



Issue 46
December 2019



Inside Your Christmas Edition

Exclusive Interviews with Alfie Willingale of Nash Tackle and Darren Nokes from Fishing Sim world

M&B Contour mapping,
Reviews, Catch reports and Much more

Carpr Baits - Putting more fish on the bank

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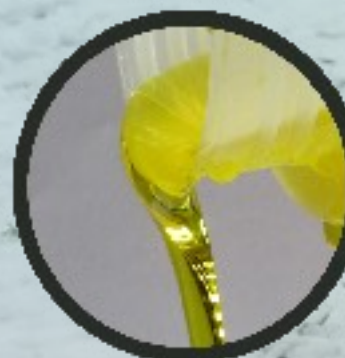
Next month in Talking Carp we will be covering snails in more depth.



Boilies



Pop Ups



Dips



Particles



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Hello... and welcome.

Christmas is upon us already. Where on earth did 2019 go?? Anyway, there are 2 good things about December... we have the shortest day of the year on the 21st... the winter solstice.... Meaning after that the days will start to get longer, the nights shorter and its one step in the right direction towards Spring.

Secondly, it's the month that the fat man in the red suit comes to visit those that have been good!!

What have you asked Santa for this year? New rods? New reels? Perhaps a new state of the art Deeper Chirp to go feature finding and get amongst those pesky fish... Maybe you would rather spend a bit of time catching up on your reading and Father Christmas will bring you a copy of Carping Mad 3 from Mike Spug Redfern. Now that is one publication not to be missed!! I swear you will laugh your socks off...

Whatever it is, we are sure it will bring a smile to your faces so why not send us in some pics of you with your new toys? We do love pictures of shiny new set ups. Anyway, that is all from us for now.... We will see you for issue 47 in 2020.

From all at Talking Carp, we wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Merry Christmas everyone.

*** In memory of Bob Birkin September 1946 - November 2019***

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Team Talking Carp

Merry Christmas

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An Interview with... Alfie Willingale



With Mark Galli

Social Media and Nash Tackle.... An Interview with Alfie Willingale

As Social Media is such a massive part of Carp Angling at the present time, I thought who better to interview other than Alfie Willingale from Nash.

If you are a fan of all things ‘Nash Tackle’, you will no doubt already know who Alfie is already, as he seems to appear in nearly all the Nash Videos and Facebook ‘Live’ streams, and heads up the Podcasts too, but do you know what his actual job role is and what it entails...?

I caught up with Alfie and managed to interrupt him several times over the course of a few months to get the low down on his role and why we see and hear him so much on the Nash Tackle Social Media sites.

It might appear that he simply spends lots of time talking and fishing in front of camera, but his job role goes far deeper into the realms of Social Media and not just in the UK either....

MG: Alfie, welcome to Talking Carp Magazine and thanks for taking the time from your busy work schedule to give our readers an in site to your role at Nash and let’s kick off with an easy one;

What is your official job title with Nash Group PLC...?

AW: Thanks for inviting me for interview Mark. Officially my title is 'Social Media Manager' but just like most of the lads here at Nash we all chip in to help each other out when needed!

MG: People will be familiar with you doing things such as Facebook 'Live Feeds' and Podcasts and also being photographed with some nice Carp. So, is that all you do, just spend your days on the Bank...?

AW: As much as it may appear that way, I am primarily based at Nash HQ. Having said that no day is the same here at Nash and that's what really makes my work exciting. I'm extremely grateful for the opportunities this role presents as I get to combine work with my passion!

MG: How long have you worked for Nash and have you always been the Social Media Manager...?

AW: I've been working at Nash for two and a half years now and yes, my role has always been Social Media Manager

MG: What qualified you to get the job, did you just spend hours on Facebook and Instagram...?



MG: How many Social Media accounts are you responsible for and do you have full control over what goes on to the sites...?

AW: If you were to separate Facebook and Instagram then I oversee the running of over thirty social media accounts. Obviously, I'm not writing any copy for our European pages as I often struggle with English let alone a number of European languages!

I don't have complete control over what's posted as our team members have a far better understanding of their own territories. My role focuses more on strategy and keeping the team up to date with important technical changes within the social media landscape.

MG: In terms of content, I know that Nash as a whole and also Alan and Oli on occasion, have taken criticism for some of the things posted on the Nash Social Media sites and in the Euro and Urban Banx videos. Is this something you consider before uploading or is it just inevitable that not everyone will like it and simply want to make a criticism anyway. How do find the balance...?

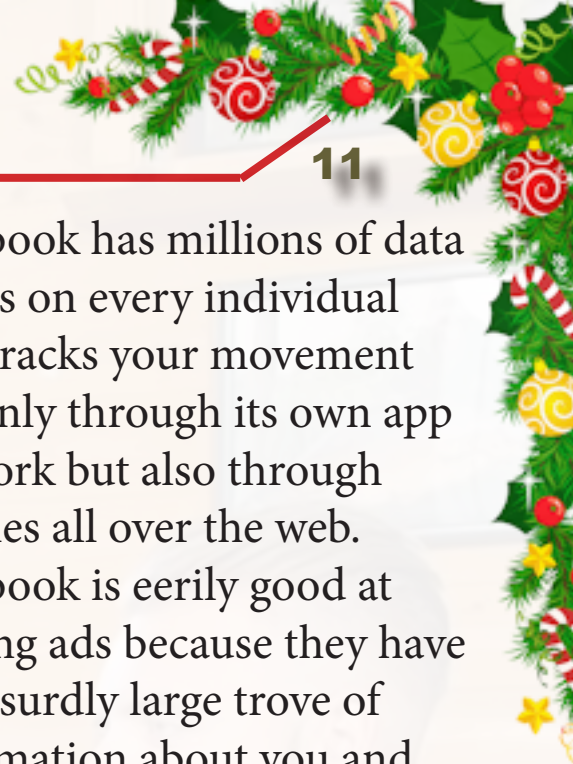


AW: Of course, we carefully consider the content we post but sometimes it's not possible to predict the reaction. Unfortunately, social media can provide a platform where those who are angry and hurtful become much louder than those who are happy and friendly. That being said we aim to engage with all of our followers and address all concerns by replying to comments publicly. I'm pleased to say that most of the time the conversations we have are positive :D

MG: Although I am on Social Media such as Facebook and Instagram, I have no real knowledge of the workings and how to use it to its maximum potential. Is this something you have self-taught or have you learned from others and do you need to keep up with changes to Social Media sites, do they change very often...?

AW: My time at University certainly helped form my basic understanding of social media and how it works but the vast majority of information comes from daily research. The social media landscape changes incredibly quickly and it's easy to get left behind if you're not keeping up to date.

Personal profiles work a lot differently to business/brand pages. Businesses need to be aware of a lot more factors that influence the Facebook algorithm when compared to personal accounts. We often have a debate in the office as to whether Facebook is 'listening' to your conversations. You know when you sit there talking with your friends about a subject and then bam an advert is shown to you on the Facebook feed showing exactly the topic you were just talking about. As much as people believe this to be true it's all a conspiracy theory.



Facebook has millions of data points on every individual as it tracks your movement not only through its own app network but also through cookies all over the web. Facebook is eerily good at serving ads because they have an absurdly large trove of information about you and your habits based on how you use them.

MG: How do the Live Feeds work in terms of comments we see scrolling up the screen, are they filtered at all or

is what we see, exactly what is happening...?

AW: There's no filter on the live comments so the viewers will see all the comments in real time. There is a 'profanity' filter built within Facebook that automatically hides comments that use bad words but every now and then one can slip through.

I'm yet to be caught out by people asking for a shout out for names such as 'Dixie Normous' or 'Drew Peacock'. I've come close to reading their surnames before quickly realising! It certainly keeps me on my toes anyway.

MG: I really hope that doesn't set a precedent now on the



Live Feeds and you start to get all manner of ‘Names’ asking for a shout out.... you know, like, Craven Moorhead or Dixie Rect and Eric Shun etc. etc...!! ;)

Do you have the facility to block users and their content (asking for a friend) and have you ever needed to do that...?

AW: There is an option to ban a user from a page. Fortunately, I rarely have to do this but sometimes you’ll get people create fake accounts and spam to the page with serious abuse.

I think I’ve only had to ban five people in the past two years. YouTube provides some particularly amusing comments which we’re storing ready for another “Reading Mean Comments” section in a ‘Life At Nash’ film.

MG: I have to say, the “Reading Mean Comments” video was absolutely brilliant and very funny, so I’m looking forward to another one. It’s a pity more companies don’t do it and ‘Name & Shame’ some of these half-wits that are so abusive...!!

If I wanted to get noticed on Social Media (which I don’t by the way, do I..?!) but let’s say I did, what advice could you give me to increase my ‘views’, ‘followers’, ‘likes’ etc. etc.

AW: There’s no substitute for high quality content, be that video or photo. Those who can take photos



with brilliant composition, correct focus etc. tend to stand out on the feed.

People's attention span whilst using a mobile phone is short so you need to do something to stop them from scrolling. If you're able to grab people's attention and connect with them on an emotional level then they're likely to interact through shares, likes, comments and clicks.

The more engagement the more the social platforms push the content out to others.

MG: Does having more 'Likes' or 'Hash Tagging' more, get you "noticed" by the Tackle and Bait companies out there and give you a better chance of 'Sponsorship'...?

AW: To be honest 'Likes' are a sign of good content as you're creating positive reactions. Naturally you're more likely to be seen should your media receive more likes as there's a positive correlation between likes and follower growth.

Instagram made it possible to follow hashtags earlier in the year so yes by using the correct hashtags it increases the chance of your content being seen by more people.



MG: How do you plan a Live Feed, is it scheduled well in advance or are they a little more spontaneous...?

AW: We used to host the livestreams every Wednesday evening. I'd have a group of guests lined up and schedule them in usually more than three weeks in advance. We started to find the feeds were becoming a bit repetitive, so we now host them on special occasions to focus on the quality of the feed. I've also lined up more interactive feeds which come with more regular and bigger prizes.

MG: On average, how many pictures do you view a week, and do you monitor news feeds from other sites etc...?

AW: Luckily the social media team no longer consists of just me. Henry and I now divide the work between us where I have more of a focus on European social media whereas Henry mans the fort for the UK. Henry is also responsible for catch reports but having managed that role before we receive hundreds of photos a month. We have a strategy in place to minimise time spent looking for content whilst also maintaining the highest levels of engagement.



MG: How many hours a week do you spend on Social Media in all the different formats and how big is the Data Bundle on your phone...?

AW: I dread to think how long! Luckily most of my work is done on a PC so it doesn't track the time you spend on social media apps like the iPhone does now! I have a mini 4G Wi-Fi box for livestreaming, but I rarely exceed the 25GB monthly limit.

MG: **So, what about you, how do you 'chill out' or "Chillax" (is that even a word...?!!) Do you go on Social Media...?**

AW: If my weekends aren't taken up by work then you'll often find me wandering the pubs of London! A lot of my friends work in the city so it's a central point for all of us to meet and I must admit I do enjoy a good beer! I used to play a lot of poker as I'm a bit of a numbers man and enjoy the theory and strategy behind it. Unfortunately, I don't get enough time to study it anymore but will play some cash games in the casino now and then. Other than that, my dream Saturday is sat down in a pub watching Soccer Saturday with nice pint and a few accumulators on the go!

MG: ...and fishing, how much do you do as a 'Nash' employee and how much for yourself... and is you own fishing all about Carp...?

AW: I'd say this is probably split 50/50 at the moment. Once I'd settled into my role at Nash the video team started to include me



more within their video plans. Combine this with the livestreams and there are a lot of occasions in the year when I'm out on the bank for something work related. I'm not a fair-weather angler by any means so come rain or shine I'm always looking as to when I can be out on the bank.

I'm actually sat behind the rods whilst writing this piece but this time its personal fishing in between work. I have a syndicate ticket in Kent where I'm based so I'm really hoping to make the most of it this winter.

MG: I think in all the pictures and videos I have seen you in, you are always wearing a cap and it's always on backwards...! Is this an 'Alfie' thing, like Oli with the Nike Air, or is there a technical reason...??!!!

AW: You know you're certainly not the first person to point this out to me ha-ha! I tend to wear the 5 Panel hats backwards and normal caps forward but there's not actually a cap in the Nash range I particularly like



(sorry Mikey!).

Where I have to wear Nash for filming, I suppose you always see me with it backwards. It's better than not wearing a hat for me especially when I wake up in the morning...Ha-ha.

MG: Being on Social Media so much, like you are with the Live Feeds and in the photographs and videos etc, do you see yourself as 'famous' or a 'celebrity' angler and do you get recognised often...?

AW: I certainly don't see myself as a famous or celebrity angler. At the end of the day I'm just a lad who enjoys going fishing and cracking open a beer with the hope of catching a "biggun or two!" Working closely with Alan it's crazy to see how many people recognise him but I think there's very few people in the industry who are at this level. I've been recognised once which was at Royal Ascot.... I didn't actually remember until the lad messaged me the photo on Instagram the next day ha-ha! Take my



girlfriend and her mum for example. They think I'm an absolute weirdo because I choose to sleep outside in the cold trying to catch a fish only to put it back again. Carp angling is a very niche market so the whole 'celebrity' status doesn't really sit well with me.

MG: What advice do you have for the younger anglers that would like to get into a role similar to yours, do they need to concentrate more on fishing or more on Social Media/ Technology etc...?

AW: I get asked daily 'How do I get a job with Nash?' or 'How do I get into the industry?'. The biggest piece of advice I can offer is to master a skill so you can offer something of VALUE to a company.

There are probably only half a dozen people in the world who make a full time living where they're paid to go carp fishing. Everyone else is working within a role at a carp fishing company. Find a discipline that you're interested in whether that be photography, videography, social media, sales, HR etc and master it!



As soon as you have the knowledge/experience in a certain field you suddenly become valuable to the business as you have the potential to make them money. A lot of the time when we hire at Nash it's because we've noticed someone first, especially in the media side of things. Exceptional videographer is always a winner as the demand for this skill is only growing in this day and age. If you're willing to put in the hard work, you will reach that goal..!

MG: Alfie, thanks for taking the time to do the interview with me and sharing your role within Nash with us and for the wise words there at the end for all those that would like to have a similar role within the industry or maybe just raise their "Insta Game"....! Even I'm going to 'try harder' to raise my game...!!!! Ha-Ha

'Quick Fire' Questions.....which do you prefer...

Commons or Mirrors..?

- Mirrors

Day Sessions or Overnights or Longer Sessions..?

- Longer sessions when possible

Small or Big Waters..?

- Big waters

Remote Locations or Full Facilities..?

- Ermmm.... Can I have full facilities in a remote location?

UK or Outside...(If outside, name the country)

- Outside - Germany

Spring / Summer / Autumn / Winter fishing..?

- Spring.. ZIGS!

Bottom or Surface..?

- Surface

Close In or Long Range..?

- Long Range

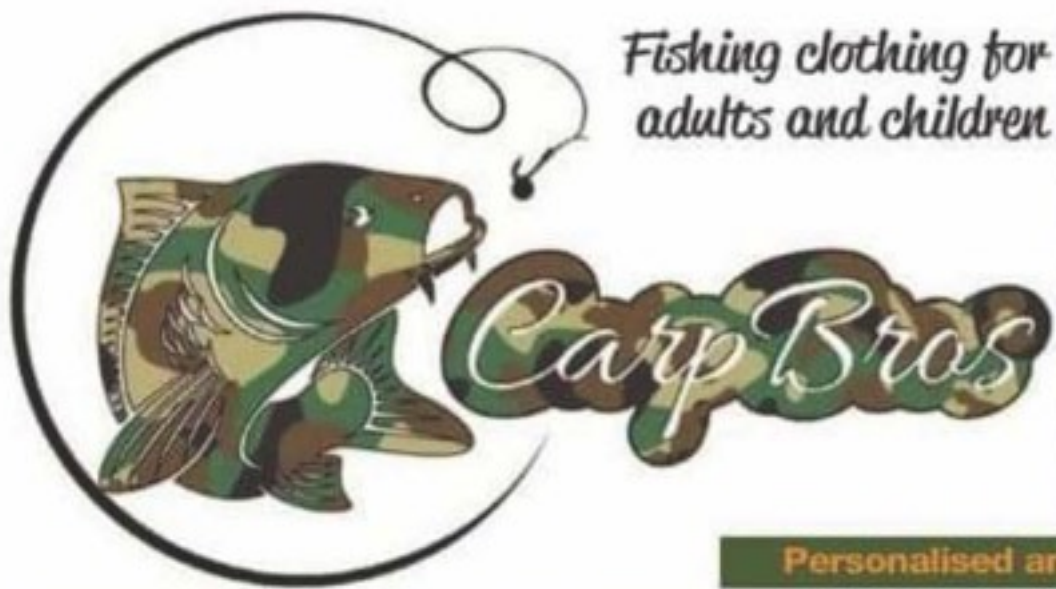
If you could only fish one more session, where would it be..?

- The Church Lake at Nash with the lads.

What was your most memorable Fish you caught and why?

- Really difficult to single out a fish but if I had to choose one I think The Big Fully from the Church Lake just edges it!





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*A Chat
With.....
Darren
Nokes*



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Talking Carp Chats to Dovetail Games - Darren Nokes

Who would have thought that the worlds of Carp Angling and 'Gaming' could co-exist...? A sport that can be very intricate and at times requires precise actions and attention to detail to track and catch our beloved Carp, a sport that requires mountains of gear just to get us on the banks to fish some equally intricate lakes etc. could be merged into the Gaming World....

In the World of 'Simulation' or "Sim" if you're cool, one company has managed to bring two seemingly 'never to meet' hobbies and merged them together to create an amazing 'Sim World'...!!

That company is none other than Dovetail Games or "DTG" if your down with the kids... and this month we bring you an exclusive interview with their Brand Manager, Mr. Darren Nokes as he gives us an insight of what it takes to create the incredible "Fishing Sim World: Pro Tour"

Talking Carp Magazine have also been invited to visit the Dovetail Games HQ for a tour and insight into the world of gaming Simulation and we will bring you more about that in the New Year...but for now let's see what Darren has to say...

TC: Hello Darren and welcome to Talking Carp Magazine and thank you for taking the time to speak to us about DTG.... Why not kick us off by introducing yourself to our readers and tell them how you started in the gaming industry...?

DN: Hi guys, thank you very much for the opportunity to appear in Talking Carp Magazine! As you said in the introduction, I've been the Brand Manager for fishing at Dovetail Games for just over 5 years now. I was previously working for a law firm in the city when I saw an advert for a gamer who had an interest in fishing. After finding out more and a successful interview process, the rest as they say is history! It was an unexpected career move but one that I have loved!

TC: What made DTG decide that they wanted to create Fishing World Sim alongside their already very successful 'Train Simulators', they seem worlds apart...?!

DN: They are and they aren't! DTG prides itself on making simulation products for hobbyists and enthusiasts – fishing is a hobby for millions of people around the world and therefore making a 'video game' out of this pastime makes perfect sense. We all wish we could be on the lake a lot more than life allows so our games will give you that fix when you can't be out there for real.

TC: How many people do you have at the company and how many of those are directly involved in the making of the Fishing Sim World: Pro Tour ...?

DN: Dovetail Games employs around 140 people across all manner of roles. Around 20 of those of people are working solely on fishing but many other people such as our creative team work on it on a regular basis. It's a key hobby for us alongside our train simulators.

TC: Do you use 'Angling Specialists' to get greater details and insight into the game and can you tell us who has been an influence in the development of the detail in the game...?

DN: Yes – working with anglers and companies in the industry is very important to us. The game features over 50 different licensed partners and over 100 anglers. From a carp point of view, we work with the likes of Korda, RidgeMonkey and Mainline Baits. Anglers include Ali Hamidi, Ian Russell and Dave Levy. A lot of people have helped us along the way both for carp fishing and bass fishing but one person who deserves a special mention is Simon Scott – we spent a lot of time with him when we developed our first title ‘Euro Fishing’ to make our fish behaviour as accurate as possible and his knowledge is incredible.

TC: Do they have full input into the fishing side of things, i.e. types of bait, rigs, locations etc....?

DN: Yes, we do work with partners to ensure that their equipment / product is performing correctly in the game and that the overall product we are offering is as realistic as possible. We will also meet partners for research trips or product meetings when we need more information on a particular subject.

TC: How long did it take to develop and produce the game once you had the initial ideas...?

DN: Our first game that we released was Euro Fishing and this took several years to develop through to full release. Our games are very much a ‘live service’ as well so we never stop developing



and improving them and regularly release free updates for them. Our latest title is Fishing Sim World: Pro Tour which gives a great sim experience with carp, coarse, bass and predator fishing.

TC: How much 'Testing' is done and how is this done to ensure that every selection or choice actually works, before you can release it...?

DN: We have a dedicated QA (quality assurance) testing team at Dovetail Games and everything we release goes through rigorous testing to ensure that everything we have built / designed, functions as it should. We all play a lot and our brilliant community also tell us what they would like in the future.

TC: There are some fantastic lakes to fish in the game and some very well-known fisheries, how do you get permission to use the lakes within the game...?

DN: It is similar to how we work with equipment partners –we approach venues that we feel people would enjoy fishing digitally and ask if they would like to work with us. If the answer is yes, there is a licensing process that has to take place and then we get to work building the venues!



TC: How do you gather the information about the lakes and how do you transfer that information into a Simulator Game...?

DN: Lots of reference and working closely with the managers / bailiffs of

the venue. To give you an example, we took over 1500 photos of Manor Farm Lake at Linear Fisheries as well as video footage from each swim. We then digitally recreate the lake and ensure that Linear are happy with how it appears in a digital format. The test is to pull a bailiff into the office and randomly ask them what swim we're currently looking at in game – if they give you the right answer, you know you're on the right track! We then digitally 'stock' the lakes accurately in terms of species of fish, the number of fish per species and the weight ranges of those fish. All of our lakes come with named or 'target' fish so, for example, Kempy's Linear is a fish to try and catch on Manor Farm Lake.

TC: In terms of game development, what is next for the brand...?

DN: We are always looking to release fantastic new fishing games and 2020 is going to be very exciting for us and all our players! I can't say too much at the moment but look out for some big news across our social media early next year.

TC: What about you, do you fish yourself, and if so, what is your target species and how often do you manage to get out on the bank, and do you have a favourite venue...?



DN: I do – I'm a carp angler that doesn't get to go anywhere nearly as much as he likes! A combination of many things limits my time so when I do go, I

try to fish lakes that will give me a few bites but a chance of a decent one. A lot of my fishing this year has been at Linear Fisheries for that very reason. I also have a ticket on the Mid-Kent waters but have got down to Ham Road once this year. My favourite venue has to be Wraysbury due to the history of the venue, the work that has been done and the quality of the fish there – there's no doubt I'm a bit out of my depth at times there though! I have been lucky enough to do a bit of bass fishing in the last 18 months in the US – it's a totally different style to carp fishing but I do enjoy it!

TC: Finally, for any people wishing to work within the gaming industry, what advice would you give to them to achieve their goals...?

DN: I was fortunate to come into the industry from a very different angle and to come into a marketing role rather than development. From a development point of view there are some great degree / post graduate courses available now. Equally, if it's a career change then I think the best advice is to put yourself out there looking at publishing studios websites and looking at QA type roles to get a foot in the door somewhere and start learning. Once you are in, work hard and you can progress quickly! It's a great industry to be a part of!

Thanks again for taking the time to do this with us and we look forward to seeing how the game is put together when we visit the company in the New Year, but for now, have a great Christmas and New Year from all of us at Talking Carp Magazine.

If you are a Carp Angler and/or Gamer, go and check out the DTG website at www.dovetailgames.com. For information about their incredible Fishing Simulators go to www.fishingsimworld.com



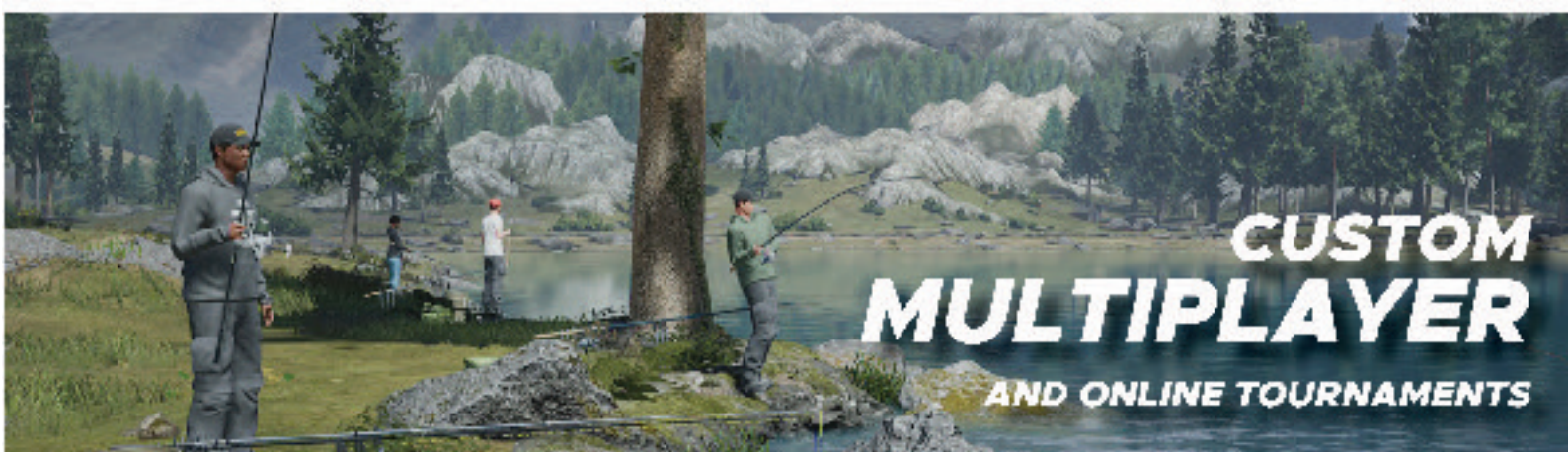
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*Where dreams are made and
hearts are broken*

by Scott Geezer Grant

Well after the blistering heatwave four weeks ago the weather had calmed down somewhat to a very pleasant 20oc degrees, which is much more bearable. I would normally be heading to the lake Thursday afternoon but due to my scuba diving I wouldn't be getting to the lake until 5 o'clock Saturday morning. My diving session went really well with more skills learnt. Come Saturday morning and with the car loaded it was off to the lake, I arrived just after 5 o'clock and swims 1, 3, 4 and 9 were taken and after a cuppa with my mate Nic who was in 9 I went for a walk and after seeing a couple of fish at the opposite end of the lake I decided to go into swim 7. As I made my way back to the car it became overcast and the light rain started, with the barrow loaded

and on full power I was round in 7 in no time, the brolly went straight up and all the gear put inside then the heavens opened up so I sat inside and just watched the water as there was no way I was going to get soaking wet. After about an hour the rain stopped, and it was straight back to the car to get the second barrowload. Back at the swim I got everything sorted then concentrated on the rods.

The weed was still pretty bad and finding a clearish area to present a bait was challenging. I did however manage to fish an area on the plateau out in front and put 2 rods on this area with a new test bait. I then split my other 2 rods to the left of

the swim and not that far out just off the shelf, the ever faithful nutjob was the bait, I have 100000000% faith in the bait, and it caught me countless fish from all over the place. The only pain is that the coots know exactly where the bait is, and it wasn't long before they started diving on the bait.

The weather was bang on with a low pressure of 1006 and dropping and a night temperature of 16oc degrees something has got to happen. With all the rods sorted I went down to nick for a chat and a coffee, I left Nick after a couple of hours and popped round to



see Porky. He has been getting over the lake every week and baiting certain areas which is good if you can do that unfortunately for me that's impossible what with my shifts and where I live, I just haven't got the time. Porky had banked a couple of fish the "Sherriff" which was a repeat, so he simply returned it, then he had another of the A Team a fish called "Humpty head Single scale at 33lb so the boy is doing well. I sat with him for a while drinking coffee and chewing the fat. After an hour or so I made my way back to my swim, and laid on the bed watching the water I was still seeing the odd fish show so I knew the fish were still in the area, I just had to sit on my hands and see how things develop. Later in the afternoon Tom who was in swim

4 had a fish called the "Banana" at 40lb and ounces and apart from that the lake remained quiet. Nick had seen fish out in front of him, so the fish were pretty spread out. I had a social with Nick later that evening and retired to bed just after 23:00 as the rain started to come down again and it rained until the early hours.

I was up before first light and the mist was dancing across the lake and looked incredible, the pressure had dropped to 1004 and would be continually dropping throughout the day, conditions were bang

on. Again, just before the sun tried to make an appearance a couple of good fish popped their heads out which was a confidence boost. After my morning coffee I had a wander down to Nic and like me he was sitting their cuppa in hand watching the water. Not much was showing out in front of him and he said it was a quiet night. Just after midday Nick started to pack up. With a barrowload complete he only had his rods and a couple of bits to pack away, as we stood there his right hand right went into melt down, Nick was straight onto the rod



and as he lent into the fish it stripped line at an alarming rate then all of a sudden everything went solid, there were huge weed beds all over the place and the fish had found sanctuary in one of them, Porky looked over from swim 1 and I asked if he would come across in the boat.

He jumped in the boat and made his way over Nick put his life jacket on and jumped in the boat, they got above the fish but everything was still solid, Nick grabbed the line and applied a bit of pressure then all of a sudden it gave

way and only his rig hit the surface!! The fish had spat the hook and gone. He was gutted and I really felt for him its hard work when the weeds up and even harder when you work your socks off only to lose a fish in the weed. He made it back to the bank licked his wounds and packed away the rest of his gear and left. I made m my way back to my swim and spent the rest of the day chilling. Late afternoon I recast the rods and applied some fresh bait, I had a pukka dinner then caught up with work emails and made some notes. Later in the night as I was speaking

to my other half a unit of a fish crashed out right in the middle of the swim, the fish were still here and surely feeding like greedy pigs.

I fell asleep just after midnight and was up before first like, as I drank my morning coffee the far left rod which was out in front of the reeds just ignited, I ran down to the rod and the fish was on it took line then I gained some then it took some more and then everything went solid!! I kept the pressure on hoping the fish would move out of wherever it was stuck in but to no avail, I lay the rod back on the rest and loosened the line. After a few minutes the line started to tighten so I lifted the rod and could feel the fish, but it was still stuck fast. I laid the rod back on the rest and went to get the boat



which was in swim 8 grabbing my life jacket on the way. Once back at the bank in the boat I grabbed my net and rod and pulled myself out to where the fish was stuck. Once above the fish I grabbed the line and applied pressure, but it was solid and I couldn't get any movement what so ever and the last thing I wanted to do was snap the line or rip the fish's mouth, so I made my way back to the bank. I place the rod back on the rest and went around to Tom who was in swim 4 and asks for his assistance. He has an outboard on his board, so you have much more control then a boat without one, plus he's experienced in a boat unlike me. Tom grabbed his jacket and came across in his boat I threw him the net then grabbed my rod and jumped in the boat; I noticed the

fish had moved from where it was stuck into another weed-bed further to the right, so I was hopeful the fish was still on. Once we got above it again, I grabbed the line and applied pressure, this time it gave a little and after applying a bit more pressure the line gave way and the next thing, I knew my rig hit the surface!! The fish had done me big time. I was gutted beyond words but thanked Tom for his help, and went back to my swim, I rebaited the rod and cast it back out hoping to get another take before I have to leave in a few hours' time. The sun was up, and it

was a glorious day all the gear dried out and come mid-afternoon I was packing up and leaving the lake with my tail between my legs. I now have a score to settle and want to get back over as soon as I possibly can. Hopefully I can get back over in a couple of weeks if I can swap some shifts or maybe even use a few days holiday.

After my last session it was back to work and the first thing, I managed to do was swap a couple of shifts coinciding with my rest days which would give me the option to fish for 3 nights. It was





game on and come Sunday night I was getting everything prepared. Bait-wise would be the ever faithful nutjob in various sizes and after using tigers from a In the Margin Particles back in the spring I had ordered 5 kilos of their chilli hemp/maize with a couple of added extras. The great thing about their particles is that it's so bespoke meaning you can have any combination you like, they do their signature mixes, plus dips to match whatever flavour bait you are

using, again these are bespoke and tailored to you. With the bait sorted and everything charged ready to be packed, it was off for a shower and early night as I wanted to be up at 4 and at the lake just after 5.

Monday morning the alarm went off, I was up like a shot getting ready and packing the car like my life depended on it. I was on the road and pulled into the gate just after 5 o'clock. As I drove down the gravelly lane to the car park the mist was rolling across the

open fields and once parked up, I grabbed a bucket and made my way through the gate. The mist was dancing across the water and it was deadly quiet, it was still dark and there were no anglers fishing, so I had the choice of swims something you don't get very often. I made my way round the lake clockwise starting off in swim 3, I stood in each swim for a few minutes and when I got around to swim 7, I looked out across the lake and a unit of a fish crashed out in front of swim 4. I immediately made my way round to swim 4 and stood in the swim, then a few minutes later another unit crashed just to the left of the swim, I stayed poised for a further 5 minutes and another fish crashed out this time in front on the plateau. The sun had just started to rise and when it did a few more

fish crashed out in the swim so for me my mind was made up I was going to start my session in here it's a no brainer.

I shot back to the car and loaded my barrow, after 2 barrowloads all my gear was in the swim and with ease I cannot praise my new electric barrow enough it really is a game changer. The first thing I sorted was the rods there was no rain forecast and with the mild weather there was no rush to get the brolly up.

I have fished this swim before in fact I caught my very first fish from this particular swim the Big Fully 2 seasons ago when I joined.

With the marker cast out I found 3 lovely areas in different depth water and two of the areas is where the fish were showing hard.

Both silty areas and free from weed, as everywhere else the weed is solid, so the fish have clearly been eating in them areas.

I opted to fish Ronnie rigs with pop ups in both Nutjob and Skunk,

with a couple of kilos of boilies scattered over the top, plus a generous helping of chilli hemp. The 2 rods fished to the right were fished one on the plateau with the other in deeper water, both fished on zigs at different depths. This year it's been boilie all the way and the zigs have not produced a great deal, but sooner or later they will come into their own again.

With all the rods out it was time to get the house sorted and



most importantly get the kettle on. Just as I had got everything sorted it became very overcast and yes it absolutely Lashed it down!!! It was lucky for me I had everything put away otherwise I would have been extremely p****d off. The weather app has yet again managed to get it wrong; how can you get something so simple that wrong. When I checked my phone, the app hadn't uploaded properly and because it failed me, I deleted it and installed another weather app that I hope can get the information correct. The fish stopped showing and the lake went very sombre.

I spent the morning just laying on my bed watching the water and every now and then dozing off for a few minutes. It rained for most of the day and didn't clear up until late afternoon. Nic popped over to see me after work and whilst we sat chatting the fish started to show again and this time they were showing over both the left hand rods, surely one of the rods has got to ramp off, but sadly for me that

didn't happen and after 20 minutes the fish stopped showing. Nic stayed for about an hour then left, I made some dinner then just dossed about willing for one of the rods to burst into life. As darkness fell, I made a few notes on my phone, watched the water for a bit then called it a night and went to sleep. The next morning, I was up bright and early the kettle went on while I took care of business then sat and watched the



water, compared to yesterday morning the fish had clearly done the off. I saw a couple of fish show in front of 8 but other than that nothing. I was starting to question myself as to whether I should have gone in a different swim, but when you turn up to a lake and see fish showing in a swim you would be mad not to go into it.

Later in the morning I grabbed another rod and walked down to swim 6 not that far to my right, the wind had started to turn and was blowing South/South westerly, I cast a nutjob pop up with a pva bag containing a few crumbed and whole boilies just off the far reeds,

then catapulted a few around where it landed. I then spent the afternoon walking round the lake and talking to Doug who was fishing the day ticket lake, he was in a swim opposite to where I was. A few had come out the day ticket lake and Doug had already banked a couple up to 30lb a fish known as the Football good angling mate.

As time was starting to get on, I was deliberating what to have for dinner when I got a couple of bleeps on the receiver. It was the rod down in swim 6, I made my way down there, the bobbin was at the top and the line was tight, I lifted the rod

and the fish was on it felt heavy and did try to weed me up but I kept the pressure on easing the fish up in the water, after a few hairy moments the fish hit the surface and it looked like a good fish after a few gulps of air I guided the fish into the net and let out a bit sigh of relief. I secured the net and gave Doug a ring and asked him to grab my scales and come down to swim 6, a few minutes later Doug arrived and when the fish was on the mat knew exactly what a fish it was the "Equals Linear" a fish I had back in the spring at just over 40lb. with the scales zeroed Doug hoistered her up and the needle

swung round to 39lb exactly, I done no more but treated her then took a couple of shots on the mat and returned her stress free, Doug stood there open mouthed and said "Geeze I can't believe you've just flopped a 39 lber" I said "Doug I had her in the spring mate bigger so there's no need to stress the fish out" it was

only then I think he understood and said good angling mate. Find out how the session unfolded in the next instalment, for me it was a red-letter session and one not to be missed!!

I would like to thank the following companies for their products of which I use in my fishing.
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If you're out on the bank stay safe and wrap up warm, winter is here. Have a great Christmas and New Year.

All the best

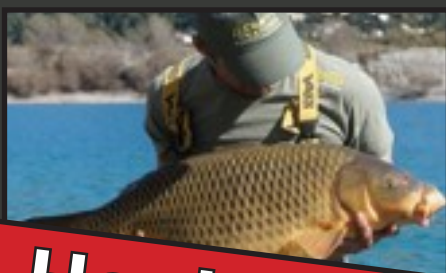
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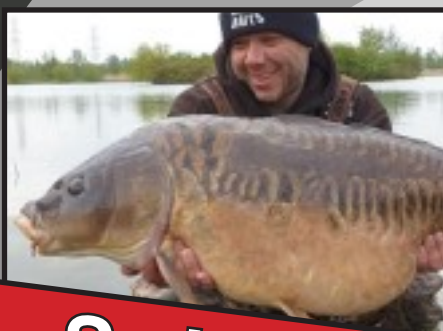
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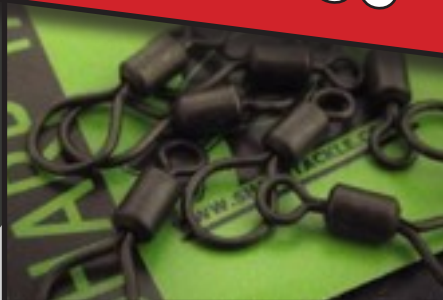
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A photograph of a lake at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that reflects on the water. A layer of mist or fog hangs over the lake, partially obscuring the trees in the background. In the foreground, several fishing rods are visible, leaning against the shore. The overall mood is peaceful and quiet.

Public Lake fishing Part 1

by Andrew Murray

Having had a few months off from writing due to fishing, work and finally packing and moving to a new house. The last of which included having quite a few things to sort out along with that, as I am self-employed and work from home, finally things started to settle down a bit! I felt it was time to put pen to paper again, so to speak. I have quite a few things to talk through in the next few issues, some fishy and some not so fishy...

My fishing this year on the A1 pits has been up and down, you may remember earlier in the year I said I was going to work a lot more on my zig fishing, which I did and it certainly paid off as my catch rates increased dramatically in the spring. My fishing in the summer was ok but not as good as I hoped it would be, I was struggling

at times to get on the fish as well as a couple of other issues. In general, I felt I haven't really caught what I would have liked this year, either home or abroad. Looking back, there are a few things bothering me about how it went. You may remember when I talked about trying something new, and when doing so it has to be for more than one or even a few sessions, more like a whole season. So that's what I have been doing all year, having a play on the rig front,

on the fishing approach front. I have to say, I feel it has cost me some carp this year, but that's the point of trying things isn't it? Sometimes you are near to getting it right, then a few changes lead you further away. More of that in later pieces as I try to make sense of it.

What I try to do at the start of each year is set myself up some new challenges, this is part of the overall way I live my life, not just with fishing but in my personal and work life



and work life as well. I had a few things to set in motion this year, downsizing our house, starting to put things into place for our retirement, make some changes on work things, run more motivational seminars, which is something I have been working on over the last few years. As well as all those things, this year I wanted to work seriously on my fitness as it was slipping away with old age creeping on, as well as my expanding waistline! So, given my age (61), in January I entered a Triathlon due to take place in May. So that gave me four/five months to get used to swimming, bike riding and running. The swimming and running I was reasonably ok with as I had been doing a bit, I just needed to get some time in. However, I hadn't been on a bike

for around 45 years, what can I say, it was terrifying going out on the roads again and very hard work! I trained enough to finish the triathlon but not too much to cause any injury leading up to it. I did finish it, not in any record times, but I wasn't quite last, and I was the oldest person competing by a long way. I would like to say the trophy you can see was for performance, but it was actually for the team that raised

the most money. We raised just over 4k for the children's charity, which we were really proud of. I would still have liked to finish further up the scores though, which I intend to do the next time! I have kept up the fitness campaign since then and so far, this year I have lost 12 kilos at the time or writing this, as I'm planning on doing the Triathlon next May as well and I'm looking for another 5-kilo weight



loss by then. The reason for mentioning this is that being fitter has definitely helped me while on the bank as well as in other aspects of my life. Also, to point out that their other things in life besides catching that next carp. There was a time in the past when I might not have thought so, but I am a bit more laid back about fishing these days (thank goodness!).

Anyway, back to the fishing. Part of my longer-term plan is to build up knowledge of different areas in France and further afield, as I start to have more time to spend travelling and fishing abroad, and with retirement approaching expanding that portfolio of places to go. Whilst you can read other anglers accounts of fishing, and it gives you an idea, there is nothing

like experiencing the places directly to give you a feel for them. Some places you like and some you don't. it's also about routes and ferries, travel times, facilities etc. also, what floats your boat, big carp, lots of carp, lots of big carp!

This year, Clint and I had decided to try

some public lake fishing and all the fun and games that go with it. So, over the next two pieces I will tell you about our two trips and the things we learned from them. So how did we end up here this year? Three years ago, we had a trip to Etang Du Manoir in Brittany as part of a group booking, this is a great



fishery and kept in tip-top condition, we had a great week there, the fishing was great and we were well looked after as well. This was at a time when I was getting back into my carp fishing seriously. We got to know the owner, Jason Webb, after having a few drinks. Living and fishing in France he knows his stuff and we had kept in touch with Jason via FB and messenger, he had let us know about a public lake in Brittany he was fishing on with some good results. So,

we decided to have a trip over in June., although we were initially supposed to be looking at another lake, we ended up changing late on in the day, due to information from Jason. It wouldn't be fair of me to give the name or location of the lake, as we didn't find it, so we will just call it The Public Lake. So here goes to my first public lake fishing in over twenty years, I have put a picture in of a much younger me with a carp from a large lake in Central France from

the late Nineties. I was certainly more on top of fishing back then.

I don't mind driving but would always opt for the shortest driving route if possible, especially as I have a long drive down to pick Clint up and then get to the ferry anyway the traffic just seems to get worse all the time. We decided to go on the overnight ferry from Portsmouth to St Malo, that meant a much shorter drive at the other end after having a meal and few sherberts and then a proper night's sleep as well. We arrived at the lake on Sunday morning just after 10am, Jason was already set up and had a couple of swims marked out for us on the peninsula he was on. With it been Sunday morning the lake was quite busy, but most were packing up. Now this is the





thing with public lakes, particularly in the summer, it's not just anglers on the banks, all manner of the general public is there camping up for the weekend, as Clint was to find out in the coming days! Two younger ladies remained camped up behind him and were not quiet in their appreciation of each other! As well as others around playing music and drinking into the early hours. It's very much live and let live though and no harm in most people.

The lake is almost split into two equal parts and joined by a Channel. One half of the lake the boats have priority, the other half, its anglers who do, we didn't know this until I had a heated exchange with a large French chap, who sailed over Clint's lines on the second evening, who made a point of coming round to tell us after a barrage from me in broken French! Also, where I first started fishing, an entire class of youngsters had boating lessons all day and

were back and forth all day over my lines! Not much to do but be philosophical about it heh? The thing is, we were supposed to be going to another lake but decided to have a few days here first to assess the lakes stocks and the fishing here. This brings up a few things you must do when public lake fishing, as you are going to stand out as British visitors, who some locals might take exception to you been on there local lake, even though its free fishing, and then make a phone call. The first is make sure you have the correct licenses! Also, that they are valid for the areas you are visiting, and you are not knowingly breaking any rules. The Garde de Pêche will confiscate your gear if you neglect this. Also, you need to be fully self-sufficient. It's not like going to a fishery

where you can shower, charge things up, have meals done for you. So, we tend to take all the food we need for the first couple of days, then have a daily supermarket run to top up as we go. We also take a generator to top up the various batteries. The cook tent is a must as it gives us somewhere to sit as well as store things and cook when the weather is not so good. We had brought along a hefty supply of bait which was made up of

boilies and particles. I have been working at salting particles over the last couple of years, so we can take what we need, instead of cooking them on the bank. If not used, they will keep for another trip. This worked really well, even with the weather been really hot they kept perfectly. The trick is to put enough of the salt solution in to delay the fermentation process, but not hold it off altogether, that way the particles are still active. We also

had a good supply of boilies from Mainline, we had chosen Link and Hybrid, along with a few bags of Diamond Whites. The idea was to put a sprinkling of Diamond Whites amongst the bait to give options for different hookbaits. Jason had warned us about the bream there and told us to avoid pellets and corn, I was going to regret not taking heed later in the week!

We got the camp set



up, we had brought the whole shooting match, cook tent the lot. We were both facing down the lake, Clint on the left and me on the right. We spent an hour in the boat looking for features of which there were plenty. But nothing that really shouted out. We had taken over from two French anglers who were really helpful and showed us spots they had been fishing and in Clint's case where that swim had produced carp, so we started there. I had a small bay to my right that did scream carp along the tree line, so I put one rod along there and baited up little and often with the Diamond Whites, scattering them along the tree line. It was difficult to keep the rods in during the day due to the boating traffic from the youngsters. Two days in, this provided the biggest carp of that



trip, but nothing came from the open water in front of me. On the second day, Clint saw a show about 100 yards out and long to his left in open water, and put a bait on it, it was away within a couple of hours! He had a few carp from that spot and further along to his left, it was clear carp were moving along there in numbers as the wind changed and picked up, it seemed the carp were moving areas from this side to the other side of the lake. By Wednesday the wind

had picked up and was bashing down the other end of the lake. Jason had upped sticks and moved the day before and set up in the teeth of the wind and he had fish all over him. Being the angler, he is, he got stuck into them big style. We knew we now had to move, that meant packing down the whole lot and moving, no mean feat in the heat it was, I'm glad I was a fitter now! We decided to stay on this lake and not move to the other one we had in mind, although I did still fancy getting to

see the other one. After a lot of looking round we settled in a swim on the opposite bank in the non-boating side, it was a bit tight, but we figured as long as we spread the rods out and kept everything tidy, we could still fish effectively.

Although the wind had been bashing in, it had settled slightly, and we were very sheltered where we were, and the weather was baking. So, we didn't know how the fishing would be, we weren't seeing many carp in front of us but could hear them to our right where Jason was. I went on the left to fish to an island, Clint to the right in open water. There were a lot of features in front of us, Clint opted to fish just over a big hump at around 50 yards, I went tight to the island and the other rod in a deep

spot just off it. I felt the carp had passed and maybe should have just fished with a small amount of bait, just going for a bite at a time but hindsight is always smarter isn't it? I decided to put a good quantity of bait in, boilies, particles, pellets, ground bait, sweetcorn...the lot. The result was instant and amazing! What appeared to be the entire shoal of bream in the lake settled right in front of me for two days! Man, did I catch some big bream and very little else.... It didn't matter what I used as hookbait, they stayed right on me. I had kept one rod very close to the island and eventually had a carp on the last night, not a very big one at that, mid-twenties. Clint had kept catching a few out in the open water fishing the gulley's. Picking them off one at a time, which is

perhaps what I should have done. Jason had a pretty big hit as he was right on them in the shallows and bays.

So, for the weeks fishing I had caught 2 carp to mid-thirties and Clint had caught around 14 carp to low thirties. All the carp were hard fighting and in good condition, the thing is, to be honest we were expecting bigger, Jason had caught a number of carp to low forties as well. All in all, the lake seemed quite prolific if you were on them. I think we were disappointed as to the size of the carp, I know that sounds a bit out there, some would say this was a good trip, to visit a new lake, a public lake at that, and with no prior knowledge of the lake or its inhabitants and catch a few is a result. Also, I know some would say a thirty is a

big carp, which it is, but we were in search of larger specimens, so expected more. I was also a little disappointed with my own results, though we had worked as a team and caught I still felt I should have had a couple more myself, maybe I am just beating myself up a bit, over analyzing things,

sometimes it goes well for you and sometimes it doesn't, maybe it's just as simple as that, this will be expanded more in the next few articles.

There was very little information about the lake before we went, so maybe we did ok after all. We felt we now had a better idea

about the lake overall. What to do now though? Maybe we had better come back for another go later in the year? Say September?

Catch you next time.

Andy



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My 9th UK 40+ of the year

By Kristian Horlock

The plan was to get down to my southern syndicate water straight after work on Friday, and as I haired into the car park I was pleasantly surprised to see it empty. I had been pre baiting the swim for some while, so I was buzzing to get in there and see what happens. After the short walk to the swim called Tones, I set about getting sorted, Brolly was up and I was ready to rock in no time at all. My plan of attack was to fish two rods on the bottom of the shelf at an island some 60 yards away and one rod in a margin to my left. All three rods were going to be fished with Mainline cell pop ups and plenty of cell

chops, crumb and whole baits along with matching pellet and maize and loads of liquids that had been soaking for a few days. The first rod went out no problems, up the channel near the island. Second was on the corner where I had seen a fish in the week boshing and third was in the margin to my left. The only problem I could see was there

was loads of black and white devils in the swim (coots) and sure enough in the first hour I got picked up five times, but as I was swearing at the buggers the middle rod beeped which I thought was another coot until it screamed and connected to a carp, woop woop after a spirited fight a lovely 23lb 6oz common



slipped into the net. So whilst the carp was safe in the net I quickly put the rod back on the spot and I didn't have to wait long for another bite, this time it was the corner rod though and was a much heavier battle and kept stripping line and just plodded about and after about 50 times of saying 'please get in the net' and the Ridgemonkey 20lb Fluoro line holding

strong, she did and I knew straight away it was big, but was it 40lb big? I was proper giddy not because it was a 40lber but 12 months ago I joined the Mainline baits team and I've had an amazing year on their baits and if this carp went 40lb it would have been my 9th UK 40lb+ carp in 12 months, crazy I know! So after sorting everything out I

lifted her on the scales and happy is an understatement number 9 40lber went 41lb 10oz, come on !!!!. This was turning into cracking session, the whole lake to myself and the carp were feeding. After I got hold of the owner Tim for some pictures, I got the rod straight back out each time putting about 2kg of bait over the top of it.



After I had calmed down a bit and had a brew I sat there with my laser pen trying my hardest to scare the crazy black and white chickens away, I must of had to redo my rods over ten times that day because of them.

As the sun was dropping the corner rod was away again, this one did not want to come in and just charged up and down the deep margins and as it came up I could see it was a really scaley carp and slid

the net underneath it, another special carp at 31 lb 5oz and what made this one special was it had not been caught since being stocked four years ago at around 13lb, proper mad how they can hide for so long but still pile on the weight. That night I celebrated with a beer and beef kebabs yum yum pigs bum.

The temperature dropped loads in the night and when I woke up the wind had swung

around to an easterly and all day stayed there which was really cold and bitter and after fighting with the coots all day I thought my luck had run out, the margin rod went off, when the wind blows from the east the fish bite least not today.

This was another cracking fish and went 34lb 2oz what a session.

I packed up the next day a very happy man.



Mega Night On The Bank



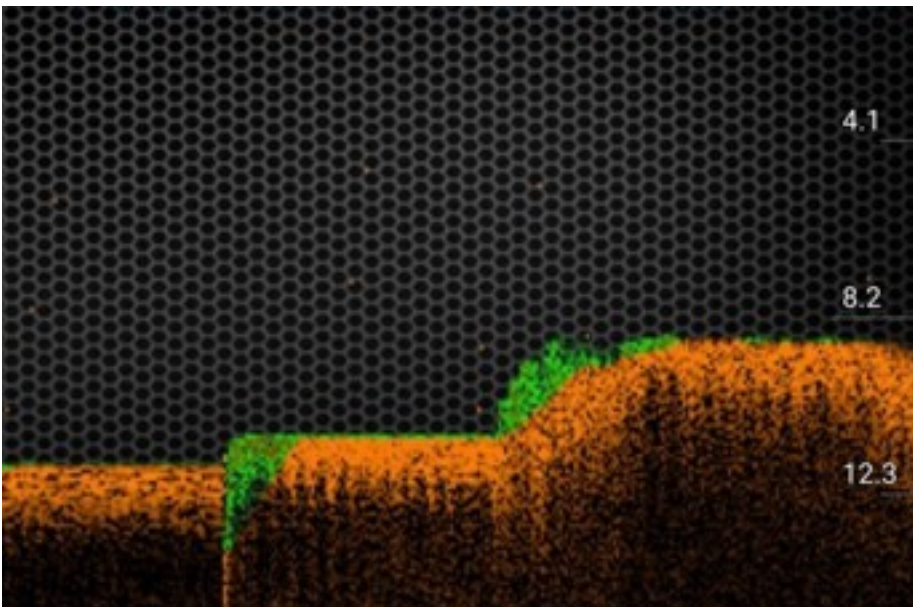
by Richard Handel

I had a lucky call from the wife this afternoon, saying she had to pick up a workmate in the morning and didn't need to go to work until after 9 am! As this is after school run time and would I like to fish tonight? There would be no need to come home until before school collection time at 3pm the next day. Well, I jumped at the chance, quickly sorted my kit out and once she was home, I was on my way. When I arrived, there were only 2-day anglers fishing and they were all in day swims.

As my favourite swim was free and the wind was pushing from the south, there was no other choice. My Deeper lake book map had certainly paid off the other night and the spot was looking good. The spomb was still clipped up from my last trip (which was a help). I got about 10 Spombs of a mixture of SF tiger & hemp Particle, a mixture of the pellets I have been playing with and some catalyst boilies all out there. I then did the rods with a mixture of the same in small bags with

15mm catalyst Wafers on both and to my amazement, the first take came about 21:30 to the left-hand rod (again) and after a very hard fight, I had a nice 22lb common sitting in the Nsr 50. Not a bad start, I was feeling very happy with myself after throughs hard months.

The second take came on at 23:30, around the same time as my first take the other night. As I was playing the fish, the other rod pulled up and then slowly dropped down, after another good fight the next fish was in the Nsr 50. I picked up the other rod, unfortunately with no fish on but the rig was in a right mess, the fish had managed to shed the hook. The fish in the Nsr turned out to be another 22lber on the dot. I'm glad I use digital scales and a zero them every time otherwise I would have thought I was





seeing things.

I got both rods back out there again and settled back on my bedchair, thinking this is more like it.

This is turning into one of them trips to remember. Well in fact it has. My next take came sometime around 00:45 and it was a pretty good fight. I avoided the tree to my right and the fish slipped over the cord of the Nsr very easily. When I looked in the net, oh wow now that's a lump and when I lifted it out the water, oh boy. After three times of

checking the weight of the sling and zeroing the scales again, I settled on a weight of 40lb 1oz and the joy filled the air. I was well over the moon and this had been a long time coming. No sooner than that fish was back in the water, my right hand rod was away and with an amazing battle this time another fish was in the net and ready for some snaps.

This one was like a torpedo,

which was why I had much difficulty getting it in the net. With both rod's back out, it was time to spomb some more bait out to keep them in the area. Not sure if I will get any sleep tonight, it's just after 0200 but I don't care – I've just had a 40lber and a new PB. I think the next run was about 02:45, it was a very hard fight avoiding the overhanging tree to my right. Which unfortunately resulted in me picking up the right-hand rods back lead, oh boy but the fight was soon done and a lovely 29.6oz common was in net



The next take came along at about 03:40 with another nice common gracing the net.

There was a break in action until about 7am, which gave me the chance to a little bit of sleep until the next run arrived. I also took all the rod's out again the fish kitted left under and around the tree. With the rods back out, I topped up the swim with a few more Spombs of the particle mix, I was low on boilies and pellet, so I had only for bags now. As I really needed to use them as I was fishing weed, there was an amazing amount of weed floating around, (which was partly due to me and the rest due to the carp ripping up the bottom), there were still signs if fish, so you never know. The sun was very much up and on full blast.

Well, folks that was it and what a night it was. I'm not going to forget that for some time to come.

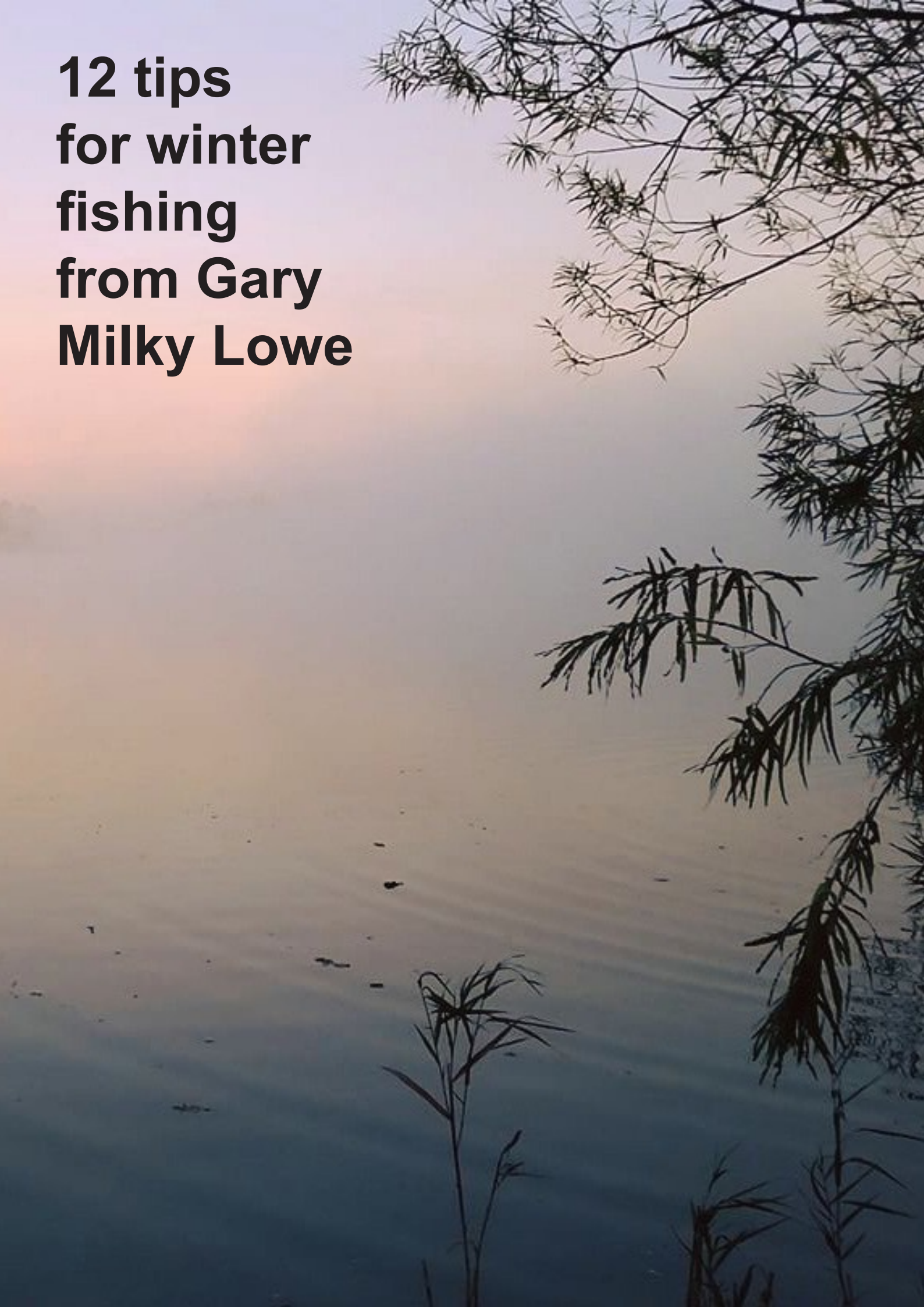
Until next time

Richard

Please subscribe to my Video Diary



12 tips for winter fishing from Gary Milky Lowe



Tip 1

Watch the weather

Most of the winter the weather consists of blue skies, no winds and freezing temperatures, but on the odd day you will see a dramatic change strong south westerly winds cloud and heavy rain and temperatures rise into the teen, this is the perfect time the get the rods out the fish will definitely be moving and feeding.

Tip 2

Recasting

Recasting on a regular basis can get you a extra bite at times, leaving you bait in the same spot with no action is not the way forward in winter as the carp are more nomadic and the feeding spells can be quite short at times so by casting around your swim you may just land on a feeding carp

Tip 3

Glugging your hookbaits

In the cold winter days the carp will not be moving around much so its important that you try and improve you baiting situation by making your hook bait stand out as a lot of the time you are fishing singles so I've found by coating your Hookbaits with a bait glug will definitely give you some pulling power and will make the nomadic carp home in on your bait.

Tip 4

Keep your eyes peeled

During the winter months when carp are not moving around much it's important to keep your eyes on the water at all times as the slightest of

shows will give their game away and show you were they are held up so sitting there watch a film on your dvd player won't get you any bites.

Tip 5 Moving around

It's important that you don't sit still on a cold winter day there is always a carp feeding somewhere you just have to find out where, so by moving swim regularly may just put you on the fish, sitting in the same day in day out when it's cold is not the way to enjoy your fishing.

Tip 6 Different baits

In the winter I always try several different baits till I find out which one they want on the day, some days large baits work other days you won't get a bite on them and small baits kick in, one of the best baits I've found in the winter is naturals like maggots and worms..... they can slaughter a lake if fished right.

Tip 7 Where to fish

This is a hard one as every day is different some days there in the deep then there in 2ft of water no day is the same, but the first place I'll look is the snags if the lake has any as all carp love a snag then if there is any dead weed around that normally hold fish then I look into open water to see if there is any signs



Tip 8 Use zigs

This method can take a lake apart on the right day, the best days I've found is blue sky high pressure definitely seem to produce the goods. I normally start with a zig half the depth then I move up words, till I find what depth they are at. Baits wise I normally use a small foam barrel glugged up, so it has some pulling power.

Tip 9 Keeping warm

Winter fishing can be long cold days and very cold nights so warm clothing is a must salopets and a warm jacket with gloves should keep you warm but don't forget a nice warm pair of boots and the last thing..... make sure you have plenty of hot food and drink.

Tip 10 Pick a good winter water

During the winter months the last thing you want to be doing is sitting there catching nothing or not even having a chance, that is not enjoyable and you soon give up. So, I always pick the right venue one with a lot of carp in so you have a good chance of a bite or to. These waters are mainly day ticket so get more ppl fishing them which means more bait and then the fish will keep moving and feeding, so the more action you get the more you are going to go and enjoy yourself.



Tip 11**Bright hook baits**

I've found in the winter that right small Pop-Ups definitely seem to work in the clear winter water. A nice small say 10 mm popup cast at a showing fish if you see one may just tempt one. Do be afraid to change colours during the day as some colours work better on certain days.

Tip 12**Solid bags**

A very under used method but if used right in the winter will definitely catch you fish. The thing you don't want to do is use a large bag this will hinder your bites, the ideal bag you use is the smallest you can get because all you want is a mouthful of food, as you're not trying to feed them you want to catch them, a small bag of tinny pellets and maggots with a small popup and a couple of maggots on the top will get you bites all day long on the right venue.

All the best for now.... Keep warm and keep catching.

Milky





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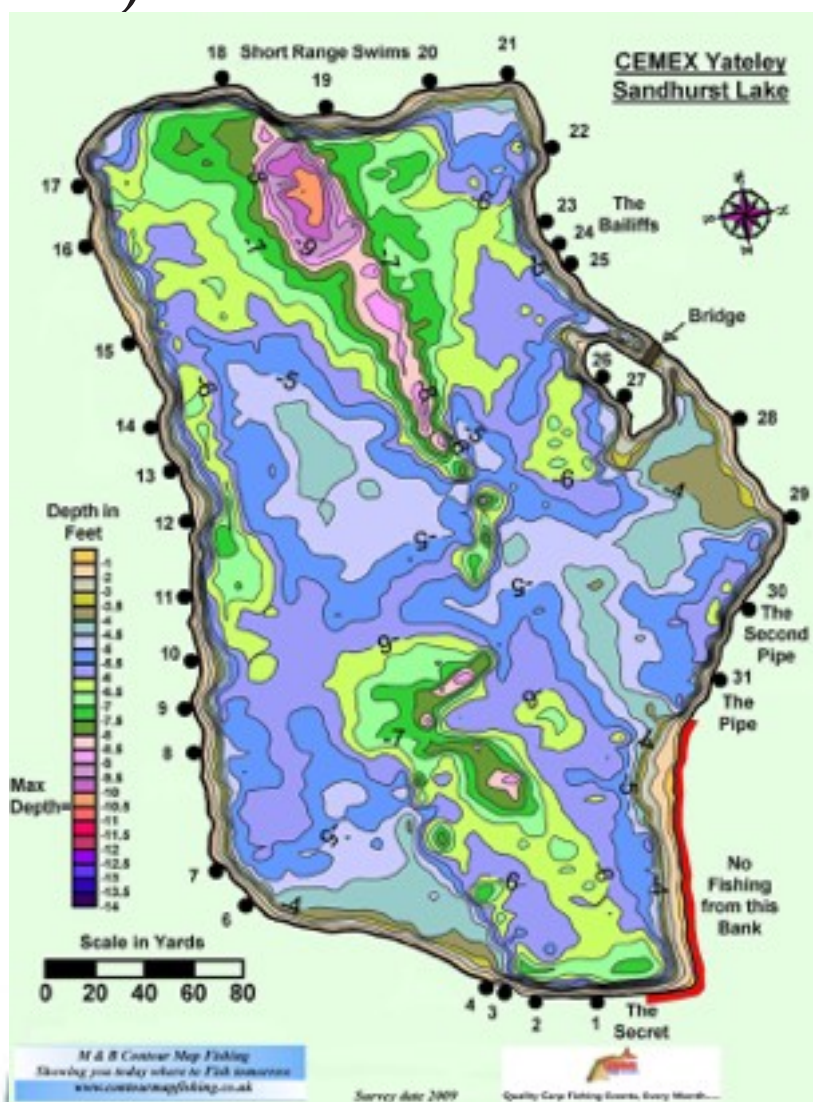
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A Chat with Maurice.....
M and B Contour Map
Fishing
by Brian Dixon



Whether you are an angler planning a real campaign on a water, or those who like to travel around and gain a little knowledge beforehand, we all try our very best to gain as much information about our chosen target waters as we possibly can. A few hours spent on the internet researching what we may be facing one day is never wasted time, and whilst studying catch reports from previous anglers may start to paint a picture of the lake (with the occasional red herring thrown in that you have to take with a pinch of salt) the only true way to starting to even begin to understand any lake is to know what is under the surface.

Where are the shallows? Which bank gets first sunlight in the winter? Where is that bar really running from, and to? Where is that infamous “secret hole” that everyone talks about, but nobody can seem to find?

Well one person in particular has all the answers.... And this month we say hello to Maurice of M and B Contour Map Fishing.

T.C: Welcome to the pages of Talking Carp Maurice and thank you for taking time out to have a chat with us.

M&B: Brian many thanks for the opportunity

T.C: Some of our readers may not be aware of who you are yet, or the service you provide, but may have stood intently studying one of your maps at their local fishery, so can you tell us about the service your company provides?

M&B: Our core business is producing contour maps and they give a complete water depth profile of the water, the object being with this information a fisherman can decide on what he thinks is the best swim given the time of year, water temperature etc. Also with the ability to be

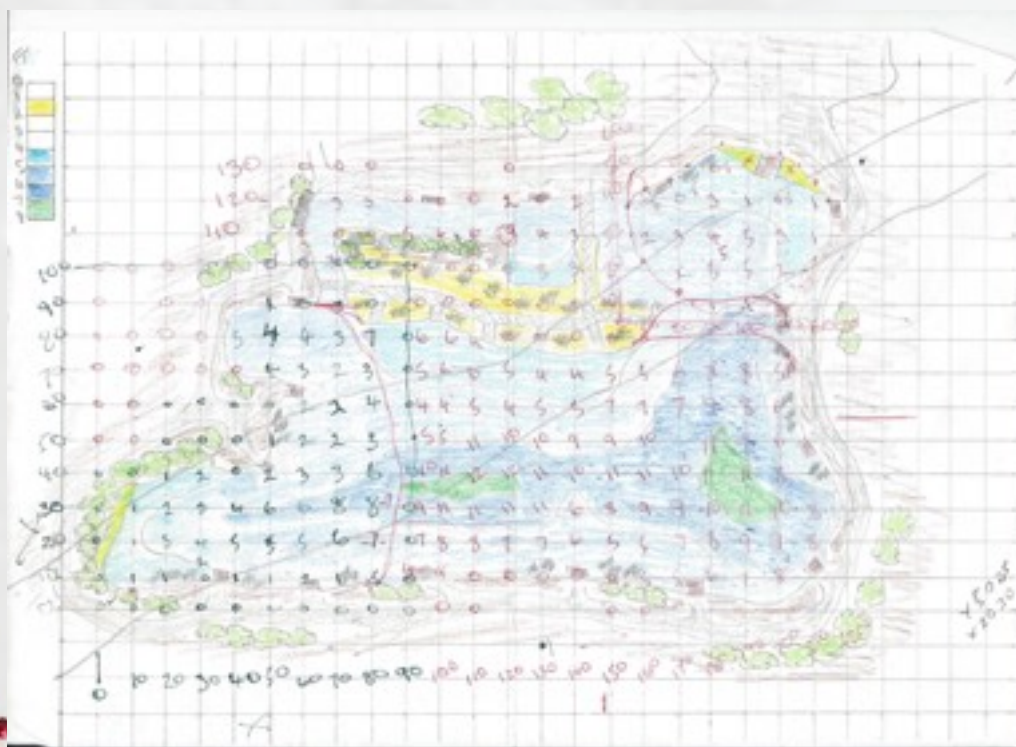
ble to download from our site or view on the fisheries own website this decision can be done the evening or even days before arriving on the bank!!

An offshoot to our business is that as we collect the data to produce the contour maps we can also collect data that can be used to produce plans of fisheries, so an angler can get a good idea of the layout of the fishery, where the car parks are, what facilities are available etc.

T.C: How did the idea come about to start the company? I'm sure there is a story behind it all?!

M&B: The idea of a water depth map came after a day's Pike fishing on a cold February day back in 2007. I had not fished the lake before and needless to say I blanked.

On the way home the cogs started turning and I thought if only I had a map of some sort that showed all the water depths of a lake including the bottom topography, where the deeper holes are, any channels, plateaus and so on.



T.C: Obviously the mapping of any lake isn't the be all and end all, and every angler should still take the time to pop out a marker or straight lead to actually find the areas they wish to find on your maps, but a

contour map takes out hours, and sometimes days of trying to learn a peg or a bay etc.... and that is more time spent fishing so that can only be a bonus, would you agree?

M&B: Yes Brian this is the main objective as you say it's a tool to aid the fisherman in making an informed choice in choosing a swim that may give the best chance on a given day and when they arrive at the venue they can go straight to the swim of choice and as a back-up if they have studied the map before arrival and their first choice of swim is taken they can very quickly choose another or maybe with a bit more work they have already listed the swims in first, second, third choice etc.

T.C: Without giving away any of your trade secrets of course, from a fishery owners point of view... what is involved in getting a lake mapped out? From the initial telephone call or email to yourself to the actual finished product? We imagine it can be quite a big job.

M&B: We are very self-sufficient so once we have agreed a date to conduct the surveying and a price with the fishery that's it, we arrive with everything we need, it's nice if we have access to recharge



the batteries for the outboard but this is not essential.

We aim to have a finished map one week after the surveying date but this can be fast tracked if needed.

The equipment we use is totally bespoke, the GPS system runs sub-meter and our depth sounder and transducer set up is a surveying grade unit and has no other function; it has been developed by the manufactures to solely give an extremely accurate single point depth with minimal averaging that you would get with a fish finder type depth sounder set up. We record a depth GPS position every second and to make sure we cover everything we use a tablet linked to our system that shows a constant GPS path trace.

T.C: We know you have already mapped some of the countries more famous waters as we have looked at maps of Sandhurst, Yateley and other former Cemex waters, Wyreside lakes Fisheries, Cromwell lake and the list is continually growing... is there any particular water out there you would personally like to get your teeth into and see what's lying beneath?

M&B: This is not an easy question as I have already surveyed some of the most iconic waters in the UK along with some very special syndicates and also privately owned waters. I can't single out just one lake for the future as I never know who the next email or phone call will be from but fingers crossed I'm sure some well know waters will be added to our portfolio very soon!!



T.C: Has any of your visits to these waters thrown up any real surprises that nobody really knew about?

M&B: Nearly always features are found that nobody knew about, one from earlier this year being at Lac Breuil in France, when we arrived Mark the owner told us quite a bit about the depths so we were not expecting to find any surprises for him. we surveyed the lake as normal and left mid-day the following day we got home and uploaded the data, when we had finished processing the data and sent the finished Contour Map to Mark he was surprised to see a channel running down the bank between a known plateau and the bank. Mark was unaware of this so in a boat he got armed with an echo sounder to check the area, Mark came back to us the next day confirmed the map was spot on, so yes nearly always there are hidden features!!

T.C: Finally, what about you? What about your personal fishing? When you actually get some time yourself to wet a line, what kind of fishing do you like to do, and where can you be found these days?

M&B: I have fished all my life, well from when I was first able to hold a rod, this consisted mainly fishing for brook trout with my older brother and then progressing to fly fishing in my teens on Weirwood and Ardingly reservoirs but I started to do more coarse fishing as time went by and now my fishing is targeted mainly for carp but I still like to get out over the colder months fishing for pike (now at Ardingly res.) and perch on a local club water.

T.C: Thank you for joining us and giving us a good look at you and your company and what goes into these valuable mines of information. It has been our pleasure.

If you would like to know more about M and B Contour Map Fishing, or maybe you are a fishery owner wanting your lakes mapped then please visit the website www.contourmapfishing.co.uk

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PLAN B (CROMWELL) BY NATHAN ABBOTT

So, the time has come for my October shutdown at work, and also the time I head out for my annual 3 nights away fishing. Obviously as mentioned last month Bluebell Lakes got sidelined as there was a charity match being held there during this time, so we then ended up going for Cromwell. Neither me nor my friend Carl have fished here before, but we know the amount of large fish this place holds is amazing, so it is definitely not a step backwards in terms of venue choice.

All my gear ready and waiting Carl arrived at my house at around 4:30am Wednesday morning and we were soon on our way, weather conditions leading up to the trip was abit all over the place, I had been checking most days to see what Cromwell was been faced with. Heavy rains and very cold nights for a period of days then mild and bright there was really no Inbetween it was either incredibly cold and wet or sunny and mild. We arrived at the gates at around 7:30am ready for the gates to open at 8am. This was a case if your booked on at this lake, get there first at the gate to ensure you have first choice of pegs. And it's exactly what we did.

Once we got in, we were greeted by Nathan the bailiff who was super helpful throughout the entire time we were there. He was brutally honest from the start (which I would rather), the place has not done a fish in almost 2 weeks, with the only action being a guy the previous weekend losing a fish and that was it. It was going through abit of a difficult period more than likely due to the very up and down temperature changes? Either way we were here for 2 days and 2 nights, so we were going to do our best. After a couple of laps around the lake, and taking notice to what Nathan had said, we settled on a double peg the far end of the lake, plenty of water to go at for the pair of us AND most importantly, other anglers had stated they saw fish crashing each morning in these pegs... That to us was a winner.

Camp all set up, I went about mapping my swim, I didn't want to just be half settled thinking I'm on an ok'ish area, this place was fishing extremely hard, so I spent the good part of 2 hours finding out what was in front of me. Noticing that most anglers had said the fish were showing out to the middle of the lake, the whole area was at least 15/16 foot and I checked it up

on the lakes website as they have a very handy gradient map and it all checked out, this area for me, 17 wraps towards single willow in the distance was my chosen target. I was feeling very confident despite the hard goings of the lake, I think I've definitely got a newfound confidence on the back of my new lake challenge, as this is technically a similar situation... new surroundings.

My rods were shot out on their chosen destinations. Right hand I had a simple Ronnie with a trusted white hi-vis 14mm cell, and my left a 15mm cell tipped with buoyant maize to have it waft slightly over the baited area. My baiting at first was very shy. I had been told that

the last two anglers in here put quite abit in. So my plan was to have no more than 10 medium spods over the area and leave that, as the way I looked at it, if they have filled it and not had a bite, the fish just haven't fed on it, so I will top it up with just 10 spombs of my own fresh bait, I didn't their huge pile of bait in the swim and my huge pile, maybe they wanted a little pile as they haven't took his lot? Time would tell. As the first evening drew in and we were settled we lit the BBQ away and drank a couple of bottles and just sat back and took it all in, what a fantastic looking place it is I must say. I'd even go as far as saying one of the best looking waters I've fished in the UK,

super clean and the onsite hut is very handy. Baits and tackle for sale, toilets and a very clean shower to use at your disposal.

The first night came and went and morning soon broke, the sun was rising, and I had already been up since 5am looking and listening for



any signs of life in the lake. And just as the other anglers had said, the carp started to show themselves just as the sun started to pop up. "This is it" I thought, I'm nailed on for a take or even my mate Carl, the fish were in our area jumping and splashing. Soooooooo.... An hour passed and the showed stopped and we didn't even have a take. Not a pip. Was my alarm broke or something I thought!? We both stood scratching our heads in disbelief. The time kept passing and we really started to think our moment of opportunity had been and gone. I went and spoke to the two other fellas abit further up the bank and asked if they see them shows, yes, they both said. They were doing the exact same the previous morning and the morning before that, and the two guys who were fishing in the same pegs as me and my friend suffered the same scenario, total shock and questioned what they had done wrong! To me it was a perfect case

of "if they aren't having it they just aren't having it" you could have the absolute best of the best of everything and even lower the rig in by hand but if they don't want it they won't take it for the hell of it.

So I spent this day making up some zigs at different depths (bright sunshine again I couldn't resist) whilst Carl looked around some more of his water with his RT4 bait boat, I'll be honest I'm not big into bait boats I don't really know a lot about them, used them once in France back in march that's about it, but my friends bait boat is an impressive piece of kit it has to be said I honestly think it had more technology on board than some



actual Navy warships! With Carl settled on a very good looking marginal area for one of his 3 rods, I had zigs out and just tried different colours and depths throughout the day. The second night approached, and I went back to bottom baits. The plan was to add another 10 spombs out to freshen my area up and sit on that, then if nothing again, I was going to go for 13 and 14 foot zigs at about 5am and wait for them fish to hopefully show in the same area. My thinking was maybe if they won't take off the bottom at that time of the morning a zig will definitely get their attention if they are spending that hour of the morning just in the upper lairs.

So like clockwork, 5am came and I heard the first signs of shows, I thought this has to be a sign of good luck as it's the same time each morning now and I'm geared up and ready to get these zigs out. So, with one rod on the bottom still and one rod on zig with another ready tied depth I was sure to get something.....
andddddddd, nothing!

Again! What seemed like another prime moment just proved to be nothing but a tease of what could have been. I was devastated, again I really thought our luck was in. But it just shows again that you could be fishing what you believe is correct for the given situation and it just drops your hopes and efforts like a lead balloon! Left with so many more questions than answers. What did I do wrong? Should I have added more bait? Or no bait at all? Etc... But you just have to accept also sometimes that if it's not happening it's just not happening. Everyone else on the lake blanked hard like we did. I'm leaving Cromwell knowing I did everything I could, I took a lot of time to find my areas, I didn't settle



for anything half arsed, I had my rigs, hooks, baits all prepped correctly and didn't leave anything to chance, I didn't just sit on my hands I stayed active with different approaches of zig fishing. So, I can't grumble, any blank is hard to take but you can always leave knowing you did your best and that's what matters really! We had a good laugh whilst blanking and enjoyed the lake itself, as I said, such a stunning place.

We would have gladly done a 3rd night here at Cromwell, but the lake was fully booked that weekend for a match, we had a chat with some of the lads coming on and told them about our time there and the areas we fished for whoever drew our pegs. Wished them the best of luck and we left.

Now the plan was for the Friday

night to go to A1 pits, but due to the previous weeks heavy rain and the heavy rain that that had started again at about 10am, the river banks were bursting so no night fishing was permitted, so a quick phone call to my local water Catterick, and we were on our way back up north. We arrived on the caravan lake and fished to spots we both know and have caught from many times in the past and just hoped for absolutely anything to lift our spirits abit. Long story short and sticking to the theme of catching sweet **** all... We blanked again, and I didn't just blank, I blanked in style by falling into the lake whilst trying to bait a marginal spot up. With Carl almost choking to death with laughter at my plunge I just looked up and said "pretty much sums this 3 day session up" I



had a smile on my face though I saw the funny side as soon as I stood up. Water up to my thighs, no spare clothes left I had to wear some of Carl's old trousers stuffed away in the van. Then the rain started again, and it was abit of a miserable wet and cold setting, but it was still fishing ad we were both still enjoying been out there giving it a good go.

We win some and lose some we can't forget it's all part of the game of carp fishing, if you let a long hard blank or even a fair few blanks put you off returning then you won't cut it as a carp angler I'm afraid. I've been lucky to have more highs than lows this year with my fishing, and

even though I set a yearly personal challenge, the real goal is to just go out and enjoy it and try and keep learning and better my skills, when your blanking your still learning if you pay close enough attention. Next for me will be a winter on my local Catterick, I'm hoping to achieve a minimum of 3 fish from December to March. Too some it sounds easy, but Catterick can be very unforgiving in the deepest parts of winter as I found out last year. Il let you know how my first couple of sessions have went next month.

Ciao for now.

Nathan





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Keep catching as temperatures plummet

by Dale Hatt

It's that time of the year when the days are getting shorter, and if like me you still like to get out on the bank and have a go for them in the colder months you really do need to do your prep in order to keep catching as the temperature plummets.

My method of doing this is to keep the bait going in right into the colder months, and I know it's not that's easy for most of you as bait is expensive, lucky for me I'm in a privileged position being part of carp company team and have access the best bait around, Although you can do it cheaply with things like maize, corn, vitalin (dog food) and I've had some

great fish doing just this.

I'd been baiting once per week and putting in between 2-4 kg per time weather I was fishing or not. I really do think this gives me an edge it keeps the carps metabolism elevated and keeps them feeding right into the heart of winter

I'd turned up to my syndicate to put in some bait on a Wednesday with the intention to fish the Friday night, I'd been baiting the corner swim as it gets the first of the morning sun and over the last few weeks the fish always turned up there at first light to get the first of the winter suns

warmth. I decide to wade out to the reeds and put 4 kg of tuna and garlic bottom baits in 16mm along with 4 pints of maggots, hemp and corn, and within 10 mins I was in my way home Lovely old job.

I was to come back Friday after work and do the night. I was sure they would be on the bait.

Well Friday soon come, and I was on the way to the lake. When I arrived, I carried my stuff around to the corner swim like a mad man eagerly waiting to see bubbles a cloudy water. But nothing. It was a wet and mild day and the fish just wasn't were I expected them to be.!!

Scratching my head, I began setting up thinking they would turn up at first light

Just before dark I'd seen 7/8 fish in the shallow water around the island about 40 yards out, I couldn't ignore it even though it wasn't on the baited area.

I cast a solid bag loaded with maggots, tuna and garlic crushed baits, chilli pepper and tuna and garlic dip! At just before first

light the left hand rod was away! I'd ran out without any boots on!! It was soaking wet out too! I hit the fish and began to walk back on a tight line to the bivvy to put my boots on. I managed to get them on, but they were on the wrong feet and they were killing me. I went to flick on my head torch and that wasn't on my head either. It must have fallen off when I was asleep!!!! Oh no!! Eventually I netted the carp in

complete darkness, phew not sure how I managed that. But I was buzzing.....

She was a good fish I'd say from the weight of her I'd estimate she was approaching 40. So, it's got to be one of the special ones I'm sure it's the "chestnut" I told a friend in the point swim!! I sacked her up for an hour to let her get her strength back and to get the camera equipment ready. My friend Matt came



around just after 7 am to help me out with pics, I carried her out the water in the sack, and thought to myself wow she's put some weight on she feels heavy! Must be all that bait I've been trickling in.

Upon opening the sack, I was stunned to see in-fact it wasn't the chestnut it was the lady of the lake "the radish" at 43lb. I was absolutely gob

smacked!!!! it didn't sink in really until I'd done the pictures and put her back but I'd been after her for 7 months!!! And I'd finally got her.

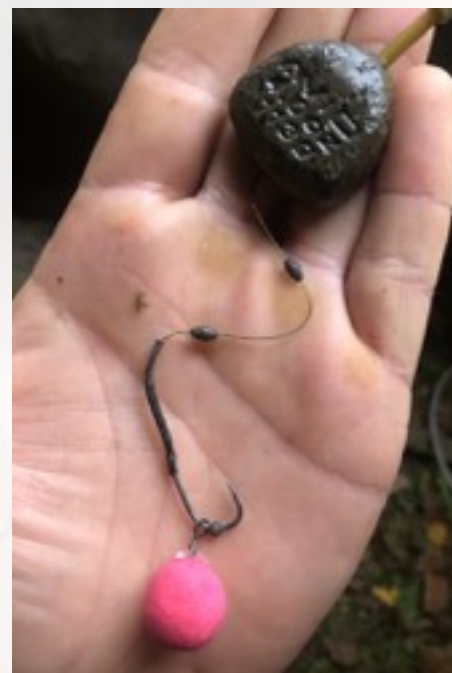
Thanks to my good friend Matt Wilson, for the pics and for being part of my special moment!! There's nothing like a big winter carp in all her colours!!

Good luck if you're out this weekend, it


only takes a second!!!!

All the best

Dale Hatt



CARPING MAD!

A person is seen from behind, sitting in a white inflatable ring that is floating in a lake. The person's arms are outstretched. The background is a vibrant sunset with orange and yellow light reflecting on the water. The title 'CARPING MAD!' is overlaid on the top half of the image.

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Shropshire dream



by Karl Brandreth

This was around the time I started to get the hang of all things carpy. I was fishing various lakes around Cheshire with a good head of carp in, but nothing bigger than mid teen sizes. I was fishing with my good mates Keith and Russ, and I still do to this day, but at the time they suggested that we go and have a crack at RH Fisheries. I said "where?". It turned out to be a new lake in the heart of Shropshire with some massive carp in it. No other fish were in the lake, so I thought "oh, this is going to be so easy" - how wrong I was! We did a couple more trips to Cheshire lakes to discuss how we were going to tackle this place called "Monument". Monument 1 + 2 are day ticket lakes at £60 for 36 hours and £40 in winter, you can only use their bait which

you can buy in the bait shop, but you can use your own hook bait.

We met up early in the morning and made our way down to the lake. Once we got to the gates we were so excited, like little children.

The bailiff turned up, opened the gates, and we were in the car park staring in awe at the lake. It looked so good. We had booked 3 pegs on the left of the lake and made our way round to set up our gear ready for the weekend ahead and got the baits out.

My friends and I stood chatting when Keith's rod ripped off resulting in a 24lb mirror - what a lovely carp it was too. We were so happy for him, but no more fish fell to us that weekend and we just enjoyed the session.

That began my addiction to carp fishing, and Monument.

I decided to get myself in order and go more often.

I booked back on a few times but couldn't get my head around this lake. Each time I struggled but kept on going back again, and again until - BOOM, I had a run. Then another. I had caught 2 small mirrors on foam and maggots, on a standard hair rig that was the old gear from Taska which I had in my armoury.

I booked on again, bought some maggots and, when I got there used their hemp and maize to make small bags of pva mesh balls, about the size of a golf ball. (Again, with the standard hair rig with foam and maggots).

This time another couple of small mirrors. I thought, I might be onto something here,



swim, I saw the size of it, it was a huge fish 33lb 8oz and in cracking shape.

We took photos and carried on fishing, with me praying to the carp gods. I only caught a couple of small stockies, but I would gladly take that over a blank.

so I concentrated on going mainly in winter. I found there was less pressure from anglers and the fish are bigger. I did go a few times in summer with Keith and Russ, I was still struggling but Keith and Russ both caught again. I remember Keith catching a few 20's but this one time, with Russ, I was on peg 15, Russ was on peg 14. We had been there a few hours and I had fallen asleep then, all of a sudden this stranger was talking to me. I came out of my slumber and this

guy said Russ had got a fish on the bank. Walking to his swim, trying to wake up, I noticed Russ shaking like a leaf. I'd not seen him like that before so it must have been a good size. On approaching the

As time went by I was starting to slowly get the hang of this hard place, sort of. I always spoke to local anglers trying to get as much info as I could. As a few winters went by I ended up on peg





7 and my mate Darren on peg 6. I was there for 4 days and it was freezing. In the middle of making tea the first night my right-hand rod went into meltdown, again on maggots. I jumped up and lifted into what felt like a big lump. It ran me around for about two minutes but then the hook pulled free - GUTTED. I spent the next 3 day freezing my nuts off with no more runs.

The next time I was there was with a friend of the family on peg 7 again. Nothing happened the first day, but the next morning my phone rang and

the guy I was with said he had one in the net. It was a high teen mirror. I went back to my peg, made a brew, and stood chatting next to my rods drinking my tea, then WHAM! Right hand rod on a snowman style bait signaled a blistering take. I picked the rod up and played the fish. Eventually it came over the cord of the net and I punched the air in celebration.

We weighed the fish and the scales settled on 23lb on the nose. I was so chuffed - my first 20 from Monument 1. On the next session, January 6th, 2018, I was on peg 6, I'd got



my gear set up the first morning and ordered breakfast from the shop. Tom (the fishery manager) had rung the bell so I gave my receiver to the guy next door and asked him to keep an eye on my rods. I quickly ran down to get my butties, got back to my peg in no time, threw my butties on my bed and went over to the guy in peg 7 to collect my receiver. Whilst I was stood chatting my receiver let out a single bleep.

I walked back to my peg and stood looking



at my rods. The next thing my right-hand rod received a blistering take. I picked up the rod and met with a huge resistance, my legs started shaking, the guy next door came over and

assisted me with netting the carp. It came up close to the margin and it was a huge frame of a fish.

Eventually I got control and the huge lump went over the net cord, SHE WAS MINE! We weighed the carp and the scales went around to 33lb, a new PB, I was absolutely gob smacked and excited at the same time.

I caught the 33lb mirror on a piece of foam with maggots on top, with a small pva mesh bag with hemp, corn and maggots in, about the size of a golf ball. I had a new PB and I thought I might have cracked it, but no, I had gone a





couple times after that weekend and blanked. I went back to my local lake for the rest of the year and enjoyed a good fishing year as I had tallied over 55 carp. November 2018 rolled around and it was time to go back to Monument 1.

My mate and I had arrived at the lake on the 24th and it was the day before my birthday. I was in peg 3 and my mate was in peg 2. We set up and settled down for the weekend ahead. This peg was not a big cast area, it

was only short range, so I got my foam and maggots on and got my rods out. I made about 6 small golf ball size pva mesh balls and scattered them around the area. I had

drifted off to sleep, being tired from work etc, the next thing my right-hand rod made a strange noise, not a run type of noise. My bobbin went up and down like a bream take, but there's no bream in there. The next thing my left-hand rod burst into life and let out a full-blown take. I struck into the take and there was nothing there, so I put my rod against my bivvy. My right rod started again, up, down, up, down, so I struck into what felt like nothing.



I started reeling in but then I hit resistance and it took line as if I had hooked a speedboat. On playing the carp I thought "this feels like a good size". I managed to net the carp and looked in the net, it was a nice-looking mirror. I rang my mate to come and help me weigh it and take photos. It weighed in at 31lb 8oz and I was so happy to have caught a second thirty from M1 - and believe me, it's a hard lake. Anyway, that was me back on my local for the rest of winter into 2019.

I had caught over 35 carp up to writing this for talking carp so, at the end of August, I went back to M1 with Keith, but I blanked. Keith managed to catch a couple of stockies, which I mentioned in one of my previous tales. I went onto one of my local (club) waters,

for a quick overnight session, and caught a 23lb 6oz common on the first time out with munch baits bio marine and cream seed on a d-rig snowman.

I was pretty impressed by the 23lber, because there's a lot of smaller carp in there. So, to catch a 23lber on first cast is a one in a 100 chance of a 20lber.

What I am getting at, with this story, is that if you persist and don't give up it will all come right in the end, but I'm still in pursuit of the Shropshire dream - a

40 lber. Until then, I'll keep at it.

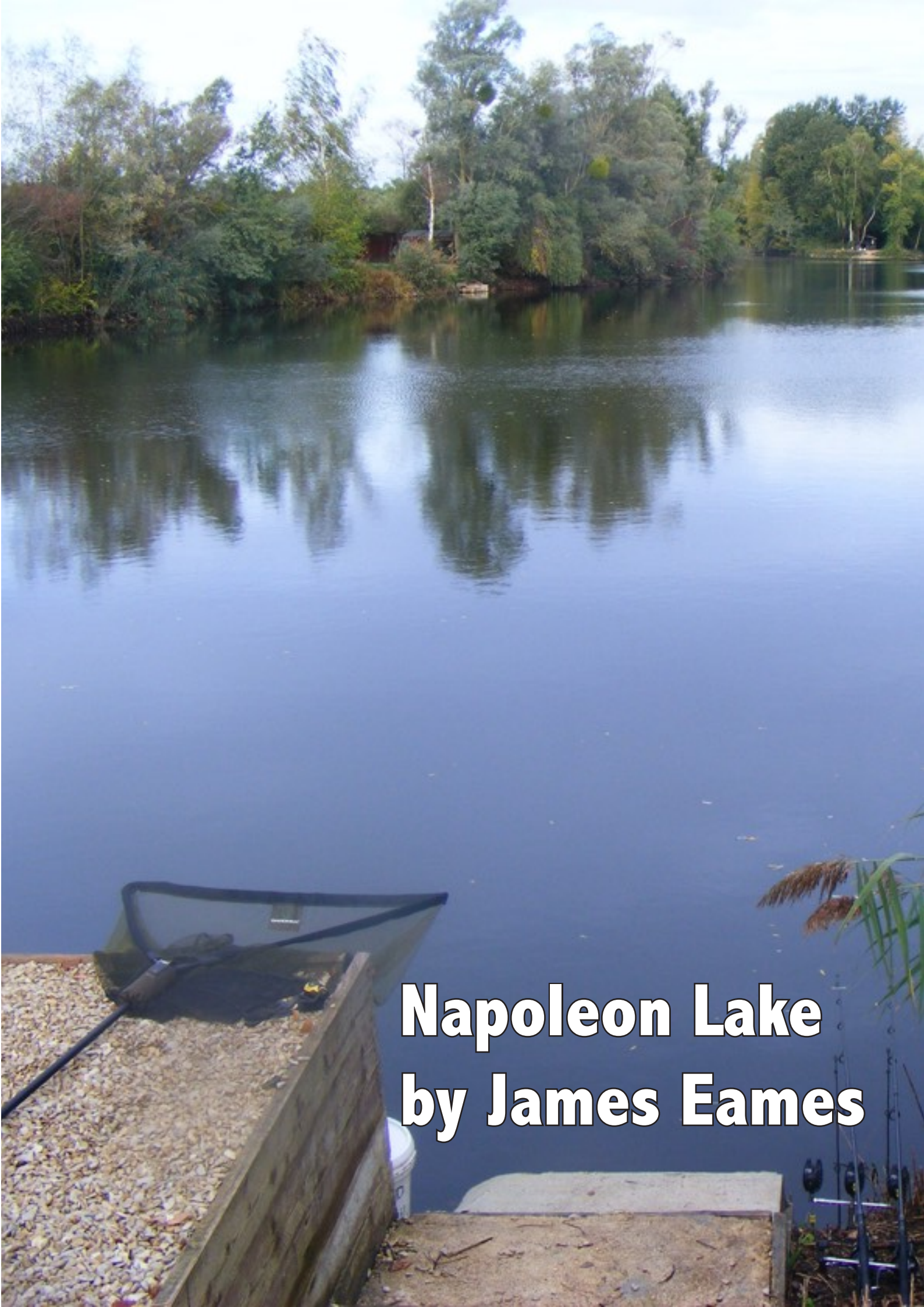
Thanks to Keith Matley and Russ Watts for the photos and thanks to Brian Dixon for giving me a chance to do write ups for Talking Carp. **(T.C our pleasure.... Keep them coming)**

Until next month,

Tight lines.

Karl





Napoleon Lake by James Eames

This trip had been booked for over 3 years in advance, and when the time came to go, it was an air of excitement and anticipation as to what was in store for us ! After keeping an eye on the catch reports weekly leading up our trip on social media, it was clear that the bigger fish were coming from mainly one swim, swim 1.

So with a group of four of us making our way as normal down to the tunnel and crossing in next to no time,

we arrived in Vitry le François for our routine social Friday evening of a meal and a few beers as lots of English anglers do and visit the "Claddagh" pub in the square.

During our time in the pub, we done our normal routine of drawing out numbers for swims.... I got choice 2!

We awoke with sore heads as normal on the Saturday morning.... so then eventually we made our way to the Supermarche for

supplies for a few days and then headed off to the lake approx half hour away.

This was my first time to the lake, and I was quite happy with the lake as it was very nicely laid out before us, with wooden type gazebos in all swims with fridges to keep your beers...and some butter cool of course!

After a good walk round, it was swim choice time...another member of the trip who had first choice chose swim 4...to which I couldn't believe my luck! so, without further ado...I chose swim 1... who wouldn't!!

After the setting up of the bivvy and laying everything out to hand if I needed it, the first night passed and went, to which I did have an odd bite to which when I struck, I had whatever it was on, for about 2



seconds and it came off. I put it down to a tiny cat maybe, but oh well.

The Sunday night they were boshing right at the back of my baited area, to which, may I tell you that the bait I had taken was a home rolled Icelandic red with salmon meal, salmon oil, nbutyric acid, aminol plus and Solar squid and octopus. I have always had my baits rolled by Carp Company for donkeys years and had the Ice Red with Caviar and Cranberry flavours every time, to which has over the years done me proud ! So my choice to roll my own was down to the fact that I hadn't got anywhere really to keep it frozen, although bait rolling is time consuming...it can be rewarding when you catch fish on it and the hours made rolling are soon forgotten !

So...back to the Sunday night in question, the whole night ended quietly..... with me not having a bleep on the 2 rods I had baited heavily in open water. Monday was pretty quiet throughout the day, although there were definitely fish around as they would give themselves away now and again, but again, they were showing right on the back of my baited area, so I just simply thought, sit tight, when they have it they will have it !

Monday night passed uneventful and Tuesday morning I see one top to my right, along by my right hand rod by a bush. 20 mins later I had a slow take on that rod, so I gently pulled into it and it was heavy....this fish just kited on a tight line to my right going slowly into a corner, to which after a minute or so I still hadn't made anything on this fish and it ploughed up the margin....and I got cut off....gutted !!



After about 15mins or so I composed myself to re-setting that rod up again, I was sitting at the table in the gazebo when I had 2 bleeps, I looked up to see the middle rod just tightening up, and as I walked to it, the line pulled out of the clip and I slowly pulled into the fish..... this...felt heavy, and not like anything I had

experience of !

This fish sat deep, didn't do anything really, just slow, stayed deep and plodded, all I could think was "please don't snag me up or worse"...just come up and into the net please, whether you are 70 lb or 7lb...I just want you in the net ! Eventually the fish started to tire, and I got my first

glimpse of it...it looked ok...but then it seemed to get bigger as it kept on plodding under the rod tip..."come up will ya" or words to that effect were spoken, and then Barry (the fishery owner) came over to lend a hand netting.

Eventually it hit the surface and Barry did the honours.... Barry's



first words were “you ever had a 60”?!!! I said I had but simply replied what are you on about! he told me it was one of the big ones called “one eye”. I was like...oh ok!!

So, I got everything ready and we both lifted the fish out.... what a fish! I didn't have a clue how big one eye went...so imagine my surprise when it turned the scales to 65lb!!

All the effort of making bait for the trip proved worthwhile with that 1 fish, a new pb to boot, beating my old one by 3lb 12oz!

The next hour or so I celebrated with a couple of beers from the fridge and seeing the rest of the chaps who went with. Eventually I returned to the swim and put the rods back out, and I soon had another in the net.... a mirror of 49lb 12oz off the baited spot again, what a

day!!

Tuesday evening came and went and then Wednesday was here.... first thing Wednesday morning I had a bite off the bait again, this was a common of 30lb 08 oz, nice...first common. Afternoon arrived and same rod was away again, this time a much more plodding fish again and heavy, eventually landing a 44lb 4oz mirror. Brilliant!

Wednesday evening came and I had another bite over the bait...this turn out to be a mirror of 33lb 08oz, then I put that rod back out after seeing one top over the bait and within 2 mins of the rod being out there, it was away...a real lively fish that took line from the off, and lots of head shaking,

it kited right and found a snag...that was that, cheers !

The Thursday and Friday were both total washouts, the rain never stopped, but the fish just simply stopped feeding, and then an early Saturday morning pack up ready for the trip home.

Not many fish to report, but I think the trip as a whole was a complete success, I have to thank Carp Company for their superb bait, you know its pure quality, the fish agree!

Cheers!

James







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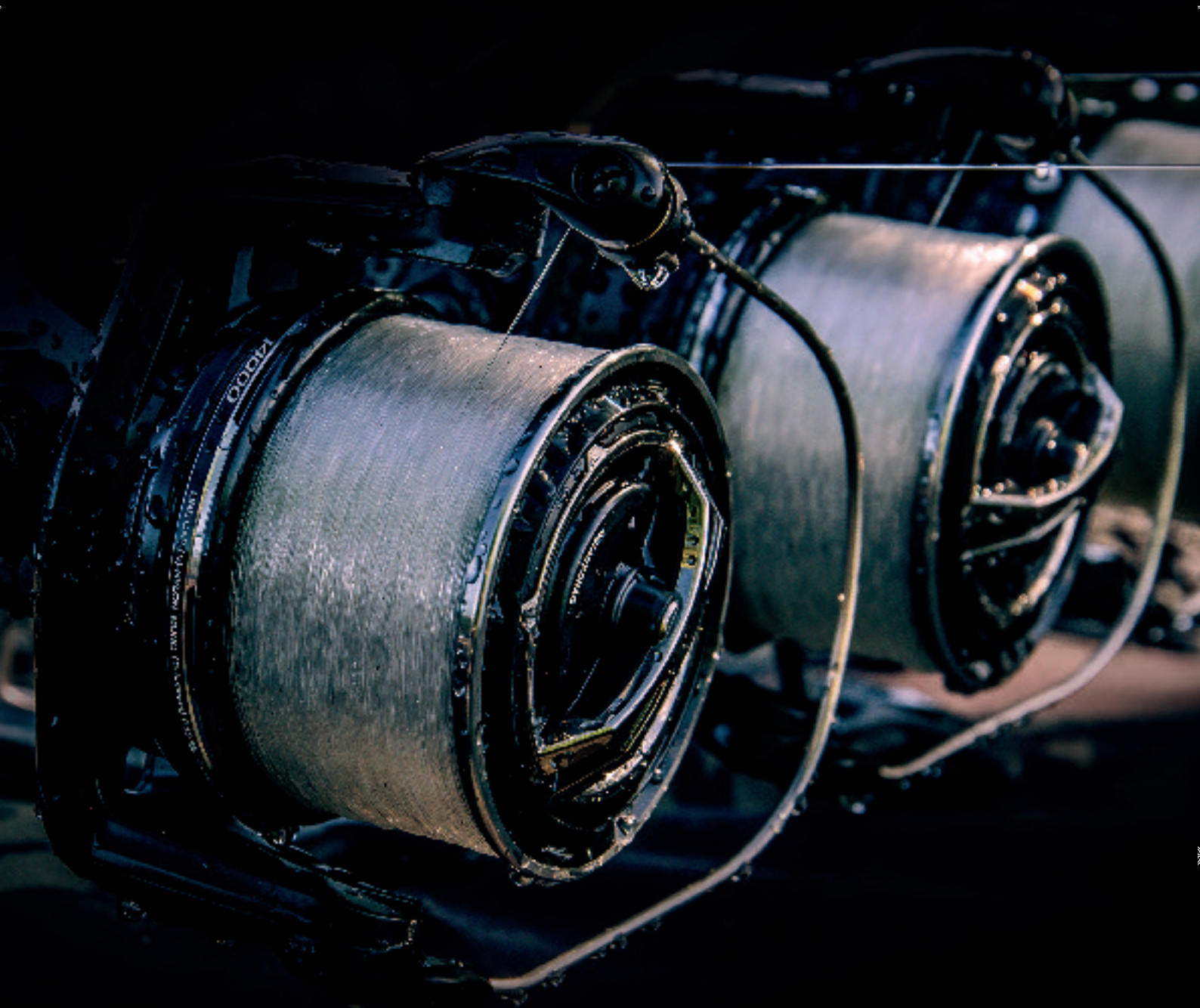


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Reflections by James Quinton
Βετφections πλ James Quinton



As I type this, I'm on the bank of Snake. Its Autumn and getting a lot cooler. The water is colder, and the swans are doing their best to keep other birdlife away from their turf! Why am I on Snake again? Still one or two I'd dearly like in my album. And as I still bailiff here why not! The surprising thing is I'm the only one down here! There's been a few shows and I've had some liners but no takes sadly. To be honest I'm not surprised. I didn't do any pre baiting as I was planning on spending the night at our winter water but heads up from the bailiff saying there was 5 on there and on a small shallow pond it's a no go from me. The pond in question is Inworth, a small place in Tiptree with a stock of about 45/50 fish that go up to 42lb. Problem is it's shallow.

Like 4ft in places, with a family of swans which make it tricky. And the fact it's less than 70 yds across to the other side means if you have someone opposite you there's a good chance, they will end up on you! So, the better option for me and Merlyn is to fish it during the week and stay away at weekends.

So why reflections? The banks are quiet. The nights are longer and so it's the best time to reflect on your year so far. With that comes the questions- was I happy with my bait? Was I confident in my rigs? Could I have worked harder on location? I caught some nice fish this year, but I must admit I don't think I've fished my best. My head was too busy thinking about other waters, and what to do next. I guess this year I've felt abit

of a wonderer, fishing different places but not settling anywhere. And I know we have all been there! A winter water has been chosen so that's one good thing! What has been nice this year is introducing my partner Merlyn to the sport which I wrote about before. She has been doing well and had a casting day with the ladies' carp academy run by Bev Clifford and sponsored by Sticky Baits. There were 22 girls there all really keen and enthusiastic! The coaches there were great, and all the girls hit new ranges, with Merlyn hitting the clip at 34 wraps! Although the weather was pants it was a great day. And I know she is looking forward to one of the socials they run during the year!

After the casting day Merlyn was itching to

get the rods out. It was really nice to see the enthusiasm, so we went off to Oliver's for the night. I fished the far the margins and Merlyn fished one on the far margins and one under a tree. The nice thing about this trip was Merlyn was using rigs she tied herself. These were simple German rigs I'd shown her, and she was using Manilla dumbbell wafter on the far margin rod and a pineapple after on the rod under the tree. She has balanced them out herself so when the first run came to her rod far margin rod, she couldn't believe it! We got it in and done some quick pics. That night I ordered a takeaway which was really good, and we watched an episode of

Cypography. During the night I had a run and a small common in the net. This one wasn't so keen on having its pic taken and decided to slip of the mat back into the pond! Morning came and we were having a coffee under my brolly when the resident cockerel was wondering around towards Merlyn's bivvy, a few seconds later her rod which was under the tree screamed off! I could tell this was a better fish and when she got it up, I thought to myself that looks a

20! One last dive and then she was in the net! Merlyn couldn't believe the size and I said to her that's a 20! On the mat she went, and a weigh confirmed 22lb! A new PB for Merlyn, she was so happy and hopefully the pictures show that! I think the pics turned out well!

It was so nice to see her get a PB. And I'm always buzzing to see others get that feeling, to realise why we do it and why we go. It's not always about the



catching but taking in the atmosphere and surroundings. Seeing nature in ways that others don't. The owls calling at night or watching the bats flying around occasionally hitting our rods! Those mornings where the mist is rising of the water and the sun is just coming up and we're watching the water coffee in hand, planning our next move!

That next move will continue next month. I've had a few nights at the new winter water and so far, it's been interesting to say the least. Fishing where you can't feel for a drop is an odd feeling. Do we put too much pressure on ourselves to feel that drop? I had a day of leading around and realised that

if you fish any more than 6 wraps out it puts you pretty much in the middle and the potential for others to fish on top of you. So, you can imagine it's going to be a tricky one to work around! Plus, there's bars that you can see whilst walking around which will cause issues with line lay, so strong leaders are going to be needed. Rig wise we will be using the noodle rig from Scott Lloyd. I really like how this rig sits and works and hook baits will be

Sticky Baits Manilla dumbell wafers and pineapple wafers too. I feel like it's too shallow for a pop up and I'm not a fan of the 360 rig, so a wafer is the next best option! You will hear about how it's going next time!

From both of us tight lines!

James and Merlyn

Thanks too
Taylors leadlounge
Sticky Baits
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The Final Chapter by Charlie Hayward

This was to be my final planned trip of the year. My wife's heavily pregnant with our second child and I'm pushing it already. This lake is a fair old way north for me 340 mile round trip and my pal officially can't give me any more guest sessions on there. Hoping for my own ticket next year if possible.

I headed up to the lake and saw the familiar surroundings, my pace quickened as I walked through the gate excited just to be there.

To no surprise the lake was a little busy but with the 72hr rule I knew most were leaving shortly or were already packing up. I

had a little walk around and after seeing a number of fish showing in the far corner I headed round and got the gear together. There's 3 swims in that far corner including the swim I had two decent hits off a few weeks back. Luckily for me that particular swim had been vacated the day before. I stood in the swim looking at my spots hoping to see some sort of

life. Almost an hour went by before I saw a bow wave and one decent carp head and shoulder not far from my "regular" spot. I set up and again and mixed up the usual mix of crushed and whole Icelandic Reds with caviar and cranberry, maize and some Aninol. As the area wasn't full of showing fish like before I only put out 5 spomb fulls just enough for a bite.



The night quickly came and went without any action. It looked quiet with very few signs of feeding fish so I started to plan a move, my pal had two bites in the night so the plan was to move next to him. While loading the barrow one of the indicators dropped back and the line went slack. I ran down and wound down furiously praying there was something attached. The rod took its curve and I was playing a carp. The fight was slow and heavy it just took line and stayed close to the bottom but after almost 10 minutes it was over a big dark back sat in the net. The carp

was stacked, short but sooo deep. I stuck him in the retention sling and called for my pal. He knew what fish it was straight away, a fish called the "Italian". Blown away we took a few photos and weighed him at 46.08 a fish that had been 50 in the past down in weight.

I unpacked everything and put some more bait out. Later that day I had a lovely brown almost leather looking mirror at 18lb. More bait and fresh rigs went out ready for the night seeing as my mate had night bites I thought I would try again. Nothing happened again through the night

so thinking the swim is somewhere they patrol and feed during the daylight hours, Most likely because of the weed.

First light I had another take and again this one felt a decent fish. It showed at range and even then it looked sizeable. Kiting on



tight lines from left to right, the fish tried doing me under a margin tree to my right but thankfully luck was in my side. In the net and on the scales she went 39.15 an amazing session again.

I went on to land three other carp in the remaining 24hrs weights being 28.07, 28.08 and another 30 at 33.04. I packed up

and pushed my barrow out of the swim before turning around for one last look and a cheeky wink to say thanks and hopefully be back next year.

I couldn't have wanted for anything else over the trips I've had recently. I've been very lucky and taken advantage of what's clearly been a huge hot spot for the fish. I was

honestly in the right spot at the right time.

I've joined a local syndicate for the colder months only a few minutes down the road from me. The fish aren't massive in there but boy are they stunners so fingers crossed I'll have a few more to show in the next few months.

Be lucky





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Unlocking the Mystery of 'The Secret Pool' – Part 2



by Jordan Davidson

So, we're well into the colder months now. The first frost has truly hit, which would usually see me on my local water, with a guarantee of getting a bend in the rod. However, I can't seem to peel myself from this 'Secret Pool'. Not only is it the "fish that got away", but with every visit I seem to be unlocking more and more, and hopefully getting closer to finding that key to success...?!!

Since my last article I have spent every spare minute on this pool and I have been adding bait every other visit, so as not to feed them up too much as I'm aware there are a few other people who fish this pool occasionally and I know they all try the pre-bait approach. Definitely effective, but with such a selection of bait going in, I didn't want to waste too much of my own.

One thing I had failed to do last time and knew was absolutely essential if I was to truly unlock the wonders of this pool, was to get my Marker Rod out and start to map out the lakebed. I began at the narrowest part of the lake, gradually making my way to the end of the lake where my usual peg would be. What I wanted to find was a nice deep hole that the fish may reside in during the colder days, a feature on an otherwise fairly featureless lake when margins cannot be considered due to the cold weather.

This is truly the first time I have ever had the luxury to fully map out a lake. As a young angler I have seen this done many times and it has always intrigued me, the correlation between Man, Rod and Pen to translate

the bottom of a lake so it can be fully seen and understood on paper is a lost or at best, a diminishing art in angling given the useful technology available in the new era of this game.

Of course I've used my Marker Rod in the past to map out swims or areas that look likely, but never have I had opportunity to not only avoid annoying every angler within my vicinity but I could unlock every single nook and cranny that can't be seen by eye, every crevices of the pool will soon be mine to explore, exploit and ultimately, help me to succeed in my mission...!

Cast by cast I felt like my chances of locating a likely spot increasing, not only had I learnt that the average depth is around 9ft, which I previously thought

was significantly shallower, but there were a few underwater features that with the addition of some bait, could these be the winning spots...?

One thing I did take away from this Marker Rod session was the amount of deep silt this lake contained. I touched on this in part one of this article however, the use of the Marker Rod and heavy lead has really highlighted this for me and caused me to pay far more attention to detail regarding my rigs and tactics. With this new information, I also realised that my location has got to completely change too...!

My previous tactics were short 4/6" Multi-Rigs with a heavy lead, fishing in a spot that I knew had produced during the week prior to my visit. However,

with the Autumn leaf shed well and truly out the way, my mind recalled a video on the Baitworks page with Simon Scott, regarding what a lake looks like 'with its trousers down'

In the video, one part of the lakebed was

covered with the leaves and debris from the Autumn shed and this accumulation of rotting leaves is apparently just as revolting for the Carp as it is for us. Therefore, this spot I had planned to fish throughout Winter was completely thrown



out as the leaves that gather on the bank are nearly knee high when making my way around the pool, therefore this end of the pool must be the same. So not only had I scrapped out the location of a likely spot, I have reduced the amount of lake I saw as 'fishable', therefore narrowing my search down even more.

The change of location due to this deep silt and leaves etc. I'm finding throughout

the pool also meant a rethink about my tactics. My approach of heavy leads and short rigs needed a rethink and I had two ideas in mind....

...One, reduce the weight of the lead so as to not drag my rig into the silt rendering it pretty useless, or two, increase the length of my Hook Link so if the lead does pull my rig in to the silt I'm still fishing with confidence...

fish I wanted to ensure the hook hold was "nailed" until it reaches my net...!

That then got me thinking about the rig 'setup' and as much as I'm not a huge fan of changing my rigs, I felt Multi-Rigs over the 6/8" mark become far less effective because the longer length of stiff material changes the mechanics of the rig. I therefore opted to use a standard 'Blowback' rig with a Size 6 Nash Twister, connected to a length of Bank Tackle Coated Hook Link material in 20lb breaking strain and a Nash 'Hook Kicker' and 'Tail Rubber', both from their Tungsten range and this would be presented over a bed of Boilies, Pellets and corn

After a very fruitful Marker Rod session and just before leaving, I added around 2kg



I opted for the latter as I wasn't prepared to sacrifice hooking potential, by reducing the lead size given the low stock of the pool, and my misfortune on previous trips. If I made contact with a

of bait on the spots I had found, each with a scattering around the surrounding area and not just on top of the spots.

I wanted the fish to feel comfortable feeding anywhere within the vicinity of these spots, therefore accurate baiting wasn't my approach, a simple catapult filling the areas, each at nine wraps out from my 'new peg'. I left that day with a real sense of accomplishment. Eight hours at the pool and although I didn't have a baited rod in the water the entire time, I learnt more about this water than I have ever learned about any other that I have spent years visiting and fishing.

It's the last week of November now, and it's been exactly a week since my visit with the Marker Rod. I've

returned twice since, adding a kilo of mixed bait each time to keep the fish coming back, however I don't know if the bait is even being eaten, I've no way to check the spots, all I can do is hope and keep my fingers crossed...!

My last session of November and my first overnight session of the year in real bitter cold, the hot water bottle was definitely out, and I was keen to get my bivvy up first for some shelter from the icy Northerly wind that

was coming in while setting up the rigs. I cleared some space in the new swim with a rake I had brought with me and also removed the litter left from previous visitors, erected my bivvy and begin adding half a kilo of bait to each spot. I had visited the previous day, so I didn't want to disturb the water too much or add bait on top of bait.

Each rod was set up and cast over the spots, the first one in a gully I had found around 13ft depth



nine wraps out. A 10" Blowback Rig with a Nash Scopex Squid cultured hook bait, donked on the spot perfectly, another small scattering over the top, that rod was fishing.

The second left-hand rod was not too far from the first but headed toward a Lily Pad bed that welcomes you as you enter the lake. This rod I chose to fish with a yellow wafter from Trent Baits, that looks similar to a piece of corn, and as mix free offering mix consists of boilies, pellets and corn, it hopefully wouldn't look too suspicious to any wary Carp.

I set my rods in place, this time with a few friends so I had company and more importantly, someone to go and collect the mandatory KFC that has seemed to become tradition on this pool,

even to the point people have suggested using the popcorn chicken as bait, mad I know!

The lads I was fishing with had not been on this pool overnight before, therefore the excitement was real and we stayed

up most of the night talking about my previous session, and talking through my article, which was a nice insight into my writing influence on my friends.

My friends fished two rods between them, and they were fishing



towards a deeper hole I had found previously. In all, we had four rods in place, surely it was time for the Carp to slip up and allow this water to show me one of its inhabitants...?!

Once my rods had been in for around four hours, I reeled in, checked hook points, rebaited so to maximise attraction, and re-cast to the spots.... but nothing was happening for me..... Something was still missing...

....I decided to change the right-hand hook bait to a hi-vis Nash Citruz Pop-Up in bright pink, hoping the visuals of this might 'lure' the carp in and be the final variable to catching these elusive fish.... I got my head down for the night, in the hope of a rude awakening from a savage take, however, at first light I was awoken by nothing but bitter cold

and a beautiful frosty morning. Unfortunately, my camera ran out of battery and I couldn't get the obligatory frosty morning rod and bivvy picture, and I hadn't managed to trip-up the Carp yet either.

I spent the morning chopping and changing my rigs, my baits and my approach hoping that the slightest change was going to make the big difference. My friends left early that morning and leaving me for the final few hours sat behind the rods, trying to calculate my next move. But before I knew it my time on this session had come to an end, I packed up the gear and made my way back to the car with more eagerness to return to the lake than ever before.

Although I didn't win this time I truly believe, with the research, time and effort I have already put in to unlocking this water, it won't be long until I have the crown jewel in my hand, that mysterious fish that got away...

To Be Continued....

Jordan Davidson

Instagram –
JDCarpFishing

Mentions – Bank
Tackle!





RED LETTER ROLLIN
by James Watson

We are going to take a look back to July and reminisce on the warmer climate that feels so far gone now that the winter is in full swing and the colder nights have taken a hold.

It was a Sunday morning in mid-July, and I was due to make the short 80 mile journey to Raker Lakes on the outskirts of York, a very pressured and at times quite tricky water with around 200 carp in 7-8 acres of water. Having fished here for years I do know the lake fairly well and on arrival at around 3pm in the afternoon all the weekend anglers had gone and there was excellent availability on the lake, so with no rush to get a peg and get set up I decided I would go for a good wander and see if I could see anything. As I walked the first half of

the lake I hadn't seen a thing but on my arrival into peg 11 (a usually productive peg at all times of year) I seen 3 fish show themselves in different areas of the peg and immediately dropped a bucket and went to get the rest of my kit.

As the fish were already present, I initially decided just to fish with IQ d rigs and a Rollin baits Inception cork dust barrel wafter tipped with fake corn and a small pva stick of matching boilie crumb. My left hand rod I already had a spot out to the left which was a deeper silty gully which to be fair is a known hotspot. This rod went perfectly first time and was shortly followed by a sprinkling

of 14mm and 16mm Inception, around 20 of each, with that rod sorted I was in a bit of a quandary on where to put my second rod, there is two reed lined mature islands directly in front separated by a narrow channel which the fish patrol through to get to either side of the lake.

I didn't want to follow the crowds and fish tight to the island so decided to fish 6-8ft off it just at the bottom of the marginal shelf, same rigs and bait application applied to that rods I sat back in anticipation as fish continued to show all over me. Now as I said



we are in mid July but there was a northerly breeze and it was quite cool, so I kicked back with the kettle on watching and trying to figure out my next move to try and bank one of these very pressured Raker fish!

With fish still showing regularly it was just on dusk and I definitely felt that I should have had a bite, so I decided to redo the rods just to make sure everything was perfect. With the rods now on the spots and 100% happy with them i baited with another 30 mixed sized Inception and turned in for the night rubbing my hands together certain of a bite during the night.

The next morning, I was up at 4.30 and my god did the fish put on a morning display whilst all the other anglers were still in bed. I was sat watching

feeling dejected and disappointed that nothing had happened with the amount of activity in and around my spots. I only had till dinner time before I had to be off so decided I would go hell for leather with the Inception just to try and get the fish to drop and have a bit of a munch. The previous evening I had put 2.5 kilo of mixed size boilies into a bucket and poured a full bottle of the matching glug over the baits, with that in mind I applied half a kilo over each rod and within half an hour my r3 burst into life and

the bobbin cracked the rod blank like nothing I had ever seen.... I was in!

After a very energetic battle I soon had the fish in the folds of my landing net with the inception barrel wafter hanging from its chops, on the scales the fish went 17lb 8oz which was a great start. Pictures done and the rod position back in the gully I rebaited both areas with another 50 or so baits and just as I popped the kettle on the right rod tanked off in the same manner, this fish turned out to be another mid double





of 16lb 4oz and in immaculate condition to boot. I really thought I had pulled it out of the bag on this trip but boy was I not prepared for what was to come.

With the 16 returned I popped the kettle on again and my left hand rod let out a flurry of beeps and I seen the line skating across the pond. After a very spirited fight I soon had the fish in netting range when my right rod had a twitchy take. I quickly netted the first which turned out

to be another mirror of 17lb on the nose, on picking up the second rod it didn't feel right from the off and shortly afterwards the fish fell off, my swim had turned into absolute carnage, there was stuff all over but I was absolutely loving life at this point.

I only had just over a kilo of bait left and thought sod it, I evenly split it and spread it over my two areas with the aid of a catapult. No longer had I sat back down than my right

hander melted off and a short battle ensued and yet another 16lb mirror was awaiting its pictures going 16lb 12oz. By this point I had just under 2 hours of my session remaining and I started to get greedy, Raker has a really good average size with around 1 in 4 fish being a 20 pounder and I wanted one!

Once I had set about the absolute chaos which was now my swim i started a slow pack down and left only my rods out in a bid to try and get my last gasp 20! With only 10 minutes to go my left rod positioned in the deeper gully rattled off and this fish went absolutely crazy it was going from left to right on mad 25 yard runs which had me thinking I was attached to a slightly better fish, after 10 minutes the fish took a big gulp of



air and she was mine, on closer inspection in the net it turned out to be a fish a similar size to the rest so decided to just slip her back none the worse for her ordeal.

I was secretly gutted about not getting into the bigger fish but on reflection of my trip I had no more than 19-20 hours angling on a very busy and pressured day ticket lake and in a mad 4 hour feeding spell I had banked 5 fish and lost a couple and had a couple of trailers go through my lines. I had gone through

2.5 kilo of Inception which by this point my weigh sling was full of excreted Inception and I ensued my journey home a very happy angler. The moral of the story no matter what time of year confidence is key and having a bait which you

are 100% confident in is a massive part of the puzzle already solved. I would just like to thank Steve at Raker lakes and Lee, Shaun and Dave at Rollin Baits for supplying me with an absolutely outstanding bait, and for any more information on the products used in this article please visit rollinbaits.net

Until next time be lucky and tight lines

Jordan Watson



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PRESS RELEASE

WSB TACKLE STEP UP AND SUPPORT THE ANLRS

The Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme (ANLRS) is delighted to announce that WSB Tackle, a long-established independent tackle wholesaler based in Cornwall, has become a corporate sponsor of the scheme recently. WSB wholesale a wide range of tackle from sea coarse and game angling to many outlets around the country.

Viv Shears, co-founder of the ANLRS, commented "The team at WSB have been very keen to support what we are doing within angling and, with their help, more tackle shops and anglers will get involved. The more bins available for anglers the more line we can prevent going to landfill or being left in the environment where it can cause issues with wildlife. As a volunteer lead, non-profit group, the support of the tackle industry is essential to help us encourage all anglers to start recycling rather than binning their lines. Let's hope that WSB Tackle is one of many to step forward and support the scheme over the coming months."

Along with their kind annual donation WSB have purchased several bins and will be offering them free of charge to their shop customers. These bins will carry the ANLRS stickers along with ones from WSB. They have agreed to be a collection point for their local tackle shops to drop off their line and WSB will arrange for it to be sent off for recycling.

Mario Massimino, General Manager of WSB Tackle, said "We are extremely proud to be Corporate Sponsors of the Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme. Stopping fishing line and its plastic carriers ending up in landfill and turning it into something useful must be the way forward. We are handing out recycling bins at our local tackle shops, fisheries and commercial charter boats. The response we are getting from our customers has been fantastic with lots of requests to get on board!"

The picture below shows WSB general manager Mario (on left) delivering one of the ANLRS bins to Camborne Tackle owner Graham.

For more details on the ANLRS, how to sign your shop or fishery, get involved or find your local bins visit anglers-nlrs.co.uk



Reviews

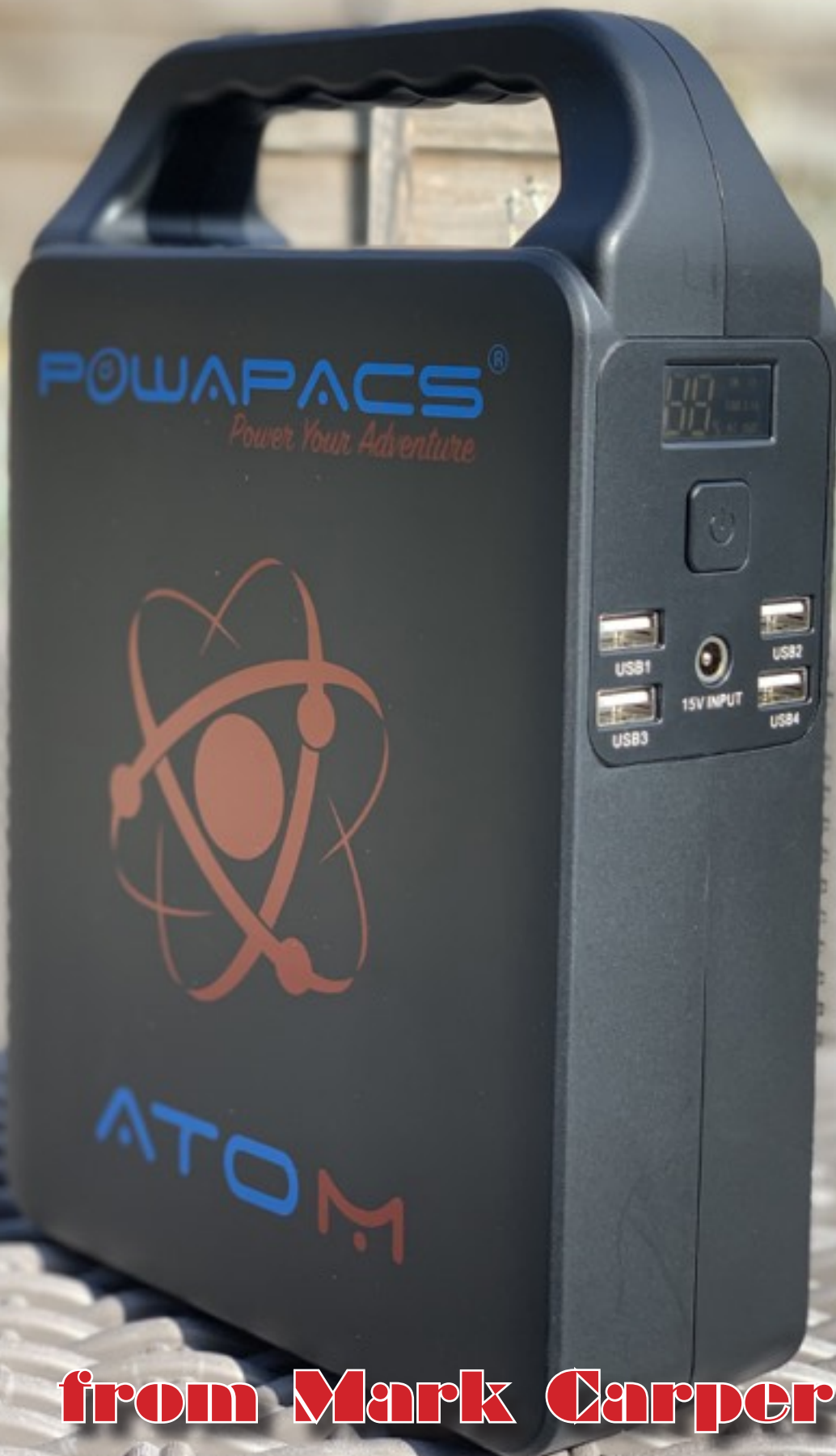
Featuring -

POWAPACS ATOM

*****Powapacs Head Torch*****

by Mark Galli

POWAPACS ATOM Review Update



from Mark Carper

Some of you may recall I did a review of the fantastic 'Powapacs Atom' Off-grid Power Supply in the October Issue (No.:44) of 'Talking Carp' Magazine...I'm sure I mentioned it (once or twice)...!

For those that read it, you will know I had one little issue and that was the way the 'switch' to operate the in-built light could be depressed accidentally and turn the light on, if not transported in its own supplied Clam-Shell case.

Well, I've just had word from the guys at Powapacs, that the issue has been resolved...!

Instead of having to press and hold the button for a few seconds, to turn the light on or off, you now have to 'double press' the switch to operate the light.....This now eliminates the issue I had when transporting the unit in either my Nash Scope Ruckall or Nash Logix Table Tidy, or indeed, any other type of bag where the switch

may press against a side wall.

Great work from Powapacs in recognising what was a fairly minor issue and only affected those that did not use the supplied Clamshell Case and putting a fix in place on future units...!



New *****Powapacs Head Torch*****



Have you seen their new Head Torch, the 'Ultralite'..?

It comes supplied in its own 'Clamshell Hard Case' and has a SUPER BRIGHT COB LED with a Maximum Brightness of 450 lumens..!

It has three light colours too, White, Red and Green...

It features a MONTION SENSOR, so a simple wave of your hand can turn the light On or Off. (You can also turn off this feature.)

It has a High Capacity USB Rechargeable Battery and will power the light at 450 lumens white brightness for over two

and half hours and at under 60g it is extremely Light Weight and Comfortable

If you don't want to wear it as a conventional 'Head Torch', it also comes with an interchangeable bracket that has a clip...

...for me though, the best part is the 'Light Memory'. For example, if you are using the 'Red' Light and you turn the light off, either by the Push Switch or the Motion Sensor, when you next turn it on it is Red..! Not all head torches do this and you have to start with White first, which absolutely ruins any 'Night Vision' you may have had....A simple feature but a very effective and usable one on this super little compact light..



Quick Details

Model: Ultralite

LED Light Source: COB LED + XPE LED

Power Source: Polymer Lithium Rechargeable Battery

Lighting Period: 12 Hours

IP Rating: IP54

Lamp Body Material: ABS

Colour: Black,

Product size: 60*40*38mm

Weight: 54g

Lighting Modes: 5 Lighting Modes

Charging Time: 2.5 Hours

Talking Carp will have a full 'User Review' next month.

www.powapacs.co.uk



Talking Carp Competition at the Northern Angling Show

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

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

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

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

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

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





Catch Reports

Featuring -

Carp Company Team

Carpr Baits

Vader Baits

White Springs

Plus much more



Dave Tozer reports in with these two Yorkshire beauties. Opened up my winter ticket and just done a few days on Ladywood. I managed 2 mid double commons 17lb 12oz and 16lb 8oz

Both fish fell to DNA nuttas wafter over a tiny ball of crushed nuttas in pva mesh on a German rig with a size 6 viper tackle hook. Dave.





George Maunders

Was hard fishing in such cold and windy conditions but managed to sneak 3 fish out over a 48hr session. 2 20lb+ common carp and a monster 56lb catfish. All caught on a 4ft zig with black foam. To be the only one to catch on the lake while I was there was a great achievement in my eyes.





Martin Rich

Lady Bird Lake on the Colorado river system in Austin Texas

A couple of nice commons captured on snowman rigs after a difficult month fishing



Andrew Scott

Andrew caught this 29lb1oz common carp from Twynersh fishery.

It was caught 30 yards out near the margin on a solid bag, stiff hinge rig with a size 6 pink and a wafter





George



George





**Ivan
Barbel -
Snails**



Tony 38lb





Simon





CARP COMPANY

Chad has dusted off his rods and got straight back in the action with this lovely dark chestnut mirror.

Heres what he had to say

I turned up on a day session at a lake that I'm planning to spend the winter on.

I positioned a bait in a silty channel and sat back to relax and soak up the atmosphere. Two hours later my left hand rod ripped off.

After a short fight the carp was sulking in the bottom of the net.

On the scales she went 30lb 6

End tackle - Rig Marole

Successful Bait- OPM





Team member Chris got out on the bank and had six fish up to 30lb on a recent overnighter.

Successful Bait- Icelandic Red



Catch Reports



Scott Peppiatt

Chillies Fish from the famous Chilham Mill

Here's what Scot had to say
Well what can I say 2nd trip out on the OPM and my 2nd 40+ banked!
"Chillies fish" at 44lb backed up with
"Brush tail" at 27lb 8oz, 24lb 8oz mirror and an 18lb common. The carp just can't resist the OPM



Heres a beauty from a recent trip for Team member Lee.

Tip lakes "Fully Scaled " at 34lb 6

Successful Bait- XTC and Fruity Necta



Heres Liam with another beauty from a recent trip to his water.

" Single Scale " @ 46lb 4

Great angling from all of us.

Successful Bait- Icelandic Red



CARP COMPANY



Colin

Rodney
Meadow
Stunner

Colin has sent in this lovely dark old warrior that I'm sure would make many an angler happy to have in their album.



“The Unknown Mirror “ at 35lb bang on Successful Bait- Icelandic Red



CARP COMPANY



Martin “Earthworm” Mitchell
Martin continues his recent run of carp with this lovely creature.

Heres what he had to say.

Sometimes things are meant to be.

After hearing that my target biggun was banked on a water I have been targeting to another angler and feeling a bit deflated, I felt a change of scenery and water was needed to recharge the batteries to speak.. so, I decided to jump on a few overnights as a guest on my pals club water... not knowing huge amounts on the stock and lake itself I kept it basic a 5 bait stringer and single 18mm with a few scattering of freebies resulted in this 30lb 8oz mirror.



Successful Bait- OPM

TalkingCarp



CARP COMPANY

Neil Taylor

Just got back from a wet and windy 48hrs. The weather conditions couldn't have been any better. Managed to get amongst the fish. Landed two pukka commons 28lb 8 and 32lb 4oz.

Fishing almost in the corner of the lake. Fishing across to the far margin at the bottom of the ledge in about 5ft of water.

Successful Bait- Icelandic



TalkingCarp



CARP COMPANY



Sam
Yeomans



Here's Sam with a lovely clean mirror from a low stock pit.

Over to the man himself. Low stocked lake with bites hard to come by. I baited a small area with the ever faithful Icelandic Red and some naturals which provided a fair few bream and a chunk of a carp @ 41lb 8oz!

Worth sitting out in the rain and

wind over night for. The Icelandic red coming back out onto the landing mat shows the carp love it.

TalkingCarp





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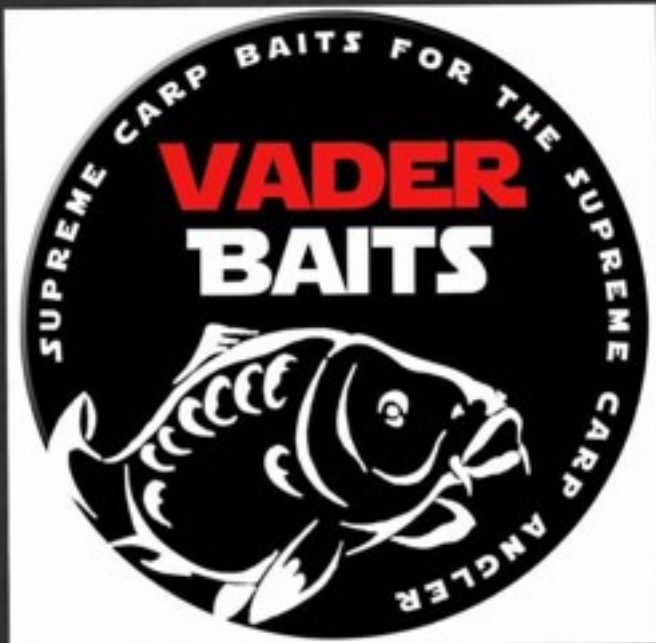
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**Team member Adrian headed to Stafford moor fishery for a 48 hour session with fellow team member Matt. The session turned out to be really hard going with the first frost setting in and the lake filled with other anglers. Adrian did manage to bag himself a nice 19lb mirror to falling to glugged Le Nutz pellet with a white SaTaN pop up fished over the top!
Great catch Adrian**



Team member Richard headed to one of his local waters on Saturday. After setting up he casted to the spot he had put a small amount of bait out when arriving. Within 45 minutes Richard was into his first fish weighing in at 8lb 5oz and quickly following he also landed a 9lb 3oz carp. Just before getting his head down his rod shoot into action and resulted in him landing a an 8lb 3oz common. The morning came around and after re-baiting and re-casting Richard landed a 5lb 2oz carp to finish the session! These fish were tempted by a mix of Krilla 14mm boilie topped with a pink Blackfudge pop up and the all new Krilla wafers! Good angling Richard



Team member Tim headed to one of his local waters on Saturday. After setting up he casted to the spots he had put a small amount of bait out when arriving. With the first day and night being very quiet on for Tim he got his head down with hope for tomorrow. The morning came around and he re-baiting and re-casting and eventually the fish started to feed again resulting in Tim landing 4 commons weight in at 6lb 14oz, 9lb 8oz, 13lb 13oz and 14lb 7oz! These fish fell to a 14mm Le Nutz boilie topped with a SaTaN pop up to balance. Good angling Tim



Team member Tomus got out on the bank for a few hours and managed to land himself two carp. The first carp weighing in at 22lb and the second a 10lb ghost carp! Both fish were tempted by a SaTaN boilie topped with a SaTaN pop up fished as a snowman presentation on an I.Q rig with a few handfuls of matching boilies over the top. Good angling Tomus

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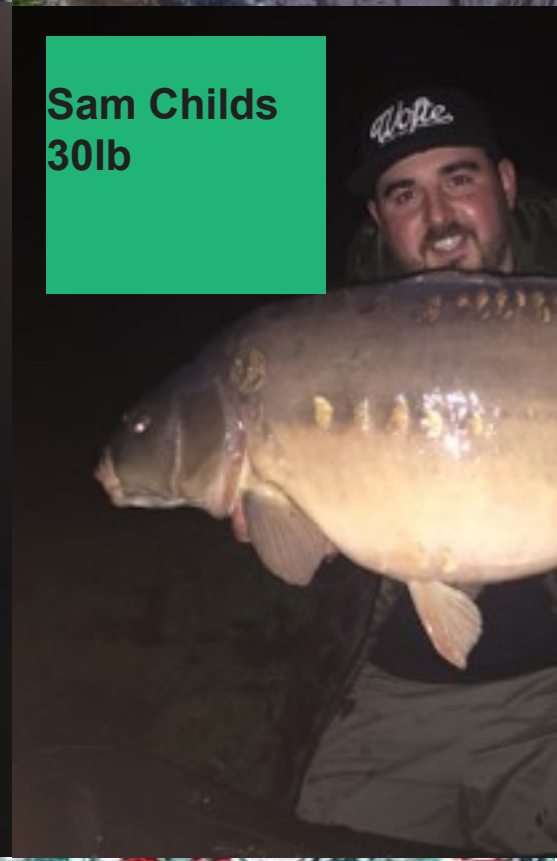
Sam Childs
18lb mirror



Sam Childs
28lb



Sam Childs
30lb





**Radu moise
with a 31lb
4oz mirror**



**Simon
Clayton 28lb
8oz**



**Sam Childs
27lb mirror**

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

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

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

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

We do have the odd weeks left for 2019 and we are already booking for 2020. We do have our offer on for a minimum of 4 anglers we offer a free apartment for the duration of your holiday.

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

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

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

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





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**Coming in next months edition -
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sports biggest names!!!!!!**

**Please send your articles and catch reports
by the 28th December 2019 for next months
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brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk
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