

Issue 61  
March 2021



*Inside this month*

Julian Cundiff part 2 of inside his tackle box

Andy Murray, Geezer Grant, Dave Locke, Matty Allen + More

**C R Baits  
Competition  
Inside**



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STABLE  
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# **Hello... and welcome.**

**Here we are with issue 61. Thanks for coming back time and again, and welcome to all our new readers too.... Hopefully as you are reading this, we will all be getting ready to finally get back on the banks to do the overnights and get those sessions under our belts... Spring is truly upon us now, the daffodils are shooting up, and the carp are on the munch and on the move. Although to be fair, for those that have been fishing the days only have been catching quite well too, which goes to show that even on short sessions the rewards are definitely there. We have seen some amazing catch reports from day only sessions this month!!**

**Effort equals reward as they say!!**

**Now... Competition Time!!**

**John at C R Baits have put a prize up for grabs for one lucky reader of Talking Carp so make sure you find the competition in the magazine and get those answers in.... its a free competition for you guys and girls!!**

**This month we bring you a couple of new faces amongst our writers and we know you'll enjoy hearing what they have to say.**

**We are the magazine written by the angler, for the angler. And you could be next!! If you have a tale to tell, get in touch, we would love to hear from you!**

**As always you can email us directly at**

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[mark@talkingcarp.co.uk](mailto:mark@talkingcarp.co.uk)

*Team Talking Carp*



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Cover shot - The one and only Julian Cundiff

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



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# SONIK SKX SNAG EARS





*Julian Cundiff*



**‘ Inside My Tackle  
Box ‘Part 2’**





And welcome back to the world's scruffiest tackle box insights. I can assure you that these have not been tarted up for shooting the feature....as you can see...Last issue it was my major tackle box whereas this time it's what I call my end tackle box. For me a 'carp rig' comprises of two elements; the presentation which is from the hookbait to the hooklength swivel and secondly the end tackle which is from the hooklength swivel to the mainline. Whereas I tie all my presentations at home and store them in rig boxes or on zig spools with end tackles I pre tie these at home where possible and store them in this box. Some end tackles have to be assembled on the bankside but by and large anything that includes a leader is assembled in full and stored here....



**A****A**

For most of my carp fishing I use two ounce leads but occasionally at range or with a cross wind I need to up the lead size and go to a two and a half or occasionally a three ounce lead. Whilst I know some anglers are using the lead to set the hook for me they are just an item to get my presentation to the right spot. With my super sharp hooks that

Rig It Tackle hone for me I'm convinced that the fine point is set by the weight of the hookbait and counterweight (my overshotted pop up rig ). In the ' olden days ' where hooks were nothing like as sharp you HAD to use heavy leads and short hooklengths to sink that hook home. As always the leads are Nash Flat Pear swivels in weed or gravel coating colouration.



**B1**



**B**

And now it gets interesting....

**B1**

Pre tied and assembled Safety Bead ( lead clip ) end tackles. These incorporate Nash 65lb Cling On Leaders, Rig It Tackle Big Ring Swivels, standard Safety Bead lead clip and tail rubber. All I need to do is to tie the leader to the mainline

with a five turn grinner knot. You can probably see the tail rubber is pushed up tight which is not often advocated. With the Nash ones because of their soft silicone build they peel back under pressure to jettison the lead. Thicker harder tail rubbers are far less safe as they require the rubber to be pushed backwards which in colder weather is more problematical.....The yellow electrical tape keeps them from getting knotted up.

**B2**

Some waters ban leaders and as I'm not a fan of naked setups where bare line is potentially rubbing against the carps flanks I prefer to use tubing of some nature. Having used No Spook and



**B2**



Cling On tungsten tubing I prefer the tungsten one. It sinks like a stone and even in the smallest amount of silt will disappear. It can be a bugger to thread, but I've found if you cut your line at forty five degrees and use new tubing each time you are fine. I use quite heavy 15/20lb main line and it threads very easily. All my tungsten tubing is precut to sixteen inch lengths and never used twice.

## B3



More pre tied end tackles but without the leads attached. These are the sadly discontinued Nash Diffusion Leaders with my usual Big Ring Swivel, Safety Bead and tail rubber. As with the Cling On leaders all I need to do is to attach them to the mainline with a five turn grinner knot. One of my waters bans lead core or lead free leaders but allows other leaders ....go figure ! These stay in my end tackle box for this water and I guess for nostalgia too.....



## B4



**B4**

The little box of tricks that I keep spare Safety Beads, lead clips, tail rubbers, pegs and the like. When I'm swapping to leader free setups bankside these bits and pieces are essential.

## C

The standard lead I use is a Nash two ounce swivel pear which when using 15lb mainline I can cast accurately up to eighty yards time and time again. Because I use the same combination of Scope, GS reel, 15lb mainline and two-ounce lead so often I can almost cast with my eyes closed and can feel that lead down which is so important for feature finding. The leads have a slightly larger upper eye which is great for my running lead setup. Coating wise the green or brown coatings really blend in well and their slightly rough feel picks up sediment to aid the camouflaging effect. Some anglers think disguising the end tackle makes no difference but personally I think it does and no one ever caught less carp by doing so....



**C**



## D

Three pre tied Cling On leaders with Big Ring Swivel, Safety Bead and tail rubber. The 65lb version sinks like a stone and has incredible abrasion resistance too. I find the 0.75 meter lengths long enough and store them on the card they come on before I tweak them to incorporate my favoured items. As ever the good old electrical tape keeps everything in situ.



## E

Two of my public waters prohibit lead clips and insist on running lead setups so once again more pre tied end tackles and this time two cards of them. Leader wise it's my favourite Nash 65lb Cling On which I have converted by removing the standard swivel and adding the Rig It Tackle Big Ring Swivel. I then take an ESP chod sleeve, pull the tubing off the end of it (they come in two parts ) and slide the thicker end down the leader. It sits beautifully over the barrel of the swivel but



**E**



ensure you don't push it too far up as that may stop it rotating properly in flight. The two ounce Flat Pear Swivel lead simply runs down the leader and sits on the ledge of the sleeve for casting. As ever the electrical tape keeps them in situ.

So, there you have the second box warts and all. Nothing fancy, all proven and thousands of carp have fallen over the years to my presentations on these end tackles.

Jules

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# **Little Did I Know**

by Wies Ennekens





As she is lying there, tucked away underneath the blanket as deep as possible,

I catch the first smell of the morning coffee. Although the boiling water hasn't risen in the espresso-

maker yet, the smell announces its arrival. In just a few moments the bubbling sound will be noticeable. I can't wait for a good cup of hot coffee. My fingers are nearly numb, and we have only been here for an hour or so. Once everything was unloaded, my sleeping beauty dove straight into bed. I can't blame her, can I?

I am the mad one, I am the one who wants to go "fishing" in the middle of December. Cold water, cold conditions, but we have to do what needs to be done. It's hardly the name fishing

worthy when you have no clue where to begin. Just a quick coffee during dawn, and then to work. Who knows I might spot some activity in the glooming of morning?

As I am sat down outside our van, I overthink the past hours. Having slept through my alarm this morning, it was she who woke me up. Were we not supposed to go fishing? Having only said those words, she jumped out of bed, went straight into the bathroom and started preparing to head off.

As I stumbled out of bed with my brain still in standby-mode, I went downstairs to make me some coffee.

There is no way I can start the day without coffee. As my diesel-brain started to warm up, I heard her singing in the bathroom, well it's supposed to be singing. Clearly her voice was powered by diesel as well. I have got to be, either the coolest dude or the richest dude she knows. Why else would a beauty like this be with a mad man like me and go along in my obsession for public







carp-angling as well? I for sure am not rich, so that kind of narrows it down doesn't it? As you probably know, I'm just kidding, I am not that cool, It just have good looks and a camper-van, that has got to be it.

The first moments of daylight on this Saturday do not reveal much, no activity on this spot of the canal, but nevertheless, this particular spot on the Albert Canal drew my

attention.

When tackling a new canal as big as this one, my approach is to downsize things to a manageable amount. So, my first step is to look for shorter stretches in between locks. And for this first reconnaissance, I chose the shortest piece to start with. Having walked this 4km part up and down on both sides, a few interesting spots came out. Obviously the two

locks are interesting, a lot of structures in the water provide some shelter to the fish, but the current and the massive amounts of water being pumped in and out make them look less appealing to me. The places where the current is calmer, are prohibited areas. If I want to find some fish, I need to look elsewhere, parts that are less subject to lock activity. And that is why I ended up in the middle of this 4km stretch, first of all because it can be reached by car, meaning I don't needlessly break the law. And this spot gives me the ability to boat up and down the canal.

As the first light doesn't reveal much, I hope the echo-sounder will. After having the boat ready to go, my fingers yet again are numb. Time for some more fishing gear. Whilst





the coffee is preparing to erupt, I put on my life-jacket, wake up my sleeping beauty for a moment to let her know I am about to go in the boat. Tell her I love her and that I would miss her in the case I would drown. She is not amused with my joke at all. Can't see why? I pour my coffee in an insulated mug and take off. To my right there is a few hundred metres of dock that is fenced. Hence nobody can fish from that part of the bank. Apart from a few square meter where it is slightly deeper there is not much to find along this dock.

And the mooring of big barges makes it nearly impossible to fish it without having to reel in and out the line every half hour.

Off to the middle of the water, finding an average depth of 6 metres in the fairway and steadily sloping

up to 4 metres towards the bank, the bottom profile is not appealing. No sudden depth differences, no steeper slopes, just a long similar bottom profile.

I don't feel very attracted to this spot. I have to look elsewhere, and I ran out of coffee. With a temperature of 3 degrees, my enthusiasm is quickly running out as well. Out of the boat, into the van, time to warm up. Time to have something warm to eat and overlook the situation. Listening to the slow breathing





of my beauty, I heat up a few chocolate buns in my Ridgemonkey. Believe me, Tarantino was wrong. Chocolate buns are the cornerstone of any nutritious breakfast, not hamburgers. As I overlook the water whilst eating, I notice the surface is pretty flat. Although it's cold, there is hardly any wind. And the forecast shows me it will remain like this all day. So, I make the decision to stay put. Today will be a

visual reconnaissance. Against all odds I put out two rods. One at 6metres and one under the rod-tip at 4metres. Both with just a handful of sweetcorn. And some corn on the hair. And believe it or not, just before nightfall, I reeled in the rods, The first blank on the conto. This is not the way I have to approach this humongous canal. Time to flip things over.

## **Boating and predator fishing**

I decide not to start fishing again before I am 100% confident. Although it will always be a challenge not to give it a try, The rods will remain packed. At least the carp rods. I recently picked up predator fishing.

Fishing for perch and pike has given me a lot of insight. I should have started 10 years ago with this type of fishing. I use the drop-shot, a small lead at the end of line with the lure and hook approx.



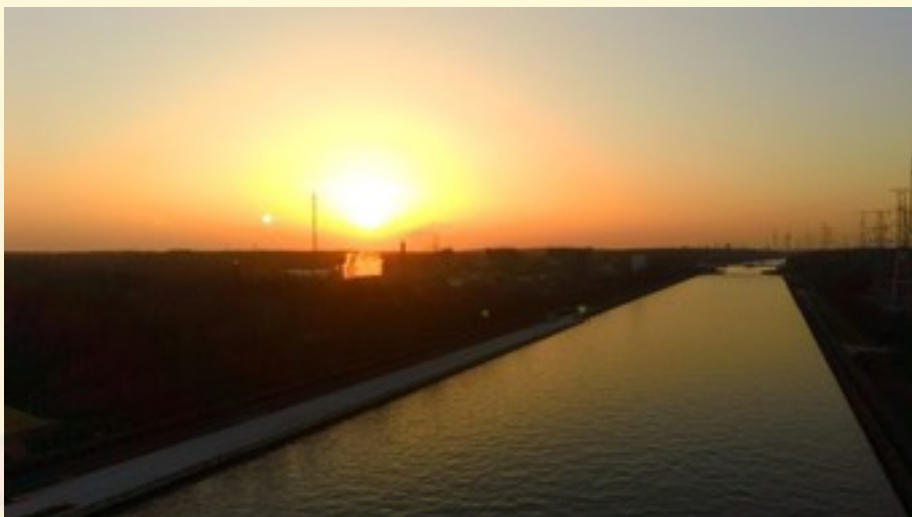


40 cm up the line. In combination with a very light and thus sensitive rod, you really feel every single stone or rock on the bottom, I have used this in my advance. Exploring some of my spots for carp-fishing with this rod and lead, without the lure, has given me an enormous amount of information. Whether this information will be relevant is not sure yet. But every piece of intel to solve the jigsaw is more than welcome. My game-plan is as follows. First, I explore larger parts of the canal or the river by boat. Using the Deeper to locate depth

differences, bottom changes, vegetation, snags, non-natural objects and so on. Once a spot draws my attention, I further investigate it with the lead. Although the Deeper is a very useful tool, the touch and feel from a lead gives you details the Deeper cannot. Locating the exact place where the silt begins, smaller depth differences occur or where the weeds begin, sometimes those are the details that matter. That way I can adjust my setup and rigs to the situation.

**Little did I know.**

Is this canal going to beat me even before I begin? As I put on my jacket half an hour before sunrise, my zipper just gives up. Done, Finito, Schluss. Well, that's a great start of the day. Temperatures just around freezing point, no jacket and a cold chill straight in my face. I got up early to try and spot some activity and hopefully shoot some nice drone footage when the sun comes up. Guess I will have to do it with a broken zipper then. Little did I know this day would only get worse. I start to unpack all my essentials and head out to the place where I want to shoot some pictures and launch the drone. Whilst setting up the tripod for the camera, one of the legs just breaks Done, Finito, Schluss. I was so dumb to leave it in





the car overnight so the plastic is all stiff and fragile from the freezing temperatures.

Lesson

learned, I

guess. Little

did I know,

well you can

guess the rest

of this sentence.

Totally pissed off, I try

to calm myself down.

What better way to

take a step back than to grab a quick smoke?

With my fingers

already starting to go

numb, I laboriously

roll my fag, lick the

crumbled Rizla, put the

cigarette in my mouth

and grab for my lighter.

Just a quick smoke,

then I will fix the tripod

with some Duct Tape

and shoot some nice

photographs. No

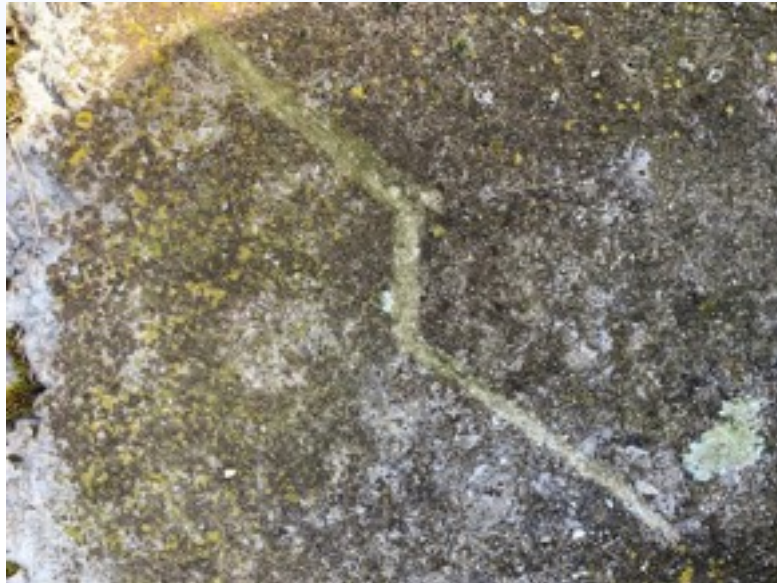
time to waste as the

first light is already

coming. Where is that

god damn lighter? I

should have known,



A quick

MacGyver-fix

and the tripod

appeared

usable again.

Mounting the

camera goes

smooth and is

all set to go.

Next step, the

drone, with a

normal flight

time of about 23mins

I can fly it up, point it

towards the sun and

start filming, in the

meantime I can shoot

some photos with the

camera. Whilst keeping

one eye on the drone

controller-screen.

Once calibrated and

good to go, I send it up

to the desired altitude.

We have a clear skies

with a light headwind

so that won't bother the

video quality too much.

Lift off, steadily gaining

altitude and positioning

in the correct heading,

things are looking

good. As I already

it is always in the

last pocket where

you search it, next

time I will start my

lighter-quest in that

pocket. Just a dry click

followed by the blazing

sound of a torch

flaming up the tip of my

cigarette. I must have

done it a thousand

times before. Not

today, just a dry click

followed by nothing,

silence. A second dry

click followed by an

even more deafening

silence. Lighter says

no, not today, not now.

Done, Finito, Schluss.

I never realised how

aerodynamic cigarettes

where, until now. Little

did I know...



mentioned I left my camera equipment in my van outside last night. Guess what, I left my drone outside as well, result? "Warning, Battery drainage, please replace battery." A quick forced landing and a battery change later the drone is lifting off again, It hasn't even risen above the treeline yet and again I hear that irritating female computer voice warning me for battery drainage. Not today, done, Finito, Schluss. As I learned now, Li Po-batteries don't like the cold as much as Eskimos.

As you might notice in the upcoming articles, I am a very lovely guy, handsome, gentle, athletic, but kind of short fused. I had reached the point of no

return,

**FORGET THE  
SUNRISE, FORGET  
THE PHOTOS,  
FORGET THAT GOD  
DAMNED DRONE,  
FORGET THIS  
CANAL.**

It strikes me, if this little setback, irritates me this much, maybe I am not cut out for this kind of adventures. Fishing okay, but all the things around it? The photos, the stories, the hours of writing, the drone-footage, all based on a canal where I have never fished before... Is this canal going to beat me even before I

begin?

At this stage there is only one thing that can help me out of this situation, coffee. Coffee and a cigarette. That is the plan for now. I turn everything over in my van and a stroke of luck was on my side for the first time today. I found second lighter, and more than that, it worked, does exactly what it's supposed to do. I get my Bialetti ready to go and light up the gas-stove. Thank god that gas canister is new. In no time I am sitting on the bank with a smoke and a coffee. All off

a sudden it appears that things are going great. The miserable morning has passed. With a handful of pictures that were worth keeping and





an unexpected phone call. My beauty, who is now awake since she finished work, asks me my whereabouts. "OK, I'll be over in half an hour". When I first met her, she had been fishing a few times with her ex-boyfriend, but only in the summer. The fact that yet again she came to accompany me in these harsh conditions turned my mood around. I will tame this new canal, whatever it takes. The quest for Albert-carp has only just begun. Little did I know help would come sooner than expected.

On the Leie, the river in The Texas of Flanders, things are going way smoother. I quickly found a few interesting spots, and although it will take a few more weeks to be able to fish it, the preparations go way easier. Since last year had given

me a few fish from this part of the river, i already have a clue where to start and what to look for. I set off with the boat and head downstream to have a broader idea of the depths that occur on this stretch. Whilst letting the current take me along and the wind helping me to make decent progress, I quickly bump into a bank that has never caught my attention. Nothing above the surface indicates that what is underneath it might be the most interesting feature I found so far. The slope is split in two by a nice plateau that is about a metre wide. Excellent to bait and to place a rig. And only 60 to 70 metres from this plateau I have a softer bottom which is significantly deeper than the rest of the fairway. Things are looking good and I only have been exploring

a few hundred metres from where I let the boat in the water. How about that for a strike of luck. Going further downstream I don't really notice anything out of the ordinary. The usual lay-out of the river with a few places where the bank is starting to flood away by the current.

In my mind the choice where I want to fish is already made, but you never know. So, I continue to head downstream and enter what appears to be already out of bounds water. Due to a lock and barrage nearby, the current slowly increases. I notice that my electric trolling motor is not sufficient on stand 2. I feel that the boat is being pulled towards the barrage and power up the motor. Slowly retreating from the lock and the barrage.





Nothing special to report from that piece of river. By now I am crossing the water to investigate the other side of the river. The fairway never looks appealing to me. I never caught fish from the fairway. Always from the margins, I've seen them rolling and jumping over the fairway, over my bait, but never had a fish out of the deepest parts of the water. And yet, I always seek deeper parts in the water. Certainly, in this period

of the year. While writing it down, quite frankly it is the first time that I wonder why I always want to fish in deeper spots. When it comes to lakes, I can understand why, these can be hide-outs, but for flowing water? That is something I will have to investigate further. So, writing this article will pay off after all. Since Bryan is refusing to pay me.

Anyway, boating back upstream a skipper informs me on the

phone call he just had with the lock keeper. It appears fishing is not allowed in the lock nor in the old harbour just upstream from the barrage. Although I am not fishing for the moment, I kindly thank the skipper for passing along the message and pursue my way upstream. By now my insulated mug is empty already but the sun is out and only my hands are cold. It is lovely being out in the boat. How wonderful to slowly boat on the river, looking around, listening to the birds. Just a peaceful way to spend my spare time. We, carp-anglers are actually spoilt, there are a lot of modern techniques we can use to locate fish, find good spots, mark them and get our bait there. I notice people look at me rather strangely when they see me passing by in my Raptor on a cold day



like this. They must be thinking I have stroke of madness. But haven't we all? After a few hundred meters continuing upstream, I find a stretch that is significantly more shallow than the rest of the river. The bottom is softer and almost a metre less deep than the rest of the margins. The surface of about a half a soccer field forms a plateau. Worthy to mark it on the map and come back here once the first sunny days arrive. Feeling totally content with the progress in reconnaissance I made thus far, I continue to head upstream. By now I have been boating for nearly two hours and the battery is starting to run low on power. As I mentioned before I am a very athletic (and did I mention attractive?) man. So out of the holders come the paddles and

the last few hundred metres are some physical training as well. Finishing off with a sprint to cross the fairway on time and make it to the boat ramp in time for two barges that are closing in rather quick. Luckily, I get out in time and leave all the stuff out to dry in the sun. Finishing the recce off with a cup of hot coffee and a smoke. The difference with my coffee and smoke along the banks of the canal couldn't have been bigger. After packing everything in the van, I walk up to the part of the bank where I found the dividing plateau in the slope. Investigating the place and figuring out how to set up my rods was the last step

for today.

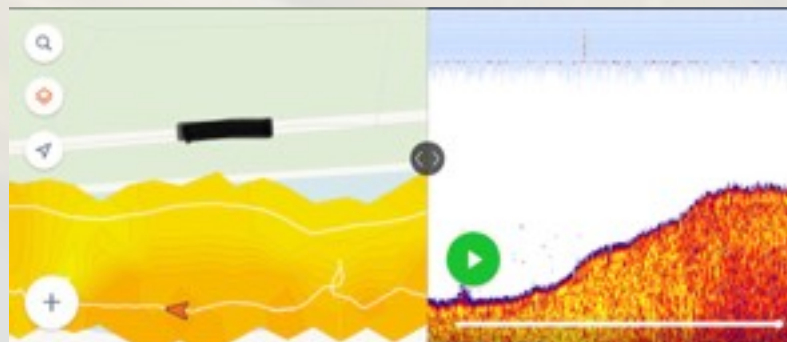
By now I am pretty content of how things are going so far on the Leie. As you will read next time, some small talk with fellow anglers, can make the search for a good spot on the monstrous Albert Canal way easier.

And if the time is right, you might read about the first fish on both waters that came out before this article is published. My guess is Filip IV has something to do with it.

For now,

Lectori Salutem

Wies







# WIN NOW

## FIVE HOOKBAITS & FIVE SPRITZ'S



### Competition Time !!

As C R Baits extend their very successful range, they are giving away 5 tubs of hookbaits and also 5 bottles of Spritz... and it could all be YOURS!! To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic prize please email us the answer, A, B or C, to the following question at [brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk](mailto:brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk) with subject box marked "C R competition". As easy as that.

Question: What colour is the C R logo?

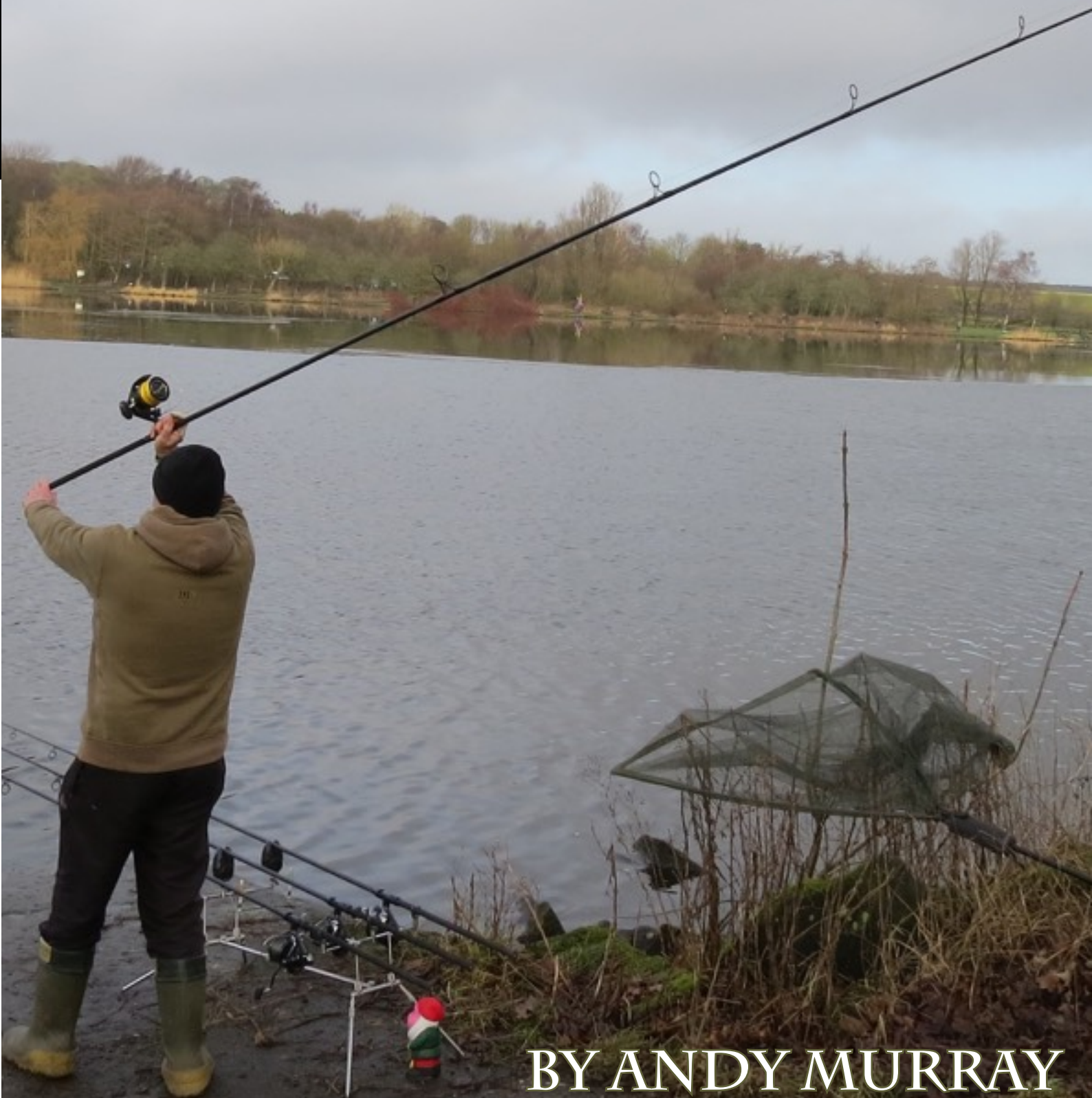
- A ) Blue, white and black?
- B ) Red, white and blue?
- C ) Yellow, white and grey?

Closing date is the 31st of March and winner will be announced in the next issue.

Good luck.



# LET US SPOD



BY ANDY MURRAY

**Hi all**, by the time you read this it will be Mid-March and hopefully just a few weeks away until the ease of restrictions. To the majority of carp anglers reading this, that can mean one thing only...night fishing is on again. Which I am really looking forward to, just to be there and watch the sunset and then the dawn rise will be a real tonic. I don't know about you, but this third lockdown seems to have gone on forever. Whilst most will agree it was needed, it has felt like a long stretch. As always, there are some who think they have the right to do as they please and to hell with who it affects, who have continued night fishing and travelling some distance to lakes to fish, let's not dwell on that. Which can seem easy to say at times, that is one of the issues with social media I think, everything is right there for us to see, right on your screen every time we go onto our phone, tablet, or computer. If we are not careful, we get sucked into arguing and making snap judgements on things, then sharing stuff that is spiteful, hateful, or just plain wrong, I know I have been guilty of that in the

past and I still really struggle not to comment on some of the stuff I see. If we are not careful, we can miss what is good in people and the world around us. This Pandemic has shown the good in folk many times more than the bad. If we all endeavour to do just one good thing each day, no matter how trivial, it makes a difference to someone else in a good way. So, hopefully the gradual lifting of restrictions will see some form of normality returning in due course, if we ever get back to real normal again is another matter, personally I think it will be a long time before I stop wearing a mask in public places, but we will have to see.

No doubt once the night fishing ban is lifted and the Spring weather is upon us, the lakes will be busier than ever. Whereas last Spring the fish got a rest, this year I can't see





the same happening. I would ask all anglers to take more care of their surroundings and their quarry, but more than that to be nice to each other. Let me expand on that a bit, I see a lot of times on the A1 Pits page someone asking for advice or not doing something that more experienced anglers would regard as correct, such as holding a carp wrong or not using a mat etc. What we should do is offer guidance and help, and not as we see on many occasions, all the knockers and comedians have their ten pennorth, just to make themselves look good at the expense of someone else. We all had to start somewhere, carp fishing has evolved massively, I can remember the first unhooking mat I had over 30 years ago, it would be laughed at now, back then it was groundbreaking that we actually used one, we learned through experience, discussion and from

others. On one of my recent day sessions at the Tarn, I found myself giving an impromptu spodding lesson to a group of youngsters, although they were not anglers, they were highly impressed with the mechanics and the casting. After we had finished, I noticed a lady with a young lad remained sitting on the bench watching. She asked if it was ok if they sat and watched for a while. To which I replied there wasn't much to watch really. She was saying she loved walking round the park with her son, and really would like him to be outdoors and doing something like this. The old timers amongst you will remember the Carp Schools we had at places like Horseshoe and even here in Yorkshire, helping youngsters learn and understand more about how to fish and behave whilst fishing. I have no idea these days on what is available at a very basic fishing

level, maybe I should, maybe I should ask around. I do know for the future of fishing we should all do a little bit more to help someone else, and by that I don't mean doing it, so we can be seen doing it on social media for our own image...

Anyway, back to the fishing. Clint and I had said we would







take stock of our planned trips at the end of February and see what needed changing. The planned 2 week April trip to Eastern Europe has now been put back to September, I have attached a picture of a lovely Hungarian Common from a couple of years ago, I'm ready for some more of those! This means that the September and October trips have had to be postponed until next year. We already have two trips booked in for next year as well, one being a trip to a private French lake in April, the other a trip in the summer to Parco. I have persuaded my wife to go to France fishing with me this summer, it's a long time since we had a joint fishing trip abroad, so we have booked a trip to France for July. I have booked the Chalet swim

at Brigueuil, so Sal can have her home comforts and we can have the rods out, just have some quality time out together, she has asked for her own rods as well! Hopefully that trip will be possible. As I said, let's hope normality returns in due course. There are so many other topics I haven't talked about yet, maybe next time...back to proper fishing talk.

I see a number of questions cropping on a regular basis with regard to carp fishing. One question I see a lot is 'what is a good spod set-up' so I thought I would talk you through the set up I use and some of the points I consider to be important, it should dovetail nicely into the piece next month about bait and application for the start of the years fishing. I have attached a picture that shows my current set up and I will talk through each part and some of the mechanics of using them.

Firstly, the rod, there are many quality spod rods on the market now and you don't have to pay a king's ransom so buy one, it does depend though on the distance or amount of work it needs to do. If your fishing is short range say 60-80 yards, most average Spod



rods will do the job, day in and day out. If, however, you want to master being able to constantly fish at distances of 100-120 yards accurately, then you will need a better rod and overall set-up. It isn't just about the power of casting, it's about the accuracy and the recovery of the blank as well. On some recent sessions, we were shooting some video footage to show the flight of the Wolf Competition Spod, what these shots showed was both the compression and the recovery of the blank in use, as well as how straight the spod flew. Most anglers buy a rod on recommendation without trying a rod to see if it suits their casting style, light, medium, heavy? 12ft or 13ft, or even 10ft? I am currently using the Wolf 13ft X3k, it's a bit of a beast of a rod, but I'm ok with compressing it, for some the 12ft might be more suitable, or a lighter 13 ft rod. So, I would say try a few different rods and see how they feel.

For the reel, I personally feel the Shimano Spod reel is just about the best on the market. I have used many others over the years, but if you need a workhorse, good line lay, good retrieval rate, very light and durable, this is the one.

Now then, and this is one I see the most questions about, what braid to use, and I say braid as it is superior to mono when spodding or marker fishing at range and for continuous use. In the picture you can see 2 spools of Whiplash, after 30 years of carp fishing and 25 of those spent learning to spod at range, this is my preferred combo, that's not to say others don't work, but this is the set-up I have used for a long while now. 50lb shockleader, and a shockleader is needed when continuously fishing at range, it could be, if fishing less distance then it may not be, I would still err on the side of caution though. As you can see from the diagram, I use the yellow braid for the mainline, slightly less breaking strain but still quite high strength, what I feel is important is the diameter, which is 0.16. this is one of the key areas when looking at casting, is the diameter of the mainline. I know some anglers can cast prodigious distances with 15LB line, which is .35 to .4, but I am talking a good solid set-up here for us more average mortals. There are a lot of braids on the market that have fine diameters, but they lack the strength and durability of a better braid, which is really important. Also, some really fine diameter



braids can tangle very easily due to their lightness and also fray a bit just through constant use, there is an old saying, buy cheap, buy twice!

Another thing I have looked at over the years is the best form of attaching the spod to the leader. I know some tie on directly, I'm not comfortable with this, as over time the leader can wear and break, I have used many types of clip, mainly from the sea fishing side of tackle. But I have found the use of these predator clips to be just about the best there is for my own use. Make sure you buy quality clips, and not some of the mickey mouse stuff that is about. A pack of clips may seem expensive, but they should last you many years.

Lastly the spod, for many years there were very few commercial spods available, we made our own from shampoo bottles etc. This was what most anglers used, until more commercially made spods became available, and also made things much easier. There is no doubt that the innovation that brings us to today, has helped many anglers achieve much better and more accurate distances we see today. The spod featured here is the new

Competition Spod from Wolf. I have been lucky enough to use these since last year. There are now two sizes in the range. The larger one is ok up to a hundred yards or so, but for ease of use I prefer the smaller one, and certainly 120 yards is achievable with some practice for most anglers. So, there you have my preferred set-up, just a couple of points about use.

Unless every single yard counts, don't overfill the reel, you can see in the picture, the braid is just below the lip of the spool. I like the braid to be pulled off the spool by the cast, rather than all fall off in coils, which it will if you overfill, then there is a chance of the line frapping round the first ring as can happen, then the spod cracks off!

The ideal amount of leader to use is to have 5 or 6 turns of the leader around the spool, this is enough to absorb the impact of the cost, without hampering that cast. I use a double Grinner knot, 4 turns of each side. It makes a lovely small knot that never catches anywhere.

Casting is the one area that just needs practice, the more you practice the easier it gets. If you look at the stance I'm taking in the picture, this is a good place to start, using a drop of about 6 feet is a



good start, hold the rod high up so you can lower the tip behind you, this is the no 1 mistake most anglers make. I have found when doing casting lessons with anglers, it only takes a few minutes to correct the stance and it adds yards instantly. To get range, you need to bend the belly of the rod, once you do that, the rod itself propels the spod not the angler. The further you want to cast, the more you have to compress the rod, this done by getting the tip down behind you, if in doubt get a mate to do a slow-motion video of you casting, it's really eye-opening and will help you no end with your casting. If you look at my stance, you can see that my weight is on the back foot, as I go through the cast, the weight is transferred to the front foot, this transference of power through the body and shoulders is where the force of the cast comes in, its not from the arms. If you find the spod not landing in the right spot, don't try and change the direction with your arms, change your foot spacing. Your body will have a natural swing, better to keep that rather than try and change it. Moving your front foot right or left will change the direction of where the spod lands.

Once the rod is compressed, then it's a matter of releasing at the right time, again this comes with practice. I prefer to aim the spod upwards rather than forward and gauge it so that it hits the clip as its falling. If you use the hands of the clock of 9 -12, 9 being the water and 12 straight up, then I'm letting go and aiming for 10.30. Once the spod is flying, I hold the rod in the air and let it pull forward as it hits the clip. Just taking the bounce out.

So, there you have some basic points, if you see me on the bank, I'm always happy to help anyone out with a few pointers. Next month I am going to talk about getting set for the season ahead and bait use and application. As I will be with a new bait company, my first change in over 25 years, it may be of interest to some of you.

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In search of Charlies Mate  
Part one

by Scott Geezer Grant

**THE DEEPS**



Part one by Scott Geezer Grant  
Last Summer after getting my pain under some sort of control I went for a stroll over the Dell. A beautiful 22-acre lake only a short distance from my home. I couldn't walk far or at normal walking speed but more of a leisurely pace.

A good mate of mine and bailiff Chris was fishing and just sitting in his swim watching the water listening to the wildlife and drinking tea, brought back to me what I had missed so much. I was so determined to get on the bank that I vowed to fish a 24hr session with Chris, as I needed help setting up as I couldn't lift anything.

It was the height of summer and I could clearly see there were fish active and up for some grub. The following week I arrived

at the lake nice and early just before the sun came up. There were a few anglers on with most of them at the other end of the lake. I sat in a swim known as the Bailiffs and watched the water for any signs of activity. I didn't have to wait long as the first fish showed some 60 yards out, then another so for me this was the swim I was going to fish and the fact it's only a short distance from the car was a bonus.

Chris arrived an hour

later and after a brief chat of what I had seen he went into a swim to my left known as the G Spot. Ben another bailiff and good mate was also on hand and helped with my gear and also helping me get everything set up. Its only in your hour of need you realise what true friends you really have, and I will be forever grateful for the help I received hopefully one day I can return the favour. With the house up and everything sorted it was time to sort







the rods. As the lake is still pretty weedy I opted to fish the chod rig, bait wise I had brought the Madagascan Plum in an array of sizes, plus a couple of kilos of crushed boilie along with Chillie hemp and some pellets. Since the start of the year bait boats have been allowed, and for me this was a godsend as there was no way I could even think of casting a rod. Just before sending the rods out I tied 3 mesh PVA bags of crushed boilies and they smelt delightful. The left-hand rod was the first to go out on this particular rod I fished a

matching pop up. The middle rod was fished exactly the same, and as I was preparing my last rod the left-hand rod was already away, producing a stunning mirror.

In the early evening a good fish weeded me up and after some time the fish spat the hook!!

The following morning, I was in no rush to be up at first light, I surfaced around 07:30 and after relieving my bladder I put the kettle on for the mornings first coffee. It was quiet throughout the rest of the day, but I did manage to lose another good fish in the weed, which was so frustrating. Even so, it was the tonic I needed and I didn't care how big the fish were it was about spending time on the bank with a good mate and doing what I love best. Late afternoon

the Mrs turned up to collect me and the lads loaded her car and I said my goodbyes but vowed to return at some point.

A few weeks later I was off to France with a good mate of mine for a week, which I was so looking forward to.

After my successful French trip, I had to rest for a couple of weeks and when I could walk unaided, I decided to go for a walk over The Dell. I have been involved in this lake since its creation way back in 2003, there are so many home grown stunners coming up through the ranks. Joe Tag had the session of a lifetime in the middle







of September banking a few fish which included a few of the A Team members including "George" 36lb 8oz, "Cluster" 37lb 11oz, "The Woodcarving" 35lb 13oz and finished the session off with a fish known as Charlie's Mate at 49lb 12 ounces, now that is a session!!! This is a particular fish I've never had the pleasure of catching and after looking at the pictures the fish was now on my radar. I decided I would dedicate as much time as I physically could to the Dell in search of Charlie's mate.

Even though I was going all out to catch him there's still plenty of other fish that I wouldn't mind gracing my net, there's still plenty of 40lbbers, a couple of 50lbbers plus a host of 30s and the back-up fish coming through the



ranks.

Due to me still drugged up to the eyeballs and in constant pain Ben said he would help get all my gear to the swim if I decided to fish. Well, I didn't need much persuading and a few days later I was making my way over to the lake. I arrived early afternoon and after a very slow walk round I settled for a swim on the airfield bank. As I stood in the swim looking out across the lake a fish popped its head out right in front of me 50 yards out, then another so this was where I would be starting.

With Bens help all my gear was taken to the swim and the house put up with everything in its place the rods were next to get sorted. Due to the weed I opted to fish pop ups on the trusty chod rig as I know the bait will

always be presented. A massive plus for me was the use of bait boats, I found 3 areas with not as much weed out in front, so with them programmed in on the GPS it was time to get the rods out. Bait choice was the Madagascan Plum again a bait I know works well, for me confidence is everything, if you have confidence in using a certain bait then stick with it. All three rods went out with a generous amount of chillie hemp, crushed and whole boilies, for

me spodding was out of the question and that's where my boat comes into its own, with the rods out it was time to sit back and relax, the rest was up to the fish.

Later that evening I had a couple of liners on the middle rod which got the heart racing. Unfortunately. Nothing else happened for the rest of the evening. I was up at first light having a coffee watching the water for any signs of fish. The fish were showing further out in the middle of the Lake.







A couple of anglers that were fishing the road bank had started to pack up. I had a walk round to a swim known as the deeps and could see the fish showing half way out into the Lake which is in the region of 25 wraps.

I decided a move was on the cards, another angler who was fishing next to me gave me a hand to move. It was around midday. I was

finally in the swim and all set up. I kept the rigs the same, I boated all three rods out 25 wraps to where the fish were showing. Later that afternoon, a weather warning came up on my phone and we were expecting rain for the next three

days. The angler that helped me move; Terry moved into the swim next to me called the white bag, as the fish also started to show out in front at the same distance.

He was fishing for the next two nights, so at

least if I did have a decent fish, he would be on hand to take some decent photos.

Later that evening, the left-hand Rod was away







took a couple of shots even though it was still raining!!! With the photos complete the fish was treated and then returned. A couple of hours later, finally with a break in the rain, I was packing up heading for home with a big grin on my face.

which resulted in a small low double common. The move was definitely paying off. The next morning, I was up early before first light watching the water to see if the fish were still showing in the same area. Lo and behold, just as the sun was coming up, the fish started to show, just not as many as the day before. But the fish were still evidently there. The rain started to come down and would be lasting for the next three days.

The day temperatures were still quite mild, but being bivvy bound

really can get to you. I decided I was only going to do one more night and then would be leaving for home. Later in the afternoon I had another small common, this time on the right-hand rod. It was obvious I was in the right area. I just needed the bigger fish

***Find out what happens in part two maybe a few chunks who knows????***





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

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In the Margin Particles (Facebook)

If you would like more information on The Dell contact Michael

Prior on 07768-124462 he will be more than happy to help.

For all your PVA needs head over to the brand-new Castaway website. Where you will find an array of PVA products that can help you in your fishing.

The good news is that the Covid restrictions are being lifted in

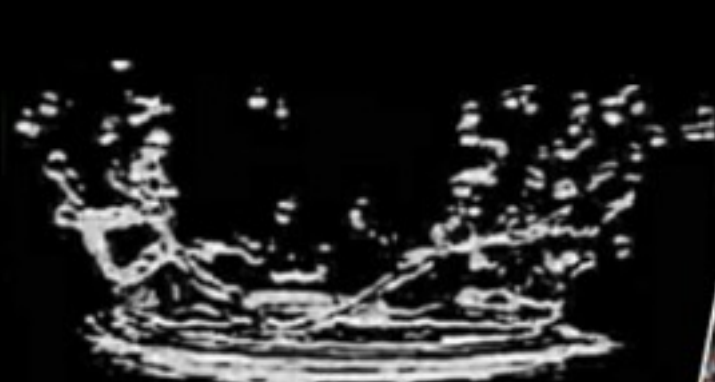
stages and come the 29th March we should all be able to night fish again. I hope the rest of 2021 brings everyone good health and plenty of chunks in the net.

Stay safe and remember its only fishing.

Scott "Geezer" Grant







# IN THE MARGIN PARTICLES

Taking particle preparation  
to a whole new level!!





*Remembering the past*  
*by Dave Locke*





Way back in the early 70s my mate Micky fisher and I gained access to a 5 acre lake that was only 5 minutes walk from Micky's home. It was a quite small club with only 30 to 40 members, none of whom were carp anglers.

The lake only really got fished on a Sunday when the club would hold matches, but on a walk around one sunny day we saw quite a few carp sunning themselves. There appeared to be some decent size carp in amongst them, So we did the obvious and joined the club. It cost the huge amount of £5 plus £2 joining fee, how times have changed!

We spent a summer fishing there but there was a problem, the whole bottom of the lake was covered in very soft foot deep smelly silt, even fishing a balance crust on the bottom for 10 minutes was pointless as the bait would come back black and stinking. We managed a few up to 18lb on crusts fished in the margins but no matter what we tried we could not get a fish on bottom baits. We tried raking out spots but the silt was so soft it was a waste of time.

This played on my mind all through winter until I came up with a sneaky plan. My brother in law owned a breakers yard so I went and found a large car bonnet then he drove his big tracked crane backwards and forwards over the bonnet until it was completely flat. It was then steam cleaned so it was spotless.

At the end of March just after the start of the close season Micky and I carried the bonnet over 2 large fields to the lake, and me being the best swimmer floated the bonnet out to a pre determined spot on a lilo, it was bloody cold. I slide the bonnet off the lilo and swam back to the bank a distance of about 25 yards. Before I even had a chance to get out of the water Micky said to me "How do you know the bonnet is laying flat it might be stuck in the silt on it's edge", So out I swam again







catching every time we went, Micky had a cracking 21lber but I was stuck on my 18. This always happened with Micky and I no matter where we fished, I would catch more than Micky but he always caught the largest. One day around the end of November I decided to go for a ride on my motorbike and seeing

dived down and checked it was laying flat, which it was. By now bits of my body that normally dangle had given up and shrunk into my body, All through the close season Micky would walk to the lake at least twice a week and pre-bait the bonnet.

June finally arrived and we decided to do opening night on the lake, we had to take turns fishing on the bonnet because there was not enough room for two baits. Did our sneaky trick pay off? Oh yes, we went on through the summer without a blank, carp up to 19lb 8oz for Micky, my best was 18lb something,

Come the Autumn we were still

as I was in the area I decided to have a walk around the silty lake. I was halfway across the second field when I saw a madman waving his arms about and jumping up and down. As I got closer I realised it was Micky, he had decided to have a day off work and go fishing. I knew nothing about this no mobiles in those days. He was obviously extremely excited about something and had a job to spit out the words "I've got a huge carp in a sack". As he pulled one of the sacks my mum had made us from old net curtains out of the lake I could see he wasn't on a wind up, There was a beautiful common of 28lb something laying in the bottom of the sack. A huge carp in those days and one we never expected to catch in that lake. Mid



February I finally got my 20 from there, the same 21 that Micky had caught. We had a really good year on that water but we went on a new the next year. Was it worth me freezing my bits off,? Oh hell yes these were uncaught carp and all of them in excellent condition. Now this might be considered by some to be a bit unethical nowadays, dumping a bonnet in a lake, but this was before unhooking mats had been thought of, leads were tied to the mainline sometimes and hooks had huge barbaric barbs.

I have not given any indication as to the whereabouts of the lake because it has now had a fence put around it, it's been de-silted and is now a £1500 a year syndicate, I often wonder if they found my blue bonnet when it was de-silted . If so they must have wondered how it got there.

All the best

*Dave*







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The World  
is my  
Lobster

by Oscar Hall





Have you ever dined on the fine lobsters of land-locked North Staffordshire? If you've eaten lobster at all in the UK or Northern France then you may be surprised to hear that your crustaceous claw-clad cuisine more than likely started its journey in Stoke On Trent, around 4 miles south of the Cheshire border.

I am pleased to find myself with the rare excuse to openly reflect on what I will affectionately refer to as my 'unconventional' childhood. An upbringing interspersed with glimmers of the surreal and more than it's fair share of camping. As a young boy I considered

myself a typical farm child, just like any one of my many classmates whose families may have reared beef or dairy cows, or worked arable land. It was only around the age of twelve that I started to recognise... Lobster farming is fairly uncommon around these parts. Were I to follow in my Father's footsteps I would be the third generation to take up this challenging mantle, and one of an ever dwindling few left harvesting inland out of Northern Europe. As a decision yet to be made, perhaps this exploratory article may be the very mechanism by which my fate is determined. So (in deft pursuit of cliché) let's dive into

the pros.

Much like the sea turtle, a freshwater lobster will embark on a pilgrimage to terra firma in order to bury it's eggs in view of the water. The pale shelled young will then hatch and instinctively scamper down bank to rejoin their parents in a subaquatic display. My fondest early memories were those nights spent camping out on the pool banks with my Father and Brother, stoically guarding our youngest livestock in the wake of their first steps. We'd lie on our bellies, three abreast, with heads poking out of our pop-up tent. A flask of hot chocolate would keep us lively (a hip flask for Dad) while we propped our



elbows and shared a pair of binoculars. We'd stare across the water for hours and eventually we'd catch sight of movement (a competitive moment between siblings; who would spy the first hatchling and win the hallowed sugar cube?). It would start slowly, one or two early-birds, and then the new generation on mass! Fresh shells sparkling in the moonlight, un-dulled by battle or rough water. But we weren't passive observers, we were Sentinels! For if we were aware of the night's migration you could be darn sure that the local owl population were aware, and a baby lobster makes easy pickings for an avian predator.

**"2 O'CLOCK!"**

My Brother would cry, gripping the binoculars and pointing rigidly to the Western bank... **BANG!**

My Father was like a fishy Clint Eastwood. He could clip a gnat's nipple with his trusty air rifle.

**"10 O'CLOCK!"... BANG!**

**"OVER THERE, DAD!"... BANG!**

While I appreciate that a child's lense often renders even the most common of men a hero, I feel confident in speculation that were my Father a resident of the fictional Oz, then those flying

monkeys would have run for the hills and Mr Scarecrow might have retained his waistline.

Bi-annually the eggs would hatch and bi-annually the birds would find themselves outgunned. Our farm was a crustaceous safe-space.

But alas, life on the pools was not always so exciting. In fact, more often than not it was somewhat laborious and even quite stressful. Any inland waterlord will attest that floods are bad for business, and we had more than our fair share of floods! Like fish, lobsters are curious creatures and will capitalise on any opportunity to explore further afield than may have



intentionally been made accessible. With floods come burst banks, and with burst banks go crustaceous livestock. These days most farmers will install reactive flood defences to raise their banks in such an emergency but these systems were few and far between in the late 90's, not to mention the cost. Instead we'd stake our livelihood on a little herd psychology.

It's not well known, but lobsters are pack animals and do adhere to a basic hierarchy. All we need to understand at this level is that within a system there will always exist an Alpha, and the others will tend to be influenced by his behaviour. The Alpha will generally

be the biggest, meanest looking bull in the pond. It is not believed that lobsters will recognise an individual as their king so to speak, more that they will observe the shape and size of another lobster on an encounter by encounter basis and think "Hmm, on balance of probabilities I think this fella might be in charge". Based on physical characteristics, it usually works out that a group will quickly come to agree on who's the boss!

But how do we exploit this trait to prevent dispersal? Taxidermy. We kept a preserved fleet of oversized lobster shells ready and waiting to be submerged at regular

intervals around the bankside to deter any radical thinkers.

"Hey, this big guy ain't going anywhere, maybe we should think twice!". You'd be shocked at how well this worked. Sure, we'd inevitably lose a handful here and there but as a whole you couldn't fault the principal.

When I look back now the thing that really stands out is the paint. Our taxidermist was a family friend who's primary source of income was in refurbishing and painting Tudor period properties. For fun he'd often paint our decoy lobsters as Storm Troopers, or zebras or penguins. Of course he only ever



stocked black and white paint but they looked great!

By 2010 around three in every five lobsters consumed in Northern France were our Stokies, and we supplied around 80% of those eaten in the UK. These numbers have taken a small dip over the last decade (largely driven by the dwindling public perception around cruelty in lobster farming) but political turmoil bubbles on in the shadow of Brexit - the battle for 'who can fish where for what' rages, but finds it's field limited to the coast. This has left a far greater scar on our salt water rivals than anyone had anticipated, and inland business is better than ever.

So the question remains, will I be packing my bags to return to the pool? Will I be waving goodbye to metropolitan life in favour of rural solitude? Were it purely a financial decision then the answer would be yes. As it stands, I think I have a little more to discover on the outside before I don my wellingtons and delve back into the murky depths. I've no doubt that years to come will see me embrace my

Grandfather's legacy, but until then I'll enjoy my fond recollection from dry land!

*Oscar*

Below image 1968.  
Left to right: Sheila Hall, Chris Hall, Fred Hall, Lobster





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Prep  
Time  
By Matty  
Allen





It has been a little chilly recently and obviously, the lockdown has not aided our fishing exploits. However, let us face it; even the most hardened of carp anglers would admit that the recent weather has put them off a little. Although I have seen plenty of frosty, snowy, blanking pictures of social media. My two sons, George and Louis and I myself and braved the elements twice, landing a couple of carp in the process.

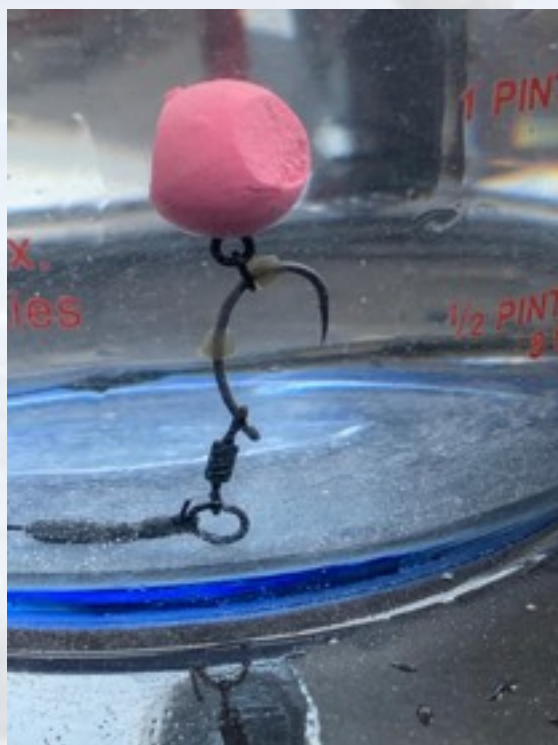
However, the weather is on the turn. It is looking at warming up. Spring is not far away. Therefore, for me its prep time as I cannot turn my carp brain off and the lockdown has encouraged me to keep myself active, therefore prep time.

The first major piece of prep I have done is the Carp Cogs podcast I cohost with Reza O'Donnell. The guests we get to speak to are fantastic and you cannot help but learn from them and their significant experience. It is some of the learnings I have taken from the podcast that my winter prep has evolved.

### **For example.**

Ian Russell in episode 11 mentioned the Measure Map app.

This app allows you to view your chosen lake in a Google Maps type of scenario. Then once you have located your desired swim, area, feature, etc., you can drop a pin from the bank to your desired spot. This then gives you a yardage. My plan then is to silently creep into my chosen areas, wrap up to the desired distances and then if I know what I am fishing on, flick a bag/rig straight into position. No fuss. No disturbance. If I don't know what I'm fishing on, I can have a minimal lead around, make sure I'm happy with what I'm casting to, and at the same time minimize my disturbance in the swim. This will also nicely allow me to pre bait a couple of areas, or at least keep a food source present in specific areas





of the lake. I hope that generating a confident feeding spot for the carp.

In addition to this, as further part of my prep I have been reading lots of carp articles in my spare time, predominantly Talking Carp and Total Carp. In the latest addition of Total Carp, there is a feature with Dean Macey. In this article, the Total Carp editor Matt observes how Dean can quickly and simply get back on his spot, tight to reeds on the far bank. I read with fascinating enthusiasm that when fishing tight to a feature, Dean clips up as many of us do. However, he marks out a 1-2 meter pole back from the water's edge. He then casts, hits the clip, accurately on his spot, takes up the slack and pops the rod on the buzzer. As he is fishing for a drop back or locked up, he can leave the line in the clip and if the fish requires a meter or 2 then that capacity is there by casting back from the edge of the swim. A definite tactic I am going to add to my armorery as some of my syndicate fishing is snag fishing. Please though if you fish this way, be on top of your rods!

**Next part of my prep. Clear out my gear.**

Whether we all like it or not, it does get a bit messy, our fishing gear doesn't it? Mine does, especially as I usually have two young sons as companions so do not always get to tidy up my fishing gear to my OCD levels.

One thing I have done, which sounds obvious to most of you I'm sure, is put all my PVA in one place, where it used to live in a couple of pockets on my large holdall, now I can keep up with my usage more proficiently and cost effectively. Also by sorting my bits out, I am not spending money unnecessarily; I am shopping to essentials only, not guessing. With that said, part of my prep has been topping up my PVA stocks, bags, tape, nuggets and





and mesh. Just a quick note, Castaway PVA do a lovely little loader to help make the job easier. Prep time also consisted of re spooling the reels. Berkeley CM 90 the choice. Good fun with my sons as they love helping do the winding and as long as I'm on hand just to offer a tiny bit of resistance as the line goes on, they get the job done. Good old cheap labor. Rigs.

I am not going to open a can of worms and I am certainly not going



to put myself out to the Talking Carp readers as an expert. In regards to rig prep, I purely am discussing this from an organized perspective. Old unloved rigs I will strip and re use components if I can. I will sort through my tackle box and if I do not use something, it comes out. I will also tie myself a few rigs, not loads as I don't know exactly the scenario I'll be fishing, but enough to cover me for most eventualities in my current fishing between my 2 syndicate lakes.

I'll tie a few short hair and blow back rigs. PVA bag fishing. A few spinner rigs for my choddy/silty bottom when required pop up presentations.

These are my 2-3 rigs and I just make sure I am good to go and know what shopping I may need to do, as my hooks are hand sharpened. I hope that not much.

### Next bait prep

I am not going to lie, I have messed about with bait these last couple of years looking for something I can settle on. For me bait (and other products) rely on many factors. Confidence being very important,



approachability of the company for advice and help, reliability of products and company and a reasonable variation in product to allow for all eventualities. Therefore, I was recently researching bait and speaking to other carp anglers. I wanted to find a company that ticked the above and that the Carp in my water had not seen much of their products. This company is DT Baits. Established in 1988 (sorry if I got this wrong Fenton), Fenton and DT baits are very experienced, hugely knowledgeable, have bait for certain situations and were very easy to

deal with and once I ordered I had my bait within 48 hours. Impressive.

I like the products, I like that thought has gone into the baits and the type of water conditions they may be fishing in, to the carps seasonal feeding requirements.

Give them a look up.

I must please add that DT Baits do not sponsor me, I gain nothing from writing about them, and it is just my honest assessment and thoughts!

Thank you very much.







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# **Pressured day tickets**

**by Karl Brandreth**





When I started out fishing it was for the smaller species like roach and perch etc, and I had to rely on my grandad to take me fishing at weekends after school, at that time i was fishing Capesthorne hall in Cheshire ran by a club, sat there watching and learning how to cast and put bait on but I noticed other guys weren't doing the same as me so one day i said to my grandad I'm going to have a walk round and chat to some of the guys, I was young and well into my fishing so I needed more info.

Anyway, all that ended when I grew up a bit, still into my match fishing but life had other ideas like pubs and clubs so fishing kind of slowed down,

Years later I ended up being a doorman on our local bar and met

my wife Julie, who then introduced me to her friends and two of her friends were carp anglers and took me carp fishing a couple of weeks later to a day ticket in Cheshire for the first time, and I must admit I was hooked but shocked. Well that was a short insight to how I came across day ticket waters, at the time i couldn't afford to be in any big clubs so I was just getting on waters where a can, I live in Manchester so the waters around here are a bit rough and ready so you have to be careful where you go fishing, there's a couple of reservoirs I tried in the suburbs but found out the hard way not to go back on there with some bad experiences, so

I looked around and found some jet ski and boating lakes which i thought were ok so i settled there for a bit on Sale Water Park and caught some nice carp up to around 20 odd lb.

The only thing was you couldn't get on the pegs that produce the big carp they were always taken by a clique, one bivvy would stay up for weeks at a time and the anglers in





the clique would take turns in using the bivvy and they would bait up for each other, the bailiff on there at the time was included in the clique as well.

So I continued on there until I had enough of jet skis and speed boats ripping it up in front of you or taking your lines out too, it was hard work.

So I started to look at fisheries that were ran on private land I started in Macclesfield there was 5 lakes and we were on the specimen lake they were ran better because the owners had rules if you didn't stick to them you were off the only problem is you've got guys casting over you, or you don't know how much bait was put in the day before, when the gates open everyone runs down to the lakes and grabs a peg, it's like

a shop sale when the gates open its crazy.

So, after trying out a few more day ticket waters like a circus, I managed to get into the club I'm in now but that's another story, I then found RH Fisheries and down in Shropshire but with having a better job now I can afford to go and enjoy, plus the chance of catching a PB.

I've been fishing there on and off for around ten years and I've seen good and bad things on the lakes but nothing major like what I have seen on other day tickets like I say they have strict rules, you can pick your peg in advance as long as they

are free to get on, but same old story is how much bait was put in before your session, do you get the spod out and fill it in or fish singles over the last guys bait what do you do?

You do get the odd guy





to see you catch a fish then he casts over to your area pushing his luck but i just shout over to him and tell him to move his line, I've even seen other guys sneak a 3rd rod out at night but it's not my place to say anything. As i said I live up in Manchester so I've had a couple of trips down south to certain waters and they are so busy it's unbelievable, it's like one in one out kind of thing that's not my kind of fishing.

Plus, there's loads of carp to catch from up here from various day ticket lakes and venues with some decent carp in to say the least.

The only thing is with busy day tickets is that the carp grow bigger due to the amount of bait put in by anglers day in day out all year round, I know of some places that have daily rules about how much bait you use in one session but not all of

them E.G. 2kg of bait per angler per day. The downside to day tickets is some rules and I know they are there for a reason but there's one rule that I can't get my head round is when there is freshwater mussels in the lakes they ban lead core, now to me you need it, so you don't keep getting cut and leaving trailers everywhere which in turn causes the carp to get stuck in the snags.

Don't get me wrong I like day ticket venues that ran correctly and believe me there are loads of good venues around the country. So, get out there and get fishing, do your own thing and don't follow the crowds, be different it might get you a good carp possibly a PB.

Cheers guys tight lines.

Karl





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*Talking Carp*



# Success On Solid Pva Bags



by Richard  
Handel



I have been using solid Pva bags since the early 80's and have had great success over the years. However the modern day angler seems to have forgotten this very useful approach. They can be used in all sorts of different circumstances, from range to margins fishing and it's still a great way to present a hook bait in weed. Over the past couple of years, I have found that a solid bag dropped into the margins is a perfect way to catch carp. The added bonus is that you can add neat liquid into the bag as an instant attraction, I like to fish in tiny margin swims for a few hours. This instant release is possibly better than the slow release you get from soaking boilies or pellets in liquids and then putting them into a bag. I am also

a fan for making up a load of mesh bags and soaking them for a month or two. This method can be time consuming but worth the effort. I have found that a mixture of soaked boilies and pellets (with the added boost of a mixture of Minaminos & Betafin liquids), in the bag has given me great confidence. Last year it was a great success with my margin fishing.

This particular swim is one of my favourite margin swims on one of the lakes I fish at the moment. It has produced some stunning carp for me. I am only lowering the bag just off to the left hand bush which is about 3 foot off the bank. I just sit back and wait for the rod to burst into life. I was putting the rod on the floor but found that my concentration would wonder towards







looking at the wildlife. When the rod was away, the fish would gain too much ground, even with the clutch fully done up. So, I started using a buzzer which would bring me quickly back to reality. This resulted in my catch rate going up, as I could gain control of the fish before they got under the overhanging branches.

I always like to start off the bag with a layer of pellet and a dusting of ground bait, this is then mixed in with my pellet mix. I do this for two reasons, firstly it helps to make a nice firm base to the bag and secondly, I put the point of the hook into the bottom of the bag, I fold the corner over to hide the

hook point. Next (depending on how long my session is) I use only broken boilies for short trips and a mix of broken and whole boilies for longer sessions. This makes sure there is always bait around the hook bait, as an attraction for the carp is always useful. The nuisance fish will always start to nibble at the broken boilies and then they are soon gone. I then add my liquid - I use a mixture of Minaminos and Betafin plus Spotted Fins food dip, this I keep all mixed up in one bottle. The bag is then topped up with a little more pellet and then a pva cable tie is used to tie it up. This helps to keep the bag secure for the big, long range



# Success on solid PVA bags

casting. For dropping them in the margins, there is no real need for even an underarm flick out. Also the cable tie helps when using safety rig clips as opposed to helicopter style rigs or even putting the rig completely in the bag as they occasionally get tangled up. The method I use competently eliminates this from ever happening. I have found also that if you nick the hook point

just off the corner of the bag, you can then fold over the corner and this will protect the hook point from getting caught up in any underwater obstacles. This year I decided to adopt this method in my everyday fishing. Last year the swans were particular bad, the lake is very shallow, and they would spend hours just trying to pick up your bait. At the time it was very counterproductive and affected my

confidence in getting a take. They would just home in on your spot, clear as much as possible and keep returning to check if you had topped it up - it was just an impossible situation. The wildlife on here can be particularly bad, to the point that when the water is clear, even the seagulls have learnt that they can dive down a pickup freebies off the lakebed.

This year I am going to





# Richard Handel

bait up as I left the lake, not just in my swim but any other I feel the fish have been feeding in. Or areas that they may be held up in. The idea being the carp get a taste of the boilies and they would be searching for them. I also am going to have to be very mindful of other anglers as I feel that baiting up around people is just not the done thing. The thought process behind this is a single bag and a few pouches of boilies would be less of an attraction for the swans and other wildlife and more of an attraction for the fish. It was a slow start on the lake (as it always is) due to the lake being closed for 6 months each Winter and the fish revert back to their natural food diet. But once I had been running around baiting up three times a week for the first

month, things started to all come together and go my way. I managed 8 fish in April and then in May, it all kicked off with 2 30's and 8 20's all in the space of a month and half. The best nights fishing for some time was on the night of the amazing thunderstorm.

This resulted in 10 fished banked, 2 fish lost and the biggest being this lovely 27 lber.

There was certainly not much sleep had that night but well worth the effort and I just love

being out on the bank in a thunderstorm. Obviously being mindful of the lightning, luckily most of the storm passed around the lake and not overhead.

This certainly goes to show that some of the old methods can still be used within modern day angling situations. The results can be very rewarding indeed.

Richard





Finally a 20lb+  
Carp. . . . .  
by Matt Whalley





Throwing it back now, but for me it is worth it. Let's go back to the first lockdown in 2020 and when, at first we were not allowed to fish and enjoy the sport that we all love.

I spent many an hour thinking about getting back out on the bank and especially as the weather was so dam good, but with the lockdown in place and the unknown upon us, it was difficult to know, when we could actually do this again, especially in the unprecedented times that we all faced.

So, with the above in mind, let me share with you, the run up, preparation, planning and finally the captures, when we were once again allowed.

## **LOCKDOWN ONE**

When it was first announced that we were heading into our first national lockdown and that everything that we knew as the norm was about to change, I really did not know what to expect or do, if I am completely honest. It was very daunting and also knowing that the one hobby that I love was about to stop. Watching all the notifications over social media popping up on my news feed about lake closures etc left a very heavy feeling in my chest. Obviously, don't get me wrong, I knew there were more important matters at hand but still, my only get away from the every day grind, was now also disappearing! For how long? We all had no idea!

Once I finally got my head around things, I then realised, I had a lot of time on my hands and it was time to have a clean up of my kit, prep the rigs and get ready..... Come on Borris, please give us the go ahead!!

## **PREP TIME**

With carp fishing kit now everywhere, it was time to get down to business. There was such a buzz about knowing what was to follow in the coming weeks and it felt like that I had just started fishing all over again, right back at the beginning and there was an excitement back, something that



I had seemed to of lost for a while, I liked it!

I lost count of the amount of Slip D Rigs, D Rigs, and Ronnie Rigs that I had tied and had packed ready. Hooks were sharpened, everything cleaned, more than once might I add! and the bait's were ready. Camera equipment was checked, batteries were charged and the lenses were cleaned and I was chomping at the bit, for the news to be announced that we were all waiting for.

## **FAST FORWARD - 11TH MAY 2020**

So with the announcement made by the Angling Trust and the local lakes now reopen, I had the car packed and ready for the off.

I booked a swim and headed down to BK Fisheries that was close to my home. I have fished this place on and off since I was about 20 years old and always enjoyed the peace and quiet at this venue. This fishery was always good to get a bend in the rod and I was hopeful that this was going to be the case on my sessions ahead. It's a deep old water that has a very good head of carp stocked. Lots of mid to upper doubles but some high 20's and low 30's are also there, although at times, very very illusive....

I started my session of too a flier, a couple of low doubles kick started my time back on the bank but in all honesty, it was so nice to actually be back out there and doing what I loved.





I only booked on for 24hrs and the first trip was nearing to an end and that 20lb plus 'Cornish Carp', still avoided me but I would be back, and back I would be, very soon.

## **THE NEXT SESSION**

Let's just say, maybe only a few days passed and I was booked on and back again ready to wet the lines and enjoy the glorious sunshine and warm weather that we were having.

I booked onto peg 13 this time around. This is the shallower part of the lake and had an abundance of Lilly pads and rushes present and I was adamant, the carp would be in here, especially in this warmer weather.

My left hand rod was the first one out and was fished to an overhanging tree to my left and a scattering of Boilie was put out over my Slip D Rig, all tied with Prologic Components. As I was setting up the right hand rod, the rod that was out burst into action. After a spirited battle, I slipped a stunning little mirror into the net. Let's just say it didn't stop there. As always, you tend to start off with the smaller carp but the bigger ones do move in eventually and I had a feeling that something special was going to happen.....

With both rods finally out fishing and the right hand rod fished locked up in front of some reeds, it was time to make a brew and chill for a bit. The evening was now starting to draw in and I was thinking about moving the right hand rod for the night ahead, as I knew I wouldn't get to it quick enough and with it being fished absolutely locked tight, I was a bit concerned that I may lose my gear, if I didn't get me self out of the bivvy in time! As I got up to walk down to the waters edge, I had one beep on the right hand rod and the bobbin pulled up mega tight. With this being the locked up rod, I picked it up straight away and wound down into the take. I was into a carp but it didn't feel overly big. I slowly drew it back to the net and as it passed under the rod tip, I saw it and said "oh, that's a proper one" and with this, it finally realised it was hooked and off it



powered into the middle of the lake. Let the battle commence!!

With the deep water out in front of me, it definitely makes the fight so much better in my opinion. Inch by inch I got her back and finally into the net. Happy days, a 20lb+ carp that has avoided me from this lake in probably over 20 years was now finally mine.

## THE CAPTURE

With everything now in place, the camera, scales etc, it was finally time to see what she actually weighed. The scales settled on 27lb 10oz of pure hard fighting 'Cornish Common Carp' and to say that I was absolutely delighted, was an understatement... I know I have caught bigger carp than this but to actually catch a 20lb+ carp from BK Fisheries after many, many years of avoidance, it was like having a new PB....

With the world going crazy around me, at this moment I forgot about everything that was going on and was blown away with what I had just caught. A memory that I will never forget and a special capture for the photo album.....

Stay safe everyone and I will catch you on the next instalment.....

Matt Whalley











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**Back on it 10 years out of  
the game...**



**Rob Ball**



## September 2019,

I was sat in my house and a picture came through on my phone of my dad with a beautiful 40 lb mirror he had just caught in France, I hadn't been out fishing for 10 years as I didn't like the way the sport was going with overcrowded pools etc. but looking that pic I realised how much I missed being on the bank.

So I decided I was going to start back carp angling again...

My first session would be in the first week in January 2020 which would give me time to buy gear plus I knew if I could do the winter and see if the passion was still there.

If so things would get better through spring and summer and by that time I would have a chance to find a few mega carp to target after so long out and a few messages and phone calls later the fire was well and truly lit ...

So with the kit bought it was time to recce the waters and find the target fish and find a quality bait LOCAL.

Xmas came and went and as I said I had found my first target water which held 30s plus two x 40s one hadn't been out for over 12 months at 41lb I thought that would do for me target one sorted, as time went on I tried to find everything i could about the pool.

### Now to the bait ...

I had looked around at many companies and asked them to send me samples of bait which they did but one company stood out to me there was just something different about it. So I put an order in and Chris from Munga Baits delivered it personally and after a chat and a cuppa tea Chris asked if I would like to join his small team as he knew me



from a back in the day when I was a carp consultant for west midlands angling centre.

WOW I couldn't believe he believed in me so much and I hadn't even cast a line in ten years, while talking to Chris he put me on to my second target water which is only 5 minutes away from my house, January came and I started fishing hard on both waters banging in the bait knowing in my heart I would struggle but I knew in time it would pay off I wanted them to know the bait was a food source as I've always believed a good food source bait will out fish a high attract bait.

Anyway through January and February I caught 9 fish from 9lb to 18lb averaging 7 day sessions 3x24 hour sessions this gave me great confidence in my rigs and in the bait as remember this was winter and I knew as the weather got warmer the bait would work even better for me and if I could find tune my rigs I could get into them big girls.

I realised I couldn't fish both waters at the same time as one water is a 100 mile round trip and both are completely different fishing and my brain was boiling so I decided target one would be my first choice as I could do night sessions on there and was still waiting for a night permit on target water two.

So the campaign was on ...

I fished twice a week for a month solid blanking only to lose one fish to a hook pull but I kept upping the bait every time I went. Then I had a chance to sneak a session in and my efforts rewarded with a 27lb common minutes later rods went again with a 32lb mirror WOW it was working.





**Next time I went I had a lovely 32lb common the plan was well and truly working I kept things quiet only telling Chris what was happening.**





Then BANG COVID-19 stopped me in my tracks which wasn't ideal. I didn't need this not now I've got them on the bait. And all the hard work I put in but I got my head down tying rigs etc. and walking around other target waters as it's only five minutes away.

The day I had been waiting for FREEDOM I made plans and decided to fish 48 hours on target one as soon as possible 24 hours in I get my first fish 32lb mirror there still on the bait a few hours later left hand rod screams off I couldn't get my breath what was lying in my net 37lb 9oz mirror new pb I sat down got my thought together and reset all rods on wafers went to bed happy then woke up at 3am to the pool exploding with crashing fish I was confident I would get another take but was still happy with what gone on earlier.

32lb mirror



New English PB 37lb 9oz after 10 years out ..





6:30 am I woke up 2 to single beep then a steady run on right hand rod I hit it and thought what's this tench as it came in it came to the top twenty ft away and it just went off on one I knew it was a big fish but I'd just landed a 37lb 9oz New PB and it wasn't going to beat that so pressure was off .

I netted the fish and rolled it up in the net and tried to lift it and couldn't I thought the net had got caught on something I looked but nothing was there so tried again and WOW I knew this was something special when I opened the net on the mat.

I couldn't believe what I was looking at shaking with excitement I got the scales zeroed and it settled at 43lb 9oz after nearly passing out I did it another three times same weight 43lb 9oz I got the fish in floatation sling and got owner out of bed (not happy lol) he came straight to lake to take pics as my camera had died confirmed weight 43lb 9oz of pure heaven beating the pool record by 2lb and the second



**PB of the session and target fish number one complete I couldn't believe what had happened back in my bivvy.**

**I threw up everywhere I think it was all from the excitement of what had happened**

**Second New English PB 43lb 9oz in the same session Buzzing....**



**I'd like to dedicate this first target to Chris and my munga team mates who believed in me from the start and welcomed me to the team and also my partner Lisa who puts up with all my shit and hobbies she's one in a million x now for target two ...**

**Watch this space .....**



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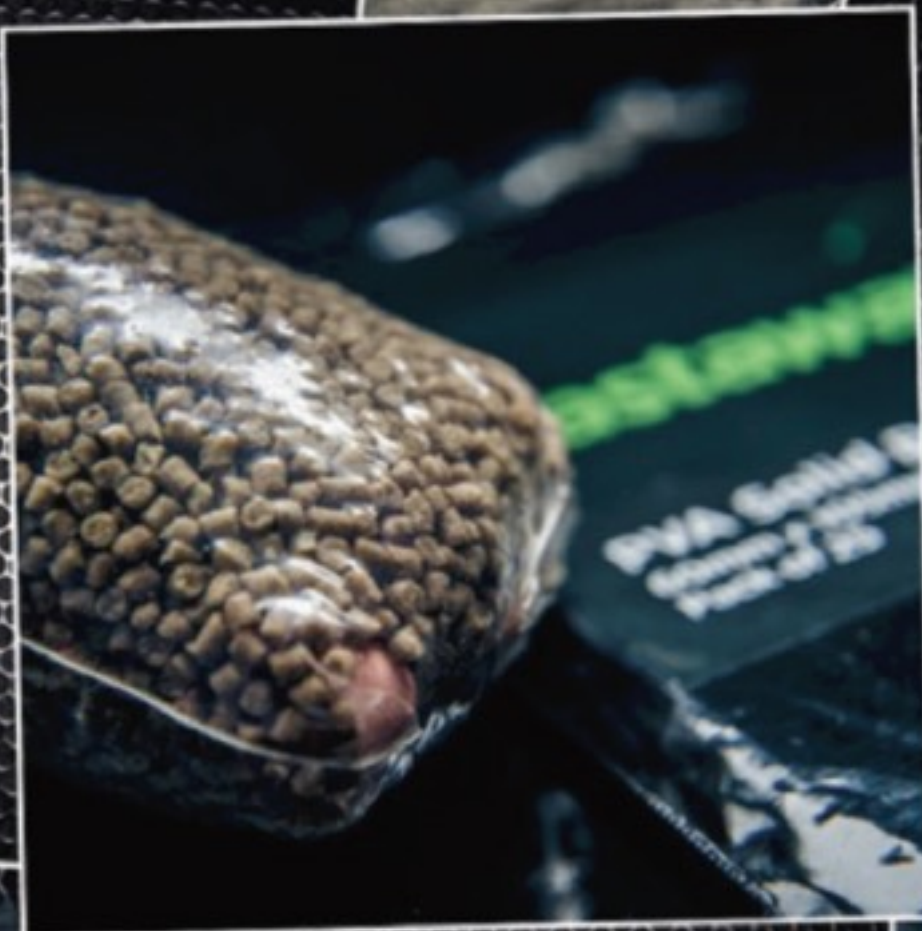
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# **The importance of casting to showing carp in winter**



**Lee Bateman Team Nutrabaits  
explains all.**



The winter of 2020 has been tough for us all! A lingering pandemic has affected so many people from all around the world.

Not only has it taken loved ones from us or someone we know, it has also effected fishing a number of times since the start of 2020.

The winter of 2020 will always be remembered as the quietest family Christmas and one of the coldest in years gone by.

The last 9 months has been hard to get any prolonged sessions on the bank due to me becoming a home schooling teacher dad, full time cleaner and chef and attending work when I had the chance.

Getting out and trying to and target individual

fish was not an option! It was time to rethink and find an equal balance between family life and my love of fishing. I was lucky enough to secure a season ticket on a local lake for the 2020 season and I have now extended into 2021.

This is a very small water and does not have anything big residing in the depths, but the sheer beauty of it and the nature that inhabit the surrounding woods is truly breathtaking and is close to home which enables me to carry on fishing whilst following any Covid – 19 rules.

I managed to catch some really nice scaly bangers in the summer and was hoping the water would stay switched on

through the winter.

As Christmas arrived so did the weather and it was clear that the carp had no interest in showing or feeding. In fairness to the carp I only recall the lake to be unfrozen for a maximum of 2 days the average day time temp was -1 degrees even I wanted to hide some days more so on the days my daughter insisted we went sledging.

The weather predicted further snow with





temperatures falling below 0 degrees this meant it was time to prepare for 2021 in the warmth of my living room and a roaring fire. Rig and bait preparation in winter is crucial to enjoying the season ahead with a clean and organised rig box / pouch and glugged baits to enhance the pulling power is without doubt a big edge on achieving your target fish.

Myself and my daughter (also a member) were still

popping over the lake most days to check on the ice situation and to litter pick.

When the lakes freeze and the surrounding woodland has emptied of the summer leaves it's a great time to gain access to retrieve any discarded rubbish that the modern day angler believe is ok to throw into nature.

On many occasions a fellow angler and friend of mine John would pop over to lend a hand with cutting any fallen trees

and clearing margin swims of weed. Whilst supping on a hot cup of Yorkshire tea (The best tea) we would often discuss how we were going to target the carp when the ice had dissipated.

## **Middle of February 2021**

The ice was gone and a 17mph southerly wind was blowing it was looking prime for the fish to start waking from their winter hideaways.

I grabbed my deeper and decided to have a cast around to see what was happening below the water's surface.

I know there is a lot of debate on the deeper and some even call this a form of cheating! In winter months I personally believe this is the best edge you





could have when nothing is showing and there is no other way of knowing where the carp are laid up the deeper will defiantly change your train of thought when you see the images on the sonar.

On casting the deeper out three or four times it was clear to see the carp were still firmly laid up in the weed beds and not on the bottom of the lake bed but sitting at around midwater or below.

This information told me I needed to be fishing a PVA bag or chod rigs which I decided to opt for both options giving me the best chance possible.

On reaching home I gave John a call to update him on my findings as we were due to be fishing the lake early the next morning.

The next morning I was the first to reach the lake and set up in the targeted spots only

fishing 20 yards out as that is where my deeper findings told me the carp were nestled.

John arrived not long after and had set up in the swim next to me.

He had cast one rod at around the same distance as my location and was preparing his second rod attaching a 12mm cream cajouser pop up.

Whilst watching the water for any movement or signs of





carp on the opposite side of the lake a carp came clean out of the water around 6 times, I walked to John's swim and said "that was a common it must have been clearing the winter leaches off and clearing its gills get a bait thrown over there" which John was quick to react and fired his 12mm cajouser bait 10ft to the right of where the fish showed.

Before he could get the rod on the rest and the bobbing attached much to his disbelief the rod started to pull round.

Unsure if it was a take or there was some other explanation soon became clear halfway across the lake with a gentle kick on the rod tip.

Soon the fish was in netting distance and as I scooped the fish into the net both of us were stunned to see

it was the exact fish I had seen half a dozen times just moments before.

No other fish were caught or seen on the day! It really shows the importance of casting or moving onto showing fish at this time of year as they are only starting to become more active but are also very hungry.

*Lee*





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Starting on a New Syndicate  
By Rob Gainer



I started on a new syndicate back in October 2020. It was a brand new lake called "The Res" that had opened the month before and only allowed fifteen members, with it being only twenty minutes from my house it was ideal for me whilst working from home to go down on my dinner breaks to pre-bait and keep an eye on the water, to see if I could locate any fish before actually going to fish the lake. With the plan to try and do one or two overnights a week and pre-bait in between these sessions.

The lake itself is only relatively small, roughly two acres in size, with a stock of around a hundred fish. I believe there are roughly fifteen older carp that have been stocked from another lake which are classed

as the originals and the rest of the stock is made up of young fast-growing carp that were stocked in 2018 at 1-2lb. With there being only six pegs on the lake, three along the car park bank and three opposite leaving two non-fishing banks, I thought I would struggle to maybe get something going in a peg as all fifteen members may be fishing it hard with it being a new lake. As it turned out after spending a few weeks down at the lake not fishing, and talking to other members on social media, it quickly

became apparent there were only three or four of us actually fishing it at the time with the rest of the members not bothering yet.

Knowing that there was only going to be three of four members fishing it regularly and there being six pegs on the lake I wanted to try and get some spots going in a peg I would be able to always get back into should I start catching so I had to think of a plan. The three pegs along the car park bank had all been completed. They had been properly dug out with steps, boards





and had all been wood chipped making them relatively comfy pegs to fish from. However, the opposite banks pegs were still just steep mud slopes up to the pegs and only two of them had been wood chipped making the corner peg known as "Snags" a mud bath and not very appealing. This was where I was going to set my stall out and campaign the water from this peg in

the hope that the other members wouldn't want to bivvy up in thick mud and clay and I could hopefully get something going.

The lake is relatively featureless apart from a row of snags along the margin of one of the non-fishing banks. The average depth is 15ft with not much variation and then pretty steep margins. I decided to pick three

spots along the snaggy margin as close as I could safely fish them, fishing on the actual slope of the margin using 5-6oz gripper leads. A tactic that has done

me well in the past on other waters. Tactics wise, I was going to present 12mm pop ups on a Ronnie rigs over a mixture of Nutrabaits Trigga dumbbells, with added GLM, black pepper and pineapple, crumbed up with 2mm and 4mm trigga pellets, corn, crushed tigers and a heavy dose of the Trigga liquid booster and Multimino liquid

My first session was planned for the back end of October, so I spent a couple of weeks making sure I was happy with the three spots I had picked and started trickling some bait in. I put roughly 10kg of the usual mix in across the three spots over a couple of weeks leading up to my first night, in the hopes of getting the spots established and getting the fish regularly coming back for a feed.







fish which was subsequently named “The Little Scaley” for obvious reasons which was stocked at 1lb from the stock pond.

all over the lake and seemed very active. First two rods on the spots and before I could get the third one out, the first rod was away. This felt like a much better fish and was holding deep, slowly making its way into the middle of the lake. Slipping it into the net I could tell it was one of the older “original” fish. It turned out to be a fish known as “The Leather” at a new lake record weight of 27lb 1oz, again on a 12mm Pineapple and N-Butyric pop up. The fish continued to show but seemed to be more concentrated in the

24th October came and my first night on the lake. The night time temperatures were still in double figures, but the pressure was through the roof. I arrived after work in the dark and got the three rods on the spots. A very quiet night without so much as a liner or a show on the whole lake, until the sun came up the next morning and just as I was packing away, my middle rod pulled up tight on a 12mm Pineapple and N-Butyric pop up and I was into my first fish. The smallest fish in the lake at just under 10lb but I was off the mark on my first night. A

A week later I was back for another overnighter between work and had managed to get down three times since my last session and had put another 10kg of bait across the three spots, so confidence was high. Again, I arrived in dark, but this night was completely different from my last, fish were showing





middle of the lake. So, I quickly repositioned my right hand rod, casting a single 16mm Pineapple and Banana pop up to the area they had been showing. I didn't even have time to clip the bobbin on before the rod was away in my hand. Unfortunately, I lost it to a hook pull half at the net. I got the rod back out in the general area and got my head down for the night. Both my snaggy margin rods produced a fish each through the night, a 15lb 8oz mirror

and a 15lb 4oz mirror, taking my tally to four fish from two nights.

A couple of days later, I had a spare few hours so decided to go put some more bait in. As I arrived, I saw a fish bosh out over one of my spots so thought it was worth a go for a couple of hours. An hour later and I had my 5th fish being a very fast growing young stockie at 18lb 4oz on the left hand rod to the snaggy margin again. A few more days after the upper double I was

back for my 3rd night and managed another mid double mirror falling to the same left-hand rod spot. The fish were definitely on my spots and having it. It only felt a matter of time before another one of the older original fish slipped up.

We were now into the second week of November and I was into a routine of doing Tuesday and Friday nights when possible, then baiting up Wednesday and Sunday to keep a







steady flow of bait going in on my spots. I wasn't piling it in, just small amounts little and often to keep them grubbing about and visiting the spots.

Again, rocking up to the lake after work in the dark with my confidence high, yet to have a blank session, unfortunately, I was greeted by two other members fishing and yes you guessed it one was in the peg I had been doing all my fish from and his

mate was next to him. Debating whether it was worth even setting up or just turning around and coming back another night I decided to set up in the swim opposite "Snags" known as "Inlet". It was the closest I could get to my spots from the pegs that were still free. I still had the snaggy margin to fish to along the non-fishing bank but obviously I hadn't been trickling any bait in this side of the lake. Same tactics were adopted, and

the three rods went out along the marginal shelf with 5oz gripper leads. To my surprise the middle rod was away around 8pm but it had snagged me somewhere along the margin. Life jacket on and into the rowing boat I went. After a quick battle with some branches, I found my hook buried into an underwater branch, the fish had come off but at least it wasn't tethered to a snag and had come free with no harm done. Thinking I had ruined my chances by going out in the boat, I didn't even bother putting the rod back out. At 2am I was awoken to a few beeps on the left-hand rod, looking out I could see it had dropped back. I hit into the rod and again, it was snagged in the margin along the non-fishing bank. Back into the boat with the life jacket on and rod in hand I spent what felt



about an hour in the freezing cold trying to untangle my line around what seemed to be every branch in the lake. To my shock, the fish was still on and just as I touched my leader it shot out into the open water quickly towing me behind it in the boat. After an epic boat battle, I slipped the net under what looked like another chunk. Returning to the bank and getting it out on the mat it turned out to be another older fish known as "Lockdown" at a new top weight and another lake record at 28lb 6oz. I was over the moon, what a result!

A couple of days later I was back down and decided to go heavier than usual on my spots putting in 5kg the day before I was going down to do my next night. The next day and driving down the lake in the dark I was

praying that my peg was free. Sure enough, the lake was empty. Rods quickly out and less than an hour had passed before the usual left-hand rod spot was away. Again, it felt like a really good fish slowly plodding open water. Then up popped "The Leather" again, my first recapture. The rest of the night was uneventful.

Getting to the end of November and the temperatures were still relatively mild for the time of year, and I was still yet to have a blank, so I upped

the pre baiting on the spots, keeping the mix the same though. 20th November and coming into my 7th night. Big winds, low pressure and mild it felt like I was on for a few fish. It took a bit longer than I expected but just before first light I had two bites in quick succession on the left and middle rods. At this stage the right-hand spot was still to do its first bite. The first of the brace being another young fish at 16lb 12oz but the second one being one of my targets and another original. A fish







known as “The Linear” down in weight at 23lb 6oz but what a fish! Ten fish in seven nights, the tactics and pre baiting were definitely working.

I then finished off the final week in November with my first two blanks since joining the syndicate with just one hook pull to show for me efforts. The temperatures had started to drop, and you could definitely feel it on a night. I then made the conscious decision to ease off on the quantity I was putting in between sessions. I was still

going down every other day to bait up just to keep that regular introduction of bait on the spots though.

First week into December now and my number of nights had caught up to the amount of fish I had caught. I arrived at the lake for my 10th night, rods out on the usual spots and bang on midnight the left-hand rod was away yet again. Another slow plodding battle and I thought I may have recaptured one of the two big mirrors again, but once on the unhooking mat it turned out to be a fish known as “Pelvis” at 22lb 14oz. One of the nicest looking fish I had caught so far and definitely a banger

as people would say. This was shortly followed by other low double stockie on the same rod. Little did I know that would be my last fish from the syndicate for the year, having another 3 blank sessions before the year ended.

Around came 2021, but unfortunately so did the very cold weather, and my first 48-hour session that I had planned for the 1st January was a no go as the lake had frozen solid. Along came another lock down due to Covid which meant no night fishing and it wasn't until mid-January before I was able to start getting a bit of bait in again, however the quantity had massively dropped now thinking they may have completely shut up shop for winter. With majority of my fishing being overnights between



work I don't get much time to do day session fishing so my time on the bank was now limited.

I managed to get out one afternoon towards the end of January, but with the lake not doing a fish since the 6th December I didn't have much hope of catching. As I said, I'd still kept the bait going in when I could, but this now simply consisted of 2mm Trigga pellet, corn and crumbed Trigga boilie with the matching Trigga Liquid booster. To my surprise, my right-hand rod was away after a couple of hours, my first bite from that spot,

and I managed to land a lovely low double scaley stockie just as the light was fading. The first fish of the year from the lake and the last session I have managed to do on there not being able to fish nights.

Since joining the syndicate, I made the meticulous effort to record all my information about the lake and how I was approaching. This included times, dates and weights of fish along with the temperature and air pressure to see if I could find a pattern or any feeding spells. I also noted how often

I visited the lake and how much bait I was introducing, as to make sure I was not overdoing it. Over the three-month

period leading up to the end of the year before the lake froze solid, I had ended up putting a total of roughly 90kg of bait across the three spots. All three spots are roughly 20 yards apart and all in the same depth of water and have seen even amounts of bait when baiting up. Fishing the same 12mm Pineapple and N-Butyric pop ups on all rods it was interesting that my first three carp all came to the middle rod, then apart from the session when I was in the opposite peg, my next seven out of eight carp came to my left hand rod, with the 8th being on the middle rod again, and it wasn't until my last fish did I manage a bite off the right hand spot.

Until next time...

Rob.







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**Application and Confidence  
by Andrew Grenfell.**



There can be few sights that fill you with as much confidence and anticipation in carp fishing, as watching a large carp tilt up over your baited spot and start to truffle on your free offerings, and you know that your hook bait is only inches away.

This for me is one of the most important parts of carp fishing. Location will always be the biggest piece of the jigsaw, you cannot catch what isn't in front of you, but once you've found them, you need something that they want to eat.

If they don't want to eat it, you won't catch them.

Carp are like many animals in that they are programmed to feed because they are hungry, it is a living requirement, and so through evolution they have learned to identify

the requirements that they need in their diet, from their environment. Unlike humans they don't need their five a day however they do have nutritional requirements, for growth, spawning and other things. They are masters of their environment which means they can identify and pick out dietary requirements from their surrounds. This is where good quality food sources will come into play, and also why despite even the greatest bait advances, carp are still programmed to

gorge on a natural food larder of blood worm and other food sources when they find it, rather than that lovingly rolled yellow pop up on the end of your line.

Having a good quality food bait packed with the nutritional requirements needed, dependent on the time of the year is vital for consistent reliable results through the season. This is the next piece of the puzzle.

Carp are inquisitive creatures and will pick a bait up out of







curiosity, or because it smells attractive. This is why high attract bright pop ups and zigs work.

These methods can be deadly however they come with their own issues and let's be honest no carp ever got big from zigs or pop ups.

As anglers it's our duty to ensure fish welfare and safety.

A good quality bait doesn't only help the carp it helps the angler. If a bait tastes good and gives them what they need the carp will continue to eat it. If they can digest it easily, they will obviously eat more of

it, something vital in winter, when their metabolism is much slower due to the colder temperatures, and if they

feel good from eating it, they will actively search it out.

How many of us, have sat watching as a carp bulldoze the lakebed with its nose looking for every last morsel. And this brings me to the last piece of the puzzle, confidence! Confidence for me is built on knowing what I'm using is of the highest quality, has a track record of bringing fish to the bank and that it is subtly different from all the other very similar baits on the market.

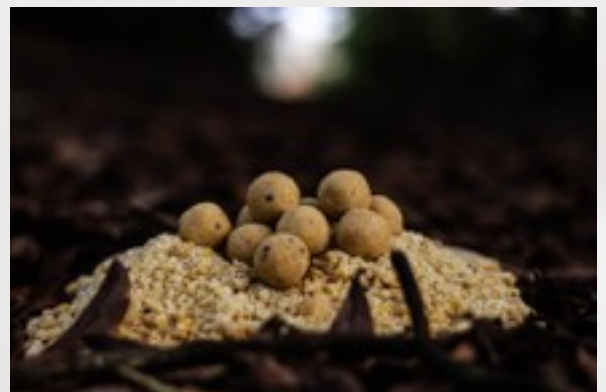
After that it's a case of picking the right rig for what you're faced with. I'm

a massive advocate of keeping it simple. Locating fish, top quality bait and confidence are the three key areas I have meticulously worked on over the years. The more dialled in I got on each of these the more benefits I reaped.

I've been with DT baits for over 20 years now. What lead me to DT?

The truth be told I took a punt on it. Having spoken to Neil Messenger I liked the description of the baits and was attracted to the list of quality ingredients that went into them.

They say the proof is in the pudding, well in this case it was in the bait.





I would have been 13 the first time I was handed a bag of DT, I still remember it now. Neil came down to visit my brother and I whilst fishing.

He kindly bought us down a couple of bags of Pukka Fish oily chicken, and a glugged pot of pop ups. The smell was like that of really strong roast chicken crisps I remember thinking. With our new baits attached the first rod was dispatched, and soon after a 17lb common laid in the folds of the net. My brother also managed a small ghostie. That was it for us we were sold. We used the Oily chicken for several years after that before turning to the cold water green beast one winter. This is a specialised winterised bait and as my knowledge grew so did my understanding of

the importance of bait application depending on the season. We spent many winter sessions simply using CWGB straight out the bag, locating the fish and catching them in quick succession. This alone, made a massive difference to my angling ability, as I removed so many doubts and variables.

In 2009, I will admit to moving to another bait brand, on joining a new syndicate, when I was looking to catch my first thirty pounder. Due to the fact it was a

young water and given that my brother was able to source some cheaper bait (helpful as I hadn't long left uni) We moved away from DT. The fish were being fed on this particular bait, so it stood to reason, they would readily accept it as natural food or so I thought.

The first season, with the limited time fishing, I caught, a new PB. My confidence was high going into the second season with equally high expectations.







I battled away the first part of that season. working hard at my angling, before a dodgy appendix cut my summer / autumn campaign very short. Needless to say, I hadn't had the results I had hoped for.

The start of 2010 saw DT launch a new bait which got my attention the N-Blend. A creamy, tiger nut based bait, which if tasted, (yes I ate one) reminded me of a snickers without the chocolate. My mate Dave was kind enough to provide

me my first 10kg, and remembering how successful, I had been on DT's baits in the past I thought, why not. I needed an edge. The first session on the N-blend saw me have 5 bites, landing 3 including another new personal best, and closer to my goal of a first thirty.

By the autumn I was on fire, catching not only my first thirty at the end of August, but October also saw me land the largest fish in the lake at that time, at 35lb.

In addition, I noticed these fish were passing the bait on the mat when landed. I was simply boilie fishing, no particle, and no glugs. My confidence was soaring.

Having had what I wanted from that lake I was offered the chance at another syndicate. I won't name it for publicity reasons, instead I'll just call it The Pit.

This lake was going to offer a serious step up and a massive challenge, I was left salivating at the prospect. Gin clear, weedy, range fishing, and rock hard.

A couple of friends were both members already, and one was on a near two year blank! I was going to need my wits about me, and confidence was going to be key.



I joined the spring of 2011, and my first session, I fished just three single baits blasted out in conditions I still look back on and grimace over. 60 mph southerlies, and driving rain left me huddling under a brolly soaked to the bone in the first 12hrs, in low temps it wasn't the ideal start. I returned 2 weeks later, with the option of a longer session for my mate Roy's birthday social.

With warmer weather forecast, I figured the fish would be waking up from their docile winter slumber. My thoughts were that they may well have been hungry and on the feed.

With a plan formulated to use a liberal amount of bait, all that was left to do was to locate them.

The first night was quiet, and I saw nothing, fishing into a small bay. I remained hopeful the shallows would offer me a chance.

Early the next morning fish were showing out towards the middle, well out of my casting range.

With the wind pushing in further along the bank I figured a move might be on the cards. The swim that was receiving the best of the wind became vacant later that day, so I upped sticks and moved.

A spot was located and lightly baited to start with I was fishing for a bite by that point. However, the fish were still showing at long range. I sat

watching the water for an answer to the problem I was faced with when I spotted one show much closer, my prayers had been answered. This time it was within range at around the 95 -100 yards.

Having stolen my mates marker rod, I gave it the heave ho before popping the marker float up near to where I'd seen the fish show. I then utilised my marker rod to work out what was out there. It appeared to consist of a band of weed growing along the back of a bar, which as it ran at angle towards me gave me a shallow





sandy slope with depths of 5ft sloping down to 9ft. It had smooth silt at its base, before the weed curled round the other side. It was the perfect spot to present some bait on. With my rods clipped up to the required distance they were placed on the spot I'd found,

I opted for three small snowman rigs utilising a simple knotless knot woven around wide gape hooks. Connected to those were 15mm N-Blend bottom baits straight out the bag, with a pink 10mm Damson and Butyric pop up on top as a small site stop. All three rigs landed with cracking donks. It was now dusk and for the following hour I stood throwing stick in hand

depositing around 4kg of N-Blend to the spot. As an added tweak I lightly glazed the baits in hazelnut oil, to stop them splitting as they left the stick. This also has the added bonus of creating a flats pot when the fish started to feed.

I was confident the fish would do so, and the result was almost instant.

In the early hours of the next morning, I had a slow take steadily building in speed.

I found myself playing the fish in the last of the nights moonlight. It felt like a heavy and slow fish.

I begged and prayed it would stay on this was a good fish. The fight was pretty uneventful to be fair. It just slowly plodded about staying deep.

Eventually the fight changed slightly, and I began to gain line, bringing the fish through the water layers before a huge head popped up in the





moonlight between my other two lines. Stepping into the water, I lifted the net around it, instantly knowing this was a bit special.

With the net secured, I ran over and woke Roy bouncing around like an excited child at xmas. "ROY WAKE UP I'VE GOT A DONKEY IN THE NET". I excitedly ran back to my swim barefoot

and soaking wet. Roy eventually arrived in my swim, still a bit bleary eyed. He soon came to his senses when he saw what I'd managed to land. Roy helped me with weighing the hulking mass that lay in my weigh sling.

I hadn't only caught my first fish from the lake, but my first UK forty. With the warm orange glow now starting to

spread across the morning sky we rested the fish before taking photos.

On opening the sling, I noticed the ruminants of the boilies she'd passed it was a tapestry of secondhand N-Blend.

With the capture shots taken we sent her on her way. Little did I know what else laid in store for me.





I rebaited the spot that evening, and the night passed quietly.

However, lunchtime the next day yielded another gem, a 32lb beautiful plump linear. That evening I added an upper twenty to my tally.

My suspicions were correct they were clearly on the feed.

The rods were redone on dusk, and more bait applied. The next day it kicked off again seeing me bag a further 3 thirties.

I struggled at times to keep a rod in the water. Sometime later the swans descend on my spot after cottoning on to the potential of a free meal. I watched them up end over my baited area and was overcome by the feeling of dread. The gatecrashers had turned up. This would surely scupper my chances of any more

bites.

I was proven wrong when one of my rods burst into life. It wasn't a pickup from the white feathery mafia it was a proper run.

That resulted in a cracking 43lb mirror adding to the insane tally

Again, that evening I waited until dusk to top up my spot with another 4kg of bait. The seagulls were an absolute menace during the daytime, but their numbers dwindled

on the dying of the light.

Having punched my rods out onto the spot I settled in for the evening. About three hours had passed when I had another run and after a short battle I had another mid thirty in the net! This fish again making a complete mess of my weigh sling and mat passing bait out all over it.

My confidence couldn't have gotten any higher, this was an epic red letter day and a session I'll never forget.





The score at the end of the session with 9 fish in total. They were comprised of 2 twenties, 5 thirties and 2 forties. Now I'll admit I was fortuitous, but it wasn't luck alone that banked me those fish. I still believe that the confidence in my approach learnt on my previous water, and faith in a quality bait made that session possible. The fact I had the confidence in the bait, and belief to go, "that's the spot and

that's what I'll catch on" was key. It meant I focused on the spot and not chopping and changing.

Procrastination can be the demise of many an angler!

The good times didn't end there I went on to catch a further mid forty only the very next trip, a beautiful grey mirror of 44lb, using the same approach, and then the queen of the

pond, in midsummer the following season spawned out at 43lb. She was a fish many told me I would never catch on a boilie. She fell to a kilo of bait widely spread over 3 rods, on a choddie, and again, passed the bait. So that fish was searching that bait out of that I'm certain.

I've never looked back since with regards to bait, and I've been an avid DT user for twenty-two years, barring





that 2 year hiatus. And I wonder how much sooner I'd of caught my first thirty had I never made the brief swap away from DT. Anyone who knows me will tell you the N-blend is still my go too, everywhere I go, home and abroad, and have taken fish over 40lb from all over. Such is the quality of the baits in the range, I have diversified slightly, and do use some of the other baits in their range, notably the Pukka Fish Peach and sour cream, a nice robin red fish meal great in the summer months, the Supa Fruit,

and of course still the Coldwater and Green Beast in winter.

I have the utmost confidence to pick up any bag, go to a water and put it in front of a carp, confident they will eat it. The reason I use the four baits is purely seasonal. The N blend is a beautiful all-rounder, but at certain times, mixing in a little or swapping to another of the options has helped put extra fish on the bank.

My latest strategy is the fishmeals in the build up to and post

spawning and the CWGB in winter, purely for digestibility.

Whatever you're confident in, be it fish meals, bird food, milk protein based baits, the key is confidence. Once you locate them, they will eat what you put in front of them. I know with DT there is a bait, and range of liquids to match, with the quality to ensure I have that every trip and as I write this I have a kilo of N Blend and Supa fruit both soaking in their matching DNA liquids. The rigs are tied so tomorrow all I need do is find them and let the bait do the rest.

Be lucky and tight lines.







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# **The River Carp Campaign**

by Dean Kozlowski





At the end of 2019 I was filled with excitement for the new season ahead and had begun making plans to fish day ticket waters up and down the country in search of PB's. New year came and plans were made. but then Covid struck and brought with it lockdown. Stuck in the house or garden with no real prospect of fishing for a while. It wasn't so bad, I spent plenty of time with the family and dug a koi pond in the garden.

Lockdown was lifted and my plans were still intact. I headed to my local club lake to wet a line and get a bend in the rod.

upon arrival something wasn't quite right, both car parks full and anglers doubled up in single swims. It was as though everyman and his dog had become a carp angler. With all the day ticket waters either full or fully booked needed a new plan...

Feeling like I still wanted a challenge and a campaign to get my teeth into I decided to target the carp in the river Trent.

The Trent was one of the first places I had ever fished when I was around seven years old with my dad. It held several PB's for me which included a 27lb pike and more recently a 30.8lb mirror.

With the Trent also being a stones throw away from my house it was an ideal place to start a baiting and a pre-baiting campaign.

It was the beginning of May and I targeted a couple of areas which were known to hold carp and some decent barbel just below a weir pool.

I began prebaiting with the River Plus pellets from Nutrabaits and anything else I had in the garage. I did this twice a week all through May and into June.

June the 16th came, and the river season started as it always seems to, raining and flooded. None the less I headed to the spot I'd been baiting only to be greeted by three bivvies. WHAT A DISASTER.

Downhearted but not defeated I walked over to ask if they'd had anything. "Not a sniff" was the response I got, and they all remarked how the water was rising and they were packing up before doing their first night.

Great I thought as I headed home making plans to return the next night.

My next visit was much more successful, and I began to set up





were I'd been baiting. A couple more scoops of River Plus pellets and rigs tied with River Plus and Chilli Crab and I was ready. I sat back to admire the beauty of the Trent in the summer with a couple of beers and a BBQ.

The night passed by pretty uneventfully with only a small bream to show for my efforts. The alarm on my phone went off at 4am and I lay there for a while and watched as the international space station flew over.

I mustered the energy to get out of bed and make a brew and sat there wondering why a previously prolific area had been so void of life. Otters maybe...?

An hour or so passed then all of a sudden, my left rod screamed

into life. It had to be a barbel it was just too quick! I lifted into it and knew it was a good fish. It felt extremely heavy and ploddy in the current, but I was still convinced it was a big barbel. That was until it hit the spreader block of my landing net. They'd found my bait! It was a chunky mirror of 20lbs, and a phone call was made to my dad to come and take some pictures. With photos and videos done off it went to make another angler just as happy as I was.

After that the rods stayed motionless and I had a feeling that the swim was spooked. I was already planning to come back super early in the morning for bite time. A couple more scoops of pellets on the spot and off home I went.





Arriving back at the spot early the next morning I cast two rods out which were prepared the night before.

It couldn't have been more than 20 minutes and I had another Trent carp resting in the sling. This one was a bit smaller around 15-17lbs but another pristine mirror all the same.

A few hours passed and I decided to start packing away as it was my daughters birthday party. I didn't want to get a thick ear for being

late!

As I was packing up a Romanian lorry driver came over with a spinning rod and began to talk to me in broken English and German (strangely). He found it odd that we don't eat the carp we catch.

Just as we were laughing about this my right hand rod melted off. This fish was going mental and the fight it put up was unbelievable. I was gobsmacked when it got to the net and I could see it was a small old common of about eight pounds. I thought it would have been much bigger.

The Romanian guy took some pictures on his phone, congratulated me and went off on his way.

I packed up and got home for the party excited and confident for my next trip.

Furlough ended and I was called back to work. Sessions would now have to be whenever I could fit them in. I continued to pre-bait and return most weekends, but it was blank after blank after blank.

Until one Thursday night!







Thank god for braid.

Almost at the net I put my head torch on and saw it was a massive barbel! a PB of over 14 lbs in fact. Once on the bank it was business as usual. Photos and video done and after a bit of admiration and rest in the net off she went.

I'd finished work, got home, had my tea and did the family thing for a while before heading back to the river for the night. This time I set up a couple of hundred yards downstream from where I'd been baiting, I just wasn't feeling my usual spot.

Rod cast on to a shallow slack I sat back in the tempest and watched as the bats had started to almost skim the water and the resident barn owl show itself.

Just as I'd started to nod off one of my rods, I can't remember which, absolutely screamed off. By the time I scrambled down the bank to my fizzing reel the fish was at least 80 yards downstream. This thing was moving!

On retrieval this thing weeded me up multiple times and headed for just about every rock and snag it could find hoping to cut me off.

Rod recast back on the spot and back to bed I went. Not an hour passed, and a rod rattled off. This time the fight was much slower and as it hit the light of my head torch, I saw it was another good mirror. The landing net sunk and slid towards my prize then everything went still and quiet.

It had come off. DEVASTATED!!

Rods recast again and off to bed I went once more swearing and cursing myself as I pulled the sleeping bag over my head. I lay wide awake full of adrenaline and disappointment. Not ideal as I had to be up for work at 5am and it was already 1am.

It started to get light and as sleeping was useless I started to pack away. The Tempest had only just been folded when my left Delkim began to sing. Fish on!



Another Trent barbel on the end. As I was bringing the spirited fish in the righthand rod ripped off with yet another barbel. A double barbel hook up is no fun as they just want to keep running!

After a quick stab with the net the first one was in.

By the time I lifted the other rod it had taken over 100 yards of line toward the bridge. A few seconds later and I would have been in real trouble but luckily, I brought it back with no real issues. This was my first ever double barbel hook up and a bit of a red letter session. It's all testament to the River Plus range from Nutrabaits.

After that night the Trent was battered by floods then draught then more floods and then even more Covid restrictions.

It was a good couple of months before I had another bite. Randomly this was a gnarly looking old pike that had taken a liking to my Chilli Crab waffer and was hooked fairly and squarely in the scissors.

As the colder months started to arrive and Autumn came and went it seemed the Trent had taken a battering from the on and off weather and decided to have a break.

A couple more small barbel were caught in the sessions that

remained. These were nothing to write home about and certainly not the double figures I'd been used to. As for the carp, a complete no show!

Winter came and brought with it the New Year and yet even more restrictions. This leads us to where we are today.

No night fishing and my local club taking it upon themselves to ban even days only for their river stretches. With only a month remaining of the season it's not looking good.

So, I guess that's it, my river campaign over. Was it a success? Absolutely! I mean I'm sure lots of people caught way more and bigger than I did, but I'd had the best time. For the most part forgetting all about Covid in the solitude of the river was a much needed break. So, with the river season almost over what's next?

Well, I'm about to join a new syndicate in Derbyshire which I can't wait to get my teeth into. Especially with the new CO-DE bait range from Nutrabaits. If you've read this far, I want to say thank you for your time! Also, a huge thank you to Nutrabaits for their continued support and their incredible River Plus range.

Dean Kozlowski





# Reviews

*Featuring -*

Snails Fishing Bait -  
PVA Fishing Tackle -  
by Anthony Wood





  
Powdered Snail Meat  
250g Pack

  
Powdered Snail Shells  
250g Pack

  
Crushed Snail Shells  
250g Pack

  
14mm Snail Boilies

  
18mm Snail Boilies

  
Dehydrated  
Chopped Snail Meat  
250g Pack

**Snails Fishing Baits  
By Anthony Wood**



A while ago now I found a company called Dorset Snails who I actually found because I was looking for a company to supply some good quality Escargot and they had been given a lot of good reviews.

I'd looked over their website and all was good so I ordered some. Whilst waiting for it to arrive I was being nosey at their Instagram account when a post appeared saying that they were going to be offering dehydrated food quality snails for fishing purposes.

After a few conversations I had some on the way and couldn't wait to give them a try. During our conversations there were various recipes and ideas discussed as to other things that they could do with the snails and soon crushed snail shell arrived (a superb source of calcium, something that fish need in their diet).

I'm sure I'm not the only angler that they were having discussions with but it was great to see a company grow from a single product to a few products and to see the company take on anglers ideas.

The snails worked very well and I managed to catch some carp, barbel and a couple of catfish. Then life got in the way and with a house move, various changes within my work life and a pandemic, I have to admit that the snails disappeared to the back of my mind.





Looking through my Instagram ([www.instagram.com/anthonywood58](http://www.instagram.com/anthonywood58)) account I saw a story pop up from [www.instagram.com/snails\\_fishing\\_baits](http://www.instagram.com/snails_fishing_baits) which is the fishing bait side of Dorset Snails Ltd and I thought it would be worth a look to see what had been going on.

There were lots of photos of impressive fish that had been caught by anglers and the company had been busy developing new products along the way. Having been asked for advise on possible boilie recipes when I had been previously talking with the company (I have been making boilies since the early 90's and produced books on making them [www.lulu.com/spotlight/AnthonyWood](http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/AnthonyWood)) it was nice to see some boilies appearing in their arsenal of products.

As I was looking through their Instagram account and their new dedicated website [www.snailsfishingbait.co.uk](http://www.snailsfishingbait.co.uk) there was some superb options available powdered snail meat, powdered snail shell, crushed snail shell, chopped dehydrated snail meat, dehydrated snails and snail boilies.

It was great to see all of these products and my mind was already racing with the possibilities of what these could be used for.

There was no doubt in my mind about the quality of these products as they are made from pure human food grade snails that have been raised





in a quality controlled snail farm.

Instead of keeping my ideas to myself I thought I would include them in with my musings and give you some recipes for using the ingredients in various ways that will enhance your fishing and hopefully help you catch some extra fish.

The first recipe is for a simple groundbait but with enough snail to give a potent attraction to your swim. Mix 700g fine breadcrumb, 250g snail meat powder and 250g snail shell powder together to give you a kg of groundbait. Making groundbait up is pretty simple and you want to take as much of your groundbait mix as you feel you need for your session and add a little water at a time until you have a mix that holds together when squeezed in your hand but that crumbles back into a powder when gently rubbed between your fingers and thumb.

The second recipe is for a stick mix and includes the groundbait that you have previously made above. A stick mix is a blend of ingredients designed to be put into a pva mesh to create a small amount of attraction right next to your hook bait bringing the fish right to your baited hook. To make the stick mix you want to mix together 300g snail groundbait, 50g crushed chopped snail meat, 50g crushed snail shell.





If you notice there are some bigger pieces in this mix as we want the fish digging around for food right around your hook bait giving you more chance to get your bait taken. Now instead of water to get the same consistency as your wet groundbait (water will dissolve the pva) you want to use hemp oil. When creating a pva stick I like to usually make one around the size of a golf ball but it is all personal preference.

There are lots of other things you can do with these ingredients but one thing is for sure, you aren't going to find higher quality than ingredients made directly from human food grade snails and that isn't watered down with bulking ingredients!!

This is a company to definitely keep an eye on as I think once people realise the quality of these products and the natural fish pulling power, the company is going to go from strength to strength.

As a last thought from me, snails, especially dehydrated ones soak up flavourings and additives making them even more attractive to the fish. The thought I had which was actually for my sea fishing was I wonder how a cocktail of flavoured snails would work?





**PVA ATTRACT-A-BALL**

**Fillable PVA Balls**

**Precise Liquid Placement**

**Natural Salty Flavour**

**17mm**

**Always replace Lid**

**25 per Pack**

**[www.prestonpva.com](http://www.prestonpva.com)**



**PVA Fishing Tackle**  
**By Anthony Wood**



A few years back now I came across a company called PVA Fishing Tackle and after a little digging, I found they were a division of a much larger company (PVOH Polymers) who specialise in bespoke polymer development and manufacture of bio and water-soluble polymers and work within the pharmaceutical, MOD chemical defence and household cleaning products industry (so already you can tell they aren't just another PVA mesh manufacturer).

What peaked my initial interest was that it was a totally different PVA product to anything I'd seen before. The product was a PVA capsule but what made it even more unusual was that it can be used with all types of liquids and particles – they don't have to be PVA friendly!!

Their product is made from a unique and well researched formula and 50% of the material is made from salt (try licking one before you fill it and you will soon taste the salt – you can still use it after you've licked it as well!!) which is a well known fish attractant.







I found that there were three main capsules which were a plain white one, a green one for using in weedy areas and even a reddish chilli infused one to give a bit of spice to your baited area. There are also a range of flavourings and accelerators to help enhance and speed up the melting times of the capsules.

You will notice thinner veins throughout the capsule, these are designed to dissolve quicker than the other pieces releasing flavours quicker. However, they are also designed so that you can cut them to your requirements allowing you to experiment and accurately control the release of the contents but also the decent of the capsule itself. So, if you have a soft lake bottom you can actually feather the capsule down so it doesn't sink into the bottom or if you hook into the thinner vein it releases the hook quicker – clever or what!!

The make up of the capsule means that you get a constant salt release as the capsule dissolves improving your baited area all the time. Regarding timings, the thinner veins will dissolve in around 2-3 minutes releasing



the smaller particles within (and your hook and hookbait if you hooked it into a vein) whilst keeping the larger particles in place a little longer. After 4 minutes the whole capsule has become pliable enough that it can actually become a source of attraction for the fish and they will be able to nibble on the capsule grabbing some salt as they nibble. The overall complete dissolving of the capsule can take up to 20 minutes as they aren't designed to be quick dissolve although you can speed the dissolve time up with their accelerator liquids.

Now believe it or not the capsule wasn't actually the product that I wanted to talk about!! I recently discovered that the company had released a ball version of the capsule but why was I attracted to that product after all surely the capsules already did an amazing job?

Well yes, the capsules are one of the best PVA inventions I've seen in the fishing industry in a long time BUT... These PVA Attract-A-Balls just brought a whole new range of ideas to my head and the way that I fish. I love to fish with minimal baiting up and much prefer a stalking style approach with a single hook bait carefully placed in likely looking spots where I can ambush the fish.

The PVA Attract-A-Balls from PVA Fishing Tackle are yet again a totally unique innovation to the fishing industry. Available as a 17mm ball these Attract-A-Balls are made with the same patented technology as the capsules yet offer a whole new range of ways to present attractors and bait.

So why am I so excited about these Attract-A-Balls?





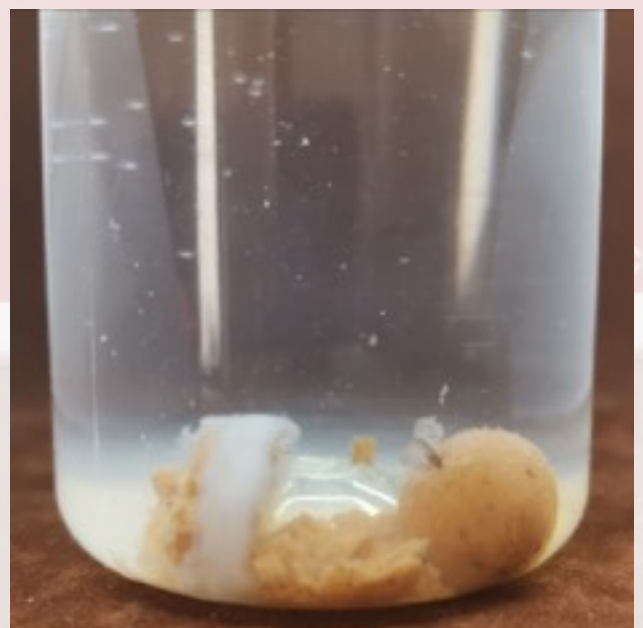
There are all sorts of new possibilities with these Attract-A-Balls from creating a snowman rig with a 20mm bottom bait, a 15mm pop up with a 17mm Attract-A-Ball placed around the pop up and liquid attractant injected into the Attract-A-Ball, some artificial (or real) corn pieces with an Attract-A-Ball placed around them with hemp or liquid inside it through to a paste ball encased in an Attract-A-Ball with some added attractors/ flavours injected into it for that extra boost. Why not try a naturals approach? Double maggot on the hook and then fill an Attract-A-Ball with maggots and allow a slow release around your hook.

Testing the Attract-A-Balls in some water I found that in really cold water they took up to 45 minutes to melt without the liquid to speed up the melt down so in cold weather you are definitely going to need the speed up liquid!! Under normal temperature the Attract-A-Ball does melt roughly within the 20 minutes they state some melted in 18 minutes some melted in 23 minutes so the 20 minutes is about average.

PVA Fishing Tackle have said from the start that their system isn't a quick bait system. The PVA capsules and Attract-A-Balls are designed to allow you to use any liquids or particles of bait that you want to use. As the patented recipe starts to melt in the water it releases salt into the water surrounding your hook bait making an attraction on its own. Once the PVA system has melted enough to create small holes it will release any attractors or liquids that you added or injected in to the capsule or ball. Then the final stage is completely dissolved capsule or ball with your bait and a superb attraction ring around your bait.

There really are all sorts of possibilities with this superb innovation.

[www.pvafishingtackle.com](http://www.pvafishingtackle.com)







# Catch Reports

*Featuring -*

Brooms Cross Fishery

D.T. Baits

Nutrabaits

Plus all of your catches !!!



# Charlotte Gladdis



Charlotte Gladdis reports in with her first fish of 2021, and it's a stunning 29lb beauty.

## Christopher Carpenter



**Cornwall -  
Trewandra Farm  
Lakes  
Fishing a multi-  
rig using a size  
4 Viper tackle  
wide gape SPT  
hook and a single  
Munch baits  
cream seed pop  
up, resulted in  
landing one of  
the lakes largest  
residents at 25lb  
13oz.**



## Will Le-strange



Winter banger tipped the scales to 17lb 2 ounces. Really strange looking carp but what a way to end a warm winters day session, Mainline Baits high visual yellow pop ups fished on a simple German rig tied with Thinking Anglers components done the do



## Nigel Hegarty

Fishing sub zero temperatures with ice starting on the lake didn't have nothing all morning and my missus brought my 3 year old daughter down to say hello and had 2 in 10 mins a 21lb common and 12lb mirror.





## Billy

I caught this stunning 21 1/2 lb stunning common from my new syndicate. This was my first session on there not knowing any info on the lake. Turning up in -4 degrees my misses said I was mad but was well worth it when this rolled in my net. Baits used was favourite all year round bait the N blend 18 mm bottom bait topped with a 15mm white N blend pop up just shaved down a little to counter balance it Rig of choice a blow back rig on a size 6 kurv shank hook on a stiff 15lb braid to help kick away from lead. Thank you DT BAITS for saving me a blank hopefully a lot more fish to come with the faithful N blend what a bait.



Snow carp success for DT Team member James Radley. Rain wind or shine James has been hitting the bank in target of a particular fish. Although this isn't quite the target yet at 30.4lb caught on a day in minus temperatures and heavy snow he was made up with this one! SUPA fruit being James's bait of choice and you can see why!





Ian Metcalfe has been targeting the notoriously difficult Suffolk water park big lake over the winter months. Those that have fished it will know it doesn't give up its residents easily. As you can imagine Ian was made up when he landed this stunning linear at 33lb! The powerhouse bait that is Cold Water Green Beast showing why it really is the best on the market!



Lee Bissett has spent the winter pre baiting certain areas of his syndicate with SUPA fruit and cold water green beast. Having only days to fish Lee knew the importance of taking advantage of the limited time. Fishing one of his pre baited spots he managed a target fish known as 'the Broken Lin' at 33.8!





Mr consistent Nico Pike with a stunning common from a local water. Nico enjoys hand rolling his own hook baits and then giving them a good soaking in our SQUID AND OCTOPUS bait spray. In Nicos words "I'd never leave the house without it when heading to the bank" and you can see why from his recent captures!



Ryan Ross back among the fish again this month with more success from his local syndicate. Ryan has been pre baiting spots and targeting them when heading over for days sessions and it's certainly paying off. This mirror fell to a zinger pop up over a bed of chopped SUPA fruit! At 24.4lb another awesome winter capture!



Brooms Cross  
Fishery  
Long Lane  
Thornton  
Liverpool  
L29 8AA



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Email:  
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gmail.com

## Callum Robb



And another of the A Team hits the bank... Our THIRD different 30 of the year already to see some bank time!! Callum Robb with the second of his brace and it's 'X' at bang on 30lb!



## Chris Kenyon

with a Lower Alt 21lb 8oz mirror from Lower Alt lake.





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broomscrossfishery@  
gmail.com•



## Harry Cottrell

had himself a nice brace, an upper double and then The Mean Eyed Mirror weighing in at 31lb 8oz.

## **\*\*DOUBLE P.B ALERT\*\***



Here it is.. a personal best for John Lynskey and the first time over the magical thirty mark for this carp when John landed Paw Print at 30lb 10oz using D T Baits Supafruit.







**Signorini Mattia - Chilli Crab**



**Phil Baker - 30+ Trigga Ice**





**Lewis Clark - Trigga & Pineapple Trigga**







**Yann Marlot - Pineapple & N-Butyric Pop-Up**



# Le Lees Carp Fishery

## Welcome everyone to LE LEES Carp Fishery.

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Le Lees Carp Fishery

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tight lines and may the carp gods bless you all.

Best wishes

Find us on Facebook for further information.

*Matt, Tracie and Thai.*





*Le Lees Ca*





*rp Fishery*



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# Thankyou for Reading

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

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

*‘The Talking Carp Team’*

Brian Dixon  
Mark Faulkner  
Dave Harnick Snr  
Mark Galli



OUT  
NOW



# THE LINK UP!

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

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The Link™ product is supported by a full range of complementary Pop-ups. Without exception, for those who, of course, like the most effective bait system.