



#### Hello, and welcome to issue 27,

This month is quite a big issue for you as we have a couple of new additions who have joined our great team of writers... First up is Corrie Booysen who joins us from South Africa and gives us an insight into his world of carp fishing. And let me tell you... Corrie is as keen as they come!!

Also starting this month, we have Mike 'Spug' Redfern on board as we serialize his sell out book Carping Mad vol.1. This book was a huge hit and can no longer be bought but we at Talking Carp are going to let you read this, with us, over the coming months. Be warned... Spug is not for the faint of heart!!! So, read it at your peril... Hahahhaa

Slightly more serious. Its almost time for the fish to do their annual dance of love. If you see them. Leave them! Simple.

As always, we hope you are enjoying reading this as much as we enjoy bringing it to you every month... We would love to hear from you! Hit the 'contact us' button on the webpage or email directly at :-

<u>brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk</u> <u>buggy@talkingcarp.co.uk</u> <u>talkingcarpinfo@gmail.com</u>

Until next month... Enjoy the mag... And hope to hear from you soon.

Team Talking Carp

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Carl and Adam O'Brien at Forest Pool France, Le Lees carp fishery, Ebro Fishing Dreams

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So, after my blank session on Churchwood in search of "Bubbles" a fish that has got under my skin so to speak, it was time for a change so a move onto Jenkins was in order to save my sanity. I had only been home for a few hours when I got a text from Steve (Saturday afternoon) saying Nick hag bagged a common of just under the 20lb mark. This was great news and I was looking forward to getting back over the lake even more now. I had a lovely evening with my mrs then with new life and a replenished food bag I returned to the lake Sunday afternoon around 12:30.

When I pulled up Nick had a big smile on his face, good lad I was pleased for him and this gave me a whole new level of confidence. Nick left around 15:00 and

I was all set up the rods out by 17:00 just before dark. It was nice having a different view for a few nights and hopefully the fish activity would carry on, I kept the baiting to a minimum only putting a handful of crumbed up boilies plus a handful of 10mm with the hookbait dipped in the matching winter dip with a scoop of the Blitz.



The weather was somewhat better with the night temperature being 5oc the lake was not going to freeze. I was woken at 05:00 o'clock by a take on my middle rod, as I lifted the rod the fish had

snagged me, I kept the pressure on for a few minutes, but the fish had other ideas, I put the rod back on the alarm slackened the line off and got back into bed. With no further beeps the fish had obviously done me and snagged me silly in the process. I couldn't go back to sleep and was hoping the receiver would sound but come 07:00

o'clock the situation was the same.

Mark the bailiff came down around 09:00 o'clock

and went out in the boat to unsnag my line (Thanks mate). I then rebaited and put the rod back out but a couple of foot off the original spot giving me more of a chance. The weather was bang on



with the daytime temperature of 10oc with light rain forecast for most of the day and the pressure at 1017 it looked so much better then last week. With the rods sorted it was time for breakfast, which was going to be smokey bacon in tiger rolls, I was eating myself silly and at times when you fish on your own you start to go stir crazy doing all manner of stupid things, like talking to yourself so much so you end up having a barney with yourself!!!.... Boredom had certainly kicked in and I was finding things to do. As it started to get dark I was pondering what to have for dinner when all of a sudden, the middle rod gave a single bleep. I looked at the bobbin and as it started to rise I lifted the rod and the fish was on. I walked back all the time keeping the

pressure on the fish and keeping it away from its sanctuary. After a few hairy minutes I slid the net under a very pretty mirror, on the mat I could see she was such a pretty fish and I knew the owner Steve would want to see her so I gave him a call. He said he would come straight down so I put the fish in the floatation sling and got the rod back out to the area. Steve arrived and with the sling zeroed she went 18lbs on the button, it's a fish Steve recognised

and was in great health. He obliged with the camera then the fish was treated and returned. I was now on a high! Its madness what a single fish can do to your confidence, I was beginning to believe it was never going to happen, but confidence is the key even after nights of blanking.

Steve went back up to his house and I put my dinner on. The night temperature was forecast to be 6oc but the rain was







forecast from the early hours and all day tomorrow. I had a lovely nights kip but woke up to motionless rods. The rain was evident coming down heavy then light and the wind had now changed from a southernly to a north easterly which was

now coming right into my face, daytime temperature was much different to yesterday and a mere 6oc but with the wind felt more like 2oc. So far, the weather has kicked me in the nuts big time and looking at the forecast for the next couple of days it's getting a lot

worse. I made a coffee and watched the water for any signs but with the wind and the rain coming straight into me it started to feel uncomfortable. I got dressed and stood under the canopy of the lodge which was right behind my bivvy as it was more



sheltered.

As the days were pretty boring I cast a rod in the cat lake, baited with an illuminous pink banoffee barrel pop up, the lead and hookbait were dipped in matching food dip and after casting the rod out it was minutes before the rod was away. I caught 2 cats in quick succession.... only babies but what great sport and sorted the boredom out big time. An hour before dark I made the

decision to redo the rods and put some fresh scent down for the fish. With all the rods done it was time to sit back watch the

tele and hopefully the fish will feed.

It was not even an hour after dark, say around 18:00 when the middle rod let out a single bleep. I was straight on the rod, and with the

line twitching I lifted the rod and the fish was on. again I walked back slowly edging the fish away from its snaggy quarters, once out in open water the fish fought but was subdued in the net after a few minutes. Again, I had bagged another stunner

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and again I repeated the same process as the previous evening. Steve arrived and took a few shots, with my "Ridgemonkey light" coming in very handy.

We didn't weigh the fish but estimated it to be 15-16lb, but again another stunner, with the fish treated and returned, I made myself comfortable for the rest of the evening. Again, the rain started to fall which helped me get to sleep and when I woke up at 06:00 o'clock the next morning I felt full of energy and raring to go.

The rods were quiet, but the takes were either early morning before sunrise or late evening after sunset. I had a coffee and sat by the rods. Mark came down about 09:00 o'clock for a cuppa and a chat then went about his work. I told him about the cat lake and said in a couple of hours I would be setting the rod up again and if he fancied casting it out, he said of course mate. A few hours passed and with the rain now a distant memory the sun rose briefly and even though the wind



was still northernly it was pleasant. I had a call from work and due to one thing and another I was cutting my holiday short by a day. I started to pack a few things up and as I did the right hand

rod bleeped a couple of times, again as the bobbin rose I lifted the rod and walked back the fish snagged me on a few loose branches. Mark was on hand and went out in the boat and freed the line, after a feisty fight I slid the net under a lovely looking common, and on lifting her out looked a 20lber, but the scales displayed a weight of 19lb 12oz, my biggest of the trip and a lovely looking fish. Steve was about and took some cracking photos (cheers mate) and as normal the fish was



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treated & returned. after that I couldn't resist but to put the rods back out for the last few hours. Mark cast the cat rod out and 10 minutes later he was playing his first fish of 2018, good lad another baby cat landed.

I did plan to stay until 19:00 but as I had to get up for work at 05:00 the next morning, plus get home unload all my gear, so I decided to leave just before 16:00. I had a great trip, fishing a lovely secluded lake with top notch facilities, and lovely fish to fish for. Steve, Mark and Nic

are such nice people and always make you feel welcome.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Steve Sands for the hospitality he showed and for everything he really is a top bloke. If you would like to book up Churchwood, Jenkins or even the cat lake visit

Www. churchwoodfisheries. co.uk where you can find all the information you need, and the number to call to book a place.

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

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It's been a very busy couple of months for me with the shows up and down the country as well as doing work for Kryston and 'let's go fishing', a new company. I then took on a role at Phatfish clothing doing all their media work so as you could imagine I've been really busy. Well as the weather warmed up I was chomping to get out there. I had been doing a bit on the quarry the year before but had not managed to get amongst the bigger fish. One fish I did want was the linear. it wasn't the biggest in the lake but at around 30lb I really wanted it. I had decided that the next weekend I was going to get down early on the Friday morning as it was going to be really warm and I know I wanted to be in the end swim of the shallow bay, well I say a bay... it's not small, it's about 4 acres or

more up one end of the lake. The other end of the lake is a lot deeper and has two massive islands in it. So, as its going to warm I wanted the shallower end. Friday morning came, and I set off. It wasn't a long journey, only about half an hour to the lake, but to get to the lake you have a half mile bumpy dirt track to go down first all the way down that track I was thinking I hope no one is in the bay, as I turned the corner on the last straight to the bay as I looked I could see there was no cars

packed down that side of the lake so I could calm down now the swim was empty.

I pulled up in the space at the top of the stairs that you walk down to the swim, got a bucket out of the car and placed it in the swim, now no one could take it while I was sorting out my gear. I finally got everything down into the swim then sat on the swim just watching the water for any signs of fish. I didn't see anything but I knew they would turn up at some stage as they are



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always here when its warm. I got the brolly up rods were set up down the side of the swim and the kettle was on for the first brew of the session. after that I would sort out the bait and rigs, while I was drinking my cuppa. Chris turned up for the weekend and decided to go in the next swim to me, it wasn't close, in fact it was about 400 yards up the bank he had the same idea as me that the fish would come to the bay in the warm weather. Well tea had been drunk now it was time to sort the rods out, I was going to use chods on all three rods as the bay was shallow and there was a lot of silkweed on the bottom then I would use a mixture of chopped and whole cell bottom baits as freebees. I am going to stagger the rods across the bay one rod will go to the bottom of the bay out

the way in the really shallow water the other two would go at about 50 yards out into the middle of the bay.

All three rods were cast out on the spots then I started to get the bait out. Whole baits I decided to scatter about using a stick, then I would spod a few half baits over the top, after this was done the kettle was put on and I sat back on the edge of the swim just to watch the water, by know the sun was high in the sky and it was warm. I could see the odd fish moving in the bay to my right but when I looked to the left to where it was really shallow I could see at least 10 fish cruising close to where I had cast so I was well confident of a take. I was sitting there just drinking tea I could see more and more fish cruising around. It looked like the whole

bay was full of fish. Chris text me saying that we could be on for a few fish here mate. I knew that the chances we had would only be in the day as when the sun goes down the fish seem to move out the bay and back into the main body of the lake. Chris was the first one to get a take that was about two hours after he had got his rods out. It was a lovely low 20 mirror, he was well chuffed with that as we still had the whole weekend left at the weather was supposed to stay the same which was hot.

Well about an hour later I was sitting there chatting to one of the other members when I started to get liners on the rod that was right down the bottom of shallowest part of the bay, it wasn't till about half an hour later that the rod melted of and I was into my first carp.



Now this fish was going like a torpedo out into the bay. I finally managed to stop it about 60 yards out and started to bring it in, now looking out I could see all the silk weed building up on the line, so I might have trouble landing this. After a few minutes it was charging up and down the margins and most of the weed had come off by now, I could see it was only a middouble common but it was really going for it in the edge but after a few more minutes it went in the net and I had my first carp of the session, I was well happy with that, I didn't care what size it was, it was just nice to have the first on. On the scales it went 19lb so after a few photos back she went, with a few words from me telling it to go and get her mum! A new bait was tied on and then cast back to the spot and about 20

baits were sticked out over the top. I gave Chris a quick text to say i had just had a 19 common now I wanted the linear next. I sat back on the front of the swim and I could still see quite a few fish out in the bay but nothing down where I had just caught from, so I must have spooked them out.

As the day moved on and the sun started to drop down more and more fish started to move out of the bay Which I knew they would, if any one of us would get a bite tonight

it would be Chris as he was on the entrance to the bay. I had brought a nice chicken curry for tea tonight, so I tucked into that and just watched the water just in case the odd one decided to stay but as I thought they moved out I decided to have an early night as I wanted to be up at first light to just watch the water and try and see what route they would take to get back down the bottom of the bay. At about two in the morning I had a one toner. I thought that it was a carp, but it wasn't it was the red



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eyed monster... the tench. I rewrapped the rod and cast it back out into the bay then 20 odd baits sticked out around it then jumped back in the bag to get some sleep. I woke up just as it was getting bright. I didn't even get out the bag, I just laid there and watched the water, as I was putting the kettle on I had two bleeps on the same rod that went in the night. I watched the line... it bleeped again so I was out the bag and picked up the rod and yes it wasn't a carp but another bloody tench! Rod rebaited and cast

out to the spot and again another 20 baits sticked around it and 3 spombs of chopped bait, I also sticked some baits around the other two rods just so that there was some bait there for the day when they move back in.

Well it wasn't until
the sun was up that
I started to see the
fish drift back in to the
bay, Chris had had
nothing in the night, so
we were just waiting
for them to drift back
in and get the heads
down. I made myself a
brew and a toastie and
sat on the front of the

swim just watching and taking in the sun when I see a massive mirror swim past the front of the swim. I thought I'll stick some crumbed bait down there to see if it comes back. About half an hour late it came swimming back and it on upended and started to eat the chopped boilie and them swam off so I put some more down there and if it came back I would put a rod that close in.

Well, you guessed it she never came back but the fish had definitely come back into the bay in numbers now as I could see fish everywhere, and as I was looking out into the bay the rod out in open water melted of as I picked up the rod I could see it was kiting left towards the main part of the lake. Some good old side strain and she turned and



was heading back towards me and was soon in the margins going back and forth. I eventually slipped the net under her and it look a better fish. A quick call to Chris and he was soon down to help out with the photos, on the scales it went 26. I was well happy with that, so a few snaps and she swam off.

Well the rod was cast back out to the spot and more bait was scattered around the spot and I felt really confident of more fish during the day. I climbed the tree behind the swim just, so I could have a better look at how many fish were out there and there was load. It looked like they were stacked up in the bay and there was some gooduns as well, I got back down by now the sun was up above us and some of the fish

had their backs out and I was in two minds to bring the rods in and put zigs on, but I thought no, stick to the plan and the fish will get their heads down as its only around 3ft deep anyway. At around mid-day I had a slow take on one of the rods that was out in open water well as soon as I picked up the rod I knew it was a better fish as it was a slow and dogged fish most of the way in until it was in the edge. It woke up then and used all of its weight to try and out run me. It turned in the clear

water a few times close in and I could see it was a linear but it didn't look like the big one so I gave it a bit of stick to get its head up and a gulp of air to get it ready for the net and when it did I saw the width of it then I knew it was the big linear and I started to ease off her then and it took about another 5 mins till it was ready for the net and in she went. I looked down into the net and it was her!! I was over the moon. I never thought I would actually catch it.

With the net pinned to



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the ground and safe I rang Chris to come down and sort the pictures out. As he came into the swim. looked in the net and confirmed it was her. Well we got her out and on the scales she went 31lb. I got some nice shots of her and we then watched her swim back off into the warm water. We sat back and had a nice brew and chatted about the fish then Chris went back to his swim and I rebaited the rod and cast it back to the area and baited up around it then sat

back to just chill out and think about what I've caught. The day went by in a flash and I didn't have any more action, but I did go to sleep that night one happy man. I didn't even get a tench during the night, so I had a really good sleep and woke up with the sun beaming in my face, but I just laid there watching the water when the left had rod melted off. I scrambled to it and it was kiting to the right fast, so I put some strain on it and the hook pulled. I was gutted that would have

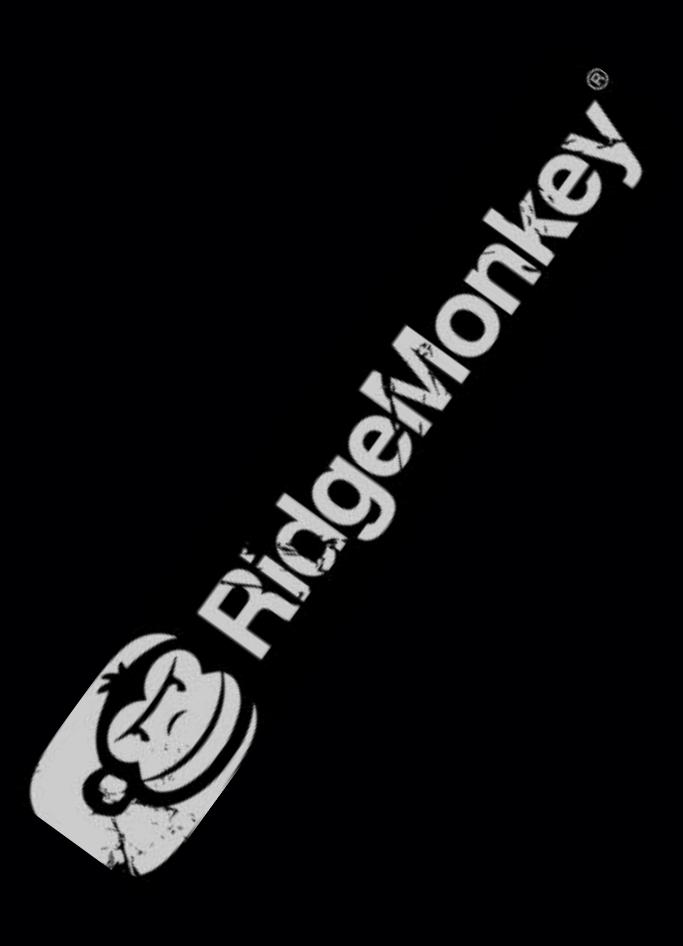
been the icing on the cake if I had landed that, but these things happen. I rebaited the rod and cast it back out for the next few hours. A few more brews it was time to pack up once the gear was all packed up and in the car, I walked back down to the swim and paid the lake. I drove off down the lane with a big grin on my face and was thinking of my next session.

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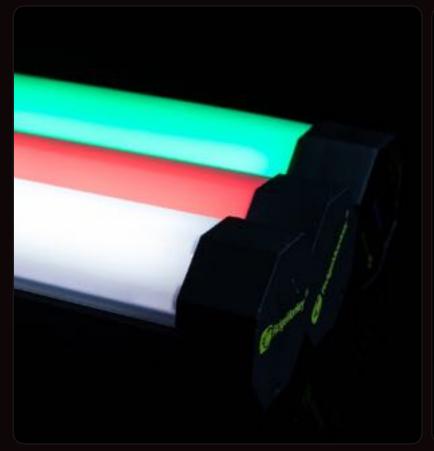
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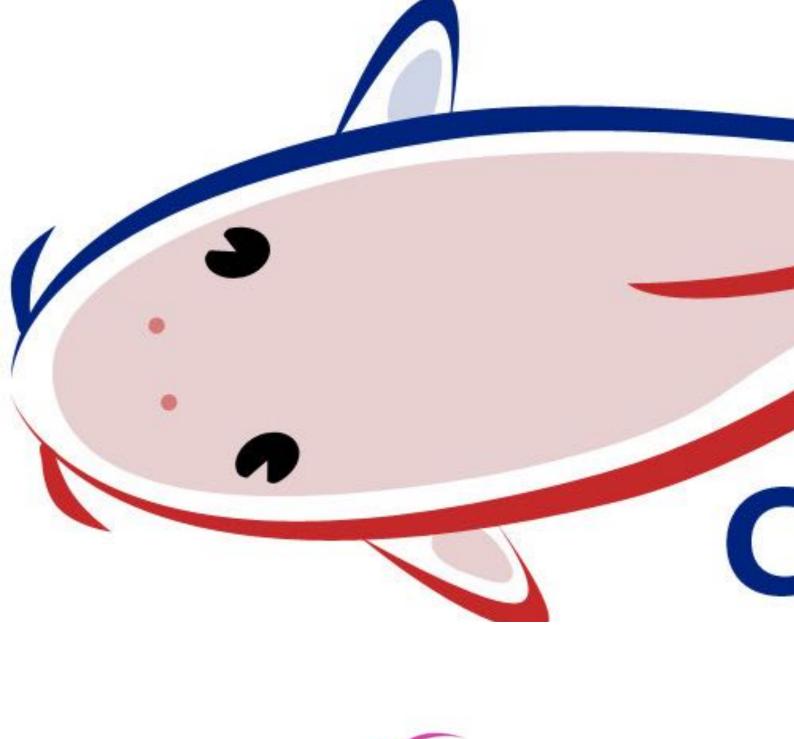














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I started marshalling for the British Carp Angling Championships around 2007 when Carp Team England Manager Rob Hughes was the owner.

I first met him whilst fishing the events with my angling partner. Rob eventually sold to Simon Bennie and I stayed on as a head marshal running both singles and pairs events.

I continued in that role until the end of 2013 when myself and my wife Belinda started British Carp Cups Ltd. We pride ourselves on forward thinking and started Ladies singles and pairs events along with the very popular Mixed Carp Cup, which is usually our end of year closer. This year all three of those events sold out and have competitors on waiting lists.

I have marshalled in Europe for the European Carp Angling Championships at Abbey Lakes and Ross Honey's Worlds Carp Classic at Madine. This year is the 20th Anniversary of the WCC which I will be fishing myself on the mighty Madine.

Myself and my wife are keen carp anglers but also enjoy fishing for other species as well.

Last year I was very proud to be asked to marshal the Home Nations between England, Scotland and Wales on Linear Fisheries and I must of done something right as I have been asked to continue into the future.

We have revamped our British Carp Cup with a new look final at Barston Lake in October.

Anybody is welcome to enter our competitions, Check our website for more information and current availability. There are still places available on most of the qualifiers.

Mick Coxon British Carp Cups www.britishcarpcups.co.uk





# Qualifier 1



## Orchard Place Farm Lake 7

'The first of the British Carp Cup Qualifiers at **Orchard Place Farms** normally prolific Lake 7 got under way at 11am Friday morning. We started an hour earlier to compensate for the clocks going forward during the course of the weekend. With the recent unpredictable weather conditions we were left wondering how this event would pan out.

The first fish came to the rods of Tony Reynolds and Ashley Izzard in peg 9 and was a common weighing 14lb 5oz. By midnight, Paul Michael Smith and Lee May, peq 7, were in front with 2 fish for 29lb 6oz. Brothers Billy and Ricky Dummer, peg 10. were in second with a lovely 29lb 1oz mirror. Third place was Mick Ledger and Dan Moorcroft on 23lb 5oz.

Saturday morning saw

a flurry of action which added another 6 fish to the scoreboard. Peg 7 were now on 4 fish for 73lb 14oz followed by pegs 11, 10 and 9. 2 other pegs now bought fish to the scales and came onto the scoreboard. Before Saturday was out another 7 fish were caught, a fantastic brace of mirrors weighing 50lb 11oz for Tony and Ashley, put them firmly in the lead on 91lb 3oz. A slightly smaller brace for Mick and Dan put them in second with 83lb 5oz. The early leaders in peg 7 hadn't caught anymore and were now down to third. Venue regulars the Dummer brothers had closed the gap and were now only 5oz behind third place on 73lb 9oz.

It was looking like Sunday morning would bring an exciting finale to the event with any three from 4 pegs in

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with a realistic chance of making the new style final at Barston. Tony Picardo and Jimmy Harris, peg 2, added a second fish which put them on 38lb 1oz, only 2 fish away from a top 3 place. Paul and Lee managed to net a high double to take them back to top spot by a mere 1oz. We were inside the last 20 minutes when Ricky Dummer, now fishing on his own as his brother had to leave early due to important family commitments, managed to hook and land a fish. It was a low double common but what effect would it have on the scores?

There was no more action after that which meant that Paul Michael Smith and Lee May took the victory with 5 fish for 91lb 4oz. The runners up with only an ounce less were Tony Reynolds and Ashley Izzard.

Third qualifying place went to Billy and Ricky Dummer with 4 fish for 85lb 8oz. While Mick Ledger and Dan Moorcroft were pipped at the post and finished in fourth on 83lb 5oz.

Under the circumstances I don't think we can be too disappointed with the outcome. We had 7 out of the 12 competing pairs registering fish. There were 22 fish caught consisting of 12 20lbers, 4 upper doubles and 6 lower

doubles. There
was less than 8lb
separating 1st and 4th
places which made
it a very exciting and
close match. The top 4

pairs changed around regularly during the 48 hours which made it very difficult to forecast right up to the final hooter.'

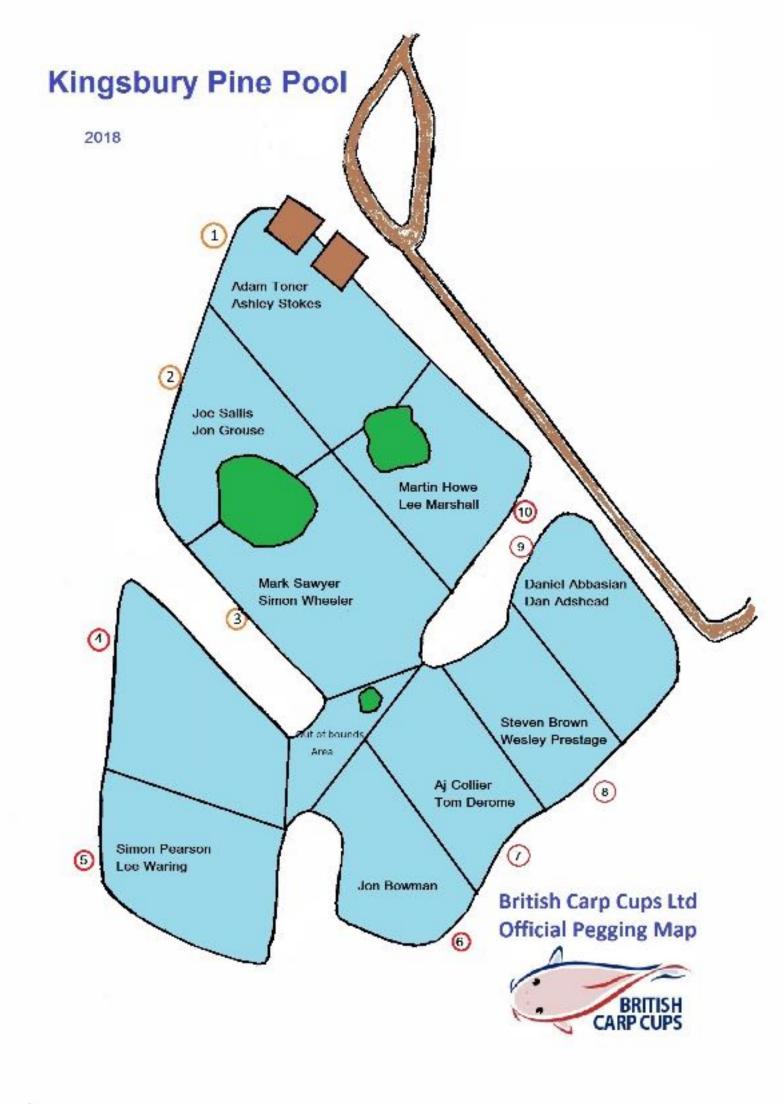












This was our best match of the year by some margin. Not only was the weather glorious but the fishing proved to be excellent too. By Friday evening I was beginning to think otherwise as we had been fishing for almost seven hours before the first fish was landed. No sooner had we weighed, photographed and returned her it was like someone had opened the flood gates and it was pretty much action all the way from there on in.

The top five pegs all registered a hundred pound plus weights. There were 49 fish caught for a total weight of 806lb which gave an approximate 16.5lb average. The biggest fish was a 30lb 2oz common caught by Ashley Stokes in peg 1. His partner Adam Toner banked a 23lb 6oz common which made a great shot. We had 1 30lber, 11 x 20's, 32 x doubles and 5 x singles and every peg in the competition had fish.

Three out of the top five pegs held the lead at various times throughout the weekend. Due to their domination on both nights the 2 Dan's, Abbasian and Adshead, in peg 9, managed to take the victory by approximately 10lb. Which proved that coming out second in the draw and getting one of your top picks can be very beneficial. Steven Brown and Wesley Prestage came out fifth but still managed to bag





runners up spot from peg 8. John Bowman was third out of the draw bag and picked peg 6, where after a slow first night made up for it on the second and took the third qualifying place from Aj Collier and Tom Derome who ended up in fourth from next door. In fifth place were Adam Toner and Ashley Stokes who had a better stamp of fish with a 30, 2 x 20's and 2 doubles to creep just over the 100lb.

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# CARPING MANAGEMENT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROP

Chapter 4

Mike 'SPUG' Redfern

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"Open a bottle or two, and smell the grapes"

## ~In The Beginning~

Christmas 1968 must have been a good one for the old man, as I popped out exactly nine months later on the 26th of September 1969. I found that I had a brother who was two years old, the day after I was born, so clearly he was a Christmas baby too. This was the life of a man in the forces, as Dad was an air traffic controller and got posted here, there, and everywhere. Mum was training to be a teacher so she stayed in the UK. We ended up living in Wales and then Gibraltar until we came back to England when I was four years old. By this point things were still reasonably okay. There was only one hiccup, other than them losing me in a superstore in Morocco, and that was when my dad picked me up from kindergarten and asked, "How's he been today?"

"Not bad. He's only bitten two so far," came the reply.

Back in England, we moved to Norfolk and the next couple of years went fine, other than the fact that I incessantly fell off my pushbike and was developing the



Four years old.

art of making people laugh at me. On my seventh birthday mum and dad bought me one of those all-in-one fishing kits; white rod, black reel, landing net and a gaily coloured porcupine quill float - the lot. I thought it looked great, but my Mum had reservations. "He'll never get on with fishing, he doesn't have the patience. He'll be a nightmare. Oh well, at least I will get some peace for an hour or two."

And so it was that the next week, I was taken on my first fishing trip. After the usual performances of getting set up and casting, I eventually managed to land my float, somewhere near the groundbait and maggots, which I had already had a great deal of fun lobbing

in. I stood mesmerised by the whole situation and then after a while, that float sailed away from me and into the depths of the lake. It was such a fantastic feeling to lift the rod and feel a fish on the end thrashing around for freedom, then to reel it in and become the proud captor of a big old rudd, all three-quarters of a pound of it. I was so happy. Here was



Mum and Dad.

something that I could actually do! It was amazing, and so much easier than riding a pushbike. I was going to be a fisherman and that was that! We went as often as possible and had loads of fun catching whatever we could.

The local school had a bit of a bad reputation at the time so the parents thought it would be best to send us to boarding school. I know Mum regrets that decision now, but she shouldn't as I had a whale of a time. I didn't seem to learn that much. It had just turned comprehensive when I got there, but then I may not have got in when it was grammar rated. Because we were boarders we got longer holidays, a full two weeks extra in the summer, and that meant my brother and I



Catching whatever we could.



It was massive.

could go down the local mere and basically have the place to ourselves. Other than fighting and throwing stones at each other, we did actually catch quite a lot of little fish. Once, when I was about the age of 12, Dad came to pick us up from the local mere and just when he was at breaking point from the tenth cry for, "Just one last cast, pleeease!" he ambled off to see the other anglers, to find out what they had caught. He came back grinning from ear to ear, to exclaim proudly that we were fishing for the wrong fish and that some chap down the bank had caught four, four-pound tench and they were the fish we should be

fishing for. "Yeah, right! I've landed 18 roach on the same maggot. Now that is angling!" I exclaimed at the top of my voice. He was right (as always) and it didn't take long before we were 'specimen hunting.'



We stuck to it.

We bought the books and read up on what we had to do. Dad would get us down there at 3.30 in the morning and we would throw out a Hillman Minx starter handle (on the end of Mum's washing line) as far as we could into the mere and drag it back, stirring the bottom up as it went. By the way, for you younger lot, a Hillman Minx was a car and a starter handle was a thing you put into the bottom of the engine to start the car if the ignition didn't work! It must be on Google somewhere. Anyway I digress; with the bottom stirred up, out went the ground bait and sweetcorn, shortly followed by a medium-sized float, with either a worm or some sweetcorn on the hook. Then the wait



I would tag along.

began. The mist would come off the lake as the sun came up and I just sat there paralysed, staring at my float, willing it to rise, lie flat and then sail away. Of course it didn't for ages, but then one day and out of the blue it did and I landed a three-pounder. Christ, it was massive and it gave me a huge sense of achievement. I had no idea at the time, but that one capture would influence my life so much.

The bug was now more of a deep-rooted problem. We stuck to it and then one tench turned into three and so on. They were fantastic days spent in the shade, recounting stories of huge fish. I didn't really fish in winter, in fact I think I used to stay in and send Mum round the twist. Now this was quite easy to do, as Dad was often out following his passion, which was falconry. We had all sorts of things in our back garden, like owls, kestrels and falcons but I guess the best one was a golden eagle called, and check this out, 'Joey'. We had him for years and every now and again I would tag along and go hunting with him up a local farmer's fields. It was great fun.

#### ~The Blunder Years~

I had a little mate at school called Jim and he had the same outlook on life as I did. We were forever in trouble over one thing or another, and we didn't quite fit in like all the 'smoothies', as we had discovered heavy metal and in particular Iron Maiden, by our early teens. I had tried the ska scene but I couldn't do that silly dance they did. Being 'head-bangers' suited our persona much better and we were often found in the common room, blaring out our music, which didn't suit the Tukka boot brigade or the teachers either. We stayed true to the cause and left school with a good selection of scary T-shirts. Jim worked on his family's farm and I became a trainee mechanic.

Now, I would love at this point to paint a romantic picture of how I have been this fisherman for over 30 years, but it's not true. The tench buzz lasted until we were about 17 and at that time I finally realised that, 'ol purple' wasn't just for



The way forward.

impressing my mates in the school toilets, by peeling back fore-skin and showing them how high I could pee up the wall. In fact I had finally lost my cherry in the local school bike shed, (I always was a bit of a romantic) and while I'll admit it didn't last long, I knew with a little practise, I could improve. At this point I also had a motorbike and had found beer, so quite simply it was time to rock! Sex, beer and heavy metal were going to be the focus of my next few years and Jim agreed it was the way forward.

I will never forget the day when Mum walked into the garage where I worked and said something quietly to my boss, I saw him nod and then she came over. "You had better come home, something bad's happened." It was Jim. He had been killed on his motorbike and I was utterly destroyed. It was to have a profound impact on my life. I went to the funeral and that was just awful. It was the day I started smoking, as I just didn't give a set about the implications. Who cared? It could be me the next day. It taught me that life could be cruel to say the least. It also taught me about loss and changed my outlook on life. I then decided to make the most of every day, as you never knew what was round the corner.

It wasn't long after this that I quit the job at the garage. A friend of mine had started to work a night shift in the local abattoir and was earning five times what I was. I had moved out into lodgings and a YTS wage of £35 wasn't going to cover my drinking tab, let alone the rent! You don't get something for nothing and five times the wage sounded good, but pulling pigs' guts out of drains on a night shift was hardly my idea of a dream job. Eventually I moved into the despatch department, I started dating a local lass and we got engaged. Two years later I took my HGV and started lorry driving. I was always away, struggling to pay the mortgage, which had come along when I was 20. She copped the ane and left as I was never there, which was fair enough. I jacked in the driving and worked in the yard. We had a new transport manager called Andy Faulds and he liked me. When he became factory manager, I was promoted to despatch manager as he said he knew a way of channelling my energy in a positive way, so at last things on the work front improved greatly.

Around this time I met a new lass and we started dating. I was still burning the candle at both ends; mainly going to loads of concerts and getting pitted down the pub all the time. Then she saw my old pile of fishing gear. I don't know if it was to try and slow me down a bit, but she said, "Why don't we go fishing? I used to go with my ex-boyfriend and I loved it." In that instant I remembered just how happy fishing used to make me and although I had gone now and again, it had been five or six years since I had fished properly. Now I was 22 years old and had a lovely looking lass who was talking of settling down and it just seemed the right moment to grab the rods again and enjoy some peace and tranquillity.

### ~Wetting A Line Once More~

We had a lot of fun just going float fishing around small local ponds, again catching anything we could on sweetcorn and ham. Quite a few weekends were spent fishing and it meant meeting up with old school friends, who hadn't quite gone on the swerve in life that I had. Jonathan Dye (Hogg) was one of those



We had a lot of fun.

friends and we started to fish a bit together. Then Steve Manning, one of Dad's mates, dusted his rods off too, and all of a sudden I had a different social circle and fishing went more and more up the priority ladder. One day whilst out with fiancé number two and Steve, I landed a 10lb carp which was a pond record! I was delighted and made the decision then and there that I wanted to catch a bigger one. In fact, a much, much bigger one!

A bit of Egyptian mythology for you; a scorpion is at the side of the river and wants to get across to the other side, but he can't swim. As he is standing there wondering what to do, he sees a turtle just about to cross a few metres away. He walks across to the turtle and asks him if he will give him a lift across to the other side. The turtle is somewhat dubious of this proposal and says, "I am not sure. What if you sting me?"



10lb pond record!

The scorpion replies, "Well, if I do that, we'll both drown won't we? We have to trust each other."

The turtle agrees to take him across. As they are about to reach the other side, the scorpion stings the turtle.

"Why did you sting me when you promised you wouldn't? Now we are both going to drown!" said the turtle.

The Scorpion then replied, "Because, Mr Turtle, it's in my nature!"

Therein lies one of my biggest faults; I just can't do anything by half. I have an addictive nature, and it's as simple as that. When Iron Maiden released a single, I bought every version going, the 7", then the 12", then the 7" picture disc, then the 12" picture disc. I bought the bloody lot! When it came to beer, one could never be enough; it was drink until I was pissed. If I bought a Terry Pratchett book, then I had to go out and get all the others. So getting hooked on fishing again now, and not being limited to pocket money and having a car, meant only one thing; there could be trouble ahead!

### ~Bring On The Boilies!~

It was now early 1994 and we were buying the carping mags and getting into it big time. Cheque spreads turned out to be a wonderful way of purchasing tackle, as there was a wedding planned for the July. We started using Mainline baits straight away and even had one attempt at making them ourselves. I have to say, that Hogg and I thought making them was rubbish, so after that one attempt we never bothered. We just got on the phone and ordered them.

We started doing night sessions on day ticket lakes, although I have to confess that I never really got on with night bites, as I usually had a sore head and the fish were usually small. During the day I was much happier reeling in little ones. The desire to catch a whacker was there straight away and we booked a trip out to Les Quis in France for September 1995, but we would have to wait nearly a year before that trip would actually happen. At this point there was still the old close season and so we booked the start of the 1994 season at Waveney Valley



Mainline baits.

Lakes and we had the recently opened Heartsmere pool to ourselves. My brother Noel and his soon-to-be-wife, Lindsey, were coming along, with me and my own soon-to-be wife and also rather worryingly, soon to be ex-wife, but we'll get to that in a bit. Family friend Steve was due down a day or so later. We set everything up with a good sized food area around a barbecue table, and we waited until 10pm on the 15th of June, when we were allowed to cast There was always out. something special about the 16th



I never really got on with night bites.

of June and the old close season. It's a weird one really as I would go round the twist now if I didn't fish in those months but in those days you didn't think about it

and you just looked forward to that first night or morning. It was like waiting for Christmas when you were a kid. Noel caught two or three the first morning and he was off to a flyer. I caught a little one and so did my lass. Then Steve turned up and set up in the corner next to Noel with a tent he had borrowed off a mate. The tent turned out to be bright orange and it signalled the end of Noel's bites straight away as he was set up in the reflection of it! Although we didn't catch anything big, we really enjoyed ourselves and the bug bit deeper



During the day I was much happier.



Linz.

and the trouble started brewing.

I got married in the July and the wedding was great. You got all the food first, everybody clapped when you spoke and people bought you drinks all day. I will have to do it again sometime! I guess the writing was on the wall when Andy Faulds, my boss, mentor and friend was messing about during the meal at the reception, when his wife said rather angrily to him, "For God's sake Andrew, can't you behave yourself for just one day? This is Mike's wedding!" He replied, "Exactly. There will be another one someday, so I will behave at that!"

I had been married less than

an hour! Anyway, after a couple of nights in a posh hotel with a four-poster bed, we returned to Heartsmere for a five-night session and caught a few more. That return was of course my idea and it set things up nicely for a couple of local solicitors for the year after.

Noel and I had bought a cheap ticket for a local club water. There was a good head of 20s in there and they came out fairly regularly. We popped down for a quick overnighter in mid-September. The wind was hacking down the lake and it was puring it down. Noel got his rods out without too much bother, but I didn't and managed to fire mine straight up a tree, which meant re-tackling in the rain. I finally got the rod out and jumped in the car which was parked behind the swim, to dry out. As it was just an overnighter I hadn't bothered with a bedchair and all that, as I knew we could drive up to the swim. Once in the car, dry and warm, I dozed off. At about 10pm Noel shouted that he had one, and we were punching the air for joy when he landed a 16.8 mirror. It was huge and we were buzzing! I jumped back in the car and went to sleep again. Next thing I knew, he was calling me again. I opened the door.

"You in again?" I asked.

"No, you are!" he replied.





My first big fish.

I dashed across to the swim, grabbed my rod off him and landed a mirror which turned out to weigh 17.8. It was my first big fish and I just couldn't believe its size. As we drove home, we had our sunroofs open and kept sticking a clenched fist out through them, just to let the world know how happy we were!

"Don't get me anything for Christmas, I'll get some fishing tackle on a cheque spread in the new year," I told the wife.

"Oh, okay then," she said.
Christmas day came and I got
absolutely nothing! Now, when I
had said 'get me nothing', I was
kind of expecting some smellies,
or a CD or something.

"Well you said nothing, so I got nothing. Just get yourself some tackle like you said you would," she grinned at me.

So that is exactly what I did! £720 worth of bivvies, bite alarms, bedchair, in fact nearly a new outfit. She hit the roof! 'That'll teach you!' I thought. Now don't forget, we had said 'for richer for poorer' after all. It caused a bit of trouble that was for sure and when Valentine 's Day came, I thought I had better make an effort and take her out for a nice meal. Everything was sorted nicely. I even had a shirt on as we arrived at the pub. Now imagine the scene; a nice dining area, full of happy couples, all with roses in front of them and big love-heart-shaped balloons above them, it really was quite romantic. Now when I said it was full of happy couples, that wasn't strictly true, as one couple, well one wife (mine) wasn't happy at all. She started on me in front of everyone.

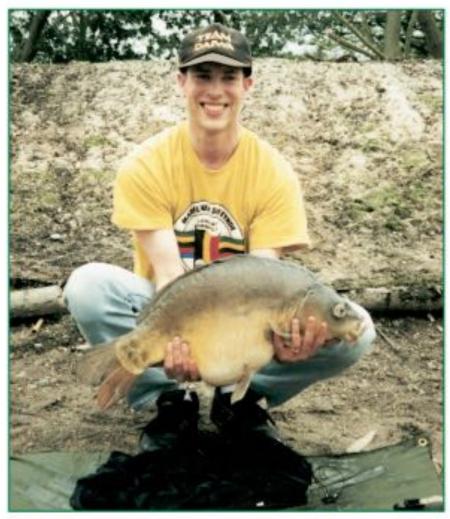
"Hey, if you're not happy, let's talk about this when we get home, not here in front of everybody," I pleaded quietly, somewhat embarrassed as people were looking.

"Huh, you just can't take it," she huffed back.

"I can take it," I replied.
"I just don't want to take it,
right here and right now."

She stood up and dumped me in front of everyone, then stormed out leaving me to pay the bill. I didn't see her for six weeks after that! Clearly my little stunt hadn't gone down that well.

It had become apparent that the fishing was starting to cause a little hassle. She reappeared after those six weeks and we decided to try and make a go of it. I hadn't really done that many nights up to this point, but I had big



Prepared to wait an hour.

plans for 1995 and they involved getting as many nights in as possible. My obsession with carping was clearly growing deeper all the time and in her opinion, I loved fishing more than I did her, which in fairness to her, probably meant I wasn't paying her enough attention.

We had the start of the season on Heartsmere and this time Hogg was also in bother, as he had purchased all the night fishing gear and was in equally as much trouble as I was. That trip was so funny because, although Hogg had fished all his life and caught various things (including the clap I think) he had never really set his stall out to catch carp. Linz (Noel's wife) was heavily pregnant and they squeezed in together under an oval brolly. How they managed that I will never know. Hogg and his wife were up the end to the right, myself and the wife were on the left-hand side. As Hogg made his first cast as a carp fisherman, he shouted out that he was prepared to wait an hour for his first 20. It was less than an hour later that he did just that. "You jammy git!" we shouted in unison. He, of course, was just lapping it up.

"I don't know what all the fuss is about," he said, rather tongue in cheek. Now this fish at 20.2, had only been put in the lake recently as it had a sore belly or



A new PB of 19lb 4oz.

something. We had been told by Tony Knox, the lake owner, that if we caught it, we were to put some Klinik on its belly as it wasn't too well. We named it Popeye and put her back. That night we were putting Klinik on it again, as it swam to the left and picked Noel's bait up, too. So he was the proud owner of a twenty-pounder also! Well the tale didn't end there either, as the bloody thing swam past me and the wife caught it! So they had all caught a 20, and I hadn't.

The fish was obviously in a little distress and we didn't really click on to that until its third capture. We went and told Tony and he said it would be fine and it always had been a greedy blighter. He was right, as I think that fish still swims in there today. I'm not sure, but it was certainly in there for a few years after. You can imagine the plas-taking I got because of that, though. I was getting it in the ear big-time from all of them. In fact I think you could even hear Shelby (as yet unborn in Linz's stomach) having a giggle!

On returning home this fired me up even more and I had a ticket for Kingfisher lake, so I went down there and had a little go. I managed to land a new PB of 19lb 4oz and although perhaps somewhat more of a creditworthy capture, I would have still given my right hand to have landed Popeye also.

## ~Les Quis~ The Best Chance In France

Les Quis was the first proper package holiday for carp fishing trips in France. They opened in 1991 and the whole idea of the place was to make big fish fishing, easy. They picked you up in a mini-bus (in those days) from Dover and drove you to the lakes a few hours into France. The lakes are stuffed full of fish and they (the owners, not the fish) even cook your grub for you, too. A perfect place for a couple of noddies like me and Hogg to go and nail a load of 40s first go. Well, that was the plan anyway. Now I am going to detail a week's trip out to Les Quis later in the book and until that point, I'll just make references to there as I go through the following chapters. Anyway, the excitement was reaching fever pitch before we got there and I was sending everyone round the twist about it and by the time we headed off, along with another old school chum Tony Bond, I think it's fair to say the wife was glad to see the back of me.

We didn't have any idea what to expect, well except for a load of 40s of course, but when that first morning came along and we had arrived, we just sat there in awe of the place. We went ill-prepared and struggled badly, but that

wasn't the lake's fault, as everybody else was ripping it up. Now when I say 'we', that means me and Hogg, as Tony started catching straight away and come the Monday he had landed a few doubles up to 19lb and we hadn't had a sniff. Tony and Hogg went for a walk round the complex and told me to look after the rods. "If one goes just shout and we'll run back," I was informed. I was lying there on my bedchair not 20 minutes later, when I heard a take. I got out and looked and there was Tony's rod whizzing away. Now I had been shappy myself about blanking and at this stage of my carping career, I was quite happy to poach one off someone else's rods, so I picked up his rod and whispered, "Tony you're in," in my quietest



First morning.

voice. After a little while I landed a whopper at 25.8. I was laughing, and I even had it videoed by someone walking past, before those two got back. I popped the fish in a sack to show them when they returned. As I went to cast the rod back in, a fish jumped. I cast the lead at the fish and 10 minutes later it was off again! "Tony you're in!" I whispered again, still laughing at my good fortune. The fish was nearly in the net when they came into view and instantly they were sprinting round to get in on the action. It was too late, as I just got it into the net as they arrived!

"I thought you were going to shout us if the rods went off!" Tony rather unhappily commented, looking at what would have been his first ever 20 in the net.

"I did, didn't you hear me?" I replied innocently. I could see the look on Hogg's face. He knew damn well I had kippered Tony up. I have always said it, if you can't handle the thought of someone else landing a big one on your rods, then reel them in, simple as that! We weighed the fish at 24.8. My first 20 (sort of). As I had actually cast the rod, I counted that one really. Tony had a slightly sick look on his face but this was only to get worse when I whipped the sack out and proudly announced that this one was a pound bigger! Just to really finish him off, I suggested a brace shot! He walked off looking like his doughnut had no jam in it.

The next day we saw our first 40 in the flesh, as a lad landed one weighing 45lb, opposite us. It was one they called Eric and it just looked enormous. We stood there, mouths open and dribbling. We made a pact then and there, that we would always go there every year. We knew that we had either been unlucky or we weren't getting it right, because everyone was caning them. Carp fishing can be the great leveller at times and on the Thursday Tony had his jam well and truly back in his doughnut, as he landed a whopping great 46lb mirror, which did indeed take the sting out of the tail of my wind-ups! It was also on the Thursday night that Hogg had a right paddy. Everything had gone wrong for him; his bedchair had bust, a buzzer he had borrowed had bust, a bivvy pole snapped in a storm and to make things worse, he was the only person who had not caught a fish from that lake all year! I had (he he) a brace shot of a couple of 20s!

It was the only time I have ever seen him lose his rag, but he just shouted and punched the bedchair in frustration. I really wanted to laugh, but I did feel sorry for him, as our lack of preparation and skill was really hurting us now and the whole thing had brought us down to earth with a bump. Friday morning came and after breakfast our broken hero just put on three baits, launched them out as





Please don't fall off.

far as he could, got back on to his broken bedchair and said he needed some sleep. Not 20 minutes later, one of his rods ripped off and those little knobbly knees were shaking as he played a fish in.

"Please don't fall off, please don't fall off," he kept repeating and slowly but surely a low 20 edged to the net and when it finally kissed the spreader block, you have never ever seen anyone go so ballistic in your

life. I think he almost blubbed as he weighed it, but he certainly kissed it more times than he had his wife that year, of that I was sure. Talk about pulling it out of the bag!

We returned home a lot wiser than we had been before the trip. It was a great learning curve for us both, and we looked forward to returning. Someone else had learned something too and that was the wife; she had had enough and decided that she was too young to be married and that she wanted to go and see the world. She said she was sorry and that I could keep the house as she felt a little guilty about it and that was that. We didn't have the big fight or anything and she had clearly felt unsettled the whole time. She stayed in the house until all the paperwork was done and everything was signed over in my name, then she left on the 23rd of December and joined the Navy, never to be seen again.

Now if I thought the last Christmas was a bad one, this one took the biscuit. I went round mum and dad's for the dinner and said I would be okay to go back to the house by myself. Well I got that wrong and in the end I sat there crying my eyes out about it all. Even though we knew it had been coming for weeks, it was still hard to deal with, as I did actually love that girl a lot in my own little way. I just didn't show it properly I guess. I could feel the whole thing getting out of hand, so I phoned up the cavalry and said that I could not do this one on my own. The cavalry turned up in the shape of Hogg and his car.

"Come on Spoogles, you're staying at ours tonight." I think it may have stopped me from doing something stupid.

#### ~Decisions Made~

After that little hiccup, I swore that I would never let things get on top of me like that again. I also made the decision that I wanted to go fishing more, as that was when I was at my happiest. I think it was April and although still somewhat upset about what had happened, I started seeing another girl (rebound I think they call it) but anyway, she was a little older than me and had a son of five years old.

The fishing started around May and most of it was done on the Catch 22 Big Lake. Although I had a Kingfisher ticket, I found the place daunting and, bar two fish, all I ever did was blank and not enjoy myself down there. Hogg and I fished as much as we could and we started catching them a bit better than we



A bit better.

previously had. Well, in England that was the case, as we got back out to Les Quis in the April and blanked while everyone else caught again! Still, we got to meet Tob (Terry o' Brien) and Essex Gary (Exton) and we had a real good laugh. I seemed to strike a chord with Tob and Gary and they made me keep telling them

our tales from Norfolk. I don't think they could quite take it all in but either way, Tob especially, became a friend and when we came back from our second unprepared outing, I jumped on the phone and managed to get us on another trip that September. Hogg agreed it was a good idea.

Back In England and still without direction, we had our yearly bash at Heartsmere and this time we all caught quite a few doubles. The new bird even turned up and we had red wine aplenty. I was starting to get used to the idea of being a bit of a step-dad. I can remember Hogg walking around the side of the pond, when he laughed and called out that he had seen Popeye in the corner and that I should cast a bait there. So I reeled one in and cast my bait right into the corner. We knew he was a greedy bugger and it might give me an opportunity to catch my first English 20-pounder. It took less than half an hour before that silly old fool picked this silly young fool's bait up, and in true Spug style he weighed in at 18lbs! Oh well, it was nice to see him again and his belly was all better now, so that was the main thing. After the annual jolly we were still having a go up at Catch 22 Big Lake and I was popping up to the local club water and having a good go at them off the top. I had been doing quite well really and I was catching one nearly every time I went. It was around late June when I landed a



Silly old fool.

fish after an unspectacular fight, and out of the blue there was my first English 20 lying in my net! I was really pleased. Okay, it was a year after everybody else, but that didn't matter. I had got one at last and it got me thinking.



My first English 201

What did I really want from all this fishing malarky? I mean, what was it all about for me? I decided over a bottle of wine and a barbecue that, first and foremost, it had to be fun all the time, and secondly, I set myself a lifetime ambition and that would be 20 English 20s, one English 30 (even though none of the lakes I had fished even had one in!) a French 40-plus mirror and a French 40-plus common. Yeah that would do nicely for me. I spoke to Hogg about it and he said that he felt a little lost really and that if we wanted to start catching 20s regularly, then we would have to get on a decent syndicate and stop putting about on the waters we were currently fishing. The new bird had also asked me to stop putting about and let her move in. I said she could when she got a job as I didn't earn enough to pay out for three. I thought that cunning plan would keep her at bay as I had kind of realised that I had stumbled into something, that perhaps, I wouldn't have done in normal circumstances. Still, she didn't mind me going fishing as much as I wanted to and I thought that was a fair trade if I was going to be a full-time step-dad.

September came and so did Les Quis trip number three. Hogg and I had spoken about which swim we would like to end up in and we both agreed that we would like to get on the point of the Long Lake where we had seen our first 40-pounder. Tob did the draw on the coach, we pulled reasonably good numbers and we were soon pushing the barrows round to the point swim. As soon as we got there, I set my pod up and cast out three stringers, all with Essential Opal shelf lifes on and before my bivvy was up, the middle rod had roared off and I landed a 22.8 mirror 20 minutes later! What a start this was, the biggest fairly caught fish I had landed, well certainly on my rods anyway. I cast the rod out again and just like the first time, it was off 20 minutes later! This was a different fight to anything I had felt before. It was slow and heavy and when it wanted to go anywhere it just



My first French 40.

stripped line off until I stopped it. I really thought it could be my first 30 and I was flapping a bit. Slowly but surely in she came and a big mirror rolled into my net.

"Oh Hogg, that has got to be a 30," I said.

"I can't lift it out!" he replied, his skinny little estate agent arms at full power."

Do you reckon the net is stuck on something?"

I said. "I don't know."

"Here, you have a go," came the reply. Up came the net and she was huge!

"I think that's Eric!" I blurted out. We popped her on the Avons and the dial went flying past 40lbs and I squealed with delight. My first French 40, what a result! We wanted to get a proper weight, so we placed her in the net and Hogg held her in the edge as I sprinted round to borrow Tob's scales. "You winding me up?" Tob asked, but only once. He could tell that it had happened by the look on my face and the fact that I was jumping up and down like a three year-old!

We went and weighed him and recorded a weight of 45lbs. I was over the moon! We had only been there an hour and Tob was really pleased for me and laughing his head off at my antics. I caught another couple of doubles that day and we thought we were going to whip it, but we didn't, as we hadn't quite got it right out there yet. The fish did the off as we tried to hold them with shelf lifes and you really needed a lot more bait than we had taken. My new PB was a lucky fish but I didn't care. As Hogg says, 'The picture doesn't always tell the story!'

Speaking of stories, the new bird had one to tell when I rang her on the Thursday; she had got a job and moved in! It had a fantastic salary of £85 a week. 'Now that should pay for two, now shouldn't it?' I thought to myself. Oh well, I had caught a 40-pounder and that was all that mattered. I wasn't going to let that put a damper on it, as in all fairness she was getting back into work after a few years off and that should be respected in some ways. I told Hogg and he laughed. "Christmas is going to cost you a little more than last year mate!" I didn't mind and in fact we had a lovely Christmas, unlike the year before.

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Carping fishing to many is a 36/48hrs session sat on the bank waiting and watching for the next carp to come along. However, for me to have this time would be a luxury, its finding the balance between family life and fulltime work. my time out on the bank is once a week after work or when possible hoping to grab a few hours at a weekend. With time being short I feel

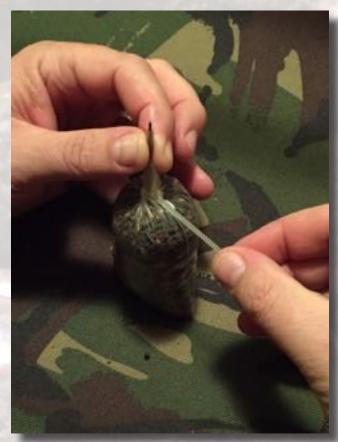
for me the best way to manage my sessions is to be prepared so the evening before I sort the rigs, bait and tackle.

For my short sessions
I like to use two sorts
of baiting approaches
depending which
lake I fish. My main
approach is to use
solid PVA bags which
to be honest is my
most preferred way of
fishing. This is purely
because you can cast

them out into the lake with the confidence that your rig, hook bait and free offerings will be working to their full potential and doing the job they are made for, Rig wise I use a **Deception Angling** SWG size 6 hook this is my favourite pattern tied to a short supple hook link, bait wise I to use a nut wafter from sharp baits a local bait company in Derby check out their



Talking Carp



face book page or I use the corn stacks from Evolution tackle My second approach, which I have just started using, which so far has proven to be successful, is to use re hydrated boilies soaked in hemp water from my cooked hemp which brings the boilie back to life and gives them an edge. This works by the hemp water being absorbed by the bait which expands the bait back

to its original size or bigger but more attractive with the added bonus off looking like old baits. again I use the SWG hook pattern this time tied to the Depcepti-link , bait wise I use half a rehydrated bait with half

a pink berry pop up. (insert the two pics of the rig and rehydrated

baits) I like to use two different method because it gives me different options on the bank to try and I catch using them which is the most important thing especially when time is limited. I'm fully confident in both these methods, it's very important

to find what works for you and build upon that but be prepared to keep an open mind to the forever growing field within baits and methods

My short sessions vary between 4 to 12hrs pending on life and of course the weather which I do feel is always against me. These sessions start the evening before with rig checking and PVA bag making, (inset the series of PVA bags) I always make sure that I have at least 10 made



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using either the Avid bag stems or leaders from Deception, especially when I know that the lake has a lot of hungry bream in. There are two main waters that I fish, one being a 2-acre club water which has fish up to the mid 30's that I have now fished for 12 years and I also fish a syndicate water with fish just under 30.

Once at the lake I always do couple of laps of to see if anything is showing or feeding, this is important to do when



on a short session you can't just wait for the carp to find you. Once I've seen where the fish are feeding I'll cast a PVA bag towards them I like to do this first before setting up the rest of my tackle. You can't catch carp if your rigs aren't in the

water. With the traps set, it's time to watch the water to see if they are showing elsewhere around the lake, also if your memory is as good as mine take notes either in a book or I use my memo app on my phone, another great tip is to clip up before you pack away so the following week if you manage to get into the same peg you can get the rigs out with less disturbance.

After a gallon of coffee and hopefully a good size carp or two all good sessions come to an end. However, the work is not yet done. It's always good to



#### **Short Session Carping**

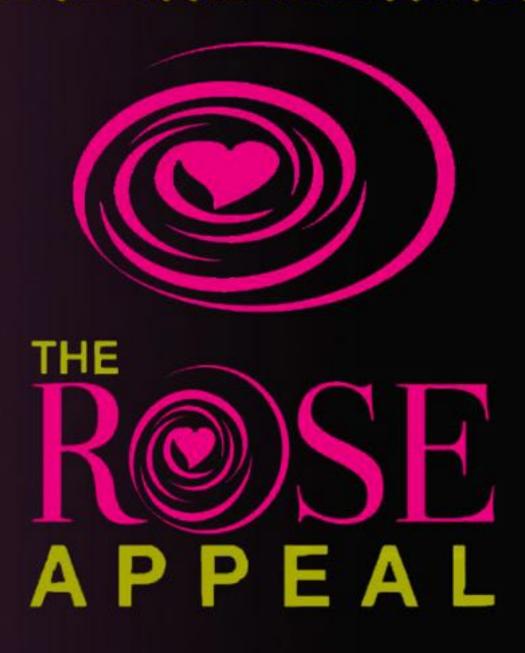


pre-bait sections of the lake that you know the carp will be visiting to feed pending other anglers on the lake. This will get them use to eating your bait without them getting hooked so for the next time you get to squeeze in a session your chances will be better plus baiting a few spots also means if you get to the lake and someone is in the peg you've been fishing you know you have a few more choices. This is a key point for short sessions it's not just about you are feeling confident but it's also down to the carp feeling confident in feeding.

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Hello to one and all!
With this wet miserable weather hopefully going to disappear soon and with the warm sunshine upon the water the elusive carp may start to make

Speaking of the warmth on the water we have had a question in from Kev Bateman. He is thinking of getting on the zigs and he's a bit

an appearance.

unsure of how to use adjustable zigs. First of all, thank you Kev for your question.

I myself have been looking into using these on my venue in the near future. I have been speaking to an extremely experienced angler who has been using them to great effect on that venue. He has used a lot of different zig floats and has even made his

own. He recommends the Korda ones. At the moment he is using the Nash zig floats with great confidence.

To set them up it is very similar to a marker float principal. As far as zigs you need to be very particular in the length of your zig hook link i.e. 4-foot, 5-foot, 6-foot. When you cast out feel the lead down then let the zig float up to the surface, you



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need to tighten your line until you see the float bob under tension. Sometimes you may need to use binoculars to see the float bob. This is where your choice of length of hook link will come into its own. Say your hook link is 4 feet long, this is when you can start to hand line 4-foot in. This will mean your

float is 4-foot under your zig float on the surface. This is the point when you can start to count to your chosen depth. Don't forget to use PVA nuggets on your hook before you cast out and always hit the clip and stop the float in the air just before hitting the surface. This helps to eliminate tangles. I

hope these tips help you Kev. I am looking forward to seeing a couple of zig captures in Talking Carp soon!

Until next time – be lucky and keep the questions coming into Talking Carp.

Paul







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Well some things are just not meant to be, with a week of work I had planned on a trip down south to Linear fisheries.

The week leading up to it had seen some good fish coming out but also a deluge of rain that had left some of the banks closed. As it neared closer things took a change with an unexpected bill flooding in and meaning funds to go down where just not there.

With this happening I decided to finally get round to getting my club ticket for the year and hoping I could get on a few waters for a session on 2 at least.

It was 3rd April when
I finally found myself
unable to sleep during
the day which meant I
would be tired during
my night shift so my
train of thought was put
it to good use and get

out on the bank of one of the waters I intend on spending some time on this year, being close to my house it meant in no time I had a couple of rods out in a flooded swim. My thinking was there was a south-westerly wind blowing right down into the swim margin and being flooded I guessed not

I kept the rigs simple just multi rigs with the 12mm fruit specials and blasted with some

many people would

through fishing in it.

actually put themselves

Vanilla peanut cream spray from Stinkystuff. Well nothing shown, moved or was caught in the few hours I was there and with time running out as I would need a shower before work that night I moved further up the middle of the lake for the last hour.

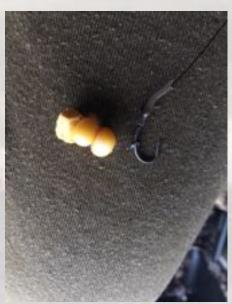
While in the second swim of the day I seen 2 carp crash out down the left margin so at least it gave me an idea of where to start for my next session. So work done that night it was the start of my



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weeks holiday first up diabetic clinic at 4pm, do they not know how busy my fishing schedule was lol With that out the way I headed over to Suretop for a night keeping everything the same rig wise I settled on a few nice spots and stuck out a couple of 100 Baits with the stick.

It was a cold night with nothing to show, the lake is very deep and the weather had not yet been warm enough to get the fish moving. I was treated to a lovely sunrise before packing up and heading home. Later that day I had





my daughter for the night but had said we would pop down to Meadowview for a brew with Ricky and Mark, with the sun setting and fish on the surface it seemed to good an opportunity not to take and I quickly got a surface rod set up, my surface fishing is terrible I have the finesse of an elephant but luckily Ricky was on hand to help my daughter Lucy bag a couple on floating bread. I booked a night on the local club water and had arrived early

from work, I walked round to see if I could see anything showing but nothing was giving itself away, I therefore opted for the left bank in a peg called the boathouse. it commands a fair bit of out of bounds water and I felt this maybe where the fish would be holding up coming out of the winter slumber. A quick cast over revealed a very clean

revealed a very clean bottom and the lead went down with a donk! That will do for me, wrapped up and set I put about 200 bollies





out in the general area and stuck 2 rods over, one a simple multi rig with the fruit specials and the other a solid bag filled with pellets, bollies crumb, some hemp oil and a blast of VPC again.

The day turned into evening with not much to go on, I thought I had seen a fish come out when making a brew but couldn't be sure and with coots in the area it could have been one of them. The night came in and the temps dropped it did go to about 2c during the night

enough to remind me we was not quite out of winter yet. I woke the next morning at 5:30 to a lake shrouded in mist, it was hard to see the rods let alone fish showing so I turned over and went back to

sleep hoping that when I woke it would have lifted.

I woke around 9 and flicked the kettle on the mist had lifted slightly and I could now almost make out my spot on the far bank, as I sat watching while the kettle boiled a fish jumped clear of the area my rods where in. This was good to see as I now knew I was close.

The kettle had not even boiled when the right rod melted off with a blistering take, I was on it in a flash and bent



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into what was obviously a carp, it held well at the 80 yard area before I finally gained some line, just then it swam straight at me and I had to crank the handle on the reel to keep up with the fish.

It got to my left where if managed to find a snag under the water, I held and pulled on the rod, the line went out to a small branch on the tree where it looped over.

As I pulled the fish popped up below the

tree and I could see it was a good one, so I grabbed the net and went for it, it went in the net first time which now meant all I had to do was get the line out of the tree.

This also went well and eventually I was cradling my prize for a picture and at 24.5lb it was not a fish to be sniffed at.

Big Apple slice scales adorned one side and it looked amazing in the morning mist. I didn't have anything else before the

11:30am pack up but was more than happy to have caught on my first night on a new water.

I have set myself little challenges or things to improve on this year and one of them is my surface fishing, I have the finesse of an elephant but luckily for me my mate Ricky is pretty good at it and has said he would show the ropes. Me and the daughter Lucy popped on one night just as the sun was

setting and Ricky helped her catch 2 off the top in minutes and with that the seed was sown.

As soon as that sun came up a couple of days later I knew it was time to get the floaters out and with a bucket of mixers and lots



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of enthusiasm I was off to Meadowview fishery to try my luck one evening before work. I lost a lot more than I caught but with 2 carp to just over a double under my belt and changing of some of the tackle I was using I am hopeful I have the idea now and look forward to seeing what I can snare off the top this year going forward.

I have been out a few more times visiting Millbrook fishery on one of them occasions but it was full and we drew for pegs which meant if you didn't have one of the going pegs you were limited to your chances of catching, as it was a drew peg 4 which is not known for its numbers of fish but it does give up some

of the bigger residents.
I tried all things while there from solid bags to KD rigged maize but nothing happened and I came away fruitless from my 24 hour

Talking Carp

session, I will be back as the place is lovely, well-kept and well run. Not much else carp wise came to me this month except a few more off the top at Meadowview, but if I was a Tench fisherman I would be happy as I have racked up quite a few captures of the Red eyed doctor fish recently to just over 8lb.

Oh well until next time good luck and keep enjoying it.

Brett



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As a carp angler I often find myself not being able to spend as much time on the bank as I would like. Therefor I do not have another option but to do a lot of short sessions throughout the year. I am sure there are many carp anglers all over the world that find themselves in the same situation, and that is why I am giving my carpers opinion on the ideal approach I think one should take. These are the things that have helped me capture more carp in my shorter sessions. In a regular month I am only able to do one short weekend session which is usually after work from about 5pm on a Friday until 12pm on a Sunday. This equals a slim total of 43 hours of fishing. It is needless to say that every opportunity I get to wet my lines is worth gold to me, and therefor proper planning and preparation is of paramount importance to try and make a success of every time I do get out on the bank.

I usually prepare for each session one to two weeks prior to arriving at my target venue. Over and above checking and making sure that I have packed all the correct tackle and equipment my preparation includes the following 5 necessary steps to ensure that I get as much out of my short session as possible – Some of these steps are only applicable for when I am targeting new or unknown venues. These steps might seem obvious to some anglers, but that does not make it any less important to



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the next carp angler planning his or her new fishing endeavour:

- 1. Studying an aerial view of the lake which can be viewed on Google Earth or the Finygo app which is my personal preference www.finygo. com. This gives me a good idea of potential fishing spots and physical features of the lake I might fancy. An aerial view offers a completely different view of the lake and allows you to see things one generally is not able to see from the bank.
- 2. One of the main reasons I like to start preparing more than a week in advance is so that I can keep an eye on the weather predictions and the actual weather leading up to my session. Weather affects carp behaviour. Example: The majority of the time I have found that on cooler days carp prefer feeding at deeper depths and on warmer days they prefer the shallows. When it's a new wind blowing they will be at the head of the wind direction, but if the wind has been blowing for a longer period of time the carp will gradually move to the back end of the wind.
- 3. Speaking to other anglers that may have fished the venue before and asking them the correct questions. The answers I look for when speaking to other anglers is what the lake bed is like, what colour it is,



the depths of the lake, the water clarity, the direction of the flow, the best feeding method, the best feed and whether there are any fresh water crabs in the lake. Fresh water crabs are the South-African equivalent of crayfish in the UK. These answers will help me determine which rigs and hook baits I would need to use as well as what colour and type hook link material and leaders I would need. It also saves me time, because knowing all this information means I can build enough rigs before hand.

4. Preparing the free offerings - I usually prepare my freebies the day before I fish so that it is as fresh as possible. I use full, half and crushed boilies as free offerings when I fish with boilies, because it simply looks less suspicious to carp and that aids in my attempts in getting them to feed more comfortably and be less wary. This could potentially mean a quicker bite which would be ideal as my session is generally only 43 hours long. I like boosting my boilies in attractor liquids such as the Karper Ltd Energiser Syrups – www.karper.co.uk. I believe this is important when doing short sessions, because the sooner I can get the carp feeding in my swim the better my chances are of landing a chunk before I have to pack up. I always make sure my baits are as attractive as possible, but not over flavoured as carp have very sensitive senses



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and too much flavouring could numb their taste buds.

5. Whenever possible I will try and pre-feed my swim of choice 2 to 3 days in advance. This obviously makes it easier and helps determine where I need to place my lines on the day I arrive at the venue saving me time and effort from still having to try and determine which spots to fish. I also use the booster liquids in my pre-feeding baits just to ensure that it doesn't spook the carp when I put boosted feed out at the beginning of my actual session.

There is no such thing as a blank - Although I might not always capture a carp there is always a valuable lesson to be learned from every experience even if it is only a rough idea of what I need do differently the next time I visit the same fishing spot.

So when the time for my session has finally arrived, and the sun is setting over the horizon. Whilst the orange, yellow and purple colours from the late afternoon skies reflect on the still lake waters and all is peaceful and quiet, except for the chirping of the local birdlife



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throughout the tall trees that surround the lake, and the beating of African drums echoing from the opposite bank. My traps are set, my rods are sitting perfectly still while I sip on a warm cup of coffee, patiently waiting for the success of my plans to be announced by a screaming Delkim alarm that will break the silence. I can comfortably sit back knowing that I now have a better chance of landing that ever illusive old scaly. Paying attention to the finer details are essential to any angler and it will definitely mean catching more carp! At the end of the day one needs to be very well prepared when doing short sessions as you do not have the time at your disposal to try a lot of different things and to play around too much.

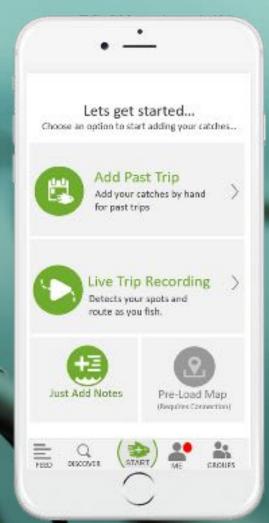
Tight lines, bent rods and wet nets!

Corrie Booysen



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# A Day I'll Never Forget...



by Andrew Taylor

Well well where do I start... this article isn't about me... it's not about breaking personal bests... its far better than that! It's about that special moment between a father and a son that will last in my memories for my entire life... the first time I took my son Josh carp fishing.

Over the past 6 months or so every time I've gone fishing my 3 year old son Josh has said he wanted to come with me... every time

I'm on the bank my wife will face time me so I can speak and see my family, and so Josh can talk to me about fishing and ask questions about fishing... he'd want to see where I'm fishing, how I've set up, what bait I'm using... to what colour my towel is I wipe my hands on. So, over the winter period I thought as soon as the weather gets a bit warmer I'm taking him with me!

It was Friday 6th April, during the Easter

half term holiday... a day that will stay with me for the rest of my life and the start of something very special. I decided it was going to be the day I take my son fishing.

After speaking with a good friend of mine, he recommended Broad Acres Fishery in Worcestershire. This was a place he'd taken his son to start fishing when he was younger. He said there is a few lakes on site and told me which one to go for, which was

the old specimen lake, which is now more of a runs water but still holds some decent fish, I thought perfect, so this is where we were going, it also had a banging café on site, happy days. I packed everything I could bait wise



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for this trip as I was determined to help my little mate to get off to a flyer. I had maggots, sweetcorn, luncheon meat, pellets, even a few dog biscuits and of course my Mainline Baits.

We arrived at Broad Acres Fishery on the Friday morning around 7am. We were the first to arrive on the lake, so we had a walk round and we chose a nice little swim with a little island to our left...
Once set up I taught my little mate how to

cast, he did struggle with this slightly as his little hands couldn't quite flick the bail arm over and hold the spool with his finger, so we decide to do this together.

One thing I couldn't stop him doing and something he seem to really enjoy is baiting up... he scattered corn and boilies... all over the lake with the catapult ha ha ha ... I think this was his favourite part of the fishing trip ... I think I need to keep the catapult away from him

for a bit...

Once that was done he had one rod on the alarm fishing a Mainline Cell Wafter over a bed of corn and chopped and crushed Mainline Cell boilies, this was tight to the small island which was covered in shrubs and overhanging bushes. The other rod I set up on the float... first I tried maggots just off the bottom... but this didn't seem to work. then I tried sweetcorn... still nothing... luncheon meat didn't work either...



I tried it all... we even tried them all at mid water and still nothing...

So, after a little while of trying different things and techniques I chose to try one of my little combination that's done me proud before on my own fishing adventures, a small 10mm Mainline Cell Pop up topped off with a 8mm Mainline Tuna Dumbell Wafter. and I thought fish it on a quiver tip rod so he can watch the end of the rod to see when he gets a bite.

While going through some bits and bobs I accidently knocked the tub Cell pop ups on the floor... they went everywhere...

After a little laughing fit by Josh, he insisted on picking them all up for me, so he went around collecting them one by one bless him... then Josh said, 'Dad! Some have gone

in the water!'

I replied,

'Don't worry son, let me have a look'. As I knelt down to have a look, a carp appeared to slurp one up right in front of my eyes...

Hhhmmmm... now I had a better idea...

I took the float off and instead of a quiver tip set up, I opted to put a bubble float on and decided to fish this little 10mm pop up on the surface, and my little boy could see exactly when then Carp took his bait. He was really excited by this. So firstly, I crushed up a few dog biscuits between my fingers to get them on the feed as this was the only floating bait we really





had with us, and then Josh threw them out. within seconds there was Carp all over the place! Happy days. We cast the bait out and waited for them to take it... after a few seconds... my pride and joy was into his first fish... his face... it was a picture... I will never forget it... he was overjoyed, excited, amazed... you name it...

It was amazing to watch...

It was fish after fish from that moment to the point where we had to bring the rod in for something to eat. I was so proud of how my 3-year-old little boy had instantly taken to this...

My son Josh had over 25 Carp ranging from 4lb to 11lb+ all in just 5 or 6 hours fishing... and his face was the

same picture after every catch whether it was a 4lb Carp or his now personal best of 11lb 8oz! After every fish he jumped with joy and high fived me or hugged me with excitement, he was so happy... I was so proud, it was awesome!

I now have my fishing partner for the rest of my life, and what better partner than my son!

#### Amazing!

Well... what do I say... me dropping these pop ups on the floor gave my son the best first carp fishing session I could off only dreamed off! It was an amazing to watch and be apart off... and he was fantastic! It brought back memories of me going with my Dad as a little boy, and him teaching me. These are memories that will



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stay with me for the rest of my life... that look on his face. just indescribable as a Dad to see!

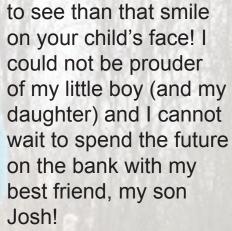
If you're the father of a little boy (or girl) like I am, there is a good chance that you are enjoying a very close connection with your son (or daughter). If not make sure you

do. He (she) probably idolizes everything you do... dresses up in your clothes... imitates different things you do... or just generally tries to act like you. My son follows me everywhere I go, he tries to do everything I do and works so hard to make sure he has my

upmost attention and approval.

I can see in my little boys' eyes that he is utterly convinced that without a doubt I am this ultimate invincible man in the world to him and that is what I will be! I see this is my daughters eyes too and I'm so proud of this.

There is nothing better



Now I've got to try and get my 9-yearold daughter, my little princess Sophie into fishing... don't think

I stand a chance... it's just hair and make up for her...but we never know...

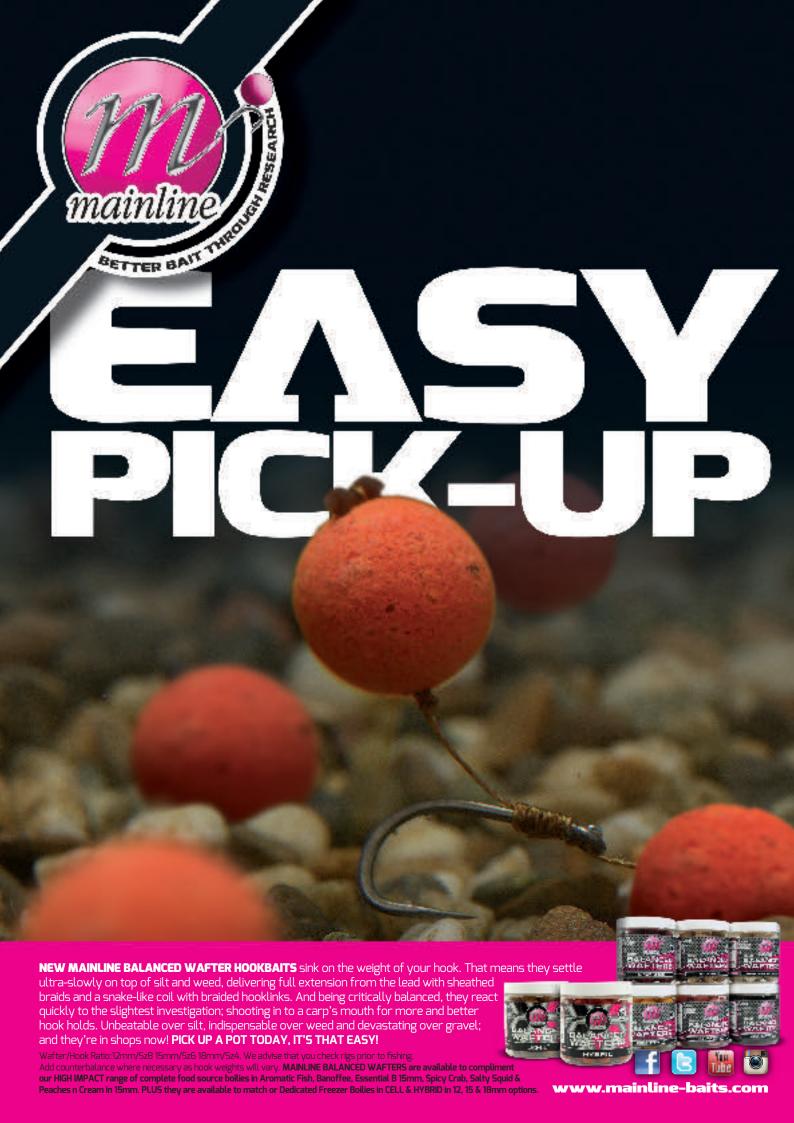
Get your child a tackle box... not an Xbox!

Until next time, be safe and be on the bank, tight lines everyone!

Andrew Taylor



TalkingCarp





As the beast from the east was sweeping the country and the lack of an opportunity to even consider getting the carp rods out. A massive opportunity landed on my lap. On the Royal Engineers Carp Section Facebook page was a post "Is anyone interested in going to France for free for a week's fishing in April". Without a second thought I was in.

The lake owners Alan and Yacine who fully support the armed forces and works closely with the Royal Engineers had offered a weeks free fishing at their newly purchased lake from 2017. The lake had 100 original carp from 1991 and in December had another 150 introduced into lake. Previously owned by a private owner the lake as never really seen angling pressure. For this reason, we

were invited to fish the lake and give our feedback on the venue and catch reports. All we had to do was get there.

After weeks of preparation and planning April had finally arrived. As to undue circumstances one of the guys had to pull out and I was very lucky to have my dad come along with me on this adventure. Also, on the build up to departing we were informed that lake was still under construction and the cabin with electricity. toilet and shower was not there in place yet. So, it turned into a drive and survive trip. More like a military exercise without the weapons but carp rods instead. Not phased by this we set off into the unknown with excitement.

Lake Catherine is



situated in the beautiful town Soisson. Perfectly surrounded by 20 plus lakes and only a 5 minutes' drive to local supermarket which meant we were never without of reach of those key essentials. It was a pleasant 2 and half hour drive from Calais. We were greeted by Yacine who took us to lake and showed us around. "The lake is yours for the week here's my phone number if need anything give just give me a call. Enjoy yourself and I'll see you on Monday with some more carp to introduce to lake". Amazing a whole 4.4 acres lake to ourselves. We walked around the lake to try and find the fish. We found some carp chilling in the warm sun at the top end of the lake. Full of enthusiasm we returned to car and began to set up camp

for the week.



After 3 hours with the marker rod it was clearly a very weedy lake. But I managed to find a 3ft gravel bar at 80 yards. I decided to fish over the gravel bar in a 5ft gully on top of the weed with chod rigs. I tied three Chod rigs with a size 6 Duo Tackle Micro barbed OS Kranks hooks. I went with one white, pink and yellow Spotted fin Catalyst pop up. The thinking behind this was whichever colour was picked up first I would switch the other rods onto the same colour.

Once the rods were in position I spodded 2 kilos of homemade chilli particle mix and scattered 2 kilos of 15 mm catalyst frozen boilies over the top. I then settled for the night.

I couldn't wish for a better start within the first night I had landed 3 fish biggest being a 29 lb Mirror Carp. I caught them on pink and white. So, for the rest of the trip I had two rods on pink and one rod on white. By Monday Morning we had landed 15 fish on

the bank between the 4 of us. The biggest at the time was 33lb. The weather was hit and miss because for the first few days we had rain, sun shine it we had hot then cold and wind kept changing direction. However, this didn't affect them from feeding.

Monday after Yacine and Alan arrived with between 30-35 carp with the biggest being a common weighing over the 50 lb mark followed up with two 40, s and a load of 30's and 20's. Mixture of mirrors and commons. Chucking on the waders we all mucked in helping to introduce the carp into the new lake. That evening we rested the swims, but I did re-baited swim and offered up free food for the carp. After a goods nights sleep first thing in the morning we recast the rods out. An hour after casting we



had landed another 2 carp on the bank weighing in the high 20's. Tom and Rich also had a productive few days landing a handful of 30's followed by mid-20's and 2 low doubles. They decided to fish the top end of the lake and with some top angling were reaping their rewards.

Tuesday and Wednesday seemed to slow right down. This could have been down to the weather or the new stock that had been introduced to lake on Monday afternoon. We managed to catch a few fish but on Thursday was the changing point. The sun was out, and the wind dropped, and the lake was as flat as a milk pond. As it had slowed down I decided to walk round to see the lads and left my dad to watch the rods. While talking to Tom and Rich and looking

across lake we saw a massive fizz of bubbles erupt in the middle of my baited area and as looked across the lake my dad had a rod in the air. I sprinted off like bolt and took control of the rod. After catching my breath and composing myself I slowly reeled this heavy weight. Once we got it into view my dad said it's one of those big commons. With one big salmon

swoop the fish was in net. Lifting the net to look at my prize I could believe it. The width of it was unbelievable and you know it big when you ask for assistance to lift it out. I shouted over to lads "it's a big common "and the lads walked over to look at this wonderful creature. After the weigh in 46lb 4 oz it was time to take them water shot photos. Before I could set up my right-hand



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rod went screaming off and I called over to my dad and he was on it like flash. It was 25 lb original dark in colour but unfortunately, we had to have quick photo because we still had my prize catch waiting in the retaining sling for those water shot photos.

After the photos and the release, I sat down to tie some new rigs. As I put my tackle box on my lap my third rod went screaming off.

The amount times you watch it on TV with the top Anglers having a session of a life time I was actually living it. Another common with a two-tone colouring weighing at 26 lb was my third fish within the hour. How the tables had turned from last two days. All three rods out the water but for the right reason this time. My father's rods screamed of and he netted a lovely 29 lb 7oz mirror and a 26 lb common. It's was the

most exciting 2 hours I've ever experienced in carp fishing and a day I'll never forget.

Early hours Friday morning I lost one at the net and for rest of the day the sun came out and temperatures reaching 20 degrees. Tom and Rich departed early as they had a long drive back to the north of England. With Tom also having a session of a life time with 14 fish during the week. Rich also had a good week netting 7 stunning carp. It was top angling from lads and they truly deserved their catches. So, this left me and my dad with whole lake to ourselves for the day. We didn't have a beep during day and believe this was down to the heat.

Yacine popped by and sat with us for a few hours talking about his



lakes and carp fishing in general. Taking on our advice with swim positioning around lake. It was a pleasant afternoon a nice touch by Yacine to spend some time with us. While it was quite me and my dad decided that we'd pack most of our kit away and put in the car. We also decided to sleep under stars as the weather was good and it would help save us time in the morning as we had to set off early in the morning. We also discussed that if we caught during the night instead of recasting we'd pack the rod away and at the time I agreed. As timed passed and it was getting pretty late in the evening. I honestly believed the chance of getting a bite looked slim as we had nothing all day. With the last of my chilli particle mix and 2 kilos of boilies I re-baited my swim

with spod rod. As the sun dropped and the temperatures cooled my dads middle rod went into melt down. It was around half nine at night and it was the cherry on the cake to finish off a good week. As it was still light I convinced my dad to put on a new rig on and I'll grab the distance sticks out the car. He recasted his rod and we decided to get our heads down for the night. After an hour and nodding off

to sleep my right rod ripped off. Jumping out my sleeping and on to the rod I netted my first 30 and dish number 10 of the trip. A ghostly common with long whiskers weighing a 34 Ib 7oz. I was buzzing and I just wanted to recast my rod out again. 11 o'clock at night I wasn't go let it end this early. My dad didn't appreciate me getting all the gear out the car to get to my Tackle bag but I didn't care. I recasted my rod



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back on spot and got back in my sleeping. I set the alarm clock for 5 am and got me head. 3 o'clock my left rod goes off and because I'd caught had caught 10 fish I said to my Dad you can have this one. Another 30lb mirror on the bank. Lake Catherine just kept on giving and sure enough I had my Tackle bag out tied a new chod rig and got the rod back out the spot.

5 am the alarm clock goes off and as I sat up my right rod went off. I couldn't of written this. As it was the last fish of the trip and I'd caught the 46lb common I wanted my dad to catch one of the big ones. I said him take it it's yours. After an epic battle of cat and mouse we had this stunning common in

the net. Even though it had eaten into our time to pack the rest of the kit away we didn't care. We couldn't believe the events that unfolded over last 48 hours. A 32 lb common to finish off this truly unbelievable session. We quickly packed the rest our kit into the car and had quick wash got changed into some clean clothes and set off to catch our ferry.

On the journey back to the uk we reflected

back over the past week and both agreed it had been an amazing week. Topped off with great hospitality and company. Alan and Yacine have created a little gem of a venue. Once the cabin is in place even though we went as drive and survive it is the ideal venue for all Anglers at all levels. I highly recommend the venue and I can honestly say It is a top venue with top owners.



TalkingCarp

### New and Exclusive Lake

The Royal Engineers would like to say a massive thank you to Alan and Yacine for supporting the armed forces. Also allowing us the opportunity to fish Lake Catherine.

For more information and bookings you can visit their website at

http://lakecatherine.co.uk

You also follow them on Instagram lake\_catherine

for all the latest catch reports.

**Cheers Brian** 

Regards

Ryan Salisbury



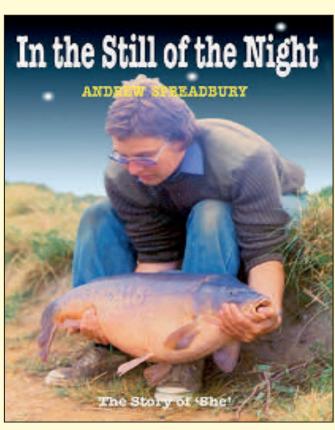




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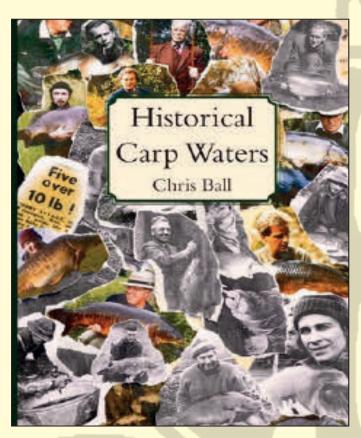
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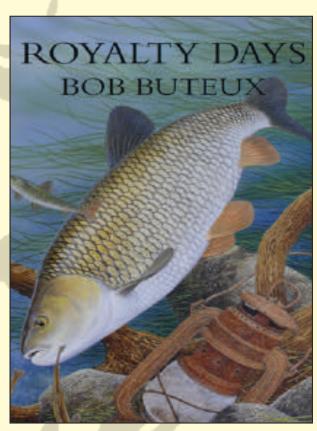
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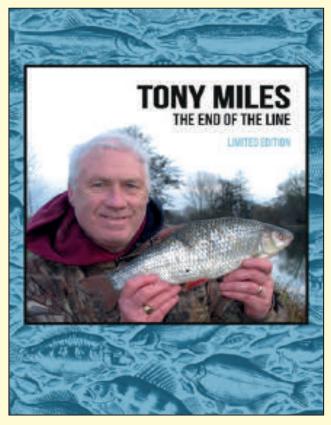
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The fishing with paste back several years ago when I too fished with my uncle my first carps without the aid of 'hair rig, because in Italy still did not know. At the time the ingredients used were few and simple but no less effective because of the numerous departures even simultaneously on several rods.

I remember the semolina, the cheese. the olive oil and the spice origan. With the passing of the years and the birth of more and more companies specialized in the production of baits and ingredients for carp fishing, today the modern carp hunter can choose among a multitude of products in order to formulate his personal recipe. in order to create a pasta really attractive but at the same time emanating signs of real food.

Now we could ask ourselves why we should use a paste bait? is not it now a fishing technique outdated? In my opinion, absolutely not. First of all, doing a little selfmade will only do us good, because we will know better the ingredients that most our carp friends and their mechanical and nutritive characteristics. all notions that will come in handy when we go to formulate a possible mix for the construction of our boiles.

I also remember, that the paste obtained, will not only be wrapped on a special lead dedicated to the purpose but we could also cover the entire rig, which will reach the bottom intact even if it were to intercept any debris or foliage

in its descent. The use of the pasta will allow us to have an extra gear in fishing as it will release many attractive particles deriving from both liquid and solid substances, a true bowler attraction!!! It should be remembered especially to those who have never used this type of bait to not be afraid that the hook covered by the same cannot stick in the mouth of the carp, so debunked this problem, we will be sure that our rig, if built in the correct way he will do his duty at the fateful moment.

Moreover, from the obtained pasta we can still do two things:

1. create small boilies to be thrown around our terminal with the aid of a sling

2. crumble it to create also the stick to be used later

In my recipe I inserted three medium eggs for a dry portion of gr.500 so that even in the presence of current the paste can last even longer and does not melt too quickly. Depending on the type of spot you want to tackle and the water temperature, you have to choose whether to use eggs or not or replace eggs, which I advise against, with other more advanced binding ingredients now in the catalog of many companies in the sector.

For the ingredients of the liquid part I have used some really innovative products, attractive and nutritious especially for the choice of raw materials used, I am talking about

the Dutch company
FeedStimulants, only
for the aroma I have
opted for a Devil Squid
of home Mivardi.

For the ingredients of the dry part instead I chose among the numerous products in the catalog of the British Haith's Baits where the quality is at home.

The ingredients of the liquid and dry parts are as follows:

Liquid Part:

Mivardi Devil Squid
2ml / 500gr
FeedStimulants
Fishstim powder 2-3gr
FeedStimulants Squid
Liver Oil 20ml / 500gr
FeedStimulants
Fenugreek liquid 5
drops / 500gr

#### Dry part:

pellets in 3mm Haith's
Baits half-cup Spices
pellet line Robin Red
3mm Haith's Baits half
cup
150gr CLO Haith's
Baits
Super Red Haith's
Baits (SuperRed is a







3 medium eggs Once the paste is That said, we now unveil the characteristics of two liquid attractors that

are truly superlative

from all points of view and which I

recommend using

just when we want to

create our own primer.

The first is an absolute novelty of a company that certainly needs no

mix that includes a percentage of Robin Red but also cannabis seeds, peanuts, crushed Tiger nut and the famous Red Factor pasty, plus it is mixed with anise seed oil, really a complete birdfood) 200gr Robin Red & Fishmeal mix Haith's **Baits** 

obtained, I have chosen to keep it in a vacuum and store it in the refrigerator for one day.

introduction, we speak of the British Haith 'Baits mother of the most famous catcher ingredient of carp in the world: The ROBIN RED, here in its liquid form and based on Robin Red Gold (with five spice) enriched with 5 spice notes.

The methods of using this new and valid liquid attractor are the same as the classic Robin Red Liquid, but let's immediately describe the peculiar characteristics of the product:

- It contains Robin Gold Haith's Baits of the highest quality that contains good levels of vitamins and adequate levels of minerals, has an excellent coloring effect and a strong and spicy taste with pep nuances
- It is PVA friendly, therefore ideal to be included in the relative

bags, perhaps filled with pellets of the same line or grains

- Can also be used for creating Stick Mixes
- It can be used for the creation of highly attractive Method
   Mixes
- It can be used to cover the freshly cooked boilie in order to create a crust on them when dry. Like Dip or Soak for our triggers even if they include boiles pop-ups
- In perfect union using it with the SuperSoft pellets of Haith's Baits
- Can also be used

- with other types of pellets
- Inside the liquid part of our recipe to create batters to be used later to wrap the lead or rig
- •
- The Haith's Liquid Robin Gold with Five Spice, offers 100% of the undisputed quality of Haith's Baits and contains ingredients that have made the history of world carpfishing.
- A very versatile liquid that the modern carpenter can not have with him, as it can be





used successfully all year round and in any type of water.

- We come to the second attractor not least the first because in my opinion represents the future of attractors in the panorama of CarpFishing.
- We speak of the Dutch company FeedStimulants which at the moment I believe to be, without wanting to exaggerate, perhaps the number one in the production of liquid foods and ingredients in highly attractive powder, a feature certainly due to the choice of raw materials used but above all due to the presence of some ingredients that currently no other company owns in the catalog.
- This is a new complete nutritional product from the fish farming sector.

- The **FeedStimulants** "SuperStim" can be used with greater margin of inclusion than other liquid attractors. it is nevertheless recommended never to exceed the maximum level to not saturate the cyprinid chemoreceptors. This liquid has mainly functions of Palatant (taste enhancer). Especially if used as a dip for our priming boilers. It is possible to wet pellets, grains, to include it in the construction of highly attractive method mixes and stick mixes.
- Peculiar characteristics of the product are: clear liquid, slight scent of mold
- The inclusion levels per kg of dry mix are in this range: 3-7

- ml to be mixed with other liquids when you want to make a boil to be used especially for pasturage campaigns.
- Up to about 10-15 ml per kg of mix in water under strong fishing pressure or paid environments (ponds, quarries, etc.), also very suitable for use as dip or to create ammolli using about 5 to 10%.

Now you just have to dirty your hands a little to put into practice all this just read and test it in your favorite spots.









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### **Syndicate Sessions Part 3**



2018 The Oaks - Newquay, Cornwall by Matt Whalley

Well, the decision was made to venture up to my syndicate water on Sunday 18th February and this time I had promised my son that he could have his own rod to fish with. He was absolutely buzzing with excitement and full of confidence that he would catch his first carp.

We got to the lake at around 9am and of course it didn't take long before I heard, Dad can I fish now! So, with this I set my son up fishing for the day. He got to choose everything from bait to rig selection etc. He had high hopes and fortunately it wasn't long before his alarm sounded and he was into his first carp. After a spirited battle for an 8-year-old we slipped the net under a beautiful silvery winter common. To see his smile was something else and I was to say the least extremely

proud of my son. The bait Leon chose to fish with was a Deep Blue Particles Pineapple Pop Up presented on a J Precision Ronnie Rig. I have confidence in both and now he certainly does as well.

I then moved on to setting myself up and getting the rods out into position. I fished swim four as it was big enough for the pair of us but I also had some pretty good spots noted down from a previous visit. With

the rods wrapped up to the marks, it was now time to get the end tackle sorted. For me without question the J Precision Ronnie Rigs have given me so much confidence for the start of 2018 and every fish so far, this year have been absolutely nailed! This rig coupled with Deep Blue Particles SP-1 Wafters gives me all the confidence I need straight from the off. . The biggest part of carp fishing for me is to have the up most



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up most confidence in everything you use. If you have this then you are already onto a winner. There is nothing worse than questioning everything you're doing. Over complicating things will just make it worse. If the bait, rigs, venue, set up is good then the bites will most certainly come. With everything now in place, it was just a case of hitting the line clip on the cast and getting the traps out and set. The morning passed but

with my son having caught his first ever carp, it had already turned into a good day for us both. If my alarms sprang into action, that would just be an added bonus as this session was more about him. Fortunately for me, the alarms did just that! At around 1:30pm mid flow of drinking my cup of tea, the Delkim began to sing. A full on one toner was happening and that adrenaline pumping feeling began. With the rod now in

hand and the clutch tightened, the battle had now commenced. This was not one of the big ones as the fight was to scrappy. You can tell when a younger smaller carp is attached by the way it fights. Long bursts of the line peeling off the spool rather than a constant weight easily pulling the line off. Obviously for me none of that mattered as I was playing another syndicate winter carp. With the net at the ready, it was now time to guide her in. The same process as always applies no matter what size they are as fish safety is paramount in my angling. With the rig removed in the net at the water's edge and fins checked to make sure they are lying flat, it was now time to slide her into the weigh sling before moving her to the mat.



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Safely now onto the mat, a stunning mid double common was my prize. A few pictures taken and it was time to slip her back safe and sound. What a day this had turned out to be and one that I have been very happy with. My sons first carp, a bonus winter common for me and a lot of smiles all

round.

I'm absolutely loving my time on the bank so far this year and I know there's many more captures to come. So please stay tuned for my next installment of 'The Syndicate Sessions' because there are some special carp in this lake to be caught.

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The much anticipated fourth Serious Carp Social of 2018 was held from 27-28 April at Cromwell Lake, Newark, Notts. This immaculate lake nicknamed "The home of the 30s and 40s" is always a favourite and, as expected, sold out within just a few hours. SCS had exclusive use of the lake and its 18 well laid out and maintained pegs.

Very close to the lake (on the A1) is and American diner so the attendees met there for 8.00am, on the Friday to have breakfast and make the draw for pegs, they then moved onto the lake at 9.30am.



Prior to everyone going to their swims Tremayne handed out bag of goodies that had been put together with some excellent free samples from the companies that sponsor the Serious Carp Socials.





The weather was not what you would want to be setting up in with heavy rain which was to continue for the rest of the day. By 10am everyone was in their swims and getting setup but also getting very wet.

As usual, a service provided at every social now, PJM Productions where busy getting the drone up in the air and filming while the anglers setup.



### Serious Carp Socials

The rest of the morning was uneventful with some anglers reporting regular liners but no fish coming out.

Then at approx. 13.00 the first fish is on the bank, a 23lb 4oz mirror from swim 6 and caught by Darren Emery who was attending his first Serious Carp social. This was to be the start of a magic day for Darren who later in the afternoon then had the second carp of the day. This second fish weighed in at 32lb 1oz and was a Personal Best for Darren.



#### This was Darren's account of the captures:

I drew peg 6 and as I got there I could see fish showing out in the middle of the lake so I kept an eye on them while setting up. I'd previously set my rods up for fishing solid bags so I had to reset 2 of them for zigs and left one on a bag. A few people said 10ft zigs so it was a no brainer on the size. I cast 2 zigs at 28wraps to the middle and the third rod I cast to 22 wraps on a solid bag to a gravel bar. The first fish fell to a black zig and came in to be 23lb. I'd had nothing on the solid bag so I changed to a Ronnie with a yellow pop up and cast to 28 wraps to where they were showing and spodded corn and boilie over the top. 10-15 spods every hour or so. I lost the next two as I got caught up with some old line on both occasions and the fish slipped off. The next one that ripped off was



the third rod on the Ronnie which turned out to be a lovely 32lb mirror. As the evening drew on the fish seemed to move over to the other side of the lake where I couldn't reach them.

These two fish caught by Darren Emery were the only carp caught on day 1. There was one other capture a Personal Best Eel caught by Jim Walter in swim 9 and weighing 4lb 8oz.

It was a quiet night with nothing coming out and the rain continuing to throw it down. While the rain did ease on Saturday the fishing didn't improve with nothing on Saturday morning so when midday arrived, and the BBQ was ready, it was a welcome break for most of the anglers. As usual the BBQ was fantastic and while filling up on a variety of meats and a couple of beers there was plenty of opportunity for everyone to catch up and exchange stories and tactics. It was also time for the usual team photo.



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Now on many of the past socials there is usually a fish landed not long after everyone returns to their swims after the BBQ. It's as if the fish sense that the danger has gone and move in on the baited spots. This social was no exception as not long after returning from the BBQ another Personal Best is landed – this time by Richard Monger in swim 15 landing a mirror weighing 39lb 12oz called Winston.





#### This was Richard's account of the capture:

I was in peg 15, 26 wraps out to centre, I put out 1kg of Cheshire Particle that we received in the bag of goodies at the start of the social thus creating a tightly baited area. I used a Pallatrax Fluro pink squab pop up. I was chatting to Steve Neale (ours was a double swim) and I thought I had a 'liner' because bobbin went up then down. A few minutes later I had a 'slow' take and was unsure whether to hit it or wait. I knew it was a good fish as it was heavy and no tug tug feeling. It was confirmed when it's head came up and I could see it's huge shoulders. Winston was soon safely in the net!

Saturday night was quiet with no more captures and the social ended at 10am on the Sunday. From the feedback provided in the SCS Facebook group this was another hugely enjoyable social. Extracts from feedback below:

Best BBQ of all time had absolutely brilliant weekend from start to finish. Can't wait to get on the next one, thanks guys for brilliant weekend stunning venue, bailiffs we're top class, overall best one I've been on – Jim W

The complex was immaculate, and the bailiffs were very helpful and took time to walk the lake and give advice. – Richard

Another cracking Serious Carp Social. What a lovely venue I want to go back when the weather is better. – Jim R

Thanks, SCS for a great weekend the BBQ was the best yet. Good laugh.
- Billy

The next social is Willow Park, nr Aldreshot on 24th May.





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Well it's been a few weeks now since my article named 'In search of the monster' Part 1, and I was planning on this being Part 2 but it was not to be...

I did plan a fishing trip to go back to Mineral Lakes on the 20th April but the search for monster changed when I saw the weather forecast a few days or so before, because the sturgeon just do not seem to feed when its baking hot at Mineral. I still decided to go as planned but this time I chose to target the big carp that reside there so Part 2 is on hold for this session on Mineral Lakes, but I am confident it will come soon so keep a look out. But for now, this is 'How Close Can I Come??? I hope you enjoy this article.

So I arrived at Mineral Lakes, the weather was 26°! It was baking

hot, there was already 8 anglers on the lake, so after having a walk round and a chat with all of them I found out only the odd one or two fish had been out over the past two or three days, which I put it down to the sudden weather change, one minute its raining or snowing, one minute its freezing and now it was baking hot at 26°... make up your mind weather.

One thing I did notice after taking the time to speak to each angler was that they was all doing the same techniques really which was to bait up with a decent bed of bait and then fish a wafter or pop up over the top which would to be honest 9 times out of 10 usually be a good shout, but obviously this time it wasn't...

Somebody was packing up on a peg I fancied fishing in-

TalkingCarp

between the two islands, so after having a little chat with him he kindly said he will be gone within an hour so grab your stuff so you've got the peg, so I went straight to my car, and started to take my tackle around to the peg and started setting up slowly.

Continuing our conversation he told me, he'd been on the peg for three days... and not a bite... he told me his tactics and he hadn't been doing nothing wrong at all, he'd been fishing the right spots, right rigs, everything, it was just one of them sessions for him.

Once he had packed away he shook my hand and he wished me luck and he was on his way.

The first thing I done once I'd fully set up and before casting my

rods out was to make a cup of tea and just watch the water for a while. Over the space of nearly 25/30 minutes just watching, there was fish all over my swim, some was cruising the surface, some basking in the sun and some where boshing on the waters surface. It was a shame you not allowed to surface fish... it could have been mega.

Then I saw movement under a dark shaded area where a tree overhung just off the corner of the island to my left. I knew from previous sessions that all around the island it was around a foot deep to two foot max so I choose to go tight to the island as I believed this would be a good shout considering the weather conditions. I decided to go stealth mode, so I loaded my Waverunner Atom with my chosen rig and I

opted for a glugged Mainline Cell Wafter, along with a 3 boilie stringer as this was something different to what everyone else was doing... and I thought this legendary tactic might just confuse the fish enough and work for me. So with that rod sorted, I decided to fish the other rod about six foot

of the island in line with the other rod I just I just put out, so I could of hopefully catch a carp coming up to the shallows off the island and I choose to go for a pop up on this one.

As I waited
I decided to
bait up a little
area to the
far corner of
the island to
my right at

around 80/90 yard, which I also knew from previous sessions that there was a shelf coming of this island at around a foot and half deep too but slightly different to the other island as this one only had about a two foot circumference, so I had to be accurate, so I scattered two or three Cell boilies around



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every 20 minutes.

Approximately two hours had gone by, when my left hand rod ripped off... Happy days I was into my first fish...

After a few minutes a had a gorgeous looking mirror carp in my net, get in!

Nowhere near the biggest but this little beauty came in at 11lb 6oz, happy days I was off the mark!
Once released I reset the rod in the same place, with the same technique.

As the day went on I noticed fish where showing over on the far island where I'd been baiting throughout the day... they were jumping, crashing and swirling all around the baited area. It was coming up to

It was coming up to around 6/7pm and I decided it was time to get on this shallow shelf off the island before day light faded so knew 100% I was on the exact spot. I choose to go with a wafter along with a 3 boilie stringer that had done the business for me earlier in the day.

I opted to go stealth mode again, so as I went on a cruise of the lake with my boat as it seemed like a mission away from my own peg. Once I dropped the bait the whole water on the baited area swirled big time... I just hoped I hadn't

spooked them off too much...

Within 10 minutes max my alarm screamed off... I struck... and nothing. It was as if nothing was ever there. Weird... how can it be completely screaming off, and nothing on the end of it. I was gutted. I thought that was my big chance and I had missed it.

I reattached another 3 boilie stringer and reglugged the wafter and sent it back out to the same spot...





and the same happened again, the water swirled, carp jumped, only this time I was more confident as they came back once, hopefully they'd come back again.

Around 15/20 minutes later I was alerted to a single bleep on that rod... as I walked to my rod to inspect it I could see my bobbin was lifting very slowly before dropping down quick, it repeated that a few times before the line tightened across the lake and my rod tip bent round... Boom! The fish was hooked. I lifted into the fish. I knew it was something special, it felt a good one, it felt amazing as a matter of fact. It felt like nothing I'd had before. It felt like someone had placed a 3×2 slab to my line, it was like a dead weight. As she broke the surface and I mumbled to myself, well I can't

write what I said, so we'll just go with Wow what a lump!!! I was in a shock. I was shaking. My knees went weak. The size of this beauty that was attached to the end of my line was unreal. I instantly thought I'm about to break my personal best, it was huge. As it got close to my net... it decided to dart across to the centre of the lake. I was shaking more and more. I was praying it didn't come off. I let it go as much as it wanted but keeping my line taught until it tired out. I then managed to turn it and as it got close to the bank it decided to give me one more powerful battle as it tried to shoot into the bulrushes to my left. I manage to stop it and turn it just in time and slip my net underneath it... YESSSSSSSSSS! Get In! I was ecstatic. I was in dream land. I

just knew that by the size of it I'd broke my personal best! As I let it rest in the net I rang the owner Bill as he previously stocked three big carp all over the 30lb mark, and he said when he stocked them to let him know when you land a big carp as he wanted to keep a log of their growth rate. I also knew he had around another 7 or 8 carp over the 30lb mark already and a few just about to break the 30lb barrier. So, he came straight over, and he was just as excited as me. He then told me it wasn't one of the new stock he recently put in... so we got this beautiful fish out and put her into my cradle, after unhooking her and rinsing her down, we put her on the scales to weigh her. Never in a million years would i of thought I'd be the one to have one of the big old forgotten



carp out... but I did in the shape of this beauty and my new personal best at 29lb 12oz... what an absolute unit! I was ecstatic! This was awesome! I was also quietly gutted as... 'How Close Can I Come?' to the 30lb mark, I've been desperately trying to break the 30lb barrier for a while now... but it's getting closer and

my time will come, but it wasn't this session. Like I said it will come but for now this 29lb 12oz unit has put a huge smile on my face, happy days! It was time to go home.

What a session! I couldn't be happier! Get in!

Also a massive thank you to the following for having me on board

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Until next time, be safe and be on the bank!

**Andrew Taylor** 







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Two years ago, there wasn't even a team representing Scotland at Carp Fishing and with a second place last year in their first Home Nations, the team has high expectations for the coming year.... they have great support from several companies and the team goes from strength to strength with the appointment of a new Team Manager and some excellent angling talent....

This month we have with us Steven Warwick. Steve is the new 'Boss' at Carp Team Scotland and steps up from his role as Assistant Manager and Coach to replace the former Team manager Martin Mitchell.

TC: Steve, welcome to the Electronic Pages of Talking Carp for the first time and why not start by telling us a little something about yourself and what you do outside of your fishing and Managing Carp Team Scotland....?

SW: Hi, just coming up to 47yrs old, married and got 4 children, been involved in fish farming and fisheries since I was 17, currently managing a fish farm up in Cumbria, voluntary work Level 2 Angling Coach.

TC: Can you give us a quick history of your fishing and how you became involved with Carp Team Scotland...?

SW: Been mucking about around water since I can remember, always fascinated what was under the water, started fishing around the age of 5 or 6, coming up to Scotland to fish with a

family member during the summer holidays and then fishing the mill ponds and canals around Rochdale. Then when I moved back to Scotland to start my career in Fish Farming I got right into my predator fishing and then into carp fishing for the last 15 years or so. During that time, I also became a level 2 coach helping to coach Children and then started working the Scottish Federation for Course Angling and then with the former Manager Martin Mitchell we started to build a team, so we could have competed against Wales and Ireland in the first Celtic Cup in 2016.

**TC:** Is the Team governed by any authorities and do you have guidelines to follow about Managing the team...?



SW: Yes, Scottish
Federation of
Course Angling and
Sports Scotland
and Internationally
—International Sport
Fishing Confederation
(CIPS) and
International Sport
Fishing Federation
(FIPS)

**TC:** How do you go about selecting a team and what is the criteria for being included...?

**SW:** This year we have put the call out early, all applications need to be in by the 1st November 2018. then over winter and early spring we will have a couple of trial matches, during winter we will go through the applications and then we will invite them to trial. Strong knowledge of UK/Euro carp fishing methods, equipment and techniques, including

carp care. Ability to work in a team setting, including physical fitness necessary to load and unload all equipment and bait, set up all equipment and cast accurately at least 150yds, consistently. Representing Scotland at International level requires a significant personal commitment and financial one. Also have a passport and be able to travel.



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**TC:** Do you have a full team at present and who are they...?

SW: Yes, David Hearns (Captain /assistant manager), Ben Mir, Alister Kirkhope, John Livingston, Kevin McConnell, Andrew Taggert, Darren Pearse and 4 new lads Kev Gourley, John Sweetland, Keith John Finlay and Billy McKinven.

**TC:** I understand your first match is in June this year, albeit a 'friendly', so how do you prepare for this...?

SW: Yes, got a match on Drayton 22nd to 24th June, it's a friendly between the Royal Navy Carp Team and for the first time we will be joining forces with Carp Team Wales. Most of the lads have fished Drayton before and both teams have

had practise sessions on there over the last couple of weeks.

**TC:** Are the guys funded for being in the Team...?

SW: Unfortunately, no. All our events are self-funded. Over the next couple of months, we will be doing some fund raising so we can get to the Worlds in Serbia in October

**TC:** Do you have sponsors and what part do they play...?

SW: We Have been really lucky over the last 2 years, when we first started we had nothing, just personal kit and a couple of the lads were Field Testers for a couple of bait companies. The companies at the moment who work with us and help us out are Ocean Textiles, Mainline Baits,

Free Spirit, Diawa, Ridge Monkey, Fox International, Nash, Rig-It Tackle, DBP Particles and Hobo Armour. Without the help from these amazing company's we wouldn't be able to compete at an international level.

**TC:** Do you have a schedule of Matches for this year...?

SW: Yes

June 22ND/24TH June Drayton Scotland/
Wales against the Royal Navy

October 3rd/6th Lake Sava Serbia World Championships

Nov TBC 2nd Home Nations against Wales and England

**TC:** How often did you get the Team together to 'practice'...?



SW: It's really hard everybody leads very busy lives, but most of the lads are active in the match scene or in their own fishing so that helps, then if we can get together just before the event then that's even better.

**TC:** What advice would you give to someone that would like to get in to a National Carp Team...?

SW: Match Carp Fishing isn't for everybody, but the best thing to do is to enter a couple of qualifiers, see if it is for you, you will soon get to know the venues which hold the matches, get used to them and practise. Pop down to events and speak to some of the lads, we are quite a friendly bunch and you could even volunteer to become a runner during matches, which

is really appreciated by all the lads.

### 'Quick Fire' questions...

which do you prefer...??

\* Lakes or Rivers...?

### Lakes

\* Day Sessions or Overnighters or Longer Sessions...?

### **Long Sessions**

\* Small or Big Waters...?

### **Both**

\* Remote Locations or Full Facilities...?

### Remote

- \* UK or Outside...? UK
- \* Spring / Summer or Autumn / Winter fishing...?
  Autumn



- \* Bottom or Surface...?

  Bottom
- \* Close in or Long Range...?

  Both
- \* If you could only fish one more session, where would it be...?

It's one of the waters I used to go as a kid, then as an adult specimen fishing, would have to be Castle Loch Lochmaben, just short of 200 acres, everything that swims in there grow up to specimen sizes, plus it holds the Scottish Carp Record, just a magical water for me.

\* What was your most memorable Fish you caught and why?

I have had a good few big fish in my time, but it would the first carp I ever had from a private estate lake when I was younger, the take and fight has stayed with me all this time.

**TC:** Thanks for taking the time to speak with

me today and Talking
Carp look forward to
following the Teams
progress throughout
the year and having a
chat with some of the
Team Members and
hopefully get an insight
to their fishing tactics

when approaching a match.

### Mark G – Talking Carp





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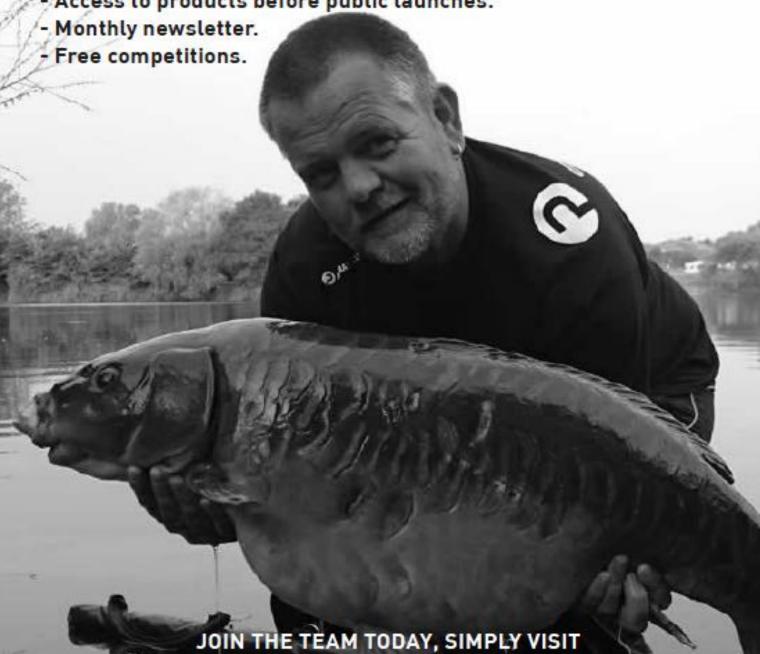
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Featuring -

Brooms Cross Fishery, Alex Hughes, Cameron Dodds, Colin Pearce, Danny Johnson, Gary John Walker, Gaz Poole, Pallatrax, Castaway PVA Team.





### **Daniel Parry**

27lb 8oz

new P.B OF 30LB

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# Brooms Cross Specimen carp and coarse



Mike Williams 23lb



Rich Hall with



# Brooms Cross Specimen carp and coarse





Sam Wall 21lb

Sue at 31lb 2oz





**Alex Hughes** with his 3rd 30 from Wales and a personal best with this fish called Arnie from the Wharf in Cardiff and weighed in at 32lb 2oz. It was caught on Bounty Hunter from A.M

**Baits Congratulations Alex!** 



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Cameron Dodds
21lb Wyreside

Colin Pierce recently fished Sandhurst Lake at The Yateley Complex for the Viper Tackle Team Social and was fishing the L/H Bailiff Swim. The first night went by without a bite after me being confident of a fish after receiving many liners and 2 aborted takes. The next day was also very quiet until a fish boshed out at 8 and a half wraps towards peg 15. I cast a Ronnie rig with a whittled down Northern Baits Evolution Pop Up on the spot and sat excitedly on the edge of my seat in anticipation of a bite. That didn't come until 3 hours later when eating my tea, the alarms screamed into life. After a tough battle this beautiful 35lb 2oz mirror rolled over the net cord. This fish broke my mirror PB by 14lb and sent me home an extremely happy man.

Congratulations Colin!





Danny Johnson recently the famous Sandhurst Lake
For a team social with Viper Tackle. We were there for 48hr I
was fishing peg one called the secret swim. After arriving in the
morning, I had a good look round and seen some fish showing at
around 80 yards so I got the marker rod out and after a few leads
about I found a deep silt patch. I decided to put a Northern Baits
15mm evolution pop up on a Ronnie rig using a Viper Tackle
Curve Shank hook and a few freebies out with the throwing stick.
After seeing multiple shows in the area, I decided to leave the
bait out throughout the day and night and then just after sun rise
had a single beep and then an aggressive take which resulted
into a lovely common weighing in at 31.2lb and a new P.B.
Congratulations Danny!



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### **Catch Reports**

**Gary Walker** had a super 7 fish hit when he fished on a mini social at Bells Mill in Stourbridge recently.

All fish were caught on Retro Baits squid n octopus boilies.







Gaz Poole with a stunning 32lb..10oz common, from Mallard lake at Stanwick Lake Fisheries in Northamptonshire. It's a personal best for me and a lake record! I was fishing close in under an overhanging tree in the margins, I used a homemade boilie I made called TNT. My rig of choice was a leadless leadcore with safety rig and the hooklink was a 15lb Gardner semi stiff braid finished off with a Gardner dark Mugga size 8 hook with 2 inches stripped back near the hook.

Congratulations Gaz!!



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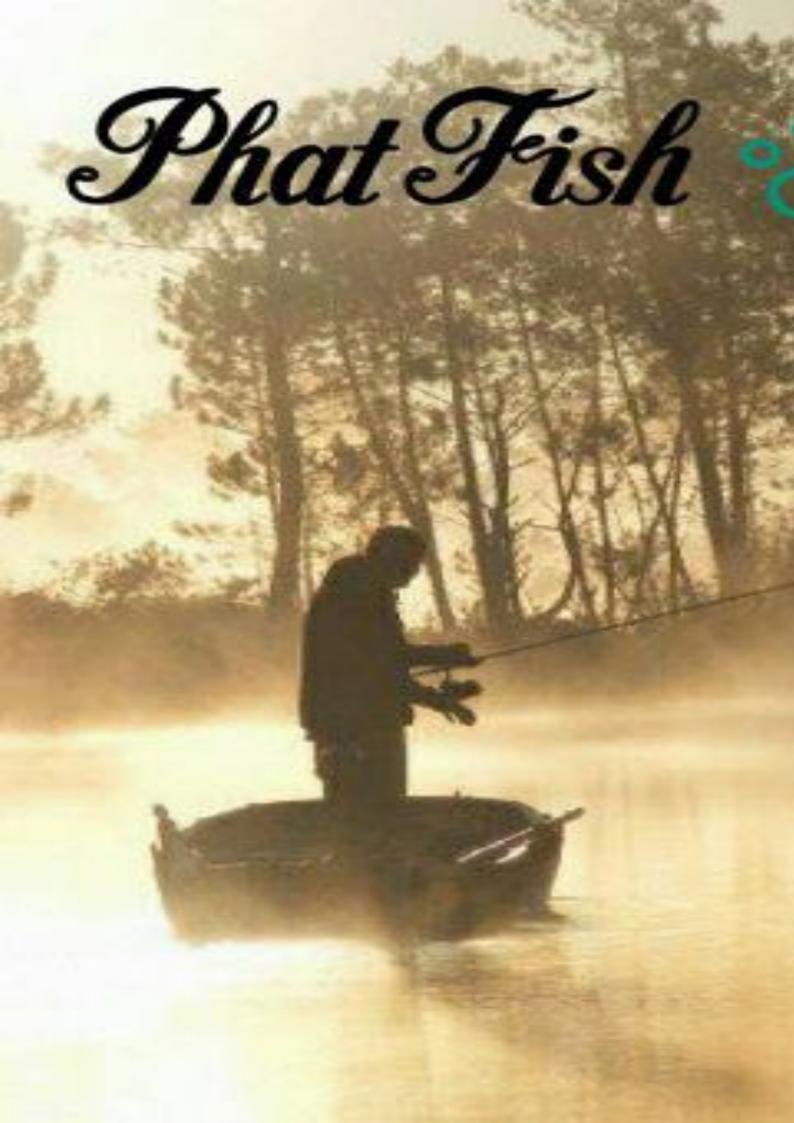


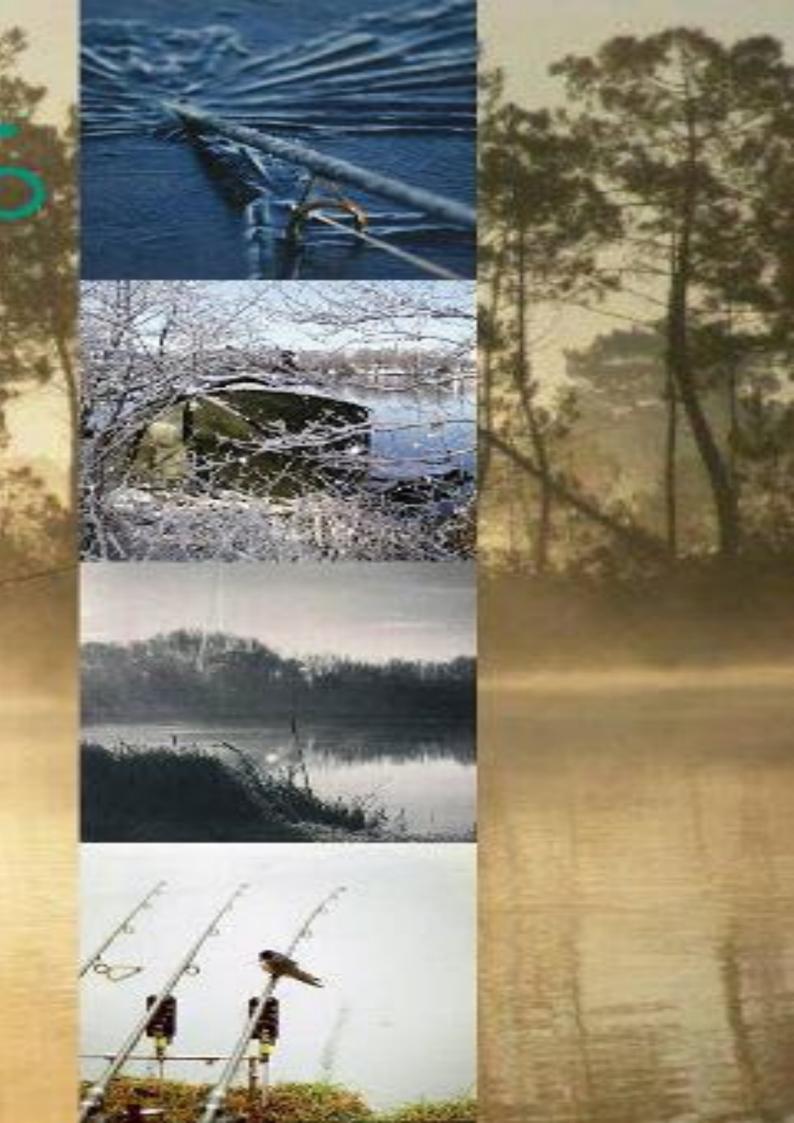
**Martin Lenaghan** fished on Emperor lakes recently, and using Jungle squabs on the back of a size 6 Gripz hook and a 2.5oz Stonze weight, Martin went on 2 land 2 more of Emperors residents. For a tricky water Martin is doing very well !!!





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Elaine Taylor with her new PB of 71lb 4oz Congratulations from the Talking Carp team



# CastawayPVA







Castaway PVA
Team
manager Paul
Heseltine getting
amongst them
with this beautiful
29lb14oz
common







Kristian
Horlock with a
stunning 37lb
12oz mirror
and a 26lb 4oz
common





Kurtis Burton with his first U.K. 30





Paul
Hopper
with a
cracking
48lb 15oz

# CastawayPVA



2 of the young castaway Pva team enjoying catching

Keep up the good work









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Carl and Adam O'Brien at Forest Pool France

Le Lees - France

**Ebro Fishing Dreams** 

### Team Pallatrax member

### Carl O'Brien and his son Adam

had a week booked at **Forest Pool in France**... And what a week they had !! Both fishing on Stonze and Gripz hooks saw them have an amazing week with Adam smashing his pb again.. and again... topping out at 32lb 4oz. Carl had his carp topping out at 36lb 5oz and a new personal best catfish of 55lb 6oz. Adam even managed a sturgeon.

Im sure this was a week they will never forget.. And some quality family time was had inbetween catching fish.











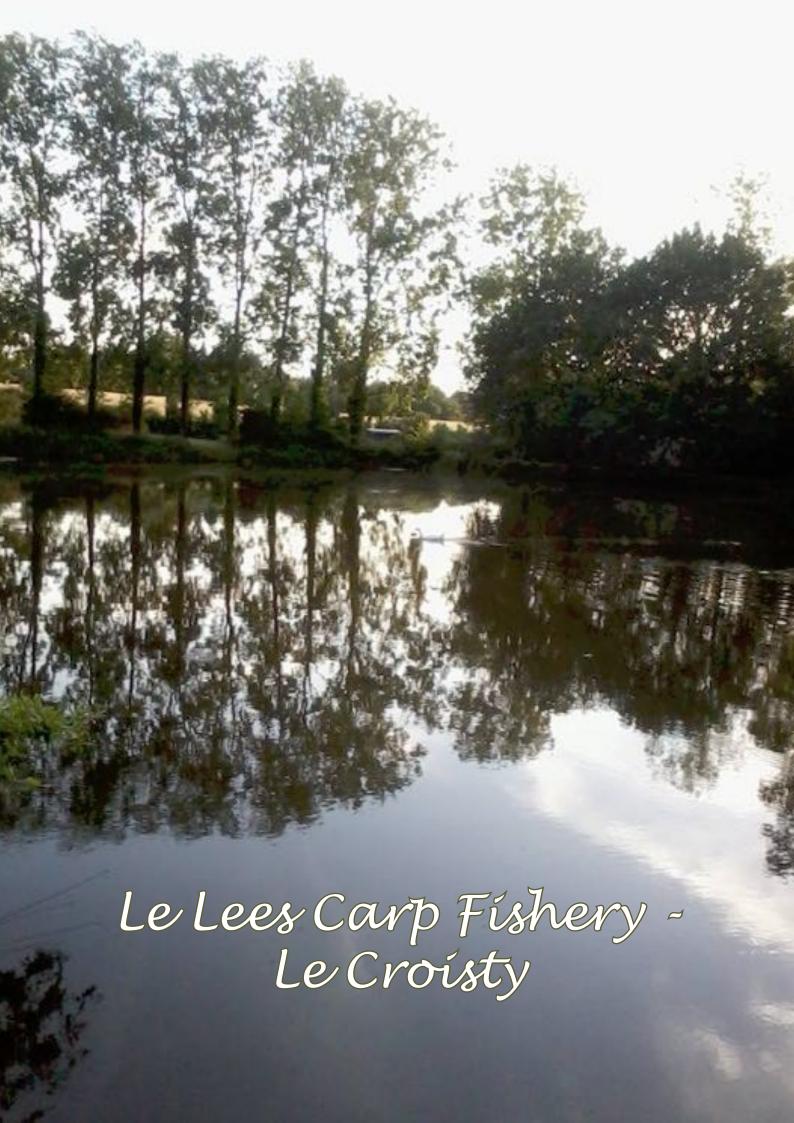


### Even with the river in flood this 167lb beast graced the bank this month

For more information or to book please contact
Paul Fagan 07539 101840
Debbie Fagan 07986 939543
ebrofishingdreams@yahoo.co.uk







### Welcome everyone to LE LEES Carp Fishery.

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

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

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

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

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

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



### Le Lees Carp Fishery



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Matt, Tracie and Thai.





Le Lees Car



p Fishery





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## Thankyou for reading and as always your continued support

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

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