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Hello and Welcome to Issue 47

And here we are... January 2020. Happy birthday to us!! The idea was thought up in 2015, and some of you will remember we were born in January 2016...and through one or two tough times we continued to grow...and grow. And it is with thanks to you, the writers, contributors and the readers, that we can say we have just had our greatest year so far... growing at a rate that others can only dream of!! So, let's keep this ship going forevermore!

If you have any features that you would like to see... any subject that you would like to read more about... or any writers that you would like to ask a question to... feel free to get in touch with us. We are here to listen to you.

And on to 2020 we go... more fish will be caught, personal bests will be broken, new tackle will come to the market...and when it does, we want to hear from you so we can share it around the great carp angling family!

Email us at the usual addresses

Team Talking Carp wish each and every one of you a happy and prosperous 2020.

Happy New Year everybody!!

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Team Talking Carp

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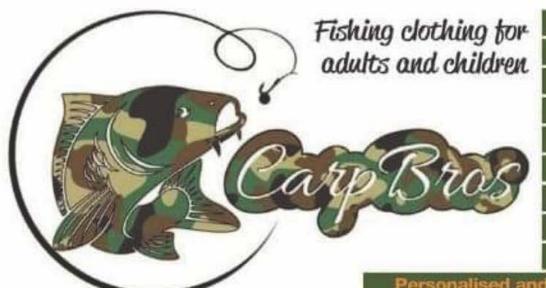
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An Interview with... Mr. Alan Blair by Mark Galli

I have to jump back to May 2019 for this introduction...

....It was back then that I had the enormous pleasure of meeting the one and only Mr. Alan Blair of Nash Tackle, an angler that, and I am not ashamed to say, I really do admire. Now to put that into perspective, I am 52 years old and have been carp angling for many years, forty to be exact...!

Over those years, I have met numerous 'well known' anglers from many fishing disciplines. When I say, "met", I mean that in terms of they have been at a show or shop or on occasion on the same bank and I have had the opportunity to say "hello" and exchange a few pleasantries with them. My work with Talking Carp Magazine has allowed me to get a little more 'detailed' access shall we say as, even though I have interviewed them, I still do not know them on a 'personal' level.

Anyway, I digress from my original point, which was that, I admire Mr. Blair and the reason for my admiration is for the passion and sheer enjoyment he portrays in his Social Media and of course in his Urban and EuroBanx videos. It seems that no matter what he catches in terms of species or the size, he is genuinely happy and for me, that captures the essence of what carp angling should be about...surely, our first aim is to make carp angling a pleasure no matter where or how you fish and certainly no matter what the size of the carp..?!!!

From watching his videos, I've always had a question in my mind that I wanted to ask him and in May I was fortunate enough to get to ask him that very question while on a visit to see my mate that had just landed a PB Mirror from Kingfisher Lake on the Bluebells Fishery (Well done Adam Croser, cracking fish mate..!). Whilst there, I had an accidental meeting with Mr. Alan Blair. Purely by chance on



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a walk around the lake, he popped up above his 'Nash Hide' and in typical Alan Blair fashion, said "alright fella, how's it going...?" He was there with the 'Nash Boys' as they are collectively known to fish the Nash Social, which I am certain will be on video sometime very soon.

I have to admit, that initially I just said "good thanks, how are you getting on...?" and kept walking, as I didn't actually recognise him straight away...but once I did, I could not resist asking him 'that' question....

...It was from that point, I took up over an hour and half of his time, stood in his swim talking all things 'Alan Blair' and Nash, including his influence on the industry, Social Media, 'the Haters', the abuse he gets, the controversy (of a certain photograph at the time) and the criticism about fishing where may be, just sometimes, he doesn't always have permission to be...!!

We even had a brief chat and a laugh about his other half, the one in the videos that is Mr. Oli Davies and specifically about that 'Rod Disaster' in EuroBanx 5, where he gets a quick take, goes in the water head first after his rod, recovers the rod AND lands the fish (1:45:55 on the Video if you haven't seen it)...our discussion centred around the abusive comments and criticism that Oli got and being called things such as "irresponsible" and much worse and, how they as 'people' first and 'anglers' second, deal with that type of very personal criticism...

(In Issue 40 of Talking Carp Magazine, I interviewed the said Mr. Davies and my first question was about this very event...you can download for Free that issue from our web page.)

...It was during our conversation, Alan kindly agreed to do an interview with me for Talking Carp and so, after many months of chat and me trying to interrupt his unbelievably busy schedule of Filming, Travel ,Fishing and Working here it finally is....



TC: Alan, welcome to the electronic pages of Talking Carp Magazine for the first time. Why not start by telling us a little something about yourself and what you do outside of your fishing....?

AB: Hi Mark and apologies once again for taking so long to get this finalised with you...

I am 35 years old and I have been fishing for pretty much my whole life – since about 5 years old. My father got me into it, so I have a lot to thank him for. It's all I've ever done. Apart from a little rugby in school and playing the odd instrument for a bit all I've ever done is go fishing. It's all I know. The result of that is that it has been my life and work from an early age. When I was 13, I got a job working in a tackle shop, but it's ended up with me working at Nash and having a family with my partner Chloe. We have two beautiful girls named Myah and Fern. That, and fishing is everything to me.

The only thing outside of fishing that I enjoy is meeting new people, but that doesn't have to be fishing related – oh, and partying, I very much enjoy partying...!!

TC: What's your 'Official' title and role within the Kevin Nash Group?

AB: My official title is Operations Director. That role sees me having a high level of input into all elements of the business. Everything to the development of the product, the marketing, the selling, the image of the brand, everything. I'm the first to roll my sleeves up if something needs doing. If we have a load of gear on the warehouse floor and we need to get it out to hit a figure I will be in the warehouse packing. I will just make the time up. If I am going to do a couple of days teaching kids, it doesn't mean I can just forget my work. I always make it up. I work very long hours and never complain about it. I'm not asked to do it, I do it out of choice because I love it. It sounds cliched but I can't stress it enough that it's my life. I live five minutes up the road, and I've orchestrated



everything in my life to work with what I love and that is fishing.

TC: When we met, I mentioned about selfies with 'celebrity anglers', and that me personally, as a grown man, I do not see a need to have a picture with another grown man that basically 'fishes' for a living, in as much as I don't want one with a footballer or actor etc. and you said you didn't see yourself as a 'celebrity' in the world of angling... So, why not..??

AB: Because I do think I'm just normal. If you talk about ability, I know anglers far better than I am. If you talk about fishing films, I watch others in front of camera in awe of how amazing they are. I see myself as being pretty normal. I just embrace it. It's been a very gradual progression. It's not like one minute I was a postman and the next I was a YouTube sensation. I've had to work so hard to get to this point that it all seems a very natural progression. I didn't just land on my feet. I didn't just one day get a random job offer from Nash. I have grafted from the moment I could get a paper round and everything that has happened, has happened organically and naturally over a very long period of time.

Celebrity? I walk round Tesco and people stop me and I do everything

in my power to give them some time – I'm in Tesco to start with, I'm not in Waitrose! I'm not doing my food shopping at Harrods! I'm just in Tesco pushing a normal shopping trolley like everyone else – I'll stop and chat to



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anyone about anything. I don't go for dinner in the Ritz, I go for dinner in the local carvery. I'm just a normal bloke that loves fishing, so I don't see myself as a celebrity.

Is my profile high? Yes. Yes, it is. Because of Nash. Because of having that platform, because of the team around me that make me...

The venues I fish are pretty normal too. I rock up down at the local park lake all the time and fish with the kids. I will fish anywhere. I hold down a full-time job. That's a normal thing to do in life isn't it? I squeeze in a bit of fishing as and when I can. Go raving and get messy every once in a while? That's pretty normal!

TC: All very normal indeed Alan, even the "getting messy", including the times in the recent Festive Period Instagram Stories...!HaHa



Do you make the Urban Banx and Eurobanx with the aim to 'influence' anglers?

AB: No. We never sat down and said what are we going to make them to influence people. It never happened like that. It just happened. Once it had gained traction, I realised what was happening, that it was inspiring people and influencing the way they fished. People were receptive to it and even after episode 3 or 4 I still didn't think I was inspiring the masses. It was only after a few years that I took a step back and thought 'wow', this has really changed people's perception of angling, made them adopt a different approach to their angling, appreciate different types of water than perhaps they had before, and take pride in their local rivers, canals and park lakes. But I can't stress enough that at no point was it a cynical marketing exercise.

TC: You have had criticism in the past about some of the place's you fish and the occasions when perhaps you do not have the 'permission' to be there. Do you feel a need to respond to or even justify that criticism and do you feel you are actively encouraging anglers to follow your lead...?

AB: I don't respond to social media posts purely because of the time it takes. The moment you start replying you have to stick to it and keep on replying so the best thing for me to do is not to reply to anyone.

Obviously I make a lot of appearances at shop days and shows and this topic comes up in conversation and I'm very frank and honest with people, to the point where the Angling Trust have been in touch asking me to be an ambassador for the brand and I have had to point out that I am not whiter than white. I do poach places. I do fish in no fishing areas. I do break the rules. There are times I leave my rods unattended. But this is me, this who I am. I grew up fishing in a way that I had lots of



freedom, and I've never wanted to lose that freedom, hence why I don't hold any syndicate tickets. I tried for 10 years to be a different angler to what I am today. I tried to be a textbook carp angler and it just didn't suit me, my life or my style. It made me fall out of love with fishing as a result.

I'm honest with people about that, to the point that if I ever have to justify it, or end up in a dispute over it – let's take fishing in an out of bounds area or using more rods than you are supposed to as an example – the rules are put in place for a reason and I choose to break them. What I will never do is break them and put in jeopardy the fish or other anglers. There are many instances when I am on a fishery with rules then I respect those rules.

On a syndicate with an out of bounds area I wouldn't fish in it. But on a public water or a piece of unmanaged urban water and there is a sign saying No fishing, then I will fish there. It's a bit like the signs saying No Ball Games – the kids still play football there. Leave them alone and let them play!

My justification for it is very valid, and I do get comments and opinions from people over this saying I shouldn't do it or promote it and make it acceptable. My argument is that I hope the people saying that are saints, because I can bet my life that they have all broken the speed limit. Many will have used their phone while driving. In those instances you are actually putting lives at risks, and I don't proclaim to be perfect, I sometimes break the speed limit, but I'm not the one trapping off in front of everyone saying "you shouldn't do this" or "you shouldn't do that". No-one is perfect and we are all guilty. Me fishing in or promoting fishing in an out of bounds area I don't think is doing any harm...!



TC: On that subject then, I can't resist to ask, what is the most memorable carp you have caught from an out of bounds area?

AB: Ah there have been loads! I don't really know, and also, I don't feel any guilt to admit that either. I don't feel I'm doing anything wrong to the point where if I were ever prosecuted and convicted, I would stand up in court, take the slap on the wrist and the fine, and I would walk back out and carry on doing it. That is me as a fisherman.

Recently however, I was out on a boat on a sea fishing trip. On the way back we found some Tuna. Lots of tuna in fact. The UK law states you are not allowed to fish for them. The skipper and I both looked at each other and said, "of course we are fishing for them". That's what an angler does. How can you be in that situation with fish all around you and not fish for them? That's a more disciplined person than I and questionably an angler! If it's in your blood you can't help yourself.

But the most memorable...? The one with Myah at Legoland was pretty spectacular, with 100 people in a restaurant opposite having a nice lunch. She picked the biggest one in the group and between the pair of us we managed to get this lovely 30lb common in. That was up there. We had a quick snap, and off we went to Legoland. In and out! That's the point. Did I do the fish any harm? No. Did I do any harm to the surroundings? No. I'm not talking about vandalism and cutting holes in fences to get in somewhere here; I'm talking about putting a bit of bread on a hook, catching a beautiful carp and letting it go again. What have I done wrong?

TC: I'm going to touch on the conversation about Oli and the rod incident...





AB: We left it in because it's what happened. We have done five of these films now and every single one of them has told nothing but the truth. There is no contriving or storytelling, no making up situations and no going back to the venue to get extra

shots or things we have missed. What you as the viewer sees is what happened.

People in the past have left comments saying "impossible, you can't just turn up at a venue for an hour and catch a fish!" Well actually yes, we can, and we can also turn up at venues and blank for two days, and we show that. We can drive all the way to lake Skadar in Montenegro and not even cast a line and show that.

It has always been about the adventure, friends, new places and people, and the reality of trips like that. The highs and the lows. When I got lost in Sweden do you not think that was an embarrassment to me? The fact that I got lost at the age of 33 and wanted my mum to have a cuddle!

If you talk about not putting things in, there are a number of things we could have decided not to put in. It goes in because it is what happened. Certain things do fall off the edge, but very little. What you see is what you get. That shot of Oli's rod being dragged in is what happened. There wasn't even any consideration of shall we leave it out.



An Interview with....

Another example would be the Bristol Park 'Swan Lady'. One could argue that shouldn't have gone in. I blatantly on camera fished an out of bounds area and got a massive telling off for it. It's what happened!

TC: Do you feel the use of social media has had an impact and helped advance your career within the industry and within Nash or is it just a side-line of what you do...?

AB: It's the be all and end all at the moment. I still have every single magazine article I have ever done cut out and saved, but that has slowed to a trickle now. Magazines are basically dead, and the future is social media and YouTube. No doubt it has helped me to put my personal message out there and it is a personal thing to me. I never wanted to go on it and avoided it for many years. I still don't go on Facebook; I just cross pollinate from Insta. I really like Instagram as a platform. I like the people who have embraced it as opposed to the Facebook users as I believe there is a clear divide there.

I use it almost as a photo book – something I can look back on as memories. I have a laptop and countless hard drives with 10's of thousands of photos but nothing is really organised or in a presentable format that I can sit down and reminisce or show a friend, but I can get my Instagram profile up and look down it. I'm very proud of it!

It was Carl Smith who twisted my arm to use it, and latterly Insta stories which I have embraced but I will say this – if I was given the opportunity to drop it all tomorrow because it wasn't of any benefit to the business then I would because it is a hinderance. I have at times, not posted on Insta for about two weeks purely because I haven't had the time to pick the right photos and also construct a meaningful caption. Insta stories consume vast amounts of my day. If it's a big story with lots going on it can be hours taken up editing and uploading videos, so I do it mainly



for the business. The added bonus is having this wall I can look back on and go "wow aren't I lucky, what amazing adventures I have been on!"

TC: Now, I have to ask this, and we did discuss it, but there has been a second picture on social media recently that provoked some pretty strong comments again. I think you know the one I am talking about, the 'carp on knee with dorsal up' shot...what is your honest opinion of this type of picture...and just because Nash chose to show the picture, did they deserve the animosity that has been shown towards them as a company...?

AB: It's a really interesting one as I'm a firm believer in not getting on your high horse. The same with the poaching. If you have broken the speed limit before don't come whinging at me about fishing in an out of bounds area because in my eyes you have done more wrong than I have, and the same applies to this photo.

It's all about not putting the carp in jeopardy, making sure it is protected and looked after. As anglers we take mats, we use Medicarp and the



like to treat
wounds. I got
banned from
doing brace
shots a few
years ago by
Kevin Nash
himself, and
I rebelled
against it and
carried on
because I look
after the carp.



Anyone who is opinionated about this subject I don't know how they can be when in the first place they are an angler that sticks hooks in fish, drag them around the lake, take them out of the water which is not natural and then they feel they have the right to start moaning about how you hold it? My personal opinion is leave alone.

A lot of the lads at work think it's bang out of order, Gary Bayes for example. However, I have seen good, experienced anglers pick up a carp and it flip off the mat!

The Bastl one in particular

makes me laugh. He got grilled for such a shot and he was in the water. There was no risk to the carp at all, but people were still leaving horrible comments. I'm anything but a carp historian but I look back and see loads of photos of carp not on mats. Iconic shots. Who are these people to be so opinionated about how someone holds a carp, when carp legends put them in hessian potato sacks and took them down the butchers to weigh them?

If you are an anti – a true animal lover, a vegetarian then come at me and I will have to hold my hands up and say yeah, you are right, there must be an element of cruelty to it. But I love fishing, and I do everything in



my power when I am out fishing to conserve the countryside, respecting and embracing the wildlife and most importantly looking after the fish I catch.

However, deep down I know that what I am doing is hunting, and for enjoyment, so get off your high horses!

TC: So, moving away from some of the more controversial areas that surrounds not just you or Nash as a Team but all Anglers that 'dare to share' on Social Media, because lets' face it, someone will always want to give you 'their' opinion whether you want it or not, on average, how much fishing do you do a month because it would appear, that is all you do...?

AB: Not enough! You can never do enough! Personal fishing is non-existent and hasn't existed for many years. A handful of times a year, and I mean a handful. These lads that have balanced work and family life to get in a weekend or two a month, or an overnighter a week, they are fishing far more than me.

I'm just lucky that through my job I get to have a rod in my had or be on the bank with other anglers regularly. I have just done an article for Total Carp and for a whole month I haven't been fishing. However, I have been by the water quite a lot, helping others. There are times when I am testing a product – this afternoon I will spend a couple of hours testing a small Dot Spod. I will have a rod in my hand but it's not fishing. Everything I do nowadays I will have Oli or Dan or one of the lads with me, of it's for a magazine feature, or for a charitable cause.

There is also massive pressure when you are being followed by a big camera crew and everyone's wages hang in the balance to catch something so it can also be pretty stressful.



So as much as I'm out a fair bit, personal fishing properly stopped about 5 years ago. I have been at Nash 13 years and up until that point I was still doing campaigns, holding club tickets and I was trying to do an overnighter a week. Not any more... For me now personal fishing is two or three grayling trips in the winter, a bit of stalking on the river Lea. However, this year, I haven't yet wet a line on the river and it's now September. That is unheard of, but I'm not complaining.



TC: How much influence do you have on the design and

manufacture of the Angling Products that Nash produce...and would you like someone 'from joe public' to test any of them for you (hint, hint...!!)?

AB: A lot. Everything over the last 10 years that has come out of the Nash stable I have had an involvement in. A big involvement in fact. I head up the development team with Kev, Mike and Seb. It's myself that goes to meet up with suppliers in various countries round the world.

I sign it all off, so nothing gets launched without my seal of approval. I'm involved in the testing, and certainly the style and cosmetics,



names, packaging, everything. Every button you see on a Nash garment will have come across my computer.

We get inundated with requests for testing products. To produce for instance a Marker Float as a rapid prototype, you are looking at £6 to £800 for a sample. We can't afford to be making loads to send out for testing, it's just not workable. We have a small in-house testing team of about a dozen lads who have been with the company a long time who are really good at what they do. You wouldn't even know their names. But between them, myself and the other staff we test stuff in house. Another example is hooks. The minimum order is 20,000 pieces to get one hook sample, so when someone comes to us saying they have a great idea for a hook, to generate a sample of that we have to order 20,000 hooks! So, sorry Mark, but you stick to your day job!

TC: Now, Nash have a guy that appears to know a little bit about carp bait (Gary Bayes) and I do believe they also have their very own in-house 'Chemist', so do you get an input to the bait development or do you just test and use it...?

AB: Because of my style of angling I am not a bait tester. I just don't fish enough, and I don't fish consistently enough on a water to be able to give any meaningful feedback. However, again every single item that has been developed through Nashbait over the last 10 years I have been heavily involved in, but more from a commercial point of view, from the marketing, packaging, the selling price, how it will be displayed in the tackle shop.

My strength is understanding the entire market. I'm not a Subsurface Carpy Tea Guy, I'm not just an Urban Angler. I'm not a big pit angler, I'm someone that dabbles in every aspect of angling so when it comes to



product development what I'm good at is being able to give a broad assessment. I'm very conscious of what our market is made up of and it isn't just one type of angler. We are a broad church, a brand that ties to cater for everyone to a degree.

TC: So, I guess me being a Nash Bait Tester is out too ...?

AB: Erm.... Yep..!!

TC: The Urban Banx and EuroBanx appear to have been extremely successful and correct me if I am wrong but the first Urban Banx video was shot some eight years ago and the first Eurobanx about five. What was the initial thoughts for the very first one and how long did it take to actually produce from idea to final edit...?

AB: We will just talk about the first Urban Banx and Eurobanx. The first Urban Banx was nothing more than me going out on a fishing session down the canal with my great pal Matt Downing. Our journalist at the time Rich Wilby came along to shoot a magazine feature of it, and Winston our editor at the time asked him to do a bit of filming. Rich embraced that and took the footage back to Winston, who turned it,



completely off his own back, into this thing he called Urban Banx.

We launched it and it was very well received so we launched a second one. The first Eurobanx came a couple of years after, and again it was born of me spending so much time going over to Europe – at least once a month – and falling in love with the scene out there.

The freedom, the big waters, the lack of anglers... and I started dreaming. What if Oli and I went fishing together... I've heard about this mega park lake; shall we go and fish there but turn it into a bit of a road trip and see a few people along the way. We documented and filmed it, came back, and Eurobanx was born.

We just picked it up and every year did it. Would we do it anyway? Yeah, we would! Do people do this anyway? Yes, they do! There are loads of people going on these kinds of adventures, maybe inspired by us. Probably a large number not. They were doing it 20 years before us. We certainly weren't the first. But if it wasn't filmed, we would still be going away doing it, going away for a week's fishing together and having an adventure.

The only difference is we put a lot of effort into filming and documenting it, and the boys when we get back put a massive effort into editing tonnes of footage which is pared and honed down into what you see as Eurobanx!



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TC: In most of the aforementioned videos, you seem to have very little time and some venues are literally just a few hours stop off, is this planned, or do you just not have enough time away from the office when you undertake these trips, although I am pretty sure, Mr. Nash, would probably say you have plenty of time away from the office..!!...?

AB: The whole plan is down to me. Oli leaves me to it, and like I mentioned a minute ago it is a dream. I like doing it, it's part of it. The planning and organisation are part of the adventure.

From the minute we get back I spend a year going in and out of Europe relentlessly, meeting new people while attending shows and shop days. Along that journey someone will say something that piques my interest, and I end up with a big long list that accumulates over the year and I will formulate a plan that revolves around one special destination or thing we are trying to achieve and we build a route plan to it and for the way back home again.

As for Mr. Nash, his biggest frustration is that we don't stay for long enough at these venues. He would love to see us there longer and he would rather that I went away for longer, but I can't what with my family and the business. He certainly isn't negative about the fact that we go away and do this, he loves it. His only negativity is that he can't do it with us. He is gutted he is of an age now where he cannot handle 14 days on the road with me... No, sorry Kev! and he knows it!

TC: Can you share with us any future projects or is that a closely guarded secret?

AB: Only that we have been away to film the last ever Eurobanx. We made number 6 the last one. I have a couple of mega films coming out



this year. One with Jocelyn Dupre – part of his H20 series, which documents a fantastic trip down to the south of France. There is also another one with Thilo our German videographer, where I spent some time with him in East Germany in January this year (2019) fishing a mega river system, which by the time this interview goes out, will have been released.

As for future projects, nope, I can't say anything other than what with the Eurobanx coming to the end of an era Oli and I will maintain our partnership just in a slightly different format, and I also have another very special project coming up but I really can't say any more...

TC: What advice would you give a junior trying to progress in today's carp scene?

AB: Everyone seems hell bent on a sponsorship deal. I never wanted a deal. I went to the tackle shop and bought my bait and tackle, and I went fishing because I loved fishing and catching fish. Nowadays there seems to be this huge emphasis on if you are an angler you have to be sponsored by this hoody company or that particle company.

My advice would be don't be that person chasing some kind of sponsorship deal. If you are at a level someone will notice you, and the way to get noticed is through social media.

Sadly, we have lost most of the other portals that were the magazines. Ten years ago, I was looking in Carp Talk for the next up and coming anglers and we have lost that now. We now look at Insta, Facebook and YouTube for people with the right profiles. We then approach them as a company. It's very rare for someone to come out of nowhere and go 'Hi look at me' and us go 'Wow, look at you'....

...So go fishing for the right reasons, not to get a cheap hoody or cheap



particles. That's from a fishing point of view. If you want to work in the industry, then I think there are two clear routes. One that has seen a number of lads get a job at Nash is through fishery courses. Fishery management, fish husbandry, that kind of thing. Within those courses there will be opportunity to do work experience and we have had people who have come to us for long term placements that have been exceptional, and we can't just let them walk out without offering them a job. That's one way to get your foot in the door.

The other option, and this would be the way Kevin prefers is to go out and get a dedicated skill set that is of use to a company like Nash, Korda, Trakker, whoever. For example, a professional photographer, salesman, CAD engineer. If I open a CV that instead of saying 'I caught 10 40's last year' says 'I've got a design degree, and a vested interest in angling' then immediately my ears would prick up.

TC: Alan, I have taken up far too much of your time so I will finish with 'the' question as mentioned at the very start of this piece, the first question I asked you when we met at Bluebells Fishery..... (drum roll please).... "are you always that pumped and happy when you catch a carp as you appear to be on camera and if so, what gives you the drive and excitement that comes over to the viewers so easily and convincingly or are you just really good at faking it...?

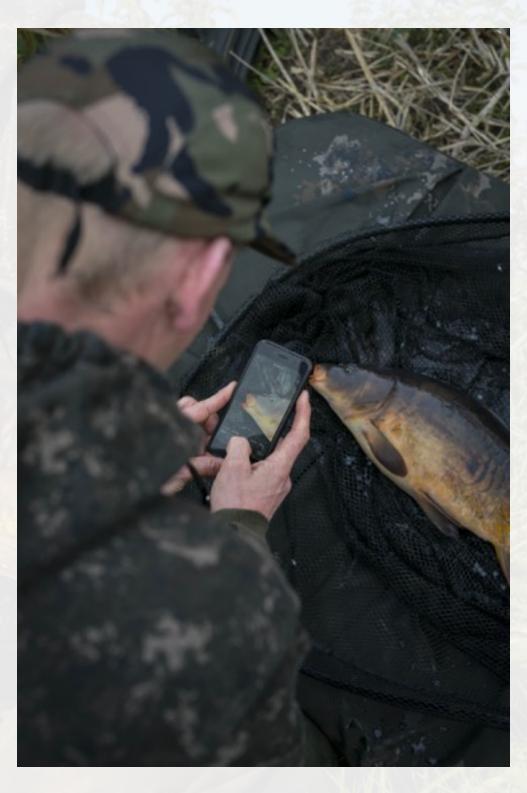
AB: It's totally legit. The reason I buzz so much in front of the camera when I am fishing is because is not my job. Fishing is still my love, my passion. I am just really lucky that occasionally I get to do it as part of my job, and that gets documented, so you see it first-hand.

When I do go there are occasions where I might not have been for 2 or 3 weeks, certainly a few years back when we were making the early Urban Banx stuff that was almost the sum total of my fishing. I was so focussed



on the business I hardly got to go at all. So when I eventually leave the office, go fishing and there is a camera shoved in my face you are getting the pure buzz and excitement of someone who has had to work really hard for a period of time, and has finally been let loose on the bank.

If there came a day where fishing became my job and on a daily basis I was out there, I don't think you would see that intensity anymore. It wouldn't be the same, it would be tiring. I went fishing yesterday so I'm not greatly excited to go out tomorrow but when I haven't been for a week or longer and I have that excitement to go fishing and they hit record on the camera you are seeing someone just doing what he loves...!!



Some Quick-Fire Questions

Commons or mirrors? Mirrors

Short, day, overnight or longer? In and Out

Small or Big Waters? Big Waters with a boat

Remote locations or full facilities? Remote

UK or outside? Outside – Europe!

Spring summer autumn winter? Spring

Bottom or surface? Surface

Long range or close in? Close in

If you only had one more session where would it be? The upper river Lea

What was your most memorable fish and why? A brown trout in New Zealand on the fly from a tiny stream, because it took me three days to catch that fish. I was totally out of my comfort zone.

TC: I would like to say a massive thank you to Alan for doing this interview in the format of our magazine, which in his words is "Basically Dead". HaHaHa..!!! It has been a pleasure to meet him on a couple of occasions now and chat about everything and anything and I am looking forward to seeing the final Eurobanx... I guess my invitation to the mega 'After Party' organised by Nick 'Reedy' Maddix' was lost in the post along with my Nash Sponsorship/Tester deal...?!! In the words of the man himself, "Big Ups"...



Carpr Baits - Putting more fish on the bank









Based and produced in Essex www.carprbaits.co.uk info@carprbaits.co.uk









Well I do hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year.
Following on from my December Article I had a choice to make and I had to be quick about

it.

Now I had a big dilemma but one that didn't take me long to figure out, I had to move down to 6 the fish have obviously moved and with the lack of action in 4 it was a no brainer.

Doug offered to help me move and a couple of hours later I was set up in 6, three rods were cast into a deep gully over a massive wall of weed in 16/17 ft of water and the 4th was fished the same as it was just off the reeds. I was now brimming with confidence having already had one of the A Team and surely there was more to come. By the time I

had everything sorted and the rods out it was nearly 22:00 so there was no chance of me cooking any dinner as it was just too late. I settled for a couple of biscuits and a coffee instead. I checked the weather and tomorrow was going to be heavy rain with strong west/south westerly winds which is bang on for this swim. As it was now pitch black, I could hear fish crashing but couldn't see them, that's an old age thing my eyesight isn't what it used to be. I laid on my bed just after midnight, but the adrenalin and excitement were still flowing, and it took me

ages to actually get to sleep.

Before I knew it my trusted alarm went off and is always set to go off an hour before first light so I didn't have that much sleep, but being awake is far more important and it was worth it, I sat watching the water having a coffee when a fish showed right over the deep water right hand rod, then another showed I must of seen at least a dozen fish show and then the rod was away, again the fish fought hard but didn't weed me up and went in the net first time. It wasn't a massive fish it was one



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of the stockies weighing in at 22lb, but it made me so happy with the photos complete the fish was treated and returned. I wasted no time and got the rod straight back out, I was giving the fish generous amounts of bait crushed/whole boilies, chilli hemp/ maize and pellets with at least 3 kilos going out in the boat each time, the fish were still showing so that made me confident, they weren't spooked. Then it was time to sit back relax and watch the water, the rain started to come down and at times

was heavy but due to the angle of my brolly I was sheltered and could see in front of the whole swim. I spent a few hours tying up more rigs and using the ever faithful Ronnie rig from Sharp Tackle components, the curve hooks are super sharp without the hefty price

tag,
you can
also buy
the rigs
readymade
which
saves
a lot of
messing
about,
all you

have to do is tie on your chosen hook-link and your good to go. The rain started to pitter out around 15:00 and when I emerged from the brolly a couple of anglers had turned up. Sam who went into swim 1 and Ricky went into swim 4. Ricky popped down for a cuppa and a natter and it was nice, a couple of hours later the middle rod was away and this time it was a chunky mirror, another stockie of 24lb, well they are getting bigger and it can't be long before one of the A Team slip up. Ricky took some



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cracking photos, then went around to Sam. It could of only been an hour later when Ricky phoned me and when I answered it was mind blowing he said "Geeze Sam's just caught Buggies" I was like "pukka, I will be straight round," and when I got there Sam didn't know his head from his arse, which is quite normal when you catch a fish of that calibre. Sam had the biggest grin on his face and I was truly so happy for him, we got everything ready then Ricky helped Sam get her from the water

and onto the mat, with the scales zeroed she was hoisted up and the needle whizzed round to 45lbs 12oz what a buzz and what a fish!!!

The weight was totally irrelevant for Sam he was just so happy to tick another fish off the list, and it was a fish he also dearly wanted to catch. It was like the paparazzi had turned up Ricky had Sam's camera I had my phone and between us we took over 100 photos, Ricky even had Sam in the water and took

more quality photos, great memories and this is what fishing is all about. My old mate Scott had turned up and witnessed the awesome "Buggies" and after all the melee he went into swim 9 for the night. With the photos complete and the fish returned the kettle went on but in true Sam fashion he had no sugar or tea bags!!!







I made my way back to my swim to get ready for the night ahead. I wasn't happy with the right-hand rod and decided to redo it so that's exactly what I did. It wasn't long before I had the dinner on the go and this evenings meal was a gorgeous homemade Chilli, proper food on the bank. Later that evening Scott rang me and said he had banked a 29lb 8oz common I asked if he wanted me to pop round and do some photos, but he said he just took some shots on the mat and returned it!!

Fair enough let's hope you catch one of the units tonight. The fish seemed to of switched on which was great to see, as I laid there watching the darkness like a bat a unit of a fish crashed out in front it sounded like someone had fell in!!!

I jumped off the bed

but for the life of me I couldn't see a thing, the only thing I could clearly see was the waves lapping at the front of the swim from whatever it was that crashed out. Just like last night the adrenalin started to kick in and I was adamant it wouldn't be long before one of the rods would be away. It was an hour or so later that my evelids started to feel very heavy and I fell asleep only to be woken by the alarm going off for the last time of the session. My normal routine applied and as I put the kettle on for a second time



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the middle rod screamed off, I jumped up and lifted the rod from the onset I knew it was a good fish, and boy did it fight if I didn't know better I would of said I had a cat on the other end, my arm was aching and it must have been at least 10 minutes before I had the fish engulfed in the net, I secured the fish and checked to see what the time was. and at the moment my old mate Porky came into the swim. I got everything sorted, then gently moved the fish onto the mat, with the sling zeroed she was I lifted up and the needle swung round to 35lb 4oz and it was one of the A Team a fish known as "humpty head single scale" she looked impressive. My old mukka Scott came around and took some photos with his camera and Porky done the honours with my phone. With the photos

complete
she was
returned
safely,
and I was
left sitting
there in
shock.
What a
session
this

has turned out to be 4 takes and 4 fish banked including 2 of the A Team. The ever faithful Nutjob doing the business yet again along with the quality particles from Matt Bewers. End tackle wise was the everfaithful Sharp Tackle, and in particular their deadly Ronnie rigs.

Let's see what the next session brings and hopefully by then I will be a qualified Ocean Diver. There will be plenty of diving as well as fishing next year that's for sure. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year good to you





all in 2020 the year of the big fat carp. I would like to thank the following companies for their products of which I use in my fishing.

www.galaxybaits.co.uk www.sharptackle.co.uk In The Margin Particles

If you're out on the bank stay safe and wrap up warm, winter is here.

The next couple of months the fishing is going to be considerably harder, but the rewards are much greater.

All the best

Geezer









Thousands of happy anglers and even more unhappy big carp have fallen for our gear. We're cheap because we sell direct. We're that confident in all our products that if you're not happy with any of them you can send them back for a full refund.

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AIR GROUP TO SPONSOR CARP TEAM ENGLAND LADIES!

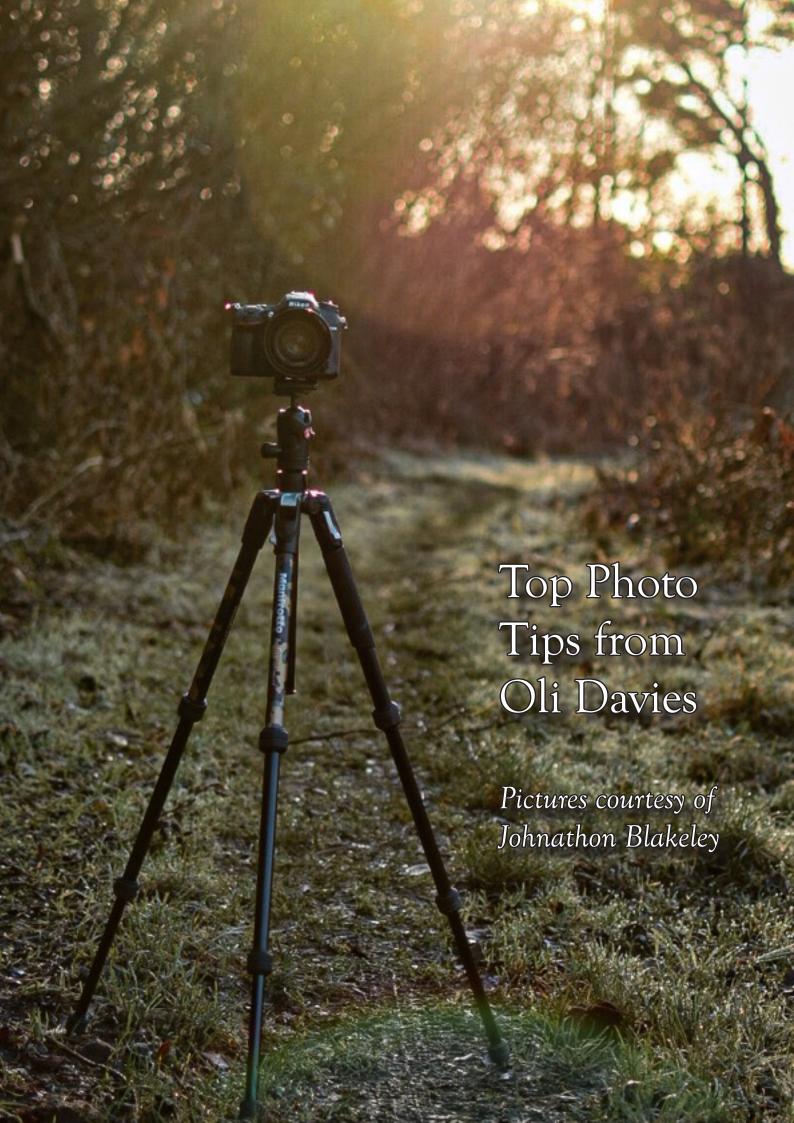
The AIR Group have given their backing to the Ladies Carp Team ahead of what will be their biggest year of international carp match fishing yet, with the first ever Women's World Championships being held on home soil in the UK in 2020.

The AIR Group, which formed a few months ago with 10 of the country's top independent angling retail stores (the members of the AIR Group are listed at the bottom of this press release) joining forces, has three main objectives: To promote angling, to support innovation, and to secure the long-term future of our sport. Their mission statement is 'To help all to a greater knowledge, understanding and love of angling.'

Bev Clifford, Ladies Carp Team England Manager, commented: "We are thrilled to have the support of the AIR Group. Browns Angling sponsored us last year and it was great to have the backing of a company that's so invested in the future of angling and it was great working with them. To now have the increased backing of the full AIR Group is fantastic and I've worked with a lot of the retailers over the years and to now have them supporting the ladies' team is very exciting. Their financial support will be a massive help in this very exciting year for Ladies Carp Team England and womens angling in general."

Kevin Peet of The Tackle Box commented: "The AIR group was formed for many different reasons, and one was to support any activity that promoted angling to the general public, so when the opportunity to sponsor the England ladies came along the group voted unanimously to do so. The days of angling being a male dominated sport are behind us, angling is for all, regardless of age or gender so what better way to illustrate this than to highlight the existence of a very successful team of women anglers. The AIR Group is honored to be associated with them, and we wish them every success for the coming year and beyond."

Steve Lee of Browns Angling commented: "Having sponsored the ladies carp team solely this year under Browns Angling, it was only right to get the AIR Group involved with the Ladies team for next year which will be a massive year for them. It's important as an independent retailer to put back into this sport and we will continue long-term as Browns Angling, and more importantly, the AIR group too be involved in fundraising, charity work and sponsorship deals, that will in courage new blood into the sport. The AIR Group wish the ladies the best of luck next year and I'm sure on home ground they will be successful. IT'S COMING HOME."



In Issue number 40, back in June 2019, I had the pleasure of interviewing Mr. Oli Davies of Nash Tackle and amongst other things, we talked about his Photography and Videography skills and his awesome knowledge that help him produce those magnificent shots of not just the Carp for those 'Trophy Shots' but the scenic shots too.

It's a given that he also uses some very expensive equipment and that the 'average angler' will not have either the in depth knowledge he has or indeed, the equipment, so I caught up with him recently and asked him for a 'Quick Guide' to getting the best shot possible, with whatever camera you may happen to have. Here's what he told me....

1. Take your time! Don't rush getting the fish out of the water. Give yourself and the fish time to recover from the excitement of the battle. Make sure you have everything ready, a bucket of water and that your camera is set up BEFORE getting the

fish out. This
will ensure
you have the
best chance
of getting
some nice
shots. Check
your camera
– do you
have enough
battery? Space
on the memory
card? Is the



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lens clean!? Sounds obvious but these things rear their heads surprisingly often!

2. Choose a suitable spot for pictures. Make sure it's flat and that the background enhances the capture. Sometimes it's good to see a little of the scene to put the

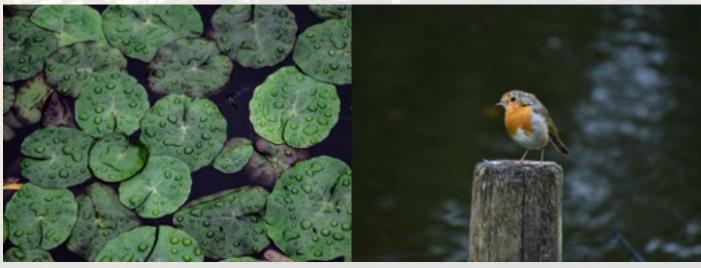
capture in context. A few extra steps out of the swim if necessary, won't harm the fish.

- 3. Get help, and extra mats, if necessary, especially with big fish. The more hands on deck to help with goalkeeping and water the better.
- 4. Watch out for stray items in the background such as bivvies, rods, rubbish bags, cars, and other distractions. Remove them if possible or reposition the shot. The same goes for trees growing out of the captor's head; try and avoid it as it can look a little strange sometimes. Watch for the shadow you cast as the photographer, particularly early morning and at sunset. Nothing ruins a shot quite like an unintentional shadow across the fish so try and angle yourself slightly to prevent this.
- 5. Take care composing the shot. Ensure you don't cut off bits of the fish or the top of the captor's head. They won't thank you for it. With modern high megapixel cameras, it's easy to crop in a little but its still impossible to put back what wasn't there in the



first place!

- 6. Hold the camera steady. If you are shooting with a camera that has an eyepiece use it. It gives an extra point of contact making the camera more stable and less likely to shake. In low light a camera will try and slow the shutter right down so a steady camera will keep your pictures sharper.
- 7. Take plenty of shots. It costs nothing, and there is more chance of getting a really good one than just taking one of each side. It's really frustrating when you have one shot and your eyes are closed or you are gurning. As well as the standard side on shots try a few from different angles. Don't forget to shoot some in portrait orientation. Cover shots need to be portrait landscape shots simply don't fit!
- 8. If you can see the horizon in the background, make sure its straight. Wonky catch pics with badly sloping horizons detract from the overall image. This can easily be fixed after the event IF there is enough space left round the fish and captor to crop and straighten the image.



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- 9. Light the scene. Whether you are shooting with a DSLR or Mobile Phone after dark, the more light the better. It helps your cameras autofocus system, and any background that can be lit will stop you looking like a cut out on a black background. Headtorches, bivvy lights and light panels all work, but don't totally negate the need for a flash. A separate flashgun will definitely produce better results if you have a DSLR camera.
- 10. During the day try and avoid dappled light. Choose either full shade or direct sunlight. I'm always looking at how the scene is lit as well as what's in the background it's equally as important! Occasionally shooting into the sun can be interesting but generally I will shoot with the sun behind me lighting the fish and captor.
- 11. FINALLY,... Have a quick check of the pictures to make sure you are happy before you return the fish. Once it's gone you can't do them again!

Although this is not strictly a guide for taking the dreaded 'Selfie', most of the points can be applied, especially the composition and background. For me, the biggest advantage I found for the self-take, other than the obvious Tripod, was to use an Intervalometer



for my Bridge Camera and an App called 'TimerCamera+' from my iPhone.

Both of these allow me to set how many pictures are taken and at what interval, giving me the opportunity to take plenty of pictures without having to interact with the camera once the shutter release is pressed...But you still need to frame the shot as Oli has said....

The photographs used for this piece were not actually taken by Oli, they are from a lad called Johnathon Blakeley, that I happened across on Instagram (@johnathon_blakeley) and I was impressed with his 'Self-Take' Skills as well as his fishing.... This 17 year old from Cumbria has caught some nice Carp and produced some stunning photographs and has paid attention to the points that Oli makes with regards to composition, lighting, background etc. and all on his own...I may need to meet with him and get some lessons, keep up the good work Johnathon and also congratulations on a very productive first session of 2020 too..!!!

Big thanks yet again to Oli for taking the time to do this and I look forward to catching up with him during 2020...!!

Don't forget you can send your own catch reports and pictures to us at: https://www.cognitoforms.com/TalkingCarp1/
CatchReportForm







"Possibly the last big edge as far as I am concerned. At times I've upped my catch rate 300% when the carp are not feeding avidly"

Julian P Cundiff

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Using PVA when carp fishing has become very popular for most anglers due to its versatility and I personally very rarely cast out without it in some shape or form. However, there are many ways to use PVA giving you various presentations of your rig, hookbait and its contents. So, once it's out in the lake, the PVA will dissolve leaving a pile of free offerings around your rig.

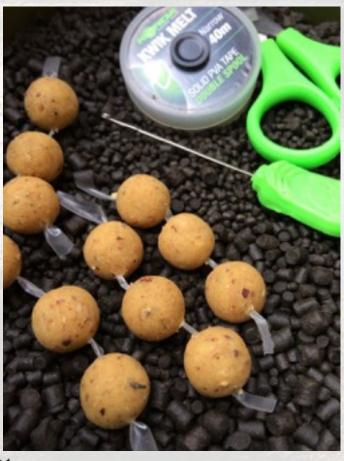
So, what can you use in PVA? Usually only dry contents however particles, nuts and even sweetcorn can be used if some groundbait, stick mix or salt is added. Pellets are usually the go to choice in PVA bags and they work very well due to their oil content luring carp down from the upper layers.

What are the options? Well first we have PVA

string or tape both pretty much serving a similar purpose. More of a traditional way to use PVA, one that has seemingly gone out of fashion of late. but string or tape can be used to create a 'stringer' which is number of baits such as boilies threaded on with a baiting needle and attached to your hook. The baits can be left whole or even halved when threading onto the PVA and

one other benefit is that you can wrap the tape around the hair onto the shank of the hook alleviating any tangles on your cast.

Next up is PVA mesh and by far the most popular use for PVA in carp fishing. There are so many on the market nowadays in various mesh width sizes and these will cover most carp fishing situations. Mesh bags melt quickly and can be used in a variety of ways. One way of nicking a bite can be by using a coloured pop-up over a meshed bag of pellets as the bright stand out visual of the pop-up amongst the dullness of the pellets is like





the cherry on the cake. Adding a squirt of PVA friendly liquid to some Stick Mix groundbait can also create an attractive little cloudy parcel and again leave your hookbait in a prominent position for a pickup. Meshed bags or sticks are perfect for flicking or lowering into margins as they offer a mouthful of attraction and by pulling your hook point into it protects it from pricking any debris that maybe on the lakebed.

Now Solid PVA bags are another firm favourite of mine as they can be filled with smaller items such as pellets or crumbed boilie, just as long as it's completely dry. They can be prepared in advance and used on pretty much any lakebed. Solid bags are perfect for casting to showing fish as once the bag is tied down tight it creates a perfect aerodynamic bag that can fished at fairly reasonable distances. For an extra edge they can be injected with PVA Friendly liquids and oils so that once the PVA melts the liquid disperses and draws fish down to the

contents of the bag.

And last but not least is Rig Foam. These foam nuggets are used directly on the hook of your rig. They are perfect for masking the hookpoint when fishing over bottom debris with just single baits and allows the rig to slowly descend

to the lakebed before dissolving leaving it prominent for a bite. They can also be used to trap the hair of your rig in place to prevent any tangles on casting leaving you confident that your rig is presented correctly.









Recently I've been out for quite a few sessions, either on my own, with my son Dean, or with friends. But things aren't always going to go your way when you get out on the bank, be it either losing fish, cracking off, or bad angling etiquette by other anglers. Mine started a few months ago when I was on my local water, which I bailiff. Arriving on the lake after work. tired and cold, I set up on a double peg so that my son could join me later that evening. It was dark when he arrived.

It started out well.
Dean caught a small common, after tea, and then we went to bed for some well-earned rest. I caught a small common the next morning and we tucked into some breakfast and a couple of brews. It got to around 8am

and I had to meet a team of guys to do a work party on the lake. Anyway, the work party was going well until I started to feel a bit of earache coming on, we carried on getting the work finished around 1.30pm.

I handed out the tickets to the members and returned to my peg, slung my rods out and watched as the weather threw everything at us, snow, hail, rain and gales.

As we settled down to tea my ear got worse. That night I went to bed in severe pain. I stayed up all night with the heater against my ear, tears rolling down my face. I couldn't have cared less whether or not I caught,

I just wanted to go home and curl up in bed. The next morning. after a couple of brews, I packed up and went home. I spent the next week recovering. My next session was at the same lake, and same pegs. I had gotten over my earache and was feeling much better. My mate Andy turned up Friday night, after work. As we sat back and had tea together we chatted about the world of angling etc.



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By Saturday morning I had caught a couple of small commons and mirrors, Andy had caught a few small ones too. It got to around 12.30pm when I looked up and saw a lead smash in the water, right across our lines. Well, that was it, Andy lost it and reeled in his rods. He went around to see this guy that had cut across us. This guy must have thought "sod him" and carried on chucking leads around the lake in front of us. I went to see him, showed him my bailiff card, and asked him to show some bank etiquette. After a blazing argument we showed how his casting had been inconsiderate and came to an arrangement. That night we caught a few more small carp and settled down for the night.

The next morning,

we packed up and went home - no point in staying really, with lines crossing in the same area.

So, that was my second session, now on to my third.
Dean and I turned up at Monument 1, paid Tom in the shop, and made our way to our pegs to set up for the weekend. We got the rods wrapped up and set our traps, sat back and settled into our brews. We chilled out

for a few hours when my right rod suddenly burst into life resulting in a common, a few ounces above 18lb.

Well, that was me off the mark, and what a big framed common it was. It got to around 3.30pm when the same rod burst into life again. I played the fish for a couple of minutes when the line went slack, I was gutted, it felt a good fish too. I checked my hook link and it looked like it had



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chuckling to himself but thought to myself "just get on with it". I managed to get some bait out, put my spod rod away, and settled down to some tea with Dean. It was dark at around 4.45pm as

we sat drinking brews

and chatting. We went to bed around 8pm hoping for a take in the night, but all was quiet. I woke around 5.30am and watched the autumn sun come up across the lake. I saw a few carp jump around the lake, then it all went still. Not a ring or bubble could be seen, it was so still.

been cut. I made another rig. wrapped up my rod and cast out. FRAP!!!!!!! A bird nest went through my eyes on my rod and across the lake. I brought my rod back in, re-made my rod, wrapped up again and got it the spot, then decided to put some bait out using the Wolf Xspod. Two casts later with the Xspod and yep, you guessed it, FRAP!!!!!!! Another birds nest went through my spod rod and across the lake.

I spotted Dean

Dean eventually woke up and we had breakfast and more brews. It was quiet and around 12.30pm we decided to re-bait our rods and recast. We got all the rods on the



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spot. About an hour later my right-hand rod came alive again. I jumped up, struck into it and played the fish for a couple of minutes. It came off, again. I wound in with my head down.

My hook was blunt. I couldn't believe it had happened again - three runs, one fish. We saw the rest of the day out, until we had to be off, and it went absolutely freezing. I couldn't feel my fingers. Enough was enough and it was time to go home. My last session was on my local lake, on my own. I decided to go down the shallows as I

had heard a few fish had come out down there, recently. The weather was spot on, apart from a bit of rain. I

did two nights with only a couple of bleeps, and nothing more. I also did a bit of work on the lake, which gave

had heard my swim a rest for a a few fish couple of hours, but had come still I blanked.

THAT'S FISHING.

I'm writing this a couple of days before xmas, so I will wish you all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

Tight lines everyone

Karl.



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Winter fishing can be hard work for the everyday angler. However, I'm a firm believer that the more you are at the lake; either fishing or just walking round in the Summer or Winter, this surely must help you catch more fish. This is made harder in the Winter as the days are shorter. The average angler has a full-time office job with no chance to get out around the lake. I would normally start going out more at the start of Spring. In the Summer months, I try and get out some afternoons and if not (due to work commitments) I will try a do a quick night (12 hour session) in the week. There is not normally a lot of time to spot any signs of fish and by using the below tips, I have found it a great help over the Winter months.

Winter Tips

- Walk around the lake as much as possible.
- Sharp hooks all year-round rule.
- Location, Location all year-round tip.
- Not too much bait to keep the fish keen.
- Keep a diary of previous year's results and locations.
- Fish over dead pads.
- Fish by snags.
- Fish near reeds beds.
- Keep away from those cold Easterly winds!
- Get friendly with fellow members who fish during the day (pool your information).
- Keep your ears on the lake even in the dark you never know, you may hear a fish.
- Keep your eyes on the water on clear calm nights you may just spot a fish.
- Less boilies, more stick mix type of baiting up.
- Plenty of attraction, not too much food.



• Tiny amounts of pre-baiting (small handfuls of bait, scattered around the lake).

The above tips will hopefully help you to keep one step ahead of the rest. The real hard part I find with Winter fishing is having to set up in the dark & pack up in the dark. This takes a lot of dedication and effort, it can be made a lot easier by setting up the same way every time, keeping your bivvy tidy and in the Winter minimise the amount of kit you take – it's surprising how little you really need for a 12 hour over night session.

If I'm lucky, I may get there just in time to see last light and sometimes I'm able to stay till first light, even if this means I'm pushing the barrow around the lake, I will always keep my eyes and ears open (alert to any fishy signs). This could be the key



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to a great Winter. There is nothing wrong with walking round the lake listening out for fish in the dark; not really much difference than daytime spotting, in fact as noise travels better at night. I find that you can locate the rough area where they are quicker in the dark than in daylight! This is due to the noise levels about. I find walking round a lake at night very informative and wished I lived a lot closer.

If you're lucky enough to have a friend who also fishes, but preferably not at the same time as you, you can pool your information. This will increase the knowledge you can both gain about any signs of carp. So, for instance, if you both fish 2 or 3 separate nights a week, you have more or less covered every night of the week! This will lead you to fully understand the movement of your chosen fish over the Winter months.

This also can be applied to Summer, Spring etc. This is something which is clearly not possible when fishing alone.

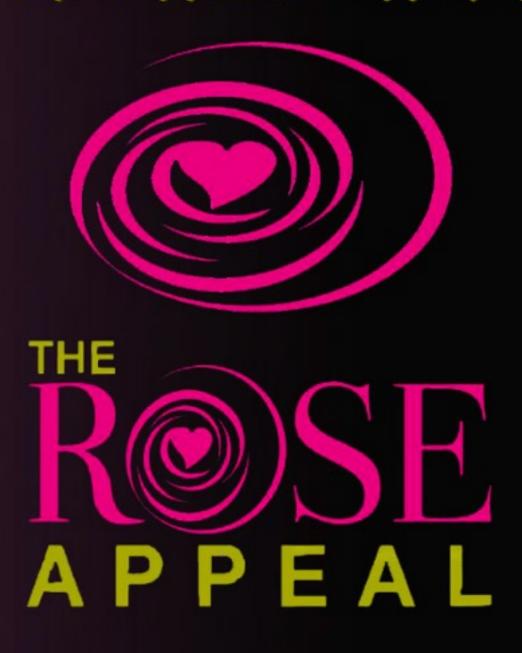
If I'm really stuck for options and just don't know where the fish are held up, I will set up a swim which gives me the best view of the lake. As I have written before, observation is the key to success. I will try and stay up as late as possible so I can listen out for carp and if I wake up in the night, I will put the kettle on, have a brew and watch the lake of an hour or so. I know it sounds like hard work but if you spot that fish, it could make a bad Winter into the best Winter you have ever had.

Till next time

Richard



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It's amazing how much can change in 12 month, we go along to events scared and unsure, yet we come away with a newfound confidence and determination.

The friendships and support I have taken away from one single weekend will stay with me for a very long time.

Last August I attended the ladies carp academy down at Q lakes. It was set up by Bev Clifford, so that female anglers of all abilities could get together and learn all about fishing. We had all been chatting through the group chat that had been set up and I arranged to drive up early on the Friday and met up with Sarah and Jackie who had attended the year before. The weekend started off with a BBQ which was cooked by

Jason Sandiford (www.chefukcarp.co.uk)
and was absolutely amazing I must admit his homemade coleslaw was by far the best part for me and we spent the first evening having a few drinks and getting to know each other and share stories and as women like to do put the world to rights.

Saturday morning we was up bright and early after some much needed breakfast and coffee we was split into smaller groups and made out way over to the lake where we took place in our lessons for the morning They covered casting, rig tying, bait application, fish care and surface fishing which we was very lucky to have Brian Scholes there to teach us all that. He knew and with the sun out in all its glory that weekend it was something that would

prove very useful over the rest of the weekend.

We also had the ladies England carp team there who were all wonderful and really helpful with each lesson showing us and helping us where we needed it. they were happy to answer any question we had no matter how stupid or daft they seemed.

After the lessons we headed back down to the cafe for some lunch and to get out of the sun as it was beaming down on us with little shade. Typically, I had forgotten my sun cream so ended up with a rather red face by the end of it.

After lunch we was put into pairs ready for the 24hr match, me and Judith had been chatting a lot and asked if we could pair up. We drew peg





going up to 65lb so I was very excited to see what would happen over the 24hrs as I've never caught a catfish and my PB is 18lb 2 so there was a good possibility that it may be broken.

numbers and were pleased when we had peg 9 and we made our way up to the lake to put into practice what we had learnt earlier that morning. Q lake is quite a unique designed pool as you fish from the central island outward. It's a nice sized pool and it holds a good head of carp ranging up to 37lb and Wels catfish

All the girls were set up and ready to go and where straight in as soon as the hooter went, several fish were caught over the 24hrs there was a few pb's and everyone was in great spirits. All excited for each other and wanting each other to catch and do well it really was a wonderful atmosphere to see and

be a part of.

Not having fished a match before I felt a bit out of my depth as to where to start and with it being a water i hadn't fished before the choice of bait and rigs etc almost blew my mind so I decided to stick to the basics and play and tweak as I go along we were allowed 2 rods between us so we placed one on the bottom with a simple hair rig and a pineapple and n-butyric acid pop up as this is one I've used a few times and caught on so was feeling confident now. Back then my casting was a disaster, I wasn't very confident as both my distance and accuracy was any good. I was lucky to make 10 wraps but then a lot of places I fish you don't need to fish at distance, so it's never been a worry. Thankfully my partner Judith was happy to do



the rest of the morning



all the casting as she wasn't as confident in the rigs and bait side of it which I was, so we actually worked well together and helped each other with our strengths and weaknesses.

The second we decided on a 6ft zig. I had only fished once with zigs and had no joy so decided it was a good time to try and we had seen a lot on the surface throughout the day but as it was getting later on they were dropping down in the water slightly so

was hoping to catch them as it cooled down. The evening and night passed quietly for us and early next morning Judith decided to move the zig closer in as she wasn't feeling as confident which turned out to be a good move, within 30 minutes it ripped off and after a short battle a beautiful common graced the net and a first for me and Judith catching on a zig.

We got her back into the water and sat with a brew feeling a bit more confident about the sun was beating down on us and we was seeing a lot of fish on the surface so decided to move the other rod off the bottom and change to a spot of surface which was another first for us both. We started by throwing a few freebies out to see if they would feed and they did, so we cast out into the middle and kept offering some freebies to keep them interested. Brian had been walking around that morning and was helping and guiding us when next thing we knew the line went tight and we was on again we landed another common and was absolutely delighted.

The final call went, and everyone gathered back at the barn for the final thank you's and presentation, me and Judith were over the moon when we came





2nd and won a new chair each.

After the presentation all the girls said their goodbyes and set of ready for home, as I headed home I had a sense of pride and confidence ready to find and take on my next challenge.

Shortly after I was asked if I would like to join the girls vs boys charity match set up by Miranda and Tania which was raising money for Lupus.

I was paired up with

Sam Hoskins from the ladies England carp team and I can't thank her enough for being patient with me and my mishaps over the weekend, mainly down to my disastrous casting but she kept pushing me to try and over the weekend I slowly started building my confidence, and with it distance and accuracy followed. It was an amazing feeling to see that rig hit the water and know its where you want it to be, she was so supportive and was

happy to help with anything she could.

We had 5 fish that weekend between us and the amount of laughs it was amazing my ribs were sore for days after from all the laughing we did, slightly influenced by a drink or 2 as well no doubt.

The whole weekend was full of fun and laughs with plenty of fish being caught we managed to raise over £7000 and to top it off the girls won as well.

All went quiet my end fishing wise as the colder weather set in and family duties and work started to take over once again, but 2019 soon came around and we was ready for a new challenge. I was messaged by Sarah Davey who I met at academy and asked



if I fancied joining her at the ladies pairs match through the British carp cups over at Old Mill lakes on the 17th-19th may.

ready for a new challenge i accepted and again it was another great weekend of fishing and catching up with friends from academy and getting to fish another gorgeous lake, we drew numbers and picked peg 12, we headed over to the lake and set about setting up and getting all prepped ready for the hooter to go, we was being told by a lot of other anglers who knew the lake to aim at 23 wraps and use the particle mix supplied by the lake. I was starting to panic as even though I was getting more confident in my casting I was still only at short distances, so I decided it was time to go for it. I found a nice spot at 16 wraps



and I felt confident so I set up my rod using a German rig with a krill and cranberry boilie and the other rod I chucked as far as I could out into the middle where all the others was telling us to fish to.

The rest of the day was quiet and the night went the same way, we kept baiting every 1-2 hours with a couple of spombs so that we didn't over fill the swim, there was a few points where we started to second guess ourselves as

we shook it off and sat on our hands and to our surprise my rod at 16 wraps ripped off landing us a nice chunky common at 16lb 10oz using a mixture of trigga and krill an cranberry boilies so after that we stuck to our guns but unfortunately no more were to be had by us. We woke up early Sunday and that was when the nerves started to kick in and we had the long wait for the final hooter...

catching and not us

but we was determined



after it went at midday we placed 3rd, we was absolutely over the moon with it.

Peg 14 came 1st which was Chloe who had also attended academy the year before along with us and Joanne who had attended academy 2 years before and 2nd place was peg 10 who was Jane and Paula both who fish with England ladies, so it was an absolutely amazing achievement that 4 out the top 6 were all students from academy. The tutors have all set us on a path and we have carried on growing stronger and more confident with each trip, so for any ladies out there that are thinking about trying it out I can honestly say do it, don't put it off and think maybe next

time. Get out there and do it... myself and the other girls are proof of how well it works with how far we have come.

For me fishing has become so much more than just catching fish. The world of ladies fishing is growing rapidly and becoming more and more popular, the places that we get to travel, the many sunsets and sunrises we get to see, the opportunity to witness nature at its best, but most of all its the support and friendships you will find among all the ladies, they all want and support each other so that we all succeed is what really sticks with me.

So, as we all said our goodbyes and headed of home again I once again found myself wondering what and when my next challenge will be, and what else I can learn and experience along the way.

All can say is, watch this space

Rachel.











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Winter Blues by James Quinton



Its December as I write, it's raining hard and I have just had a wet pack down! And another blank! I promise I do catch fish.... sometimes! Work has been super busy and been doing extra shifts for Christmas etc., so fishing has slowed down. But me and Merlyn have managed 8 nights on what was going to be our winter water, Inworth. The opportunity to fish for a winter 40 is always one that gets the heart racing, you picture the fish in your arms with a frosty background, hands like ice but that goes away when your looking down at those wide shoulders and your back is aching holding your prize up for the camera, magical.

The lake has a couple of draw backs sadly. The first being the

track to get to the gates. Its on farmers land and sadly the track is horrendous, a proper car killer in all honest. Huge holes that even a 4x4 would struggle with. With care it takes a bout 10 minutes to negotiate it, but I have known a few people who have broken their cars getting down there. The second is that it gets used a lot for off roading and so you get a few raised up Landys racing around which doesn't help the track. I guess its all part of the package but does add to the stress of braking something ha ha!

The other thing about Inworth is the depth. I struggled finding areas deeper than 4.5 ft deep which is great for winter, but not when you have a family of boilie munching swans! The bottom is mainly silt with a few bars which you can see

TalkingCarp

when walking around, far too shallow to actually fish. There is a silt patch that seams to run in front of a few swims, and I know these have done fish. It was that I thought would be a good place to start. Before the session I headed down and done a bit of pre baiting, even in the colder months I like to try and get a bit of bait in. I left this for a few days and then headed down. I must admit I was feeling confident, I knew where I wanted to be, and I was happy with my rig of choice which on this occasion I was going to be using wafters and I had pre baited so they would have had a free feed up! I had previously been told it didn't do any fish last winter, but I wasn't too concerned.

I got my gear in the swim and had a walk around which doesn't take long as its not a



big place. Considering the lack of depth, I didn't see any fish! I had another walk around and nothing, this is going to be more difficult than I first thought. I got some more bait in the area then got the rigs out, got the brolly up and settled down. Within a few hours I got a couple of liners, so I slacked off a bit of line as I wasn't fishing much more then 6 wraps out. Merlyn came and joined me for the first night, so we got her set up next to me and she was fishing similar distance

and same rigs. We chilled out for the evening listening to the wildlife and found something to watch.

Morning arrived and mist was rising from the water. It looked a stunning morning, but our bobbins remained motionless during the night. I made us a coffee and watched the water. We saw nothing show all morning. Merlyn had to go so got her all packed up and sorted my self out for my second night. I walked the lake a few times and did see one around the far

margin, so I cast a bait to it and left it a few hours. Apart from the odd bleep nothing happened so I got the rod in and put fresh hookbaits on ready for the night ahead. I had something to eat and a couple of ciders and chilled out, watching the sun go down. Really love those magical moments that so many people miss these days!

The morning was misty, and I made my first coffee whilst watching. I didn't see anything, nor did I hear anything during the night. My bobbins remained motionless. I was abit disheartened as I felt I fished well and done prep work, but sometimes its not meant to be. Before I left, I put some bait out in preparation for the following week.

The following week came around and the





van was loaded, and I couldn't wait to get finished at work! The shift finished and I got out as quick as possible. Merlyn was going to meet me down there later. I got my stuff sorted then sorted her stuff out. Merlyn turned up and she got her rods out. We were using wafters, a pineapple vellow one on one rod and a natural manilla dumbbell on the other. I put some more bait out and we settled down. As we were chilling out, we could hear some fish showing up the other end. One of them sounded like

a donkey fell in! As the shows increased it was clear that we were in the wrong area sadly. We should have moved in all honestly but in a strange way we were happy where we were and hoped they might move down during the night where the bait was. Morning came and I had to pack up for work. Merlyn was staying longer so she could do some uni work. Now this is where it gets interesting. Unbeknown to me Merlyn has a bit of a drama during the night. So, what had happened was she

was convinced she heard a baby cry behind her bivvy! Followed by footsteps and a girl laughing!

Understandably she was freaked out. She apparently tried shouting for me, but I didn't hear a thing! She zipped her bivvy up and didn't sleep to well! What makes it even creepier is that we both believe in the supernatural world and since talking to a few people this isn't the first time something like that has happened there!

At work I messaged her to see how she was getting on, and I was sent a video of her spots getting trashed by swans! This was sadly one of the downsides with Inworth, where even in the deeper water the swans could still get to your baits. This dampened our spirits a



bit and we decided our next session will be elsewhere.

We went to Prestons and it was a good session! We had two nights and although it was cold, we managed 8 fish between us including a low 20 I managed to get! Tactics for this trip were stiff hinges. I really love this rig and along with a chod will take them anywhere. I used the throwing stick and put out a good spread of bait and it didn't take long for the bites

Merlyn
managed
some
lovely mid
to upper
double
commons
too.
Although it
was easier
fishing it
was nice to
get some
bites and a

to start.

bend in the rod!

That puts us up to date and it won't be long before the Spring plans get laid out and there will be plenty of bait prep and recce missions soon. I just want to put here that a good friend of mine has recently got his angling coach qualifications and would appreciate it if people could check his FB page out 'Alex Luscombe angling tuitions' And if you want details on

what he can offer you then his number is 07342176967. I will see you next time and if your out stay warm and safe!

Tight lines

James.

Thanks to

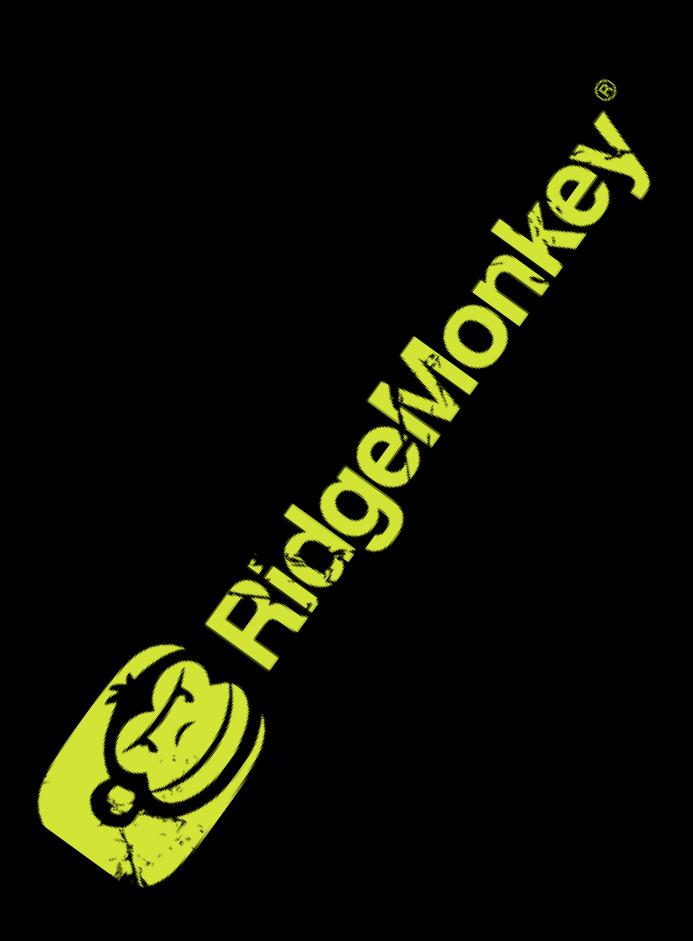
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Reviews

Featuring -

*****Powapacs Head Torch - The Ultralite*****

A Look at Vital Baits

Wizetackle baiting needle



You may remember that in the December issue, I mentioned the new 'Ultralite' Head Torch from Powapacs....

I have been putting it through its paces over the past few weeks and I am very impressed with the whole package. In fact, I cannot fault it in any way...!

The Torch comes supplied in its own zipped 'Clamshell Hard Case' and this in itself is very compact but offers good protection to the Torch when in your bag etc. and it also fully protects from accidental 'Turn-On', and believe me, I've tried, as this was a common theme with my head torches and one that was really annoying..!

That said, the On/Off button is flush to the housing so even if placed loose in a bag, it is unlikely to accidentally activate, unlike those head torches that have the button 'proud' of the housing.

The torch itself is extremely light weight and including the strap, it weighs in at only 75g, which is half the weight of some of the others out there. This is very noticeable when you are wearing it and also, due to the low profile of the torch, it doesn't 'bounce' around on your forehead as others do either. It is 2cm shorter than some of the competition, but as they say, it's not the size that counts, but what you do with it..!!

Another point to note is the strap has a good range of adjustment and allows for fitting to a small head...I mention that as another head torch that I currently own and use, does not adjust small enough to fit the averaged sized head of my 17 year old son nor does it fit the head of my 28 year old friend...clearly both have smaller heads than me but the 'Ultralite' has enough adjustment to fit them comfortably too.



Motion Sensor

A feature that I have found to work without fault, is the 'Motion Sensing' to turn the torch On or Off.

At first, I thought this was just a gimmick, but in reality, it has proved very useful and never failed to work.

With the feature enabled by the press of a button on the top of the torch, you can have 'hands-free' control to turn the light On and Off (I say 'Hands-Free' but you have to 'move your hand' within 10cm of the unit for operation).

Providing you are within the 10cm range, you can move your hand horizontally, vertically, or even diagonally, in one motion passed the front of the torch and the light will react accordingly.

Light Colour Memory

This is the feature I like the best, especially when combined with the 'Motion Sensing' feature.

Whatever colour the light is turned OFF at, it will return to that colour when it is turned back ON...even if it is week later (it may well retain the memory for longer than that, but I tried it after seven days). For me, this is a really great feature as it means if I am using the Red or even Green

light, I can return straight back to it without the need to use the White light and therefore I can preserve my 'Night Vision' for longer.

The combined features also mean, you can put the torch on your Bivvy Table or, as I do, hang it by the bivvy door and when you get that screamer in the middle of the night (or in my case, I need to pee..!) and grab for your torch, it will automatically switch on and providing you left it on Red or Green, it will not blind you with a White light..!!





Light Modes

The Main White Light is produced by a High Brightness XPE LED. The White Flood beam, plus the Red and Green lights use a SUPER BRIGHT COB LED.

The Main White and White Floodlight give out a maximum combined brightness of 450 lumens. Incidentally, the combination of the White Main and Flood pattern will create an incredible lit area...!!

I was a little sceptical about not having the facility to 'dim' the Red and Green LEDs, as my previous torch did allow this but to my surprise, it was not missed at all and certainly not an issue. I think this was in part due to the nice 'spread' of light the LEDs give.

All this is powered by a High Capacity USB Rechargeable Battery and will power the light at 450 lumens White brightness for over two and half hours which in practice is more than ample, in fact, I used the torch for a whole 48 hour session and the battery was still going strong without the need to recharge it. Obviously, I only used it as and when required as a Head Torch and not as a 'Bivvy light' but then why would you…?!!

However, if you don't want to wear it as a conventional 'Head Torch', it also comes with an interchangeable bracket that has a clip facility so you can clip it on to clothing for example or even in the bivvy...

Supplied in the hard Case is the USB Charging Cable and the unit takes around 2.5 hours to fully charge, depending on how low the battery is. After a 48 Session, it took about an hour and forty minutes to recharge. When on charge, there is a small Red LED that is





visible, and this turns Green when the battery is fully charged....!

Tech Details

Model: Ultralite

LED Light Source: COB LED +

XPE LED

Power Source: Polymer Lithium

Rechargeable Battery

Lighting Period: Up to 12 Hours

IP Rating: IP54

Lamp Body Material: ABS

Colour: Black,

Product size: 60*40*38mm

Weight: 54g

Lighting Modes: 5 Lighting Modes

Charging Time: 2.5 Hours



www.powapacs.co.uk

Mark Carper Instagram @mark_carper257

Talking Carp

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Wital baits by Mike Madeley

I will not start this with "The best bait in the world claims" but I will say this "it's something special" instead. If you haven't heard of Vital baits this is just a very brief introduction. I'm not trying to ram Vital baits down your throat, with the usual promises but only to let you know of other options available from the mainstream baits in the UK.

Vital baits are a Carp bait company based in Alicante, Spain and founded by Nicky Hedin, Marlene Jessen and Miguel A. Martin. The company has been producing bait for over 10 years now and has



seen great success throughout Europe and has a keen following in the UK, with a growing team of some formidable Carp anglers. Heading the way is Frank Warwick who we all know. what Frank doesn't know about bait is not worth knowing so with his input into the bait formulation you know something special indeed is happening, and a bait to catch the Carp and not the angler is being produced.



So ok let's mention a couple of Vital baits big hitters, these two baits are what I have used and had success from in a short time and these are the Nutty Crunch and the Kraken. The Kraken is a unique boilie and will catch over and over again, it contains a high level of quality fishmeal, Spanish red pepper, Krill powder, added attractors include Betaine, and also Squid and Octopus flavours, so when the time comes to using fish meal based boilies this is a sure winner. The Nutty crunch which is what I'm using in the colder weather is a boilie based on using the best available Milk proteins, top grade Tigernut flour with high levels of natural sweet proteins makes the Nutty Crunch a very attractive and Creamy boilie with a slight crunch. The Nutty Crunch can be easily digested and used all year round, even in the coldest conditions as it was originally formulated in Denmark.

There are many more different bait options available within the



Vital baits range but thought I would only touch on the 2 that I have actually used but will definitely be exploring the others throughout the new year. It also goes without saying that these baits are available in all different sizes and are complemented with popups, wafters and glugs etc. Including an extensive range of Hi Vis pop ups. There are also a number of new products including the Robin Red dips which look extremely good.

So, if the new year means you want to try out a new bait, give Vital baits a look, we are all over face book under Vitalbaits UK with fine angler Jordan Hawkins being the UK Media Manager. I would like to wish you all a great 2020 and have great success whatever you use.

All the best.

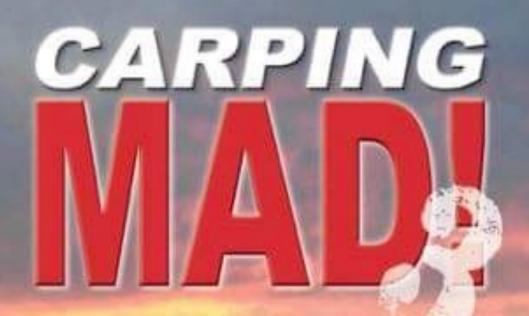
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Mike Madeley







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Mike 'SPUG' Redfern

"A story of sunsets, steaks and silly underpants"



Every so often a little gadget will pop up that will find its way into peoples tackle boxes. It may not be ground-breaking, or a brand new invention... but sometimes items can be given a clever little twist and it's a whole new ball game. Such is this baiting needle kit from Wizetackle.

Yes, it is a baiting needle, and yes, we already have them... but this one offers just that little bit more.

It's a 2 part device. The first outer part has a pincer style shape to it and a retractable inner arm. This becomes a major advantage if you are using glugged or soaked baits or have sun cream over your hands and don't want to taint your chosen bait, or when you can't get your fat fingers to the bottom of the pot! The outer part can locate your bait into the circle area and when you release the spring loaded section your bait is held firmly in place.

Part 2 is a very strong and sharp needle which loads into the centre of the device and will pierce your chosen hookbait



perfectly through the centre every single time.

It's then a case of simply locating your hair rig into the slot and pulling through the bait as you normally would.

This needle will also pierce tiger nuts, hardened hookbaits and imitation baits perfectly without the danger of stabbing yourself in the finger or hand...(T.C come on now, we have all done it!!) The item is available to purchase directly from the website www.wizetackle.com.

And there are videos available to show you how easy it is to use and how it can make our lives a little bit simpler on YouTube at www.wizetackle.com/tips-and-tricks.

All in all, 2 thumbs up from me, and will definitely be in my box.

Brian.











Venue: Petit Pretre, France

Date: 17th to 24th October 2020

Price: £150 includes Hoodie & Surprise. Each angler must take one food package Breakfast = €45, Dinner = €95, Both = €140





Amount Anglers: 16 2 rods per angler

Prizes: 1st, 2nd & 3rd place, plus biggest fish from each lake BBQ, Raffle

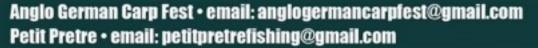
Charity: Forces C.A.R.P.

Carp Angling Recovery Programme which assists veterans with their long term recovery from physical and mental injuries through carp angling. Also Germany donation made each year.









Talking Carp Competition at the Northern Angling Show

We have a very special and easy to enter competition for those attending the fantastic 'Northern Angling Show' on the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd February 2020.

All you have to do, to be in with a chance of winning a 'Carpy' Prize Bundle is get a 'selfie' with one of the Team from Talking Carp Magazine, then follow @ talkingcarp.magazine on Instagram and post the picture on your profile with #talkingcarpmagazine

You will spot one of the Team easily enough as we will all be wearing 'Talking Carp Magazine' Hoodies or T-Shirts and at least one of us will be there on both days all day...!

A winner will be selected at random after the closing date of Friday, 6th March 2020 and they will be notified via Instagram.

The 'Prize Bundle' contains items from Ridge Monkey, Korda, Powapacs, Rig-It-Tackle, The Squirrels Nuts, Castaway PVA and few others too...but the best bit is you also get a page to show off your 'Carpy' Pics in the April Edition of the Magazine which happens to be our 50th Issue.

So, if you are visiting the Northern Angling Show in 2020, make sure you keep a look out for the guys from the best Free Online Carp Magazine... 'Talking Carp' and have your camera ready...!!







Reports

Featuring -

Shaun Anten
Vader Baits
Wyreside
Plus your winter catches



Chris Cox

Caught over a small PVA bag of Mainline cell and essential cell boilies on a Ronnie rig with a Mainline pink salty squid pop up. A nice December catch and early Christmas present! 49lb 12oz



Karl Brandreth

with his new personal best common carp of 31lb 15oz. The Taska consultant and Wolf team member fished on Monument 1 and had 2 chunky mirrors and this stunning common on a recent trip.



Dave Tozer

Dave managed one from Ladywood Boxing Day evening

The fish fell to a tiny ball of crushed DNA nuttas boilies (8 x12mm) in pva mesh with a matching wafter on a "German rig" which I use a size 8 longshank hook from viper tackle.





Shaun Anten

Angler for Bait-Tech Carp Scene,

As the end of the year was getting closer, I thought I would get the rods out for a few nights on my local club lake, arriving after dark I flicked 2 rods out just in front of the swim,

first night I saw a small ghost carp grace the net, it wasn't until the Sunday night that things started to get interesting,

with the pressure being so high, I knew the carp wouldn't be necessarily be on the deck feeding, so I put one rod out on a zig at 5 foot towards the middle of the lake,

and then went about priming up my margin spot using heavily glugged and glazed 10 and 15mm Triple N freezer baits with Triple N Stickmix and stickmix liquid, using a multi rig with a Yellow 15mm Triple N Special popup over the bed of freebies,



Catch Reports

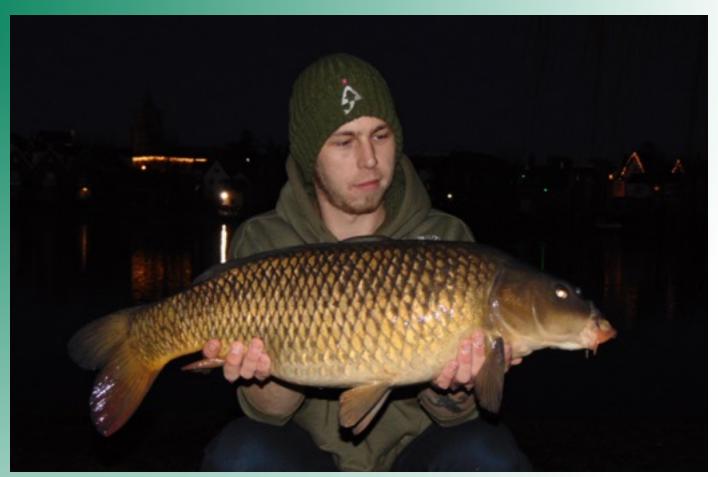
I knew that the margin spot Was a good shout as it had produced a lovely 20+ in the recent weeks building up to the current session I was on.

About 1am the margin rod ripped into life as I lifted into it i could instantly tell it was one of the better fish of the lake,

after what felt like a lifetime of trying to get the fish to come to the net the cord slipped under her and 22lb 2oz of long lean common carp was my reward! the rest of the session was quite uneventful with me losing a fish on a take,

the last day of the session it was very quiet until dusk when it was time to pack up that another bite came along,

I had cast a single Yellow Triple N special popup to a showing fish about 80 yards out earlier in the day, after half an hour or so of the rod being out there the right rod melted off peeling line from the spool, after 10 mins she was in the net and sulking, time for pics then to pack up and leave the lake for last time of 2019 and what a session to end on.





Scott Bassett

Scott finished 2019 and started 2020 the best way. With wet nets and fish on the mat. The Team Taska man finished his New Year session with 6 carp up to low 20s. Good going!!



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PRO TOUR

OUT NOW

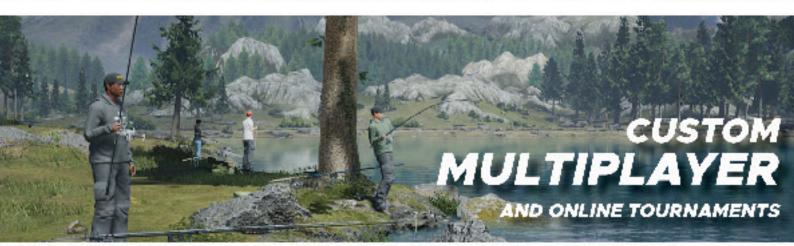






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Team member Carl headed to festival fishery with fellow team member Matt at the weekend for a 48hr. On arrival to the lake all the signs looked promising for a bite with the wind pushing down into his swim but with the bad weather on its way the first thing was to get bivvied up before the storm. Once the rods were out the first 24hrs was quite as unfortunately Matt lost a beast on the Friday night but at 2.15 pm on the Saturday a single bleep sound on Carl's alarms and with closer inspection the rod too bent round he hit into a fish with a good 5 minute battle with the fish trying to snag him in the reeds and some good netting from Matt the fish was landed a nice 15lb 5oz common. The fish fell to 12mm Krill pop up fished over crushed Krilla boilies and pellet with Krilla glug on a size 4 krank hook on a 360 spinner rig fished tight to the reeds on the margin to the left where the wind had been pushing into all weekend good



Team members Matt and Lee fished a local water for a few hours this morning resulting in 5 fish between them. Matt managed to bag himself 4 fish in total. 2 falling to a 14mm SaTaN wafter with 14mm and 18mm Grafter boilies trickled over the top. The next 2 carp fell to a 12mm Pink Grafter pop up with Grafter 14mm and 18mm boilies tickled over the top. The carp weighed in between a range of 10lb-16lb.

Good angling Matt



Team member Paul spent the weekend on the bank at Islands with his other half and their dog Vader (his first fishing trip). He arrived Friday about 7pm so he just picked a couple of carpy looking spots just before dark with single boilie and a few freebies over the top. Night was quiet bar a couple of small runs. Morning came and the swim was bubbling in front of him but not on his spot so change spots and fished to the bubbles. He had first fish about 11am on a single Tutti Fruiti Tuna boilie with pva bag weighing in at 9 lb. Very quickly after the first fish he banked a 13lb on a SaTaN pop up on a Ronnie rig and pva bag!

Had managed another two that afternoon on Ronnie rig with a pink SaTaN pop up weighing in at 14lb and 14.7 lb. Great angling Paul



Team member Richard headed to his local lake at the weekend for a little session. Rods out on the Friday but with a quiet night Rich had been consistently trickling Blackfudge boilies and matching pellet over the top of his spot he was rewards finally came on Saturday morning landing a beautifully 14lb 13oz common! The fish was tempted by a blackfudge snowman set up!

Good angling Richard

Wyreside



Catch report for the p

We've been experiencing true British December however this being said the day tickets are still Sunnys

So fittingly we will go to S1 first. Leading the impressive session landing 7 fish up to 18lbs a spot at 13 wraps on the near side of the deep horizontal corn and hemp with a white Cell p

Next up Terry Keleher did 24 hours in peg 10 a bagged the 'Captain' at a healthy winter weight of bait with a pop up over the top. Also getting a Chris Sawyer - bagging himself a proper gem spombs of crushed

Now we will jump over the bund to S2 where the seem to be more active with regular showings bagged 2 doubles best going 18lbs from peg 1 23lb mirror from the point. Paul Mcue bagged a

Latham bagged a scaley low double to Now to Foxes where there is not much to repfishing it however Tom Belshaw did 24 hours in a stunning 20lb common - both fish came from caster and corn there also has be

Now to the pike fishing and all I can say is all being landed and 13 double figured fish with the been up to his old tricks on the bank of Wyre I going 19lb and he manged to catch it twice!! A injected with winter oils fished at long range. Blue and manged 3 in a afternoon up to 10lb on refound something I

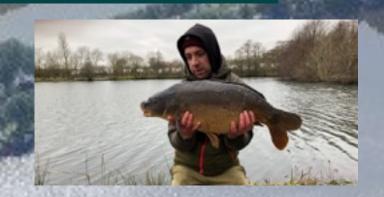
Till nex Tight line Hope to see you





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Fisheries



<u>oast couple of weeks.</u>

er weather with wind, rain, sun, sleet and hail I producing the goods, the best lake has been ide one.

e way was top boy Mr Webb who had a very II fish were caught from peg 8 fishing to a hard ole, he went through around 6kg of Cell boilies, oop up over the top on a slip D rig.

and just 30 minutes after getting his rods out he of 30lb 2oz he tripped her up over a small bed amongst the action on there was Wyre member of a mid-double on a little yellow pop up over 6 d boilies and corn.

e fishing has been abit trickier however the fish. Getting amongst it were David Stephens who 6. Adam Pike managed to bag himself a lovely n immaculate 18lb Mirror from peg 12. Anthony from peg 9 and a 19lber from peg 12.

ort really as there has been very few anglers n peg 4 and manged to bag a 14lb mirror and n a spot just off the bar over a bed of maggot en a few mid doubles from peg 7.

I the lakes are doing really well with 39 jacks the biggest being 19lb +. Poster boy Pete has anding over 15 pike in two outings, the biggest II his fish have been coming to lamprey or eels ank a lot Troy decided to have a go for the pike bach fished in the edge I think we have finally he is good at......

kt time s for now on the bank soon

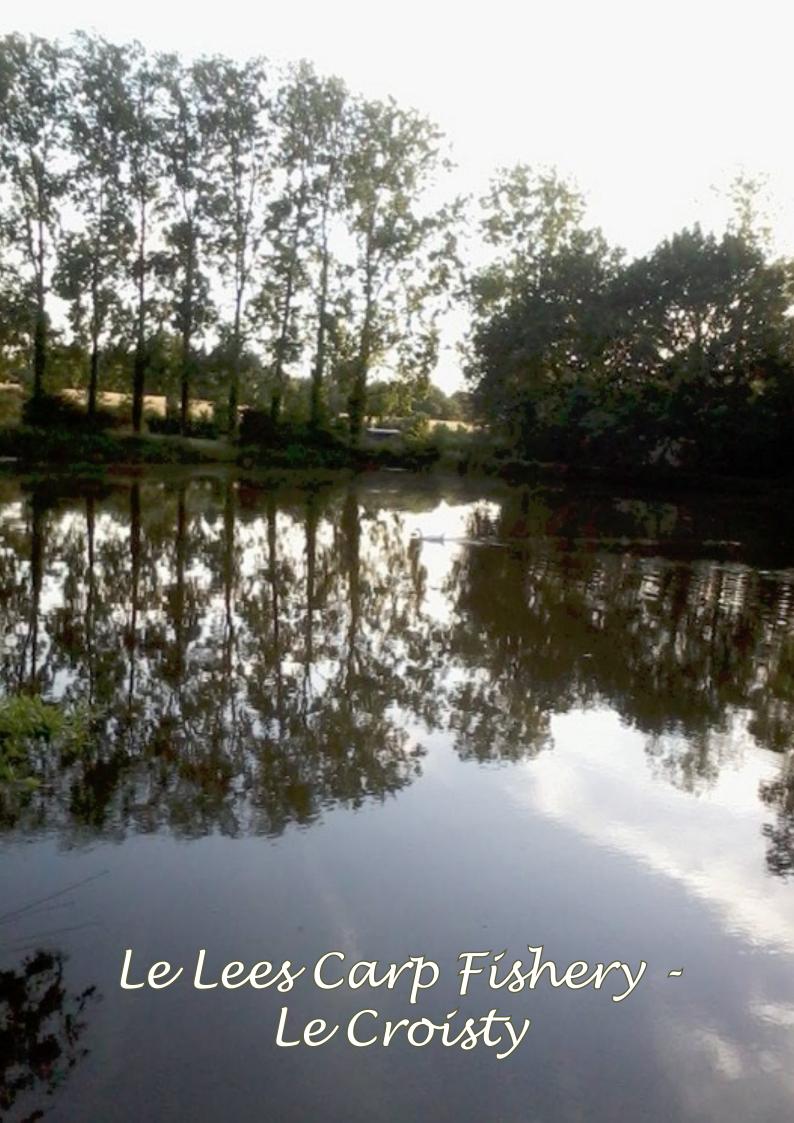






01524 792093





Le Lees Carp Fishery

Welcome everyone to LE LEES Carp Fishery.

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

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

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

The depths range from 7/8 feet around island gradually shallowing to around 2ft. We had the lake netted in 2016 and removed all the small roach, rudd and carp under 10lb. We put back over 80 carp from the netting in november that year and by february 2017 we introduced the new stock which ranged from 28lb to 48lb. 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 February 2020 you will ge your fishing plus an evening meal for £150 per person).

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

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

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

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

Find us on Facebook for further information.

Matt, Tracie and Thai.



Le Lees Ca



rp Fishery



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

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

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

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

We are now booking for 2020.

We do have our offer on for a minimum of 4 anglers we offer a free apartment for the duration of your holiday.

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

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

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

Dave, Ali, Joe and the team at carpgrancanaria.com.







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Coming in next months edition -One of the main pioneers of Carp Fishing in a massive interview

Please send your articles and catch reports by the 28th January 2020 for next months magazine

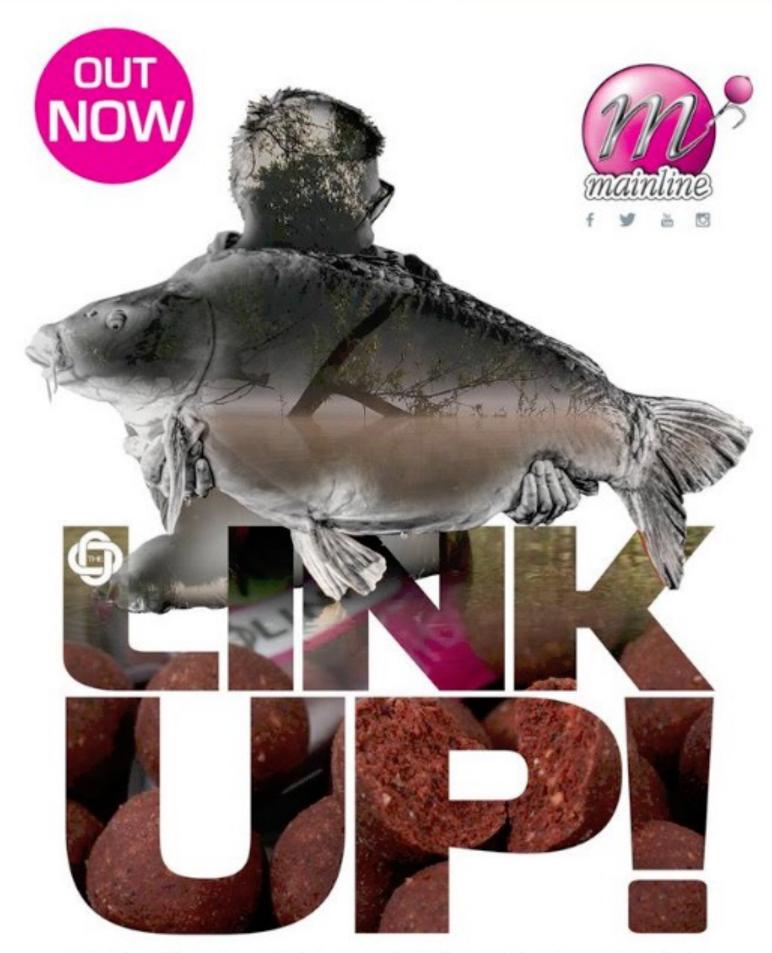
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The Carp magazine for Carp anglers written by YOU !!!!!!!

'The Talking Carp Team'

Brian Dixon
Mark Faulkner
Dave Harnick Snr
Mark Galli



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