



Issue 62
April 2021



INSIDE THIS MONTH
We look inside the tackle box of Joe Turnbull,
Julian Cudiff, Dave Locke, Wies Ennekens, Barrie Scholes

Click Here



EASY TO OPEN AND LOAD



SPLITS FOUR WAYS



BOILE CAPACITY



STABLE DURING FLIGHT TO INCREASE CASTING ACCURACY



X-SPOD

COMPETITION



HOLDS LIQUID SECURELY



CASTS OVER 120 METRES



EVEN BAIT DISTRIBUTION

BAIT IN style

The X-Spod Competition is a unique floating spod with a compartment that splits four ways to deliver your bait.

Bait up your swim in style and maintain a visual of your spod, even at range.

www.wolfint.co.uk

@wolfint_official @wolfintofficial WolfInternatio3

Hello... and welcome.

And here we are, as you read this, we are night fishing again and long stays on the bank are a thing again.

We must admit, having days only fishing wasn't quite as detrimental as people may have first thought, and for those who made the effort to get out of bed in the morning and go fishing, most were rewarded with some captures, and to be fair, the days only fishing has given a lot of anglers a kick up the backside to think about what they are doing, and make the most of short sessions... we have even seen some major captures and many personal bests have actually been broken!!

It just goes to show that sometimes we can all be a bit guilty of perhaps being both lazy, and possibly stuck in a rut. When forced to do so some have unlocked skills from years gone by, lying dormant in the back of our minds, and used them to great advantage. Well done to those who have been out, fished local, on short sessions, and caught well. Bravo. Now though...Spring is upon us and a most joyous time to be bankside is upon us as the world we all love so much reawakens from its slumber.

Keep those catch reports coming in!!

**CR Baits competition winner from issue 61 is.....
Wayne Grant. Congratulations Wayne. Get in touch with us
and we will hand you over to claim your prize.
Many thanks to CR Baits for the prize.**

Email us at the usual address :-

brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk

mark@talkingcarp.co.uk

Team Talking Carp

Inside This Month -

Cover shot - Charlotte Gladdis

ARTICLES - from page 6

Page 6 - ' Inside My Tackle Box ' Part 1 - Joe Turnbull

Page 16 - Lockdown Lessons... Part One - Julian Cundiff

Page 24 -Fruitful Encounters - Wies Ennekens

Page 31 - Memories of an average carper - Dave Locke

Page 41 - In search of Charlies Mate Pt 2 - Scott Geezer Grant

Page 50 - A New Beginning - Andy Murray

Page 58 - Back Behind The Rods...part one (the 90s) - Barrie Scholes

Page 70 - A Fresh Start - Tom Blackmore

Page 76 - Effort Equals Reward - Richard Handel

Page 84 - Reflections Of A Year - Steve Gilbey

Page 98 - AutumnWinter Campaign on the Club Water - Rob Gainer

Page 109 - Against the Grain A Winter Surface 30 - Mike Payne

Page 118 - Five hundred and two reasons to be happy - Scott Hunter

Reviews - from page 124

Man Mower by Anthony Woods, Olight by Anthony Woods

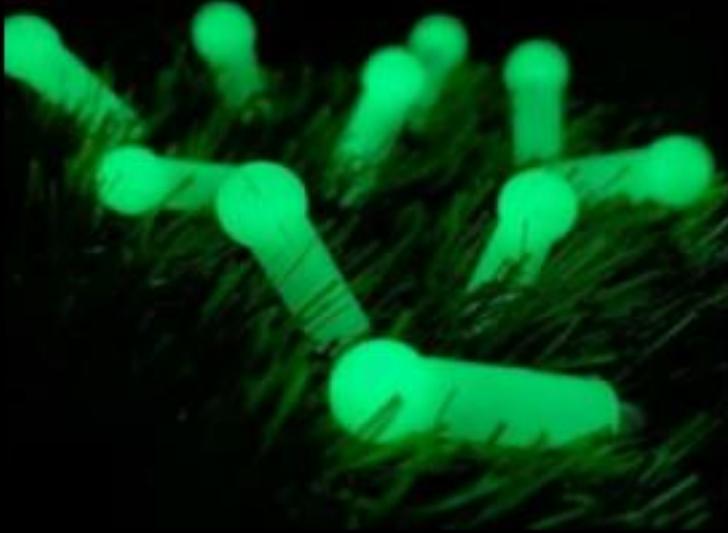
Off The Mark digital angling feature

CATCH REPORTS - from page 141

with all of your catches !!!!!!!

Click Here
For Website

NIGHT GLOW



WWW.RODDYCLIPS.CO.UK

DON'T ACCEPT ANYTHING LESS

**‘ Inside My Tackle
Box ’ Part 1**

Joe Turnbull





Over the years tackle boxes have evolved with many of us having large Fox boxes which could be absolutely stuffed with all sorts of items, but the problem was that it gave us an excuse to take stuff that we didn't really need. It's a bit like that crap draw we all have a home where it starts off with odds and ends but soon gets to bursting point. Whilst there may still be a few around, I'm sure many of us have chosen to go down the more streamlined scaled down versions like the types I use now. My Korda boxes have been designed so that you can take minimum end tackle but with maximum effect on your angling and by that, I mean that you can be super organised without taking the kitchen sink with you. So, without further ado, lets take a look inside my box (oo err).

The FIRST PART of my two boxes comprises of 6 sections with each section holding the things that are most important and which I need and use most of all.

A

Section A Hooks -

I take a range of hooks with me but only one pack of each size, with one in barbed and one in barbless. Sizes are also very limited with 8's, 6's and 4's but I generally swap those around as the weather warms up. So, from November through till February, I'll keep 10's, 8's and 6's all in the same pattern too. I rarely change pattern of hook opting for a Korda wide gape for 99% of my fishing. As the months change and the weather warms, I'll go back to the larger size hooks.

B

Section B Rig Tying Items -

In this section I find it very important to have two of everything. This goes for scissors, lighters (although I don't smoke), baiting needles, gate latch needles, small drills, and of course knot pullers.



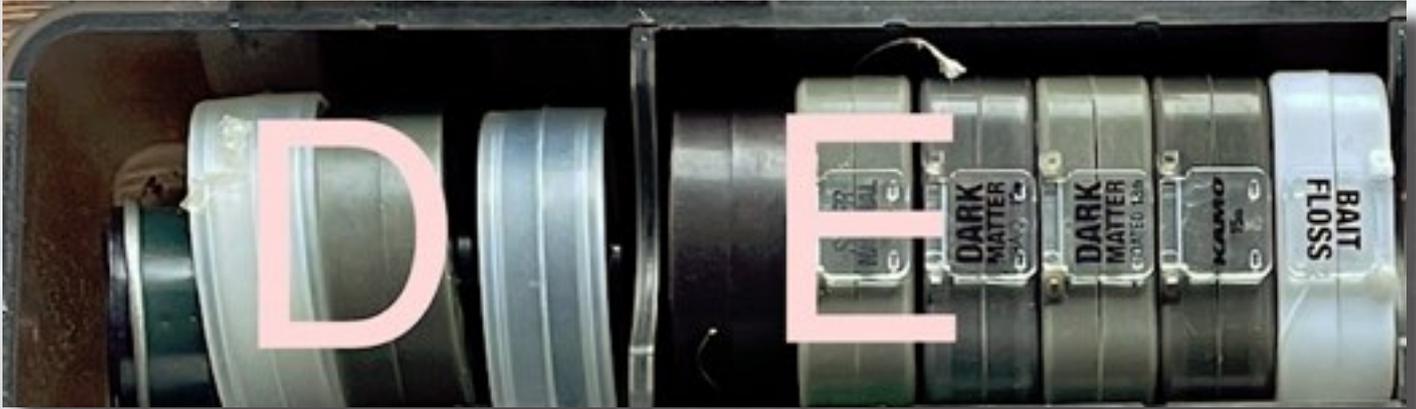
C

Section C Leader safe etc -

In this section I keep a couple of larger items, those being a very sharp stanley blade which I find superb for trimming down baits and bits of foam. The idea behind this is that when you're trying to marry two baits together, the sharp blade gives you a very neat

and crisp join. This, believe it or not helps to keep out water ingress, leaving the bait to last longer. There is a leader safe which is a great item as it keeps all the leaders curled up and ready to use and I also keep my finger stall in here too.





D&E

Section D and E Hook links -

As you can see there is a tub of putty and a spool of pva at the start then seven hook links of varying guises. These are 18lb Supernatural braid, 20lb Hybrid stiff, 15lb N-trap soft, 18lb Supernatural (back up), 15lb Dark matter braid, 18lb Dark matter coated braid and lastly 15lb Kamo coated braid. The other larger spooled hook links are in a separate box but the most used are here and to hand. Like I say, I have around six hook links that I use for all my angling as I've learnt that over the years you should stick to what works and not to change too much. Saying that, out of these, I probably favour two, those being the Dark matter braid and the Kamo coated braid.

F

Section F Sharpened hooks -

Here is where I keep my 'sharpened' hooks as I will very often use sharpened (both machine and hand sharpened) depending on venue. If I'm fishing somewhere where I'm aware that the



carp regularly get away with it, I like to put the odds in my favour and use a needle point. It's not that I don't always use a sharp hook but there are mega sharp (one bite hooks) and then there are sharp hooks that you can undoubtedly use to

catch more than one carp. Why change a hook if it's still sharp? I also like to use the empty Kamakura boxes to keep my hand sharpened hooks in (recycle).

The SECOND PART of my tackle box comprises of no less than 29 sections, but some have one lid covering certain sections for example, one section has one flip lid that covers four small compartments.

G

Section G Heli-Safe spares -

No trace beads and all the accessories that come with the Heli-safe system like springs and non-spare drop off collars. Keeping small items like this organised are essential because they can be fiddly items and easily lost but you'd be lost without them.

H

Section H Mini Swivels -

Again, tiny items like these are easily lost but kept like this to hand can be easily available. In this section there are another six compartments and each one holds a different type of hook swivel along with spinner swivels and flexi hinge swivels.



I

Section I Spare rig pins

Spare rig pin are kept just in case. They're out of the way and safe.

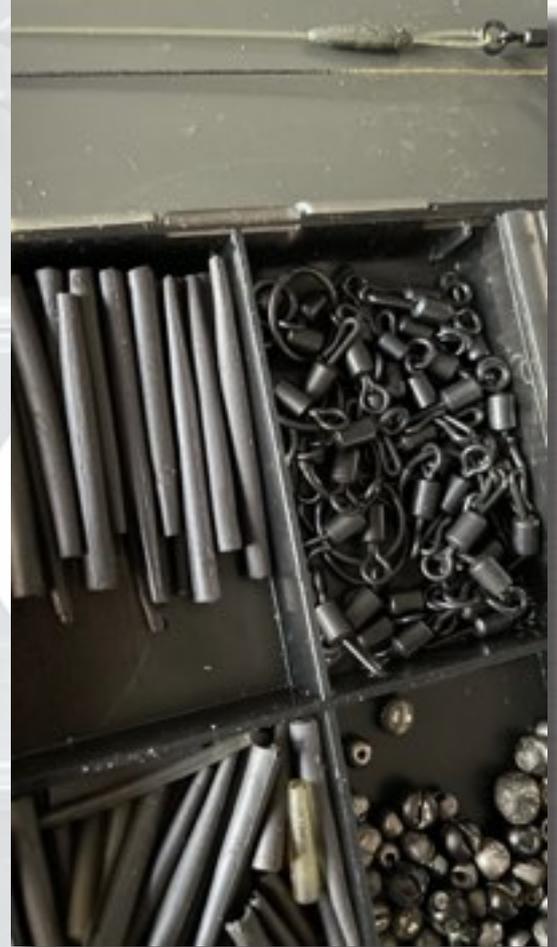
J, K & L

Sections J, K and L Lead clip, Hook tubing and shrink tubing. As in the description, here I keep my lead clips, tail rubbers, hook tubing and shrink tubing. Long gone are the days of keeping packets and packets of clips and large items in your bag taking up loads of space. All I do with this box is keep an eye on what's getting low and simply top it up. That way I'm not getting items of tackle that I don't need instead, items that **I DO NEED.**

M, N, O & P

Sections M, N, O and P Rig Bits -

Once again, I keep items here that would usually be in packets or boxes which again would take up lots of space. Here I have four sections which contain Dark matter hook link sleeves in two lengths (long and short), Two types of quick-change swivels both Heli-copter style and standard which I use a lot and weighted shot in different sizes.



Q & R

Sections Q and R Spinner rig items -

Here I keep all the items I need to make up the Spinner rig as it's easier and makes far much more sense to keep it all together. I keep Krimps in two sizes, hook beads in two sizes and kickers in two sizes and multiple colours. Two sizes usually cover both size of hooks that I use when using the spinner.

S & T

Sections S, T and U Bait attachments -

In these sections I keep hook baits screws, rubber rings for use with dog biscuits and pellet and both long and short Extender stops. It's far easier and quicker to get items like this out of a compartment than it is to have a



have to get packet out and snap one off. Whenever I get some new bait stops, I simply break them all off and pour them into the compartments.

Well as you can see, there is recurring pattern to the way the box was initially designed and the way in which I personally use it. The bottom line is that it saves on having to take packets and boxes of what your tackle usually comes in and with that comes a sleek streamlined box that hold all and more of you could possibly need. I hope you've enjoyed the first part of looking into my

tackle box and hopefully it's given you some incentive to scale down if you're taking too much!

Incidentally, I've had a YouTube Channel for some time but during lock down I had great fun getting some films together. So, I would be very grateful if you go over and give us a thumb up and perhaps a subscription. It's free and shows my lockdown anglings efforts to keep me motivated. Just search Joes Carp Angle or Joe Turnbull carp and there you should find my angling antics. I really hope you enjoy it too as it's not been easy going!

Alternatively, you can find me on all the usual platforms

[INSTAGRAM – Joe_Turnbull69](#)

[TWITTER – JoeTurnbull69](#)

[FACEBOOK – Joe Turnbull](#)

Thanks for reading and see you guys some time.

JT

D.T.Baits
Click Here

Established 1988

Boilies

Pellets

Stick Mix

Pop Ups

Wafers

Dips

Glugs

Boosted

Hook Baits

Bait Sprays

Bait Buckets

PVA



www.dtbaits.co.uk



Lockdown
Lessons...
Part One
by Julian
Cundiff



As I type this in late March with only a few days left before we can go night fishing again (hope that is not the kiss of death) I thought it would be nice to look back at what has been a tough twelve months since Boris first told us to 'Stay at Home' and the lessons it has taught me fishing wise and people wise. Believe me at times it has been taxing for me too and my faith in certain parts of humanity has been withered TBH but as the great Tim Paisley told me on many occasions 'keep on keeping on'.....So here are my Top 10 Lockdown Lessons in two parts.

1. Although there are many tossers out there in the

fishing world by and large most people have followed the guidelines be it not fishing or fishing locally depending on which lockdown we were subject to. To be honest those that didn't comply and bragged about it, wrote about it or glorified it hardly surprised me as it was atypical of their me, Me, ME approach to carp fishing anyway. My greatest ally was the delete and block button on social media and my wallet and support for the publishers of it. I found solace by looking at the good people in angling who put others before themselves not just the need to go fishing. These people outnumbered the nuggets considerably

and all of you I salute you. Nothing like a crisis or pandemic to teach you who your friends are and why you look up to and respect some not others for their actions not photo albums.

2. Lack of clarity did not help. The first lockdown was pretty clear in that it was stay at home unless you could not work from home. I guess I could have said fishing was my business and gone through that loophole but having seen what sacrifices so many were doing to keep us safe I felt that was not right no matter how tempted I was. Never has 'The Willows' seen so many jobs completed by me not just someone I

employed. Heck I even cleaned the car a few times. The bigger problem was lockdown three where the Angling Trust managed to get angling allowed albeit only locally. With no strict legal definition of local it led to confusion and

frustration as to what was local? Imagine being simply told not to speed in your car but not knowing what the speed limit was? I took advice from our local bobby who in layman's terms said 'If you are not taking the **** you will be fine'. I set myself a radius of no

more than ten miles or so taking into consideration Boris and his bike ride but not Cummings and his eyesight test.... Yes officer I've just driven to Linear to test my eyes..... The waters in the ten mile zone were all waters I've

described in print as 'local waters' so I felt comfortable with that. Funnily enough I was spot checked a few weeks ago on the way home and was given the A-OK.. They were looking for anglers coming from Rotherham, Sheffield and beyond not us local bumpkins...

3. Managing my expectations. I soon learnt at a young age to manage expectations when the girls I dated did not look (cough) anything like the girls I'd seen in Club International and Playboy whilst reading the music and car articles (cough again). And Maria Whittaker, Victoria Principle and Pamela Anderson were not queuing up just because I was in



fishing park lakes is a labour of love.
my brolly keeping me incognito

cleaned the car



Crafty and Carpworld. When I decided what I viewed was local I knew I would not be able to do nights, the waters would not be scenic delights, that I was gonna get punished on the park lakes and that the bigger fish I was looking at for 2021 would have to wait a while yet. Once you accept that then life is a lot easier

and less frustrating. It reminds me of doing overnights and how I dealt with missing bite times and not getting the best choice of swim. It was what it was and the alternative of not going at all because I couldn't have it all my own way was plain daft and not one I was going to follow. Yes Lockdown 3 was restrictive but better

than not fishing at all which seemed to be the position some were adopting. If we have to go locally and can't fish nights it's a waste of time.....crackers. That's like only going when conditions are perfect, and your first choice of swim is free. The true thrill of fishing to me is not knowing what will happen. Of being surprised by what they do and don't do...

4. Timing was the biggest lesson I learnt as I soon found out when to, and when not to arrive at a water. Going for goings sake is just a case of going as early as possible and staying as late as possible which is okay when you can't go

can't go very often but for us old, retired buggers that can it soon gets boring. With my life being (hopefully) so much more than just carp fishing I tried to put myself on the right water at the right time for a bite...or two. I had 5/6 waters at my disposal and within a month I was able to fairly accurately predict the right time to turn up at certain waters. The park lakes were crap at weekends due to visitor pressure but mid-week ideal. Both club waters were better in the afternoons as the coarse anglers would rock up at 7 am but would be off by around 2 pm. No way was I turning up at silly o'clock to wait seven hours for bite time when I

Plenty of bike riding during lockdown 1



not my idea of fun next to a main road but rules are rules





could rock up at 2 pm and find the waters pretty quiet. Both syndicate waters were targeted dependent on conditions. Bright still days of consistent temperatures were ideal but windy conditions where it was mild in the day and cold at night were not good. No amount of You Tube or Blogs can teach you this... just time, experience and going regularly.

5. Most anglers are sloppy. Fishing a variety of waters, especially public ones soon teaches you what does separate those who catch consistently from those that don't. Of course, luck and timing plays a part but from my observations most anglers are just sloppy

Being sloppy will cost you. This rarely caught carp hardly moved the indicator and was just hooked in the edge of it's mouth.

and make excuses for their lack of effort and consequent lack of success....

Turning up too late and leaving too early-

---Treating it as a social and wondering why they are not

catching----Casting inaccurately and too often----

Not being prepared with rigs tied and bait prepped (PVA bags etc), An

it will do, it's about right / it's close

enough etc attitude ---Not watching the water enough----

Going where fish have been caught before rather than where

are likely to be on

the day----Poor hook sharpness----

Not understanding rig mechanics----

And those are just a few....

most of which I have been guilty of myself in the past and no

doubt from time to time still do...

See you next issue when I will detail five other lessons I learnt in lockdown!

Julian Cundiff





We can cater for any social event you have coming up be it a barbecue on arrival for the social side of things or a one pot dish for the evening, breakfast, lunch we can do it all.

Let us take care of the catering whilst you take care of your event.

So if you require bankside catering at a higher level, then do not hesitate to contact us on the details below.

Jason Sandiford

W: www.chefukcarp.co.uk

E: chefukcarp@outlook.com

M: +447769586391



Fruitful Encounters

by Wies Ennekens



As the RP AMSTERDAM steadily proceeds it's path towards Genk, I wonder when the first carp will come out of this huge canal. Thus far I have spent six nights on the canal with only 2 bream on my checklist. You should see me standing here. Outside my bivvy, with the laptop inside and your writer bent over outside. Soaking wet because I just prepared the rods for the night. Had I waited 10 minutes, I would be dry. But a fierce rainstorm has caught me by surprise. Nevertheless, it seems to be the perfect moment to start writing the new chapter you are reading right now. It does feel a bit like time-traveling, writing it now, knowing it will be April once you read it.

It has been raining the entire weekend now. Winds up to 100 km per hour, hail, rain, sunshine. I've seen it all the last two days. Well not all, I haven't seen a fish up close this weekend. Although I think I saw a tail. Not the Monkey Climber Tail of Friendship (look this one up). No, an actual tail slipping back into the deeper water before my brain had the chance to distinguish the owner of it.

I have to face the facts; odds are against me. With a cold wind blowing and temperatures more unsteady than the temper of a woman having her period, things aren't looking great. The water surface temperature refuses to go higher than 8 degrees C for now. And the weather predictions are not looking bright for the upcoming week. Dropping temperatures during the day, and possible frosty nights again. Somehow Spring is not yet ready to burst.

With one night to go on the canal and two more on the Leie this week, I lower my expectations when it comes to catching fish.

The upcoming two nights on the Leie are considered Me-time. Enjoying life on my own, doing my thing, writing, reading, planning and prepping. The nights on the Albert Canal however, they are primordial. If I want to succeed in catching a few fish on this canal this year, I have to be present from the moment they start feeding. And since this year is the first year, I have no experience to go on. I have to figure it out the way I prefer doing things, MY WAY. (The reader must now start humming Frank Sinatra). In my opinion, not catching fish can be a very helpful source of information as well. You can never point out the exact reason for not catching, but

it makes me think about certain things. You might call it some sort of evaluation, evaluating if I am doing things the right way. Presuming there is a “right” way to do things.

On the Leie, like I have told before, I found a nice spot. Better than last year, so that gives me peace of mind. Pursuing my way on the river with past experience, I am reasonably sure that when the time is right, I will catch my share of Carp over there. The canal on the other hand is brand new. No experience what-so-ever. At least when I discard the experience I have on other canals. Is it safe to say, “Carp are Carp, no matter where they swim”? As I said before, I will never claim to be a better angler than anybody else. But I think they are, at least when it comes to Carp that swim in a reasonably natural environment. I will not make any statements when it comes to high-pressured fish, since I do not fish those types of waters. But on the Canal, I take my peace with the knowledge that I am facing a creature that reacts instinctively, the way it has been created by God, or Allah, or whoever you consider to be THE creator of the Universe. (Since the origin of Carp is in the Black Sea, which is surrounded by primarily Islamic countries, we will say it was Allah). Getting started on a new water is always challenging. And any help on the way comes in handy. A few weeks ago, I was fishing a small dock, one of many along the Canal. Still trying to downscale this humongous Canal, and struggling to get a grasp on it. Surrounded by industrial activity, there is a lot of coming and going of cars, lorries and bicycles.



Trying to downscale the Canal

One of those cars suddenly halted a few meters from my spot. A young guy stepped out and came towards me. He asked whether this spot was my fix spot. I told him it wasn't and that it was my first year on the Albert Canal. A few minutes of small talk about carp, sponsor-ships and everything that came along with it, we seemed to respect each other's way of fishing. He told me he planned to start baiting the dock the upcoming week. I was not planning to come back here, so told him to give it a go. That way he could nick in some fishing hours after work in the adjacent factory. We had a nice conversation and without me even asking he started giving me some golden information; He pointed me a stretch of the canal a few kilometers further downstream where he fished last year with decent results. Wither this information was accurate let along true, I could only guess. But it was worth giving this place a look.

The first thing I noticed when arriving along the stretch were other carp anglers. That was a good start, knowing that others were fishing this stretch as well. Hopefully those guys are frequent anglers on the canal. Starting off with a walk I passed by their spot. Taking a look at the set-up of their rod-pods gave me enough information to know they were used to fishing here. Everything heavily pinned down for sudden strong carp runs and adapted to fishing a big canal like this.

I didn't get a chance to talk to them as I didn't feel like disturbing them. I just continued my stroll along the banks. Somehow I felt a connection with this particular stretch, a gut feeling. It gave me a familiar feeling, although

I never had been here. There were a few features that drew my attention and I decided to start investigating more in depth.



Using the drone to have an overview

It didn't take long before I found what I was looking for. Depth differences just along the concrete bank. A nice clear spot about 60cm deeper than the rest of the margins and the exact opposite about 100m further downstream. The second spot, consisting of gravel bottom, nicely elevated according to the rest of the margin and was surrounded by some muddy bottom less than a meter wide. Further away from the bank the drop towards the fairway starts. I was convinced, on other canals I previously fished, spots like these produced fish. And so, it has, only bream so far, but for now I see it as a good omen.

A second encounter would be even more meaningful not only for my fishing on the Leie, but for my knowledge in bait as well. I will spare you the details on how we met, but a few weeks ago I met Andy, a fellow carp angler. A genuine decent bloke and we got along instantly. He has been fishing the Leie a fair time longer than me. After a few WhatsApp conversations we started exchanging information about previous experiences, known catches, spawn places, tactics, bait and so on. It was a good two-way information stream.

At first I was a bit astonished since it has become a rare thing, sharing information whilst having the same goal in mind. It soon appeared that "our" spots are only a few hundred meters from each other.

It's a shame to say that our hobby has become the victim of egoism and smugness. A lot of private waters have the reputation of being war zones. People trying to boycott other swims in the pursuit of fame. Granting another angler successful sessions and helping to get catches going has become a rarity.

The sensation when I found out that I could discuss things with Andy without suspicion, was liberating.

We quickly became friends and it turned out our daughters got along as well. Andy invited me to his place to take a look at his shed. In that shed he installed everything to roll bait.

Arguing bait, nutrition, feeding behavior. It goes without saying that this hobby-within-hobby has given him a huge amount of experience and knowledge over the last 15 years. And what's more, he loves to share this passion with others too.

With his help, the process of creating my own preferred bait will definitely speed up. More on the bait chapter in a later piece.

With the same mindset and goal, this encounter will definitely have positive influence on my Leie adventure. Besides a Chub, no luck on the Leie so far. This Golden River which in ancient times gave the name to the coat of arms of previous French kings, and aided the Flemish to get rid of the French Domination in the 14th century by defeating the French Army near Kortrijk in 1302 (Battle of the Golden Spurs) It's safe to say that my search for spots has come to a rest now. I have confidence in both the Canal and river spots. The baiting and fishing of both waters has begun. Not very successfully so far, but with water temperatures struggling to climb over 8 degrees Celsius, my expectations are rather low.

But you have to be in it to win it. Once the carp become more active and start feeding again, I want to be there with decent traps set up.

Later on, this year, I hope to gain more insight in the behavior of Carp in both water-systems. Although these animals behave instinctively, the environmental factors can be a major lead on how to tackle these water as efficient as possible. Therefore I rely on a digital logbook, inserting every session and hopefully later on catches, will give me some insight in how the environment will reflect into the carps behavior. Variables as water temperature, air pressure, wind, moon-phase, time of day, time of year. This way I can adapt my approach in the future. The Off the Mark app helps me to make up all these statistics. I am curious to see what comes out, to say the least.

Exempt for some blanks the last couple of weeks, I haven't got much more statistics for now :D

Next Up: Bedtime-stories, blooming nature and the explosion of the catch rate...

Stay tuned.

LS

Wies



CARBON BAIT

WWW.CARBONBAITS.CO.UK

Memories of an average Carper
Part 1....



By Dave Locke

Being born and brought up in Erith just outside London in the 1950s there was nowhere close for me to fish, None of my friends fished and I had never even heard about anyone fishing, The river Thames flows through Erith but the only thing you would catch there at that time was a bad case of tetanus it was badly polluted, and foul. Then in 1961 my mum was taken for a long stay in hospital, my dad worked all the time so my so I was taken to stay with my aunty Alice who live in East Peckham Kent.

After a while I was bored with out any mates and being in an unknown area, Aunt Alice asked me if I wanted to go fishing, so of we went to East Peckham weir so that I could have my first ever go at fishing. Yes you did read that correct, my Aunty taught me to fish, I bet there's not many that can say that. All that summer was spent fishing at the weir catching gudgeon and small roach and that was it from the age of eleven I was addicted.

When I returned home all I could think about was going fishing again, My dad took me to look around

places I could fish and we found Horton Kirby and the river Darent, it was in cycling distance of my home so June the next year saw my pedalling my way to Kirby with my newly acquired tackle strapped to my bike. I caught lots of gudgeon, minnows and occasionally a chub, not big ones, a pound was a real good one. Dad was given a 16ft open canoe that we took down to Yalding, Kent to try out, it was while paddling along on one of our Sunday trips that we discovered the disused lock between Yalding and east Peckham, that next summer was spent camping on the lock and for many summers after. We rarely caught from the Medway only very small roach and bootlace eels, but there was a little off shoot from the main river where we would catch half pound roach and of course gudgeon, while ambling about one day we came across a dead rabbit that was riddled with maggots, we mainly used bread or worms as bait so thought maggots would make a change so we picked the rabbit up to take back with us but a lot of the maggots fell off, we scooped them up in of all things a dustbin lid we had found, Then I struck on a devious plan, we hung the rabbit from an overhanging tree above a likely looking spot on the rivers

offshoot, lazy prebaiting I called it, and it worked. The next day the water was alive with roach waiting under the dead rabbit and we caught loads, The next summer we had to shoot our own rabbit and leave it for a week for the maggots to appear.

This was how my angling proceeded until I was 16 when a work mate asked if I wanted to join a fishing club. The waters were about 12 miles away but by then I had a motorbike so distance wasn't a problem. I went with my workmate and he took me to a lake of about 4 acres where we caught lovely Rudd some of them well over a pound. We would often see huge fish leap

out of the water, but we knew they were carp and were uncatchable. In the January of 1968 while perch fishing with a lobworm I hooked and landed my first carp, all 3 pound of it.

Although I tried the best I could I didn't get another carp that season, All through the closed season I spent every spare minute walking around or sitting by the lake trying to learn what I could about the carp when I wasn't at the lake or at work I would be reading any tiny bit of information that I could find about carp fishing, which in those days wasn't much, I even joined the local library to see what books on carp they had but really there was only little bits of info available then



June 15th 1969 saw me waiting patiently,, (yeah right) until midnight all ready to cast in. There was only my mate myself and one other over the far side so with me not being the most patient chap in the world, 11.30pm I gave up and cast in, There was carp sucking lumps of crust all over the lake, except the bit on my hook. Obviously I was being punished by the carp gods for casting in to early. At around 8am I had just nodded of when I heard a wierd noise it's was my intrepid new deluxe reel spinning around and the handle hitting the old wire rod rest. I had unwittingly invented my own bite alarm, I went on through the day to land 7 carp and I was

over the moon, That year taught me a hell of a lot, even though my best carp from the Rudd lake was just 7lb12oz, they were very easily spooked fish and very hard fighting, I don't know exactly how many I caught that first year but it was over 50. I was happy with my fishing but then a couple of things happened, in the close season of 1970 that took me away from the Rudd lake, Firstly we went down the secretaries house to renew our membership and he asked us to keep our eyes open for kids playing on the pump house, Eeerrr what bloody pump house? there's no building around the lake, As it turned out the club had another



lake that was only just across the road from the Rudd lake, so of course we had to go and have a look. It was absolutely huge with crystal clear water

there was 60ft high cliffs stopping you fishing a third of it and a very large outlet pipe constantly pumping warm water into the lake. As we walked around we saw a couple of what to us were massive carp, I would guess now at about 15lb, Some of you Kent lads will know where I talking about. Again that closed season was spent watching the carp and learning about the lake, only this time it wasn't the Rudd lake. Then around the start of May I bumped into an old school friend that turned out to also be a carp fanatic but his best carp was 18lb odd from a place called Brooklands. Unbelievably every time I had gone to Horton Kirby in my early years I had passed Brooklands lakes without having any idea at all that they were there, Doh. Tom my old school friend told me that he was having a weeks holiday the last week of June that he would be spending fishing Brooklands and he invited me to join him for a day or two, which took me all of 2 seconds to agree to. June 15th and I was by myself at the newly discovered large chalk pit, I had wangled my work about so I had 3 days of, I had learnt my lesson the previous year so didn't cast out until midnight, To be fair I wasn't very confident, I was

using a cat food paste on one rod and a floating crust on the other. 4am and the washing up bottle top on the paste hit the rod and the reel started spinning, I had never felt anything like this fish, it just wouldn't stop, I,m not sure how long it took me to land but it seemed like ages. It wieghed 16lb 8oz so I had more than doubled my PB, I had another couple of smaller ones during the day and in the afternoon I put a floating crust out as far as I could. I watched a carp swim around the crust then gently rise up and take it. Another very long fight and would you believe it the same 16lb 8oz carp, twice in one day just 12 hours apart. I had eleven carp that 3 day session and I was one very happy chappie.

Last week of June and I followed Tom down to Brooklands. It was totally different to the Rudd lake and the chalk pit, The lakes are surrounded by large willows, very moody looking and obviously much more heavily fished than the lakes I was used to. There were people all around the lake, We found a swim halfway along what I now know as the comp bank and set up our rods, Tom told me to put one on a paste bait and one on floating crust. The bobbins never stood still but it

just bream whittling the baits down. I'd never caught a break before and after the third one I decided I didn't want to catch any more. Around 1pm the reel on my crust rod started spinning around and as I picked the rod up it nearly got snatched out of my hand. With me trembling like a nymphomaniacs vibrator and Tom shouting words of advice and encouragement we finally managed to get the carp in Toms Huge net. I just stood with my mouth open I really couldn't believe what I had caught. Tom said oh you are a lucky chap,,(well it had the same meaning) On Toms Avon

scales it weighed 20lb2oz. Tom got his camera out and told me how to hold my prize so this is my very first photo of a carp I,v caught.

There was a downside to me catching this carp, We were in no time surrounded by 15 or 20 people. Tom kept asking them to move so he could take the photo, I had been used to fishing very quiet places and I didn't like sharing my moments with crowds, I,m still like it today, I much prefer fishing by myself or just me and a good mate or two. It was so bad on Brooklands that if anyone asked if we caught



anything we would always say no. There was no wet unhooking mat to give things away those days.

My fishing continued on the chalk pit and Brooklands and I was quite happy with my catch rate for a beginner. Whilst watching the chalk pit from the top of the cliffs in the closed season I saw a large group of carp possibly 30 or so and amongst them was a massive dark common, I knew the lake record at the time was about 22lb and this carp dwarfed that.

There was no way I could reach these carp from the bank even nowadays with the bigger reels and carbon rods you could not get a crust out to them. There was only one option, I would swim the bait out. I tried this a few times and it was totally unsuccessful, in no time at all the crust would drift back to the bank creating a huge loop of loose line. Then I had a Baldrick moment. The next trip I took with me a 3 foot length of iron bar with a woman's hair clip whipped on one end and a sharp point the other end and a 4lb club hammer, I swam out to the cliffs, which wasn't easy carrying the bar and hammer and I bashed the bar into a crack in the cliffs, so there was 2 foot of it

sticking out. Sounds easy as I write this down but believe me it wasn't. There was nowhere to stand as I put the bar in as the water was too deep so I was paddling water the whole time. I swam back to the bank and had a very long rest before the next stage.

Several cups of tea and a bit of a nap and I was back out swimming, this time with my hook stuck in my swimming trunks and a plastic container with bits of crust in, towing the line from my reel. Simple, put bit of crust on the hook, clip line into the hair clip, swim back and wait for the big dark common to take the crust. Well quite a few carp took the crust over the next month or two but not that big common.

A couple of times I got back to the bank only to see the line already belting of the reel, if my memory serves me right I think the biggest I had while pulling this trick was 17lb, unfortunately someone reported me and I got a bit of a bo@!*cking but no ban because there wasn't any signs that said no swimming.

There was the week after my bo@!*cking though.

My time fishing between the chalk



pit and Brooklands will always be very fond memories to me, although it took me another two years to get my second twenty pounder from Brooklands and I never got one from the chalk pit.

Then in 1976 we moved down to near Margate, with the upheaval of moving I had a year's break from fishing but I was itching to go and I'd done a bit of research in local waters. I fished by Singwood as a guest a few times but it just didn't appeal to me, it was far too easy. One night I had 12 doubles

in around 6 hours and that sort of took the magic of Carping away from me, if you know what I mean! Luckily I was invited to join a small syndicate called Lyndon. Now this was a very weird shaped lake for a carp water, it was basically shaped like a J about 200 yards long but only 20 feet wide. There were a couple of carp approaching the 30lb mark and quite a few low 20s. You were only allowed to fish one side of the J so tactics were just put the bait against the far bank and wait. I did OK on there with a few of the low 20s and it kept me happy for a few

for a few years but I always felt so restricted on there. You couldn't try different tactics, then one winter John the owner turned up to find a load of netting left at the lake and all the fish had been stolen, It's never reopened as a fishery and I was told that it's now been filled in. I was a bit stuck for a while until I heard about Fordwich. The first time I fished there I had a carp apparently called hotlips from the area called the deeps, but I struggled on there for a couple of years. It's a long range water and while everyone seemed to have

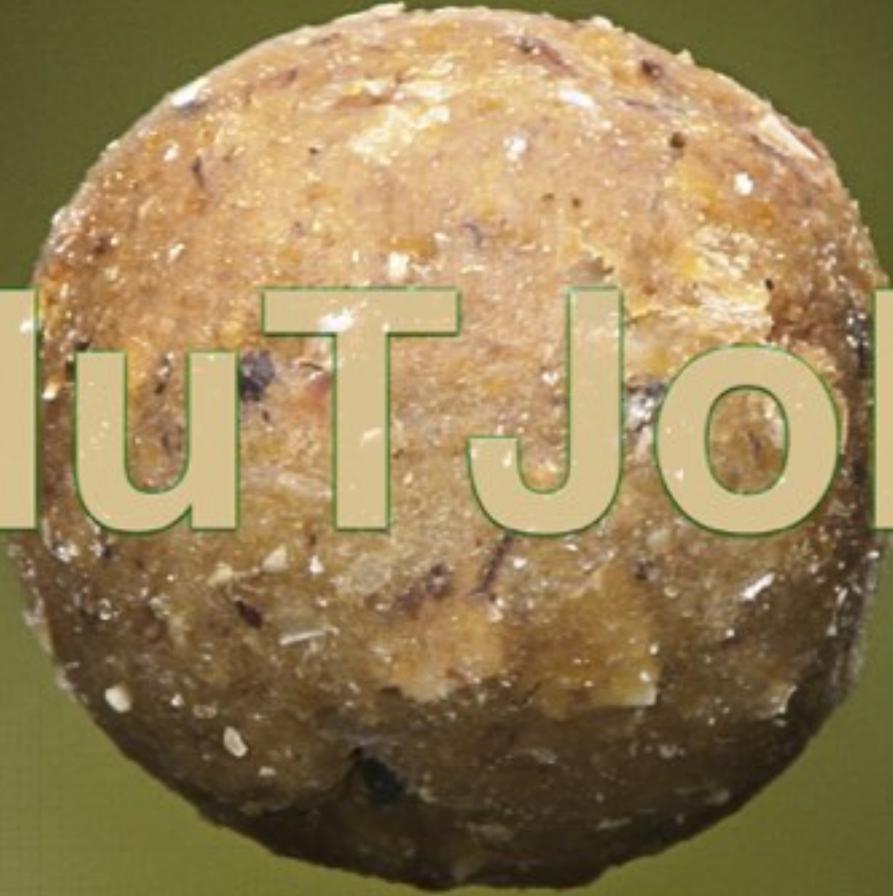
the new super duper carbon rods I was still using mitchell 300s and SS 6 rods. I met some really good mates on there, Phil Milton, Geoff Bowers, Jock White to mention a few. Once I got my carbon 13ft 6inch titan carbon rods I started to catch a lot more regular, and then just when I was getting into the swing of things we moved again, this time over to another part of the world,, Essex, but that's a story for another time,,,,,,

Dave (Gandalf)



**Freezer Fresh
for optimim
quality**

***GALAXY
BAITS***



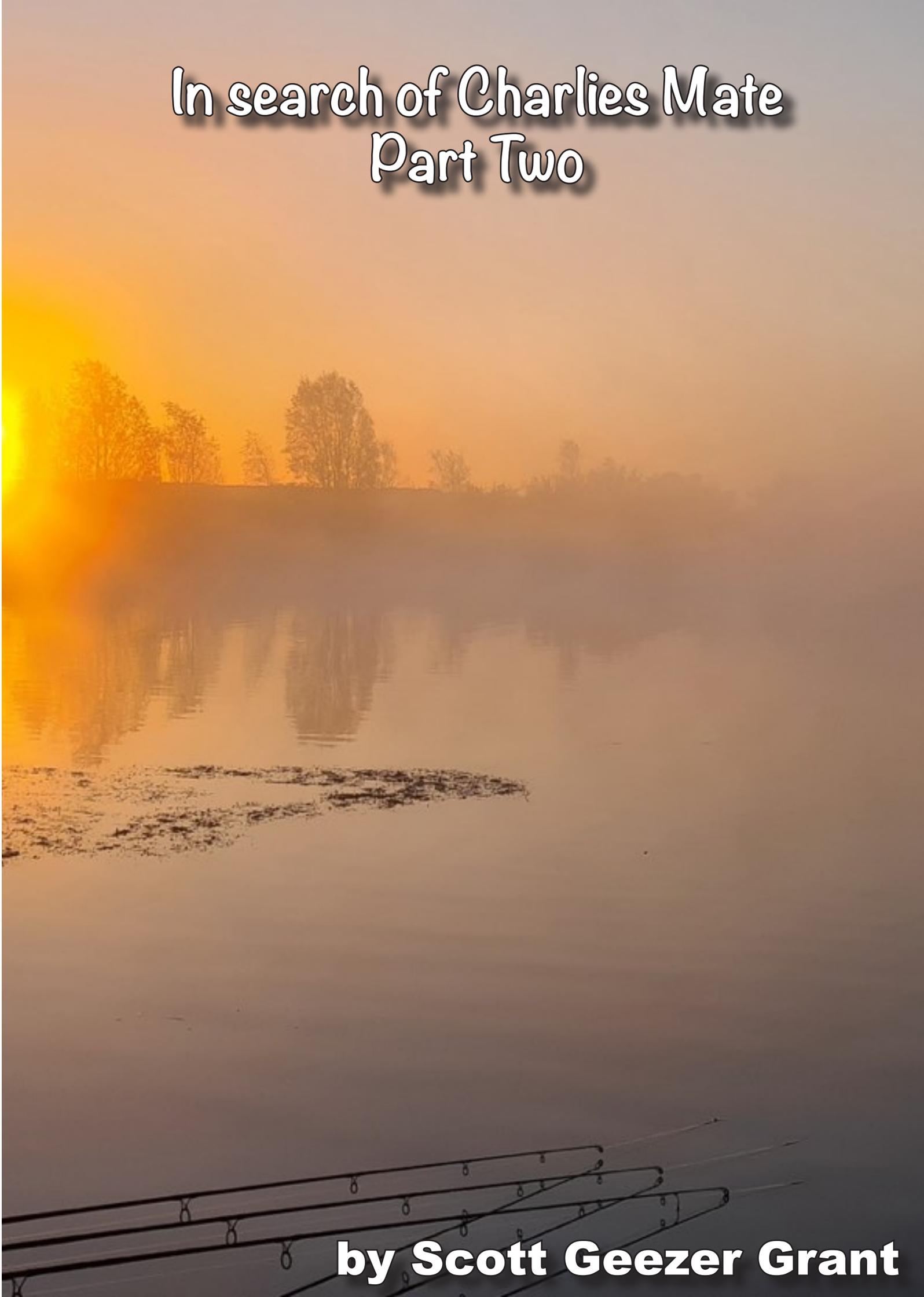
NuTJoB

**14/16/18mm
+DumbBells**

**PoP-ups
Wafers**

**All products contain Medi-Chlorian
“ Health Booster ”
Exclusively created by Galaxy Baits**

In search of Charlies Mate Part Two



by Scott Geezer Grant

I didn't return to the Dell until Mid-October. I arrived just after 6:00 o'clock in the morning. It was still dark, just as it started to get light, I walked slowly down the road bank, and sat in a swim known as The Deeps, a couple of fish showed out in front, this was the swim I fished last time, the fish were roughly at the same distance. It was a no brainer for me this was where I was going to start. With the house up and everything sorted it was time to get the rods out. I

fished all 3 rods tight together and had brought some maggots to add to the mix, I fished pop ups on all rods but topped 2 of them off with a bunch of maggots. Something a little different and the fish love them especially Autumn going into the winter months. For this trip I chose to use a test bait that was put together a couple of years ago called the K.O. along with crushed boilies and Chillie hemp with dead maggots added to the mix. The weather forecast

was really good, it was going to be 16 degrees with sunny intervals. The wind was West/ South-westerly currently blowing from my left to right with low pressure. The odd fish showed at the distance throughout the day but the rods stayed silent. Late in the afternoon a couple of anglers turned up so hopefully something would be caught. After a hot dinner it was time for me to hit the sack. I was rudely awoken at 3:00 o'clock in the morning when I got a take on the middle rod. The fish felt like a goodun, it just slowly started kiting to my right and after a few minutes bang the fish was gone!! I thought I had been cut off but when I reeled in the rig was all intact apart from a missing lead. I checked the hook, and the point was burred over just my luck!!!





With a fresh rig it took me 45 minutes to get the rod back out then another hour before I fell back to sleep, which was hardly worth it as my alarm would be going off soon. I did manage to fall back to sleep and don't remember my alarm going off. When I finally did wake up it was just after 8:00 o'clock, the kettle went on for the mornings brew and I spent the next hour watching the water. The wind had really picked up and it was now quite strong, it was impossible to

see if anything was showing, unless the fish crashed out.

Out of the blue the middle rod was away and as soon as I lifted into the fish, I knew it was a small one, after a few minutes a low double common was laying in the net. The maggots added another dimension so hopefully the bigger fish will get interested and move into the area,

At around midday I wound the rods in and went home for a

shower and a change of clothes, 2 hours later I was back at the Lake; all three rods were put back on the spots, now it was a waiting game. A couple of fish came out from the other end of the lake, so I was wondering if the fish had actually moved. Steve had banked one of the A Team a fish known as "Buster" at 41lb 8oz and a new PB for him, I was so pleased for him he deserved the fish, he has been putting in the effort and was rewarded in style.

Late afternoon the wind turned northerly and was coming straight into my face, a bit uncomfortable but later in the evening it would be going back westerly according to my weather app.

After a quiet night the alarm went off, I was up kettle went on and when I looked out of



he bivvy the whole lake was covered in a very thick fog so I had no chance of seeing if the fish were still showing on the baited area. After checking the weather again, the mist was in for the rest of the day I decided to end my session and come back another day.

When I got home, I had a letter waiting for me from the hospital stating that my operation would be going ahead in early November, there was finally light at the end of the tunnel. I could fit another couple of sessions in before my operation

and I was now getting to grips with the lake, catching fish every trip and surely, it's only a matter of time before I catch the one, I dearly want.

The following week and I was back over the Dell, a few fish had been out Ben had banked one of the A Team, a fish known as the Big Stockie at 44lb, this fish is a stunner and another fish I would dearly love

to add to my portfolio. Next up was Mark with a trio of fish first a 40lb 8oz mirror then a fish known as "The Pretty One" at 40lb 4oz and he finished the session off with a 37lb common, not a bad session at all.

A week later and I was back over The Dell, as I mentioned previously a few fish had been out, so I was hoping to capitalise on their feeding spell. I arrived early morning and with the weather still being kind and the lovely





warm south westerly wind I decided to fish a swim that doesn't become free very often, a swim known as the Ramp. This particular swim is

neigh on at the end of a south westerly wind and the fish tend to show out in the middle. The only restriction you have is if someone goes into the swim

to the right known as the Island as you tend to get cut off, luckily for me there was no one in it. I found 3 lovely areas out in the middle in 10ft of water, cleanish areas surrounded by weed. Again, I fished all rods on chod rigs but this time two of the rods I fished with my maggot rig with the other fishing a simple pop up. I was also using the Nut Job a bait I have been using for the last 5 years and has never let me down. I set the bivvy up right next to the water's edge, the closer to the water the better as my eyes are not what they used to be.

With everything sorted I sat back and just watched the water. I checked my weather app and in the next 24hrs things were going to change. There was a cold snap coming in and this

would be the first cold snap this Autumn so the fish could see it as a sign to start stockpiling their weight on. The night started to draw in and as soon as the sun started to go down you could feel the temperature drop, so much so that I had to put the heater on for a little while, making sure there was ventilation.

After a quiet night I woke to the most beautiful sunrise, the mist was dancing across the water and as the sun came up it looked like it was on fire a true spectacle.

As the morning wore on the temperature started to rise and it looked so good for a fish. Ben and Jake popped round for a coffee and a chat and as we sat their chatting away the right-hand rod gave a couple of bleeps, I walked over to the rod and the line tightened up I lifted the rod and the fish was on, straight away It felt like a good fish and as I started to get the fish under control it done no more then went into a dirty great weed bed!!

Luckily for me Ben was on hand with the boat,

and we done no more then put our life jackets on and started making our way to where the fish was weeded. Once we got above the fish, I applied a little more pressure and the fish started to come out but then straight into another weed bed!! It was a game of give a little gain a little, and after another few minutes of keeping the pressure on the fish finally made its way up to the surface. Ben was on hand with the net and netted the fish first time, we both had a quick breather whilst making sure the fish was safe in the net,



then made our way back to my swim. With the fish safely in the cradle it was time to see my prize, Ben recognised the fish as it's a fish he's been wanting to catch for some time. A proper looking fish with attitude to match. ***On the scales she went 31lb 8oz.***

Ben done the honours with my phone and took some cracking photos, the fish was then treated and returned. I was smiling from ear to ear and finally I had caught



one of the decent sized fish, all the while my passion is being fuelled by one single fish "Charlies Mate" who I know will be over the magical 50lb mark. The fire had truly been lit and I wasted no time in getting the rod re-baited and back

out to the same spot. With the boat loaded out she went, even though the chillie hemp contained dead maggots I was also hooking a large PVA mesh bag of live maggots on the rig just to add even more attraction. With the rig back on the spot the kettle went on for a celebratory coffee.

Jake mentioned that there hadn't been a fish out all week and it was a good sign that the fish are getting back on the feed. I fished a couple more nights with only a small mirror to show for my efforts



even so catching any size fish means you're doing something right and even though there is only one fish I dearly want to catch I don't mind having to earn it by catching others along the way. I fished one more session the following week and again only banked two small commons for my efforts. I then had to have a Covid test and self-isolate for 7 days before being admitted to hospital for my much-needed operation.

Matt Harvey fished a 3-night session in the Island swim and



banked a chunky 34lb mirror again effort equals reward and I know how much effort this young lad puts in well-deserved mate.

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

www.galaxybaits.co.uk

www.sharptackle.co.uk

www.castaway-pva.co.uk

[co.uk](http://www.castaway-pva.co.uk)

[In the Margin Particles \(Facebook\)](#)

If you would like more information on The Dell contact Michael Prior on 07768-124462 he

will be more than happy to help.

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.

If you live in South Ockendon/Aveley area give Matt a shout at Ockendon bait & Tackle if you want lovely plump maggots that last a few weeks if stored correctly.

01708-572166

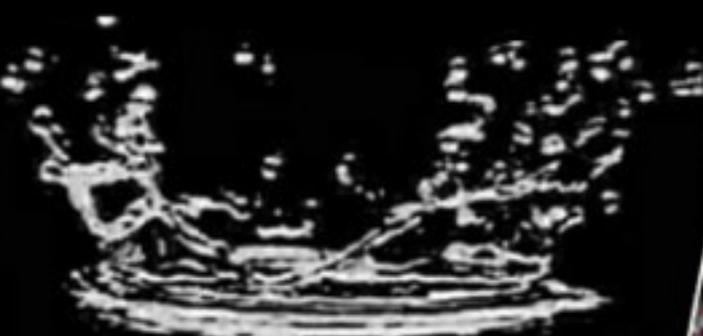
With the Covid restrictions eased it's nice to see anglers bivvied up and doing what we all love.

I hope the rest of 2021 brings everyone good health and plenty of chunks in the net.

Stay safe and remember its only fishing.

Scott "Geezer" Grant

Taking particle preparation to a whole new level!!



IN THE MARGIN
PARTICLES



A New Beginning

by Andy Murray



Hi all, as I am sat putting the finishing touches to this month's article, I find myself in a funny sort of mood, a bit reflective, but also quietly excited. I don't know about you, but I find myself a bit worried when things seem to be going ok, it's as if someone is going to notice and put a spanner in the works and then raise a few more challenges for me to overcome. Why that should be I don't know, just human nature I guess, or maybe a sign of the unsettled times we are in. Normally, I am a great believer in that whilst we can't control what happens around us or to us, we can control how we feel about it, sometimes I have to work at reminding myself of that! This has been one of those times. Once this piece is sent off later today, I will be packing my gear for a few days on the bank and boy am I looking forward to it! It has been a long three months for most I guess and now the end is in sight, let's hope nothing goes wrong (there's me with that spanner again!).

Recapping on my winter season of carp fishing, it's clear it hasn't gone well on the carp catching front. There are several reasons for that, and I could trot out a list of excuses and that's all they are,

aren't they? The thing with Carp Fishing is that sometimes you catch and sometimes you don't, one thing is for certain, the more you apply everything you know with more effort, the more you will catch. So, I guess you could say that I didn't really apply myself fully and with enough commitment, you could be right. But does that mean I haven't enjoyed the time I have had out on the bank? Or my involvement with all other things carpy during this time, of course it doesn't. Those of you who read my pieces regularly will know that carp fishing is a real part of my life, but here's the thing, its part and not all of it. Though they are entwined, there are other things that are important to me as well, the main one being my family, they will always come first, there was a time when it wasn't the case, it's fair to say, that's when I caught more carp as well. Funny that heh? I have no intention of going back to being that person though.

My last couple of trips to my winter water didn't produce any carp, we fished in some bitter conditions and although they had started to move around a bit. It really shows though the importance of swim choice when the carp aren't going far. It also shows the importance of

lake knowledge as well. When I started fishing the lake in January, I was totally blind as to location and tactics needed, with not much being caught and nothing showing, and very little info from anyone else, it was a real challenge, which I knew it would be. The guys who caught first were the guys who knew the lake well. They knew the first spots that would produce and were there at that time and capitalised on that. I'm okay with that and fair play to those that did catch. They had the knowledge and they used it well. This has been the first winter I have fished for quite a few years and I have learned a lot from it. To me, that's the main thing, is that I learn from what I do. So, I know a bit more for future winter carp fishing. Timing, location, bait, even clothing, just as important is how I want to fish in the winter. As hopefully next winter we will have some shows to attend with the Wolf team, not just in the UK, but across Europe as well.

The surgery on my eye had kept me off the bank for two weeks, it had made me feel a bit delicate at times, it has healed well though and now my eyesight is better that it has been for a long time, and

now with new glasses it is simply amazing the difference I feel and how I am seeing things, it's all so much clearer. This sort of brings me back to the start of this piece, how we see things...you could say my last two months' time on the bank were a failure carp catching wise, but for me personally it was something special, why? Because I got to spend a lot of time with my son Alex, who has been on furlough for 12 months now. Nothing special really you might think, but for me it was a time to sit, chat and share thoughts on a regular basis. We have our own lives and don't do this often enough, maybe something we don't all do enough of this kind of thing in our busy lives. It's been the same will all my family in the last few months, seeing enjoyment in the little things with them. It has been a time of coping and getting





orders are good for the Icons, the new Spods are getting good reviews. We have a number of great products in the pipeline as well that have come from the R&D meetings over the winter. All this has taken time as all good things do. I'm sure it will continue to impact on my fishing, but in a good way.

through, which hopefully is nearing the end and we can all look forward to a better summer all round. I have said it before and I'll say it again, I'm not sure I want to go back to the 'normal' we keep hearing about, rather I am hoping for a new 'normal' will be a better place. Working towards a new 'normal' I had my first Jab, which was fairly straightforward, and I had very few side-effects, it seems some folk have had worse reactions, but I guess it's all part of getting through this Pandemic as a nation.

Now we can start to plan for the season ahead, I have been making plans for where I am going to fish and the planning on bait and tactics. Although there are going to be a few interruptions as to where, as we have a lot of filming to do with Wolf to catch up from the last few months lockdown. Things are going well with Wolf, Social Media is gaining real traction. Advanced

Last month I spoke about spodding in detail, this month I thought I would talk about my bait and baiting approach for the coming year. I'm not going to go into rigs just yet and I think they are less important at the start of the year when the carp are on the feed, I know some will disagree but that's ok. I think the next two or three months are a time to stick to the basics of carp fishing as the carp start to move around the lake as it warms up. I would start by suggesting fishing for one bite at a time and build a swim as the bites come, rather than filling it in and expecting a big hit every time. I see this a lot, anglers turn up and then immediately pile a bucketload of bait in before even watching for a while. The sun is starting to have some real power now, it will warm shallow areas up by some margin very quickly.

They are the areas to aim for, providing you have the option! Especially, look for any plateaus that come within a few feet of the surface with deep water around them if angling pressure is keeping the carp out from the bank, for that it may be some serious work with the marker rod is needed to find these spots, sometimes you can see these areas from a high vantage point as well. On the Pits where I fish, you can see the light reflect off the shallow sandy areas at certain times of the day. I have included a picture of a carp I caught last spring in 2 feet of water on a plateau with around 10 feet around it, this was 120 yards from the bank though. Once located, I am happy with a scattering of bait in the area rather than piles of it. So, it's not wise to be putting large amounts out with the Spod, as the area it covers in just two or three feet of water will not be very well spread, a stick may be better for putting a scattering of boilies out sometimes, I mostly use the Spod though, just put a bit less in it. Also, early season these areas are still devoid of weed and I

feel in shallow or clear water the carp can see much more and are more aware of everything around them, so the set-up needs to be a lot less obvious. By that I mean hookbait, line lay and bait around this area. The carp may visit the area several times before they slip up and take the hookbait. So, I prefer to put a little bit of bait out and then top up on a little and often basis, especially if I feel that carp are visiting the area and moving off. As I mentioned last issue, I would fish one rod on a zig and one on the bottom, then take it from there. The Zig wouldn't be directly on top of the plateau, but to the side a bit, so the Zig sits at the same depth as the plateau, so the carp come across it as they enter or leave the area. Once they are in position, I wouldn't move them very often, preferring to re-bait around them. This is where

Name <i>Andrew Murray</i>	
1	Name of vaccine: <i>Astra-Zeneca</i>
	Batch no: <i>PV46664</i> Date vaccine given: <i>4 MAR 202</i>
Don't forget to attend your appointment to have your second dose of vaccine. You will have the best protection after two doses.	
Second appointment date:	
2	Name of vaccine:
	Batch no: Date vaccine given:

you must have confidence in the bait you are using. If the carp eat some, will they return for some more?

So, while we are talking about bait, you will see from the pictures that I have joined the DT Baits team. I first used DT baits back in the late 80's when Eric's Angling first stocked them, I loved the flavours and mixes back then. Dave himself came up to do a talk at the hall opposite Eric's. For a number of reasons things moved on back then. It was a few weeks ago I spoke with Fenton at DT and we immediately got on. I arranged to call and see him next time I was down that way. I was due down at Wolf for some filming and new products discussions, so I called into the DT factory. They have done a lot of work since taking over last year, we talked about many things fishy (as you do!). I also spent some time looking at the different baits, not just smelling them, but tasting them as well. This is really important I feel, all anglers should know what their bait tastes like, most anglers smell baits to see what they think, but it's important to taste them as well. You can get more understanding of the roundness of the bait, I don't mean



the shape, I mean its overall make up, some can be sickly sweet, some can be bitter, some can burn your tongue! This is because the make-up of the bait isn't well put together. If you are using a single hookbait loaded with flavour, you can get away with this. Once the carp are eating baits though, this is where any of the above can have a detrimental effect to the carp wanting to eat anymore. Without getting into the realms of nutritional recognition, palatability is important for the carp to want to eat more bait. Sorry I digressed, so having been through all the baits and looked at flavours, additives, various hookbaits. Also, and more importantly really feeling a synergy with the guys, as to what they are looking to do in the future, to cut a

long story short, I have signed up with DT, I am looking forward to working with the team for the future. Baitwise, I have decided to go with the N-blend, it has a great aroma and taste. As you can see from the pictures, there are a good variation of hookbaits available to match each mix which I really like, as well as the soaks and spray. This will go nicely with the particle mix from Monster that has been delivered recently, giving me a well-rounded baiting strategy for this coming season. My next few sessions will be based on using the N-Blend and Particle mix sparingly, then adding more as I feel carp are visiting the area. That's the plan anyway, I'll let you know how I get on. Whatever you are doing over the coming weeks, as Rod used to say 'don't forget to

smell the hops along the way'.

So, I am off to sort out my gear for tomorrow's fishing trip now.

Catch you next time.

Andy



NUTRABAITS®

15mm

FREEZER BAIT



GB401465

CO-DE

Includes:

CO-DE Base Mix, optimum inclusion rates of
CO-DE UTCS Flavour Blend and Fresh Eggs

- Highest quality ingredients
- Make up ensures ease of digestion
- Proven big fish recipe
- Packed with in-built attraction
- Proven year-round effectiveness

1Kg e



Ingredients For Success

Back Behind The Rods...part one (the 90s) by Barrie Scholes



The covid pandemic saw a huge increase in angling participation due to many people being furloughed or out of work all together. With lots of restrictions on other leisure activities people flocked to the banks. Many took up angling for the first time while others returned to the sport after a long layoff.

However, my return to carp fishing was not triggered by the covid pandemic, it occurred the year before in the summer of 2019. In this two part feature I'll look back on how I found myself back behind the rods after a long period of absence (almost twenty years in fact!), but first I'll begin by looking back on my experiences of carp fishing in the 90s and why I drifted away from the sport.

I first started fishing

in the late 80's on the Bridgewater Canal in the North West of England. My first fishing rod was a real oddity, a small yellow glass fibre thing that had been unearthed from the depths of someone's garage and handed down to me. It caught me my first ever fish though, a perch, and so an angler was born.

After perfecting the art of a birds nest tangle and mastering different ways of getting a float stuck in a tree or other bankside vegetation (much to the annoyance of my uncle), it wasn't until I started fishing with my neighbor Mr Isherwood that I really started to get to grips with angling. He was like my Mr Crabtree and taught me a lot about fishing. As a result, the tangles subsided, and the float started to land in the water

more often than not. With his help I caught plenty of different species and it wasn't too long before I set my sights on catching a carp. There was just something about carp that captivated me. Yes they were bigger than other fish, but they also have a mystic, an aura, that holds a spell over so many anglers and they held a spell over me.

Mr Isherwood didn't fish for carp and with no social media in those days ("the net" was still something you used to catch a fish!), all my info would have to be learnt from the written word. The first carp magazine I bought was Carp Fisher Summer 1989 with Bruce Ashby on the front cover. I'd asked my mum to buy it for me while I was off sick from school and I must have read it cover to cover at least twice



that week while recovering from some childhood lurgy. My first carp book was "The Anglers Mail Guide to Big Carp Fishing" by Andy Little and it was from this that I began to teach myself carp fishing.

After what felt like an eternity I finally caught my first ever carp. A 3 pounder on sweetcorn while fishing with Mr Isherwood. I was thrilled to bits with that capture, but it wasn't really until 1992 that I started to cut my teeth as a carp angler when I started fishing my

local carp lake and caught my first double. I had mixed success on there, but I learnt so much. I tried to glean as much information as I could, whether that be pestering other anglers or from magazines, books and even VHS (remember those?!).

There was no YouTube back in the 90s! After initially using ready-mades, such as Richworth Tutti Frutti. It wasn't long before I started to make my own bait. My friend John used to scribble down boilie recipes on bits

a paper for me. Then off I'd go to the local Holland and Barret to buy my ingredients before making up a batch of boilies back home, stinking out my mothers kitchen and ruining her pans in the process. I probably tried a different flavour combination every time I went. Normally from the Rod Hutchinson or Nash stable. Strawberry was always a favourite of mine because you could eat them if you'd run out of food!

Rig wise, after a disaster losing a big fish (which would have been my first ever carp and first ever double) on a dental floss hooklink I progressed to using simple Dacron hair rigs and after that to kryston merlin and fluorocarbon hooklinks.

My paper round money, along with birthdays and

and Christmas, was how I funded my fishing. So, to start with I only had a one rod set up. Despite optonics being popular in those days my finances could only stretch to an antenna type buzzer by BJ Electronics, a similar design to the old Heron alarms. Being young and naive I didn't understand why everyone found a BJ alarm so hilarious?! Eventually though I managed to cobble together a two rod set up, however it would have sent today's OCD "tackle tarts" into a fit

of panic as none of it matched! The two Sunridge carp rods were both 11 ft with a 2lb test curve, but one was red and the other green. One had a Shimano baitrunner 4000s reel the other a Silstar. I "matched" the BJ buzzer with super XL I'd bought off a friend and to finish the setup, a fox mark 2 swinger on one rod and a monkey climber on the other! Sitting under my Wavelock nubrolli on my blue Argos sun lounge though I thought I looked the part!

When collecting my newspapers for the start of my paper round, once a month there would be the latest Carpworld magazine for me amongst the pile.



I was a huge fan, and it was through reading that magazine that I started writing to Julian Cundiff. He had a regular piece in there called Julian Cundiff's Carp Clinic where he'd invite people to write to him for advice. It was a great thrill receiving a letter from such a high profile angler and I still have the letters that he sent now. Those letters and his book Practical Carp Fishing were a huge help to my fishing.

I was also a member of the Carp Society in the





90s. Back then probably the most exciting thing that you could do, as a mad keen young carp angler, was to attend a carp society junior fish in at Horseshoe Lake and in 1994 that's exactly what I did. The lake was famous for its fully scaled carp and I really wanted to catch one of them. It was a great weekend; the weather was glorious, and I was bivvied

up on the Witney Bank. Unfortunately, most of the fish were in summer bay so the fishing was tricky. But after being showed a new-fangled "zig rig" by my helper I caught my fully scaled horseshoe carp!

Carp society conferences

were very popular at the time too and I attended a couple of the Winter Conferences at Dunstable and also a Junior conference. They were great events and I got to meet many of my fishing idols such as Julian Cundiff, Chris Yates, Terry Hearn

and many others.

After leaving school such was my enthusiasm for carp fishing that I continued my education at Sparsholt College in Hampshire where I obtained a HND in Fishery Studies. One of the highlights of my studies there involved rearing carp from eggs. When carp first hatch, they are as small as eye lashes and unrecognisable as carp. But after several weeks of feeding them on artemia I'd grown hundreds of carp in perfect miniature form. I often wonder what ever happened to those fish, perhaps





some of you are angling for them while reading this? I did a little bit of fishing down there too. Catching some nice grayling out of the chalk streams and a new pb mirror from Broadlands and my first grass carp from Sway Lakes.



Returning back home from college I got myself a car and started to fish a little further afield but still mostly in Cheshire. I was doing ok too. The fishing was going well. I was enjoying the freedom of having my own car and started to do a few night sessions which I'd not really done as a kid. Finding permanent employment however was proving somewhat trickier. I was always in work, but mostly on temporary contracts. Without a permanent job I wasn't able to get a mortgage and as a result just had to watch





as house prices rocketed overnight leaving me well and truly priced out of the market. This was the start of me drifting away from fishing really as reality set in that if I wanted to "get on" in life I needed to put my effort in to retraining, trying to get a permanent job and somehow trying to get on the property ladder and do all the boring things we have to do as adults.

I didn't make a conscious decision to give up fishing, but I do remember walking around a lake one day carrying all my gear (no barrows then) ready to start my session. It was absolutely hammering it down and I was soaked. I remember thinking "why am I here?". I think we all think that from time to time if we're honest. Normally we just grin and bear it, but on this

occasion a voice in my head said, "well just go home then if you don't want to be here".

So, I did! Little did I know at the time, but it would be 19 years before I went back again! I didn't mean it to be that long. But it's amazing how quickly a month can turn in to a year, which turns into 5 years then 10 etc. Without going in to too much detail life got a bit hectic in the time I was away from fishing. It wasn't all bad, I enjoyed other pursuits like surfing and played bass guitar in a few bands. However failed relationships, selling a house at a huge loss, becoming a dad, all meant that going fishing was the least of my priorities for quite some time! In the back of my mind though I knew that my rods were still sat in the loft and that one day the time would be right to

get them out again and to go carp fishing once more. That time came

in August 2019, and I'll talk all about that in part two...



ANGLERS CHARITY AUCTIONS



THE
ROSE
APPEAL

Anglers Charity Auctions ACA

ACA Thermal Trousers

100% Waterproof
Wind-proof &
Breathable
Fleece-lined.
Super stylish and very
comfortable outdoor
waterproofs.

This modern
Peachskin fabric is
essentially a hi-tech,
synthetic version

of traditional moleskin clothing. It is beautifully soft to the touch and ACA have combined it with a complimentary, lightweight Taslan-type synthetic shell on the seat & knees to produce a very elegant outdoor set.

Ideal for: Fishing, Shooting, Hunting, Walking, Working, Spectating, and loads of other outdoor activities.

Overtrouser features: with..

Elasticated Waistband & Press-stud Fastener. Velcro Adjuster to fit bottoms snug around boots. Reinforced Taslan to Knees and Seat. 2x Side Hand Pockets. 2x External Patch Pockets.

Available in Sizes:

Large, XL, 2XL, 3XL



Now available In association with NAVITAS !!!!!!!!

check the ACA website for more information





ACA Bank Buddy ONLY £27.99

The ACA Bank Buddy is a waterproof wireless speaker that has been designed and built with outdoor adventures in mind

A GREAT ADDITION TO YOUR KIT !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

PRODUCT FEATURES INCLUDE :

- Blue Tooth Connectivity
- Hands Free Call Facility
- Two Way Control
- AUX Input to play DVD'S etc
- Built In FM Radio
- Shock and Waterproof

Get Yours Now at <http://acaproducts.co.uk/?product=aca-bank-buddy>
100% of all profits from the sale of Bank Buddy goes to Charity.

Talking Carp

A Fresh Start
by
Tom Blackmore



Having started a new water at the start of the 2020 season I had got my head around spending a few seasons on there and then looking to move to somewhere new. Having recently joined the Team at DT Baits as the Social media manager I was excited to get started. However due to the manner in which this syndicate was run I fished my last session in November 2020 having only really fished it since June 2020. My fears had been confirmed that the owners had no regard for the anglers paying over £400 a year to fish. They were making their own rules and filling the lake in with 100's of kgs of cheap bait at a time, which in turn, slowed the fishing down completely and made the decision to stop fishing there very simple.

Having not really had a backup plan, when I received the call from my good friend Michael to say "the ticket is on you're on the "Carp Reserve" I was buzzing! The carp reserve is a 3 arche lake based in the Fingringhoe, Colchester Essex. And this lake is like a carp's dream! It has gravels spots, weed, silt, pads, snags, deep margins, mounds in the lake. Everything a carp could want and more. With fish ranging from about low double up to an expected weight of 40+ the buzz was real.

As mentioned, previously a couple of my very close friends were already on the syndicate. And has been introducing DT Bait over the course of the season. As expected, the baiting paid off. My good friend Michael had done exceptionally well for

his first season landing 14 fish to just over 30 and losing a few along the way. Terry aka "the mega melt" had struggled due to work commitments so was still yet to have a fish after losing one late on in the season. But this was the reality of the water I was about to start on. Two exceptional anglers and two completely different stories to be told.

Whenever I start on a new water the first thing I will always do is try and get as much information as possible. Somebody once said to me information is a weapon that everyone wants in their locker and he couldn't be closer to the truth. The estimated stock of fish was about 80 fish. Which sounds like a good head for the size of the water. However as previously



mentioned this isn't just a straightforward water. This lake had everything. Choosing what bait to use for the new campaign was simple. Having fished with Supa fruit for my first year with the company and previously having fished with it as a general customer I have every confidence in this bait to fish it anywhere. I'd done exceptionally well on the previous water using it having only blanked on three occasions during the hot 30+ degrees weather and landing nearly 50 fish! The choice is easy. However, I want to keep all my cards on

the table and fishing two baits from the range gave me that extra option.

Having kept my ear to the ground and keeping up

to date with what other anglers were doing on the lake it was clear the fish liked a good old fish meal bait in the warmer months. While I personally wouldn't opt to use a fish meal in the winter due to the slow digestion rate of the carp when the fish are looking to pack weight on fish meal baits are full or the right goodness that they crave. There are three fish meal baits in the range at DT, Fish Blood and Fresh Orange (FBO), Peach and Sour Cream and Oily Chicken.

While all three baits bring something different to the table

and will equally work as well as one another my preference was going to be the FBO. To me the smell reminds me of a chocolate orange. And those who know DT baits well will know this bait has got a ridiculous reputation as a big fish bait. While all the baits produce huge fish all year round this one seems to have the edge to pick out some of those rare visitors to the bank and the bigger fish among the pack.

Next on the agenda for me is the size of the bait. Now here at DT they offer two standard sizes 15mm and 18mm. For custom orders made in 20kg increments they can offer a further 22 mm bait which is popular among the European anglers. Me being me just had to have some 22 mm Supa Fruit. My thought process is



simple I am confident they won't be used to seeing miniature style golf balls in the water and this could give me an edge.

In terms of my bait application, I am not afraid to feed them. Now this doesn't mean I put in 20kgs in every time I go. If this was the case I'd either be homeless, or the company wouldn't be making any money. However, one 30lb fish could easily mop up a kilo of bait without thinking about it. If you're fishing a water with for example ten 30lb fish, four or five kilos isn't a huge amount of bait to be putting out. For me

though I always want maximum attraction in my swim. I want the fish to come into my swim and not want to leave until

all the bait is gone. Because of this my process is simple. I always use frozen bait so as soon as it comes out the freezer, I give it a generous helping of matching DT Baits DNA Liquid. While the bait dries out it will absorb the liquid and slowly release it when it's then introduced to the water. There is no limit on how much you can use as it's all about the ultimate attraction. Another method I will use on certain waters is dry my bait out from the freezer. Once it's dried out fully I will give it a generous lashing of matching boilie dip. While it's still soaking this in, I will roll it in

matching stick mix. This is a great idea if you want to keep the fish grubbing around in the swim. As when it hits the water the small particles will fall with the bait however because the stick mix is made with the same high-quality ingredients that go into the bait the fish will keep coming back until it's all gone.

Bait application is nothing unless you know what you're fishing on. On the Carp Reserve we can use blow up boats this gives a massive advantage when fishing. We all go through a time where we cast a rig out and think "I don't like the way that landed". Dropping rigs in by hand gives a massive advantage. Not only can you lower your rig down and be confident it's sitting perfect. If it doesn't happen for you during that session

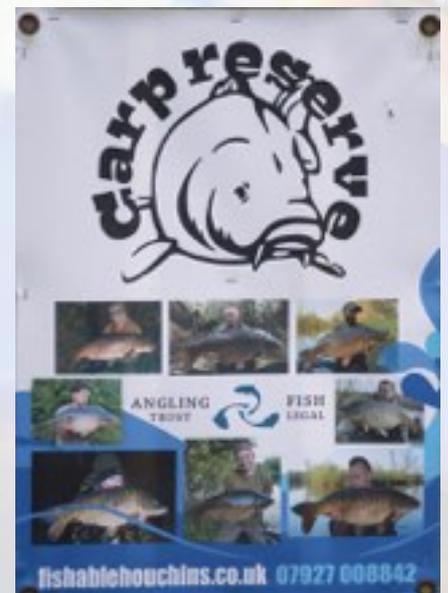
you can check your spots before you leave. The advantages of this are you'll know for next time should you need to make any little tweaks to the presentation of your rig. If the baits all gone but the hook bait is still there you know there's a problem.

Finally, the last approach to any new water must be finding the fish. Whether you're fishing a water that's 1 acre, or 100 acres location is key. Lots of anglers pre plan in their heads where they are going, what swim they want only to get to the lake and find someone is already in there and fishing. Don't plan too far ahead. The weather changes quicker than you can say your own name in the UK. Don't be caught out, spend a little bit of time trying to locate the fish. Look for signs of movement,

signs of feeding. Now I know a lot will say this is easier said than done when fishing day ticket waters and club waters as they get so busy. If these are the sorts of waters, you are fishing make sure you stay mobile. People will come and go, and the fish will move. If your rods are motionless and there's fish boshing in a free swim you know where you need to be. A fresh start on a new lake is always exciting, adrenaline is pumping, and your brain is going into overdrive. For me the build-up is immense, and I can't wait to get going. My fishing for this year will be limited due to the expectance of my second child a baby sister for my little boy Leo due in July. Until then I plan to spend as much time as I can targeting these fish. Learning the lake and most of all making sure

they are well fed! I'd like to thank the owners at DT Bait Developments for having me on the team and supporting my fishing. And I hope to be checking back in very soon with a fish or two from the carp reserve. This article has been written in preparation of my ticket starting and the pictures used have been taken while on the bank with friends. There's a saying we have at DT "believe in bait" and if you don't believe you know where we are.....

Tom Blackmore.



Castaway PVA

System
Size: 3mm

Castaway PVA

White Foam Beadlets
4 Litres

Castaway

Slow Melting
Length: 7mm



www.castaway-pva.co.uk

System
Size: 35mm • Length: 7mm

Castaway PVA



Fast Dissolving • Non Residue
Environmentally Friendly

Castaway

Fill Tub
35mm • Length: 25mm

Castaway PVA

PVA Solid Bags
20mm x 100mm
Pack of 20



Castaway PVA

Bait Floss
Length: 100m
Fluorescent Yellow

PVA Rig Tub

www.castaway-pva.co.uk



Effort equals reward
by Richard Handel

Effort equals reward should be a common statement or factor within your fishing and your chances of catching. But, I believe that it's more than that. As it relates to the amount of effort which you put in, to get the rewards you are looking for. Not anyone else and is very much related to my article about not comparing yourself to others, that's just pointless and can effect your fishing.

It can take a lot of effort for people to go fishing and the simple reward for them is that they got there, enjoyed themselves and maybe caught a fish or two. This is all about the process of getting out and onto the bank side. Others will not understand this at all, simply because the effort equals reward is completely different.

You may feel that catching is your reward, but you mustn't fall into the trap of being obsessed with this either, as this pathway can lead you into the pit of doom. Which is certainly hard to get out of and can result in selling your tackle. Personally, I look at it in many ways, depending on my current situation. If for instance I had had a hard week at work, it will take me a lot of effort to get me down the lake.

However, years of doing this, tell me that it's definitely worth it, in the end. I don't focus too hard on catching when I arrive, as you need to unwind and then concentrate on catching. You will find that you do everything perfectly without any thought and you will no doubt catch. It's all about evaluating what you want out of fishing each. I like to fish by myself, without disturbance from others and I often avoid popular areas to keep myself away. It's just the way I like to fish. If you're lucky enough to find a likeminded person, this can make



a great team. Over the years, I've seen anglers turning up with their mate and he will always get the better swim/side of the swim, or even turn up first just to bag it. I find this hard to comprehend, you should be fishing as a team against the carp and share out equally the choices. I'm very lucky in this instance and it makes a very successful partnership.

Sometimes you just want to be social and have a laugh, this also fits into the reward side of fishing. You need a bit of fun after a week at work or just a break from the treadmill.

The important part is that you need to be happy and that you are putting in the required effort to gain the rewards from fishing each time you go - depending on your circumstances. It's not important that it isn't the same goal each time, as long as you are happy. If you

just turn up on a Friday night set up next to your mate, chuck the rods out, have a laugh and a chat and go home Saturday morning, this is just the same as turning up looking, trying to spot carp and set up in the right spot, with the right rigs and bag a new Pb. You're just focusing on yourself and the rewards that benefit you (and not others). Fish for you and not others, this will help you enjoy fishing for many years to come and not get lost on the why. I've done this once and nearly did a second time.

Hope this helps and enjoy your fishing.

Until next time

Richard







RidgeMonkey®



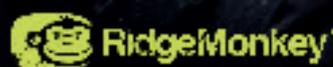
ARMOURY TACKLEBOX

What's in your armoury?

There is no doubt that being well organised is paramount in any pursuit and fishing is no exception. We're proud to offer a small, but well considered, essential kit of tools to help you get the most out of your fishing. The RidgeMonkey Armoury Tacklebox is a well thought out, deep draw, multi-compartment tackle box. It's only 14cm deep, 18cm wide, 10cm high and weighs only 1.2kg. It's a small, but well considered, essential kit of tools to help you get the most out of your fishing. It comes with a massive 20 compartments on 3 separate trays, three separating boards and an efficiently stored digital scale. The RidgeMonkey Armoury Tacklebox is perfect for anyone that wishes to maximise and preserve their valuable and tackle, tackle and gear in a high quality box that is made to last. It's a well thought out, deep draw, multi-compartment tackle box. It's only 14cm deep, 18cm wide, 10cm high and weighs only 1.2kg. It's a small, but well considered, essential kit of tools to help you get the most out of your fishing.

THE 20 COMPARTMENTS

- Robust ABS & polypropylene construction
- Large roll in lid and lid cover to protect
- Magnetic lid and hinge for a stable design
- 20 compartments all with various lids
- Three separating boards
- Digital measurement scale
- 70 angle and 20 touch up kits included



Embrace The Outdoors

Styled for the street constructed
for the great outdoors

All-land Deepseek White Clothing Range
Available in Small to XXX
Black and Green colours available
Nine garments within the range

AVAILABLE FROM ALL
RIDGEMONKEY STOCKISTS



RM-TEC **APEX**

Straight to the point.



Reflections Of A Year



by Steve Gilbey

I found myself the other day thinking and reflecting on a strange and uncertain year particularly given the start in early February when I managed a few very short sessions on my syndicate lake before a nationwide lockdown started.

A few captures made the day trips worthwhile in February and leading on into spring and early summer I managed three overnight sessions banking some amazing carp in the process the biggest being a tad over 26lb a real scaly mirror that we nicknamed 'HUTCHY' after the great man himself and caught on the ever reliable and consistent Ballistic B from Rod Hutchinson.

A highlight had to be the capture of a 19lb Zip Linear on my first overnight session a fish that I had never seen before in the lake and I had no idea that the lake contained such an amazing carp. Not huge fish in the grand scheme of things but I am not bothered by the size of carp I catch its being out there and catching a carp with the time I have.

By the end of June work was busy and I did not wet a line for the rest of the year with all sorts of commitments far greater than fishing.

I had hoped to be writing an article regarding around the capture of the Fully scaled mirror from my syndicate lake that still alludes me now hitting the 30lb barrier but alas it was not to be, and that particular carp still alludes me.

But looking back I really cannot complain did I make the most of the time I had?

Absolutely!! 12 fish in five sessions and most coming on really short overnight opportunities after finishing work and packed up mid-morning to spend time with the family.



I love the short-day sessions or quick overnights it makes you a much more focussed angler as you are not only competing with the other anglers and the carp but the time you have to fit in your hobby!!

Moving forward this year is exciting with Rod Hutchinson with new products coming out and new targets to achieve and I hope to be doing a monthly article on my short session angling.

First up for me has been a day session on my syndicate water and after not angling since June last year I was desperate to get out into nature not to mention try and catch a carp!!

I also had some nice new bits from Rod Hutchinson to use on the bank including the new CLS Compact Rig Wallet and Bivvy tray which is a fantastic little idea to help you tie rigs store your kit and have a brew.

When the opportunity finally presented itself to go, I was faced with a bit of poor weather with high pressure a freeze overnight and knowing the lake reasonably well I guessed that there would be a few anglers on the bank.

I always mull over in my mind where I might like to be when fishing sometimes to the point of obsession!! Where might the wind be blowing? Where is the sun? How cold is it? Along with a whole box of questions that continually go around in my head too many to list for this article.

I guess that there are so many videos, blogs, articles, celebrity opinions and it is very easy to become confused by the whole thing I know I have found myself in that position.

I have found that you cannot get too caught up in what are ideal conditions to go fishing as for many of us me included that choice is simply not available, you go when you can go!!

I wanted to remind the reader that for most people who combine their jobs with their family there is not always the luxury to fish two or three days a week or who have the benefit of many different venues to visit.

Unless you are a full-time angler or you have no other commitments in your life or better retired, it's very difficult to spend as much time as you would like visiting your chosen water to gain that extra bit

of knowledge that is needed to make an average angler into a very good one.

Now I am not saying that effort does not equal reward but for most of you when the session comes around and you are desperate for some me time the main priority is actually getting a swim with angling pressure being high these days.

I listened to a well-known angler the other day talk about spending several hours searching for carp and that they would often wait until it was dark before setting up continually



listening for carp and if a venue did not look good, they would go somewhere else.

Now I don't know about the reader but if I have a short-day session to fish and with the best preparation, I will be at the lake for first light to watch listen and make my decision before other anglers make theirs you do not have the luxury of time and for many of us, we do not have the luxury of visiting multiple venues. Imagine the cost of all those syndicate tickets!!!

So, for my angling I will always choose a venue that has a good stock of carp and is not so vast that you would need to spend time searching for them.

If the venue is well stocked your increase your chances of a bite particularly in winter but at all other times of the year in my experience.

I prefer shallow silty lakes if I am honest, I have fished deep reservoirs and old brick pits before and whilst I enjoyed my time on there the appeal of a smaller more intimate venue is what sets my mind thinking.

I would imagine that most anglers local will probably be similar particularly if established over a number of years local club lakes and day



ticket venues included.

To my mind that is why when time is against me my venue choice is important it has to be local within travelling distance of my home and gives me a great chance of a bite, I am not chasing the biggest carp in the country my life does not allow me to do that. For me it's about catching a carp size irrelevant!

The lake I fish currently is a small five-acre water with two islands separated by a channel and has loads of overhanging bushes and when spring arrives has loads of lily pads spread out from the margin. At its deepest I would guess it's around six feet and, in the margins, shallowing up to two or three feet predominately fenland soil makes for a silty venue with some areas harder than others.

I guess that the stock may be between 200 carp difficult to say but they are all English carp going up to 30lbs.

What I like about this venue is the unknown there are still carp that I have not caught, and every year throws up a surprise big or small they all count!!



And that is why I go carp fishing the unknown, it's all those things we just spoke about along with others and the chance of catching a carp be it a thirty or a mid-double. So, with that in mind on to the session and I hope that there are a few bits and pieces that may help you put a fish on the

bank.

I set my alarm for half past five in the morning aiming to be at the lake for just after six with the aim of trying to have a good hunt for an hour or so with day only sessions I want to give myself the best possible chance.

The weather was slightly milder for February but there had been an overnight frost and the sun was going to be out so not ideal and very little breeze.

Upon arriving it was still dark, and it seemed that others had the same idea as there were several cars already in the car park area, I counted four.

My heart sank a little as normally if there's about four or five cars then usually that means there will be someone on every side of the lake. I went for a walk to just see who was where and if I could come up with a quick plan.

I always try to be different from others in where I fish but I had spoken to a few anglers who fish the lake, and it was clear many of the carp were being caught from the Eastern side of the lake between the islands.

As I looked out over the lake just as the light started to come through the tree's I could see that the Eastern bank



had been taken with three anglers next to each other occupying all the swims.

The fourth angler had set up on the Western bank which again gave access to the middle part of the lake and between the islands.

Not so bad I thought to myself as this gave me two free banks to have a look at ideally the Northern bank would get me closer to where carp had been caught but the first angler was fishing to the corner of the island and given the space available, I don't like being close to other anglers it's my worst nightmare!!

So, I headed for the Southern bank at the far end of the lake which gave me access to a large section of the lake and the island as well as several snaggy areas at the bottom of the Eastern bank.

The gear was delivered quickly to the swim as another angler had just pulled up at the gate, so I wanted to be in position before the choice was made.



I had formed the plan in my mind where I thought I could make the most of any opportunity that presented itself should a carp come my way.

Looking out towards the island I liked the look of a sunken tree

uprooted and leaving a gap between the water and the bottom of the tree almost like a V-shape.

Next to the tree almost on the corner of the island was a small section of reeds and both these spots look good for a bite, the thought process being that the tree with its sunken branches would be a good place for carp to be.

I could also see that as the sun was rising that it would be hitting the corner of the island and I imagined in my mind that with the sun coming up it would warm the water in these areas as the day progressed. I was not confident of a bite in the morning as it was still cold but looking to later in the day when things would appear more active.

The third area that interested me was an area that I had caught carp from all year in the past a sunken bush spreading about twelve feet from the bank in the corner of the Eastern bank. A few practice casts to the fallen tree and I found a spot I was happy with and clipped up at just under 14 wraps dropping just under the tree the spot felt a bit silty, but I felt the lead down to a reasonably firm landing.

The next rod I placed very close to the reeds on the island feeling the lead down in about six feet of water, with both rods clipped up I decided to fish one with a pop up and one on a bottom bait to the bottom bait I would attach a very small bag of crumb.

Bait choice changes little for me and Rod Hutchinson Ballistic B is so consistent, and I am always confident of catching a carp on this bait.

So out came a multi rig from my Compact Rig pouch already to go the only thing I had to do was add the pop up to the bait screw.

Out went the first rod and fell short of where I wanted it to so a few more casts before I was happy, for the reader I am more than happy to recast until I am exactly where I want to be.

The second rod I decided to fish with a hardened bottom bait again Rod Hutchinson Ballistic B on a German rig tied to around eight inches and to this I added a small mesh bag of my favourite mix boilie crumb stick mix and hemp oil and a good helping of matching liquid carp food.

Out onto the spot and I was fishing on the island and happy as the sun broke from the tree's it was lovely to feel a little warmth and happiness during these difficult times.

My third rod was dispatched after several efforts to the sunken bush clipping the branches as it went down again a German rig was the choice with a glugged bottom bait and small mesh bag attached.

I felt the rig touchdown on a firm patch and was happy that it was fishing, I don't normally use anymore bait than a handful so once the rig was in position I crept around to the bush and placed a handful of crushed Ballistic B over the rig.

It was time to settle down and have a brew and watch nature for a while and just enjoy being free or work and lockdown.

A new piece of gear from Rod Hutchinson and something that I have been keen to use has been the Bivvy tray and what an idea, just brilliant for tying your rigs or for putting your cup of tea on. A slow morning was spent watching the water with no signs of Mr carp in my area of the lake but what I did see was the angler fishing the middle part of the lake receive several takes and carp on the bank but nothing to the anglers either side of him.

That told me that the carp were clearly grouped up in front of him between the islands, the angler opposite him on the Western bank had also caught a couple of carp.

Strangely I did not feel put off even though I had the feeling that I needed to move, but move to where was the question as there were no other areas un-occupied??

And this takes me on to the point I made earlier we can't always move to where the fish are despite perhaps wanting to so for me, I have to try even harder to get that bite.

I was happy recasting to my spots every hour with a fresh bag



and new hook bait and on two occasions I was glad I did as when reeling in the rig was caught on a twig or branch on the bottom. If you think you should have had a bite or you are not happy

reel in and do it again, I promise you it's worth that effort. After a recast I sat watching the snags and I received a drop back and two bleeps from my mag runner on the rod close to the reeds and fallen tree, the line was slightly slack, but I could see it gradually tightening up a carp was on and swimming straight towards me!!

A bit of a scrap later and a nice mirror graced my net not a monster but a carp in winter and another indicator that the location was right along with the bait and rig choice, so it had taken a bit of time, but I was happy the first fish of 2021!! Photograph taken and rig back out on the spot I sat back to make up a few more small mesh bags of crumb and watch the water. I continued to recast every hour or so and switched hook baits a few times to a pink 12mm Ballistic B POP UP thinking that a little change might provoke a response. It didn't and it was well into the afternoon before another bite came and in fairness the temperature had risen by a few degrees.

This time the rod positioned right under the fallen tree did the bite again travelling towards me and across my other line I am pretty sure the carp had no idea it was hooked until it came close to the bank where it sprung into life leading me a merry dance for a good five or ten minutes before it



succumbed to my net.

A mid double common lay sulking in the net and once secured I replaced the rig back out onto the spot with a fresh Ballistic B Hook bait and mesh bag.

On the mat I noticed that there were a few leeches on the carp a clear sign that the carp had been sat up on the bottom somewhere probably in the silt not moving much. Maybe the slight change in temperature and light got him moving who knows but food for thought maybe?

Another hour or so passed and the light was fading so my chances faded for another one!

I felt confident that had I stayed into darkness I may have sneaked another, but it was time to head home for a bit of family time something I am always grateful for with a very understanding wife who finds me the time to go amongst her busy job and being a mum.

So, a fairly good start to my angling in 2021 after a long layoff and all the difficulties we have faced as a Nation for what seems like forever, but I for one am grateful for these little wins the chance to go carp fishing out in the open air away from the stresses of work and a welcome distraction from a national lockdown. I hope I have given you the reader a little bit of insight into my angling which will be very similar to many of you out there so if anything helps you put a carp on the bank then that's job done.

All the best for your angling and to a better year.

Steve G
TEAM ROD HUTCHINSON

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



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



www.sharptackle.co.uk

Autumn/Winter Campaign on the Club Water



by Rob Gainer

After being a member of Hull and Districts Anglers' Association since 2016, I was asked if I wanted to be a part of the bailiff team down at the Brandesburton complex coming towards the end of 2019. Still having a few targets left on the complex that I didn't manage to catch the first time around, I thought it was a no brainer as I was planning to do a year back on the complex anyway.

There are four lakes on the complex all varying in size and difficulty, but all hold some very special carp. My targets for the year which I hadn't managed to tick off the list previously were "The Original" from Pond 2, which is roughly 2 acres in size with depths up to 26ft which had been recently restocked

taking the stock up to over 160 carp and is probably the most popular lake on the complex since being restocked, "The Black Common" and "The Ghostie" from No. 3&4 pond, a much more challenging lake being roughly 8 acres in size with a stock of around 150 carp, and finally "Lumpy" from Burshill A, a small intimate 1.5 acre lake that is relatively shallow averaging 5ft in depth but full of snags, pads, weed and can get very overgrown in summer. This lake also had a restocking of 350 small carp around 1lb in 2018 to add to the existing stock of roughly 50 carp so targeting one fish from this lake was going to be tough to say the least.

When I first joined the club, I spent the first full year on the Brandesburton

complex landing 54 fish from No. 3&4 pond with the majority of the named fish ticked off the list, then only did the odd session here and there over the next few years leading me up to where I am now.

This takes us to October 2019, and I was putting plans in place on how I was going to approach it and what my tactics were going to be. All the lakes had benefitted from the club's restocking program since I last properly targeted them, so I was now fishing for certain fish with the lakes having a much larger stock. Pond 2 for example, had no more than 35-40 fish back in 2016 when I was fishing it, but it now has over 160 carp.

Knowing No. 3&4 pond and Burshill A have good winter form I decided to target these

two waters first and leave Pond 2 until later into 2020. I then spent the full month of October walking the complex and pre-baiting certain areas on these two lakes that have done me well in the past. I put all my eggs in one basket on Burshill A and only baited two spots in one peg hoping it wouldn't be too busy and I could always drop on there if I couldn't get on No. 3&4. However, with 3&4 being the largest lake on the complex and knowing they hold up in different areas over winter, I

picked three different pegs to target in three completely different areas of the lake to hedge my bets. I knew I was going to need a large quantity of good quality bait and decided to go in with a mix of Nutrabait's Enervite Gold and my ever faithful Trigga with a good helping of tigers and corn.

After a month on the complex and not actually putting a rod in the water yet, it was now the first week in November and doing my usual lap of the complex I noticed a

large amount of fizzing and activity on my spots in Burshill A. I hadn't planned on fishing Burshill A yet as I wanted to start on 3&4 but I couldn't ignore this opportunity. I had a few hours spare and quickly ran back to the car to grab a couple of rods. Within an hour I had two fish in the net, a mid-double chunky linear and one of the new stockies at around 5lb, which was an average size for these fish at the time.

Knowing the spots were rocking and fish were visiting them regularly I decided to change my plans and start on Burshill A instead. I proceeded to do four Tuesday work overnights in a row through November going into December arriving in the dark and leaving early morning whilst it was still dark not managing to see





any daylight for the whole session, however managing to get on my spots every time as the lake was very quiet. These four overnights produced 18 carp including 5 of the older mid double linears and commons, with the rest being the new smaller 5-6lb stockies. I was still baiting my three areas on 3&4 through this period at least twice a week when possible.

Other things came up unfortunately and I didn't manage to get the rods back out until mid-December.

I dropped back on Burshill A for another overnights landing 4 of the smaller stockies again. I then decided it was time to target 3&4 as majority of the other anglers seemed to have disappeared and I had not seen anyone else fish 3&4 for a good few weeks.

20th December and I had a full weekend at my disposal. Arriving in dark after work on Friday to an empty complex, I dropped in a peg called "Grassy" on 3&4, a very popular swim in summer, but holds fish all year

round with snags and deep water, I was certain I was in for a couple of fish. I finished the weekend with 4 mid double mirrors. Knowing fish were stacked up in there I dropped straight back on the next weekend for my last session of 2019. I managed another four fish including one of the older upper double commons to go with three of the younger scaley mirrors that had been recently stocked.

Start of 2020 and the lake was still very quiet, so I dropped back in "Grassy" for a night. As I was barrowing around to the peg, I noticed a patch of fizzing in Burshill A. Single rod on the spot and 20 minutes later, the first fish of the year was in the net, a small stockie. Rod back on the barrow and round to 3&4. I was in no



rush to get the rods out as I had the complex to myself again, so I set up the base camp first and sat back and watch the water. Getting the rigs ready I noticed a fish show out the corner of my eye, so the first rod went out to the spot. No sooner had I grabbed my second rod to put it out, the first one was away. I immediately knew what fish it was as the pale coloured ghostie popped up on the surface along the far margin. A brutal battle and fifteen minutes later my first fish of the year from

3&4 was one of my two targets from the lake. "The Ghostie" ticked off the list at 21lb 4oz, pictures done, the fish slipped back, and all the rods now on the spots. No more fish for the remainder of the session but I was over the moon with the one I had.

Feeling like the fish may have moved out of the area after the last 3 weeks in that peg I felt it was time for a move to a different area of the lake. By this time, the full complex was very flooded with the majority of the paths

flooded getting up to knee high level, and in turn, 95% of the pegs being flooded making them very difficult to do a night on. This was a blessing in disguise for myself as the lakes remained empty and I was able to keep baiting up at least twice a week on all my usual spots with no one getting in the way of that.

A week later I moved to completely the opposite end of the lake to fish another of the pre-baited spots. This spot was accessible from potentially 5 different pegs, however all these pegs were flooded and no matter which one I went in, if someone else turned up they could potentially make me have to move my rods depending on where they went. I spent the next six weeks doing one work overnighter a

week at this end of the lake which took me up to the end of February. I accessed this particular baited spot from three pegs known as "Split", "Fieldside 1" and "Fieldside 2". From these six overnights I managed 19 bites in the first five sessions landing 16, then managed my first blank of the campaign since starting back in November. A highlight of these 12 fish was a recapture of a fish known as "Raj the Common" down in weight at 21lb 6oz due to being tethered up

the year before and picking up a nasty wound on its side. I had this fish at mid twenty's back in 2016 and again in 2017.

After my last blank night, I again decided it was enough for that area and was once again was on the move. I had one final area to fish on 3&4 which I had been baiting since October, but I finished February doing 3 quick work nights back on Burshill A again picking up another 9 of the 5-6lb young stockies.

The start of March and I was back on 3&4 to fish my final baited area that I was yet to fish. The spot was accessible from a peg known as "Guyzer", however the whole peg was underwater and was deeper than the height of your wellies. I made the conscious decision to sleep on the path under my broly and lived in waders for my time in this peg. First three weeks of March and three work overnights resulted in 11 carp. The majority of these being the younger stocked fish at low to mid doubles, with one of the older upper double commons as well.

This area clearly held a large number of fish and I thought I was onto something good. That was until the national lock down was announced starting the end of March. That meant no more fishing



and the spots that were rocking were going to have to wait. Luckily being a bailiff on the complex, we were given permission by the association to still do our daily checks around the complex when possible for security purposes. This meant that even though fishing was not allowed, I could still get down most days to keep an eye on the water, and of course, trickle some bait in on my spots to get them on the feed and hopefully in the area for when we were allowed back out fishing. The whole of April passed and the first two weeks in May before we were given the all clear to

get back out fishing. 15th May and the first day we were allowed to go fishing again. I got there just before the gates opened at 5am to change all the codes on the locks back to the usual code as they had been changed during the lock down period to stop people getting on the complex. I jumped straight back into the area I was fishing before the lock down but fished it from a peg known as "Point", I could still get to the area I wanted to fish from this peg

but had less chance of other anglers interfering with my fishing should the lake be busy. All the lakes quickly filled up with anglers and leads were being crashed into the water from all angles. I managed to get a couple of rods on the spot quickly and quietly and with only one night at my disposal due to work the next day. No one else on the lake managed a fish that night, but to my surprised the spot carried on where it left off and produced 9 bites through the night, unfortunately only managing to land 6 out of the 9, it was still a great result. Also coincidentally, my last fish before the lock down was the upper double common from one of the original



stockings, and my very first fish after lock down from the exact same area of the lake was the exact same fish and about 1lb heavier.

During the lock down period itself, I had started to spend a bit of time walking around Pond 2 now that spring was well under way and the temperatures had started to warm up dramatically. Up to this point I had no plans on fishing pond 2 yet and I hadn't been putting any bait in it. This was until half way through the lock down, on one of my daily laps of the complex, I finally spotted the one I was after in Pond 2, a fish not known to most people but one I called "The Original". With not very many known captures it seemed to be a fairly elusive fish, whether that was now due to the increased number of carp in

the lake or whether it was just an elusive fish, I had only known of three captures of this fish in the last 10 years. Once I noticed it the first time, it was fairly easy to spot. With 95% of the stock being low -mid doubles stocked within the last 2-3 years, this fish was last out at 25lb+ and was easily the biggest fish in the lake. What also gave it away was how white its lips were in comparison to all the other fish, which I can only put down to the number of years of feeding on gravel potentially.

During the last three weeks of the lock down I noticed this fish starting to hang around in the same areas and I felt like I had pinpointed where I needed to be

once we were allowed back out. With that, the bait started getting trickled in. I solely baited with corn and crushed/whole tigers heavily soaked in the Trigga liquid booster from Nutrabaits.

After my successful first night back on 3&4, I felt it was time to now put some effort in Pond 2 and I was quietly confident after baiting the previous three weeks leading up to this and seeing the one I wanted so regularly. Mid May and my first night on Pond 2 for the year. The night was fairly uneventful apart from a couple of bream in the hours of



darkness, until I managed a scraper double at first light before packing away. All I could think about was getting back down and with the lake being unusually quiet I decided to get straight back on that next night. Knowing the spots I arrived straight from work and got the rods out. A single tiger nut tipped with half a 12mm Techni Spice pop up on the spot I was most confident in went out first. I had only just got my third rod out and sat back on my bed when the right-hand rod hooped round double down the right-hand margin. This fish knew exactly where to go and instantly weeded me up. The lake is a very deep lake and the margins drop off pretty quickly, so I put my waders on and carefully go into the edge making sure I stayed close to the

bank but just to see if I could reach out and get a better angle on the fish. After a bit of back and forth I managed to get the fish free, it popped up and I instantly knew it was the one. My knees started shaking and at this point I started getting very nervous. It then weeded me up again I couldn't believe it, it sat with its head buried in weed just out of reach of my landing net. I went to take a swipe at it and slipped, my waders started filling with water. I quickly slipped them off somehow managed to bundle the fish in the net. I was so relieved. My second night on the lake of the year and the one I wanted was in the net. The elusive "Original", the oldest carp in

the lake and what a creature. I got all sorted, changed my clothes, got the fish put safely in a retainer and rang a couple of friends to see if they wanted to come down and do pictures. No more fish for the rest of the night but that was it, job done on Pond 2 and my second target fish of the year ticked off the list.

After that the complex got very busy with a large number of new members and it made it almost impossible to get anything going consistently on any of the lakes. With that in mind I decided to just enjoy the rest of the



year on there until my new ticket came up in October for a new water. I slotted in wherever was free for the next couple of months just doing the odd overnights here and there. In this time I ended up doing 2 more nights on Pond 2 for 5 mid double stockies having a play about with zigs in deep water, 4 nights on Burshill A for 28 carp including 5 of the older mid double fish and the rest being the smaller 5-6lb stockies which were now putting some decent weight on, and finally 2 more nights on 3&4 for 4 more carp.

I ended the campaign the last week in August 2020, after starting it the first week in November 2019. I managed a total of 39 nights in that period which was made up of roughly 720 hours of fishing, after losing 6 weeks to the national lock down, and ended up banking 115 carp across the complex, 11 of those being recaptures. I ended up with 2 of my 4 targets ticked off the list with "The Ghostie" from 3&4 and "The Original" from Pond 2. My time on the Brandesburton complex has not

finished and I will be back for my two remaining targets of "The Black Common" from 3&4 and "Lumpy" from Burshill A. If I am lucky enough to complete the list, there is a fourth lake on the complex known as Burshill B which holds some very special carp but that's for a different story should I ever get round to spending some time on there.

Till next time...

Rob



RIG-IT

TACKLE



HAND SHARPENED HOOKS

THE POINT THAT MATTERS

**'It's a confidence thing for me!
Top quality products and
service to match. The
Sharpened Hooks are the
biggest edge.'**

**Andy Sargent using
Hand Sharpened R7s Hooks.**

**'I have ultimate confidence
in Rig-it products, knowing
that they won't let me
down. The Hand sharpened
hooks are second to none
and definitely landed me
more carp.'**

**Simon Whittle using
Hand Sharpened R3 Hooks.**

Full range of end tackle available



RIG-IT TACKLE

www.rigittackle.com

email: rigittackle@gmail.com tel: 0 7722 881823

A photograph of a pond or lake with a forested background and reflections in the water. The water is dark and still, reflecting the trees and sky. There are some fallen sticks and debris in the foreground.

Against the Grain: A Winter Surface 30

by Mike Payne

As a really warm spell swept across the UK there was only one thing on my mind!

On Wednesday 24th February I left work early afternoon and jumped into my car, I was parked in a little suntrap and the dashboard read 20°C with the true outdoor temperature being 14°C and the air pressure around 1025mb. I had previously been talking with friends about an early surface capture and decided this was a great opportunity.

The lake I was to visit was one of the club waters which I am currently a member of and is around 3 acres in size. Due to the nature of the lake, being 20ft+ deep in places, containing 2 cars, a portacabin, endless amounts of snags and big concrete pillars I have always opted to surface fish. In April 2018, when the lake wasn't a renowned carp venue, I had an unbelievable battle with a thick set common which locked itself in 3 different weed beds. After some perseverance and careful angling, I slipped it over the net cord and had my first ever 20lb off the top, tipping the scales at 22lb 4oz. Little did I know this would be a significant fish for the lake.

With my surface gear and 5 year old boy Henry in the car we departed to the lake. On arrival I headed straight towards the end containing the major weed bed where the sun was still beaming down. I began to apply small pouches of chum mixers towards the end of a set of reeds and within 30 minutes I had fish sporadically taking the odd mixer before a group of ducks came in and cleared me out. Noticing the reeds knocking I knew there were still fish in the area, so I made the decision to have a go. Due to the amount of dead floating weed I couldn't cast past the spot and retrieve the bolt bubble float back and I didn't want to cast the float directly into the spot, so I opted to cut everything off and attach a size 4 wide gape hook straight to my 15lb Fox dedicated surface mainline. I squeezed on a lump of white fluffy bread, gave it a quick dunk in the water to weight it up and manage to under arm flick it to the spot. As I watched the twitching of the reed stems a shape broke the surface and the image of the white floating bread sunk into darkness. I hit into the fish and steered it cleared of the reeds before landing a small half linear stockie. I had done it, a winter carp off the surface in February!



Having the rest of the week off work and the air pressure due to rise to 1040mb by the Saturday I knew I had to pursue another opportunity. My alarm was set, and, on the Thursday, I had a full day to hunt the carp off the surface. I arrived down the lake on sunrise and headed straight back to where I had left off on the Wednesday evening. After regularly applying the mixers for about an hour I had a fish taking 3 or 4 mixers at a time in little spells. The dead floating weed had drifted away from this swim by that morning enabling me to cast past the spot with a float and accurately wind the bait into position. Again, I opted for the bread over my normal cork ball, this is something

I regularly do when the fish aren't "Pac-manning" the mixers. I believe this can give you an edge as the fish pick out the bread amongst the mixers when they are not fully having it and vice versa if they are smashing the mixers, I will use a cork ball to match the free offerings. This is very relatable to bottom fishing with a bright hook bait over your freebies. Before I knew it I had really slow delicate take

and I bent into another fish, as I got the fish closer in the gin clear water, it rolled and gave me a view of its flank. Although not a monster I knew this was a fish I had to land! It graced the net and as I lifted the net arms, I was greeted by a scaly stunner which looked that of the Lower Berryfield strain, a prehistoric looking warrior. I safely transferred the fish to the retainer and called a friend to come and do the photos for me. Meanwhile another fish had started feeding so out went rod and before 0845am I had two fish on the bank both off the surface, the second been a low double common. I think it's worth mentioning that when I arrived that morning the



temperature was 3°C and lightly raining, yet the carp could still be located in the shallow weedy end and amongst the reeds.

The rest of the morning past uneventful and the carp seemed to have moved out of the weed bed and the reeds became still. I threw the gear on my back and started the laps, checking every reed bed, bay and snag across the lake. Around 1430 I was presented with an opportunity in a little snaggy bay where the carp were taking the mixers under the branches of a tree. I decided to go with a cork ball soaked in betalin on this occasion and after casting my hook length over a small branch I tweaked it off and it dropped perfectly into

position. Within seconds I had a vicious take, and I was holding on for dear life as the carp dragged me along the snaggy tree lined margin of the bay. I got it to a small set of reeds just in front of my feet and I knew if I could get it clear of them then it's in open water. As I

previously mentioned I've not really fished on the deck at this lake, but I had been told about a big snag directly in the centre of the little bay, so by the fish hugging the margin until it was at my feet it actually did me a favour. I knew this was a better fish and when I clocked eyes on it and saw the lineal pattern of scales on its flank it was another must land moment. An 18lb 12oz broken back linear was hoisted for the pictures and I later found out from the pond warden it was a fish from the original stock. To top this day off I received a call whilst I was on the bank which led to me joining the team at Nutrabaits.

I arrived home and all the time sat

eating my tea I was continuously thinking about going back the next morning for a few hours, but first I would have to convince my Wife of the plan. The deal was complete and with my little sidekick by my side we headed to the bank once again. On this occasion, I chose to go to the opposite end of the lake to where I initially started. This was because I felt the fish had left the weed bed and as luck would have it, there was a guy just setting up in the swim I had been in the past two days.

As always, I begin firing a few pouches of mixers out aiming between a willow tree and dead tree that had partly gone into the water. I notice some small ripples about 6ft off the bank between the two trees, so I hooked on my soaked cork ball and decided to give it a go. The cast needed to be punched in to avoid the branches of the trees but to get deep enough into the gap to get the take, luckily enough one cast was all it took and within 10 seconds I was bent into a fish. Due to the snags under the water, it was hit and

hold and immediately start walking backwards to guide them out. After a good battle a dark chestnut coloured common was slipped into the net, taking me to 3 consecutive days of surface captures all in February. Before picturing the fish, I was eager to get some more mixers out, my first pouchful fell short and landed around 2 rod lengths in front of the trees which was the key for my next capture. As I slipped the common back, I noticed a fish picking off mixers from the pouch that had fallen short, I could instantly see it was a better fish, so I made my cast. I trawled the cork ball into position and waited for the carp to approach. As it made its way to my cork ball it slowed down, giving it a nudge before turning and investigating my float. I thought my chance had gone, it had sussed me



It turned out and swam about 6ft to the right of my rig before spinning around and making a perfect beeline for the cork ball. Wallop, the cleanest take you will ever see, and I know before I have even hooked it, it's a bigger fish! The battle went on for some time with the fish holding deep, at this point even Henry was stood on the water's edge intrigued by what was attached. He even managed to snap a picture of me playing the fish which I didn't know about until we got home. The prize was eventually mine, a pristine common of 22lb 9oz! Henry stepped up to take the photos and for a 5 year old he really surprised me with the quality of the images he had taken. We then

made an early exit for home as I knew by doing this it could buy me time on another day!

To my amazement we are now on Saturday 27th February and I feel like the surface fishing is in full swing! I again made the agreement with my Wife that I would be out at 6:30am and be back at 11am to have an afternoon out walking. Two of the lads I know off the ticket where also fishing this day and jumped in the swims down the end where I had caught from the previous day, so I made my way back to the other end where I had initially started. By 8:10am I had landed a long, lean low double common which unfortunately

seemed to push the fish out of the weed bed, all signs life were now absent. As I moved clockwise around the lake the next swim to my left was a reedy bay and it soon became apparent this is where the fish had moved to. I began my set procedure with the mixers feeding two



different spots and before long I had a fish taking against the stems of the reeds. I knew I was going to have to get close so I decided to use bread, this would enable me to hide the hook point and prevent me hooking any of the reeds as I cast into them and brought it back to the very edge. After a fair few attempts, I hook into an angry carp, it tried pulling me straight into the reed bed and as soon as it realised it wasn't having any line it kited right and dived for another point in the reeds. I knew I had to be careful with the fish being to my right as I could see what looked to be a big concrete cylinder under the water. Moments later a solid mid double common was at the bottom my net. I called my friend who was a few swims down to come and do the photos and as we began chatting, I made the comment "I really feel close to the big one mate, I just need to spot it" and for the first time in my angling career I understood that true feeling of feeling close to one in particular fish. My only obstacle at that this point was time, I was due home, and I knew I couldn't return until the following Thursday. As the weather conditions slightly changed that week and the temperature dropped to 8°C I decided to pop to the lake after

work on the Wednesday and have a lead about. I found a nice smooth silt area off the weed bed and I put out a few spods of bait with the intention of fishing on the deck the next day.

Sunrise on Thursday 4th March came round, and I was at the lake casting my rods onto the spot, I topped up the area with another 3 spods and sat back and watched the water wake up. As an active angler I was soon pacing up and down my swim and trying to spot signs of fish, I couldn't resist throwing some mixers over the top of a tree into the small bay where I had previously caught the broken back linear from. Around 8am a huge unmistakable dark head broke the surface and slurped down 4 or 5 mixers, this was the sighting I had been waiting for! I quickly wound in my bottom rods, grabbed my surface rod and net and made my way round to the next swim so I could access the small bay. Through sheer excited I made an absolute schoolboy error and cast towards the area with the bolt bubble still attached, the float nearly made contact with the fish causing it to spook and depart the bay. I was gutted to say the least! I went back to the swim where my rods were

and put the kettle on, I sat and drank a brew with the hope of it returning to the bay. After letting the area settle for around 30 minutes, I flicked some more mixers over the tree, my friend was now set up down the other end of the lake, so I gave him a call and filled him in on the details. Through the branches of the trees, I once again caught a glimpse of its head followed by the white tip on its dorsal fin, it began taking mixers but this time it was under the branches. Making no mistake this time I had already cut everything off and gone back to my free lining set up, I made my way round to the next swim and underarm flicked the lump

of bread out. I was at maximum reach and the line had just gone over a thin flimsy branch allowing me to suspend the line out of the water whilst anchoring the bread in position. 5 minutes had passed, and I was becoming concerned the fish had once again departed the bay and then out of nowhere the giant black head broke the surface and engulfed my bread! With the assistance of the branch, I hooked into the fish and the line instantly pulled free giving me direct contact with the fish. It swam the exact same pattern as the broken back linear ragging me through the tree lined snaggy margin and again, I knew if I could get it passed

the small set of reeds at my feet the hardest part of the battle was done. As it passed in front of the small reed bed, I knew that this fish would try to dive for the deep open water, so I instantly took 3 or 4 clicks off my drag and



then it began its descent. Still operating with a pretty tight clutch due to the snags and weed on the bottom it took me by surprise when it flat rodded me and started emptying the reel, at this point I shouted over to my mate "I've got it on mate" he replied "Jesus, look at your rod". I was using my 2.5tc Greys Surface Stalking rod which was doubled over and made for a great fight! Knowing that this fish had done 29lb 14oz in the September of 2020 it was almost certain that I was now attached to my first ever surface 30. After what felt like round 2 with the carp, I finally managed to get its head up and give it its first mouthful of air. The fight was complete as I stood victorious peering into the net at what can only be described as an immense creature. I was overwhelmed, the same fish that was my first ever 20lber off the top was now my first 30lber off the top and a new surface PB of 31lb 4oz.

So, who says you can't catch them off the surface in the cold?! Don't follow in the footprints of others or you will always be behind, be the one who creates them!

A special thank you goes out to those in my corner! SubCarp Products supplying the clothing, Nutrabaits with the ever reliable bait and Southampton Carp Leads looking after me with whatever leads

I request from them.

Instagram: [passion_for_carp_angling](#)

Mike Payne



**Five Hundred (and two)
Reasons To Be Happy.....
By Mark Carper (@mark_carper257)**



Local to me is a Commercial Day Ticket fishery that is well known to many anglers of all abilities, from Pleasure Anglers to Match Anglers and everyone in between...even specimen hunters. Well known for its' Match Lakes, the Fishery has recently produced a Mirror Carp worthy of any Specimen Lake.

Makins Fishery in Warwickshire has over six hundred swims spread across eighteen Lakes, split in to three 'Phases'. I fished the venue many, many years ago when it was first opened with just One Phase and you could only fish 'Days' but since then it has grown in size and stock and there is a limited number of tickets for Night Fishing on two of the Lakes on Phase One.

Lake 1 at just under 5 acres is the largest lake on the whole of the complex and due to its large head of Carp, it is classed as the 'Specimen Lake'.

Having a total of 53 pegs and heavily stocked with Carp weighing between 10-30lb and a good stocking of 20lb+ fish and with an average depth of around 8ft which drops down to 11ft in the swims to the left of the car park, it has always been a big attraction for anglers and especially the Carp enthusiasts.



In early Autumn last year, the lake was netted by the new owners and many of the smaller Carp and 'Silvers' were removed...it was during this netting, which did not catch every Carp in the lake, several Carp weighed in at and around the 29lb+ mark with a known Mirror going 30lb. This Carp had not been caught since 2019 and there was plenty of speculation that shed doubt on its' very existence and with numerous 'rumours' were circulating amongst the somewhat sceptical Carp Fraternity and on Social Media that the weight of this Carp was quickly dismissed by many and the doubters were out in force...!!

This prompted the owners to offer a Cash Prize of £500 to the person that managed to Catch this elusive Carp....and a few weeks back, the elusiveness was no more, and the doubters were silenced once and for all (at least for a few hours anyway...!)

...Last week, I caught up with the aptly named Scott 'Hunter', the angler that caught this Carp and in doing so, set himself a new PB, got to the Name it and made himself £500 better off...here's what he had to say...

"I first started fishing about fourteen years ago when I was thirteen. Up until around five years ago, I generally fished for any species just on local Canals and Rivers, but back in 2016, I went Makins Fishery with a mate to do my first ever 'Night Session' and specifically to target the Carp.

As my gear wasn't really up to the task of 'Carping' at that time, he loaned me a setup and within an hour I had a Double-Take and landed two, mid-double Commons...From that moment, I was 'hooked' as they say..!



That first night on the bank, I awoke to a 'screamer' of a take and landed a Mirror Carp weighing in at 19lb 3oz and that was to remain as my PB for the next four years, but that all changed on the afternoon of Sunday, 21st March 2021.

To coin a phrase, the weather was 'Carpy', with moderate cloud cover, a mild temperature for the time of year and there was a slight breeze creating a ripple on the surface and there was Low Pressure too. It looked perfect for a bite or two...

...I had set up on Lake 1, which is classed as the Specimen Lake at Makins and managed to drop in to Peg 10, which was a bit of a favourite of mine, and I had fished it several times in the past. That particular day, I could see the fish cruising and occasionally 'topping' in front of me, so I tried a couple of 'Zigs' at different depths but the Carp were not interested, and I made the decision to switch back to Bottom Baits.

I cast my favoured German Rig complete with Mainline Baits 'Banoffee Waffer' to a spot very close to the island in front of me and just under the branches of an overhanging tree...

...After not very long, I landed a nice mid-double Mirror, which proved my change to Waffer Rig was the right one. I was soon back on the spot and I fed some more Corn and Crushed Boilie over the top and at 15:50, my Right Hand 12ft Daiwa Theory Rod was off and the clutch on the Sonik Vader X 6000 was clicking away...!!



As I lifted into the fish, I knew it was better than anything else I had ever hooked before, with short, heavy lunges I struggled to control. Then it turned and came straight at me. I kept the tension on the line and as it approached the bank, it turned and surged away across the lake. Time after time, it did this until finally, I could get the head up and it was then that myself and my mate realised this was a good fish...After what seemed like an eternity, but was in fact only about 20 minutes, my mate slipped the net cord under the biggest Carp I had ever caught...!

I was speechless and at the same time I was elated. Lifting the Carp into my cradle, I remember thinking to myself, could this be the elusive thirty that so many people doubted even existed...?!

Lifting the scales, they went 30lb 8oz. It was indeed that thirty that there was so much speculation about, and it was now mine and my new PB. I couldn't believe that after four years of being stuck on 19lb, I had completely skipped the 'Twenties Club' and gone straight in to the 'Thirties Club' and not only that, but I also had the chance to name the Carp AND I'd won myself £500 too...!!!

Naming the Carp was an honour, and I did not hesitate in the name choice, which was to be 'Harper' after my recently born daughter...!

The money was a welcomed surprise too as I recently lost my job due to Covid-19 and fishing has been a real help mentally and it has also brought back together a friendship with two good friends I had lost contact with, Daniel Coombe and Daniel Oxford and we all fish together on a regular basis now.



To say I was over the moon would be an understatement and I still cannot quite believe what has happened to me. I would also like to thank Andy, one of the owners at Makins Fishery for honouring the prize money, especially given the negativity he and the fishery have received and even after I caught 'Harper', there are still doubters out there. To them I say, instead of being negative, why not get yourself to the fishery and have a go for yourself...you never know, she may come out at 31lb next time...!!!"

As you have read, Scott was somewhat pleased with his catch and after chatting with him, I'm not sure which gave him the most pleasure, catching a new PB, naming it after his daughter, Harper, or winning the £500...? All I can say is he was one happy man...from all of us here at Talking Carp Magazine congratulations on all three counts...!

If you are local to Makins Fishery and fancy a crack at a new PB (and not just a Carp one either), they have plenty to go at and my opinion is that although predominately known as a Match Fishery, this is a Carp Fishery of the future, with big plans for the site the new owners are already making this a special venue and I'm sure there will be some bigger Carp to come.

For full information, head over their website or check them out on Social Media;

<https://www.makinsfishery.co.uk/>

Facebook:
Makins Fishery
Instagram: @makinsfishery





Reviews

Featuring -

The Manmower - by Anthony Wood
Olight H1 Nova - by Anthony Wood

Off the mark digital angling

Reviews



The ManMower

By Anthony Wood

Now reading the title of this review you may wonder what on earth a ManMower is and what it has to do with fishing? Well theoretically it has nothing to do with fishing, but in this modern world why should we end up looking like Grizzly Adams when we go for a weeks fishing or go on a drive and survive fishing holiday, etc.

So, what exactly is the ManMower? It is a new type of shaver that you can take anywhere with you as it is small enough to fit in your pocket. The ManMower requires no water, no foam or gel and no batteries.

Due to the way that this shaver works it means that you need no more shaving cans, plastic razors, replacement blades or even unneeded water usage making this product a truly eco-friendly green product.

The ManMower comes with two barrels of surgical stainless steel which counter-rotate to scissor your hair as you “mow” your facial hair, it even collects the hair so you don’t need to be sat over a sink to use it!! The two barrels with the blades on are self-sharpening so there is no need to ever replace the blades.

There are a few models available and the one that I currently have is actually the older Metro version which has a fixed grade 0 cut and a very useful D handle. The newer models have fancier features like swappable blades so that you can have grade 0 or grade 1 cuts, some also have a spring action to make the blades spin quicker and give a quicker shave.



I have had mine for a little while now and I have to admit I love it, it is so easy to maintain stubble, you could even keep your hair trimmed if like me you are going bald lol. It is of a size that you aren't going to lose it but that is small enough to not take up much space in your pack (or just put it in your pocket).

It is absolutely perfect for fishing trips or even for quick overnight sessions where you are going to work the next day and need to look all neat and tidy. I must admit that my ManMower Metro has become my go to shaving device in all of my outdoor and everyday activities, it really is that simple and easy to use.

One thing I found very strange to start with is that they recommend if you haven't used a ManMower before to shave your face so that you have a clean shave. Now at first, I didn't understand the reasoning behind this but it is actually quite clever. The idea is that you can get used to the action and pressure that you place on the ManMower as you roll it across your face, then as your facial hair starts to grow you learn to trim and maintain your hair.

If you try shaving your facial hair without clean shaving first, the ManMower will still work however be prepared to have a few hairs pulled whilst you learn. (I can tell you that from experience as I didn't bother to follow the instructions lol)

Find out more about the different models or watch some videos on the ManMower Facebook page www.facebook.com/themanmower Instagram www.instagram.com/man.mower or their website www.manmower.com

So now thanks to this revolutionary facial hair trimmer there is no need to look like you don't belong to anyone anymore and you can help the planet whilst you're at it as there are no disposable parts to pollute landfill sites or our waterways with.



Olight H1 Nova
Headlamp
By Anthony Wood



When night fishing it can be quite difficult to find a headtorch that works really well and there are a lot of carp branded headtorches that although okay torches have quite a heavy “carp tax” added to them.

I started to look around at none carp branded torches and I had heard some great things about a brand called Olight. Looking through their range of torches I came across the slightly older model H1 Nova, now this has since been replaced with newer versions but that means it is slightly cheaper whilst still having a superb performance sheet and a good quality build.

First off let’s have a look at the modes available on the torch. There are five modes available which are moon, low, medium, high and turbo along with an emergency SOS setting.

Activating each one is pretty simple and can be accessed via the press button on the top of the torch. If you are fishing near to the waters edge then the first two gentler settings are less likely to scare any fish in the area away. To activate the moon mode from the torch being turned off simply hold the press button down for 1 second and the torch will



switch on in moon mode.

If you need a higher level of light than the moon mode it is very easy to change the output level. With the torch switched on in moon mode simply press and hold the button down and the torch will cycle through the other output modes.

Now the torch will memorise moon, low, medium and high outputs and simply press the torch on or off to activate the previous mode you used. Turbo will not be memorised and whilst I'm talking about the turbo mode it will only remain active for 5 minutes before reverting to medium output, this is to prevent the led and torch from overheating and blowing. You can also access the turbo mode from the torch being off by double clicking the power button in rapid succession.

Although I hope you never need to use the SOS mode on the torch it can be accessed easily by pressing the button three times in rapid succession.



Finally, to prevent accidental activation of the torch there is an electronic lock out that you can activate by pressing and holding the button down for 2 seconds whilst the torch is off, you will see the torch activate into moon mode after 1 second but continue to hold the button down for another second and moon mode will go out and the torch will now be locked. To unlock simply hold the button down again for 2 seconds and the moon mode will blink to indicate it is unlocked.

Now that all the modes have been covered, I would like to take a minute to look at the carrying options available. There are basically two ways that you can carry this torch, the first is a simple pocket clip that can be clipped on to the body of the torch and will allow you to wear the torch as a pocket torch. The second way of wearing the torch and the one that is going to be more useful to you as an angler is a rather comfortable headband that the torch can be slid into and worn around your head.

Lastly there are two rather cool things that I like about the Olight H1 Nova and that is the hard carry case that the set comes in. The case is a good size but not too large that you can't carry it easily in with your fishing equipment.

The second and probably the most useful feature of the torch is that it has a magnetic charging cap built into the end of the torch and thanks to the rechargeable battery included, you can use the included usb charging cable and your powerbank to easily recharge the torch whilst you are out on the bank if needed.

This is a great torch for using whilst out fishing and has an output of 500 lumens which is more than enough light for you to need, it is also a waterproof torch so you don't need to worry if you drop it in the margins (as long as you can reach it to get it out that is) or it rains.



Crunching the numbers

Off The Mark by Digital Angling

THE FREE logbook app for the modern carp angler. Easily keep tabs on all your sessions and catches on both private and public venues. Weather info is added automatically and extended statistics are available inside the app.



VERY EASY TO USE:

- Download the app in your app store (see QR's below)
- Create an account
- Start your sessions
- Log your catches



www.digitalangling.com

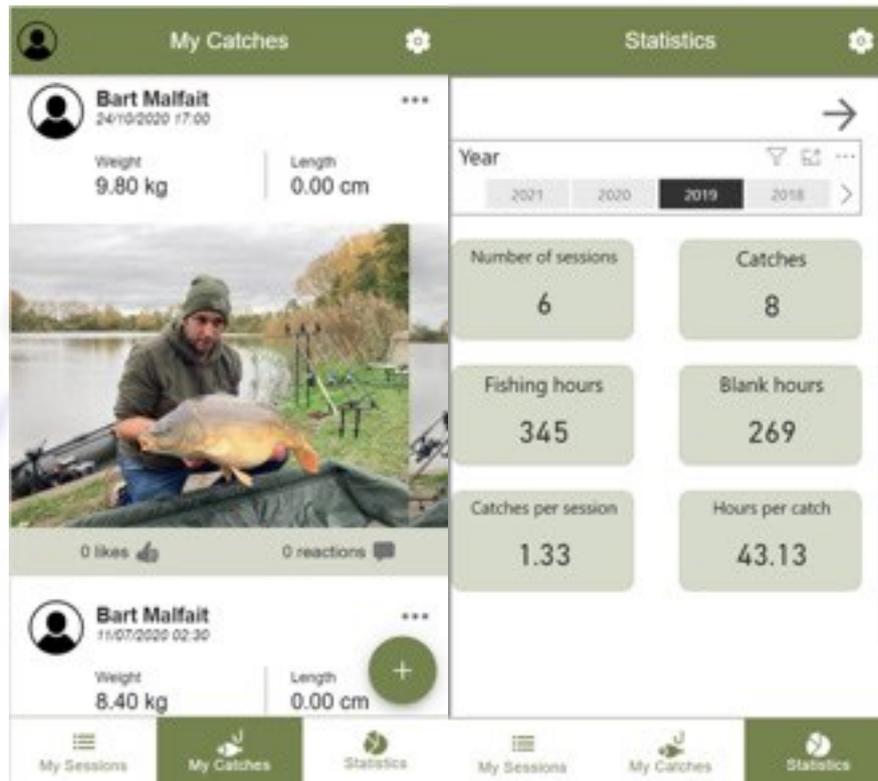
Crunching the numbers Carp fishing in 2020 in numbers

Digital Angling

If you combine my day job (creating business intelligence, i.e. reports, dashboards and statistics) with my hobby carp fishing, it was the birth of 'Digital Angling' 2 years ago. We combine our logbook app 'Off The Mark' with a platform for owners and managers of fishing venues (syndicates, private lakes, paylakes, daytickets, ...) called 'Lake Manager'. Our strong point is the extensive statistics that we can provide and from which a lot of information can be derived to better manage the fishery. Also for the angler we already provide a lot of nice statistics in our 'Off The Mark' app.



An example of the statistics in Lake Manager



Some screenshots of the Off The Mark app

What do we learn from this data?

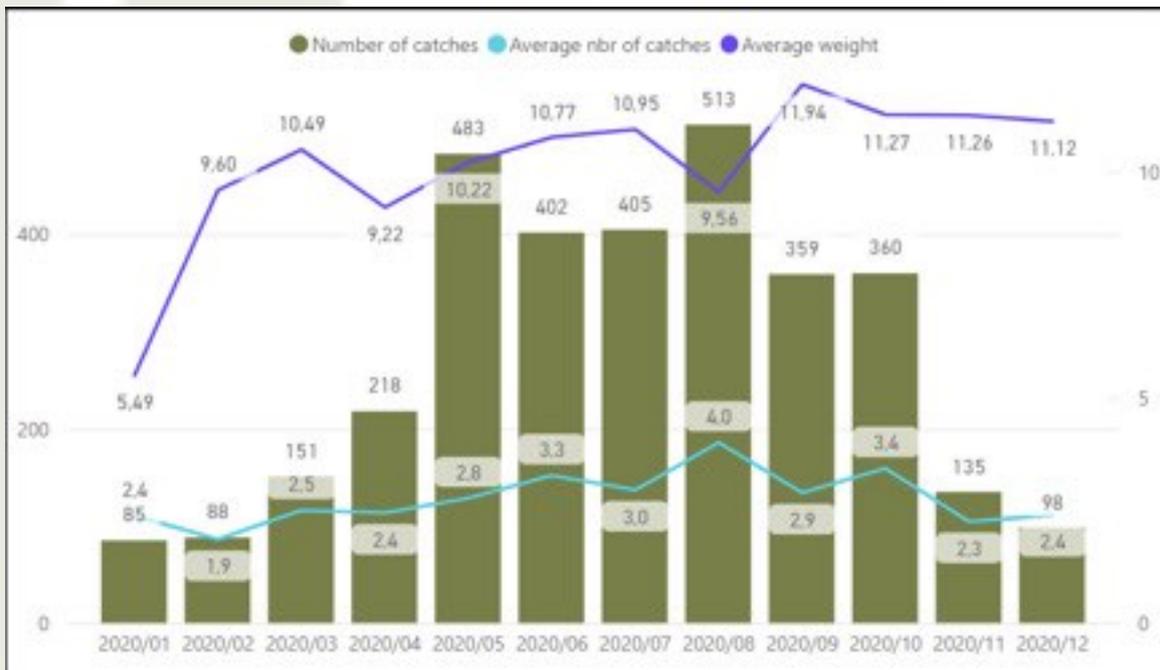
We would like to give you some insights we can derive from the data of the past year 2020. Of course, we will not go into details of catch locations or any other details, but we will test some general facts of carp fishing against the actual figures.

Let me first give you a framework in which to look at these figures, so that there is no discussion afterwards about this. First of all, this is about 2020 numbers. We also have some data for 2019, but not a full year, so this is not a good basis for comparison. Data on the fish itself (weight, length, time of catch) is entered by the angler him(her)self, so here we rely on the honesty of the angler, we have no impact on that. Weather data that we collect (automatically) at the start of a session and when a catch is logged is obtained from an online weather service that is known and used worldwide and is considered quite accurate.

In our app, a distinction is made between sessions on a 'private venue' and sessions on 'public venue'. With private venue we mean that this venue uses our Lake Manager software. Public venue means sessions on

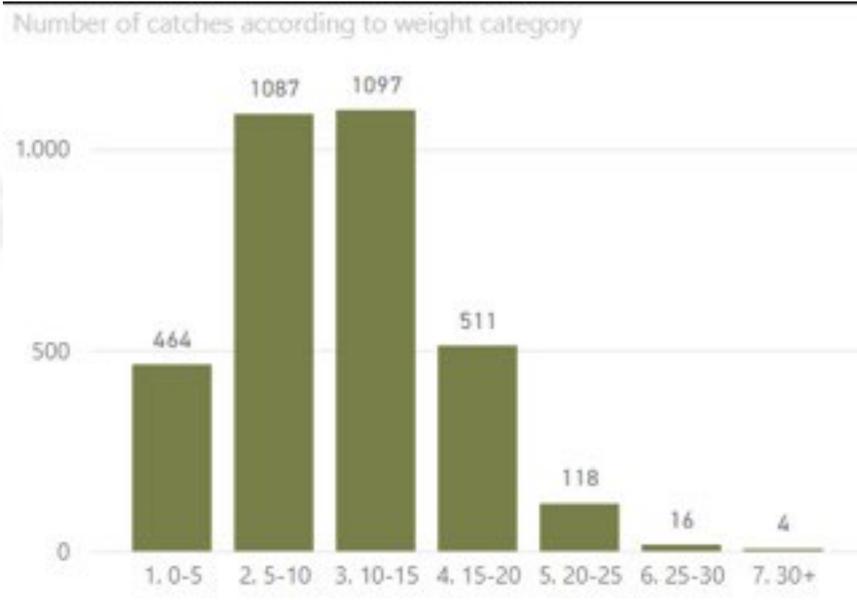
real public venues (rivers, canals, ponds) but possibly also sessions on private venues or syndicates which do not (yet) use Lake Manager. Some general statistics

Let us start with some general numbers (where we do not yet distinguish between public and private venues): in 2020, just under 1800 sessions were registered in our app. Just over 1000 of them were not a blank, so we can say that just over half of your sessions are successful (no blank). Looking at those successful sessions, no less than 3300 catches were registered, which is an average of well over 3 catches per session. The average weight was 10,49kg. On figure 1 below you can see the evolution of these figures per month.

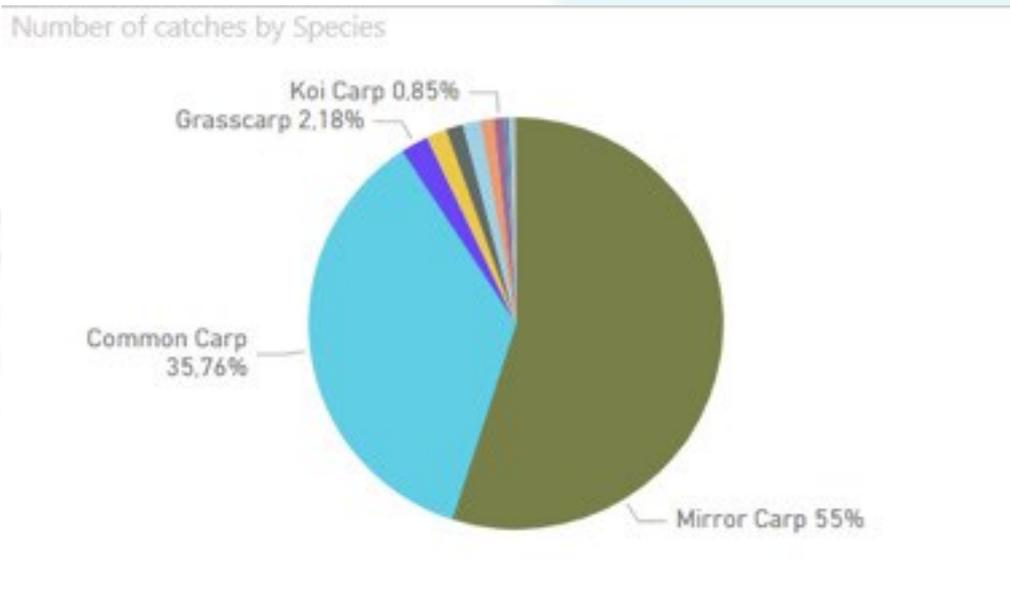


The fish

What about the core of our angling, namely the fish themselves? We already know the average weight from the previous paragraph. How are these weights distributed now? We use a number of weight classes, as you can see in figure 2. It shows the great preponderance of fish between 5 and 15 kg.



If we look at the distribution mirrors vs commons (Fig. 3), we see that approximately 35% of the fish are commons and 55% are mirrors. The remaining 10% is divided amongst other fish species (also koi, grass carp, ...).

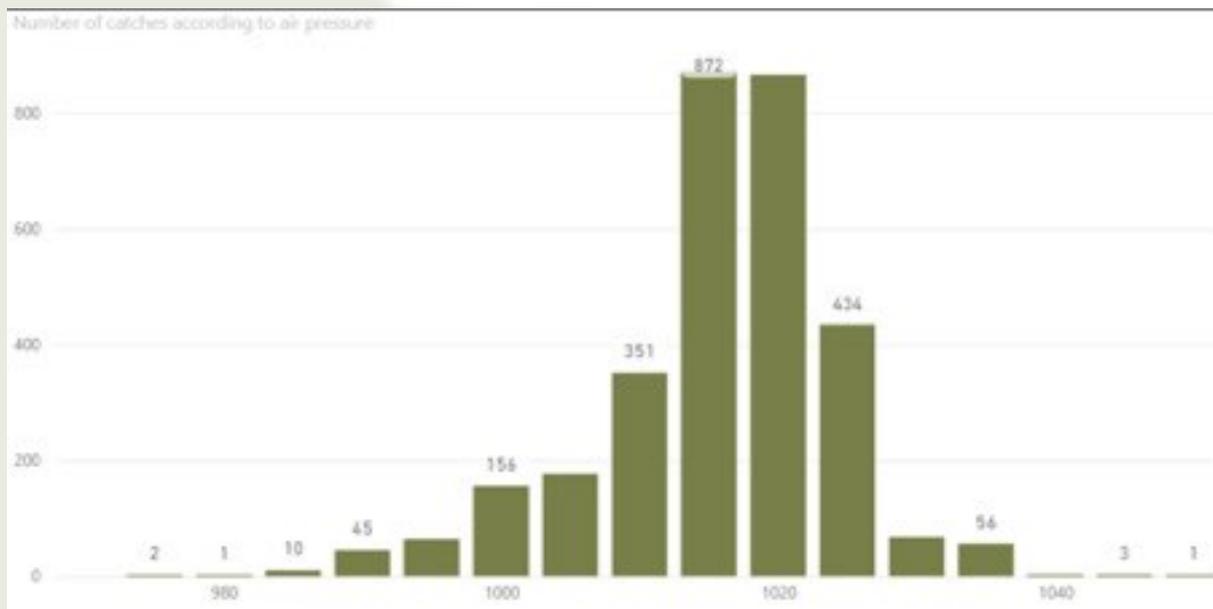


The weather

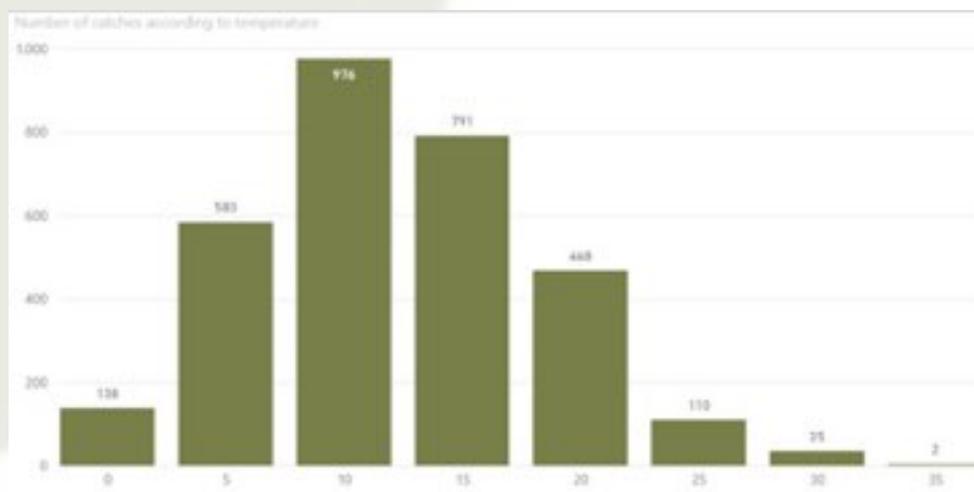
What is always very much in question is the type of weather in which we may or may not catch fish. Let us say that our statistics show some things that many already know, but we can also contradict some things.

First of all, the air pressure. Our figures (Fig. 4) clearly show that most catches take place at a pressure between 1015 and 1025hPa. It is

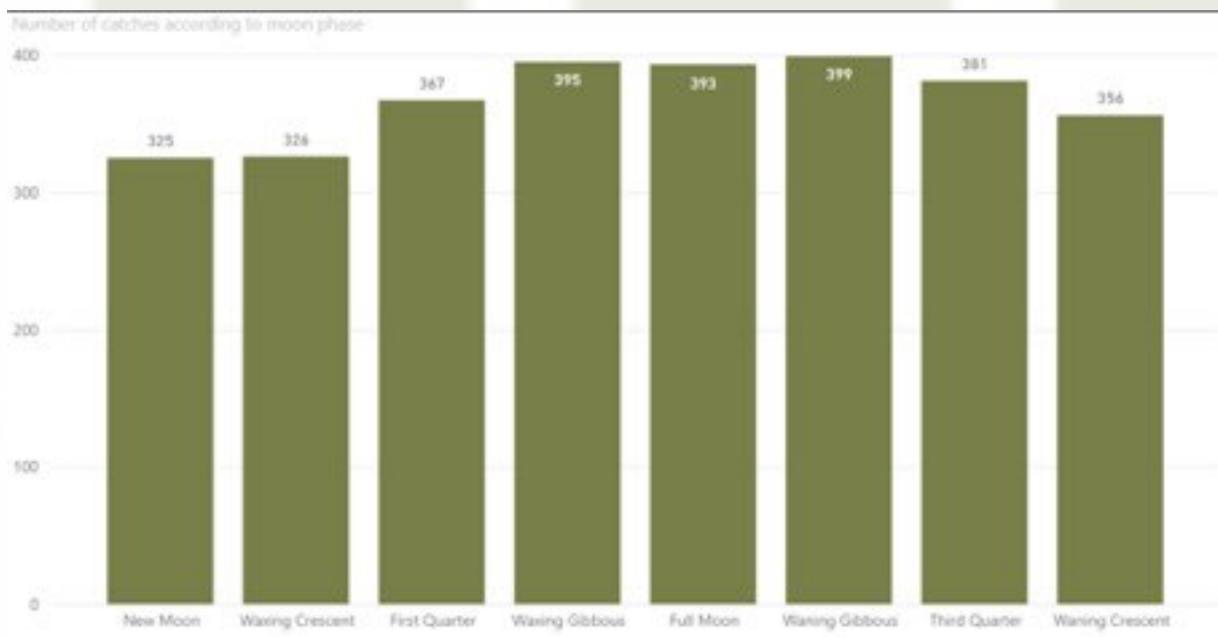
therefore important to keep an eye on the air pressure and to adjust your fishing hours accordingly. Don't despair either when the pressure is higher or lower, as you can see, there is still fish to be caught, albeit to a lesser extent. What we haven't done yet, but will hopefully do in a next comparison next year, is also compare these numbers to the amount of time a certain air pressure is valid (as 1015hPa is the average air pressure during a whole year, so the odds to catch a fish at this air pressure are off course bigger).



There is also a clear difference in temperature (Fig 5): most catches are made between 10 and 15 degrees. The clever ones among you may have already made the link with air pressure, right?



Finally, in terms of weather, we would like to briefly mention the phase of the moon. We also keep these data and it shows that the phase of the moon has very little influence on the catches (see fig. 6). Many people also believe that the big fish always come out when there is a full moon, but we have to disprove this theory too. If we filter the graph below on fish above 20kg, we still get a similar distribution. The only thing that stands out is that there are more catches between the full and new moon than between the new and full moon.



Private vs public venues

All statistics above were for catches and sessions on all waters. In this section, we would like to take a look at the specific differences with regard to those figures between paylakes/syndicates/private venues versus public venues.

If we first look at the weights, we see that the average weight for commercial venues is 11.8kg compared to 7.97kg on public venues. A considerable difference, therefore, which is in line with expectations. But don't think that the 20kg+ fish will just come swimming into your net on private lakes. There too, you often have to fish through a population of 5 to 15kg fish before you reach the top layer.

If we look at the number of catches, we can see that for both types of venues we are close to 3 catches per session (2.8 public vs. 3.3 private). So there is little difference in this respect. On public venues you can easily do sessions with more catches.

If we take a look at the distribution commons/mirrors, we can see that the distribution on public venues (55% commons/35% mirrors) is completely opposite to that on commercial lakes (66% mirrors/25% commons). However, more and more commercial venues have opted to release nice commons as well. On public venues, the SKPs (mirror carp projects) are doing a very good job, so hopefully we will see these figures change in the coming years.

As far as the weather is concerned, we can be quite brief (and it makes sense in a way), there are no significant differences to be detected between the two types of water.

Conclusion

Some of you may raise an eyebrow at some of the statements above. That's okay, carp angling is still not an exact science. There are many other factors that influence our fishing and determine whether or not a carp will take our baited hook. And not all of those factors can be expressed in numbers or statistics. However, we are convinced that the above data can give you more insights into your fishing and hopefully more and/or better catches.

And if you doubt our figures, we invite you to install our app and use it consistently for a year. You'll be amazed at what you can get out of it!

And if you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

INTELLIGENT ATTRACTION

SMART LIQUID

Much more than a liquid food,
much more than a liquid
attractor, Smart Liquid is
'intelligent'

Simply coat boilies, pellets,
particles, floaters and
hookbaits with Smart Liquid,
or add to groundbait at the
mixing stage...



Water is the catalyst to
Smart Liquid infiltrating its
underwater environment;
throughout the bottom
substrate horizontally

then climbing vertically,
impregnating the entire
water column with advanced
aminos, palatants and highly
stimulatory trace elements!



BETTER BAIT THROUGH RESEARCH
WWW.MAINLINE-BAITS.COM

SMART LIQUID...

available in four PVA friendly variants;
CELL, FISH, FRUIT & CREAM





Catch Reports

Featuring -

Brooms Cross Fishery

D.T. Baits

Nutrabaits

Plus all of your catches !!!

Billy Wallis



An old warrior called Arthur at 25.5 from my local syndicate caught casting to overhanging trees on the far bank using a trimmed down 15mm Rod Hutchinson mulberry pop up with a mesh bag full of Rod Hutchinson ballistic b baits. Pellets soaked in a new test glug from Snails fishing bait called nails and Garlic. all down to a size 6 incredible tackle crank hook.



29.6 oz common caught in high winds around 1PM i had a mega drop back which after a few pesky bream didn't excite me much. Until I realised I was attached to a warrior of a old common. Baiting up towards the end of the lake where the wind was belting down with fruit frenzy boilies coated in matching hook bait dip and hemp oil. Mesh bags soaked in snails and garlic from snails fishing bait. Down to a simple German rig with incredible tackle components was enough to make me a happy angler as I just christened my new sceptre rods. Just in time to get home.

Charlotte Gladdis



Charlotte with 2 stunning mirrors from her local syndicate



Sarah Davey



Q lake

I sat patiently awaiting signs of fish, and a small, what I would guess at 5lb, carp jumped out in front of me. I soon had my rod out to it. Loaded with a white Nutrabaits BFM pop up over some free offerings. To my delight it wasn't the small fish I had just seen but one beautiful mirror carp weighing in at 25.5lb and a most welcome new personal best for me.

Clayton Siddall



Been fishing this lake for a couple of seasons and some of the fish in there are stunners, as you can see. I had this one right in the margins on a krill pop up over sweetcorn and hemp. Not my biggest from there but definitely one of the best looking.

Ronnie and Teddy Aarons- Smith

Common - mousehole
lakes, mirror -
Churchgate fishery

Ronnie 16.06 common
and Teddy 14lb mirror

2 weeks ago, the boys
visited a new water
called Mousehole
Fishery. A beautiful
complex and Ronnie
was rewarded with
a beautiful 16.06
common using
blowback rigs with
15mm Cell and 12mm
Milky Toffee fished
snowman style over
Monster particle chilli
mix!

A week later we was
back at Churchgate
fishery and Ted caught
this 14lb mirror using
the same tactics!!

The boys continue
their fine run of
form by consistently
catching at the
moment!!



Ted Rowe



Ted reports in with his latest catches. My 3rd carp session out on my local park lake Peatmoor Lagoon in Swindon.

Caught two commons, one at 18lb and one at 20lb. Bait used was Baitworks 15mm boilies glazed in Holy mackerel blood red winterised oil and then I put 5-6 in a pva mesh bag with another squirt of Holy mackerel on the mesh and 15mm Royal marine balanced bottom bait. on a simple German rig tied with Bank tackle components.





Mr consistent” James Radley with another stunning capture. James got to his local lake at first light only to find there were already people on the gate. With his first choice of swim taken, he eventually managed to find another swim he liked the look of.

Having found two spots he was happy with he cast two Super Fruit

wafters topped with fake maggot to them. Followed by two spombs of crumbed Super Fruit bottom baits and maggots. It’s hard to sit on your hands sometimes but that’s what James did and after waiting about five hours one of his rods were away, resulting in this fantastic dark common of 23lbs. It was one of only two fish caught that day on the busy lake, going to prove yet again the effectiveness of DT baits.





views



Jay Cole

Jay with a lovely 39.2lbs common caught on a pink Cold Water Green Beast pop up after smaller baiting campaign over the past few weeks. Jay has been fishing Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday each week and every Thursday baiting spots with 15mm green beast freezer baits. It's his first fish since making the switch to DT baits. Congratulations Jay on the first of many.



New 30 for Matt from his Essex syndicate on a supa fruit pop up over a bed of crushed and whole supa fruit



Lee Bissett

with a very beautiful mirror of 21lbs 8oz caught on the Supa Fruit. Having lost a fish prior to landing this, his Essex syndicate gave him a second bite of the cherry.

Brooms Cross
Fishery
Long Lane
Thornton
Liverpool
L29 8AA



Tel : 07740082025
Email:
broomscrossfishery@
gmail.com



Adan
Stuart



Adan with
Sue at 36lb
4oz and a
new pb



Alan
Postlewaite

with
Shoulders at
30lb 12oz and
a new pb



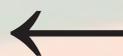
Brooms Cross
Fishery
Long Lane
Thornton
Liverpool
L29 8AA



Tel : 07740082025
Email:
broomscrossfishery@
gmail.com



Anthony
Spencer



with Jimmy at 31lb
6oz and a new pb



Matty Wong

with Big Deal
at 37lb 2oz
and a new pb



and coarse



A brute of a common from the mighty river Po for Giordano. Tactics wise Gio presented a Trigga Ice pop up over Trigga ice free offerings.



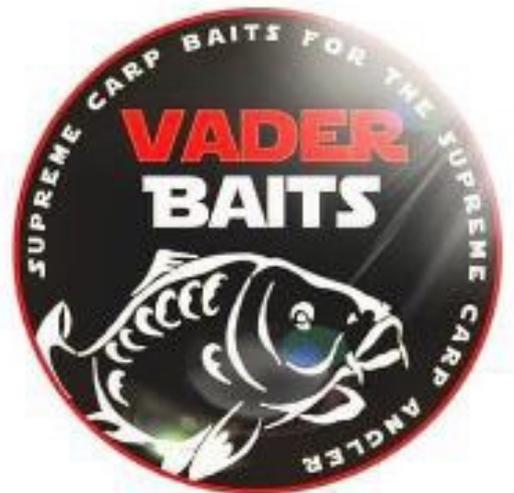
Derek Pye - CO-DE 24lb



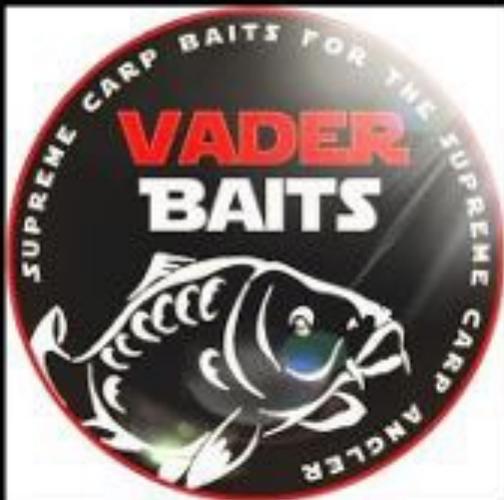
Signorini Mattia - Chilli Crab Signorini Mattia with a torpedo like common, and what a lovely fish too. Signorini tempted the common with a Tecni spice corkie wafer over Tecni spice shelf lifes.



They don't get any better looking than this old wood carving for Lewis Clark and again CO-DE producing the goods.



Team member Aaron headed to his local on a day session when he landed this 30lb mirror caught on a Lenutz white waffer over 14mm and 18mm Le Nutz boilies and a small pva mesh stick of Le Nutz pellet
Great angling Aaron



Team member Dan headed to Todber Manor for a day session and smashed his PB with this 34lb 12oz common!! The fish fell to our 18mm Grafter boilies fished over the top of some free offerings! It was his only fish of the day but what an amazing fish it was!

Great angling Dan and congratulations on your new PB



Matthew took to The Islands for a day session...Watching the water in his swim for a good hour while he set up he got about baiting the spots he'd chosen....he was catapulting a mix of Blackfudge and Crabalicious boilie! He decided to switch from mesh on his last trip he went on there to using pva bags filling them with a mix of boilie crumb 2mm and 6mm Le Nutz pellet and Le Nutz glug into the bag. All his fish fell to a white 14mm Crabalicious wafter on the rig. His 1st fish he slid his net under was a lovely common just shy of the 20lb mark and he didn't have to wait much longer before his 2nd a stunning mirror weighing just over 24lb. Matt missed and lost a fish but his rod springing to life again and a nice small stocky common blessed the bank...saving the best for last was the beautiful surprise of a lovely golden tench to finish his session...

Great angling Matt



Team member Phil headed to Viaduct for a day session. Had managed 3 fish out on his session.. All low to high doubles. Two of the fish fell to a white Grafter pop up on a Ronnie rig with a pva stick of matching pellet and the other fell to a 5ft zig soaked in Grafter hookbait enhancer!
Great angling Phil

Le Lees Carp Fishery

Welcome everyone to LE LEES Carp Fishery.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Le Lees Carp Fishery

Our price over the winter months (november 1st to march 31st) is 130 euros PPPW. 1st april to 31st october 150 euros.

We also do an evening meal at 70 euros pppw. Lake exclusive for upto 5 carpers with an evening meal is 750 euros pw.

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

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

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

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

Tight lines and may the carp gods bless you all.

Best wishes

Find us on Facebook for further information.

Matt, Tracie and Thai.



Le Lees Ca



rp Fishery

THIS MONTHS ADVERTISERS -

ACA - ANGLERS CHARITY AUCTIONS

CARBON BAITTS

CASTAWAY PVA

CHEF UK CARP

D.T. BAITTS

MAINLINE BAITTS

NUTRABAITS

RIG IT TACKLE

RIDGEMONKEY

SHARP TACKLE

WOLFINT

Thankyou for Reading

send your articles and catch reports by the
28th April 2021 for next months magazine

brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk

mark@talkingcarp.co.uk

m.galli@talkingcarp.co.uk



THE CARP MAGAZINE
FOR CARP ANGLERS WRITTEN BY

YOU !!!!!!!

'The Talking Carp Team'

Brian Dixon

Mark Faulkner

Dave Harnick Snr

Mark Galli

OUT
NOW



THE LINK IS UP!

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

BETTER BAIT THROUGH RESEARCH
WWW.MAINLINE-BAITS.COM

The Link™ boilies are available in a full range of sizes and flavours. For more information, please visit our website: www.mainline-baits.com