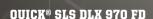


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ABS-graphite body | Brass wormshaft ultra slow oscillating system | 6mm stainless steel main shaft | 40 stops micro adjustable multi disc carbon frontdrag | Micro adjustable freespool 400m/0,35mm Schnurfassung | uvm.



Hello!!

And welcome to your April issue of Talking Carp. We sincerely hope you are enjoying what we bring you every month, and if you feel you would like to get in touch with any suggestions, or would like to get involved with your own article or catch reports or reviews of some bit of kit you have recently bought then please email me at the address at the bottom of the page. We welcome everyone here... so give us a shout.

Now... it's that time!! If you haven't already done so, get yourself either online or down to your local post office and get your licences sorted! Do NOT get yourself caught out with thousands of pounds of gear and no licence. That's just silly...

Moving on, we have yet another bumper issue here for you this month. Plenty to read with articles from our usual suspects plus our guest writers too. Joining our regulars Scott Grant, Keith Moors, Lee England, Ross Hunter and Ethan Carper this month, we bring you part 2 of a chat with Julian Cundiff, former world record holder for biggest brace Graham Slaughter gives us his view on heavy baiting, and John Harrop Turnbull faces some adverse conditions...and wins!! Add to that even more guest writers and you have another bumper issue of Talking Carp to read.

We announce the winner of the Galaxy Baits huge bait package competition in this issue.... Is it you?

This month we have 2 big competitions... in it to win it folks !!

We also review and give our thoughts on a piece of kit that more and more long session anglers cannot do without these days... the power pack... and what's even better? We are GIVING AWAY THE MODEL WE HAVE HERE, along with all its accessories to one very lucky reader. So make sure you look for the review and the competition in these pages.

For your online purchase of your fishing license go here: -

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Until next time enjoy your fishing, and be lucky!

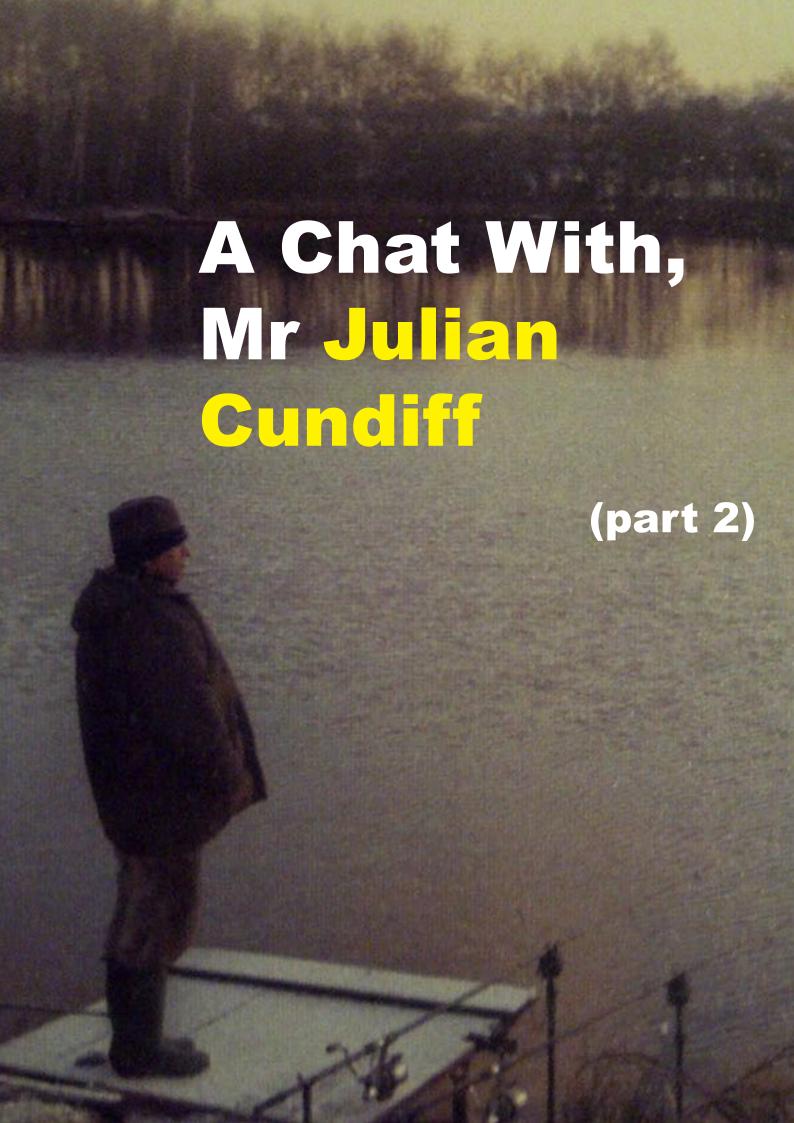
Team Talking Carp.

Email brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk

(For catch reports put "catch reports" in the subject box)



In This Month's Edition of Talking Carps Editorial by Brian Dixon A Chat With Mr Julian Cundiff A Perfect Day Out by lan Masters A Summer Of Madness by Scott "Geezer" Grant Catching My RB by Keith Moors First Of The Year by Ben Pattenden Cetting Bites by Lee Merritt Making The Most Of It by Matt Laney My Progression Into Bait Making by "Hookpull" My Winter My Way by John Harrop Turnbull Quick Word on Carp Care by Ethan Shock And Awe by Graham Slaughter Spring Into Action by Rich Adams The Musselberry Swim by Ethan Carper The New Partnership by Lee England Urban Carping by Zachary Harris When Dreams Come Titue by Stuart Mellor Winter Session by Ross Hunter



A Chat With... Mr Julian Cundiff pt 2.

- T.C. Thanks for joining us once again Julian, part 1 gave us a great insight to you, personally, and of course the big news of your next book is under way and will be with us in the very near future (watch out for the launch dear readers as I will blag a signed copy and give it away to one of you! ssshhhhhh).
- J.C. Thanks Brian that was a lovely feature you put together in Part 1 and thanks for the opportunity to delve a bit deeper into my fishing. The new book won't be out until around 2017 as trying to compress my life into 160,000 meaningful words is no easy task...Well that's the future and with spring here it's time to get out and at em....

T.C Now, let's talk fishing! Let's get more technical



Q1) As we touched on in the last issue, you keep fishing all year round, and there's rarely a week goes by that you're not on the social medias with a carp or two.

Now by my reckoning, as well as having chosen the right water to begin with, that must involve some serious background work to keep them feeding through the winter? Can you give us an insight into how your baiting strategy changes from summer and late autumn and into winter to keep those carp feeding?

1)Yes I do fish all year round and if I don't fish once a week I get very tetchy believe me. Compared to the "professional" angler nothing but on limited time I have very little margin for error. Occasionally I fish the same water summer and winter alike but generally I pick a water to concentrate on mid-November to mid-March. Usually more prolific, one that inspires me to go out in all weathers and one where I should be in with a good chance of a bite each trip be it six hours or twenty-six hours. Background work is done well before I start my campaign so that come the first session I am well briefed. Bait wise unless

it's very local I don't bait up between trips but instead trickle some in when I leave. This winter I have been using the last of my Nash Amber Strawberry boilies...

Bright white, a beautiful strawberry smell and taste and instant. When I arrive I usually have around a kilo, kilo and a half with me and tend to fish singles, maybe a handful at best. What I don't use I put in when I leave. Snags, reeds and anywhere I may see any... Nothing fancy but it works I promise you.... This winter to come I will be fishing the same water from now all year round so let's see how this Key holds up in the colder months.

Q2) In your mind, once you have your baiting plan sorted, do you stick to it religiously, even if you have a couple of quiet sessions, or will you alter your baiting plan to try and improve on your results? Winter is a tough time to nick a bite and I'm sure most of us have walked away from a winter campaign wishing we had done something different along the line...

2- Generally I am very good when it comes to stickability. Carp are not a mathematical equation so nothing is either certain or lost! I have enough experience to know what I am doing and I am honest about myself so it's just a case of keep on keeping on. If someone else was turning the water over and I wasn't then sure I'd look at what he was doing and what I wasn't doing

Is he on the fish or is it more than that? I doubt it will be my bait or rig but I have an open mind...The less experience you have the more likely it is that you will panic but after 30 years of carp fishing I should know better.... I have walked away from winters knowing I was on the wrong water or didn't fish enough but honestly I don't recall ever thinking it was down to bait, rigs or tactics Brian.

Q3) Spring is upon us, time to start piling the bait in? Will you continue to use the same bait you've used all winter or will there be a change?

3- This year I will be using Nashbait Key all year round albeit I may well use alternative hookbaits like my little white pop ups and the Cultured Hookbaits. I always use freezer baits and my chest freezer is packed full of 15mm and 10x15mm pellet sized ones. These have been trickled in already to give the carp a taste but the real baiting up will not start until my proper overnighters kick in late March.

Q4) You've made no secret of the fact that you roll your own pop ups for your season... why is that? Do you want enhanced attractor levels? Or maybe lessen the flavour levels? Maybe a perfect colour match as some shop bought pop ups can sometimes actually look nothing like the free-bies surrounding it?

4- I stopped making my free offerings in the early nineties but generally I have always made my own hookbaits with one or two exceptions. Using large hooks BUT preferring not to use large hookbaits has meant that I have had to

make my own corkball pop ups which is what I am doing with the Key I am using. My white pop ups are made for me and so are my Key 15mm Airball pop ups.

These are absolutely spot on providing I am not getting mullered by bream or tench which have the habit of trying to pull the hookbait off the threaded bait screw. On an overnighter where my hookbait may be out there twelve hours before it gets picked up the cork balls are a better option. So this year of the three pop ups I use I only make one. Bottom bait wise it's the Key Hard-Ons or Cultured Hookbaits which are both ready made for me...

Q5) If you have been baiting a spot regularly, and are fairly confident of a bite, would you sit it out on your limited session time? Or would you get up and go looking for a carp or two leaving your spots empty knowing you have to leave in an hour or two? It's one of the toughest decisions we have to make!! So many anglers will sit there thinking "Should I? Shouldn't I?" What would Julian do? (I'm so getting that on a T shirt!!)

5- On short sessions unless I see carp showing somewhere I don't cast out until I do see one. That may take me five minutes or five hours but being on them is vital. When I find them it's usually a stringer with potentially 20-50 x 15mm baits over the top maximum.

So if I'd seen carp and baited on them unless I saw the bottom clouded up I would not move. Seeing carp show is one thing, unless they are feeding why bother!!

Q6) Riggy time... it's well documented right now that your favourite rig is the multi rig, and it seems to be working well for you, although you have given it a personal tweak or two? What makes it such a devastating rig?

6- The Multi-Rig is my favourite rig Brian and with good reason. From 2007 onwards it has caught me literally thousands of carp in the versions I have put together. The tweaks have been using a Nash Twister 5 instead of a Fang X, adding shrink tube to really kick it over and using a threaded bait screw instead of tying them onto a 4mm

ring with bait floss. It presents a pop up perfectly, is always fishing effectively and carp seem to continue to fall victim to it. Why change a winning combination?? It never gets snarled up in weed, is not as obvious as a chod and most important I have the upmost faith in it.



Q7) Now, let's say you can see a group of carp feeding on a margin spot, and the majority are "grazing" on the freebies, feeding as they move slowly along, which means the multi rig would work an absolute treat, but you spot a much bigger fish feeding differently a few feet away, much more cautious, and feeding head down tail up, not moving at all whilst it sucks and blows, before moving a few inches, stopping and repeating the same procedure....

I've seen it. Now, surely a multi rig would not be the optimum rig for a fish feeding in this style? Surely a much much shorter hooklink, maybe a short stiff link would be better to nail this big girl?

Would you change at least one of your rods to try and target that one fish, or continue to fish for a bite, whichever fish it may be? 7-If I saw that I would definitely move a rod to it. Id shorten the hooklength the 4" from counterweight to loop and have confidence in it.

Did that at Nashys Church Lake and that really tripped them up. My starting point is 8" from counterweight to loop but fine tuning can be very helpful....

Q8) Now myself, personally, will only ever fish a slack line when I'm fishing the margins directly to my left or right, 90% of my fishing in open water will be a fairly tight line from tip to lead, believing that once a carp lifts my lead, it instantly pulls against the tip of the rod giving an extra "spring back" action and helping set the hook even quicker. Now there's no right or wrong, I believe so much is down to personal confidence... so what about you? Tight or slack lines? And why?

8- Rods are ALWAYS on single sticks pointing directly at the end tackle. Slack lines up to 30 yards using my Fox Trans Khaki Illusion Fluorocarbon mainline. Over 30 yards I tend to add a little tension to that. The only time I fish tight lines is 70 yards or more and I will have rod tips low. With my pin sharp hooks and a two and a half ounce lead it isn't coming off believe me.... Not something I worry about buddy.





Q9) Over the years we have seen some great rigs and set ups come along, but there's also been some horrendous rigs made. The worst I have probably seen, actually in action by one angler, was called "claw rig" and involved a standard hook knotless knotted, and a length of silicone tubing coming off the eye and down the hooklink about 10mm, then pushed into the bottom end of the silicone tubing was a size 18 match hook with the hookpoint facing the hookpoint of the larger hook, giving the claw effect... and worked on the premise that it actually gripped the lip, so the carp couldn't suck or blow it away, and resulted in a run every time, allegedly, needless to say that conversation ended quickly. Have you ever seen rigs that have you shaking your head in disbelief??

9-Many many particularly as I was growing up in the eighties. Swivels as back stops and pins in boilies to prick

and panic the carp...Most rigs are safe nowadays it's just some jackass anglers who can't get them right....

Q10) Finally, your views on hook sharpening? For years we all caught on hooks straight out of the packet, but these days it seems that hook sharpening is the way to increase your bite ratio? Do you sharpen your own or get them done for you? Do you feel it makes a real difference? Would you still be confident using a hook straight from the packet?

10- It definitely makes all hooks sharper especially 6 and bigger.... Smaller than that 7-12 I find they are pin sharp anyway be it my Nash Twisters, Korda Mixas etc....

A finer point will definitely prick more carp no argument. However, doing it properly is very very difficult. We can all polish a hook but sharpening and thinning the point is a different ball game. Even I have

mine done by Rig-It Tackle when I want my Fang and Twister 5 and 6's doing. The drawback is that fine point hooks are usually good for one bite only, pick up more nuisance fish and you will bump more carp off.

This is because you are pricking them on the fine points when you would probably not prick them on a standard hook. Well worth getting right but just a part of the big picture Brian......

Thank you so much for joining us and allowing us to gain an insight into your wealth of knowledge from the years. We look forward to chatting with you again soon, and eagerly await your new book!! Many Thanks. Brian.

Right I am off fishing...

Good luck all of you

Julian Cundiff

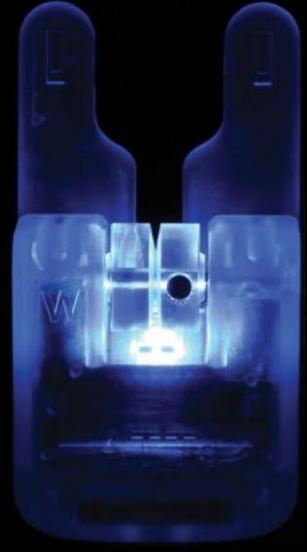


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As we are entering the spring like months and moving away from the dark dull albeit mild winter months and planning our assaults on a new venue, or target fish, it's a time filled with much anticipation.

Being a family man as most of us are, angling time needs to both fit in around family life and with one car that includes the school runs.

So my winter social day sessions are between 8:30am and 3pm, probably not so bad as that's the warmest time. The winter short day sessions are coming to a close as they are starting to stir on the syndicate, and chasing the inhabitants on there holds a special pull and

the pre- baiting starts this week so one last outing on a not so difficult venue was planned.

The usual haunt had been fishing very well in recent weeks which has drawn much attention and was a little busy and being only small

I didn't feel further pressure would help my chances but with gems like this then it's understandable why it's a choice, but I'll save that for another day, and I planned another venue within the route and distance for the school run hopefully to enable enough time to slip the net under a fish.

So I awoke on Monday morning early to battle the school run and prep madness some of you can relate too!

So pre kids up and dressed I've feed and watered myself, food prepared and car loaded pre 7am now to do battle with getting out the door on time for school, not quite with military precision but close enough so kids dropped at respective schools and I'm lake bound.

Given the White crunchy grass and change of venue I wasn't overly optimistic but effort = reward and on we go! So about 8:15am I arrived at the venue of choice, a rectangular lake of maybe 15 acres with no real features as such, having fished and caught from swim 8 previously I set off for it, no need to walk and find them as there are quite a few in there! So by 9am two rods are placed out into an area some 50/60 yards

out and in front lined up either side of a telegraph pole. I have a plan in my head as many of us do in winter and that's to keep to the baits moving around every hour to 75 minutes. And today an hour seemed to fit. At 11am still no sign of a fish or motionless bobbins required a change so I de-

cided to spread the rods left and right, the right one on a shorter line around 35/40 yards and I also changed the bait from a dark krill pop up to a bunch of fake maggots all goo'd up with a pineapple smoke, still on a stiff hinged rig topped off with an ever faithful avid CHD choddy size 6.



The left hand rod was changed to a pink krill pop up on the same set up, there is a little grass down on the deck but not a lot, I just have been successful with the presentation and effectiveness of the rig so no need to change it. This however was fished a

little longer around 70 yards so I sat back with a brew and waited,25 minutes was all it took as the left hand bobbin pulled up tight and held that's enough for me and I struck into something which I don't think knew it was hooked straight away as it just held

firm then swam in on a long arc round to my left, it then realised it was hooked and kicked off a spirited 10-minute scrap. The result was the lovely dark mirror at just over 15 lb, 15:03 to be exact, happy days and mission accomplished!

So I done all the usual weighing and poorly taken selfshots and after checking the fish over slipped her back to her watery home and with a fresh bait and check of the hook it was repositioned out in the same area in hope, well 10 minutes later the same rod roared off and this time a slightly smaller common nestled in the bottom of the net!

Get in! two low doubles in a little over 10 minutes' happy day's definitely. So before I recast this rod I reeled in the other rod to change both bait and location. Within 5 to 10 minutes both rods were sitting 70 yards out to the left

of the swim with a pink krill pop up as dinner, not too far apart from each other. I then decided to stick 20 to 30 baits out there but as so as the first twang of the catty was heard the flying rats were on me. Every bait that hit the water....

aaaarrrggghh!

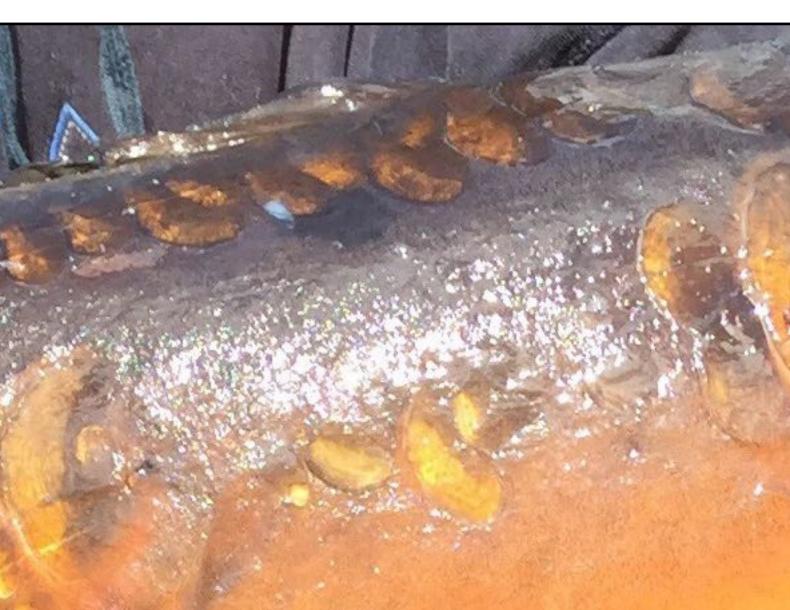
So it was one bait very left, one very right and 5 over the spot this worked for the amount I wanted to put out. Well I sat back and thought come on then I've found your hideout but no nothing for the next two hours. A re- chuck of both rods and another 20ish baits were sent out again

having to send dummies left and right to confuse the flying rats.

Ten past two and another take on the left hand rod resulted in another similar sized common.

While this fella was awaiting a trophy shot the other rod rattled off so carnage was to ensue another one landed, this time a mirror and the biggest so far at 17:05.

Unfortunately, with a little damage to its tail and sadly looks like Tarka the otter is using the lake as a take away!



So I'm now looking at the carnage left behind and I also clock the time. 2:30 so the final brew was made to enable the systematic pack away we all have and go through, or is that my OCD?? Anyway I have both rods back out for the last half hour as I eek every single minute out of my sessions and at 2:45 the left hand rod was away again.

And another spirited fight saw me net fish number 5! Another low double common, wow! What a day I was having, 5 fish none lost and still 10 minutes to go and one rod still out there! Now not to be late for the school run pick up the absolute latest to leave is five

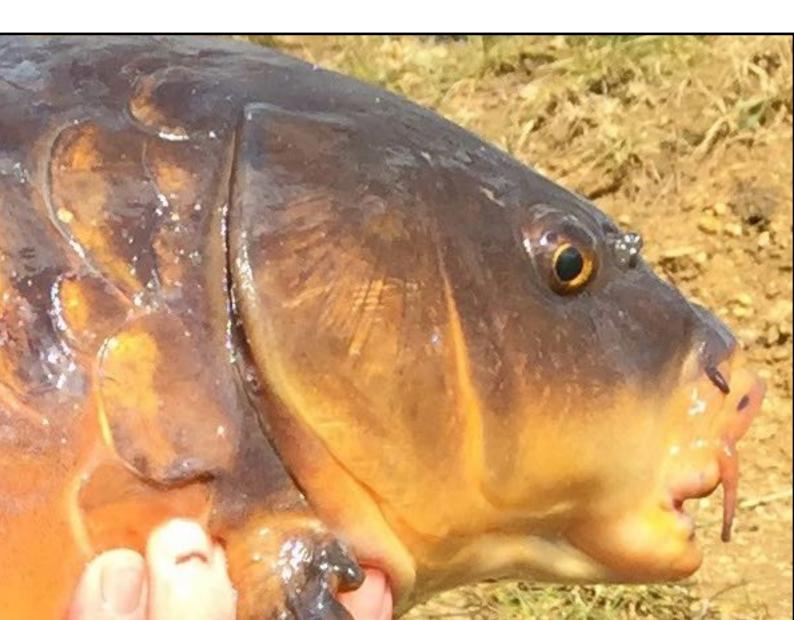
past 3 so I sorted, no threw, the gear into the rucksack to sort once home and hurriedly packed things away. At three an alarm on the phone went off and as I was turning that off I bent to get the last rod, the final bit which was lying on the ground buzzers already away and the spool went into meltdown OMG another fish was on, thankfully it wanted to be backside and didn't fight too hard with everything away a quick net shot was taken of number 6 of the day and the 4th in the last 50 minutes was netted.

I was goosed, proper knackered but buzzing as well a proper hectic summer type day in early spring. But it goes to show how tight they can all group up at this time of year and but for a little roving around I'd probably have blanked.

So guys it pays to move around and remain vigilant at all times as I had my eyes on the water all day but never saw a bean, however clearly they were in a feeding mood.

Hope you all have a day like this but trust me I was proper done in! still I made the school in time and the beer with dinner was a welcome reward.

Tight lines, Ian Masters.



#gamechanger

IT'S NEVER LOOKED SO GOOD!

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MAKE 2016 YOUR YEAR









A Summer Of Madness by Scott "Geezer" Grant

Still reeling from the awesome session I had a few weeks back, it was business as usual.

I planned to fish a 2-night session on my syndicate water, hoping I could snare the two residents I really want to catch, and that have eluded me for the last 4 years I finished work at midday and shot straight home to load the car, have a shower then straight to the lake. I arrived around 15:00 and was pleasantly surprised to see only a couple of cars in the car park.

Once parked up I grabbed a bucket and went for a stroll. I stood in the car park swim and immediately saw a fish crash over near the far willow. I dropped my bucket and kept watching hoping to see more activity.

Then another fish crashed just to the left of the willow. Every year around June time the fish seem to congregate in or around this area, so I needed no further convincing this is where I was going to start.

The good thing for me was that I didn't have to barrow my gear I just simply had to unload the car, which was sweet.

As I had plenty of daylight hours left I starting sorting the rods first. I have fished this swim on many occasions and have my areas marked down in my book, so it was a simple case of clipping the rods up at the desired wraps and casting them out.

I first cast the right hand rod over to the Willow with just a lead, so I could determine what the area was like which in turn would tell me what rig to use.

The area was still fairly weedy so a chod rig was the order of the day. White was still my favourite pop up colour and that's what went onto the rig then the rod was cast back out.

I baited the area with around a kilo of boilies via a throwing stick, this for me is my favourite way of baiting an area.

I applied the same tactic to my middle rod but found the area to be quite clean, so the rig I opted for was my trusted 360. Again the same colour pop up and I baited the rod in the same way.

My left hand rod was fished to the bottom of a gravel bar at about 60 yards. This again is an area I have had big hits from in the past, and I was hoping history would repeat itself.

With the rods sorted it was time to have a nice cup of coffee, then get the house up and the rest of the gear sorted. The daytime temperature was quite hot at 24 degrees, wind was a nice southerly pushing from my left to right and pressure was 1022.

Conditions couldn't be better for this time of year and the weather tomorrow is an expected thunder storm!! Which will mean cooler temperature, lower pressure and the chance of a bite!!





With everything sorted it was nice just laying on the bed looking out over the lake. Before I knew it the light started to fade and the night was drawing in.

My summer bivvy has a mozi panel right across the front so I could still hear the fish boshing, and the cool breeze was bliss, but most of all those damn mozzies can't get to me, bloody things suck the life out of me. After a very quiet night I woke in the morning to motionless bobbins.

One thing you can't beat is waking up to the mist lifting off the water, ducks quaking and the fish boshing; this for me is what's fishing is all about.

After a bit of breakfast, it was time to reel the rods in and have a wander, resting the swim is also beneficial. As I wandered round the lake I could see the odd fish but nothing to make me up sticks and move. There were a couple of anglers on but only a double figured carp had been out.

Once back to my swim I rebaited the rods and cast them back out to the same areas. I topped the bait up with a couple of kilos of 18 millers again despatching them with my trusted stick.

Just as the last boilies went out the air temperature changed and the sky came over all dark, within a few minutes the heavens opened up and unleashed rain like you wouldn't believe, there were even hail stones thrown in! After 5 minutes the rain passed and the lake went very quiet.

It was now early afternoon and another angler Craig came steaming through the gates all eager just as I was yesterday.

The kettle went on and we chatted over a cuppa as you do. Just as I finished my coffee the right hand rod went into melt down a one toner that shit the life out of me!

I lifted the rod and the fish wasn't happy at all, taking as much line as she could. After a few hairy moments Craig done the honours and a lovely common lay in the net. What a relief, I secured the net to let the fish have a breather and sort my camera etc.

The mat was given a good dousing of lake water as was my sling; with the scales zeroed and the camera all set it was time to see my prize. Craig took some great shots and a weight of 34lb 2oz was recorded, after a little bit of antiseptic and a good check over she was released back into her beautiful home.





With the weather front now completely different to when I got here yesterday and after having a clonking common I was sure there was more to come. Low and behold it was the only fish of the session and the next day it was off home and back to work.

It was now the middle of June and the fish at various lakes were starting to spawn. The fish on my syndicate were spawning as were the fish up at The Dell. It has been two weeks since my last session and after working 7 nights straight I had two days off.

With two days at my disposal I chose to fish 2 day sessions on my local club water, as they hadn't shown any signs of spawning yet so the lake was still open.

As my club water has a good stock of fish between 15lb-30lb and cats up to high 40s, I decided to mix a 10kilo bucket of method up along with 10kg particles and the rest would be with boilies. This may seem a lot for just a day session, but no one baits the lake heavily plus I planned to fish the same swim the next day.

I was up at 5 o'clock the next morning car was loaded and it was off to the lake which is only 10 minutes away, so I didn't have to drive like a lunatic.

As expected there was no one else fishing so I had a

walk round and settled on a swim they call the Double Sleepers.

Feature wise there is a big bush at about 60 yards and just to the right of that is 2 large sets of lily pads with a bar that connects them all.

I started making loads of ground bait balls ready to be despatched to the area. A few spods of particles plus a good helping of boilies and now the rods were ready to be cast.

I fished the right hand rod between the bush and the lilies on the bar and the other to the left of the bush in deeper water at the bottom of the bar. Rigs were my ever faithful 360 with a bright pop up. With everything sorted I sat watching the water drinking a well deserved cup of coffee. After a couple of hours, the whole baited area looked more like a Jacuzzi!!

I had a fierce take on my left hand rod at 08:30 which resulted in a double figured common. Throughout the day I caught eight carp up to 19lb all commons plus a lovely dark mirror. My partner came over the lake to see how I was getting on and brought my youngest daughter along as well.

Brooke loves a bit of fishing but only in the summer months when its lovely and warm, the down side for her was that there was no Wi-Fi!

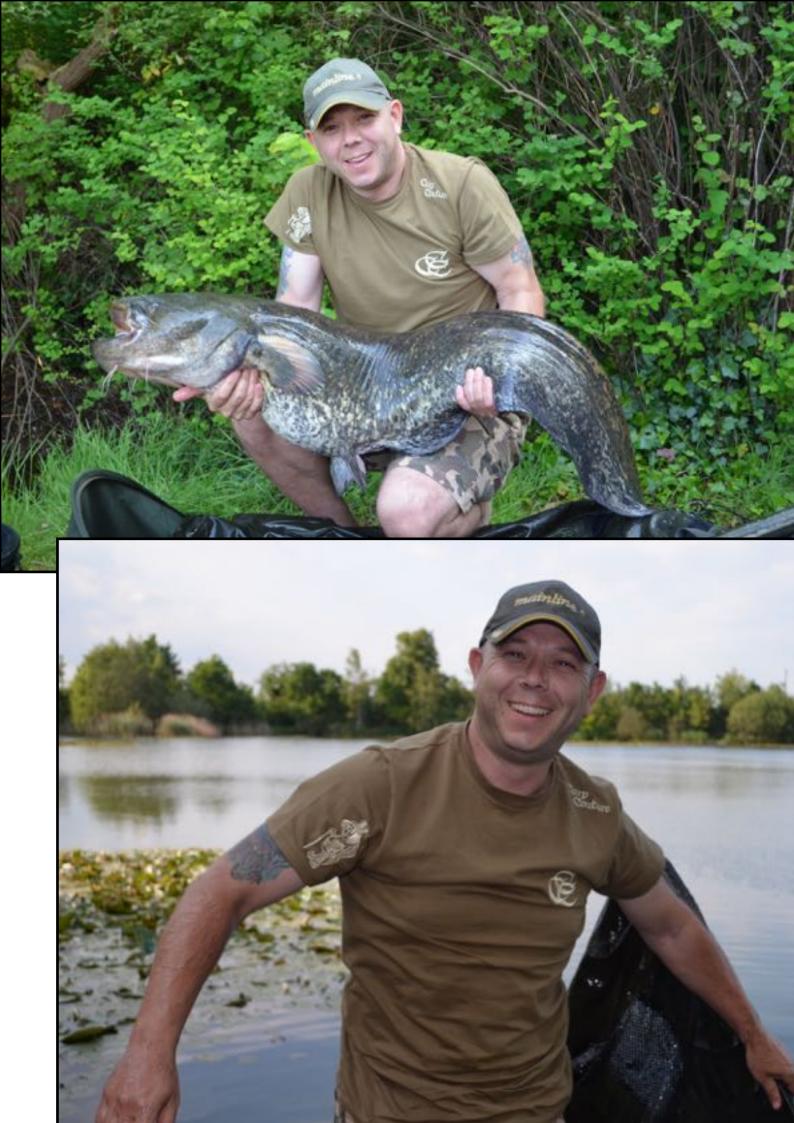
Kids of today eh!!

My partner Kim stayed for about an hour then left, but Brooke wanted to stay and catch some fish.

Kim could have only been up at the road when my right hand rod was nearly pulled into the lake, I quickly grabbed it and said to Brooke "here babe now's your chance to catch a biggun" She declined and said "No Dad you reel it in I don't want to get all hot and sweaty" Kids eh they can be funny buggers at times.

I started to do battle with something that was pretty big, after a few minutes I said to Brooke "this aint no carp this is definitely a big cat". After a 10-minute battle and I mean battle the big cat surfaced and smashed its tail then descended back down to the bottom.

It took me another 20 minutes before the cat started to get tired. When the cat was finally subdued the fun then began as Brooke couldn't believe how big it was and couldn't get the cat in the net. I gave Brooke the rod and then managed to lift the cat into the net. I somehow managed to get it on the bank and into the unhooking mat. Another member turned up thank god and gave me a hand weighing the beast which pulled the scales round to 49lb 4oz, which was a new lake record to boot.



With the big cat treated and returned I packed up and went home. I had a great days fishing and was looking forward to coming back in the morning to see if I could have another great day. Just before I left I topped the area up with more bait and in total used 25 kilos which sounds a lot but when you break it down, ground bait, particles, boilies it's not a lot for the amount of fish in the lake.

The next day I was back over the lake very early as I wanted to make sure I could get into the same swim, and luckily enough I did.

The rods were cast straight out to the area, rigs and hook bait were the same as yesterday. I topped the area up with a dozen balls of ground bait a few kilos of boilies and a dozen spods of particles. After only 30 minutes I had a fierce take on the right hand rod.

I knew straight away it wasn't a carp it was another of the big cats, after a few minutes It was in open water, the fish came to the surface gave an almighty tail smash then bang!! The hook pulled! I was gutted. But not to be disheartened I rebaited the rod and cast it straight back out to the area.

Later around 13:00 my other half tuned up to see how the fishing was going. It's nice to have a partner who's interested in fishing and more so wants to start fishing or at

least have a go. We sat chatting when the left hand alarm signalled, I said to Kim if that goes lift the rod and I will tell you how to play the fish, well just as the words left my mouth the rod was away. It was quite comical with her playing the fish and me trying to coach her, but we got there in the end and all credit to her. I done the honours with the net and her prize was a plump common of 17lb and the first fish she has ever caught.

At the end of another great day session I ended up with eight carp to 19lb 4oz, Kim caught her PB and first ever carp and a big cat got away. Fishing for me is always fun, enjoy yourself whilst out on the bank and remember its only fishing.

Until next time take care. Geezer







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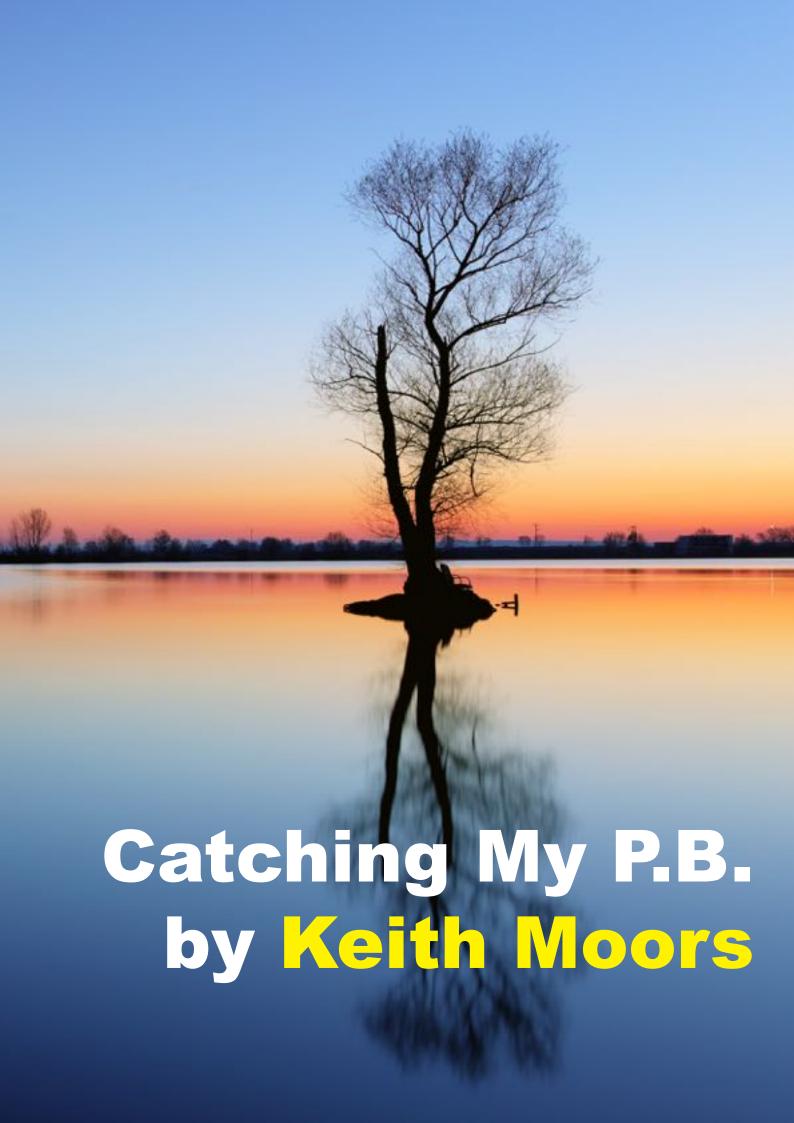


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Right, this is the full story of the capture of my PB and then lake record.

In August 2014 I had a call from my good friend, and organiser of one of the regular trips to our lake, Steve Cowell. He phoned to tell me that Nick Clayton couldn't make the late September trip so there would be a space if I would like to join their party.

As I hadn't fished since 1st
July and wouldn't get another
chance until November, I accepted with glee but then found
that another lad wanted to
come so I stepped down.
Let me just add here that I love
fishing our lake as it is not a
technically challenging lake
but is far from easy at times.
In order to get the best from it
you need to do the basics to the
best of your ability.

Accurate casting, accurate baiting and constantly watching the water for feeding signs are imperative. However, I only ever fit my own fishing around invitations such as this or when there are smaller numbers of anglers around the lake and I then try to fill a gap to help push the fish around. I now get almost as much enjoyment from seeing other anglers with personal bests and if I could just bottle that moment I would be very rich indeed.

Anyway, back to the plot. The lads wanted to take Jan, Sharon and I out for dinner so would be arriving on the Thursday and wanted to sample

French cuisine in Burgundy. We booked Jan's favourite restaurant and to say that we had a fantastic night out would be an understatement. Good food, good wine, great company and another surprise that the lad who should have been replacing Nick, couldn't get the time off so I would be fishing after all.

Friday was spent putting reels on rods and tying rigs. Then the draw, which I had insisted that I wouldn't take part in. (I can imagine the uproar if I happened to draw number 1 out of the hat). I fancied "Dogleg" because I didn't want to be in Pampas or 1st Pontoon as there seemed to be a lot of fish present. I have done the "numbers game" in the past and prefer to let my customers have the going swims while I content myself with trying to tempt a couple of the bigger fish.

I have long considered that the big carp might move away from the "shoal" and the feeding frenzy that might ensue, and pick off items of food in the quieter areas of the lake. Dogleg seemed to be offering one of those quieter areas.

Anyway, as the draw took place the swims were chosen, 1st Pontoon, Pampas, Mistletoe, Boneyard, Oaks. This left just two anglers to choose. Stu chose Leaning Tree and Andy chose Royal Box. I had ended with my first choice without getting involved in the draw.





Saturday lunch time I baited up for everyone from the boat and also tipped 25kg of pellet and 5kg of Eclipse, Moorland Mix boilies on my RH spot. My intention was to fish this right through the week but to use my other two rods over a scattering of boilies from the throwing stick. I spent most of the afternoon watching for clues before deciding where to cast. Both rods then had about half a kilo scattered over them.

Sunday morning I topped up the patches with another hand full of bait and the afternoon produced my first take in the shape of a 37lb 5oz common.

Monday passed without any signs in front of me but the late afternoon was spent setting up the amps, guitars etc for a small gig for the lads. My very good friend Pierre Signol, agreed to come over and (he truly is a fantastic guitarist) we played until about 1.30am when everyone staggered back to their bivvies and slept. I didn't get to bed until gone 3 am and planned to cast out at first light. That didn't happen and with mist on the water I decided that breakfast would be soon enough. Tuesday morning was fairly quiet but around lunch time I started to see slight signs of bubbles and mud patches.

Within a couple of hours my middle rod ripped off and a common of 41lb 10oz was the culprit. Now, at this point I was beginning to wonder why there was no action over my RH baited spot.

With the baits back in place I was stood in Boneyard with Andy when I noticed a fish bubbling along a line just short of my initial heavy baiting patch. In fact, it could have been feeding along the edge of the bait as it got spread about by the effect of feeding fish. Was my choice of using pellet working against me?

Could the pellet have broken down so quickly that the fine crumb was being washed around with the undertow?

I spent the afternoon checking the area with binoculars and it appeared

that the fish (if indeed it was the same fish) was returning to the spot again and again. I didn't want to disturb it but when we returned from dinner there were no bubbles so I decided to place my RH rod on the spot for the night.

I was so shattered that I hit the sack early and must have immediately fallen asleep. I was in a very deep sleep when the alarm let out a few bleeps and the bobbin hit the rod.

I shot (well crawled at my age) out of bed to find the line tight and the bobbin held against the rod. As I bent to check it I heard the ping as the line came out of the rod clip and then a few clicks of the spool.

"That's hooked" I thought as I lifted the rod and sure enough the response was a steady plod from a good fish. Unfortunately, there also came that horrible grating feeling that suggests that your line is being pulled around some kind of snag, but after several minutes of gently playing the fish while also watching my other rods, the grating stopped. "Must have just been weed" I thought but we found out the following day that it was actually a long length of broken mono so I count myself lucky that it came free.

Anyway, standing out in the lake, without a clue what time it was, and believe me, it was pitch black darkness, I was enjoying the solitude of feeling that I was the only person aware of this battle. Eventually the fish did a "fly past" and I could see it was a proper lump in the dim filtered light of my headtorch.

I began to shake as she powered off back to the middle of the lake. Always the worse time after you have seen the size of the fish. She gradually came closer again before giving me another tantalising glimpse of what might lay ahead, assuming, of course, that I was going to be lucky enough to get her in the net.

This time I tried to convince myself that it wasn't as big as I had originally thought and that it was middle of the night hallucinations playing tricks on me.

Off she went again before coming back past, but this time from right to left so that I could see the unmistakable left flank and the short row of scales that told me all I needed to know. "Jesus, that looks like The Half Lin" left my lips in a whisper and it finally sank in, this was followed by several "please don't come offs" plus a slight slackening of the clutch. On the fourth visit she went in the net and I peered in on my prize. Sure enough it was Half Lin, a fish that I first caught at 12lb in 2002/3 but now just a tad bigger.

I let out a "Jesus, look at the size of that" which was greeted, from the opposite bank by "It's a goodun then?" In my daze I shouted back to Andy, "what on earth are you doing awake in the middle of the night?" and got the repost, "It's only nine o'clock you doughnut." Amazing, I was totally unaware of time. I jammed the net handle in the reeds, climbed out and got one of my slings.

I jumped back into the water, unhooked her, broke down the net and zipped her up in the sling. With that pegged in place I removed my rod, got out the scales and tripod and zeroed the other sling. With the "weigh sling" hanging from the scales to keep them switched on, I got back in and began to lift her out.

I didn't want to excite anyone yet including myself. I was confident she would be a sixty but I would have looked a bit of a mug if she had been 59.12 or something short of my expectations, not that that would have been overly important because my PB already stood at 59lb.

Just lifting her out was a challenge and the trembling began to increase.

I slid her onto the cradle and then out of the net. I then placed the zeroed sling behind her and gently eased her up and into it. I moved the tripod over the cradle and lifted the sling and its contents onto the hook of the scales.



For a moment the scales continued to read minus 3lb 2oz and during that short time I was thinking 62 or 63 would be likely. When the scales changed and the reading was 66lb 8oz I couldn't believe my eyes and I was convinced that I had forgotten to zero the scales.

She couldn't be that heavy could she? So I lifted her off, the scales went back to minus 3.02, I lifted her back on and again it read 66.08.

That was it then, a new PB by 7lb 8oz. I placed her back in the water, tried, unsuccessfully, to recover my composure and called Andy from Boneyard and Steve Cowell from Pampas. Everyone was genuinely excited and with the photos done, fish released, a couple of "yes! and "oii oii's!!!!". Then came the realisation and reality began to set in.

When everyone else had gone back to their bivvies I sat and stared into the darkness. It took all night to even begin to soak in. I had banked my first sixty from my own lake and it was certainly not a scraper.

Unbelievable!! On top of all that, without the invitation from these lads I wouldn't even have been fishing. Also with the blessing from my gorgeous wife and daughter, it meant I was relieved of cooking duties and other chores for the week, this meant I would be able to concentrate on my fishing in the way I have. So a massive thank you to all of them plus a massive thanks for all the kind wishes from everyone.

Right, for those of you interested in the technical side of things, here are my bait and rig details. Bait was Eclipse Moorland Mix, single 15mm bottom bait.

Hook was size 2 Solar 101 tied to a "D" with the shank whipped. The hook was attached to Rig Marole Camo H2O fluoro in 15lb BS and the method was a 1.5-ounce lead on an Enterprise Snag Safe Run ring on Gardner Mirage main line fished very slack. Having now banked an enormous (enormous for me) number of carp over forty pounds on this set up I plan to do another article to try to explain how and why it works. Hopefully it might get people thinking outside the box.

Thank you again for all the backing and thank you to everyone who has taken the time to read all of this. This moment in my angling life will live with me forever.

Keith.



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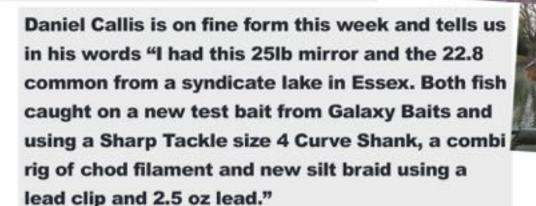




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CATCH REPORTS >>>

A 36 hr. session at Fisherwick lakes.3 carp caught. 2 carp caught on Natures Baits Berry Bite pop up over a bed of Natures Baits Scud boilies on a stiff hinged rig, and 1 carp caught on Natures Baits Alpha boilies on a blow back rig. Cheers - Andy Hyden.

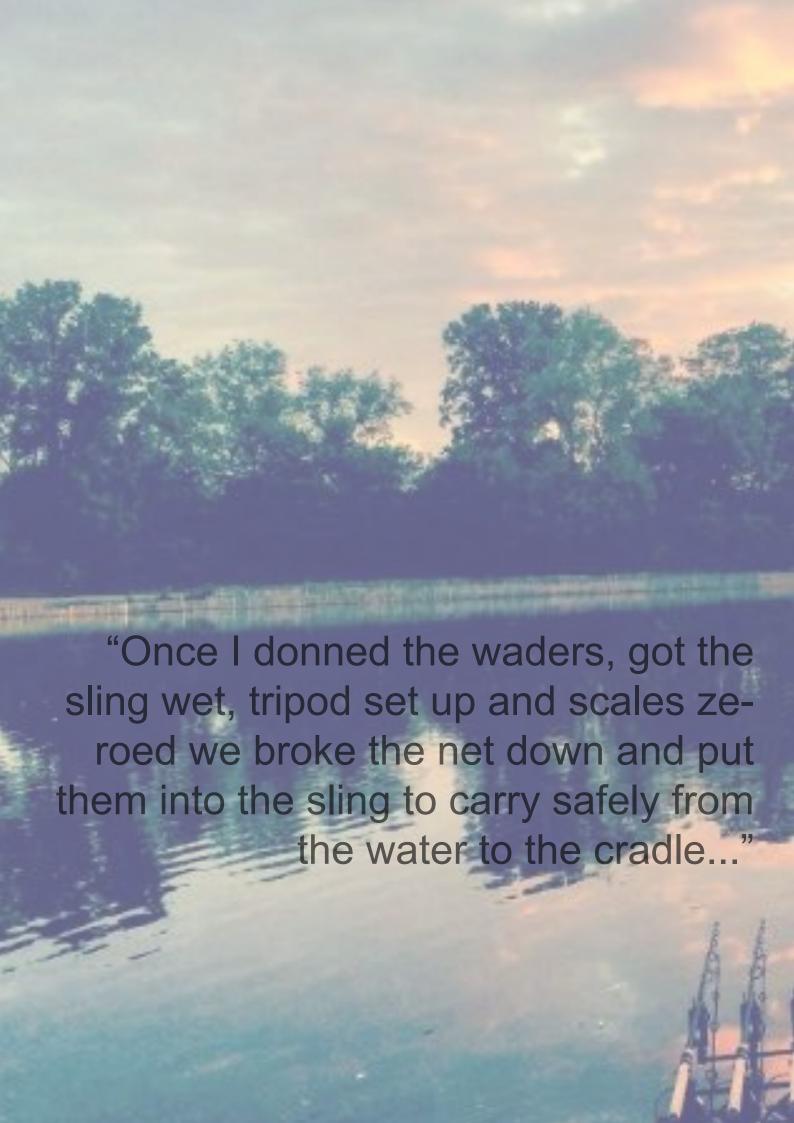


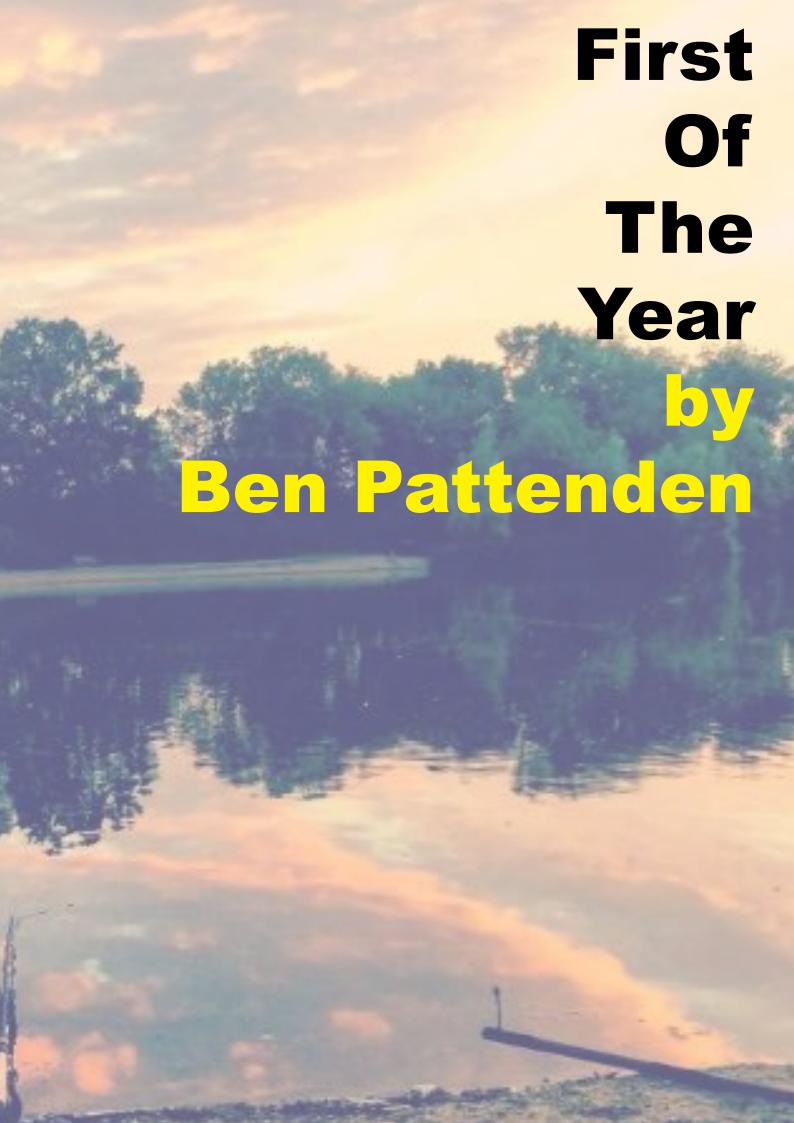


It was a cold night down on the reservoir Joes right hand rod tore off and produced this 27.10 lb from 3 foot of water just where the inlet joins the lake.

Both fish were caught on a snow man rig using simply baits blackcurrant and scopex topped with a 10mm sticky krill pink pop up –

This beautiful common weighed in at 17lb 9oz- Tripped up on a silt colour pop up Boa Rig size 6, fished with washed out pink CBS pop up. At 4:50am I woke to a 'one toner' Cracking fight and fish. Venue: Beech Pool,





I turned up Thursday afternoon about 1.30 after finishing work. I took a bucket my hat and my polarized glasses. After a walk around the lake the swim I had in mind of going in was empty so after 20 min standing in the swim I see a few fish fizzing so I was straight back to the van to get my gear. I quickly got changed out of my work clothes and into my nice new clothing from Mooch Carp Clothing. I was back within minutes as the barrow was already loaded up in the van. I quickly set up my rock solid buzz bars from Star-Flite stainless and got the rods out on the spot about 50 yards out where I saw the fizzing whilst I got set up.

After getting everything set up and no bite from the spot I decided to get them out on the spots I know that produced fish. Once I found the spots and clipped up I fished 3 rods at different ranges down the side of the island. The right hand rod was at 108 yards, the middle was at 95 yards and the left was at 43 yards.

On the right hand rod, I used a multi rig using size 6 curve shank hook from JPrecision hooks and hydro link from rigmarole with a white 16mm creamy toffee pop up from A2 baits and on the other two I used a simple blow back rig with a size 6 wide

gape with a small piece of shrink tube from JPrecision hooks and hydro link with tutti fruity dumbbell wafters and mums special 70/30 wafters from A2 baits. The length for the 3 rigs where about 8 inches long. I attached these to a hybrid lead clip with dark matter tubing and a 3.5 oz. lead. I was putting 10 spombs over each rod, in my spod mix I was using chilli hemp and snails from Deep Blue particles, I added sweetcorn and 14mm tutti fruity and 18mm creamy toffee boilies. Once I got my rods out and baited up I could finally get the kettle on and have a cuppa and get my dinner on.

After sitting on the bench and getting the low down from the angler next to me for an hour I decided to call it a night about 8.30 as I was tired from a busy morning at work. I was just nodding of when I got a few beeps from my Delkim and my stow bobbin was dropping back my so I thought it was a bream as I was putting my shoes on the bobbin hit the top and the clutch started clicking I knew it was a carp as I had the clutches set reasonably tight to get them to kite away from the island when hooked.

I picked up my new custom built century ADV1 13ft 3.5 tc rod and bent into the fish. I gave the lad a shout

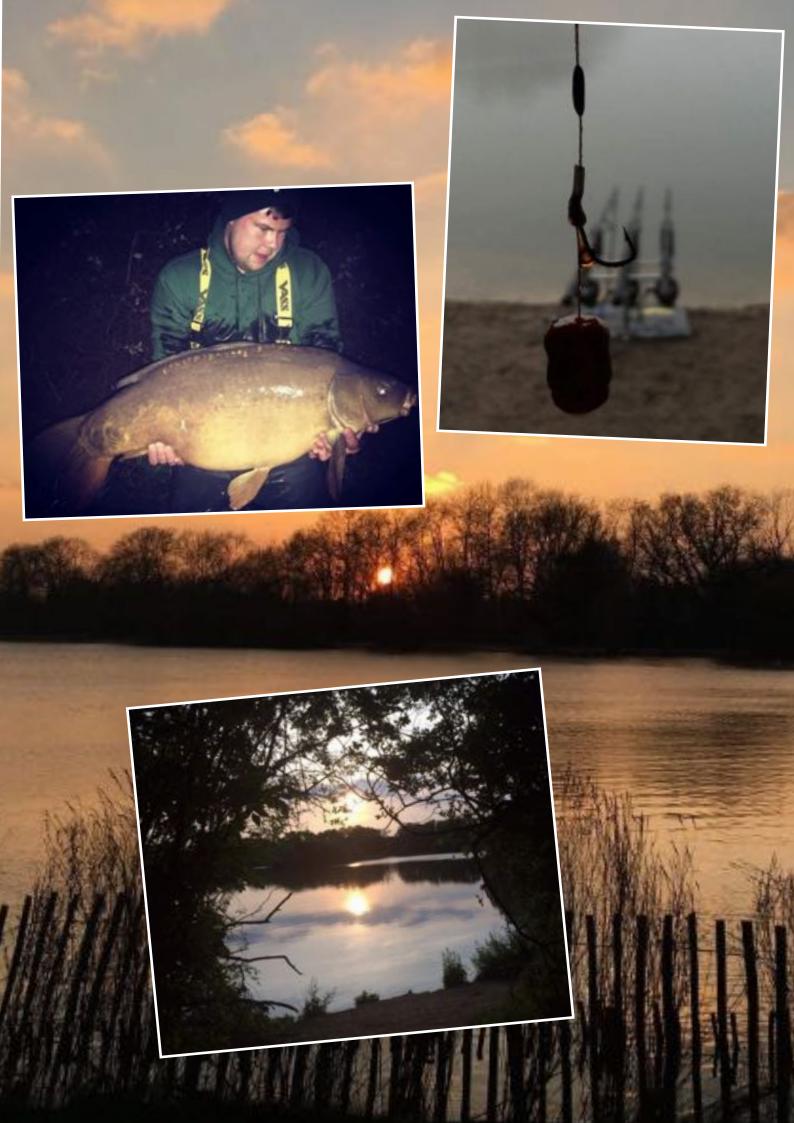
next to me. After a 20-minute battle and it hugging the bottom of the deep margins I popped it into the net. I put it in the net station to keep it secure whilst I got my head torch and scales. I can remember Warren looking into the net and said it was a chunk.

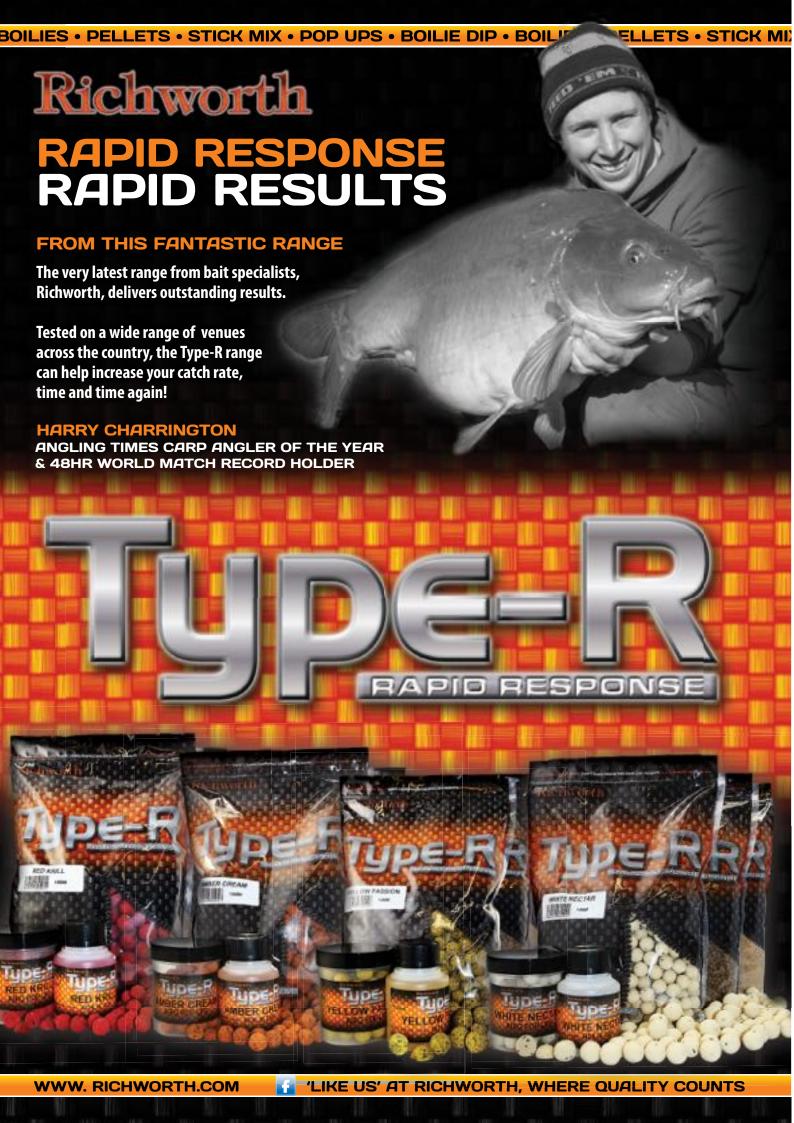
Once I donned the waders on, got the sling wet, tripod set up and scales zeroed we broke the net down and put them into the sling to carry safely from the water to the cradle, we got it unhooked, net out of the way and we hoisted it up onto the scales and the Rubén Heaton's settles on 39.5.

I was absolutely buzzing as it was my first fish of the year and to christen my new rods with a 39.5 I was over the moon. We got a few snaps before releasing the chunk back to get bigger. After talking to the head bailiff I found out the fish was called Baby Brown. It was at its biggest weight; it has put on 6 lb. in 2 years. So it's got potential to grow to a 40lb + fish. After this fish the weather changed from different pressures and wind etc and the fish stopped feeding. I didn't get another bite, But I'll be back soon to get the rods back out. tight lines

Ben













Throughout the colder months a high percentage of carp anglers store away their gear for the winter and wait until the spring before the rods see the light of day again, which is a big shame really because there is still fish to catch and good times to be had. I still fish my harder syndicate waters in the winter but also spend my time on day ticket waters where the stocking levels maybe higher than my syndicate waters.

Ok the fish are not as big, but in the winter a bite is a bite and I've had some great days fishing this winter with some good friends. On the "day ticket" waters I tend to scale down my set up, using mostly anything from bread, boilie crumb, maggots, small pellets to just liquid, and I usually go for very small bright pop ups as a hook bait, normally white, yellow and pink used on a KD rig is a good starting point and I would chop and change with colours until I find what is working on the day, what colour works in the morning may not work in the afternoon.

When I fish these sort of waters I try to recast every 45 minutes looking for the fish, sometimes you will find them while your casting and your rig will hit them on the way down to the bottom. The pop ups I use are from the Hi-Viz high leakage range from the Mainline stable, usually a 10mm bait cut down.

The Kd rig must be the easiest pop up rig to tie and use with a small shot on the hair just to counter act the buoyancy of the hook bait.

Another bait that works very well in the winter is good old fashion blended bread in a pva mesh bag used on its own or with a small amount of pellet or boilie crumb fished with a small white pop up.

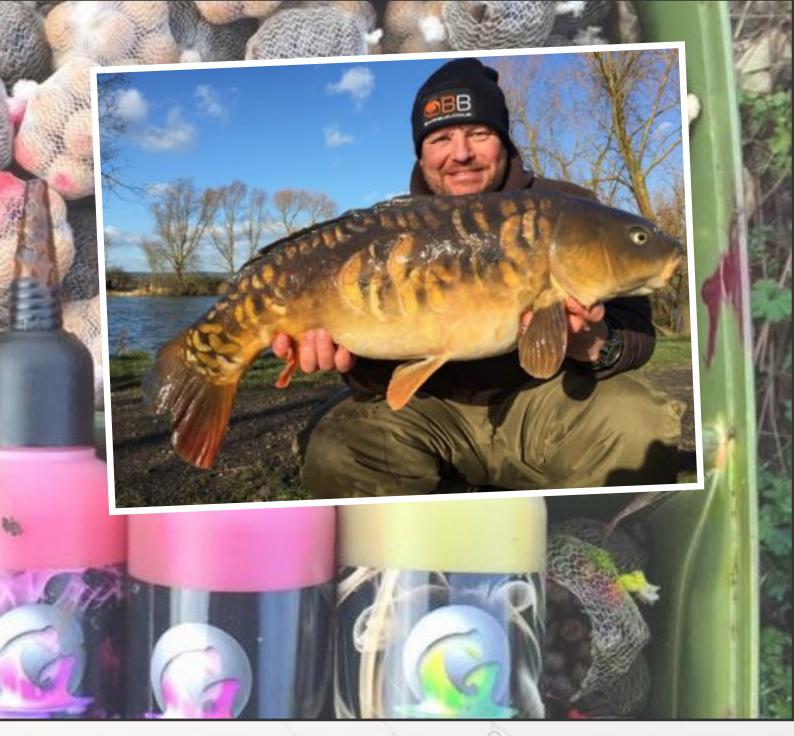
When using the pva mesh bags I will tie them up the night before I go containing low oil pellet which I get from Hooked on baits, if the pellet is too oily the mesh bag will take longer to dissolve especially in the cold water and also tying bag up on the bank when the weather is damp and wet can be a nightmare.











I fished Bush Farm in Essex over the last few months and we found by coating the bags in "Goo" we got more bites, and sometimes before we had even put the rod on the rest, the fish was taking our bait on the drop.

Although I've caught many fish on bright pop ups, in my opinion good old fashion maggots are one of the best winter baits out there if not the best, the only problem is when the water your fishing has a lot of active silver fish, but on the right water maggots are deadliest bait for carp, I use them on a Mag-a-liner set up with a plastic maggot on the hook with 1 or 2 real ones, Atomic do an actual kit with all the rig components you need

for this setup. once again when using maggots, I cast often this way slowly topping up the swim with parcels of maggots

and the carp can just not resist them once they start on them.

A lot of anglers think zigs are only for the summers months but in the winter the fish can sit in the middle layers of the water, therefore zigs are really worth a go in the depths of winter, I remember fishing a lake in freezing temperatures, it was so cold I was moving swims every morning because the lake in front of me was freezing, but I caught a few good carp and the fish I did catch fell to foam

zigs soaked in Almond flavoured Goo. What we have to remember carp in the summer properly eat up to 400 boilies a day but in the winter they might just only eat 1 or 2 baits a day, and that 1 bait they eat, you want it to be your bait. So keep your freebies to a minimum.

I know we are coming to the end of the winter now and spring will so be upon us, but it's well worth getting on the bank in the colder months on the right fishery, cause the fish are there to be caught.

All the best Lee Merritt

Wyreside Lakes Fishery

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Wyreside Lakes is a family run business, situated in over 120 acres of farmland at the foot of the Bowland Fells in Dolphinholme -Lancashire. On the estate there are 7 fishing lakes - with a superb stocking of carp, mixed coarse and

lakes - with a superb stocking of carp, mixed coarse and pike. The Birkin family have continually used the same British stockists over the last 23yrs and the experienced to novice angler alike has an opportunity to catch a wide selection of beautiful two tone mirrors, immaculate scaly commons and the occasional leather carp.



The 7 lakes consist of 3 day / night waters, Sunnyside 1, Sunnyside 2 and River lakes. These lakes have carp up to 33lbs with an overall average of around 19lbs – there are also mixed coarse prevalent in these waters. There are also two membership waters Wyre and Bantons which boast carp currently up to 39lbs however the largest recorded weight was the mighty Paw Print at 42lbs 1oz. Non-members can fish these waters but there are strict times and rules that apply. There is also a mixed coarse water Fox's lake – this is an excellent runs water that produces carp up to 18lbs, Roach to 3lbs, Bream up to 10lbs & Perch up to 8lbs.





The Lakes were created from former poor agricultural land after extraction of sand and gravel by Tarmac Road stone Ltd. The first fish were introduced in 1984 (Mirror carp weighing up to 1.5 lbs) and they have thrived in the lakes, growing and breeding in a spectacular manner. The lakes are stocked annually in October/November with 3-5lbs mirrors and commons – then they are grown throughout the different lakes until they reach maturity. However, this November we introduced 70 new mirrors and commons into S2 between 12lbs &15lbs so we are hoping for great results



The estate also boasts a 4 star Campsite as well as a recreational centre with bar, restaurant and function room. This year a large on site tackle shop was completed offering bait and terminal tackle. On site there is also a laundry room and a modern toilet & shower block. The Fisherman's Restaurant serves food and there is also a takeaway service with food delivered to your swim! The bar & function room is the perfect for match meets and presentations and an excellent location for any type of event from weddings to birthday celebrations. All throughout the year there are various events held each week, from Karaoke /discos to themed nights and live entertainment. The estate is open 7 days a week and is closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day annually. Restaurant / café opening times may vary.

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This article is a little insight into how I juggle a busy family life, full time work and still manage to get some fishing done.

I think most people will be able to relate to this as most anglers I speak to are in the same position as me. I'm not a consultant or anything special in the carp world I am just your typical angler and I fish the usual waters i.e. day tickets, syndicates and runs waters.

I have a full time job as an engineering supervisor on the railway which involves a lot nights and weekends. My partner works full time, we also have a four-year-old son together and plenty of bills to pay.

My angling over the last four years has been limited to say the least, with this in mind it's important to pick the correct water to fish, I try to join lakes that are not too busy or rock-hard and are close to my house as I don't want to be travelling miles to get to the lake, as it is cutting into fishing time.

My angling consists of overnighters between shift changeover or day sessions between nights, which can be really draining, as I work all over East Anglia so sometimes it can involve a lot of driving.

The past few years I have fished a variety of waters, but the syndicate lakes I have chosen have always contained some old stunning fish that don't visit the bank easily.

After working a night shift and getting to bed at 7am I have to pick my son up from nursery at 12.00, I always ask him what he fancies doing? To which he replies "let's go and look for the fish Dad", this is music to my ears, so we drive to the lake and begin our walk round. I find this invaluable walking the lake during the day as it gives me the best opportunity to see how many anglers are on, where the fish are and introduce some bait if necessary, if I'm able to get out the same night I already think most of the hard work is done as most of the time I'm setting up in the dark. Some days

we might walk two, three or even four lakes, if I don't see anything that is worth fishing for I won't go at all and save the night for another time.

The mission this year is to take my son with me, which I'm hoping will result in a bit more time fishing, although I think stalking will be out the question as he hasn't mastered the art of being quiet yet!

My partner is very understanding of my angling and does let me fish one night in the week as long as my chores are done at home, I try and avoid weekends as they are normally the busiest times. I also get the chance to go to France once a year which is always a bonus, with this in mind I like to pick a lake that is full of massive French lumps, 2016 will see me heading to Teillets to fish for some truly massive carp and the chance of an 80lber.





There are a few tricks to making the most of your limited time on the bank, pre-baiting being one of them, when it comes to introducing bait into a lake, I like to put it into a few different spots, that can be fished when the weather conditions are spot on for the certain area i.e. a nice corner that sits in the teeth of a south westerly wind. Keep an eye on the weather and let that tell you when the fish might turn up there to feed, this is something I've spoken about to many anglers and something I've noticed is they all say the same "pre-baiting is expensive" now this is true if your pilling kilos of boilies every night, how I like to do it is check the area with a bare lead first, it maybe a little weedy or have soft silt, this is perfect as chances are it hasn't been fished for a while, clear the area with a weed rake first and introduce some small food items, pellets and pigeon conditioner are perfect, this will insure the smaller fish clear the spot and that some food will remain for Mr. carp, I do this every 2 days for around a 2 weeks, calling in to the lake on the way to work, under the cover of darkness so no one knows I'm there, keep checking the spot with a lead and you will notice how clear it is becoming, after a few weeks introduce some bigger items, corn, maples and a few chopped boilies are something I like to use.

Carry this on for another week or longer if you desire, this spot should now be primed and ready for you start fishing it. I like to fish it on the nights that I would not be baiting up and just put single hookbaits on the chosen area, sometimes this can produce some quick results and bring some serious action on normally tricky waters, when it comes to rig choice over the this method I don't think it personally matters as the fish are already actively hunting out food, this little bit of effort means that you're making the most of your fishing as your bait is constantly working for you even when you're not at the lake.

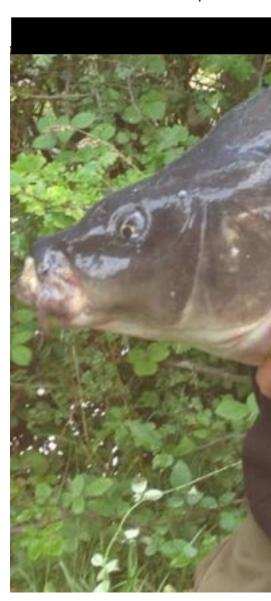
Proof that pre-baiting works was confirmed a few seasons ago on a local syndicate that gets a fair amount of pressure at weekends but is very quiet during the week, the previous season I had a few fish but couldn't work out a pattern, there was one fish I

wanted to catch that was a mid-thirty. There was a quiet corner of the lake that when there was a big south westerly wind this particular part of the lake got the brunt of it. With a session coming up on a Thursday night I decided to give them some bait the week before leading up to this overnighter, with it being early October the mix consisted of maggots, corn and boilie crumb, I introduced the bait every day for for 6 days, on checking the weather on the Thursday morning it looked perfect, the wind was due to swing Friday morning to a 40mph south westerly! Arrived at the lake Thursday afternoon to find the swim I had been prepping was empty, as I skipped back to the car to load the barrow I was buzzing at the thought of what the next 24 hours had in store.

With the spot I had chosen to prebait being very close in I set up as quiet as possible, all three rods where going to be fished with hinge stiff rigs and fished no more than a couple feet apart, the lake in question is notoriously silty so these seemed the obvious rigs, these would be set up on lead clips with no tail rubber, I would use pva string to secure the leads this means when a fish is hooked the lead is gone at the earliest possibility in the fight. With night fast approaching it was kettle on and time to watch water for any signs of fish and before I knew it I was woken by liner on the middle rod, as I looked at my phone it was 5.30am, I started to get that sinking feeling we all get when we wake up and look at the bobbins in the same position they were the night before. On the plus side the weather man was correct for a change and the wind had done exactly what I wanted it to do.

As the kettle was flicked on for the first time that day the right hand rod beeped a few times and over the next hour I had numerous line bites on all three rods the fish must have been ripping the bottom up to get to the bait that had sunk into the silt, I was sat on the edge of my bedchair thinking the rigs must be sitting funny surely one of them has to rattle off, another half hour passed and without warning the right hand rod wrapped round and a fish boiled on the sur-

face, I picked the rod up straight away and steered it away from the snags to the right hand side of the swim, the fish was immediately on the surface, after a few lunges it rolled in the margin and I saw part of its tail was missing, this confirmed it was the fish I was after, the knees stared trembling like only anglers will know, The fight then turned out to be pretty straight forward and it soon rolled over the net. A quick phone call to a friend that lives a few miles away saw us both looking at the scales settle on 34lb 8oz and mission accomplished.







Photos sorted and fish returned I was sat on the bedchair with a tea in hand and soaked to the skin thinking all the effort of getting down the lake and introducing bait had paid off in

spectacular fashion. I was told an old saying by my father that always gives me drive to do what it takes..... fail to prepare then be prepared to fail!!!

I really hope this little write up gives a few of you a little look at how limited time doesn't mean you can't have a good catch rate. Matt Laney

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Talking Carp Product Review | With more and more anglers now lishing much longer sessions, and the need to stay in contact with our families, or with work, hours spent on the social media sites or even watching movies in our bivites during the hours of darkness, one frem has in particular become increasingly popular amongst the session anglers to keep our gadgets charped up... the power pack. And this month we have been lucky enough to lay our hands on one sent to us from Chris Nicholfs at www.powapacs.co.uk | Now what we have here is a really neat package of a unit, and a few extras to go along with it. Firstly, the personal carry hag, double zipped for easy opening and litted with a Velicro release separating sheft, two very strong Velcro straps to hold your powapac in place during transit. In the lid of the hag are 3 sectioned sleeves with Velcro closing flap to house the led lighting. The carry hag has an adjustable shoulder carry strap, All in all, a very well thought out and dedicated piece of luggage that holds and carries your equipment neatly and safely. There's also enough room in there to pop in your mobile phone, tablet and other expensive, delicate hits and keep them all safelf Onto the unit itself. This particular unit is what Chris himself calls a "weekend unit", and will supply enough power to keep you topped up whilst you're doing your overnight or weekend sessions easily, lasked Chris to add one or two extras to this unit too, namely the lighting pack, and he didn't disappoint. Of course I left the need to take up this power challenge, and as most people know my phone is rarely out of my hand and constantly in use lask Mrs. D. she will confirm this D how did I do? Well, I am ext-b emely pleased with the results, as this little beauty charged my phone up 6 times from dead, and my tablet wice!! also had a really good play with the lighting systems, showing off the red./white led strips and their dimining functions to all that were passing!

We have the charging port so you can have it fully charge for your next outing. The double ush port, the voltme-ter/battery percentage readout. A "cigarette lighter" type socket. A 7 pin socket for the led light strip.

With safety of the angler still firmly in mind, at the rear of the unit is a patented vent system to allow escape of any gases that may occur when charging lead hatteries. The only unit that we know of to carry this. Isalety note: always charge any battery in a well ventilated area, always!

ways)

area_a

Every box is also IP56 rated meaning the box is water re-sistant when used on damp ground or during inclement

weather, Boniss! Also with this particular unit Chris has sent a 3 light bundle comprising of a clip on spotlight, a flexible neck rig light and a 32 cm RED and WHITE swim light with dimming func-tion via a very neat small remote control.

My thoughts on this product... I really cannot lault it at all. It will do everything you ask of it, It is strong and extremely well made using the best quality components available. It will keep you charped up and well-lit on the banks. Bon't be shy about your needs either, a quick call to Chris will help you both work out what is best for you, and your needs, and he will do his very best for you. Customer satisfaction all the way!

This one comes in a dedicated carry bag. This one has the 3 light bundle to accompany it. It comes with a 12-month guarantee. This is your hard earned money very well spent in my eyes. Full marks from me. You can contact Chris at the following: -

www.Facebook.com/powapacs

www.powapacs.co.uk

NOW COMES THE BEST BIT...

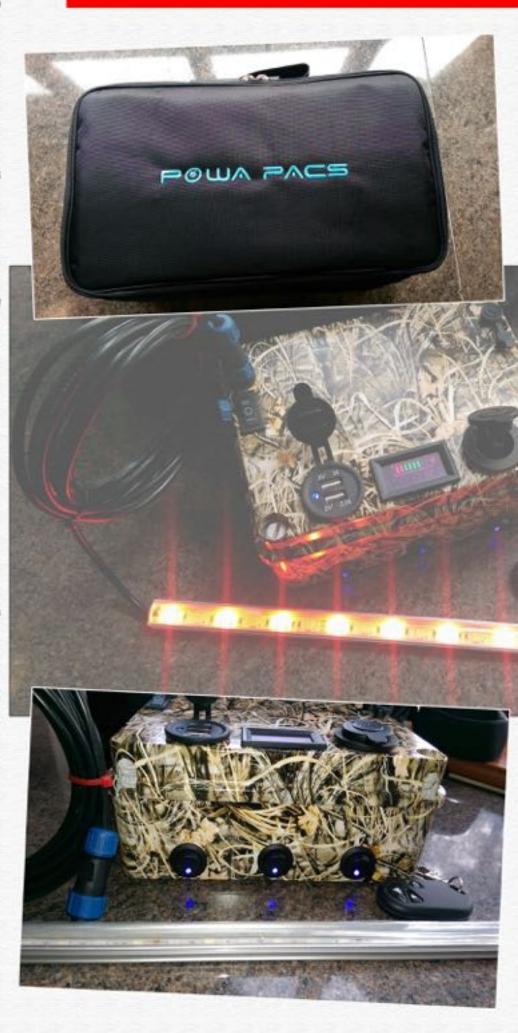
we are giving it away to one lucky reader!!

Competition time.

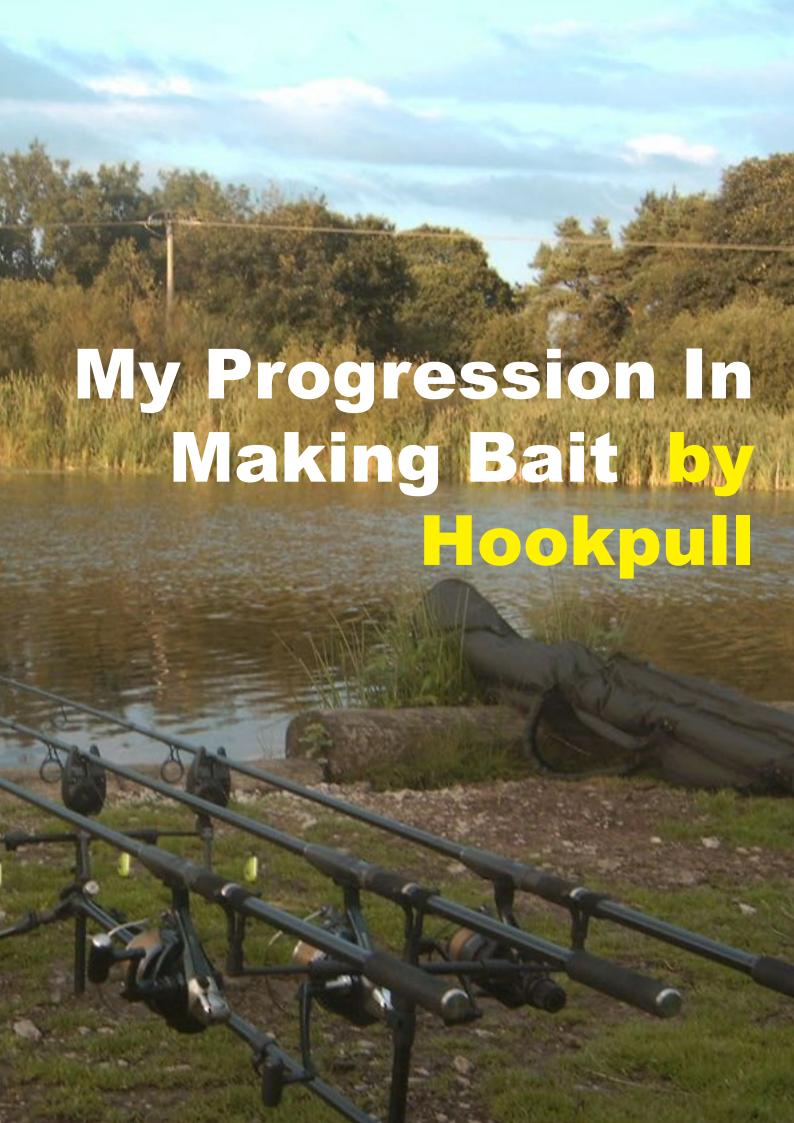
Find the Powapacs Facebook page and give them a like".

2) Go to our Talking Carp Facebook page and on the Powapac competition post tell us "how many times I charged my phone from dead..."

() will be checking you've done both parts!!)







Throughout the naughties and before several boilie suppliers and boilie ingredient suppliers emerged, the list of ingredients grew and grew confusing the average angler like me leaving them with sore heads, they were scratching them so much. If you choose to enter the minefield of making your own bait be warned, as with most things in life, to be good at it takes time and effort. When you get it wrong, as you will, learn from your mistakes pick yourself up and try again. I am no rocket scientist and I have done okay.

You will come across conflicting opinions so you must remember that they are just that, someone's opinion.

What I am writing is my opinion and findings and will, I hope, inspire a few to maybe give making bait a go and help you on your journey. Angler's opinions will always differ as we fish different lakes in different parts of the country, so the fish behave differently.

The water temperature, PH level, oxygen level, amount of natural bait in the lake, amount of bait going into the lake etc will all vary immensely. The point I am try to make is that there are so many variables I would say it is impossible to produce something that will always work everywhere all year around. If someone doesn't agree with what I say or vice versa it does not make either party right or wrong, quite simply just a difference of opinion.

Okay, first of all, why bother???

It is so easy to go down to your local tackle shop and buy a kilo or 10 of smelly boilies that the manufacturer has convinced you will catch loads of massive fish. Or go online and do the same without leaving the comfort of your armchair at home. Well one reason is it will save you a lot of money, well a lot to me. I may use 100 kilos a year and save around £5 to £10 a kilo depending on what you buy. Saving over £500 and up to a £1000 a year!!! That's my syndicate ticket paid for!

The other reason to me, and a very very important one, is the pride and satisfaction of catching on "my" bait. Let's face it, anyone who knows nothing whatsoever about catching carp can put a boilie on a rig they have just bought ready made from a shop, pay the day ticket price and catch a 50lb fish if there is one in the lake that they are fishing. Some other guy on the lake who has

been carp fishing for 30 years and has spent 2 nights a week for years trying to catch that fish is crying in his tea at this point. That's fishing, it happens!

I have learnt through trial and a lot of errors and the best advice that I could offer anyone thinking of starting to produce their own bait is simply to keep your mix simple, not 20 ingredients per kilo, stick to around say 6 at the most, 4 would often suffice. Always work on percentages of the different powders per one kilo and write everything down including the date. You can make 5 or 10 kilo at one time, or even 1 kilo if you are experimenting to see if it will roll ok, but have your recipe set at 1 kilo and multiply accordingly.

I usually buy ingredients in bulk 5 and 10kg bags, the reason being it's cheaper. It does help to have the equipment mentioned previously to produce bulk quantities. I usually have about 40k to mix at the beginning of the season. The powder ingredients get mixed up in my cement mixer then stored in air tight buckets. That would give me just short of 60 kilo finished bait, at a guess about 57 to 58 kilo give or take. A typical 1 kilo balanced diet mix may be: -

30% to 40% of a bulk ingredient that could be a carbohydrate base, often quite a bland taste and cheap. Semolina and maize are used a lot to bulk out bait, used in moderation it is a good ingredient as they are also good binders. That would equate to 300 to 400 grams per kilo. 30% to 40% of a higher protein ingredient can be added, this is often fishmeal. This is used a lot by bait companies as high protein milk powder is a lot more expensive. This could be more than one ingredient, I would suggest aiming for around a minimum 25% to maximum 35% protein level in your finished bait, I will explain later why and how to work out your protein level of your finished mix. Same again 300 to 400 grams

per kilo, 10% to 20% of flavour and smell if the above doesn't provide this. You may want to add more even if your other ingredients have a smell and flavour to add something that you think may work, again this could be two or three ingredients. One may be high protein to raise your finished protein level if it comes out a bit too low. The high protein milk powders mentioned in the previous article would be suitable for raising the protein level whilst also

adding solubility and a nice smooth taste to the finished bait. The down side being that it is expensive. I will give you an example of how to do this later. The milk used by farmers for raising young calves and sheep is a good example of what can be used or adding seaweed, both give a lovely smell to your finished bait, two totally different ingredients that you can play around with. That may be 100 to 200 grams in you mix. 10% vitamins and minerals, 100 grams in you mix. This could well be in your other ingredients so may not need to be an additional ingredient. For example, a bird seed ingredient will have vitamins and minerals in as will the seaweed.

The above is only a guideline to give an example of an easy way to start. The list can be tweaked to what you like and what you think may work on the lakes that you are fishing. Remember companies want you to buy a lot of different ingredients, they want your hard earned £'s. You need to be thinking when designing your bait is what will an ingredient do? Do I need it? If not, don't add it.

A gritty crunchy texture is liked by carp; I expect it may well be as it replicates them crunching on naturals such as snails but you need to be really careful as your rollers will not like oyster shell or egg shell grinding the plastic away and if your mix is too gritty and it will struggle to bind. Bird seed ingredients can cause this problem if you are not careful. You need a good binder in the mix, if you look at the bait seller web sites they provide you with a lot of very useful informative information.

You do need to be careful with the oil content if using in spring and winter time when the water is really cold. I change the oil levels in my bait three times a year as the water temperature changes. Too much oil in a bait in cold water can clog the bait stopping the flavour and smell from leaking out. If you are buying shop bought bait the oil level is out of your control and could be masking your bait in cold water, as you don't know what is in them its guess work! That is why you hear about bait being a good winter bait or not working well in winter.

When you have your dry mix sorted the eggs and other additives are next, not so easy as you may think if you want to be accurate and consistent. Until next time....





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Competition Time!!!

This month we have another great bait giveaway for one lucky reader. The team at North East Baits have put together this awesome package and one of YOU will win this. Included in the package will be: -

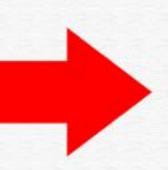
5 kg Reaper boilies. 1 x 500 ml bait soak. 2 tubs of pop ups. 1 tub of corn toppers. 1 hat.

That's a prize total of £77.50 prize + post. To win this amazing bait package you have to do 2 things...

Head over to the North East Baits Facebook page and give that page the good old thumbs up! Once you have clicked their "like" button

Head over to our Talking Carp page, and on the N.E.B competition post simply tell us where N.E.B team manager Lee England recently went abroad to and what he caught whilst he was out there.

Very best of luck to all who play along and take part. One of you will be a winner.



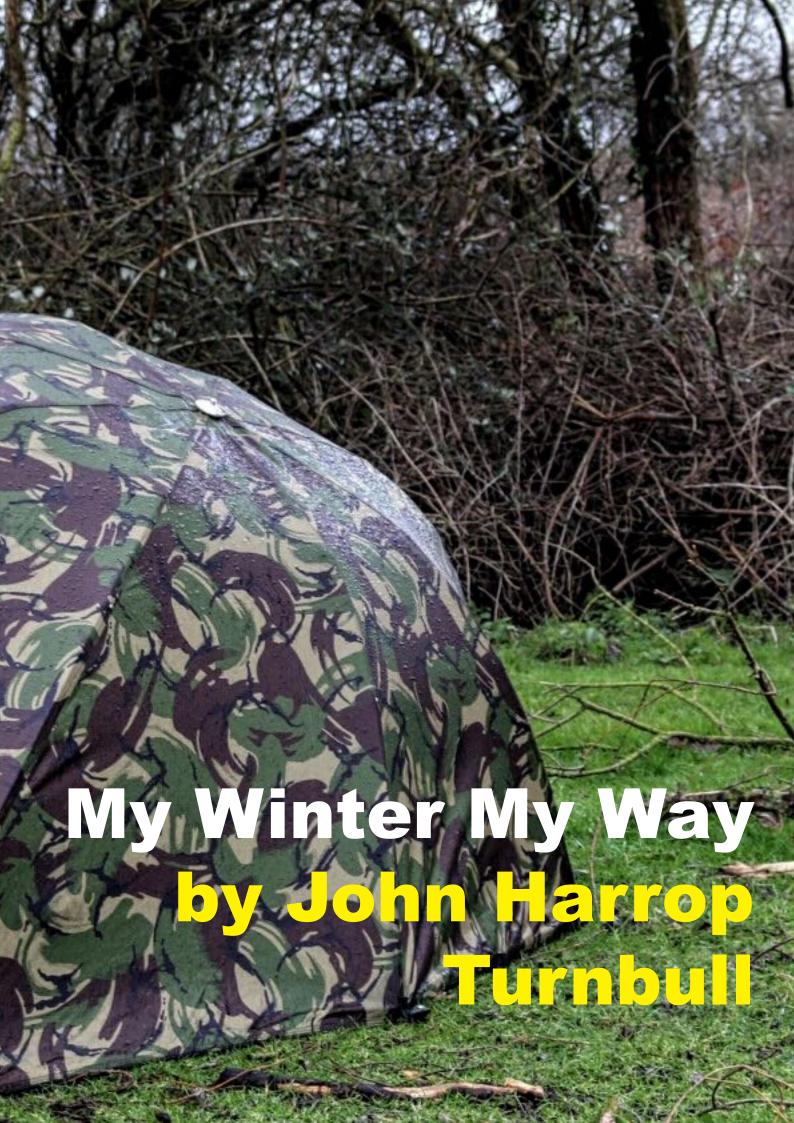
WINNER!

The Winner Of The MARCH COMPETITION IS... Gary May!! WELL DONE!!

Winners Picked @ Random From Our Facebook Page

facebook.com/talkingcarp





Winter fishing is my favourite time of the year, not only are the banks normally much quieter but the fish have donned their winter colours and are generally in tip top condition. Many people hang up their gear for the winter, but proper planning can see you have some great success.

This season has seen me fishing a Midlands still water, with an unknown stock and generally speaking no other anglers to worry about. The lake is around 4.5 acers in size and relatively shallow at an average of 3ft, the water is extremely clear and even at this time of the year the weed is a problem. Normally I would leave this type of water alone for the winter, however this is slightly different in that I knew it held a few special fish, and I wasn't all that bothered about catching big numbers, one or two would have done me.

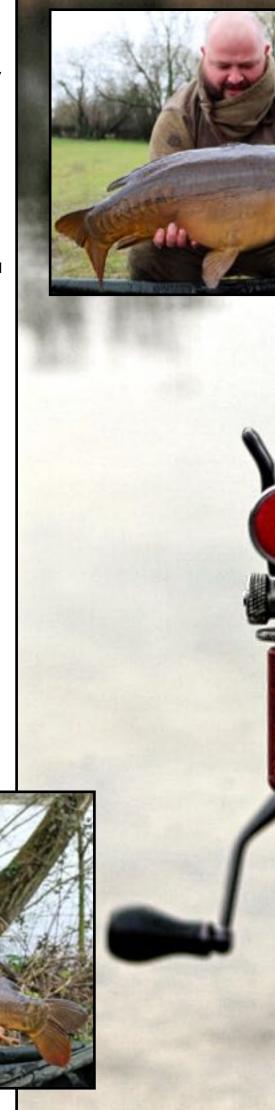
So with the lake chosen, I set about getting organised. As I've stated the weed is an issue, with the lake being so shallow it is also very hard to feel a real drop on the lead making finding spots difficult. Secondly to that with such I shallow lake I prefer not to use a marker, I find the disturbance can really ruin your session before you have even started.

With all this in mind I set about tying up solid bags at home ready for my fist trip. My preferred method for fishing bags is to use the Avid bag stems with the dedicated drop off inline lead in 3oz fished inside a medium sized PVA bag. I want loads of attraction when fishing bags so I inject my bags with a minimum of 30ml of liquid but I also don't want that liquid to come up through the water Colum, the last thing I want to happen is the attraction and feeding signals to be carried away from my free baits by any kind of current. Choose a liquid that will sit on the bottom, something like the Nash food dips (not the boilie dip). Free offerings were a few crushed up Nash Key baits, Key Pellets and a Citruz bottom bait on the hair.

The rig was tied using a short length of uncoated braid a size 6 Fang twister tied with a simple knot less knot, very basic.

On the first session I arrived at the lake at around mid-day, I chose a swim that offered me lots of water, being prepared with bags already tied meant I was able to maximise my bank time, within 10 minutes of being there I was already fishing with 3 rods. With fishing only allowed from one bank I decided to fish one long, one middle and one short, fishing tight lines should of enabled me to fish for liners enabling me to work out what range the fish were at.

The rods had been out for less than an hour and my long range rod rattled off, I struck into a fish that fought like a hippo, and it soon had me locked solid in weed. In this situation you have two choices, put the rod back on the rest and hope the fish frees itself, or apply some pressure. Luckily for me my new rods made by Lion Carp gave me the confidence to apply steady progressive pressure which eventually saw the fish moving again. Fish number one was in the net. Because I had done the prep I was simply able to tie on a fresh bag and it was back out on the spot within 3 minutes of the fish being in the net, this turned out to be a god send as before I even had chance to deal with fish number one it was away again! This time I used the power available to me and kept the fish moving, slipping my spare net under fish number two, I hadn't even been here two hours yet. Again the rod went straight back on the spot and I got under way with dealing with the fish. Fish number one went 32lb with fish number two being 38.2.





Before I had chance to get the larger of the two fish back the rod was off again, this time the fish was larger, and it was starting to go dark, my friend Andy would be along soon so I decided to put the fish in a retainer and get a brew on the go. Andy arrived just after dark and fish number three all 40.2lb was being photographed and slipped back. Two more fish came along the first night in the form of a 32.1 and 25.4. Not a bad session for a February and a great start to the year.

I am convinced that the preparation I did at home, tying up solid bags with tonnes of attraction really helped me keep the fish in the area, had I not been able to get the rod back on the spot within minutes I'm sure they would have been off. I pulled off the next evening having had had a red letter day on my first trip, all the way home I was planning on getting back ASAP.

The next week I was busy getting ready for the Sandown Show, so it over a week before I could get back. The second session I decided to fish exactly the same, I was also joined by my friend Roger Bacon.

I fished exactly the same, but things seemed to have changed, and by the following morning Roger had had 3 (I think) and I was blanking, however I kept at it, stayed confident and finally bagged one at 24.12.

I wasn't able to get back to the lake until mid-march due to being busy with shows including heading over to Zwolle, if you haven't been before, you really should try and go, I was blown away with some of the tackle companies offerings, many of which you wont of heard of in the UK, well I hadn't anyway!

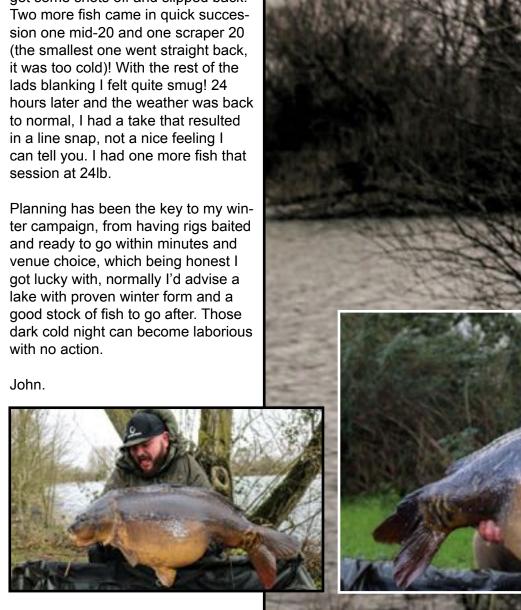
A few things had changed for me personally for my last session, mainly I'm now using Gardner end tackle and DNA Baits, so it was a chance to test some new bits and bobs and see how the bait got on.

Lastly as it was to be my last winter session on the water I invited 3 pals along, the most lines the lake has ever seen with two of my friends fishing 4 rods each myself and one other fishing 3.

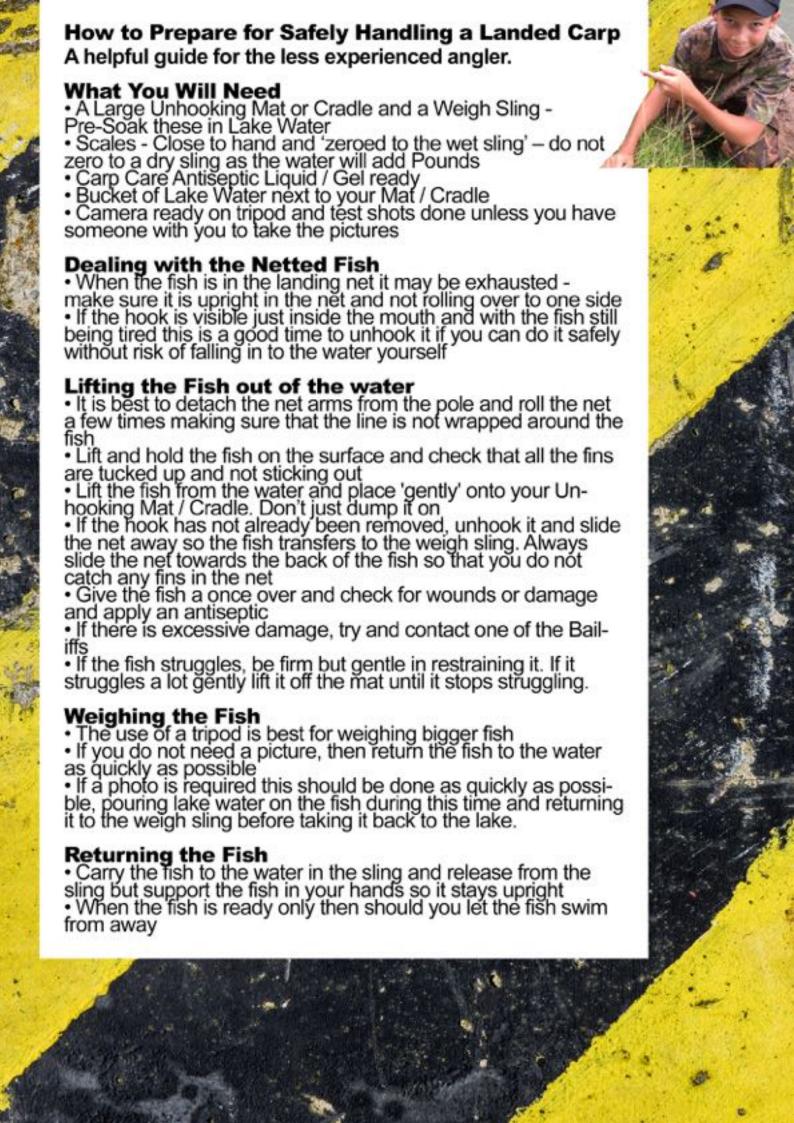
The lake was much weedier this time; lots of fresh growth was evident on the retrieve. I decided to change tactic. I found the longest weed I could and fished a hook link about6 inches longer, fished with a snowman that just gently dropped through the water. This was cast out with a mesh bag of foam to help keep the hook link above the weed until it melted. hopefully letting the bait settle on top of any weed.

Things were slow, I decided to drop one rod and fish just two tight together and stick some bait out with the stick.

The weather turned savage, 50 mph winds and wind chill of -4 so typically that's when the action kicked off, with driving rain I had a take, resulting in a 33.4, I was so cold it had to go in the sling, I couldn't move my hands. After a warm up in the van we were able to get some shots off and slipped back.









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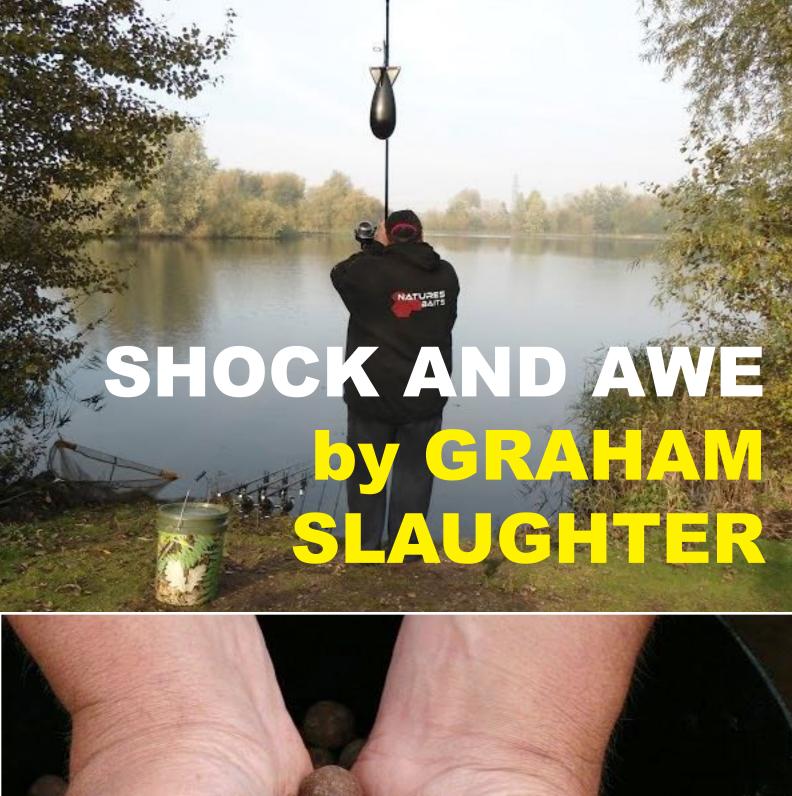
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As some of you may know or not know "Shock and Awe" was the name of the first ground assault in the gulf war. The reason why I have named this feature the above title is the use of heavy baiting in the first signs of spring in order to shock or induce the carp to go on the feeding free for all as they are awakening from their winter slumber.

This can work on either heavily stocked or heavily pressured waters big or small, for example, a few years ago I was fishing a small east Yorkshire lake at no more than an acre in size, most of the margins were surrounded by lily pads and the average angler would and did place their baits and rigs in and around them.

The big common in this particular lake would only put an appearance in maybe once or twice a season if you are lucky but has been known to go un-caught for 2 seasons. This I found out by prior information which also

stands you in good stead for fishing new venues.

The first time I did manage to fish this lake, on arriving I had a look round and first initial thought was not to follow the norm i.e. fishing margins and close to the pads with single pop ups, small PVA bags, handful of boilies etc, and I decided to have a lead around in the open water and found a nice spot slightly deeper than the rest of the lake.

I then proceeded to put 10kg of bait straight in the area I had found just knowing that this could shock the carp into having a good old munch because they had probably not seen this kind of approach before especially with the amount which became available to them.

Over the course of the next couple of days I had 6 fish including the big common which topped the scale at a smidge over 35lb. Strangely enough

that was its last appearance for almost 18 months, and the owner of this particular lake was getting grief on social media that this fish either had either died or been removed. He rang me up jokingly and asked if I would come down and catch her again to stop the rumors.

So after this conversation I decided to pay another visit roughly 18 months after I caught her last, I arrived back at the lake, same swim, same tactics, which resulted in me catching five 20lb plus carp a few smaller doubles and long and behold the big common at a whopping lake record at just over 40lb which to date is still my English PB common.

In 2013 I was offered the chance of joining Neville Ficklings syndicate water Daiwa Manton which I grabbed with both hands.

The lake itself is around 30 acres. Mainly shallow and ranging from 3ft to a maximum of 12ft. My first session on the lake was early April 2013, and on arrival to the lake a quick walk round (OR DRIVE IF YOU KNOW ME LOL) and I decided to opt for a swim called the big point the reason for this it this swim is bang center of the lake and gave me the best advantage of observing and trapping any fish moving from one side of the lake to the other. 30 minutes of markering around I found a lovely clear spot 88 yards out (22 wraps around your sticks). I proceeded the to put all 3 rods in the vicinity.

All 3 rods were baited with Blood-

worm X from Natures Baits and spodded equal amounts of hemp and boilies. I put roughly 8 kg of each, so a total of 16kg of bait in a 20-foot area around the marker, which again was an approach not used by many on the lake. 36 hours had passed no signs, no bleeps and no showing fish, but felt confident in my rigs and bait and that any passing carp they would find it hard to ignore this vast amount of free food.

Then it happened, a nice steady pick up out of the blue and on connecting with the fish I then realised this didn't feel like just a normal double, a further ten minutes or so past and the first fish from my new water to grace the net was 31lb mirror (BOOM). I have found that in heavy baiting always use what you are confident in, me personally, I have found that neither one has had more than the other

regards to fish on the bank although the boilie approach seemed to produce the bigger carp.

A big plus to heavy baiting approach, whether it be on your local or the first time on a water is when there having there having it, it's hard to keep a rod in the water. My other tipis to take plenty of bait you wouldn't want to run out of bait if you're on them.

In summary whether it's early in the year or back end of the year, do not dismiss the heavy approach!! Tight lines till next time.

BIG G























CATCH REPORT

The NEB Report

Report 1 - NEB promo team member Dean Rance banked this unit of a mirror on an overnighter whilst fishing his local water 'ADH Fishers'. He used a white Red Reaper pop up fished over a small scattering of Red Reaper boilies to tempt this 25lb+ over the net cord.

Report 2 – NEB customer Steven Carr banked this stunning plated mirror known as the Dolphin from his local club pond on only his second outing using the Irish Nut. A 14mm White pop up was all it took to nail his new pb along with 3 other fish.

Report 3 – Newly appointed promo team member Ryan Owner didn't waste time opening his NEB account banking these two commons at 17lb & 20lb on his second outing. Both fish fell to snowman style rigs using Red Reaper 18mm boilies combined with half a 14mm white Red Reaper pop up.

Report 4 – NEB team manager & Talking Carp writer Lee England proved the power of NEB taking some 20mm Red Reaper shelf life abroad whilst holidaying in Gran Canaria, on a 5-hour day session he managed this stunning 30.8lb canary scaley.

Report 5 – More customer success and again another first time user putting a stunning 20lb winter mirror on the bank during his first outing. Garry Westcott used a snowman rig consisting of Natural One bottom bait and a Natural One 14mm pop up whilst fishing an overnighter.

Report 6 – NEB promo team member Richard Shenton banked this scale perfect uncaught lin fishing an evolution maggot cluster on a chod rig over a bed of Red Reaper.

Report 7 – First time user Darren Webb managed 3 carp on a day session at a Chelmsford day ticket water using the Red Reaper. Mirrors of 12lb, 14lb & 19lb graced his mat during a cold days fishing in hail and rain.

Report 8 – More instant results for new NEB user Chris Record banking the biggest known resident in his Essex syndicate on an overnighter using the Red Reaper in 15mm fishing a straight bottom bait on a standard knotless knot rig over half a kilo of loose feed.



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SPRING INTO ACTION

BY RICH ADAMS

For me carp fishing isn't just about the fish we catch but being out on the bank and taking in all of the wonderful things that nature has to offer, watching a red kite as it circles on a thermal or seeing a flash of blue as a Kingfisher makes its way across the lake, the transformation of the trees and the plants as they change from their sorry winter state into their full glory at the start of Spring just a few to mention. I have experienced many wonderful things whilst sitting on the bank, things that if I wasn't an angler I may never have seen. Putting aside all of these wonderful things it is always nice when a plan comes together and we catch a few fish. It's not that often that we have a "red letter day" but I would like to share with you one occasion during the Spring when everything seemed to fall into place and I had a dream session on my syndicate lake.

To briefly describe my syndicate water, it is a small gravel pit of around seven acres in size with a reasonable head of fish, hidden away in the beautiful countryside of the Nene valley. Surrounded by trees and reeds around the margins the water varies in depth from 3ft on the "shallows" up to 16ft in places where the machinery used to extract the gravel during its time as a working pit. There is a small island with gravel bars running from either side as well as a sunken island above which the fish can often be seen cruising on a hot day. It is a non-profit making concern with a handful of members and maintained to a very high standard due to the regular work parties held throughout the season. All in all, it is a wonderful place to go fishing, a carp anglers dream.

It was mid-April and I had come to the end of my shift at work and thoughts soon turned to my next trip to the syndicate lake. Despite the weather forecast not looking great from a comfort point of view, it did look good from a carp-fishing point of view. With rain forecast, a low-pressure system upon us and a warm steady South/South Westerly wind blowing, I decided to embark on a 24hr session. On arrival conditions were actually quite pleasant so I donned my Polaroids and set off on my customary arrival

walk around the lake to see if I could find any fish. I had an idea that there may be some fish near or on the shallows and I wasn't disappointed as my thoughts were confirmed on arrival, when I found some fish cruising in and around the shallows. I carried on my circle of the lake but didn't really see anything else so on arrival back at the car my barrow was loaded and I headed back round to the shallows. My plan was to fish for a few hours and see what happened then have another wander round before setting my stall out for the night if I hadn't had any action.

As it turned out I didn't have to wait long before I had my first taste of action, whilst setting up, a fish stuck its head out right next to a snag on the shallows. I had just baited up my first rod with a single hookbait on so I decided to move up a swim armed with just one rod, my net and a bucket of bait and cast to the spot where the fish had shown. I had made the right decision because within seconds (I had literally just laid my rod on the floor) the line tightened and I was in, after a spirited fight during which the fish tried to make the sanctuary of the snag on numerous occasions i landed my first fish of the session, a nice looking mirror. On the scales she went 23lb, photographs were taken and I returned her to fight another day.

After this the swans became aware of the "shallow" area I was fishing so I decided to move back to my chosen swim and put this rod to the bottom of the shelf just "off" the shallows, an area I'd had a lot of success from before, especially early mornings when the weather had been warm picking off fish as they headed for the shallows as the early morning sun started to warm the water. This was fished using a single Mistral baits Chilli Pepper 20mm boilie tipped with a piece of black fake corn and around 100 freebies. As always my rig consisted of a simple set up using a size 4 Gardner Mugga hook tied knotless knot style to some Subterfuge Supersoft hook-link material.

The only thing different to normal was the fact that I was using a running rig, I had just returned from a week in France on a venue where leaders were banned and I'd had a lot of success fishing a simple running rig so decided to carry on using it on one rod on my return.

The second rod was cast to a plateau at around 80 yards, this time using a single 20mm Mistral baits 20mm Rosehip boilie tipped off with a piece of fake orange corn and around 200 freebies were put loosely around the area. I always keep some Rosehip boilies in my armoury at this time of year; it is fantastic bait when the temperatures are still making their way up to the summer ones. Another bonus is that the bigger fish on my syndicate lake seem to like it and each season one or two of them fall foul to their attraction!

The third rod was cast around 40 yards to the back of a gravel bar that runs from the side of the island using the same hook bait as the first rod again with around a 100 freebies. My second and third rods were also fished using a simple set up consisting of the same components as the other two the only difference being the use of a leadcore leader in conjunction with a lead-clip as opposed to a running rig.

After a few hours and despite no further action I decided to set up my shelter for the night and stick with the swim I was in as several fish had shown themselves, two of which were over my spot where the plateau was. Once dark the weather turned and by midnight the forecast we had been given came to life with extremely heavy rain and high winds. I decided to have a cuppa and a bite to eat then I hit the sack, boots and waterproof coat ready in the hope that one of not more of the fish that had shown over my "spot" would make an appearance.

Nothing happened through the night and by 4 am the heavy rains had turned to drizzle, the type that soaks you through within minutes of being out in it.

I was wide awake so decided to have a cuppa and keep watch over the lake, the kettle hadn't even boiled, when out of the blue the rod cast to the plateau produced a one toner and what followed was a scrap of Barbaric proportions with the fish really waking up once it was under the rod-tip. After what seemed an age but in reality was probably only a few minutes I slipped the net under a lovely common.

As I was composing myself another fish stuck its head out over the spot so I left the fish in the net to recover and set about putting my rig back on the spot with a few more freebies. By now the winds had become extreme and the drizzle had once again turned to heavy rain. Now I'll be the first to admit I have an unhealthy obsession when it comes to hitting the right spot, however despite the conditions I was back on the plateau first cast. I set my bobbin and put out a handful of freebies on the spot then set about weighing the fish I had in the net.

On inspection it looked a good fish and I wasn't disappointed because I had landed my first thirty of the year's campaign a cracking common of 32.8lb. Little did I know what was to follow?

Within a few minutes of weighing and photographing the fish the same rod was away again and after a sluggish fight with what seemed a heavy fish I landed a cracking looking mirror, a real lump that looked like an upper

thirty possibly even a forty.

Once again I left the fish in the net to recover and cast the rod back on the spot, looking down into the net the fish looked very wide and I was full of anticipation as I got my scales ready to weigh her, as I watched the needle on the scales travel round they finally settled on a weight of 38.10lb, I was truly elated as not only had I landed another thirty, I'd had a new UK personal best. I put the fish into my retaining sling and called my mate who very kindly came over to the lake once it was light, to take some photographs for me and share my special moment. I was in shock and decided to put the kettle on so that we could have a cuppa and a biscuit to celebrate my new Pb.

By now it was 7.30 am and my mate had to leave and make his way to work, I also had to be away early due to family commitments but just as we were saying our goodbyes and he was congratulating me on my success for the umpteenth time my third rod cast to the back of the gravel bar roared into life, once again the type of scrap you expect from a decent fish prevailed and after another battle of wits under the rod-tip another decent common slipped into the net, on the scales she went 30.8oz. I really couldn't believe it, my third thirty in the space of a few hours. The session of a lifetime, a real "red letter" day!

A couple of hours later I had to start packing up but despite the horrible weather and the fact that all of my gear was soaked through, I was soaked through as well as being covered in mud and slime I headed for home a happy angler with a four fish haul to my name consisting of a twenty pounder the previous afternoon and three thirty's all landed within the space of a couple of hours, one of which was a new UK personal best.

Next time the weathers not looking particularly pleasant from a comfort point of view but excellent from a fishing point of view, don't stay at home in the dry, follow my example and get out there because you never know what might happen.

Tight Lines, Rich Adams.



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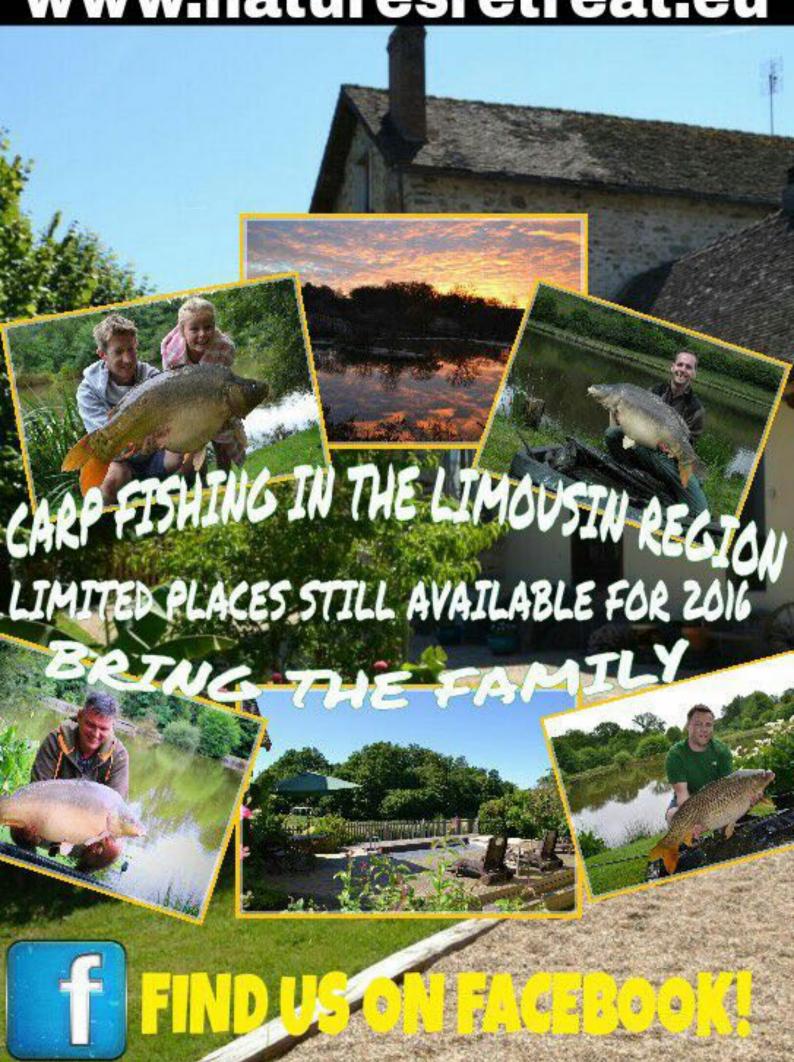
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Just to sum up our company?

We are the original carp fishing day/ night excursion and fishing holiday company on the island. We have been established over 14 years, our prof guides have fished the many lakes on the island for over 26 years. We have the only legal 24hr camping land on the lake and all our clients receive a permit to camp and a license to fish, so all clients have peace of mind when on the bank with us.

We offer on the bank or studios, apartments or villas with heated pool, so there is something for all the family.

We are a registered travel company in Spain, so we can book all your travel needs, from your fishing package to car rentals, hotels, apartments on the beach, any excursion you would like to book, even a reservation at a restaurant.

The lake is situated around 1hr 20 mins' drive through the mountains and is a reservoir not a fishery and is normally 170 acres when full, at the moment it is around 100 acres.

We have several fishing areas and have just acquired a gated area, so we can drive down to the water's edge for all clients who have disabilities or walking difficulties and they can fish, right at the water's edge, as there are no readymade swims, and other areas are not suitable, but this area is great.

All our tackle is supplied by Nash and is of the highest quality.

We can offer bait, but you can use your own, the choice of the angler.

Some particle is banned, so please check when booking.

We like to offer a 5-star service and are very proud of what we have to offer the fisherman/woman, and have worked extremely hard to get where we are today.

We accept all level of angler as we have other lakes on the island for the advanced angler with larger carp in, something new is our Carp Lake Safari, taking in several lakes on the island guided with Dave.

Groups and non-fishing partners are welcome. Self-catering or all-inclusive packages are available. Free use of showers and WC facilities.

We are the original and premier carp fishing company and fully licensed to sell Holidays and Excursions, health and safety checked, we hold full public liability insurance and we are legal to carry passengers, again you have peace of mind when booking with CARPGRAN-CANARIA.COM.

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Kind Regards Dave and Ali Beecham







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If you have been following my Blogs in the first three issues of Talking Carp, you will know that it was titled 'Bad Session'. The reason for that title was that after having a carp 20 minutes after setting up, that was the only action I had all day and one fish in a ten-hour session is not a great result but to be honest and as I said at the end of my last blog, 'This session may have been bad but it's never really bad because at least I am fishing and the next session is a new start and I do it all over again...getting my 'Backside Bankside' is what it is all about.'

Another day and another session, this time I fished for nine hours but the action was unbelievable..... After the usual performance of sorting my gear the day before, making some PVA Mesh bags of pellet and loading the car, which completely stresses my dad out, we set off for a local water that has plenty of carp but is mainly a match venue. I last fished the place when I was about nine years old and had a great day including catching what was then, my personal best. A lovely 14.2lb common.

The average size of the carp is about 9lb but there is a good head of low to mid doubles too.

Setting up both rods in my usual way, I went for a simple running lead set up with eight inch hoolink made from 18lb 'Riverge – Grand Max'...the diameter to strength ratio of this line is incredible and it is fluorocarbon too. I think it was designed for fly fishing but my dad has been using it for years as a hooklink with great results.

It was attached with the popular 'knotless knot' to a size 8 Ashima C415 'Indispensable' barbless hook and a simple loop formed with a 'Figure 8' knot to allow it to

be attached to the main line via a clip swivel. I had a 24" home made double loop non-leadcore leader and a 1.5oz free running lead... like I said, it was a simple set up...!

Using my knowledge that it was a well-used match venue, I guessed that the fish were used to bait close in the margins and up to about 16 metres, passed that there was always the chance the fish felt safer and may feed more freely but I never ignore regular feeding spots. My dad was fishing the next swim and we decided to cover the distance form 3 metres out to about 25 metres between our four rods and see what happened.

My baits of choice for this session were 'The Musselberry' and 'Aurora' both from Beechwood Baits and also I would be using matching pellet in small PVA mesh bags a little bigger than a golf ball. I used an 18mm boilie on the hair and the freebies were 16mm.

Our usual routine of setting up, baiting a couple of spots and my dad having several cups of tea before he even gets a rod in the water went without any issues and before long, I was sat behind my rods, two baited areas and traps set. I had put about 20 boilies on each spot. The time was 07:45, it was a lovely sunny morning and I had my 'Backside Bankside' doing what I love to do.

By 08:15, my dad had his first rod in the water at about 15 metres out and was about to chuck his second under arm to about 5 metres, when his first rod screamed off and I mean screamed.... he flicked the second rod out to his right, away from the first but not to where he was going to fish, put it on the alarm, which was off and hit the first rod....'Fish on'...!

After a short but lively fight he netted a common of about 12lb. He put it on the mat to unhook and as he went to remove the hook, the spool on his other rod starting spinning...it's strange when that happens and the alarm is not on...

I took over the unhooking and returning of the first fish, whilst he went to hit the take...2nd fish on...! With the first fish safely back, the second was on its way to the net. A nice 15.4lb mirror, from a spot that had not been pre-baited or even that he intended to fish.... how jammy is that?

Obviously, after such a mad ten minutes, he needed another cup of tea before putting his rods back out so the kettle was back on and the chants of two-nil started. Buzzing from the action, I decided to bait a spot about 3 metres out and put about 15 to 20 boilies on it and as it was so close, a few handfuls of pellet too.

I brought my furthest rod back in, dried the hook and hooklink and attached another PVA mesh bag of the Beechwood Baits pellet that matched the Musselberry boilies I was using on the hair. I then flicked the rig out, under arm (it took me ages to learn how to control this cast accurately and I used to practice in the garden and cast to a bucket. At first I used to release too late and the lead would go straight up and down...good if you wanted to fish at your feet, on the bank...!).

I set the rod back on the alarm and as I turned to walk back to my chair, it ripped off, the PVA could not have melted but I had a fish on...two-one...!



After putting back a little 9lb Mirror, I got the rod back on the spot. Within five minutes it was off again and so was my dads close in rod. No sooner had he put that one back but the other rod at about 15 metres was screaming and he netted a really nice 17.6lb common.... three-two to my dad...but that's when we stopped scoring. The one thing in common is that all the takes were on 'The Musselberry' and the distance did not seem to matter.

I decided to put the same bait on both rods and chaos set in. I had both rods going at the same time and at one point in the afternoon, we had all four rods with fish on and managed to land three of them with one getting off the hook. The takes were mental, absolute screamers every time and good fights too. Often with a running lead, the fish has no resistance to try a shake the hook and the runs are normally fast and furious. I love the sound my alarms make when they are screaming...!!





The action was so continuous my dad drank less tea than he has ever done and I thought he was going to get withdrawal symptoms. I am sponsored by Beechwood Baits, Ashima UK and Hardcore Carper Clothing...my dad is sponsored by Tetley Tea...! We fished between 3 metres and 20 metres and in total had 26 Carp between us weighing in at over 250lb. I personally had 15 Carp with 7 doubles and the biggest was 16.2lb. By the way, did I say

A simple approach, simple set up and a fantastic nine hours fishing. The swim I was in was number '52' but it is now known as 'The Musselberry Swim'.

we had stopped scoring? Well just

for the record it ended 15-11 to

me!!

They were not massive fish but then the water does not hold massive fish, but they were good fish and they were carp and that is what I was there for. It is about catching what is in front of you and not worrying how big it is. I do want to beat my personal best and once I beat it, I will want to beat it again and again but I also want to catch carp, so when that new PB picks up my bait and the alarm is screaming, I have the experience to stay calm and land the fish with no drama. This season, I am after my first twenty and will be fishing venues were that is a possibility but I still want to catch carp no matter how big because that is what I love to do.

Don't be put off because you are catching small fish, keep using it as experience to learn and try new things. Do you really think that all the top anglers in the mags catch huge 'chunks' every time they are out, or do you think they too catch 'pasties' sometimes?

Fishing is not easy and when you are limiting your options to a chosen type of fish, no matter

what that is, it gets harder but that is why it is called 'fishing' and not 'catching'. Sessions like this one do not happen very often but I was lucky enough recently to have a night session on another water that turned out very similar, except in the dark and that makes it so different...I will tell you about that session sometime. I have moved on to some harder waters in pursuit of a twenty and I expect the fishing to be slower and I am prepared for that. I drink nearly as much tea as my dad now...and I am trying to get a deal with Yorkshire Tea...!!!!

Check out my little video and pictures from this session at:

https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=s2niOOxrDnQ

Thanks for reading

Ethan Carper







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Talking Carp is proud to announce the new partnership with up & coming bait company 'North East Baits'. This new partnership sees the introduction of a monthly discount code which will be issued by 'NEB' to the mag each month and will enable the readers to gain 10% off the entire range for that month. Furthermore, each month we will feature a monthly catch report section to show you guys what the bait is doing out there in the field.

So, who is North East Baits? Where & when did it start? What does their range consist of? Does it catch fish? These are the sort of questions I can imagine are rolling through your head as you have started to read this feature. Well hopefully I can answer a few of those questions for you now and I will do my best to remain unbiased as some of you may know I am a full consultant and the Media/Team manager for NEB.

Who Is North East Baits?

North East Baits is a fairly new bait company based in Newcastle that produces HNV 4 season baits fresh to order and the company launched to the public just 3 years ago. Jamie Murray is the brain child behind NEB and still to this day hand rolls every order personally along with the help of his second in charge Dan Clyne down at the unit. The media presence of NEB is rapidly increasing along with its popularity, and as word spreads, the bait is becoming the favored choice for people that make the switch and give it a go with the results speaking for themselves.

Where & When Did NEB Start?

To make a bait company wasn't Jamie's main intention when he first started to investigate rolling his own bait. It was more the fact that the demand for the bait he was rolling for his own fishing became greater then he had ever expected. In the beginning, Jamie was fishing a hard local lake that did around 3-4 bites a week. Due to having a busy family life, his session time was greatly limited and on average he was only getting down for quick overnighters maybe once or twice a week.

He tried the mainstream baits but he just wasn't getting a decent return of fish for his time so he started looking into rolling his own. He and Dan started investigating different flavours and base mixes that other companies used, mainly so they knew what actually went into the bait they were using. After several trial runs and a lot of research they developed the high impact bait which is now known as 'Red Reaper'.

The first time they took this new bait to the lake it did 5 fish in a single night, this was unheard of on the lake and quickly a few eyebrows began to be raised. After a few more sessions with similar results word quickly started to spread and the lads started to get people asking if they could buy some of their bait. Of course Jamie obliged, being the sort of lad who wanted to help his fellow anglers out. A few months past and the results on Jamie's bait continued to roll in, word continued to spread and the orders increased. Seeing the results, Jamie started looking into developing another bait and set about testing

new flavours and tweaking base mixes that he had concocted. After a few requests from regular buyers, it wasn't long before he developed a second bait and again the excellent results continued and the orders for his two baits quickly started to pile up. In the end Jamie had to quit his day job as the demand for his baits increased so much he simply couldn't keep up with the orders.

This is a step I'm sure many of us would not be prepared to take and really shows the level of confidence he has and also the commitment he puts in to making his bait. And so North East Baits was born. He got himself a unit and started developing a full range of pots, stick mixes and glugs to match the baits and in only three years, NEB now has an extensive range of 5 baits, wafters, pop ups, stick mixes, pellet, clothing and a rapidly growing team of promo members, field testers & consultants.

What Does The Range Consist Of?

The range has been developed to cover every situation. The mixes are top quality HNV food source 4 season mixes allowing them to be used all year round. Every order is hand rolled fresh and you are the first to freeze it therefore maintaining optimum freshness. Every flavour has matching pots in food source and high visual, wafters and stick mixes, along with an individual range of high attract pop ups and wafters in some incredible flavours such as Berry Tang, Dirty Fruits, PCB & PSO1. There are handmade corn toppers from boilie base mixes to beat plastic bans, 50/50 hookbaits, & cured hookbaits to round off the pot selection.

The first in the range is the original bait that kicked NEB off, Red Reaper. An out and out big fish bait, its proven itself time and time again with many big carp falling foul to the red stuff. A blend of pre- digested fishmeal's, bird foods, milk proteins, spices, robin red, water snails and much more. The reaper was carefully designed and balanced with 36 separate ingredients including crayfish, GLM & spicy crab plus a secret aroma all added at optimum levels for a great food source.

The second bait to be developed was the Natural One, a completely natural bait containing the finest insect meal, bloodworm extracts, worm proteins and fishmeals. Mixed with another of NEBS secret natural liquid food systems and then kindly rounded off with black pepper oil and a blend of squid, krill & mussel. The Natural One is quickly becoming known to bag the older, more experienced fish that can't help but seek natural food sources. If you fish a lake that has a high natural presence or everyone is using high attract strong scented baits, the Natural could give you that edge.

The third bait in the range is Krill Punch, NEB's contrast concept, one flavour with two colours. In test this bait proved deadly, banking the lakes largest residents within hours up and down the country on a variety of lakes from pressured day ticket waters to hard syndicates. Within six months of its release it was responsible for 2 x 40's 6 x 30's and countless 20's. Without giving its secrets away

it's a krill based bait with a fruit twist, aided by a few secret NEB liquid systems as well as its contrasting design working in different light levels makes this high attract bait keep the carp guessing. Definitely a revolution in carp bait development.

Next up is the Irish Nut, a blend of top quality nutmeals, bird foods, milk proteins and rounded off with a quality blend of liquid foods that all have their significant place in this mix. It's a highly digestible and palatable bait that holds a high nutritional value giving the carp an all year round food source. It combines the right levels of feed stimulants with a delicious fruit/toffee aroma, aided by high levels of baileys.

Last but not least is the new bait for 2016, Maple Dream. This bait has been on test for around a year and half and was finally released in January 2016. It's the first HNV fishmeal based sweet maple boilie the industry has seen. It contains some of the best milk +B technology giving the bait a creamy but rich base on which a perfectly balanced digestible pallette has been placed, along with high attractors and feeding triggers makes this 4 season boilie sit perfectly amongst the NEB range.

Does It Catch Fish?

This is by far the easiest question to answer. Yes of course NEB catches fish here and abroad, in fact North East Baits currently holds 30 lake records to date. Bear in mind that the company is based up North, so the stamp of fish up there is nowhere near as big as down in the South, it has caught a few monsters during its time. It was responsible for the capture of Starburst from a Yorkshire syndicate at 44.8lb, the Old Mill big common at 42lb was nailed on NEB along with Pitchers fish at 37lb. The 'Tin Opener' from Willows was also caught on NEB at 47lb along with many more, and the totals at the present time currently stand at 5x UK 40+ fish, 211x UK 30+ fish. "So, what about abroad?" I here you ask. At present, NEB boasts fish up to 55lb over 150x 30+ fish & 52x 40+ fish, and these totals are just what we know about, all in all I'm sure you'll agree, not a bad set of credentials for a bait that has only been retailed to the public for 3 years. If you would like to know more or want to check out the full range from North East Baits, then head on over to their Facebook page where you will find up to date catch reports and promotions.









CATCH REPORTS >>>

I thought I would give one of my new club waters a go and my first go at urban fishing. Both caught on chod rigs with Vagrant Baits Flare pop up and the other on a Vagrant Baits Tangchew pop up and size 10 AW carp tackle choddy hooks. A nice 11.2lb common and then a lovely 15lb mirror. Not bad for a quick day session:) Cheers. Shane Newton



On the scales she went 32lb 7oz, my first carp from my new syndicate. The fish was caught using my home make hell fire pop ups in a solid bag, size 4 JK angling T rex hook fished blow back style to JK quick sink braid hook length. Regards Richard"

Michelle Tucker with her latest pb of 28lb 4oz from Coking farm, Dorset. She tempted the fish using a Nutty Supreme boilie which is on test from Peterborough bait company (PBC)with a scattering of freebies. The bait was presented on a blowback rig. Well done Michelle!





Ladywood lakes is situated in Mirfield, west yorkshires and has two lakes, the Big lake is 10 acres and has a stock of around 550 fish, many scaly mirrors and some big commons.

The average weight is around 16lb with over 35×20 's plus 5×30 s to 41lb.

Ticket prices are £22 per 24 hrs weekends booking only, the small lake is our runs water at 2 acres with depths to over 20 feet, and has a massive stock of over 1800 fish between 7-27 lb.

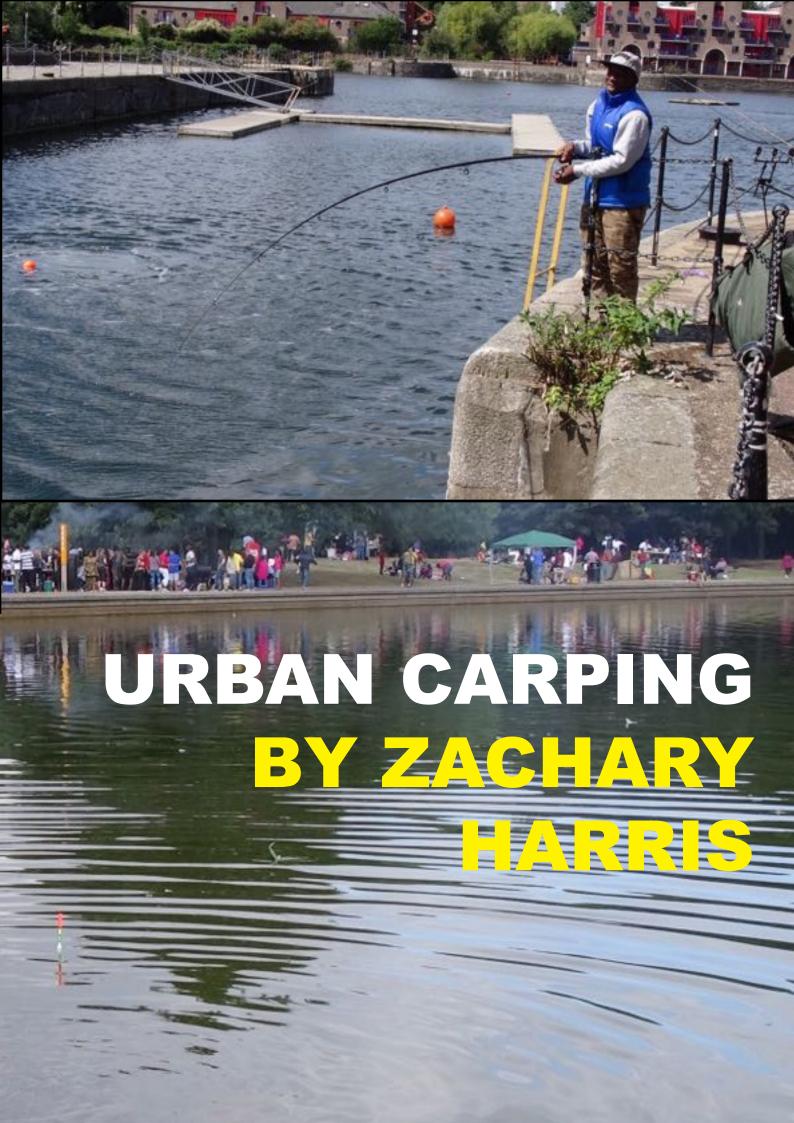
Day tickets are £9 2 rods £17 24 hrs,on site there is a toilet, shower, water.

A full breakfast service is available over the weekend and all the local take always deliver to the main gate.

We look forward to welcoming you at the lakes.







I received a call from my mate Matt (London city Angler) asking if I would like to join him on a session down at the secret dock. I jumped at the chance and planned my route.

The next morning, I had packed light as I knew I would be roaming around London, and jumped on the DLR, I bought a loaf of bread at the shop then made my way to the dock. On getting there, Matt was already into his 3rd fish of the session, this time a 7lb bream, where we were fishing was off the side of a dock wall, and the water had dropped so we had to climb down a rusty ladder (above the water) to net the said fish.

We took (well, I did) a few pictures and released it safely back into the depths and Matt went on to tell me where and How to fish. He told me that it was very silty so I had to use a helicopter rig as we were fishing in 40ft of water, I decided to look for places to put my rig and was instantly drawn to a road bridge which cut off the fishing/no fishing sides, being a smarty pants I placed my rig right on the border, underneath the bridge. After feeling my lead down for almost 10 seconds, I clambered back to my rod pod and put the rod on the rest, it wasn't 2 hours before I heard 2 bleeps and having heard that all day from liners, I reluctantly looked at my rod being pulled off the pod, because someone had forgotten to put the bait runner on!

I jumped to my feet and grabbed it before it was too late, and I was into my first wild fish on my first session at the dock, the fight was quick and hard as I was fighting with gravity as well as the fish as it was literally underneath me, we eventually netted it and it was the darkest most beautiful carp I had seen to date. we quickly got the

cradle and took pictures while the usual London crowds gathered round at the spectacle.

After that fish there was no more action so I told Matt I had promised my mate Ash to do a night with him at my local park lake, so we packed up around 1.30 pm and set off towards Elephant and Castle (Near waterloo).

We did a bit of filming on the journey, as the trains stopped working so we piled onto the bus. taking as much footage as possible. When we finally reached the lake I met up with 3 top lads I usually fish with: Mark, Nick Gus, Predator the bailiff was there also. I picked up my bivvy from Mark and spoke to them about where they had seen fish.

Now, before I had met Matt I had watched his YouTube videos at the same park, using his home-made blackjack boilies, he managed around 13 fish in a day which was crazy as the average at this lake was 2 a day, so feeding off this information I decided to use them today. After looking around and realising that everyone was fishing on the same bank, I decided the fish would push themselves to the other side where amazingly, there was no one fishing. We went around, set up the camera and rods, and waited for signs of fish. One crashed out, and then another and then another.

All right in front of us. Seeing this I cast out 3 rods within the span of where I had spotted the fish, all with claw rigs and pva balls filled with pellet, to surround my Vortex dipped Blackjack boilie. 10 minutes after filming my intro, my right hand rod was off, and as it rolled near the net I shouted with delight "ITS THE GHOSTIE" as you can see in the video, this fish rarely comes out as it's so smart and

usually feeds in very deep or very shallow water so it can pick out food items.

We netted it and walked around to the mat, another crowd coming, I weighed it at 15.4 lb then deducted the sling, it wasn't the biggest fish in the world but one of the prettiest.

So I got in the water and released the fish then went to re bait my rod, by the time I had cast out and sunk the line, my left hand rod was off, me forgetting to put the Delkim on, and only realised when the rod was bending around my leq! I struck into it to find some kids had managed to throw a log, twice the size of them, over my line, but I think it was a good thing I didn't have my alarm on as I would have moved my rig and probably not caught. HOWEVER, my line was around the log a couple times and I had to get Matt to lift it out the water and unravel it with the fish still on the end.

We managed to untangle it and I landed this fish in style at 13.15 lbs ... not really helping my You-Tube video "Search for a 30" anyways we released that and got back to fishing. The fish in the area had been spooked by something as I saw tench jumping out of the water? Then I remembered that there are 2 cats in here, one at 40lb and one apparently at 70 lb. (I had witnessed my friend being spooled by one the previous week. So as the fish had been spooked I decided to move swim and fish in the margins either side of me, within an hour my bobbin pulled tight and I had a 21.10 lb common in my hands, as the flash of the second photo went, I had another run which unfortunately turned out to be my first tench...



Happy but not happy. I went for a quick whizz after those fish and ordered an English breakfast to my swim from a local cafe #Parklife, I was halfway into my bubble n squeak when my same rod went off and I was into a 22.3 lb common.

After this fish I decided to give Ash a chance, by reeling in my rods and relaxing in the summer heat; He still blanked. It was time to go home as we had run out of bait and money, so I took one last lap around the lake and spotted some fish feeding off the Nash riser pellet I had put in earlier. I quickly set up my feeder rod with a freelined Key pop up and watched in anticipation as the fish swirled around and around, nosing my bait. then out of nowhere the surface boiled and I struck into my

first and last mirror of the day, at 18lb on the nose I was content at the beautiful linear, I proceeded to release it and stopped off at the pizza shop on the way home. It just shows, Location, Observing Fish behavior and Tekkerz helps you catch more fish! - Sorry Ash.

Zach





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Hello my name is Stuart Mellors. I have been fishing since the age of 4 and I am a very keen carp angler. As I work full time and have a family I don't get much time on the bank but when I do go, I have to make the most of it. Not just sitting in the bivvy waiting for it to happen and playing Candy Crush, I constantly work at it and make the most of the time that I have got on the bank. I've been known to pack up in the night, no matter what the weather is and move swims, just to get on the fish which has caught me plenty of bonus carp. When I do go I always go with my dad Steve Mellors and I'm slowly introducing my 8-year-old son Sam.

One of the syndicates I fish I have been a member for 28 years. You are spoilt for choice as there are several lakes, rivers and canals to choose from. I concentrate on two of the lakes on the complex which hold plenty of carp which go to 40 pounds

plus, with average depths of 18 feet and plenty of underwater features. In the early part of 2015 I was approached and ask if I would be interested in becoming a director/shareholder of the fishery. It was a dream come true. At the AGM I was proposed and I was made a director and shareholder of my syndicate "Pride of Derby".

I could now help make decisions and get involved with projects and up keep of the lakes. On the agenda was an otter fence to be erected around all the lakes on the complex. It was soon passed and work began and over a few months the fencing was erected to a high standard and served many purposes keeping the otters out and also acted as a flood barrier in case the lakes ever flooded. I thought what a great start to the year and thought it wouldn't possibly get any better. But how wrong was I? During the spring and summer months my catch rates were incredible with multiple catches each time I was going. Keeping everything simple was the way forward. Simple 12inch combi link rigs with a coated braid with a blow back style hook arrangement with a size 4 curve hook.

My chosen lead arrangement was a lead clip style which I made running which I think gives you a massive edge to your armoury. After a lot of time messing about I stumbled on the right lead clip system for me which was from the Advanced Angling Solutions. These lead clips were perfect they gave me the choice of either having a running or a semi fixed setup. On the lake I'm fishing there is no need to drop the lead so the running rig was my choice which is what I use all the time if I can get away with it. I

never cast out a rig without a pva bag of crushed boilie or without a pva nugget around the hair to stop any tangles on cast. As I don't have much time I have to make sure my rigs are tangle free and presented correctly all the time. With my catch rates being consistent I decided to approach the bait company which was Urban Baits to see if they were taking any field testers on and to my amazement they took me on as a field tester.

I was over the moon, and was soon placing an order off them for the nutcracker. Because I was so impressed with the quality and customer service of Advanced Angling Solutions I decided to try all their range as I don't like to mix and match from different brands.

After months of using their range I was very impressed with the quality and how reliable they were and they never let me down and the hooks were razor sharp straight out of the packet. With the size 4 curves my choice. I decided to approach them to see if they were taking any team members on. After a long friendly interesting chat with Jason Hingston, the owner of Advanced Angling Solutions, I was now a team member of Advanced Angling Solutions which felt great to be part of such a great and friendly team, and wanted to get involved with the lads. I was soon running an Instagram page alongside another team member. Now that I was a team member I placed an order and was dying to get on the bank and catch some winter carp.

With work and family commitments my next overnight session was soon coming round. Only having 18 hours approx. each time I go, time is crucial on the bank to pinch a bite. So preparation and travelling light is key. As where in the winter months I decided to use the nutcracker from Urban Baits.

I chopped and crushed the boilies which I then coated with the nutcracker glug 48 hours before my session. I am a massive fan of popups with white being my first choice always, but only have the popup 1.5cm of the bottom and always like to over shot them as I feel the carp are getting wary with wafter baits and popups that are inches off the bottom. As I mentioned earlier preparation is key and I had been soaking the nutcracker popups in the flavour for months prior. After months of soaking the popups in the flavour I then start to add the nutcracker glug to add a thicker coating along with a sprinkling of liver cracker powder which is a massive edge.

Finally, the day has come, and with the car loaded I

had to go to work first but finish at 1.40 as on winter hours and only work four days a week, it gives me the chance to do an overnighter. As 1.40 was getting closer the buzz was starting to kick in. Before I knew it I was down the lake walking round watching for signs of fish. With no signs of fish and a cold easterly wind I opted to fish on the back of the wind center of the lake. As night fall was fast approaching I decided to get the rods out first by doing 19 wraps around the sticks followed by the spod rod. Casting all three rods using my simple setup and pva mesh bags the traps were set, Followed by half a dozen spods of chopped boilie in a line on all three rods.

With freezing conditions during the night and no action before morning but there were odd fish showing over my bait. I then knew the fish were mid water so I decided to spod using a small spod with crushed and small chopped boilie hoping the fish would follow it down. Within 10 minutes my rods were away and action was thick and fast. After every fish I was spodding a couple of spods introducing little but often tactics. Resulting in 13 runs and landing 13 fish on the advanced angling solutions gear. Nine of the fish were over 20 pounds and the biggest being 27.08lbs. As you can see I had a very good year and this year is starting off as equally as good as now I'm writing an article in Talking Carp magazine.

Keep things simple and you will catch. Hope everyone as a very good successful year











Angling can be very hard at times, and at others very easy, seeming that you can't put a foot wrong. Then at other times just impossible and no matter what you try, the species you have chosen to target, just will not bite. The point I am making is we either learn from the blanks and the hard times or we don't, and that can mean a really good session or a feeling of stuck in a rut for future trips. I Personally learnt from my last winter session at Jonchery 7, as I tend to learn from most session's, but this one in particular really got the brain going, making me change a few things in the way I approached my angling, and my thought process prior to going to any lake.

In a way it gave me a kick and showed I had become a little lazy, and needed to a kick start again. We all go through it at some point, it's how we deal with it that counts and move on, to better ourselves and the way we go about targeting the chosen species we fish for. Angling is about learning every time we go and using what we learn to best achieve our goals.

With that in mind, and a sort of freshness of the mind, a very late opportunity came up to fish a lake which is situated within picturesque woodlands in the Champagne region of France, created and run by the prominent fish farming Bachelier family. The complex consists of 2 lakes, Brocard Large and small. The larger of the two Brocard Lakes is 39 acres, picturesque and abundant with wildlife. It holds a good stock of carp to over 58lb and 15 sizeable catfish and you have the choice of several double swims.

You can book this through Angling Lines French Carp Fishing online and through Facebook. Brocard Large looked the one for us, a few days later my Dad and I were on our way. The lake is just under 4 hours' drive from Calais, so we

travelled over night to get there for an early morning meet with Mark Slade who is bailiff and guide on all the lakes the family owns and runs.

We met Mark Slade at Jonchery main lake as he wanted to take us over to Brocard Large, show us around the place and give us a bit of information about the lake and how it had been fishing over the last few weeks.

So with Mark's advice and having a good walk around, plus seeing about six fish showing off and making a huge commotion by leaping out, making some real loud noise, it wasn't hard to choose peg 5. Within the hour we were set up and after a while found a few hard clay spots' at around 120 yards and 140yrds, which is roughly were the river bed in the lake is, and goes to about 6 to 8ft deep, with lots of silt around those hard spots.

With the fish also giving themselves it was easy to get to the spot's and know that we were bang on, as didn't really want to go casting out marker rods and ruining any chances of a few quick takes. I started the session with small 10mm wicked white/pastoral yellow pop up's from Mad baits, with size 4 Anti-eject barbless C425 and size 4 indispensable carp barbless C415 hooks on Ashima braided hook links, with the Micro beads and very small swivel's on the hook which the bait was tied to with a little uncoated braid finished off with Ashima's short line aligners.

The rigs were then threaded through Castaway PVA's 18mm long chuck which had a combination of crushed Mad Baits Pandemic and Carp particles Ultimate spod mix inside. These were then cast to the hard clay spot's, we didn't have to wait very long and my Dad was in and had a succes-

sion of fish. I knew it wouldn't be long and my ATT's would be bursting into life. I wasn't wrong and with my first run I was into a big fish. It was a common and a huge one at that, it would have easily gone high 40's if not 50lb and just as I was getting it to the net it quickly turned and run straight towards the swim front and turned last second and the hook popped out!! Barbless hooks have their draw backs and I was truly gutted.

It's hard to try explain the complete and utter devastation when losing a fish of that size, and so close to the net cord. It took a little while before I could compose myself after re-baiting and getting the rod back onto the spot. Just sat there a while in a little disbelief. It took a few hours but again I was in, this time a common of 22lb banked and safely put back. Relief washed over me as I had the first fish of the session.

Over the next few days, the weather went from 80mph winds to absolutely freezing conditions, but we were still catching fish no matter what the weather was throwing at us.

The next few fish I had were all commons, my second of the session went 27lb, feeling a bit better now, and the next one topped the scale's at 34lb 8oz, rods back to the spot in the dark and another common of 34lb hitting the spreader block. Getting the rods out in the dark on the spots at Brocard Large is not at all easy, yes we had the distances stick out to make sure we were getting the right distance, but it is absolutely pitch black out on the lake. There is no light pollution, so picking the tops of the trees across the lake





during the day was pointless, as we just couldn't see them, to use as markers. So to overcome this problem we set down bank sticks. and used them for marker in the swim so that we cast from the exact same spot every time. As long as the cast was straight the other two rods were easier to get into place as all three rods were fished out at the spot's in front of the swim. Very tight together and the width of the area was only about 4ft so it had to be spot on. Now they were on the spot's I sat down and went WOW 4 fish to 34lb 8oz, this was turning into a cracking winter session and I just didn't think it could get better, but it did!!

My next four fish just blew me away entirely. Especially when the weather decided to go into the minus numbers! The lowest we recorded was -5, freezing cold I worked hard and the four fish that graced the bank for me were just unbelievable. I mean the first mirror of the session gave me a good 30-minute fight in utter freezing conditions so I knew from the off this was a good fish, and as much as I didn't want to think that common earlier, it was in the back of my mind and I was really apprehensive that I could lose what felt a really big fish. It stayed very deep right up until it got very close to the front of the swim, but I won the battle, first Mirror of the session went 48lb on the scale's and I was left a little speechless for a while.

Wow huge mirror and once the picture were done and rods back out, it was a huge felling and one that I was very happy to have shared with my Dad, who was just as happy as I was, and we did jump around a little like small kids. But I don't care what we looked like, angling is fun and about sharing special moments together, and that was a very special one. With not much time to digest what had just happened my ATT's burst

into life again, this time with a mirror of 26lb, then two hours later again the alarm's sounded and I banked a cracking 30lb mirror. I was now on 7 fish for the session, the blood was pumping and the thoughts were what a session so far. If I didn't have anything else I would be going home happy, I mean winter, and I had had 7 fish to 48lb, surely it couldn't get better could it??

Oh boy did it get better, the ATT's screamed a tune we all like to hear and I was clearly bent into another big fish, how big would soon become apparent. Again a very hard fight but after a 25-minute battle but I finally won and in the net was a huge unit of a mirror!!

As we had done for every fish so far we made sure everything was zeroed and sorted before we weight the fish, we lifted the fish in the sling and the needle went straight round to 49lb!!! Oh I was dancing a jig, gave my dad a huge cuddle and hand shake and a "well done son" from him the photos were taken. Releasing the mirror back into her watery home, the buzz was massive and it took a few hours to calm down a little, before I was back into another fish. The commons seemed to have again taken a liking to the wicked whites pastoral yellow popups I was using and I soon had a 34lb common on the bank.

The cold finally got a hold of the lake and it started to freeze up a little, so for a day and a bit the fish shut off totally. We worked hard and it paid off with two more fish a 25lb Ghostie common and a lovely scaled Mirror of 19lb 8oz.

What a winter session and it just goes to show that sometimes just one really hard trip can give you the kick in the right direction, and make you make the right changes to your angling. Don't sit on your hands when out on the bank, work and change things until you get the bite, don't be afraid to move if that's what required, and above all never go home with regret, thinking that you could have done more.

Again although this trip went right for me in every way, there was never a time I wasn't watching the water, or making slight rig changes or bait colour changes, which allowed me to come home and know I did all I could and tried everything I could to maximise the fish landed. The four lost fish were another learning curve when using barbless hooks, and I again learnt something new. Always try and learn from everything you do and you will find catching those fish all the much easier on your next trip.

If you want a venue that is full of surprises, then Brocard Large is definitely that venue. I would like to thank Mark Slade and Frank for the great hospitality all week and to Ashima Tackle UK, Castaway PVA, MAD baits, Carp Particles UK and Advanced Technology Tackle for such great products which enabled me to have such a great winter session, know those products wouldn't let me down in whatever the weather chucked at us.

Still buzzing now and a winter session to remember for a long time. Get out there and do it guys, the rewards are there to be had.

Tight lines

Ross.

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