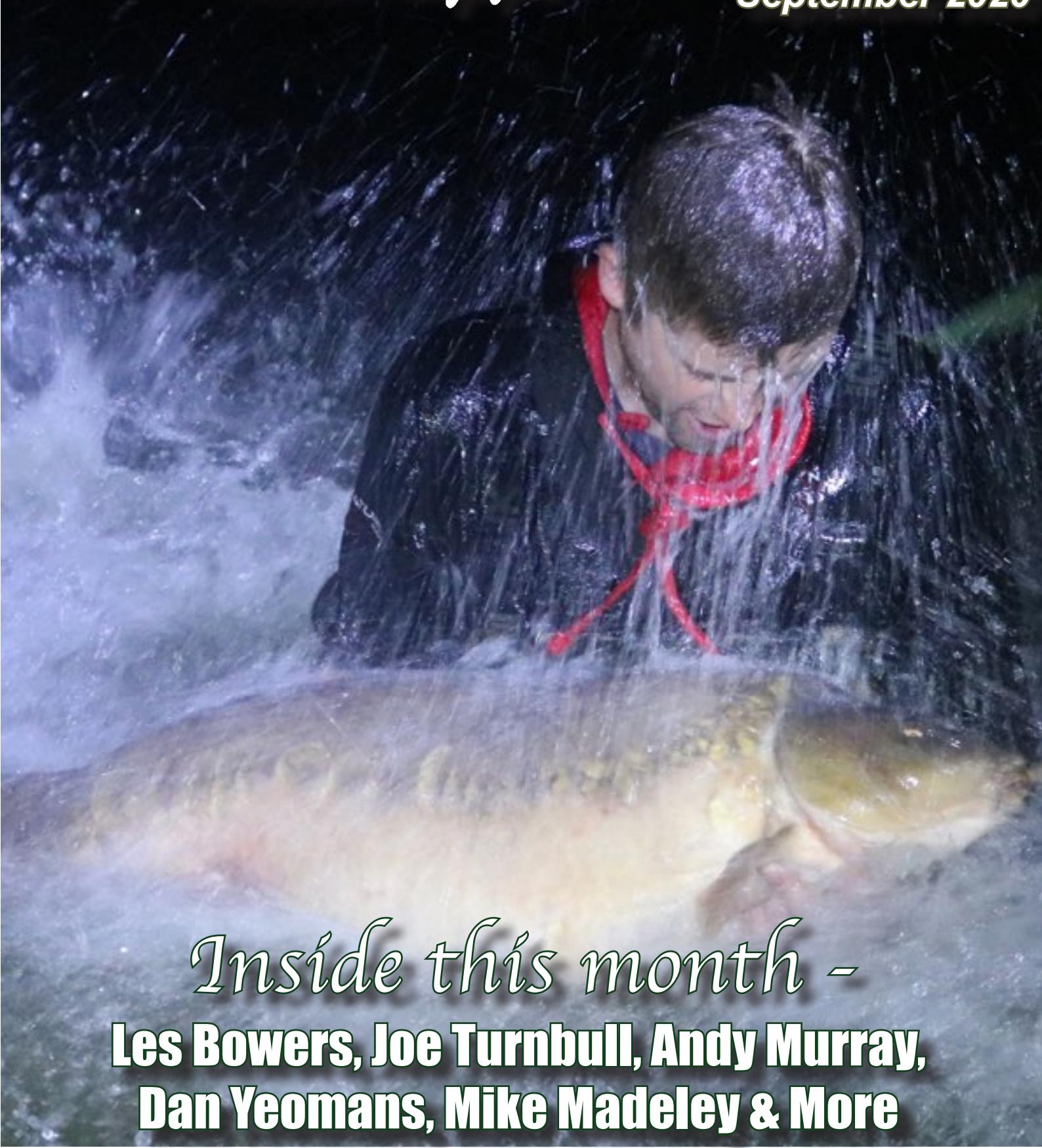




Issue 55
September 2020



Inside this month -
**Les Bowers, Joe Turnbull, Andy Murray,
Dan Yeomans, Mike Madeley & More**



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Hello....and welcome to issue 55.

To all our readers old and new. Some of you have been with us since day one, some joined us later on... and our readership continues to grow daily.

If you have joined us late on do not despair, we have every single back issue on the website from number 1 onwards.... and they are all free to read!! Tryst me, with some of the bumper issues we have produced... it is a LOT of carp reading for you. So enjoy.... It is all free!!

Moving on, Autumn is knocking on the door, and those carp will be on the munch... so get out there and fill your boots.

The time is upon us for some very tasty photographs and some prize catches. Just remember to start taking a few extra teabags and an extra layer of clothing now... there's a definite chill in the air at night time.

Remember to keep those fantastic articles coming in. We have a few new writers lined up from this month, and you could be next!! So get in touch. Email is open and we can guide you from your idea into a written and published article in a few simple steps.

That's it for this month... we look forward to those catch reports coming in so hit that button on our website and see your catches in the next issue.

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Team Talking Carp

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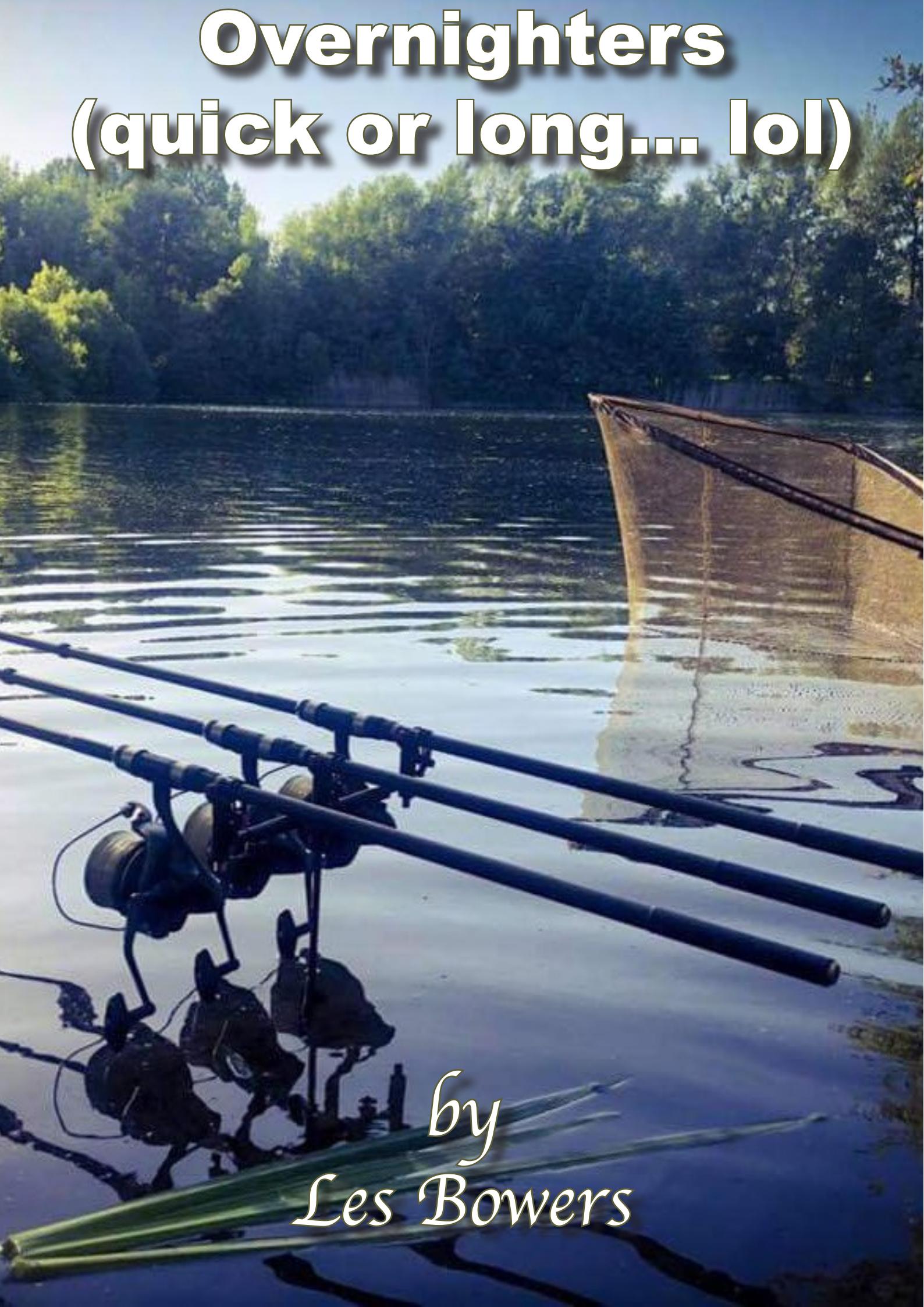


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Overnighters (quick or long... lol)



by
Les Bowers

I try and fish 48hrs every other weekend. The weekends I don't, I try to do a Friday overnighter. I know some can't be bothered when they only have overnight. It seems like a lot of bother to set up, only to have to pack up and go the next morning, often on bite time itself. Believe me, they are well worth the effort. I've caught many stunning fish whilst doing a 'quick' overnighter. (never understood the quick bit lol)

You have to be prepared when doing overnighters. Make sure you only take what you need. Have a bag with just the essentials in. You don't need everything and the kitchen sink. If the weather is good, you don't even need a shelter. (although I'd recommend keeping it in the car. I've been caught out before!)

This is what happened on my latest 'overnighter'. I'd been having a bit of success. I just keep the bait going in. Not always while I'm actually fishing, but either at the end of a session or popping down mid-week and putting a bit in my chosen

spots. I want them to treat my bait as a safe bait if I can. The more they eat without getting hooked, the better my chances while actually fishing.

I arrived at the lake around 4pm. I took a walk around to try and find a few fish. Climbing a few of the trees as I went. I chatted to a couple of anglers I know, and they said they hadn't seen much to go on. (probably wouldn't have told me if they did lol)

I saw a couple of fish head and shoulder near to where I'd been trickling in a bit of bait in... woods 2 swim. This was going to be my swim for the night. My left rod, I found a spot in 10 1/2 feet of water on a shelf before it dropped into 27 ft. I baited this rod with Activ8 crumbed up, and a little power hemp. The rig was a stiff rig of flouro with a 'D' and an Activ8 bottom bait, with a Mainline Ltd edition F1 pop up on top, snowman style.

The middle rod was straight out in front in 9 1/2 feet of water, with the same bait and end tackle.

The right rod was in 15ft of water. This had a stiff hinge rig on with a salty squid pop up on.

All rods only had a small amount of bait around them. I was fishing for a bite. There are not many fish in this lake, and I didn't want to overdo it.

What I was doing differently to everyone else is (I wasn't going to write this as I was keeping it quiet), putting a small amount of feed in a PVA bag, putting the hook



through the bag just above the feed, tying the bag off and blowing into it. This is so when it went out, the lead will hit the bottom and the rig and bag will float off the lead. As it slowly melts, the rig is pushed away from the lead and gently comes

down on top of any weed or debris that's on the bottom.



This gives a perfect presentation, knowing the fish can find it easily.

During the night I had a few bleeps but nothing forthcoming. At 8:30am the Mrs calls me. She wanted to know what time I'd be back as she wanted me to take her to garden centre and do some gardening. (I bloody hate gardening!!!) I told her I'd be home by 11am and all was sweet with the world.

Little did I know what was about to happen..... at just after 9am the left hand rod dropped back fast. I looked and could see coots nearby.

Cursing I ran down to the rod, not sure if it was them. I struck and nothing. As I reeled in, I caught up with the fish that was swimming towards me, and the rod hooped over. The excitement kicked in as I knew I was attached to a fish. The water in front is shallow for a bit but then drops quickly to 27 ft. I waded out as far as I dare. The fish using the depths to its advantage ploughing deep down. Eventually I got it to the surface and could see it was a sizeable common. With arm outstretched, I teased it into the





waiting net first time. I was shaking with excitement. I put the net in the net holder while I got out to sort camera, scales etc. I called my mate Nathan Bailey to come do the pics. He didn't answer. I still hadn't looked at the fish properly. I just knew it was a common and a good one. Whilst zeroing the sling, the right hand rod just peeled off at a rate of knots. I ran back into the water and grabbed

the offending rod. It fought even harder than the first fish. Trying to snag me in my own margins as it kited. I bullied it and hoped the tackle held. Once I had it in open water I eased off and played it as normal.

Now I had a problem! Because it was just an overnighter, I hadn't set up my other landing net. To catch one from here you're doing well. To have two at same time is unheard of.



hadn't unhooked the common, so I thought I'd just try and get the mirror in the same net, whilst not letting the common out. After a bit of jiggling, I managed to slip her in the net with the common. Again, I put the net on the rest while I got out to sort things. Still not knowing what I'd got, other than a big common and a decent mirror. I thought, sod it, I'll do self takes. As I was sorting the gear out, Nathan called me back, apologising as he said he was playing a fish. So, he was playing one at the other end of the lake as I was playing mine. You

just couldn't write it lol. I said, well if I've got two in the net. One's a big common. His was only 21 and he said he was letting it go and ran around to me. I was sat making a cup of tea when he arrived in the swim within minutes of our call. 'What you got' he asked. I don't know, I said. I've not looked properly yet. He asked if he could look while I finished making tea. Crack on, I said. As he went into the water and looked in the net, he looked up and me and said, '*that looks like the Oxlease common'*



Overnighters

We did the mirror first and saved the best till last. The mirror went 31.10, which I'd have been happy with on its own.

When we lifted the common, I knew it was big just from the weight. As we unfolded the sling, she was enormous. On the scales she went 47.12. I was over the moon. In 3 weeks, I'd had two of the known 40's. Nathan made a grand job of the pics. I felt bad as I knew it was the one he was after. I was now late home. The swim looked like a bomb had gone off. The Mrs wasn't happy. They just don't understand do they!! Lol.

When I got home it cost me £200 in the poxy garden centre and another £200 on a super duper new hoover. Was it worth it...? hell yes!!!! Lol

So, if you do get a spare night, instead of sitting in front the box, get out on the bank. You never know what could happen. just makes sure your bank balance can take an irate Mrs

Best fishes

Les



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THINK!
THINK!
THINK!



By Joe Turnbull

If you're at all like me, you'll find yourself thinking about carp fishing more or less every single minute of the day. I literally go to bed thinking about what I can do next to improve my angling ability the next time I go and I often send myself to sleep with thoughts on rig changes, bait improvements, line lay and so on. If you want to be great and consistent at anything you need to have this same thought process and make it a big part of your life and mindset. Sure, you can go and pub chuck a bait with absolutely no thought about it and catch a carp but that won't happen very often unless you're incredibly lucky.

When all said and done, one of the most important things to get right is mind set. Everything starts with a good mind set and like they say, if you put your mind to it, you can do anything.

The majority of top anglers like to plan everything in their minds way before they even set foot on the venue they're thinking about fishing. Whether it's a new venue or simply a venue I frequent often, I'll always have in my mind a few days before I go where I think the carp might be or where I'd rather be if I were a carp on that particular day. The amount of information readily available these days is brilliant, especially via apps on mobiles so you can do lots of second guessing long before you go.

One thing that drives me completely insane is people asking for information on-line.

Now don't get me wrong as there are questions and there are questions but asking how deep the lake is, what the bottoms like or where are the best swims are is something you can find out by actually turning up to fish.



The whole idea behind going fishing and all that comes with it is finding all this stuff out for yourself and learning, it's how you get better. Also don't ask, how many are on and whether you should bother going or not as this, believe it or not, in my mind, makes venues worse. If you turn up and the place is busy, nine times out of ten you'll find the fish to be holding up in those swims that no ones in, so by you NOT turning up and fishing those swims, the fish just sit there and don't get pushed around. So, don't be one of those that ask silly questions, get off your arse, get in the car and go a take a look for yourself as more often than not you'll be pleased you did.



WEATHER

The weather is of utmost importance and depending on the time of year, it will generally dictate where Mr Carp is holding up. Water depth, topography (what the bottom may look like in-depth variation) wind and of course temperature including water temperature can and often do play a huge part in the jig saw. Some of us are simply gifted and work a lot of this stuff out with ease but many of us have to consistently be out there doing it for it to sink in and suddenly

become second nature.

As an example of how you can read the weather to give you a head start, it goes a little something like this. Say for instance the weather today is sunny, high pressure and with a calm 9mph easterly wind and were in September. The temperature is around 18 degrees, so it is still warm and by this we know that the carp are still going to be active and looking for food. OK, so you take a look at whichever weather app you have (I use Weather pro on IOS and Windy) and it tells you that tomorrow, the day you're fishing is going to be a completely different day.

The wind is going to be turning to a southerly, there is going to be a little rain, the wind is picking up to about 17mph and its going to be overcast so mainly cloudy. Now depending on how deep the water is at the end of the lake where that 17mph wind will be blowing depends on if the carp will be there in numbers or not. If it so happens to be the shallow end of the lake and the water temperatures are obviously still going to be warm, then at first I'd still favour this end BUT it's a new wind and carp love a new wind so that's where I'd probably head. The bottom line is, that you have done the homework and now you have twice as much of an idea and all by just looking at the weather. However, you must keep it up and eventually it will come naturally so the more you go and look for yourself the more you'll learn.

A PRIME EXAMPLE

So, on my last session me and a mate turned up at a venue I had been fishing over the last few months



or so. In fact, it's a place where I'd been taking guys on tuitions, quite a large venue of some 18 acres or so and with depths varying between 5ft to 22ft in places it makes for an interesting place to fish. The venue has a rough stock of about 530 fish, so quite a few to go at but they move around in small groups so its not just a matter of finding all the carp together, you have to think about it.

When we turned up, we knew that the wind was going to be blowing across the lake and not up at one end. As the water temperatures are still relatively warm, we knew that there would be some fish passing by us at some point.

We both baited up at about 20 wraps which is somewhere toward the middle as we knew that they wouldn't be in the margin near us. Rods out and after a few hours I caught a fish and in fact spotted a few small shows over the baited area so had a good idea that they were frequenting the middle.

Checking my app halfway through the session and it told me that we were going to have a wind change in the next few hours and the in the next 24hrs we were going to see big winds of up to 30mph. It was still going to be blowing the same way but obviously much stronger than the previous few hours.

Now usually we'd have both upped sticks and moved but we were fishing as a bit of a social, so we stayed put. Over the next few hours and as the wind picked up, we noticed more and more carp showing themselves on that wind and closer to the other side of the lake, they were obviously excited by what that new high wind had bought.

I knew exactly what was going to happen by checking that app and thinking about where I'd like to be if I were a carp and I was spot on.

So, guys and gals, think about your angling, think about where you'd want to be if you were a carp and be one step ahead of the pack as only you can make the difference.

Until next time be lucky

JT





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**MEDIA AND NASH
TACKLE.... AN INTERVIEW
WITH DAN YEOMANS
BY MARK CARPER**

Whether or not you are a fan of ‘Nash Tackle’, you will no doubt already know who Dan Yeomans is, as he appears in numerous Nash Videos, ‘Live’ Streams, Pod Casts, Product Adverts....the list goes on..!!!

Having already interviewed some of the ‘key’ Nash Team in the form of Julian Cundiff, Oli Davies, Alan Blair, Alfie Willingale, I thought I would complete the set of the ‘Media Team’ and I tracked down Dan, who is a real ‘Old Boy’ at Nash having joined them in 2015...

Typically, I timed it all wrong and waited until the Country and the majority of the World was coming ‘out of lockdown’, to catch up with him...!

TC: Mr. Yeomans, welcome to Talking Carp Magazine for the first time and thanks for taking the time from what is now a mega busy work schedule for you to give our readers a look at the role of the Nash Tackle Media Manager...we’ll kick it off with a couple of easy ones;

What have you been up to during the ‘Lockdown’

And...

What does the Media Manager for Nash Group PLC actually do...;)?

DY: Lockdown wasn’t really a lockdown for me! My day to day really hadn’t changed much in all honesty. Pre COVID, I had been spending all day, every day editing EB6 from home and so when lockdown hit, I just carried on much of the same! I’m lucky in where I live that I have huge complexes of lakes just a mile or so from where I live, so getting my ‘fishing’ fix was easily achieved by walking the dogs around the lakes every day! And so, what does a media manager do...well... everything! It’s a bit of an ethos at Nash that you just do what you need to do to get what you need to get done! Everyone mucks in with everything, rolls their sleeves up and helps out.

So typically my role is as the title suggests manage the media team. We have a great team here of 5 guys as full-time videographers or photographers. Myself, Barnaby, Tony, Brad, Sam and Curly. My job is to make sure these guys all have projects on their plates. Organising shoots and scheduling the edits but also coming up with creative ideas whether that's for a larger session-based video or for product videos. I also have always shot and edited myself so as I mentioned, on top of my EB6 editing I also keep on top of what everyone else in the team is doing and make sure everyone has work on.

I also work very closely with Alan (Operations), Kevin (The Boss!), Alfie (Social Media) and James Massey who is commercial director in deciding a lot of marketing strategy related to not only the films and media side of things, but also the launches in terms of what new products are marketed and how we do that. I'm a bit of a jack of all trades master of none type bod!

On top of this I could be doing anything else from helping anglers with their stuff up to the Nash fishing lakes, netting our stock ponds or recently we have been refurbishing the offices, so we have all been mucking in clearing furniture, painting walls and building flat pack!

TC: I understand that you joined Nash in 2015, so have you always been the Media Manager...?

DY: Yeah that's right, 5 years that has flown by!

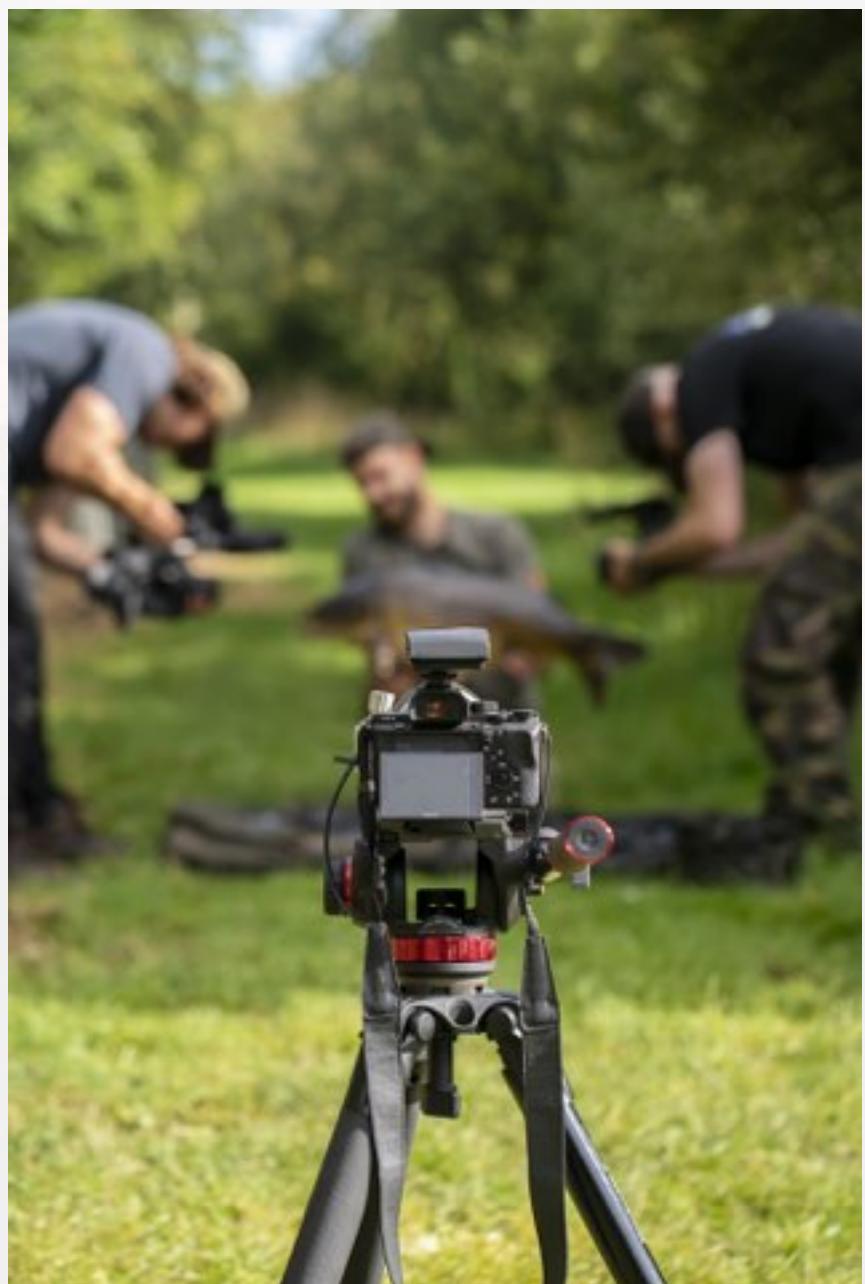
Nope! I started at the bottom! I guess a junior videographer in a VERY talented team of guys. A guy called Winston Nugara ran the team and we had Oli D as a cinematographer and Carl Smith as another videographer. I learned LOADS off these guys in my early time at Nash and from there I guess just worked my way up!

TC: What qualified you for the role...?

DY: I have always loved fishing but during my late teens and college, I got into media, then headed off to Uni at Nottingham Trent to study Media Production. Fishing was on the back burner for a few years through Uni, only dabbling in the Christmas break really. I came out of Uni with a degree and some knowledge then worked a couple of media-based jobs. I lived on a cruise ship as a videographer for the best part of the year before coming back to the UK to start to shoot wedding videos (and go fishing again!). I was working full time in a call center and shooting/editing weddings at the weekends and it was at this point Nash got in touch and the rest is history as they say! So yeah, a relevant degree and a few years' experience behind the lens is I guess what qualified me!

TC: Was it the 'Fishing' aspect or the 'Media' aspect that first attracted you to the role...?

DY: Both! They were and still are my two greatest passions.



As a 16-year-old if you had asked me what I wanted to do for a living this would be it. It's without a doubt my perfect job! I was lucky really. I had asked around at a few companies if there were any vacancies going in media production but with no luck. I had a mate (Loz Smart) who had done a placement year at Nash and gone on to get a full-time job. As we went fishing, I would film some of the sessions. Typically, Loz showed Alan and Winston and it was lucky that they were looking to expand the team at this point. So really it all came very out of the blue, there wasn't really a role I applied for! I just had a call from Alan

one day on my lunch break offering me a job!



TC: In terms of the role, are you responsible for the just the UK Media output or do you have a wider remit...?

DY: I touched on it earlier that it does spill a bit more than the UK media output. Great thing with such a tight little company is that your input and opinions are taken seriously and really lead to changes within the company. I have a say on a lot of aspects on what we do as a company on a marketing front and

how we portray ourselves as a brand. Also, in terms of EU media production I liaise with all our territories in terms of media output and guide them where I can. However, these guys really are amazing and very self-sufficient. I have incredible support on that front and all the European media managers know the score when it comes to video and have developed their own teams of videographers who are putting out great stuff right across Europe.

TC: It was widely publicised on Social Media, especially by Mr. Blair himself, that you were the person responsible for the edit of the sixth and final episode of Euro Banx. A massive ask and a massive amount of footage to work through.

How much ‘free reign’ did you have on the final content; how did you decide what to include (considering there was a lot of blanking...!) and how many hours did it take you to complete...?

DY: Yeah that was indeed me. Well firstly it was a tough act to follow! I hadn't done an EB at that time, and I hadn't really wanted to because I knew how much it had taken over the guys lives and what I was in for. Winston back in 2014 edited EB1 and then went on the edit EB2 - creating the style and trend of the edit that has lasted all the way through. EB3 was done by Carl Smith and Alex Smith did EB4 and EB5.

I had a lot of freedom on the edit. The guys gave me a huge selection of tracks and a rough brief as to what happened, then it was up to me as to what went in. Once a HUGE very rough cut was complete, I sat down with Alan and Oli and we went through and made a big list of changes. We discussed things that could stay, scenes which could go but it's very much a combined process there.

I wouldn't like to think how long it took me! Hours wise I will never truly know - Hundreds! Thousands! MILLIONS!

TC: In terms of content, I know that the Nash 'Lads' as a whole, on occasion, have taken criticism for some of the things posted on Nash Media sites and in the Euro and Urban Banx videos too. Is this something you consider before uploading or is it just inevitable that not everyone will like it and simply want to make a criticism anyway. How do find the balance...?

DY: Well the easy thing to realise is that there will be negativity pretty much on everything. It's rife all across social media in any industry now. But it's not something we think about beforehand really - we just try to make it as good as possible and if a production gets criticism then so be it! No matter what people say you can always try to take the feedback on board and put it into the next production where possible! Carp fishing has so many avenues, we just need to realise that not everyone is going to like a UB film. So, we need to make a film to appeal to the audience who don't like inner city canals and DnB!

TC: Tell me about "Life at Nash", what does a typical week consist of for you and also about the videos with the same title, how did they come about...?



DY: Life at Nash is a whirlwind really. There is no typical week to be honest. It could be sitting and editing all day every day, it could be going out on a shoot, it could be at HQ back to back meetings or sitting with one of the team going through an edit rough cut. There is a huge variety which I like as it keeps me interested!

The ‘Life at Nash’ videos came about long before I started at Nash. Winston gave Tommy a camcorder and just got him to vlog a bit of behind the scenes of the day to day at Nash. Obviously, it was called ‘Tom’s Viral’ back then but we kind of figured it wasn’t just about Tom but the whole of the Nash behind the scenes. So, L@N was born!

TC: We have briefly touched on the critical and sometimes completely disgusting comments that the public make on the Nash media content, but for me, one of the best criticisms was from a guy that said something like “that’s what happens when you let kids run the business...!”. Do you class yourself as one of those ‘kids’ and are you doing Nash Group PLC and injustice...?

Do you enjoy reading out and responding to some of the comments as you did in the “Reading Mean Comments” video...?

DY: Yeah, I saw that! It’s funny because I guess we might look like ‘Kid’s’ to some of the audience but we’re really not that young! I’m 30 years old now which I wouldn’t exactly call a kid! I guess a lot of the guys must seem 19-21 in some people’s eyes so I can see why they might think it. However, everything always still goes through Kevin, Alan and the other guys at the top of the business. I think a young, fresh and hungry team is vital to the Nash Team, but we need the experience of the likes of Nashy to hold it all together. So no, I don’t class myself as a kid at all - I wish I could - I’ll take it as a compliment!

Ha-ha that video did go down well - but it was all a bit of a tongue

in cheek laugh. We do read all the comments and we see what everyone says. Nothing ever gets to me, it's honestly water off a duck's back. You get some real horrible and vulgar ones in fact - but usually I just think, some poor sod is in a negative enough headspace to take 2 mins out of his day to abuse someone online for no real particular reason with no real reward! I don't and couldn't imagine doing it about anything, so I know whoever writes stuff like that online can't be doing too well themselves to be actively trying to bring others down! I kind of feel sorry for them. As mentioned, we do take on board the gist of what everyone is saying - it's the real way to collate feedback from the audience and use it to improve in the future!

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...?

DY: NEVER reply. Replying creates a snowball effect. If you HAVE to say something in response - say something positive back to them. Typically, people can't deal with a positive response to a negative slur! But it's easier just to ignore it, if you ignore it, or delete it, then it doesn't exist in your world - only theirs!

TC: Having interviewed Alfie about his role as 'Social Media Manager' for Nash, how much of what you do links with his role and vice versa...?

DY: Mine and Alf's role go hand in hand really! All of our content is displayed on a social media platform of some sort so we have to work closely together in terms of scheduling and deadlines all the way through to how the content will perform the best.

TC: Can you give a run-down of the main Media Equipment / Software you use on a regular basis as Media Manager...?

DY: Typically, we shoot on Sony cameras and a mixture of glass really: Sony, Canon, Sigma. Software we use premiere proffer editing and the adobe package for everything else in terms of adobe audition, lightroom, photoshop, after effects etc. I've used a few different editing suites over the last 14/15 years but coming to Nash they used Prem Pro so I've solely used that for the last 5 years!

TC: Over the time you have been doing the job, what's changed the most in terms of Media output...?

DY: The amount of it! Everything has to be more regular, bigger, better.... crazier! Social media moves at an alarming rate, so I guess just trying to keep up. When I first arrived, we mainly made these massive 4-hour long productions and dropped them early in the year - everyone did. We dropped a couple of videos here and there but together with Carl Smith we decided it really wasn't the one. So,



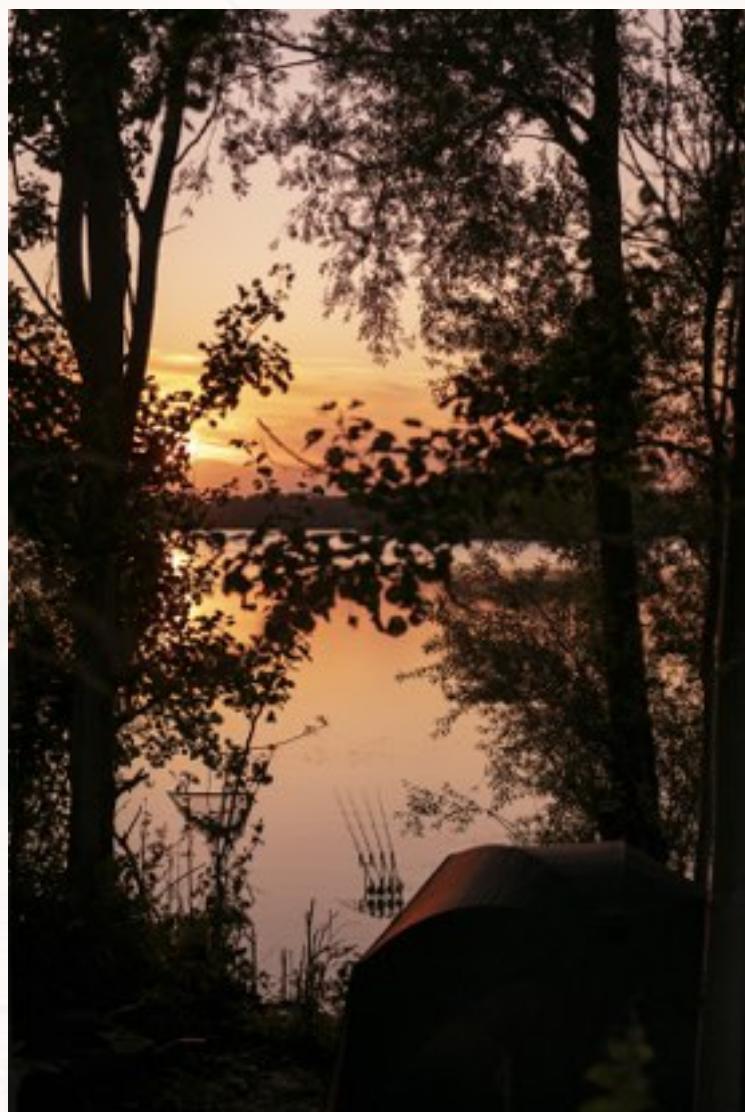
making smaller productions released more regularly was a big change we implemented, which I think worked better. It's been a crazy 12-18months in the media team here with guys coming and going so it's taken a bit of a hit on our output, however I'd say that was the main change since I started

TC: Do you have any influence on Product Design or ideas...?

DY: Not really! I'm a really complacent angler I think when it comes to the tackle I use. I never grumble really about anything so in the grand scheme of things I'm not the best for feedback or testing products! I'd never send a meal back in a restaurant, I'd just eat it - similarly in fishing if something isn't perfect, I just get on with it and get the rods out! If Mikey shows me something new, I'll give him my opinion, but it's always minor - Mikey, Alan and Kev are very good at what they do - I leave it to the professionals!

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

DY: I'm terrible - because no I really don't - and I should! I used to be bang on it, always showing off my photos and posting when I can but I started to get a bit bored of it.



I just go fishing for me these days and I'm not too fussed about likes and followers. I did get a kick up the arse recently though! I'm lucky enough to have a half decent platform in terms of social media, that is kind of wasted if I'm not using it, so I've made a bit more of an effort recently - The greater good!

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...?

DY: I thought joining Nash I would be out fishing loads! But year on year I get out less and less! As a Nash employee pretty much never - I'm always behind a camera and typically I won't get the rods out while on a shoot - only acceptance is on our 'social' shoots. My own Carp fishing takes a massive hit, only through how busy the job is really. Work a lot of early mornings, late nights, weekend shoots etc. In amongst that try to see my girlfriend on the weekends I'm free! I would say I get the odd overnighter and one weekend a month if I'm lucky!

TC: As you have appeared in numerous media content, including many of the Nash TV films etc. do you see yourself as 'famous' or a 'celebrity' angler and do you get recognised often...?

DY: Absolutely not! Really, I have only appeared in one or two productions and only for a few seconds here and there really - not enough to really be recognised. It's only fishing at the end of the day - I get it with the likes of Alan, Ali Hamidi, Claudia Darga with HUGE follower counts, there must be a celeb element to it. I know Alan gets recognised all the time! But for me, nah! no chance!

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

Media/Technology etc...?

DY: Go and learn the trade! No one is hiring you as a videographer if you are an incredible angler but can't use a camera. A knowledge of carp fishing is handy but being a dab hand on the buttons or in the edit is the skill set that's required, not how much you can get on the bank! Get an education in it, get some experience, work as an apprentice, shoot in your spare time, get on YouTube or all of the above! It's a very sought-after skillset, so go out and get good at it!

TC: ...and what about those that are looking for Sponsored Angler or Consultant Role, which I know the likes of Julian Cundiff is asked almost daily...what would you offer to them in terms of achieving their aim...?

DY: In this day and age you need two main attributes for being a good sponsored angler in my eyes: The ability to catch carp and the ability



take an AWESOME photo. Invest in a decent camera and get REAL good at taking a photo, especially a catch shot/self-take. If you caught 10 50s a month but got horrendous out of focus photos that look like they have been shot on a Nokia 3310, then they are no good to us. Similarly, if you are an incredible photographer but can't catch a cold - again, no good! If you have abilities in both these areas, then say chuck in you are good in front of a camera and have a good social media presence, then you wouldn't have to wait long. Just keep putting out content and someone will come find you! I wouldn't start punishing every company about how great you are and asking for a sponsorship deal. Just go out and do-the-do!

TC: Dan, thank you for taking the time to do this interview and giving a great insight to your role at Nash Tackle and I hope you have inspired the next generation of 'Kids'...!



I've asked Jules, Oli, Alfie and even Mr. Blair himself about my "Consult-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... "I'm coming for him next..!"

Ha-ha thanks for having me for an interview mate - hope someone, somewhere enjoys the read!

'Quick Fire' Questions....which do you prefer...

Commons or Mirrors...? **Mirrors**

Day Sessions or Overnights or Longer Sessions...? **Longer sessions, although it's rare, why wouldn't you want to spend more time on the bank!**

Small or Big Waters...? **BIG!**

Remote Locations or Full Facilities...? **Remote Locations - I'm a loner**

UK or Outside... (If outside, name the country) **Love fishing in the UK - but it would have to be outside - can't beat Belgium!**

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

Bottom or Surface...? **Bottom**

Close In or Long Range...? **Close in**

If you could only fish one more session, where would it be...? **Anywhere as long as it was a social with the lads I work with - cute I know!**

What was the most memorable fish you caught and why?

This is a real tough one! Probably a big common I had from a canal in Belgium. We'd been to this canal once or twice a year for a few years, so it was a real target by now. I had been out with work but decided to stay when the guys went home and had a few days holiday on my own. Driving round Belgium in the autumn sun on my todd felt like a real adventure, and after a couple of nights on this canal I found the big common, placed a rig and had it 20mins later. Did self takes in the woods with locals stopping and I guess congratulating me in their language - was a mega morning!





**Short sessions and on a roll by
Andrew Murray**

Hi all, I have a few things to talk about this month, some are even about fishing! This week was a great source of celebration for us personally, Sal finished her Cancer treatment, so surgery, Chemo and the radiotherapy all done. 8 months since being diagnosed with Breast cancer, we are nearing the end of the journey, I am not sure we are feeling anything yet, probably still a bit numb from it all, as it has taken over our lives a lot. Whilst Sal will have to take drugs for several more years, the worst is over, and we can start to move on with our lives again. Cancer is a terrible thing, its non-discriminatory and just picks on people at random, we were lucky it was caught so early. I would urge everyone to make sure they do all checks and tests as recommended by

their Doctors and the NHS. Sal wasn't going to go for her check-up last December and god knows how things might have worked out if she hadn't! it would be fair to say the last several months have been challenging, as they have been for everyone though. What I would say, is that if you know someone who is working their way through Cancer treatment and they say they are doing fine, trust me they aren't! A kind word or a gesture means a lot to folk who are going through their personal version of hell, as it can seem a very lonely battle. It really cheered Sal up when she received a random bunch of flowers.

Like most, I'm easing back into some sort of work pattern, though it is limited due to the continued house lockdown in our area. I

had a bit of a trip down memory lane recently. I had cause to meet someone to pick up some items of tackle, so we met at a small local pond, its where I caught my first carp back in 1987! I have certainly been on a fishing journey since then, the lake certainly looked well though, I have attached a picture, look how tiny it looks. Anyway, back to the fishing, I have been having to fit short sessions in between Sal's treatment, so mostly one nighters on the big pit, at this time, I am on a bit of a roll. There are a number of reasons for this, which I'll go into a bit. I think we all know that carp fishing is a journey, you have to endure the blanks at times to learn what you need to do to catch, then it seems all of a sudden that's what happens. Every time I cast out, I get a bite, that's how it seems at



the moment anyway, of course it could all change on the next trip! Let's recap about what's important in catching carp-the right bait, in the right place, at the right time. However, it's not always that simple is it? There is no mention of rigs in that statement, or as I say, how you present the hookbait and where you present it with regards to your baited area. One thing that has definitely happened in the last few weeks is that the big pit has

started to fish a bit, not that everyone is catching but the carp are starting to get their heads down. The water level has finally dropped to its pre flood level and the water itself has also cleared a lot, the brown tinge there has been since the flood has gone, this definitely seems to have had some bearing on the fishing. What is also noticeable is that the carp are avoiding some areas I would normally expect them to be caught from in the warmer months. So, it goes without

saying that blanks are part of learning all this, and then learning where the carp are feeding and getting caught and how they are getting caught.

Back to the three keys-the right bait, in the right place, at the right time. I have no issues with the bait aspect, as I have said before, I have been with Mainline nearly 30 years now and happy to use any of the baits from their stable, I choose a bait and stick with it for a season and then evaluate how I have done. This year I am using the Essential Cell as you can see from the picture. What I have noticed in recent rips is the activity I am getting over the baited area and others who are following me in are getting as well. This tells me the carp are getting on the bait, they have got used to coming across it and

are eating it. Maybe not always strongly enough to get caught at that time but they are eating it. There are some anglers I chat with, who do well on here and whose opinions I respect a lot, and certainly the general consensus is that one night is not a long enough session when fishing over bait, considering some anglers are there for a week or more. I don't however have that luxury so I have to make the best of what time I have, which brings me right back to how to get the most of 24 hours... so let's juggle those three key things about a bit, let's start with the right place, this year particularly has been difficult getting in the right swims as the lakes have been so busy, but they have started to quieten off a little recently, which has meant I



have started to get a choice of swim when I turn up on a Sunday afternoon. I am making more effort to spend longer looking round and talking to other anglers, even if it takes a few hours to do this, better to spend less time in a good swim, than more time in a poor one. After all, this is a 50-acre lake, I really need to be setting up on the carp or near them, as I can't wait days for them to come in. I know this is stating the obvious, but I think we are all guilty of dropping

into a swim we know and just setting up and casting out. So, I have definitely been spending longer and taking much more effort in putting myself in the right place. So, we have the right bait and the right place sorted out, well nearly, just being in the right swim isn't enough. It's putting the hookbait in exactly the right spot, this for me has become the main issue this year, it's something I have always agonised over, a yard out and I can miss the carp. I have avoided fishing

the known spots and spent more time and effort watching and reacting to what is happening. I have noticed on a number of occasions that I have been getting knocks and rattles over the baited area. Some of these are the carp getting away with it, but others are that I am fishing too far past the exact spot needed to produce a bite, even if it's only a couple of yards, it's these minor adjustments that are starting to pay off. So out of a 24 hour session, it can be

several hours before I am anything like set up and even then I am leaving one rod stood at the side, ready to cast at some sort of show I am seeing. I suppose what I am doing is paying more attention and working that bit harder. On my last trip, where two of the three rods went off, the one that didn't go was the one I had been getting the occasional knock on, was it just not sitting right? was it a yard too far? One of the key things I have noticed on here is that I don't want to be

recasting in bite time, which is any time up to lunch time.

This brings me to presentation, I have my usual set-ups that have caught and do catch, but I have felt I need to be doing something different to this if I am to get different results from others. If the carp are coming in and feeding but being wary then it's difficult to try and trick them. But I can make some changes that may help with this, by the rig not standing out quite so much. The first is to lay the hookbait away from the lead and line. So, I have started to use a stiff boom as part of the hooklink, to ensure this happens and it can also reset itself if needed. The final part of the hooklink is a soft hooklink, not stripped but really soft. I'm also fishing a ten to twelve inch hooklink in total, so it works more on



the confidence rig basis. The other thing I have done, which I mentioned previously is the use of super sharp hooks, although I say super sharp, I don't mean extra sharpened as I feel this removes the coating, even though they cost a fortune. What can I say, it definitely seems to be working, as I said, on my last 24-hour trip two of the three rods went off. With a bit more care it might have been all three! I have also made some subtle changes to my hookbait which I want the carp to home in on, which are.... well you have to work some things out for yourselves! I hope this helps some of you if you are struggling for bites at this time. By the time you read this it will be mid-September, there is still at least a couple

of months of good fishing to be had, going back to these basic principles could mean you end up having a good season after all.

I had an overnight trip with my son to a local lake for a few bites, he wanted to catch a carp off the top using his Centrepin, so this seemed like a good place. We went to Little Ladywood, which is normally quite prolific on a variety of methods, especially Zigs with

slop spodded over the top. I did persevere with this but it wasn't really working, even though I had gone to the effort of making up some sloppy spod mix and kept putting it in. The carp proved a bit elusive over the baits as well, certainly showing but we were not getting pick-ups, he did manage to snare a couple stalking in a corner, using dog biscuits on the surface. Have to try again another time.



Short sessions

I am hoping I can get a few sessions in during September amongst other commitments I have made, so hopefully one of those big girls will still trip up and grace my net. I have also been making plans to line a lake up for winter fishing, as the big pit I have been fishing tends to shut down in October. I want to make a serious effort this year to fish through the colder months, I'll cover the preparation in some later articles, although I have already started sorting out a change of tackle for this. I may have a few new bits of tackle to show you next month as well, as it looks like I am going to be joining a tackle company, it's

been a while coming but I am really excited about it, I'll keep you updated. Amongst other things (including some normality in returning to work!), I am doing a cycle challenge for Cancer research, which means I have to cycle 300 miles in the month of September, which is 10 miles per day, if I am planning on doing some two day fishing sessions, that means I have to make up for those days as well.

This is for Charity and I will publish how I'm doing on my FB page re the mileage and also how the money is doing, I'll probably badger a few as well for donations. So, it looks like September is going to be a very busy month all round. I'll let you know how I get on in due course.

Catch you next time.

Andy



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Sometimes...It's not just
about getting the rods
out...!!

By Mark Carper

I've always had it in my head and on good authority from many fellow Carp Anglers, that you have to do "Laps" and plenty of them...!

Don't just turn up at a water, pick a swim and chuck the rods out...walk the lake, check out the likely places, look for 'signs' (divine or otherwise) and use your knowledge and experience of the venue, or indeed somebody else knowledge and experience, 'BEFORE' you decide on your chosen swim.

We all know this and have read and heard it many times from many well respected Carpers and to be fair, many of the articles published in this very magazine, often start with;

"after several laps of the lake I....." etc. etc. etc.

So, with that in mind, myself and a good friend that I have known for many, many years, headed off to Belgium, for our very first trip back in July

this year, the 23rd to the 26th to be precise. Both of us are veterans when it comes to French Carping on Public Waters and Denis more so than me (well, Mr Ryan is much older...?!!). We have both fished the majority of the big 'well-known' waters and even more completely unknown ones... from 12000-acres of vast open water to 1-acre Park Lakes and lots in between, we have taken on the challenge of unknown waters year after year and with huge variations in success and failure too...! Denis spent eleven years only fishing in France with no UK fishing at all and his knowledge was built on his own perseverance and water-craft...the one thing he



Sometimes



carp ‘Scene’ of the day.... You had to do the Leg Work for yourself and both of us have spent many days and sometimes weeks sat behind rods on waters that were spotted on the Ordnance Survey Map and because we saw one fish “that looked like a Carp..” show itself at 200 yards on a French pit of 600 acres...and as I have mentioned, we had some extremely successful trips and some ‘stinkers’...!!!

Belgium and the huge network of its’ Canals was now to be our target, but how do you do laps of a Canal...?!

didn’t have was the luxury of simply ‘googling’ or posting the most common question on Facebook that you see today.. “I am fishing this place next week, what’s the best Bait, Swim, Rig, Setup etc. etc.”

When we started fishing in France it was the early ‘80’s and other than a few very well-known waters, information was thin on the ground, especially if you were not part of the bigger

In a nutshell, “you don’t” is the simple answer...what you actually do is you walk up and down, up and down, identified sections of said Canals but identifying which sections is the key, as we found out after a total of 20 miles of walking in two and half days.

We had been discussing this trip back in 2019, whilst on a French Park Lake (banking hard, I might add) and had arranged to go in March 2020, April at the latest...but we all know what then happened...?!

Plans went on hold until June this year and after some further planning and trying to find out what we could about already known 'hot spots', we formulated a plan that would see us base ourselves on a Campsite mid-way between two

major Canal networks. Having very little prior knowledge, we knew the key to this trip was to simply prepare for the next and even though we packed some fishing gear, we had little inclination to use it...this was going to be about putting in the 'leg work', just like the old days in France.

YouTube does contain a few videos and one of the most watched, I guess, has to be the Pecky one where he mentions the 'Kempisch' Kanaal and he lands an absolute mega Carp...

..for those that don't know, the Kempisch Kanaal is what the 'locals' call the Bocholt–Herentals Canal. This is a canal in Belgium that links the Zuid-Willemsvaart at Bocholt with the Albert Canal in Herentals, with a length of slightly over 37 Miles or 60



Sometimes

kilometres in new money, and it is one of the seven canals linking the rivers Meuse and Scheldt...so a fair bit of water to go at then...!

This Canal is just one of the fifty-two Canals and Navigable Rivers in Belgium but as it was the only name we knew, we thought it would be a good starting point...plus, we also knew it definitely contained Carp, which was another good reason I suppose.

We used Google Maps to identify 'likely' areas and help us to decide on a base location

but there is no substitute for actually getting out on the ground and seeing it with your own eyes.

We had set several objectives and the first one was obviously, locations. We needed to see if places looked 'fishable' in terms of could we park, bivvy, land the carp (if we actually managed to catch), near-by facilities etc. etc. and then, if the spots met that criteria, we needed to establish if they were worth fishing, and for that, we needed to see signs of 'Carp'...!!

Travelling via Eurotunnel, we had a three hour drive from Calais to our chosen Base Camp and very nice it was too...I say it was a 'Camp Site' but we were staying in a two-bedroom Chalet, with Lounge/Dining



Area and a full Kitchen and Private Shower and Toilet facilities. Proper luxury and not a bivvy in sight...!

Arriving mid-afternoon, we unloaded the car into our Chalet and went off to buy essentials from the local Lidl...this was mainly beer and crisps...!

We then used Google Maps and the car Sat Nav to get us to what looked like a good starting point for our first look at a Belgium Canal. After a short drive, we arrived in a street where we could park parallel to the Canal and opposite a Bar and Café...We were liking Belgium already...!



We parked up and headed along the Canal 'Path'...now, the pathways are incredible and are all designated as 'Cycle Ways', many with two lanes and I have never in my life seen so many people, of all ages, on pedal cycles outside of a sporting event...

From Lycra-Wearing serious cyclists to families out for a ride and even a group of mid-20's

Sometimes



ladies, dressed for a night out and cycling to the Bar, we saw it all and everyone was extremely friendly...even the way they 'tinkled their bell and told us to "get out the way" was pleasant....HaHaHa..

The Canal section we walked along was nothing special or out of the ordinary and if I'm honest, I was rather disappointed as it was not much different from Canals back home in my local area, except it was about two metres wider... At this point, I wasn't sure what all the fuss was about...we then happened upon a sign board

that gave some information about the Canal sections and it would turn out that these boards are all over the country, giving details about the sections of Canals and their incredible history, from being made, many were dug by hand originally, to their key uses of transporting all manner of goods to their sometimes crucial use during WW2.

It transpired that we were walking along a 'Link' section that joined two larger Canal sections together and a river too and this "little section" was some 12 miles long...and we



were at the middle of it...!

After walking less than half a mile from the car, we were greeted with the site of what we presumed was some sort of 'Basin', where the Canal opened out to about 50m wide by 40m long...we later found out that these 'Basin' areas were common along the lengths of the canals and were actually 'Turning Points', some with Moorings for one or two Boats or Barges.

However, the thing that stood out to us the most, was something 'orange' floating mid-



water...at first glance, it looked like a 'H-Block' Marker...and as it turned out, it was exactly that...!!

Scanning the far bank, we spotted a small inflatable, a couple of rods and two guys sat next to a van...we couldn't believe our luck, less than five hours in the country, the first bit of water we picked, and we had found Carp Anglers. Not only that, we knew that parking and fishing were also on the cards...what an absolute bonus...!

To be fair, the whole area 'screamed' Carp and it wasn't



Sometimes

long before we happened across a few more locals, although most were only fishing for the Eels or Predator fish and not the Carp. Another bonus was that all the people we had so far encountered, spoke very good English, which was a relief as they have several languages in Belgium, the main one spoken is Dutch but they also speak Flemish (a Belgian variant of Dutch), French, especially in the Wallonia area in the South and finally German over in the East.

We were to spend the majority of our time in the Flanders area, so Dutch it was and that is where we had no chance....with enough French to 'get me by', speaking Dutch is a whole new ball game, so thankfully, English it was...!!

I have to admit,

even though we had not been in the Country very long, I was seriously falling in love with the place and started to question why I had not ventured over the border from France before now. Just looking at the amount of water on the map and then seeing the place first-hand made me want to stay for weeks and explore the place in detail. Unfortunately, we had only a limited time and after walking for a bout two miles and finding 'likely' spots every twenty yards, we turned back and headed to the car.... we did not see any carp but seeing locals fishing for them in a style we were accustomed too, Boats and Markers etc. we were very encouraged and headed back to Base to eat, drink and make plans for the next day....



Up early(ish) we made breakfast and gave the map one last look. We had already decided that we would not take any fishing gear with us as we wanted to cover a large area to allow us to plot good 'spots' on Google Maps with a view to returning to fish them on the Saturday.

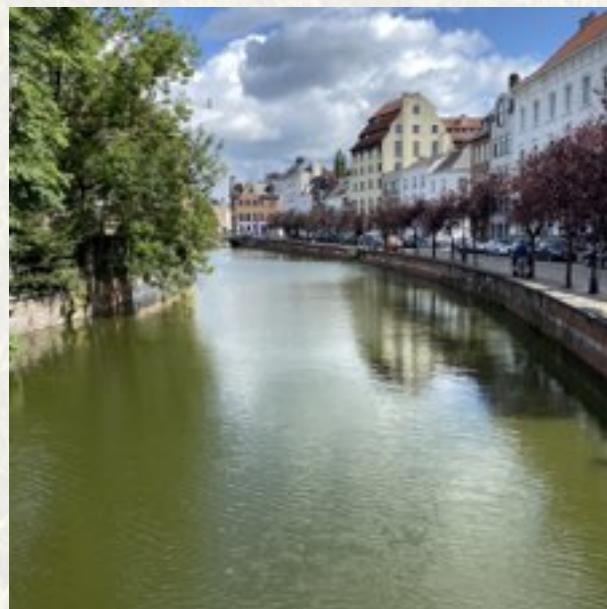
We were based centrally between two main Canals and it was agreed to head North from our location to get our first sighting of the infamous 'Kempisch'. With expectations very high and



still excitedly talking about what we had found the day before, we drove the thirty minutes to what we thought was a car park... but we were wrong...

...it was in fact just an open piece of rough ground with easy access off the main road through the local town...!

Making the decision to leave the car and just have a short walk to see if there was another location to park, we stepped on to the cycle path and got our





first look at a Canal proper and what a sight it was... What a Canal and what a location. It even had a Graffitied Bridge Wall for that 'epic' Carp shot...this had everything, and I mean everything...!

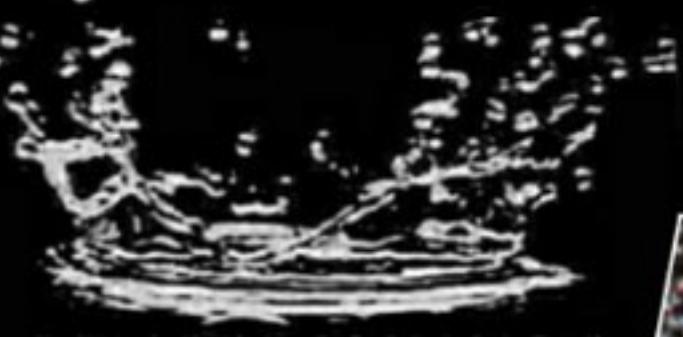
From reed lined margins, on both sides, easy access to the water, room for Bivvies and the car next to you, it oozed 'Carpiness' and the water was gin clear, which was something neither of us was expecting...!

We almost jumped back in the car and headed back for the gear, but thankfully we didn't, otherwise we may have never discovered what we found next, and that was the whole point of this trip...to put the leg work in and find the spots for the next trip, the 'REAL' trip, and boy, not only did we put the leg work in, we definitely found the spots....

To be Continued

Instagram: mark_carper257





Taking particle preparation
to a whole new level!!

IN THE MARGIN PARTICLES





**CHUFFED, ELATED, BUZZING
ARE MY FINAL WORDS
BY MIKE MADELEY**

You can't always know what picks up your hook bait, but you can make sure you're in the right place with the right presentation." I'm lucky enough to have a 41lb pb UK Common under my belt and as it stood a 33lb Mirror was the one i have been wanting to improve on for a long time.

Having been taken on as a consultant with Kryston Uk I knew my main end tackle was now perfect, and I had a new found confidence and knew it was up to the task that I could give it some pressure in weedy water. I also knew my bait was working well as I had a few nice fish prior, and on the unhooking matt they were oozing it out, the Kraken mixed up with Liver O was a great combination from Vital baits, and a trusty 10mm pink Kraken pop

up set up on a multi rig over Silkweed, kept the fish coming even in tough conditions.

On my last session I found a small weed free hard patch amongst the weed at 54 yds, so no great difficulty in accurately getting a bit of bait on it, but I decided to risk a bottom bait topped with a White Enterprise pop up piece of Corn

just to negotiate the weight of the bait making it fly up a bit quicker into the mouth, and using the spod I put out half a kilo of the 10mm freebies. Nothing happened during the first 24hrs, so I reeled in to check everything was ok and proceeded to get it back out as it was all good. carp are angry sods and it was a good fight. During playing it





the left hand rod, on the hard patch gave of 2 bleeps, I knew it might go off so quickly played in the other fish which ended up being a common around 16lb, into the net. Just as I slipped it over the cord, the right hand rod was away.

I always have 2 nets set up just in case of this scenario, and on lifting into the fish I knew it was a proper unit, it was heavy and plodding about moving left and right as I was gently trying to gain line. After 20 minutes she surfaced at around

7ft out and I could see the hook hold was perfectly in. I got the net down low and just under her (I've lost a few fish at this point a couple of times) so was pleased when the net cord had trapped her in.

After taking a quick breather and making sure I had plenty of water ready, I rolled up the net and lifted her out, bloody hell without doubt it was 40 plus. She filled the unhooking mat. Scales all zeroed and ready, the needle swung to 43lb 7oz!! I was elated to finally beat my pb Mirror and have 2 x 40 UK personal bests.

Chuffed, elated, buzzing are my final words."

Mike Madeley.



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La Petite Martinière
by Nick Fihelebon

So, we went to our friends lake La Petite Martinière near Mayenne in France for a weeks fishing. This was our third time visiting this lake in the last 3 years. My goal this year was to try help my girlfriend catch a 30lb plus carp and for me to catch a 40lb plus carp. It was a bit touch and go whether we were going to be able to go or not as the quarantine rule came into force the day we were due to travel. We decided to head down to Dover anyway and if we were turned away by border control, we had a backup plan.

Once we arrived at Dover, we had no issues at border control and continued on to get booked onto our ferry. We caught the 5:05am ferry and we were on our way. Arriving into Calais at 7:30am we then continued on with

our journey. Arriving at the lake at about 3.30pm, after a couple of stops on the way, we were greeted by the lake owners Matt and Natasha who were very pleased to see us. We loaded our gear into Matts trailer on the back of his quad and he kindly took it down to our chosen swim for us.

Once everything was set up it was decided that we wouldn't fish the first night as we were both shattered from the journey. I decided that I would

put a little bit of bait out onto several known spots from our previous visits here to get the Carp used to feeding on them. We were up early the next morning and once breakfast had been eaten, we then started to get our rods out onto the spots we had baited the previous evening. It wasn't long before I had my first fish, a 22lb 2oz Common which was pristine as all the Carp are in this lake. Anthea then had a nice Tench weighing 5lb 14oz followed by a 25lb





Mirror, so things were looking good. Going into the evening no more fish were caught. The next morning around 6:30 I was woken by the sound of one of my alarms and after a short battle a lovely 32lb 4oz Common graced my net. I put some more bait out onto the spot and then the rod was back out.

Later that morning something very special

happened when Antheas right hand rod melted off. As she lifted the rod and started to play the fish we knew it was one of the bigger residents of the lake and as I slipped the net under the fish I turned round and said to Anthea I think you may have just broken your pb, which for a Mirror currently stood at 29lb 8oz caught from this very lake on our first visit here back in 2018. We couldn't believe our

eyes when the needle on the scale settled on 35lb 12oz smashing her current pb out the park. No sooner had she put the fish back and got her rod out onto the same spot and it tore off again, landing a 32lb Mirror. If that wasn't enough the same rod was off again and she landed another Mirror going 38lb on the scales, breaking her pb again in just a few hours.

Later that afternoon she managed to land a pb Tench weighing 6lb 10oz and then things quietened down a bit for Anthea that afternoon which I was glad about as I felt I was only there as her gillie haha.

I then started to get amongst the fish landing two mid double Carp and a scraper 20. We then reeled in for the afternoon and went up to the cabin to have a barbecue with Matt



and Natasha which was lovely although the heavens decided to open just as we sat down to eat. After dinner it was then back down to the swim to get the rods out for the evening. I then had a 29lb 4oz Common just after midnight followed by a small mid double Common.

The next morning things were a little quiet until Antheas right hand rod was

off again and the net was slipped under another pristine fish, a Common going 35lb on the nose and yet another pb broken for her. We were not prepared for what was about to happen next when the same rod, yep you guessed it, the right hand rod was off again. I was busy sorting one of my rods, so Matt netted the fish for Anthea. He then looked round at me and said mate get the

chip scanner I think I know which fish this is and sure as anything the number on the scanner confirmed it, the biggest known fish in the lake and now a new lake record sending the scales round to 44lb 6oz. What a beast of a Carp we were all ecstatic and a bottle of bubbly was swiftly opened by Natasha to celebrate. To say I was proud of Anthea was an understatement.



She had been baiting her own spots and placing her rigs on them all week with no help from me, she certainly worked hard and reaped the rewards.

As the week progressed we both managed to keep catching with a few upper doubles and some good upper 20lb Carp gracing our nets. Anthea also managed three catfish

to 10lb 4oz and I even managed to catch a Pike weighing 14lb.

We then opted to stay an extra day and night as the guests due the following week were not able to make it due to the current quarantine situation. Anthea caught a nice 28lb 9oz Mirror that evening and I was woken on the last morning by a lovely 34lb 4oz Common,

my biggest fish of the trip and a very welcome end to what was an absolutely awesome weeks fishing for us both. We shall definitely be returning next year and every year for the foreseeable future.

Matt and Natasha are excellent hosts and they couldn't do enough for us as always. I definitely recommend you check

out their lake and this little piece of paradise. Anthea and I both fish for the Madbaits Lincolnshire team. We used LFB boilies in both 12mm, 15mm and barrels, LFB Red spice in 12 and 15mm. All baits were air dried and then glugged in the LFB Red spice food soak.

Rigs were kept simple opting for a 10 inch hooklink with 2 bottom baits on a long hair. I am a member of the Atomic Team, so we used Atomic tackle rig components, all in camo green, including the following.
Jel-E-Wyre in 35lb, size 5 Trappa hooks. Bombz away leadclip system.
Heavy tungsten tubing. Anti-tangle sleeves. Slugz to keep the rig pinned to the lake bed.

We are also both members of the Castaway PVA team

and we used there pva foam on the hook with every cast to ensure perfect rig presentation every time.

Total fish caught for the week.

Carp
Doubles x 5 up to 17lb 11oz
20s x 12 up to 29lb 4oz
30s x 6 up to 38lb
40s x 1

Tench x 3 up to 6lb 10oz
Catfish x 3 up to 10lb 4oz

Pike x 1

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After The Unknown

RICHARD HANDEL

The syndicate where I've fished for the past 5 years, I have been hunting the unknown carp. This is what I enjoy the most and get the most reward from. It is a 64-acre gravel pit, which was in fact 3 lakes once and now has channels connecting them.

It has its own particular challenges, it has a lot of history as it was once an airfield and still has its original control tower! Albeit a bit run down.

It even featured in a propaganda film starring David Niven. It was then dug out for its gravel, filled with blitz rubble and then dug for yet more gravel and then sort of landscaped into 3 separate lakes. A water company then joined them all together with a channel. It was finally run as a fish farm, until the overpopulation of carp destroyed nearly all the natural food sources, at this point they removed most of the stock but left a few lumps in there. It then had a restocking program from an adjacent water. I bet you can agree that it has an interesting past, and no one has any real idea what's in there!

There is no maintenance on there, it's just left to run wild and the anglers fit in around the wildness of the lake. Which is how I like it. I'm not a fan of manicured waters, where you feel you are fishing someone's back garden.

There are a few issues to contend with, but this adds to the adventure of searching for these unknown carp. Firstly, it's only open 6 and a half months each year from mid-March to the end of September. Secondly, the carp spawn extremely early, sometimes around the 1st of May. This year it was just before, this is due to them being partly an Austria strain of carp and a high proportion of the lake is only just over ft deep. So the lake soon warms up in those warm Spring days.



Prior to the carp spawning, it's pretty easy to track down the larger residents. In reality, you only get the April to catch them, once they start spawning - which can last on and off for all of May (which is pretty frustrating). Then the small carp appear and just take over the place, you catch the odd one beforehand, but they just go crazy. It then becomes a battle of wills to keep on going through this carp, until you bag a lump.

There are also considerable amounts of out of bounds areas - mostly the West Bank. It is also pretty much unusable by casting, so there is a 2-acre area that you can't get a bite into.

All this adds up to an incredibly challenging water, which I'm utterly obsessed with. It contains some huge carp, yet to be captured and my adventure will continue for a few more years I'm sure. Normally, I'm only on a water for about 5 years before it's time to move on as I have caught what I was after. I also get bored of the view and need a change in scenery. I can't see

this happening for some time as the six months on-off routine keeps the enthusiasm going and some years I've not even fished a particular area or lake, as I have broken them down to their original 3 lake structure. Even though they are just one giant lake, joined by channels which contain 7 islands, 2 of which you can fish off.

Oddly there is no real angler pressure; mostly due to the other lake, which comes with the ticket. It's a lot smaller and stocked with a greater number of larger carp and none of the 10 pounders that plague you for most of the season.

I can't get enough of this place and can't wait for another season to kick in this year and maybe one of the monsters that I've spotted a few time way out by the island that is completely uncastable even for the boys that can blast them out, one day it will fill my net and it could well be this year.

Until next time

Richard

*(Talking Carp...
we cannot wait
to hear more
from you on this
venue. Good
Luck!)*





My session on Nash 'Church Lake'
by Tom Simcox

Hi, I'm Tom Simcox and I am an Ambassador for Nash Tackle and Nash Bait and I am also the founder of the Facebook Group 'Nash Tackle Fanbase'.

I have recently returned from a great trip to the Nash Church Lake and thought I would share my experience of this incredible place...

The plan to fish at Church Lake this year came about from a conversation I had with my brother Shaun and a German guy named Frank Schelwat. Frank is a member of my group the 'Nash Tackle Fanbase', and lives in Germany.

The group has members from all over the world but mostly from across the UK and Europe and Frank joined the group a while back as he, like myself and my brother, is a massive fan of all things 'Nash'

The three of us have become very good friends and we had been talking for around six months or so about our fishing experiences and of course about Nash Tackle and it was during one of our video calls when Frank was telling us how he had fished many places in Europe but one place on his list he had yet to visit and fish was England...and so, after many conversations, we decided to ask Frank to come over to England and do some English Carping with us...!!

The original plan was to take Frank on our syndicate as a guest, but my brother had other ideas and thought it would be even better if we all get on Church Lake.

My immediate reaction was... "you can ask my wife then...!!"

We out the idea to Frank during yet another video call and he was well and truly "up for it"...!!

We could not wait to get the ball rolling and so my brother and Frank both got to work on suitable dates...

Once all this was worked out, we got a daily countdown from Frank as he was like a kid waiting for Christmas and to be fair, he had plenty to be excited about....

...not only would this be his first-time fishing in England AND on the one and only Nash Church Lake too, me and my brother, who had fished it once before a couple of years ago, kept telling him how glorious the place was...!

With our places booked and doing our day to day things as well as me and my brother doing our usual fishing, in the back of my mind I was already preparing myself for our weeklong adventure on the Church.

It can be a very hard place and it is definitely not a 'runs water' that's for sure..! Some great anglers have fished it and blanked, so in my head I was really thinking things over and as the weeks went by and our date got closer it was pure excitement.

Frank was leaving Germany on the Friday in the early hours of the morning and arriving in England late Friday night. We had planned for him to stay at my brothers for the weekend and we would all leave for the Lake early Monday morning.

During the weekend we had great time with our new German 'brother', eating some great German food done on the BBQ and a few drinks too. Frank had also brought some German Beer that was in huge two litre bottles along with some gifts



for Alan Blair and of course the legend Mr. Kevin Nash himself.

Whilst sharing ‘Carpy’ stories and generally having a nice time (“lovely times” as they say..!), Frank then rolled up his trouser leg, pulled off his sock and surprised us with a view of his lower leg that was completely black, blue and yellow with one mass of bruising..!! He then told us how just hours before he left his house, he had fallen down the stairs and had torn the ligaments in his ankle...!!!



But according to him, nothing was going to stop him coming to England and by the time Monday came around we were well rested and well prepared for the week ahead.

Early Monday morning I drove the ten minutes to my brother’s house and we loaded-up both Frank and Shaun’s cars and were ready for the off....

Three hours later, we arrived at what I can only describe as ‘Paradise’. Pressing the Button on the gate, we were let through into the car park...we parked up and then walked to the Barn and waited for Dean, who was already showing a couple of guys from London around the lake as they were booked on the same week as us. Dean is the Fishery Manager, and he would show us around and sort out where we were going to be fishing.

After five minutes or so, Dean made his way over to us and we did our introductions. He is a really nice guy and knows everything there is to about

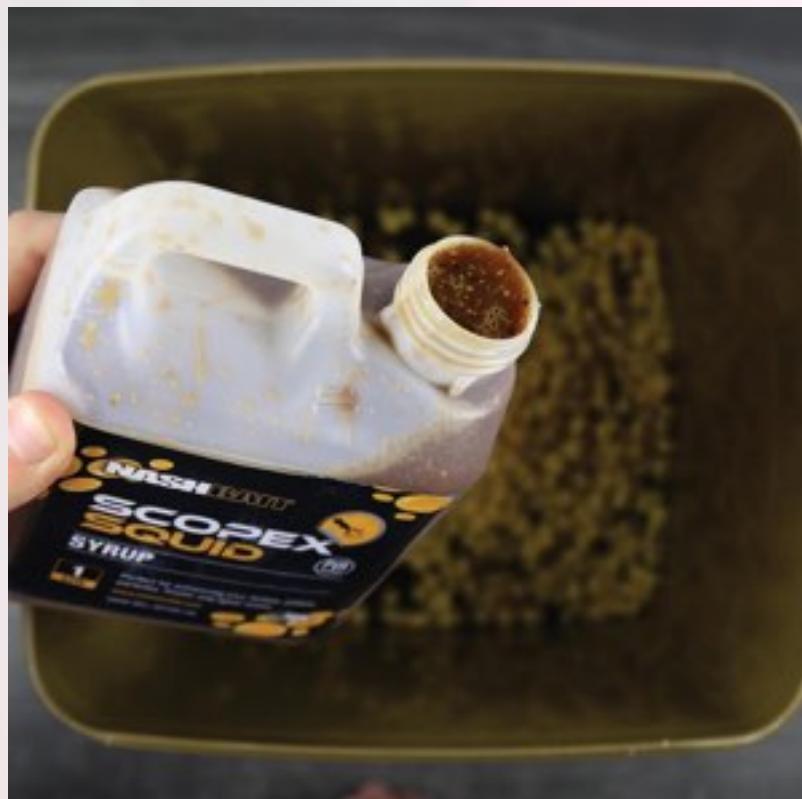
the lake...!! We made our way up to the lake and on our walk-round he pointed out the 'Hot Spots' or 'Usual' spots that fish have come from and gave us some valuable 'tips' about tactics, rigs and presentation etc. and he also explained that the two other guys had asked if they could fish together...now, this did give us a bit of a dilemma as the normal process is to pick a swim "out of the hat", but the London guys wanted to fish a couple of swims at what I would describe as the 'back of the Church', but after a short discussion between Shaun, Frank and myself, we came to the decision to let the two guys fish together, leaving us to decide on what swims we wanted, rather than draw for them..!

Frank decided on the 'Lodge Swim'; This swim commands a great piece of water with two islands in the middle.

Shaun chose to fish a swim that was a little further down from Frank, where he had the corner and one island all to himself and that left me;

I chose the very first swim on the approach to the Church from the path a, corner swim on the same side but opposite 'No Carp Corner'...!!!

However, also in my selected swim was an air-pump that was turned off for me, so there was no disturbance in the water and I also had a cracking wind blowing straight into my corner also, all seemed good reasons to pick that swim...!



Swims chosen, we all got to work setting up camp for the week and with my Titan Hide up in no time at all the rods was out of the 'skins' and resting on my pod.

I had opted to use my tried, tested and trusted multi-rigs

to present my choice of hook bait, which was to be 12mm Scopex Squid Pop-Ups. All three rigs were left in bait soak. It would take us a few hours to get sorted and I was in no rush to get a bait in the water as I preferred to keep an eye-out for any signs of Carp movement or those vital 'shows'...I also decided not the 'lead-around' and disturb the water either and instead took the advice that dean gave me and trusted he knew what the bottom was like..

...it must have been around 16:00 and bingo, I saw a fish roll off the corner of the island and because I chose not to lead around, I'm pretty sure my plan of being quiet and having no lines in the water, had encouraged the fish move in and feel safe....how wrong they were LOL...!!!

My Bait Boat was quickly loaded with a mixture of Hemp, Sweetcorn, 12mm Scopex Squid, some Scopex Squid Flake and all finished off with Scopex Squid Syrup. I use this same mix everywhere I go so there's 100 percent confidence behind it and, it smells awesome too...!

I was using the boat rather than just cast as I wanted to present the rig as gently as possible over the weed and used a couple of pieces of rig Foam to aid this and I could be accurate and drop exactly over the top of where I had just seen the Carp roll....just as I was about to lower the boat into the water, I saw it again, same spot, same fish, rolling and showing itself, almost like it was taunting me...

I stepped up my pace now and soon had my first rod out on that spot. My other two rods would be



going on Margin spots and again, I could do these two with only minimal disturbance.

With all three rods out and my bivvy area and swim all set up the week ahead, I was feeling really confident, but, there was a niggle in the back of my mind about the positioning of the first rod and “had it settled in the weed ok..?!”

I resisted the temptation to mess with it and just felt it was worth the shot leaving it there. Grabbing my receiver, I headed up the short distance to where Shaun and Frank were, and this meant my swim was silent with no disturbance at all.

Shaun was all setup and his rods were out and Frank was just finishing dropping his third rod using his Carplounge RT4 and then, finally, with all the rods in place, it was time for that old cliché, time to “get the kettle on...!!!”, for a much needed cuppa. LOL

Having got sorted, Shaun decided he have a lay down on his bed for a while and I walked back over to my swim to cast an eye on the water and see if there were any more signs of activity... Just then, I suddenly get a bleep from my Nash Siren and as they say “when the siren talks, you pay attention” and how true this was right then, because that single bleep turned into an absolute ‘screamer’....

....to my delight, it was the rod on the spot off the island and my first thought was, “well that was worth it” ... I stepped forward and picked the rod up and immediately connected with a carp. Due to the weed, I was fishing with a ‘Drop-Off’ Lead and within what seemed like only seconds, the carp hit the surface and I got my first glimpse of it and I instantly knew it was a decent fish and then without warning and as the carp had only just realised it had been hooked, all hell broke loose and the battle commenced....

.... the power of this thing was immense taking line at will and making my Nash 6000GT clutch work in overdrive and letting out a stunning sound....

by this time Frank had seen the disturbance on the surface and had realised what was happening and walked down to me.

As he approached, the fish surfaced again and Frank got a good look at it, or at least that's what I thought, and he said;

"That's a twenty-five...!"

"It feels bigger than a twenty-five Frank" I replied, and I knew in my own mind that it was definitely bigger than just a mid-twenty, but presumed Frank hadn't got a good look at it....

At this point, my brother was still unaware of the commotion in my swim and the incredible battle I was having. With the fight from the carp subsiding and it finally seeming to be accepting its fate, a beautiful Common slipped into the waiting landing net.

My knees at this point had stopped clattering together and I was finally gathering my strength back

but I didn't want to have
a proper look until I had
got my brother with me...
with Frank minding the net
and my prize, I ran to get
Shaun and updated him
on the past few minutes...
"how big is it..?" he asked,
"Frank reckons its twenty
five, but I think it's bigger
than that..!" was my
response, as we made our
way back to my swim...
Shaun lifted the net to get
a good look at the carp
and gave me a very funny
look...



"Kilos mate, not pounds, kilos is what Frank means....!!!"

I started laughing because I had totally forgot the Europeans weigh in kilos and then it suddenly dawned on me, could this really be twenty-five 'kilos'..?

Unhooking the fish and scooping it up in a sling, we hoisted it on to the scales and 'BANG'.... They just looped round past that 'Fifty' mark and all three of us just looked at each other gob smacked and in total silence....!!

I simply couldn't believe it, lifting the fish just felt immense and I could not get my head around the fact I was holding a fifty-pound UK Common in my arms. wow, just wow, what an amazing feeling.

With the photographs done, I rested the Carp, all 52lb 4oz of it in the margin and took one last good look, before slipping it out of the sling and back in to the incredible Nash Church Lake..!!!

With the carp safely back in the lake I again decided not to put that rod back out straight away. I felt that with all the commotion that had been caused, I would again give the water some calm and let the carp feel safe to come back once everything had settled down. On checking the rig, I decided that it would be a good idea to use a new fresh, Sharp Hook, even though the one I had just caught on looked ok, it was not worth taking the risk for the sake of a hook...something that I have learnt from the great Mr. Julian Cundiff, who over the years, has helped me a lot with my fishing and I took the downtime to send him a message of thanks.



With the rig sorted, bait prepped and everything back to normal, I sat back for a while and tried to take in what had just happened...I was still in shock but couldn't stop smiling about my new PB Common of 'Fifty Two Pounds and Four Ounces..!'

After a couple of hours had passed and the rod was back on the same spot in exactly the same way with the exact same bait and freebies, I settled in for the night, with big hopes and expectations but unfortunately, the rest of the night played out to nothing...and so did Tuesday... In fact, it wasn't until Wednesday when the next bit of action came along and with it, big weather changes too.

The temperature and pressure had risen significantly, and the fish became lethargic, which was evident from what Shaun could see in front of him in his swim.

He had a couple of fish lethargically nosing some upper layers, but they just would not start competing for the baits and simply glided in and out of the swim, showing no interest whatsoever. I was constantly watching the water in front of me, but nothing was showing, no signs of any kind from the carp.

I decided to call the wife and talk to the kids and it was during this call just a little way from the swim, I watched as a carp swam towards the spot that had produced me the Common, and incredibly, and as if I could see in to the future, I said to my wife "I am going to have to hang up, a fish has just come down towards my area..!!"

With the carp cruising on the surface and showing itself all the time for around five minutes or so, I decided I would put some floaters out and grabbed my Nash 'Sawn-Off'. I then realised that I had left my 'Floater Bait' in the cabin so I quickly jogged up to fetch it...not a good idea in the heat as I was then sweating like mad...!!

Both Shaun and Frank were sat inside the cabin, trying to get out the heat, so I hastily told them both about what I had seen, and my plan and

they decided to come back to my swim with me. It was on the approach to my swim that my brother and myself watched as the same fish I had been watching previously, suddenly dropped her head and disappeared out of sight, but very close to my baited spot...

.... all of a sudden, another straight screamer and I was in again.... another great battle ensued and this time I was slipping the net under a lovely Church Lake Mirror of 34lbs 6oz..Buzzing....!!!

Catching the fish was fantastic but it was made all the better and more special being able to share the experience with my brother and Frank too... Once again the fish was back safe and sound and now the heat was ridiculous and very uncomfortable for me, as I hate being too hot anyway.

After that Mirror, fishing wise, the rest of the week was dead, and I can't but feel that the conditions were no longer on our side as the temperature and pressure just kept rising. What started as a very promising week seemed to come to an abrupt end, in fishing terms at least.

But we still had another very memorable day to come before the week was out....Going back to when we first arrived on the Monday morning, I had asked Dean if there was any chance that during the week, one of both of the two biggest names with Nash could pay us a visit, if they were not too busy and meet with Frank. Frank had actually brought some gifts with him and it would be great if he could present them in person...

Now, I know how busy these two guys are and the chances of both Mr. Kevin Nash AND Mr. Alan Blair both being around and free at the same time is a massive ask...but Thursday was to be our day...a fantastic day in fact...

...it was the middle of the afternoon and we were all sat in the cabin trying to keep shaded and out of the heat out the heat when we heard some voices in the background. All three of us walked out of the cabin and

walking towards us was none other than ‘both’ of legends that are Mr Nash himself, Kevin and the one and only Mr. Blair...result...!!!

Both congratulated me on my captures and Frank was simply on cloud-nine, well to be honest, all three of us were but Frank was especially looking forward to seeing his icon for the first time and I myself knew exactly how he felt. Frank handed over his gifts to them both and had a few pictures and then I asked Kevin for a big favour....

...I had brought with me my 10ft Mk1 Scopes, in the hope that Kevin would sign them for me, which he obliging did and I believe they are the first and only set of Mk’s to be signed by him...!

Later that evening, we celebrated the eventful week. Meeting face to face with our German ‘Brother’ for the first time, him fishing in England for the first time AND on the Church Lake too, my mega and unforgettable captures and getting to chat with both Kevin and Alan... Everything about the trip had been fantastic.

Finally, our last day on the Lake arrived and big pack-down commenced, in the sweltering heat too.

Soon enough, the dreaded journey home was upon us and although the fishing had not been as hoped, although doing a fifty was epic for me, I would definitely recommend that anyone thinking of booking the Church Lake for a week, stop thinking about it and just get it done. It is truly amazing and yes, it can be tricky but that’s carp fishing but the whole experience of the place is fantastic, and I have proved what incredible gems the place can throw up for £500. In my opinion, it’s cheaper and easier than going to France and you have huge carp to hunt down but add to that the pure beauty of the complex, and it really is a paradise, you will have a fishing memory to last a lifetime...!!

With the cars loaded the weather was just blazing and to top it off, Frank kindly reminded me that I was about to drive a nearly twenty-year-old Land Rover for three hours in thirty plus degree heat with no ‘Air Con’

LOL, "Thanks Frank"...!

We all made it back home safe and sound, including Frank all the way back to Germany, and that was the end of our trip in 2020 Fishing trip to the famous Nash Church Lake.

I have to say, this is my first time ever at writing anything really, let alone about my fishing exploits... I left school with an A but that was for 'Absent'... I just hope you enjoyed reading it and thank you.

Tom Simcox

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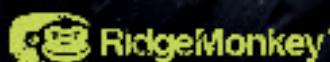
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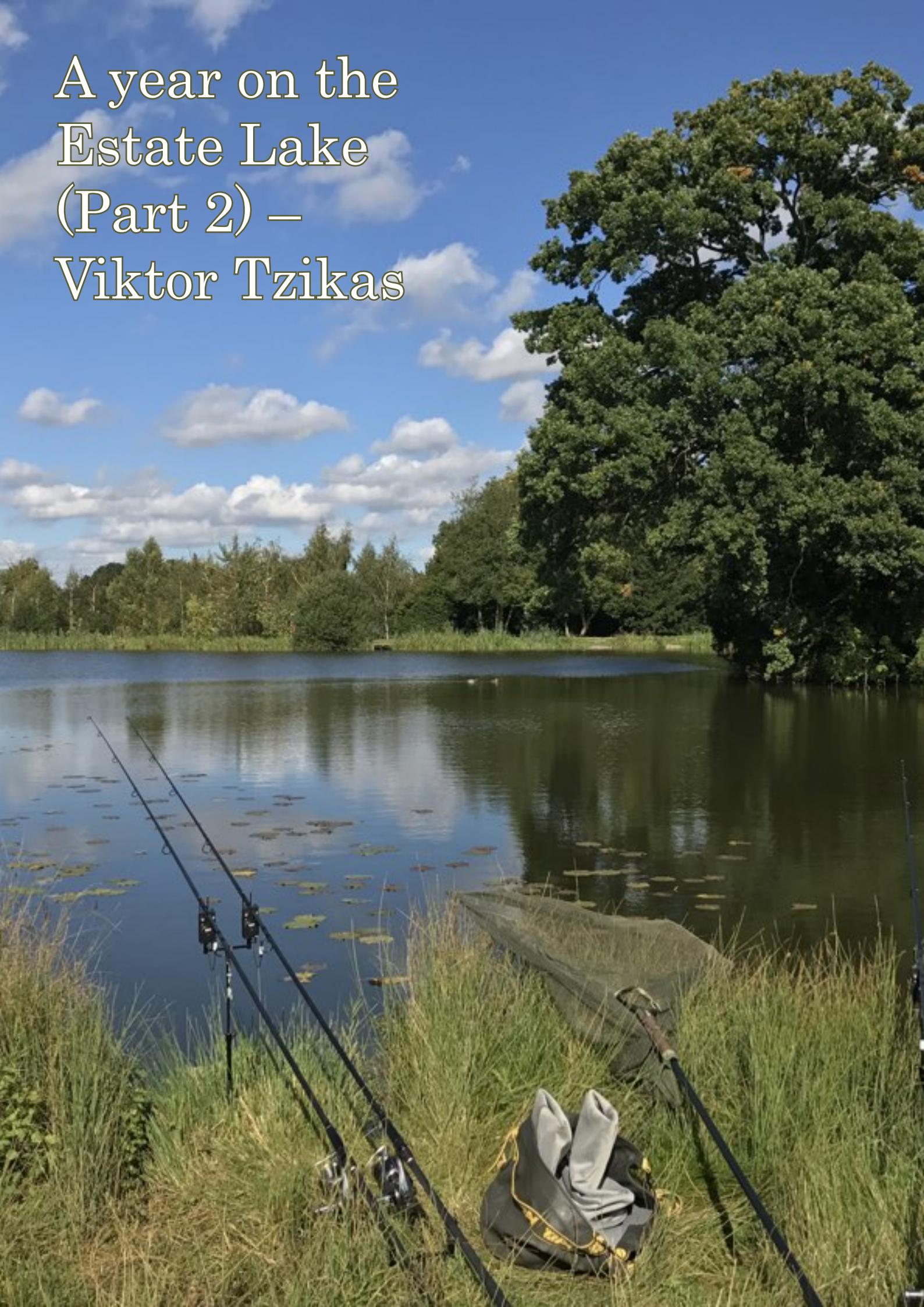
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A year on the Estate Lake (Part 2) – Viktor Tzikas



Super September

September is one of my favourite months of the year to be fishing, there is something about that crossover period into autumn that really stirs the fish up. Historically it has been a very productive month on the Estate Lake too, so I was really hoping to really get amongst the fish and up my tally.

We were still experiencing some really nice weather so arriving that first September weekend I knew where I wanted to be before I'd even unloaded the van, so I headed straight for the shallows with the barrow and thankfully it was free. The hot weather and calm conditions were perfect for the swim and my confidence was boosted when I snuck

round to the no fishing bank and could see 20-30 carp milling about in the pads. I knew I was on for it and excitedly got my kit sorted and the rods out to the same far bank spot I fished that first session in June.

Tactics were the same, two rods fishing close together on the stiff multi rig with Responsive Baits Code pop ups, the only difference being I had recently picked up a tub of white, washed out pink and orange pop ups to have a play with.

I'd not really fished hi-viz baits much, as they'd been ignored when I had used them so far, but I thought, why not. So, a washed out pink pop up went on one of the rods and around 75 Code boilies went in as freebies. The third rod went out towards a

snaggy overhanging bush, nearly always a guaranteed bite, with 20 freebies around it.

It didn't take long before one of the rods to the far margin was away and a cracking fight ensued with the fish charging around in the open water in front of me like a demon.

Out in the lake in my waders I had the fish tamed and a corking looking mirror slipped into the net. Safely back in the margins I took a proper look in the net to be met with a beautifully old looking fish. The washed out pink pop up that tricked it was discarded, the hook removed, and some pictures taken.

It swung the needle on the scales round to 20lb on the dot.



After this fish the weather started to change and it became a bit cloudier and a slight wind stirred up, blowing straight into the bay. I'd found that as soon as the bay had a ripple on it the fish didn't seem to bite, and sure enough this played true to form as I had to wait well into the early hours for another bite.

I had cut a channel in

the lily pads to my right so my cousin could safely fish doubled up in the swim the previous month and had noticed a couple of fish cruising along the pads in the early evening so just as it was getting dark I reeled the rod fished to the snags, clipped on a fresh hooklink with a snowman bait on (Responsive Baits Code bottom with a whittled down white

Code pop up on top) and waded out and placed it carefully just in the mouth of the channel. The line was dragged back through the silt to keep it well out the way and a spoon of pellet and 4 crushed boilies out directly on top of it.

Around 3:45am I was woken by the sound of my alarm letting out a few bleeps and was quickly on the rods and chuffed to see it was the rod I had hand placed that evening. It had gone straight in the lily pads and was solid giving me the opportunity to get in my waders and get out to it. It was snagged up just out of depth but after putting pressure from directly above it in a few different angles (and ripping out a fair few lily stems too) I was in direct contact with the fish and managed to steer it to open water. It wasn't

a spectacular fight as it was only a small fish of 12lb, but it was very welcome.

I didn't bother putting the rod back out as it would be light fairly soon, and I knew I'd be best to have it back on the snags. So, I jumped back in the sleeping bag for some extra minutes sleep before first light. I was due off to sign the contracts for my new van so had to leave by mid-morning. The morning was surprisingly quiet, and I hadn't seen any fish at all, but the rods were being left in to the death of course. Just as I was starting to take the bivvy down the only rod not to have had a take arched over and I was on it in a flash. I managed to walk backwards quickly to keep it out the far margin lily pads, but it started kiting to my left across the open water

on a long line. By the time my waders were on it was just making its way into the lily pads to my left hand side. I was in the water, towing the net with me, and making my way precariously around a large hawthorn tree to get this fish under control. Shortly after a bit of tug of war between me and the fish it came round into open water and a very nice scrap ensued over the next 5-10 mins. It made some long runs heading for the far margin again but eventually began to run out of steam. Now I hadn't seen the fish yet, it had kept low down so when it rolled on the surface and a lush golden flank full of scales appeared my nerves kicked in.

Clearly a common carp, it was one of about 6 or 7 fish in a stock of approx. 100. It was a target of mine

to land one of them, and this fish looked every ounce of 20lb. It was known by the long standing members that no common over 17lb had been caught for almost a decade. This ramped up the pressure a bit and I was just guiding it to the net when my rod fished to the snags let out a bleep but thankfully it must have been a liner or I had been done as nothing materialised. However, my brief lapse of concentration was taken advantage by the common, which looked ready for the net as it decided to charge around for another few minutes! I was actually so nervous by the time it rolled over the net cord so looking down on it whilst stood out in the lake I took a moment to compose myself and peered inside its mouth. My hook was a good 2 inches back with no



chance of coming off!

I waded carefully back to my swim and hoisted the fish on to the mat. I took a glimpse of the time and I should have been loading the van up by now but who cared. I took in the moment and got the snaps done before weighing it in at 19.04lb. The biggest living common in the lake and a target ticked off the list

on a glorious sunny morning. It may not be the biggest fish in the world, but a target all the same, what a fine specimen and a bit of a rare one too.

The following week I was back and due to conditions and a couple of other anglers I opted to fish

in the deep bay. I'd been prebaiting a spot weekly but not fished it for a while so hoped it would come good and it did a 17.06lb mirror from the prebaited spot and a 16.12lb mirror from under a tree on the far margin. Both came on Code pop-ups fished over a good helping of pellet and halved/crushed and whole boilies. The fish went a bit mental around 2am and were boshing out in the open water around to my right hand side so I noted this for next week as a starting point to look for them.



I turned up to a nearly empty lake there was only one other angler, fishing the deep bay for the day, so I headed round to the island swim which gave me access to plenty of water and features. The island always produces, and I had plenty of lily pads to my left to fish to, with the open water where I heard the fish crashing the previous week. I fished two rods tight to the island and the last rod was fished in the margin down by the lily pads, until I saw a fish roll out in the open water so recast on top of it. All the rods were fished on Code pop-ups with freebie Code boilies scattered around and linking the three spots together. It wasn't long before the rod fished in open water was away around quarter to 6 in the evening and a lovely low double



graced my net. It was another slopey headed fish, likely a descendant from the original stock and beautifully coloured too.

It wasn't long before one of the rods fished to the island was away with a decent fish on the end, intent on charging to the densest patch of lilies in my near margin. Luckily for me I was in the waders straight away and managed to bundle it into the net before it knew what had happened. It was

clearly a good fish and the needle spun around to 23.03lb this was a lovely fish and I was happy to be back among the larger residents of the lake. It took a while but at half 1 in the morning I had a repeat capture of the orange spot mirror from a fortnight previous. I didn't take pics but made sure it was the same fish before releasing it. That was my first recapture on the lake, sometimes it's nice to see the same fish again.



I was back again the following week to find the lake empty so after two laps looking for the fish, I opted to base myself in the same swim as the week before. I had actually found a couple of fish in the shallow bay, but I knew the wind was to swing round and push into it so decided against fishing there for the night. By the time I had set up I had been joined by 4

other anglers on the lake. Two had gone in the shallow bay and another two to my right hand side in the open water swim. It was a fairly busy night for the lake with 5 on!

My plan was to fish one rod to the open water, one to the island and one to the back of the pads in the suicide swim. Whilst setting up I had seen the lilies moving and

crept around to find a fair few fish chilling amongst the lilies. It would be hit and hold but I could easily walk down the bank and get in to retrieve any snagged up fish, so I wasn't worried about that.

It wasn't long after getting the rods out that two more anglers turned up making 7 of us overnight, and I've seen it before with that amount of pressure the fish shut up shop and everyone struggles so I was a bit worried. With limited swims one angler plumped for the suicide swim, but the one furthest from me thankfully and did have the courtesy to ask where I was fishing and not encroach on my open water area that we shared almost. They were down for two nights and were due to have the lake to themselves as

everyone else was only on for the night so knew they could move the following day if needed. They went off to get their kit and as they left my open water rod ripped off with some speed. I was bent into a decent fish intent on getting into the lily pads in the left hand margin. It buried deep into them so off I went down the bank with net in one hand and getting the waders

on in the process. Luckily it didn't realise I had pretty much got on top of it and carefully unsnagged my line. I could see the fish and dipped the net whilst trying to lift it higher in the water but this made it bolt and it went tearing through even more lilies, luckily in the direction of my swim as I was a good 25 yards away at this point. A short tear up in the lilies and I finally

had the fish in the net.

I hadn't looked at it properly but when I did, I could see it was a very chunky, muscular fish. It went 24 and a half pounds on the scales and was a very pretty fish. Short but bulky and very solid, no wonder it fought so well!

I'd only just recast the rod and whilst I was there decided to let off a little slack to sink the line a tad more on the rod fished to the back of the pads. As I did it instantly tightened up and the tip whipped round and I was in, what an odd occurrence! A spirited battle which saw me wading down the margin again ensued and before long a proper character fish was in the net. Nicknamed Stumpy this fish looks like genetically it has stunted growth in its





fins. The bailiff says it's an old fish, being caught since way back in the early 90s, so it was a similar age to myself!

By this point the angler in the suicide swim was set up, however he was away from my swim when I recast to the pads. It was just getting dark when I saw him walk in to the next swim about to flick a rod out very close to where I had recast, I waited to see where he would cast as I

wouldn't have said anything if he was close but not interfering with that rod. Unfortunately, he flicked it right over my line!

My own fault for not saying anything initially really but I gave him a quick shout over to let him know and he reeled in carefully,

just clipping my line as I had a single bleep. It was 5 minutes later that the rod wrapped over again, and I was in. I could imagine him cursing me from the inside of his bivvy whilst I was wading down the margins to retrieve the fish. It was a bit surprised to see me I think, and it went in the net very easily. The fish was a bit of a pretty one to be honest with a big shoulder pad of scales, it went 18.06lb on the scales too. Not a bad afternoons fishing all together!





After that it all went a bit quiet, maybe due to the amount of lines in the water, so at least I got a good night's sleep. I did wake up a bit miffed as to why I hadn't had any action overnight after I had doubled my chances on the open water area instead of leaving a rod tight to the lilies that I'd had two fish from already because it was a bit dicey in the dark to play the hit and hold game!

Just after brewing up the island rod zipped off and quickly weeded me up in front of the swim. I managed to almost over top my

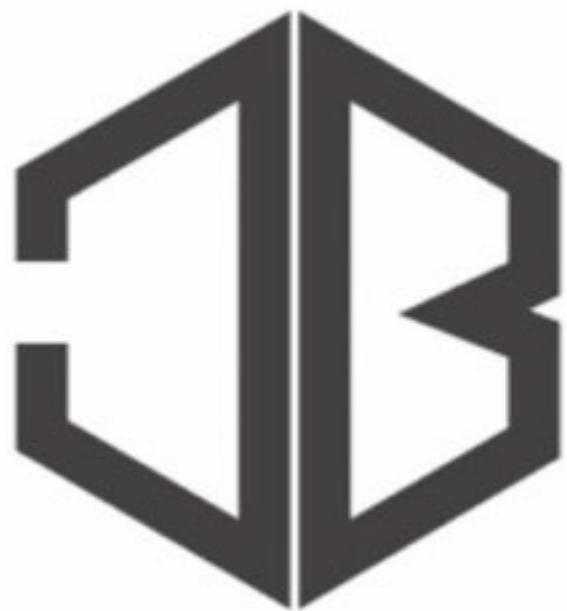
waders, but the fish was moving again and just did not want to give up! It bashed me from lily pads to the weed bed a couple more times before finally hitting the surface and gliding straight into the waiting net. I popped the fish in the sling and turned the kettle back on because my tea was stone cold by now! I got nice shots of the fish and weighed it in at 18.09lb.

After my brew I set about packing up and getting myself home, on the way out I had a good chat with everyone else fishing and it turned out only one other fish had been caught, a mid double, through the night. My results had started to be noticed now so I was feeling the eyes start to watch me a bit more

closely and decided to keep most things on the quiet, apart from the bait. I knew the more that went in the better it would fish so I recommended them all to use Responsive Baits as I had been.

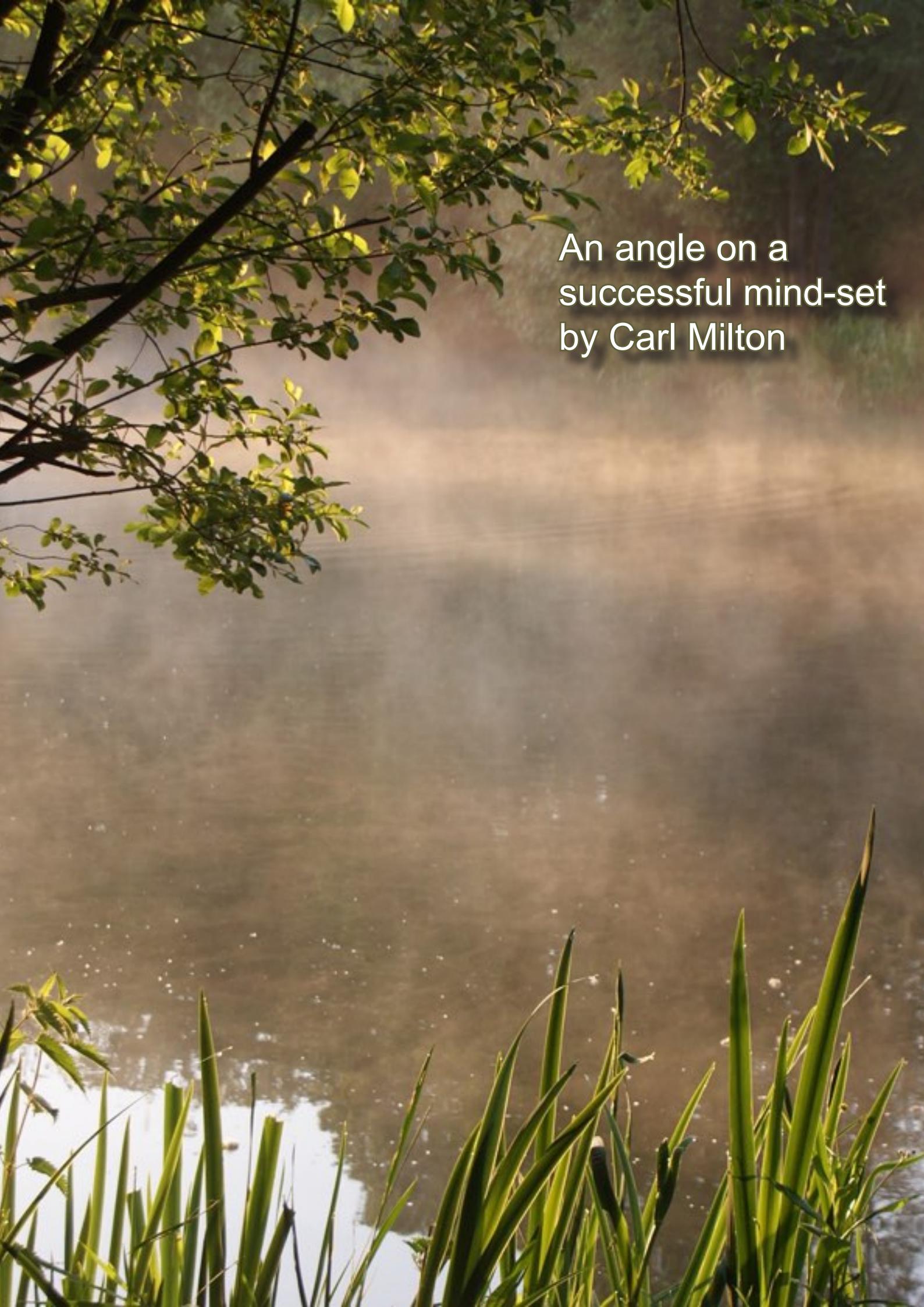
As you can see September was a very productive month for me with 12 fish over 4 nights fishing! The fish were obviously getting on the feed and during the month I made sure I was putting in some bait twice a week. Twice a week 3kg of pellet and a kilo of boilies went out on the spot I decided to prep for winter and 3kg of boilies we spread over the open water area I had been catching from. Hopefully they'd carry on feeding well into autumn and my successes would continue.

Viktor.



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A photograph of a serene lake scene. In the foreground, tall green reeds grow along the edge. Above them, a branch with small green leaves hangs down from the left. The middle ground is filled with a thick, golden-brown mist that obscures the water. The background consists of the dark, calm surface of the lake.

An angle on a
successful mind-set
by Carl Milton

Success is something we all strive for. But why is it that some achieve more than others. Natural talent can play a part. But in most fields of work or sport there are examples of those with bags of natural talent that don't achieve what they should have. An example comes to mind of two footballers I know of. In their youth both were talented, but one was technically more gifted than the other. However, the less technically gifted one was the one that went on to become a professional and have a successful career. Why was that?

I work in healthcare and have a lifelong love of sport. As a result, I have a keen interest in mind-set and what aspects of psychology contribute to success. As a carp angler with 25 years' experience I'm always looking for edges to improve my results.

A few years ago, the penny dropped on how my knowledge of mind-set could be applied to my fishing. It is a vast topic that I could write forever about. But I aim to give you a summary of some key points that applied correctly could up everyone's game.

For me the thing that sets the elite apart from the rest is their drive. What makes some go that extra mile? Why do some anglers drive miles in the middle of winter to bait up after a long hard day at work, while others are happy to sit inside in the warm and watch the television? It boils down to our ultimate goal. This is what drives us to do things. In carp fishing this may be to catch a target fish or a bigger one. For some it maybe to win a match or catch a greater number of carp. But if we delve deeper why do you want to achieve those things? Is it that we want to become the next Terry Hearn or Dave Lane, become famous or gain sponsorship? Maybe it is to be the best? Do you have a competitive nature and want to beat a friend's tally? To really improve your





motivation and drive, you first need to establish why you want to achieve something. What is your ultimate goal?

Once you establish your ultimate goal, you are part way towards improving your success. This gives you a fundamental direction. Most highly successful people have incredible internal drive and focus. Success involves sacrifice and not taking the easy path. To do this you need an ultimate aim. Without an aim we are highly unlikely to motivate ourselves enough to achieve highly.

This leads nicely on to goal setting. I see this as a separate entity to establishing our ultimate goal. I think it as laying down the steps along the way to achieving our ultimate goal. Goal setting can

be a huge motivator to achieve. Personally, I set myself a small number of goals each season. They may be to catch a certain number of fish or to catch a certain size of fish. Your goals will be very personal to you. Without doubt it helps to put them down on paper, somewhere you will see them regularly. Maybe stick them up on a wall or add them to the desktop on your phone/computer. I think it helps to keep the number of goals concise, too many goals are hard to focus on.

When setting the goals, to make you more likely to achieve them I find in line with the literature making the goals attainable, precise and with a value attached helps immensely. The attainable part is an interesting concept. I'm a great believer that most people can achieve great things with the right mind-set and application. But we do also have to think about our circumstances. If you set a goal to catch a particular fish from a venue that is the other end of the country, this may not be possible if you work fulltime and don't have the travel time. So, adjusting the goal to a more local venue may be better.

There are always things we can be doing to work towards our goals, even if we are not fishing. For example, if your goal is to catch a certain fish. Even five minutes a day researching previous captures or ringing a friend who is fishing there at present to keep in touch with the water, and a whole host of other things can all be great work towards a goal. I try to do something (no matter how small) every day to work towards my goal.

By thinking through our ultimate goal and smaller goals it focuses our mind on what we truly want. I find it really needs to be one

ultimate goal, maybe two at most. The other goals are steppingstones along the way. The ultimate goal is something to regularly remind yourself about. If you have a clear goal and want to succeed badly enough, you can in many cases achieve great things. It is ultimately this that drives us to do those extra things that others don't. It may be spending a freezing cold day at the lake with a marker rod plumbing, or spending countless hours walking the lake looking for signs of fish before setting up or spending time at home preparing gear so that you maximise your fishing time. These are just a few of many edges a truly successful angler uses.



Not letting fear inhibit us and having self-confidence are also vital attributes of a successful mind-set. Believing in yourself is key to success. If you don't do this, you won't push yourself and will probably just sit in your comfort zone.



It's easy to come up with excuses not to do things. I remember having a spell around 15 years ago, where I was fishing less and less. It wasn't until a friend invited me onto a new water that my fishing mojo returned. I realised that I'd stayed on the water I had been fishing too long and my angling had gone stale as a result. This was partly because I didn't believe in my ability at the time to take the next step in my angling and move on to a water with bigger fish. It took my friend taking me and realising that I could catch on a big fish water for my confidence to return. I remember reading Darrel Peck's book and him feeling the same when he first set foot on Yateley. We all know what he went on to achieve. So

sometimes we have to take that leap of faith and push ourselves to achieve.

In achieving any goal there will always be good and bad spells. Being resilient and not giving up when the downs occur is the key. Resilience is another key feature of a successful mind-set. Every high achiever will have had knockbacks along the way. The difference is they brush themselves down and go again, where others give up at the first setback.

There are occasions in many sports and hobbies where a person can get lucky as a one-off. But consistent success is another story. Continued success is about skill and our mind-set. When one goal is achieved the trick is to then evolve and re-set our focus on a new target. If we rest on our laurels, it's easy for some people to suggest that the initial success was just a lucky one off (even if it wasn't). Truly successful people progress and continue to achieve their targets.

To achieve continued success, we also need to be prepared to adapt and learn. The real high achievers are those that recognise their weaknesses and continue to improve. Even the best can still progress and develop aspects of their angling. In my fishing I've not fished any extremely weedy venues until recent years. But I recognised that if I want to progress, I needed to work on this as there are some venues that hold amazing fish that are clogged with weed. So, I've pushed myself and am truly glad I did, as it opens up a whole new range of exciting opportunities.

There are so many wonderful resources these days to learn from, it's easier than it has ever been to develop an aspect of your angling. First pick something to work on, then do your homework, and then it's time to put it into action.

Time management is also a vital part of a successful mind-set. Life is busy, and when I speak

to other anglers one of the most common things they say is 'I'd love more time to go'. It's important to remember we all have the same amount of time in each day, how we choose to use that time is our choice. A winning mind-set is one that uses time wisely. There are vital things like eating, drinking, taking care of our health, and work. But taking a step back and looking at the rest of our typical week, can yield some extra time. For me another vital thing is spending time with friends and family but looking at my typical week revealed I used



to spend time on other hobbies. As my goals revolved around my fishing, I've prioritised this over other hobbies, to free more time up for fishing.

Balance is important in life and it is hard to get it right all of the time. We should never compromise on the vital aspects of life. I have seen people in various walks of life, including angling, who have compromised on these aspects, and it always ends badly. But for most people there are changes we can make to free up more time. Even simple things like time spent on social media and watching TV, could be used instead to work on

aspects of our angling, or even spend time at the lake.

I hope this article gets you thinking about your own fishing. Working on my mind-set has certainly improved my angling. Give it a try and the world truly is your oyster. Applying these principles will allow you to angle with a successful mind-set. Good luck!

When you have a moment take a look here...

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Carl.



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The 70% Angler
by Matthew
Allen

Hi All.

Thank you for the wonderful feedback you keep forwarding to me and to Brian regarding my articles. The comments are emotive, awe inspiring, motivational, just genuinely blow me away, thank you again. I'm finding writing the articles a great channel and very rewarding.

In this article I want to talk about the phrase, '70% carp angler'. What I think we all have to do to go beyond 70% and how I have learnt from my friends and used their carp fishing strengths to enhance my carp fishing weaknesses.

As you all may know from reading my other articles, I love a carp fishing podcast. I listen to it instead of the radio and find it very soothing, funny and it takes my mind off the day to day. When I was traveling to work during the Covid pandemic heights and was front line facing for healthcare, the podcasts were helping keep all my negative thoughts at bay.

Anyway, during these podcasts I have listened to Julian Cundiff many times. I find him great to listen to and love to read his articles (and I have told him as much). He is one of the loveliest people on the planet and I think that enthusiasm for carp fishing and want to help your fellow angler is contagious. You can't help but listen.

During a couple of the podcasts where Julian is interviewed he talks about the 70% carp angler and I have found this expression fascinating.

What is the 70% carp angler?

Am I?

What is my percentage?



Do I take into account good days or bad?

Do allowances get made if my children are with me?

My understanding of 70% angler is in comparison with other sports, carp angling is a great leveler. Through differing factors anyone can fish to 70% ability in carp angling. This is due to the advances and saturation of Bait, rods, rigs, luggage, hooks, and advice on you tube, social media, magazines.

For example, and Jules makes a similar analogy, give me a snooker cue, the best tip, a bit of table time on the best tables and I would be a good snooker player. But by having all these advantages, best gear etc., is not going to dramatically make me a better snooker player. But in carp fishing, compare what is out in the carp fishing world now vs. 20/30/40 years ago, it is much easier for someone to pick up carp fishing, get some gear, buy some rigs, watch some YouTube videos around instructions, water craft, etc., and go fishing. Many local lakes and day tickets are well stocked. The chance of hooking a carp is high let's be honest. They will do well and fish at a good 70% capacity. And don't get me wrong, good luck to them and the more the merrier I say.

So, what makes me a 70% angler? Am I? Am I better than that? Worse than that?

What do I need to do regularly to put me in the above 70% bracket?
Who can I learn from?

While playing with ideas for this article is got to thinking that much of my carp fishing education has come from my friends. Now my dad taught me to carp fish, I will be eternally grateful to him for that. But I have wanted to push myself forward, I always want to be the best I can

be and do my best. Effort, desire, reward, passion.

So, a large part of my percentages as a carp angler is what I have learnt from my friends around me. I work in healthcare and you never stop learning. I think you can adapt that to your carp fishing hobby/passion. Never stop learning, as knowledge will improve you and with improvement comes the positivity from achievement.

I started carp fishing with my dad and my brother when I was around 7 or 8, I think. I remember going along with dad and helping him net fish. It was great. I then graduated to the float rod with luncheon meat on and caught a lot of carp while my brother was happy putting maggots in his mouth and occasionally lucking out a clonker! Then I graduated to the ledger set up with a bottle top, again, loved this once I could work out when I strike and when not. Then I progressed to the old optonics,

which if you were not fishing straight out, would lose your rod on each bite.

As I reached my teens I wanted to fish more with my mates. This is where I learnt to play fish in once connected to a carp and really developed those skills.

The lake I was



fishing with my mates was full, I mean full of carp. You didn't have to work too hard to get a double figure plus hit in a day. My record was losing count in the 80's for carp banked one day. We used to fish the old feeder method, crumb, trout pellet, etc., with a pellet, maggot, corn, boilee as hook bait. Now this volume of carp gave me an advantage that I got very comfortable playing carp from a young age, really got a great understanding of the feel through the rod, what the carp was doing, how hard to pull and in what direction, tip up tip down, etc. Danny Fairbrass and Ali Hamidi have commented on Korda videos previously that they have learnt from watching match anglers play carp and this has helped them. I couldn't agree more. Catching all those carp, getting the big hits and that exposure to so many carp behaviors has definitely helped me, to the point that my friends now say that one of my biggest strengths when carp fishing is the way I play a carp in. I rarely loose a carp once I hook them and convert most of my bites to photos with fish, which is a definite strength as carp on the bank in your photo album is the desired outcome.

But I have many weaknesses as a carp angler and have learnt many things from my friends that have helped me along the way tighten those weaknesses and that has helped me consistently be a 70% plus or minus carp angler.

Zac

For me Zac is an enigma as a carp angler. For example, we rocked up last year on a carp lake in France and Zac was talking himself down. The lake was rock hard at the best of times but when we arrived the weed was horrific. You could barely row a boat! But, despite giving himself no chances, Zac blew the lake apart. And he regularly catches very well wherever he goes. Why? How?

Zac keeps things simple. He doesn't get carried away with the latest bait, latest rig, etc. He keeps it simple and he does simple very effectively. He is a perfectionist with his simplicity, to the point of OCD (how many carp anglers do you know sweeps out their bivvy regularly and brings their own broom with them).

With Zac, I could tell you how he is fishing now, how he will be fishing in France on our 2022 trip. His rigs are simple, snow man with a yellow bottom, white topper. 6-8-inch rig, lead clip, tubing, mono mainline. Like most of us.

He will spend an age making sure his rig mechanics are spot on, hook sharp, presentation on the money, lead wont tangle, PVA sits properly on the hook/rig. If he's dropping from the boat, it's painful to watch he's so meticulous. If it's the bait boat, again, everything is loaded slowly and in a certain way, for a reason. It's a simple but measured approach.

Speaking of France and boating, I admired how long on the first day that he went out in the boat, donking around for spots. He was out in the boat almost all day. But this paid off as not only did he catch well, he had an almost Dustin Hoffman, Rain Man knowledge of his swim, where snags were etc. At night when we went out in the boat to get a fish he knew what was going on out in front of him.

This is what watching Zac has added to my angling to make me a 70% angler or better.

Keep it simple

Location Location Location

Don't rush

Do it your way

Be confident in what you are doing

Kev

The first thing Kev would tell you that I have learnt from him is that I have copied his haircut. He is bald; I'm following close behind thanks to Mother Nature and evolution.

The second thing Kev would tell you is that he is my fishing hero. Truth be known he sort of is, but don't any of you dare tell him I admitted this ok? Our secret!

By this I mean that I have learnt more from Kev than most. I will try and articulate this, but one thing Kev does is he gives you confidence. He knows his stuff; he reads, he watches hours of content, fishes some tough syndicates and catches from them. This knowledge and experience transposes onto you. Whenever I fish with Kev I feel I'm going to catch.

Kev has torn to bits a syndicate we are both fishing and both historically and now one thing I have learnt from Kev is time. You have to try and make time if you want to catch carp. I'm 3 sessions onto my new syndicate now. 3 sessions that would not have happened without learning from Kev that you can work, and carp fish, e.g. work until lunchtime, and go down the lake until sunset. Less of an impact on family life, less impact on work life and I must say very relaxing. But what I have learnt from these 3 sessions has been invaluable and I feel like I'm really starting to understand the lake and the carp's behaviors.

From a rig perspective I have learnt a lot from Kev, we even have the occasional rig tying session and it was Kev who helped me first master the hair rig.



Out in the boat for hours finding spots and most awe inspiringly, he would check every spot once a day no rod, no bait, nothing. Just drift very slowly and quietly over the spot to see if the rig had moved, was it still fishing, was the bait still presented the way he perceived, had the free offerings been gobbled, had the bottom been disturbed. Kev was just on a fact-finding mission. I really admired his determination to succeed. I was happy to find my spots and place my baits. My mistake I think. This is what watching Kev has added to my angling to make me a 70% angler or better.

Effort = reward

Time investment

Rig mechanics

But one thing that really sticks in my head from Kev carp fishing was at the French lake last year. He didn't sit still. I kid you not; he barely sat still for days until a couple of carp were on the bank.

Tying rigs. Playing with set ups, buoyancy of baits. Trying the washing line rig to conquer the weed.

Motivation

Study and know the environment

Ben

Ben's nickname is four leaf. This is predominantly predicated from being a jammy git. But are carp anglers Jammy if they are pushing beyond the 70%? Have they stacked the odds in their favor? Ben definitely stacks the odds in his favor and is a very good carp angler in his own right. He is motivated and knowledgeable; he puts the time in on the bank. He will move 5 times if needs to to get on the fish, or get a desirable line lay, etc. He has many strengths as a carp angler that I admire and all of us have thought we could add to the armory.

But Ben does not miss a thing on the bank; he is like a bloody Meer cat to every sound. Every show, every capture, very little detail he is switched onto the lake. The best example I could give of this is again in France, when the four of us were sitting up of an evening, just eaten, having a beer and a chat, Ben would be in his bivvy most nights by 2200 ish so he could watch the water in the moonlight, listen for carp boshing out. DEDICATED! Every morning we would get the low down on what and where in his swim. And this was an edge. No doubt about it. He was then out in the boat learning what had drawn the carp to a certain area, and he converted this effort to bites. I didn't. As I sleep heavily and don't get up!

The other aspect of Bens fishing is as I have mentioned previously the effort. At the moment his syndicate is closed to fishing, you still walk around it etc. So, Ben has spent ours with a lead and a marker walking the lake, building topography of each swim. You have to admire that

effort. When the lake re opens, turn up, clip up and fishing. Very impressive.

This is what watching Ben has added to my angling to make me a 70% angler or better.



Be alert

Watch the water

Listen to the water

Put the hours in to understand the environment

Absorb every little bit of information available

So, as you can see, we all have strengths we bring to the carp fishing party and we can all learn from each other too.

The 70% carp angler will catch carp and will do it well as there is the products and resources out there to support that more than any other sport. I think that is one of the things that makes carp fishing so popular and such a leveler.

But, to go beyond the 70% in my opinion you have to dedicate a bit more time, study the water and learn the environment, keep it simple and fully effective, i.e., if you're throwing it in make sure its fishing and effective and you have confidence in that, don't give up, keep learning, persevere, be motivated and most of all, enjoy it. Carp fishing is a gift that can be shared with friends and family, make the most of it, and keep learning and hopefully your catch reports will improve.

Matt



A trip to De karperhoeve, Belgium
by Liam Vaughan

The first European fishing trip is always a milestone and usually a learning curve in the life of any carp angler. Mine was no exception! After selecting a venue with friends that wasn't going to put too much pressure on us, the preparation started. Months of rig tying and bait buying began as the anticipation got more intense! Upon arrival, we soon realised that this wasn't going to be as easy as we initially thought! Big beds of bait on soft areas just weren't going to work. Upon realising this we opted to hire a rowing boat to find a few decent spots in different areas of our swims. I managed to find one for each rod and this totally changed the game.

After a few hours of baiting and getting rigs in prime position the rods were set for the night. Around 1am I was woken up to my first run and landed an immaculate 15lb common. Not quite what we had come for but very welcome in tough conditions! After re placing the rod it was away again within the next 2 hours. This time a 22lb leather carp (new pb at the time). Happy days! We were advised that the day times were pretty quiet, so I opted to reel the rods in around 11.30 am and get back in the boat and give all the spots some more bait. I was baiting with hemp, sweetcorn and 12mm Nash hot tuna bottom baits. The rods were kept out the water until around 5.30 pm to give the fish chance to find the bait and get confident feeding in my areas. I replaced the rods and again at 1 am the same rod as the night before was away. This time an 18lb mirror carp. The rest of the night was quiet, and I reeled the rods in again during the day.

The baking heat made fishing in the day pretty pointless, so I was more than happy to leave them in and just let the fish have a free munch! After going shopping for supplies (mainly beers) it was time to replace the rods again.



One rod was fished into a corner of the lake where I had found a hard gravel plateau in the middle of an area of soft clay.

This rod was fished on a 12mm Nash hot tuna bottom bait tipped off with a piece of plastic corn. The second rod was placed under an overhanging tree around 20 yards down from the first rod on a slightly softer spot where fish had been showing.

Due to the softer bottom I opted to use a Ronnie rig with a heavily glugged 15mm Nash hot tuna pop up. As for the third rod I decided to just use a solid bag and cast to showing fish as the spot I had found hadn't produced as of yet. Surprisingly this was the first rod to go that night! After a 15 minute battle which made me think this was a monster, a 20lb mirror finally slipped over the net cord!



Before photographing and weighing the fish I quickly re tied another bag and cast to the same area. Around 2 minutes after putting the fish back this rod was away again.

This time a slow ponderous fight. I played the fish carefully as I knew it was a bigger fish and eventually a lovely 25lb mirror was on the mat! Another pb, result! I decided not to recast the rod because we were about to tuck into dinner, but this made no difference as I was rudely interrupted by a run on the pop up rod.

The second I picked up the rod I instantly knew this was a bigger fish. My heart was racing, and my legs completely turned to jelly. With every kick or intense run my heart skipped a beat as I knew how horrible it would have been to lose this fish.

After a careful fight the fish finally surfaced and slid into the net. A lovely fat common carp which I instantly knew was a bigger fish. We got it up onto the scales which revealed that is was 29lb 8oz. I was over the moon. 2 pb's in an hour. Does it get much better than that? The rest of that night went by with no more activity, but I couldn't have cared less. What a trip, hopefully plenty more to come in the future!

Liam



A close-up, low-angle shot of a fishing rod leaning against a dark, textured tree trunk. The rod has a light-colored wooden handle and a dark reel. It is positioned diagonally across the frame. In the background, there is a lush green lawn with some fallen leaves and a dense line of trees under a blue sky with white clouds.

In the search
of the one they
name Poppy by
Paul Smith

So once the lockdown here had eased I was asked by the owner and friend of my local day ticket water if I could spend some time there helping with the running of the place.

Of course, I was quick to accept! After all I was still on furlough. The venue was a typical old styled mixed fishery day ticket water. Man made, a few bank pegs and the rest made up with scaffold tubes and old council paving slabs to create stages for the match boys. But over time the carp had piled on the weight making it a cracking venue for carp fishing. Whether you were going for a day or even a weekend! The stock consists of a good number of singles for your pleasure anglers, a good stock of doubles to upper doubles, a good head of 20's and then there's Poppy! She's a

stunning ghostie and in the right time of the year has tipped the scales at just over the 32lb mark.

I had fished the venue a few times doing various sessions, days, evenings and the odd night and I had caught my fair share of stunners. Just before lockdown me and a friend decided we would do a quick day session. I opted for a peg called the point. Now on the point there's three pegs, the left goes towards an island, the middle into open water but my personal favorite was the right-hand peg. It allowed you to fish into open water but on the right you had a stunning margin bay to fish. Full of over hanging branches and

brambles it was a real carpy looking spot. As we arrived we had a quick look at the pegs, and it was obvious the fish had and still were feeding up in this margin bay. I wasted no time in getting back to the motor to unload the gear. I got back to the peg and immediately opened up my bait bucket to the potent smell of Uberbaits, Uberkrab. I threw a few handful of sixteen and twelve mills out onto the spot and it wasn't long before it became like a lay-z spa fizzing away like mad. I quickly got the rods out to sort rigs out for the margin rod it was a match the hatch





sixteen mill wafter rig. With a small pva bag of chops and crushed Uberkrab. The left-hand rod it was a sixteen mill Uberrami flouro yellow pop up fished on a hinge stiff rig into open water with a few scattered freebies. It wasn't long before the rod ripped off and I was into my first fish of the day. You could tell this was a decent fish by the way it just leisurely glided about the water. Pulling hard but not like a scrappy single figured fish would. After a short while the fish was about two meters from the bank. That was when I got my first

glance, it was a lovely looking mirror. After one last surge in the deep margin it wasn't long, and

she slipped over the net cord. After getting her out the water in the net it was a decent fish! A fish named Minstral at 22lb. After a couple of snaps, we got her back and the rig with fresh bait back on the spot. The margin rod although still bubbling away like dropping a mento into a bottle of coke, hadn't produced anything. So, the rod came in and after a change of tactic to the Ronnie Rig, the rig went into the water and it couldn't have been a better cast. A few more handfuls of bait over the top and it wasn't long before the tip of the rod was bent

round and the bobbin tight against the blank. Upon hooking into the fish, it was solid, but with gentle kept pressure after a few seconds the fish was out the snag and in the open to run. After a battle that felt like a lifetime number two was in the net a lovely low double mirror.

The rod went back out onto the spot when ten minutes later it ripped off again resulting with another low double. I put some fresh bait on the rig and freebies on the spot before setting the rod back. Things went quiet for about an hour before that same margin rod was bent over double. Hooking into this one I just knew it was a good fish! Bigger than Minstral. After a short battle she gave up and was ready for the net. This was a long fish and heavy. Getting her on the cradle she only just fit!

The one they name Poppy

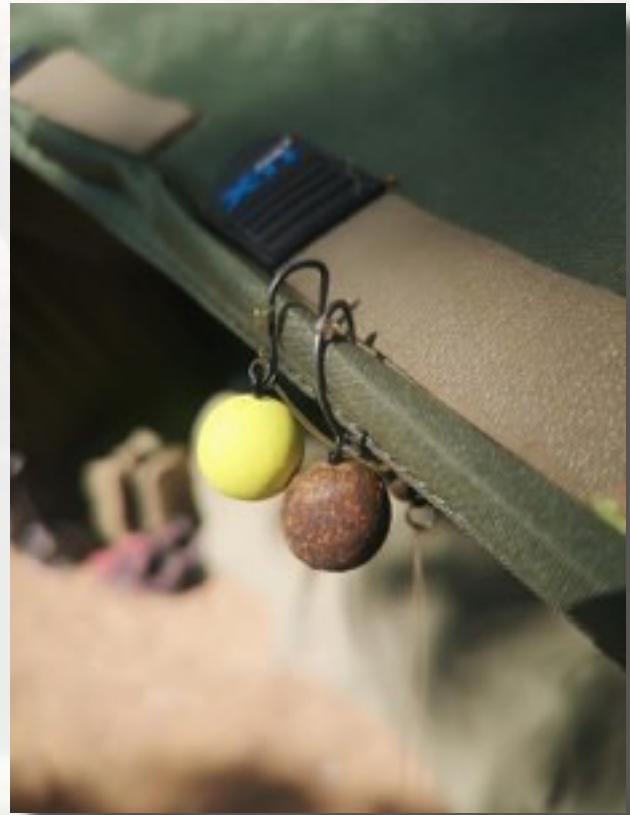
A real long chunky common that we nick named The Long Common. Weighing in at just over 25lb she was a unit! Then the following day Boris announces lockdown.

So now we're up to speed let me tell you about the pursuit of Poppy. So, we were doing forty-eight hours on and seventy-two hours off once restrictions were lifted to make sure everything was running smoothly. So, we nominated a swim that we would fish and baited it up. On my first forty-eight-hour session I managed to bank 4 or 5 fish biggest being 18lb. The next session I landed 6 fish biggest being mid double. Then the lake switched off I can only think this was due to the number of anglers being on the lake and the amount of bait being piled in. On my

next session I decided that it was time to scale down. So rather than 2 kilo of bait per forty-eight hours it was a kilo rather than sixteen mill pop ups it was twelve. Even though it was slow fishing I still managed to bank four fish. One at 17lb another at 16lb and two low doubles. But the next session would be the hardest yet the most memorable! So, arriving at the lake to take over from the last bailiff I asked how it had been fishing and the response I got was a very disheartened "blank". So, I then asked what spots he'd been fishing at they were both two to three rod lengths from the bank. So, I decided that

I would fish no more than a rod length out. I put a few handfuls of bait on two spots and due to it fishing slow I was in no rush to get the rods out. So, after putting the mansion up and in. I started getting the rigs and bait ready.

This time I decided to go back to using my wafter rig or German rig as others will know it as. This allows me to swap bait from wafter to bottom bait just by simply lengthening



the bait floss. So, I decided I was going to put a twelve by sixteen mill dumbell wafter on. Got the rods onto the spot and wow it was slow. With about three hours passing the rod tip bounced into action only for me to end up with a roach of about a pound and half in weight not what we're here for but a PB so deserved a picture. I put fresh bait on and for the rod back on the spot. Nothing happened for the rest of the day and that night. The following morning I was awake at first light looking for any shows with a cup of the best coffee going (Nescafé Azura American to be precise) nothing had happened by seven am so it was time to bring the rods in and fresh bait. Getting the rods back on the spot after a short while the rod tip bounced again and my head just sunk

into my hands after knowing exactly what this was going to be, yeah you guessed it another roach. So, with that I decided the rods were coming in for the day and all I would do is spend the day watching, baiting, tying, drinking coffee and eating. 7pm came round and I decided after having a bit of a social on the guys on the point it was time to get the rigs on the dance floor.

Now because of the roach from earlier

on I decided I would up the game and try an Uberkrab sixteen mill boilie with a bit chopped off then I went for a flouro pink Uberberry pop up to top it off. Combine that with a mesh bag of crumb and chops it was a deadly combination. I got the rigs back out on the spots and sat back in the evening sun with a cider. My mate Rob came down for a chat and a cider and we got onto the subject of Poppy talking about her routine etc.



The one they name Poppy

With that the left-hand bite alarm let off one beep bobbin came up to the blank before coming out and line slowly bring taken off the spool. When I gained contact with the fish it was like nothing I had had from here before! Such a slow kite to the right and within minutes the fish was under my feet. I then could see it was a ghostie but with four or five of them in the lake it was difficult to tell. But it certainly got the

adrenaline going. Rob asked should he grab the net and with that the head came up. I said go for it and within seconds the fish was in the net. I had to look away at this point while Rob examined what was in the net. After what felt like a decade I heard Rob say after three just shout. That was the moment I knew Poppy was in the bottom of my net! After standing there shaking and taking a moment to regain my breath

it was time to get the sling and scales zeroed and the cradle wet before removing her from the water. Then it was time to have this stunning fish grace my cradle and get her up for some pictures. 29lb 12oz of pure magic! What a fish! What a moment!

Keep on reaching for your goals

Paul





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EX BRITISH FORCES SERVICEMEN ARE HOOKED ON CARP FISHING IN CORNWALL

Lloyd Roberts PR



THE NOT FORGOTTEN

The Not Forgotten a British Armed Forces charity for serving and ex-military personnel recently hosted a carp fishing respite holiday for five former servicemen at Woodlay Fishing Lakes in Herdodsfoot, Liskeard. The peaceful and picturesque lakes provided the perfect backdrop for the three-day fishing event and an opportunity for the veterans, many of whom are suffering from PTSD to relax, share their experiences, form new friendships and bond over some healthy competitive fishing in a safe environment.

The Not Forgotten is based on the principles of providing entertainment and recreation including social activities and challenge holidays, to those injured in the service of their country and the carp fishing event in Cornwall is just one of the popular events the charity organises throughout the year.

Veterans from the Army and the Royal Marines who served in conflicts including the Falklands and Afghanistan spent the days fishing and the evenings socialising, with some healthy competitive banter and a story or two about the days catch.

Rosie Thompson Head of Events, The Not Forgotten accompanied the men and gave up her position as reigning carp fishing champion to Falklands veteran Tom Richardson who won the trophy – catching the heaviest fish of the competition which weighed-in at 10lbs 2oz. Overall, they caught 15 carp using boilies and the catch of the day was caught using a tangy orange fizz pop up.



Rosie tells us: "These therapeutic fishing trips are all about comradeship and support and are really important in helping to ensure veterans don't feel 'forgotten'. All the men said they felt more confident following the trip and felt it really helped with their wellbeing. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to feel connected again after being in lockdown for so long. This was our first respite trip following the lockdown and we hope to be doing more over the months ahead."

The Not Forgotten combats isolation and loneliness amongst the Armed Forces community through social activities and challenge holidays. If you are a serving or ex-member of the Armed Forces or you know of someone that could benefit from the help of The Not Forgotten, please get in touch by contacting Tel: 0207 730 2400

Issued on behalf of: The Not Forgotten www.thenotforgotten.org.

Issued by: Lloyd Roberts PR

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About The Not Forgotten:

They support any serving man or woman who is wounded, injured or sick and any veteran with a disability, illness or infirmity; whatever the cause and whenever it arose. Any serving or former member of The Royal Navy, The Royal Marines, The British Army, The Royal Air Force and The Merchant Navy, both Regular and Reserve Forces, may be eligible for their help.



A photograph of a pond filled with numerous water lily pads. The pads are large, green, and overlapping, creating a textured pattern across the surface of the water. Some pads appear to have small flowers or buds emerging from their centers. The water is a clear, light blue color.

Return to the Beginning

By Sam
Moor

Suddenly, the stillness broke.

First with a muffled ‘Whomph!’ from below the surface of the lake and then a split second later with the sweet, unmistakable sound of a singing clutch. From my peaceful gaze across the lake I was pulled into a new state of pure readiness. My rod, previously lifeless, was now violently arched with line streaming urgently from the reel. I had been resting my mind on the water but now it was time for action; for from stillness always comes movement eventually. I lunged for the rod and leaned into whatever creature was responsible for this most welcome breaching of the peace.

It was a Carp of course, as yet unseen but certainly not unfelt. Through the conduit of my rod I could sense little subtlety as the fish simply steamed off in a relentless bid for a large bed of lilies off to my right. Clamping down on the spool I applied some serious side strain and with the line singing its eerie song in the warm September breeze I managed to turn the depth-dwelling antagonist just as it started to plough into the outermost fronds – the water

boiled.

Thus dissuaded it now began to charter a new course kiting round toward a gnarly old sunken tree out to my left. A woodpigeon, with a somewhat bemused look on its face, watched on from a perch that protruded from the end of the submerged canopy and as the fish drew steadily closer he took flight in a clumsy flap of feathers to escape the ensuing watery drama.

Again, but with a little less pressure than before, the fish’s plan was



arm-achingly foiled just shy of his sanctuary. For a few brief moments there seemed to be a juddering stalemate of sorts and then everything ground to a halt. Time stood still and whispers of doubt stole into my mind: was he snagged? Would the hook hold? Were my knots sound? I took a deep breath and slowly exhaled. More relaxed I changed the angle of pull and applied just a touch more pressure: the fish kicked out a welcome reply.

Slowly but surely I began to gain some line knowing that the tables had turned in my favour. The fish seemed to sense this too and began to plod about belligerently. I continued to gain ground, guiding him painstakingly into the margins and then eventually into the arms of the waiting net. A mixture of relief and elation washed over me. It was just then that I heard a noise behind me and I turned to see a little boy from the farm on the other side of the lake scrambling down rather hurriedly into my swim.

'What have you caught?!' he exclaimed, visibly excited.

'It's a Carp,' I replied, 'come and have a look at him.' Carefully lifting the net out the water I turned and gently lowered my prize on to the mat. Peeling back the sodden folds of mesh revealed something that I hadn't seen for a very long time. 'It's massive!' the boy shouted as he looked down wide eyed with wonder, 'I didn't know fish grew that big!' he added.



'This is just a small one!' said I and the boy's eyes grew wider. We both gazed at the beautiful long bar of gold in front of us. It was a splendid Wildie of about 11lbs. A lean, mean, fighting machine and pristine in every way; my first carp in many years and a most welcome sight indeed. After removing the hook with the utmost care, I gently slipped the carp back into the lake allowing the boy one last good look before the fish disappeared into the depths with an effortless flick of its tail. Finally, I was fishing again and it was good to back!

Like so many of us, I have loved fishing since I was knee high to a grasshopper. Back in the day, well over twenty years ago, I had evolved into a 'Serious Carp Angler'. Being at University at the time meant I had long holiday periods and as such this allowed me to make frequent extended fishing pilgrimages back to the lakes of my native Essex. To have so much time was a luxury and even though I had hardly any money (I used my student loans to buy fishing gear), a long list of text books to read and essays to write, the lure of big carp was too powerful to ignore. Indeed, it took precedence.

Those were halcyon days and I met some great people on the handful of small syndicates I was fortunate to be a member of. A few of those anglers went on to notch up some great achievements in the fishing world. I managed to do OK and ended up becoming a field-tester for Nash Tackle for a time. During this period, I learned a valuable lesson about fishing, that being to innovate, not imitate. Like many things in life however, this is much easier said than done.

Unfortunately, all good things come to an end. Just as I was preparing for my finals at University and planning to take on a couple of serious new lakes post-graduation, my Mum died of cancer. I was still quite young at the time and the loss shook me to the core. Subsequently, my desire to go fishing vanished.

One day soon after I was suddenly taken by a desperate urge to find more meaning in life. Rather rashly I sold all of the fancy fishing gear I had so painstakingly accrued over the years. With this money I would fund a trip to China and throw myself wholeheartedly into my martial arts training, another life-long passion of mine.

The rest as they say is history but during all the years that followed that peculiar fishing feeling, that uncanny piscatorial sentiment that had been present for my whole life, never left me completely. Instead it subsided to a quiet whisper and just as the tiniest trickle of a stream given enough time will wear its way through the hardest rock, this whisper steered my course most discretely back to the water without my knowing. I often travelled and wherever I was in the world I would have the most vivid, intricately detailed dreams about ancient carp

in heavenly lakes, lakes full of depth and mystery. After such dreams I would always awake to feel that some crucial element was missing from my life. The pang in my heart made me hope that someday, somehow, I would get back to the water.

Things have a funny way of turning out. I was inadvertently led back into fishing a few years back while exploring the lush Sussex countryside a few miles north of the little village where we live. I love walking and prior to setting off on a particular route on a particular day I had noticed on the OS map that I would pass a long, dammed lake of about 5 acres that looked to be immersed in woodland. Seeing this ignited something within me and my skin tingled; a feeling of excitement that I hadn't felt for years, apart from in the best of my dreams. This peculiar feeling only grew when about halfway through said walk I came upon a long rolling field surrounded by ancient, gnarled oaks; the formidable trees standing motionless like stoic guardians of some secret treasure that lay beyond.



Reaching the bottom of the field the view opened out to reveal an overgrown dam wall with an old farm track running along it. To my great pleasure I discovered that this was preceded by a long lush estate lake, wooded on either side and resplendent with big sets of lilies and myriad fallen trees their stray branches poking up out of the water like so many skeletal fingers reaching for the sky.

I was awestruck, for here right in front of me was the lake of my dreams. Consumed with a heady intrigue, I picked my way along one of the overgrown banks and after just a few minutes of peering about I noticed a small group of carp lazily nosing along some marginal reeds that were overshadowed by a huge bramble bush. They were not monsters but the sight of them clicked something deep inside of me back into place.

I raced home that day and started to make enquiries. It didn't take long before I had discovered the details for the small club that controlled the water and applied to become a member. Fortunately, they had a place left and I signed up for the remainder of the season with boyish eagerness.

The next hurdle was the significant matter of having absolutely no fishing tackle to speak of. This was rapidly remedied and after a few days of perusing an online second-hand tackle retailer, I managed to pick up a pair of half decent rods, some old-school Shimano Baitrunners and all the basic sundries that I would need for some short day-sessions. As for bait, I simply sourced some good quality Tiger nuts and hemp seed which in the past had been firm favourites of mine.

This process of tackle reacquisition tickled me immensely. Back in the day I had owned the whole gamut of high-tech, high-spec gear, of which quite naively I was very proud. It was a wonderful juxtaposition to trudge along the lane on that first trip (which I described for you above) with only the essential essentials and barely a brand name in sight. It was very liberating in fact.

I fished that beautiful little lake on a regular basis for a couple of years and it served as the most delightful entry point back into fishing. It turned out that the lake used to be fished by Chris Yates and one which he fondly remembers in his

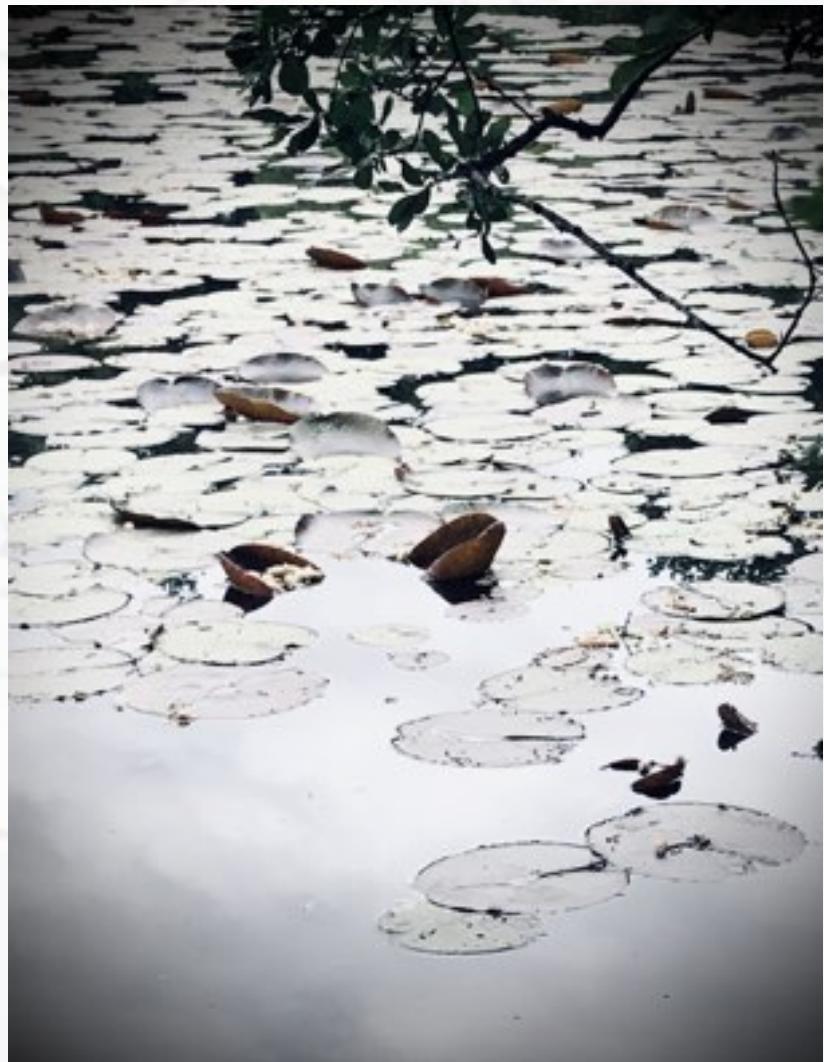
book 'Casting at the Sun'. I used to relish this when creeping about the water; I was following in the footsteps of one of my favourite anglers.

To my amazement the lake was rarely fished and most of the time I had it to myself, especially since my flexible working life saw me fishing mostly mid-week. This luxury allowed me lots of opportunity to experiment with different approaches around the water without bothering anybody else, whether that be spombing a bed of particles to the inaccessible far margins (I hadn't even seen a Spomb before this), stalking fish 2 feet out from the dam wall or wading my bait out to some inconspicuous spot, feeling the lake bed for minute discrepancies with my bare feet.

Over time it dawned on me that I now felt much more relaxed about my fishing than I ever did in the old days. This gave me the freedom of mind to be more experimental and most importantly,

the freedom just to sit back, enjoy the angling process and simply let things unfold naturally whilst I immersed myself in nature's endless bounty. And do you know something? The less I tried, the more I enjoyed myself.

One thing that I noticed was that with all of my martial arts training my angling skills had improved in a number of key ways; latent learning is a powerful thing. With better body mechanics and a much calmer and focused mind I found that my



casting was infinitely better than before. Indeed, I found that I now loved casting as if it were some kind of beautiful art form. There's nothing so satisfying as putting your mind onto some tricky spot and being able to hit it consistently. Sometimes just for fun, I would practise my under-arm casts and spend an hour aiming for different leaves as they floated by cajoled across the surface of the water by the meandering wind.

I also noticed that my perception and observational skills were much better; my meditation training allowing me to see the lake and its environs clearly and without wishful bias. In angling (and life) we often see things as we want them to be rather than as they actually are. This can cause all kinds of problems. By being objective and relaxed I was able to enjoy my fishing in a profound way. It really doesn't matter what you read or see in videos, it is from your

own direct experience that true learning is formed and so during this period I revelled in my fishing and had the greatest of times, like some kind of middle-aged Huckleberry Finn with a penchant for carp.

It didn't take long of course before I progressed to doing overnight sessions. With no brolly, bivvy or



bedchair to speak of, I used to sleep hovering over my rods in a hammock strung up between two trees or simply hunkered down on the bank in my old sleeping bag. I did eventually invest in some bite alarms but it took quite some time however to give up my home-made bobbins that consisted of two very special and perfectly weighted bent twigs.

On one particular night I had tucked myself up in my old Nash sleeping bag (of all my original gear the only item I actually hung on to – it's still brilliant) just under a large bush to the side of my swim. I was very cosy. Sometime during the night something stirred me and I slowly opened my eyes to find that a small herd of deer had made their way

down to the lake for a drink. They were poised just beyond arm's length. Being so close it was a remarkable sight and for a short time I watched them, until that is, I made the smallest of movements which immediately sent them galloping, sure-footed and as silent as shadows, back into the fields beyond.

I ended up catching a plethora of pristine carp from that beautiful lake; hard-fighting, torpedo-like commons up to the low-twenty mark with the odd chunky mirror thrown in for good measure. As the water was well off the beaten track I also enjoyed observing and studying the wonderful wildlife that lived there, something that for me is inseparable from the fishing



process.

In life things do not stay the same for long. In fact if you spend a lot of time observing nature after a while you realise that everything constantly changes, including you yourself. And so it came to pass that despite having plenty of fishing fun, eventually a new seed of inspiration germinated and took firm hold in my mind. I began to wish for a greater challenge and the prospect of something more substantial in the net. One question hung over me: would it even be possible to find such waters where there were few people, little disturbance, and the abundant wildlife that I was now accustomed to but with the prospect of larger

carp? Surely, I wanted to have my cake and eat it too?

People say that you have to be careful what you wish for because you just might get it, and this is certainly true. For along with having a wish fulfilled always comes the chattels of counter balance, all those pesky challenges you couldn't have possibly known in advance that have to converge to make a dream a reality. Therefore, little did I know as I wished that wish that many new angling adventures were only just around the corner.

Read more at www.thetaooofcarp.com

Sam.





Reviews

Nash Baiting Pole - Mark Carper

In The Margin Particles - Scott Grant

Sunblesa - Bivvy Tray - Mark Carper



“But it’s just a Baiting Pole...right...??!” Review
by Mark Carper

DELIVERANCE

“But it’s just a Baiting Pole...right...??!”

Yes it is, that is exactly what it is, it is just a Baiting Pole...but with difference...!!

Now, before I get into my review about this particular ‘Baiting Pole’, let me tell you where I stand on using one....

...I have heard and read the many opinions on the use of numerous makes or type of baiting pole over the years, from “it’s a game changer” to “it’s cheating” and the most common one, “you need to learn how to cast..!!”

These same comments are applied to many things in the world of carp angling, especially Bait Boats. Even the ‘Deeper’ is seen by many as “cheating”...and the people that use those statements, usually follow up with, “people don’t know watercraft anymore” or “people that use this kit are just lazy..!”

For me, I simply embrace the technology and kit that is available to me and put it to good use (sometimes, I even catch). How many of those that see a Bait Boat, Deeper and now the humble Baiting Pole as ‘Cheating’ are still using Split Cane Rods and Centre Pin Reels? Not many I’m sure. Technology is everywhere in Carp Fishing, from the Reels to the Rods, the Line and the Hooks and all manner of kit we simply drag around and place in our swims on every session...I never hear anyone say that a ‘Hand Sharpened Hook’ is cheating...?!

Anyway, that’s my opinion and as they say “we are all entitled to our own opinion” and if you think the use of a baiting pole is in some way a blight on, or cheating in, our beloved sport, then stop reading now...

So, what’s the difference with this ‘Baiting Pole’...?



Quite simply, the difference is this is a Nash Tackle Bushwhacker 'Deliverance' Baiting Pole, that's' what...!!

The major difference, however, is the design of the spoon, the 'Self-Floating' Spoon is the bit that makes this so different from other Baiting Pole Spoons and makes the use of it so much more efficient and effective.

The spoon looks completely different from any other baiting spoon currently on the market and it's not just the outside that makes it different, it's the layout of the spoon internally that is the real game changer in my eyes, but I'll come to that in very shortly...

...The spoon has two 'Floatation Tubes' incorporated on the outside and these negate the use of a 'Net Float'. They are designed to aid not only floating the spoon but they also stop it 'tipping' accidentally, so much so, you can ship the spoon out and let go of the pole and the spoon will not 'role-over' until you physically twist the pole to drop the spoons contents. This stability also means you can 'ship out' the pole quicker with no worry of dropping your rig unintentionally, even on water with a 'bit of a chop on it' and it has been tested up to 45m, that's thirty sections in total...!

But the stability is only half the story of the spoon design....

...inside the spoon, you will find two 'compartments', the larger

compartment is for your rig and chosen bait but it's the smaller compartment that is the clever bit....in here, you place your lead and on each side there is a small 'Line Slot' (there is also a one to the rear too). Obviously, once you have placed your rig, lead and bait, in to the spoon, you choose which side to place your line, dependant on which way you want to 'role' the spoon...you need to ensure that you roll 'towards' the side the line is coming out of the 'line slot', otherwise, you will have the line sitting over the top of the pole when it is dropped...not a huge drama but it could affect the rig position...!

Now, I know that doesn't sound revolutionary, but here, in my humble opinion, is the clever bit and it is exactly what I did when fishing a local canal very recently...

...Once you have shipped the spoon to your desired location and mine happened to be under a very low, overhanging tree, a spot that would be impossible to cast too, no matter how good you are, you can make finite adjustment of the spoon position, by tightening the line from the rod to the lead, you can make very slight and delicate adjustment without the need to touch the pole and you can be confident that the lead will not pull-out of the spoon and your rig is left undisturbed....genius design....!!

In my scenario, I was at 14m distance and as I had a left to right 'drift' on the water, simply shipped out slightly above the spot and if the spoon drifted too far right, I simply pulled on the line to move it back. Using



a combination of the line and the pole, I could drop the rig and bait with extreme accuracy.

The line slots will not cause any damage to your line and providing you ship-out with an ‘open’ bail arm, you will not get any line twist either. Using the ‘deliverance’ system opened up the far margin of the canal like never before and at a level of accuracy I could only achieve with a Bait Boat, although due to the low levels of the overhangs, I would not have been able to get a boat in...the Spoon was the exact tool for the job.

It opened up all manner of possibilities and gave me access to what I can only think were ‘unfished’ spots...so unfished in fact, even the fish didn’t know they should be there, hence my blank...!!!

The boring bit of the setup is the poles...what can you say about poles... well, they are made from fibreglass, they are 1.5m in length, they have a slot at one end and a ‘Spring Button’ at the other to interconnect them to each other...They are strong, but very flexible (it was amazing just how

much ‘bow’ you could get in them at 15m to manoeuvre the spoon left or right over the spot) and they work well. There is a dedicated section that fits in to the spoon and also a section that has a duplon handle to use as the last section.

So, is this “just a baiting pole” or is it really a “game changer”...well, in my honest opinion, it is certainly more than just your ‘average’ baiting pole, thanks to the very



well made and cleverly designed 'Spoon', the rest is just a Baiting Pole... in terms of a 'Game Changer', it certainly has its' uses and in the right circumstance could be the difference to pout a carp on the bank. It definitely does what it was designed to do, and it does it very efficiently too. With minimal disturbance, you can be confident that rig and bait are 'On the Spot' and although it does take a little longer to put the rig out, it saves time overall as you are not having to clip-up for each cast or indeed, thrash the water to a foam trying to get it just right.

The big advantage is will definitely get you in to spots that are impossible to cast or even drive a boat too and that has to be an 'edge', doesn't it..???!?

Oli Davies recently summed up the use of the Deliverance System thus...

"How do you fish for bubblers..? You cast out at them...What happens when you cast at them...? You spook them...What happens when you spook them..?? You've got to wait and I'm not interested in waiting any longer, if I can get a bite pretty quickly by dropping a bait on their head and not spooking them, then surely, that is the biggest 'Edge' you can have in fishing, there is no bigger edge than that...!!"

And finally, is it 'Cheating'...? Quite honestly, that is just a matter of opinion, and for me, the only opinion I am interested in is 'mine'...I'll leave you to your opinions...!

Additional sections are available separately and



again, they are all 1.5m long (I have an additional ten sections, meaning I can ship out to 30m) and I have read that someone has enough sections to ship out to 75m, yes, that's right, Seventy – Five metres, now that I would like to see....that is a whopping FIFTY Sections...!!!!

The 15m Spoon Kit, comes with ten sections and is contained in a fairly robust, drawstring carry bag. Additional sections can be purchased individually, and you can also buy a Heavy-Duty purpose made carry bag that can house a total of twenty sections and has a three-sided zip to allow for easy access.

Would I change anything?

Actually yes, just two simple things, both of which I have already done but they are by no means a necessity;

Firstly, the section that is purpose designed to fit the Spoon, I have marked with a wrap of electrical tape, so if the spoon is removed, it is easy to identify that section and;

Secondly, I have used a marker pen to draw a line from the 'Slot' Hole on one section and along the next section past the 'Spring Clip', once it is in place and the Spring Button is in place. The reason for this was due to the fact that on occasion, I lost sight of the button as I slid it into the section, and had it twisted so the slot and button did not align... marking each section just makes it simpler to align.

Instagram: mark_carper257



In the Margin Particles Review by scott 'GEEZER' Grant



I have been using particles in my fishing for years. Last year I started using particles from a company quite close to where I live, called In the Margin Particles.

For me their chilli hemp is the one, I have caught fish from everywhere I have been using it, for some bizarre reason the more chillies in the mix the better. My preferred mix that Matt makes me has 2 handfuls of popcorn maize to 5 kilos of chillie hemp.

Like anything he will make you any mix you care to dream of. A bespoke service if you like which caters for all comers.

Matt also does a few other mixes, his standard spod mix which contains maize, blue and white pea, tic beans, maple peas, red and white dari, wheat and barley. There is also a flavoured Standard mix available, plus a standard mix with added hemp.



The new one called the Nut blizzard has 8 different type of nuts within it, plus, a host of other secret ingredients, this mix is super cloudy which puts more attraction in the area your fishing. I have caught fish using this mix, fishing a balanced tiger nut over the top of it.

Custom made mixes will vary per kg depending on the ingredients. Hemp, tigers etc will vary on price depending on cost supply.

All particles are prepared and cooked thoroughly to the highest standard.

Standard mix 5kg is £5.00

Flavoured standard mix is £6.50 for 5kg.

Nut Blizzard super cloudy contains 8 different types of nut. (plus, secret ingredients) Price is £2.00 per kg.

They also do a range of boilie glugs which again can be tailor made to your preference.

The glugs that are in the range are:

The STS: (seriously twisted scopex), scopex with a citrus kick

KTT: this is basically tutti frutti

Serial Krilla: made using real krill hydrolysate

Berry Fusion: a very fruity Berry smell



Squid and mussel - very fishy, one for the cat lovers (ask if you wish to add scopex).

The Snutz - This is an extremely nutty glug, nuttier than most. All glugs contain flavours, enhancers and attractors.

Glugs are 200ml and £4.75, or £4.00 if you bring an empty glug pot with a lid. These can also be delivered for £7.00.

Along with the glugs they do a food-based dip, and like the glug can be used all year round. Again, the food-based dip comes in all the same flavours as the glugs and are the same price.

If you would like more information, or want to request a price look up In the Margin Particles up on facebook.

You can also call Matt direct on 07739:961966



Taking particle preparation
to a whole new level!!

IN THE MARGIN PARTICLES



Nut Blizzard
8 Types of nut
Added hemp
Super cloudy
High in protein





Sunblesa 'Bivvy Tray' with incorporated Magnet and a 30cm Ruler – Review by Mark Carper



Their first product to come to my attention, was the Sunblesa 'Bivvy Light' which has been reviewed independently a couple of times in this magazine. A very good quality and fully featured Bivvy Light, I have been using mine for over 18 months now with no issues.

I was contacted a few months back, during our lockdown spell by Sunblesa, who asked my opinion on their proposed 'Bivvy Tray'...!

I have made no secret about owning and using several of these trays made by Nash Tackle and to be honest, I cannot fault them. I have various models and sizes and I do own the latest offering, which has a very useful, inbuilt 'Magnet'...

...So, what has the Sunblesa one got that makes it any different? Well, that would be the slightly bigger 'Magnetic' area and the addition of a 30cm (12 inches in old money) Ruler.

The 'Tray' itself is not much different to others on offer from a few different companies and Nash do a Magnetic one already but none have the incorporated Ruler, which I found to be very handy for tying up rigs. The Sunblesa Bivvy Tray is of similar construction to others on the market and is a good quality EVA moulded Tray with a 600d very durable, fabric covering.



On the left-hand side of the tray is an 8cm by 2cm Magnet which is placed between the EVA Tray and the Fabric cover and is very useful to secure small rig items, (ferromagnetic ones of course) and even finished rigs, so as not to accidentally knock them off the tray or have them 'flying off' when you suddenly need to shift the tray off your lap to hit that blistering take..!!!

The dimensions of the Tray are; 38cm (L) x 27cm (W) x 3cm (D) and this means it will easily fit in to the majority of carryalls.

The 'unique' part of this tray is the affixed 'Ruler'...!

This is stitched on to the Tray towards the top edge and is a very welcome and useful addition to the Tray. Showing both centimetres and inches, it has many uses and I will leave you to ponder them...

...the size of the tray is also handy for accommodating your dining plate during those carping session mealtimes, so that you can sit in relative comfort to eat.



Now I know many will simply say a Bivvy Tray of any description, is “a waste of money”, “waste of time”, “designed to catch the angler” or “I use my Bucket Lid, it does the same job” ...!! Well, each to their own etc. but since buying a Bivvy Tray about 2 years ago, many of my angling friends have done the same, once they saw just how useful it was on the bank.

It makes tying rigs very convenient, as you can have all the components on the tray and if you need to move, the tray is very stable to be lifted on handed and placed out of harms way etc. and I use mine all the time to accommodate my plate as again, I find it convenient for me.

The Sunblesa Magnetic Bivvy Tray is very competitively priced with others on the market with (containing the magnet) and is, to my current knowledge the only one that also incorporates the ruler...!

If you are just looking for a basic Bivvy Tray, without the magnet and ruler, Sunblesa have you covered on that front too...!

The tray can be found on both Amazon and eBay and retails for around £22.99 with the basic version coming in at £18.99

For your chance to win one of the new Magnetic Bivvy Trays, simply follow my Instagram and look out for the competition details in my story during my trip to France.... @mark_carper257



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Bank Holiday Weekend PB – By Shaun Anten

After having a quick look at the weather Friday morning and the forecast looking bang on, I decided to head down to my local fishery for a last minute 48hour session.

Arriving at the lake around 6pm, to my surprise the car park was totally empty so a quick load up of the barrow and a walk round the lake to look for signs of fish, and it wasn't long before I saw a few fish rolling in the deeper end of the lake I opted for the carpark swim which has done me a few fish in the past and is a favoured swim among the anglers that fish there regularly.

After setting up the bivvy to keep my stuff dry I got setup. I wanted to fish the obvious features of the lake and that was to fish tight to the reed lines but far away enough to know I could get the fish safely away from the reeds should it bolt for cover.

After a few casts with the marker rod I found a beautiful clay spot with scattered gravel nine wraps out and I decided I wanted to fish just on the edge of the clay bed. Bait wise I used a mix of 15mm krill and tuna boilies halved, whole and crushed that had been soaking In the CSL Krill & Tuna liquid and had a good helping of Pink Himalayan Rock Salt for just over a month, along with some superseed hemp and corn and some krill and tuna method mix ground bait. I put out ten large spods on the spot and left it for an hour. My hook baits and rigs of choice were 15mm KnT bottom bait with a whittled down 14mm poloni popup mounted on a coated braid D rig and a single 15mm Triple N wafter mounted on a German rig.

I put both rods out on the spot, about 11pm the left rod with the triple n wafter ripped into action landing a pukka little 14lb 2oz common.

The rod went back out on the spot straight away and topped up with 3 more spods. It wasn't until around 1.30am that the right-hand rod rattled off and after a fairly quick fight I could see a big bar of gold coming closer to the net. I slipped her over the cord and the result was a new pb common of 26lb 8oz beating my old pb by just 2oz. Taken on the D rig snowman presentation, I opted to fish both rods on the KnT and Poloni after this fish was landed. Out went the right rod on the same spot followed by a further 2 spods of bait.

The next day was very quiet with only one or two carp rolling throughout the whole day. I wanted to keep the carp around that area and seeing as both bites came at night my thought process was to keep trickling bait on over the area topping up a further two spods of bait every couple of hours.

The Saturday night was uneventful with two very small baby carp taking a liking to my rigs and both slipped back quickly as the rain and wind was horrendous. I woke on the Sunday morning confused as no more bites were had that night but could still see the carp showing around that area at 5am.

The Sunday was very slow with fish rolling but nothing was being caught, I topped up 5 more Spods on the spot and put fresh baits and rigs on. After nothing happening all day even with various rig and bait changes it seemed that there were no more bites to be had before I left to head home.

About an hour and a half before I was due to leave, I put a solid bag back out on the clay spot with a glugged krill and tuna white 10mm wafter in the hopes it would rip off.

I wasn't wrong as I was packing away my bivvy the right rod melted off and a lengthy battle commenced the fish came up and flanked I could see it was a good mirror,

a further 5 minutes passed before the fish finally gave up and slipped over the cord what better way to end the session with a beautiful half linear mirror spinning the scales round to 23lb on the nose, couldn't have been happier with the results!



Matt Bailey-Jones



Took my brother on his first fishing experience also my So, I was doing a quick day session (7am to 7pm) at Willowcroft Fisheries on Cafe Lake. I chose to fish the 2 pegs off the water inlet as I could see fish showing after a quick walk around. I was set up and rods in by 8am. I started off by fishing one rod on Korda safe zone lead clip with a 1.5oz lead with a DF rig using size 6 curve shank hook to n trap soft. On this rig I started with a 12mm essential IB Wafter. On the other rod I had the same lead clip set up but chose a Ronnie rig using a size 6 curve shank to 20lb flouro carbon with a 12mm essential cell pop up. I was fishing over a spodded bed of crushed essential IB boilies, Mainline cell 6mm pellets, hemp and corn. After 45 minutes my right rod screamed off. After a nice little fight, I had a lovely 18lb mirror one the net. Great start to the day. The day would continue like this with a total of 11 carp landed all being mirrors ranging from 13lb to 18lb and one catfish weighing in at 17lb.



Daniel Cordon



Fisherwick lakes

First 24 hour of the
year and a very
welcome mirror at 11
pm



Cuttle Mill

Info about catch
An awesome Cuttle
Mill Common which
fell to a solid bag
fished to an island



Joshua Kirk



River Thames

A lot of hard work and hours finally rewarding me with a river Thames river carp weighing 27/4 absolutely made up.

Mitchell Haynes

Coppice lane fishery

16lb 10
New pb!!
Caught on mungabaits
mc-1 wafter
Method was pva bag
with msc (maple salted
caramel)
Pellets and grinded
msc boilies
7 and a quarter wraps
to the edge of a sunken
island presented on a
clay bottom.



Richard Pearce

We booked onto Furzebray carp lakes in South Molton, in Devon. Set in the countryside, surrounded by woodlands and green fields. It offers the angler the best carp fishing in all of the south west. There is approximately 100 carp present in the Island Lake most of which are over 20lb, 30 + fish over 30lb carp & 7 over 40lb to a lake record of 47lb 4oz. It was built in 2006 and was stocked in 2007. There are reeds all around the lake providing plenty of features to fish to. Each carp fishing swim on the lake offers the angler something different to fish to.

We booked a lake exclusive on island lake. This was a natures baits social event, which turn out to be the best and unforgettable trip of my life.

Having fished the lake a few times in the past, I knew it wasn't the easiest lake to fish.

We all draw pegs and I ended up drawing the point swim. Using a simple naked lead clip system casting to the far bank. Which then I had to walk around clipped my rig on and spooned it out.





My rig was a simple German rig, size 4 wide gape hook. Knotless knot using the redemption soft coated hook link. Which then I pushed on a bait screw onto the hook, which then followed by a hook bead. All Supplied by hybrid tackle.

My bait tactic was natures baits scud boilie. Using the white ice wafter which screwed onto the bait screw attached to the hook, I simply scattered 100 boilies over the top.

All my fishing is the same approach to every lake I fish. As I have one hundred percent confidence in the tackle and hooks I use.

In the back of my mind I was thinking ‘1 fish would be good going!’ which turned out to be completely opposite.

We all turned up Friday afternoon in 30+ degrees heat, I found my spots and baited up. I didn’t fish until 9pm that evening. After getting my rods out I could chill out with the lads and have a good coder.

My first take come at 3am over the far margin. What a fight! She took me everywhere. I knew it was a big fish as she kept solid to the lakebed. I see her head rise and at that point my legs could of gave way, finally landing the fish, I gazed into the net and my god I couldn’t believe it, my hands started shacking. Once I got her on the mat, I then realised it was a fish called orange spot, an absolute beaut!

We all weighed her and boom, smashed my personal best by 10lb! She weighed 42.4lb I was buzzing, well made up!

30+ buckets later I managed to let her go. That feeling catching a personal best is unbelievable and cannot put into words.

I never slept the whole weekend after that.

Using the same approach and tactics, I managed to bag myself another lump at 8am the next morning. Measles the fish was called. Weighing in at a massive 36.2lb.

After resting my swim the following day in the blazing heat. I again didn't fish until 9pm Saturday evening.

Come Sunday morning at 6am I bagged another. Weighing in at 28lb.

All mirrors but all absolutely mint looking fish.

This trip turned out to be a dream trip.





NORWAY Pro Skason suit PARKA and TROUSERS

Material: HardShell (3-layer Softshell),
extreme membrane.

Colour: dark khaki.

Fabric: 100% polyester.

Density: 220 g/m²

Vapour permeability: 6000 gr./m²/24 h.

Water resistance: 15000 mm.

For more information please visit our
website grizzlyman.uk
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**Bri's Fish for Si
Powell slamming
the needle to 34lb
4 oz**



**Liam Healy with
his new personal
best and its Big
Deal at a new
highest weight of
35lb**



**Jake Sanderson
with Little C at
33lb**



**Matty Wright
with BlackTail. A
rare visitor to the
bank at Brooms
Cross.**





**Berts
Pool
catfish**

(Right)



**Pads
lake**

(Below)



Hillside FISHERY

Pads
lake
mirror

(Right)



35lb

(Below)



Wyreside



Wyreside L

This week has been one of those weeks during the day, but some really cold spe

Leading the way this week is Bantons who some lovely fish landed. So with that we have Shaun Booth, started his week off with 10 fish. A move was on, and that move payed off. It's safe to say he had a fairly successful week bagging him another stunning fish. Paul Widdows managed to get on the fish up in deep bays in two takes, one being a great result for a 29lb. Paul found a clear spot along the bank and fished krill pellets and bloodworm pellets. He also soaked in calanus liquid over the top, the boilie with a 12mm signature squid poppers in point, no surprise there then, he managed 22lb and one at 19lb. Paul Widdows also fished at Rolands fishing right to the island. Bass fishing was good with Alex Shorrock managed one in a quick net was the 'Big Un' at 25lb 8oz.

Now let's move over to Fox's lake where around 15 fish being landed, James Ross from peg 3 fishing a 16mm krill bottom b

Fisheries



Lakes report

s... With some higher temperatures
rolls through the night.

with some great angling going on, and
we will start with Bantons where Mr
1 fish, after his first night he decided
off for him, having 7 takes and landing
week, with another move later in in
mirror. Next to Paul Johnson who
bay, he did 48hrs in deep bay resulting
r Paul in the shape of Sally's fish at
treeline baited up with krill boilies
also added some hemp and maize all
the choice of hookbait was a 16mm krill
up. Now to Nathan who decided to go
aged to land two lovely mirrors one at
so managed to Nick a 19lb common out
back to the other end of the lake where
night in fence, the fish that graced the



it's being a tough week with only
was rewarded with a 23lb mirror
bait topped with a 12mm pink Fluro pop

01524 792093

Wyreside



This seems to be the one at the moment fishing somewhere. Coming weeks the fish will start to get there heads down. Now down to Sunnyside 1 where the going pegs still seem to be fishing throughout the week closely followed by peg 11. So far this week has been a solid week with most fish being caught fishing little solid bites.

Let's hop over the bund onto Sunnyside 2 where small fish are the business. The fish still seem to be loving the corner pegs. The fish over the weekend biggest being 22lb. Peg 1 also produced a 22lb fish. John Boothman Landing 2 fish, fishing Bait gurus Ef pro. Matti Hodge decided to have a little practice for next weeks session, landing the one fish at 15lb he approached his session putting yellow pop up over the top.

Now to the mighty Wyre. It's been a great week on wyre. We will start with Luke Scott who did a couple of nights fishing and bagged a massive 33lb fish. Si's fish was also stunning. Matti Hodge who managed to bag himself the S2 common at 22lb. Porter who managed to bag himself the S2 common at 22lb. Matti Hodge decided to have a little practice for next weeks session putting yellow pop up over the top. The fish over the weekend biggest being 22lb. Matti Crowder landing a mega 24lb mirror from left cabin.

At the moment small baiting techniques seem to be doing well. As we move into September I would be ready with buckets of bait and more info and pictures to follow. Tight lines for now all, see you all forward to seeing you.

We still have some remaining winter tickets for Fox's, Salford and Banton's. Fox's and Salford have now sold out of tickets that include Banton's.

Thank you for taking time to read this, hope to see you all soon. Stay vigilant, safe and well.
Tight lines, Callum and the team.

Fisheries



hing high attract with little bait, however I'm sure in the
n and get on the munch, so be prepared.

seem to be peg 7 and peg 11 with peg 7 doing the most
olid bags has been the winning method on there at the
ags into holes in the weed.

amounts of bait and bright hookbaits have been doing
rs throughout the day with peg 9 producing three
roduced a couple of fish at the start of the week with
op ups over a scattering of the bait guru jungle mix. Mr
match and fished peg 4 this resulted in him landing just
6 spombs of hemp and maize out and fishing a bright

e this week with some awesome fish being landed.
s in Swamp and managed to skip his net under the
naged another stunning 30lb mirror. Now to Andrew
: 28lb. Next up was Hayden Baines who got back on
Tango at a 30lb 6oz. Fishing tight to the trees with a
d at the moment with Dom Aldread also hopping in
sh still seem to be coming out all over the place with
in.

ing the business on all lakes however as we move
s I'm sure the fish will look to get on the feed. Plenty
and those of you in the match next weekend we look

Sunnyside 1, Sunnyside 2 and river lake, however we

all on the bank soon.



01524 792093



Wyreside

Would just like to start off by once again saying I attended the 2020 Wyreside open. All anglers combined was a total of 23 fish landed over the weekend in total. Next up Sunnyside 1 which produced Fox's and Bantons. A frustrating weekend for the fish were putting on a show, with plenty showing just were not having it.

Even though Bantons fished fairly slow, it still came up, Bob's fastest fish. This went to Andrew C who managed to land one in just under 30 minutes. Andrew also winning £100 was Kieron Thomas after being in the peg, he landed what was to come in at 24lb 8oz.

Now to Fox's where coming into the match it was 8 fish being landed in 24 hours from peg 5 and 6 to be with only two fish on the bank throughout. Ken Nuttall from the hot swim peg 6. This being his favoured swim was John Hampson in peg 7 with bites to be had however there was a total of 11. Next on the leader board was Sunnyside 1. In the duration of the match. Resident Pete Eastwood had ups had 2 from peg 8. One being a lovely little mirror which put him up there. Jack Bowker also managed two fish over the weekend with plenty of fish held up in the water. 21lb 6oz after two lovely mirrors. There were also two more fish on Sunnyside 1. One being the biggest fish of the weekend on Sunnyside 1 Peg 9.

Fisheries



Open 2020

ng a big thank you to all anglers that
s fished extremely well. All together there
nd with Sunnyside two with 11 fish landed
d 7 fish. Only 5 fish were landed between
er the lads up on Fox's and Bantons as the
wing throughout the weekend, however they

I produced two prize collectors. First
Cowell who was fishing in deep bay and
es. This being a lovely 20lb mirror. Alongside
ompson, after drawing Roland's just a week
o be the biggest fish of the match weighing

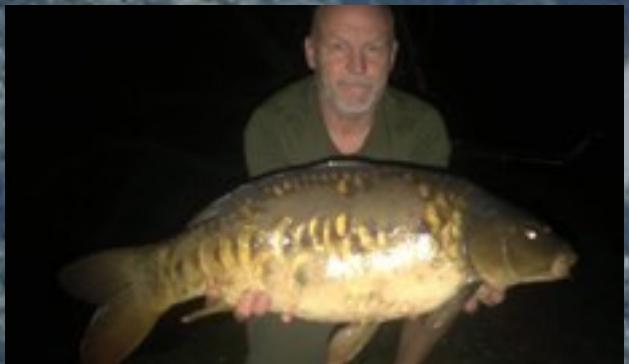
looked promising to be the winner with
nd 6 on Thursday. However, this was not
ut the match. First to manage a bite was
ing a 12lb mirror. Next up over to the other
who landed a 13lb mirror. There were other
4 fish lost.

In total there were 8 fish landed over the
od on his trusty bait guru essential fruit pop
le common, unfortunately not enough to get
o fish on the final morning after a frustrating
eed in front of him. Jack finished with 33lb
fish from the back bank, Lee Kenwright had
e 1 with a stunning 21lber. Peg 5, Peg 7 and



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Wyreside



also did 1 fish each. Most fish on Sunnyside the weed.

Now over the bund to the Winning lake. Sun kicking in on Saturday. First up with just one not the most favoured swim but he persevered. Bait guru Jungle mix, with a bright pop up over mirror. Round the corner was also Andy Nutt using similar tactics however using the Bait guru jungle mix. This proved to do the business in the top three. Now, peg 9 looked to be the most active on Friday, and this was shown when Wayne Pocock had 2 just 2 hours 30 minutes into the match. A large fish net weighing 18lb. Wayne also managed another on Saturday, into the net went a 20lb mirror which got him third place spot. A fight for first was emerging between the most favoured peg on the lake. The point went to Matty, who started off with a 21lb 8oz fish into the match, Matty was off to a great start. However, fish later on that day. Matty's approach was Bait guru jungle mix. Now it was points turn, Sam (open) had his first bite that evening which put him in the lead. The night was quiet for both anglers with Mat next. A 20lb 2oz mirror proved to be matts last fish, so where was Sam bring it back? That afternoon Sam started to fish again, however found it hard to fish for them. So, after a long battle he finally landed a 17lb 8oz mirror, after a tough battle. In the morning an early bite came for Sam, if he landed it he would be the winner. He did land it, and he won the competition.

Fisheries



1 came to little pva bags fished to holes in

ny 2 was the slow starter with the action fish was Andy Nuttall, Andy drew peg 14, and fished 2 rods over a scattering of the over the top, this was rewarded with a 16lb all who approached the match with very single mix hard hookers over a scattering ness when he landed a 22lb mirror. Now to most favoured peg going into the match on hole landed the second fish out of Sunnyside lovely scaley one was slipped under the other bite at around the same time on the which was just enough to guarantee Wayne that between the very unfavoured peg 2 and . Matty Par was first to strike just two hours gaining a 40lb lead, after landing another Bait gurus flouro pink essential fruit pop ups Sam Airey (previous winner of the Wyreside pulled him back into the race. However, the next to strike at 9.45 the next morning. This so the pressure moved to the point. Could ed to see more fish close into the point, after changing spots a couple of times Sam and the fish weeding him up several times, very quiet for both anglers. The next ended it, he would be in touching distance



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Wyreside



of first. A 16lb 14oz mirror graced the net put after Sam's third fish came his fourth, if it was knocking Matty into second. It was. By the first match weighed in at 13lb 4oz. This meant that must have gone through at least 50 pva bags agonising couple of hours were in store for both anglers. However, 12 o'clock struck and no result. Sam Airey claimed the win after some great fishing. Sam, this makes Sam the first person to win three times. Thank you to all competitors who fished. We

Now a quick look at Wyre. First off Ste Taylor managed to bag himself his first Wyre 30 with a lovely Bait gurus jungle mix with hemp and corn mix up over the top. Hayden Baines also got in on the action from plateau fishing DNA and carbon baits he managed a 21lb stockie from swamp fishing a matching hard hooker over the top. A stunning 26lb mirror also fishing bait gurus jungle mix

We still have some remaining winter tickets for the river lake, however we have now sold out of them. Thank you for taking time to read this, hope to see you soon.

Stay vigilant, safe and well.

Tight lines, Callum and the team.

Fisheries



ing Sam just 11lb behind Matty. Not long
s over 11lb then Sam would take the lead
nniest of margins. Sam's fourth fish of the
at Sam had taken the lead by just 3lb. Sam
s filled with a mixture of bait works. An
oth anglers with fish milling between the two
more fish had been caught. Therefore, Mr
angling between the two of them. Well done
the Wyreside open twice. Top angling Sam.
look forward to seeing you all again soon.

er dropped into Bench for a 48 and managed
31lb mirror. Ste was fishing 25 wraps over
xed into it, with a yellow essential fruit pop
n the action at weekend with a 22lb mirror
emp and maize. Earlier on in the Week
shing a scattering of bait gurus jungle mix
Next door in gravely Mark Bowden landed a
ungle mix, fishing a snowman over the top.

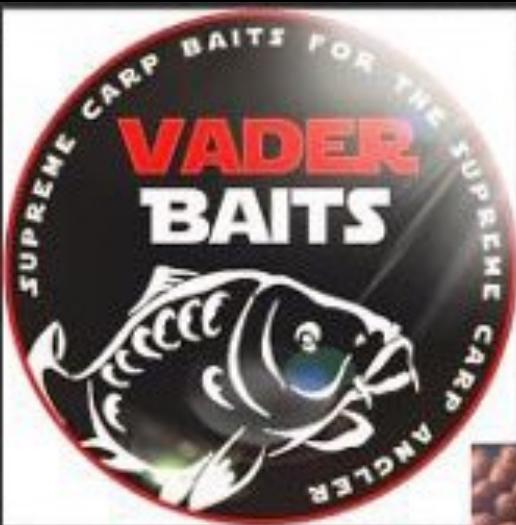
or Fox's, Sunnyside 1, Sunnyside 2 and
tickets that include Banton's.
to see you all on the bank soon.



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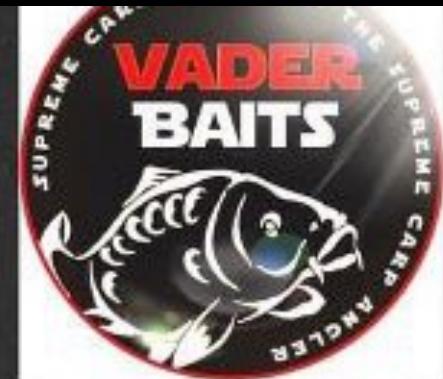


Team member Aaron headed to Creedy lakes on Sunday resulting in landing 3 carp weighing 19lb, 17lb and 14lb. All the fish were tempted by using a solid pva bag of 2mm Le Nutz and 2mm SaTaN pellets and yellow wafters as hookbaits! Great angling Aaron



Team member Kris headed to Stafford Moor Fishery with a friend Steve for a 48hr session. Steve was first to land a fish at around 10pm after a good scrap he landed a 25lb 6oz mirror that was caught on a single SaTaN boilie with a scatter of freebies doing the business. Chris had to wait until the next morning at around 6am the reel started to tick from his margin rod and hit into a fish with a bit of a battle on the 6ft rods Kris managed to land a nice 23lb 6oz mirror caught on a single Crabalicious boilie with a handful of freebies around it!

Great angling Kris and Steve



Team member Lee headed to a new club water at the weekend for a quick overnight session he arrived at the lake around 6oclock and set up in a swim in the middle section of the lake. After a quiet night his right hand rod sprung to life at around 6.45am resulting in landing a cracking scaly mirror weighing in at 14lb. The fish was tempted by a white crabalicious wafter with a good helping of 18mm matching boilies and 14mm matching pellet over the top. Shortly after at around 8am his left hand rod sprung to life resulting in a 12lb common caught on a white Le Nutz wafter with a good helping of matching boilies over the top fished 2 rod lengths of the island. After resetting the rod and putting around 10 more Le Nutz boilies over the top at around 11.30am his rod was off again resulting in a common of around the same size as the previous fish caught using a white Le Nutz wafter and matching boilies over the top!

Great angling Lee



Team member Matt spent 36hrs on Walton lake over the weekend. Even though overcast the weather was still so hot and the lake water was like a bath, speaking to a couple of other anglers before he choose his swim he knew the conditions for fishing were gonna be tough!!! Matt choose to fish peg 4 which is an island swim. He put 2 rods on spots on the island and 1 rod closer in on a spot under a tree on the margin. Overnight there was no sign of any fish so he re set the rods on to the same spots. Around lunchtime his margin rod took off to the right and Matt had a super scrap with a lovely 16lb mirror and was happy to see the noet slide under it!!! Matt had used a little Vader Baits party mix and was every now and then putting around 10 free boilies on the spot. A single 18mm SaTaN hook bait was all that was needed to tempt the fish... With only a few beeps in the night and no runs Matt had to wait until almost the same time the following day for his second run. Again using a single 18mm SaTaN boilie this rod was 1 of his island spots and unfortunately for Matt the fish out witted him taking him around some reeds and dropping the hook, Matt was gutted but had a great session and enjoyed another little session at Walton ...

Great angling Matt

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.

At the moment we are doing a deal for any week this year (if booked before the end of February 2020 you will ge your fishing plus an evening meal for £150 per person).

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

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

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

Tight lines and may the carp gods bless you all. Best wishes

Find us on Facebook for further information.

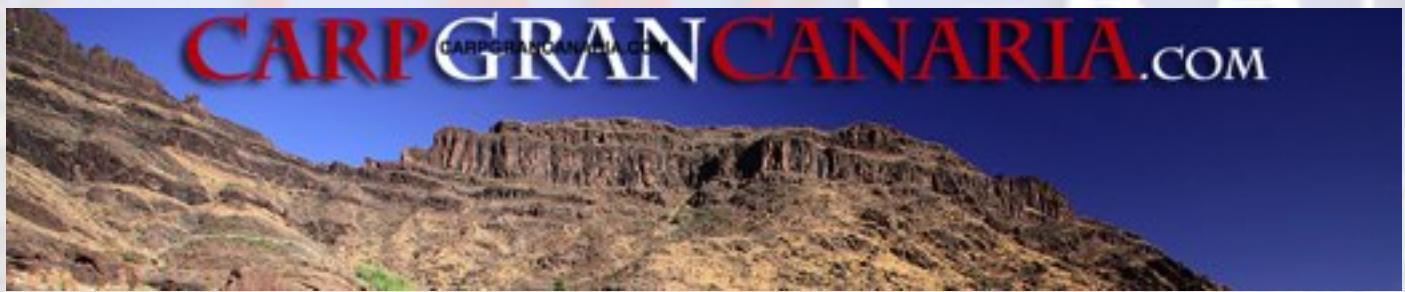
Matt, Tracie and Thai.



Le Lees Ca



rp Fishery



Well, we are now 8 months into 2019 and what a fantastic few months it has been. The biggest out of Lake Chira this year so far is a 47lber along with many other 40s, 43 and 45 many upper 30s and 30s, the fish have definitely got bigger and still as beautiful as ever and the great fight of the Canary Carp as always is truly amazing!!

Many holidays with the guys either staying on the bank 24hrs a day or having one of our accommodations, either apartments or a beautiful Canary House with pool that can sleep up to 6 persons, great for fishing the days, cooling off in the pool with a few cold ones and bbq!!! something for everyone, either with the lads or bring the family.

You can also book any duration short break on the bank or with accommodation.

If you are coming to Gran Canaria on a holiday, we offer day excursions either carp or bass fishing and we have a separate day trip area where we offer an all inclusive day including your pick up and drop off from your hotel or meeting point, a guided mountain drive, 2 rod Nash set up with all relevant tackle and equipment, bait, end tackle, license, light lunch and refreshments and you are fully guided, 8 hours of fishing in the beautiful mountains, peace and tranquillity and some of those stunning Chira carp!!

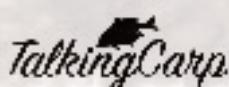
We do have the odd weeks left for 2019 and we are already booking for 2020. We do have our offer on for a minimum of 4 anglers we offer a free apartment for the duration of your holiday.

So if you want to turn your dreams into reality and see what everyone is talking about and catch some of the famous Lake Chira carp, look no further and contact Ali or Dave at Carpgrancanaria.com, info@costadelcarping.com or 0034637939680 Facebook, Instagram, message or Whatsapp.

We also offer tailor made holidays for you, maybe a weeks fishing and a week on the beach!!!

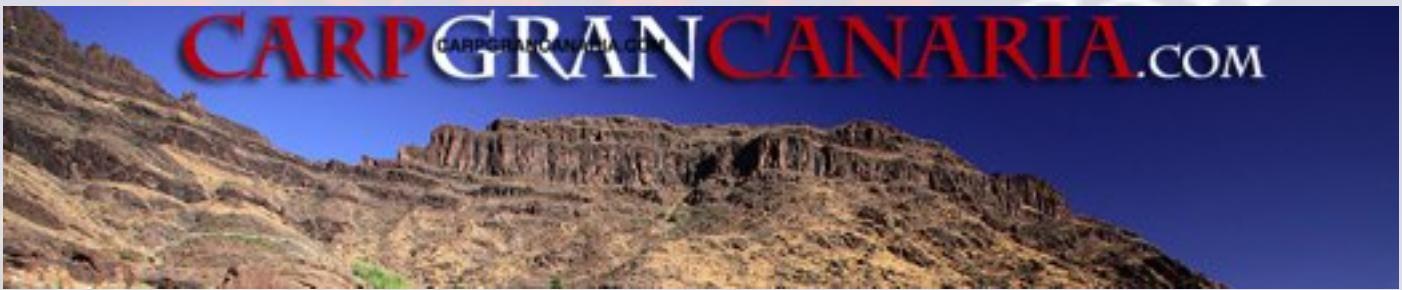
Non fishing partners are catered for and groups are welcome.
Tight lines

Dave, Ali, Joe and the team at carpgrancanaria.com.



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by the 28th September 2020 for next months
magazine**

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

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OUT
NOW



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

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