



# Talking Carp

Magazine

Issue 23 January 2018

Inside this month -  
Scott 'Geezer' Grant  
Gary milky lowe  
Paul Hobbo Hobbs  
Adi Blantford  
Scott Green..... Plus Many More



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## *Hello... and welcome*

We would like to wish all our readers a very happy, health and prosperous New Year.

As you are now aware we have undergone some changes behind the scenes, as we have brought Mark Galli on board as head of research and marketing, Mark Faulkner has been super busy as we launch a brand new website for the magazine, and we plan on going even more interactive with you, our writers and readers. We will be having more giveaways, more reviews of the latest tackle out there for us to use. We wholly welcome on board a brand new Forces section for our beloved service men and women. We will be bringing you a monthly lake feature of day ticket or club waters that are accessible to all to go fish.

All in all, it's an exciting relaunch for us, and we hope each one of you enjoys the new Talking Carp magazine.

Keep on reading! Its FREE and here for you to enjoy.

Keep on writing! We are always looking for new tales and stories... so feel free to contact us anytime.

If you would like us to feature your water one month... get in touch!

We want to hear from you!!

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

*Team Talking Carp*

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Full moon forties  
part deux  
By Scott 'Geezer'  
Grant

After finally getting into bed in the early hours, I had the best kip yet well that was until the alarm went off at 06:00 o'clock, it was still dark and there was mist dancing across the water, the lake really felt good for another bite. I put the kettle on and made my first coffee of the morning. I made both the lads a cuppa and delivered it to their swim waking them up in the process, so it didn't go cold. Chris wasn't too pleased at being woken up especially as it wasn't for a fish!! Martin was quite calm and cool on the other hand and thanked me, I did have a chuckle to myself but its nice to be nice I always say.

As the sun came up I was on my second cup watching for any signs of life, Martin was in again and this time he banked a stunning 28lb 4oz mirror, that was his

16th fish with only 2 losses. The fish were back on the feed and I was hoping the big girls were on my side and surely it would only be a matter of time. It turned out to be a beautiful day the best day by far weather wise. The fish were clearly enjoying the warmer weather as they were showing in Martins swim one after the other. As I sat watching the water a fish popped its head out on the right-hand side about 6 feet off the bank,

followed by a plume of bubbles, it was clearly feeding and I wound my right hand rod in, rebaited it and sent the boat out to where I had seen the fish show. With the rod in position I sat patiently waiting for it to go, after an hour



the rod was still motionless, I walked round to the right of the swim where the fish had shown and where I was fishing and scattered a couple of handful of boilies in mixed sizes, surely there was more than one fish down there feeding, but only time will tell.

Later that afternoon Martin chipped in with another cracking fish just over the 30lb mark and nothing else followed, his swim had slowed down a considerable amount. Before we knew it, the evening was drawing in and the temperature plummeted just like the previous night, after another top-class dinner we all retired to bed early, which was music to my ears. It was cold, and I needed good nights sleep the sciatica had gone dormant which was a god send and I felt

a lot more comfortable. Once in the bag I was out like a light, and I didn't even wake up for a leak in the early hours like I normally do. I woke up with my alarm blaring meaning it was 06:00 o'clock.

I must admit I really didn't want to get up but if you snooze you lose, so up it was, kettle on and watch the water for any movement, well that will be when it starts getting light, as I sat drinking my morning coffee I heard a fish crash in the distance but couldn't see exactly where it was. This was a great sign and hopefully the big girls want to play.

As the sun came up and the mist danced



across the waters surface, another fish crashed this time I could just make out where it was, and guess what, it was where I had taken the 40 from, I must admit I had a cheeky smile on my face and wished for the rod to burst into life. As the mist lifted the lake looked full of life, I stayed watching the water drinking copious amounts of coffee.

The lads were up and about and at around 10 o'clock Martin cooked a banging baguette full

to the brim with greasy goodness, we all sat there bloated from breakfast chatting about the previous days and how the fish move from side to side quite frequently. Nobody knows this place better than Martin and he did mention that his side had gone quiet, mine on the other hand looked good for another bite and with the fish crashing this morning I was more than hopeful.

It was now around midday and I was sitting by my rods while the boys done the same, my middle rod tip pulled down slightly and the alarm let out a

single bleep and the bobbin rose and then came back down, as I watched the line it started to tighten up I wasted no time and lifted the rod and the fish was on. After a few dogged moments, I had the fish half way in and as the fish turned disaster struck!! The bloody hook pulled!!!!.... I was really mad and couldn't believe what had just happened, but that's fishing for ya. I rebaited the rod and sent it straight back out to the area along with a bit of bait. The lads didn't know whether to laugh or cry for me, but I soon started laughing which lightened the mood somewhat. I sat there patiently for a few hours after watching and waiting but as luck

would have it nothing happened. As the day wore on the odd fish was showing, but very subtle, with that I mean they were just popping their head out then back down, it was like a covert operation. Later that evening we all sat and watched the England game which to be honest was so boring!! Like watching paint dry. As the night temperatures were pretty cold we were fuelling ourselves with

coffee, not the best laid plans thinking further ahead, when the time came to finally go to bed we were all wide eyed so to speak. I got in the bag but just couldn't sleep. I laid there with the door half up looking at the lake illuminated by the full moon shining down, it did look very carpy. As I lay there I got a single bleep on my left-hand rod, which I must admit did make me jump!!!...



I got out the bag and knelt by the rods for a few minutes then it was back in the bag as it was cold.

It could have only been an hour or so later and the left-hand rod was full steam ahead, I lept out the bag in only a pair of shorts!!.... lifted the rod and started to play the fish, I knew from the onset it was a good fish, it just seems to lunge about rather than going on big runs. I keep my cool and alls I kept saying to myself was **“don’t loose this one you numpty”**.

We’ve all been there whilst playing a fish, so you can relate to what I was going through. As the fish was only 50 yards out the lads appeared

shouting come on!!! I was shaking like a leaf and the old chocolate starfish was winking like a goodun, Martin done the honours with the net and as he looked up with his head torch neigh on blinding me he said, “Geeze that my son is another good fish”, I must admit I was more relieved then anything.

**On the scales she went 40lb bang on**, the grin was back, and I was back in the game. Martin done the honours with the camera, the fish was then treated and

returned. I wasted no time and got the rod rebaited and back out to the area, I was buzzing and knew I wouldn’t be getting any sleep soon, so the kettle went on for a well-deserved coffee. . A big mistake...

I must say but there’s nothing better then celebrating with a banging coffee, I was still awake at 02:00 o’clock and witnessed Martin net his 19th fish of the trip weighing in at 26lb. I waited for him to get



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his rod back out then I finally managed to get in the bag for some kip.

At 07:00 o’clock my middle rod went into melt down, the receiver was going ballistic I burst out all starrie eyed and lifted the rod trying to compose myself at the same time. What a way to wake up usually it’s the alarm clock but not today. oh no, this is how all us carp anglers like to be woken up. The fish just stayed deep neigh on the whole fight, it felt like another good fish and it wasn’t until I slid the net under and peered into the net I knew it was another banger. The lads were on hand to assist and



yes it was another unit weighing in at 41lb... this is unreal and more rewarding after I changed things about. With the photos complete the rod was back out to the same

area and the area topped up with a few pouchfuls of boilies, One little trick I was doing regarding the baiting was, I was introducing a few scoopfuls

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of the Blitz when I was sending the bait boat out to the areas, I know it was cold but it seemed to add another dimension to my baiting strategy if you want to call it that, anyway, it was working and when you find something that works stick with it.

Come mid morning, myself and Martin

decided to go into town to get some fresh baguettes. Chris was left in charge and both me and Martin were hoping to come back with Chris having banked a fish. I suppose all in all we were gone half hour and as we came back through the fishery gates I could see Chris into a fish. Martin stepped on the

gas like we were in a get away car, as we pulled up and jumped out Chris looked at us with total disgust on his face, as we got to him and looked down he had landed a huge bream!!!... Honestly you had to be there to appreciate it, both me and Martin were in absolute bits, I was laughing so much I had tears



rolling down my face, at one point I thought Martin was having an asthma attack he was laughing that much. Chris was super annoyed.... I could understand it, but just couldn't comprehend it.



With the fun over Martin served up the baguette of dreams, I know I've said it before, but he really does know how to look after his guests. With my belly full, it was time to sit and watch the water and take in the beautiful surroundings as come tomorrow I will be reeling in and packing up heading for home. All of a sudden, the right-hand rod that had been out for quite some time ripped off, I lifted into the fish and again it stayed deep

and just plodded about. The knees gave a little shake as it felt like another good fish, after 10 or so minutes the fish was in the net, and never guess what?... It's only another unit, I felt like shouting from the rooftops, I let out a massive OOOOSSSSSH HHHHHHHH.... excitement got the better of me, the lads were on hand as always to assist, Martin done the honours again with the camera and took some great

shots. On the scales she went 40lb exactly which was odd as I thought my scales were stuck on 40!! So, we weighed the fish on Martins scales and the fish weighed the same... It was another 40lber banked, which took my tally to 1 x 20 and 4 x 40s. I couldn't be happier after a hard week this was good going, there was still plenty of time left and my hope of catching one of the real bigguns

Later in the afternoon Martin managed his 20th fish of the trip a lovely 34lb 8oz mirror., he was definitely in the going swim, catching consistently throughout the week. The evening came, and our last dinner was going to be the traditional Kebab and chips from the local chippy. I am not a big fan of kebabs at the best of times, but Martin assured me that they were definitely lamb, I was thinking more like horse, but it was lovely all the same.

We stayed up until quite late, just after midnight to be exact, but once in the bag I just couldn't sleep, I felt there was still more to come. I managed to get to sleep just after 01:00 o'clock and an hour later I



was out the bag lifting into another fish, it was the middle rod again. With the moon shining down it was quite bright, the fish

didn't put up much of a fight and after a few minutes he was in the net, as I peered in it looked around



the mid twenty mark and on the scales he went 23lb. When the fish was on the mat I noticed it only had one eye and found out the

next morning it was in fact a fish named Nelson... Happy days!!!.. what a way to end a great week, that was to be my last

fish of the trip, and believe me I was over the moon with what I caught.

Sometimes you need to change things about and when you do, and it works that's the reward. I could have sat behind motionless rods for the week but I chose to dig deep and try little changes and they worked. Did the full moon play a part? I am a big believer when there's a full moon the bigguns tend to get caught. On certain lakes certain fish do get caught on or around a full moon so there's definitely food for thought there.

The journey home wasn't so bad after all, which is always the case when you've not only caught, but are



more than happy with what you did catch, I certainly was.

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warm and remember its only fishing.

All the best

I would like to take this opportunity to Thank Martin for inviting me to fish his beautiful lake, the hospitality he showed and for both his and Chris's great company... always a pleasure gents.

Also Essex Leads which you can find on Facebook.

*Geezer*

If you're out on the bank stay safe, keep

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**"TOP PENGUIN" BANKSIDE**  
**DIARY...**

**BY ADI BLANTFORD**

Firstly, can I wish you all a Happy New Year and I hope you all had a great time over the festive period.

Secondly, I would like to introduce myself and tell you a little bit about what it is I do and what I'm going to be writing about each month in 'Talking Carp'.

My name is Adi Blantford, aka 'Top Penguin' and I'm your average, down to earth, day to day, carp angler, who is lucky enough to visit various day ticket carp waters throughout the country on a regular basis.

My job, which is not fishing related, means that I travel a lot and have to stay away from home which in turn means spending time away from my wife and 3 young kids. However, instead of spending my nights in hotels, I choose to spend

them on the bank at various carp venues throughout the week.

"WOW" I hear you say "what a life" but I can assure you, it is not all it's cracked up to be, especially through the long, cold and dark nights of the winter months, where my only friend is the 'camcorder' I seem to spend so much time with, but I will come onto that shortly.

That said, it does have its plus points and is also very cost effective compared to hotel prices and after living in Scotland for 25 years that's a major bonus for me, as we are tight up there..!

It has also meant I've had the opportunity to meet many good people during my time on the bank, fished some great venues and luckily managed to catch some wonderful

CARP along the way....so not all bad...!

Right, with the introductions and background check done let me tell you what this section I have been asked to start is all about. Starting in the February Issue, I will be writing a monthly 'Diary' about my fishing exploits and the venues I stay at.

This is not a technical section about carp fishing, I'm not a good enough angler for that, but more of an insight into my carp fishing life. It will be a very personal insight, nothing left out, just real pure CARP fishing, which is something you will hopefully be able to relate to as a carp angler yourself. It will include the mistakes I make along the way, the lessons I learn and also, information about the fisheries and swims that you can refer to

for future use..... and hopefully, a few laughs and even some fish thrown in...!

You will recall I mentioned my friend, the 'Camcorder', well, the reason for this is I also have a You Tube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/DayTicketAngler>

Here, you can get the visual side of each session I do and this will give you the best of both worlds as you can 'see' what I have been writing about in the 'Diary'.

My Video Logs (Vlogs) are very raw, very real and nothing is edited out. The highs and the lows are there for all to see, which so many

of us go through when out on the bank and they are certainly not about 'look what I can catch' or 'staged' in any way.

There are already 'Vlogs' on the Channel from 2017, so please take a look and remember to hit the 'Subscribe Button' and the 'Bell Icon'



## Top penguin bankside diary

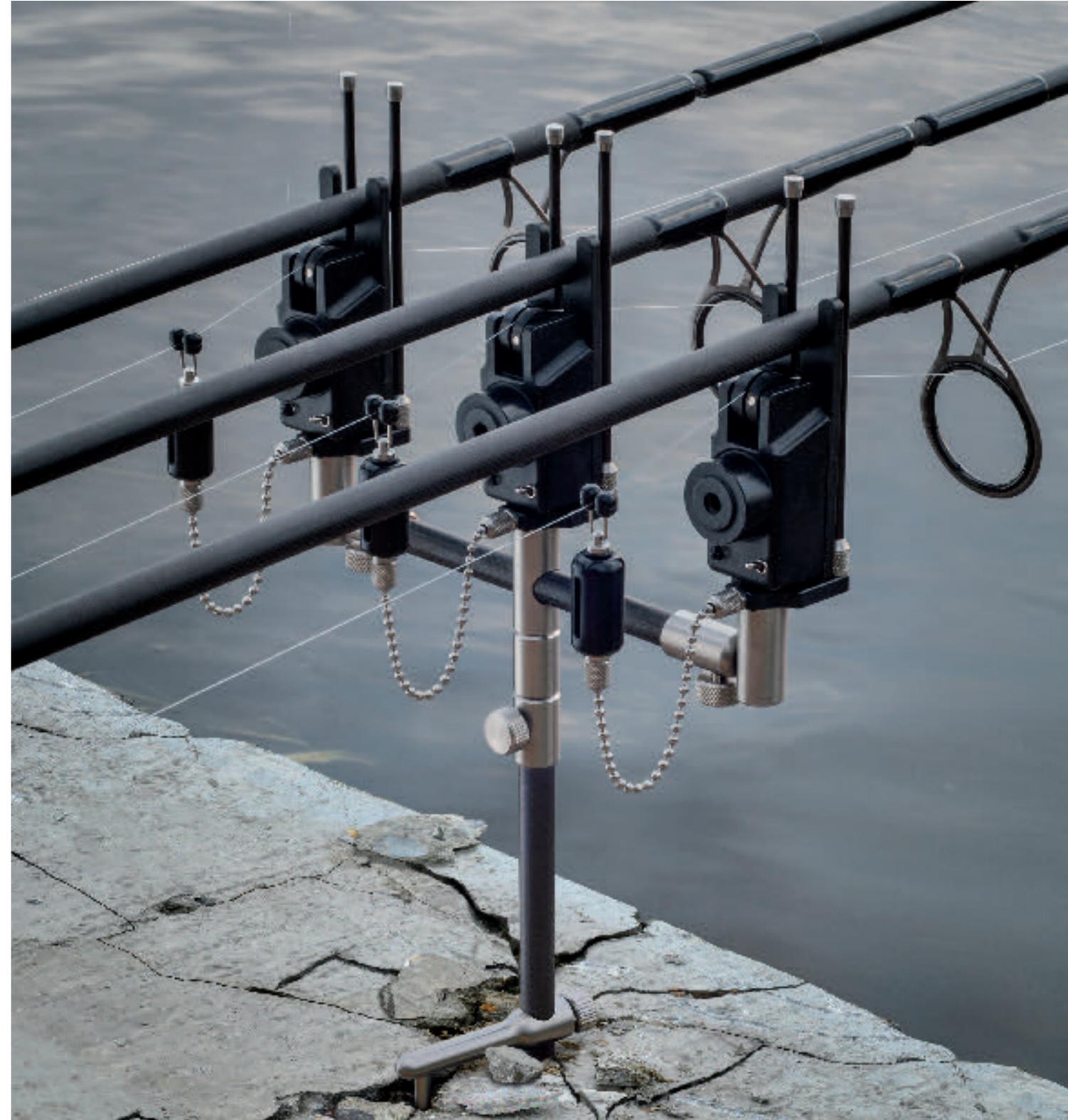
Also, to enhance my Vlogs, every Wednesday at 7pm I do a 'Live Feed' on my Channel from the bank or, if I am not away, from my home. I have a regular 'Community' that join me online and this is growing week by week. We just chat about fishing in general and how everybody's life is going really. It's not a Question and Answer session as I leave that to the 'big

boys' in the world of carp fishing.

My view is this; we used to go down to the pub and chat about this stuff but nowadays, with everyone's busy life styles, that doesn't seem to happen anymore. With the Live Feed, we can sit in the comfort of our own homes and chat to other carp anglers, the ones the carp industry have forgotten

about, the average and unsponsored carp angler and maybe we'll learn a trick or two from each other. Hopefully you will enjoy the 'Monthly Diary Section' in here and also join me 'Live' online and if you're out on the bank remember **'THE TUG IS THE DRUG'**.

Adi 'Top Penguin'  
Blantford



# LOOK LIKE YOU MEAN IT



# Targeting My First UK Forty Part 1

*Eric's Willows, the good the bad and  
everything in-between  
by Scott Green*

Scott Green

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Hi fellow talking carp readers, let's start with a quick introduction my name is Scott Green and I'm based in the North West of England. I'm currently in the process of setting up a fishing related business called Team Terminal Tackle, well enough of the boring stuff let's get started.

Let's start from the beginning, I was fortunate to obtain a ticket to fish the mighty willows owned by Eric's angling in early 2014. However it wasn't until July 2016, I finally decided to make the 93 mile journey across country to target the immense stock of big fish that reside in the venue.

Willows its self is a 25 acre gravel pit which is open to the elements, it has a total of 21 pegs. The lake tends to be really weedy and absolutely stuffed

with naturals, the lake is generally gin clear, apart from when there are algae blooms.

The stock as mentioned above is immense for the North of England, with a good head of 20s, 30s and 40s, also a few 50s at right time of year with a lake record over 59 plus.

## Session one (Late July)

With this in mind the first 93 mile journey went in a flash and I was soon opening the gates, with a fully loaded barrow, feeling like a fat kid in a sweet shop. After two laps of the lake in the sweltering heat I decided to fish peg 12, after leading about it was apparent to me there was loads of Canadian weed smothering majority of the lakebed in front of

the swim, with this in mind I decided to fish zigs on all the rods ranging from 2ft to 4ft. To cut a long story short on my second morning I managed to open my account with a 17lb zip linear, this was to be my only fish of my first three nights on the lake.

That first session it was apparent to me that due to the weed and with the only other three fish being caught that session where aided by bait boats. A new plan was required, so after an impulse buy I was now an owner of an rt4 and £1600 lighter in the pocket, to the delight of my missus shush.



## Session two (Mid-September)

I'd planned to go back on willows when then bait boat arrived, however with one thing and another it was September before I ventured back with a new plan. The weather was now cooler therefore my plan was to over fish bait with the aid of the bait boat, this session I'd brought a mixture of worms, caster, chopped boilie, corn, tiger nuts and hemp.

After arriving at a super busy lake, after a couple of laps I managed to find a few fish among the weed beds in peg 13. So the decision was made peg 13 it was, barrow loaded and off I went on the big push to the swim. After a quick lead around with a 4oz square pear my preferred lead for

this task, I'd found three reasonable area to present my rigs between the weed beds.

However due to weed being present I used extra-long rigs of about 18 inches, and at the time my own test hooks, now the TTT straight point size 4s. These were fished on the TTT safety clips coupled with a 5oz square pear leads. I often find myself tending to used long rigs, heavy leads and big hooks when targeting heavily weedy venues.

An issue with the bait boat meant the echo wasn't working, however not to worry as I mapped the swim with the leading rod. Within the hour I was fishing, house up and tea on. I watched the lake up until around midnight, with a couple of shows near the

spots.

That first morning I received a couple of beeps resulting in a pike, shortly followed by another taking a like to my worm hook baits. That day passed quite quickly with nothing to show for my efforts, however I'd seen a couple of shows including one big fish.

During the night I heard only what could be described as a cow dropping from the sky. The second morning the lake went flat and nothing was showing, so decided to take a walk to see if there were any better options available. After a lap of the lake, it became apparent the lake was fishing extremely slow and had only done a single stocky, between 15 anglers. With big fish in the area I decided to stay put for my final night.

Rig wise I was fishing with a simple blow back rig, baited with worms and pop ups. With the rods re-done, it was now a waiting game. There were a couple of shows around 10pm, but nothing else by midnight so I decided to hit the hay.

I was up at first light for the usual morning brew while watching the world wake up, when at around 8am I received two bleeps on my ATTS alarm's followed by another single bleep. As I stood by the rods the line went wash line light with another beep I picked up the rod and bent into the fish the rod took a healthy curve.

Straight away I realised it wasn't a pike, in fact it was a carp and felt a decent one too plodding away with heavy lunges. Within

5 minutes I'd got the fish on the surface about 20 yards out, a sigh of relief knowing the heavy lead had dropped off. The lads from pegs 12 and 14, where now stood by my side, which was a good job really as a ball of weed needed removing from my top ring with the fish still a good three rod lengths out. In double quick time the lad had removed the weed and the slow heavy battle continued, this is when I first got a proper glimpse of the carp I was attached to. The carp could only be

described as a unit a few minutes later it was mine, a quick look in the net revealed it was indeed I chunk.

I knew it was at least an upper 30, at this point I was buzzing. With help from the lads we weighed the said prize which spun the Reuben's all the way around to 41.00 a new PB for the UK. That morning was a total blur and I was soon packed up and on my way home planning my next session. Not knowing it was it be even bettered the very next session.



### Session three (Early October)

Still buzzing from the session a couple weeks previous, I did my usual lap of the lake I left my gear in peg 1, after seeing the sticking move. The lake was fishing extremely slow still and only pegs 18 and 19 where doing the odd fish. Fortunately the lad in peg 19 was due off at dinner the next day, so I left a bucket in the swim with the intention to move the following morning. The weed in peg one was really thick but cleared towards the bar all three tods where positioned at distance.

The evening drew to a close with no action, that morning I had a couple of bleeps signalling a take. I managed to gain about ten or so turns on the reel before all

went limp, I'd been cut off in the weed which is littered with zebra mussels, I felt sick. The lad in peg 19 had managed a 27lb in the night, so I slowly packed up and barrowed my gear around to peg 19.

So around just after the lad vacated the swim for me to move in, same tactics with particle and naturals approach as the previous session. Also same set up lead clips system, couple with a 5oz square pear and bog standard blow back rigs about 18 inches long. By around 1.30pm I was fishing I'd had a lead around and the swim was solid with weed up to around 85 yards I ended up fishing all three rod a 96 yard 24 rod lengths. The lake had only produced two fish in the first 24 hours of my session.

At 2.30pm I received a couple of bleeps on the left hand rod, signalling a take. After a heavy but slow fight it became weeded up, the bailiff Tom was on hand and straight in the boat to see if he could free the fish the wind was really strong at this point. However with a life jacket and lots of experience it didn't deter him, about 50 yards out Tom pull my line for a weed bed. Then all went slack I felt deflated again, however a few seconds later the row spun and there was an eruption 10 yards in front of the boat it was still GAME ON! After a slow steady battle Tom netted the fish another absolute beast and black as your hat. Thanks to Tom for all the help proper champion, would have struggled otherwise. After resting the fish for 10 minutes, we weighed it and

and incredibly it was another 40 at 40lb12oz. Tom said it was a new 40 for the lake buzzing wasn't the word, after the photographs were finished. After I released the beast, I just stared and admired it has it waddled back into the clear depths of willows.

I couldn't believe my luck my last two fish

where both 40s, all the rods where re-positions at 96 yard toward my tree line markers on the opposite bank.

During the night at around 10pm I received another take resulting in a 37lb12oz I couldn't believe it, another absolute chunk. Which came to my middle rod, after photographs and returning the fish.

I sent the rt4 back out to the same spot hoping for another take, morning came with no more action it got to dinner time so I decided to reel in and take a walk. After a lap of the lake it revealed on one stocky had been out and another 40 from next door in peg 18, between 14 anglers.





So back out to the spots with the aid of the boat the job was done in double quick time, I tidied up the swim and put the tea on. While watching for any signs, by 10pm I'd seen three shows in total one of which was a real unit. At around 11pm I received another take, I picked the rod up and again felt heavy. I couldn't believe it half out it managed to weed me up I couldn't move it even under pressure so I put the rods down and flicked the bail

alarm over. Over 20 minutes later my alarm let out two bleeps, so I picked up the rod and again it was solid still. So I steadily applied as much pressure as I dared, then all of a sudden the fish started to move to my relief. The battle was slow and heavy till I managed to get it to the net then it bolted, I tend not to use a head torch when possible so I can only presume it had seen the net. I knew now I was attached to yet another monster carp,

the fish powering off underneath my other to rods meaning I had to pass the rod under them both twitchy arse time I can tell you.

After the first initial big run I managed to gain line slowly but surely till near netting range with the first attempt, I scooped my prize the relief was immense. At this moment I knew this was a fair size bigger than the previous fish, so I went to get some help from peg 20. I then wet the sling and zeroed the scales, broke the net down and slipped the giant into the sling. Checking that all its fins were flat to its body, before lifting it out the water and carrying to the unhooking mat. We then slipped a storm pole through the top loop of the Reuben's and lifted the fish up, the lad from peg 20 then told me it was 48lb 12oz boooooom.



### Session four (Late October)

After the success of the past a couple of sessions, I was mega

A few pictures and an aching back later, I released the fish. Which happened to be the Steve Turner fish one of the A-team.

The rod was repositioned a quick brew and I tried to get some sleep, however due to the adrenaline I struggled, the next morning the wind picked up significantly and a cold front began to move in with the temperature dropping by at least seven degrees in a couple off hours. However at around 1pm I managed a bite resulting in a zip linear which weighed 21.8, which happened to be the last fish of the session. The following couple of days the heavy winds and low temperature's seems to knock the carps enthusiasm to feed and no fish came out at all.

eager to get back to willows and it so happened I could do two nights on the 27th October, arriving at the lake at 2pm. I had a walk around the lake



and they'd be a couple of VS fish out to low 20s out the previous couple of days and one of the prized big commons at 40+, the mighty twisted scale. The only fish I managed to find where in front of peg 5, so that's where I headed for with the rods out, house up. I began to watch for signs of fish in the area, it slowly became apparent that the bulk of the fish where in front of peg 7. I decided to stay put and set my alarm for 6am and move if I hadn't had a fish.

After a fishless night at 6am my alarm sounded my phone alarm to my disgust lol, a quick brew while weighing up my options. During this brew I'd seen two subtle shows in between pegs 6 and 7, thus meaning I was close but not close enough, I quickly packed up and by 7am,

I was in peg 7 angling again. House up and I quick sort out of the bomb site namely my swim, I was back in the game over the next 27 hours I managed a total of seven takes, proving the importance of actually location and being on fish.

I managed to land all seven fish which included three doubles, three 20s to 27.04 which happened to be probably the biggest VS in the lake then and one of the Croatian's at

a whopping 38.02.

Tactic wise it was the usual rigs consisting of Team Terminal Tackle components, fished over the usual chopped boilies, caster, worm and hemp provided by Hull Particles. During the session I had takes of three spots varying in distances of 60 and 84yards, and one point having two at once, hectic to say the least.

### ***Below the 38.02***



TalkingCarp

### **Session 5 and 6 (Mid November and Early December)**

To cut a long story short with high winds, rain, snow, hails, issues with my bait boat ect, the carp lead me a merry dance and no matter how many times I moved and changed tactics it wasn't really to be. I had one consolation at the end of the November session a 21.04 VS fish, but considering Eric's Willows being known to be a fairly difficult



winter water it was a result on its own to be fair. So it comes to an end my first piece of my angling journey on the mighty willows a condensed piece of my

exploits of the latter of 2016 season. Part 2 will follow on my 2017 fishing on willows in next month's issue.

I Hope you enjoyed my ramblings guys and gals, and just remember your next fish could whacker if you chose the right venue.

Regards

*Scott Green*



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# PVA BAG FISHING



by Gary Milky Lowe

Solid pva bags are available in a variety of shapes and sizes but the end presentation is always the same, your entire rig is placed inside the bag along with enough freebies to fill the bag, once on the lake bed and the pva has dissolved, you will be left with a nice neat pile of bait and inside that bait your rig will be hidden.



Like any method on waters were solid bags are not used much they can be very effective and there suited to all sizes of carp not just small ones, I tend to use solid bags more if it's a weedy lake and the carp are spending a lot of time in the big weed beds, in situations like this you don't have many options but to fish where the carp are and a solid bag gives you the best presentation that will leave your hook free from all the weed on the bottom.

There is a variety of pva bags available as I said, and different people like different size bags, my favourite and the only one that I use is the small Taska pva breakdown bags, these are perfect for my type of fishing. Once these are filled with the lead, rig and the mainline spod and bag mix, I can fish from the margins to over one hundred yards with them... it's the ideal size.

Another reason for favoring this type and size of bag is that once filled and tied I want it to be nice and small and compact, particularly if I am fishing in the weed where I need the bag to go through the thin weed to the lake bed. If you want to use different size bags please take into consideration what you want the bag to do, the bigger bags are ideal if you want to put a lot of

bait in a bag close in but not too good for distance and the other downside of bigger bags is that it will settle on top of the weed were I like mine to be on the lake bed, There is also different types of pva that bags are made out of there is perforated and then there is just the normal standard bag, the perforated bag has hundreds of small holes perforated all over the bag which will allow the air to escape while you're making the bag plus you will not have to puncture the bag before you cast it out, this will stop the bag from floating, the bog standard pva bag doesn't have holes in it, they are slightly stronger and will take longer to dissolve. I mainly use the standard pva bag and then I just pierce them with a baiting needle. The good point about the standard pva bag is that you can use pva friendly liquids inside them like the mainline bag and stick mix which

will give you more attraction around your hook bait.

While bags of bait and liquid can prove deadly at times it really comes into its own in the winter months, were you don't need to put in loads of bait, most of the time I use the same mix in my pva bags... I have one hundred percent faith the mainline spod and particle mix and additives caught hundreds of fish on them. If you like the idea of using solid pva bags then it's worth experimenting with different mixes to get the right one for you and your happy with, different anglers want their bag mix to work in different ways so spend the time getting it right.

Getting the right rig to use in the pva bag, I keep it nice and simple I use a 3-inch piece of Kryston Merlin, a size 8 hook and mainline pop up with a split shot on the hair



to keep it nicely pinned down. Braid is a must when using solid pva bags as it curls up nicely in the bag, if you used a stiff material it would kink up and would stick up off the bottom and make your presentation very poor. The lead you need to use is an in-line lead it makes it easier to pack nicely into the bag, make sure the lead is placed in the middle of the bag this will make the bag cast further and straighter. If you want the lead to eject on the take if its really weedy I will use a drop off in-line.

pva pellets into the bottom then I place my rig in one corner, after this I fill more pellet on top to about a quarter of the way up the bag then place the lead on top and fill the bag to about three quarters of the way up. After this you have to make sure that you compress the bag to get all the air out, now you have to tie the top of with some pva tape then all you have to do is round the bottom two corners of so the bag is nice and streamlined so it casts out nice and straight. So if you have not tried pva bags before then



So now how do I make one of my solid pva bags? Well first I take one of the small Taska breakdown bags out of the packaging then I open it up and I place a small pva bag up loader inside the pva bag... this keeps the bag open while I am filling it with free bait, then I place a small layer of mainlines spod and

definitely give them a try, you will be surprised by the results you have when your buzzers might have just stayed silent!! Give them a go the results speak for themselves.

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Carp  
Chronicles  
by  
Brett McPhee

So as the weather changes and it starts to get too cold to do the night for me I concentrate on trying to find a venue that will produce a few bites and one I can visit on a regular basis. I am a member of a private water in Bolton that's a deep reservoir, I have had a few sessions on it during the year but in winter it can come into its own if the effort is put in. Last year I managed to catch even in the snow, keeping bait going in means the fish actively look for it and that's why it's important to pick a local venue.

My plan is to drop on midweek and stick some bait in and then do the day session on a Friday, weather permitting mind. I dropped on midweek and sneakily dispatched a kilo of my chosen bait, ready for Friday.

On Friday 24th November I was out on the first cold visit as such, arriving around 8am the ground was bright white, the crisp sound of a crunch under foot as I walked down to the area I had fed midweek and the distinct cold numb feeling in my fingers meant I knew a night would not have been a great choice. I quickly got all the rods sorted out and had decided due to the feed that had gone in simple Multi rigs with 12mm pop ups from Covert Baits would be perfect. I had found a nice

raised area about 60 yards out the week before it was still 7-8ft deep but was slightly up on the 9-10ft around it. All 3 rods were out in no time and I sat back and stuck the kettle on for the first brew of the day.

While it was warming I grabbed the throwing stick and put out about 30-40 Baits in the general area my head just can't get the single bait option just yet.

Happy and content I sat back and flicked on the radio to listen



to the madness on the roads unfold as it was Black Friday!

True to form nutter house wife's after dropping off their little angles where fighting in the aisles for 20% off that must have Christmas dress, it made me more than happy to be lake side brew in hand and rods out !!

Around 9:45 Mark was in my swim as the mad man had done the night on the point with temps of -1, he had come to grab a brew after using all his supplies. I fired up the Monkey to make some bacon wraps and sure to form the rod ripped off, why does it always happen when you start to do some food..... with that thought if I cook all the time I have an excuse for being a fat shit as I can say it's so the fish start to bite.....

Anyway after a good battle a lovely double figure fish languished in the net ready for a quick snap. I never weighed the fish but estimated it around 13-14lb at this time of the year I am happy to just be catching and all thoughts of big fish are cast to the back of my mind.

The rest of the morning into the afternoon was quite with only a few fish showing slightly to the left of my area, and as 1:30pm approached and the cold now getting to my bones



it was time to call it a day and go pick up my daughter from school. But before I left another 1.5kg of the chosen bait the Tigernut Red Armo was stuck out in the area with the stick. I had planned to get down Tuesday the week after but work and family put a stop to that and instead I found myself treading the ground down to my area again Thursday morning straight from a night shift, temps had gone down to -2 during the night and the sludge of mud had

been replaced with solid frozen ground. I again put in around a kilo of bait via the throwing stick and sat watching the water for an hour, only one show was seen and that was near where I had put out my bait, hopefully they would still be there tomorrow and the free food would have them feeding confidently.

Arriving in the car park on Friday i was not surprised to see no other anglers, overnight temps had gone to below freezing and the grass was a distinctive white, Jack Frost had definitely been about. I loaded the barrow and trundled down the path to where I had been fishing recently and set about getting the rods out. Again simple tactic 2 multi rigs and a chod all on various colours



of the Fruit special pop ups, a little bit of freebies spread with the stick and I was angling.

It's amazing what a hot coffee can do at this time of the year and with the kettle fired up and a brew inside I felt ready to take the day on, also the rising sun to my right was making it much more pleasant. There had not been a sign of a fish as the hours ticked away

and by 10:45 bite time had gone based on previous captures over the last few weeks.

I reeled in and had a walk round to the bay to see if anything was showing, nothing not even a roach fart!! So I stuck with where I was and got them back out, about 1pm the right rod signalled a take and scrambled to the rod only to realise a Canadian goose had swan through my line

and was now tangled! I managed to bring it all the way back into the margin and was thinking I was doing good here I can grab it and release it no issue when it had other ideas and went berserk smashing through both my other lines and snapping the one it was originally caught in!

Wonderful just wonderful!!

I had to be off soon anyway and this seemed like the perfect time to call it a day! The next week seen me hiding in the house the weather was shocking, hail, rain and snow !!

Not really my thing but on the plus side I enter loads of online competitions and this week my numbers came up as such and I bagged a £1,200 trip to France for 2!!

I was blown away and after a talk with my best mate Jim and the owner of the company Marc we have settled on a trip to Central carp in West France, fish to 60lb our own private swim and a Gite with kitchen, bar, beds and heating..... I can't wait !

And rest assured if I am still lucky enough to be still writing for the magazine you will know all about it !!

Friday 15th found me heading to Meadowview with temps slightly higher the last few days and the lads telling me there was no lid on it I was gutted to pull into the fishery at 8am to find the main lake frozen solid!

As I was out I thought I may as well have a go on the small one near the office Linnet, it's mainly for disabled anglers and matches but does hold a few

carp over the double figure range and Mike the owner had said if I was lucky enough to land one he wanted it moving into the middle pond anyway.

It was cold, maybe 1c and the car ice around the margins made it hard work to see what was a bite and what was the ice moving with the wind.

I had a few knocks and pulls but nothing that I can write about and by 2pm after 6 hours in cold temperatures I had well had my fix for now and headed home.

The rest of my December was either spent trying to find the right weather to get out with the lake freezing, drop shooting for Perch or enjoying the normal festivities like shopping and drinking.

Well until next time keep enjoying it

Brett

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# INTRODUCING MARC DALTON



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I hope that everyone has had a great time over the holidays and you are all ready for the year ahead? 2018 is here already and another busy Carp Season is on the way. This is the first of a Monthly Diary style article, that I have been asked to write for Talking Carp so, I will start by introducing myself.....

My name is Marc Dalton, I am 45 years old and I have spent a lot of my life either on the water, under the water or next to the water...!

I have worked in Scuba Diving and various Water Sports but my real interest of Angling started a long time ago as a young lad, fishing on my local lakes as much as I possibly could. At the age of 15 I bought my first Carp Rods and since then Carp Fishing has been my number one passion.

In 2004, I moved to Stockholm in Sweden to be with my girlfriend and although this was not my first choice of destinations to live as a Carp Angler, it turned out to be a great move for me.

Knowing very little about the Swedish Carp Fishing scene, I started a whole new adventure and said goodbye to the English Carp Fishing that I knew. I swapped the well-stocked and nicely groomed lakes with their easy access and car parks for the natural forest lakes of Sweden.

My Carp Sessions would consist of long hikes through rough forest terrain to arrive at wild lakes with little or no knowledge of the fish stock. I carried out 'pre-baiting' campaigns on lakes where nearly no one else had fished or I would be trying 'unknown' waters, just because I had heard a 'rumour' of a Carp being seen or heard it might have been stocked in the 80's...!!

This was new territory for me after growing up in the London/Kent area and I had never had to drive around different lakes at the weekends just looking for 'signs of fish' or even indication that showed that maybe, someone had fished there already and in Stockholm, there are literally thousands of lakes.

In the beginning, it was a slow process. Getting to know where to go and

getting to know some of the Swedish Carp Anglers, especially back then as there really were not that many, but as time went by I met some great anglers and made some very good friends. I also developed a love for this type of 'Wild' Carp Fishing. The thrill when your alarm is screaming on a very low stocked, hard lake, is just second to none and then, when you land one of the old dark Scaley Mirrors, all those hard treks and blank days and nights are soon forgotten...!

I stayed in Stockholm for twelve years and I absolutely loved every minute of my Carp Fishing there and no doubt I will mention it from time to time, as I do miss it when I think back.

After a varied past and some amazing fishing sessions, I am now lucky enough to be working full time as the bailiff at Lac Baleine Fishing Lake. The lake is situated near the town of Vitry Le Francios in the Champagne region of France.

As we make our way through the year, I plan to give you an insight of what 'bailiff life' in rural France is like, the normal everyday life, the highs and the lows, along with regular catch reports and photos from our guests and hopefully, even I will be able to get in on the action and can report on a catch or two of my own..!!

Lac Baleine is a 23-acre lake with 23 swims. We only allow a maximum of 12 anglers on the lake at one time so there are always opportunities to move around if you want to.

The lake holds around 350 Carp and can be a challenging water but the rewards can be very big with the current lake record being held by a mirror known as 'Twin Scale' and she last weighed in at 74.36lb in October 2017.

The lake has toilet and shower facilities along with an Anglers Cabin and me as the full-time, on-site bailiff along with my Carp Dog, Jessie or 'J-Dog' as she is known to her friends...!!

I am very happy to be working on this lake as it is an exciting time to be here as there are unknown fish still being caught from time to time.

The fishery owner has a great deal of experience and knows exactly what is required to make it successful. With his input and the rate the fish are growing here, it looks like it will be another busy year and hopefully another Lake Record coming out. I am certain there will be a few new PB's set on here in 2018. Don't forget to check the lake out on our Facebook Page, Lac Baleine Fishing Lake

Tight Lines and I hope you all have a great 2018.....Marc and J-dog



Swedish 'Wild' Carp

One of the  
50's out in  
2017



2017 Lake  
Record 'Twin  
Scale' at  
74.3lb



# EASY PICK-UP



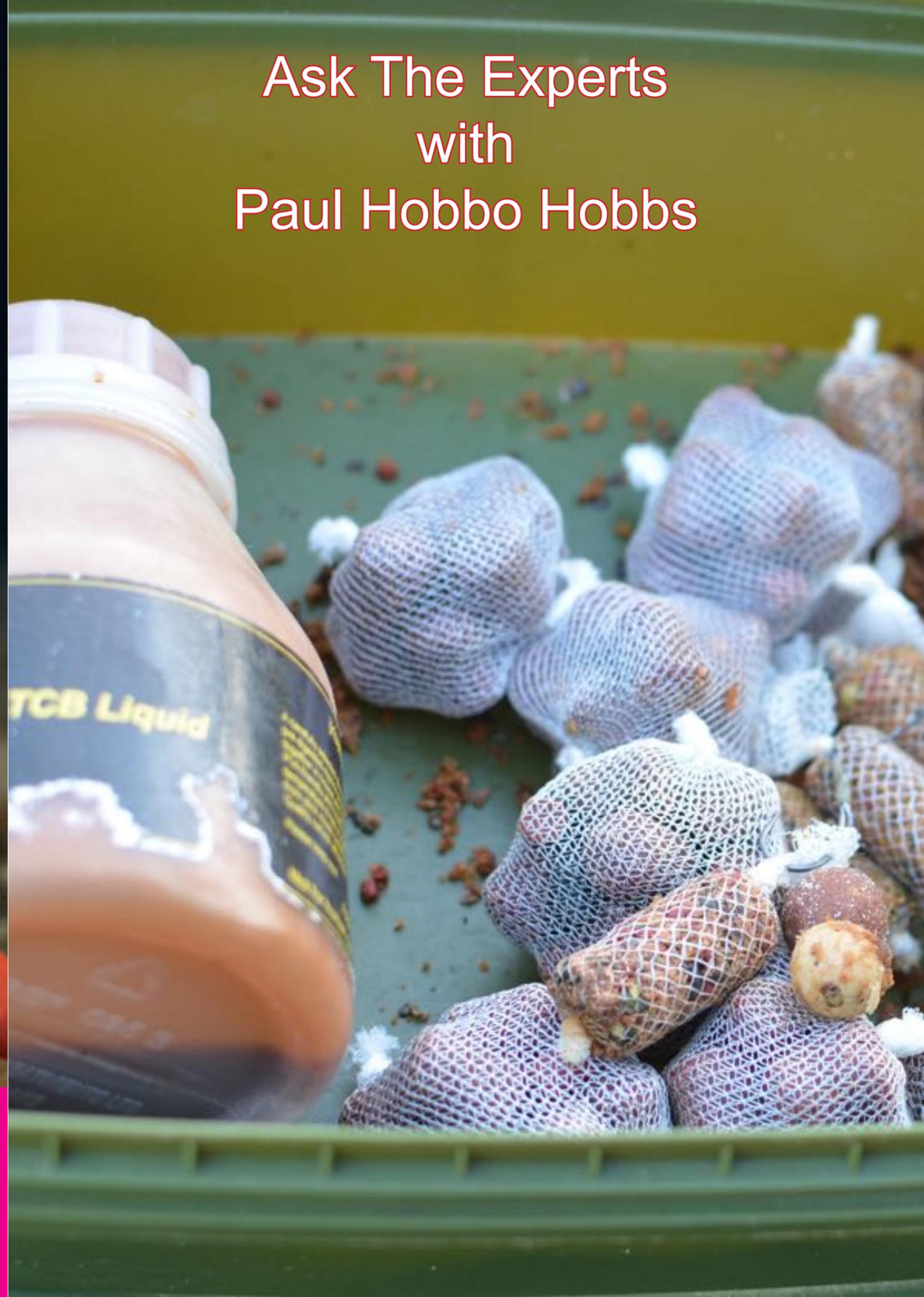
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Ask The Experts  
with  
Paul Hobbo Hobbs



Hello there and I sincerely hope that everyone had a good Christmas and got out on the bank at some point before the new year. So, with that a Happy New Year to All! I've been asked to give my top 3 tips for getting a bite in colder conditions. As I write this I am on an overnight session on the Saturday before Christmas and I've managed to bag myself one! To me at

this time of year size is not important, it's a bite and a confidence booster which leads me to my first tip – a good proven food bait is important to me within my fishing. I tend to use smaller sizes, 12-14mm instead of my usual 16-18mm. I tend to use a lot of mesh PVA bags either with a couple of crushed boilies or matching low oil pellet. My bag sizes are slightly bigger than a

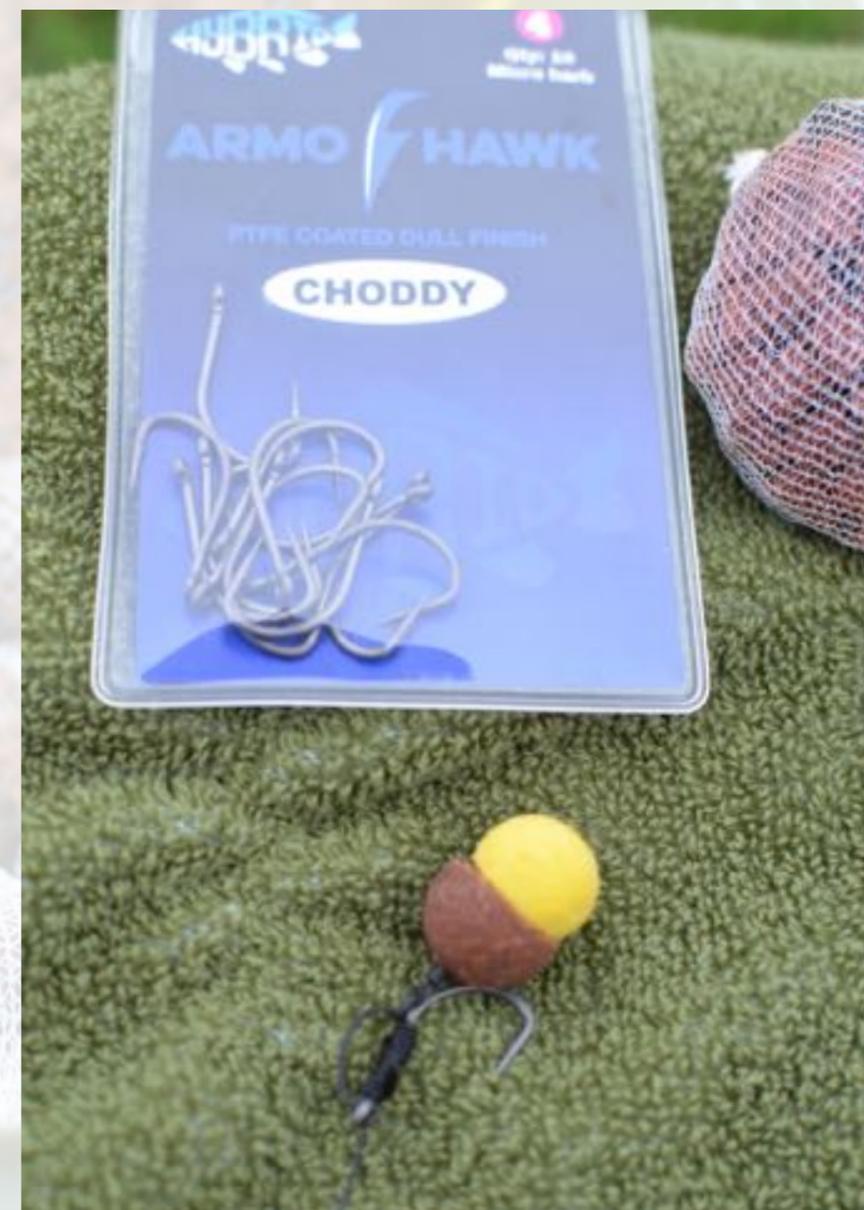
golf ball and when the weather turns very cold I tend to go with a stick mix. With this I just use crushed boilies, micro pellets and a liquid food dip. As for hook baits with this set up confidence is key, I tend to use a boosted hook bait which I add food dip too. My second tip is if I have fish longer out than a mesh set up will take or if I don't know what is on the bottom of the lake bed I tend



to go down the solid bag route. If you are unfamiliar with this set up Hybrid do a solid bag system which is a great way to introduce you into solid bag fishing. This is very good if you have fish showing at distance or close range. Its confidence in a small package. And tip number 3 is – I touched on this in the first tip but hook bait pimping or special single hook baits that come in all different types wafers, pop ups, bottom baits in all shapes and sizes. The choices are phenomenal! Don't panic, use whichever you feel suits you and your fishing when fishing single hook baits. I cannot stress enough the confidence factor in fishing singles. To me this is an underrated tactic. Give it a go especially if your lake isn't fishing very well.

These are my 3 approaches to winter fishing on a busy day ticket fishery for nicking a bite in the colder months. Fishing a well-stocked lake and be ready to move if you see any signs of fish activity. Remember to

keep warm and dry, a happy fisherman is a productive fisherman! All the best from me for now. Let's make 2018 a banger of a year! Be Lucky, Paul.





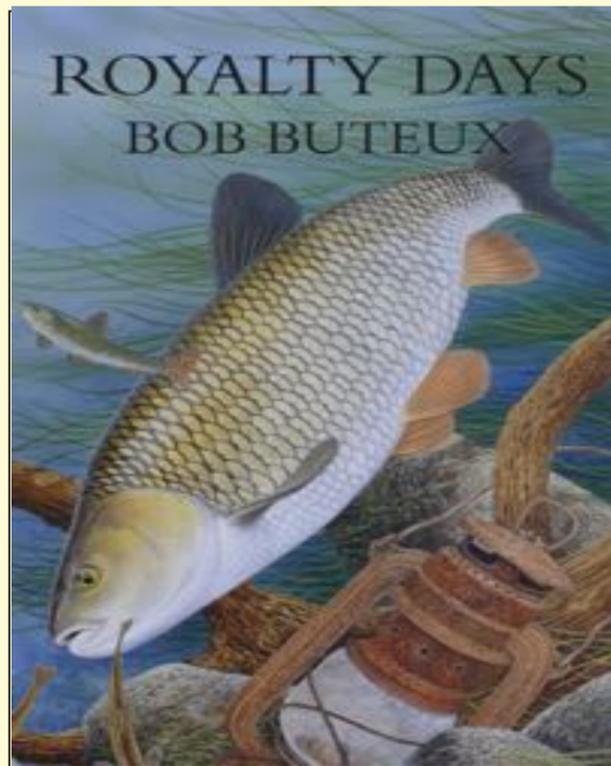
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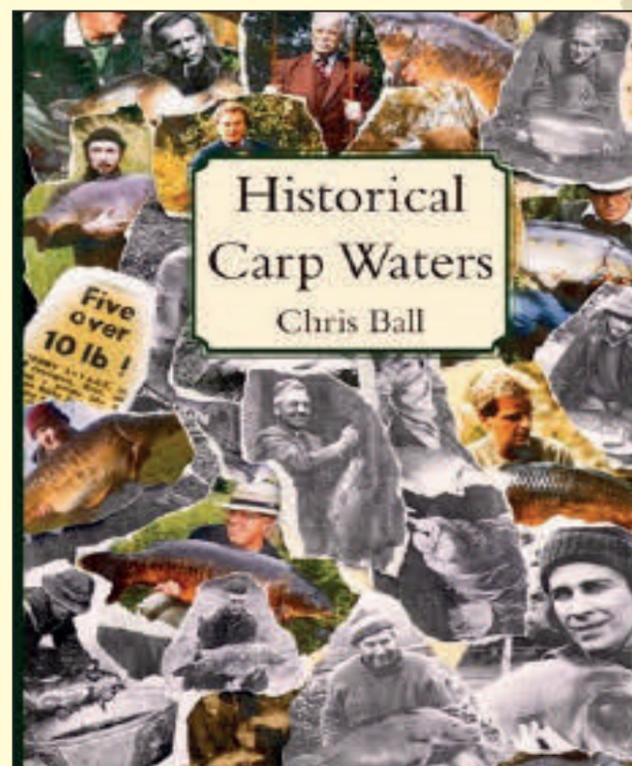
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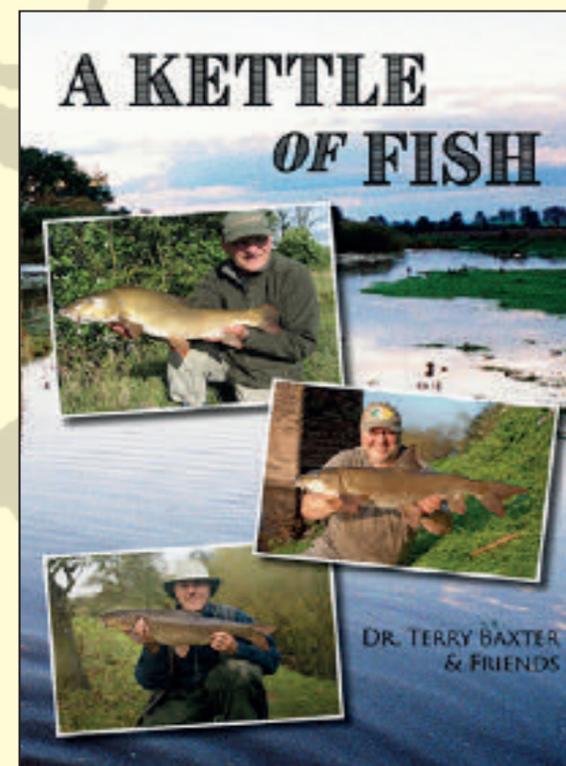
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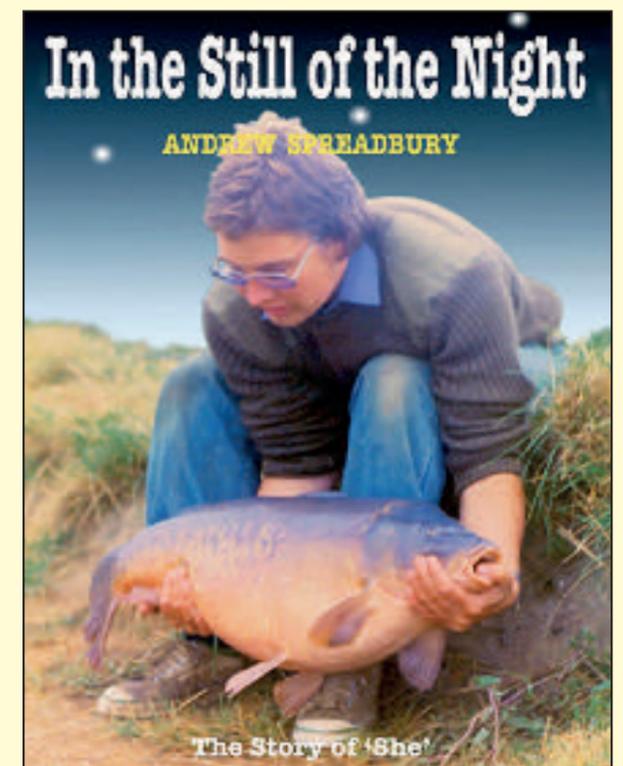
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# Introducing -



Alison Eggleton

## A Female 'Carping' Perspective....

I wouldn't call myself a "professional" carper, in fact, far from it and I know lots of woman that fish more than I do but I am going to make a change to this in 2018.

When Mark first asked me to write an article for Talking Carp, I thought "how hard can it be...?" but I have to say hats off to the people that do this kind of the thing all the time as I find myself having an idea and then work or family get in the way!

It is the night before Christmas Eve, Christmas Eve, Eve.... and I find myself with a bit of time on my hands and thought I should give it a go.... So here goes...

When I first got together with my other half our "dates" were spent on the bank. I think I knew then that I either got to love this sport or, find a new partner and as you can guess I stuck with him and it.

Back in those days, I was just the runner, or mug, whichever way you want to look at it. However, I did learn a lot about Carp Care, Kit and general "Fishy Chit Chat", but when I wanted to start fishing myself, my other half (who is quite old fashioned) was quite taken aback, but also thought he may "put me off", so he made me start at the beginning, with maggots and ground bait on a float rod....!

Little did he know that I soaked up all the information and I actually enjoyed catching roach, perch, bream and anything else that would grace my net...In fact, I was now "hooked"

When it was finally time to get my very own 'first Carp set up', it was made up of a 'mish-mash' of anything that was available at the time and to be honest, I cannot even remember what I had, just as long as I was on the bank and fishing...!

Today, like many others out there, I am a little bit of a 'Tackle Tart' but I still enjoy going back to basics.... occasionally!

I think I knew I was in love with the sport when at eight months pregnant with our first child, I spent a week on the bank and had some awesome fish. In fact, I remember the old man asking me to go home because he was getting so much stick that I was catching and he wasn't. In truth, I think it was a case of him putting me on the right spots and his knowledge of the Lake that made it such a memorable trip...! He loves the banter and enjoys watching others catch more so than him catching himself, something that has never changed...!

Fast forward to my fishing now and with some help from friends, that know a lot more about fishing than I ever will, they helped me to choose the gear I fish with today. I suppose you can say I am quite spoilt in the fact that I do have these people to call on if I need help and they are always willing to give me good advice about all things 'Carpy'..!

I have the Free Spirit CTX's 12ft 3 1/2 TC with the Shimano 1400's. I did have other reels on these rods but the balance was not right and after talking to Mark Hutchison, who advised that I should try the 1400's, which would be perfect for the balance (and who am I to argue with HUTCHY..?), I found these to be a perfect match for me so, I bought four of them, as I also have the CTX Spomb/Marker Rod and I wanted it all to match and that's the 'Tackle Tart' in me..!!

I use Delkim TXI plus Alarms and not for any particular reason as I have never had any real preference when it comes to alarms but just because I was able to get them and the other half had them so that's what I went for. Pods, however, are a bit of a nightmare for me and I've changed my pod more times than I care to think about, why? Well, I think it's because in the shop it looks lovely and brilliant and then you get out on the bank and it takes you twenty minutes to set it up which does my nut in....!!

At the moment, I'm using the old faithful 'Fox A Frame' which the other half has had for over 10 years...! I use this set up for all my fishing now be it in the UK or in France.

When it comes to rigs, bags and the such, I tend to watch lots of 'YouTube' videos from various people and companies. I do this so I can understand in my own time what it is I'm needing to do.

When I'm comfortable, I will then show the "boys" what I've made and believe me, when I tell you they are brutally honest, they are...!! Along with it though, they will also tell me why they are advising I change something or what I've done is not so much wrong, but why it may hinder my fishing....!!!

An example of this is when I had to tie twenty solid bags before the "boys" gave them the thumbs up and said they were good enough to use...harsh but true!

From a woman's perspective when you get the likes of Brad Greening, Wayne Mansford or even the other half and a few others saying they would use something you've just made, it does in fact, give you confidence and in a way relief!!

I



It's even more of a relief when you catch on solid bags having had such criticism, always good criticism though and I don't think I would try it without going through that first.

For me it doesn't matter what size the fish is, it is all about the catching and I still get the same buzz.

The first picture above is 27lb and some 17 years ago. The second picture is the result of my solid bags and was around 8lb. Below is my 47lb 5oz from France and no matter what size the smile says it all!

Over the coming months, I am going to be writing about my preparation for my first Carp Mixed Pairs competition that I am fishing with 'Top Penguin', Adi Blantford and about the event itself and also, my preparation and trip report from my planned French Carping adventure to 'Cretelakes', where I hopefully can bag one of the big ones and beat my current French PB.

All the Best

Alison



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Mike 'SPUG' Redfern

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

# Flood Gates

by Alby Smith

Alby Smith

71

Welcome back my fellow readers

Before I begin unravelling my 6 fish hit on the rez, I would just like to thank each and everyone of you for your continued support within my angling. As a few of you are aware I suffer with a life changing condition called fibro which was diagnosed after my car accident and has had a massive effect the last 2 year or so. After my life was turned upside-down and inside out at such a young age I began to slip into to a downward spiral of pain and suffering, yet the last year or so I've really concentrated on my fishing to help build strength and structure my time a little better. It has definitely helped and now I'm part of something even bigger which is Team Pallatrax. I hope you all had a great Christmas and a happy new year, once again thank you for all your support!!!



As the count down to Christmas was upon us I had time for one last session before me and Chelsey got super busy, I got in contact with Ryan to see if he was busy later on that week. We decided to get on the rez for a quick overnigher. Before I knew, it was prep day (Thursday) I got cracking straight after the morning routine with a blender pinched off my big sister and 2kgs of jungle/meatbeast squabs with 2kgs of particles it was time to make the 'sick mix'.

Combining the two with water and a little elbow grease the sick mix was created, it was now time to tie up a few rigs. The components I choose to use were esp. stiff rigger then Pallatrax steam link 25lb gripz size 6 hook plus a little serious sink to tidy up the rig and act as a kicker. I chose to tie a few different rigs 1. stiff hinge 2. D-rig 3. Hair rig, by doing this beforehand I believed I could present any bait I chose quickly and efficiently.

Fishing day had arrived, and it was time to get down the rez, we arrived just after 1pm and wasted no time in getting set up on the point and the one next door. After a few cast I decided to fish at around 60 yards, grabbed the sick mix and spod rod and started off with 15 midi spombs, then cast my two chosen rigs 1. Hair rig 2. D-rig fishing them close with only a few feet between each, after both rods went out I sat back and relaxed with a brew. The time was now getting on a bit and then sun was almost set.... with only a few liners to go on I then topped up the swim with 20 more spombs and reset both rods.

Ryan joined me in the bivvy and we got watching Peaky Blinders which was shortly interrupted with Ryan's 3rd fish, after getting the fish back safely we unpaused Peaky and was once again interrupted, but this time it was my delkim screaming into action. With a tighten of the clutch and a slow walk back I turned and said to Ryan "this will be my first Pallatrax fish", after a few winds Mr carp knew who was boss and I steered him straight over the cord! With the sheer excitement of it all I didn't even realise the Gripz hook had slipped right out before even matting the fish. After a few photos with this 15lb common I slipped him back and got to



work rebating and resetting. As if by magic the moment Peaky went back on Ryans rod was off again.... he managed to slip the net under a low double common. The same thing continued to happen after each fish we had caught and put back!!! I know.... strange right? Well It was well into the session by now and I was on four fish (all at around 15lb)and Ryan was on six, there was no way either one of us could stay up any later so it was time to hit the sack.

All of a sudden, the heavens opened, then rain beating down on the bivvy had started to wake me I checked them time and it was only 4am, but now with all the noise I couldn't get back to sleep so I stuck the kettle on and got the biscuits out. Shortly after finishing my brew my rod sprang into action!! With the bobbin hitting the blank plus the screaming clutch, I lent back into the fish to set the hook. With the fish giving it the bigun trying to gain some line, I put the rod into the water to turn him back towards me. After a gruelling fight of around 15 minutes I slipped the net right under him. This being my 5th 15lber I was sure something strange was going on! After applying fish care products and returning the fish I once again rebated and reset both rods for the last time.

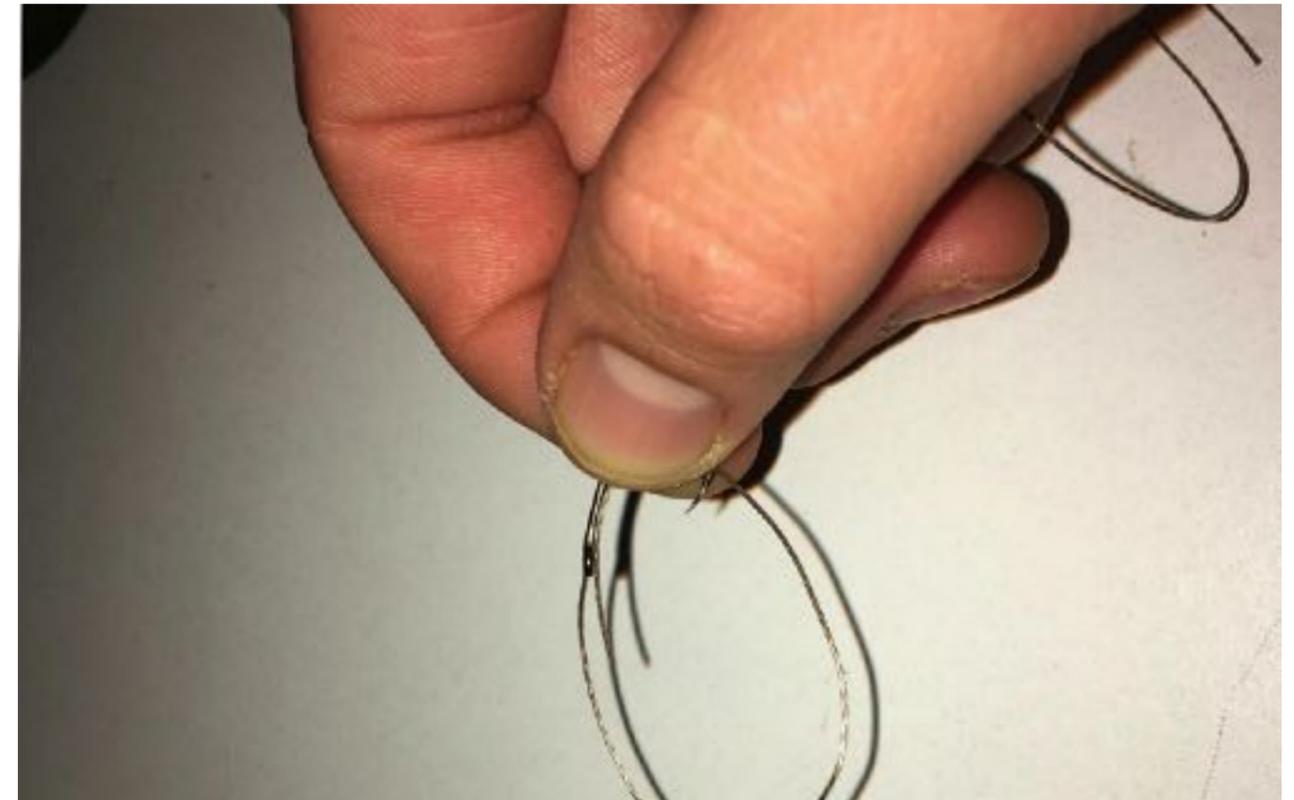


A few hours passed with not much going on and packing up already beginning, I could only hope that one more fish would come my way and sure enough he did in the shape of a little but lovely 9lb common, shortly after returning the fish it was time to say good bye and depart.



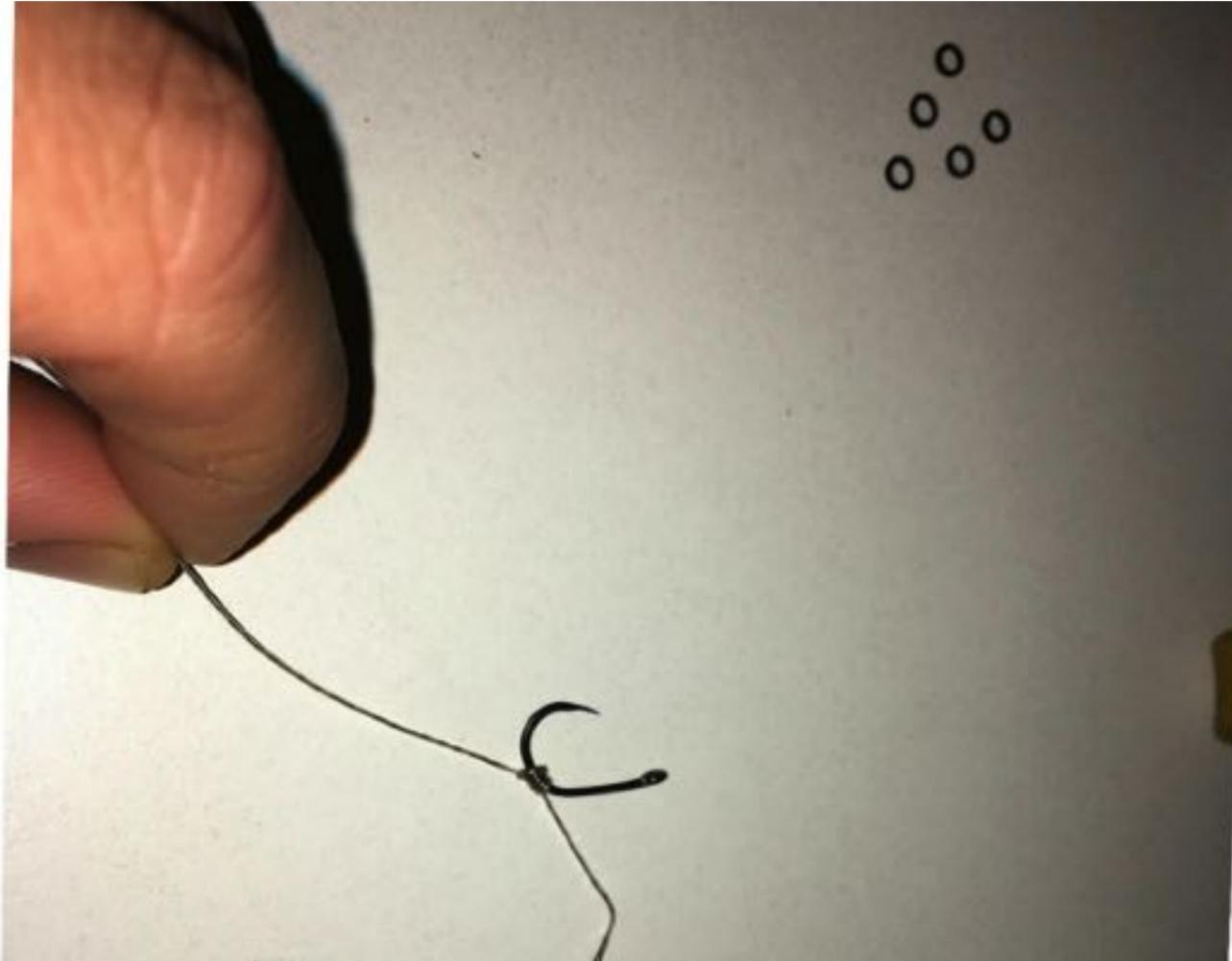
Well now you know how I caught my first haul of Pallatrax carp, here is the D rig that did the bizz in detail Step by step.

1. Take 16 inches of Pallatrax steam link and form a loop at one end with the Gripz hook led over the two joining lines



2. Then twist on the loop 4-6 times to create the top end of the D then pull the two tag ends until tight on the shank of the hook.

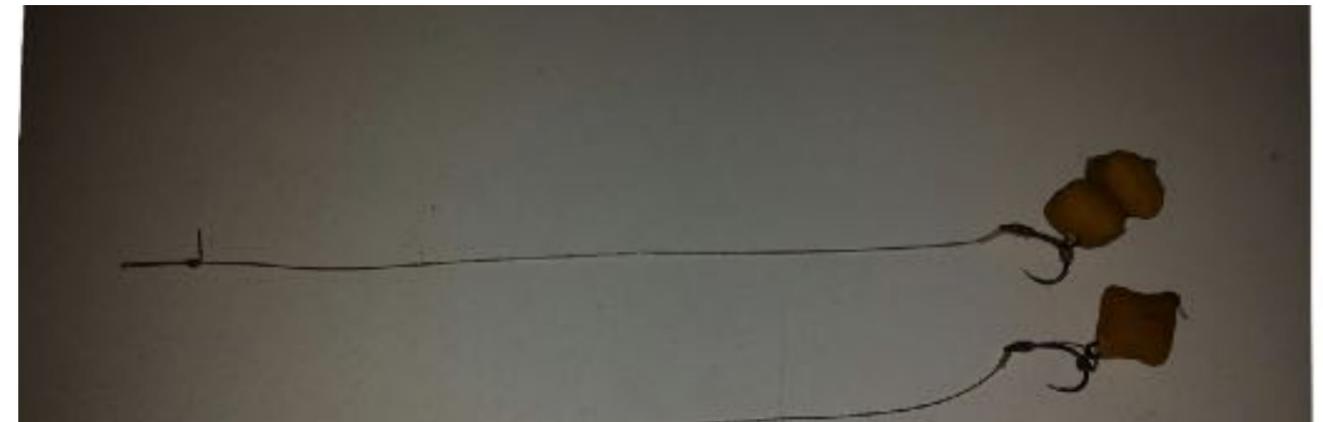




3. The next step is simple slide on a ring swivel then you take the long tag end through the back of the eye and whip down the shank 4-6 times then pass the tag end back through the eye of the hook to create the knotless not.

4. Slide on a small but important piece of Pallatrax serious shrink down to the hook (this will be used to cover whipping and create a kicker).

5. Finally tie an over hand not and steam the whole rig straight  
I hope this guide will help you to create the rig that has done all six fish so far. If you would like to see more rig tying demos or any other instructional information, please contact me @ smiiithythecarpangler on Facebook and please don't forget to check out Pallatrax website for more other great products.



Until next time...

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*The Obsessive  
Carper - Charity  
Carp Match*

Hi all, I decided to run the Carp Fishing Charity Match in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support after losing two members of my wife's family to cancer in the last 4 months.

The work the Macmillan Nurses do in the last weeks of a cancer sufferers life is amazing, so if I can help to raise as much money as I can to help, then that's the least I can do and I know Carp Anglers in general pull together and are generous at charity events.

I contacted Mark Renwick who owns Willow Park Lake Fishery and told him what I wanted to do. He gave me the big lake at a massively reduced rate and the date was set for the event, February 23rd until February 25th 2018.

It is a 48 hour Singles Match limited to 25 Anglers at a cost of £75 per angler and all places are now sold. Thank you to all those that are talking part and we also have a reserve list currently open if anyone would like to put their name down.

Prize money is paid out for the top three. Running alongside this, I am running a Raffle for Prizes which are being donated by various companies and individuals, one of which is Talking Carp Magazine and is a £35.00 Voucher to spend at England Angling (<http://www.englandangling.co.uk>) and there is also an Auction currently running, which was kindly donated by Adi Blantford.



The Auction is for a 48-hour Session with him on his Guys Syndicate Lake inclusive of 10kg of Bait and matching Pop-Ups. The session will also be filmed and appear on his YouTube Channel, DayTicketAngler. The 'Bidding' has reached £350 already.

Other Raffle Prizes so far are:

- Hoodie + Bobble Hat (Leon Bartropp)
- £35 England Angling Voucher (Mark Carper @ Talking Carp)
- 3x Sonik 3.25 Cork Rods (Adi Blantford)
- Fox Camp 3 up 2 down rod bag (Adi Blantford)
- £30 Yateley Angling Voucher (Carl Gilbert)
- Korda 'Tackle Safe' (Carl Gilbert)
- £50 JH Baits Voucher (Pete Evans)
- 10kg Mcnut Wraysbury Baits
- 50 x mixed Leads up to 4oz (JK Tadgell)

I'm setting a 'Just Giving' page up so anybody can donate and buy raffle tickets that can't make the event and details can be found on my Facebook Page.

As much as it's a match it will be a friendly get together with plenty of laughs with like-minded anglers who have pulled together to help out a Charity. Everyone is welcome to walk around on the day and have a chat and buy raffle tickets or donate money. Talking Carp will be there to cover the event too and will be doing interviews with some of the Anglers to feature in the issues of their great magazine.

All the information on the event can be found on 'The obsessive carper' Facebook Page.

Thank you to all that are supporting my event..!!!





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## FORCES CARP SECTION

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

FEATURING THIS MONTH -

Tim Gray  
Lee Clarke

An interview with  
Tim Gray



TC: So this month we have with us Tim Gray, a former Solider in the Royal Artillery who has been at the heart of everything Armycarpers since it was founded and he's still there, so Tim welcome and can you tell us something about yourself?

TG: Hi there Mark and thanks to Talking Carp for this opportunity. Yeah you could say I'm at the heart of Armycarpers, some would say too much whilst I'd just say that I love it and want it to grow and mature still further, each year getting bigger and better. I was at the first Committee Meeting and volunteered to be the Groups first Press Officer.

TC: That was a long time ago wasn't it Tim, can you go back to the start please for our non-Military members?

TG: Yes of course, the Group was formed by Craig Turner and Mark Williams back in 2001. That first meeting was at Warminster and there were about 15-18 people there. Back then within the Army, they were looking for new sports and Craig and Mark pulled us all together and formed what is still running today, the 'Army Angling Federation, Group 8 – Carp Section'. The Army has a very strong fishing section in Course, Game and Sea but hadn't till then got a Carp Section. Remember, Carp fishing was getting serious back then and although very cloak and dagger there seemed plenty of interest so Craig and Mark decided to do something about it. Since that time, we have helped both the RAF and Navy with setting their own Sections up as well.

TC: So all three Services have their own Carp Sections?



TG: Yes indeed Mark they do, all three run competitions or events which run towards a league with overall champions etc. each year. This culminates in the Inter Services Carp Championships held now each year but that's another long story for another time!!

TC: Yes Tim we'll leave that for your next piece when you can discuss all the events you have organised and ran over the past years and their individual stories.

TG: Yes Mark thanks, I've sorted a few out that's for sure, but that one (Inter Services) took it to a whole new level!

TC: So what's your story Tim? And when did you start fishing? You weren't a 'Carp man' straight away were you?

TG: Well I was born in April 1968, to a military family, my mum Linda and dad John. My dad was in the Royal Signals and we moved around a lot to and from UK to Germany and as a young kid with my brother, Andy it wasn't fun. Sadly, my Mum and Dad split when I was 4 and we moved to live with my Grandparents in Northampton, our home town. Normal stuff since then really junior school, which I was never great at then onto Middle and Upper Schools. My Uncle Martin took me fishing at the tender age of 7 as my mum asked him too, I didn't really have a hobby and she felt it was a good idea to get me into a hobby.



TC: Seems like she was right and you loved fishing, as you're still doing it now aged nearly 50..!!

TG: Yeah thanks for that, I'm not 50 till April a few months yet, lol.... But yes, I fell in love with fishing, in fact I think it's just being in the outdoors and being with nature that I love the most.



TC: That's a great reason but what type of fishing were you doing back then?

TG: Well to start with it was just course fishing, a bit of all sorts really. We'd often go tench or Bream fishing on local lakes or canals around Northampton. I was lucky there was plenty of water or rivers around us and our choice was massive. My Uncle worked at Foilwraps a factory in Duston which also had a fishing club which I joined. They had matches quite often and my first ever fishing trophy came from that club, funnily I came across that trophy the other day whilst cleaning out the garage, memory lane or what. That was the start of things on the Match fishing

side as I wanted to be more competitive in matches so we then joined the Nene Angling Club as well.

TC: So you're now into your Match fishing what time / year was that?

TG: It would have been around 1980/81 ish I'd say, probably I'd be about 13 or 14 years old by then but matches weren't everything. My best mate Malcolm and I went over to Emberton Park near Onley for the whole of the summer holidays, five or six weeks at a time, oh the fun we had..!!

TC: How did you manage that, there were no "bivies" around back then? So what did you do?

TG: Your right, there weren't any bivies so what we did was place our green fishing brollies (not 60" either) about 10ft apart and cover them with thick polythene. Of course as school kids we didn't have any alarms at that time so come dark we'd bring our kit under the brollies, pull down the front and go to sleep. We slept on the floor to start with but I can remember getting one of those 'blue' bedchairs that your mum used for sunbathing on in the garden, then we became proper fisherman!

TC: Yes I can remember those beds very popular back then in the late 70's and early 80's. I had a 'red' one and I can still hear the sound of the ratchet mechanism..!! So, when did things start to change for you Tim?

TG: Well everything changed for me back in October 1984 when I joined the Army. I started my training at Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Artillery (JLRRA) near Bramcote, Nuneaton which lasted for a year. I was just 16 years old and it was all a bit of a shock but joining the Army was all I'd ever dreamed about since I was a small boy. It was a dream occupation and something that no matter what my mother said I was going to do it. I had a great career and had a fantastic time, meeting loads of mates and doing all sorts of sports and leisure activities; I was posted all around the world and visited some 23 countries in total. So in all I loved it and would recommend it to anyone.

TC: Tim I believe you're out of the Army now so when did that happen?

TG: Yes I am, I was 'pensioned' off back in May 2013, so I had completed over 28 years' service for Queen and Country.

TC: That is a massive achievement and I can tell that you are very proud of that, but when did the fishing start again?

TG: Yes I am, I'm very proud of my Service, my Queen and my Country but let's leave that there, this is after all a fishing interview...! Of course, whilst in Training 84 – 85 I didn't get any chance to do any fishing, except on my leave / holidays so yes, the fishing did take a rather back step for now. Once at my Regiment, who were based in Dortmund, Germany, I took up Cross-Country Ski-ing and Orienteering plus I was in Germany with no way of fishing so all the gear was left in Northampton.



TC: So when did it start again?

TG: After a couple of years at my Regiment and getting to know some of the guys, I found out that they had a 'Regimental Angling Team', which included a match fishing team, so I asked some questions. Once I told them I used to match fish as a kid and won a few trophies, they said they wanted me to get my gear and go fishing with them. So plans were made and eventually with a bit of help from my new mates all my course gear was in my room in Germany. We did ok those first few years, but nothing special as it was hard, we'd have to travel to Holland and Belgium to fish our events, match fishing in Germany was banned we couldn't keep fish in a keep-net without killing them so travel we must and we did. If my old memory serves me correct we then went on to win the BAOR (British Army of the Rhine) Match Championships in 89 or 90 it then got really serious!!! Much too serious really, all the fun was taken away by our Team Manager wanting to win the title again and I just had enough so I sacked it, which didn't go down well but ha ho...!

TC: You stopped fishing Tim, then what?

TG: Well it was 90 or 91 and I threw myself into golf (eck) and spent the next four or five years playing as much as possible. I got quite good reaching a handicap of 16 but again once you get down to such a low handicap and you have to take it seriously or you don't stay a low handicap golfer and I just couldn't throw myself into golf 100%, I couldn't. Then during June 1995 we had a new neighbour move in a couple of doors down from us, I was in the back garden cutting the grass but I could see the truck at the end of my garden. Well all of a sudden there was an almighty shout, I even heard it over the lawnmower "Stop don't touch that..!!" and he stormed into the back of the truck, reappearing a couple of seconds later with a rod bag..!! Oh a fisherman I thought, great stuff, I wonder what he fishes for?

TC: So, I take it you went to meet him?

TG: Yes Mark I did, his name was Mick and all of his fishing gear was for Carp fishing. Over the coming months / years we grew close and had loads of chats about this “new craze” of Carp fishing and its popularity. He was the reason I got back into fishing and Carp fishing at that. We bonded very closely as he came to work with my Unit in the Army and also our love of Carp fishing. We’d be in each other’s garages sorting rigs and tackle and then in each other’s kitchens cooking up baits and boilies. We even had our own bait company for a while “M and T Baits – Mick and Tim Baits” lol. I used my experiences as a course and match angler bringing those skills across into Carp fishing. I just fell in love with Carp fishing, and it’s been that way ever since.

TC: So that’s when you really took up Carp fishing then, in 1995?

TG: Yes I suppose it seems like only yesterday but I bet a lot of your reader’s weren’t even born then! Now that really does make me feel old, but then I suppose I am at nearly 50...!

TC: So when was the association with “Armycarpers”?

TG: Well, that was the middle of 2001. Like I said earlier, I found myself through word of mouth at the first gathering of likeminded Carp Anglers, who just also happen to be in the British Army. It was also in 2001 that I was asked to go to France with a group of friends, which I ended up organising. But I won’t go into any more details as I know you’d like something on my events that I’ve organised for another edition?

TC: Yes that’s right Tim; we’ll discuss your events in the next edition but just a quick one for the readers. For those that know, Tim has pretty much set up and organised every Army event that has happened or has happened in the past, many of which are still going today. It’s fair to say he knows a lot about running any size of event and you’ll have more to read over the coming months.

So, is that pretty much it Tim?

TG: Well yes, I suppose so, lots more has happened but it’s all to do with planning, running or organising events so it’ll be covered in the coming issues of Talking Carp. I would like to say that since 2001 until the present day I have held a position on the committee in one way or another. I did have a two-year break but was asked to come back, which of course I did.

I can’t help it really, I’m very passionate about ‘Group 8 – Army Carpers’ and want nothing more than them to grow each year, gaining more and more members. Sadly, that’s not always the case and we do struggle to get Army and Ex-Army anglers to join our ranks so if there is anyone out there that would like to join then email me at [tjgray1968@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tjgray1968@hotmail.co.uk) and I can give you more details.

It’s like our family, our Army family that everyone of us has or had back with our Units, whatever cap badge, whatever type, you are ALL welcome and that’s to the “hundreds” out there that don’t want to join. Come on, you will love it...!!!

TC: Thanks very much for your time and this article Tim and you can all rest assured that is not the last you’ve heard from Tim.

If you are out there and if this guy’s passion is not enough to make you want to join, then what else is there? He speaks from the heart and I can see just how much he cares, so shouldn’t you??? Get in touch him, you won’t regret it.

Tim it’s been a real honour to talk with you and I cannot wait for the next instalment and I am glad that Talking Carp had the foresight to give you and all the Military Personnel out there, both serving and Ex, an opportunity to part of the Magazine.

TG: Yeah Thanks Mark it’s been great, that took me right back all those years, hope everyone is still awake out there??? Speak soon. Tight lines to all....



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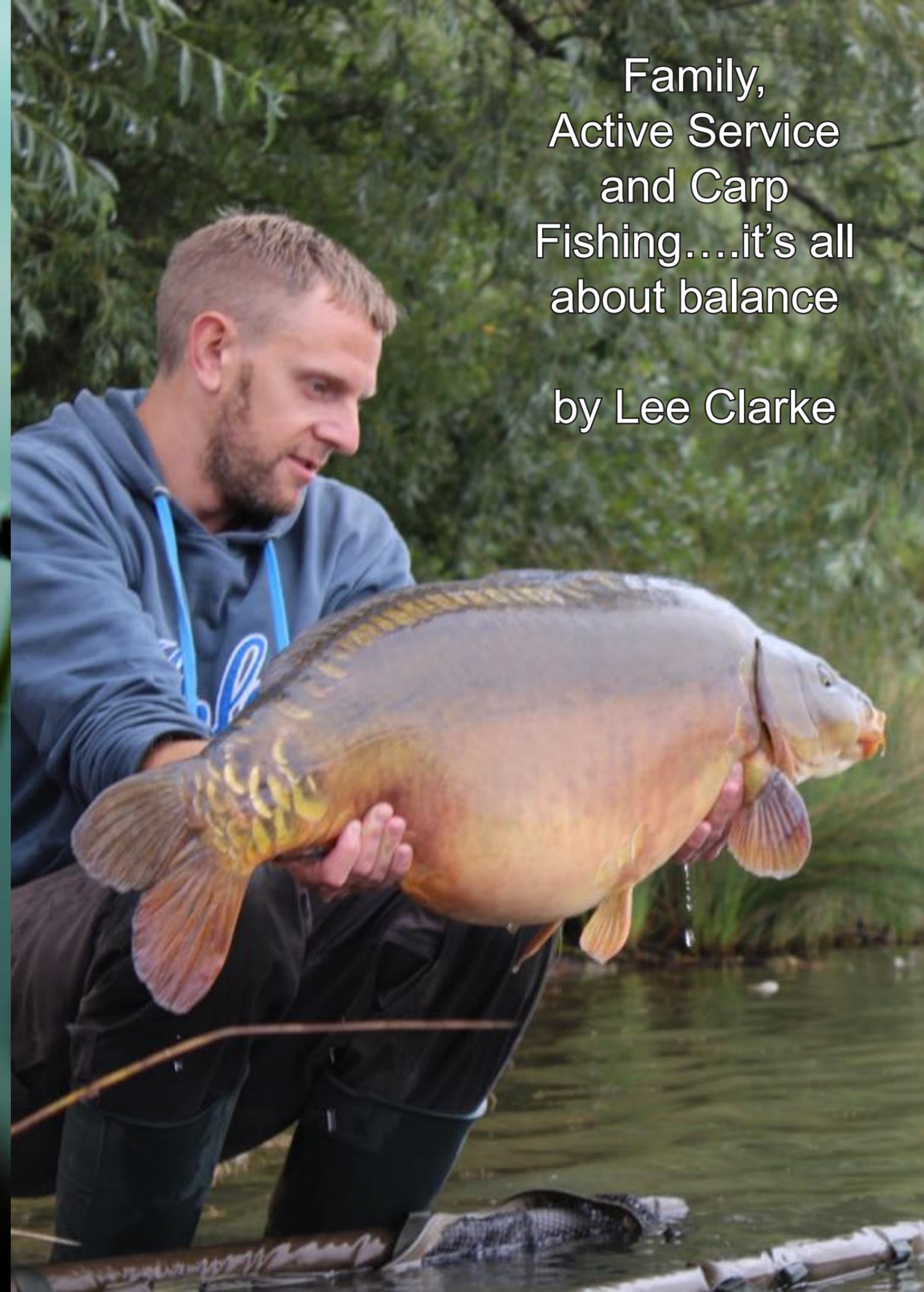
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Fishing....it's all  
about balance

by Lee Clarke



I have to be honest, Mark asked me to put pen to paper (fingers to keyboard) a little while ago, however like most blokes I left it until quite late to start putting my years' worth of angling down. As a result, rather than talk about one or two sessions in detail (which I wouldn't remember every single detail as I have a memory like a sieve) I thought it would be best to talk briefly about my sessions throughout the year, the highs and lows and how being in the forces means that at times, we struggle to get a rod out, whilst at other times we do get some good opportunities to fish a number of different waters for 'work', as well as fishing for ourselves.

At the time of writing I am going through a bit of a dry spell, however looking back at this year it has been quite a successful one in terms of fishing. Twenty Seventeen, has seen me bank a new PB, defend our Carping 4 Heroes title, place first and second in two of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Angling Association (RN & RM AA) matches as well as meet new mates along the way, which is what fishing is all about.

In terms of the job, I'm sure there are several jobs out there that aren't too indifferent from being in the military. However, speaking from my own experiences, and those around me, our fishing tends to go through phases depending on what stage in your career you are at and in terms of whether you are on, or training for future deployments or career courses. It then becomes even trickier when you add family to the mix.

Time away with work means time away from your family and friends, therefore when you come back you want to make up for lost time. Guys may have missed out on moments in their kids' lives, whether it be their first steps, first words, maybe even their first day at school. Therefore, you do your best to make up for lost time when you get the opportunity to do so. Like all anglers though, we are thinking about when we can get our next session in, whether it's just for a few hours, a night or two, or if we are lucky an annual trip to France.

Prior to joining the Corps, I mainly pleasure fished with my dad on day ticket venues. It wasn't until a couple of friends took me to France one

that I caught the carping bug. It was a great week, probably too good to be true as my first four fish were all 40's!! However up until 2-3 years ago I hadn't touched a rod for ages, due to deployments, training courses and being based on ship for 2 years. However, now I was in a position where I wasn't going to be deployed for long periods and I had no real major courses coming up, it was just your day to day training which meant I could make the most of my fishing time.

We are quite lucky in the Corps in that we have the RNRMAA which only costs a small annual fee to join. All members of the RNRMAA get the opportunity to take part in a number of matches throughout the year (work load permitting) at a number of venues. This year, for example, has seen matches at Sandhurst, Emperor Lakes, Lakeside View, Southwick Park, Brasenose 2 on the Linear fisheries complex as well as others.

The venues we fish vary greatly and therefore a lot of prep goes in to getting the gear ready for them, as well as doing your 'online' research as to where the "hotspots" or likely areas are.



For those that have not done matches before, the draw can essentially “make or break” the 48-hour event. The format sees you fishing in pairs and your names are drawn from a hat to establish an order for picking your swims.

Choosing your swim is then down to watercraft, the lake is broken down in to areas and you get to choose the area you and your partner wish to fish. Obviously if you come out high in the draw it is a positive start, however if you are drawn way down, you have to pick from the areas that are left and fish to the best of your ability to make the most of the situation.

For me, the first match in March was at Sandhurst. My partner and I were drawn 7th out of the 10 pairs fishing the event. After monitoring the catch reports on their Facebook page and watching countless YouTube videos as well as some of the Thinking Tackle episodes, we picked an area which we thought would give us the best opportunity to catch.

Peg 11 had been the ‘Hot Swim’ previously but that went quickly in the draw, followed by Bailiffs, The Island and The Pipes, which had all produced fish on our previous matches. We settled on pegs 9 and 10, with myself setting up in peg 10.

I started out trying to find some spots amongst the weed with a bare lead. There are contour maps of the lake available on site and online which I felt negated the need for a marker float and this allowed me to reduce the disturbance slightly, although with all of us leading about an hour before the match kicked off it probably didn’t make that much of a difference...! However, this is something you can’t work around in events like this. I found a lightly silted area at around 15 wraps out which was wide enough and deep enough to put both my rods on. This spot is a little shorter than where most people tend to fish (there is a silty gulley approx. 80 yards out) but it felt right and as there was the odd tap of gravel I was sure it had been fed on before.

I went reasonably light with the baiting approach to begin with, putting out 10 small spods of particle which had been soaking in hemp oil for a good few days.

The first 24 hours passed off uneventful for all of us. A couple of fish had been lost in the weed but that was about it. I had seen a few fish showing in front of me, however they were showing in water which was allocated to the guys on the opposite bank. Everyone I have spoken to has said you are best to sit on your rods as long as you can at Sandhurst and do your baiting up and recasting between the hours of 1200-1400 (I’m sure others have been successful doing things differently though) but that was my plan.

As a result of seeing fish showing in the water allocated to the guys fishing opposite me, I decided to put more bait in and see if I could draw them to my spot. So, around midday on the Saturday (matches run from Friday-Sunday) I put out around 20-25 more spods on the spot. I also changed my hook baits. I had previously been using white and pink pop-ups, based on the advice of some guy who had been bagging up for the week and was packing up as



we arrived. The tip hadn't worked, so I put one rod back to my faithful yellow pop up on a multi rig and my second rod I changed to a pink wafter on a KD rig with a small stick attached.

After seeing a little more activity over the next few hours, I went in to the final night optimistic and enjoyed a few beers and good food with the lads fishing around me. After getting a few hours kip and falling asleep holding on to my receiver (which I must have accidentally turned up whilst getting my head down) I was awoken by a one toner at 0430 which woke the majority of the lads around me (well almost everyone, my partner slept through it even when I called out I had one on). After turning it away from a few of the weed beds in front of me, I had a nice dark common in the net. I had finally beaten my Sandhurst duck after two previous 48 hour blanks...!!

There are a couple of reasons why I like going to Sandhurst and would continue too even if I had blanked again. The stock varies from Scaley Mirrors to ones with no scales as well as the real 'Dark Commons'. The majority of the stock is also over 20lb going up to 40lb+. Therefore, you always have a chance of getting a lump.

Once I got the fish in the net I could see it was a nice common. I left the fish in the net whilst I put the rod back on the spot as well as a couple more spods of particle in the hope I could nick another bite in the final few hours. Whilst I was doing that, one of the lads fishing in peg 11 came down and sorted the mat and the sling out for me. It wasn't a "big'un" as far as they go, however, it went 22lb 12oz and was the only fish of the match. Not only had I broke my Sandhurst duck, but I had won my first RN&RAA match, which meant packing up in the rain wasn't as painful as it could have been, particularly as my swim had turned in to a mud bath as it was on a sloping bank.

Now as I work away from home in the week, fishing the match meant that I didn't spend time with my family that weekend, so time had to be spent making up for that over the course of the next few weekends and over

weekends and over my Easter leave (although I did manage a couple of overnights on my syndicate which I will mention later).

Technology (Facetime etc.) makes life easier as well when you are away from home meaning that I can at least speak to the misses and my little boy whilst I am away at work and also on the bank which makes things a little easier and is a good way of keeping up contact. What did people do beforehand??!!

The next RNRMAA match I fished (having missed out on the next couple to keep that balance with family life) was at Southwick Park, a completely different type of water to Sandhurst. A well-stocked venue, with carp averaging between high singles and low doubles with a few going over the 20lb mark. The reason the RNRMAA pick venues like Southwick is to cater for anglers of all abilities (plus after a few tough matches everyone was after a few runs). Southwick certainly catered for that. As well as almost dying on the way home from falling asleep at the wheel due to a lack of sleep over the 48hr match, me and my partner also nearly died on a couple of occasions from golfers teeing off and nearly hitting us and our gear with their wayward efforts.

Although we had come 7th out of 10 in the draw (I have never done well in draws and this theme continues throughout the year) we managed to get in a favoured swim, although, this meant setting up just in front of where the golfers would be teeing off at the top end of the lake. On the Saturday one ball hit a tree on the right side of my swim, and landed just in front of my rods, literally inches away. My partner then proceeded to tell me that at a previous match one of the golfers had messed his drive up and the ball smashed one of the lads' rods to pieces...! I just prayed that this wasn't going to happen to me as the match was still young and I had already had my first encounter with a dodgy golfer.

The next incident happened whilst I was playing a fish. This time, a ball hit the tree to the left of my swim. Whilst the golfers were about during the day I decided I would play any fish I hooked in to on my knees and would

rely on the broly to act as a safety screen. At one point whilst tying a few fresh bags up my Fox Supa Compact Broly took the full force of a golfer's drive, so if you happen to fish any venues where golfers are of concern, I can thoroughly recommend the Fox Broly for withstanding that force!!

Back to the match.... I had seen the previous year's match reports, with the winning pair having anywhere between 50-100 fish and up to 1,000lb in weight between them. As we had picked a favoured swim, we expected the action to come thick and fast. That wasn't the case though. It took a couple hours to get our first bite and a pattern soon emerged where I would pick up a good few fish midafternoon and in the middle of the night, and my partner would then have a mad spell early evening and early morning. We would then pick up the odd fish outside of these times.

The slow start meant that we were playing catch up with the eventual winner having around 80 fish for about 600lb. My partner and I were then battling to win the pairs event as well as battling each other for 2nd and 3rd place as individuals. I managed a fish in the final moments meaning I pipped him to second by 1lb. We both ended up with over 40 fish for over 400lb each which meant we won the pairs event.

He had averaged low doubles whereas I had caught a few more with average being around 10lb, the biggest I had turned the scales to 19lb. The biggest for the weekend went just over 20lb. It was an eventful match and one which took me a day or two to get over.

One thing Southwick reminded me of was the importance of having as much prepared as possible. Having those extra PVA bags and rigs tied up so you didn't have to re-do them in the middle of the night when the action was coming thick and fast. I guess this applies to all venues though and not just well stocked day tickets. If the fish turn up and you are on a low stocked venue, you need to make the most of that window of opportunity, especially if that is likely to be your only opportunity that season, so being prepared is a key element.

Our final match of the year was at B2 on the Linear Complex. As always, we had a Social on the Thursday evening, which meant a few beers and

a BBQ and then we would fish the Friday to the Sunday.

We woke on the Friday morning to the first real frost of the year and we hoped it didn't put a dampener on the fishing.

After a slightly better draw (we came out about midway – was our luck changing...?) we made our way round to the 'Bowl End' and fished opposite to the Point Swims. We arrived at our peg only to find one of the other guys unloading his gear in our swim and then spewing up (he claims it was down to the dodgy BBQ food although no one else seemed to be suffering...maybe our luck hadn't changed...!!!!)

One of the pairs got off to a flyer with a couple of 20's within the first couple of hours which lifted everyone's spirits, however after that fishing proved tough with only a handful of the pairs catching.

Having never fished Linear before, I was really looking forward to this match, having heard a lot about it in the mags and on all the Videos and DVDs that are out there, I was hoping for plenty of action. I debated whether to take the approach that most employ which is bait little and often, or, with the first frosts to put a little bait out and sit and wait on it, thinking it would not be as hectic as I was hoping it would be.

In the end, I chose to put a little bait out and sit on it, which in hindsight may have been the wrong thing to do and the match ended in a blank for me and for the majority of the guys, but that's just how it goes. A few weeks before we fished B2, the England Team blanked, so we couldn't be too despondent in the result..!!

To be continued....

Lee Clarke





*The only limitation is your imagination*



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# TALKING - REVIEWS

**PVA Bag Loader**

**Kryston Meltex Bags**

**Mainline Wafers**

**Taska Bag Sleeves**

**Taska PVA**



The Taska PVA Bag up-Loader system makes PVA bag construction easier, faster and simpler ensuring the angler maximises their fishing time. The kit comes complete with three semi-circular bag expanders for all size of PVA bags and a compression collar to assist the Loaders for insertion into the PVA bag. All you have to do is insert one of these bag loaders then put the collar around it so it keeps the bag on, then all you do is load the bag with your mix then twist the bag and moisten the top then push it down and your bag is ready to go so give it a go its a brilliant method

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The sizes throughout the range make them perfect for all species and conditions. From the highly popular swim feeder sized Snak Pax right though to the cavernous Super Tube you will find a bag that's tailor made for your venue. Full detailed illustrations show how easy it is to form them into dynamite sticks in seconds. Sizes and capacities are shown on each pack.

sizes available are

Snak pack 50x85mm Slim jims 50x130mm Mini rockets 75x85mm

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The NEW Mainline range of Pastel Barrel Wafers are the combination of subtlety and performance to deliver a hookbait capable of providing the ultimate fishing presentation. Simply thread the hookbait onto your chosen Hair rig and allow the weight of your hook to set the slow sinking Waffer into a 'critically-balanced' position...

The 'Washed Out' appearance of the Pastel Barrel Wafers is the first noticeable characteristic within this hookbait range - perfect for targeting wary or the pressured carp commonly found in today's fisheries. Yet this light colour tone does not reflect the high attract nature of the hookbait containing high quality liquid flavours, enhancers and sweeteners used at optimum levels. Couple these visual and flavour stimulants with the barrel-like shape and poised, critical-balance of the waffer and you have an advanced hookbait that fish find difficult to resist or reject!

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The Baseline Tungsten Chod/Bag Sleeves can either be used as a buffer to sit above your lead when fishing a shod rig, which will decrease your chances of a hook pull due to the increased distance between the rig and the lead. Alternatively, they can be used as a tail for your solid bags. Simply slide over the insert of your inline lead to create an extended tail for which you can easily tie a solid bag round. The extended tail will aid your distance and accuracy when casting a solid bag as it will guide the bag to fly straight through the air. As you know, the Baseline range has Tungsten infused to ensure the sleeve will be pinned down to the lakebed at all times. These sleeves come in two different sizes to fill the needs of whatever situation you are faced with. 100mm & 60mm



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TalkingCarp



# CATCH REPORTS

Featuring -

Brooms Cross Fishery

Wyreside Fishery

Pallatrax

Carl Pearson

Adi Blantford

Castaway PVA



**Lee Roberts with Starburst at 28lb 14oz**

**Mike Williams with Shoulders at 28lb 8oz caught using Pallatrax snails on the Stonze system**



TalkingCarp



**Richie Bullen with Sue at 31lb 12oz**



**Rich Hall with a 25lb 12oz mirror**

TalkingCarp

# Wyreside Lakes Fishery



Dave Knight  
with a 22lb from  
Bantons lake

Gary Heinz  
with a lovely  
Sunnyside 1  
common



John Turvey  
with McQueen  
at 29lb 8oz

TalkingCarp

# Wyreside Lakes Fishery

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



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**PALLATRAX**  
*Catch more fish*



Team Pallatrax member Ben Petrie braved a really cold session this week and was duly rewarded... Here's Ben in his own words :-

Well I'm just home from a tough 48hrs, and I've seen all weathers whilst being out on the bank, only managed the one bite in the end, this came on the first night in -4 temperatures, the lake was actually freezing over whilst i was playing the fish Eskimo fishing. This 16lb common was very welcome to say the least and saved a blank. This was caught using and size 10 Gripz hook attached to Steamlink hook link and a 2 and a half oz Stonze set up.

*TalkingCarp*



**PALLATRAX**  
*Catch more fish*



Team Pallatrax member Luke Boardman is out and about and had his first one on a trimmed down almond squab pop up... Lovely fish Luke.. Well done.

*TalkingCarp*



**PALLATRAX**  
*Catch more fish*

Steven  
Gregg



*TalkingCarp*



**PALLATRAX**  
*Catch more fish*



William Bennett's first fish of the year on Stonze and Gripz topped with a Crave pop up. Job done.

*TalkingCarp*



Carl Pearson with a couple of stunning Ghosties from his local water to end his year on a high



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## A St. Johns Winter 30..!!

After a much-rushed Wednesday morning I managed to get down to Linear Fisheries Complex and after driving into the carpark on the St. Johns and Manor side, I could see more empty pegs on St. Johns than I have ever seen...!

I knew I needed to be in the 'Main bowl of the lake, due to that being the deeper water, I managed to get a bucket into outside point peg and although nobody else was in the car park couldn't leave it to chance someone might be lurking in the bushes out of sight.

Having never fished this side of the peg before I quickly got the spod rod loaded with a lead. This is made easier thanks to the quick-change loop I use on the shock leader and I managed to find a lovely clear spot at around 19 ¼ wraps. After swapping the lead back to the spod, I delivered ten loads of whole and crushed 10 and 15mm Cell Boilies that were mixed with Power Hemp and Power Particle, all from Mainline Baits and a good amount of sweetcorn and all of it had been glugged in my favourite year round enhancer of Carnations 'Condensed Milk'.

I had two rods set up and fished with Helicopter Style, 'Ronnie Rigs' and baited the hooks with Yellow, Pineapple flavoured 11mm 'Proper Job' Pop-Ups. I cast these on to my chosen spot and the third rod was set up on a 'Zig' at 9 feet with Black Foam. I then settled down at around 18:30 to sort out my Camera and Phone ready for my regular Wednesday evening YouTube 'Live Feed'.

I do not do this as a Q&A feed but more of a general chat amongst other Carp Anglers. Not only does it help pass the time on the Bank but it is something I really enjoy also.

After a quiet and uneventful night, I managed to get back from work to the lake for around 14:30 on the Thursday. Before leaving for work, I had set all the rods up to their respective 'wraps' so it was not such a rush or hassle to get them back out on the spots.

On arriving back, it appeared that other Anglers were using minimal amounts of bait and with no fish coming out to them, I decided to do something a little different and gave the spot twenty-five spods of the same mix from the evening before. I just felt that by doing this, it may just encourage one or two fish in to the area.....

Once settled, I started to do some 'product shots' of the bait etc. and my attention was drawn to the bobbin as it pulled up to the rod blank, then quickly drop back to the original position... it then proceeded to rise again but this time, it dropped back with some noticeable 'slack'. This indication was enough to make me lift the rod and as I did, I stepped back and the rod immediately 'hooped over'.....Fish On....Let Battle Commence.....!!!

I would like to say the battle was immense and hard fought but, it wasn't. It was a very slow and somewhat disappointing battle, with the fish just



feeling heavy and not really doing much at all. However, I knew it was one of the 'better' fish in the lake. This was confirmed as my first look at it showed it had a big frame and as it slowly glided over the cord of the net, I knew it was an upper thirty or maybe even a forty..!

With the help of the Anglers in the next peg and the fish resting in the net, I set up the cameras and waited for the arrival of Chris the Fishery Manager and Ian, the Head Bailiff. Once they were with me, we weighed what was a beautifully coloured Mirror Carp and it turned the dial to a fantastic 38lb 10oz...Result..!!!

I would have been happy with any fish on this trip, given the lake was fishing very hard indeed but to have a thirty plus was great and then, when Chris informed me it was one of the 'originals' and a very rare visitor to the bank, just added to the pleasure....to say I was buzzing was an understatement and I think the pictures show just how happy I was.

To put into context the Thursday before was at the other end of the spectrum as my wife called me to say she was being tested for ovarian cancer, which, as you can probably imagine was not good news to get and had been playing on my mind for a few days until thankfully, she was given the news that she was all clear. This news along with such a great fish on the bank brought to an end a very emotional week, both in terms of my personal life and as a Carp Angler.

Tight Lines

***Adi 'Top Penguin' Blantford***

#thetugisthedrug



**Castaway PVA**

**Castaway PVA**



Adam Mark  
Honeysett  
27.04lb



Matt Eade  
31lb 8oz



**Castaway PVA**

Paul Hestletine  
with a birthday  
70lber



Den Willetts



# *Talking - Foreign !!!!*

*Inside this month -  
Etang St Pierremont -  
France*

*Ebro Fishing Dreams - Spain*

*CarpGranCanaria - Canarias*

# Lake For Sale Etang St Pierremont France

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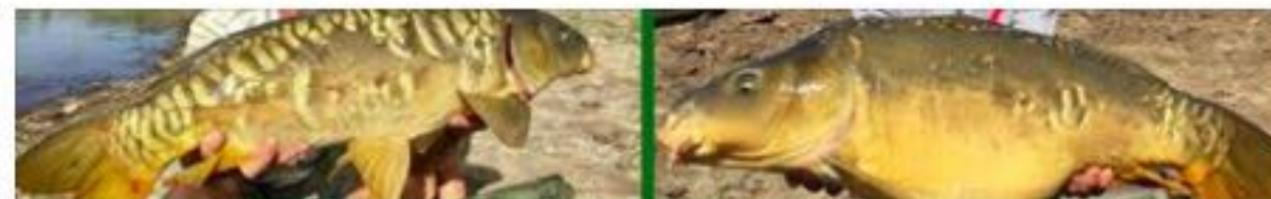
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Happy New Year from the team at Carp Gran Canaria! 🐟🎣

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Thankyou for reading and as always  
your continued support

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

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