



Issue 79
September 2022



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Hello and welcome...

To another jam packed issue of Talking Carp online magazine. We have another amazing issue for you this month, starting with our monthly Talking Point with Jules, and this month we take a look at the downside of things as “its not all sunshine and rainbows.”

Scott Geezer Grant continues his bankside adventures and carp catching exploits. Richard Handel brings us his monthly piece as does Andy Murray. Also this month we bring you a couple of new faces too...

Add to that the catch reports from home and overseas, and the reviews, you can honestly say you have plenty of reading to do.... But we are always looking out for more!

So if you fancy yourself as a writer for a carp magazine, or have a story you would simply love to tell, then please get in touch.

Everyone is welcome here at Talking Carp. The magazine written by the angler, for the angler.

Contact us at our usual email addresses and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

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Team Talking Carp

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

Wolds Custom Carp Bobbins

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Talking Point



with Julian Cundiff

Julian Cundiff

7

TALKING POINT...

*Its not all sunshine and rainbows
pt1.*

with Julian Cundiff & Brian Dixon

And once again we welcome everyone back to another chat with Jules and Brian.

After the past few months of chatting about the highs of the sport, the good and the successes, I think we should chat about the other side of the coin as we have all been there at some point....and talk about the lows, the times you swung and missed, the not so successful decisions and how you overcame them...and learned from them.

Brian: So welcome back Jules and let's show the readers that you are human after all! Let's get straight to the nitty gritty, and let's talk bait. Surely nobody, including yourself can get it right all of the time? There must have been times when you got it completely wrong. Whether it was the wrong kind of bait, wrong style of baiting pattern for the venue? Surely even you can't have been born with a golden baiting spoon in your hand?

Jules: Absolutely I've never been blessed with any 'golden spoons' as such but I was blessed with great parents who taught me work ethic and balance and by and large any mess ups in my life have been down to me. I guess timeline and where you are born defines what is and isn't a 'golden spoon' and often what you see on the surface is not

TONY DAVIES-PATRICK, MARK CATLEY, ADAM RENNING,
ANDY MURRAY, TRADE GOSSIP FINDER, PLUS NEW
SERIES FROM COLIN DAVIDSON AND JEFF PINK

TalkingCarp



what an individual really has to cope with. For some born in impoverished circumstances with health issues my life must look like a golden spoon to them yet to others born into wealth with good parents and opportunities my life must appear like a lot of hard work (true). At the end of the day I've *****d up plenty of times BUT what separates me from a lot of society is I look inwardly and don't blame others. Once you accept it probably is your own failings and not others then and ONLY then will you grow as a person and stop it happening again... Mum and dad taught me not to make excuses and self improvement was a lot easier thereafter, be it fishing or just life in general. I'm not good with empathy when it's not deserved as it teaches you **** all.... I will sympathize but won't tell you what you want to hear. Tim, Nashy and co taught me that...



My ' Golden Spoon '...my parents..

Brian: Now, it has been well documented in the past that your dedication, drive and determination to chase your carp fishing dreams had you spending a ridiculous amount of nights on the bank... straight from work and straight back to work the morning after? Whilst we admire that kind of drive, surely it cannot be healthy for you? You must have had a very understanding boss? I imagine there being many detrimental issues arising from so many nights on the bank? Including your health and your sanity?

Jules: **Carp fishing started to take hold fully in 1984 by which**

time I was heavily into music, gigs, motorbikes and girls....plus a full time job. I knew more time on the bank equalled more carp but weekends were equally as important for my gigs, motorbikes and girlfriends. I was four years into full time work at court and no way was I giving that up to be a ' full timer ' no matter how hard carp fever had bitten. The only way to cram it all in was to fish mid week overnights so that's what I did well before it became a popular thing to do. Now remember I worked at court with fairly fixed hours and a standard of dress code that had to be kept to and I was dealing with peoples lives, liberty and so on. Rocking up from the lake or going straight to it was not possible do it that way so I could still work, still go to gigs, still ride the motorbikes and still chase girls. From 1986 to 2015 at least 80% of my carp fishing was after work overnights and probably the same percentage of fish I caught were on nights. Most of my overnights kicked off in March and ended late November....tough. The first few every year were the hardest as my body got used to it. Lack of sleep, lack of good food, setting up and packing up in all weathers and never having a break. Was it tough physically ? Yes of course it was. However mentally it was a lot rougher knowing I would often be restricted with swim choice and even worse unless they fed



1984 and motorbikes were just as important as carp, girls, gigs, vinyl...

7 pm to 6 am I was snookered.

Knowing that I was leaving the lake at 7 am just before the 7 - 11 am ' hot time ' was hard....especially when I was back again the next night...and the next. Did it ever **** me off ?

Course it did ? Did I ever ' blow out ' ? Nope....thirty eight continuous years in the game which I'm very proud of .

Brian: We know you choose your waters carefully these days, waters that suit your style of fishing... quick morning sessions or the occasional overnighter perhaps. If one isn't fishing well you may have another one close by you can jump on.. but I bet that wasn't always the case. Was there a time you followed the crowd and jumped onto the "known" circuit waters without doing your research first, or going to a water blind just from hearsay of what may or may not be waiting for you?



Dad doing the honours....at 6 am

Jules: Absolutely Brian. It makes me laugh when people say ' it's alright for some '..... if only they knew...or did some research. Over the years most of my fishing has had to be local with work taking priority so an hour each way was the maximum for me. I've also been a pretty diligent research guy so choosing the wrong waters has been few and far between to be honest. I do remember really struggling with Motorway as the traffic noise (it's feet from the M62) was killing me. Yes I wanted to catch those big fish



**My nineties Motorway map....
not my favourite place**

(I did) but the noise, the closeness to a housing estate, the kids, the bream, the hay fever made it really challenging....all the time. It didn't help that the big fish seemed to like the motorway bank either. However I was 27/28 at the time so I dug deep and landed the two biggest fish it held. Could I do it in 2022 aged 59..... I'd really have to want it. I've had a few ' wild goose ' chases where ' coarse anglers ' overestimated the size of carp in the water but by and large the research has paid off.

Brian: Now, the 674 million dollar question that everyone has on their mind... has the

great Julian Cundiff ever been mortal, and suffered a bad run of form at some point. It happens to everyone at some point, and depending on how you react to it we have found it can either make you or break you. Can you remember a time when you were having a real bad run of form? And how did you get yourself out of it? Perseverance or plain Yorkshire stubbornness to never quit?



Jules: I've definitely had those mate but by

Dress code was not optional....on the way to work

and large I have found out what the issue has been. I remember at Tilery going in with too high a flavour level and although the bait started well (Nutrabaits Fishfood Mix with Premier Peach Melba) within a month the more we put in the more they avoided us. Eventually it clicked but the damage had been done and a complete bait change was needed. Sometimes it's obviously a timing thing where the carp are getting caught when I'm at work or are holed up in certain areas I can't get on but that's just life. I remember catching so many on Enervite but on one water it not only failed but it repelled fish. That was undoubtedly down to the pH of that particular water as any bait with elevated Robin Red / Spice faired the same. So logically coming to terms with failure I can live with but when it's totally illogical it's a lot harder. In the mid nineties three of us went in on



Nutrabaits Biollix with various attractors and we'd roll freebies and hookbaits together. It started well with my first six carp ALL being twenty five plus which would be incredible now never mind twenty five years ago. Couldn't put a foot wrong.... gulp. I then had my longest run of blanks ever with either 28 or 29 blank nights in a row. Now it would be easy to explain if they were only getting

The original Biollix still stained with liquid

caught in the day, or my mates were not catching either. Amazingly they both were catching, in the night and day and often next to me. I watched their baiting up, their casting, their rigsthe lot. Same freebies, same hookbaits....the lot. To this day I cannot explain it, and neither could they but I kept at it and early October started to catch again. I think Carpworld's gossip column ' Black Flier ' (Matt Black and the Selby Flier.....not a lot of people twigged that ha ha) described it as ' More blanks than NATO ' (ouch...)

Brian: Well that concludes part 1..and we shall continue this with part 2 next month...Thanks to Jules for his usual honesty and insight into his life, and remember you can catch him on all his usual social media platforms.

Tight lines and wobbly bobbins folks.



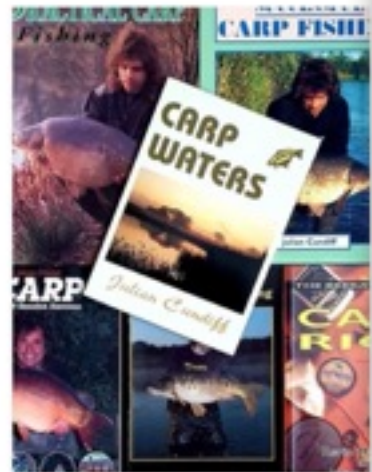
One of the few on Peach Melba



Thank god I caught the two biggies

Julian Cundiff Angling

To keep upto date with Jules and interact with him, follow him on social media on the platforms listed below



Julian Cundiff Angling

Julescundiff1

@Juliancundiff

**The Italian Job...or I'm getting
too old for this...**



by Andy Murray

Following on from my last article, our long-awaited trip to Parco Del Brenta was here. It was time to load the van and head off. As this is an eleven-hundred-mile trip for me from up here in Yorkshire, the route took some planning, as there are a number of options for the trip down. Clint and I had decided to meet at Folkestone the night before so we could be at the Tunnel and leave on an early train. The plan being to arrive in Calais for 8am, which would give us 10 hours to drive down to Austria to meet some of the others, then the final leg the following morning would be a three-and-a-half-hour drive to Parco, that was the plan anyway...what do they say about the best laid plans? The trip though France was easy, once we hit Germany boy did, we hit trouble. Busy roads and holiday traffic as well as torrential rain turned a ten-hour drive into a 12-hour grueller. Same the following morning, the steady three-hour drive turned into a six-hour trip. Here's the thing though. Whilst some parts of the drive were extremely hard, just miles and miles of motorway and focusing on the traffic, others were a joy, especially the drive through parts of the Austrian Tyrol, the views were spectacular, especially once we got to four thousand feet! Due to the heavy rain, the mountain tops had a lot of cloud and mist around them, which made them seem really moody and menacing. In total contrast, dropping down to Italy and the sunshine, the green valleys filled to the brim with growing fruit trees and vines as far as one could see, parts of the drive were really majestic. Sometimes, as in life you focus on the destination and not the journey, you can miss out on many beautiful things.

We arrived at Parco a lit later than expected as said and just a bit jaded. However, we were here now, so best get started,



to unload the van and start setting up camp for the week, it was hot, I mean really hot, 30 plus degrees and not a breath of wind, that's how it stayed all week as well. By the time we had set up camp and the tackle set up we were absolutely dripping! Time for a beer and watch the water, and as the light set on the first night, we were hoping for a good week.

We had been allocated our swim on booking, which was peg nine. This is one of the deep-water swims compared to other areas of the lake. To be honest it does come into its own in the colder months, in the summer it was going to be more of a challenge, we were not overly phased about this though, but I think with hindsight it affected how I fished a little bit at the start. As we were sharing a double swim it was a matter of deciding who fished which side. We knew from our research and also the many tips I received that first night that the right was the side to fish. Rather than draw, we agreed Clint would fish the right and I would fish on the left. If after a few days, once side was producing all the fish, then we would swap rods around a bit, which never really happens does it? to be honest, I am not sure I will want to fish a double swim again, it never works our

fair either way. We had been told to put the bait in and the carp would come, so that was the starting plan. Find some spots, get some bait on them. On Clint's side there were more obvious harder spots and nice tree line. Out in front of me it was mainly soft, wherever I cast my marker rod. So, I felt my best option was to create a feeding spot by putting bait continuously in one place, which I have done on other lakes in the past. I set up the marker at just over seventy yards, made up a bucket of bait and started to put it out. As it was relatively close range (compared to what I am used to), I could use the large Spomb as well



for this. Bait was made up of House Pellet, which is the main feed used here, so it would be daft not to use it, plenty of sweetcorn, and then boilies were added to this. Just to talk about bait, having recently joined the Key Baits Solutions team, this was to be my first full session since joining, though I had fished a couple of one nighters prior to this trip. My chosen bait for the rest of this year is the ASM, it's an outstanding mix and has caught a lot of big carp for some exceptionally good anglers, the bait I was using was a combination of 12mm ASM boilies and ASM Dumbbells, which is always a great combination. As to how much bait to put in, I have spoken about this many times in the past, the depth was twenty-four feet where I was fishing. To get a good spread of bait at that depth I feel I would want around twenty large spombs to start and then top up a couple of times a day with ten or so spombs. I know that will sound a lot, but the pellets were only 4mm, they will break up in a few hours, other bits will be eaten by smaller species. So actual bait left in the swim will disappear quickly. What also happens, is that the carp may visit the spot a few times and have a feed before they are feeding strong enough to get caught, this happens a lot more than one might think, I call it the difference between feeding time and getting caught time. It does take some confidence though sticking to one's guns. I think maybe I should have put more in right from the start, but I was waiting for that first bite to prove me right I think.

The first night was quiet for us both, we were both up early, I





spent the morning chasing bubblebers, while Clint repositioned a couple of rods due to info we had received. He didn't have to wait long for a bite from along the tree line. Clint ended up getting one or two bites a day all week. Me, I had to wait 2 days for my first bite, and that was a cast to showing fish, which wasn't ideal. Whilst I had kept two rods on the bait, I was keeping one rod roving, looking for

that elusive 'spot.' It's funny how your mind works on a session isn't it? Anthony opposite us caught from the off and ended up have a great week, the first thing you do is start looking at your rigs, it's not for me to say what he was catching on, we were all fishing different set-ups, ultimately we all caught, it doesn't take much to doubt oneself does it? Especially when those indicators remain motionless. It was on the third afternoon that I started to see carp show over my baited area, whereas before that, the carp just seemed to be moving through fast. Late that evening I had a run from the baited area, which resulted in a 44lb Common being landed, excellent! Then Clint had a thirty from one of his spots. Just as we returned his carp my re-cast rod was away again, this resulted in a 45lb common being landed, this was more like it I thought to myself. A brace of 40lb commons in 30 minutes...maybe this is the start, sadly that was the end of the action that night, in fact I didn't get a run for another 2 days, landing another common on the Thursday night. By the Friday morning we were both a bit beaten up, more by tiredness and the constant heat than the fishing or lack of it, talking to others, some of them had a tough week and were heading home early, we did think about packing up but only briefly. I felt we had one more bite each to come, which turned out to be true, clint had a forty in the afternoon, his third forty of the week. Once again, I started to see carp over my bait. Late afternoon I had a very iffy take, it was just as if the carp was sat there



shaking its head, trying to get rid of the hook. Once I picked the rod up, I knew I was into a very big fish, very big indeed. I steered it all the way into the deep margins in front of me, then it turned and as the rod started to flatten the hook pulled!! Chuffing hell...or words to that effect! I was absolutely gutted. All the fight went out of me at that point, that was my big fish moment and it hadn't gone well. When I examined the hook, the point had turned outwards, so it had obviously not penetrated well. The other carp I had caught were all well hooked, so I had no issue about the set-up I was using. A bit unlike me, I had changed the rig after each bite so I couldn't blame neglect on my part, it was just one of those things. I recast the rod and put some more bait out, but I felt I was going through the motions. What I will say, and I alluded to this earlier, if I had felt more confident, I would have put more bait in from the start, true the heat made this difficult, but I do feel if I had put more bait in, I would have got more bites during the week. A bit late to think about this now, the wisdom of



hindsight is marvelous, isn't it? We all fish a good session on the way home. There was nothing more for either of us that night, or that trip. We were up at first light as we had to start packing up as we wanted to be on the road for eight. We had planned to be in Frankfurt for around 6pm and it was a good nine to ten-hour drive. We were due to have dinner with a friend Jorg that evening in Frankfurt.

We eventually got to the hotel for 7pm after a few traffic issues and detours once again, we had time to have a shower and meet up with Anthony and Dave and headed off to Jorg's place, he set's a pop-up restaurant in his front room for friends and is a great Chef. We had a lovely meal with some wine and a very civilised chat with him and his wife, which was very welcome after the weeks fishing. If ever you are in the area, give him a call, his hospitality is great and it's a welcome break in the travelling, his carping knowledge is really good as well. The

following morning it was time to head to for home, another grueller of a drive, this time, delays at the Tunnel were the cause due to it being bank holiday. I eventually got home in Yorkshire just after 9, we left Frankfurt at 7am! 1100 miles in 2 days, man I am getting too old for this...All in all, we had a good trip, a lot has been learned for future trips like this, long haul travelling to fish for carp is not for everyone, it needs a lot of planning and perseverance just to get to the lakes, let alone the fishing. The best way to approach this is to treat it as an adventure, so when things go wrong, as they will, it's all part of the trip, take the rough with the smooth. We may even go back to Parco at some point, though flying there might be an option in the future. Whilst it is no doubt a great fishery, there were a couple of things that spoiled it for us, and if we went again, we might go for a different set-up. We had opted for the food package, just to save the need to shop and cook, we do this quite a bit on our trips and it usually works well, if I get a nice breakfast and a good evening meal, I tend not to need much else at all, not even snacks. I have to say though the food package did not live up to our expectations, I have sent some feedback in to the Parco team, which I did receive a polite and positive reply to, which is refreshing. If we went again, we might gear up to doing our own food, which could be an issue as a lot of carp were caught in the day, so we really don't want to be away from the lake. We were also a fair way from the facilities, which meant a fair walk round to get fresh water, food, beer, go to the loo etc. Once unloaded the vehicles have to be left either in the swim for the week, or in the car park if you want to go offsite, not a great rule for some of us. Rubbish to be returned has to be carried, along with lots of rules! A must-have would be a small bike or a barrow. I think for what we paid, a few concessions could have been made, or some offer of help, that is just my opinion though...

Anyway, having slept off the travel, and finished this article, it's time to get back to some Autumn fishing here in the UK, and maybe, just maybe one more trip abroad, I'll let you know how I get on.

Catch you next time
Andy



It's all about the zigs And Blanking



by Scott Geezer Grant

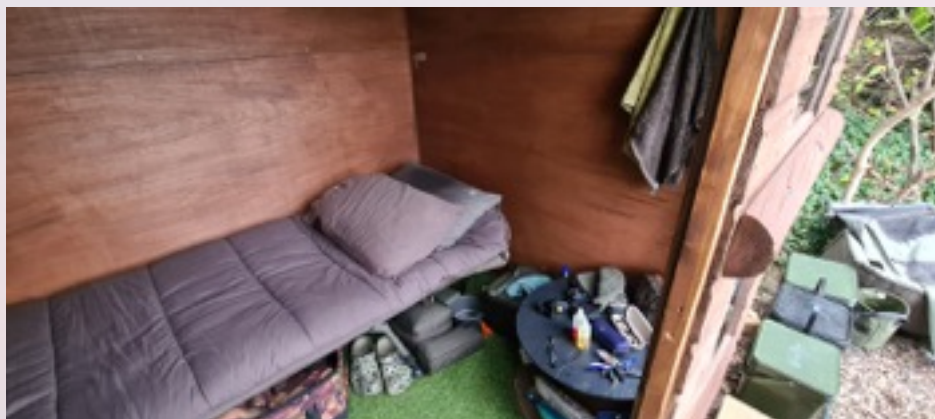
After my session on Churchwood which I thoroughly enjoyed it was back to the grind. I was buzzing to get out again but due to work and other commitments it wouldn't be until the end of March. I got a call from a good mate of mine who is the owner of Creedence Lake in Dagenham. He needed some snags removing and a night's fishing was also on offer. As always, I jumped at the chance of diving his lake and the added bonus of fishing. I booked it in for the 2nd week of March, the water temperature was still cold but it doesn't bother me I've dived in water a lot colder. I arrived mid-morning and drove straight round to the office, Dan was there to meet me, after a chat and a quick cuppa I wasted no time in getting into my dry suit and getting kitted up. The visibility is zero basically because the lake has been dyed previously, So, when removing any snags, it was a simple case of feel/touch. I did end up removing 3 large boulders which Danny was pleased with plus a couple of scaffold tubes. Early afternoon and with all the snags removed it was time for a quick shower then

making my way round to swim 4. My cabin was immaculate as they always are, and with only my bedchair and tackle bag needed it didn't take me long to get set up. I fished my right rod along the tree line my middle rod in open water and the same with my left rod.

The cabins are fully insulated and equipped with heating, usb charging points for your phone, there's also a tv on the wall with sky included, it really is a home from home. There is a large window so you can view the lake should you need to lock yourself away. Dan popped round later that evening as he was going to be fishing in swim 3. He didn't stay long as he wanted to get his rods out and get some sleep.

After a quiet night I was up before first light and I was really hoping to see fish show in my area, but nothing, the fish that did show





and there were only a few were in the other side of the lake in front of swims 1 & 2. As the sun came up it looked bang on for a zig, I changed one of the rods over to a 5ft zig and cast it towards the centre of the lake, 10 minutes later the rod was away and the result was a lovely 23lb common. I was chuffed to bits it's amazing what a change can bring. A few hours later I was packing up and saying my goodbyes as I had to go to work the following day.

Even though I was back at work I was so looking forward to my next session which was in 2 weeks' time. I had booked a week off work after I looked back at the previous year for the Dell and knew if I got it right there were spoils to be had... It soon came



around and on the eve of my session I was getting all my gear sorted and bait prepped. I had planned to fish the Dell as there is still a few of the big girls that haven't graced my net, and the only way to catch them is to put as much effort as you can on the bank.

This time of the year zigs can be

deadly, they are not my preferred method but if the fish are getting caught on them you would be stupid not to use them. I arrived at the lake early doors and after a good walk round I settled on a swim known as The Ramp. It's a swim I've caught from before and looking at previous years the fish always seem to congregate out in the open water in front of this particular swim. The weather wasn't great but to be expected given the time of year and the fact that the winters now seem to be from January-late April. The wind was a strong north easterly, I was in a t shirt and an angler on the opposite bank in the teeth of the wind was dressed for winter!! It didn't take me long to get the bivvy up and everything sorted, I took my time and when everything was in order and was a simple task of sorting the rods. As zigs were still permitted, I fished 2 rods on 6ft zigs and the third rod on the bottom, that way I have all areas covered. With the rods out it was time to sit back and watch the water. One thing I did





have with me was my diesel heater, given the weather forecast I made sure I would be nice and snug in the bivvy. Evening came and went and the rods stayed motionless, the weather was atrocious with snow coming down the following morning it really didn't look like the fish were going to play ball. I have 100 % confident in my bait and baiting approach but if the fish aren't up for it there's not a lot I can do about it. Over the course of the week the weather got worse day by day and by the end of the week, I kept switching from zigs to bottom baits but to no avail. For me it was a blank, the fish just didn't turn up and if they did, they just weren't having it.

I packed up and went home with my tail between my legs, but when I return, I will be even more determined. Two weeks later and I had 2 days off between shifts, so it was

gear sorted, bait prepped, van loaded and back over to the Dell. I arrived early Monday morning and the wind was a straight Easterly hacking into the lodge bank which is at the opposite end of the lake to the Ramp. Surely the fish had to be down this end and for me this is where I was going to start. I decided to go into the bailiffs, I got the gear from the van and barrowed it the short distance to the swim. I set the bivvy up just to the left of the swim so the wind wasn't smashing right into my face. A few hours later I was all set up, I decided to fish all the rods on the deck with monster tuna being my bait of choice along with the ever-faithful chillie hemp. Just as I got the last rod out my old mukka Chris turned up and was fishing a few nights, he decided to go into the G Spot the swim to my left, that way we could have a social. The weather had improved since my last trip and tomorrow's forecast is in the high teens, and



coupled with the sun, the fish should get up on the plateau which is directly in front of both me and Chris.

There were 3 other anglers on and they were down the road bank, but as yet nothing had been out so it was all to play for. Tuesday morning, I was up before first light and you could feel the difference in the air temperature, it felt so much warmer than a few weeks ago. As the sun got up the fish started to show, I wound the rods in and changed them all over to short zigs. As expected, the fish were up on the plateau and hopefully it won't be long before I nail one.

An hour after casting the rods out and the middle rod burst into life, after a short scrap the fish was engulfed in the net. It turned out to be a lovely 22lb 4oz common. With the photos complete the fish was treated and returned and the rod was put back out. It went quiet for a while so I wound in my other 2 rods and recast

them, not even five minutes had passed when the right-hand rod was away which resulted in a low double common, no sooner had I returned the fish and the left-hand rod was away which again resulted in another low double common. Then bizarrely it went dead and the fish stopped showing. I recast all three rods later in the afternoon ready for the evening, but when I woke the following morning to a gorgeous sunrise, they were all still motionless. Later that morning I packed up and left for home in a much better mood than previously. For me it was a great little session and to bank a few fish was a bonus especially after my blank a few weeks ago.



I won't be out fishing again for a couple of weeks, and I am already chomping at the bit.

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

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www.castaway-pva.co.uk

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The A2 boilie range along with pop ups, dips etc is readily available in your local stockist, or visit the A2 baits website for the full bait range.

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For all your PVA needs head over to the brand-new Castaway website.

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Scott "Geezer" Grant



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BACK TO THE FUTURE

BY JAMES MCQUEEN



If you've read any of my previous articles you know I've been fishing a non publicity water for the past couple of years, the hole in the ground I think I described it as in one of my pieces. Well now it is time for me to dedicate myself to another water, one where I can photograph and share to my hearts content.

The reason for the change is pretty simple, I've recently joined the Cygnet Team and to say I'm over the moon is an understatement. Those that know me, will know I have been working towards joining a tackle company for a couple of years now, but up until last week I had been unsuccessful in getting noticed. I suppose with the role now comes the responsibility of supplying some good

content and most of all catch pics. So, where am I going I hear you ask.....

I have decided to head back to the lake where it all started for me many years ago, when I was a 14 year old lad.

I grew up and lived in a small town outside of Reading, just around the corner from the famous Dinton complex. Literally a 30 second walk from my parents house was a lovely estate lake called Southlake, which is run by Southlake Angling

Society. It's a 15 acre lake based within a housing estate, so I suppose it was inevitable that I would end up spending my time there to keep myself occupied. I would always be over there cycling around and annoying all the anglers and I suppose I'd be called a punisher now! I was young and I knew nothing about fishing, as none of my family fished, just those that I'd punished at the lake. It didn't take long before I was the local "Gilly" cycling to the Chinese, kebab van and all manner of local





takeaways getting the anglers their evening food, for you youngens this was before Uber eats and smart phones. I would be bought a bag of chips and curry sauce for my efforts, and allowed to punish them for a tad longer. I had been doing a bit of float fishing with my mate David Guntrip and Wayne Box, but Guntrip turned out to be one hell of a match angler and ended up making quite a name for himself, boxy and I, not so much!! Here's a little funny story involving boxy,

he used to offer to bait up for the anglers, so they'd give him a kilo or so of boilies, and off he'd go, but he'd bait up with stones and pebbles whilst pocketing your kilo of bait, and we'd fish with

it. They all still caught so it didn't really matter. I started to want to fish nights and Carp fishing became my goal, although with parents who knew nothing about fishing and me being a complete noddy, tackle and those things didn't matter, I just needed a hook and some corn.

I ended up with an 8ft bright red telescopic rod, matching reel, one of those ones you'd find in a packet at a seaside town for a tenner. I took myself off over the lake one day



with just that and a bag of sweet corn. I was fishing a swim down by the bridge as it was known, when I hooked into what turned out to be my first ever Carp. This fish absolutely bent my rod over like never before and I had very little knowledge in playing such a powerful fish, luckily one of the experienced anglers saw me and came to my aid. I didn't have an unhooking mat, scales or anything other than me and my bike, so to land a 14.8 Common meant I was absolutely blown away and a moment



I'd never forget. I don't think a photo was ever taken, or at least I have never seen it since if it was.

From that point on I was a Carp fisherman, I would do anything to fish and stay overnight at the lake, so instead

of asking for food when I was cycling to the takeaways, I'd ask to be senior'd as you needed to be 16 to fish over night alone. I started then doing night fishing in swims next to experienced anglers, but I'd be on one of those old ratchet sun loungers under a small umbrella with bin liners taped on the ends like storm sides to keep my feet dry if it rained, but you know what, I feel like that was my test, my initiation into this scene. It also became apparent to the experienced anglers



that in the mornings my mum would come round with a good few rounds of sausage sandwiches for me and whoever had agreed to look after me, needless to say once word spread, fishing nights was never an issue. I must give a shout out to Dave Pickering, Phil Dawkins, Bungle and Andy Greenhalf who were the main guys for letting me fish with them, and Dave who gave me a spool of Kryston braid and showed me how to tie a hair rig. Thank you.

I had started to accumulate a few pieces of better tackle, and my parents saw that this was not a passing phase and therefore supported me in getting a few bits, although I never managed to get a decent bed for years and years, it always seemed to be one of those things that

never materialised. I had really got in tune with the lake and I was using such a great bait back then, Gary Lamden was producing some Salmon and Lobster boilies under the brand of Black sack Carp baits and he would drop me off a kilo bag whenever I needed one, which is unheard of these days. I actually met Gary at the local pub a year or so ago and that must be the first time I've seen him since I was 16-17.

Wow, I've really gone off on a tangent here, and basically told you

my life story!

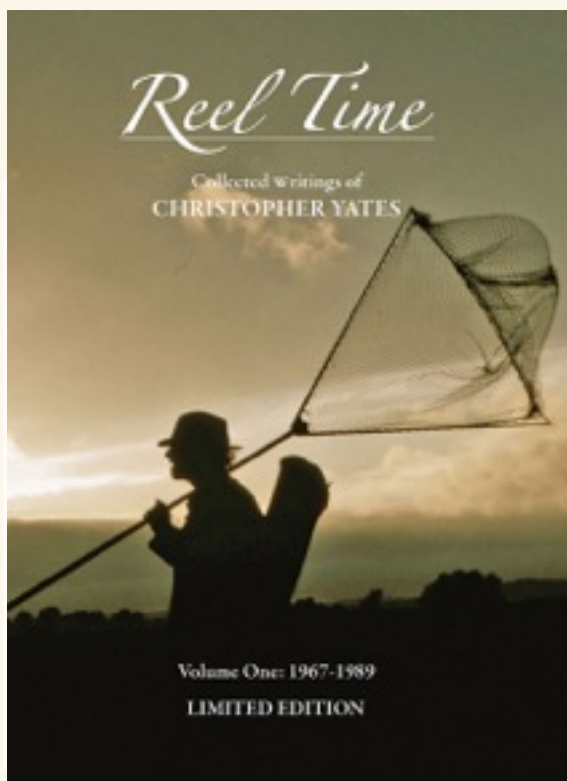
I fished this lake until I found women and alcohol, and I never really found the big fish scene, unlike Boxy who went over to the Cemex world and spent many a night at Yateley. So, now with Southlake holding some big fish, much bigger than when I fished it before, I'm going back to see how I do, with a tackle box full of Cygnet terminal gear and a smile on my face.

I'll keep you updated on my progress.
James.



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KEEP ON KEEPING ON!

BY RICHARD HANDEL



Some more fishing ramblings and insight into my passion.

Over the years, people have asked "How I keep on going each week for a couple of nights, in rain, snow or shine.

I've thought about this a lot over these winter months. It's been particularly hard going this year on the catching front, the weather has been particularly bleak and cold at times. When it is like this, my feet suffer, and is one of the big reasons I do short days when the weather is too cold. I prefer night fishing over short day sessions because I find they help more with my depression and the more I'm outdoors the more I feel at home. I could probably live in the wilderness, as just being on the bank is the thing that draws me out each week and the fishing is secondary.

It's not always been like that, I was obsessed with captures for many years, and those target carp and catch more each year and break my PBs.

I remember the day it changed, I just couldn't take any more of the bucket brigade and the selfishness of anglers towards each other. It

had been building for some time, and I'm sure there were other reasons. I never particularly like setting up across the lake from someone or even in their line of sight. This is where being alone and out there with the wildlife around me comes from. I loved the time I spent fishing on a syndicate on the Hampshire Avon, simply because in the 5 years or more I was a member, I probably only spotted a handful of other people fishing. You were just left to your own devices and the tranquility of the valley and the river.

When I found my current syndicate, I first wasn't keen on Meadow Lake. It was your typical carp lake, I'd fished it a few times in the past, but I just never fell in love with the water. This is something non-fishing people will clearly never



understand. It's something to do with nature and the scenery, I love walking up mountains and the landscape of Scotland, Wales, and The Lake District, but not the tourist-type places. Can you see a pattern forming here?

My obsession side of fishing was under control. I realized that just being out there was all I needed. Don't get me wrong, catching carp is an integral part of it, but I understand more that it's all about the joy of the captures, in conjunction with being out amongst the wildlife and watching the seasons coming and going.

I've recently started to be more social with my current syndicate, which I've been a member of for the past 8 years. This is where I currently write about being the Airfield Lake and Meadow Lake, the people on this syndicate are a great bunch of lads, are very friendly, respectful to each other, and are happy to help each other catch carp. They are all like-minded people with the same views as me.

I try as hard as the next person to catch carp each time I'm out on the bank and avoid getting obsessed with it, too much. I know

that sometimes, I need to get down there and into a particular area or swim and then I get a bit obsessed again. But I'm not sure if it's more about my drive to catch carp, I don't get wrapped up at that moment to catch at all costs scenario. I think that's more an age thing, I've realized that I'm a bit slower and simply prefer to fish open water or nearby snags rather than in them, fishing all locked up. I just don't find that enjoyable anymore.

I hope this article has helped you understand how I keep on going over all these years of fishing and understand that it's not actually all about the carp. However, I've realized that my favorite species is most certainly carp. I've switched between other species over the years, and I just can't keep away from them. It must be partly to do with them, the never-ending changing ways of fishing, the constant development of products and technology improvements since I started carp fishing back in 1981

Until my next ramblings

Richard

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The Fragility of Men

by Terry

Usually when I sit down to type an article I'm recounting the story of a specific period in my angling or a bait/product that has helped me to achieve my goals. This is a very different piece, and one that I honestly never thought I would find myself writing, at least not for anyone else to read. I really am struggling to find the right way to open this but here goes This year I have been under a lot of stress with work, rebuilding a shop and then at home, the kids (3 and 6) keep fighting all the time and pushing their limits as kids do. I would tell them off for fighting, then my wife would have a go at me for shouting at the kids resulting in us having a big row and so it went on. On top of this, I am still grieving a lifelong friend who died 5 years ago this year (a week before her 39th birthday).

I felt like everyone in the house was against me. I didn't feel supported by my wife when the kids played up and then at work I was burning myself out. I didn't know which way was up anymore and I couldn't see a way out. I thought they didn't need or want me and they would be better off without me. Fishing was my only sanctuary but I get to fish one overnighter a week and

even that was causing me stress as I suffered losses due to cut offs/ snags and hook pulls over a course of weeks.

All these things have been getting to me over a long period of time and then a few weeks ago, I basically had a mental breakdown.

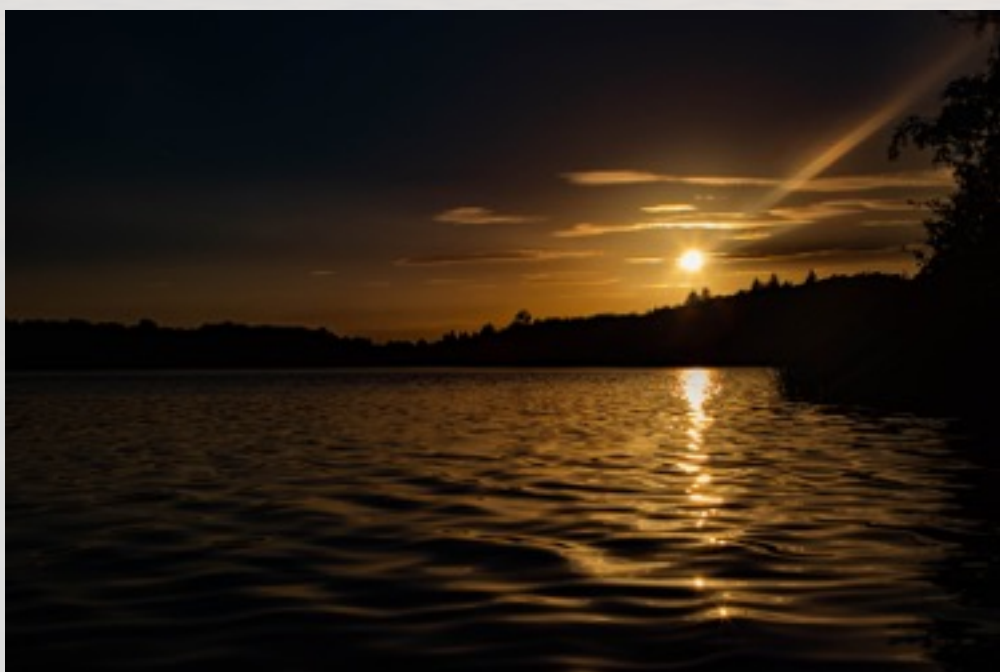
A friend who had just returned to the UK after a few years away had asked if I fancied meeting him down by a lake we both fish and I said I would see if I get a chance but after another row at home, I needed to get out of the house so I met up with him. He asked how I was and I found myself telling him everything I was going through and admitting that I had tied a noose up in my shed. He told me I need to get help and he was right.

I called 111 there and then and broke down on the phone to them. They of course asked if I had thought about suicide and I had to be completely honest with them for the good of myself. It felt reassuring to talk to them and to share the pain i was going through, they were very kind and supportive. They told me to contact my doctor first thing in the morning to arrange for anti-depressants or counselling.

The next morning, I stepped out of work to make the call from the confines of my car and as soon as the receptionist had said the words "how can I help", I burst into tears down the phone as a wave of emotion and release hit me as I said "I need help". She took my details and assured me I would get a call back soon so composed myself and went back into work.

When they called back, I got back into the car to take the call and it was a mental health support worker who was on the end of the phone. Again, I knew it was important to give her the absolute facts and truth as embarrassing as it was to admit. She asked many questions, some quite probing, and said she would arrange help for me including counselling. I was in no fit state to return to work after this so I left my assistant manager to run the shop just saying "I've got to go". Arriving home early and visibly upset, my wife wanted answers. I struggled to get the words right and I really don't

think she understood the gravity of the situation until I got the noose from the shed, but even then, she didn't get what it was until I put it around my neck and pulled it tight. My friend who got me to reach out continued to call each and every day to check on me and make sure I was ok and another good friend and colleague from another store also called to ask if I was ok after hearing that I had left suddenly after a phone call. He then called me regularly over the next week or so. I have since also had many different calls from various mental health people as well so I am far from feeling alone. Reaching out for help and admitting there was a problem was the hardest things I have ever had to do. I felt ashamed and embarrassed. I have always bottled



everything up and got on with it because I'm a man. I am the head of the family at home and have to be strong for everyone, I am a store manager in my professional life so have to be an example of strength and reassurance to my staff but we cant always be strong. Not on our own.

Its been about 3 weeks now and I feel much better in myself. I am trying to be calm and not let things get to me, which isn't always easy. I have some counselling booked and I am taking 5HTP tablets to boost serotonin levels (I have anti-depressants but I don't really want to take them).

Speaking about this with people has become easier and it's surprising how many people open up about their own battles which is reassuring to know you aren't alone. The support is there, you just have to want to be helped and reach out for it. I have chosen to write this, not looking for sympathy in any way, more to reassure anyone else who is feeling like I was that it is ok not to be ok and we cannot always be strong so if this resonates with you, ask for help, talk to a friend, people do care.

Cheers Terry





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The AI journey so far by Jamie Lunn





So, let's start at the beginning and take you back to 2017-2019 pre the virus. I found the A1 complex a very very hard complex to crack and only had a hand full of fish from the 6 pits. A little background on the A1 complex, 6 gravel pits varying in size from pit 1 being the smallest to pit 6 being the largest. All with completely different characteristics and personality's, from weed to gravel to silt and everything in between. In the years 17-19 I really did find the place a struggle

and walked away from the complex to regain some composure with the intention of coming back in the future to try and crack the place again once I had become a better angler.

So, here we are in the present day, 16th July to be exact and I am certainly a completely different angler to what I was back then. I returned to the complex having been brought on to the Nutrabaits team which has won me half of the battle in my angling. My confidence with Nutrabaits is off the scale especially the Big Fish Mix range, salmon, caviar and black pepper. I knew that I had a lot of success on Butterley

reservoir with the bait so I decided to carry on using the range on the pits.

After what seemed like hours driving around the 6 lake complex, I settled on a swim on pit 6 which is the biggest pit on the complex. Armed with Nutrabaits new big fish mix salmon caviar and black pepper, I was already confident I could get a run or two but in the back of my mind the fact that I'd never had a fish out of pit 6 was always niggling away at me.





I focused on one area of the lake not too far out at about 17-18 wraps, I knew this would be relatively easier to spod to than casting to the horizon like many had been doing and myself included in past years. My new motto is "if the effort is there the rewards will come" and this is exactly what happened. After spending an hour or so spodding over a spot I had found I dropped a rig on top of the baited

area and one just to left of it slightly off the baited area. The spod mix I had made consisted of the BFM 8mm pellet and chop boilies along with the matching carpet feed with a bottle of matching liquid booster.

The night was quiet and not what I really expected but the morning and first light was fast approaching when all of a sudden at just gone 4am the alarms sprang into action. My heart beating like crazy and the adrenaline was pumping through my veins. Finally, a carp from the pit I'd never had a carp from was on the end of my rod. At this point I jumped out of the bivvy and played the fish for about 15 minutes until

my partner slipped the net right under the fish and it was in the net. I literally couldn't believe that I had finally got one out of a lake that I had struggled time and time again. The fish weighed in at 17lb on the nose. Not the biggest but certainly the most welcomed. My confidence at this point with my spots and my approach were sky high and the pressure was off slightly. The fish safely resting in the retainer I began to spod out another half a dozen spods full of the mix over the spot that I had just had the carp from. The morning went by with no more bites, this being the case I decided to bring in the rods and try to rest the swim with it being already around 26 degrees at 11.30am and while I topped up with the mix. Just 10 spods each over 2 areas. I looked around the swim for another



spot to feed closer into me because the wind had been blowing into me all day. 10 wraps out I marked up a very clear spot out to my right hand side. Armed with the spod rod and the pellet and boilie mix I began to spod for around 45 mins to an hour.

I went for a drive around the beautiful 6 lake complex and stopped to chat to people along the way including the bailiff who was confirming what

I already had thought and that was to try and fish a bit closer in rather than trying to hit the horizon. I was in no rush to get the rods back out as it was very very hot and I knew my chances of fish would come around last light to first

light. Back at the swim at about 5pm, BBQ on and refuelled, I topped up the swim once again then rebaited the rods and I was back fishing with one rod on the new area. This night same as the night before seemed very quiet even though I

could hear and see fish boshing out. One or two shows came over the new baited right hand spot that I found just hours before. 4:30am and the alarm screamed off. I was into another one. This one took me into my near margin tree line. Luckily, I managed to get the fish out and and it resulted in a 16lb 12oz mirror. Now these carp are far from the biggest in the lake but they are very welcome as the first two I've caught out of there it



gives me something to work towards. I find that very important in my fishing. Giving myself little things to work towards is what gives me the drive and as you will all know fishing is one sport that can get lonely at times but with little goals you can make it more of a challenge. Anyway, back to the session, I kept to the same routine of half a dozen spods out then reset the rod. The Big Fish Mix was working well. Just as I was getting back into the bivvy after having my usual morning coffee, I looked over the spot that was at 10 wraps and a big flat spot came up, that means the fish are feeding hard on the spot. Within 10 minutes another screaming run. Resulting in another common. By now it was around 8am and the temp was getting up into the high teens early 20s already so

it was kettle on and bacon sandwich time. The rest of the day was spent packing up steady and unfortunately no more fish.

I did however take something very important from the session and that was that I was more than happy and comfortable using the Nutrabaits BFM which I've not really had that confidence before in a bait and also the rigs

I was using I was confident in. The main thing I believe in fishing the A1 pits is finding the fish. Taking the time to drive around the 6 lakes once

twice or even three times. Preparation is key and I'm starting to see that more and more. I took this approach not even a week later when I returned and had an absolute monumental few nights on one of the other pits. But that's a story for another edition...

Till next time,
Jamie.





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Straight to the point.



The Brickyard long common by Carl Hughes



This in my opinion is one of the best commons in my area (South Yorkshire) and one of the most elusive. For years folk said to me many times get on brick yard. With several good fish and one or two characters.

I instantly replied no chance, it's on the outskirts of a town, surrounded by houses, plenty of dog walkers day and night by the rumours spread. It was actually during covid 19 restrictions that forced my hand to go have a look at the lake as needed somewhere close to home. Brick yard being only 5 minutes from my home ticked all the boxes. I was surprised after my first walk around that I hadn't visited this stunning lake before. Crazy as it's so close to both Bolton and Goldthorpe town centres. As soon as I got home with the contact details I had to enquire about a ticket. After a quick conversation and bank transaction I was lucky enough to secure a ticket for the upcoming season.

A little insight to the ponds at Brick yard, there are 3 ponds that are contracted by channels so the carp can find plenty of hiding places. The largest pond bring around

6 acres with the other two being approximately 2 and 1 acres.

So my first session came on a red hot summers day. Setting up in a peg, known as the buoy swim and apparently a good swim, this pointing facing a set of pads which is one of the main features of the swim. I cast out a single bait out over towards the pads. Taking around 20 cast till I was happy with the spot. In less than an hour I had a screaming take. Fishing tight clutches due to the pads, the line just picked up out off the water





I instantly ran to the rod, lifting into a powerful fish which managed to get me snagged up in pads even with the locked up clutches. Wading straight into the lake, no waders on just straight in after her. After a tense battle in and out off the pads I slipped the net under a stunning old warrior of a mirror. Luckily a few of the existing members were there, a chap called Sam mentioned, that's the old scaly mirror, a known old character. Wow I had one of the lakes gems in my net on my first session. Definitely a buzz, couldn't believe it how some times your luck comes together. The fish was well

down in weight after spawning but I didn't care, this mirror being over 40 years old. Soon as I got that fish back safely after a few quick photos, I sorted the rod out and my old faithful multi rig with pop up was back on the same spot. It wasn't long and the same rod was away again. The rod pulling up tight again and another crazy battle and another one off the better fish was in my net, this being one by the name of the mug common. At 28lb, not a massive fish but big for my area, especially a park lake in South Yorkshire where these are mega fish.

During this first session, I found out loads about the lake, the residents that lived in the lake. I had taken, a mega interest in the two big girls that lived in the brick yard, after a lengthy conversation with the bailiff (buzz) and seeing pictures of the fish I was in shock of the stock and fact I hadn't joined sooner.

From that day, I made it a target of mine to catch the big commons. But mainly the long common.

I fished hard after that fish for two years catching regularly and even catching the scaly mirror and the

mug common several times. But the big commons eluding me.

Starting on the 28th of May 2022, I had a 48hr session planned and surprisingly the ponds were quiet. I was Buzzing as I knew instantly what peg I needed to be in.

Jumping straight into a peg called the sunken, which dominates the majority of the main set of pads. This being an area where the majority of fish had been holding up on my previous visits. This being a popular swim and one that's rarely vacant. I was buzzing for it

because I knew in my head that the long common was spending plenty of time in the pads and would be catchable from this swim if I presented my rigs in the right spots. I already knew my approach to this peg and the spots I needed to be on. A bait I had total faith being new Big Fish Mix:

Salmon, Caviar & Black Pepper along with a few Trigga ice to keep them guessing.

So rods were out on the spots fast, the left hand rod being 17 wraps to the far tree line, middle rod into open water and the right hand rod close to the pads, all 3 went down lovely. 30 spods of bait over to the tree line being a mix of the boilies along with particles. Middle 10 spods of the same but the right hand rod being just kilo of Boilies.



The first night I had 3 fish from the tree line so choice of swim was right. But very surprisingly no action off the pads. The following day and night passed with no action. This coming as shock to me as fish where all over my baited spots.

The following morning awaking with no action and scarring my head with the fish clearly on the baited spots, now being the dreaded time to pack down was on me. I like to pack up early and go home to spend day with my family. But out of the blue the right hand rod to pads melted off, followed by an epic battle. The fish got me snagged up so nervous time as deep down I knew it was a good fish. As luck would have it buzz the bailiff was on the lake in the boat, so shouting to him for hand was needed. He came down the lake like Jack Sparrow on the boat. Getting to where the fish was snagged up double quick and started to hand line it out of the unseen snag. All of a sudden he looked at me and said don't lose this fish as it broke free. After a close quarters battle the fish was in my net. We peeled open the mesh and there was the long common and looking in awesome condition.

I was over the moon to finally have the fish in my net. Jack and another member was on hand to help me out. The fish went 29lb and ounces. I was buzzing, the fish being in stunning condition with mouth and scales being in perfect condition. After photos and safely slipping it back and watching it swim off, I was relieved it was finally over.

On reflection another 5 minutes and I would have missed it as I would have had the rods reeled in.

Some times your name is on them and the Brick yard has been kind to me. Now onto my next target.

Tight lines,
Carl



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Short session success by Andy Lill

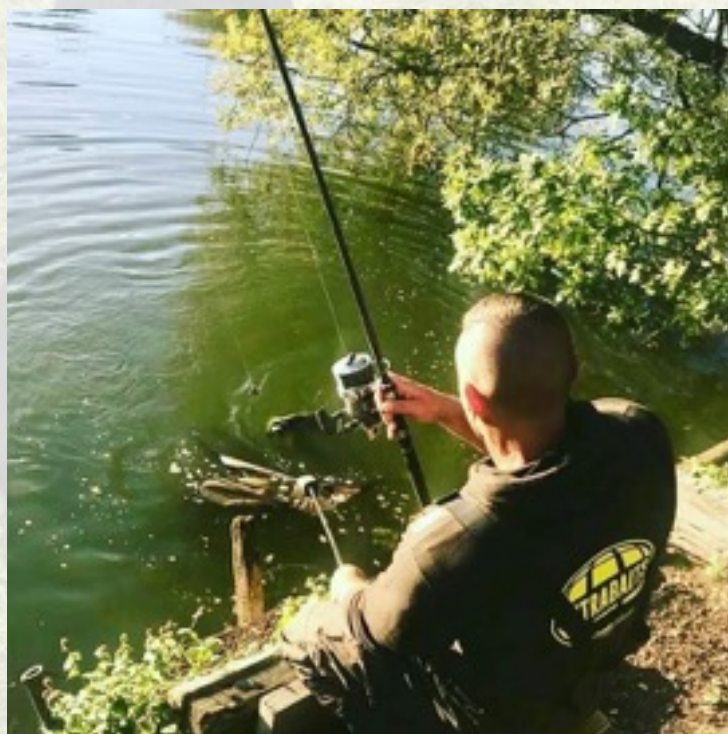


A little background. My time is extremely limited and more so over the last couple of years. I believe that the guys fishing short sessions are generally working hard for every bite. What do I mean? I try and break it down. We have all been there. We have all fished for days camped behind motionless buzzers coming up with every reason possible why the fish aren't biting. The pressures too high, too many anglers on, the waters too warm, the waters too cold, must be an oxygen crash the list goes on. We have just about convinced ourselves it's not our fault when an angler turns up usually traveling fairly light. Wonders round politely asks how people are getting on and disappears round the water to find their chosen peg. A couple of hours later news rapidly travels round that the angler who turned up for the afternoon has done fish! What how can this be? The lucky sod!

The truth is they have put the hard work in before they get to their chosen water. In some not all cases these guys have spent years building up knowledge of the water. They know every feature / depth intimately and understand the behaviour of the

fish and what the weather, angling pressure and certain circumstance are likely to do to influence those behaviours.

I genuinely don't care what size, strain or nationality of fish I catch. Like the majority of anglers, I just enjoy the buzzers going off and witnessing my prize in the bottom of the net. I have been fishing a day only water regularly for over 5 years now focusing on one particular fish that eludes me. A very old (40 + years) very cautious 30+ plus that comes out once at best twice a year. I have spent that much time tracking its captures I have been just days behind or in front of its captures twice although the location



was spot on. Sooner or later, she will slip up for me. I'm never disappointed it is just an opportunity to glean a little more info. More recently I had to admit I was getting this approach slightly wrong and this is now rectified. Something I would not have realised if I didn't ask. It is fair to say I'm obsessed with catching this creature.

A big part of the puzzle for me is bait. Sorry I can hear the various fans stirring now. The bait and indeed tackle world has become almost football like in terms of customer /supporters. Very simply why would we spend hundreds sometimes thousands on the latest kit in pursuit of these magnificent creatures to then scrimp on the cheapest bait possible for no other reason than its cheap? Makes no sense to me. I am a devoted user of the Nutrabaits range simply because the quality is truly top draw every effort is made to ensure the bait is the best it can possibly be. What does this give me? It gives me the ability to be super confident in my baiting approach and one less thing to worry about. If you are not confident you are hindering your fishing. My simple advice would be do your research like the afternoon angler see what is being used and buy the best quality you can





possibly afford. Anglers have never had so much choice and access to reputable bait companies. Please avoid the bargain buckets/ end of line etc there is a reason for it in most cases.

In summary. Decide on your chosen water be prepared to put the blanks in. We all do it's a fact of the sport. But a little more comforting when it's an afternoon, morning etc and not a whole week. Commit to that water get to know the staff and the customers glean as much info as possible from them. They are usually more than happy to discuss. All lakes have their habits. Some go mental on rain some switch off; some fish will always be on the front of the new wind but then others move off the back hours later waiting for a new direction or situation to follow.

Know your depths and features. In most cases fish capture locations will change through the seasons of the year but there will be a rough pattern to follow. If you can record this or at least have the insight you are over half way through the puzzle already.

Keep your rigs as simple as

simple as possible. A sharp hook on a semi stiff coated braid has accounted for 90% of my presentation for many years and is the basis of all my rigs be that po ups, snowman, critically balanced or bottom baits. I see very little benefit in over complicating rigs to gain efficiency that then has you sat there wondering is it as effective as your trusted style playing with your confidence levels.

If someone is doing consistently well. See if they fancy a brew have a chat, in most cases simple good manners will get you a snippet or two of information that can really help.

One huge tip for me is be prepared to move! If you're not confident you're on-fish or the wind has got up and swung round. Travel light and move you will find them. Angling pressure plays a big part in this, remember your locations and your depths from earlier? You now have a tool to focus your options. Lastly use the best bait you can afford, don't listen to the pub expert do your research go on the various websites have a good read ask the daft questions who cares if it helps you achieve your goals. Very lastly and most importantly

enjoy your fishing don't get consumed by the characters of the bank, the tarts, the know all's and the bank tramps. It's a hobby for you to get away from it all. Enjoy it and relax. Who cares that big name Billy just done a 60 on the latest big fish water. Just focus on what's achievable for you and get them buzzers singing. Enjoy the day on the water like the rest of us mortals. I wish you nothing but good luck in all you do and hope you land a few on your next adventure.

Andy Lill





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Reviews

Featuring -

Wolds Custom Bobbins - Brian Dixon

**Katran Head Torch W/B 460 Pro -
Mark carper**

Anthony Wood x 2 reviews

Talking Carp bobbins from Wolds Custom Carp Bobbins



We all have a little bit of tackle tart inside of us I think.... Whether it's the latest carbon pod, your spod rod and marker rods match your angling rods, the complete matching set of luggage and bags or the latest bivvy complete with overwrap and floor mats... we all have a little something. For me, its one thing as simple as my bobbins... I do love personalised bobbins, and I have had many sets made for me over the years from companies such as Elite Tackle, and Kudos. So when we touched base with Wolds Custom Carp bobbins I knew exactly what would happen.... A chat with Reece Ward and we were soon on the same page with what Wolds produces and what I expected.

What I can tell you is that Reece will ask you exactly what you want, and here at Talking Carp we opted for a set of 3, glow in the dark, with our logo printed and integrated line clip.

What we received was even better than expected... the quality was perfect, the line clips properly integrated giving a sleek finish and a quality logo print on the front in exactly the right place so the logos sit at the front and not twisted to the side. The sizing is perfect too as they are slightly larger than some of the ones I have meaning I can fish confidently at distance on my current water and they respond perfectly to long tight lines. Chain fittings are standard so swapping around isn't a problem either.

All in all I was very impressed with their products and would definitely recommend them to other anglers looking for a custom bobbin set. Check out their facebook page and their website at www.woldscustomcarpbobbins.co.uk and see what they can do for you.
Brian Dixon





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**KATRAN HEAD TORCH W/B460 PRO -
REVIEW BY MARK CARPER**

If you have read any of my previous reviews, where I talk about the Katran Fishing Line 'Mono Main Lines' and particularly the '**Crypton Carp**', my 'go-to' Mono Line and also the **Synapse Eclipse**, **Synapse Neon** and **Crypton Symbios**, you may recall I have, on occasion, mentioned the incredible way these lines appear to 'Light-Up' when using the **Katran W/B460** or the brand new **W/B460 Pro Head Torch**..!

This time I thought I would give you the full details of how and why this happens and at the same time review the updated and uprated brand-new W/B460 Pro Head Torch.

What's in a name?

The **W/B460** name is derived from the fact the Head Torch has a **White** light, a **Blue** light and the wave length of the blue light is 460 Nanometres (Nm).....

A bit of Science...

The visible light spectrum is the section of the electromagnetic radiation spectrum that is visible to the human eye. Essentially, that equates to the colours the human eye can see.

It ranges in wavelength from approximately 400 nanometres (4×10^{-7} m, which is violet) to 700nm (7×10^{-7} m, which is red). It is also known as the "Optical Spectrum of Light" or the "Spectrum of White Light".

Now, light transmitted at 420 to 460Nm is visible to the human eye and appears Purple at the 420nm end and Blue at the 460nm end, the very frequency used by the Katran Head Torch. Below 400nm you start to get in to the 'Ultra-Violet' or 'Black-Light' end of the spectrum, so contrary to belief, the W/B460 Pro is not an Ultra-Violet Light, it is simply and Blue Light.

Interestingly, the 460Nm wavelength that Katran use is also a very common light found in Aquariums and is called an 'Actinic' Light. The Blue effect is designed to enhance the colour properties of certain tropical fish or to highlight 'Glowing' features in the tank, which is more visibly

enhanced when the area surrounding the tank is dark, such as at night... and is less damaging than the use of UV lights. It is also reported that research has shown a 'Blue' Light can be calming to the fish too....!

Katran Mono Line and Blue Light

There are several reasons why Katran chose to use a Blue Light at exactly 460Nm, the first is that it is the brightest blue light than we can see (see the Science bit), which obviously, is a majorly important factor for any head torch, but the second, and really clever bit is it makes a range of their Mono Lines (mentioned above) 'Glow in the Dark'..!!!

The 460Nm frequency of the light is designed to enhance the semi-transparent range of Katran mono line and give the appearance that the line is 'lit-up' or glowing, and this 'Luminescent' effect, which makes the line appear 'Bright Yellow, is absolutely awesome when night fishing as it allows you to see exactly where your line is as it enters the water and also when playing a fish around your other rods, you can clearly see where their lines are too... it is also really useful if you are using a boat (a proper boat, not a Radio Controlled one) as you can easily track your line whilst playing a fish but you can also clearly see your other lines as you make your way back to the swim....!!



W/B460 Pro Features

The Body

As you would expect from Katran, the W/B460 Pro is the same High Quality as the original but with added features and benefits....

....Made from 6063 Aero-Grade Aluminium Alloy the body is rust-proof, robust, durable, lightweight and ensures a consistent performance of the Head Torch and provides the internals with good protection from drops of less than 1.5m.

The casing is also rated to **IP67** which represents one of the highest levels of protection offered by an IP rating. This rating provides: Complete protection against ingress of dust and airborne particles. **Protection against water and liquids**, up to and **including immersion in up to one meter of water**, which also means it is fully 'weather-proof' too

One end of the Casing, the end that the Battery fits into is also Magnetic and will happily stick to a steel Bivvy Table etc. although you do have to be careful when removing it that you don't pick the whole table up, but this is avoided if you 'Tilt and Lift' the Torch off...

The Torch is also supplied with two spare 'O' Rings, one for the Battery Compartment cover and one for Charging Port cover.



The Battery

The 18650 Li-ion rechargeable battery packs 3400mAh of power at 3.7v and can last up to fifty-six hours on the lowest 'White Light' setting of 150 Lumens.

The Battery is recharged via the in-built USB Type-C charging port, cleverly hidden and protected by the On/Off Switch Cap, which you simply unscrew to expose the port and the Head Torch is supplied with a short USB to USB-C cable. Standard Charging Time from less than 10% battery life is around five hours

The Pro version also allows you to see immediately the approximate charge status of the Battery. An 'Always On' Power Indicator is located underneath the On/Off Switch and moves through three stages of colour (Green, Amber, Red) to indicate the percentage of life left in the battery.

The Lighting

The Pro has Seven Modes of light intensity, four for the White Light and Three for the Blue, all giving different run times and these are as follows;

	White Light				Blue Light		
Specification	High	Medium	Low	Lowest	High	Medium	Low
Lumens	600	300	150	75	300	150	50
Runtime (Hrs)	7	14	28	56	7	14	36



The angle of light spread is around 90 to 100 degrees from the centre of the LED, which although gives a nice spread of light, it is still focused enough to give a good illumination distance and the innovative energy-efficient LEDs' have a large cooling surface to prolong their life.

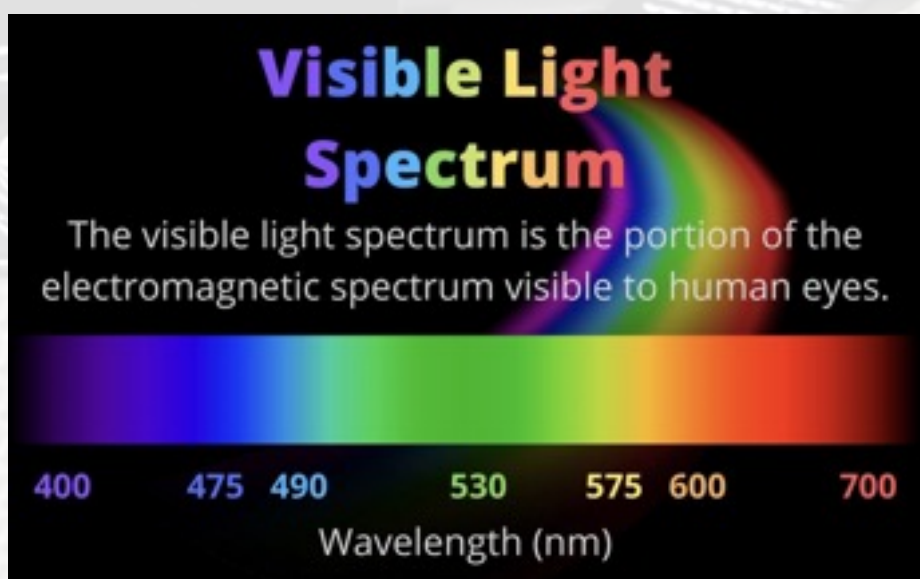
You need to keep in mind that this Head Torch was never intended to light up to infinity and was designed to do a specific job, which it does extremely well but it's also a very capable Head Torch in its' own right.

Operation and In Use

Operation is very simple and all light colours and levels are selected from just one Push Button, which is easy to locate on the end of the Head Torch... But... you can choose which end...!!

The Torch unit is easy to 'Unclip' from the holder which is in turn attached to the Head Strap and if like me, you are 'particular' about not having the strap upside down on your head but want the switch on either the left or right of the Torch, you simply unclip and re-clip the other way round... I like to have the Push Button on my Left-Hand side as I am right handed, meaning I can easily operate the torch whilst holding the Rod...!!

A quick press of the Button and the light activates and a key feature for me and it is a big feature is that the Head Torch will 'remember' the last Light Setting you used and will switch back on to that setting each time. This way, I know that the White Light will not come on unless that is what I select and it retains the memory even if you take the battery out, although you would have no real reason to do that...!!



Once on, subsequent short presses of the button will step you through the light colours and intensity and a long press (about 3 seconds) will switch the torch off and save the last setting.

The Push Button is slightly recessed so this will help prevent unwanted 'switch-ons' when it is packed in your kit, although if you use the supplied 'Oxford Fabric Case', this will not be an issue anyway.

Although this Head Torch is not as Lightweight as some that I have but it isn't the heaviest either (it weighs in at 4.4oz (125g)), it is very comfortable to wear. I'm not one of these people that feels the need to sleep with my Head Torch on or even have it around my neck as, even at my age, I am quite capable of remembering to grab my Torch when exiting the Bivvy 'In the Dark', no matter how fast I do it...so I cannot comment on how comfortable or otherwise it is to wear in that manner...!!!

With a two-year warranty, the Katran W/B460 Pro is an excellent quality Head Torch but without a doubt, the use of the Line, the Crypton Carp in my case, and the Head Torch together definitely make night fishing, in terms of seeing where your lines are and playing a fish, much better than a White, Red or Green light.

In Conclusion...

The Line and Head Torch combination is fantastic and as with many items of Carp Tackle, you don't really think you need until you have tried it.... a prime example of this for me is the Ridgemonkey 'Action Station'... I completely rubbished it prior to getting one and cannot imagine fishing without it now...!!!

Although 'unscientific' from me, there also appeared to be less 'spooking' from the Carp when illuminated by the Blue Light and I noted this on numerous separate occasions as I netted them...!

As I said earlier, there is evidence that Blue Light can have a 'calming effect' on aquarium fish and is a proven colour for use of illuminating aquariums both day and night (depending on the night-time activity of the

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**Is there a better option than
scissors?**

By Anthony Wood



We all use scissors for making our rigs up and sometimes we even have two sets a pair for normal line and a pair for braid. You will probably also know the nuisance of chasing them around your tackle box or bag as they slip to the bottom of a seemingly bottomless pit of terminal tackle, bait and other fishing items.

Nearly 7 years ago now I found a company called Line Cutterz™ and they had developed a wearable ring that had two-sided blades set in a strong abs plastic with a Velcro adjustable strap so that you can adjust it to comfortably fit all sizes of fingers.

The ring cuts braid and even mono upto 200lb!! I have used this ring pretty much every week for the last 7 years and it is still going strong and still super sharp.

Since then I have added several other products from their range as they are so useful and handy that you just find yourself placing them in several places such as the Flat Mount version of the ring which is perfect for if you have a boat.

They do a fantastic Zipper Pull Ring with the same two-sided blades built in. You can attach this to a split ring and make it a keyring or replace the zipper on a jacket pocket or even mount it on some paracord and attach it to a belt loop making it nice and handy.



The newest addition to their range is their Dual Hybrid Micro Scissors. Now these are the ultimate combination of the Line Cutterz™ range with the two-sided patented ceramic fixed blades for simple easy cutting of your line. At the other end there is a set of micro stainless steel serrated scissors which are absolutely perfect for trimming up your knots, etc.

There are numerous ways you can attach the Dual Hybrid Micro Scissors whether it is sliding them on to the bill of your baseball cap, the seam of your jeans/trouser pockets, you can even attach them to a lanyard or retractor.

I've been impressed with every single product from Line Cutterz™ and they make cutting your line or making your rigs so much easier than routing around for scissors every time you need to use them.

You can find them at www.linecutterz.com or they are also available in the UK via their Amazon store www.amazon.co.uk/stores/LINE+CUTTERZ/page/DA838D50-7FF2-4B61-A2ED-4C4078B2DFA3?ref_=ast_bln

If you would like to follow their social media you can find them on Facebook www.facebook.com/linecutterzllc or www.instagram.com/linecutterz.





**Does a comfortable fishing
chair have to cost a fortune?
By Anthony Wood**

With the huge choice of carp fishing chairs out there that vary from a chair that fits on your bed chair through to huge luxury chairs that you would be more comfortable on than the chair in your living room, is it possible to find a decent chair that will accommodate the larger angler (or even someone that just wants a nice chair) without having to pay a premium?

I wrote a review a month or two back on a small collapsible chair which was extremely comfortable if not a little small for me (besides my lad loved it so much he pinched it off me) so I started looking for something a little bigger and I couldn't believe the prices of some of the carp fishing chairs.

When I had been looking for a decent table and found the Andes one that I reviewed in last month's magazine, I also noticed that they had a rather comfy and nice looking folding "moon chair" who's black and grey colouring just stood out to me. (<https://www.andescamping.co.uk/98379-andes-camping-folding-moon-chair-cup-holder-back-pocket.html>)





Reviews

The chair has a nice sturdy heavy duty steel frame and the seat itself is nice and padded and has a pocket on the rear for storage as well as a small pocket on the side which is ideal for a can or bottle of pop to keep it nice and handy.

It folds down quite compact and comes with a nice carry bag to store it in, weighing only 5.2kg it is nice and light as well.

I am extremely impressed with this seriously comfy chair, you can sit in for hours and it is also very easy to get out of, it literally puts up and puts down in seconds and the seat material is made from strong 600D polyester which is designed to last.

Due to the design of the chair this will fit very easily inside the bivvies and brollies that have the low profile configuration.

You can also follow Andes Camping on their social media channels www.facebook.com/AndesProducts and www.instagram.com/andescampingofficial





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Catch Reports

Featuring -

D.T. Baits
Castaway PVA
Deception Angling
Nutrabaits

Plus all of your catches !!!



Dave Tozer with the lady of the lake from his latest venue, the biggest in there right now, and she's looking good at 35lb 14oz.

Tom Simcox

Caught using 12 mm scopex squid popped up on a trusty multi rig drop in the side half a wrap style with a handful of flake scopex squid



Sam Frankham

29lb - caught on a armoured d-rig with a Jungle Mix Wafter. This was the biggest of 3 on this session. All fish came from a small back channel with the rigs carefully placed underneath an overhanging tree.

Samuel



First UK Caught Carp...

Meet Samuel... a young but accomplished Carp Angler from France....

A few weeks back he was visiting family over here in the UK, some of whom happened to be my neighbours and as he is a mad keen Carp Angler, he called round to have look at my Carp Gear and the Carp in my pond....

A last minute decision was to see if he could catch a UK Carp (not from my pond..!) and we had a couple of hours to see what we could do... so we headed to a small local fishery...

...as the pictures show, he landed a few (five in total) in just a couple of hours fishing using my Nash Tackle Black Ops Sawn-Offs. He opted for a 'Ronnie' Rig and a Dynamite Baits Wafter with a few handfuls of 12mm Dynamite Baits 'Complex-T' "Bouillette" ..!

Samuel

Although not big and nowhere near his French PB of 19lb, he was very happy to land his first Carp from the UK... hopefully, we will meet up I when I am back over the Channel as he lives in the Loire Valley region, where there is some spectacular Carping to be had and he can help me catch a few of those French Biggies I love to chase....!!!

... and in case you were wondering, his Grandad, who moved from Coventry to France many years is ago, is a die-hard Coventry City Football fan... Poor Lad...!

Bravo jeune homme.

Bonnes compétences en pêche à la carpe...

J'espère que nous pourrons pêcher ensemble en France ?

All the best, Mark Carper

@mark_carper257 / @talkingcarp.magazine





Above - Andrea Iaconianni - 3x BFM Hard Hookers

Below - Cameron Dodds - Pegasus Lakes - trigger and pineapple snowman rig - 43lb 8oz common





Above - Andrea Iaconianni - 44,75 LB

Below - Shaun Garfoot - 39.04 - Trigga





Adrian Spooner

Our newest team member Adrian Spooner put our newest product the Take 4 pop ups through its paces on a recent session. Resulting in this wicked looking ghostie.



Darren Wallace

Darren managed to winkle out a rare visitor to the bank in the form of a fish known as "Chantelle". Over a sporadic period of captures Darren had a number of cracking fish this being the pick of the bunch using Supa fruit.





Matthew Iremonger

Matthew had to wait patiently for a good few hours watching fish drift in over his spot until this 37lbs 8oz mirror slipped up finding the Fish blood and Orange to tempting to pass up.



Team member Tom Hussey managed this old stunner from an insane 102 acre pit recently.

Having located a good number of carp he placed all three rods on the likely spot utilising our N-blend range with whole and chopped boilies, DNA liquid and matching pop ups. He had to wait until the following morning before he got up close and personal with this special one. Well worth the wait.



Castaway PVA

Ben Palmer



Derek 'The Don' Ritchie



Castaway PVA

Derek 'The Don' Ritchie



Derek 'The Don' Ritchie



Castaway PVA

Simon Harbottle



Damian Wheway



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Josh Banks




Simon Harbottle



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Thankyou Matt and Tracie



Le Lees Carp Fishery

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Thanks for reading

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

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

'The Talking Carp Team'

Brian Dixon

Mark Faulkner

Dave Harnick Snr

Mark Galli



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

They feed sooner, harder and longer when it's in the water massively increasing the chance of a pick up. I literally would not fish without it now. Look out for Thinking Tackle On Demand at Embryo Broom this summer, I smash the lake and have this mega mirror called 'Bullion' all using the Smart Liquid!"

- DANNY FAIRBRASS

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