

A person is seen from behind, sitting on a grassy bank and fishing in a lake. The sun is setting, creating a warm, golden glow on the water and sky. The person is holding a fishing rod, and a large splash of water is visible in the lake, suggesting a catch. The background shows a line of trees and a clear sky.

**Talking  
Carp**  
Magazine

**Issue 71  
January 2022**

*Inside this month -*  
**Julian Cundiff, Barrie Scholes, Scott 'Geezer'  
Grant, Andy Murray, Catch reports and more**

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# **Hello, Welcome and a Happy New Year to you all**

**2022 is now truly here and it is time to start thinking about your upcoming plans for the year. Spring will soon be upon us!**

**I would like to take a moment to say a massive 'Thank You' to Chris Blunt and the team down at Linear Fisheries ([www.linear-fisheries.co.uk](http://www.linear-fisheries.co.uk)). Once again, they played host to the Talking Carp competition winners weekend at the end of December, with the added attraction of Jason Sandiford the UK Chef Carp (check out his website! Enquiries and bookings can be done at [www.chefukcarp.co.uk](http://www.chefukcarp.co.uk)) The cooking icon was in attendance to knock up an evening meal and a breakfast as part of the prize. What a great prize to be winning and make sure you look out for the next one!**

**The full tale of the weekend will appear as an article very soon, but for now we just wanted to thank all those involved and look forward to the next one.**

**Moving into 2022 we are opening the doors to more writers so if you would like to have a go and have your article published alongside writers such as Julian Cundiff, Joe Turnbull, Scott Grant and so on, then simply get in touch with us and we will walk you through the process... You will not believe how easy it can be to see your story told, and in print, for all to read.**

**As always, also keep those catch reports rolling in... we all love to see them!!**

**Drop us an email anytime at the usual addresses.**

**For now, we wish you all a healthy, happy and prosperous new year.**

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*Team Talking Carp*

# **Inside This Month -**

Cover shot - 8 year old Ethan Goddard

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catches !!!!!!!!**

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# *Talking Point*

A man wearing a dark camouflage hooded jacket and pants, and dark rubber boots, is sitting on the edge of a green boat. He is smiling and holding a light-colored snake in his hands. The boat is on a body of water with reeds and trees in the background. The scene is outdoors, likely in a marshy or wooded area.

*with Julian Cundiff*

# TALKING POINT...

## 2022

*with Julian Cundiff*

And just like that... 2022 has arrived, And what better way to start the year than a catch up with our good friend, Mr carp angling himself, Julian Cundiff.

**T.C** Happy New year Jules, and welcome to the first issue of 2022. How was your Christmas and New Year? Did Santa have you on his nice list? We feel you were...

**J.C** And Happy New Year to you and all our readers too and let's hope it's kinder than 2021 was ; although I feel it won't be a lot different to 2021 but a lot better than 2020. I have to say it was okay but being the first full year without dad it was never going to be as good as when my best pal was with us. We had a pre-Christmas trip up to an incredible hotel, The Castle Green in Kendal and a couple of days in five star luxury was perfect. We saw family over



A very famous landmark on New Year's day



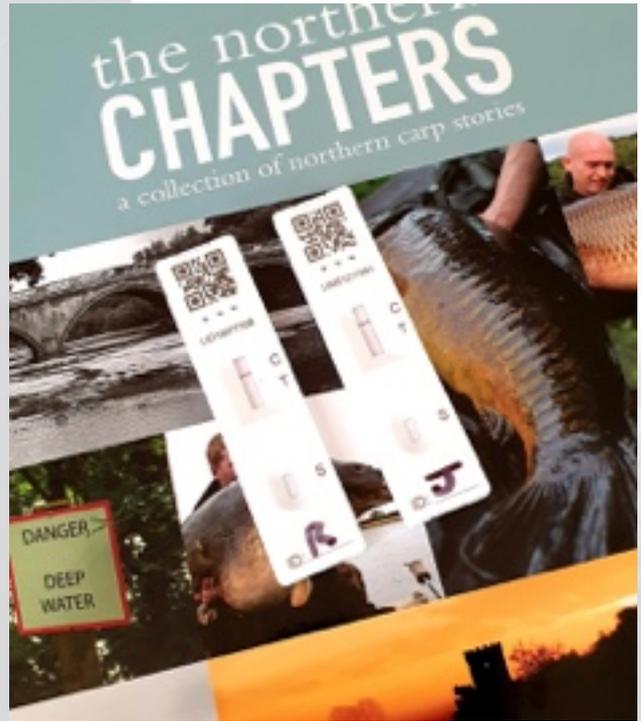
**We enjoyed our trip away before Christmas**

**Christmas having all done our lateral flow tests and that was lovely. Not being particularly New Year fanatics, we had a quiet one but spent the day at Clumber Park walking...and watching the water for signs of fish. If anyone has read the incredible Northern Chapters book and Jack Broome's chapter on the 'dark park' you will know precisely what I mean.**

**T.C So as we head into a new year, we see your social media pages are still thriving, and your consistency continues in fine form. So we need to know...how have you managed to keep catching when others seem to have gone quiet? Do you have waters that you only fish during the winter or are you on the same water all year around?**

**J.C Fishing wise as I've said so many times before when I retired it certainly made my carp fishing a lot easier. No longer do I have to cram it into overnights or pinch it from precious family time, but I can pick the right water for the right day as long as I'm not committed elsewhere. In the colder months I have probably seven local(ish) waters I concentrate on and from the last time I wrote I've had carp from all bar one of them. One canal, two day tickets, two club waters and one syndicate. By and large I've probably got my waters right**

even though one of my syndicates continues to baffle me despite my best efforts. I never kill myself in January as I fish all year round and don't wanna blow my load in the cold. I've always only judged my results on what others are catching on the same water not what others are catching on distant waters and on the six I've caught from I'm doing good.... the one I'm not catching on \*\*\*\* knows what's going wrong . At least four of these, probably five are waters I will leave alone come mid February and start on my three main syndicates.



The reality of Christmas 2021 for most of us



With snags around 15lb is as low as I will go

**T.C** One thing we have wondered about ourselves... we know you fish quite a heavy line most of the year for a better line lay, and confident presentation for yourself. But do you scale down your line for these months as most seem to do or do you keep the same strength/diameter ?

**J.C** I'm a big fan of heavier mainlines providing I can hit my marks as most of my waters are full of weed, and the like. At this time of year, I drop from 20lb mainline to 15lb for no particular reason other than it's something I have always

done. I do occasionally have a winter trip or two to friends waters and being able to easily hit that 80 to 100 yard mark with the lighter mainline helps a lot without having to swap spools. Hook wise I tend to use a 5 Twister rather than a 4 but it's still the same old Skinlink with multi rigs. Occasionally I will use fluorocarbon and smaller hooks if I have a social on a commercial but by and large I'm same old, same old.

**T.C** As we all know, the days can be cold right now, and sometimes the wind can leave a real chill in the bones. How do you like to keep warm, and help to stay focused without the need for a mass of cooking gear and bags of extra clothes?

**J.C.** Layers my friend, layers. Doing long three hour rides on the pushbike in all weathers has taught me what does and does not work and I've carried that knowledge into my winter carp fishing. A quality base layer on top, a thin but warm jumper and then then the new



Nash quilted winter smock which keeps me warm and dry. If it rains I have a good quality Nash ZT waterproof jacket. On the legs it's the quilted trousers on dry days and the ZT bib and braces when it's wet. Feet wise two pairs of quality socks and the Skeetex Lite boots ( I suffer with idiopathic peripheral neuropathy ) for the colder days when I'm not moving much. If I'm on the move the Nash ZT trail boots. Good

Occasionally I will use fluorocarbon and smaller hooks

gloves for being sat round and my new hat for the trophy shots..... not that the old one has been fully retired just yet. Plenty of tea, bagels and fruit unless it's an overnigher in which case I take some homemade soup to keep me fuelled. I've found over the years that I'm better slightly hungry than full and lethargic. Much as I love crisps, bacon sandwiches, chocolate and lots of biscuits once they are ingested and that high has gone I feel frankly quite \*\*\*\*\*. The joys of being 59 my friends.....

**T.C** A question for you... zigs. Zig fishing does seem to be gaining popularity during the winter/Spring season and more and more fish seem to be getting caught on them... especially on the clear, sunny days. Is this a tactic you would use yourself or not? Is it a tactic you actually use from time to time or not at all?

**J.C.** In a word , a very short word NO... Never been any good with them and I'm no fan either. I've had lots off the top from December to March by trickling Nash Risers and Slickers out there and seeing if I get any interest. I think those off the bottom tend to be high in the water and I find it easier to get them competing on the surface a lot easier than trying to find the right



So cold that as I lifted the carp off the net the water had froze around it

depth with zigs. If I fished Linear, Norton Disney and Drayton I'd definitely up my game and get that side of my fishing up to par

**T.C** Well, we will wrap this up for now, as we know you are a busy chap... thanks once again for this chat, and I am sure our readers have picked up more knowledge that can help them enjoy their days on the bank, and hopefully got a few nets wet too.

**J.C** Thanks my friend and I wish you all a Happy New . It won't be easy for any of us and I think we all have to accept that it is what it is and let's make the most of it. You can't catch them sat at home so get out there and give it a go.

Jules

Facebook    Julian Cundiff  
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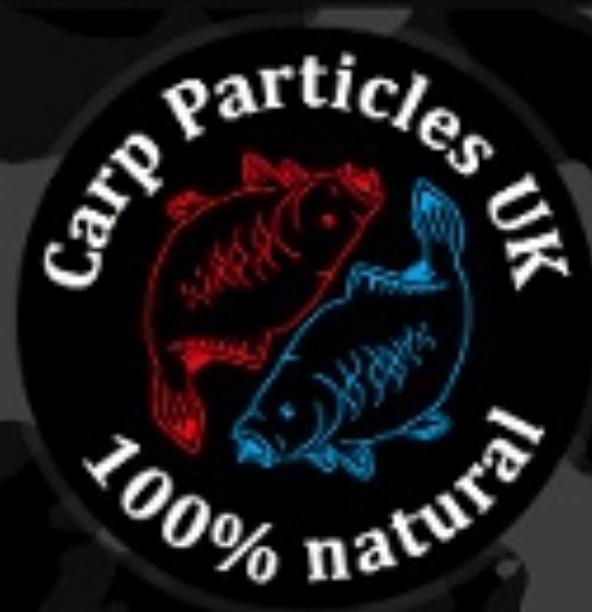




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# IT'S ALL GONE BANANAS

BY SCOTT GEEZER GRANT



Just after Chris had left, (following the charity fish in) for Lucy Bowls, I was in a dilemma, I had the rest of the week booked off of work and I was meant to be taking my old mukka Steve to another lake for the next 3 nights, but they had the weed boat in last minute so that sort of put paid to that idea. We haven't had a social session for the last 3 years and one was well overdue. After the fish I've caught and the conditions now, I decided to stay on for another few days and bring Steve to Bayeswater and put him into the swim next door where Chris had fished.

I wound the rods in and went round to Porky. I had to leave the lake and go home to get more bait and food. He was staying on for a few more hours and was going to keep his eyes on my gear. The wind had turned North/North Westerly and was now pumping right down into my swim, this is a great sign and if the fish come down here in numbers this could be a real session of a lifetime. The swim next door had produced fish already and with Chris baiting it every day of his session it made total sense for Steve to jump in there, plus it would have rested for 24hrs. I was back at the lake a few hours later, ready

and raring to go. I had a shave, shower, stocked up with loads of bait and food (not forgetting the ciders). I popped along to Porky for a chat and a quick coffee before making my way back to my swim. I kept everything the same, the rods went out one by one with a generous helping of bait, and one thing I had been doing was spraying my hook baits with the matching bait sprays, again another possible edge. Once all the rods were out it was a simple case of sit back relax and watch the water.

Big John turned up late afternoon and was fishing a couple of nights, he decided to go in swim 9 after a quick cuppa he made his way round to his swim. He really has been putting the effort in with very little reward, but I'm sure sooner or later he will be rewarded in a big way. After some dinner I settled down for the evening, I was hoping the fish would still be milling around down this end and had my confidence boosted when a fish lumped out down to my right. I sat up watching and listening until my eyes couldn't take it any longer, before getting my head down. After a quiet night I woke up to a beautiful sunrise, the kettle went on and I laid there watching the water, listening to the ducks going mental.



his way back to his swim. I rebaited the rod and got it back out on the spot with plenty of freebies. Later that morning the wind started to get stronger blowing a Westerly right down my end, which surely the fish would get on.

Then out of the blue a fish crashed over the middle rod, followed by a trail of bubbles. It was text book stuff and I got up stood by the rod waiting for it to ignite, well I didn't have to wait long the receiver sounded the line pinged out the clip and the rod was away, I lifted the rod and kept it high which worked a treat the fish gave a good account of itself and didn't weed me up, within a few minutes a chunky mirror was sulking in the bottom of the net. I gave Big John a call and he came round and done the photos; the fish turned out to be a stockie of 26lb 12oz. I was just so happy and still had 4 days ahead of me. With the fish treated and returned John stayed for a coffee then made

Steve turned up just before midday and after a brief chat and lots of man hugs, he started setting up his gear in swim 5. He was so looking forward to this session as was I, and what would really make the session, would be if Steve could catch one of the A Team members, that for me would be perfect. As Steve is a good mate and has been since we grew up together, I told him what rigs and bait I was using and how I was applying it. Steve is like me old skool, he likes to do things his way.



He was going to use a rig he has got confidence in and one that has caught him plenty of fish, as he is with RG Baits that's the bait he would be using, which is fine by me. That evening I cooked up a lovely chicken curry washed down with a few bottles of cider. We both watched fish show in front of me and on the plateau in front of Steve's swim which made us both feel really confident. Steve was knackered as he had been up since early doors, and endured a 4hr drive, so he decided to have an early night.

Tuesday morning, we were both up early drinking plenty of tea and having plenty of banter which is always on the menu. Buggy popped over to say hello and stopped for a while drinking tea and having a good old natter. My Mrs turned up around midday with more supplies including freshly made chillie with pasta which was tonight's dinner. She had also brought breakfast which she decided to cook for us both, as she was cooking the breakfast a fish showed over the middle rod, the bobbin twitched and the line moved ever so slightly, a few minutes later the rod was away, I was on it in a flash, I lifted the rod and kept the rod high the fish felt

like a goodun and was plodding rather than racing around, Steve was on hand with the net and after a 5 or so minutes a chunky mirror slipped across the cord. My Mrs was so excited as this is the first time, she has ever witnessed me catch a big fish. I secured the fish in the net whilst I got everything ready. Then it was time to get my prize and see what's in the net. It turned out to be one of the A Team the "Banana" at 37lb 4oz, wow just wow this really is what dreams are made of. Steve took a few photos then the fish was treated and returned, my Mrs was so happy and even photo bombed me lol.





With the fish returned it was time to get the rod rebaited and back out on the spot, as I mentioned earlier one thing, I have been using this season is the matching bait sprays, I simply give the hook bait a generous spray before putting the rod out, again this is working for me and it's a product in the range so anyone can buy and use it. My Mrs finished cooking the breakfast which me and Steve destroyed. Followed by more tea, and a bit of relaxation. A couple of hours later the Mrs left and me and Steve just sat in the swim having a good old catch up, something we haven't done for a few years.

Late afternoon I grabbed my wash bag from the van, laid a bathroom mat in front of my bivvy and started preparing for a strip wash. If ever I'm fishing a long session my bag is always in the van and I will always have a couple of strip washes and a change of clothes. It makes such a big difference and makes me feel human again. My mates think I have OCD but it's called being clean!!!

I always have a bottle of Febreze with me so every day I can take my sleeping bag off my bed give them both a good spray and leave them to dry, that way they always smell nice and clean.



a real good evening with non-stop laughter, just how it should be. The fish were showing over both our areas and we were confident that more fish would be caught.

Now I was feeling human again it was time to redo the rods for the night ahead, I had made a couple of changes and switched to wafers as the fish were feeding so hard on the baited areas it made sense. I also used a banoffee wafer as they smell so nice and being white, they stand out. It was now after 1800 so I spoke to Steve regarding getting our dinner prepared and ready for us to sit down and eat at 1900 then we can spend the rest of the evening watching the water, drinking cider and talking utter sh@\*e!!

We both retired to our beds around midnight, I didn't have any trouble going off to sleep, I was out like a light. That was until my receiver was screaming, I jumped up and the left-hand rod was hooped round, the fish had weeded me, I kept the pressure on and managed to coax the fish out of the weed and into open water, once out in front I knew it was a good fish and it still wasn't done yet after

I did mention to Steve about using some of my bait but he was still resistant, I stressed I wanted him to catch a fish and currently the fish are gorging on the bait and getting caught. But like a stubborn ass he was having none of it. After a gorgeous chillie (extra spicy) the cider started flowing and we had



a few last minute runs I finally slid a very long common over the net cord, I let out a huge sigh of relief, followed by a loud YESSSSSS. I secured the fish then gave Steve a call, he came down straight away. I looked at my phone as I had slept through my alarm and missed first light. It was now nearly 0700 o'clock. I got everything ready then lifted the fish from the water and laid her in my air cradle, the cradle is massive and this fish was nose to tail I'm not kidding you. The fish turned out to be "The Long Common" and the scales recorded a weight of 36lb exactly, wow another of the A Team ticked off the list. Steve was again on hand to take the photos (thanks mate) the fish was then checked

over and any sores were treated as well as the hook hold before she was returned.

I got the rod back out and then we both sat there drinking tea, I was dumbstruck and Steve kept saying "Geeze you really don't realise what you have achieved, this place is rock hard and you're making it look easy" Steve I'm just enjoying my fishing and the fish are loving the bait, simple really. I'm quite a humble person and believe every angler has red letter sessions and this is one of them for me. I believe it's better to be consistent rather than good.

It could only have been an hour





later max and as we both sat there a fish showed over the middle rod, followed by a plume of bubbles, a few minutes later the line tightened up and Ping!! Away it was I was on the rod immediately, and like the others I kept the rod high and the fish didn't cause me any problems what so ever, it behaved really well and spent a few minutes plodding about in open water before the fish was engulfed in the bottom of the net. My god it was a real stunner and it looked like the Big Fully another fish on my hit list. The fish was secured in the net, whilst I got everything prepared before the fish was lifted from the water, she

was hoisted up and a weight of 34lb 8oz was displayed OMG what is happening, it was a fish known as "The Middle Fully" and what a stunning fish it is. Steve again was on hand and took some cracking shots, she was then treated and returned. I sat down in my chair and was literally speechless, I really couldn't believe what was happening. It was my 6th fish of the session which is a feat I have never achieved before on here. All the fish were in pristine condition and most importantly loving the bait.

With one night still left could there be more fish to come. Steve was

catch and I was hoping that sooner or later he would bank a chunk. The fish were boshing over the plateau he was fishing on, so it surely has to happen. We both spent the afternoon just chilling out relaxing before I conjured up a real spicy Cajun chicken, which went down a treat. The last night is always a depressing one as we both know, that come morning and its back to reality. Well, nothing happened on the last night for either of us, I think the fish had moved down the other end for a rest.

We were both all packaged up by midday then we said our goodbyes. For me it's always a pleasure fishing with Steve, he's a good angler, a lifelong mate, plus we have such a laugh.

I had plans for the next few days, taking my daughter out for her birthday and catching up with things at home. I had a trip planned for the following week for a few nights let's hope the roll continues.

January is always a real downer of a month on the fishing front, the temperatures plummet even further and it becomes even harder. Now is a great time to go over all your gear replacing line etc, ready for when

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



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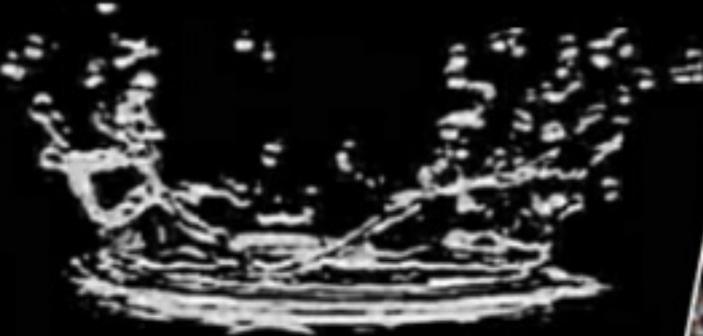
For all your PVA needs head over to the brand-new Castaway website. Where you will find an array of PVA products that can help you in your fishing.

I hope you all had a Great Christmas and New Year; I hope 2022 brings all of you happiness and good health. Not forgetting plenty of chunks in the net. Stay safe and remember its only fishing.

*Scott "Geezer" Grant*



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IN THE MARGIN  
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# *Look Back For The Future*



*by Barrie Scholes*

**Now** that the Christmas Tree has been packed away in the loft for another year and the last of the turkey butties have all been eaten, thoughts turn to the carp fishing year ahead. And if you were lucky Santa might have brought you some new carpy toys to pay with! The passing of another year is always a time to both look ahead and reflect on what has gone before. And although as anglers, we are constantly evaluating what we are doing the passing of a year is a great time to really take stock of how things went for you and to use that information to make some plans and improvements for the future.

So with that in mind I'll look back on my previous 12 months fishing and assess what went well, what didn't go quite so well and what I can improve on for the year to come. Hopefully you can apply the same logic to your fishing and make 2022 your most successful year yet.

### What Went Well?

Starting with the positives, quite a lot of things went well for me last year on the fishing front. When assessing my performance, the first

thing I notice is I managed to fish at least one session every month. Working full time and having family commitments that isn't always as easy as it may sound! One of the hardest parts of carp fishing at times is actually getting on the bank. Going regularly throughout the year definitely brought some consistency to my fishing, and my results. After all you don't catch them at home do you! Looking at my records I managed 33 sessions in total, which was a mixture of days and overnights.



Results wise, I went into the year wanting to get amongst some 20 pounders again. I pinned my hopes on achieving that target on a local club lake and it proved to be the correct choice. I ended up with 9 fish from 13 sessions with 5 being over 20 pounds and a new PB of 27 and half pound. So that part of the year went better than expected. I also fished some quite prolific venues that weren't part of my plan at the start of the year. This meant I ended up catching more numbers of carp than I'd planned for, which was a nice added bonus. The new PB was definitely the highlight of the year though.

In terms of my approach the parts that went well were as follows. Yet again the snowman rig with half a pop up seemed to outperform every other rig that I tried and that is now my go to approach on the types of waters

I fish. Moving to the ultra-sharp Kamakuras range of hooks definitely gave me a bit of an edge on my trickier club lake. As did the shrink tube line aligner. On the easier venues a snowman rig fish on a knotless not fluorocarbon hooklink, rather than braid, proved really successful. It's pretty much the most basic rig you could get but it hardly ever tangles, and it catches loads of fish. I should probably give that a go on the club lake this year on one rod at least to see if it does better than the coated braid I used last year.

My choice of bait remained the same for the year. Nash scopex squid. I knew from previous years



that carp love it. And so, it proved again this year. I know there are other baits out there that are probably just as good. But I also know that if I use scopex squid I don't have to worry about my bait. One thing I would say is that the waters I fish are very silty, and I think adding the bait soak to the boilies definitely gives you a bit of an edge. It helps prevent them being tainted by the silt as well as giving off extra attraction.

Another positive from the year was that I got a new set of rods! I got some vouchers off work so treated myself to a set of the Daiwa 10ft extractor rods. My fishing consists of short sessions on small waters and those rods fit that style of fishing perfectly. They are easier to store and transport. Great in tight swims with over hanging trees etc and despite the 3.5lb test curve are nice rods to play fish on. They were defiantly a great addition to my set up.

### **Room For Improvement**

As good as last year

was there is definitely room for improvement. I only did 13 sessions on my club lake and only one in May. Part of that was due to covid restrictions at the start of the year. But I do feel that this year I should try and squeeze some more sessions in especially during the more productive months of the spring and summer. If I do hopefully that will bring an increase in results



I had got it in to my head last year that my best chance on the club lake would be at night. However, most bites came at first light, and I also caught some fish on day sessions in September so maybe I think I need to be more open minded to day sessions this year. One last point on improvements, quite bizarrely the vast majority of my fish came on the right hand rod last year. I think this is partly due to trying something different on the left hand rod. So, fishing both on snowmen set ups next year might be another way of improving my results from the previous year

So that's the good and the bad dealt with from last year but what about this year?

## Setting Targets

The first target I set myself for the year ahead is nothing to do with fish weight or numbers. Instead, I set myself a target based on the number of sessions I want to fish during the

year. Like most of you reading this, my time on the bank is very limited. So, before I set my sights on fish, I like to figure out how much time I'll have to catch them! There's 52 weeks a year so if I go once a week that's 52 sessions a year. However, the reality of fishing once a week is highly unlikely due to work and family commitments. So, I'll set myself a more modest target of 30 sessions. Hopefully that is a target I can reach and then maybe push on to 40 sessions after that.

I see two main benefits of setting a target based on sessions. The first is that I now have a time period in which to achieve some goals. What can I realistically catch in 30 sessions? Targets need to be challenging but also achievable.



The second benefit is to my motivation. Fish targets are very matter of fact. Hit or miss. Catch or blank. If the blanks start adding up the motivation can plummet. A target based on session numbers, however, just keeps you ticking along nicely if the results aren't quite coming yet. As an example, at the back end of 2020, I looked at how much time I was likely to go fishing before year was out. I set myself a target of fishing 10 more sessions. In that time, I wanted a 20 pounder from my club lake. After a few blanks and packing up in the mud and rain in the morning, it would have been easy to lose motivation. But because I'd given myself 10 sessions to achieve my goal It was quite easy to keep going. Ticking off another session felt like an achievement in itself. Even if the result was no fish caught. It gives you a different mindset.

So, what do I hope to achieve with my 30 sessions in 2022? Well although my sessions are the same as last year I hope to spend more of them on my club lake. I'll be hoping to better last year's tally of fish from there. I caught 9 fish from my club lake last year so with more time on the water and making some adjustments from what I learnt last year I'll be hoping for at least 10 this year and then hopefully kick on from there. Given the lakes stock of fish it is highly unlikely that I will achieve a new personal best next year. That might be my focus in 2023?! Instead, I will be hoping to catch more fish over twenty pounds than I did last year.



The club lake will be my main focus this year. But there are some other targets that I'd like to achieve if I can.

It would be good to catch a snow carp before the winter is out. I came close. Well kind of. In November. I was close in that I was actually fishing in the snow and on a lake with a really good head of carp. But sadly, I didn't catch. A lot has to align to catch a snow carp on limited time. First of all, there has to be snow when you are actually free to go fishing. The weather can't be too bad that it prevents you from travelling to the lake and once you are there in the snow the lake mustn't be frozen over too! And then there is the small matter of catching something. As a result, that snow carp target might carry on for a few years yet!

I fished Horseshoe Lake during a junior fish in in 1994. Having attended the Carp Society 40th Anniversary at the lake last year it has given me the bug to return. So that's a target. Returning to fish Horseshoe Lake for a couple of days this year would be nice. Helping my son to catch his first twenty this year will also be a target for me.

So I've got plenty to aim for this

year.

Carp fishing is often quite a target driven pursuit. Whether it be a target fish, target weight, a certain amount of fish etc. Whatever targets you do set use them as a guiding light to keep you motivated, rather than a barometer of success or failure. Try your best and be happy with whatever comes along. Happy New Year

Barrie





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**It's a good time to have a  
sort out!**

Mark Carper



**By Andy Murray**

Hi, happy new year to you all, I hope you had a great Christmas and are having a good start to the New Year. We had a good lead up to Christmas with some meals out with friends, a bit of a works meal that turned into a serious session and then a nice Christmas and New Year with family, so all in all, a big improvement on last year. Hopefully, things will continue to improve for us all. Moving on from my last article on here, I wanted to spend the next couple of articles covering my plans for this coming year based on lessons learned from last year. Whilst I caught a number of carp from different waters, with a few nice specimens, I really felt I should have done a bit better at times. Throughout December and January, I tend to look back at the last seasons fishing

and see how things have gone, now if you do this for your own fishing, then you have to be honest in your evaluations. Yes, sometimes I couldn't get in the right swims – or even lakes! Then sometimes the carp weren't feeding, but and this is a big but, sometimes I just got it plain wrong! Don't get me wrong, it happens to us all, but I try and understand the why's and wherefor's a little bit, maybe that will help me catch a few more carp this coming year

and maybe one or two of those bigger carp as well. As I already alluded to in my last piece, at the start of last season, once we could get out after the lockdown eased, after getting off to a good start, I then spent far too much time involved with other things that took me away from the lake at a time when the bigger fish were feeding, so that meant my fishing time was sporadic and I wasn't in tune with what was happening at the Pits. This is no way to get



amongst the carp, especially the bigger ones, when the lakes are so busy. Being there and seeing what is happening is one of the real keys to understanding the lake and its inhabitants. On a number of occasions, I felt I was fishing blind. So, this coming year I am going to go back to what I used to do a lot, which is put my sessions in the diary

at the beginning of the year and be more rigid in my approach to getting out there. Even if it means seeming a little bit selfish...

The second half of 2021 was also a very busy time workwise and family-wise. This year with Sal's much improved health and things that I have put in place, I should be able to give myself some more regular time on

the bank this coming year at key times. We will see how that goes as well... Now we come to tackle, one of the other main issues I had last year was

chopping and changing tackle a lot, this is all part of research and development and was what I was involved in at the time. Different waters, different types of sessions, filming sessions etc. It all meant different rods and set-ups, not really getting on top of what I was doing. It did mean some of my fishing did suffer and a large part of that was my casting performance. This definitely cost me carp on the bank throughout the whole season as I felt my casting prowess had in fact gone backwards, it wasn't until the Autumn I started to see this either, and at my age it is taking some getting back as well! I have spent the last couple of months upgrading some of my fishing tackle, by that I mean fishing rods and Spod rods. For my fishing rods I have settled on the 12 ft 6in Harrison



Torrix TE special, these are great fishing and casting rods and also not ridiculously expensive. Now rods are always a big talking point, everyone has their favourites. What I will say is that for general fishing, say 80-100 yards, most decent rods will do the job and it is up to anglers choice and affordability as to what they go for. When needing more distance is where more debate occurs. Which is the best casting

rod? Is a good casting rod a good fishing rod and vice-versa? If you got 6 anglers round a table, you would most likely get six different answers. It depends on the angler, their build, their casting style, last but not least how much you want to spend as well. My advice to anyone, is to try a few rods on the bank before you part with your cash. I find a lot of rods these days are fast or very fast taper, which I struggle with

doubt, ask someone else for a lesson or two. On a number of occasions this year I have found myself giving impromptu casting and spodding lessons whilst fishing, most guys I know are always keen to help some else.

Once you find a rod that suits your style, then you can either shop around the retailers for the best price, or keep your eyes on the second hand market. I picked up the Torrix's for a very good price, compared to the retailer price and availability of exactly what I wanted. A couple of things here if buying tackle second hand, the obvious one is to check things thoroughly when buying anything, as you will have very little comeback if anything is wrong. The other thing is to please try to

sometimes, as do a lot of anglers who are just starting on distance work, that's not to say they aren't good casting rods, but they just don't suit all anglers, as is the opposite with a more compound taper rod. Also, if in



establish that you are buying from genuine people, there is a lot of tackle theft going on, in some areas it is fast becoming a crime wave run by groups of people, including anglers. A friend of mine had all his tackle stole from his van a couple of months ago, some of it will take some replacing as well. So, if in doubt, don't buy it, and if really in doubt, then do the right thing...I know some might say it's not doing anyone any harm if it's fallen off a wagon, but if no one bought stolen gear, then maybe people would stop stealing it. The only way we can stop this in fishing, as in Society is to stand up and be counted. I can't say too much more about my friends gear because investigations are continuing as we speak, and a lot of you know where I fish. What I will say,

is if I become aware of someone selling stolen gear, I will let the appropriate people know. Rant over...

For my fishing reels I have kept my Shimano 14000 XTB, I have had them for five years now and they have been faultless, I may at some point treat myself to some new Mags, but for the time being these are one of the best carp reels about (in my opinion). If you look at the picture of the spools in the case, I have nine spools in total, 3 with 15lb line on for general fishing up to and around 100 yards or so, 3 have 12lb line, with long leaders on for distance fishing on the Pits, then the final 3 are spooled with Braid, these are spooled with 25lb Fox Submerge braid. I prefer to use Braid when possible, but more and more lakes

are banning its use. So, wherever I am fishing, it only takes a minute to switch to whatever spool I need for that situation. The line on the spools is changed at least once a year. I tend to not use reducers and always fill to the brim, as I am fishing a long way out. Over a period of time, the spools empty a bit through breakages or where I tend to take off the last 10 yards or so every trip or two, especially on the Pits as there is a lot of wear due to the gravel and weed. So, I may have replaced



the line before the end of the year anyway, if I have done that, then I will still reverse the line for the next season. Line breakages do happen, especially when fishing at distance, but it can be kept to a minimum by regularly checking line. Lets be honest, in comparison to what we spend on other items of fishing tackle, line is relatively cheap, its just being bothered to change it regularly, I could do a whole article on line alone, now there's a thought! I have been struggling to find a really suitable spod rod for a while now, mainly due to trying to find an all-rounder. Again Spod rods are like fishing rods, it's finding one that's suits you. In the late 90's I could put a 6-8 ounce a 140 yards all day with ease. That was with a Big Bertha spod rod, no technique, just brute force to

bend the flipping thing, and a lack of fear of ripping my fingers or shoulders! These days I need a bit more help, due to my aging years and body-parts. So, I now have 2 spod rods, for my bigger spods, and/or long range Spodding I have gone for the 13ft Daiwa Basia TT Spod rod. I really need to work a bit on getting distance fishing back for when it's needed. For more normal work (up to 90 yards), I have opted for the Fox EOS 12ft, it's so light and easy to use. For Spodding I still feel the Shimano XTC Spod reel really takes some beating. It is only a minutes task to switch the reel to the other Spod rod.

Although I have finished night fishing on the Pits for a few months,

I will keep getting out on day only sessions once every week or two. There are two reasons for this, once is to get out in the fresh air, and enjoy some time on the bank, even though I might not catch much, the other is to keep my casting arm in and working. The tactics that seem to be working on the Airport Lake are to fish around 100 yards or so and keep trickling bait in whilst fishing, so this has really helped me settle into using the new rods. I remember many years writing about fishing in the winter and if things were quiet, I would spend a bit of time spodding some bait to keep my arm



in, that was in the early Horseshoe days as well. Funny how sometimes doing that brought a bite as well! The point about this, is that if you stop fishing in the Autumn and don't start again until the spring, it might take you a few sessions to get back into the swing of casting accurately, so keeping your arm in is a good thing to do. As well as the above, I tend to sort out my tackle boxes. Now, it has to be said, I am not the neatest person when fishing, and over time all my bags and boxes start to look a mess. So, I take out the old bits of rigs and crap that have been thrown back in, top up stuff that has run down and I also take out stuff that I don't use, we all have those items in there don't we? I have also emptied my Zig kit winder, from rigs that have been put back on the winder at

some point, as they are lighter lines, and have been exposed to the air there may have been some deterioration in the strength, better to start again as we need them. Using old Zigs cost me at least one big carp this year, I don't intend to repeat that mistake. I top up my lead boxes, PVA packs, and hook packs, again getting rid of the old stuff. I have also changed a few bits of my luggage this winter. As I am either fishing from a barrow in the winter or my van for most of my night fishing, I have changed to more of a barrow style rucksack with lots of pockets, which can be laid out flat, so things are more laid out to access easily,

without having to empty the whole bag to get whatever it is I need at the bottom. At this moment in time, it all looks really neat, not sure how long it will stay that way though! So that's a bit of an overhaul of my tackle. A few more days sessions and all of a sudden, we will find the days starting to draw out again. Next month we will take a look at my bait buckets and freezer, they really need a sort out before then!

Catch you next time.  
Andy





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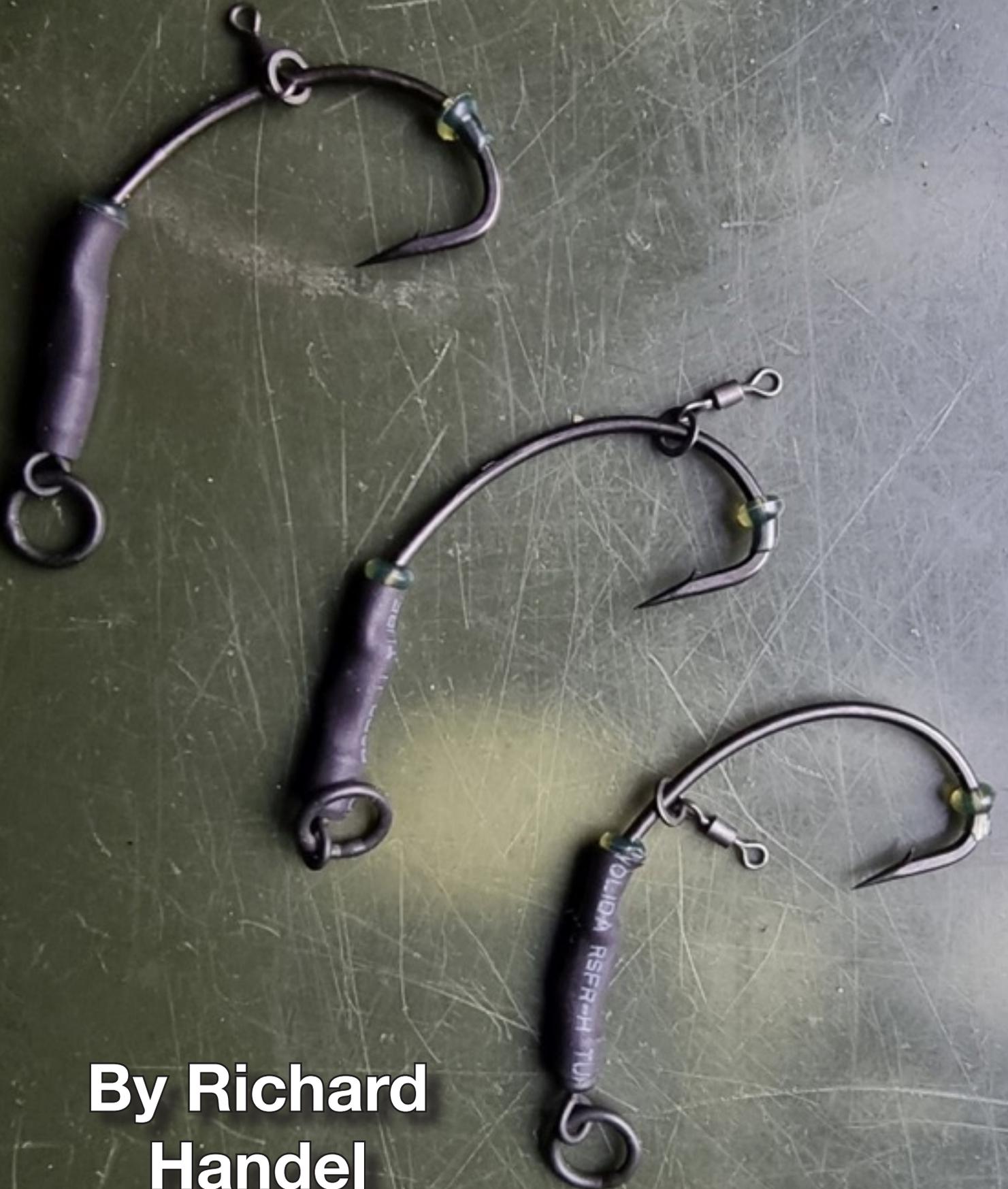
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# Just One Rig For Me



By Richard  
Handel

Just one rig for me is a strange title and it opens myself up for a lot of criticism from other anglers. But my aim is to be open about my fishing, make things simplistic for the everyday angler, make things less confusing and show you don't need a tackle box full of made-up rigs for every situation you come across. My life needs to be as straight forward as most, as those of you who read my blogs will know I've written about my depression and I've found that over the year, the best way to combat this is by making everything I do straight forward. Cutting out the complicated things and simplifying my set up is part of that. I have utter confidence in this rig in all situations and with all types for hook baits. It has certainly helped me catch a lot of carp over the years.

You need to break down the rig into its component parts to understand with a few small adjustments, the rig is changeable, capable of being fished in many different

situations and with all types of hook baits.

So, let's break it down and give you an overview.

1) Hooks, a little unknown fact is that in most people believe that the Jrc 360 hooks was the best pattern of hook for this type of rig and it has gone. However, you may be wrong there, Spotted Fin have the pattern right and still today produce this very same hook.

2) Hook Beads, I personally like the translustane rubber one that has a very tight fit, but you must be able to move them up and down the hook. This is to be able to adjust how your hook sits in the water. Beware if the top one become too loose, it can move up and cover the micro bead on long range casting with big hook baits.

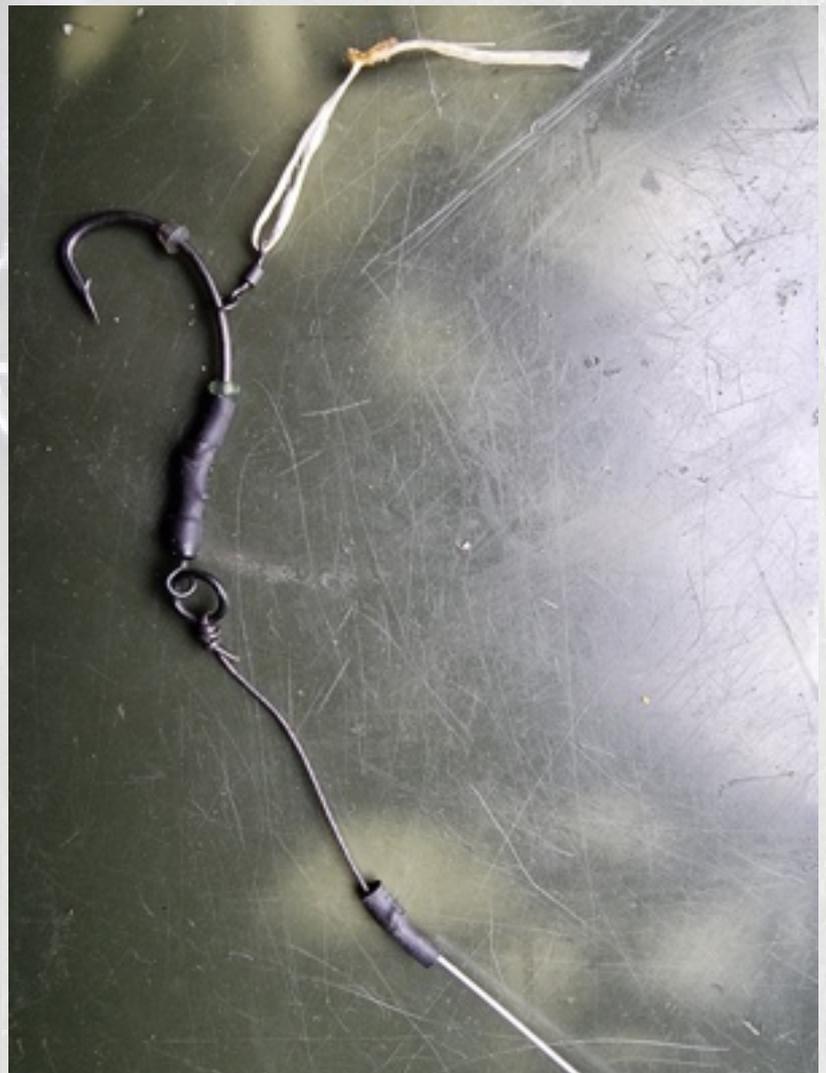
3) Gap between the beads, I personally like to be able to open and close the gap up and down the shank of the hook. This is why I use two beads and not one.

It also, in my opinion, makes the rig look nicer. If I'm using a small pop up you can have the bead at the top of the bend or if you fancy further down, it gives you more of a chod rig look to your rig - instead of the more traditional pop-up look. You can play around with the beads to adjust your set up to suit the lake and how the carp feed, more than it would be possible with just one hook bead on the hook.

4) Shrink Tubing, I like to use 2mm black and very stiff tubing, as this keeps the whole set up in place. I've found that some brands are too soft. So, these days I get it via eBay in packs of 10, only use enough to cover the ring swivel and a few millimeters up the hook shank. You need to go a good bit up the shank otherwise when you catch a carp it will come away and make the rig unusable.

I actually make these up in

packs of four in my tackle box, as I don't carry a rig board. I prefer to make up the hooking material part of my set up when I'm on the lake, depending on which swim I'm in and the type of hook bait that I'm using each time. This saves on wastage and costs less in the long run. I'm sure most people have made up rigs they just don't use and still have on a rig board, I did for many years.





5) Hook baits, this rig is well suited for bottom, wafers, pop ups and in conjunction with changing the beads and hook link materials would work as well as any other rig out there. This is in my opinion before a get loads of messages contradicting my thoughts and findings.

6) Hook Link Materials, there are so many combinations as the market is full of great hook link materials these days. Firstly, bear in mind that if you use soft material, there is a chance of it

tangling and you will need to combat that issue, but really soft materials do certainly work well and not spoken about much. Going back to the point about different lakes and carp behave differently, if I use a hinge type Ronnie rig set up on the Airfield Lake (that I write about fishing in my weekly blogs on my website), I will bet you any money, I will get a very high amount of hook pulls. Whereas I only use a stiff boom, which is very infrequently these days, it only took me a few years to work that out, but in the beginning when we were on there the hinged rig and D-rig, it worked perfect ok.





I've even played around with a loop at each end allowing the hook to rotate a lot more. I'm simply experimenting to get the hook point to prick the carp's mouth and cause a take rather than a carp shaking its head to eject the hook without any indication.

7) Tangles, so far this rig is 99.99% tangle free. For me, I don't believe there is a completely tangle free rig. You always reel in at one point in your fishing to find a tangle, caused by something, but this can be reduced with this set up - I believe.

8) Bird Life, the other great bonus with this rig and the previous one - the 360 rig, if a bird or even a carp picks up the bait and the drops it, it will automatic reset itself and you can sit there knowing that it's still perfect and there's no need to recast, spooking anything out there.

9) Confidence, once you have confidence in this rig, your fishing will improve along with your success rate. Anglers go on about keeping it simple and the less component parts the better. I look at the Ronnie Rig as two parts really - the hook section and the ring swivel with shrink tube which is really an extension



of the hook. It creates a long shank style hook, like the original pattens which were band many years ago. Then just add a bead, micro swivel, quite simple really. I make these all at home and carry in single packets to protect the hook point and the hook link material.

I'm not going to tell you which situation and what type of hook bait to fish with or even where and when, simply because I believe each carp lakes fish completely differently and the

carp completely behave in their own way. This is something you will have to find out for yourself but remember the most important part is to keep adjusting the component part of your rig to get a better understanding of each capture, where the carp has the hook in its mouth, how good the hook hold is (each time) and take a note how you set up the component parts of your Ronnie Rig.

I hope this helps  
Richard



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**by Jason Kennerley**

## *A few years back*

I had a fish of 37lb featured in Talking Carp magazine, a UK pb at the time. Unfortunately, I had family commitments which got in the way. Then covid hit plans got put to one side and my time on Merrington was short lived.

So, at the start of the year, I vowed no matter what between lockdowns and other obstacles I would find time to visit on a regular basis. It was always about 4 fish at Merrington I'd been lucky enough to have one of them already the 37lb mirror previously featured but Merrington was home to at the time 3 40lb fish one of which a common and that's the one I really wanted.

My first session came about early February. Still confined to day sessions it was short and sweet and not a lot happened. I saw a few fish show out to the middle but that was it. April saw me back again for a 72 hour session although the weather was what we would say bang on conditions again not a lot happened, a few fish came out, but unfortunately, I was

just not on fish.

I needed to get there earlier Merrington at the time ran on first come first pick and arriving at 8am I found myself sat behind car after car each time.

Mid May my third session I was at that gate early as I could be, it's around an hour and a half from my front door to the lake so it was an early start but one which proved to be key. This time I wasn't alone, a good friend had decided he was going to make the journey and put in the effort with me for the rest of the season.

Being there first saw me finally getting a swim on the wind fish



were showing and 1 or 2 had been out the peg previously. I felt so confident.

This session was all about 1 rod I had opted for peg 8 which is at the far end of the lake, the very last peg but a strong warm wind was pushing into a tree lined bank it just looked so good. I was walking around and using a Bait scoop feeding the house pellet coated in a very thick bloodworm glug, a few chopped worms a handful of chopped CC Moores pacific tuna boilie rock salt CC Moores freshwater snail and a tin of giant water snail. Now I was only putting around to bait scoops in a time about 2 foot from were an overhang met some rushes in about 3 foot of water. I was using the Korda Tubing Heli set up 3 oz flat pear lead in matt black and a loop and boom rig made from Korda boom and the pre tied loops.

This session turned out to be a nightmare it was 30 degrees now still a little breeze trickling in but so hot and with zigs being banned on the water most of the time

you felt like it was just a camping session apart from when darkness fell... maybe just maybe a bite may come.

On the second afternoon mid-day 30 degrees that 1 rod down the treeline was away. In disbelief I looked at it for what must have been a good 5 seconds before I snapped out of it, I was fishing a semi tight clutch but this was peeling line for fun. I knew straight away it was a heavy fish it didn't



do a lot in all honesty but it was just a dead weight. Tom landed her first time of asking and that's when it hit home, we both just found

ourselves looking at it. *That's*

*massive* I said. Tom laughed "It's huge!" After getting everything ready we got the fish out and put her on the scales 40lb 8oz it went around to. I couldn't believe it.

I set about on this venture nearly 3 years ago and only managed to actually fish 5 nights and 1 day. I managed 2 of the biggest fish in

there in that time.

A great deal of luck for sure but all the same effort has just as much to play my first fish had come in the middle of winter this fish the hottest day of the year from the bottom it just goes to show they are catchable if you are willing.

Anyway, Tom got some great pics of her 2 of the 4 I wanted I now had I was feeling really confident for our next trip.

Speaking of which came only 4 weeks later the start of July again it



was steaming hot normally with a lake you can only bottom fish high 20 degrees ide of cancelled but going of the back of my last session

I was at an all-time high in confidence. This trip saw me move 3 times in baking hot weather each time slowly getting closer to where I needed to be waiting for anglers to leave and being really active making the move before anyone noticed the pegs closer to the fish were coming free. On my 3rd day of 5

I managed to jump into peg 15 opposite end of the lake to wear I landed the 40lb common but the only peg my side of the lake in a shallow bay surrounded by rushes 2 small islands splitting my side from the other guys side and it's one of the only places abit of weed grows in the hole lake again it was all about 1 rod it's not a big swim and the hole lake was pressured I just thought I had a better chance with the 1 rod tight to the margin leaving the hole swim free of line. I was wading in





to get a good angle down the rush line to a small overhanging bush fishing a few feet out from it, the baiting approach was exactly the same as the trip previously, and so was my rig choice. This trip saw me land 2 really nice mid 20 mirrors again in really high temperatures when a lot of people were packing up and leaving proving if you just keep at it eventually something will present itself, I had a few more trips to Merrington seeing me land fish to mid-20s. It is now well into winter and I'll be honest I haven't been out much at all but I have a few sessions booked before my winter ticket ends which will probably be the last I see of Merrington. Although my time on there is coming to an end as there are many other places, I would like to venture to i would recommend the fishery to anyone go and give it ago you won't be disappointed.

Once again thanks for reading and I'll hopefully see you soon with another story to tell.

Jason

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# Reviews

*Featuring -*

UpAvon Fly fishing - Anthony Wood

Does food on the bank have to be Gourmet -  
Anthony Wood

# UpAvon Flyfishing for Carp Fishing?



By Anthony Wood

Why on earth am I mentioning a fly-fishing company and carp fishing in the same sentence? Well apart from the fact that fly fishing for carp is highly addictive and great fun (if you haven't tried it, give it a go, although you don't want to be catching your usual 30-40lb target carp on a fly rod!!) UpAvon Flyfishing have come up with a fantastic product that crosses over to carp fishing very nicely.

I came across UpAvon a couple of years back now when I was looking for various fly making materials. Browsing through their website I came across the "Gunville Foam Cutter" which immediately got my brain thinking as I love to make my own floats, rigs, bait, etc as part of my fishing experience.

If you have ever zig fished before then you will know exactly why this Gunville Foam Cutter (which is made in Britain so you are buying good old fashioned British quality workmanship and tool grade stainless steel) caught my eye.

Zig fishing for those of you who haven't tried it, is an artificial buoyant bait fished on either a fixed length of hair (I've seen people use up to 18ft) or much easier is the adjustable hair rig which is a 2ft-3ft hair rig with an



inline underwater float directly under the swivel of the hair and then a weight to get the mainline down to the lake bed. You then let out or reel in line to adjust the zig to the depth that you want to fish at.

The Gunville Foam Cutter is a tool that fits into a drill and allows you to cut out foam tubes of varying sizes from blocks of high density closed cell foam. UpAvon also sell 10 different coloured foam blocks so you have a great selection from which to make your zig foam baits. Each block will allow you to make easily 100 zig foam baits and cost £2.99 each which is ridiculously cheap considering how much the little zig kits cost you to buy with the carp tax on them.

If you like using the little zig bait holders that you can get in some of the packages then you are in luck, the Gunville Foam Cutters come as a pack of 6 in sizes 2.8, 3.5, 5.0, 6.0, 7.0 and 9.0mm and have a cutting depth of up to 45mm so you will find a cutter size that will fit the zig bait holder of your choice.

You can purchase the cutters from <https://www.upavonflyfishing.co.uk/collections/foam-cutters/products/upavon-gunville-foam-cutters>

Follow them on their social accounts at <https://www.facebook.com/Upavonflyfishing> and [www.instagram.com/upavon\\_flyfishing](http://www.instagram.com/upavon_flyfishing)

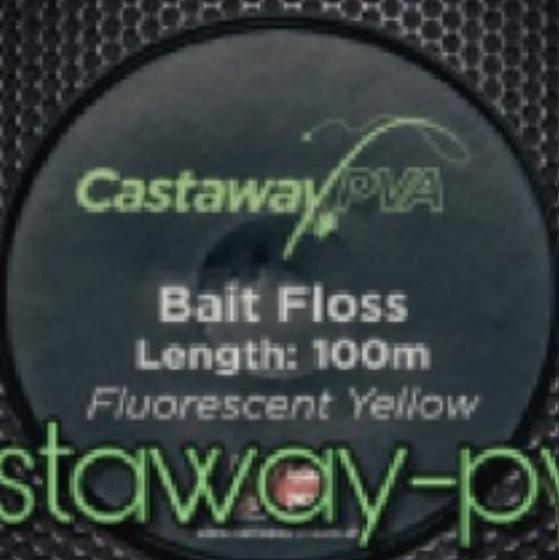


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# Does food on the bank have to be gourmet?



By Anthony  
Wood

I have been fishing since I was 9 years old, I'm now 47 and apart from a brief break in the mid 90's when partying and alcohol took my attention I have pretty much fished regularly since then.

I have seen trends come and go and then come back into fashion again, the rigs also get a recycling although quite often with a different name. However, something that has always been lurking in the background is gourmet food.

You will regularly see anglers with sausages sizzling away in their frying pans or even heaven forbid a pot noodle sandwich!! There were always those though that would quietly in the background cook themselves a delicious three course meal that would be equally at home in a restaurant.

With modern times and the abundant cooking utensils available from companies such as RidgeMonkey, more and more people are creating delicious meals on the bank. However, what about those times you don't want to carry a lot of food or if you are doing a drive and survive? I thought I'd have a look at some of the survival/prepper foods that are available out there.



When I started, I was looking at the various army rations that are available around the world and that you can readily find in surplus shops, online, etc and I have to say they were for the most part absolutely vile, although there were a few exceptions it was definitely not the way to look.

I then found a company called “ReadyWise” in America and they were getting roughly 50/50 mixes on their reviews which for a “prepper” style food was actually a good sign. I found that they are also available in the UK via Amazon (<https://www.amazon.co.uk/wise>).

I soon had one of their prepper buckets on the way, at £139.99 it wasn't cheap but that worked out at £2.33 per portion which isn't too bad plus you end up with a pretty sturdy bucket at the end as well.

The meals themselves are extremely easy to cook. Simply boil 1 cup of water (250ml) per portion (there are 4 portions in a packet and 15 packets in the bucket), empty the contents of the packet out into a suitable container (the Wild Camping International 3 piece mess tin holds exactly 4 portions) depending on how many portions you want, pour the water over the contents, give a good stir, place the lid on and wait for 12-15 minutes.



Once cooked they are actually really nice and yes in a SHTF situation the portion sizes are probably right, personally however, I would say there is more like two portions per packet in a normal situation which would make each meal £4.66 (still cheaper than a lot of the dehydrated meals out there which are between £6-£8 each). The big advantage though, especially if you are going on a drive and survive or a weeks fishing is that it doesn't take up anywhere near the space that normal fresh food would.

You don't need to worry about if the weather is too hot or too cold or storing the food in a fridge, freezer, etc, you can simply keep the packets in the bucket (safe from mice, etc) and just take one out as and when you need it. There is also a great selection of meals in there as well which means you won't get bored of eating the same old food, you can choose from soups and pastas through to baked potato casserole and savoury stroganoff.

With a shelf life of up to 25 years you also don't have to worry if you don't use all of the packets on your trip as you will be able to save them for the next trip or for a quick and easy meal on a short session.

These are really good meals and very tasty, definitely the best I have tried so far. You can follow them on their social pages at [www.facebook.com/ReadyWiseUK](https://www.facebook.com/ReadyWiseUK) and [www.instagram.com/readywiseuk](https://www.instagram.com/readywiseuk).





**CARBON BAIT**

[WWW.CARBONBAITS.CO.UK](http://WWW.CARBONBAITS.CO.UK)



# Catch Reports

*Featuring -*

D.T. Baits  
Deception Angling  
Castaway PVA  
Vader Baits

Plus all of your catches !!!

# Ethan Goddard



**8 year old carp angler Ethan Goddard from Bilston with his new PB common. Caught using Mainline Baits 12mm white milky toffee Hi-viz pop up on a spinner rig. Ethan was fishing singles to the far bank after carefully watching for signs of fish activity. Well dne Ethan !!!!**

# Deception

Angling



Deception  
Angling



Deception  
Angling



Deception  
Angling

## Reece Bestwick

Reece with some of the 6 fish haul caught using Deception angling's range of tackle.

# Deception Angling



## Charlie Clifford

Charlie's first fish of 2022 Caught using solid bags and a Nutrabaits Trigga Ice corkie wafter and Deception angling products



## Danny Arnold

Danny with a stunning 27.2 common caught on a Ronnie rig using a TWG size 4 along with tungste anti tangle sleeve

**Castaway PVA**

**Castaway PVA**



## Adam Honeysett

**Adam with a couple of fish from 4 caught during a recent session. caught using Castaway PVA mesh and tape**



**Castaway PVA**

**Castaway PVA**



## Scott Grant

Scott with yet another 40lb fish in the shape of 'The Pretty One' at 41.12. Caught on new years eve using A2 baits creamy toffee and Castaway PVA mesh system



## Sophie Williams

Sophie the carp catching kid has been at it again. This beauty was caught from a river using 25mm mesh sticks and a spinner rig.



## Ant Bahnik

Ant Bahnik with yet another impressive and stunning capture. Cold Water Green Beast was too much to resist for this 28lbs lump.

## Chris Turner

Chris Turner With a December 22lb common. Our silt buster pop ups and Cold Water Green Beast proved to be tempting for Chris's latest victim.





## Harry Roe

DT customer Harry Roe managed 9 carp up to 19lbs over two short day sessions on his local syndicate. All fish fell to Cold Water Green Beast in solids bags injected with matching DNA.



## Terry Canham

Terry Canham managed this lovely 32lbs 6oz mirror along with another mirror of 27lbs 8oz in a recent session on Linear fisheries. Terry utilised a solid bag presentation made up of Cold Water Green Beast pellet and a Cult Classic banana pop up



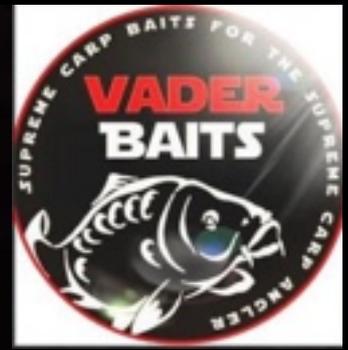
**1 SIZE 4 CURVE HOOK,  
1 PIECE OF 25LB AQUASKIN HOOKLINK  
3 PB COMMONS: 45lb 8oz, 46lb 2oz, 50lb 2oz**



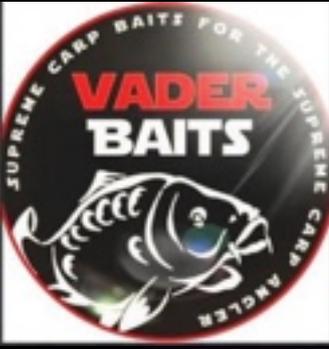
**JUST AS SHARP  
JUST AS STRONG  
JUST AS RELIABLE  
JUST BETTER VALUE**



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



Team member Andrew took to the bank with Matt over at Walton. They picked their swims and set up. There was no signs of fish at all Saturday the wind had eased a bit but it was still cold with no fish showing. After a recast and a move to a long cast into the still water about 50-55 yards out he had a few beeps on the middle rod but decided not to pull it in...after watching it the line starting to peel off he struck into this lovely little mirror carp of 9lb 14oz



Team member Nathan was on the Vader Baits social at the weekend at Creedy lakes. His first fish came on Friday night at 11pm in the shape of a 12lb 8oz common from his island spot! The fish was tempted by a Grafter snowman setup, a 14mm Grafter boilie topped with a 12mm Fluro pink Grafter pop up teamed with a solid pva bag of Grafter boilie chops and crumb, grafter micro and 6mm pellet and Grafter glug. The next fish to grace the bank came over 24hrs later at 1am on Sunday morning in the shape of a 18lb common caught on a single 18mm Le nutz boilie teamed up with a solid pva bag of Le nutz boilie chops and crumb, Grafter micro and 6mm pellet and Le nutz glug . Just as day light came seen Nathan's next fish again a common carp weighting in at 21lb 8oz caught on a Le nutz snowman setup a 14mm Le nutz boilie topped with a yellow Le Nutz pop up teamed with a solid pva bag on Le Nutz boilie chops and crumb and Grafter micro pellet and 6mm pellet with Le Nutz glug!!!



Team member Phil took to the bank at Millhayes Lakes down in Devon. He managed to bank 4 beautiful carp with weights of 27lb 12oz, 24lb, 24lb 8oz and 26lb. They were all tempted by Grafter wafers in solid bags of SaTaN micro pellet over a bed of Grafter and Le Nutz boilie.

## 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.

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*



43.4

*rp Fishery*

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# Thankyou for Reading

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

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YOU !!!!!!!**

*'The Talking Carp Team'*

Brian Dixon  
Mark Faulkner  
Dave Harnick Snr  
Mark Galli

OUT  
NOW



# THE LINK UP!

Since we devised 'The Link' concept, countless prototypes have enabled us to 'lock-on' to what REALLY makes this fishmeal bait tick. In its final formula as an active, dedicated boilie, **The Link™** has now proven itself on the World's most demanding venues to the World's most demanding anglers and will be ready to prove itself as what your fishing has been missing. Imminently. **Isn't it time you linked-up with Mainline?**

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The Link™ Fropper Boilies are supported by a full range of complementary Pop-Ups, Wafers, Groundbait, Pastes and, of course, the essential Environment System.