



Issue

50

April 2020



*Inside this special edition -*  
Jules joins us for an anniversary chat,  
Joe Turnbull, Russ Guise, Andrew Murray,  
John Flewin, Scott 'Geezer' Grant  
Plus catch reports reviews and much more

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# Hello and welcome to a rather special edition for us... issue number 50!!

When we started this magazine back in January 2016 we really weren't sure how it would go, how it would be welcomed or whether it would even be going in six months... but we wanted to give something back to the sport we all love so much and we decided to give it a go !! And here we are.... We wanted to create a magazine written by the angler, for the angler.... And thanks to you... it has become the magazine you see before you today.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank my Talking Carp partner Mark Faulkner who's imagination and computer skills bring you this visual delight every month...

Dave Harnick who sits in the background but gave me the kick up the ass and the means to get started when I was sat in his café on Pendle View fishery. A special shoutout to Mark Galli and Jason Sandiford who work tirelessly behind the scenes, although Mark has also stepped up to the frontline with some great interviews and reviews lately too. An extra special thanks to all of our writers and contributors over the years, as without you guys...we would have nothing to read... especially our very own writing legend, Scott "Geezer" Grant who has the privilege of being the only person who has been in every single issue!

I would also like to thank all the companies who have supported us over time with giveaways and prizes for competitions.... Especially our Santa's Sack...which are becoming very popular!!! (keep watching for more) Most of all... Thank you! Our readers!! Heres to another 50!!

*Take care and stay safe in these uncertain times.*

**Brian, Mark and Team Talking Carp.**

[www.talkingcarp.co.uk](http://www.talkingcarp.co.uk)



# *Inside issue 50*

*Cover shot - Julian Cundiff*

## **ARTICLES - from page 6**

**A chat with.. Mr Cundiff - Brian Dixon**  
**A mornings carp angling - Joe Turnbull**  
**Winter Madness on Jenkins - Scott Geezer Grant**  
**The Million Dollar Question - Russ Guise**  
**Fishing and stuff... - Andrew Murray**  
**Pressing The Red Button - John Flewin**  
**Looking Back - James Quinton and Merlyn Ginns**  
**Winter Thoughts And Reflections - Steve Gilbey**  
**Clay Lakes France work party - Ryan Salisbury**  
**Rig change - Karl Brandreth**  
**Bait be different or followthe crowd - Carl Milton**  
**Carp Safety - Richard Handel**  
**The Social - Jordan Watson**  
**The Start of Something - Wayne Grant**  
**The search for Bling - Steve Pickering**

## **Reviews - Page 136 -**

**Skills broolly - Brian Dixon**

**CATCH REPORTS - from page 142**  
**Vader Bait, White springs, Wyreside**  
**plus all of your catches !!!!!!!**

*This issue is dedicated to the memory of Sylvia Coward*



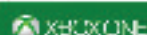




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*A chat with.....  
Mr Cundiff*





## Times are changing... The end of a chapter... And the start of the new era.

So, here we are.... The BIG 5-0... issue number 50!! and who better to share our joy with, than our long term friend and all round good guy, Mr Julian Cundiff.

**T.C** Welcome back Jules....

The first thing we want to talk about is the current change in one particular area, and that's the printed word era. Now, as you have been in the fortunate position of being in just about every carp publication since the 80's, from contributor, to regular writer and also editor, and we know you are a fan of the rock music, wrestling and fitness magazines, how does it make you feel seeing the end of an era happening as more and more publications close their doors for good?

**J.C** Number 50, wow time flies and well done guys. So nice to be in again after last issues interview and even better get to cover something close to my heart....print. As a kid I was never topflight at school (it was a Grammar School) and the only subject I excelled at was writing. Mum and dad had daily papers, books and magazines were a big part of our house, so I guess that's where the love started. In fact, the only 'B' grades I got at 'O levels' were in English, the rest being C, D and E! As I grew older it was all about fishing and music so Angling Times and Coarse Angler, Sounds and Kerrang were my staple diet along with Men Only too of course. Through my friendship with Tim I had an 'in' into the fishing world and was soon writing, compiling and even editing them. Off the top of my head I have contributed to The Carp, The Carp Catcher,



Carp Fisher, Big Carp, Carpworld, Crafty Carper, Carp Talk, Carp Addict, Total Carp, Advanced Carp Fishing, Cyprinews, Carpology etc. Now that does not include general fishing magazines like Angling Times, Anglers Mail, Coarse Fisherman, David Halls ones and so many more so I think it's fair to say I've done my bit. Times change my friend and so do the desires of new generations as we well know. Print wise in the carp fishing world all we have left are The Carp, Total Carp and Carpology. I guess CarpFeed too but as it comes out as part of Angling Times once a month it's not quite the same TBH.

What do I think about the print era going, or reducing to bare bones? Well I try not to be too sad about it TBH as things out of my control are 'not in my garden' as the saying goes and I can't let something I can't influence upset me. Course I'm sad but I'm also very grateful to have lived in the golden era of print. What is the saying? Better to have loved and lost than to have never loved at all eh....

I've lost some of my great reads in music, bodybuilding, pro wrestling so it's inevitable that fishing will go that way too. It's not that people don't go to gigs, listen to music,







follow wrestling, lift weights or catch carp it's just the way that media is consumed that has changed. All about the mobile phone, tablet and maybe desktop in that order buddy. Imagine a kid fishing who has always used a Deeper and you design and show him the greatest marker float ever.... he ain't buying it! Same with print magazines it's not the quality that is lacking (Total,

Ology and The Carp have never been so good) it's the audience that is decreasing. Us older buggers won't last forever (and COVID is not helping) and print is not a medium newbies turn to.

**T.C** Talking of the COVID-19 outbreak, it is good to see the industry pull together so very quickly, with day ticket venues, private syndicates, and angling clubs all closing their gates to the public for the greater good, and we have also noticed a lot of independent companies closing their doors for trading for the foreseeable future, and when you consider the huge impact this will have to the livelihoods of those involved it is a big gamble for them....but times like this common sense seems to prevail doesn't it?

**J.C.** I must admit we were in Tenerife when COVID really started to make the news in the UK but luckily our place is in the middle of nowhere and we took sensible precautions. Funnily enough we usually bring friends back tobacco and cigarettes but on this occasion we brought back soap, toilet roll and hand sanitizer... As soon as we



were back I cancelled all my social engagements, charity talks and tuitions and even a few 'It shouldn't happen to a legal advisor' talks. Some people were not happy at all saying I was blowing it all outta proportion.....they've gone pretty quiet now. My last fishing was the afternoon BEFORE Boris made the announcement that fishing was suspended as it did not fall under one of the exceptions. Fair play to Nash and Korda for immediately supporting that by closing down but I have to say some others (organisations, waters, anglers) need to hang their heads in shame. Looking for ways round it, asking for clarification and so on.... disgraceful. This is not a fourth rod, a close season trip, a guesty...this is potentially putting peoples lives at risk by spreading it you morons. I made my stance very clear, blocked dozens of imbecilles and no doubt lost some friends... By and large it has been good, but I have been disappointed by some leading lights fence sitting and not banging the drum from day one. Show some balls guys and lead by example in the social media circles. Des, Matt, Ali and co have been awesome though.... Gamble? No choice really as the government will only play softly softly for so long...

**T.C.** We made it through the foot and mouth epidemic a few years ago, we have faced the SARS outbreak and other





adversities that get thrown at us, yet together we seem to get through it and come out the other side... as long as common sense and precaution prevails above all else. Now one thing we would like to raise with you is recently you have been quite vocal on social media regarding your own personal fishing, and being questioned at to why you are not out there “chasing chunks” and constantly trying to break your personal best.... Has it come all too commonplace for some anglers to be focused solely on “How big was it” and automatically judge someone else’s angling on just one fish?

**J.C.** Yeah, I did read that comment on Twitter and from someone who had a considerably smaller PB than me...hey ho... I stopped all this size and numbers thing a long time ago, I believe 1994 if my memory is not letting me down. I’d had 43 x 20’s the year before and was determined to beat that. I fished hard and come November was on 43. Caught two more on an overnigher and clearly remember that when I put the second one back, I couldn’t recall what the first one looked like just a few hours previous.... I had become fixated on numbers rather than catching them. From that day onwards I genuinely have not set myself weight or numbers targets but about giving it 100% EFFORT be it for a double, twenty or forty. When I caught Decade at 49-06 in 2012, I’ve not weighed a fish since unless fishery rules say I have to. For my records I know ‘roughly’ what a double, twenty or







thirty looks like ...I don't need to weigh it! Yes, I get that people in the initial honeymoon period of carp fishing think bigger is better, but you sort of grow out of it. I hope? When I meet Terry, Sir Pete, Nashy and co we NEVER ask each other about sizes and numbers, and I can tell you

**CATEGORICALLY** that you are judged **NOT** on what you've caught but how you are as a person. I know some anglers who have some great big fish to their name, but I wouldn't spend time in their company ever, nor would most of the carp fishing world! I have no idea what the PB is of most of my carp fishing friends and icons and I guess vice versa. Bit like bodybuilding really. In the early days it's all about how much can you lift? In time that gets forgotten and you were either a great bodybuilder.... or you weren't... Have we lost sight of why we are doing it? Well the great thing about carp fishing is that its different things for different people. There is no definition (thankfully). Timeline is everything and the era you grew up in probably defines what it is for you? Mine was the eighties where a twenty was a big fish and that's why it still is to ME now, what some other bugger thinks I could not give a toss TBH. Those who took it up in the noughties and thereafter may have their own parameters.... good for them. Do it on your own terms and (when we get back to doing it) you will never stop enjoying it!



**T.C.** Each to their own...my dad taught me not to worry about what others were catching but to simply use my own experiences as a yardstick. Was I happy with my fishing? Did I have a good day regardless of whether I bagged up or caught that elusive Cheshire mid twenty that's rumoured to be 60 years old...? Did I enjoy myself? If and when any of those questions get answered with a "NO" ... then it's time to take a long hard look at my hobby and myself. Now then, back to the chat, as this is entitled "End of a Chapter" we would like to quickly take a look back at some of the chapters in angling that have helped us progress through the years.... So, from the very early days of the Wavelock broily, and dodgy chairs and the first bedchairs, the monkey climbers, Cardinal reels and the one piece suits to the modern era.... What would you consider the three biggest breakthrough products that have helped carp angling progress positively?

**J.C.** I guess the easiest answer is that 'product' wise the hair rig, the boilie and information (in whatever format it is consumed) have helped carp fishing progress positively but that's probably not what you are looking for my friend. Rather than name three products because 99% of them are just an adaptation, refinement etc of

something that was going years ago I am going to cover three 'items' that we all use that have become so refined that without the progress in them we'd definitely be finding carp a lot harder to catch. And remember my timeline will look at products after 1984 when I started to carp fish seriously





**Mainline** - I now cast out and NEVER worry about whether it will break at all, not one iota of worry. When I started it was Bayer Perlon or Maxima and you were limited in both range, consistency and strength. Now you have monofilament, fluorocarbon and braided mainlines to cover all situations from hook and hold, to fishing at 300 yards to fishing on the surface etc. Heck it is so affordable too. 1000 yards of top quality line from Nash, Korda, Gardner, Fox etc under £20....

**Hooks** - same again, never have any worries at all about them opening out or their sharpness. You can now get an out-of-the-packet size 4 that is sharper than a 10 from years ago and a size 10 now that is stronger than a 4 from years ago. Sharp, affordable, available and in a variety of designs to obtain the rig mechanics you want. No more looking round for Sprites, chiselling down a 34021 to something like sharp etc...

**Hooklength** - back then it was monofilament or Dacron and they were both inconsistent and not very good TBH. I was never a fan of mono hooklength as I tended to fish pop ups and they never sat right at all. Dacron was fine (Masterbraid) but so thick and not supple enough around the hook though. Dave Chilton revolutionised things with Kryston and his range and now we have something for every situation, every pocket TBH. No worries about tangles or breaks.... incredible.



So, forget trendy bivvies, buzzers, waders, rods and reels ALL of which have played a part the humble mainline,



hooklength and hook are your real best friends...

**T.C** Now that is a fantastic answer, and probably testament to your continued success... attention to detail and the truly important pieces that you need to get right.

Finally we have chosen a question from one of our readers, Simon Ursell, to ask you:-

“Jules, I am three years into angling, and have learnt quite a bit, but I still feel very new to it all. I fish on my own quite a lot and always questioning myself as to whether I am doing it right, so this is my question to you... What would you consider to be the core to learning this sport? Good starting points? I don't mean this rig and that rig, but the true basics.... Like watercraft, the nature of the carp, why do they follow the wind or go the complete opposite way? I understand it's all a massive learning curve and I am enjoying learning every day...but any pointers you could give me would be great.  
Many thanks. Simon.”

**J.C.** Don't worry about it Simon, it's quite understandable and probably something many people struggle with. The one thing Nash, Korda, Fox etc can't sell you is experience and that is one of the main reasons some anglers SEEMINGLY catch more than others...time doing it. Of course there are those more naturally gifted (as there are in all sports / hobbies etc) but generally the more you do the easier it becomes. I'm not sure you fished for other species before carp but if you did some of that will come in handy. I had been coarse fishing since 1976 before I really took to carp fishing in 1983/84 so knew the



importance of weather conditions, scaling down tackle, being thorough, ringing the changes etc....had I come straight in say 83/84 those were lessons I'd have to learn. My advice is quite simple.... the more carp you catch the more you will understand carp fishing. I guess the same goes for darts, bike riding, weight training...the more you throw them, ride them and lift them the better. However, GOING on its own is not enough in carp fishing you need to catch carp to see what does and does not work. So, in order of basic starting points this is what I'd say to YOU...

1. Find a water which has a high head of carp from say 10 to 20 lbs and a water that you can fish regularly, can afford to go regularly, like the look of and is close enough to you. There are plenty of “ doubles waters “ around believe me.

2. Spend one visit without your tackle looking round, seeing what is happening, watching what others are doing and getting a feel for the place. Then it is a case of find them or put yourself where they are for the TIME you are there.

Take your time, set up back from the waters edge and





don't scare them, fish for a bite at a time and be mobile enough to move IMMEDIATELY if they are elsewhere.

Single hookbaits, small mesh bags, accurate casting, pin sharp hook but in all honesty the importance is water choice, swim choice, not scaring them, something they want to pick up on something that they will pick it up on and will land them. It was the case in 1976 and still is in 2020..... when we can go!!

**T.C** Well, there we go Simon.

Wise words indeed... and hopefully given you something to think about...

unfortunately the time has come to wrap up another fantastic session with you Jules, thank you for your time and your brutal honesty as always. It has been an absolute pleasure.  
*Brian.*







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A MORNINGS CARP ANGLING.  
BY JOE TURNBULL



The iphone is set for 4.30am and I go to bed with excitement from last nights thoughts about how the lake will look in the morning. If there is one thing that I would never tire of, it would be the sights we see as anglers. It's almost like a new painting awaits us every time we wake up bank side or simply turn up. I dont know why but the colours and sights never fail to amaze me and often have me mesmerised, a bit like how we're all drawn to staring into the flames of a fire.

So, off to bed and it doesnt appear long before the alarm goes and I hit the snooze icon but I don't snooze for long as my fire is burning inside to get up and go fishing. It's another thing that surprises me but as I'm getting older my yearning to be outdoors by the water is getting stronger. I used to struggle getting up as I thrive on my sleep but these days I can't wait to get out of the front door. I once remeber seeing a spiratualist who told me that my life should be doing something outdoors and as time goes on she couldnt have been more right.

I clamber out of bed with one eye open and the other just about working almost zombie like. Grabbing my phone, putting my iwatch on, (an integral part of my life), and somehow finding and slipping my glasses on, sudenly I can see a little. Making my way into the bathroom the usual toothbrush and wash routine is now in full swing. That done and I slip into my thermal socks and layers before grabbing my hoodie and bottoms and heading downstairs. Kettle on, food is already prepped and in the fridge so that gets neatly placed into my cool bag and after I've slung the hoodie and tracky bottoms on I'm out the door quicker than a case of the Corona Virus covered China!

I start the old van up, wack the heating on and I've about an hour or so journey before I get to the lake. I love driving at that time of the morning as it can be as quiet as the lake itself so its almost as if the the peace and serenity of the day has already begun. The only thing that breaks the silence is the radio. As you probably know I love my music and the radio is on which is another love of mine as at that time of the morning, its almost as if the DJ is talking to you and only you, your own personal DJ.

My coffee which is always taken with me in my old Stanley thermal



drinking flask has been sipped all the way to the venue and lasts for ages. Its a great bit of kit and I find it stays hot for hours on end.

A few minutes to go now and I can almost smell the venue, have you ever noticed that some venues have a smell? It depends on what types of trees you have at your lake but willows give off a particular smell especially around spring time. Eventually, I begin the last few hundred yards or so down a narrow country lane which has tall aged overgrown trees overlapping each other which are creating a long dark tunnel. It has been like this for years and gives you an impression that you are entering somewhere quite magical.

A sharp left turning into an old gated entrance where a muddy car park awaits and I've arrived at my final destination. I back the van up into a suitable location up against some shrubs, almost out of sight of the lake and as I switch the engine off, it's like I've pressed a silence button. All is dead quiet and all I can hear is the wind and the sound of the first birds awaking. I open my door and gently put my feet down onto the relatively soft ground as the rain of late has made everything pretty soft and slightly muddy. Turning around, I shut my door with a push and a click (bit of an old school thing) as I want my disturbance to the lake to be as minimal as possible, I want to be a part of the silence. I don't want to raise any awareness that I'm there as I know that vibrations can travel and seeing as I'm the only angler there, it could give me a big edge for the first part of the morning.

I make my way round to the back of the van and grab a few things, namely a rod, my net, some bait and tackle box. My rod is all ready set up so all I need to do now is the small task of mounting a bait on the hook. Some specially made wafers are also slipped into the pocket of my hoodie and once again I "push" the back doors to the van shut and not slam. As I make the short walk over to the edge of the water I notice a squirrel digging up his strategically buried acorn or bulb stolen from someones green house. What happened next amazed me as I notice a crow is also hanging around. Suddenly and within a split second it flies over to the squirrel and literally robs its stash! I'd never witnessed something like that before and I'm so taken back by it that I stand there,



open mouthed whilst blinking my eyes hard a few times just in case I was seeing things.

Then, just as I'm standing in wonderment I noted what could have only been a carp, a very big carp move a lot of water and create a huge bow wave that sent a coot and its young riding up and down on the waves. The bow wave came from the edge of the lake so I knew exactly where I was heading for straight away and with that I set up my rod from a distance. Taking my slow sinking hook baits from my pocket and pulling a small section of floss from its dispenser I mounted a wafter onto the floss, I carefully pulled the swivel into the bait and burnt the remainder down onto the hook bait. My set up was a three foot length of 35lb lead core which ran through a 2.5oz inline flat pear lead system. Rig wise I went for a standard knotless knot and a size4 hand sharpened Korda wide gape. I like to use a heavy sinking braid called Dark Matter in 15lb and it sinks like a brick. This I find fishes really well and gives me loads of confidence when fishing over anything.

As I looked along the bank side where I first saw the fish move I noticed a small bushy shrub that had began to grow over the edge



**I always have a couple of rigs set up in case.**



and into the water. Carp love anything like this and its exactly where I thought I'd seen the bow wave come from.

I broke up a few boilies and plonked them in bit by bit then crumbed up a few into a kind of ground bait and after balling it up into small balls I introduced them tight around the area. When stalking I like to bait up little and often BEFORE I even think about lowering my hook bait. In fact I'll do this two or three times until I see signs that the carp is returning again and again and you will often find that at somepoint they become so turned on by the small amount or boilie and crumb that they almost seem to forget that there could be some danger.



**A simple 2.5oz Korda in-line lead and length of lead core is my go to set up.**

After watching the water for clouding and surface movement I notice that whatever is visiting the baited area has now become so preoccupied that its tail is clearly flicking back and forth above the water level as it works to maintain its upright feeding position.

Now's my chance so I slowly pick up my rod and gently walk towards the spot by the banks edge. I carefully push the tip of my rod over the edge of the water and directly above the carp's tail. The lead and rig is now precariously hanging over the top of the fish and I slowly lower the set up just behind the



carps tail but Instead of dropping the lead straight to the bottom I flick the anti-reverse off and steadily backwind the lead down until I feel it hit the bottom. I try my utmost not to feel the lead hit the deck hard as I don't want the carp to feel any vibrations of the lead thumping down. This often spooks the carp and they do the off so slowly slowly catchy monkey as they say.

As I feel the lead softly touch down, I quickly flick a few more broken boilies over the hook bait, sink the line behind it and gently pay off enough line so that the carp doesn't detect a thing. Laying the rod on its side with the reel handle on its edge I put the line from the reel into the clip that's on the blank.

No need for alarms here so I lay back on the slightly damp grass and enjoy the lovely warm sun as it settles on my face. As I sit and wait for the electrifying sound of the line snapping out of the rod clip, I can't help but notice the line from the tip twitching every now and then as the carp feeds frantically around my rig. I begin to feel that it's obvious that at any minute I'm going to get a bite such is the activity I'm seeing when suddenly the line pings out of the clip, line peels off the spool and the tip bends towards the surface of the water in a split second of craziness.

I quickly clamber up toward the rod and grab the butt before it gets pulled into the lake as I had the clutch tightened up enough to ensure the bite was firm and there was no slack at all. As I stand up with the rod, I lean into a weighty powerful fish and as it plods up and down the margin a few times it appears so surprised and disorientated that it almost gives up the fight but it puts in one more lunge before rising to the surface. I grab my landing net and lay it in the water film and allow it to slowly take on water and sink. Not long after that and with seemingly perfect timing the wide fish rises and slips effortless into the deep mesh. I leave it to settle for a bit and organise my camera for a self-take and get my mat wet with some lake water.

Now that everything is ready for the photo I get back to the fish awaiting me in the landing net and bend down to check its pecs are all nicely tucked in before breaking the net down and slipping a retainer straight



underneath it. It glides nicely into it so up with the zip and out onto the mat. The camera is ready and set and the remote is set to take eighteen pictures, so I slowly unzip my prize and check out the surprise. It's probably one of the best bits I enjoy as it always reminds me of the unwrapping of a Christmas present.

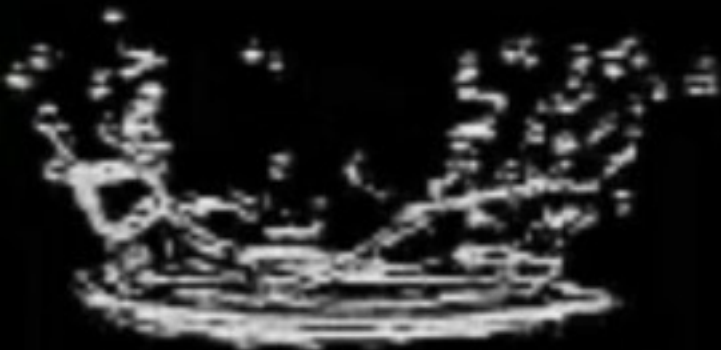
I get a glimpse of its depth in the silhouette of the sling and as I undo the zip, I notice its deep dark colour along its broad shoulders. Suddenly some large golden scales appear at his flanks and in seconds a large male carp is lying there powerful in every way. I slide my hands underneath the fish and lift it up whilst feeling its large width of its frame in my hands. Its super smooth wet slime feels warm on my hands and I can feel it running between my fingers. I manage to pick up the remote and push the button whilst juggling its size and after the camera has done its thing, I waste no time in getting it back into the water. Plonking the heavy weight back into its home and undoing the sling I hold it for a few minutes before it decides to wallow off to where it belongs. A last swish of its tail and its gone, almost dissolving like sugar in tea before my very eyes and I let out a long sigh of relief after I feel the adrenaline levels return to normal.

It's time to pack up and head for home, so my small amount of tackle and a nice wet net is quickly broken down and I trundle off toward the van. In the van and off with a smile on my face,

now that's what it's all about.







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**Winter Madness on  
Jenkins**  
*by Scott Geezer Grant*



After a quiet Christmas the New Year was soon upon us and again, I was working New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. I had a couple of days off from the 2nd so I had booked to fish a lovely winter water which always produces the goods for me.

Churchwood fisheries in the heart of Brentwood is a beautiful place which comprises of 3 lakes. The main lake Churchwood, the smaller lake Jenkins and the dedicated Cat Lake.

Over the years I have fished Churchwood and caught most of the residents so the past couple of winters I have concentrated my efforts on Jenkins. My aim is to catch a 30lber from there in the winter. A tall order but one that I am happy to take on, setting

personal goals is healthy and drives me even more.

My bait prep was the same as my last session, I had prepared 5kilos of chilli hemp, 5 kilos of crushed boilies, 5 kilos of mixed size boilies, 5 kilos of matching pellet and 10 pints of maggots. A lot of bait you might think! but every time I fish with large amounts of bait over there, I catch fish, so for me there is no reason to change.

I arrived at the lake around 09:00 o'clock in the morning and once through the gate I headed straight down to the lake.

The birds were active and even though it was cold it looked good for a bite or two. As I have fished the lake

before I knew exactly where my rods were going to be boated out to, so the first thing for me to do was get the rods and bait from my car and get them out. I decided to fish two rods on my maggot rig (2 different variations) and the third on a white nutjob pop up topped with a couple of maggots. All of my rigs consist of a size 6 Ronnie rig with a white kicker, all the rods went out in the boat with a generous helping of





bait. Once the rods were out, I walked around to the far bank and sprinkled a few handfuls of maggots all over the area.

With the rods sorted it was time to get the rest of the gear from the car and start setting the house up. After an hour the house was up and everything was sorted. Later that afternoon Nick turned up and was fishing Churchwood for a few nights, Nicks caught a few fish from there and the one he really wants is the "Long common" a fish that only visits the bank a couple of times a year and is the number 1 A Team member. I just hope I'm there when he does catch it as sharing that moment is something very special. Nicks a good angler and I'm sure it won't be long before he does catch her.

Later in the evening I treated Nick to a lovely home-made curry with a kick which went down a treat and kept us warm as the temperature had started to plummet. We were both back in our bivvies relatively early and after watching

a few programmes it wasn't long before I was snoring like a goodun.

I woke up the next morning feeling quite refreshed, the rods lay motionless and it looked like it was going to be a miserable day.







I made myself a coffee and Nick a cup of tea and walked it up to him, he was still snoring like a buffalo, I left it by his bed and walked back to my bivvy. I like nothing more than having my first coffee of the day watching the water for any signs of activity.

A few hours later Nick appeared and said he was going to cook a breakfast. Now when Nick says he's going to cook a breakfast it's a breakfast like no other, and one that I never say no to. Credit where credits due the man

should get a Michelin star for his breakfast.

It went down a treat and, in the winter, it's imperative you keep your body fuelled to the max, and trust me mine was on overload. As the afternoon wore on the weather started to change and on checking the weather app it was nice to see we had rain coming in at around midnight, the pressure was dropping to 1014. A slight change in the weather should hopefully mean a change on the feeding front.

Late afternoon I decided to re bait all the rods, they all went out with a full boat load of Chilli hemp, crushed boilies, pellets, maggots and whole boilies a feast no carp can resist. As the evening approached Nick cooked a lovely dinner, chicken and

mushroom pie with chips and beans, it was just like being at home. With a full belly we sat chatting for a couple of hours before retiring to bed. Just after midnight the rain started, I was all snug in the bag drifting off to sleep when the receiver lit the bivvy up!!

It was the right-hand rod, as I was fishing semi locked up it a couple of bleeps means fish on!





I jumped out the bag slipped into my crocs and was straight on the rod. As I lifted into the fish it tried to kite into the snag to my right, I kept the pressure on and after a few seconds managed to turn the fish away from the snag and out into open water, the little blighter gave a good account of itself and after a few minutes it was engulfed in the net. I peered into the net with my headtorch on and saw it was a lovely mirror maybe

the smallest in the lake but welcome all the same. After a couple of self takes the fish was treated with medi care and returned.

It gave me a great buzz and I was well chuffed that I was off the mark, I rebaited the rod and boated it out to the same area. With the rod done I sat with my bivvy door open listening for any fish crashing. It takes a while for the adrenalin to stop rushing, and after about 45 minutes

I got back in the bag and drifted off to sleep. I could only have been asleep an hour or so when I woke up all of a sudden busting for a pee!!!

One day I swear I'm going to wet the bed; old age is creeping up fast and the bladder isn't what it used to be. With the deed done it was back in the bag, it took me ages to get warm again and when I reached temperature I was out like a light. At 07:00 clock the receiver let out a couple of bleeps, I was out the bag, and straight on the rod, I checked the line but it didn't move, it must have been a liner, never less I stood by the rods for the next hour watching and waiting, but nothing materialised. I was thinking of putting the kettle on but decided to get back in bed instead as my eyes looked like







coal holes in the snow!! I managed to have a kip for just over an hour and when I woke up, I felt so much better. I put the kettle on and went through my morning routine.

The wind had changed, and it felt so much colder, I made sure I was wrapped up warm and sat there watching the water. After a couple of hours Nick appeared and I was hoping he had caught one, but he said he hadn't seen a single fish, not even any signs of life. Winter is always harder, but

the rewards are much greater, it only takes one bite and it could be the fish he really wants. We sat chatting for a while and then Nick headed back down to his swim and I went back to my bivvy. I grabbed my tackle box and started tying up a few new rigs just in case. Late afternoon I reeled the rods in, and they were all clean which was a good sign, as there is a bit of leaf debris on the bottom. I re-baited each rod and sent the rods back out to the same areas with a fresh boatful of bait.

As it was my turn to cook dinner, I treated Nick to a lovely home cooked Carbonara (which only needed warming through) and some fresh pasta with loads of grated cheese. As I was getting everything prepared my right-hand rod went into melt down a full-blown take, I was on

the rod in seconds and as I lifted the rod it felt like a good fish, it was fighting hard and the good thing was the fish swam straight out into open water and was just staying deep. Nick was ready with the net and when the fish did surface it looked like a decent common. As the fish came up and took its last gulp of air Nick engulfed it in the net. I gave Nick the rod and grabbed my scales, with the sling wet I zeroed it out then it was time to unhook the fish and weigh her.

With the fish in the sling I lifted her up and Nick read out a weight of 20lb exactly!! I was chuffed to bits a decent fish at last. Nick took a few shots then the fish was treated and returned. I got the rod rebaited and straight back out to the area. With all the commotion over it was back to get the dinner ready and





served. I was sat at the table grinning from ear to ear and I said to Nick the big girls are now on the munch hopefully the elusive winter 30lber will make an appearance. After dinner we sat talking about our plans for the syndicate this coming year and what fish we are both targeting. It turned out we both want to catch them all over a few years, time permitting. Late evening it got really cold and we both

decided enough was enough, it was back to the bivvy and get settled down for the night. I had a great night sleep the best of the trip and I only woke up once for a leak!! But at 06:00 o'clock the eyes opened, and I was up, the kettle went on and I laid there waiting for it to get light. As it started to get light I got dressed and stood outside watching the water especially where my rods were fishing. It was all so

quiet then all of a sudden, a fish crashed between my middle and right-hand rod, that will do the fish are feeding so surely one of the rods has to go. But nothing a couple of hours later and I started to pack up, the job I really hate, it's not so bad

when you've caught, I must say. With all my gear packed down and, in the car, I only had the rods out. I put the kettle on for one last cup of coffee, Steve popped down for a tea and we sat chatting and out of the blue my middle rod was away, I ran to the rod and lifted into another good fish. Again, the fish fought hard and tried in vain to snag me up, but with the pressure kept on the fish turned and swam out into open





water, staying deep and letting me know it wasn't happy at all.

After a few minutes I slid the net under another clonking common which looked a bit bigger than the last one. Steve was on hand and with the fish safely in the sling I hoisted her up and Steve read out a weight of 22lb 4oz yeeeeesssssss magical.

Nick had also just banked a stunning 17lb mirror it was mental!!

Steve took a few photos plus a photo of me and Nick together which were pukka. For me it was another trip to remember, I don't ever get bored of fishing the place it's a stunning venue with a stunning stock and a generous owner.

When I look back over the session, I used quite a bit of bait 5 kilos of chilli hemp, 5 kilos of crushed boilies, 3 kilos of pellet, 3 kilos of mixed boilies plus 8 pints of maggots!! A lot of bait but if it gets the fish feeding who cares.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Steve and Helen for allowing me to fish and the hospitality they



showed, so thank you both.

If you would like to fish either Jenkins, Churchwood or the dedicated Cat Lake visit [www.churchwoodfisheries.co.uk](http://www.churchwoodfisheries.co.uk)

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

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In The Margin Particles

With all what's going on in the world today stay safe, practice social distancing and hopefully soon when all this is over you can back out on the bank and appreciate it even more than you already do.

All the best

*Geezer*





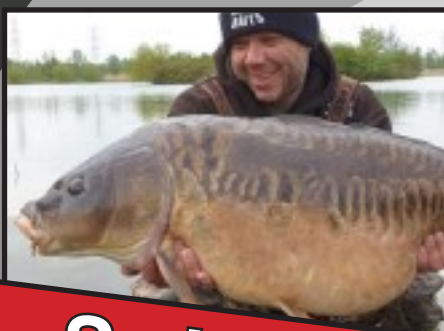
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# *The Million Dollar Question*



*by Russ Guise*



I'd guess it's the most often asked question in angling, certainly in the realms of everyday conversation with people new to this crazy mind bending pastime of ours, it's the one question that, while having a simple answer, also has the title of the most difficult to teach and in some respect, to learn.

This question is also the one that can, quite literally have a different equation to work out and conjugate for ever individual person seeking for its answer... invariably everyone has different opinions on this but for me without doubt whenever anyone ask this question my answer is and in fact has been for thirty odd years. Very simple... and so now let us ask that question...

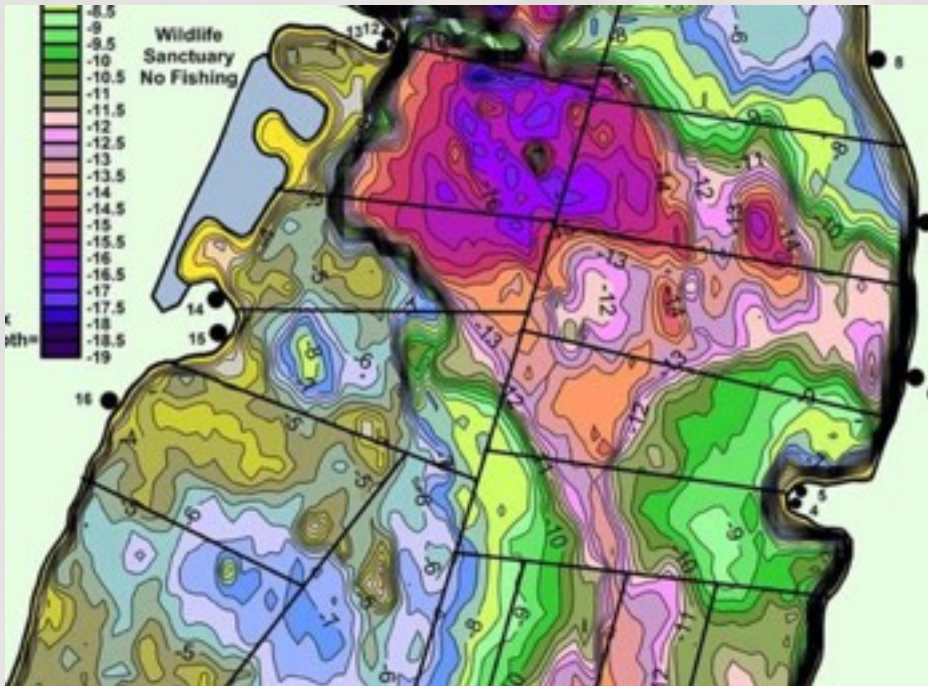
## **What is the single most important aspect in (carp) fishing?**

Very occasionally I hear opinions that differ and that's all part of the fun in this game of chance we play and I say game of chance because that's what it really is... anyone who's had the privilege to observe carp feeding around our rigs must surely agree (and in these modern times of underwater videos

focusing on rig mechanics) it's a game where chance is our only ally as well as being our worst enemy I truly believe no one has the gift of converting every inspection of our baited rigs in to a trophy shot or even a single second of fun in the fight but I digress already... so back to the question, or rather, my interpretation of the answer to it.

Put simply, the most important thing in carp fishing is **LOCATION...** you'll never catch fish that aren't there!! Now that's been written about many times and what usually follows is a description of how the author goes about watching for signs of activity and then how the author goes about fishing for the fish he finds. Great angling practice (or more often than not, just punishing as many contacts as possible to find out the hot swims and jumping in there). Also, acceptable angling practice...!? But to me location provides much much more than the name piece for this particular section of my rambling narrative and as such if you're sitting comfortably and have a section of grey matter you'd like to fill with the rambling thoughts of some old fat grey haired fella who occasionally catches a few... we'll





begin.

These days I see location in two ways. First and most obvious is the version which is most commonly discussed. The version that takes place, if the participating angler has read enough books or watched the correct dvd/you tube videos... the version that will see the angler turn up at first light, or as early as allowed by the chosen venue, ready and willing to hike or walk or meander or (in the case of previously stated punishing of friends to extract information on the going swims), run round the venue in search of a preferred spot to wet a few lines.

The second however, is

something we as anglers do in a very "remote" way and in many cases is often only an afterthought due to the lack of planning or forethought dedicated to it. Now let's say in this year 2020 I'm trying to put myself in any given situation to

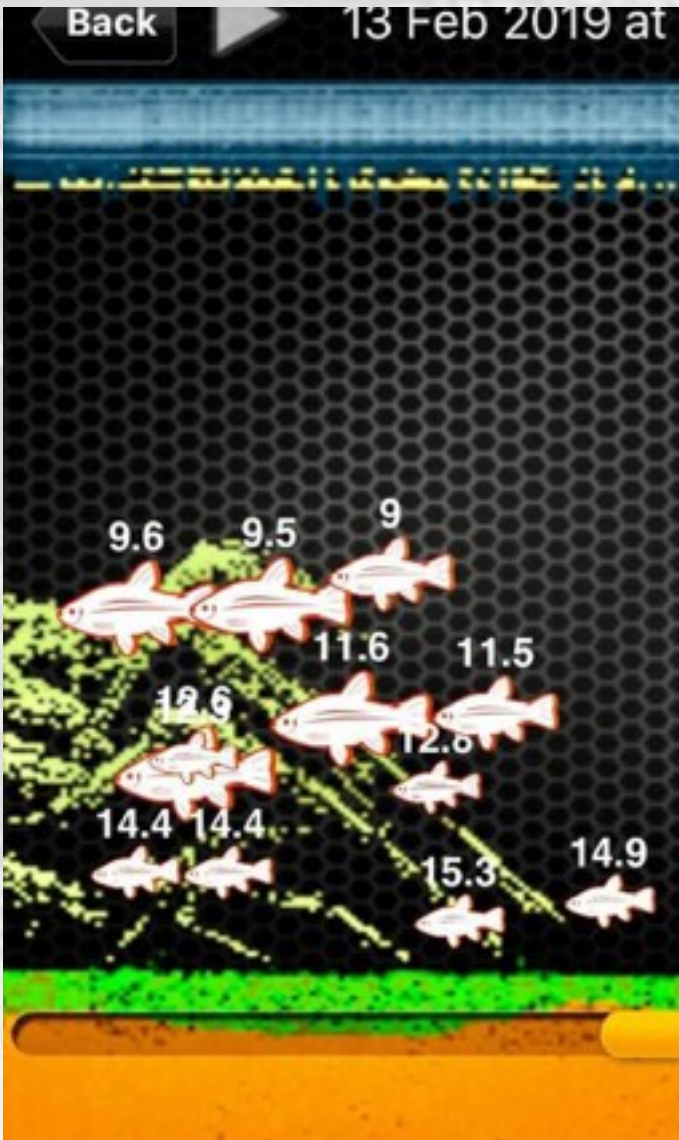
get the best out of my current angling whether its 20 days observing a large lake and it minimal inhabitants before fishing for the first time or dealing with the melee of the busy day ticket lake life, I am also looking at **WHERE** and **WHAT** I want to be trying to locate in three or four seasons time, at present I'm hoping to be climbing trees on a very special place without name I can divulge or most would even know. Yet even now I'm gleaning all the info I can on the place, I believe we used to call it doing our homework?

But to me it still falls under the









sticking my head in a glass bottom bucket checking out all the spots I had found from the top of the tallest trees that would hold my weight (big trees obviously!!) lol. as such I used to class (and occasionally where allowed still do) these trees and my waders as part of my armoury of tools that I could use to help locate my quarry, which brings me conveniently on to the next part in this piece, tools of the trade, or more accurately tools for the job... first and foremost in on this list are our eyes and ears as without doubt visually observing fish either at close range in plain sight or at the



made this a less viable proposition and the types of venue we fish now also have changed, many state that we can only fish from the numbered swims, no crawling through the bushes to prep little spots where they feel safe after a few free feeds. In fact many venues now stipulate no tree climbing or wading, two invaluable enterprises that help massively in locating fish and why they're where we find them, I used to love wading about



far end of our chosen venue through a pair of binoculars is the only 100% guarantee we have that we've found our quarry. secondly on the list is our ears, during the hours of darkness our eyes become somewhat less useful (I have tried night vision set ups but they're difficult to get used to and only of use when looking directly at the lake, I hear lots of fish movement while drifting off to sleep and in fact get woken by it at times and

I'm not sleeping wearing a set of N V Gs, [plus they make you look like one of the BORG collective]) and often hearing a fish crash or roll is our first indication of their presence which although usually highly accurate can, on occasion feed us false information, other fish, cormorants and on one occasion in my life even an osprey have all had me scrambling through the bushes to see where the splash I had heard came from, pike in particular can be very misleading and I've moved on a few occasions only to find the splashes I'd followed in to the area was a group of pike hoarding prey fish and enjoying the feast.

Now obviously our eyes and ears are only efficient at certain ranges, and even those ranges differ from person to person. On many occasions I've seen fish crash or roll and heard nothing due to the weather conditions or simply the distance at which the activity occurred, and while there's little that we can do to improve our hearing other than a hearing aid if things are that bad there are a few optical aids we can employ. A good pair of polarised sun glasses, two pairs in fact accompanied with a hat with brim or peak help greatly in both close up fish location and longer





range location also , you're more likely to watch the water if the glare of the sun or the high light levels of the day are being reduced by sunglasses and a hat than if you remove them and squint all day long. The next item on the list is a set of binoculars or a monocular if you prefer the single eye option (or the fact they're usually lighter to carry) now obviously these are invaluable at spotting fish but in all fairness probably 90% of the time I use mine to look for bubbling out in the lake that I can't see with the naked eye and while this can also be misleading at times more

often than not it is a group of carp that are responsible, after time it becomes apparent what type of bubbling the carp on the chosen venue produce and its these sets of bubbling I will look for.

Now to set the cat among the pigeons as it were... in recent years a third type of visual aid has become available in the way of remote sonar... usually a device that is deployed out in to the lake to either record for playback of send live information to a hand held screen annnnd yes!! I have one!! In fact, I have two in case I lose one! The version I use currently is the Deeper Chirp and its teamed up with a Samsung mobile phone (my actual phone is an iPhone but I find the Samsung works better with the deeper unit and have little issue with the pairing up to a range of about 90 yards possibly a little more on calm clear days.) Now I'm not gonna go in to the love hate side of owning these type of product as there are many views on them and each to their own so I'll just state that on the lake I fish and run the carp can often be sat mid water ish and the lake is generally fairly coloured. So maybe five feet or so of visibility is present, now when I tell you that 20 feet is mid water on





lake then you'll understand that unless you're watching or hearing the carp leap about, your chances of finding them in the cooler months is limited to possibly bumping off some with a cast on braid then and then spooking them anyway, these units are a god send, not only do you learn about the venues topography on every cast they show you the starting point of the depth the fish are happy in and that is an extra string to our bow in my book if you don't like em don't use one, no one will mind.! personally I use mine 99% of the time to do lake mapping and usually prior to an actual fishing session,

still being a little un easy with the fish finding aspect but then I'm old!!

Now all the above concentrates on definitive location of our quarry by clear definite location of them. We found the lake with the ones we'd like to catch we then gleamed as much information as possible from others in the waiting period to join we then looked at visually finding them by actually seeing them then possibly locating them by sound and secondary traces like bubbling then chucked a digital sonar unit in to the mix for those who desire the extra system of information, but there are still many things that we can utilise to help us in the location of our intended goals and I'm going to do these in paragraph form as it will stop me droning on for page after page on each subject and it's an article and not a book I'm doing here it's probably for the best!! Lol

Birds... There can be few lakes rivers or canals these days that don't support their own multi species population of bird life ,from boilie stealing sea gulls ( that have never seen the sea) to pop up pinching coots and tufties that seem to have no use in life other than to increase the sales of blood pressure medication in the old





guard of our wonderful pastime . Not to mention the seemingly perpetually retarded swans that swim daily through the same set of lines or the thousands of geese that honk and hiss their way through the warmer months happily pooping every two minutes in and around our favourite swims BUT as annoying as they are, each one has it uses in helping us with fish location

I've lost count of the times I've been at a lake when the geese are fighting for territory or a better looking mate to put upon, creating all sorts of disturbance on the water and bankside but it's when they're in the air they become the most useful to us in respects of locating fish... we've all probably seen it but not all will take it for what it is. imagine this, you're on a low stocked lake and its fairly high pressure or bright, sunny maybe, and the geese or swans are about to take flight or are about to land then BOOOSH!! Right underneath them or their shadow a few fish explode because of the surprise movement... now those fish were spooked but probably not scared to the point that would be detrimental to the chances of them being caught. The fish will have

been through this plenty of times previously but I'm betting they've never been caught by a swan or goose. It's a reaction like us hearing a car back fire we jump but the effect soon fades and our life goes on as normal in seconds... now I've seen people properly upset when this happens because they believe the fish will now head for the snags or weed or whatever and not feed for days, in my experience not true and the spot is noted and the time so that I'm ready to get a bait in there either asap if and when similar conditions arise.





Tufties often give away the presence of big fish in an area too but in a very different way.

We've probably all been terrorised by the various types of diving water fowl that inhabit our lakes and ponds and we've had to endure the constant diving as they mangle our expertly introduced baiting pattern in search of anything without a hook in but occasionally one of these dives ends in the bird in question exiting the water like a soggy Polaris missile and do the seemingly impossible twenty meter sprint on water all with a perceived look of horror on its beak! A look of horror that only a close encounter with a very large fish while below the surface can conjure up ... YEP you've found one (or more)!! You'll also often see this surprised mannerism when a bird swims past or above a large fish near the surface or in shallow water and in extreme cases the surprise will be audible and although it's usually coots that shriek the presence of

a chunk in the vicinity I have heard moorhens "stamping" the water to scare fish away and sometimes let out an audible squawk also, even if there are no signs of distress from the bird life present or no fish visibly scared, bird life can still be a valuable aid in locating areas to fish... grebes for instance survive on eating small fish and things like cray fish and occasionally freshwater snails and mussels even frogs and newt are on their menu. Now I'm not suggesting carp eat too many frogs or newts, but all the other items are definitely on the carps menu, sooo if the grebe has found a supply of food then you can





be sure the carp will know the whereabouts of the larder too. A grebe working an area in winter usually denotes an area of small fish and those fish will be in an area where their food is in abundance and so I turn their food source is also that of the carp ,therefore this area is probably worth some additional attention with eyes binoculars or the sonar unit if you so choose.

Another thing most anglers get to see is the arrival and activity of swallows ,swifts, martins etc to the waters we fish and while it's a little confusing watching them feed on the flies caught in the meniscus at the surface or the flies and bugs just breaking free

from it , I have found on larger venue that it's possible to work out where the bigger “ hatches “ are taking place or at the very least gauge the amount hatching and consider how the prevailing wind will distribute the newly available larder, a process I've seen fish do on many occasions. I often find a new wind and a big fly hatch means being on the end of the new wind rigs in place, before the surface film builds and the fish arrive to be a huge edge in catching the more weary inhabitants as they seem to congregate for the feast and competition for food increases the likelihood of a bite.

And so, if you've managed to read this far, I may as well share some of the things that are a longer term aid in location that can be applied once membership is secured but not directly of the moment, we are fishing. I'm talking of course about VISUAL CHANGES, the kind of thing like a hole in the weed becoming bigger over time, be it days or weeks or noticing a certain stick or brick or clay hump that changes





shape or gets moved, something of structure that noticeably differs each time we look at it over a period, now this may not denote a feeding area but if you suspect the carp are visiting the item regularly for whatever reason then it's a fair bet you'll eventually be able to learn a great deal from seeing them in this area and possibly even deduce where to place a bait in the locality that could give you a chance of a bite should all else fail location wise.

There will be a few who think this is more watercraft piece than a location piece and you could be right but to me watercraft is something we build over time by the use of location to get result and this in turn becomes watercraft that then tells us when and where to utilise the location methods we've learned.

So, there you go, a scratch on the surface of locating fish (carp specifically) hope you've enjoyed it and until next... oh no wait one other thing CLOUDY

WATER... Never walk past this without stopping for a look, it could be from a soppy Labrador like mine crashing through the margins as my one does, usually while stalking!!! But it could also be from feeding carp either way carp love to investigate a bit of cloudy water just read what Dave Lane did on Conningbrook. Let's just say he's not the only one whose used it to good extent... and yep now I'm done. Thanks for reading and I'll keep fighting the dyslexia and hatred of computers if you lot keep reading. Till next time  
Take only photos, leave only footprints (again lol)

*Russ.*







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# **fishing and stuff...or stuff and fishing!**

**By Andrew  
Murray**



Hi all, Firstly, I would like to say thanks for all the good wishes I received after my last article, regarding my wife Sal. She had her first Chemo session this week, which made her really poorly for a couple of days and is bearing up well. We had been told the Chemo affects people in different ways but I was shocked how ill she really looked a few hours afterwards, so much so that when she went to bed I couldn't sleep and was checking on her very hour or so all night long, I was relieved when the morning came, I don't mind admitting it. So now we know what to start to expect over the coming months now as far as her treatment goes, I'm not the one having the treatment and I can't take away any of the pain or discomfort, all I can do is be here and help, it's quite heartbreaking watching someone you love suffer in this way. Although a long way to go we are hopeful it will all be ok in the end. Reminds me of a saying I heard a long time ago "it will all be ok in the end, and if it's not ok, it's not the end yet".

It's really good of the guys here to let me cover any topic I like. I realise a lot of you may just want to read about fishing and not some of the other stuff I witter on about. To me personally my life has revolved around carp fishing for over 30 years, so fishing and my life are joined at the hip. When I'm fishing I think about my family and when I'm with my family I think about fishing, I'm not obsessive like I was though. There were times many years ago when Carp Fishing was my real obsession and it was difficult to pay the correct attention to my family. With the current issues, no doubt a lot of anglers are missing their fishing deeply and are spending more time with their families than they might normally do. Is that such a bad thing? I know people are talking about returning to normal (whatever that might be?), maybe we will have a new normal, a bit more focus on families and friends, a bit more focus on being friendly and helping each other as well. Maybe society might be a slightly better place to be. Anyway, enough of the philosophising, let talk about fishing...

Over the next couple of articles, I was going to talk about my approach and plans for this year, that was the intention anyway, until this week's announcement of locking things down. It also looks at this point that my





first trip abroad in April is going to be cancelled as well. So, I think the best thing is to take things a month at a time. So, let's talk about my last fishing trip to the A1 Pits which was early march and

maybe a couple of other things relevant. As I said last month, last year my results had been mixed, starting off well with my increased effort and approach to Zig fishing in the early part of the year. I do like to have a bit of an experiment each year with one or two things. Last year the Zig fishing proved a great success, mastering fishing just under the surface at 130 yards range really paid off when the carp were sitting at range just under the surface enjoying that early season sun. I have been playing around on the rig front for a while wondering if I was getting the best out of my own set-ups. For the last 2 years I have been having a play around with the Spinner or Ronnie rig for wafers and pop-ups. I have to say I am disappointed with the results over that period, from not having bites when I felt I should, to getting bites and losing carp. I feel this year I am going to revert to the Stiff hinged rig for my pop-ups and standard rig set up for my bottom baits, but I am going to make a couple of small tweaks, I'll keep you posted. At the time of writing this I had a couple of pics appear on FB this week from 6 years ago, it was just after I had got back into carp fishing regularly and a bit more hardcore, I was having some success on Swan lake at the Bluebell complex, this was with set-ups I have used for the majority of my carp fishing life. Why do we get this need to tinker?



What we really need to do is to tempt the carp to pick the bait up in the first place! Part of that means been in the right place at the right time as well.

This year I wanted to try another approach, now I have got to grips with the zigs, one that might work right through the year as well. I have been feeling for a while that maybe it was time to revert back to using the method Feeder, which caught me so many carp in the late 90's and early 2000's. I always found the Feeder easier to fish than solid bags, it's also a good way of building up bait in an area as well. I had sorted a number of feeders from my old bags over the winter. I still had a few of the original Fox method feeders, so have set up a number of these ready to go. Mix wise I wasn't sure what type of pellet to use, it was while I was at the NAS show at Manchester I came across some pellets that I felt were ideal. I opted for some carp feed pellets in 8mm, I didn't want high oil pellets, as they are harder to keep ready to use while fishing. I remember when we

were first showed the method feeder in the mid 90's, it was at one of the Carp Schools we were involved in at Horseshoe and was demonstrated by John Hofgartner who was using the Richworth set-ups and Method mix. Following that I had many a chat with Bob Baker (RIP Bob), about his method feeders, Richworth at that time were the only one really doing a decent method feeder for carp fishing, it came in a one ounce weight, after much nagging from a number of anglers including me, a 2 ounce version was produced. From then we started to develop and work on the scalded pellet method feeder,





which we used to great effect for many years. Even on some of the hardest waters around, I caught carp. Fishing the feeder formed a big part of my fishing and was featured in many articles and catch reports. We even used it with balsa wood or corkballs for hookbaits and still caught carp, they will mouth whatever they come across. Some years later, I was shown and took some convincing that it wasn't necessary to scald the pellets to be able to use them for the Method Feeder, since then this has been my preferred way of using pellets for Method Feeder fishing. This is the way I prepare pellets now: -

- **Place a few handfuls of dry 8mm pellets in a bucket.**
- **Cover them with lake water for 2-3 minutes.**
- **Drain off the excess water and then stir for a minute or so until the remaining water is starting to absorb into the pellets. They should have a nice glazed coating.**
- **Leave to stand for 10 minutes and stir thoroughly again.**
- **At this point I add some flavour and Mainline Stick Mix.**
- **Stir enough to coat the pellets so the flavour can be absorbed.**
- **After half an hour the pellets are ready to use, if you see the pictures, you can see the prepared pellets, they should be just soft enough so that when you squeeze them, they hold together.**

It might take a little playing around with this to get it right, it's just a matter of keeping an eye on the mix. If kept in the shade and covered, it should last for a full day, maybe less in the summer if it is allowed to sweat. If it starts to dry out, just add a few drops of water and mix in, but only a few drops mind. Too much and the pellets will start to dissolve, and they won't hold as well. This is not always an issue, especially if you don't need to cast too far. When fishing the feeder at 100 yards or so, the mix needs to be really firm to withstand both the cast and then the impact of hitting the water. If fishing shorter you can really pile some bait onto the feeder, the further you want to cast, then load a bit less and really work at getting it firmly stuck to the feeder. I usually use a short hook link for this type of fishing about 3-4 inches and mould the hooklink into the mix, with the hookbait presented towards the end as in the picture. Either a small pop-up or a trimmed wafter is ideal for this. You can add other bits to the mix if





you want, such as chopped boilies, hemp, sweetcorn etc. the more bits you add the less it might hold when casting long distance though.

Regarding my trip this month, I really was in two minds whether to go fishing, as it was my first trip of the year, although Sal had got over the surgery well, I felt really guilty about going, in the end she said just buggar off! So, I went. Having decided I was going to use the feeder this year, I had brought all the trappings I needed for my first trip to the Pits this year which was early March. There had been very few carp out, in fact the flooding had made

the lakes unfishable for quite a while. When I arrived, the lakes looked fairly bleak, I spent a couple of hours looking round both pit 5 and pit 6. Pit 6 was holding a lot of water! In fact, it was full to the brim, I have never seen it with so much water in. The spit between 5 and 6 was only just clear. I think the water in 6 will take some going down for the first part of the year, that will make for some interesting fishing. I decided to fish pit 5 from one of the middle swims where I could see a lot of water. I didn't have much to go on as I arrived Sunday and it was very quiet and very little had been reported. I was going to fish the feeder on two rods, I opted to fish the feeder on one rod at 50 yards and the other around a hundred yards or so, the 100 yard rod was just at the back of a weedy area, where I thought the carp may be mooching about, what I noticed over the two days was that I bringing bloodworm back on the hook from this area. The other two rods were fishing single into the middle around 140 yards where I was finding some clear gravel areas. Although I didn't see much movement, I just felt they were on the move and I did have the odd knock.



One of the things with fishing the feeder, you can get a number of indications before you get a run, this can be smaller species disturbing the feeder or carp feeding on it. I felt the knocks were liners and recast the 100-yard feeder rod a little bit shorter, say five yards or so. The knocks stopped, quite a while later, out of the blue it melted off! Resulting in a nice looking 20lb Common. I was over the moon with this, first trip and a nice carp on the bank, on the feeder as well. This was looking good for the next trip, to try something and get a result straight away, although looking back to last year, the same thing happened when I started working harder with the zigs at the start of the year. Just shows what doing something different can do...

Even on my way home I was planning my next trip, I had decided to use a different bait this year and was going to fish boilies only all year and put quite a few in. The reason for changing boilies was I was wanted to fish with higher attraction boilies, something I felt had more pull, I'll go into this in more detail in my next piece. Did I say I was planning my next trip? Well, we all know what happened then! With all fisheries closed for the immediate future we will have to wait a while I think before any of us can get out again. Quite rightly so as the nation's health should come first.





Amongst other things I did this month. A good friend of mine Tony was arranging a Charity Carp evening, in aid of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, so Keith and I decided to go along for the night and support Tony and the Charity. It's fair to say a good amount of alcohol was consumed during the evening! Also ended up with the time honoured tradition of finishing at a local Curry House in the wee small hours. Keith and I both had bad heads the following morning. Tony had asked me if I could help with some raffle prizes. So, I donated a few Bait Packages from Mainline, a Chair kindly donated by Trakker and also 48-hour ticket donated by Steve the bailiff for the A1 Pits. I also gave Tony a couple of my books to use as raffle prizes or whatever he felt was the best option to raise money, he

decided to auction them, I was really surprised the amount of money they went for as well. Overall, they raised over 2k for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, which is no mean feat, so well done to all involved. It was good of Mark Holmes and Simon Crow to travel over and present at no cost at all, fair play to you both for supporting this, it was a fairly rowdy evening as the local rugby teams were in good spirit. The turnout was pretty good, especially as to how things were starting to pan out with the





Covid-19 Virus.

Speaking of Rugby, we live in a Rugby League area. My youngest Grandson has started playing Rugby League for Batley in the under sevens, we went along to watch. It's great to see the kids getting to grips with playing a game like this. I don't care what the snowflakes think, team sports help children learn about life, sometimes you win, sometimes you lose, games like this build character (in my opinion!). He was made up with his first full team outfit and has the same number his dad played as well. The reason for mention this, is we are really missing the boys now we are in Lockdown, probably more than going fishing. I realise a lot of anglers are missing their time on the bank, I know I am, but I think in this current climate we all know (well most of us!), that other things must take priority. Starting with our immediate families, take time with them now and ignore all the stuff being said in panic, be there for your family at this time. Be understanding of others where possible, everyone is dealing with their own issues and fears at this time.

In the last week alone, I have deleted a number of people from my contacts on FB, I cannot believe grown adults can have such warped opinions, and that's being polite! Perhaps I should have been more accepting of their opinions...maybe-maybe not, I'm not sure, what I do know is that I do not want that level of negativity on my timeline. This is going to get worse before it gets better, I think...

Take care and catch you next time.

*Andy*







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Julian P Cundiff

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# **PRESSING THE RED BUTTON....**



**By John Flewin**



So, for anyone that knows me (a small percentage granted) they will know what the title of my piece alludes to. The statement “pressing the red button for money “has kind of become a coin of phrase for what I do.

So, what do I do?? Well for the last 7 years I have been a freelance videographer in the fishing industry, with the odd dabble into other things. Now the journey I have taken to now find myself lucky to have a varied resume behind me has certainly been a bumpy one, but I wouldn't have it any other way. So, the last years have indeed been a rollercoaster from a whole year giving away my services for free to try and build a portfolio to where I luckily find myself now, doing what I love full time.

When I first started doing this, I had designs on being a star and being both in front of and behind the camera. however, this fantasy quickly changed when I realised that you can't be in front of everyone's camera as well as behind it. I learned very quickly that if you want to make a solid base in the game its best to be the silent one behind the lens. What I mean by this is to be able to be truly freelance you can't be a face for multiple brands but what you need to be is be their media guy. Now people reading this will immediately say well X, Y,Z are camera people for a brand but also on camera and indeed that's right but they are usually a full time employee for the company. I needed flexibility to work for many brands without

being associated if I was to make a full time go of it.

Now as I touched on the journey wasn't always champagne and caviar in fact a lot of the time wasn't even tap water and crackers, but if there was one thing, I wasn't going to do it was to quit. Now this isn't me preaching but I get so many people approach me stating “you have a dream job “or “how did you get to do that “ etc... and my answer is always simple... never take no and never quit. A good friend of mine, Anthony's fave saying is “stay hungry and stay humble” and I've lived by that and now I do indeed find myself in a blessed position with some great achievements behind me and a rather decent resume including big brand DVDs and even some TV work for BT Sports with Rob



Hughes.

Right so that's a brief outline of me and what I get up to. but the reason that Brian wanted me to write some words was regarding my Blogging. shameless plug for YouTube. The Flewdog Blog and some basic blogging skills, equipment etc. Now the first thing I

want to touch on is kit. I don't want to get too deep with this but there are a few basics you need and some lessons to learn to save you the hundreds of quid I pumped into it. If you simply want to video your adventures and capture them in a RAW state, then unless you know what you're doing with a DSLR or already have a decent

quality one then my advice is to stick with a small handycam. Now these certainly don't have to break the bank and can be picked up on Amazon for sub £100 however yet again the adage of buy cheap buy twice kicks in and you can find yourself under gunned before you start. In my humble opinion look at ones around £150 -





-£250 to get you started a good Sony etc with a HD quality will stand you in good stead. Along side this try to get yourself a decent mic. In the recording world sound comes before visual. Yes, I know that sounds strange, but the fact of the matter is you will watch a poor-quality piece of footage with crisp sound but poor sound for even a few seconds can cause you to switch off. A nice camera top mic or even a lapel mic isn't going to break the bank but will push the finished product through the roof.

So now you have something to be seen on and something to be heard on you're 95% of the way there. Grab yourself a tripod (This is where you can go semi cheap) and get a few lights, rhino beams are just perfect and you have yourself

a start to a blogging style set up. Now yes you can go crazy and get go-pros and 360 cams and all the fancy tech you want but for me the industry and the consumer love a RAW video that allows a person or a character to shine. Now also

remember that we all carry high quality mobile phones and these can be a great tool and as long as you shoot in landscape at the best quality available you will find that this quick grab and shoot option can capture some mega





real life film to add to your vids.

So that's the kit....  
Now as regards what to film... I get asked quiet a lot from friends looking to do some video work of their fishing "what do I film" now there is never a correct answer to this and to be honest half the time the answer is

...

**Intro**

**Some fishing bits**

**Some pretty bits**

**Hopefully a fish**

**Repeat**

**Ending.**

Now this may seem

like a flippant way to break it down but essentially that's what it is from a blog to the highest production in the fishing industry. So, don't get bogged down in what to film but just make sure you film as much as you can as trust me there is nothing worse than getting home and realising you haven't





shot enough footage to make anything.

So now you have some footage the hardest part is making something of it. The edit is always the toughest part and can swallow time like you wouldn't believe. My thoughts are this can be done on the most basic platform on a free bit of software or you can get some hi-tech kit. But the fact of it is, make it something

you want to watch. This comes from you and you alone. Make sure you have filmed yourself being you and that your edit reflects that, and you will have something engaging.

So, there we have it in a nutshell. Now you maybe thinking well hang on how's he gone from talking about being a videographer in the industry to banging on about blogs. The simple answer is...

that's where it started for me. So, I know that from doing it yourself, learning it yourself and actually being passionate about it, you can make it.

Feel free to have a look at me my YouTube channel, The Flewdog Blog, and hit the subscribe button... that would be great!!

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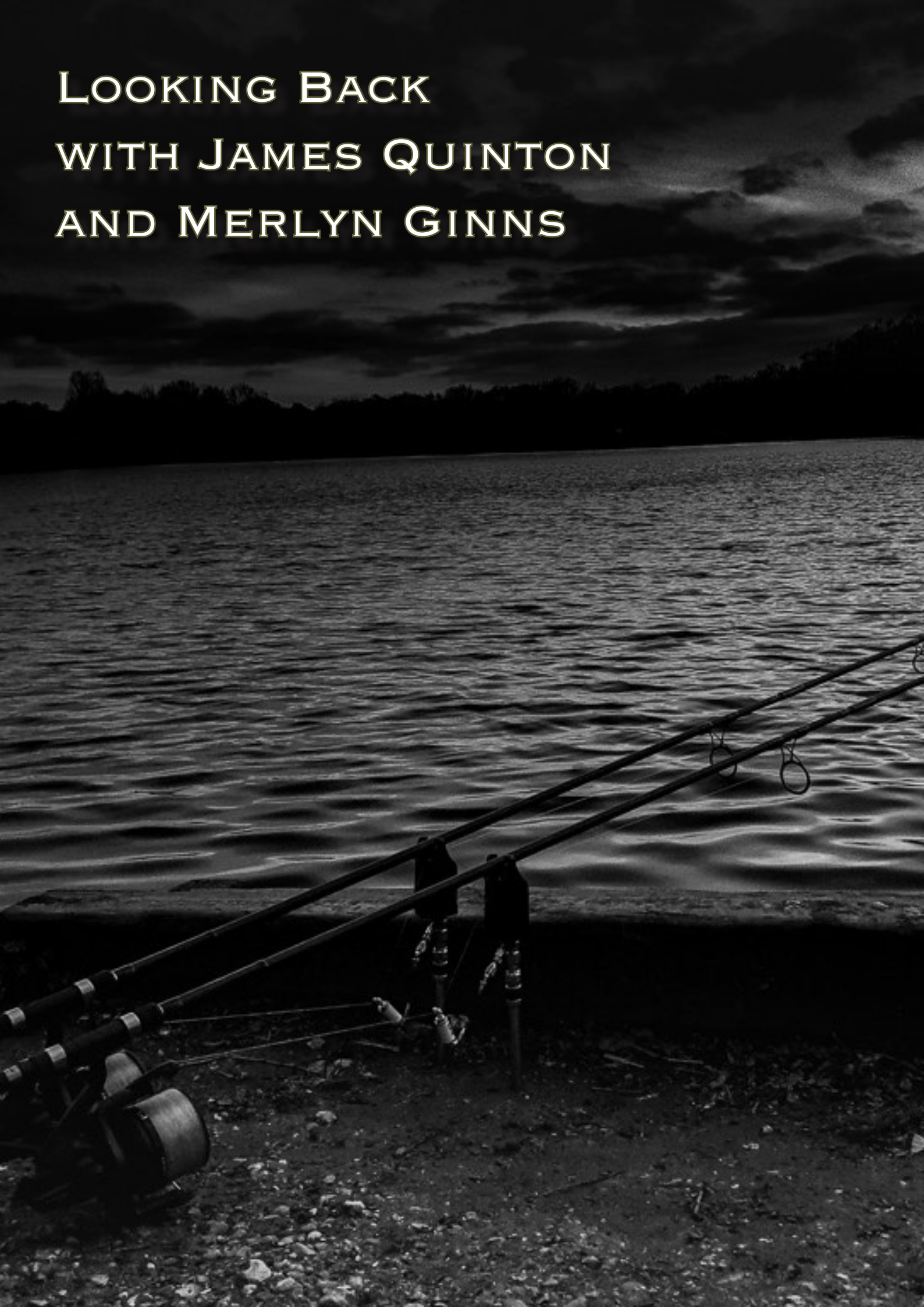
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LOOKING BACK  
WITH JAMES QUINTON  
AND MERLYN GINNS







So here we are,  
currently sat indoors.  
A pandemic has  
spread the world and  
currently as I type  
all lakes are closed.  
Sad times indeed.  
But this doesn't mean  
we haven't been out  
previously and have  
also managed to catch  
a few fish! I will still  
be doing my articles  
because I can always  
find an experience to  
write about or even  
do some in depth look  
at the rigs I use. So,  
February was Merlyn's  
birthday session. Her  
birthday is late Feb  
and she wanted to  
fish down Snake. We  
had the weekend off  
so was able to get set  
up during the day and  
settled in. The weather  
was nice and overcast  
and did look good  
for it. She set up in a  
swim I've called Robs  
(a friend of mine Rob  
spent a lot of time in  
there), and I settled  
in a swim next door  
called Als Bar. Having



a lot of info of the swims written down I said we will use some older spots and found them really quickly. The rigs we used were my ever faithful chods, the area was silty and slightly grubby. I will go into a step by step guide and reasons on my choice of this rig next month. They were set up naked style, or as some know it as chod on the line. Ginns used a yellow and white pop ups from the Proper Carp Baits range, the yellow was a pineapple and the white was a Blackseal

offering.

We got the bedchairs up and mounted the baits, checked they were nicely balanced, foam nuggets were mounted just to slow down the rigs descent and settle better. I got my carbon throwing stick out and scattered a few freebies around the area.

The brollys went up and we settled down with some food and a couple of drinks to celebrate Ginn's birthday. I remember hearing a couple of shows during the night,

but my Solar heads remained motionless. I made a coffee and headed into Ginns swim to find out that she also had a quite night. Well it was better than staying in and it's always nice to spend a night by the lake regardless of the time of year!

I have also been spending some time at the smaller lake. those sessions have sadly all been blanks so far, but when your fishing for only 22 carp, it's never going to be an easy ride. My tactics there have still been using pop ups and fishing along the silty strip, but I did change to using a Ronnie rig. Now I've never been a fan of this rig or the original 360 but thought I will give it ago. My reason for it was that the water isn't very deep at all and my concern was that my usual presentations might be





a bit blatant. I got them tied up and balanced mounted my pop ups from Proper Carp Baits and cast them out. I slackened my fluorocarbon line off and settled my solar heads on the ground nice and slack. I wasn't fishing far out and wanted to settle as much line as I could. I'll admit now that I sat on my bedchair and kept mulling my rig choice over and over. I had a drink and settled down. I didn't hear any shows and had a wonder up and down the bank to see if I could see any subtle shows. Nothing was seen or heard so I settled down and went to sleep. I awoke early and got a coffee made and sat watching the water, not a lot was seen apart from coots diving down on someones bait. I packed up not too disappointing on a blank, the more I rack them up the more I

take something away from that session. Would I have caught if I was using my normal set up? Maybe not, would I have felt more comfortable using them, yes, I would, sometimes it doesn't pay to change what your happy with just for the sake of changing something. It didn't pay of this time, but that's not to say it wouldn't another time.

Work was getting busy but luckily, we had a week of annual leave coming up. We were really excited as

the last shift finished and we could get everything ready. We were planning two nights down at Snake as a few were coming out. We got the Caddy van loaded and off we went! We decided to fish the same swims we did on Ginns's birthday, a couple of mates were down, and I had a quick catch up with them and checked a couple of members. As usual the bedchairs went up first and then the rods were made ready. Rig wise I was back to using my naked chods and





Ginns was using the same. Same as last time she went for yellow and white and I was using a natural Blackseal pop up and a mulberry pop up from Proper Carp Baits, they smell awesome!

After a few texts were exchanged between me and my mates that were on we settled down for food. After we ate and had a drink Ginns had a bleep, her Korda bobbin slightly lifted and was shaking, then her slack line pulled tighter, she lifted into it and her 9ft scope had a healthy curve and a fish was on. The fish kited but she was able to keep it under control and she was soon under the tip trying to get into the overhanging trees to the left. I gave her a hand and got the fish out from the trees, I handed the rod back to Ginns and got the landing net ready.

I stretched the net out and in she went!! Ginns was so happy and she let a little shout out! We put her in the sack whilst we got everything ready. It was only 19:30 so we were going to do night shots. The Thinking Anglers unhooking mat was made ready, scales were ready. The fish was lifted, and I said to Ginns I reckon this is a 20, on the scales she went, and we recorded a weight

of 23lb, a new mirror PB for her. She was over the moon and I used the Ridgemonkey multi light to assist with the night shots and I am quite happy with how they turned out! As you can imagine I was buzzing for her and so was she, I think by the morning it still hadn't set in! I made a coffee and we had a few things to do during the day, so we reeled in and done what we needed to do.





We were back down and got the rods ready, Ginns was sticking to the same colours and so was I. We repeated the previous nights activity with food, and both retired to our swims. At about 03:30 I heard an alarm and it wasn't mine! Ginns was in again!! She coped with it well and like last time I stretched the net out and in it went! I said we will deal with it in the morning as it wouldn't

be long before the light levels were good. She was very excited and couldn't believe what had happened! Two night fishing and two fish, a new PB as well! The morning came around and a coffee was made, everything was made ready and the mirror was lifted up, this little beauty went up to just over 16lb, lovely looking mirror, I done the pics and the mouth was treated. We watched her slip away

into the depths. What an amazing session for her, I was so happy for her! That was the end of the session and this month's article. Hope you enjoyed the read and are staying safe!

Best wishes

James and Merlyn.

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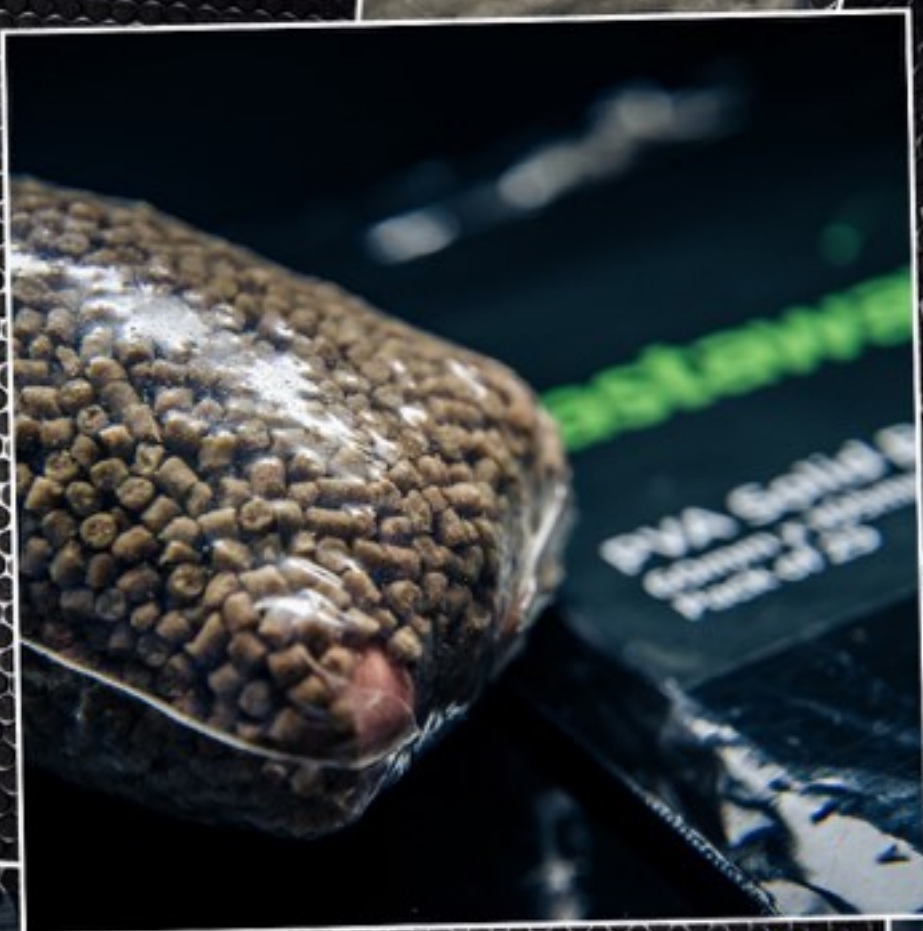
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# Winter Thoughts And Reflections

by  
Steve  
Gibbey





As I write this article winter feels like it has settled in with the wonderful colours of winter in the trees and leaves along with the dropping temperatures and dare, I say it slightly chilling wind.

Not the harshest of winters these days but enough sometimes to influence our carp fishing and the quarry we chase year round.

I have enjoyed some wonderful fishing this year despite my limited time due to work and family commitments.

Highlights for me have to be the capture of a 34lb Old Gnarly mirror from a local day ticket water back in March followed by another six lovely old English carp a real session to remember.

Following on from that my attention turned to my local lake that I am

lucky to be a member of and one that I would love to fish more often but again time limits me.

I have had some lovely carp from this venue all original stock and I could imagine that some of these fish were stocked as small carp when it was more a match venue. There have been some real surprise captures for me on my short sessions and time available.

Can I be out every week? The answer is no and believe me if I could I would to make the most out of conditions when they are best.

I go when I can, and the weather conditions could be totally against what those in the know call perfect conditions, but you just have to go and

fish and try.

Our recent Rod Hutchinson Team social to Holm Fen was such an occasion we arrived on the Monday morning to high pressure clear skies and the first light frosts in the morning and the first of some cold easterly winds.

I came out number 11 in the draw, which was not ideal, but I got where I wanted to be in an area that occupied some deeper water.





For three days these conditions continued with overnight temperatures down to just above freezing and to be honest the carp reacted, and it just slowed everything down.

Despite trying everything I could think of I could not buy a bite it was a frustrating few days.

Two bites in four days and nothing to my rods despite angling hard and using quality bait it was a real struggle.

But we learn from every session and I took a lot from it and from the excellent anglers who were present did we all get it wrong or was it the weather??

I am left thinking at times what I am doing wrong when I see well known anglers catching consistently but I am

convinced it is down to how much time you get on the bank, the more you do the better you become.

I decided that after the excitement of Holm Fen and the chance of catching a chunk or two followed by the disappointment of blanking and the carp depression that followed, I should visit the local lake for a day session to satisfy the bug!!

It has been a whole four months since I was last able to wet a line in anger, so it was booking some annual leave and try for a carp

or two.

The beginning of March was the date and it's lovely to see daffodils growing and the first signs of spring in the air.

So, the day was booked and to say I was excited was an understatement as my previous articles have alluded to time for me is in short supply.





Being part of the Rod Hutchinson brand has given my angling a real boost in the last year or so and has given me access to some great products to use and I feel very fortunate to be associated with such an iconic name in the history of carp fishing.

As I have written about in the past I do prefer a bait that I can use year round wherever I may go to target carp, time is in short supply so I want something that has it all and for the last two years I have used Rod Hutchinson Ballistic B.

Some will change a bait depending on the time of year and to a certain extent I understand this but for me there are several reasons why I don't.

Cost is always a consideration for the average angler and

must be considered buying two different baits for the year will hit the pocket particularly if you like using boilies which are versatile. Confidence is another key factor for me I know that the Ballistic is a very good bait in it make up so once it is used and you catch then why change??

The ingredient list I am not privy to or the flavour blend but the point being that it's a Rod Hutchinson bait so you know that what you are using is solid and reliable and will

catch everywhere you take it.

I have used this bait through the entire year and always managed to catch from late winter to the scorching summer it has always produced for me and again it takes care of one part of your fishing knowing your bait is good and the carp want to eat it. So, I wanted to share a few things with you for winter fishing and into early spring that may help you get the most out of our products and put an extra fish on the







bank for you.

The session I am on is typical for me a short day session at my local syndicate water that fishes well in winter about five acres with two islands fairly shallow no more than seven foot deep in places with shallow margins.

Stocked with some lovely carp that have been in residence for over twenty five

years and not stocked because of their size but the carp are beautiful and there are 250 plus to go at up to 30lb.

As good as the bait is straight from the bag and I am more than happy to use it that way there are a few things that we can do to make it more versatile and increase the pulling power.

I will grab a food blender or crusher and put a few kilos of the ballistic through it creating a fine crumb with little bits and pieces small items of food content.

Once this is done the next thing I will add is Hemp Oil that will soak into the crumb this oil is so good all year round and I always include this.

Now the next thing I add is the Ballistic B stick mix which has all the base mix ingredients plus a few pellets, tiger nut flour and other goodies adding the stick mix just gives the liquid something to the soak into.

I have also used the Ballistic B base mix which is basically the contents of the boilies and that works brilliantly to cloud the water and it is basically nothing to feed them



on.

I will then add Ballistic B liquid food mix together and you will have a sweet creamy cloudy milky mix with very little food content, you can add other liquids such as liquid liver that will improve the pulling power, liver being a very good additive. These liquids contain all the essential feeding triggers that carp recognise and literally you can't overdo them.

What I am trying to achieve with this mix is a highly attractive cloud that once you have spombed out falls to the bottom pinging off the hemp oil with very little food content just bits and pieces, I want to pull them in and not feed them and the first thing they will come across hopefully is the hook bait.

At the start of the

session once I have found an area, I will cast out with my spomb or if you are in close around bushes and snags you can bait by hand. Four or five spombs is enough I am not worried about being exactly on the spot it will spread out and if you throw a bit in the edge watch it flutter down through the water and the oil will ping out to the surface.

I will then cast my hookbait out on top of the spot in this case it's a 15mm Ballistic B

pop up on a multi rig popped up about an inch, so it sits nicely over anything on the bottom.

Obviously, we want to be on fish or have seen something or I will look at an area that I have caught from before. It's then a case of every hour or so I will add a few more spombfulls to the spot to freshen it up reactivating with the liquids and crumb.

I am convinced that the oil provides the signal for the carp and will





draw them in at some point during your session.

On this occasion the overnight temperatures are still cold and although the carp will be more active, they are still not looking for a big meal.

Bait sorted it was on to the session and it was clear that the going was tough having seen nothing moving on the entire lake I decided to set up on the Northern bank with the cold wind behind me.

My first rod was cast to a snaggy area with an overhanging bush and an area that I had caught carp from last year frequently and I thought this must do a bite!!

Again, four or five spombs of my Ballistic Mix to the spot and that was one rod sorted and I was happy. The other rod went further up the same margin at 12 wraps to an overhanging tree followed by the same amount of crumbed

mix in the general area.

The session was slow with no movement on the lake despite continually looking and I considered a move. I think we all face that issue to stick or twist. The day progressed and I had not even seen a carp, but it was starting to feel warmer by late afternoon at least a few degrees warmer that seemed to create a little change in things.

There were two other anglers on the lake in different areas and no-one had caught it was looking like 1-0 to the carp for the start of 2020.

I kept topping up the spot with the crumb and re-cast over the top hoping that as we got to the last hour of light something would happen.





Funnily enough as I was collecting my distance sticks and moaning about what I could do different I heard a beep from my Mag runner and received a savage drop back on my bobbin, Carp On!!

The bit that everyone loves the run and the curve in the rod as you make contact with the carp although this time the carp had come straight towards me!! A short spirited fight and a mid-double common graced my DMX landing net and had saved a blank I was a very happy angler.

A good friend who was also fishing duly took the photographs for me and the rod was put back on the spot followed by a bit more bait just in case I could pinch another one before it got dark. Sadly, that was the

only carp to grace the bank and it felt like it had been tough going but I had caught and started my year off well and of course it is always as nice feeling when what you have planned works.

No matter how big the carp is it's your capture and enjoy it particularly when a bite is hard to come by.

I hope that this little article helps you in your angling and gives you the confidence to use our bait to create a different feeding

scenario, I have seen my results improve since using the mix in this article and you can see by some of the pictures it can be used all year round.

And please let us know your feedback on using the mix there is nothing better than knowing that advice I give has helped someone catch using our products.

All the best for your angling in 2020

Steve G (Team Rod Hutchinson)







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# **Clay Lakes France Work Party and a spot of Fishing**



**Ryan Salisbury**



Opportunities come very few and far between. My friend called me up asking if I could put a work party together before the season started in March of 2020. We arranged the end of February going into the first week of March. We'd work during the day and fish during the nights. I was sold. A chance to catch more French carp pigs for a bit of hard work. I'm there.

Even though the trip was based on work it was the carp fishing at the full front of my mind. I had plenty of time to plan and observe the weather prior to the trip. As the time drew closer the weather over Christmas was pretty mild again. Also, during the first few weeks of January to. Then the UK was hit by storm after storm. The weather was cold,

windy and wet with strong winds and even snow at times. As the trip was at the end of February the weather was a major concern to me at Clay Lakes.

Clay Lakes is situated on the northernly east side of France in the province of Gremilly. The beauty of this venue is that it sits near the border of Belgium and Luxembourg. This will come more apparent later on. I checked the weather report the week prior and the forecast was snow. Due to its location it offers two major routes from Calais. You can drive straight through France and pay for the toll roads at €32 each way. This is a direct route and only takes 4 hours without stopping. The other option which we took was to drive through Belgium and came back into France. We paid for no toll

roads and it only added an extra 20 minutes to our journey.

As we were driving through Belgium and the closer, we got to Clay Lakes there was snow on the ground. We drove through the beautiful Belgium pine forests across the border into France. When arriving at clay lakes you first turn off the main road at the farm down a beaten track through some farmer's fields. We turned right at the next junction and carried on down the beaten track. At first you believe you are in the wrong place as it's in the middle of the farmers' fields. As you get to the end of the track you turn right over a small bridge into the forest. As you drive through the forest you still don't believe you are in the right location. Then all of a sudden, the forest opens up and you see the two





cabins and both lakes. At this venue you are totally cut off from the world. Totally secluded and surround by forest. No one even knows that you are there, and this just captivated me. The weather was pleasant at first. We arrived at around 10 o'clock in the morning

and was greeted by Alan the owner. He greeted us with a full English breakfast and coffee. Which was a really nice touch.

As we were carrying out the work on lake 2 throughout the week. Lake 1 was available for us to fish in the

evenings and nights until the morning. We were also allocated cabin one which was a blessing though out the week. Power and USB ports, cooker, fridge, shower and toilet facilities. A great place to chill out from the elements.

I selected my swim and set up the bivvy and rods. I tied a simple hair rig with a single hook bait and attached a stringer of freebies. I casted out into the deeper water of the lake where I believed the carp would be holding up. As there were no shows. We then settled down for the night as we were in need of some much needed sleep after the long journey down. The first night we were hit with 60 mph gale force winds and torrential rain. I couldn't believe how well my JRC brolly system held up.





The weather set the tone for the rest of the week. We were given small periods of sun now or then but only briefly throughout the week.

I awoke the next morning without a bite and in a way, it was a blessing. I reeled in but before we went off for breakfast, I walked around the lake and primed a few spots that looked really good for a bite. The bait I took was 10 kilos of boilies which I turned

into crumb and some soaked mixed pellet. The boilies were a tester bait from Orion Car Baits. I was using it for the first time, but I never questioned the bait as all their other baits have proven their quality time and time again. The weather was bitterly cold with a strong northerly breeze. With rain and low temperatures. A winter approach to the lake was in order.

Throughout the week we were to carry out

work on lake 2 building swims and clearing the main track from fallen down trees and the ones around the lakes. The weather took its toll, but it didn't stop us from achieving our goal. After the first day's hard graft I casted my rods onto my pre baited areas and settled in for the night. At 10 o'clock Sunday night I had my first take. Now the take was not a screaming run. It was a winter take one or two beeps on the alarm. I jumped out my warm sleeping bag into the cold and rain. I fought a lovely common carp. The moment it woke up it kicked into action. The rain was blowing in my face and my hands were freezing. Every time I gained a few yards the carp took more back. Once I slipped it into the net, I saw it was a pretty fish. Coming in a just over 32 lb and I was





wind didn't. Coming in at 34 lb another stunning common. We were over the moon because we were limited to angling hours, we managed to bank 2 x 30's in two night sessions. We had got our approach right. The rest of the night was quiet and bite time had passed.

buzzing. Not only just for catching but also confirming to me the carp were in winter mode and the approach was bang on.

The following day I did the same as I did the day before. After reeling in the rods, I pre baited the same areas. Then cracked on with a days hard graft on lake 2. Cracking on with the swims in the pouring rain. The day passed pretty quickly, and it was time to put the rods back into position. At midnight on Monday

the same left had rod went again. Just a one beep take. I'm a great believer in sharing success so I woke my dad up and said fish on. Lucky enough for him the rain held off, but the bitter cold

For those who haven't done or wouldn't even consider winter fishing are missing a trick. During the winter periods the fish turn into survival mode. The fish need to reserve their energy and switch







off. However, the big carp still need to sub sustain their weight. So, this forces them to look for food during the colder months. Small carp can speed longer periods without food which means they can reserve their energy for longer. This is why I find the bigger residents are caught in the colder months. This would prove my theory correct during the rest of the week.

Now if your equipped correctly with the correct warm clothing. Hot brews and food.

Also willing to sit behind motionless rods not questioning your tactics. The reward is far greater. The only thing I question is location if I've not caught over a 24 hr period. The other great benefit is bait. The

carp are only looking for a small meal. Not a tennis court presentation of baits. Single hook bait cut down with a few little helpings is enough to temp the carp to take it. If you have a massive spread the carp is more likely feed on few freebies, then stop feeding. As it's cold the carp take longer to digest the bait. So, they only eat small amounts. It would take a super hook bait for them to home in on it. My approach is boilie crumb and a single hook bait. Tipped off with a bright piece of







foam. The rig of choice is all dependent of the lakebed. If it's a clear lakebed always a bottom bait on a semi stiff hook link. Old weed beds or fishing over leaves and twigs a Ronnie Rig approach as it is presented better with a pop up. The crumb spreads onto the lakebed giving of an attraction. My hook bait is the food source. Some anglers may agree with me others may not. But the proof is in the pudding when your landing carp.

On Wednesday I didn't change a thing, the pre baiting and bait was working. We finished work pretty early and was able to get our rods out early afternoon. It was not long and out the blue we had our third fish of the week. This was more of a confirmed take as it took a little line. The fish had so much fight and as the afternoon had cleared up the fish started to show. Even after landing another amazing common at 34 lb he was still strong

while trying to take a photo. The evening and night was quiet and because we had the lake to ourselves, we decided to make a move on the back end of the wind. We moved swims in the morning before we stated work. It was delivery day of the wood chip which was delivered by the Bailiff and good friend Max. A day on the quad bike for me running wood chip to the swims.

My dad had a day off and because it was his turn to reel in, he just relaxed in the warm winter sun. It was the only day the sun shined on us. At midday the move had paid off as my dad landed a 31 lb mirror. The first mirror of the trip. The sunshine was very short lived, and the rain came in again and it wasn't letting up. It did slow down the work party and we



called it a day pretty early. Thursday through to Friday was very quiet I believe the cold wind and rain switched the lake off.

While working on lake two we saw some wonderful shows. Carp topping and jumping. They were like mini whales. We just stood there and admired the beauty of the venue. In the middle of this forest away from the world.

Wild boar, raccoons, deer, hawks, badgers and geese the list goes on. The customers visiting the venue this year are going to be in for a right treat. They will also enjoy our hard work in some cracking swims.

Friday was the last day for us and we finished on a high. The rods reeled in and packed away Alan shorted out a little surprise. Max

the Bailiff gave him a shoulder of wild boar which we roasted in the oven. Wild boar and a couple of French beers went down a treat. We packed the car ready for the journey back the next morning. The trip was a success on and off the lake. Four 30's in the winter and the swims completed on lake 2. With all the trees that fell through the storms cleared out the way. The venue





was almost ready for the season with a few little jobs to be boxed off. The team worked hard thought the closed season and deserve a lot credit on how the venue looked and had to offer to the customers. While working closely with Alan I was taken back by his passion and love for carp fishing. Also, the investment he puts into making a venue to cater for

all anglers. Being it the social side or the anglers who want their own swims. I'm looking forward to returning in August as a customer to see the venue in full bloom and with a lot warmer weather. A massive thank you to Alan for allowing us this opportunity.

To watch our trip, you can go over to my YouTube channel Duo Tackle.

For more information on the bait I used please visit [www.orioncarpbaits.co.uk](http://www.orioncarpbaits.co.uk)

To check availability on either lake. Lake One or Two you can visit [www.claylakes.com](http://www.claylakes.com)

Hope you enjoyed the article and hope to see you on the bank someday.

Ryan Salisbury











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# RIG CHANGE BY KARL BRANDRETH





This time out, I was on Monument One hoping to catch that elusive 40 lber. But the carp had other ideas. I turned up on peg 7 to start my session, got my new bivvy up and then went about getting my rods in order to cast out. The weather looked spot on, but the wind was not in my favour. It was blowing to my left and down to peg 2. I wrapped up my rods and cast out to the spot. I saw two carp nut out, just out of my reach at the peg opposite. I had made two d-rigs, one with a wafter and the other with a small snowman. Single baits were the order of the day. Once I got my gear set up, I sat back and watched the water waiting for the rods to burst into life.

While I waited my mind drifted back to the rigs I used to use. I always made a standard

hair rig. I wouldn't change. I think I was just scared of change, but I did catch a lot of carp on the hair rig. One day I was fishing with a guy I know, and he suggested I try the d-rig. I was a bit sceptical, but I thought, sod it, I'll give it a go. I went on the internet to see how it was made and made a few up. I was all fingers and thumbs, at first, but I finally cracked it and, I must say, my catch rate went up when I started using them. Anyway, back on Monument the wind

would not change. I was getting frustrated, but you can't control the weather. There was still carp nutting out past my spot, but they wouldn't move over my way. It got to about teatime and the wind died off a little. I could see more carp moving around, but not my way. I had a re-cast, with a little bait from the shop. I put in with my x-spod, and 6-7 spods worth, just to see if I could draw the fish over. I got my stove on and heated up some hotdogs. I sat there watching the





water until it went dark. I made a few phone calls then went to bed for some well-earned sleep.

I was woken up around 3 times in the night from liners, but no takes. I eventually got up around 5am the next morning to a lovely sunrise.

I sat there until about 11am, made two new d-rigs and decided a re-cast was in order. I thought I would put some more bait out - with the liners in the night I thought the carp might have been on the spot.

The day had gone quickly, and it was soon time to pack up and go home. The carp were not feeding at all that weekend or, if they were, they weren't on my bait.

The next time out I was back on my local lake in Cheshire. I decided

to go up in the shallows due to a few fish being caught recently from the shallow end.

There is an aerator in my swim, so I decided to cast my rods, one either side - just single baits with a 3-boilie stringer. On one rod I decided to change the rig to a Ronnie rig with a snowman coming off the hook. Once the rods were set in place, and my bivvy was up, I decided to tuck into some tea - burgers. I was chatting with my mates when my left-hand rod burst into life and I landed a beautiful mid-double mirror. What a lovely surprise that was on the Ronnie rig, another rig change that had worked for me. It

had gotten to that time - time to go to bed and, at around 11.30pm, my right-hand rod woke up and I landed another little mirror. We weighed and photographed the carp and put it back to fight another day. I got my rod back on the spot and went back to bed.

Then, at 12.30am, my left-hand rod burst into life, but I lost that one, the hook pulled out. I made a new Ronnie rig





and cast it back to the spot. I checked my hook that had lost the carp, it was blunt. It must have hit a stone on the bed of the lake. Back in bed, and drifting off into the land of nod, the next thing I knew it was morning with the sunrise shining in my eyes. I got up, made a coffee, and sat there watching the wildlife - herons

and kingfishers, it was bliss.

At 10am I brought my rods in and went for a walk round the lakes to check cards and see if anyone had caught any carp.

There were only a few caught but, to be fair, the water was still cold, and they were just waking up from their winter slumber. I returned to my peg

and made new rigs. One was a d-rig and the other a Ronnie rig. I got them back on the spot and chilled out for the day.

Teatime came around again. I sat there eating my tea when I saw 5 or 6 carp lift out of the water on my spot. I was chuffed to see them as it showed me they were on the move.







last carp. They had moved out of the area. I got to my car, dumped my gear in and went home. This is a story about not being afraid to change your rigs. It worked for me and taught me a lesson - always check your rigs to see if they're blunt. It will cost you a carp.

My mates had gone home but I had one more night ahead of me. It was time to get back in bed and sleep the night away. At 12.30am my right-hand rod rattled off and I landed a lovely mid-double, starburst mirror. I got my rod back out and finished my sleep.

I woke up the next morning taking in the countryside smells and

wildlife - I love it.

At 8am I started to pack up. I'd not had any indication on my rods since the

Anyway, until next time, STAY SAFE, and tight lines.

Karl.





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Bait: Be different or  
follow the crowd?

By Carl Milton





Most articles these days regale the need to be different in our approach, to be successful. There are undoubted merits of this tactic. I myself am a great believer in this, and wherever possible try to adopt this methodology. But there are times also when the old adage of 'if you can't beat them, join them', has come into my angling too.

Two campaigns come to mind to illustrate both approaches. The first was a fairly recent campaign on a very tough low stock water. The water in question is fairly small, with an 'A team' of large carp that would be the envy of anywhere. Given its stock and the small lake size, the carp see an immense amount of angling pressure.

The second water is a larger venue, again with a fair stock of big carp, but also a fair amount of back up doubles and twenties. This other venue is not as busy, as the owner runs a much smaller syndicate.

Let's take the low stock small venue first. When I first fished the lake, it became obvious that the fish were very wary. They had seen a lot of pressure for many years, in a small lake. I'm sure at some stage all the usual tactics had been tried. I started to take notice of what the other anglers were using. The big fish only came out once or twice a year, and only having limited time, meant I needed to really do something different to compete. I needed

to work really hard to find an edge. Most of the other anglers had more experience on the water and had more time than me too. Being a small water, it was fairly easy to see what other anglers were using as bait. There were a couple of baits that most people were using, but the lake was being hammered with these. The fish in this water very quickly wise up, it really paid to be one step ahead. I decided to try to establish my own bait. This required pre-baiting regularly in decent quantities. I managed to source a bait I knew the fish in this water hadn't seen before. I also decided to pre-bait all winter leading into the spring. The advantage of this was that the water was



slightly quieter in these periods, so I could get the bait in easier. I'm a great believer that in life if you put the effort in and go that extra mile, that you get your rewards. That winter I did exactly that, using up much of my precious free time to pre-bait in all sorts of conditions. A couple of occasions I even broke the ice to pre-bait. As Del Boy famously said 'he who dares wins. That February I caught 4 fish in 24hrs over the pre-baited spot. This was unheard of when I run a winter was a good result on this water. It didn't stop there I eventually went on to catch several of the 'A team' that year. For the limited time I had, on a very tough water I was over the moon with my results.

The other venue was a different proposition. This water is much quieter, but there are a dedicated bunch of anglers who fish it a lot. This bunch of 'regulars' worked almost as a team using the same bait, and putting large quantities of it in. They were a friendly bunch and very happy to share what bait they were using, without me even asking. In carp angling I've learnt over the years that many anglers do throw you a curve ball to act as a smoke screen from what they are actually using to maintain an edge. This is perfectly understandable. I'm never one to go and ask direct questions on such things anyway, as I always take greater satisfaction in doing my own thing. But

these chaps were quite happy to genuinely tell me the bait they were using and even show me it in action. They were all successful and enjoyed some very good catches. When I first arrived on the water, I figured that the fish would soon wise up to their tactics though soon enough. So, I adopted my usual approach of trying to establish my own bait. Although I managed through careful research and negotiation, to get my bait at a reasonable rate, there was still a fair amount to shell out, to get a decent quantity of bait. With my bait purchased I embarked on some serious pre-baiting. After the baiting campaign, I eagerly await my first session. Conditions were



good. I sat back and waited and waited. Nothing materialised. I assumed maybe I had got my location wrong, being a larger water, the fish were fairly nomadic. I'd pre-baited several areas, but gone with the one I'd baited the most, as there were no signs of fish to be seen that day. The next session came and again I was super confident, and again drew a blank. I fished a couple more sessions, one of them I did catch two smaller fish. But I noticed several of the other 'regulars', were catching more than me and getting among the bigger fish. At this stage I did some serious thinking. I had to decide do I stick to my principles of trying to be different, and continue trying to establish my own bait,

or adopt the approach of 'if you can't beat them, join them'! As much as every fibre of my body was telling me to stick to my guns, as you can't beat establishing your own bait and catching on it, I had to change in this case. I realised the fish were preoccupied with the bait the 'regulars' were putting in. On a larger water, with limited time and not sadly having a magic money tree to fund endless bait, I had to accept I couldn't compete in terms of frequency or quantity of pre-bait, with the regulars. So, I relented and went on to the bait they were using. This led

to countless memorable captures. These two examples serve to illustrate the importance of not having a fixed approach to bait and pre-baiting. Instead it's important to be realistic about the resources you have and adapt to the situation that presents itself. However, I must say the captures on the first water where I did all the groundwork establishing a bait, were the most rewarding of all.

Enjoy your fishing.  
Carl





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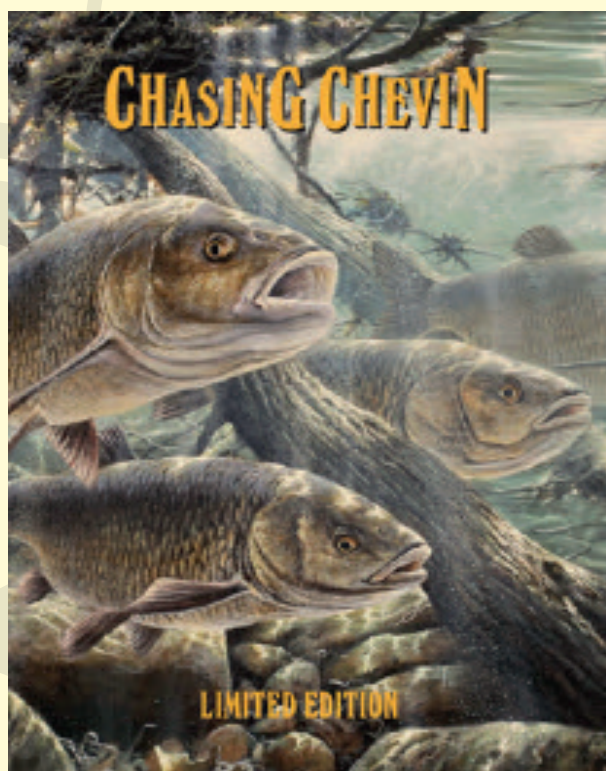
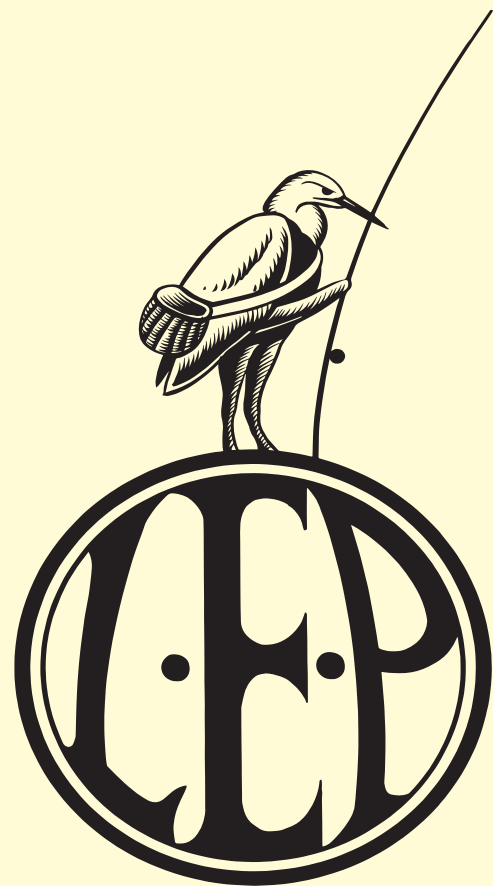


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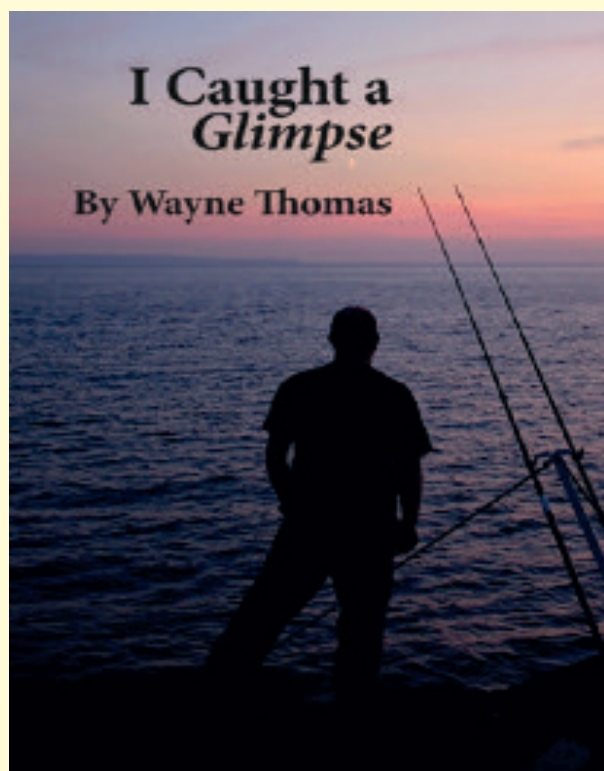


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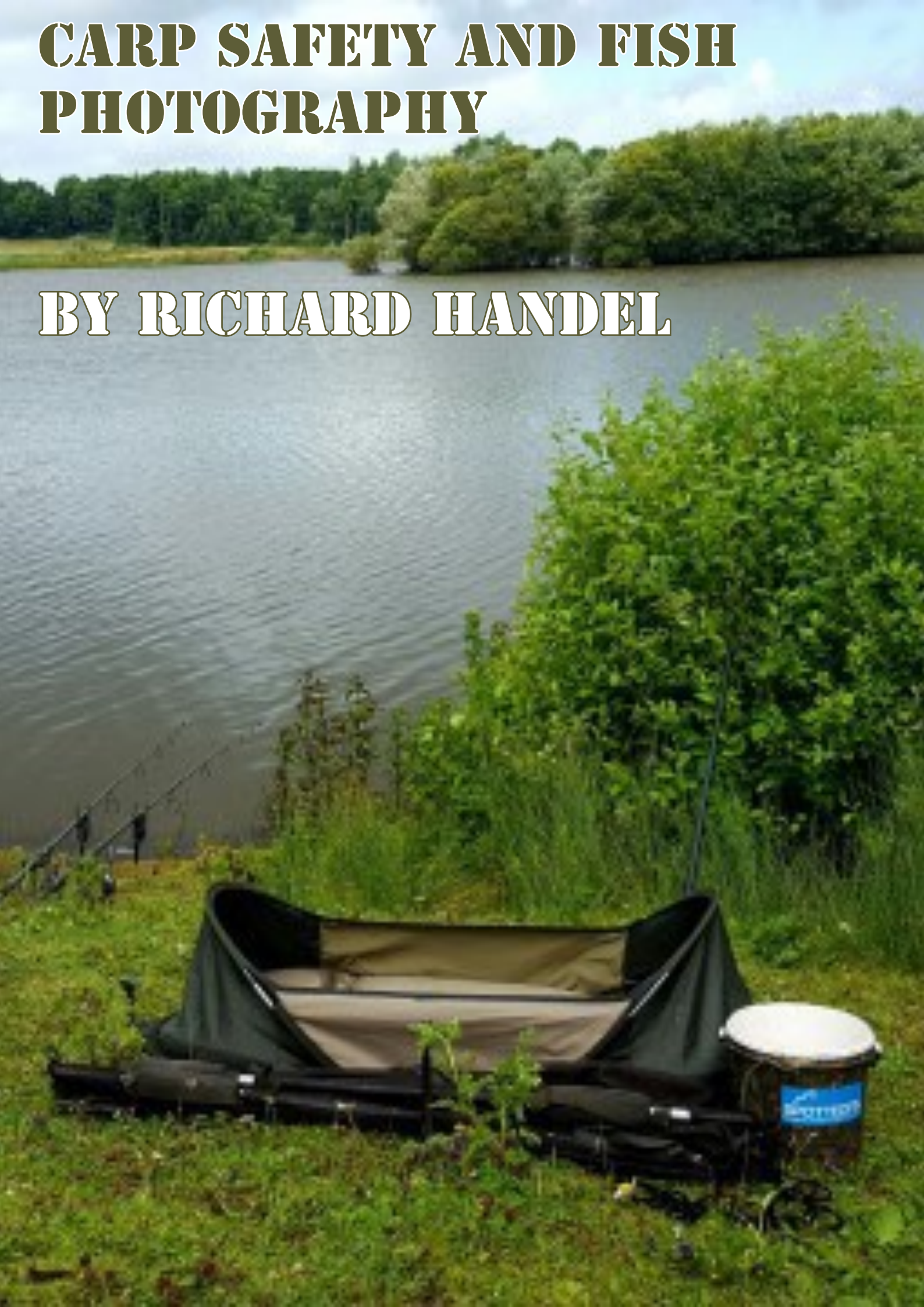
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# CARP SAFETY AND FISH PHOTOGRAPHY

BY RICHARD HANDEL





## **I would like to cover Carp safety when weighing and photographing fish.**

1. Always have your unhooking mat out ready (this means undone and laid out on the floor). I've seen so many times, people catching a fish, leaving the fish in the net (unsecured), turn around and only then start getting their unhooking mat out. I've seen fish power off into the lake whilst still in the net. I always put a bank stick in the ground, just in case I have to do this, some waters have sack bans. In fact, I have a large weigh sling which has mesh at either end so I use this as a weigh sling/sack when sorting out the photo equipment (if have been unable to sort this out before).



2. The fish **MUST** come first and it's not all about you! If it's not feasible to take a photo, just put the fish back – you've landed the fish and weighed it, this is what counts. There's no need to take a photo which puts the fish's life at risk. ([why the perfect capture shot](#))

Step (1) once the fish is in the net, transport it to the unhooking mat, unhook the fish, move it into the weigh sling & weigh the fish.

***All ready for the fish***



Step (2) place the fish back in the lake safety, secured in the sack. Some sacks come with a float attached (just in case something goes wrong).

Step (3) get all the photo equipment out (I have the tripod out and camera attached ready to go under the brolly. I use a compact Panasonic lumix DT70 or My Samsung phone S8 Plus The camera has a function of time laps shots. I set this at 1 picture every 10 seconds until it's done 100. I set the tripod up in front of the mat all ready and press start. Then there's no worries about holding a remote, it's all done in your own time and the safety of the carp.



Step (4) get all set up and ready to go before you take the fish out off the sack. If using a remote I hold it in my right hand and then pick up the fish as you can see in these photos. –





## Things to remember

Be prepared - have all your kit ready and out e.g. unhooking mat, scales, weigh sling, a bucket full of lake water to put over the fish (if required), tripod & camera and last but not least remember to check your camera setting before you get the fish out of the water!



## Carp care kit.

Now, hands up how many people own one but never use it? Please think of the Carp. I'm sure we all would like the fish to look nice for as many years as possible and grow to be that big famous 40 lb+ Carp which everyone is after.





I would like to recall a story that happened to a friend, it may bring some meaning to this blog.

It was one Winters night and I was doing a night with a friend of mine. We had had a couple of fish between us. At around 3 in the morning, my friend landed a 29+ fish. He weighed it and unbeknown to me, placed the fish in a sack which was in three foot of water and in the margins. This was so he could get some photos in the day light. There was a freezing Easterly blowing. I landed a fish around 4 in the morning and saw that he had his head torch on, so I pop over for a quick word before I put my rods back out again. Which is when he said that he had the 29 in the sack along the dam wall. At which point, I went for a quick walk only to find that the water's edge had started to freeze in the wind. My friend had followed me down and after a very heated discussion, which turned in to an argument (he had caught bigger fish before) and finally, after I nearly put the fish back myself, he saw my point and he put the fish back. This fish died within the week, most probably due to its ordeal in the sack that night (very sad).

In all my fishing days, I have only had the need to use a sack a few times and I normally end up sitting up all night checking the fish.

I hope this recollection makes you think - the next time, fish safety comes first.

99% of the photography which is on my website or on social media, has been self-taken and just to say again that it's all about catching the fish. You don't really need a photo as proof, it nice but not essential.

That's all for now  
Richard





# GRIZZLYMAN<sup>®</sup>

COSMOTEX<sup>®</sup>

## NORWAY Pro Skason suit PARKA and TROUSERS

Material: HardShell (3-layer Softshell),  
extreme membrane.

Colour: dark khaki.

Fabric: 100% polyester.

Density: 220 g/m<sup>2</sup>

Vapour permeability: 6000 gr./m<sup>2</sup>/24 h.

Water resistance: 15000 mm.

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# The Social by Jordan Watson





As spring is well and truly on its way and with many people's syndicate tickets and campaign waters are starting to come to fruition, I just wanted to reiterate the fact that our sport is all about enjoyment. I do get the point that people are targeting specific fish and all the rest of it, but whilst your out there chasing your quarry maybe going through a rough time with very few captures and very few sightings to go on, remember that the social aspect of our sport is truly great and what better way to spend a couple of night than out fishing with one of your friends.

With all that in mind I got in touch with my mate Scott Rogers and organised a session down to Raker lakes as I had booked a double peg for us to have a social, chew the fat and drink copious amounts

of coffee (well for me anyway), I managed to get an early dart from work on the Friday and met Scott at the lake around 2pm, Raker Lakes seemed like the perfect choice for a bit of a social, it had been doing a few fish over the past few weeks, to me included, however the weather conditions were to dramatically change from the mild temps and south, south westerly winds we had been having to bitterly cold north easterly which was blowing straight into us in our double peg.

Having had a chat with Scott it was time to get the rods sorted and get them in position, my tactics remained as they had been for several weeks (if it isn't broke don't fix it) which was rotary rigs on a short length of leadcore with a spinner rig on a super stiff hook link and a scattering of

Rollin baits inception boilies around each rod, Scott on the other hand opted to fish solid bags on his 3 areas, a tactic he has utmost confidence in so again why change!

Rods out it was time for a coffee and put the world to rights with Scott so just as I was about to get out of the brolly Scott crept up on me and screamed, coffee everywhere and him doubled up laughing, I thought right I owe you one! The rest of the day passed uneventfully for the both of us and as night began to draw in it really did have a distinct chill about it, however, Scott had brought his Powapacs TV with him so we opted to watch Game of Thrones whilst looking for signs of fish. Around 10pm I was really tired due to been up early for work, just as I said my





goodnights, Scott stopped me and said "can you fill this up" turned round and here he is holding the tiniest and most feminine hot water bottle I've ever seen, so after giving him a load of abuse I proceeded to fill up this water bottle and give him it back, then off to bed I went. Around 2am I needed a call of nature and on getting out the bag it was cold, really cold. I got back into the bag and really couldn't warm up and couldn't help think

that I could do with his water bottle right now, which led to a night of restlessness and not much sleep.

We awoke that next morning to no action other than a couple of liners and only one other fish coming out around the lake, which in the conditions wasn't a bad result so fair play to the lad who had it. Around 11am my right hand rod signalled a take, then my left simultaneously which was very strange, a

swan was trailing a big branch with line wrapped around it and wiped out all 5 of our rods! After half an hour of mess, cutting our lines and rigs in a bid to free the swan we had to give Steve (the owner) a ring to bring the boat to free the swan, after another 20 minutes or so everything was done, swan safe and me and Scott left in a massive ball of mess, to be honest this incident had broken me and I lost a bit of motivation



especially with Scott hurling abuse at me saying it was my fault (noddy!) Scott duly knocked up 3 more supple Ronnie rigs and got his 3 solid bags back in position with pink hookbaits followed by a sprinkling of Rollins inception. I made a coffee and got 2 fresh rigs and fresh hookbaits sorted and got the rods back on the spots again with a sprinkling of Rollin Baits goodies around each, they went out perfectly and couldn't be happier with how they went down, right now for some breakfast, my new chef duly fired up his stove and set about making us some pork and apple sausage and bacon butties which were absolutely divine I might add, at least now I know Scott was good for something.

At 2pm in the afternoon  
Scotts right hand rod







absolutely melted off to our surprise and he was on it in a flash expertly guiding it away from the island snags and overhangs, the fish put up a good account of itself and on netting it we realised it was only small but an absolute pearler of a carp and definitely one for the future, it was only a scraper double and a fish I had a few weeks earlier but we had to get some photos because it was truly stunning. I give my congratulations to

Scott who had really got this session off to a flyer and it left me feeling confident as I was fishing tight to the island margins on the opposite side of our peg. Darkness started to draw in and uncountable amounts of coffees later on went Game of Thrones for the second time and my chef got our tea on, a nice mince stew.... lovely. We kicked back and watched the water until around 11pm and I had to get my

head down as I was shattered.

At 2 am the following morning and Scott not being able to wake me up the first few times of trying he eventually decided to tap me on the head a considerable amount of times. I awoke to "wake up sleeping beauty I've got one", not knowing where

I was I managed to scramble my trainers on and assist Scott with the weighing of his fish which as you can tell by the stills that it was an absolute minter and at 25lb 8oz. It really was a mega result, with first light now a couple of hours away we retained the fish to do it justice with some daylight shots and because it was a newly stocked fish Steve could keep an eye on the fishes growth rate and see how its doing.



We got some awesome pictures of the fish and duly slipped it back to its watery home, for the last few hours I decided to poach Scott's swim in a bid to try and get a last gasp fish, but unfortunately it wasn't to be and we started packing up. Some anglers would be jealous at Scott's results and would be devastated if they were in my shoes but seeing them two fish and my mate having a mega result in very adverse conditions made my session, which to be fair is what carp angling is all about, a great time was had by both of us, constantly hurling abuse at one another, bouncing ideas off one another and constantly

trying to turn the session around. Whilst packing up the weather changed again and looked bang on for a bite, I know that if I had more time I would have probably banked one but more than happy with how the session panned out. I packed up a very happy angler.

The moral of the story is, go out and enjoy your fishing, that's why we do it, don't take things too serious, and don't take the time we

have on the bank for granted as we never know what's round the corner, whether that be targeting a massive scaly banger in a 120 acre pit or tackling a runs water with a few mates. Do it on your terms and enjoy.

A special thanks to Paul at MP Lead Shed and Lee and Shaun at Rollin Baits

Tight lines

Jordan Watson





# The Start of Something by Wayne Grant





Thought I'd have ago at telling my story. This is how my obsession started with the beautiful creature we pursue so avidly, which is the carp. A small piece of how I discovered what would soon become a massive part of my life, the addiction many of us share and simply can't live without.

Like many, I started fishing young, I was 11 and I remember it was the Easter holidays. As all kids do I spent days messing around and playing football at my local park with friend, coincidentally there was a very small river that ran through the field. One day one of my school friends told me his granddad had given him a fishing rod and he suggested that we try and use it, neither of us had a clue what to do so we decided to spend the afternoon at his house and try to work out how to set up this "rod". At his house he got his dad to get it out of the shed. It was a really old fiberglass rod, it had a few eyes missing and had the smallest reel imaginable, but at this time it was amazing to us. It came with a small tackle box with floats, hooks and various bits and pieces. His dad showed us roughly how to set the rod up, putting a float on and said to use the biggest hooks we could.

We planned to go to the park river the very next day and catch loads of fish. I can remember leaving that night so excited, tomorrow couldn't come fast enough. Well, come the morning, we turned up and the fishing was pretty slow, obviously my friend wouldn't let me cast with the rod, but I didn't mind. It seemed like the longest morning ever, the only thing he caught was the bush a few times, we weren't even sure there were any fish in there, we both went home very disheartened and my friend and I never went fishing again together.

A few months later I went to a car boot sale with my mum and dad, I saw some fishing tackle for sale and at first didn't think anything about it, but as we walked round I felt the need to convince my parents I needed it. I didn't want to leave empty handed, begrudgingly my parents bought it, there was allsorts, more than what my friend had. Once home my dad said he would take me to a local lake one weekend and it's all I thought about for weeks. Eventually that Sunday came, my dad woke me up bright and early, it was a short drive, only about 15 minutes but enough time for him to lecture me all the way there about being quiet/listening





and behaving. Once we were there I couldn't believe my eyes. I'd never seen a lake before, it looked so calm a peaceful, at 11 years old normally this would be boring but for some reason it felt special. My dad set my rod up, thinking back it's was deadly, 15-year-old 5lb line, a round bomb lead thread down the line stopped by a small shot then a size 16 hook. My dad never was a fisherman and I'm guessing just improvised, his method was to put 2 maggots on, cast anywhere and reel in every 10 minutes to unhook the tiny roach. Catching so many fish was exciting to me and I

decided every Sunday this is what I wanted to do. Eventually after some guidance from the local tackle shop over the next few weeks I turned into quite a decent match angler, catching all species, all except a carp. Soon was the start of the summer holidays and my parents treated me to a seat box and a few other bits, I entered a few matches and done really well, I was well and truly hooked!

One day after a normal decent session I was carrying my seat box back to the carpark and I saw someone fishing very differently. He was an older teenage lad, he had an umbrella and a camp bed, and 2 rods which he wasn't holding. It seemed strange to me so thought I'd stop to ask if had was catching, to my shock this lad said no but I will do one day soon. I thought to myself either I'm good or he is rubbish as I had never gone and caught nothing before. I asked if he wanted to borrow some ground bait, he replied "no, it's ok I fish for carp." I said I'd never caught a carp before. It was at this moment the lads attitude totally changes, he perked up and told me how special and large they were. The excitement in his voice made me want to know more. After a good



ten minutes of him describing why he fishes for them I heard my dad beep his horn in the carpark. On leaving the teenage lad said that if I was serious pop down the next day and he would teach me. I was a nervous 11-year-old but the thought of catching a carp was exciting so I agreed.

The next day I turned up, I didn't know what to expect, and after a lap of the lake I found the teenage boy up a tree, he soon scuttled down for a chat. He said to me that today was the day I was going catch a carp! I didn't believe him but just smiled and listened to his instructions, he said straight away he was only going to teach me the basics and then I would have to find my own way, I was happy for any advice. Straight away he removed the reel from my rod and lent me a slightly bigger one, he told me that I would eventually have to change my tackle for bigger fish, he then proceeded to tie a mono hair rig onto my line, told me where to cast it and attached a stick to my line for indication. He told me not to recast until I got the bite which was all day. During the day we spoke about rigs, baits, location and tackle. It was so much to take in but seemed really exciting then randomly one

hour before I had to meet my dad the stick shot of my line. As I struck everything changed, this was not a match fish this was a real carp. He talked me through the fight and eventually he landed it in his giant net. I will never forget this 5lb common, I'd never seen anything like it, we had no phones back then so no pictures, but the image of that fish will never leave me. He talked me through fish care, and thinking back the knowledge this teenage lad had was so far advanced for the time. The way he described everything with so much passion really stuck in my head. He asked





me if I wanted to fish with him again the next day, but I couldn't as had a football match. Before I left he gave me one more tip which changed my whole prospective of fishing, he told me the local shop sold magazines about fishing and to read as much as I could, I thanked him for everything and went home with the biggest smile on my face.

I returned later that week full of ideas, first trip back I jumped in same swim with the same rig and didn't catch. I was devastated. I went back the next day to a different swim and tried again, same result....

nothing. I'd lost hope without that carpy lad I didn't think I could catch, I went back that following weekend, back to what I knew, a bit of match fishing. This was a point swim that stretched out into the lake. I was having a normal productive day and that's when I saw it..... It looked like a dinosaur, it nudged past my keep net. I can remember thinking it must be 4ft long and 2ft wide. I chucked my float at it knowing nothing would come of it, it swam off back into the deep, again I returned back to the lake for the last weekend of the summer holidays. The carpy lad was there so I popped over for a chat, he invited me to fish with him again, this time he made me tie the rigs, again basic mono hair rigs, he gave me some boilies and told me to cast to a distant tree as tight as possible. That day I had two for 5lb commons I was ecstatic, as the holidays was finishing he wrote down his address and said I could go around one evening, look through his magazines and learn different rigs. This was the night I really started to understand what it was all about, setting the trap and out witting the fish, I told him about the dinosaur I'd seen swim past my keep net a few days before he instantly said that's the Big Mirror!





This was his and just about every local anglers target fish. The following weekend I couldn't fish, I had a football tournament for my local team, I popped round my carpy mates house Sunday evening to plot the following weekends session and he told me he had finally caught her. I had to wait to see the pictures as back then disposable cameras took along time to developed, with that he said it was his time to step his game up and move on.... When I asked where he would be fishing he said Burghfield, little did I know how dedicated he was.

With that he was gone, I would not meet him again for 6 years, so now on my own still hungry for carp I set about targeting that big mirror. Over the years I learnt the venue, I'd caught just about every member of the "A team" in that lake and after 5 years I finally managed to get her. This turned

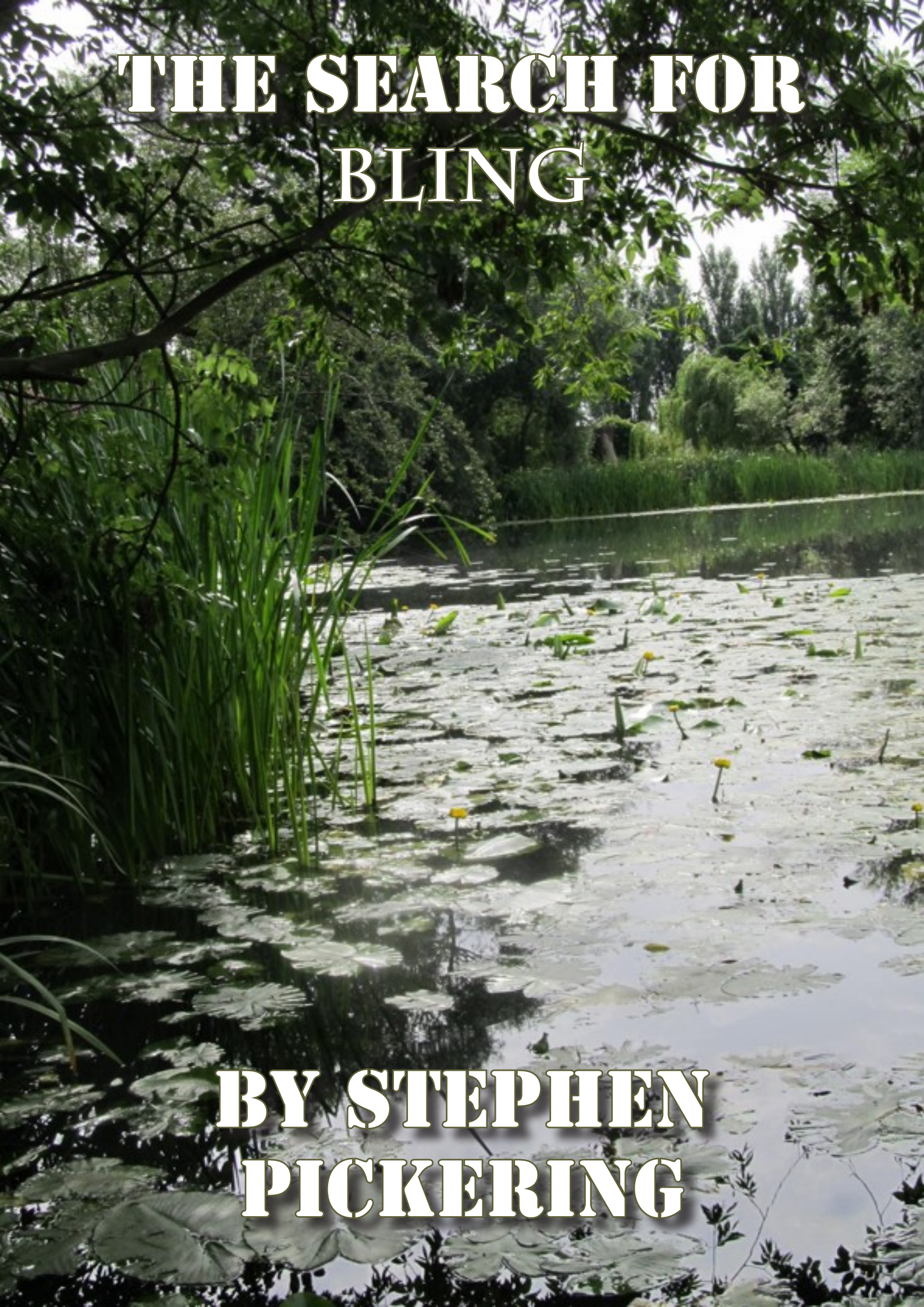
out to be her very last capture before a algae bloom wiped out the entire stock, but now I was ready to move on myself with my fishing. I never braved Burghfield like my old mate, but I did stints on very high-pressured waters where I learnt a lot. I will end this story here for now and continue in the next issue, and thank my "carpy friend" who has become one of the top off the radar anglers in the UK catching many of the most sought after fish in the UK, without him I wouldn't have the obsession for the sport.

Thanks for reading

Wayne





A photograph of a pond in a lush, green setting. The pond is covered with lily pads and several small yellow flowers. The background is filled with dense foliage and trees, creating a serene and natural atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

# THE SEARCH FOR BLING

BY STEPHEN  
PICKERING



I have fished at Fairview for quite a few years now, and although fishing can be hard at times,

Fairview is especially tricky due to its deceptive appearance, the lake is small which leads you to believe that catching them will be easy-but this is not always the case at Fairview

The lake itself was dug in the 1800s and was originally a clay pit. It is around two acres in size, the lake is spring fed and full of natural food source it also has three cabins, toilets and a water tap.

I remember the first time I fished at Fairview- it was around the time that Simon Crowe caught C Scale at 42 lbs (I believe there

was around 100 fish in the lake and at least six 30lb fish, along with some 20lb+ ones as backup)

That first session was very kind to me, having caught five fish- two doubles and three 20lb+ ones, with the biggest being 26lb 4oz





I always had two fish in mind when visiting Fairview: C Scale and a fish named "Bling" It took three years for C Scale to make an appearance and at 35lb 14oz I was over the moon! Now it was time to focus on Bling who at 25lb was a real stunner

Unfortunately I had to stop fishing for a while due to ill health and it was during that time that C Scale died (R I P old girl- it was nice meeting you)

Fifteen years on and the lake is still as stunning as ever the stock has changed a bit but the lake has stayed the same.

My quest for Bling(who is now tipping the scales at 34lb) continues to this day My mate, Can Hussein beat me to it though last month, after only two years of trying. Good

angling mate!

To finish off I would like to thank all the lads on the lake and especially the owners Wayne and Lou.

*Stephen Pickering*

Spotted Fin Promotion Team Member

Castaway PVA Team Member







**Venue: Petit Pretre, France**

**Date: 17th to 24th October 2020**

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



**Amount Anglers: 16** 2 rods per angler

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

**BBQ, Raffle**

**Charity: Forces C.A.R.P.**

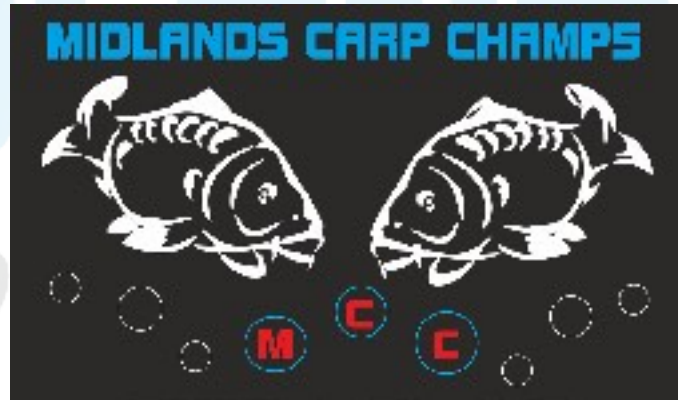
Carp Angling Recovery Programme which assists  
veterans with their long term recovery from  
physical and mental injuries through carp angling.  
Also Germany donation made each year.



**Anglo German Carp Fest • email: [anglogermancarpfest@gmail.com](mailto:anglogermancarpfest@gmail.com)**  
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### **Midlands Carp Champs 2020**

Midlands Carp Champs is back again for our 4th year and due to growing support and popular demand we have given the format a little revamp for this year.

We pride ourselves on the way we have grown the competitions and our fundamental values of keeping the events friendly, cheap as possible to enter and above all ensuring the events are made enjoyable for every one who entered and follows us on our social media live videos.

We are also pleased to announce a new sole sponsorship deal with Tackle Addicts Tamworth a fantastic new local shop to us who will be supporting the events and offering our competitors exclusive deals and prizes for the final - we would like to thank shop owner Sean Chester for his generosity and support this year.

In addition our long affiliation with Alan Scholes and Chameleon Leads continues and We would like to thank Alan.

The format this year will be -

- 3 Qualifying Rounds
- 9 x Pegs (Single or Double) in each round
- Top 3 from each round will go into the 9 Peg Final



- ENTRY FEE IS £220 Peg Peg
- PRIORITY | 2019 Competitors can purchase from 28th February for 5 days the tickets will then go to General Sale.
- All competitions will be 48 hours
- Registration from 8am
- Draw 10am
- Baiting / Markering from 11am
- Fish 12pm Fri to 12pm Sun

## Dates -

**Q1 - 8th to 10th May**

**Q2 - 24 to 26th July**

**Q3 - 7th to 9th August**

**Final - 4th to 6th Sept**

Prizes if full - 1st £1250, tackle voucher and trophie, 2nd - £750, tackle voucher and trophies, 3rd £400, Biggest fish - tackle voucher and trophy.

Any one wanting more information should contact us via our Facebook page -

Midlandscarpchamps







# Review

*Featuring -*

Skills Brolly System  
by Brian Dixon





**Skills Brolly System by Brian Dixon**





As my new club ticket started for 2020, I ventured onto my chosen water. A Cheshire mere with limited parking areas and long walks through wooded terrain... which is great when I did my first recon mission and walk around... but the next two visits I was fishing, and soon came to the conclusion that barrowing my gear around to the better spots away from the car park is not going to be easy, and I need to start making decisions about my gear. So, first thing I decided on was to drop the big bivvy, the heavy groundsheet, the extra overwrap and find a suitable replacement which weighed a lot less.

After spotting the Skills brolly system on the GCT Group stand at the Northern Angling Show I did a bit more research on it, and the decision was made to get one.... And I am so glad I did.

Here is what you get for your money...







An oversized full zip bag (not a cheap sleeve you can never get your items back into!)

On opening the zip, you are greeted by the full kit. The brolly, groundsheet, zip on front, 4 support poles, the pole that fits across the top two ribs giving the brolly a proper arch to aid water run-off, a clear door, bag of heavy duty pegs and already clipped inside the brolly is the removable inner vapour shield. There is simply nothing else you need to buy.

As with brolly systems erection time is minimal. Groundsheet laid out, grab the middle pole and slide the centre boss up to lock in position. Add support poles, peg into position. Simple. You can then decide if you want the front on, or off, and which door system you prefer. The mossie mesh? The clear door? The dark door? Your call... they're all there.





The first thing you will notice is the size of the brolly. It is larger than most brolly systems, and I cannot sit under any brolly with zero space. The Skills brolly has masses of room. With a flat back style, you can push your bedchair right back, and because of the height of it the centre boss is still way way above your head!!! You are then left with enough room in front of you for all your tables, bags, rucksacks, food bags and other bits. Incredible.

The next biggest plus is the inner vapour shield, a second mesh skin if you like, clipped on to the ribs and acts exactly as it should do. After doing a couple of nights in it in February when night-time temperatures dropped, I expected the usual... dripping water and wet patches on the sleeping bag.... But NO!! Not one single drop!!!

It also features a mozzie mesh panel at the rear and both the outer skin and inner vapour skin zip up to access this.

All in all, this is one piece of kit that has definitely exceeded ALL expectations and will be with me on every trip going forward... overnight or weeklong sessions. It will cope with it all.





## Now for the tech bit: -

Accommodates WIDE bedchairs!

Flat back!

Mozzy rear panel.

Detachable multi door style front system with letterbox option.

Removable vapour shield.

10,000mm hydrostatic head.

Front rib support supplied.

4 storm poles supplied.

Heavy duty full zip bag.

Groundsheet included

Dimensions H150 x W255 x D205

**Currently GCT Group has them at a very special price of just £159.99 from £289.99 but BE QUICK !!!!**  
**[www.gctgroupuk.com](http://www.gctgroupuk.com)**  
**or go to the GCTGroup Facebook page for further information.**







# Catch Reports

*Featuring -*

Vader Baits  
Wyreside Fishery  
White Springs  
Plus much more



# Scott Rowson







## Neil Golden

32lb TX1 Pineapple and Banana popup  
caught from Linear complex



## Can Hussein

Been after  
this fish for 2  
years or more  
and all came  
good in storm  
Jorge at 6pm  
on Saturday  
night to a  
single DNA slk  
boilie glugged  
in kstim cast  
at about 30  
yds and a size  
8 hook from  
Sharp tackle



# Dave Tozer

Dave reports in again this month, as regular as clockwork... I fished the Wyreside doubles we ended on 4 fish which landed us 3rd place and biggest fish :)

Even Troy 'Da Blanker' managed 2!

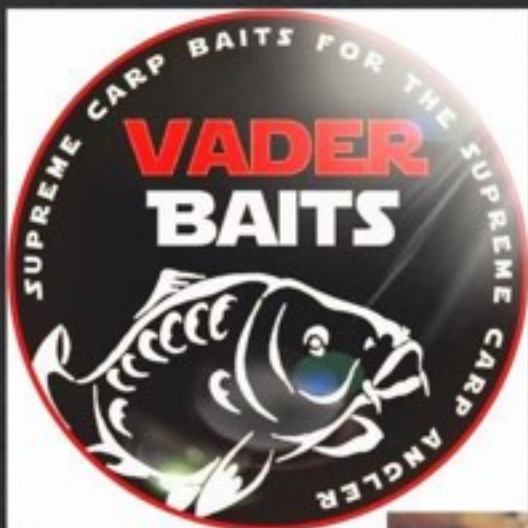
Troy had a 10lb 2oz mirror and a 19lb 12oz common I managed a 20lb 8oz mirror and a 25lb 4oz mirror :)

Also, I included the pic of my 'longshank German rig' as nobody believes me when I tell them just how small that mesh ball is that I use!

As always, the Viper Tackle longshank German rig was my weapon of choice, I find with 15lb IQ2 it rarely if ever tangles which gives me %100 confidence my rig is fishing on a Milky Malt wafter with that tiny mesh ball!







**Team member Aaron fished his local syndicate. He managed to landed himself a fish by the name of Daz weighing in at 27lb 8oz. The fish was tempted by a Le Nutz white wafter topped with fake maggots in a solid pva bag of 2mm Le Nutz pellet with offerings of whole and half 18mm Le Nutz boilies that had been soaked in Le Nutz glug.  
Great angling Aaron**





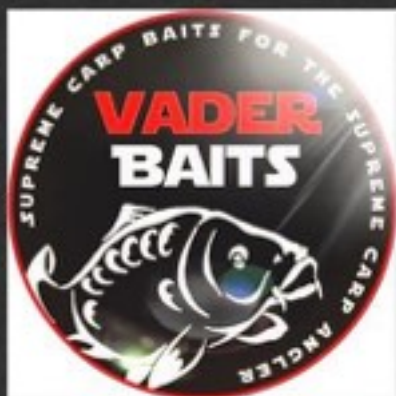
Matt ventured to Hogsbrook lakes with Andy at the weekend starting a 48hr session on the bottom lake! After arriving late what seemed the better peg choices had been taken so they decided to move to the back and centre and fish from pegs 34 and 35. Walking around the lake and hand feeding spots along a tree line with a mix of crabalicious Le Nutz and grafter boilies with 11mm, 6mm and 2mm pellet, corn and some Le Nutz glug.

Matt and Andy used 14mm wafers and were mixing between the flavour and colour ranges throughout the session!! Well what a session it turned out to be!!! As soon as Matt had cast his 1st rod to 1 of his baited tree line spots and before he could attach his

back lead his rod was being pulled out of his hand! Into fish number 1!! Thinking he must have just dropped the bait on the fishes nose he didn't expect a run so quick! No sooner had he put the fish back in the water and cast out again within a minute the rod had taken off again and he was banking and returning fish 2!! Andy joined the action with Matt as his right hand rod screamed off and he was now off the mark!!! Every hour walking around the lake and hand feeding the tree line trickling bait in seemed to be doing the job because by 2pm Matt was on fish 6 and Andy was on fish number 2! They had both missed and lost a couple of runs at this stage too!! Having a few double takes and rods going off while fish were in landing nets ready to be unhooked this was an awesome carp hauling session!! By 11pm on the Friday matt was on 12 fish he again fed the tree line with a nice bit of bait but left his rods out the water to get some sleep. Again, putting some more bait on the tree line and hoping for the fish to bite again he wasn't disappointed straight from the off he was into a fish!! There was a match up on the main lake until 4pm but the lads decided after it they would move up and push that to try and tempt 1 of the big girls!!! Well before that was to happen there was still a session to be had on the lake they were on!! And the carnage did not stop there with matt and Andy continuing to catch right until they packed up to move lakes! By the time they were ready to move matt had already banked an impressive 19 carp losing 3 and Andy an impressive 5 also losing 3!!! Adrian Lazarus came and joined Matt and Andy up on the main lake just to fish overnight quickly after talking to some other anglers and them saying how tough the lake was and that it hadn't done many fish, they thought they would be up against it! With camp set up and again going for exactly the same tactics with the baiting within 15mins of the rods being out Matt's into his 1st fish on the big lake!! A quick pic and chucking that rod on exactly the same spot 10mins later the alarm has jumped to life again and Matt's into his 21st fish of the session!!!! As night come in the fishing slowed and it wasn't until around 1am Matt's jumping out of his bivvy and slipping his net under his last fish of what was an absolutely crazy fishing session!!! 22 carp for Matt and 5 for Andy it ended up!!!!!! Hogsbrook was a super venue and Maureen the lady that runs it is such a wonderful lady I urge you all to go find her lakes and meet the

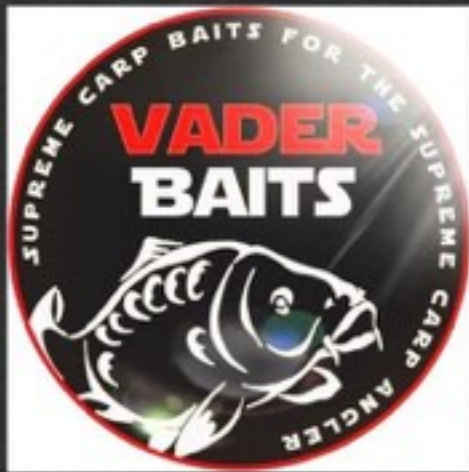
lovely lady herself!!!!!! Thank you Maureen for having us!!!!





Team member Nathan headed to Devon to fish Four Ponds fishery this weekend for a 48hr session. Turning up to the lake he decided to fish the far end of the lake in deeper water and with the wind pushing into his swim he got to work putting a couple of handfuls of mixed 14mm and 18mm of Tutti Frutti Tuna to a spot next to an aerator. Battling against the rain he managed to get all three rods out. Two in open water and one to an aerator on the right hand margin and with the rods being out less than an hour the right hand aerator rod tor off and after a short fight landed a stunning two tone mirror weighing in at 25lb2oz. The fish was tempted by a white Grafters wafter teamed up with a solid pva bag of Tutti Frutti Tuna boilie crumb and 2mm and 6mm Tutti Frutti Tuna pellet with a helping of Le Nutz glug! All was quite until Saturday night when at 11.30pm the right hand rod sprung into life again and after a 20 minute fight and wiping through the other 2 rods it was in the net a lovely 20lb mirror caught again on a white Grafters wafter teamed up with a solid pva bag of Tutti Frutti Tuna boilie crumb 2mm and 6mm Tutti Frutti Tuna pellet and Lenutz glug over a small bed of around 6 handfuls of 14mm and 18mm Tutti Frutti Tuna boilies! Great angling Nath!!





Team member Phil headed to his syndicate for a session. He arrived just before dark and decided to fish out of a swim in the shallows as that's where recent catches had been coming from over the winter months. As midday approached on the following day and no action an angler landed a fish at the opposite side of the lake, so a move was on the cards to the deeper water. The following day the move had paid off with his right hand rod ripping into action whilst playing the fish his left hand rod tore off as well and with help from a friend in the next peg landed both fish. A 20lb 12oz mirror and a 18lb 12oz mirror. Both fish were caught on the same tactic...a solid pva bag of crumbed boilies, Le Nutz pellet, maggots with a Fluro pink Le Nutz wafter.

Great angling Phil



# White Springs

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Carwyn  
Hayward with  
32lb 4oz mirror



Kirsty Lewis  
20lb 4oz  
mirror







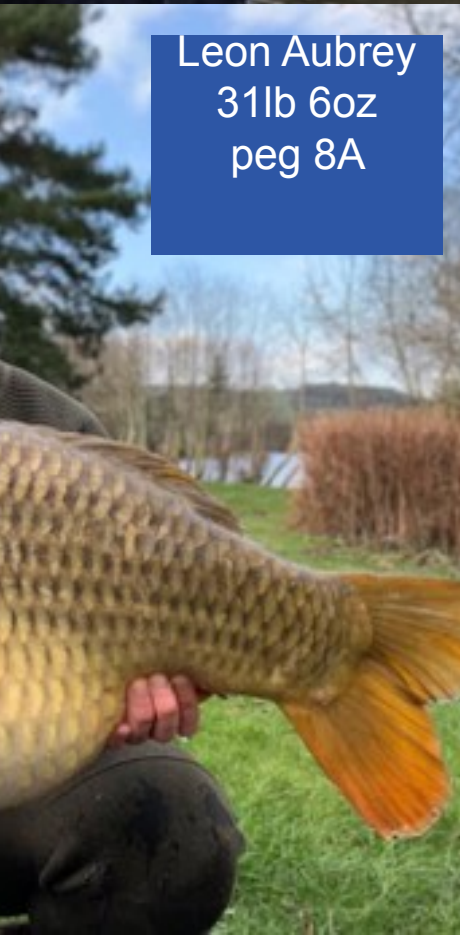
Curtis James  
20lb mirror peg  
9a



Daniel  
Andrews with  
29lb mirror peg  
13



Leon Aubrey  
31lb 6oz  
peg 8A



Nathan John  
with charlie  
37lb 4oz





# Wyreside

## \*\*\* Weigh in Wednesday

Well guys n gals, I know we enjoy nothing but babies in all their glory but now we are going ahead, it looks like we have to wait for them going nowhere ;) They can swim and feed the anglers for a time and this can only help.

We didn't bring you a catch report on the week as we had the doubles match with The results since been quite exciting especially and produced a few of its residents so happy.

Leaving "Wyre Lake" till the end lets hear Blanchard had a 4 fish hit, 3 lovely mirrors and a stunning 22lb common, great angling. Knight kicked off his season with a beautiful went one better with 2 fish at 15lb and 2 Gary Hines over on Sunnyside 2 though a colossal Common, she came in at 28lb but what an awesome fish Gary well in. to show his consistency on Sunny 2 with fish, a lovely mid double stocky mirror and angling there Dave!!



# Fisheries

## My - last catch report \*\*\*

ing more than to see those water closed until the government give us the or now. One things for sure they are ed and grow without any pressure from nten the excitement for when we return.

e usual weigh day Wednesday last n all the updates from that weekend. specially as "The Mighty" has woken up here we go.

ad over to "Bantons" where Daniel ors the biggest being a lovely 30lber ngling Dan. Sticking on Bantons Dave utiful mirror of 23lb and Kraig Major 23lb, top angling and awesome results. nt he had bagged his first 30lber with a so just shy of the magic mark. So close "DNA Baits" boy Dave Smith continued h a "quick" overnighter resulting in 2 nd a beautiful 22lb common brilliant



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# Wyreside

## \*\*\* WYRE W



Up until now “the mighty” has been very but it seems something has changed, i campaign started with a lot of the memb leave that for you to decide! First i think who on a short session bagged himself a gale and throwing it down he just took and 23lb 8oz mirrors, who ever thought Bath was next up on 2 separate occasio 2 fish, a 25lb mirror was the first to slip Perfected Particles was the baiting app his second fish of 21lb 8oz. As you may is the baiting campaign boilie of choice angling Kev I bet you cannot wait to get lake to where Mr David Lowry was setu his campaign in style, not happy with sn a 3 fish hit 22lb mirror, 25lb common an with 2kg of Jungle mix boilies fishing “B top, well done Dave amazing session.

Congratulations to everyone and throug all updated with the continual works on the phone every day from 9am till 4pm f season tickets or for anyone who wishe meantime stay safe and healthy everyo



# Fisheries

## WAKES UP \*\*\*

reluctant to give up its prized jewels  
know there has been a baiting  
bers, could it be working?? we will  
we will start with Mr Neil McDermott  
2 scaley beauties but as it was blowing  
a couple of mat shots of the 20lb 12oz  
you would be camera shy ;). Kevin  
ons he kick started his year and had  
up using Bait Guru "Jungle Mix" and  
roach, this was the same approach for  
guess, Bait Guru "Jungle Mix" boilie  
you may hear it be repeated allot. Top  
back. We have a little jump across the  
p now and just like last year he sets of  
ragging the odd fish he decides to have  
d "Wolverine" at 32lb, Dave started  
ait Guru" essential pop ups over the

h the coming weeks we will keep you  
the fishery. There will be someone on  
for those who need to complete their  
s to talk about any bookings - in the  
ne and we will see you all very soon



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# Le Lees Carp Fishery

## Welcome everyone to LE LEES Carp Fishery.

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Le Lees Carp Fishery

Our price over the winter months ( november 1st to march 31st ) is 130 euros PPPW. 1st april to 31st october 150 euros. We also do an evening meal at 70 euros pppw.

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

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

At the moment we are doing a deal for any week this year ( if booked before the end of February 2020 you will ge your fishing plus an evening meal for £150 per person).

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

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

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

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

Find us on Facebook for further information.

*Matt, Tracie and Thai.*





*Le Lees Ca*









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](http://Carpgrancanaria.com), [info@costadelcarping.com](mailto: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](http://carpgrancanaria.com).



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**Thanks for reading**  
**STAY AT HOME, STAY SAFE &**  
**LOOK AFTER YOUR FAMILY.**

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

**brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk**  
**mark@talkingcarp.co.uk**  
**m.galli@talkingcarp.co.uk**



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

*'The Talking Carp Team'*

**Brian Dixon**  
**Mark Faulkner**  
**Dave Harnick Snr**  
**Mark Galli**



OUT  
NOW



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