

A man with grey hair, wearing a brown waders, is standing in a lake and holding a large carp. The fish has its mouth open, showing its tongue. The background shows a calm lake with some trees in the distance.

# Talking Carp

*Magazine*

**Issue 85**  
**March 2023**

---

**Julian Cundiff**  
**Talking Point**

---

---

**Rod Bird**  
**Journeyman**

---

---

**Reuben Heaton**  
**An Interview**

---





**NEW  
RANGE  
2023**

**CRUSTAZIA**

**THE NATURAL FOOD SOURCE**



**D.T.Baits**  
**Click Here**

**WWW.DTBAITS.CO.UK**

Two years of sourcing the highest quality ingredients, consultation and extensive field testing have resulted in DT Baits first new range of bait for ten years and something very special!





# **Hello and welcome to Issue 85....**

**It seems like it has been forever in coming... but Spring is finally here.**

**Just when we thought we saw the last of winter we had another cold blast and minus temperatures at the start of March... where did that come from? However, the trees are starting to bud and there are signs of life with Snowdrops and Daffodils making their annual appearance. Hooray!! Which, in turn means the lakes will start to come to life, water temps will finally rise and we will see an increase in carp activity.**

**Also at this time it also means the “show season” is over, and we have seen The Essex Show, The Northern Carp Show and The Big One all taking place. Did you go to any? What did you think? What would you change? Let us know and we will pass your comments over... A show better tailored to the public will be a show worth going to for more people... drop us an email with your thoughts.**

**As always, keep those articles coming... those catch reports too !! Anyone wishing to contribute to the biggest online carp magazine please drop us an email and we will gladly help you along.**

**Have a great month and see you in April.**

***Team Talking Carp***

[brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk](mailto:brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk)  
[mark@talkingcarp.co.uk](mailto:mark@talkingcarp.co.uk)  
[mark.galli@talkingcarp.co.uk](mailto:mark.galli@talkingcarp.co.uk)



# **Inside This Month -**

**Cover shot - Volker Protzek**

## **ARTICLES - from page 6**

**Page 13 - Talking Point... with Jules and Brian**

**Page 22 - Reuben Heaton interview by Mark Galli**

**Page 37 - Winter fishing - by Volker Protzek**

**Page 45 - As black as your hat by Scott Geezer Grant**

**Page 56 - A Year in The Water Park by John Morgan**

**Page 68 - Tales from a carp journeyman by Rod Bird**

**Page 80 - Autumn on the Airfield by Richard Handel**

## **Reviews - from page 86**

**Mark Carper - Katran Comodo**

## **CATCH REPORTS - from page 93**

**page 105 -**

**Predator Supplement Part 3**





# SEE YOU ON THE BANK

Innovative night and day carp fishing accessories  
for anglers of all ages and abilities!



[WWW.RODDYCLIPS.CO.UK](http://WWW.RODDYCLIPS.CO.UK)

**SHOP NOW**

★★★★★ 5 STAR (1000+ REVIEWS)





## Take a Friend Fishing - More Opportunity Than Ever for Angling Success

### Campaign Dates

Take a Friend Fishing Easter runs from:  
Saturday 1st of April to Sunday 16th of April 2023 (inclusive)

Take a Friend Fishing with National Fishing Month runs from:  
Saturday 29th of July to Sunday 3rd of September 2023 (inclusive)

Take a Friend Fishing offers more opportunity than ever to get out fishing with a friend during our extended Easter and Summer campaigns in 2023.

Take a Friend Fishing continues to grow in 2023 with bigger campaigns, more weekends, and more opportunity for you to go fishing and create those long-lasting friendships and memories.

Half terms, National and family holidays all provide opportunities for us to unwind, be with friends and interact with the environment around us. Taking a friend or family member on a fishing trip is a great way to spend time outdoors. Escaping modern life to build friendships, create lasting memories and just enjoy some time next to the water, is the ultimate in relaxation.

### A new Angle for your Easter Holiday

To access the Take a Friend Fishing initiative during the Easter break between Saturday 1st of April and Sunday 16th of April (inclusive), existing fishing licence holders can register for a FREE one-day fishing licence from the Environment Agency at [www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk](http://www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk) and take someone they know fishing.



## Get Involved with Angling This Summer

To make the most of Take a Friend Fishing and National Fishing Month events during the summer holidays, between Saturday 29th of July and Sunday 3rd of September (inclusive), existing fishing licence holders can register for a FREE one-day fishing licence from the Environment Agency at [www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk](http://www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk) and introduce a friend to fishing.

With the pressures of modern life, physical health and mental wellbeing are more important than ever. The experience of a fishing trip together with a work colleague, family member, partner or just a mate, offers the ideal opportunity to unwind and recharge your battery, whilst being active at the same time.

Getting outside in the countryside is a great way to be together with family and friends and angling is the perfect fit for staying active outdoors, especially if you are staying in England or Wales this summer. There are many fisheries near to where you live that are perfect to visit for a catch-up with a friend during a quick Take a Friend Fishing trip together. Find out about where you can fish safely at [www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/#faq](http://www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/#faq)

## **Registering for a free one-day fishing licence couldn't be easier...**

Simply visit [www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/register-free-friend-fishing-licence/](http://www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/register-free-friend-fishing-licence/) select the date of your fishing trip, enter some basic information about you and your friend, and away you go!

The free fishing licence will be sent with a confirmation email, so please remember to have your fishing licence and both people's email addresses plus a few other details handy when you pre-register to Take a Friend Fishing.

Take a Friend Fishing is an initiative run by Angling Trades Association in association with the Environment Agency and supported by Angling Trust, Canal & River Trust and many other angling organisations. Take a Friend Fishing opens up the world of angling to people from all age groups and communities, giving the opportunity for anglers and non-anglers alike, at all levels of ability, the chance to get into fishing or back into fishing after time away.





In 2022 over 6,000 people registered to take part in Take a Friend Fishing. Now Take a Friend Fishing is back with an extended programme that gives the biggest window of opportunity yet to anglers, non-anglers and those thinking about reconnecting with the pastime they once enjoyed.

This year, we want even more people to get their backside bankside and Take a Friend Fishing to show them just how easy it is to get into angling and experience the benefits of time out in nature. To relax and engage with nature and the outdoors is a rewarding experience especially with a friend. With a free one-day fishing licence from the Environment Agency worth £6.50 (coarse and non-migratory trout) or £12.60 (salmon and sea trout).

## **A Collaboration for Angling**

Andrew Race, Chairman of the Angling Trades Association (ATA), added "After the success of Take a Friend Fishing in 2022, I am looking forward to building momentum again in 2023 with an extended programme. Take a Friend Fishing is capable of making such a difference, not only to the long-term development of angling recruitment, but also to people's lives. Angling is a proven therapy both mentally and physically and it knows no boundaries in terms of ability, age, sex, or background."

**Heidi Stone, Environment Agency Fisheries Partnerships Manager,** "Fishing with family members or friends is a fantastic way to spend quality time together whilst also enjoying all that nature has to offer. Take a Friend Fishing is a brilliant campaign that allows anglers of all levels of ability to improve their skills, or simply give fishing a try – and I'm proud to again be supporting this initiative that makes this great hobby more accessible for all."





# Take a friend fishing

9

**Clive Copeland, Head of Participation at the Angling Trust, said**

"We are delighted to be supporting Take a Friend Fishing 2023. There are several key-dates during our Spring into Fishing campaign between April and June when children and families can get out on our wonderful springtime fisheries. Take a Friend Fishing provides an incentive for existing fishing licence holding anglers to get back out on the bank again and introduce a newcomer giving us more opportunity to engage with an even wider community."

**John W Ellis BSc (Hons) FIFM National Fisheries and Angling**

**Manager Canal & River Trust,** said "Canal & River Trust is delighted to be working alongside the Angling Trade Association to support the Take a Friend fishing initiative in 2023. Our Trust is responsible for looking after over 2000 miles of canal fishery and over 70 reservoirs. Over 8 million people live within 1000 metres of one of our fisheries and nearly 50% of the population within 5 miles of one. We will be encouraging members of the 250 angling clubs who rent water from us to help their club grow membership by taking a friend fishing with them for a day."

Social Media:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TakeAFriendFishingTAFF](https://www.facebook.com/TakeAFriendFishingTAFF)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/taff\\_ata](https://www.instagram.com/taff_ata)

## Who We Are:

The Angling Trade Association (ATA) is the recognised body and voice of the UK angling trade aiming to unite the industry, promote and protect our beloved sport. Its mission statement "To promote, represent and protect the angling trade" ensures that the ATA is involved in all aspects of the angling industry. The ATA works to promote growth in the UK angling industry through long term investment and cooperation with all major stakeholders. If you are involved in the angling trade and want to contribute to that growth, take a look at [www.anglingtradesassociation.com](https://www.anglingtradesassociation.com)



The **Angling Trust** is recognised by the Government as the National Governing Body for angling in England and a partner with Visit Wales and NRW to promote Fishing in Wales. It is a member-based organisation made up of anglers of all disciplines providing a united front to represent, grow and protect our sport. By becoming a member of the Angling Trust you are helping to protect the waterways you fish in and the fish which live in them, ensuring their health and protection for future generations. By joining, you help us to invest in participation initiatives to introduce more people to fishing. Whether you compete in coarse, game or sea matches, on commercial or natural venues, locally, nationally, or internationally, as a member of the Angling Trust you have access to Britain's biggest and best competitions programme. To find out all about the Angling Trust visit [www.anglingtrust.net](http://www.anglingtrust.net)

The **Environment Agency** works to create better places for people and wildlife and support sustainable development. We are responsible for regulating major industry and waste treatment of contaminated land water quality and resources fisheries inland river, estuary and harbour navigations conservation and ecology. We are also responsible for managing the risk of flooding from main rivers, reservoirs, estuaries, and the sea. The Environment Agency works with businesses and other organisations to manage the use of resources, increase the resilience of people, property, and businesses to the risks of flooding and coastal erosion, protect and improving water, land, and biodiversity improve the way we work as a regulator to protect people and the environment and support sustainable growth and encourage sales of rod fishing licences. <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>







# SEASONED BAITS



**Seasoned Baits. A more sustainable way of fishing.  
Using insect only protein and natural ingredients.  
Discount code below.**

**Talkingcarp20%**

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



SATURDAY 22ND FEB

MAIN STAGE

HOSTED BY ROB HUGHES

10.00am - 10.40am

JULIAN CUNDIFF

*Talking Point*  
*with Julian Cundiff*



# TALKING POINT...

## *Carp Shows*

with Julian Cundiff & Brian Dixon

Hello and welcome to issue 85.

**Bri :** This month we are going to chat with Jules about something that we know has been a big part of his angling career... Carp shows, carp conferences, open days and generally meeting the public. Welcome back Jules.

It would be fair to say that today you are probably one of the most friendly and approachable anglers out there, but surely that has taken years and years of dealing with the public to get to where you are today? To be as comfortable as you are in a crowd?

**Jules:** Well that's kind mate and I'm glad you and others think that way. Working at court meant I had to get comfortable speaking in public as I'd be advising magistrates in open court about the legalities of cases, arguing legal points with highly qualified and paid barristers and most importantly dealing with defendants from all walks of life. To start with it wasn't easy but you either do it or are poor at the job. I never wanted to be poor at my job so my confidence grew. But talking in court and talking to an audience of your peers about carp fishing are two different things and the first time I did it in 1987 I \*\*\*\* myself. Tim Paisley asked me to do 20 minutes on Drax , Three Lakes and Tilery at the Sitwell Arms, Worsborough and I thought ' simple '. Some slides, some talking...easy! I think my talk lasted more like 5-10 minutes as I panicked and talked like a madman. However the first one you do is the toughest and soon I was comfortable doing them far



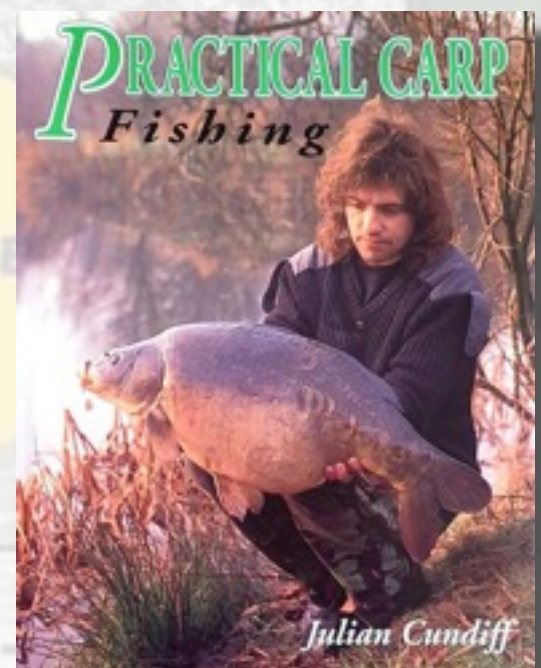


and wide. Remember it was way before social media and YouTube so it was in at the deep end and figure out how to do it. When you had anglers I looked up to in the audience watching you it was kind of scary and nerve wracking. Looks easy but you try doing it... not as easy then!

**Bri :** In the early years, was it a natural progression from writing in the magazines to doing slide shows and talks or was it a conscious decision to expand

into that area? Once your name became synonymous with regular writings and articles was it a case of you becoming hot property and getting invites to the conferences and talks or did you have to push yourself forward for these nights?

**Jules :** Pre Practical Carp Fishing being released in 1993 it was a slow gradual progression. I was sponsored by Daiwa , Nutrabaits and Nash so at conferences I'd work behind the stand, hand catalogues and stickers out, do the coffee run etc. I'm sure in the early days most people hadn't got a clue who I was. Through my writings in Coarse Fisherman, Carpworld and Carp Fisher I started to get more well known and would do half a dozen slide shows a year round the country as an up and

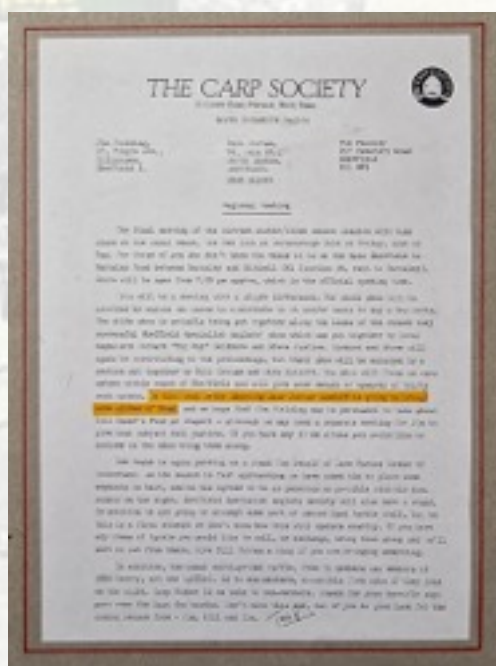




coming angler. When PCF was released it was an instant best seller (Carp Fever for the nineties ) and I was asked to do slide shows far and wide. The year it was released I did 27 slide shows to promote it countrywide...whilst in full time work. Kent, Newcastle, Norfolk, Aldershot ....and home the same night...often at 3 am ready to go to work the next day. I guess from 1993 to the early noughties when slide shows kind of died off I did a few hundred at the very least ?



**Bri :** From working mens clubs to main stage at national shows, you have definitely been there and done it. Can you give us a quick insight to how you would get ready for such events? How would you prepare for an evening at Doncaster Labour Club as opposed to a Saturday slot on the main stage at The Big One Show?



Jules To be honest Brian it's not a lot different. In the past it was slides (probably 50 ) and I'd bring my own projector and screen even if the RO said he had one. At least I'd have a spare if he'd forgotten. I'd always have spare bulbs, an extension cord and lots of Nutrabaits / Nash / Daiwa catalogues to give away. When PCF was released the lovely Julie would accompany me selling my books....carp anglers are suckers for short skirts, long legs and a smile. Nowadays it's images on a memory



stick and fire away. Some simply want a talk, some images and a talk and some just practical demo's. Whether I'm talking to 50 or 500 it's no different ...

**Bri :** We have crossed paths many times over the past few years, and I have watched you talking one on one at tackle shop open days and also command big audiences at the national shows. Which do you prefer to do? Do you have a preference or do you enjoy both as much in their own way?

**Jules :** Back in the day I loved doing mainstage talks at Dunstable, Sandown, Wembley , NEC etc as it really felt that you were not only inspiring people but helping them catch carp. Nowadays with the internet information is ten a penny and let's be honest most mainstage talks are 'entertainment' or hyping / promoting a brand. That's not my bag and I prefer one on one at the stand. Jamie asked me to do the mainstage at NCC in February but I chose to spend two full days on (in front of) the Nash stand meeting people, talking carp fishing and life not playing a 'part' on the big stage. I can interact with hundreds face to face in person much better this way.



**Bri :** I've seen you give out plenty of advice at shows and open days, and I have also seen some of the messages you have received from people you have spoken to, when you have received news of personal bests caught, or waters opened up, catch rates rising, from your help and advice. That must be an amazing feeling for you?



**Jules :** Carp fishing has never been just about the trophy shot to me and I get just as much joy from its history, the characters, the books and magazines, the shows and so on. I've caught so many carp over almost forty years that more carp and more carp are not really going to change my world. Whilst I fish hard and try my hardest ( most times ) it's all about my legacy now and what I can do for those that follow in my footsteps. When anglers at shows tell me that PCF changed their carp fishing, that my weekly AT column turned them into carp anglers, that SSS made them realise that they could catch on short sessions, that they've kept my handwritten letters from the eighties and nineties that makes me proud. Heck I'm even getting " my dad gave me his copy of PCF ".....noooooo !!

**Bri :** Tackle shop open days. Are they still as popular as they once were? We know it means the world to many anglers as it gives them a chance to come and meet you, bring the kids, look at some new tackle and have that one on one time. But as the individual tackle shops are being replaced by big company buy outs, are the open days slowly disappearing ? In fact, do you have any planned for this year yet?

**Jules:** The first tackle shop days I did were for Leslies Of Luton in the nineties and they were very popular I know. With the growth of social media and Youtube anyone can see their favourite anglers immediately so the need to go to shows,





conferences and open days is decreased. However the bigger firms support tackle shops via open days and to be honest they are more popular than ever now. Last year I did 9 for Nash and that's nothing compared to what Alan Blair does. I love my open days and I think 2023 will be even busier as the brands HAVE to support the tackle shops in these tough economic times. I've got one in Macclesfield in March, almost certainly one at Tackle Up BSE, one at The Tackle Box, Kent in June and so on. I'd guess maybe a dozen plus this year at least....

**Bri :** I'm sure you've accompanied just about every "big name" in the game at some time or another... From Andy Little, to the late great Rod Hutchinson, to Tim Paisley to modern day Alan Blair...and everyone in between. But if we push you... can you tell us who you have really enjoyed doing shows or talks with? Who has been your favourites over they years?

**Jules :** And you can add Jim Gibbinson, Kevin Nash and Kevin Maddocks to that list too. Everyone has been special but doing a joint talk with Kevin Maddocks in the late nineties at Dunstable to a packed audience (we were promoting The Beekay Guide To Carp Rigs ) was the most memorable. His book Carp Fever inspired me to go carp fishing in the early eighties and now we are doing a joint talk.....wow!

**Bri :** So what plans do you have this year? As this issue goes live, the "show season" has just come to an end after The Big One.. but what about the rest of the year? Is there anything coming up where you will be doing a talk, a Q&A, or just a





general meet and greet? Possibly a Carp Society meeting at Horseshoe?

**Jules:** When it comes to tackle shop open days, they tend to be fairly fluid and are when Nash think are best. I always advertise them on social media so keep an eye out on my social media sites. Other than that, I'm definitely at :-

*Tackle Box 40th Anniversary Day 17th June at the shop in Dartford, Kent*

*Festival Of Carp at the Carp Society 8th July at Horseshoe Lake, Lechlade.*

**Bri :** And just to finish in true Talking Carp style...we have to ask the million dollar question.. Do you have any disaster stories that you can look back on and laugh at,, with us?



**Jules:** Good grief many, and I mean MANY. I've actually written a chapter on conferences, shows and the like for my next book but these are the top five...

Driving down to Aldershot on a Friday night to do a slide show at Willow Park that he'd booked me for only to find he'd changed the day to Saturday but not told me. He rounded anglers up off the lake and made them attend (I was well



popular. NOT )

Doing a talk for Paul Selman that I was headlining but due to two other speakers over running and a highly intoxicated organiser and audience they never got round to me. I had to come back and do it the next month.

Doing a slide show in the nineties in Hull and during a dramatic pause in my talk you could hear the snores of an audience member who was fast asleep.

Doing a slide show with Tim Paisley and he forgot his slides. We had to do a joint talk using mine. Tim was not amused...

Doing an open day at a tackle shop that was also selling weed out of the back of the shop. I did a runner pretty quickly when I found out !

**Bri :** Well... that has given our readers an insight into a whole different world of media and dealing with the public... I hope you enjoyed talking about that as much as we did. We look forward to catching up with you again very soon at one of your talks or open days.

**Jules :** Cheers Brian, hopefully see some of you soon at a show, open day or conference.

**Julian Cundiff**

**Facebook Julian P Cundiff / Julian Cundiff Angling**

**Instagram julescundiff1**

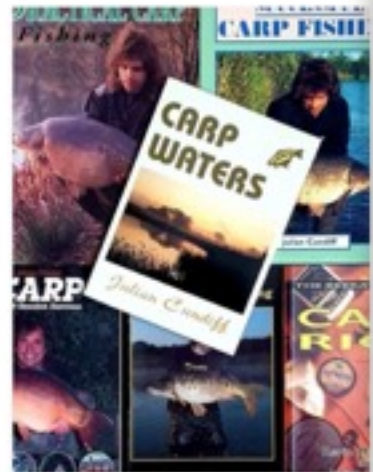
**Twitter @juliancundiff**





# Julian Cundiff Angling

To keep upto date with Jules and interact with him, follow him on social media on the platforms listed below



Julian Cundiff Angling

Julescundiff1

@Juliancundiff



# REUBEN HEATON

## AN INTERVIEW WITH ANDREW RACE



BY MARK CARPER



For all Anglers, it is a mainstay piece of kit and it's the only bit of kit we carry that can confirm or deny our hopes and dreams of that new Personal Best... or even a new 'Record' be it at home or world-wide....

...It is of course a 'set of scales' and you are hard pushed to mention the word "fishing scales" without immediately thinking of one name, that one brand that jumps to mind...

## **...Reuben Heaton...!!!!**

Believe me or not, Reuben Heaton have been around for some 166 years. Yep, that's right, one hundred and sixty-six years, the written numbers didn't seem to that justice...!

Now, you may be surprised to know that way back in 1857, when Mr Reuben George Heaton founded the company, the main business was the manufacture of Fishing Reels and subsequent "angling products" and by the 1870's, these products had found themselves on the world-wide market and were selling in their tens of thousands and this incredible rise to fame lead the way for many innovative products that have shaped the angling gear we know today.

I could go on and on about the rich and innovative history of the company and the history of their 'Patents' for all manner of angling kit but it can be read here in detail on the company website; <https://reubenheaton.com/history-of-reuben-heaton/>

My interest is to get the inside track from the current MD, Mr. Andrew Race and find out what has changed since those first 'Dial Scales' appeared in around 1920 and what has made the Reuben Heaton brand still the world leader in Angling Scales...

TC: Mr. Race, thank you for taking the time to speak with me and I know you are a very man as I've been trying to get this interview for a while good while....



**AR:** Apologies Mark, but with the running of Heaton's and my position as chairman of the Angling Trades Association (ATA), I am not the most available but hopefully worth the wait.

**TC:** I have already mentioned a very brief and very early history of the company but I'm keen to know if you are a descendent of the Heaton Family or has their family connections with the company come to an end and what is your role within the company...?

**AR:** Family members split the business into reels and scales in the seventies. Reuben Heaton (Scales) Ltd carried on for a while with a family member and was then sold c1975 to a tackle shop. They then sold it on to a family friend who was a tackle agent. When they wanted to sell, I bought the firm in 1989 and I learned how to make the match scales from the engineer at the time. It was just making the big aluminium match scales and weighing accessories, but it was the hand-built Specimen Hunters that I made that gained a reputation.

Effectively I was owner, MD, scale maker and sales manager at first. I travelled to endless carp and general angling shows building the reputation of the hand calibrated scales that were very expensive at that time but they gained a cult status for the Reuben Heaton brand. I pushed for my scales to be used in national and international events and built the brand on accuracy and reliability and quite a few British and World records were weighed on our scales which helped.

**TC:** Is it only 'Angling Scales' that Reuben Heaton produce...?





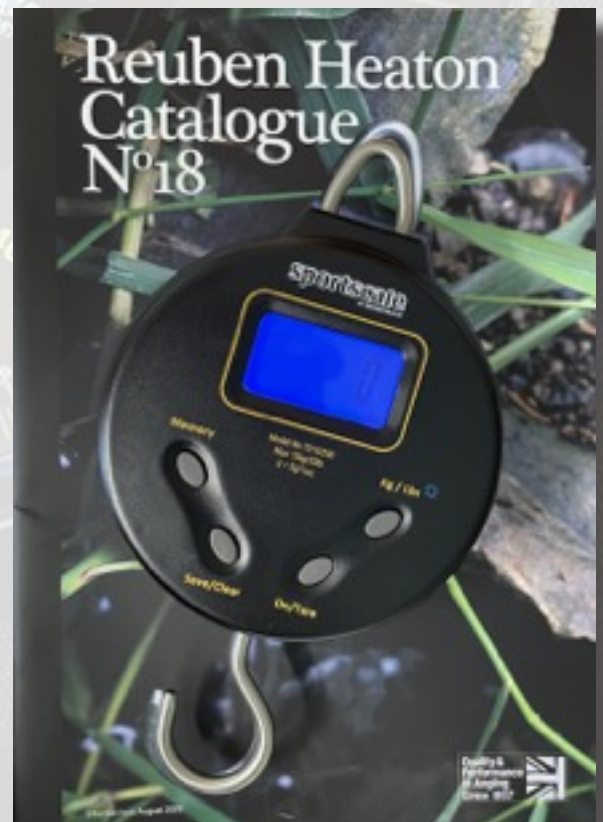
**AR:** Scales represent around 80% of what we do. We make for all budgets from the Little Gem pocket scales right through to the Specimen Hunter. On top of that we manufacture a lot of weighing accessories and scales accessories as well as some items of terminal tackle such as the traditional lures which are made at the UK factory alongside the bigger scales. Later this year we will branch out into fish measures for the predator and saltwater markets where length is more commonly measured than weight.

**TC:** Who or what is "Sportscale" ...?

**AR:** Sportscale was the brand we created to launch some of the digital and smaller scales a few years ago. These products are made abroad by us, they are not badged items manufactured by random Chinese fishing tackle firms. We have worked with Chinese companies in the commercial scales markets for over twenty years and have our own production line out there. This enables us to work with commercial scale makers on specific products whilst maintaining the metrology and materials standards for scales that people expect from our UK made products like the Specimen Hunter and Standard scales ranges.

**TC:** With 'Fish Weights' being so critical for all manner of things and not just PB's for Carp Anglers, what makes the Reuben Heaton Scales up to the job...?

**AR:** The basic element that made the Specimen Hunters stand out back in the day, is the same thing that underpins all the scale we make today. Because we supply commercial scales markets that require specific metrology tolerances and manufacturing standards, we have





the appropriate machinery and can apply those same standards to our angling scales. We use exactly the same manufacturing methods and calibration systems for both angling and commercial markets. This means that even though our fishing scales are not for trade, they actually get manufactured and calibrated to those same standards and tolerances. This is what gets us the accuracy and reliability.

TC: From those early 'Dial' scales back in the 1920's has the accuracy improved and just how accurate are the scales now...?

AR: This question could easily be a whole feature. Accuracy is a word we relate to, but it is misused in this instance. I know what you mean, I've fished all my life, and it is the most common question asked at shows, but it is not the correct expression if you are discussing scale performance.

Scales are rated by tolerance and resolution. Commercially, there are several categories of scales and as you go up the grades the tolerance improves, and the resolution is higher. All our scales are calibrated to recognised tolerances for commercial scale categories and this is how we break it down.

When a Specimen scale is calibrated, we calibrate to plus or minus one division throughout the range. This means a 60lb x 1oz scale should weigh within an ounce at any point. This is the tolerance. For a 60lb Specimen it is +/- 1oz as they are in 1oz divisions, for a 120lb Specimen it is +/- 2oz as they are in 2oz divisions. Both 60lb and 120lb scales have 960 divisions so have the same tolerance if calibrated to +/- 1 division.





The 60lb x 1oz scale has a higher resolution than the 120lb x 2oz scale because the 60lb scale weighs in one ounce whereas the 120lb weighs in two-ounce divisions. The smaller the division, the higher the resolution. The highest resolution scales will have a correspondingly lower maximum capacity, for example our 30lb Specimen scale measures in half ounces, and our 12lb Fishery match scale measures in quarter ounces.

This explanation is probably why we use accuracy as the general term (HaHaHa)

TC: Well, who knew..?!! HaHaHa. That is an incredibly accurate tolerance and I wonder how many of those anglers weighing in a 49lb 15oz Carp on a 120lb set of Specimen Hunter Scales actually had a 50..??!!!

I remember back in the days of the 'AVOmeter' (Amps, Volts and Ohms..!), which I guess most people will have never heard of, but, they incorporated a 'Eyeline' Mirror behind the needle so, you could get the correct alignment to read the dial to give maximum accuracy... what makes the Dial on the Reuben Heaton Scales accurate to read...?

**AR: We have spent a lot of time trying to reduce all the factors that contribute to parallax error. We use a combination of surface finishes and fancy ink layers to improve contrast and help the eye settle on the pointer in the right way. The Specimen hunters use our most sophisticated 'secret' multi-layered EVS printing system on top of our standard anti-glare finish found in the Standard scales.**

TC: "Parallax Error", that was the word I was looking for..!!  
So what about the 'Spring Balance' Scales compared to the Dial Scales, are they as accurate...?

**AR: Spring balances don't have the same distance of travel for the indicator as dial scales do. This means that spring balances will have bigger division sizes (lower resolution) over like for like capacities compared to analogue dial scales and or digital scales.**



**Spring balances can be highly effective, dependant on spring quality. We work with one company who make spring balances that weigh down to less than a gram and meet the highest tolerance grades. It is all relative to the manufacturing quality.**

**TC:** Although we have discussed this a little and I can probably anticipate your answer, in 1988 Reuben Heaton introduced the “Specimen Hunter Scales”, so what makes them worthy of that title then and now and how do they measure up to the ‘Standard Angling Scales’...?

**AR:** As mentioned, the Specimen Hunter has the highest performance for any analogue scale that we make.

**The Specimen Hunter has a dual revolution mechanism compared to the Standard scale’s single revolution. This means that with twice the distance of travel for the pointer, we can halve the division size for the same capacity...!**

**The Standard 60lb scale is in 2oz divisions whilst the Specimen version is 60lb x 1oz. The dual revolution Specimens are harder to make and need to be hand balanced and calibrated whilst the Standard scales are machine calibrated, although both are calibrated to the same +/- one division tolerance but the Specimen has the higher resolution.**

**TC:** ‘Digital’ Scales, are they as accurate as the Dial and Spring Balance type...?

**AR:** Both analogue and digital can achieve equally good results. In both cases you get what you pay for but there are differences.





Cheaper digital scales can be made to appear better performance-wise, with cheap analogue there is less room for manoeuvre if your springs and components are cheap. Therefore, we use a high grade of spring steel even in our humble Little Gem balances.

TC: And out of curiosity, on the Digital Scales, there is a button for “Tare”, what does it mean and what does it do...?

AR: The tare button does the same thing as your zero-adjuster knob on your analogue dial scales. It zero's the scale with or without the weigh sling. After you zero your analogue scale and take off the sling, the pointer goes back to the left of the 0lb mark. On a digital scale, you get a negative readout which the scale will hold until you put net and fish back on. In both cases, the resulting reading is just the weight of the fish.

Psychologically, people tend to treat digitals differently, and there are some subtle differences to look out for between analogue and digital but both products work in the same way.

TC: What are those “Subtle Differences” ...?

AR: I'll give you a couple of examples. When you zero an analogue scale with a net on, if you put it down on the ground to sort the fish out, there is no change to the setting when you pick it up. If you do the same with a digital, the loadcell detects a change (weight of the bottom hook) and will give a different negative hold affecting the recorded fish weight. Digitals need to remain hanging whilst prepping the fish to avoid this.

Digital scales have an auto-off function to save power, so you need





to be far more organised in terms of your fish handling and the weighing process. With the Heaton products, we have extended the auto off and improved battery life to take care of most situations, but the shorter the handling time the better. If a digital scale switches off, you will also need to repeat your net tare process as this will not be retained.

TC: I have seen that Reuben Heaton have collaborated, for want of a better word, with companies such as Korda to produce both Dial and Digital Scales but they still carry the 'RH' Logo. Are the internal workings still Reuben Heaton or have Korda designed their own and it is just an 'aesthetics' change...?

AR: Korda scales are the same product with a different coloured body and dial design. All the scales that we make for other brands carry some form of Reuben Heaton logo and the "Made in England" statement on the dial as well as the packaging. We do this to make sure people can identify our products and know that they are buying a genuine Reuben Heaton product but also because those brands request that quality mark.

Own brand customers are also covered by the same warranties and after sales service as our Heaton products and can come direct to us for that service.

TC: Do Reuben Heaton make Scales for any other companies that brand them as their own...?!

AR: Yes, we do, but there are design copies out there. Generally speaking, if it is cheap, it isn't ours and we won't touch it after sales-wise either.

If customers are unsure, they can email or contact us via social media messenger, and we will help them out. We will soon be publishing a lot more scale information on our web site for historians and collectors and this will list the companies that we



**make for currently and have made for in the past.**

TC: On a personal note, I have never used anything but Reuben Heaton Scales, I have had Standard, Specimen Hunter 'Classic' and I currently use Specimen Hunter 4120/100S - 120lb x 2oz Scales... And I have two questions...

Firstly, how often should I get them serviced and/or calibrated...? ... and secondly, should I give the current ones up and go 'Digital' with a set of the 7060/200 - 60kg x 25g/132lb x 1oz... and if so, are you looking for Team Members that get them for Free...?!!! HaHaHa

**AR: To answer the first part, servicing depends more on use and how they are looked after. The design life between services for general use is five years.**

**We have some fisheries who literally put tonnes of fish on each scale in a season and they will service them every year but for the average carp angler, unless you damage them or you think there is something wrong, every few years is ok.**

**To answer the digital bit, I can tell you that when we launched the 7000 series, we were wondering what the impact on the analogue sales was going to be. In the end the loss of analogue sales to digital was tiny, we just started to grow into a different market. You are either analogue or digital and with regards to being a Team Member, I thank you for your offer but on this occasion I need to "Weigh Up" the options..!**

TC: Is there an easy way to check the accuracy of the scales at home...?

**AR: Accuracy-wise, unless you have certified weights, you will not have a great standpoint to work from. If you want an approximate weight, something like bags of sugar in a sling are best. If the scale is working fine, you should be in tolerance or slightly fast. This is because everything is subject to trading standards which state that**



goods must be at least the weight shown on the packet and not under, so most things are just overweight.

You can check to see if they are generally working ok. Just weigh anything in your sling a few times and if the results are the same within the tolerance, then the mechanism is fine.

TC: When you say, "Slightly Fast", does that mean the over-weighing (is that even a word!) of the stated weight of the object, such as the bag of sugar...?

**AR: Yes. There is a good chance that the sugar will be an ounce heavier than the packet states.**

TC: In practice, when using either Analogue or Digital Scales, of any sort is it best to 'Zero' them each time they are used and by that, I mean to put on your 'wetted weigh sling' and then take them back to zero ... or, is it better to set them to 'Zero' first, weigh your quarry and then weigh the sling after the event and deduct that from the first weight... I think, what I basically mean, is the 'Zero' function an accurate way to use the scales...?

**AR: Technically speaking you should zero each time as each situation can be marginally different even if it's the same fish. Always use a wetted sling, put the sling on and zero the scale, take the sling off, put the fish in the sling, put both on the scale, and the weight shown is the fish.**

This is the quickest and safest way fish-wise which is all that matters. I would also say, make sure you take time out to match scales and sling to the job in hand and practice setting up to minimise weighing time.

Technically speaking, if you remember that the weakest point in the weighing process is the nut holding the scale, you won't go far wrong. The more you do to improve your weighing process the less



**error you will introduce and the better your results be.**

**TC:** “The Nut Holding the Scale” HaHaHa.. I’ve seen a few of them over the years... However, speaking of ‘Holding’ is Hand-Holding the scales a good way to get accuracy and does hanging the scale off a Landing Net Handle or something similar effect the accuracy of the reading... and, what is the best method of holding the scale to get the most accurate reading...?

**AR:** Scales need to be free to hang and vertical to get best results from their mechanisms, digital or analogue.

**As weight is applied, many scales will move around as their mechanism follows the path of least resistance. Therefore, you should avoid holding at the base of the scale as you are limiting that flexibility and could affect weights significantly.**

**If you are hand holding, always hold by the top hang point. This can be awkward and shaking arms will obviously affect readings.**

**A ‘Weigh Bar’ will improve things comfort wise. If you are on your own, a ‘Weigh Crook’ that fits a Landing Net Handle is ideal especially if fish are of a significant size.**

**Correctly used, a Weigh Crook can support large specimen fish as it utilises ground support and you are not supporting the fishes’ weight in the same way.**

**Tripods are bulky but provide the Ultimate Weighing Platform.**

**TC:** ....and finally, do you fish and what Scales do you use...?

**AR:** I have fished all my life and in most types from Match to Sea to Fly. I match fished in the junior nationals as a kid and then stayed with general angling after college. I don’t do as much as I would like but I’m trying to remedy that



In terms of Scales, I did not carry any for many years even after I had bought Heaton's. This was a legacy of my match days when I had several superstitions regarding success as many match guys did.

One such superstition was that I never carried my own scales when I was match fishing because the official scales were the ones that counted, and I didn't want to put the jinx on that.

This got to be a standing joke when I was pleasure angling and working in the industry, so much so that I got a set of our 240lb x 4oz Specimen Hunter England scales and put them in my kit just in case I was asked.

Nowadays I have a few Heaton scales scattered across my different kits. Scale of preference in most cases is our 9000 tubular shaped digital (56lb x 1oz) or a Gem spring balance (33lb x 4oz) as most of my kit is compact for short sessions be it Sea or Coarse or Fly.

For serious fish, I still have the big 240 and we always have a few of the 7000 series digitals in 60lb or 132lb capacity knocking about in the show stand stock that I can "borrow" for "field testing". But then there must be at least one perk of the job...!





Well, there you have it and what a fascinating insight to world of Weigh Scales and from probably one of the best-known brands in the world of fishing and a British founded company with such a rich history that is still British in both ownership and manufacturing.

It is surprising just how accurate the range of Reuben Heaton Scales are and the tight manufacturing tolerances they work with.

That 'accuracy' or should I say, "Tolerance and Resolution" is all important to many anglers in the numerous disciplines, not least us 'Carp Anglers' as we strive for that new PB so it's good to know we are in safe hands when we own a set of "Reubens".

Reuben Heaton - <https://reubenheaton.com/>

Instagram - @reubenheaton1







# 2023 Catalogue Online Now

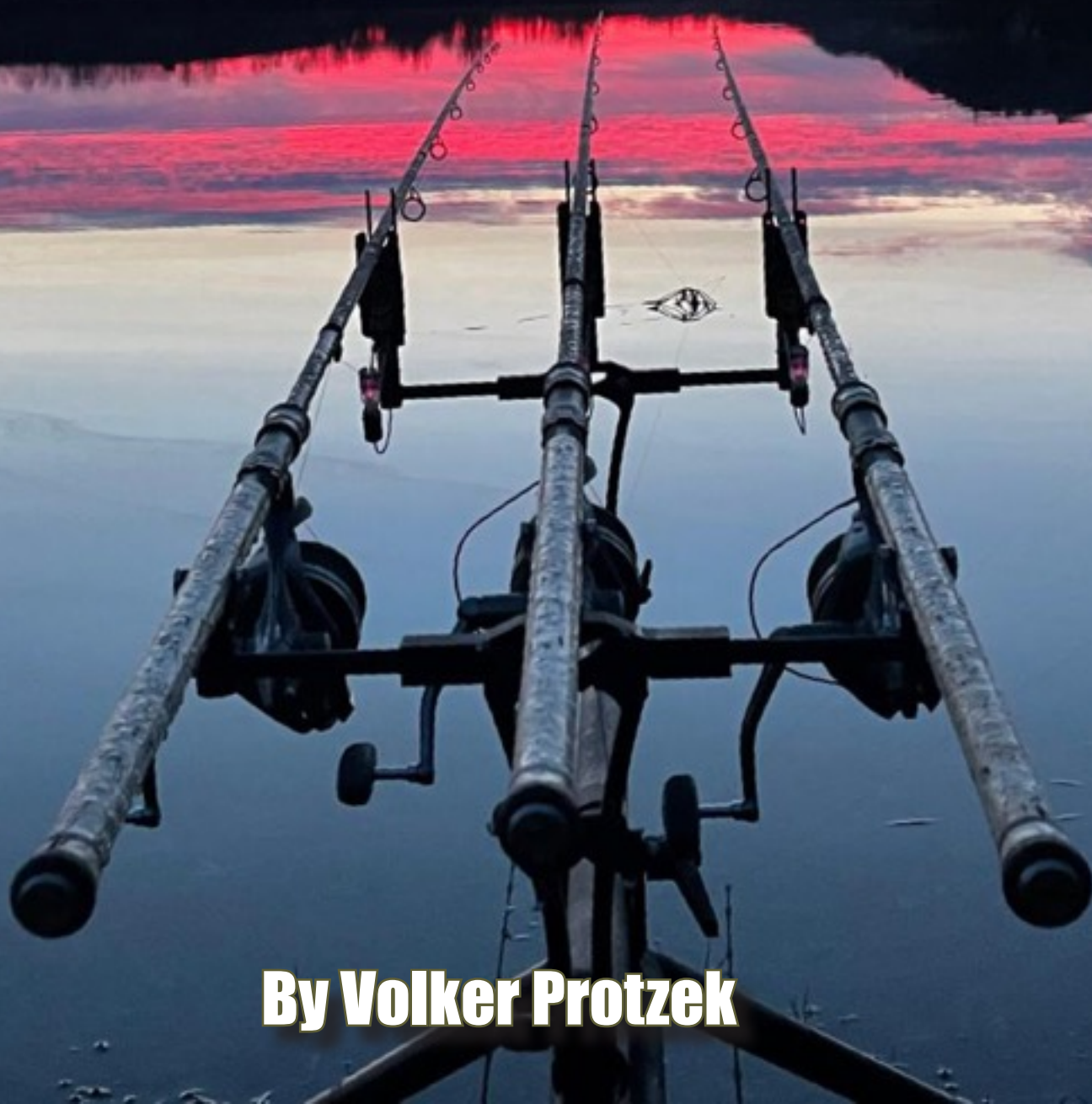
[Click Here](#)

## **KATRAN Fishing Line**

*expert's driven manufacturer*



# **Winter fishing - love or hate?**



**By Volker Protzek**



Fishing through the winter months is a big part of my angling, targeting big fish waters across Europe with empty banks is what makes it so special and rewarding. Each year i start with sessions in January with trips planned in advance throughout the year even December. For me there is no bad season to be out fishing.

December a long awaited trip was planned and a social session with a target of a few big carp that reside in the lake. The session was with my wife, daughter along with a good friend and his wife. The lake being in France and starting on the 26th December. This being a private lake, with a little luxury accommodation for the women. This being a beautiful house, fully furnished right on the lake. Perfect for winter fishing so my family doesn't lose the desire to accompany me from time to time.

To put it mildly, this lake is a paradise for carp fishing. For those that have not fished this lake, the weed is bad around the lake even in winter. The carp have built channels to navigate the lake

for themselves and have plenty of protection from us anglers. And yet, with a lot of time invested, with echo sounder, GPS and Bait boat, you can find some interesting spots. This private lake is in the Champagne region. Most people know the owner, Pascale, and the lake being named Pascales lake and being part of the Goncourt Complex .

Several hours later my spots were found, luckily the weather cooperated, it was really mild for Christmas period, water temperature was acceptable with 8 degrees at the surface.

Well, that's how my session started, I had my tactics all worked out. The aim was simply to catch one carp





over the course of the week I was there. My hardware being a short rig with 12cm, size 6 wide gape hook, long hair, very small lead of 1 oz so not to pull the rig into the heavy silt.

The rig being pulled completely on my prepared PVA mesh sticks filled with PVA nugget and crushed Big Fish Mix boilies. Giving little food but highly attractive package, and as always I can totally rely on Nutrabaits for this. No matter where, no matter how, I don't think about my bait and boilies because it's perfectly suited to targeting big carp giving all the attraction and feeding signals a bait should have.

The PVA mesh sticks only having the task of letting my rig sink more slowly to the bottom with a little buoyancy and aiding the rig to lie nicely stretched out. The spots were prepared and now being time to wait and enjoy the evening with friends and family.

The first night was so quiet that I slept more soundly than I had

in a long time. Well rested and motivated, I first went for a walk around the lake. Always on the lookout for any signs of carp. But I didn't hear or see anything. Typical winter fishing on a highly pressured lake.

But confidence is often half the battle, because on the second night came the first bite. And how happy I was when the fish was finally in the landing net! Long way off being the biggest in the lake but 33lb Mirror being a good start. I was completely satisfied to have caught on this lake in winter which doesn't give many carp up at all. So I was motivated enough to stick to my tactics. I didn't change anything, and two more carp followed over the next





two nights. All three from the same spot. The other rods had remained still. Well, I decided to give one rod a new spot that I had already found and saved as back up. This proving to be a good decision the following night, A one toner followed by a long battle had me peering into the landing net to see one of the lakes big commons of huge proportions and spinning the scales to an impressive 74lb. I could hardly believe my luck and being in great condition and winter colours.

This proving to be my last fish of the session, 4 carp during the week on this lake being a good result anytime of year so winter proving to be a special week. My wife and daughter left for home, for myself it was time to set off straight from Champagne for the south of France. My destination: being a large lake at the foot of the Pyrenees, not far from Andorra and the border of Spain. A lake called Iktus that you may have heard of. I have fished the lake several times over the years and always in winter. Being a mild climate,

great views of the Pyrenees, very nice owners, along with a lake with beautiful carp. My time on this lake being 3 weeks was my plan, it started with mild weather for winter. Again, first arriving, setting up camp and getting some rest after the long drive. After a good night's sleep, I started again the next day, looking for spots where the carp might be moving and more importantly feeding. This lake has so many plateaux'd, deep holes and steep ledges that you really have to take your time choosing which spots to fish as it's easy to find 30 plus spots in each swim.

Here, too, I carefully chose my spots so that my lines do not make the carp suspicious. Line lay on





pressured waters is often overlooked but can prove to be the difference between success and failure. This lake is visited by carp hunters from all over Europe and the line pressure is very high. The tactics were similar to those on Pascake lake. Only I didn't pull the rig through the filled PVA stick, I just used small baits, but filled the sticks in the same way. I only hooked these on. Not much food here either, but again enormously attractive. Soaking Nutrabaits boilies, both Big Fish Mix and Co-De boilies being my choice. Small 15mm bottom baits on long hair being my chosen tactic. What can I say, I was totally overwhelmed with the action that followed, having to pinch myself. Reminding myself it really all true, being winter, January and the big carp kept coming, mirror and common carp, several 30lb+ along with carp of 40lb, 46lb, 51lb, and then a slow take on the fifth night had me striking into what felt a big carp, off into the boat, and the result being a big 64lb+ mirror carp. Wow, I was overwhelmed with the success and once again

the baits doing me proud. My confidence now being at an all time high but then weather changed for the worse reminding me it was January. Days of continuous cold, icy rain, a sudden plunge in temperature, the water level rose by almost 30 cm. Wet, clothes almost impossible to get dry, I really thought about giving up. It lasted for four days and nights of continuous rain.

Finally it stopped, the rain solidified and was followed by snow. You might say: you knew it was winter. Sure, but it could have arrived after I left. These weather conditions are the reason why I was alone at the lake. All the other anglers had given





up and let the weather and conditions win. I was about to give up too. My thoughts being give it one more day and see what happens, this saved me from going home early. Over the next 24 hours the snow stopped, day time temperatures improved but hard frosts stayed each night. But I was able to get my baited area primed again and I was pleased I had not given up.

I got a bit unenthusiastic when out of nowhere a young deer ran frantically across my fishing spot, went into the water and picked up 2 of my lines. If someone had told me that Bambi was a good swimmer, I would have laughed at them. But seeing this unfold right in front of me and swimming the entire length of the lake to the other shore. A great experience and a memory that will stay with me a long time.

What happened next was not only unbelievable, but also inconceivable to me. One beep, a short time later the second beep. So I got out, put

on my boots and grabbed the rod. It was 5 o'clock in the morning, sleepily I felt a fierce lunge at the other end. I gained a few metres, but then nothing, as if snagged. I decided to slacken off and wait to see if anything would happen at the other end. After a few minutes, I tentatively heard the clicking of the drag once again. Relief when this happens but time to get into the boat to get closer to the fish and hopefully keep it away from the unseen snag. I was firmly of the opinion that I had a big sturgeon on the line. You can get them here on this lake up to 2.4m and over 100kg and this giving a similar type of fight.

No matter what I did, I couldn't get





get the fish up, and over and over again it went on its way with me in tow.

But then, after what felt like an eternity, I briefly saw a good tail fin in the light of my headlamp. A carp, oh man, now stay calm, release the drag a little and I think: don't make a mistake now. After a fierce fight and quite some time later, I pulled what looked like a huge carp over the net cord. When finally settled and time to check closer what was now resting in the bottom of the net: I was greeted to a sight of what looked the biggest mirror I had ever seen. But when back ashore and safely in the cradle it proved to be a huge mirror!

**All 81lb of huge mirror** in freezing conditions, my freezing cold fingers and soaked clothes were soon forgotten. Everything switched to euphoria. Simply awesome and to top it off another new personal best and what proved to be a new lake record.

A session I will probably never forget for so many reasons. The last 12 months have been special with a long list of huge carp on a bait that has lived up to its name in style, the mighty Big Fish Mix! My advice would always be don't give up, hold on, trust in what you are doing and hopefully you too will one day be holding aloft a special carp of your own.

With this in mind: tight lines and good luck in your upcoming adventures.

*Volker*











# The Dell As Black as your Hat

by Scott Geezer Grant



A few weeks after my last session, I was off to France with the lads. The first time in a few years due to the dreaded Covid. We had a week on Island Lake, some 4 ½ hrs from Calais. The lake is beautiful with plenty of features and stacked with weed, with crystal clear water. When we arrived, we had a walk round and the weather was scorching hot, some 28oc when we arrived.

I came out first in the draw and opted for swim 1/2 but realised after that I was meant to of chosen peg 8!!! Never less the draw had been done and it was off to our swims to get the rods out. The weather over the week was horrendous with temperatures topping 38oc. All the rods had to be boated out which was hard graft, and come dark the large weed beds would move wiping all my rods out!! It was a hard week and all I had to show for my efforts was a 36lb mirror.

All the lads done really well with the biggest fish falling to Rob a 58lb common of biblical proportion. I will be going

back again this year as I have a big score to settle.

Once home it was back to work for a few weeks then I had holiday booked, and with a week at my disposal I was going to hit the Dell hard. Hopefully get back in the swim I have been putting graft into.

I always keep in touch with what is happening on the lake Lee England had fished the airfield bank and had the session of a lifetime banking a few 40lbbers along with the biggest fish in the lake at over 50lb. He had only gone home Saturday and was due back over on the Monday, and had expressed he wanted to get back in the same swim.





I arrived at the lake mid-afternoon on Sunday and the lake was empty. I grabbed a mat, net and sling and, made my way up along the road bank and parked up behind the white bag. For some bizarre reason Lee called me asking if I was going to fish the airfield bank, to which I replied no, you want to get back in there tomorrow and I would not jump on someone else's work anyway that is not my style, I have been putting the graft into this swim so this is where I am fishing, he was like okay respect. I know there were a couple of anglers watching what I was doing and I was hoping they would let me keep doing what I'm doing, but you never know there is always that one angler who wants to jump on your hard graft.

I started unloading the van, getting the house up and everything sorted. With everything in place, new rigs on I decided to go and have a shower then get the rods out after and chill as it was 26oc. The wind was South/South Westerly but later in the week its due to go North/Easterly which hopefully will not affect the movement of the fish. Obviously as this was going to be a

long session, I made sure I had brought plenty of bait to start off with. I kept everything the same as my previous session Monster Tuna mixed sized boilies, Crushed boilies, pellets & chillie hemp with added extras.

Once back from the shower I got the rods out to their chosen spots, then it was time to sit back and relax. Ben popped down for a chat and we had a lovely cold cider and a catch up.

Just into dark a couple of fish showed out in front of the swim which filled me with confidence, a few hours later I was more than ready for my bed, but not for long at 02:00 oclock I had a lovely hard fighting linear of 19lb 9oz, with the self takes completed the fish was treated and returned and the rod was rebaited and put back out







on the spot. I managed to get back to sleep but not for long as my alarm went off at 05:00 o'clock. I was straight up and the kettle went on, it wasn't long before the sun started to rise and the fish started to show. To my amazement the rods lay dormant which really surprised me, I started to wonder if the baited areas had been cleared.

Mid-morning and Lee turned up as he said he would and after a brief chat he made his way round to the airfield bank back into the same swim he had his big hit from.

Late afternoon I rebaited all the rods and gave all areas a good drop of bait, dinner was a very spicy Cajun

chicken washed down with a couple of cold ciders, all this whilst sitting watching the water. Again, just on dark the fish started to show, they were still here. I went to sleep early and was rudely woken at 03:00 o'clock, my receiver went into melt down the middle rod was away this time producing a hard fighting common of 22lb 7oz. With the self takes completed (I

was starting to get the hang of this self-take malarky now) the fish was returned and the rod was rebaited and put back out on the spot. Just as I got back into bed the left-hand rod was away it was a pike which cut me off!!!

I was more than upset, and was going to put the rod up against the bivvy and sort it out in the morning,





but effort equals reward and bite time is early morning so a new leader was prepared, a new rig was tied and the rod was put back out on the dancefloor. Before I knew it my alarm was going off so going back to bed was definitely a no no. The kettle went on and as I sat there drinking my coffee the middle rod light up, the fish weeded me up big time, but I kept the pressure on and after 10 minutes the fish decided to free itself, it put up a great fight and when it surfaced so did a massive ball of weed, as the fish got closer to the bank I waded out as far as I could before scooping everything up in the net. With the fish somewhere amongst the weed I started to pull the weed out the net so I could see what fish

it was. The fish turned out to be a lovely mirror of 32lb 9oz and a fish that was on my hit list. It's a huge framed fish that looked and felt much bigger but the digitals don't lie and the weight is the weight. I was so happy to have caught it, this fish has made my trip already so anything else is a bonus. Lee rang me just after 07:00 oclock asking if I would do some photos for him, the fish turned out to be a leather of 30lb 4oz and it's the only true leather in the lake so a massive well done to him.

My Mrs popped over around 09:30 for a coffee and to bring more supplies. Just as we were drinking our coffee chatting the middle rod was away this time producing a

lovely 24lb 11oz common which weeded me up god knows how many times. The Mrs even took the photos which was a bonus. The swim seemed to have come alive the spots were slicking up and it just felt right for so many reasons.







It turned out to be another hot and humid day and come midday the fish stop showing. It was like they went out shopping for the afternoon and would be back tonight. Late afternoon I wound the rods in to give the swim a break, and went for a shower and spent an hour talking to the lads. Feeling refreshed and revitalised once back at the swim the rods were rebaited; I was using a combination of Monster Tuna wafers and pop ups. Two of the areas were super clean which the wafers were fished on using a Ronnie rig and the left-hand rod was still a tad choddy so that was fished with a chod rig and pop up.

Dinner tonight was the infamous spicy chillie courtesy of my Mrs, she really is a great cook and never fails

to amaze me. I sat eating whilst the sun was setting and the fish started to show. It was still quite humid with the night temperature of 18oc, the only saving grace was the gentle breeze that was keeping me cool and the dreaded gnats away. I had no problem getting to sleep in fact it was the best night's sleep I've had since I got here. I

woke to my 05:00 oclock alarm and was so surprised I did not have a fish through the night. Like every morning the kettle went on and I spent the time watching the water for any signs of carp. I only saw one fish show even though all the spots were slicking up!! It did not make sense, I know the rigs are fishing effectively, I know the hooks are super sharp and I know they love the bait. You could feel the temperature rising in the air and I knew it was going to be another scorcher today 28oc is predicted so that means it could be over 30oc. I was talking to my sister on the phone whilst watching the water when all of a sudden, a massive flat spot appeared over my right-hand rod, then 15 minutes later I got a



single bleep on the alarm followed by a couple more. I ended the call and lifted the rod and the fish was on, it weeded me almost immediately but I managed to keep the pressure on and coax the fish away from the weed beds that were clearly evident. The fish wasn't putting up much of a fight and I just kept reeling it in, it popped up some 20 yards out it was a massive black as your hat mirror, and just when I thought it was net ridden it found a new lease of life and proceeded to flat rod me, weeding me up in the process. This is when I knew it was a much better fish and started playing it with kid gloves. It was at least five or so minutes later before I finally netted a huge framed mirror. Mark, one of the bailiffs, had seen me land the fish and called me to say he will come straight

round. I left the fish to recover in the net for 5 minutes whilst I done the usual of getting the sling zeroed, the mat and water prepared. Mark was on hand to assist and when I unveiled the fish, we both couldn't believe our eyes the fish was a black as your hat!!

The digitals recorded a weight of **40lb 6oz** the biggest this fish has ever been and one that goes by the name of "Two Face". Mark took great photos as always then the fish was caressed some more before being released. She swam off strong which is always good to see. Just when I thought the swim had gone dead a unit appears, carp fishing is magical at times and when you least expect it.

I rebaited the rod and got it straight







back on the spot but to be honest I didn't care if I didn't catch anything else, I was happy with the huge framed mirror earlier in the week, but this fish has blown me away. The Mrs turned up with more bait and supplies, she was as happy as me regarding the fish I had caught earlier. In the afternoon the temperature reached 31oc which is ridiculous and very uncomfortable, I was seeking any shade I could get. Late afternoon I wound the rods in and went for a shower, an hour later and the rods were put back out with again a good helping of bait. I sat watching the water eating a lovely homemade meal with a cold cider

in hand. The wind had changed to a West/North Westerly which was blowing into my right-hand corner, the wind made it nice and cool which was well needed after the heat today.

I fell asleep just before 11pm and was woken by the clap of thunder at 04:00 oclock and a torrential down pour followed. Today's temperature was going to be 21oc which I welcomed with open arms, the pressure was 1017 so conditions were good for another fish. The rain stayed for the rest of the morning and did not ease up until 1pm. The fish did not show themselves I was



thinking the massive change in weather could have had an effect on them even though it looked bang on. I rested the swim again in the afternoon for a few hours and went for a shower and a catch up with the lads. Just after 7pm the rods were put out and I spent the rest of the evening chilling out. After a great nights kip I woke up to a beautiful scene, with the mist dancing across the surface of the lake. There was not a single bit of wind it looked so tranquil, the birds were singing and the coots were

fighting. This was my final morning and even though I saw a couple of fish show, no more graced my net. As I have come to the limit of my stay, I have to leave the lake, but can return in 24hrs which I intend to do, as I still have another few days leave before going back to work. Come 10:00 oclock I was packing down and heading for home, but not before I gave each of the spots some free bait to keep them feeding. Another successful trip topped off with an absolute clonking mirror. I will return in 24hrs





and hopefully get back in the same swim.

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

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

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

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

In the Margin Particles (Facebook)  
Carters Leads (Facebook)

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

The Monster Tuna boilie range along with pop ups, dips etc is readily available at your local

stockist, or visit the A2 baits website for the full bait range. [www.a2baits.co.uk](http://www.a2baits.co.uk)

For the sharpest, strongest hooks that don't cost a fortune, plus an array of end tackle have a look at [www.sharptackle.co.uk](http://www.sharptackle.co.uk)

If you want to order the best chillie hemp by a country mile have a look at "In the margin particles" on Facebook, or call Matt on 07739-961966.

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

Stay safe and remember its only fishing.

Scott "Geezer" Grant







**Just as sharp  
Just a strong  
Just as reliable  
Just better value**



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



# **A Year in The Water Park**



**by John Morgan**



2016 was the year I got back into Carp fishing. After a break of a few years due to an upheaval in my personal life I suddenly had the urge to wet a line again.

My angling had been progressing well up to that point and I'd moved onto some good waters. What's more, I'd actually managed to catch some decent Carp along the way.

All that progress and Carping education ground to a halt almost overnight though and my gear was packed away in my parents garage as I sorted my life out. Some things are more important than Carp fishing.

The best thing I did was not to actually sell up as a lot of guys do. Angling has always been a massive

part of my life and I was sure as soon as things settled down again I would get that irresistible urge when I was by any sort of water that I needed to try and catch what swam beneath the surface.

It was towards the back end of 2015 when a good friend of mine and top angler 'Jay Goodson' asked if I fancied a few nights at Carp Society's Horseshoe lake for a bit of a social. We had previously met fishing at The Carp Society's famous Farriers Lake and with Daz Lynton and Crazy Kev we became a great little group of mates sharing many a laugh with a few fish thrown in.

Things were starting to look better in my life and I found myself saying yes, why not. In fact, I'd love too.

Although I didn't catch that first trip back it felt wonderful to be out on the bank Angling again.

I did a few more late Autumn sessions on my own, fishing here and there and as the Winter rolled in I thought for the first time in a long time about where I might be fishing in the upcoming year.

## *Sowing the Seed*

One of the trips I did in the late Autumn was with another good friend and great all round angler 'Chris Owen'. We knew little of the place we went to other than it had a reputation of being a tricky little water with very hard to catch carp. It was all rumoured to be very in the edge stuff with little traps and carp that



would spook at the slightest sound. Its name was "Little Horseshoe" situated in the Cotswold Water Park.

We had seen quite a few videos and articles on this small and intimate venue in the past and really fancied ago.

We did a 24hr session managing a Carp and strangely a catfish apiece by fishing solid bags. What was more amazing was when we mentioned this to other anglers at the lake it apparently held no catfish and you wouldn't catch any Carp lobbing solid bags around !!

I was seriously getting the bug back for catching carp by now and as winter rolled in I needed a plan for the Spring. Or better yet, a water I could get my

teeth into as I made my way back into Carp fishing that suited my need to brush up on my skills but also catch a few carp along the way.

## *Little Horseshoe Lake*

The problem was, I had no tickets for anywhere and no waters lined up. I wanted a lake I could rebuild my passion on. Not a runs water but

at the same time not somewhere I was only going to get a handful of bites in a year. The fire had been relit and I needed to keep fanning the flames.

So early that Spring I hatched a plan....

Little Horseshoe was at the time ran by Watermark. You could buy either a ticket for the day or for the night from the Tackle Den tackle shop just a short drive away. At the time there were no syndicate or season







tickets available.

I was unlikely to do more than a night or two every other week so I decided I would treat Little Horseshoe as if it were a syndicate by solely fishing there and buying night tickets as I went. Everything else would be the same as if I held a ticket there for the year, I'd walk the banks, learn the pegs, meet the locals and Hopefully catch some Carp.

Calling ahead to the Tackle Den to make

sure there was still tickets available before any trips was crucial as numbers were limited for the night fishing. They only allowed around six anglers per night so it was always wise to check before setting off.

Little Horseshoe is roughly a square in shape, a mature gravel pit at approximately 4 acres in size. It used to be slightly larger but at some point a divide was built and a smaller "Trout Lake" was annexed and created by a causeway of sorts

that left two pools, both slightly smaller than the Original Horseshoe Lake.

The water was considerably deeper by this causeway than anywhere else in the Lake and could almost be discounted as an area to target the Carp. They much preferred the more average depths of the lake which were generally 4-8ft.

Fish could often be seen in the shallower areas amongst the Lilly pads on the sunniest days but would more often than not hold in the central area of the lake in around 8ft of water away from any Bankside disturbance.

The stock was largely unknown other than the Queen of the Lake, A Mirror known as C Scale which often came out at over 35lb



and was apparently “a real looker” of a Carp. It was clearly the jewel in the crown and the fish to target, but I’d be more than happy with a few bites along the way. After all, I really didn’t have anywhere else to fish at the time.

## First Impressions

Before starting out I did my research at home, utilising the internet as is the modern way. Google maps, forums, past articles and YouTube videos. The problem was it was all pre the causeway going in and the information seemed a little dated.

I’d already had the one successful night the previous Autumn and so decided I would fish my way and find out for myself what tactics would work best.



My first trip of the year was a 48hr session in mid-April.

After having a slow walk around the Pool I decided to plot up on the roadside bank pretty much facing the centre of the Lake. It seemed as good a place as any to start having seen nothing and no signs of Carp in the margins. It was pretty much opposite where I had caught the previous Autumn but in slightly shallower water so it seemed a sensible choice. After leading around I

found a cleanish spot amongst the heavy weed growth that the lake still held from last year and deposited a smallish bed of bait out followed by three rods all on solid bags. Even though it was still quite early in the year I opted for a spod mix of largely mixed particle with a smaller amount of maggot and boilie. Not knowing what the Carp would prefer yet I went for the safe bet of putting out a bit of everything.

I was surprised by how much weed was still



present in my swim and it became apparent as the year went on that Little Horseshoe could be very weedy in areas.

I manged two mid doubles on my first trip, one being a stunning fully scaled mirror and the other a lovely example of a clear water gravel pit carp. A very positive start and not from the setting of Little traps in the edge but from mass baiting with three tramlined rods tight on a spot. A tactic that was apparently well from the norm on this lake but which was to serve me well as the year progressed.

## Summer sessions

I returned several times in May and June before the fish spawned and noticed

how wonderful the lake surround was starting to look in full bloom. It really was a small piece of carp angling heaven. I was mostly fishing Friday and Saturday nights and incredibly would often have the lake totally to myself. On other occasions I would bump into another regular angler named Greg who was also doing a campaign on Little Horseshoe to try and catch C Scale. It was great to compare ideas, have someone to share a brew with and just

while away the time chasing the carp with good company.

On the fishing front I was catching now on most trips. Multiply daytime bites were the norm by baiting quite heavily with the Spod onto the ever growing clear spots in amongst the weed. I was still baiting with a mixed particle approach and I'd found the Spawn was attracting the fish into my area as I fed. I didn't want to over bait the spot so I also developed a very wet cloudy spod mix which





I would put out on a regular basis to keep the bites coming.

The main problem I had was the lakes abundant population of Crayfish. They also seemed to love my spod mixes !

Reeling in bite less only to discover the Lobster like hook bait thieves had been at it again, it seemed I needed to up my Crayfish game. After a bit of trial and error I settled on a hook bait choice of a Tigernut

topped with a piece of yellow buoyant fake corn superglued onto a long plastic bait stopper fished as a Wafter.

Not only could they not remove the bait from the hair now but even there best efforts only chipped away at the nut and the plastic. Leaving me confident that I was effectively fishing at all times.

## *A Chance Encounter*

As the leaves were just starting to fall my luck changed. I'd been away from the lake for a while to let the fish spawn and settle back into their normal routines before I returned to fish for them again in late September.

Setting up on the righthand bank instead of the road bank had produced less problems playing the fish in the heavy weed in the early Summer. With weed growth now even more extreme in areas I was once again setting up along that bank looking forward to a few late Summer and early Autumn sessions.

Three rods tight on a spot towards the centre Lake was again the order of the day. It was a productive tactic, I was seeing plenty of action but as of yet, no sign of the lakes big





one "C Scale" I was sure it was only a matter of time and a numbers game. A big old fish like that would surely love its grub. Another trip passed with only the one bite for my efforts and not the bite I now so dearly wanted. I'd made my mind up that I would be off to pastures new come the New Year. As I was leaving I got chatting to an old boy who was Tench

fishing not far from the carpark. His margins were all churned up and he explained he had seen several large carp tearing up the bottom not feet from where he sat, seemingly feeding on bait he had dropped in by mistake during the course of his days fishing.

This being noted I immediately chucked in a few handfuls of pellet

and corn in this margin upon my next visit to the lake.

Going back to check a short while later I was greeted with the same scene.

Several large Carp were happily feeding away not two feet from the bank on a little clear area surround by light weed. And one carp in particular was much bigger than





anything else I had seen or caught from the lake so far. It just had to be her.

I crept away from the area, sprinted for my gear, panicked and tried desperately to calm my shaking fingers for long enough to actually attach a bait to my rig and lower it into position.

I waited for what seemed an eternity before she waddled

off for long enough to set the rig and flick a few pieces of corn alongside it.

The trap was set and it didn't take long for it to be sprung, she was back and feeding in no time at all, she was a greedy fish but clearly preferred to feed in the edge rather than out towards the middle of the lake.

I watched her pick up my bait, sit totally still

while she worked out what was wrong and then slowly swim away shaking her head as she did so. It's a very surreal feeling knowing what's on the end of your line throughout the whole fight. I netted her without too much of a fuss and she weighed in at a very impressive **37.12** and looked stunning in the early Autumnal sunshine.





I stayed on for the night with no more bites coming my way and was soon on my way home come the morning.

I caught some stunning Cotswold Carp and most importantly I regained my love for Carp fishing.

For now, until next time,

Tight lines,

John.

## *Time to Go*

Looking back Little Horseshoe was exactly the type of venue I needed at the time. It gave me the freedom and space to fish as and when I wanted, with relatively quiet banks providing me with unpressured style of Angling I required to grow back into the sport after a few years away.

The more effort I put in, the more I learned about the lake the greater the rewards became.

I met some good friends along the way and the odd character or two which all added to the experience.







# Embrace The Outdoors

Styled for the street constructed  
for the great outdoors

Wear the best Winter Clothing Range  
Available in Small to XXXL  
Black and Green colours available  
in the garments within the range

AVAILABLE FROM ALL  
RIDGE MONKEY STOCKISTS



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





Straight to the point.





**ROD BIRD -  
TALES FROM  
A CARPING  
JOURNEYMAN #1**





**It's** become apparent to me that I don't seem to "fit the mould of a normal carp angler", and no it's not that I'm Scottish! Let me explain this statement to you all.

From before my time with Sonik and beyond, I found that I didn't seem to fish the same waters twice in the same year very often, OK there are syndicates along the way that I drop onto a couple times a year, but my life was, and still is hectic, I found that most of my carping was done for other reasons rather than my own pleasure or sanity. With shows, competitions, matches and 'guesties', I never really got the chance to settle into a routine on any water and then I'd also be all over the country and all over Europe fishing. Yeah, yeah, I feel no sympathy coming from you all but this type of fishing is hard going, let me divulge....

...Most carp anglers have at least one water that they would call home, or at least feel at home on, getting the chance to watch the water, work out feeding patterns, what the weather does to the water, various best pegs, feeding depths, preferred wind directions, do they

move on a wind, how they react to more pressure when the better weather comes along, what bait works best etc. etc.... and these are all points that help us understand a certain water, giving us indicators how to approach each session as a starting point. Some anglers fish the same peg on the same water all year round and do very well, but are they good anglers or just creatures of habit, a bit like our quarry...?

So, imagine turning up to each session with no preconceived plans on any of the above points..! Do you remember that feeling of turning up on day one on a new water, like a carp out of water?

This is normally how it feels for me, don't get me wrong there is always information out there on various social media sites, YouTube is brilliant for me, I look at my diary to see what's happening next and swat up on YouTube watching videos on that water, but let's face it a lot of the information is planted, what bait to use, how much bait, how far out, how to get it out there, what rigs to use, what tackle company to buy from, how many wraps.... honestly it wasn't pre-baited etc. etc. so I can only take



what facts are given to me on each video as an inkling, the start of an idea, the anglers on the videos are usually in the best pegs but what if I don't get those pegs, what if it's a draw etc.

I find it useful to watch the clips that only last a few minutes, an unknown angler happy to have caught on that water and not the big named tackle guy with 50 carp in 2 minutes showing you an over complicated rig and baiting strategy. The more information I can get, the better, but it's still a virgin water for me every time..... so how do I approach each session?

## All About Confidence

Having a bait that you are 100% confident with is a great start on any water and even more so on a new one. I'm going to say Karper Ltd. Sweetcornz Boilies and RS Boilies, Hemp and Maize, Pellets, Hemp Oil and Karper 'Attractor Gels' etc. are my favoured ones with my Hook Baits again from Karper Ltd. being the Ultra-Fluro/Dispersion Pop-Ups and usually presented via a Ronnie or Hinged Stiff Rig and that's it really, my starting point sorted....!

Now, I do always have other types of baits with me and always will, Bottom Baits and Wafers and let's not forget Zigs and Floater Gear. But if I can get away with the above in the swim I've got, then I will be a happy man. I usually have a couple of rigs tied up, but inevitably end up tying rigs to suit the ground in front of me, notice I called it ground and not water, water is wet and fish swim in it, that's all, it's what's on the bottom that matters to me, unless the carp are visibly mid water or feeding on or just below the surface.





I use my trusty Sonik Dominator RS Spod/Marker Rods to find out what is happening out there and I usually just start with a lead of around 4oz and in the words of Julian Cundiff, "Lead Around" (say that in your head in a Yorkshire accent, it'll make you laugh...!!).

If I find some gravel I'm usually very happy, but what if you can't find any.....panic .....no, just keep going till you suss out the bottom....

Last week I was at Shearwater Lakes in North Dorset, as usual it was my first time there, I must say it's a beautiful water and the scenery is incredible.

There were a couple of guys walking about when I was unloading my van and because I'm a nice guy I engaged with them... when they heard my Scottish accent they soon laughed and said they'd never met a Scottish Carp Angler before... so they must have thought they needed to tell/boast about all the captures they have had on the water, phones out picture scrolling, you know then score, so the information was flowing in my direction.

They had been fishing there for years on and off and quickly told me all their secrets about the lake, 21 wraps to this tree, 25 wraps to that tree etc. So out of curiosity, I did try these spots but didn't find anything special.

I did however find a gravel patch about 18 wraps out, but it was so rough it actually cut my Spom 50lb leader so I dismissed this spot and after leading around for another 20 minutes or so, I found a slightly silty area at the near end of this rough gravel spot at 16.5 wraps in 18ft of water and with nothing much else to





go at I decided to fish 3 rigs to that spot.

Fishing three rods with a light lead and a long Ronnie Rig on each rod, I got on with it, having no idea what bait was going to work best for me I decided to try a different 12mm pop up on each, Tutti Frutti Dispersion, Sweetcornz Dispersion and RS White but after 2 Bream and a small Carp I changed my hook baits to 15mm Ultra-Fluro Tutti Frutti Pop-Ups, all three rods the same, as the Bream had taken to the Sweetcornz 12mm and my only carp about 12lbs came to the Tutti Frutti Dispersion, I didn't change the rig which was a Ronnie Rig with a soft coated boom and a size 4 Terminal Tackle UK 'Advanced Curve' Hook.

## Mono Main Line

I was using Katran Crypton 0.331mm line for the first time on the session, and OMG what a game changer that was, let me explain.....

....The line is a sort of Green, Purple and Brown colour depending on the light and it apparently mimics the lake bed colours, it's very low stretch and has good abrasion resistance and casts really well,

but it's at night that this line comes into it's own, using their W/P460 Pro Headtorch on the 'Blue Light' setting it makes the line above the water "Glow in the dark..!", which sounds like a gimmick and yeah I thought that very same thing, until I looked at my three lines between the rod tips and the water and they really did Glow in the Dark..!

They looked like glowing Tram Lines to the dance floor and even when casting you can see the line shooting out of the spool and landing in the lake, and with high trees on the horizon as markers I knew every time I was hitting the





right area. On a couple of occasions carp would take me on a merry dance around the rod tips but because it was so easy to see where the carp were going as everything was lit up, so no knit one pearl one...!!

If you want to know more about the Line and the Head Torch or any of the other products from Katran take a look at the reviews in the previous issues of Talking Carp Magazine from one of the 'UK Katran Team Experts' Mark Carper (links below) ..... anyway back to the story.....

## Back to the Fishing

...So once the rods where out on the spot I set the Spod at 15.8 wraps to allow for the swing back of my hook baits in the deep water and I put out three Spods of Sweetcornz/RS 15mm boilies, three Spods of Hemp and Maise loaded with Hemp Oil and three Spods of mixed pellets, once again loaded, but with Sweetcornz Energiser 'Gel' over each rod.... "wow that's a lot of bait in the winter" I hear you say, but you need to realise that these carp were known to feed and move around in big shoals and the place

has winter form so the carp would be on it and as soon as they kicked up my Hemp Oil I knew I was going to get a few, and I did, I landed twelve carp when others struggled.

Needless to say, when I was packing up the two guys that gave me all the info at the start of the session where stacked up behind me ready to move on, asking me how many wraps to what tree, what bait, what freebies I was giving and how often? Now, as I said earlier I'm a nice guy so I gave them some info.... but not all of it!

It just goes to show, it isn't always 'all about the gravel' and seeing how it was the first time I'd fished there, I was more than happy with the result...!

Earlier on in the year, January to be precise, I found myself at Office Lakes in Nottinghamshire and this time with a Bait Boat to help me out... well it was a Future Carping Social so it would have been rude not to use one..!

Bait Boats do make things easier, especially if equipped with Sonar and GPS and I was using the Future Carping '**V60 Bait Boat**'



that had all the bells and whistles and it soon made short work of finding spots for me, but I still chucked a lead out on the spots to confirm what I thought I was reading of the Sonar Screen because I'm so paranoid about getting it wrong.

I managed Three carp in twenty-four hours which I thought was alright for the first week in January....

### A Quick Digression....

...Now, please bear with me as



I'm going to digress for a few minutes....

.... I just mentioned Shearwater, which is in North Dorset and I live in Norton, near Stockton on Tees, so that's a 566 mile round trip, but it has winter form so I bit the bullet and headed there, in winter it's not about size really, it's action I was after and got it, but I'm now going to list some of the waters I've fished over the last, let's say two years to give you an idea of my self-named "Journeyman" status:

Wraysbury, Linear, Norton Disney, Merrington, Trent View, Bassingbourn, Billingham, Darent, Big Lake, Brickyard Ripon, Shearwater, Willows (now Retreat), Raker, QE2, Catterick, Emmotland, Carpvale Doubles Tees Valley, Horseshoe, Brewery Farm, Snags Lincoln, S&R Fisheries, Woodsetts Quarry, Cocking Farm, Pavyotts Mill, Berners Hall, Baden Hall, Welham Lakes, Abbey Lakes, Lac Du Der, Katlov, Etang du Manoir, Lac Serrene, Lac De Madine..... and on it goes....

### Plenty of Gear

....Fishing so many different waters



does mean you tend to carry more gear with you, you can't scale back, you have to have everything with you for every eventuality, reel spools with different lines on, I have Three spools for each reel, one with 12lb line, one with 18/22lb line and a set with braid on, I always use the same reels my trusty Daiwa Emblem 45 SCW 5000 QD's, and strap them either to my 12 foot Sonik Tournos XD 3.5lb rods or my 10 foot Sonik Insurgent 3.5lb rods, with 2 x Spod rods in each length so I'm using the same size rods and Spod rods, Daiwa Spod reels strapped to them obviously, just as a side note I've been using the Wolf X-Spod Performance for most of my spodding and the Wolf X-Spod Competition for extra-long chucks, they open about 95% of the time so I have trust in them.

I have three shelters, Nash Titan Hide XL Pro, to be honest I use this most, I have a Fox Ultra 60 Brolly System for those tight swims and my Avid 4D Screen House for the European 'big waters' and long trips and obviously I don't take all three shelters on every trip but the Bivvy and the Brolly are usually packed ready to go.

Then we move to the Tackle Boxes, at least five different Hook Patterns, once again research tells me if it is a Micro-Barbed or Barbless water, so I need all five styles of hooks in both formats, and getting back to social media, this is the type of information that really helps.

I tend to use the same few rig materials wherever I go, so not too many of them in my box and swivels are swivels! All of my end tackle is from Terminal Tackle UK, a relatively new Company that are moving forward and bringing out some great gear.





I always carry two types of Boilies and usually fish both at once, hey, one day you fancy a Mars Bar the next you want a bag of Crisps, I honestly think carp are the same, well not the same foods as listed but perhaps a sweet and a fishmeal bait...??!!

So as you can see I get around, I fish a lot and I do quite well, but I work hard every single time, those that fish with me know how single minded I am when I get to a lake and yes, it's all about me, what I want to do, obviously with a little help from Social Media, Bailiffs and other anglers, but they are all just a starting point.

This year is going to be crazy too as nothing has changed for me, I'm still going all over the place including my first trip to Croatia and a new water in France so I will keep you updated every couple of months as to my progress, success or failure but Remember 'Success' means you got it right on the day, failure means a new starting point for the next time..... If there is a next time....!

All the Best...

Rod Bird

Facebook: RodBirdCarpAngler

Instagram: @carprod66

TikTok: @carprod66

Karper Ltd: <https://www.karper.co.uk/>

Terminal Tackle UK: <https://www.terminaltackle.uk/>

Future Carping: <https://www.futurecarping.co.uk/>

Katran Reviews: Mono Main Line: <https://online.pubhtml5.com/kzxy/sbcw/index.html#p=81>

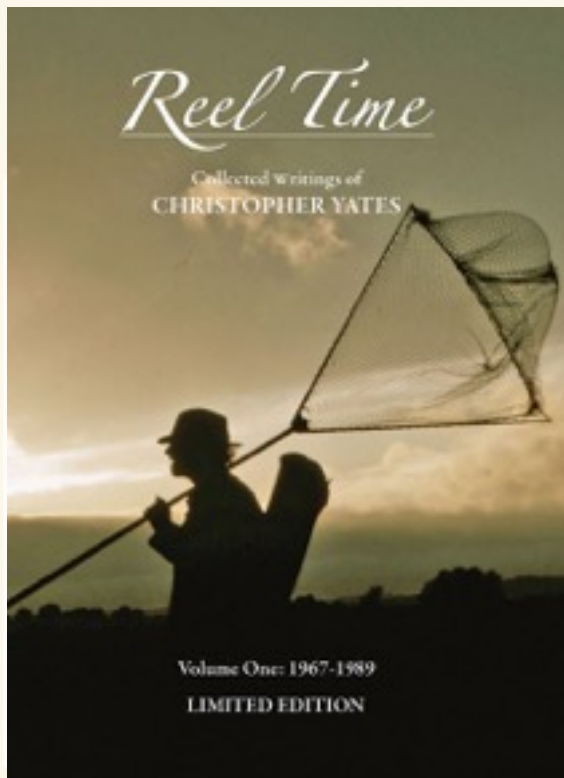
W/B460 Pro: <https://online.pubhtml5.com/kzxy/vvpc/index.html#p=74>





# Little Egret Press

**A new book by Chris Yates!**



## *Reel Time*

Collected Writings of  
Christopher Yates

Volume One: 1967 - 1989

Gathered together within the pages of *Reel Time*, are 44 articles from the pen of the legendary Chris Yates. They range from 1967; the very first published article from Chris, through to 1989, when his passion for carp had subsided and a new found love for barbel burned brightly. Each article has been selected by the author, and are accompanied by many of his own wonderful photographs.

Stories of mysterious lakes, the iconic Redmire Pool, the capture of his then record carp, and compelling encounters with barbel abound.

This book is truly special and not to be missed by any of the many fans and admirers of Chris Yates.

**AVAILABLE TO  
ORDER NOW!**



**1st Edition Hardback**  
of only  
750 copies  
**£35**



**Hardback Special Edition**  
of only  
100 Copies  
**SOLD OUT**



**Luxury Leatherbound  
Edition**  
of only 35 copies  
**SOLD OUT**

**Exclusively available from The Little Egret Press**  
**[thelittleegretpress.co.uk](http://thelittleegretpress.co.uk)**



ANGLERS CHARITY AUCTIONS



THE  
ROSE  
APPEAL





### ACA Bank Buddy

Waterproof Wireless Speaker has been designed and built with outdoor adventure's in mind,

A Great addition to your kit.

Product features include

Bluetooth connectivity

Hands Free Call Facility

Two Way Control

Aux Input

Built in FM Radio

Shock Proof

*Only* £27.99

Visit [www.acaproducts.co.uk](http://www.acaproducts.co.uk)







## **AUTUMN ON THE AIRFIELD LAKE PART 4**

### **BT RICHARD HANDEL**





The last few weeks had been amazing, the stamp of fish was just what we'd been hoping for over the past year. We all know they are in here, you just have to wind your way around the small carp and live with all the hook pulls you get from the carp. Bumping the hooks out all the time. In all my fishing years, I've never known a place quite like it, honestly, it adds to the challenge and makes the lake very unique.

With the end of the Airfield Lake season and our baiting campaign, we were well pleased to get back into the double gravel swim. We had a long discussion about our other options last week and spoke about it yesterday.

I was well happy when my WhatsApp pinned me that Ian was setting

up in double gravel as the conditions were very similar to last week. I arrived just before noon and instantly set about spombing my bait out, just as Ian was doing the same. We both put out about 4 kilos of Classic Corn Boilies, at very similar ranges, quite well spread out, we were going to be fishing 20mm Classic Corn wafers.

As always the first night can be a bit tricky, but recently we have both been catching, fingers crossed this will be the same.

For the first time in some time, the first night passed by carp free for both of us. It's quite normal for this to happen, as we like to put out a lot of bait on the first night and only top it up as we feel the need. Over the years, the carp have been

put off by too much spombing, but in the last couple of sessions, it's been less of a problem.

The weather change is due to come in today – from the southwest, the wind is picking up and the pressure is dropping, along with a few rain showers. We are perfectly positioned to reap the rewards, once the carp get on the munch again.

Fingers crossed as always, it will be today.

Sometime around 1040, the left-hand rod was away and I was into what felt like a nice carp. It was on the surface and heading out to sea! I just had to let it go, until it was the right time to start gaining ground. It nearly picked up Ian's lines, but with some knitting going on, it was all free and heading off



down toward my margins. This is where I played it out until it was ready for the net.

It's a perfect start, with a daylight fish, which is always nice to get. I soon had the rod out again, hoping for my next bite, not to be too far away.

My right hand rod ripped off about 1515 and unfortunately was bumped off on a boulder, something that's not happened for quite some time.

Ian's left-hand rod was away twice in an hour at 2130 & 2210 resulting in

Not bad going I must say, with any luck the carp have finally moved in on the baited area this afternoon and evening.

I got in a few action shots with the help of

the moon and Ian's green light, all looking very atmospheric.

Just before 0030, my left-hand rod was away, a pretty straightforward fight was played out and the carp was soon in the net.

Very happy with that after losing one earlier to that hook pull. It's always nice to get the next one in the net and without any issues. A fresh 20mm Classic Corn wafter was put on and after sharpening the hook point, as I like to do, I was soon back in the bag, the temperature was really starting to drop at night now.

My next take was around 0330 to my left-hand rod again, a similar fight to my last carp, I did nearly hook up my other line, but quickly got the rod underneath the other one. I love to have my rod tips high, just makes life so simple.

I didn't weigh the carp this time and estimated it about 13lb, sometimes it is about getting them back in the water quickly.

That rod was soon sorted and I was in the bag again, warming up nicely.

That was the last of the action during the night, which wasn't bad







going. I have another 24 hours to go, fingers crossed that a few more come our way. The wind (with any luck) will actually finally pick up and a band of rain is due this morning, this should bring on the carp.

The wind has definitely picked up and the rain arrived for a few hours. Let's hope this stirs them into life before the afternoon sunshine. I'm looking forward to some sunshine as we have steak, chips, mushrooms, and onions for lunchtime and I don't really want to eat or cook it in the bivvy.

My next take was about 1130 to my right-hand rod. This one was like playing a torpedo and very nearly picked up Ian's right-hand rod, but I managed to avoid it and turned the carp away, back along the margins and into the net.

Some of these carp have huge tails, which give them an extra amount of power. It makes them fantastic carp to play, despite the size!

As this was possibly our last session for the year on here, plus Ian only fishes day's over the winter months.

So, Ian had sorted out some nice steak, I had

brought the Weber and mushrooms, onions, and chips, so we could have a cracking lunch.

It did look good and tasted just as fabulous as well.

We were lucky with the weather as it was forecast to rain but held off until after lunch. However, it eventually arrived and rained on and off over the following hours. This was a real shame because sitting out on possibly the last night would have been just perfect. By 1600 hours, it was feeling pretty cold outside and I was forever hopeful we would get the chance to get a couple more carp this afternoon/leading into the early evening. With our recent success over the dark hours, it would round things off nicely.

Instead of spombing, I



stuck some 20mm Classic Corn Boilies over all the rods, as we didn't really wish to spook anything out there feeding.

Just love rainbows over water, when you can get the reflection in the water, it's even better

Morning! It was a bleep-free night for me, I've not slept so well on the bank for weeks. Ian on the other hand managed an 18lber around 11pm last night. Mat shot He was kind enough not to wake me, I was also surprised that I didn't wake up because I generally do, I must have been very tired.

As it is very possible our last morning on

here, I put two fresh baits out at first light this morning, just as something different to try, as you never know here.

The sun is up and it's looking gorgeous, with the autumn colours. That was it no more fish for me, I left Ian still packing up, as I need to get home, hopefully, he may bag just one more before home time.

He certainly did get another one a 14lber, that was a nice finish 4 carp each.

Until next time

Richard

*P.s it did turn out to be my last trip, unfortunately Covid finally got me and I've struggled with long covid ever since.*





# Deception

*Angling*

**OUT NOW**

**[WWW.DECEPTIONANGLING.CO.UK](http://WWW.DECEPTIONANGLING.CO.UK)**

**THE NEW EXTENDED RANGE**



**[WWW.DECEPTIONANGLING.CO.UK](http://WWW.DECEPTIONANGLING.CO.UK)**







# Reviews

*Featuring -*

**KATRAN COMODO - MARK CARPER**





**Katran COMODO – Chain Core Leader -  
Review by Mark Carper**



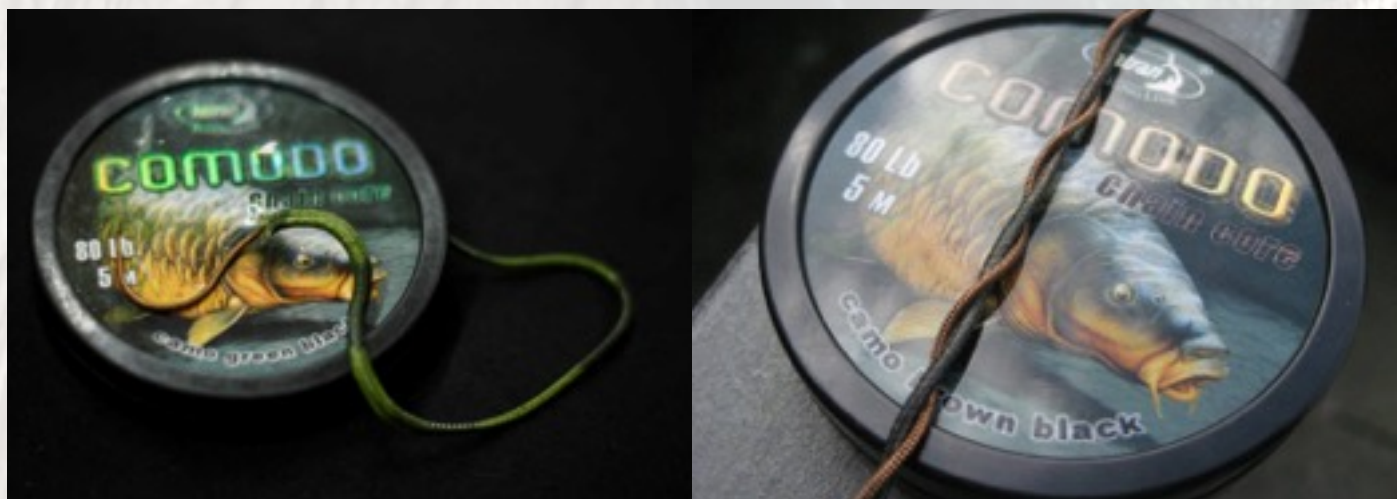
With many waters, especially in the UK banning the use of 'Lead Core' and some banning any form of 'Leader' at all, and yes, I know all the arguments both for and against the use of any form of leader, and some European Commercial Fisheries also introducing bans too, there is limited use for the Katran 'Comodo' product over here as the "lead" aspect doesn't seem to be the overwhelming reason for the ban, it's usually down to poor usage by the angler, the ill-informed angler at that...!!

Where there is opportunity to use a 'Braided Leader' however, the Comodo comes in to its' own and setup correctly can really assist you in presenting the hook bait in the best possible way and it has a big advantage over traditional Lead Core due to the amazing flexibility of the product...!!

On a personal note, I have used this on several occasions but usually when fishing on public waters in Europe and it does exactly what it was designed to do...!

**Highly Flexible** and **Ultra-Heavy**...that's the best way to describe 'Comodo Chain-Core' from Katran.

This 'Non' Lead product was designed to be extremely fast-sinking and hug the contours of any terrain thanks to its uniquely designed and patented 'Latten Brass' Core with a diameter of 0.9mm.





This inner 'Chain' is then covered in a material made from sixteen Tualon Microfibers, making it extremely durable and abrasion resistant in even the harshest of waters and has a Breaking Strain of 80lb...!

A 1m Length of Comodo weighs in at 0.20oz so, even though it sinks like a brick (or Lead..?! ) it will not hinder your casting ability too much either.

## To Splice or not to Splice..?!

Personally, I am no 'expert' when it comes to splicing Braid, however, I'm equally not a novice either. The Comodo has to be one of the easiest Braids I have spliced though and if you pair it up with the 'Green' Needle from Katran, the one they designed specifically for 'splicing' then the job is even easier....!!

## My Spicing Top Tip;

1. Use the correct sized 'Gated' Needle – To often people try to use a needle far too 'thick' for the task in hand... the finer the Needle the better, but it must be 'Gated'
2. Once I have removed the length of 'Inner core' required and smoothed the 'Outer' back out, I then 'wet' the outer Braid before attempting to insert the Splicing Needle. This holds the fibres together more and allows you to 'feel' your way in without pushing the needle straight out the other side..!





3. Slow and Gentle is the key – Holding the Braid tight against my finger, I insert the Needle with the 'Hook Facing Up' and not 'Flat'.. again, I find this allows me to find the centre of the Braid much easier...
4. Once inserted, slowly 'Push the Braid on to the Needle' do not try and push the needle through the braid.. Pushing the Braid allows it to 'Bunch' slightly, thus aiding the process...
5. Once at the desired exit position, place the loose end in to the 'Hook' and 'Close the Gate' (allow approximately 1.5cm of braid to extend past the hook..
6. Gently slide the 'Bunched Up Braid' on the needle towards the Hook (the Gate will close at this point anyway) and proceed to gently pull the Needle whilst holding the Braid close to where the Needle will exit...
7. Once the Needle is fully out, this is the time to adjust the size of the 'Loop' you require and then slowly tighten the Braid on to itself...
8. Repeat at the other end of the Leader and then you have a perfectly formed and super strong Braided Leader...Simple..!





9. Note: If you want to add a Swivel/Ring etc. You simply slide that on 'Before' you put the end of the Braid into the Hook (obvious I know, but I thought I would mention it)

10. An alternative, if you want to add a Swivel 'After' you have formed the Loop, is to simply 'Loop the Braid through the Eye of the Swivel'

For those that do not want to make their own Spliced Chain Core Leaders, Katran supply a Pack of Three 'Ready-Mades' in 70cm Lengths – Check out their website details below.

So, there you have it, a superb Heavyweight, Flexible and Strong Chain Core Leader with No Lead in sight.

Used correctly, this type of Leader can really help with rig concealment and ensuring everything in the last metre or so, is pinned...but you must be mindful of how you use it and how you set up your lead etc....your main Line will break way before the Chain Core, so remember that and what the fish could be trailing.

**Katran Fishing Line:** <https://katran.eu/>

**Instagram:** @mark\_carper257 / @talkingcarp.magazine

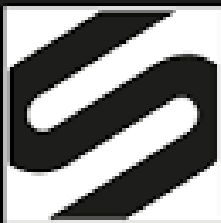
**Facebook:** Talking Carp







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



SONIK

POWAPACE  
Power Your Adventure







# Catch Reports

*Featuring -*

DT Baits

Castaway PVA

Deception Angling



## Aaron Burnell



Aaron with a beauty from Woodside lake.  
Caught just after midnight on the 18th Feb using a Spotted Fin pink pepper squid wafter in a solid bag. Came in just over 23lb.

## Peter Conn





# Peter Conn



**Peter Conn reports in from a south Yorkshire water:-  
Another great day with my son. One of my targets for this  
year was for my son to get a new pb. Well today he has done  
it twice. 1st a 13lb 6oz mirror. Then a 14lb 13oz common.  
Managed a couple myself. All on the size 8 cygnet clinga  
BP hooks made into ronnie rigs. Trimmed down pear drop  
pop up over glugged wicked whites from Madbaits, over a  
helping of Carp Particles UK hemp.  
@Carper\_and\_son**





**Friend of DT baits  
Barry managed this  
rotund 62lbs mirror  
on a recent trip to  
Gigantica.**



**This formed one  
half of an insane  
111lbs brace as  
Barry managed  
a lovely 49lbs  
common as well.  
Both fell to a 12mm  
Supa fruit pop up.**





**Joe Colville has had some good success this winter targeting a local day ticket. This 23lbs common was the best of a five fish hit caught recently fishing a Cold Water Green Beast take 4 over a small mesh bag of maggots**

**James Radley has been on fine form of late this is his second 37lbs common on consecutive trips. And what a stunning example of a common it is. James fished Supafruit and maggots.**







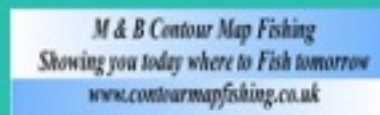
# carpsocials.com

The Best carp fishing events at amazing venues. Join us for the next carp event.

## For Bookings & Info Please Visit carpsocials.com



Supported By





**Castaway PVA**

**Adam Honeysett**



**Lewis Kennedy**





**Castaway PVA**

**Derek 'The Don' Ritchie**



**Damian wheway**





**Castaway PVA**

**Tom Blackmore**



**Lawrence Hawkins**





# Deception

Angling

Danny Arnold



the morning carper





# Deception

*Angling*

Daniel Powell



Danny Arnold







**CARBON BAITS**

Visit [www.carbonbaits.co.uk](http://www.carbonbaits.co.uk) for  
all of your particle needs !!!

New Deals added all the time



A man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark jacket, is holding a large fish. The fish has a yellowish-brown body with dark spots and a large, open mouth showing sharp teeth. The background is a textured, greyish surface.

**A Beginners Guide**

**to**

**Predator Angling**

**Part 3**

**Basics of Dead Baiting**



“...So that’s me armed with the correct gear and a selection of Lures and I know where to look to locate those Perch I am after, so I just need to get out on the bank before the 15th March (that’s when the next issue is due out) in an attempt to catch myself my very first ‘Lure’ Perch... However, I very much doubt I will be alone in my quest as I think I will need all the help I can get.... But I know just the people and lucky for me, they are both part of the ‘Gunki UK’ Team.. How’s that for a bit of luck...?!!!”

...and that is how I left it at the end of Part 2 of our “Beginners Guide to Predator Angling”...

Well, on the 19th February 2023, I landed my first ever ‘Lure Caught’ Perch... now, it wasn’t very big, in fact it was quite small, but it was a Perch and it was caught on Lure....!!

But it didn’t end there, and after a change of location, I landed myself a ‘proper’ Perch, all 1lb 10oz of it..!!!!!!

Now, as a Carp Angler with hundreds of Carp to my name, the whole

point of me starting this Beginners Guide to Predator Angling was to try and find out why a Carp Angler would want to go out and catch something that was forty times smaller than their usual target and more importantly, “what they got out of it..?”

**....I can safely say, I now fully understand.....**

Those two Perch, caught during a three-hour session gave me more of a “Buzz” than the last few Carp I have caught. That could be because the last few Carp, although thirties and forties, were not PB’s so didn’t mean as much and if I was to compare catching my new PB Perch Buzz to a recent Carp Buzz, it would be the one that I watched for a couple of days, moving in and out of a small bay that I then pre-





baited for 24 hours, watched it move out, shipped my rig out with a baiting pole and 'BOOM'.. hooked and landed on Nash Tackle 'Black Ops' Sawn Off, but that went 37.2lb... my new Perch PB is Thirty-Four times smaller... But the 'Buzz' was just as big.

The fact that I was 'actively fishing' for that Perch as opposed to just sat behind rods, adds to the whole thing. Similar I guess to stalking carp or surface fishing for carp, where you see you quarry, although in this instance, I did not see the Perch or even any signs it was there, so in a way, I suppose it was similar to my Delkim bursting in to life, but different, if you know what I mean..?!

It is difficult to describe unless you are there actually fishing. As a Carp Angler, I get annoyed with hooking anything other than a Carp, who doesn't? I also get annoyed at catching shall we say 'Pasties' (I know that is a bit disrespectful as I am there to catch carp after all..!) So, I could never understand why Carp Anglers sought to catch 'small' fish. The Pike bit I could understand better as the people I have been speaking to recently such as Lee Brooks, Rob Smith, Henry Lennon

have all landed some superb specimens, but Perch.. really... come on...!

That moment my new PB Perch hit my Lure and made the rod vibrate and lurch down towards the water was a complete "BUZZ" and one that I instantly wanted to repeat... Forgive the pun but "I was hooked". In that moment, I knew exactly why Carp Anglers go Predator Fishing and why so many others Lure Fish for all manner of Species.

It has been many years since I've had a PB and even more since I 'counted' another species as a







success, put aside from what an incredible looking creature a Perch is the way they can hit a Lure is incredible... and I am know chasing a two-pounder.

Of course I want bigger, in fact the locations I was taken to in an attempt to catch me my first Perch have regularly produced four and even five pounders and the guys I was fishing with, Dave Greenland and Ash Costa really wanted me to have a 'big 'un' but to be honest, if I had caught say a four-pounder, right now I'm not sure how I would feel. Would it be 'job done' albeit with a mega buzz or killed me for

having to then chase that five...? So landing a one-pound ten-ounces Perch gives me plenty of scope to seek those bigger ones and keep the excitement going.. maybe, who knows...!!

Anyway, that's enough of that other than to say to Dave and Ash, a massive thank you for giving up their time to help me and getting me to the places where those Perch are and especially for putting up with all my questions throughout the session.. HaHaHa.. I must have driven them mental...!!

In next months Fourth and Final Part of this 'Predator Supplement', I speak with Dave Greenland from Predator Tackle and get all the information about different types of Lure Fishing and the Equipment...

But for now, let's see what Lee Brooks has to say and "Dead Baiting"...





## The Art of Dead Baiting....

When Mark Carper invited me back to Talking Carp Magazine and asked me to write about Dead Baiting for Pike I jumped at the Chance. Pike are one of my Favourite Fish to target and you can't beat getting the rods out on a crisp Winter morning and setting your traps for those big girls!

So where to start? Well, if you are new to Pike Fishing we should start with the basics that will help you hit the ground running.....

Pike Fishing is a Winter Season sport, the Pike often hunt small prey and Winter is the best time to do it. When conditions are overcast, small Fish shoal up in the water and Pike hide in the shadows waiting to pounce.

It's imperative you start with a good strong Rod and Reel that's up to the Job, Pike can grow very large so ensure you either have a

dedicated Pike Rod or a Carp Rod at 3lb Test Curve.

Your Reel should be loaded with at least 20lb Mono or 40lb Braid.

A simple Ledger set up I use is as follows;

You want a strong Wire Trace and Treble Hooks to withstand a Pikes Sharp Teeth.

I tend to use one Treble in the Tail of the Dead bait and one in the Centre of the Dead bait. It's as basic as you can get but Catches Fish. You can buy ready made Traces in most Tackle Shops or make up your own.

In general, I use a Fox Rage Ledger Stem with a 3oz Pear Shape lead running on the line, and





a Pike Pro quick link Swivel. My Trace is around 25 inches long and somewhere in the region of 30lb Breaking Strain.

I use Bite Alarms with simple Drop-Off Indicators.

When Float Fishing for Pike with Dead baits, my basic set up would be as follows;

A simple Pike Float running on the line, to a stop knot. I alter the stop knot and normally fish this slightly over depth to where I have cast my bait. For example, if I am fishing in six feet of water I set my stop knot to six and a half feet. The trace would be exactly the same as if I was Ledgering.

I normally Float Fish anything from the margins to 30 yards out. Any further and I use a Ledger set up. The Wire-Trace would be the same as for my Ledger Fishing.

For more detail about my set-up head over to: ***My Obsession with Angling*** YouTube Channel - Pike Playlist and Monster Quest Season 1 and 2.

#### Location

When choosing your spots to Fish you want to look out for features. Look out for hiding places in the Margins and Features where you can see smaller Fish in the area. Chances are, where there are Shoals of Small Fish, a Pike won't be far behind.





Remember the Pike Season is between October and Mid-March and remember to check the rules of the Venue you are Fishing.

## Dead Baits

When it comes to Bait, Sardine, Mackerel, Herring, and Lamprey are ideal baits.

Try different Dead Baits until you find one you are confident in. They should be Large enough to tempt a Pike, but not that small that you get plagued by smaller Predators.

The Oily Dead Baits give off a strong scent and the Juice and Oils 'Chum' the water. For extra attraction I like to cut the bait in half or pierce it several times.

Using the above Set-up, Baits and Presentation Methods, I have been very lucky to catch large Pike over the years.

I hope the above has given you the information you need and wish you luck on the bank!

Visit my Instagram page @[obsessionwithangling](#) and let me know how you get on.

Lee Brooks







# JustStitchedUp

*For all your embroidery and printing needs...*

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

+44 (0)7770 890175

[sales@JustStitchedUp.co.uk](mailto:sales@JustStitchedUp.co.uk)





www.  
pavyottsmillfishery.  
co.uk



For Bookings  
Call Anita on -  
07913 953844



**Pavyotts Mill is a superb 10 acre dedicated Carp fishing complex,  
comprising of 3 lakes which are well stocked to an impressive  
50lb plus**



# *Le Lees Carp Fishery - France*





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

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

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

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

**Thankyou Matt and Tracie**



*Le Lees Carp Fishery*



# **THIS MONTHS ADVERTISERS -**

**ACA - ANGLERS CHARITY AUCTIONS**

**CARBON BAITTS**

**DECEPTION ANGLING**

**D.T. BAITTS**

**GCT ANGLING  
KATRAN**

**LITTLE EGRET PRESS**

**MAINLINE BAITTS**

**RIDGEMONKEY**

**RODDY CLIPS**

**SEASONED BAITTS**

**SERIOUS CARP SOCIALS**



**Thanks for reading**

**Send your articles and catch reports by the  
28th March 2023 for next months magazine**

**brian.dixon@talking carp.co.uk**

**mark@talkingcarp.co.uk**

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



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

*'The Talking Carp Team'*

**Brian Dixon**

**Mark Faulkner**

**Mark Galli**

**Dave Harnick Snr**





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

*They feed sooner, harder and longer when it's in the water massively increasing the chance of a pick up. I literally would not fish without it now. Look out for Thinking Tackle On Demand at Embryo Broom this summer, I smash the lake and have this mega mirror called 'Bullion' all using the Smart Liquid!"*

*- DANNY FAIRBRASS*

# FISH SMARTER NOT HARDER!

Water is the catalyst to **SMART LIQUID** infiltrating its underwater environment; throughout the lakebed and bottom substrate horizontally then climbing vertically, impregnating the water column with advanced amino's, palatants and highly stimulatory trace elements!

Due to Smart Liquids unique formulation, it's impossible to overload - simply add as required.



Available in four variants: CELL™, FISH, FRUIT & CREAM  
[WWW.MAINLINE-BAITS.COM](http://WWW.MAINLINE-BAITS.COM)