



Issue 66
August 2021



Inside this Month

**Paul Heseltine catches the U.K's Biggest Carp
Mark Wozencroft returns , Talking Point with
Julian Cundiff, Plus Reviews, Catch reports and
much more !!!**



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Hello and welcome.... Issue 66!!

Here we are at issue 66, and we are extremely proud to bring you another fantastic issue, jam packed from cover to cover with all things carp fishing!!

We have another Talking Point with Jules as we discuss fish care and fish safety in this hot weather we seem to be getting.

Mark Wozencroft joins us this month and talks about his time on a very famous carp water, and shares his captures from there... it's a fantastic read.

Paul Heseltine gives us the scoop on capturing the UKs BIGGEST carp recently! It is a beast!!

Plus all the usual suspects.. Scott Geezer Grant continues his quest, Richard Handel begins a new journey, Steve Gilbey returns, James McQueen treats us to another great read and that's just a taste of what is inside... there is so much more!!!

Add to this the reviews, catch reports and other bits and pieces.. we wonder how you have time to read it all!

As always keep the articles, emails, reports and news rolling in at the usual email addresses :-

brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk

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Team Talking Carp

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!!!!!!!**

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Holme Fen Magic



By Paul Heseltine

This was a trip I had been really looking forward to for quite some time, Holme fen is no walk in the park and sees many good anglers off without so much as a sniff, however this type of water really get's my blood pumping especially knowing what monsters lurk below the surface. I arrived with 4 nights ahead of me for this trip and this been my 2nd visit to the water. I come prepared with a bit of knowledge from my last trip. Now to my surprise upon arriving to the lake there was no anglers fishing. I was hoping to talk to a few guys to get some idea of where the fish were held up. The lake had been closed for two weeks for the spawning period and we were the first booking to attend after this closure. So this did not leave me much time to try and locate where the fish was as you can only arrive to the lake 1 hour before the draw takes place for your swims. So a quick lap of the lake it was to be and the fish proved very hard to locate with only a couple of signs to go on!

I did have enough knowledge from my 1st visit to fall back on and also the fact that it was the same time of year when I was there so I had my top five swims to aim for based on this and what signs I did pick up on while walking round. Now the draw could not off gone better for me coming out 1st and getting my 1st choice of swim "The Dugout" this swim had so many options and many features to work with and I just knew at some point I would be covering fish no matter what everyone else was doing around me. So the first thing I did was set about leading the swim and in particularly locating the shallow areas and the deep channels/gullies I had in front of me. It wasn't much of a task really as I confidently found three spots I was more than happy with that offered me the best of a few different scenarios, these spots was mostly based on the weather conditions that was forthcoming for my stay and knowing that last time I was there it was the shallow spots that produced for me however as I mentioned with



the weather having a big part in my decisions the forecast was ideal low pressure, windy, raining and mostly overcast with intermittent sunshine so with this in mind I chose to fish tight to the Island in front of me, this offered shallow water (about 6ft) I knew it was a good patrol route already but did come with complications, the bloody bird life. However, this was something I was willing to put up with. The other two rods were both covering the deeper water and the two channels that was out in front of me, one was covering what I would call the main channel which runs between the dot islands, this was a 100 yards out and was around 16ft deep and the other rod was on the closest channel at 44 yards which

I also estimated to be about 16 to 18ft deep this spot. I was quite excited about as it was a lovely smooth silty gully and I located some bloodworm in it no matter what unfolded and where the fish started showing etc I decided this would be a excellent spot to just sit on “Bait & Wait Tactic”

I decided a good hit of bait would be a good starting point but not on all three spots the Island rod got the most bait around 3kg in total as I knew the tufties would pick a lot of this up. The far channel I baited lightly with only 1kg of bait and the closest channel got about 2kg of bait. The closest channel I knew I was going to be sitting on but that far channel spot I want really 100% made up on this been a spot I would stick to I needed to leave myself some options to react to what I seen happening as the session progressed. The bait mix I put together was based on a few things, one being the bird life and the other been the element of colour “yellow” it was a 50/50 mix of boilie and particle the boilie of



choice was the Nash Scopex Squid in 15mm and the particle consisted of hemp, corn, maize, maples, groats, yellow peas, Red Dari and Black Rapeseed. To finish the mix off I added a good helping of Himalayan rock salt and Scopex Squid syrup. This is a mix I've got huge confidence in and offers a bit of something for most species of fish, sometimes generating activity from other species of fish gets the carps attention. What I would call an active spot "killer tactic" and not

only that the coots and tufties can have their fill of bait and I still be confident that am sitting on a good amount of bait.

As I mentioned yellow just had to be in the mix as well and this was mostly because last time I fished Meadows my bites come to yellow hook baits. The Nash instant attract pineapple crush was my choice of hookbaits for this session.

Think it's worth mentioning that the water is gin clear and there is an abundance of weed between me and the spots I am fishing, mostly Canadian but also silkweed which was full of naturals but more importantly zebra mussels! So I did not mess about on the terminal side of things 20lb line 0.40mm straight





through to a lead clip system and 1 meter of tungsten tubing to keep the business end pinned down. Now not all the spots were completely clear, the island spot was gravel with low-lying weed and a 100 yard cast, the far channel rod was exactly the same and the close channel rod as I mentioned was a silt gully. So I needed a rig that did not tangle on the cast given the distance I was fishing and one that could present over low-lying weed. I opted for the Stiff hinge rig, the plan was to use a semi-stiff boom "Skin Link" to aid in the anti-tangle purposes and not only that it would also reset itself should the birds keep picking me up "which they bloody did". I also had room to manoeuvre

the height in which I fished the pop up by altering the length of the chod section to suit the spot. The island spot and silt spot were popped up 1 inch but the long channel rod was quite a bit more scattered with weed

so this was popped up 2 inches the hook of choice was the Chod Claw in two size's 5 & 6 but as the session went on the size 6 proved to be better for the finicky takes I was getting as they are a fine wire gauge and razor sharp hook, they don't call them the pin points for nothing you know! I used 4 and 5oz leads depending on what the wind was doing depended on the size as hitting 100 yards in a cross wind proved quite tricky at times with the 20lb mono I was using.



So that was it then, spots found, and rigs sorted the baiting up was a bit of a mission though! I had to go down to using the medium spomb just to make life easier punching it out there in a strong cross wind this took me a good 3 hrs to get all the bait out there. I did also spray boilies with the catapult on the short rod. Not much happened for the 1st 24hrs hours but the good weather conditions continued and eventually I started to see the odd fish show in front of me and this filled me with confidence and knew it was only a matter of time. Now this is the point where I started to add a few groundbait balls over each spot the purpose of this was to pull the fish over to my spots. The groundbait balls are just a vehicle for the liquid I am using at the moment, ensuring it gets down over my spots and putting a lot of attraction in the area. Within 30 mins of doing this the Island rod was away “a very twitchy take” and a slow heavy battle saw me land the 1st fish of the session and it was a stunning almost leather





mirror weighing 40lb 12oz the pressure was off “thank god”.

I got the rod straight back out there and topped up with another 12 spombs and three more balls of groundbait there were still the odd fish showing in the zone and the next bite came to the same rod only about 1.5 hrs after the 1st bite. Again, this was a very twitchy take and when I lifted the rod it just felt like a solid weight at first I thought it was a drifting weed bed until it started peeling

off line!

It went on about a 20 yard run and just felt like a right powerhouse, all I could do was just hold on. After this run the fish came in slow and plodding finding every weed bed on its way in! A steady pressure kept the fish moving and am sure that the weed covering its head helped me bring her in nice and easy I could not really see the fish when I netted it due to the amount of weed but when I peeled back the

weed I was absolutely gobsmacked to see what was sitting in my net she was laid sideways and completely filled my 50 inch net it was at this moment my legs went to jelly and the raw emotion set in I knew it was the biggest fish I've ever caught!!!

It was at this point when Clive from the swim next door, had joined me to lend a helping hand... we were both just peering down into the net with sheer disbelief saying that's massive!

It was this moment that really stands out to me as one which I

will never forget, the feeling was like no other. I cannot even begin to put into words how it feels.... just mind blowing!

Clive and I set about weighing the fish, verifying the weight on my scales and his scales. Now I did not really know if it was Marshalls before weighing her but

at **70lb 8oz** it well and truly confirmed it was.

OMG what a moment and what a fish!! It certainly is a fish of a lifetime and a dream which I am





sure we all dream about “The Ultimate Achievement”

After the video footage and pictures had been done, I felt like a complete gibbering wreck but the sun was now starting to set so I needed to get that rod back out there and more bait, another 10 to 12 spombs. It was a long restless night for myself I could not sleep and was basking in the glory of it all My phone was on complete melt down, close friends with all

their well wishes, it just made the whole thing extra special. Anyway the night past and no more bites was forthcoming.

I left the rods until about 3pm the next day then decided to get them all sorted ready for that window that the bites come the day before. The long channel rod got moved to a shallow silt spot that I was tipped off about in the bay to my left the close channel rod just got redone with a fresh hook bait and



a good spray of boilies with the catapult as this rod had just been sitting there since I first put it out there 48hrs ago. The Island rod also got redone with a fresh hookbait and another 12 spombs plus 3 more balls of groundbait. It was like clockwork, the odd fish started to show in the zone and the island rod was away again a slow twitchy take but after about 30 seconds the hook pulled. I was devastated, typical to the last two bites and felt a solid weight!

All I could do was get the rod back out there and top up the bait then boom, again, the same rod was away same bloody time as well. Again another twitchy take and a solid weight on the end 30 seconds later the hook pulled goddammit!!!! From hero to complete zero. This time when I brought the rig back in the lead had not been ejected. Well, I was completely mortified and knew I had blown my chances at this time I was using the size 5 Chod

Claws and a 4oz lead so it was back to the drawing board and a rig tweak was needed I dropped down a size of hook to a size 6 Chod Claw and went up to a 5oz lead a much sharper and finer gauge hook and a bigger lead to drive it home. They certainly knew what they was doing and completely mugged me off I was really cheesed off with myself for not doing this after the first loss but I put it down to just one of them things but it clearly wasn't.

Anyway the rigs was tweaked and back out there, the Island rod was re-baited 12 spombs again and three balls of ground bait but all I could think about was that's it until tomorrow tea time and went to bed feeling quite frustrated with myself!

I awoke quite early the next morning, around 3am, as I just could not settle the first brew of the day was poured and then!!! The Island rod was away the same twitchy take and lifted into a solid weight I was bricking it but the fish had come up to the

surface and I could see the lead had discharged which did calm my nerves a bit and to be honest the fish just come in like a dog on a lead it was only a matter of minutes before it was in the net thank god. This was a real pretty mirror that went 40lb on the dot. I was absolutely made up not only for catching such a lovely fish, but the rig tweak had worked. The rod was straight back out there and re-baited again the same sequence 12 spombs and three balls of groundbait. The day seemed to fly by and the weather conditions was changing, we had a high pressure front moving in and the sky began to clear with some hot weather conditions on the horizon, however it was approaching that time of the evening again where I was expectant of a bite so I recast the Island rod and topped up with 6 spombs of bait. I decided there was no need to touch the other two rods as they had been left alone from the birdlife and indicated no reason for me to touch them. I sat back to enjoy the last evening with high hopes



high hopes of another chance and then out of the blue about 4pm the channel rod was away and this time it was a proper take.

As soon as I lifted into the fish it went on a 40 to 50 yard run and the fight was the best so far... it led me the right merry dance.

After about 15 minutes he was ready for the net, and I slipped a lovely scaly mirror into the net which went 33lb 10oz.

I got the fish sorted and got the rod back out there and topped

up with 6 spombs. I was still thinking to myself "it's still all to play for on the Island rod" with it still being that prime period from the past couple of days, however this was not meant to be.

I think with the change in weather conditions the fish decided otherwise, and it felt totally different as the afternoon went into evening. I did not see anything show out in front of me like I did do these past couple of nights however I knew everything was set and if they did decide to have a munch the traps were set.

I turned in quite early for the night and was a little disappointed come the morning that nothing else had happened but as the saying goes “that’s carp fishing for you”. It was an early pack down for me and the rods reeled in for 10 am. What a session it had been!! Certainly, one I am never going to forget for a few different reasons.

The biggest Mirror in the UK and also my 15th UK 40lber. I am more than delighted with those results as I only switched over to carp fishing in 2009. I am married with 4 children and have always worked full time. I go

fishing once a fortnight with the time that I have and my message to everyone reading this is that anything is possible. The key thing is to put a 100% effort into your fishing and to put yourself onto the right waters. Anyway my challenge for this year is to land Harris from Rosemere, another epic mirror that, at the right time of year, goes just over 60lb! The journey continues.

*The Passion Is
Real.....*

Cast-A-Line Heseltine.....

Name: Paul Heseltine

Age: 37

From: Retford Nottinghamshire

Sponsored: Consultant For Nash Tackle & Bait, Team Manager for Castaway Pva

Occupation: Store/Media Manager for One Stop Fishing Tackle & YouTube Creator

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZVSzb3VjFifsyoMNtaH-xg/videos>

Passion For Big Carp:

https://youtu.be/gc_6bj0orJw?list=PLjM5EO1J8RbeEWTZvK8JoobqgbqNbZCWK

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Size: 3mm

Castaway PVA

Castaway

Slow Mel
Length:



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Castaway

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Talking Point...
with Julian Cundiff

Talking Point...

Carp Care on the bank

with Julian Cundiff

Welcome back Jules, and this month we are going to look at something a little different from the normal chat. This month we are going to talk about carp care on the bank.

Now the reason we are raising this subject is because, during the recent heatwave we have enjoyed, we have been seeing shots of “one in the slammer!” floating slings in the water, or “waiting for the daylight hours for a better pic” nighttime shots, anglers in the bright sunshine of a scorching day holding their prize catches aloft, and so on.

Now we are not saying you shouldn't enjoy the moment, the capture you have worked for, and even take a picture for prosperity...but at this time of year there are some do's and don'ts on how to do this safely, and with as little fuss as possible to the fish in question. So, let's start at the very beginning....

T.C. So here we are Jules, its 4 a.m. the sky is already bright, and the sun is going to be blazing today, but you have a day off work and you're going fishing. The chances are high of getting a carp or two on your local runs water... so what are the tools you make sure you have packed ready for when that moment comes where the carp slides over the cord?

J.C. Cheers Brian and thanks for the invite back. I guess a lot of what I'm about to say is written with thirty five years of experience under my belt and in my early years I absolutely did do things

badly until I learnt better. Heck I still get things wrong now so thank god that compared to pike and eels our quarry the carp is pretty hardy. That said once you do know better there is no excuse to be a **** and when household names and companies do it for quirky, trendy films they need to have a word with themselves. Right let's see what I will have with me....

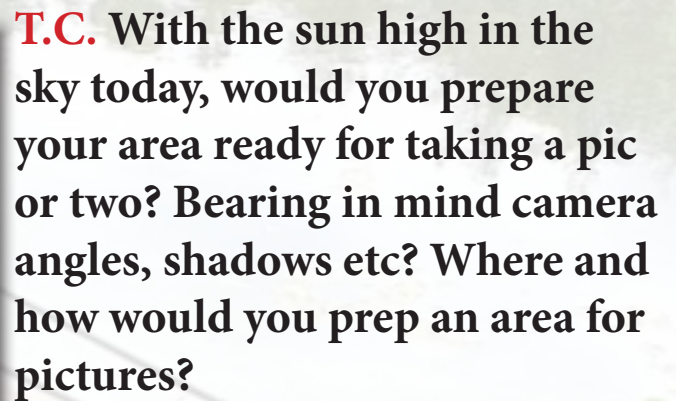
Two landing nets as I have two rods and I'm on fish

Nash Carp Coral (as I'm on my own it needs sides)

Self-timer gear and as there's no monsters the mobile phone will do
Water tub

Scissors, Disgorger, Forceps, Pliers and Wire Snips, Nash Medicare





useless at 9 am. If it's a water I can't change swims, I'm doing an overnighter and less likely to move or winter where bright sun and shadows are less of a problem then maybe.

J.C. A - I guess a lot depends on whether you weigh and photograph every carp but horses for courses. I tend to take pictures but not weigh them unless rules dictate otherwise. I have caught so many carp that I see very little point in weighing every one....21.07 or 22.04? Does that really make a difference unless it's a PB ?

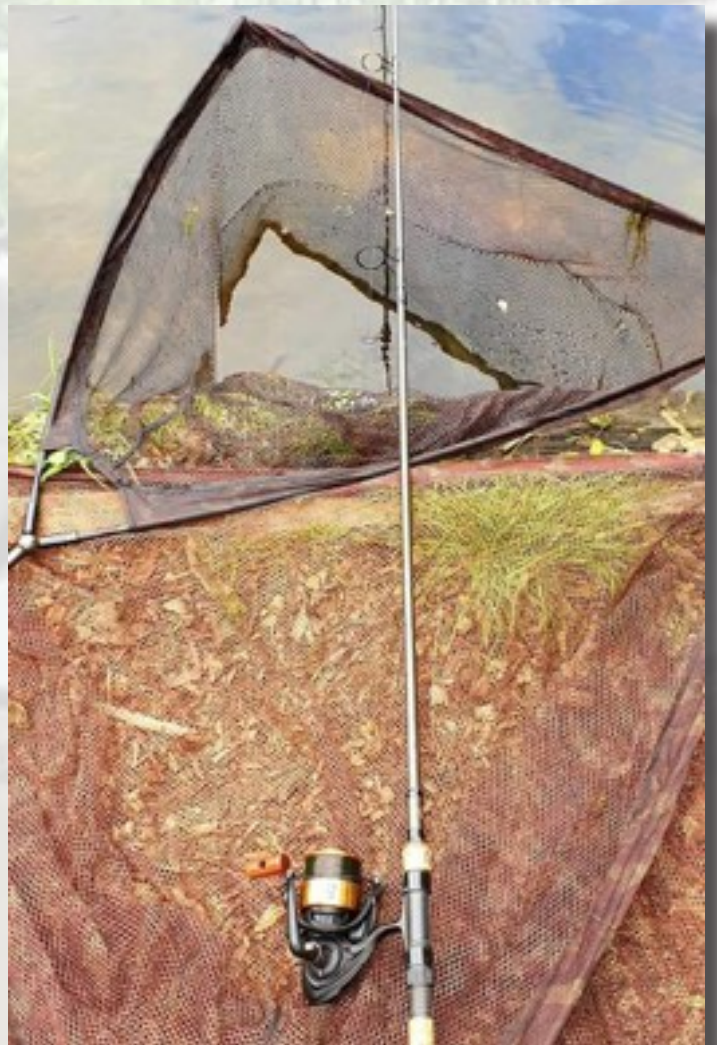
T.C. If you wouldn't mind, could you talk us through your steps from

netting to returning the fish in this hot weather?

J.C. A - Although I don't weigh fish lets presume you are going to both weigh and photograph this one.

Here we go then.....

1. Peg that net and cover that net
2. Ensure your unhooking mat is in the correct position for taking the pictures. Sun behind you and no shadows from trees or bankside foliage likely to go across the carp which will ruin the pictures.
3. Now put your weigh sling over the unhooking mat.
4. Go to the margin and fill a large water container with fresh cool water.
5. Pour it over the weigh sling and ensure there is enough left to wet the carp. Refill if need be.
6. Ensure your unhooking tools I detailed earlier are in a pot close to the unhooking mat.
7. If doing self takes do a practice one but if someone is doing the picture for you then get them to sit where you'd hold the carp and ensure



A second net to secure the first

where you want them to take the image from is correct. I have a little mat that marks the spot and when lined up I place the phone or camera on it to make it pretty idiot proof.

8. Weigh the wet weigh sling and zero the scales (god I'm glad I don't weigh 99% of them).

9. Over to the landing net and I cut the hooklength in two with scissors. I fail to see how it is safe to the carp to try to wiggle the hook out whilst it is in the net. You are putting the cost of the hooklength etc as more important than the carps mouth. Wait till it transfers the hook into your finger as it thrashes as you pop the hook, and you won't do it again. If you have a quick change link at the lead end maybe if it's safe do that.

10. With the carp separated from the end tackle take your rod and put it out of harms way.

11. Ensuring the carp is at the bottom of the net and it's fins are not bent take the arms out of the spreader block and roll the net down a bit via the arms.

12. Providing the carp is at the bottom of the net carry it from water to unhooking mat holding the arms in one hand and the other under the carp supporting it.



Forcep removal

13. Carp on the weigh sling over the unhooking mat and unfold the net and remove it from the carp ensuring you don't catch a fin, pec etc.
14. Using forceps or a disgorger remove the hook.
15. If you are using a barbed hook crushing the barb if you can do it safely with pliers makes hook removal easier.
16. If the carp is double hooked or solidly hooked cutting the hook in two with wire snips is so much better. Remove both bits.
17. Add carp care liquid to the hook mark (Medicare , Klinik, Propolis etc) and any other marks on the carp like scratches, lifted scales etc.



18. Ensure all the above are done with wet hands

19. Ensuring that you are not wearing anything that can mark the carp weigh it in the zeroed sling if you feel you need to weigh it.

20. Do your photographs if you feel the need to take pictures. Four of each side is usually enough for me.

I prefer sides like the Nash Carp Corral as I generally fish on my own

21. Throughout the process keep the carp wet with the cool water in your bucket. Do not drown it, pour water into its gills or excessively wipe it down (and never with dry hands)
22. Using the weigh sling return the carp to the water supporting it as you carry it.
23. Place the sling in the water and gently let the carp waddle its way out of the sling.
24. Once you've seen it swim off safely job done.
25. Prepare for another one.

T.C. So to sum up, what would be your advice be to anyone who is new to this kind of situation we are facing this HOT summer.

J.C A - If you are new, it's always best to be helped , or get assistance from a more experienced angler.

Two pairs of hands make it a lot easier I can assure you. Always ask yourself.....

Do I really need to weigh it ?

Do I really need to take a picture ?



Thats a lump

What I would say is that no one is perfect, and we all mess up from time to time. We all do things differently and a lot depends on your experience and what is important to you. Usually when I catch one I cut the hooklength off and get the rod back out before the unhooking but that is because I have been hooking and unhooking and photographing carp for over thirty five years. I would not recommend that to less experienced anglers. In all honesty some of the social media films I see from well-known anglers make me cringe.

Putting carp in retainers for better shots and having two or three retained at one time too. Buckets of water over anglers holding carp. excessive filming of carp to make better (yawn) films. Crazy return shots to make better (films).... the list goes on.



Look after them

I guess the safest way is not to stick hooks in them at all, but we do so the less we handle them, the better we handle them and the less time they are with us the better.

Good luck

Jules

Facebook Technical Information Free Page - Julian Cundiff Angling

Facebook General Page - Julian P Cundiff

Twitter - @juliancundiff

Instagram - julescundiff1

T.C. As always you have provided our readers with some fantastic advice and good food for thought, and we hope that this advice has been taken on board and we see better carp care going forward on social media platforms.

See you next month.



Occasionally I do weigh them....for obvious reasons



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HENRI KELLIJ WITH A STUNNING
COMMON FROM THE NETHERLANDS

WE NEED YOUR HELP

With so many new anglers taking up the sport over the past year alongside long time anglers returning to bank after lock down, lakes have seen a huge increase in both footfall and damage. Increasing numbers of lake owners are implementing restrictions to try and prevent this and the risk we run is that some owners will just shut the lakes if users do not start to show more respect. We need to look after our lakes, teach and guide new starters on the etiquette, support lake owners by respecting and obeying the rules. As in so many parts of the UK, here at Roddy Clips HQ we are blessed to have several great lakes nearby. This includes park lakes, these park lakes do not present any financial gain to the councils owning them so by not abiding to the rules we run a huge risk of councils saying enough is enough and shutting them. Always abide by the rules and remember, dispose of all rubbish in designated bins or take it home with you and keep noise pollution to a minimum remembering you might not be the only people on the lake.

ITS FINE TO HAVE A BLANK

As a keen angler for more than 20 years it is my opinion that fishing in general comes with its ups and downs. Whether you are match fishing, carp fishing, sea fishing or any other type of fishing you will always face times when you blank. Blanking is a part of any anglers life and can happen anytime they are fishing. Now online fishing videos and social media have had a huge positive impact on the way we fish and fishing in general, but they often fail to show the number of times people blank. The result of this is people become despondent far too quickly when this happens thinking it's something they are doing wrong or just causing them to fall out of love with the sport. By changing your outlook on blanking though you can reduce the disappointment and turn it into a positive process. Next time you blank, take a step back, take a walk round the lake watching the water, look for signs of where the fish are feeding. Have confidence in your choice of bait, all to often people are so quick to change everything instead of just taking a step back and reading the lake. Most importantly remember, if the fish are not in the part of the lake you are fishing nothing is going work no matter what you try. Too often, overthinking and letting blanking get you down can ruin your trip. Remember why you go to the lake and just enjoy yourself.



Looking Back To Church

by Mark Wozencroft

As I sit here writing this its 30 degrees outside which for any sane angler out there is totally uncomfortable and not the type of weather I am keen on, but it does take me back to my short time on Horton Church Lake when that summer was unbearable, I tend to take July and August off from fishing to catch up with friends and family but that year I wanted to make the most of my ticket so I slogged it through the heat, but I do digress lets go back to the beginning of my season on there.... RK Leisure's Horton Church lake was always a lake that wanted to fish for many years but for one reason or another it was put on the back burner, so after putting my name on the waiting list and the following year

getting the call that I had hoped for I was raring to go!! With any venue I intend to fish I try to find out as much information as i possibly can to a certain extent, but I do like to keep an open mind, and nothing teaches you better than time spent on the bank.

I can remember for first visit on there that i was slightly in awe of the place and the history it held but what surprised me more was how busy it was, and I knew straight away that this was going to be a challenge to get on the fish in the first place, my very first session on there I was fishing opposite the plateau swim and was totally shocked when my rod ripped off so quickly!! But it was not to be as within a minute or so of the battle I lost it... there was no excuses as it was just a hook

pull and I checked my rig and everything was fine, it was just one of those things that we have all been through, but it doesn't make it any easier to swallow. After that near miss it took a while to get my next bite as I just couldn't get into a going swim and sometimes I felt I was camping, I will say that every session I did on there felt like I was getting a step closer to seeing one cradled in my arms, at this time I also had a ticket for Farriers lake in the Cotswolds and as my ticket was due to run out I decided to do a last session on there, I had made some decent friends on the Church lake and was kept appraised of the situation whilst I was away, anyway I was a couple of nights into my session when I had a call from one of the lads saying that it was kicking off on Church



and to get my butt up there as soon as possible, I had just literally put one back from Farriers and it turned out to be my last visit there as I was packing up as fast as I could and was soon driving sedately to Horton, I pushed my barrow into the swim my friend was leaving and he'd had a couple as well so it was looking good and to add to that they were showing over the spot, I decided to ping out two singles for now just to see if I could nick a bite which is something I do quite frequently if they are already in the swim so as to cause the minimum of disturbance, literally

an hour later after setting up my camp I was away and I'll tell you my knees were knocking as I didn't want

to lose this one, it was an eventful fight as half way through it picked up a branch which made things a bit more interesting, when it finally made it over the cord of the net there was mixed emotions of relief and happiness and looking down on the prize I realised it was a bit of a chunk, could this be a forty

pounder as my first carp?!?

Everyone on the lake were super friendly and I soon had a few anglers to help me do the honours of which I was grateful for, once hoisted up on the scales it read 42lb and a carp called Guzzler was soon having its picture taken with me, the first carp on any new water is always a special one whatever the size but to be a carp of that size was special indeed, on that session I caught another one at 24lb and I was up and



running, I never looked back from that moment onwards. I really wanted to get something going on the lake bait wise and swim choice as well, but as you can imagine with it being busy it was a hard option to take, there was a swim that I noticed that nobody really fished called tench bush as it was a tight swim and realistically was only a one rod swim but it ticked all the boxes for me as it was a margin spot and also gave me a great view down the whole lake if I needed to move onto showing carp.

To be honest I try to set myself a few targets when fishing any new water as it keeps me honest and the fire burning in my belly, on this water I wanted to catch one off the surface, a big grassy which I know are not everyones cup



of tea but Church was famous for big ones and at one stage held the British record for them, also to catch one of the originals which there was only a handful left, probably not what most set their targets as on there but they were mine.

Going back to original statement on it being hot, well that year was one of the hottest and I spent July and August in blistering heat with hardly any shade in my chosen swim, it was an almost unbearable, but little was I to know what carp would come

my way in the sessions that followed...

I think with any baiting program sometimes it takes longer for the carp to feel safe in your chosen area but slowly I started to pick them off one by one and a pattern started to emerge, anytime from first light for a couple of hours then they would do the off somewhere else for the day, but i would use this time to go for walks and see if there was any opportunities for a bit of surface fishing, there was one time a few of us were having a



shandy outside of the lodge and time was getting on into the evening, i spied that there was a few milling around in front a certain swim up the bank, I was soon making my excuses and grabbed my floater rod and some biscuits walking briskly to where they were, I catapulted a few freebees to see if I could get an interest and straight away they were on it, I couldn't believe my luck if I'm being honest and with shaking hands I flicked out my controller float with no mess ups either which is a bit of a novelty for me, I slowly drew back my

hook bait and waited, I did notice there were a couple of grass carp which at this moment I didn't want to catch as they will trash a swim, so when a set of lips came out of the water belonging to one of them I pulled it away from it and as it was settling again it was pounced upon, inside of me i thought it was that cheeky grassy had followed it, the carp gave a great account of itself but when it came closer in the deep margins and with the clear water I could see it was a proper carp, the closer it

hook bait and waited, I did notice there were a couple of grass carp which at this

came to the surface the bigger it got and the more my heart beat faster, so when it came sloshing up to the surface ready for the net my heart was busting through my chest as I knew I was using 8lb mono and a size 10 hook...it slipped into the net with a roar of cheers coming from the lads I had just left, good times indeed...I was blown away by the size of this carp and knew it could possibly be a personal best and caught off the top to boot!!! Hoisting the monster up on the scales my thoughts were correct and at 46lb 8oz this mirror was indeed a PB



So that was one ticked off the list and I was a happy bunny, I had to wait till the following session to get any more action, as i pulled into the car park the weather looked bang on, the wind was pushing into my corner swim and it was free, although i tried to keep quiet on what I had caught from there as you know what it's like when you have it rocking.... I was in no rush to put my rod out and left it till the evening but I did put some bait in so they could have a free munch if anything turned up, that night I had my first night time bite at 11pm and it put one hell of a scrap up and was relieved when it went into the net, my head torch had fallen off my head so it was a bit hairy trying to land that carp but I got there in the end, so I left it in the net whilst I sorted out the mat and





camera as I only wanted to take the carp out once to weigh and photograph, with everything set up I went to the net broke it down and tried to lift it out of the water but it seemed to be caught on something but it wasn't as it was a big carp and long too, then it dawned on me that I had caught a massive grass carp and at 42lb I wasn't grumbling at all, they can be a bit notorious for playing up on the bank but this one really behaved itself and that was number two off the list... now just the matter of an original carp which was always going to be the hardest thing to do on my list.

That morning I was sat there drink my first cuppa of the day thinking life was being good to me, the spot I was fishing was literally only a foot or so from the bank as the

margins here drop straight from the bank to about 8ft and I was fishing next to a wooden post sticking out of the water, I'm sure they used this as a rubbing post which is why it was such a good spot, to get a rig to this was a bit awkward but with a help of a floating pole I was able to reach it with the minimum of fuss, fishing margin spots need a bit of thought as you don't want to fill it in as it can be a kiss of death, so it was normally a handful of crushed boilie soaked in loads of liquids to get maximum attraction with minimum bait application, after each carp I would unscrew the spoon and screw on a GoPro to record the spot and play it back to see how much bait was left and sometimes I would ship out a single hook bait as there was still loose feed in the swim.

I started to get a few liners and was on the edge of my seat waiting to pounce and off it went and tore off into the main body of the lake, after a spirited fight it was soon on the mat ready for some pics, it was a carp called Chewitt which I believe Kev Hewitt named after his wife, the only problem with this margin spot was it only did one bite a morning as whatever was hooked would scare the rest out of the swim as they could be a bit cagey, so I shipped out my rig not really anticipating any more action but how wrong was I when I was bent into another carp ten minutes later, this one took me

on a merry dance as in front of the swim was a set of lily pads which it soon found with easy even though

I tried my hardest to stop it in its tracks to no avail, it was stuck fast and i was on the verge of calling the bailiff to use the boat that's available, I put the rod back on the stand with the bail arm open for a few minutes to see if the slack line would do the job and swim out of its own accord, so when I saw a minute later the line hissing off the reel at a rate of knots I picked the rod up again and pinged the line off the pads to be in direct contact with the carp again in open water, when your luck is in I suppose but I still needed to get it in



the net yet...the way this carp fought I sort of knew inside it was a decent size and I got it in the net with no more fuss thankfully, looking down it was a big common and in my gut I guessed it might be the third thing on my list an original, I gave one of the lads a buzz even though it was early and bite time for the lake he reeled his rods in and came down to verify it for me, as soon as I put it on the mat he said that's

the PB common and most definitely what I was after, to be honest weight was irrelevant but for the record it weighted 37lb 6oz I'll be honest much of what happened was a blur as I was on cloud nine at this point as I had achieved what I wanted on here.

I was absolutely spoilt on the Church Lake, and it certainly suited my style of fishing, I did a few more sessions and caught another 30+ mirror off the top

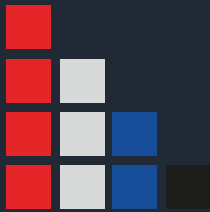
and then I caught Guzzler again which turned out to be my first and last carp from there as I don't like recaptures and my time was done on the lake, I caught some wonderful carp and met some great lads on there that are still mates today.

Tight lines everyone and chase those dreams....

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Nutrabaits Junior Social

by Richard Hughes

Getting some of our junior team together after the last 18 months of restrictions was way overdue. Losing touch with friends, and hopefully making new friends,

through the shared passion of angling, was needed and with the timely lowering of restrictions that made this trip possible. After contacting day ticket waters, far and

wide, trying to find availability, proved to be a tough one, with so many waters fully booked till late autumn and beyond. Finding somewhere during the school summer



holidays was critical. After a chance conversation with long time Nutrabaits user and lake owner Wayne Favell, he offered an opportunity to have

Fenlane Carp Fishery in Lincolnshire as an exclusive booking for 48hrs. Not having fished the lake myself, but having had a steady flow of catch reports, I knew the carp in the lake liked both Trigga and Co-De. A 48hr session was organised and an invite went out to our junior team, as you can imagine the places were filled within hours when the opportunity was offered of fishing a lake with carp to 42lb+ with a good head of 20lb and 30lb carp also in safe environment with a fully secure fishery, which is fully otter fenced.

The junior team for the trip consisted of **Dylan** (10), **Noah** (13), **Lucas** (14), **Declan** (15), **Elle** (15), **Dylan** (17), **Harry** (15) and finally, our qualified coach and junior team member, **Amber**. To complete

the line-up, myself, Rob Lawton and Wayne were on hand to help with photos etc. As you can imagine the excitement built and question on the fishery was sort by the team.

The session was scheduled for late July, arriving Sunday lunchtime and finishing Tuesday. With the heat wave during July and reports the lake was fishing hard, we knew it would be a challenge, this being confirmed by the bailiff on arrival. Very few carp had been caught over the previous 2 weeks. A walk of the lake was completed, followed by a draw for swims, and setting up in the heat was a slow affair, but Dylan didn't waste any time by getting to his swim, the furthest from the car park. A quick cast around and advice on the spots from Wayne he was set.



Single hook baits were cast out before setting up camp. This proved to be a wise choice, as little more than 10 minutes later, Dylan's left hand rod was away. The single Cream Cajouser pop up didn't take long to produce. After what proved to be a good battle with the carp finding 2 weed beds, before sliding over the net cord. The perfect way to start a session and a new personal best mirror of 27lb 8oz to boot. As you can imagine, this spurred the rest of the team to get their

rods out in double quick time. The heat of the afternoon led the few carp that were seen cruising in the upper layers, to have no interest in feeding. A takeaway was ordered and tactics

for the upcoming night were discussed, with different baits from Nutrabaits being used by the team. Trigga, Trigga Ice and the Co-De being the main choice, along with Cream Cajouser, Winter Berry and White Spice pop ups being the favourites.

Rods back in position, it was time to settle in for the night, after the excitement of Dylan's mirror, the lake had gone very quiet. Just before dark, the silence was broken, by Declan getting a one toner,



followed by a battle with an angry carp that found a marginal bed of pads. Keeping steady pressure on, finally paid off, with the carp breaking for freedom and eventually the waiting net. A stunning 21lb fully scaled mirror was hoisted aloft for photos before being safely returned. The night proved to be quiet with no action by any of the team during dark. The following morning though did bring a flurry of activity, with first Lucas landing a common of



21lb+, followed by a nice scaley mirror of 23lb+. The session was livening up. Next up was Noah with a new personal best common of 21lb 8oz. Another blazing hot day was on the cards,

with carp once again, in the upper layers showing no interest in feeding. This gave the team time to discuss tactics. It became clear the carp in the lake had a preference for white pop ups. Wayne was on hand to fill the guys in on the history of the lake and the impressive stock. Approximately 200 carp in approximately 5 acres with the average weight being 21lb, along with a good head of 30lb+ carp. A big step up for several of the team with a good chance of personal





bests.

As the temperature finally started to drop, and another takeaway polished off, it was time to settle in for the final night and confidence was high with carp showing over baited areas for several of the team. It didn't take long for the action to fire into life again with Dylan's same rod, same spot, along with a Cream Cajouser pop up, ripping off once again at the exact same time as the previous nights take. It also repeated

with a spirited fight ensuing and this time a stunning zip linear finding the bottom of the waiting net. The action was steady over the next 12hrs with several more carp being landed. The highlight being a big mirror and new

personal best mirror for Noah at first light. A brute of a mirror tipping the scales at 30lb 8oz. Photos were taken, with the team on hand to help out, and share the moment. Two personal bests in one session was a great achievement for Noah and sure to stick in his memory for many years. After safely returning the mirror, the team couldn't resist royally soaking Noah with, not one, but 3 buckets of water. The session continued to produce and last off the mark was Harry with two mirrors gracing the net, the largest



being 27lb, BFM Krill & Cranberry along with a Cream Cajouser pop up, proving too good to resist.

After the initial worries of expecting a tough session, and with the team travelling from far and wide, the session produced several beautiful carp and personal bests. Coming from as far afield as Sussex, Staffordshire, East, South and West Yorkshire, it was worth the trip. Many of the team were meeting



for the first time, but friendships were forged through the passion of our sport that will hopefully last a lifetime. Summary of the session; 1 x 30lb+, 8 x 20lb+ along 3 x

double figure carp and unfortunately 3 lost due to hook pulls.

It was a pleasure being on hand to help out, and being able to assist, and offer advice when needed for the future of our sport. What I can say is our sport is in safe hands, with sensible and talented anglers, who will prove to be an asset to our sport for many years to come.

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Rich Hughes



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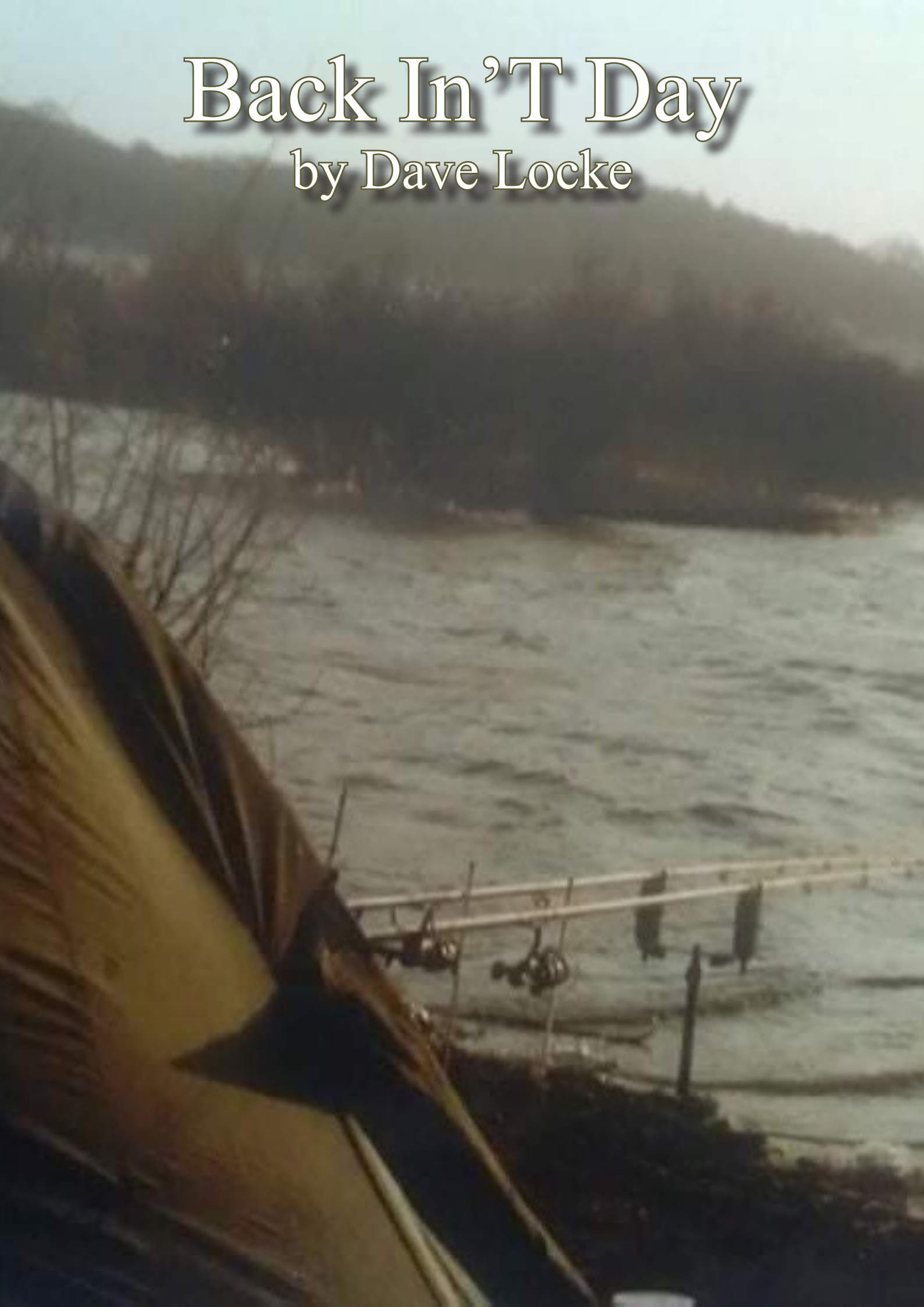
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Ingredients For Success

Back In'T Day

by Dave Locke



Way back in the early 70s my mate Micky fisher and myself 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 and there was some decent size one. 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 cover in very

soft, foot deep, smelly silt, and even fishing a balance crust on the bottom for 10 minutes was pointless 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 in 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 myself 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 lying flat it might be stuck in the silt on its edge?" So out I swam again dived down and checked it was lying 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 prebait 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 not enough room for two. 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.

Us somewhat older carpers seem to have a rose tinted view of the past, so I thought that we should look at the tackle we used back in the, eeerrrr, good old days ,with a more realistic and

truthful outlook. I'll start with hooks and work my way back. A lot of folk use low water salmon hooks, which were strong, but the shank was very long, so they cut it down and put a solder blob on the end instead of an eye. Now the problem with this is, you have to tie the hook on with a spade end knot, not great on a winter's day when your fingers are frozen ,and secondly who can really solder well enough to get it right every time? So, then we come to Sealey speed barbs ,sharp ,but so called because of the speed the hook snapped at the barb. Then there was my choice, Goldstrikes, very strong but very blunt ,it would take me

an evening sitting at home with a jewellers file sharpening a couple of packs. So, hooks were not very good at all really until we got masterpoints in the 80's. Now we come to line, I can't moan about the line Ten pound Sylcast was as strong as a tow rope and lasted ages, I wish they still made it. Rods are always going to be down to personal preference, but I thought I'd mention a few of the different ones that were about in the 70s. The first proper carp rods I had were brought from a second-hand shop near my home, a pair of B James split cane for the princely sum of £3 for the pair. I'm sorry Mr Chris Yates but split cane rods are dreadful, floppy

heavy, and unfeeling ,so I quickly got rid of them and replaced them with a pair of pound and a half test curve Hardy's. These were a joy to use and play carp on but not enough power to strike through anything but a very soft paste bait, and not a lot of use if you needed to cast more than 40 yards. Eventually I got three Tony Fordham's two and a half pound test curve rods that I had for years. I did buy quite a few other makes but luckily I kept hold of my Fordham's. The red Gerry Savage rods made by Marco were really dreadful and the only glass fibre rods I've ever known snap, even the great manufacturer Bruce and Walkers

rods were floppy and heavy. Sure people had their own favourites, the Jim Gibbinson Cloopers were very popular as we're the Northwestern range. But compared to the choice and quality we have nowadays we had very limited choice. Next is reels, oh dear this will cause some remarks.

Mitchell 300s....

how on earth have they ever got to be an iconic reel? No bait runner system in them days so you fished the 300s with open bail arms with a penny or a stone on the spool. Not a problem except the bail arm springs were about as much use as an elastic band, so you would strike

a run while turning the handle to flick the bail arm over only to have it clattering about like granny's false teeth. The alternative was to fish churner style, in other words just let the reel spin round ,except if you forgot to take the anti-reverse of you said goodbye to your rod and reel, or the reel would overrun creating a dreadful mess that the birds would queue up to nest in. If by some stroke of luck, you managed to hook a good carp you would then feel the smoothness of the 300 yeah right about as smooth as a second-hand coffee grinder.

Then along came Abu Cardinal 55s.

Now I must be the

unluckiest reel owner ever, because after seeing others with the Cardinals are having a loan of a pair for a while, I shook the moths out of my wallet and purchased three of them. First session using them was on a very exclusive water that I was privileged to be allowed to fish occasionally. First cast and the stem on one of the newly acquired Abu snapped for no reason at all, I put it down to bad luck and got one of the Mitchell's out to replace it. The second day halfway through playing a good size carp the reel handle snapped on the second Cardinal, I've never known anyone else have trouble with these reels but needless to

say they went back to the shop and I carried on using the 300s. We now come to what we rested our rods on. Buzzer bars were unheard of then, so it was single aluminium rod rest that bent if you were lucky enough to get a kingfisher land on your rods. I got fed up with these bendy rest, so a mate made me some from mild steel that I used for years. Buzzers !!!what a bunch of idiots we were, we would spend our hard earned beer money on a set of Heron buzzers and after a month at the most we would rip the insides out of them and replace it with points from a GPO relay system, then throw the actual buzzer in the bin and replace it with

a Friedland mini buzzer, so basically, we had spent a small fortune on two or three thin plastic boxes and a bin full of rubbish. Almost overnight everyone was using optonics which was by a long way so much better than the Heron antenna heads, except if you were a long session angler you needed to take out a mortgage to replace all the battery's which the optonics ate like mad. Luckily a few clever lads worked out how to convert the optonics into something far more user friendly.

Before we come to the home comforts. I had forgotten about leads, a small insignificant piece of equipment but an important part

of the end tackle. We had three choices, a drilled coffin a drilled bullet or a Arseley bomb, none of which had any sort of coating on them, and the two drilled options had very little quality control, which meant your line running through the leads could end up frayed to blazes so basically, we only had the Arseley bombs. Which for the younger chaps were a Zip type lead with a poor quality swivel stuck in the top. What can I say about our beds which hasn't already been moaned about, cheapy sunloungers that had a bad habit of depositing you into the wettest mud without warning, because either the

frame had collapsed, or the canvas had ripped through. The results were you with a pain in your nether regions, a wet backside and your mates in tears of laughter. I use a thin foam roll up hikers mat for years, because I didn't like the creaking noise the sun loungers made every time you moved. It's no wonder I suffer with back problems nowadays.

The cookers we used wasn't exactly what I'd call rapid, you had to give a three hour notice when you wanted a cup of tea, and start cooking your evening meal about midday, and just hope you had enough bottles of gas with you, normally

a separate rucksack full. Bivvies, there wasn't any. Forty five inch brollys with a borrowed (cough cough) lorry canvas thrown over the top, or a bit of plastic sheeting stuck around the side of the brolly. Strange how you don't see those blue fishing brollys with harp lager written on them no more, older carpers will understand that comment. Then we got them canvas throw over bivvies which for the era were very good, except when they got wet you need a small lorry to carry them home, they weighed a ton.

The bivvy light we use were not called bridge donkey or whatever, they were called

candles, which would set alight to any poor moth that flew to close and set light to your sleeping bag if you weren't careful.

Yes, we did have sleeping bags but unless the outside temperature wasn't above twenty degrees you might just as well slept naked ,but then you would get even wetter when your sunlounger dumped you in the mud. So

how on earth did we put up with all the discomfort, cold, and lack of tackle?

Because we loved the whole experience. It was a new past time with unfished waters and untried tactics and baits. We were catching carp that we had been told for years were uncatchable with mates that were as mad as us.

Would I like to go back to those times, well yes.

Would I give up the new tackle and the bankside comforts we have now ?

Hell no I'm not completely stupid.

Until next time,

Take care and tight lines,

Dave





IN THE MARGIN PARTICLES

Taking particle preparation
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The Dell Still Searching (Part 2)

by
Scott Geezer Grant

The weather wasn't great as the nights were really cold and later at around 8pm we had snow flurries!! It was mental. Tonight, the forecast was -2 so it was definitely going to be a cold night indeed. Once in the bag I was lovely and warm. I drifted off to sleep around 11pm but woke up busting for a pee in the early hours, I looked at my phone and it was just after 0300 o'clock I came out the bivvy and boy was it cold, for a brief moment I thought I had undergone a sex change!! It was absolutely freezing the bivvy was covered in ice, well everything was covered in ice even my waders. Once back in the bag it took me ages before my bones felt warm again. I drifted off to sleep only to be woken up with my receiver going into melt down, a complete one toner,

I came flying out the bivvy in a pair of shorts grabbed the rod and it took me a minute or so before the fish was under control. I couldn't believe how cold it was, this has been the coldest night all winter let me tell you.

After 5 or so minutes and without the fish weeding me up, I grabbed the landing net pole and as I tried to lift the net (as it was resting on the cradle) it was actually welded to it!! I had to tussle with it and managed to free the net and get it in the water, after a few more minutes I slipped the net under a deep bodied mirror. I peered in the net and for a split second I honestly thought I had caught the fish that has been driving me for the last few months. On closer inspection it wasn't but a good

fish all the same. It's the same strain and shape as Charlies Mate. I carefully put her into the cradle, removed the hook, then secured her in the floatation sling, whilst I got everything ready. I got dressed, then gave Ryan a call in the Island swim and 10 minutes later he came round with Matt to help with the weighing and photos. The sun was already rising and by the time I got the rod back out the sun was up and it felt good. With the fish hoisted up the needle settled on 38lb bang on. That will do nicely, Ryan went to





work and took epic shots of which I was and am very grateful for. The black foam zig ball strikes again even when its freezing, madness complete madness.

With the photos completed the fish was treated and returned to fight another day. The kettle went on and we all had a much-deserved cup of coffee. This is what

it's all about catching a unit of a fish and sharing the moment with anglers who are genuinely please for you (priceless). Matt and Ryan went back to their swims to get their rods back out and I was left sitting watching the water waiting for the alarms to start screaming again, well hoping. The fish were active and there were a few good fish in amongst

the ones that were showing.

Around midday I got another take but almost immediately the fish weeded me up, everything went solid, I put the rod back on the pod with enough tension that if the fish did decide to swim out it could do. I rang Mark one of the bailiffs and he came straight over in the boat. I donned my life jacket, grabbed



the net and jumped in the boat. I reeled towards the fish and once above it I thought it would pop up but the fish wasn't having any of it, after a few minutes the line went slack and the fish was gone!! Annoyed was an understatement but when your fishing weedy waters, you have to be prepared to lose a few, that's the nature of the game unfortunately. Mark took me back to the bank, I checked my line which was fine, but the hook had slightly burred. I immediately made a fresh zig and got the rig back out on the dancefloor. The scores at the moment are me 2 and the carp

2 a draw isn't good enough and I will be going for the win.

I had no more action for the rest of the day even though the odd fish was showing in the area. Wednesday was a very quiet day even though it was a lot warmer than the previous days. Thursday morning the wind turned West/South Westerly which is bang on for this particular swim and the daytime temperature was forecast as being 11oc which was the warmest day this

week. The fish started to show but this time they were a lot further out more towards the other side of the lake, I started wondering if the fish had moved out.

A few anglers turned up and went in the swims opposite which if anything will push the fish back over to my side. That night right on dusk the fish started showing again, but this time they were back in front of me. My confidence was sky high and surely, it's only a matter of time before one of the rods are away. Nightfall came and the temperature dropped you could feel the



coolness in the air so I knew it was going to be another cold night. After a good night's sleep, I woke to a beautiful sunrise,

one of the anglers opposite had banked a small carp but that's all that had been caught. As I sat watching the water drinking my first morning coffee the fish started to show. It's the best time of the day for me and this is why I go fishing.

Mid-morning, I received a text stating that come dusk zigs were banned, I was hoping that they would be allowed until the end of April, but rules are rules and we have to abide by them. I still had the rest of the day before changes need to be made so make



the most of it I will.

It was a beautiful warm day and around 6pm the swifts came out of no-where and were hitting the surface like mad. There was a hatch going on and this is why zigs are so deadly. An hour later and just as Joe walked into my swim the middle rod gave a single bleep and the bobbin had dropped back, I lifted the rod and the fish was on, almost immediately it didn't feel like a big fish and after a few minutes Joe slid the net under a lovely mid double plump common.

The fish was unhooked and treated and returned immediately. I wasted no time and got the rod straight back out on the spot. time was running out fast and in another couple

of hours all my rods will be fishing on the bottom.

Joe stayed and chatted for about an hour and then left, I started getting my bottom rigs prepared as in another hour the zigs would be coming off. Well time flew by and the zig rods were reeled in and changed over. I fished the middle and right rod on spots I had fished in the winter so that's where they would be going. Plum pop ups fished over whole/crushed boilies along with a scoop of chillie hemp. With the

rods out I settled down for a bit of dinner the obligatory chilli made by the Mrs. I also treated the boys to a home-made chilli which they devoured.

Another quiet night I was up at first light, the fish didn't start showing until 0730 and as they were showing still in the same area out in front of me a large group of swifts hit the water, they were going crazy, yet another hatch. I convinced myself if I still had zigs on, I would catch one, it felt like someone had took the jam out of my doughnut.

The wind started to change to a North Easterly and it felt colder than the previous couple of days, hopefully this will get the fish down on the bottom to feed. Rain was due in a couple of hours and coupled with a low pressure coming in the bottom baits should produce the goods. Just after midday after where I had seen the fish showing I repositioned the rods a bit further out. I felt a lot more confident and the fruits of my labour were rewarded

an hour later when the left-hand rod was away after a few minutes the fish sought sanctuary in yet another weed bed, Ben was on hand and we donned our life jackets and went out in the boat, once above the fish it popped out easy and Ben done the honours with the net. It wasn't a massive fish but welcome all the same. Once on the bank my prize was unveiled and it turned out to be a lovely low double figured stunning mirror. Ben done a couple of pics, the fish was treated and returned. The rod was rebaited and put straight back out on the spot, its game on now 4-2 to me and I was loving every minute of it. Evening soon approached and after another gastronomical meal courtesy of my Mrs I got in the bag and chilled for the rest of the evening. At 10pm the middle rod



was away a complete one toner I ran straight down to the rod and lifted into an angry fish, it put up a good fight and I kept the pressure on and was praying the fish wouldn't weed me up, which it didn't do and after a few minutes the fish was out in front, with my headtorch on I could see it was another double figured fish that went straight in the net. Ollie came round and took a couple of photos then the fish was treated and returned. The reason the fish are weighed and photographed is that the owner and bailiffs can keep a record of how the fish are growing, all the low double fish I've had are all home grown, which is amazing. With the rod rebaited and back out on the spot it was time to get back in the



bag, warm up and try and get some sleep. Just after midnight the left-hand rod ignited and again, I was doing battle with an angry carp, again pressure was applied and it didn't weed me up. This time I had caught another low double fish with big shoulders, in a few years' time these fish are going to be big there's no

doubt. Again, Ollie came round and took a couple of photos then the fish was returned. The rod was put back out and I jumped straight in the bag and was off to sleep in no time at all. The next thing I heard was the alarm going off, I felt like I hadn't had any sleep at all, but being up before first light is the most important

part of the day for me, and putting in as much effort as possible will always reward you.



Mid-morning and with the odd fish still showing it was time for me to pack up and head home. I've had a brilliant week banking 6 fish and losing 2. I retrieved over 100 yards of line plus a rig which was very satisfying. This place means a lot to me and I will keep fishing here as long as I've got breath in my body. Hopefully for all my efforts I will be rewarded with the one I dearly want, who knows but one thing is for sure I will keep trying, failure is not an option.

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

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www.sharptackle.co.uk

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I hope the rest of 2021 brings everyone good health and plenty of chunks in the net.

Stay safe and remember its only fishing.

*Scott "Geezer"
Grant*



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Seasoned Baits



**Interview with Richard
O'Connell, owner and creator of
Seasoned Baits - by Mark Carper**

Being part of Talking Carp Magazine means I am always on the lookout for something to either Review, Write about or someone to Interview and I often find my subject matter on the Social Media Networks, so when I happened across a company called 'Seasoned Baits', it was the company 'Logo' that caught my interest and provoked me to investigate further.....

The first thing I noticed about Seasoned Baits was the website 'Tab' headed "SUSTAINABILITY"... which made my initial reaction be that of "surely all boilies are sustainable, right??!"

...and the simple answer was "Not if they contain Fishmeal...!!"

With my interest in the bait well and truly aroused, I decided to make contact and ask a few probing questions to see if this was just a gimmick or were the claims about a sustainable high protein alternative to fishmeal actually going to 'Hold Water' so to speak.....

TC: Mr. O'Connell, welcome to the pages of Talking Carp Magazine and thank you for giving our readers the opportunity to get the background low-down on your very new bait company, Seasoned Baits.

RC: Thanks Mark it's a pleasure and a privilege to have been asked.

TC: I find that a good place to start is always at the beginning so tell me a bit about you and your background that lead you into the world of bait and specifically Carp Bait and Boilies...what got you started with Seasoned Baits, was it simply about finding an alternative to fishmeal...?

RC: Not at all. It all came about purely by chance really. Ordinarily, I am a Consultant Chef with 30 years' experience working in kitchens.

However, during the first lockdown in 2020 my consultant work just dried up and I had to diversify.

To keep busy, I turned to sourcing products for the hospitality industry which, as it turned out, I was quite good at it, and this led on to requests to source other materials. One of the strangest requests I had was to find a source of fertiliser and surprisingly, that's what led me finding this alternative source of protein. It was my keen interest in angling that helped me connect the dots and think of using it in baits.

TC: From previous discussions, I know that you are a very accomplished Chef. Do you feel this has had an influence on the bait you produce...?

RC: I'm sure it has. I think my experience in how food works and what makes a good flavour/colour/texture combinations have helped me bring something different to the bait market. I love being creative with my food - I do the same with my baits.

I have gathered a lot of input from different people to get to know what appeals to the fish. I think some people have lost sight of that and that is why our baits are getting results.



TC: Do you class yourself as an 'Environmentalism', an "Echo Warrior" perhaps and did you set out to find a sustainable source of protein to replace Fishmeal because of the damage to Oceans etc. or was it more a gap in the market and an opportunity to get in to 'Bait'...?

RC: I wouldn't say I am a staunch environmentalist, but like many people I am thinking more and more about the impact the things we do have on the environment.

As a chef and a person who enjoys eating out, a restaurant's provenance and sustainability is always top of mind – it must be because that is important to a lot of people – and it is now important to me.

If I'm cooking or butchering anything at work it's important that I know the animals have had a good life and have been killed correctly. I have been to a few slaughterhouses and farms in my past to make sure that we are ethically sourcing our food. It's the same with angling. Why not make that effort to look after our lakes and our planet. To me it's a no-brainer. If it's more natural and you're a fish, what's not to like?

TC: Flies, specifically the Black Soldier Fly and their Lava...what made you investigate their use as an alternative to Fishmeal...? Before I happened across Seasoned Baits, I had never even heard of BSFL, let alone considered the Sustainability



RC: As I've mentioned, the soldier fly came to me by chance, I didn't go looking. I learned that the fly was an excellent source of protein and knew it had been passed as an alternative to Fish food. It wasn't a great leap to take it to carp angling as a bait.

It ticked all the boxes; it was sustainable, and it was local, and the more people I spoke to about using it, the more momentum it gained. It's been a lot of hard work, but it hasn't met with resistance. People are excited about this for good reason. There are only one or two others looking into this but that's enough to make me realise I am onto something.

TC: You may have read my lead in article in the July Issue of the Magazine and I have to say, I was surprised at how much the BSFL is already used across several industries and that Governments, including the UK are investing in the research of Farming these flies, do you use any of the products in your 'Human' cooking at present and do you see a time when this could be the 'Norm'...?

RC: I think it's only a matter of time before this lands on the food shelves. It may seem odd but it's going to happen. We as humans need to look at other protein sources that are less harmful and it seems the concept of insects and vertical farms is going to become more



popular. But to make it clear you won't find any of this meal in my kitchen or my burgers to eat just now... Ha Ha...!!!

TC: As Carp anglers, we are all aware that High Protein Baits are attractive to Carp but, pound for pound, how does the protein in BSFL compare to that in Fishmeal...?

RC: Insect-meal is a viable animal feed that has been receiving increasing recognition due to its high energy and protein content. Because of this, baits made from insect meal are hugely comparable to those made of fishmeal.

Another advantage of insect-meal over fresh or unprocessed dried insects that still contain its oils is that it can be more easily mixed with other feed components. Mixing it with ground grains and soy for example to form a mixture of a desirable composition is really easy.

TC: As with Fishmeal, are there different 'Grades' of BSFL. In other words, can you use a cheaper version of BSFL...?

RC: Like all protein sources, especially fishmeal, there are cheap and expensive versions. When I set out on this journey I started with the best quality and that's what Seasoned Baits will stick with. I can easily get a full-fatted meal that's 50% cheaper but that's not what we are about.



Also, once we have made a bait that has tested well enough to go to market, we won't modify it to make it cheaper. What goes on the shelf is what is tested and approved, and this ensures our customers avoid disappointment or be sold an inferior product.

TC: Moving away from the BSFL for now, you state that your range of bait is natural, can you tell me a little more detail about this, without giving any 'secrets' away'[of course...?

RC: Yes, everything we use is natural. We don't use any fake or man-made smells, no feed stimulants or triggers because we know that our insect meal has everything in it that carp will need. Its high in amino acids like lysine, glutamic acid and tyrosine all of which carp find super attractive. Along with our highly attractive base mix and natural insect lipids it really is a ball of goodness.

TC: Is there anything in your bait that is 'Not Sustainable'

RC: From natural flavour sources to sustainable packaging, we always do our best. Saying its fully sustainable I'm sure would lead me to criticism from some people so we like to say as sustainable as we possibly can make it - our baits are as natural and good for everyone as they can be. And this is the only range we produce - we don't make any baits that are any less good for the planet.

TC: How many 'Boilie Varieties' do you currently manufacture and how would you describe the smells and flavours...?



RC: We have other bait products that we are working on but have released only the original Bug Bites Boilie at this time. I would describe the smell of it as a nutty smell if anything.

TC: What else do you do in the Seasoned Baits range...?

RC: Boilies, Pastes, Oils, Pop-Ups, Wafers, Pellets, Glugs, Hardened Hook Baits – it's a pretty substantive range.

TC: Does the same BSFL liquid go into the Oils and Glugs or do you use a basic glucose liquid in those, like many other companies do...?

RC: Yes, our glug has about nine ingredients which include all of the above. But it is blended in such a way and contains specific ingredients that make it release many types of attractors at different times once it enters the water.

TC: In terms of 'Rolling' the boilies, is this done by hand or are they Machined...?

RC: Our bait is machine rolled in a semi-automatic process in 50kg rolls. The consistency of the raw product works well and this way we can produce a consistently high-quality bait.

Our bait has an exceptional texture that holds well enough to feed a swim using a 'throwing stick' but doesn't really need any soaking to make it soft as it already is.

TC: Having had first-hand experience of the bait, I must say the smell is not something that I'm attracted too, in fact, the Bug Bites boilies don't appear to have much of a smell at all, in terms of

strength and nothing in terms of 'Flavour' I can put my finger on, such a Fishy, or Sweet etc. Was this a deliberate attempt to make it 'appear' more natural or is this just how it is and you're not trying to appeal to the angler etc....?

RC: This goes back to my point about appealing to a fish and not what an angler thinks would be attractive to a fish....!

When does a carp want to eat another fish or have a cocktail? They are attracted to a good, natural looking food source that is rich in protein and other essential nutrients. Fishmeal has been used in most of the bait on the market past and present and I think fish have got wise.

With this new BSFL Protein Source, we bring a whole new angle to attracting and catching them.

T.C: I am aware that the next phase of the Seasoned Baits journey is to introduce 'Biodegradable' bags for the boilies, which I think will be an industry first, although I'm certain someone will correct me if I am wrong....how easy has this been and why do you think other bait companies are not already doing it...?

RC: Finding the right packaging has been the toughest challenge. I didn't want to take the easy way out and use a cheap bag.

We have tried several options since we started, and we finally thought we nailed it with a fully recyclable bag. However, it didn't reflect the quality of the bait and to get people using the bait, this wasn't a good thing.

Eventually we found a Carbon Neutral company who use paper from a fully sustainable forest and we went with that. We now think we have a great bag for retail that ticks the sustainability mark that we believe in and although its nearly 35% more expensive, we felt this

was the right choice at this time.

That said, we are working on several ideas that to my knowledge will be an industry first in the steps to remove waste and single use plastics...so watch this space.....

TC: Something that I have discussed with many a 'Named Angler' over my time doing these types of interviews and that we hear and read a lot about, especially on Social Media is the talk of 'Sponsorships' and 'Team Spots' and 'Deals' etc. etc. Being a new company, have you given this any thought and what is it you would be looking for, before you would consider someone to represent the brand...and do I fit the profile...? (Don't worry, I ask this at every interview I do, so I'm used to being rejected...HaHaHa)

RC: At the end of the day, I want this to be successful not just commercially but because it is a good thing for the industry to have environmentally strong products. To help me, I would be looking for someone who embodies both those things which I guess is someone that is well thought of, responsible and has an awesome social following! That's how it works these days, isn't it? However, this person also needs to be committed for the long term and as a business, the way we approach this is to partner with our people and make them part of the business.



Well, I'm certainly more intrigued now than I already was and the catch results from the field testers seem to speak for themselves. I have also done my own research in to the sustainability of Fishmeal and how it is produced and have to say, even though I would not class myself even remotely as an environmentalist, even I can see that something must change and change soon before it is all too late...!!!

For now, Richard, I think we will leave it there and thank you so much for such an interesting and detailed 'Chat'. It has been a pleasure and a real eye-opener to hear the 'Seasoned Baits' story so far and I look forward to catching up for the second part of this interview...!

Follow the Seasoned Baits story on their social media or check out their full range on their website;

Instagram: @seasoned_baits_

Facebook: Seasoned Baits

[Website: www.seasonedbaits.co.uk](http://www.seasonedbaits.co.uk)

Since this interview I have committed to using the bait range and will be updating my social media as and when I get out on the bank to use it, but the bait has already produced a substantial hit of Carp on a local day ticket water for my dad, which is enough to convince me that even though the smell is not attractive to me, it certainly is to the carp...!!!

Follow my progress on
Instagram: @mark_carper257





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New Beginnings
(On The New Lake Part 1)
by Richard Handel

Tackling a new water is a real buzz for me. I've waited a long time for this one, but the timing didn't quite go to plan. I was offered a ticket in the middle of a global pandemic, your wife is in the travel industry, times are hard, and the future is unpredictable. But this opportunity would not come around again. So, we made the choice to join. I looked forward to my induction day on the first weekend of January 2021 and the plan was to fish 3 night's straight after that day. Unfortunately, lockdown happened, and I had to wait for a few months as I didn't class it as local to me. Time passed by fishing on my local club lake, the time came when we could all get out again and travel further afield. As the induction was done and nights where on the card's. The real issue I had was my approach to

new venues. I like to fish hard and as much as possible in every swim so I can get in to and build up a picture of the lake in my head. My concern now is that the lake is very hard, and it could take some time to get the right combination of tactics to bag myself a carp. If there was another lockdown, would I be wasting my time, or would it be best to forget about the first year on that water and head over to the Airfield lake? I would feel at home there and I would be full of confidence. Not that I wouldn't on the Roach pit because that's not how I work. There's also the two weeks closure when the carp spawn to take into account. Also, when my wife goes back to work in the office, this will throw my fishing routine out as well. At the moment her workdays change from

week to week. Which has the knock on effect of which day's I can fish. But this is a real must for us as a family, it will be a clear sign the things are changing in the world and getting back to normality, financial stability will not be far away.

I decided that getting on the lake straight away and fishing Sunday to Tuesdays or even Wednesday was the best way forwards. Simply because once the rush of lockdown being eased was over, there would clearly be a lot less anglers on the lake on those days of the week. Giving me the opportunity to look around more, move swim more. I never like to make too much disturbance when the lake is full of anglers. New members who do that, generally don't go down well. So, being by myself or with only a few people on will help

me gain more knowledge of each swim faster and the prospects of being able to move swim more during the weekday's would be a great help. When the wife is back in the office sometime before 21st June, I will have to change my days around again, which could mean weekend fishing, I just don't know yet.

My first few trips to a new lake always make me feel like you have to be on your best behaviour - the last thing you want to do is upset the members on your first day. I

decided, that as the closer to the 29th of March got, night fishing would be back on. So, I thought it would be nice to turn up for the 8 am draw and meet some of the members. There were only 9 anglers down to fish the first night and the draw went very well and my first two night's on the water were soon over.

My second trip was supposed to be 3 nights, but I just wasn't feeling the love. I'm getting old and my body doesn't like walking up and down

steps into swims, my knees just ain't happy (or my hips for that matter) and getting in and out of a boat and onto a platform was hard work for me. Your brain asks your body to put your foot somewhere and there is a likelihood that it won't happen quick enough, and a big splash follows etc!

I made a schoolboy error and forgot that someone had told me about the main car park and the entrance into the lake, not to overload my barrow. I hurt my ankle on some



tree roots and only managed one night. Teething problems I feel, as I get to grips with the place and understand my limitations/opinions, it's all going to start getting better. The lake is stunning and perfect, it's all about me and my falling about body! My third trip was a couple of weeks later, after I had spent a couple of nights on the Airfield Lake. This felt like fishing had reset itself and I returned back to the new water full of enthusiasm and determination. I had also reduced my kit

down even more and understood where I went wrong. I set up in the hope of doing three nights.

I managed to catch the first of many tench to come, there is a fair few about and I even got to see my first carp showing during daylight hours and not too far away from where I was fishing. Alas, no such luck yet. The wind had been pushing from the North and did for the coming weeks.

My next outing was only one night as it was

like fishing the Baltic sea and a bitter north wind that just wasn't moving.

My next session, I couldn't get in the car parks as it was so busy. Another schoolboy error, I should have learnt to arrive later in the afternoon on Sunday (about 4pm is best), but the forecast was heavy rain then and I was hoping my luck would be in my favour. It sort of was, I headed over to the Airfield Lake and got in the perfect swim. I really didn't fancy getting



soaking wet and blown away in the 40mph winds!

With family stuff planned, I could only fish weekends until mid-June, and I was hoping that Covid would be better and less furloughed people would mean less anglers on the bank. Hopefully summer holidays would be in full swing, and I would stand a better chance of getting into a good swim.

June started with a lovely week away in Wales and I was all set for a couple of nights on the lake, the weather was pretty good, and the carp had yet to spawn. It's also

looking like there may be less people about on the lake Sunday and Monday's. We shall see how long this last and I'm hoping to get another trip in before they spawn, and the lake is closed. This is a much better way of running things, rather than having a closed season. Just too many opportunities these days when the lakes are closed which was highlighted over the lockdown periods. Unfortunately, I only managed one trip before they spawned and the lake is now closed until 3 weeks after they finish spawning, to give them a few weeks to

recover without any pressure. We are able to walk around, which is something I'm hopefully going to get the chance to do. I've decided that with the lack of holidays last year, I will not fish in August and just have fun with the kids in between working and then set about hard fishing in September. August has never been the best month for me and catching carp. I will be back with part 2 later on in the year and hopefully by then bagged myself a couple of beauty's!

Until next time

Richard



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Talking Carp

TARGET PRACTICE

BY JAMES
MCQUEEN



If you are anything like me, at the start of a New Year, or new campaign, I like to set myself a target. This is very rarely a specific fish, as I tend not to go after such a specific target, but for me it will be a weight, a type of Mirror (Linear or fully scaled) or a hit of fish in a session.

I am in a very fortunate position where I have two syndicates that are available to me on my doorstep. One venue has a stock of original Leney strain Mirrors mixed in with a load of cricket bat commons and everyone's worst nightmare, the dreaded Bream. My other syndicate is a non-publicity hole in the ground, but full of big and when I mean big, I mean big Carp. I decided to concentrate my efforts this year on the "hole in the ground" to up my PB and to land my first UK

40. Some of you will read that and think, "A forty isn't big these days, or you can do that on a Day ticket" and you'd be right, but for someone like me who is a dad of two, husband and a full time Police officer in London, my fishing time is very limited, often culminating in a quick over night session every couple of weeks in-between a change of shifts. I therefore always like to pay a bit more for a ticket knowing that I will be able to fish at the drop of a hat with angler numbers being low.

I suppose this is a good opportunity to discuss venue choice, and planning ahead. If the above scenario rings true

in your angling, other than the being a "FED" bit, your choice of syndicate will ultimately affect the success of your season. If you are in a position to fish a night or two every week, plan ahead and ultimately do as you please, then a busy syndicate, Day ticket or circuit water is game on!! On the other hand, if you do the odd night, cant plan ahead and need to turn up after work and leave the next day, then fishing a rock hard, low stock venue where swim choice and being there at first light is



imperative, you're already up against it. In this scenario my advice would be to find a syndicate that has low member numbers, which will mean there will be a waiting list and a healthy ticket price, but with a bit of forethought now, in a few years you could be sat pretty catching some amazing fish on a venue where you can turn up any time of day, get a decent swim and have the potential of catching. You'd be right in thinking that a Day ticket can also offer you good angling, but for me I always rush to a peg and end up settling just to get a swim, rather than walking laps and finding the fish, for fear of losing my peg. There is also the issue of cost, at £25-30 a night for 24 hours a day ticket can easily swallow up more than a decent syndicate will cost for the year,

although I accept the cost is spread out and not paid in a lump sum. I suppose my advice would be to just have a think, do some research and get your name down on a waiting list.

Anyway I digress, Targets.....

I started my year full of optimism and confidence knowing that I had the right bait, the knowledge and I just needed the Carp God's to do their bit. It didn't take long for all that to be beaten out of me, and for me to be doubting what I thought I knew and how I was doing it. Having done a good few nights throughout the winter



with nothing to show for it, I watched the banks slowly get busier with the Anglers I hadn't seen since the First Frost of Winter, and the inevitable news of fish on the bank. I won't lie, I was feeling a bit aggrieved and my confidence took a hit. I had worked hard, applied bait and in good areas, but it would seem that the Anglers absence over winter was something I should take note of this

year, a weedy deep venue is not a good Winter venue (on paper).

I knew from previous experience that there are a few swims that always do a good hit of fish in early Spring when the water has warmed a little, so I had already thoroughly investigated them with a Marker rod, so I knew the steady application of bait will keep the areas clear and hopefully visited regularly by Carp. I focused my time in one swim, but was still not

getting amongst the fish, but still hearing of captures when I wasn't there, albeit no big hits. I decided that it was all about hours spent at the lake, and with it producing day bites, I had to get myself there no matter how short the session there was. It ended up being that I would get to the lake at 9am after the school drop-off and leave by 2.30 to do the school pick-up. IT PAID OFF..... May saw me land a 36.7 Common during one of these short sessions, also being a new UK

PB Common. I felt very pleased with myself, having made the best of the situation and managing a new PB. I continued with these short sessions with no further fish landed.

It was now July, a new SW wind was coupled with a huge drop in air pressure, and it looked like my overnigher coincided with this new weather front. I decided that a change was in order so rather than using whole boilies, I would crumb up a load of my Essential Baits K5



add K5 Liquid food which I allowed to soak in overnight. I made sure the crumb was damp and then added 6mm & 2.3mm pellet, 12mm K5 boilies and a good helping of Monster Particle Himalayan pink salt. This was spodded this liberally onto nice clear areas in between weed beds and then prepared myself for the Italy V Spain game in the Euro's.

I was awoken about 1.30am with a cracking take, ripping line from the spool on my middle rod. A short battle landed me a 25.4 Mirror, which was a welcome capture and a sure sign the change in bait approach could have worked. I went back to bed full of hope for another bite, especially as the bite time lasted until about 11am.

Well, I didn't have to wait that long, it was about 5.30am when the left hand rod pulled up tight, but no line was taken, so I stood watching for a short time when the spool started to very slowly click around. I lifted into something solid and heavy, but after a few seconds it started to move and came in like a dog on a lead. I had a look in the net and I knew straight away that it was a new PB and potentially my first Uk 40. It was 44LB on the

nose and it has made my year. Target complete? Nope, it's now a 40Lb Mirror. I would like to thank the following companies for their continued support:-
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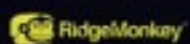
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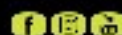
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Jay 'the mighty' White



THE GAUNTLET



Peter 'CarpCrusader' Siegert

Early July saw a small contingent of the DT baits team along with the lads from the YouTube channel Wetlines head to Elphicks fishery in Kent to form part of an organised carp social that DT Baits consultant Pete Siegert organises and runs. Pete had this to say about the socials

“It started when an angler and his friend won a tutorial with me. Having had such a blast they wanted to book for the following year. Over that year interest and numbers grew and the Carp Crusader Socials were born. I now organise three or four a year at Elphicks Fishery. A core group of

experienced anglers from within the trade whom I have worked with over the years with a few spaces offered to lucky anglers who get to not only have a great time but get free tuition from us over the four days to ensure they get the best out of the trip often breaking PBs along the way. Giving them opportunity to access some great angling minds in a relaxed environment at a superbly run complex of lakes which is extremely hard to get a swim on by any other means and hopefully leave with a wealth of additional knowledge to give them the confidence to improve their future angling”.



This would also be the latest battle ground that would play part to an ongoing but healthy rivalry between Jay "Mighty" White and Peter "Carp crusader" Siegert. The two of them have been embroiled in a competition on social media for the last few months. The competition rules are simple who can bank the most carp over 20lbs in a year. The forfeit for loosing is yet to be confirmed but believe me I'm sure it will be something not to be missed! Also with them was DT's Matt Laney as well but due to family commitments he couldn't stay for the duration.

Once all of the social attendees were present the group did a lap of the complexes "Prairie" lake before taking part in the obligatory draw for pegs.

Jay managed to come out first and opted to fish peg 7 which seemed to have a good number of the lakes residence on show.

Pete jumped on the chance to fish Peg 8 from the draw, keep your friends close and your enemies in the swim next to you.

Not one to miss a trick and ever the opportunist Pete very quickly managed to nick a bite in the form of a very obliging surface caught 20 pounder once the draw was completed. This saw the gap closed between the boys at 8-7. Jay was just about hanging in there with the lead, but could Pete now over take him for the first time?

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hanging in there with the lead, but could Pete now over take him for the first time?

Jay got off to a slightly slower start but sometimes these things are more like marathons then sprints and he soon got on the score sheet. He opted for his ever faithful Fish





Blood and Orange wafers doused in matching bait spray and dusted with the DT baits GLM powder on a slip D rig. This was fished over a bed of matching pellet and hemp plugged in the DNA liquid.

The Wetlines team were also set a challenge to each use a different DT bait bundle for their time on the lake. These were put to great use by them.

Over the four days the group spent on the lake there were a lot of fish banked but it's fair to say the lions share fell to the lads using DT bait. The top rods were Jay with six fish and Tony from Wetlines who also winkled out six fish as well as the largest fish of the social a chunky leathery looking 36lbs mirror. The other lads from Wetlines also managed fish as well as Pete who bagged him self one more bite but unfortunately it didn't count against his tally as it was under 20lbs. The addition of six fish catapulted Jay back in front by some margin. Keep your eyes peeled on DT's social media and keep up to date on "The Gauntlet". Also be sure to head over to the Wetlines YouTube channel to watch the Elphicks films and see the lads in action.



Changes in Fortune

By Steve Gilbey



Welcome to another instalment of my carp fishing and a very welcome wind of change not just for fishing but in our lives also with restrictions being lifted across the country.

What a challenge the last year has been and in my last article I spent some time reflecting on where and what we had been through as a family both personally and professionally.

There has been much Sadness, Sorrow, Anguish, Frustration, and a whole host of other emotions served up for all of us in the last year but ultimately, we prevail and thankful to the advances in medicine and technology that have seen a rapid vaccine and roll out to the country.

I think we all are grateful for those little things in life that are often taken for granted

in our lives and luckily for us the angler fishing continued.

The late winter proved hard going for me as it often does but I enjoyed the few days only sessions I had catching a few carp along the way but a return to doing the quick overnight sessions between work and family time opened up some more possibilities.

The banks have been busy as expected and my local syndicate has been no different.

I have written about a carp that swims in this lovely Fenland lake before and one I would dearly love to catch and while I am happy to catch carp of any size the search for the Fully scaled aptly names THE SGT continues.

It has graced the bank in late winter and early spring to a few different members on the syndicate but after two years on the lake I feel no nearer to catching it!!! That is the reason we go or certainly I do to enjoy the hunt and to be outdoors in



search of our quarry. Again, it's something to be very grateful for in my humble opinion. So far, it's been a bit of a mixed bag you might say with the weather being all over the place throughout April and if it made me feel confused then the carp must be the same! Some days you had all four seasons in one day and where I thought carp should be and where they actually were baffled me at times but I guess that's carp fishing all

over.

The problem I find is that in an ideal world you would move to where the fish were getting caught from, but the realities are that you cannot always make that move into those pegs due to how many other anglers are spread around a lake. Looking for carp is the first thing on my mind, but I do find myself wandering then when I see nothing and other anglers are set up and fishing, being a

short session angler, I may only get a quick overnight session in or if I am really lucky a full day, so time is precious.

I have now realised that from about late February early March the carp are showing up in all parts of the lake, but they do seem to like the middle areas around two islands. Sometimes it's hard not to think about exactly where you want to be and have a preconceived idea of where you are going to fish but on my last overnight session I had to adjust from where I wanted to be due to angling pressure all over the lake.

But one thing I have learned on the smaller lakes is that by early spring the carp are generally spread out in various parts of the lake which makes the job slightly easier.



There will be exceptions of course with some areas holding more carp than others but my general thought process is that whatever peg you opt for or have to drop into there will be a feeding spot or an opportunity where a carp passes through be it island, margin, snag, gulley intercept point on its way around the lake. To highlight the point to the reader and to add an element of realism to the situation that the average carp angler faces I will use my most recent session that had been planned for a Friday night which is the usual opportunity that presents itself for me to fit in an overnight session between work and family.

A last-minute change of plan and I opted instead to do the Sunday Night enabling me to spend the weekend with the

family a decision when pulling up to the gates I instantly regretted!!

The car park had eight cars in I had forgotten that it was new membership time so there were plenty of anglers on the lake ten in total covering all the banks.

I did my usual wander and spoke to a few regulars one of which had just returned a big common at 29lb that wetted the appetite even more. I got lucky with one angler packing up who had caught a few from the Southern end of the lake so really it was decision made with most of the

lake tucked up. Carp had been caught all over so this highlights the point I made earlier that it's not a complete disaster if you can't go exactly where you want and sometimes you will not get that ideal scenario. I was happy to be out and fishing the swim I opted for gave me access to the entire Southern bank, but I chose to concentrate on an area I have caught from before and



I know that the carp love to hang about in at most times of the year. A nice little corner where the Eastern Bank meets the Southern bank and a snaggy area stretching out from the bank that gives you a bit of margin fishing as well as the snag and open water areas to present a bait to.

Most of the lake is silty some areas more than others but I would not say there is nowhere that you can't place a bait and I tend to

look for the areas where there is a bit of a crease between the smooth silt and the harder areas as you approach the margin. A recent chat with a very good angler with years of experience yielded a little change in my approach from a normal lead clip set up to a helicopter set up with the silt in mind I must confess to never using this set up always favouring the universal do all jobs lead clip arrangement. But I always listen to others and certainly

those anglers with many more years of experience and carp under their belt than me, so I decided on that little tweak with nothing else changing in my approach. I knew the area I wanted to fish being focused around the snag with one rod up very tight and the other about six to eight feet off to the side of the sunken tree. Spots found and clipped up I went right back to basics no spomb, not even a catapult this time a handful of Rod Hutchinson Ballistic B was all I was going to use over each rig.

I went against the grain a little knowing that most of the carp were getting caught on bottom baits I chose to fish a 15mm Ballistic B pop up on a multi rig on the first rod over a silty area.



The first cast went a little further than I thought but more due to my positioning than anything else, but I was happy and after a short walk to the spot I was still able to see the area the rig had gone down in I crumbed some bait up and left some whole and under armed a handful over the top of the rig. I was happy with that and settled on sorting the second rod out which went a bit closer to the snag about half a foot off the dropping branches.

This time I opted for my favoured German Rig with a 15mm Ballistic B bottom bait that had been soaking in our Liquid Food and to this I attached a small mesh bag of about five or six baits. This is such a lovely way of fishing and I feel more suited to the smaller venues I am not a big caster

and although I do use a spomb I never feel truly comfortable with it I wish I did when you watch the likes of Tom Maker it's like poetry in motion.

But I do feel that you fish to what you feel comfortable with in order to not confuse yourself and become frustrated, keep things simple especially if you are starting out or going through a patch where you are struggling (We all do!!). By the time I had sorted my rods and tidied up and got the Enduro Brolly sorted it was late evening and I needed a brew I had also spent about half an hour talking with a young lad who had just started carp fishing his enthusiasm was clear and had been on the lake since the Friday banking a lovely linear that I have had the good fortune to catch previously.

I congratulated the lad and wished him well for the remainder of his session and for his season ahead, but I was shocked when he told me that another member had tried to get him to vacate the swim, he was in offering him money to move and go somewhere else!!

Totally out of order in my opinion and something that has no place in fishing I wonder if the said person would have done the same to me or another adult instead choosing to chance his arm with a young lad?? The phrase "take a long walk" is perhaps a polite way of putting it! I settled in with a brew as the light faded, I got the feeling that something was about to happen, and it did I got a single bleep on the Mag runner and saw the tip whip round

on the second rod as I lifted into the fish, I felt the line rubbing on a branch and disaster the hook pulled!! The first fish I had lost in two years even fishing locked up with no line to give the tip movement had just given the carp enough movement to get to a branch under the water.

Deflated I brought the rig back in and looked at the hook it was clear that from the frayed coating on the braid that this was the point where the rig had caught the branch and just popped out.

I knew that this was going to be the only chance on that rod tonight as normally it does a fish and then remains quiet for the night I grumbled and huffed and puffed before getting the rod back in position opting for a spot a few feet from the snag.

The night passed by with little in the way of action I did not hear anyone else getting runs through the night as midway through I got up to have a look out to see if carp were showing.

I felt a certain amount of confidence after hearing carp crashing out a bit further up from where I was fishing so I knew they were about! At first light a little bleary eyed I decided that I would have a brew and watch the water before deciding on what to do next. I made the decision to re-do the first rod with a fresh pop up and another handful of bait and after no more than twenty minutes that rod was away with a drop back then powerful run.

I leaned into the carp keeping the tip of my Rod Hutchinson DMX rod under the water gradually steering the carp away from

the snags and over my other line which caused a few nervous moments.

The fish felt a good one keeping low in the water but going on powerful runs trying to get into the lily pads that are just starting to come up in the margins.

A lovely scrap ensued and eventually I saw the lovely golden colours of a Common swirling in the water! I scooped my prize in the landing net with the pop up still hanging from its mouth a result a good twenty pounder!!

Onto the scales and at 25lb 3oz my first twenty of the year and a pleasing one given the immaculate condition of the fish.

Photographs done and the rod back in position with a fresh rig and bait on I settled into some breakfast and thoughts

turned to the weather as the wind had picked up considerably since my arrival the previous night.

If you go by majority viewpoint most anglers will want a SW Wind cloudy and overcast with temperatures around 16c the ideal carp catching conditions.

With time ticking on to the end of my session I really wanted to nick another one if I could, as the wind had picked up and blowing down to the Northern end of the lake, I watched the water and saw several shows in the centre of the lake in front of two other anglers.

I got the general feeling that the added wind stirred up the entire lake and it suddenly started to feel like a bite would happen imminently and I think depending on the lake and its make

up the wind will cause most of the carp to go on the feed it just feels better for a bite.

I did not have to wait for long and the same rod was away as the mag runner let out a single bleep and the tip bent round the fish this time kiting towards me away from the snag, the tight line and clutch set tight doing its job. A spirited fight and a few dodgy moments with the carp making for the other line and the lily pads later and the carp slowly succumbed.

Another good common sat sulking in the net, and it looked like another twenty, but you never really know, again Rod Hutchinson Ballistic B catching out a common they do seem to like it on my lake.

On to the bank and scales and just tipping the 19lb mark I was well pleased an immaculate common

without a mark on it and a fitting end to the session that has got me off the mark this year with a couple of the lake's bigger residents.

Another photo and carp care applied to a little nick in the fish's mouth and back she went strongly.

So, the end came with no further bites but more learned and perhaps I am a little closer to capturing the Fully Scaled who knows but hopefully that will be an adventure for another day!

I can't stress enough having learned myself that on these small lakes particularly when they are heavily fished is to try and fish in a peg that does not get fished much and keep it simple.

A good rig with a good bait presented correctly in an area that the carp frequent and you will catch it really is a great way of fishing.

I have seen anglers' bait heavily over a spot and feel that this benefits you if you are doing a 48-hour session or longer but on shorter sessions I really do think it's an advantage to bait

lightly for a bite at a time.

Food for thought maybe and whilst I don't catch loads in my short sessions, I am happy to be amongst the carp after all a carp is a carp size is irrelevant really, it's about enjoying the hobby and being out and about.

Keep on pushing your limits and achieving

your personal goals it's easy to get lost in what the world of social media and celebrity anglers say or do, follow your own path and enjoy your own fishing.

All the best

Steve G

Team Rod Hutchinson





Undertaking my first BCAC event, the inaugural BCAC Shield Pairs event.

By Jamie Brown

Well July didn't disappoint in any way in terms of life goals. I started a new job with a company I have wanted to work with for 13 years, I got some personal fishing time and it was the month that the inaugural BCAC Shield pairs was to be held. The first time it was being done under the current covid circumstances, tickets were limited, could I, what were the chances, BCAC sells out fast, it's the carp competition in the UK for match anglers, so, thinking hat on and geek mode engaged.

Web monitors in place for the site going live, information all stored in the clip board for rapid input and every alarm and calendar ready to do a count down. 1 day, 12 hours, 6 hours, 5 hours, 2 hours, 1 hour time to sit in front of the PC's. The site refreshed and I hit the blocks running, data in, ticked selected, BOOM- we were in. 90 seconds, 90 seconds and it was sold out, but I had a golden ticket, I felt like Charlie Bucket when he got his ticket.

We started planning, on the phone to Peter day in day out, what we doing, how we approaching this, and then he called back, "I've been called off shore, not sure I am going to make it" then he confirmed, off shore, that was devastating, it was the worst news, so plan b. Who would I fish with that I can work well with, so a call to Ewan Roberts, fellow Carp team Scotland team member and he says yes, so it was back on.

I had competed in matches before, but not at this level and seeing the roster, Bart, Hewitt, Flowers, Londors and of course, some of the pairs from Carp Team Scotland, the roster was full of world class anglers for sure. A mountain to climb, could we do it? Damn right we could, I've never been one to back down from a challenge, we were going to give it everything to compete. Planning started, Ewan was on point with plans, information and of course he has experience on linear, and we set 4 main team challenges on the way down to the first weekend.

- Have a good time
 - Catch a few fish
 - Finish top 10
 - Be the top Scottish pair (sorry boss, goals are good)

Prep started, new kit arriving, another Rod Hutchinson DMX 13' 3.5's to add to the collection, another big pit and lots of other bits and bobs, bait ordered my normal Rod Hutchinson KMG in 12mm, red salmon and spicy krill liquids, some other liquids and powders to add to it all, and a few slabs of hemp and mixed particles in case they are needed, rigs tied, line spooled and all over the week I was changing jobs and finishing projects in my current job. Prep was done, we were ready to rock and roll.

The first weekend, 7-hour drive to the lake was underway, we chatted the normal nonsense, plans, we nominated Ewan as team leader, having more experience. Arriving on the Thursday we fancied B2, fish everywhere and feeding for sure. An enjoyable night on the bank with some anglers that started in the carpark the night before like us. Some good craic was had with them all. Morning broke, time to head to the draw, we gathered with some of the team, some other guys that they knew and Jo Barlow, the ladies team manager and had a good chat and a laugh. Neves kicked in, steel face was on and I was ready to see where we drew. Ewan and I were called, NO, It was not the best of draws for us, a peg that we felt we may struggle with. Lots of fish showing, but zero fish feeding in front of us, instead all basking in the sun. We were here to compete, not to moan or cry over swim choice, so we soon got the rods up, bivvies up and swim planned.



The hooter went, we did nothing, sat quietly waiting on all in so we could attack the fish in front with floaters or stay as quiet as possible and scratch one out on a zig quickly. Nothing, not a touch, so we started to find spots, leading, baiting, fishing, up down, up down, her there and nothing, couldn't scratch a bit to save ourselves. 24 hours in and we were starting to wonder if we had it all wrong, zigs, bottom, pop ups, adjustable, over depth, went long, sort, left and right, and nothing. 36 hours in, and still nothing, we knew we'd struggle, but not like this, we thought we'd have had a few by now.

6am Sunday morning after another uneventful night, Ewan and I both got up, his words were, we're going to work till we get on that board, we have time, and we can do it. We did, we had a few, enough to place 5th on the lake – buzzing and it's all thanks to teamwork, there is no egos, no I'm the better angler, no nonsense. Our lines were getting tangled as we pushed the limits on the controllers, we tried to get another rod on them with an adjustable as my controller was not getting far enough, but it was causing issues, too much time spent trying to work round two of us fishing, so the tactic was to be fishing with one rod at range. My inexperience in this type of match was showing and it was causing us issues, so I pulled out and

became the self-proclaimed bank skivvy, banking fish, sorting slings, topping up the baits, being there for whatever my partner wanted.



We had them feeding there finally, the wind dropped enough to let us see them, the slick from the floaters helping,

they were confident in feeding too – then the controller was attacked by some winged predator from above, an awesome sight, we panicked, but, the carp gods were on our side and we were able to keep going, 1, fish, 2 then another, it was the break we needed after me losing 3 fish over the weekend, I should have been on the rods faster and harder but the bites were on Ewan's rods, I wasn't sure how hard to hit it, I'll know for next time. Fish after fish rolling over the net, spodding between unhooking and tending to fish, I was running about mad, want a team Ewan, not yet, back to work. We ended on 5 fish for 116lbs 11oz, enough to get 5th on the lake. I was delighted for Ewan and the team, his hard work on the rod paid off massively. The final hooter rang, we sat for 10 minutes with a tea and coffee then started to pack up – we looked round, the lake was empty. There was a certain football match, we didn't care, the carp were more important to us, and they showed up and helped us, we joked these were some Italian strain knowing the Scots were invading to win the shield on the big day for football.

I couldn't be happier for Ewan on the road home, his performance and his genuinely team first attitude propelled the team up the ranks for sure. We did it, together and as a team, but I didn't feel like I contributed to the efforts, I was feeling a bit down and dejected, I blanked when we needed both to bank fish, I didn't deserve the praise from him or others that the team did a great job, I didn't contribute to the weight, I lost 3 fish, ones that could have pushed us to a higher position, could have placed us third or even



second. Not to be, so home with a half-smile and two weeks to think about it and make some changes. Ewan gave me pointers and I listened, prep for the second week was underway and so was a new job – under pressure to perform in both areas of my life, I needed to get stuck in there and find time for prep and family. I also managed a blood bike shift on the Saturday before, after a call from the controller on shift needing someone that could come in to support the guys on the ground, enjoyable, but stopped me from getting to West Lothian Angling for my bits and bobs I was so needing.

Weekend two arrived and could not have been any more different to the first, B2 was the lake for this session, and same again, down on the Thursday evening and camped in the carpark. On our short walk, we seen the fish, had a chat with a few of the guys on the lake already, and we had our plan of preferred pegs. My turn to draw, and..... peg 22, the carpark swim that we thought may be a good shout, and if nothing else, 30 yards to the van, so we could pack up and head home if we didn't manage to get it rocking.

I started the match with a smile and hope after the draw, hope that I would catch at least one and that if needed then I'd be bank skivvy for Ewan and then retire from match fishing completely and become a professional runner.

Thankfully, I spotted a few fish about and found a pattern in the way they were moving through the swim, it was



repeated, Ewan spotted the same fish they were feeding so we rang the changes, the current spots were not working quickly enough for us, but a small change we could hopefully scratch one out. We scoped the spots with markers, found some clear spots and baited up, me using my KMG, corn and my favourite liquid combination including the red salmon and spicy krill. I wanted to try bottom baits this time, match the hatch, pop-ups didn't do me a bite last time, worth a try, so Rod Hutchinson KMG Hard hookers in 15mm, topped with a small foam corn piece, using my favourite Ridge Monkey Camo soft coated hook link and Cherry Carp wide gape hooks was the tactic I was starting on. It worked, we got a couple and lost a couple, I needed to up the hook size, it worked, we never lost another, but, I was getting bites, I may have stolen the spot Ewan found on the right of the swim while he went long. His rod ripped off after about 10 mins on the long rod, we were hoping this was the turning point and we were going to rock multiple areas the entire weekend loaded with coffee and red bull. We were getting fish on the short spots in a pattern, a run then a dry spell, the weather putting them on and off, the changing wind and patches of rain all changed the feeding, but we managed it.

A few times we joked with the marshals, especially Richard Minty that he'd be back in an hour, he was, it was a good laugh when they got a call, we have one, an hour later, we've got a couple, and a 3 or 4am call too, just for good measure. Then I pulled a Jamie again, we had a mare on the Saturday night, 3am, beep, beep, left rod, right rod, Ewan jumped out of



bed to see what was going on, we stood and watched what was going on with his rods, left, rod right rod, beep, beep, and then I noticed my right hand rod pulled round, I had a fish and the alarm was not making a noise, the bobbin not moving, could this be the issue? After 10 – 15 minutes we had the fish in the net, it wiped out all 3 rods and that was the end of that! No more fish for us, but fish 9 took us to 154lbs and 01 oz, placing 5th again on the lake, could we be in the top 10 still? Who knew, we wanted to know and knowing that this time I helped put fish on the board, I was gagging to know where we landed in total, it was a great feeling to have finally helped the team number.

We had some big names about us, some anglers that we knew could do some major damage, we know from the marshals that Jack and Lewis had a great session, so we knew they were up there, same with Flowers and Londors, but who else, we'd sat watching Matt and Dave Barlow getting in amongst a few, so we thought could be 4th or 5th again, we all headed back to the carpark for the prize giving – where did we come? What was the final scores – come on just tell us Emms. I knew we had 9 fish for about 150lbs or so, didn't have the brain power to count it up from the sheet at this point, was that enough to hold 5th, was the fish I lost at the net the one that would have made a difference? Who knows? Come on Emms, put us out of our misery!



5th on the lake, yes, well done team, we did it again, thanks Ewan, mentorship was bloody brilliant and I helped

7 out of the 9 were mine, I did some work and had some fish but the waiting was not over, and..... 8th overall! We did it, we met our goals, we got in the top 10, we caught a few fish, stayed above the other Scottish pairs (sorry guys, goals are goals) and we had a bloody good time. It was great to see everyone we knew with a fish or two, great to meet some top people, what a well-run event for sure. 7th would have been amazing, but to stay top 10 with the level of angler about, buzzing I was delighted, could not believe I had helped the team to achieve this after blanking in the first session and feeling down, I had helped to team to make the top 10 and we were happy as Larry.

The drive home was hard, we were tired, but I was on the biggest high ever, still sinking in, 8th with the some of the country's best anglers in the mix, a new PB and fishing with such a great partner certainly made it better, I wonder if I should put Peter through trials to see if he can compete with Ewan's bank running skills and of course, his fishing abilities, who knows, I just know that the whole experience was amazing made by the people about us. Hopefully see some of you again on the bank.

I do need to say a sorry to Minty, our lake marshal and all-round good guy, we left to get home and you were packing up – great to see you again and meet you the first time face to face finally, next time I am planning a linear session, we need to get a beer, amazing to see the friend ships fishing can build.

And congratulations to all the competitors, the top 3 pairs especially, great to have been part of this and I hope they continue the Shield comps in 2022 as it was a great format allowing anyone to really get in with a chance to win.

Position	Names/Teams	PEG	Number of Fish	Total Weight
1	JACK WELCH & STEVE SCOTT	31.2	28	345.14
2	DAVID BARCLAY & SCOTT BARCLAY	29.4	16	246.11
3	BILLY FLOWERS & JOHN LINDSAY	26.0	10	257.01
4	KEVIN GIBSON & DAVID GIBSON	25.1	11	184.06
5	JOHN BROWN & DAVID BROWN	22.9	9	154.01
6	ALAN CLARK & TONY MCKENZIE	23.6	6	117.10
7	ANDREW ROBERTS & JIM GILLIE	21.1	5	96.10
8	EDWARD WICKHAM & NICK HALLIDAY	20.9	4	84.11
9	JOHN GIBSON & DAVID GIBSON	26.2	2	57.05
10	KEVIN GIBSON & DAVID GIBSON	19.4	2	38.07
11	ALAN CLARK & TONY MCKENZIE	28.8	2	35.02
12	JOHN BROWN & DAVID BROWN	30.0	2	30.14

First Time at Bluebells....
by Stephen Smith (REME)



An early wake up alarm rang at 04:30 Friday morning to set off on the hour and half long journey from our hometown of Walsall to the Bluebells day ticket complex near Peterborough.

Being mine and my nephews first time at the complex, I wanted to get there early to get a couple of decent swims as I was meeting my friend there as well for a weekend social, realistically we wanted to be next to each other. As I saw the Bluebells sign at 06:30 in the morning, the excitement heightened whilst driving down the lane to the gate, but that all but lasted for about 30 seconds as I then saw a que of vans 12 deep already stacked in front of me.

The gate opened at 07:00 and by that time there was a further 7 vans behind me. As the gate opened and we drove down the complex to the reception, we past the swims of Mallard Lake to the right of us, the lake we actually wanted to fish, and every swim was taken, putting doubt that we will even find a swim! As we parked up, it was a mad dash to the reception with buckets in hand....

....Going off what we had seen on Mallard we decided to go look around Bluebell lake first, and we spotted 3 pegs with no one in across the other side of the lake, however they had already been bucketed....!! Continuing around the lake we came across an open swim and had a quick look. The person next to this swim seemed to be packing up, so we went over to have a chat. We asked him when he was leaving? To our delight him and his mate, who was next to him were both packing up and leaving at 08:00 which was perfect for us so we asked if we could bucket the swims.

Now everyone knows that location is massively important in fishing, however just getting a swim at Bluebells is hard enough! Anyway, the time we spent talking to the lads in the swims, we saw multiple shows from the far willows so the fish were definitely in front of us, which was a bonus! We went and collected our vans and drove back to the swims. At around 07:55 one of the lads

who's swims we were taking was into a fish which gave us a massive confidence boost that the swims were active with fish. A respectable 18lb common was his prize right at the end of his time.

Time to set up and figure out where to fish. Going off previous knowledge that my mate Ed Burnham had accumulated from his past 2 visits, 1 Being a 24-hour tuition from Steve Renyard. I opted for 2 on a spot using spinner rigs with pop ups on, 8 wraps out in 15ft of water. My other rod was in the margins which was on the back of the marginal weed bed, which is where the previous angler caught that last minute 18lb common, again I opted for spinner but decided to use a wafter on the deck.

The weather was overcast and quite warm, with the sun expecting to appear around 1400 in the afternoon. We were fully set up by mid-afternoon, 3 rods out a piece and the waiting game began. By 14:00 as expected, the sunshine appeared beaming down on the lake which the revealed the many carp cruising on the surface. A tactic change for myself and I opted to put 2 rods on the Adjustable Zigs, changing the depths from 6 inches below the surface to 4 ft every 45 minuets, the other rod I left in the margin. However, my mate Ed opted for a bit of surface fishing and started spodding out some floaters to get the fish feeding.



Pestered by ducks and swans, there was only a few opportunities to put his hook bait out there which unfortunately didn't result in any fish but came tantalisingly close! Back to my zigs and around 15:00 my left hand rod gave off a few beeps and slowly started taking line so I ran down and decided to hit into it resulting in a decent size bream around the 7lb mark, not exactly what we was here for. However, an hour or so

later, Ed's left-hand rod that was in the margin ripped off which resulted in a lovely 27lb Mirror. This was caught using solid PVA bag tactics, with the Withypool pop up rig using a Sticky Signature squid pink pop up. He dropped it under a tree in the deep margins where the weed just stopped which seemed to be a patrol route for the carp.

As the day went on, they didn't seem to want it off the top or on the zigs, so we reset our rods ready for the evening and got the BBQ and beers out.

Nothing happen overnight and we were up early watching over the lake looking out for the shows. We spotted a few fish show over by the willows, but it was the other side water meaning we couldn't fish there.

With the weather looking similar to the day before except with the wind blowing a little stronger, the zigs were back out and so were the floaters. Unfortunately, because of the wind, the floaters were getting pushed down the lake therefore making it pretty much impossible to fish on top. The zigs didn't produce either and what was weirder was when the sun came out, there was no fish cruising on top unlike the day before when there was 50+ carp cruising in front of us in packs of 4-5 fish.

The day went on and to my delight around 1800, the person who was fishing next to the willows had packed up and went home. Now no one was in that swim, it was free water, so I wrapped up to 16 wraps and fired out a single solid bag composing of crushed Bloodworm and Manilla boilies, Bloodworm and Halibut pellets all soaked in Pure Cannulas liquid with a CC Moore



Live System Waffer my choice of hook bait. This hit the edge of the willows and my trap was set for the night. Nothing happened through the night but in the early hours of the morning at 0500 my solid bag over by the willows was away! Being 80 yards out it was zipping across the lake into my mate's swim and after about a 10 minuet battle I finally got it into the net! What a great way to wake up and start the day. It tipped the scales to a respectable 26lb 4oz, and it was my first ever Bluebell carp!

Unfortunately for my nephew that was the last action for us, and we were packed up for 10:00. In the end 2 carp were caught, 1 by Ed being 27lb and the other 26lb 4oz caught by myself, oh and a Bream!

Being a very busy day ticket water, Bluebells can be very difficult due to the constant pressure and amount of bait going in, but by just using a solid bag with little food and being in the right spot where you know carp are going to be, proved you can still catch when the lakes might not be producing due to pressure or over baiting etc. Having said that it is an amazing complex and I will be returning to try out the other lakes. I mean there's

not many day ticket complex's where you can catch fish just shy of 60lb! And with my knowledge gained from this trip, hopefully I will catch a few more!

Stephen
Smith



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Reviews

Featuring -

Guide to popup bread flakes - Anthony Wood

Hot drinks on the bank - Anthony Wood

Kryston No Tabgle - Mike Madeley



**Delicious tasting hot drinks
on the bank!**
By Anthony Wood

We all enjoy fishing but when you are out on the bank how do you get that delicious fresh ground coffee taste that you love from home or your local barista?

A while ago I came across a company in Denmark called The Brew Company and their brew bags looked absolutely brilliant and the thing that really attracted me was that when you work out the price, the 5 pack (£9.95) works out at £1 a cup (you can get two cups out of each brewer) or even if you have a big mug, it's still only £2 a mug and that is a lot cheaper than any of the decent coffee shops.

Okay, so that price is good but how do they work and why are they good for getting a decent drink on the bank? Literally boil a kettle of water on your stove, jetboil or whatever you are using and pour the hot water into the brew bag to the mild, medium or strong level mark on the bag, seal the bag and wait between 4-8 minutes depending on how strong you want your coffee to be, then simply pour your coffee and enjoy. The bags take up very little room in your luggage or back pack especially if you are only taking one and your coffee to refill it.

Whether you are fishing for a few hours, a weekend or a week or two these coffeebrewers (they do tea too if you prefer a nice cup of tea) are absolutely perfect. Why should you compromise the quality and taste of your favourite brew when there is such a brilliant way of making it?



This is a company that knows their coffee as they work closely with the farmers and even have their own artisan micro-roastery onsite that allows them to perfect the blends that they create for use to enjoy.

I have always been aware of the environment and that we need to help where we can (although I could never get rid of my LandRover lol) so I try to use companies and products that are eco-friendly and the great thing about The Brew Company is that they are CO2 neutral via the WeForest scheme, they use wind turbines for their energy in their manufacturing, (this is one I particularly like as a sea angler) for every 1kg of plastic they use in manufacturing their brewers they help stop plastic waste from reaching the ocean via the PlasticBank scheme. Finally, not only are their Coffeebrewer bags made from organic craft paper (there is a thin BPE free PE on the bottom and a plastic spout) but you can also recycle them the same way that you can a normal milk carton!!

Another eco-friendly feature is that they aren't single use, that's right you can reuse the brew bag!! Simply empty the used coffee grounds out, give the inside a rinse out and refill it with your favourite coffee and brew again.

Get yourself some now from their website www.brew-company.com , watch out if you source from elsewhere as there are some fakes out there that are using inferior quality packaging and coffee. You can also follow the company on their media pages and see some of the ways people use their products and any new products that they bring out. www.facebook.com/TheBrewCompany, www.twitter.com/TheBrewCompany and www.instagram.com/brewcompany.en.



Anthony
Wood's
guide to
Pop up
Bread
flakes



It's been a while since you've seen a blog from me and I thought as the weather is starting to warm up, it was time for me to introduce you to more of my favourite tricks. Have you ever been to a fishery where artificial baits and bread are banned? My solution to this is pop ups made to look like bread flake!! The majority of places haven't banned pop ups so this is the perfect compromise.

Something that I have noticed is that a lot of pop up recipes are very obscure with the measurements saying just keep adding your pop up mix until you get a nice dough to make the pop ups from. After a lot of experimenting I believe that I have found the perfect measurements for making pop ups so I thought I would share that with you before we go into turning the pop up mix into 'fake bread'.

The pop up mix that I like to use is the plain pop up mix from feedstim.com it is based on milk proteins so has a good level of protein and attraction on its own and it creates a lovely smooth smooth finish to the pop ups especially when used as part of the following measurements (obviously it should work with whatever your favourite brand of pop up mix is too but I definitely recommend giving Feed Stimulants a try)...

80g Pop Up Mix

20g Base Mix (or in this case Fine Breadcrumbs)

12g Whole Egg Powder

5g Egg Albumin

50ml Liquid

Ingredients

The great thing about this combination of dry ingredients is that because it includes the egg powders you don't need to worry about using any



liquid egg so all of the liquid ingredients can be flavours, liquid foods, attractors and stimulants. In my fake bread I've used 30ml Mineral Water, 14.5ml Betaine Anhydrous, 5ml Bait Preservative, 0.5ml NHDC Sweetener and just to finish it off I used 6 drops of Jaffa Orange Essential Oil.

You could at this stage do the normal put the mix into a sausage gun, squeeze out the sausages and roll them on a rolling table to create nice round pop ups BUT we don't want to do that we want to create fake bread and it is really easy to do.

When you have a big round ball of dough use your thumb and the two fingers next to your thumb to very simply (but gently) pinch off pieces of the dough.

As you do this you will notice that the pieces you are pinching off closely resemble pieces of bread flake. Once you have pinched all the pieces off that you can simply boil them as you would your normal pop ups which is for roughly 60-90 seconds.

Allow to air dry for 7 days before putting in tubs.

The resulting fake bread is very firm and is perfect for surface fishing, zig rigs or popped up off the bottom. Well I hope you have enjoyed this blog and that it inspires you to have a go at making your own.

Regards

Ant



Kryston No Tangle
by Mike Madeley



"The thought of casting out a pure braid hooklink and not tangle on the cast will always set that element of doubt in the mind, but read on.

Kryston "No Tangle" Braid Straightener has been out for a long time, yet many anglers are not aware of it. So let me explain.

It's a PVA based liquid that has been created to aid supple rig presentations and prevent tangles on the cast. To use it is simple, just apply the No Tangle liquid to the full length of your rig and leave it to dry for a couple of minutes, when it hardens you will be left with basically a stiff rig that will not Tangle on the cast. No Tangle will dissolve once in contact with water, leaving no smell or residue and you are left with a perfect supple presentation prime for a bite.

I use it a lot on my braided rigs, knowing full well that soon as the carp take the bait, the rig is flying into the mouth and the carp will have no idea.

No Tangle comes in a small compact 30ml bottle that will last a season easy, well worth one in your tackle box.

Mike Madeley
Kryston UK Consultant.





Catch Reports

Featuring -

D.T. Baits
Nutrabaits
Vader Baits

Plus all of your catches !!!

Charlie Clifford



Father and son Lee and Charlie Clifford had a great day out and it seems the apple doesn't fall from the tree, with Charlie using small solid bags for 9 bites in a short 2 and half hour session. Bags were full of Nutrabaits pellets and a trimmed down hydrolysed pineapple pop up from Advanced Hookbaits. Could have had more with the spots fizzing away but had limited time on the bank. A great session with many more to come. Well done Charlie from all at Talking Carp.



David Blackburn



A hat-trick to remember!

David Blackburn has had a session he will never forget. Casting a single pink pepper pop up, David picked off all three fish, smashing his personal best carp twice and a personal best catfish. What a result.

Venue was Willow Lake at Fenland Fisheries, Huntingdon. Tactics were single pop up for all three fish. The carp were 25lb and 24.5lb Catfish was 30lb.

Congratulation David from all at Talking Carp magazine

Geoff Chuter



Linear B1

First visit
to B 1,
Caught
the " big
common "
@ 39.8lb,
caught on
Mainline
Cell Quads

Osian Lloyd

Osian, was out with his dad Geraint for his first ever Carp session. This great little Angler normally targets trout, but wanted to try for Carp. So by visiting his local tackle shop Lidsters fishing supplies he was ready!! He managed to catch three by himself



and all were a good weight, no scales etc as new to it all, but estimated about 6 to 10lb Common and his new PB... Its safe to say he's hooked as he went out again the next day and caught more.... A keen Angler in the making.

Tom Simcox

All caught on 12mm scopex squid pop up on the multi rig and a mix consisting of 12mm scopex squid freebies pellet flake and sweetcorn and a good covering of syrup all from the Nashbait scopex squid range



Tanya Rose



Tanya Rose has been out and getting amongst them. The GCT Angling team member had a fantastic session on a local lake, taking multiple carp up to 27lb.

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Harry Hazzlewood

Harry caught this fantastic 32lbs 2oz pb on his 12th birthday on the N-blend.



Alan Clarke

Alan Clarke 28Lbs 5oz with his new PB caught using a SUPA fruit wafer over a bed on Fish Blood and Orange.



Dave Atkiss

Dave with a 32lbs 7oz fish known as “The Mint Common”. His new pb was caught using a SUPA fruit wafer over Fish Blood and Orange freebies and pellet.



James Simpson

James with his new pb of 14lbs caught using SUPA fruit.



Michael Carr

Michael managed this 38lbs common which is a new lake record and a new pb from his low stocked syndicate using the new limited edition black SUPA fruit.



Ross

Ryan with a 31lbs mirror caught using an N-blend wafter over 2kg of peach and sour cream bottom baits.





Samuel Vickers

Samuel with a 44lbs grass carp caught on an N-blend wafter from a prebaited spot.



Terry Canham

with a 40lbs 4oz new Pb from Linear fisheries B1. The new limited edition black SUPA fruit.



Alan Clarke with a 27lbs 10oz mirror called “Droopy” caught on a Fish Blood and Orange wafter over matching freebies.





Flores MonstersHunters - Trigga Ice Pop-Up



Giordano - snowman trigger consisting of a 20mm trigga ice hardhook accompanied by a 12mm pineapple and banana pop up



Khalid Chaoui



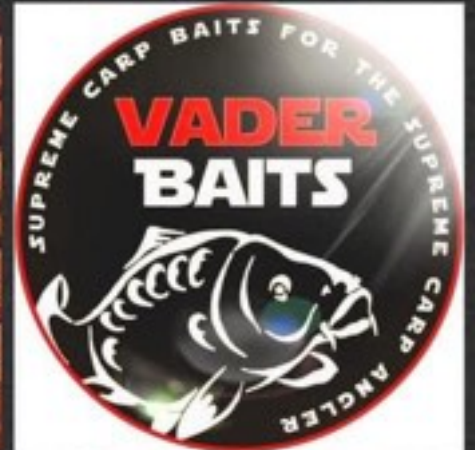
Lee Symmons - 20mm Trigga



Lewis Clark - Co-DE



Mike Parks - 25lb 8oz - mixture of co-de and trigga
mixed with some tigers

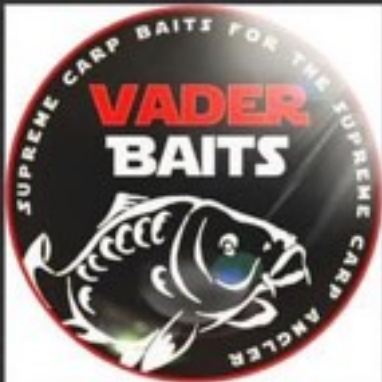


Team member Kym fished our Vader Baits social at NMG Fishery! As soon as Kym got on the lake he seen plenty of carp on the surface and could tell it was going to be a good social! He got set up and put a Ronnie rig on one of the rods topped with a 18mm Crabalicious boilie with 15 freebies over the top and not long after he managed to tempted a 23lb ghostie onto the bank! A new PB for himself and not only that it was also a named fish (Orange Spot)!! He was over the moon with this stunning fish! During the rest of the weekend he managed to bank a beautiful scaly banger at 13lb 5oz and five more carp under 10lb! These beautiful carp won him 1st place and our Vader Baits carp cup! Well done Kym congratulations on your new PB and congratulations on coming 1st place!



Matt fished the Vader Baits social at NMG Fishery with some of his team!

The social whistle blew at 11am and within 20 mins Matt was already amongst them banking the fastest fish! Matt tempted the really old wood carved common with an 18mm Grafter boilie with a few offerings over the top !! Matt swapped between 18mm bottom baits and white 14mm Grafter wafter throughout his session and finished the social banking 8 carp in all up to 22lb and losing a couple too!! What a super little gem of a venue with some really pretty old gems swimming around in there too!



Team member Nath fished our Vader Baits social at NMG Fishery! He managed to land 3 fish in total 2 fish from an open water spot both tempted by a 14mm Grafters boilie topped with a 12mm pink Grafters pop up fished in a snowman style presentation on a slip d-rig teamed with a small PVA stick with mixed sized Grafters pellet and crumbed boilie soaked in grafter glug and a good spread of 14mm Grafters boilies over the top. The third fish came from under an overhanging tree in the left hand margin a very spawned out 19lb 8oz common tempted by a 14mm Grafters boilie topped with a pink 12mm pink pop up teamed with a PVA stick of mixed size Grafters pellet and crumbed Grafters boilie soaked in Grafters glug with a good spread of 14mm Grafters boilies over the top.

Le Lees Carp Fishery

Welcome everyone to LE LEES Carp Fishery.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Le Lees Carp Fishery

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tight lines and may the carp gods bless you all.

Best wishes

Find us on Facebook for further information.

Matt, Tracie and Thai.



Le Lees Ca



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send your articles and catch reports by the
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Brian Dixon
Mark Faulkner
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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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