



Issue 65
July 2021



Inside -

**Dave Locke writes his final chapter,
We take a look inside Joe Turnbull's Tackle box
Talking Point with Julian Cundiff,
Plus Reviews, Catch reports and much more !!!**

Hello and welcome.... Issue 65!!

Definitely in the swing of summer now.

The catch reports we are seeing across social media, and those sent in to us, are looking really good. One thing we must say though... in this extremely hot weather please follow these tips.

- **Try and keep mats and cradles shaded**
- **Do not keep buckets of water ready for your captures... the water warms up quickly during the day and you could end up pouring HOT water over your catches**
- **Keep the fish in the net, fill your buckets and soak everything thoroughly with fresh water from the lake, then fill the bucket for your fish.**
- **After a few quick pics get the fish back into the water as quickly as you can... but MAKE SURE THE FISH IS FIT AND READY to swim off, if in doubt stay with the fish, in the net, until it is good to go.**
- **Look after yourselves in this weather. Stay hydrated and remember your suncream!! Sunburn and dehydration is not to be taken lightly.**

Moving on... this month we have a great "Talking Point" with Julian Cundiff as we discuss better bite detection, Joe Turnbull brings us part 2 From Inside The Tackle Box, Scott Grant continues his carp chasing adventures and more... much, much more!!

Keep those articles and catch reports rolling in folks!

Email us at the usual address :-

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Team Talking Carp



This issue is in Loving memory of my mum
Jo Tritton



A Letter of thanks....

I'm writing just to say, even though some of my fishing tackle was stolen this week I wanted to mention how amazing the fishing community has been to me.

On the 6th of July I went fishing to my local fishery, Linear fisheries. Because I don't drive and can't carry all my gear, I left some of my stuff in the car park whilst I put half of it in a swim (I had done this many times with no problems) I was gone no longer than a few minutes and when I came back, I found my rods, reels, spod rod and reel as well as my rod pod, bite alarms, landing net pole and bobbins gone. (This is in no way Linears fault as this could have happened anywhere) I walked to the tackle shop where they were very supportive and helped me calm down, they kept a constant check to see if I was ok, as well as calling the police on my behalf. It was soul destroying that someone stole my kit, especially when I use fishing to help with my mental health as well as time away from my caring duties, for my son who is autistic. Fishing is my only place I feel relaxed and problem free. I knew this was going to effect, not just my time I had on the bank but also my mental health. I posted on a few pages on Facebook as I wanted people to be aware of the fact my gear was stolen so they could keep a lookout for it, on the odd chance it could be recovered. The posts I shared spread around Facebook, with so many comments of support as well as many many offers of donations of tackle to get me back on the bank again, most of these people I have never met! I love fishing and this was devastating to me. Something I do know though is that the fishing community is like no other community, everyone looks out for each other and helps those in need and supports one other, that is what fishing is about. A big family of anglers, that's what we have here in the uk. A Facebook group called Serious Carp Socials, also the Romanian Anglers uk Community set up their own fund raising schemes, raising money off their own back to help me get enough funds to buy all the fishing gear that was stolen between them, what is absolutely outstanding, this very kind gesture will always be remembered and stay very close to my heart. I want to personally thank all those people who did donate, I'm in the process of buying all the items that was stolen, so thank you from the bottom of my heart. any funds left will be donated to Tackling Minds charity who support people with mental health by going fishing, which is very close to my heart.

A special thanks to Chris and the staff at Linear for helping me through this, and the cctv footage has been passed on to the authorities for investigation.

Thank you everyone.

Charlotte

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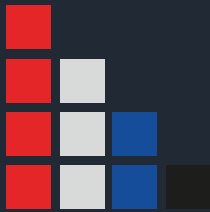
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**CATCH
REPORTS -
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with all of
your catches
!!!!!!!**

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*Memories of an average Carper
The final Part*



By Dave Locke

My time on the mere continued to be well above my expectations, throughout the entire summer I only had one blank three day session.

Autumn turned out to be very mild right up until Christmas time and I was catching at least one good fish every session. Then in January the temperature really dropped, I had been told that the mere had never frozen over probably due to the depth and size of the water.

I turned up in the first week of January to see the water level had risen by about 4 foot and water was flowing over the road by the middle car park. The farmer turned up just as I was having a look around and contemplating if my van could get through the water in the car park and he told me not to go through it because the bottom end of the mere was also flooded.

I set up in a swim on higher

ground called the bird hide. I wasn't surprised when I didn't have a sniff on the first night as it was very cold with a thick frost in the morning.

My carp cradle and landing net were frozen onto the ground it was that cold. Nothing showed all day and I thought I was looking at my first blank for a while. At midnight a belting run on my left hand rod had me out of the bag and standing playing a carp, shivering like a jelly on a roller coaster. No sooner had I netted this one, my middle rod burst into life. Somehow whilst playing this second one I managed to reach into my bivvy and get my coat and boots and struggled to put them on while playing a very annoyed carp. The carp turned out to be a pair of known fish called the left-hand and right hand linears, as I already had caught the left-hand one and I was slowly turning into a polar bear I didn't bother with photos but went to sleep well pleased with a brace of twenty's on such a cold night. The temperature stayed

cold all through January so I wimped out and only did one more night that month which was a blank.

February started off a little milder so during the first week I was back for a couple of nights, resulting in one high double common. The second week was colder again but I was really keen for some reason.

It was a beautiful sunny clear day when I set up and I did see a couple of shows really close to the bank. I was still fishing the bird hide swim because of the high water level. I was quite confident as I set up and cast my left hand rod tight against the reeds on the far side, my middle rod was cast straight out to the bottom of the gravel slope and my right hand rod just six foot from the bank slightly to my right.

At eleven pm the left-hand rod dropped back right to the ground. I had got into my sleeping bag about 9pm and was nice and warm but as I got out to attend to the now running carp I was

shocked just how cold it had got. Another struggle putting on my coat and boots whilst playing a carp, which was a mid twenty common.

Back in bag just getting warm and the recast into gawd knows where, my left hand rod goes, of again. A double common this time. Back in the bag a happy chappy.

It seemed like I'd only been asleep for an hour when the right hand rod absolutely melted off. Out of bag normal struggle with boots and coat then I realized this was not a small carp that was now belting down the lake but also my bladder was very close to bursting. I walked backwards just hoping my line didn't catch on anything and relieved myself of several cups of tea whilst the carp made it's merry way down the lake as far away from me as it could get.

I have no idea how long it took me to get the carp back to my swim but even then it really didn't want to come out and have it's photo

taken.

Eventually I managed to coax it over the net with a great sigh of relief. It was the first thirty I had caught in the summer looking

immaculate and **weighing**

36lb 6oz. I knew my mate Scott was due down that morning and he's an early bird, so I sacked the carp and text Scott to tell him to hurry up so I could be sure of a good photo.

The rest of the winter and early spring went in a similar way with no blanks. The weird thing is, every carp I caught that winter was after 10pm, I didn't even have a run in daylight until early March.

I did a couple of nights at the start of march for one twenty common. I think it was march 4th when the 5 lakes carp show was on and my mate Tony hadn't been



Warrior 36lb 6oz

before so didn't know where it was so we arranged to meet at the mere on Saturday morning and go to 5 lakes in Tony's car.

I was sitting at home on the Friday morning very bored and it was a nice day so I thought I might as well do the night at the mere and I'll be there already nice and early when Tony turned up.

First cast after turning up about midday and I was shocked when the rod burst into life just as Gary the oracle turned up. The first one in daylight for months a twenty mirror.

As I wasn't even expecting to be fishing I was a happy hippy.

The day stayed sunny and mild and I sat out watching the stars until 9.30pm then climbed into the bag and out like a light. I hadn't bothered with my bivvy just set up in the now dry middle car park and crashed out in my van. I was very surprised to be woken up at 11pm by the sound of heavy rain hitting

the van roof and when I looked outside I saw that a quite strong northerly wind was blowing across the lake straight at my swim. I was even more surprised when half an hour later my right-hand rod went off.

I won't go into the whole story but I ended up with seven carp that night four of them twenty's

I wound in at 3:30am soaking wet absolutely knackered freezing cold and very happy, only us carpers could understand that.

What brought the carp on to the feed we will never know we can guess and say the strong wind or the heavy rain, but let's face it we'll never really know.



Throughout the rest of march and April the Mere's carp continued to be kind to me and by the third week in April I was up to 96 carp from the Mere.

My second year would start at the beginning of May and I really wanted to get my total up to a nice round one hundred, but it was not to be.

My last session of my first year only produced two carp, I even stayed a extra night but no matter what I tried I just couldn't get the other two.

The first session of my second year also turned out to be a bit of a struggle, with only two carp for 3 nights but number one hundred was a truly stunning carp, a leather at bang on 29lb which obviously got named Hundred.

That spring and early summer was memberable for two reasons. The first being the amount of weight a lot of the carp had put on. The fish we were getting at 27 or 28lb were now over the 30lb

mark and even high doubles were now good 20s. The second being how dry the weather had been, which meant the huge diesel pump at the top of the lake was going constantly irrigating the very dry fields.

I was amazed when I turned up on the last session in May to see the water level had dropped by around 4 foot, which meant instead of setting up on the nice grassy banks we now had to set up at the top of the gravel slope. This allowed me to have a change of tactics, I would wade out and place a rig in front of a reed bed that was about 150 yards long and up until the drop in water level had been near impossible to place a bait close to. I was very fussy with this new tactic, I would not pull the hooklength straight when I place it, I always made sure there was a curve in the braid, then I would get lump of clay from the lake bottom and pinch a small piece every 3 foot onto my line to make sure it laid flat. This tactic caught me a great deal of carp, one 3 day and night session I had



Mere when others were struggling to get 15 or 20 in a year.

I really think the main reason was simply because I was fishing midweek when it was rare to see 2 others on the lake.

The Hundred 29lb Leather

12 carp including 3 x 30s and 6 x 20s out of the 12, nine of them came from in front of the reeds with only 3 on the other two rods.

That year was one of the best years fishing I've ever had I ended up with 142 carp.

This might sound a lot but you have to remember I was doing at least 2 nights and 3 days every week and quite a few times an extra day or two was eeerrrr forced upon me.

It puzzled me for a while as to why I had done so well on the

The weekends could be quite busy with 15 or 20 others fishing. Very rarely would I have a good day if I turned up on a Monday, probably because of the amount of bait that went in over the weekend. By Tuesday the carp were hungry again. Of course this is only what I think. Yet another thing we will never know. The rigs and bait bit, firstly the rigs I used were just normal hair rigs with a small shrink tube kicker on the eye, hooks were kamasan 745 in size 6 or 8. I use inline leads unless I need very long range, a lot of the inlines fit to tight on the swivel for my liking so I would squash the swivel eye in a bit so

the lead could slide up the line easily almost a free running lead.

I never had one snap off the whole time on the Mere and only had 4 fish slip the hook.

This is going to sound daft..... Bait, I have no idea what I was using. Shortly before I joined the Mere I popped down to see my old mate Geoff Bowers at ABS baits and he gave me two huge bags of base mix, that I had no idea what it was, all I can say is I added lobster flavour and salmon oil when I rolled it.

If you have read my previous efforts you'll know I was in hospital with a severe stomach problem. Because of this I get very little nutrition from my food and my body was slowly getting weaker.

The long sessions were taking a toll on me so sadly I had to leave the Mere which is my all time favorite lake.

My third to last session there and the lake rewarded me with a farewell present. The first thirty pound common I caught there but this time she weighed 42lb.

Thanks for reading and I hope you found it all interesting, and thank you Mark Faulkner for encouraging me to write about my exploits.

Dave





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Talking Point...

with Julian Cundiff

Talking Point... Improving Your Bite Indication

with Julian Cundiff

Welcome back to Talking Point, our new feature where we chat about some of the finer details in carp angling, and hopefully help one or two anglers along the way. Last month Jules covered the all-important piece of tackle. the hook. And from some of your responses since issue 64 launched, it seems Jules opened one or two eyes and minds.

This month we are going to discuss bite indication. And what you can do to possibly improve yours.

T.C Welcome back Jules, as always it is a pleasure. Now this month we would like to discuss bite indication with you. The reason we are looking at this is because a quick scan on any bank, or social media platform and it is plain to see that so many people could be missing out on those all important bites. It is all well and good having the latest shiny pod, with three rods all crammed tightly together, and lines off at all angles into the water. It may look good for the pictures, but what about bite detection? Would it be fair to say those anglers could be missing out on all important first indication of a bite?

J.C. Hi mate, thanks for the kind words on my piece on hooks that you ran last month. Heck it seemed to resonate with plenty whether they agreed or not at times. That said I've yet to hear anybody prove or show me that less sharp hooks get you more bites.... yeah right. Much of carp fishing is grey rather than black and white.... opinions rather than facts but hook sharpness and as I'm about to cover 'line angles' is unarguable science NOT opinion. The big issue with carp fishing is that often 'looks and trends' can transcend reality and just because

enough people do something does not mean it's right it just means it popular. Carp fishing is a very visual hobby and I know of many anglers where it's equally important to look the part as to be fishing at maximum effectiveness. I get it, I really do. In the eighties I wore a green army jumper not because it was warm but because my hero Kevin Maddocks wore one. I would use Daiwa SS3000 reels at small waters not because they were the best choice but because they were trendy. Did it matter then? Not at all because it didn't cost me fish but when it comes to looking the part, copying others and it costs you fish that my friends, is plain crazy. It's one thing to do something for a reason and be wrong but to do it without thinking will teach you nothing and costs you lots. Your rod, reel and buzzer setup could cost you well over £1500 but set up wrong and it can stop you getting takes, not indicate properly and worst of all could see the rod towed in, the setup lost and the carp dead.

T.C Tips high vs tips low. There is more to this than meets the eye we believe, and the angle a line enters the water can make a big difference to bite detection too?



I wore green jumpers because my hero KM did

For example, would a tight low line at a 90 degree angle to the right hand side margin would be far less effective than a high line coming straight from the tip?

J.C Absolutely mate and I see so many with lines exiting their rod tips at 90 degrees knowing full well that it will cost them fish. Funnily enough James who runs East Delph Lakes near Peterborough sees it so often that he asked me to write a piece on his website about it. He sees carp avoid the lines, the swims and the baited patches as the line angle might as well be a giant arrow spelling DANGER. I honestly don't do anything because it's trendy but because I BELIEVE it to be more effective. Take high rod tips as you've raised that (no pun intended). I fish them high for a variety of reasons...

a) Many of my swims have weed in front of them so I'm keeping my line away from the close in weed.



Thinking about your rod set up is one more piece of the carp fishing jigsaw.

b) I often fish my rods all over the place and could end up with one down the margins and one at range. If I fished them low, then a carp coming down the margin is going to encounter the range rod line which could spook it or at least put it on its guard. An elevated line going into the water

c) Carp often fight hardest in the margins and elevated tips keeps the other lines out of harms way.

d) Not all carp spin the clutch, especially in the colder months. They can literally hook themselves and not panic. By sitting myself low, watching the tip against the far bank I can watch for the ' tip pulls '

So, I'm definitely not trying to be trendy but to make my rod position work for me. When I'm fishing at range in open weed free water a rod low to the water and bowstring tight is perfect and is what I do. Elevated tips then would be as stupid as low tips in weed.



High front ends mean they can plod the margins more

T.C. So let's have a look at some ways you think an angler could improve on bite detection. First up, let's start at the first bit we see... pods vs single bankstick set ups... Obviously there may be times when only a pod will do, on concrete platforms and such, but given the chance, would single stick set ups be a better choice?

J.C As I said at the start Brian much of what carp



anglers trot out is opinion but when it comes to single sticks and bite registration you cannot argue against science. The shortest distance from A - B is a straight line and where your buzzer is A, and the hook is B the most efficient bite registration is a straight line. With single banksticks you can achieve that but with buzzer bars and rods it is often at some degree of angle which will affect bite registration. Single banksticks also allow me to space my rods out to keep lines outta harms way which stops travelling carp hitting other lines and means when playing carp, you are less likely to

I have a variety of banksticks to cover all bases

foul another line. I like to have two nets set up so whichever rod goes I'm not reaching for a net, knit one pearl one etc. I have three sets of front sticks with me at all times (the good old budget Nash KNX ones with Gorilla camouflage tape) in 16, 24 and 48" lengths so no matter what angle I want it's covered. Many carp anglers are horrified that not only am I not using a pod or buzzer bars but my banksticks don't match up. God I'm a loser.... The single stick thing goes back to my pike fishing in the late seventies spreading rods out down canals and



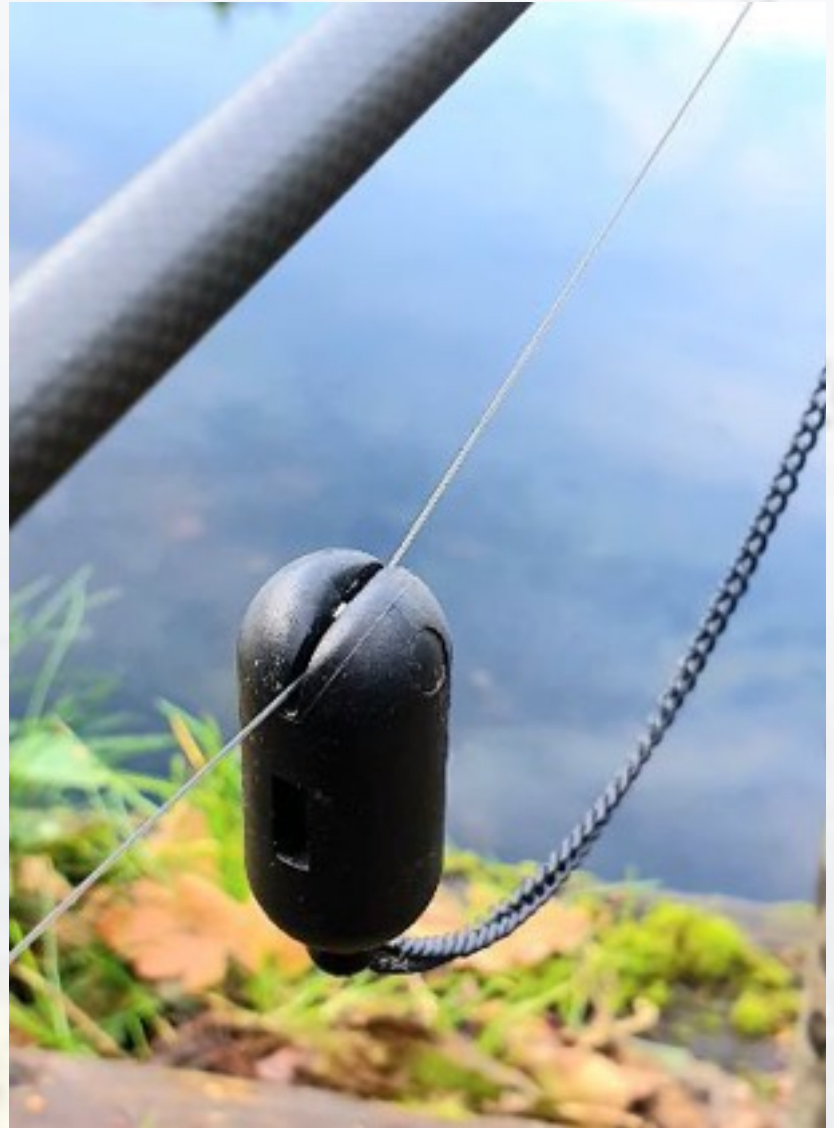
Keeping the line away from the weed

drains then the early nineties carp fishing at Three Lakes and Motorway where your end tackles could be quite some distance apart due to weed, reeds, snags and the shape of the swim.

T.C The next thing we need to look at...bobbin choice. Again, it does seem this is more "fashion led" rather than utilising what is best for the situation. Personally, I tend to carry 3 different sets on each trip as I'm not always happy with one option on the day depending on circumstances. Lightweight clip on bobbins, heavier weighted bobbins and a set of solid arm swingers with weights that slide up and down the arm for extreme conditions. What are your thoughts on bobbin choice, and how would you consider setting them differently depending on how you are fishing?

J.C My rigs are (hopefully) so effective that the hook alone will prick the carp and the lead weight, drag of the mainline etc just add to it. My mainline is positioned with single sticks for maximum bite registration and my buzzers (Nash R3) are set as sensitive as possible. The visual indicator is just to keep a tension on the line to show drop backs. In the margins where a carp cannot come towards me, I

dispense with the bobbin altogether and fish a slack heavy mainline. At margin to 50 yards a Nash 20 gramme Slaphead Bobbin and over that the 40 gramme version. My usual method (other than margins) is to cast out, let the heavy line sink on a tight line and then by hand pay line off the clutch so any line APPROACHING the end tackle is flat to the deck. That's the only area I'm really concerned about not spooking or alerting carp around. Once it settles, I add the Slaphead, so it takes a LITTLE tension out of the line and hangs there balanced to show movement forwards or backwards. Forget fancy visual indicators and concentrate on the straightest line to the end tackle, a line on the deck and a sensitive buzzer.....you've remembered to switch on (we've all done it).



I vary the weights of the slapheads depending on range

T.C Now, here is one area that seems to cause a little confusion which we hope you can clear up... fishing "locked up". As we know, you aren't afraid to fish those weedy and snaggy northern waters, maybe you could run us through the "do's and don'ts" of fishing this way as safely as you can, and how you spot those bites early on without the carp bolting for

safety.

J.C If you are fishing in and around weed you've gotta fish 'locked up'. When the carp bolts it must not be able to build up a head of steam. The clutch should only just give up line (in my case 20lb monofilament). Sturdy single sticks keep the set up solid. Snag ears and pointing the rod at the end tackle stop it been swept off. A Nash Butt Lock stops the handle lifting up. A bankstick in front of the reel handle stops the setup being dragged forward. So, it cannot go left, right or significantly forward so will not be able to weed or snag you easily. Proper towrope line, quality reel clutch and the method I've just detailed; you win they lose.



locked up and going nowhere

T.C Slack lines vs tight lines. Very controversial subject sometimes, and it has caused a row or two over the years... but would you say there is a time and a place for both perhaps?

J.C Simple. The hook hooks the carp, and you need to avoid spooking or alerting it as much as you can to encourage it to pick up that hookbait. At 0 to 30 yards, I prefer as slack as possible as long as that will not affect bite registration and them getting into snags or weed before you pull into them. Over that I go tighter providing it does not spook carp approaching or around the baited area. I only go bowstring tight at 70 yards plus where the line approaching the end tackle is on the deck anyway. Tight lines do not hook carp the HOOK does that is why it is called a HOOK.



Watching for tip pulls



This one hardly moved the tip.

T.C An interesting subject indeed, and hopefully one that will give food for thought to our readers, and maybe help to put those extra carp on the bank. Thanks again for your insight, and we will see you again next month when we open up another "Talking Point"

J.C Thanks Brian hope that helps people avoid any issues when it comes to setups. As you know I covered rod, reel, mainline, buzzer and bobbin setups in great depth over on my Julian Cundiff Angling Page on Facebook. Simply go to Facebook and find Julian Cundiff Angling. Add yourself (it's free). You have over 130 purely instructional posts to view and learn from. The rod setups are covered by JC 24 - 28 which was the 2nd to 7th November 2020

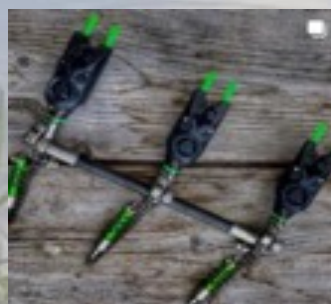
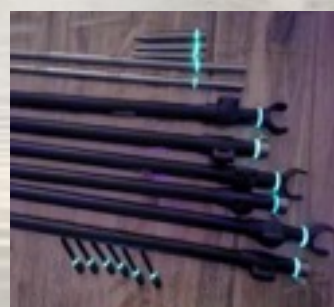
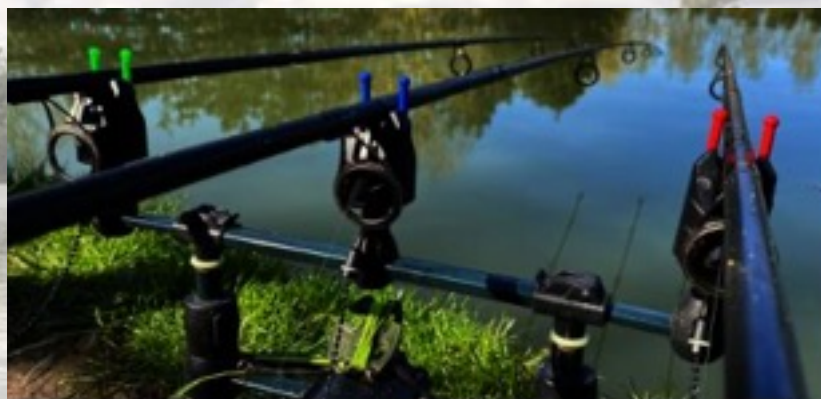
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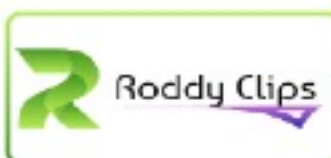
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Inside My Tackle Box Part 2

by Joe Turnbull



Following on from my last piece I wrote here is the next section of how to keep your most important tackle essentials to a minimum whilst having everything you could possibly need.

These days it's a misconception that you have to take the whole house including the kitchen sink to go carp fishing. However, tackle box designs have helped us to scale down but without having to leave everything at home. As you may have noticed last time, my box is as tidy as I can possibly keep it but believe me it does get a mess from time to time. There will always come a time in the week when I give it the once over and make sure that everything is in place for the next session. It's an old adage but "fail to prepare and prepare to fail" and it still rings true after all these years but keep yourself ahead of the game and you'll always gain something from it.

In total I have four tackle box items that hold everything I could possibly need. In the first part I covered my main tackle box which contained all the important things like needles, hooks, swivels and hook links etc. The next box comes in the shape of my old trusty 360 compact and although smaller in



width than my "main" tackle box it's probably twice the depth and can hold quite a few large items. Now this box is like a Tardis which I love, and you can actually get so much in its ridiculous. In this box I keep all my main large tackle items such as lead core, zig lines, large hook links, spod and marker braids and packet items such as Naked chod systems, Line savers and my Krimp tool. It also has another zip in the lid pocket that can hold lots of flat packet items like solid bagtailrubbers





lead clips and with it closed and zipped up takes up no space at all. Although I'd always advise you to leave packet items at home, some are best left in the packs, especially items like Line savers, Naked chod systems and spare soft in-line lead inserts as these take up more room if left out. It's a great box, in fact, it has a purpose made pocket for it on the front of my carryall and is easily taken out if necessary.

I also have two hook link boxes which enables me to carry as many hook links as I can possibly need and although I don't always tie up rigs prior to fishing I often have a few rigs stored depending on where I'm fishing. So, both boxes contain a mix of barbed and barbless hook links with the first holding mainly size 8 hooks, but I often use this for 10's and 8's depending on the seasons really, but I always try to leave some space. The second box holds mainly size 4's and size 6 hooks but once again I try my best not to cram too much in which wastes unnecessary



space. This I find is a great way to keep my head organised and my rigs exactly where they should be. Any old rigs or blunt hooks at the end of a session get put into my tackle box where when I get home get taken out and cut up and disposed of accordingly. I know some of my buddy's will carry more than one rig box, but I find having two just right as I know that with an another one, I'd probably carry unwanted rigs and unwanted weight. I know that these things don't really weigh that much but when you add it all up, it can very much make a huge difference. It just goes to show, that so long as you keep things organised, you can take quite a lot of stuff with you that you may not actually use on the day or spare items that you may run out of. As you can see, you don't have to take the kitchen sink but can certainly get away with a hell of a lot without breaking your back. Just out of interest, I weighed all the

tackle box items that I take with me, and it came to a mere 3.2 kgs which is nothing in comparison to that of your bead chair or a fully loaded ruck sack. If you can keep things light and organised, you'll always benefit from it. Firstly, keeping weight down will only help keep you motivated and knowing that your gear is fairly light will always spur you on if you wanted to move to get on fish. Secondly, being organised will save you time by knowing exactly where things are. This way, you can go to items straight away without thumbing around looking for something in the bottom of the bag often wasting precious time. So, I hope this all makes sense and that it may inspire you to perhaps have a think about how you arrange your tackle box.

Best of luck on the bank.

Joe_turnbull69@instagram.com





IN THE MARGIN PARTICLES

Taking particle preparation
to a whole new level!!



The Dell Still Searching

by Scott Geezer Grant



March was a very special month for me this year as my first grandchild was welcomed into the world, my daughter gave birth to baby Evie, so I am now a proud grandad, and it's a great feeling.

The first week of April I was off work on leave, it was bank holiday Monday and I had planned to go fishing on the Thursday. As the Dell isn't far from my house, I normally take the dog for a walk round plus I get to see the lads. I arrived midday and started walking around the

lake with my dog, there were a couple of anglers fishing in the point and Island swim. Darren was in the Ramp a great swim at this time of year and the fact that you can still use zigs this swim is the one to be in. As I approached the swim there was no-one in it!!! As I walked further round Darren pulled up in his van as he had packed up and was off home. He had his son with him Charlie and the lad caught a low 20lb common, he had a big grin on his face as his Dad said "you won't catch from there

Charlie" but the boy did good, lovely to see.

I asked if anyone else was moving into the ramp which he had just vacated but he said no. This for me was a massive dilemma, I started to pick up the pace and made my way quickly back to the car. I called my Mrs and asked her if she would get my food bag ready as I was now going fishing. She seemed more pleased than I did, and as soon as I pulled up at my house, I loaded the cars like a man possessed. With 30





minutes I was heading back over the Dell. Once through the gate I drove right around to where you can stop to unload your gear then you have to barrow it the short distance to the swim. I grabbed as much stuff as I could carry and walked down to the Ramp and once there, I was relieved that no one had bucketed it so that means the swims mine.

Once the car was unloaded, I said goodbye to the Mrs then sat and had a short break watching

the water, every now and then a fish would pop its head up, I knew the fish would be here and the fact I can use zigs I was excited to say the least. I started to get the house set up and get all my gear put away in its place, with that all done the next task was to get the rods rigged up. The current rule is that you can use 2 zigs and 1 rod on the bottom, but there is a rumour that zigs are going to be banned from tomorrow morning, so I didn't have a lot of time left to use them.

I made two fresh 6ft zigs incorporating 15lb double strength line and size 10 wide gape hooks and black zig balls as hook bait. With the rigs on it was time to get the rods out. The weed was still evident and to make my presentation absolutely spot on I would be putting them out with the aid of my boat. I fished the middle rod and right-hand rod at both 80 yards, and my left-hand rod which was the baited rod at the same distance in amongst light weed.

On the baited rod I was

using the fully loaded plum, a bait I have caught plenty of fish on and the fish in here seem to love it. As it was still cold for the time of year, and I know anglers have been piling the bait in I took the conservative approach and only baited up with around 20 baits plus a couple of scoops of chillie hemp.

With the rods finally sorted I stuck the kettle on for a much-deserved cup of tea. It was now late afternoon, and you could feel the temperature dropping and when the sun started to go down it really dropped. I checked the weather app and it said tonight was going to be 1c, so it's going to be cold. I got a text from the Head bailiff stating that zigs would be banned at the end of the week and not tomorrow,

great news for me as I had the whole week off. After a lovely night's sleep, I was up at first light awaiting the fish to start showing, I sat watching the water cuppa in hand as the sun started to rise, you could feel the warmth and it felt good. Just after 07:00 o'clock a few fish started to show and out of the blue the middle rod was away, I lifted the rod and the fish was on, the fish weeded me almost immediately, it was locked up solid, I kept a tight line and just held it for 5



minutes or so hoping the fish would make its way out but it was holding firm, I put the rod back on the pod and loosened the clutch just enough that if the fish wanted to



wanted to take line it could. There are boats on site, but the ruling is one of the bailiffs have to accompany you in the boat. I gave Mark a call as all the other bailiffs were at work, he said he would come over as soon as he could. An hour later Mark came across in the boat, we both had life jackets on I jumped in the boat with my rod and landing net, and we made our way to the fish slowly. When I got above the fish it bolted out of the weed bed and was taking line whenever it wanted, I knew it was a good fish, As I pumped the rod a

massive ball of weed hit the surface, it was on my line which was now restricting me so I asked Mark to grab the weed and slowly start pulling it off the line, as he did he said "Geeze there's loads of line here" well as far as I knew it was only my line but little did I know that the weed bed the fish sought sanctuary in had a massive ball of line where someone had either cracked off or been cut off. It was now turning into a cluster fuck as by the time we managed to get the line free the fish was gone!! My rig and line were all still intact apart from a lost

lead, but the gutting thing was losing the fish. The only saving grace for me was that we removed over 100 yards of line complete with rig and lead.

Once back on the bank I licked my wounds and got the rod back out to the area. Nothing happened for the rest of the morning, I think all the commotion in the boat had spooked the fish out of the area, but I was sure once everything had calmed down, they would be back. Later in the afternoon the right-hand rod gave a couple of bleeps, I walked down to the rod and the bobbin dropped back slightly I lifted the rod, and the fish was on, after a good battle I slid the net under a lovely scaley mirror. It felt good to land one after the loss this morning.

As I looked round my

old mukka Chris walked into the swim. Great timing mate I've got a lovely scaley one for you to photograph. We quickly weighed her, and the needle swung round and settled on 25lb 12oz, result!! Chris took a few shots then she was treated and put back in her humble abode. I was now buzzing the zigs were working as I knew they would, and I have got another 3 days before they are banned.

There's so much more to come in the next instalment with a brute of a fish, so don't miss it.

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

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www.sharptackle.co.uk
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[In the Margin Particles \(Facebook\)](#)

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

If you live in South Ockendon/Aveley area give Matt a shout at Ockendon bait & Tackle if you want

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Now that the fish have spawned give them plenty of bait. I hope the rest of 2021 brings everyone good health and plenty of chunks in the net.
Stay safe and remember its only fishing.

*Scott "Geezer"
Grant*



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Lesson Learned..... The hard way.

By Ady Smith

I "heard" a story today that might make you laugh.

A lad who has just started carp fishing was trying out his brand new rods and reels for the first time. His knowledge around rod handling and casting was quite impressive for a beginner.

He decided to fish close to the bank as he had seen a fish grubbing in the edge, but was advised about the brute strength of the carp in the lake and how they take off like a train. He was told that his drag should be set very light and to position his rods back a bit.

This lad didn't seem to acknowledge the advice. He cast in the margins and sat down. A single beep was then heard followed by an almighty splash and the lad in question shouting "F@\$£ing hell" as he ran towards the water. To his surprise his rod and reel were gone. Now this lake is 27 foot deep and there was no sign of his rod.

I offered all of my support of course which he didn't seem to appreciate :) in fact trying not to laugh was killing me. The lad stood there and I could see running through his mind was should I jump in ? what do I do?.... sheer panic. Meanwhile all that could be heard from behind was Faulk and I laughing like Mutley. the lad was told to quickly reel in his second rod and cast over to the far bank, dragging his hook and weight along the bottom of the lake bed.

Amazingly he hooked the line of the sunken rods..... with the help of his 2 friends after a frantic retrieval the rod was back in his hands.... WITH THE FISH STILL ATTACHED!

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Persistence Paid Off



by
Barrie Scholes

At the start of 2020 I had two main goals. After returning to carp fishing (see my articles in issue 62 and 63) the first goal was to catch as many carp as I could, in order to get back into the swing of things. The second was to break the twenty pound barrier again. With more twenties around now than back in the 90s when I first reached that carp fishing milestone, this should be straightforward, or so I thought...

2020 was going to be "the year of the twenty"! I'd gotten off the mark by catching some small carp with my son in North Wales. The venue wasn't going to produce a twenty for me, but it provided great action during the depths of winter, before the more "serious" fishing back in Cheshire began.

Spring arrived and so did a worldwide pandemic! So, my thoughts were not about how to catch carp but instead were focused on the safety of my family and how to get some toilet rolls! It was disappointing not being able to fish but there were more important things to worry about, and I just treated it like the old close season. Rigs were tied, reels respooled, so that

when fishing resumed again I'd be ready.

The green light was given for fishing, so I went for an afternoon session on a local club lake. I took my partner as she had been stuck in the house too and we took a little picnic. I wasn't expecting much so was pleasantly surprised when the rod went off after an hour or so and I commenced battle with what felt like a good





fish. Surely I wasn't going to catch a twenty this easily? After a really hard fight I was a little bit disappointed when a catfish appeared from the depths. However, I'd never caught one before and you can't help but smile when you see one of these weird creatures on the bank. Not what I was after but lots of fun after being

trapped inside due to lockdown.

The next couple of months were somewhat of an anti-climax to be honest. The lake I was hoping to fish didn't live up to expectations and I found myself flitting around some of the other club lakes until I eventually settled on one. It was a small Cheshire flash

around 4 acres in size. On my first session I caught ten carp on a 12 hour overnighter, and that's how the rest of the summer panned out. After struggling for a bite, I ended up at the other extreme where at times it was hard to keep both rods in the water. By September I had caught loads of carp, but it became apparent to me that if I was to achieve my second goal, catching a twenty pounder in 2020, another change of venue would be needed.

After a bit of research, I chose to fish another lake, one which had a good reputation for producing twenties.



The goal of catching a twenty had now taken on a new magnitude for me. In a year that had started full of optimism yet turned so sour due to a worldwide pandemic. Catching a twenty was now more than just a fish. More than pounds and ounces. The pandemic had ruined many things that year so catching a twenty for me was going to be my way of sticking two fingers up to blumin' covid!!!

As the leaves turned

brown I put the hectic summers sessions behind me and completely changed my mindset. I was now fishing for one goal.

One bite. A twenty pounder. It was sh*t or bust from now until the end of the year. With limited time and starting on a new venue as the temperature plummeted I knew it wouldn't be easy and I would have to face

a few blanks. And that's exactly what happened. I fished a mixture of days and nights and didn't catch a thing. I didn't even see anyone else catching one! Speaking to the bailiff I think that the fish had seen so much pressure and so much bait that the place just shut up shop. It was only doing one or two fish a week at best. So only doing one short session a week I was up against it. But I was determined to keep going.

My last session of the year was an



overnighter less than a week before Christmas. I had the Christmas songs on the radio and was just chilling out, thinking of all the craziness that had happened in 2020 and feeling somewhat relieved that such a terrible year would finally be drawing to an end. Now normally in articles like this the rod roars off and the person catches their target right at the death. But I live in the real world, and I blanked! To make matters worse it was chucking it down when I packed all the gear up in the morning. So off I trundled with my tail between my legs having failed to make 2020 "the year of the twenty pounder".

Christmas 2019 and the card from my son had the words "Hope you catch a twenty pounder in 2020" written in it and that

was my inspiration to keep going when the going was tough. Fast forward 12 months and this year's card had the words "hope you catch a 21 pounder in 2021". Kids are great at just stating the obvious. Yes I might have failed in 2020 to catch a twenty, and I was disappointed, but what else do you do? Carry on and catch one in 2021 one of course!

The year started and the country was in lockdown again. Travel restrictions meant that I couldn't fish my target water where I'd finished the year. It was only 20 miles away but definitely outside of my town so to be on the safe side and have a clear conscience I fished some waters on another club

ticket within 5 miles of my home. I fished through ice, hailstorms and mud that was so thick and deep it was threatening to steal my thigh waders. It was grim, yet strangely enjoyable but I didn't have a bite until March, and then it was from a tench!

Eventually the restrictions eased, and I returned to my target water to try and get that twenty. My first session back was a day session on a bitterly cold spring day. But much to my surprise after 2 hours I had a bite. Fish on.





And seconds later fish off! The fish had picked up the line on the other rod and as a result the hook had pulled. I couldn't believe it. All that time and effort I'd put it to finally get a bite and it falls off. Carp fishing is cruel at times. But at least I'd had a bite so hopefully things would start to get better from now. It was now April, and I hadn't caught a carp since September so I did a session on a day ticket lake near Crewe just to get a bend in the rod and prove to myself that I could still catch them! Me and my

girlfriend had a really good day. She caught some nice roach on the float rod, and I caught four carp to 14 and half pound on a day when no one else was really catching much.

Back to business on my club lake I received two bleeps at 1 am on the right hand rod during my first night session of the year. No run materialised and I fell back to sleep. On retrieving the rig in the morning, the lead had almost been pulled off the lead clip so those couple of bleeps

must have been from a fish getting away with it. This occurrence resulted in me refining my rigs. Nothing major, but I lengthen the hook link a couple of inches due to the silt and I swapped the Korda wide gape hook for the even sharper Korda Kamakuras wide gape hooks. I changed the kicker to a shrink tube line aligner too. Same rig effectively, just better. Would these subtle changes make all the difference? I hoped so.

My next session came two weeks later. Again,



an overnighter. Nothing had been out all day but despite that I remained upbeat. Due to all the recent rain the lake was very coloured, so swim choice was basically going to be down to gut feeling. I settled on the same swim as my last session. The left hand rod went near the outlet where I'd seen a couple of shows and the right one went out to middle of the lake with half a kilo of scopex squid. I turned in for the night at about 11:30. I remember drifting in and out of sleep with the sound

of rain on the bivvy. The next thing I remember I was stood looking at my right hand rod thinking "I've had a drop back" before I could pick the rod up the buzzer sounded again and it roared off. I was in!

It was pitch black and I was using a new set of rods for the first time. As a result, I found it very difficult to judge how big the fish was. But I didn't care. I'd put in loads of effort on this lake, and I just wanted to catch a carp from it. The carp came close in to start with before picking up the line of the left hand rod as it made its way back out into the



lake. I opened the bail arm on the other rod to reduce any tension on the line. But my mind was thinking back to the fish I'd lost the previous month in similar circumstances. It was a really tense battle. The lake was deathly quiet, the batsswooped overhead, the midges tried eating my alive, after all this time I was finally playing a carp from this lake, but it was towing the other line and I was praying it didn't fall off! I knew I was moments away from either agony or ecstasy. Finally, I saw the lead come up





from the water and the fish was ready for netting. I pushed the net out in the dark to where I hoped the fish was and in it went first time. I couldn't believe it. I was ecstatic. I left the fish in the water and secured the net while I grabbed my head torch and set the camera up. Once I saw the fish in the net I could see it was a good size. But it was only when I came to lift it out the water that I realised how good. It was heavy! I placed it on the mat, and I could see it was definitely twenty. But by how much? I put it

in the sling and lifted the scales wondering what the wheel of fortune would show. It whizzed past twenty and was flicking around 25 with the fish still on the mat! I had to put it back down

and get a better grip. Eventually I hoisted it aloft and got the needle on the scales to settle on 27lb 8oz. I couldn't believe it. All those blanks through the winter, the hardships of 2020,

all a distant memory now. I'd stuck at it. And been rewarded handsomely. Not only had I broken the twenty pound barrier again, but I'd smashed it with a new pb to boot. I didn't sleep the rest of the night. I was full of adrenalin and was too worried if I went to sleep I might wake up to find it was all a dream. But it wasn't. It happened. My persistence had finally paid off!

Be Lucky

Barrie





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You can't stand still (food for thought)



by Richard Handel

If anyone tells you they have mastered lake of fishing; they're lying. It can change in the blink of an eye!

I personally think the biggest mistake anglers make, is once they perceive they're at the top of their game and have cracked their chosen venue, they sit back on their hands and fail to keep the momentum going. Then blame other factors for the inability to catch fish. You have to work hard at fishing and keep one step ahead of the carp. Never compare yourself to other anglers, as you will burn out.

Carp are living creatures and are more connected with nature than we will ever be. This has been clearly proven lately by all the rubbish etc left on the beaches/parks after lockdown finished. The human race is definitely the biggest problem this planet has.

Lakes evolve with the coming and going of each season and also global warming. Nature has a way of adapting, it may take a few years, but it will recover.

Fish have learnt to move with these changes. If as an angler you carry on fishing the same old spots each week, don't you think they will wise

up, there isn't a big sign out there telling the carp where to feed, they do as they wish.

Fish are more connected with their body's than we are and certainly know what's good for them. I'm sure some learn that if they eat boilies they will get caught and they will be returned to the water, so they just carry on. However, there will be an equal number that doesn't like the experience, will learn to be very wary and keep will away. This is why it's always worth fishing the swim, that exists on most lakes, called no carp something, that would always be my first port of call on a new lake.

There is always the hot swim, but is it because they are fished the most frequently and the law of averages dictates that more fish will come from that swim? This doesn't make it the best swim on the lake. The best swim could easily be the overgrown one in the corner that's not seen a fisherman's bait for decades. They are also one of my first ports of call on a new water.

There are so many factors which can influence carp; from weather with high pressure to low pressure constantly changing or long periods



of the same. This is something I personally feel is overlooked. A constant high or low is perhaps something the carp can acclimatise to, just like we do. If you move to a hot or cold country it's horrible for a period of time, but you get used to it and it becomes enjoyable. Well, perhaps carp can adjust quickly and relax. Whereas ups and downs in the pressure could completely throw them off track.

Angler pressure, unless you are on the bank 24/7, you don't really have any idea of what had been going on since your last trip – where people have fished, how much bait has been put out and the number of takes they have had. This is more important than the number of fish landed, as it gives you a better indication of what is really going on in the swim. I understand it's all about catching, but if they

have landed 2 carp and also lost 4, the swim is producing takes, if you are only aware of the fish landed, that would be just 2 and influence your discussion making.

Water temperature can also play a key factor in fish most certainly

and I believe it affected the lake I fish quite dramatically. A couple of years back, there was a couple of big long heatwaves and I'm not convinced that the carp on the shallower part of the lake which is about 30 acres and on average 3ft deep, didn't deal with the higher water temperatures. They hid under all the margins where the overhanging trees are. I don't believe they fully recovered from this until this winter just gone. Deeper waters are a completely different ball game and I'm sure at beyond a certain depth the variations in the temperature are less dramatic. The carp may prefer this constant temperature rather than the dramatic changes.

Their food source and I'm not talking about bait the anglers put in! I'm more interested in the natural side of the equation, you can never

really tell how much anglers have put in. Unless you watch and see them doing it, so it's best to stick to the natural side of their food source e.g. blood worm beds. How much natural food there is in the weed bed, crayfish, etc? This is a very tricky one unless you can get out there and investigate or glean some information from other sources, you are realistically guessing.

Sanctuary area's, are brilliant for the wellbeing of the carp and it gives them somewhere to hide. They can easily be over created and give the carp the ability to feed and stay safely out of the angler way for years. Making the exit points the primary swim, doesn't help the situation as the carp will just stay there and not come out. Wouldn't you?.

Water levels will certainly change the dynamics of the carp's behaviour and create more save havens as the levers drop extremely low or even the opposite when water levels are high.

This gives them more access to snaggy areas under overhanging tree or even swampy area's. You would be surprised how little water they need some times, just look at the depth of a 30 lber and add an inch or two on and it won't

be much deeper than your knee.

I hope I've not added to your issues about catching carp but helped you get more fish on the bank.

The many points of this article are to generate food for thought and not sit back a just keep going with the same old routine. Adapt, tweak things, but never too much at the same time and keep going forward with your fishing. Don't look back and say it was much better than now, things have changed. There is a bucket load of possibilities to take onto consideration and I've only touched on some of them.

You could go into way more detail. Never forget to enjoy your fishing and why you got into it. It's not all about catching and especially under the current situation going on in the world, enjoy it, relax, unwind, be grateful and go catch your next PB. Until my next rumblings!

Richard



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However, 2021 saw Revesby's heaviest carp ever recorded, growing to 40lb - the same weight as 5 male Maltese dogs!

The large mirror carp named 'Apples' was caught by fishery member, Dan Smith, before being safely returned to the water.

There have been a number of large fish caught recently by fishery members; a 39lbs 8oz fish named 'The Unit' was also caught on the same day as Apples.

Years of careful management by the team at Revesby has enabled fantastic catch rates and high quality fish. The reservoir's structured restocking programme relies on breeding ponds across the estate, and the team hope to see more fish grow to significant size in years to come under their breeding programme.

Revesby Estate Fisheries Manager, Tom Winspear, said:

"Our mission is to give our members the perfect fishing experience and one of the main aims of recreational fishing is to catch the biggest, healthiest fish possible. Its size is a huge achievement for the estate and we were overjoyed.

"We're hoping that a number of our other fish will achieve this weight in the next couple of years, and I look forward to seeing our members break more records!"

Revesby fishery is for members only, more information can be found on our website: www.revesby-estate.co.uk



About Revesby Estate

Set within the stunning Revesby Estate, Revesby Fisheries is home to two fishing lakes, the Main Reservoir at 35 acres and The Black Wong at 4 acres. Our mission is to give the perfect fishing experience and to become a leading fishery of national importance. You can find out more about our fisheries here.

Revesby Estate is a family-owned historic estate, located between Lincoln and the coast. The history of Revesby Estate dates back to almost 1000 years. After the Norman Conquest in 1066, the estate was left to the Cistercian monks of Rievaulx Abbey to build a monastic community in Lincolnshire. When King Henry VIII dissolved the monastery in 1539, he gifted the estate to his brother-in-law, Charles Brandon, and the state became private.

In 1714, the estate was purchased by Joseph Banks and, since then, it has been passed from one generation to another. Today, the Wiggins-Davies family are celebrating over 300 years of unbroken ownership.

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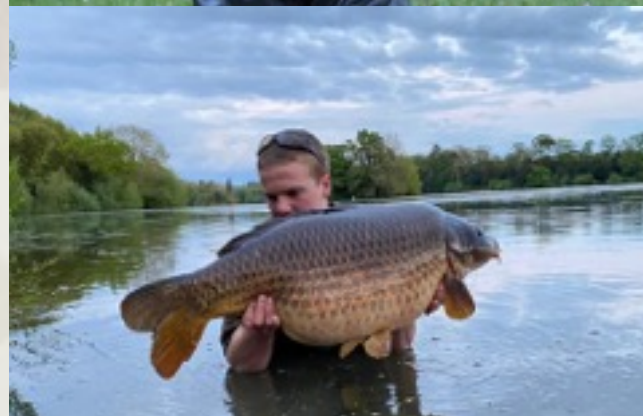
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Fishery promotion

by Mark Timerick

Featuring -
Horse Shoe Lake
Coal Pit Fishery
Magna Lakes
Wold View



Hi ,we are Lewis and Mark, we are friends that help and consult for a local tackle shop called Tackle Shack Nuneaton. We are both individually involved in other aspects of the industry in consultation rolls, We are both experienced multi species anglers but our specialty is carp.

We are lucky to do a little thing on the shop page of fishery promotion, this started this year because when we were in the shop with angling in a boom phase over the last year. Within one month numbers of licences had rose over 233%, we and other seasoned anglers noticed it was becoming ever more difficult to get on maybe the mainstream venues that you used to fish, so the idea was to show the seasoned angler new or forgotten places to fish.

Lewis and I really appreciate the support we have been getting though the year from Daz, the owner of Tackle Shack Nuneaton, and the customers too. With most lakes the post coverage is normally around 10-20,000 reach but sometimes we give away free memberships or free day tickets to the venue we are fishing which bumps it to about 40-50,000. We have been talking to the fantastic editor of this fine magazine Talking Carp at Carp Society Horseshoe 40th anniversary, which we were amazingly proud to be invited to. We won't go back to the start of our travels as this would be a long article, as we normally do a new place nearly every week trying also to highlight that week's offers available in the shop, like last week it was a 42inch landing net and handle reduced from £29.99 with the code magna20 down to £15 to celebrate our return to Magna Lakes, an exclusive syndicate near us where it all started. We will get back to that.

It was a start of a really busy month for me, as with the whole industry, trying to fit two years of work into two months fearing another round of lockdowns. As if last month wasn't busy enough, being rounded off with a place really special to my heart, it is mine and my youngest lads favourite venue, the Carp Society Horseshoe lake in Lechlade-on-Thames. This is a sixty two acre weedy lake with what we hoped would be the lakes first forty (which may not sound massive but these are not high weight and

stocked or fast growing strains of fish) which would of been special for us and The Society.

We were really lucky to catch interviews with a few friends like Rob Hughes with Phoenix Heroes to try and get out their message to our customers, then a little bit with Hannah and Matt from Bank life Fishing (which featured in the last edition of Talking carp). All followed up with catching up with the great friends Julian Cundiff and bait master Joe Turnbull (Talking Carp regulars). We did the interview a little differently to give hints and tips to the starters but not just for them, as it is always a school day for an intelligent angler. We even had a cake sponsor for this one so we had fun and not all of it was suitable for the cameras, and Lewis got to meet some of his idols including people like Ian Chillcott, Sir Tim Paisley and Simon Pitt.



In this interview with Jules he said there wasn't a sport like angling where you can walk up to the stars and just have a normal chat. How true it is, as I may have met some of these guys working shows etc before, but Lewis was soon having a brew with the stars with invites to go fishing with them.

After the show we were really lucky (special thanks to Miles and Sabrina for sorting) to have a double swim closed off for us in Winter bay, but this wasn't a normal year weather wise. I would have given my hind teeth to be on the mounds or boat point but we were more than happy with the swim, as we watched a special fish a couple of swims up during the day sunning itself with its normal group of followers. For anyone that knows Horseshoe it can be a challenging water mainly because of the weed. Some years Summer Bay can look like a football pitch, but for me that's what adds to the challenge and the thrill of the capture so you have to be very aware of what is in front of you. Not great for Lewis's first session



ever as he is a keen angler who likes to figure everything out for himself.

I knew there is a bar around 23 wraps out from our peg where the weed is at its lowest, possibly a couple of inch's thick. Lewis had a lead about to see where he was happy setting his traps and after a couple of hours settled on the bar chucked out about 10-15 spombs worth of Carp Particles maize. We settled on our rods about ten o'clock knackered after a busy day. Then through the night we kept getting liners. So frustrating it was for us we decided to change tactics at first light so I set up the camera for a time lapse video of the sun rise over the lake. We tied up the new zig rigs with high attract amino liquids on mine, using black to try and match the hatch across the lake of things like tadpoles etc. Then at around 8am Lewis's brand new Delkim burst into life like a steam train had grabbed hold of the other end. Lewis and I looked at each other just before the short sprint to the rod, he tightened his clutch and pulled into it, and I saw the tip of the rod bounce a couple of feet back and we thought this could be something special. Now Lewis is always respectful of the fish so never puts stupid amounts of pressure on them or try to skull drag them but this beast was on the run. Lewis started gaining inch by inch. Then came the thing that makes the hair stand up on the back of your neck... the feeling of the main line grating on something. The carp had found a snag then it went on another run and ping. Ohhhh boy I felt so sorry for him, he is used to playing large carp but it was the first night on a special water and hooked into what we believe to be a special fish.



Then I went to an Evolved Baits promotion and team event at a mainly match venue, Wold View Fisheries, five miles north of Market Rasen. I was fantastically lucky on this one staying in a top notch holiday lodge which sleeps six with Bluetooth connections in the bedroom and living room with your own hot tubs. In front of the lodges are some small lakes absolutely stuffed with fish but nothing massive in these lakes, but fantastic to just hop out the front while dinner is cooking. The venues biggest is currently around the 29lb mark on the specimen lake. I had a great time, caught loads of fish and had a rest and I can thoroughly recommend Wold View fisheries for a fun visit with family or friends. There is no club house or shop on site (apart from small bait shop and fantastic cafe) so make sure you take your supplies with you.



Part of the whole point of us doing this filming is to show you guys places we know of or heard of so we can show what is out there, and there has been one venue we have been looking forward to since the start to do together. Coalpit Fishery just outside Coventry in Wolvey. This is a fishery doing it a new kind of way. It's a members only day ticket water to keep it a little more exclusive with only five swims on the lake. It is extremely peaceful behind two locked gates about half a mile from the road, it is perfect for the experienced angler who wants to get away from it all. This is a low stock water with one common but around 40 stunning mirrors. This is not an easy water at all but that makes the capture so sweet. The membership is £50 for life, and this helps keep numbers down as you must book your sessions with Doug the owner, who fishes the lake as much as he can. Also you don't have to pack your nets, cradles or mats, and even carp care is provided with a bucket for the water to wet everything down when that sweet capture finally breaches the draw cord of the net. Your peg consists of a generously sized wood chipped area for your bivvy, and as it is a chipped peg it is easy for your singles to go in, no mallet needed for us! If you are interested in having a look or to join check out Coalpit fishery on face book or contact Doug on 07943370104.



Then the last on for this month is where we started back in February at Magna Lakes near Tamworth, not far off the m42 on the outskirts of the village of Sheepy Magna.



This consists of two very different lakes. One looks like a well-kept canal section, this is the runs water of Monks Pool, and when I say a runs water I mean a runs water!! Lewis and I may have dropped on last weekend but it was nearly impossible to keep the rods in the water, which was a change for us where week after week we are somewhere different having to figure out the areas of the lake to catch like you guys do in 24hours. This is usually the point where we use one of the best forms of watercraft... talk to the bailiffs and the people on the lake while watching the water! On Monks Pool we ended up fishing a feeder rod on a short day session with a wafter on the hook, with Evolved "The One" liquid soaked pellets on a feeder. I had over hundred fish ranging from rudd to carp to about 12lb. Lewis ever the specimen hunter, decided to fish the



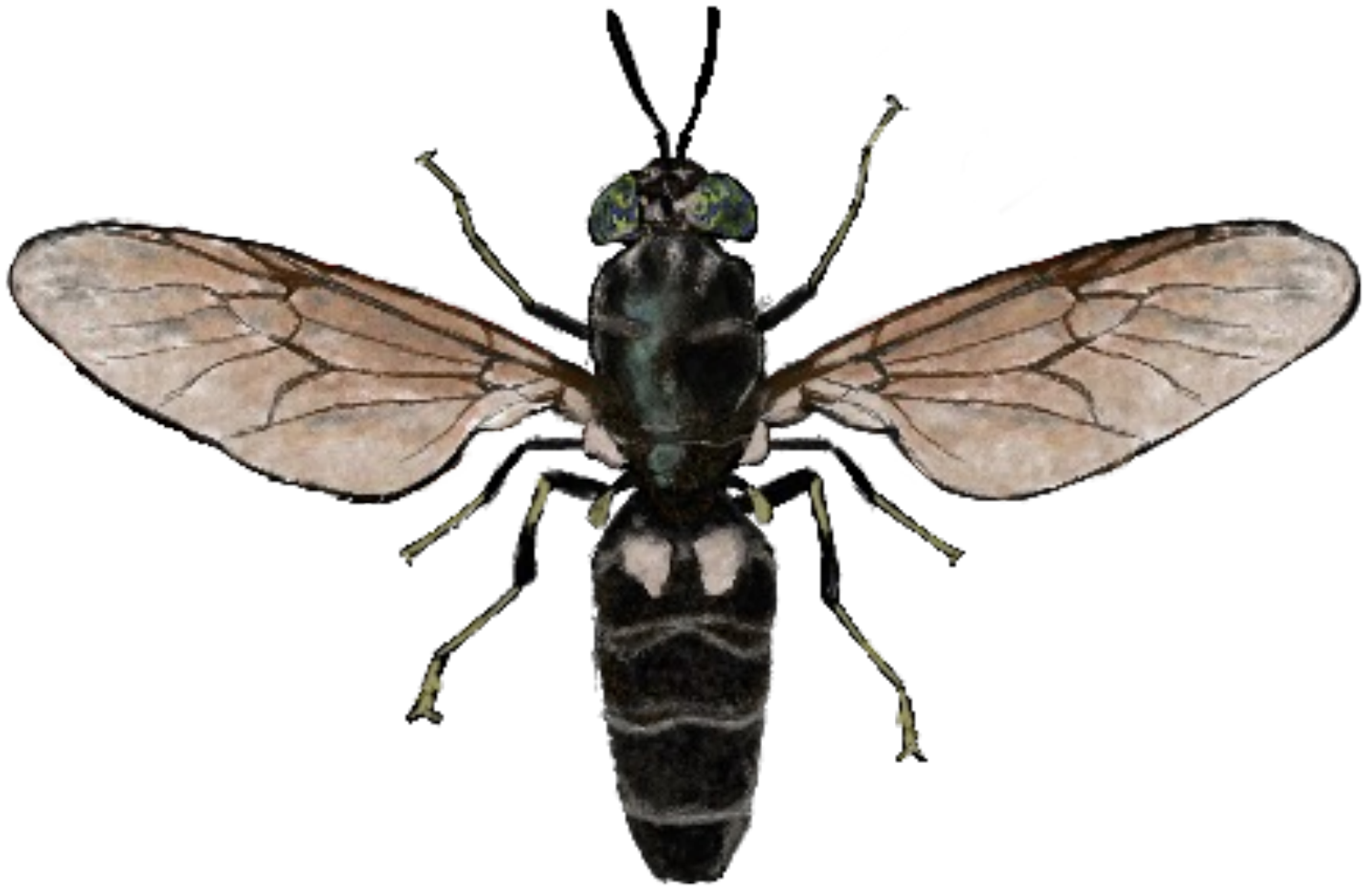
specimen lake for twenty four hours. About an acre and half, it may not be massive but that weekend there were only three anglers on which was great for Lewis, plenty of space and the opening into the bowl which used to be a separate lake. He normally likes to fish a solid bag in venues like this with his new bait firm, Proper Carp Baits Hot Squid dumbbells and liquids which are fantastically understated, so definitely a chance of a big one. The specimen lake is a totally different beast with some pretty fish in it, even a starburst mirror. Lewis managed to wrangle a few out, but unfortunately in the early hours while I was at home catching up with the family so no pics with Lewis. Again if you are interested this is mainly a syndicate water with some day tickets sold by prior arrangement, just look on Facebook at Magna Lakes page, or contact Darren on 07973830708 for details or a look round.



Well that's us for this month we have many more places booked to go, including places like the home of the thirty's, the magical Orchid lakes in Dorchester and the fantastic East Delph lakes near Peterborough, but if you have any suggestions please don't hesitate to contact Lewis Glenn or I through Facebook personally or through the Tackle Shack Nuneaton

Thanks, Mark.

Hermetia illucens from the Stratiomidi Family



By Mark Carper

Hermetia illucens from the Stratiomidi Family

Or....in English, ‘Black Soldier Flies’, that’s right, a Fly...!!!

....but not just any old fly, these are very useful Flies....

Now, I’m not going to weigh you down in facts and figures but there is a very good reason I have taken the time to write this piece and no, it’s not because I’ve gone all ‘Eco-Warrior’, in fact I am far from it, but I have become a fan of a Bait that uses these High Protein flies as a viable and very sustainable alternative to Fish Meal in our beloved ‘Boilie’ and it has produced some great catch results too....

Black soldier flies (Hermetia illucens) are not much to look at, but they are making major waves in the aquaculture industry. These superstar larvae are disrupting the fish feed status quo by providing a protein-packed, inexpensive and high-quality

alternative to the otherwise unsustainable feeds on the market.

As a basic explanation, Black Soldier Fly Larvae (BSFL) are used to compost waste or convert the waste into animal feed. Fly larvae are among the most efficient animals at converting biomass into feed.

BSFL are commonly used as feed with the harvested pupae and prepupae eaten by poultry, fish, pigs, lizards, turtles, and even dogs.

The insect is one of the few insect species approved to be used as feed in aquaculture in the EU too.



At the pupal stage, black soldier flies are at their nutritional peak and packed full of protein...!!
...and BSFL can be used to produce 'Grease' and this grease is usable in the Pharmaceutical Industry and can be found in Cosmetics and Shower Gel amongst other things and the good news about that is it can be used to replace other vegetable oils such as Palm Oil...!

The other key point to note is that BSFL is also extremely 'Sustainable' and even our own Government are investing millions of pounds into the farming and research of this 16mm little fly.

It was the 'No Fish Meal' and the Sustainability angle that got my attention initially when I happened across a new fledgling Bait Company 'Seasoned Baits' and their quirky little mascot, "The Insecutive Chef" ..!

After a bit research of my own and a chat with the Owner, Rischard, I was genuinely

intrigued to learn more, and I have further researched the Black Soldier Fly and the Farming techniques used to harvest the Larvae etc.

Seasoned Baits appear to have a simple ethos;
"At Seasoned Baits, we understand the key to producing the highest quality carp bait with sustainability in mind is by **not** using fishmeal.

Because of the consistently high protein value, insects can easily replace the proteins in fish meal which is damaging our ecosystem in the ocean.



Our insects are fed with beer waste, making them produce consistently high unfatted protein meals and in return have 90% less carbon emissions than other fishmeal sources.

We set out to develop our BUG BITES range which will never have any fish based or unsustainable ingredients in them. These are proving to be a highly nutritious food source for all types of fish and have led to some seriously great catches during testing.

During a conversation with Richard, in which I was initially sceptical about the quality of the bait and thought perhaps he was more about sales based on not damaging our oceans and hoped to appeal to the 'Environmentally Conscious' amongst the carp angling scene, I was quickly steered away from these thoughts and actually very impressed with not just his in-depth knowledge but his whole reasoning behind the use of BSFL..."

I am in the process of doing a full interview with Richard, that you can read in the August Issue of the Magazine, but I had one question I just had to ask from the off....

So, why does seasoned baits use insects?

Insect protein is the answer to many of the problems the oceans face today. Conventional protein sources like soy and fishmeal



use up large amounts of land and water, and often have a severe impact on ecosystems. Think for example about all the fish stocks that are destroyed for the benefit of fish meal production.

Fishmeal and Fish Oil are the protein-rich 'by-products' of smaller forage fish or low trophic level species like Anchovy, Herring, and Krill that gather in immense schools on coastlines and in the open ocean. These little fish are the cornerstone

of these ocean food webs – and increasingly, of food served on land as well. Fishmeal and Oil are easily digestible products used in fertilizers and animal feed, ranging from Beef and Chicken (livestock) to Salmon and Tilapia (aquaculture).

As the agriculture and aquaculture industries increase their demand for fishmeal and fish oil, the pressure on our oceans increases dramatically. In fact, seven of the world's top ten fisheries (by volume) target forage—also known as low trophic level—fish, 90 percent of which are processed into fishmeal and fish oil.

Of the millions of tonnes of fish caught, no less than a third is used as fish or animal feed, adding not only to the imbalance in the oceans but also depriving local people of their livelihood.

Seasoned Baits has realised that Insects are fast becoming the answer to the replacement of the fishmeal. Their proteins are now





starting to replace fish and soy meals and help us begin to create a better food system with less pressure on the oceans and ecosystems.

At the minute most of the farmed fish including Carp and other coarse fish are largely fed with food that is mostly made up of wild fish. For every kilogram of farmed fish, farmers use the same weight in wild-caught fish. Resulting in empty oceans and damaged ecosystems.

BSFL is a food source without pressure on marine resources, that is healthy for the fish, the

planet and us....and the Carp love it too...!!!!

Having taken the plunge and ordered some of the Boilies, Oil, Glug and Hook Baits, I am suitably impressed with the quality of all the products but one striking factor is that the 'smell' of the BUG Bites Boilies is fairly 'Non-Descript' to say the least... but apparently, that's a good thing the boilie was not designed to catch the 'Angler' just the 'Fish' so the wonderful smells we as humans have come to expect from our bait, is not found in the Seasoned Baits.



By the time you read this, I will have been out on the bank with the bait and you will no doubt read about it in the August Issue, alongside the full interview.... if you cannot wait until then, take a look at my Instagram @mark_carper257 and why not give Seasoned Baits the once over via their website and Social Media;

www.seasonedbaits.co.uk

Instagram: @seasoned_baits_

Facebook: Seasoned Baits

Just for the record, I am not part off, in any shape or form the company Seasoned Baits and I definitely do not Farm Flies....!!!





**Bank Life Fishing - Fund Raising To Do
Some Good.**

By Matt and Hannah Macintosh

As many of you now know we have 2 dates booked in August to take groups of disadvantaged kids out fishing for the day with plenty more dates in the pipeline, so we are doing everything in our power to raise the funds needed to run these events.

We currently have several fundraiser's on our website www.banklifefishing.com including an unbelievable once in a lifetime opportunity for someone to win a 24hr session with carp catching, footballing legend, and Ali's new co-presenter Bobby Zamora!!

LIFE GOOOOOOOAL!!



One lucky winner will get the chance fish exclusively with ourselves and Bobby at the awesome Linear Fisheries on a 24hr session (date to be confirmed)

That's right! you could be sat on the bank having a chat with Bobby over a cold beer, waiting for a screaming run from one of Linear's many stunning carp while finding out about all his adventures through his amazing career as a footballer and an angler sharing tips and advice! Does it get much better than that?! Yes! Getting plenty of pictures with the man himself!

Tickets are on sale now.

So don't stand about! Get on the ball - it could be you scoring **BIG!**

Not only are we giving you a once in a lifetime opportunity to fish with Bobby but 100% of your money goes to taking disadvantaged kid's and PTSD sufferers out fishing for the day away from all the day to day stresses and struggles they are going through! **WIN WIN!**

We also have an adults and kids lake exclusive social event being held at the awesome East Delph Lakes and our Charity raffle is also under way with 30 absolutely

absolutely amazing prizes currently in the prize pot including sessions for 2 people at The Carp Syndicate, Linear Fisheries, Shatterford Fisheries and Kingsland Fisheries, Darrell Peck signed t-shirt, Bank Life Fishing hoodies signed by the lads at Nash and Ridgemonkey, bait, tackle just to mention a few! And more still to be added!! Check out the current prize list on our Facebook page.

The generosity has been unbelievable - thank you so much to all the amazing companies that have donated so far - Nash, Ridgemonkey, Guru, Darrell Peck,

Letchworth Bait and Tackle, The Carp Syndicate, Linear Fisheries, Shatterford Fisheries, Kingsland Fisheries, Norfolk Boat Hire, C&N Boilies and Bait, Mere popups, A.M. Bait Services, DS Baits, Munch Baits, Carpalytic Liquid Baits, U-ZIT Bait Innovations, Forgotten Flavours, UK Angling Ltd, Edd's Carp Rigs, SMC Leads, One off the spot, Eddy's Rigs, Snelly's Leads, Givenedge PVA, Perfected Particles, Dan Skilton

So here is how it works - Companies or people donate a prize into our prize pot, for which



people buy tickets for £1 each to win these prizes! We will hold a live interactive draw on our Facebook page in August and pick out who the lucky winners are by drawing a prize out of the prize pot followed by a randomly chosen ticket number, if that's your number then you win that prize! The more tickets you buy the more chance you have of winning some amazing stuff plus the more you help do to help us help those less fortunate.

So, please do get involved grab some tickets and help spread the word.

If you would like to donate a prize,

please do get in touch.

Let's do this for them! Let's do some good!

Many thanks, best wishes and tight lines.

Matt and Hannah



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Talking Carp

*1 night, 2 fish, 2 PB's
and 119lb+*



by James McQueen

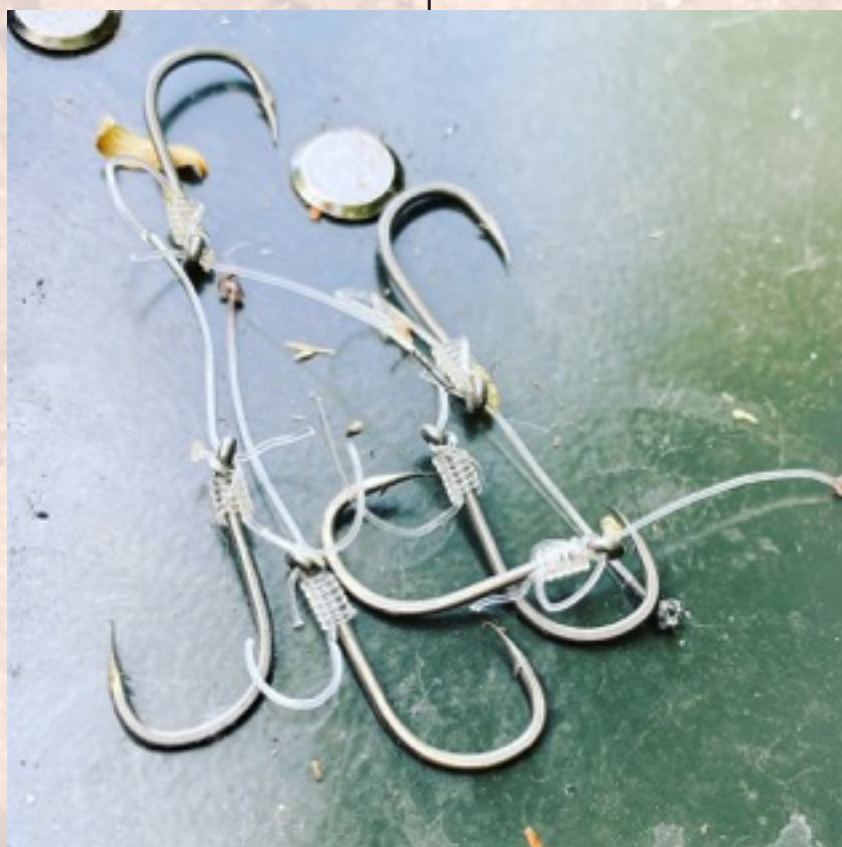
It was April

2019, I was getting my gear ready for a week's fishing in the Champagne region of France. I normally do 1-2 trips abroad a year, and always look forward to them immensely. The excitement builds even up to a few months before I go, as I'm thinking about what bait I'm going to take, what rigs I'll be using and making sure that I have good supplies of everything.

I had recently made the move over to Essential baits and had ordered a good supply of the B5 Salami for the trip, which I had tricked up with a secret liquid mixture to speed up its release of oils and food signals. This was accompanied by a serious amount of Monster Particles Himalayan Rock salt, which I take

everywhere I go. My Mrs will often find me pottering in the garage, and I'm always thinking of new bits I need to buy or, sort out, so I keep a written list to make sure I don't forget. One of the main pieces of my prep is to have my 3 rods made up ready to go, other than hook baits. You would be forgiven for shouting out, well you don't know what substrate you'll be fishing on, so how can you do that? Well, I

have been to this lake many times so I know what I'll be confronted with upon my arrival, plus I always keep a log of wraps and swim details on my phone to assist me when I get there. This information had proved invaluable the June before, as I had cast out two rods onto known spots from the previous time, and I had a run and fish landed whilst setting up, within 30 minutes!!! Pressure off.



I had travelled and arranged to fish with my mate Ginge, (waynetotalbox) so I knew a good social would be on the cards, with or without him. We had loaded my 05 plate rusty red old Royal Mail van to the brim, filled it with fuel and then watched a load of the fuel leak out of a hole onto the petrol station forecourt, wicked.... I'd never filled it up to the top before. The van is an absolute work horse but looks like it's been run over, beaten up, shot, dropped from a height and then still managed to keep going, I loved her!! Off we went down the motorway at our Limited speed of 70MPH, so the journey was nice and chilled, although everyone gave us a look on the French motorways, especially the anglers, who must be thinking you're brave in that!!

We arrived at the lake, Lac Du Tard with Ginge looking rested after his 4 hour sleep, so much for the company. This booking was a lake exclusive, so I was fishing with a group of mates. We had already agreed on swims and where we wanted to go, so off Ginge and I headed to the Beach swim. The Beach swim is a large double swim, with the gravel bank at the same level as the water, so lovely and comfortable. There is also a wooden hut at the back of the swim for you to put all your belongings, but no sleeping is allowed in there, although the last night is normally spent in it.

I am one of

those people that likes to get everything set up, put away and ready for the week ahead, especially my fishing spots and stuff like that. The weed was well up and I had a large area of weed off to my left, but about half way between myself and the island which is about 35 wraps. Ginge, had obviously been tired from his 4 hours sleep and no driving, and decided that he was going to not only



rest himself but his side of the swim for the first night, not something I could comprehend. I tried to get my head around it whilst drinking a few nelsons, but the nelsons got the better of me before I could understand his decision, lol.

Anyway, off we went to bed full of beer, tiredness and anticipation for the week ahead. It was

3am when one of my rods went into meltdown, and continued to do so whilst I staggered to the rods tired and totally disorientated. I lifted into this fish and had no idea what was to greet me only a few minutes later. I tried to wake ginge and as timings went he fell out of his bivvy just in time to slide the net under a considerable lump!! We both left the fish in the net and

gathered our thoughts whilst we waited for the bailiff Mark to join us, as we knew it was over the 50Lb mark which meant the bailiff had to be present. We did the weighing and discovered this lump was 61.15 and a new PB Mirror. We did the photos and headed back to bed, which felt crazy after that moment, but by this point my tiredness had knocked me for 6.



I was then woken up my another rod in meltdown, but this now seemed like a much more reasonable hour, as the sun was up and I felt much more with it. I rushed to the rod, in a much straighter line and played this fish whilst enjoying that first morning of pure bliss of being away fishing. This fish gave a very good account of itself unlike the previous Mirror, staying deep and not giving me a glimpse of its size, which looking back on

I'm glad of, my legs would have turned to jelly if I knew what was on the end. Ginge, had awoken and had taken up his place chatting shit next to me for the entire time, which was to be the theme for the week. The fish was landed and again we looked in the net, and saw that this Common was enormous, well by my standards anyway. Mark the bailiff was disturbed and he joined us on the bank. This common was again another PB at 51.5lb.

It was lovely doing the photos in the morning sun and knowing that my first nights fishing had already produced fish that many would be happy with in an entire week.

I think ginge said "I probably should have fished last night" Thanks as always to my sponsors, Monster Particles and Essential baits.

James McQueen
Jamesmc_essential





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Essex Gold

by James Radley

It was approximately two years ago when I first saw, what in my opinion is the best looking common in Essex. The image of that fish was etched in my mind and the need to add it to my photo album grew and grew to the point it couldn't be ignored any longer.

I knew the lake where the common resided had good winter form, so I hatched a plan to start my campaign once the temperatures had begun to drop. That being said I couldn't help myself and I did spend a few nights on the bank there before I'd intended to. I wanted to get a feel for the place and see what I could learn and work out. However, it was exactly as I suspected like most lakes in the warmer months it was far too busy for my liking and I'd need to wait.

With the busy summer banks becoming a distant memory and the fair weather anglers in decline I started my campaign. It was now late autumn.

I managed to get into the fish pretty quickly and a good run of form saw me catching well into the winter.

Little did I know that run of form

would come

to a gut

wrenching

end when in

January I lost

the big girl.

I won't lie, that

loss hurt! It

made me feel

sick to think

about and it

killed my buzz

for the place.

I needed

something

else to take

my mind off it

so I headed

back to St

Ives and

stayed there

until the following October. Over that time the vivid image of that common haunted me. I knew the only way to combat it was to return and exact my revenge.

Around that time, I made the move over to DT Baits. I'd heard good things about their bait Supa Fruit and settled on using



that to tempt my target. With a young family and busy work life I tend to fish every other weekend. I have to make what time I have on the bank count and a big part of that is using a quality bait. After a dream start my confidence was very high in my decision to move over.

Just before Christmas I found the big common tucked into a set of snags. I set in for a few nights fishing in the swim closest to the snags.

Half the battle in the colder months is locating them. I think it's safe to say I'd found them. That outing turned out to be a red letter session. I banked ten fish three of which were over 30lbs. That area of the lake was good to me I fished it through to the end of January alas the big common still evaded me.





A short time later I ended up photographing her for a friend of mine and it was from a different area to where I'd been concentrating on. It really got me thinking about where I should be investing my efforts. Then COVID hit. Initially I thought I'd be up against it only being able to do days, but I used it to my advantage. Due to the pandemic, I found I had a lot more time on my hands. Around that time the weather was awful I was hitting the lake for 6am most mornings and having to fish flooded swims, moving if I felt I wasn't on the fish sometimes multiple times. It was hard graft, but I'd be lying if I said I didn't enjoy it.

On one of these mornings, I got a call from another friend. He now had the big girl and was desperate for

The only thing better than catching your target fish is seeing your mate catch theirs (even if their target is the same as yours) and share the moment with them. It was also a chance to cast my eye over her. I headed over to take some snaps and as I stared down at her on the mat, I knew I'd have my time with her it was only a matter of time.

I carried on fishing the lake until it closed in March. Over that time I managed to chalk up a number of very good captures one of the highlights had to be a 30lbs carp in the snow. Once the lake shut I headed off to St Ives, returning in May for a last minute overnighter when it reopened. The weather felt to good to ignore and I couldn't help myself.

As I say it was last minute and I didn't arrive on the lake until about 8pm. To my horror I wasn't the only one that favoured the weather for a bite and the banks were swamped with anglers. I eventually found a swim off the back of the wind and tucked away. I got set up and settled in for the night.



I knew she liked the margins at that time of year, and I opted to target the edges either side of me. Both rods were fished with a Supa fruit pop up hook bait and a few handfuls of crumbed Supa fruit and Fish Blood and Orange over the top. I was rudely awoken the following morning by an alarm and not the alarm I wanted it was the one on my phone. While I lay rubbing the sleep out of my eyes and

contemplating my next move my bite alarm spasmodically wailed out signalling a very sure, strong run.

I burst to attention and stood playing what felt like a really good fish. It was while still trying to gain my faculties I though "hello this feels like history repeating itself" It was her! No other fish in that lake came close to that level of power. I prayed the

whole time that it wouldn't end the way it did before. When she flopped over the net cord and I stared down at her I was hit by so many feelings. Pride, elation, relief and I was completely in awe! In my opinion she is the best looking common in Essex, and she was mine... all 47lbs of her.

James





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Reviews

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D T Baits floater packs

Borneo Hat from TrekMates - Anthony Wood

cuttingedgepower - Anthony Wood



ION

Review by Mark Carper



An ion (/ˈaɪɒn, -ən/) is a particle, atom or molecule with a net electrical charge. The charge of the electron is considered negative by convention. The negative charge of an ion is equal and opposite to charged proton(s) considered positive by convention....

...However, there is nothing 'Negative' about the PowaPacs ION...It is all 'Positive'...!!!

I make no secret of the fact that I am a big fan of all things PowaPacs, but that is based on one thing; All the products are high quality and designed and built to do the job well.

I already own the Atom Pro, which I upgraded to earlier this year from the Atom and reviewed that a few issues back but the ION caught my attention as it is considerably smaller but still packs a punch and was perfect for those twenty-four hour or Day Sessions when I need to keep my Phone and Camera 'topped up'. To be honest though, the ION would easily cope with longer sessions for your Phone and Tablet and with Solar Panel that comes with it, you could manage indefinitely(?), but I will tell you about the Solar Panel further on....

...The ION is a Compact, Lightweight and Powerful 'All-In-One' AC and DC power pack that is Li-Po powered and the whole kit, including Mains Charger, Cables and Carry-Case weighs in at only 1.2kg too...with the actual Unit itself, tipping the scales at 806g...I carry more in Lead than that HaHaHa...!!

For me, the big attraction was not just the size, which by the way is a mere, 19cm x 10cm x 4cm, it was the fact that as with the Atom Pro, you still get a universal 230v AC Socket for universal standard plugs and this is something I use regularly for charging all manner of devices and the 65watt continuous output is perfect for my Sports Camera Batteries etc.

While on the subject of power, the ION produces 24000mAH 84Wh from its high-capacity Lithium batteries, which is more than enough to charge

from flat, an iPhone 12Pro about six times or an iPad Pro at least twice (obviously, this does depend on the Battery condition in the devices, temperature etc. and is just an approximate guide), so for those shorter sessions, the ION is the perfect power solution.

With a retail price of around £169.00 it is also very competitive in a fairly crowded market place and for that price you get the Unit, Solar Panel, Mains Charger, Connection Leads and a good quality protective Carry-Case...!

Solar Panel

The supplied Solar Panel does have a bit of a limitation in terms of the output it can muster but this is simply down to the size of the panel, which, to fit nicely into the kit, it needed to be compact.

In our 'usual' UK weather, the Solar Panel would struggle to recharge the ION from flat and is only useful for 'slowly topping up' the unit. That said, in 'Full' Sunlight, it does manage to give a good boost to the ION but would need to 'follow' the sun's maximum intensity all day and obviously, if you are in a much sunnier climate, the Panel does have a greater impact to sustain the use of the ION.





For me, this was never going to be an issue as I have the larger Solar Panel that I use for the Atom Pro and lets face it, how many Carp anglers actually go 'Fully Off-Grid' for more than a few days anyway..?!

Real World Testing

I have used the ION several times since purchase and have never actually ran it flat..!

I have used it on a couple of forty-eight-hour sessions and kept my iPhone 12 Pro connected to it most of the day and all night, while I used the phone for Video, Photography, Social Media, Emails, oh, and even a phone call... and the LED Battery Indicator only dropped from four lights to two.

Normally, I would not use the ION in this way and would only connect the phone etc. when needed but I wanted to see how the unit coped. I did have to make sure the phone was sitting below 100% though to ensure the ION would stay in the charge mode as it does have an Auto-Off feature if it does not detect a 'Load' from 30 minutes.

I have also used it several times to charge my iPad Pro and Magic Keyboard from 3% battery life to 100% and that took the ION Six hours and that was via the USB3.0 Quick Charge output, of which the ION has one....and left the ION at 50% charge (two of the four LEDS still on...)

To charge the ION itself, from 'one' LED, took me just over five hours using the supplied Mains Charger, which plugs in to the C Type Port.

*****Note** – The newer versions of the ION that are coming in to stock at PowaPacs now have a 'Jack Socket' for charging and there is no requirement to use the C port any longer.***

When you connect a device that requires charging, you simply press the button located on the side of the ION and away it goes. If you want to use the 230vac Output, you simply 'double press' the button and a Blue LED light comes on to indicate that the 230vac Socket is live.

ION or Atom Pro

I never intended to write this as a direct comparison between the Atom Pro and the ION but I have been asked several times which would I recommend.

My first questions are "what will it be used for and how long does it need to last"....and then, before they can answer, I always recommend the Atom Pro, because no matter what their answer is going to be, the Atom Pro has you covered....!!

For me, the real decision is down to two things, Budget and Portability, because if you want the smallest of both, the ION is the perfect choice. It will sustain you on the bank for a minimum of forty-eight hours and it will power and charge all manner of devices, including all your usual 'Carp Gear'...Head Torch and Bivvy Lights, Radio and TV, all of which PowaPacs just happen produce too...That said, if these items are of a good quality, you probably won't even need to charge them on a Forty-Eight hour session so that leaves plenty of charging power for your Phone, Tablets, Cameras, Deeper etc. etc.

However, if you want true 'Off-Grid' sustainability and you have the budget, the Atom Pro and 60watt Solar Panel is a must. That setup will

cost you around £438.00 but you have every eventuality covered. Admittedly, you do not have to have the Solar Panel, especially if you fish waters that have Mains Power onsite so that if you need to, you can recharge your Power Pack and that will save you around £199.00, making the Atom Pro and great buy at £240.00...and you should expect at least seven days use from the Atom Pro too, charging the gear as mentioned previously, so a week in France is no drama....On such trips, I have even used my Atom to recharge other people's Power Packs and still had power left at the end of the trip...!!

As I said, this is not a full comparison between the two, or with any other Power Packs that are available and is just my honest opinion about two products I have first hand experience of.

ION Protection

As with the PowaPacs Atom Pro, the ION has several 'safety' features onboard so that it gives the best possible Protection to itself and the devices you are charging, with Protection from, Over Load • Over Voltage • Over Current • Over Temperature • Over Charging • Short Circuit • Short Voltage & Short Circuit for Battery, you know you are in Safe Hands...!

Connectivity

The ION has two types of Output...

A 230vac Socket which will take a Standard UK or EU Plug and power a device up to 65w, and...

One USB 3.0 Quick Charge Output...it does not have a 'C' Type Output and I did find at times, only having one USB 3.0



was a bit of a pain, especially when I wanted to charge Camera Batteries and Phone overnight...However, that was easily overcome by the use of my 230vac Phone Charger as both the AC & DC can be used simultaneously, and with the excellent protection afforded by the Unit, there was no worry of Over Heating etc.

For the full Specification, look at the website details at;
<https://www.powapacs.co.uk/product/ion/>

Conclusion

As I said this is not a comparison review with other Power Units out there and it is just my opinion of the ION after using it in the real world on the bank.

The ION is a well-made, well-designed Power Unit that can handle your charging needs over a short time frame (if you call 48 to 72 hours short) with ease and will keep your essential 'Fishing' kit ready to go, and by that I obviously mean your Phone and Tablet...!!!

With no C Type Output, it makes up for this by giving you the 230vac Output and the USB 3.0 QC Output soon gets your gear back up to full power, with ION Battery to spare.

The supplied Solar Panel is good enough in the UK weather to keep a trickle charge going into the ION but you will struggle to fully charge it without the Mains Power Charger. In sunnier climates, it does fare much better though, but it was only really intended as a trickle charge back-up.

If you are looking for a reliable, solid, easily portable, compact and lightweight Power Pack, then you will not be disappointed with this offering from PowaPacs and don't underestimate the usefulness of the 230vac Output...other manufacturers may say you do not need it, but then their ones probably don't have it....!!!

All the Best Mark Carper
Instagram: mark_carper257



DT Baits "Grab & Fish" Floater pack



Every now and again someone will come up with a simple idea, but one that can save a lot of messing on the anglers part. DT Baits have done exactly that with the “Grab & Fish” Floater packs.

We were lucky enough to get our hands on one of these to have a proper look, and we were not disappointed!

This pack is absolutely perfect for some opportunist angling, just grab your bucket and go!



What you get is a 10 litre square bucket with sealed lid, meaning it can be left in the car without fear of upsetting your partner!

Inside the bucket you get 3 kilos of premium floating pellets, 60gm of matching hookable hook baits, and a 250 ml bottle of floater slick liquid. The pack comes in a range of 5 flavours too:- SupaFruit, N-Blend, Oily Chicken, Peach & Sour Cream and the very popular Fish, Blood and Orange.

The chaps at D T Baits tell us you simply pop the lid, pour the slick liquid over the pellets and fire them out...and watch the fish home in on the oily trail created by the slick. Hook on one of the hookable hook baits and cast into the area... the fish will do the rest!

With summer being here right now, keeping one of these in the car with a small stalking rod, there's no excuse now not to go and land that extra carp you see cruising around your local lake or canal as you're walking the dog!

The packs retail at £24.99 and are available directly from the website www.dtbaits.co.uk or through one of their many UK stockists.

Two thumbs up from Talking Carp on this one! (Catch reports to follow)



Protect Your Head When Fishing

By Anthony Wood



As the warmer weather arrives it is important to protect yourself from sunburn (no-one looks good, looking like a lobster and it's bad for your skin too) and although a lot of people protect their arms, legs, etc with suntan lotion, they very rarely consider their head or ears.

Considering anglers are out in the sun all day, protecting their head and ears is something that you would have thought that they would consider, the amount of photos on Facebook of people with sunburnt faces and ears with their friends making fun of them says otherwise though.

There are a lot of carp branded hats, baseball caps, etc out there and yes, they protect the top of your head but they don't really do much else other than match your carp gear. Baseball caps are all very well and they look really cool when you wear them with the matching clothing but other than a little protection on the top of your head and a front brim to keep the sun out of your eyes, they offer little in the way of protection from the sun especially for your ears and neck plus they are quite thick material so on a hot day will make your head sweat.

Looking outside the carp world clothing ranges, there are some seriously good hats that aren't loaded with "carp tax" but more importantly they work!! There are a lot of hats that are designed for use in the outdoor and adventure scene that would actually be really well suited to carp fishing, they also come in olive and ash colours so fit in well with most carp ranges.

One of my favourite hats is the Borneo Hat from TrekMates, it has a light yet breathable 100% polyamide supplex outer to help keep your head cool in the warm weather, it has a 7cm wide brim for sun protection, a UV rating of UPF



40+ and it also has mesh eyelet ventilation in the hat.

There is something even more appealing about this hat for the average carp fisherman and that is that the material of the hat has been treated with DEET (the hat is in compliance with REACH regulation 1907/2006 so it is safe for humans and the environment) which when the hat is worn will help prevent unwanted attention from midges and mosquitoes.

The DEET treatment will last for approximately five washes before you need to use a wash in treatment solution which are available from most outdoor retailers. If the mosquitoes are really bad there is even a midge headnet hidden in a little pocket inside the crown of the hat which is perfect for those summer evenings when there are swarms of the little so and so's.

The great thing about these hats is that they are available from a wide selection of shops (I got mine from OutdoorsGB as they always have prices lower than the RRP but you could always go direct to www.trekmates.co.uk).





Powering Your Devices On The Bank
By Anthony Wood

As a race we are more and more dependant on our digital devices which can be a bad thing but there are also lots of good uses for the devices too. Gone are the days of catching a good looking fish or a new pb and not being able to get a photo of the moment, but how do we keep our devices charged when we are out fishing?

There are a lot of options out there and as a social media manager (www.facebook.com/aandjconnections) I'm always looking for ways to keep my phone, my laptop, etc, etc fully charged so that I can work from where ever I am. I have used everything from powerbanks to solar chargers, recently though I came across a company in America that had a product that I haven't tried before and that is wind power!!

I'd been looking at various wind turbine options for a while as I liked the idea of being able to place a wind turbine on the beach, the bonnet of my car, next to me on the bank of the lake, on the boat or anywhere else that I was and providing that there was a breeze I would be getting an instant power source.

Looking at several brands the one that stood out to me for quality was Cutting Edge Power (www.cuttingedgepower.com). Why did this company stand out to me more than any others? Quite simply their testing process is seriously impressive!! Their products have been made to the highest safety standards and have been



designed to be waterproof to IP68 standard and withstand rough weather, sand, dirt and dust, even the casing is UV resistant.

Their NEW 2021 Micro Wind Turbine Generator is an amazing piece of equipment that doesn't require lots of home building as it is already pre-assembled so that there is minimum assembly required for you, in fact all you need to do is attach the blades to the turbine which are press fit and held in place by set screws that are designed to withstand strong winds (they've even been tested in a real engineering wind tunnel!).

One of the things that really impressed me was that this wind turbine has been designed to generate a maximum output of 15 watts and has a 12V DC power output and USB output that can be connected directly to any 12V battery without a charge controller!! You can even connect it to a powerbank and recharge your powerbanks for when there isn't any wind.

Wind turbines also produce clean green energy which helps to cut down on greenhouse emissions which harm the planet so not only are you charging your devices but you are helping the planet too.

There are a few versions of the micro wind turbine available, the one I picked is the one with the pipe/tube mount



which can be mounted to any $\frac{3}{4}$ " pipe whether it is pvc, metal or even a flag pole. Here is the link to the one that I chose <https://cuttingedgepower.com/products/2021-micro?variant=31328660717657>.

So what wind speeds can this wind turbine be used in and what is the minimum wind speed to get any sort of charge? If you use two blades you will need a minimum of 7mph to get any charge and if you use 5 blades that lowers down to 5mph both of which are classed as a light breeze on the Beaufort wind scale and for you that means you can just feel the wind on your face and there is a very gentle rustle of the leaves. The blades will survive in winds up to 45mph which on the Beaufort wind scale is a fresh gale and that means that you find it difficult to walk against the wind and twigs and branches can be broken off trees so that is a pretty strong wind.

I am very impressed with this wind turbine, the quality and the service provided by the company. Check out their social media pages at www.instagram.com/cuttingedgepwr and www.facebook.com/cuttingedgepwr. The micro wind turbine is perfect for powering your devices whilst on the bank and as long as there is a slight breeze you won't need to worry about running out of power.





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hooks are second to none
and definitely landed me
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Catch Reports

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Vader Baits

Plus all of your catches !!!

Darren Harries



Well after over 10 years of trying I've finally managed to beat my pb by 4oz the new personal best of 39lb was caught from one of the best carp lakes in the country Old Mill Lakes the awesome fish was caught during a 48hr session on Birch lake , tactics used were my ever faithful D Rig incorporating a carp tackle online scorpion wide gape hook size 4 and carp tackle online bait screw on a wafter hook bait



I had an amazing 48hrs fishing Birch lake on the Old Mill lakes complex catching a lovely looking 35lb 14 oz mirror carp and a wicked looking 20lb 8oz linear respectively. Both fish were caught using Trent baits SAS wafter hook baits fished D Rig style incorporating a Carp Tackle Online Scorpion wide gape hook size 4 and Carp Tackle Online bait screw .

Chevy Reid



3 lovely fish caught on our annual trip to Holiday Park in Suffolk, lovely place for families and keen anglers as there are 2 lakes with beautiful fish, with both lakes holding a few 30lb's..

We go every year at least once, even twice as I am hunting the 30lb's in both lakes plus my kids can enjoy themselves.. I come short last year landing one of the A team in the bottom lake at 29lb 4oz, and being told by locals I am unlucky to not have it over 30... none the less..

This year I went with same approach as last year, where I prep few margin spots and fish to known spots where I only fish early morning until 9am and evenings from 5pm, using the ever faithful Carp Tackle Online Scorpion hooks, hooklink and Terminal tackle.. combined with DNA Baits.

Fishing was hard for some reason, normally I would catch a fish ever time I go out, but this year. It was tough going.. not many came out whilst I was there. I manged 3, and 3 other species I don't like talking about or counting. I think fish were gearing up to spawn.

All fish were caught on Carp Tackle Online size 4 crank tied slip D with bit of putty of pop up or plain with wafter and used in a pva bag... all rig components are by Carp Tackle online.

Come August I will be back and try get the elusive 30lb'er in both lakes

Matthew Ursell

New to Angling, this is Matthews second catch on his third ever session. A lovely take after twenty minutes of casting out, played it nice, while his brother Simon Ursell got it in the net.. A great result after both had four takes in total but sadly losing three. ProbaitUk, squid and Orange Cork Dust Waffer, with matching stix mix, enticed the low double common (10lb) with Alpha leads, 3oz inline textured pear shape, Slyfish DPM nylon hooklink attached to a Bargain Tackle and Dips size 6 barbless Klaw hook.



Chris Fleet

During a very quite session just sitting behind my alarms, things took a turn for the better when my alarm screamed into action. After taking me for a run around every weed bed and lily pad on the lake, eventually this picture perfect

common graced my net. Not the biggest common I have caught weighing 19lb 1oz but by far the best looking. The beaut fell for Sticky krill pop up using end tackle from Carp Tackle Online.

Mark Slatter

Did the night with my son, (9), his first ever but it absolutely chucked it down all day and evening and by 9.30pm he asked to go home, we had a couple, but he caught on his rod within 10mins of being there. First fish on his rod, lifted into it and played it himself, I just netted it, 13.8lb common. Smile says it all.

I was woken at first light to a lovely 24.2lb mirror



Steve Cartwright



Carp Tackle Online social at Crowsheath Fishery in Essex, managed a nice couple of commons to 27lb , all taken on the size 4 Scorpion Crank hooks, new leaders and the ever faithful Key Bait solutions ASM



Couple of fish in this heat to 22.7 , very hot 24hrs but managed to winkle a couple out using the Carp Tackle Online end gear, using the Scorpion size curved hooks and bait screws , flurocarbon leaders and on good old faithful ASM from Key Baitsolutions

Jacob Robinson



An Early Birthday PB.....

Young Jacob Robinson was over the moon with his new PB Common and a week before his twelfth Birthday too. Here's what he told me....

.... I was fishing a private lake in Buckinghamshire on an overnighter with my dad. After a few hours of trying to find the fish, I found them tucked away in a really snaggy area underneath a willow tree.

I decided to use a PVA Mesh Bag filled with mix sized pellets (going against my dad's advice as I felt more comfortable with this rig). The boilie I used was a Pink 12mm Five Star Baits, 'Peach and Scopex' Pop-Up. I used my catapult to lightly bait the area with matching pellets every few hours through the evening and was woken early morning with my alarm going.....

....I worked very hard to get it out of the snags as I had previously lost one in the same snag. Only the one fish but it was the fish that resulted in my PB Common of 20lb 6oz and my dad checked it three times as it took him years to get a fish that size...!!!

Many Thanks

Jacob Robinson

11yrs (well 12 next week) old from Bicester Oxfordshire

Instagram @jacobrobinson_fishing

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Jason Smith

A brilliant return for Jason with the N-blend. Jason was part of the Vardis tackle contingent at the carp society show back in May. He popped over to see our stand and mentioned the success he'd had a few years ago on the N-blend.



Alfie Tidder

Alfie took to a tricky local day ticket lake this week and managed to bag this cracking looking 27lbs 12oz mirror caught on a white N-blend pop up and matching N-blend bottom bait crumb.



Stephen White

DT customer
Stephen
White got in
touch with an
absolutely
stonking
common!
Here's what
Stephen had to
say....

Emily Williamson

Emily is on fire at the moment, her run of form hit an all time high with this beautiful 32lbs common and new PB caught on an N-blend pop up and marching N-blend bottom baits. Congratulations Emily.





Michael Carr

Michael with a lovely spawned out 31Lbs fish known as the big leather. Caught using DT's Supa Fruit from a low stocked syndicate lake.



The boys in Canada received their recent care package courtesy of DT baits and have put it to good use already.



Brett Longthorne - Trigga



Darren Rielly - 29lb15 New PB - Trigga



Darren Rielly - 29lb15 New PB - Trigga



Giordano - CO-DE River Po



Matteo Baronio - 20 mm Trigga with a trimmed 20 mm Pink Pepper pop up on a bed of CO.DE and Trigga boilies.



Phil Fisher - White Trigga Pop-Up over crumbed BFM with added BFM Liquid Booster and Krill Carpet Feed



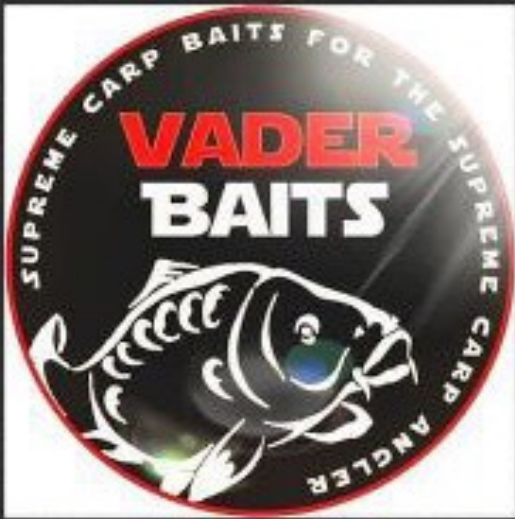
Phil Selby - 28lb - BFM Krill & Cranberry +



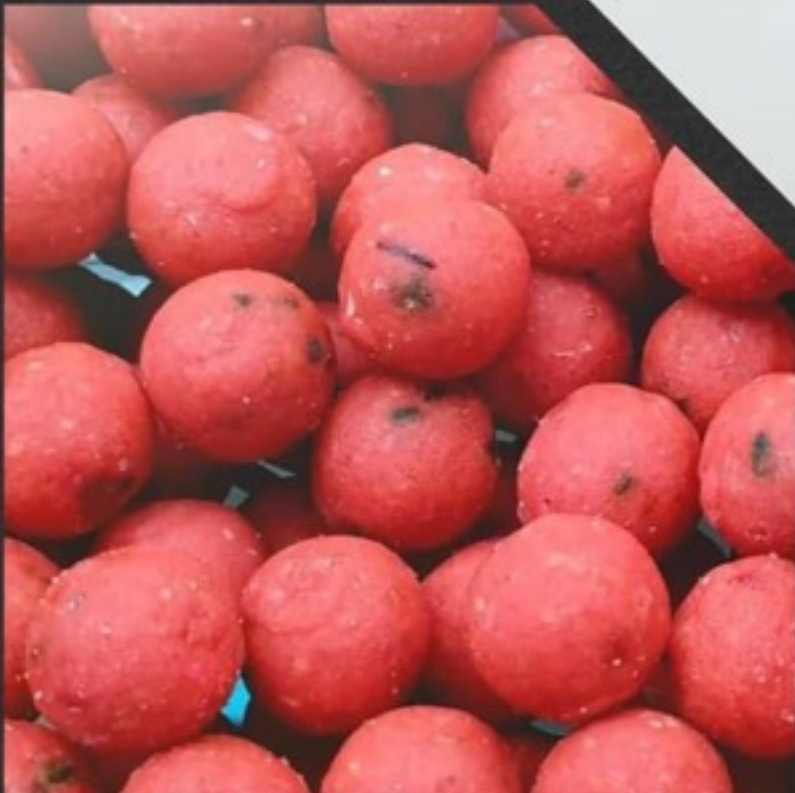
Richard Hughes - Trigga 12mm Freezer bait over CO-DE
8mm Pellets



Team member Aaron went to Creedy Lakes for 24hr session and had two common biggest being 23lb 6oz. These beautiful carp were caught on Le Nutz white wafter over 14mm Le Nutz boilies. The biggest was caught about a rods length out next to a over hanging tree in the margin!!



Team member Andrew went to Baron Lake for a session. He sadly lost a couple fish mid on the zig...But then later in the session he got another run on the zig and managed to land a nice 15lb 4oz mirror. The fish was tempted by a Crabalicious boilie with some freebies!



Team member Tim fished our Vader Baits social at Stafford Moor at the weekend. He drew peg 7 and got set up. With both spots baited he set about putting the rods out. He headed off to sleep only to be awoken by the sound of the bite alarm screaming off. After a very good fight the fish gave in and slipped over into the net. Knowing this was a good fish he couldn't wait to get it on the scales. This fish topped in at 29lb on the nose absolutely smashing his pb with this gorgeous carp! The fish fell to a 14mm Grafter topped with a white matching pop up critically balanced over a scattering of Grafter boilies!

Le Lees Carp Fishery

Welcome everyone to LE LEES Carp Fishery.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Le Lees Carp Fishery

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tight lines and may the carp gods bless you all.

Best wishes

Find us on Facebook for further information.

Matt, Tracie and Thai.



Le Lees Ca



rp Fishery

THIS MONTHS ADVERTISERS -

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Thankyou for Reading

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

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

'The Talking Carp Team'

Brian Dixon
Mark Faulkner
Dave Harnick Snr
Mark Galli

OUT
NOW



THE LINK UP!

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

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*The Link™ Boilies are supported by a full range of complementary Pop-Ups, Worms, Groundbait, Potholes and, of course, the renowned Innovacore™ System.