

A man with a beard, wearing a black beanie with 'CHINSON' and a green jacket, is holding a large, golden-brown carp. He is standing outdoors near a body of water with hills in the background. The magazine title 'Talking Carp Magazine' is in the top left, and 'Issue 77 July 2022' is in the top right.

Talking Carp

Magazine

Issue 77
July 2022

Steve Briggs

Exclusive interview inside-

Also - Julian Cundiff, Dave Locke, Scott Grant,
Junior carp hunters catch reports and much more



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Good day...and welcome to issue 77

And what a glorious month it is... the carp have finally finished spawning and will finally be ready to be fished for again... or so it seems.

Is it just us or does this time of the year seem particularly tricky? You would think they would all be hungry and looking for food right now... I mean, we all like a sandwich afterwards don't we? But no.... they seem to go pretty quiet right now, and even show up in areas of the lake they don't normally inhabit. Why are they there? What are they looking for? Is there a food source at that place they're needing right now? All good questions that keep us anglers on our toes... Have their feeding habits changed after spawning? yes they do? Do they require extra minerals? Vitamins? Amino acids?

The answer is in there.... you just need to find it. Anyway, we hope you enjoy this great issue we bring you, and keep those articles, reviews and catch reports coming in... we love seeing them and we will print them for you.

Talking Carp... the magazine written by the angler, for the angler.

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Team Talking Carp

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**with all of
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*Steve Briggs -
Cassien Back Then -*



Interview by Mark Carper

Being involved with Talking Carp has given me access to plenty of great Carp Anglers and the chance to ask them about the fishing world they are in. All of them tell me about the adventures they've had and the Carp they have caught, and we all see the amazing videos and Social Media posts of places that the majority of us can only dream of fishing...or have join a crazy long waiting list to the tune of ££££'s...!!!

Although I can relate to the 'Catching Carp' bit (maybe not on the scale of some of those I've interviewed), the venues are a mystery but my latest interviewee, triggered all manner of memories, from the discovery of the water, the Journey and the getting lost in Paris..! and feelings of fishing such an expanse of water... for me, Lac de Saint-Cassien holds some very special memories and it was my first ever French carp trip, so to get the opportunity to speak with Mr. Steve Briggs, was not only a huge honour, it was also a massive buzz for me to hear him regale the stories about his many, many trips to this great French 'Mecca' of Carp Fishing.....

...I wanted to find out how it all started for Steve and what it was like from his perspective way back in the early 80's (the same time as I started to fish it..!) and how that compares to his trips now....

TC: Mr Briggs welcome to Talking Carp Magazine.....!

SB: Hi Mark and thanks very much for having me - I'm looking forward to this!!

TC: Me too, I have a thousand questions for you, but I guess I should start by asking the obvious, what started you on your carp angling journey some forty years plus ago and how and when did you become associated with Nash Tackle.....?

SB: I caught my first carp in March 1973 from Brooklands Lake in Kent. I'd been fishing from a very

young age with my father, uncles and cousins who were all anglers but all very much old school type anglers, who fished for all species both coarse and sea but with no real interest in carp as such. Being brought up in the Darent Valley it was the centre of the carp fishing world back then and I couldn't help but be inspired by what was going on around me and by 1971 it was my ambition to catch a carp!

It took a long time really for a young guy especially when I was up against some of the best anglers of the time but the 16lb 4oz mirror on that cold March morning set me on my way and I've not stopped since!

There's a big jump to teaming up with Nash but when I met Joan at Farlows Lake back in 1990 Nash used to help run the tackle shop there and so the association started there to some extent and I used some of the range, which as you can imagine was quite small back then - just things like Sacks and Weigh Slings. I did use some of the early baits too and caught my first actual fifty from France on some Scopex ready-mades that had been sent up by Gary Bayes. But in terms of it being more permanent in the Nash set up, I became part of the team properly around twelve years ago now and have not looked back.

TC: So is Carp Angling your job or is it a hobby, or is it all one now.....?



first time at Cassien

SB: Carp Angling is my job but it's also my passion in life and combining the two has worked well. I wouldn't say it's all 'one' as when I'm fishing, I'm fishing and that's that, I've never been someone who can sit in the bivvy typing away on a laptop while the rods are out as I just want to watch the water, but I enjoy the associated work such as putting together video blogs and taking part in interviews like this as well as helping improve and promote the Nash brand.

Kevin, Alan and all the team are great guys and a pleasure to work with. Lots of people say how lucky I am to be doing what I do, and I do feel fortunate but really, it's nothing to do with luck, it's taken lots of hard work, dedication and sacrifice in other parts of my life to have the life that I do now so I never take it for granted.



TC: Obviously, I cannot speak to you and not mention Joan. How long has Joan been carp angling and has she always fished with you and, who is the better angler.....? HaHa

SB: Joan has always fished, long before we met, and she has caught carp from back in the 1970's too - she always tells me about catching one on a piece of Peach I think from Rodney Meadow!

first Cassien carp first day at the lake

One of the first things she asked me was if I'd take her to Cassien and for most of the time since then

*second trip 1987 and I made my own
large hard hook baits*



we have fished together and we both love being out there as much as each other. Joan has a very good angling brain and often spots things that I miss and although she doesn't actually fish as much as me, if you consider rod hours then she's probably better than me!

I can sit behind motionless rods for a week, leave the swim for an hour and when I come back she's got one - that's happened more times than I care to remember! Her favourite carp is a 12lb mirror that she caught on the first or second time that she was ever at Cassien - although she has gone on to catch them over 60lb of course. She's just not like most other women and the winter of 2000 is the perfect example of that....

....We were at Cassien and she fell down some rocks and broke her leg. Her first reaction was that we weren't going home or to the hospital, so we just bandaged her leg up and we stayed there for another two weeks - she even caught a 41lb 12oz mirror while I was away at the shops (as usual) and landed it herself. So that sort of tells you what Joan is all about - she's made of granite!

TC: Wow, that's incredible, what a great angler and 'tough' lady... That story puts me to shame considering I won't fish without a Groundsheet, let alone having a major injury..!!



previously unused pic of photographing my first Cassien 60 in May 1987

Lac de Saint-Cassien, when did you first visit this incredible water and how did that first trip come about....?

SB: The first mention I saw of Cassien was in September 1984 when Paul Regent was pictured on the front of the old CAA magazine

with a Cassien carp he'd caught one afternoon with Kevin Maddocks. I was interested but also a bit sceptical of the claims of several 50's being in the lake as I'd never really known carp of those sizes before. Also, the big stumbling block was that I couldn't drive back then so it just wasn't possible for me to get myself there at that time. There were trips organised by Regent and Maddocks that involved coach trips to the lake, but I didn't fancy doing that, especially after the first trip was a blank for everyone.

In 1986 though, it all changed for me...! I'd been looking in awe at the catches made by Rod Hutchinson and Ritchie MacDonald but the one that



Joan with her first and favourite Cassien carp

blew me away was when Kevin Ellis caught that huge 76lb Mirror! I knew then that I had to be part of that, I wanted to go and experience Cassien for myself and the great thing was that in the early summer I actually passed my driving test and got my first car, an old Mk3 Cortina in yellow!

In September of 1986 I embarked on my first trip outside of the UK and that was of course to Cassien!

TC: How did you prepare for that trip, what gear did you take and how long did it take to get there...?

SB: I suppose there wasn't much in the way of preparation really, this was something totally new to me and most people really, so I didn't have too much of an idea what I was going to be faced with. Plus, I didn't have much money back then so I could only use what I had tackle-wise and believe it or not my rods back then were 11ft 1.75lb home-made Sportex rods but they had served me well up to that point! I took 1.5oz and 2oz lead weights as 2oz was the biggest I'd used up to that point. I had my usual soft boilies that got annihilated by the crayfish and the incredible snags back then meant that I lost end tackle almost every time I reeled in.

Thankfully I'd taken a sack of peanuts with me and they ended up



6 Joan with a broken leg and a Cassien 40!



the water level can change very quickly!

on the hair and getting takes. Back in those days Pierre's Restaurant was basically a small fishing shop as well and I was able to get some larger leads and bits and pieces in there. I loved Pierre's back then it was much more angler based with pictures all over the walls of huge fish that

had been captured, nothing like the tourist-based restaurant that it is today.

The journey there was a story in itself! It took around three days to get there, I missed the turning for Lyon and ended up in the centre of Paris and driving around the Avenue des Champs-Élysées...

....I was so confused and ended up being pulled over by the Police for driving through several red lights that I hadn't even seen! Fortunately, they took pity on me and guided me to the right roads to get me on my way.

You have to remember that the longest drive I'd done before that was about 2



summer success in the north arm

miles down the road to Darent Lakes and in 1986, there were no Sat-Navs, Social Media or Internet searches and no Channel Tunnel either - and we didn't even have Mobile Phones, just a map with a bit of blue that was a long way away!

It really was a step in to the unknown, but I had the drive and enthusiasm to do it and that was enough. People take trips to France for granted now but back then this was the beginning of all that and it was new to us all and a huge adventure.

TC: How does that all compare with what you do today...?

SB: Now of course I have stronger rods and lines, bigger leads and a whole lot more knowledge of how to go about things. The snags were definitely worse back then though and I think many of the old tree



the poly balls on the line helped to land more fish

stumps have just disintegrated over time but when I started using Poly-Balls on the line my catch rate went up too and they helped as much as anything else on there, but of course better boats and echo sounders too.

For the first few years I never owned an echo sounder and just relied on counting the lead down - it's amazing I caught anything really!

Perhaps a lot of the mystery has gone, all the points and swims are named and that first swim that I fished up the North Arm seemingly miles away from civilisation is now just 'the Third Point'.

I can now set off from home in the morning and be there in the evening, Calais to Cassien is around ten and half to eleven hours on a good run and compared to many places I drive to these days it's actually one of the shorter journeys that I do!



Joan doing battle with a December north arm fish



ready for a move of swims

The fish are still difficult to catch and that is what still makes it so attractive - to me anyway. I simply never know where the fish are going to be and it's normally a case of trial and error to find fish and then with the water levels up and down constantly, the spots in

any given area change too! The Crayfish aren't there in the numbers that they were and that is probably because of the Catfish which are there in far greater numbers now and increasing year by year. The only Catfish we saw in those early days was the big one caught by Johnny Allen.

TC: In terms of the lake and the rules, what has changed over the years since that first trip and of those changes, do you think they are for the better... ?

SB: Trips away are just normal now, in fact it's what we do most of the time when we can. Of course it's much easier, the cars, roads, information, tackle, bait have all improved beyond any recognition of how it was back then



ready for a move of swims

and so a lot more people do it. We now have friends and contacts all over the world too, so we never really feel like strangers anywhere.

Cassien as a lake hasn't changed dramatically in appearance over those years, even the big fire that raged through in the early 90's couldn't really change the landscape, but it has seen literally thousands of anglers fishing every inch of the place and so there isn't anything that isn't known about it from an angling perspective.

But Cassien is a very different place nowadays because of influences outside of angling. It's become a much more tourist-oriented place and shops and buildings have sprung up in the surrounding areas. It's still an awesome place and still my favourite all-time water but it was somehow much better when it was that huge, wild, and untapped paradise that it was back then.

The rules have changed constantly over the years. To begin with there was no night fishing allowed but we did it because it was the best time to catch (often the only time) but back then there was no Garde

de Peche with boats, only Forest Rangers who could drive around the tracks in cars or on horseback but a lot of the lake was only accessible by boat and so if you were



packing up after another day session

careful you could get away with things.

It was 1994 when night fishing was allowed on the lake for the first time and that did see a big jump in the numbers of anglers on the bank who could now bivvy up and fish comfortably. For me it meant the start of the winter trips as we could now fish effectively through the winter months and they are some of our happiest memories; we actually spent 18 Christmas Days on the banks of Cassien and caught many Christmas Carp too. We used to do the whole thing properly, take our presents with us, have a Christmas tree in the swim and Joan's Christmas dinners are pretty special too!



North arm 47 at the start of a winter trip

It was 2000 when night fishing was stopped in the summertime to make the lake more available to tourists and so the writing was on the wall really. Gerard who owned Le Bois de Callian restaurant was also head of the local fishing federation and being a carp angler, he was responsible for many of the rules going in our favour and for the stockings of carp, which made it a much more prolific fishery around the early 2000's, but when he retired it was always going to be more difficult on the carp fishing front. It wasn't long after Gerard had left in 2013 when night fishing was

stopped again altogether.

Now it is strictly day fishing only and you have to leave the lake every evening until the morning - the Garde de Peche know all the tricks and have all the equipment to catch any rule breakers! There are many people who prefer it that way now and the banks are certainly quieter now than they were, but I'd take those old days back without a second thought!

TC: Have the attitudes of the anglers changed during that time ?

SB: Yes, I'd say the attitudes of anglers has changed a bit. The old original French predator anglers didn't like us being there and probably still don't. There are so many French carp anglers now that just weren't around in those early days but it is after all a French lake. I guess there are so many people from so many countries that fish Cassien that attitudes vary but now it seems to be viewed as just a lake to go and fish and catch fish from rather than this magical place to enjoy being at come what may.



Day session 44 common

I have seen a big increase in catfish anglers in more recent years and those in particular seem to show almost no respect towards anyone else, either sitting above our spots in belly boats casting lures, or in larger boats with echo sounder screens the size of tv's lowering live baits down without a care as to whether it's spoiling our fishing or not. For the vast majority of the time, we've got on really well with the other carp anglers and many of our best friends today have been ones that we've met on Cassien and kept in touch with.

TC: Do you have a favourite area of the lake, such as an Arm for example.... ?

SB: If I had to be nailed down to a favourite part of the lake it would have to be the top end of the North Arm as it's the widest, deepest and more importantly the quietest part of the whole lake and we've spent many a week plugged up in that part of the lake away from civilisation and the outside world. It really was as if the rest of the world didn't exist when we were up there.



North arm 47 at the start of a winter trip

But in truth every part of the lake has been my favourite at different times, the North Arm for sure but we had a period from around 2002 when the South Arm became our centre of attention and we had so many great trips in that part of the lake and often fished a swim we called the 'Mint Swim' because of the wild mint that grew there. It was a swim often overlooked by most people and still isn't named on the French lake maps that name every swim, but we had some fantastic sessions in there!

The West Arm had its time too with some exceptional winter trips, catching six to over 50lb one Christmas Day and of course my first 60lb carp came from the West Arm spawning bay in 1987 but as is often the case with Cassien we went back a year later after a great session and the West Arm was almost devoid of fish, I think I caught one 25lb common in ten days and it ended up with us heading back to North Arm for our last winter trip and the most successful of all just before the night fishing stopped. Now for day fishing it's very much a different swim in a different part of the lake every day so wherever I find the fish that day, that is my favourite place..!



18 Christmas Day 1997

TC: What is it that keeps you going back to Cassien ?

SB: When I first went to Cassien I really thought that I would just go once, have the experience, and move on back to my UK fishing, but once I was there it totally blew me away! The scenery, the atmosphere, the climate, the expanse of crystal-clear water and of course the fish all had a huge impact on me and to this day it's the only lake that we keep returning to. It just isn't like anywhere else and perhaps that has a lot to do with those early adventures and what they meant to me, but whenever I'm there I still get those feelings that I just don't get anywhere else and there is just a magic about Cassien that's impossible to describe but is there every time I go.

TC: We always hear carp anglers harping on about watercraft Can you give our readers an insight of just how you apply that to 1500 acres of water ... ?

SB: It's a question I get asked an awful lot – “I'm going to Cassien at such and such time, where should I start and where will the fish be?” If only I had a crystal ball!

The Cassien fish are so nomadic and they are constantly on the move and often hearing of a good result the week before is already old news that won't help you. Also, conditions on the lake are constantly changing, especially with water levels that can go up or down by six feet in a couple of days and that all influences the fish.

Personally, I prefer it when the water is high and that tends to bring the fish closer into the edge as opposed to low water which can see them settle out more over deep water. In over 30 years I've rarely found areas that are reliable in terms of finding fish, if anything they are often not where I caught them the year before. The way I've always

approached the fishing is on a trial-and-error basis, I will normally start off on what looks to be the quietest part of the lake away from other anglers and work from there.

Sometimes I catch straight away but most times I don't, and I have to try different spots and gradually eliminate areas until I track them down and although that sounds hit and miss, I've hardly blanked in all those years so you could say that it's been successful in its own way.

If I knew where the fish would be at any certain time, I'm sure it wouldn't have the same attraction that it still does and the fact that I can still have a good result from somewhere I might have never considered fishing before just keeps my interest going year after year. To be successful at Cassien you must be in tune with the lake, it's not about rigs or baits, it's about finding the right place and the right depth on the right day. It always keeps me thinking and working and it's just not like anywhere else, but to me it will always be more special than anywhere else!

TC: Steve, I could literally fire questions at you all day, but for now, I think we can leave it there. Listening to what you have said, has brought back so many memories of my trips to this amazing water but also of the stories my uncle told me about the many, many trips he did and from way back in the very early days to. Gerard became a very good friend of my uncle and I met him on a few occasions too and always remember looking forward to the amazing burgers before loading the car back up for the long haul home..!!! It has been an absolute pleasure to speak with you and hopefully, we can do it again soon...if you ever stand still in the UK for long enough... HaHaHa..!!!

Instagram: @briggsy.steve

<https://www.nashtackle.co.uk/en/>

Talking Point

A photograph of a fishing camp by a river. A green tent is on the right, and a person is sitting on the left near some bushes. Fishing rods are set up in the background.

with Julian Cundiff

TALKING POINT...

Carp Fishing over the years

with Julian Cundiff & Brian Dixon

Brian: Welcome back to issue 77 folks, and we are back for more chat with Mr Carp Angling himself, Julian Cundiff.

Over the past couple of months, we have covered a number of subjects including life outside carp fishing, and keeping a healthy balance in your life, and hopefully those articles have hit home with one or two and helping them to keep going and keep the dream alive.... So, let's get back into it, and let's chat about how some things have changed over the years, in your fishing and in carp fishing in general.

Jules. Cheers mate, I've written so many words 1988 to 2022 on catching carp that sometimes it is nice to write about other facets of carp fishing that impact on us all (health, balance, outside influences and so on). This sounds an interesting topic especially as I've seen so much development in carp fishing in almost forty years of being around it. I've seen good and I've seen bad and lots in the middle too!

Brian. Lets have a little look back and reminisce over some of the tackle and bait that seems to have come and gone, but at the time was your number one choice out of the bag... lets have a look at those combinations that went together like jelly and ice cream... or pie and peas. and let's begin with the all important tools of the trade.... The rod and reel combo! I can remember my first set of Tricast Legends, which are still in my garage today and get a run out on the Trent for barbel occasionally, and I had the original Daiwa Emblems , in gold colour, as they were available in my mums catalogue at the time making them

affordable for me... So that is one of my all-time favourite rod and reel combos... the Tricast Legends and Daiwa Emblems. Over the years, what has been your favourite combination that you have used?

J.C. I guess when I first started fishing it was solid glass rods (1976) but by 1978 I'd progressed to glass fibre rods, less heavy but pretty floppy. North Western AC2 for tench and SS5 and SS6 for pike, eels and my formative carp fishing. When I ventured to Tilery in 1987 I knew that at 27 acres I'd need to up my game. After lots of research I went with the Hutchy Horizon range of carbon fibre rods. Hand built by Dennis Gander a tournament caster the 12' 2.5 TC rods felt incredible. I matched them up with ABU Cardinal 157 reels, 9lb

Sylcast line and a 2 ounce lead. The first practice casts were at Drax, and I will never forget that first cast jumping from glass fibre to carbon fibre. I did my usual punch cast and with the glass fibre rods it would usually hit the 60 yard spot...max. The lead with the carbon fibre rod just kept on going, and going and going to probably the 90 yard mark...a 50% increase in range. That was definitely the biggest step forward rod and reels wise that I encountered. Over the years rod and reel wise I've used mainly Daiwa rods / reels being a consultant for them 1989 to 2010 and they were all great particularly the AKN and Infinity



Mid eighties and my original Hutchy Horizons and ABU reels. Note rod mat too

rods and the SS3000 and Emblem reels. My 'equal' favourite combination has to be the Scope / GS combination 2018 - 2022. I always thought it was a bit 'gimmicky' but two sessions in on the ten footers and I was sold for life. I've caught literally thousands of carp on the combination so definitely a dead heat.

T.C. Down to the business end now... and we know you have seen an awful lot of hooks, hooklinks, rigs, gimmicks and combinations of such over the years but we will save that for another time... and we bet you've tried one or two out before binning them, but from the introduction of the hair rig, there has been a steady evolution of hook quality, hooklinks have come a long way from the old mono.., so we say to you, APART from your currently favoured modern day Multirig, what stands out in your memory as being good, reliable hook and hooklink combos? I will start you off with one of mine... again from back in the day when I was around the Cheshire meres, and I seriously favoured the Nash Fang hook and the Kryston Snakebite when that came out. It was the hooklink for me that made me pack away the Amnesia, Snakeskin and Merlin braid I

always seemed to carry. And as some of my fishing back then was hit and hold, or lily pad fishing I used the Fangs as a very strong, solid hook I could hit and hold with. So, with things changing so quickly sometimes we think you've been through a few combos over the years?

J.C. As I said earlier, I go way back so my formative hooklength / hook combinations were definitely 'iffy' and would



By the early nineties my Optonics were Delkims



Chocolate Malt..what a combination

often let me down. Monofilament and small soft hooks in the weed was just a recipe for disaster. The first time I really felt confident in a combination was Tilery 1987 where I combined Masterbraid 15lb black Dacron with a Mustard 34021 hook. Looking back the hook was an animal and definitely needed sharpening properly. However, for the first time I was confident that when I hooked one the braid would not snap, nor the hook open out.....a game changer 35 years ago believe me. In time the hook was changed to a Sprite which was just as strong but sharper and then Kryston Silkworm and Merlin. We are really spoilt nowadays I can tell you.

T.C. And whilst we are down at that end.... Hookbait and baiting in general. We understand every lake is different, and even daily changes can affect how you bait?/approach that particular swim... but going back in time, does any bait, or baiting strategy really worked for you to the point it maybe even changed your angling? Tiger nuts was always a winner for me. Just on the hair though, a double tiger nut with the top one punched out and corked over a bed of pigeon conditioner, Richworth Tutti Frutti boilies smashed up and Nash Chocolate malt liquid which had been poured into a bucket with boiling water a week before. I couldn't tell you what it was they liked, or what attracted them as I never thought about it too much, but it worked, and worked well for me... so that was that until I

moved from Boundary water park and had to start all over again on other waters. Is there anything that stands out in your mind that you really favoured at the time?

J.C. Pre boilies sweetcorn was a game changer for ALL fish. Not only did it catch the tench I was targeting but also giant roach, bream and the occasional fluky carp. From there it was fish food paste but the one that did it for me boilie wise was Richworth Honey Yucatan... incredible! Whilst the public raved about Tutti Frutti, and Salmon Supreme the Honey Yucatan's were my game changers. Hookbaits were soaked in Geoff Kemp's Honey Flavour which really seemed to work too. Even then frozen was noticeably more effective than shelf life something I still believe today even with all the advances made in safe and effective preservatives / stabilisers. That was the first, but it would be remiss of me to miss these too

Strawberry Jam / Cornish Ice Cream EA, Bergamot and Milk B in Hi Nu Val. Once I'd twigged it had to be kept frozen on the bank it did me so many big fish for that time.

Enervite, Multimino, Bergamot and Sweet Cajouser. The first bait I mass baited with and dominated waters with. Literally once on it they became easy to catch. In 1990 I was hand rolling a 20KG sack a month which believe me was a lot of bait



Scopes and GS4000 reels..
Great combination

then (dry mix)

Nashbait Key. Probably my favourite bait ever. Instant caught all the biggies and never blew. What was special was that once found the carp would not leave it until it had all gone. I would heave 12mm freebies in and bag up. Their mouths would be black from grubbing on the stuff. Sadly, too expensive to be commercially viable but if I had to use one feed bait for the rest of my life this would be it.... frozen of course!

(And a big shout out to Enervite Gold, Nash Chocolate Malt, Chocolate Powder Palatant and Milk B which is up there as an all year round bait with the best of them)



Tilery Times

T.C. You were also lucky enough to be in the era where you have seen some of the best luggage being thought out and made for the angler. Luggage made for purpose, instead of just churning out more of the same. Thinking back, we had Nash revolutionising the bivvy game with the Titan, Rod Hutchinson and the innovative products he brought to the carping masses, his carp rods led the way and the Hutchy range of flavours were second to none, Gardner thinking up new and exciting products almost monthly... and starting the pod game. Solar started the stainless era, and Kryston changed hooklinks forever. Heron alarms were awful in the rain, so Optonics were converted and we saw the birth of Delkims, The list is

endless as we have seen so much develop, then further develop over the years, but what 3 items will always stick out IN YOUR MIND, as game changers for you personally?

J.C Some good calls there mate and all very valid. For me getting buzzers that worked in the late seventies was a game changer. Yes, I'd used Herons and BJ's but the original roller wheel Optonics with a sounder box were different league. Coupled with a hair rig and bivvy not only could I carp fish but I could get jiggy jiggy with girlfriends which for a 17 year old was equally important. Next one was definitely the Nash Titan which I first saw at Dunstable in the very early nineties even before it went on sale. Up until then it was a Wavelock 50" broolly for overnights and a canvas overwrap on it for weekends. The Titan was the best of both worlds and better than both of those I've just mentioned. I'd drive Kevin mad by cutting the front of for better visibility but what a shelter. Still got my original silver frame Titan in the roof too. Third for me is dead easy and very modern... the Power Barrow. Most of my fishing is 'off the barrow' and I always like to cover my REALISTIC options. Pushing a fully loaded barrow round, moving swims and so on is a pain in the ***. With the Power Barrow I can flip it upside down and put it in the back of the Kuga without breaking it down



Sweetcorn carp success
late seventies



Power Barrow time

and it (effectively) walks my gear round for me. Lift, press the button and no swim is too far away , no move too much etc. Simple

T.C. Unfortunately we have run out of time on this jog down memory lane, but we will be back again next month for more "Talking Point" with Jules. As always, we

wish you all a good month, tight lines and wobbly bobbins. And remember you can catch Jules himself on social media on his pages if you have anything you need help with... so, from us it is cheerio and we will hand you over to Jules for his farewell and his social media links.

J.C Enjoyed that mate but feeling my age !All the best everyone, happy fishing.

Jules

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Diaries of an average carper



**by Dave Locke
aka Dave Carper**

A good few years ago there was a small club formed on a little lake in the grounds of a large house. There wasn't anything huge in the water but it was a friendly club, made up of a mixture of float and Carp anglers. Then about 20 years ago the owner of the house decided to sell the place and the new owners didn't want an angling club in their grounds. The problem was the club had brought all the stock and the new house owner didn't want to pay the club for the fish. Luckily, after much searching around a 3 acre lake that a farmer had dug out as an irrigation pond was made available, so the fish were netted out of the house pond and restocked into the farmers lake.

All went reasonably well for a few years, although the fish didn't put on any weight and the carp were starving. It wasn't unusual for a moderate angler to get ten or twenty carp in a day up to about 15lb. The fishery manager decided to retire because of bad health and a new fishery manager took over. He started buying feed pellets and regularly fed the carp, they quickly started putting on weight. A lot more carp anglers joined the club so a lot more bait was going into the water and before long there was quite a few twenties in the there.

Unfortunately, the new manager turned out to be a bit of an unpopular chap especially with the farmer that owned the lake. After a heated argument the farmer decided the club could no longer lease the lake and said it would be closed to



all anglers. Step forward a hero that saved the day. A long standing member managed to talk the farmer around and although the price of membership had to be increased,

the lake was secured for the future. Now after proper management and a lot more "Carpers" there are three thirties and a large head of twenties in the lake, and it's a much more pleasant place to fish.

That's the basic history of the place so now I can tell you about my exploits on there. I first went there as a guest in April 2017 and blanked. The second time it was much warmer with a nice breeze blowing into my swim and I caught 3, including a nice 22lb common. Third time just one an 18lb common, but it turned out to be a good day because I was invited to join straight away, so I obviously snatched the chance up.

I was thoroughly enjoying my time on the water and

catching well, which always helps the enjoyment. A few more twenty pound commons graced my net, then mid may whilst the bailiff was having a chat my rod burst into life and I caught what was to become an old friend, the biggest mirror at 24lb 12oz. I went on to catch this fish five times in three years and it only came out seven times, it must really like me.

Winter was very hard on this water, I had eleven blank days in a row, not a sniff from the middle of October until the last day of December when I caught a 16lb common. A couple more blanks followed and then in mid-January I started catching regularly again. That brings us right up to when the country went into lockdown with the dreaded covid lark. During lockdown I learnt that mates of the bailiff had still been fishing the lake and there were a few other problems concerning this bailiff, so I dropped out of the club. Annoying really because I loved the place but I just want to go fishing and not get involved in



a load of political nonsense.

I spent a couple of months going to local day ticket waters without much success and went as a guest on a club water which resulted in a few mid doubles. Then I learnt the troublesome bailiff and all of his mates had been thrown out of my old club. I went back there as a guest and was invited to re-join. I thought about it for a tenth of a second and took up the offer. The difference a year can make to a fishery amazed me, Two large weed beds that run down one side of the island had disappeared and every angler fishing there was a 'carper', it was more like a syndicate than a club. Of course with a lot more 'Carpers' there was a lot more bait going in the lake, so the carp had grown. There was now three 30's in there and a large head of twenties, but with a lot more pressure and a lot more choice of bait for the carp it was a lot harder to catch them now.



May 23rd I managed a 16lb, two days later I had three including a cracking 25lb 4oz common. Great I thought I've sussed it out now. Then I got shot down in

flames with 3 blank days in a row.

June 13th I thought I would try something different, so I used halibut pellets that had been soaking in tuna oil from the tins for over a week. First cast - 22lb common on my right hand rod. Second cast same rod - 16lb 8oz common, then nothing until just after midday when same rod was off again with a 17lb koi. Next two trips produced just one each time and the pellets proved to be a waste of time. They lasted about 10 to 15 minutes so I was bringing in rigs baitless.

June 22nd another not bad day. Three mid doubles from close to the island all on one rod again, second rod never even beeped. Another couple of blanks brings me right up to date. I hope July is going to be a good month but it's called angling not catching so we'll have to wait and see..

Incidentally splice-able hooklengths from PB products are a very useful bit of kit if you like to play about with rigs, get it from GCT tackle and don't forget to order one of the splicing jobbys as well...

good luck and most importantly enjoy yourselves,,,,
Gandalf.





IN THE MARGIN PARTICLES

Taking particle preparation
to a whole new level!!



**Achieving
Personal
Targets,**



**A year to Remember
by Scott Geezer Grant**

At the start of 2021 like most of us my mental health started to suffer, Covid was everywhere and getting everyone down. I was just getting over a double hernia operation and I needed to focus on something. I set myself a target which I never do at the start of the year, yes, there will be certain fish I want to catch but this was something long term.

My target was to catch a 40lb carp in each season something I had never done and something that would keep me focused all year. I was flitting between both my syndicate lakes, The Dell and the mighty Bayeswater. I fish both lakes completely different which in itself



is a challenge, but if it produces the goods it's obviously working. Bait wise for me never really changes even in March/April when the fish are up for a zig I will always have a rod on the deck fished over a bed of bait. For me it feels like I'm fishing properly and not just casting a bit of foam out. But horses for courses as they say.

At the start of the year, I was fishing the Dell, there are so many scaley fish in there that I want to catch, but there was a couple that stood out and one fish in particular called "The Big Stockie" the fish was just frame and scale perfect for me and was now at the top of my list.





The Dell didn't start fishing until mid-march and I was managing to catch on every session. I was still searching for a fish known as "Charlies Mate" which is over the magical 50lb mark but has managed to elude me for a while now.

The session that bared the fruits of my labour was in May. I turned up and had a walk round, then sat in the bailiff's swim

The session that bared the fruits of my labour was in May. I turned up and had a walk round, then sat in the bailiff's swim for an hour as it gives me a good view of the whole lake. As I sat there, I saw a couple

of fish show just off the aerator out in front, so this was going to be my starting point and see what happens from here. With the house up and the rods on the dance floor it was time to chill. Later in the night I had trouble sleeping and was sat there looking out the bivvy at 0100 in the morning drinking tea. This was the session when a rat got caught up in the landing net which then got all caught up under my rods!!

After I managed to sort everything out the rat done the off and I was left mighty naffed off. I managed to get a couple of hours sleep then got the first take which after an epic battle turned out to be "Abigail" at



26lb 12oz, just as I got the rod back out one of my other rods was away which resulted in a unit of a mirror, with the fish secured I summoned Ben & Jake who came round and helped me out, I lifted the fish out in the net and placed it in the cradle, and as I pulled the net back I knew instantly it was "The Big Stockie" and what a fish it is all 43lb 14oz of her. Ben took pukka photos as always then she was treated and returned.

First 40lber achieved in Spring, only got the Summer, Autumn and Winter to go.

I didn't fish Bayeswater until late July, it was also the month I joined

the team at A2 baits, and I started off on a flyer catching "The Jaguar" a fish I hadn't even seen before, let alone caught. My session just went from strength to strength the more bait I was putting in the more I was catching it was text book stuff. I fished a session at the end of August which again was another fruitful session I managed two stockies up to 27lb 4oz and at the last throw of the dice the morning I was packing up the right-hand rod produced a perfectly proportioned common in the shape of "Baby Coconut" at a weight of 40lb 6oz and the first time this fish has gone over 40lb. The Monster Tuna was really doing the business and the fish love it which is the most



important thing.

Forty number two had been achieved, That's Spring and Summer done just Autumn and Winter to go.

It was a session in November when another magical moment occurred. I arrived at The Dell and went into airfield one, a swim I had caught from previously and knew it well. I was only fishing 48hrs as I had to dive my mate's lake Creedence to remove snags. It was on my last morning as I started to pack away the right-hand rod was away, and after a boat battle a unit of a mirror

was engulfed in the net. It turned out to be a fish known as "Buster" and went 41lb exactly. I used a different bait this time, I decided to go with the Banoffee a completely different bait that again produced the goods.

Forty number three achieved, now it's only the Winter to go which is by far the hardest one.

I fished another session on the Dell in December which produced another 40lber for me a fish known as "Cluster" at 40lb 5oz and again I used a different bait this time it was the Creamy Toffee. Any angler



really was pants. I was still using the Creamy Toffee hoping it would produce the goods again. A day before I was due to go home the

will tell you that confidence in your bait is key, and for me it doesn't matter what bait I use from A2 it produces the goods which speaks volumes. Like all my fish they get posted up on social media, and a few comments were its not a Winter 40lber as Winter doesn't start until the 21st December, was fair enough, my reply was "I will have to go and catch another one".

This was forty number four for me but a true Winter 40 was still on the cards and in my sights.

My final session of the year was over the Dell, I arrived before first light on Boxing Day and fished hard putting the effort in when the weather was cold, wet, windy it

weather brighten up and on my last morning which was New Year's Eve, I banked a 16lb 8oz stocky, and no sooner was the rod back out when the middle rod was away, another epic boat battle commenced producing another of the A Team a fish known as "The Pretty One" at a weight of 41lb 12oz and a true Winter 40lber.

As you can imagine when I posted the fish up on social media I had a big grin on my face, I love a challenge and this one had been a blast. It kept me focused and hungry which helped me through.

Target achieved a lot of hard work and effort has gone into what I love doing and that is catching



is readily available in your local stockist, or visit the A2 baits website for the full bait range. www.a2baits.co.uk For the sharpest, strongest hooks that don't cost a fortune, plus an array of end tackle have a look at www.sharptackle.co.uk

fish. Massive thanks to A2 baits for absolute quality bait, also thanks to Matt Bowers of In the Margin Particles for quality particles. Massive thanks to Sharp Tackle for supplying quality end tackle and most importantly superb hooks that are just so sharp and have never let me down. Also massive thanks to the best most consistent PVA on the market from Castaway PVA, and lastly Talking Carp for letting me share my stories.

www.a2baits.co.uk

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

Stay safe and remember its only fishing.

Scott "Geezer" Grant

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We all like a 69, right?

By James McQueen



Don't worry

you're not about to read a sexual help or fetish piece, I promise all will become clear.

I start this piece around the 16th April 2022, and I'm on my way to France to fish the lovely Island Lake with a group of mates. This is the first of two trips within a 4 week period at this venue. We have an exclusive week ahead of us, and the promise of some laughs, beer and hopefully some large Carp. As with any trip to Europe the preparation starts well before you leave, and this was no exception. I was also planning on doing my first VLOG for the Monster Particle Youtube channel, so it was a case of sourcing some video equipment and planning out how I was going to do it having never done any video work before, but

more of that a bit later on.

The venue for this piece is Island Lake, France. It's a mature 20 acre lake with fish to upper 70's and situated about 3.5 hours from Calais. The lake has a good head of fish, but this is not a runs water. Each swim has a hut containing electric, with a fridge and freezer for your storage of bait and food.

We arrived at the lake and we were greeted by the lovely Mick Croson and his wife Debs. Having known them for a few years now, we were left to wonder

the lake and all have a chat about where we wanted to fish. As it was an exclusive week, we don't do a draw and we all agree on our swims of choice. I was fishing with my mate Paul, and we were the only "pair" so we were given first choice. I had seen some fish in a small bay to the left of swim 6 and having spoken to Mick, he'd confirmed that no one had fished these swims for at



least a couple of weeks. The swim was also a newly formed double swim, to allow anglers the same amount of water, across the whole lake. I chose to fish the left hand side, fishing the small bay where I had seen fish and also having access to some open water, which is always my go to. To elaborate on this, I would rather fish a far margin rather than my own, and I'd rather cast 30 wraps instead of 8, it's just how I am, and I try to fish to those strengths. Paul fished the right hand side which commanded a large bay which looked so Carpy.

Due to the fact that I had seen fish in my bay, I wanted to try and be as stealthy as possible in getting a couple of rods out quickly, to try and get an early bite. I didn't want to lead about so I decid-

ed to get in the boat and drift across the bay on the wind using a bare lead on braid to find a clear spot and an aqua scope where the water clarity and depth allowed. It didn't take too long and I still think this was the best way to spot find to ensure I was fishing effectively. I deployed a critically balanced tiger nut which had been prepared by my mate Dan, but by the time I had set everything up, the rod was still motionless. It was time to get out in the boat with the electric motor on and find some areas to fish for the first night. The water was so clear

in places that I could easily see the bottom with my Fortis switch wraps on, but in other places the water was so cloudy it was back to the lead "donking". I found varying depths ranging from 7-13 foot so I decided to spread my rods out and see what happened. I had also decided to fish with 2 different types of bait rather than just the one, so I used a mixture of essential



baits B5 and K5 mixed together in both 16 and 12mm that I had washed out in the lake water as soon as I arrived. That first night for me passed without any takes, but Paul managed to land two fish, a 30 and a low 50. As Paul had 2 on the first night I started to get excited that we may well have

chosen the right swim and could well be in for a good week. How wrong I was! I only managed a 32Lb Mirror that week caught on the tigernut from the far margin of the small bay and Paul only having 1 more fish which was a 20LB Common.

We left that week behind us scratching

our heads and I kept wondering how I could have fished it differently, and other than the obvious move of swims, I could not have fished much better, having changed rigs, hookbaits, bait application and all the little tweaks we do whilst bankside. The only thing that did stand out for me

was that another mate Graham was using a nut based bait and was catching consistently, whilst the fishmeals weren't really working. I knew that I had some essential baits Cream seed with added black pepper oil still in my freezer, so that was coming out with me on my next trip.

It was May 15th I headed back out to Island lake,



fishing with Paul once more. This was a slightly different week in that although it was an exclusive week, it was Mick the bailiff's week, and we had been invited due to some people dropping out, so it was a group of his friends. There were 3 pairs fishing, which meant we needed to do a draw as we all wanted the same two swims. I drew 2nd out of the hat and for the first time ever picked the number 1 ball. We chose swims 4&5 with their central location on the lake so that we would hopefully be able to get at a few more fish. Paul went on the left (4) and I went on the right (5). The week started off slow for us both, with me losing a fish in the early hours of Tuesday morning to a hook pull. This bite was encouraging though, as I put out a load of boilie crumb in

the hope it would draw in the smaller fish, and then in turn get the Carp involved. Paul had not landed his first fish until the Thursday, although it became clear that the fish were on the move and were starting to turn up, as they guys fishing to our left started catching and then so did Paul, even though it was a fish or two in the night between the pair of them. I hoped that this would put a fish on the bank for me, but my alarms remained motionless. It was now the Friday and we were leaving early Saturday morning to get back home, so I hit the repeat button and put my rods back out on the same spots,

I fed a couple of handfuls

of bait and sat back hoping this was not going to be my first ever blank in France in over 10 years. Here we go, are you ready? It was 0400 hours and I had a couple of bleeps on my right hand rod and the swinger had lifted halfway to the rod, so I got out of my pit to investigate. There was no movement on the tip, the swinger was still and the clutch was motionless, so I took hold of the line



and stood there feeling for any tension or vibrations, nothing! I thought well that's it, last chance gone at which point I looked at the tip again, and bean to see it bending down towards the lake, no sound on the buzzer and no clutch noise, just a bend in the tip. I picked up the rod and BANG we were in. I woke Paul up and he joined me by the rods, I said to him "This is a good fish" as it was staying deep and just holding its ground. The battle went on and on with only a quick sighting of the fish here and there, but when it was deep in the margin I saw it and felt quite underwhelmed as it didn't look that big at all. Paul stepped out and netted it amongst the margin scum and weed. The feeling of elation and the relief of finally landing a fish hit me, we high fived and had a look into the

net. It was at this point upon first glance that I realised this fish was huge, the width was immense and it just laid there looking up at me. I removed the rig and we went about weighing and resting the fish as per the lake rules. We rang Mick and said that we had a big mirror landed, and round he came (any fish over 50, the bailiff comes and helps out). When he saw this large grey Mirror he said that's "Princess" she's normally low 70!! I nearly sh!t my pants and just smiled. We weighed her at 69.8 which is a new PB beating my old one of 61.12. Princess was put into a retainer and left to rest whilst we readied the camera gear and got everything sorted for the water shots.

Once Princess had been photographed, we went to the end of

the pontoon to release her from the retainer, I laid over the end unzipped the sling and sent her back with a kiss. I stood up and turned to paul and Mick at which point Mick just gave me and almighty shove and threw me into 10 feet of water in the margin!! Well, it was to be expected with a new PB. This was caught on video so if you want to watch it check out my Instagram page jamesmc_essential. The story doesn't end here.

Paul had checked his rods out just before we released Princess and all was quiet, so when we returned to one of his rods and it wasn't there, we were scratching our heads. Yes, I did say that right, he went to check on his single rod fishing a bay and the rod had gone. Mick and I stood there laughing whilst

Paul gave every excuse going as to how it couldn't be his fault and how he'd set it all up correctly. The only option he had was to take a boat out with a weed rake on and see if he could catch the line or rod. Mick and I stood there drinking a well-earned brew taking the piss out of Paul as he tried to find this rod. Fair play to him, he did. He hooked the line and

managed to grab the tip of the rod at which point he handed it to me, and he went and got rid of the boat, well to my amazement the fish was still on. I was stood holding a soaking wet rod that had been pulled in, whilst playing the suspect who caused the mayhem. It turned out that fish was a 40.8 Mirror and Pauls 3rd fish of the week.

I fished two weeks in total and only managed 2 fish, but if I was given the choice and told I would only have two, but one would be a 69, well we all love a 69 don't we?

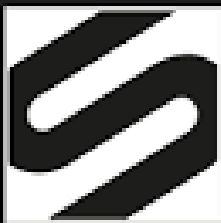
Thanks for taking the time to read this, and thanks to essential baits, Monster Particles, Rhino tech and GCT angling.

Queenie





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



Sorry we didn't write anything last month, me and my brother were very busy with playing Cricket, and we didn't get a chance to fish more than just one session! We visited a lake called Par Fisheries and we had never been there before but our dad had. He told us that it was a really long cast to get to the spit and that was where a lot of the fish like to be! We took our dad's bait boat to help us get to where we needed because it was over 100 yards!!

We arrived at the lake early and went for a walk around, the lake was empty and we had the pick of the swims!! Dad showed us a swim he had fished before and that he'd caught a few from and we decided to start there, we could see loads of carp along the spit so that is where we decided to fish!

We got all 4 rods out onto the spit, (Ron) I tried casting mine out, but it was too far, so I used my dad's bait boat to get to where I wanted my rigs!

Ted got both his rods out first, blowback rigs, Seasoned Baits Spice 12mm bottom baits and

an 8mm pop-up fished Snowman style was our tactic!

It wasn't long before we had our first bite!! (Ron) my left-hand rod bleeped a few times and I could see the line going tight through the water! FISH ON!!

I'd never played a fish from so far out, so I got in a bit of a tangle with my other line but my dad and Ted managed to sort it and I had my first 'Par' fish in the net after about 15 minutes of playing it!! A common carp of 12lb....



(Ted) I helped Ron get his rod back out with the boat and then I was praying that I got a fish! Then soon after my rod starting beeping!!! I struck into it, but I thought I'd lost it, then the tip starting shaking!! It didn't take long but when it got to net my dad said "it's a Tench!"!! I was still really happy because I'd never caught a Tench before!!!!

We got the rod back out with a boat load of 12mm Boilies, Sweetcorn and some Pellets! And soon after that my other rod ripped off and this



time it was a Carp! As I was playing the fish, I was telling my dad "I hope it's a Mirror" and he told me that there were mainly commons in the lake and he'd never seen a Mirror come out before! So, I was extra happy when the fish went in the net, and it was a Mirror!!! It weighed around 10lb! I gave my dad and my brother a high five, had a few photos, kissed the Mirror and put it back in the lake!! GET IN!!!!

After the morning passed, we had a couple of cheese toasties, refreshed the rods and had a chat about Fishing, Cricket, Minecraft and Bait! We walked round to the spots we were fishing and we could see loads of carp over our spots!!! As we were doing that, our dad shouted out "Ted, you're in!!!" We ran back and I took the rod off my dad, but unfortunately it came off shortly after, I think it was definitely my dad's fault...!!!!!!

The bailiff came round shortly after and we told him what we had caught and he was really impressed, he said it was great to see young anglers on the bank, he asked us about our bait as he'd not seen Seasoned Baits before and was asking us who "Roddy Clips" was because it was on our jumpers,



happy with where he'd cast them, we was then throwing in a few handfuls of bait over each spot!

(Ron) at about 4:30pm my left-hand rod ripped off, and it felt bigger than the other fish I had caught, as we were getting ready to go anyway, my dad reeled in my other rod so I had more room to play the fish in, it was a really good fight and as we slipped the net under the fish we both thought it was a 20lber!!!

The Common weighed 20.15lb and was a great way to finish off the session!

he wished us luck and left us to it....

.....We were redoing the rods again around 3pm and dads boat ran out of battery!!!! We slowly had to reel the rod in with the boat still attached to it to get it back!! But now we had to rely on our dad to fire the rods out!

We went round to the spit and was telling him how far away he was when he was casting until we were

After that we packed away and spent around half an hour trying to cast to the spit, me and Ted wasn't far away, and there is a video of us each giving it a good go on our Instagram page @juniorcarphunters

We can't wait to get back to Par and give it another go!!

Par Fishery - <https://www.parfishery.co.uk/>

We then had a few weeks of solid cricket, dad played a few games and me and Ted had loads of games, then there was the Queens Jubilee and mum said that dad should take us fishing for the night which sounded like a great idea to me and Ted, and when we told Dad, he was also more than happy!!

We got invited by our dad's friend "Boycie" to fish his lake which is opening very soon!

(TED) me and dad got to the lake early before Ronnie because he was playing cricket for Essex! We met our friend Chris and his two sons Callum and Harley, and we picked some swims and started setting up!

I knew where I wanted to cast, because I had seen a big fish splash out the water and I cast a Ronnie Rig with a Yellow Waffer with a PVA Mesh Bag of Pellets straight to it, we didn't put my other rod out straight away as dad was too busy talking to his friend but I didn't mind as me and Harley were playing around on his phone and he was teaching me how to speak German!!

While I was playing with Harley my rod ripped off!! I ran over and struck my rod, the fish fought really hard and after 15 minutes I had a Mirror in my net! We took photos and it was an upper double, my dad rung his friend to tell him that I had caught one straight away!

Boycie had told me and dad that there was only 3 Commons in the lake and 57 Mirrors! I told dad that I really wanted a Common now then and we quickly got my rod back on the same spot!



It literally took less than 5 minutes, and I was away again! I still had my waders on from the last fish I caught and I got in the water to play the fish!! After a 10-minute battle my dad netted the fish and it was one of the Commons!!!! I couldn't believe it! I ran and high fived Harley and we got the scales out to weigh the fish.....

....We weighed the fish and it was my NEW PB!!! 22.10lb and also it was the biggest fish in the lake which was confirmed by Boycie when my dad sent him over the photos!! It was 27lb the month before but because the fish had spawned it was 22.10lb but I didn't care because it was my biggest ever Carp!!!!

I didn't put the rod back out straight away because I wanted to help my friend Harley catch one, and he had a ripper soon after, but it came off!

Ronnie turned up at around 5pm and him

and dad got his rods sorted and Ronnie cast them into 2 spots he said he fancied! We then decided that we were going to have a match (me and Harley) vs Ronnie and Callum, I told Harley that he should cast one of his rods in my swim because I thought I had the lucky swim! But soon after that, Ronnie was away!

(Ron) I hadn't long got changed out of my Cricket kit and into my waders when I was playing a fish that felt quite big! I got into the water and netted the fish myself! It was a fat Mirror and when we weighed it, the fish went 21.01lb!! Great start for me and my friend Callum!



Junior carp hunters



Ted then had a fish, quickly followed by Harley! Ted caught a Mirror which weighed 20.10lb and Harley had a PB Mirror of just over 17lb!!!

(Ron) it went mental for the next hour and me, Callum, Harley and Ted all caught carp all over 15lb! We then ordered a takeaway and chilled out before we went to bed! I was really tired and couldn't wait to get into bed!!

We got the rods sorted for the night and off to bed we went (my dad said my head didn't even hit the pillow and I'd started snoring!!)

In the morning I woke up and realised no one was in the bivvy!! I looked out and Ted was playing a fish!!!!!! I got out the bivvy and went to check my rods, they weren't there!!!!!!

I ran back to my dad and I saw the rods leaning up against the bivvy! I'd had 2 fish in the night, but I was so fast asleep my dad had sorted them. He took a couple of photos to show me as proof!! I wasn't best pleased but at the

same time I wasn't tired any more either!!!!

Harley and Callum and their dad had to pack up early so I didn't put the rods back out but me n Callum had an hour stalking around the other side of the lake but we didn't get anything.

Once Callum and Harley left, me and dad packed everything away as Ted was round the other side of the



lake talking to Boycie (probably bragging about catching the biggest fish in the lake..!!!)

We decided to go onto the Match Lake for a couple of hours before leaving as we were meeting up with mum for a Jubilee picnic!!

We'd got most of the stuff back to the truck and I got both my rods into different spots in the match lake, dad walked back to get last couple of bits and by the time he had come back, I had one rod in each hand playing 2 fish!!!!!!

One came off but I landed the other one!!

(Ted) I ran back round to Ronnie and asked him if we could have a rod each and he agreed, we cast out again and didn't have to wait long, Ronnie's rod ripped off, and then my one did as well!

We caught a Common each, and had some photos taken and off they went back into the lake!

(Ron) We didn't stay for as long as we were going to but we had caught 8 fish from the Match Lake in under an hour.

We got back home shortly after, chilled out for a bit and then went and met our mum for the picnic!!

In total me and Teddy caught 9 Carp from the Specimen Lake, Ted



had 2 20s and I had 1 20, the rest were all between 17 and 19lb, we then had an hour on the match lake and caught 7 Commons and one Ghosty!

Our fishing slows down in the summer due to our Cricket commitments, but we are aiming to get out once or twice over the next few weeks and hopefully get amongst a few big Carp!!

Tight Lines and Wet Nets
Ron n Ted

Mark Carper - With their busy lives playing Cricket, Minecraft and all manner of other things, it is so good to see that both Ron and Ted still make time and have a real love and passion for their carping and even better when they have a mega session too..!!

Big well done to Ted on his new PB Common and I feel his pain about the Carp being down in

weight...My French 44lb Common was down by 10lb and would have been a new PB for Me too... Also, congratulations to Harley on his new PB too... I look forward to catching up with all very soon..!!!

Instagram - @juniorcarphunters
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- Three separating boards
- Internal measuring ruler
- 7 x angled and 20 x straight fishing lines included

The Everyday Angler

by Richard Handel



Below are some more fishing ramblings and an insight into my passion.

We've all been there, and have had to adjust our fishing style to combat the issues that come with being a weekend angler or 1 night a week person.

I would class the everyday angler as someone who has a nine to five job, a family and can only spend one night a week out on the bank (if they're lucky) and has a tight budget for fishing. They have a broad overview of all the everyday components that go together to enjoy your fishing.

I've been there and come out on the other side, and that's what I would like to cover in this article.

It's all fine when you're in your twenties, it can be a bit tricky at times with girlfriends, work and money. It's getting into that rhythm of life/work balance and doing a couple of nights (or more) each week on the bank in the mix.

When I first started working, it was for a shipping company; it was shift work, including weekends which

was problematic, but I managed to get out most weekends and a few weekly sessions. As time moved on I was getting quite addicted to work and the shipping way of life, I moved up in the industry over the years and it certainly was hard work keeping the fishing/work balance at times and I really needed that drive to get me on the bank for a couple of nights a week for a quick overnighter. It meant arriving down the lake at 6 or 7 pm, packing up at a similar time, and going straight back to work. I've spent many years doing this and have had great success. It can be hard work over the winter months and you can find yourself being very selfish over the years in the name of carp fishing.

I remember one of my bosses saying after he realized that I fished nights during the week. He asked "whether that would affect my work",

my reply was, "has it done yet?"
He said, "no and why"

"Simply because I've been doing it for the past 10 years since I started working here!"

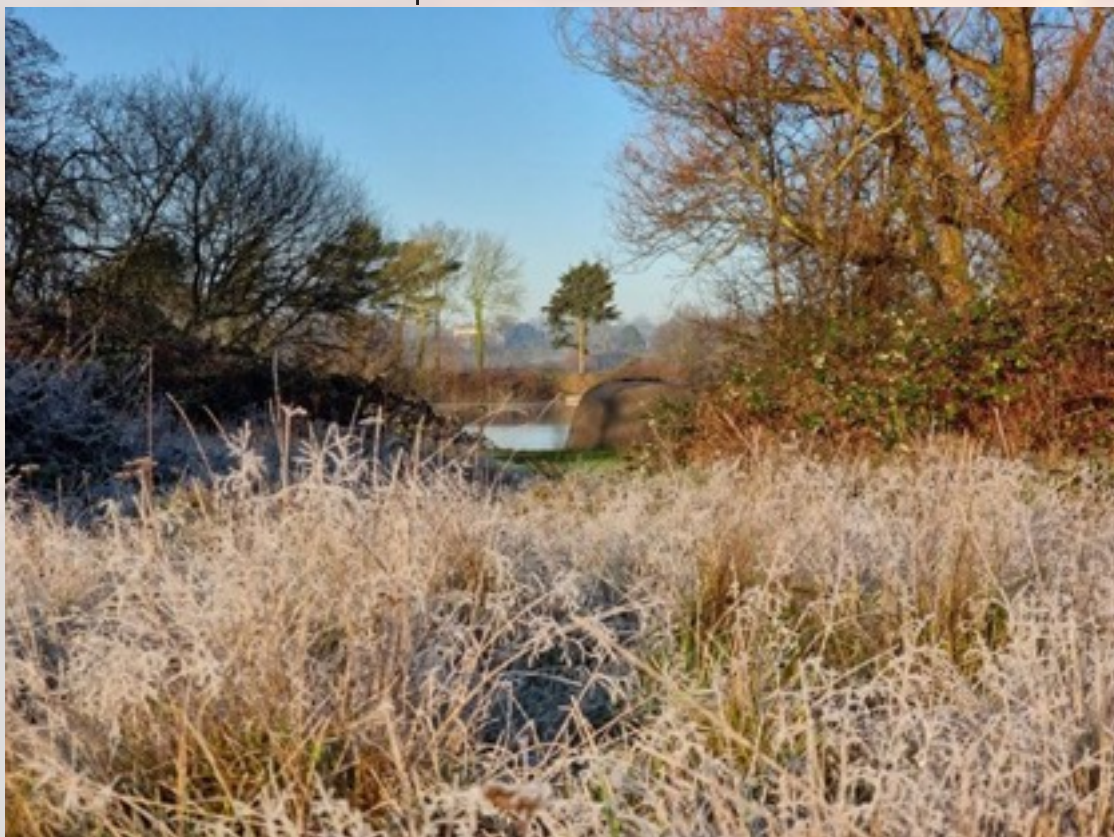
"Oh" was his reply.

My plan was to retire at 45 years old, the same age my dad did, it was clearly the best thing he ever did, and in all honesty, it was a very unrealistic goal.

But, one piece of advance is getting into a routine of going, and this in turn will be the normal routine of life over the years. The family will become part of the relationship you have with fishing and the way of life that goes with this. Obsession can be another word associated with fishing, I'm feeling that I'm just driven to go every week, regardless.

You have to deal with other anglers, which can be problematic at times in my experience. I've written about this subject a lot, as this can cause you a lot of pain, and nearly stopped me fishing some years back.

Weather can play a part as well (you can only go when you can); I'd fish certain days of the week regardless of the weather, the same goes with moon phases and holidays. Over the years, I've blanked many times due to this. I am very lucky these days as I'm semi-retired after spending 34 years in the shipping industry, working 12 hours a day, on-call 24/7 & 365 days a year. I feel I probably worked enough hours in those 34 years to semi-retire. I also came to realize that I can't fish 7 days a week and much prefer to do 2 or 3 nights these days, with the odd day fishing thrown into the mix.



I came to the conclusion that working part-time gardening was the perfect combination. I prefer fishing in the winter, there are fewer anglers on the bank. I can fish more over the winter, work more in the summer months and fish a little bit less. I don't particularly like temperatures being over 25 degrees.

I realized at some point, that you need to go back to the side of fishing that first got you out onto the bank and focus on that aspect, rather than the obsessive side of fishing. Today, fishing is definitely my lifestyle and a way of life for me. My wife and family understand to

some degree, I actually need to be outside more than inside.

My point is that you have to accept your fishing circumstances as they are and make the most of your fishing, without thing of others or comparing catch results otherwise you will get completely wrapped up in other people's results and not focus on yourself. Enjoy the moment and get what you need from it, maybe a social with a friend, unwind after a hard we at work, or even focus on catching this time.

Until my next ramblings

Richard



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DT Diary Part 1
Rick Golder

After being fortunate to join the DT team early this year, I couldn't wait to start with the new bait. Unfortunately, January and February aren't the best months for a proper test, but to be honest I was so confident with the Green Beast, I knew if I could get my location right, I'd be in with a good chance. To start off with Green Beast was an easy decision, it was still winter, and I had heard so much about how good this bait was in low water temperatures, I already had my mind made up for me.

The first week of February I made the trip up to my syndicate lake. I was pretty lucky here, as this lake, being situated right next to a river, floods most winters and is unfishable. However, this one had obviously been dry enough for it to have stayed at almost normal levels. That said, due to this frequent flooding, I wasn't sure about what sort of winter form it had. It was mega exciting though, as I drove in the gate and saw no one was there. I had a good walk round, which made it apparent early on, that the main open water appeared totally lifeless. Apart from a stack of birdlife, I never saw anything despite having several laps round. I know that snags are

always the best bet at that time of year, and more precisely ones that have a good deal of sun hitting them.

There was only one area I had a good feeling for, as it had a mass of overhanging trees on the right side, and a nice deep margin that shelved away under the trees. As I walked into the main snags, that were pulling and tearing at my clothes, I could just make out several dark shapes sat right down deep under the branches. The good news was that they were active, and as I watched one or two swim slowly out of sight, only to re appear a bit later on. That made my mind up for me, and I soon had a single Green Beast pop up on a stiff hinge rig lowered into that margin, with a handful of 15mm baits around it. Being that close it was easy to place the rig, as I was virtually dropping it off the rod tip. With braided mainline on I had a few drops, all feeling pretty much the same, until one hit much more firmly than any of the others. That was the one though, and I carefully laid out the leadfree leader I was using along the bottom until I was happy my trap was set perfectly. The other two rods I fished out on spots into the lake, but I wasn't



overly confident with those, as all I was able to find were strands of dead black weed, and a lake bed that was barren really.

The following morning not long after first light I had a ripping take on the margin rod, the tip pulling round violently and the buzzer screaming. I was up and on it, and immediately giving it heavy side strain away from the branches. It didn't feel that big, and once I had it out in the open water I could see a mirror twisting and turning on the end. It was great to get a bite so quickly, and a massive confidence booster! I soon had a low 20 stunning black

mirror in the net, and as I held it up for a few self takes couldn't help thinking this bait was a winner. I added a small stockie at about the same time the following day, which I think was the time the fish were heading past me and into the snags for the day. A great start though, and I couldn't wait to get back for another go. I was back the following week, and again with

nothing showing in the open water, I was back in the snags swim. Once again, I had another two takes and landed two, but as before all on that single rod. The ones in the open doing nothing at all. However, it wasn't the most enjoyable fishing, sitting there watching one rod and having to be in a constant state of readiness was hard work, so the following week I choose another area. This didn't work out, and throughout the cold 48 hours I didn't see or hear a thing.

I missed a couple of weeks then, and we were into March, with the light levels increasing and Spring starting to feel closer, I went over to another venue for a couple of single

night trips. This lake was really deep, mostly in the 15 feet plus range, but it had a decent stock and I felt there may well be an early chance. My first session was quiet, in fact I saw nothing, but my next produced a cracking 25 lb mirror on a wafter fished on a D rig at about 100 yards.



Whilst I caught on that session, I did see a fair few shows in a swim to my left, and on the opposite bank. As I packed up I took a walk round there, and while I watched I saw one push its head out nice and close in. I had about a kilo of bait left, so I spread that around knowing I could be back in a few days.

By now with the water temperatures were rising I had chosen to move on to the pukka fish with peach and sour cream. I've always preferred fishmeal's, but I must admit I didn't have a clue what to use as my

spring/summer bait, I liked them all! That N Blend looked awesome, and I'd never liked nut based baits before, the blood and orange I knew had caught some big fish over a lot of years, and the oily chicken again was a proven big fish bait with an impressive track record! In the end I made a decision, but it hadn't been easy. Fenton had shown me the DNA liquid, which I really liked, and I had given the frozen baits a glaze of this and allowed them to thaw with the fish pro on them. Being a high-quality coarse bait, it easily drew it all in, massively boosting attraction levels.

After 2 days these baits almost seemed alive, and oozing high

levels of flavour. I knew then they were exactly as I wanted, nice and soft too so break down time was perfect, and giving me optimum pulling power. The fish thought so too, as within two hours of getting my rods out I had a 27 mirror, and at first light a 31 mirror. This fish ripped off, tearing line from the clutch and staying deep almost until I gratefully scooped it up in the net. It had really tested the tackle, which wasn't surprising as it had a huge tail on it, built for scrapping.

I was on a decent run, but hoped it would continue, as the week after I had a trip to Churn Pool booked. I had never seen the lake before, but I knew being pressured it would be a good test for the bait.

I primed up about 6 kilos for this trip, again with the DNA fish pro, and with my confidence high, I couldn't wait for the trip to come around. What a place it is too, a stunning lake deep in the heart of big carp country, and with excellent facilities too. I was with a friend, and as we looked round it, we saw fish in several areas. It helped it was the first really warm day, and by lunchtime the fish were exceptionally active.

My friend sorted a nice margin stalking spot, and I continued looking for somewhere to start myself. As I got around to a point that jutted out into one end of the lake, I watched two fish swimming straight towards me, about 3

feet below the surface. I ducked down as they continued on a course for the swim I was in, but as they got closer, they both turned and headed towards one big tree that was overhanging the water in the margin up to my



right. As they approached it they dropped lower down and disappeared from sight, but I knew they had gone in under that tree.

I walked down to the tree, and as quietly as I could looked over the bank of reeds in front. I couldn't see any fish, but the odd large bubble appeared, bursting as they hit on of the thin branches that were on the water line. As I watched I was sure I saw the branches have the occasional shake, and I was certain there were fish in there. With that I unloaded my gear, and flicked a rod out just off the end of the tree. I put on a single peach, pineapple and sour cream silt buster pop up, and prayed for a solid drop first cast. It was only a long underarm and as I held the lead back on a tight line I felt it hit firm bottom. I didn't put any free baits out, and then started sorting my other rods which were going straight out in front.

Over towards the far bank I had seen a glowing gravel hump that rose steeply up off the bottom, and looked a banker for at least one bait. Within 20 minutes though the rod by the tree was off, and I was attached to what felt like a heavy fish.

The water at Churn was crystal clear, and I had a massive battle with a fish that at first didn't seem that big, but as the fight went on got bigger and bigger! I had it up and over the net at least twice only for it to power off again. Eventually with a big sigh of relief I had it in the net, an awesome coloured beast that weighed 35 lbs. It was nailed on the spinner rig I was using, and as I slipped it back I felt a good hit could be on the cards. It was too,

I had another couple, and my friend Gavin, 6 fish to 39 lbs! Truly an outstanding trip, and as I drove home, I reflected on the fact that, between the beginning of February, and the end of March, taken two of the DT baits to three different waters, and caught on all of them, a testament to how good the bait really was. As April was nearly on us, I couldn't wait for the longer warmer days, and another go at my main target fish for this season. My confidence was sky high, the bait I had ultimate faith in, now all I had to do was get the location right!

I'll let you know how I get on.
Be lucky.

Rick Golder.



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Reviews

Featuring -

**Katran line - What would I recommend -
Mark Carper**

**Possibly the best bbq I've had for outdoor
cooking - Anthony Wood**

**the ultimate cutlery on the bank -
Anthony Wood**



Katran Line - What I Would Recommend...? – by Mark Carper



Since February this year, I have reviewed and detailed a wide selection of the products from Katran Fishing Line and there are two main reasons for me to do this.... actually, there are probably three....

The first is the most obvious I guess, which is the fact I am a member of the Katran Sponsored Team and that formally classes me as a UK Expert on their products, it does not however class me as an expert angler or a product designer or even a 'Consultant'. It simply means, I get supplied with products to both test, if they are new, or to simply use in my fishing.

The second reason, and to me this is the one that enabled me to be invited onto the Team in the first place, is the fact I have used their products for the past six years, starting with their Main Line which I originally purchased while in France and then moving on to using the Hook Link materials and the Fluorocarbon, Leaders, Braid, Tools etc. etc.

During that time, I have promoted their products on my social media, recommended the products to other anglers (mainly friends) but anyone that shows an interest and will listen and reviewed and promoted in Talking Carp Magazine, of which, I am a co-owner.

What I have not done is jumped from company to company saying this, that, and the other tick all the boxes only to say the same about another brand months later, for me it's about the quality and reliability of the product and not the discount, freebies or what they can do for me...!!!

The third reason, although not as strong as the other two, but again is probably what got me on to the team, is the fact I have genuinely got 'first-hand experience' of real-world use of the products I talk about, promote and review. Not necessarily all in my own fishing, although the majority are, but whilst fishing with friends, and even my dad, who is told by me what he will be using in terms of both his reel line and his rigs...!

2018 and 2021 were good seasons for me in terms of trips and number of fish caught from both the UK and Europe and 2021 saw me have an unbelievable trip to France where I could not keep two rods in the water...



Katran Reviews

It was such a mega trip, I didn't even get my third rod out but what I did do, was take the opportunity to try out numerous different Hook Link materials in different combinations, giving me the confidence to speak about them in detail. I would rather not talk about 2019... and 2022 has gotten off to a very slow start with just one French trip so far (I did catch though) but hopefully over the next three months that will all change and my UK season will get off the ground and at worst, I am back in France in October, if not before.

If you missed any of the reviews (of course I know you didn't...?!!) they are in the following issues, which incidentally are all available on the website to read and download and all for FREE;

Issue 72 – February 2022

Mono Main Lines and the 'Fantom' Fluorocarbon Hook Link, which incidentally, the 29lb 0.50mm version is perfect for making 'Crimped' Boom sections

Issue 73 – March 2022

All the Un-Coated Braid Hook Links – of which, there are Thirty-Six options...!!!



CAMO VS CRYPTON



CAMO VS CRYPTON BLUE LIGHT

Issue 74 – April 2022

Coated Braid Hook Links – of which there are Sixteen variants
The dedicated 'Zig' Line and the Baiting and Multi-Tools

Issue 75 – May 2022

Braid Main Lines – including the Marker Braids and Shock and Snag Leader

Issue 76 – June 2022

Comodo Chain Core – and awesome Lead-Free Braid Leader that Splices extremely well

If you're in the market for a change or just fancy giving something from the Katran range a try, drop me a message on Instagram @mark_carper257 and I can point you in the right direction. Alternatively, you can click here - https://katran.eu/buy_online - to see a list of all the Katran Sales Partners or simply visit - <https://www.rodclips.co.uk/>



CRYPTON SIDE BY SIDE

If you want to put yourself a little kit together, so you can freshly spool up your reels and make yourself a multitude of various rigs, from Combi's to Ronnies and Multi's, then the following items are what I would recommend you drop into your tackle box....

*****Katran Main Line*****

In terms of the range of Mono Main Lines that Katran offer, you need to decide a couple of things first and the deciding factor should be based on how much Night Fishing you do, and if you want to purchase the W/B460 Head Torch.... let me explain.....

The Head Torch, which has just undergone a huge update and is about to hit the outlets as the W/B460 Pro, has a 'Blue Light' which when switched on, makes everything 'Blue' and No, it isn't a UV Light..!!!

The clever bit is in the make-up of certain Katran lines which are Synapse Eclipse, Synapse Neon, Crypton Symbios and the Crypton Carp, and when the Blue light hits them, they take on a 'Luminescent' effect, which is not just amazing to see, it is actually a huge benefit when playing Carp in the dark and even more so if you are out in a boat... if you want this facility then for the majority of your fishing it has to be the Crypton Carp in 15.5lb. I say majority as if the waters you fish are particularly Snaggy or have Heavy Weedy, then you might be better upping the Breaking Strain to the 21.3lb at 0.371mm



Katran W/B 460 pro
HEADLAMP WITH 2 INDEPENDENT WHITE AND BLUE LIGHTS

NEW



Katran W/B 460 pro
HEADLAMP WITH 2 INDEPENDENT WHITE AND BLUE LIGHTS

Package Includes:

- headlamp
- soft carrying case
- battery KATRAN 1800 mAh
- USB Type C cable for charging
- manual
- user manual, guarantee card

Power Indicator

For headlamps it is important to see when the battery is low. The power indicator will show when the battery is low. The power indicator will show when the battery is low. The power indicator will show when the battery is low.

Charging Time

0.5h (at 3.3V)

WATERPROOF

IP-67

Descriptions

The headlamp is a powerful tool for night fishing. It has two independent lights, one white and one blue. The white light is for general illumination and the blue light is for night fishing. The blue light is a special light that makes the fish glow. The blue light is a special light that makes the fish glow. The blue light is a special light that makes the fish glow.

Specification	Value
Material	Aluminum
Weight	120g
Length	100mm
Width	30mm
Height	30mm
Power	1800mAh
Charging Time	0.5h
Waterproof	IP-67

24 MONTHS GUARANTEE

If you don't need your line to 'Glow' then my recommendation is the Synapse 'Wild Carp' or the 'Wild Carp Camo' in 15.5lb – All the above mentioned are supplied in Spools of 1000m

Just a further note regarding the W/B460 – During my use of the Head Torch, I found that the 'Blue' Light did not appear to spook the fish when in use. They spooked as usual at the net etc. but did not seem to be worried by the light. In terms of 'Night Vision' I would say it is on a par with Green Light and obviously, is much better at retaining your night vision than using any form of White Light.

This month I had planned to review the Head Torch but as the updated version is imminent, I thought I would wait until the August issue for the and review the Pro version....

*****Katran Hook Link*****

Un-Coated – As I have said, you have a choice of thirty-six variants here, but that is made up of a breakdown of both Breaking Strains and Colours of several of the Braids.

My recommendation is 'Flex' in 25lb. this is super supple and great for Combi-Rigs. If you want something with a darker colourisation, the I would go for 'Enduro' which only comes in 25lb... if you want to cover all bases (or bottoms) go for both..!!!



Coated Braid – this is a simple one... ‘Hamelion’ in 25lb is all you will ever need...simple as that... I have tried all the others, yes, all fifteen and I keep going back to this one...!

Fluorocarbon (For Booms) – Only one choice really, especially if you want to ‘crimp’ the loops for Ronnies and Combi’s etc. and that is ‘Fantom’ in 29.73lb and 0.05mm diameter.

If you want to use Fluorocarbon as a Hook Link, then obviously this will still do the Job but if want something with a little more flexibility you can choose one of the lower breaking strains such as the 16.57lb at 0.35mm, which is perfect.

Zig Line – Only one choice, ‘Zig-Rig’ but two breaking strains. I would have the 16lb 0.039mm option.

....and that, as they say, “is that..!!”

Quality, reliable Mono Line for your Reels and plenty of Hook Links... and at a cost of just £51.45 for the lot...if you do not ‘Zig’ fish and you don’t need to make ‘Booms’ that drops to £37.47. (Prices based on the Roddy Clips Online Shop prices at the time of writing)

All the Best

Mark Carper

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Possibly the best bbq I've had for outdoor cooking

By Anthony Wood

uBer-Q

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The Grill is used to create your traditional BBQ flavour and getting those ribs, steaks, burgers and sausages right to the heat. The uBer-Q's ultra extra pans required. The uBer-Q's ultra

rotisserie motor has a powerful turning capability of 6kg. To this you can make a 6 Skewer Kebab Accessory with a combined cooking length of 2.1m or use the Spit all of which are included. The uBer-Q

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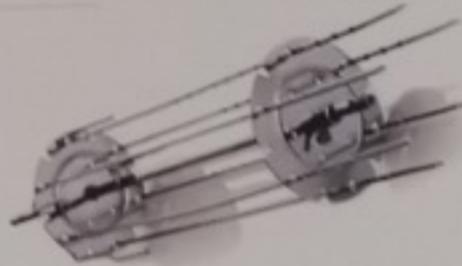
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- Spit Forks
- 6pcs x Kebab Set
- Holdall Bag

Nearly every angler at some stage has had a barbeque whilst fishing (or at home). As anglers we are always searching for the best way to have nice food on the bank but use minimal space at the same time. There are lots of brands and styles of cookers, bbq's and stoves and even when you limit your search down to portable bbq's there are still hundreds to choose from.

Some portable bbq's are very cheap but not very well built and others are ridiculously expensive. I've tried everything from cheap £5 wood stoves through to £400 bbq's that charge your phone by harnessing the heat and turning it into electricity.

However, I think I have found my favourite ever portable bbq and it's big enough that I can use it at home for the family as well! I was scrolling through bbq's on Google when I came across the Uber-Q by Asado Group.

You may wonder what is so special about the Uber-Q that I have decided to consider it my new favourite bbq considering that there are so many out there. Well... The first thing is that it is extremely easy to set up, it is literally a case of unfolding a few legs and opening up into a V shape and then clicking the ends into place. With the Uber-Q being raised off the ground by its legs you are more likely to be able to have a "leave no trace" bbq something a lot of fisheries will appreciate.



The grill section is another wonderful feature of the Uber-Q as not only does it have half of the grill as a normal bbq section where the fat from your sausages, burgers, etc can drip down into the hot coals creating that smoke that gives you that extra smoky flavour on your food. It also features a solid plate on the other half where you can cook eggs, fry onions or place a kettle on without the kettle getting burnt. There are even two handles at either end of the grill plate that allow you to take the food to a table and place it on the specially designed stand so that you don't scorch any ground.

There is a rotisserie included with the Uber-Q, the motor fits on one end of the bbq and runs on 2 x D Cell batteries (which aren't included) which can turn up to 6kg of food at a time. Asado Group haven't scrimped when it comes to quality and options including a large rotisserie rod with spit forks for cooking whole chickens, beef joints, lamb legs, etc, they have also included a six skewer kebab set allowing you to cook up to six delicious healthy kebabs at a time.



I haven't even gotten to the best bit yet!! As with all bbq's you can pour the coals into the bbq and have a bbq like normal but that always messes the bbq up and you end up with a messy and dirty bbq. The Uber-Q has a unique feature that I haven't seen in any other bbq which allows me to keep my bbq clean a lot longer, Asado Group have created a slot in their Uber-Q which lets you to slide a party size disposable bbq into the Uber-Q allowing you to keep all of the coals within the disposable bbq. For me this is a win win as I still get to use a bbq and get the bbq smell and taste but I get to keep the main bbq cleaner for longer (the grill plate and rotisserie parts also fit *just into a standard size dishwasher keeping them nice and shiny like in the photos).

The quality is absolutely brilliant and to just finish everything off the whole lot comes in a really handy carry bag that is a classic combination of black and orange. Follow their Facebook account www.facebook.com/100064784989589 or their instagram account www.instagram.com/asadogroup and you can also purchase the Uber-Q from www.springfields.co.uk





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**The ultimate cutlery on the
bank?**
By Anthony Wood

If you've read my reviews for a while you will notice that at least 50% of the products that I review are not necessarily carp products but more products that you will find useful or helpful on the bank whilst you are carp fishing.

This time I'm going to look at cutlery! I don't know about you but when I've been out on the bank I've used everything from my fishing knife to a twig or even just my hands because I've either forgotten to bring any cutlery or just not even thought about how I'm going to eat my food whilst on the bank.

I started to take it a little more seriously when I wanted to eat healthier on the bank (and at home) and started to look around for decent cutlery that I could use on the bank.

First off I started just using standard kitchen cutlery and then kitchen cutlery with a carp brand on it so that it looked "carpy" but they got lost really easily, then I tried some of the camping cutlery sets and some were okay but others were just totally rubbish.

I found a really nice take down set but at nearly £70 for a knife, fork and spoon, that stayed firmly on the proverbial shelf as there was no way that I was paying that price for some cutlery.

Then just as I started to think I wouldn't find anything decent one of the American companies that I get my bushcraft gear from (Outdoor Element) posted that they were in the prototype stage of creating near enough exactly what I was after!!



I showed a lot of interest in this product and managed to bag myself one of the pre-production run kits (basically exactly the same as production run but it's a small run of the product to make sure everything is okay before they go into full production).

The kit itself consists of two handles that have a range of heads that are interchangeable which are a spoon, a fork, chopstick set and a toothbrush head. The heads are all held into the handles nice and securely by a screw in system rather than simply being pushed into the handle. The handles also work as bellows for directing air flow if you are trying to get a fire started on the bank (obviously where you are allowed fires) and the carry roll is made from recycled plastics making it eco friendly as well.

The carry roll doubles as a wash towel/cloth and also has a spare pocket or two where you could put a small tube of toothpaste or a test tube or two of salt and pepper.

I am really impressed with the build quality of this kit, the only thing missing is a knife head. The reason there is no knife head is that the kit is actually aimed at bushcrafters and outdoor enthusiasts so the company have kept the costs down by assuming the majority of outdoor enthusiasts will have their own knife to hand.

Luckily they have a UK distributor so you can get most of their products right here in the UK from Wilderness 1-2-1 and their website is www.wilderness121store.co.uk and you can follow them on their social media at www.facebook.com/Wilderness121 or www.instagram.com/Wilderness121 you can also check out Outdoor Element on their social media www.instagram.com/outdoor.element





Catch Reports

Featuring -

D.T. Baits
Castaway PVA
Deception Angling
Nutrabaits
Lac Serreire & Badgers Holt

Plus all of your catches !!!

Jason Barnes



On my first night of seven at Cherry lakes my rod screamed off. After an intense fight it finally gave in and rolled over the net, she went 45-07 lb on the scales, a fish know as ruby. I continued to catch ending with 10 fish 6 being 30s including a pristine 37-08 lb common



Christian Whitehall



Well my gut feeling was right. lovely play on this mid common in the weed about 23:15. As always the end tackle from @bargaintackle did not let me down and the awesome leads from @aptustackle done its job spot on @probaitsuk squid orange pop up on a single cast, top quality bait that entices them love this place Caerphilly Castle (The Moat) Was nice to have an appearance from the belter himself and have a bit of a chill and learn some new skills thanks Ristie.



Tom Simcox

Caught using multi rigs popped via 12mm scopex squid bushwhacked to areas with jumping fish with a mix containing 12mm scopex squid freebies pellet flake and syrup with added scopex squid hemp from the Nashbait particle range and the fish love it

Artur Aust 50lb



Dan Percy. 62lb 6oz



John Mitchell. 46lb



Veronica Papuc. 56lb





Bobbie Pettet

This young man is Bobbie Pettet and he's putting us all to shame of late. He's on a fantastic run of form and demonstrating some great angling. He has been banking a lot of carp recently and putting our Supa Fruit boilies to good use. Keep those smiles coming Bobbie.



David Page

Loyal customer David Page had a red letter session on his new syndicate recently managing a number of good captures which included a 28lbs mirror, 31lbs mirror, this 36lbs common and an impressive 38lbs common all fell to Pukka Fish Peach and Sour Cream.





Harry Roe

Customer Harry Roe used a stealthy approach dropping his rigs into holes in the weed to bag this prehistoric looking mirror along with a second fish. He utilised Supa fruit pop ups and N-blend DNA liquid to good effect.



Peder Lichtenberg

Danish Consultant Peder Lichtenberg hit Graviers recently and managed six of the famous lakes larger residents.

Peder fished a snowman rig comprised of a Cold Water Green Beast hardened hook bait and washed out pink Supa fruit pop up over large beds of 22m Coldwater green beast.





Terry Canham

DT's Terry Canham royally had it off recently on his club lake. He managed eleven bites three of which were over the 30lbs mark on a test bait that's currently under development.

Be sure to head over to our social media to watch the short video he made showing off his awesome captures in all their glory.



Wayne Smith

Here is The Canadian Carp societies Wayne Smith with an awesome common weighing in at 35lbs 4oz. Wayne targeted a huge Canadian lake of over 6000 hectares (and 40 miles long) and managed a staggering 59 fish on DNA glugged N-blend and Cult classic banana pop up. Proof you can take our bait absolutely anywhere and have results.





Andrea Bartoli - BFM Salmon Caviar & Black Pepper



Brett Longthorne - CO-DE



Giordano - Trigga Ice



Rob Gainer - 21lb10 - Trigga



Nick Goodhand - CO-DE



Giordano - BFM Salmon Caviar & Black Pepper

Castaway PVA

Simon Harbottle





Ian Holmes



Richard Oakes



Castaway PVA

Derek 'The Don' Ritchie



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Angling

Ryan May



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

Thankyou Matt and Tracie



Le Lees Carp Fishery

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Thanks for reading

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

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

'The Talking Carp Team'

Brian Dixon

Mark Faulkner

Dave Harnick Snr

Mark Galli



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

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- DANNY FAIRBRASS

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