



# Talking Carp

Magazine

Issue 73  
March 2022

*Inside-*

Keith Moors Returns, Julian Cundiff - Talking Point  
Dave Locke, Scott Grant, Richard Handel + more

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# *Hello and welcome.... To issue 73*

**What a great few weeks it has been... we have seen the return of the fishing shows.... And it has been great.**

**First up was the Northern Angling Show in Manchester, then we had The Big One at Farnborough. We observed that both shows were very well attended by both the trade and the paying public, and the reports we are getting back have been extremely positive. Both shows were well presents, good stage talks, plenty to see and some fantastic bargains were had... what more do you want? We have heard one or two grumbles such as “So and so company wasn’t there, or this particular person never attended” but we have to remember it is still early days yet, and we are still in a tentative area, so for some it simply isn’t time for them to return to such a crowded scene. That is their choice and should be respected.**

**So, moving on, we have another fantastic issue for you this month, and we see the return of Keith Moors to our pages. Add to that we have Talking Point with Jules, more bankside captures from Geezer, articles from Richard, Chris, Karl, Barrie and Andy, reviews from Anthony and Mark... and all this is still FOR FREE.**

**So, keep those emails, catch reports and messages coming as we love hearing from you, and wouldn’t be here without you.**

**Talking Carp magazine... the carp magazine written by the angler, for the angler.**

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*Team Talking Carp*

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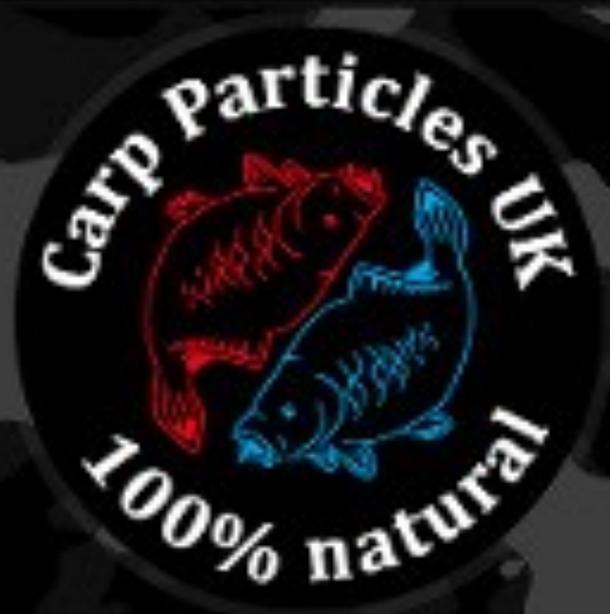
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*Looking Back*  
by Keith Moors

As we climb out of the depression caused by the Covid lockdowns I thought it would be a good time to look back over the last few years, on *Moorland Fisheries*, as a starting point to a series of articles that, I hope, will give an insight into the running of a fishery from the owners eyes. Whilst I hope to be able to report on some of the successful captures, as they happen, I intend to outline the work that goes on “behind the scenes” and is often missed by visiting anglers and I also hope to examine some of the changes that have happened.

My writing will concentrate, initially, on the preparations leading into the 2022 season with the detail beginning with our latest vidange (drain down) in November 2021 but this “prologue” will start with a look back over the recent years in order to “set the scene”.

2017 could be said to be “the year of the weed”. It was the year that the weather conspired to generate the perfect water conditions for the previous year’s patches of curly leaf pondweed to spread like wildfire and take over every square inch of the lake. In fact, I had to decide whether to deal with it or paint white lines on it and install goal posts. The weed in question was an early season potomageton and would start to grow quickly, very quickly, in March but would be pretty much done by early July. The carp loved it and grew fantastically well but most of our anglers hated it and struggled to work out how to fish it. In truth the situation was that, even as areas died off and dropped, the fish wouldn’t leave the beds of weed, so you had to be lucky enough to have a swim which contained the carp’s chosen weedbed. The main problem for us was that we were finding a considerable number of damaged, or even tethered, fish and something had to be done. We spent days and days cutting and raking but, quite honestly, the weed had got away from us. Lots of research and numerous phone calls followed.

2018 was the year that I was ready to tackle the weed right from the start. My research had shown that it is a weed that generates new growth from seed spiky heads known as turions which is a wintering bud which becomes detached and forms a new plant in the spring. In order to control



its spread it is essential to cut, or somehow stop, the early growth before it gets a chance to develop the buds. I was doing daily checks along the slightly shallower Southern Arm and I was amazed to find that the stems of weed were suddenly, and I do mean suddenly, within inches of the surface. The equipment was ready and the plan was to “reduce” the coverage of the weed but to leave patches that could be fished to. I reasoned that it was good to have a feature to fish to. I applied the treatment as planned but was probably a bit over enthusiastic. The result was that I eradicated the weed entirely. The fishing was much easier and the fish fought hard and were able to run wherever they wanted. It also resulted in the fish moving around much more and visiting virtually every swim so there certainly were benefits.

2019 showed us that the loss of the weed seemed to suit some of the fish whereas others weren't doing as well as they had with the weed growing. I'm guessing that it was caused by individual feeding habits and the older fish seemed to struggle whereas the young fish which had been recently



spawned in the lake continued to thrive. It was also the last year before the covid travel regulations began to bite and it led into the driest winter on record. The lake filled up to the spillway as normal but the water never quite managed to flow over it and down through the garden stream. Normally

the winters see the stream as a raging torrent, the sort that invites a spell of white-water rafting, but the winter between 2019 and 2020 was incredibly dry. At this point, none of us realized the importance of this situation but that would soon become clear.

2020 started with the first lockdown so I pretty much had the lake to myself and it seemed rude not to fish it. In short, I had a wonderful set of captures ending with a totally unknown common 64lbs 8oz (now named Locky) and Half Lin at 71 lbs 13oz. Amazing that we should suddenly find a common of that size but I'm not complaining.

The obvious disappointment was that we had no customers and that we had to constantly move people's holidays to other dates and some on into 2021. The next set of problems came from "global warming" as the hot weather kicked in very early and stayed with us from February until October. It turned out to be the hottest, driest year since records began and the effect on our lake as well as our local rivers and the farmers was disturbing, to say the least. The lake water level dropped lower than ever before, the River Grosne, less than a couple of miles from us, virtually dried up to the point of being a series of



elongated puddles (reminding me of the river Darent in 1976) and the farmers were forced to leave crops to wither because they were banned from pumping water from the aquifer as it had dropped so low. This had all been exacerbated by the extreme dry winter, no underground water supply to start off the year so no reserve to rely on.

2021 was the complete opposite and started wet and stayed wet right through until autumn meaning that the water level was the highest we've ever seen in mid-summer. Unfortunately, we suffered another lockdown so, yet again we had to move holidays to new dates. In fact, some of the holidays from 2020 ended up being moved to 2021 and then on again to 2022. As you can probably imagine, as I type this, I'm praying for a "normal" year.

At the end of 2021 we decided to carry out a vidange in order to lower the biomass. Even with the reduced number of anglers we had become aware that, occasionally, there were some small carp being caught. These were obviously spawned in our lake and some of the mirrors were absolutely stunning. However, they were not the size that our customers were expecting after having put in the effort to fish with us. On top of that



they were ruining our biomass and, potentially, reducing the growth rates of the big fish. I will take this opportunity to make a very simple explanation of why we try to control the “biomass”. Each lake will only be able to support a limited weight of fish. Obviously, if the lake has a rich background of natural foods, snails, shrimps etc. then it can support more than a barren lake. On top of that, additional, supplementary feeding by the owners or anglers baits, allows some additional growth but, for the sake of this explanation let’s just say that a lake can support a biomass of 500lbs. In that case the choice is between 10 fifty pounders or 50 ten pounders but you can’t have both. I hope that gives an insight into our reasoning before deciding that a vidange was necessary. I should also add that we had been seeing more and more rudd being caught and, while quite a few were between 3lbs and 4lbs, so wonderful specimens, but not what the anglers were looking for and ruining our biomass even further.



With the knowledge gained from observing many, many captures and listening to our anglers, we also had an added plan. We were privileged to hear anglers gushing in their praise of the scaley carp, even though these were forties and upper thirties, rather than the fifties and sixties that we assumed were all that they were interested in. With that in mind we decided to concentrate on getting the huge numbers of Linear’s, Fully Scaled and big plated carp into the next bracket ie. the



thirties up to forties, the forties up to fifties and so on. Purely by chance, over the course of the previous six drain downs, with the last one in 2011, we had sorted, and kept, the “pretty” young fish and moved the plane mirrors and small commons. Quite a few of the bigger mirrors that I’ve caught in the past have had very few scales but my most memorable fish are those that have generated that “wow” as they’ve gone into the net so let’s try to get some that generate two “wows”, one for size and the other for beauty. I’m sure it will happen over these next two years.

I will go into much more detail about the vidange but by removing the rudd and small carp and, whilst I accept that our netting could never have caught all of them, I was delighted with the numbers that we did remove and even more delighted with the quality of the bigger carp that didn’t avoid the net. I will end these ramblings with some optimism. Two of the commons in the net were simply massive and will be someone’s fish of a lifetime, and some of the known, younger, fish, commons and mirrors, were in stunning condition and as new fifties, were obviously growing fast. Let’s hope for some proper fishing this year.

Till next time

Keith



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# Talking Point



with  
Julian Cundiff

# TALKING POINT...

## *10 Top Tips for carp fishing newcomers with Julian Cundiff & Brian Dixon*

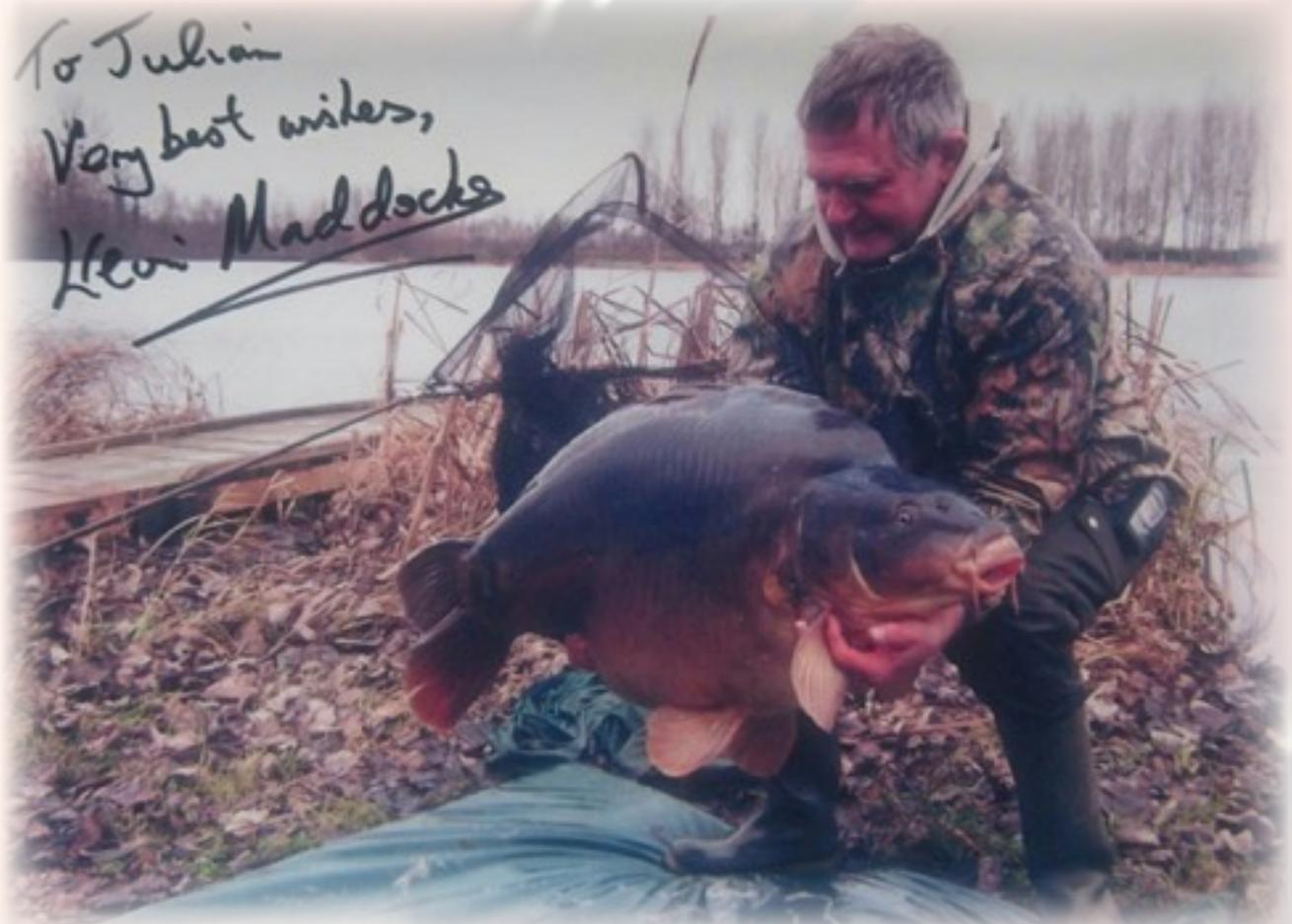
As we head into a new season, we thought we might take a look at newcomers to the sport this month... and bring you some top tips for those who are looking to get started in the world of carp angling. A lot of anglers new to carp fishing have progressed from pleasure angling and seen a giant carp caught on their lake, or have excelled in specimen bream or tench and fancy a go at some big carp, which is great, but we are also seeing total newcomers to the sport who have seen some of the programmes on T.V highlighting fishing for huge carp across the world and fancy having a go at it. Whatever the reason for getting into carp fishing, we say welcome to our little world.

So, we sat down and thought it may be a great idea to give a few pointers that could help you along the way and make your participation more enjoyable....and who better to do that with than carp anglings Mr Nice Guy himself... Mr Julian Cundiff. So, let's get started as we bring you some hints and tips.

*Brian Tip 1...* and this is an easy one... Give Julian a follow on his social media pages, as he has more years and more experience under his belt than we dare mention. He even has a dedicated carp angling page filled to the brim which is absolutely free to follow and join.

Facebook Julian Cundiff Angling  
Twitter @juliancundiff  
Instagram julescundiff1

Jules -Thanks Brian that's much appreciated. When I first started seriously carp fishing for carp to the exclusion of all other species in 1986 (I started coarse fishing in 1976) carp fishing was something you progressed to. You'd start with small coarse fish, then to bigger ones like tench / bream / pike and eels then go one of three ways. Some stayed as coarse anglers, some became match anglers and a FEW progressed to carp fishing. Carp fishing may be an all-powerful monster now but believe me in the mid-seventies to mid-eighties it was no more popular or elitist than fishing for big bream, tench, eels, pike and so on. By the late eighties, early nineties carp fishing was starting to explode, and I could clearly see this in Angling Times. I first started as a weekly columnist in AT in 1994 and had a quarter page black and white to fill. By 1995 it was a full page black and white and in 1996 a full page colour. When I finished my writings in AT in



Kevin Maddocks was always my favourite writer but I never compared my results to his

2000 it was double page colour which shows how much more popular carp fishing had become. Many of the letters and social media interactions I get about that AT column are from anglers who coarse fished in the nineties, but my column turned them into carp anglers. Nowadays the bulk of social media interaction I get is from anglers who've only ever fished for carp. The genie is out of the bottle, it's never going back in so let's celebrate it not act like boring Victor Meldrew (I don't believe it.....)



Jules media page



Jules media page

*Jules Tip 2....* Thanks to Brian for putting my social media links on here and hopefully you will find what's on them enjoyable and for the purposes of carp fishing helpful particularly the Facebook Page Julian Cundiff Angling which is simply a guide to catching carp in todays modern world.... which brings me on to my tip. There are plenty of places to find advice on carp fishing (on-line , magazines, books, films, YouTube, tuitions etc ) ...we are very spoilt. However, it can be very confusing to say the least. Before you follow a person's advice to the tee look at their fishing and whether it relates to yours. There's a massive difference between looking up to and respecting someone to following THEIR advice for YOUR carp fishing. Do they fish similar waters to you? What pedigree do they have? Are they consistent with what they say? Are they flip flopping 'must have' products? What pictures of fish are you seeing?

*Brian Tip 3...*

Take a look at the waters around you before jumping onto syndicates 100 miles from your house. By this we mean take a good look at your local club waters, as most clubs across the uk are now home to some dedicated carp waters, or you may have day ticket carp



Look at who is giving you advice and is their fishing like yours



get yourself a good club card

waters on your doorstep. These are the best waters for cutting your teeth in carp fishing, as they are easily accessible, have plenty of stock and 99% of the time bankside friendships are made, where you can share your journey with others around you.

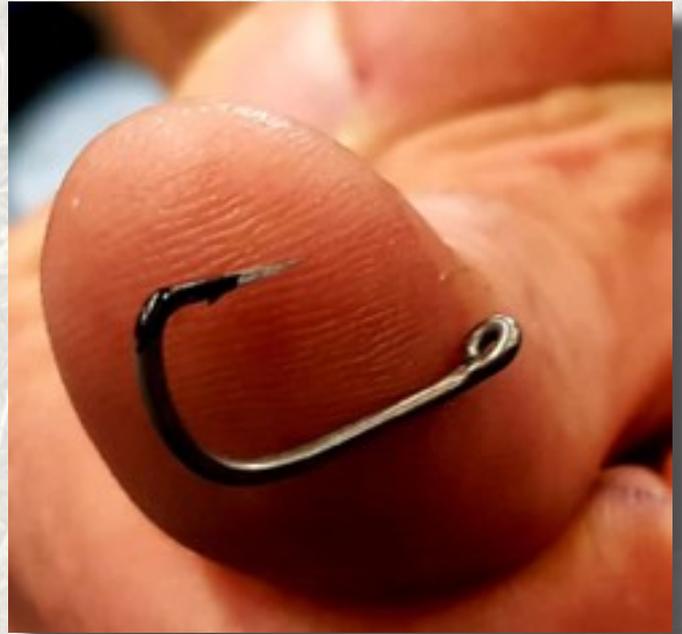
*Jules Tip 4...* Carp fishing is not a competition.... well not unless it's a carp fishing match that is so don't let it become one. Whilst it's true that you need some kind of barometer as to the progress you are or are not making you need to be careful where you look. If you are a fledgling motor racing driver you may well be inspired by

Lewis, Max, Fernando and co but you can't assess your progress to THEIR results.....or lack of! So, in carp fishing what Terry, Laney, Chilly and me may catch may inspire you but you can't really judge your results on our results.....well not unless you are fishing the same waters as we are. I'm exactly the same and what Tom Maker, Terry Hearn and co are catching, or not catching has zero impact on my fishing. I judge my results on the effort I put in compared to the results others are having on my water putting in a similar amount of time on the days I fish. Don't beat yourself up on others results.



*Three very successful anglers but does their fishing mirror yours*

*Brian Tip 5...* Learn and understand your tackle. Whilst it is extremely easy to walk into a tackle shop and spend thousands of pounds very quickly... ask yourself "Do you really need a certain item or not?" For example, do you really need the latest 3.5lb test curve rods, coupled with big pit reels holding 1000 metres of line when your chosen water is just 3 acres and holds carp to 20lb? No of course you don't... if anything you are denying yourself the pleasure of hooking, and playing those fish in favour of winching them straight in. You don't need to spend thousands to pick up some really nice entry level gear and have fun learning....as long as it is up to the job.



That's worth spending money on...a sharp hook courtesy of Rig It Tackle and Nash

*Jules Tip 6....* Following on from Brian's tip I will take it a stage further; spend your money wisely. Once you've got basic rods, reels, buzzers, carp care equipment and shelters they are the last things you should be changing in the future. You should concentrate on what is truly important.

- a) A permit for a good water that you enjoy fishing that holds big enough carp to motivate you to try hard.
- b) Money for fuel to get you there.
- c) A quality bait that the carp will want to feed on.
- d) Good quality mainline.
- e) Sharp hooks and safe and reliable end tackle items.

Yellow strap waders, brand new alarms, trendy bivvies, flashy trainers

and stuff.... Yeah right.

*Brian Tip 7....* Work parties. If you do join a local club then let it be known you are available for work parties on your chosen waters. Yes, they will take up a free Sunday, and it can be backbreaking work removing trees, or digging pegs, or barrowing 10 ton of gravel for new paths but we can guarantee it will be worth it!! You will gain more knowledge and open up new friendships that you simply cannot get sat at home playing on your PlayStation.

*Jules Tip 8....* From a very early age my mum and dad always told me (and taught me too) not to rely on others but be self-sufficient. Having friends is great but the only person you should rely on is.... YOU! Then the only person who can let you down is.... YOU! Carp fishing is not a team sport it's an individual pursuit that you MAY want to do in the company of others. Pass that driving test, so you don't have to rely on lifts. Learn how to do your own self takes. Don't rely on anyone getting you in a water chase it up yourself. Don't be a slave to ready tied rigs. Learn how to cast accurately and don't be a



Not a yellow strap or Air Max in sight

A late February fish. The water was doing one carp every few days so I was happy with this



**Mum and dad taught us  
to be self sufficient**

**slave to model boats, baiting poles, Deepers, drones etc. Ever wondered why the top carp anglers are lone wolves not dynamic duos.....?**

*Brian Tip 9....* Don't be a sheep. If you see someone spodding out 10 kilo of bait, don't pick your spod rod out and start doing the same without first thinking about it. This is something we see all the time on busy day ticket waters and we can guarantee it will work against you a lot

more times than it will aid you. Be confident in your approach. Is he catching or wasting bait? Is he ringing the dinner bell or is he scaring every fish out of his swim? Fish for yourself and set your own targets. Be the commander of your own angling and enjoy each session as it comes. Take the rough with the smooth...but most importantly...have fun doing so.





## When **ANDY LITTLE** met **JULIAN CUNDIFF**

Don't do anything or use anything unless you know why

*Jules Tip 10....* Again, kind of following on from Brian's advice is a very good tip I was given by my pal Andy Little in the eighties. Never use anything or do anything in carp fishing unless you BELIEVE you know why you are using or doing it. Simply because it has a Nash or Korda logo on it, or because Danny, Ali, Alan or Jules told you to do it should not be enough. Why are they using that, or doing that and how does it apply to YOUR carp fishing? If you examine that in detail it will soon make you a better carp angler I promise. Copying is fine but copying for the RIGHT reason is VITAL. I've seen people wrapping up at twenty yards, using a boat in the margins, fishing a chod on a clean bottom and so on NOT because it was a good idea but because it was something they'd seen someone on YouTube do.....

Brian.... So, there we have it...10 top tips to hopefully guide you, help you or teach you a thing or two that will see you improve, and learn to enjoy your angling just a little bit more. And when you do catch those carp...we want to see them! Email them to our catch reports section on the main website page for all to see... whether it is a 12 lb personal best, your first carp, or a 40lb leviathan. We look forward to seeing those pics.

Until next month....

Tight lines and good times

*Jules and Brian*



The main man Ritchie taught me a lot



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# **Pinscale & The Harvest Moon**

**by Scott Geezer Grant**

It's been 2 weeks ago since I was out last on the bank, but I had another session planned and it was going to be on my syndicate the infamous Bayeswater, a place where dreams are made and hearts are broken. I had spent the previous few days preparing my bait and making sure everything was charged up and replenished.

I had been in contact with a couple of the members and knew that the lake wasn't busy, so instead of getting there at silly o'clock, I actually arrived at the main gates around mid-morning. That feeling as I drive through the gate and down the pot hole path to the lake is a mixture of excitement and emotions. It's a feeling I've had since the day I started fishing, a real healthy buzz. The day I lose these feelings is the day I will hang my rods up. I am sure most carp anglers can relate to this, and get exactly the same feelings.

The lake and surrounding area was covered in thick fog, and the lake looked as though it had disappeared!! I put my wellies on and started my walk around the lake, I grabbed a bucket and as swim 6 (my current favourite) was the third swim I would come to I

dropped a bucket in there so I know if I don't fancy anywhere else, I have secured the swim.

Big John was in swim 7 and had done the night but as yet had nothing. He said he was thinking of moving down to swim 9 as he has been baiting a couple of spots and fancied his chances. I left him to it and carried on walking round the lake, to be honest with the fog not really lifting it was hard to see if anything was showing. I was back at my van in no time and with the barrow loaded, I started ferrying my gear to the swim that has been kind to me. A couple of barrow loads later and all my gear was ready and waiting to be set up.

The bivvy went up first, then everything else was arranged. With everything now done, well except for the rods, I stuck the kettle on and had a chill for 10 minutes. It was so relaxing sitting there watching the water, the fog was finally starting to lift, listening to the coots going at one another drinking my tea. Well, that didn't last long as it was now time to get the rods in order, I checked all the rigs and my moto is if the rig is in good condition and the hook is still mega sharp then its good to go. A couple



needed changing then it was time to get them out. I fished exactly the same spots as I had done previously, with a quick check with the marker rod the spots had become a lot cleaner than they last month. The fish are loving the bait and the way I am applying it so guess what? I'm changing nothing and doing everything exactly the same. I am still using an array of different wafers over the top of the bait as they have all caught, which tells me that whatever hook bait I chose to use from the A2 baits stable catches fish its that simple. I was using banoffee, tutti-fruitti, monster tuna, mum's specials. A couple of hours later the rods were out, John had moved down into the snags in swim 9. I spent the rest of the afternoon sitting in the chair watching the water basically just chilling out doing nothing. The busiest I got was putting the kettle on. As the sun started to set a few fish started to top but they were

clearly tench, not what I'm after but it's nice to see some activity. After a peaceful night I woke up the next morning to the sound of the ducks laughing, bloody noisy buggers first thing in the morning.

The early morning mist was dancing elegantly across the surface of the lake and it looked bang on, I saw a couple of fish show, good fish as well but they were in front of swim 8!! I gave John a call to see if he was watching them but as he was bivvied up in the snags, he couldn't see them. I was sat poised just staring at the water hoping the fish would start showing further down towards me. I sat watching for the next hour but didn't see another fish, had they moved down to my end? Who knows but hopefully I will



get a sign sooner or later?

Later that same afternoon Mark turned up and went into swim 1, John popped home to spruce himself and replenish his stocks. A couple of hours later Rich turned up and went into swim 3, so we were all spread out which is good as this will keep the fish on the move. That evening I had a lovely meal and an early night, I woke up just after 05:00 o'clock busting for a pee, the kettle went on once I had relieved myself for the first morning's coffee. Again, the mist was dancing across the surface of the lake and you could feel the temperature rising, it looked bang on, surely one of



the rods has got to go. I grabbed my chair and sat watching not only the water in front of me but also the water in front of swim 8, and low and behold the fish started showing, it got so ridiculous I was actually thinking of packing up and moving round into swim 8. Just as I was onto my second cup of coffee a unit of a fish crashed over my left-hand rod, dilemma time do I move or do I stay? Surely after all the hard work and bait I have put into this swim it surely only a matter of time. I decided to stay put and see what the rest of the day brings. Come 08:00 o'clock and the fish stopped showing in front of 8. Mark had banked a stockie in swim 1 and also lost one at the net.



Porky made an appearance doing

good lad and pukka in the boat and behind a camera. Gary also turned up checking that everything was in order and to carry out some maintenance works. After a coffee and chat they both left around 11:00 o'clock.

Shortly after they left a slick appeared over my left-hand rod, the fish are on the baited area, there would be no other reason for the baited area to slick up. An hour later I received a couple of bleeps on the left hand rod followed by a one toner, I lifted the rod and immediately the fish felt like one of the gooduns, the fish gave a good account of itself, I kept the rod high to stop the fish weeding me up which worked a treat, the fish surfaced not far out and I knew it was a goodun, just as I was about to net it the fish went on a mental one going left up the margin then

trying to go right, it was a right old palaver but one I was going to win and it wasn't long before the fish was engulfed in the net. I peered in and knew it was another of the A Team, and a fish I haven't caught yet well not up until now. I made sure the fish was secured safely in the net whilst I sorted the cradle etc out.

I soaked the cradle, the sling was soaked and zeroed on the Fox digitals, Propolis was on hand and also a large bucket of lake water. I gave Rich a call and asked him if he minded taking a few photos. Rich came straight down, I transferred the fish safely from the net to the cradle and when I pulled the net away it was a fish known as the "**Half Lin**" with the net removed I grabbed a bank stick, attached the scales and we lifted her gently, the scales recorded a weight of



**33lb 14oz.** I was so happy the fish was in mint condition, sitting on my hands had finally paid off. Rich took stunning photos thank you mate, the fish was then treated for any sores/wounds and returned safely. Rich went back to his swim and I set about getting the rod rebaited and back out on the spot. I spent the rest of the day just looking and listening, with a grin on my face only anglers that fish Bayeswater know how hard the place is and what it means when you actually catch one.

Late afternoon I went to my van and got my wash bag, I then had a lovely strip wash and a change of clothes, I felt human once again. That evening I had a lovely Chinese washed down with a bottle of cider. I had a restless night and found it hard trying to get to sleep, the adrenalin was still pumping, I guess. I got up at 05:00 oclock stuck the kettle on and got my chair into position. I got a couple of bleeps on the left-hand rod which got my attention. I was sat there coffee in hand waiting for the show to start in front of swim 8. Just after 06:00 oclock the sun started to appear and again you could feel the warmth in the air. I didn't see a





single fish crash in front of swim 8?? How bizarre. Just after 09:00 o'clock a unit of a fish crashed right over my middle rod it actually scared the shit out of me so much so I actually spat out a mouthful of tea!!! An hour later I received a single bleep on the middle rod but nothing materialised. At the magical 11:00 o'clock which is when most of the takes have come, another fish showed over the middle rod, but again nothing materialised, it was a good fish as well, I had all these thoughts running through my head, had they cleaned me out? was the rig presented properly? I'm sure this has happened to a lot of anglers

at some point so you can relate to this.

Early afternoon I checked the weather as I always do when I'm fishing and rain was forecast in a couple of hours' time and it would be raining for the rest of the day and into the night, so I decided to redo all the rods. I managed to do one rod and as I was putting the rod out it came over all dark and you could feel the air temperature change, I had literally put the rod on the rest clipped the bobbin on and it pelted it down!! I was soaked before I could get in the bivvy, this lasted for about an hour then it started

to ease, when it finally stopped for a break, I managed to get the other rods done. The rod I had the occurrence on was checked and the rig and hook bait were perfect, so God knows why it didn't get picked up? Or maybe it did? But the fish managed to eject the hook bait? All questions I will never know the answer to unless I rig up underwater cameras, which isn't going to happen.

The rods all had fresh hook baits and plenty of fresh bait around them so let's see what the future brings, hopefully another of the A Team. That evening when another band of rain moved in the wind started hacking down my end but the temperature had definitely got colder.

After a quiet night I woke up to a

fresh Northerly wind right into my face and the temperature had gone from 22oc degrees to a now 15oc degrees, a big change and you could feel it. I checked the weather and it stated there was going to be more rain later today and the wind was going to be North/North Easterly, Great!!!! I had already decided that the rods would stay where they were until tomorrow, there's enough bait around them and they all went down perfectly. Tonight, was a big night if you were out fishing it's the night of the Harvest Moon.

Early afternoon and John came round for a social, he had wound his rods in to give the swim a break and was thinking of moving. Low and behold the subject came up of the Harvest Moon, and did we discuss it yes, we did, John

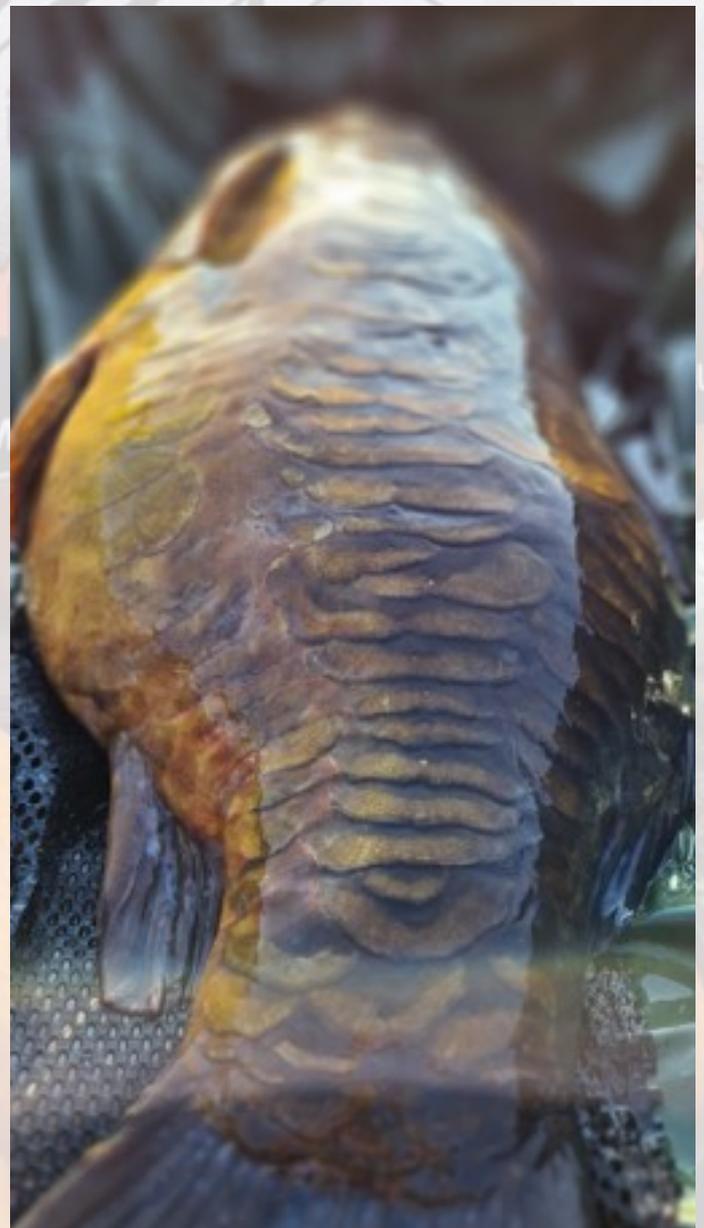


believes that the bigger fish especially commons come out on a Harvest Moon, I believe they come out when they are hungry and get caught. Most of it is coincidence and there's no real proof that the big commons only feed on a full moon. The discussion lasted for hours all lighthearted I may add, there is no right or wrong it's what you believe that matters. We had copious amounts of tea then John went for a walk down to swim 4. He came back 15 minutes later and said he had seen a fish show and was thinking of moving into swim 4 but asked if I was going to move down to there. I said no mate I'm staying put so fill your boots and get your gear round there, if you want a hand let me know.

The one thing over at Bayeswater is other anglers, there's no super stars trying to out catch anyone else or tuck anyone up. Everyone considers the other anglers which is really nice. Its like no where I have ever fished before.

A couple of hours later Big John was all settled into swim 4 he missed the rain by minutes the lucky bugger. When the rain subsided, John came down and we sat drinking and talking until 10 pm,

as the rain had started again and put paid to the lovely social we were having. I went to bed at midnight and was woken an hour later by my receiver, a few bleeps on the left-hand rod followed by a few more. I got out the bag and went to the rod the bobbin was shaking so I lifted the rod and immediately it became apparent it was a tinca!!! I wound the rod in unhooked the fish and put





it straight back, I then rebaited the rod and got it out on the spot before getting back in the bag. It rained all night and only subsided early morning. I woke just before first light and to my surprise the left-hand rod just exploded! I jumped up and was on the rod the fish gave a good account of itself and after a bit of persuasion the fish was in the net. I peered in and it was my old friend Broken Back, I caught this fish last month from exactly the same spot using exactly the same bait, how mad is that. I secured the fish and got the rod straight back out on the spot, I then gave John a call and asked if he would come and do the honours. The fish was slightly up

in weight at 33lb 14oz and looked in immaculate condition. John took cracking shots she was then treated and returned.

John mentioned the Harvest Moon and said "I told you someone would have one of the gooduns" my reply was "the big common the mighty "Pinscale" didn't make an appearance did she"?

So does it have any substance? Who knows, is it all just hype? I don't think we will ever know the answer but simply believe what we want to believe. John stayed for a coffee or two then went back down to his swim. The sun felt a lot

warmer today than yesterday, lets hope there's more fish to come, tonight is my final night before departing for home. It could only have been a few hours later John came down to me, I knew something was up just by the way he was acting and the big grin on his face. I asked him what was up and he said nothing mate I'm good, but I just knew he had banked a fish, he just couldn't hold it in anymore and blurted out "I've got Pinscale in the net" well, I couldn't believe it, he talked about this fish so much in the last 24hrs and now he has caught her. I went into happy mode and we started

dancing like two kids, then we got ourselves together I took my air cradle and digitals and we made our way along the bank to his swim.

Ross had come round from swim 2 (he turned up late last night) and was holding the net that she was secured in. When I peered in, she looked like a breeze block, this fish is immense and one I dearly want to catch. I got the cradle into position dowsed it down, got a big bucket of water ready, zeroed the sling on both mine and Johns scales, then John lifted her from the water and placed her like a baby in the cradle, when he unfolded the net, she





looked big. With her safely in the sling we used a bank stick and lifted her up the digital stopped on 47lb 6oz and Johns new PB, and what a fish to do it with. I took copious amounts of photos and it was an absolute pleasure to share the moment. Ross gave him the obligatory PB bucket of water which made the moment even more special. Johns a top bloke and he fully deserved that fish hats off to you mate.

We left him a little while later so he could take in what just happened, he was simply floating on the clouds and loving every minute of it and why not he deserves it. I went

back to my swim and spent the rest of the day watching the water for any signs of activity. John packed up and left mid-afternoon, Ross jumped in behind him for his final night. Later in the evening I had a lovely meal followed by a lovely cider, I only saw one fish show to my right and that was it. I retired to bed early as I was off the following morning. After a quiet night I was up early ready and raring to go, I was all packed up by midday and was on my way home. For me it had been another successful session banking two of the A Team and witnessing the stunning Pinscale, hopefully I can catch her myself soon.

My next session will not be until next month but as yet I am not sure where I will be going.

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

[www.a2baits.co.uk](http://www.a2baits.co.uk)

[www.sharptackle.co.uk](http://www.sharptackle.co.uk)

[www.castaway-pva.co.uk](http://www.castaway-pva.co.uk)

In the Margin Particles (Facebook)

Carters Leads (Facebook)

The Monster Tuna is readily available in your local stockist, or visit the A2 baits website for the full bait range. [www.a2baits.co.uk](http://www.a2baits.co.uk)

For the sharpest, strongest hooks that don't cost a fortune, plus an array of end tackle have a look at

[www.sharptackle.co.uk](http://www.sharptackle.co.uk)

If you want to order the best chillie hemp by a country mile have a look at "In the margin

particles" on Facebook, or call Matt on 07739-961966.

Carters Leads currently have an offer on, buy 50 leads up to 4oz for £37:50 which includes postage. Head over to

their face book page for more information.

For all your PVA needs head over to the brand-new Castaway website. Where you will find an array of PVA products that can help you in your fishing. [www.castaway-pva.co.uk](http://www.castaway-pva.co.uk)

We are now well and truly into Winter, there are prizes to be had in all their winter colours if you put the effort in, the rewards are so much greater. I hope 2022 brings all of you happiness and good health. Not forgetting plenty of chunks in the net.

Stay safe and remember its only fishing.

*Scott "Geezer" Grant*





# No Carp Anglers Allowed

## A cautionary tale

POAS Angling Club

9<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Dave Locke

It has been decided by the POAS Angling Club Committee, that your renewal for club membership has been declined.

This has been brought about by the observations and objections from many club members with regards to the amount of feed that you have been using and the angling methods employed. The fishing tactics used by you are more conducive to carp syndicate waters, in search of very large carp and not for our family club. This has led to the boilies ban being imposed on our members.

Your fishery gate key and existing membership book must be returned to the Club Secretary, [redacted] on [redacted] that the appropriate refund of fees paid and deposit for the fishery key can be made to you. No new membership book will be sent out.

**This decision is final and non-negotiable.**

[redacted]  
POAS Chairman

[redacted]  
POAS Secretary

**By Dave Locke**

Over 25 years ago I joined a very easy runs water with very few carp in it over 12lb. I was already a member of a very nice syndicate and a couple of clubs, so why join a runs water with only small carp stocked ? First reason it was only two miles from my home, second sometimes I only had a couple of hours to spare in the evening, third was I thought it was a good place to test rigs, baits and ideas as it was so easy. It turned out to be even easier than I first thought, a couple of hours in the evening would produce between 4 to 10 carp.

I noticed that almost all the other anglers on the water were general fishermen and not 'Carpers' and I could see most of them watching me all the time. After a couple of years a new rule was introduced, 'no boilies

allowed to be used'. Although this was a bit of a weird rule in my mind it didn't bother me much. The next year I started using black eyed beans or chick peas normally flavoured by being cooked in oxtail soup.

The boilie ban didn't interfere with my catch rate at all, but the next year all beans peas or nuts were banned. At the time it was an extremely pretty lake with large reed beds and a very big bed of lilies growing down the middle of the top end of the lake. After the ban of boilies and beans I just couldn't be bothered with the place again so I didn't re-join.

A few years later I heard the boilie ban had been removed and I had moved home even closer to the lake less than a mile away. I re-joined. I couldn't believe my eyes when

I first set eyes on the lake this time, gone were the reedbeds and the lilies and in place was a large floating island, the whole lake looked bleak and totally weedless. After making a few enquiries I was told they had misread the instructions on the weedkiller and overdosed the amount by six times more than what was instructed.

Everything was dead, there weren't any signs of natural food at all, even the population of very large swan mussels had been killed. I fished on regardless only to find the carp to be extremely hungry and looking anorexic. Ten to twenty carp was the norm for a four hour session in the evening, but it wasn't much fun the carp were far too easy and had hardly any fight in them. I stayed in the club purely because they

had another water with some nice tench stocked, so it was worth the money just for a bit of spring tench fishing. After a few years a lot more 'Carpers' had joined the club so a lot more boilies were going in the lake so the carp began to get a bit bigger and a lot fitter.

A couple of mates and I decided to have

another go on the weedless lake. It was just as easy, a good quality boilie I was using from The Bait Shed would almost have the carp queueing to be caught, my best day if you can call it that was 27 carp in 7 hours most of them between 6 and 14lb. It was obvious from the beginning of the year that the float anglers weren't happy with

the amount we were catching and the bailiff would stand chatting to us scanning our tackle bags and set ups with intensity. The club had some strange rules for a lake that was full of carp. Maximum of 10lb breaking strain line, nylon hooklengths only (no braided or coated hooklength) barbless hooks, but no mention of having to use a decent size landing net or unhooking mat. We saw carp landed folded up double in small pan landing nets and laid on the mud or gravel swims while being unhooked even leaving the carp flapping about on the bank while the morons sorted out their scales etc. Yet we kept ourselves to ourselves even though it was difficult sometimes. Whilst chatting to a couple of the members that had been members for many



years we learnt that the weedkilling incident wasn't an accident at all, it had been done on purpose because when they held their matches to many carp were being hooked and lost in the reeds or lilies. It was said the fishery manager at the time did this without the clubs permission but I very much doubt this as he was still fishery manager years after the weed-kill. This could be a lovely water not just for carp anglers but as an all-round fishery, and this club does not deserve to hold the lease on the lake. There is yet another downside to this club, they do not like disabled anglers and there are no swims that are suitable for anyone with walking difficulties, plus they cut down trees and shrubs without any thought to nesting birds or wildlife. After my mates and myself

rather hectic carp catching exploits on here, we were refused renewal of our membership. The rules at the time were, you are only allowed 2 kilo of boilies per day, neither of us used anywhere near this amount, we tried to in the past but realized that over baiting was the kiss of death on this water, ten to twenty baits after each take worked the best. I have added my refusal letter to this article so I will tell you all my big carp syndicate tactics, I was using ten pound

breaking strain Diawa sensor hooklength and mainline, two ounce inline leads and size 8 curved shank barbless hooks, so hardly big carp

We didn't break any of their rules except we caught a lot more carp than the others and used quality baits instead of the cheapest rubbish most of the others were using. So the moral of this story is don't join this club or any others like it that are fun by match anglers,



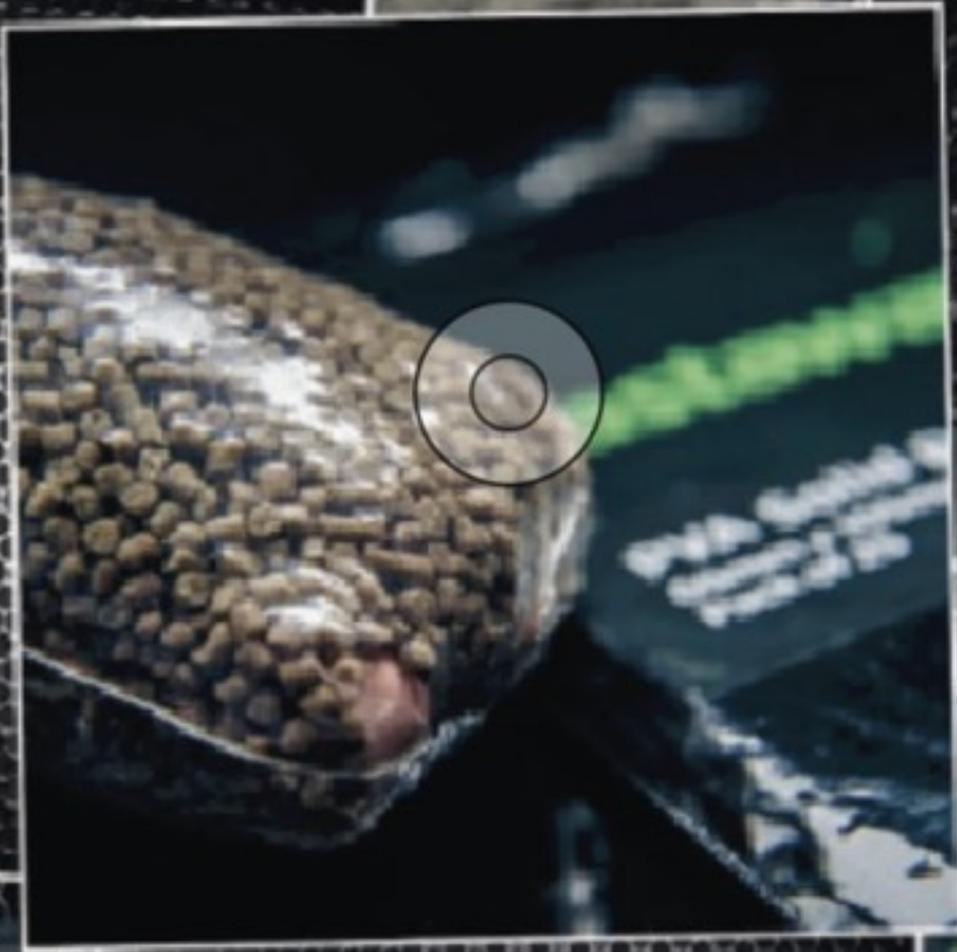
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# New season prep and rambling



by  
**Andy Murray**

Hi all, it looks like the winter is slowly passing, the days are getting longer and slowly the temperature is coming up. My own plans for the last few months winter fishing have slowly drifted past without getting in much fishing at all. Though there are a myriad of reasons, it does boil mainly down to I just haven't really had a strong urge to be out there. It's been a bit like writing really, I have to feel the urge otherwise it's a chore.

There was a time when it all seemed to flow much more, I was probably a bit more focused then (and a lot younger!). I have always thought that like anything you want to commit to, it is one of those things that you have to free the time in your diary and stick to it, otherwise life can just take over. To be fair work has

been busier than I would have liked, but I would rather be busy in the winter months than from Spring onwards. We have a long season now, so I don't think it does any harm to take a bit of time out though, many years ago we had winter and the close season, so back then there was an enforced lay off for quite a while. I do keep trying to get some winter fishing in, it just never seems to really get going. When I set up my own business just over 7 years ago my plan was

to work more in the winter, so I would have more fishing time in the warmer months. This year work has kept me a lot busier than I have liked or planned, so maybe that's part of the reason for not getting out. To be honest I would have sold my business 2 years ago when Sal was diagnosed with cancer, but I have kept it going so I can pass it on to my daughter in due course. It's starting to dawn on me that I get my state pension next year...I know, I know, you can't believe



I'm that old! Anyway, we have been busy, we open our new office shortly which my daughter will run and turn into her own business in due course, as well as taking on another adviser and office staff. That will be the start of me taking a back seat and definitely getting more fishing time in as well as travelling a lot more. This should all start to happen just as the weather is picking up, and the days are getting longer, so we do have

a plan, like most things it fell behind with the Pandemic, we should have been in this place a good year ago. I have already put some bank time in the diary for the next few months for fishing trips, as it's getting time to make a start.

Though I haven't been fishing, I have been busy working on fishing related things and planning ahead. In my last article I wrote about sorting out tackle and making changes to some items where I felt

things hadn't worked so well. These last few weeks I have been working on sorting out my bait for the coming year. In the hope that I will have a better years fishing than last year, I'm going to caveat that, by better I mean more focused fishing time actually on the bank, more focus on fishing rather than other things that took me away from been on the bank, such as filming and meetings etc. which hopefully in turn will mean more or bigger carp on the bank this coming year. Last year was my first year with DT baits, having now had a look at a few of the mixes and trying a couple and also seeing the results others have had on some of those baits, I have decided to fish this year with the Pukka Fish with Peach and Sour Cream.





You can see from the photo, there are a good number of alternative hookbaits to fish with this, so I have a good number of choices to work with. I am planning to try a couple of different types of rigs this year (well, new for me!), I will keep you updated about this. There were times last year when I felt I was

in the right place and not getting bites, that's one of the few times I think that different rigs can make a difference. Rather than sit on my hands, make some changes while fishing and not think about it later on...it certainly paid off in the Autumn. One of the issues I have had in the past, especially with

travelling abroad to fish has been storing the bait I need for a fishing trip as well as my regular fishing. So, I decided it was about time I bought a bigger freezer to solve this problem, I picked up a good-sized freezer, about twice the size of the older one, and I have now started to get it stocked up. I had a good delivery from DT, a good delivery from Monster Particles. A few more and I will have the freezer fully stocked for the next few months. I have a pretty good idea of how I am going to fish for the first few months of the seasons fishing, let's hope I don't get sidetracked as I did last year. I have also stocked up on a few other things while they were available as you can see from the picture. A moderate supply of catering tins of sweetcorn, they

seem to get scarce on the summer, I wonder why? I also came across a good supply of real high quality hemp oil, which I tracked down at a Sainsbury's store, the wife wondered why I was keen to take her shopping... This hemp oil is really good quality and half the price of hemp oil in Tackle shops.

So, tackle is sorted, and I have a good supply of bait for the months ahead now and I am getting keen to make a start night fishing. We have just had the Northern show and next week is the Big One, then I will be making a start down on the Pits. It's not so much the cold of winter fishing that puts me off, it's just that its dark for so long, as I mainly fish on my own I just get fed up. I have 2 if not 3 trips abroad, so all



been well, there should be plenty of bank time to come, I'm starting to really look forward to it.

With reference to the Northern Show, it was the first fishing show in 2 years, so I think a lot of anglers were really looking forward to it. I was working on the DT Bait stand, it was really busy all weekend, I spent the weekend talking bait, flavours, additives and mixes, it was really enjoyable. A couple of things struck me – First was how many anglers have

heard of DT Baits, yes, they have been around a long time but were definitely more well known in years gone by, what's more a lot of anglers still use the flavours they have been using for years, most noticeably was the Green Beast, a well know cold water attractor. Secondly, was how many anglers still make their own bait, this really surprised me, I definitely need to interact with other anglers more at these types of events, as it

does show how not mixing with others can give you a false perspective of what is happening in the angling world in other areas. It was good to see so many people out, looking happy just being back out. I think the organisers of the show should be happy with what was achieved, especially as organising it under the background of the Pandemic must have been such a task. The uncertainty of whether the show would go ahead must have been a real worry, I know it was for us.

The show was well attended by anglers and smaller companies, the talks were really good and well attended. What was noticeable

was the absence of some of the big companies, which is the same as the next few shows. I don't know about you, but I feel they are letting the anglers down by not supporting the shows, especially at this current time, when we are all working to try and get back to normal. I understand some of the reasons, such as expense and lack of product and the advance planning involved. Surely, they could take smaller stands, just for their consultants to meet

and talk to anglers, it isn't much too ask for all the profit they make out of fishing, is it?

A couple of other areas I need to work on for my own fishing this year are Photo's and Carp care. Firstly, Carp pics, I tend to be a bit matter of fact about carp pics, and I am just recording the capture really. I see some anglers go to extreme lengths to get that one special photo, although I don't plan on going to the lengths some do, I need to take a bit more care for a better

shot, and a little more care and attention would see much better results. It's not that I don't admire the carp I catch, I do, but to me



the biggest part of the challenge is getting the bite in the first place, if I weren't recording the pics for articles like this, I probably wouldn't take that many pics unless it was a much larger carp. There have been times in the recent past when I have been about to return a 20lb plus carp, much to the surprise of those around me, I won't weigh the carp and maybe just get a very quick snap. I suppose that sounds a bit blasé, but I have caught a lot of carp over the years and more than that I fish for my own results and not what others believe or think. A lot of smaller carp I will unhook in the net and let them swim off without taking them out of the water at all. As far as I'm concerned, the less handling the better for the carp, which brings me to my next point nicely.

With regards to Carp care, it's not that I don't treat the carp carefully, it's maybe I could do it a little bit better and be a bit more thorough all round, we can all learn by watching others. I was given a lesson of this last year up at the Airport Lake.

Chris the bailiff fished next to me for an afternoon and promptly showed me how I was getting it wrong by landing two nice carp in succession, although I was in the right area, I was fishing the wrong spots, his knowledge was impressive to say the least. What was more impressive though was the detail and care he showed the carp he was handling. Firstly, he unhooked the carp in the water, which can be done by unclipping the rig, cutting the hooklink, as well just unhooking it. Then he moved the carp from

the net to the sling while in the water as well. After some photos and weighing the carp, with plenty of wetting down with fresh lake water, he examined the carp very carefully for any marks, then used a good treatment on any abrasions he found. Then he kept it in the sling submerged fully until it swam off strongly. So, each carp went back fully treated with as little handling as possible. This is definitely something I will be working on a bit more this year. That's me for this month, this weekend is the Big One show and more fishing chat, then after that it's time to get out on the bank. I'll let you know how it goes.

Catch you next time.

Andy



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*The Junior Carp Hunters –  
Ron & Ted....  
In our own words.....*



Our February started with a big box of bait sent to us from Richard at Seasoned Baits! We were so excited when it arrived, and we quickly got some boilies in a bucket and coated them in corn liquid! (Ted - we also got 2 new hats!!!! Cheers Richard!!!)

Later that week we visited Churchgate Lakes armed with our new bait!! We stopped off at the local BP to get a hot chocolate and dad had a latte! We arrived at the lake and took our nets and slings and cradle to be dipped!

We fished in peg 5 on the bottom lake, I (Ronnie) chose to fish on the left-hand side of the swim, and I (Ted) fished on the right-hand side,

We used 12mm seasoned baits pop-ups on Ronnie rigs, I (Ronnie) fished my left-hand rod down the margin to my left and had my right-hand rod close to the island,

And I (Ted) had my left hand also close to the island and my right-hand rod was close to the aerator.

We baited up the spots with 12mm seasoned baits boilies and sweetcorn

Ronnie - At about 11am I was sitting with my dad and my left hand rod went into melt down! I jumped up and struck into the fish! The fish felt big and took a bit of line to start off with, and once I got it close to the net it decided to try and go under my other rod, I got on my knees and put the rod to my side, so it didn't knock my other rod, it then





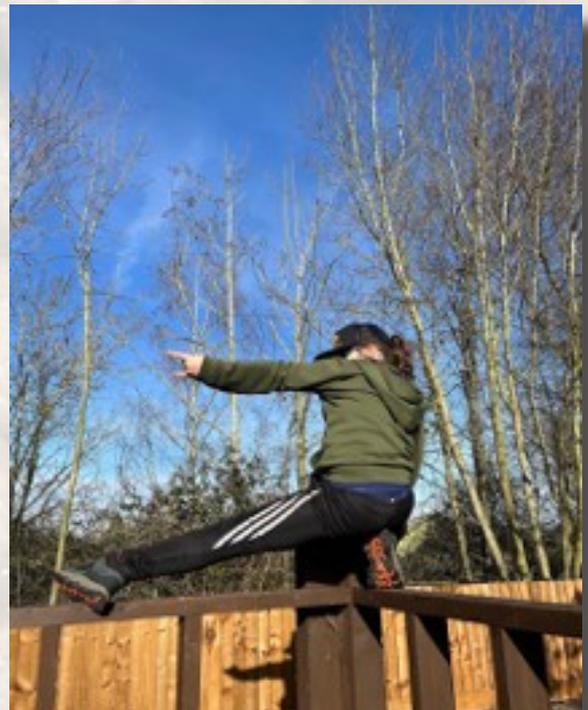
some karate moves and doing Spider-Man poses! Every hour I was throwing a few boilies into my areas! And at 5pm we started cooking our dinner! Me and Ron cooked up pasta and we sat in the bivvy and ate the whole lot!!! As it was getting dark, we were playing on dad's phone when all of a sudden Ron's rod ripped off but he said I could have the fish so with Ron's help I played the fish and Ron netted it for me, as Ronnie netted the fish, my mum and my nan turned up and I showed them my catch (14.10lb mirror) and they were very proud of me! They also bought me and Ron a box of roses which we were meant to share with dad, but we forgot and ate the lot of them!!!

got away from my other rod and my little brother netted the fish for me!

My dad helped me unhook the fish and when we weighed it, it weighed 16.01lb and it was a Mirror Carp!

Once the rod was back where I wanted it not a lot more happened during the day.

Ted - during the afternoon, while I was waiting for my bite alarm to go off, I was showing my dad



Ron - I jumped out of my sleeping bag and quickly got out of the bivvy and hit my left-hand rod, I put my head torch on and started playing the fish, Teddy stayed in the bivvy as he couldn't get his boots on in time, dad helped me land the fish, it was the first common of the session and it weighed 13.06lb!

We got the rod back out and got back in the bivvy to watch our film, nothing else happened over night apart from a good night's sleep for me Ted and my dad!

Ted - in the morning I woke up

and not long after me and my dad cooked up bacon and sausage sandwiches! Shortly after that, Ronnie's rod ripped off AGAIN!!!! I helped him net the fish and it was a very lovely fully scaled mirror, we didn't weigh this one as it wasn't as big as the others!

Ron - after that I got my dad to make me a cheese toastie and once that was eaten, we started packing away, as I had an indoor cricket match to get ready for!

We got home and mum said, "you stink of fish!!!" To which we replied



That has been our only fishing trip in February! However, since then we have also received some lovely gifts from Roddy Clips which we can't wait to use in March! And, we have been invited to Swansea to fish alongside the Welsh Ladies Carp Team and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Carp Team (REME Carpers), which we can't wait to do!!! Ted - I'm going to wear all my camo for that weekend because I love the Army! And hopefully mummy might get a call up for the Ladies' Team!!!

Thank you, Mark Carper, for inviting us! Thank you, Richard, at Seasoned Baits for our bait! and thank you Steve at Roddy Clips for our tackle!

We plan to fish a lot more next month as hopefully the trees stop falling down and our dad stops celebrating his birthday!!

Happy fishing and wet nets!!!

Ron n Ted

Junior Team Members of;

Seasoned Baits - <https://www.seasonedbaits.co.uk/>

Roddy Clips - <https://www.rodyclips.co.uk/>

Monster Particles - <https://monsterparticles.com/>

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# *Out From The Cold*

*by Barrie Scholes*



It is still very much winter, as I write this article. However the first snowdrops have just flowered, and the days are getting noticeably longer. Spring isn't here yet, but it's starting to appear on the horizon. As another winter draws to an end I feel quite pleased with my results through the colder months this year. It's certainly been more successful than last year's winter was, that's for sure!

Last winter was a complete failure in terms of fish on the

bank for me. I took a bit of a gamble at the end of 2020 by moving on to a new venue in the autumn to hopefully catch something a bit bigger before the year was out. But it wasn't to be. And then the new year brought travel restrictions which meant I was fishing venues I wouldn't have otherwise fished. This all combined to make last winter a dead loss.

So I was determined this year to have a more successful winter and to keep the bites coming through the colder months. If I was

to have any sort of success I knew it would be crucial to get my venue choice correct. Which was something I got all wrong the year before. Once the clocks go back at the end of October carp fishing can start to feel like a completely different past time to what it is during the summer months. The lakes suddenly look brown and lifeless as temperatures start to plummet. Years ago people believed that carp hibernated in the winter. That they someone burrowed down in the silt and stayed there until spring. We now know that's not the case. But it's still not easy catching them in the winter. Venue choice is always a key part of carp fishing but never more so than in the winter if you want to keep catching fish. I knew if I was to give myself the best chance





of success this winter I needed to get on the right water.

Thankfully I knew the perfect venue. Well I hoped I did. It seemed good on paper anyway. It was a venue I fished a couple of summers ago. And during the summer months it was very productive. It's a club water, and it's a lovely place to fish. It's also very shallow, with depths averaging 3-4ft. So it should, in theory, respond well to any mild spells in the winter. It's got lots of carp in it, mainly small commons. Out of all

the lakes I had access to, if anywhere would fish well in the winter it would be this place.

My approach and focus for the winter would be on keeping it fun. I wasn't too bothered about fish size. I'd caught some big fish (for me at least!) in the summer, so this winter would be all about catching a few carp. Any size carp really. The aim being just to hopefully catch some. Effectively

keeping my eye in. To keep my confidence and enthusiasm up, and hopefully take some momentum into the more serious fishing, once things warm up later on in 2022.

The plan, like I said, would be to keep my winter fishing fun. In the summer I often fish overnights. And they fit in well with my whole work/life balance thing. However the thought of setting up and packing away in the dark throughout the winter was a lot less appealing to me. So my line of attack would be short day sessions. It means I can travel light and if the winter



conditions get too brutal, at least I don't have to endure them for too long! Working full time my days sessions would be one day at a weekend and maybe the odd day off work.

So that was the plan. Once the clocks change I'd start my short day sessions throughout the winter. On the well stocked club lake.

I know I said I wasn't too bothered about

the size of fish but I did have a little goal to spur me on a bit. From fishing the lake a couple of years previous, with my son, my biggest fish from the venue was a 15 and half pound common. So hopefully I could better that this winter. Incidentally my son's biggest fish from the venue, which he caught on his first ever night session, weighed 18 and half pounds. A ghost carp which he christened "Gary the Ghosty!" but more about him later.

My first session back on the lake in November resulted in 3 small commons. One of them weighed ten pounds, and it might have weighed a bit more had something (probably an otter) not bitten a chunk out of his back at some point! Definitely a fish with a tail to tell. It was nice to be back at the lake



though, and start with some carp on the bank.

Now I know, technically, winter doesn't start until December 21st, but that does seem very late when it comes to carp fishing and it certainly felt like winter during a session in late November when I got caught up in a snow storm! I'd arrived to find half the lake frozen over but had managed to find some fishable water. I thought the conditions might have improved as the day wore on but instead of the sun coming out

and melting the ice the clouds came over and there was a downpour of snow. I really did feel like I was fishing in a winter wonderland that day. I was praying for an elusive snow carp but unfortunately the cold snap was to prove too much for the carp and I blanked.

December was one of those months where just getting on the bank seemed an achievement in itself. With only doing weekend day sessions most of my time at the weekends in December was spent getting ready

for Christmas in some shape or another. I did have the car loaded with my gear for an early start at one point. It was the week before Christmas. But that trip got scuppered by the fridge freezer dying!!! So instead of fishing I spent the day fixing that. I did manage a trip to a day ticket venue between Christmas and New Year with my son to a very prolific venue indeed....we both blanked! It just goes to show how tricky carp fishing can be at that time of year, on any water. We'd managed 38 carp between us last time



we were there in the summer.

So with Christmas out the way it was time to get back on track, get back on the club lake and hopefully catch my first carp of 2022.

On this next session I did a bit of an experiment with my bait. I'd been using Scopex Squid the last few years, a bait I have loads of confidence. But I wasn't too sure about using it in the winter. I have caught carp on it in the colder months. But rightly or wrongly I was brought up with the mentality of fishmeals in the

summer and high attract fruit baits in the winter. So I wanted to use this winter to really get some confidence in a winter bait. So I fished one rod on Scopex Squid, one on Strawberry Crush and one on Citruz. Just to see what happened. It was hardly scientific this test of mine but my first fish of the year came on the Citruz. So after that I thought I may as well switch for the winter and fish nothing but Citruz to give it a better test.

My tactics this winter have been to fish one bottom bait and half a pop up, snowman

style, over a 4-5 pouches of 15mm Citruz. I know lots of people use smaller baits in the winter but there are a lot of bream and silver fish in the lake so I just went with boilies to avoid them. I gave the freebies a glaze of the Citruz hookbait soak to boost their attraction. After each fish another 4-5 pouches of freebies would go out. Nothing special really just good old fashioned, little and often, boilie fishing. It's done the trick though.

This year, doing my short weekend day sessions, I've managed to catch every time



(touch wood). I broke the little target I set myself to beat my best fish from the lake with a nice common of 16lb 12oz in January. Then I went and beat it again with a fish of 19lb 8oz in February. A ghost carp. And yep you've guest it. My sons PB "Gary the Ghosty"!!! I've caught far more than I thought I would. Partly due to a bit a luck where my sessions coincided with mild spells. And strangely the average

size of fish has been a lot bigger than it was when I fished there two summers ago. All in all I've really enjoyed my winter.

If you are reading this and find the winters a real struggler. Like I did the previous year. I would suggest you really give some thought to your venue choice. You don't need to endure weeks of blanks, or even hang the rods up. Even if you're time on the bank

is limited, like mine. If you get your venue choice right. And your tactics. There is no reason why you can't keep catching and enjoying your carp fishing throughout the year.

Hopefully I can take this momentum in to the spring now! When I'll try and track down some bigger carp. Fingers crossed.  
Barrie  
Instagram: [barriescholes](#)



# NUTRABAITS®



**THE LEGEND RETURNS  
MARCH 2022**

**THE "PERFECT STORM" -**

**LES ETANGS DE L'ECURIE**

If you read 'Jamies Lake' in issue 67 of the Magazine or follow my social media, you will know that back in August last year, I spent a week as 'Acting Bailiff' on Les Etangs De L'Ecurie, which is the site of three very natural lakes situated in the stunning Pays De La Loire Region of France and is owned by an English couple, Jamie and Natalie.

So, having read the aforementioned, you will also know that for very little "Rods Out" time, I had great rewards, which saw me land 54 carp up to 39lb and to date is the best French session I have ever had in over thirty-five years of visiting the country...!

After a session like that, the last thing you expect, is a phone call some eight or nine weeks later, to tell you

that the entire stock of the lake you had fished, was gone...!!!

That's right, the entire stock of one lake wiped out in a matter of days....On hearing the tragic news, I was both sickened but at the same time, intrigued as to how such a thing could happen... So, here is story, as told by Jamie of the day that Les Etangs De L'Ecurie, was hit by the 'Perfect Storm'....

.... The same as everyone, we have had the worst two years you could imagine, and being owners of a Crap Fishery in France, we were both so happy to be open after some serious disruption thanks to COVID.

The pandemic has had a devastating effect on all of us fishery owners over here in France and with travel restriction lifting and the removal of some



further restrictions, we thought we were finally going to see 'normality' return.... Little did we know what was just around the corner....

We have decided to put pen to paper and try to give some insight into what can come out of the blue and knock you for six. It must be said we were both a bit reluctant at first when Mark from Talking Carp suggested that it would be a good story to share with the readers of the Magazine

after all, what fishery owner would want to talk about something with such negative undertones, but hopefully we can enlighten our Carp Fishing Fraternity, and turn a negative into a positive, which I think we could all do with right now, so let me go back a few months...

## **Saturday 2nd October 2021**

It was going to be a particularly busy week

for us down at L'Ecurie, as we had a large party of 11 (9 anglers and 2 non-fishing guests) with most taking up the full food package – so very busy for Nat and me. Three of our guests had been before, and had some very good weeks with us previously, so that really helps when meeting and greeting the new guests, as they are able to give advice about what worked and what didn't work for them in terms of the fishing. Prior



Prior to this trip, the lake had been fishing very well, which Mark can testify to, as he had a storming week on The Orchard in the August.

Before the arrival of the new guests, Nat and myself had completed all the usual tasks around the lake and then we received word that they were running a little late, so we were able to get a bit of lunch in beforehand, and then just waited happily for them to

arrive...

...One of the 'usual' things we do is to check the local weather, as it can make a huge difference to how the fishing would be that week and we like to give the guests a 'heads-up' of what they can expect.

To our disappointment the forecast was showing a large depression, low pressure, with lots of rain and high winds from Saturday

afternoon and into Sunday – it was definitely not what we wanted.

A little rain never hurts, but a huge deluge can be very detrimental, as a sudden temperature drop and the way it colours up the lakes is not great for the fishing at L'Ecurie. Little did we know that this forecast would turn out to be literally, 'The Perfect Storm'....!!!

Our guests for arrived, and there was a very



good buzz about the place, and everybody was excited, with lots of fishing banter going on in our reception/ dining room, where we all shared a beverage together. Once we had answered everyone's questions, we suggested it would be a good idea to get down onto the lakes and get set up before the forthcoming weather drew in.

The rain and wind started early into the afternoon and as per the forecast, was getting heavier and heavier. The very poor conditions made for a very unpleasant evening and night. The Orchard went up by about a foot overnight, and was almost breaking its' banks.

The Sunday morning after the storm, as I recall it, was quite pleasant after such a

turbulent night, and we hoped that all our anglers were in good shape and no major disasters. We didn't expect much fishing to have been going on, but anglers are a hardy bunch, and nearly all of them managed to wet a line.

They arrived up at

the dining area for breakfast at 9am and, at first, there didn't seem to be anything amiss, just a bit of grumbling about the appalling night and lack of sleep, however, this was all about to change...!

Jamie, who was fishing The Orchard walked



into the dining area and exclaimed “I think you have a problem on the lake...!” Surprised, I asked him what he meant, and he replied that there are quite a few fish “on the top gulping for air.”

At first this didn't quite register, and we thought he must be mistaken as we always ensure that all the lakes were well oxygenated using pumps as required,

and we also used a dye in them to ensure that we don't get an algae bloom risking an oxygen crash. I won't get too technical here, but if you allow an algae bloom to propagate, and you then have a storm, you can get sudden 'algae die off' taking all the oxygen with it.

This algae die off, was most definitely not our problem though, as I have said we

oxygenate and dye our lakes. The dye blocks out the UV Rays which prevent the algae from forming. The dye is harmless to the fish, although some anglers think it affects the fishing, but in my experience that is not the case, and it is a widely practiced method across the fisheries in France and in the UK too.

With our minds racing, our first look at the lake only confirmed what Jamie had said and there certainly appeared to be a problem. There were some fish on the top and they were gulping for air.

To say we were confused would be an understatement. We thought we had all angles covered when it came to fish husbandry, but there was something seriously wrong – BUT





WHAT? Our first reaction though was to ensure that the oxygenation pumps were running and to also bring out the Big Guns – a large mechanical 3” Pump that can shift a serious amount water in a very short time and boost oxygen levels rapidly.

Once all the pumps were on full volume, we made a phone call to a known Fish Farmer here in France and a Fishery Owner for some additional input and ideas, but

apart from the dreaded ‘algae bloom’, we all drew a blank. Our only other thought was that something else must have entered the lake....?!

As the day went on, more and more fish appeared on the surface, and by late Sunday afternoon they were gathering at both ends of the lake, all fighting for position under the pumps. We felt sure that if we kept the pumps running, we would save our fish – or so we thought. By

Monday morning, it seemed as if all the fish in the lake were at the surface despite our efforts to get oxygen into the lake. We were still very confused and even more convinced that something must have entered the lake.

We have two farms above L’Ecurie, and one has a drainage ditch which empties into the stream that feeds our lakes, and both have large slurry pits which are emptied onto the surrounding farmland periodically. Over here, water quality is taken very seriously, and if a farmer was to pollute a water course, he would feel the full weight of the French Authorities and would be in for a substantial fine and even imprisonment, so they tend to be very careful and we have never had any issue in the past, but nonetheless we were

convinced that somehow, the problem we had was being caused by something outside of our control..!

On the Monday, we started to lose our first fish which was heart breaking, and we felt completely helpless. We also felt extremely sorry for everyone who was with us that week, but they were so understanding, and tried to help in any way they could. At this point, we felt that we had no option but to call the Authorities, so we called our Fish Farmer to see if he could do this for us (our French isn't up

to this kind of level) – however, he cautioned us against this action, as it can open a whole can of worms if they see something they don't like. This was a bit of a sobering thought, and sowed seeds of doubt in our minds, so we thought we would leave it one more day to see how things panned out.

Tuesday was no better, with more and more fish popping up and more heartache. In addition to this, there was a sinister and strange smell like 'rotting eggs' coming from the lake, and that was it for us, we

were going to get the authorities involved, no question, even if we did become culpable.

We contacted our advisor/translator who is an ex-pat that has been living in France from a very young age and is heavily involved in fish-farming and fishery ownership. We explained the situation, and he agreed that we should contact the River Police to get them out ASAP, and he knew exactly who to talk to. He managed to get hold of them the next day, unfortunately the lady that deals with our area was not in, but we managed to get them out on the Saturday – not exactly ideal, but this was the best we could do.

In the meantime, more and more fish were popping up, despite our best efforts to keep them alive. No amount



of pumping water seemed to make a difference. We were advised by the Authorities to lay the fish out and photograph each fish for the River Police to see, and any forthcoming insurance claim should somebody else be responsible. It was an horrific site to see all these beautiful fish that we nurtured, and watch grow on, die one by one with nothing we could do to help them. As the week progressed, a strange yellow foam started to appear on the lake surface, which only convinced us more and more that something had entered the lake with still no clue as to what it was.....

## **Saturday 9th October 2021**

Our guests had come to the end of their

week which can only be described as an awful week for all concerned. They were so understanding, and we will always be so grateful to them all for that, and it made what was an horrendous week for us more bearable. We then just had to wait for Madame Minon from the River Police.

She arrived with a colleague early in the afternoon and we introduced ourselves. Then it was straight down to business! Firstly, they wanted

to see the dead fish, which was not at all pleasant. They then wanted to see the affected lake, and they also commented on the odour, but at this stage they didn't appear to know what was causing it. We established this with our limited French and her limited English.

We should point out that all our lakes feed into one another and Nick's Lake is the first to receive water from the stream above it, this is followed by The Orchard, Tall Trees and



then Oaks.

Nick's Lake, as you would expect, was the hardest hit, and most of the fish in it died – this is our stock pond so, although we don't hire it out, it does have a substantial effect on things here at L'Ecurie.

Tall Trees was largely unaffected, although we did lose three fish, and Oaks was completely unaffected.

Madame Minon took samples of water from Nick's Lake, and they had all manner of test equipment with them, and they were constantly muttering under their breath, most of which we couldn't understand. They continued to take more samples working their way from Nick's Lake and up into the feeding stream where we also found a few dead Perch until we reached a 'fork' where the two small streams

meet.

Samples were taken from each feeding stream, one of which came from the farm directly above us, and the other further down the road. There were more French mutterings between the two, and it was at this point that they indicated that we should not go any further with them and to let them get on with their job. There seemed to be some urgency in their body language as I watched in the distance, and Madame

Minon appeared to know where she was heading in the way she kept stopping and examining the water every few yards - she reminded me somewhat of a bloodhound on the scent - was she onto something?

So, we turned back to our house to await news. After about an hour, they appeared back at L'Ecurie, as we waited with our breath held. Was it one of the slurry pits? Some sort of chemical? Our heads were spinning, but we were totally



taken aback by the news.....

..... Madame Minon informed us that they had found the source of the problem, we had been contaminated by

**MAIZE!!!!!!**

.....For a moment, neither Nat or me could compute this; how could maize be toxic..??!?

For some perspective, the farm above us harvests over 240 Hectares (around 1040 Acres or 1.6 Square Miles) of the stuff

each year, and it is Animal Grade Maize used for feed. During the harvest process the whole stock is shredded into tiny pieces.

They then store this in a huge pile, and this is stored directly above us and has been since before we bought the Fishery....

## So, what happened?

Madam Minon explained that the unusual amount of rain that fell the previous weekend had caused

the problem. The water had washed “through the maize pile” and extracted all the juice from the plant, which had then entered the stream which feeds our lakes.

Now apparently, once the juice is mixed with water it becomes Extremely Toxic and is the worst known thing to enter your lake as it will completely strip it of all the oxygen and no amount of pumping water would have saved our fish. It transpired that the Farmer above us was not storing the shredded Maize correctly and was allowing the Maize Juice contaminated water to drain directly into the stream instead of into his own Fosse, which is a long, narrow trench that would allow the Toxic water to drain away slowly and naturally into the ground.



Rest assured he has been severely cautioned and made to alter his system, and he has also received a hefty fine.

Although it doesn't make what happened better, we are at least relieved to know that it wasn't our malpractice that caused the death of our fish. The fish lost ran into thousands and thousands of pounds, so fingers crossed we get the settlement from his

Public Liability – nothing happens fast over here in France...!

I know there will be some of you reading this article thinking you might have done things differently, and one of those is why didn't we try to remove the fish that we could catch and net etc. but the honest answer is that we had nowhere to safely place these fish, largely due to not knowing what was wrong. At one point

we thought maybe they had a viral infection, so we didn't want to risk our other two lakes by transferring stock about.... Hindsight is a wonderful thing, and had we known it was a massive oxygen crash caused by the contamination and nothing more, we would most certainly have tried to remove the fish that we could. As for the smell, apparently the oxygen crash caused different



bacteria which lies in the silt to become active, which in turn creates the foul sulphur like smell....!

Since this all happened, we have had long meetings with the insurance companies, and the Farmer has admitted liability. We have had to provide receipts

for all the fish and photographic evidence amongst other things. We are still awaiting news on our claim.

Whilst we wait for the legal stuff to be sorted, we have treated all the lakes with Siltex, which is a natural and inexpensive way to reduce organic silt in ponds, lakes and

rivers. It is a highly porous form of calcium carbonate consisting of microscopic particles of less than 5 microns, which means that it is environmentally friendly and harmless to plants and animals, and we have also netted Tall Trees and Oaks to remove lots of the small silvers.



... And the great news is, we have also taken delivery of many Carp to re-stock The Orchard – all have come from virgin waters and have not been fished for before. You can see some photos of this on our FB page [Les Etangs De L'Ecurie \(facebook.com\)](#).

This has had to be at our own expense due to the impending insurance claim and, given the totally appalling two years due to COVID, this is not what we needed. However, it is an absolute necessity, and we are really looking forward to this year and getting open again. We wish all fisheries over here in France all the best for 2022.

Jamie & Nat

....so, there you have

it.... An incredible 'Down-Pour' and a badly stored pile of Maize, both coming together to form the "Perfect Storm" at L'Ecurie....!!

For the record, I have fished here many times and it is as close to 'Natural' Carp Fishing as you can get on a French Commercial Lake... Also, the pictures included with this article are of Carp that are very much 'Alive' still and some of the new stock too...

... The Lakes are all thriving at the minute and the first anglers of 2022 are due this month and the newly stocked Carp in The Orchard are already settled in and will hopefully not be shy to the anglers... and there is some possible further good news about The Orchard in that, from all the fish that were taken out,

some of the bigger residents did not appear to be amongst them, and hopefully a couple of the 30+ I had including the 37lb Mirror, I stalked out of the little bay, did manage to survive, but that's not confirmed as yet... maybe some will put in an appearance this year..?!

If you would like further information about the fishery, including the availability to book a lake exclusive for Two or Three anglers, take a look at <http://laclecurie.com/>

Mark Carper





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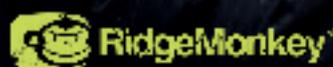
# ARMOURY TACKLEBOX

What's in your armoury?

There is no doubt that being well organised is paramount in any position and fishing is no exception. With many different small items needed to cover most situations, it's often difficult to find a way to keep everything organised in a portable, lightweight and rugged container. The only solution is to take it all home, but that's not always the most practical solution. The only alternative is to have a tackle box that is designed to hold everything you need with a massive 28 compartment interior and three separating boards and an additional storage ring in a rugged, heavy-duty design. The RidgeMonkey Armoury Tackle Box is perfect for anyone that wishes to store worms and other bait, their valuable and tackle, tools and gear, making it the perfect tackle box for the serious angler. It's built to last and is designed to last.

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# PREPARING FOR SPRING AND NEW CHALLENGES

by Richard Handel

Preparing for spring is something I start looking at as the new year starts. If I'm sticking to the same waters as last year, you would think that it's just a continuation of last year. However, it's always good to look back and analysing your results - there are always areas of improvement. Don't just look back at last year, take into consideration results from other years, when you may have changed or tweaked your rig, when something noticeable happened and your catch rate dropped or increased. Over time these small changes can be forgotten. I've always kept a log book since I started to fish, it's very simple on noting conditions etc, if I switched bait or alter my rigs. This is how I ended up starting my website as a way for recording a lot more information. At one time, I had a spreadsheet on excel to

analyse this information to try and spot the observed changes. Unfortunately, this went in the bin at some point at a time when work was manic in the shipping world and I had started to progress up the career ladder. The kids had also arrived and there wasn't time anymore. Unfortunately, I lost the data. This is a shame as I'm sure I could of cobbled it together and back into something usable.

Sorry, I rambled on a bit there and of track somewhat. My point is, that any small change can alter your catch rate and if you can work out when and especially why, this will give you a greater start for the coming session. It can be a time-consuming process, but the rewards can out weigh that easily.

If you're starting on new water, a lot



of people like to search for as much past information as possible and study when the big girls come out to maximize their chances. I don't disagree with that process. However, I personally like the challenge and there's always the new to spot and new thoughts on how the lake will work. We have all seen the new members come along and start catching immediately because they have done something differently or do something that was done before but everyone has all found themselves using the current method regardless. Your bait and approach needs to stand out from the others and give you that edge.

I love to know that new water

has the type of carp I'm after and that's as far as I go. I don't Google search all the carp a look at them as target fish anymore, simply because it can take off and become an obsession within my obsession for fishing. This isn't good for me anymore. I like to discover the beauty of the carp as I go along the way and often don't really want to know their names (if they have them). I'm not a fan of that either, but I suppose it's a necessary thing to promote waters and encourage other anglers to go hunting after them. I grew up fishing for the unknown and do my best to carry on that theme with my carp fishing as best as possible.



My approach to new waters, is simply about confidence in your abilities, self believe. Start with the bait and the rig you have the most confidence in. How many times have you been going through a hard patch and you pop onto a club water to

bang a few out and your confidence is high again? You then go back to your syndicate and start catching, simply because there was nothing wrong with your approach, you just need that confidence boost to shows you can do it and you will!

But and it is a big but. Keep your eyes open and do lots of observation, as I've written about before, things may need to be changed, but don't rush those decisions, you can send yourself off in the wrong direction and it takes a long time to get back to where you started. If you feel the need to change things about, do it gradually and one step at a time. If you do multiples things you will never quite know which is the key factor in your lack or gain in catching carp. Remember to discretely, keep an eye on other anglers, but please no asking. Give it time and the information will flow and should always be both ways.

The real obvious choices; are look in the swim with no carp in, if you get told they don't like something or if a swim is overgrown, these can be good starting points. Walk around a lot (this is not so easy with the modern lifestyle of people

always), lead about and maker or even use a Deeper sonar. Please remember to respect other anglers. If I'm going to do any other these, I really like to do it when the lake is empty or if it's a large lake, head down the other end away from people.

Time of the bank is a real help, but not always possible. If you can team up with a friend and fish at a different time of the week, this is a real game-changer on many waters.

In the early sessions on new water, I really like to position myself in a swum that can view as much water as possible, and you can sit all day watering the water.

It's all about observation in many forms that will bring you success. More rumblings soon!

Richard



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# Back To Normal

by Karl Brandreth



So I'm back now doing my write ups again, over the past few years I've been busy with looking after a lake for prince albert angling club in Cheshire, when we couldn't fish with the lock down and we weren't allowed to do any work, so I've been up to my eyeballs with arranging work and materials for the lake now we're getting back to normal the lakes are much more busier so I've done a lot of bailiffing keeping poachers off,

\  
Any way back to fishing I did a few sessions on a lake in Liverpool but couldn't catch for toffee.

Also done a few on Monument but I can't shake this run of bad luck I'm having even though I've been catching on my local lake in Cheshire with no big sizes to report of, I'd say up to 26lb is the biggest in my last few years, I just can't seem to get back on form, I suppose with the worry about my mother and cancer, plus the stress of being in a job that I wanted to leave due to bad management.

Now my mother has now been cleared of cancer and

I'm in a better job with less stress, and its 4 minutes from the lake I help run.

Which means I can keep an eye on things and captures, I was doing my bailiff round when a guy called me back and witness his fish, a lovely common at 29lb 15oz called 'Dicky Fin' due to a broken fin.

I have done a few sessions on there and caught some nice carp, I was on there one session last year when I had a red letter session, my mate and I had jumped in to a double peg for a social but it turned out to be a cracking session.



We got there Friday night and set up, had tea then settled down for a chin wag.

That night I was disturbed at 2am with a blistering take and then a fish in the net, a mid double common had opened my account then I got the rod back out and managed to sleep to sunrise when my alarms sounded again with another mid double common, a few pictures later and the rod back out on the spot, it was off again with a mid double mirror.

All that session I ended up with 11 takes and 10 on the bank, biggest being a 22lb common.

All on the bug boilie single bottom bait, one on a d-rig and the other on a Ronnie rig with a hand full of boilies catapulted over the spot every time I landed one, I've been using the hooks and fluoro carbon

from rig-it-tackle the hooks are second to none especially the hand sharpened hooks.

The most recent session was on monument 2 we arrived at the gate excited to get the rods out, we all got set up and settled down for the weekend ahead when the weather turned against us, don't get me wrong it was mega conditions for carp but we had 60-70 mph gusts straight into our face, casting out was hard going the wind would blow your lead back at least a rod length so we would have to do at least 5 casts just to get it in the right spot. Anyway the weather didn't get any better but we were watching



the guys opposite catching carp one after the other, as frustrated as we were getting we didn't give up, when eventually my mates rod ripped off at 7.30pm.

I helped him land his carp and it was a big framed 20lb mirror, so all I night I prayed for a take, the next morning we woke up and the weather was getting worse, the gusts were getting harder when around 11.30am my left hand rod let out a few sounds and my line pulled up tight I was then attached to a hard fighting carp.

It took me an age to bring it in, then my mate Keith netted my carp and the wind lifted and twisted the net with the carp in it, he was then pinned in between the net and a bush so I got things ready and it weighed in at 22lb 12oz.

A stunning common. We didn't have any more carp but things got

worse when we were packing up, my mates bivvy was blown upwards with one peg holding it down there was then three of us lay on top of it stopping it blow away, then my mates sons bivvy lifted up and broke a couple of bars, but then the rain came and that finished of the session we packed up, got soaked walking back to the car, but at least we caught and got our gear away and drove home through some hailstorms. What a weekend. I was so knackered that the next few days at work I couldn't see straight.

Anyway, guys I'll be back on the bank again soon

You can find the hooks and bits I use on the Rig-it website... but be careful. Those hooks are bloody sharp!!

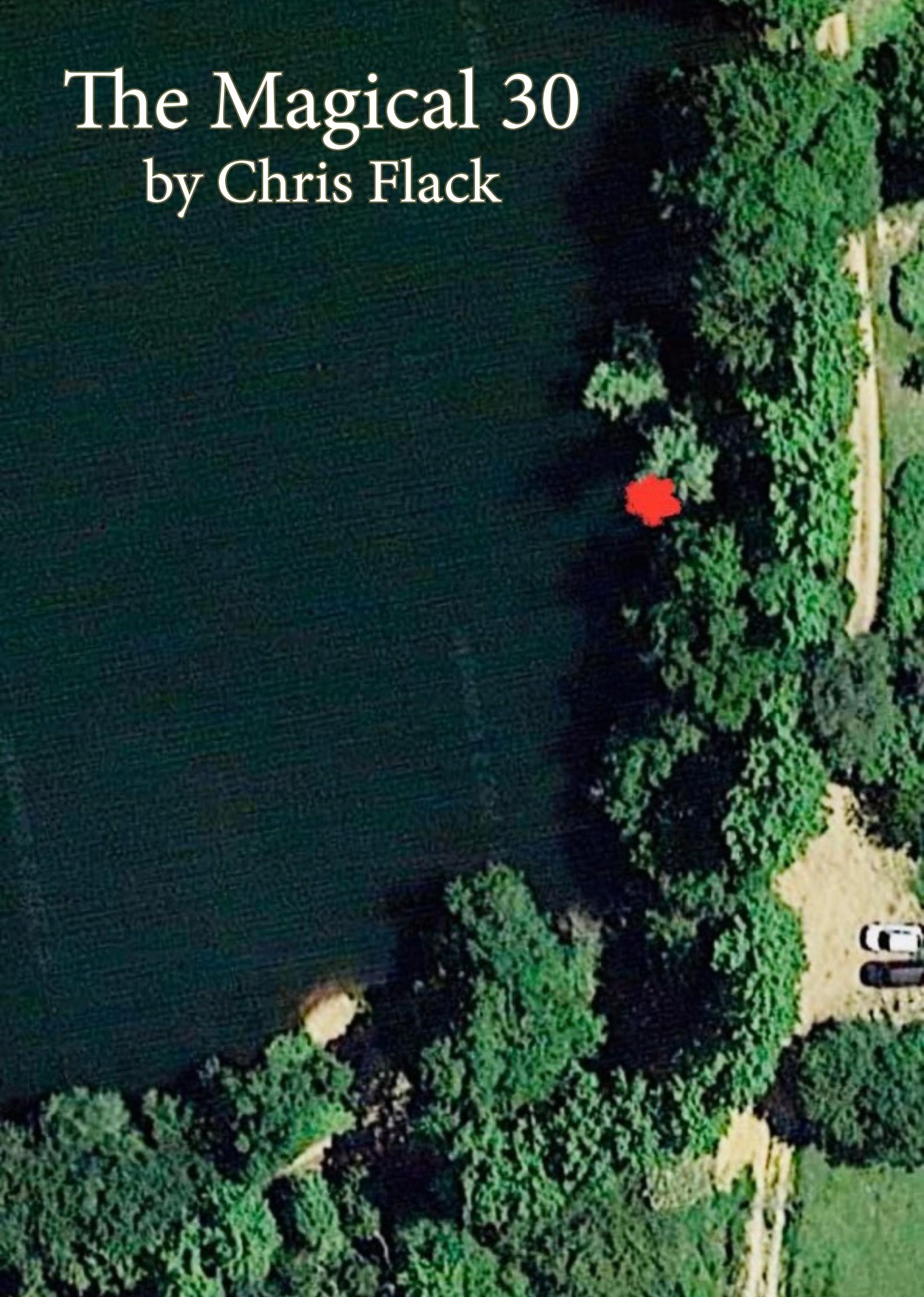
[www.rigittackle.co.uk](http://www.rigittackle.co.uk)

So tight lines  
Karl Brandreth.



# The Magical 30

by Chris Flack



Back in early 2015 I still hadn't broken the thirty pound barrier, I'd come close on a few occasions but never tipping the scales to that magical 30lb mark so I set myself the task of changing that and it all began after I learned that I had been invited to join a syndicate down in Ringwood. In fact me and my best mate had both been invited to join with the good news we decided to do a social trip and discuss the plan to try and catch our first thirty, we began the discussion about our upcoming start on the new syndicate by talking about the large carp that reside in there and how it was about time we both caught a thirty and more importantly how that would happen. With the syndicate lake being much bigger to what we were used to we decided to beef up our

rods and reels to suit our new water. There were a couple of lakes we could fish on the syndicate, one which was almost 50 acres in size and the other around 21 acres and full of large carp well over 30lbs. Over the next couple of months the excitement grew and counting down the days to when the weekend finally arrived when we could finally set eyes on the lakes. With the van loaded we set off in anticipation we decided to do a day session just to get a feel for the lake and meet some of the other members. We meet John the chap who ran the syndicate, we gained as much info from him as we could he told us about the lakes and fish as well as the biggest carp that swam in there which included the big common and 3 huge carp Basil (who is now sadly dead), Jenkins

and  $\frac{3}{4}$  lin, all four were upper thirty's and at the right time of year pushing into the 40lb mark. Having caught carp up to 29lb so far was good but the thought of bagging a near 40lb carp would be unbelievable but they were there to be caught!! Appetites well and truly wet, our day session ended with a blank but that only fuelled our hunger to return as soon as possible.

Over the next couple of months we learned the harsh reality that this wasn't going to be as easy as we first thought as I had mentioned earlier, catching carp to 29lb was great but to break the thirty pound barrier might prove harder than was first thought but we never gave up. By now we now knew the lake in a bit more detail, the better swims, gravel spots,

weed beds and silt, plus we were in regular contact with the other anglers too and getting info on what was being caught and in what swim.

It was mid March and all the bigger carp had already been caught but there were still plenty of other big carp to go for. Being self employed at the time had its advantages so I decided to fish a 48 hour session starting on the Sunday afternoon and fish into the week. I remember it being near perfect conditions as it was overcast and a little bit windy but the lake was completely devoid of anglers, result! I had the whole lake to myself and with that I could walk into each swim and try to locate the carp with ease. I settled on a swim called No Carp Corner and it offered me a great tree line to

the right of the swim and looked perfect for a bite with a few overhanging trees, a couple of snags but nothing too troubling and was perfect for baiting up as I could walk round and sneak through the trees and bushes to the waters edge and with a baiting pole positioned, I could cast over it retrieve it in and attach the rig and place it perfectly. The second rod was

much less precise as I remembered being told about a small plateau about 30 yards out which was easy to locate and cast too. Once I'd spodded out some bait I was all set, all that was needed was to set the bivvy up and have some grub. Once I was fed and watered I was set for the night ahead .

The first night was fairly uneventful with



with only a few line bites and a single carp crashing out in the open water to wake me from my sleep but I soon nodded back off to sleep. Morning arrived and the Delkims remained silent, still being the only angler on the lake I wound the rods in and had a walk up to the next swim, I spotted a few carp in the snags and watched them for a few moment before they swam off out into open water. Knowing I wasn't too far away from them gave me a lift only being about 30 yards away I went back and redid the rods with fresh hook baits and cast them back on the spots, by now it was pushing mid morning when the right hand rod burst into life and I was soon playing an angry carp who was doing its best to get into the snag further along the tree line holding on

the best I could and finally turning it away and back towards me but giving a great fight I remembered thinking, I've never played a carp as hard as this before. About 5 minutes had passed and I still hadn't got it any nearer to the bank when, it surfaced for the first time, it looked a decent fish. Finally it began to tire and I managed to get some line back the first attempt to net it didn't go to plan as the carp powered off again and with the margins being

deep it gave a good fight before rising back up and taking a gulp of air. Seeing it and realising it was a big fish I began to panic a bit. I just wanted to get it the net and on the second attempt she was in.

Peering into the net I was greeted by a large mirror carp with a massive mouth what an impressive looking carp with a stunning set of scales on each side, it looked much bigger then anything I've caught before,



this must be my first thirty, then it dawned on me no one was here to take a photo and not having a self take kit an SOS call to my mate was needed, but he couldn't get away from work so the only other option was John, the guy who runs the syndicate and as he was local to the lake. Phone call was made and 15 mins later he was walking into my swim "what you got then" he asked, "I think it's a thirty" I replied and we both weighed it and agreed it was my first thirty weighing 31lb 1oz. Later I had found out it was a fish called Scattered Lin and a rare visitor to the bank. John kindly took

the photos and she was returned back to the lake. What a way to get off the mark, my first fish and it was a thirty! I really wasn't expecting the first carp caught would be a thirty, but it was mission accomplished! I redid the rod and cast back to the spot, then I broke the good news to my wife and mate that I had broken the thirty pound barrier. The rest of that trip was uneventful with no more carp caught

but that didn't matter. I was buzzing whilst driving home with the thought of my next trip down which wouldn't be until June as this lake has a close season on it. The start of June soon arrived and the lake reopened with the rule that all anglers on the opening day are to do a draw for swims, if my memory serves me correct, I think I came out 3rd and chose the point swim which is a



double swim, on the walk around before the draw there was fish showing in the back corner so that was the choice I went for on the right hand side and my mate on the left hand. I decided to fish a spot just along the left hand margin but to get to it I needed to wade out along the margin to position the rod, once in position I baited up with a few handfuls of boilies and I was set for the night ahead. A few hours had passed and as usual we stood talking and putting the world to rights when my left hand rod was away, the carp doing its best to get around the others side of the point but holding firm I managed to turn it, the carp headed out into open water which made playing it a lot easier. After a short but firm battle it was soon sulking in my net. She was hoisted onto the mat and weighed but

luck would have it, it was my second thirty weighing in at 31lb 11oz! I couldn't believe it, back to back trips on the syndicate lake and I've bagged two thirty's! My mate done the honours and the fish was returned, at first we didn't know which carp I had caught but the following day when one of the other anglers came round to see how we were getting on and showing him the photo he said I had caught Jenkins, one of the "A-TEAM" normally weighing about 36lbs. Words failed me at the time I could not believe what I had caught, I was now starting to really enjoy syndicate life.

I went on to catch a third thirty that year, a fish called Z Fish weighing 30lb 1oz as well as some upper doubles and twenty's. The year was almost up and what a year it

was too, at the start of the year I wanted to catch my first thirty and ended up catching three of them, mission certainly accomplished. I now have that fish tattooed on my arm as I said to myself if I catch a thirty that's what I would do. Catching my first thirty was a special moment for me and will stay with me for the rest of my life. I have now moved on from that syndicate and have set myself new targets, some I have already completed and as for the others, hopefully they will not take too long to achieve but I will certainly enjoy the journey.

Until next time tight lines and be lucky.

*Chris*

# *Ladies Carp Academy*



*In Profile - Charlie Myhill*

Name: **Charlie Myhill**

Occupation: **Personal Trainer**

PB Mirror - **UK: 38lb**

PB Common - **UK: 21lb 8oz**

Location: **Kent**

Favourite Venue: **Combe Bank Fishery**

Favourite Rig: **Fluorocarbon D-Rig**

## When and How did you start Carp Angling...?

I am a Covid Carper. My obsession (and that is most certainly what it is) started right at the beginning of lockdown June 2020 when a friend asked me to tag along for the day. It was a beautiful lake I had always wanted to swim in, imagine the disappointment when I couldn't ha-ha. It was a beautiful chalk quarry. Deep blue water, chalky cliffs and for a moment I forgot the world was in dismay. After a few hours of catching roach, I realised I quite fancied giving this a real go in lockdown. I love testing myself and pushing myself out my comfort zone to learn new things. I purchased a cheap carp set up from Argos and off I went fishing a few match lakes I had discovered. The lakes I fished got bigger and so did the size of the carp. I started to discover a new love and passion after I unfortunately had to hang up my football boots through injury. Lockdown was a hard time for everyone, and fishing certainly made coping with Covid much easier. Little did I know where it would take me.



## What events you have attended and what have you gained from the Ladies Carp Academy...?

I attended the Berners Hall Social back in July last year and have booked onto Ashbury for this year. I gained major confidence from this session. I hadn't tackled such a huge expanse of water yet, I also opted to fish in the weed which was massively out my comfort zone. I took away a new set of skills from this session as well as meeting like-minded girls who I can now call good friends.

## Best Session so far...?

My best session so far will have to be the tale of my Personal Best carp from the mega venue that is Sandhurst. Arriving mid-afternoon, after driving through the historic Yateley. I arrived with some of my good friends George, Jack, Neal, Matt and John from ClubCarp. The hint of silver shimmered in a gap in the trees. As we approached the first swim this beautiful lake opened right up and instantly, I felt engulfed by its surroundings. Unfortunately, we were limited with swim choice, and I drew peg 16, also known as no carp corner. Trying not to feel disheartened I began to find some spots.

The first area I found was a 10ft hole that was holding a ton of naturals. The second spot was 3 1/2 wraps out in-line with the pipe swims on a solid sand area that had clearly been fed on. A few Spods over the top and it was time to kick back with a beer. Talking the night away under the full moon with hope and anticipation flying through the air, the discussions



came to a sudden halt as my receiver registered an almighty one toner. I miraculously ran down the slope avoiding tree roots and holes in the dark. As I approached, my reel was spinning like a Catherine wheel, I half expected it to catch fire. I bent into it and a massive eruption on the surface about 80 yards out instantly got me questioning what I may be attached to. It kited right, it kited left, it took numerous runs out into the middle, and it wiped my other two rods out in the process. 45 minutes it took to finally slow this carp down and net it. I knew from the looks the boys gave each other as they rolled this monster on to its side that this carp was something special. It's single moon scale sat perfectly alongside a cluster of scales in the shape of a paw print. Dark and certainly a Sandhurst original, it was a carp I could only dreamed of catching before this moment. The scales read 38lb on the nose in the home of Carp fishing, Yateley.

## What are your fishing goals...?

My fishing goals are to catch carp many wouldn't dare attempt to fish for. I love the mature old lakes, steeped in history with some gnarly old fish. I would love to leave a legacy and be known and respected for catching some truly incredible carp. For now, short term over the next year, I would love a big common, I want to nail a pit I'm keeping to myself for now and to keep learning the trade. I'm only scratching the surface and to create a legacy I've got a long way to go, a journey I'm excited for and it's only just begun...!!

## Sponsors/Teams:

Thinking Anglers - <https://thinkinganglers.com/>

Sticky Baits Official - <https://stickybaits.com/>

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Foxy Leads





# Reviews

*Featuring -*

*Katran Uncoated Braid  
by Mark Galli*

Roddy Clips...Hex Hooks....  
by Mark Carper

A Lighter is an essential piece of tackle  
By Anthony Wood

# Review of Katran Uncoated Braid



by Mark Carper

## ***It's just Uncoated Braid, right..??***

Well, yes and no I guess as there are an amazing array of Uncoated Braids available from Katran, in fact, if you take in to consideration the various, types, colours and breaking strains, Katran actually offer a choice of no less than **Thirty-Six Uncoated Braid options...** Now tell me there's not one for you...?!!!

I'm going to start with my 'Go-To', of which there are a couple to be fair but some of my reasons for them are simply down to the colour, so I can disguise the hook link as much as possible where I feel it will help and because some offer alternative breaking strains too.

### **My 'usual' Rigs**

I use four different rigs for my Carp Fishing, with my favoured approach being the Spinner or "Ronnie" rig and obviously, I don't use any Braid for that, although that's not to say you can't, but it would certainly hinder the 'Auto-Reset' properties of the rig..!

My Next favoured is the good old 'Multi-Rig', a simple no nonsense rig that has landed me many carp over the years, either used on the deck or with Wafter or Pop-Up. However, I do tend to lean towards a 'Coated' Braid for this one but have often had success with uncoated braid too...

I like a 'Chod', especially if I do not really know the water or what lies beneath and I'm being lazy in my approach, or I am 'chucking' at showing fish from the off.... I find this rig can cover a multitude of bottoms as it finds its own "settling point".

An adaptation of the Chod or vice-versa is the ever reliable 'Helicopter' Rig and I like an Uncoated Braid for this, and finally...

...The 'Combi-Rig'...I absolutely love using this rig and have landed so many carp with it and it seems that every hook hold is solid, and the carp

is “nailed’ as they say...!!!

Obviously, the main (Boom) section of this rig is my favoured FANTOM Fluorocarbon from Katran and I either crimp a loop at either end, using the Roddie Clips Crimps and simply ‘Loop to Loop’ the supple Hook Link section to the boom or, I use the ‘Albright’ Knot to attach the two materials together and this gives such a neat and tidy appearance, the only downside of the knot is that if I want to change the hook, which is something I do all the time, you have to scrap the whole rig as to re-knot it would mean shortening the boom section each time... so the Loop to Loop method solves this issue and you can re-use the boom time after time. Winner..!!

So now I have board you about ‘MY’ rigs, let me tell you about the Braids I use for them and the reasons for that and a little about the rest of the uncoated selection from Katran. If you read my articles in last months mag (of course you did..?!) you will know all about Katran and how I started using their products, so I won’t cover that again....Hurray..!

## The Braids

On the rare occasion, and I mean rare, that I fish a ‘Solid Bag’ my absolute go-to and favoured Hook Link is the Katran FLEX and because it is so thin and supple, I nearly always use it in 25lb breaking strain.

**FLEX** is one of four ‘Soft’ Braids that Katran makes but the properties and combination of the materials used in the construction, Dyneema and Polyester, has created a super strong braid that was designed specifically to assist in ‘turning the hook’, although as I use it in Solid Bags, the rig is very

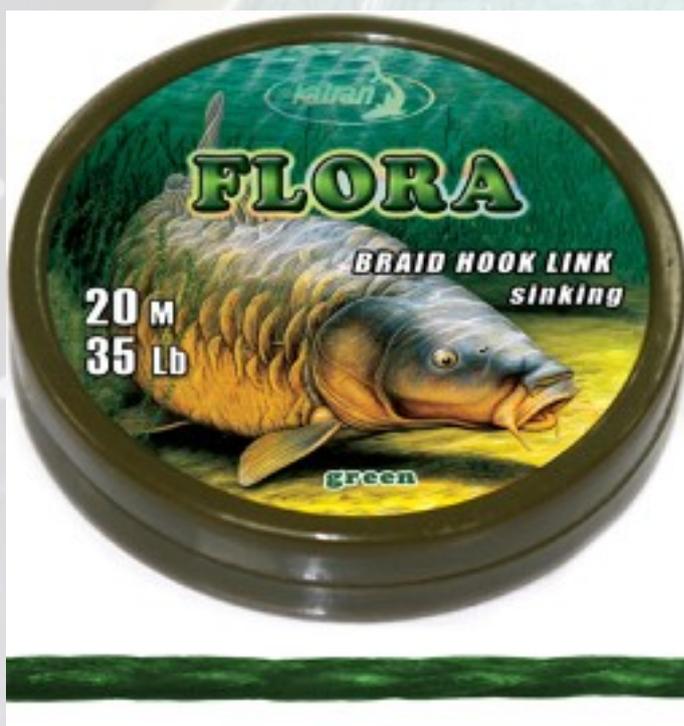




short, about 4" and this somewhat negates that turning assistance, but on longer rigs, it can be demonstrated, albeit on you hand..!

The Camo Green/Black mix helps this braid blend in with any coloured bottom but is especially effective in weedy waters. I have used this in both breaking strains of 15lb and 25lb and it is excellent. I also have used it as part of the Combi-Rig set up too but for that rig, I tend to favour...

....**FLORA** as this is one of THE softest braid that Katran manufacture and it acts 'almost' like a blade of grass when it is in the water which allows a very natural presentation. The softness and suppleness ensure full movement of both Bait and Hook up to the Boom Section of the FANTOM Fluorocarbon, especially when using a Wafter and is just what you want as it will help to ensure a solid hook hold every time...!



Although FLORA is made of the softer graded fibres, do not let that mislead you because this Braid is equally as strong as any of the braids produced by Katran and is available in break strains of 25lb, 35lb and 45lb and is Green in colour, with the 25lb version being my option.

Another one of the four 'Soft' Braids from Katran is **ENDURO**, which is fast sinking and very soft.

**ENDURO** is also very thin but thanks to the combination 'weave' of the high-quality Tualon Fibres, it is also strong and very abrasion resistant and as with all the Braids from Katran, it has superb 'Knot Strength', which, if you ever see Katran at one of the European Carp Shows (once they start up again..!) they are proud to demonstrate on their Breaking Strain Test Rig...!

Enduro is only available in 25lb breaking strain and for me is one that I carry "just in case". The colour is a Camo mix of Brown and Black. If you want one Uncoated Braid that will cover a multitude of presentations, is discreet, strong and abrasion resistant, then I would put this in your tackle box...

## Popular in the UK

The three I have just spoke about are all top-quality uncoated braids and as with all the uncoated braids from Katran they are available in 20m spools. The Flex and Flora are my favoured braids, with Enduro being my 'all-rounder' so to speak, and I am fortunate that I have had the opportunity to try them all. Because I favour just two, does not mean that any





of the others are lower quality and in fact, the best UK selling uncoated braid from Katran is the **KORUND** and this really does tick all the boxes if you want a not 'so soft' braid...

**KORUND** is classed as a Semi-Stiff Uncoated Braid (obviously it is still very flexible as it is uncoated) and it is strong and fast sinking too. Made from the best Dyneema, it is a tightly woven braid, that acts natural in any conditions. It is a Black/Green mix, that's perfect in most waters and is available in 15lb, 25lb and 35lb breaking strains.

## Longer Hook Links

For those that like to use a longer Uncoated Braid Hook Link, which on some French waters is an approach I have used on occasion but one that a mate of mine, Denis Ryan, always favours, even here in the UK too, where he will often use 12" to 18" hook links (and sometimes longer), the **TERMIT** is the one to use...

...**TERMIT** is a fast-sinking hook link which has been created using Tualon, Kevlar and Dyneema fibres and it is this combination of these materials that make the TERMIT a braid that will outperform its peers



with ease. Super strong and semi-stiff to the touch, this eight-strand braid is woven at Thirty-Two weaves per inch, making it the most durable and reliable of its kind.

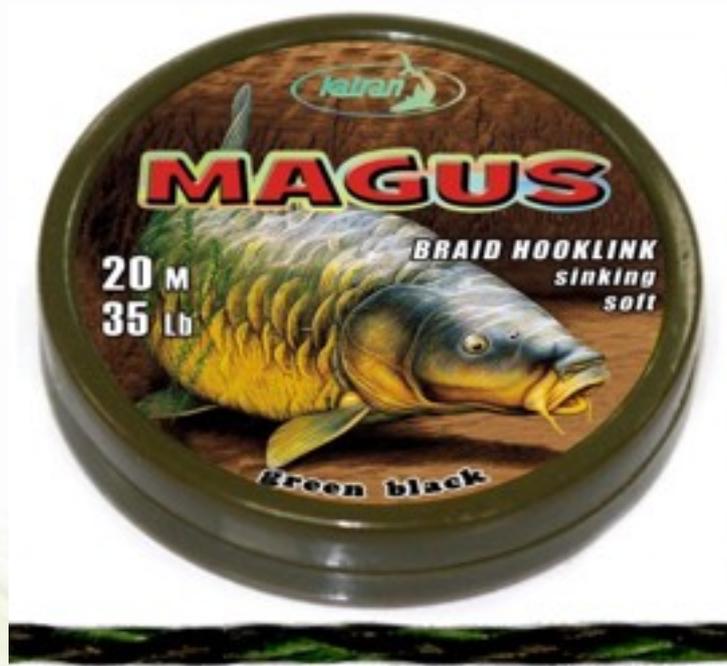
Extensive tests were undertaken during the production of the TERMIT, and the results were outstanding regards performance and strength. Deep Green in

colour this braid is a must in the harshest of conditions. Available in breaking strains of 25lb, 35lb and 45lb, this braid could also be used as a Snag Leader...!

Another Uncoated Braid from the Katran stable that is also aimed at those longer hook links or snaggy waters is the **TUAREG**.

This braid uses the mix of Tualon and Kevlar fibres, to make it super strong in relation to its diameter and is another premium sinking uncoated braid that offers a natural presentation. Couple that with the Camo colouring of Brown/Black and you have a strong semi-stiff premium braid that is virtually undetectable and with breaking strains of 13lb, 15lb, 25lb, 30lb, 35lb and 50lb, this can also be used as a Snag Leader and in the higher breaking strains, can even cope as a 'Shock Leader' too...how versatile is that..?!





### Back to Soft...

The **MAGUS** is the fourth of the Katran 'Soft' Braids and is a densely woven braid made up of Tualon and Polyester.

The Polyester gives the **MAGUS** a slightly 'elasticated' property, with the Tualon giving the strength.

The softness of this braid allows natural presentation

and aids in the turning of the hook during a take. Colour designed for use on bare lake beds and the green/black mix ensures maximum stealth. Super strong and anti-abrasive this is just another of the Katran premium uncoated braids.

### A Floating Braid..?

Yep, that's right, Katran even has a Floating Braid...The **AMUR**...!

AMUR is a floating uncoated braid and Katran say it is best suited to use in buoyantly presented hook baits but for me, I am not sure about that...?! This is one of the braids I have not actually used, but I do have it and if the opportunity arises, I'm sure I will give it a go...!  
The tight weave of the AMUR ensures a narrow diameter



but the combination of Tualon and Dyneema means that there is no compromise on strength. Suitable for the use in creating a wide variety of rigs the uncoated AMUR is a very versatile example of a premium braid and has breaking strains of 25lb and 35lb.

**...and last but not least...**

**MIMICKER**...First in its' class when it comes to innovation and design....

Katran took their Premium uncoated **KORUND** braid (to be fair, everything that Katran produce is 'Premium') and via a new and innovative manufacturing process, they "threaded it through an authentic weed sleeve" ...!!

This 'sleeve' then allows for natural movement in the water just like other aquatic vegetation....

The reason for its creation is mainly down to research they conducted regarding fish that are "rig shy".... it is evident that over time many of the specimen Carp we seek to catch are also very weary and very nervous and on pressured waters this is very apparent at times.



They seem to become aware that if they take a bait from a rig where the



line is visible it will result in them being towed around the lake for the next fifteen minutes or so and as a result the bigger specimen fish shy away from visible rigs, or so it appears anyway...?!

Moreover, MIMICKER can absorb the 'smell' of any Glug, Dip, Liquid etc. and release it over a prolonged period, but without compromising the incredible Camouflage properties it was originally designed for...now that has to be attractive to the carp, doesn't it..?

Katran is proud to have designed the Mimicker and feel it is something that can add to that "edge" we are all looking for. From my experience, tying the rigs is petty straight forward, using the Korund inner core but you must just take care you do not pull it through the weedy sleeve, other than that, it's suitable for numerous rigs that you would normally use a braid for.

...and there you have it, all **NINE** types of Uncoated Braid from Katran and they sit alongside the **TEN** 'Coated' Braid Hook Links they have to offer, but I will cover those next month...!!

Until I happened across Katran Fishing Line (the company) I thought Braid was braid and some of it was coated and some wasn't. Admittedly, being one of their 'Team experts' has given me the great opportunity to have access to ALL their Line and to thoroughly try the Braids in both formats and breaking strains etc.

Katran have never set out to be the cheapest as there are plenty of 'options' out there if your purchase is based on cost alone, but they did set out to bring high quality line and products to the market and also to allow a choice of not just breaking strain but Line and Hook Link that can really assist the fishing you are doing and the rigs you are using... they are prominent in the European Carp Angling market place and further afield too and the UK is slow to catch on in my opinion or perhaps we are "set in our ways" and don't want to try anything new, especially if we do not know the brand, and I can see that, as I probably wouldn't have even tried it if it wasn't for circumstances a few years back and I have never been one of these to 'Jump Brand' just to get a team spot or a few 'Freebies' unlike many that will recommend three different brands as being the "THE BEST" all in the same year, as they jump ship... you know the ones, Social Media is full of them....!!!

Before the next time you have a rig tying session, just take look at <https://katran.eu/> or even drop me a message to [@mark\\_carper257](#) on Instagram or Mark Carper on Facebook and I will be happy to chat about what might suit you. I can also point you in the right direction to purchase from the full range of products too... and if you haven't already read my articles about the **Fantom Fluorocarbon** and the **Main Lines** in last month's issue, you can download it, along with every other issue **Free of charge from the Talking Carp website...**

...until next month...

Mark Carper



## The HEX Hook from Roddy Clips

Product Review by Mark Carper



## Possibly one of the most talked about Hook Patterns in the last few years...

...The HEX or HEX Gape as it is now commonly known, was, to my knowledge launched in late 2017, early 2018 by Nash Tackle and was aptly named the 'Claw'... with variants quickly following for the 'Ronnie Claw' and the 'Flota Claw'...

Basically though, the Claw or the Hex in whatever brand name it is sold under is still just a wide-gape-hook style pattern, but a pattern that had not been seen before and one that caused a bit of a stir and took criticism from some quarters as it "looked" weak and/or "ineffective"...!!!

Fast forward to mid 2021 and Nash were not the only company offering the Hex Hook pattern and again, to my knowledge, there are three or four other companies now offering that pattern and I have personally tried three of them, including the Nash offering, and have to say I absolutely love them...!!

Now, this is not a 'Comparison' Review because I would have to go 'Technical' to do that, which would mean comparing the materials used, the manufacturing process, the finite differences in wire-gauge, shape





sharpness etc. etc. etc. and I am neither qualified nor interested to be fair, so this is to just highlight the Hook I have gone over to and that is based on the ability for it to suit the rig I am using and the fish I have hooked and landed...

If you didn't already know, all the Hex Gape Hooks (I have seen) have a 'slightly' Beaked Point, which does not appear as in-turned or aggressive as a 'Normal' Beaked Point Hook but it's

enough to protect the point from a gravel bottom and allow it easily 'catch hold' as it comes in to contact with a Carp's mouth. Once penetrated, the shape then allows a good hold with minimum movement in the mouth, meaning the hook hold is more secure.... don't believe me, just ask Marc Voosen from Nash Tackle, because to my knowledge, he was the man behind this pattern of hook in the first place.... remember the Pin-Point range...?!

Anyway, from experience, I can assure you the hook holds are mega, and I landed 54 carp from 57 takes when I was testing the Hooks that I had from Roddy Clips back in August 2021. Prior to this I had used another brand and the Nash ones, and I had hooked and landed Carp on them all. In fact, I was so impressed with the hooks from all the companies, I stopped using the two hook patterns I had been on for the past four years and started only using the Hex Gape and still do.

I will admit that I was a little sceptical, as were others in the early days of this pattern, about them 'Looking Weak' due to the shape and the fact the wire gauge was thinner than I was previously using but after breaking a few in a vice, alongside similar sized hooks of varying shapes, I soon had the confidence that neither the shape nor the thin wire gauge was of concern and once I started landing Carp from various types of waters

containing weed and snags etc. I had full faith in the pattern and particularly in the one supplied by Roddy Clips.

The pattern has quite an aggressive look and seemed to be the obvious choice for the Spinner or “Ronnie” Rig and I have had great success with this set up, but I find it equally as consistent when used as a Multi-Rig or Combi-Rig too and the lightweight of the hooks allows for good movement on the Combi-Rig, which I feel is an essential part of that rig.



I have also tried it with a ‘Blow-Back’ Rig and in Solid Bags too and have never had reason to doubt the effectiveness. The very first time I used the Roddy Clips version, I tied a Ronnie and Combi Rig, chucked them on a couple of likely spots and landed Carp on each rod within thirty minutes, so that was a huge confidence booster, although the session went downhill from there...!!!

I then used the hooks exclusively over in France and had a super session over the period of seven days landing Carp to 38lb, using a six foot ‘Sawn-Off’ and a 1.5oz free running lead set up...the hook worked well, even without a heavy lead to set it.

As I mentioned earlier, the hook pattern is quite aggressive ‘looking’ but the fact that the Beaked Point is only slight, means it keeps the ‘Wide-Gape’ open and does not restrict the hooking potential. The fact is, I believe it totally enhances it and the angular design then comes in to play in keeping the hook where it should be, firmly embedded in the mouth of the Carp... and the Anti-Glare coating helps to keep the Hook concealed too...!

Roddy Clips do not profess to be, neither did they set out to be, the 'Cheapest' in the marketplace, but they certainly do seem to have found the balance of high quality with reasonable prices and for me, who is someone that likes to change the hook very regularly (I'm a bit lazy when it comes to sharpening), the Quality/Price balance is spot on. I can also say, with all honesty, they are plenty sharp enough "out of the packet" but they can be fine-tuned by hand if you feel the need, but like I said, I'm lazy...HaHaHa..!

Since June 2021, other than a 'Chod' type hook, I only have the Roddy Clips HEX in my tackle box, in all three sizes of 8, 6 and 4 and in both the Micro-Barbed and Barbless version, although I use the Micro-Barbed if the venue allows.

To be open and honest, the HEX Hooks I have been testing from Roddy Clips, were sent to me free of charge, but I have since purchased several packs and have recommended them to numerous anglers both here and in Europe.





**RODDY CLIPS**

RC | ESTD. 2020

***BY YOUR SIDE***

# A Lighter is an essential piece of tackle

By Anthony Wood



This may seem like a strange title for a carp fishing review but I have to say that a lighter is an essential piece of kit. Whether you use a lighter for starting your gas stove, barbeque or whether you use it to blob your tag end, blob a bait stop on your pop up or any other number of reasons, a lighter is essential.

There are lots of lighters out there from cheap disposable lighters that fall apart after a couple of uses through to designer limited edition metal zippo lighter fluid lighters. I noticed recently that Pallatrax have added a clipper (which is a mid range butane refillable lighter) that has their brand logo on it, there is even a limited-edition metal one in a presentation tin.

However, for me there is something fundamentally missing from these lighters, they are either too delicate, not refillable, too heavy, don't float, don't last long enough or don't have protection against accidental lighting when they are being carried in your tackle box (it is highly unlikely but I have seen accidental lighting of lighters in tackle boxes). There is however a solution that I found from one of my other hobbies.

The Exotac Firesleeve™ is a cover for the BIC Classic Lighter that is designed in the USA for use in the toughest conditions and is made from



a super strong glass filled nylon.

The reason that I love this so much is that it allows you to use a reasonably cheap but quality lighter yet at the same time have a robust lighter that will stand up to the toughest of environments. What makes this lighter cover so good apart from its rugged design?

The Firesleeve is a snug fit to the BIC Classic which creates a waterproof barrier around the lighter, it also has an integrated strap built into it which allows you to keep the lighters gas button held down so that you can have a permanent flame for hard to reach places or if you want a bit of distance between your fingers and the gas ring on your cooker.

Add to this the cap which is designed to protect the gas button from accidental dispersal of butane but also keeps moisture out, it can be stored at the bottom of the sleeve when in use so you don't use it and finally once the cap is in place it creates a fully waterproof seal which also makes the whole thing float.

This really isn't one of those gadgets that you buy and never use, it is extremely practical, usable and fantastic value for money.

Luckily you don't have to order all the way from America as they have a distributor in the UK. You can find the FireSleeve™ at [www.wilderness121store.co.uk/gb/home/193-552-exotac-firesleeve-.html#/23-exotac\\_colour-black](http://www.wilderness121store.co.uk/gb/home/193-552-exotac-firesleeve-.html#/23-exotac_colour-black) outside of the UK though you will not get a BIC lighter included due to various laws on transporting flammable gases, you can also follow them on their media channels [www.facebook.com/wilderness121](https://www.facebook.com/wilderness121) or [www.instagram.com/wilderness121](https://www.instagram.com/wilderness121)





# Catch Reports

*Featuring -*

D.T. Baits

Castaway PVA

Deception Angling

Plus all of your catches !!!

# Leigh Leavesly



# Leigh Leavesly



**First ever trip to Yateley pads lake resulted in a 42lbs 4oz mirror 34lbs 3oz mirror 32lbs mirror and 17lbs 8oz mirror and the lake had only done 4 fish this year up until this point.**





### AJ Spooner

AJ with one of two fish he managed on a quick over nighter between work. Cold Water Green Beast proving its effectiveness in the cold temperatures.

### Rick Golder

Consultant Rick managed this beautiful dark mirror on his first trip out since joining the team. He used a Cold Water Green Beast pop up on a hinged rig and matching free offerings





## Peter Jensen

Peter Jensen headed out for an over night session to celebrate his birthday and winkled out this 28lbs common. Thanks to the Supa fruit he got exactly the present he was after



## Nico Pike

Team member Nico Pike managed this very welcome 25lbs mirror on a recent trip. Nico fished a custom rolled squid and octopus wafter doused in the matching bait spray on a very cold over night session.



**Castaway PVA**

**Paul Heseltine** - Sharons fish at 40l 10oz



**Adam Honeysett** - 40lb 6oz



**Castaway PVA**

**Derek 'The Don' Ritchie - 35lb 12oz**



**Jamie Sutton - 24lb**



# Deception

*Angling*

## Baggins



James Summerfield



# Deception

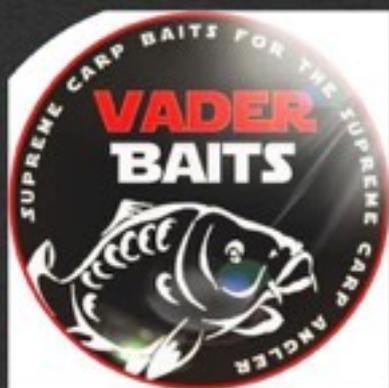
*Angling*

Reece Bestwick



Ryan May





**Matt fished Islands on peg 11 a swim he hadn't fished in before! Conditions looking good but temperature definitely falling...Matt took no time in setting up 2 rods and fishing identical tactics on both. Using a mixture of Vader baits SaTaN and Crabalicious pellet ranging from 6mm to 11mm and using 14mm SaTaN and Crabalicious boilie some whole and some chops with either a topping of SaTaN or Crabalicious glug over the top!! On the rig he went with his trusty 14mm white Crabalicious waffer! After only a couple of hours passing Matt's left hand rod tore off and after a great battle he could see he was into a good fish as the shoulder of the beauty slid into the net!! Just shy of 27lb an awesome scaly mirror which you can tell is going to be a 30+ in no time !! As the temperature kept dropping into the minus figures the lake went quiet. Just after breakfast and the sun just starting to dance on the lake Matt freshened his baits but used the same tactics and put both baits on his previously chosen spots. In the next 3 hours his right hand rod this time took off and after a much easier battle he had a nice little around the 10lb mark mirror on the bank, a few beeps and a couple of missed strikes was all to follow leaving Matt with just the 2 fish but after not fishing that swim before wasn't a bad effort!! Only a fish to come from 2 swims at Islands now and he's caught from all the pegs!!! Then it's just a case of catching all the named 30s**



**Team member Nathan battled the elements this weekend for the last Vader Baits social of the calendar! It was held at Festival Carp Fishery for 48 hours. With storm Eunice in full swing conditions were extremely difficult. Eventually he managed to get the rods set for the night and Friday passed...then Saturday morning came and he was awoken to the sound of his alarms slowly bleeping into life where he managed to land this very welcomed 14lb 2oz mirror. He tempted the fish using a 14mm Le Nutz boilie topped with a white 12mm Grafter pop up trimmed to balance as a snowman style set up with a PVA bag of Le Nutz crumbed boilies, Le Nutz chopped boilies and Grafter micro pellet with a helping of Grafter glug with a good helping of 14mm Grafter pellet over the top!!**

# *Stoppo's Fishery*

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# *Le Lees Carp Fishery - France*



**Now France has opened up !!! come on guys & girls take advantage of our deal....**

**We have decided to extend our deal into this year 2022. With a chance of winning yourselves a free trip. So get booking at just £150 per person per week, including an evening meal and just a £50 pp deposit required to secure any date this year.**

**We are just 3hrs from Caen, 2hrs from St Malo, 1 1/2 hrs from Roscoff.**

**Win A FREE weeks fishing. Anyone who books a week with us at just £150pp and catches one of these 2 amazing carp (2 tone or Hald moon) will win their next trip for free.(Drive and survive)**

**Thankyou Matt and Tracie**



*Le Lees Carp Fishery*

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**Thanks for reading**

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

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

*'The Talking Carp Team'*

**Brian Dixon  
Mark Faulkner  
Dave Harnick Snr  
Mark Galli**



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

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*- DANNY FAIRBRASS*

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