



*Talking
Carp*
Magazine

Issue 63
May 2021



200+ page issue -

We have a chat with Henry Lennon plus...

Julian Cudiff, Scott Grant, Andy Murray and more

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Hello... and welcome to issue 63.

This month we are again very proud to bring you another jam packed, cover to cover, carp reading bonanza!

Spring is well and truly upon us now, even if we are seeing some bizarre weather conditions! The carp are waking up though, and the catch reports we are seeing across social media have exploded with some fantastic captures for some and so many personal bests getting broken this year too. Fingers crossed it continues!

So, what will you find inside this months issue... we have an interview with a certain Henry Lennon from the Nash stable, Jules continues his Lockdown Lessons, we catch up with Barrie Scholes after his long long break away from carp fishing and he tells us how he's finding the changes, Charlotte Gladdis joins us in this issue and talks about lessons learned, and Wies Ennekens continues his Belgian adventures.

Add all that to the usual mix of Geezer, Andy Murray, Karl Brandreth, Dave Locke, Matty Allen, Richard Handel and Rob Gainer plus so much more!! You lucky readers really have a months worth of reading at your fingertips.

We have reviews and catch reports galore too....

But don't let that stop you sending your reports in aswell.

Everyone is welcome here. Simply go to the website www.talkingcarp.co.uk and hit the "upload your catches" button

All the best... have a great month.

Email us at the usual address :-

brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk

mark@talkingcarp.co.uk

Team Talking Carp

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

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**Lockdown
Lessons...
Part Two**
by Julian
Cundiff

Hopefully last month's Talking Carp will have given you an idea of my mindset when it comes to carp fishing, and probably life in general so to conclude the Lockdown Lessons here are the final five it taught me. Thankfully angling is pretty much back to normal now and although we are being asked to minimise travel we can night fish, tackle shops are open, and fisheries are not checking your home address for compliance (well done Linear I applaud your stance during lockdown). For me allowing nights is no big deal as being retired from full time work at court means I can pick and choose



my times wisely... well as wisely as I can. Before I retired I would often just do nights for the sake of going fishing as if I did not do midweek nights I would end up not being able to fish at all. Nowadays I do them if I think they are going to produce either from my own knowledge or watching what success others are having. The lessons I've learnt I'm continuing to apply and hopefully will stay with me whether we lockdown again or

not. Right let's get lessons six through ten up people.

6. Prepping spots works. I'm not a big fan of using lots of bait in the cold as I know that on all, but the most overstocked

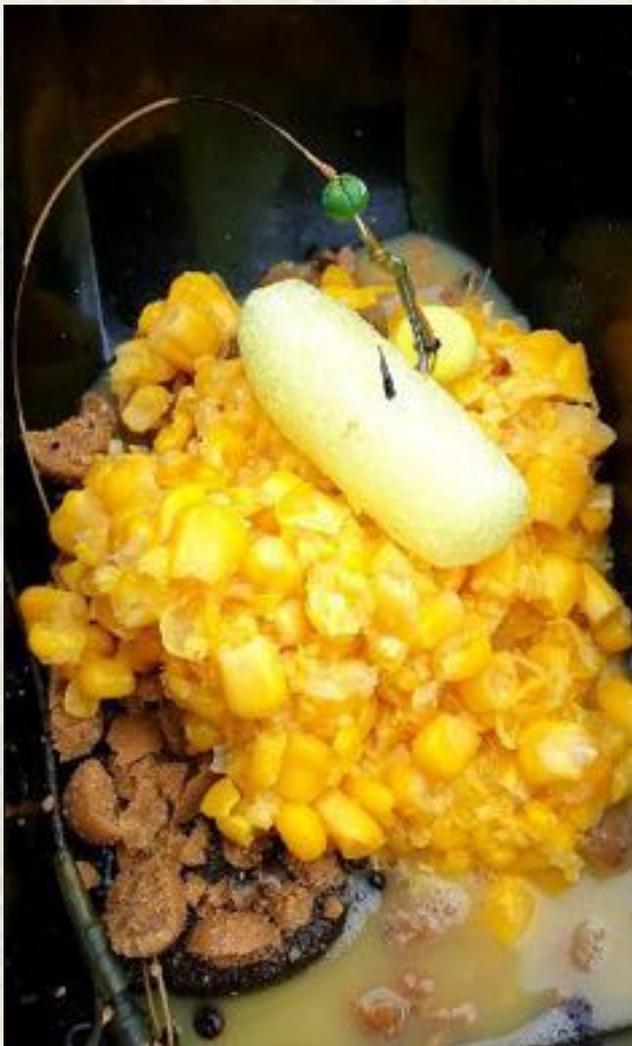
/ prolific waters not only is it pointless but also detrimental to your chances of success and in some cases the carps health. However, what I did find is that providing you found where the fish were and where they were prepared to pick up bait a small amount in that area on a regular basis made them a lot more catchable. I'd often fish stringers, single baits or mesh bags at the most when the rods were out but bait up when I left

and once or twice midweek too. When I was fishing the same water twice or thrice then baiting up as I left was perfect. Massive edge and where possible I will be applying this spring onwards.

7. Sweetcorn rules. I can still remember that in the seventies sweetcorn revolutionised my tench fishing in much the same way that boilies did for my carp fishing in the eighties and beyond.....and then

I forgot about it.... duhhhhh. This winter after talking with a few anglers whose cold water prowess I trust I decided that when fishing over feed the only bait I'd fish over in quantity was sweetcorn and I was not disappointed!

As I said previously I tend not to fish over bait in the cold but corn, or should I say liquidised corn was very effective. Even on my short two to four hour sessions I was happy to fish over half to a kilo of liquidised corn as I felt it tended to prompt them into feeding outside of the normal recognised bite times. I'd stick the corn in the blender an hour before I went and then take it down in a small bait bucket. A little tip when liquidising corn is to add some warm water to the mix before you blend. It stops it clogging up and you can really get a frothy milk shake consistency out of it. I also found through trial and error that I got quicker bites



Sweetcorn was great, and even more effective when I used it on it's own

And clean. A rough winter for biking with the poor road conditions. It kept me motivated to fish



using corn on its own not by adding boilie crumb, pellets, chops etc. A tiny yellow pineapple pop up on a low slung multi rig and bingo. I'd put it out via a Bushwhacker Baiting Pole or small / medium Spomb.

8. Making best use of my time kept me focused. Being retired and Roz still working meant that in reality I could go carp fishing as much as I wanted, whenever I wanted

during lockdown. However, the winter to spring was pretty crap weather wise and round here we had snow, ice, rain, floods, gales and very little in the way of consistent conditions. I fish better when I really want to be there not just turning up, going through the motions and almost boring them out zzzzzzzzz... Once I'd found

out which waters fished best in certain conditions and more importantly when bite time was I ended up fishing more individual sessions a week but for a lot less hours than I could do. It would not be unusual for me to fish four times a week but totaling less than twenty four hours of fishing time. This gave me time at home for writing, housework, doing the autobiography,



Making the best use of my time. Mesh bags by the dozen

I'd bait up when I left with 6 to 8 pouchfulls of Scopex Squid



You can see the spots I baited in the reeds... Polished clean!



binging on Netflix (Narcos, Narcos Mexico, Queen of The South, Ozark and White Lines) and bike riding. When it came to getting the rods out I was super motivated and confident and know that I fished well TBH. Over one hundred carp from five different waters all on short sessions. I may fish more from May onwards of course but I will certainly be picking and choosing my waters and timing accordingly.

9. Cold water carp fishing sucks!. Yes I know some people rave about it (yet few of them go regularly from my observations...) Although I do go a lot in the colder months give me late April to



A bite within minutes over corn



First night of 2021 paid off.

should that be month I guess? However, 'Carp Fever' means I can't just not go and even just a week between sessions has always made me jittery. What it has taught me is that in the golden months milk it as sooner rather than later those layers will be going on, the Skeetex will be required, and I will be huddled under my brolly. Once I find out the patterns on my new syndicates then nothing will be too much trouble.....I need to move to Grand Canaria I think!!!

10. I love carp fishing.... which is not always carp catching. From the outside looking in I guess my life looks pretty

blessed....and in many ways it is. However just like all of you reading Talking Carp life is just as many downs as ups at times. Losing my dad in December was awful but it's something we all have to deal with if we are to outlive our parents (as they'd want us to).

Just like you as I get older health issues crop up, friends and families have issues and the world at times is a ****y place... and carp fishing is just a reflection of that too. However what lockdown three taught me was that going carp fishing is my escape, my safe place.

When on the bank trying my best as long as I'm alone I can



I don't have to catch but when i do it is nice when they are this big



Rain rain rain. Give me May anytime

park the world and live in my little bubble for however many hours I am there. I don't even need to catch I just need to know I've given it my best shot. I often think to myself when the ****

hits the fan ' Stop the world I just want to go carp fishing ' Probably of all the lessons I've learnt this has been the most important. Not follower numbers, books written, awards or even carp caught

but realising why it is so important to me.

Have a great summer everyone.

Jules



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Media, Marketing and All Things Nash....



**A Chat with Henry Lennon
by Mark Carper**

A chat with..... Henry Lennon

For those die-hard Nash Fans, Henry will be well known to you, one of those 'Nash Lads' that Mr. Kevin Nash and Mr. Alan Blair seem to have a habit of spotting for their dynamic enthusiasm, passion for the role and 'Acting Ability' on Camera... for those that are not so 'Nash Orientated' you may well know his voice better than his face...!!

Henry Lennon has been in numerous Nash Videos, Live Streams, Pod Casts, Product Adverts and he is also responsible for several 'Voice Overs' spanning the last two and half years...

I managed to catch up with Henry while he was "working from the bankside" at Nash Royston Lakes, one of Henrys' favoured venues and one that he has been pretty successful on too.

Here's what he had to say....

TC: Henry, welcome to the pages of Talking Carp Magazine for the first time and thanks for taking the time out from your 'erm "busy work schedule" to answer some of my questions. So for starters, let me ask you a couple of obvious ones;

What is it you currently do for Nash Group PLC actually do...?

...and...

How have the 'Lockdowns' affected your job?

HL: Hi Mark, firstly, thank you for having me on for the mag! Currently, I work at Nash as a Marketing Coordinator. My role has changed massively since I first began two and a half years ago as a

Social Media Assistant and despite the long hours and stressful moments we sometimes experience, I have loved every second of it!

Lockdown has made my role far more busy! As more people have entered the sport and due to the ever-growing increase in the digital presence within the carp fishing scene, the demand for the responsibilities of my role have increased also. In addition to this, work outside of my 'normal' role has also grown, such as filming and actual fishing-related work. Obviously, I am a huge fan of the growth of these latter two!

In terms of an actual working environment, the ability to work remotely has been a huge bonus. Thankfully, many of the lakes I fish have full 4G service, so I do tend to get a few bankside office days in, such as right now at Nash Lakes – Royston!

TC: So, going back two and half years what was your initial role...?

HL: I started as a Social Media Assistant. Basically, to help out Alfie Willingale by dealing with the public relations part of



social media in terms of messaging and comment replies. I slowly took on more responsibilities within the social media department, such as content curation and scheduling, and then into the marketing department with the management of the Promotional Team and working with Alfie, Dan and Alan to plan full marketing campaigns and overall strategy. The actual ins-and-out of the job give me a lot of pleasure, not just because of their close-relation to fishing!

TC: What was your initial attraction to the role, was it purely to work for Nash... ?

HL: Pretty much, although less for the specific brand and more for the fact that it was for a job within the fishing industry. I love fishing and I was always curious to see what it would be like to work within the industry, so when this job came up, I just decided to apply.

TC: So, the 'Fishing' aspect was a bigger attraction to the role... ?



HL: Well, yes, to be honest – it was the only attraction! I wasn't going to apply to be a Social Media Assistant in any other industry!

It wasn't the fact that I thought I was going to get to go fishing loads, but more that I was going to be working within the fishing industry.

TC: Prior to applying to Nash, what were you doing and what qualified you to get the job...?

HL: Prior to working for Nash, I was taking a gap year after studying Economics at the University of Kent. My plan was to work for my Uncle's company for 6-months to earn a bit of money before heading out to Europe for an epic 6-month carp fishing road trip. After this, I was planning to study a Masters in Development Economics at Erasmus University in Rotterdam. However, I ended up getting this job at Nash and I loved it so much that I decided to sack the Masters off!

TC: As you have said, since joining the Nash team your role has changed but what brought that about...?

HL: I think it came about from being passionate, hard-working and doing my work to the best of my ability. Kevin and Alan are very good at spotting these sorts of traits in people and I guess they saw it in me and gave me further responsibilities that I proved I could deal with and



it just grew from there. That is just me guessing, though – if you want the actual answer, you'll have to speak to Nashy and Blair!

TC: I'll trust you on that one as trying to get hold of either of those two is an epic email battle for me...!!

In terms of the role you now do in Marketing the brand, how much 'free reign' do you have on the final content and how do you decide what products to showcase at when... ?

HL: It depends, really. For 'smaller' content, such as imagery, shorter videos, graphics etc, I pretty much have complete free reign, however I will still consult with Alfie at times with this type of content.

However, in terms of the overall marketing strategy, important product videos and longer pieces of video content, this is devised in conjunction with Alan, Alfie and Dan Yeomans – we all play a part in the planning, execution and delivery of this aspect.



TC: With the Pandemic came the end of 'Angling Shows', I think the last one was actually the Northern Angling Show back in February 2020. What effect has this had on Nash and the Marketing you do; did you have to re-think your plans etc... ?

HL: To be honest, this type of marketing is something I have never really been involved with,

besides helping out at them! They were taken care of by Tom Forman and James Massey, our commercial director, and this was back when my roles was more focused solely with social media marketing. In terms of the effect it has had on our marketing, it has simply placed more emphasis on our online and digital marketing, as we can no longer go out and see people at these big events so we need to communicate with them through social media and the internet.

TC: A question I have put to all of the Nash lads is about criticism and in most instances that is easily and quickly morphed into personal abuse for some of the things posted on Social Media and in videos etc. Is the 'potential' of criticism/abuse something you consider before uploading adverts etc or is it just inevitable that not everyone will like it and simply want to make a criticism anyway. How do find the balance and deal with any personal jibes...?

HL: Hahaha this is a good question!

In terms of the brand's content, we have to consider our brand image and our responsibility as a leading brand in an industry where it is important to set the right example because it revolves around the safety and well-being of a wild animal! So, we need to make sure that we never do anything that will cause a risk in this area, as that would be massively



However, if it is something that we have to consider will make people think we are a bunch of chavvy knob-heads who wear Air Maxes and listen to DnB, then we often think “F**ck ‘em!”. You can’t get anywhere by pleasing everyone, even in an industry as niche as carp fishing, so if we do something that isn’t to everyone’s taste then so be it, we don’t lose any sleep over it! Carp fishing is a strange one because it is partaken in by such a varied demographic and another important thing to remember is that carp fishing often seems to lag behind mainstream society due to its reluctance to accept new things. Therefore, you won’t keep everyone happy all the time, especially when you are ‘trail-blazing’ in either product innovation or marketing style, and that’s okay! No one remembers the boring things in life, anyway!



In terms of personal criticism that I get, I just laugh it off. I think if you are going out of your way to criticise someone online because of the way they fish, angle, talk, present themselves etc, like physically go through the process of typing the words, reading them back to yourself, being happy with what you’ve written and then pressing send, you are a bit of a loser, to be honest! It really just makes me laugh that people can get that vexed about

fishing! I mean, what must people on your friends list who don't fish think about you when they see you getting that bitter and angry about fishing?! Come on!

Sometimes, the comments are actually funny. One of my favourite ones I have gotten was someone commenting on a video simply saying, 'Henry's nose is blam.'. Brilliant, really, and he's not wrong – my nose is 'blam'. Simple and effective, great work. Another I had recently was to the Nash account when I was doing a story take-over that said, "Have to unfollow, can't stand that little, foreign, gay twat, Henry!". I'm about 15 stones and 6ft 4, so I'm definitely not little, I'm not foreign and I'm not gay, so pretty sh*t insult that one! He may have been right about the twat part, though!

I think that if you put yourself in the public eye in any way, you are opening yourself up for criticism. You just have to not let it get to you.



TC: Lots of people that take the time and effort to post their Carpy exploits on Social Media get some very harsh and at times extremely abusive comments about what they do, what advice would you give to them... ?

HL: F**ck 'em, do what you want – it's your Social Media!

TC: What a great response and attitude to something that Social Media is plagued by and one that the young stars and let's face it, the future of the sport and industry should take note of. So many people hide behind the word 'Banter' when actually, they are just being abusive and derogatory. I guess some people just lead very sad lives if they feel they need to pass comment in such an unconstructive and negative way...but what do I know, I'm still seeking fame by writing this..HaHaHa...!

But back to the questions....Just for some perspective of your role, one of the recent Nash TV uploads was the "Nash Titan Bivvy Range", which went live on the 26th of March and has had over fourteen thousand views so far....

Obviously, it's your voice on the video but how much input did you have to the finished production and how long did that one video take to put together... ?

HL: So, I was involved in the actual planning of the marketing campaign and coming up with the pieces of content we needed for



that campaign, of which the product video was one such piece of content. The actual execution was all Dan Yeomans and his media team, I just sat in the podcast studio and read out the voice over. Alfie and I then organised the scheduling for this video and other supplementary pieces of content.

TC: What does a typical week “at work” consist of for you...?

HL: There is no such thing as typical, to be honest! Yesterday, I came back from a 10-day shoot across the UK. I’ll be working at home for a couple of days before going on another 4-day shoot next week. After that, I will be bouncing between my home in Leicester and the office in Essex, carrying out my ‘normal’ job role as well as going out for shorter shoots, meeting up with consultants, and even jumping in the lakes and helping out Dean Hillings, our estates manager, should he need it! (which he often does, and he often selects me as the ‘lucky’ individual to help him!).



TC: How much time do you spend away from home, and, what’s it really like when you have to go on a Road trip with Mr. Blair...does the man ever sleep...and do you...??!!

HL: I probably spend 2-4 nights a week at home, depending on how much personal fishing I do or how busy work is. Right now, I am a man with very little in terms of responsibilities outside of work, so I have no qualms about doing it. I love my work and put as much of my time into it as possible.

Although it may seem like the best thing in the world to some people, fishing with Blair is a nightmare! That may be an overexaggerating but put it like this – he wouldn't be my first choice of fishing partner! He is constantly on the move, can survive off about 3-hours sleep a week and can't sit still. He also is a selfish angler – I'm sure he won't mind me saying that as he probably would say it about himself and due to the nature of angling, if you want to succeed then you have to be! I probably am as well, in all honesty! It's not like he gets jealous of your captures or anything like that, but he will do everything he can to catch fish, and if that means sneaking a rod into your water or not letting you onto the fact that he has just seen a show then so be it!

Maybe selfish is the wrong word, as I don't mean it in a negative way. Ruthless, maybe? I don't know. But Oli Davies sums it up quite well



– in your personal fishing, you don't want to be fishing against other good anglers, because they are on it and are looking to take the same limited opportunities to catch as you. And Alan is basically the best I have

ever fished with, so it means that he will take more opportunities before I can take them than anyone else that I have ever fished with.

I compare it to one of good friends from Uni who I played rugby with – I use to hate doing weight training with him, as he will absolutely give me a beating. However, I would have always come away from the session having learnt something and being better for it. I think that same about fishing with Alan – during the session, it may seem like you are really being put through the ringer, but you look back after and really appreciate it and know you are a better angler because of it. Besides from the actual fishing aspect, Alan is pretty jovial and always brings the best food, coffee, drink on the bank as he doesn't do anything by half-measures, so he is a great angling/road trip partner in that aspect!

TC: I have interviewed Alfie and Dan about their roles at Nash and you have mentioned them a few times here, how much of what you do links with theirs and vice versa... ?

HL: Massively. I would say that 80-90% of my work is intertwined with them in some way. It's fine with Alfie, but Dan is a bit of a dick and massively incompetent, so it can be testing at times when it comes to that Shane MacGowan-looking wasteman!

TC: Over the time you have been with Nash, what's changed the most... ?

HL: Physically, the offices! The state of them when I first joined did not reflect the status of Nash as one of the industry's leading brands! However, thanks to some TLC and shoddy redecorating from myself and the rest of the boys in the office, they now look pretty presentable!

I would say that the ever-growing importance of the digital landscape is something that continues to surprise me, despite the fact that I joined the social media department in the first place! It's just crazy! That and the number of new people entering the sport and its creeping popularity into the mainstream is something that is truly wonderful to see, in my opinion, despite how busy it is making the bankside!

TC: Do you have any influence on Product Development and Design... ?

HL: Next to none! This is all Mike Wilson, Nashy and Alan. Besides testing the odd product, I have nothing to do with this.

TC: So, what about you, how do you relax away from Nash... Do you go on Social Media...?

HL: In all honestly, I never really feel 'away' from Nash and fishing, and I wouldn't have it any other way! I used to play loads of sport, particularly rugby, but a bunch of injuries means that I can hardly run at the minute, so I don't do this anymore, although I do still weight train every now and then. I am a season ticket holder at Derby County and meet up with mates outside of fishing when I get the chance. Besides from this, I am a bit of a loser and my life pretty much revolves around fishing!

TC:... and fishing, how much do you do as a 'Nash' employee and how much for yourself... and is your own fishing all about Carp, I understand you have a wide and varied fishing past...?

HL: This depends, and my personal fishing does take more and more of a hit with the more work that I take on, not that I am complaining much. My personal fishing won't really start until the beginning of May this year due to work commitments, but I have a good late-Spring to mid-Autumn planned on two different waters up Leicester-way and a couple of mini-campaigns planned in Essex, particularly on the River Chelmer this year. Work then really hots up in mid-autumn and I think I'll be f**cking off winter carping this year, especially Jan to mid-March. I have come to learn that this is far better things to be focusing your time on in winter and it allows me to have a go for the other species I like to fish for, such as chub, pike and perch. I also really got into my dace fishing at the back end of this past winter, basically because they are easy to catch on trotted maggot and I find it incredibly relaxing and satisfying to do this style of angling! I may give that a proper go this winter and try and catch a massive dace – a lame target, I know!

TC: **With the role you have with the company, and the fact you have appeared 'on screen' so to speak, do you see yourself as 'famous' or a 'celebrity' angler and do you get recognised often...?**

HL: Hahaha I really wouldn't see myself as famous! I have been recognised a few times and really appreciate it, to be honest, although I find it massively surprising. It is just nice to know that people have enjoyed your work enough to take it onboard to the point of recognising you in public. My favourite encounter was during a family walk next to canal on Boxing Day and two really young lads, maybe 13-14, who were pike fishing recognised me and they seemed so happy to have seen me. It was really heart-warming to see their pure passion and obsession for all things fishing and took me back to how I was at their age.

TC: What advice do you have for the younger anglers that would like to get into a role similar to yours, do they need to concentrate more on their school work, fishing, media/technology etc...?

HL: I would say to remember that the actual 'fishing' side of things is probably the least important aspect. You need to offer something that would benefit a business. Be intelligent, hard-working, passionate and get yourself a good education, most importantly! Quality English skills are so important for pretty much any role, so don't slack off in this area. Videography is probably the most desired skill in the industry at present, so if you really want to get a job in the industry, throw yourself into learning about cameras, filming, editing etc.

TC: ...and one of 'the' most common questions that you must get asked....what about those that are looking for Sponsored Angler or Consultant Role,...what would you offer to them in terms of achieving their aim...?

HL: This really is the most commonly asked question! Basically, it is on three things; the ability to take a good picture, the ability to influence others and the ability to consistently catch good carp – it is probably in order like that in terms of importance, too! I would say that your Instagram is your angling CV and if I ever come across a profile that impresses me, I am looking at offering them a place on the Promotional Team. Invest in a decent camera and learn how to use a camera, learn how to get good self-takes, catch carp and the rest will come! Other than that, don't go around begging sponsorships and things like that, just focus on the areas of importance and the rest will come – trust me when I say we are constantly looking so we will find you if you are right for the part!

TC: One last thing, explain to me again about not using a 'Bait Swivel' on the Hook for your Spinner Rig... ..

HL: Hahaha don't get me started on this! The boys in the office will be rolling their eyes as they read this! Basically, it stems from my obsession with rig mechanics when I was 17-19 years old – nowadays, I know that rigs are one of the least important components in being a successful angler when compared to bait and location – just use a bloody sharp hook and don't overcomplicate your rig!

However, 'back in the day', I used to think that rigs were the be all and end all, to the point where I would never use a bait swivel. To be honest, I would still never use one now, so maybe I am still just as paranoid now as I was back then! My thinking was that due to the swivel acting as an anchor point that moved/rotated, when the carp



exerted force on the rig and hookbait by sucking it in when it fed, some of that force would be transferred to the swivel and result in the bait rotating. This overall force exerted by the carp would not go to the hook alone, which is what you want. You want all the force going to the hook to increase the amount of movement and rotation you get on the hook to increase the chances that it will catch hold on some flesh in the fish's mouth. Basically, I think that a bait swivel will negate some of the rotation of the actual hook and reduce your chances of hooking them - by how much, I don't know, it is probably so minimal that it would make the difference in hooking an extra carp for every 10,000 that sucked in your hookbait. However, that extra carp may just be a special one...

TC: zzzzzzz... Sorry, have you finished... ?HaHaHa.....
Henry, it's been a pleasure talking with you and thank you for taking the time to do this interview and giving a great honest and open insight to your role at Nash Tackle and I hope you have inspired the next generation of 'Carp Anglers', although, according to some critics, Nash already "let the kids run the business...!"

I've asked Jules, Oli, Alfie, Dan and even Mr. Blair himself about my "Consultant-Sponsored Angler 'Free Stuff' Role" at Nash Tackle PLC but they all seem to have forgotten to send me the form...can you sort it for me 'mate' ...!!!

...and let 'Mikey' Wilson know, he can run but he cannot hide, he can ignore my emails and messages but... .. "I'm am definitely coming for him next...!"

Quick Fire' Questions....

which do you prefer... Commons or Mirrors...?

I prefer mirrors, but it seems to be the cricket bat commons that prefer me!

Day Sessions or Overnights or Longer Sessions...?

Longer sessions!

Small or Big Waters...?

Either. Small in the UK, big in Europe.

Remote Locations or Full Facilities...?

Remote – less angling pressure, muggier carp!

UK or Outside... (If outside, name the country)

Outside – the Netherlands!

Spring / Summer / Autumn / Winter fishing...?

Spring

Bottom or Surface...?

Surface

Close-In or Long Range...?

Close-In

If you could only fish one more session, where would it be...?

My Swiss Lake from EB6 with the original 9 carp all in there.

What was the most memorable fish you caught and why?

A 33lb mirror from an overgrown, forgotten about Essex Club Lake. My first real target fish, my first real campaign and one of my first meaningful UK captures.

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22nd & 23rd MAY 2021

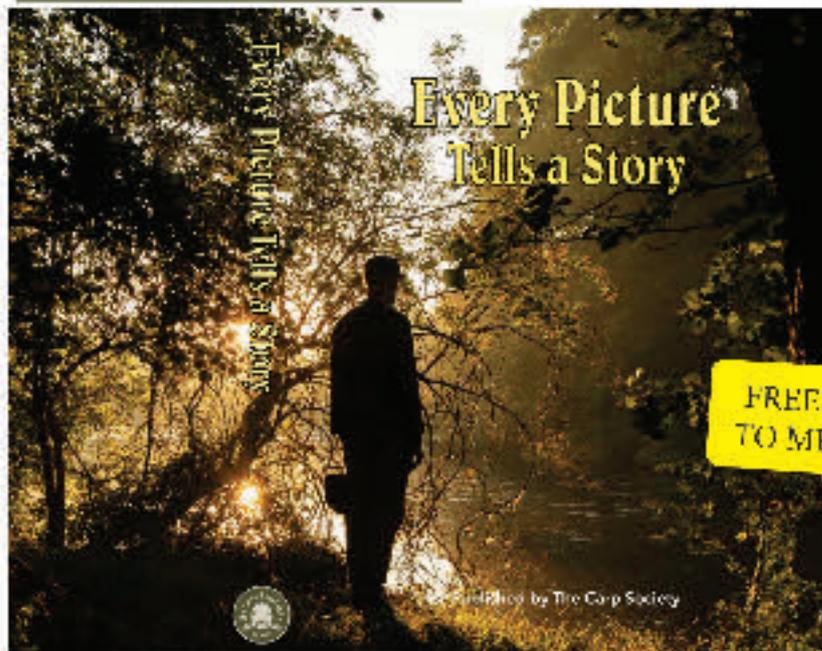
at Horseshoe Lake

A special event at Horseshoe Lake, celebrating 40 years, remembering special people and launching our new book 'Every Picture Tells a Story'
An event not to be missed!

Main Events

- Remembrance of missed Life members
- Launch & signing of 'Every Picture Tells a Story' (Sat on y) & Carp Fisher issue 2
- Looking back over 40 years of the Society, Film and slide show
- Auction & Raffle (Sat only)
- Trade stands

MORE DETAILS
COMING SOON!



FREE ENTRY
TO MEMBERS



Memories of an average Carper
Part 2....



By Dave Locke

I had thoroughly enjoyed my carp fishing in Kent, I had caught from a numerous amount of different waters and even upped my PB to 24lb 6oz from Fordwich, then totally unexpected we got an offer from the landlord of our flat, It was just after Christmas and he offered us a substantial amount of money if we gave up our tenancy to the flat. The only problem was we had to be out by mid February, apparently he had sold the whole building with the clause that it had to be empty.

We searched around the area for a suitable replacement dwelling but there wasn't much available and then I was offered a large 52foot ex naval harbour launch very cheaply which was moored in Essex.

Having spent a bit of time living on a boat it seemed a logical step to buy the boat and convert in to a houseboat. Supposedly a simple plan was to move over to Essex, build ourself a home and then sort out where we were going to moor the boat. It didn't work out like that at all ! By the time we had got a bit sorted our eldest boy was settled in a school and I was offered a good job managing a petrol garage.

The next year was spent with no

spare time at all ,when I wasn't working at the garage, I'd be working on the boat.

A whole year went by without me doing any fishing at all. One of the benefits of working in the garage was I met a lot of people and in a chance conversation with a chap one day he mentioned that he was secretary of a angling club which turned out to be just a couple of miles from where our boat was moored.

The next week was spent removing the dust and dirt of my fishing gear and putting new line on the reels.

The lake was a pretty place around 7 acres but after a few chats with some regulars I was told most of the carp were between 6 and 10lb with the biggest being 14lb. At least I had somewhere to pop out and catch a few when I had time, it was a very easy lake and most spare evenings I could pop to there and normally catch 6 or 7 carp so it kept me happy for a little while. Then another chat with a different chap got me into a place very near my place of work, a small lake that was very overstocked but the carp went up to nearly 20lb if you could get past all the tiny little stocked carp



Even my wife came with me and caught loads of tiny carp.

The boat was getting nice and comfortable now so I could afford a bit of time to spend looking for somewhere to fish that suited me a bit better than the runs waters. Yet again while chatting to a chap at the garage I was told about a small gravel pit that only the pit workers were allowed to fish, a little bit of persuasive begging and I was given a name badge and directions to the pit. It's not what you know it's who you know. My first trip to the gravel pit really did my head in as always the first thing I do on a new lake is spend a few hours with the marker rod, but this place had the weirdest bottom to any lake I have seen before or since .I cast out and

found 3 feet of water then cast just 6feet to either side and it was 8 to 10 feet deep, It was like this all over the lake and must have resembled an egg box when it was empty. I found one area that was behind a small island that was flat so I concentrated my efforts on that area, I had carp from there to just over 20lb and quite

a few around the 16 to 18lb mark, they were lovely carp that had never seen a hook before. One nice sunny day I finished work early and decided to pop up to the egg box for the night. My eldest son Arron whom had not been fishing with me before out of the blue asked if he could come with me. Strangley the carp didn't seem to be up for a bit of grub, then just after dark the nice warm sunny day turned into pouring freezing cold rain and the carp started feeding. Even though Arron got soaked he loved fishing with me and the first time soaking didn't put him off, he's still as keen as me. Unfortunately my fishing on the egg box only lasted a year because the workings closed and the carp were sold off to a large club,

I had been doing a lot of odd jobs for the boatyard where we were moored, fitting out boats and repair work. This was getting more and more by the week and I was getting much better money than I was for working at the garage, so I decided to start my own business doing boat repairs and deliveries.

Of course this had nothing to do with the fact that if I worked for myself I could have more time of to go fishing....cough cough.

The runs water near home was ok but I needed something that was more challenging. As luck would have it I was offered a winter ticket on a syndicate half an hours drive from home. It was a square reservoir type lake around 12 acres, with a few gravel bars running west to east and a couple of large lily beds.

My first session was at the start of November and I went with a mate called Pete who had a full years ticket on there and had been quite successful, landing a lot of nice 20s and even one of the lakes two 30s at 34lb .The first night Pete landed a nice mirror about 26lb and I caught

a bream.

Mid morning I was just about to recast when I saw a large swirl at roughly 130 yards out. At the time I was using my 13 foot 6 inch tournament casting Titan rods so 130yards was an easy cast for me. The lead landed smack bang in the middle of the vanishing swirl.

After just 5 minutes the rod went into melt down, it really belted of and as I pulled into the carp I knew immediately it was a really good one, there just wasn't any stopping it.

Ten minutes into the fight and I had managed to get the very unhelpful carp within 20 foot of the bank and it just kept plugging up and down the margins for what seemed like hours. Suddenly the carp turned towards me and ran straight into a large overhanging bush to my right, We could see the carp just under the surface about 4 foot out trapped by the strong 25lb shock leader I was using. There was nothing else for it, I handed Pete the rod took of my trousers and got into the lake. luckily it was only 4 foot deep so I waded around to the front of the bush and felt my way down the line to the carps mouth, I tried to unhook

it in the water with no success so I bent down and bit through the line, not a easy task with 25lb line, I was now holding the carp on a short handline when I realized I was an idiot and should have taken my landing net with me. I bent down put both my hands under the carp and lifted it clear of the bush and the water then slowly started to carry the carp back to the swim. I looked up and saw Pete's face, he looked totally amazed. 4 foot from the bank and Pete picked up my landing net just as the carp started to flap and struggle in my arms, a couple of hard flaps and that was it with a big splash the carp had escaped.

Pete just stood for a while as I got out if the lake then he told me that the escaped carp was one of the thirty's that comes out around 38lb. Up until this time I hadn't caught a thirty.

Pete said that I still caught it but I couldn't allow my mind to accept this as the carp never made it to the bank. I was so pee'd off I packed up and went home.

A couple of weeks later we were there for another couple of nights and I made up for my lost biggy. I had 5 carp all over 20lb although

none of them beat my 24lb 6 oz PB.

A bit of a follow up to this bit is the next spring it was my last session on the winter ticket and as we walked to our swims we saw a couple of anglers taking photos of a carp, it was the 38 that I'd lost in November weighing 38lb 12ozs.

Most boat delivery's and repairs seem to take place from the end of March to the end of October which suited me perfect. Local runs water in the summer evenings and the winter syndicate in eeerrr the winter lol.

I did well on the syndicate although I never again hooked one of the thirty's and only managed to equal my 24lb PB.

This is how my fishing continued for a lot of years, I just didn't have time to fish many sessions in the summer I had to make do with evening and the occasional weekend days until winter of course.

In 2001 I was told about a newly opened water that was a limited membership with a good stock of doubles and a few high 20s that had been stocked the years before.

I phone the chap in charge and as it turned out I knew him as I had done repairs to his boat. We arranged to meet and he showed me around a couple of small waters and told me the biggest in there was a 28lb 8oz with a few other 20s as back ups, So I joined. My first session resulted in 3 carp the biggest being around 11lb, so not really any improvement on my local runs water.

A few more sessions and I had caught nothing bigger than 13lb, the strange thing was every person I had met at this lake had told me that the best they had caught from there was 13lb and there was some very good anglers on the water. After a bit of investigation and just asking about it turned out the whole story about the lake being stocked with doubles and twenty's was a complete pack of lies and the fishery manager had just brought 50 x Ç4s from a not very well known carp breeder. So that ended up being not only a complete waste of money but more importantly a waste of my valuable summer

fishing time.

It was back to the local runs water and the winter syndicate lake. Little did I know how things were about to change for me.

The first thing that happened was the winter syndicate lake suffered a take over bid by a couple of very well known carp tackle companies. There was a lot of controversy of this. That resulted in the people that had run the syndicate for years being just thrown out and hardly any of the existing members being allowed to renew their membership, including myself and the other winter ticket holders.

The next thing that happened was



the local runs water for some unknown reason banned the use of boilies. This didn't bother me at first as I just started using chick peas or kidney beans but the following start of their year they banned all beans and peas, So I was now stuck with just one small lake that I hadn't fished for a while or the local day tickets waters.

I had a look around the well known Doggett's lake but it didn't appeal to me at all the other day ticket waters near me are to be honest, dreadful, carp with ripped mouths and absolutely no fish care imposed at all. But then something happened that not only changed my fishing

but my entire life.

I hadn't been feeling well for a few months and I had been to the doctors 3 or 4 times only to be told there was nothing wrong and I was as fit as a fiddle.

One day after I had come home from work I got extreme pains in my stomach and I was rushed to hospital where they found I had a burst intestine and a severely ruptured stomach. So that was it then no more work and classed as disabled, sad I know but now I had a lot more time for my fishing.

Don't miss part 3 next month !!!





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Carp Cogs Podcast



by Matty Allen

Back in 2020, as some of you may be aware, I wanted to start writing some articles regarding my experiences in carp fishing, some positives and negatives around carp fishing and aspects I've found related to carp fishing, that have helped me especially during the first lockdown and the first wave, when I was working on the frontline in the NHS. In writing these articles I not only fulfilled an ambition but found a wonderful outlet in writing.

During this period of time, I was hunting for carp fishing podcasts to listen to during my drives to and from work. While scrolling around on Spotify I came across a new carp fishing podcast called Carp Cogs. I gave it a play and was instantly intrigued, thanks to the cool opening jingle. The podcast involved 2 gentlemen by the names of Reza O'Donnell and Adam Toner. I listened to episode one and two and really enjoyed them. Loads of easy to listen to carp fishing chat and even a little football chat for good measure.

I subsequently joined the Carp Cogs Facebook page to give Reza and Adam some positive feedback and off the back of that I had a couple of really enjoyable, informative conversations with the pair of them regarding fishing, in particularly match fishing of which Adam in particular is very proficient. As I had a match on the horizon, I found the advice really helpful.

Off the back of these conversations Reza and I spoke in reference to me potentially coming on and being the 1st guest on carp cogs for episode 3, to discuss some of the articles that I had written in talking carp.

I jumped at the opportunity as I found that this was a very exciting prospect and I'd always wanted to write an article which I had recently achieved and be on a carp fishing podcast.

Reza and I then proceeded to record my carp fishing podcast and I loved every minute of it.

Reza and I had a great chat in the lead up to the podcast and spent a lot of time just talking about carp fishing and got on very well despite the fact

we're from varying areas of the country. Reza Cambridgeshire and me Surrey.

Shortly after the podcast I recorded with Reza, he announced on the Facebook group for Carp Cogs that unfortunately for varying reasons Adam had to stand down as his cohost.

I messaged Reza offering him my support, as the podcast had just started and I knew that Reza was really passionate about it, so I said if there's anything I can do to help, I would be happy to, particularly as Reza had been so supportive of me and my recent articles and my podcast episode.

If I'm being brutally honest, to my surprise, not long after my offer of support, Reza got in contact with me and asked if I would be interested in being a Co-host on the Carp Cogs podcast.

To say I was blown away and excited would be an understatement, as I discussed earlier in the article I've always wanted to be published, tick Talking Carp, thank you, and now I'm going to be a Co-host of a pod cast. Reza and I sat down that evening and we had a chat chat about podcasts and carp fishing. We instantly built up an instant mutual appreciation and rapport that only carp fishermen would know only too well.

I still find it fascinating that carp fishing as a common topic between two people that have a passion about it can ignite such an in-depth detailed level playing field conversation and that two guys who have never met can get into such a wonderful conversation about carp fishing and before we knew where we were three hours had passed and we had discussed the premise for our first podcast together.

We thought we would give it a go and have a chat and discuss a certain topic and the way of the watercraft, episode four, was born and the following week we recorded it. A very nerve-jangling podcast as all of you will appreciate, watercraft is a very tricky, sometimes subjective topic. I thought we were both very brave to take on this subject. To this date, it currently remains our most listened to podcast. Much to Reza and my shock and awe.

While we're talking about our first podcast together, Reza and I had a conversation and discussed the format of the podcast and we wanted to make sure, particularly Reza, that the podcast could be educational if you have just started carp fishing, of any age, or you are a seasoned experienced carp fisherman, you could take something from our podcasts and we were keen that we made sure that we delivered a specific subject, for example, watercraft, rigs, bait, etc every single episode and we feel that that is unique in comparison to the other podcasts that are available.

We subsequently moved forward and have been in the amazingly privileged position to chat to the most amazing guests.

Episode 5: Winter Wannabes with Richard Handel

Episode 6: A matter of Tactics with Joe Turnbull

Episode 7: Euro Vision with Simon Crow

Episode 8: Christmas Special with Julian Cundiff

Episode 9: Coming to America, with the founder of the American Carp Society, Sean Manning

Episode 10: Magazines Reloaded with Brian Dixon and Mark Faulkner of Talking Carp

Episode 11: Circuit Breaker with Ian Russell

Episode 12: The Rig with Adam Penning

Episode 13: Wind in the Sales with Clive Gibbons.

Episode 14: Single Minded with Mark Holmes

Episode 15: Taking The Bait with Fenton Trewick and Neil Messenger

Episode 16: Logistical Logic with Tim Gray

Episode 17: Matching Minds with Jamie Londors and Billy Flowers

Episode 18: Four Seasons with Adam Penning

And so much more to come....

I feel truly blessed to have chatted with so many first-class Carp anglers and want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped with the Carp Cogs journey.

There are more exciting guests coming and as I write this, Reza and I have just agreed a working relationship with the mighty DT Baits. So up and up for the podcast.

If you fancy chatting with us, giving us a question or a listen, we are on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. The podcast is available on Spotify and through the Apple Podcasts App. All the best

Matty

Heres a couple of the links to find us:-

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/996506614123787/?ref=share>

https://open.spotify.com/show/33g2JKaqiXneC6eEWo8CkS?si=zNjlvYKKT468cmnhbdUbtQ&utm_source=native-share-menu&dl_branch=1



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A scenic view of a lake at sunset or sunrise. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with the sun low on the right side, creating a bright glow. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the trees. In the foreground, there are several bare trees with intricate branch structures. On the left, a wooden structure, possibly a dock or pier, extends into the water. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

In search of Charlies Mate Part Three

by Scott Geezer Grant

After my successful operation I had to rest, but at the back of my mind I just wanted to get back over the Lake. Charlies mate still hadn't made an appearance and its previous track form is it usually comes out in the winter. By the middle of December, I was feeling a lot better and decided to go over the Lake for a few nights. The weather was still quite mild with light winds the pressure was 1002 dropping to 998 as the week progresses. I decided to go back into the deeps the swim that produces in the winter months, and the swim I fished a couple of times previously. Ben was on hand to help me getting all my gear to the swim and getting

set up.

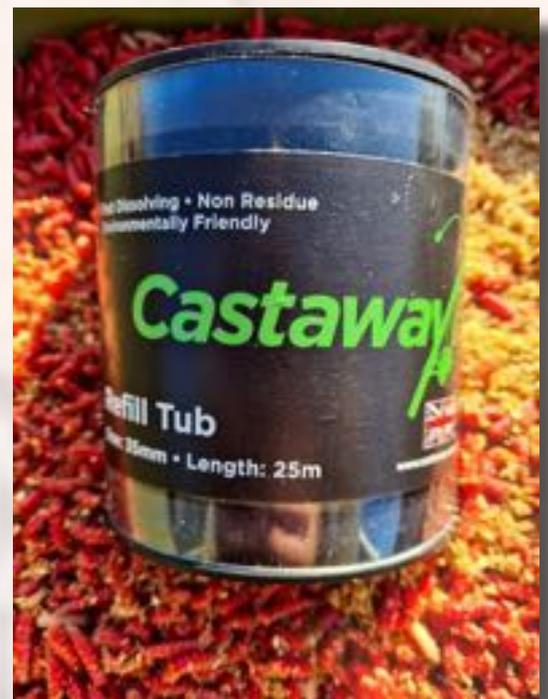
I fished the same GPS locations as I had fished previously. By the time the house and everything was sorted the rods didn't go out until the afternoon.

At 22:00 that night the middle rod produced a 14lb common. This was a great start and hopefully the bigger fish would move in. It didn't take me long to get the rod back on the dance floor.

The rest of the night was quiet, and I woke in the morning just before the sun came up, after sitting there for an hour drinking tea and watching

the water, I finally saw a fish show itself. A few anglers turned up and the lake started to get pretty busy especially as it was midweek. After a quiet day I decided to redo the rods ready for the night.

A couple of hours into darkness and it was time to start preparing my evenings meal. I had not long eaten my dinner and was just laying down





chilling out, when I got a beep on the right-hand rod.

I walked down to the rods and the bobbin had pulled up tight I lifted the rod, and the fish was on after five or so minutes I landed another small common, around the same weight as the previous one.

The rod was sent back out to the spot with a generous amount of bait.

Wednesday morning the wind started to swing round to a strong South/ South easterly. The daytime temperatures started

to drop with the average temperature around 7 degrees, it was a quiet day with no fish showing,

I was asking myself had the fish moved on the wind.

Early evening the rain started to come down I managed to rebait all the rods just before dark and at 21:00 the right-hand rod produced another double figure common, surely the bigger fish have to move in.

Looking at the previous three days all the fish have come between 21:00 and 22:00 at night.

With nothing

else throughout the night, I woke to a lake that looked like a pane of glass, there wasn't a ripple on the water. I sat and watched the water for the next few hours and didn't see a single fish show, I made the decision to pack up and go home and return a few days later, as I was still recovering, and a couple of nights was more than enough for me. I was still popping tramadol like they were smarties!!





which didn't make things any easier. Before I left, I baited the area with a couple of kilos of bait to keep the fish feeding.

I returned to the Dell the following week the forecast was strong South/ South westerly winds with a couple of days of rain and temperatures between 8 and 10 degrees the pressure was currently 997 and was climbing throughout the coming days. After a quick chat to the bailiffs, I decided to go back into the deeps. As we were well into winter, I had brought a gallon of maggots

to give them something a little bit different, maggots can be absolutely deadly in the winter months. No one has been in the deeps since the day I left so hopefully they would have eaten the bait and feel confident in the area.

I fished the same spots as previously but this time the maggot rig went on two rods, these would be fished with a PVA mesh bag of maggots. I was still using crushed boilies and chilli hemp with dead

maggots added to the mix.

With everything set up the rods were sent out to their desired areas; it was now time to sit down and relax. That evening just after



21:00 the middle rod was away, after a few minutes I had a chunky common laying in the net. On the scales the fish went 15lb, not massive but every fish is welcome (especially in winter). I gave Ben a quick call and he came down and done a couple of photos for me.

No more fish graced my net that night, I woke up to the pitter patter of rain on my bivvy, the wind was

still strong and looking out across the Lake I could see that two other anglers had turned up both fishing swims opposite me, (if you can imagine the shape of a triangle and I'm at the top point, and they would be at each of the other points).

The way the Lake is designed both other anglers would be fishing in the same water I was fishing which would surely

put more pressure on the fish. Later that evening with the rods rebaited I sat patiently waiting for my 21:00 o'clock take. This never materialised and I was sure it was down to the pressure of more lines in the area. I decided to do one more night to see if I could snare a fish, I'm here to catch Charlie's mate and that's all that kept me going.

Lo and behold even though I was putting



the effort in I knew deep down inside with the added pressure of more lines the fish would move out. That night I didn't even get a bleep and come next morning I packed up and made my way home. Again, it was another successful trip in a way and the pieces of the puzzle were starting to come together.

Keep on putting the effort in and you will get your dues, well at least that's what I keep telling myself.

The week before Christmas a devastating blow was dealt, one of the long-life members known as "The Coin" was taken from us. Tony was known by everyone, and he caught plenty of the big girls whilst he fished The Dell.

Condolences to his family, he will be sorely missed by everyone, R.I.P. mate I know you will be fishing the big lake in the sky sat next to the Big Man himself.

The following week was Christmas which I spent with my family, every year I try if I can to fish the week between Boxing day and New Year. The weather is usually cold a few weeks before Christmas then we normally have a week

of mild weather which in the past has always produced good fish for me.

This year however the weather was the opposite to what it has been in previous years. It was mild leading up to Christmas then when I checked the weather it stated it was going to be very cold the last week of December!! Even so me and the boys had agreed to fish a few nights from Boxing day onwards, I went





into the bailiffs, Chris went in the G Spot and Danny went into the corner, the other bailiff Ben fished from the caravan swim and Head Bailiff Jake made the bravest move of all and decided to fish the airfield which is at the opposite end of the lake to us.

We spent 4 days at the lake all fishing various methods and not one of us had a bite. We did have a great social though which was topped by a superb Christmas

dinner cooked by Chris. We all cleared our plates and had the choice of customary mince pies with custard for afters or a homemade Victoria sponge by my Mrs. We

ate the lot then sat around like a load of Teletubbies moaning we couldn't move, I'm sure you get the picture.

The evenings were spent sitting round the

fire sharing old stories and having a right laugh. Even though we all wanted to catch fish it was nice just spending time with good people, for me it was more memories made.

As I wasn't back to work until late January after taking 3 weeks leave, I was sure sooner or later Charlies Mate would turn up. I had planned that I would do 3-4 nights a week for the





next 3 weeks, she has to turn up sooner or later.

Then Boris made an announcement stating we were all going into our 3rd lockdown, great!!!! That's put paid to my plans with no night fishing. Personally, I only fish sessions 2 nights minimum and now it was fishing days only it really did deflate me.



The weather turned really cold and to try and get something going fishing only a few hours a day wasn't for me. I decided not to fish at all and have a break from it, I will try again either later in the year or this winter and start the hunt all over again.



I must admit having a break done me the

world of good, I was getting possessed which is not good for homelife or work life as all's you can think about is getting over the lake to catch the one you really want. Sometimes you need to take a step back as fishing can take over your life.

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

www.galaxybaits.co.uk
www.sharptackle.co.uk
www.castaway-pva.co.uk

In the Margin Particles (Facebook)

If you would like more information on The Dell contact Michael Prior on 07768-124462 he will be more than happy to help.

If you live in South Ockendon/Aveley area

give Matt a shout at Ockendon bait & Tackle if you want lovely plump maggots that last a few weeks if stored correctly.
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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



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KISS

by Wies Ennekens



A chapter on certainties and doubts.

In the beginning of April in the year of the lord 2021, a confident 32-years old handsome carp angler overlooks the situation he got himself in. As his glance slowly shifted from left to right, upstream, eagerly trying to spot something out of the ordinary, he wonders what the next step has to be.

In some way he has to accept defeat, a higher power forces him to adapt and find peace with the inevitable.

After having found, what appeared to him, a very good fishing-spot. The authorities announced a premature defeat. He was told, and he knew, that he wasn't allowed to be there with his van. So, he needs to look elsewhere.

You might wonder who this 32-years old handsome carp-angler is? Well hey, it's me of course.

You might also wonder why the prohibition of parking there would stop him.

Many of you probably never spend the night in a van,

prefer to fish out of the bivvy, or maybe a lodge. For me, the van-life is an inseparable part of my fishing. It's not that I don't like the bivvy, or that the lack of comfort, some see it as luxury, frightens me. Been there, done that, will do it again. But not right now, not this year.

My Fanny is a great part of the experience, the adventure that leads me everywhere.

(For all you Britons: Fanny is the name of my van, not whatever else you think she might be.)

After having spent a few months turning my Vivaro into a Campervan, a whole new experience started in 2019. Since I was a young kid, I have spent most of my spare time outdoors. Whether it was



soldiering through small woods, building treehouses, hiking, biking. Most of my childhood has been spent in the open air. Sleeping in tents in summer, staying up late to watch the stars, listening to the approaching rain until I felt that first drop on my forehead. Hours of trying to distinguish certain shapes in the clouds while lying in the meadows. Being able to predict a thunderstorm a few hours before it unleashed hell on earth just by sensing changes in the air. It all gave me an everlasting adoration for nature and the way it evolves, year in year out. The smallest details can make me smile and be overwhelmed about the miracle that happens right in front of our very noses. And yet, the majority of people these days don't even notice this anymore. My 4-year old daughter can be inspired, and truly in love with just a small ladybug. Kneel down just to take a closer look at a particular flower. Spying on birds that just do their thing in the garden. As if God's greatest miracle is happening right in front of her.

So, I assume some part of this adoration must be genetically ingrained into

us, humans. And yet as people get older these wonders become a common thing and are no longer interesting.

But out of the bushes, all dressed in camouflage while pushing a shedload of equipment on a barrow, comes a human species we all know so well. This intruder mostly goes by the name The Fisherman, AKA The Angler. And I tend to believe that this particular human species still enjoys those little prodigious repetitive revolutions every now and then. Although we might not always be fully aware of it happening, we still use the data it provides us to make decisions. Temperature, air-pressure, winds and sunlight. They all work like triggers to predict whether chances are high or low to catch fish.



("Do you see how smoothly I am changing the subject?")

Besides the enormous number of "new" rigs that are pushed down our throats everyday via SM. (That's Social Media, just making sure you stay on the subject.)

I feel like the last year these variables have been given a bit too much airtime. I will not state these are not a factor. But they are not sanctifying. I even know anglers who refuse to go fishing if conditions are not "perfect". Some really have gone crazy. It all starts to feel bit too much like a self-fulfilling prophecy. If you only go fishing when it's nearly full moon, you will only catch fish when it's nearly full moon, right?

"See how I quickly spat out my frustrations about present-day carp-angling and can now resume my story on the Campervan?"

While some of us adore the sight of their bivvy or just the naked stretcher when they wake up. I just love the sensation of my Morning Fanny. (Stay focused Folks).

Yes, she provides me a place to sleep.

Yes, she gives me "luxury".

Yes, I never have to decide which item to leave behind as the barrow is never full to the brim.

Yes, the built-in fridge serves ice-cold beer whenever I feel thirsty.

Yes, I can cook a decent meal when I feel hungry (Or my sleeping beauty can).

Yes, my gas-heater provides warm water when I want to wash my... feet in winter.



Yes, I never have to worry about drained camera/drone/baitboat/smartphone-batteries.
On the other hand

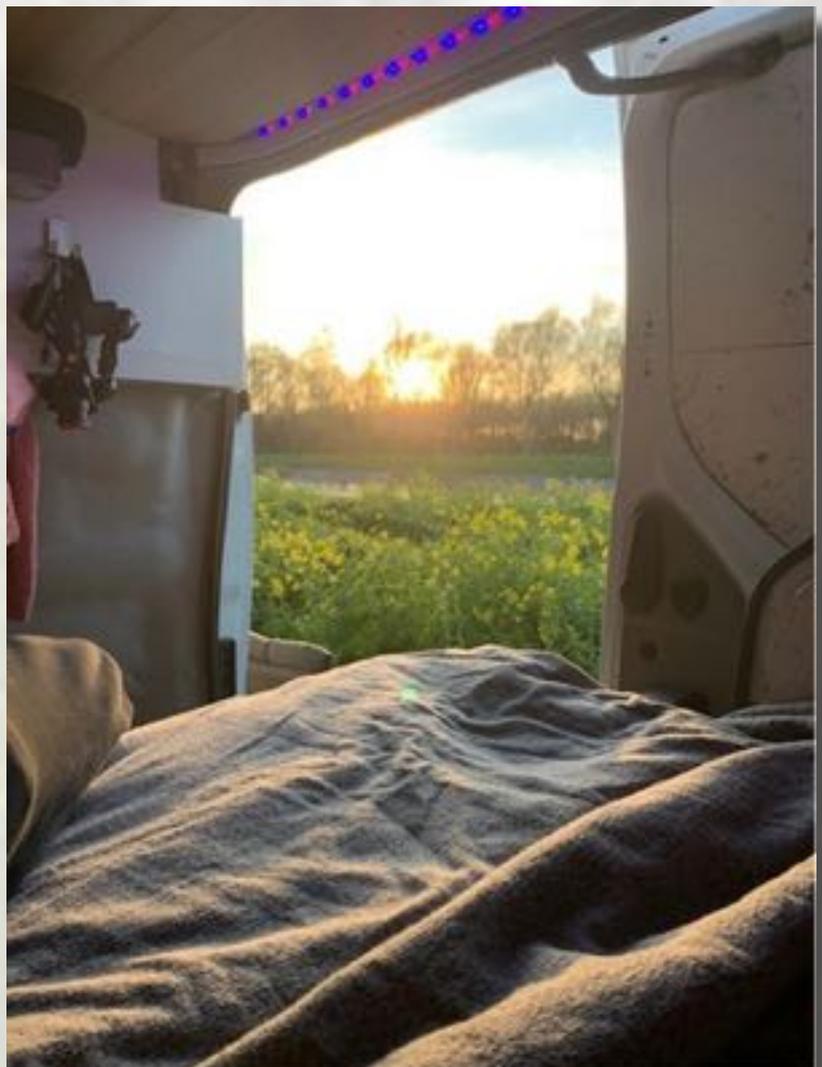
No, she will never give me the same connection to nature as being in my bivvy.
But it comes close because whenever the weather allows I will be outside my van to enjoy the environment I am in. Whether it is a more urban stretch of the canal, or the green banks of the river.

No, it for sure does not make the fishing easier. Being a river and canal angler, 98% of the banks are not (legally) reachable by car. (Which brings us seamlessly back to the first part of this story, see what I did there ;))

The situation on the Leie is far from good. Certainly, in comparison to the Albert Canal, where things look better every week.

A few weeks back I told you that I was very confident in the spot on the Leie. But before I could start fishing it in better weather conditions the tables have turned. Over

the last years, I learned that there is some sort of toleration policy in Belgium when it comes to using the tow path by car. It is forbidden. But when you behave in a positive way, there is a fair chance you will not be sent away too quickly. And before some of you start to think that I misbehaved, let me tell you the reason I got asked to leave. Last year the gentleman who does the inspections of technical installations on the bank got harassed by fellow “carp-anglers”. He pointed one of



them on the same fact as me, that he was not allowed to park on this stretch of bank. He asked him to leave which he reluctantly did.

When he came back a few days later, this same carp angler was present with a few of his friends. Things got heated and the man received a few punches to the face. So, it goes without saying that their idiotic behavior has ruined it for a lot of anglers in that region as well. After having had a very friendly short conversation with the man, I did not make any fuss. I packed up my gear and went off. Which made the search for a new possible spot revive? In the upcoming days I spent a lot of time driving back and forth investigating possible spots. And in addition to my search in the winter. I now also had to look for signs of human presence. The last thing I needed now, was to unintentionally end up on somebody else's' spot. Temperatures were slowly rising in April and the amount of active anglers was proportional. Luckily I found a decent spot on a stretch of Canal which is less appealing on the first look. But once I made some further investigation with the sonar, I found some good features to give it a go.

So far no luck after 2 nights. Temperatures at night are still too low and the early rapid water-temperature increase has come to a standstill for the moment at 10 degree C. Which remains too low for things to really get going. Patience is the key-word in conjunction with a small amount of bait going in on a regular basis.

A week or two after the incident on the Leie, the sun made it unbearable for me not to be fishing rivers or canals. The unstoppable urge to wet a line made me cheat. These first "hot days" with a lot of sunshine were too good to let them be unused. So, I switched some gear around and wanted to try my luck on a shallow cut off bend of the original river. I had been there once before for a walk, and felt I had to give it a go there. A stroll around the basin can be done in less than 5mins. Over the years, silt and leaves have decreased the depth to no more than 1 meter. It does not give the impression of holding a large stock of fish, and is practically not fishable due to the immense amount of weed it holds. When I got there, I was surprised to see a bivvy on the bank. I was planning on taking a look with the drone. So I decided to go and have a talk with

those guys first. I didn't want to disturb their fishing too much, so went to ask if they were okay with it. These guys were not bothered at all. On the contrary, they were very curious to see the birds eye view as well.

Whilst I fruitlessly tried to spot some carp cruising at the surface, we talked about the water. It was their 5th time fishing it. But they had never been here before.

Asking them if they knew if there actually were carp in here. They gave me a reply which blew my off my socks.

First of all, the details about the fish

in here, but secondly about a fish that has been caught and found its way onto SM (stay focused folks). This capture went from page to page faster than a granny on a slide, and caused a crowdedness unseen for this little pond. My enthusiasm to fish a place like this went down even faster than that same granny in a wheelchair downhill free-styling from Mount Doom.

Knowing very well that today would be the only day I would fish here in the foreseeable future, I decided to give it a go. After looking for a few spots and sprinkling some sweet corn here and there. I placed a



single rod with a simple rig on the first spot, and would give it a go for 1 hour, if nothing happened I would switch to another spot, and maybe try a pop-up bait. After 20mins another angler shows up. He asked me for directions towards a smaller river nearby that can be reached on foot from here. We started chatting and it turns out this guy has been fishing the Albert Canal for over 15 years now. You can imagine that I could not let this chance go past me. After telling him I started fishing the AC for the first year, I asked him if he had any good tips and tricks. He confirmed that the stretch I chose was indeed a good stretch. And having caught a couple of huge bream already apparently was indeed a very good omen. We discussed some more into detail on how he successful fished this huge canal. He gave me some good tips on baiting, hot-spots. And some tricks how he tried to minimize the trouble that floating debris causes, how he handled increasing flow or false indications due to boats.

A lot of the points he made, are already implemented in the way I approached the canal so far. But he also acknowledged the fact that the water temperatures still need to rise. This stretch of the canal does

not have holding areas, so my only certainty is to be patient. Once the carp are warming up, only then will they start cruising up and down longer stretches of water and 10 degrees C is not warm enough.

So, both waters still haven't produced any carp for now. I have to be patient and keep my fingers crossed on a new spot on the Leie and a confirmed good spot on the Albert Canal.

When I make the intermediate balance, things are looking up. And the Albert canal which frightened me at first now looks feasible. While waiting for the water temperature to rise, there is not much more to say than KISS.

Keep It Stupid Simple.

Cheers for now

L.S.

Wies



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Trade Talk

by Andy Murray



Hi all, it's good to see so many catch reports coming in, now that night fishing is back on and the days are getting longer. It's been a busy month for me, only allowing me to get two nights in on the Pits so far this year, which I'll come back to. It's likely to stay that way for a bit longer with R&D meetings, and filming with both Wolf and DTbaits. I'm now doing a monthly blog both on the Wolf page and the DT Baits page as well! Trying to keep topical is always difficult for me as I do tend to wander...but I wanted to talk about the fishing industry this issue, as it does crop up occasionally as folk ask how things happened for me with this and I have been asked more than once how to make a living in fishing itself. There is another reason for this piece, a very dear friend of mine passed

away last week and it had a very deep effect on me, I heard the news while I was fishing, it knocked the stuffing out of me I can tell you, I just packed up and went home. We met once a week for many years for a pint or two. During the last lockdown I would drop him off a bottle of his favourite Port and we have a quick nip and chat, I think he knew then what was coming then. We spoke about many topics over the years, he wasn't really interested in fishing itself but we often spoke about business in its different forms. He often said I should write about business more, to help others, so this is memory of you Ronnie, RIP.

We were talking in the Wolf office this week about things in general, mainly about products that had been developed in the past and where ideas came from. How many more 'new' products can be developed that carp anglers need to catch carp? When you look at the amount of stuff we take with us these days. Then again how many 'new' products can be developed that carp anglers will buy



now that's a different question isn't it? I was told by some cynical people I knew when I first joined Wolf, that the industry had changed since I left Fox some 16 years ago, and it would be difficult to bring out and market new products or create a company that will sell in an already saturated market. What they were saying it was easier in the past, well, I was responsible for the sale of millions of pounds worth of fishing tackle and all the problems that went with that level of sales, so it wasn't that

easy even back then! Early indications I am seeing are that we at Wolf have products that anglers want to use, which is a step in the right direction I feel. So, maybe it's just companies or their business that gets stale or they just bring out products that others already have and stick on their own label, relying on their 'brand' to make them sell. What about bringing out products that can have their own USP, some companies still do and are good at it. At Wolf we have a number of new

products lined up for the next 2 years that we feel have our own USP that will make them stand out. We aren't going to just bring out samey type products and stick our label on it, there is no point is there? It's a long process though, if you look at the picture of the Mozzie Zappa for example, that was an idea of mine to Wolf some 9 months ago, which I had been trying out for a year before that. After about 20 samples, numerous meetings and discussions about the technical stuff, format, colour, shape etc. Now we have a product to go to market and it is due in the shops in June, how great is that? When developing any product, one of the points to look at is selling price, its important because the cost price it takes to manufacture, ship, market, add profit plus



VAT, all this must be worked out so there is an RRP for the retailer, otherwise there is no point in starting with the product. I know all this gets referred to as Carp Tax by some, but it is all part of manufacturing and selling anything, not just fishing tackle. At Wolf we are already well on with tooling with the next few products, it's an exciting thing to be involved in, although it's not all plain sailing, if it were easy, everyone would be doing it. This all started from an off-the-cuff discussion over a year ago, it's funny how things work out isn't it? The thing is, and I'll come back to this, it was sort of planned in my mind I would be involved somehow and somehow with someone, I just didn't know who.

Fishing wise, we had



the first few nights of the 'season' (when lockdown was lifted), we had a trip to Trent View, we knew it would be busy but just wanted to be out. Ian and his team looked after us as they always do. I had a couple of bites but lost both carp, Clint had a nice carp. It was just so great to be out though with my son Alex and good friend Clint, that first morning watching the sun come up was magical. The weather was almost spring like, being 20 degrees both days, we were in shorts and sandals. 10 days later

we were at James's water-Stickney Brick Pit and it was -5! We had snow, hail, rain, if you look at the picture of the Wolf 10-foot rods and the Icons, you can see they were coated in a thick layer of ice, what was great to see was the Icons still worked. James has worked hard to create great water there, it's a long time since I fished somewhere that has such a great atmosphere, as the bigger pits tend not to have this. We were there mainly to film the Mozzi Zappa and the Icons for the Social

Media sites, but it would have been rude not to have the rods out. Though the carp didn't play ball at all, I don't blame them, who would want to be out in that! Only us fools! The filming proved to be really difficult due to the conditions and the results were disappointing. So, we had to reconvene at the Wolf office a couple of weeks later and do it all again, it's a long time since I did any filming, so I had to be coached a bit by James and Liam, who were very patient with me I have to say.

The main reason for talking about the other things I am doing, is that it has eaten into my own fishing time hugely. By now I would have expected to have had several nights fishing at the Pits and have few carp under my belt. I have had two nights and one

run so far! On such an expanse of water, dropping in the right swim when there are no carp showing is difficult at the best of times, its a big set of lakes to look round in detail to say the least. I did drop on them on one of the trips, the problem on that trip was I didn't know the swim well enough to fish the features in front of me, in setting up I partially moved the carp out. I did set up the adjustable zig on one rod and had a run just after dark, which promptly came off. Normally I fish Zigs quite a lot in the spring but this year I wanted to try a slightly different set-up, having had two runs on Zigs so far and losing both I'm not sure I'm going to continue along this line of experimentation, that's the thing with trying different things though, isn't it? It's like looking for that extra

bit that will really make the difference, and get those alarms singing all the time. Maybe what I was doing previously was nearer to that than I realised, maybe I was just looking for too easier an option. As I am finishing this piece I will be fishing in a couple of nights and will be reverting back to my original Zig set-up I think. I will let you know how I get on with that. Baitwise, I am really happy with how the N-Blend from DTbaits is working out, currently I am using a mixture of chopped and whole boilies mixed with Monster Baits Nutty mix and a generous dollop of DNA, the smell is out of this world. The first time I used it I had a bite, which tells me all I need to know about future fishing with this format. DT have a great range of base mixes and additives, they have this handy

sample pack, so you can have a smell and taste of each to give you an idea what to order from them, if you are unsure what bait you are going to use this year, give it a try, you won't be disappointed. What I am trying to get into the habit of doing this year, is making my bait up the day before I go fishing and not on the bank whilst setting up, and then rushing to get the right texture and effect. When mixing up the day before, taking some time and then letting the bait mix mature for 24 hours, it has a much better effect I feel. I end up with a mixture that every little grain or crumb has attraction within it, I have gotten out of this habit in recent years, but it's something I used to do religiously. Maybe the new bait is like new brush, it's a sweeping clean some bad habits.

Coming back to my work with Wolf and now DT, some of you will know that many years ago I worked in the tackle industry, I worked with Fox for 5 years, before that I had some small involvement with a couple of companies, one of them been a new up and coming company called Korda...who I had to leave when I joined Fox... I left the tackle industry after what seemed like a bad business decision at that time went sour, I felt it had ruined my life and left fishing and the industry for some years. From there I went back to school and worked at setting up what is now my current business as a Financial Planner and Adviser. This has worked very well and in a couple of years I will retire and hand over the business to

my daughter whom I have been training for the last four years to do just this. The thing is, I have missed being involved in the industry, not just fishing but working and being involved with all things to do with it, even the sales side, which I do happen to be good at. The reason for mentioning this is to talk about earning a living in fishing, for those who might want to aim for this, especially the younger anglers, this is quite difficult if you just want to get paid to go fishing, only a handful of anglers reach that pinnacle, though a lot think they should be there. By earning a living, I don't just mean earning enough to go fishing, I mean earning a proper living, buying a house, car, bringing up a family etc. So, if you can't fish well enough, or don't get recognized for what

you do catch! That doesn't mean you can't earn a good living within the fishing industry, there are jobs in retail, marketing, sales, I.T, Social Media etc. many years ago, I used to do the occasional lesson at places Like Sparsholt, I used to take some new products along and talk about tackle development, marketing, sales etc. Social Media wasn't around then! The idea was to show the youngsters there that a good living could be earned and still be involved in their favourite sport. Just maybe differently to how they thought it might be. The thing is, we are all good at different things, its no-good trying to earn a living at something you are not good at whatever it is you do, that's why there are so many unhappy people working at a job

they resent in many industries, it's just a job, they have no passion for it. So, only a select few are good enough at catching fish to get paid properly for it. So, if you are not good enough but want to work in the industry, work at something else and make your mark that way. I remember when I first start writing articles in the late nineties, Jules saying to me, 'find your niche and work at it', which is what I did, back then it was writing and photography, we were lucky enough to win a few big matches when they first cropped up. First BCAC winner, Fishabil Carp Match World Record Holders, being the main two. Now, I would be the first to admit that I can't fish like that anymore, it took some real intensity to achieve those things. Maybe that's why I enjoy all the other stuff

that goes with being involved with fishing, I'm better at that now.

Coming back to how I became involved with Wolf and then DT. over the last few years, after starting to write regularly again and after visiting several shows, it was then I realised I was missing the fishing business side of things, it wasn't really about money, it was wanting to be involved again. As I was attending shows, I started talking to some of the guys on stands, some who I knew from the past. What I did in every conversation was I asked, and I mean specifically asked if they were looking for someone or anyone to get involved in some way. I didn't know what or how I could help, I sent messages to people I knew, I just kept asking, some answered, some didn't, but if you don't ask you

don't get, that's how I built my Financial planning business, I learned that in the early days, ask for the order, after all, it's just business whatever you are selling. Anyway, the upshot being that I ended up talking to the guys at Wolf last year, who I knew from my Fox days. Becoming involved with Wolf, indirectly led to me joining DT, it can seem really weird how things come about. But, if I hadn't taken those first steps by looking, then asking. I would still be attending shows and hoping to just be asked out of the blue, that's not likely to happen to anyone is it? You have to do something to get noticed or get in front of someone. If you keep trying, it will happen, suddenly, the right time, the right place and the right fit all come together. I have mentioned in the past about having a

goal or a dream and pursuing it come hell or highwater, until it is achieved. Very little is achieved simply by wishing and dreaming for things, whatever it is in life you want. You must start with a desire and then take the first step towards that desire, it doesn't have to be a big step, but it must be a forward movement from where you are, otherwise nothing will happen. If this piece helps just one junior get the life they want, then it will have been worth writing. As usual I have gone on for far too long. Sorry for the lack of fishing talk to some of you.

May looks like been as busy as April, we have a trip to Berners Hall with DT to get to know the team and for some filming, a social trip to Trent View with Clint and a few others, then maybe get down to

Horseshoe for the 40th Anniversary, where we may possibly open a few nice bottles of red wine and talk about the good old days through Rose tinted glasses. We also have more meetings and trips filming with Wolf. I only just told the wife all this! It's costing me some major retail therapy for her to get over it! It will be worth it though I guess. I'm hoping by the time we get to the end of May; things will have settled down a bit and normal fishing will have resumed by then. Then it won't be long until we can get across the water to France for our first foreign trip. Isn't it great to have lots of things to look forward to?

Catch you next time and I'll try to just talk about fishing.

Andy

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Back Behind The Rods...part Two (19 Years later)

by Barrie Scholes



The time to get the carp rods down from the loft, dust them down and once again cast a line finally arrived in August 2019. Just like the decision to stop carp fishing for such a long time hadn't really been a conscious one my, decision to return wasn't either it just kind of happened.

It was the summer holidays, and I was staying with my family at my mums caravan in Wales wondering what things we could do to keep my son entertained. Amongst the leaflets of Segway adventures, Steam Train rides and petting zoos was a leaflet for a small fishery. The best part being that you could hire the equipment (mine being back in Cheshire). So off we all set for a day's angling. There were 5 lakes on the complex, a family

lake, a pleasure lake, a carp lake and two trout lakes. Our destination would be the family lake. Me, my son, partner Jenni and my mum all hired a small whip each and set about trying to outwit the many small fish the lake had to offer. My son was the first to catch a fish and with that one capture another angler had been born! I didn't catch much that day because I was the only person who would touch the maggots, so I spent most of my time baiting everyone's hooks. By

the afternoon we'd progressed on to one of the trout lakes and hired a rod with a bubble float catching some trout for a barbeque back at the caravan.

Two days later we were back, only this time fishing the larger Pleasure Lake with some float rods. My son declared that fishing was even better than football, which coming from him was quite a statement! We caught plenty of fish, but the highlight was the man fishing next door catching a carp



of around 5 pounds. My son thought it was huge. The time had come to try and catch carp again! A trip to the shops to get some sweetcorn only resulted in a bream but the next two weeks back at home were spent sorting out all my carp gear. New line, new batteries in buzzers, a complete overhaul of everything. So, at the end of August 2019 for the first time in 19 years I was sat behind a set of carp rods again! And it felt really good to be back, especially when not long into the session one of the rods went off.

Two weeks after my first session back, I took my son for his first ever carp session. He was using my old Sundridge 11ft carp rod, the one that I'd caught my first carp on. The venue was the pleasure lake. After

initially catching a chub, in the afternoon my son caught his first ever carp. It was a very special moment and a nice fish too weighing 14lb. Not bad for your first ever session! An hour or so later he went one better and caught a mirror of 14 and half pounds. It later transpired that this was the exact same fish I'd caught earlier that day, so we christened him "Boomerang".

To cut a long story short me and my son fished the Pleasure Lake all through the winter catching loads

of fish and really enjoying ourselves. I'd got back in touch with Julian Cundiff too since returning to carp fishing. Not by letter like in the 90s, but this time by a newfangled thing called social media. I didn't know where to start with bait and he suggest Scopex Squid and a very good recommendation it proved to be too. We met up again at a fund raising event in Doncaster where he was doing a slideshow (now PowerPoint presentation). It was great to see him still at



the forefront of carp fishing and still willing to help others catch carp. A true legend of the sport.

Going in to 2020 I'd accrued a ticket for a local angling club back in Cheshire, at

the same time a new Angling Direct store had opened in my hometown too. Full of all the bait and equipment you could ever need. I had tickets for the Northern Angling Show down

the road in Manchester too. It seemed all the stars were aligning for a great first year back carp fishing and I went in to 2020 full of optimism. Little did any of us know how the year was going to pan out though! I



t seems like a world away now with all the bans on large gatherings and social distancing measures in place, but I attended both days at the Northern Angling Show in Manchester. Wow, what an event that was. Don't get me wrong because I used to love the old Carp Society conferences at Dunstable, but they seem like a bring and buy sale now compared to the Northern Angling Show! How times have changed.

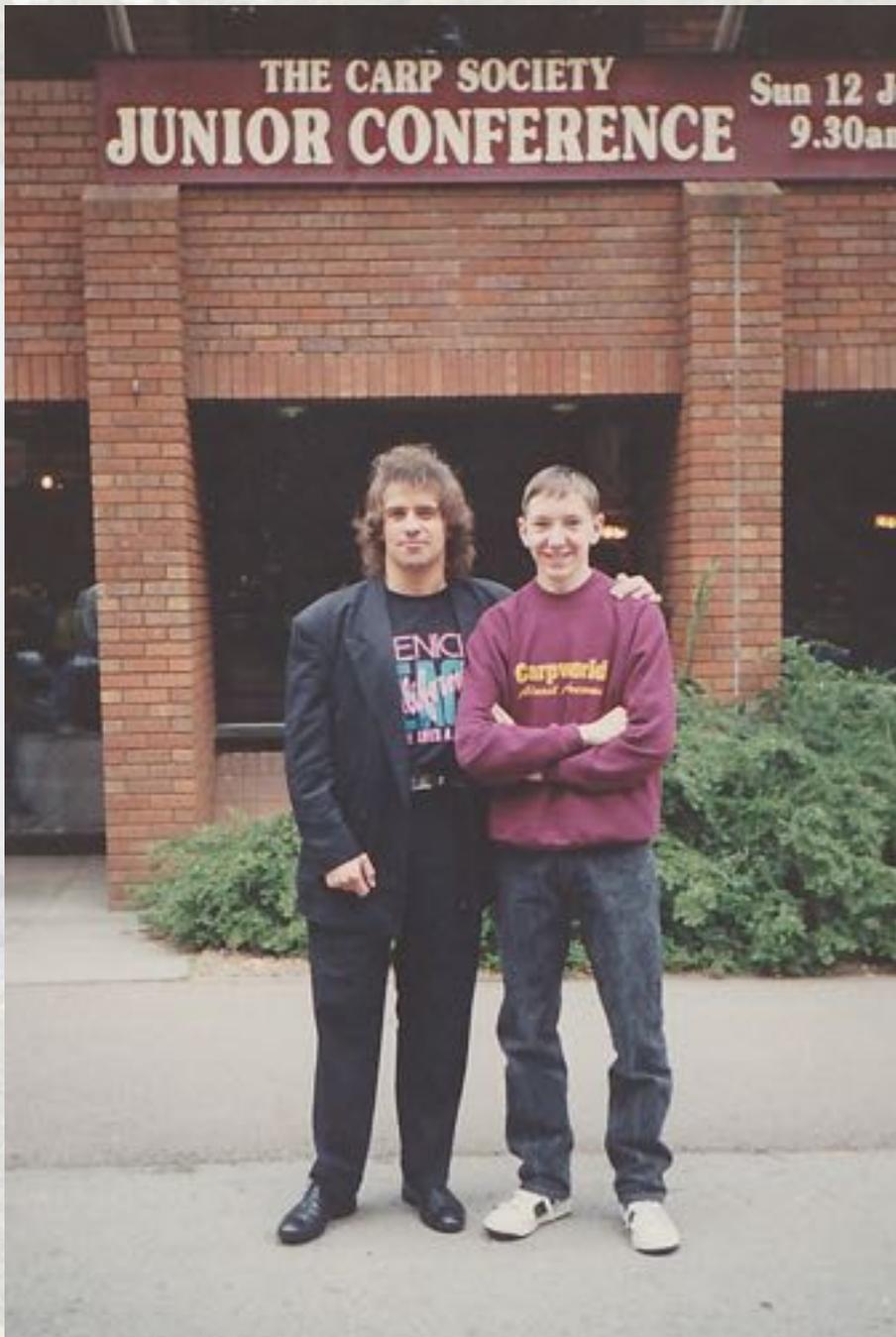
I have noticed quite a few changes since returning to carp

fishing. There's some high tech bits of kit out there now, drones, Deeper's and the like. They make my marker float set up look very prehistoric. Back in the day the fashionable thing to wear on the

bank was...well there wasn't anything, you basically just wore your worst clothes to go fishing in. Apart from in the winter when thermal onesies were all the rage, but they seem to have gone

out of fashion now, no doubt due to too many unfortunate incidents involving the hoods! But nowadays there is no end of trendy hoodies, caps and joggers to choose from. Also, in the 90s a pair of trainers was deemed sensible footwear to go fishing in, but now it seems no one leaves the house unless they are donning a pair of chest waders. Of course, all my observations are said tongue in cheek, but I do scratch my head as to why buzz bars have gotten so narrow?!?!

One thing that wasn't around last time I was carp fishing is social media. The internet hadn't really been invented then and anyone lucky enough to have their own computer tended to use it for playing Packman. But now there are multiple



social media platforms all catering for carp fishing. You've got Facebook, where people seem to like to row about the weights of fish not being correct and Instagram for posting carpy pictures of your kettle. But my favourite is You Tube. Gone are the days of there being nothing on the telly to watch. Just one click of the button now and you've endless fishing videos to watch. Quite bizarrely my last session in March 2020 before lockdown, me and my son happen to bump into Carl from Carl and Alex fame. I must say the films they produce really are first class. I also enjoy watching Monster Carp too. The only real downside to things like You Tube is that it can make you think that carp fishing has now become very easy! But I've found it just as tricky as

it's always been on my local waters. The internet can have its downsides, but it's never been so easy to find good information on carp fishing.

I went in to 2020 full of optimism, then Covid happened. So rather than fishing I spent the spring like many others growing vegetables and cutting my own hair, both with mixed results. The year 2020 was a shocker, so I won't dwell on it too much but anyone who lost loved ones has my upmost sympathy. It was a very stressful

time for all of us but one of the positives for me was being back behind the rods again. In a crazy year once you are by the lake, with the rods out things seem normal again. I think the work that the guys at the Angling Trust did was excellent, enabling us to fish safely and I for one, have found fishing a bit of a godsend really in helping with my wellbeing during the pandemic.

Eventually we were allowed to fish again and after flitting around some of my local club





waters (trying to avoid the crowds as much as anything), I managed to find some lovely waters to fish. Once I found the right venues given the limited time I have for fishing (12 hours per week max) I enjoyed some really good sessions. Nothing big by today's standards but 2020 was all about getting back into the swing of things. Night fishing always adds a new dynamic and it was good to do some overnights again. I took my son for his first ever night fishing session in August and he had a great time catching 11 carp in total, plus his first ever tench and a new personal best carp of 18 and a half pounds. Another "session of a lifetime" as he calls them.

Despite everything going on in the world at the moment, I have

really enjoyed my return back to carp fishing. It feels like I've never been away, and I don't know where the years have gone to be honest! But one thing I have learnt is that of course, family, jobs, health all come first but fishing is also important too. Getting out in the fresh air, having something completely different to think about it's all really good for our wellbeing.

I think lots of us have realised that, in recent times when restrictions have been placed on our sport. In the 90s the main thing seemed to be the weight of the carp, now it seems more about how old they are. There are debates on those social media platforms I mentioned earlier about what counts and what doesn't. But really, the only thing that counts is enjoying

fishing for them. If you've not been fishing for a while, don't let a month become a year, become 10 etc like I did. Just go fishing. I remember someone once saying that life is too short to go carp fishing, and it used to ring in my ears a bit. But the reality is life is too short NOT to go carp fishing. Take care and enjoy your fishing.

Barrie



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Where do I find the time?

By Charlotte Gladdis



Hello readers,

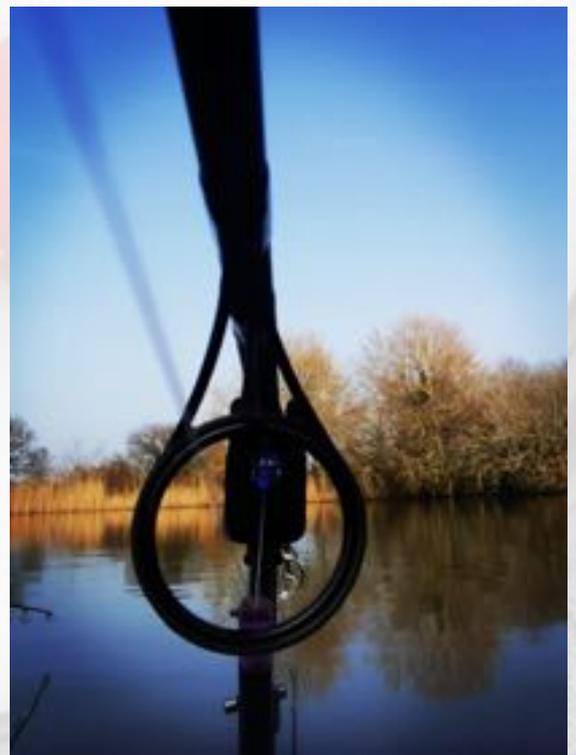
my name is Charlotte Gladdis. As a full time mum of six wonderful children, and an owner of a Falconry Centre, I find myself needing a little downtime now and again...who doesn't, right? So, a couple of years ago I had the chance to go carp fishing, and I was curious as to what all the fuss was about, so I took the opportunity, thinking it would either excite me being on the bank, out with nature which I love so much, or it would bore the backside off me. Well, here I am, a couple of years later and, oh my, what a massive part of my life it has become.

I know I haven't been carp fishing that long, but I'm finding myself totally engrossed in this world. Every time I go fishing a new lesson is learnt, and I simply

cannot get enough of it. I'm lucky enough to have a cracking water near me, which is a water close to my heart as it's where this passion first started, and once I started to go on my own, I really started to soak up as much knowledge as I could, and build my confidence in a short amount of time.

Going back to my first night on the bank, well, let's just say it was manic! After spending the day with my partner on the bank I was given the opportunity to stay the night. At this stage I hadn't been fishing long and he did everything – baited and cast my rods while I just waited for a bite! But I'm a very stubborn person, and just didn't feel like the fish I

was catching actually counted, as I didn't do anything apart from reel them in. So, with me being really indecisive we ended up having a disagreement which led to me telling him I didn't want his help anymore and I could do it myself! He had enough and left me at the lake. Soon after he left, the geese wiped my rods out, and I sat there looking over the lake, sun setting and all my rods up against the bivvy...I soon started regretting





what I had said. Who was I kidding? I have never netted my own fish, found my own spots or did anything without guidance over my shoulder. I couldn't fish!!

Feeling completely deflated, and just wanting to go home, then... 'Splash!' I see a decent fish roll, halfway out. This was the kick up the butt I needed. "I can do this!" I told myself. I cast out to the showing fish and got my other two rods

back out just in time, as the light faded, and the rain started. Finally, I put the kettle on, sitting there looking over the lake disappearing into darkness... all the doubt I had came back! I convinced myself I wouldn't catch anyway. The

wind was howling, and the rain sounded like stones hitting the bivvy, I felt so nervous and doubted myself even more with every passing minute. I jumped in bed and thought sooner I go to sleep this will all be over, and I will never do this again on my own!

Just as I started to fall asleep, I got a single beep.

I'm now sat up wide eyed, listening to the weather and praying it was just the wind! Every second felt like minutes. Beeeeeeep - one toner!!! Adrenalin running, I forget the shoes and coat and hit the rod! I'm now shaking, so many thoughts are going through my head, but I tried to just focus on playing the fish. It kited for the island so, trying to remember things I had been told, I dipped the tip, and she was soon back out in open water. Finally, after a



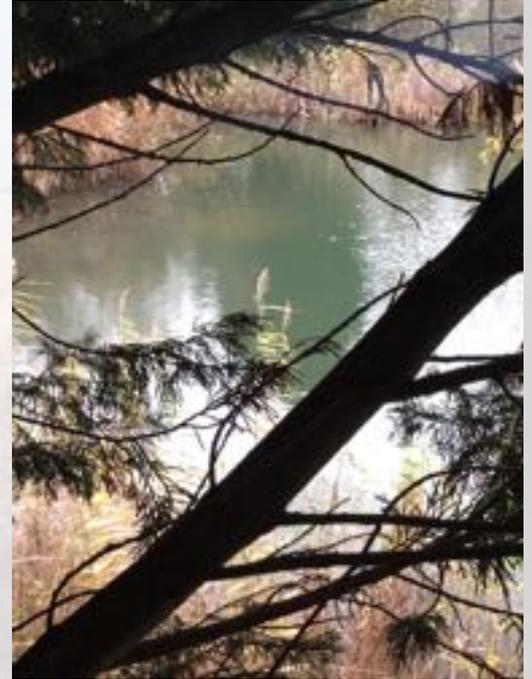
Charlotte Gladdis

good battle, I managed to net her but doing so I slipped on the bank and fell back on my arse! Rod in one hand, net in the other I'm just laying there in torrential rain with a huge smile on my face and full of achievement! I did it!!

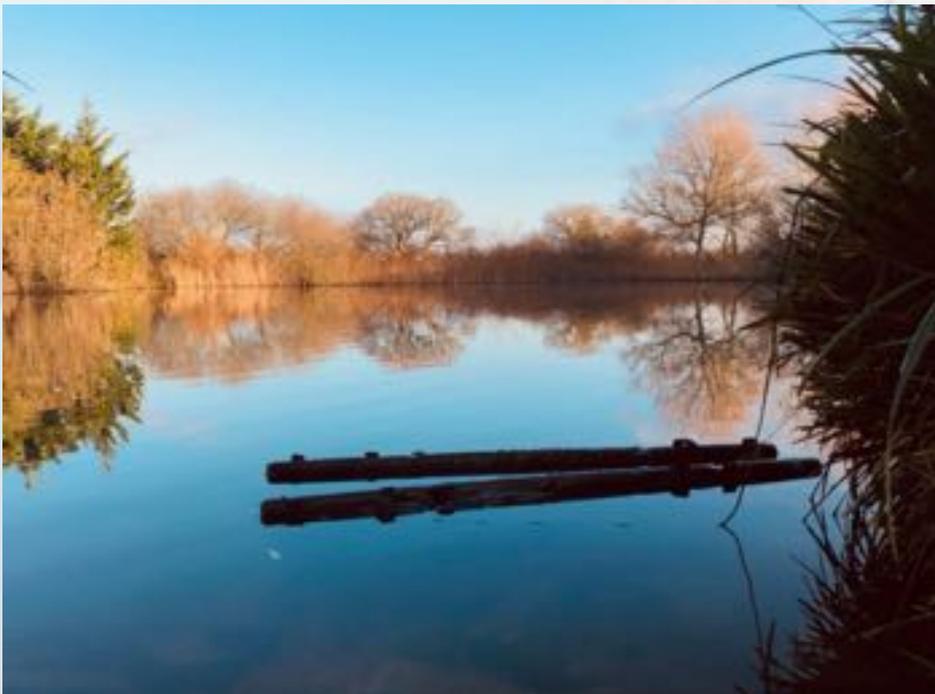
Completely buzzing, I rang my partner not making much sense, and he rushed to the lake. Still in disbelief, I hadn't even had a look in the net. He turned up, took one look at me, soaking wet and covered in mud sat

on the bank, and asked what had happened... Did you fall in? He looked in the net and said, "that's a 30!!" No way...we got her out and weighed her - 33 lb!!!! I couldn't believe it. Not only had I caught a fish completely by myself, but it was a pb by over 15 lb! I thought the hard part was over but lifting her for a photo was the next struggle.

From catching my first fish I went on and



submerged myself fully into learning all I could about this very special lake. Just like everyone else I made plenty of mistakes, and that's ok to do so. We're not human if we don't make mistakes, but ensuring you learn from those mistakes can and will mean the difference between learning and achieving or continuing to fail. Make the mistakes, adapt and learn from them. Slowly but surely I learned to watch the water, I learned to know what to look for to give me a starting



point. Sometimes I put too much bait in, sometimes not enough. Sometimes I would cast to my spot, other days I hit every overhanging tree in that area. But making these mistakes only meant one thing - keep practising. These are the little things that keep us on our toes. Blanking or losing a fish can really mentally get to us but turning a negative session into something positive can be so rewarding.

Catching every session is amazing but I find we end up getting lazy, stuck doing the same thing every time we fish. Whereas blanking really makes us think outside the box and start being more creative with different approaches. A challenge that requires hard work, resulting in a capture, is so rewarding, it's the buzz that makes me walk away from the lake already planning my next session.

And that brings me up to today, and where I am now. Over the past two years I have learned many lessons and now I'm blessed to have a good number of carp in my album.

I'm very lucky in that I have such a good lake on my doorstep. Nowadays I know some of the better spots on there, and I have worked out my own rigs and baiting strategies that suit my style of fishing. I can

only do quick day sessions - no more than 6 hours - so every minute counts for me. When I arrive at the lake, I always do a couple of laps, climb trees, the normal - just check out as much as I can and really try and locate



the fish. Not always being able to spot the fish, and no tell-tale signs of locating them, my choice of swim would come down to weather. Temperature, air pressure, rain, wind or sunshine - all these different conditions would be taken into consideration when picking my swim. There are different times of the year you can really judge the lake and have an idea of where the fish might be holding up. Setting up, I'm not one to get the mallet out and start smashing the bank sticks in so I try and set up with minimal disruption. My baiting approach really depends on the time of year and what's already a natural

food source in the lake...I'm not one to fish just boilies. Take now, for example. It's Springtime and the fish are waking up. For the last couple of sessions, I have kept things simple, fishing solids bags of pellets or boilie crumb with snails. The weed in the lake is now making an appearance and snails are something these carp are used to as a food source. With the carp still being a little hard to catch I keep

bait to a minimum, I only want enough bait to tempt one bite. Remember, you can always add bait, but you can't remove it.

My last 2 sessions are proof you can learn a lot from a blank. Going back a few weeks ago, I managed to get a run, but this fish bolted, stripping line, and within minutes I was snagged up. At first, I thought the fish might be still on but looking at the the way the line



was going into the reeds I knew I had lost it. My line looked like it was on the bank, it was so far into the reeds, as if I over cast and missed the lake - we all do it. I started thinking to myself...over the short time I have been fishing I have noticed how fish behave when you're playing them.

They like to bolt for a known area of safety or somewhere they normally hold up, so I decided to explore this area, as it started to get the better of me. I needed to retrieve my rig anyway, so I headed out in the boat and used the oar to investigate more. To my surprise I found a

large undercut within the reeds. Solid bottom and, at one point, submerging the oar completely! Overcome with excitement, once again thinking to myself, has this fish just given up a new hot spot within the lake?

I left the lake with this hunger to fish this new



found spot. Next session came and, of course, that was the first place I put a rod. Within an hour of setting up, my right hander, on the new spot, went and I landed a stunning carp known as Moonscale! I was made up, but it didn't end there and just a few hours

later, right on pack up time, the right hander went again! I couldn't believe my luck. Ending this session on a high, with another stunning mirror, this one weighed in at 29 lb. This spot has continued to be a hot spot for me, producing yet another mirror on my last session!

“One hook pull, one blank, and what promises to be one golden spot!!”

Tight lines everyone,

Charlotte



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Talking Carp

The challenge
of a Yorkshire
30lb in 2021 for
Sarah Davey
begins.



I have set myself a personal challenge this year of achieving a 30lb+ Yorkshire carp. I like many woman often find myself been the taxi service for my 15 year old daughter, a housewife and holding down a full time job, due to these commitments I often find it difficult to travel more than 2 hours from my hometown.

Last year I set myself the same target however we all know what last year was like living with Covid 19 restrictions, home schooling etc and losing some very special people along the way, fishing wasn't priority, and I barely graced the bank with my presence.

2021 came around so quickly and things have hopefully started to look up, we have vaccines the country is slowly starting to

recover, and fishing is back on.

My first session included a trip to Hemingbrough carp fishery syndicate, where my fishing really took off about 8 years ago and a place, I will always call home to my fishing, I fished alongside my husband Craig and we opted for a double peg. We drew straws on who was fishing each side, I had a lovely spot with some nice markers to fish too and fished with Nutrabaits Trigga wafers with a PVA stocking filled with the new release CO-DE. I had a very quiet day, no signs of fish however the husband !! well let's just say he's a good angler and if he continues with

this, he will be a good swimmer. He was soon very quickly playing an upper double, this fish here are stunning and some real crackers to be had. I blanked on this session but how lovely it felt to be back outside with nature, relaxing, listening to the birds and taking time out for ourselves.

On the 21st March,



(it was still day fishing only) we headed to Pool Bridge farm and fished The Q lake. I have fished here quite a few times and are familiar with a couple of the pegs however Craig not so much so I gave him the choice of pegs.

I marked up and cast my 1st rod out 44 yards to my right, presented with a Pineapple and Banana pop up and a small PVA stocking of CODE crushed boilies. My 2nd rod went out at 56 yards this time with a white BFM pop up and

a small pva stocking of Trigga and N-butyric pellets. Whilst tying up a Zig for my 3rd rig a decent sized Mirror showed and looked to be cleaning its gills, I ditched the zig and went for a bottom bait, German rig in a PVA bag and got my rod straight over to the showing fish. I watched and waited patiently with my eyes firmly on my 3rd rod.

The weather was cloudy but around 10am the blue skies started to break through, spring was certainly on its way lots

of birds pairing up, 2 male Drakes fighting over the female, they then settled and began to swim over my 2nd rod, the female appeared to jump as though she had been spooked by something below. I was then focused on my 2nd rod, around 10.55 a small roach jumped out followed by a very small carp around 3lb but it wasn't near my baited spot. After 5 minutes I reeled in as the smaller carp was making quite a display. over to it using a BFM white pop up and a stringer of Trigger and



N- Butyric 20mm boilies. I set my bobbins and took a seat, within 5 minutes my alarms made 2 very small beeps, whilst looking at them I noticed the drop back on my line, it wasn't a screamer but I wanted to check. I picked the rod up and it didn't initially feel as though anything was on the other end, how wrong was I.

The fish began to swim towards me, and still felt very light, I

was certain it was the smaller carp I had cast too, until it got to mid water, it felt a decent size, trying to take itself into the next peg. I carefully played it back towards me, my arm was aching at this point I knew it was a good one, My husband was happy to assist with landing it, as he took the first look he looked and said Sarah this is your new personal best, previously it was 23.3lb. I didn't believe him until I lifted it.

A beautiful carp was

laid on my unhooking matt and weighed in at 25.5lb. What a terrific start to my 2021 quest. I was shaking the adrenaline certainly took over as it always does when I am fishing. I also learnt that day to go with your gut. I wasn't there to blank I was there to fish regardless of size and will now take more notice of the smaller fish as to my surprise there are often bigger ones below.

My plan for the coming months is to write an update on my challenge every 3 months and hopefully by the end of 2021 I will have reached it.

Thanks for reading, tight lines everybody.

Sarah





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Back on the bank by Karl Brandreth



So the lockdown came around again and everyone was stopped from night fishing, it was days only in your local area of which I joined my local club and fished some park lakes with no joy apart from a lovely tench, I did spend most of my lock down going down at the lakes and checking on members and doing work on there to get things ready for the return of anglers, then we got the go ahead to go night fishing again and plans were made to get down there and fishing again, but I still had a week at work and then on furlough for a week and i was climbing the walls to get out. The day came and that week I was on furlough so it gave me time to get my gear sorted out ready for

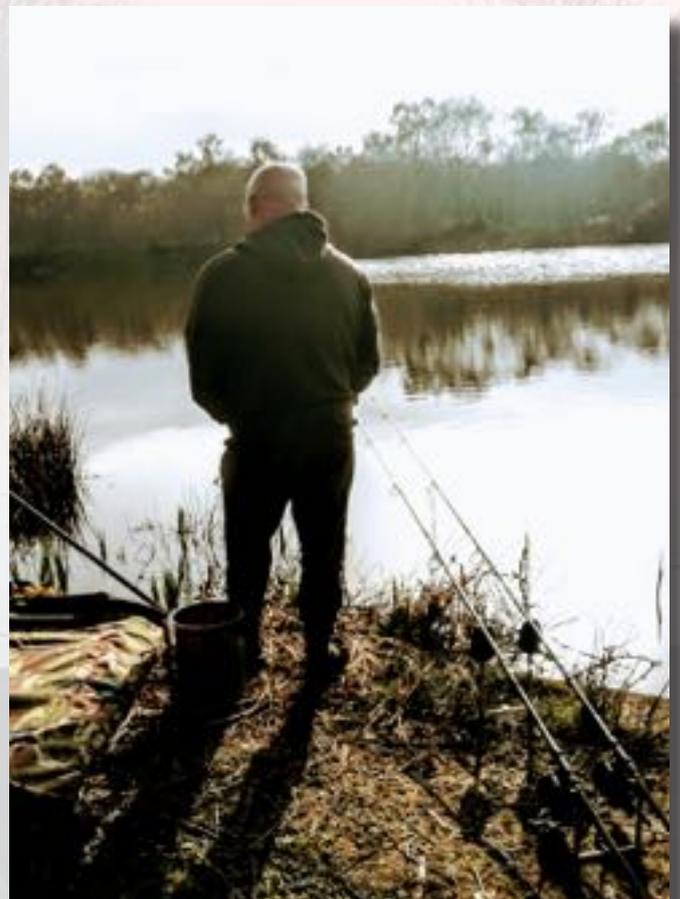
the Thursday night. I arrived at the club lake early to beat the crowd and my mate Keith was fishing on the peg I wanted to get on, he was packing up that day so I sat with him having a brew and waited for him to go so I could get my gear set up.

I sat on my bed chair making rigs chatting with my mate and his son then to the left I saw a decent size carp bosh out. I thought oh yes that's the spot, eventually they were packed up and left me to it.

I got my

rods out to the left of my swim where I saw the carp bosh out, I got my bivvy up and settled down to a crisp sunny spring morning, and the kettle on.

The lakes were packed out then I got a call from my head bailiff saying not to go around checking members cards he said he would come and do it. I thought ohhhh



bonus I can concentrate on my angling. I made a couple more rigs with the end tackle from RIG-IT Tackle fluorocarbon d-rigs one with a wafter and the other a snowman, if one works I'll change them both over to the same. The first day went pretty quick and it was around 5pm when my other mate turned up



and he got set up and we settled down to some tea, finally it was bedtime and I was knackered. I need some sleep. I got my head down then a few hours into my sleep my left hand rod raced of at some speed so I jumped and was met with a hard fighting carp, it went over the cord into my net and it was a lovely little common, but size doesn't matter it was my first carp after lock down and 2021. I was over the moon. I got my rod back out on the same spot and went back to bed with a smile on my face, eventually dropping



off into a deep sleep. The next morning I woke up at around 5am watching the sun come up with a strong coffee then out of the blue my left rod pulled up tight and as I got to my rod it ripped off.

I lifted into an angry carp which ran me all over the place. I got it over the cord and it was a lovely mirror again around the same size as the common so I was happy with that.

As the session went on I managed to bank 5 mid double carp, then out of the blue my

right hand rod went into meltdown it was late afternoon in the second night, and I grabbed the rod and felt a really angry carp and it must if took me over 20 mins to get it into the net, finally I netted it and we weighed it 22lb, a really solid common as if it had been on steroids, but what a carp and a first session after lockdown. I landed 6 and lost 2. The morning came round to pack up and go home, but knowing I was going on a new lake the week after.

I was back in work the next week and Friday came round and it was time to make my way to Brooms Cross fishery in Liverpool. I had booked on peg 9 and I know there's some decent carp in there so I was quite excited. I got set up and settled down to a brew while I watched



the water. It was my first time on there so I've got a lot to learn about this place, a few guys set up around me and we ended up chatting, one guy said it was a hard place so with that in mind I got my tea and settled down for the first

night. I was woke up a couple of times with liners, so the next day I woke up made a brew and moved one



rod into the middle channel because I had liners so I thought move my rod back to see if they were nearer to me.

The guy behind me to my left had 3 fish up to 25lb so my thought was I was on the wrong side. I couldn't move pegs so I was learning as much as

I can from the other guys.

I was talking to the guy behind me when this massive carp boshed out twice in his peg and that just definitely proved they were not on my side so I will have to pick another peg when I go again.

Even though I blanked on this session I really enjoyed the place, it was quiet and well run plus the anglers were top guys to talk to. But for now, tight lines everyone and hopefully the new lake might pop up a new PB for me, fingers cross.....

Karl Brandreth



Mobile Phone Photograph Tips by Richard Handel



After having a chat with a friend the other day, I realized that it would be good to give a guide on how I take my photos and videos with my mobile phone.

I started using a mobile phone for my photographs of carp many years ago as I was having to walk a long way with my kit and needed to really cut things down a lot. I looked at my camera bag with all the kit in it and decided it was time for it to go. I'd been using an SLR since the early '90s which had a film in it. I then switched over to a DSLR back in 2000 but that bag was heavy and took up a lot of space.

So, I started to play around with my mobile phone, but still using my tripod with a phone adapter attached and this worked extremely well. In the beginning, I had to download an app that would take multiple shots at timed intervals. Now modern phones come with built voice control or you can download a whistle app, if you don't fancy saying Cheese, shot, etc out loud. You can even get a Bluetooth button that you can press, similar to the old-style DSLR remotes and the whole package is very cheap. Approximately 90% (if not more

anglers) have a mobile phone, megapixels are extremely high and if you are only using them on social media, where the Megapixels are reduced when you upload photos, there's no real need to have a DSLR anymore.



Below is my guide to how I do all my photos and videos.

1. I use a camera tripod that extends to about 2ft 6in. I find this is the perfect height for me to take a photo when taking photos of fish. If you're taller, there may be a need to have a tripod that extends to 3ft 6in.

2. I set up my tripod about 3ft away from my unhooking mat and make sure that a single leg is pointing directly at the middle of the unhooking mat. This is to centralize the camera and then lower the angle of the camera to see if both ends of the unhooking mat are perfectly aligned.

3. Until you get the distance and angle correct of your camera, it's best to test and practice as much

as possible.

4. I always check my photos every time before I put the fish back into the water. It's never a good thing to find out the photos are rubbish after the fish is back in the water. This is something I've always done since I got my first DSLR. I remember those days when you had a film in your camera and would take months to use all the photos up on the roll, then take it down Boots, Jessops, etc, get the photos back and 75% could easily be rubbish. I'm glad those days are gone.

5. I do exactly the same when doing my videos for my blogs and edit out all the bits I don't need.



Big tip

I often just video the whole process and when I hold the fish still, I compose myself for a few moments. You can then simply scroll through the video and then do a screenshot of your fish. This can save time and if you don't fancy talking or whistling out loud, it's all personal taste. My other big tip is to face the camera towards you and not in selfie mode. Once you have mastered it, there's no way of going back.

I use this setup whenever I catch a carp, even when there is

someone else around to take the photographs, it just takes the worry away from getting it wrong. You can reduce your phone kit even down every more by using a single bank stick and an adapter that you screw into the bank stick. You attach your phone adapter to the other end.

I hope this has helped you, to simplify your photography and reduce the amount of bags you need to take.

Until next time

Richard





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ANGLERS NATIONAL LINE RECYCLING SCHEME (CIC) LTD**Web: www.anglers-nlrs.co.uk Email: anglersnlrs@gmail.com****PRESS RELEASE****APTUS offers free “Return to Recycle” route for its customers.**

In a world of plastic products, it is concerning that so little of this is recycled. Over 300 million tonnes of plastic packaging is produced each year and as little as 21% is even recycled or at best incinerated. This simply cannot be sustained for the good of our planet or aquatic environments. How often have you noticed that when returning from a shopping trip that once the items are removed from its packaging that you often have more plastic waste than you do actual items you bought?

Despite being a relatively new name in the carp tackle market Aptus have started to make their presence felt especially in its environmentally minded approach to supplying their items in sustainable packaging and also donating 1% of its total sales revenue annually to “One Percent For Water” which is directly targeted towards projects that affect real change and benefit UK waterways.

In an industry first, the forward-thinking company contacted the Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme (ANLRS) with a proposal to offer all its customers a postage paid route to return old line, braid and other smaller plastic tackle items that would otherwise often end up in landfill to them so that they can be recycled via the ANLRS and their UK recycling partner.

Jack Sherrin, Aptus Managing Director, commented

“We want to create real solutions to the biggest threats our waters face. One of those threats is plastic pollution, including fishing line, tackle items and packaging. We are pleased to announce we’ve chosen the Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme as our recycling partner for our new Return to Recycle scheme.

We believe the onus for environmental responsibility - including providing customers with access to recycling - lies with us as the manufacturer, so we've made recycling plastic tackle waste as easy and accessible to our customers as possible.

But it must be acknowledged that an industry wide approach is needed to make a meaningful difference. The ANLRS is ideally positioned to facilitate a monumental step forward for environmental responsibility in our industry, and I would encourage any angling business that has not done so already, to contact the ANLRS and take that step forward today".

So how does it work?

Any Aptus customer with an online account can download a pre-paid label from their website when placing an order and use this to send old line, small plastic tackle items and even the single use packaging (SUP) that so many companies supply tackle items in. The company are encouraging their customers to use the sustainable packaging that their order is delivered in to return these plastic items for recycling. It is not just items sold by Aptus that can be returned via this scheme so line and tackle items from any manufacturer can be sent back knowing that they will be recycled. The freepost label can be attached to any package up to 350mm x 250mm x 25mm (Royal Mail Large Letter) and weigh up to 250g, which doesn't sound much, but is ample for what is going to be in the packages.

It is simply then a case of sticking the postage paid label to the package and drop it into the Post Box. Once returned to the ANLRS the items will be sorted as required and everything, including the packaging, will be sent to be recycled via ReWorked, who currently take all the line and plastic spools collected by the ANLRS.

Viv Shears, Co-Founder of the ANLRS added

"When Jack at Aptus got in contact with his idea it felt like a landmark

moment for not only anglers but also the tackle industry. The amount of plastics used for packaging in the angling industry is huge and creating a route to ensure some of this is recycled is a brilliant first step in the need to minimise the impact of plastics from angling activities including tackle purchases.

We, at the ANLRS, would like to think other companies would follow suit in supporting us with similar schemes as well as financially. After all, when it comes to environmental issues like plastics, it is not a case of being the innovator or having exclusive rights to a solution, it is about everyone doing as much as is possible on their part to help reduce the problem. A joined-up industry wide approach will make a far bigger difference and achieve greater results in the long term so our doors are open should anyone want to talk.”

In addition to their Return to Recycle scheme, Aptus have also pledged an annual donation to the ANLRS to support the scheme in making line and plastic recycling easy for both freshwater and saltwater anglers of all disciplines.

For more details contact

Viv Shears (ANLRS) Tel 07843 306661 Email anglersnlrs@gmail.com
Website www.anglers-nlrs.co.uk

Jack Sherrin (Aptus) Tel 0330 320 2040 Email jack@aptustackle.com
Website www.aptustackle.com

The Benefits of Pre-Baiting



by Rob Gainer

The majority of my fishing is usually short evening sessions after work or midweek overnights, especially through summer due to other commitments. I aim to usually get one or two midweek overnights in a week, arriving at the lake at 6pm after work and having to be off by 7am the next morning meaning I have limited time on the bank, and therefore I don't have the luxury of 48/72-hour sessions being able to take my time setting up and locating the fish first or being able to build a swim throughout my session.

With this in mind, I feel pre-baiting plays a very large part in the success of my own fishing. Obviously how you approach pre-baiting depends upon a large number of things including the stock of the lake, the

size of the lake, other nuisance species in the lake, how often you are able to get down to pre-bait, how busy the lake generally is and if there are any bait bans on your water, plus a lot more factors. All these things have to be taken into account when thinking how to approach pre-baiting your target water.

The first thing to think about is the stock of the lake. If you are fishing a large low stocked water, you don't want to be pre-baiting five or six different areas potentially spreading the low number of carp about the lake. In this scenario, you'd more than likely want to be pre-baiting a single area and trying to get the carp to home in on one single area to make them easier to locate. Picking this single area could be a very difficult task and

is obviously largely dependent on the water you are targeting and your own personal experience from the lake. Whether there is a an out of bounds area that you can intercept them on their way in and out of this, or there is an area they generally get caught from or it simply could be a neglected part of the lake that is overlooked.

On the flip side to this, if the lake has a very large head of carp and is well stocked, you will benefit from pre-baiting two or three areas around the lake as you know there will always be carp visiting the spots throughout certain times in the day. This also is very helpful if it is a popular lake which gets quite busy as you are therefore maximising your chances of getting on one of your spots should the lake be

busy when you arrive after work. If you put all your eggs in one basket on a busy lake and only bait one spot the chances of you getting back on the spot every session is very slim, especially if other anglers see you catching from a certain area.

Again, another thing to think about which ties in with the stock of the lake and also the time of year, is how much and how frequently you are pre-baiting. For example, if the lake only has 5-10 carp in it, you don't want to be putting 10kg of

boilies in every other day as it more than likely won't be getting eaten. Likewise, if the lake has 1000 carp in it you can afford to up the amount of bait you are putting in as the chances are your spots will be getting visited frequently. Similarly, if it's the depths of winter and the lake is half frozen and the fish are dormant you don't want to be piling bait in as it will just sit on the bottom and rot.

Knowing how much bait to put in solely depends on your own judgement at the time. If it's a spot you can

visibly see from the bank, and you can see it has been polished off since your last visit then it is worth topping the spot up ready for your next session. However, if all the bait is still there, then there would be absolutely no point in putting anymore in. If your spot is not visible from the bank this makes it much more difficult. In this instance, from my own personal experience I have used either the underwater GoPro cameras or the FishSpy underwater camera to be able to have a look at the spot and see if there's

any bait still in the area. If this is something you are not able to do another good tip I've used in the past is look at the wildlife on the lake. If you arrive at the lake and you have five coots diving down on your



spots and you haven't been down for 24 or 48 hours, then you know the bait is still there.

The next big thing to think about is what you are going to be pre-baiting with. This can be as cheap or expensive as you want and also massively boils down to what other nuisance fish are in the lake. For example, if the lake is a carp only lake and has no nuisance species, you could simply get away with pre-baiting with cheap and cheerful sweetcorn. You know it won't be getting cleaned off by bream and tench, and it is much cheaper than piling in boilies. However, if the lake is full of bream and roach, there is not much point in baiting with sweetcorn and 2mm pellet as the chances are the spots will have been cleaned off before a carp even

comes across it. So, it is essential to consider what other species could potentially be visiting your spots as it could be a very expensive way of feeding bream.

Another thing I like to consider when approaching my pre-baiting campaigns are how easily I can get the bait on the spots whilst not being in view of any other anglers.

In this day and age if someone sees you putting bait on a spot and catching from it, more often than not they are going to wait until you have left and then fish

it next time as it saves them a lot of hassle, time, money and effort. It's a bad way to look at things but that's just how it is, everyone wants to catch fish with the minimal amount of effort. So, when picking your swims/areas to pre-bait it's good to consider how popular that particular swim is. There is no point pre-baiting the "hot" peg on the lake, as it already regularly sees bait and



angling pressure. Likewise, if there is a known spot that every man and his dog fishes to, there is no point baiting that either. Lastly, I like to consider if I go down after work to put bait in, how many other anglers on the lake will be able to see me. Is it a swim that has its own water that no one else has visibility of? Is it a quiet neglected corner? Will I have to spomb or use my bait boat or is a spot I can easily and quietly bait up from, either by hand or with a baiting pole?

All these things must be considered if you are making the effort to pre-bait as you don't want other people benefitting from your hard work.

In my own personal experiences from adopting a pre-baiting routine when targeting specific waters, there is no right or wrong way when it comes to pre-baiting. Every lake and every angler are different, and what might work for someone else may not work for you. No two lakes are the same

and therefore no two approaches will have the same results. One thing I have found from my own fishing is I always adopt the same routine for the frequency of my pre-baiting. It is just the quantity and the type of mix that varies depending on the lake I am targeting.

For example, I generally fish Sunday and Wednesday nights. Therefore, I will fish Sunday night and as I leave for work the next morning, I will top up all the spots with the bait I have left on the Monday morning. I will then rest the spots for 48 hours and fish again Wednesday night. Repeating the process Thursday morning as a leave. I will then go down Friday night after work to top the spots up 48 hours before I'm due back on to fish. This approach means my spots see bait five



days a week, little and often, getting the fish to regularly visit the spots and therefore maximising my chances of catching whilst only fishing for a total of 24 hours a week across two sessions. Once you have certain spots established, you will find they will start getting cratered out by the fish feeding and will generally become like carp feeding holes. For example, my new syndicate is 15ft flat everywhere, with no features and just baron open water, and after a month of pre-baiting the same spot on a tightly baited area it was visible on my Deeper that a feeding hole was being created and that fish were regularly visiting the spot and feeding hard. You will have noticed from my previous two articles if you read them that pre-baiting has really proven to be

a massive success in my last two campaigns on my new syndicate and my club water. Having full confidence that the carp were regularly feeding on the spots even through winter, meant I was full of confidence when doing short work overnights usually bagging at least one or two carp every session.

As for the bait that I pre-bait with, as I said depends massively on the lake I am fishing, however it is always focused around Nutrabaits Trigga. A bait I have full confidence in having had very good results over the last two to three years. My aim is to always keep the bait going in the same,

so the fish get used feeding on my bait and are actively seeking it out, therefore I tend to stay away from switching what I'm feeding. I have just as much confidence that I will catch on the BFM Krill and Cranberry for example but Trigga is my all-time favourite and will take some doing for me to swap over. The main bulk of my mix is a custom rolled Trigga boilie which I get, with added levels of GLM, black pepper and pineapple.



I get this rolled in 12mm x 16mm barrels as it's something different from the norm. This gets added to the mix to start with as whole, chopped and crumbed boilie. To that I add 2mm and 4mm Trigga pellet, GLM powder, Trigga liquid booster, Multimino liquid and more recently the newly released hemp or nut sludges. This makes up the bulk of my mix, then to that I generally add corn and crushed tigers to bulk it out. This will get introduced to the spots little and often to get the carp grubbing around. I like to introduce a lot of different sized items to get them pre-occupied and hold them in the area for longer. I also add a lot of liquids, again to keep the scent in the water and hold the fish in the area, and I also find the 2mm and 4mm Trigga pellet really help with holding

the fish on the spot and getting them actively grubbing around and polishing the spots off. Should the large have a large head of nuisance fish I would then generally drop the pellet out of the mix and add more whole boilie and tigers, but that depends on the water you are fishing.

Another good tip is that I always keep two large buckets in the back of the van that have all my 1kg bags of 2mm and 4mm Trigga pellets, all my liquids, a large number of tins of corn, and I always have a couple of spare 5kg bags of shelf life Trigga Pineapple and N Butyric 15mm boilies in case I don't have time to go home and get my freezer baits out. This way I am always

prepared in case I am passing the lake and want to make a quick mix up to drop on the spots. Preparation is key when you have limited time on your sessions and need to try and make quick bites happen. This takes a lot of time, effort and money depending on how dedicated you are, but the results speak for themselves in my own fishing and it's something I adopt on every water I fish where possible.

Until next time...

Rob



Max 27Kg (60lb) d 100g (2oz)
Model 4027-2

Nick Fihelebon



**Full moons and big commons....
Myth or magic**

So after my fishing trip to France got cancelled for the second year running I decided to head off down to my syndicate lake for eight nights. I'd got the week off work and the restrictions on night fishing had been lifted so thought why not. Arriving at the lake at 11am, I took a walk round stopping in several swims to look for any signs of fish. Whilst standing in one particular swim, known as Long Chuck, I saw several signs of fish. This swim commands a fair bit of water and the wind was hacking into it, although a bit cold I knew the weather was going to be changing over the next couple of days so opted to start here. I'd fished this swim a few times so knew it fairly well.

Once everything was set up I decided I would fish one rod at 22 wraps in the channel between the two islands, the right hand rod just short of this and about 2 rod lengths off of the island to my right and the left hand rod just along the margin on a big area of gravel. Not much happened that afternoon but going into the evening I was quietly confident. So after I'd fed myself it was time to feed the carp and put out around 30 boilies over each of my distance spots with

the throwing stick and 20 boilies over the left hand margin spot. There had been a full moon the last couple of nights and tonight was no different. The sky was clear and the moon was beaming down into my swim. I sat on my bedchair with a brew in hand peering up at the moon and remember saying to myself 'please go on give me a big common'. And with that I climbed into my sleeping bag and off to sleep I went.

The next thing I remember is being woken by my bite alarm and as I jump out of bed I noticed it was my white alarm, the middle rod fished up between the islands that was screaming off. I lifted the rod off of my buzz bar and started to wind the reel handle to try to gain some line on the fish. I thought to myself it doesn't feel like a big fish but could feel it plodding around, rather than the usual scrapping about that the smaller fish tend to do so it might be half decent and after a short battle of about 3 or 4 minutes I slipped it over the cord and into my net. Peering down into the net my first reaction was 'wow, that's a 30 pounder all day long'. After transferring the fish still in the net to my sling whilst still in the water I began to lift it, checking its fins

were all ok before I did so, out of the pond and carry it over to my weighing tripod. As I hooked the sling onto my scales hook I slowly let go and watched the needle start to go round, past the 20 pound mark, passed the 30 pound mark until it finally settled on 32lb 8oz. I couldn't believe it. Not only was this my first session since November but it was also my first 30lb carp from my syndicate and a fish known as Spot, one of the A-team. It was also a new U.K. pb Common for me, my previous was 28lb from another lake, so to say I was buzzing was an understatement.

So with self takes done it was time to return him to his home and I watched as he slowly swam out my sling and into the depths of the lake.

I then rebaited the rig and cast it back out onto the spot followed by a scattering of about 30 or so boilies and then it was time for a celebratory brew whilst I admired the pictures of my capture on my camera. It was then time to climb back into my sleeping bag and grab a few hours sleep.

Over the next couple of days it was



quiet and although I was still seeing fish showing in the area I was confident i would have a few more so decided to stay put in the swim. On the Wednesday evening about 9 o'clock I had a take off of the same spot that I had the big common from and landed a common of 14lb. I was then woken to the sound of my bite alarm at 3am the following morning from a take this time on my right hand rod which I was fishing about 2 rod lengths off the island. After a bit of a scrap, this one actually fought harder than the 30lb common I'd had a few days previous, I slipped a lovely 15lb 6oz common into the net. I noticed the weather had changed and it was now blowing a cold easterly wind so after putting that one back, rebaiting and casting back out i climbed back into bed. It was long before I was woken again at 4am by a 12lb mirror this time on the middle rod which had produced the bite the night

before.

Things were going well but with the change in weather I did think that maybe that would be it for me in this swim. With the lake now filling up the chances of a move we're pretty slim as there were not many swims left so I decided to stay put for the last night and take my chances. No more fish were landed but having caught what I had, especially the big common which I was still buzzing about, I was more than happy.

So full moons and big commons. Myth or magic? Or is it just coincidence? I've got my theory's. What's yours.

Nick Fihelebon



THE SEASON THAT NEVER WAS

A serene landscape photograph capturing a sunset over a body of water. The sun is a bright, glowing orb positioned centrally in the upper half of the frame, casting a warm, golden light across the sky. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a lighter, hazy yellow at the top. Below the horizon, a dark silhouette of a forested hillside stretches across the middle ground. In the foreground, the dark, silhouetted branches of trees frame the right and bottom edges of the image. The water in the lake reflects the warm colors of the sunset, creating a shimmering, golden path that leads the eye from the foreground towards the horizon.

BY TERRY BELL

After some incredible fishing over the last decade, The 2020/2021 season was a real nonstarter for me. It was actually the worst season I have had in over 30 years of fishing, but it wasn't just me, I was seeing it all over social media that nowhere was fishing well, and everyone was struggling. Some fish were being caught but they were very few and far between. I think the reason why the fishing was so hard is that we as anglers were a bit late to the party, let me explain. In the spring of 2020 as the carp started to wake from their winter layup there were no anglers baits going into the lake due to lockdown restrictions, so the carp did what they are wired to do and fed on the vast bounty that nature's larder provides for them. Carp in a well-balanced eco

system do not need anglers bait, they never have because there is a vast abundance of bloodworm, water snails, daphnia, aquatic vegetation, invertebrates and other such food stuffs for them to gorge upon.

Some big old carp go years between captures and I believe these fish are not boilie eaters. I think they avoid eating boilies (maybe a learned behaviour after being caught on them) and stick to natural baits but every now and then they either trip up, or there is a reduced amount of natural food available to them at that particular time and so they are almost forced to eat some boilies because they are readily available. So typically, in spring we start introducing a bit of crumb early on to try and get the fish interested but without

giving them too much food, then gradually building up to small amounts of boilies and then greater amounts as the temperatures rise and the fish start moving around more. We are competing with nature for the carps attentions. We are making our bait a readily available food source for the carp and tuning into their scavenger like instinct to seek out the easiest food source whilst expending the least energy. Unfortunately, by the time we were able to fish again it was very hard to wean the carp away from those protein rich naturals and on to the boilies that we would like them to eat. Of course, a good quality boilie is hugely beneficial to the fish but if you have ever fished a water where the carp respond well to maggots then you will be aware how hard

it is to get a bite on anything else. Lockdowns and various restrictions hindered any attempts to get anything going and the increased number of anglers hitting the banks only added to that. I managed a few fish, but it was hard graft. A new ticket came up for me in November for a syndicate with a 135 acre estate lake in a royal park which is going to be a huge challenge for me as I usually only fish one overnighter a week. It wasn't the best time of year to start a new ticket but it meant the banks were quieter than they might be in the warmer months so I could explore some areas. In the same month, following a recommendation by a mutual friend I was offered the chance to join DT baits as a consultant. I had a bait deal with a very well-

known bait company already but after having a good chat with Fenton on the phone and him sending me a sample of the baits, I gratefully accepted the position. At the turn of the new year, we then went into another lockdown meaning day only and Local fishing. This didn't leave me a great deal of realistic options, so I opted for a stretch of river close by that held a few small carp. I got lucky at the first time of asking

with the cold water green beast catching a lovely common, his winter colours glinting magnificently in the winter sun. Eventually we were given a date from which we could night fish once again and in preparation for that I made the half an hour drive to the lake twice a week for two weeks and started to prep an area of the lake that I believe the carp will most likely pass through as they start to become more



active. I put out a descent helping of the fish blood and fresh orange boilies both whole and crumbed mixed in with maple peas, tiger nuts, Himalayan rock salt, fish blood and orange pellets and a good dose of the fish blood and orange DNA liquid. On the first trip down I was able to do 2 nights, arriving at the lake straight from work on the first evening and I just put out my rigs and a small number of boilies scattered over the area with a throwing stick. The following morning, I was up at 5am watching the water and throughout that morning period I had seen about 10-12 shows in that area of the lake. Annoyingly, as I brought in a rod to cast at one of the shows a bream had actually hung itself on that rod at some point. I later chatted

with another member who said that he hadn't seen that many shows in the whole of last year so I think the baiting up certainly must have been the reason they were there. Sadly, the weather turned much colder the second night and there were no more signs of carp. The following week I returned and was met by a snow blizzard and again, no signs of life. now just a couple of weeks after being allowed to fish nights again Prince Phillip sadly passed away and the decision was

made to close the lake to fishing until after the funeral has taken place. I will continue to introduce bait into the lake because the more of my bait the fish find and eat without being caught, the more readily they will accept it as a food source and that ultimately makes them more catchable! That brings me up to date and I am looking forward to getting back out and trying to snare one of these lovely estate lake carp so watch this space....

Good luck for 2021/22.
Cheers Terry



Dreams Can Come True

by Spencer Brown



Growing up as a child, everyone has a dream job. For most of us into fishing it would be a job that incorporates just that. I certainly was no different. For me it was always running a lake, the day to day ins and outs, maintaining the complex and also meeting anglers and helping them catch their dream fish.

During childhood I managed to spend a fair amount of time out on the bank. Because of this I became a key holder at my local gravel pit. This slowly grew and before long I was walking around meeting people, helping them and kind of doing a bailiff role. This made me want to pursue this career even more.

Unfortunately, as many things in life this fizzled out. I passed my driving test and fishing went on the back

burner. I was at college learning plastering as this is a trade my uncle also did and eventually, I started working for him full time with no time to get the rods out!

Fast forward the last 10 years of working in construction and I had generally had enough. The day to day rat race really wasn't the life for me. The stresses of running my own business, along with

the fact I had no time to do the passion I loved. It was time for a change.

Because of a change in personal circumstances, I decided on the off chance to put a post-up on Facebook to see if there were any jobs going as a bailiff/running a lake. Within a few hours I had a handful of comments wishing me good luck and that it was



something a lot of people wanted to do. Over the next day or two I astonishingly had three potential job offers lined up!

After speaking to all three on the phone, one really stood out. The lake owner had a good plan about what he wanted to do with the complex and having only owned the place for two years I knew straight away

it was the start of the creation of something special. It was a 3 lake complex on 38 acres of woodland based close to Laon in France! Not only this but their lakes were pretty much untouched with the lakes only being fished by a handful of people in 40 odd years.

Fast forward a month and after a hectic time getting all the kit together, I

needed to take with me the day was fast approaching. I must admit at this point nerves were starting to set in, after only speaking to Aaron over the phone it was a big risk for both of us. Luckily though everything turned out as it should. After a quick chat and a covid test each we were making our way down to the tunnel in Folkestone.



In total It was just under a 400 mile trip from where I was based. By the time we got to the lakes I was completely shattered and ready for bed! The plan for the first evening was to have some food and a chat then get our heads down. I chose a swim I fancied on Jacks lake and then walked down to the chalet on site to be greeted by a BBQ cooked dinner and a nice cold beer.

The first night was uneventful which was not a bad thing as I got some much needed sleep. In the morning we met back up again at the chalet where Aaron had pitched up for his stay and was fishing Noah's lake. A stunning piece of water with snags, bays, bars and even a stalking swim. With a pen and paper in hand it was time to take a good walk

round the complex and discuss regular jobs that needed doing on a weekly basis and longer term projects which needed to be completed. This place really is a hidden gem and the ideas which are in the pipeline will only make it more special.

After a good day of walking round, I had a few hours spare before dinner. I couldn't resist and threw the rods out to the far margin snags on single hook baits. Half an hour before I was due to reel in for

dinner the left hand rod burst into life! After a brief battle I had one of the smaller residents in the net. Although not the biggest of fish, the scale pattern and the condition was remarkable. A quick radio through on the walkie talkies and Aaron was soon down to take some cracking photos for me.

Another good chat about everything in general over a beer and it was soon time to climb into bed once again. The place is so quite I actually sleep



better here than I did at home! Dawn broke with a silent night on the alarms
There were a couple more things to note down and then Aaron was off back to the UK.

The first couple of days on my own were spent mooching around and generally getting to know the place better. Having three stunning lakes to choose from I have done 2-3 nights on each this first week. Working throughout the days to get ready for when we are finally allowed

to welcome guests and flicking the rods out during the evening and night. The weather conditions although perfect for working in as its been clear skies and sunshine have not been ideal for the fishing, along with the nights still being a bit on the wintery side.

Fortunately, just after a week of arriving I was rewarded with a take. The middle rod ripped off around 6:30am on Saturday morning. The fish gave one of the best fights I have had to date, staying deep

throughout and then having to play under the rod over the rod as it decided to try and take out my other lines in the process. I knew from the off this was a good fish and wasn't disappointed when I slipped the net under this beaut common.

I got the fish unhooked and put in the retainer whilst I got my camera gear ready, composed myself and got the kettle on! After taking some self takes (always a nightmare even with a remote!), I looked over the fish and slipped her back. I quick text message or two later I found out this fish has never been on the bank. This is what makes this place so special. There are not many places left around these days where this happens, and I was made up by being its first capture. To be continued...
Spencer





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Finally, We Are Back

A photograph of a dirt path leading through a wooded area. The path is covered in brown leaves and leads towards a clearing with a blue tarp in the background. The trees are mostly bare, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The overall scene is a natural, somewhat overgrown outdoor space.

by Danny Hope

So, the news we had all been waiting for was announced and night fishing was permitted, this meant one thing some time needed to be booked off work. I had been itching to get over one of my new waters, I'd never previously fished this particular lake or even walked it fully! However, from what I had seen it gave a sense of mystery. Normally like most when approaching a new water, I would be doing my homework and asking questions, searching the internet and trying to get as much information gathered as possible.

However, I wanted to keep that sense of mystery and not know fully what I would potentially be fishing

for. The lake is only roughly 3 acres and shaped like a saucepan with the main body of water being fairly weedy with an abundance of snags. It's a very intimate lake surrounded by trees and seems almost like a different world. I arrived on the Thursday morning and was surprised to find no other cars in the car park.

Grabbing a bucket, I headed through the woods and down to the lake, this was the first time I had seen the lake from this end, and it didn't disappoint. Overhanging trees, Weedy bays and Gin clear water it seemed to have it all.

Slowly walking up and down the hilly bank I managed to see a group of carp slowly cruising in the entrance to the bay. I sat and watched them for a few minutes until they disappeared out of sight and into the snags on the far bank which was only roughly 30 yards away. Dropping my bucket in the swim I then headed further up the bank and to the main body of water. With no signs of fish, I decided to grab the gear from the car and settle in where I had seen the group of carp. Four trips later and I was



finally ready to get the rods out. A quick cast with a bare lead to check the areas were clear and then the rods were ready to go. The left hand rod was fished to the far margin between the snaggy bushes, the middle rod was fished further to the right under an old tree and the right hand rod was down my near margin just at the entrance to the bay. Not knowing much about the going tactics I decided to edge my bets and cover as many options as possible. The left hand rod was fished with a Ronnie rig and an Epic Baits essential pop up and a light scattering of CSK Boilies.

The middle rod was fished with a CSK bottom bait over a light scattering and the right hand rod fished with a CSK waffer over a few spombs of carbon baits hemp and crushed CSK. I sat back and put the kettle on feeling confident with my approach. As the hours ticked away my confidence went with it. I hadn't seen any signs of carp and what once looked a like spot now seemed devoid of fish. The rods were wound in and I had another walk up to the main part of the lake. With

no signs to go on I headed back to my swim and got the rods back in place ready for the evening.

Apart from a little bit of attention from the cray fish not much else happened during the night. The rods were checked at first light and the left hand rod had clearly been enjoyed by the crays with claw marks all over the pop up. the rod and decided to get some hemp over the spot in the hope it would occupy the crays. The same was done for



the middle rod and the rig was also changed over to a Ronnie consisting of a Hobo armour size 6 off set hook and armoured boom filament. The middle rod was also moved a few feet to the left with the lead clipping the snaggy branches as it hit the water. I was now 24 hours into my 48-hour session and feeling a little deflated. Apart from a bream on the right hand rod the bobbins hadn't moved.



Evening was approaching after a few more bits of interest from the crays I wound the middle rod in to check the bait before darkness descended. A fresh pop up was soon back on the spot and the cast couldn't have gone much better with the lead clipping the branches on the way in.

The bobbin was set, and the kettle was on, sitting back taking in my surroundings I was soon scrambling for my middle rod as the alarm let out a few bleeps. Whilst fishing locked up the bites were never going to scream off, however slightly squeezing down the lead clip into an oval shape allows a size 8 swivel to pull out easily, turning the rig into a free running set up so that bite indication improves. Lifting the rod, I quickly took a few steps back and watched as the fish narrowly missed the snags. It wasn't a hard fight, and I was soon guiding the fish over the net cord.

Peering into the net with excitement and anticipation I was met with an incredible linear, I couldn't have asked for a better fish to get off the mark with. Photos and weighing done she was released on her way. The rod went back out again clipping the snags on the way in



rod was back on the spot. The mild days from a few days before were nothing but a distant memory as I laid in my bag feeling the chilly air and admiring the photos of my captures. They had me wondering what other gems resided in the lake and they were two fine examples of what

and then I sat back to have a look at the photos on the camera with a coffee in hand. As I sat admiring the catch shots the middle rod was off again, quickly lifting the rod and stepping back I had the fish into open water, although this one put up a good account of itself and tried its hardest to reach every snag in sight. A few more minutes passed and with it went the light, finally I was lifting the net around her and she was mine. The net was secured as I grabbed my head torch from the bivvy.

I would hopefully be catching this year. No more action followed but two mid 20's on my first visit to the lake was more than I could have ever expected. The fire is well and truly lit and I can't wait to get back to this little mysterious place and see what the next session brings. All the best
Danny.

Again, peering into the net like a kid at Christmas. I was greeted with another mid-20. This time though it was a big bellied common with a mouth to match. Photos and weighing done and after a few attempt the





Carp fishing and what it means to me
by Billy Wallis

A lifestyle I never thought or knew was out there. My name is Billy Wallis (blip) (billys_carpfishing) from Northamptonshire. 23 with an obsessive passion for angling. Here's a little about my past angling.

Growing up near a small stream I was always fascinated with fish and wildlife. Growing up I acquired my grandads old rods and pestered my dad to take me (who hates fishing) lead to hooking my first few fish (a perch and rudd) which instantly give me a buzz I'd never forgot. But not really having the resources to learn or do, fishing became a sort of impossible task at around 9-11 only managing to

catch small roach at best. So, leaving that behind just dabbling with it every now and then I took up other paths in life. But after a really strange and misguided past I hit a point where I needed to escape the world and get away from the day to day life I was living and returning to the river bank was

the perfect place, with information collected from watching discovery shed late at night as a kid (yes Discovery Shed, seeing old classics like John Wilson and Matt Hayes, still oblivious to the carp world I eventually hooked a 5-6lb chub from a small local stream, I absolutely caught the





bug for fishing as a whole and set myself to catch bigger fish. consistently walking and fishing the river having many chub around 3lb+ I knew if I was after big fish my chances on the river were slim and after a message to a family friend, I received one back while fishing the stream. Michael now a good friend who showed me the basics of carp fishing took me to local farm pond to catch carp. Never

even catching a bream I was amazed at my first. Then catching a few carp, I was in my element, I was instantly hooked. It didn't take long to have a PB of 15.6lb a mirror caught on the bottom of a lake called sweet hedges that we could not for love of us catch carp apart from on the surface with

bread and dog biscuit. Carp fishing quite regularly it came to me that not driving was a massive issue for me but being seriously hooked into being beside the bank the only way was paying for lifts or even taxis to local places I decided just because no one could come socialise or fish with me I was quite happy to sit on my own and fish regularly. Still no clue about the lifestyle and social media side of carp fishing it wasn't until it came to me,





I was losing my phones and photos of captures I was quite proud of I needed somewhere to store photos where I wasn't spamming my Facebook friends with constant fishing pictures. So, Instagram was made as a diary/ photo album.



The more I was catching and posting I was gaining a few likes and follows I was never expecting and getting notice from people and companies such as incredible tackle then other names. By this point my PB was a 23lb mirror carp caught at Stanwick lakes. I joined a fairly local syndicate rammed with carp, some nice barbel, koi, chub. A real mix bag which was great for me. Then moving onto another





onto another private lake with old carp to around mid-20s after illusive 30lb carp that were never there like most the day tickets I'd fished. But fishing day sessions every Wednesday and Sunday really crafted my angling and doing the odd nights at different day tickets around the UK helped massively. 4-5 years later I've proudly got rod Hutchinson company name behind me and testing for a small company seen on here before called snails fishing bait. Also meeting some amazing people along the way, I'm still as

keen as ever about carp fishing and even with working and looking after my daughter it's almost certain I'm going to squeeze sometime in on the bank every week if possible, even if that means long wheelbarrows to a local syndicate. FISHING A great escape I've still not stopped perusing and I don't see any changes happening soon. I try stay as involved

with the carp scene as possible, but I do find it hard to follow and a lot of it in my opinion is just utter silly. The most important thing about angling as a whole is to enjoy what you're doing. Whether that's fishing for small carp or big carp, silvers or pike. I definitely will continue fishing for the benefits it has on me as a person and being involved and surrounded by nature. Be back again soon Billy





Catching carp in challenging times
by Lee Bateman

So, what is challenging? In this instance it's the second week in April of 2021 and night-time temperatures up north are still falling below freezing.

Although daytime temps are hitting a massive high of 10 degrees, and the sun is getting the carp moving around during daylight hours it's for sure got the them very confused.

It was Tuesday evening and the weather reporter who let's face it depending on what they say for the forthcoming weather could be your best friend telling you the weather is Bob on for getting the rods out or you suddenly take a massive disliking to them as they have forecast freezing temperatures and rain.

Thankfully they forecast the latter for the Wednesday, and it was time to prepare the stalking gear. I still cannot understand how it was 4 degrees that morning and by the time I hit the lake at 5 pm it was 15 degrees and hot! It felt like someone had switched on the summer!

On reaching the lake I knew by heading to the shallows I would be sure to find the fish. Sure enough on approaching the reeds I could see a common and a scaly mirror swimming straight towards me.

This gave me some confidence that the fish were in the area.





I quickly and quietly lowered a 5 inch stiff hinge boom tied up on a size 4 Ronnie and a 12mm cajouser pop up onto a clear gravel patch.

After a short while of sitting low to the bank side trying to stay hidden from any passing fish I realised that there was a lot of commotion in the reeds to my right.

I was sitting there watching the reeds

moving and thinking to myself that it must be the pike spawning, it's the correct time and surely the carp could not be that active with such low temperatures of an evening.

As your understand I needed

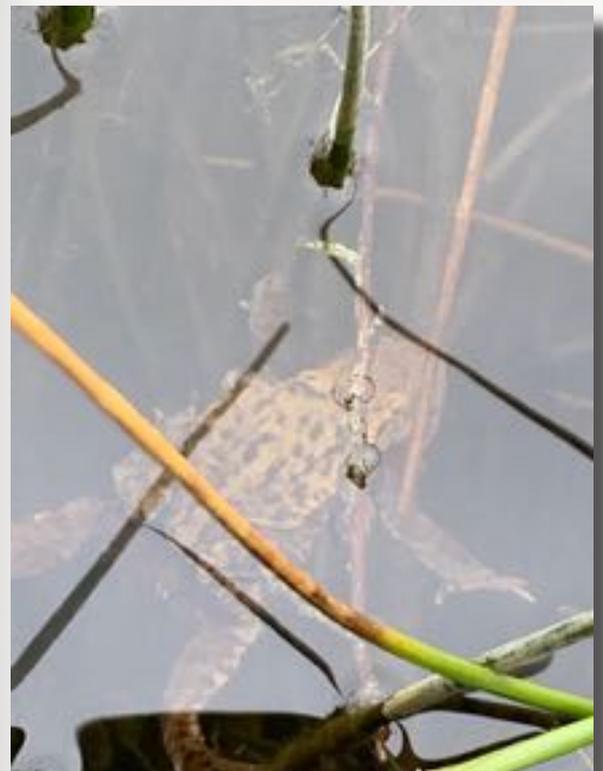
to find out what was happening!

On investigation I was shocked to see that in actual fact it was carp.

What was more interesting is that they were chasing the toads through the reeds whilst the toads were busy making the next generation.

Now the toads were only at the mating stage, so the question is why? If they were laying spawn, I could fully understand that this was the carp getting a free snack but with the toads only just starting the process I was lost for words.

However, I decided to change my tactic and quickly change from a pop up to a black zig with a size 12 and a good squirt of our new Nutrabaits salmon sludge set 2 foot from



the lake bed which was only 3ft in the area of activity.

Watching the carp moving in the reeds knowing they were getting closer to the zig was at times butt clenching.

I then see a dark shape appear and slowly swim towards

the zig which was now releasing the oil and scent of the salmon sludge straight into the path of this fish.

One quick take and we were into a banger of a scaly mirror, whilst having to lock up on this fish to stop it from doing me in the reeds it became clear that I had won this battle as

its head drifted up to my spreader block and I lifted the net whilst taking a sigh of relief.

Lee Bateman

Nutrabaits

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Saturday 26th June 2021



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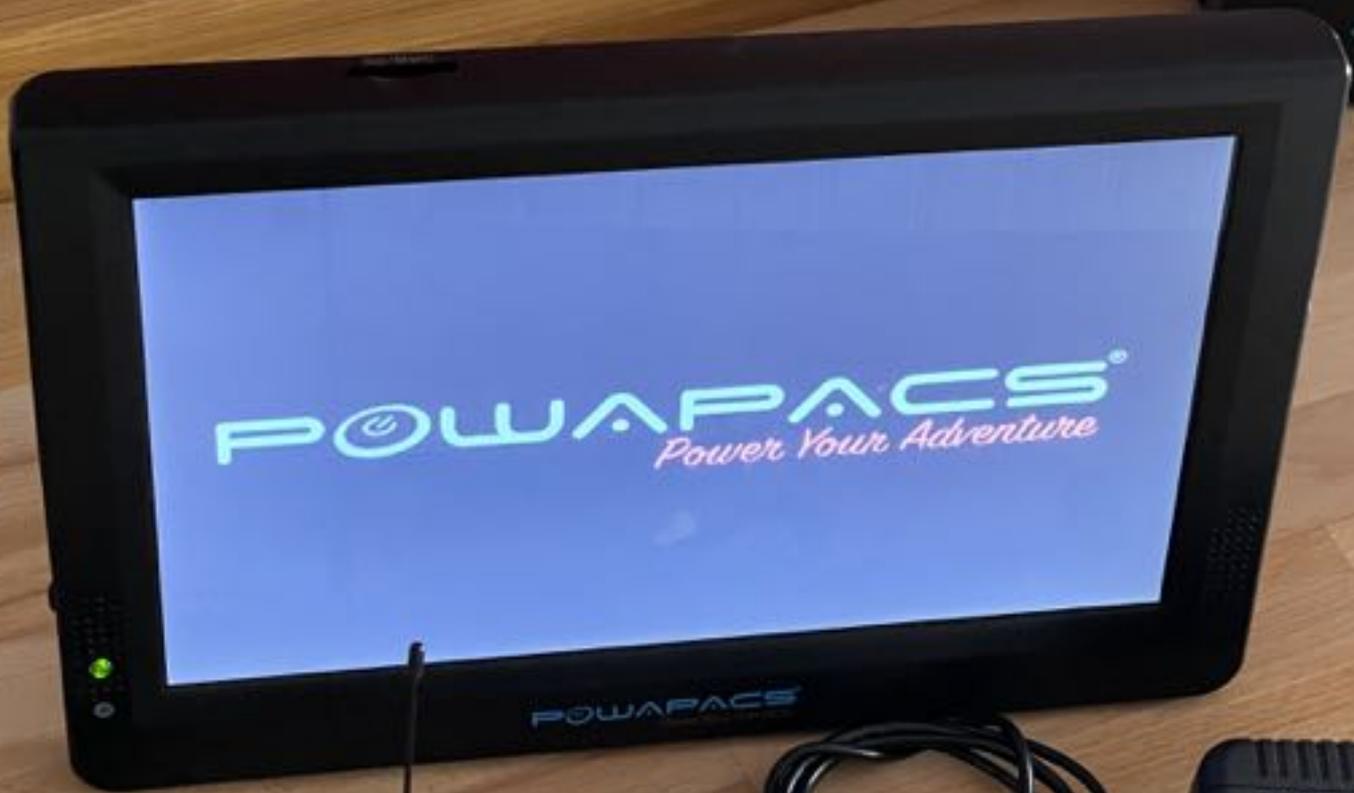


Reviews

Featuring -

Powapacs TV - Mark Carper
DAM Cooler by Anthony Woods
Asso fishing line by Anthony Woods
Katran line and headtorch combo
Well Sharp Hooks Brian Dixon

Powapacs 12" DVB T2 HDTV – Review by Mark Carper



In thirty seven years of Carp Fishing, I have never taken a TV on the bank with me...!!

Quite honestly, I've never felt the need or had the urge to watch a soap or the news, football or even a film...but then that's probably because the kit that has been available over that time hasn't really been of any quality, until now that is..!

Don't get me wrong, I have had a Smart Phone since the iPhone hit the market way back in June 2007 and with the advancement of the technology and the fact that contracts, especially for Data, have become more mainstream and affordable, this type of device and several others from Apple (Other makes are available...apparently..!!) has made watching pretty much anything you want whilst on the bank, much easier than ever before, but for me it has never been a priority and trying to watch a film or anything else on anything other than an iPad has never appealed to me at all, but this latest HD TV offering from Powapacs could be the device that changes my thoughts on 'Bank Side TV'..!

About the TV

This 12" TV is so lightweight; I didn't think it actually contained its own battery and the picture quality on the High-Definition Screen is exceptional and it is such a cost effective and portable unit. Retailing at around £130, this is a much cheaper option than my iPad Pro 2020, that would give me a similar viewing screen size.

The TV is also compatible with DVBT and gives you both Analogue and DTV+ATV (Freeview) all in one neat unit. But it doesn't stop there...

...It also has Inputs for VGA, USB, AV In/Out that can handle 1080P Video, an SD Card Slot and HDMI. It is capable of showing a multitude of formats including, MKV, MOV, AVI, WMV, MPEG1-4, MP4, FLV and MP3....!!

Extra Connectivity & Viewing

Another neat trick, is that you can plug your Amazon Fire-stick thingy into the TV HDMI Port, connect the Stick to the Data on your Phone and then you can watch Amazon Prime in the comfort of your own Bivvy...and if you use something like a 'Google Chrome Cast' device, you can even Stream Content directly from your Phone to the TV...

....and it even supports 'Airplay'.

...and yes, you could even take you Gaming Console with you 9providing you can power it that is) and it will allow you to play that too, what more could you ask for...apart from the odd Carp...?!

Put your favourite TV Programs and Films on a USB Stick and you can watch them directly and you can even use the TV to listen to the radio or your Music Playlists etc.

The in-built High Sensitivity Tuner combined with the supplied aerial, has worked perfectly well in all the situations I have tested the unit in, but you can also purchase as an option, a Powapacs TV Booster Aerial should you be in a weak signal area.

Using an adaptor, I have also had my 'Action Camera' connected to the AV Input on the TV, which allowed me to see both the Live and recorded



image from the Camera on a decent sized screen, making it easier to set the camera up as I required.

For me, the biggest bonus is to simply plug-in a USB Memory Stick with Movies already uploaded and watch at my leisure, and yes, I could just take my iPad and yes, I do always have my iPhone with me, but the phone screen is too small and the iPad too expensive to use as simply as a TV.

Battery & Charging

The screen boasts a 1280 x 600 HD Resolution so you can be assured of a high quality picture no matter what input you are using and weighing in at just 1kg, you won't even notice that you are carrying it in your kit and with around four hours of viewing time from the onboard, rechargeable Li-Polymer Battery, that's enough TV for anyone of an evening..(You can always connect it to your Powapacs Atom/Pro or ION though if you want to watch more, or to simply recharge it through the day. Failing that, you could always charge it from any 12vdc such as your car (Lead Supplied) or use the 110v/240v supplied Adaptor to top it up from any mains electricity power source making it a truly Portable HDTV...!



Remote Control & Setup

It also comes supplied with a full function Remote Control too. Setup took me about five minutes which basically comprised of connecting the supplied Aerial, Turning the TV On and following the Tuning Instructions on Screen and that was that.... I had full Freeview and Digital Radio ready to go.

Viewing & Quality

With a viewing area of 11.6" the TFT LCD Screen gives full Colour and exceptional sharpness in a ratio of 16:9 and has a viewing angle of 165 degrees, so even your fishing partner can join in the watching fun too.

I have tried the TV outdoors in full daylight (I actually think there may have been some sunshine too...!) and the reflection from the screen was as expected and made viewing fairly difficult and at times, impossible, but bring on the evening or take the TV in to the Bivvy and the picture was Bright and Sharp with excellent Contrast. The unit comes fitted with a stand on the back that moves through 180 degrees so it can be used to suspend it from a Magnetic Hook, for balance two hooks would be better, from the bivvy roof and it also has 'Threaded Socket' in the back which is compatible with the 'screw' on any tripod, making positioning for the best viewing angle a breeze.

The quality of the build is as you would expect from a company that makes such high-quality products and the operation of the TV is nice and simple with the picture quality matching the high standard of the



build...and if you are worried about disturbing others while you partake in viewing your favourite 'Action' Movie, you can always use the Headphone Socket...!!!

Conclusion

For me this unit represents a true game changer when it comes to watching TV on the Bank at an affordable price. The screen size is perfect for use in the Bivvy and multitude of connections allows you to pretty much watch and play anything you fancy, and the screen quality is the best I have seen at this price range and portability, and that's the key, this unit is lightweight and easily portable along with the rest of your 'comfort' gear...

Is it an essential buy...? Of course it isn't, it's a luxury but when has that ever stopped us Carp Anglers from buying stuff anyway...?!!

For me, it definitely isn't essential but for others that I see on Social Media with their 'Home from Home' set ups, it does seem that many anglers do like to watch TV when on the bank and this unit has it all, including great sound quality too.

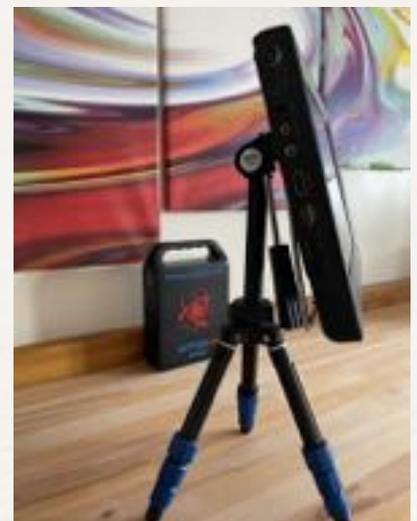
Will I be using it on the bank in the future...? Most definitely, but probably more for the longer sessions and especially when the borders are open for foreign travel and I'm bank side for days on end.

For more information take a look a www.Powapacs.co.uk

I will be doing a video review of the unit on my Instagram @mark_carper257 in the next few weeks.

Mark Carper

Instagram: @mark-carper257 / @talkingcarp.
magazine



Reviews

DAM Coolers By Anthony Wood





There are that many superb products out there these days that it can sometimes be quite difficult to find something new and innovative. This is where I turn to the likes of Kickstarter and Indiegogo where I have found several fantastic new products that were in the design part of their journey.

The unfortunate side to these crowd funding sites is that firstly the product will only go into production if the target is met and secondly the

product could take several months before it actually lands in your hands assuming it goes to production.

The advantages however, for me outweigh the disadvantages and the savings, the anticipation and the thought that I'm helping a new start up all add to the enjoyment of getting that new product.

It was on Indiegogo that I found DAM Coolers. Now I have had several coolers in my fishing and outdoor journeys but this one instantly stood out with its bold claim that it would keep the contents cold for an impressive 6 days!! Usually when I have used a cooler it has lasted 24 – 48 hours at most with some of the really good ones keeping the milk and food cold for 4 days so this instantly got my attention.



I eagerly waited around 5 months for the production process to begin and then around another 2 months for the shipping to begin and then finally the day arrived when my DAM25 Hard Cooler arrived!!



Unpacking the cooler, I couldn't believe the difference in quality to other coolers that I have previously owned. The DAM Cooler literally blew the others out of the water with its amazing quality, it felt sturdy and it held my weight when I sat on it (I'm not a small lad at 6ft 1" and 22st) so take a cushion with you and you have a really comfy stable seat to sit on as well.

I was very impressed with the accessories that came with it, there was a long divider, a short divider and a tray that meant that I could create a number of layouts within the cooler to customise the cooler to the requirements of the trip that I was going on.



This really is a superb sized cooler that will allow you to fit a weeks worth of meats, veg, etc that need refrigeration and the cooler actually does what the company boasts it will do and keeps the food cool for 6 days. I've tried it to see if it will last longer and if you are careful how often you open it, then you can stretch it out a few more days.

They also do soft coolers and backpacks that are coolers so there is a style for every fisherman out there. I would definitely recommend the hard cooler for any carp angler who is doing a weeks fishing as it gives you a really good way to store your food for longer.

There are a few perks still left on the Indiegogo campaign page so there is an opportunity to grab yourself a bargain so check out the campaign here <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/dam-coolers-ice-cold-for-over-a-week#/>

You can also follow the company and their new releases on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/DamCooler> and their website <https://www.damcoolers.com/>.

These coolers are brilliant quality and perfect for any extended carp fishing campaigns, you can use them as a bivvy table as well as it has a nice flat lid as well, perfect for preparing your rigs, etc.



A question that I must have seen asked a thousand times or more is “what line do you recommend?”, the thing is that this is a very personal question and quite often you will find that for every person who loves one brand of line, you will find another who hates that line.

Through the years I have struggled to find a brand that I am happy with and have tried several of the top name brands, several unheard of and unpronounceable Japanese lines but none ever really gave me that full satisfaction and confidence of use.

Then a few years ago now I came across a brand that seemed to have some reasonable feedback and that offered fishing lines not only for my carp fishing but also for my coarse, predator, game and sea fishing too which was an absolute bonus.

However, let's concentrate on the carp fishing lines that Asso produce. There are 8 different dedicated carp fishing lines that vary from co-polymer, fluorocarbon coated co-polymer, fluorocarbon coated tri-polymers, 100% fluorocarbon and braid. My favourites are the Carp Specialist range for the mainline with the fluorocarbon being used for the hook length rigs.

So, what makes Asso so different from other carp fishing lines that are out there? Most carp fishing brands aren't line manufacturers they go to line manufacturers and order some own brand labelled line at certain strengths. Asso are part of Gruppo who are one of the most experienced fishing line producers in the world and they sell their best lines through Asso!!





The Mainline Master is my favourite to use as the Mainline as it is fluorocarbon coated which stops the inner core soaking in water (this is important as water soaking into monofilament reduces its strength by upto 15%!!), this allows the line to keep its full strength. It is also more abrasion resistant which is perfect for all lake beds so you don't need to worry about which line you have on when you arrive at a particular water. It also sinks quicker allowing for the

line to lay on the lake bed quicker and flatter than normal monofilament lines.

For my hook lengths I like to make my rigs using Asso's Super Fluorocarbon which is their highest quality fluorocarbon. I love this line because it is almost invisible in the water whilst having a really good strength compared to its diameter and it is super smooth allowing for great line lay with minimum twists and kinks. They also do a high stretch super fluorocarbon which is perfect for using as shock leader when using braid.



Something that a lot of people complain about with fishing line is how it beds on the spool. There are numerous ways of spooling a reel up to try and improve the line lay, but I can honestly say I didn't need to try any of them. Literally all I did with my carp lines, sea lines, etc was poke a hole through the spool with a pencil and ask my wife to hold the pencil whilst I wound the line onto my empty spools.

Each time the line lay was absolutely perfect and even after casting and reeling in after snagging the line lay was still really good. There is a good amount of stretch for playing fish without losing any of the feeling of playing the fish.

You can check out all of the lines that Asso produce on their website www.assouk.co.uk or on their Facebook page www.facebook.com/assofishing.





**Katran Crypton Carp Line and the Katran W/B460
headtorch combo
by Brian Dixon**



This month we take a look at the latest offering from the Katran Fishing Line company...this one is a double header that goes hand in hand... Their latest offering is the Crypton Carp line, and the new blue light headtorch, and we are lucky enough to get to see this first hand.

Katran is a company dedicated to the ultimate in fishing lines and leaders, having some very unique products already under their belt. Firstly, the line and here is what Katran say:-

“Crypton Carp is the fishing line of the highest level, the ratio of the breaking strength to the diameter - is the best among the Katran range. The innovative technology of light reflection, which masks the fishing line at the any bottom, is applied. Above the water, it is almost transparent, and under water it changes depending on the colour of the bottom. The fishing line is almost invisible at the bottom, so it does not scare away cautious fish. High knot strength, low stretching coefficient 13-14% and low memory are another valuable benefits of Crypton Carp. The line is high abrasion resistant, smooth, elastic, easily passes through rings, designed for long distance fishing. The line is covered by polished surface, which protects it from dust and dirt, so it stays clean and smooth for a long time. Every 250 meters you will find special marks, the aim of which is to support you to spool exactly 250 meters on your reel. The fishing line is packed in iron cans, which perfectly protect it from ultraviolet





radiation and mechanical damage during transportation.”

And we have to agree totally. First impressions are very good and it appears exactly as it says on the tin!! It is the colour changing properties that amaze us... which brings us to the headlamp from Katran.

The headlamp is specially designed for fishing at night. The body is made of a lightweight aluminium alloy body with 2 independent white and blue LEDs. The key to this headlamp is the special blue light diode that creates a unique luminescent effect. This boosts the line glow, making a semi transparent Katran line glow a bright yellow colour above the water surface, and highly visible at night.



This is a great aid for helping you see your line at night... especially when fishing big waters and rowing back to your peg in darkness or snaggy waters as you can see exactly where your line is at all times. Switch the blue off and back onto white and the line returns to its semi transparent state.

The power button is located at the side of the unit, and you can have it left or right depending on whether you are left or right handed. Each brightness mode also features a memory mode, so whichever setting you use to switch off the headtorch will be the first mode when you switch it back on.

Another little bonus that caught our eye is the on/off button is slightly recessed so you cannot accidentally switch it on during transport giving you peace of mind that it will be fully charged when needed at night.

The headtorch comes in a generous sized hard case, and includes the battery, head strap, charging cable and a 2 year warranty.

All in all these products get 2 thumbs up from me and I can definitely see how these will be extremely useful to me...and to you too!!

Visit the website at www.katran.co.uk or email them directly at info@katran.co.uk and they will be on hand to chat with you and answer your enquiries.

Brian



Well Sharp Hooks.

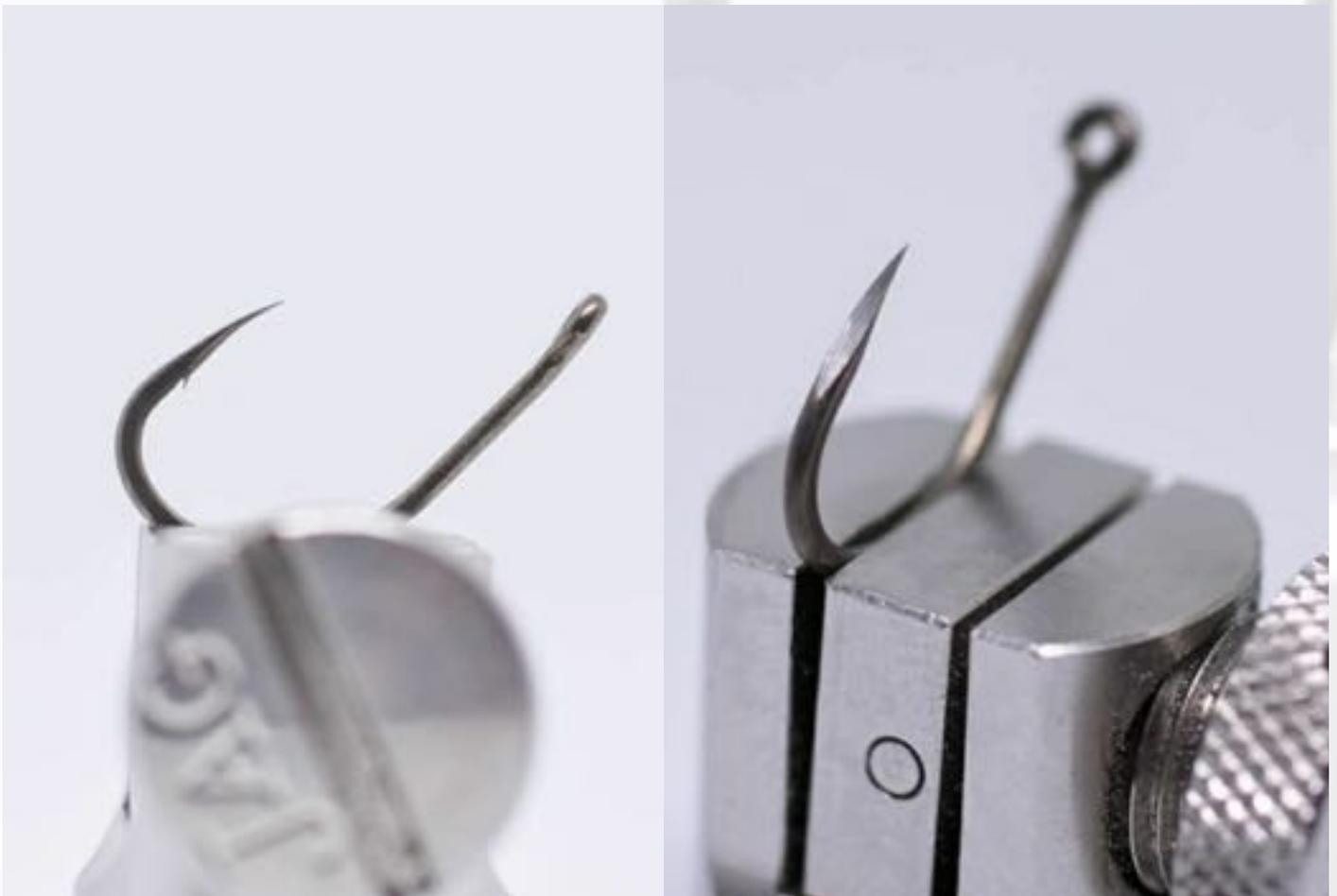
by Brian Dixon



Hooks, particularly hand sharpened hooks, seems to have caused a bit of a split amongst you folks.. some are for and some are against, and of course that is entirely up to you.

However, when scouring the social media and came across these we looked a little harder as these stood out a little. The hooks look strong, well made and sharp... very sharp.. so I got some! I have seen some hooks in the past that have been sharpened to within a whisker of their life, and whilst they may be to some anglers liking they are not to mine. Not for the waters I fish.

The bit I like about these hooks from Jon at Well Sharp Hooks is the fact they're not over sharpened. They are sharpened to the point where they retain their strength and shape yet dig into flesh very quickly, and stay there. (This I learned quickly when tying some hooklinks and bleeding for the cause!!)



There are a number of patterns available in the usual sizes so all the usual rigs and set ups are covered... I chose the 6s and 4s in curve shank and wide gape, and very happy we did so.

At the end of the day the hook is your first point of contact with catching these fish, and a good sharp hook is a must, and if I can find something to give me an extra advantage then I will take it. Here, I believe I have found a selection of hooks that will be super sharp, very strong, and give me the confidence to use them without the doubt in the back of my mind that the hookpoint may have turned over because some weed touched it on the way down!!

Take a look at the www.wellsharphooks.co.uk website, or find them on Instagram @wellsharp_hooks or on Facebook at Wellsharphooks. Buy in bulk and you even get a free hookbox (whilst stocks last!!) so be quick!!

Definitely 2 thumbs up from me on this one.

Brian.



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Logan Haynes



Logan Beats His PB Twice.....

Another young Carper, five-year-old Logan Haynes, out with his dad and doing the do...and this time he broke his PB not once, but twice in the same session...!!

Here's what his dad, Mitch, had to say...

"I took Logan out for a Day Session at a local day ticket water and he landed six Carp!



Logan Haynes

His first Carp of the session was a new PB, and he was pretty happy about that as you can imagine!

But when Carp number four weighed in at 13lb 8oz and set him another new PB, he was over the moon to say the least.

All six Carp were caught using a simple 'Blow-Back' Rig with a small Washed-Out Wafter with a very small free offering of half boilies which equated to about three boilies each cast...!!

As I said, he is absolutely over the moon and would like to thank a lot of the people on the Facebook Group, 'Chasing Chunks' for all the nice comments they have made to him.

He cannot wait to get back out on the bank now and is totally hooked...!!!"

Well done Logan from the Team here at Talking Carp Magazine and I think the 'Smile' says it all...keep up the good work and keeping showing us how to catch those Carp...!!!

Mark Carper

Instagram: @mark_carper257 / @talkingcarp.magazine



Ronnie

Ronnie is at it again....

A few months back, I was followed on Instagram by a couple of young Carp Anglers on (@juniorcarphunters) and I was impressed with their catch rate so gave them a little feature in the Magazine....Enjoying the newly found fame, the two Carpers have been hard at it all throughout the winter and last week, that extra bank time has rewarded Ronnie with a new PB..!!!

I caught up with their dad, and this is what he had to say...

“Ronnie arrived late to the lake as he went to play golf with his grandad, he arrived in mine and Teddy’s swim at around 17:30. We decided who was going have which rod and then me and Ronnie sat and watched the water for around thirty minutes.

During this time, Ronnie spotted what he thought was a sizeable carp show but it was the other side of a scaffold board so was inaccessible from our swim, but he decided that if he could get as close to the boards as possible, he may still have a chance.

His rig of choice was size 6 Multi-Rig with a Mainline Baits 15mm ‘Salty Squid’ Wafter, fished over a small scattering of crushed Tigers and Maize courtesy of Monster Particles..



Ronnie



He was full of confidence as we tucked into our evening take away and then he settled down in the bivvy with a film and that was that. A few bleeps throughout the evening but nothing to get Ron out of bed just yet.

That all changed at 03:45, when his rod went into meltdown.... he sprung out the bivvy and quickly went about directing the carp away from the scaffold boards. With my guidance for the first part of the fight Ronnie steered the fish into open water and 10-15 minutes later I got to do the honours with the net...and we could see it was a good fish...!! As first light wasn't too far off, we decided to retain the fish so we could get better pictures as this looked like it could be a new PB for Ronnie.

At first light we set all the Carp Safety Gear and sorted the Cameras and proceeded to get the Carp out of the water and on to the scales, which tipped round to 24lb 12ozs and sure enough, it became Ronnie's new Personal Best...!

He was so happy, and although as is tradition, we decided to hold tight on the 'Bucket Soaking' until the weather and the water gets a bit warmer...!!"

Massive congratulations on your new PB young man from all the Team at Talking Carp Magazine and I look forward to hearing about your next epic session.....Nice of you to let your brother and mega fishing partner in on the picture too and I'm certain Teddy will be featuring very soon....

Mark Carper

Instagram @mark_carper257 / @talkingcarpmagazine

Andy Shorthouse



Andy had his UK P.B. common with this lovely 31lber from a local private lake., along with this mid double mirror. This is a new record for the lake and the first 30 to be caught there.



Andy Shorthouse



Andy continued his fine form with 4 fish from Ealrs view on a 24hour session. These were the only fish out of the lake all weekend



Simon Ursell



And it's a new PB, all 25lb 6oz of a beautiful scaly Well happy as its where I cut my teeth and my syndicate water.

This fish was in excellent condition and no mouth damage at all, so as always looking after them is number one, quick spray where the hook hold was (bang in the middle of the bottom lip) and plenty of water as it was a warm one (including the mat)

Tactics used

Keep it simple, Slyfish wide gape on a multi rig (Julian Cundiff) also thanks for the help as always Jules, boom section was PB Products jelly wire, A ProbaitsUk pink pop up with a small mesh bag with boillie crumb Squid & Orange tempted this chunky one

...



Adam Griffiths



Millbrook fisheries

New PB of 31lb 6oz, caught using a solid pva bag the rest is a secret.



Alan Beacher



Many many years ago my Uncle got me started on my fishing journey. Sadly, very recently he passed away, so this latest canal warrior at 23lb 13oz is dedicated to him. Falling to the ever faithful Rod Hutchinsons Fruit Frenzy 15mm pop-up using an Incredible Tackle Lockdown Beaked, size 6 hook nailed in the bottom lip. I'd like to say many thanks to Terry for setting me up with my first fishing gear many many years ago.
RIP



Now that the temperatures have settled down and are more stable, with warm days and cold nights a trip down my local canal was on the cards. This trip didn't disappoint. I nailed these two fish 10 lb 14oz and 15 lb 1oz both with stunning colours, caught within 30 minutes of each other. Both fell to the Rod Hutchinson Fruit Frenzy bait range using a small scattering of boilies with a 15 mm Fruit Frenzy Fluoro Pop Up dipped in the matching boilie dip. Both fell to the reliable Ronnie rig using Incredible Tackle Lockdown Beaked, size 6 hooks doing the business. I am planning my next trip in a few days time. If you need any help with any canal fishing, just contact me. I'm always willing to help and give advice if you need it. Stay carpy, stay safe and I'll see you on the bank sometime

Jake Eouzan



Jakes first trip in 2 years and it produced this lovely 28lb 4oz pb. Caught on a 10ft zig cast into open water about 40 yards out pink foam and red zig aligner.

Steve Trevillion



Fishing solid pva bag of sticky krill mixes found a little drop of shelf presented there and hand this lovely 31lb linear carp



Andrew Grenfell

The in form Andrew Grenfell with a lovely 27lb mirror caught using a mixture of DT baits pellets along with crushed Supa fruit, N-blend and peach and sour cream boilies in a solid bag. The hook bait was a Cold Water Green Beast yellow dumbbell hook bait.



Chris Tuner managed this 24lb common from a trick day ticket water. It was one of two fish at 24+ caught during an overnight session using the ever faithful Supa fruit.



Jay white

Jay with a fantastic big pit 40lb mirror. Jay fished a Cold Water Green Beast wafter and matching three bait stringer to outwit the old beast.

Michael Carr

Michael Carr with a truly stunning fish of 25lb 8oz Caught on a Supa Fruit pop up over a bed of Supa fruit free offerings. What makes this impressive fish more impressive is it's from a low stocked syndicate.





Terry Canham managed this long torpedo shaped common of 28lb 15oz from a tricky day ticket water that doesn't do to many bites. No mean feat and great use our fantastic bait.



DT media guru Tom Blackmore with his first fish from a tricky new venue. Tom Fished a solid bag filled with Supa Fruit and matching DNA liquid to bank his first fish of the campaign.



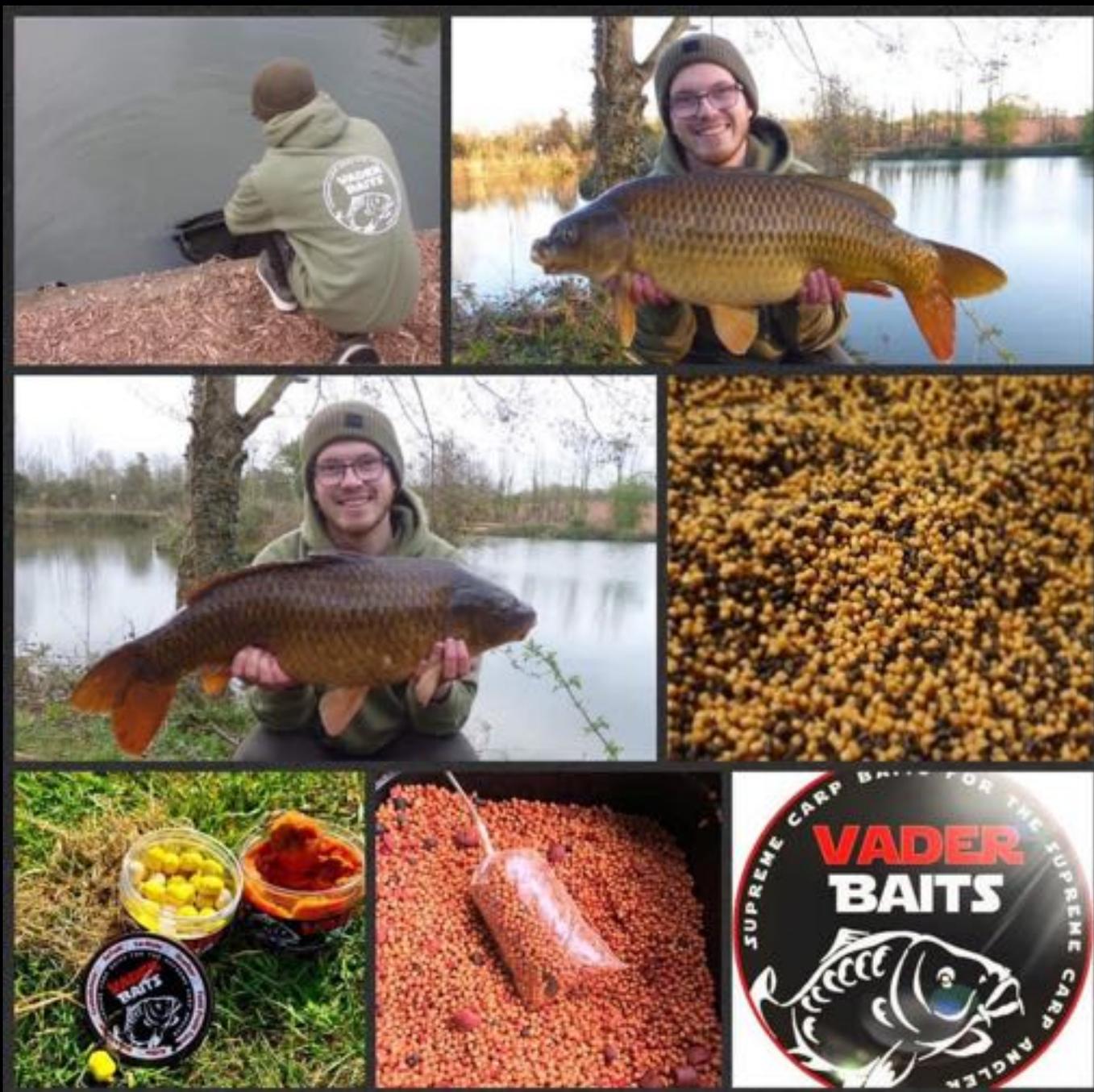
Team member Martin visited Islands for a day session. He used a pink Grafter wafter on 1 rod and a yellow SaTaN wafter on the other rod.. He chose to bait both spots equally with a mix of SaTaN and Grafter 18mm boilie with a mix of 8mm and 6mm glugged pellet..it wasn't long before the spot sprang into life but no sooner had Martin hooked into it he had lost it.. He used exactly the same method as before and introduced his rig back to the same spot and is wasn't long before his rod tore off and this time after a cracking scrap the bank was blessed with this superb looking scaley tipping the scales at 21lb 5oz !!

Great angling Martin



Team member Richard headed to Walton ponds for a 48hr session with team leader Matt. This was his first time on this water and he was impressed with natural look and abundance of features! The first night passed with no luck but the following morning produced an original old mirror greatly appreciated. This was caught using a Krilla wafter fished tight in a reed bed over a small loose feed of Grafter 6-8mm pellets and 14mm matching boiles. That evening also produced a stunning 15lb mirror falling to a red Tutti Frutti Tuna wafter over the same bed of Grafter. The following morning the wind had changed and it was very different conditions so through great tuition from Matt and persistence the third and final mirror fell for a pink Crabalicious pop up.

Great angling Richard



Team member Aaron took to his syndicate for a 48hr session...he banked himself two lovely carp within this session... the fish were tempted by a yellow wafter and Le Nutz, SaTaN, Krilla 2mm pellet in a pva bag!
Great angling Aaron

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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Thankyou for Reading

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

brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk

mark@talkingcarp.co.uk

m.galli@talkingcarp.co.uk



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

'The Talking Carp Team'

Brian Dixon
Mark Faulkner
Dave Harnick Snr
Mark Galli

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