

There's barbed, there's barbless,

NOW THERE'S





Developed to allow for high penetration and a firm hook-hold, GRIPZ alleviate slippage as the flesh of the fish's mouth grips in to the grooves under pressure but is easily removed on release, lessening any mouth damage.

- Unique, patented grooves
- Uniquely designed point, resulting in a seriously sharp hook
- Made from the highest quality Japanese wire
- Teflon coating for dull finish
- Available in sizes 6, 8 and 10



A totally new hook design, not just a new hook pattern

To buy our range of innovative products visit your local stockist www.pallatrax.co.uk 01409 240042

Hello everybody... and welcome!!

Issue 25, eh!! Who would have thought... but here we are and flying high thanks to you!!

March has finally made an appearance and Spring is on its way!! And with that in mind its time to think about dusting off those rods if you have been hibernating over the winter.

Time to look in your tackle boxes and time to respool those reels ready for your new campaigns. Just remember though... it is still only Spring, and night time temperatures can still plummet so be prepared and continue to wrap up warm.

Giveaways and competitions!!

Our Facebook page is giving away bait packages from Galaxy Baits, a big thanks to Mickey and Scott for those. In it to win it!!

Inside these pages Cheshire Particles are giving away a great particle package. thanks to Mark for that one. Go find it!!

We are lining up giveaways for your catch reports too!! Send those pictures in!!

There's everything to play for!!
Keep those articles, catch reports and enquiries rolling in!
Be safe but have fun.

Team Talking Carp

Email brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk
Email buggy@talkingcarp.co.uk
Email talkingcarpinfo@gmail.com

Inside This Month - ARTICLES - from page 7

Winter session - Scott Grant
When a plan - Gary Lowe
Im sure I said - Adi Blantford
In pursuit - Phillip Lane
Fishing for buffalo - Martin Rich
Ask the experts - Paul hobbs
Serious carp socials - Dave Bennion
A year to look forward to - Andrew Taylor
Syndicate sessions - Matt Whalley
Winter no problem - Donato Corrente
Carp chronicles - Brett McPhee

FORCES CARP SECTION - from page 93

Stuart Abbott Tim Gray

REVIEWS - from page 113

Gary Lowe Reviews - Kryston Quicksilver, Kryston Snyde, Mainline Toppers, Mainline Ziggers.

Brian Dixon reviews - Bell Ball cutters

CATCH REPORTS - from page 123

Brooms Cross Fishery, Dan Winfield, Pallatrax, Castaway PVA Team.

Foreign Section - from page 138 Le Lees carp fishery, Etang St Pierremont, Carp Gran Canaria

Talking Carp would like to thank our sponsors
Brooms Cross Fishery





GALANS



















16 - 22mm £7.00

14mm

£7.00 per Kilo

£7.50 per Kilo

minimum order 5kg one size / one Flavour

Popups : Matching / Fluoro / £7.00 per pot

Wafters : Matching / Fluoro / £7.00 per pot

Dips : 150ml £7.00 per pot

Glugs : 150ml £6.00 per pot

Food Dip / Soak : 150ml £8.00 per pot

Stick Mix : 500g £5.00

P&P - upto 2kg £5.00 2kg - 30kg £10.00

All baits can be made in Barrells, Dumbells or Traditional rounds.

All baits are steamed, keeping all important attracters in the skin of our finished product.









NTRANC



WINTER SESSION AT CHURCHGATE
LAKES
BY SCOTT GEEZER GRANT

After the session at Cottington with HOB consultants Team, it was back to work for the Christmas period. I normally get to fish a couple of nights from Boxing Day but due to my eldest daughter returning from her holiday I decided to give it a miss and spend the time with my family.

After also working New Year it wasn't looking good for me getting some bank time in. I thought I was going to miss January altogether due to workload, but I got a reprieve and after finishing 7 early shifts on the bounce, a couple of nights was going to be had on the bank.

I had arranged to fish a couple of nights down at Churchgate Lakes in Battlesbridge. There are 4 lakes on the complex as well as a fully stocked shop and

a banging café.
My good mate and
fishery Manager Dave
was going to join me,
and a winter social was
on the cards.

We both needed to get some bank time in and there was no better way than spending it with someone you have all the time in the world for.

I did originally plan
to get to the lakes on
Thursday evening but
due to an incident at
work earlier that day
where I ended up
saving a customers life
who had a heart attack

then died on the train,
I gave them CPR and
used the defibrillator,
It really did affect
me quite a lot, it was
upsetting but rewarding
as my actions along
with my staffs actions
saved his life.

Thursday evening, I loaded my car making sure I had everything I needed for the trip, I checked and double checked just to make sure.

Baitwise was the ever consistent Nutjob, what I had done was glugged a 5-kilo bag of frozen 16mm. Over the course of a few







weeks I had been taking them out the freezer glugging them again and in total had done these 4 times so the baits were absolutely loaded with food dip.

I had also put a matching 6mm pellet together with Micky and this was to be its first outing.

With the car finally loaded, it was time to chill out and have a nice relaxing evening. Come 05:00 o'clock the next morning the alarm went off and believe it or not I had no trouble getting up, only because I was going fishing and not

going to work.
Whenever I am going fishing I always get excited it's a feeling all anglers can relate to and the day I lose that feeling is the day I hang my rods up.
My mrs had prepared my food bag as she always does bless her, then it was out the door and down the motorway.

It took me around 30 minutes to get to Churchgate Lakes and I arrived at around 07:00 o'clock whilst it was still dark.

I met Dave in the car park, then we retreated to his café for a lovely morning brew. Just as it started getting light I made my way up to the Top Lake (Day Ticket) to see if the fish were active and showing.

I walked the whole lake and found a few bubblers just off the far margin under the overhanging trees, somewhere you would expect to find them.

I made my mind up this is where I would start. I went back to my car and grabbed my bivvy and made my way back up to the lake and started setting it up.

I kept an eye on the far snags and there was definitely life there, how many fish were down there? God only knows, but this is definitely a great place to start.

Winter fishing is hard going what with the freezing cold days and nights its more of an endurance test to be honest, but I love it.



I made my way back to the café and told Dave where I had set up and he was going to fish two swims to my right. By the time we got all the gear up to the swims it was midday!!! As I was unloading my gear I just had a bad feeling something was missing, but for the life of me I couldn't think what it was, not until I set the rods up and went to get my alarms and bank ware. You've got be kidding

me! I spent hours loading my gear and checking it how could I have forgotten it. I gave the mrs a call and asked if she was busy to which she replied, "not really, whys that?" I then asked if she wanted to come and have a cuppa with me and spend a little time with me on the bank "oh and can you bring my alarms and bank ware

She wasn't too happy

baq?"

but never the less an hour later she turned up with the missing tackle.

I could now finally get the rods out and start fishing.

I chose to fish exactly

the same way I did last April/may, a Nutjob wafter fished on a Ronnie rig, fished over a few glugged bottom baits, the new matching pellet, plus HOB particles the Blitz and the chilli/ maize hemp.





As I am fishing just under the overhanging trees a bait boat is deadly, and the boat was sent out to three different areas under the far canopy, then it was kettle on and chill. Dave had set up his bivvy and got all his rods sorted, he was also fishing to the far bank. At around 16:00 o'clock Dave had to reel his rods in and go and collect his daughter, due to his daughter not feeling too well he decided to stay at home and return in the morning. Just as Dave wound his last rod in I got my first take on my right-

hand rod and after a feisty few minutes fight, a plump common of 16lb 4oz was in the net. Dave took a couple of photos for me then shot off. I re-baited the rod and sent her out to the same area, and not overdoing it with the bait I was simply putting a scoopful of the new Nutjob pellet, half a scoop of Chili hemp and half a scoop of blitz and around a dozen boilies. It got dark pretty quick and as it did the temperature dropped dramatically, I decided to get comfortable and warm in the confines of my bivvy.

An hour or so later the middle rod was away, and another scrappy fight produced a 16lb mirror.

Ive had a stand from Fish-i for some time and used this to hold my phone and take a few selfies, they didn't come out too bad and only took a couple of seconds. With the shots done the fish was treated and returned.

The rod was re-baited and sent out to the same area, freebies were the same as the right rod earlier. It went quiet for a couple of hours then I lost a fish on the righthand rod which I was a bit gutted about, as I hate losing fish as do we all. Then at around 01:00 o'clock in the morning when I was snoring like a water hog, the right-hand rod was away again resulting in a double figured mirror.





I did contemplate not putting the rod back out but decided against it as I desperately want to catch one of the elusive 30lb+, of which there are only a handful.

With the rod back out I got straight back in the bag and was out like a light, well that was until my receiver let out a couple of bleeps, I looked at my phone and it was 06:15 as I shone my headtorch

on my bobbin it was slowly going up I jumped out the bag and lifted the rod, the fish was on and it kited to my left and just stayed deep, it felt a much better fish and I was hoping it wouldn't come off!!!

After 5 or so minutes
I slid the net under
a large mirror, as I
peered in the net I
knew it was a better
fish around mid twenty.
On the scales she went

24lb and I was a very happy chappy. I put the fish in the retainer then got the rod back out. Just as I had finished Steve came walking up as he was fishing the match that was taking place later that morning.

I had a quick chat then needed to get in the bivvy get warm and get dressed, as I was only wearing a pair of shorts!!!!!

TalkingCarp

Just as it got light all the lads were there ready for the match. Dave Chuter took a few photos for me then the fish was returned. As I am useless when it comes to drawing a peg I let Dave pick mine and low and behold he picked out peg 10, which I later found out, was the peg I was already in.... Happy Days. Dave cooked some of us a banging full English while the keen anglers had sandwiches on the bank.

It was nice to get away for a few hours and to be honest I was in no rush to get the rods back out, I was more then happy with what I had already caught. Nic was having it large in the café, having steak for breakfast!! Then a couple of hours later we made our way up to the lake to participate in the match.

As you can't use a bait boat in the match I flicked the rods just in front of the overhanging trees on the far bank and I was only using my middle and right-hand rod as it also has a 2 rod rule. I chatted to a few of the anglers that were either side of me and it really was an enjoyable day.

That was until 30 minutes before the match ended, I got a take on my right-hand rod and it felt a lot like my last fish, it stayed deep and lunged about after a few minutes a

few of the lads were standing round saying it's a goodun and with only a 14lb and 16lb been banked this was definitely a match winner.

The fish was a rod length out and just as I slid the net into the water Wallop!!! Hook pull!!!

There was a deadly silence and I just said well that's fishing. Everyone was gutted I lost it and with me laughing they all followed suit. I remember saying to Steve who was in the next swim, "that's it



TalkingCarp

no more bites until 17:00 o'clock." He just laughed thinking I'm mental which he's not wrong, but with the match finishing at 16:00 I then put my rods back onto their original spots and at 16:53 I had a take and Steve couldn't believe it, saying its 7 minutes early!! The fish was a double figured mirror which was treated and returned.

Dave was back up and fishing with his daughter Maddison and he wasted no time getting his rods out. It went quiet for a few hours which gave us time to eat a lovely chinese Dave ordered. Then at 21:00 the middle rod was away and a lovely 18lb mirror was netted. Dave obliged with the camera Thanks Mate. The rod was re-baited and sent out to the same area again keeping the bait light, then an hour later the same rod was away again, the fish really wasn't happy but after a few minutes a lovely mirror of 17lb 2oz was in the net.

As it was late I didn't

want to wake Dave or disturb Maddison, so I opted for a few self takes, the treated and returned the fish. At this point I did think about leaving the rod out of the water, but with the 30lber at the back of my mind it got the better of me and the rod was re-baited and sent back out to the same area. I had three more fish that night, a double mirror at 01:30, another at 02:45 then the final fish at 04:00 o'clock. As I looked at Dave's bivvy, I could see his rods against it, so I knew he had caught fish in the night and opted not to put his rods back out and to get some kip.

I finally got to sleep around 04:30 and woke up at 08:30 with a banging headache and my eyes looked like pot holes in the snow.





slow pack up and finally left the lake around 12:00 o'clock. Looking back at the session I managed to bank 10 fish up to 24lb with 2 loses, not bad for a winter session. Churchgate lakes is a lovely place to fish, whether you want carp or silvers, this place has it all. If you get hungry the onsite café run by Dave is first class and there's nothing he can't cook. For a winter water I cannot recommend this place enough.

If you would like more information on any of the lakes on the Churchgate complex give the shop a ring on 01245-325289 where they will be more than happy to help you.

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



Www.galaxybaits.co.uk co.uk

Www.sharptackle.co.uk

Www.kudostackle.

co.uk

Www.hookedonbaits.

co.uk

Www.ridgemokney.

Also Essex Leads which you can find on

Facebook.

If you're out on the bank stay safe, keep warm and remember its only fishing. All the best

Geezer



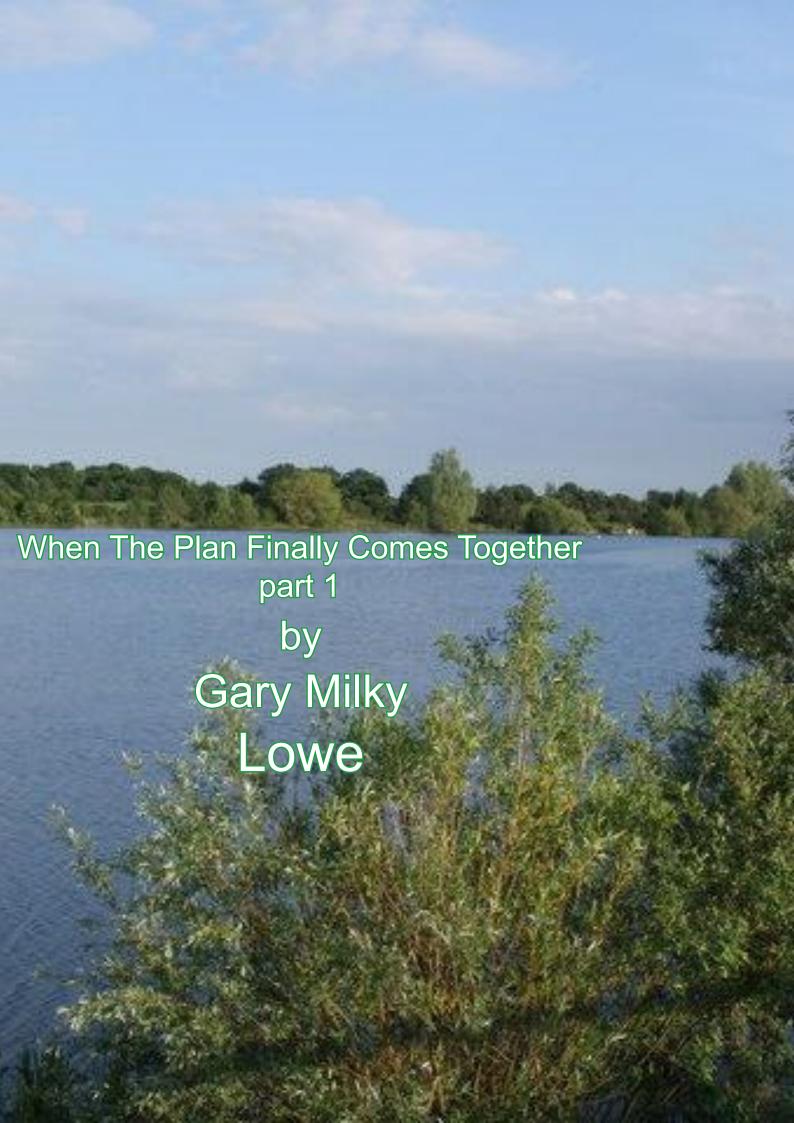




#PARTICLEPERFECTION



SEE OUR FULL RANGE AT HOOKEDONBAITS.COM



Well it's that time of year again... and its nonstop shows for a few months, so as I am not able to get out on the bank for the last month, I thought I would write about a lake that I fished a few years ago and the pictures that I will show you here have never been in print in any magazine before this one!

I have never written about my sessions on there since I caught what I believe is the biggest common in the lake... from what I had seen anyway, and I've never seen another picture of it since I left the lake. If it's still in there how big could it be now? The lake is so big it could go uncaught for years as there are so many places where it could hide out of anglers' way.

Well the lake in question is down south

and is around 360 acres in size and has loads of bays and lined with reedbeds. You can hire a boat that is already on the lake to get about from one end to the other or you can try and walk most of it, but there are places around the lake that you can't get to by foot. I had heard of this lake many years ago and knew there was carp in there and there was always rumors of big carp and even

talk of a few 40s coming out.

but I had never seen any photos or even spoken to the people that had them.

I had walked most of the lake over the years and only ever seen a few carp that were up to around the mid twenty mark, and I had always said that one day I would do a campaign on there, but I had another lake to finish first.

Two years later I finally had my chance to really see what was in the mighty ocean. It was early Spring, and I had hired a boat to have a look at all the bays that are out the way as you cannot get to them by way of foot. These bays were supposed to be shallow and as it was spring and warming up I thought that would be a good place to start. I took a slow motor over to where the bays were, taking around 20 minutes. I cut the motor on the boat and drifted into the bay just in case there was fish in there. After a while of drifting I came across a big shoal of bream! Now they could be a problem if I was baiting an area as they would clean me out in no time. After a closer look at the shoal I saw a carp hanging



around the back of it. it. wasn't big... about mid double but that was a start. If there is one in this bay, then others might come in too. I left that bay and moved onto another and did the same. I drifted in like I did in the first, but this bay was different to the other, it was slightly deeper and full of old lily roots, so this bay in the summer would be covered in lilies and reeds all the way round the edges. I am sure they would visit here in the summer.

I was still not sure how many fish were in the vast amount of water as everyone who had fished here had kept their cards close to their chest. After about half an hour I left the bay knowing I would return one day and I set off to look around the rest of the out of range parts. There is one other main obstacle here....

swims!! There are none. Just areas that are clear or where people have cleared an area in the trees. After the whole day of boating around looking at spots and areas it was time to get the boat back before they closed the hire shop. I had found some really good areas to start, the main one I was going to concentrate on first was going to be at the entrance to one of the bays at the far end of the lake. The bay looked like it had been fished before as there was clear areas on

the bank, but I wanted to fish just before the bay so if any fish did go into the bay I would intercept them on the way in and out. The following day, which happened to be a Sunday, I was going to go down there with some gardening tools to clear an area to fish and put some bait in to start to prep the area for the next week which I had 3 days on there booked. I set off Sunday morning to get to the lake just as the shop opened. I loaded all my tools and bait and set off to the other



TalkingCarp



end of the lake which took about twenty minutes. I finally arrived at the area I wanted to fish and picked the area of the bank I was going to clear so I could get the rods through. I was only going to clear enough space for the rods at the water's edge and then clear a bigger area at the back for my bivvy then when I left to go home after

every session I would put some of the bushes back over the spot so people could not find it.

A good few hours later, and a lot of cuts from the brambles I finally had my swim made, then I set about finding a few spots in the lake well one rod had to go into the mouth of the bay and the other two I was going to find somewhere out

in open water. After a lot of hard work, the spots were found. I found the mouth of the bay was 8ft deep which was nice for the spring, then two rods that were going out into open water that took some time to find spots because most of the bottom was flat and silty. I found a plateau at about 130 yards out which came up from 20ft to 6ft from the



surface. Now that I could not ignore so I baited that area with 5kg of pigeon mix and 5kg of Mainlines Activ-8. Two rods would go on this area and I baited the other area with the same amount of bait. I baited up the plateau with the boat to make it easy, and after coming back to collect my tools and cover my spot with some bushes I set off back to the hire shop then home. I would come back in two day's time and do the same with the bait again.

Two days passed, and I was on the boat and back at the swim. I made my way out to the bar and upon looking into the water on top of the plateau there was no bait at all. Whether it was carp, bream, or birds I don't know, so I baited up with the same amount of bait then moved on to the mouth of the

bay. On inspection all the bait was gone too so I baited that up too and made my way back to the hire shop. On my way home all I could think of is what had eaten the bait and how I was going to fish it in three days' time. At home I started to sort my tackle and get the bait sorted.

The morning I was due to go to the ocean I was up early, but I couldn't get a boat till the hire shop opened at 8 so I sat near the shop just watching the water and waiting for the shop to open. As soon as it was I hired my boat for three days and half an hour later I was on my way to my swim. As i made my way I passed a couple of lads but kept out of

the way of their swims, so I didn't disturb them.

I tied the boat up to a tree at the front of my swim and unloaded my

gear, set my bivvy up behind the bushes and sat down and made a brew before I got the rods out. After that I set about with the rods and getting some bait out. The weather was due to take a turn for the worse, so I was going to use the boat to get the bait out there. I had two buckets made up for the two spots, both buckets contained 5kilo of activ-8 and the rest was made up of pigeon mix. I went out to the first spot which was the plateau straight out in the lake.

I looked down at the spot and yes, all the bait was gone, and the bottom was as clear as a bell, so the bucket of bait went in and two rods were cast to that area. The other rod was going into the mouth of the bay.... and yes, all the bait

was gone on that rod too. The rod was cast to that spot and I just managed to get all the rods done when the heavens opened up and it bloody rained all day, and it rained most of the next three days! In those 3 days all I got was pestered by bream most of the day and during the night. Now I know what was eating my bait, but I was still going to continue baiting the area. Over the next four months I managed to get to know some of the regulars on the lake and they had opened

up a bit about what is in the lake, which definitely opened my eyes. They told me that there was one common that was caught about three years ago at 39lb, it had a big scar on its side, but they have seen it since then and it was massive now... and that it had done a 46lb mirror last season! As for fish that are in there, they have pictures of 100 different fish so in my eyes I was fishing for 100 carp in around 360 acres. Well in the four months I didn't even see a carp, but

I did have plenty of bream. I decided to have a go elsewhere for a while then come back next season for a proper go. I still kept in contact with the lads on there and one of them had had a few fish. He even had the common at a massive weight of 46lb, so I was chomping at the bit to get back over there.

Find out next month how I got on when I returned....

Milky



Talking Carp

AN EASY WAY OF WRAPPING JP FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR BIVVY/BROLLY



- · LCD screen lights up for night fishing
- Operates from the comfort of your chair/brolly/bivvy
- Right or left hand operated
- Can recall up to three individual rod memories
- Auto power off, if not in use
- Easier and quicker than using distance sticks
- Screw-off handle can be stored in supplied protective case
- · Unique opening spool to take your end tackle

NO MORE WRAPPING IN THE RAIN OR DARK







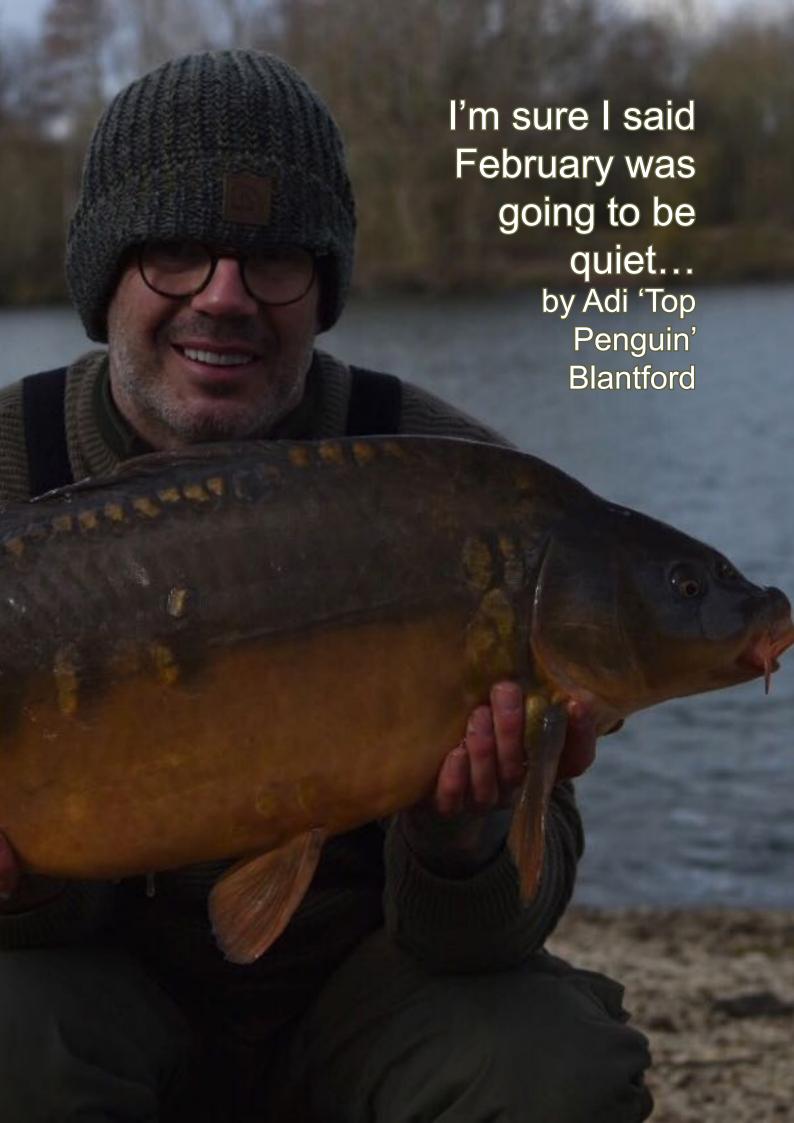


www.distancekeeper.com



PayPal and most major credit cards accepted





In last month's diary piece, I'm sure I said February was going to be quiet and a lot of time spent at home, wow how wrong was I on the quiet comment...! I sent Facebook into meltdown over a picture, stepped away from all the companies I'm with, (my own choice), and gained a fair amount of respect from you guys because of it all. I will leave it at that as I'm sure there will be a written piece about it soon....!

The "stay at home" comment I made turned out to be very true due to the hospital treatment I received putting me on my back for a few days, with only one venture out on the bank, but I managed to choose the week the weather turned 'Antarctic' and turned out to be 'Armageddon' like with snow fall and wind chill

factors of -15.

That session was a Monday Morning start for a 48hr session on Hardwick/Smiths Lake on the Linear complex and again I was joined by my good friend Rob Burgess. Rob had fished the lake that weekend and managed to bank 16 fish off the plateau in front of peg 6....well done Rob..!!

We arrived at the lake for gate opening and managed to secure peg 6 again and we both decided to fish 2 rods each, and both clipped up at 22 wraps, which is the plateau range for peg 6 and once I had got the base camp sorted I left Rob to it and headed off to work for the day.

I received many
'Whatsapp' messages
during the day of
Rob playing fish or
numerous landing nets
in the water and on my

return, Rob was once again playing a fish, with one in a landing net and his 2nd rod melting line off the spool.....

Without a word, I picked his second rod up and started to play what felt like a decent fish while he continued his battle. With his landed, Rob just told me to continue to play the fish while he sorted the other two out. which I did for the next five minutes and then landed what looked like a lovely mid-twenty Mirror, Rob decided to just tip the other two fish back as he wanted a picture of the one I bought in for him, so with the mat set up and the camera ready to go the pictures were done and the fish sent back home again...!

Once my rods were in the water I retired back to the bivvy as the wind chill factor must have



been at around -10 and as we were sitting in the face of it we had no choice but to hide from it. I didn't have even a single bleep during the night and the bobbins did not move until the morning bite time period when the left hand rod burst into life and to be truthful, startled me as it was very unexpected.

After a brief battle and the rod cast back to the spot, the fish was sent back to its home without any pictures, far to cold for that and the fish was too small...!!

The next hour produced a flurry of bites with the last fish being the biggest at just under 19lb. I have to say though, the colours of these Hardwick/Smiths fish in winter are remarkable, they really are.

The afternoon and the

night were non-eventful for both me a Rob and at 08:00 we both decided to break camp. I was heading home and Rob to Wales. We were both feeling cold but happy to catch in such artic conditions and no one else on the lake having a bite.

During the session,
I was testing for
a review, the new
Vimarco FNX bite
alarms which I'm sure
you will be able to read
about soon, but also
using a bait from a
company called Cherry
Carp. Meaty Mite was
the chosen bait for this
session with a couple

of cans of Linear's not so secretive ingredient, "sweetcorn". I will be using a lot of their bait this season for the simple fact that it sits right where I am in Carp fishing now, to show anglers that this isn't a rich mans sport and there are quality baits and equipment out there if you just look for them.

Cherry Carp have been around for about 4 years and basically sell 'shelf-life' bait. As you may know, many freshfrozen baits have been 'adapted' to become a





shelf-life bait, whereas Cherry Carp boilies were 'specifically' designed to be shelflife only and I have to say, they really surprised me when I visited their factory. Having spoke to the owner regarding their set up and baits I've chosen to show you guys that these 'cheaper' or should I say "more cost effective" baits do put fish on the bank and really are just as good as the more expensive brands out there... Cheap or cost effective does not have to mean poor quality..!!

I have now started the preparation for my first French trip this year, where I head back to Crete Lakes for 3 nights in March to do some filming and fishing, so watch out for the Vlog at the end of March.

The bait chosen for

this trip will be Cherry Carp 'Pokernut', which is a Peanut, Vanilla and Coconut flavour and is just delicious (I eat far too much of this bait!!!). I'm really looking forward to this trip and there will be 4 of us so it should be a very competitive session and hopefully can throw up an early 60 or 70-pound fish, what a way to start the year...!!!

Crete Lakes
is a beautiful
Five Lake
venue set in
130 acres.
The lakes
are former
gravel pits
dug around
the mid-1970s
and around
this time they

were stocked with Carp and other course fish.

The venue was left undisturbed to flourish and mature with its tree lined banks and stocks of fish for three decades. After six months of tree removal and other obstacles 60 swims have been created including 9 doubles across the five lakes.

The lakes were stocked with fast growing French Carp including many 40lb+ fish and at present Crete Lakes are amongst some of the heaviest stocked lakes in France with literally hundreds of Carp over 40lb and 50lb, many 60s and the biggest residents over 70lb, and they are all still growing year on year. Lake 5 alone holds over six hundred 30lb+ Carp, so



with stocking levels
of this calibre Crete
Lakes is a firm
favourite amongst
anglers and certainly a
place I love to fish.

The onsite facilities are excellent with a fully equipped kitchen, a large seating area with sky TV, a shop stocking those essential items including a large stock of bait, and a shower block housing 3 showers and 3 toilets. The showers are open 24 hours a day and can be used at your own convenience. There is also a toilet block located between

lakes 3 and 4, there is a disabled toilet in the main clubhouse.

There are up to five bailiffs on hand to cook the all-important meals and look after your daily needs. They will help you find the best areas within your chosen pegs and be available to give advice on tactics and rigs etc. so don't be afraid to ask them for advice.

There will be the usual Wednesday night live feed as well from the bank in France and hopefully we can catch a chunk on camera for

you guys, but for now thanks for reading

Remember: The Tug Is the Drug.

Cheers

Adí 'Top Penguín' Blantford

www.cherrycarp.com

www.properjobpopups. co.uk

www.cretelakes.com



TalkingCarp



Where Passion Meets Precision

Building on decades of experience, Wolf brings groundbreaking design and technology to the specialist angler.

Wolf signals a welcome return to the Fox family's tradition of innovative, high quality and iconic products.

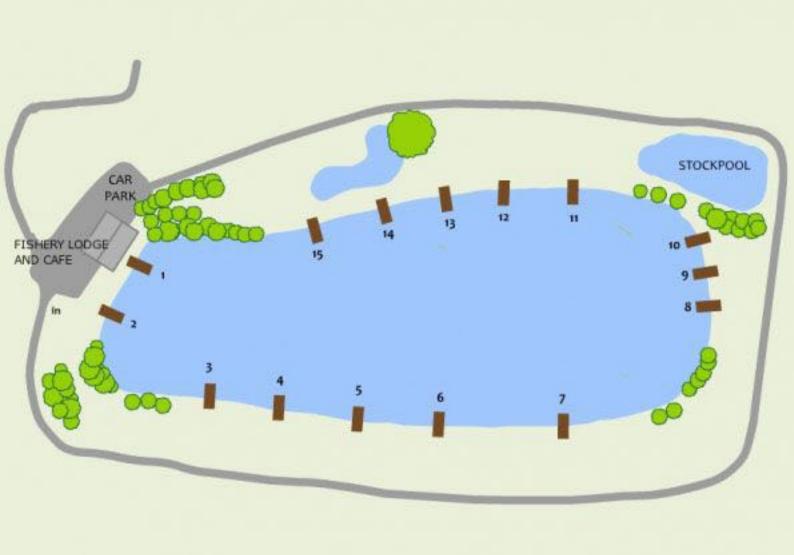
Wolf rods are the result of a collaboration with Mark Tunley, one of the UK's finest custom rod builders.

Wolf rods enable you to hit the horizon, whilst still feeling every knock under the rod tip.

CARPIN' ON 2018



In Pursuit of a UK 30 - Part 2



by Philip Lane

Following a longer than expected encounter with the M6 I once again found myself, a little later than I'd hoped, back on the banks of Monument. I definitely arrived with a more confident swagger having tamed a PB common on my last trip. I was both excited and frustrated as I heard the unmistakable tone of a Nash Siren bursting into life from peg one. As the fortunate angler steered his quarry towards his net I managed to barrow my kit halfway to my home for the next 35 ½ hours stopping briefly to pick up a mandatory net and sling and again for a minor heart attack. I found myself at peg 3 as the red spots in front of my eyes started to dissipate and was able to see the proud expression on the face of the guy on peg 1 as he held up a handsome common for

the camera.

Peg 6 would be my final destination today, with the temperature already well over 20 degrees C and due to top 30 before long, so I wanted to get my rods fishing ASAP before the early morning feeding switches to afternoon basking. My plan was to fire out both rods to 18 wraps with just a small PVA of pellet initially. I aimed to keep an eye out for fish movement for the first few hours. quite happy to move one or both rods if the residents decided to help me unfurl this conundrum. As the day wore on the only fish I had seen were in front of peg 15 on the other side next to peg 1.8 or 10 fish were cruising near the surface and the guy on peg 15 had switched to floater to try and tempt a mistake. Suffice to say his landing net was still dry when the sun worshippers eventually sank back into the hidden depths.

As the temperature started to back off I decided to introduce some bait. At RH Fisheries any particle, boilie or pellet you want to use must be purchased on site. I would be sticking to using the caramel boilies which had by all accounts been catching very well. Having fished a Thursday/Friday session previously I had put in quite a lot of particle, as the fish in M1 are fed maize on a Wednesday when the lake is closed. This being a Monday and having caught my fill of roach and very small carp last session I decided to go all boilie. Using a boilie catapult I put out a kilo of boilies over each rod aiming for a spread a little larger than a snooker



table over each. As
the bivvies started
to be zipped up the
occasional roach
breaking the surface
was the only clue
that something dwelt
beneath that mill-pool
calm surface. After
recasting about 11pm
I turned in for the night
hopeful that I had done
enough to get an early
morning wake up call.

After a long unbroken sleep I reeled in to check my rigs. Everything seemed fine, with a little over 12 hours left I decide to have a rummage through my hook-baits hoping to find some inspiration. I went with a pink pop-up RJL Baits Nutcrunch on one and found some very old Crafty Catcher peanut pro wafters which looked almost exactly like the caramel bottom baits, even more so after glugging. I fired another half kilo of caramel out over

both rods just before midday and waited. I had made a judgement not to touch anything if possible. As the afternoon wore on my mind started to turn to my final session I had booked. My final session would be on peg 5 next door, a peg with a good reputation, but also a peg that had produced blanks for the 3 guys I'd seen fish it. With my gear packed up and just a chair a pod and my trusty fox baiting table left out I started to assess the trip. The confidence I had felt the previous morning when I arrived had almost completely dissipated. As I watched the other anglers pack up and leave I decided that these rigs were going in the bin, I was going to need a new baiting strategy and.... was that a beep? And another, then a steady pull.

As I picked up the rod I was instantly impressed by the weight I felt accelerating steadily across the lake. After such a quiet session a few of the guys who'd made it to the carpark wandered back over with the guys from the shop as they could see I'd hooked something that wasn't giving up. Fortunately the runs although powerful were away from any danger and after a good 10 minutes of exhausting my supply of adrenaline a bronzed flank slid over the rim of my net. By the length of it I felt it had to be a little heavier than my previous M1 fish, but it wasn't until I rolled down the net and lifted it out that I thought this might just go 30.



With so much help at hand I waited still shaking slightly for the guys to give me the verdict. With 3lbs taken off for the wet sling they finally agreed on 32lbs5oz and I was ecstatic! Some invaluable trophy shot advice from the Monument staff gratefully received and a smile welded

to my face that surely would still hold true when I was due to return for my final visit to Shropshire the following week. As I negotiated the now familiar country lanes back towards the M54 all the animosity and disappointment which dominated me only an hour before had gone and been replaced by a wondrous sense

of achievement as I chose the first number to dial on the long brag home.

A week later my final visit to RH fisheries beckoned. If anything the weather was warmer than the previous week with high pressure forecast for the duration I felt I would need to fish well





to have a chance of a take. The first day passed uneventfully but pleasantly conversing with the guys on 6 and 7. Around half past ten I noticed some movement in my baited area and decided to leave the rods untouched, I had simple blowback rigs on tied to stiff coated braid leaving me confident the rig would be fishing well. On my left rod I had one of my remaining peanut wafters and stuck with the RJL Baits Nutcrunch on the other.

and see if anyone else had experienced a bit more joy. Turns out about an hour after I turned in the lad on peg 7 had a 36! While I was at the next peg looking at the photos my right hand alarm briefly sang out. I ran the 20yds to my rod and found the bobbin hanging limp and slack line everywhere. I picked up the rod and started to reel like a mad man. As the bow in the line started to straighten I leaned into the fish and the fight was on.

Unlike the previous fish this one kited down the near bank my drag set as daringly as I was willing to risk yet the line poured off the spool. By the time I had slowed down and eventually turned the fish towards the middle of the lake at least 80yds of line was out.

Eventually I managed to get the fish within netting range, missing on the first attempt as his huge gut stopped him going over the rim of the net.

For the next couple of hours I was convinced one of my rods was going to tear off at any moment, a number of fish had showed in front of pegs 6 and 7, but eventually I decided to get my head down. Un-woken again during the night I emerged with a brew to have a nosey around



TalkingCarp

At 26lb 10oz a fine specimen to remember from my mini campaign on Monument. With the weather really heating up now I decided to sit back in the shade with a coldish drink from my cool-box and just enjoy being at one of the country's premier carp fisheries.

Just as I was starting to contemplate packing up and getting on the road, and with the mercury still pushing past 30c my left rod screamed off then nothing. I reeled in as quickly as I could noticing that the line was moving. As I caught up to the fish it was heading straight for my and only around 20ft out. Before I could assess the situation the carp had bolted straight into the reeds about 6ft from where I stood. Gently tightening up on the fish he came to the surface and with some difficulty I managed

to slip the net under a 28lber after a fight of barely a minute having hooked him at 18 wraps!

I would like to take this chance to thank the angler from the peg next door for a wonderful picture of the 26 nicely framed and beautifully focused. I must admit I did worry a little when his mate offered to photograph the 28 and looked at my phone like I'd just handed him a Star Trek transporter. You may be a great angler and a smashing bloke, but David Bailey you aren't. We did manage 1 that was just about in focus and as the fish was so green I decided to get him back in

as soon as possible.
Monument is one of those waters that gets under your skin. You will always

find a gaggle of purists telling us it's a puddle wedged with carp of questionable parentage. If you want to find a lake where you don't have to own a boat, don't need £500 rods and reels to fish at 150yds and so long as you are patient and fish it well there's every chance you will get to meet one of their stunning carp. There are no missing lips, damaged fins and with their booking system no idiots ruining everyone else's fishing then maybe I'll bump into you on my next trip.

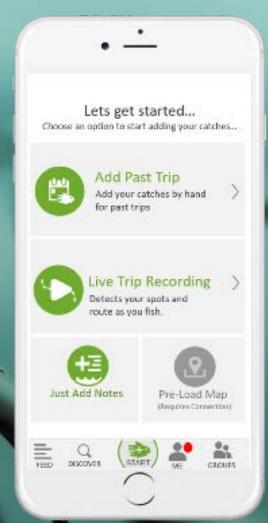
All the best

Philip Lane





Crack your carp tactics





Use Finygo to automatically record your carp fishing trips and catches to find new trends and patterns

Join Groups and share your wins with friends to the feed and on Facebook







FISHING FOR 'BUFFALO' BY MARTIN RICH



My journey begins four years ago after meeting my lovely wife and moving to Texas. In this article, I am going to share my experiences and my views as a British carp angler, fishing state side. I will discuss what is the same and what is different. And how you go about catching these carp.

Like anywhere, local fishermen can often be a great source of knowledge when researching a new water. With the coming of social media, this has become easier. since they often post catch pictures in local forums. A good example of this was a few weeks ago. I spotted a guy on my Facebook news feed holding a low twenty common, which is very unusual on these pages. I looked, and it turns out, it's from one of the lakes that I am

thinking of spending some time on this summer. He said he'd let it go, which is great since most don't. Then, three or four days later, I see the same guy on my news feed again. I looked, and it turns out him and his buddies went back and caught five more commons. He was holding a low 20 Fully Scaled Mirror! My heart sank when I read the comments to find out they were all destined for the table. That is one of the heartbreaking things about American Carping for me. You will often see a trophy sized fish of various species, treated horrifically. It is unfortunate, but it is a massive cultural difference...!

Since most people are planning on eating whatever they catch, fishing for the table is the norm here. Most

people I talk to give me a fully look when I say I'm fishing for carp, and then another when I explain that I let them all go. Sport fishing here is generally bass. Certainly, in Texas it is and its backed up by big business with big prize money tournaments and sponsorship deals. People spend big money on boats and gear. This gives them a large voice when it comes to policy changes and the direction the state goes with legislation. Another large group backed by some of the same big businesses are the bow fishermen. Again, these guys are buying boats and other big-ticket items, which has meant that they have had free reign to legislate in ways that benefit them the most. Unfortunately, our beloved Cyprinus Carpio, along with Ictiobus (buffalo fish)



and some others have no bag limits, allowing them to kill as many as they like. Legally.

The use of some bad science and misinformation has also populated the myth that the "demon carp" are destroying the water ways. The carp, unfortunately, is a victim of its own success and adaptability. Since being brought here by European settlers in the 1800s, they've managed to populate much of north and south America. Their high tolerance to varied water conditions have also made them scape goats for pollution, bank erosion and the disappearance of native species because they're often the last fish still alive when a water body goes bad. This is often fed by ignorance and misinformation as there are species like silver

carp and big head carp which have decimated some of the water ways in which they were released. Just being a type of carp has stigmatized all carps in general.

But it's not all doom and gloom. Attitudes are changing, and science is backing carp as a positive presence in trophy bass waters. Since they like eating the fry the carp produce. I see this in time becoming a mutually beneficial relationship. Also, if you can tempt a bass fisherman to fish for carp, they usually love it.

Many of the carp converts I've met here are also bass fishermen, or former bass fishermen.
Most American carp fishermen are converts from other types of fishing. Fly fishermen here will

TalkingCarp

often target carp as a guilty pleasure as they fight so well. Some of those same guys are now sitting behind a pod and 12-foot rods. Which brings me to the "average American carp angler." I have to generalize a little bit here as I can't speak for everyone and they're not all the same. American carping is still in its infancy and reminds me of the early French science. These guys are keen to learn new methods and tactics. Compared to a UK angler, they are very open about things and are happy to discuss these matters openly amongst other carp anglers. I've had to adjust my attitudes and soften my view a little and I'll even share spots and baits that I am using with them.

Carp/Fish Care is fairly new here and new guys will not have mats and hold the fish badly (by the gill plates). Most of the time this is just due to a lack of knowledge and is easily fixed by directing them to online retailers who sell mats and showing them how to properly hold the fish. We all

started somewhere and remembering that is important. So, not to jump on them too hard and put them off the sport, or worse, push them into the bow fishing community. I've also talked to former bow fishermen to try and better understand

and to learn their limitation as far as where they fish, in an effort to protect the carp. For instance, ten feet is generally as deep as they can see to shoot, so I don't pre-bait areas less than ten feet. These area considerations you don't need to make while fishing in Britain. None of this diminishes my love for the spot and the passion to keep pushing on. It fuels me to promote the sport and, ultimately, some protection for carp here.

So, how does the fishing differ, you may ask? In Texas, everything is bigger. Including the lakes and rivers. I fish a variety of waters from stretches of river 70 yards across to enormous Power Station Cooling Plants around **25,000 acres**.



There are a couple of larger lakes that I've yet to fish. The sheer size of these places can be very daunting in just where you start. I've found location to be key and doing plenty of research at home as well as on the bank. I've found boating apps to be very useful to map new areas, since they provide accurate depths. Before I go to a new water, I will spend a fair bit of time getting a short list of swims that I'd like to look at on my scouting visit. I say short list because often, the depths may differ when I get there. This certainly saves time as some of these places are so big.

Another consideration when choosing your location is the weather. Wind direction and temperatures are critical. I will generally delay trips if a big cold

front is moving in, unless I'm fishing the day before it arrives or during the storm itself. But lighting is a major factor here and something to not tempt with a 12-foot lightening rod in your hand. As beautiful as the lightning storms are, they're also very dangerous.

Then there's the sun and the heat, this is south Texas,

temperatures of over 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer are the norm. Just being outside for any length of time in those conditions presents its own challenges. So, fishing at night, or as storms move in and out. makes bank time more bearable. It's also nice for me, as it forces a venue change and I enjoy fishing at night.



TalkingCarp

That brings me to another slight difference: bivvies and camping. As you've no doubt gathered, these places are not like UK Carp Venues. So, you can't just turn up and pick spots that are free as they are often booked for other functions. Keep in mind, lots of people come here to the lakes as a social gathering and not to fish. There's often large family parties being held at these places.

Once I've found a location and I'm happy with it in general, I prebait and I do this for a number of reasons.

- 1. These places are huge, unless I'm really lucky, I'm not dropping a bait on top of a Carps nose. They could be literally miles away.
- 2. Most of these fish have never been caught before and may

not be familiar with the baits we use, so I like to give them a free taste to get them hooked.

- 3. Many of the lakes I fish can be very weedy at certain times of the year, so I like to have the carp clear areas by using particles and get them doing the work.
- 4. Usually it gives me a good idea of what's in the lake. As over a few days, it will be frequented by lots of the lake residents.
- 5. I like catching fish.

Pre-baiting is very important for me and the results speak for themselves. On a recent session, I had pre-baited on a new venue that I've never fished before. It is known to hold commons, but not much else. I turned up Friday morning around

6 am, and it's still dark and raining, so I sat in the van for 20 minutes until the rain stopped.

Once it had eased up, I let Luna loose to have a look around and I started setting up the gear. I'm not the fastest at setting up and I was lacking a bit of motivation, so it took me awhile. I'd just picked up my fourth rod to put baits on, and the first one I'd put out tore off. As I picked it up, I realized that it was a good fish. It then proceeded to strip around 20 feet of line. I eventually managed to stop it and turn it and get it to come back towards me. I started to gain some ground, but, to my horror, I could feel that the line was rubbing against something. Since the fish had kited right, I walked up the bank a good 60-70 yards past the snag and luckily managed to get it free.



After another ten minutes or so, it comes to the surface and I see what it is. Luckily by now, the fish had tired and went into the net very easily. Once I'd lifted it onto the bank, I looked down into the net and realized what I'd caught. It was a mid 20 Fully Scaled Mirror.

A Mirror like this is a rare fish, but here. even more so since they've never been stocked, and predated by the various forces I've spoken about before. She turned out to be 26lb 2oz, and possibly the prettiest fish I've ever caught. I went on to catch seven fish, three of which were over 20lb, but the best thing was the mirror.

Now I have my spot, and there is fish in it. I need to catch them. When I first arrived, I was using Lead Clips and Heli set-ups with PVA stringers, bags, and pop ups as this had worked for me in Britain. This was how I initially tried to tackle these vast waters, and it was very hit or miss. I landed a couple of small carp

and some catfish, but very inconsistent. My small bag of PVA in an inland sea, just wasn't enough. Around this time, I met up with some of the local anglers from Austin who fish for carp/ buffalo





and noticed them all using "the method." They started catching. I wasn't aware of the buffalo fish, until I saw one caught that morning. I was instantly drawn to them. But that's a different story. These guys were clearing up big fish on method feeders and had two to three each within a few hours. Pretty impressive when these fish are all in the 35-55lb range. I did manage one myself at 32 pounds, but it was pretty clear that a change to my tactics was in order. Soon I'd ordered online a number of various types of method feeder to try out on my next trip. I had dragged my poor wife around the supermarket while I looked at everything for ingredients for my method mix. Over the next few months, I'd played around with the mix, until I was happy,

and my catch rates increased. Now I fish "the method" almost exclusively, over the years fine tuning as I go.

In conclusion,
American carp fishing
has similarities to
British carping,
certainly. The same
rules apply, but the
game is slightly
different. These days,
I am fishing for carp,
buffalo, and grass

carp in their national environment. None of these fish have been stocked or managed in any way. It's very cool catching big, unknown fish that fight incredibly hard and have never seen the bank before. Also discovering new waters to fish.

Until Next Time –

Martin Rich



TalkingCarp

TRADE ACCOUNTS WELCOME

Castaway



Costeffective
refills
designed
to save
you
money!

(plus only 93p postage)

Available in: 18mm 25mm 35mm

www.castaway-pva.co.uk

info@castaway-pva.co.uk





Ask The Experts... Hints and Tips with Paul Hobbo Hobbs



Hello to the faithful talking carp readers!

As this abysmal cold and snow sees in the first few days of spring I have had Talking Carp HQ send me a question knowing that I am going onto a new syndicate this year and they have asked me how all you guys should get onto putting the first one under your belt. As the first carp on a new water is always the most difficult. Well let's get cracking!

There is always that new guy that has a blinding start! We have all seen it and sometime having faith in your own ability is the key. Stick to how you fish as confidence is a massive edge. Always try to do your homework on your new lake. Social media can be a brilliant tool for this. From my past experience most older, longest running members are normally happy to talk about their past successes! (Always carry a spare cup in your brew kit! It helps to pry information out of people when they have a cuppa in their hand!)

Once again bait wise use what you normally use. Rig wise, if it isn't broken don't fix it! The worst feeling can be losing a fish when you are playing around with rigs that are unfamiliar when you are fishing a tricky venue. This sounds rather boring but I will give you my past experiences of how I fished my last two waters.

When I was on Roach Pit for my first season I used big boilies (20mm) and lots of them. This tactic was the norm on my previous syndicate. Roach Pit is an extremely difficult lake and after 5 nights I had landed



my first fish and it was one of the A team. Not a bad start! After Roach Pit I moved to Rockford where I also took this tactic. Rockford is a completely different style of fishing. Big distance fishing is key here.

My rig was changed to stiffer materials but the mechanics were the same. The baiting approach and boilie size was the same as my previous water. I did a total of 14 nights before I had my first Rockford chunk! This was also an A teamer on Rockford.

Believe in yourself and your ability but most of all enjoy yourself. Wishing all the readers all the success on your chosen venue.

Keep your questions coming into Talking Carp.

Be Lucky!

Paul.









E.C.U EDWARDS CUSTOM UPGRADES





MRT COMPACTS ACCESSORY REIS

Kuslov Fackle RAK i Compact accessories kits are new available, with easy fit instructions

The accessory kits include - roller wheels, speaker truns, standard storm cars, and roll riser storm ears. all being made available in red, white, blue, yellow, green, and purple

AVAILABLE NOW

WWWW.KUDOSTACKLE.COM









Serious Carp Socials (SCS) – Merrington Social.

The second SCS of 2018 was held from 23 -25 Feb at Merrington Carp Fishery near Shrewsbury, Shropshire. SCS secured the whole lake and offered 16 swims, which sold out in only a few days. Anglers who attended this social traveled from far and wide, with almost 2000 miles being covered by the participants and one person even doing a return trip of 480 miles.



Leading up to the social Tremayne Sergent was kept busy with the preparations to ensure the participants got the best out of their few days fishing; sourcing the food and drink for the excellent BBQ, communicating with sponsors and taking delivery of free samples, making up goodie bags for each angler, and ensuring that all participants understood the fishery rules and what time to arrive at the venue.

In the week leading up to the social the weather was a concern with the forecasters not really knowing exactly when the 'Siberian Blast' was going to hit the UK. Initially it looked like landing right in the middle of the event, but as the weekend approached there was great relief that the worst of the weather would probably hit early the following week. Even so the temperatures were not much above freezing during the weekend and this made the fishing very difficult - although at least the lake didn't freeze!

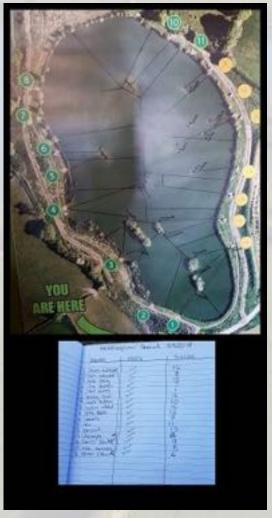






When the first day of the SCS finally arrived, everyone met up at the fishery at 8am to have breakfast. For those new to the socials it was a time to meet some new friends and for others time to renew old acquaintances. The draw commenced at 9am and as usual this was done by drawing your swim from a hat it then being up to each angler if they want to swap their swims with anyone. Once the swims were drawn and confirmed everyone made their way to their designated swim for the start of fishing at 10am.

As usual PMJ Film Productions had been booked to film the social and while the anglers were setting up, Phil Halliwell was busy communicating with local air traffic control to get permission to fly the drone over the lake and get some aerial shots. This has now been done at all of the socials since the start of 2017 and some of the aerial views of the lakes have been stunning.







By mid-morning on the first day everyone was set up in their allocated swims and the wait began. The first day and the following night were somewhat uneventful with not much showing and no fish out. However, everyone knew it was going to be tough with the freezing temperatures and as expected this was proving to be the case.

But things changed on day 2, when by approximately 8.30am there was a fish on! Shaun Crow, who was spending his 30th birthday weekend on the social, had hit into the first fish! Shaun said;

"Arrived early Friday in freezing conditions and thought this is going to be hard.

Set up in peg 4, got all rods ready and found my spot 15 wraps out, just off the island. On Friday I baited up with few helpings of Urban Nutcracker boilies.

For my setup I used an inline Stonze with a 3 inch Steamlink, and size 6 Gripz hook. For hookbait I used PVA sticks of Pallatrax Carp Crush and a 10mm Orange Pallatrax Crave popup.

I sat and waited with nothing through the night. It was -2C through the night as well! I woke up first light, made a brew and about 8.30am was tying up and rig and boom one beep and a lift of indicator. I struck this beautiful young carp and what a welcome sight it was!"



Merrington Social 23-25 Feb. 2018



SHAUN CROW

WEIGHT: 13LB 13OZ SWIM: 4

PALLATRAX CRAVE POPUP OVER BED OF URBAN NUTCRACKER WITH PVA STICK OF PALLATRAX CARP CRUSH METHOD MIX.

Inline STONZE, STEAMLINK and GRIPZ hook

The rest of morning of day 2 passed without any more action and everyone convened in the BBQ area at midday for food and a few drinks. These fantastic BBQ's have become a signature of the SCS socials and everyone who has been on one will tell you there is more to eat than anyone can manage. A nice touch at this social was the birthday cake provided by SCS for lucky angler and birthday boy Shaun.

Once their bellies were full and everyone had warmed up a bit, the anglers made their way back to their swims. Unfortunately the rest of that day and night passed again without any more action. Finally the morning of the day 3 arrived and it was time to pack up and make the journey home – however there was a nice touch from Merrington fisheries when they told the anglers that they could stay on if they wanted to that day, so there was no rush to get away if they if they wanted to put a few more hours in.



So in conclusion, only one fish out in difficult conditions, but the positive comments from the participants (below) show that it was still an enjoyable weekend.

"Finally defrosted from weekend at Merrington, as always, a wicked weekend away, BBQ was banging and the goodie bag was rammed. Thanks for everything - enjoyed every minute of it."

"Had a boss time on the Merrington social. Big thanks to Tremayne and Gav. Great bunch of lads as always. Roll on the next one! Can't wait for the Dad and Lad one!"

"Just got back. . . . Had a cracking weekend, thanks Tremayne Sergent. Great bunch of lads, really looking forward to getting on another soon." "Again, brilliant weekend on the SCS. Great goodie bag."

"Another brilliant social cheers Tremayne and Gavin for another top weekend and BBQ. Was well chuffed with my goodie bag!"

"Another great social. Brilliant laugh and great to see the birthday boy Shaun Crow nail the only fish out."

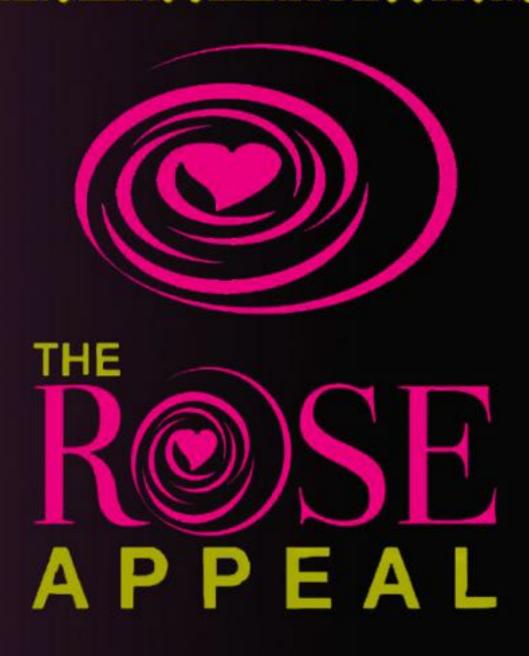
"Top weekend, buzzing, just got home still taking it all in. Top man Tremayne Sergent, thanks a lot bro."

"You have done it again, great weekend. See you at Monument. Happy days, safe journey home."

The next social is in March at Monument and SCS have both Monument 1 and 2 booked, which sold out in just a couple of days. It is great to see these brilliant socials going from strength to strength and February even saw the Facebook group topping 5,000 members.



ANGLERS CHARITY AUCTIONS



Anglers Charity Auctions ACA



ACA Bank Buddy ONLY £27.99

The ACA Bank Buddy is a waterproof wireless speaker that has been designed and built with outdoor adventures in mind

A GREAT ADDITION TO YOUR KIT !!!!!!!!!!!! PRODUCT FEATURES INCLUDE :

Blue Tooth Connectivity
Hands Free Call Facility
Two Way Control
AUX Input to play DVD'S etc
Built In FM Radio
Shock and Waterproof

Get Yours Now at http://acaproducts.co.uk/?product=aca-bank-buddy 100% of all profits from the war and Buddy goes to Charity.



ACA Thermal Trousers

100% Waterproof
Wind-proof &
Breathable
Fleece-lined.
Super stylish and very
comfortable outdoor
waterproofs.

This modern
Peachskin fabric is
essentially a hi-tech,
synthetic version



of traditional moleskin clothing. It is beautifully soft to the touch and ACA have combined it with a complimentary, lightweight Taslan-type synthetic shell on the seat & knees to produce a very elegant outdoor set.

Ideal for: Fishing, Shooting, Hunting, Walking, Working, Spectating, and loads of other outdoor activities.

Overtrouser features: with...

Elasticated Waistband & Press-stud Fastener. Velcro Adjuster to fit bottoms snug around boots. Reinforced Taslan to Knees and Seat. 2x Side Hand Pockets. 2x External Patch Pockets.

Available in Sizes:

Large, XL, 2XL, 3XL



Now available In assosiation with NAVITAS !!!!!!!!

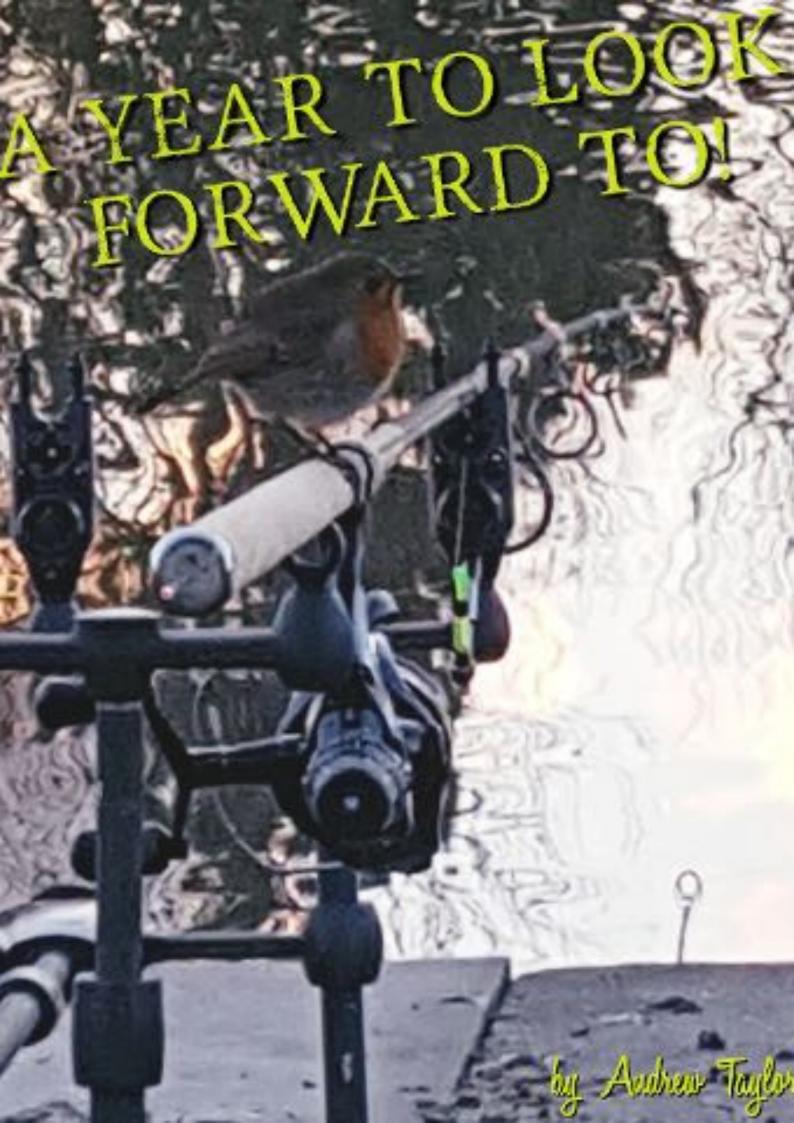
check the ACA website for more information











Well it's been quite a while since I've been able to write an article or even get out fishing due to personal reasons, but now I'm back and looking forward to the fantastic year ahead.

I've just renewed my memberships on Hams Hall Syndicate in Birmingham and Rookery Meadow Syndicate in Evesham, which will be my main fishing homes for this year ahead.

Also, with some new tackle too... I decide it was time to upgrade my rods and reels, so I brought myself 3 3.25lb test curve Shimano Tribal Velocity Limited Edition Rods and 3 Shimano DL10000 RB Reels. These needed breaking in!
So, I decide to plan a two-night stay from Friday 2nd February to Sunday 4th February

at one of my favourite venues, Mineral Lakes in Bedworth. I've had some of my best fishing memories at this place, from catching some of the best carp I've seen, my first and current personal best catfish and my first and current personal best sturgeon. So, during the week before around Wednesday I sorted through my tackle and got everything ready for this first weekend back where I love being... fishing.

After a half a day at work on Friday 2nd February I arrived at Mineral Lakes around 1pm, to an empty lake which was a bonus, after having a wonder around deciding where to fish, I chose a swim in the middle of the two island, which over the years has become one of my favourite swims on the lake, you

have so much water to yourself, you have deep holes to find, island drop offs, and unlimited features, so I proceeded to set up.

By the time I fully set up it was around 2 o'clock and a couple of other people had arrived at the lake. The owner popped over to see me and after a nice little chat as it had been a while. he told me it was going to be a busy weekend as 11 anglers was going to be on, which is a lot of line on a 2.5/3-acre lake. As you are only allowed to fish with two rods, and with it being freezing cold, with strong winds and sky-high air pressure, as well as a near full lake I had to pick my spots carefully. My left rod I decided to fish tight to the margin to my left which had always produced fish for me during the summer months and

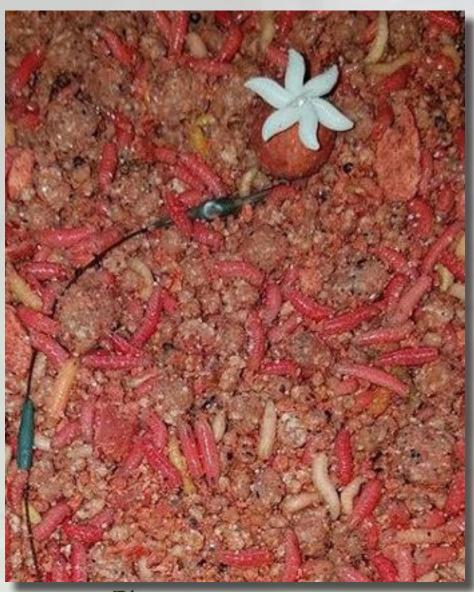


other winter sessions. It's usually about 3-foot-thick with bulrushes from the bank and has shallow shelf around 3 foot deep before dropping to about 7 foot. I measured how far off the bulrushes it was before it started to slope and chose to place my bait just before the drop off. I decided to go with a double Mainline fishmeal boilie, over a bed of mixed coloured maggots and handful of Mainline Cell Response Pellets.

I chose to place my right rod a foot or so of an overhanging tree of the corner of the island. This again had produced fish for me throughout the summer months, so why not during the winter? But another reason I chose this area is that this part of the lake always seemed to get the sunrise first thing

and throughout most of the day it would be the warmest part of the lake, so I was hoping this was going to give me a bit of advantage over everybody else that was due to be fishing. I chose to go for a single fruity Mainline boilie topped off with a white pop up Maggot Cluster so

my hook bait would sit balanced on the bottom of the lake bed above a bed of crushed boilie, a handful of mixed coloured maggot, a couple of golf ball size handfuls of Mainline Cell Response Pellets, some Mainline Cell Stick Mix and a splash on Mainline Cell Stick Mix Liquid.



TalkingCarp

Just as I was about to enter my bivvy the heavens opened up and I thought "Perfect time to get in my bivvy and get some dinner done... Ridgemonkey style!" Just take a look at this... Mashed potato, peas, and Chinese style chicken... hmmmm hmmmm... gorgeous! Is there anything that can't be cooked in this awesome piece of kit?

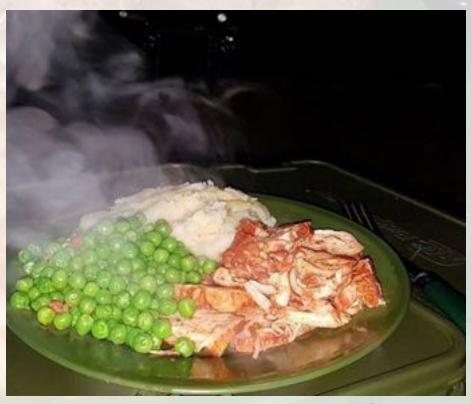
By the time I finish my dinner, the rain had stopped for now, but it

was set to start again during the night. As I was getting set for a long, cold, rainy winter night ahead, I had a single 'bleep' on my left rod. I waited patiently watching my bobbin and the tip of my rod... another 'bleep' on my Nash R3... the rod tip started bending to the left, so I struck, fish on. It felt like a dead weight on the end of my line... it didn't seem to fight at all... then as it broke the surface... a little surprise... well a big surprise a Siberian

Sturgeon... just cruised over the surface and slipped into my net. Nice and easy unlike catching one of these beauties in the summer when they rip your arm off! A few nice snaps, away she went. I was planning on catching a carp... but still, happy days I was off the mark with this Siberian Sturgeon at 50lb on the nose!

I reset the rod and got comfy on my wide boy Nash Indulgence bed chair, ready for the night ahead.

I was woken by the hammering of rain on the top of my bivvy as it was bucketing it down.... a bit of hail, bit of rain and even trying to snow! I thought its either going to kill the fishing entirely or turn them on the feed... I scattered a few freebies of my areas then decided it was time for a nice cup of



TalkingCarp



of tea to warm me up and some breakfast... bacon, sausage, egg, beans and tomato... Ridgemonkey style.

The rain didn't ease all day, but I was staying positive, I ended up just chilling in my bivvy looking out of my letter-box door way... waiting... praying for my first carp of the year after a rough few months... I didn't want to move swims as I was confident a fish was on the way at some point, so I continued to scatter

two or three boilies every hour or so.

Then as the rain eased and as daylight started to fade, my rod on the corner of the island ripped off... I've never moved so quick in all my life! I'd been watching and waiting all day for this! After a few minutes passed and after decent fight a nice long chucky mirror carp slipped into my net. Happy days! 20lb 8oz she went... happy, happy days, first carp of the year

and a 20lb+... quality!

This was my final fish of the weekend for me and I set off home about 10am Sunday morning.

I thoroughly enjoyed this session as it had been so long since I'd been on the bank after a few rough months. Also, the fact that between the 11 anglers that had been on that weekend only 4 fish where banked, and I ended up with two of them... awesome!



Both fish where caught using a 1oz Inline lead from Lump Leads, on a running lead set up I designed myself using a Tranzlution Fluorocarbon Leader along with Antitangle Sleeves, Rig Aligners, Quick Clips and Swivels all from Deception Angling, the

sturgeon was caught on a size 4 barbless Wide Gape hook, and the carp was caught on a size 4 barbless D-X Curve hook, both from Deception Angling.

I will now look forward to my next session, which I hope will be as successful as this one. So, until next time... have fun and be safe, tight lines everyone!

Andrew Taylor

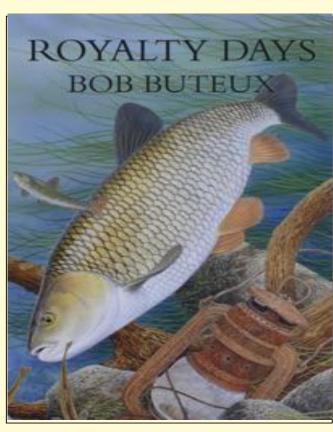




The I

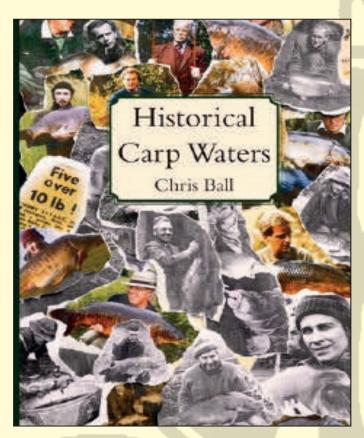
Publisher of lim hardback and pape

www.L-E-P



Royalty Days By Bob Buteux

£24.95 Limited Edition Hardback



Historical Carp Waters

By Chris Ball

£29.95 Limited Edition Hardback

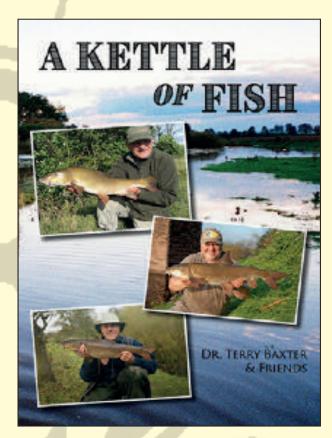
ittle Egret Press

ited edition fishing books in luxury leather bound, rback formats. Superb quality books at great value. To see our full range please visit our website.

com

Phone: 07909 090 983

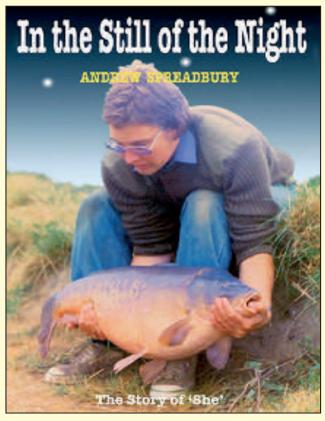
Email: booksales@l-e-p.com



A Kettle of Fish

By Dr. Terry Baxter

£27.95 Limited Edition Hardback



In the Still of the Night

By Andrew Spreadbury

£29.95 Limited Edition Hardback

Syndicate Sessions 2018



Matt Whalley



The Oaks – Summercourt, Newquay Cornwall

With a few hours spare I decided to take my son up to my New Syndicate Water.

For me today, it was more about checking out the lake but of course it would be rude not to put the rods out for a few hours on my first day up there.

I was hoping to carry on where I left off after starting the year with a nice capture from one of the other lakes 'Spooky Pool' which is associated to the syndicate and fortunately I wasn't disappointed!!

After a good chat with the owner, my spots were chosen and free offerings were scattered over the area. It was now time to get the rigs tied and hook baits sorted. J Precision Size 6 Curve Hooks were used at the business end on a blow back style rig with a Deep Blue Particles SP-1 Boilie. The baits from DBP have been on test now for a while, where as predominately before now, they were only a particle company. There have been some fantastic reports coming in from the test team, so it would be only right in my mind to see if I could temp one of the quality carp that reside in the lake with one of these high-quality baits. With super sharp hooks, a top-quality food source bait and getting some great information on the lake was all that I needed for my confidence to be riding high...

With the traps now set it was time to sit back, watch the water and hopefully get a bite. Although in my head, I wanted a carp on my first trip to my new water, I was also fine with the fact that it may not happen on this trip. Being winter and the good old Cornish weather being cold and damp on this day, we could only but try. I still had more chance with the rods in the water than being sat at home.

Due to the fact of getting to the lake late that morning and having a good look around/talking about spots etc, I only actually had the rods out for



for around 3 hours. As the light was beginning to fade we decided to call it a day and submit to defeat of not catching but I was to be given a nice treat right on pack down!

A single beep on the left had rod sounded and this now brought my full attention to the rod. My mind was willing it to rip off and rip off it did.



The Delks sprang into action and I lifted up the rod, tightened down the clutch and was bent into my first Syndicate Carp. I had all the time in the world at this point and I wasn't rushing the fight for no one. My heart was pounding and the shakes started. The adrenaline was pumping but the excitement took over. After a good battle and with the net at the ready I slipped a stunning Winter Mirror into the net.

YES! My first carp from the new water and now the pressure was off.



I left her to rest in the net at the water's edge while I prepared the camera, zeroed the scales and calmed myself down. The rig was removed and all fins were checked to make sure they were lying flat against the body. Fish safety is paramount for me and this is something I am very conscious about. Once I was finally happy that the fish was in a good way, I lifted her out of the water and carried her a very short distance to the padded carp cradle. With the scales zeroed, it was now time to see what she weighed. 15lb 6oz was showing on the scales and to say that I was absolutely made up was an understatement. With the weight noted, it was now time to take some pictures of my capture. My ever-faithful Rhino Beam was set up in the background because the light by this point had faded hard. This product has been fantastic in low light/night time shots. It most certainly helps 'light the scene' There are some very special big carp in this lake but to me on a cold, dark, Cornish winter day, size was irrelevant. It didn't matter if it was 5lb, to have that feeling of being off the mark was a very good feeling indeed. To also have my 8-year-old son with me to witness it, was something very special for me. You can't beat some quality, bonding, father & son time bankside.

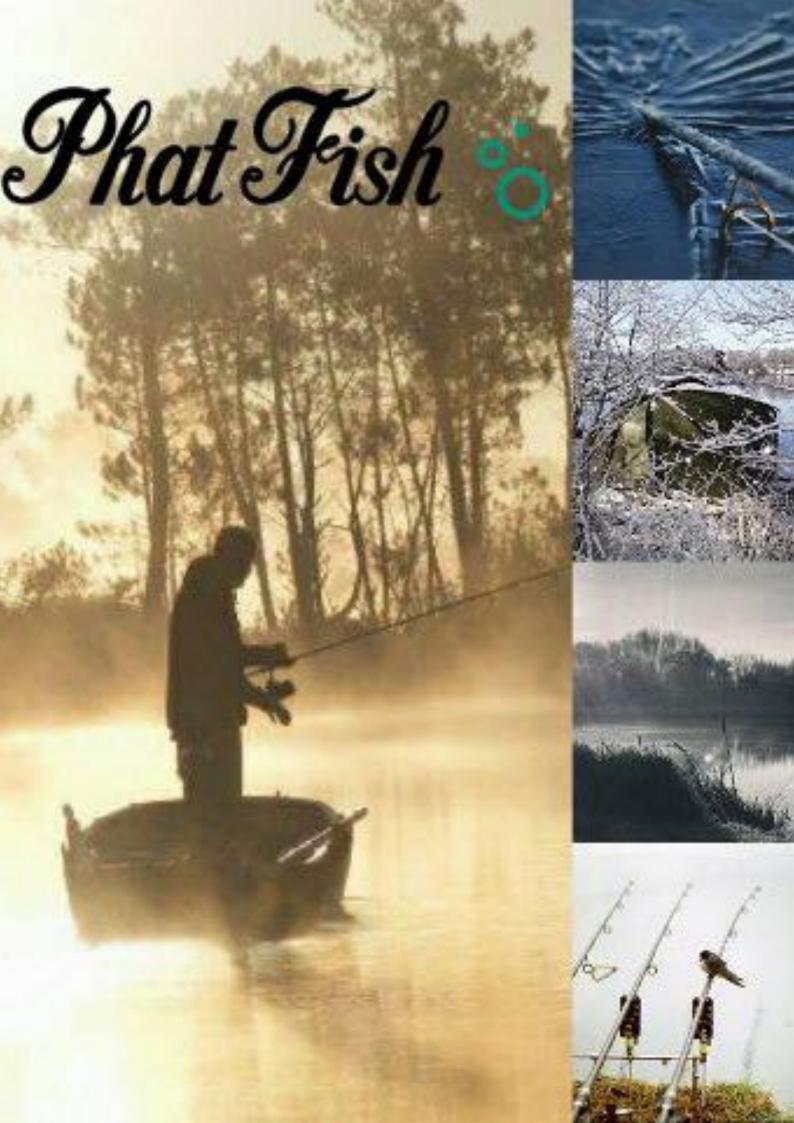
What a great start to 2018. Two Carp in two sessions and the first one out of 'The New Syndicate' What a great start to the year.

May the run continue.

Matt Whalley - www.cornishcarper.blog

#DeepBlueParticles #VassWaders #SonikSports #JPrecisionHooks #DeeperUK #RhinoTech #Cornwall #WinterCarping #SyndicateSessions #TheOaks







During the year, the carp change their habits according to the current season and the careful carp angler who wants to continue to undermine them with his own baits, must necessarily reflect on some important aspects.

As almost everyone knows, carp in Winter tend to limit their movements to a minimum. thus avoiding wasting energy, their metabolism is directly proportional to the water temperature, therefore decreasing the latter automatically will also decrease their vitality and their desire to look for food.

This does not mean that they will not feed themselves anymore,

but they will do it less frequently by spending almost 60 hours from the last food ingested. Without many turns of words we must have clear where to look for carp during this period of intense cold and to do this we need to know how the stratification of the liquid element works. Knowing this aspect

will allow us to have a few more opportunities to make strikes and not only in Winter but also in other seasons. With the arrival of Winter, the surface of the water tends to lower even further to zero degrees and in this way causes a

Talking Carp

temperature increase directly proportional to the increase in water depth.

Research areas

Thanks to these concepts about the stratification of the water we understand why in the winter we try to fish in medium-



high depths, so to say up to ten meters, but from personal experience of fishing in the big river Po I can tell you that you can still catch even in a meter of water as there are other variables that can compromise the result and are:

the geographical position of the

spot, its exposure to winds, the morphology of the seabed and of course the nature of the aquatic environment (river, lake, canal).

In theory, however, we try to choose medium-depth areas (up to 10 meters), perhaps with some submerged obstacle. The best areas in this

period

with water below 10 degrees can be those where we find the classic water rides. in these sectors where the currents collide bringing on the bottom all that travels on

the surface.

These areas in addition to being true food reserves usually have a good depth and are also pleasing to the carp for the greater tranquility that offer combined with less exposure to atmospheric events or temperature changes. The best times to groped a catch are the central ones of the day from sunset to lunch time to, trying to prefer davs when the sky is clear with the sun perfectly visible.

In other seasons, the carp are more active, this is logical, but in Winter they prefer not to make long journeys and in any case my advice is what if you have the good fortune



to fish in the same spot for a long time baiting it constantly even in this difficult period we will have our catches, as the supply routes will always be those.

Bait and baiting

This is a very delicate and very personal theme for every carp hunter. Once you have identified the right spot and that meets all the requirements mentioned above,

I recommend a few sessions without baiting to see if we have any catches.

If the answer is positive, we can think of studying a baiting strategy. The baiting must begin in a suitable period, not in Winter but at the beginning of the season alternating a quantity of particles mixed with boiles in percentage 70-30% and gradually reversing this percentage in favor of the boiles, until the

disappearance of the particles.

The quantity should never be exaggerated as the river already offers all the most suitable food for feeding the minnows, ours must be only a modest integration and superlative quality, so we try to choose boilies of the highest quality or if we produce from us same the boiles we choose fresh and precious flours.





Once this has been done at the beginning of Winter, we will not have to suspend the baiting, but at least every two days we will launch exclusively boilies in water for a quantity equal to 1kg and possibly of different diameters. The company Mivardi, the first fishing company in the Czech Republic and I am lucky to represent in Italy, offers in the catalog of the convenient 10 kg bags suitable for prebaiting and therefore composed of boilies of excellent workmanship and quality suitable for this purpose. The boile will always be thrown upstream and the higher the depth of our spot will be higher we will launch it in relation to where we will go to drop our rigs. We will also try to launch them downstream to create a baiting channel and therefore without

heaping them. The day before going fishing we will leave the spot to rest.

We check before starting our baiting that the hydrometric level of the river is suitable, just connect to the Internet and check the values, in this way we will not waste time and money.

Remembering that the more water is cold and the more it will be its density, the most suitable bait in this period will have to have characteristics suitable to launch food signals from the first minutes of immersion and

immersion and continuously, as the higher density of the element liquid will hinder the most solid and liquid substances contained in our boile, which

will therefore make it harder to work in the most appropriate way in the water.

The baits that I recommend during this period are not only boilies but also the classic and performing trigger pellets in the size of 20mm. The company Mivardi offers from its extensive catalog that consists of 128 pages a line of pellets suitable for our purpose, the Rapid Pellets Extreme line in the spiced protein version and the original Haith's Robin Red.



These two pellets contain a specific blend of ingredients and natural attractors specific to large rivers in addition to the famous Robin Red captured by carp since the dawn and which contains as many as 18 different ingredients including different spices. I remember that alkaloids are substances present in spices that stimulate the metabolism of carp, inviting them to feed especially in cold waters. To these we will add the Mivardi Turbo Pellets in a PVA bag or retina. The Turbo Pellets, act immediately and dissolve completely in the range of 30 to 60 minutes depending on the water temperature and their diameter. Before launching our fishing system in water we will wet our Pellets Turbo with the Mivardi aminoliquid line, too.

Mivardi company uses the L-Amino Acids in its liquids because from scientific studies certified on Koi carp, these are the ones that attract the most carp and not the D-amino acids, while some even seem to have a repulsive power towards them. Regarding the boiles, they must respect these characteristics: good solubility in water and therefore quick to enter in fishing, excellent olfactorygustatory profile and good presence of spices.

That said, I recommend the Rapid line of Mivardi Easy Cacht boiles in the Pineapple & N.BA version based on butyric acid derived from (rancid butter), Garlic & Chilli and English Strawberry, all available in different diameters and certainly suitable for the Winter period with less than 10 degrees.

This type of boiles can be used all year round, but I personally use it when the water temperature drops below 10.



Rigs

For the choice of terminals use chod rig a terminal really suitable to fish on different types of seabed, from the filthy bottom to the hard and composed of a short piece of monofluorocarbon of 35 lb to which I connect a hook of the M-Point Line Mivardi

series AS N.2 suitable for fishing in areas with submerged obstacles of different types.

This small terminal connects it to a quick release swivel so you can easily replace the terminal if you notice that the hook has lost its qualities of penetrability. Complete with a safety clip to which I go to connect a classic circular river

lead with a grip whose central hole is closed with a little Proactive Mivardi paste, which slowly melting will create an olfactory cloud around our rig.

Donato Corrente







Suppliers Of Fully Prepared Particle Nuts Pulses & Much More!

Cheshire Particle 01928 775402---07482232252

10% Of All Proceeds Donated To Dementia UK

PROVEN PARTICLE WITH PULLING POWER www.cheshireparticle.com



COMPETITION TIME !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Our good friends over at CHESHIRE PARTICLES have given us an absolutely amazing prize to give to one of our lucky readers.

- *1 x 250ml bottle of Organic Hemp Oil
- *1 x 300ml pot of T.N.T
- *1 x 300ml pot of Hemp Paste
- *1 x 1kg Mixed Pellets
- *1 x 1500ml PVA Friendly Multi-Mix
- *1 x 2.5kg Partimix
- *1 x 1kg Tiger Nuts

Just note the 2 pages that Cheshire Particles are shown on, then contact us through the Talking Carp website contact button with your answer - Simple. GOOD LUCK



Well the last week
on January found me
booked onto peg 14
on the Monument 1,
this year I am really
going for it and will be
spending a fair bit of
time visiting fisheries
that hold some chunks
all in search of my goal
this year a new Uk PB
II

Anyway arriving at just after 7 I knew rain was coming so set about getting the house up first giving me shelter if it did finally arrive, I managed to do better than that and actually found a nice clean spot at 40 yards out to spod to for the right rod and the left was going to be winged out in a solid bag towards the middle.

All this was done with precision and timing before the impending rain hit, and boy did it hit!!!

I spent about 2 hours

fighting to keep myself occupied by tying leaders and solid bags up ready if they should be needed all while watching a film!! Yes I know watching a film the sin of it, but being honest when bivvy bound due to the weather I am happy to sit back and enjoy it after all that's we what we go for right ?? By 1pm the rain had finally subdued and I could get out freshen up the rods and also stick some spodded maggots and Parti mix out over the right hand spot.

It all went to plan and I was soon sat back under the cover of the bivvy watching the water like a hawk for any signs of fish. The hours passed by and daytime turned to darkness and with nothing to go on I decided to stick to what was out there until early morning.

TalkingCarp

I cooked up some food, stuck the radio on and settled into bed by 7pm the cold was setting in and I was not about to get cold.

At around 9pm I decided enough was enough and turned the radio off and settled in for the 5:30am wake up call.

With nothing to wake me during the night I woke up fresh, too fresh I thought as I jumped out the bag to get rid of last night's coffee there was no wonder I felt fresh it had been a bivvy white out!

I fired up the stove and got the first coffee of the day on and made some porridge, it was time to stand and brave the elements and see if I could see anything.But look as I did it was all to no avail as nothing was seen

and the day started to fall away and with my planned 3pm depart looming I admitted defeat and started to pack away.

There had been 3 fish out all on the other side with one being over the magical 30lb and that information was good for me as I was to return later that week and was booked onto peg 7 this time, the fish had been coming out of 5 so not far from them hopefully.

Arriving back on the Thursday I had decided to move into peg 6 instead with nobody on my right or left I felt it gave me ample room to move the rods around should I see fish move. I had taken a bucket of maggots this time with some crumbled up Complex T bollies as the dust to keep them dry instead of the shop maize.

On arrival the maggot

mix got a good helping of CSL liquid and a good mix and left to soak while I set up the rods. Rigs where a simple blowback KD rig with a piece of foam and a bunch of

maggots on the top, this would be cast out and spodded over with the maggot mix. The other rod I would use solid bags and aim for the middle,



TalkingCarp

, in-line 2.5oz leads and 3 inches of coated material to a KD rigged small barrel wafter. With a loop to loop system in play and plenty more bags and leaders ready to go I was prepared for the day ahead.

The first part of the morning was cold a strong wind had whipped up and with it came some hail! Not nice at all and spodding was abandoned in favour of a nice warm brew under the Tempest! When it finally passed over I broke out the spod rod and dispatched 10 spod loads over the spot. The day was very quiet and I spent at least 6 hours of it watching the water and hoping to see something but not a thing stirred, nothing was giving the game away.

Cold weather fishing is hard work you don't see the fish very often

and most of the time you sit wondering what else you can do to provoke a take or why you either bothered in the first place.

This session was I had bought myself a new Ridge Monkey the XL version my other one must be 5 years old and has been hammered, plus you need the extra room to cook multiple parts of a good scran.

So chicken burgers, onions and toasted buns where the order of the day and they went down very well indeed let me tell you,

Ridge monkey have changed the game when it comes to bank side tucker and I don't think I could even imagine not taking mine with me.

As the night drew in the cold really started to set in and I took heed of the warnings and jumped in the bag with a film.

I didn't get far into it and must have dropped off as the next thing I knew was a flashing blue light from the receiver meant a fish had finally found the bag of loveliness.



TalkingCarp

I was on it in a shot and bent into a solid resistance, the fish plodded and I struggled to get some line back into the reel but after 2-3 minutes I started to gain ground, that felt like a life time due to coldness and me being stood out in boxers!!

The fish finally came close by and it looked big in the distance, my legs started to knock with cold or adrenaline I am not quite sure. It was almost beat when it decided to take once last lunge, as it went to the right there

was a prang and the rod straightened..... it was gone!!
I tried to resolve myself in the bivvy while sticking the heater on to warm up saying it wasn't that big.... but deep down you just know!

With a new bag on I blasted the lot with Vanilla Peanut cream spray from Stinkystuff and winged it out back into the black abyss. Back to watching that film and not thinking about that loss, yeah right it went over and over in my head until

the same rod signalled another take about 2 hours later.

This time I was prepared I had stuck on my trousers. It was a spirited fight but I knew from the start it was not of the same size due to the way it fought and was not surprised when finally a plump mirror was sat in the net in front of me.

Happy is what I should have been as finally the duck was broke but you can't shake that feeling when you know you have lost a good one and I managed a smile while holding up an ice block for the camera and many thanks to my mate Mark for reeling in and coming to do the pictures. With the rod back out with another solid bag on the spot I was sure there was still a good chance of another fish the wind



died down now but it was still cold, I got the kettle on for a warming brew and settled in for night.

It was an uneventful night and dawn found me sat watching the water puzzled as to why I hadn't had another.

The rest of the day was spent watching the water hoping for something to show that I could move onto maybe but it was not to be and soon it was 2:30pm and time to pack up and hit the road.

With it being Friday I wanted to get a dart on the traffic, but it was not to be.

What is normally a 1:30 hour journey turned into a 3.5 hour endurance that I honestly thought it would never last! A bad smash on the M6 and Friday traffic had me diverted off the motorway and going all round country lanes in

the middle of nowhere. Suppose it's what we do for our passion. I headed to my syndicate on 22nd for one last trip before the country became an ice block again, arriving straight from work and having a walk round nothing was showing which I kind of expected.

With not much to go on and with Mark also joining me I decided to go to the point swim it commands a lot of

water and you can fish into the deep water on the left 20ft + or the shallower 7ft water to the right I opted for a spread of rods one deep, one middle and one shallower. Rigs where simple multi rigs with small 12mm pop ups and a spread of bollies on the left and right rods, the middle I opted for

a solid bag containing

a KD 12mm barrel all

packed in with pellets

and ground bait and



TalkingCarp.

blasted with the new Blackjack Stinkystuff spray before launching into the drink.

The weather forecast was scheduled for a real drop in temps and I had made sure I had planned this in with plenty of coffee, food and layers of clothing to keep me going. Ricky a team mate from Stinkystuff had come down to see the place and within an hour had secured himself a ticket he was that impressed with the place.

Seen as he had a ticket it would be rude not to use it so he was soon set up on my right with Mark on the left of me. a winter social indeed. good banter and good company. Morning

come with a half frozen lake and a bivvy resembling an igloo with nothing to show but a couple of line bites and a dropped bream on my middle rod, being honest I was kind of glad it had come off I am not a lover at the best of time of bream but to be unhooking one in -3 would have been no fun.

Having to warm up my glucose meter in my sleeping bag to test my sugars (insulin dependent diabetic) was a first also as it was too cold for the meter to work.

As nothing had come I changed 2 of the rods over to 3.5 and 6ft zigs and placed them in the middle area of the lake where it had 8ft of water in a hope maybe they were traveling around in the upper layers, but nothing was there and soon enough it was time to pack up and head home.





There was no more fishing for me this month as the yearly Northern Angling show loomed and I was to spend some time on the Stinkystuff stand, it's something I love to do and seeing and speaking to anglers who have tried the

products or are seeing them for the first time is always rewarding. We also released the new Blackjack flavour which I have been personally involved in bringing to the market so I look forward to seeing all the catches over the next few

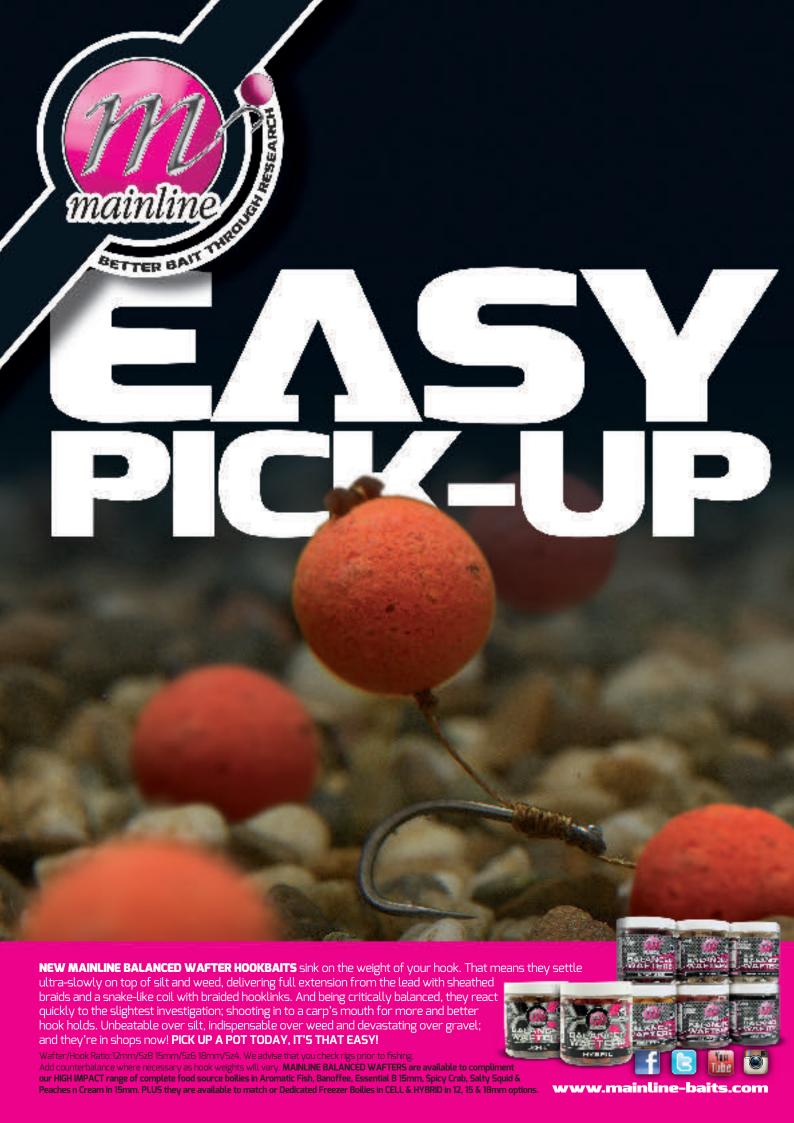
weeks, it was a record attendance this year with over 17,000 people attending.

As always until next time good luck and keep enjoying it.

Brett











FORCES CARP SECTION

Dedicated to the brave men and women of the British armed forces who protect us every day

FEATURING THIS MONTH -

Stuart Abbott Tim Gray



During my time in the Army there has always been different aspects affecting how and when I can get out on the bank. Firstly, the ever-enduring task of balancing work, family and my hobbies, by that I mean keeping the Missus and Kids happy. I started my career in the Infantry and then transferring to a Smaller Corps some five years ago. During my 18 years in this varied and sometimes very busy job, it has seen me travel to various countries either on operations or training such as Jordan, Belize, Iraq, Afghanistan, America and Canada, to name just a few. Throughout all this, one thing has remained constant and that is my love of Angling, especially Carp Angling.

In the military this can be a strange subject, often being

greeted with that look of confusion quickly fol-lowed by the question "do you eat them?". Then when the season really starts during the warmer months and the "oh, now you are having more time off than John Waynes safety catch" comments start. I know this is just jealousy, that the fact that I'm off 'grafting' at a fishing lake for 48 hours and getting paid for the pleasure is hard to swallow for some people. I on the other hand usually do it with a massive smile on my face!

I have found that during my time in the Infantry and after transferring, the fact is, I love being outside. The fresh air, the smells (well depends who you are bivvied up next too) the fact that it is just you, the water, and those pesky creatures we

TalkingCarp

call Carp. For me it's not about trying to chase the biggest at all times, now don't get me wrong, I love a big girl gracing my net once in a while. but for me this needs to remain something I love doing. I think it can be the same for many different people who have a sport or a hobby, if you truly love doing it, you will be passionate about it and that will ultimately come across if you are asked about it. I am pretty certain that I do bore some people but hey, it's my thing and I like it...!!

One thing about my job is the variety of places I get to go, even in England this can range from Brec-on in rural South Wales to York living the big city life. There are a few places that have captured my angling heart over the years and one of them was in South Wales

of all places. This place is the Boating Lake in Llandrindod Wells.

The lake is around 10 acres and over 100 years old. It is completely surrounded by concrete but has a lot of birdlife and other humans too.

As with most lakes of this type it's full of silt and the craziest ducks, swans, and moorhens you have ever seen that have no fear of humans at all. The stocking is approximately seventy five fish, mainly Commons but with a

few nice Mirrors thrown in.

The first lap myself and my Carpy partner in crime, Michael Fowler, did of the water I remember fondly with such remarks such as "yeah we can bait up that spot" and "we can fish that margin" were just fall-ing happily falling out of our mouths.....I will tell you how long we blanked for later on...!!

So, this brings me to that sacred moment of the 'first cast' into a

new water....'Whack' and straight away I was into the deepest silt I have ever fished... .'Whack' again, and the next cast was the same....three marker stems later we found 4 feet of water and 4 feet of silt. In over two years of fish-ing this lake, I only ever had one decent drop and still didn't catch off that...!

I'm the kind of angler that loves to cast but with the proviso that I know my rig is well presented,





so having to accept that you were not going to feel the lead down was a hard burden to take, but as with any new water we started during the warmer months and finding the fish was not a problem, but trying to keep them in one place was...!!

There was and still is, very little angling pressure on the lake and at the time there was only four dedicated Carp Anglers fishing the Lake, Myself, Michael and also Adam and Berney

Johns, who are a father and son duo, who over that period become good friends of ours.

The first fish came some four months in (told you we blanked for a long time) in the size of a low dou-ble Common which fell to a piece of fake corn on a standard braided knotless knot rig with a small PVA stick, which in Michaels words was "cast blindly in to the lake in desperation". Two hours later and it was my turn.... I

had now decided that a 14-inch hooklink with 'two' pieces of fake corn and a small piece of foam cast one hundred yards plus, to showing fish, was the way ahead and to my surprise, it worked and attached to my rig the smallest Carp I have ever caught on a 3 1/2lb test curve rod in my life. I was actually quite excited and nervous all at the same time, finally something had worked then low and behold the hook pulled and it fell off at



TalkingCarp

the net, I was gutted....!!!

The fish in this lake were something else, with absolutely blinding takes every time and at range this made for exciting fishing. We started to refine our rigs and low and behold we stated catching...! We also discovered that they loved a 'pale pink pop-up', and this was presented on a stiffhinge style rig with the length of the boom varying depending on which part of the lake we were fishing.

Myself and Michael fished this way over the next two years and loved every head banging moment we had on that water.

This is where the Army kicks in and before I knew it, time had come for me to be posted. The move took me "tup north" to the historic

City of York, and my new role as a Brigade Advisor and Manager of Lethal Risk sees me traveling all over the world. However, there is always time to get on the bank. The happy medium I have come up with is a 24hour session a week on a small Lincolnshire club water. I have also been spending some time at A1 Pits. Peoples options on this complex vary, but I do enjoy the fact that it's not easy fishing as the Carp have seen it all. One of the most memorable session was on Pit 3 again with my "Carpy Compadre" Michael. Pit 3 is the 'Weedy Lake' on the complex but does hold some stunning 'Scaly Carp'. We arrived mid-Morning to be greeted with what can only be de-scribed as a Carp-SeaWorld and we were watching them jumping, tail walking and generally showing

off.

From my time on the complex, I have learnt that while this is encouraging, it does not mean you will catch. We found a clear spot about 16 wraps out which turned out to be a nice long gravel bar and add this to the 'shows', we had to be on to a winner...! After an hour the traps were set, my rigs comprised of Fox coated braid stripped back and tied with a simple knotless knot. This was completed by a Sticky Baits Manilla boilie topped with a piece of plastic buoyant corn, (one thing I do when fishing this style is leave a slightly longer hair as I feel the separation helps it fly up into the Carps mouth).

Confident as you like, the kettle is on and the 'Squaddie Suntan' is getting levelled out and



we wait....and we weight and this wait was longer than expected. In fact, it was ten hours longer than expected...!!
Then, just before first light and half asleep, I hear the unmistakable tone of an alarm not too far away and this was quickly joined my an almighty 'splash'...!

Being the athletic, switched on soldier that I am, I always sleep with one eye open, I was out of my bag and over to Michaels swim to be greeted by a 6ft "Wet Carper"..! As with all good soldiers the first thing I did was get my camera phone out, laugh a lot, then ask him if he was ok.....! We both ended up catching in that session with no more "swims with the fishes".

In summary, I am lucky in my life to have a good job, a brilliant girlfriend and

wonderful children that support not only my work choices, but my personal ones as well.

Carp fishing is and will always be my 'thing' whether that's chasing a mid-double in a free Park Lake (as I am a little tight) or a 40lber in a thirty-acre gravel pit. It is what I love doing and I will quite gladly let the Army continue to pay me to do it...!!

All the best Stuart -

@thecarpaddict on Instagram Just as a quick note: We would like to wish Stuart and his now Fiancée Claire all the best for the future...That was some weekend... **Northern Angling** Show on the Saturday and **Engaged on the** top of 'Kinder Scout' the next... Congratulations to you both...!!!







www.hazystackle.com

- Swivels
- Imitation Baits
- Carp Hooks
- Ready Made Rigs

- Boa Rigs
- Tools
- Terminal Tackle
- Clothing

10% Off

Enter Code: HAZYS10





Carp Events (Part 1) – The History of the FCC..!! By Tim Gray



Carp Events (Part 1) – The History of the FCC..!! By Tim Gray

When Mark got in touch a few months back we discussed many things but one of them was the events that I've organised, ran and some of them are still running today, a couple I run but many others have been handed over for others to run. He asked if I'd write a piece about all I've done, well here we are and I hope you like it? The first one I'd like to talk about is the FCC or Forces Carp Classic, but it didn't begin life like that, it began as the BACC – British Army Carp Classic, so lets go back to the very beginning.

Here is a quick list of all the venues we have fished at over the past 18 years or so:

•	2001Abbey lakes	5 anglers Social
---	-----------------	------------------

- 2002Domaine de la Ribiere 7 anglers BACC
- 2003Etang Rue 18 anglers BACC
- 2004Vigne Fuillette 22 anglers BACC
- 2005Le Grand Etang
 24 anglers
 BACC
- 2006Etang la Horre 22 anglers BACC
- 2007Lac de Villadon 04 anglers BACC
- 2008Lac de Villadon 16 anglers BACC
- 2009Abbey Lakes 30 anglers Now as the FCC

I suppose the seed was sown back in late 2000 when a friend of mine asked if I fancied going to France. Why should we go there, I asked? Well he said because of the warmer weather they grow a lot bigger out there? OK I'm in I said (it took about a millisecond to decide), but where? He said "I'll leave that to you and also who we'd take with us" Roger over & out! Leave it with me. Now if only I'd seen where that simple 5 minute conversation would take me over the next 18 years, I might not have done it lol.

That very first trip we decided to go to Abbey Lakes which had only recently opened, probably not even six months or so and the lakes are



just north of Paris so not too far to travel. Five anglers crammed into 2 x cars with all there fishing gear and we headed off to France for our first ever overseas trip. We had only gone for a long weekend, travelling Wednesday night and returning back to UK on Sunday afternoon ready for work first thing Monday morning. But it was great adventure and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves although sadly it was March and the weather & temperatures were definitely against us. If my memory serves me correctly we only had 4 x fish between the five of us but one of those was a thirty, which in 2001 was a 'monster'. That first trip we fished Fox lake, as Heron was being drained down but Abbey certainly looked a great place but was still very new, once all the trees started growing and the fish got bigger it would surely be a great venue (little did we know).

When we returned we all meet around Terrys house and over a few beers (or two) we all decided that another trip was required, we were all adamant that we needed to go to France each year, if possible & wife's / girlfriends aloud, oh and not forgetting the Army. After that forth or fifth beer they all decided that as I'd done such a "great" job on this first trip that I was asked to organise it again for next year. That was the start of a very long and winding road that still continues to this day lol.

The trip to Abbey was easy enough to sort as they lakes were only 90 minutes from Calais. But we wanted to go further afield and therefore a longer trip into France was going to be called for. Back then the Channel Tunnel wasn't even thought about so everything was by ferry and normally a quick trip from Dover to Calais was the order of the day for a few duty frees of course. So the ferry price was going to have to be included in our overall costs as well as motorway tolls. The roads in Europe are fantastic but you really do pay for the privilege of using them and they've never been cheap.!

Another fee on top of both of these is the fuel, and that depends on just how hard your lead foot is pressed down.

So one night back in early December, I started trawling the internet and carp magazines to find some lakes that we could fish



The internet was in its infancy and very few lakes even had their own websites, unlike today. We had a few ideas of what we were after:

- 40lb+ fish if possible
- 20+ acres of water, plenty of space
- Southern France, warmer weather
- Self-Catering, cheaper to look after your own meals

Apart from that, which wasn't a lot of criteria we were pretty flexible so I did have a few lakes to go for. If possible something else we did want was an exclusive but that wasn't a show stopper as they say. It's always great to have a lake to yourselves with a group of mates but sometimes not always a cost effective way. Lake owners prefer to fill there lakes when & where possible so if they have 10 spaces and your party is only 6 anglers then you have to pay extra for the vacant spaces. Overall I think that's a fair thing to do, but not ideal when you only have a few people planning on going.!

I had spent many hours searching for lakes when I came across one attached to a company called "Angling Lines". They were a new fishing holiday company but where receiving some rave reviews, so I gave them a call. After some discussions and lakes were talked about we settled on a lake in Southern France (tick) an hour past Limoges, which seemed to fit our requirements. After a quick chat with the lads again, it was back to Bridget and the booking was confirmed.

Next on the list was to sort out all the admin, ferry tickets, travel arrangements etc. then giving the lads the final costs and of course the dates the following June when we were going. That time planning, researching and generally getting kit ready to go to France in June just seemed to go and no sooner was it Christmas, then we were packing our cars & trailer to go to France.



But to help with getting everyone the time off work, as we were all Army, I needed a name for the "Exercise" we were conducting and I decided it was going to be called Ex BACC – British Army Carp Classic. By doing some digging around about Exercises / Sports Expeditions & alike, plus making a few phone calls I had come up trumps and found a load of paperwork & funding from the Army Sports Board that once completed and filled out we could apply for money from the Army, a massive Bruce bonus or what? The whole funding process was not easy (and it still isn't now 17 years later) but eventually we actually managed to get some funding to help. Every little helps doesn't it? And as I've always said every £10.00 or more you get off the Army is £10.00 less for you to pay, more fishing kit to buy lol...

That trip ended up with just 7 anglers, I had planned for 10 but as always at the last minute, the Army called and people had to come running. So in the end it was just 7 guys travelling down to Limoges, Southern France to a lake called "Domaine de la Ribiere" back then it was owned by a French man whose English wasn't bad but he also had a French bailiff and he couldn't speak a word! Not the most helpful of things as none of us spoke a word of French. But with lots of hand signals and pointing plus some loose school French we got there. I can't for the life of me remember how many fish we caught but it wasn't a lot maybe 15 to 20 fish and nothing like the size of fish there is nowadays at the venue. One of our party, a guy called Dave Hollis caught the biggest fish at just over 40lbs not massive but certainly bigger than anything we'd seen in UK before that. In fact I'm going back there in April 2019 (having booked in early 2017.!!!) so I might be able to tell you how the stock are & how we get on. They do go to well over 70 & 80lbs nowadays and a lot of them.

Although the fishing again wasn't great we had a great time and upon our return we all decided that we'd like to go again the following year. This time maybe to a bit more of a runs water, rather than going after those 'bigger' fish we just wanted to catch more fish.



The history of the FCC

So another phone call to Bridget and some hours later and one of her new venues, a place called "Etang Rue" on the French / Belgium border was the one for us. Word had also spread about my events and I was getting asked by more & more anglers to join us, so I opened up the amount of guys attending and the calls kept coming.!!

We had a great event at Etang Rue and even caught our first 50+ fish at the event, caught by Jim Fisher. That was also the first time I'd been caught in a big electrical storm which hit the lake half way through the week. By heck did it thunder & lightening that night, it even hit the train tracks just behind my swim and lit up the night sky with the biggest crack of thunder I've ever experienced. It still lives loud and strong in my memory even after all this time, it sounded like a bomb going off.

By now its late 2003 and the buzz of the BACC is sweeping the Army carp group, which was brilliant but I was finding it required more & more time to organise and sort out. I suppose the biggest headache is payments. I was dealing with so many people that it was a constant battle to keep on top of the lake payments (deposit & full fee) plus all the guys making them pay their money. What made things better but worse at the same time, was the fact that I was getting more funding from the Army Sports board to give back to the guys so they were in turn hanging back with their individual payments as they hoped the Army were going to pay.!! This wasn't always the case and I must admit to losing my temper with guys on more than one occasion, asking for money.

But that really is the only downside to organising these things, chasing people for money. Everything else always seems to go so well, that in the end you forget about the hard times & the grief and concentrate on the good times.

As you can see from the list of venues (above) and amount of anglers we certainly were growing every year and I really was enjoying organising everything. What I did find hard though was to enjoy



my fishing whilst worrying about the event. On occasions there were disputes and crossed rods.! As anglers decided to test the boundaries of the guy fishing next to them and yours truly was tasked with reeling in and going round to sort it out.!! A couple of words in each of their ears and all was well again but it was taking me away from my swim and my fishing, which is never great.

The next event at Fuillette in 2004 was fantastic and both Graham Copland and Dave Greenland fought it out between them for the winner's trophies and prizes. They both fished the ends of the lake (there was a no fishing bank, OOB area) and proceeded to haul fish after fish which were staying in the OOB area, with Graham coming out on top in the end, just.

In 2005 we were off again to southern France for "le Grand Etang" sadly for all of us it wasn't so good and despite, the most anglers taking part so far with 24 fishing the event, we didn't catch a great deal at all. We found out afterwards that unknown to the owner, the local farmers had been down in the winter completing a vindarge and took out a large amount of fish out of the lake.! Not nice at all for us fishing our competition but even worse for the owner, I believe he went bankrupt within 18 months as he just couldn't afford to refill the lake with fish. Sadly that used to go on a lot out in France back then, it has tightened up nowadays but I'm sure, it will always be there as a possible problem for any English lake owner in France, especially if they leave their lake un-protected over the winter period.

The following year we arranged to fish a famous French lake that had really started to produce some big old fish and that was "La Horre". It took quite an effort to get the English booking company to agree to have our event on the lake but in the end we managed to get it sorted, or so we thought. Despite booking & paying for a lake exclusive somehow between the English & Dutch booking agents



that ran holidays there they decided not to talk to each other.!! This ended up with me having a melt down on Saturday morning at the English guys, as I had to run the event with a Dutch & German pairing in-between our competition..!! Not ideal but we got there. We won't talk about the change in rules, the crap track, the mozzies or the general lack of facilities but we roughed it out as any good soldier would. I believe some things have changed there now, which is great but sadly the biting mozzies are very much still there, so be careful, you've been warned.

It's now late 2006 and I'm looking for a venue for our 2007 event when, a lake mainly used by the Dutch springs up, Lac Villadon down in Western France past Le Mons (yes of 24hr motor racing fame). Everything was booked and a great looking week we were looking to have, a first for the event was the use of boats (they'd been banned on La Horre the year before, hence why we didn't catch any fish.! Ooppss did I say that?). The only way to get to any of the swims is by boat, as the local land owners around the lake won't give any land to the lake owner to build a track around.! Very strange but sadly very true, so everything is done by boat. After I'd booked the lake exclusive with 18 x swims and that cost, I went through a massive change within my Army career, after not being selected for WO1 (Warrant Officer) Class 1, I was basically either leaving the Army after 22 years or trying to get another job on Long Service.

I will admit that organising a fishing event took a major back seat and I massively took my eye off the ball. To such an extent that I was threatened with legal action if I didn't have the deposit and Dutch courts didn't sound great.! I'd also had a lot of anglers drop out and hadn't replaced them so rather than 18 x pairs, I had just 2, yes you read that right just 2 x pairs. I begged and pleaded with the Dutch company that this was just a glitch and that it had never happened before and I promised to pay the deposit out of my own money (ouch) but to also bring back a full lake booking the following year. Thankfully they listened, understood and allowed the booking the following year but only on the proviso that I take a full lake booking, agreed.



The four guys fished in 2007 but never had a massive haul, moving whenever they could but at least they went and had a good time. Fast forward to 2008 and now being based in UK, Id received the good news that I had a 15 year job on the Long Service list in Colchester (yippee) it was still all go. Despite my best efforts and hours & hours of work I could only get 16 anglers together. We had the 22 at the start but again the Army ended up putting in their oar and I lost a few pairs right at the end. I was desperate to fill these places as I still had my warning from last year's disaster, a complete booking. But sadly in the end after paying £500.00 deposit last year I had to dig into my own account again for nearly £700.00 which was outstanding from this year's event. Sometimes you do question yourself when organising these events and it's definitely something you must think about "if" you decide you want to organise something.

So back again to Villadon in 2008 and the week went well but could have been so much better, it was not helped on Wednesday afternoon when the lads chatting to the bailiff (and after filling him with beer) he admitted that they'd carried out a vindarge only a few months previously and removed many of the fish, as they were losing the lake.!! Why me eh..... not once but twice now. But a great treat was in order for me as Id told my best mate about my wows with the Dutch company and the fact that I'd lost out on nearly £1,300.00 myself over the two events. He'd gone around to all of the anglers without my knowledge and asked them for some money feeling it was a little unfair on me to brunt all the blame & costs. They gave me back just over £600.00 which was a great offer and nearly made me cry, I was that touched, Thanks guys.

Anyway after that event it really dawned on me that this whole event was getting too big for me to handle on my own, plus the overall time it was taking to sort out, so I decided that I would need some help organising if we were going to keep going forward & getting even bigger each year. I sat back for quite some time to really think about who I would ask? But really more importantly the relationship between myself and this new person needed to be strong, trustworthy and reliable. They also needed to understand that as the event got bigger and bigger there really was no



room for me / us to fish it. Up until this point I had treated the event with respect but I'd always managed to fish it somehow, I had realised though that after the last couple of events this was getting harder and harder to do.

When organising any event I have always had the philosophy that if I stand in that swim, would I be happy? If I was fishing the event would I be happy? Have I as an organiser made sure the event is the best it can be for the money being paid?

If all of those questions I am happy with the answers then overall I am happy with the event. You must understand when you organise 'anything' that if the majority are happy then you should be happy. There is always going to be people who aren't happy or who moan at coming last out of the bag.! That's human nature but if you can satisfy the vast majority then you have a great event and you can tap yourself on the back, for a job well done.

So I'd already made the conscious decision that going forward and wanting to make this event the very best it could be I / we needed to concentrate on planning, organising and running the event and not fishing it.

Taking all of this into account there really was only one person that kept appearing at the top of my list, and that was Russ Marsh. Now I'd only met Russ in late 2005 when I went to his Regiment in Osnabruck, Germany. He was the QM – Quartermaster up there and I needed an Officer to act as Chairman and help support me as Secretary of Army Carp Fishing in Germany, so upon hearing that there was an Officer in 4 Regt RA off I trotted to ask him to be the new Chairman of Group 9 – Germany Carp Section. We hit it off straight away and have been best of friends ever since. So when Russ name kept appearing at the top of my list I just knew he was the right guy. I'll discuss this more in Part 2 when we go through the FCC in more detail at Abbey Lakes.



But suffice to say I made the best decision. I want to at this point say a massive set of thanks (which won't be enough) to Russ for coming on board and helping us create this dream. Without you it wouldn't have happened so thanks mate. Another special set of thanks to our long suffering wife's, Russ wife Juliet and my wife Andrea. The endless telephone calls, spending hours on the phone to each other talking fishing, the emails, the grammar checking.! Everything you do and suffer for the FCC, thank you ladies xxx

So that brings us to 2009 and the first running of the Forces Carp Classic (FCC), we've had some testing times, we fought problems and troublesome anglers but in the end we've enjoyed every minute of it.

It certainly has been a big rise from just 5 anglers going to France back in 2001 to what it is today with us "overbooked" each year and places going within 36hrs when released. If you've been part of it, thank you, it's been a blast but rest assured it still going strong and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

See you again in Part 2.....(to be continued)



FORCES CARP CLASSIC

— UK —

HORSESHOE LAKE 28 JUN - 01 JUL 2018 £200 Entry Fee.

Included

Cash prizes (1st Place £2,000).

3 Biggest Fish to Count.
Pairs and Team Competition.
Free BBQ/Hog Roast.

72hrs of Competition.
Polo Shirt.
Guest of Honour Talk.

" Forces Carp Classic (FCC)
The only classic..."



www.fcc-uk.com forcescarpclassic@hotmail.co.uk







GARY LOWE REVIEWS KRYSTON QUICKSILVER,
KRYSTON SNYDE, MAINLINE
TOPPERS, MAINLINE ZIGGERS

BRIAN DIXON REVIEWS -BELL BALL CUTTER



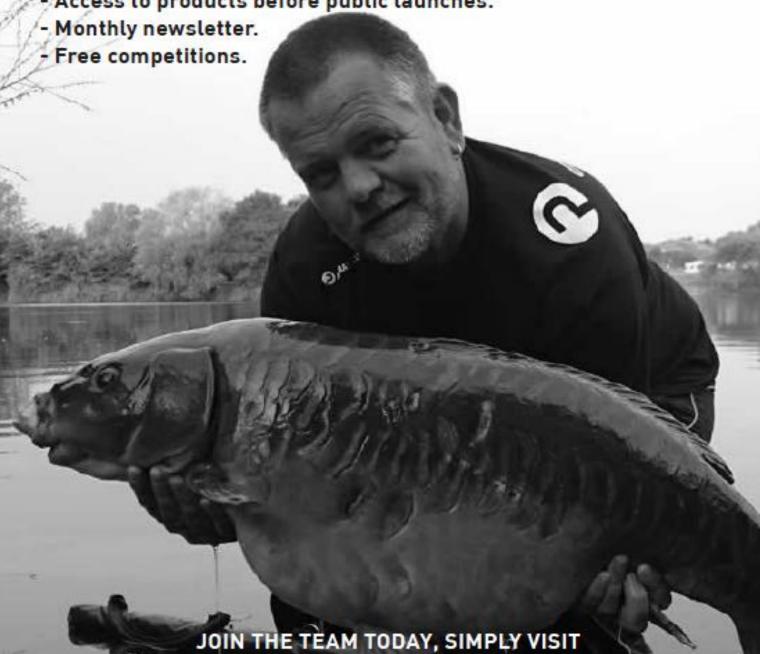
JOIN THE TEAM TODAY

Are you a keen and loyal angler who fishes regularly and want to join the ranks of one of the fastest growing tackle and bait companies in Europe?

PALLATRAX (atch more fish

Some our Team benefits:

- Fantastic community of like minded anglers.
- Excellent product discounts.
- Active Facebook Team group.
- Exclusive Team Fish-ins.
- Genuine field testing opportunities.
- Access to products before public launches.



WWW.PALLATRAX.CO.UK/TEAM-PALLATRAX



Gary 'Milky' Lowe - Kryston Quicksilver

Fifteen years on this product has stood the test of time and been responsible for the capture of thousands of fish which otherwise may have been lost. Quicksilver is braided entirely from the most abrasion resistant fibres in the world.

To boost its toughness even further larger gauge filaments are selected and then tightly woven. When fish drag line over underwater hazards Quicksilver's dense construction helps prevent premature line failure. Shock leaders are not only for distance, leading anglers who fish the most snag-ridden waters in Europe use this product as a rubbing leader and hook-length for fishing at close range.

Super strength combined with bullet-proof abrasion resistance.

This product protects against gravel bars, mussels, flint, lilies, tough abrasive weed and rocky areas.

Superb for carp and cats in severe snaggy swims.

Low diameter ensures long cast, bulky leader knots eliminated. Highly acclaimed by the world's leading carp anglers.





Gary 'Milky' Lowe - Kryston Quicksilver

Frustrated with monos that spook fish? Seeking a quality low visibility sinking mono? Then look no further. Snyde is a premium grade copolymer in a superb watery green shade that merges in naturally with virtually any type of background.

Anglers who prefer to better their presentation by fishing with slack lines will welcome Snyde with open arms. Once the surface tension is broken it readily sinks to hug the bottom. Field testers report it's the nearest thing to fishing with a back lead.

Smooth and supple combined with uniform diameters Snyde is ideal for many angling situations. Abrasion resistance is first-rate. Tested on boulder-strewn rivers and line sapping weed-infested waters, this product will appeal to barbel and carp anglers alike. Do not be fooled by the price, the quality of this outstanding mono compares and exceeds the performance of many more expensive lines on sale.

Snyde's unique breaking strains will be great news for those who require the extra strength when playing fish. How many times have you hooked a hard-fighting specimen that you have to clamp down on to stop it from reaching the snags and wished you had something in reserve?





Mainline Toppers are, as the name suggests buoyant hookbaits perfect for 'topping' off other hookbaits, although the versatility of these little gems doesn't stop there...

Yes, the word versatility really does epitomise what the Toppers are all about! Great for adding some buoyancy to bottom baits to create critically-balanced snowman-like presentations, which will also provide your hookbait with a visual stimulus to promote fish investigation. The small size or Corn-like shape of the Toppers mean that they also make superb single hookbaits in their own right – perfect for solid PVA bag fishing or Zig Rigs. Numerous Toppers can also be stacked together for



yet another hookbait arrangement, with all rig options again increased by the three colours (white, yellow and pink) supplied in a neat three section, screw together stacker pot.

3x50ml screw together tubs

(1x white, 1x yellow, 1x pink)

Available in: NEW The Link (Available 2018) Essential Cell, Cell and Hybrid





Mainline's Supa Sweet Ziggers are perfectly shaped, ultra-buoyant hookbaits, which as they're name suggests have been designed as the perfect Zig Rig hookbait. Ideally suited to targeting fish active within any layer of the water column.

Reliability is a key value of any buoyant pop-up or hookbait, especially so in the case of Zig Rig hookbaits not only required to elevate a long hooklink, but also maintain this suspended position. A vital element we have successfully tested and installed within the NEW ultra-buoyant Supa Sweet Ziggers. The reliable performance of the Supa Zigger is then further enhanced by a highly attractive, water soluble sweetener and the visual stimulus of three proven colour combinations. Supplied in a neat three section, screw together tub.

3x 50ml screw together tubs

(1x, White & Black 1x, Yellow & Black, 1x Red & Black)



Bell Ball Cutter review.....

Every now and again something simple comes along that makes me sit and think... Anyone who knows me knows that I like to keep things simple, but I also like to think outside the box. And just recently these little beauties were spotted, and I had to give them a whirl!! So, I did.

The Bell Ball Cutters are

designed with the sole purpose of chopping out a round ball from products we couldn't have done so from before...Available from 10mm through to 24mm, you can set yourself up with a selection of bait sizes for the day from just one block of meat. I will be using mine in the very near future on a quiet water where meat is a great bait if you can get it out far enough... armed with perfect round balls of meat and a good catapult I know I will be fishing meat in areas where others cannot get to yet! Watch this space!!

I have also seen pictures where potatoes, cheese and turnips (did you know turnip floats in water and can make perfect little snowman rigs??!!) have been used.

So, a simple product, simply push it into whatever you are using as a bait, turn the handle a few times and pop out the perfect round ball of alternative hookbait. I can see this giving me quite an edge on some places.

Two thumbs up from Talking Carp!

You can find them at www.bellballcutter.com and also on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.











#TRIEDTESTEDTRUSTED











www.kryston.com





Catch Reports

Featuring -

Brooms Cross Fishery
Dan Winfield
Pallatrax
Castaway PVA









Dan Winfield

Caught on a cold February morning from a spot 110 yards outs. The rig was a simple blow back rig with a small piece of silicone on the shank of the hook.

I used an ever faithful UberNutz bottom bait and added one of our new UberBerry bottom baits to it. I'm calling it fruit and nut.

The fish went 26lb and it's one of the very few old Leney's left in there



TalkingCarp





Josh Blakey using 2oz inline Stonze, Steamlink to a size 6 Gripz hok and a 14mm Jungle squab lands this beauty on a very cold day



Lee Upton with a cracking 22lb 10oz mirror caught using Pallatrax Stonze and a foam balanced Jungle squab













Phil Loftus with a proper looking snow carp to tick off his bucket list



Myreside Lakes Fishery

Wyreside Lakes is family run business, situated in over 120 acres of farmland at the foot of the Bowland Fells in Dolphinholme, Lancashire. There are seven fishing lakes ranging from 1.5 acres to 16.5 acres with superb stocking of carp, mixed coarse and pike.

Over the last 20 years the estate has been transformed by the Birkin family and boasts a recreational centre with a newly refurbished traditional farmhouse bed and breakfast, Scandinavian lodge self-catering facilities, a modern bar, restaurant and function room as well as a four-star camping and caravanning site. Also in the main building there is a small camping and tackle shop, laundry room and a modern toilet & shower block.

Pike day tickets start from £9 for one rod up to £20 for four rods. Overnight tickets are also available.

Pike are in all waters except for Fox coarse lake. Pike sizes range from jacks to lake record of 29lb in S2.

Call Sally: 01524 792093
Web: wyresidelakes.co.uk
Email: wyresidelakes@btconnect.com

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR PIKE FISHING...

- Semi Barbed trebles Spinning and deadbait only, fresh or sea
- Adequate size and depth unhooking mat
- Forceps and side cutters (hook cutters) must be used at all times
- · 32" min landing net · 15lb min line, braided mainline on spinning rods only



SCARP FISHING TICKETS

£200 for 3 rods – access to Sunnyside 1,
Sunnyside 2, River and Fox's Take
– no pre booking necessary

Entitlement – 2 x 24hrs (or 48hrs
together) or 2 x full-day permits
using a maximum of

3 rods



Castaway PVA







Stephen Kitcher with the new Isle of Wight record at 52lb 12oz !!!!!!! Caught using a Castaway PVA small mesh bag and PVa nugget







PJ Williams First session of the year, Ice still thawing across the lake but this scaley one now known as Lenny slipped up





Jon Blackman New pb and first uk 40 at 40lb 8oz



Adam Mark Honeysett









Well I must say I'm still buzzing after my 1st ever trip to Elphicks day ticket fisheries, it's just a shame I only had 24 hours. I had 3 fish of 38.12, 36.15 & a 31.02 Common.. Happy daysys





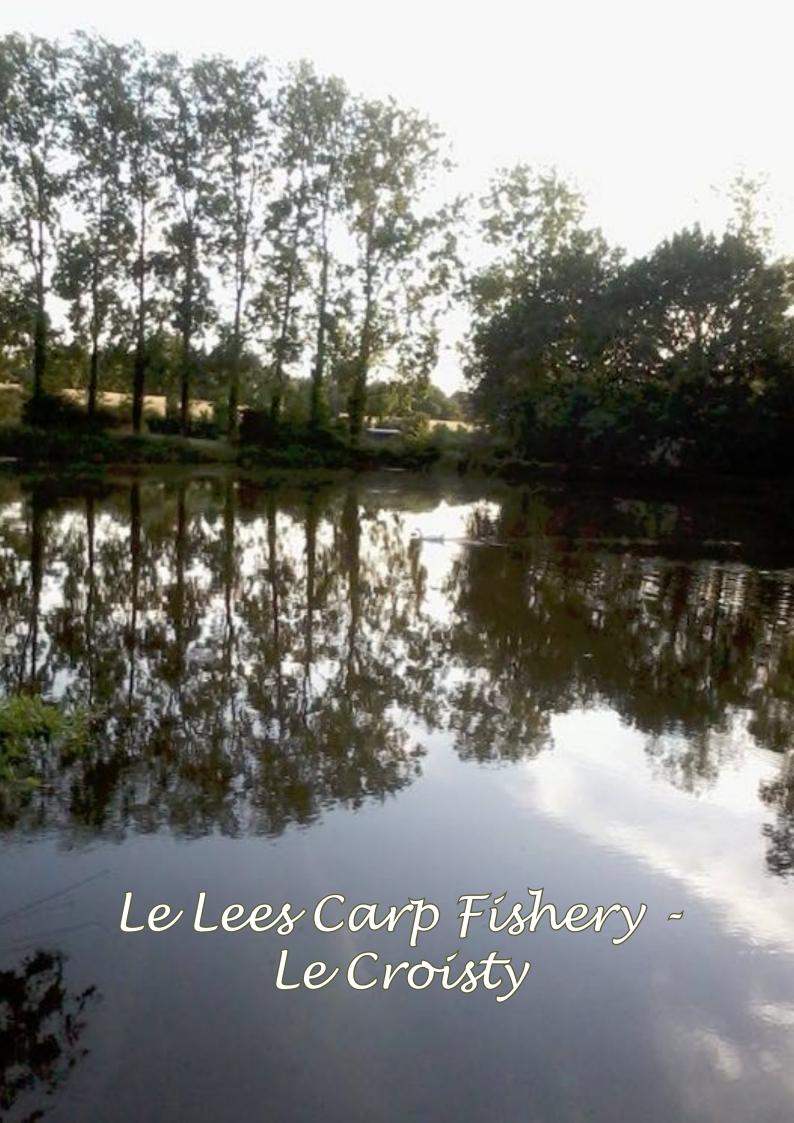




Talking Foreign Foaturing

Featuring -

Le Lees - France
Etang St Pierremont - France
Carp Grancanaria - Gran Canaria



Le Lees Carp Fishery

Welcome everyone to LE LEES Carp Fishery.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Le Lees Carp Fishery

Our price over the winter months (november 1st to march 31st) is 130 euros PPPW. 1st april to 31st october 150 euros. We also do an evening meal at 50 euros pppw.

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

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

At the moment we are doing a deal for any week this year (if booked before the end of march 2018) you can get lake exclusive for upto 5 carpers with evening meal for 600 euros.

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

We also do a membership which runs from when you join for 1 year for 500 euros PP. Membership card and key supplied.

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

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

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

Matt, Tracie and Thai.





Le Lees Ca



rp Fishery











Asking Price :- £169,000.00 ovno

Fantastic & rare opportunity to purchase a 2+ acre Carp lake set within 8 acres of land with owners accommodation & separate anglers accommodation with mains electric & waterSet in an area of outstanding natural beauty less than 4 hours drive from Calais in the heart of the Champagne Ardenne region.

The lake is fully stocked with Carp upto early fifties, other fish species include Sturgeon, Rudd, Roach & Pike

Owners Accommodation comes fully furnished & consists of 1 large double bedroom, with faux leather double bed frame with 2 x double matching wardrobes & bedside tables, open plan kitchen/breakfast bar, complete with fridge/freezer, oven, hob, washing machine, dishwasher & lounge complete with wood burner, freeview t.v., 3 seater leather sofa, bathroom with underfloor heating, vanity unit & large corner shower. Outside open veranda overlooking the lake complete with wood burner & rattan double chair, 2 x single chairs with cushions & coffee table.

Anglers Accommodation is a lovely 6 berth mobile home with a double bedroom with en suite and 2 x twin rooms with separate toilet & shower room. Open Plan lounge/dining & kitchen area, all fully furnished, with decking veranda overlooking the lake.

We live in the UK and have a local couple & gardener who look after our property when we are not there and they also meet & greet our fisherman guests throughout the season. Our french couple are happy to continue this service if the new owners were interested. The anglers accommodation with exclusive use of lake is currently let out at £995 per week and can generate an income of potentially upto £30-£35k per annum & also the possibility to offer breakfast and evening meals & sell bait for additional income.

Please call Emma on 07990 581130 for further information







CARPGRAN

The start of a new year 2018, with many fishing holidays and day trips booked in January.

The beginning of February, we had a couple of weeks of bad weather, but nothing like we received the last week of February, with rain and storms from the South which we had been waiting for for 7 years and this has now added another 11 metres of water into the lake and still rising!! So back to normal again.

If you are coming to Gran Canaria for a holiday, then please join us on one of our day excursions all inclusive day our at 85 euros for the angler and 55 euros if you have a non fishing partner who would like to come and spectate, sunbathe for the day, or we offer any duration on the bank or with accommodation, either apartments or Canary rural mountain house with pool.

There is something here for everyone, we even tailor-make your holiday to suit you!!



Talking Carp

LANARIA.com





TalkingCarp

CARPGRAN





TalkingCarp

ANAKLA.COM

Win a Week Carp Fishing on Gran Canaria:)

we have been overwhelmed with all the likes on the first competition post we ran and we have realised that some likes may not show up on our end due to privacy settings...

So - we need everyone to re enter!!

This is what you need to do:)

#1 click here https://carp.global/2018-gran-canaria-main

#2 enter your name and email on the page

#3 follow the instructions on the next page

To make sure we get everyone please tag any fishing mates too so we reach as many anglers as possible!!

This is an awesome prize to win a week long, all expenses paid trip fishing on the island of Gran Canaria:)

This is what you need to do:)

#1 click here https://carp.global/2018-gran-canaria-main

#2 enter your name and email on the page

#3 follow the instructions on the next page

~You will receive an email confirming your entry and the winner will be drawn in April LIVE on this page...

If you book a holiday with us and end up winning we will refund you the cost :) to book or make an enquiry just send us a message :)

we look forward to seeing you all soon

And thanks for taking part in the latest Carp Gran Canaria comp! good luck!





line Baits continue to prove thornarives on the hardest of waters,

Why? Arduous testing, constant development, improvement, refining and perfecting have bred balts and additives with incredible pulling power and longevity that have continued to astonish our consultants; the best rods in the business.

So If you're not considering Mainline Balts this season, maybe you should see the men in white coats?



www.mainline-baits.com











This months advertisers -

Pages 58 - 61 ACA - Anglers Charity Auctions

Pages 46 - 47 - Castaway PVA

Pages 82 - 83 Chashire Particles

Page 24 - Distance Keeper

Page 136 - 137 - Elite Tackle

Page 37 - Finygo

Page 6 - Galaxy Baits

Page 100 - Hazy's Tackle

Page 17 - Hooked On Baits

Page 51 - Kudos

Page 122 - Kryston

Pages 5, 92, 150 - Mainline Baits

Page - 2, 114, 115 - Pallatrax

Page 74 - Phat fish

Page 68 - 69 - The Little Egret Press

Page 30 - Wolf Int

Page 129 - Wyreside Lakes

Thankyou for reading and as always your continued support

Please send your articles and catch reports by the 28th March 2018 for next months magazine

brian.dixon@talking carp.co.uk buggy@talkingcarp.co.uk talkingcarpinfo@gmail.com



The Carp magazine for Carp anglers written by YOU !!!!!!!

'The Talking Carp Team'

Brian Dixon
Mark Faulkner
Mark Galli
Dave Harnick Snr