



# Talking Carp

**Issue 57**  
**November 2020**

*Lest We Forget*



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# Hello....and welcome to issue 57.

Well here we are, the clocks have gone back, and we are deep into Autumn with winter around the corner.

We are seeing some fantastic captures up and down the country, with personal bests being broken almost daily, lake records being smashed and carp looking their absolute bvest right now. It is a good time to be a carp angler...

But ... please be prepared. Do not get caught out with the change in the weather! The days are much shorter, and wetter, and the nights are colder and darker.

Be prepared and there is no reason you cannot enjoy your fishing all year round.

Of course, the beauty of having longer, darker nights in the bivvy does give you more time to read Talking Carp on the bank... but maybe it also gives you time to pen your own articles?

We are always looking for fresh, new writers and articles... we are the magazine written by YOU! So feel free to have a go and write your first ever piece, get published and be read by over 120k readers worldwide every month. We will help you every step of the way so get in touch via the usual emails below.

Tight lines and all the best,  
Team Talking Carp

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*Team Talking Carp*

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*Cover shot - Lee Nobbs (St. Ives meadow lake)*

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*A chat with.....*



*Mr Julian Cundiff*

# What A Year!!

This month we welcome back our good friend Julian Cundiff for a chat and this time we talk about the disaster we call 2020...and what a year it has been.... Highs, lows and all in between.

**T.C** Welcome back to Talking Carp Jules... well, where do we start? It would be fair to say that nobody could envisage the year we are all having, and the last 8 months have tested people to the absolute maximum. People have lost family and friends due to this virus, the country went on a national lockdown, a great percentage of working people were forced to stay at home, schools closed, and towns and shopping centres became ghost towns. But it hasn't been all doom and gloom has it? The carp community has managed to stay strong and we have managed to get this far together... just.

**J.C.** Absolutely mate what a flipping tough year, in all likelihood the most difficult year most of us will ever know...please god. Like a lot of things (death, divorce, serious illness) until you are living it you can't really know what it's like. One of the advantages of being old and sensible is that I've never lived beyond my means, always prepared for a worst case scenario and if it doesn't happen then that's great. I retired in 2018 after 38 years of working for the court so financially it did not touch me, but I feel no guilt with that many years' service TBH. We do like our foreign holidays and usually have a winter sun break November and March each year in places like Cyprus, Tenerife and the like. We flew there the last week in February (Tenerife) when Covid appeared to be just one of things like Ebola and SARS that made a lot of headlines but generally did not impact on the UK much. However, towards the end of the week it was clear that Covid was the real deal and you didn't need to be a fortune teller to see the \*\*\*\* was



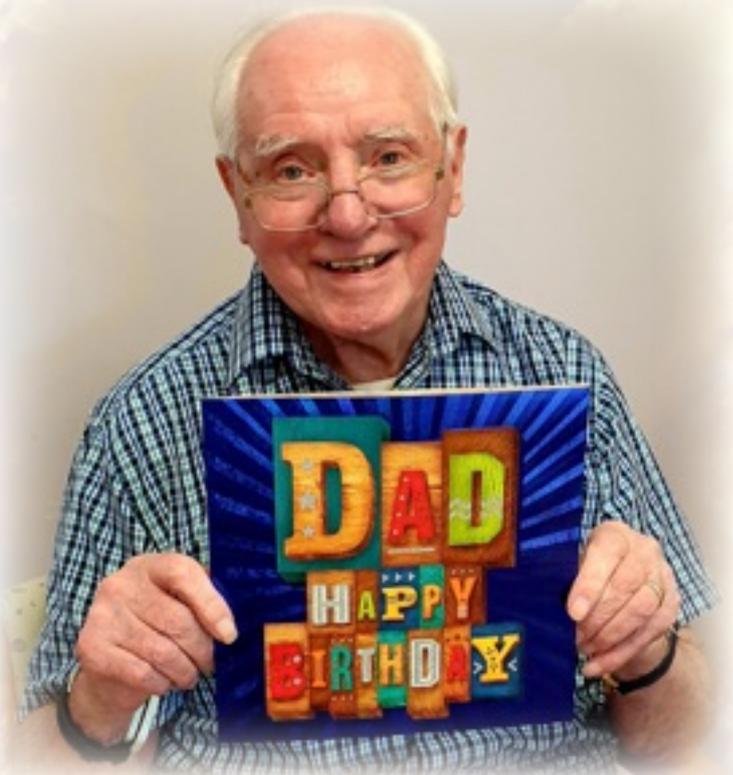
## A chat with.....

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soon gonna hit the fan in the UK. Our suitcases for the return journey home were devoid of duty free and full of masks, sanitiser and toilet rolls. On the way back from the airport at some godawful time after midnight we did a big shop at a 24 hour Tesco and then the world went crazy. I guess where we did suffer as a family was not being

able to see my dad who lives in a supported care home. No matter how much I wanted to spend time with him his safety was plenty more important than my needs.... So sadly, I have not hugged or kissed my dad since the 27th February 2020.....gutting. What I did find galling was the number of hi profile anglers doubting the validity of the virus, demeaning us for scare mongering and acting pretty selfishly in my opinion. They look pretty stupid now eh.....I do feel that by and large the country was behind the first lockdown and although disappointed about not being able to fish the majority kept to it. If you did fair play you have my respect, if not please remove yourself from my feed....



Lest We Forget



**T.C** The national lockdown in March of this year meant that nobody could travel, fisheries closed their gates and fishing ceased. Social media exploded, online shopping went through the roof and the lake banks were empty. How did you manage to keep yourself busy in that period?

**J.C** I remember thinking in early March that a lockdown was inevitable and pushed myself hard on the fishing front. The day before Boris made his announcement I had the big common late one afternoon and when I listened to his speech I was glad I had put the time in. It sounds weird but in all honesty I actually enjoyed the lockdown although I understand for many it was awful. I empathise with them but for me it was great to step off the treadmill for a change. Mum and dad told me not to leave anything on the table in life and do it whilst you can, so I guess I'm a doer not a gonna doer. With socialising, long bike rides, concerts and angling prohibited then all those jobs that I'd put off got their comeuppance. I'm a tad OCD at times and have a list of things I need to do and by mid-March it was probably 50/60 items deep..... gulp. Not major stuff but what I'd call peripheral work. Each day I'd get up, do an hour of social media then have breakfast followed by one task. From painting the garage floor to boarding the roof, sorting my magazines to polishing the office furniture, sorting the CD's to



scanning prints it was great to tick those boxes and feel I'd accomplished something. I would do my one-hour solo bike ride each day then weights in the home gym. Roz was working from home, so it kept me outta her hair and me outta trouble. Add to that numerous podcasts, filming and cracking on with my autobiography and I can tell you I was not bored, and time flew. Heck were we the only people in the UK without Netflix or Amazon Prime? Did I miss my fishing? Did I heck!! I have fished since '76 and carp fished all year round since '86 without a break so it did me good....Probably not a 'carpy' answer but I don't have yellow strapped waders or fold my reel handles either....

**T.C** We feel Angling Trust did a sterling job on the behalf of the anglers at this time, putting our case forward, lobbying for us to continue fishing, and showing how our pastime, if guidelines were followed sensibly, had absolutely no detrimental effect on the circumstances at the time, and by reinstating fishing it not only helped businesses who relied on anglers through their gates, but also helped those who use angling to help control their mental health issues. Giving people a chance to get out and regain a focus in their life.



*Lest We Forget*



**J.C** To be honest Brian I was less than impressed with the Angling Trust in years gone by and after many years' membership cancelled mine. They appeared to be very much game fishing friendly, had little understanding of modern freshwater fishing and their attitude to predation ( crayfish, cormorants and otters ) was pathetic.... However via Rob Hughes efforts I was prepared to give them a second chance and I have to say I'm impressed.....not perfect but a massive improvement. I am old school in that I believe my criticism has more substance to it if I've paid my subs. I did and at surface level they appear to have delivered the goods. I sometimes wish it would be less piecemeal delivery but no complaints big picture wise.....

**T.C** The time finally came when we were allowed back and what a return it was. The banks were busy on just about every fishery up and down the country, but even with so many anglers present, bait getting piled into every lake and a record number of lines in most waters... the one thing we did notice is the fishing was fantastic for most. Huge numbers of fish were being caught, Personal bests and lake records getting smashed all over and things were looking great... which made us think. Was the enforced lockdown a good thing for the fishing? Very much like the old closed season, it gave lakes a rest, a chance for nature to regain some ground, and we were rewarded with fantastic fishing.

**J.C** Was it good? Personally, I don't think so as it meant there was not a spreading of effort but an all-out assault when we could go. It certainly left waters wide open to predation and poachers and created a lot of bickering imbeciles on the internet. I wish I had a pound for every whinger who had little history of constant fishing on his page yet was furious about not being able to go....duhhhh... Tackle shops have never had it so good and one dealer told me if you could not sell gear in 2020 you need to get out....He turned over 350K in 2019 and 1.1 million from the start of lockdown until the start of November



2020.



**T.C** Everyone is aware that you have a strong media presence, and always willing to help no matter the question, and now you have started a new carp angling dedicated Facebook page called Julian Cundiff Angling, How is that going? **(Editor: if you are reading this and haven't joined this page yet, we urge you to do so. It is extremely helpful and informative!).**



**J.C** Thanks mate, because of the help I had early on from Tim, KM, Nashy, Andy, Rod and co I've always felt a duty to give back without wanting something out of it. It saddens me when I hear some 'faces' won't even communicate unless



*Lest We Forget*

they are flogging you a book, tuition, subscription or product. Please don't tell me it's because they are too busy.... utter b\*\*\*\*\*s. There are numerous pages and groups out there and because I wanted to help anglers out with the nitty gritty of catching carp without saturating my normal social media platforms with it ( many of my followers are not out and out hardcore carpers ) I decided to set up a seperate Facebook account just for carp fishing. My friend Henry Lennon from Nash came up with the idea and it just exploded. Unlike virtually every other group only I can post topics but obviously anyone can comment. This stops the endless trophy shots, bickering and such \*\*\*\*. Five or six days a week I cover a topic in words and pictures that I KNOW will catch more carp. So far I've covered such topics as PVA nuggets, sharpened versus packet, lead clips, lead free leaders, the perfect catapult, observing carp, tank tests, tail rubbers, knots, positive mental attitude and a full week on multi rigs and a full week on rod setups..... Troll free, debate free and in this day and age of ' pay sites ' it WILL ALWAYS BE FREE.... All people need to do is have a Facebook account, go to Julian Cundiff Angling and add yourself...Heck you can even get a free personalised Nashbait Bait Book from me for just two stamps..... Almost 5000 people in 7 weeks have joined so I must be doing something right!!!



**T.C** One thing we are going to miss this year is the winter show season. The chance for thousands of anglers who go through the doors to meet the companies and their representatives face to face, to meet their angling heroes for a selfie and a quick chat, to see the new products up close and personal and to grab a bargain on the weekend. We know a lot of companies are certainly going to miss the income from sales these weekends bring in too so that has a massive knock on effect...

**J.C** Definitely Brian and I for one genuinely will miss them as show season was a great way to catch up with friends old and new and put smiles on faces far and wide. Each year I'd do Sandown, Brentwood, NAS and The Big One as well as countless tackle shop open days with Alan Blair. With the Covid pandemic in my opinion you can forget any indoor shows in 2021 and I fear the financial hit will kill some



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shows off forever. Remember budgets for 2022 will need to be sorted by April 2021 and if we are still in this mess then no major company will set aside money for 2022 either.. I guess Carp in the Park is a possibility and maybe some of the other big shows may try the concept too? I guess the odd tackle shop open day may creep back, but social distancing and face masks take the joy out of it. Expect more podcasts, films and social media I guess?

**T.C** So all in all, it hasn't been the best of years for our sport but somehow, we have found a way to keep going. What final words would you say to our readers as we leave 2020 behind us and go into 2021?

**J.C** Well I suppose all I can say is be safe, be responsible and don't be a \*\*\*\*. Whatever your views on its origin, it's impact and mortality rate it is what it is and the sooner we get it sorted the better. Not being responsible will make it last longer for sure. Remember it's nothing like the World Wars our parents and grandparents endured and if society was not so deluded and self



*Lest We Forget*



entitled it would not seem so bad. For many the impact will be pretty negligible unless you truly believe not going to the pub, convenience shopping, going to gigs, conferences and the like is the end of the world. Give your head a wobble, take a step back and look at what you have got not what you haven't got please. We can all go fishing ..... Let's hope 2021 is better and if not as long as you are upright then the world ain't that bad a place surely.....

**T.C** Many thanks for joining us once again and discussing the hot topic of 2020 with us. Let's hope the latest national lockdown isn't as devastating as the first... Take care and stay safe.

**Brian**



*Lest We Forget*



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## How good are you 'in front' of the camera...?

The thing about being an 'Online' Magazine means we are already part of the World Wide Web and that means we can easily 'link' to all manner of online content....

The written word is still the choice of many and we will never move away from written articles, but in keeping with the modern era and all things 'visual' we are looking for content to either support the written word or for a quick and visualised way to do a review or demonstrate a rig etc...

...and this is where you come in, or at least you and your camera do...!

We are looking for content creators that are comfortable in front of a camera and can make interesting and informative short videos. We can then link to those videos right from the pages of the Magazine, whether that be from within an Article, a Product Review or even a Catch Report.

We want the video to work alongside the article you have written, or perhaps you want to show how you put your rig together that landed your PB that is featured in our Catch Report section, or maybe you want to showcase an item of tackle you mention in your article about a session...??

What we don't want is lots of footage of you 'talking' about your session and giving the viewers that classic "up the nose" shot from within the bivvy as you sit there blanking or putting the kettle on...or just 'Instructional Videos' on how to tie a "RIG", as there are thousands of those already online...!





It does not need to be 'professionally' edited but it does need to have good clear video and audio and we don't want it set to loads of music either, as not everyone will have the same taste as you.

The videos need to be detailed but preferably no more than five minutes in length (you can speed up the boring parts like tying an overhand knot or forming a loop on the Multi-Rig for example) and they do need to be in focus. Also, if they have spoken audio, that needs to be good quality too. This is the sort of thing that any Action Camera or Smart Phone can easily achieve now, so you don't need high end, expensive kit to get involved.

If it is a Product Review, it should give the key points of the product and a demo of what it does and most importantly, it should be something you own and use and not just a promo for a company...!! If it's a technical video, such as changing the Drag Washers on a Reel, it needs to show how the job is done.

**\*\*\*\*\*So, do you have the camera and the skills to feature amongst our pages...?\*\*\*\*\***

Maybe you already have a video on your Social Media you would like to share with us, or you have an idea you would like to discuss...?

If so, drop me an email, along with any links to videos, to [m.galli@talkingcarp.co.uk](mailto:m.galli@talkingcarp.co.uk) Or contact me via Instagram [@mark\\_carper257](https://www.instagram.com/mark_carper257) and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

***Cheers from The Talking Carp Team.***



*Oo La La and stuff!*

*By Andy Murray*



Well, I was pretty sure I knew what I was going to talk about this month and I was just putting the finishing touches to this article, then last night's announcements suggested it might be otherwise, for a brief moment I thought, what's the point? What's the point complaining about all the senseless posts on FB, all the Virologists and Politicians coming out of the woodwork again. Then I thought sod it, I'll have my ten pennorth. I know that deep down, most people are intrinsically good and would do anything to help others, I guess that's why I struggle to believe some of the posts I see. I understand the frustration people have and try to scroll past some of the rhetoric I see, "I'm not doing this, I'm not doing that, it's all rubbish, you are all sheep and the one that really gets me going-I have done my research!", the list is endless, occasionally I get involved...then tend to end up getting really annoyed, it really appears that some folk would rather believe lies and false posts than have any understanding or compassion for others. My delete button is being used once again a lot! Look, if we have to stay in, we have to stay in, it's as simple as that. I love going fishing as much as the next man (maybe more),

considering I am in my fourth decade of carp fishing, I still look forward to every trip as much as I did when I started. But, if it's for the good of others then I will stay at home until told we can go out. If it turns out we can go fishing, then I will go, and abide by any rules set, it's not difficult is it? Just look after yourselves and your family and not focus on what others are doing. Anyway, rant over and all of you, please, please take care of yourselves and your families. Back to the fishing.

October came and our long-awaited trip to Jurassik carpe in France was here, like many others having had a tough year I was really looking forward to some time out on the bank. I was so excited to finally be loading up the van to be off, even right to the last minute I was expecting some last-minute announcement to say it was all off. My fishing partner this trip was Pete, whilst we have been on the same trips in the past we have not actually fished together. The trip down was a rough ride, I left home at 2am and got to Pete's around 6am, the weather was really bad, torrential rain all the way and we loaded up at Pete's in the pouring rain, everything was soaked.





We got to the Tunnel on time and soon we were on our way. Once that Train left the UK, I thought “that’s it now, we are definitely going”. We arrived at the lake around 2pm, checked in and set off to look at the swims. We had pre-booked 6 and 7, which we thought would be good, as the lake was closed to our right from peg 8 onwards for shooting. We had initially thought the swims were a bit closer than they were, so we opted to double up in swim 7, we could cover a lot of water from here and would be on hand to help each other if needed. Storm Alex was due to circle round again shortly, so we wanted to get the camp fully set-up before it did. It was clear that the right hand side was going to be the favourite side as that side of the lake was closed, I wasn’t really

bothered so Pete went there, we sort of said that if one side produced we could always move the rods round or alternate them if needed. We had arranged to have an evening meal brought to the swim each night to save worrying about cooking, which turned out to be a really good

idea, as it was taking so long to get set up each days with the rods.

I have mentioned before that one area of fishing, I really needed to work is boat fishing, especially as I want to travel abroad more in the coming years, both Bait Boats and larger boats. Whilst I have done this occasionally it would be fair to say I wasn’t proficient with either. We knew here we could be fishing at ranges over 200 yards, so I was looking forward to spending a week working on this. Pete had his own bait boat and I had mine; we had brought a dinghy as well with a sonar. As we were fishing one swim we used the boat the lake supplied set up with our own Sonar, which was just as well, with the weather that was going to turn up! The hard



bottom boats are much more stable than dinghies. By the time we got fully set up, it was evening time, so we opted to use the bait boats for the first night to drop some rigs in likely looking spots, then we would see what daybreak brought. After a few runs with my trusty old Waverunner, which is a bit like me, old and slow, but gets there! I found a couple of likely looking spots around the 200 yards mark, along the edge of a long weeded area. We seemed to have a few heavily weeded bars in front of us then it levelled off before the features started much further out. Given that we were in October I felt the carp would be moving further out and not so close in as the weed was old now, and falling temps and angling pressure push the carp put a bit. This I find very similar in all lakes not just in France. Pete had an island in front of him and went up to that to start with. He did try one rod very close in the first night as we did have a very deep gully in

front of us, that produced a Tench. The first night was quiet and we were both up before first light watching for signs of carp but there was nothing showing, just after 7 am my middle rod pulled up tight and I hit it. The rod hooped over, and I had a carp on! It went from weedbed to weedbed but eventually Pete slipped the net under a 33lb mirror. That will do nicely I thought to myself. I got the rod back out without too much fuss, an hour later I had a dropback on it, when I struck on it, the line parted immediately! Never mind, at least I had found a spot early on, something to work on now. We spent a few hours on the boat with the Echo Sounder looking for more areas for the coming night. To be honest, I didn't see much more than I had already with the Baitboat, I put



an illuminated marker pole out on a shallower spot and baited up quiet heavily for later in the session. With Storm Alex approaching



fish in, did it work? Well it certainly pulled in the Sturgeon! I was plagued for the rest of the week, they even moved onto

we battened down the hatches, my did it rain! And then it rained some more! I had taken a social tent and we had a stove in there as well as a small TV screen, so we had somewhere to sit in the dark and keep warm. Thought I am not sure Pete found my collection of John Wayne and Elvis films to his taste! Pete had put rods out towards the island in a gully, he had runs from those spots for a couple of days, we put a marker pole on that spot as well. Those spots started to dry up, he had also been searching out an area to his right, which was actually in front of peg 8 which was shut as I have said. The owner had told Pete about an area to try along there, which started to produce carp steadily for a few nights. I was really struggling, not for a bite, just to catch another carp! What I had done after those early runs was to increase the bait and liquid attractors to try and pull the

Pete eventually as he put more bait onto his spots. By mid-week we were both pretty drained, it was proving to be a bit of a hardcore trip. It was taking up to two hours to get all the rods out at range each night, playing the carp and the Sturgeon during the night and then getting the baits back out was hard work and was taking its toll, this is what we had signed up for though, no use moaning about it. What was also noticeable was that towards the end of the week, we weren't getting up quite so early! Tiredness was definitely taking its toll. Pete's boat packed in on the third day, whilst using it in the storm and big waves. So, we then had to rely on my old re-furbered Waverunner, which was great in the heavy weather, but very slow compared to Pete's. It was also proving a drain on the batteries, so we had to make sure one was always on charge. It is important to have everything



you need when abroad as one never knows when things can go wrong. We had a generator as a backup if needed. It was dark for around 11 hours, so the illuminated marker poles we had put out really helped getting the baits back in position after a run. In the new year I'm going to do a piece of prepping for fishing abroad and will cover a lot of these things that we use all the time.

Pete was definitely in a much better spot than I was, and I think he was starting to feel a bit guilty about the Carp he was catching as opposed to the Sturgeon I was. With the last night coming up he asked if I wanted to swap sides for the last night, so maybe I could get another chance of a carp or two. I was now in a quandary, should I stay put or move, I asked the question on my FB to see what others thought.

Most said they would move, though those that knew me, knew how stubborn I am and said I probably wouldn't move, they were right. I have on many occasions landed a good fish on the last night, so I decided to stay put. It was really a good job I did as well, Pete had 2 Sturgeon and a tench! Imagine if I had moved? Given Pete was using different bait than I was, that would have really messed with my head wouldn't it? The Sturgeon were relentless, we thought there must have been hundreds of them in the lake. We were really surprised to find that in 190 acres of water there



were just 11 of the sodding things! I was discussing this on the last morning with the owner when he told us this, he also then told me the best way to get rid of them! That would have been helpful a few days ago...The week had really flown and all too soon it was time to pack down and head for home. Pete had a much better week on the carp catching front than I did. With hindsight, I maybe could have fished a bit better, then I always beat myself up a bit. One of the things I used to be good at in days gone by, was sticking to my guns, whereas I do tend to chop and change a bit more these days. I had definitely learned a lot more about boat fishing and fishing at long range. We had survived the storm and the tackle had stood up well to the onslaught of the week, which will come onto.

In my last article I mentioned I had joined Wolf International, I have been using some products for a while now, mainly the Rods, Alarms and new Spods, we haven't been able to say much about this until now for various reasons. By the time you read this, the ICON alarms will be ready for production. I have been using prototypes for a while and they have stood up to

the challenge of big water fishing and whatever weather is thrown at them. I have this week received the finished product, and it looks and feels great, more than that, it does what it's supposed to, no doubt you will start to hear more about them in the coming weeks. I am really excited about the projects we have lined up for the next 2 years or so and been involved in the development, from ideas, to CAD drawings, to prototypes, then to the finished article. We have a great team, between us we have around 200 years of carp fishing knowledge and experience, some great conversations are being had. I am also looking forward to the shows and angling events once we are allowed to travel again.

Depending on what happens this week, I will be starting my winter campaign shortly and I am looking forward to the challenge of winter fishing, with all that goes with it. I'll keep you posted.

Catch you next time.

*Andy*



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*Sometimes... It's not just  
about getting the rods  
out...!!*

**Part Three**

By Mark Carper

...Travelling towards the first of three lakes we had spotted on Google Maps, we had further glimpses of the incredible canal network, albeit just a fraction, that Belgium had to offer, and we were amazed that we had never decided to venture over the border considering we had done so many trips to neighbouring France and also considering Denis had actually fished in Holland on a couple of occasions. We put our lack of adventure into Belgium down to the fact we had so many places in France that we visited and for the past ten years, most of them were unknown to British anglers...!!

France does still hold a massive draw for us and I would urge anyone that wants to 'fish in France' to not just jump on a commercial lake

based on their 'Food Package' and 'WiFi' (or is it more Hot Tubs and Swimming Pools now..??!!) but to give serious thought to getting on a Public Lake, even if it is just for a few days and experience true French Carping...!!

Our trip to Belgium, was to prepare us for just that, the true freedom of Carping in Belgium, as opposed to turning up at a commercial water with named fish...!

We could have just turned up to any section of Canal, chucked out a couple of rods and hoped for the best, but doing this trip was calculated in

as much as we wanted to see more places in a shorter timeframe to help us plan future trips.

So far, we had concentrated our focus on sections of Canal but now we were heading towards a large blue area on the map and our first 'Lake'.

Parking was easy and some parking was next to the lake. We even



noted that there was a cycle path running along onside of the lake, which we estimated at about 100 to 110 acres in size. There was also a small Sailing Club building at the man in car park end and an easy walk to the waters edge from that point, however, it did look as though the majority of the lake was inaccessible and un-fishable without the use of a boat. Unfortunately, there wasn't anyone around that we could ask

about fishing the lake and we just noted down a couple of phone numbers that were on the notice board of the Sailing Club. To date, I have not been able to make contact with anyone about this particular water, but will be revisiting it in 2021 as there is a good Canal section very close by that I want to fish.

We drove about twenty minutes to the second lake and this was much larger at an estimated size, taken from the

map, of 150 to 200 acres, but we could not get a vantage point to see the whole lake so not sure if it is all fishable.

There was a fairly large Marina and Sailing Club located at one end and a very rough track running along one side. Parking was fairly close, but it was a bit of a trek to get gear down to the water and bivvy areas were very limited. A boat would be the order of the day for fishing on this water, but again we





would need to find out if that was possible, although, given it was a Public Access water, we felt it would not be an issue.

There were a few anglers set up, but we noted they were not geared for the Carp, but at least it confirmed that angling was indeed possible.

We marked a few areas of interest on

the map and had a bit more of a walk but as we could not get to most of the lake, we decided to head off to the last 'Blue Spot' we had marked on the trusted Google Maps...

Thirty-five minutes later and we were in a small town that was literally surrounded by water.

A river, running in and out of a small Park Lake and a Canal that

branched off either side of the town. Fishing Paradise...!!

With so many spots to fish on the Canal and the River and plenty of people fishing them, we were excited about the prospects of spending a few days here on our return. The Park lake was only small, but fishing was permitted although I am unsure if you would be allowed to Bivvy... though that would not be an issue as the Canal was only yards away and you can on there...!

Overall, even though we had seen some nice large Belgium Lakes and the thought of an Urban Carp from the last one, was appealing, we still were drawn to the canals and particularly the sections we had visited where we had 'seen' carp. The lakes would be a good backup



but to be honest, we had better waters in France that were around the same sort of travel time from Calais, and we knew for certain they contained good Carp and we had plenty of unfinished business on those.

We had spent the whole day out and about and our last night was celebrated by being asleep by 21:00...!

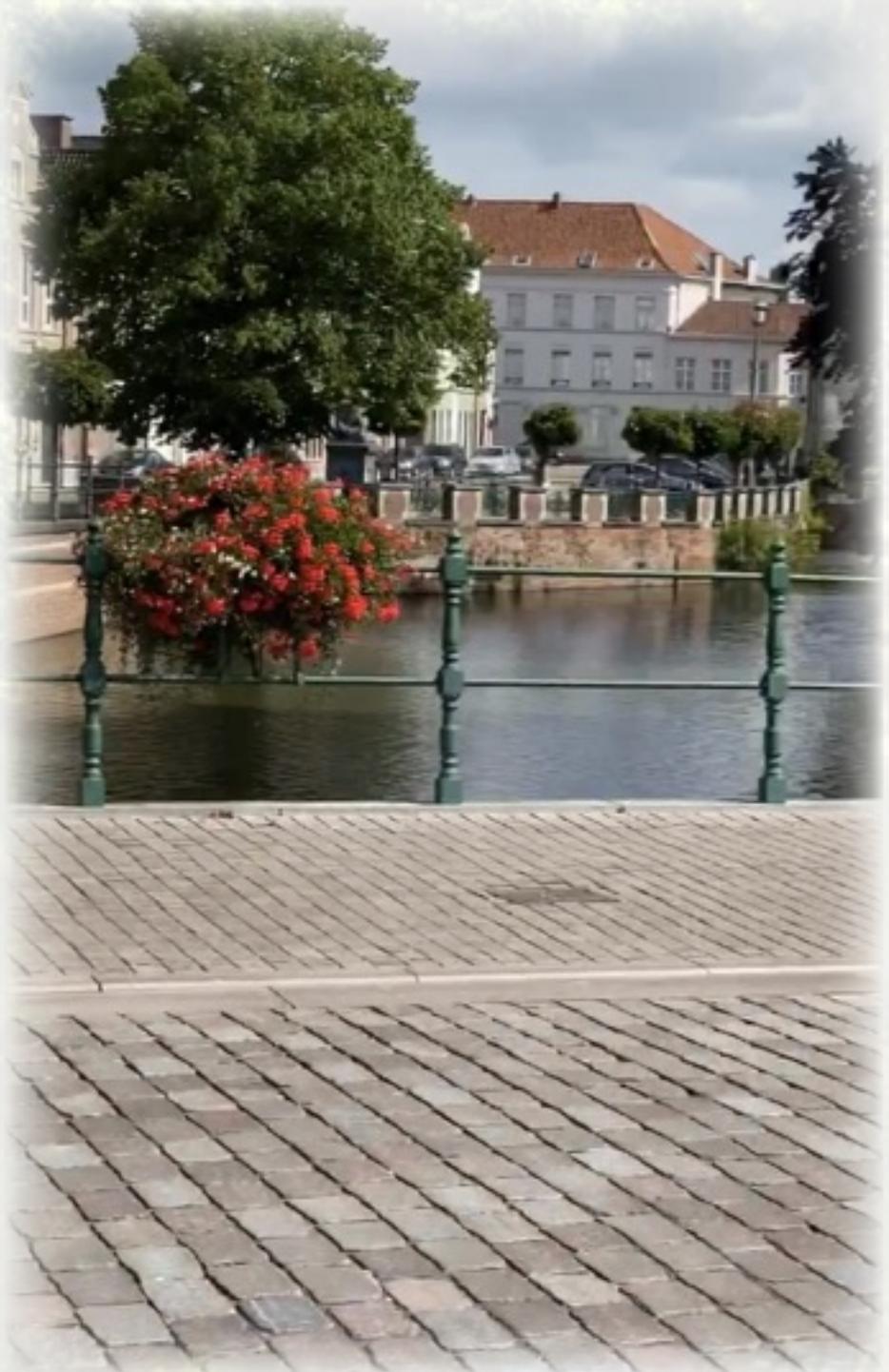
Sunday morning was to be the last chance on this trip to take in a few more sections of water, before heading back to Calais and the train home.

Amazingly, the final stop-off on our trip was to be in a town, we had seen in a travel guide that was given to us by the owner of the Chalet Site, when he found out we were 'Anglers'.

He'd given it to us as there was a map in it, but it was one picture within that made us want to are a closer look...it was an idillic shot of some steps

down to an urban section of canal, with the a Café at the top... it looked perfect.

The location was actually on our route



back towards Antwerp so stopping off was a bit of no-brainer really and that is precisely what we did.

Parking up in a public car park, we tried to feed the machine for a ticket, and we were informed it was Free Parking on a Sunday... bonus...! With a short walk through the centre 'square' of the town, which was very lively with people

having breakfast and shopping for their daily fresh bread, we were 'politely' shouted out by an elderly lady (about the same age as Denis, so definitely elderly..!) that it was compulsory to wear a mask at all times, even outdoors. Fortunately, we were well rehearsed in the carrying and using of masks at this time and promptly complied with her instructions...

it's funny how you don't notice everyone wearing them, until you are told you should be...!!

Mask or no mask, this little town was beautiful, and it appeared that everyone and their dog (literally) were out fishing in the centre

and all along the Canal that carved it's way through...

..every bridge was decorated with flower trays and baskets and all were in full bloom, which just made the place look so pretty... and that fact that there were people everywhere with "Spinning Gear" and lots of Spro 'Freestyle' kit, we were instantly in love with the place.

After a few minutes, we found the exact spot of the picture we had seen and it did not disappoint at all... you could literally fish from the bottom step and drink your Café supplied Coffee at one of the tables a few feet away...it was true 'Urban' carping in every sense of the word.

We followed the Canal to the West and it eventually led us to a



River section that also ran through the town and again, there were people fishing but again, only with Lures. I spoke to a few of them and enquired about Carp in both the river and the canal and everyone confirmed that good Carp could be caught in both. However, they seemed keener on their Lure fishing after the Pike and big Perch...while we were stood looking at the river, I spotted, what I first thought. Was an old shoe floating down stream, but it soon became apparent that it was, in fact, a 'Turtle', a bloody

Turtle, just swimming along and nobody even reacted, except me of course, as I was both shocked and amazed as I'd never seen anything like it before..!!!

With both fishing. And bivvy spots plentiful, we headed back towards the town and then out to the east.... We found more or less the same in this direction and once again, we saw signs of Carp, the very thing we had hoped for. This was definitely worth a return visit and would give us opportunity

a plenty in both the Canals and the River. Parking was easy and close by and at some spots, you could even fish next to the car...!!

We walked for a few hours, retracing our steps and stopping to watch the other anglers and more importantly, look for those tell-tale signs of the carp being present.

Heading back to the car, we discussed some dates for a return journey later that month or early the next, but little did we know that one week after our return, the UK



Lest We Forget



would remove the travel corridor to Belgium, meaning you would need to quarantine for fourteen days if you visit...! For me, quarantine is not an issue and in fact during the writing of this little starry, I have been to France three times and ironically, have spent that time, isolated for the world next to water...I have more chance of catching the virus from

a supermarket in the UK..but I don't go to them either..!!!

So with travel plans scuppered, we planned to visit in October, as we thought the quarantine issues would be sorted, but how wrong we were and Belgium was going to be a no go then too.. as I finish this story, the UK is about to fo back in to a month long 'Lockdown' and it

would seem that 2020 is now finished for me in terms of European trips.

However, with the hard work and the 'Leg-Work' done, Belgium is high on the planning list for 2021 and this time, "Getting the Rods Out" will be the priority. With all our newly discovered spots logged in to Google Maps, along with Car Parks, Local Facilities and Supermarkets etc., the trips should be fairly straight forward and hopefully, very productive. I can still hear the words of the Belgian angler we met saying, "if you find them, you will catch them...!".

We walked around 20 miles in total over the three days and we certainly knew it. It was by far the most either of us had done for many years and even though we never got a



rod out of its bag, let alone cast out, it was one of the most enjoyable trips I have ever done and I am truly 'hooked' on the country and the people. I have already created an online account to make the purchase of my annual license a breeze and I am already looking at combining a trip to 'Carp Zwolle' in January 2021 with a few days in Belgium with the 'Rods Out', providing we can actually travel and that Zwolle goes ahead..?!!

I have to admit that I did take my Nash Black-Ops Sawn-Offs with me on this trip, as I had images of the canals being similar to what I have been on in the UK, which are small

narrow and intimate sections, where my little 'shortened' rod pod is perfect for the tight spots, and I also took along with my usual rod of choice, the Black Ops 9ft 3.5lb Specials and although some parts of the canals would suit the little 6 footers, I would certainly not be too worried about taking them again as the majority of fishing is in and around weed

and Solid Bags would be the order of the day. That said, there is definitely a place for the 'Bushwhacker' Baiting Pole System and for the bigger sections, my Boat too...!!

I would also take a Barrow and aim to travel as light as possible in terms of tackle and shelters etc., as keeping mobile is definitely the key to success on the amazing Belgian waters.... oh, and some bloody big 'Back Leads' too...!!!

A big thanks to Denis Ryan for being duty driver for the whole trip and for resisting the urge to actually fish and hopefully that decision will pay off for us in 2021.



*Lest We Forget*



Right now, I am making plans for next year to include two new waters that I found in the past few weeks whilst over in France, of which one is the most stunning Park Lake setting with some fantastic Carp and the other is a water I have now visited and walked three times in the past three months and I am determined that the fourth visit will be with a rod...!

I hope you enjoyed reading this little story

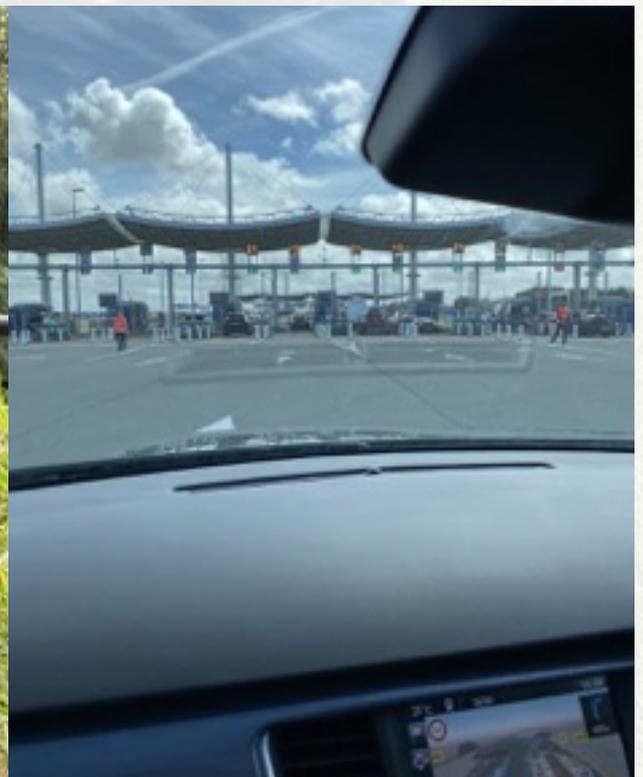
and yes, I know it doesn't give away the exact locations of the areas we found, but then it was never my intention to do that. As I stated in Part One, in issue 55, the reason we did what we did was due to the distinct lack of information available and since our visit, I can see why. To find the fish, as we read all the time about any water, you have to do 'laps', and basically, that's what we did, it just happened it was twenty miles worth....

now wouldn't you want to keep it a bit quiet after all that graft..??!!!

## Mark Carper

Instagram: [@mark\\_carper257](#)

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**Bayeswater, the end of an Era  
by Scott Geezer Grant**

After my last very successful session over on the syndicate, I was itching to get back over, but just like when I wasn't driving back in the day, I was reliant on my Mum dropping me off and picking me up, well I was now reliant on my friends and if none of them were fishing then basically nor was I. I made a few phone calls and was happy to know that a few of the lads were over the lake, and telling me to come over and they will help me set up etc. I didn't need telling twice, my Mrs and neighbour helped load the car then the Mrs drove me over to the lake and the lads took it from there. I arrived mid-afternoon and after chatting to the lads and looking as to who was where I decided to go into swim 8, it gives me access to the island and to the plateau straight out in front.

Once again, the bait boat was my saviour and once the marker float was boated out and then dragged back, I found 3 lovely areas. The fourth rod was going to be a zig so as to cover all aspects. The lads were on hand and got all my gear to my swim and helped me

get everything set up. With the 3 bottom bait rods out on their spots, it was a simple job of using the boat to take my zig out. I fished a 6ft zig in 8ft of water using the deadly black zig balls from Sharp Tackle.

I have been using them for all my zig fishing as they are so easy to use and are super buoyant which is extremely important. I tend to dip them but like I've said before how long this stays on is anyone's guess but for me it's a confidence thing. With all the rods out, it was time to lay back and relax. My mate Nick was in swim 4 and already had one of the A Team the "Broken back linear" at mid-30s. I done a few photos for him and then the fish was returned. Chris was in 6 and he managed to bank another of the elusive A Team "Big head single scale" at 35lb plus, again I took some cracking photos for him, the fish was taken on a zig, but nicks fish was on bait so the fish seemed to be having both which is good. Ben had been baiting swim 3 for a while now and from what the lads had said no one has been fishing that swim, which was good for Ben



Ben as after baiting certain areas he started to catch fish, I know he already had a few but whilst I was there he banked the mighty “Pigeon chest” at a cracking weight of 39lb on the nose, this particular fish normally weighs in around the mid 30 mark so it’s quite obvious to see that some of the fish still haven’t spawned for whatever reason no one seems to know. It’s quite worrying as if the fish don’t spawn soon then surely there will be fatalities, which no one wants to see happen.

The first night passed without a single bleep, and I had a great sleep due to the influx of the tramadol I seem to be taking like smarties!!

I was up early doors and the fish started to show out on the plateau, but they only showed for

20 minutes or so and then moved off. It was quiet all-round the lake apart from Nicks swim, he had banked another 2 of the A Team with the “Snub nose linear” and “single scale big head” both mid 30s and for him another two fish ticked off the list.

Later in the afternoon the fish were back showing on the plateau and without any warning my zig rod just went into meltdown, the fish was stripping line but after a slight adjustment I had the fish under control, Mike was on hand with the net and after a fierce battle a lovely stockie lay in the net. Only 21lb but welcome all the same. Mike

took a few photos then the fish was treated and returned. The rod was put back out in the same area and Mike made his way back to his swim.





I done no more then got assistance with loading the car then got my Mrs to drive me over to the lake. Again, the lads were on hand to help me and another diamond geezer Sir Baldwin was there, he is so funny but most of

Later that afternoon Mike banked the "Hawaiian Honey" at 38lb 2oz and he was made up and so he should be she is a cracking fish. Come the next morning and the lads were helping me pack up and load the car, I had enjoyed the little time I had spent at the lake and no doubt I will be back in a few weeks' time depending on my condition and if my mates are on hand to help.

Well low and behold a few weeks later Mike and Porky were over the lake and beckoned me to come over and fish for a couple of nights, there was a new weather system moving in and the two biggest fish in the lake were due out.

all a genuinely nice guy, respect brother.

Ian went into swim 7, I went into swim 6, Porky went into swim 8 and Mike was in swim 4. The south westerly wind would be blowing from my left and being on the end of the warm wind the fish do get down here and hopefully there should be a few banked. I fished this particular swim this time last year and had a 5 fish session, so I was hoping for a repeat.

I was armed with the Japanese spider crab and chillie hemp which to be honest has worked for me in the past. This was going to be my longest session so far this year with 3 nights ahead of me I was so





looking forward to spending some quality time on the bank with good friends rather than going stir crazy at home.

There were also others anglers fishing the other end, which is on the back of the wind, Ben was in swim 3, Sam was in swim 2 and Nick was in swim 1, so there was only swim 5 free. After a good night's sleep, I woke to a rather dormant lake, even as the sun came up, I didn't see a single fish show which is very unusual and had me worried. Ben had nicked a fish in swim 3 a stockie but a fish is a fish, and it seems as though the fish had gone on the back of the wind. Later that afternoon the fish started to show on the plateau in front of swim 8 and they showed for quite a

while but none the less Porky didn't get a take, which again didn't make sense!!

The following day Porky, Ian, Mike were sitting in my swim having a cuppa when there was something floating in front of swim 8, it looked like a reed as it was quite far away, I even got my binoculars

out but couldn't really see what it was. After a while the lads made their way back to their swims and a little while later Porky called me and said "Geeze you better get round here it's not good mate" I knew from the tone in his voice something was wrong so I made my way straight round to him, he was just standing in the water and there was a huge common laying at his feet, he looked completely drained, I knew straight away it was the Coconut common. For a few minutes no words were spoken, and everyone was in shock!! Once we all got ourselves together Buggy was summoned, and Porky called Gary to tell him the sad news. Sam went and got his landing net as we wanted to weigh her just to see how big she was, on the scales, she



she went 52lb which is massive for this time of year, she was obviously spawn bound and there is nothing we could do about that. We decided she should be buried, well to be honest I was quite insistent; Buggy brought a few spades over and the lads dug her grave. After she was laid to rest, a few of the obligatory items were laid upon her, these being a pineapple pop up, and a black piece of foam both of which she was caught on countless times.

This was a massive blow to the lake and to the owner Gary Bayes, the biggest and most biblical common in Essex was now gone!! For the rest of the day there was which I can only describe as a sombre all around the lake, it just felt weird

a feeling I have never had over the lake before. It really did put a dampener on everything and to be honest I didn't even feel like fishing anymore, and a few of the lads felt exactly the same. For the next 24 hrs nothing came out and a couple of the anglers had packed up and left.

Then Saturday morning Porky called me again and straight away I could hear something was wrong in the tone of his voice, again I was

summoned this time to swim 9 and when I finally got round there the fish that lit my fire and the one that made me get up at 3am and kept me going and the fish I actually joined the lake for the mighty "Buggies" was popped up there in the



margin,  
I was  
gutted  
and  
honestly  
felt like  
crying,  
the lake  
has  
already  
lost the  
biggest  
common



48lb 8oz  
and she  
looked  
just as  
big if not  
bigger.  
For me  
this was  
the final  
nail in  
the coffin,  
and I told  
the lads

and now has lost the lakes biggest  
mirror!!

Again, the lads came round, Gary  
was summoned, and I spoke to  
Buggy and asked him if he could  
bring his spades over as she was  
definitely getting buried.

A little while later Gary and Buggy  
arrived, I picked a lovely spot and  
the lads dug a lovely grave, Gary  
lifted her from the water's edge and  
placed her in the grave, he then cut  
open her belly and when he did,  
she was full of spawn which was  
dry with no water retention what  
so ever!! She was spawn bound. We  
didn't weigh her as my mate Nick  
had her a few weeks previously at

I was packing up and going home  
before anymore pop up. The lads  
helped me again and a few hours  
later I was off home after a session I  
never want repeated in my angling  
career.

I spoke to all the lads and said that  
both the Coconut and Buggies  
would have proper graves and  
that they would be finished off  
and look nice, which for me was  
the right thing to do. Mike made  
the wooden surrounds and Buggy  
organised the wooden crosses and  
finished the graves off with stone  
flint, he also planted a coconut tree  
for the big Common and a Scott's  
pinecone tree for Buggies. Steve



& Mike I can't thank you enough you really have done both fish proud. Once I got the final amount, I text the lads and told them what they had to pay so everything was covered. They all agreed which again was nice as both fish meant a lot to some anglers. If you ever visit the syndicate lake you will see the graves in swims 8 & 9 both respectfully done.

I know this year the lake has lost another 5 fish all mid 30lbbers, I'm not sure why and it's something

that I know Gary is looking into. The good news if there is such a thing is that Gary has promised to stock 7-9 fish into the syndicate lake in January next year 2021. This will bring the stock level back up to what it was and being that the lake has some younger fish these should go on to make big weights and bring Bayeswater back up to where it once was.

All the best

Geezer.



Lest We Forget



**Amazing 2 Hrs Today  
(Just love winter fishing)**

**by Richard Handel**



With a few hours free last winter I headed out down the lake with the Deeper to do some more mapping to fill in more swims to fill out my Lakebook page - lucky I had my tackle with me as I spotted a group of fish.

Think I would be silly not to have a go. I continued my mapping trip for another hour and a bit, then came back to the swim and set up.

The swim was under water and very enclosed in with tree, but I could get both rods in that area. I baited one rod with a miracle berry Wafers and a tiny mesh bag of my stix mix made

up of Spotted Fin products and the other rod was on a Masala Pops ups with small mesh bag filled with Betafin Pellets Soaked in Minamino's for added attraction. Both were sprayed with plenty of Catalyst booster spray.

It was only a matter of time before the right hand rod was off. I was battling with a nice lump

who insisted on going under the overhanging trees to my left.

As fish just love to keep your heart pumping, I was battling it under the rod tip avoiding the other rod and an array of fallen branches. After what felt like an age, the fish was in the net. As I was sorting out the retaining sling to weigh the fish, would you believe



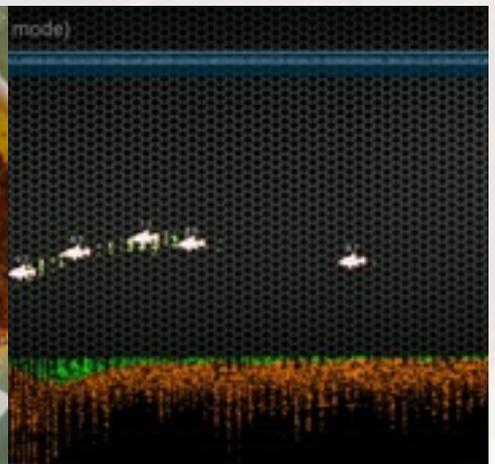
believe it, the other rod screamed into life. Why are carp like buses sometimes?! I quickly got the carp in the water. I picked the other rod up as I needed to gain line as fast as possible to get the fish under control before that one found the underwater snags. At this point, I still

had the cord from the retaining sling in my teeth, this was the only safe place to put it as I was knee deep in water. I finally had the other fish under control, put the cord over one of the buzzers on my pod and then got back to netting this fish. I was well happy for this result. I had a couple of liners

when I thought the rod was going to bust into life - I even pulled into one of them but it was just thin air. I have a feeling there is a trailing fish out there. It certainly goes to show that a few hours in the right spot in winter.

Until next time

Richard



Lest We Forget



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*The Learning Curve*  
by Carl Milton

I was lucky enough a little while back to catch my target carp, from a water that I had fished for a few years. A tremendous amount of effort had gone into the capture, on what is a very difficult water. I fished on for a couple more months on that same water, but soon realised I needed a new challenge. I could have stayed on the same water where there were still a few other fish to catch, but having caught the one I really wanted (which was at the time the biggest in the lake too), it would be hard too top. There is of course the unwritten rule among big carp anglers too that once you have caught the biggest fish in the lake you get the 'red card' to move on and give others a chance at the 'biggun'. I am also very goal orientated, and fish best when I am working towards an

ultimate aim. In most cases for me this is a target fish. I fished the couple of months after the capture because I didn't have anywhere else to angle immediately. But I soon found my mojo waning. I decided to fish some other venues and had a fairly nomadic period fishing several well-known day ticket venues. Although I was moderately successful, I am happiest fishing a campaign on a specific water. I had a few irons in the fire for the new season.

When my name came up for a place to angle on a large park lake, that I had been waiting for a few years to join, I knew this was just the challenge I needed. I had picked this venue for a few reasons the stock being one, but also the fact that it was a larger venue and different to what I had been used too.

Most of my angling has been on meres, estate lakes and clay bottomed venues. This was a larger crystal clear deep gravel pit with huge weed beds. It would require long distance casting also.

It's easy to stick with what you know, but I'm a great believer it pushing myself out of my comfort zone. That way my angling hopefully keeps developing and improving. That said when I first set foot on the venue, I don't mind admitting I was quietly confident having had a successful period leading up to gaining this ticket. Little did I know I was about to encounter a steep learning curve.

Over the years I've had mixed relationship with new waters. Some I've been lucky enough to catch my target fish



on, but others have taken me several seasons. My first session on the new venue was a real eye opener. The ticket started in June 2019, I arrived to quite a busy venue. I dropped into a likely looking swim and proceeded to cast around with a marker rod. Every cast was met with solid resistance and weed, to the point where I couldn't pop my marker float up anywhere to gauge any kind of depth. So I discarded the float and settled on trying to find any kind of clearer spot with a bare lead. After about an hour I'd found three 'clearish' spots. But without doubt I had scared any fish that may have been in the swim away. Suffice to say I went home with a big fat blank that session. I knew before I started that there was some weed present, but my first

key learning point was that I had massively underestimated the sheer volume of the weed. I proceeded to spend several days walking the venue with a single rod and bare

lead and notebook. I always plumb a new venue over several sessions, when the venue is quiet, but the weed meant on this venue I needed to do it ASAP.



The plumbing also gave me a good chance to walk the venue a lot and observe the fish. I started to build up a picture of some of their favourite spots. This however presented the next problem. The fish were often showing at long range. Most of my fishing previously had not involved long range casting. My gear was woefully under-gunned, so I had to invest in some longer range rods and long range casting practice. I studied several videos on YouTube about long range casting and it really is quite an art. With the new rods and improved technique I was able to hit the required distance. Armed with my faithful Steamies bait that has a tremendous pedigree on this and all venues it's used, I was again full of confidence. I was lucky enough to catch a 34lber early

into the campaign, but with work, family commitments and some urgent DIY to attend to at home, my fishing that year was cut short.

That winter there were huge floods at the venue and the normal gin clear water was turned to a muddy brown colour. This was to have a big impact. When I returned to fish in February my initial plumbing revealed very little weed anywhere, I assumed at first this was simply because it was so early in the year. But a month went

by, and there was still none at all into early March. I realised the muddy water had hindered the weed growth. This scuppered my plans. However the Covid 19 lockdown hit and at this point and all fishing stopped. This gave me some time to think. I decided when we were safely allowed back out fishing again to target the areas where I'd seen the fish the year before. A couple of blanks doing this had me scratching my head. The lack of weed seemed to mean the fish purely were not in the same areas as



the previous year. I needed a new plan. I chatted to a few friends and decided I needed to be very mobile. Fish sightings were few and far between. But a couple of friends mentioned some very early morning signs of fish. Most of my sessions are quick overnights, so this would mean being up even earlier. So the alarm was set for 4am on my sessions. This started to give me an idea of where the fish were. I even managed a couple of runs, alas one resulted in a cut off on a mussel bed

and the other found its way into a hidden snag and escaped my hook. But I dusted myself down and realised that at least I'm getting closer. I'll keep you posted on the campaign. One thing is for sure I will give it my all; I'm not one to give up. The nice thing about campaign angling is piecing the jigsaw together, and then the rewards are all the more satisfying when they arrive. I often think back to other campaigns. It is easy to remember the successes, but sometimes I forget the hard work that went

into those campaigns, prior to achieving my goals. I know given time and effort this one will come to fruition too. In the meantime, I will enjoy the learning curve.

I am happy I pushed myself out of my comfort zone and moved onto the large park pit. It has been a tremendous journey so far. It would have been easy to stay on the same smaller waters, using the same stealthily margin tactics I had been very successful with over the previous years. But I feel I am developing other aspects of my angling now, which will make me a better all-round angler.

Until next time look after you and yours, best wishes and tight lines

Instagram : @  
carlmilton4

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

Carl



*Lest We Forget*



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Preserving the Memory  
of that Personal Best....  
in 'Resin'



Mark Galli interviews Megan Hughes of  
Resinate

I'm not sure how I happened across the Instagram account of @resinate\_by\_megs but I was instantly (see what I did there?!) intrigued by what I saw...

A 'Ronnie Rig' Keyring and a 'Slip D' encased in what I presumed was a 'plastic box', so I thought I would find out a little more.... After flicking through the site pictures, I noticed that some of the rigs also had a 'Bait' attached...can't be a real one though, surely...??!!

With the power of Social Media, I quickly dropped a message to the site, with a few questions and this led to brief exchange with the person behind it...this is what I found...

Megan or "Megs" as she refers to herself, is the owner of the site and the brains behind the idea of turning the humble 'Carp Rig' in to a preserved, ornament, for want of a better description. But why would you want to preserve a carp rig...? Well, after asking around a few friends, they all seemed to like the idea, especially if that rig was part of capturing a new PB or was part of a special session etc. Or just as a gift for that 'Angler' in your life...or from yourself, I guess...

I caught up with Megs and asked her a few questions and this is what she had to say;

*TC: Hi Megs, thanks for taking the time to talk with me and welcome to Talking Carp magazine.*

*MH: Hello Mark and thanks for inviting me to talk about Resinate.*

*TC: Tell me a bit about your background...*

*MH: I have been a florist for the past 4 years and earlier this year, due to the Pandemic, I became furloughed. Although this was far from ideal, I decided to make use of some of my free time and branch out by creating a variety of artistic resin products.*



I began making items such as pyramids, cubes, coasters, keyrings, preserving wedding bouquets and memorial pieces. These were mainly made by using pressed and dried flowers.

**TC:** *So how did you get on to Carp Rigs...?*

**MH:** My fiancé is a keen carp angler, so we began with the idea to preserve a Rig and Bait purely as an ornament. It worked very well, and this quickly developed into being able to offer the service of taking in personal rigs which fishermen had caught their PB's or memorable catches with and put them in the resin so they could keep them on display.

I made one for a client and they then put a little engraved plaque with it, recording the size of the carp and where it was caught from which I thought was a lovely idea!

As a development from that I decided to just use the actual 'rig' without the bait and offer them as keyrings as this is a practical item for everyday use.

An angling acquaintance, Steve at 'Carpers Essentials' who's helped me source components for the rigs, even suggested them to be used as good luck charms to attach onto your fishing gear, as apparently some



Lest We Forget



carp anglers like to have them on their Rod pods etc.

*TC: so how are they made, how do you set the rig in to the resin...?*

**MH:** Each item is entirely handmade and the process of making the items must be done in stages. Silicone moulds are used to shape the keyrings and the resin must be applied in layers with as little bubbles as possible to get the best finish.

In between layers the rig is placed at a stage where the first layer of resin hasn't quite set, this then has to be positioned correctly on the first attempt otherwise the resin sets extremely cloudy on the inside of the finished piece.

After the last layer has been poured the resin needs to be left for at least 24 hours to completely set. Once it has been set the keyrings can now be taken out of the moulds, being careful not to damage the silicone so we are able to use them repeatedly.

They can now have the fiddly job of attaching the keychain undertaken. Once this is done the keyrings are ready to package and send out to our customers.

*TC: What has been the response to the products you offer to Carp anglers...?*



**MH:** It has taken off in a way I never would have expected. So much so we have even started to ship internationally with deliveries going out to places like Austria and Germany and we have set up an Etsy shop and are now on Facebook and Instagram and I hope this continues to grow even further.

**TC:** *Are the baits used on the rigs, real, or are they plastic imitations and do they need to be prepared in any particular way...?*

**MH:** All the baits used are real, although they do have to be 'Shelf-Life' boilies. Pop-Ups are also fine to use.

**TC:** *Do you know how long they will remain preserved in the resin...?*





**MH:** To the best of my knowledge, they will remain preserved indefinitely. Once in the resin, there is no way any 'air' can get to the boilie.

**TC:** Is there a size limit of a mould, for example, could you have more than one rig in a mould...or indeed a complete 'rig'...?



**MH:** The moulds come in a variety of different sizes. At present, I do not have one large enough to do a whole rig but it is a possibility and it's something I could do in the future!



**TC:** What sort of cost is it for a Ronnie Rig Keyring for example and is it cheaper if the rigs are sent to you ready made, such as one that was used to land a PB etc...?



**MH:** The keyrings are a set price of £6.00 each including postage and for the square rig and bait, it is £14.00... If you wanted a personal rig it's the same price but obviously there is additional postage as you have to send it to us first.

**TC:** *What sort of waiting time is there to get a rig made and do you have a deadline date for a pre-Christmas delivery...?*

**MH:** We do tend to hold the most common keyrings in stock which is normally a same day dispatch. For personalised or out of stock items it usually takes around three days to make and post, however, this can differ by a few days, depending on the volume of orders I have.

In terms of Christmas, all I can say is the sooner the better! The cut off date for a guaranteed Christmas delivery, with how everything is at the moment, would probably be the 10th December.

Thanks for the information Megs and I'm sure this will be a successful business as many 'Carp Anglers' are a sentimental lot when it comes to their captures, especially those PB's...!

Many are also very superstitious and like to have their "Good Luck" charm hanging off the pod and what better charm than the rig that caught you a PB...??!!!

For me, I'll take 'luck' anyway I can get it, so expect my order shortly...!!!

Instagram [@resinate\\_by\\_megs](#)

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**Fishing For Thrombosis Event**  
**by Will Jebson**

FISHING  
FOR  
THROMBOSIS



Fishing For Thrombosis



fishing.for.thrombosis

“Thrombosis: We were oblivious to the conditions linked to thrombosis or even what it was until all this happened, serious life changing/ ending conditions such as strokes, heart attacks and aneurisms are all directly linked to or caused by thrombosis. This is why we are so passionate about the cause because the likes of strokes and heart attacks already have the funding / publicity they deserve but what about the cause of these issues? Surely heading it off at the source is more important than dealing with the secondary issue? By supporting thrombosis UK, we aim to try and get this point across so more families don't suffer the loss we have.”

In October of last year, I set up a charity fundraising

page on Facebook and Instagram call 'FISHING FOR THROMBOSIS', the aim of the page is to raise funds and awareness for Thrombosis UK. With the help of both my brother Matthew and sister Alice we have managed to hold several raffles and we have just hosted our first annual charity carp fishing match. We have started this page in memory of our Mum Karen. Unbeknown to Mum she had DVT (Deep Vein Thrombosis) this then caused a pulmonary embolism, which devastatingly took our mums life instantly at no age of just 53 years old. Mum was a keen angler during our youth, and we have her to thank for our love of the sport, she was also the charity champion for her place of work which she also thoroughly

enjoyed doing. When I made the page, I wanted to try and make a difference and what better way than to combine two things Mum enjoyed doing hence the page. Our first annual charity carp match was due to be held on 4th and 5th of April but with the Covid situation worsening and the country being locked down we had to postpone to a later date. On securing a new date for our first event we had a few anglers already with commitments for the new dates of 3rd and 4th of October so had to find replacements, this was surprisingly easy as the page grew popularity and we ended with a full event plus a waiting list in case of anglers dropping out due to the current situation.

**On to the event then...**



The morning of the 3rd we all arrived at the venue, Cromwell lakes in Newark. With the way the world is currently we did the draw with the traditional balls in a bag with a tub of hand sanitiser poured in. Once the draw was completed all anglers then went to their pegs for angling to commence from 9:30. The draw was as follows

- 1) Andy Marsh
- 2) Matt Thraves
- 3) Luke Nolan
- 4) Glyn Jones
- 5) Phillip Turrell
- 6) Lee Upstone
- 7) Spare
- 8) Wayne Favell
- 9) Louis Blythin
- 10) Andy Berry
- 11) Delcan Pidd
- 12) Will Jebson
- 13) Sam Salvidge
- 14) Dan Tuplin
- 15) Matt Jebson
- 16) Archie Peck
- 17) Jason Callaghan
- 18) Dean Kozlowski



Quick off the mark was Andy Marsh in the least fancied peg 1 with a 29lb 8oz mirror. The rest of the day was fruitless for all, not helped by tough weather conditions only worsening and all anglers bivvy bound. Around 4pm our dad (Paul) arrived to cook all participants a well-deserved BBQ,

again with the social distancing situation and to allow all anglers to continue fishing we opted to reel in and deliver food to pegs between myself, Matt and Alice. Once everyone was fed it was time to get the rods back out in the torrential rain and pitch dark.





confident in although found low laying weed to present chods over. Surprisingly no more fish graced the bank, and the event was Completed at 4:30 pm.

Shortly after 11pm I was woken by a one toner, unfortunately it was that of Dec's delks in peg 11. After a battle in darkness I witnessed him slip the net under a mirror at 18lb 12oz. Using a D-rig critically balanced with a waffer hookbait being Mr consistence's approach of choice. Back to bed we went, with nothing else to report around the lake during the night. With conditions turning on the Sunday morning for the better, fish started to show all over the lake, and it

felt really good for a few during the closing hours of the event. After a quick visit to my van I stopped to speak with Dean Kozlowski and Jason Callaghan, both who struggled to locate spots to be

The presentation followed at 5pm where we had a main prize of total weight caught, biggest mirror and biggest common. All prizes were donated by Nutrabaits in the form of 5kg Trigga Ice boilies, 5kg Trigga Ice pellet, Trigga Ice liquid booster and Trigga Ice pop ups for the main prize. For both biggest





and biggest common we had prizes of 1kg Trigga Ice boilies, 1kg Trigga Ice pellet, Trigga Ice bait soak spray and a tub of Trigga Ice pop ups.

Andy Marsh won both biggest mirror and the main prize of total weight caught with his 29lb 8oz mirror. Although there were no commons caught, we took the decision to award this prize to second biggest mirror

which was Dec Pidd with his 18lb 12oz. Following the presentation, I addressed the participants to thank them for their support and attempted to explain why we are doing this. I had already thought of what I would say, although I'm not a shy person in the slightest I was unable to continue with my speech and Matt had to finish it. It was very emotional with

being the first event and we did notice some of the



guys eyes glazing. Once complete we made the draw for a Raffle to win a COBB BBQ kit and back to our pegs to either pack down or continue fishing for the night. Personally, my approach was to fish my faithful German rig with double wafter on all 3 rods on clear spots over a bed made up of:-

Nutrabaits Trigga boilies chopped & whole

Nutrabaits Cream Cajouser boilies chopped & whole

Nutrabaits Trigga carpet feed

Nutrabaits Cream Cajouser stick and bag mix with the activator  
Nutrabaits Trigga liquid booster

This combination is my go to anywhere and has served me well

more times than not.

With huge thanks to Cromwell Lakes for their contribution towards lake fees and Nutrabaits for their generous donation of prizes for the event.

For future raffles and events, like and follow [@fishingforthrombosis](https://www.instagram.com/fishingforthrombosis)

All the best,  
Will.



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# An Autumnal Bounty

By Sam Moor

## ‘Are you OK?’

My partner’s voice is tinged with an unusual inflection of concern. Looking out of over the churning water and into the dark contours of the night, I survey my surroundings and consider what I see before giving an answer. It had been a cold, wet start to Autumn and during the last few weeks regular storms had rolled in from the west to pummel the already well-sodden landscape. Vast quantities of rain, at first so welcome after such a dry summer and then rapidly despised once the novelty of permanent dampness had worn off, had fallen by the time the season of mists was well under way.

‘We were just wondering if you were coming home? The forecast is awful.’ She adds.

I glance down at my phone and wipe rain off the screen. It is a little difficult for me to make out what she is saying above the noise. Beyond the confines of my trusty old oval broly, battened down with every available peg and fixed as low as possible like a giant green limpet clinging to the earth, a vast

storm is wreaking havoc. The wind is roaring through the dense reams of trees that encapsulate the lake and any leaves that have clung on into the Autumn thus far will surely be stripped from their branches by the time morning comes.

The accompanying rain is torrential, swept by the gale it is defying gravity by going sideways and every now and then I get a spray of water in my face. The wind violently swirls as if trying to make up its mind as to which direction it really wants to go and the whole experience reminds me somewhat of being at sea. For alongside the howling wind and the lashing rain the lake’s water is slapping loudly, wave after wave, against the last exposed boards of my swim. Though the ground beneath me is steady, it is a bit like being on a boat.

My swim in fact is already part flooded but I have tucked my little camp up on the last vestige of slightly higher ground against the shelter of a huge old rhododendron bush. I am for the most part quite dry and comfortable despite the ongoing melee.

‘I’m fine sweetheart’ I reply. ‘I’m having a wonderful time.’



And I mean it, I love a good storm. When it's been cold, and you suddenly get those big southerly winds blowing in you just know that some good fishing is on the cards. It would be difficult to ignore such a golden ticket and staying at home, despite its alluring cosy confines, is not an option. By learning to appreciate what is 'good' in 'bad' weather your perspective can certainly broaden a great deal. I peer down to the water's edge and see that since I arrived in the late afternoon the level has crept up the bank by almost a foot. I make a mental note of the position and resolve to keep at least half an eye on it.

'Well, if you're sure' my partner says uncertainly, 'It sounds like the roof is going to come off at home. I hope you catch something, and you don't get too wet or blown away!'

I reassure her of my safety (and my sanity), and we say our goodbyes. I check the time and it is now 9pm: wind howling, rain lashing, dark rivulets everywhere. I gaze over to the far skyline adjacent to my swim, some

50 yards away at the nearest point, and observe the silhouetted trees swaying drastically in the wind. Overgrown with gnarly old oak and whispering willow the bank is actually out of bounds for fishing. Like the flow tide of a tiny inland sea all the water of the lake seems hell bent on making its way in this direction in a steady torrent of waves.

It is along this bank that I have placed my two baits. One is out



*Lest We Forget*





body of water.

At this point in time I had been fishing the lake in question for about a year having been invited, most fortuitously, on to the syndicate the previous Autumn. I was just starting to feel like I was getting to know the place and its residents well enough to fish with some consistent confidence. A beautiful little

enclave of about 6 acres, it housed some stunning fish with a rarely-caught handful of them going up to the mid-thirty mark. Sometimes it was a little busy on weekends but usually blissfully quiet for most of the week. To my great delight I had discovered the previous year that through the colder months I almost always had the place to myself and I had been looking forward to my second winter there immensely. And here it was beginning to arrive.

For most of that previous year I had been able to do two overnight sessions a week. Usually I would arrive late on a Sunday afternoon once the family were all ensconced and happy at home, and just as anyone else on the water was packing up. These sessions

to my left just under the limbs of an ancient oak that leans out precariously to tickle the water with its lowest fingers, and the other tight against a large protruding willow much farther along the bank to my right. I feel sure that during the course of the night or the following the morning some kind of substantial angling action is going to be had.

Since the heavy rains began the lake has taken on the most lurid colour which I can only describe as luminous brown, the darkness of the night seems to amplify this strange glowing hue. Furthermore, with the addition of various feeder streams, now overflowing and spilling out to form myriad streams along the bank, the lake looks more like a river in flood than a stationary



frequently proved to be quite fruitful, especially on the following Monday morning; fish quickly sense when a lake quiets down and resume their natural, more relaxed behaviours accordingly.

My other weekly session would then be on a Thursday night; here I would rock up at about 8.30pm after teaching my classes; a breeze in the warmer seasons but another ball game completely come the colder months. Nonetheless, I soon became accustomed to setting up in the dark, the cold and the rain and after a while I started to really enjoy the process of it all and the innate quiescence of those long chilly nights.

I aim to be consistent with my fishing trips and I like to commit to more or less the same days/ times each week. Even if conditions

are unfavourable, I do my best to go, for even if I am unlikely to catch, I can still revel in the natural beauty and solitude that being by the water provides me. Also, by being at my chosen lake consistently I can observe the water over an extended period of time and from this I aim to build an ever-improving picture of the watery environment and its particular ebb and flow.

Once you start looking there is always something new to discover and at the heart of my angling is the drive to become at one with my chosen water; I want to understand the place and feel like I am part of it rather than being an occasional intruder who sneaks out the odd fish.

If and when I do get to the point where I am able to get a good sense of a lake's unique rhythms and processes my catch rate



usually reaches its peak or is just about to. This process can take ages, sometimes months and sometimes years, but the time scale really doesn't matter. Like life, it's all about the process. You don't just want to rush to the end.

So, to resume my tale, on this particularly stormy Autumn night I was down to two rods from my usual three and I had been for some time. Back in the early summer of the same year one of my rods had been hauled into the lake by a fish (surely a monster) in the middle of the night never to be seen again. It had happened so fast and the whole episode left me feeling entirely distraught and as if I had lost a limb. It was my own fault completely, for just as I checked and re-set the clutch of the reel on said rod before retiring for the evening I noticed that there was a small glitch in the

mechanism. I gave the spool some tentative turns either way and after a while I was sure it was fine. I was wrong.

During the course of the night a single bleep from my alarm signalled it was time for action and I leapt from my sleeping bag only to see the rod in question violently yanked out from its rests and career off into the water. I had been fishing that rod very close in next to a large overhanging tree and without thinking about it I simply jumped into the lake hoping that I might just be able to grab hold of the end of it. After splashing about empty handed in dark waist-deep water for a while, I realised that I had missed my chance. I hastily wallowed back on to dry land and proceeded to cast about with one of my other

rods in a vain bid to hook onto the missing artifact. What a palaver!



After an hour or so I realised that this too was futile and I relented, completely forlorn. I took off my soaking clothes, hung them up in the nearest tree and crawled back into my sleeping bag only to remain sleepless for the rest of the night. My concern was the fish and I dearly hoped it had swiftly ejected the hook.

Early the next day when the Bailiff appeared on his morning rounds, I spilled the beans. He listened sympathetically and reassured me that it was highly likely the fish would have shed the hook seeing that I was using a barbless pattern. Nonetheless, he said he would take a trip out in the boat later in the day and probe around at that end of the lake to see what he could find. Unfortunately, the rod didn't ever turn up.

That summer session wasn't a complete disaster as I did manage to bank a couple of nice fish later that morning which cheered me up a little. The lost rod however, played on my mind for some time afterward but a valuable lesson was learned and since then I service my reels much more regularly.

By the time the Autumn in question rolled around I had grown quite

accustomed to using two rods and not having enough spare cash or indeed the willingness to replace the one I had lost through what was essentially my own negligence, I had simply accepted that I was now a 'two-rod angler' and that was that. Perhaps the whole rigmarole had been a message of sorts from the Carp Gods, but as to what it meant, I was quite unsure...

Surveying my two remaining rods I gradually nod off into a dreamless sleep despite the clamour of the storm, the sound of heavy rain on the brolly, the lapping water and the constant buffeting of the wind providing a wild backdrop. At some point in the night I wake up and am relieved to find that the weather has subsided significantly. There are even a few bright stars twinkling out now and then from behind great whale-like clouds as they blow by. I check the time and it is about 3.30am. I decide to get my head down again for a few more hours.

Just before dawn I wake up to a different scene altogether and I discover that the storm has indeed blown itself out. In part, the lack of action during the night is a blessing because not only am I well rested but I am also warm and dry; I would



have been soaked playing a fish in that storm.

The temperature has dropped by a few degrees and there is still a breeze. The sky is much clearer now and it looks like we might have some welcome sunshine this morning. In contrast to last night's wild weather the world seems incredibly peaceful, if a little messy after such a hullabaloo. I get the kettle on and scan the lake. Conditions are looking pretty good and I am filled with optimism knowing that the first rays of warming sunlight will hit my two spots in succession. As usual the first brew of the day tastes amazing and I warm my hands on my mug as I stand next to my rods and observe the ripple of the water and the distorted reflection of the trees and sky therein.

After an hour or so and just as the sun starts to permeate the tree line, two urgent notes from an alarm breaks the quietness; my right-hand rod requires immediate attention. I am fishing a tight clutch and waste no time in leaning into that which is responsible. I am met with a satisfyingly heavy living resistance. Taking a few steps back I attempt to move the antagonist away from

the willow I am fishing tight to. Fortunately, this goes to plan, and I manage to gain a significant portion of line. This is a good start to the conversation.

With the fish safely away from that snaggy bank, the protruding roots and branches spelling almost certain doom, all I have to do now is negotiate the huge bed of decrepit lilies that lies between us. The fish seems to wake up to the opportunity at hand and makes a powerful bid to the right, trying its best to get behind the vast mass of old stems. I apply plenty of side-strain and am relieved to find that the fish turns just as it starts to skirt the outermost fronds. Now I gain a few extra yards of line whilst leading the creature over to the left-hand side of the weed-bed. The trickiest part of the game is over, and I breathe a sigh of relief. I suddenly realise what a wonderful start to the day this is; the breezy air smells fresh and clean and the first birds of the day are starting to chortle and sing. I conclude to myself that I love fishing and I turn my attention back to the issue at hand.

With some effort I am able to lead the fish past the last lily-fringes and out into open water. Apart from



negotiating a few marginal snags, the rest of this tussle should be plain sailing. I lean over and secure my landing net in place. From the feel of it this fish isn't one of the larger residents but certainly has some mass behind it - I imagine that it is a mid-twenty or so and very welcome. As I slowly pump the fish towards me the feeling of our tussle takes on a disturbing and unwanted grinding quality. Everything comes to a juddering halt.

Scrutinising where the line enters the water, I look on dumbfounded for I am sure that there are no snags in the area. I hold everything steady for a few minutes and sense the occasional kick from the fish. It is still there, for the time being at least.

Gingerly, I alter my angle of pull, apply a touch more pressure and very slowly something gives way. Looking out to where I think the fish is, I see a dark Cyprinid shape slowly rise up through the water. It appears to be a nice fish, a good-looking mirror, its dark orange hues and resplendent scales clearly apparent as it nears the surface. Then, to my horror, it slowly submerges, and I realise that there is indeed an unseen snag hindering

the line between me and the fish. Once again, I apply a little more pressure and once again there is a tantalising glimpse of the beautiful creature; it slowly rises up through the water only to descend back to the depths a second time. Suddenly the fish has had enough of this game, it gives a powerful wallow and is gone, gone, gone.

For a few moments I look on disappointed. I pull myself together and can feel that my line is still snagged. I give the rod a frustrated heave half-expecting a big branch or some other belligerent detritus to make its way to the surface and be identified as the culprit for losing a nice fish.

What happens next is really quite surreal. For slowly ascending straight up out of the water comes a fishing rod twinkling magically in the morning sun. Like the fabled Excalibur of Arthurian legend, it continues to rise up until about 8 feet of it is exposed above the waterline. Framed beautifully by the colours of the autumnal backdrop, it stands there bolt upright for a few moments and I stare on in astonishment. Time seems to stand still until the rod gradually submerges back down to the



depths from whence it came. Whispering various expletives, I pull myself together, for of course this has to be my missing rod and I am determined not to lose it again! Inspired now, I give another tentative heave and somehow the rod comes free from wherever it is stuck and with extreme care I slowly play my long-lost possession all the way into the margins. After what seems like a lifetime, I reach out and grab the end of it and hoist it on to the bank most gratefully. The rod and reel are quite intact apart from being thoroughly coated in bright green slime. I am sure that with some serious TLC I will be able to get them cleaned up and ready for action before too long. When the Bailiff appears that morning, I can't wait to show him my latest catch and we spend some time laughing and discussing how much of a jammy so and so I am.

Very happy to be reunited with my rod and reel, I stay on at the lake until lunchtime that day, simply enjoying myself by basking in the autumnal sunshine, observing the nuances of the water and vaguely planning my next trip in a few days' time. Despite the lost fish I am already content with my session and I concede to myself that with

all the disturbance the chance of another fish is unlikely.

Just as I am packing up however, I have a savage take from the far willow spot. The most belligerent beast of a fish is responsible, and it proceeds to give me a dramatic tussle, firstly by snagging me up for ages and then by utterly destroying that massive bed of lilies I mentioned earlier with some relentlessly powerful wallowing runs. Eventually it all comes together, and I land a bristling brute of a carp that is well over thirty pounds. I am chuffed to say the least.

What with the storm, the rediscovered rod and a good fish in the net, it had been quite an adventure. As I make my way home that afternoon pootling down country lanes, I smile to myself. As usual I can't wait until next time.

Read more at [www.thetaoofcarp.com](http://www.thetaoofcarp.com)







# ARMOURY TACKLEBOX

What's in your armoury?

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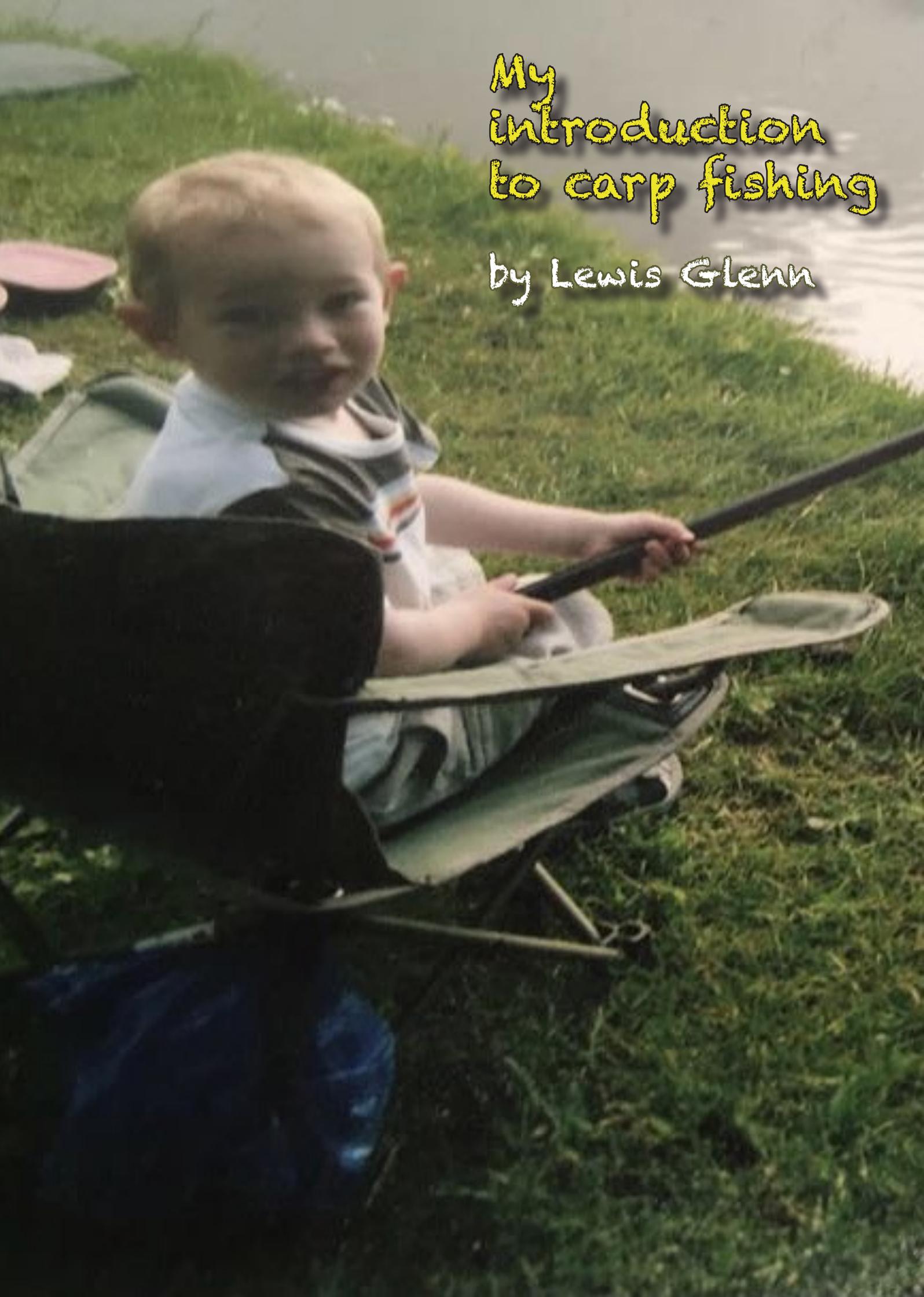
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My  
introduction  
to carp fishing

by Lewis Glenn

## *Fishing*,

fishing means a multitude of different things to a multitude of different people, I could guarantee that if you asked every angler you saw on the bank what fishing meant to them you would receive a different response almost every time, this is because fishing is so much more diverse than what most people consider it to be, now fishing for me started off at a young age when I was around about 4 years old, my granddad would take me down to a local pond around mid day or early morning set me up with a chair, a whip, box of maggots and a little net encase something larger came along and would sit there calm and content for all of about five minutes. The food bag and the carp mat where

my favourite items of tackle back then as I used to do more feeding than the fish and would often put down the pole to sit on the unhooking mat and indulge myself in all the goodies my grandma would have packed for us that morning. I continued to go fishing with him every season and enjoyed every session just as much as the previous and this had unintentionally gave me the fishing 'bug'. around about my early teens (13-14 years old)

I began being dropped off for the day fishing by myself on the local pond catching small to decent mixed nets of carp and silvers either fishing the method or the pole, the most satisfying part of it for me was pulling out the keep net and showing my granddad at the end of a session what I had caught throughout

the day by myself with no help from him or anyone else on the lake and this really pushed me to try and work harder and get bigger nets every time just to show him I was learning and that I also had a burning desire to go out and catch fish just as much if not more than him.

I carried on going on short day sessions on local match and pleasure ponds until one day I got speaking with a lad I knew who went to a school just round the corner from mine he was also a very keen young angler but his preferred species were carp, big carp. We got talking and after a bit of planning we decided to go on a session together on a water he fishes very regular for decent carp, the venue being Mill farm fisheries in Gilmorton.



On the site there are two lakes the top lake which is a match and pleasure lake and the bottom lake which is a former gravel pit with depths varying from seven to thirty feet in some places and is known as the big carp lake and was previously recognised as one of the best day ticket venues in England for big carp.

So the day came and with no previous knowledge of the venue and no previous knowledge on how to specifically fish for big carp my granddad dropped me off with all my kit, at the time being a fold out chair, a big double sided tackle box, (filled with small hooks and split shot) a spool of Drennan super specialist mono, a 2 ¾ lb 12ft carp rod with an Okuma bait runner and a brand new 36inch triangular landing net and handle.

With that I setup my gear in the same peg as my friend and proceeded to get try and get the rod out. The first problem occurred to me when I released I had no idea what rig to use in such deep water so my good friend and one of my closest fishing pals Charlie gave me a standard lead clip setup and a 12ft zig , now previous to this I had never heard of a zig rig and had

no idea what they were all about, he did his best at explaining to me why we were using them and talked me through the setup and helped me get my head around the idea of using a pop up 12 ft of the deck.

After some explaining we managed to get sorted and was ready to get the rod out.

Miraculously I managed to cast it out into the middle first time without any tangles, tightened down to the lead, clipped on the bobbin and set the rod up on a single bankstick and an old alarm my granddad had given to me. so I sat back and not after too long my rod was away and I had never had such a surge of adrenaline getting a bite before like I did when rod ripped of for the first time being connected to what I





thought at the time was a monster after a few minutes of battling with the fish my friend managed to bundle it in the net it for me and as soon as I gazed over into the water I was blown away, I had never seen a carp that looked that dark and had bigger scales than anything I had seen before, I was in awe of what was in my landing net. this really did begin my journey into carp fishing and is the sole reason I fish for these beautiful creatures that have now taken over my life.

I continued to go on day session with him on mill farm and I began to progress session after session down there and managed to catch on every session up until the winter where my seamed to not be working but after much perseverance I continued getting out there even in the worse of conditions and managed to catch

one of if not the biggest fish in the lake at 26lb 3oz and ever since then I have continued to love carp fishing improving my angling learning and travelling all over fishing for big, proper, English carp. Any water with those dark old warriors in always gets my attention nowadays especially those fish with a story to tell and they mean even more when the place you catch them from is renowned to be a tricky, that sort of fishing really gives me the passion drive to keep at it and the buzz of when one rolls over the net cord after all the effort that has gone into getting a bite is most definitely unbeatable.

Tight lines

Lewis



# **The Park Lake Campaign**

**by Connor  
Brown**



I started this campaign after finding out about the lake from a friend who suggested I should give it a try. After some research it became clear that there was not a lot of information on the lake or anything that had been caught and people were very secretive on what tactics to use and what swims were the hot spots.

I started my campaign in October 2019 after finding out a few of the well-known carp that are lurking in the depths of Diss mere I set my targets, I was of the mark in no time at all having a 20lb 1oz mirror to start me off after just 5 minutes of arriving for a short session that I went on to have a good lead about and find a few spots ready for when I come down on my first proper session.

A few sessions later I had one in the net landing the perfect ghost lin at 14lb one that many are now after, luck was in my hands., at this stage as the colder weather started coming in and I decided to start doing nights as the fishing in the day had slowed right down.

This all paid off when my rod ripped off within moments of me getting the bivvy set up and rods out on some spots, I landed the biggest mirror in the lake at 25lb 6oz!! Now I was absolutely buzzing all the hard work and determination was paying off, After Christmas I didn't really get down there as much as wanted and then we went into lockdown and I was itching

to get back down there as soon as we came out of lockdown my plan was to do some surface fishing through the warmer months but this wasn't looking like it was going to happen anymore. So I got a bait order in for some J H baits KLF freezer baits and the matching pellets, sprays, glugs and hookbaits so I was prepared for when the day came and I could get back out and carry on trying for my targets.

I was finally allowed back out but surface fishing had a temporary ban, but I wasn't going



to just leave it because I wouldn't surface fish I could still use zigs if needed, but it turned out they were still feeding on the bottom. I had to go catch the big common. I was determined to smash my personal best and catch my first 30 plus this year my first session back out resulted in carp to 20lb with the biggest one being a well-known common that many have caught over the years!

1 month went on and I still hadn't had another chance to get back down there... Then I finally got the chance for a day session which was shortened down a lot with me only getting down to the lake at 1:30pm and being able to fish until 10 I quickly found some fish and got set up and cast the rods out I was of the mark very quickly landing

a pristine 18lb mirror and then proceeded to land a 20lb+ mirror as the sun fell and darkness covered the sky not long after this I landed a mint 16lb lin. By this point I was already having a good session but... little did I know I was going to catch something very special soon. I moved the rods closer in and very quickly my right hand bent round but didn't take any line I struck into it and my spool just started to fizz! 15 or so minutes later she was in the net! I remember seeing

A red letter session I will always remember With the big fish time of the year arriving I decided I would set out on another day session to see if I could get a few of the 20s under my sleeve so I set out to get down the lake for first light I was the first one down the lake so had a huge choice of where I could set up, I set up on the same swim I had the big one last time with the lake being full of low doubles I was not expecting what happened very quickly within a few moments



*Lest We Forget*



of casting my rod I was away and landed my first one being a 18lb mirror this was shortly followed by a 20lb 1oz common after getting photos done my rods were put back on the spots and they were baited lightly. Shortly after I was into my next fish being one of the few ghost commons which turned into a double take with my other rod ripping of landing a 23lb 1oz common!! Buzzing!!

What a good few sessions I have had after lockdown!

I will be back to get the 2 targets I have left!

Connor.





# Catch Reports

*Featuring -*

Brooms Cross,

Nutrabaits

Vader Baits

Plus all of your catches !!!

# Carl Milton

Talking Carp writer Carl Milton has been in touch with some exciting news.. Here is Carl:-



The fish is a 33lb 4oz Mirror carp known as the 'Birthmark Linear'. It was caught from a large Southern gravel pit. It was captured using a Steamies TNT pop-up boilie over a large bed of TNT freebies. Using a hinge stiff rig with Korda end tackle, size 4 wide-gape Kamakura hook, Iq2 hook link, 4oz distance lead, korda lead clip and korda dark mater tubing. I fished at 80 yards on a plateau.



I was especially pleased with this one. The lake has been extra busy this year and with the limited fishing time I have, it's been hard to get near to where the fish have been showing. Also being quite new to the water too there has been lots to learn. Some tweaks to my rigs were the final piece in the jigsaw. I remember looking at the pictures of this fish recently and thinking how much i'd love to catch it. When it rolled into the net I was over the moon. My motto is effort equals rewards and this truly lived up to that.

**Callum Brady  
with Three Scale from Willows.**



I arrived at willows gate for about 9am after speaking to the owner Sam on what's been going on around the lake and finding out nothing has been out since last weekend; I knew it wasn't going to be an easy session. A few laps of the lake were on the cards, after seeing no signs of carp a lot of anglers were up the top end of the lake where the fish last came out a week ago. I decided to go against the grain and away from the crowd and do my own thing. I settled upon peg 20 at the complete opposite end of the lake with some strong southwesterlies due to blow in my corner the following day. My tactics and bait approach were simple 3 combi rigs with Carp Company Tuna and Garlic wafers over a bed of crushed and whole Carp Company boilies with a healthy dose of liquid. Nothing happened the first day as I suspected I wasn't just going to start hauling I had confidence in what I was doing and the bait I was using, the plan was a bait and wait. After 48 hours of my rods being in the water my left had rod rips off, a slow battle with the fish staying close to the bottom I knew it was a big girl 10 mins later I slipped the net under what was to my eyes the biggest carp I've seen on the bank to date. 3 scale at 58lb 8oz a new pb and the end to my 3-year campaign on the mighty willows, what a session what a bait what a place!



# Lee Nobbs

St. Ives meadow lake, Cambridgeshire



**After joining St. Ives after lock down and not knowing too much about the complex I fished around the complex for the first couple of months just to get a feel for the place. With only two hook pulls on lagoon to show for my 180 mile round trip every week it wasn't going as I'd hoped. With the weather turning wet the gate to the track on lagoon was closed to vehicle access so I decided a session on meadow lake was worth a punt. The first night was quiet but in the morning a fish showed 40 yards beyond, so I recast a rod on the spot and it went down with a crack. Nothing happened that day so but the next morning they turned up again and this time I had my first St. Ives carp on the bank, a lovely old 33lb+ mirror. Over the next few weeks, I kept the cell from mainline going in on the spots and the fish kept turning up,**

with fish up to 39lb+ so the baiting had been paying off. Then we had a massive full moon and in the early hours of the morning on the session I banked a 30lb common, this was slipped in the retainer until first light. Just as I was setting up the tripods for photos and filming my rod was away again, after a unbelievable battle and seeing two other huge fish showing over my spot while battling this fish eventually the fish rolled over the net, as soon as I looked I knew which one it was 'the round brown' at a weight of 47.10 a new pb for me and a much sought after fish. A couple of weeks of blanking occurred after the capture until my wife Claire came down for two nights and bagged a 32lb mirror. Then the following week on another full moon I was again attached to the round brown, unbelievably I caught her twice in a month.



# **CARPING MAD!**

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*"A story of sunsets, steaks and silly underpants"*

# Christopher Haddon

## Coppice lane fishery

Towards the end of the 48hr session on @coppicelanepools Fishing conditions have been hard since Friday as there was a lot of pressure on the water,

As people started to leave a loads of fish started to show more, was having a few knocks on my other rod then my right hand rod screamed off.

22lb 8oz Mirror caught on crushed milky amino scopex boilies and pellets with a yellow bib wafter from @northernbaitseurope  
All in a @themesh\_man PVA bags,  
End tackle @hoboarmour with a blow back rig



# Chris Shaw



## Hillside Fishery

Caught on double peg 2/3 on a 15mm strawberry pop up. 28lb and very hard to get in past 5 cast lines. My personal best carp and my lad helped me net it.

## Home farm fishery, Stoke on Trent

Personal best cat 67lb, fishery record. Landed on 20lb mono. Only 2nd cat I've ever had... my 1st was day before from same place.



## Johnathon Holland



Lovely 20lb common which gave a massive fight, it had one mark on him. I called him bubbles because of the location he was hooked from.



Martin Dyball  
69.04lb Sturgeon New PB

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Brooms Cross fishery Upper Alt lake record smashed. Big Deal at 37lb 6oz. Angler wishes to remain anonymous for now



Carl Dufus with Courteys Fish at 31lb from Upper Alt lake



Louie Madden with a p.b and Lower Alt lake record 30lb 8oz



Sue for Rich Hall from Upper Alt lake at 34lb



**Chris  
Weekes  
37lb 80z  
personal  
best**

**Valentina  
Roma 51lb**





**Richard Destremont 53lb**



**Phil Baker  
50lb 2oz**



**Olivier Gandzadi American 42lb mirror**



**Mark Gregory 39lb 4oz**

# Teddy & Ronnie – Junior Catch Report

Recently, I had a 'Follow' on my Instagram @mark\_carper257, from a couple of young lads, although I suspect it was likely from their dad, @juniorcarphunters...and as is normal for me, I gave them a 'follow back' and it was the wording in the 'bio' that made me take a look at their page...

**Brothers That Love to Fish  
Young Carp Enthusiasts**

It's great to see kids getting pleasure from catching Carp and with such beaming smiles in their pictures...something many an adult Carp angler could take note of...what is it with these moody, miserable looks we see all so often...??!!!

As a surprise, I thought I would get permission from their dad, Craig, and feature the two boys, Ronnie (Aged 8) and Teddy (Aged 6) or Ron and Ted to their mates, in their own little catch report section...

**\*\*\*Any other junior anglers fancy getting the spotlight in an issue, contact me via my Instagram but make sure you get permission from Mum or dad first...!!\*\*\***

## Ronnie



**This is Ronnie's PB, weighing in a massive 23.08lb (too heavy for him to hold).**

**He cast a 'Namesake' Rig (Ronnie rig) to present a 12mm Pineapple Crush pop-up close to the left-hand margin and scattered 5 or 6 handfuls of crushed up Strawberry Crush boilies over the top. W just an hour of the session left and staring a blank in the face his left hand 'Dwarf' ripped off and he played and landed this fish all by himself as dad was busy with Teddy as he too had a fish at the same time! This was October 2020 at Honey Pot Pleasure Lake in Essex.**



**Not his biggest fish but one he was really proud of as he threw two tins of sweet corn into a quiet margin two swims up. He flicked a 'multi-rig' with 12mm Banoffee wafter over the top and twenty minutes later, he had an absolute screamer and he had this one in the net! Caught at Crow Green Fishery in Essex**



**Ronnie with a lovely low double common, caught on a Ronnie rig with a 12mm Nash Pineapple Crush pop-up which he cast close to a snaggy overhanging tree, this was another Churchgate Fishery capture.**

## **Teddy**

**Teddy's PB caught pre lock down, 22.06lb from Churchgate fishery members lake in Essex. He cast his 'Ronnie' rig with an AVID 10mm yellow high-lite to the far margin and then walked round with dad and threw in some corn, before the kettle had a chance to boil his rod was away and he played this one like a pro with dad doing the netting!**

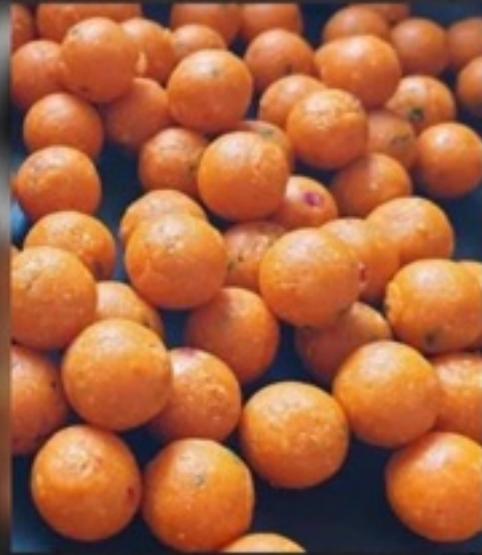
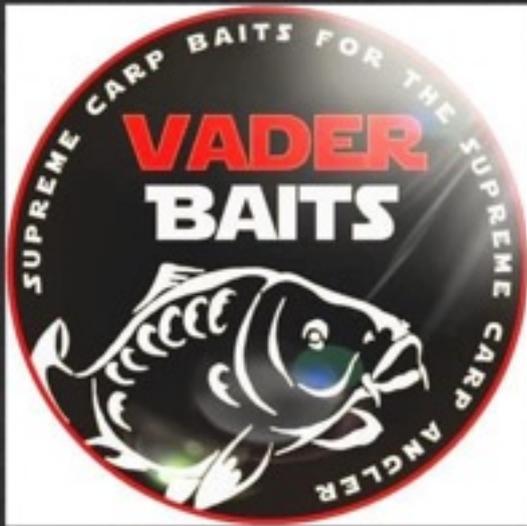




**Another Churchgate Carp and this one was a Low Double on a day when he and his brother caught thirty-eight carp between them in 12 hours. This one fell to a washed out pink 12mm pop up soaked in a strawberry glug and presented on a “Ronnie’ rig cast into open water with a mesh bag of 2mm pellets. Teddy caught this small mirror on a blowback rig presenting a 15mm Candy Nut bottom bait which he cast to an island and then threw 15-20 freebies around the area. His brother helped him net this one fish! This was at Tyler’s Common day ticket in Essex.**

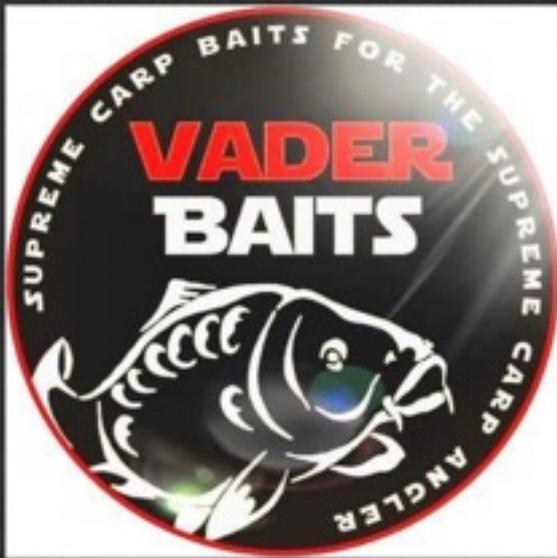


**Well done boys, some great carp there and I hope you have many more to come and many more years on the bank....superstars of the future and possibly some friendly rivalry as you both chase those new PB’s.... you will each receive a Sunblesa Magnetic Bivvy Tray to help you tie those rigs, compliments of @sunblesa and @talkingcarp. magazine....!!**



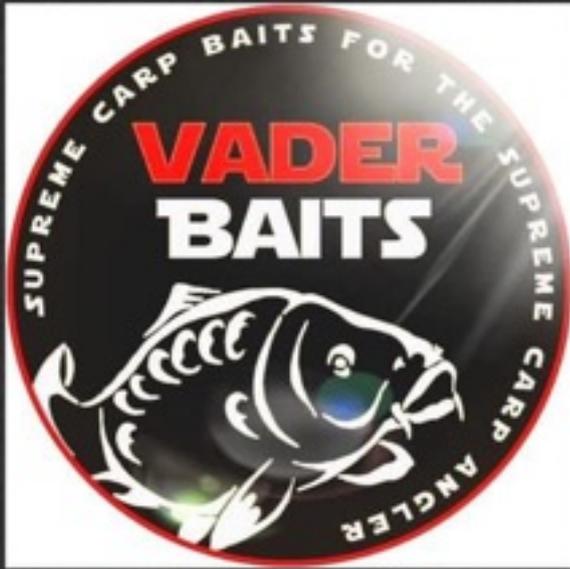
**Team member Paul fished our social at Festivals at the weekend. Filled with confidence after landing himself in one of the hot pegs of the lake he got to work on setting up his swim and got 2 rods to his chosen spots and decided to bait light, not even the storm would dampen his spirits. Come Saturday morning with no action the lake was proving harder than what he anticipated with seeing no signs of fish so far in his swim. After he finished his breakfast he decided a bit more bait might be needed to land himself a fish and with that trickled around 30 boilies out every hour onto his spots but no action happened through the day just before dusk he decided a hook bait change was in order and armed his rigs with a 18mm Tutti Frutti Tuna boilie a few rods lengths off the far reeds at midnight on Saturday his rod rattled off and he landed a very welcome 17lb 2oz mirror! This fish gave him 3rd place!**

**Great angling Paul**



**Team member Carl fished our social at Festivals at the weekend. On arrival It looked like it was going to be hard in the conditions, but he got set up and put the rods out. The left hand rod to the left margin and the right hand rod out towards the aerator in the corner of the bay. All was quiet for the first day and night till at 8:30am he had a very gingerly bite on the right hand rod. Struck into it gently and after 10/15 minutes fight he landed this lovely 20lb mirror. The fish was tempted by a 14mm yellow Le Nutz wafer fished over Le Nutz party and pellet mix with crushed and chopped Le Nutz boilies and some whole boilies as freebies. With this fish he managed to take 2nd place with so a good result in what turned out to be a very tough session.**

**Great angling Carl**



**Team member Kym fished our social at Festivals at the weekend. Arriving at the lake in heavy rain it was soon apparent that there was fish in his swim after spotting a few show at the far margin so he got to work and got set up and clipped up both rods to 14 wraps and got them on the spot and it wasn't long until one of the rods rattled off but unfortunately whilst playing the fish the hook pulled leaving him gutted and after losing 2 more fish in the same manor Kym made a rig change and changed from using size 4 hooks to size 8 resulting in landing a lovely mirror weighing in at 22lb 7oz! The fish was tempted by a 18mm SaTaN boilie teamed up with a solid pva bag of matching pellet and crushed SaTaN boilies and a scattering of party mix and SaTaN boilies over the top! This fish gave Kym 1st place!**

**Great angling Kym**

# Le Lees Carp Fishery

## Welcome everyone to LE LEES Carp Fishery.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Le Lees Carp Fishery

Our price over the winter months ( november 1st to march 31st ) is 130 euros PPPW. 1st april to 31st october 150 euros. We also do an evening meal at 70 euros pppw.

Lake exclusive for upto 5 carpers with an evening meal is 750 euros pw.

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

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

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

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

Tight lines and may the carp gods bless you all. Best wishes

Find us on Facebook for further information.

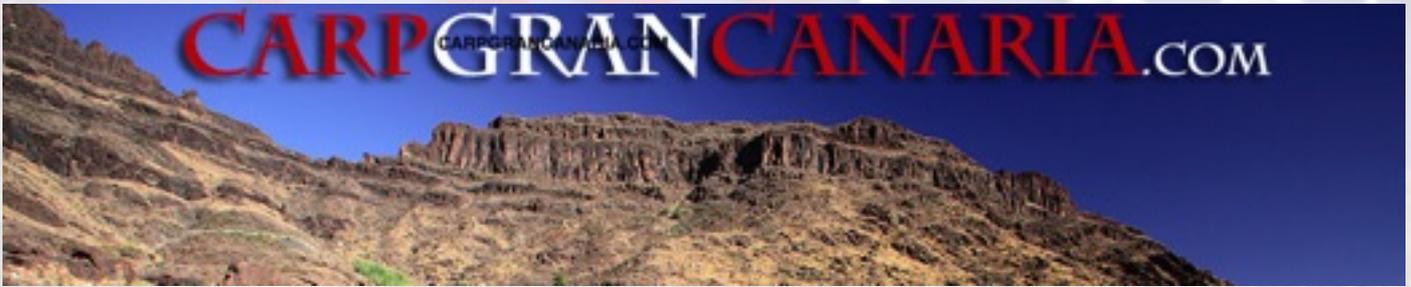
*Matt, Tracie and Thai.*



*Le Lees Ca*



*rp Fishery*



Well, we are now 8 months into 2019 and what a fantastic few months it has been. The biggest out of Lake Chira this year so far is a 47lb along with many other 40s, 43 and 45 many upper 30s and 30s, the fish have definitely got bigger and still as beautiful as ever and the great fight of the Canary Carp as always is truly amazing!!

Many holidays with the guys either staying on the bank 24hrs a day or having one of our accommodations, either apartments or a beautiful Canary House with pool that can sleep up to 6 persons, great for fishing the days, cooling off in the pool with a few cold ones and bbq!!! something for everyone, either with the lads or bring the family.

You can also book any duration short break on the bank or with accommodation.

If you are coming to Gran Canaria on a holiday, we offer day excursions either carp or bass fishing and we have a separate day trip area where we offer an all inclusive day including your pick up and drop off from your hotel or meeting point, a guided mountain drive, 2 rod Nash set up with all relevant tackle and equipment, bait, end tackle, license, light lunch and refreshments and you are fully guided, 8 hours of fishing in the beautiful mountains, peace and tranquil and some of those stunning Chira carp!!

We do have the odd weeks left for 2019 and we are already booking for 2020. We do have our offer on for a minimum of 4 anglers we offer a free apartment for the duration of your holiday.

So if you want to turn your dreams into reality and see what everyone is talking about and catch some of the famous Lake Chira carp, look no further and contact Ali or Dave at [Carpgrancanaria.com](http://Carpgrancanaria.com), [info@costadelcarping.com](mailto:info@costadelcarping.com) or 0034637939680 Facebook, Instagram, message or Whatsapp.

We also offer tailor made holidays for you, maybe a weeks fishing and a week on the beach!!!

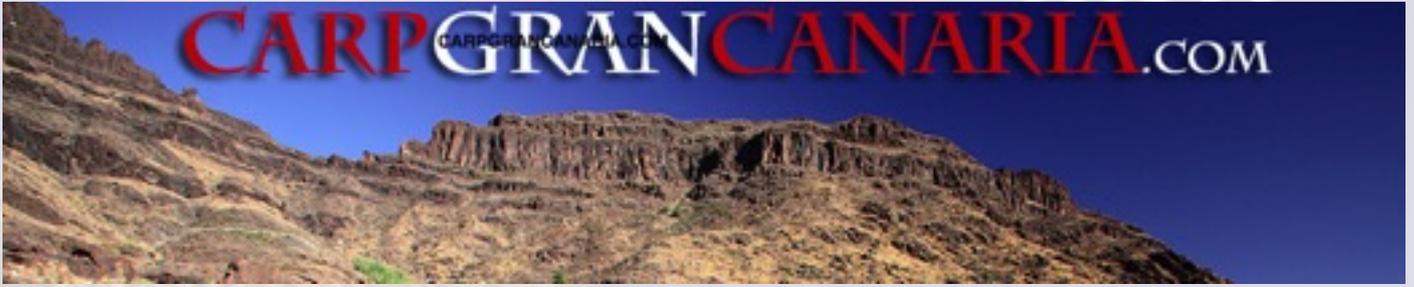
Non fishing partners are catered for and groups are welcome.  
Tight lines

Dave, Ali, Joe and the team at [carpgrancanaria.com](http://carpgrancanaria.com).



*Lest We Forget*

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**Please stay safe !!!**

**send your articles and catch reports by  
the 28th November 2020 for next months  
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**brian.dixon@talking carp.co.uk**

**mark@talkingcarp.co.uk**

**m.galli@talkingcarp.co.uk**



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

*'The Talking Carp Team'*

**Brian Dixon**

**Mark Faulkner**

**Dave Harnick Snr**

**Mark Galli**

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