special carp in its depths, these target carp are the reason why most of the time these type of waters are syndicate waters as its easier to police them and most of the anglers on them have the same mindset and appreciate every capture and certainly when one of the "A" team gets caught. Always fish a water to your own strengths by this i mean its no good having to cast out 100 yards plus if you can't? Do you like fishing the margins? then find a water that gives you the chance to do just that? Do you want to catch shed loads of carp and it doesn't matter what the size of them are? then find those waters and fish them, fishing means various things to various anglers go out there and just enjoy it but most of all do it for yourself.

As i said I'm a boilie angler although i do like to keep my options open



and use particle on venues where i need to use them like for instance Linear fisheries or Horseshoe lake, the sign of a good angler is to adapt and overcome to any given situation that you might come across for example day ticket waters tend to have a lot of anglers that bit fish, by this i mean using stuff like corn, hemp, pellet and just mainly small items, i'll normally put a generous amount of 10mm to 6mm boilies into the mix, these will soak in the juices of the hemp and corn liquids but also I put in a fair amount of a matching food liquid in the bucket to give it a little boost, that would be my go to mix for all my day ticket type waters.

My boilie mix is different but still fishing it like a particle? your probably thinking how can you fish it like a particle? Easy i'll fish about 50% of my boilie mix crushed from very fine to quarters which will get the carp grubbing around the lake bed for a long time after all the bigger items are gone as its still pumping out food signals into the water column, to the mix halves are added then whole boilies of various sizes from 6mm to 18mm, to this I will add loads of hemp oil and a matching liquid food so the mix is

saturated and you can squeeze the mix together and it will stick together, i tend to do this a day or two before i go fishing to give it time to absorb all the liquids and if i need to add more then i will, this is so when the carp feed on the spot they will not distinguish between the loose feed and your hook bait which is the critical factor here and if you can get them to feed aggressively then they are undoubtably easier to catch.

Hookbait choice is down to preference but i find that in the winter and spring i like to use a bright hookbait over the top of my spodded mix then as the water warms up then i do a match the hatch hook bait, that will either be a pop up or a wafter presentation as both these methods have caught me hundreds of carp big and small, I know a lot of anglers like to boost their hook baits a bit and i'll add a small amount of liquid booster via an atomiser to get an even coating but thats about all that i do to them to be honest as I feel its mainly the loose feed that has brought them into the swim in the first place and i don't want something the stands out too much to put a fear label in the swim.

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'Miss Independent' PB capture by Merlyn Ginns



Before I get started telling you the best I can of my story of the capture of my PB mirror, I would like to dedicate this article to my beloved James Quinton. I will forever be grateful for his willingness, patience and selflessness to not only let me into his secret world of carp fishing but also for teaching me everything I currently know (he genuinely has the patience of a saint to teach me!). I genuinely thought I would go fishing with him once, see what it was all about and to come away not understanding why he spends all his spare time (and money) carp fishing but boy, wasn't I wrong! I can safely say I am 'hooked'.

I find writing very hard due to my dyslexia, a couple of days after the capture James mentioned a few times

that I should be the one to write the article on it due to it not only being my PB and the fact he didn't witness the moment. I instantly thought "oh no way can I or do I want to write it myself because he is genuinely talented when it comes to putting memories and thoughts into types words". To be able to write down all the material that is in my head into an article, is easier said than done, that's for sure. But here it goes, and I am by no means a writer which I'm sure you'll notice through the article, but I hope you enjoy the read.

As your all

aware, once COVID-19 'lockdown' restrictions were lifted slightly and we all heard those magical words that we could fish again, me and James were raring to get out by a lake! But this news was even more exciting since the caps waters we fish had just purchased the lease and stock of a new lake. This lake has been a syndicate for many years with around 30 tickets





available every season which costed around the £500 mark so you could only imagine we were itching to get the rods out! The pictures we had seen of the stock of carp that reside in there are magnificent old creatures and the thought of just being able to catch one would feel like a true miracle. James did suggest we waited until autumn to start getting to know the lake and fishing it but while I was at work on a Sunday doing a 12.5 shift, he messaged

me saying him and his friend Jamie were going to head down there to have a walk about, to see if there were any free swims to have a social. To their and my amazement, they managed to bag a swim each, what a result! But there was me praying that by the time my shift at work was finished there would be swim left for me. I must have messaged James a dozen times asking if there was a swim free (sorry James). Once the clock hit 19:30 I ran out of work, went

home to feed our cats and reptiles then flew over to the lake. As you do, I heard it wasn't a 'pretty' looking lake, but the stock of old, scaly carp made up for it. I parked my car up to which James was waiting for me so he could show me to my swim. I must admit, my first impressions were that it was a huge open field with a hole dug out and filled with water. However, you can tell the newly planted trees and scrubs need a few years to mature and come into their own and then I'm sure it will be a completely different feel to the lake. Once I got to my swim, I then went over and had a good catch up with James and Jamie to see how their day had been and what their first impressions of the lake were. Jamie didn't hesitate to mention the ferocious gnats and he wasn't

wrong, within 30 minutes of being there I had been bitten 3 times, but I wasn't going to let this ruin my first night here!

After about 20 minutes, I went to my swim and set up my pukka 9ft scope rods, with of course, the faithful chod rig and proper carp baits pop ups. James has taught me that if in doubt, use a chod rig and as I'm comfortable with them, it was my one and only choice as the lake is known to be very weedy and is 40ft deep in place. I know, this made me feel like I was out of my depth! James told me that during the day he and Jamie had seen Carp showing all over the very far margin from my swim, which is roughly 100 yards out. As this was our first night and we haven't done any preparation, he advised me just to

make a few casts out to get a feel for the area I wanted to fish, I was a little nervous due to the fact it was full of other anglers that were watching me, I still need to have more confidence and to sort my nerves out when I'm being watched! Once I was happy with the spots I had found, I choose my hook bait and checked in the margins to see how it was presenting, Perfect! I then put the foam over the hook and casted my right-hand rod out first. And wow, what a cast that was, I haven't casted that distance in a very long time and it landed a little short of the area I intended of, roughly around 60 yards out, but I was happy with the placement, nevertheless. I done the same process with my left-hand rod and before casting, I really took my time to concentrate on

my treeline marker, which worked a treat because I got it right on the spot and distance I wanted (roughly 80 yards out). James even commented on how well I casted that time which was a nice little confidence boost.

Once the rods were in and I was all set up, we all sat in James's swim and had a nice chat over a few alcoholic beverages, is there any better way to watch the day light disappear? Once it started to get dusky, I headed for bed. How was I feeling for the chance of a bite? James and Jamie made me feel ever so slightly confident due to the fact them telling me of the shows they had seen during the day, but I honestly didn't think I would catch a bite. During the night the rods were silent, I remember waking up, checking the time and it was

around 04:00 and feeling shocked because it was already getting light. I could hear the wildlife starting to wake and come alive, I forgot how much I had missed it over the last 7 weeks of 'lockdown'. It always takes me a little while to get back to sleep and it felt like as soon as I had managed to, I was awakened at 04:55 by my left-hand rod ripping off with no prior line bites or warning. I scrambled out of my bed chair, picked up my rod and pulled into the carp. I'm not going to lie I was nervous as hell because James's swim was a lot further down, but I shouted out for him a few times subconsciously knowing he would be fast asleep and not able to hear me. It was then, I knew I had to be 'miss independent' and play this fish all on my own without the verbal

guidance of James and him doing his usual honours of netting my carp for me. I could tell she wanted line, so I slowly loosened my clutch and she ripped off down the lake, I somehow managed get her back up and played her nicely into the margins. It was then, I knew I had somehow caught myself a decent size carp and I suddenly felt like my heart was in my mouth and it was pounding!

I nervously reached for my landing net and place it into the margins and slowly tried to guide her over the net but as soon as she felt it, she ripped back off into the middle of the lake and I thought 'how I am going to land her'. I played her back into the margins, and slowly guided her over the net, I then reached for the landing net and all I was thinking was

'Ginns do not let that hook come loose and lose her now'. I then slowly lifted the handle up and pulled the net towards me! **SHE WAS IN THE FREAKING NET!!!** I couldn't believe my eyes, she was actually sitting in my net. She looked a decent size and I stood there thinking I had just played and netted

her all **ON MY OWN!** I carefully placed the landing net handle safely on the bank and ensured she was safe and wasn't going to escape, I then woke James up and shouted, 'I've caught a carp, she's in my net, hurry up, come and look'. He looked just as shocked as I was!

We slowly lifted her out of the water and placed her on the landing mat,

and wow she was beautiful, lovely golden bronze belly and dark leather looking on top with a row of small golden scales. Likewise, she had the same golden scales and a mark on one of her sides near her dorsal fin, hence her name "slash". She weighed a lovely 35lb.2oz! My new PB mirror which was a nice jump of 12lb! Before even thinking of getting some pictures, James ensured he checked her over for any injuries and used his Carp care propolis on her lip where the hook was nicely bedded in. I had to brace myself before holding because I have never held a carp of that size and thought I was going to struggle, but to all of our amazement, she was as good as gold when being held and didn't even remotely

put up any sort of fight. James and Jamie took some outstanding photographs of me holding her on the bank and then Jamie kindly let me borrow his waders so I could get my first water shot with her. I then slowly put her back into the lake, what a feeling it is to watch them slowly swim off. I hope the pictures speak for themselves and that you have enjoyed this little read. I am writing this article a week after

I caught her and I am still in total excitement and shock that I caught her on my first night on the new lake.

Thank you for reading,

Merlyn Ginns.

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Angling After Lockdown

by Karl Brandreth



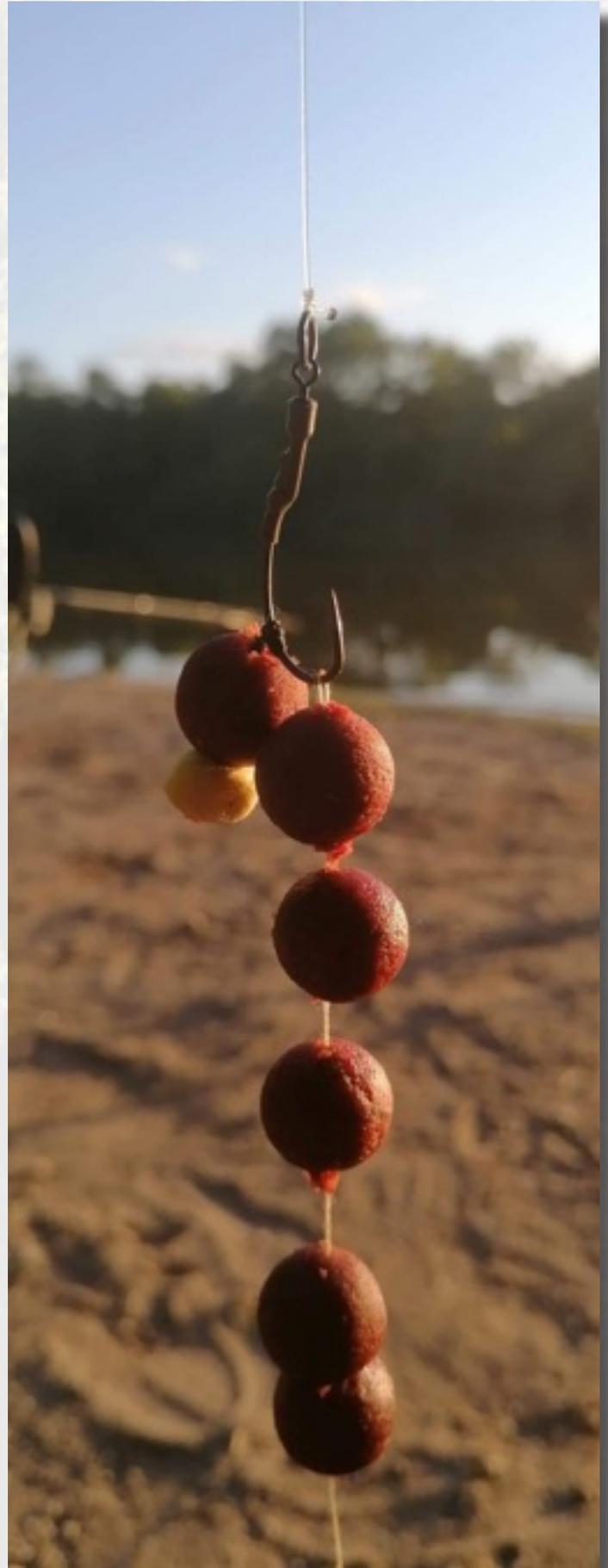
I spent 5 weeks looking after two lakes in Cheshire, watching out for poachers and members of the public who were swimming in the lakes, which are very dangerous due to quicksand. The day came to tidy up the lakes of rubbish, from dog walkers and walkers in general, ready for the anglers to get back on the lakes. But, like many of us anglers, we stayed at home doing DIY and dreaming of getting back out on the bank. The old posts on Facebook and Instagram were starting to repeat themselves with pictures of old captures, over and over again. Then, out of the blue, Boris came out with a speech saying we could go fishing as from Wednesday. Well, the fishing world went mad, even me, I was so excited. I had to go down to the lakes with the other bailiffs, early Wednesday morning, to unlock the gates. 7am was the opening time. I got to the gates just before 7am. There were a few anglers sitting in their cars and vans waiting. We had a quick chat then let them all in. They all got to the pegs they wanted, and you could hear the sighs of relief across the lakes. Everyone was so happy. I left them to it and got to my peg. We set up our stall and cast out, which felt brilliant. First cast straight to an

aerator, the second cast was right down the margins into a big hole in front of an inlet from the lake behind us. I'd put a d-rig with a snowman on, and a Ronnie rig with a snowman from retro baits, both with stringers. I then catapulted a handful of freebies over each rod. We continued setting up our bivvies and gear. We sat back, enjoying our first day of freedom, with a brew and biscuits and took in the peaceful surroundings, it was bliss. The first night the temperatures dropped to -2c but, by the morning I had bagged 6 carp up to 21lb 8oz which was a mirror carp in lovely condition. My mate had caught 3 and lost one. The next day, and night, went strangely quiet and we caught nothing else. The carp had moved away from us to the



opposite side, but there was a guy fishing there so we couldn't cast across. We continued fishing, to make the most of it, then it was Friday morning. Time to pack up and go home. For me, still on furlough, it's given me time to keep an eye on the place and get more fishing in.

My next session was with my son, Dean. We ended up on the last big double peg on the motorway bank, which is very loud due to traffic, but you seem to ignore it after a while. We set up the gear and got the Wolf rods out of my bag, set them up and cast out. Same rigs as last time. After a good 6 hrs of not catching Dean changed one rod to a single bottom bait with a stringer and, not long after casting back out he was into a carp. I changed one rod to a single and followed suit. A couple of hours later my alarm woke up and signalled a take. It was hard going that session due to very hot weather, so the carp were just milling around doing nothing. The first night we got no sleep, our alarms were just beeping all night with liners. We did have a rod on the margins, but they didn't produce any carp. It was the rods out in the middle on which we caught. On the second day we put all four rods out



in the middle and ended up with 5 carp between us. I thought that was a good catch due to the hot weather.

I did a couple of bailiff duties checking cards and licences, but all was ok. The second night was quiet with no more carp or liners. It seemed they had moved away from us. We woke up the next day, put our bivvies down, and continued to fish throughout the last day. We stayed until about 2pm and then made our way home. I spent the weekend with my wife and returned to the lake on Monday to continue my bailiff work, putting signs up, checking anglers and having a brew with Brian Dixon

(Brians note: when Karl comes for a cuppa....

Keep the kettle on! The boy can drink tea!!), as

he was fishing. Wednesday came around again, and I had arranged to meet my mate Ian to do another two nights. I have seen, and had reports of, around 100 carp coming out from the day we re-opened so I thought we would bag up, but they had other ideas. The temperature got hotter and hotter. The angling pressure was through the roof and

they had switched off completely. We set about getting our gear in order and casting out. We didn't know they were not feeding at this point, so we carried on. There was carp everywhere, all over us, plus the place was packed with anglers. We sat back and chilled out, sitting in the shade as it was too warm to sit in the sun. We watched the water till 11.30pm that first night and we didn't even have a bleep. It was weird, nothing was happening, so we went to bed. The next morning, I woke up at 4am to watch the water. With no occurrence in the night I had to recast to see if that would



bring on a carp or two, but it was not to be. Later on, I brought my rods in and went for a walk round the lakes, doing my bailiff duties with Ian. We found out that only 4 carp had been out since Tuesday, so it wasn't looking good for us. We couldn't believe it. We returned to our pegs and re-baited our hooks and chucked them back out back in the middle. The carp were still cruising all over the lake but showed no interest in food or feeding. We stuck it out and chilled out for a second day. Teatime came around and we tucked into burgers and chips. I re-baited the hook again and cast out for the night. It was soon time to get to sleep and I felt knackered with the heat. Luckily my bivvy was now in the shade so it was a bit cooler with the wind and I drifted off to sleep. Soon it was morning. 4am again, still with not even a bleep, or a take for anyone. The carp were pairing up and getting ready to spawn so we started to pack up and go home. I walked round again to see if anyone had caught any, but it was a blank all over the lake. I walked up to the shallows and you could see them slowly starting to spawn. I left them to it and made my way back to my car and home. But you never know, maybe it will happen next time I'm

out.

So, tight lines everyone and stay safe.

Karl.





CARBON BAIT

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The image shows two fishing rods lying on a patch of ground with sparse green grass and brown soil. The rods are dark-colored with green text that reads "12'-3lb" and "DMX". The rods are connected to reels, which are partially visible on the right side of the frame. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font, tilted to follow the angle of the rods.

Back on the Rods
and searching for
the Fully Scaled
part II
by Steve Gilbey

It seems an age since my last article talking about winter and looking back at a year. A few early spring bites saw me back on the bank but in the background loomed uncertainty for all of us family friends and loved ones all affected by a global pandemic. The last few months have felt crazy almost surreal and different to anything else we have seen.

Working in public service I am used to drama particularly sadness and demanding situations that the average person just does not see.

Society has had to learn and realise that everything in life is not easy and does not just land at your feet. It made me really think how very fortunate we are to have what we have and do the things

we do.

Our family that went before us 75 + years ago suffered for several years without all that the modern world has to offer.

To see people, panic into believing there will not be enough food or toilets rolls made me chuckle honestly it beggars belief.

No idea of suffering or hardship.

Normal service will not be resumed for a while in my eyes but at least we anglers can go fishing.

This leads me onto my thoughts around not fishing for a few weeks and again i was astonished that people struggled not being able to go fishing I for one am used to not being able to go for several months and only doing shorts sessions.

Patience was required and for our quarry a well-earned rest maybe??

Still enough of my thoughts on the world and onto a return to the rods!!

I wrote a piece last year for Talking Carp titled A Return to the Syndicate in search of the fully scaled.

I thoroughly enjoyed that article and fishing for the stunning fully scaled mirror in my local syndicate water. I think at the time of writing it had gone 28lbs.

Several lovely carp later and nearly a year down the road it still eludes me.

I have seen this carp caught by Very good anglers, very average anglers but not frustratingly to my rods.

It has now been caught at a lake record weight of 31 lbs.

I won't go into the capture or my thoughts around it but it's sufficient to say there are anglers who have tried exceptionally hard to catch this carp. I am two years into my time on this lake and I seem to be able to catch every over carp but not the fully scaled aptly referred to as THE SGT despite learning the water and trying to make the most of my limited time. I guess its part of the journey and if that capture comes it will have been well and truly earned.

That being said every carp caught is special or it is to me. As I have wrote about in the past carp fishing for me is not just about catching carp it's about escapes and relaxation.

Juggling modern life to get a balance is difficult with work and a young family so fishing is as and when you can. I prefer to fish in the week away from the crowds but that means booking time off and is not always possible. In order to try and satisfy the lack of recent fishing activity I hatched a plan looking at how busy the banks have been since the ease of restrictions. I decided that I would approach my next session by doing a quick overnight session on the syndicate lake. There were several reasons for this change from doing days to overnight and I wanted to share my thoughts. Angling pressure being the first reason followed by a nice fresh

breeze blowing into a certain bank from the South West.

The carp was also due to spawn, so I figured on a decent time for a little feed up.

Of course, what you play about within your head and how that works out on the day are subject to many factors.

Another thought running through my head was bait application.

I decided to move away from my normal approach of using a



spomb and a mix that I have written about before mainly boilie crumb and liquid and corn.

In terms of bait I always favour a bait that can be used all year.

Rod Hutchinson bait continues to bring me confidence and I am always sure of a bite on this bait.

Now I am not going to talk about it's make up this has been written about before but it's a bait that is a little different to what is being used on the banks.

Ballistic B is a creamy milk protein bait and a good solid all-rounder. Being an active thinker, I wanted to alter my approach a little as I had in my mind that a lot of bait had probably gone into the lake since fishing resumed. For a few weeks I have

been soaking some Ballistic bottom baits in the matching glug to give the Hookbait a bit of clout!

The intention was to feed sparingly with the free offerings but make them a little different from the norm.

A little idea I had been playing about with and now seemed the right time to try it.

Out came a bait bucket and I added a couple of kilos of the ballistic. The next thing to add is hemp oil and some of the matching Liquid food or glug it does not matter the ingredients are the same.

I then add coconut glug or coconut milk you don't need much just enough to glaze your baits.

Shake the bucket and get you baits covered. The next think which a little edge is is to take some Ballistic stick mix or base mix and pour onto your baits and shake again.

You are left with coated baits that have added pulling power leaking off all the flavour and liquids into the water not to mention the creamy milky cloud from the powders.

The point being in my little exercise was to use the glugged hookbaits as a single





and place a handful of my glazed baits scattered around the Hookbait.

Minimal baiting but in the right place with maximum attraction. I forgot to mention that I will prepare the bait about 48hrs before I go so everything is soaked in well. So, as I said that was the plan and now it was putting that into action.

I am trying to do short overnight sessions

when I can, and it suits my angling so with a Friday night in mind and work behind me I was looking forward to the session.

Family always comes first so I had some time with them at home before going arriving at the lake at around eight in

the evening.

And here comes the bit that can throw all those ambitious thoughts right out the window all the planning and organising but when you drive through the fishery gate and see a car park full!!

I had a moment that I often have that I can only describe as feeling flat!!

But I have seen and listened to many good anglers and one thing they all have is self-drive and

determination.

I continued undeterred although I will admit to muttering and moaning under my breath as I made my way around the lake talking to those who were on, but it was clear that the carp had been getting caught.

As it was every side of the lake was taken apart from the bank with a wind pushing into it or certainly across it.

There had been people fishing this bank during the day and loads of carp had been caught that was enough for me.

Barrow sorted with the minimal amount of gear to the swim and that's what I like doing overnight sessions you don't need much kit. As I set up, I saw at least five or six carp show on the side of the lake I was on plus I

had seen carp show on my walk around, so it felt spot on.

The weather was lovely still in the early twenties, but the wind was pushing in strongly.

Now being the first session for months it was a bit of a faff sorting out bit and pieces gear littered over the swim! What chaos!

Anyway, I had seen two carp show out towards a snaggy area of the island whilst setting up, so the first rod went out at 12 wraps between the snags and what a job that was with the wind hacking in!

Now on this rod I was fishing with a glugged bottom bait on a German Rig very simple and very straightforward, but boy does it work. No free offerings as I thought the single

would be enough as the carp were in the area and looking.

Happy with that rod the other two were gently under armed out at two rod lengths from the bank slightly offset and in line with where I had seen the fish show further down the bank my thoughts being that they were up and down the margins where the water was hitting the bank. The light was fading a little, so a very small amount of the free offerings was scattered around the hookbaits again a German Rig on one rod and a Ballistic B pop up on a multi rig for the other.

I settled in for the night watching the water and the wind enjoying a cup of tea.

As darkness fell the island rod was away on a drop back with the



carp coming through the snag and heading straight towards me. A short fight and a mid-double common in the net and we were off the mark.

Now I thought about replacing that rod to the snag but i thought better of it being dark and with the wind the cast was far too difficult.

So, in keeping with my thoughts that rod was also placed out at two rod lengths with a small bag of Ballistic B pellets and s as glugged bottom bait.

I did not have to wait long for the next bite it may have been under an hour I was not 100% sure but came to the middle Rod and was a screamer!

A very decent scrap putting my Rod Hutchinson rods through some fun and as I felt the carp was ready lowered my DMX landing net to see a great bigmouth gulping over the net and a flicker of a scale pattern in the torch light.

Not the fully scaled but to my absolute amazement a zip linear and a bit of a chunk!

I had not seen this carp before on any of the fishery photos and if I was to say the prettiest carp I have ever caught.

On the scales after a good dousing of water and this gorgeous

carp went 19lb 8 oz. Honestly, I am not worried about massive carp when they are as nice as this one, I considered myself a very lucky angler to have caught this carp. Into the retainer for a photograph at first light I sat back and reflected could this be the night for the fully scaled?? Out went the rod again with a small mesh bag of pellets and as I was setting the bobbin the rod to my left was away and out into open water.

I bent into the fish and



steered it away from the other line but as I was fishing fairly slack in the margins it was ok.

A short spirited fight and an 18lb common was in the net the carp had definitely turned up!!

Carp care applied and I slipped the common back very happy with the session.

I checked my phone and it was about half one in the morning, so the feeding spell had been pretty intense.

Worthy of note is that an angler on the other side of the lake had one or two also during the night, so the carp were not just with the wind.

I was desperate for some sleep having been up since half six in the morning for work so once the rod was replaced, I settled in for a sleep.

Weirdly after the last fish it seemed to go a little on the quiet side. A had a few little occurrences during the early hours but no further activity to my rods.

Working nights as I have it is very strange watching the world get light at half past three in the morning and I laid doing the same. I did hear an alarm at the bottom end of the lake and pretty sure the angler had a catfish as there was a bit of a commotion.

I had to be away for around nine in the morning to help with the family, so I drifted in and out of sleep hoping for another bite!

That bite did not come but at first light I did not mind when I got a proper look at the linear.

If it had been a forty banked by a star, then it would make the pages of the magazines hands down.

But I am not a star I catch carp, but I do

not have the luxury of time and an endless pot of money to get on the waters you need to be on to catch these sought after carp. But I digress a little from my tale What I had done was banked a carp and a proper stunner as the pictures show and I was just a little pleased that the plan had worked.

Pictures done and the carp looked after and returned I had time for a cup of tea and my mind returned to the



next time??

Again, the Fully scaled had eluded me but for how much longer was my question?

I had enjoyed my short session and learnt a lot and that is what I think carp fishing is for me learning all the time.

To finish what has been an enjoyable article to write and to tie in with the Fully Scaled capture at 31

lbs the ironic thing was it was caught by someone who fished the swim a few days later after being put on it by the bailiff!

Good Angling or pure luck I will leave that one to the reader to decide??

It was great being back out on the rods and catching on limited

time and putting together what I have learned into practice.

Hopefully there are a few bits to provoke thought and ideas in your own angling.

Until next time enjoy your angling.

Steve G

Team Rod Hutchinson



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Selecting a Water
by Carl Milton



What is it that draws us to a particular venue? Many factors can play a part in where we end up fishing. Carefully thinking through your venue can pay huge dividends to our results and levels of enjoyment with our angling.

So what factors are there to consider when selecting a venue? For me there are 3 categories: Fish, Economic and environmental factors. The priority we give to each of these factors will depend on our priorities, values, amount of time available, goals and the point in our fishing career that we reside. Let us take the fish category first. One thing I often here people ask when enquiring about a venue is 'what is the biggest fish?' The largest fish is a factor for me, but for me in

terms of fish size I like to know the overall quantity of big fish. For example, if my goal was to catch a 40 pounder and I selected a venue with only one 40 in a huge very difficult lake, that was highly pressured, my chances of catching said 40 would be slim. Instead if I found a venue with a better number of 40's then I would be increasing my chances. So, it's really important to look at overall fish stocks and not just the largest fish. Also don't just go on hearsay, rumours, and old internet information. Up to date information is important. Often the bigger fish are the oldest fish, and sadly no fish lasts forever. I know of people who have put lots of time, effort and money in to chasing monster carp, that a myths or no longer with us.

In terms of stock levels, it's important to weigh up what fish other than your target ones that the water holds. This can be in terms of other carp, and other species. Other carp is important to consider. Do you want to catch lots of fish on a well -stocked venue? Or do you prefer the challenge of a low stocked venue with just a few carp? Other non-carp species can play a big part in a venue too. If there are lots of silver fish using baits such as maggots is impossible. One venue I fished became so overrun with silver fish that even conventional boilies couldn't be used, as after a few hours the small fish were whittling the bait away. This proved frustrating at first, but hardened hook baits and tiger nuts soon solved the situation. In this case it's was persevering as the

venue held some stunning large carp. But for some the difficulties with the silver fish may have put them off.

The difficulty of the lake is certainly something to weight up. For some fishing is about catching regularly, for others it's about targeting one or too large elusive carp. Deciding what you want from your angling and choosing a venue accordingly can add to the enjoyment. I mostly fish harder venues as I want to target large fish. I often see people come on to these venues and not catch after the first or second go and never come back as they are used to runs waters. To fish a lot of the big fish venues you need a different mind-set, and no matter how good an angler there will be blanks along the way. It's all part of the

journey, but it's not for everyone.

Part of how difficult the lake is, can be down to the amount of angling pressure it receives. Pressure is certainly something to consider in choosing a venue. Also, we all want different things from our angling for some solitude is key and fishing a busy pressured water is not for them. For others catching a famous carp is really desirable, but this will likely come with a busier more pressured water.

Economic factors in venue choice can be important to consider also. The cost of the ticket be it a syndicate, club or day ticket venue is the obvious cost. From a personal point of view, I have a young family and a mortgage to pay. My family always comes first, and I try to budget carefully my yearly income and outgoings, fishing must fit in too this.

The other costs, to think about are what I call the additional costs. Fuel is a big



one. I live in the South East where lucky there are a lot of good venues around. However, fuel costs would certainly come into play, as well as time spent travelling, if I wanted to fish somewhere outside of the south east. Another cost that not everyone considers is tackle and bait costs. Some venues require larger volumes of bait or different tackle to fish them effectively. For example, if you've only ever fished small venues and the new

venue is a larger one that requires long range fishing, you'll need to factor in the cost of the long range gear.

The final category is the environment of the venue. I include in this the size of the lake also. Lake size is a key consideration when choosing a venue. A huge inland sea is going to very different to fish compared to a small venue. The surroundings of the lake are also key for many people. If the

venue is right next to a noisy motorway, and your reason to go fishing is to have peace and quiet that may not be place for you.

Overall, there are many factors to consider when choosing a venue. Sometimes we have to reach a compromise also.

Everyone I'm sure would love a venue stuffed full of huge carp, with very few other anglers around, in peaceful beautiful surroundings, right on their doorstep and that was cheap to fish. But sadly, that venue very rarely comes along. Wherever you fish remember to enjoy it.

Until next time tight lines

Carl



Just Gone Fishing

James Peter Steer

28-11-79 to 13-05-20



James loved fishing, come rain or shine. His favorite fishing place was Darenth Big Lakes, he did not go fishing to escape his life, the riverbanks is where his soul felt at peace. His personal best was 66LB Mirror Carp, which he caught in France. He taught both his boys Harry and Archie how to fish, we know he will miss this the most, spending precious moments with his boys.

James, we need you to know, that you brightened up our darkest days, no second will pass without us thinking of you, we will all carry a piece of your heart with us wherever we may go, your memory is our greatest keepsake and will seep through our veins.

The sun has not set on you, may you rest, we hope you have finally found comfort, good night Steero. Forever in our hearts.

CARPING MAD!

A person is seen from behind, sitting in a white inflatable ring that is floating in a lake. The person's arms are outstretched. The background is a sunset over a lake with trees on the far shore. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.

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**The Good, The
Bad and The Ugly
of carp fishing by
Richard Handel**

Location – Airfield Lake

Hours Fished – 71 hours

This week, I had the opportunity to start my three nights earlier than normal - it was Half Term and the wife was off work. We should have been camping in Wales and what lovely weather it would have been, just perfect! I arrived just before 10 am and it was going to be a hot one, hopefully not as bad as before, only up to 22 degrees. The pressure was still high, but the carp have to feed. There will be no let-up in the weather for the next 2 weeks. The cool breeze was still about, but nothing like the winds of last weekend, which didn't make much difference to me as I blanked.

I had put a lot of thought in since my last session and I felt the bottom lake (being the deepest) was my best option. I've switched back to the Catalyst, which had served me well on this complex. The clarity of the water on this lake is like tap water, unlike the shallower ones. The bird life (Tufted Ducks) is a bit of a nuisance so a darker bait was called for. I'd also opted for 10mm freebies and no particle added, just Catalyst soaked in the food dip since Monday and the hook baits would also match the darker colours.

The complex was very quiet when I arrived, just two cars on the first lake and 3 in the last car park. One was a day angler and I think one had set up on the Middle Lake. After a good walk and a bit of a drive around to the far end of the complex, this spot contained the most carp. So, it was now about attraction and how to get them away from the safety of their favourite area - the far margins under the overhanging tree. I wasn't going to cast to close, that would just be a pointless exercise in how to lose carp. After reviewing the Deeper lakebook recordings, I had the marker float on the spot and baited 2 kilos over a nice gravel bar. I'm sure they must move along it when they come through the gap, they are always under the tree. I'd just have to draw them out with that lovely

aroma the Catalyst has.

The right hand rod just had to be near the gap, I think they must have been hammered there over the years, but just along 10 ft may work. I don't think you can ignore that area, it's just finding the perfect spot. I only put out about 1/2 a kilo, I'm sure there has been a constant flow of bait since we arrived back. Both hook baits were going to be Catalyst wafers and are also very dark. I just didn't need the wildlife homing in on them. During the day, I may stick a pink pop up in the gap out of interest tomorrow, just to see if the visual option works.



As evening was underway, I had decided it may be a good option to have an alternative spot. I got the Deeper out, was just about to flick it out and connect it to the phone before I whacked it out into the lake. Before I could finish doing this, the right hand rod ripped off and I grabbed it straight away, but I didn't stand a chance. I walked backwards into the swim, the carp was under the overhanging tree, I thought they were a good way off. I wouldn't have stood a chance at night. With this in mind, I would leave that until tomorrow and concentrate on looking for another spot in an area I was aware of a feature, but I hadn't looked for. As luck would have it, I found the 6 foot humps around an area of 7 foot straight

away and put a few spombs of the Catalyst there with a re-done rig.

I needed to map a lot more of this part of the lake over the next few days. The night drifted by with no other action, there were plenty of carp crashing all over the complex. It was going to be another warm day on the bank and I need to decide if it's possible to find another spot near the gap, but it needs to be further away from the trees to give me the opportunity to get the fish in the net.

Grrrr! Just lost a carp on the open water rod - to a hook pull! I just don't need this at the moment. Time to dig deep and focus on the positive fact, I've managed to get two takes in less than 24 hours and move forward. The bait was back on the spot, there'd been a couple of fish crash near the other spot, which is also good to see.

Just before noon, I baited the spots again with 1.5 kilo nice fresh wafers and whacked them back out on to the spots for the night. Hopefully I may get another chance to get one or two in the net tonight. Just after 01.30, the right hand rod ripped off into a carp who was kiting out into open water. This one found a boulder, or the line was pulled under one, after much patience on my behalf the line gave way. I was gutted this is probably the worst start to a session on this lake and was getting pretty ridiculous to be fair and a bit silly. Either, I've been incredibly lucky in the

past or something has change. I need to look back over past seasons and address this situation soon. Don't think I've much option on this trip but will sort something out tomorrow morning.

Just after 0500, the same rod buzzed into life, they really scream



from here without any warning. This one was also kiting out of the bay but found no boulders in its path. I was soon in the water up to my knees, giving side strain and hopefully stopping the carp from going around the end of the point to my left and into another bay. My efforts paid off, the carp was under control in the margins. It was time to play it out and get it safely in the Nsr, which I did must my great relief, success at last. I often say that a lost fish is better than a blank as you have got the location, bait application right and it was unfortunate that you didn't bank the fish. If you only get one piece of the jigsaw wrong, it's better than all of the pieces scattered everywhere!



With wet shorts, I was over the moon.

I proceeded to get the rod back out with a fresh 15mm Catalyst waffer and got a brew on. I would probably drift back off to sleep at some point. I hadn't even got the brew into the cup, the left hand rod screamed into life with a wild and angry Airfield Lake Common. This fight leads me even further out and nearly around the corner!



There was a close call with the overhanging tree, I had to bury the rod under water and pump the fish towards me. I was hoping all the time that I didn't make contact with a branch. Once the fish was safely around the corner, I could relax again and play the fish out under the rod tip.

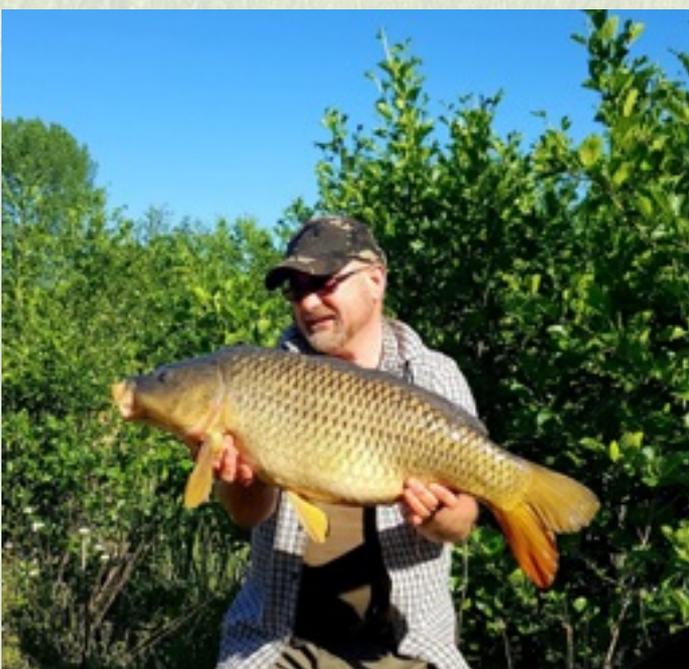
Another cracking looking carp from the wild water. The bait was soon back out and I'd taken a sip of my lukewarm coffee when I had an amazing drop back on the right rod just after 0730. There was nothing on the end if that one, the rod was straight back on the spot after checking the hook point. This is one thing I'm very keen on - the sharpness of hooks, as sticky sharp as I could. They are sticky, because of the way they just stick to your fingers without even trying. I'm quite happy to sharpen my hooks and don't feel the need to put a brand new one on every time. A good hook should be sharp out of the packet and have the capabilities to be sharpened a few times without affecting the performance of the hook.

After having another drop back, I had to conclude that, there was a carp trailing line, which is a very unfortunate situation.

I got the other rod out again after checking the hook and got another brew on. Just after 0830 the right had rod ripped off and I was happily playing the fish back towards me. The hook pulled out again! I was still holding the rod thinking over the situation and the other rod ripped away! I quickly grab that and pulled into another carp which was kiting left, and I need to get wet again (joy) and keep it away from those trees. It did make me wonder what on earth I would have done if I hadn't lost

the other fish. I continue to pump the carp in to avoid any possibility of hooking up with the branches underwater, it eventually made it round the corner and into the Nsr50.

The Nsr system is absolutely brilliant once you have netted the carp. Let the line go slack and the fish will drop to the bottom of the net. It's just like a retainer and it will happily sit there, as you get the camera kit etc all sorted.



And back she goes to fight another day.

A fresh bait was back on the rod and on the mark again. I rebaited the area with another 3 kilos of 12m Catalyst boilies at just before midday and then headed around to a friend's swim for the afternoon - social distancing of course. There was no way I was spending another afternoon baking in my swim and it was a pointless exercise. After 1630, I headed back and clipped on the rigs I had all set up and also had decided (with some discussion this afternoon), I would put my rods closer to the bivvy door and a lot higher up. Hopefully, this will combat the boulder issue and convert more carp in the net.

Just after 22.30, the left rod tore off and I was safely attached to what felt like a lump. I was slowly gaining ground and then the hook pulled out. Once I'd reeled in, I checked the hook and it was perfectly needle sharp. I don't know if the powerful take made the hook dislodged, the same rig earlier banked me a fish. I'd had to use my forceps to remove the hook as it was well in and perfectly hooked in the bottom lip in the middle. So, why this time it's choosing to pull out?

The Ronnie Rig does get you more pickups than other rigs, but this is getting worryingly I need a fix to this issue pretty soon. I can safely say this is doing my head in and has given me a lack of confidence in the rig. I've had high regards for it over the past few years since moving off the 360 onto the Ronnie. My thinking cap needs to be on and do some fine tuning, if this doesn't fix it, it may be time for a change. This has gone



on way too long on over the past six months. I think I've fixed the issue and I then get a weekend like this, I've finally found where the carp are held up, get 8 takes and only got 3 in. It is pretty frustrating for me. Confidence in your ability is a key factor in carp fish and you have to be careful it doesn't get undermined, by a situation like this. I think that knowing that this was a better/bigger carp hasn't helped. The trouble with this place, is the makeup of the lakebed over the 3 different areas you can fish, it dictates different adjustments to the rig, and I need to get all the pieces of the puzzle together and fix the issue tonight. With the bait back on the spot, I could hear the carp crashing, there is certainly confidence to be gained from the knowledge that they are feeding on the bait and my location and thoughts about their movement were spot on.

I'm certainly hoping for better results over the next few hours to even the score board out. About 04.00, the same rod as before was screaming off, this was a nice wakeup call and a pretty straight forward battle played out. The carp was into the net. Much to my surprise, it didn't head for the left hand tree and was well behaved. It was also a relief after the hook pull in the night, which we are not going to talk about anymore. I counted out the wraps to the spot, put a fresh Catalyst 15mm wafter on and fine-tuned the hook. I was soon back out on the spot and looking forward to my next take.

I was a very happy angler.

I thought I would add a couple of photographs with my underwater camera, just to give you an idea of some of the leftover rubble we have to contend with.

The bottom shot shows a very large lump in the middle of the screen, you can just imagine what will happen if your line gets dragged anywhere near it.

The time was 05.30 and the left rods was away into another wild card from the Airfield Lake. This one took me so far to the right it nearly

beached itself in the margins, but was soon back in front of me and off around the corner. The smaller fish are a nightmare on here, after a close call with the overhanging tree, it was all over and done with.

My original plan was to do three nights and the wife kindly offered the opportunity to stay another night, which was lovely of her. However, after a lot of thought on this matter overnight, I have decided, it's best to head home this morning. I'm pretty shattered from the heat, the takes through the night and not being able to sleep in the day due to the baking heat. I wouldn't be functioning at 100% and when you're fishing, I personally believe you have to give 100% to maximize your ability to catch carp. The last thing I need to happen is to lose a good fish due to being exhausted. So, I'll be heading home just after 09.00, which gives me a couple more hours and a chance of another carp. It's been a hard ride of emotions over the past 3 nights with plenty of ups and downs and I hope this comes across in my writing. I feel it's more realistic to the everyday anglers out there and losing carp is an integral part of the learning process within all aspects of fishing. I'm hoping with the few tweaks I've made, there is a good possibility that my landing ratio will increase on here and I can get amongst the monster more over the coming months.

This trip has been my best for some years, and I can't complain at that. I try my best to look on the positive side of life as much as possible. This can be tricky at times and more so at the moment, with the current situation, you have to make the most of it all and take the good things that come with it and brush away the negative.

Life is all too short, and we should enjoy the moment. What could be more enjoyable than spending 3 nights out on the bank with the wonders of nature all around you? Fishing is such an amazing opportunity to be outdoors.

07.30 the left rod was away again, and this fish did the same as the last one. Kited away to my right and then happily let me play it out under the rod tip again, absolutely awesome.

With reel-in time was just over an hour away. With nothing happening on the right hand rod, I moved them both on to the same area to my left which had produced 3 takes in the last 3 hours. Not wishing to be greedy, but there may well be time for another bite, I might just have to stick about for another hour, as I have also yet to start sorting out my kit ready for the barrow trip to the car.

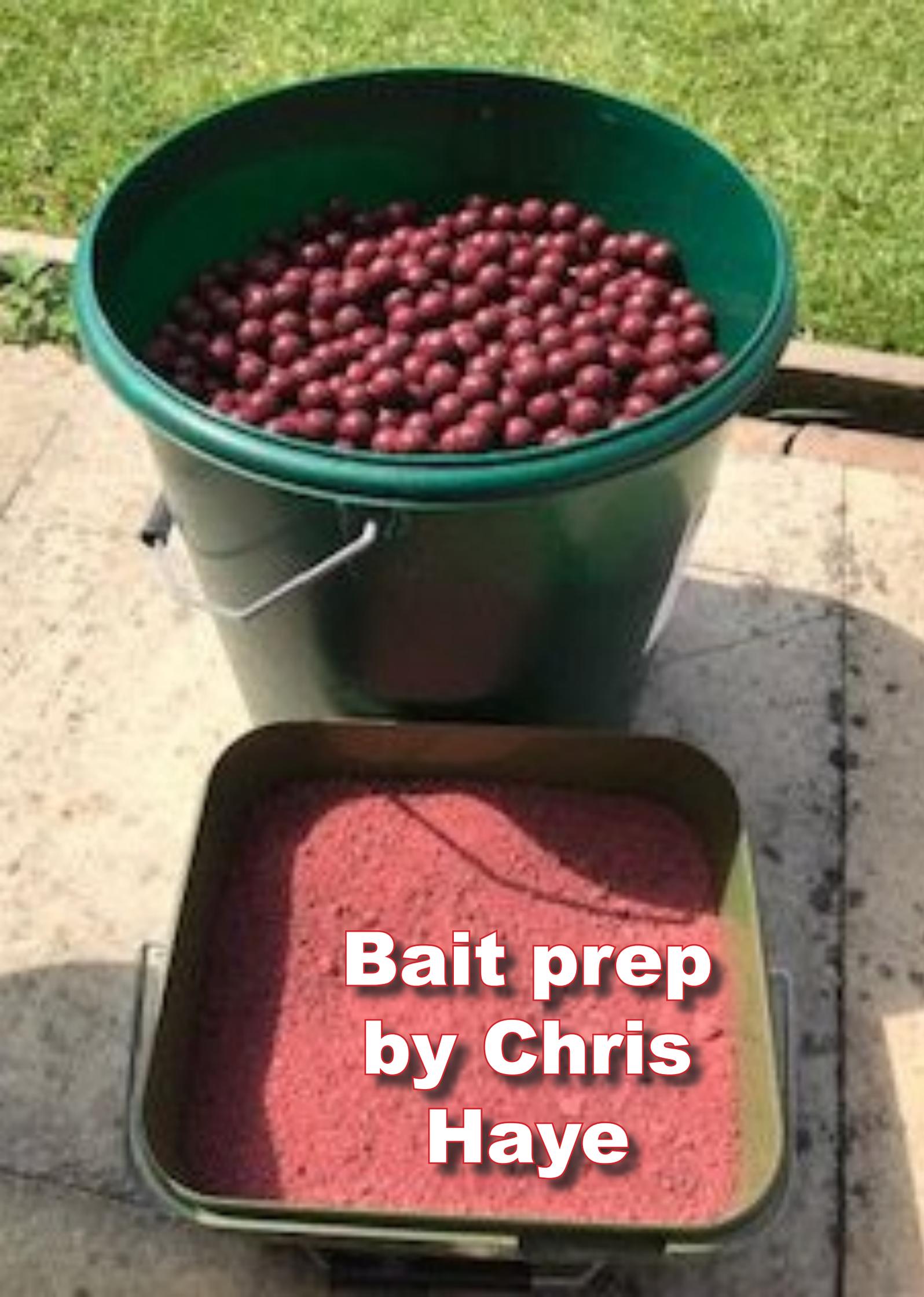
That was that in the end. I'm well happy with 6 carp land and 4 or 5 lost fish is a bit unfortunate, but my best trip on this lake for some years by far. I'm looking forward to my next session.

Until next time

Stay safe

Richard





**Bait prep
by Chris
Haye**

Hi everyone, I hope you are all keeping well during these troubling times. With the country being in lockdown and us not being able to fish at present, I'm sure most like I have been going through their gear and getting organised ready for the big blast off when Boris lets us play out again.

This preparation and eagerness to be ready got me thinking about bait preparation, this topic in its own right is a minefield. As I sat out in my garden preparing my bait ready for my club lakes to be re-opened, I couldn't help but wonder which approach is best?

Now this is the million dollar question. On the club lakes I fish there are approaches that work on some lakes but not others, for example a friend and I turned up to a lake we have fished regularly

armed with 5kg of Pokernut 15mm boilies from Cherry Carp and nothing else.

The 3 swims which were taken all gave us the same verdict of their sessions, nothing happening and really quiet. We both observed all of the swims had spod/spoms setup and buckets of bait. We saw a few fish showing a couple of swims up from the last gent we spoke to so we both setup there. We cast out to spots we had used before and fired out around 1/2kg of whole boilies, we both had a fish on the bank within an hour. We stuck to our areas and would top the swims up around every 30 mins with approx 20no whole boilies. By the end of our 24hr session we have both landed 10+ fish ranging from 8-20lb. The others had all continued to struggle and ended

up blanking. With us having prior knowledge and knowing that using chops or particle didn't work and actually turned the fish off our bait approach was really simple. When you assess the vast array of options for bait and different approaches for using bait it's easy to see where some anglers can get lost or become totally overwhelmed.

Do you stick to boilies only? Do you use a spod mix? What do you put in a spod mix? Do you add chilli or salt? Do you use pellets or tigers? Do you use boilies but chops and crumbed? Do you glug your boilies? The questions are endless.

One thing I have found is that whilst all the approaches will work on 90% of waters the biggest thing in my mind that hinders their effectiveness is our

own confidence. If you arrive with a method which you have totally faith and confidence in and use a rig which again you have total faith and confidence in, then you will stand a much better chance of success. Don't get me wrong the approach can give differing results in terms of numbers however if we are confident and positive then I feel any approach will give results. If we are using a particular approach and it's not getting the results, we feel it should be then we will change to another method but again with total confidence.

I approach all waters with the same initial approach and use this for the 1st couple of sessions regardless of what others may suggest, should my approach (which is boilie only with small regular feeding using

my throwing stick) not be bringing the results that I feel it should then I will adjust my approach on 1 rod. This adjusting will again alter after a couple more sessions and effectively becomes trial and error until I find the approach that's best for that water. Years ago, I used to spend hours getting a spod mix ready containing pellet, maize, tigers, tuna, hemp, chilli, salt, boilie crum, chopped boilie, whole boilie and some oil. Whilst this approach did bring results, I was never able to identify which of the items on the dinner plate the fish were actually interested

in?

I had a total change and found that I was much more confident when I reduced both the items and the amount that I used. Reducing the quantity and limiting the food item to one, which was whole boilie, gave me a great starting point and whenever I did decide to introduce another food item e.g. sweet corn I knew if this item had a direct



influence to my catch results.

This has proven to be a great way to operate and has really helped me in my fishing. I no longer have self doubt in my approach, I don't question my methods which effectively means I'm free to concentrate on the main reason we are all out there, catch carp.

I think what I'm basically trying to say is, there is no magic answer for bait and bait prep. We all fish differently and everyone's style and approach is unique.

Take tips from others and see what other tactics people are utilising but find your own style that you have totally confidence in and reap the rewards. The variety and endless possibilities are just a couple of the traits that

draws us carp anglers back to this addictive and passionate hobby/sport.

Establish a starting point that you can use on any water and then adjust from there, too many changes at once and you won't be able to pinpoint what made the difference. Remember there is no end or finish to carp fishing so take your

time in finding what works best for both the lake and you.

Tight lines everyone and hopefully we will be back on the bank soon.

Stay Safe

Cast away your worries and land your dreams

Chris Hays





Midlands Carp Champs 2020

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

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

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

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

The format this year will be -

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

Midlands Carp Champs

99

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

Dates -

Q1 - 3rd to 5th July

Q2 - 24 to 26th July

Q3 - 7th to 9th August

Final - 4th to 6th Sept

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

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

Midlandscarpchamps





Reviews

Featuring -

Sharp Hooks
by Scott 'Geezer' Grant

Enterprise Tackle
by Mike Madeley



Sharp Tackle Hooks - Scott 'Geezer' Grant

Can a £2 pack of hooks really be as good as one selling for £4-5?

Hooks are a very personal thing in many ways to us carp anglers. It's the one direct connection point (pardon the pun) with our targets. There are so many different patterns available these days for all manner of weird and wonderful rigs. Over the past few years there has been a trend, for sharper and sharper hooks and that has seen the prices rise towards £7 for a pack of 10! It's questionable whether we need hooks that sharp. Makes you wonder how we managed to catch all those 1000s of carp over the last few decades?

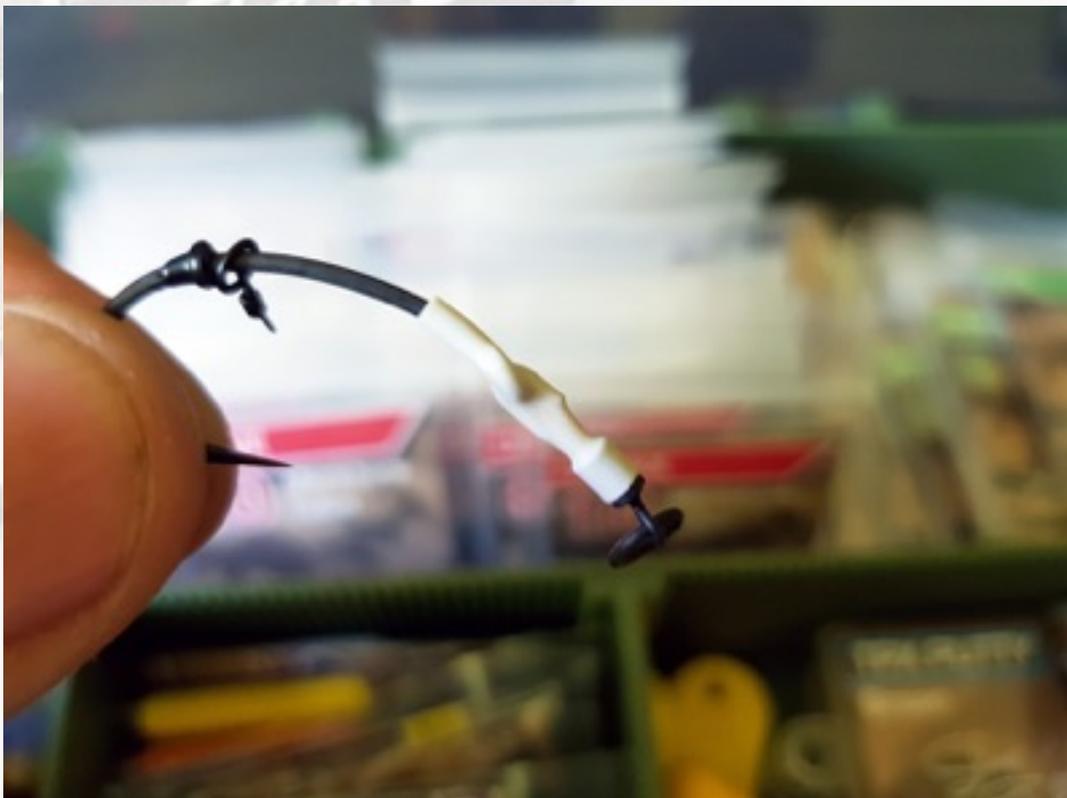
Another trend the angling World has seen is the increase in small tackle companies. These companies are taking advantage of China being more open to smaller businesses and with few overheads are able to sell comparable quality products to the angler at significantly lower prices than the big brands. But are they really as good?

One such company is Sharp Tackle. This company has been going for over 4 years now and I joined them at the very start. Regular readers will no doubt of heard of me and read my regular articles. For someone who has been around the game for as long as I have, why would I risk using what many would dismiss as 'cheap Chinese s**t'?



“Yeah, I get that, but people couldn’t be more wrong. It’s hard to get your head round a £2 pack of hooks being as good as one around £4-5. It just shows how much these things get marked up. OK, big companies have big overheads but at the end of the day you only have so much money to spend. These are easily comparable in strength and sharpness to any major brands standard hook range. They often stick to your fingers when you try to get them out. That was the first thing I noticed when I got shown a pack. If you want to sharpen them you can do. They sharpen really well but I use them straight from the packet. I might give them a quick going over if I’ve had a few fish on one and I feel it needs to be tweaked I will do.

My favourite hook of choice is the Ronnie, using a curve in size 4 or 6 with a coloured kicker. These hooks have never let me down and over the last 4 years I have caught countless fish on them. Last year on the same session I had two of the lakes A Team members on the same hook! I also banked a mid 50lber whilst in France which is still my foreign PB. So, trust me when I say these hooks are sharp, strong and reliable.



I would say their Cranx are actually better than others available. They are so sharp and strong.

Sharp Tackle have a couple of unusual patterns too. They do the Chod Cranx, which is a Cranx hook with an upturned eye and the SQ Chod, which is like a Twister with an upturned eye. Both these patterns are great for chods, stiff and pop up rigs. I know people are fussy about their hooks – I get that, but if you're on a tight budget you don't have to sacrifice quality in what is probably your most important bit of tackle.

With my consistent success on 'cheap' hooks it seems you don't have to pay a premium to get quality, sharp and more importantly reliable hooks. If you want to give Sharp a go, they have done a great deal for all Talking Carp subscribers. For every £5 you spend they will send you a packet of hooks of your choice. At the checkout part on their website just add a note mentioning "Talking Carp" and what size and patterns you'd like. For all your end tackle needs Visit them at www.sharptackle.co.uk

With the lockdown, now relaxed everyone is back out on the bank. I will be back on the bank myself as soon as my operation is completed and I have fully recovered.

Stay safe and remember to still practice social distancing.

All the Best

Geezer.



**JUST AS SHARP
JUST AS STRONG
JUST AS RELIABLE
JUST BETTER VALUE**



WWW.SHARPTACKLE.CO.UK



**Enterprise Tackle
review by Mike
Madeley**

Time For A look At The Immortals/Eternals Boilies Range

To some anglers taking the leap of faith and turning to artificial hook baits is still a big step, but let me put your mind at ease. Enterprise are the UK market leaders in the manufacturing of imitation bait since 1999, all of our baits are impregnated with our special mix of attractants that leach out attracting fish. This combined with our vast knowledge of plastics and attention to detail is why we are arguably the market leader in imitation baits. You will find also that many of our products are copied mainly our famous corn however I'm sure once compared like for like the difference is easily identified. So that's just a little general introduction about Enterprise.

Immortal Boilies 10mm

What I would like to touch on first is the Enterprise Immortal range these come in 10mm and are little balls of beauty

This is a quote I've taken from Frank Warwick " When a 10mm hook bait is required unless you go to a great deal of effort and experimentation you can easily have a hook bait that will go soft, loose buoyancy, split ect. The Immortals are just that, they retain absolute constant buoyancy, are pest and Crayfish proof, retain perfect colour and attraction. They also work fantastically well as the top half of a Snowman set up over a more subtle food bait!".



Another great use for the 10mm is inside a solid pva bag, you can either cut it down to a irregular shape to blend in with the pellets or just leave it as it is, as I would. Because of their ultra buoyancy they can be used on a zig or perfect for Surface fishing also.

They are available in Yellow, Red, Orange, White, Fluro Yellow, or a packet of mixed colours and also a different range of flavours or also un flavoured if preferred.

Eternal Boilies 11mm , 12mm, 15mm , 18mm

Next we have the Eternal range of boilies which are very cunning and can easily fool the wary old Carp. Firstly I will mention the range of washed out colours (currently only available in 15mm). They will match some of today's modern washed out baits, and as we know some Carp seem to think this is safer to eat. We have a Beige colour in particular to match the popular Cell boilie but looking at it, I think it will match a few more aswell



In the washed out range we also have Pink, yellow and a Brown, plus there are also 2 standard colours of White and Terracotta. Without going in to too much detail the colours extend into a range of fluros also, so there is definitely something to put in your tackle box.

Adding to the colours are the Eternal Niteglow. Now tests have shown that a Blue or Green light in low light conditions are most visible to Carp so the Niteglow range are available in both colours. When fully charged via ultra violet light these have a glow time of upto 8hrs.

What you will notice on the Eternals is a small hole on one side and this enables a small weight or putty to be added, that will create a critically balanced or sinking bait. Another idea is you can soak some foam in a flavour of your choice and plug it into the hole to release an ongoing flavour, although perhaps a better idea would be to soak the whole bait in a flavour of your choice, as they take on flavour really well.

With the Eternals being pest and Crayfish proof these are another consideration that can be made when deciding what bait to use, but it's always worth having a pot or two of Enterprise in the bait bag.

Tight lines

Mike Madeley

Consultant
Enterprise
Tackle





Catch Reports

Featuring -

Vader Baits
Wyreside Fishery
Plus much more

Kristian Horlock



This was my first fish out of lockdown so proper happy with this 34lb 4oz caught on a Mainline pineapple pop up over a big bed of Mainline cell and Carbon Baits hemp and maize



I managed to get a session in before they spawn and was rewarded for my efforts this lovely 41lb 10oz common and a 14lb 8oz mirror all caught on Mainline milky toffee pop ups over a bed of Cell boilies and around 8kg of Carbon Baits hemp and maize all cast to shallows with a Castaway pva nugget to protect the hook.

Ben Peacock



I was Fishing 110 yards out, on 9ft Scopes. Using a Ronnie Rig, size 4 hook. (Dynamite pop up) Over a bed of pellet and boilie (S7 and spicy fish) It screamed off at just gone 8 o'clock in the morning. It is a 32 acre gravel pit and the 53 lb 12 oz is a known fish called AWOL, it was the biggest of eight fish in a 72 hour session on bank holiday weekend

*53lb 12oz
Yorkshire
beast*



Gavin Davies



My mate Daniel Howe and I were a bit devastated finding out that fishing had been banned due to the Covid-19 outbreak, as we had already had our adventure booked at Pavyott Mills Fishery. At some point last week, we heard the good news. We received a phone call that Pavyott mills had reopened and we could attend a session there on the 22nd of may for 48 hours, mine and Daniel's approach to the fishery was exactly the same as we both had researched the lake for weeks prior to our attendance, our choice of loose feed was SMS standard spod mix combined with pv1 binder from Hooper's particles topped with organic glug from beast baits, down to the business end we were fishing a pva bag system with drop off led's to ensure the fish wouldn't knock the hook out of its mouth. As main bait, we used a chopped down original B pop up yellow, as we have heard fish tend to be attracted to that colour in that specific lake. In the pva bag we had chopped up organic boilies by beast baits, we were also using back led's to ensure we don't cross lines and also that our lines are pinned down tight just in case the fish got spooked. In 48 hours as a team, myself and

Daniel successfully landed 6 carp, 1 which was a 25lb grass carp, a 48lb 10 oz leather carp, a 42lb 15oz common carp, a 50lb 9oz leather carp, a 28lb common carp and a 15lb common which was the smallest fish of the session. Could you please give our Facebook group Screaming Reelz a look and a cheeky like, as well as our sponsors www.beastbaits.co.uk and Hooper's particles.



Daniel Howe



Josh Smith
NMG fisheries



Chris Durbin



First session since the lockdown started, I could not get onto my syndicate lake as it has not reopened yet but managed to get on a lovely day ticket venue called Acorn Fishery by Clevedon. The sun was beaming all day with high air pressure, not ideal, but as the afternoon went on, the left hand rod had a slow take and I was into a very scrappy common. A beautiful fish, very pale yet a very colourful tail, the pictures do not do him justice. It was so nice to be back on the bank and catching made it even better.

Adam Lee



Opening day after lockdown at Linear fisheries, I was lucky enough to get booked on to Brasenose 2. I fished a 48hr sessions and landing 11 carp up to 29lb. All fish were caught on Sticky bait Krill (wafers & 20mm Boilies) over a bed of Monster particle Hemp and maize. I was using Thinking angler rig components curve hooks and out turned eye hooks.



Chris Fell



caught the Randell mirror at 52.4lb on an open access week at Acton Burnell lower lake at RH fishery.



Daniel Bailey



Daniel Bailey with a fantastic mirror of 37lb 12 oz from a Bedfordshire syndicate.



Danny Watson

Silksworth lake Sunderland

3/6/2020 it was about 2 hours in we were so cold and wet that we were on about packing up to go home the rain was coming down hard and the wind was wild we were just about to give up then the clip went, we ran over it was like a blessing that we were in after we lost one an hour earlier. She started to run, she put up with a right fight, took us about 10 mins to land her. What a lovely fish, came in at 14lb on the button. She made the trip worth it.



Mark Bagnall



My first fish after lockdown, and what a beauty it is. 25lb 11oz that put up a bit of a battle. Caught on a new syndicate, one of some stunning fish that are stocked in it. All credit to Ed Mathews Shropshire syndicate. Caught on a Vital baits Banana GLM pop up. A new venture for me being part of the Vital baits team. I'm loving the quality bait Nicky Hedin produces. The rig was a single use multi rig courtesy of Julian Cundiff. Thanks Mark

Koby Horlock

Decided to take my son Koby fishing for the day and from start to finish was a crazy day he ended up with 6 carp of the surface to 14lb 6oz, one happy boy. All caught using a trimmed down Mainline Cell pop up.



Laura Pritchett

So my two boys can seriously not be in the same room for more than 10 minutes before world war 3 begins, Both have asc and adhd, but put them on a lake together and it's the most beautiful relationship ever, they help one another and they are pleased for one another accomplishments. Fishing really has changed their lives and relationships for the better. This is Freddie age 9 and his first carp of the year and also his new PB of 14lb 8oz and his big brother James 14 with an 8lb 6oz. Double take double smiles



Fin Brewin



Paul Lambert

After seeing a change in the weather I decided to get back down to my south London syndicate water for 48hrs, after a lap of the lake I saw some fizzing in peg 16 so after finding a clear area at 80 yards I knew where I was fishing. My hook bait was Catalyst 15mm with a 10mm wafter and baited with 4 kg of Spotted Fin Catalyst and 5kg of hemp and maize and rigs tied Blowback Rig consisting of a size 6 RM-Tec Curved Shank Hook on 8 inches of our 25lb fluorocarbon Hooklink. I was rewarded with 5 common carp, the biggest going 24lb 10oz.



Paul Smith



First session after lockdown and I'm graced with this stunning mid double mirror. Caught using UK Bait Company Fix-8 12mm pop up on a hinge stiff rig using Deception Angling Chod SWG hook, Size 8 Ring Swivel, Chod Link and Rig Swivel. I went on to have a further 3 fish an 18lb common, 11lb koi known as Black Spot and a low double angry common.





Wyreside



Wyreside interior

The third catch report since the fishing lockdown w
fishery:

14 x 30 plusses. 44 x 25 plusses. 56 x 20 plusses
Not only is the entire fishery is still fishing very well
unfavourable hovering around 1030mb and the day
just keep on feeding.

Foxes is still on top form and leading the way by a
of two halves. The first 24hours resulted in a blank
a moved to peg 4 for the remainder of his session
including a couple of 20lbbers top of with a prehistor
around 40 yards on to the top of the bar on d-rigs v
Forrest who made his return to carp fishing after 18
himself 4 fish - the best pulling the needle round to
hook baits. Harry Swarbrick also had 2 stunning co

Now we will nip down the hill to S1 with many angl
caught on bag and zigs fishing in the margins are n
stunning fish up to 17lb both fish wear tripped fishing
up hook baits with a scattering of essential cell cho

Now jumping over the bund to S2 where yet again
lake. The fish seem to be loving a surface bait in th
night and a nice mix of boiles and particle seems to
had two stunners the biggest one tipping the scale
mainline baits from peg 3.



Fisheries

Team catch report*

was lifted! The Tally so far in 3 weeks across the

and counting.....

! despite the atmospheric pressure be
ytime temps being up to 20c – but the fish seem to

country mile is Ben Dowle who had a session
but after a tip off from the bailiff team he made
and boy did it pay off. He managed to bag 8 fish
mic mirror weighing in at 25lb! All fish came from
with sticky signature wafers. Next up is Danny
8 year break and what a return it was bagging
21lb all fish fell to solid bags with pink pop up
commons from peg 5.

ers having multiple fish hit. Most fish are getting
near the weed. Jordan Hawdon who had 2
ng tight to the tree line on solid bag with yellow pop
ups and corn.

the fish seem to be coming from all around the
ne day but definitely are getting their heads down at
o be the way in the hours of darkness. Ste Moran
just over the 20lb barrier both fish was caught on



01524 792093



Wyreside

Now to the members waters, Bantons is still some awesome fish. First up Ben Woodward 31lb, Ben was fishing tight to the island on a up is poster boy Pete who managed to slip the from right of Stella on a Bait guru pink pop up with a lovely 23lb mirror from woody on a so the best to being 25lb and 26lb all fish taken



Next, we will head over to Wyre lake, where carried on his newly found form bagging him 'Box Linear' at 32lb, and he also banked him range on bait guru EF pop ups over 3kg of the was Mark Francis with two fish the best going guru pink EF pop up and the other on a bottle jungle mix. Again, on the jungle mix, was Mr

Can we please remind you all to be patient v slightly longer due to the safety protocols in confirm, we are only accepting anglers at the further notice – 1 dog per angler however ar guests again once the campsite has re-opened. Thank for reading and tight lines.

Hope to see you all on the bank soon, Stay v

Tight lines for now - Callum and the team



Fisheries

in front, and wow it's been throwing up
d who bagged Sally's fish weighing in at
Ronnie rig with a bright pink pop up. Next
he net under a lovely old dark mirror at 26lb
p. Robert new member opened his account
lid bag. Rae Dixon had 6 fish from mugs fish
from the tree line on pink pop ups

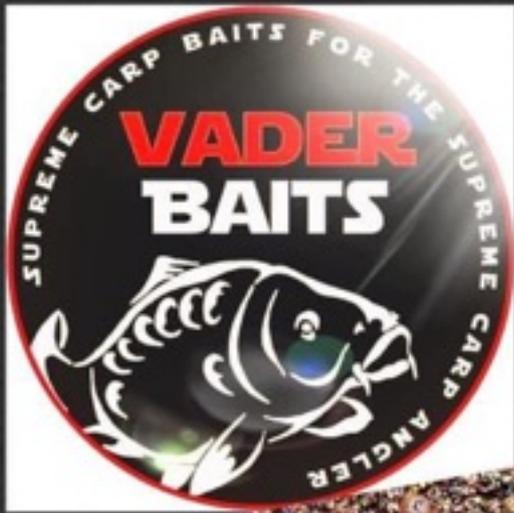
at the start of the week Liam Greenall
self yet another 30lber in the shape of The
self a 23lb stocky. Both fish were caught at
he jungle mix. Also getting in on the action
g 29lb from left of cabin. One was on a bait
om bait, both came from over a large bed of
Dave Lowry who had a lovely 21lb mirror.

with us as the check in process is talking
place with the coronavirus. Just to also
e moment – no guests are allowed until
e welcome. We hope to be able to allow
ned in July.

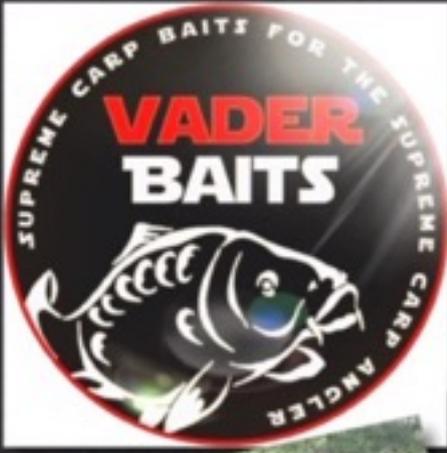
vigilant, safe and well,



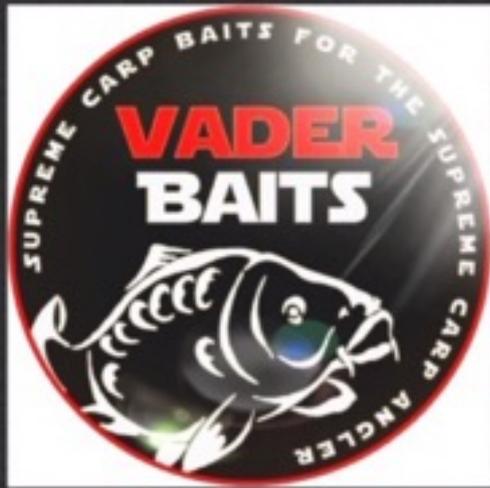
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**Team member Aaron took to the bank at his local syndicate lake over the weekend and managed to landed an nice 23lb common. The fish was tempted by a pink wafter topped with fake white corn and spods of 18mm half, whole and crushed Le Nutz boilies mixed with party mix soaked in water and Le Nutz glug for 48hrs before being hand spodded over the top!
Great angling Aaron**



**Team member Adrian headed out for a 22 hour catfish session! In this session he landed 6 in total with the following weights 15lb.18lb.17lb.27lb.28lb and the biggest of the session weighing in at 36lb. The fish were caught using 7 kilos of pellet in both Crabalicious and Krilla teamed up with 22mm Crabalicious pellet on the rig with matching glug to provide bigger attraction!
Great angling**



**Team member Carl headed to the bank Monday and managed to grab a peg at Coking Farm on Clover Lake. All was quiet for the first day and night but Tuesday morning at 7am his alarm went screaming off after a nice fight he landed a lovely 21lb mirror. The fish was caught using a 360 stiff spinner rig teamed up with a 14mm yellow Blackfudge pop up fished over a bed of SaTaN micro pellet crushed SaTaN boilies and SaTaN glug with about 20 18mm SaTaN boilies over the top !
Good angling Carl**

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Le Lees Carp Fishery

Welcome everyone to LE LEES Carp Fishery.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Le Lees Carp Fishery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Find us on Facebook for further information.

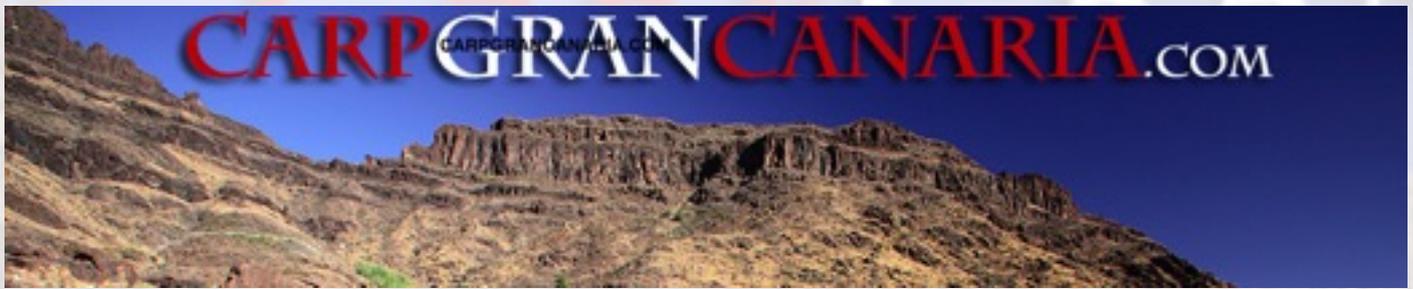
Matt, Tracie and Thai.



Le Lees Ca



rp Fishery



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

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

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

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

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

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

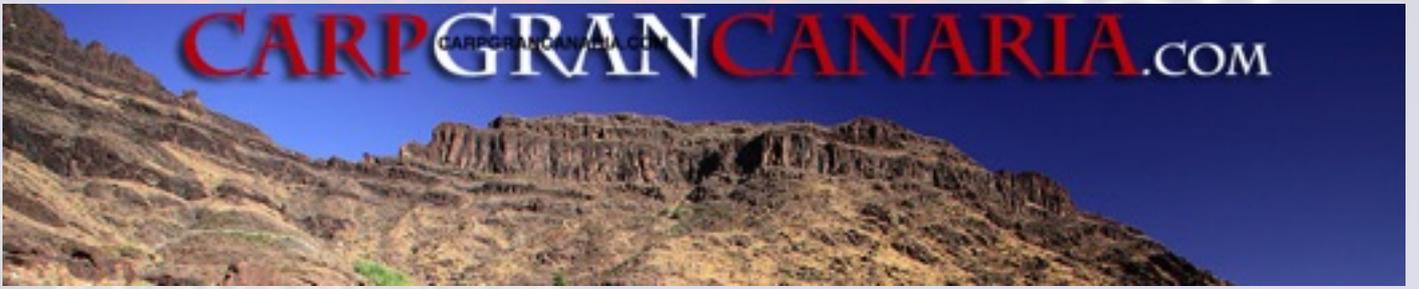
We also offer tailor made holidays for you, maybe a weeks fishing and a week on the beach!!!

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

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



BOOK WITH US FOR THE HOLIDAYS



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RIDGEMONKEY

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**STAY AT HOME, STAY SAFE &
LOOK AFTER YOUR FAMILY.**

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

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



**THE CARP MAGAZINE
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'The Talking Carp Team'

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