

A man with a beard and a grey cap is holding a large carp in a pond. The man is wearing a green t-shirt and yellow suspenders. The carp is large and has a yellowish-brown color. The background is a pond with green plants.

Talking Carp

Magazine

Issue 67

September 2021

Inside -

Talking Point with Julian Cundiff,
Carp Angling Tuition with Joe Turnbull
Scott 'Geezer' Grant, Matthew Allen, Andy Murray
Plus Reviews, Catch reports and much more !!!

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Hello and welcome.... Issue

67

Here we are again with another jam packed issue of your favourite online carp fishing magazine

This month sees us enjoying the last of our summer, as we move towards autumn. Has it been good for you? We have seen some amazing summer catches, but we do look forward to seeing those Autumn carp on the bank, and the stunning scenery shots that come with them... a magical time of the year indeed.

As always we do try and keep our eyes out for fresh new writers and as always, we deliver, and this seems to be a big hit with our readers. Remember, we welcome everyone here at Talking Carp. Every angler has a tale to tell, and here we will help you tell it. As long as you can put your story into words, and supply a few good photographs, then we will help you get your article published, and read by the hundreds of thousands of readers we now have worldwide. Drop us a line via Facebook, the website or via emails directly to us and we will walk you through the steps. You won't believe how easy it is to see your own articles published!!

And on that note... keep those articles and catch reports rolling in, keep those emails coming as we love to hear from you, and we will see you next month.

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Team Talking Carp

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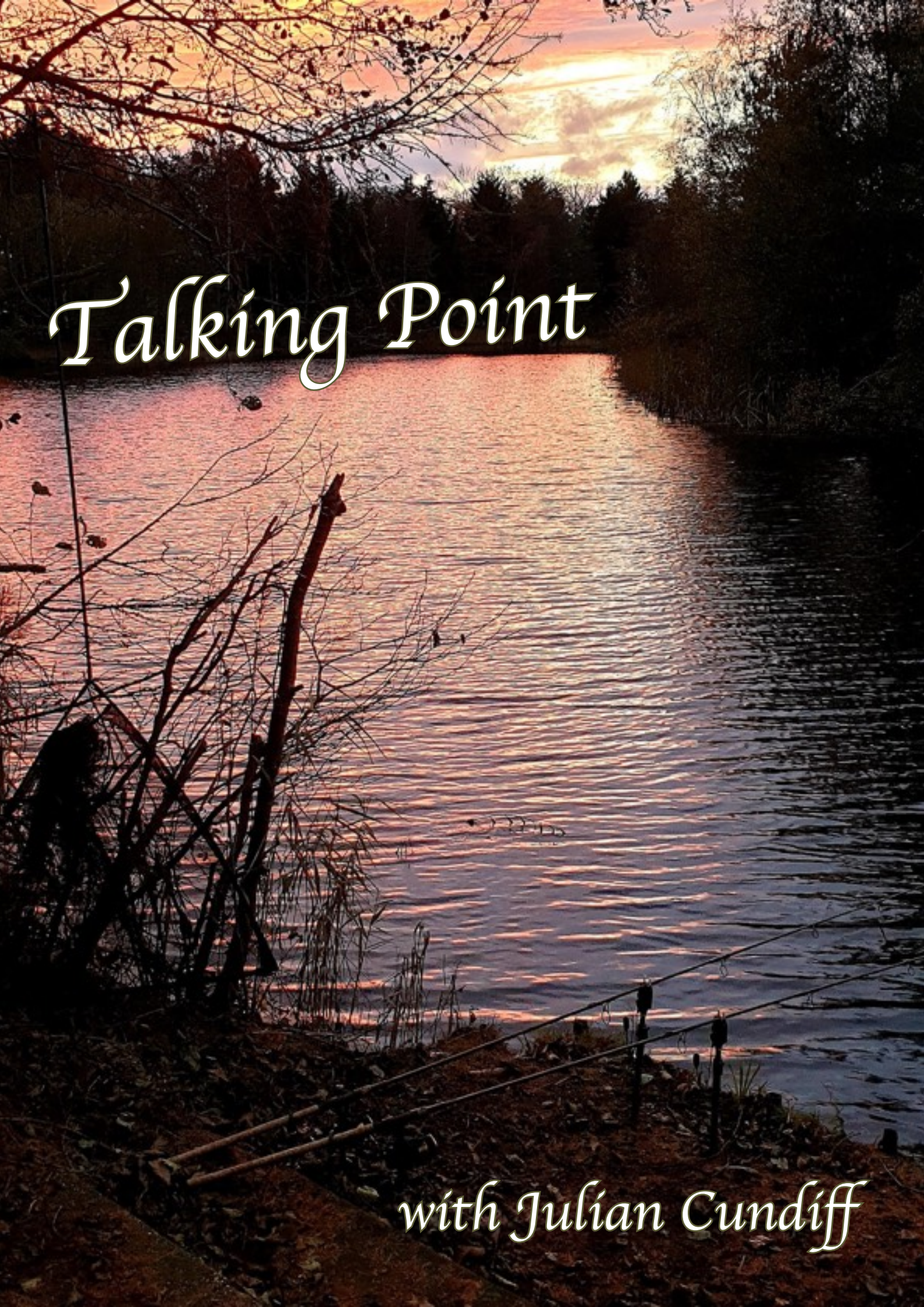
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Talking Point

with Julian Cundiff

Talking Point...

Autumn Tactics

with Julian Cundiff

And just like that.... We're in September!

Autumn looms heavy as the nights appear to be definitely getting longer, the temperatures are definitely down a degree or two and the trees are starting to change their colours to the beautiful shades of red, brown, orange and everything in between.... But it is not all doom and gloom.

This is a fantastic time of year for us carp anglers as the fish have well and truly finished their summer shenanigans, and they start to think about packing on a pound or two ready for the winter ahead.... So, does that mean we now need to apply a whole new range of tactics to our fishing? Let's ask the man in the know...

T.C. *Welcome Jules, we trust you've had a good month since our last chat...the carp care clinic in our last issue went down very well and we received some nice emails and messages regarding the way you educated and explained proper carp care. Now onto this month, and as I explained we are looking at Autumn approaching quickly, and how we may need to ring the changes to get the most out of the coming season. Does this season change make a lot of difference to your style of fishing?*

J.C. *Hi guys and thanks for the kind words on my last piece on carp care which hopefully will have made one or two think about the niceties that we sometimes take for granted. Remember we all make mistakes, the trick is to learn from them and not duplicate them if possible. Onto this new topic and there definitely is an autumnal feel*

out there for sure. I'm still fishing off the bedchair under the stars, but you can feel the drop in temperature at night and dew everywhere in the morning. There will be no major changes until we get the first frosts TBH, but it is important to recognise the changes that are happening. Because I fish regularly each week nothing creeps up on me too quickly as I'm kind of living the change but if you fish less regularly, maybe every other weekend then it can come as a bit of a shock at times. One moment you are sat on lush green grass and then it's light brown covered in leaves. So, for me (being blessed by being old and retired) the change is slower and easier to manage but, in all honesty, no massive changes other than maybe longer sessions after dark as feeding spells get longer BUT less predictable.

T.C. Surely, it's a time to pack away the dog biscuits, the floaters, zigs and such like, and time to concentrate on fishing bottom baits on all rods?

J.C. Not at all ! I've never been one to BELIEVE that only certain tactics work at certain times and try to keep an open mind. Yes of course I'm less likely to pile the Risers and Slickers in late autumn as I am in midsummer, but I've had carp off the top EVERY month of the year; just like I've had carp off the deck EVERY month of the year. The key is to watch what they are telling you via yours and others catch rates and taper your tactics accordingly

T.C. As pretty as the trees and foliage look, we all know it falls from the trees and bushes and can end up on the lakebed, making the layout of the lakebed very different to what we have been used to for the past 6 months... Is there any type of scenario you would look for now, or one that you would definitely avoid perhaps?

J.C. Leaf fall is definitely an issue on lakes that have trees round them that USUALLY fish well in the edge. How many lakes do we all know that fish well close in in the summer months, but don't as temperatures drop ? Loads I bet ! Leaf fall that decays on the bottom is definitely a reason along with pressure, lack of cover once the trees are bare and the natural food migrating from the edge.

Unless I see carp there, I'd avoid those areas especially areas that the wind blows strongest into them, and dead weed tends to accumulate and decay in them. BUT only if carp are NOT showing there. Golden rule....They are where they are and that's where you fish for them using the appropriate tactics. You may not put a bottom bait on the deck in that margin, but a zig or floater may work ?

T.C. Talking of the changes to the lakebed, do you change your rigs or presentation at all for this time of year to combat the growing leaf and debris collecting on the lakebed?

J.C. Not massively TBH. As most are aware I'm predominately a pop up angler unless the carp are telling me otherwise. I will watch where they are and providing I get a drop and the lead and hookbait don't come back smelling of BAD silt I'm happy to fish there. So, in all honesty no real change.



It dies and Im NOT fishing over that!



Some things never change

T.C. Do you find your baiting habits change much? It seems common belief that Autumn triggers the big feeding time before Winter and we have seen anglers turn up at lakes, pile in a load of bait and still blank...Is it a common misconception that they're feeding hard regardless, and good advice would be to continue getting to know your water, and continuing to fish for a bite at a time?

J.C. I honestly think that on the majority of waters that's a load of b*****s nowadays and is carp

lore that gets trotted out without any thought or personal experience . I think it DID used to be the case but a PREDICTABLE autumn feed / stock up is long gone. Don't get me wrong I still think it's a great time to target and catch carp but it's not like ' Christmas Day Carping ' as we used to call it in the eighties and nineties when late September to early November was very consistent prior to the first frosts (everyday was Christmas day). Carp anglers fish hard from March onwards now (not from June), there are tens of thousands doing it now, the quality and quantity of bait is better, carp are getting hooked more and so on. There are only so many times carp will get hooked, there is only so much they can eat, and global warming is messing up weather patterns too. Just my take on things but 35 years of autumn carping has taught me reality I always turn up with a ' one bite at a time ' mindset and from maybe May to early November not a lot changes in that mindset. Be prepared with your bait and tackle to go

'big' when need be but sit on your Spomb/catapult/stick it until IT tells you otherwise.

T.C. What about on the bank? Even though we do still get beautiful warm days and balmy evenings, the darkness hours have certainly started to bring a chill.... For those staying overnights, would you agree its time people started packing the hot drinks, a hoodie or two and some spare socks perhaps?

J.C. Now I definitely agree with you there ! Most of the summer months I tend to fish in shorts and with just a thin Nash ZT base layer top. I feel comfortable and the black top and lucky beanie are only used for trophy shots.



I suffer a neurological issue that means I kind of don't feel the cold or heat but come mid to late September I do start to be sensible as my good old mum would put it.

The shorts are replaced by the bib and brace, and I have a hoody on instead of a base layer t-shirt.

What is important is to have additional clothes with you just in case it does get wet or cold.

Towels, extra socks and the like are a must for me. Food and drink wise just

Keep the bait going in when necessary

think about the crap you are putting into your body...Sugary energy drinks, crisps and crap just don't do you any good, but I really don't need to tell you that I hope. For me it's hot drinks, some fruit, bagel and soup....A lethargic angler is not an efficient and focussed angler I promise you.

T.C. Well hopefully Jules, your words have given the readers food for thought again, and we will be seeing some great catch reports of fantastic carp in their Autumn colours very soon.



caught using the same tactics but a lighter lead over the weed

J.C. My pleasure guys and in a nutshell my advice would be

- 1 - Be prepared for colder days and nights
- 2 - Feeding spells into dark tend to be longer and less predictable so be prepared for longer sessions

- 3 - Avoid areas of dead leaf fall and decaying weed unless the carp are there.
- 4 - There is no magic switch in the autumn anymore. It may be better than the heat of summer but in all likelihood it's just different.
- 5 - Don't change any winning formulas. If it worked early September MILK it unless you can see it is not working from your own or others results.



Proper Autumn colours and weather

Have a great autumn and remember it is defined as the period from summer to winter covering the days from the 22nd of September to 21st December....

Jules

Remember folks, Jules can be found here at :-

You can find me on social media at

Facebook Julian P Cundiff

Twitter @juliancundiff

Instagram julescundiff1

I also have a FREE Facebook page which is purely instructional fishing topics every week

covering baits, rigs, tactics the lot. Simply find Julian Cundiff Angling on Facebook, add yourself and enjoy over 150 topics that I've covered so far.

*Thanks again, and
slack-ish lines ...
Team Talking Carp*



Late Autumn action



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Carp Angling Tuition...
It's Not Easy...
By Joe Turnbull

I've now been taking carp angling tuitions for over seven years and despite a few ups and downs it's been great. When I was first asked to do them, I wasn't sure about the whole thing because I didn't want it to look like it was an ego type of thing. Making it look like I was 'giving it the biggun' because everyone should fish like me or because I was regularly in a magazine, and I didn't want it to look like I was doing it just off the back of that. I guess

having and taking chances like that when you're in the trade is what it's all about, but I really found it a problem to come to terms with. I guess others with bigger egos or those that don't think like me would have done it differently but that's me, I guess. After putting it out there via various social media platforms, I received quite a few messages from anglers explaining that they'd like me to pass on my knowledge via one-on-one angling tuition.

I kind of understood that I could do it on a professional basis and treat people as actual students. Once I'd got my head around the fact that it was going to be like teaching someone something I then went full steam ahead and decided that if I were going to do it, it was to be done properly. After doing a bit of research I found out that I could take a course with the Angling Trust which would not only give me the backing of a brilliant angling professional



body, but it would also certify me for insurance purposes. Along with that, First Aid training and a full CRB check is also done and once all that is in place, you're free to start teaching. Also, because it's a recognised First for Sport certificate that you get at the end of the course, you can if you wish, go on to further training to teach other sports.

I'll always remember

taking my first tuition as it was with a guy that was finding it really difficult to feel the lead down which ironically is something that probably 90% of people that I take, still can't do. After taking the guy to a deeper area of the lake whereby allowing the lead time to get to the bottom, it wasn't long before he was feeling the lead down like a boss. I'll always remember the look on

his face when he felt that lead down for the first time. It was like he'd struck gold, like he'd stuck his finger in a light socket, it was pretty amazing for us both of us. I think that day that he went on to catch five decent fish including a new P.B. of 24lb, so it turned out to be a really good session.

However, some sessions don't always go to plan and with carp being carp even the best of us blank from time to time. It's actually one of the things that doesn't bother me too much when it does happen because it relays the reality of what anglers like myself experience every now and then. It's funny isn't it because if you follow the angling media you would be forgiven for thinking that no one blanks. Personally,





I like to keep it real and can't stand giving people false hopes so before a session I'll always tell the client how it is. If I think we're in with a good chance, I'll certainly let them know but if it isn't looking good then I'll tell them that also. I try very hard at all times and from the minute we meet up at the venue I'm on my feet, in fact I don't stop. It can be a very hectic day, from tying rigs, showing lead set ups and explaining

how and why they should work how they do. You'd be surprised at how confused anglers are and that's not a knock, far from it as I'd never knock someone's confidence from the off. Many of the anglers I see, seem confused as their heads are very messed up by over reading and mixing of free knowledge or over watching of YouTube and other video sources. Once again that isn't a dig at the type of

knowledge available because there is some brilliant content out there. However, I've always said it, and will continue to say it, you cannot beat hands on experience.

At one point I stopped fishing with clients as I wanted to put everything into the guys, I was trying to catch for but teaching someone how to do it properly isn't just about going and catching fish. It's about showing someone how to put the correct things in place for them to remember that so they can go and do that on their own. Also giving guys the confidence to know that they are doing it properly and are not going to feel awkward when they turn up on a venue on their own. After a while I put my own angling alongside the guys I take as many want to see how I do it

because it's good to also show the correct way to do it.

At times and depending on the venue we were at, we can have up to six rods fishing. So that's six rigs, six lead set ups, six hook baits and six areas to fish. If a cast goes wrong or a lead comes off or a rig gets tangled, then that must be rectified. If a spot isn't producing bites or liners and two are or one is then that one gets swapped to a spot near where there is some kind of activity and so it goes on and the game begins BUT it isn't easy work at all. I very often go home absolutely shattered and with a sore throat where I've been explaining stuff all day.

Well, that's just a brief insight into what goes into my angling tuitions and how I think about what they should

entail.

Until next time,

Tight lines,

Joe



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THE BIG STOCKIE

by Scott Geezer Grant



It was the start of May and due to having no holiday from work last year it meant this year was a bumper year for me. I booked a week off work and had all intentions of fishing Bayeswater Syndicate from the Tuesday morning, I had fished the Dell the previous weekend and banked a low double, and all I kept thinking about was Charlies Mate. I had a brief chat with Ben & Jake and they both said "She's due out at any time" which to be fair they were right and it was playing on my mind I have come so far and I know I am getting closer.

I decided at the last minute to fish The Dell, and keep everything as is, rigs bait etc, its working so

there's no need for me to change anything. I arrived early doors and the wind was still blowing South Westerly, this wind was a new wind the previous weekend so I wasn't 100% confident the fish would still be down that end. I had a walk around and spoke to Ryan & Matt who were fishing the airfield and they both said they hadn't seen any fish since the day before. This confirmed what I already thought but I kept walking around until I came to the bailiff's swim which is at the opposite end of the lake. I stood there for around 20 minutes, then bosh a fish showed out in front at around 70 yards amongst the weed. I sat in the swim for around an hour

and in that time, I saw another 3 fish. With my predictions right I went to the van and started to unload my gear. My plan was to start off in this swim then see what develops. It was now just after midday and by the time I had the house up and everything sorted it was 15:00. As previous mentioned I kept everything the same, no changes needed to be made. The rods went out to cleanish areas amongst the vast weed beds with a generous helping of bait. Late evening the fish were still showing and everything felt right, and surely it nots going be long before one of the rods is away. Midnight soon approached and I had trouble getting to sleep, but eventually



I dropped off just after 01:00. It was no more than 20 minutes later all hell broke loose in the swim, my alarms light up and were all bleeping at the same time. I jumped off the bed turned my head torch on and went down to the rods, my landing net was over all my rods and seemed to be wedged in. It was pitch black and with only my head

torch it was hard to see what the hell was going on!! Just as I moved the net, I got a glimpse of something out the corner of my eye, I looked closer and there was a big rat wedged under my pod in the net, I began trying to untangle everything but at the same time trying to see where the rat was as the last thing, I need is for it to bite me!!.

After about 10 minutes I managed to get all the rods off and when I finally got the net out from under the pod the rat was gone!!! By the time I had put all the rods back on the pod and settled down it was at least an hour or so later. My net was laid next to my rods so the rat must have got caught up jumped and took the net with him right over my rods and at the same time got wedged under the pod!!! You couldn't make this up, with all the excitement over and me fffing and blinding the kettle went on for a much-needed coffee.

By the time I drank my coffee it was around 04:00 and with no sleep my eye lids started to become

very heavy, I laid on the bed and started to drift off then the right hand rod ignited, one toner which scared the life out of me, I was back down at the rods and when I lifted the rod the fish wasn't happy, it was left then right, in one weed bed then in another it was the hardest fight I've had in a long time, then it sought sanctuary in the mother of all mothers of a weed bed, everything went solid, I laid the rod back on the rest but gave enough slack so when/if the fish does eventually start to swim out it can. An hour went past when I got a single bleep, the fish had started to move, I

lifted the rod and tighten down to help nudge the fish to keep it moving and she did, she belted out and it wasn't long after that I slid the net under a lovely mirror. This is what I have been waiting for. I left the fish in the net and secured it then started to get everything ready. I had just doused the mat down with water when the middle rod was away, I lifted the rod and immediately it felt like a better fish,

again the fish didn't make it easy and put up a great battle but the end result was the same, this time I had caught an absolute belter and a fish I have been wanting to catch since seeing a photo of it a few years back. With the fish secured I gave Ben a text to see if he was up and yes, he was, so a little while later he was at my swim. The sun had started to rise and the lake looked impressive. We weighed and photographed the



smaller of the two first and it turned out to be a fish called "Abigal" at 26lb 12oz, with her treated and returned it was time for the star of the show "The Big Stockie" at 43lb 14oz a magnificent fish and one I am privileged to have caught. Ben took cracking photos then she was treated and returned. What a night, never before have I had a night of such excitement and antics. The most pleasing part

is following my gut feeling and going on what I had seen. Watercraft is a massive part of my fishing and when you get it right there's no better feeling.

Ben went off to work and with the rods back out I went to bed and finally managed to get some sleep. Hopefully the next take will be the one I desperately want.

Wednesday afternoon

the wind got really strong and blowing South Westerly, the fish started to show further down the lake. A few anglers turned up and the road bank and airfield bank started to get busy. Nothing happened for me but Thursday even more anglers turned up and the airfield bank was now rammed, Chris who had moved from swim 4 was first to catch with a lovely 30lb mirror, then Matt was

in banking a 32lb mirror from 3rd Airfield. Friday afternoon Matty who was in Gerpins the corner of the airfield bank, caught an elusive fish known as "Baby Rudder"





at 39lb 14oz, this particular fish I named back in 2008 when she weighed 32lb 4oz. She hasn't been out for over 2 years and she is now banging the weight on and will be another 40 come winter. In all honesty I should have moved down the other end, I kept seeing the odd fish out in front. Whenever there is a really strong wind the fish move on it, but I had it in my head they would stay put but I

got it wrong. Big mistake which cost me fish, to be honest I was over the moon with what I had already caught. I planned to come back over in 2 weeks' time to hopefully keep the consistency up and catch the one I so dearly want.

A few weeks later and I was back over and eager as ever, it was the start of the week and there was already a few anglers on. I had spoken to the lads and

the lake produced 4 x 30lbbers the weekend. The wind was still a strong South Westerly so I had a walk round the lake and the Airfield bank looked good. Ryan was in Gerpins and Matt was in 4th but my favourite swim the 2nd

Airfield was free. I sat in the swim and it could of only been 20 minutes when a good fish rolled out in front about 40 yards. Ryan then banked a low double common so I made the decision to start in here and move if necessary.

As the evening started drawing in, I didn't see a single fish, I was starting to think I had made the wrong decision. I called my mate Chris who had

turned up earlier in the day and was fishing in the G Spot. He said he had seen a few fish show down in front of him and to his right which is in front of the Bailiffs swim. Rather than just sitting behind motionless rods I made the decision to move into Bailiffs. I reeled the rods in went and got my van then drove to the swim and loaded my gear like I stole it. Both Matt & Ryan gave me a hand and were laughing at the speed I was loading the gear in. it was now just after 9pm and I didn't have everything set up and the rods out until midnight!.. But it felt right and effort equals reward in my book. Just as I settled into the bag I started getting liners, it felt like déjà vu and surely it cant be

long before one of the rods is away. I drifted off to sleep and woke up at 0500 oclock to motionless rods!! I saw a couple of fish show behind the pump in front of swim 3. Matt had moved into 3 so another move was out the question, Ryan had moved into swim 2 so they have obviously seen fish down here to move. I decided to sit tight and see what the day brings. Later that morning Ryan landed a double figured plump common. Matt chipped in with a 25lb common and

Christian who was in swim 4 bagged himself a 23lb common. It seems the fish are just to the right of me and are on the feed. After another blank night I was questioning myself if I had moved down in the wrong swim. But that's fishing we all do it its part of the game and what keeps us all going. Four anglers turned up last night and all went down to the Airfield and none of them caught. The wind had changed and was now blowing East/ South East straight down



into me, I was still seeing fish show which gave me confidence but with only one night left I was taking it to the wire.

After a lovely evening meal and social with Chris and the lads I hit the sack. I was woken with my phone ringing; it was Ralph in the Island swim he had banked a cheese

and asks me if I would do his photos. I got dressed gave Chris my receiver and 10 minutes later I was in his swim, everything was ready to go so he only had to retrieve the fish and once on the mat he peeled open the retainer and what a stunner he had caught. The fish weighed in at 30lb exactly I took loads of photos then

the fish was treated and returned. I went back to my swim grabbed my receiver from Chris then put the kettle on and sat and watched the water. It felt like it was all over for me but there is a saying never say never!

A couple of hours later my old mukka Chris landed a stunning



30lb 4oz mirror, again I done his photos and he was one happy angler. I was starting to feel like the odd one out.

Find out in the next article if I managed to snare one of the lakes gems in my final hours. The search for the lakes biggest fish still continues and keeps me driving on.

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

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on, buy 50 leads up to 4oz for £37:50 which includes postage, plus other deals. Head over to their facebook page for more information.

For more information on The Dell contact Michael Prior on 07768-124462 he will be more than happy to help.

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





IN THE MARGIN PARTICLES

Taking particle preparation
to a whole new level!!



Keeping at it...Bagging up by Andy Murray



Hi all, having missed a couple of issues, it's time to put pen to paper again. I'm not sure where the summer just disappeared to! All the lakes still seem busier than ever but that's the problem fishing day ticket waters, isn't it?

As to missing a couple of issues here, I just had just too much to do in our run up to getting away to France for a week. Things didn't let up when I got back either, the thing is I had an article planned, the photos of the hooks were done ages ago, as I wanted to talk about some thoughts and actions on bags and rigs, I was applying to my fishing this year that was paying off. But all sorts of things got in the way. Our planned trip to France in March had been cancelled, then our planned trip to Eastern Europe had been cancelled in May. So, I was determined that our trip in July was going to go ahead, whatever the cost. This was the first holiday Sal was to have had for the last 2 years, she has spent most of this time fighting the cancer and putting up with the terrifying amount of treatment she has gone through. Whilst I needed a break, she really did! I had promised Sal a trip away, but we didn't fancy getting on a plane just yet, but a ferry might be

ok. So, we got over to France in early July for a week. Usually work-wise I am not so busy in July and August, but as I was still catching up from not seeing clients over the winter period, things got a bit hectic in the lead up to getting away.

I booked the Chalet swim at Etang de Brigueuil, also known as High Mill Lake. A bit about the lake and its owners. Andy and Tracy bought the lake some 17 years ago, they had made the decision to move to France for a lifestyle change and having viewed a number of places, decided to settle here.

The lake then was a far cry from what you see now, as at that time it just had one swim which was the Chalet swim. It has taken a serious amount of time, work and money to transform the lake into the Fishery it is now. What's more surprising is that neither of them were anglers either. Over the years the fishery has taken shape and is now a popular destination for anglers from all across Europe, as well as the UK (now we are not in Europe), with many anglers been regulars here, returning year after year. The lake itself is around 10 acres and is set in the most peaceful surroundings in rural France, amongst a lot of wildlife, whilst we were there, we saw Coypu, Deer, Red Squirrels,

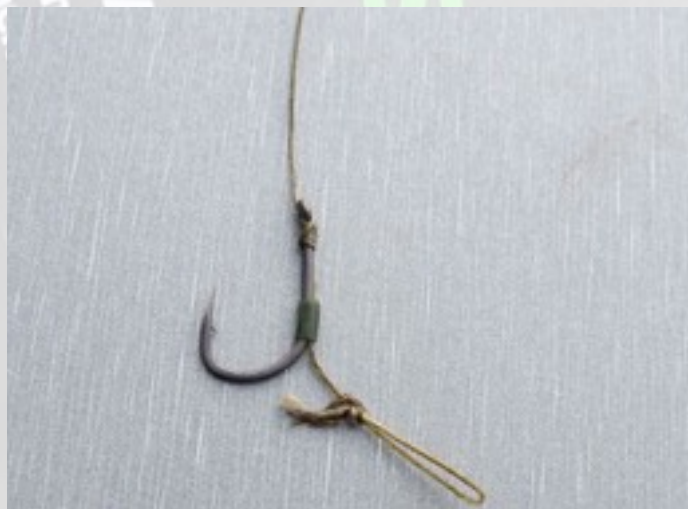
kingfishers, Buzzards to name but a few species. The lake has around 600 carp, 80 of these are over 40lbs, with 20 going over 50lbs, the lake record stands at 63lb. The Chalet itself is built to a very high standard and is perfect for taking a partner who still wants a good standard of accommodation whilst being near the bank. Sal slept in the Chalet, and I slept in the bivvy. Whilst the fishing wasn't easy, we had some nice carp. Whilst I

had my own set-up, I had also got Sal a full set-up as well. So, each evening we had 6 rods to put out, some were cast out and others boated quiet a way, she handled it all quiet well, with six rods it was a full-on task each night. Sal caught herself a new PB carp as well. I also got Sal set up with a little whip (ooohhhh!), and a small tub of Maggots, it's amazing what they sell in the French supermarkets, so she could spend some time bit bashing

around the edges during the day. Andy and Tracey really looked after us, bringing fresh Croissants for breakfast and food whenever we fancied a change. We had a great week, even taking in some of the tourist things at times. Though having to pay for a battery of tests when we got back took the edge off it a bit.

As I'm sat typing this up its almost the end of August, my fishing has been very mixed this year, I have had very little time on the A1 Pits, my usual haunt. When I have got on the bank there it has been really busy, too busy to



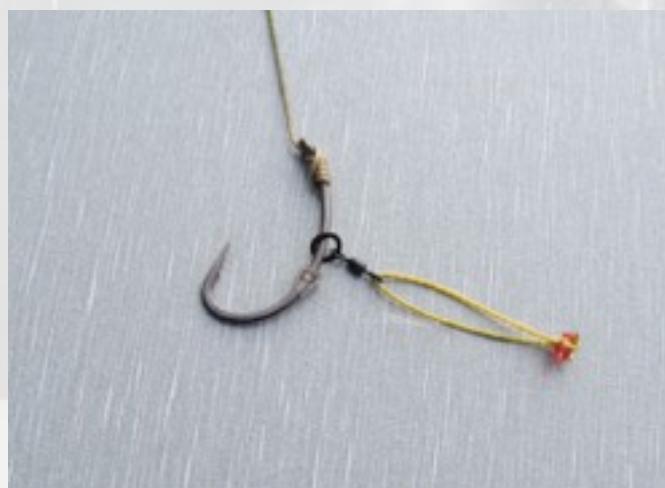


get in a swim that would produce carp. That's the problem with fishing day ticket waters as I have said. Though it is irksome when I see swims been occupied and have been occupied for a long time and not been fished particularly well either. When I have got on the carp I have had a few, wherever I have been fishing, which is good.

At the start of this year, I made a couple of major changes to my fishing, firstly baitwise I had joined DT baits, having chosen the N-Blend for my choice of boilie this year it has proved a good catcher of carp, which I knew it would. I also started using Monster Particles as I became part of their team, the giant tigers are great, and their Nutta Mix is a great accompaniment to the N-Blend when glugged with the DT Baits DNA bait soak. The other thing I wanted to do this year was get round to using PVA a bit

more, I haven't really used it much over the years apart from the odd stringer and small mesh PVA bags. I contacted Castaway PVA at the start of the summer and ordered a bag of assorted PVA goodies. So, this summer, I rigged up a couple of rods for bag fishing, I also got some supplies of different sized inline leads, so I would have no excuse for having the components for using bags a bit more. One of the benefits of my T6 is that I can take what I like fishing, so a couple of extra rods is no sweat. I have found that a short rig, an N-Blend Wafter, with some N-Blend pellets and chops with a shot of N-Blend DNA has proved to be a real winner.

The other main thing I have been working on has been my presentation, it occupies my mind a lot both when I'm fishing and when I am not. I don't mean rigs I mean how I present the hookbait, it's not



look at the three pictures of hooking arrangement, you can see the more standard presentation with the hair held by a small piece of silicone. Which is a more normal type of set-up and mostly all one needs, simple and strong is always my preferred choice. The other two hooking arrangements show the use of rings on the hook shank, this enables the hook to turn much more easily and catch hold, it also allows the hookbait and hook to separate much better. Now, here's the thing, sometimes this is a good thing and sometimes it's not, the trick is knowing when. I do take note of what a lot of angler's post as their set-ups, which also applies to the type of waters they are fishing. I see some great looking rigs, but you have to use them in the right circumstances. A rig that works really well by being lowered, dropped from a boat, or just delicately cast 20 yards or so with a small lead is not going to work as well when hitting the water at 120 yards with a 4–5-ounce lead! Which is why mostly I would opt for the first type of set-up as its bomb proof and it's anti-tangle proof as well. What I have learned though is that with bag fishing some of these other set-ups can be used and work better than the standard set-up for

close-up feeding wary carp. So, for my bag fishing this year I have been using the swivel on the hook set up with a wafter hookbait, this has proved really effective, one afternoon I had 7 carp in four hours, all on one rod. That's the thing about bag fishing efficiently, when it works it really works, the other thing is getting set-up to do it properly, like anything really I suppose.

Now, it has to be said, I'm not the greatest PVA bag angler, or should I say I wasn't...As I said I had decided at the start of this year, one of the things I was going use more



this year was PVA in its many forms. I think that's one of the things where a lot of anglers let themselves down, because they aren't adept at a particular method, they don't use it, then don't catch, and just say to themselves 'oh well, the carp aren't having it today'. So, to me, this year I was going to work on and use PVA bag for my fishing on a regular basis. One of the main things that is the key with bag fishing is to have bags ready tied to simply attach to the line, whether I have had a carp or just not got the cast dead right. So, what I do is have the bags tied on to lead core

leaders ready to attach for each recast, this gives the rigs time to dry thoroughly for re-bagging. It also saves time in between fish. Also, if I have bags re-tied and the cast isn't dead right, then I am more likely to recast and get it right as I have spare bags tied up, rather than just leave it for a while, because it's a chore to wind in and start again. Having different sized bags and leads meant I could fish them at any range from the margin to a hundred yards, simply reduce the size of the bag to cast further.

The other thing I noticed when I started bag fishing was that if I had a few blips on the buzzers, I felt I needed to recast to reset everything. Once I changed the hooking arrangement, I got less blips and more runs, which came much quicker when on fish, so I think there is a lot of proof that the change in rig was working. Also, I found the need to use a PVA nugget on the hook to stop the hookbait spinning round the shank when



packing the bag, the nugget prevents movement of the rig and the hook catching into the hookbait which then prevents a bite occurring. Before I did this I would occasionally wind in and find the hook stuck into the hookbait! The thing about having bags ready to go is that I can take my time getting every bit right, rather than setting them up in a rush, nothing new I know. Just taking extra care with each component of the set-up. I hope some of these comments help you bank a few more carp, as it has for me. Now, as we come into the Autumn and a key feeding time, it's also a good time to change your

set-ups as the carp have seen a few things by now. Bags are a great way to vary your presentation and may trick a few more carp for you before the year is out.

I'm still hopeful to get another trip abroad this year, also I'm looking forward to having a few more trips on the Pits. Though things may yet change...whatever happens I'll let you know how I get on. Next month I'm going to focus a bit on Zig fishing as this can be a deadly Autumn tactic as well. Catch you next time.

Andy



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To Sharpen or not to Sharpen,
that is the Question?



By Matty Allen

Dearest all.

I hope this article and edition of Talking Carp finds you well and safe?

As I sit here, with my laptop on my knees, I'm already considering that I must be slightly nuts taking on an article of this subject matter.

Out the packet hooks or sharpened hooks?? Such a subjective subject there is no right or wrong answer. Many anglers, both well-known or your average pleasure angler, will tell you that a hook out the packet is just as effective, if not more, then a sharpened hook. I mean, you see on all the promotional you tube videos and on social media how effective over the counter, packaged hooks are. So why am I even bothering to write

an article addressing the question; Why use a sharpened hook if everyone tells you a hook out the packet is good enough?

Well for me first and foremost, I don't want my limited carp angling to be good enough. I want to maximise my opportunities every time I get a limited opportunity to fish. I am constantly reflecting on my carp angling and put a great deal of thought into everything I do. Bait, bait application, bait approach, rigs, location, etc.

For that reason, just before the pandemic, I started to look at sharper hooks. Was this possible? Was it worth it? Is it just a gimmick to make more money?

My reason for this is that the bites on my

big lake syndicate are very rarely a one toner. I have discussed with many of the anglers on the lake and they all agree that your bites will literally be a few bleeps and often not a screamer, just pull up tight. So, with this in mind I got to thinking, under water what are the carp doing? Why are the bites not absolute screamers? Now the big lake is a big lake with approximately 80 carp in residence and no significant angling pressure, creating minimal competitive feeding. Therefore, I concluded that the carp predominantly weren't bolters, they were slow moving grazers. A subjective opinion I'm sure you agree. Now just to explain, bolters are carp that will come into a swim, often in numbers, feed hard and move around a lot. Therefore, if you consider your rigs,

these bolter carp are easier to hook as they will feed aggressively and will move off quickly, hitting the lead and drilling home a hook. Easy and straight forward, screaming alarms. Grazers are carp that will probably be solitary, or move around in low numbers with other carp, will feed more gingerly and cautiously, that won't move around on a spot as lively and if they ingest a strange anomaly, will in most cases sit and try and eject the hook, rather than hitting the lead hard and drilling the hook in. The grazers are harder to catch for obvious reasons as their behaviour makes hooking them trickier. Take the information I have regarding the bites on my big lake syndicate and I need to stack every advantage in this ongoing battle on my side to try and

maximise my chances. Now this includes a few factors, bait approach, location, bait application, but for the purposes of this article I'm going to focus on my hooks.

So just before the pandemic I started

to look at hook sharpening and by chance came across a small company just set up by Jonathan Wells called Well Sharp Hooks. I knew one of the carp anglers using the sharpened hooks as he was a consultant for another company





and had a chat with him and he swore that the sharpened hooks were putting more fish on the bank for him. I therefore got in touch with Jonathan who was lovely, put a small order in and got my new hooks a couple of days later, with additional samples. The hooks are brilliant. They are super strong due to being forged from Japanese XC70 Carbon Vanadium and beautifully finished with a super smooth Teflon coating, aiding camouflage and penetration. I can use

them with floaters, Ronnie's, wafers, no issues. But I have also every confidence in the hooks being fished in snaggy waters as they are super strong. The thing I loved the most at first site is the hooks are not just sharp at the point but beyond the point, attention is given to the whole hook. Why is this important? The point is integral, yes. But if the point is razor sharp but the rest of the hook that would enter the carp's soft tissue is more bulbous and thicker, then it is

not going to set as effectively, therefore still making it possible for the carp to eject. For example, think of a samurai sword and you are going to stab it through a large beef carcass like Rocky Balboa used to spar with. Which samurai sword is easier to pass through the giant slab of beef? The razor-sharp sword that doesn't quickly taper out, or the sword that is razor sharp at the tip then tapers out quickly? My answer is the first sword, surely simple physics, force, vs diameter vs mass? A razor sharp, strong sword, tapering evenly from the sharp point, will be much more effective then razor sharp un tapered, thick, bulbous sword? I hope that makes sense? Hooks are the same. They need to be razor sharp at the tip and evenly tapered to maximise soft tissue

tissue penetration with minimal resistance. Additionally, think about a hypodermic needle? That passes through soft tissues with ease, often not really leaving a mark. The same dynamics applies to an effective hook.

I was fascinated with what I saw, but proof is in the pudding. Sadly, as you're all aware, fishing has been limited recently, but the first time I used

the hooks I turned a blanking streak on the big lake, into a carp on the mat. Nothing massive, but a catch is a massive confidence booster and a confident carp angler is far more effective than an unconfident carp angler.

I have subsequently used the hooks for all my fishing and my catch rate has sky rocketed. Now you can argue that there are many variables in play

here but my confidence is sky high, and that is the key!

During my 20 plus podcasts for Carp Cogs I have had the pleasure of chatting to many known anglers and key carp industry figures and one message comes through loud and clear each time.

Be confident in what you are doing.

It is pointless (see what I did there?) sitting on carp if you don't feel confident. You will doubt yourself and make changes that will probably be ineffective. If you are confident in what you are doing, know you are fishing at your most effective, then reflecting on your carp angling will become easier, as if you are not catching you can take out the hook, rig, bait, etc from the equation and focus on location, application, weather, etc.



Speaking of the podcast and the chats we have, I find it fascinating how some of the known, proficient anglers use sharpened hooks and some don't. An example of this I find fascinating is in episode 17 when we chatted with Team England's Jamie Londors and Billy Flowers. Here is 2 carp catching machines that catch huge amounts

of carp and are very successful. Jamie favours sharpened hooks and Billy out the packet hooks. Both feel that neither one out catches the other, they are just confident in what they are doing and that's the key, **CONFIDENCE**. For the reasons I have tried to articulate above I'm confident at the moment with all aspects of my

angling. But in the last 3 occasions I have hit the bank, my sons and I have reached 24 carp caught, 0 lost. And we have been out catching others on the lake. Again, variables in play. But one of the edges is that I'm using sharpened hooks, others are using out the packet. The only disadvantage I have seen so far, to give a balanced



argument, is that for every 1, every 2 captures maximum, I have to change my hooks/rigs.

Now some would say what's the point (see what I did again?)? Use a hook out the pack and still catch carp. That is true. But

consider your angling situation?

Is the venue highly stocked meaning that more competitive feeding is taking place? In that case you are probably repeat capturing the bolters. But, is there carp in the lake you haven't

caught? If you take your go to hooks to a different water, with different carp behaviour do you still catch well?

The positive of the sharpened hook is that if a cautious carp mouths your bait, then compared to a blunter hook, you have considerably higher chance of the hook catching in the soft tissue, and if it is tapered well, will go in and become very hard to eject.

So, coming back to my 1 bite, 1 hook approach, this is a decision made as the integrity of the hook point will often now be compromised. I therefore freshen the hook/rig, so I remain super confident. The old rigs go in a pot and at my next rig tying, I will reuse some of the components. You may say expensive, but



confidence and carp on the bank is why we carp fish, so maximise your chances.

Thank you for reading this article and I hope my ramblings have resonated with you in some capacity. I

really feel passionately that a sharp hook, fished efficiently, will maximise your carp on the bank opportunities.

Be safe, be happy and if you fancy listening to me occasionally talk all things carp

fishing, please listen to the *Carp Cogs* podcast.

Big Love

Matt



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No Flies on Me.....By Mark Carper



Les Etangs De L'Ecurie

Very rarely do I write about my own fishing, other than on my Instagram and then that is more about the pictures than words and usually it's about something I have bought or been sent to review....

This time however, I felt my first French trip of 2021 in August was worthy of a mention for a few reasons.

This trip to a fishery I have been to on several occasions over the past five years should have been at least my fifth venture in to Europe this year but due to the travel

situation, that was never going to be the case and actually, this trip was a last minute decision as I was going over to keep an eye on the place, while the owners came back to the UK for the first time in over twelve months...

yep, I was going to run the place for the week...

...and as luck would have it, I would also have at my disposal, two empty lakes... empty in terms of anglers I should add, and not Carp..!!!

This meant that I was only going to have to assist three

anglers and just keep a general eye on the place, with a bit of Shower Block and Cabin cleaning, oh, and feed the Cat...a Carp Anglers Dream I guess and one I was certainly looking forward to.

The only 'downside' if you can call it that, was I would be travelling alone across France and although I am extremely well practiced and confident on the roads over there, there was one issue... the 'Péage' or Toll Road...this is by far the quickest way to travel through France, but all the Pay

Booths are obviously on the Left Hand side, which, when I have a passenger is no drama, but alone, in a vehicle too big to simply 'Lean Over' meant I would have to get out each time to use the machines... what a right old pain in the backside..?!

...or was it..? The solution was easy, I would set up and account with 'Emovis' and used one of their 'TAGS' to make the use of the Tolls fully automated barrier lanes...and let me tell you, it worked like a charm, in fact I wish I had sorted one years ago. It even allowed me to skip passed lines of queuing vehicles and meant my journey was uninterrupted.

Anyway, I digress from the reason I am writing this... the main reason is to follow up on an article and interview I did in issues, 65 and 66 of the Magazine and to update about the bait I have committed to from a new and upcoming company called "Seasoned

Baits". Now, if you read issues 65 and 66, I will not need to explain why their bait is so different, if however, you skipped the articles or have not had the chance to read them, then go and do so now....!!

With lots of stories flying around on Social Media about



taking bait, especially Boilies, in to Europe, I decided I would take a chance and I loaded up with fifteen kilos, five each of the 'Bug Bites' and 'Spice Bug' and five kilos of a brand new Test Bait...I knew the fishery had Boilies if I needed them but thankfully, Border Force showed no interest in me

or my vehicle and after showing the required 'Covid' paperwork, I was on my way through the tunnel and through France....eight hours after leaving home, I arrived at the lake... an empty lake...a lake not fished the way it usually was due to obvious reasons and a lake that gave me a real opportunity to

try out the bait I have been telling everyone else to try out....!! Now, I'm not going to go in to detail about Tackle and Rigs and Tactics other than to say, I used my Nash Tackle 6ft 3lb Black Ops Sawn-Offs, fitted with Daiwa GS3000LTD Reels loaded with Katran 'Crypton' Carp Line and three types of rigs...the Multi, the Combi and the good old 'Ronnie' but with a slightly different presentation technique...That's another story but only on my Instagram..!

What I will tell you, is using nothing but the Seasoned Baits Boilies mentioned above, I proceeded to Pre-Bait a few likely areas of the lake that I would be staying on,



known as 'The Orchard' and then set about getting my Swim organised. The reason I was staying on this lake was due to the fact it was the easiest to keep an overview of the site and meant I was closer to all the facilities, including the house etc.

The pre-baiting was slightly different to what I would normally do but the fact I had 2 acres of water all to myself meant I could use whatever approach I felt might work because I was free to move about and change tactics whenever I chose too...which in actual fact I never did as I had landed a Carp (mid-twenty) after only ten minutes of

dropping a rod on the edge of one of the pre-baited spots.... and that Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls of all ages, was the way the whole week session went on...Carp after Carp after Carp....!!

You have to keep in mind, this was not the 'usual' French Commercial water trip, this was not a case of 'find a few spots'. Check the rods out, open a few

beers and sit behind the rods for the next seven days...while you watch the fish show everywhere but in front of you... this was a case of dropping the rods in when I could, and being prepared to wind them in when I was needed AND, I chose not to fish after sunset or before sunrise, as I had another 'mission' on another lake for those times of day...!



So, by fishing on average six to seven hours per day at specifically chosen times, which I will call “Bite Time”, for six of the eight days I was at the Fishery, I had no less than fifty-seven takes....!

I landed Fifty-Three of those with twenty-three of the Carp being over twenty pounds and three of them being over thirty.....Every single one fell to Seasoned Baits freebies and Hook Baits and all were caught on the Sawn-Offs, of which, I only ever fished two at a time...It was the biggest single hit of Carp I have had in my thirty-six years of being a Carp Angler and I’m sure it’s a lake record for the quantity caught

in one session by a single angler too. But that is not what this is about, it’s not about the quantity or the quality or the gear or the rigs, this is about the Venue, the Bait and above all, the approach.

As I have already mentioned, it is not often any of us outside the ‘Celebrity’ bracket get a chance to fish a place with total freedom and time to spare, especially in Europe. For me, this was probably a ‘one-off’ and although, I may go and look after the fishery again at some point, it is unlikely that I will have the opportunity to actual fish as bookings are filling up already for 2022, with just a few October places

for this year left. Nonetheless, I will likely fish as a guest either this year or next and two things are for certain....

...My Bait and my approach will not change, even if I am sharing the lake with a mate...!!!

The Fishery

At this point I guess I should tell you about the fishery as it is not your ‘usual’ jam packed French commercial were you book a ‘Swim’, this is a very natural place, with three Lakes to book and you get the whole Lake for either two or Three Anglers, depending on which one you opt for.

Les Etangs De L'Ecurie is a perfect place for carp fishing in France if you want **EXCLUSIVE USE** of a lake. Nestled in the Pays De La Loire in stunning countryside, less than 4 hours from Calais and just over an hour from the Ports at Caen and St Malo.

Opened in April 2014 for Carp fishing, the venue produced it's' first 50lb Carp in 2015.

Although not all the lakes have produced a 'fifty' two of them, Orchard and Oaks have come close and there is still plenty of uncaught stock that could easily throw up a big surprise....!! For most of the Anglers that visit

L'Ecurie and come back year on year, me being one of them, it is more about the fact that you can come away with a mate or partner etc. and have your chosen lake exclusively in beautiful surroundings, with peace and quiet, and the chance to land some beautiful Carp.

The Lakes are booked from Saturday to Saturday, and you can have up to two anglers on both 'Orchard' and 'Oaks' and up to three anglers on 'Tall Trees'. Or, seven of you could book the whole site, although I reckon you would need to be booking at least two years ahead to secure this.



Tall Trees has become the 'Big Fish' water of the site but simply because it has produced Carp to fifty pound and forties are a regular occurrence and the owner, although convinced Oaks contains at least one fifty, will not 'officially' state that until it has been on the bank and verified, unlike many of the commercials, that seem to 'speculate' and 'guess' the weight because "an angler saw it in the water and it looked massive..!!"

Oaks is the water that is likely to produce the next fifty and regularly gives up its' residents in the upper thirty and forty bracket, but seems reluctant

to give up the known 'Big Common' last seen on the bank over two seasons go at forty-seven pound but is regularly seen cruising some margin spots....I actually tried to 'stalk' this Carp, to no avail I might add, while I was there, hence why my rods were not permanently out on the Orchard....!

However, I did manage to 'Stalk' two out of Orchard that I had been watching over a couple of days as they patrolled in and out of a little bay that would rarely be fished as it can only really accommodate one rod...and let's face it, who goes all the way to France, to fish 'one rod' on a



margin spot...even if it does produce a belting mirror of 37.2lb, which is well documented on my Instagram page...!

Prior to the Mirror, I had a 22lb Common the day before at roughly the same time of day, from exactly the same spot which was the companion of the Mirror. I know it was exactly the same spot as I had placed the bait using the Nash tackle Bushwhacker Baiting Pole, which again, is an unusual tactic for that lake, or indeed, any of the lakes at L'Ecurie.

Normal tactics would be to use a Bait Boat to place baits close to the far margins, under

the overhanging trees and bushes, which all three lakes have in abundance as they retain their very 'natural' look and feel....but like I said, this was not a 'normal' trip for me..!

The fishery has excellent shower and toilet facilities, and even a rustic dining room area for those

that wish to take up breakfasts and/or evening meals, or if you just fancy a break from the lake to watch some TV. Additionally, there is a fisherman's cabin containing a microwave, fridge/freezer, toaster, kettle, charging points and a bait freezer, so you are fully catered for in every department.



The Result

Again, I am not writing this with the intention of doing a full review of the fishery, neither is it about the tactics or the sizes of the carp I caught. It is primarily about how I took a chance on a new bait and had the session of a lifetime...that said, if the information about the fishery has 'wetted' your appetite to take on a whole lake between you and your fishing partner, with the chance of some

superb condition, hard fighting Carp weighing in at up fifty pounds plus, then take a look at www.laclecurie.com and see for yourself, what they have to offer.

I am however, in the process of putting together a final edit of all three lakes and the facilities, from the video I recorded during my stay and will put that on my Instagram and the Facebook page of the fishery very soon...

...but again, I

digress...The bait or to be precise, the Bug Bites and the Spice Bug, were the two baits that did most of the Carp, with the Test Bait getting in on the action for four of them from a spot that only that bait had been put on....and you don't need to just take my word for it either...

One of the anglers that was fishing Tall Trees for the week I was there had also come prepared to do a little Stalking as he had ended up travelling alone for the week due to tow others from his booking being unable to attend as they had had to already move their original booking due to restrictions etc.



Peter Perrin, was having some nice fish from up to forty plus from a few spots he had baited but on the last morning, the Friday that I was leaving, I dropped him about a kilo of Bug Bites and Spice Bug and about two kilos of the test bait....he went on to land three upper twenties from pre-baited margin spots using only the bait I had left him... needless to say, he's also ordered the bait to use in the UK.

The other noticeable thing was that nearly all the Carp were letting me see the digested version of the bait in both my Landing Net and Air Cradle, which was a sure sign they were well and truly "on

it...!!"

The fully natural and 'sustainable' ingredients in the bait has definitely got 'Carp Appeal' and yes, you could argue that maybe, at that exact time and location, another bait, including something containing Fishmeal could have had the same, or even better results but for me a total landed catch of fifty-three Carp cannot be

ignored...add to that the captures from two friends back in the UK that took a chance on the bait and three stalked French Carp from a complete stranger that for some reason trusted me (Thanks for that Peter...HaHaHa), then the bait is definitely doing the doing... and if was some 'Big Name' in the world of Carp Angling, then plenty of people would be ordering it before they got to the



end of this article, but, unfortunately for Richard at Seasoned Baits, I am not that influential but I am honest and I do have integrity and also, I have nothing to gain from making this up...I've paid for all the bait I have used....!!

The whole purpose of this article was to simply follow up on my promise that once I had used the bait, I would give my feedback about it and that is exactly what I have done, even though I may have digressed and gone off topic a few times along the way.

Another very noticeable factor about the bait is the consistency of the 'roll'...the

bait is subtly 'soft' and breaks down very well, even the 'Shelf-Life' which contains only small amounts of Human Grade Preservative, the freezer Bait, obviously contains no preserve at all but you will be hard pushed to tell them apart (after the frozen bait has thawed of course..!)

In Conclusion

Being on the receiving end of such a great haul of Carp, from a lake that is not categorised as a 'French Runs Water' by any stretch of the imagination made me consider 'all' of the things I did so that I

could then attempt to repeat them in the future and not just on that Lake or even that venue, but on any water I choose to fish.

My conclusion..."Put out a bait the Carp want to eat and the exact spot isn't that important, but the timing is..!!", it is as simple as that really....but isn't that what we all try to do every time we put a rig out..??!



Of course it is, or at least we hope it is, but we do not always achieve it...because we cannot always get the Carp feeding in our bit of water, the patch in front of our swim.... and then, we the start to get desperate to “nick a bite” as they say and start changing all sorts of things...
...So when I was faced with a ‘Patch’ of two acres, getting the Carp to feed in the spots I had my rigs was the obvious challenge and one that, even though I say so myself, I passed with full honours... and I’m convinced it was down to the fact they were feeding so hard on the Seasoned Baits, they barely noticed the line and rig in the water...!!!



Even the small bay area I purposely 'stalked' produced more than just the two Carp I had targeted and I was surprised as I thought the small area would have been 'blown' after the first bite... but again, I am convinced that the bait was just too irresistible and the pre-baiting/resting tactic allowed them to get comfortable on the feed ...or Carp are not as clever as some people would have us believe...HaHaHa

With the rods out at the right time and on the areas I knew they would be feeding, because I knew they were eating the bait, the bites came fast... Pre-Baiting with a quality Bait that was full of protein and

everything else the carp wanted and was easy to digest, in areas that were left unpressured for hours to allow them to really get on the feed, was a tactic that I am convinced worked on this trip. I estimate I fished a total of no more than forty-five hours out of the one hundred and sixty-eight I was at the Fishery, and I landed on average just over one Carp per hour....

I know that it is impossible to catch "just over one Carp" but it's a statistic for goodness sake...that's 53 Carp landed during

less than a 48 hour session, which was incredible and now makes me wonder what could have happened if I had fished harder and for twenty four hours a day, which would have been my normal approach had this been a normal trip..?!?

The Bait and the circumstance were for me, the key factor in the haul and



hopefully, I can prove it all over again in October and on other trips I have planned to UK fisheries....!

Remember the name....No, not mine, that of, "Seasoned Baits" as I am certain you will be hearing a lot more of it in the coming months

and not just from me....Bug Bites & Spice Bug are the future of sustainable Carp Baits and guess what..??

They really do work...!!!

All the Best

Mark Carper

Me on Instagram: @mark_carper257

The Bait:

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Time's Change And You Move On

by Richard Handel

Over the year's, I've noticed that in the beginning in my years fishing down in the south, I was a member of as many clubs waters as possible. Fishing here and there and not really focusing on one water. This was brought about by moving from Suffolk to Hampshire in the mid 90s for work and discovering all these lovely new carp lakes to fish all at the same time.

As time progressed, I realized that I needed to just simply focus on one or two waters for a few years and then move on. Some of these changes probably came about due to work, as I was moving up the career ladder. Also, fishing was really becoming a popular pastime and unfortunately the idiots started appearing on local club waters. This did affect me

quite badly at one point and very nearly completely binned fishing, if it hadn't been for a visit to my ever faithful tackle shop in Southampton. I made a passing comment to a guy I knew who worked in there and he pointed me in the direction of a amazing river syndicate, it simply let you do as you pleased with only a couple of understandable rules. This basically saved me and I spent 7 year's wondering up and down a 5 mile stretch of the Hampshire Avon, doing as I pleased and in that time I can count on my hands the number of people I met. I just fished for anything that came along and got lost in fishing again. There is also a freedom for you when the water is managed like it was and with likeminded anglers as well. this is where my passion for

fishing was reborn and it sent me straight back to the 80's!

There are always sliding doors moment in this life we live and 7 year's after I had joined the syndicate, it was getting smaller and the landowners were after more money, I was in the same tackle shop and the same thing happened. "Oh! you may be interested to know there's a new syndicate starting up that sounds perfect for you."

This was the day I found out about my Airfield Lake syndicate, and I've been here ever since. This has the same attributes as the river syndicate, not many members and all very nice and friendly. The lakes and rivers are very wild and woolly, they are set up in such a way that you can be hard pushed to see another angler

when you're fishing, unless you pick an area that divides the lakes up.

At my age, I think this is all I'm looking for and in a strange way, I think covid 19 has helped me come to the realization that the simple thing in life are more important. Or as I've tried to do, simplify my life to the important things. It shouldn't be hard work to enjoy yourself, it should be stress free and enjoyable. All I really want to do when I go fishing, is catch a few nice carp and fish for some unknown warriors. But be simple and straight forward with as less stress as possible and enjoyable all the time, even if you're blanking. If the soundings are stunning and you

don't have to worry about where the next person is going to pitch up, this just has to be the way forward.

If you are having any doubts about your fishing, I hope the above has helped in some way. Fishing has been highlighted as one of the best mental health reliefs

for stress, don't stress yourself out by going to the wrong place or not catching, just look around and enjoy the view.

Until next time

Richard



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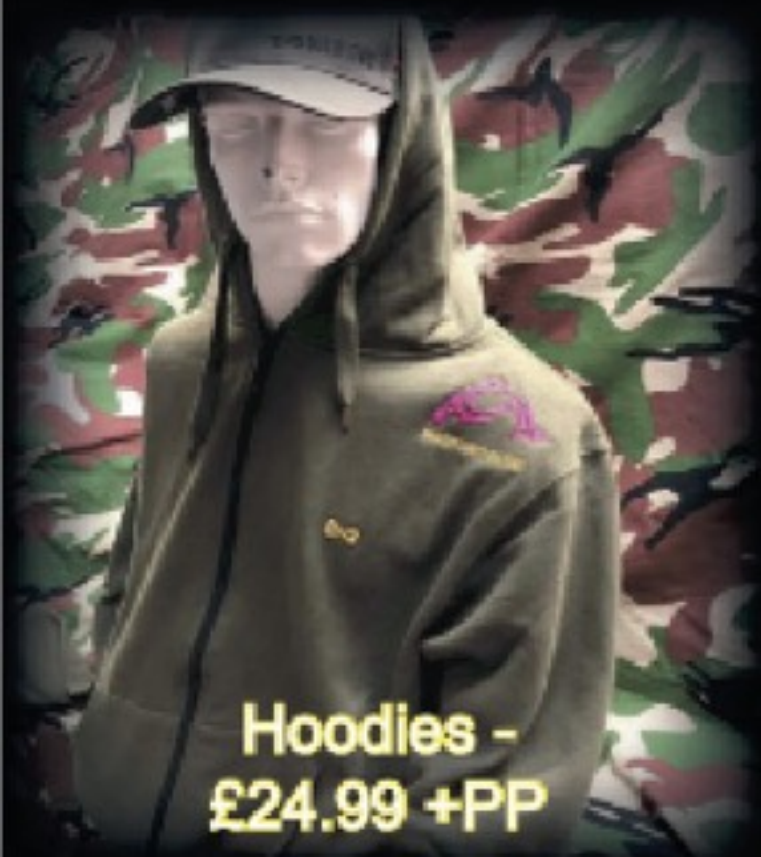
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Talking Carp



*The Furzebray Social
by Jay*

The annual social at Furzebray lakes was finally here. A trip that everyone looks forward to from the minute it's booked at least a year in advance. I've been fishing this venue for the last 4 years or so, often doing more than one trip per year with various groups of people. It all started when my dad found the place and booked a week there with me and my brother. It's such an amazing place that it kind of ruined fishing for me for a while after, as nowhere else I went even came close to how nice this lake is. We were booked on a few years back and it was a mental few days, which saw me have a red letter session, landing 7 fish including the biggest in the lake at over 47lb! During that week I met a guy called Rich, who assisted me in the pouring rain in the

middle of the night, helping me to get my waders on to deal with a fish that literally beat the life out of me. Since then, we stayed in touch and have become good friends over the years, fishing together on a few more occasions which introduced me to some of the other guys he knew. We all then went on to fish at Furzebray together which led to yet another booking for the following year. Knowing the stamp of the fish this lake holds, we were all very excited to get back there for this years session!

Five anglers is the ideal number for this venue but can comfortably accommodate six, so I spoke to Jack, a professional digital content creator and videographer/photographer, and invited him to take the

sixth space in return for some photo/video work to which he accepted.

Unfortunately, Rich had to pull out last minute, so I asked the guys on the DT baits team if anyone wanted to fill the space. Alan, who only lives half an hour away was well up for it, which was really cool as he hadn't really met any of the team and misses out on the socials due to distance. On the morning of the trip, we all met at a cafe just up the road from the lake, had some breakfast and gave everyone a chance to get introduced.

After food, we did the draw, which wasn't the best result for me coming out 4th. We headed to the lake and spent a good few hours walking around, picking swims, and having a little social. Luckily for me, the

the swim I really wanted was still available so come my turn to pick I went for a peg called "Inlet", which is part of a double swim, so all in all, a great result. With every one set on their swims, we all got our gear out and spent a few hours setting up before heading to the double swim for a BBQ. Because the BBQ was happening in my swim, I was able to get a rod out so at least I was fishing. I used the baiting pole to shuttle out a rig with a DT baits Fish Blood and Orange (FBO) wafter on a slip d, tied with a size 4 curve from JPrecision hooks, and a handful of hemp. I shipped it out to the intended spot tipping it tight to some reeds on the small island in front of me. With everyone in my swim, we got the BBQ on the go and got the beers out. Unexpectedly, my

alarm let out a series of beeps. It took me a few seconds to react as I wasn't expecting anything yet, but sure enough I was into a fish. It wasn't the most exciting scrap, but it felt like a half decent fish. In the net she went, and was identified as the big leather, weighing in at just over 30lbs. What a start, and to have the lads around me to share that moment with me was even better. The BBQ got massively delayed while we did pictures, but I really didn't mind, it was worth it! I got the

rod back out quickly just in case I could snare another quick bite and cracked on with food and beers. Eventually, everyone retired to their swims and started fishing and I got my other two rods in place. Left hand rod went to the far margin over a decent bed of hemp, FBO pellet, FBO chops and some maggots, and the middle rod went to the left point of the small island with the baiting pole. Feeling super confident of more fish after the quick bite, I settled down for some rest and the rods



stayed quiet through the night.

It didn't take long for the second bite to come. 7am and this time it was my middle rod which was fishing just past the left point

of the island. This fight was considerably harder, with the initial run taking me around the island, but I managed to draw the fish back and into open water, and then the fish really woke up. Another

solid 15 minutes of the fish just not giving up, taking a little bit of line here and there but just holding its ground. Confident in my rigs and hook holds, I was happy to let it tire itself out, and eventually it was in the net. I quickly unhooked the fish and weighed it before resting in the sling while I gave Jack a call, and he answered with "tell me you have one in the net" to which I replied smugly "of course". He was soon in my swim eagerly waiting to see the fish, along with a couple of the other lads. The fish was one of the A-team, called orange spot, which was actually my mate Ash's 'most wanted'. She usually weighs in at over 40 but was massively down on weight after a much needed, healthy spawn, and the scales read 32lb 12oz, but this didn't bother me at all as it was just an



amazing fish to see on the bank! With the photos and videos done, I released her back into the water and re set the rod, with my confidence high. The rest of the day was quiet, and that afternoon we all rested our swims and headed to the anglers lodge to watch the England match. A few beers later once England had lost, we went back to the bivvies for some

sleep and carried on fishing the next morning. The next 24 hours or so passed without much action for me, but a few of the others had some fish, something I was really hoping for as I really wanted everyone to catch. Last time I fished here, I noticed a pattern of getting a couple of bites and then a 24 hour spell of silence, and then it started to kick off a

bit again. This pattern was no different this time, and early the next morning, my left hand rod decided to join the party. This was the one fishing to the far margin, and I remember this one well. I'd slept awkwardly, and when my alarm woke me up, I literally fell out of bed with a totally dead left arm. I lifted the rod, but I couldn't turn the handle, my hand was



completely numb! The fish was kiting right fast and made it under the floating aerator and was making a bee line for the island. It felt another very good fish, so I was trying hard to get my arm working again so I could try and stop the fish. I think the adrenaline fixed my numb hand issue faster than what it would usually take, and I was soon able to start playing the fish. This was another very strong fight, taking a good 15-20 minutes but once again, everything performed well, and the fish was mine. It instantly looked considerably bigger than the other two I'd had, but with all the fish being down on weight I wasn't sure if there were any that would still be over the 40lb mark. These doubts were put to bed when I got the sling

on the scales, and it read a respectable 44lb 12oz. A fish called black spot, another one of the A-team and a mega fish to go with it. Absolutely blown away by this session now, and still a few days to go! Jack was soon on his way round to do more photos and videos. While we were sorting the fish out in my swim, Dave went to sit with Jack's rods, and as soon as he'd packed the last of his lenses in his bag, he heard his alarms. He was back to his swim in seconds, where

Dave had lifted into the fish, but as soon as Jack got back, he heard a snap, and saw the line had snapped right by the spool and was quickly disappearing away from the rod. Without a second thought, he dived in and somehow managed to grab the line, and actually hand lined the fish in! Absolute hero!

After all the drama, we all settled back down, and I deceived to have some food. Before I had chance to get anything ready, or



even process what had just happened over the last few hours, my right hand rod was away again, catching me completely off guard. This fight wasn't overly exciting, which I was somewhat grateful for as my arms were still on fire from doing pictures from the previous fish, and after a short easy fight, fish number 4 was in the net. Despite the weaker fight, it still looked like a good fish, so I lifted the net and realised it was Dropscale. Another A-team member and one of, if not, the best fish in the lake. This is another fish which usually does over 40 but was down a bit and weighed in at 39lb 15oz, just one ounce under that 40lb mark, but again, I really didn't mind. Another call to Jack, and he couldn't believe it. I rested the fish while we set up for photos, and during

this time my other mate Jack, and Alfie from the fishery popped down to see me. The others all came to see me too, so I was surrounded by a great crowd to share this moment with. More photos done and the fish returned, I was absolutely buzzing! The rest of the session was surprisingly quiet for me, with no more fish for the next couple of days, but all the other lads ended up catching, and we saw some more amazing, beautiful Furzebray lakes carp. As good as my session was, it was made better by the fact that everyone caught, and a few

of the lads saw some personal bests too. An amazing session, at an amazing venue with some amazing people!

All the best

Jay





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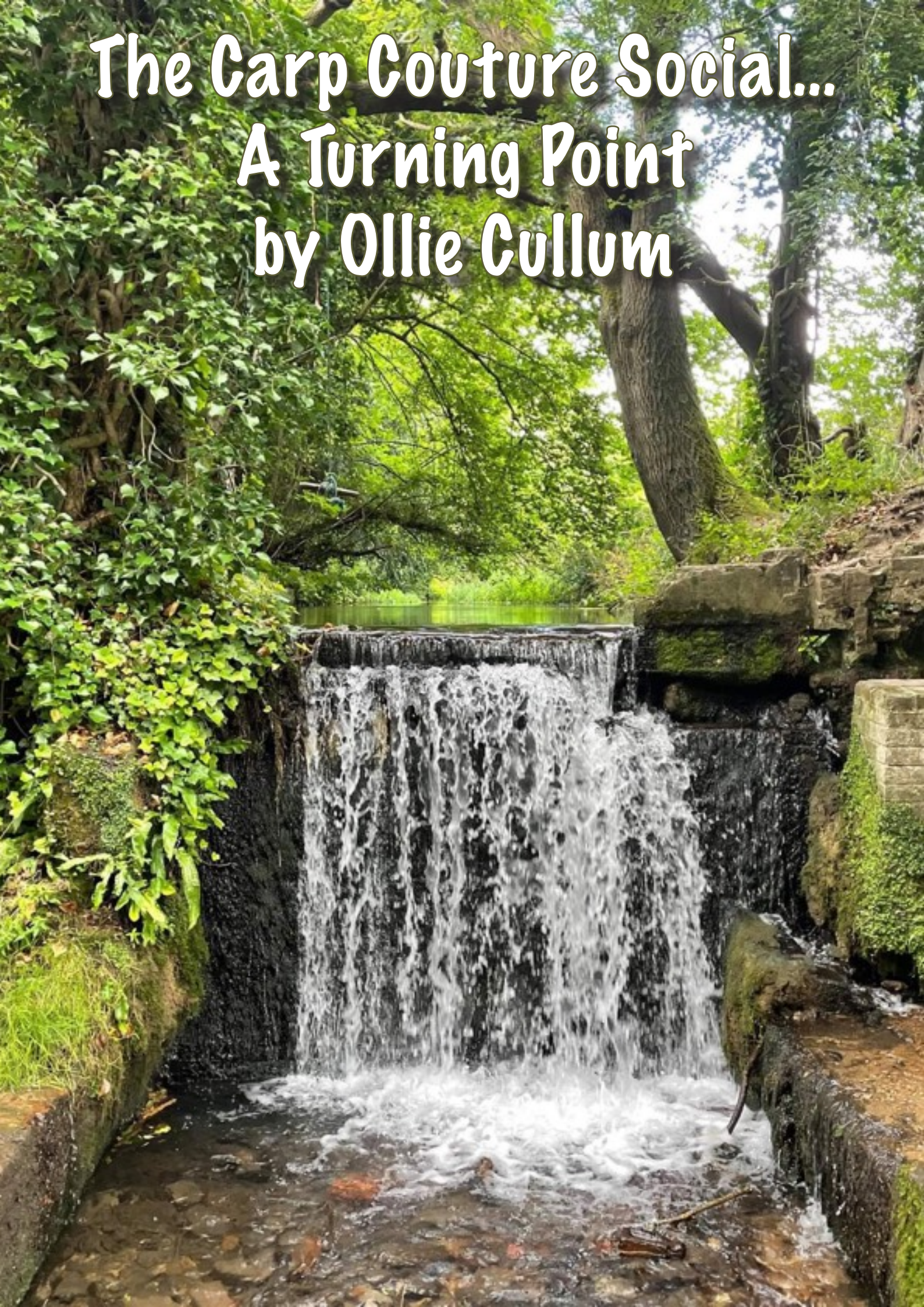
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The Carp Couture Social... A Turning Point by Ollie Cullum



Purchasing the company in November 2019 and thus the new owner of Carp Couture, I was keen to make a difference, I knew it wouldn't be easy, but I wanted to take the business to the next level along with bringing out new products and innovations, however Covid 19 had other plans... it made a tough situation even tougher! We had stock delays, material hold ups and ever-increasing shipping costs, not to mention cancelled trade shows all in my first year of ownership, I wasn't however going to let this beat me!

One of the things I had been keen on doing was meeting the Carp Couture team members, I wasn't about to let the opportunity of a good social pass us by too just like the trade shows! So, I set about arranging the first ever Carp Couture social, I knew of a fantastic venue near to my home, a beautiful 5.5-acre lake set in approx. 12 acres with a small 2–3-acre lake adjacent, both lakes hold some truly beautiful original fish that are over 40 years old! The lake in question was the amazing Waterside fisheries in Chesham, I've known Chris the owner for a couple of years, a genuinely good egg and decent bloke, he has owned the

fishery for roughly 7 years and transformed this once neglected overgrown lake into an incredible state of the art fishery, with a club house, showers, social areas and beautifully crafted swims, he was only too happy to make my dream of the first annual Carp Couture Social a reality! That's the lake sorted now for the food! A quick phone call into Jason of Chefukcarp and the food was sorted too! A beautiful lamb and lentil curry for the Friday night followed sausage and bacon baps on the Saturday morning and a full-on BBQ for Saturday nights main social.



As the anglers started to arrive from 13:00hrs I felt emotional, all these lovely anglers that were so keen to support the brand and had as much if not more enthusiasm for the quarry that lay ahead of us that weekend! Many of the team members I had only ever met virtually so this was a real treat for me to finally put a real face to the name and not just a small photo of someone in the corner of my phone screen and what a cracking bunch of lads we have!

There are many amazing old fish in the main lake with 2 crackers on everyone's radar that we all

hoped and dreamed in the build up that may grace their net! A beautiful mirror that goes 40lb+ at the right time of year and the mighty common that is regularly caught tipping the scales at 54lb and in my opinion one of the best-looking common carp in the country. This lake is a tricky old lake and bites aren't given up easy. These fish see it all, so a little thought is needed when it comes to bait choice, placement and rigs.

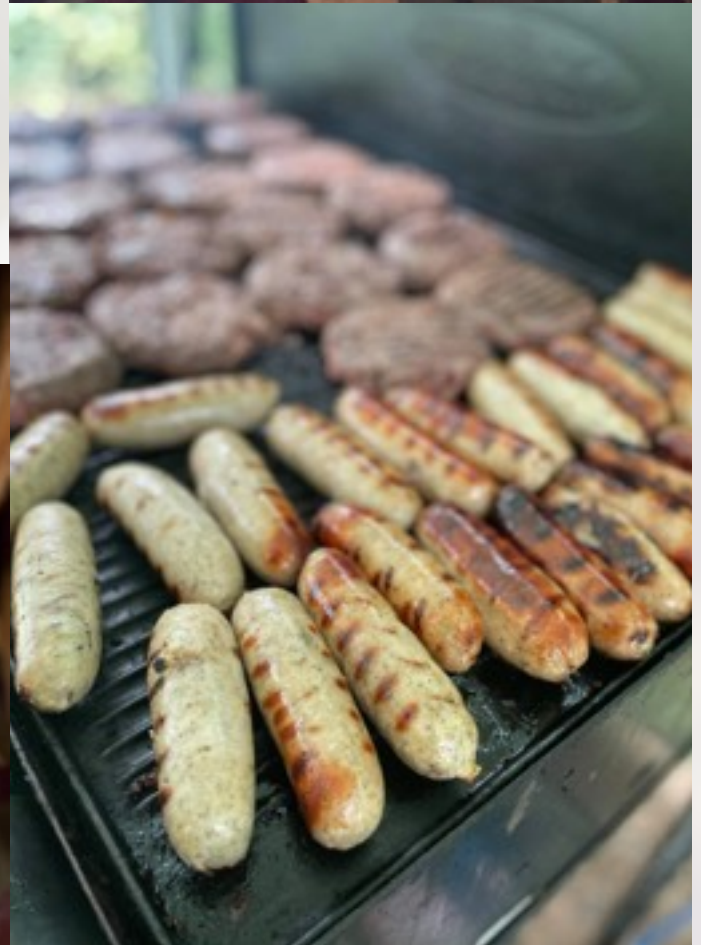
With draws done, we all settled into our pegs. I managed to get the peg on the rear of the island known as loner or peg number 8 which gave

me access to a nice chunk of water by the island including some good snags up to my left. Dave Pendegrass drew peg 15 he was very pleased as this is usually the peg the big common comes from with David Hastings in peg 14, Paul Hobbs in peg 12 and Steve Barbor in peg 9, with me tucked round the corner in 8, Nick Clements in 6 and close by Wayne in swim 5 with Liam Hodgson in 4 Stevie August 3 covered



with thick weed and Josh Nicholson in pegs 1.

John Stembridge selected peg 7 on the other side of the island from me, a nice swim located near the lakes only island his bait comprised of complex t in 10mm 15mm and 18mm along with matching pellet, all coated in the dynamite worm liquid with added artichoke, just to put his own twist on it. This was fished over with a 12mm pink hit n run pop utilising his baitboat. The first day and night passed very quickly with little to show for our collective efforts. Except for young Chrissy "KP" who had other plans as he landed a stunning 25lb mirror, this was going to be a tough old challenge for sure, but one we were all eager to face.



John stuck to his guns and persisted in fishing the same spots, topping them up every now and then to keep the area fresh in scent. Wayne "Tonksy" was next in line to land a fish from this tough old lake in the shape of a beautiful low double mirror.

But it wasn't long before Nick had his rod bent into a cracking 24lb common and one that Chris the owner of the lake didn't recognise. With photos done Nick was ready to pack up as he had to depart early. That afternoon, in swim 5, a lovely old fully scaled mirror called Queen of the lake was landed by Tonksy, all 34lb of her. Said to be 40yrs old or so. A true gem of the lake. Nothing more was caught that day, so I decided to rest the swim and join the lads for dinner and a bit of a chin wag, a great time to bend the ears of others and try and find out a little more about the team, not to mention the bait and rigs they were using! Any help I could get at this point would be useful as I was struggling!

Laughs were in full swing

as we gorged on some stunning food, all cooked by the amazing

Chefukcarp.

With full bellies and the evening drawing in, I headed back to basecamp, setting the traps once more.

The night passed without even a liner. It was clear that some of the fish were feeding. Mainly in the silt and around the weed which lay through the middle sector of the lake, however I could see bubbles appearing over my spots and was confident my rigs were fishing!

John decided to change swims



and opted to move one swim down into Nicks as he had now left, It gave him access to the weed and a fresh section of water to go at. John said "I think it gives you a clear head. Almost like re setting the start button. It's very easy to become stale in 1 swim when nothing is happening".

With his new swim and fresh head on he decided to drop the Baitboat tactics as they clearly weren't working for him. These fish see a fair amount of angling pressure and a tightly baited patch obviously spelled out danger to these clever old carp.

This time John would approach it in a different manner. Again, with the 12mm hit n run pop but with only a very light scatter of 11 and 15mm boilie. I. E 30-40 baits and each one individually catapulted out, so they were approx. 8-10ft apart. This way it would give the carp space to pick them up here n there and hopefully get them preoccupied into searching them out as the passed

through the area.

Well, it was only a couple of hrs in, and John's right hand rod burst into life, resulting in a 30lb 08oz mirror called chestnut. A rare visitor to the bank. Clearly the new tactics were working for John.

That same morning Paul Hobbs, one of the longest serving Carp Couture team members landed a belting mirror!

Shortly after Pauls capture, Tonksy was in again, this time a low 20 mirror. The rest of the evening was quiet except for the BBQ which once again was a blast.

The following morning saw the lake looking different, a lot of activity up the central section of the lake where the new aerators were doing there thing.



Tonksy was in AGAIN, this time however it was something very special.. After a slow n dogged battle, it lay in his net and a big old shout bellowed around the lake.....

Yesssss!!!

As Tonksy recounts the whole event and lead up to this special weekend.

“I got a call from Ollie of Carp Couture and I got the offer to fish the social at Waterside Fishery at Chesham. I happily accepted. We all met in the car park for the draw, and I drew peg 5 which was in the middle of the lake. This wasn't the favoured area; I had no idea of the stock or any information on the lake, so I decided to fish it my way. I went about setting up my Leading

rod then cast to the furthest point in my swim to find a lot of low laying weed across most of the water. I managed to find some close-in spots, fishing to the back of the weed. I tied up my ever-faithful slip D rigs then went about catapulting some Hot squid bollies from proper carp baits, to which on the first morning I managed to get a bite. After a gnarly fight I'd only gone and landed the Queen of the lake. At a spawned-out weight of 34lbs I thought lovely as its no easy water.

I was buzzing to have one to my name, then on the second morning



I was up at 4am sat watching the water when I saw other spots fizzing up, so I thought I'd take note. With that my open water rod burst into life, with a short battle she was in the net and probably the smallest in the lake weighing in at 13lbs.

After a few camera shots I slipped her back into her watery home. 30 mins had gone by and I was sat on the edge of my bed having a coffee and a smoke, eyes peeled on the water then suddenly my left-hand rod was away. After playing this one I was rewarded with a lovely 24lb mirror. I was proper buzzing now, knowing my tactics were working a treat and that the carp were loving the Hot squid bollies. I decided to put one of my rods onto a spot I'd seen fizzing the day before and I'd previously stuck some bait over the spot during the session.

I was stood talking to Jay of Chefukcarp and young Chrissy when I heard my right hand rod burst into life. I legged it to the rod, bent into it and met with great power, the fish kited right but I managed to gain control and after a short fight and loads of weed over the carp she was in the net and I let out an almighty yes! As I started to remove the weed from my prize, she looked bigger and

bigger. I gave the shout I'd got a good un in the net. Ollie came running round like a mad man and confirmed it was indeed the "Big one". I'd only gone and done it, I'd landed this sought after prize and it was "all mine". After weighing this huge English carp, I was absolutely buzzing as she weighed in at a

huge **54lb 5oz**. I could not believe it, still hasn't sunk in yet but what a session to remember. I'll let the pics do the rest of the talking, for now tight lines and slimy nets. All the best Tonksy. It was the one!! The Common everybody was after. Such an impressive fish and top condition too.

I felt very privileged to have witnessed the capture of such an amazing fish especially as it was the first ever Carp Couture Social, the amazing photographer John Stembridge was on hand to take the photos and captured the happiness of Tonksy perfectly and wow did he do this fish justice too! John said "Sharing that epic moment and buzz will stay with me for a lifetime"

Later on that after noon we talked about the other fish that could potentially make the bank, including the big mirror, which scrapes 40lb.



Everything was set. Only an hr had passed when the same rod from which he had caught before came to life. Only this time it peeled away very slowly.

"I was quick to be on it, taking the strain and rod bent double as the

fish moved slowly & kited to my left. This felt like a very good fish indeed. When u know you know. Slow n heavy as it shook its head. The fish rolled over in front of me, with both me and Tonksy both looking at each other in disbelief!! Could it be the other big fish of the lake?

She was soon swept up. John got his waders on and proceeded to the fish, which was held safely in the net. As we rolled it over to take a look, the big mirror lay there in all her glory. "I couldn't believe it. When ya lucks in its in". With scales and camera equipment at the ready, we hoisted her on the mat for

weighing. Not quite the 40lb but at a respectable 39lb 02oz John was more than happy and the fish was in top condition too...

A truly amazing first social and one I don't think will be repeated quickly, but here's to dreaming!

This will be 1 trip that will be hard to beat. What makes it even better is sharing these moments with friends. That's the way it should be! Here's to making many more Carp Couture memories with a great Team I can now call friends.

Ollie

And now from Jason the chef.....

I also catered the event at waterside fisheries.

I personally would like to say "what a venue"

So I arrived Friday morning to a beautiful waterfall as you drive in Gated gates to the car park which contains a hut consisting of toilet, urinal, hand sink, vending machine with beer, fridge, freezer, toilet & a shower. Which meant great storage for my food for the event.

Then onto the fishery which had to gates creating a secure otter fenced for trace.

I had been given a swim they call "The social" for obvious reasons.

This had picnic benches on a gravel bed floor with 2 barbecues & surrounding shelving.

Even the gas was provided as standard.

Friday nights food would be Chunky beef curry with ma'am bread shards.

Saturday afternoon was my famous barbecue with mouth watering salads.

I'm so fortunate to do the job I do catering for carp Anglers all over the country.

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Jason

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**A tale of three PB's
for Dave Atkiss**



Dave Atkiss runs the Veteran's Carp Cup. A group created for armed forces veteran's and active personnel alike.

Their aim is to help, support and share their fishing with like-minded people.

Fishing has and always will be the great leveller, and its benefits have been well recognised and documented, especially in more recent years to help with stress, emotional issues and an array of mental health related problems.

Things our wonderful armed service personnel can be hugely affected by.

At DT baits we think it's a brilliant initiative and a worthwhile cause, and we are proud to sponsor The veterans carp cup.

Dave got in contact with us recently after

a very fruitful trip to the brilliant Furzebray lakes in South Molton, Devon.

Here's what he had to say.

"So after arriving at Furzebray Carp Lake's Island Pool and having my rods on the spots from roughly 14:00 on Saturday till 15:00 on Sunday without any joy, I reeled in to watch the Euros Final with the lads on the trip. After waking up at roughly 08:30 the next morning with a bit of a sore head, I decided to change my rigs and baiting approach.

Following the change at 00:30 my centre rod melted off with a one toner, after a spirited battle and managing to take out my right-hand rod with some drama under the rod tip close in and with the aid of Jay White on netting duty, my new pb graced the net at 32lb 7oz and a beautiful common, known as The Mint Common. With only 6 commons in the lake and this one being the second largest, it felt like even more of an accomplishment. She was caught on a Supa Fruits wafter over a bed of Fish Blood and





Orange boilies and pellets with matching DNA liquid. Since switching to exclusively using DT I have had 2 pb's in as many sessions, my confidence was running high. Little did I know just what was in store.

So after my first 30lb common (The Mint Common) I was now bursting with confidence. I knew that what I was doing was all spot on. So, I reset rods and put the middle rod back on exactly the same spot where I had the previous

run from and then at 01:30 the middle rod ripped off again and this fish gave me a strange battle through big clumps of weed. I had amassed a huge amount of the green stuff, which made getting her in the net a real nightmare.

Eventually, the net cord was slipped underneath her and fish number 2 graced the net. She had a really gnarly

spawning wound on her underside, so we did 2 quick photos of each side of her and slipped her back after treating her with antiseptic and propolis to save any more stress to her.

She went 28lb 5oz and was a new mirror pb after smashing my previous one of 15lb 3oz. She was caught over a bed of N-Blend boilies, pellets with matching DNA liquid.

I still had time for another bite, and what came next has still left me in disbelief.



Early on in my trip to Furzebray I had noticed a really 'carpy' bay to the left of my swim which I trickled bait in sporadically during the course of the week whilst keeping an eye out for any carp movements in there, on the fourth day after noticing ducks diving on one of the spots I thought that the bait was getting taken by the ducks before the carp had even got

a look in, but this was not the case as during the afternoon I caught sight of an orange tail poking out the water by the cabbages and taking my free offerings confidently.

Now it was time to plan my attack! The following morning I got myself into my waders and armed with my landing net pole I climbed down into the 2 feet of water by the

cabbages and began prodding around for a hard spot and after 2 minutes it had been located. So, I rested the landing net pole on the cabbages with the tip directly above the spot, next I loaded my baiting pole with my mix of N -Blend boilies, pellets and matching DNA liquid along with my Supa Fruit wafter on a slip d rig, then carefully got it all out



on the spot. The next morning at 03:30 my rod ripped off and after a surprisingly normal battle considering the size of the fish that ended up over the cord I had my 3rd fish and a 3rd PB of the trip which is now my current UK pb at 36lb 9oz.

This fish meant so much to me as it proved that my angling has come on 10-fold

in the last year and that my patients to not drop a rig in earlier had paid off. Apart from that, she was an A Team member known as 'Star' and is an unbelievably stunning fish in the flesh and usually 40lb+ pre spawning!!

Massive credit to Jack Hughes for the amazing pictures"

Well, what is there left to say other than a monumental well done and congratulations to Dave on a red letter session and one he'll never forget. Proof that good angling, belief in your tactics and some of the best bait on the market can see your dreams become a reality.



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**Nice to be back
by Danny Hope**

Since my first trip to my club lake back in April I haven't managed to get back on the bank due to a back problem and just generally being busy with work, bait and family. With my back easing off and a free weekend coming up I decided to book the dreaded Friday the 13th off and head to the lake nice and early. I was more than prepared in the few days leading up to the session, the bait was freshly rolled along with some new pop ups I have recently started playing around with. Some of the Carbon Baits finest hemp was slowly defrosting and was then given a dose of liquid hydro slates and Himalayan rock salt. Fresh Ronnie Rigs were made up along with some stiff hinges, hooks were given a few brushes with the sharpening stone and the car was loaded the night before.

Everything was ready for the early start the next morning. I was up at first light and after a quick coffee I hit the road and after a 45-minute journey I pulled up to an empty car park. It's always a confidence boost knowing I have the whole lake to myself,

the chances of finding some fish and getting on them drastically improves. With the car park gate locked and a bucket in hand I headed through the trees and down to the lake. A slow walk between swims and I was soon seeing signs of fish. The weed was





up a lot more and small weed beds had broken away freely and were floating around the lake.

This wasn't ideal as the spots I had chosen to fish could become unfishable as the session went on. A few trips back and forth and the gear was soon in the swim. The rods were cast to likely looking spots with just a bare lead and surprisingly all came back clear. A mix of SAS and CSK Boilie were catapulted over each area followed by a few spombs of hemp and boilie crumb.

Three fresh Ronnies were attached and baited with my new pop ups. With the rods placed it was now time to organise the swim and get the bivvy up, as I was pushing the last peg into the ground the middle rod was away.

A short but spirited battle from a scraper twenty pound common got the excitement levels up another level. Once returned it was then back to sorting the swim and getting the kettle on. Whilst sitting on the bed chair enjoying a well-earned coffee and taking in my surroundings I was thinking about the stock and some of the gems of this magical little lake holds. Whilst there's no monsters in the lake the majority of the fish are incredible. From dark commons to scaly mirrors the lake pretty much has it all.



I was soon jumping up to the sound of the receiver and this time it was the left hand rod that was in action. It's a very snaggy water so lifting the rod and taking a few steps back was needed to steer this one away from the snags. Once in open water it soon tired itself out and was then in the net a few minutes later. Peering in I could see one of the real dark commons I has been thinking of moments earlier. Again, it was another low 20 and a real beauty. Photographs done and the fish safely returned it was

then time for some dinner. It was a lovely evening, and I was quite content watching a pair of Kingfishers on the hunt.

The sun was soon setting, and the long summer days were now past, and the nights were starting to set in. Just as the last

bit of light was fading the left hand rod let out a few beeps and the bobbin was bouncing. Straight away it felt a slightly better fish and it gave a good account of itself. It was now dark, and I could just about see what looked like a half decent fish sliding into the net. Reaching into the bivvy and grabbing my head torch I was soon staring down to a lovely dark mirror with a few big scales bouncing the light back at me. She was a better fish and was ounces over 25lb, it was the icing on the cake for now at least.



She was soon returned to her home, and I had just sat back to admire the photos on the camera when the middle rod burst into life. It was soon into the safety of open water and again it gave a good scrap but was soon safely in the net. If the previous mirror was the icing on the cake, then this common was the cherry. It was the

biggest of the session at 26.10 but it was also one of the named fish known as Patch. The session was well worth the early morning start and after an uneventful night's sleep, I was soon packing the gear away ready to leave. That wasn't the end of the session quite yet though and an upper double common and a small but pristine mirror wrapped up my trip.

The session had gone better than I could of hoped and again I left feeling like I had found my little bit of carping paradise and hopefully my next trip back isn't too far away.

Tight Lines,
Dan.



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Reviews

Featuring -

carp paste by Anthony Woods

Rigged and Ready review by Anthony Woods



carp paste

By Anthony Wood

There are so many good quality baits available straight off the shelf (or out of the bait freezer) these days that making your own bait can be somewhat of a forgotten art. However, making your own bait can be extremely satisfying and the feeling you get when you catch your first fish on a bait you have made yourself is almost the same as when you caught your first ever fish. I have been making my own bait for over 25 years and the most popular bait to make is by far boilies and these are the bait I get asked about the most if I'm honest but... You can also make your own groundbaits, stick mixes, method mixes, floater cake and many more, in this article I'm going to show you how to make one of my favourite pastes.

Paste fishing has lost its popularity a bit with the ease of access to all the other baits but paste fishing offers so many ways to present a bait to your target fish. You can wrap paste around a corkball or pop up to give instant attraction, you can wrap it around halibut pellets (a method that caught me my first ever catfish), you can use paste coils, the possibilities are basically limited by your imagination. The recipe for my favourite paste is very simple.

To make the paste you will need something to mix your ingredients in I use a motorised dough mixer from www.boilieroller.com as I make a lot of bait and a lot of experimenting but if you only want to make small amounts then a simple plastic mixing bowl will work until you want to make more quantity of bait. I don't use real eggs in my bait making anymore as I like to use a liquid mix made out of whole egg powder, I make up just over a litre at a time in a blender and you add 900ml



mineral water, 100ml liquid bait preserve and 1ml talin (the talin helps to mask any bitterness from the bait preserve) into the blender and give it a quick pulse to mix it together. Next slowly add 320g whole egg powder a bit at a time into the blender as it is turning until all the powder is in the blender, leave to blend for a couple of minutes and then pour into a suitable watertight container. As it has bait preserve in it you can keep the mixture made up for at least 12 months and it will also make any bait you make shelf life as well. If you prefer to make freezer baits simply replace the bait preserve and talin with another 100ml of mineral water.

Okay so let's move on to the paste itself, it is a nice simple recipe and is as follows...

120g Cheese Powder

120g Ground Halibut Pellet

50g Henry Bell Maize Meal

25g - Wheat Gluten

250ml Whole Egg Powder Mix

10ml Hemp Oil

(Ingredients can be found at www.fishingbaitworld.co.uk, <https://spottedfin.com/product-category/bait-making/> and www.feedstim.com)



1. In a suitable container add all of the dry ingredients together and give them a good shake to mix them all together thoroughly.
2. In your dough mixer or mixing bowl pour the whole egg powder mix and the hemp oil and give it a quick mix to mix them together a bit.
3. Add your dry ingredients a bit at a time making sure to stir it in.
4. Keep adding your dry ingredients until it all mixes together and you end up with a nice dough ball.
5. Transfer the paste into suitable airtight containers and use as you want to.

The great thing about making you own paste is that you can alter it to suit your own needs, for example if you want the paste to dissolve a bit quicker then simply replace some of the whole egg powder mix with plain mineral water, you could make your paste last longer by adding extra maize meal and/or wheat gluten. The wheat gluten is the ingredient that will give your paste the same texture as the shop bought pastes.

I hope that my article has peaked your interest into not only giving fishing with paste a try but also got you thinking about making your own baits whether it is the paste in this article or a boilie, groundbait or other type of bait. Why not head on over to my Homemadeboilies group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/670774530097784>) and join in the conversations about making your own baits. There are great recipe ideas and lots of people willing to give advice.

Tight Lines
Ant



Rigged & Ready World Traveller

By Anthony Wood



I'd been thinking for a while that we carry far too much fishing gear when we go for a session these days. Sometimes it's like we are moving house with the giant tents, the portable tv, the power supply, the bait boat, etc, etc.

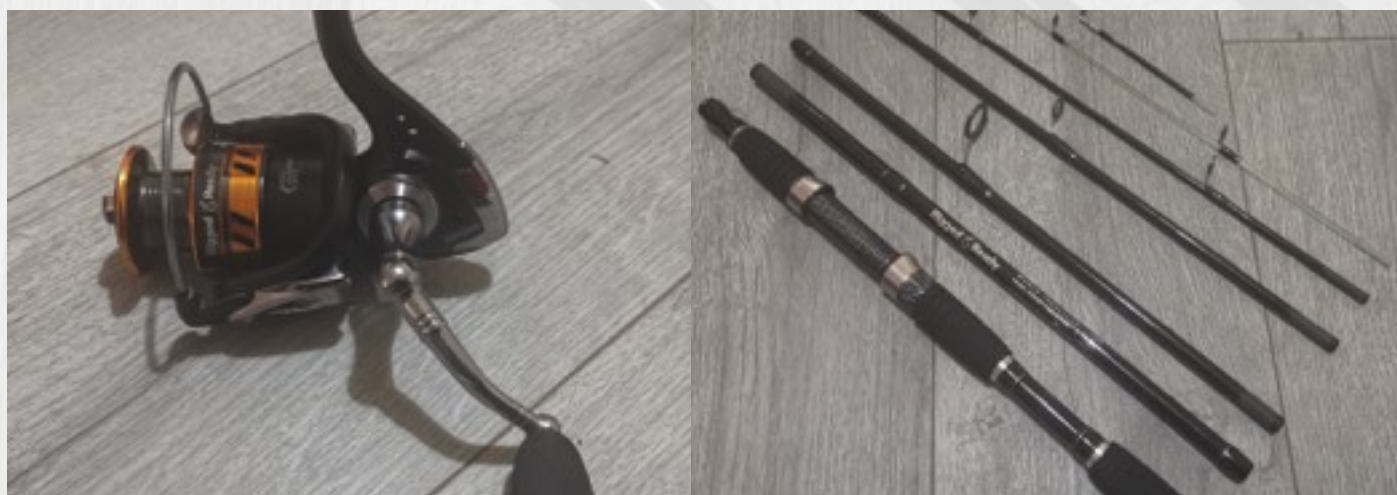
I started to reduce my kit down as I only had time for quick 4-6 hour sessions anyway and do you know what, I started to enjoy my sessions more not being weighed down by tonnes of unnecessary fishing gear.

A few months ago now I found a company called "Rigged & Ready" who specialised in travel rods that break down to an incredible 16 inches which hardly takes up any space at all.

As with any rod manufacturer I spent a bit of time asking questions and the most important one they wanted to know was what would I be catching and what sort of size would I expect to catch.

Obviously, I told them carp fishing but that I would also be using the rod for predator fishing, sea fishing, shore fishing and coarse fishing and because I don't fish where there are huge fish I told them that the biggest I'd probably catch unless there was a huge surprise would be 10lb-15lb.

Their answer was to have a look at their World Traveller rod (anything bigger and they would be recommending their X5 Max which is more suited to handle bigger fish) so that was the one I went for and boy I am glad I did, it is an absolutely stunning rod.



The World Traveller is a cross between a lure rod and a carp stalking rod so is ideal for numerous different situations, so let's have a look at what you actually get;

The compact rod itself is made from high performance, powerful nano carbon and comes in six sections which consist of four rod sections and two rod tips. The two rod tips give you the option of a 7ft rod or a 6ft1" rod, the 7ft rod has a casting weight of 5-20g and the smaller 6ft1" rod has a casting weight of 15-40g.

If you do some lure fishing these weights will make sense to you, if you are purely a carp angler then the smaller 6ft1" rod will allow you to comfortably cast a 1-1.5oz lead which is ideal for those stalking sessions, canal sessions or even on the smaller lakes (I have cast a 2oz fishing lead with no problem but it isn't on their rods specification).

The four rod sections are 39cm (15') in length and come with a 43cm (17') carry case which has a protective tubing inside to protect the rod and it has enough room to store the reel that comes with it too.

The reel is a nice 3000 size 5 ball bearing reel with two spare reels. You can set it up left or right handed and it has an instant anti reverse option with collapsible handle and adjustable front drag.



These rods handle a lot more abuse than the company says they do, although they are that confident in their product that they offer a 2 year, “no questions asked” guarantee of parts or replacement!! If there are any issues outside of the guarantee such as trapping the rod in your car door, don’t worry they make sure that they have parts in and readily available for all of their rods.

To keep their costs down they only sell direct so you will need to go to their website www.riggedandready.net and you can keep up with catch reports, new product releases, etc on their media pages www.facebook.com/riggedandreadytravelrods and on their Instagram www.instagram.com/riggedandreadytravelrods.

To finalise, if you are looking for a fishing rod and reel (they even do a compact landing net if needed) that is perfect for putting in a rucksack, chucking in the boot of your car, keeping in your caravan, taking on an airplane or even attaching to your bike then this is the company for you. I’ve been seriously impressed with not only the rod but the customer service of this company from day one.





Catch Reports

Featuring -

D.T. Baits
&
Vader Baits

Plus all of your catches !!!

David Mark Pendegrass



44lb 8oz post spawning A2 Baits Monster Tuna pop up over a bed of 200 baits , She can be over 50 pre spawning



New UK PB Common 47lb 8oz A2 Baits Monster Tuna

Charlie Clifford



Charlie with a new personal best of 23lb 8oz from Trent View



**Annabelle
Bateman**

**Annabelle with
a 17lb 2oz
ghostie caught
on Nutrabaits
Nutramino
soaked spam**

Chris Fleet



Started the week fishing in France with 2 runs in the first hour, both of these were lost to the snags. And after that it went really quiet my end of the lake which was driving me mad. I then moved swims to a area I know the fish had been feeding and other anglers had caught. The first fish to grace my net was a 32lb 8oz mirror, good strong fight and it made me happy to have a new PB and to not be facing a blank. Then the last morning 2 hours before we needed to leave, I was in again the start of the battle I was sure it was a smaller fish I was into, but that changed. As it got closer in it started to feel like a motorised bag of cement. Eventually

big, beautiful mirror was in my net topping the scales at a fantastic 49lb. My carp tackle online rigs were definitely put to the test with this one. Size 6 scorpion crank hook with CTO swivels, bait screws, tungsten putty and the composite lead clip dropping the lead as required. All in all I had a great time and My tackle fought as hard as I did.

Christian Robson



Yeadon Tarn bailiff Chris Robson took a busman's holiday on the trout lake over the weekend landing 16 fish in the process. We've had a few red letter days down here of late but this one's a belter.

First morning here Chris landed a new P.B. In the shape of the black mirror below at 32lb, he was still smiling when the same rod ripped off again resulting in another new P.B. of 37lb 8oz. Stuff that dreams are made of I hear you say, well guess what happened before it got dark, yep, he only went and smashed it again. 42lb 8oz was the weight this time, the smiles in the pictures tell their own story but the fact that his son Charlie was here to witness the whole thing but have been the icing on the cake, well done Chris.

Brandon Rowe



Out on my local park lake Peatmoor Lagoon in Swindon.
Caught my new pb which was a 17lb common carp. Bait used was Baitworks 15mm boilies, I put 5-6 boilies coated Holy mackerel oil in a pva mesh bag, with a 15mm Royal marine balanced bottom bait. on a simple German rig tied with Bank tackle components.

Greg Stuart Lac de premiere



Fished out at 24 wraps with NTyce pillow wafter as hook bait , fished over bed of particle with a stiff hinge rig, middle rod ripped off 6.40 am producing A Team member "Dougie" and new pb at 64lb 8 oz

Lennie Bernstein



Lennie Bernstein with a new personal best, watched by proud dad Ste



**Mark
Donnison**

First fish from my new club water ticket. Absolutely made up with this one. I have spent quite a few evenings scouting the old Estate lake, making notes of any areas of interest and taking notes where I see shows and the times, bearing in mind I have been only doing a few hours on the evenings. Not a huge Chunk per say but a cracking common for a first fish after casting a single to a bubbly/swirly spot.

Peter Conn



On Sunday morning after walking around a 33 acre reservoir and finding a spot to set up. I cast 35 yards out to the edge of a weed bed. My tactics were fishing a Ronnie rig made of a size 6 hex gapes from hobo armour and a mix of glugged RNT and wicked whites from Madbaits. I put about 1kg of the mixed boilies out. Then the heavy rain and wind started to blow in. This started me getting line bites and drop backs. Then all went quite for an hour and suddenly the left hand rod melted off. After a decent fight the prize was in the net. A beautiful looking mirror carp weighing in at 16lb 2oz. I was so happy to catch due to the fact that I haven't fish this place in 10+ years.



Ryan Potter

Sticky wafer over
monster hemp and
tiger nuts

Steve Cartwright



Back on the syndicate and managed a couple of nice fish to 25.6lb , all taken using the Carp Tackle Online end tackle , incorporating a size 4 Scorpion Crank , the scaly one on a size 8 Scorpion Chod



Antony Bahnick

Antony with a cracking 41lbs 4oz mirror caught using a mixture of N-blend and Supa fruit bottom baits with matching pop ups



Barry Kelly

Barry Kelly landed this stunner using an N-blend wafter over matching N-blend chops and pellet



David Atkiss

David with his stunning new PB of 36lbs 9oz from Furzbray.

David used Supa fruit wafers over a bed of N-blend bottom baits

Hannah Farnell

DT's Hannah with a stunning mirror taken on an N-blend wafer over a mixed bed of particle and chopped N-blend bottom baits





Jason Smith

Jason Smith with a 29lbs 3oz common caught a Supa fruit wafter over a big bed of N-blend bottom baits

Liam Chamberlain

Liam with his new PB of 30lbs 8oz caught using a white Cold Water Green Beast wafter





Team member Kris got a session at Linear. He found a swim on the south bank with the wind blowing south westerly which was where some fish were showing ! He spoded out a few freebies of chopped boilies of Krilla, Grafter and Crabalicious while using the ever faithful Crabalicious as main hook bait. He managed to net a lovely common carp of 19lb 8oz...!!



T

eam member Nathan went away to a beautiful place called Stetton lakes for a holiday. There's a few beautiful little lakes there! With a couple hours each day he went to the lakes with his kids. They were lucky to bank some carp! The fish were tempted by a Grafter pop up, pellet and glug! The glug proved very popular!



Team member Phil fished his syndicate for a session! It was really tough going but he managed to bank this 16lb 8oz common! The fish was tempted by a white Grafter pop up on a Ronnie rig over a bed of Le Nutz boilie!



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Le Lees Carp Fishery

Welcome everyone to LE LEES Carp Fishery.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Le Lees Carp Fishery

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

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

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

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



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Send your articles and catch reports by
the 28th September 2021 for next months
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