

BEWARE Keep Away From Squirrels



Hello and welcome... To issue 75.

This month we bring you another BUMPER issue of Talking Carp magazine. The carp angling magazine written by the angler, for the angler.

We bring you more great reading from our regular writers such as Jules and Brian, Joe Turnbull, Andy Murray, Scott Grant, Richard Handel, and then add to that even more!!

This month we are very excited to be joined by the Canadian Carping Society with a very interesting intro piece, Rob Gainer talks about a very busy session in France, Brian talks about his first trip to a carp fishing venue that is currently being relaunched to the public. Mark Carper has a report from the Welsh Ladies vs REME Carpers match, and our junior carpers keep us up to date on their adventures.

And that still isn't all of it...

More articles, stories and tales from the bank, more reviews and a catch report section too....

Where else can you get ALL this carp reading from.... FOR FREE!!

As always, keep those emails, messages, catch reports and general questions coming in.

Enjoy this months magazine, enjoy the longer sunny days, and we look forward to seeing your results.

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Team Talking Carp

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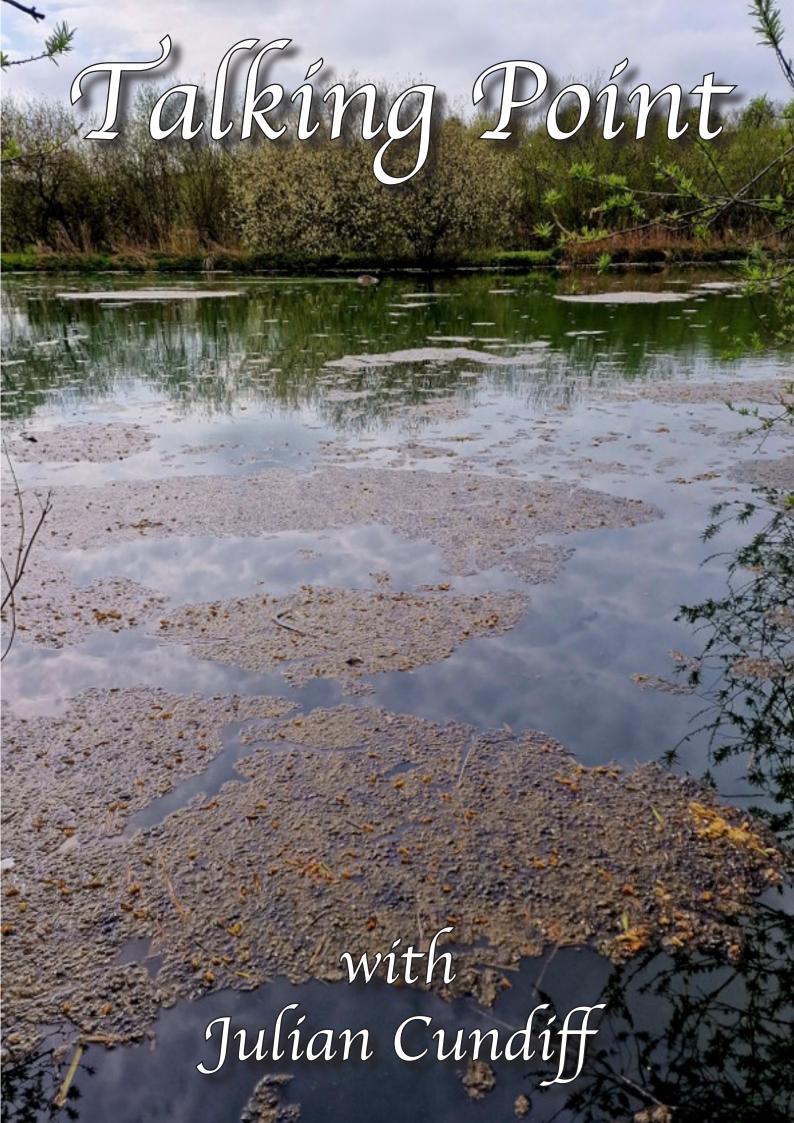
COMING SOON

THE NEW EXTENDED RANGE









TALKING POINT...

Blanking with Julian Cundiff & Brian Dixon

Welcome back to another issue of Talking Carp and this month we thought we would change things up a bit... everyone loves to talk about the catches, the triumph and the glory times... but what about the other times? The not so triumphant times... the blanks. The fish dropped at the net, the times when things don't go according to plan. And the time when work and real life gets in the way. It happens to us all at some point, doesn't it?

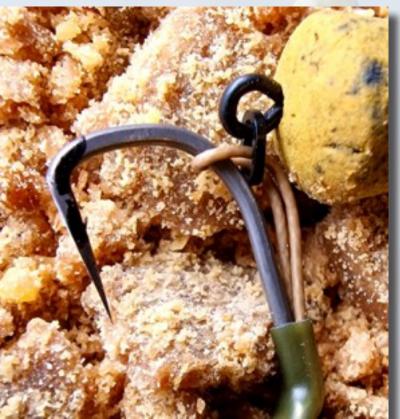
Jules: Tell me about it mate. In my formative years the only carp fishing knowledge I had to go on was what I read, and it appeared (in print) that the writers hardly ever blanked, very rarely got it wrong and breathed ratified air to be honest. As I got older, I soon realised that wasn't the truth, in fact far from it to be honest. Rod seemed to be the only 'human' one out there as he was forever casting up trees, losing fish and generally cocking it up (we all miss you fella). The more I wrote the more 'real' I tried to make it and working full time at court, having other interests other than carp and not living in big carp mecca meant it was 'real'. The ups and downs seemed to resonate with my audience and even now the diary columns that I wrote in Angling Times and Crafty Carper still get lots of positive feedback on social media from my readership. Was it because of all the carp I caught? No....it was because it reflected the average anglers ups and downs and something they could relate to.

Brian: So, and this is one we definitely know all about... you have a blank session, followed by another, then another, and before long you are on a run of blanks. This can get quite disheartening... and before long you're



in a rut. Now, unless you are on one of those missions where you are chasing a particular fish and have the dedication to do so we would suggest you put a stop to the streak as quickly as you can. What would you say Jules? A new water perhaps? A total rethink of your tactics perhaps? What would you suggest?

Jules: Believe me we all suffer blanks no matter how experienced or inexperienced we are....or how we make it look on social media. The more experience you have under your belt the quicker you will recognise you are getting it wrong, and no amount of money can buy you experience. I've talked about this before, but it warrants mentioning again bearing in mind this month's topic. After each session I ALWAYS evaluate how I think I performed kidding yourself achieves nothing. What are other people catching whilst I am there? Did I really give it my best shot? Did I move when needed? Did I genuinely try my hardest? It's only when you are honest with yourself that you alter your results. So, my advice is to be honest with



yourself bearing in mind
what others are doing or not
doing. By evaluating each
session, you can correct
things a lot quicker too.
Whilst it's easy to blame the
weather, restricted swim
choice etc IF we are honest
with ourselves the answers
usually in our own hands.
Whether we are able to
recognise that and most
importantly change things is
another matter.

Brian: Now, what about those who are on a mission, and targeting one fish? Or looking to crack a particular water. That takes some kind of dedication, doesn't it? A particular mindset? How does someone stay focused? How do you keep the motivation alive?

Jules: In one word (actually four) it has to matter. If you truly want to achieve something you will keep going as the destination is worth the journey.....but you have to want it. So, the most important factor is to get the decision right in the first place. Is it truly a fish you want to catch COME WHAT MAY? Is it a water you enjoy even when it's not happening? Do the carp in it inspire you to give it your best shot? If it matters enough you will find the motivation there to dig deep and ultimately achieve your target. If not it will feel too much like hard work and you will find a reason (excuse) not to.....

Brian: We see all too often, anglers rocking up, bivvy up and rods out

then falling asleep for the next 12 hours. Whilst we understand that some anglers work hard all week, and have very little time for actually fishing, surely, they are missing a trick or two and could still get a decent session if planned properly. We know yourself, and many other successful anglers also held down full time jobs. What would you say to someone who had limited angling time in order to be more productive?

Jules: The great thing (one of) about carp fishing is that it's different things to different



Packing up after another blank but on the journey home I tried to figure out why



people and I am absolutely sure that in this day and age getting away from life, chilling with friends is far more important than killing yourself to catch carp for a big percentage of anglers out there....and good for them! I've visited so many day ticket waters where anglers turn up in twos and want two swims together that I'm convinced that the catching is not the numero uno priority. Be it Norton, Linear, Drayton etc anglers want that social side of things (Wi-Fi, takeaways etc). For the bulk of my carp fishing 1986 to 2018 (certainly in the period March to November) it was after work overnighters which believe me is not everyones cup of tea. If it was purely for fun, or for socialising I would not have stuck with it but because I love my carp fishing and wanted to give it my best shot then overnighters it was. My advice for someone who is holding down a full time job and wants to catch more fish could be an article on its own but in a nutshell

- a) Pick a water you like
- b) The closer the better
- c) Stick to the water and don't flip flop
- d) Pick swims that fish best in the periods you have free
- e) Fish the water at last once if not twice a week
- f) Do all your prep like rigs and bags at home
- g) See the water as a full season not just spring to mid-summer
- h) There is no room for complacency, so hooks need to be pin sharp, casts spot on, stealth, observation and so on.



prep is essential



Brian: Losing fish... Been there! Done that! Got that t shirt fully autographed!! Personally, losing one fish I would think "well, it happens. 1-0 to the carp." But we have talked to anglers at shows and on the banks where they talk about losing 4, 5 or 6 in a session and thinking nothing of it.... Surely alarm bells should be ringing and something is wrong somewhere. How many losses would it take for you to start looking at what is going wrong? I do remember one time I was getting finicky bites and couldn't hit them properly, and when I did eventually get one it was barely nicked in the lip. a few minor adjustments to the rig did the trick, slightly longer rig and longer hair and I was away... next one was properly nailed. How quickly would you react when something is clearly wrong?

Jules: In three words... BE MORE DEADLY

To be honest losing fish does happen...to all of us. When you lose ONE fish evaluate it immediately not just say s**t happens. Getting the take was good, and yes it can be just one of those things but 'just one of those things 'should never be 'just two, three, four etc of those things '. Did the line break? Obviously fixable. Did the hook open



Sitting on my rods locked up

up? Obviously fixable. Did it weed you up or snag you up? Obviously fixable. Those are the common ones.... again, in a nutshell

- a) Line not strong enough, checked enough or changed often enough.
- b) Hook too small, not sharp enough.
- c) Fishing too close to weed, snags, not sitting on rods, incorrect end tackle, slack clutch





In Session with Julian Cundiff eventually became 'Diary Of An Everyday Carp Angler 'in Crafty

Those are the ones I see all too often.... all of which are the anglers fault. If it is just a case of fish dropping off mid fight it maybe too heavy a lead, too small a hook, too little pressure, not enough pressure, too short a hooklength...Evaluate NOT accept...

Brian: At some point, and we see it happening all too often on Facebook and whatnot, people becoming disheartened with their angling to the point they pack up and go as far as selling their gear. A few months later the bug is back and they have to start all over again... which can prove very costly. Would you have any advice for those

who are getting disheartened with their fishing?

Jules: Step away from it. Believe me I despair at times with carp fishing, or more likely carp anglers. Life is not perfect and carp fishing is just part of life. Whatever part of my life I was to detail there are times I've thought 'what the f**k '.... The trick is not to get so far down that hole which in my case is ensuring that I've always got lot's going on in my life not just putting all my eggs in one basket. Motorbikes, girls, music, concerts, books, bike riding, the gym, KISS collecting, F1, NFL, BSB.....never mind family and friends. Often it's



down to the water and the anglers on it rather than carp fishing full stop so my advice...

- a) pick the right water
- b) avoid negative people and situations that drag you down
- c) have carp fishing as part of NOT all of your life

Brian: Now here is a question for you... we saw recently a very popular day ticket fishery posting up that due to rising costs in living they are raising their day ticket prices from £25 per 24 hours to £30 per 24 hours. Now this is a specimen carp fishery, but there isn't electricity in every peg, there isn't a gas supply to every peg, there isn't running hot and cold water in every peg, although there is a toilet block on site. There isn't a quad service to your peg so no petrol or diesel is being used....

The general consensus is that this fishery is simply getting greedy, but on the flip side this venue is properly bailiffed, and the management team and employees need to make a wage somewhere. We believe it's a risky move... but we can see both sides. What do you think?

Jules: As I said horses for courses and what is one persons perfect water could be another ones idea of hell. Unless you own the water then the owner makes the rules, and you vote with your feet. There are four waters not too far from me that have fish I'd love to catch but the



I pick waters for me not what I think impresses others zzzz

fishery rules, the closeness to roads, the clientele etc are not for me. If I fish them KNOWING that and then complain more fool me. This is not electricity, water, gas, council tax where we are all kind of f****d this is carp fishing. There are thousands of waters so get a grip not be a drip...

Brian: Its that time of year again... the new season is upon us, anglers up and down the country are dusting off their gear ready to go out and enjoy our beloved sport... but its also a time when we see anglers flip flopping from team to team. Is it a case of anglers looking to save a few



Overnighters it was. Fishing, home, bath repeat

pounds? Or could it be the thinking that big companies could get your face known across media and open doors for you that you wouldn't normally have opened? We say find a company that suits you and your angling needs, stay loyal, and become a major player in that team. Reward those who have shown faith in you... and you will be a happier angler.

Jules: Again each to their own. Personally, I am a loyal kind of guy, but it is the is the fishing BUSINESS not charity and loyalty works both ways. If you are a household name you can kind of flip flop and get away with it but that's not for me. I feel that at that level



moving makes it APPEAR to be purely a business decision which hardly is a ringing endorsement for where you've gone to unless you can really come up with a valid reason....and to be honest some are laughable. You are promoting the brand yes but devaluing your credibility surely. At a lower level it does you no favours at all IF you are looking for long term. You get seen as a flip flopper.... Brian is right when he says find things that work for you, don't be over gushing and just go out and catch some carp and enjoy it. It took me five years of being in the public eye to get my first paid consultancy..... think about that. I've been dropped by firms, magazines and circles of people... that's life



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Brian: More wise words from Jules indeed. We hope the chat this month may help as we all go forward and continue on our carp angling paths... and remember, if you do get stuck, or start to doubt yourself then Jules has all his social media platforms available to contact him on and hopefully steer you in the right direction. (Just don't call him at 3 a.m. because you have lost one at the net... he will not answer. I tried !! ONLY JOKING.... We haven't...yet)

And on that note, we shall say goodbye for now, thanks to Jules for his input and remember you can catch him on his social media pages which he shall now tell you.

Jules: Good topic Brian and time for me to get on with other things. I've put 35 miles in on the pushbike this morning, I've got some rigs and bags to sort, Netflix (Ozark) to catch up with, my Julian Cundiff

Angling Page to sort and gawd knows what else before I'm back on the bank Tuesday (Bank Holiday Monday gets a miss from me....)

Julian Cundiff

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Another Saturday, another teach in





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NUTRABAITS®







Let me start by saying, literally everything we read when it comes to bait related articles is based on theory. Granted, there are lots and lots of studies undertaken by professional people in the field of biology, chemistry and physics that undertake many studies in the way that fish feed and what they require to maintain a healthy life span. However, we are not fish, and we will never be able to know exactly how they think, what they think and how they respond to being caught. Sure, we can surmise that they like a certain bait that we're introducing because at times they eat it with gusto, but they do not have hands and cannot pick things up to smell them or have a lick. We can however tell if they like a certain bait, not only because they eat it but will happily carry on eating it and return to eat it whenever It's introduced.

We know that carp detect feed signals via not only the taste receptacles around and in their mouths but can also recognise food signals via the olfactory systems that are based in the nose cavity or front of the head region and many other parts of their bodies. This information that we have learnt over the years has given us an insight into how carp find and often taste their food without sometimes (and this is just a theory) picking it up. At times I've introduced feed items into my pond (mainly sample hook baits that I've made) only for the carp to approach them and for them to simply nudge them out of the way. It's as if to say, nope I'm not having that, thanks.

Bait is and will always be a very interesting subject, but it can also be an absolute minefield and at times very frustrating. Combinations of ingredients, colours, scents, textures, shapes, sizes and application can all make a difference on the day. Carp like us are animals and although cold blooded have very many similarities especially when it comes to food, eating and of course nutrition. Like us, they love sunlight, and much like us they can be found soaking up that first warm feel of the spring sunshine. Although they love the warmth of the sun they do not and cannot synthesise vitamin D like us in this way but have to get it from food such as



plankton. In regard to vitamins, it is very important for carp to get their daily dose, which is where we come in. See, the bait you feed no matter what the cost will have many of the vitamins that carp need to not only to survive but strive to become fit, strong and keep them in top condition. These days many factory-made baits contain lots of important additives that carp need and probably unknowingly to most of us we are keeping them healthy and fit. Carp, like us need nutritional food, that's not to say that they must have the best money can buy but like us, but it certainly helps. It's a known fact that humans who choose an unhealthy high fat diet are known to develop many problems in later life so there is no denying that food plays an important role in keeping us healthy and it's the same for them. Let's take hemp seed for example, it's a great feed source which is not only good for us but good for them as it contains fairly low carbs, its high in really good fatty acids such as omegas 3 and



6 and contains a decent level of protein. Perhaps if we thought a bit more about what we eat as a nation we'd be as healthy as the carp. Anglers have often argued that carp cannot recognise nutrition which to some extent is correct however. what they do and can do is forage for food or items of nutrition amongst what they have sucked in. Going back to the hemp seed, how often do you find hemp shell in your sling or in your mat? The same can be said for sweetcorn as the outer casing from sweet corn is another shell that's often found in slings or amongst





carp faeces. The carp with its incredible digestive system has passed the unwanted and unnutritional shells through itself and taken the highly digestible highly nutritious parts form the food. Whether it does this knowingly or is just something its body does naturally we will never probably know.

A great example of how you can tell when carp find a certain food not only good to eat but nutritious (like mentioned earlier) is when they return to eat it and continue to get caught on it. I've written this many times before, but baits can often be venue dependant and by that, I mean readily accepted in certain venues and not so well accepted in others. Not wanting to make this look

like too much of a plug, I have been using Mainlines Cell from the off and no matter where I take it, I catch on it and to make it sound even better I have had re captures too, lots of them. Some of the venues have been tricky difficult waters where pre baiting is nigh on impossible and some are easier runs waters, nonetheless it never appears to let me down. Anglers and other bait makers have often spoken or written that a factor to this can be down to ph. levels in venues being the same output as what the bait may be giving off. Levels of ph. in water varies from venue to venue with the majority sitting between 7 and 8 or there abouts and can vary from area to area. Surely though these particular baits ph. level can't so happen to sit in that perfect window where it suits every single swim it's introduced into or can it? Is this why certain baits, not just Mainlines



Cell but perhaps other successful baits appear to catch wherever they are introduced? I can't see it myself but its something to think about.

There are so many varying factors that surround bait that these days that I fail to fall into the once mystical category that it once had but it can still be an incredibly exciting pastime to get into. Personally, experimenting with flavours, taste tracts and palatants is where my enjoyment lies. Not so much in trying to find the holy grail of super baits, one that may catch every single fish in the lake because I don't think that will ever happen. So long as I catch on my hook baits is enough for me. Knowing full well that I got everything right when measuring out the dosage levels and mixing odds and ends together to make an attractive enough bait for a carp to come along and suck it in, I will always find somewhat mesmerising. Making bait especially hook baits can be really interesting and over the next few issues I'll be taking you through some of the more successful mixes that I've used over the years.

So, give them some food and think about what you're feeding

them to catch them instead of following the crowd, you may just surprise yourself.

Until next time, dangle well.

JT





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Hi all, in my last article I wrote about some suggestions and tips for helping with a fishing trip broad. I thought in this article I would go through my recent trip so it may help anyone else who maybe planning their own trips shortly. Sometime ago Clint and I were invited on trip La Saul Paquot, to join another group. The guys had previously been and then their following trip was postponed due to Covid and re-scheduled for this year, whilst not a well-known lake, it has been around for a while to those that are aware. Not an easy water or what you might call a runs water, but it definitely holds real quality and sizeable carp, that are well worth catching. I have a few trips planned this year and was really looking forward to this first one, just to get out and spend a whole week fishing was going to be great.

With all the planning in place and the mountain of tackle loaded in the van, it was time to head off. I was picking Matt up on the way and we were calling in at the DT Baits HQ on the way down to pick bait up for our trip and then on to the hotel near to the Tunnel. These days the journey down South never seems straight forward, so we now travel

down and then stop over near the Tunnel the night before, then we can get an early train and arrive in France early, for a leisurely drive to the lake, once we land on foreign soil, to me it's an adventure and I like to enjoy it all. Travelling down the night before takes the worry about getting caught in traffic jams as well and missing any links. Overall, with picking Matt up, calling at DT Baits, then having the A12 closed due to an accident, it took around 8 hours to get down to the hotel from me leaving home. We checked in then had a few pints and some food, then an earlyish night,







ready for an early start the following morning. One thing about using the Tunnel these days is how easy the checking in system is, as long as you have uploaded all your API'S and Covid forms etc. We checked in, got a quick coffee and we were on our way bang on time. It still astonish's me that within 30 minutes Of setting off you are in another country and on your way. The journey down to the Champagne region was pretty easy and we arrived just after midday. We were welcomed by Tony and Julie and had a coffee and a chat until everyone arrived, then it was

an official look round then the draw for the swims. The idea being to spread everyone around the lake so the carp wouldn't hole up in one area. It would be fair to say that the lake had not been fishing well, a lot of fresh cold water had come in, raising the water level, the conditions (as in the UK), had not been great with Sunny days and very cold nights, which continued during our trip.

We were all fired up to get sorted and start fishing. I had chosen peg 1 which had a fair area of water out front and an island to my right, so plenty of features to go at. Clint was further along to my left, so we had the whole bank between us. I had brought my Trusty old Waverunner and a new one- man dinghy I had recently bought. The lake has been very weedy in the past, and even though a lot of raking has been done and the water treated it still had very weedy areas, hence the need for a boat to go out for any fish that became weeded. So, about Bait boats, love them or hate them, they are in integral part of fishing abroad and an efficient use of one can give you an idea of the water in front of you very quickly and can be a great aid for fishing. Like all aspects of angling, they do require

some practice to master them to be used well. I spent an hour with the boat going out and back in front of me to get an idea of the features in front of me. Ideally, we were looking for clear spots in the weed (obviously!). I have put a picture in that shows such a spot on the Echo Sounder, the distinct colours highlighting the make-up of the lakebed and the variations in depth. If you are new to using a boat and are not sure about the readings, then a good way to test these screens shots is to put the Marker float into the boat a few times, when you drop the marker on a likely spot and retrieve it, you can get an idea of what you are seeing on the screen. Now I know there are

some all-singing, all-dancing boats out there now. I am not really very technical, so anything I use has to be simple and fairly bombproof. We had an old Waverunner rebuilt totally and the inclusion of a Toslon 500 Echo sounder, this was done by Joe Baitboat Jacobs who I can highly recommend for any work or new boats, this boat works efficiently up to 200 yards as well, it is a bit slow and noisy but it always gets there (a bit like me!), regardless of the conditions. I have had this for 3 years now and had very few issues with it. We also got Lithium batteries for it, which gives much longer running time. One tip when using Baitboats, you can see by the picture the hooklink laid

out amongst the freebait. Make sure you use a foam nugget to mask the hook so the hook doesn't catch on the way out of the boat, trust me it can be a real nuisance to learn the hard way! I feel I have become quite adept at using the boat now and can



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put all my rods out pretty easily on my own, it has taken some years to master though.

When I travel abroad, I tend not to gather too much info on the lake before I fish, I would rather wait and see what I have in front of me and then start to deal with it, I'm also looking for the carp to help by showing me some areas and ideas as well. So, for the first

night, rods were on likely looking spots, it's always a bit of guesswork on the first night or two though, as I said, waiting for the carp to give some signs of spots to fish. I got the house set -up and then it was time for the evening meal, I had just taken delivery of the new Trakker Superdome bivvy, it's colossal, it's also easy for one person to put up as well. I am hoping Sal will be coming along on future trips, so this is ideal for the two of us and we can get everything in and its bug proof.... I had opted for the food package while here. It really does take the stress out of shopping, cooking

and cleaning up, as I am on holiday, I just want to enjoy the fishing and being out on the bank. The food was excellent all week, I'm not normally a pudding person but I have to say this week, I ate them every day, the crème Brulé was outstanding!

The first night was very quiet and also very cold! I always make a point of being up around an hour



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before first light to watch for signs and it was unbelievably cold, it was a good job I had brought my heavy clothing, hat and Thermal boots, just because you are abroad it doesn't mean its going to be warm all the time. It was great watching that first sunrise though, it's a time of day I always enjoy. There was very little signs of any carp movement in front of me at all. I had one rod to my left to a pontoon that came out, one rod straight in front of me on a small bar/plateau, and one rod to my right on the Island shelf. I never go heavy on the bait to start with, just enough bait for a bite, if I get a bite and think I have carp moving through then I will put more bait in. in a couple of swims, there was evidence of boilies left from previous sessions, whats the point in putting in loads of bait if the carp aren't feeding, you cant make them 'have it'. On the shallow area in front of me, there was quite a bit of weed and I fed this regularly with small amounts of smaller bait items. Hemp, corn, chops etc. Hoping that the smaller species would clear the area down a bit, which did happen over the week, sometimes this activity can also draw passing carp in as well by creating a feeding area. Though the carp did start to show over it later in the week. I

never had a bite from it. One of the other things I do on these smaller lakes, and I have written about this before, is at the start of the session, put a lot of boilies into soak in lake water. if the carp are being wary to fresh bait and they may be eating bait that has been there a while, this is an effective way to get round this, it also softens the baits as well, I firmly believe that carp prefer softer baits. Some angers think that the baits wash out and lose their flavour, I think the opposite, I think the bait flavour and taste develops more. I also like to use a few different sized boilies in this type of approach, so I had 10mm, 15mm



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and 24mm boilies in the mix. These being a mixture of DT Baits Supafruit and Pukka Fish with Peach and Sour Cream, so, I had different flavours and sizes of boilie to add to my mix of hemp and corn. I'm not going to talk about rigs here, as space won't allow, I do intend to talk about rigs and presentation a bit more in my next article. It would be fair to say the fishing was very slow, hot sunny days and freezing nights are not ideal at this time of the year, a number of lakes in the area were the same as well. I was seeing reports from other lakes saying the same. As I was in the Champagne region, I had wanted to have a look round some of my old haunts from the 90's. Clint and I had a couple of days out, visiting lac du Der, Madine and Amance, the idea being to get up to date info and maps about access to the lakes and prices as well, also how to book on these for the future, as it is an area I plan on re-visiting in the next few years. I would much rather have first-hand information. than rely on the experts on Social Media for this sort of thing. We also got chance to speak anglers on these venues as well, again very valuable information. I really enjoy driving round these types of areas abroad, beautiful, open countryside, it's just a joy to be out, as well as stopping for the odd beer here and there...the couple of days out gave us a welcome break as the lake was fishing slow. Callum had a fantastic 64lb Common out from the stalking corner but barring the odd small carp it was a struggle for a bite. That didn't stop any of us trying though, whilst I stuck with a couple of the spots, probably too long as it turned out. I kept looking for something different, I moved one rod to a zig as I have been working on something new in this area and really felt I was on the edge of getting this right. The thing with the Zig is that it has to be put right in front of moving carp. I also did vary my hookbaits a bit, such as bag fishing wafters, pop-ups etc. more of that in the next article.

It was on the 5th night that finally
I had carp show in front of me, a
huge swirl to my right, short of the
island, this saw me move one rod
straight away, it was just over a
weedbed, a small gully as you can
see from the Echo sounder picture.
I sat up that night as I really felt I
was going to get a bite, at just after
11pm, the rod on the new spot
rattled off, as first I thought it was a
Tench bite, the indicator just rising
and falling slowly. The Tench had

been quite active around the lake with a few been caught, pretty soon I realised this was no tench. probably once the carp realised it was hooked! It wasn't long before it weeded solid, I was thinking I would have to go and get Clint and get the boat out, but steady pressure saw the carp kick clear. As the carp approached, I could see it was massive!! I mean really massive! I wasn't even sure it was going to go in the net, at first I thought it was a Common, then I realized it was a grass carp, the biggest I had ever seen. It had picked up another line during the fight, eventually it went into the net, with a bit of careful maneuvering, I let out a huge yell, more from relief than anything else I think, Tony the owner, heard me and came out to help. I decided it was easier to cut the lines and unhook the carp in the net, rather than try and untangle everything. Tony held the net whilst I sorted out the weigh stuff, it went berserk, it's a good job Tony was holding the net otherwise it would have been gone, net as well, as it was the net was wrecked...

Once we got the carp in the Cradle, we realised the true size of it. I had to get my 120 scales out as the 60 scales were bottomed! We

eventually settled on a weight of 57.5 lbs. after taking off the weight of the sling, a new PB for me, excellent. We did struggle though with the pics without any help, with hindsight I should have gone and got Clint for that extra help. Holding a big carp is fairly difficult, holding one that's 4 foot long and bends in the middle was chuffing impossible! After a lot of nursing the carp went back, that's what Grass carp are like though, taking themselves to the point of exhaustion, in the net and on the bank, then they take ages to recover. I poured myself a glass of red wine and just enjoyed the moment. I managed to get one rod re-tackled and back out to the same spot, during the night, I heard the odd carp to my left but no more bites were forthcoming and that was it. We still had 2 more nights to go, so stuck at it, Colin had a 49 on the Friday, but it remained hard fishing. As usual I was up very early on the Saturday morning and I saw a carp show about 80 yards in front, to my left slightly, I wound a rod in and tackled up with a 2ft Zig, that had been sprayed with the DT Squid and Octopus bait spray. It took 3 casts to get this right where I had seen the show, I sat and watched, I somehow was sure I was going to get a bite, and I did, the Zig rod

rattled off at a fair rate of knots. The fish out in open water kited into a large weedbed and became firmly stuck. I shouted of Clint to little avail, and eventually had to go and get him, he went for the lake boat, as I had put mine away as were in the process of packing up now. By the time he came back with the boat and we got out to the area, the carp was long gone, oh well... it showed I was on the right tracks with the Zig though, I'll be using this tactic a lot when I get home. It also shows the importance of trying right to the end and being prepared to try something a bit different. With the pack up complete we said our farewells and headed for home, always the worst bit, but a necessary evil. It also looked as the carp were starting to become a

bit more active as we were leaving, typical! Tony and Julie looked after us really well, both with the food and information about the lake and its inhabitants. I had really enjoyed my weeks fishing at La Saule, and will head back at some point, probably bring Sal along if can find a quiet week for us both. It's back to more normal fishing for a couple of months, I have a big family holiday in July and then the trip to Parco in August, so a very busy few months coming up, better do a bit of work as well.

Take care and whatever you do, make sure you enjoy the journey as well as the destination.

Andy



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https://www.facebook.com/In-The-Margin-Particles-875585529194124/



t had been a few weeks since my last session, as it's only every 4 weeks I get a long weekend off work. Come the Sunday leading up to my trip I started to prepare my bait and get all my gear prepped and sorted. The following day I felt really rough and even though going to the doctors is not my thing, I booked an appointment as a precaution. It turned out I had a viral infection which knocked me for six for the next 24hrs!! I still went to work and come Thursday I felt so much better, after I finished my last shift, I raced home to get the van loaded and get over the lake.

Nothing was going to stop me from going fishing and being out in the open air is better for me rather than being at home. I was still fixated in completing the task I had set myself at the start of the year, to catch a 40lber in each season. I

had already caught one in Spring, Summer, and Autumn so now it was only Winter left for me to complete, which is in fact the hardest, in my book.

As always, I checked the weather and the winds were forecast West. North Westerly. Going by my last trip and the weather forecast my starting point was going to be on the end of the wind up on the Airfield bank. I arrived at the Dell just after midday, I grabbed my mat, net and sling then made my way up to the other end of the lake. The lake was completely empty which I couldn't believe so I was literally spoilt for swim choice. After standing watching the water for a while I decided to fish the pump swim, it looked so good. This swim is where I saw a few fish show on my last trip. I unloaded the van, then drove the van back to the



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car park. Once back at the swim I started setting the bivvy up, when I had everything sorted, I got the rods ready before I had a cast about, I put the kettle on and had a well-deserved break. The wind was still pumping down into my face but it was due to go North Westerly later in the evening.

With my tea drunk it was time to grab the marker rod and have a little feel about. I found a clearish area on my right and middle rods in amongst the weed, and with the left-hand rod I found a cleanish area up against a large bank of weed. So, with all the areas sorted it was just a matter of getting the rods on the dance floor with a nice drop of bait. For this trip I opted to use the Creamy Toffee again another bait from the A2 stable that I hadn't used before, but a bait I know catches fish. Confidence in

your bait is key, I can't stress that enough and even though on my last trip I used the banoffee you would have thought I would be using it again. But I like to try different baits to see what results I get. I was using crushed boilies along with whole mixed sized boilies. I was also using my ever-faithful Chillie hemp and a few maggots thrown in the mix. Hook bait choice was the Creamy toffee pop ups in different colours topped off with a couple of maggots. All the rods were boated out with a generous helping of bait. Once all the rods were out it was time to sit back put the kettle on and relax.

As it got dark the wind started to drop off a bit and as I was sitting there watching the water, I saw a fish show out Infront but it was a lot further out then I was fishing. I made a mental note of the area,



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and come tomorrow morning I will be inspecting the area to see what's there. The night was a quiet one and the most excitement I got was when the receiver started going mental which turned out to be floating weed climbing up my rods!! When I did finally wake up daylight was already upon us and after a coffee, I grabbed my marker rod and had a couple of casts further out where I had seen a few fish the night before, I found a huge wall of weed in 11ft of water so my plan was to place my bait just in front of the weed. I then sent my boat out to the area and marked the spot on the GPS, so come late afternoon when I redo the rods my left-hand rod will be going there.

The day flew by and by the time it came to do the rods the wind had got a lot stronger. I managed to get all three rods done with the left-hand rod in the new area. I felt confident but only time will tell if I managed to get it right. Later in the evening the wind really got up and was now smashing into my bivvy and the front of the swim, my rods were covered in floating weed and the receiver was going into melt down. I grabbed 3-line clips from my tackle bag and place each one on the rods in front of the alarms, at



least that way I can get some peace and quiet.

I went to bed early and was woken up by my receiver, the left-hand rod let out a couple of bleeps. I exited the bivvy, headtorch on and couldn't believe the amount of weed that was covering my rods, it was ridiculous!!! I started to remove the weed and after 20 or so minutes I had managed to clear it from the rods and Infront of the swim. I placed the bobbins back on the rods one by one and when I lifted





the left-hand bobbin and tried to attach it to my braid it tightened slightly, I didn't have my glasses on so I couldn't see why. The wind was hacking into me and it was giving me the right arsehole I can tell you. I shone my headtorch on the end of the rod and could see my braid tightening ever so slightly, I lifted the rod and for a brief moment could feel a fish before it weeded me up solid, I placed the

rod back on the rest loosened the drag attached the bobbin finally then went back to the bivvy. I put the kettle on as I was now in the wide-awake club. It was just after 0500 oclock and I knew it would only be another couple of hours before the sun was up. I laid in my bag drinking tea and managed somehow to fall back to sleep!! I woke up just after 0700 oclock and gave Jake a call. I told him I had a fish on but not sure if it's done me in the weed. He gave Ben his brother a shout and Ben came across in the boat. As me and Jake were standing there watching the water a coot appeared right where I had the take, the coot was just bobbin about in the same place and not moving. As Ben approached the area, I shouted out to him about the coot. he lifted the coot up and said yes, my line was attached to it, I was holding my rod and the braid was still tight with no movement what so ever. I shouted to Ben and said I was using braid and not mono line. He pulled in the rest of the line that was attached to the rig the coot had swallowed and my braid was still tight so he made his way to the bank. I jumped in the boat, life jacket on net to hand and we made our way out to where the fish was weeded. As we got above the fish I

still didn't know whether or not it was still on, Ben gave a gentle tug on the braid and the fish gave a massive kick and powered off, it must of took maybe 40-50 yards of line before I could get it under control, it tried in vain to weed me a few more times, but I kept constant pressure on and when she was ready a big commons head broke the surface, Ben netted the fish first time and when he peered in he

looked at me and said "Geeze its "Cluster" could be a 40lber mate" I was elated

and smiling like a Cheshire cat.
Once back at the bank Ben looked after the fish whilst I got everything prepared. With the digitals zeroed and the mat/sling doused with

water, I jumped into my waders then it was time to get my prize. I transferred the fish from the net straight into the sling whilst in the water. Myself

and Ben then lifted her out and placed her on the scales. I didn't even look and I think it was **Jake** that read a weight out of 40lb 5oz, wow just wow

I was totally blown away, this fish was my 3rd 40lber from this lake this year and the year isn't over yet. Ben took great photos as always then the fish was treated and returned. It's ironic that this particular fish is my English PB common of 42lb, which was when I caught her way back in 2015. She's an old fish that's been through a lot, she looked good and getting back on track to get up to the 50lb mark.



The creamy toffee had done the business, as I mentioned earlier confidence in your bait is key. Once the boys had left, I rebaited the rod and get it back out on the spot. I sat there in a daze I couldn't believe what was happening, at this rate I need to put the lottery on.

As the night started to draw in the fish started to show, but they were showing a lot further out in front of a swim known as the ramp, which was round to my right. After the activity I witnessed I made my mind up that come morning I would be upping camp and moving round into there. Well after a quiet night

on the fish front I was soon up and packing my gear up and ferrying it round to the Ramp. It took me a couple of hours but once I was settled it felt so much better. It felt a lot warmer as I was out of the wind and where the fish were showing is straight out. I have fished this particular swim in the past and after consulting my notes I knew exactly where the rods were going.

With the rods out it was time to kick back and relax. A couple of anglers had turned up to fish the night and luckily for me they went in the swim's opposite. I was confident that the fish would show into



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darkness and hopefully I can nail another of the big girls. I sat out until 0200 oclock in the morning freezing my nuts off drinking copious amounts of tea and believe it or not I didn't see a single fish show!! Bloody typical, sometimes you put a lot of hard work in only to be kicked in the nuts. The positive for me was that I had already banked a really good fish so it was another successful session. I fished another 24hrs then had to leave as I was back to the dreaded grind. Well, what can I say a different bait a different fish, what bait will I be using on my next session? Who knows see what takes my fancy, but I will be confident in any of them I choose to use.

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

www.a2baits.co.uk www.sharptackle.co.uk www.castaway-pva.co.uk In the Margin Particles (Facebook) Carters Leads (Facebook)

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Stay safe and remember its only fishing.

Scott "Geezer" Grant







Memories of an average carper

By Dave Locke ACA Dave Carper

Before 1995 we all had to endure three months of the close season with no fishing unless you were into eels that is. I had a few trips after the slimy buggers on a brackish water near Hoo in Kent but I can't say they are fun to catch, not for me anyway. So the three months were spent preparing for the glorious start of the new season on the 16th of June.

The middle of March was normally still cold and highly likely wet as well so the first jobs were done indoors in the warm. Clean and check all the gear making sure bivvys, nets etc were dry and free from mildew. Then we started lead making, we only had one mould that did 2 and 3oz zip type leads so it took best part of a day to make enough to hopefully last us the season, way back then you couldn't buy coated leads.

So after a few days our home made leads were given a coat of primer another day or two and they were sprayed with black or brown car paint spray cans and a few sprayed a sort of off white for use on the chalk pit.

Eventually we progressed onto coated leads, we would get silt from the bottom of a couple of lakes we knew we would be fishing and dried the silt out in the oven. Wifey was not totally thrilled about this part of the operation so a bunch of flowers and a box of chocs is always good to have on standby.

Once the silt was totally dry it is crumbled up to a fine powder. The leads then dipped in polyurethane varnish, whilst the varnish was still very wet the leads are then covered in the powdered silt and hung up to dry.

After a couple of weeks the leads are put in a container of heavily salted water for a day to hopefully take any smell from the varnish away. After all that it's no wonder we didn't used to drop the leads on the take back then.

We did have a try at making hooklengths out of seatbelts that took us absolutely ages to unweave, but these didn't seem that successful so only did that one close season.

This article isn't about if the close season was a good thing or not, but my own thoughts are it gave the banks time to recover and gave the birds time to nest in peace



but as for allowing the carp to spawn, I know on almost all of the waters I fished they didn't normally spawn until the end of June or the beginning of July, so from the fishes point of view it was a waste of time.

By mid April the weather had warmed up a bit so we would go to the waters that allowed us to armed with a note book and a marker rod and carefully map out the depths and any features.

This was a well worth while time spent and definitely helped catch more carp and save time once the season started. Another thing that helped us understand a lot more and helped us practice casting was to spend a few hours over a large field. I guarantee you that if you try this it will open your eyes.

Mark out a hundred yards and see how accurate your estimations are! I think a lot of you are going to be disappointed. Try clipping up and seeing how many times your lead will hit exactly the same spot. Put a couple of marks 3 feet apart and see how many times you can hit between the two marks, now put into the

equation the amount of lead swing back you get in the different depths of the lake and you will realize that your not hitting the dinner plate spot anywhere near as much as you thought you were.

Now put your normal set up in the field, it doesn't matter if you use rests or pods or how daft you think you look, it will be worth it, cast your lead at least 50 yards across the field and put your rod on the rest with the buzzer switched on. Now walk to the lead and see how much you can move it without the buzzer sounding.

Try it with different set ups, fixed lead, free running it doesn't really matter. Then hold the hook and try moving it, you will be amazed at



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how much movement there is without the buzzer sounding. I know the line is running across the grass so there is resistance on the line but there isn't much difference between running across the grass or running through water. By the time you have gone through all the tackle sorting, lead making and field testing it is now mid May and with a bit of luck the sun should be out and the carp moving about a bit.

So it was off to the lakes just to sit and observe. This is a very useful occupation and a lot can be learnt from just sitting and watching. as you enjoy your time on the bank, that's the most important thing, but if you want to be a successful carp angler you have to put in the work, you only have to read Terry Hearns, Dave Lanes or Chillys books to see how much effort they put in to be as successful as they are.

I wish you all the best of luck for the coming summer, keep safe and well ,,,,Dave,,,,,(Gandalf)

My first 20lb+ from Brooklands June 1970

Watercraft and watching the water now seems to be taken over by playing games on mobile phones and I think a lot of people are missing out on a lot of extra carp simply by not watching the water.Each to their own and as long



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Our trip to Wales wasn't far away and we managed to get out for a days fishing the week before our trip on the Easter Friday!

We visited a lake called Puddledock Fishery which is in Ockendon. We had fished it once before but the lake was frozen, so we had to leave, but this time it was much better weather!

We got to the lake at around 7am and loaded all the stuff onto dads fishing barrow. But when dad started trying to push the barrow, it wouldn't move. Dad realised the tyre was flat! So that meant we had to carry our stuff to the swim. TED - and it was literally miles to get to the lake from the car park!!!

We got all the stuff to the lake, the lake we fished was called "Wood Lake". The lake isn't a very big lake, and it has an island. Ted fished one rod close to an overhanging tree and fished his second rod in the margin to start with and I cast one towards the island and one into open water, we started off by using Solid Bags.....

....about half an hour after casting out Ted had the first fish of the day! A nice common of around 8lb! At 8:30am we reeled our rods in and walked to the on-

site cafe and we had a sandwich each! Ted - I had Egg, Bacon and Sausage in mine and Ron's was just a Fried Egg one!

We got back to our swim, and we attached 2 new bags on Teds rods and Ted cast them back to his spots he was fishing!

I then did the same with my rods and then I sat back on my chair waiting for a bite!



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The lake was getting quite busy, and a guy and his daughter turned up but the lake was pretty full so I spoke to my dad, and I said that I'd fish next to Teds swim so that they could then have my swim! So that's what I did!

After I'd moved swim, I could see loads of fish just under the surface of the water, and I told my dad that we should have another go using a 'Zig-Rig'! We started off with a Zig-Rig that was as tall as me, and,

them I found it hard to cast at first but then I managed it!

After getting the rod out to where I'd seen the carp it didn't take long before my rod ripped off! After a 10-minute battle, my dad and Ted helped net the fish and that was my first ever fish on a Zig-Rig!

Ted stuck with solid bags throughout the session! Ted - I helped my dad tie the bags and the neat bit was

squeezing different liquids in the bags just before I cast them out! My favourite one was the Butter Corn one.

I then decided I wanted a bigger Zig-Rig on! So, dad and me tied up an 8ft Zig! It was massive and very tricky to cast! However, shortly after that went out, there was a huge splash on the surface and my bite alarm was ripping off!!!

This time it was a much better fight and it tried to take me into a snag, but I managed to move it away, but then I couldn't reel no more because my lead was at the end of my rod!!! So, my dad told me to keep the rod high and walk back, so that's what I did, and dad and Ted netted my new Zig-Rig PB!!!!

I never caught any more that day, Ted had



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5 carp and our sister who come to see us for a bit ended up not going home but stayed with us until we left, and she even managed to catch a carp too!! Ted - I was teaching her how to reel the fish in, and she held it but she wouldn't kiss it!

Thank you to
Puddledock Fishery
for having us and we
will definitely be back
soon!

The week after that we spent a few hours on the bank holiday Monday sorting out fishing stuff for when we went to Wales!

I didn't go but Ted went with dad to our Nans to sort some bits out...

Ted - we got to my nans to sort out some bits for fishing and I ended up cutting the grass with my grandad and he gave me £5

note!!!! We finished the Easter weekend by having a fire in the garden and roasting marshmallows!!!!! Happy Easter everyone!!

Me and Ted spent
the whole of the next
week counting down
the days until we went
to Wales!!!! We were
meant to drive down on
the Friday morning but
our mum and me and
Ted decided

to surprise our dad at work and pick him up on the Thursday and stay in a hotel near Swansea and then go to the lake on the Friday morning! The car was packed with so much stuff!!!!!

And it took 4 hours to drive to the hotel in Swansea!

Ted - we drove over a massive bridge! I thought it was the Dartford crossing but this one took a much longer time to get to!!! And it was really big!! We stayed in the hotel on Thursday and early on Friday morning we went swimming at the hotel pool! Me, Ted and dad was practicing our





running bombs into the pool (which mum wasn't happy about!!!) we then went for breakfast and then made our way to White Springs Fishery!

Ted - I couldn't wait to get to the lake because I was really looking forward to meeting Mark Carper and I really wanted to talk to the Army guys!

Ron - We drove down to the lake and we met mark

Ted - I gave him a massive high five!

Mark took us to his swim and made mum and dad a coffee, he introduced us to 2 members of the **REME Carp Team, Tom and Carlos.**

They showed us some pictures of Tanks and told us a bit about the job they do, it was

really interesting!

Ted - they were so cool!!! They drove tanks!! And Carlos had really cool figures on his pod!! They were Star Wars ones!! I wish my brother had come with us because he loves Star Wars too!!

The REME Carp Team and the Welsh Ladies carp Team then walked up to the car park to do the swim draw but me and my dad stayed by the lakes

looking after one of the guys rods and mum and Ted went up to watch the draw!

The match started at midday on the Friday, me and Ted didn't start fishing until about 1pm because our swim wasn't ready yet! We got set up and got the rods into areas we wanted to fish! We started off with solid bags on 2 rods and single pop-ups on the other 2 rods! Nothing happened so dad and Ted decided to go for a walk round the lake.

Ted - we met all the REME Carp Team and all the Welsh Ladies Carp Team on the walk





round the lake, they were all really nice and I wished them all luck!

The afternoon passed with nothing to report apart from some liners! However, we could see that the Welsh ladies' team were playing a fish!! So, we ran round to their swim and watched it get weighed, it was 23.03lb mirror carp!! It was a lovely fish, me and Ted said well done

and we went off back to our swim!

We all got into our beds at around 9pm, we started watching a film and that was the end of our first day in Wales!

At about 3:30am my left hand rod screamed off, I got up with my dad put my head torch on and went to my rods! I played the fish for about 15 minutes and my dad netted it with me, we unhooked the fish and retained it in a sling until the morning.

At around 7am me and dad was just getting my fish ready to take out the water when Teds rod ripped off!!! The fish put up a little fight

and then we landed it in the same net my fish was in! Less than 24 hours and me and Ted already had Welsh PBs!!!!!! My fish was around 11lb and Teds one was a little bit smaller!

Saturday was very windy, and not a lot happened during the day. We met up with Steve from Roddy Clips, and we talked

for ages, Ted spent ages playing with Steve's camera. Steve and his wife stayed with us for a few hours, and I was desperate to catch a fish! Steve bought us down some new line clips for our rods and he showed us how to put them on!!



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Ted - Thanks Steve!!!!

About an hour after
Steve and his wife
left, my island rod was
away!! After a good
fight my dad helped me
land a big common! It
was much bigger than
my other carp! When
we weighed it, the
Carp weighed 15.13lb
and it was my new
Welsh PB!!

Ted - me and my dad had a few more walks round the lake throughout the day! I went to see Tom and

Carlos! They gave me some Army Rations to try! They were out of date!!!!!! So, I didn't eat them! But Carlos did and I told him to put some of the Spicy Sauce that comes in the pack on his Rice dinner and he did...and he went very red in the face...!!!!!

Ron - We got a takeaway for dinner on Saturday night, and we went to bed hopeful of catching a few more carp!

Sunday morning me and Ted didn't wake up until 8:30!! We hadn't caught any more fish, and I started helping my dad to pack away some stuff! Once we were packed up, we began bringing the rods in one at a time!

Ted - after we done

that Mark showed us how to use distance sticks and we done a few practice casts before the rods were out away in the car! We did one final lap of the lake with me, Ted mum and dad and we got photos with all the anglers from both teams! We came back round to Rhian's swim and she sounded the horn which meant the match was over! The Welsh Ladies Carp Team won by catching the only fish of the match!



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After the match, we thanked Mark for inviting us, he gave me and Ted a high five and wished us a safe journey back!

We left the lake and mum decided to take us to the beach! At the beach there was also a fair ground!

Ted and mum paddled in the sea and me and dad watched, we then went into the fair ground and went on some rides.

After that me and Ted got an ice-cream and then we started the long drive home!! We got home at 7pm!

We had the best time in Wales! We can't wait to see everyone again! Thank you Mark for inviting us! Congratulations to the Welsh Ladies Team!

We are looking forward to more fishing coming

this month!!

Tight Lines and Wet Nets

Ron n Ted

It was great to finally meet up with our Junior Writers and to find out that they are both getting recognised on the bank now too. They have had anglers comment about them writing in the Magazine so they are now both 'famous' but they won't let it change them..!!HaHaHa

I am looking forward to meeting up with them on their home turf in Essex and doing a bit of fishing during the time they have off school over the summer and also debating the 'Essex Dialogue' differences

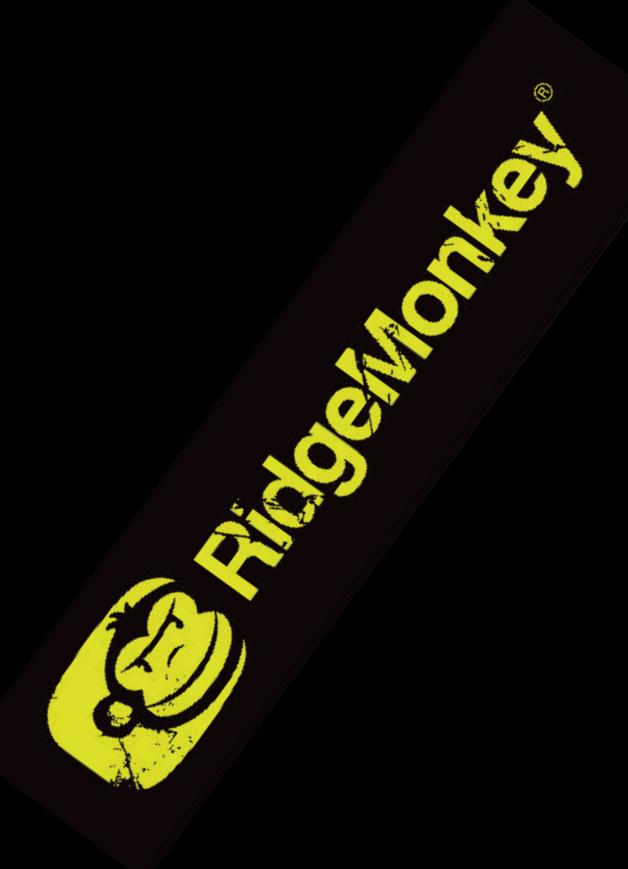
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to us from
Warwickshire... Donna,
I can definitely tell
you it is pronounced
"GRAASS" and not
"GRARRSS"...!!

Mark Carper

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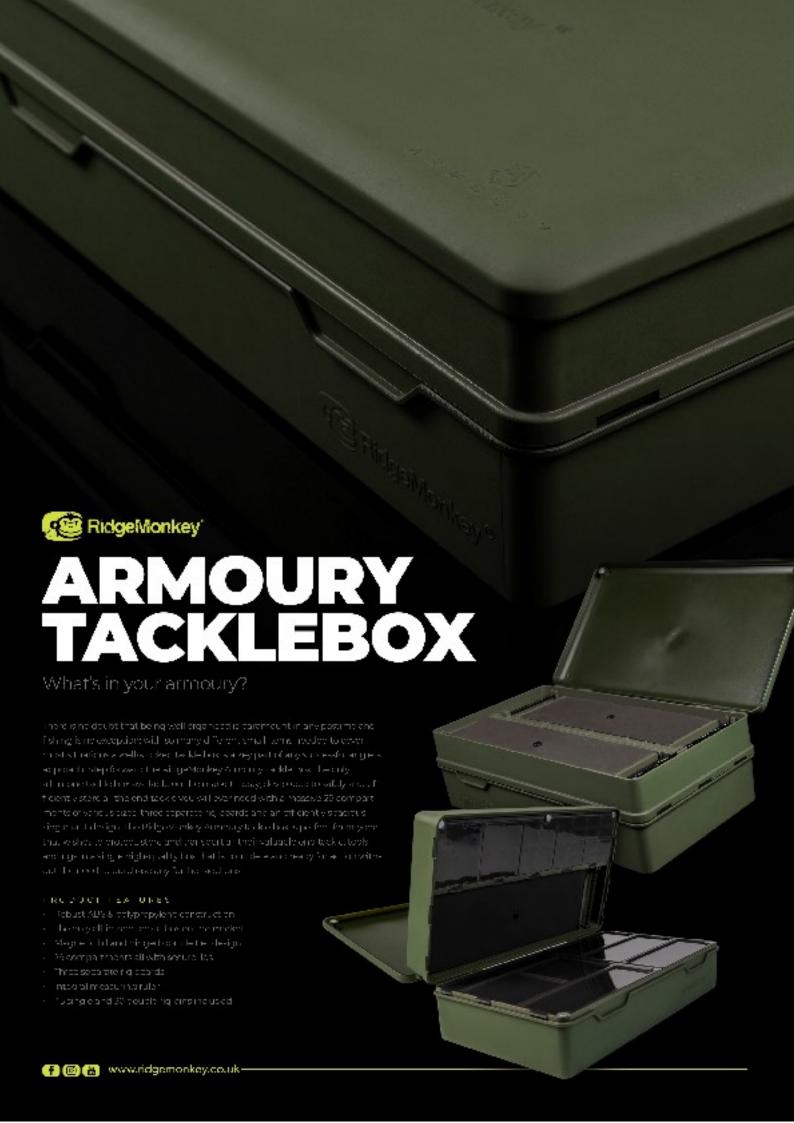


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RIDGE MONKEN SIGCKIS SIII







of my favourite parts of carp fishing and in this modern day of carp fishing it appears to have been forgotten. This does surprise me, as it can be one of the most effective ways of gaining a lot of knowledge by observing the fish in such close quarters.

Over the years, I have spent way too many hours watching fish. The best place to do this is up high, trees are the best for this. Obviously, you need to be very careful as it can be very dangerous, however the rewards for just spending hours up there can be very rewarding. The carp can reveal all their carpy secrets. For example; their patrol routes around the edge of the lake. In the past. I have been known to take a flask, cup, a few biscuits and sit up in

a tree, on the perfect branch for hours, come down, flick a bait in the right spot at the right time and bag the fish I am after. There is nothing better to watch your quarry move around the margins and work out the best spot to place your bait - within the hour (if not sooner) you will have a fish on the bank.

I am very lucky with the Syndicate I am a member of, there are parts of the lake set aside for this type of fishing and there is only a small percentage of anglers who take up this opportunity and fish these margin swims.
Obviously, there is a bigger proportion who don't, I am amazed about this as during the past year I have learnt a lot about the lake in general and there are some big fish in this lake.

Over the past two years, I have spent quite a lot of time using one rod and fishing tight intermediate swims (most modernday anglers would never consider doing this). I think there could be a couple of reasons (that I can think of); firstly - they don't want to fish with one rod only, as carp



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fishing has turned into a sitting behind the rod game and secondly - most swims of this type are too small and uncomfortable to set up in. This may of course not be the case, swims be large or small and can offer the opportunity for a spot of margin fishing.

And why would you not stick one rod out with a bait under the overhanging trees? It looks just perfect to me. I generally like to fish in the smaller swims only. As it doesn't interfere with the night anglers. I only do short 4/5 hour trips where this is the perfect spot for me.

You do need to do some homework before hand with a lead, to check for snags and other obstructions, you need to consider the fishes welfare

and safety. This can't be done on the day as stealth is the name of the game. You are sitting on top of the fish and the lake is slap bang in the middle of their little sanctuary. I used to move up and down the bank looking for fish. I found out however, you were just as likely to spook them off down the bank, so in the end I choose two perfect swims and just baited them both.

The lake which I have targeted has one

bank that only has day swims. This bank is amongst all the overhanging trees. I was able to fish and bait up these swims, each time I was there (which is normally 3 to 4 times a week). I opted to only bait up the swims on my way home after fishing, as not to disturb their safe haven. I use a kilo of boilies and a mixture of their ground bait with pellets soaked in oil.

On arrival, I would put a small handful of



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chopped up Catalyst boilies out, with a small PVA mesh bag filled with micro pellets (soaked in oil), as a way of masking the hook. This would be lowered down onto the spot and I would sit back a wait. At first. I was not using a bank stick or an alarm, however, I found I needed to be on the fish instantly and a buzzer gave me this extra edge over the fish. It would shock me into action, which was needed in these tiny swims, as they have no room for any give on my part, otherwise the fish would win the fight.

The tackle I was using was a cut down black widow rod (now 10 feet long), with a Big Pit reels loaded with Bullet proof fishing line and a single stick, CAMO up with real tree tape. I like to be able to get the bank stick into the ground quite a

way down, to give the holding power on the take. As I dip the rod under water instantly and hold the fish there, until it turns away from the underwater snags. At this point you are in control and can give some line out and play the fish out under the rod tip. It's an amazing adrenaline rush that you get with this type of close quarters fishing.

I like to use a Ronnie rig with a Spotted Fin Natural pop up on, as there can be the possibility of some Chod on the bottom and I use a 3oz lead to make sure the hook is set. As I lower the bait down there will be

no big plop to disturb the fish. If I need to flick the bait out,

under a branch I will use a 1oz lead, as I would rather not disturb them. I still carry the everyday essentials - unhooking mat, weight sling & pole, camera & tripod, wet weather gear as there is no room for a brolly. However, I cut down on other things, I will have rigs and pva bags made up, as once I have had a fish, I will bait that swim and move onto the next one as I am only there for 5 hour's max, you don't need that much extra kit

Until Next Time

Richard







Every so often a popular carp angling venue will drop off the radar for one reason or another and simply falls by the wayside.. but not this time!!

Lac Serreire and Badgers Holt has been on the radar of thousands of European anglers over the years, and the banks have been visited by most, with many a memory made. Now, Badgers Holt is still very much "up there" with the elite carp angling venues, with bookings going at least two years ahead... but what about the main lake? What about Lac Serreire? I was fortunate to visit there recently, meet the new owners and have a chat about what is in store for such a great venue. Firstly, for those who are unaware, let's get a little intro from Richard and Lindsay, the current owners.

Richard – I am a keen carp angler and have fished in France now for over 25 years. I always found it difficult fishing for doubles and twenties again in the UK after catching my first 50lb carp at Dreamlakes all those years ago! My family have always owned fishing lakes in the UK and we currently own the popular day ticket fishery of Taswood Lakes in Norfolk but my dream

was always to own a specimen carp lake in France. So after fishing Lac Serreire in April 2018 and falling in love with its picturesque setting and big fish I sent a chance text message to the previous owner in July who offered Lac Serreire and Badgers





Holt for sale. Needless to say, despite probably coming a couple of years too early it was an opportunity we could not turn down so we became the new owners in February 2019. I remained in the Police force for another 2 years just so I could secure my 25 year early retirement pension whilst my partner Lindsay left her Primary teaching job of 15 years and moved across lock, stock and barrel.

After suffering some terrible bad luck on Lac Serreire, in 2020 we completely renovated the lake with silt/snag removal, the addition of an aeration system and the introduction of some hard fighting new stock. We are pleased to report that the growth rate of these fish in the past 18 months has been nothing short of remarkable with the vast majority of the stock are now over 40lb, I have no doubt we will see a few Serreire surprises this coming season. Badgers Holt continues to go from strength to strength with a stock of over 85 carp with at least half now over the magical 40 pound barrier! In 2021 the average size of carp caught was over 45lb and at the

right time of year this lakes holds around twelve 60+ fish.

Our aim is offer fantastic carp fishing in beautiful surroundings with the all the home comforts you would expect from a drive to survive venue."





Very impressive figures I think you'll agree folks..

My trip to Serreire was my first ever trip to fish for carp in France, and one that would open my eyes to further trips abroad.

The lake was booked exclusively for a party of 6, and I was lucky enough to be one of them. All friends who have been brought together by our love of the sport. I will not bore you with the details of the trip as many of you have done it time and again, but for me it was an adventure! After various meets and pick ups and a van swap, an overnight stay at the Holiday Inn and a train ride to Calais, and we were on our way. The plan was to stay at a beautiful chateau that night which we had booked and onto the lake fresh and raring to go the next morning. The chateau at St Junienn did not disappoint, with a most gracious hostess, a great steak meal at a local restaurant in a lovely little town, and a good nights sleep. A perfect start to the trip!!

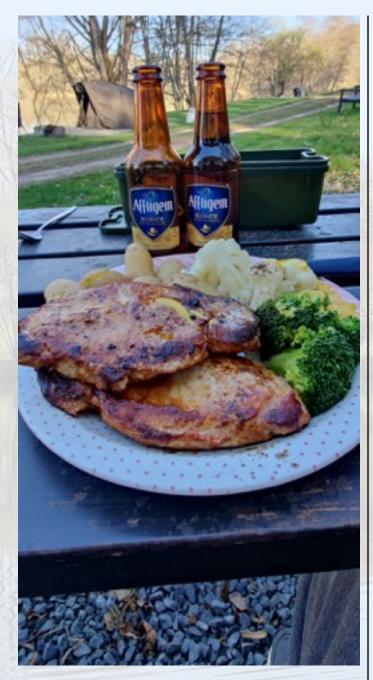
The morning after everyone was clean, fed and ready to shop for supplies and get fishing.

We rolled up at Lac Serreire about dinner time, and was greeted by Richard and Lindsay, with big smiles and the all time great British welcome "I'LL PUT THE KETTLE ON!"

After the formalities of a "reading of the rules" Richard and Lindsay walked us around the lake, showing the pegs, the spots, and as quick summary of the stock and his future



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plans. Half of the info sank in and half sort of floated around a bit as all I could think of right now was to get the rods out!!

Once back at the base it was a quick look around at the kitchen, toilets and showers, and we definitely weren't disappointed. A spacious kitchen/ dining area with all amenities and utensils you

need.... Oven, microwave, kettle, fridge freezer, hot and cold running water and washing up sink. Next door was the toilets and showers... all very clean and tidy and the most spacious showers I've ever been in!! add to that a huge bait freezer to keep your boilies in tip top condition during your stay. What more could you ask for?

As we opted to fish in pairs, the draw was made and pegs were chosen... finally, on with the fishing! As we were the first group on there it was a case of fishing blind, with no real information to go on from previous anglers so we had to start from scratch. Fine by me... I'm fishing with Garry Turner so I will simply let his experience of many many years of overseas carp fishing guide us... "upstairs for thinking, downstairs for dancing" as the saying goes.

We set about getting our gear to the swims, and getting sorted, watching the water for any signs. Paul had made us a superb steak dinner in the kitchen so everything was put on hold as we all met and ate our tea in the evening French sunshine... back to the pegs we go and finally time to get the rods out.



As we were fishing the same platform it was agreed that we work all six rods between us as a full on game plan, and take it in turns to hit the runs.

As we were getting our third rod out the first one was away!! First blood to Garry and a stunning 48 lb common landed. Chest waders on and pictures were taken in the

water (fishery rules)

Back to it and just as darkness fell another rod screamed into life... my turn!

A 41lb 12 oz mirror swept over the cord and my first foreign carp, and my biggest carp of my angling life so far looked back at me. What a start! These fish are going to be queueing up to climb our lines..... WRONG!!







We quickly found out that although the days were sunny, with blue skies and quite high pressure, things changed dramatically once that sun went down.. and it was soon a case of hoodie back on.... Joggers on... jacket on... followed closely by hat going on... then "sod this, its bloody cold, I'm going to bed!!"

The fresh, warm days turned into clear cold nights.. this did not bode well.

It wasn't really a bad thing as it stopped us getting lazy, and we did have to work for our fish that week. with many changes being made. Cutting back on the free bait going out was the first decision we made, which proved correct as we had a couple more two days later, then changing baits around, fishing pop ups, wafters, bottom baits, etc. Myself, I was fishing with the latest from Nutrabaits, the Big Fish mix, with salmon, caviar and black pepper and even though I greatly decreased the number of freebies going out I made sure there was plenty of the matching liquid poured into the hemp and maize mix that did go out... so whilst there may be very little solid food items, there was plenty of the flavour and scent

in the area to trigger feeding and entice those all important bites.

Garry was on his favourite Trent Baits and he utilised a selection of boilies, pellets and pop ups. All in all, we worked the swims, found new spots, went back to old spots, chased some showing fish, but as the majority were showing in the furthermost corner of the lake... the corner that got all the sun from morning to night, and most of the breeze into it, it wasn't difficult to



see why they were stacked up there. But we persevered and at the end of the week we felt happy with our tally. Each fish was worked for and each fish was a result. Our tally finished with 48lb common, 42lb 4 oz mirror (my new personal best!!), 42lb common, 41lb 12oz mirror. 38lb common, 32lb common. 36lb mirror, and a scamp at 26lb.

Across the lake 16 carp were caught in all, with the average weight being low 40s.... which for a lake that has just reopened is quite promising indeed? Imagine what it will be like in 12 months, or 2 years' time, once the bait starts going in regularly and they really start packing it on!





Well, I for one will not be left wondering as plans are already underway to return there next year, and I simply cannot wait.

The rebirth of a carp angling mecca? I believe so....

You can keep up with the catch reports from Badgers Holt and Lac Serreire on their Facebook page which is updated regularly, or feel free to contact them here:-Contact details as follows; Lac Serreire and Badgers Holt

www.lacserreire.com Lacserreire@gmail.com

Note: since this article was written Lac Serreire has had some amazing catches with carp over 50lb!

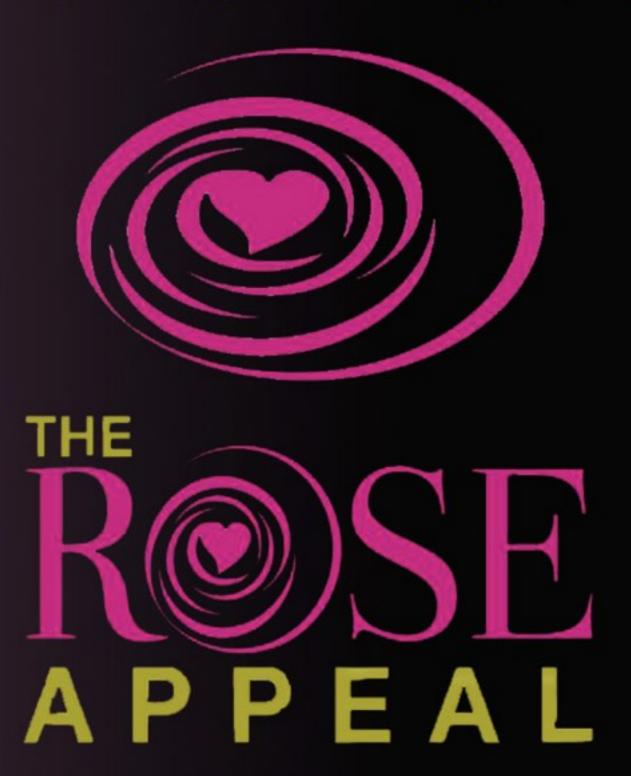
All the best

Brian.





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Déjà vu – Welsh Ladies Carp Team vs REME Carpers



By Mark Carper

Step Back in Time

Roll Back to a very cold weekend in October 2018 on the Specimen Lake at White Springs Fishery, just outside Swansea in Wales and you find the Welsh Ladies Carp Team having their inaugural Match against a Team of Serving Soldiers from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, formally known as the REME Carpers...

...you will also find Mr. Will Millard from BBC Wales and his film crew milling around and capturing footage of the event for a BBC Documentary about fishing in and around Wales, although to be honest, the events of that first match would have made a better 'Soap' than a documentary...!!!

Jump back to issue 33 of Talking Carp Magazine and you will see the write-up about the events of that Match which took place from the 25th October to the 27th October and you will also note that the Welsh Ladies Carp Team were victorious... something they have never let the REME Carpers or me forget.... and rightly so, even though the match was won with just one solitary Carp falling to Amy Jenkins, but a win, is a win...!!

and the

Second time Lucky?

Now, jump forward to the present day and then take a few steps back to April 2022 and more specifically, the weekend of the 22nd to the 24th at White Springs Fishery and once again, you will find the team of the Welsh Lady Carpers and the REME Carpers, preparing to battle it out once again, even though this was planned originally to be an annual event, but unfortunately due to Military commitments in 2019, the REME Carpers were unable to attend and then a little thing we all got to know and love called a World Pandemic got in the way..

...but finally, the match was back on and both teams were fired up for the win. There were some familiar faces on both teams but many new ones too and the message was clear, neither side were there just to make the numbers up....Game on..!!!





Due to availability, each team consisted of seven anglers and not the planned eight and the match was drawn with Three Pairs and then a single angler from each team.

Déjà vu

There are several reasons I have named this article

"Déjà vu" and the first is a simple and obvious one, well it's obvious if you have been involved in both Matches... If you look back at the original report in the November issue of the Magazine, you will note, as I made quite a point of it, that a certain REME Angler, who will remain nameless as I promised Carlos I would not highlight it again, landed the first fish of the match and it turned out to be the dreaded 'Bream'.. he then went on to 'Blank'..!! Well, guess what..?

He only went and did an exact repeat performance some three and half years later...so well done him, at least he is consistent...!!!

...and the Déjà vu doesn't end there... Will Millard was also present, albeit in a Social Capacity and minus the Film Crew and only for a few hours on the last day, but none the less, it was great to see him again and to catch up on the amazing work and filming he has been doing for the BBC. I urge you to Google, 'Will Millard My Year With The Tribe' and give it a watch by any means you can... it is simply an incredible watch. I was lucky enough to speak with Will back in 2018 in-depth about his experiences whilst filming that documentary and believe me what you see, is not for show, it is as real as its' gets, and while you're at it, check out the other filming Will has done and his great book, "The Old Man and the Sand Eel", you won't be disappointed.





So, there we have two Déjà vu moments, and both would befit the use of the word as the title, but, I'm not done yet....

...and this is the clincher...

...The result, was, exactly the same too..!!!!!!

One Carp to One Welsh Lady Angler (Kayleigh Watkins paired with Natalie May)... you couldn't make it up...!

Ringing the Changes

Yet again, White Springs proved a difficult venue on the day and even though all the Anglers gave it 'everything' and I mean everything, only that one Carp could be tempted, and it was exactly 1lb 2oz heavier than the winning Carp back in 2018, so not even one of the famous 30's from the venue...!

However, as the ladies will tell you, "Size doesn't matter(?!)" and a Carp is a Carp and it's even more special when that one Carp gives your Team a second victory over the REME Carpers and based on that alone, this article 'Named Itself'... Déjà vu...!

From a Match perspective, even though the result wasn't anything spectacular, the event was excellent and was fished well by all concerned. That may seem like an odd statement to make considering thirteen of the fourteen Anglers 'Blanked' but the work effort and intensity





of the angling was full one for the whole of the forty-eight hours.

All anglers on both teams at one point or another switched tactics, baits, rigs etc. etc. to make a bite happen but the Carp seemed to switch-off once the North-Westerly wind picked up late on the Friday afternoon and drove the air and water temperatures down and try as they might, another Carp could not be tempted, although the Bream were happy to keep putting in the odd appearance.... which oddly enough did please some of the anglers; you know who you are....

The End Game

The event was organised as a precursor to the Ladies fishing in the World Carp Championships, which will take place at Linear Fisheries later this year. The Match, although a 'Friendly' was designed to get the Ladies in to the 'Match Mindset' and to iron out any issues they had. It was also part of their training program ahead of others they have planned.

The standard of angling from both teams was very high and sometimes, no matter what, the Carp just won't play ball. White Springs Fishery, Specimen Lake is by no means a 'Runs Water' and although good hits of fish can be caught, on this occasion there wasn't a free swim on the lake and the weather, the angling pressure from the teams and number of lines in the water seemed to take their toll.



The REME Carpers kept at it to the final "all out" but just couldn't get on the fish. The guys had travelled from all over the UK, either from home or from where they are based to take part, and everyone appreciated the effort they put in. They were gracious in defeat, but then they were last time too..!!! They are hoping that this will be an Annual Event and perhaps the 'Opener' to the Welsh Ladies Match Season, but the next one must be on 'English' Soil and the lads are determined to claw back a result as Three – Nothing would not be bearable. Of the seven anglers that took part, only two were from the inaugural Match back in 2018, so they felt the pain of losing more than the rest and of course, the Ladies made certain the memory was not lost...!!!

Getting the Youngsters Involved

On a side note, the Ladies had their 'Mascot' join them over the weekend

Our Team Mascot Trebby opened the start of the match and give each of our anglers a bunch of flowers to put a smile on their faces

Thank you Trebby





and obviously the flowers that Trebby presented to them at the draw on the Friday morning brought them the luck they needed... they will tell you it was skill, but I'm sticking with the story that young Trebby brought them luck...!

In contrast, the REME Carpers had me(!), and were presented with nothing but sarcasm, however, I did invite a couple of very special guests to put in an appearance



in the form of the one and only, Junior Carp Hunters, otherwise known as Ron and Ted (amongst many other names that their mum calls them..!)

The brothers, who are the 'Junior Writers' for this Magazine joined the teams in Wales for the weekend, along with mum, Donna and dad, Craig and even their Aunt dropped in to see them, Aunty Charlene...!!!



They (all) had an awesome time with Ted leading the questions about literally anything that entered his head and presented with seven serving soldiers, you can probably guess the type of questions and eight-year-old wants answers to.... "Do you have a Gun..?", "Do you have it with you..?", "Have you been to war..?", "Is that tank yours..?" (Although with this one, I think he was referring to the Volvo one of the lads drives...!!!!!). Ted is an absolute 'Whirl-Wind' of a character and is one hundred miles an hour all the time.... and kept everyone on their toes...

...In contrast, his older brother Ron is the quiet, reserved one, that just takes note of everything going on around him and is so laid back about it all.

Both lads were an absolute delight to fish with and both managed to catch their first ever Welsh Carp with Ron managing to catch two, the second being a nice 15+ to set a good Welsh PB target.

We would all like to say a massive thank you to Trebby, Ron and Ted for joining us on such a great weekend and we all look forward to seeing them again next year.





And that as they say, is that.... another victory to the Welsh Ladies Carp Team and the REME Carpers more determined than ever to seek revenge in 2023 and everyone involved wishes the Ladies the best of luck in the World Carp Championships.

The Teams

The Ladies Team Pairings consisted of:

Rhian Bomber (Team Manager) & Charley Bunce - Kayleigh Watkins (Team Captain) & Natalie May - Natalie Hall & Charlotte Blick and Samantha Roberts as the Single Angler.

The REME Carpers Team Pairings consisted of:

Jonny Partenheimer (Team Manager) & Andy Rowland – Rudi Strydom & Dave Atkiss – Tom Goyne (Team Captain) & Carl Hartley and Ron Karby as the Single.

On a final note, I would like to say how great it was to see a certain

Natalie C put in an appearance over the weekend. It was fantastic to catch up with her and to see her being as 'mad as ever' (she'll know what I mean...!) Nat was part of the first match and brought everyone a lot of laughs and some crazy moments to



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remember (Dancing in the Rain, springs to mind..!) and it's great to see her back fishing again after a bit of a break...!

Over the next few months,
Talking Carp will be profiling
the Ladies that will make
up the Welsh Ladies Team
heading into the World
Championships, and to kick
things off we will start with
the Team Manager and
Team Captain, Rhian and
Kayleigh...

Name:Rhian Bomber – Team Manager

Occupation: Physician

Associate

PB: 26lb 5oz

Favourite Venue: Llyn Y

Forwyn Angling Club (Darran

Park Lake)

Favourite Rig: Don't have a favourite rig as I opt for certain rigs depending on what bottom I'm fishing over

Time with the National Team?

First involved with the team in 2017 but stepped away from the team and got invited back when the team underwent new management in 2019

When and how did you start carp Fishing?

I have fished for many years, and I mainly targeted Pike, but over the years I took an interest in carp and once I had my first park lake carp I was hooked.



Best session so far?

I don't really have a best session if I'm honest, there's been so many fishing memories over the years I can't say that one stands out above them all.

What are your fishing goals?

Personal - Make history and become one of Wales first female anglers to compete at world championship level and to inspire other women and girls to take up fishing. No matter what your age or background it's never too late!

Team - Promote the profile of Women's angling in Wales. Help get the Wales team the recognition they deserve.

Create a clear structure and pathway for Women's carp fishing in Wales. If women want to take up carp fishing and fish competitively, hopefully I can provide them with the info they need and direct them on the path they need to go. To provide Welsh anglers with their very own personalised development plans so if anglers say they need to work on certain areas, something in place which will give them every possible chance of achieving that goal and this will help the Welsh anglers be the best they possibly can be. Hope to give other teams inspiration to try different approaches for managing a team as there's not one way that suits all

Sponsors: Corus Baits

Name: Kayleigh Watkins – Team Captain

Occupation: Account Manager

PB: 27lb 8oz

Favourite Venue: Too hard to pick one. Absolutely love Linear Fisheries

but also love other fisheries Favourite Rig: IQ2 D-Rig

Time with the National Team?
Second Year



When and how did you start carp Fishing?
I started carp fishing when I was 6 on a canal behind my home with my family.

Best session so far?

I have so many, but one session has to be when me and the Welsh Ladies had a social of Cefn Mably

What are your fishing goals?

My goals are to keep being Captain of the Welsh Ladies Carp Team and keep pushing us forward. I would like to work and get more involved with the industry and help women and children anglers.

Sponsors: DSD Tackle - Barton Leads - Carbon Baits

A big thanks to both teams and everyone that supported them, to will Millard for dropping in and chatting to everyone, to Trebby for bringing the Ladies the Winning Luck and to the @junirocarphunters, aka Ron & Ted

for keeping me on my toes the whole time...!!!

Bring On 2023.... all the best,

Mark Carper







A friend and I go to France for a week every year as part of a tradition with the main aim being a holiday to enjoy the social side of things. We do not go with the aim of catching huge fish and working hard for a couple of bites in a weeklong session. We pick a venue that will hopefully have plenty of action, good facilities, a decent food package and usually somewhere that would be a lake exclusive for ourselves. We always aim to go the second week in April and after finding a venue that suited us in 2019 we had booked the holiday with the intentions of going in 2020!

As we all know covid and restrictions were then brought in place around that time and unfortunately the trip had to be cancelled, we were gutted but luckily the venue had agreed to defer our booking for a year to the same week in 2021. A year later and the same restrictions applied, we had to cancel for the second time. Again, we were very fortunate that the lake kindly agreed to defer our booking once more at no extra charge.

This then brings us around to 2022 and no restrictions in place. Where we finally going to make it to our

chosen venue?

The venue we had chosen was Bounty Lakes situated near Le Mans in France. It is roughly four and a half hours drive from the Eurotunnel. The complex itself comprises of two lakes. Bounty 1 being the smaller of the two lakes but holds a larger average stamp of fish with carp to low 50s and cats to well over 130lb, and Bounty 2 which is the larger lake with a larger head of fish but a smaller average size, however the fish still go to upper 40s in here so there was always a chance of a PB for both of us.

Bounty 2 is roughly 11 acres in size but split into two sections via an island and two ropes. The main open water area is known as Bounty 2, roughly 8 acres in size, and the small section which is roped off is known as Bounty 3 which is roughly 3 acres in size. This was the section we chose to fish. With the two sections only being separated by a floating rope the whole stock of the lake has access to both areas, so they are not two separately stocked lakes.

Bounty 3 comprises of 2 double swims only. We chose to book Willows 1, which gave us access to a larger expanse of water in a





secluded corner of the lake. From this peg we had access to a snaggy no fishing bank, a large area of the island, a channel to fish into and a large open water area.

As the trip was getting closer, we started to get prepared, the website was read thoroughly to make sure we knew all the lake rules. Freezer baits only, no pellet or particle apart from the lakes own and barbless hooks only were the main three amongst the usual fishery rules you see. With this in mind, all the bait, leads and tackle were stocked up ready for the trip.

My plan was to keep it simple and stick to how I usually fish in England. The plan being to find three areas and bait little and

often fishing for bites. I opted to stick with my usual custom rolled Trigga boilie from Nutrabaits in 16mm x 12mm barrels with added GLM, black pepper and pineapple, and add this to the lake's own particle and pellet, along with a generous helping of the matching Trigga liquid food and

Himalayan rock salt.

The day had come, and we were finally packing the van for the long drive down to the Eurotunnel. Everything checked twice and we were on our way. We could not arrive at the lake until 2pm so it was an early set off on the Saturday morning to give us plenty of time spare.



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A very smooth journey unfolded, and we arrived at the lake an hour early. After meeting the bailiffs and getting familiar with the facilities, the majority of the bait was put into the freezers on site, we grabbed some buckets of lake particle and pellet, and we were shown to our swim, typically it was the furthest peg away from the facilities, but we were allowed to drive round to the peg to unload the van before bringing it back to the car park.

As previously mentioned, we always go somewhere with a food package, and this was no different. Full English breakfast was served in the bar at 10am and a three-course meal at 6pm which obviously meant bringing in the rods for an hour at these times to eat.

After deciding on which side of the double swim we would each fish we had roughly 3 hours before we had to go back round for tea on the first evening. With that in mind we decided to just get the van unloaded and set up base camp, then take our time finding spots and introducing bait and we

agreed no rods would be put out before tea. I had managed to get on the left-hand side of the swim with access to the snaggy no fishing bank which suited my style of fishing so my left and middle rods were going to both be fished along this bank and then my right-hand rod would be fished to a single snag on the far left-hand side of the island. Three spots on three sperate areas all fishing tight to snags in



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shallow water. The weather was set for a very warm week and mild nights, and we had assumed the fish would get into our area of the lake during these hot days with the average depth of water in front of us being 2-3ft.

The plans very quickly changed when between us we saw 7 shows in quick succession, 4 in an open water area where my mate would be fishing to with his left-hand rod and 3 just off the single snag on the island where my right-hand rod would be placed. Excitement got the better of us and we both quickly got a single rod each out in the areas we had seen fish. Tactics wise I had chosen to fish relatively long multi rigs with a



supple hook links for the week due to the bottom being very soft and silty in areas. These were fished in conjunction with size 4 barbless Korda Krank Choddy hooks and my ever-faithful Nutrabaits 12mm pineapple and n-butyric pop ups were going to be deployed on all three rods to start with.

Within an hour both rods had ripped off and both of our accounts for the

trip were under way, my mate with a dark 27lb 5oz mirror and myself with a lovely 37lb 1oz common. What a start to the trip with a fish each before tea on the first evening. Both fish safely returned, we got sorted and all spots were baited, and rods prepared with fresh rigs and hook baits for the night ahead.



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No more rods were put out before tea, and we then made our way around for our first evening meal full of anticipation after such a great start.

Full of anticipation after such a great start before tea, we quickly got back round to the swim with everything ready to go I knocked up a mix compri

knocked up a mix comprising of 5kg of Trigga dumbbell boilies, 3kg mixed pellets, 5kg particle, a full bottle of Trigga liquid food and a good helping of pink Himalayan rock salt. My left-hand rod was going to be fished close in down the left margin under an overhanging tree, this area was slightly deeper than the rest of the swim at just over 3.5ft and it was probably my cleanest spot where the fish had clearly been feeding previously, I anticipated this would be my least productive spot but was hoping for a bigger fish from this area through the week. The middle rod was fishing relatively tight to the third snaggy bush down the no fishing bank at around 22 wraps in Shallow water and my right-hand rod which had done the bite before tea was going back on the island snag again at around 22 wraps, again in



shallow water. These two snaggy spots were much softer and siltier than the left-hand spot but fishing low lying pop ups over the top I knew I would be presented.

All three rods deployed onto each spot, and it was long before I was away, a manic couple of hours into dark followed with myself landing five fish to 28lb 15oz and my friend also landing five himself with a scraper 30lb mirror and a lively 32lb 8oz grass carp. Both shattered from the long journey we called it quits at midnight and brought all the rods in. I took the time to tie fresh hook baits and put new hooks on in preparation to get the rods out for a couple of hours at first light before breakfast. Something I did not mention earlier was I had three rods ready to go at all times, but I also made sure I had my spare 4th rod



set up ready as well so once a fish was landed and safely secured, I could get a rod quickly back out onto the spot to capitalise on the bite times and maximise my chances. Fishing in this way can turn two or three fish landed into four or five instead in the same time period at not much extra effort having spare rigs ready to go with hook baits on.

After a well needed sleep I was fully refreshed for the first proper morning and at first light I was up, and the three rods were back out onto the spots. It was obvious the fish had cleared off the spots from the night before and I topped them all up with the hope of picking up where I left off whilst my friend got his beauty sleep. In similar fashion from the night before I managed once again another five fish in the few hours leading up to breakfast before I had to reel in. The best of the bunch being a dumpy low 30lb common backed up by three mid-20s. All fish weighed and photographed, and it was soon time to get round for a well-earned full English breakfast.

Speaking to the other lads around the lake at breakfast it was apparent the majority of the stock

was up at our end in the shallows as the lads at the opposite end had only managed to pick up one fish through the night, which was strange as we had assumed the fish would push up into the deeper water through the night and make their way down to our end in the midday heat and we would be picking up more day time bites whilst they picked up the night time bites, we later found this not to be the case.

Again, usual procedure followed, we made our way back round to the peg after breakfast and the rods were all positioned. Unusually this time though nothing transpired. It had appeared the fish had moved out of our area despite the warm temperatures and the lads that struggled through the night in the deeper water started getting rapid and constant bites throughout the midday high temperatures. The bulk of the fish had clearly done the off and were now down at the opposite end of the lake where the other lads capitalised. I did not manage a single bite between breakfast and tea, but my mate managed to pick up the one fish which turned out to be biggest of the trip up to that point at 38lb 10oz.



Fed and watered and the rods back out after our evening meal, right on cue, the bulk of the fish turned back up going into the night. The exact opposite of what we had thought would be the case before turning up. A guick double take resulted in two lovely low 20s and no sooner had we sorted them out another double take on the same two rods resulted in a 36lb 10oz mirror and a 32lb 2oz common. Another four fish through the night into early morning and just like the previous night we learnt the lads at the opposite end in the deeper water had another quiet night having no bites.

It became very apparent there must have been a big shoal of fish that moved into the deeper end of the lake during the day then moved back into our end early evening until late morning. We felt our best chances of capitalising on this was to rest the swim during the day when we struggled for bites and instead prepare rigs and hook baits, bait the spots and get some rest, then hit it hard straight after tea until early morning before breakfast whilst the fish were clearly on us.

We quickly got into a routine, capitalising on our chances between 7pm and midnight and then again at 7am until 10am, and not wasting our efforts in the midday heat when bites were hard to come by. This pretty much followed the same pattern for the rest of the week. As previously mentioned, I had predicted my two longer rods fishing to snags would

be my most productive which turned out to be the case producing constant bites throughout the week albeit a much smaller average size of fish, with my left-hand rod being much slower. However, going



TalkingCarp

into the third evening I got a slow steady big fish bite on my lefthand rod which after a very slow plodding fight in the shallow water resulted in a new PB with a 42lb mirror, this was again replicated the next evening resulting in a 39lb 6oz mirror. Going into the last night we did reel in early for a good nights sleep ready for the long drive home the next day, however I did manage to get the rods back out early morning whilst packing away and nicked a further four fish with the last one finishing the trip tipping the scales to 31lb 4oz and a lovely way to finish.

I kept my tactics the exact same throughout the week and generally how I would usually fish in England. Its very easy to change tactics going to France thinking you need big baits and huge beds of boilies. I stuck to my guns fishing 12mm pineapple and n butyric pop ups on all three rods fishing over a very similar mix I would use in my everyday fishing comprising of boilie, particle and pellet and plenty of liquids. Feeding little and often keeping the bites coming instead of piling it in and sitting on it in effect delaying my bites. The fish were clearly there in numbers when they turned up so baiting

little and often definitely helped in getting the number of bites I did. I ended up using 15kg of boilie, 15kg pellet, 25kg particle and 5kg of salt throughout the whole week but at no point did I put more than 1kg out at a time and considering the number of bites I had in the week it does not work out a lot of bait per bite.

Another huge point to note would be resting the swim, again its easy to think you have paid a lot of money for a week's fishing in France, and you want to have your rods our 24/7 to maximise your chances of catching as you will not catch if your rods are not in the water. This is not always the case, and this can sometimes hinder you in a weeklong session especially if the lake is full of lines, the fish become very conscious of this and can quickly back off angling pressure into areas where there is no angling pressure on the lake. You will often find them grouped up and showing in any vacant swims around the lake especially if you have had a few at the start of the week. Resting the swim during the days or nights depending on bite times can benefit your angling through the week as the fish will often migrate to your water where



there are no lines and free food to build their confidence. This tactic benefited us during the week as our catch report showed.

I ended up finishing the week with 101 bites and 84 fish landed. Between us we managed 149 bites, landing 124 fish in total for the week. This comprised of over 30 different 30lb+ fish with a PB for each of us mine being a 42lb mirror and my friends being a 36lb 10oz common, he also managed a mirror 1oz short of the 40lb barrier. This venue is not your typical French venue with most of the fish being dark, scaley, long and lean and just generally English looking fish. Its

not all about the size of the fish for us, the venue must have decent facilities, a good food package, a sociable swim with the chance of a PB for both of us and this venue ticked all of them boxes. We have already booked back on for the same week next year with one of our other mates in the main central area of the lake so watch out for part 2 of this story!

To be continued Rob.



TalkingCarp



My name is Reece Ward, I am an out and out CARP ADDICT! I remember as a kid spending more than one summers day asleep on my dad's unhooking mat. I've spent many years since doing my absolute best to perfect my skills in our favourite past time, this year I'll be doing it all on camera, for the world to see.

Eventually the 1st of April rolled around and so began the first day on my new syndicate water. This is a water I'd been aware of for some time and managed to quest on a session some 4/5 years ago with a friend and member at the time. From then on I'd been itching to secure myself a ticket on the lake but certain circumstances didn't allow and sadly the



syndicate closed and wasn't fished for 18 months. Back then I'd had little success on my short visit but that was a far cry from what occurred when revisiting the water all these years later when the bailiff announced the reopening of members accounts, finally I'd got a ticket.

The lake itself is situated in the heart of the Lincolnshire Wolds, a stunning complex of waters surrounded by beautiful oak and overhanging willow trees. The Syndicate lake itself has an

average depth of around 10ft aside from one corner known as "Lilly Pad Corner" where it averages 4 1/2ft, screaming summer bites in my opinion. In the water reside a stunning array of old english Leneys and Simmos oozing character with some fantastic scale patterns, some of which are over 40 years old so I couldn't wait to get my hands on them.

Turning up to the lake on my first morning, I found 3 other anglers set up making the most of the first few





days on their new ticket. Therefore, I found my options relatively limited as far as swims go, but, all was not lost.. After spending a good 25 minutes walking around the lake I found what looked to be my best bet for a bite, having seen signs of carp at the tip of an overhanging willow tree. I set about getting a rig on the spot. Within 15 minutes and with only 1 rod in the water at this point, there rang the unmistakable warble of a trustv **Delkim that was** quickly confirmed by a hooped round rod

tip. Before too long a gnarly old character found itself on my unhooking mat. My first carp from the

complex gave me
that overwhelming
sense of relief we
all experience on a
new water and at this
point I could hardly
believe my luck,
finding out the other
3 anglers on hadn't
even had a liner
since the previous
Thursday! Getting off
the mark this early on
certainly put the wind
back in

my sails and it's safe to say, I felt like the ball had began to roll. 4 days later I made a return, nice easy set up with the lake to myself and the option to choose any swim I wanted, I chose to drop back into the same swim I caught in on my previous trip, rigs on the spots, and full of confidence, just like that we were away with a chestnut mirror weighing 22lb 8oz mirror.

A couple of weeks rolled around and I managed to get myself back up to the lake for the Easter Bank Holiday weekend, making the most of having the





I met up with a chum and fellow consultant Carl Crippin from **EVG Baits and** Particles to start some filming for my upcoming YouTube vlog. The lake threw up some surprises, half expecting it to be occupied by every single member I anxiously made the drive at around 8:30am hoping for

extra day to play with, | just one of the swims I wanted to be free. I arrived around 9am to find every single peg free, nobody was there! Result. After spending about an hour trying to find signs of fish I decided to set up in a swim I hadn't fished before but felt confident in. A quick catch up, a few beers and a takeaway was first thing on

the cards before getting down to business and really setting on hearts on catching some of the incredible carp the lake had to offer. That original confidence was backed up when first blood came early **Sunday morning** in the shape of a blinding 24lb 1oz Dark Common. The subtle few beeps of an obvious



dropback confirmed I was in, however I'm sure the carp itself at this point was completely unaware it was hooked until it found itself at my net cord. It darted down deep and a 15 minute battle ensued in a very tight, very snaggy swim before finally managing to secure it in my net. What a cracker it was too at 24lb 1oz, as black as your

hat and one that I'd personally never seen any photos of. **Everything went quiet** again until 11pm that evening when a very similar take produced a 12lb 3oz very old, strange looking mirror with a floppy tail. I think it's safe to say the carp in this lake have some character. Which is exactly what I am after. As they say, "it's not all about

size" and especially not when they look like that.

The first few sessions set me in good steed ready for whatever the rest of my ticket had to offer, the journey had only just begun and I couldn't wait to see what was to come. Until next time, tight lines everyone. Reece







Arriving at my Northern syndicate at 3:30
Friday afternoon straight from work, there was only 1 angler fishing sheep side woods and knowing several good fish have been coming from a swim named oak tree on the opposite side so that's exactly where I headed.

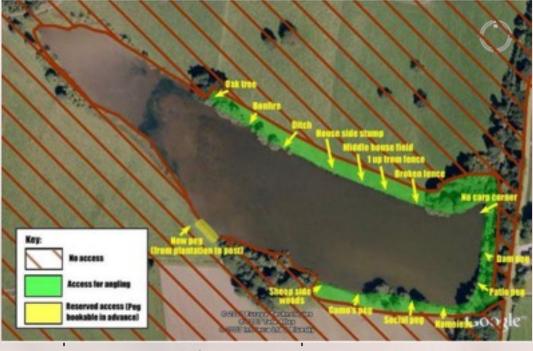
I done a lap of the lake and soon found them hiding off the back of the wind in no carp corner, in around 1/1.5 foot of gin clear water hiding under the snags. After watching them for

approximately
20 minutes I
noticed them
patrolling the
snags, moving
out around a
rod length and
then heading
back to safety.
I knew that I
could get to
these fish by
casting from the
next peg along

'Dam peg' so that I wasn't right on top of them spooking them.

I quickly tied up a small solid bag using a very trimmed down 15mm pink pepper pop up along with a size 6 wide gape x. Filling the bags with big fish mix carpet feed and matching 2mm pellets and then injected the bag with the matching BFM: Salmon Caviar liquid booster.

Once I had seen the carp move a rod length away from the snags I cast the bag on the spots. On putting the rod down and tightening up the clutch making sure the that they couldn't take line, walking down the bank around 30 yards to get a good look at where it landed just to make sure I hadn't spooked any fish, I was surprised to already see them passing over the top of the solid bag, so I hurried back to the rod to be ready. The bag had been in the water no longer than 3 minutes and it rattled off resulting in a lovely 31lb 08oz mirror which is a new 30 for the





lake.

I now knew I was onto something, but I also knew It wouldn't last in that shallow bay once the sun dropped. So I baited an area out in open water, the area wasn't perfect with about 8 inches of silt but it was just off a large weed bed, I put 20 large spombs out ready for the night ahead and within 1

hour there were fish showing over it. So I continued to bait it throughout my stay, fishing the snags through the day and moving to the baited area at night.

After 40 hours fishing it was finally time to head home after having 17 runs and landing 12 with the biggest being 31.8. A very productive session that doesn't

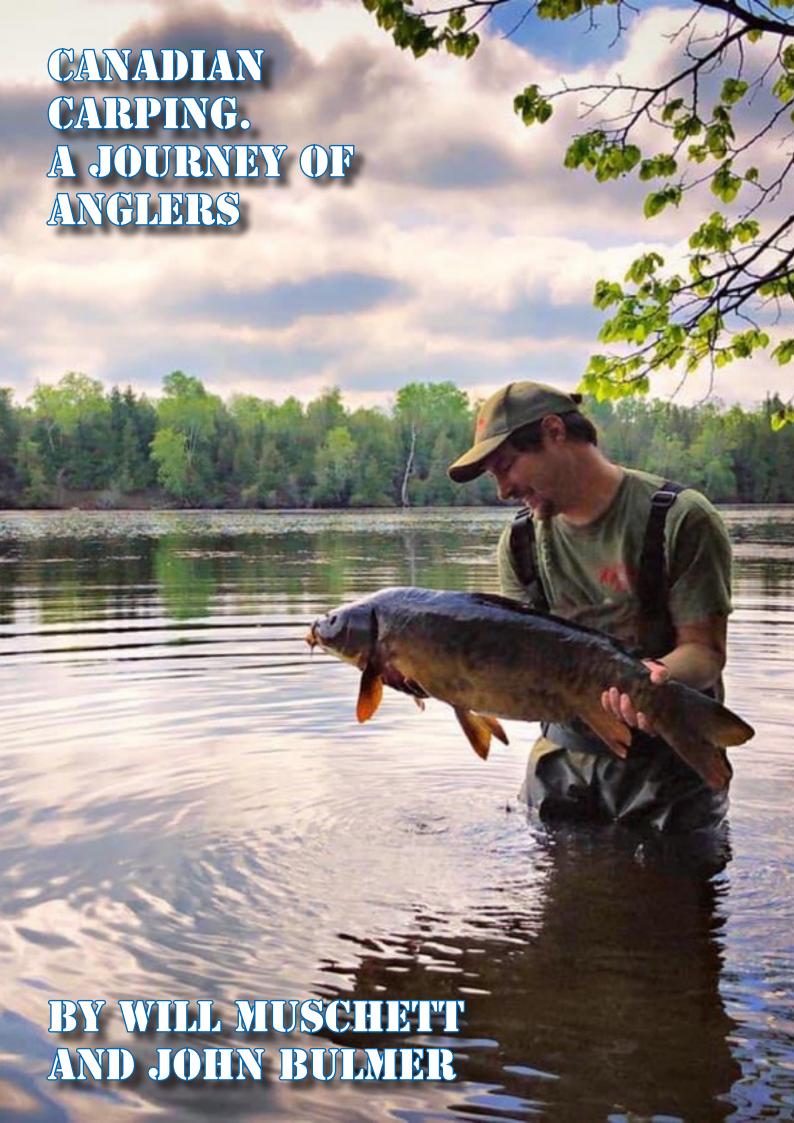
happen very often on the syndicate and a red letter session for me.

Talk about ingredients for success.

All the Best... Tricky.



TalkingCarp





The emergence of Common Carp in North America can be pinpointed to post-Confederation migrations of the late 19th century. Both the United States and Canada were desperately seeking immigrants to help with the growth of urban centers as well as interests along railways stretching to the West, the gold rush. With the influx in populations there came a need to feed more people, and with excessive pressure already being put on the North American fishing industry at the time, there came a need for a solution. That solution was the Common Carp. The dispute as to how it ended up in Ontario and Quebec's waters originally is still debated. Some claim that intentionally stocked ponds along the Lake Ontario shore in both the

United States and/or Canada flooded during a particularly aggressive flood leading to the accidental introduction of carp into the Great Lakes. Other authors as well as environmental historians have

claimed that this was intentionally done, citing that an understanding of the damage that could be done by introducing a species was scarcely known at the time. One look at an "English garden" finding its way into the New World is proof enough that either of these two theories have merit. Whether it was accidental, or intentional, what is known for certain is that for the next century, the Common Carp became an enemy of Canada. There were rewards for killing carp en masse via both provincial and federal governments that claimed that the Common Carp was responsible for a great deal of damage in every body of water it inhabited.











Truth be told, the introduction of any species from one body of water into another even within the same country could have serious repercussions. Even more so true was the introduction of a fish that grew to such grand proportions so quickly that predation couldn't keep up with their population. The Common Carp truly did become detrimental to North American waters for some time. Rice Lake in Ontario was once famed for its wild rice mats, but, by the 1950s newspapers began running headlines regarding the disappearance of these rice mats with Common Carp as the main culprit; they were correct. The spawning behavior of Common Carp also contributed to a decrease in shoreline vegetation, thus leading to fewer spawning areas for fish to be able to lay their eggs without being consumed/ buried beneath sediment. In addition. however, extensive sportfishing pressure on other species

throughout North America, the construction of dams without fish ladders (or decommissioning of said fish ladders), the horrific runoff and mill waste from industries that utilized North American lakes and rivers and the rise of increased pleasure craft led to severely damaged aquatic ecosystems. So, did humans begin changing their ways before looking for a scapegoat? Of course we didn't... we attempted to completely obliterate the common carp from North America. Every attempt proved, of course, to be unsuccessful.



Fig. 18. Commercial carp seine being hauled with gasoline engine and winch on short of Long Point Bay, Lake Erie. (Ontario Department of Lands and Forests photo.)

By the 1970s the world began to see a massive change in our perception of the environment. The damage that had been done from centuries of industrialization had culminated in a very scarred world. Some of the wounds may never heal, others will still need time. However, we begin to see more research being conducted around this time in our aquatic ecosystems as a by-product of this need for change. From this, comes something that begins to change the stigma surrounding the Common Carp. In the mid to late 1970s, research on the zebra mussel's introduction into Canada made scientists begin studying the Common Carp. It was found through the studying of numerous specimens in the St. Lawrence River that Common Carp were

consuming zebra mussels in vast quantities. Although this information wouldn't really change the perception of carp in the eyes of anglers or bureaucrats at the time, it would later become a valuable piece of information that has paved the way for emerging appreciation for the species.

The stigma behind Carp being a pest and detriment to the eco systems has been passed through the generations including non anglers. Children grow up absorbing the distaste for Carp from their parents and grandparents that may be anglers or friends with anglers. This widespread belief that Carp are a 'garbage fish' 'bottom feeder' became ingrained in the everyday knowledge of Canadians.

The tides are starting to turn however, through small groups that have appeared and grown over the years. Once these anglers were seen together actively fishing for Carp here and there, a change in that public attitude started to appear. Anglers dedicated to the pursuit of Carp as a sportfish often took the time to inform passersby of the viability of Carp as a



respectable angler target. People that have never wet a line in their lives were now being informed about what a Carp actually eats, its size, its power, and its respect all over the world. Canada has fallen into the American bubble at times, seeing little outside the North American borders as being as great as what we have here. But, as these small groups of anglers have grown, and their word of praise has spread throughout communities, it has become clear that there is a movement to recognize the potential Carp hold in our waters.

From the angler perspective through the 80's, 90's and very early 2000's these groups of anglers dotted around Ontario and Quebec were mostly rumors. We knew there were people actively seeking out and angling for Carp, yet rarely if ever encountered

them. This sparseness in a vast variety of waters caused most new to the pursuit of Carp to have limited access to information. A rare program on television or magazine article was often all the average Canadian Carp angler had.

The internet changed everything. Those small groups could now reach out to those looking for them. Information from overseas was now at one's fingertips and paper maps to find new waters were a thing of the past. Over several years, just in southern Ontario alone there were many social media groups that would host friendly fish-ins and get togethers to build those small Carp groups into more widespread clubs and Carpy communities. A few years of camaraderie and positivity often crumbled over time and these groups would disappear, only for a new one to pop up in its place.



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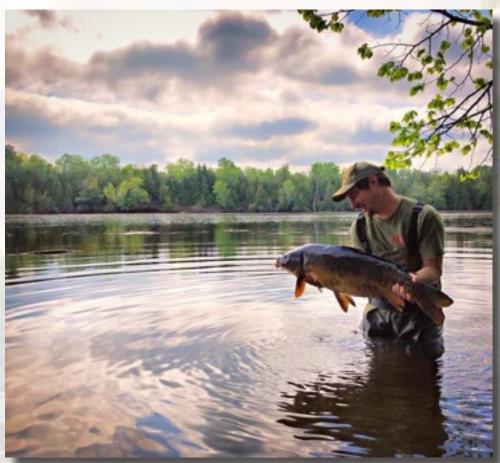


Carp angling videos were now appearing online from Canadians in their home waters and the information continued to be more accessible. The larger groups from our American friends held on with their numbers and some Canadians found their Carpy social fix with them. All through these ups and downs of the social aspects, the angling continued. Carp were now being caught in greater numbers and with greater sizes. New waters were being explored by anglers seeking their own little piece of heaven. Word of mouth continued, and passersby are still informed of the amazing sportfish Carp are. The Great Lakes, and the St.

Lawrence River have become meccas of Carp fishing. Their tributaries and the other lakes they connect to are being explored more and more by the adventurous Carpers, often producing those sought after thirty plus beasts. Some rivers and creeks that lack the size some pursue have become so prolific for smaller fish that 20,30 and

even 40 fish days are possible. And this was happening before Ontario introduced the much anticipated three rod rule. With Canadian Carp anglers now accessing consistent captures of larger fish or big hits, why has Canada continued to struggle to find its place in the world? Our Carp are super strong and hard fighting. They are accessible in urban centers and hidden backwaters and anglers often develop a unique skill set to target these incredible fish. At the end of the day, there remains the negative





stigma as well as an intimidating number and variety of waters to choose from. There are few guide services to cater to Carpers and the mainstream media struggles to maintain popular attention when presenting Carp to the masses. There are so many different species that are both beautiful and great table fare in Canada, that it is easier for anglers to invest in different angling adventures. Enter the Canadian Carp Society. A group of like-minded anglers coming together from all of those pop-up fish-in groups on social media longing for that one place

to be themselves. **Dedicated Carp** Anglers. The CCS officially formed in early 2021 and has grown steadily since. A uniqueness in many areas separates the CCS from so many groups past and present, and positivity expressed between members is a direct result. The content within the Canadian Carp Society platform is made entirely from

members. Ranging from articles to podcasts to films and more, giving the Canadian angler a wealth of knowledge and shared experiences that many never thought possible. The social media platforms out there today thrive on negativity and misinformation, yet the CCS has shown through their own social platform within the members' site, no negativity can exist. Engagement in conversations and the asking of questions has been a daily rush for anglers looking to interact with others without judgment. This positive turn in the Canadian Carp





angling community has in such a short time yielded many great results. Large fish are recorded by members without the traditional killing method for records by other groups. The annual Leave no Trace drive to clean up litter in our fishing areas and communities. The improved social interactions among anglers and non-anglers has helped grow the community's perception of Carpers in a positive way. Education is ever growing asother angling disciplines want to learn more about the unique and interesting equipment Carp anglers use. The overall result thus far has proven that Carp anglers are and will be a force for positivity, camaraderie, education, and

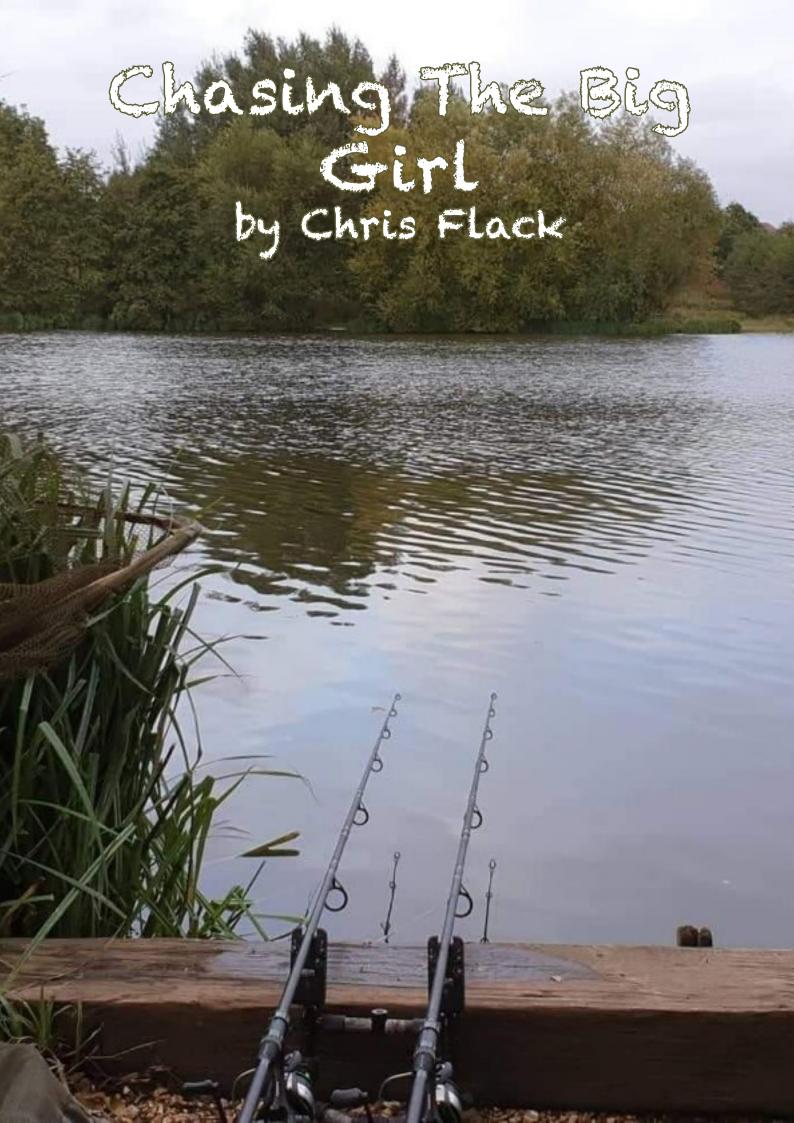
well being among all the angling pursuits. No other species has brought together anglers in this way in the past nor has any previous group.

The Canadian Carp Society has built so much more than what has been covered here so briefly and Canadian Carp angling has only had its surface scratched. While writing this, spring is upon us, and the Carp are waking up. The member platform is alive with catch reports and questions and the CCS SSF event is drawing close. Those we will share with you in the next installment.





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A 20 year wait but it was totally worth it. I started fishing a local park lake which is part of a club that I belonged to over 20 years ago and I spent many hours sitting on that bank trying my hardest to catch carp, sometimes succeeding but mostly failing lol, but over those years I did my best to catch as many carp as I could and catching bigger carp as I went, but there was a certain fish I really wanted to catch more then any other. Like most anglers, you always want to catch the biggest carp in the lake which is only natural and this was no different for me so, let me tell you about a carp that alluded me for 20 years until one evening session after work a few years back.

Fishing the lake was great fun but over the years and I'd witnessed many other anglers catching the Big Girl and although I was pleased for them, I was also envious seeing their pictures. Hearing the tales of her being caught only fuelled my desire to do that myself.

Having caught some cracking carp from the park lake up to 28lb, some of which are now part of the A team just kept my motivation going so, I kept fishing, kept trying but she still proved hard for me. I even heard some anglers having caught her twice and what made it even worse was that she is a regular visitor to the bank almost to the point of being easy!



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I decided to take a break from fishing the park lake and wanted to refresh my angling and when I look back I'm convinced that it did. I fished a little club which had three lakes to fish but were mostly runs waters and catching carp to low 20's was great fun. In the end I spent a couple years fishing there until the thought soon turned back to the park lake and the Big Girl, so I made the decision to return and have another go. This time I tried not to put too much pressure on myself to catch her but the Big Girl still managed to avoid capture until eventually one evening after work. It was late September, me and a mate were regularly doing midweek sessions for a few hours after work since the summer but

wait. We arrived at the lake to find it quiet with only a couple other anglers on, so after a quick walk around we found some fish showing out in open water in an area known as the bowl. The weather was perfect, overcast, warm and a little windy. I went into a swim known as Freddie's which normally does a few bites and is a known area for the Big Girl. With rigs baited, they were cast towards the showing fish and I waited in anticipation.

As light turned into darkness the alarms remained quiet but not for long as the right hand rod was away, the fish tried its best to reach the other end of the lake and with me using only my ten foot rods,





it was great fun but feeling it was a good fish I held on as best I could, but then it went from a powerful fight to an easy battle and came in real easy! Feeling a bit bemused as to what was happening, the fish went into the net with ease thinking I'd hooked an upper double, I shone my head torch into the net only to be greeted with a huge mirror carp, what was going on I said to myself. At that point my mate came over "which one do you think that is " I said, to which his reply was "there's only one fish that big in here". I rolled the fish over to look at her flank and there were the magical seven scales and as you guessed it was the Big Girl, a carp called SEVENSCALES after twenty years wanting to catch her, I'd spent days, nights and seeing others catch her, but she was finally mine. I readied the mat and the scales were zeroed, she weighed 32lb 10oz not her biggest weight as she normally goes up to 38lb and has reached a top weight of 44lbs in the past, but I wasn't complaining! It was my new pb mirror carp at the time. I held her up for the photos and she was well behaved almost as if she was used to it! Then she was returned back to her home and I watched her swim off. My mate made me a celebratory cup of tea and I sat

back down in my chair trying to take it all in, I looked through the photos seeing myself with the Big Girl, a carp that I so desperately wanted to catch and she was in my hands only moments earlier. I smiled and even laughed to myself. I packed up not long after that and I headed home.

Walking through the front door my wife asked how did I get on and with a big grin. I said I've finally caught her, THE BIG GIRL!

A twenty year search and a lot of persistence but it was totally worth it, since my capture many other anglers have caught her including my mate and knowing exactly how they were feeling brings a smile to my face and hopefully they hadn't had to wait as long as me but the feeling is the same. I am now chasing other carp and I hope I don't have to wait as long for them as I did for the big girl.

Until next time tight lines.

Chris







Reviews

Featuring -

Katran Braid – Mainline – Marker – Shock-Leader - Mark Carper

PeeJay Tackle Rattles the Float World - Anthony Wood

Hand Warmers are worth their weight Anthony Wood







Review of Katran Braid - Mainline -Marker - Shock-Leader by Mark Carper





As you might expect from a company that produces a complete range of high quality Main Lines, such as Synapse Wild Carp and Crypton and Coated and Un-Coated Hook Links like Hamelion and Flora to name just a few, and the fact that they are a European based company where the use of Braid as a Main Line is common place, Katran do an amazing couple of Braids specifically for use as Main Line along with a Marker Braid, for err, Marker Work would you believe and also a superb Braid Shock Leader, for shock leadering..!!!

Having fished in France since the early eighties on some of the biggest waters they have, Braid has always had a place in my Tackle Bag and on my Reels and not just for Markers and Spodding... I have used it extensively for fishing too and to be honest I much prefer it to Mono, but unfortunately, most UK venues ban its' use, which is somewhat of a puzzle really as if you cast in to an island or snag in weed with braid, the chances are that all you will leave behind is the 'Hook Link' and not yards and yards of Line in the water... In fact, when fishing in weed, the braid can act as a cutter and get you out of trouble easily, but Rules is Rules I guess and we could debate this the same as "Micro-Barbed" or "Barbless", so I'm not going to get into that...

.... But I am going to tell you about the Braid Katran do....

But First...

... Braided Main Lines certainly have advantages over Mono but then it could also be argued the other way too. I feel that Braid is superior under certain conditions and circumstances, but Mono Main Line is possibly a better "All Rounder"and it's not banned everywhere in the UK either...!

Just a word of warning though about using Braid, whether it be as Main Line, for Markers/Spods or as a Shock Leader... The 'Lack of Stretch' which it is famed for also makes for a superb 'Cheese-Wire' and as easily as it can cut through weed, so can it cut through Flesh.... and it doesn't care if that is Human or Carp (the latter being one of the reasons Fisheries have a ban on its' use I guess... but then with proper use, it isn't an issue...but let's not go there...!)



Katran Reviews

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If you are using Braid in any situation, please ensure you wear a suitable 'Finger Protector' and it just happens that Katran make an excellent one of these too....

The Zero-Stretch of Braid Main Line means that there is no 'bounce effect' or cushioning when in contact with a fish and you need to be careful during the playing so as not to bully the fish and possibly tear the hook hold. This can lead to a 'scary' battle, but you soon get used to it and then you find it odd when you go back to Mono.

As I fish 'Public Waters', where Braid can be used, I often switch between the two types of Main Line and I have to take stock of what I am using as it definitely changes the way I play the Carp..(if I actually manage to catch one that is!!)

Using Braid can also make "Feeling the Lead Down" much more accurate and allow identification of the make-up of the substrate easier and certainly aids with 'Bite Detection' too, especially at long range. The higher 'Abrasion Resistance' makes it perfect for Weed and Snag Fishing and the fact that there is no stretch means less chance of the Carp bolting into the snag using the stretch of a Mono...and with the diameter of most Braids being only half the diameter of Mono but with superior breaking strain, it also can aid those extra metres on the cast... so it's all good...!!!

With lots of positives and advantages to using a Braid as a Main Line, we must also look at the 'Negatives' but to be honest, the negative is only around the fact that such a non-stretch and thin material can cause damage as already mentioned, to both you and the Carp but this can easily be negated by firstly always wearing a suitable 'Finger Guard' and Katran have the perfect one for the job and never fishing Braid 'Naked'..!!!

Now, before you conjure up all sorts of strange images of you and your Pal casting rigs to the horizon attached to Braid Main Line whilst stood in the Buff, I meant the 'Braid' shouldn't be naked.... and that is an easy fix with the use of some Tubing if Leaders are banned or a Leadcore or Lead-Free Leader if allowed and it just so happens that Katran do a



superb version of the latter called 'Comodo', which will be fully reviewed next month or you can use a fused leader, of which there are many and all these will help to protect the Carp and should prevent any of their scales being lifted too.

The KATRAN Braids

Obviously, this is a review of the Katran Braids so what is it they have to offer...

...first up is their Sinking Braid Mainline (SBM)



This 'Fast Sinking' Braid has a High Breaking Strain to Low Diameter and the vital statistics are 0.28mm and 28lb BS. This is achieved using a combination of innovative Tualon / Fast Sinking Fibres with a Density of 1.52 (meaning how tightly the Fibres are packed, the more Dense, the quicker it will sink)

SBM also has a high Abrasion Resistance, and the Thin Diameter allows you to spool more meters on your reel for fishing at very long distances. If you require more than the 300m that is on each spool, you simply join the Spools together using a simple Blood Knot for example, although other Knots are also available...!!!



Thanks to the Ultimately Dense Fibres of the weaving SBM gives the extremely Low Stretch and the Highest Sensitivity, even at range and is described as "Moss Green" which is a Dark Green…!

...This leads us nicely on to their second Braid Main Line, the Slow Sinking Braid (SSB) ..



Also 'Dark Green' in colour, this Slow Sinking Braid was specifically designed for fishing in waters with heavy Weed and other underwater Vegetation as it lays on the weed smoothly and tends to get less tangled in the vegetation when you have a fish on.

With all the same attributes of the SBM this Braids fibres are 'Less Dense' at 1.17, thus enabling it to sink much slower. With its vital statistics coming in at .30mm and 25lb BS and again is sold in Spools of 300m, which can easily be knotted together for greater distances.

Marker / Spod Braid

Katran advertises 'Sense' as their Marker Braid and they only offer it in one size, which is, an incredibly thin 0.14mm and 20.5lb Breaking Strain...!!



This Eight Strand Braid is perfect for 'Marker Work' but a bit to fine for some heavy Spod Work perhaps...?! But there is a simple solution and one that I use all time. I simply use approximately five metres of the Katran 'Record' Shock Leader in front of it...but I will come back to that...!

Sense is an extremely Smooth, 'Round' Braid and its low diameter is designed with Long Distance casting in mind.



When used for Marker Float or 'Leading' work, this Dark Grey, Floating Braid gives you a real "SENSE" of the lake bottom and allows you to 'Feature Find' with great feedback to the Rod Tip.

If, however, you want to use it for Spod Work, Katran recommends using one of their GALAXY 'Tapered Mono Shock Leaders' (being reviewed next month). However, as stated earlier, I prefer to use a few metres of 'Record' Shock Leader which comes in at 0.40mm and a Breaking strain of 60lb, so it feels solid and gives me great confidence to really hit the cast...!!

I also use the same setup when I am casting my Deeper as again, the whole set up feels solid on the punch but gets the distances I need with ease....



Katran Shock Leader - Record





Specially designed between Katran and their Bulgarian 'Expert' Ludmil Dimov, RECORD is designed not to hinder casting at long distances. Manufactured of Eight Microfibers from Ultra-High Molecular Weight Polyethylene (UHMWPE), this Braid is 'Round', Very Smooth, Flexible and 'Extremely Durable and Abrasion Resistant'.

Dark Green in Colour each Spool contains Eighty meters of this Non-Sinking Braid and is available in two Breaking Strains of either 45lb or 60lb. The 45lb has a diameter of 0.35mm and the 60lb is 0.40mm

...and there you have it, a full run down of the Main Line and Shock Leader Braids available from the KATRAN Stable.... and a little on how I use them. As with all my reviews, I am talking from real experience of using the product and not from what I have heard or read.

I can also confirm that spooling-up is a simple job too and the lack of "Twist Effect" is a dream over Mono but there are a few simple rules that if you follow them, will help you get along with your braid without some common frustrations...

I hope you have found this useful, and I know that Braid as a Main Line is not common in the



UK. Also, playing a carp feels so different and not everyone will like the feeling of not having that 'Stretchy' Comfort Blanket that Mono gives, but if you do get the chance, I definitely recommend giving it a go and of course use the Katran options to maximise your fishing.

Early on, I mentioned about the use of a finger Stall or Casting Glove etc, when using Braid as it can easily cut through to the bone if the Braid slips on the cast, which is why it is extremely important to also ensure that your Reel Clutch is fully tight prior to casting, no matter what you are casting.

Single Finger Casting Glove



perfect for the job..!!!

The KATRAN Casting Glove is made from High-Tech Leather materials, and it sits comfortably and snug on your casting hand giving you a better grip and greater control over your casting style but also factors in the safety issues to offer a barrier against line slip or worse, cuts or burns to your casting finger.

Whether you are casting a Rig, a Marker Float or a Spod, if you are using any form of Braid either in the capacity of a 'Leader' or as your Main Line, you should always use some form of Finger Protection and the Katran Single Finger Casting Glove is

That's it until next month... Mark Carper Instagram: @mark_carper257 / @talkingcarp.magazine

https://katran.eu/

https://www.roddyclips.co.uk/shop







By Anthony Wood

Reviews

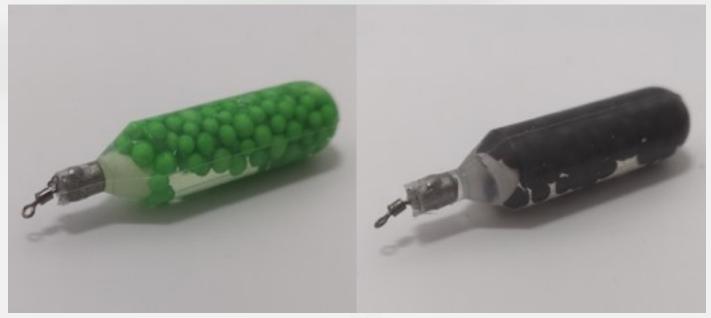
You may or may not know PeeJay Tackle Ltd for their superb SodaFloat which is a float that you can put particles, pellets, etc in and they will slowly release over the top of your hook bait as the bubble at the bottom of the float fills up with water.

The company has once again put its thinking cap on and have created the fantastic "Beadyz". These brilliant little floats are perfect for any number of situations whether it is stalking, surface fishing, distance fishing, river or canal fishing or just chucking it out in front of you.

So, what makes these floats different from other floats? They are made weighted by adding floating beads and water inside the clear float body and these are then sealed in with a swivel and some sort of sealant.

The water inside the float has been treated so that it will not go green or mouldy and they are available in red, green, yellow, orange, and black which you will get a random mix in your order (they are 3 for £7 including postage!!)

There are several reasons that I love these floats and the first hasn't even been thought of by the company (you're welcome if you read this lol) and that is to attach a split ring to the eye of the swivel and you now have a fishing float that you can use as a keyring so that you always have a float handy should the opportunity arise.



I also love these floats because they cast very smoothly and can reach a fair distance (they are loaded to 4.5g), they are weighted so perfectly that they are really sensitive to bites and you can even get a take from a small roach should you wish to.

Due to the coloured beads being inside the clear float body there is no chance of the colour (paint on a traditional float) flaking off and making the float useless. I was surprised at how visible the floats are even at distance compared to other floats that I've used for surface or distance fishing.

I don't know whether it is because they are so well built and so sensitive or whether it is because they are so unique in their design but I absolutely love these floats. At only £7 for 3 posted they are really well worth giving a try.

You can find them on the PeeJay Tackle website at http://www.peejaytackle.co.uk/product/3-beadyz-mixed-colours/

Why not give them a follow on their Facebook page http://www.facebook.com/peejaytackleltd









Hand Warmers Are
They Worth It.
By Anthony Wood

As anglers sometimes we don't look after our hands. We expose them to all weathers and conditions without giving them any thought or care, I've been out in conditions that were so cold that I could barely tie a knot to a new rig and not given a single thought to my hands.

However, as you get older you start to think about your health and what you are putting your body through more and I started to use the disposable chemical hand warmers where you clicked something inside to activate whatever the chemical was inside and felt as it heated up in my pocket ready for my hand to get nice and warm in the coldest of conditions.

I then moved on to chemical hand warmers which you could recharge a few times by running it under hot water to reset it before it became ineffective and wouldn't reset.

I then started using electric rechargeable hand warmers which were



okay and did their job but they were quite basic. I then started to see a new generation of electric rechargeable hand warmers coming out which looked a whole lot more interesting.

I looked at several different types and the one that really caught my eye was from a brand I'd never heard of (probably some Chinese brand) but I really liked not only the look of them but I liked the list of what they could do as well.



The first thing that caught my eye was that there was a pair of them and they were held together as one by magnets (you can use the magnetic side for magnetic therapy treatment if you believe that works, although there has been no scientific proof that it does work), they also work as two independent 5000mah battery packs so you can also charge your phone if needed.

Each hand warmer works independently from the other and you can choose from three heat settings on each one so you can choose from 40°C, 50°C or 60°C which allows you to control which hand will be warmer if one hand is feeling it more than the other (this can happen more often than you think).

Each unit has a display which not only shows the temperature but also tells you how much charge you have left in each unit. Controlling them is as simple as pressing the power button and then tapping the display button to adjust the unit to the required temperature.

There are literally hundreds of styles and types out there but if you want the ones that I have then I found them on Amazon for £26 and here is the link https://www.amazon.co.uk/Goomp-Warmers-Rechargeable-Electric-Portable/dp/B09L628RF9



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Gatch

Reports

Featuring -

D.T. Baits
Castaway PVA
Deception Angling

Plus all of your catches !!!

Ted Rowe



Ted Rowe with his first report of the month.
After a winter of pike fishing.

My first proper session
this year out on my local
park lake Peatmoor
Lagoon in Swindon.
Within an hour and half
I was rewarded with this
beautiful common
Bait used was Baitworks
15mm boilies with Holy
mackerel salmon n
shrimp, I put 5-6 boilies in

a pva mesh bag with a 15mm Royal marine balanced bottom bait. on a simple German rig made with Bank tackle components.



Report number 2 from Ted Rowe.

3 sessions, 3 captured.
Smaller one was at chad lake first ever visit with my wife. My wife out fished me with a 15lb That bigger one again from my local park lake Peatmoor Lagoon.

Ted Rowe

Report number 3 Another one out of
my local park lake,
Peatmoor Lagoon.
Using the same
tactics, German rig
using Bank tackle.
PVA mesh bag of
5 boilies coated in
Holy Mackerel. With
a wafter hook bait.



David Flint



Seen fish there so went into the swim set up had couple small ones on spinner rig so changed over to short choddy rig for the night had few small ones then next morning this beast. It's a repeat catch but new PB off 39.15 #innovatebaits

Blossom Ursell



What a day!! She finally did it, my lil minno Blossom and I went up to Riverside Fisheries in South Wales, so she could fish the pond. A great welcome as always from Elaine the fishery owner, and Blossom was off setting up on the bank lol... She used maggots/pellet and enjoyed catching, Roach and her first Bream. After a few hours of casting and baiting I could see she was getting tired, so I said shall we go home now? Blossom replied with, I really want to try and catch a Carp like you do dad! So, I said let's try it, a quick

change of hook/rig on her rod, a size 8 barbless klaw hook from Bargain tackle and dips. I showed her how to put a boilie on (ProbaitsUk Squid Orange of course) and bang off she went with a cast to the far margin, just short of some reeds... Well! within 2 minutes her arms were pulled forward and the look of shear panic on her face as she shouted daddy!!! I looked, I could see her little pink rod bent in half and her reel was spinning away!! (Ohh that sound) This was it, her first time fishing for a Carp and she actually casted and hooked into one!! A very proud moment for me, but a very nervous one, as I did not want it to snap the line as she has never played a fish with power before. So I gently knelt next to her and was talking her through it, use the clutch to give him some line, now tighten it and reel him in abit more, keep him away from the bank where he can use the reeds to snag up, keep your tip up etc, wow she was loving it!! after about 3 or 4 minutes a lovely golden common slipped over the net!!! Yes!!!!! We got one.

A lovely 6lb golden common, what a moment we shared and we will never forgot, especially the bit where I got into the car and looked at her, she looked back at me and just squealed with excitement.

Christian Whitehall

It was the last full weekend on this syndicate, and I had decided earlier in the year not to re-join. So, this was indeed last chance salon, and with that I had been prepping a swim for the last few weeks in readiness. However, as often happens plans change, and after visiting the lake on the Thursday evening. I found a few fish showing while walking back along the dam wall. On Friday the rush around after work to arrange the fishing gear and get to the lake for the weekend ensued. As I rounded the corner to the car park I was greeted by seeing three other vans parked? My heart sank a little expecting someone to have secured the swim from the night before, but my luck was in, it was still free, so after carting all the gear to the swim, I took on the challenge of setting up, and sorting the rods out. Spodding a light mix of EVG's Root spice crumb and Chops I was fishing by 8pm on three spots, and the wait began in windy conditions. It wasn't until around 02:40am Saturday morning I was awoken by a single bleep on the Fox receiver, and after seeing a blue Led lite up. I stirred from slumber, to then be greeted to a fullblown run, and the typical scrambling in the bivvy to get out ensued. I bent into the fish which had taken a considerable amount of line on the initial run. And after a 10-minute battle the fish was held firm by Poltergeist tackles hooks/hook link and swivels, I saw the fish in the clear margins for the first time. Once landed and as I retrieved the fish from the margins, it felt a good one indeed. On the scales it

came in at 36lb 04oz and was certainly a surprise and maybe some lake pay back for the seasons work. The rest of Saturday and the session passed without any further action. But was indeed a great way to sign off.



Mark McDonald



Oldmill lakes oak lake Lincolnshire

I caught this lovely mirror 5:30 am with a aforce boilie along with a bed of pellets great fight came in just under 17lb but the fishing was very slow but I was glad to here alarms scream off after 24 hours into my 4 day stay thanks for perfect particles for supplying my bait

Trevor Love



Fox hill fishery

Caught two chunks using washed out pink krill pop-up and Orange pop-up



<u>Simon Ursell</u>



New PB

Well, I still can't quite believe it.. I was stood outside the bivvy at twilight watching the bat's dancing about and I heard a beep on the left road, the wind was still high and I see the bobbin drop back, so thought, ah wind had taken the line or the under tow, how wrong was I? The alarm went crazy like shoppers on black Friday deals!! Up came the rod and yup, it's hooked and it felt a good un, however! Little did I know what it had planned for me, this thing could fight and it knew what it was doing. Kite left, kite right then slowly turned into me to loosen the line, then tour off again trying to pull the hook. Every time it would come near the net, it would power off tugging again and again, stripping line whizzing away on a tightened clutch... A massive thank you to @owainwatkins_nt @neiljs81 for helping me out can't thank you enough... I knew it was special when Owain seen it and said I ain't saying nothing until its in the net, so after an eventful capture/carryon Carping Iol, it was in the net. An elusive Carp that has only come out 4 times in three years, known as Mooses Mirror weighing in at 29lb, what a fish to look at never mind capture and to be able to hold it!! Special times, a complete unit.. I'm so happy as this is the place where I cut my teeth angling and really fell in love with it, it's great to see it flourishing, what's even more special is the name of the Carp, the gent in every sense of word who it's named after, took the time to coach Tobias many years ago on a late summer evening which I also learned a lot and we will both be forever grateful..

Probaitsuk Squid and orange boilie with a Indian Spice pop up lured it, with Bargain tackle and dips at the business end, I knew I was in safe hands. An Aptus Tackle lead secured the hook right in the middle!! of the bottom lip, allowed me to have these lovely shots taken buy Owain and well, my face can tell you the rest.





Andy Grenfell

Team member Andy
Grenfell with "The
Big Lin" from his
syndicate.
Andy used a cult
classic pineapple
chunks pop up
doused in cold water
green beast spray
and 20 free offerings
of N-blend to bank
this stunning beast
which tipped the
scales at 40lbs 10oz.

Curtis Evans

this lovely
looking mirror on
his last outing.
Curtis used a
custom rolled
bait rolled to his
specifications and
supplied by the
lads at the factory
to bank this 27lbs
beaut.





Dave Smalley

Customer Dave
Smalley headed
over the pond to
France taking with
him a mixture of Cold
Water Green Beast
and Supa fruit. He
managed a good hall
of absolute stunners
up to 47lbs 8oz this
is our pick of the
bunch.





Michael Carr

Team member
Michael Carr had
this 34lbs 4oz
chunk from B1
using a Cult classic
Banana pop up
over a bed of Supa
fruit.





Pete Topham

Team member
Pete Topham
banks a lot of
stunning carp
this one being no
exception.
Pete cast a Cold
Water Green beast
barrel to a showing
fish to bank this
gorgeous mid 20.

Terry Canham

Terry Canham (aka Jim's dad) With a lovely 33lbs 4oz mirror from a recent trip to B1. Terry used a Cult classic banana pop up to good use.









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Let us take care of the catering whilst you take care of your event.

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David Crookes - 261b 04oz



Scott 'Geezer' Grant - 38lb 3oz





Derek 'The Don' Ritchie



Craig Lander - 26lb 6oz New PB





Reece Malcolm



Daniel Arnold





<u>'Baggins'</u>



Reece Bestwick





Ben O'Connor



Ryan May





...PB...ALERT...

Team member Nathan was on the Vader Baits social at the weekend at Festivals Fishery and here's his report.... Well what a red letter weekend I had. Setting up for midday on the Friday the first 24hrs of the session was slow with no fish to show. It was not until around 1pm on the Saturday the action really started to kick off as at 1pm my alarm from my right hand rod rattled off for the first time landing

a lovely mirror carp weighing in at 20lb on the nose. It was not long after putting that fish back and resetting my rod my left hand alarm sprung to life and after a short battle trying to keep the fish from snagging me in the reeds the fish was out in front of me where we could see the distance from the swirl from the tail to the hooklink I had a big fish on and the team quickly started to fill my swim! A short while later the fish was in the net and the whole team present in the swim we got our first glance at what was an epic looking common! As soon as the fish was lifted from the lake it was very evident this fish was a new PB and I would be getting a bucket or two. After a bit of carp treatment for a sore and the hook hold it was time to weigh the carp before getting some photos. Everyone looking on as the Reuben Heatons sprung round to a magical 37lb a new PB for myself and now the biggest known common for Festivals!!! The fish was caught using a 14mm Le Nutz boilie topped with a Le Nutz 12mm popup in a solid pva bag of Grafter micro pellet, Le Nutz boilie crumb and a good helping of Le Nutz glug over a bed of 15mm Le Nutz pellet and a handful of Le Nutz 14mm boilie! After all this the rod was reset and it was not long before it sprung off again this time a short but shapely 25lb 12oz common graced the net. The action did not stop there with 1 rod still out of the water I was into my 4th fish in as many hours and scooped the net under yet again another carp this one weighing in at 21lb a lovely mirror. After getting the rods set for the night and settled to bed I was expecting a busy night and just before day broke my alarms was off again and slipped a little football like mirror into the net which weighed in at 12lb 4oz. The last bit of action for the day came around 10.15am where this beautiful fully scaled mirror graced the bank weighing in at 22lb 4oz. All of my fish were caught using a 14mm Le Nutz boilie topped with a 12mm Le Nutz white pop up in a solid pva bag of Grafter micro pellet, Le Nutz boilie crumb and Le Nutz glug over a good bed of 15mm Le Nutz pellet and a handful of 14mm Le Nutz boilie!!

What a session...I'm extremely happy with all my catches especially my new PB and that I got to name the fish...so meet Vader



...PB...ALERT..

Vader Baits team member Wayne Markwick took to Broadlands in Hampshire for a 24hr session!!! Only having a short session to fish Wayne decided to approach it by using solid bags filled with Crabalicious boilie crumb and Crabalicious pellet with a 14mm yellow Crabalicious wafter on the rig..

Well his tactics worked and paid off as after his rod ripping off and a cracking battle with the fish he slid his net under his new PB a whopping and beautiful 30lb 8oz cracker !!! Superb angling well done mate



Team member Mark took to Creedy for a session and here's his report... Me and my daughter Jessica went fishing on Thursday afternoon over Creedy fishery. Before I set up any of my rods I started to pre bait the back bank opposite swim one. I pre baited the 3 areas 2 on the back bank and 1 to the left of me by the small island. Once I got set up and put my two rods out I casted out in to the areas where I had pre baited. I fished with simple rigs that I make up and was using SaTaN as a bottom with a very small pop up on top. The pop up was a SaTaN one and the first fish that I caught was a small tench around 4lb. That evening I switched over two a wafter and that produced my first carp of the session which weighed 19lb 2oz. That evening I lost a large carp underneath the trees unfortunately. The next morning my daughter went round and pre baited both of the swims that we had been fishing and put a little bit of bait in next to the island. For most of the day there was hardly any action all over the lake it was very quiet. In the afternoon I got my third rod out and set up another rig and decided to use a pink Le Nutz wafter. I casted my daughter rod out and flicked the Rig in towards the small island on the left. Around 5:30 my rod went off and myself and Jessica struck into the fish and started reeling in. After a 10 minute fight we managed to net the fish and I knew immediately that it was a 30lb carp. My daughter's face lit up and we were both so happy she weighed in at 32lb. The next morning it was quiet until around 5amwhen my rods when off for the third time this time I caught a stunning 25lb common carp. The fish again was tempted by a SaTaN wafter and that brought us to the end of my trip!!

Stoppos Fishery

one of the best runs waters in the midlands

A limited number of season tickets Now available !!!!!



Stoppos fishery is a 2 and a 1/2 acre water situated in Lullington South Derbyshire. Stoppos lake was excavated in 1998 as an irregation pool. It was taken on in 2000 by locals John and Jean Stevens and stocked with small carp. These carp have now reached close to the magical 20lb mark and all fish are in beautiful condition.

The best way to describe this water is an exceptional runs water with fish being abliging throughout the year. Some places have become available this year. There are 28 fishing platforms available and a secure car park. Fishing permits are for 12 months from the day you join, permits are priced £90 for two rods. Night permits on request. All permits are available from John who can be contacted on

07971854104

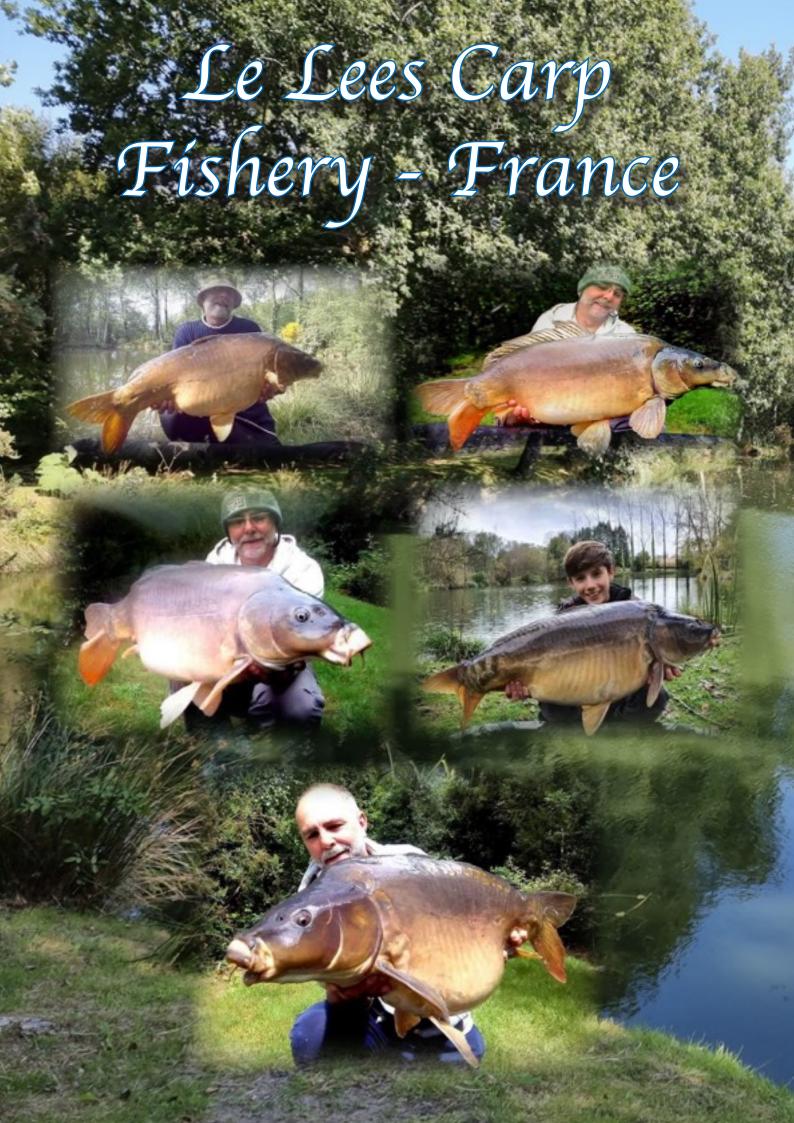
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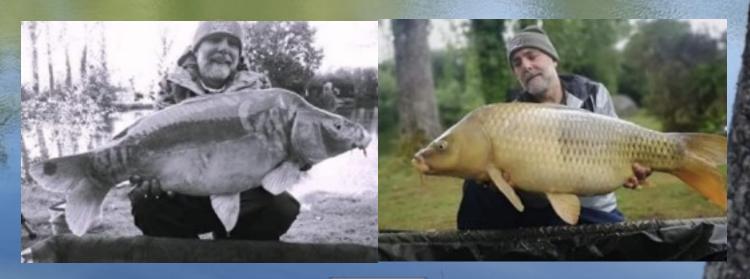
Now France has opened up !!! come on guys & girls take advantage of our deal....

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

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

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

Thankyou Matt and Tracie





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Thanks for reading

Send your articles and catch reports by the 28th May 2022 for next months magazine

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

"The Talking Carp Team"

Brian Dixon
Mark Faulkner
Dave Harnick Snr
Mark Galli



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

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

- DANNY FAIRBRASS

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